

Hamiltonian formulation: water waves

Lecture 3



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Hamiltonian formulation: water waves

This lecture:

- A. Rapid review of Hamiltonian machinery
(see also extra notes)
- B. Hamiltonian formulation of water waves
- Zakharov, 1967, 1968
[Lagrangian formulation - Luke, 1967]
- C. Some consequences of Hamiltonian structure

A. Review of Hamiltonian systems

1. Example: nonlinear oscillator

$$\ddot{\theta} + \omega^2 \theta + \alpha \theta^3 = 0, \quad \omega^2 > 0, \quad \dot{\theta} = \frac{d\theta}{dt}.$$

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$$\dot{\theta} \cdot (eq'n) \Rightarrow E = \frac{1}{2}(\dot{\theta})^2 + \frac{\omega^2}{2}(\theta)^2 + \frac{\alpha}{4}(\theta)^4 = const.$$

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b) Write eq'n as a first-order system

Define $q = \theta(t), \quad p = \dot{\theta}(t)$

equivalent:

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{q} &= p, \\ \dot{p} &= -\omega^2 q - \alpha q^3 \end{aligned}$$

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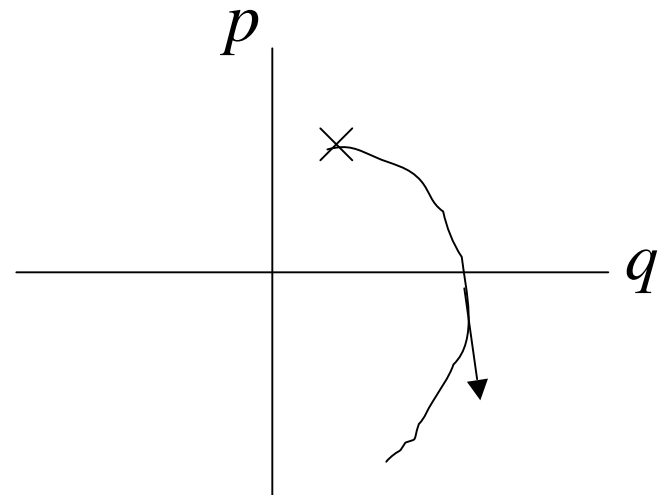
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Review of Hamiltonian systems

2. Definition: A system of $2N$ first-order ODEs is Hamiltonian if there exist N pairs of coordinates on the phase space,

$$\{p_j(t), q_j(t)\}, \quad j = 1, 2, \dots, N,$$

and a real-valued Hamiltonian function,

$$H(\vec{p}(t), \vec{q}(t), t),$$

such that the original equations are equivalent to

$$\dot{q}_j = \frac{dq_j}{dt} = \frac{\partial H}{\partial p_j}, \quad \dot{p}_j = -\frac{\partial H}{\partial q_j}, \quad j = 1, 2, \dots, N.$$

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Review of Hamiltonian systems

3. Comments

- a) Not every system of $2N$ first-order ODEs is Hamiltonian.
- b) An essential property of a Hamiltonian system:
the flow preserves volume in phase space.
(The volume of a “ball” of initial data is preserved.)
- c) H is often the physical energy, but not necessarily.
- d) H is often a constant of the motion, but not necessarily.

Review of Hamiltonian systems

4. Plausibility argument for volume-preserving flows.

- Start with M first-order ODEs

$$\frac{dx_j}{dt} = v_j(\vec{x}, t), \quad j = 1, 2, \dots, M.$$

Review of Hamiltonian systems

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- Imagine a “fluid” that fills the M -dimensional phase space.
 - ➔ $\{x_1(t), x_2(t), \dots, x_M(t)\}$ are the coordinates of a fluid particle,
 - ➔ $\{v_1(t), v_2(t), \dots, v_M(t)\}$ are the components of fluid velocity.

