

# Variational Integrators for Mechanical Systems

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Summerschool Applied Mathematics and Mechanics  
*Geometric Methods in Dynamics*

## Variational Integrators for Mechanical Systems

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### Introduction

Basics from  
Calculus of  
Variations

Variational  
Integrators I

conservative systems  
forcing and dissipation  
holonomic constraints

Variational  
Integrators II

higher order integrators  
backward error analysis  
thermo-mechanical systems  
space-continuous systems

Summary

- ▶ Klaus-Körper-Stiftung der Gesellschaft für Angewandte Mathematik und Mechanik (GAMM e.V.)
- ▶ Ingenieurgesellschaft Auto und Verkehr (IAV GmbH)
- ▶ Institut für Mechatronik (IfM e.V.)





Crossing a river with a goat, a cabbage and a wolf..

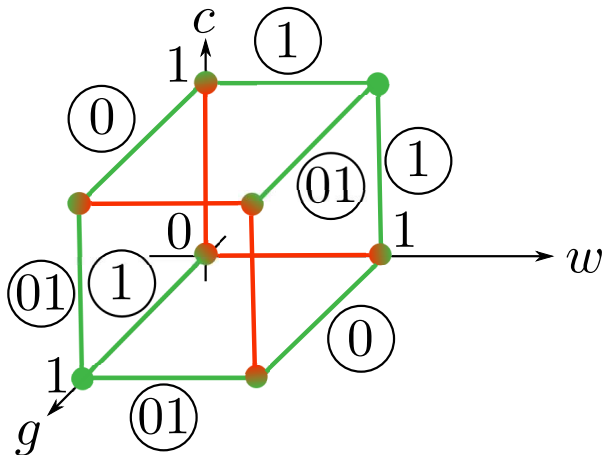
# Motivation [Stewart 2009]

[Stewart 2009]

## Variational Integrators for Mechanical Systems

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## Introduction



geometric representation of its 2 solutions (7 moves each)

# Geometric Time-Integration

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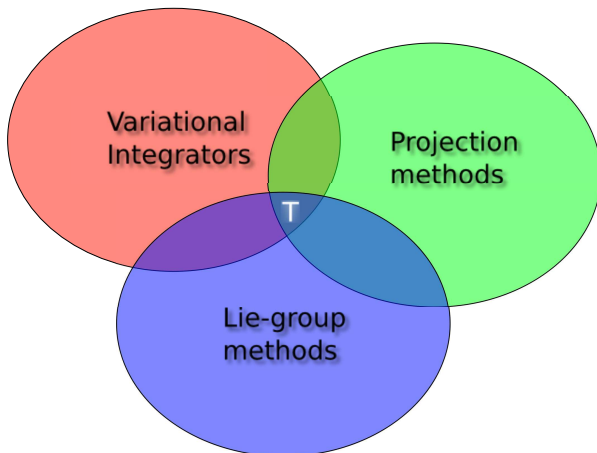
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## 2 Calculus of Variations, Basics

## 3 Variational Integrators, Basics

## 4 Variational Integrators, Selected Topics

# (Non-exhaustive) Review of Variational Methods

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- 1909 Ritz: *Über eine neue Methode zur Lösung gewisser Variationsprobleme der mathematischen Physik*
- 1970 Cadzow: *Discrete Calculus of Variations*
- 2000 Marsden: *Discrete Mechanics and **Variational Integrators***
- 2016 Desbrun, Lew, Murphey, Leyendecker, Ober-Blöbaum

Not exactly in the field of VIs but closely related are Simo & Gonzalez, Wanner & Hairer & Lubich, Reich, Betsch, Owren, Celledoni.

scalar function  $\mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$   $y(x) = x^2$

scalar field  $\mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$   $y(\mathbf{x}) = x_1^2 + x_2^2$

functional  $\mathbb{D} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$   $S[\mathbf{x}(t)] = \int_{t_a}^{t_b} \sqrt{x_1'(t)^2 + x_2'(t)^2} dt$

---

vector field  $\mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$   $\mathbf{y}(\mathbf{x}) = \begin{bmatrix} x_1^2 + x_2^2 \\ x_1^2 - x_2^2 \end{bmatrix}$

operator  $\mathbb{D} \rightarrow \mathbb{D}$   $D[y(x)] = \frac{dy}{dx}$



# Directional Derivatives

recalling analysis for scalar functions and scalar fields

$$y(x)$$

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \frac{y(x+\varepsilon) - y(x)}{\varepsilon}$$

$$y(x) = x^2$$

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = 2x$$

$$x_0 = 2 \rightsquigarrow \left. \frac{dy}{dx} \right|_{x_0} = 4$$

$$y(\mathbf{x})$$

$$\frac{dy}{d\mathbf{n}} = \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \frac{y(\mathbf{x} + \varepsilon \mathbf{n}) - y(\mathbf{x})}{\varepsilon}$$

$$y(\mathbf{x}) = x_1^2 + x_2^2$$

$$\frac{dy}{d\mathbf{n}} = \begin{bmatrix} 2x_1 \\ 2x_2 \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} n_1 \\ n_2 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\mathbf{x}_0 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, \mathbf{n}_0 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \rightsquigarrow \left. \frac{dy}{d\mathbf{n}} \right|_{\mathbf{x}_0, \mathbf{n}_0} = 2$$

