

# INVARIANT RELATIONSHIPS DERIVING FROM CLASSICAL SCALING TRANSFORMATIONS

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Because scaling symmetries of the Euler-Lagrange equations are generally not variational symmetries of the action, they do not lead to conservation laws. Instead, an extension of Noether's theorem reduces the equations of motion to evolutionary laws that prove useful, even if the transformations are not generalized symmetries of the equations of motion. In the case of scaling, symmetry leads to a *scaling evolutionary law*, a first-order equation in terms of scale invariants, linearly relating kinematic and dynamic degrees of freedom.

This scaling evolutionary law appears in dynamical and in static systems. Applied to dynamical central-force systems, the scaling evolutionary equation leads to generalized virial laws, which linearly connect the kinetic and potential energies. Applied to barotropic hydrostatic spheres, the scaling evolutionary equation linearly connects the gravitational and internal energy densities. This implies well-known properties of polytropes, describing degenerate stars and chemically homogeneous non-degenerate stellar cores.

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## I. SCALING SYMMETRY NOT GENERALLY A SYMMETRY OF THE ACTION

Action principles dominate physical theories because they admit transformations among dynamical variables and exhibit common structural analogies across different systems. If these transformations are symmetries of the action, then by Noether's theorem, they give rise to *conservation laws* that reduce the number of degrees of freedom. This relationship between symmetries of the action (variational symmetries) and conservation laws is central to Lagrangian dynamics. But, even if these transformations are not symmetries of the action, they nonetheless lead to useful *Noether's identities*. Although equations of motion do not require Lagrangian expression, we apply this identity to transformations that are not variational symmetries; in particular, to scaling symmetry, which is generally a generalized symmetry only of the equations of motion (Section II). Variational symmetries and generalized symmetries both reduce the equations of motion to first order, but in different ways:

- Variational symmetries imply *conservation laws*, first integrals of the equations of motion.
- Scaling symmetry generally implies only an *evolutionary equation*, which reduces the equations of motion to first order in scaling invariants.

Applied to dynamical systems of bodies interacting via inverse power-law potentials, these evolutionary equations are generalized virial theorems (Section III). Applied to self-gravitating barotropic spheres in hydrostatic equilibrium (Section IV), the evolutionary equation leads directly to a first-order equation for homology invariants and to well-known properties of polytropes and of homogeneous stellar cores (Section V). In this way, these evolutionary equations illuminate the physical consequences of scaling symmetry.

We do not consider applications to quantum field theories [1], involving the symmetry of the vacuum as well as the Lagrangian, which lead to important quantum anomalies and to topological symmetries generated by topological charges.

## II. NOETHER'S THEOREM EXTENDED TO NONINVARIANT TRANSFORMATIONS

### A. Noether's Identity Implies Either Conservation Laws or Evolutionary Equations

We start with a system of particles described by the Lagrangian  $\mathcal{L}(t, q_i, \dot{q}_i)$  and action  $S = \int \mathcal{L}(t, q_i, \dot{q}_i) dt$ , where the dot designates the partial derivative  $\partial/\partial t$  with respect to the independent variable and the Einstein summation convention is assumed. Under an infinitesimal point transformation  $\delta(t, q_i), \delta q_j(t, q_i)$  generated by  $\delta t \cdot \partial/\partial t + \delta q_i \cdot \partial/\partial q_i$ , velocities and Lagrangian transform locally as

$$\delta \dot{q}_i = \frac{d\delta q_i}{dt} - \dot{q}_i \frac{d\delta t}{dt} \quad , \quad (1)$$

$$\delta \mathcal{L} = [\delta t \cdot \partial/\partial t + \delta q_i \cdot \partial/\partial q_i + \delta \dot{q}_i \cdot \partial/\partial \dot{q}_i] \mathcal{L} = \dot{\mathcal{L}} \delta t + (\partial \mathcal{L} / \partial q_i) \delta q_i + (\partial \mathcal{L} / \partial \dot{q}_i) \left[ \frac{d\delta q_i}{dt} - \dot{q}_i \frac{d\delta t}{dt} \right] \quad ,$$

where  $d/dt \equiv \partial/\partial t + \dot{q}_i \cdot \partial/\partial q_i + \ddot{q}_i \cdot \partial/\partial \dot{q}_i$  is the total derivative. The canonical momentum and energy

$$p_i(t, q_i, \dot{q}_i) := \partial \mathcal{L} / \partial \dot{q}_i \quad , \quad E(t, q_i, \dot{q}_i) := \dot{q}_i (\partial \mathcal{L} / \partial \dot{q}_i) - \mathcal{L} \quad (2)$$

have total derivatives

$$\frac{dp_i}{dt} = \partial \mathcal{L} / \partial q_i - \mathcal{D}_i \quad , \quad -\frac{dE}{dt} = \dot{\mathcal{L}} + \mathcal{D}_i \cdot \dot{q}_i \quad , \quad (3)$$

in terms of the Euler-Lagrange variational derivative  $\mathcal{D}_i := \partial \mathcal{L} / \partial q_i - d(\partial \mathcal{L} / \partial \dot{q}_i) / dt$ . Since

$$\frac{d}{dt} (p_i \delta q_i) = (\partial \mathcal{L} / \partial q_i - \mathcal{D}_i) \delta q_i + p_i \cdot \frac{d(\delta q_i)}{dt} \quad , \quad -\frac{dE \delta t}{dt} = (\dot{\mathcal{L}} + \mathcal{D}_i \cdot \dot{q}_i) \delta t - E \cdot \frac{d(\delta t)}{dt} \quad , \quad (4)$$

the *Noether charge*

$$G := \mathcal{L} \cdot \delta t + p_i \cdot (\delta q_i - \dot{q}_i \delta t) = -E \delta t + p_i \delta q_i \quad (5)$$

has total derivative

$$\frac{dG}{dt} = \delta\mathcal{L} + \mathcal{L} \cdot \frac{d(\delta t)}{dt} - \mathcal{D}_i \cdot (\delta q_i - \dot{q}_i \delta t) = \bar{\delta}\mathcal{L} - \mathcal{D}_i \cdot (\delta q_i - \dot{q}_i \delta t) \quad , \quad (6)$$

where  $\bar{\delta}\mathcal{L} := \delta\mathcal{L} + \mathcal{L} \cdot (d\delta t/dt)$  is the change in Lagrangian at a fixed point.

