

Now Noether's Thm.

If L is independent of one q , say, q_1 , then

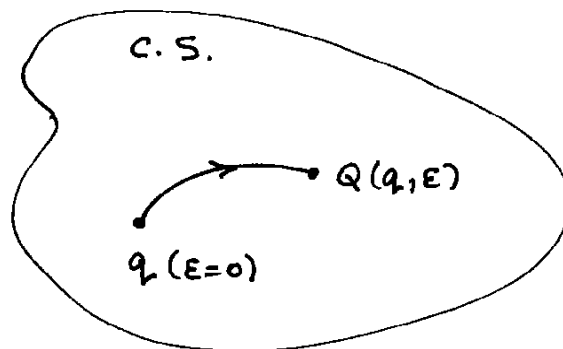
$$\frac{dp_1}{dt} = \frac{\partial L}{\partial q_1} = 0 \quad \Rightarrow \quad p_1 = \text{constant of motion.} \\ \text{(C.O.M.)}$$

We say, q_1 is "ignorable". Noether's thm generalizes this.

Consider a mapping of config. space onto itself parameterized by ϵ :

$$q \rightarrow Q(q, \epsilon) \quad \text{where } Q(q, 0) = q.$$

As ϵ goes from 0 to some final value, q gets up and traces out a curve:



Example: n particle system, coords $\{\vec{x}_1, \dots, \vec{x}_n\}$.

Let these be mapped into $\{\vec{x}_1 + \epsilon \hat{a}, \vec{x}_2 + \epsilon \hat{a}, \dots, \vec{x}_n + \epsilon \hat{a}\}$

\hat{a} = some unit vector. All particles move by same displacement, $\epsilon \hat{a}$.

$$\vec{x}_1 \rightarrow$$

$$\vec{x}_2 \rightarrow \vec{x}_3$$

Now suppose Lagrangian is invariant under this change,

$$L(Q(q, \epsilon), \overbrace{\frac{d}{dt} Q(q, \epsilon)}^{\text{means, } \frac{\partial Q}{\partial q} \dot{q}}, t) = L(q, \dot{q}, t) \quad \text{for all } \epsilon.$$

Then we say, $q \rightarrow Q(q, \epsilon)$ is a symmetry of the system.

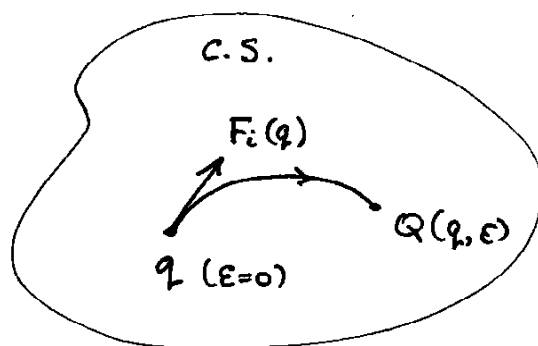
Turns out you only need to look at this for small ϵ , so expand $Q(q, \epsilon)$ about $\epsilon=0$:

$$Q_i(q, \epsilon) = q_i + \epsilon F_i(q) + \dots \quad \text{where } F_i(q) = \frac{\partial Q}{\partial \epsilon}(q, 0)$$

so symmetry is $q_i \rightarrow q_i + \epsilon F_i(q)$.

infinitesimal,
now

F_i is vector giving direction and rate q moves for small ϵ . It is a vector field on C.S.



Many authors would write $\epsilon F_i = \delta q_i$, meaning change in q_i under a small symmetry operation. (But don't confuse with δq that occurs in Hamilton's principle.)

