

# Preface

This book is a tutorial on foundational geometric principles of Lagrangian and Hamiltonian dynamics and their application in studying important physical systems. As the title indicates, the emphasis is on describing Lagrangian and Hamiltonian dynamics in a form that enables global formulations and, where suitable mathematical tools are available, global analysis of dynamical properties. This emphasis on global descriptions, that is, descriptions that hold everywhere on the configuration manifold, as a means of determining global dynamical properties is in marked contrast to the most common approach in the literature on Lagrangian and Hamiltonian dynamics that makes use of local coordinates on the configuration manifold, thereby resulting in formulations that are typically limited to a small open subset of the configuration manifold. In this sense, the material that we introduce and develop represents a *significant conceptual departure* from the traditional methods of studying Lagrangian and Hamiltonian dynamics.

More specifically, this book differs from most of the traditional studies of analytical mechanics on Euclidean spaces, such as [13, 75]. Moreover, the global formulation of mechanics presented in this book should be distinguished from the geometric treatments that appear in [1, 10, 16, 25, 27, 37, 38, 39, 69, 70], which explicitly make use of local coordinates when illustrating the abstract formulation through specific examples. In contrast, we directly use the representations in the embedding space of the configuration manifold, without resorting to an atlas of coordinate charts. This allows us to obtain equations of motion that are globally valid and do not require changes of coordinates. This is particularly useful in constructing a compact and elegant form of Lagrangian and Hamiltonian mechanics for complex dynamical systems without algebraic constraints or coordinate singularities. This treatment is novel and unique, and it is the most important distinction and contribution of this monograph to the existing literature.

This book is the result of a research collaboration that began in 2005, when the first author initiated his doctoral research at the University of Michigan with the other two authors as his graduate advisers. That research program led to the completion of his doctoral degree and to numerous conference and journal publications.

The research plan, initiated in 2005, was based on our belief that there were advantages to be gained by the formulation, analysis, and computation of Lagrangian or Hamiltonian dynamics by explicitly viewing configurations of the system as elements of a manifold embedded in a finite-dimensional vector space. This viewpoint was not new in 2005, but we believed that the potential of this perspective had not been fully exploited in the research literature available at that time. This led us to embark on a long-term research program that would make use of powerful methods of variational calculus, differential geometry, and Lie groups for studying the dynamics of Lagrangian and Hamiltonian systems. Our subsequent research since 2005 confirms that there are important practical benefits to be gained by this perspective, especially for multi-body and other mechanical systems with dynamics that evolve in three dimensions.

This book arose from our research and the resulting publications in [21], [46, 47], and [49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 61, 62, 63] since 2005, but it goes substantially beyond this earlier work. During the writing of this book, we were motivated to consider many new issues that we had not previously studied; in this sense, all of Chapter 4 is new material. We also had many new insights and obtained new results that have not been previously published. Nevertheless, this book is intended to be a self-contained treatment containing many of the results of those publications plus new tutorial material to provide a unifying framework for Lagrangian and Hamiltonian dynamics on a manifold. As our research has progressed, we have come to realize the practical importance and effectiveness of this geometric perspective.

This book is not a complete treatment of Lagrangian and Hamiltonian dynamics; many important topics, such as geometric reduction, canonical transformations, Hamilton–Jacobi theory, Poisson geometry, and nonholonomic constraints, are not treated. These subjects are nicely covered in many excellent books [10, 37, 38, 39, 70]. All of these developments, as well as the development in this book, treat Lagrangian and Hamiltonian dynamics that are smooth in the sense that they can be described by differentiable vector fields. We note the important literature, summarized in [15], that treats non-smooth Lagrangian and Hamiltonian dynamics. A complete development of these topics, within the global geometric framework proposed in this book, remains to be accomplished.

