

Letters in Math. Phys.
v. 8, 1984, p. 59-67.

CANONICAL FORMULATIONS OF A CLASSICAL PARTICLE IN A
YANG-MILLS FIELD AND WONG'S EQUATIONS

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ABSTRACT. Wong [14] introduced equations of motion for a spin 0 particle in a Yang-Mills field which was widely accepted among physicists. It is shown that these are equivalent to the various mathematical formulations for the motion of such particles as given by the Kaluza-Klein formulation of Kerner [4], and those of Sternberg [11], and Weinstein [12]. In doing this, we show that Sternberg's space is, in a natural way, a symplectic leaf of a reduced Poisson manifold and relations to a construction of Kummer's [5] for dynamics on the cotangent bundle of a principle bundle are clarified.

1. INTRODUCTION

Wong's equations are

$$\dot{p}_\mu = F_{\mu\nu}^a \xi_a p^\nu - \frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial g^{\alpha\nu}}{\partial x^\mu} p_\alpha p_\nu, \tag{1a}$$

$$\dot{\xi}_a = -c_{ab}^d A_\mu^b p^\mu \xi_d, \tag{1b}$$

where g is a Lorentz-metric on a space-time X , A is a connection on a principal bundle P over X , F is its curvature, ξ_a are a basis for the Lie algebra \mathfrak{G} of the structure group G of P , the c 's are the structure constants of \mathfrak{G} , x^μ are space-time coordinates, and p_μ are the resulting momentum (cotangent) coordinates. Space-time indices are raised and lowered by g . We will assume there is a bi-invariant metric γ on \mathfrak{G} with which Lie algebra indices can be raised and lowered. These equations are amended by

$$\dot{x}^\mu = p^\mu \tag{1c}$$

and the interpretation $\dot{} = m(d/d\tau)$, where m is the particle's rest mass, and τ its proper time. For convenience the coupling constant and Planck's constant have been set equal to one.

The geometric interpretation of these equations is as follows. Equation (1a) is that for the worldline of a particle under a generalized Lorentz force. Equation (1b) says that the isotropic spin momentum, which is a section of the associated co-adjoint bundle

$$E = P \times_G \mathfrak{G}^* \text{ (with fibre coordinates } \xi_a)$$

over the wordline, is parallel translated by the connection induced on E by A .

There are three other formulations of the dynamics of a particle in a Yang–Mills field. The Kaluza–Klein picture of electromagnetism was given a straightforward generalization to the Yang–Mills case by Kerner [4]. Sternberg [11] gave the first formulation in the spirit of the modern school of symplectic geometers. Lastly, soon after Sternberg, Weinstein [12] gave a natural formulation using reduction and showed it was equivalent to Sternberg's. Sniatycki [10] showed that Kerner's and Weinstein's, hence Sternberg's, formulations predict the same worldlines on space-time. A straightforward calculation done in Section 2 shows that this worldline is also given by Wong's equation (1a).

It has been unclear, however, how the various formulations are related in the fibre direction, that is, to Wong's equation (1b). In this paper we show, that all formulations are equivalent in a natural way (Theorems 1 and 2).

A guiding principle for this work has been that Wong's equations naturally live on the vector bundle $E^\# = P^\# \times_G \mathfrak{G}^*$ and not on the submanifold of $E^\#$ given by $\mathcal{O}^\# = P^\# \times_G \mathcal{O}$, which is Sternberg's phase space. Here $P^\#$ denotes the pullback of P obtained by completing the following diagram with dotted arrows

$$\begin{array}{ccc} P^\# & \dashrightarrow & P \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ T^*X & \longrightarrow & X \end{array}$$

and \mathcal{O} is a co-adjoint orbit in \mathfrak{G}^* . The key to the equivalence of the various formulations was the realization that A induces a Poisson structure on $E^\#$ whose symplectic leaves are the $\mathcal{O}^\#$'s (see Theorem 2).

2. KALUZA–KLEIN AND KERNER

In the Kaluza–Klein picture of the motion of a colored particle in a Yang–Mills field, as generalized by Kerner, the motion of the particle is a geodesic on P where the metric K on P is induced by the connection A . That is,

$$T_p P = V_p \oplus H_p, \quad p \in P \tag{2}$$

is an orthogonal decomposition, where V_p is the vertical space and H_p is the connection's horizontal distribution. On V_p , K is induced by the fixed bi-invariant metric γ on \mathfrak{G} under the infinitesimal generator isomorphism

$$\sigma_p: \mathfrak{G} \rightarrow V_p \subseteq T_p P \tag{3}$$

and on H_p it is the horizontal lift of the metric g , on space-time, via the connection.

