

"The KAM theorem, following  
the original approach designed by Kolmogorov"

Pop. 1

Mini-course in the framework of the  
Pisa-Hokkaido-Roma2 summer school

on Mathematics and its Applications

(2018, from Mon. 27 Aug. to Fri. 7 Sep.)

- Very short introduction to the Hamiltonian  
formalism

The Newtonian mechanics

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} m_j \ddot{x}_j = F_j(x_1, \dots, x_N) \quad x_j \in \mathbb{R}^3 \forall j=1, \dots, N \\ f_i(x_1, \dots, x_N) = 0 \quad \forall i=1, \dots, r \end{array} \right.$$

$$\sum_{j=1}^N \delta f_i \cdot \delta x_j = 0 \quad \forall \delta x_1, \dots, \delta x_N$$

$$\sum_{j=1}^N \delta f_i \cdot \delta x_j = 0 \quad \forall \delta x_1, \dots, \delta x_N \text{ compatible with}$$

$$\sum_{j=1}^N \delta f_i \cdot \delta x_j = 0 \quad \forall \delta x_1, \dots, \delta x_N \text{ the constraints}$$

ideality of the constraints

is equivalent to the Lagrangian mechanics

$$\frac{d}{dt} \frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{q}_j} - \frac{\partial L}{\partial q_j} = 0 \quad \forall j=1, \dots, n=3N-r \text{ degrees of freedom}$$

$$\text{with } L(q, \dot{q}) = T(q, \dot{q}) - U(q)$$

Moreover, Lagrangian mechanics is equivalent [Pap. 2] to Hamiltonian mechanics

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \dot{p}_j = -\frac{\partial H}{\partial q_j}, \quad j=1, \dots, n \\ \dot{q}_j = \frac{\partial H}{\partial p_j} \end{array} \right. \text{ where } H(p, q) = \sum_{j=1}^n p_j \dot{q}_j - L(q, \dot{q})$$

and  $\dot{p}_j = \frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{q}_j}$ , For conservative mechanical systems, we have  $H(p, q) = T(p, q) + V(q)$

The Hamilton equations can be rewritten in the elegant form  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \dot{p}_j = \{p_j, H\} \\ \dot{q}_j = \{q_j, H\} \end{array} \right. \quad j=1, \dots, n$ , where the

$$\{f, g\} = \sum_{j=1}^n \frac{\partial f}{\partial q_j} \frac{\partial g}{\partial p_j} - \frac{\partial f}{\partial p_j} \frac{\partial g}{\partial q_j}$$

Poisson brackets  $\{f, g\}$  is defined so that

$$\{f, g\} = \sum_{j=1}^n \frac{\partial f}{\partial q_j} \frac{\partial g}{\partial p_j} - \frac{\partial f}{\partial p_j} \frac{\partial g}{\partial q_j}$$

being  $f=f(p, q)$ ,  $g=g(p, q)$  2 generic dynamical variables.

### Canonical transformations (definition)

let  $(p, q) = C(P, Q)$  a diffeomorphism such that  
 $\{p_i, p_j\}_{(P, Q)} = 0$ ,  $\{q_i, q_j\}_{(P, Q)} = 0$ ,  $\{p_i, q_j\}_{(P, Q)} = \delta_{ij}$  if  $i=j$   $\rightarrow 0$  if  $i \neq j$

Where the Poisson brackets are calculated with respect to the new variables  $(P, Q)$ , e.g.  $\{p_i(P, Q), q_j(P, Q)\}_{(P, Q)} = \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{\partial p_i}{\partial P_k} \frac{\partial q_j}{\partial Q_k}$

Then, we say that  $(P, Q) = \underline{C}(P, Q)$  is said to Pop. 3  
be a canonical transformation.

### Fundamental property of the canonical transformation

Let  $K(P, Q) = H(\underline{C}(P, Q))$  be the Hamiltonian  
expressed in the new variables  $(P, Q)$ , or, for  
short, the new Hamiltonian.

Let  $t \mapsto (P(t), Q(t))$  the solution of  
the new Hamilton equations, that are  $\begin{cases} \dot{P}_j = -\frac{\partial K}{\partial Q_j} \\ \dot{Q}_j = \frac{\partial K}{\partial P_j} \end{cases}$   
 $j=1, \dots, n$ . Therefore, the law of motion

$$t \mapsto (P(t), Q(t)) = \underline{C}(P(t), Q(t))$$

is a solution of the original Hamilton equations  $\begin{cases} \dot{P}_j = -\frac{\partial H}{\partial Q_j} \\ \dot{Q}_j = \frac{\partial H}{\partial P_j} \end{cases}$

### Normal forces (or very short, informal introduction)

The fundamental property of the canonical transformations (as described above) opens the possibility to solve Hamilton equations, by using an approach based on normal forces.

