

June 29, 1980

Hamilton-Jacobi for quadratic Ham. 873
WKB formula 878
Wheeler's const. 874

869

It is necessary to understand linearized versions of Hamilton's equations, action, etc. Consider a system described by a Hamiltonian $H(t, q, p)$. Stationary curves for the form $\eta = pdq - H dt$ are trajectories for Hamilton's equations

$$\dot{q} = \frac{\partial H}{\partial p} \quad \dot{p} = -\frac{\partial H}{\partial q}$$

Consider the trajectories as forming a manifold on which one has coords q_t, p_t for any time t . If $t' < t$, let $S_{t,t'}$ be the function on this manifold giving the ~~action~~ action from t' to t :

$$S_{t,t'}(\text{trajectory}) = \int_{t'}^t \eta$$

Then the first variation formula gives

$$dS_{t,t'} = p_t dq_t - p_{t'} dq_{t'}$$

This shows perhaps that $S_{t,t'}$ is most naturally a function of $q_t, q_{t'}$, the endpoints of the trajectory, so ~~we~~ we define

$$S(t, q; t', q') = S_{t,t'} \text{ of trajectory with } q_{t'} = q', q_t = q.$$

= action of trajectory from $x' = t'q'$ to $x = tq$

If $x' = t'q'$ is held fixed, then we have for $S = S(tq, t'q')$

$$\frac{\partial S}{\partial q} = p \quad \text{for trajectory ending at } tq$$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{dS}{dt} &= p \frac{dq}{dt} - H && \text{defn. of } S \\ &= \frac{\partial S}{\partial q} \frac{dq}{dt} + \frac{\partial S}{\partial t} && \text{(general formula)} \end{aligned}$$

and so we see that S satisfies Hamilton-Jacobi

$$\frac{\partial S}{\partial t} + H(t, q, \frac{\partial S}{\partial q}) = 0$$

Let us now suppose given a trajectory $(q^0(t), p^0(t))$, and let us consider nearby trajectories $(q^0(t) + \delta q(t), p^0(t) + \delta p(t))$.

Then to the first order $\delta q(t), \delta p(t)$ satisfy the linear DE

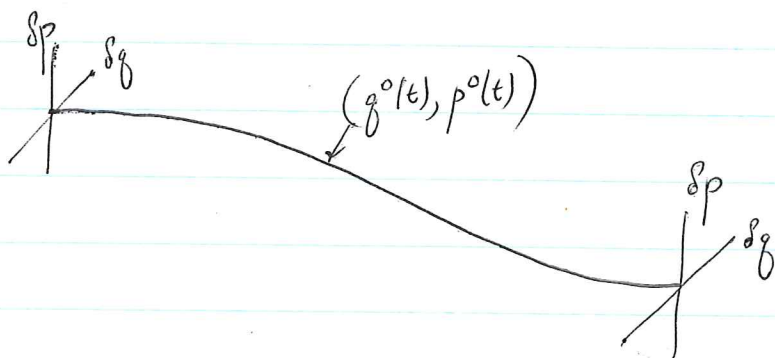
$$\dot{\delta q} = \frac{\partial^2 H}{\partial p \partial q} \delta q + \frac{\partial^2 H}{\partial q \partial p} \delta p$$

$$\dot{\delta p} = -\frac{\partial^2 H}{\partial q^2} \delta q - \frac{\partial^2 H}{\partial p^2} \delta p$$

where the 2nd partial derivatives of $H(t, q, p)$ are evaluated at $t, q^0(t), p^0(t)$. These equations are Hamilton's equations for the quadratic Hamiltonian

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{H}(t, \delta q, \delta p) &= \frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial^2 H}{\partial q^2}(t, q^0(t), p^0(t)) \delta q^2 + \frac{\partial^2 H}{\partial q \partial p}(t, q^0(t), p^0(t)) \delta q \delta p \\ &\quad + \frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial^2 H}{\partial p^2}(t, q^0(t), p^0(t)) \delta p^2 \end{aligned}$$

Picture:



I want to understand what is going on in a mbd of the given trajectory.

It is obviously necessary to understand the linear case first. Consider linearized Hamilton's eqns.

$$\delta \dot{q} = A \delta q + B \delta p$$

$$A = \frac{\partial^2 H}{\partial p \partial q} \quad B = \frac{\partial^2 H}{\partial p^2}$$

$$\delta \dot{p} = C \delta q + D \delta p$$

$$C = -\frac{\partial^2 H}{\partial q^2} \quad D = -\frac{\partial^2 H}{\partial q \partial p}$$

Is $\begin{pmatrix} A & B \\ C & D \end{pmatrix}$ an infinitesimal symplectic matrix?

This has to be true since the above DE is Hamiltonian for a quadratic fn. of $\delta q, \delta p$. Better question: What are infinitesimal symplectic matrices?

$$\begin{pmatrix} A & B \\ C & D \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ -1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ -1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} A^t & C^t \\ B^t & D^t \end{pmatrix} = 0$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \begin{pmatrix} -B & A \\ -D & C \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} B^t & D^t \\ -A^t & -C^t \end{pmatrix} = 0$$

$$\Leftrightarrow B = B^t, C = C^t, D = -A^t$$

This means

$$\dim Sp(2n) = \underbrace{n^2}_{\text{possible } A} + \underbrace{2 \frac{n(n+1)}{2}}_{\text{possible } B, C} = 2n^2 + n = n(2n+1)$$

Notice that this is the same as the dimension of the space of quadratic functions of $2n$ variables which is

$$\frac{2n(2n+1)}{2} = n(2n+1).$$

$$S = \frac{1}{2} a Q^2 + b Q q + \frac{1}{2} c q^2$$

Let's compute the symplectic transformation associated

to S:

$$P = \frac{\partial S}{\partial Q} = aQ + bq \quad \Rightarrow \quad q = -\frac{a}{b}Q + \frac{1}{b}P$$

$$P = -\frac{\partial S}{\partial q} = -bQ - cq \quad \Rightarrow \quad P = -bQ - c\left(-\frac{a}{b}Q + \frac{1}{b}P\right)$$

$$= \left(\frac{ac}{b} - c\right)Q - \frac{c}{b}P$$

Thus

$$\begin{pmatrix} q \\ P \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -\frac{a}{b} & \frac{1}{b} \\ \frac{ac}{b} - b & -\frac{c}{b} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} Q \\ P \end{pmatrix}$$

and the determinant is $\frac{ac}{b^2} - \left(\frac{ac}{b} - b\right)\frac{1}{b} = 1$
as it should be.