Look at invariance of L for small ϵ :

$$L(q + \epsilon F, \frac{dq}{dt} + \epsilon \frac{dF}{dt}, t) = L(q, \dot{q}, t) \quad (\text{we assume}).$$

$$\Rightarrow \epsilon \left(\frac{\partial L}{\partial q_i} F_i + \frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{q}_i} \frac{dF_i}{dt} \right) = 0.$$

← can also get this by setting

$$\left. \frac{\partial}{\partial \epsilon} L(Q(q, \epsilon), \frac{d}{dt} Q(q, \epsilon), t) \right|_{\epsilon=0} = 0.$$

This is just a property of L . But now we invoke the E.L. eqns, ^{10/23/02}

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial q_i} = \frac{d}{dt} \left(\frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{q}_i} \right) \quad \text{so}$$

$$\frac{d}{dt} \left(\frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{q}_i} \right) F_i + \frac{\partial L}{\partial q_i} \frac{dF_i}{dt} = 0$$

or

$$\frac{d}{dt} \left[\frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{q}_i} F_i \right] = 0$$

or

$$\frac{d}{dt} (p_i F_i) = 0$$

Noether's thm. (Version #1).

Example: Suppose $L = L(\vec{x}_1, \dots, \vec{x}_n; \dot{\vec{x}}_1, \dots, \dot{\vec{x}}_n)$ is invariant under $\left. \begin{array}{l} \vec{x}_i \rightarrow \vec{x}_i + \epsilon \hat{a} \\ \dot{\vec{x}}_i \rightarrow \dot{\vec{x}}_i \end{array} \right\}$.

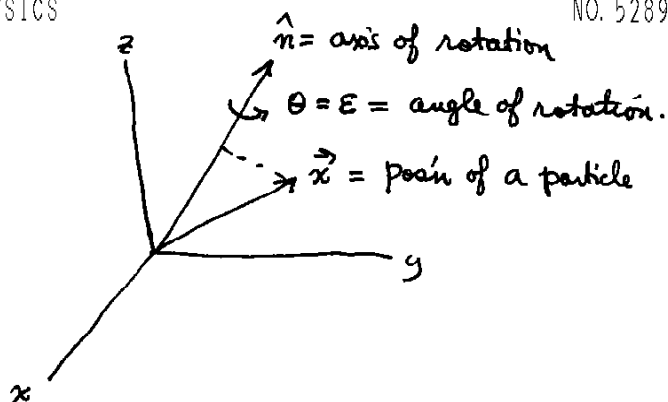
Then $\frac{d}{dt} \sum_{i=1}^n \vec{p}_i \cdot \hat{a} = 0$ or $\hat{a} \cdot \vec{P} = \text{c.o.m.}$

where $\vec{P} = \sum_{i=1}^n \vec{p}_i = \text{total momentum.}$

If this is true for all \hat{a} , then $\vec{P} = \text{c.o.m.}$

Important fact: Conservation of momentum is associated with translational invariance.

Another example:



$$\left. \begin{aligned} \text{Then } \vec{x}_i &\rightarrow \vec{x}_i + \theta \hat{n} \times \vec{x}_i \\ \dot{\vec{x}}_i &\rightarrow \dot{\vec{x}}_i + \theta \hat{n} \times \dot{\vec{x}}_i \end{aligned} \right\} \text{suppose } L \text{ invariant under rotations about axis } \hat{n}.$$

$$\text{Then } \sum_{i=1}^n \vec{p}_i \cdot (\hat{n} \times \vec{x}_i) = \hat{n} \cdot \sum_{i=1}^n \vec{x}_i \times \vec{p}_i = \hat{n} \cdot \vec{L} = \text{c.o.m.}$$

If true for all \hat{n} , then $\vec{L} = \text{c.o.m.}$

Conservation of angular momentum is associated with rotational invariance.

This version of Noether's thm not general enough for our needs. Turns out it's too strong to demand L be invariant under a symmetry; instead we should demand only that EOM's remain invariant. Since L and $L + \frac{d\Lambda}{dt}$, $\Lambda = \Lambda(q, t)$, give same EOM's, let us require that

$$L(Q(q, \epsilon), \frac{d}{dt} Q(q, \epsilon), t) = L(q, \frac{dq}{dt}, t) + \frac{d}{dt} \Lambda(q, t, \epsilon)$$

(We might say, Lagrangian is preserved by symmetry to within a gauge transformation.) Taking $\frac{\partial}{\partial \epsilon}$ of above and setting $\epsilon=0$, we get

$$\left. \frac{\partial L}{\partial \epsilon} \right|_{\epsilon=0} = \frac{\partial L}{\partial q_i} F_i + \frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{q}_i} \frac{d}{dt} F_i = \frac{d}{dt} G(q, t),$$

where

$$G(q, t) = \frac{\partial \Lambda}{\partial \epsilon}(q, t, 0)$$

(assume this is true)