The basic idea can be formulated as follows:  
let us imagine to have found a canonical transformation

$(\underline{P}, \underline{Q}) = \underline{\mathcal{L}}(\underline{P}, \underline{Q})$ , such that it is easy | Pap. 4  
 to find a solution of the Hamilton equations  
 for  $\underline{H}(\underline{P}, \underline{Q}) = H(\underline{\mathcal{L}}(\underline{P}, \underline{Q}))$ , then this ~~solution~~ solution,  
 transferred in the new old coordinates  $(P, q)$ ,  
 solves also the equations for  $H(P, q)$  (i.e., the  
 original problem); in such a case,  $H$  is said to be in normal form.

### Example

$$H(P, Q) = \underline{\omega} \cdot \underline{P} + R(P, Q), \quad \text{where } \underline{R}(P, Q) = O(\|P\|^2)$$

$H$  is in Kolmogorov's normal form.

It is easy to check that  $t \mapsto (\underline{P}(t) = \underline{0}, \underline{Q}(t) = \underline{Q}_0 + \underline{\omega}t)$   
 is a solution of the Hamilton equations related to  $H$ .

In fact,

$$\dot{\underline{P}}_j = \frac{\partial R}{\partial \underline{Q}_j} = O(\|P\|^2)$$

and

$$\dot{\underline{Q}}_j = \underline{\omega}_j + \frac{\partial R}{\partial \underline{P}_j} = \underline{\omega}_j + O(\|P\|)$$

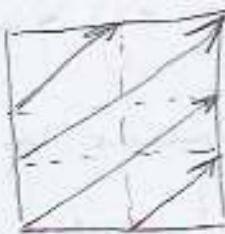
become two identities when  $\underline{P} = \underline{0}$  and  $\underline{Q} = \underline{\omega}$ !

Since  $\underline{Q} \in \mathbb{T}^n$ , we say that the torus  $\{(P, Q) : P = \underline{0}\}$   
 is invariant.

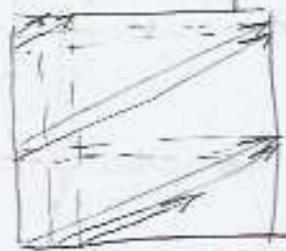
The flow on the invariant torus is strictly periodic if there are  $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}_+$  and  $v \in \mathbb{Z}^n$  such that

$$\underline{\omega} = \alpha v;$$

otherwise, the flow is said to be quasi-periodic.



periodic flow on  $\mathbb{T}^2$



quasi-periodic flow on  $\mathbb{T}^2$   
(It fills densely  $\mathbb{T}^2$ )

If a Hamiltonian  $H(p, q)$  can be brought in Kolmogorov normal form by a canonical transformation  $(p, q) = C(P, Q)$ , then the law of motion

$t \mapsto C(Q_0, Q = \omega t + Q_0)$  is a solution of the Hamilton equations related to  $H$ .

### • Integrability, Liouville theorem

The strongest result about integrability of Hamiltonian systems (i.e. solvability of the Hamilton equations) is the celebrated Liouville theorem:

Theorem: let  $H(p, q)$  be Hamiltonian describing a dynamical system. Let  $I_1(p, q), \dots, I_n(p, q)$  be  $n$  independent first integrals that are in involution

tion. This means that

$$\det \begin{pmatrix} \frac{\partial I_i}{\partial p_j} \end{pmatrix}_{i,j=1,\dots,n} \neq 0,$$

It is a constant of motion, thus "only"  $n-1$  are needed

it is not restrictive that the derivatives are only with respect to  $p^i$

$$\left\{ I_i, H \right\} = 0 \text{ and } \left\{ I_i, I_j \right\} = 0 \quad \forall i, j = 1, \dots, n.$$

Therefore, the system is integrable by quadrature.