The metric K is G -invariant. Its geodesics are determined by the G -invariant kinetic Hamiltonian on T^*P where the symplectic structure is the standard one.

3. THE EQUIVALENCES

Notation: There will be many bundles in the discussions below. To ease the notational burden we will use the symbol π_{YZ} for a bundle projection $Z \rightarrow Y$. When no problems arise from it, the subscript YZ will be dropped. If Z is a product we may use π_1 and π_2 instead for projection onto the first and second factors. Also τ_Y will always be used for the cotangent projection $T^*Y \rightarrow Y$.

We begin by decomposing T^*P into a horizontal part which turns out to be $P^\#$, and a vertical part \mathfrak{G}^* , by using the connection A . To do this, we use an observation of Guillemin and Sternberg's [3] that $P^\#$ has a natural realization as $V^0 \subseteq T^*P$, the annihilator of the vertical bundle $V \subseteq TP$. Then the projection $P^\# \rightarrow P$ is just the restriction of the cotangent projection τ_P , and the other projection $P^\# \rightarrow T^*X$ is defined by

$$\pi_{T^*X, P^\#}(\alpha_p) \cdot v = \alpha_p \cdot V$$

where V is any vector in T_pP which projects to v , that is such that

$$T\pi_{XP} \cdot V = v \quad \text{and} \quad \alpha_p \in P^\# \subseteq T^*P.$$

The connection A induces a G -equivariant isomorphism of vector bundles over P :

$$\tilde{A}: P^\# \times \mathfrak{G}^* \xrightarrow{\sim} T^*P$$

given by

$$\tilde{A}(\alpha_p, \mu) = \alpha_p + A_p^* \mu$$

where A_p^* is the dual of the connection form $A_p: T_pP \rightarrow \mathfrak{G}$. This is just the splitting of T^*P dual to the splitting (2) of TP .

Using \tilde{A} , we pull back the canonical two-form and the Kaluza-Klein Hamiltonian to get a G -invariant Hamiltonian system on $P^\# \times \mathfrak{G}^*$. If we quotient this by G we have a Poisson structure (see Marsden and Weinstein [7, 8] or Weinstein, [13] and Hamiltonian $H^\#$ on the associated vector bundle to $P^\#$: $E^\# = P^\# \times_G \mathfrak{G}^*$. This is the phase space for Wong's equations.

THEOREM 1. *Hamilton's equations on $E^\#$ are Wong's equations.*

THEOREM 2. *The Sternberg phase spaces $\mathcal{O}^\# = P^\# \times_G \mathcal{O} \subseteq E^\#$, where $\mathcal{O} \subseteq \mathfrak{G}^*$ is a coadjoint orbit, are the symplectic leaves of $E^\#$. Sternberg's Hamiltonian, considered as a function on $E^\#$, differs from ours by a Casimir function (one constant on symplectic leaves) and hence, generates the same equations of motion.*

REMARK. Weinstein [12] has constructed an equivalence between his set-up and Sternberg's. Hence, Theorems 1 and 2 together show all four formalisms are equivalent.

4. PROOF OF THEOREM 1

We have the commutative diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 P^\# \times \mathfrak{G}^* & \xrightarrow{\tilde{A}} & T^*P \\
 \downarrow & \swarrow \text{dashed} & \downarrow \\
 E^\# = P^\# \times_G \mathfrak{G}^* & \xrightarrow{\bar{A}} & T^*P/G \\
 \searrow & & \swarrow \\
 & T^*X &
 \end{array} \tag{CD1}$$

in which all maps except the bottom two are, by definition of the Poisson structures, Poisson maps. The idea is to put coordinates on $E^\#$ corresponding to those in Wong's equations, lift these up to T^*P and compute brackets there.

