

# 1. Elements of classical field theory

## 1.1. Lagrangian and Hamiltonian formalism

Recap: Classical mechanics of "points"

1. Degrees of freedom  $q_i$  labeled by  $i=1, \dots, N$

2. Lagrangian  $L(\{q_i\}, \{\dot{q}_i\}, t) = T - V$

3. Action  $S[q] = \int dt L(q(t), \dot{q}(t)) \in \mathbb{R}$

4. Hamilton's principle of least action:

$$\frac{\delta S[q]}{\delta q} = 0 \Leftrightarrow \delta S = \int dt \delta L = 0$$

5. Euler-Lagrange equations ( $i=1 \dots N$ ):

$$\boxed{\frac{\partial L}{\partial q_i} - \frac{d}{dt} \frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{q}_i} = 0}$$

## Analogous: Lagrangian Field Theory

1. One or more fields  $\phi(x)$  on spacetime  $x \in \mathbb{R}^{1,3} / \mathbb{R}^4$   
with derivatives  $\partial_\mu \phi(x)$  where  $\partial_0 = \partial_t$  and  $\partial_i = \partial_{x_i}, i=1,2,3$   $\sum_i$
2. Lagrangian density  $\mathcal{L}(\phi, \partial\phi, x) \rightarrow$  Lagrangian  $L = \int d^3x \mathcal{L}(\phi, \partial\phi)$
3. Action:  $S[\phi] = \int dt L = \int dt \int d^3x \mathcal{L}(\phi, \partial\phi) = \int d^4x \mathcal{L}(\phi, \partial\phi)$
4. Action principle:  $0 = \delta S[\phi] = \int d^4x \delta \mathcal{L}$ 

$$= \int d^4x \left\{ \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \phi} \delta\phi + \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial (\partial_\mu \phi)} \delta(\partial_\mu \phi) \right\}$$

$$\delta(\partial_\mu \phi) = \partial_\mu(\delta\phi) \quad \Rightarrow \quad = \int d^4x \left\{ \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \phi} \delta\phi - \partial_\mu \left( \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial (\partial_\mu \phi)} \right) \delta\phi + \partial_\mu \left( \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial (\partial_\mu \phi)} \right) \delta\phi \right\}$$

Gauss theorem?

$$= \int \partial A \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial (\partial_\mu \phi)} \delta\phi + \int d^4x \left\{ \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \phi} - \partial_\mu \left( \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial (\partial_\mu \phi)} \right) \right\} \delta\phi$$
5. Euler-Lagrange equations (one for each field):  $= 0 \Rightarrow = 0$

$$\boxed{\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \phi} - \partial_\mu \left( \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial (\partial_\mu \phi)} \right) = 0}$$

## Recap: Hamiltonian Mechanics

$$\text{Lagrangian } L(q, \dot{q}, t) \xrightarrow[\text{Conjugate momentum}]{\text{Legendre Transformation}} \text{Hamiltonian } H(q, p, t) = p \cdot \dot{q} - L(q, \dot{q}, t)$$

$$p = \frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{q}} \Leftrightarrow \dot{q} = \dot{q}(p)$$

## Analogous: Hamiltonian Field Theory

1. Let  $x = x_i \hat{=} i$  be discrete spatial coordinates

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{\phi}_i} = p_i \hat{=} p(x) = \frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{\phi}(x)} = \frac{\partial}{\partial \dot{\phi}(x)} \int d^3y \mathcal{L}(\phi(y), \dot{\phi}(y)) \sim \sum_y d^3y \underbrace{\frac{\partial}{\partial \dot{\phi}(x)} \mathcal{L}(\phi(y), \dot{\phi}(y))}_{\mathcal{J}_{x,y} \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \dot{\phi}}|_{y=x}}$$

$$\rightarrow \text{Momentum density conjugate to } \phi \text{ is } \boxed{\pi = \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \dot{\phi}}} \quad = \underbrace{\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \dot{\phi}(x)}}_{\equiv \pi(x)} d^3x$$

2. Hamiltonian:

$$H = \sum_x \overbrace{p(x) \dot{\phi}(x)}^{\pi(x) d^3x} - \underbrace{\int d^3x \mathcal{L}(\phi(x), \dot{\phi}(x))}_{\text{Hamiltonian density } \mathcal{H}(\phi, \pi)}$$

$$= \int d^3x \left\{ \pi(x) \dot{\phi}(x) - \mathcal{L}(\phi, \dot{\phi}) \right\}$$

$\phi = \phi(\pi)$

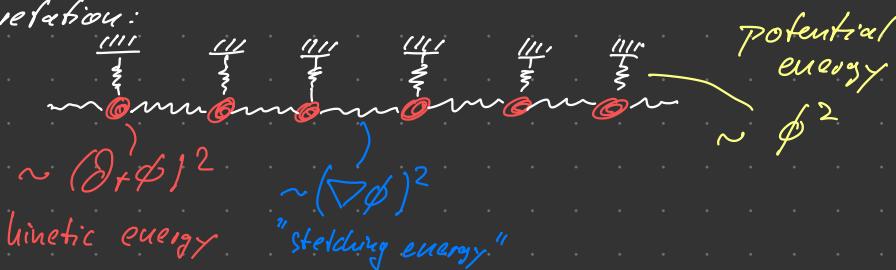
## Example 1.1: Free scalar field

1. Real field  $\phi: \mathbb{R}^3 \times \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  with  $(\vec{x}, t) \mapsto \phi(\vec{x}, t) = \phi(x)$