Comments The proof ensure the existence of a canonical transformation (expressed in mixed coordinates)

$$(P, q) = C(I, \dot{Q}) \quad \text{[not necessarily angles!]}$$

such that the new momenta are the first integrals

$(I_1, \dots, I_n)$  - The new hamiltonian

$$K(I, \dot{Q}) = H(C(I, \dot{Q})) = H(I)$$

actually depends just on such new momenta.

Thus, the new hamilton equations can be written as

follows:  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \dot{I}_j = \frac{\partial H}{\partial \dot{Q}_j} = 0 \rightarrow I_j = I_j(0) \text{ constant of motion} \\ \dot{Q}_j = \frac{\partial H}{\partial I_j} = \omega_j \text{ constant because of} \end{array} \right.$

$$\rightarrow Q_j(t) = \omega_j t + Q_j(0)$$

As usual, the solution of the hamilton equations expressed in the old coordinates is given by

$$t \mapsto C(I_j(t) = I_j(0), Q_j(t) = \omega_j t + Q_j(0))$$

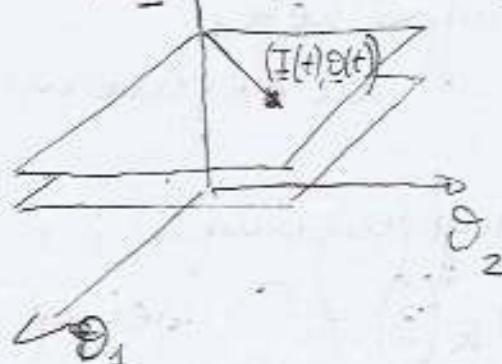
In the particular case that there is at least <sup>connected</sup> component of the set defined by the intervals of motion that is compact, then we can locally introduce action-angle coordinates. This is ensured by the following extension of the Liouville theorem due to Arnold (and Jost) -

Theorem: let us assume the same hypotheses of the Liouville theorem. Moreover, let  $S_c$  be a connected component that is a subset of  $\{(p, q) : I_j(p, q) = c_j, j=1, \dots, n\}$  where  $c_1, \dots, c_n$  are real constant values.

If  $S_c$  is compact then there is a canonical transformation  $\varphi_{I, \Theta} : (p, q) \mapsto (I, \Theta)$  defined on an open set including  $S_c$  such that

$$H(\varphi(I, \Theta)) = H(I)$$

From the geometrical point of view, the Liouville-Arnold-Jost theorem means that the phase space is filled by invariant tori



• General problem of dynamics

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According to Poincaré the general problem of dynamics is a perturbation of an integrable system. In fact, we say that a dynamical system governed by a hamiltonian of type

$$H(p, q; \varepsilon) = H_0(p) + \sum_{s=1}^{+\infty} \varepsilon^s H_s(p, q),$$

where  $p \in A \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ , being  $A$  an open set,  $q \in T^n$ , ~~and~~  $\varepsilon$  a small parameter defined in  $B(0)$ ,  $H$  an analytic function in all its arguments.

• The Poincaré theorem on the non-existence of first integrals

Theorem: Consider the hamiltonian describing the general problem of the dynamics. Assume that it satisfies the following hypotheses:

non-degeneracy, i.e.  $\det\left(\frac{\partial^2 H_0}{\partial p_i \partial p_j}\right)_{i,j=1,\dots,n} \neq 0$ ,

and genericness, i.e.  $\forall k \in \mathbb{Z}^n \setminus \{0\}$  we have that

$$h_k(p) \neq 0 \text{ being } h_k(p, q) = \sum_{k \in \mathbb{Z}^n} h_k(p) \exp(ik \cdot q)$$

then there is not any analytic function [Pap. 9]  
 that is a first integral that does not depend on  $H$ .

It is convenient to give a sketch of the proof.

let us consider a series expansion of a first integral

$$\Phi(p, q; \epsilon) = \Phi_0(p) + \sum_{s=1}^{+\infty} \epsilon^s \Phi_s(p, q),$$

that is analogous to that of the hamiltonian.

let us try to determine  $\Phi$ , by solving perturbatively  
 the equation  $\{H, \Phi\} = 0$ . This means that we have

$$\{H_0, \Phi_0\} = 0 \quad (\text{order } \epsilon^0)$$

$$\{H_0, \Phi_1\} = -\{H_1, \Phi_0\} \quad (\text{order } \epsilon)$$

$$\{H_0, \Phi_2\} = -\{H_2, \Phi_0\} - \{H_1, \Phi_1\} \quad (\text{order } \epsilon^2)$$

In the r.h.s. we have put the terms that would be  
 fixed at the previous perturbative steps.