Question: Is there any relation of this with the scattering matrix for $(-\Delta + q)\psi = E\psi$ on the line?

July 2, 1980

more units. Recall that Coulomb's law gives a way to define a unit of charge in terms of units of length, time, mass. Thus if e is the charge of the electron

$$\frac{e^2}{1 \text{ cm}^2} = (\text{const}) \text{ gr } \frac{\text{cm}}{\text{sec}^2}$$

where (const) is dimensionless. Thus

$$[\text{charge}]^2 = \text{gr } \frac{\text{cm}^3}{\text{sec}^2}$$

Also
$$[h] = \text{gr } \frac{\text{cm}^2}{\text{sec}^2} \text{ sec} = \frac{\text{gr cm}^2}{\text{sec}}$$

$$[c] = \frac{\text{cm}}{\text{sec}}$$

Therefore
$$[\text{charge}]^2 = [hc]$$

and so
$$\frac{e^2}{hc} \text{ is a dimensionless } \text{constant}$$

Next the law of gravitation gives

$$\frac{\text{gr cm}}{\text{sec}^2} = G \frac{\text{gr}^2}{\text{cm}^2}$$

so
$$[G] = \frac{\text{cm}^3}{\text{gr sec}^2} = \frac{\text{cm}^3}{[h] \frac{\text{sec}}{\text{cm}^2} \cdot \text{sec}^2}$$

$$\frac{G}{c^3}$$

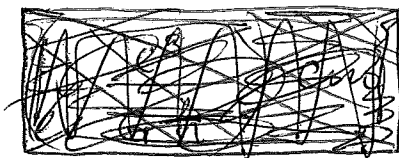
=

$$\frac{\text{cm}^2}{[h]} [c]^3$$

Thus

$$\left[\frac{Gh}{c^3} \right] = \text{cm}^2$$

and so we get an absolute unit of length, namely



$$\sqrt{\frac{Gh}{c^3}} \text{ cm}$$

This should be Wheeler's constant: Compute:

$$G = 6.672 \times 10^{-11} \frac{\text{N} \cdot \text{m}^2}{\text{kg}^2}$$

$$\frac{\text{kg} \cdot \text{m}}{\text{sec}^2}$$

$$\frac{\text{m}^3}{\text{kg} \cdot \text{sec}^2}$$

$$\hbar = \frac{6.626 \times 10^{-34}}{2\pi} \frac{\text{J} \cdot \text{sec}}{\text{kg} \cdot \text{m}^2 / \text{sec}}$$

$$c = 2.998 \times 10^8 \text{ m/sec.}$$

$$\frac{Gh}{c^3} = \frac{\cancel{6.7} \times 6.6}{\cancel{2\pi} (2.998)^3} 10^{-11-34-24} \approx 2 \times 10^{-70} \text{ m}^2$$

$$\frac{2}{9}$$

Thus

$$\sqrt{\frac{Gh}{c^3}} \text{ -m} \approx 10^{-35} \text{ m} \approx 10^{-33} \text{ cm.}$$

July 3, 1980

876

The program now is to understand first and second variations associated to least action. Let's consider two times $t_1 < t_2$ and paths $q(t), p(t)$ defined on $[t_1, t_2]$ and the action function on these paths

$$F(\gamma) = \int_{\gamma} p dq - H dt$$

Then if we have a variation $\delta q, \delta p$, we find

forget \rightarrow

$$\delta F = \int_{t_1}^{t_2} \left[\delta p \dot{q} + p \delta \dot{q} - \frac{\partial H}{\partial q} \delta q - \frac{\partial H}{\partial p} \delta p - \left(\frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial^2 H}{\partial q^2} (\delta q)^2 + \frac{\partial^2 H}{\partial q \partial p} (\delta q)(\delta p) + \frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial^2 H}{\partial p^2} (\delta p)^2 \right) \right] dt$$
$$= \left[p \delta q \right]_{t_1}^{t_2} + \int_{t_1}^{t_2} \left[\delta p \left(\dot{q} - \frac{\partial H}{\partial p} \right) - \delta q \left(\dot{p} + \frac{\partial H}{\partial q} \right) \right] dt + \int \delta p \delta \dot{q} dt$$
$$- \int_{t_1}^{t_2} \left\{ \frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial^2 H}{\partial q^2} (\delta q)^2 + \frac{\partial^2 H}{\partial q \partial p} (\delta q)(\delta p) + \frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial^2 H}{\partial p^2} (\delta p)^2 \right\} dt$$
$$+ O(\delta q, \delta p)^3$$

Thus if we fix q at the ends, γ is a critical value of F when γ is a solution of Hamilton's equations. Moreover the Hessian of F is given by the quadratic terms in δF , hence γ is a local minimum when $\delta F > 0$

$$\int \left[\delta p \delta \dot{q} - \left(\frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial^2 H}{\partial q^2} (\delta q)^2 + \dots + \frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial^2 H}{\partial p^2} (\delta p)^2 \right) \right] dt$$

evaluated along γ is ≤ 0

For example suppose

$$H = \frac{p^2}{2m} + V(q, t)$$

then the 2nd variation is

$$- \int_{t_1}^{t_2} \left(\frac{1}{2m} (\delta p)^2 + \frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial^2 V}{\partial q^2} (\delta q)^2 \right) dt$$

Thus when $\frac{\partial^2 V}{\partial q^2} \geq 0$ along the trajectory, one has a local minimum for the action. This includes harmonic oscillator, uniform gravitational field, repulsive Coulomb potential, but not an attractive Coulomb potential.