Let U be an open subset of X with coordinates x^μ . Let $s: U \rightarrow P$ be a local section and $\phi: U \times G \simeq P_U$ the corresponding local trivialization.

$$T^*\phi: T^*P_U \simeq T^*U \times T^*G \simeq T^*U \times G \times \mathfrak{G}^* \tag{3a}$$

where the second isomorphism is *right* trivialization of T^*G . Under this isomorphism $P^\#$ consists of those elements whose \mathfrak{G}^* factor is zero. Thus

$$P^\#_U \times \mathfrak{G}^* \simeq (T^*U \times G) \times \mathfrak{G}^* \tag{3b}$$

$$E^\#_U \sim T^*U \times \mathfrak{G}^*. \tag{3c}$$

The decompositions of $P^\#_U$ and $E^\#_U$ are local trivializations in the fibre bundle sense as fibre bundle over T^*X . This is not so for the decomposition of T^*P_U .

Composing the maps $T^*P \rightarrow T^*P/G \rightarrow T^*X^*$ in order to eliminate the T^*P/G vertex of (CD1), the local version of this diagram becomes

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 (x, a, g, \mu) & \xrightarrow{\tilde{A}} & (x, a + A(x)^* \text{Ad}_g^* \mu, g, \text{Ad}_g^* \mu) \\
 \downarrow & & \downarrow \\
 (x, a, \text{Ad}_g^* \mu) & \xrightarrow{\quad} & (x, a)
 \end{array} \tag{CD2}$$

where $a \in T^*_x X$, and $A(x) = s^* A(x)$. This is seen by noting that in the local trivialization ϕ that A

*This composition is the map Weinstein uses in [12], namely, the dual of horizontal lift $T_x X \rightarrow T_P P$.

is given by

$$A(x, g) \cdot (v, \xi) = \text{Ad}_{g^{-1}} A(x) \cdot v + \text{Ad}_{g^{-1}} \xi$$

where $(v, \xi) \in T_x U \times \mathfrak{G}$. Here we have used the decomposition

$$T\phi: TP_U \cong TU \times TG \cong TU \times G \times \mathfrak{G}$$

with the second isomorphism right trivialization of TG . This is the decomposition dual to that of T^*P_U . Then

$$A(x, g)^* = A(x)^* \text{Ad}_{g^{-1}} \oplus \text{Ad}_{g^{-1}}^*: \mathfrak{G}^* \rightarrow T_x^* U \times \mathfrak{G}^*.$$

Now let x^μ, p_ν be standard cotangent coordinates on T^*U induced by the coordinates x^μ on U , and let ξ_a be a basis for \mathfrak{G} , hence linear coordinates on \mathfrak{G}^* . Abusing notation, we consider x^μ, p_ν, ξ_a as local functions on T^*P or $E^\#$ by composing them with the projections onto T^*U or \mathfrak{G}^* defined by the local product structures (4a) and (4c). Note that x^μ, p_ν, ξ_a are coordinates for $E^\#$ with ξ_a the fibre coordinates and the projection $E^\# \rightarrow T^*X$ given by $(x^\mu, p_\nu, \xi_a) \rightarrow (x^\mu, p_\nu)$.

If f is a function on $E^\#$ we will let \bar{f} denote the pullback of f to T^*P via the dotted diagonal in (CD1). One then reads off of (CD2)

$$\bar{x}^\mu = x^\mu, \quad \bar{p}_\nu = p_\nu - A_\nu^a \xi_a, \quad \bar{\xi}_a = \xi_a.$$

Here $A(x) = A_\mu^a dx^\mu \otimes \xi_a$ so $A(x)^* = A_\mu^a \xi_a \otimes dx^\mu$. One finds

$$H = \frac{1}{2} [g^{\mu\nu} \bar{p}_\mu \bar{p}_\nu + \gamma^{ab} \xi_a \xi_b] \quad (4a)$$

is the Kaluza-Klein Hamiltonian on T^*P . It induces

$$H^\# = \frac{1}{2} [g^{\mu\nu} p_\mu p_\nu + \gamma^{ab} \xi_a \xi_b] \quad (4b)$$

on $E^\#$. Hamilton's equations $\dot{f} = \{f, H^\#\}_\#$ on $E^\#$ are, by definition of the bracket $\{, \}_\#$ on $E^\#$, $\dot{f} = \{\bar{f}, H\}^\#$, where $\{, \}$ is the bracket on T^*P and the superscript $\#$ means push the resulting G -invariant function back down to $E^\#$.