The equation at order  $\epsilon^0$ , joined with the non-degeneracy  
 condition, allows to verify that  $\Phi_0$  cannot depend on  
 the angles; moreover by the liouville theorem  
 it is natural to look for first integrals that are perturbations  
 of the momenta.

Now, we consider the  $O(\varepsilon)$  equation, i.e. Pap. 13

$$\{H_0, \dot{\Phi}_j\} = -\{H_1, \dot{\Phi}_0\},$$

let us focus on the Fourier expansion of that equation

$$-i \sum_{k \in \mathbb{Z}^n \setminus \{0\}} \left( \sum_j \frac{\partial H_0}{\partial p_j} \right) \varphi_k(p) \exp(ik \cdot q) = -i \sum_{k \in \mathbb{Z}^n \setminus \{0\}} \left( \sum_{j=1}^n k_j \frac{\partial \Phi_0}{\partial p_j} \right) h_k(p) e^{ik \cdot q}$$

$$\Rightarrow \forall k \in \mathbb{Z}^n \setminus \{0\} \text{ we have } k \cdot \underline{\omega}(p) \varphi_k(p) = \left( \sum_{j=1}^n k_j \frac{\partial \Phi_0}{\partial p_j} \right) h_k(p)$$

being  $\Phi_0(p, q) = \sum_{k \in \mathbb{Z}^n} \varphi_k(p) \exp(ik \cdot q)$ . and

$$\underline{\omega}_j(p) = \frac{\partial H_0}{\partial p_j}.$$

We now consider the so called resonant manifold  $k \cdot \underline{\omega}(p) = 0$ , that admits solutions in force of the non-degeneracy condition.

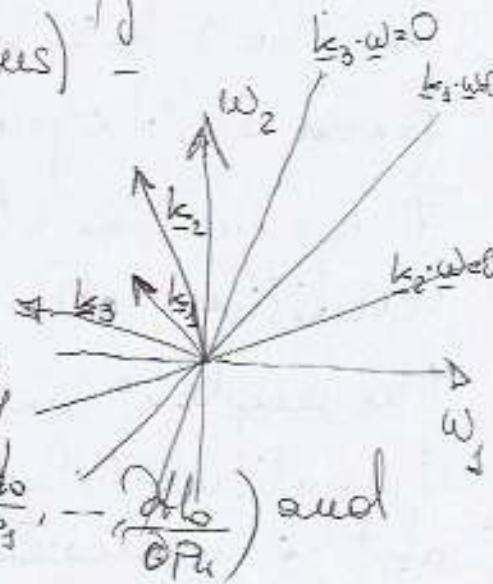
$$\forall k \in \mathbb{Z}^n \setminus \{0\}, \text{ if } p: k \cdot \underline{\omega}(p) = 0 \Rightarrow \sum_{j=1}^n k_j \frac{\partial \Phi_0}{\partial p_j} = 0$$

(here we used the genericity conditions)

Thus, on the resonant modules we have

$$\text{that } \operatorname{rank} \frac{\partial(H_0, \dot{\Phi}_0)}{\partial(p_1, \dots, p_n)} = 1.$$

Since the resonant modules fill densely the set of the singular velocities  $\underline{\omega} = \left( \frac{\partial H_0}{\partial p_1}, \dots, \frac{\partial H_0}{\partial p_n} \right)$  and (by the non-degeneracy) the action space,



then  $H_0$  and  $\Phi_0$  are not independent. Pap. 11  
By using again the non-degeneracy, this allows  
to conclude that also  $H$  and  $\Phi$  are not independent.

Comments. The genericness condition is very  
hard to check and it can be violated (at order  
 $\epsilon$ ) by many Fourier harmonics  $k$ .

However, the perturbative procedure allowing  
to compute the first integrals is such that  
the Fourier harmonics are ~~never~~ represented  
at every perturbative order in a generic way,  
unless there are some symmetries.

Thus, if a Fourier harmonic is missing at order  
 $\epsilon$  in the expansion of  $H_1$ , it will appear in the  
l.h.s. of the equations for determining  $\Phi_2$  at order  
 $\epsilon^2$  or  $\Phi_3$  at order  $\epsilon^3$  and so on.

- Main ideas behind the KAM theorem  
and a first statement of it

The (sketch of the) proof of the Poincaré theorem  
highlights that the main obstruction to the existence