The variation in action between fixed end points is

$$\delta S_{12} = \int_2^1 dt \delta\mathcal{L} = \int_2^1 dt \left[ \frac{dG}{dt} - \mathcal{L} \cdot \frac{d(\delta t)}{dt} + \mathcal{D}_i \cdot (\delta q_i - \dot{q}_i \delta t) \right] = G(1) - G(2) + \int_2^1 dt \left[ \delta q_i \cdot \mathcal{D}_i + \delta t \cdot \left( \frac{dh}{dt} + \frac{\partial\mathcal{L}}{\partial t} \right) \right] \quad , \quad (7)$$

after integrating the term in  $d(\delta t)/dt$  by parts. The action principle asserts that this variation vanishes for independent variations  $\delta q_i, \delta t$  that vanish at the end points. It implies the Euler-Lagrange equations and  $dh/dt = -\partial\mathcal{L}/\partial t$ . On-shell, where the equations of motion  $\mathcal{D}_i = 0$  hold,

$$\delta S_{12} = \int_2^1 \bar{\delta}\mathcal{L} dt = G(1) - G(2) \quad (8)$$

$$\boxed{\frac{dG}{dt} = \bar{\delta}\mathcal{L}} \quad . \quad (9)$$

This is *Noether's equation*, an evolutionary equation for any generator or Noether charge, in terms of the Lagrangian transformation that it generates.

## B. Variational Symmetries Imply Conservation Laws

The most general and important applications of Noether's equation are to variational symmetries and to generalized symmetries of the equations of motion, which both preserve the stationary action principle  $\delta S_{12} = 0$  but reduce the equations of motion to first order in different ways.

Variational symmetries preserve the action  $\delta S_{12} = 0$  because  $\bar{\delta}\mathcal{L} = 0$  or  $dB/dt$ , the total derivative of some *gauge term*  $B(t, q)$ . Noether's equation  $(d/dt)(G - B) \equiv -\mathcal{D}_i \cdot (\delta q_i - \dot{q}_i \delta t)$  conserves  $G - B$  on-shell, where the equations of motion hold. This original Noether's theorem, identifying conservation laws with space-time variational symmetries, is most familiar in the symmetry of central-force systems (13) under time translations and spatial rotations, leading to conservation of energy  $E$  and angular momentum  $l$ :

$$E := (\dot{r}^2 + r^2 \dot{\theta}^2)/2 + V(r) \quad , \quad l := mr^2 \dot{\theta} \quad . \quad (10)$$

An illustration of how gauge terms  $B(t, \mathbf{q}_i)$  conserve  $G - B$ , rather than the Noether charge  $G$ , is the many-body system of particles with interparticle forces that depend only on the relative separations  $\mathbf{q}_i - \mathbf{q}_j$  and relative velocities  $\dot{\mathbf{q}}_i - \dot{\mathbf{q}}_j$ . This system admits the *infinitesimal boost transformations*

$$\delta \mathbf{q}_i = \delta \mathbf{v} \cdot t \quad , \quad \delta t = 0 \quad , \quad \delta V = 0 \quad , \quad \delta K = \delta \mathcal{L} = \mathbf{P} \cdot \delta \mathbf{v} \quad , \quad (11)$$

where  $M, \mathbf{P}, K$  are the total mass, momentum, and kinetic energy. Because boosts change all the momenta, the charge  $G = (\mathbf{P} \cdot \mathbf{v})t$  is not conserved. Instead, Noether's equation gives the conservation law  $(\mathbf{P} - M\dot{\mathbf{R}}) \cdot \delta \mathbf{v} = 0$ , or  $M\dot{\mathbf{R}} = \mathbf{P}$ , for arbitrary infinitesimal  $\delta \mathbf{v}$ . While boosts change the total momentum  $\mathbf{P}$ , the center-of-mass moves with velocity  $\dot{\mathbf{R}}$ . This familiar center-of-mass theorem follows directly from boost symmetry, irrespective of the internal forces. It is paradigmatic for distinguishing between the effects of internal and external forces in many-body system.

The converse of Noether's theorem also holds: conservation laws imply invariance of the Lagrangian modulo a possible gauge term. Noether's Theorem thus identifies variational symmetries with *conservation laws*. However, the remainder of this paper deals with generalized symmetries of the equations of motion, particularly with scaling symmetry.

## C. Generalized Symmetries Reduce the Equations of Motion to First Order

If they are not variational symmetries, generalized symmetries do not lead to conservation laws. Nevertheless, these transformations reduce the equations of motion to first order. Consider a nonrelativistic particle, with radial, transverse and angular momenta

$$\mathbf{p}_r = (\mathbf{r} \cdot \mathbf{p})\mathbf{r}/r^2 \quad , \quad \mathbf{p}_t = \mathbf{p} - \mathbf{p}_r = -\mathbf{r} \times \mathbf{l}/r^2 \quad , \quad \mathbf{l} := \mathbf{r} \times \mathbf{p} \quad , \quad (12)$$

and energy

$$E(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{p}) = K + V(r) := \mathbf{p}^2/2m + V(r) \quad , \quad p^2 = p_r^2 + l^2/r^2 \quad , \quad (13)$$

in an inverse-power central potential  $V(r) \sim 1/r^n$ . The Lagrangian for this system

$$\mathcal{L}(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{p}) = K + V(r) := \mathbf{p}^2/2m + V(r) \quad , \quad (14)$$

admits the *scaling symmetry*

$$\delta t = \beta t \quad , \quad \delta \mathbf{r} = \mathbf{r} \quad , \quad \delta \mathbf{p} = (1 - \beta)\mathbf{p} \quad , \quad \delta K = 2(1 - \beta)K \quad , \quad \delta V = -nV, \quad (15)$$

generated by

$$G_{nA} := -\beta Et + A \quad , \quad (16)$$

provided  $\beta \equiv 1 + n/2$ , so that  $\delta \mathcal{L} = 2(1 - \beta)\mathcal{L} = -n\mathcal{L}$ , so that the Lagrangian is homogeneous of degree  $-n$ .

