

Since the two Lagrangians are not involved with second derivatives of x^λ , the equations of motion can be obtained by Euler-Lagrange equation, i.e.

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial x^\lambda} - \frac{d}{ds} \left(\frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{x}^\lambda} \right) = 0$$

For simplicity, let's use $F = g_{\alpha\beta} \frac{dx^\alpha}{ds} \frac{dx^\beta}{ds} = g_{\alpha\beta} \dot{x}^\alpha \dot{x}^\beta$ in calculation and take $g_{\alpha\beta}$ to be Minkowski metric $\text{diag}(+1, -1, -1, -1)$ which makes L_1, L_2 only depend on $\dot{x}$.

For the Lagrangian $L_1 = -mc \sqrt{g_{\alpha\beta} \frac{dx^\alpha}{ds} \frac{dx^\beta}{ds}} = -mc \sqrt{g_{\alpha\beta} \dot{x}^\alpha \dot{x}^\beta} = \sqrt{F}$, we have that

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial L_1}{\partial x^\lambda} - \frac{d}{ds} \frac{\partial L_1}{\partial \dot{x}^\lambda} &= -mc \left[0 - \frac{d}{ds} \left(\frac{1}{2} F^{-\frac{1}{2}} (\underbrace{g_{\alpha\beta} \delta_\lambda^\alpha \dot{x}^\beta}_{=g_{\lambda\gamma} \dot{x}^\gamma} + \underbrace{g_{\alpha\beta} \dot{x}^\alpha \delta_\lambda^\beta}_{=g_{\lambda\gamma} \dot{x}^\gamma}) \right) \right] \\ &= mc \frac{d}{ds} \left(F^{-\frac{1}{2}} g_{\lambda\gamma} \dot{x}^\gamma \right) \quad \leftarrow F = c^2 \\ &= mg_{\lambda\gamma} \ddot{x}^\gamma \end{aligned}$$

Equation of motion for L_1 is $g_{\lambda\gamma} \ddot{x}^\gamma = 0$.

For the Lagrangian $L_2 = -mg_{\alpha\beta} \dot{x}^\alpha \dot{x}^\beta$, we have that

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial L_2}{\partial x^\lambda} - \frac{d}{ds} \frac{\partial L_2}{\partial \dot{x}^\lambda} &= -m \left[0 - \frac{d}{ds} (g_{\alpha\beta} \delta_\lambda^\alpha \dot{x}^\beta + g_{\alpha\beta} \dot{x}^\alpha \delta_\lambda^\beta) \right] \\ &= 2mg_{\lambda\gamma} \ddot{x}^\gamma \end{aligned}$$

Equation of motion for L_2 is also $g_{\lambda\gamma} \ddot{x}^\gamma = 0$.

Remark:

If one treat the metric $g_{\alpha\beta}$ is function of *position*, the equations of motion for L_1 and L_2 are also the same.

$$\frac{\partial L_1}{\partial x^\lambda} - \frac{d}{ds} \frac{\partial L_1}{\partial \dot{x}^\lambda} = -mc \left[\frac{1}{2} F^{-\frac{1}{2}} \frac{\partial g_{\alpha\beta}}{\partial x^\lambda} \dot{x}^\alpha \dot{x}^\beta - \frac{d}{ds} \left(\frac{1}{2} F^{-\frac{1}{2}} (\underbrace{g_{\alpha\beta} \delta_\lambda^\alpha \dot{x}^\beta}_{=g_{\lambda\gamma} \dot{x}^\gamma} + \underbrace{g_{\alpha\beta} \dot{x}^\alpha \delta_\lambda^\beta}_{=g_{\lambda\gamma} \dot{x}^\gamma}) \right) \right] \quad \leftarrow F = c^2$$

$$\begin{aligned}
&= -m \left[\frac{1}{2} (\partial_\lambda g_{\alpha\beta}) \dot{x}^\alpha \dot{x}^\beta - \frac{d}{ds} (g_{\lambda\gamma} \dot{x}^\gamma) \right] \\
&= m \left(-\frac{1}{2} (\partial_\lambda g_{\alpha\beta}) \dot{x}^\alpha \dot{x}^\beta + (\partial_\alpha g_{\lambda\gamma}) \dot{x}^\alpha \dot{x}^\gamma + g_{\lambda\gamma} \ddot{x}^\gamma \right) \\
&\quad \uparrow \text{split the second term and rename the dummy index} \\
&= m \left(-\frac{1}{2} (\partial_\lambda g_{\alpha\beta}) \dot{x}^\alpha \dot{x}^\beta + \frac{1}{2} (\partial_\alpha g_{\beta\lambda}) \dot{x}^\alpha \dot{x}^\beta + \frac{1}{2} (\partial_\beta g_{\lambda\alpha}) \dot{x}^\alpha \dot{x}^\beta + g_{\lambda\gamma} \ddot{x}^\gamma \right) \\
&= m \left[g_{\lambda\gamma} \ddot{x}^\gamma + \frac{1}{2} (\partial_\alpha g_{\beta\lambda} + \partial_\beta g_{\lambda\alpha} - \partial_\lambda g_{\alpha\beta}) \dot{x}^\alpha \dot{x}^\beta \right]
\end{aligned}$$