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# Directional Derivatives

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variations are directional derivatives of functionals

$$J[y(x)]$$

$$J[y(x)] = \int_0^{\frac{\pi}{2}} y(x)^2 \, dx$$

$$\delta J[y, \eta] = \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \frac{J[y(x) + \varepsilon \eta(x)] - J[y(x)]}{\varepsilon}$$

$$\delta J[y, \eta] = \int_0^{\frac{\pi}{2}} 2y(x)\eta(x) \, dx$$

$$y_0(x) = \sin(x), \quad \eta_0(x) = \cos(x)$$

$$\leadsto \delta J[y_0, \eta_0] = 1$$



# Extrema of Functionals

First order *necessary* conditions for functionals of type

$$J[y(t), t] = \int_a^b L(t, y(t), y'(t)) dt$$

and admissible perturbations  $\eta(a) = \eta(b) = 0$

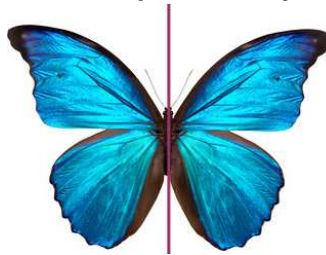
$$\begin{aligned} \delta J[y, \eta] &= \int_a^b L_y \eta + L_{y'} \eta' dt = 0 \\ &= \int_a^b L_y \eta - \left( \frac{d}{dt} L_{y'} \right) \eta dt + [L_{y'} \eta]_a^b = 0 \\ &= \int_a^b \left( L_y \eta - \frac{d}{dt} L_{y'} \right) \eta dt = 0 \end{aligned}$$

are the Euler-Lagrange-equations  $L_y = \frac{d}{dt} L_{y'}$ .

## Remarks

- ▶ There are a lot of applications in physics and engineering. The classical problems are Dido's problem, Brachystochrone, Catenary, Geodetics, Minimal surfaces, ...
- ▶ The evaluation of *sufficient* conditions (of Legendre and Jacobi) for extrema of functionals is more involved than those of functions and skipped here.

<http://wild.maths.org>



Symmetries are not only beautiful, but also provide practical tools.



**example** solve the heat equation (selectively) without calculations



If the Lagrangian is invariant under action of a one-parameter family of diffeomorphism  $h^s$  (e.g.  $h^s \mathbf{q} = \mathbf{q} + s\mathbf{e}$ )

$$L\left(h^s \mathbf{q}(t), \frac{d}{dt}\left(h^s \mathbf{q}(t)\right)\right) = L\left(\mathbf{q}(t), \dot{\mathbf{q}}(t)\right),$$

then

$$L_{\dot{\mathbf{q}}} \cdot \frac{d}{ds} \Big|_{s=0} h^s \mathbf{q} = \text{constant.}$$

**example**

$$L = \frac{1}{2}(\dot{x}_1^2 + \dot{x}_2^2) - \frac{1}{2}c(x_2 - x_1)^2 \quad \text{and} \quad h^s \mathbf{x} = \mathbf{x} + s[1, 1]^T$$

$$\leadsto \begin{bmatrix} m_1 \dot{x}_1 \\ m_2 \dot{x}_2 \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = p_{\text{total}} = \text{const.}$$

## sketch of proof

If the Lagrangian is not altered, neither is the action (here defined by start- and end-position rather than start-position and -momentum)

$$S(t_1, h^s \mathbf{q}_1) - S(t_0, h^s \mathbf{q}_0) = S(t_1, \mathbf{q}_1) - S(t_0, \mathbf{q}_0)$$

After derivation with respect to  $s$

$$\underbrace{S_{\mathbf{q}_1}}_{L_{\dot{\mathbf{q}}}|_{t_1}} \cdot \frac{d}{ds} \Big|_{s=0} h^s \mathbf{q}_1 - \underbrace{S_{\mathbf{q}_0}}_{L_{\dot{\mathbf{q}}}|_{t_0}} \cdot \frac{d}{ds} \Big|_{s=0} h^s \mathbf{q}_0 = 0$$

Since  $t_1$  is arbitrary the expression  $L_{\dot{\mathbf{q}}} \cdot \frac{d}{ds} \Big|_{s=0} h^s \mathbf{q}_1$  must remain constant. Only left to show is  $S_{\mathbf{q}_1} = L_{\dot{\mathbf{q}}}|_{t_1}$ .

# Noether's Theorem [Levi 2014]

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Summary

Let the critical function be parametrized by its end position

$$\mathbf{q}(t) = \mathbf{Q}(t, t_1, \mathbf{q}_1)$$

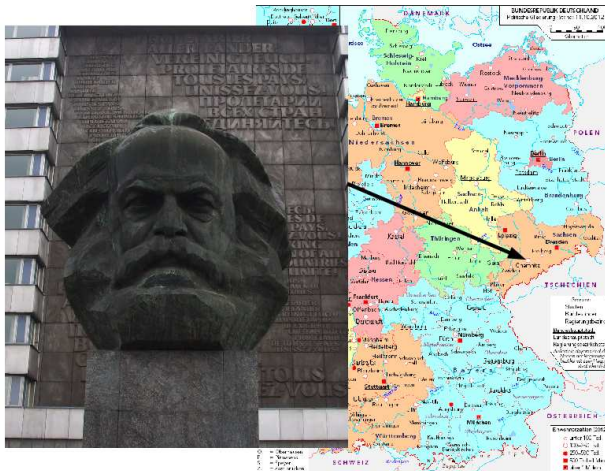
insert into the action function

$$S(t_1, \mathbf{q}_1) = \int_{t_0}^{t_1} L(\mathbf{Q}, \dot{\mathbf{Q}}) dt$$

and differentiate by  $\mathbf{q}_1$

$$\begin{aligned} S_{\mathbf{q}_1} &= \int_{t_0}^{t_1} L_{\mathbf{q}} \mathbf{Q}_{\mathbf{q}_1} + L_{\dot{\mathbf{q}}} \dot{\mathbf{Q}}_{\mathbf{q}_1} dt \\ &= \int_{t_0}^{t_1} \left( L_{\mathbf{q}} - \frac{d}{dt} L_{\dot{\mathbf{q}}} \right) \mathbf{Q}_{\mathbf{q}_1} dt + [L_{\dot{\mathbf{q}}} \mathbf{Q}_{\mathbf{q}_1}]_{t_0}^{t_1} \\ &= L_{\dot{\mathbf{q}}} |_{t=t_1} \cdot \end{aligned}$$





..an industrial city with about 250.000 inhabitants (2015).