Next I want to see if the corresponding Lagrangian variational ~~problem~~ problem has a similar first and second variation.

$$\begin{aligned} \delta \int L(t, q, \dot{q}) dt &= \int \left\{ \frac{\partial L}{\partial q} \delta q + \frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{q}} \delta \dot{q} + \frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial^2 L}{\partial \dot{q}^2} \delta \dot{q}^2 + \dots \right\} dt \\ &= \left[\frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{q}} \delta q \right]_{t_1}^{t_2} + \int_{t_1}^{t_2} \left(\frac{\partial L}{\partial q} - \frac{d}{dt} \left(\frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{q}} \right) \right) \delta q dt \\ &\quad + \int_{t_1}^{t_2} \left\{ \frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial^2 L}{\partial \dot{q}^2} (\delta \dot{q})^2 + \frac{\partial^2 L}{\partial q \partial \dot{q}} (\delta q) (\delta \dot{q}) + \frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial^2 L}{\partial \dot{q}^2} (\delta \dot{q})^2 \right\} dt \end{aligned}$$

~~In~~ In the example $H = \frac{p^2}{2m} + V(q, t)$

$$L = \frac{m}{2} \dot{q}^2 - V(q, t)$$

the quadratic term is

$$\int_{t_1}^{t_2} \left\{ \frac{m}{2} (\delta \dot{q})^2 - \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{\partial^2 V}{\partial q^2} \right) (\delta q)^2 \right\} dt$$

Because δq is supposed to vanish at the ends this can be written

$$\int_{t_1}^{t_2} \frac{1}{2} \delta q \left(-m \delta \ddot{q} - \frac{\partial^2 V}{\partial q^2} \delta q \right) dt$$

which is the quadratic form associated to the operator

$$-m \frac{d^2}{dt^2} - \frac{\partial^2 V}{\partial q^2}$$

with Dirichlet boundary conditions on $[t_1, t_2]$. Now I believe one knows that the number of ~~negative~~ eigenvalues for this quadratic form is the number of conjugate points (counted properly) as one goes from t_1 to t_2 .

To fix the ideas let us work with the simple harmonic oscillator $H = \frac{p^2}{2m} + \frac{k}{2} q^2$. Then the quadratic part ~~above~~ is

$$\int_{t_1}^{t_2} \left\{ \frac{m}{2} (\delta \dot{q})^2 - \frac{k}{2} (\delta q)^2 \right\} dt$$

Corresponding to the operator m times

$$\left(\frac{d^2}{dt^2} + \omega^2 \right) \quad \omega^2 = \frac{k}{m}$$

Now to simplify suppose $[t_1, t_2] = [0, L]$. Then Dirichlet eigenfunctions are

$$\sin\left(\frac{n\pi t}{L}\right) \quad n = 1, 2, \dots$$

and the eigenvalues are $\left(\frac{n\pi}{L}\right)^2 - \omega^2$

This the number of negative eigenvalues is the number of integers n with

$$1 \leq n < \frac{\omega L}{\pi} \quad \text{or} \quad 0 < n\pi < \omega L$$

i.e. the number of zeroes of $\sin(\omega t)$ on $(0, L)$.


But one can associate to any path $q(t)$ a path $\gamma: q(t), p(t)$ in (t, q, p) -space by defining

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

Then

$$\int_{\gamma} p dq - H dt = \int [p \dot{q} - (p \dot{q} - L)] dt = \int L dt$$

so something is wrong. Error on 876.

The thing to look at is the quadratic  part

$$\int_0^T \delta p d(\delta q) - \left(\frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial^2 H}{\partial \dot{q}^2} (\delta \dot{q})^2 + \dots \right) dt$$

and to understand its eigenvalues. This is just the action integral for a ^{Hamiltonian} quadratic in q, p .

July 7, 1980

880

Consider $H = \frac{p^2}{2} + \frac{1}{2}\omega^2 q^2$ and let's compare the two actions:

$$\int_{\tilde{\gamma}} p dq - H dt$$

$\tilde{\gamma}$ is curve $q(t), p(t)$ over $[0, T]$
with $q(0) = q(T) = 0$.

$$\int_{\gamma} L dt$$

γ is the curve $q(t)$ over $[0, T]$
with $q(0) = q(T) = 0$

Then

$$\begin{aligned} \int p dq - H dt &= \int_0^T \left(p \dot{q} - \frac{p^2}{2} - \frac{\omega^2 q^2}{2} \right) dt \\ &= \underbrace{\int_0^T -\frac{1}{2} (p - \dot{q})^2 dt}_{\text{always } \leq 0} + \underbrace{\int_0^T \left(\frac{\dot{q}}{2} - \frac{\omega^2 q^2}{2} \right) dt}_{\int L dt} \end{aligned}$$

Now we have seen that

$$\int L dt = \int_0^T \frac{1}{2} q \left[\left(-\frac{d^2}{dt^2} - \omega^2 \right) q \right] dt$$

is a quadratic form on the space of paths with $q(0) = q(T) = 0$ having a finite number of negative eigenvalues and most of them positive. Hence we conclude that the action functional

$$F(\tilde{\gamma}) = \int_{\tilde{\gamma}} p dq - H dt$$

~~is~~ even for small paths does not have a ^{local} minimum, even when the Lagrange action $\int L dt$ does.

Notice that in (t, q, p) space the submanifold given by fixing t, q is such that the canonical form $\eta = pdq - Hdt$ restricts to zero on it, hence is Lagrangian for $d\eta$. We have seen that ~~the~~ Lagrangian submanifolds of (t, q, p) space for $d\eta$ which project non-singularly on (t, q) space are ~~the~~ given by solutions of the HT equation. So one should ask whether given two Lagrangian submanifolds, is it possible to assign ~~an~~ an action between them, so as to get a generalization of $S(tq, t'q')$?

Not really. Two Lagrangian submanifolds under nice ~~the~~ conditions can be expected to intersect along a trajectory. Now if one has specified S_i on each manifold ~~so~~ so that each satisfies $dS_i = \eta$, then $S_1 - S_2$ will be a constant. When one defines $S(tq, t'q')$ one chooses the action to be zero ~~on~~ on ~~the~~ each fibre over tq space.

July 5, 1980

882

Consider the Schroed. equation for a scalar wave fn.

$$i\hbar \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial t} = \left(-\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \Delta + V \right) \psi \quad \Delta = \nabla^2, \nabla = \frac{\partial}{\partial \mathbf{q}}$$

Put $\psi = e^{\frac{i}{\hbar} S}$. Then S must satisfy

$$-\frac{\partial S}{\partial t} = -\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \left(\left(\frac{i}{\hbar} \nabla S \right)^2 + \frac{i}{\hbar} \nabla^2 S \right) + V$$

or

$$\frac{\partial S}{\partial t} + \frac{1}{2m} (\nabla S)^2 + V = \frac{i\hbar}{2m} \nabla^2 S$$