The following manifolds, which naturally arise as configuration manifolds for Lagrangian and Hamiltonian systems, are of primary importance in our subsequent development. The standard linear vector spaces of two- and three-dimensional vectors are denoted by  $\mathbb{R}^2$  and  $\mathbb{R}^3$ , endowed with the usual dot product operation; the cross product operation is also fundamental in  $\mathbb{R}^3$ . As

usual,  $\mathbb{R}^n$  denotes the linear space of ordered real  $n$ -tuples. All translations of subspaces in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ , e.g., lines, planes, and hyperplanes, are examples of embedded manifolds. The unit sphere in two dimensions is denoted by  $S^1$ ; it is a one-dimensional manifold embedded in  $\mathbb{R}^2$ ; similarly, the unit sphere in three dimensions is denoted by  $S^2$ ; it is a two-dimensional manifold embedded in  $\mathbb{R}^3$ . The Lie group of orthogonal transformations in three dimensions is denoted by  $SO(3)$ . The Lie group of homogeneous transformations in three dimensions is denoted by  $SE(3)$ . Each of these Lie groups has an additional structure based on a group operation, which in each case corresponds to matrix multiplication. Finally, products of the above manifolds also commonly arise as configuration manifolds.

All of the manifolds that we consider are embedded in a finite-dimensional vector space. Hence, the geometry of these manifolds can be described using mathematical tools and operations in the embedding vector space. Although we are only interested in Lagrangian and Hamiltonian dynamics that evolve on such an embedded manifold, it is sometimes convenient to extend the dynamics to the embedding vector space. In fact, most of the results in the subsequent chapters can be viewed from this perspective.

It is important to justify our geometric assumption that the configurations constitute a manifold for Lagrangian and Hamiltonian systems. First, manifolds can be used to encode certain types of important motion constraints that arise in many mechanical systems; such constraints may arise from restrictions on the allowed motion due to physical restrictions. A formulation in terms of manifolds is a direct encoding of the constraints and does not require the use of additional holonomic constraints and associated Lagrange multipliers. Second, there is a beautiful theory of embedded manifolds, including Lie group manifolds, that can be brought to bear on the development of geometric mechanics in this context. It is important to recognize that configurations, as elements in a manifold, may often be described and analyzed in a globally valid way that does not require the use of local charts, coordinates, or parameters that may lead to singularities or ambiguities in the representation. We make extensive use of Euclidean frames in  $\mathbb{R}^3$  and associated Euclidean coordinates in  $\mathbb{R}^3$ ,  $\mathbb{R}^n$ , and  $\mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ , but we do *not* use coordinates to describe the configuration manifolds. In this sense, this geometric formulation is said to be *coordinate-free*. Third, this geometric formulation turns out to be an efficient way to formulate, analyze, and compute the kinematics, dynamics, and their temporal evolution on the configuration manifold. This representational efficiency has a major practical advantage for many complex dynamical systems that has not been widely appreciated by the applied scientific and engineering communities. The associated cost of this efficiency is the requirement to make use of the well-developed mathematical machinery of manifolds, calculus on manifolds, and Lie groups.

We study dynamical systems that can be viewed as Lagrangian or Hamiltonian systems. Under appropriate assumptions, such dynamical systems are conservative in the sense that the Hamiltonian, which oftentimes coincides

with the total energy of the system, is conserved. This is an ideal assumption but a very useful one in many applications. Although our main attention is given to dynamical systems that are conservative, many of the results can be extended to dissipative dynamical systems and to dynamical systems with inputs.

There are two basic requirements to make use of the Lagrangian perspective in obtaining the equations of motion. Based on the physical properties of the dynamical system, it is first necessary to select the set of possible configurations of the system and to identify the set of all configurations  $M$  as a manifold. The second requirement is to develop a Lagrangian function  $L : TM \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^1$  which is a real-valued function defined on the tangent bundle  $TM$  of the configuration manifold and satisfying certain assumptions. The Lagrangian function is the difference of the kinetic energy of the system and the potential energy of the system. It is assumed that the reader has sufficient background to construct the kinetic energy function and the potential energy function; we do not go into detail on the basic physics to construct these energy functions. Rather, numerous specific examples of Lagrangian and Hamiltonian systems are introduced and used to illustrate the concepts.