The scaling evolutionary equation

$$dG_{nA}/dt = \delta \bar{\mathcal{L}} = (2 - \beta)\mathcal{L} \quad , \quad (17)$$

linearly connects the non-relativistic kinetic and power-law potential energies to the time derivative of the single particle *virial*  $A := \mathbf{r} \cdot \mathbf{p} = rp_r$ . This *virial equation*

$$dA/dt = 2K + nV \quad (18)$$

is the radial equation of motion

$$dp_r/dt = l^2/mr^3 - dV/dr \quad . \quad (19)$$

Only for zero-energy orbits  $E = K + V = 0$ , in an inverse-square potential  $n = 2$ , is the virial  $A$  conserved and scaling a variational symmetry.

The scaling invariant

$$rd\theta/dr = p_t/p_r = 1/\sqrt{r^2 p^2/l^2 - 1} \quad (20)$$

is the first-order *orbit equation*

$$rd\theta(r)/dr = 1/\sqrt{2mr^2[E - V(r)]/l^2 - 1}, \quad (21)$$

which can be solved by quadratures

$$\theta(r) = \theta_0 + \int_{r_0}^r dr / \{r \sqrt{2mr^2[E - V(r)]/l^2 - 1}\}. \quad (22)$$

(In the Kepler Problem  $V(r) = -k/r$ , the integrals reduce to elementary functions and the bound orbits are ellipses

$$r(\theta) = a(1 - \epsilon^2)/[1 - \epsilon \sin(\theta - \theta_0)], \quad (23)$$

of eccentricity  $\epsilon := \sqrt{1 - l^2/mka}$  and semimajor axis  $a := -k/2E$ .)

From this first-order equation and angular momentum conservation, the temporal evolution is

$$dt = (mr^2/l)d\theta = mdr/\sqrt{2m(E - V)(r)} - (l/r)^2 \quad , \quad (24)$$

so that

$$t(r) = t_0 + \int_{r_0}^r dr / \sqrt{2r^2[E - V(r)] - (l/m)^2} \quad (25)$$

completes the integration of the central-force problem.

TABLE I: Period-Amplitude Relations and Virial Theorems for Inverse Power-Law Potentials  $V \sim 1/r^n$

$n$	System	Period-amplitude relation $t \sim r^{1+n/2}$	Virial theorem
-2	isotropic harmonic oscillator	period independent of amplitude	$\langle K \rangle = \langle V \rangle$
-1	uniform gravitational field	falling from rest, e.g., $z = gt^2/2$	$\langle K \rangle = \langle V \rangle/2$
0	free particles	constant velocity $r \sim t$	$\langle K \rangle = 0$
1	Newtonian potential	Kepler's Third Law $t^2 \sim r^3$	$\langle K \rangle = -\langle V \rangle/2$
2	inverse cube force	$t \sim r^2$	$\langle K \rangle = -\langle V \rangle$

### D. Even Transformations That Are Not Symmetries Lead to Useful Evolutionary Equations

Now consider the radial translation

$$\delta t = \beta t \quad , \quad \delta \mathbf{r} = \mathbf{r}/r \quad , \quad \delta \mathbf{p} = -\mathbf{p}_t/r \quad , \quad (26)$$

is generated by

$$\mathbf{p} \cdot \delta \mathbf{r} = p_r \quad (27)$$

which is *not* a generalized symmetry of the central-force equations of motion. The radial translation evolutionary equation

$$dp_r/dt = l^2/mr^3 - dV/dr \quad (28)$$

still expresses the same radial equation of motion (19).

Generalized symmetry or not, both these evolutionary equations lead to the first-order equation (19) for  $p_r$  and express useful consequences of the equations of motion. While the virial  $A$  and radial momentum  $p_r$  are not conserved, their *time averages*  $\langle dA/dt \rangle = \langle dp_r/dt \rangle = 0$  in any bounded ergodic system, so that, for time averages

**scaling transformation:**  $2\langle K \rangle = -n\langle V \rangle$ , the usual virial law generalized to arbitrary inverse-power potentials;

**radial displacement transformation:**  $(l^2/m)\langle 1/r^3 \rangle = -n\langle V/r \rangle$ ,  $l \neq 0$ , useful for relativistic corrections to non-circular Coulombic ( $n = 1$ ) orbits [2].

The next section considers energy-conserving many-body systems  $\mathcal{L} = \mathcal{L}(\mathbf{r}_i, \dot{\mathbf{r}}_i)$ , for which the scaling evolutionary equation is a generalized virial law. Section IV, treats the hydrostatics of barotropic spheres, for which the Lagrangian  $\mathcal{L}(r, H, H')$  depends explicitly on the radial variable  $r$ . Instead of a first integral, both these examples illustrate a first-order differential equation among scaling invariants [3, 4], linearly relating the “kinetic” term  $K$  to the “potential” term  $V$  in the Lagrangian  $\mathcal{L} = K - V$ .

## III. EVOLUTIONARY EQUATIONS FOLLOWING FROM SCALING TRANSFORMATIONS

### A. Mechanical Evolutionary Equation is a Generalized Virial Law

The previous derivation of the generalized virial law generalizes to a nonrelativistic many-body system with particle coordinates  $\mathbf{r}_i$ . The scale transformation

$$\delta t = \beta \cdot t \quad , \quad \delta \mathbf{r}_i = \mathbf{r}_i \quad , \quad \delta(\partial/\partial t) = -\beta \cdot (\partial/\partial t) \quad , \quad \delta \dot{\mathbf{r}}_i = (1 - \beta) \cdot \dot{\mathbf{r}}_i \quad , \quad \delta K = 2(1 - \beta)K \quad (29)$$

is generated by the Noether charge

$$G_n := -\beta \cdot Et + A \quad , \quad (30)$$

where  $A := \sum \mathbf{p}_i \cdot \mathbf{r}_i$  is the *virial*. Since  $\delta(r_i^\beta/t) = 0$ , all distances scale with time as  $r_i \sim t^{1/\beta}$  [5].