2. Lagrangian (density):  $\mathcal{L} = \frac{1}{2} (\partial_t \phi)^2 - \frac{1}{2} (\nabla \phi)^2 - \frac{1}{2} m^2 \phi^2 = \frac{1}{2} (\partial_\mu \phi)^2 - \frac{1}{2} m^2 \phi^2$

$$(\partial_\mu \phi)^2 = \partial_\mu \phi \partial^\mu \phi = (\partial_t \phi)^2 - (\partial_x \phi)^2 - (\partial_y \phi)^2 - (\partial_z \phi)^2 \quad \left. \begin{array}{l} \\ \\ \end{array} \right\} \quad \partial_\mu \partial^\mu = \partial_t^2 - \nabla^2$$

3. Interpretation:



4. Equation of motion ("field equation"):

$$-m^2 \phi - \partial_\mu (\partial^\mu \phi) = 0 \quad \Leftrightarrow \quad (\partial_\mu \partial^\mu + m^2) \phi = 0$$

(classical Klein-Gordon equation)

5. Conjugate momentum field  $\pi = \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \dot{\phi}} = \dot{\phi}$

6. Hamiltonian density:  $\mathcal{H} = \pi \dot{\phi} - \frac{1}{2} \dot{\phi}^2 + \frac{1}{2} (\nabla \phi)^2 + \frac{1}{2} m^2 \phi^2 = \frac{1}{2} \pi^2 + \frac{1}{2} (\nabla \phi)^2 + \frac{1}{2} m^2 \phi^2$

## 1.2 Symmetries and Conservation Laws

1.  $\mathcal{F}$  transformations on coordinates and fields:

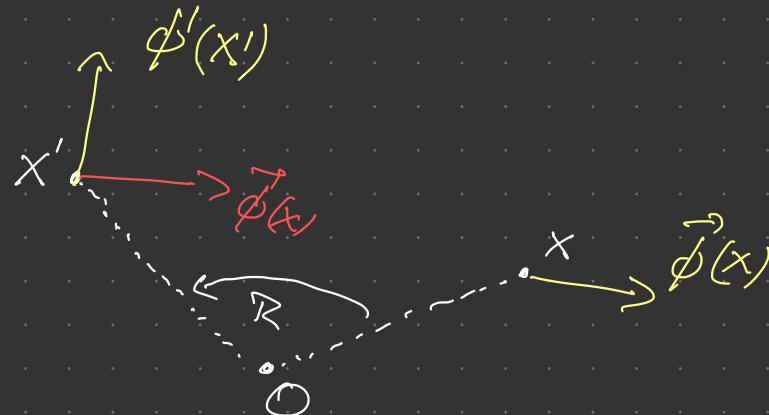
$$x \rightarrow x' = x'(x) \quad \text{and} \quad \vec{\phi}(x) \rightarrow \vec{\phi}'(x') = \mathcal{F}(\vec{\phi}(x))$$

Two effects: coordinates and fields transformed

Example 1.2: Rotation of a vector field  $\vec{\phi}$

a)  $\mathcal{F}$  3-component field  $\vec{\phi} = (\phi_1, \phi_2, \phi_3)$  and  $R \in SO(3)$  rotation

b)  $\vec{x}' = R\vec{x}$  and  $\vec{\phi}'(x') = R\vec{\phi}(x) = R\vec{\phi}(R^{-1}\vec{x})$



2. Change of the action under  $\phi \mapsto \phi'$ :

$$S' \equiv S[\phi'] = \int d^d x \mathcal{L}(\phi'(x), \partial_\mu \phi'(x))$$

$$\text{rename } x \rightarrow x' \stackrel{?}{=} \int d^d x' \mathcal{L}(\phi(x'), \partial'_\mu \phi'(x'))$$

$$\text{definition } \stackrel{?}{=} \int d^d x' \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{F}(\phi(x')), \partial'_\mu \mathcal{F}(\phi(x')))$$

$$= \int d^d x \left| \frac{\partial x'}{\partial x} \right| \mathcal{L}\left( \mathcal{F}(\phi(x)), \frac{\partial x^\nu}{\partial x'^\mu} \partial_\nu \mathcal{F}(\phi(x)) \right)$$

Example 1.3: Translations → defines a scalar field

a)  $x' := x + a$ ,  $\phi'(x') := \phi(x) = \phi(x' - a)$

b)  $\mathcal{F}$  trivial,  $\phi'(x') = \mathcal{F}(\phi(x)) = \phi(x(x'))$ , and  $\frac{\partial x^\nu}{\partial x'^\mu} = \delta_\mu^\nu$

c) Action:

$$S[\phi'] = \int d^d x \mathcal{L}(\phi'(x), \partial_\mu \phi'(x)) = \int d^d x \mathcal{L}(\phi(x), \partial_\mu \phi(x)) = S[\phi]$$

→ action is translational invariant