HAMILTON'S PRINCIPLE rules the classical mechanics

$$\delta \int_{t_b}^{t_e} L(\mathbf{q}, \dot{\mathbf{q}}) dt = 0 \quad \text{with} \quad L = T(\mathbf{q}, \dot{\mathbf{q}}) - V(\mathbf{q}),$$

typically used for equations of motion

$$\frac{d}{dt} \left( \frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{\mathbf{q}}} \right) - \frac{\partial L}{\partial \mathbf{q}} = 0,$$

which are often nonlinear and solved numerically.



The Lagrangian  $L(\mathbf{q}, \dot{\mathbf{q}})$  lives on tangent bundle  
 $L : TM \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  of the configuration manifold  $M$ .

# Point of Departure

Equivalently, the system can be brought into Hamiltonian form by the Legendre Transformation

$$H(\mathbf{q}, \mathbf{p}) = \mathbf{p} \cdot \dot{\mathbf{q}} - L.$$

Due to substitution of variables, presuming  $\frac{\partial^2 L}{\partial \dot{\mathbf{q}} \partial \dot{\mathbf{q}}}$  regular

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

The Hamiltonian  $H(\mathbf{q}, \mathbf{p})$  lives on co-tangent bundle  $H : T^*M \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  of the configuration manifold  $M$ .

The equations of motions then become

$$\begin{bmatrix} \dot{\mathbf{q}} \\ \dot{\mathbf{p}} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ -1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial H}{\partial \mathbf{q}} \\ \frac{\partial H}{\partial \mathbf{p}} \end{bmatrix}.$$



For the simple pendulum

$$L = \frac{1}{2}\dot{\varphi}^2 + \cos \varphi$$

the equations of motion are either (Lagrangian form)

$$\ddot{\varphi} + \sin \varphi = 0,$$

with  $\varphi(0) = \varphi_0$ ,  $\dot{\varphi}(0) = \dot{\varphi}_0$ , or (Hamiltonian form)

$$\begin{aligned}\dot{\varphi} &= p \\ \dot{p} &= -\sin \varphi\end{aligned}$$

with  $\varphi(0) = \varphi_0$        $p(0) = p_0$ .

# Idea behind Variational Integrators

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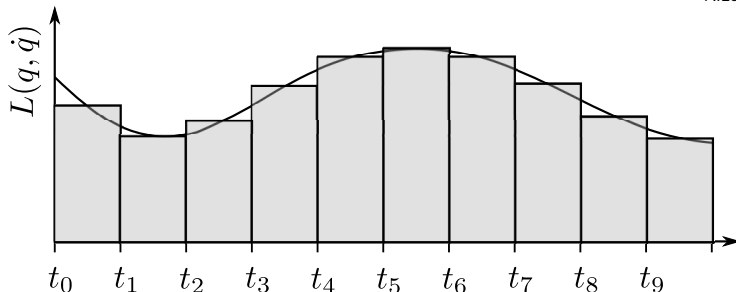
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Summary

“Approximate the action instead of the equations of motion”

A.Lew



## general advantages

- ▶ robustness and excellent long-time behavior
- ▶ symplecticity
- ▶ backward error analysis

- 1 Approximation of the state variables in time

$$\mathbf{q}(t) \approx \mathbf{q}^d(t) = \frac{t_{k+1} - t}{h} \mathbf{q}_k + \frac{t - t_k}{h} \mathbf{q}_{k+1}.$$

- 2 Time-step-wise quadrature of the action-integral

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta S &= \int_{t_k}^{t_{k+1}} L(\mathbf{q}(t), \dot{\mathbf{q}}(t), t) dt \\ &\approx \int_{t_k}^{t_{k+1}} L(\mathbf{q}^d(t), \dot{\mathbf{q}}^d(t), t) dt \\ &\approx hL(\mathbf{q}^d(t_{k+1/2}), \dot{\mathbf{q}}^d(t_{k+1/2}), t_{k+1/2}) = L_d. \end{aligned}$$

$L_d(\mathbf{q}_k, \mathbf{q}_{k+1})$  lives on discrete state space  $L_d : M \times M \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ .

stationarity condition of the discrete action sum

$$S \approx S_d = \sum_{k=0}^{N-1} L_d(\mathbf{q}_k, \mathbf{q}_{k+1})$$

yields discrete Euler-Lagrange equations

$$\begin{aligned} \delta S_d = & \quad \cancel{D_1 L_d(\mathbf{q}_0, \mathbf{q}_1) \delta q_0} \\ & + D_2 L_d(\mathbf{q}_0, \mathbf{q}_1) \delta q_1 + D_1 L_d(\mathbf{q}_1, \mathbf{q}_2) \delta q_1 \\ & + D_2 L_d(\mathbf{q}_1, \mathbf{q}_2) \delta q_2 + D_1 L_d(\mathbf{q}_2, \mathbf{q}_3) \delta q_2 \\ & \dots \\ & + \cancel{D_2 L_d(\mathbf{q}_{N-1}, \mathbf{q}_N) \delta q_N} = 0. \end{aligned}$$

$D_i$  denotes derivative with respect to the  $i$ .th argument,  
i.e.  $D_1 L_d(\mathbf{q}_k, \mathbf{q}_{k+1}) = \frac{\partial L_d}{\partial \mathbf{q}_k}$ ,  $D_2 L_d(\mathbf{q}_k, \mathbf{q}_{k+1}) = \frac{\partial L_d}{\partial \mathbf{q}_{k+1}}$ .