If we look for an expansion $S = S_0 + \hbar S_1 + \dots$, then

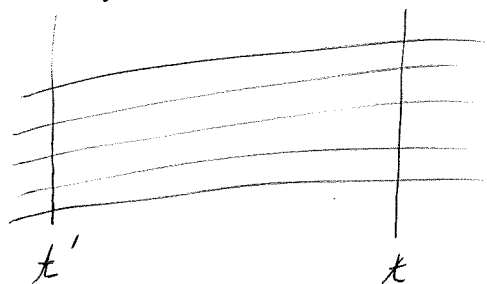
$$\frac{\partial S_0}{\partial t} + \frac{1}{2m} \left(\frac{\partial S_0}{\partial \mathbf{q}} \right)^2 + V = 0 \quad \text{Hamilton-Jacobi PDE}$$

$$\left(\frac{\partial}{\partial t} + \frac{1}{m} \frac{\partial S_0}{\partial \mathbf{q}} \cdot \nabla \right) S_1 = \frac{i}{2m} \nabla^2 S_0$$

We already know what solns. S_0 of the HJ equation look like. They can be identified with a family of trajectories of Hamilton's equations, in this case

$$\dot{\mathbf{q}} = \frac{\mathbf{p}}{m} \quad \dot{\mathbf{p}} = -\nabla V \quad \text{or} \quad m\ddot{\mathbf{q}} = -\nabla V,$$

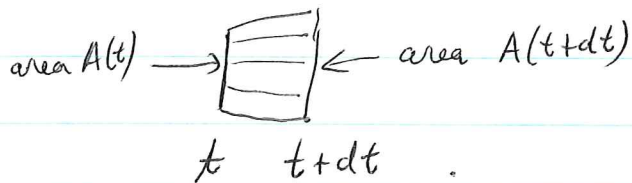
such that ~~the~~ ~~momentum~~ $\nabla S_0(\mathbf{q}, t)$ is the momentum of the trajectory passing thru \mathbf{q}, t . (This is sort of like saying the flow is irrotational.)



Let us suppose that $S_0(t, q)$ is given. To simplify suppose $m=1$ so that $\dot{q} = p = \square = \nabla S$.

Then $\nabla^2 S = \nabla \cdot \nabla S$ is the divergence of the flow.

Recall how the divergence can be computed: You take a small volume, the divergence is the flux thru its surface divided by the volume. Therefore ∇ I take a little flow tube



First it is necessary to ~~know~~ work in t, q space, so notice that the tangent vector in t, q space to the flow is $(1, \dot{q})$, and hence the divergence of $(1, \dot{q})$ is just $\nabla^2 S_0$. Also the flux thru a ~~piece of~~ $t = \text{constant}$ is just its area. Thus we get

$$\nabla^2 S_0 \cdot dt \cdot A(t) = A(t+dt) - A(t)$$

or

$$\nabla^2 S_0 = \frac{1}{A(t)} \frac{dA(t)}{dt}$$

So what we want to understand is how to compute the \square right side.

July 6, 1980

887

It is important to understand the linear case first. Consider the Hamiltonian

$$H = \frac{p^2}{2} + \frac{1}{2} q \cdot K q$$

where $K(t)$ is a symmetric matrix depending on t . The equation of motion is

$$\ddot{q} = -Kq$$

Let's work on the interval $[0, T]$ and denote by q, p (resp. Q, P) the position + momentum at the beginning (resp. end). Given q, p the position + momentum at time t is given by

$$\begin{pmatrix} q_t \\ p_t \end{pmatrix} = U(t, 0) \begin{pmatrix} q \\ p \end{pmatrix}$$

where $U(t, 0)$ satisfies

$$\frac{d}{dt} U(t, 0) = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ -K & 0 \end{pmatrix} U(t, 0)$$

$$U(0, 0) = I$$

The action of the trajectory (q_t, p_t) over $[0, T]$ is

$$\int_0^T \left[\frac{1}{2} p_t^2 - \frac{1}{2} q_t \cdot K(t) q_t \right] dt$$

and it is evidently a quadratic function of the initial position + momentum. Better: it is a quadratic function on the $2n$ dimensional space of trajectories.

Let's suppose that $t=0, T$ are good points so that (Q, q) are coordinates on the space of trajectories. Then we can write

$$S = \frac{1}{2} g \cdot a g + g \cdot b Q + \frac{1}{2} Q \cdot c Q$$

From the general relation $dS = P dQ - p dg$

we get

$$\begin{cases} P = \frac{\partial S}{\partial Q} = b^t g + c Q \\ P = -\frac{\partial S}{\partial g} = -a g - b Q \end{cases} \quad \left(\begin{array}{l} g \cdot b Q = g^t b Q \\ = Q^t b^t g \end{array} \right)$$



$$b Q = -a g - P$$

$$Q = -(b^{-1} a) g - (b^{-1}) P$$

$$P = b^t g + c [-(b^{-1} a) g - b^{-1} P]$$

$$= (b^t - c b^{-1} a) g - (c b^{-1}) P$$

This \blacksquare becomes when $n=1$:

$$\begin{pmatrix} Q \\ P \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -\frac{a}{b} & -\frac{1}{b} \\ b - \frac{ca}{b} & -\frac{c}{b} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} g \\ p \end{pmatrix}$$

$\underbrace{\hspace{10em}}_{\det = 1}$

Example: Take $H = \frac{p^2}{2} + \frac{1}{2} \omega^2 q^2$ with $\omega > 0$.

We know that

$$\begin{pmatrix} Q \\ P \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \cos \omega T & \frac{\sin \omega T}{\omega} \\ -\omega \sin \omega T & \cos \omega T \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} q \\ p \end{pmatrix}$$

hence

$$-\frac{1}{b} = \frac{\sin \omega T}{\omega} \quad -\frac{a}{b} = -\frac{c}{b} = \cos \omega T$$

$$\therefore a = c = \frac{\omega \cos \omega T}{\sin \omega T} \quad b = -\frac{\omega}{\sin \omega T}$$

hence the action for the simple harmonic oscillator over $[0, T]$ is given by

$$S(Q, q) = \frac{1}{2} \frac{\omega \cos \omega T}{\sin \omega T} q^2 - \frac{\omega}{\sin \omega T} q Q + \frac{1}{2} \frac{\omega \cos \omega T}{\sin \omega T} Q^2$$

see p 333 Oct. 79

Next I should understand the solutions of the Hamilton-Jacobi equation which are quadratic in q and hence which for fixed t correspond to a linear Lagrangian subspace. For the simple harmonic oscillator such we consider the Lagrangian subspace of $(q, p, 0)$ -space given by $S(q, 0) = p_0 q$. Thus each particle has initial momentum p_0 . The trajectory with initial position q is