To get Wong's equations of motion we substitute the coordinate functions x^μ, p_ν, ξ_a , for f in (4). We first calculate their brackets with each other. Since x^μ and p_μ are canonically conjugate on T^*P we have

$$\{x^\mu, p_\nu\} = \delta_\nu^\mu = \{\bar{x}^\mu, \bar{p}_\nu\} \quad (5a)$$

where in the second equality we have used the fact that

$$\{x^\mu, \xi_a\} = 0 = \{\bar{x}^\mu, \bar{\xi}^a\}. \quad (5b)$$

Also,

$$\{p_\mu, \xi_a\} = 0 \quad (5c)$$

and

$$\{\xi_a, \xi_b\} = c_{ab}^d \xi_d \quad (5d)$$

as is seen by noting that the ξ_a are the components of the momentum map for the *left* action of G on the T^*G factor of T^*P_U as decomposed in (4a), which is projection onto the \mathfrak{G}^* factor of (4a). This is a Poisson map into \mathfrak{G}^* , that is, \mathfrak{G}^* with its *right* Lie–Poisson structure. (For a good discussion of the right and left Poisson structures on the dual of a Lie algebra, see Marsden *et al.* [9]. Thus

$$\begin{aligned} \{\bar{p}_\mu, \bar{p}_\nu\} &= -\{p_\mu, A_\nu^a \xi_a\} - \{A_\mu^b \xi_b, p_\nu\} + A_\mu^a A_\nu^b \{\xi_a, \xi_b\} \\ &= A_{\nu, \mu}^a \xi_a - A_{\mu, \nu}^b \xi_b + c_{ab}^d A_\mu^a A_\nu^b \xi_d \\ &= F_{\mu\nu}^a \xi_a, \end{aligned} \quad (5e)$$

where F is the curvature of the connection A . Finally

$$\{\xi_\mu, \bar{p}_\mu\} = -\{\xi_a, A_\mu^b \xi_b\} = -c_{ab}^d A_\mu^b \xi_d. \quad (5f)$$

Thus the equations of motion on $E^\#$ are

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{x}^\mu &= \{\bar{x}^\mu, H\}^\# = \frac{1}{2} \{x^\mu, g^{\alpha\beta} \bar{p}_\alpha \bar{p}_\beta\}^\# = \bar{p}^\mu \# = p^\mu, \\ \dot{p}^\mu &= \{\bar{p}^\mu, H\}^\# = \frac{1}{2} [g^{\alpha\nu} (\{\bar{p}_\nu, \bar{p}_\alpha\} \bar{p}_\nu + \{\bar{p}_\mu, \bar{p}_\nu\} \bar{p}_\alpha) + \{\bar{p}_\mu, g^{\alpha\nu}\} \bar{p}_\alpha \bar{p}_\nu]^\# \\ &= F_{\mu\nu}^a \xi_a p^\nu - \frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial g^{\alpha\nu}}{\partial x^\mu} p_\alpha p_\nu, \\ \dot{\xi}_a &= \{\bar{\xi}^a, H\}^\# = \frac{1}{2} [g^{\mu\nu} (\{\xi^a, \bar{p}_\mu\} \bar{p}_\nu + \{\xi^a, \bar{p}_\nu\} \bar{p}_\mu) + \gamma^{cd} (\{\xi_a, \xi_c\} \xi_d + \{\xi_a, \xi_d\} \xi_c)]^\# \\ &= -c_{ab}^d A_\mu^b \xi_d p^\mu + c_{ac}^d \xi_d \xi^c \\ &= -c_{ab}^d A_\mu^b \xi_d p^\mu. \end{aligned}$$

(The term $c_{ad}^d \xi_d \xi^c = 0$ because it equals $\Sigma_d \gamma([\xi_a, \xi_c], \xi_c) = -\Sigma_c \gamma(\xi_a, [\xi_c, \xi_c]) = 0$.) These are Wong's equations.