Review of Hamiltonian systems

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(See p. 69 of Arnold's "Classical Mechanics" for a real proof)

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- ➔ $\{v_1(t), v_2(t), \dots, v_M(t)\}$ are the components of fluid velocity.
- The fluid is "incompressible", so volume is preserved if

$$\nabla \cdot \vec{v} = \sum_{j=1}^M \frac{\partial v_j}{\partial x_j} = 0$$

Review of Hamiltonian systems

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- Claim: Any Hamiltonian system of ODEs with a smooth Hamiltonian is volume-preserving,

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$$\begin{aligned}\nabla \cdot \vec{v} &= \sum_{j=1}^N \frac{\partial}{\partial q_j} \left(\frac{dq_j}{dt} \right) + \sum_{j=1}^N \frac{\partial}{\partial p_j} \left(\frac{dp_j}{dt} \right) \\ &= \sum_{j=1}^N \frac{\partial}{\partial q_j} \left(\frac{\partial H}{\partial p_j} \right) + \sum_{j=1}^N \frac{\partial}{\partial p_j} \left(-\frac{\partial H}{\partial q_j} \right) \\ &= 0.\end{aligned}$$

Review of Hamiltonian systems

5. Hamiltonian PDEs

Example: nonlinear wave equation, periodic b.c.

$$\partial_t^2 \theta = c^2 \partial_x^2 \theta - \omega^2 \theta - \alpha \theta^3$$

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b) Choose “conjugate variables”

$$p(x,t) = \partial_t \theta(x,t), \quad q(x,t) = \theta(x,t).$$

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c) Guess: $H(p,q,t) = \int \left[\frac{1}{2} p^2 + \frac{c^2}{2} (\partial_x q)^2 + \frac{\omega^2}{2} q^2 + \frac{\alpha}{4} q^4 \right] dx$

Review of Hamiltonian systems

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this defines variational derivative: $\frac{\delta H}{\delta p}$

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Q: What is $\frac{\delta H}{\delta p}$? Why?

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new twist: integrate by parts, with $\delta q = 0$ on boundaries

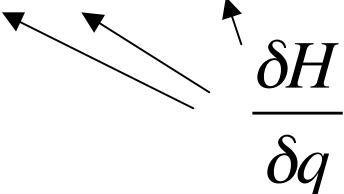
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$\frac{\delta H}{\delta q}$

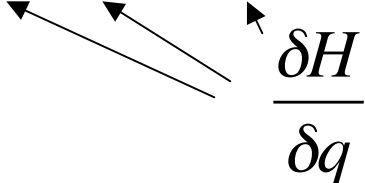
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$$\frac{\delta H}{\delta q}$$

End of lightning tour of Hamiltonian systems

B. Inviscid water waves

Recall:

$$\partial_t \eta + \nabla \phi \cdot \nabla \eta = \partial_z \phi, \quad \text{on } z = \eta(x, y, t)$$

$$\partial_t \phi + \frac{1}{2} |\nabla \phi|^2 + g\eta = \frac{\sigma}{\rho} \nabla \cdot \left\{ \frac{\nabla \eta}{\sqrt{1 + |\nabla \eta|^2}} \right\}, \quad \text{on } z = \eta(x, y, t)$$

$$\nabla^2 \phi = 0 \quad -h(x, y) < z < \eta(x, y, t)$$

$$\partial_n \phi = 0 \quad \text{on } z = -h(x, y)$$

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Q: Where does t-evolution occur?