*Hamilton's variational principle* is the fundamental basis for the theory of Lagrangian and Hamiltonian dynamics. The action integral is the integral of the Lagrangian function over a fixed time period. Along a motion of the system, a specific value of the action integral is induced. Small variations of the system motion, which are consistent with the configuration manifold but not necessarily possible motions of the system, induce variations in the value of the action integral. Hamilton's variational principle states that these variations in the value of the action integral are necessarily of higher than first order for arbitrarily small variations about any system motion. In other words, the directional or Gateaux derivative of the action integral vanishes for all allowable variations of the system motion. Using methods of variational calculus where variations are introduced in terms of a small scalar parameter, this principle leads to Euler–Lagrange equations which characterize all possible system motions.

Hamilton's equations of motion are obtained by introducing the Legendre transformation that is a mapping from the tangent bundle of the configuration manifold to the cotangent bundle of the configuration manifold. A Hamiltonian function is introduced, and Hamilton's equations are obtained using a phase space version of Hamilton's variational principle. Methods of variational calculus are used to express the dynamics on the cotangent bundle of the configuration manifold.

It is admitted that some of the derivations are lengthy and the details and formulas are sometimes complicated. However, most of the formulations of Lagrangian and Hamiltonian dynamics on specific configuration manifolds, considered in this book, are relatively simple and elegant. Consequently, their application to the formulation of the dynamics of mass particles, rigid bodies, deformable bodies, and multi-body systems follows a relatively straight-

forward pattern that is, in fact, both more general and simpler than the traditional formulations that make use of local coordinates.

This book presents a unifying framework for this geometric perspective that we intend to be accessible to a wide audience. In concrete terms, the book is intended to achieve the following objectives:

- Study the geometric formulations of dynamical equations of motion for Lagrangian and Hamiltonian systems that evolve on a configuration manifold using variational methods.
- Express theoretical results in a global geometric form that does not require local charts or coordinates for the configuration manifold.
- Demonstrate simple methods for the analysis of solution properties.
- Present numerous illustrations of theory and analysis for the dynamics of multiple interacting particles and of rigid and deformable bodies.
- Identify theoretical and analytical benefits to be gained by the proposed treatment of geometric mechanics.

The book is also intended to set the stage for a treatment of computational issues associated with Lagrangian and Hamiltonian dynamics that evolve on a configuration manifold. In particular, the material in this book can be extended to obtain a framework for computational aspects of Lagrangian and Hamiltonian dynamics that achieve the analogous objectives:

- Study the geometric formulations of discrete-time dynamical equations of motion for Lagrangian and Hamiltonian systems that evolve on an embedded configuration manifold using discrete-time variational methods.
- Develop discrete-time versions of Lagrangian and Hamiltonian dynamics; these are referred to as geometric variational integrators to reflect the configuration manifold for the problems considered.
- Demonstrate the benefits of these discrete-time dynamics as a computational approximation of the continuous-time Lagrangian or Hamiltonian dynamics.
- Express computational dynamics in a global geometric form that does not require local charts.
- Present numerous computational illustrations for the dynamics of multiple interacting particles, and of rigid and deformable bodies.
- Identify computational benefits to be gained by the proposed treatment of geometric mechanics.

Computational developments for Lagrangian and Hamiltonian dynamics, following the above prescription, lead to computational algorithms that are not based on the discretization of differential equations on a manifold, but are based on the discretization of variational principles on a manifold. The above computational approach has been developed in [46, 50, 51, 54]. A symbolic approach to obtaining differential equations on a manifold has been proposed in [9], without addressing computational issues.

This book is written for a general audience of mathematicians, engineers, and physicists who have a basic knowledge of classical Lagrangian and Hamiltonian dynamics. Some background in differential geometry would be helpful to the reader, but it is not essential as arguments in the book make primary use of basic differential geometric concepts that are introduced in the book. Hence, our hope is that the material in this book is accessible to a wide range of readers.