If the pairwise potential energies are inverse powers  $V_{ij} \sim r_{ij}^{-n}$  of the interparticle distances  $r_{ij} := |\mathbf{r}_i - \mathbf{r}_j|$ , the interparticle potentials are homogeneous in their coordinates  $r(dV_{ij}/dr) = -nV_{ij}$ ,  $\delta V_{ij} = -nV_{ij}$ . Scaling is then a generalized symmetry of the equations of motion, provided  $n \equiv 2(\beta - 1)$ ,  $\beta \equiv 1 + n/2$ . Then  $\delta V = -(1 - \beta)\mathbf{r} \cdot \nabla V$ ,  $\delta \dot{A} = (1 - \beta)\dot{A}$  and the total energy and Lagrangian are homogeneous functions of their arguments, scalar densities of weight  $-n$ ,

$$\delta E = -nE \quad , \quad \delta \mathcal{L} = -n\mathcal{L} \quad , \quad \bar{\delta} \mathcal{L} = \delta \mathcal{L} + \beta \mathcal{L} = (1 - n/2)\mathcal{L}. \quad (31)$$

Because energy is conserved, Noether’s equation (9) implies the *scaling evolutionary equation*

$$\frac{dG_n}{dt} = -(1 + n/2)\mathcal{L} + \dot{A} = \bar{\delta} \mathcal{L} \quad , \quad \dot{A} = (1 + n/2)E + (1 - n/2)\mathcal{L} = 2K + nV \quad . \quad (32)$$

This is a generalized virial law linearly relating the time derivative of the virial  $A$  to a linear combination of the nonrelativistic kinetic energy  $K$  and the power-law potential  $V$ .

For periodic or long-time averages in bounded ergodic systems,  $\langle \dot{A} \rangle = 0$ , so that the *virial theorem* relates time averages  $2\langle K \rangle = -n\langle V \rangle$ . Table I tabulates these period-amplitude relations and generalized virial theorems for orbits in the five important inverse-power-law potentials  $n = -2, -1, 0, 1, 2$ . Only for inverse cube forces  $V(r) \sim 1/r^2$  would dynamical scaling reduce to a symmetry of the action, and the Noether charge  $G_2 = -2(K + V)t + A$  be conserved. For potentials more singular than  $1/r^2$ , there are no bound states.

## B. Scaling Evolutionary Equation in Classical Electrodynamics

Noether's equation applies to continuous Lagrangian systems (fields) as well as discrete systems. In this case,  $\mathbf{r}, t$  are independent variables. If  $\mathbf{f}$ ,  $\mathbf{G} = \mathbf{E} \times \mathbf{B}/4\pi c$ ,  $\mathcal{T}$ ,  $U$  are respectively the electromagnetic force density, momentum density, momentum flux tensor, and energy density, then momentum balance reads

$$\partial\mathbf{G}/\partial t + \nabla \cdot \mathcal{T} + \mathbf{f} = 0 \quad . \quad (33)$$

From this follows an electromagnetic analogue of the mechanical virial law:

$$\partial(\mathbf{r} \cdot \mathbf{G})/\partial t + \nabla \cdot (\mathcal{T} \cdot \mathbf{r}) - U + \mathbf{r} \cdot \mathbf{f} = 0 \quad . \quad (34)$$

When time-averaged, this becomes an electromagnetic virial theorem [2].

## C. Scaling Evolutionary Equation in Classical Conformal Field Theory

In any relativistic field theory, space-time scaling (dilatation) symmetry leads to the familiar evolutionary equation

$$\frac{\partial G^\mu}{\partial x^\mu} = \Theta_\mu^\mu \quad , \quad (35)$$

where  $\partial/\partial x_\mu$  is the four-dimensional divergence,  $G^\mu$  is the dilatation current, and  $\Theta_\mu^\mu$  is the trace of the energy-momentum tensor [1, 6, 7]. The dilatation charge is conserved when this trace vanishes, implying a conformal symmetry.

The most familiar example of conformal symmetry is Laplace's equation in  $n$  spatial dimensions. In two dimensions, conformal symmetry implies the Cauchy-Riemann equations, so that any analytic function is a solution of Laplace's equation. In higher dimensions, conformal symmetry implies the conservation laws associated with translations, rotations, dilatations, and spatial inversions. Ignoring charges, the electromagnetic field is conformally invariant.

These dynamical systems illustrate how Noether's equation leads to useful and often familiar evolutionary equations, even when scaling symmetry is broken. The remainder of this paper considers the hydrostatic equilibrium of gaseous spheres, where the radial coordinate  $r$  is not ignorable, and the variational principle is that of minimum energy, in place of least action.

## IV. SCALE-INVARIANT HYDROSTATIC SPHERES

The structure of luminous stars depends on the coupling between hydrostatic and thermal structures through an equation of state  $P = P(\rho, T)$ , which generally depends on the local temperature and chemical composition. When neglecting chemical evolution, in the steady state, stars are in both local thermal and chemical equilibrium and the matter entropy is locally conserved. To treat the hydrostatic equilibrium independently of heat flow, we consider only stars in which the thermal structure is specified independently, so that the local equation of state is *barotropic*  $P = P(\rho)$  and  $dP/\rho = dH$  in terms of the specific enthalpy  $H(r) = E + P/\rho$ . This restriction to barotropic stars makes the density  $\rho(r)$ , specific internal energy  $E(r)$ , specific enthalpy  $H(r) = E + P/\rho$ , and *thermal gradient*  $\nabla(r) := d \log T / d \log P$  implicit functions of the gravitational potential  $V(r)$ . Because stellar thermal (Kelvin-Helmholtz) relaxation times are usually much longer than hydrostatic equilibration times, stable stars are barotropic.

The hydrostatic structure of barotropes depends only on two first-order equations, mass continuity and pressure equilibrium,

$$dm/dr = 4\pi r^2 \rho \quad , \quad -dP/dr = G\rho m/r^2 \quad , \quad (36)$$

or the second-order equation

$$\frac{1}{r^2} \frac{d}{dr} \left( \frac{r^2}{\rho} \frac{dP}{dr} \right) = -4\pi G\rho \quad , \quad (r^2 H')' + 4\pi G r^2 \rho(H) = 0 \quad , \quad (37)$$

where  $' := d/dr$ . In terms of the specific gravitational force  $dV/dr = g := Gm/r^2$ , the equation of hydrostatic equilibrium reads

$$d(H + V)/dr = 0 \quad , \quad (38)$$

so that (37) is Poisson's equation.