The DEL determine  $\mathbf{q}_k, \mathbf{q}_{k-1} \leadsto \mathbf{q}_{k+1}$  implicitly by

$$\underline{D_2 L_d(\mathbf{q}_{k-1}, \mathbf{q}_k) + D_1 L_d(\mathbf{q}_k, \mathbf{q}_{k+1}) = 0}.$$

On one hand the I.C.  $\mathbf{q}_0, \dot{\mathbf{q}}_0$  correspond to the momenta

$$\mathbf{p}_0 = \left. \frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{\mathbf{q}}} \right|_{\mathbf{q}_0, \dot{\mathbf{q}}_0}$$

on the other hand the velocity approximation corresponds to

$$\mathbf{p}_{1/2} = \left. \frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{\mathbf{q}}} \right|_{\mathbf{q}_{1/2}, \dot{\mathbf{q}}_{1/2}}$$

correction by the acting forces between  $t_0 \dots t_0 + h/2$

$$\mathbf{p}_0 = \underline{D_2 L(\mathbf{q}_0, \dot{\mathbf{q}})} = -D_1 L_d(\mathbf{q}_0, \mathbf{q}_1) = \mathbf{p}_{1/2} - \left. \frac{h}{2} \frac{\partial L}{\partial \mathbf{q}} \right|_{\mathbf{q}_{1/2}}$$

to be detailed later (discrete Legendre Transform).



# Example

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1DoF system (dimensionless), e.g. simple pendulum

$$L = \frac{1}{2} \dot{q}^2 - V(q)$$

with linear approximations for the time step  $t = 0 \dots h$

$$q \approx q^d = \frac{h-t}{h} q_0 + \frac{t}{h} q_1 \quad \text{and} \quad \dot{q} \approx \dot{q}^d = \frac{q_1 - q_0}{h}$$

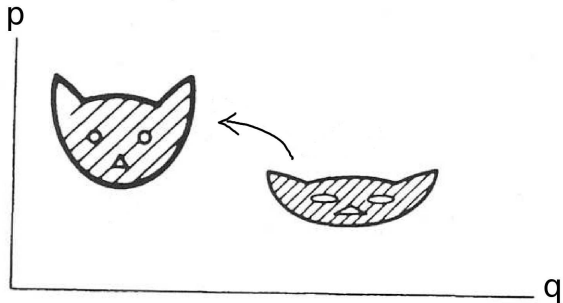
and trapezoidal rule for quadrature

$$\int_0^h L(q^d, \dot{q}^d) \approx \frac{h}{2} L(q_0, \dot{q}^d) + \frac{h}{2} L(q_1, \dot{q}^d) = L_d$$

results in the popular Störmer-Verlet scheme [Verlet1967].

$$\delta S_d = 0 \quad \leadsto \quad \begin{cases} p_0 &= \dot{q}^d + \frac{h}{2} \frac{\partial V}{\partial q}(q_0) & \leadsto q_1 \\ p_1 &= \dot{q}^d - \frac{h}{2} \frac{\partial V}{\partial q}(q_1) & \leadsto p_1 \end{cases}$$

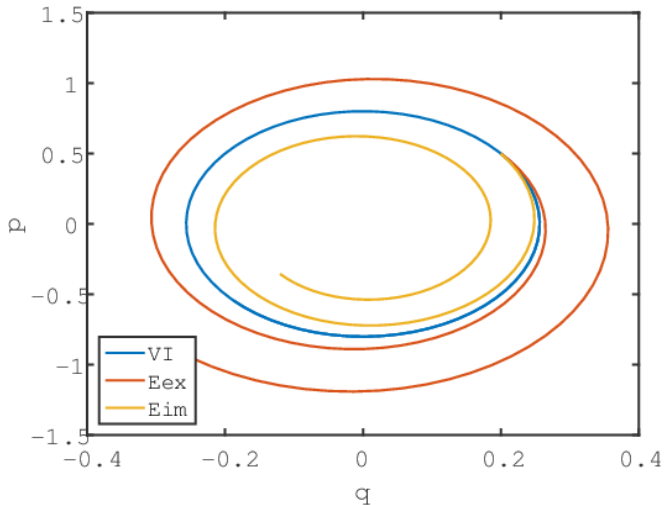
The obligatory picture is (Vladimir Igorevich) Arnold's cat



Sets of initial conditions preserve their volumes in phase space while flowing according to the equations of motion.

Confer with mapping reference configuration  $\rightarrow$  current configuration in static continuum mechanics.

## Advantages for numerical simulations



Simulations of a simple pendulum by various methods

Similarly to the continuous case, there is a discrete momentum definition.

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{p}_k &= -D_1 L_d(\mathbf{q}_k, \mathbf{q}_{k+1}) \\ \mathbf{p}_{k+1} &= D_2 L_d(\mathbf{q}_k, \mathbf{q}_{k+1})\end{aligned}$$

whose continuity is enforced by the DEL.

Hint, express derived quantities, such as velocities or energies, as functions of  $\mathbf{q}_k$  and  $\mathbf{p}_k$ , instead of evaluating the approximations  $\mathbf{q}^d(t)$ !

# Discrete Noether Theorem

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Summary

If there is a one-parameter group  $h^s$  that leaves

$$L_d(h^s \mathbf{q}_k, h^s \mathbf{q}_{k+1}) = L_d(\mathbf{q}_k, \mathbf{q}_{k+1})$$

invariant, then there is an invariant of the dynamics

$$I(\mathbf{q}_k, \mathbf{p}_k) = \mathbf{p}_k \cdot \frac{d}{ds} h^s \mathbf{q}_k = \text{constant.}$$

**example:** two masses connected by a spring

$$L = \frac{1}{2}m(\dot{x}^2 + \dot{y}^2) - \frac{1}{2}c(y - x)^2, \quad h^s \mathbf{q} = \mathbf{q} + [s, s]^T$$

$$\mathbf{p}_0 = -D_1 L_d = \begin{bmatrix} m \frac{x_1 - x_0}{h} - \frac{h}{2} c(y_{1/2} - x_{1/2}) \\ m \frac{y_1 - y_0}{h} + \frac{h}{2} c(y_{1/2} - x_{1/2}) \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\mathbf{p}_1 = D_2 L_d = \begin{bmatrix} m \frac{x_1 - x_0}{h} + \frac{h}{2} c(y_{1/2} - x_{1/2}) \\ m \frac{y_1 - y_0}{h} - \frac{h}{2} c(y_{1/2} - x_{1/2}) \end{bmatrix}$$

$$I = m \frac{x_1 - x_0}{h} + m \frac{y_1 - y_0}{h}$$

# Forcing and Dissipation

[Marsden 2000]