The equation of motion for L_1 becomes

$$0 = g_{\lambda\gamma} \ddot{x}^\gamma + \frac{1}{2} (\partial_\alpha g_{\beta\lambda} + \partial_\beta g_{\lambda\alpha} - \partial_\lambda g_{\alpha\beta}) \dot{x}^\alpha \dot{x}^\beta$$

Multiply both sides by $g^{\rho\lambda}$ and use $g^{\rho\lambda} g_{\lambda\gamma} = \delta_\gamma^\rho$

$$0 = \delta_\gamma^\rho \ddot{x}^\gamma + \frac{1}{2} g^{\rho\lambda} (\partial_\alpha g_{\beta\lambda} + \partial_\beta g_{\lambda\alpha} - \partial_\lambda g_{\alpha\beta}) \dot{x}^\alpha \dot{x}^\beta \Rightarrow \ddot{x}^\rho + \Gamma_{\alpha\beta}^\rho \dot{x}^\alpha \dot{x}^\beta = 0$$

where $\Gamma_{\alpha\beta}^\rho = \frac{1}{2} g^{\rho\lambda} (\partial_\alpha g_{\beta\lambda} + \partial_\beta g_{\lambda\alpha} - \partial_\lambda g_{\alpha\beta})$ is the Christoffel symbol. The equation of motion is the so-called geodesic equation for the particle.

$$\begin{aligned}
\frac{\partial L_2}{\partial x^\lambda} - \frac{d}{ds} \frac{\partial L_2}{\partial \dot{x}^\lambda} &= -m \left[\frac{\partial g_{\alpha\beta}}{\partial x^\lambda} \dot{x}^\alpha \dot{x}^\beta - \frac{d}{ds} \left(\underbrace{g_{\alpha\beta} \delta_\lambda^\alpha \dot{x}^\beta}_{=g_{\lambda\gamma} \dot{x}^\gamma} + \underbrace{g_{\alpha\beta} \dot{x}^\alpha \delta_\lambda^\beta}_{=g_{\lambda\gamma} \dot{x}^\gamma} \right) \right] \\
&= -m \left[(\partial_\lambda g_{\alpha\beta}) \dot{x}^\alpha \dot{x}^\beta - \frac{d}{ds} (2g_{\lambda\gamma} \dot{x}^\gamma) \right]
\end{aligned}$$

(the following is the same as those in L_1 except the constant coefficient.)

$$= 2m \left(-\frac{1}{2} (\partial_\lambda g_{\alpha\beta}) \dot{x}^\alpha \dot{x}^\beta + (\partial_\alpha g_{\lambda\gamma}) \dot{x}^\alpha \dot{x}^\gamma + g_{\lambda\gamma} \ddot{x}^\gamma \right)$$

$\uparrow$ split the second term and rename the dummy index

$$\begin{aligned}
&= 2m \left(-\frac{1}{2} (\partial_\lambda g_{\alpha\beta}) \dot{x}^\alpha \dot{x}^\beta + \frac{1}{2} (\partial_\alpha g_{\beta\lambda}) \dot{x}^\alpha \dot{x}^\beta + \frac{1}{2} (\partial_\beta g_{\lambda\alpha}) \dot{x}^\alpha \dot{x}^\beta + g_{\lambda\gamma} \ddot{x}^\gamma \right) \\
&= 2m \left[g_{\lambda\gamma} \ddot{x}^\gamma + \frac{1}{2} (\partial_\alpha g_{\beta\lambda} + \partial_\beta g_{\lambda\alpha} - \partial_\lambda g_{\alpha\beta}) \dot{x}^\alpha \dot{x}^\beta \right]
\end{aligned}$$

With the same steps in L_1 , one also can obtain the equation of motion for L_2 is also

$$\ddot{x}^\rho + \Gamma_{\alpha\beta}^\rho \dot{x}^\alpha \dot{x}^\beta = 0$$