This static structural equation is the Euler-Lagrange equation of the Lagrangian

$$\mathcal{L}(r, H, H') = 4\pi r^2 [-(H')^2/8\pi G + P(H)] \quad , \quad (39)$$

derived from a minimal energy variational principle in Appendix A. It describes the radial evolution of a static barotropic sphere. Because the radial coordinate  $r$  appears in  $\mathcal{L}(r, H, H')$ , the energy per radial shell  $E(r, H, H') = 4\pi r^2 [-(H')^2/8\pi G - P(H)]$  increases while moving outwards in radius.

### A. In a Simple Ideal Gas, Scale Invariance Requires a Constant Entropy Gradient

In a simple ideal gas, the equation of state, specific internal energy, specific enthalpy and adiabatic exponent are

$$P/\rho = \frac{\mathcal{R}}{\mu} T \quad , \quad E = c_V T \quad , \quad H = c_P T \quad , \quad (d \log P / d \log \rho)_S = c_P / c_V \quad , \quad (40)$$

where  $\mathcal{R}$  is the universal gas constant,  $\mu$  is the molecular weight, and  $c_P$ ,  $c_V$  are the specific heats at constant pressure and density. Following the First Law of Thermodynamics (Appendix B), the specific entropy and thermal gradient of a simple ideal gas are

$$dS = c_V d \log P - c_P d \log \rho \quad , \quad S = c_V \log (P/\rho^{c_P/c_V}) \quad , \quad \nabla = d \log H / d \log P \quad . \quad (41)$$

*Polytropes* are barotropic spheres with constant polytropic index  $n := d \log \rho / d \log H$  or polytropic exponent  $1 + 1/n := d \log P / d \log \rho$ . The pressure, specific energy, specific enthalpy, enthalpy gradient and central pressure at any point are

$$P/P_c = (\rho/\rho_c)^{1+1/n} \quad , \quad E = n(P/\rho) \quad , \quad H = (n+1)(P/\rho) \quad , \quad d \log H / d \log P = 1/(n+1) \quad . \quad (42)$$

Bound in a polytropic structure of index  $n$ , an ideal gas has constant thermal gradient, gravothermal specific heat, and entropy-pressure gradient:

$$\nabla = 1/(n+1) \quad , \quad c^* = c_P(1 - \nabla_{\text{ad}}/\nabla) \quad , \quad dS/d \log P = c_P(\nabla - \nabla_{\text{ad}}) \quad . \quad (43)$$

In convective equilibrium, the specific entropy  $S$  is constant. Otherwise, the radial entropy gradient

$$dS/d \log r = c_P(\nabla_{\text{ad}} - \nabla) \cdot v_n \quad , \quad (44)$$

is proportional to the homology invariant  $v_n := -d \log P / d \log r$  and positive when the thermal gradient is subadiabatic. Other than requiring a constant thermal gradient in an ideal gas, polytropic structure does not fix the thermal structure, which still depends on the heat transport mechanism.

The thermal gradient is nearly constant and the hydrostatic structure nearly polytropic in zero-temperature (degenerate) stars, in convective stars and in stars starting out on the hydrogen-burning, zero-age Main Sequence (ZAMS), for which the chemical composition and energy generation are homogeneous:

**White dwarfs and neutron stars:** nonrelativistic and extreme relativistic degenerate stars; polytropes of index  $n=3/2$  and 3, respectively.

**ZAMS stars in convective equilibrium:** with vanishing gravothermal specific heat  $C^*$  and uniform entropy density. These are  $n=3/2$  polytropes.

**ZAMS stars in radiative equilibrium:** At zero age, our Sun was a chemically homogeneous star of mean molecular weight  $\mu = 0.61$ , well-approximated by the *Eddington standard model*  $n=3$  polytrope throughout its radiative zone, containing 99.4% of its mass. (Because energy generation was extended but not uniform, our ZAMS Sun would be better approximated globally by a slightly less standard  $n=2.796$  polytrope [8]. Still better nonpolytropic fits would obtain by including both nonuniform energy transport and corrections to Kramers opacity: radiative transport in the  $pp$ -burning lower main sequence  $0.11 < M/M_\odot < 1.2$  gives the exponent  $\xi = 0.57$  in the  $M - R$  relation  $R \sim M^\xi$ ; convective transport in the CNO-burning upper main sequence  $2 < M/M_\odot < 20$  gives  $\xi = 0.8$  [9, 10].)

Because our present Sun is chemically inhomogeneous and has convective zones, it is far from being polytropic; its best polytropic fit, with index  $n = 3.26$ , is poor [8].

## B. Scale Symmetry Implies a First-Order Equation in Scaling Invariants

Following Chandrasekhar [11], we define homology variables

$$u := d \log m / d \log r = 3\rho/\bar{\rho} \quad , \quad v_n := -d \log (P/\rho) / d \log r \quad , \quad w_n := -d \log \rho / d \log r = n(r) \cdot v_n \quad , \quad (45)$$

where  $\bar{\rho} = 3m/4\pi r^3$  is the average mass density interior to radius  $r$  and  $n(r) := d \log \rho / d \log (P/\rho)$ . The central boundary condition is

$$u(0) = 3 \quad , \quad v(0) = 0 \quad , \quad (dv/du)_0 = -5/3n \quad . \quad (46)$$

The mass continuity and hydrostatic equilibrium equations (36) become

$$d \log u / d \log r = 3 - u - n(r)v \quad , \quad d \log v / d \log r = u - 1 + v - d \log [1 + n(r)] / d \log r \quad , \quad (47)$$

and are autonomous only when the index  $n(r)$  is constant.

In polytropes, the constant index  $n$  and gradient  $\nabla = 1/(n+1)$  makes both characteristic differential equations

$$du/d \log r = u(3 - u - nv_n) \quad , \quad dv_n/d \log r = v_n(u - 1 + v_n) \quad (48)$$

autonomous and can be written as the *characteristic differential equations*

$$\frac{d \log v_n}{u - 1 + v_n} = \frac{d \log u}{3 - u - nv_n} = d \log r \quad (49)$$

for the homology invariants  $u, v_n$  [17].