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Discrete Lagrange-D'Alembert principle, derived from time-continuous formulation

$$\delta \int_{t_b}^{t_e} L dt + \int_{t_b}^{t_e} \delta W^{\text{nc}} dt = \sum_{k=0}^{N-1} \delta \int_{t_k}^{t_{k+1}} L dt + \int_{t_k}^{t_{k+1}} \delta W^{\text{nc}} dt = 0$$

$L$  as before and virtual work of non-conservative forces by

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{t_k}^{t_{k+1}} \delta W^{\text{nc}} dt &= \int_{t_k}^{t_{k+1}} \mathbf{F}(t) \cdot \delta \mathbf{q}(t) dt \approx \int_{t_k}^{t_{k+1}} \mathbf{F}(t) \cdot \delta \mathbf{q}^d(t) dt \\ &\approx h \mathbf{F}(t_{k+1/2}) \cdot \delta \mathbf{q}^d(t_{k+1/2}) = \mathbf{F}_k^- \delta \mathbf{q}_k + \mathbf{F}_{k+1}^+ \delta \mathbf{q}_{k+1}. \end{aligned}$$

DEL arranged in *position-momentum* form

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{p}_k &= -D_1 L_d(\mathbf{q}_k, \mathbf{q}_{k+1}) - \mathbf{F}_k^-(\mathbf{q}_k, \mathbf{q}_{k+1}) \\ \mathbf{p}_{k+1} &= D_2 L_d(\mathbf{q}_k, \mathbf{q}_{k+1}) + \mathbf{F}_k^+(\mathbf{q}_k, \mathbf{q}_{k+1}). \end{aligned}$$

For linear systems with damping

$$\begin{aligned}\ddot{x} + 2D\dot{x} + \omega_0^2 x &= 0 \\ L &= \frac{1}{2}(\dot{x}^2 - \omega_0^2 x^2)e^{2Dt},\end{aligned}$$

or forcing

$$\begin{aligned}\ddot{x} + \omega_0^2 x &= a \cos \Omega t \\ L &= \frac{1}{2} \left( \dot{x} + \frac{a\Omega \sin \Omega t}{\omega_0^2 - \Omega^2} \right)^2 - \frac{\omega_0^2}{2} \left( x - \frac{a \cos \Omega t}{\omega_0^2 - \Omega^2} \right)^2.\end{aligned}$$

Generally seems the inverse problem of the calculus of variations to be an interesting approach.

# Geometry of Constraints

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Extrema are at points where the gradient of the cost function is normal to the constraint surface

$$\nabla f(\mathbf{x}_0) = -\lambda \nabla \phi(\mathbf{x}_0).$$

Reactions forces are different from external forces, as the constraints have to be fulfilled exactly and not only in some integral sense!



Basically it works to enforce the constraints on position level only, better is enforcement on position *and* momentum level.



Iteration equations enforce constraint  $\phi = 0$

$$\mathbf{0} = \mathbf{p}_k + D_1 L_d(\mathbf{q}_k, \mathbf{q}_{k+1}) - \lambda_k \nabla \phi(\mathbf{q}_k)$$

$$0 = \phi(\mathbf{q}_{k+1}),$$

while update-equations enforce “hidden” constraint ( $\dot{\phi} = 0$ )

$$\mathbf{p}_{k+1} = D_2 L_d(\mathbf{q}_k, \mathbf{q}_{k+1}) - \tilde{\lambda}_{k+1} \nabla \phi(\mathbf{q}_{k+1})$$

$$0 = \nabla \phi(\mathbf{q}_{k+1}) \cdot \frac{\partial H}{\partial \mathbf{p}}(\mathbf{q}_{k+1}, \mathbf{p}_{k+1}).$$

Alternatively, eliminate the Lagrange-multipliers by the nullspace method [Betsch2005], for VI [Leyendecker2008].



Heavy top



Euler-Parameters

Parametrization by Euler-parameters (unit quaternions)

- ✓ free of singularities
- ⚡ additional constraint  $q_0^2 + q_1^2 + q_2^2 + q_3^2 = 1$
- ⚡ mysterious momenta  $p_i = \frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{q}_i} = ?$

Crucial point ist the kinetic energy

$$T = \frac{1}{2} \dot{\mathbf{q}} \cdot \mathbf{M}_4 \dot{\mathbf{q}},$$

with the rank-one augmented mass matrix

$$\mathbf{M}_4 = 4\mathbf{G}(\mathbf{q})^T \mathbf{J} \mathbf{G}(\mathbf{q}) + 2\text{tr}(\mathbf{J}) \mathbf{q} \otimes \mathbf{q},$$

where  $\mathbf{G}(\mathbf{q})$  relates to the convective angular velocity

$$\boldsymbol{\Omega} = 2\mathbf{G}(\mathbf{q}) \dot{\mathbf{q}} \quad \dot{\mathbf{q}} = \frac{1}{2} \mathbf{G}(\mathbf{q})^T \boldsymbol{\Omega}.$$

Potential energy as usual

$$V = m g \mathbf{e}_z \cdot \mathbf{x}_s = m g \mathbf{e}_z \cdot \mathbf{R}(\mathbf{q}) \mathbf{X}_s.$$