A. (Zakharov): on $z = \eta(x, y, t)$

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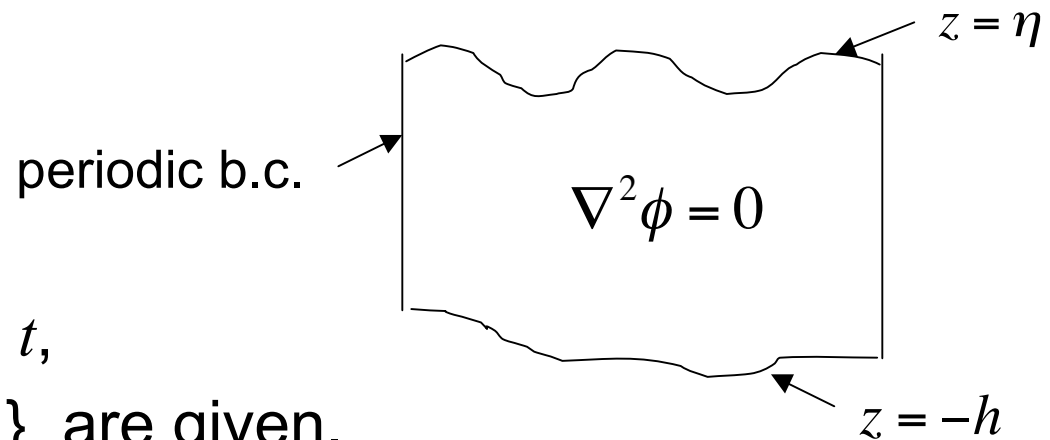
→ Propose conjugate variables:

$$\eta(x, y, t), \quad \psi(x, y, t) = \phi(x, y, z, t) \Big|_{z=\eta}$$

Water waves as Hamiltonian system

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Plausibility check:



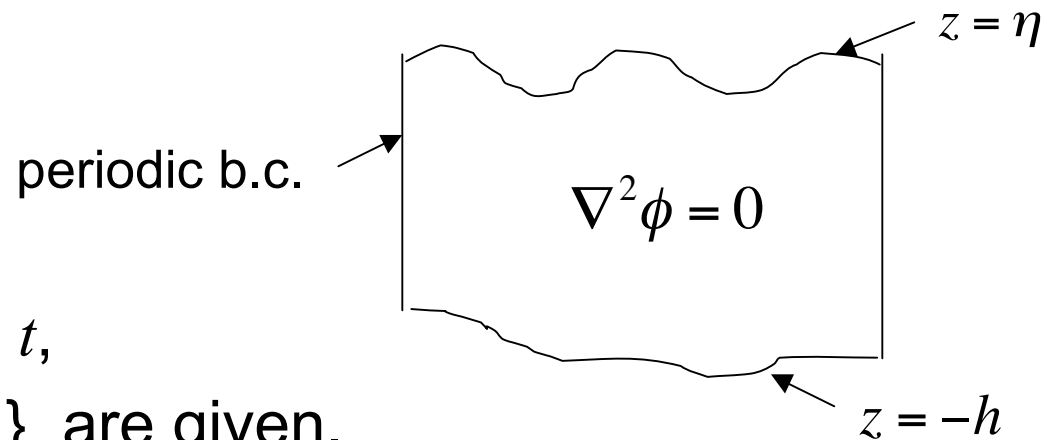
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Water waves as Hamiltonian system

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Plausibility check:



Suppose at some fixed t ,

$\{\eta(x, y, t), \psi = \phi(x, y, t)|_{z=\eta}\}$ are given.

Then $\phi(x, y, z, t)$ is determined uniquely in domain.

[We need a procedure to find $\phi(x, y, z, t)$ from $\{\eta, \psi\}$].

Result: At any fixed time, $\{\eta, \psi\}$ determine the entire solution.

Water waves as Hamiltonian system

Proposed conjugate variables:

$$\eta(x, y, t), \quad \psi(x, y, t) = \phi(x, y, z, t) \Big|_{z=\eta}$$

Q: What is $H(\eta, \psi)$?

A: Physical energy (from HW #1):

$$H = \iint_R \left[\frac{1}{2} \int_{-h}^{\eta} |\nabla \phi|^2 dz + \frac{1}{2} g \eta^2 + \frac{\sigma}{\rho} (\sqrt{1 + |\nabla \eta|^2} - 1) \right] dx dy$$

kinetic energy

potential energy

Water waves as Hamiltonian system

Claim (Zakharov, 1968):

Let R be a fixed region in x - y plane. Let $h(x,y)$ be continuous and differentiable on R . Define

$$H(\eta,\psi) = \iint_R \left[\frac{1}{2} \int_{-h}^{\eta} |\nabla \phi|^2 dz + \frac{1}{2} g \eta^2 + \frac{\sigma}{\rho} (\sqrt{1 + |\nabla \eta|^2} - 1) \right] dx dy$$

We need to show that

$$\partial_t \eta = \frac{\delta H}{\delta \psi}, \quad \partial_t \psi = -\frac{\delta H}{\delta \eta}$$

are equivalent to the two boundary conditions on $z = \eta(x,y,t)$.