Now using E-L eqns gives

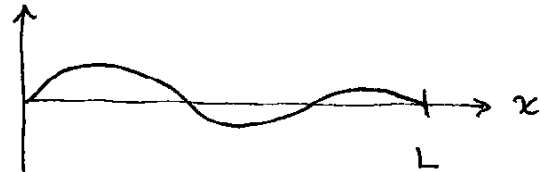
$$\frac{d}{dt} (p_i F_i - G) = 0$$

(Generalized version of Noether's thm.)

Put Noether's thm. on hold, turn to classical field theory.

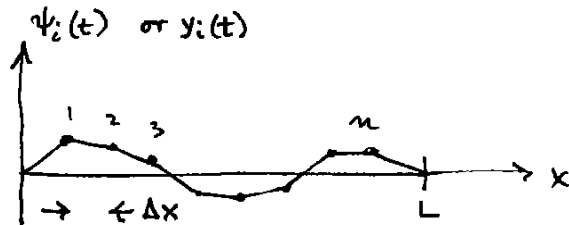
Start with vibrating string.

$\psi(x,t)$ or $y(x,t)$ = vertical posn of string.



discretize this:

Assume masses can move up and down, not right and left.
(Transverse waves only, no longitudinal waves.)



$$K.E. = \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{m}{2} \left(\frac{dy_i}{dt} \right)^2$$

$$\Delta x = x_i - x_{i-1}$$

$$m = \text{mass of segment } \Delta x = \rho \Delta x$$

$$P.E. = \sum_{i=1}^{n+1} \frac{k}{2} (y_i - y_{i-1})^2$$

$$k = \frac{\kappa}{\Delta x}$$

shorter springs are stiffer than longer springs

In limit $n \rightarrow \infty$, $y_i(t) \rightarrow y(x_i, t)$

$$K.E. = \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{1}{2} \rho \Delta x \left(\frac{dy_i}{dt} \right)^2 \rightarrow \int dx \frac{1}{2} \rho \left(\frac{\partial y}{\partial t} \right)^2$$

$$P.E. = \sum_{i=1}^{n+1} \frac{1}{2} \kappa \Delta x \left(\frac{y_i - y_{i-1}}{\Delta x} \right)^2 \rightarrow \int dx \frac{1}{2} \kappa \left(\frac{\partial y}{\partial x} \right)^2$$

So Lagrangian becomes

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$$L = \sum_{i=1}^n \left[\frac{m}{2} \dot{y}_i^2 - \frac{k}{2} (y_i - y_{i-1})^2 \right]$$

$$\rightarrow \int dx \mathcal{L} \left(\frac{\partial y}{\partial t}, \frac{\partial y}{\partial x} \right) \quad \text{where}$$

$$\mathcal{L} = \text{Lagrangian density} = \boxed{\frac{\rho}{2} \left(\frac{\partial y}{\partial t} \right)^2 - \frac{\kappa}{2} \left(\frac{\partial y}{\partial x} \right)^2} = \mathcal{L} \quad \begin{array}{l} \text{String} \\ \text{Lagr. density} \end{array}$$

Henceforth write ψ instead of y , $\psi = \psi(x, t)$.

Choose units so $\rho = \kappa = 1$.

Don't confuse $\mathcal{L} = \text{Lagrangian density}$
with $L = \int dx \mathcal{L} = \text{Lagrangian}$.

$$\text{Lagrangian} = L = \int dx \mathcal{L}, \quad \text{Action} = A[\psi(x, t)] = \int dx dt \mathcal{L} = \int L dt.$$

Notice that index i of discretized string is replaced by continuous x . The x is a label of the degrees of freedom of the system, it is not a dynamical variable itself. The dynamical variable is ψ . A field like ψ has an ∞ # of degrees of freedom, one for each spatial point.

This is unlike particle mechanics, where x is the coordinate of the particle and also the degree of freedom.

The configuration space for the field is not x -space, it is the function space to which ψ belongs.