$$q_t = (\cos \omega t) q + \left(\frac{\sin \omega t}{\omega}\right) p_0$$

This gives an affine subspace. You want $S(q, 0) = a \frac{q^2}{2}$
see p. 888

~~Take case $p_0 = 0$~~

Take case $p_0 = 0$

$$S = \int \left(\frac{1}{2} \dot{q}_t^2 - \frac{1}{2} \omega^2 q_t^2 \right) dt$$

$$= \frac{\omega^2}{2} q^2 \int_0^t (\sin^2 \omega t - \cos^2 \omega t) dt$$

$$= \frac{\omega^2}{2} q^2 \left(-\frac{\sin 2\omega t}{2\omega} \right) = -\frac{\omega}{2} q^2 \frac{\sin \omega t \cos \omega t}{\cos \omega t}$$

$$S(t, q) = -\left(\frac{\omega \sin \omega t}{\cos \omega t} \right) \frac{q^2}{2}$$

satisfies $\frac{\partial S}{\partial t} + \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{\partial S}{\partial q} \right)^2 + V = 0$

for $\frac{\partial S}{\partial t} = \frac{-\omega^2}{\cos^2 \omega t} \frac{q^2}{2}$

$$\frac{\partial S}{\partial q} = \frac{-\omega \sin \omega t}{\cos \omega t} q$$

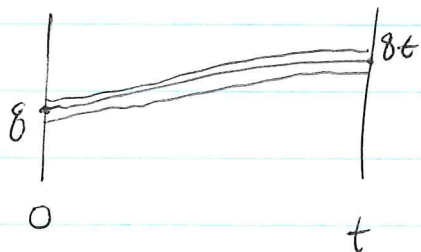
$$\therefore \frac{\partial S}{\partial t} + \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{\partial S}{\partial q} \right)^2 = \frac{\omega^2 q^2}{2} \left[\frac{-1}{\cos^2} + \frac{\sin^2}{\cos^2} \right]$$

$$= -\frac{\omega^2 q^2}{2} \quad \checkmark$$

Recall ^{from} yesterday we saw for a solution of the Hamilton-Jacobi equation $S(t, q)$ that

$$\nabla^2 S = \frac{d}{dt} \log A(t)$$

where $A(t) = \det \left(\frac{\partial q_t}{\partial q} \right)$ is the Jacobian of the map $q \mapsto q_t$



Let's check this. $A(t) = \frac{\partial q_t}{\partial q} = \cos \omega t$

$$\nabla^2 S = \frac{\partial^2}{\partial q^2} \left(-\frac{\omega \sin \omega t}{\cos \omega t} \frac{q^2}{2} \right) = -\frac{\omega \sin \omega t}{\cos \omega t} \quad \checkmark$$

General quadratic solution of HJ for the simple harmonic oscillator.

$$S(t, q) = a(t) \frac{q^2}{2} + b(t)q + c(t)$$

$$\frac{\partial S}{\partial t} = a' \frac{q^2}{2} + b'q + c'$$

$$\frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{\partial S}{\partial q} \right)^2 = \frac{1}{2} (aq + b)^2 = \frac{1}{2} a^2 q^2 + abq + \frac{1}{2} b^2$$

$$= -\frac{1}{2} \omega^2 q^2 \quad \text{yields}$$

$$a^2 + a' = -\omega^2$$

$$b' + ab = 0 \quad c' + \frac{1}{2} b^2 = 0$$

The equation for a is a Riccati eqn. assoc. to $u'' + \omega^2 u = 0$.

Solutions are $a = \frac{u'}{u}$ $a' = \frac{u''}{u} - a^2 = -\omega^2 - a^2$.

Then $\frac{b'}{b} + \frac{a'}{a} = 0$ so $b = \frac{\text{const}}{a}$

But now you see the error in 886. In order to get a linear subspace (as opposed to affine) of (q, p) space you want $S(tq)$ to be ~~be~~ a quadratic form in q , that is, ~~for~~ for the simple oscillator

$$S(tq) = a(t) \frac{q^2}{2}$$

Then we have seen that a satisfies the Riccati equation, and hence we get the solutions

$$S(tq) = \frac{u'(t) q^2}{u(t)} \quad u = A \cos \omega t + B \sin \omega t$$

of the Hamilton-Jacobi equations.

General case: $q'' + K(t)q = 0$. We want

$$S(tq) = \frac{1}{2} q \cdot a(t) q$$

to be a solution of the HT equation. Here a is a symmetric matrix.

$$\frac{\partial S}{\partial t} = \frac{1}{2} q \cdot a' q \quad \frac{\partial S}{\partial q} = a q \quad \left(\frac{\partial S}{\partial q} \right)^2 = q \cdot \frac{a^2 q}{a^2}$$

so the HT equation is

$$a' + \boxed{a^2} + K = 0$$

July 7, 1980

889

We are considering a Hamiltonian

$$H = \frac{p^2}{2} + \frac{1}{2}g \cdot Kg$$

where K is a symmetric matrix depending on t , and the associated Schrodinger equation

$$\hbar i \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial t} = \left(-\frac{\hbar^2}{2} \Delta + \frac{1}{2}g \cdot Kg \right) \psi.$$

Feynman expressed the propagator $\langle t_g | t'_g \rangle$ for the Schrodinger equation as a path integral

$$\langle t_g | t'_g \rangle = \int e^{\frac{i}{\hbar} \int L dt} \mathcal{D}g.$$

In this case the Lagrangian is quadratic

$$L = \frac{p^2}{2} - \frac{1}{2}g \cdot Kg$$

and so the path integral ~~is the determinant~~ is Gaussian and can be evaluated

$$\langle t_g | t'_g \rangle = e^{\frac{i}{\hbar} S(t_g, t'_g)} \times (\det \text{factor})^{-1/2}$$

Because of the quadratic character of L in g we know $S(t_g, t'_g)$ is quadratic in g, g' , and also that the determinant factor is independent of g, g' ; essentially it is the determinant of

$$\int_{t'}^t \left(\frac{1}{2} \dot{g}^2 + \frac{1}{2}g \cdot Kg \right) dt$$

with $g=0$ at the ends.