Water waves as Hamiltonian system

Step 1: Rewrite 2 eq'ns on $z = \eta$ in terms of $\{\eta, \psi\}$
and normal velocity on $z = \eta$.

- Define $F(x, y, z, t) = z - \eta(x, y, t)$, so $F = 0$ on $z = \eta$.

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- Normal component of velocity on $z = \eta$:

$$\partial_n \phi = \nabla \phi \cdot \hat{n} = \frac{-\nabla \phi \cdot \nabla \eta + \partial_z \phi}{\sqrt{1 + |\nabla \eta|^2}}$$

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- Eq'n #1 on $z = \eta$:

$$\partial_t \eta + \nabla \phi \cdot \nabla \eta = \partial_z \phi \quad \Leftrightarrow \quad \boxed{\partial_t \eta = \sqrt{1 + |\nabla \eta|^2} \partial_n \phi.}$$

Water waves as Hamiltonian system

Step 2: Rewrite 2nd eq'n on $z = \eta$:

- $$\partial_t \phi + \frac{1}{2} |\nabla \phi|^2 + g\eta - \frac{\sigma}{\rho} \nabla \cdot \left\{ \frac{\nabla \eta}{\sqrt{1 + |\nabla \eta|^2}} \right\} = 0$$

Water waves as Hamiltonian system

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- But
$$\psi(x, y, t) = \phi(x, y, z, t) \Big|_{z=\eta(x, y, t)}$$

→
$$\partial_t \psi = \partial_t \phi \Big|_{z=\eta} + \partial_z \phi \Big|_{z=\eta} \partial_t \eta \quad (\text{chain rule})$$

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$$\psi(x, y, t) = \phi(x, y, z, t) |_{z=\eta(x, y, t)}$$

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$$\begin{aligned} \partial_t \psi &= \partial_t \phi |_{z=\eta} + \partial_z \phi |_{z=\eta} \partial_t \eta && \text{(chain rule)} \\ &= \partial_t \phi |_{z=\eta} + \partial_z \phi |_{z=\eta} \{ \partial_z \phi - \nabla \phi \cdot \nabla \eta \} |_{z=\eta} \end{aligned}$$

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$$= \partial_t \phi |_{z=\eta} + \partial_z \phi |_{z=\eta} \{ \partial_z \phi - \nabla \phi \cdot \nabla \eta \} |_{z=\eta}$$

- Eq'n #2 on $z = \eta$:

$$\partial_t \psi + \frac{1}{2} [(\partial_x \phi)^2 + (\partial_y \phi)^2 - (\partial_z \phi)^2] + (\partial_z \phi) \nabla \phi \cdot \nabla \eta + g\eta - \frac{\sigma}{\rho} \nabla \cdot \left\{ \frac{\nabla \eta}{\sqrt{1 + |\nabla \eta|^2}} \right\} = 0$$

Water waves as Hamiltonian system

The test:

$$H = \iint_R \left[\frac{1}{2} \int_{-h}^{\eta} |\nabla \phi|^2 dz + \frac{1}{2} g \eta^2 + \frac{\sigma}{\rho} (\sqrt{1 + |\nabla \eta|^2} - 1) \right] dx dy$$

H_{kin} H_{pot}

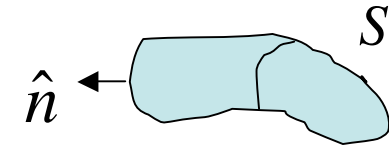
Q: $\partial_t \eta = \frac{\delta H}{\delta \psi} ?$ $\partial_t \psi = -\frac{\delta H}{\delta \eta} ?$

(check this) (see Zakharov's paper)

Water waves as Hamiltonian system

The test (continued)

Recall divergence theorem:



Let S be a piecewise smooth, closed, oriented, 2-D surface with outward normal \hat{n} . Let \vec{F} be a continuously differentiable vector field defined on S and its interior, V .