In this book, Chapter 1 provides a summary of mathematical material required for the subsequent development; in particular, manifolds and Lie groups are introduced. Chapter 2 then introduces kinematics relationships for ideal particles, rigid bodies, multi-bodies, and deformable bodies, expressed in terms of differential equations that evolve on a configuration manifold.

Chapter 3 treats the classical approach to variational mechanics where the configurations lie in an open set of a vector space  $\mathbb{R}^n$ . This is standard material, but the presentation provides a development that is followed in subsequent chapters. Chapters 4 and 5 develop the fundamental results for Lagrangian and Hamiltonian dynamics when the configuration manifold  $(S^1)^n$  is the product of  $n$  copies of the one-sphere in  $\mathbb{R}^2$  (in Chapter 4) and the configuration manifold  $(S^2)^n$  is the product of  $n$  copies of the two-sphere in  $\mathbb{R}^3$  (Chapter 5). The geometries of these two configuration manifolds are exploited in the developments, especially the definitions of variations. Chapter 6 introduces the geometric approach for rigid body rotation in three dimensions using configurations in the Lie group  $\mathrm{SO}(3)$ . The development follows Chapter 3, Chapter 4, and Chapter 5, except that the variations are carefully defined to be consistent with the Lie group structure of  $\mathrm{SO}(3)$ . Chapter 7 introduces the geometric approach for rigid body rotation and translation in three dimensions using configurations in the Lie group  $\mathrm{SE}(3)$ . The development reflects the fact that the variations are defined to be consistent with the Lie group structure of  $\mathrm{SE}(3)$ . The results in Chapters 3–7 are developed using only well-known results from linear algebra and elementary properties of orthogonal matrices and skew-symmetric matrices; minimal knowledge of differential geometry or Lie groups is required, and all of it is introduced in the book.

Chapter 8 makes use of the notation and formalism of differential geometry and Lie groups. This mathematical machinery enables the development of Lagrangian and Hamiltonian dynamics with configurations that lie in an arbitrary differentiable manifold, an arbitrary matrix Lie group, or an arbitrary homogeneous manifold (a manifold that is transitive with respect to a Lie group action). The power of this mathematical formalism is that it allows a relatively straightforward development that follows the variational calculus approach of the previous chapters and it results in a simple abstract statement of the results in each case. The development, however, does require a level of abstraction and some knowledge of differential geometry and Lie groups.

Chapter 9 makes use of the prior results to treat the dynamics of various multi-body systems; Chapter 10 treats the dynamics of various deformable multi-body systems. In each of these example illustrations, the equations of motion are obtained in several different forms. The equations of motion are used to study conservation properties and equilibrium properties in each example illustration. The book concludes with two appendices that provide brief summaries of fundamental lemmas of the calculus of variations and procedures for linearization of a vector field on a manifold in a neighborhood of an equilibrium solution.

Numerous examples of mechanical and multi-body systems are developed in the text and introduced in the end of chapter problems. These examples form a core part of the book, since they illustrate the way in which the developed theory can be applied in practice. Many of these examples are classical, and they are studied in the existing literature using local coordinates; some of the examples are apparently novel. Various multi-body examples, involving pendulums, are introduced, since these provide good illustrations for the theory. The books [6, 29] include many examples developed using local coordinates.

This book could form the basis for a graduate-level course in applied mathematics, classical physics, or engineering. For students with some prior background in differential geometry, a course could begin with the theoretical material in Chapter 8 and then cover applications in Chapters 3–7 and 9–10 as time permits. For students with primary interest in the applications, the course could treat the topics in the order presented in the book, covering the theoretical topics in Chapter 8 as time permits. This book is also intended for self-study; these two paths through the material in the book may aid readers in this category.

In conclusion, the authors are excited to share our perspective on “global formulations of Lagrangian and Hamiltonian dynamics on manifolds” with a wide audience. We welcome feedback about theoretical issues the book introduces, the practical value of the proposed perspective, and indeed any aspect of this book.

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