The infinitesimal scale transformation

$$\delta r = r \quad , \quad \delta H = -\tilde{\omega}_n H \quad , \quad \delta H' = -(1 + \tilde{\omega}_n) H' \quad (50)$$

is generated by the Noether charge

$$G_n := -E \cdot r + p \cdot \delta H = -r^3 \left[ \frac{H'^2}{2} + 4\pi P(H) \right] - r^2 \frac{H'}{G} \cdot \tilde{\omega}_n H \quad . \quad (51)$$

The structure is scale-invariant if and only if  $P = K\rho^{1+1/n}$ , so that  $H \sim P/\rho$ ,  $P \sim H^{n+1}$  and

$$n\tilde{\omega}_n = 2 + \tilde{\omega}_n \quad , \quad 2(1 + \tilde{\omega}_n) = (n+1)\tilde{\omega}_n \quad , \quad \tilde{\omega}_n \equiv 2/(n-1) \quad , \quad \delta \bar{\mathcal{L}} = \tilde{\sigma}_n \mathcal{L} \quad , \quad \tilde{\sigma}_n := 1 - 2\tilde{\omega}_n = \left( \frac{n-5}{n-1} \right) \quad , \quad (52)$$

making the gravitational potential and specific internal energy both homogeneous of degree  $-2\tilde{\omega}_n$  and

$$\delta \mathcal{L} = -2\tilde{\omega}_n \mathcal{L} \quad , \quad \delta E = -2\tilde{\omega}_n E \quad . \quad (53)$$

The radial derivative

$$dG_n/dr \equiv \delta \mathcal{L} + \mathcal{L} + \mathcal{D}_r \cdot \tilde{\omega}_n \cdot d(Hr)/dr \quad , \quad (54)$$

obeys the on-shell scaling evolutionary equation

$$dG_n/dr = \tilde{\sigma}_n \mathcal{L} \quad , \quad (55)$$

connecting the gravitational and internal energy densities, just as the virial law connected the potential and kinetic energies.

For such polytropes, we introduce dimensionless units

$$\xi := r/\alpha \quad , \quad \theta_n := H/H_c = (\rho/\rho_c)^{1/n} \quad , \quad (56)$$

and the dimensional constant

$$\alpha^2 := \frac{(n+1)}{4\pi G} K \rho_c^{1/n-1} = (n+1)/4\pi G \cdot (P_c/\rho_c^2) \quad , \quad (57)$$

where  $\rho_c$  is the central density and

$$P_c/\rho_c := K\rho_c^{1/n} \quad , \quad H_c := (n+1)P_c/\rho_c \quad . \quad (58)$$

The included mass, mass density, average mass density, and gravitational acceleration are

$$m = 4\pi\rho_c\alpha^3 \cdot (-\xi^2\theta'_n) \quad , \quad \rho = \rho_c \cdot \theta_n^n \quad , \quad \bar{\rho} = \rho_c \cdot (-3\theta'_n/\xi) \quad , \quad g = 4\pi\rho_c\alpha^2(-\theta'_n) \quad . \quad (59)$$

The Euler-Lagrange equation (37), combining mass continuity and hydrostatic equilibrium, takes the dimensionless *Lane-Emden* form

$$\frac{d}{d\xi} \left( \xi^2 \frac{d\theta_n}{d\xi} \right) + \xi^2 \theta_n^n = 0 \quad . \quad (60)$$

Suppressing the subscript  $n$  on  $\theta_n$  and  $\theta'_n := d\theta_n/d\xi$ , the homology variables are [11]

$$u := d \log m / d \log r = 3\rho(r)/\bar{\rho} = -\xi\theta^n/\theta' \quad , \quad v_n := -d \log (P/\rho) / d \log r = -\xi\theta'/\theta \quad , \quad \bar{\rho}/\rho_c = -3\theta'/\xi^2 \quad , \\ u/v_n = \theta^{n+1}/\theta'^2 \quad , \quad uv_n = \xi^2\theta^{n-1} = (\xi\tilde{\omega}_n\theta)^{n-1} \quad , \quad (uv_n)^{1/(n-1)} = \xi\tilde{\omega}_n^{n+1}(-\theta') \quad . \quad (61)$$

Extracting the dimensional constant  $\mathcal{C} := -H_c^2/G$ , the Lagrangian, Hamiltonian, and Noether charge are

$$\mathcal{L}/\mathcal{C} = \xi^2 \left[ \frac{\theta'^2}{2} - \frac{\theta^{n+1}}{n+1} \right] = \xi^{-2\tilde{\omega}_n} \left[ \frac{(uv_n^n)^{\tilde{\omega}_n}}{2} - \frac{(uv)^{1+\tilde{\omega}_n}}{n+1} \right] \quad , \\ E/\mathcal{C} = \xi^2 \left[ \frac{\theta'^2}{2} + \frac{\theta^{n+1}}{n+1} \right] = \xi^{-2\tilde{\omega}_n} \left[ \frac{(uv_n^n)^{\tilde{\omega}_n}}{2} + \frac{(uv)^{1+\tilde{\omega}_n}}{n+1} \right] \quad , \\ G_n/\mathcal{C} = \xi^2 \left[ \xi \left( \frac{\theta'^2}{2} + \frac{\theta^{n+1}}{n+1} \right) + \tilde{\omega}_n \theta \theta' \right] = \xi^{-2\tilde{\omega}_n} \left[ \xi \left( \frac{(uv_n^n)^{\tilde{\omega}_n}}{2} - \frac{(uv)^{1+\tilde{\omega}_n}}{n+1} \right) + \tilde{\omega}_n u^{\tilde{\omega}_n} v_n^{1+\tilde{\omega}_n} \right] \quad . \quad (62)$$

For  $n = 5$ , scaling symmetry is a variational symmetry and the Noether charge

$$G_5 = \frac{\mathcal{C}}{2} \cdot \left[ (uv_5^5)^{3/2} - \frac{(uv_5)^{3/2}}{3} + (uv_5^3)^{1/2} \right] \quad (63)$$

is conserved. Otherwise, the Noether charge evolves according to (55)

$$\frac{d}{d\xi} \left\{ \xi^2 \cdot \left[ \xi \left( \frac{\theta'^2}{2} + \frac{\theta^{n+1}}{n+1} \right) + \left( \frac{2}{n-1} \right) \theta \theta' \right] \right\} = \left( \frac{n-5}{n-1} \right) \cdot \xi^2 \left( \frac{\theta'^2}{2} - \frac{\theta^{n+1}}{n+1} \right) \quad , \quad (64)$$

which reduces to the Lane-Emden equation (60). It describes the growing ratio between local internal and (negative) gravitational energy densities

$$\frac{\theta^{n+1}/(n+1)}{\theta'^2/2} = \frac{2}{n+1} \frac{u}{v_n} \quad , \quad (65)$$

as the local energy density changes from entirely internal at the center, to entirely gravitational at the stellar surface.