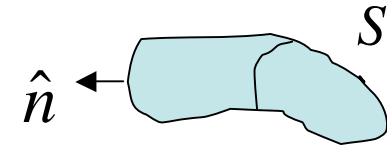
Then

$$\oiint_S [\vec{F} \cdot \hat{n}] ds = \iiint_V [\nabla \cdot \vec{F}] dv$$

Water waves as Hamiltonian system

The test (continued)

Recall divergence theorem:



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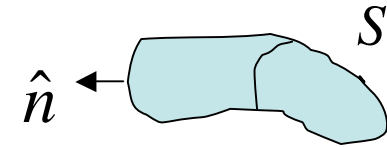
- Choose $\vec{F} = \frac{1}{2} \phi \nabla \phi$, where $\nabla^2 \phi = 0$.

→
$$\nabla \cdot \vec{F} = \frac{1}{2} [|\nabla \phi|^2 + \cancel{\phi \nabla^2 \phi}]$$

Water waves as Hamiltonian system

The test (continued)

Recall divergence theorem:



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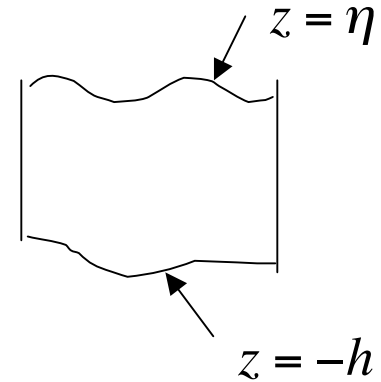
↘

→
$$H_{kin} = \frac{1}{2} \iint_R \left[\int_{-h}^{\eta} |\nabla \phi|^2 dz \right] dx dy = \frac{1}{2} \oiint_S [\phi \partial_n \phi] ds$$

Water waves as Hamiltonian system

The test (continued)

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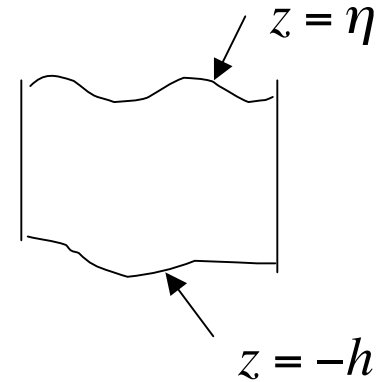


1) On $z = -h$, $\partial_n \phi = 0$

Water waves as Hamiltonian system

The test (continued)

$$H_{kin} = \frac{1}{2} \iint_R \left[\int_{-h}^{\eta} |\nabla \phi|^2 dz \right] dx dy = \frac{1}{2} \oint_S [\phi \partial_n \phi] ds$$



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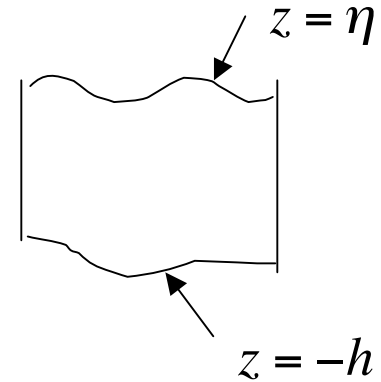
2) ϕ periodic in $(x, y) \rightarrow$ on vertical sides, $\oint [\phi \partial_n \phi] ds = 0$

\rightarrow
$$H_{kin} = \frac{1}{2} \iint_{z=\eta} [\phi \partial_n \phi] ds = \frac{1}{2} \iint_R [\psi \partial_n \phi |_{z=\eta}] \sqrt{1 + |\nabla \eta|^2} dx dy$$

Water waves as Hamiltonian system

The test (continued)

$$H_{kin} = \frac{1}{2} \iint_R \left[\int_{-h}^{\eta} |\nabla \phi|^2 dz \right] dx dy = \frac{1}{2} \iint_S [\phi \partial_n \phi] ds$$