Therefore it makes sense to look for solutions of the Schrodinger equation of the form

$$\psi = \boxed{\text{scribble}} e^{\frac{i}{\hbar} \tilde{S}} \quad \tilde{S} = S + \hbar S_1$$

where $S = \frac{1}{2} g \cdot a(t) g$ is quadratic and S_1 depends only on t . To solve

$$\frac{\partial \tilde{S}}{\partial t} + \frac{1}{2} (\nabla \tilde{S})^2 + \frac{1}{2} g \cdot K g = \frac{i \hbar}{2} \nabla^2 \tilde{S}$$

$$\text{or } \begin{cases} \frac{\partial S}{\partial t} + \frac{1}{2} (\nabla S)^2 + \frac{1}{2} g \cdot K g = 0 \\ \hbar \frac{\partial S_1}{\partial t} = \frac{i \hbar}{2} \nabla^2 S \end{cases}$$

Thus $a(t)$ has to satisfy the Riccati style eqn

$$a' + a^2 + K = 0$$

$$\text{and } \frac{\partial S_1}{\partial t} = \frac{i}{2} \nabla^2 S = \frac{i}{2} \text{tr } a$$

Consequently

$$\psi(t, g) = e^{\frac{i}{\hbar} \left[\frac{1}{2} g \cdot a(t) g - \frac{1}{2} \int_0^t (\text{tr } a) dt \right]}$$

Consider the problem of computing the determinant of the operator

$$\frac{d^2}{dt^2} + K$$

on $[0, T]$ with Dirichlet boundary conditions. One method might be to choose a basis u_1, \dots, u_n for the solutions of $\ddot{u} + Ku = 0$ which vanish at $t=0$. Recalling that u_i is a column vector $(u_{ij})_{j=1}^n$, we can form

$$\det (u_{ij}(t)).$$

This vanishes when the operator has an ~~an~~ eigenfunction with

eigenvalue = 0. Changing the basis $\{u_i\}$ is the same as multiplying the matrix (u_{ij}) on the right by a constant invertible matrix, hence we obtain a well-defined function up to a mult. constant, which behaves like the desired determinant.

Let $A(t)$ be the matrix (u_{ij}) whose columns are ~~the~~ n -independent solutions of $\ddot{u} + Ku = 0$.

Then
$$A'' + KA = 0$$

so if we put $a = \dot{A}A^{-1}$ then

$$\dot{a} = \dot{A}(-A^{-1}\dot{A}A^{-1}) + \underbrace{\ddot{A}A^{-1}}_{-KA}$$

so
$$\dot{a} = -a^2 - K$$

and a satisfies the Riccati equation. Since K is symmetric this means that a is symmetric provided it is so at one point. Notice also that multiplying A on the right by a constant matrix doesn't change a . Notice that if

$$\dot{a} = -a^2 - K$$

and u is a solution of $\ddot{u} = au$, then

$$\ddot{u} = \dot{a}u + a\dot{u} = (-a^2 - K)u + a(au) = -Ku$$

so it seems to be clear that a solution of the Riccati equation can be identified with an n -dim subspace of solutions of $\ddot{u} + Ku = 0$, the Lagrangian subspaces corresponding to symmetric Riccati matrices.

Next recall that if $A = (u_{ij})$ is an $n \times n$ matrix of independent solutions of $\ddot{u} + Ku = 0$, then

$$\frac{d}{dt} \log \det A = \operatorname{tr} \left(\frac{dA}{dt} A^{-1} \right) = \operatorname{tr}(a)$$

so that

$$\det(A) = \text{const } e^{\int^t \operatorname{tr}(a) dt}$$

suppose we consider solutions of the HJ equation of the form

$$S(t, q) = \frac{1}{2} q \cdot a q + b \cdot q + c$$

where a, b, c are functions of t . Then

$$\frac{1}{2} \dot{q} \cdot \dot{a} q + \dot{b} \cdot q + \dot{c} + \frac{1}{2} (a q + b)^2 + \frac{1}{2} q \cdot K q = 0$$

so we must have

$$\dot{a} + a^2 + K = 0$$

$$\dot{b} + a b = 0$$

$$\dot{c} + \frac{1}{2} b^2 = 0$$

Thus b is a solution of the first order linear DE with the matrix $-a$.

Hence if we consider

$$S(t, q, t', q') = \frac{1}{2} q \cdot a q + q' \cdot b q + \frac{1}{2} q' \cdot c q'$$

then b will be a $n \times n$ matrix satisfying $\dot{b} + a b = 0$ and

hence

$$\det(b) = e^{-\int^t \operatorname{tr} a}$$

This somewhat explains why the determinant factor for $\langle q | t' q' \rangle$ can be written

$$\det \left(\frac{\partial^2 S}{\partial q' \partial q} \right)^{1/2}$$

July 9, 1980:

893

canonical transformations: Suppose a system is described by $H(t, q, p)$. The trajectories are those curves in (t, q, p) space which are stationary for the 1-form $\int pdq - Hdt$. A canonical transformation is a family of ^{2br} functions Q, P on (t, q, p) -space and a function $K(t, Q, P)$ such that

$$pdq - Hdt = PdQ - Kdt + dV$$

for some fn. V on (t, q, p) space. In good cases the functions (t, q, Q) form a system of coords on (t, q, p) -space and so $V = V(t, q, Q)$. Then

$$p = \frac{\partial V}{\partial q} \quad P = -\frac{\partial V}{\partial Q} \quad K = \frac{\partial V}{\partial t} + H$$

(The word "canonical" means that when one makes the change $(t, q, p) \rightarrow (t, Q, P)$, the Hamilton equations go into equations of the same form; equations in Hamiltonian form are called "canonical.")

The interesting case is when $K=0$, i.e. when $V(t, q, Q)$ is a solution of the Hamilton-Jacobi equation depending on the n -constants Q_1, \dots, Q_n . The trajectories are then given by $Q = \text{const}, P = \text{const}$.

Consider again the quadratic Hamiltonian

$$H = \frac{p^2}{2} + \frac{1}{2}q \cdot Kq \quad K = K(t).$$

I want to find a formula which expresses the fundamental solution $\langle t'q' | t'q' \rangle$ in terms of the classical action $S(tq, t'q')$. We have seen that $S(tq, t'q')$ is

a homogeneous quadratic function of g, g' .