# Example

## Variational Integrators for Mechanical Systems

Dominik Kern

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Variations

Variational  
Integrators I

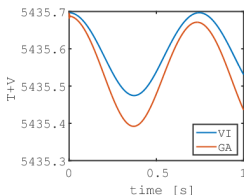
conservative systems  
forcing and dissipation  
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Variational  
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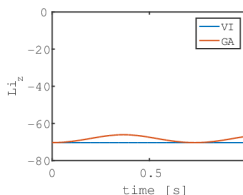
higher order integrators  
backward error analysis  
thermo-mechanical systems  
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Summary

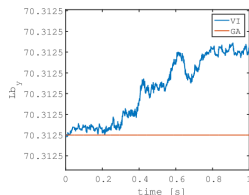
The VI is compared with the generalized- $\alpha$  method  
( $h = 10^{-3}\text{s}$ ,  $\rho = 0.9$ ) for the fast spinning heavy top.



total mech. energy



ang. mom.  $L_z$



ang. mom.  $L_3$

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Summary

[www.panoramio.com](http://www.panoramio.com)



.. a technical university with about 11.000 students (2015).

- 1 approximation of the state variables in time

$$\mathbf{q}(t) \approx \mathbf{q}^d(t) = \sum_{n=0}^p \mathbf{M}_n(t) \mathbf{q}_{k+n/p}$$

- 2 time-step-wise quadrature of the action-integral..

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta S &= \int_{t_k}^{t_{k+1}} L(\mathbf{q}(t), \dot{\mathbf{q}}(t), t) dt \\ &\approx \int_{t_k}^{t_{k+1}} L(\mathbf{q}^d(t), \dot{\mathbf{q}}^d(t), t) dt \\ &\approx \sum_{m=1}^g w_m L(\mathbf{q}^d(t_m), \dot{\mathbf{q}}^d(t_m), t_m) = L_d \end{aligned}$$

..and the virtual work of the nonconservative forces

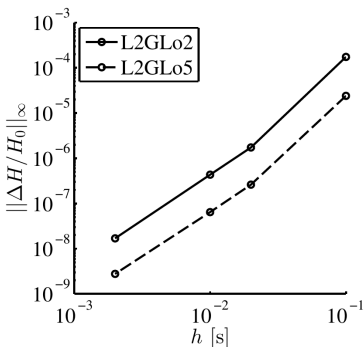
$$\begin{aligned}\delta W^{\text{nc}} &= \int_{t_k}^{t_{k+1}} \mathbf{F} \cdot \delta \mathbf{q} \, dt \approx \int_{t_k}^{t_{k+1}} \mathbf{F} \cdot \delta \mathbf{q}^d \, dt \\ &\approx \sum_{m=1}^g w_m \mathbf{F}(\mathbf{q}_k, \mathbf{q}_{k+1/p} \dots, \mathbf{q}_{k+1}) \cdot \delta \mathbf{q}^d(\mathbf{q}_k, \mathbf{q}_{k+1/p} \dots, \mathbf{q}_{k+1}) \\ &= \sum_{n=0}^p \mathbf{F}_{k+n/p}^d \delta \mathbf{q}_{k+n/p}^d\end{aligned}$$

yield DEL (position-momentum form)

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{p}_k &= -D_1 L_d(\mathbf{q}_k, \mathbf{q}_{k+1/p} \dots, \mathbf{q}_{k+1}) - \mathbf{F}_k^d \\ \mathbf{0} &= D_2 L_d(\mathbf{q}_k, \mathbf{q}_{k+1/p} \dots, \mathbf{q}_{k+1}) + \mathbf{F}_{k+1/p}^d \\ &\dots \\ \mathbf{0} &= D_p L_d(\mathbf{q}_k, \mathbf{q}_{k+1/p} \dots, \mathbf{q}_{k+1}) + \mathbf{F}_{k+\frac{p-1}{p}}^d\end{aligned}$$

---


$$\mathbf{p}_{k+1} = D_{p+1} L_d(\mathbf{q}_k, \mathbf{q}_{k+1/p} \dots, \mathbf{q}_{k+1}) + \mathbf{F}_{k+1}^d$$



Quadratic polynomial approximation numerically integrated  
by different order

Approximation by polynomial of degree  $p$  and a quadrature  
based on  $p + 1$  points enables the maximal possible order  $2p$ .



# Backward Error Analysis

[Hairer & Wanner & Lubich 2006]

Rather than considering how closely the approximated trajectories match the exact ones, it is now considered how closely the discrete Lagrangian (Hamiltonian) matches the ideal one.



Backward error analysis reveals discrete time paths as exact solutions of a nearby Hamiltonian

$$\tilde{H}(q, p) = H(q, p) + h g_1(q, p) + h^2 g_2(q, p) + \dots$$

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# Notion of Thermacy

[Helmholtz 1884]

The concept of *thermacy*, also known as thermal displacements, gives heat transfer the same mathematical structure as mechanical motion.

	mechanical	thermal
gen. coord.	$x$	$\alpha$
gen. vel.	$v = \dot{x}$	$\vartheta = \dot{\alpha}$
Lagrangian	$L = \frac{1}{2} m \dot{x}^2$	$L = \frac{1}{2} \frac{k}{\vartheta_r} (\dot{\alpha} - \vartheta_r)^2$
gen. momentum	$p = \frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{x}}$	$s = \frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{\alpha}}$
eq. of motion	$\frac{d}{dt} \left( \frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{x}} \right) - \frac{\partial L}{\partial x} = 0$	$\frac{d}{dt} \left( \frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{\alpha}} \right) - \frac{\partial L}{\partial \alpha} = 0$

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# Discrete Model Components

[Romero 2009]

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**generalized  
positions  $q$**

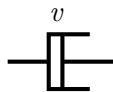
position  $x, y$   
thermacy  $\alpha$   
int. variable  $v$



elastic stiffness  $K$   
thermoelastic coupling  $\beta$   
heat capacity  $k$

**generalized  
momenta  $p$**

momentum  $p_x, p_y$   
entropy  $s$   
 $\frac{\partial \psi}{\partial v} = 0$



viscosity  $\eta$   
relaxation time  $\tau = \frac{\eta}{2\mu}$

**further  
dependencies**

length  $l(x, y)$   
temperature  $\vartheta = \dot{\alpha}$   
non-equilibrium force  $\dot{p}_v$