## V. CONCLUSIONS

We have extended Noether's theorem connecting variational symmetries to conservation laws to generalized transformations of the Euler-Lagrange equations. The resultant evolutionary equations are useful, even when the transformations are not generalized symmetries. But, when they are generalized symmetries, they reduce the Euler-Lagrange equations to first-order equations between invariants.

For scaling symmetries, the evolutionary equation takes a special form connecting linearly the kinematic and dynamic parts of the Lagrangian. For nonrelativistic systems with inverse-power law potentials, the scaling evolutionary equation is a generalized virial law, linearly relating the kinetic and potential energies. For hydrostatic systems obeying barotropic equations of state, the scaling evolutionary equation is an analogous linear relation between the local gravitational and internal energies. From this scaling evolutionary equation we derive, in the accompanying article [12], all the properties of polytropes.

## APPENDIX A: LAGRANGIAN FORMULATION OF BAROTROPIC HYDROSTATICS

Stellar structure generally depends on coupled equations for pressure equilibrium and heat transport. Only if the heat transport leads to a local *barotropic* relation  $P = P(\rho)$  can the hydrostatic equations be considered independently, without reference to the thermal structure.

### 1. Mass Continuity and Hydrostatic Equilibrium

In a self-gravitating isolated system in local thermodynamic equilibrium, a barotrope held at zero external pressure has thermodynamic potential energy, the work needed to adiabatically extract unit mass, or *specific enthalpy*  $H(\rho) = E + P/\rho$ . Barotropic energy conservation,  $dH := dP/\rho$ , makes the specific enthalpy a more natural state variable than the specific internal energy  $E$ , pressure  $P$ , or density  $\rho$ . The equation of hydrostatic equilibrium  $-dP/dr = Gm\rho/r^2 := \rho g$  is then

$$-dH/dr = dV/dr = g = Gm(r)/r^2 \quad , \quad (\text{A1})$$

describing how this local specific enthalpy or extraction energy  $H(r)$  depends on the local gravitational potential  $V(r)$ . Integrating, we have the energy conservation equation

$$H(r) + V(r) = -GM/R \quad , \quad r < R \quad , \quad (\text{A2})$$

where the zeros of the gravitational potential and specific enthalpy have been chosen at infinity and at the spherical surface, respectively.

Because the gravitational potential obeys Poisson's equation

$$\nabla^2 V = \frac{1}{r^2} \frac{d}{dr} \left( r^2 \frac{dV}{dr} \right) = 4\pi G\rho \quad , \quad (\text{A3})$$

the specific enthalpy obeys the second-order equation

$$\boxed{\nabla^2 H + 4\pi G\rho(H) = 0} \quad . \quad (\text{A4})$$

To implement the equation of hydrostatic equilibrium, we must have a local barotropic relation  $P(\rho)$ , or  $P(H)$ ,  $\rho(H)$ , which is determined by the thermal stratification of the static matter distribution in local thermodynamic equilibrium, and by a central boundary, or regularity, condition  $(dP/dr)_0 = 0 = (d\rho/dr)_0$ . Near the origin,

$$\begin{aligned} \rho &\approx \rho_c(1 - Br^2) \quad , \quad m(r) \approx \frac{4\pi\rho_c r^3}{3} \left(1 - \frac{3}{5}Br^2\right) \quad , \\ \bar{\rho}(r) := 3m(r)/4\pi r^3 &\approx \rho_c \left(1 - \frac{3}{5}Br^2\right) \approx \rho_c^2/5 \rho^{3/5} \quad , \quad dw/du \approx -5/3 \quad , \end{aligned} \quad (\text{A5})$$

in terms of the homology variables  $w := -d \log \rho / d \log r$ ,  $u := d \log m / d \log r$  for the mass density and included mass.

### 2. A Constrained Minimum Energy Principle for Hydrostatic Equilibrium

In a static, self-gravitating sphere of mass  $M$  and radius  $R$ , the *Gibbs free energy*

$$W := E - TS + PV = \Omega + U \quad , \quad (\text{A6})$$

in terms of the gravitational and internal energies

$$\Omega = - \int_0^M (Gm/r) dm \quad , \quad U = - \int_0^R P d\mathcal{V} \quad , \quad (\text{A7})$$

where  $\rho$ ,  $E$ , and  $-Gm(r)/r$  are the mass density, specific internal energy, and gravitational potential, respectively. In the Eulerian description, the radial coordinate is  $r$ , the enclosed volume is  $\mathcal{V} = 4\pi r^3/3$ , and the enclosed mass  $m(r)$  is constrained by mass continuity  $dm(r) = \rho d\mathcal{V}$ . The Gibbs free energy

$$W = \int_0^R \mathcal{L}(r, m, m') dr = - \int_0^R 4\pi r^2 [Gm\rho/r + P(\rho)] dr \quad , \quad ' := d/dr \quad , \quad (\text{A8})$$

is the work available in adiabatically expanding the sphere at fixed external pressure. The Lagrangian  $\mathcal{L}$  is the Gibbs free energy per radial shell  $dr$ .

The constrained minimum energy variational principle [10, 13] for hydrostatic equilibrium is that the Gibbs free energy be stationary ( $\delta W = 0$ ) under adiabatic deformations in specific volume  $\delta\mathcal{V}_\rho = d(4\pi r^2 \delta r)/dm$  that vanish on the boundaries and satisfy the mass continuity constraint  $m' = 4\pi r^2 \rho$ . This minimum energy principle has the equation of hydrostatic equilibrium

$$\mathcal{D}_r := Gm/r^2 + H' = Gm/r^2 + dP/\rho dr = 0 \quad , \quad (\text{A9})$$

as its Euler-Lagrange equation, with mass continuity as a constraint. This equation is scale invariant if the specific enthalpy  $H$  scales as  $m'$ .