Moreover $\psi(t, g) = e^{\frac{i}{\hbar} \tilde{S}(t, g)}$ satisfies the Schrödinger equation

$$\hbar i \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial t} = \left(-\frac{\hbar^2}{2} \Delta + \frac{1}{2} g \cdot K g \right) \psi$$

when \tilde{S} satisfies

$$\frac{\partial \tilde{S}}{\partial t} + \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{\partial \tilde{S}}{\partial g} \right)^2 + \frac{1}{2} g \cdot K g = \frac{\hbar i}{2} \nabla^2 \tilde{S}$$

We can take $\tilde{S} = S + \hbar S_1$ where S is quadratic

$$S(t, g) = \frac{1}{2} g \cdot a g + b \cdot g + c \quad a, b, c \text{ fns of } t$$

and $S_1 = S_1(t)$ depends only on t . Then S, S_1 must satisfy

$$\frac{1}{2} g \cdot \dot{a} g + b \cdot \dot{g} + \dot{c} + \frac{1}{2} (a g + b)^2 + \frac{1}{2} g \cdot K g = 0$$

$$(i S_1)' = -\frac{1}{2} \text{tr}(a)$$

Thus we find

$$\dot{a} + a^2 + K = 0$$

$$\dot{b} + a b = 0$$

$$\dot{c} + \frac{1}{2} b^2 = 0$$

Begin again: suppose that

$$S(t, g, t', g') = \frac{1}{2} g \cdot A g + g' \cdot B g + \frac{1}{2} g' \cdot C g'$$

where A, B, C depend on t, t' . Then we have

$$p = \frac{\partial S}{\partial g} = A g + B^t g'$$

$$p = A(-B^{-t} C g' - B^{-t} p) + B^t g'$$

$$p' = -\frac{\partial S}{\partial g'} = -B g - C g'$$

$$\Rightarrow g = -B^{-t} C g' - B^{-t} p'$$

so

$$\begin{pmatrix} q \\ p \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -B^{-1}C & -B^{-1} \\ B^t - AB^{-1}C & -AB^{-1} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} q' \\ p' \end{pmatrix}$$

similarly we have

$$q' = -(B^t)^{-1}Aq + (B^t)^{-1}p$$

$$p' = -Bq - C(-(B^t)^{-1}Aq + (B^t)^{-1}p)$$

or

$$\begin{pmatrix} q' \\ p' \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -(B^t)^{-1}A & (B^t)^{-1} \\ -B + C(B^t)^{-1}A & -C(B^t)^{-1} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} q \\ p \end{pmatrix}$$

Notice a matrix $\begin{pmatrix} \alpha & \beta \\ \gamma & \delta \end{pmatrix}$ is symplectic when

$$\begin{pmatrix} \alpha & \beta \\ \gamma & \delta \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ -1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \alpha^t & \delta^t \\ \beta^t & \gamma^t \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ -1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

or when

$$\begin{pmatrix} \alpha & \beta \\ \gamma & \delta \end{pmatrix}^{-1} = \begin{pmatrix} \delta^t & -\beta^t \\ -\gamma^t & \alpha^t \end{pmatrix}$$

so comparing the above one sees that we have symplectic matrices. One can check that if $U(t, t')$ is the matrix giving $\begin{pmatrix} q \\ p \end{pmatrix}$ in terms of $\begin{pmatrix} q' \\ p' \end{pmatrix}$ then the equation

$$\dot{U} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ -K & 0 \end{pmatrix} U$$

is equivalent to S satisfying HJ.

Here seems to be the missing argument. Let's begin with the Schrodinger equation

$$i\hbar \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial t} = \left(-\frac{\hbar^2}{2} \Delta + V(t, q) \right) \psi$$

and look for an asymptotic solution

$$\psi = e^{\frac{i}{\hbar} \tilde{S}} \quad \text{where} \quad \tilde{S} = S + \hbar S_1 + \dots$$

Then we want to satisfy the equations

$$\frac{\partial S}{\partial t} + \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{\partial S}{\partial q_j} \right)^2 + V = 0$$

$$\frac{\partial S_1}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial S}{\partial q_j} \cdot \frac{\partial S_1}{\partial q_j} = \frac{i}{2} \sum_j \frac{\partial^2 S}{\partial q_j^2}$$

Now we are given a solution $S(t, q, \alpha)$ of the HT equation depending on n independent constants $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n$; for example $S(t, q, t' q')$ with t' fixed.

Differentiating

$$\frac{\partial S}{\partial t} + \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{\partial S}{\partial q_j} \right)^2 + V = 0$$

wrt α gives

$$\frac{\partial^2 S}{\partial t \partial \alpha} + \sum_i \frac{\partial S}{\partial q_i} \frac{\partial^2 S}{\partial q_i \partial \alpha} = 0$$

and then with respect to q_j gives

$$\frac{\partial^3 S}{\partial t \partial q_j \partial \alpha} + \sum_i \frac{\partial S}{\partial q_i} \frac{\partial^3 S}{\partial q_i \partial q_j \partial \alpha} + \sum_i \frac{\partial^2 S}{\partial q_i \partial q_i} \frac{\partial^2 S}{\partial q_i \partial \alpha} = 0$$

$$\frac{d}{dt} \left(\frac{\partial^2 S}{\partial q_j \partial \alpha} \right)$$

(here $\frac{d}{dt}$ refers to applying a vector field)

Consequently the matrix $b = \frac{\partial^2 S}{\partial q_j \partial \alpha}$ satisfies

$$b + a b = 0$$

where $a = \frac{\partial^2 S}{\partial q_i \partial q_i}$, hence we can conclude that

$$\frac{d}{dt} \log \det b = -\text{tr} a$$

and since ~~the~~ $\frac{d}{dt}(iS_1) = -\frac{1}{2} \text{tr}(a)$, we see that

$$iS_1 = \frac{1}{2} \log \det b + \text{const}$$

or that

$$\psi(tq) = e^{\frac{i}{\hbar} S(tq, \alpha)} \left(\det \frac{\partial^2 S}{\partial q \partial \alpha} \right)^{1/2}$$

is an approximate solution of the Schrodinger equation. It is exact when $V(tq)$ is quadratic in q : $\frac{1}{2} q \cdot K(t) q$ and S is also quadratic in q .