PROOF OF THEOREM 2

have the following momentum maps Φ and π_2 for the *right* G actions:

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 P^\# \times \mathfrak{G}^* & \xrightarrow{\tilde{A}} & T^*P \\
 \pi_2 \searrow & & \swarrow \Phi \\
 & \mathfrak{G}^* &
 \end{array}$$

Let $\Phi = \sigma^*$ where $\sigma_p: \mathfrak{G} \rightarrow T_pP$ is the infinitesimal generator, since the action of T^*P is lifted to $P^\# \times \mathfrak{G}^*$. Let \mathcal{O} be a co-adjoint orbit in \mathfrak{G}^* . Then $\tilde{A}^{-1}\Phi^{-1}(\mathcal{O}) = P^\# \times \mathcal{O}$. From general theory (see, for example, Marsden [6]), we know the reduced spaces $\Phi^{-1}(\mathcal{O})/G$ are the symplectic leaves of T^*P/G , and since \tilde{A} of (CD1) is a Poisson isomorphism, the same is true of $P^\# \times_G \mathcal{O} = \mathcal{O}^\#$, the Sternberg spaces.

To see that the symplectic structure on $\mathcal{O}^\#$ is the same as the one Sternberg gives it, recall that the reduced symplectic structure, $\omega^\#$ on $\mathcal{O}^\#$, which is the one it inherits as a symplectic leaf of T^*P/G is given by (Marsden [6], p. 31):

$$j^*\omega = \pi^*\omega^\# + \pi_2^*\omega_{\mathcal{O}^\#} \tag{6}$$

where $\omega = \tilde{A}^*\omega_p$ is the symplectic structure on $P^\# \times \mathfrak{G}^*$, $j: P^\# \times \mathcal{O} \hookrightarrow P^\# \times \mathfrak{G}^*$ is the inclusion, $\pi: P^\# \times \mathfrak{G}^* \rightarrow \mathfrak{G}^*$ the projection and $\omega_{\mathcal{O}^\#}$ is the right (+) symplectic structure on the orbit. Sternberg's structure $\tilde{\omega}_s$ is defined by

$$\tilde{\omega} = \pi^*\omega_s \tag{7}$$

$$\tilde{\omega} = \tilde{\omega}_X + d\langle J, \pi_{P^\#}^* P^\# A \rangle + \pi_2^*\omega_{\mathcal{O}^\#} \tag{8}$$

$\tilde{\omega}_X$ is the pullback of the canonical two-form $\omega_X = -d\theta_X$ on T^*X by $P^\# \times \mathcal{O} \rightarrow P^\# \rightarrow T^*X$. π_2 is the momentum map for the *left* action on \mathcal{O} , and $\omega_{\mathcal{O}^\#} = -\omega_{\mathcal{O}^\#}$ is the left symplectic structure on \mathcal{O} . Comparing (6), (7) and (8), we see that it suffices to show that

$$j^*\tilde{A}^*\theta_p = (\pi_{T^*X, P^\# \times \mathfrak{G}^*})^*\theta_X - \langle J, \pi_{P^\#}^* P^\# A \rangle \tag{8}$$

and this may be verified by a straightforward calculation. To prove the final remark, recall that Sternberg's Hamiltonian H_s is the pullback of the kinetic Hamiltonian on T^*X . In coordinates: $H_s = \frac{1}{2}g^{\mu\nu}p_\mu p_\nu$. This differs from the Kaluza-Klein Hamiltonian $H^\#$ (see (4b)) by the Casimir function $\frac{1}{2}\gamma^{ab}\xi_a\xi_b$.

REMARK. As a curiosity, we note that the momentum lemma of Abraham and Marsden [1], p. 10, is closely connected to Sternberg's construction. Indeed, in the case that the bundles are trivial, the momentum lemma follows from Weinstein's isomorphism between his and Sternberg's construction.

6. RELATIONS WITH KUMMER'S CONSTRUCTION

In the introduction we interpreted solutions to Wong's equations as paths in the coadjoint bundle $E = P \times_G \mathfrak{G}^*$. We have seen that they are in fact constrained to $P \times_G \mathcal{O} \subseteq E$. This leads one to believe that the spaces on which we have formulated the equations, $E^\#$ or $\mathcal{O}^\#$, can be naturally embedded in the 'standard' phase spaces, T^*E or $T^*(P \times_G \mathcal{O})$. For $\mathcal{O}^\#$, such an embedding is given by Kummer's construction [5].