### 3. An Unconstrained Variational Principle

Using Poisson's equation to incorporate the mass continuity constraint, the gravitational energy is

$$\Omega = - \int_0^R (V'^2/2) 4\pi r^2 dr \quad , \quad (\text{A10})$$

so that the second-order Lagrangian (used in Section IV)

$$\mathcal{L}(r, H, H') = 4\pi r^2 [-H'^2/8\pi G + P(H)] \quad (\text{A11})$$

is unconstrained and has Euler-Lagrange equation (A4). The canonical momentum and Hamiltonian are

$$p := \partial\mathcal{L}/\partial H' = -r^2 H'/G = -m \quad , \quad \mathcal{H}(r, H, p) = -Gp^2/2r^2 - 4\pi r^2 P(H) \quad , \quad (\text{A12})$$

and the canonical equations are

$$\partial\mathcal{H}/\partial p = H' = -Gp/r^2 \quad , \quad \partial\mathcal{H}/\partial H = -p' = m' = 4\pi r^2 \rho \quad . \quad (\text{A13})$$

Spherical geometry makes the system nonautonomous, so that  $dH/dr = -\partial\mathcal{L}/\partial r = -2\mathcal{L}/r$  vanishes only at large  $r$ , with vanishing sphericity.

## APPENDIX B: STELLAR THERMOHYDRODYNAMICS

The structure of luminous stars depends upon the coupling between hydrostatic and thermal structures through an equation of state  $P = P(\rho, T, \mu)$ , which generally depends on the local temperature and chemical composition. But, ignoring evolution, the matter entropy is locally conserved, so that steady-state stars are in both local thermal equilibrium and mechanical equilibrium. In a fluid held in pressure equilibrium at constant external temperature, the specific Gibbs free energy  $H - TS = -V(r)$  is a minimum. Under hydrostatic equilibrium, the density  $\rho(r)$ , specific internal energy  $E(r)$ , specific enthalpy  $H(r) = E + P/\rho$ , specific entropy and thermal gradient  $\nabla(r) := d \log T / d \log P$  depend implicitly on the gravitational potential  $V(r)$ .

In the Second Law of Thermodynamics

$$TdS = dQ = c_V dE + Pd(1/\rho) \quad , \quad (\text{B1})$$

$E$ ,  $\rho$  can be written as functions of temperature and pressure. Clever use of thermodynamic identities then leads to [9, 10]

$$TdS = C^* dT \quad , \quad dS = P(\nabla - \nabla_{\text{ad}}) d \log P \quad , \quad (\text{B2})$$

where the *gravithermal specific heat*  $C^* := dS/d \log T = P(1 - \nabla_{\text{ad}}/\nabla)$  depends on the specific heat  $P$  and on the *adiabatic gradient*  $\nabla_{\text{ad}} := (\partial \log T / \partial \log P)_S$ . This expression relates the local *thermal gradient*  $\nabla(r) := d \log T / d \log P$  to the entropy gradient  $dS(r)/d \log P$ , which generally contains both gas and radiation entropies and varies in stars in radiative equilibrium.

In a simple ideal gas, the equation of state, specific internal energy, specific enthalpy and adiabatic exponent are

$$P/\rho = \frac{\mathcal{R}}{\mu} T \quad , \quad E = c_V T \quad , \quad H = c_P T \quad , \quad (d \log P / d \log \rho)_S = c_P / c_V \quad , \quad (\text{B3})$$

where  $\mathcal{R}$  is the universal gas constant,  $\mu$  is the molecular weight, and  $c_V$ ,  $c_P = c_V + \mathcal{R}/\mu$  are the specific heats at constant volume and at constant pressure. By the Second Law of Thermodynamics, the specific entropy and thermal gradient of a simple ideal gas are

$$dS = c_V d \log P - c_P d \log \rho \quad , \quad S = c_V \log \left( P / \rho^{c_P/c_V} \right) \quad , \quad \nabla = d \log H / d \log P = 1 - c_V / c_P \quad . \quad (\text{B4})$$

ated stars of homogeneous composition will be polytropes of order  $n$ , provided the thermal gradient is constant. In an ideal gas supported by *both* gas pressure  $P_{\text{gas}} = \mathcal{R}\rho T/\mu$  and radiation pressure  $P_{\text{rad}} = aT^4/3$ , the total pressure is

$$P = P_{\text{gas}} + P_{\text{rad}} = \beta P + (1 - \beta)P = (\mathcal{R}\rho T/\mu)[1 + (1 - \beta)/\beta], \quad (\text{B5})$$

where the pressure ratio

$$P_{\text{rad}}/P_{\text{gas}} := (1 - \beta)/\beta = (4\mu/\mathcal{R}) \cdot S_{\text{rad}} \quad , \quad (\text{B6})$$

is proportional to the specific radiation entropy  $S_{\text{rad}} = 4aT^3/3\rho$ . The total specific entropy

$$S = S_g + S_{\text{rad}} = (\mathcal{R}/\mu) \cdot [\log (T^{3/2}/\rho) + 4(1 - \beta)/\beta] \quad . \quad (\text{B7})$$

is therefore constant for a cool monatomic ideal gas ( $\beta = 1$ ) or for a radiation-dominated (supermassive) star ( $\beta \approx 0$ ).

According to Schwarzschild's minimal entropy production criterion, convective stability requires  $dS/d \log P \leq 0$ , so that the specific entropy is constant in convective equilibrium and increases outward in radiative equilibrium. This makes barotropic stars of mass  $M$  extremal in two respects: the central pressure is minimal in barotropic stars of a given radius  $R$ ; the central pressure and temperature are maximal in barotropic stars of given central density. Because stellar evolution is driven by developments in the core, these bounds drive stars toward uniform entropy in late stages of evolution [14].

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of the predator  $v_n$  at the expense of the prey  $u$ , so that a population that is exclusively prey initially ( $v_n = 0, u = 3$ ) is ultimately devoured  $u \rightarrow 0$ . For the weakest predator/prey interaction ( $n = 5$ ), the predator takes an infinite time to reach only the finite value  $v_n = 1$ . For stronger predator/prey interaction ( $n < 5$ ), the predator grows infinitely  $v_n \rightarrow \infty$  in a finite time.