July 10, 1980

898

Consider free motion $H = \frac{p^2}{2m}$

$$\langle t_g | t'_g \rangle = \langle g | e^{-\frac{i}{\hbar}(t-t')\frac{p^2}{2m}} | g' \rangle$$

$$= \int \frac{dp}{2\pi\hbar} \underbrace{\langle g | p \rangle}_{e^{\frac{i}{\hbar}p g}} e^{-\frac{i}{\hbar}\Delta t \frac{p^2}{2m}} \langle p | g' \rangle$$

$$= \int \frac{dp}{2\pi\hbar} e^{\frac{i}{\hbar}p\Delta g - \frac{i}{\hbar}\Delta t \frac{p^2}{2m}} = e^{-\frac{1}{2} \frac{m}{i\Delta t \hbar} (\Delta g)^2} \frac{\sqrt{2\pi}}{2\pi \sqrt{i\Delta t \hbar/m}}$$

$$= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi i \hbar \Delta t/m}} e^{\frac{i}{\hbar} \frac{m}{2} \frac{(\Delta g)^2}{\Delta t}}$$

Thus $S(t_g, t'_g) = \frac{m}{2} \frac{(\Delta g)^2}{\Delta t}$ which checks

$$= \frac{1}{2} \frac{m}{\Delta t} g^2 - \frac{m}{\Delta t} g g' + \frac{1}{2} \frac{m}{\Delta t} g'^2$$

$$\therefore \frac{\partial^2 S}{\partial g \partial g'} = -\frac{m}{\Delta t}$$

It would therefore seem that

$$\langle t_g | t'_g \rangle \doteq e^{\frac{i}{\hbar} S(t_g, t'_g)} \left(\det \frac{i}{2\pi\hbar} \frac{\partial^2 S}{\partial g \partial g'} \right)^{1/2}$$

is the general WKB formula. (Previous work on this subject - see October 79).

Next project: Recall the classical picture of the motion of a particle: One is given a 4-manifold called space-time and in the cotangent

bundle one is given a hypersurface e.g.

$$E - e\phi = \sqrt{(p - eA)^2 + m^2}$$

One then looks at ~~curves~~ curves in the hypersurface which are stationary with respect to the canonical form $\eta = pdq - E dt$ on the cotangent bundle.

There are two angles I want to test, both of which seem to introduce a new parameter.

A: Somehow replace the hypersurface by a conical hypersurface. This makes our particle a candidate for a wave singularity for some wave theory.

B: Somehow replace the constraint that curves lie in the hypersurface by introducing a Lagrange multiplier like the chemical potential.

July 12, 1980

900

It is possible to derive the FD and BE distributions using dominant term instead of the grand ~~partition~~ partition function. Suppose we have a 1-particle system with energy levels E_s . In order to apply this method we assume these levels are highly degenerate, and group them together. Thus suppose we have levels E_s of multiplicity g_s where g_s is large. This means the 1-particle space is

$$V = \bigoplus_s V_s \quad \dim V_s = g_s \quad H = E_s \text{ on } V_s.$$

Then the N -particle space is

$$\Lambda^N V = \bigoplus_{\sum n_s = N} \bigotimes_s \Lambda^{n_s} V_s$$

For each choice $\{n_s\}$ with

$$\sum n_s = N$$

N particles present

$$\sum n_s E_s = E$$

total energy E

we have

$$W = \dim \bigotimes_s \Lambda^{n_s} V_s = \prod_s \frac{g_s!}{n_s! (g_s - n_s)!}$$

possible states. Now maximize W subject to the constraints and one gets

$$-\log n_s + \log (g_s - n_s) - \alpha - \beta E_s = 0$$

$$\frac{g_s}{n_s} - 1 = e^{\alpha + \beta E_s}$$

$$\frac{n_s}{g_s} = \frac{1}{e^{\alpha + \beta E_s} + 1}$$

which is the FD distribution.

901

~~Curious point:~~

Curious point: suppose there is exactly one s with $E_s = 0$, whence ~~the~~ the constraint $\sum n_s = N$ says $n_s = N$. But apply Lagrange to this problem: To maximize

$$\log \frac{g!}{n!(g-n)!} \quad \text{subject to} \quad n = N$$

one forms

$$\log \left(\frac{g!}{n!(g-n)!} \right) - \alpha(n-N)$$

and differentiates to get

$$-\log n + \log(g-n) - \alpha = 0$$

$$\text{or} \quad \frac{n}{g} = \frac{1}{e^\alpha + 1}$$

~~It~~ It works, but is silly.

Next take up BE statistics. Here you need

$$\dim S^n(V) = \frac{(n+g-1)!}{n!(g-1)!}$$

and you get

$$-\log n_s + \log(n_s + g_s - 1) - \alpha - \beta E_s = 0$$

$$\text{negligible} \sqrt{1 + \frac{g_s - 1}{n_s}} = e^{\alpha + \beta E_s}$$

$$\frac{n_s}{g_s} = \frac{1}{e^{\alpha + \beta E_s} - 1}$$

Finally to get MB in the same way you don't want to use

$$\dim(V^{\otimes n}) = g^n$$

but rather you want to divide by $n!$ for ~~some~~ reason. Thus you maximize

$$(+)\quad \prod_s \frac{g_s^{n_s}}{n_s!} \quad \text{subject to constraints}$$

and get the equations

$$\log g_s - \log n_s - \alpha - \beta E_s = 0$$

$$\text{or} \quad \frac{n_s}{g_s} = e^{-\alpha - \beta E_s}$$

The way one sees that (+) gives, ^{essentially} the number of states with the occupation numbers n_s is as follows. Fix N particles; this gives $V^{\otimes N} = (\oplus V_s)^{\otimes N}$. Then $\Sigma_{\mathbb{N}}$ acts on the subspace with occupation numbers $\{n_s\}$ and the dimension of this subspace is

$$\frac{N!}{\prod n_s!} \prod_s g_s^{n_s} = g_s^{n_s} = \dim(V_s^{\otimes n_s}).$$

Thus except for the $N!$ one gets (+).

Let us consider now the least action variational principle again. Suppose given $H(t, q, p)$. Least action singles out a family of curves in (t, q, p) -space, namely the ones which are stationary for the form

$$pdq - H dt.$$

We can also describe these curves as curves in the hypersurface $H(t, q, p) = E$ in the cotangent bundle to (t, q) space which are stationary for the canonical 1-form $p dq - E dt$.

The question arises as to whether the constraint condition $H(t, q, p) = E$ can be replaced by ^a Lagrange multiplier condition.

Let's change the notation slightly and suppose we work in a cotangent bundle with canonical form $p dq$, and we are given a hypersurface $H = \text{constant } E$. We suppose given a critical curve and we are going to consider variations around it. Since we want to use Lagrange multipliers, it is clear that we have to be given the function H so that we can ~~write~~ write down the condition $\lambda(H - E)$. Therefore we ~~are~~ ^{are} given the Hamilton vector field X_H , and so along our trajectory we have a natural time parameter.