$x, y$



mass  $m$

# Variational Principle for Thermo-Viscoelasticity

[Maugin 2006]

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$$\delta \sum_{k=0}^{N-1} \left( \int_{t_k}^{t_{k+1}} (T - \psi) dt \right) + \sum_{k=0}^{N-1} \left( \int_{t_k}^{t_{k+1}} \delta W^{\text{nc}} dt = 0 \right)$$

<b>mass</b>	kinetic energy	$T = \frac{1}{2} m (\dot{x}^2 + \dot{y}^2)$
<b>spring</b>	elastic strain energy	$\psi_e = \frac{K}{2l_0^2} (l - l_0)^2$
	thermoelastic coupling	$\psi_{te} = -\beta (\vartheta - \vartheta_r) \frac{l - l_0}{l_0}$
	heat capacity	$\psi_t = -\frac{k}{2\vartheta_r} (\vartheta - \vartheta_r)^2$
	heat flux/source	$\delta W_t^{\text{nc}} = \dot{s} \delta \alpha$
<b>dash-pot</b>	internal dissipation	$\delta W_v^{\text{nc}} = -F_v \delta v$

$$\delta \sum_{k=0}^{N-1} \left( \int_{t_k}^{t_{k+1}} (T - \psi) dt \right) + \sum_{k=0}^{N-1} \left( \int_{t_k}^{t_{k+1}} \delta W^{\text{nc}} dt = 0 \right)$$

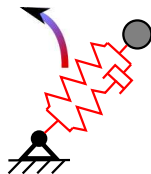
dependent quantities follow from free energy  $\psi$  and internal energy  $U$  via the relations

$$\psi = U - \vartheta s \quad U = \psi + \vartheta s$$

$$s = -\frac{\partial \psi}{\partial \vartheta} \quad \vartheta = \frac{\partial U}{\partial s}$$

$$F_{ve} = \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial l} \quad \text{total internal force}$$

$$F_v = -\frac{\partial \psi}{\partial v} \quad \text{viscous internal force}$$



The length of the massless pendulum rod

$$l = \sqrt{x^2 + y^2},$$

evolution equation of the dash-pot

$$\eta \dot{v} = F_v,$$

and the free energy of a thermo-elastic spring

$$\begin{aligned} \psi_e(l, \dot{\alpha}) = & \frac{K}{2} \log^2 \left( \frac{l}{l_0} \right) - \beta (\dot{\alpha} - \vartheta_r) \log \left( \frac{l}{l_0} \right) \\ & + k \left[ \dot{\alpha} - \vartheta_r - \dot{\alpha} \log \left( \frac{\dot{\alpha}}{\vartheta_r} \right) \right]. \end{aligned}$$

Free energy of the spring-damper compound (generalized Maxwell-element)

$$\psi(l, v, \vartheta) = (1 + \beta_c)\psi_e + \mu v^2 - \beta_c v \frac{\partial \psi_e}{\partial l}.$$

The generalized coordinates are  $\mathbf{q} = [x, y, \alpha]^T$  and their conjugated momenta

$$p_x = \frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{x}} = m\dot{x}$$

$$p_y = \frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{y}} = m\dot{y}$$

$$s = \frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{\alpha}} = -\frac{\partial \psi}{\partial \dot{\alpha}}.$$

time derivatives are obtained from the momenta

$$\dot{x} = \frac{\partial H}{\partial x}(\mathbf{q}, \mathbf{p}), \quad \dots, \quad \dot{\alpha} = \frac{\partial U}{\partial s}(\mathbf{q}, \mathbf{p}).$$

Heat transfer (Fourier type, thermal conductivity  $\kappa$ ) between spring and environment

$$h = -\kappa(\dot{\alpha} - \vartheta_{\infty}).$$

Regarding the dash-pot, it is assumed that all energy mechanically dissipated is completely converted into heat, which corresponds to the entropy production

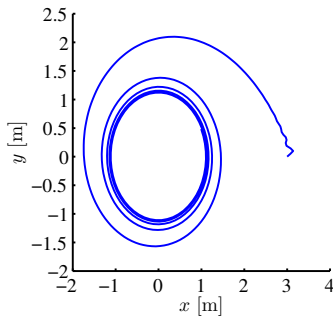
$$\dot{s}_v = \frac{g\dot{v}}{\dot{\alpha}}.$$

Adding the mechanical dissipation up to the previous two effects

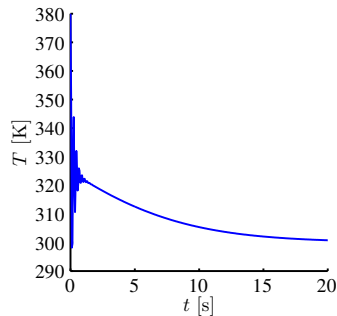
$$\delta W^{nc} = -F_v \delta v + \frac{F_v \dot{v}}{\dot{\alpha}} \delta \alpha - \kappa \frac{\dot{\alpha} - \vartheta_{\infty}}{\dot{\alpha}} \delta \alpha.$$



## free motion as example

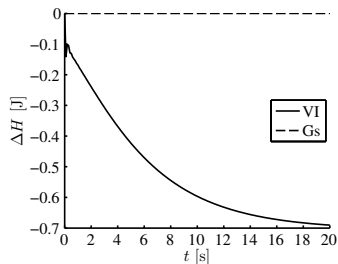


trajectory

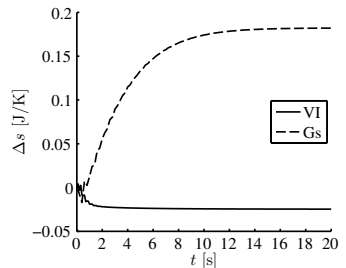


temperature

## comparison with energy-consistent EEM-method



energy error  
( $E = 1704J$ )



entropy error  
( $s = 5.43 \dots 5.46 J/K$ )

For Green & Naghdi type II heat transfer simply add

$$\psi_{\text{GN2}} = \frac{1}{2} \kappa_{\text{II}} |\nabla \alpha|^2$$

to the free energy.

