

$\mathcal{L}_1$  and  $\mathcal{L}_2$  do not differ by a total time derivative, for if they did we would have a relation

of the form  $\mathcal{L}_2 - \mathcal{L}_1 = \frac{d}{dt} f(q, t) = \frac{\partial f}{\partial q} \dot{q} + \frac{\partial f}{\partial t}$ , which is manifestly not the case.

$\mathcal{L}_1$  is of course the usual Lagrangian for the harmonic oscillator with unit frequency:

$$\mathcal{L}_1 = \frac{1}{2} (\dot{q}^2 - q^2)$$

$$\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \dot{q}} = \dot{q} \quad \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial q} = -q$$

$$0 = \frac{d}{dt} \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \dot{q}} - \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial q} = \ddot{q} + q$$

Now consider  $\mathcal{L}_2 = \left[ \frac{1}{2} q \dot{q}^2 - \frac{1}{3} q^3 \right] \sin t + \frac{1}{6} \dot{q}^3 \cos t$

$$\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}_2}{\partial \dot{q}} = q \dot{q} \sin t + \frac{1}{2} \dot{q}^2 \cos t$$

$$\frac{d}{dt} \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}_2}{\partial \dot{q}} = \dot{q}^2 \sin t + q \ddot{q} \sin t + q \dot{q} \cos t + \dot{q} \dot{q}' \cos t - \frac{1}{2} \dot{q}^2 \sin t$$

$$\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}_2}{\partial q} = \frac{1}{2} \dot{q}^2 \sin t - q^2 \sin t \quad \underline{\text{So}}$$

$$\frac{d}{dt} \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}_2}{\partial \dot{q}} - \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}_2}{\partial q} = q \ddot{q} \sin t + \dot{q} \dot{q}' \cos t + q \dot{q}' \cos t + q^2 \sin t$$

$$= (q \sin t + \dot{q}' \cos t) (\ddot{q} + q) = 0$$

If the first factor is non zero, then  $\ddot{q} + q = 0$ .

If the first factor is zero for some interval in  $t$ , then differentiating we get  $(\ddot{q} + q) \cos t = 0$ . So, in any case,  $\ddot{q} + q = 0$ .