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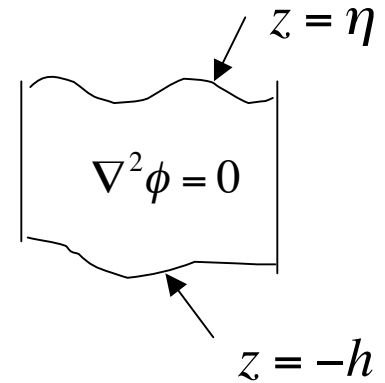
\rightarrow
$$H_{kin} = \frac{1}{2} \iint_{z=\eta} [\phi \partial_n \phi] ds = \frac{1}{2} \iint_R [\psi \partial_n \phi|_{z=\eta}] \sqrt{1 + |\nabla \eta|^2} dx dy$$

Last step: Relate $\partial_n \phi|_{z=\eta}$ to ψ

Water waves as Hamiltonian system

Last step: Relate $\partial_n \phi|_{z=\eta}$ to ψ

Dirichlet-to-Neumann map:



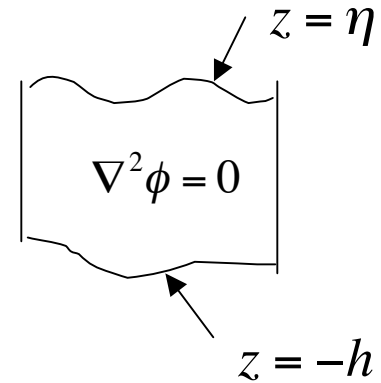
Water waves as Hamiltonian system

Last step: Relate $\partial_n \phi|_{z=\eta}$ to ψ

Dirichlet-to-Neumann map:

There is $G(x, y; \mu, \nu)$, symmetric Green's f'n

$$\begin{aligned} \partial_n \phi(x, y, z, t)|_{z=\eta} &= \iint_{\substack{\text{free} \\ \text{surface}}} [\psi(\mu, \nu, t) G(x, y; \mu, \nu)] ds \\ &= \iint_R [\psi(\mu, \nu, t) G(x, y; \mu, \nu)] \sqrt{1 + |\nabla \eta|^2} d\mu d\nu \end{aligned}$$

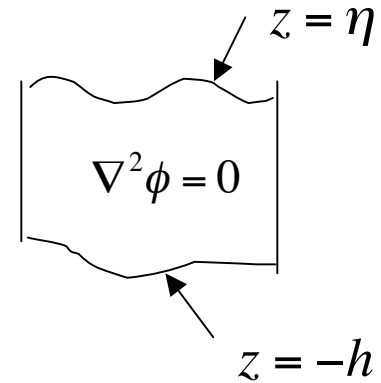


Water waves as Hamiltonian system

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Substitute into H_{kin} :

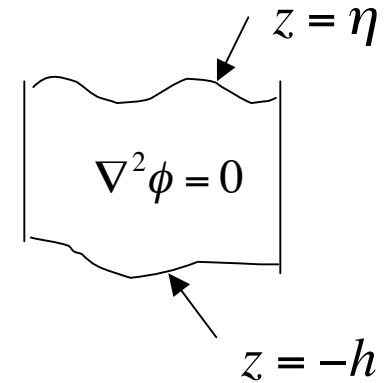
$$H_{\text{kin}} = \frac{1}{2} \iint_R dx dy \sqrt{1 + |\nabla \eta|^2} \iint_R d\mu d\nu \sqrt{1 + |\nabla \eta|^2} \psi(x, y, t) \psi(\mu, \nu, t) G(x, y; \mu, \nu)$$

Water waves as Hamiltonian system

Last step: Relate $\partial_n \phi|_{z=\eta}$ to ψ

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There is $G(x, y; \mu, \nu)$, symmetric Green's f'n



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$$H_{\text{kin}} = \frac{1}{2} \iint_R dx dy \sqrt{1 + |\nabla \eta|^2} \iint_R d\mu d\nu \sqrt{1 + |\nabla \eta|^2} \psi(x, y, t) \psi(\mu, \nu, t) G(x, y; \mu, \nu)$$

Finally! Vary ψ , hold η fixed.