Let $\mu \in \mathcal{O}$. Kummer has shown that a connection \hat{A} on $P \rightarrow P/G$ induces an embedding of the reduced space $(T^*P)_\mu$ (of Marsden and Weinstein) as a symplectic subbundle of $T^*(P/G_\mu)$. Here G_μ is the isotropy group of $\mu \in \mathfrak{G}^*$, and the symplectic structure on $T^*(P/G_\mu)$ is noncanonical: it is the standard one ω_{P/G_μ} , minus the magnetic term $\tau_{P/G_\mu}^*(\mu \circ \hat{F})$ where \hat{F} is the curvature of \hat{A} . (Note that $\mu \circ \hat{F}$ is a standard two-form on P/G_μ precisely because G_μ is μ 's isotropy group.) But from general theory $(T^*P)_\mu \simeq \Phi^{-1}(\mathcal{O})/G$, and we have shown that our connection A makes the latter space look like $\mathcal{O}^\#$. We connect these ideas here.

PROPOSITION. *Sternberg's phase space $\mathcal{O}^\#$ is embedded via Kummer's construction as the 'horizontal' subbundle of $T^*(P \times_G \mathcal{O})$.*

By 'horizontal' we mean the annihilator of the vertical-with-respect-to-the-projection $P \times_G \mathcal{O} \rightarrow$ subbundle of $T(P \times_G \mathcal{O})$.

To begin with, $P/G_\mu \simeq P \times_G G/G_\mu \simeq P \times_G \mathcal{O}$. The first isomorphism is $[p]_{G_\mu} \mapsto [p, 0]_G$ where 0 is the identity coset in G/G_μ . Thus, Kummer's result along with the remarks preceding the proposition, gives us a symplectic embedding $\mathcal{O}^\# \hookrightarrow T^*(P \times_G \mathcal{O})$ (the latter with the nonstandard symplectic structure) where we choose $\hat{A} = pr \circ A$ with $pr =$ projection $\mathfrak{G} \rightarrow \mathfrak{G}_\mu$ relative to the me

To see how $\mathcal{O}^\#$ is embedded, we follow the various maps: Let $p^\#$ denote an element in $P^\# \subseteq T$. Then

$$[p^\#, \mu]_G \mapsto [p^\# + A_p^\# \mu]_{G_\mu} \mapsto [p^\#]_{G_\mu} \mapsto [(p^\#, (\mu, 0))]_G$$

$$\mathcal{O}^\# = P^\# \times_G \mathcal{O} \rightarrow (T^*P)_\mu \rightarrow T^*(P/G_\mu) \rightarrow T^*(P \times_G \mathcal{O})$$

where we have written elements over the spaces to which they belong. The first map is the map $\bar{A}: \mathcal{O}^\# \xrightarrow{\sim} \Phi^{-1}(\mathcal{O})/G$ of diagram (CD1) composed with the natural identification $\Phi^{-1}(\mathcal{O})/G \xrightarrow{\sim} \Phi^{-1}(\mathcal{O}) = (T^*P)_\mu$. The second map is Kummer's embedding. The third is the isomorphism induced by the isomorphism $P/G_\mu \xrightarrow{\sim} P \times_G \mathcal{O}$.

Elements in the two cotangent bundles can be represented in the given form, because whenever P is a principal K bundle, $T^*(P/K) \simeq \text{Ker } J_K/K$ where J_K is the dual of the infinitesimal generator that is, the momentum map for the lifted K action on T^*P . This isomorphism f is given by $\langle f([\alpha]_K), v \rangle = \langle \alpha, V \rangle$ where $\alpha \in \text{Ker}_p J_K$, $v \in T_{[p]} P/K$ and $V \in T_p P$ projects to v . This formula shows that the image of $\mathcal{O}^\#$ is the horizontal bundle. Indeed, a vertical vector v in $T_p(P \times_G \mathcal{O})$ is the projection of a vector $V = 0 \oplus v \in T_p P \oplus T_\mu \mathcal{O}$ and the final element in the sequence of maps, $[(p^\#, (\mu, 0))]$, is the equivalence class containing the co-vector $p^\# \oplus 0 \in T_p^* P \oplus T_\mu^* \mathcal{O}$. Hence

$$\langle f[p^\#, (\mu, 0)], v \rangle = \langle p^\# \oplus 0, 0 \oplus v \rangle = 0$$

as claimed.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I thank Ted Courant, Jerry Marsden, Tudor Ratiu, Jędrzej Sniatycki and Alan Weinstein for valuable discussions. The research was partially supported by DOE Contract DE-AT03-82ER12097.

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(Received September 1, 1983)