- + Hamiltonian structure fits perfectly in VI-framework [Mata & Lew 2013]
- low practical relevance
- open questions

Displacement field in a 3D-continuum element

$$\mathbf{q}(\mathbf{x}, t) = \begin{bmatrix} u(x, y, z, t) \\ v(x, y, z, t) \\ w(x, y, z, t) \end{bmatrix}$$

approximated in space first for  $u$  ( $v$ ,  $w$  analogously)

$$u(x, y, z, t) \approx \sum N^n(\mathbf{x}) u^n(t) = u^{\text{sd}}(\mathbf{x}, t)$$

$$\dot{u}(x, y, z, t) \approx \sum N^n(\mathbf{x}) \dot{u}^n(t) = \dot{u}^{\text{sd}}(\mathbf{x}, t)$$

leads as intermediate step to a semidiscrete Lagrangian

$$\begin{aligned} L &= \int_V \bar{L}(u, v, w, \dot{u}, \dot{v}, \dot{w}) \, dV \\ &\approx \int_V \bar{L}(u^{\text{sd}}, v^{\text{sd}}, w^{\text{sd}}, \dot{u}^{\text{sd}}, \dot{v}^{\text{sd}}, \dot{w}^{\text{sd}}) \, dV \\ &\approx I_V^{\text{num}}\left(\bar{L}(u^{\text{sd}}, \dots, \dot{w}^{\text{sd}})\right) = L_{\text{sd}}\left(\mathbf{u}(t), \dots, \dot{\mathbf{w}}(t)\right). \end{aligned}$$

# Time Discretization

Now the continuous system is approximated by discrete one

$$\begin{aligned} S &= \int_{t_b}^{t_e} \int_V \bar{L}(u, v, w, \dot{u}, \dot{v}, \dot{w}) \, dV \, dt \\ &\approx \int_0^h L_{sd}(\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v}, \mathbf{w}, \dot{\mathbf{u}}, \dot{\mathbf{v}}, \dot{\mathbf{w}}) \, dt = S^{sd} \end{aligned}$$

VI construction as before, firstly approximation in time..

$$\mathbf{u}^d(t) = \sum_{m=0}^p M_m(t) \mathbf{u}_m \quad \dot{\mathbf{u}}^d(t) = \sum_{m=0}^p \dot{M}_m(t) \mathbf{u}_m$$

..secondly, quadrature in time (one step)

$$\begin{aligned} S^{sd} &\approx \int_0^h L_{sd}(\mathbf{u}^d, \mathbf{v}^d, \mathbf{w}^d, \dot{\mathbf{u}}^d, \dot{\mathbf{v}}^d, \dot{\mathbf{w}}^d) \, dt \\ &\approx I_t^{\text{num}} \left( L_{sd}(\mathbf{u}^d, \dots, \dot{\mathbf{w}}^d) \right) = L_d(\mathbf{u}_0, \mathbf{u}_1, \dots, \mathbf{w}_p). \end{aligned}$$

# Example for an Elastic Bar

spatial discretization (1 element, linear approximation)

$$\begin{aligned} L &= \frac{1}{2} \int_{-L^e/2}^{L^e/2} \left( \rho A \dot{u}(x, t)^2 - EA u'(x, t)^2 \right) dx \\ &\approx \frac{1}{2} \left( \dot{\mathbf{u}}^e \cdot \mathbf{M}^e \dot{\mathbf{u}}^e - \mathbf{u}^e \cdot \mathbf{K}^e \mathbf{u}^e \right) = L_{sd} \left( \mathbf{u}^e(t), \dot{\mathbf{u}}^e(t) \right) \end{aligned}$$

temporal discretization (1 time step, linear approximation)

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta S &= \int_0^h L_{sd} \left( \mathbf{u}^e(t), \dot{\mathbf{u}}^e(t) \right) dt \\ &\approx \frac{1}{2} \int_0^h \frac{\Delta \mathbf{u}^e}{h} \cdot \mathbf{M}^e \frac{\Delta \mathbf{u}^e}{h} dt \\ &\quad - \frac{1}{2} \int_0^h \left( \mathbf{u}_0^e + \frac{t}{h} \Delta \mathbf{u}^e \right) \cdot \mathbf{K}^e \left( \mathbf{u}_0^e + \frac{t}{h} \Delta \mathbf{u}^e \right) dt \\ &\approx \frac{h}{2} \left( \frac{\Delta \mathbf{u}^e}{h} \cdot \mathbf{M}^e \frac{\Delta \mathbf{u}^e}{h} - \frac{\mathbf{u}_0^e + \mathbf{u}_1^e}{2} \cdot \mathbf{K}^e \frac{\mathbf{u}_0^e + \mathbf{u}_1^e}{2} \right) = L_d \end{aligned}$$

## Retrospect

### Variational Integrators for

- ▶ discrete mechanical, conservative systems;
- ▶ with forcing and dissipation;
- ▶ with holonomic constraints.
- ▶ VIs of higher order,
- ▶ outline of thermo-mechanical coupling,
- ▶ and space-continuous systems.

## Outlook

- ▶ generalization to optimal control (tomorrow);
- ▶ non-smooth systems, e.g. collisions, friction;
- ▶ event-locator, adaptive time-stepping;
- ▶ electro-mechanical systems, further couplings;
- ▶ combinations of all of them, i.e. higher order VI, constrained, space-continuous, coupled,...
- ▶ structure-preserving spatial discretization and model order reduction.