Water waves as Hamiltonian system

$$H_{kin} = \frac{1}{2} \iint_R dx dy \sqrt{1 + |\nabla \eta|^2} \iint_R d\mu d\nu \sqrt{1 + |\nabla \eta|^2} \psi(x, y, t) \psi(\mu, \nu, t) G(x, y; \mu, \nu)$$

Vary ψ , hold η fixed

Water waves as Hamiltonian system

$$H_{kin} = \frac{1}{2} \iint_R dx dy \sqrt{1 + |\nabla \eta|^2} \iint_R d\mu d\nu \sqrt{1 + |\nabla \eta|^2} \psi(x, y, t) \psi(\mu, \nu, t) G(x, y; \mu, \nu)$$

Vary ψ , hold η fixed

$$\delta H_{kin} = \frac{1}{2} \iint_R dx dy \sqrt{\dots} \iint_R d\mu d\nu \sqrt{\dots} [\delta \psi(x, y) \psi(\mu, \nu) + \psi(x, y) \delta \psi(\mu, \nu)] G(\dots)$$

Water waves as Hamiltonian system

$$H_{kin} = \frac{1}{2} \iint_R dx dy \sqrt{1 + |\nabla \eta|^2} \iint_R d\mu d\nu \sqrt{1 + |\nabla \eta|^2} \psi(x, y, t) \psi(\mu, \nu, t) G(x, y; \mu, \nu)$$

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But G is symmetric \rightarrow

$$\delta H_{kin} = \iint_R dx dy \sqrt{\dots} \iint_R d\mu d\nu \sqrt{\dots} [\delta \psi(x, y) \psi(\mu, \nu)] G(\dots)$$

$$\rightarrow \delta H_{kin} = \iint_R dx dy \sqrt{1 + |\nabla \eta|^2} \delta \psi(x, y) \partial_n \phi |_{z=\eta}$$

Water waves as Hamiltonian system

$$H_{kin} = \frac{1}{2} \iint_R dx dy \sqrt{1 + |\nabla \eta|^2} \iint_R d\mu d\nu \sqrt{1 + |\nabla \eta|^2} \psi(x, y, t) \psi(\mu, \nu, t) G(x, y; \mu, \nu)$$

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$$\rightarrow \delta H_{kin} = \iint_R dx dy \sqrt{1 + |\nabla \eta|^2} \delta \psi(x, y) \partial_n \phi |_{z=\eta}$$

$$\rightarrow \boxed{\frac{\delta H}{\delta \psi} = \sqrt{1 + |\nabla \eta|^2} \partial_n \phi |_{z=\eta} = \partial_t \eta} \quad \checkmark$$

Water waves as Hamiltonian system

Conclusion: Zakharov is correct!

- The equations of inviscid, irrotational water waves are Hamiltonian.
- Conjugate variables are $\{\eta, \psi\}$.
- The Hamiltonian is the physical energy.

C. So what?

Q: What does Hamiltonian structure buy?

A: Volume-preserving flow →

- Asymptotic stability is impossible
neutral stability is only choice
- “attractors” and “repellers” are impossible
- Symplectic integrators: numerical integrators that preserve volume in phase space
- For water waves, (η, ψ) **are** good variables
- Complete integrability

C. So what?

Q: What is complete integrability?

1. Need to define Poisson bracket for correct statement.
2. If a system of $2N$ first-order ODEs is Hamiltonian, and if one finds N (**not** $2N$) constants of the motion, in involution relative to the Poisson bracket, then the motion is confined to an N -dimensional submanifold of $2N$ dim. phase space.
 - If this manifold is compact, it is a torus.
 - The N action variables are constants of the motion.
 - N angle variables are coordinates on the torus.
 - All of soliton theory fits into this framework.

Next lecture:
The (completely integrable)
Korteweg-de Vries equation
as an approximate model
of waves of moderate amplitude
in shallow water.