Integrable Models of the Chaplygin ball

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Chaplygin ball

One of the most famous solvable problems in nonholonomic mechanics describes rolling without slipping of a balanced, dynamically nonsymmetric ball over a horizontal plane.

Let O_B , a, m, $\mathbb{I} = \text{diag}(A, B, C)$, be the center, radius, mass and the inertia operator of a ball B. The equations of motion in the frame attached to the ball can be written in the form

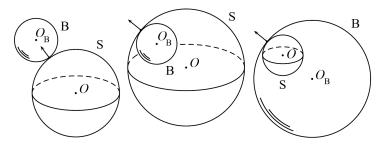
$$\dot{\vec{k}} = \vec{k} \times \vec{\Omega}, \qquad \dot{\vec{\Gamma}} = \vec{\Gamma} \times \vec{\Omega},$$

where Ω is the angular velocity of the ball,

 $\vec{k} = \mathbb{I}\vec{\Omega} + D\vec{\Omega} - D\langle\vec{\Omega},\vec{\Gamma}\rangle\vec{\Gamma}$ is the angular momentum of the ball with respect to the point of contact, and $D = ma^2$.

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Rolling of the ball B with center O_B over the sphere S with center O: three scenarios



- (i) rolling of B over the outer surface of S and S is outside B (see the leftmost part of Fig);
- (ii) rolling of B over the inner surface of S (b > a)(see the central part of Fig);
- (iii) rolling of B over the outer surface of S and S is within B; in this case b < a and the rolling ball B is a spherical shell (see the rightmost part of Fig).

Let $\varepsilon = b/(b \pm a)$, where we take "+"for the case (i) and "-"in the cases (ii) and (iii). The equations of motion:

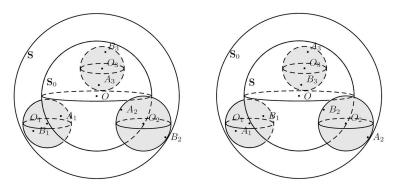
$$\dot{\vec{k}} = \vec{k} \times \vec{\Omega}, \qquad \dot{\vec{\gamma}} = \varepsilon \vec{\Gamma} \times \vec{\Omega}.$$

When b tends to infinity, then ε tends to 1 and $\vec{\Gamma}$ tends to the unit vector that is constant in the fixed reference frame. This way, for $\varepsilon = 1$, we obtain the equations of motion of the Chaplygin ball rolling over the plane orthogonal to $\vec{\Gamma}$. Remarkably, for $\varepsilon = -1$, which is the case (iii) above with a = 2b, the problem is integrable.

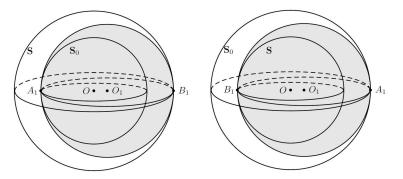
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Spherical ball bearing in four configuration. Cases I and II

We consider *n* homogeneous balls B_1, \ldots, B_n with centers O_1, \ldots, O_n and the same radius *r* roll without slipping around a fixed sphere S_0 with center *O* and radius *R*. A dynamically nonsymmetric sphere S of radius $\rho = R \pm 2r$ with the center that coincides with the center *O* of the fixed sphere S_0 rolls without slipping over the moving balls B_1, \ldots, B_n .



Spherical ball bearing, case III and case IV ($\rho = 2r - R$)



V. Dragović, B. Gajić, B.J, Spherical and Planar Ball Bearings – Nonholonomic Systems with Invariant Measures, RCD, 27 (2022) 424–442.

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 The rolling of a homogeneous ball over a dynamically asymmetric sphere S is introduced by Borisov, Kilin, and Mamaev (RCD, 2011) Let *I* be the inertia operator of the outer sphere S. We choose the moving frame $O\vec{e}_1, \vec{e}_2, \vec{e}_3$, such that $O\vec{e}_1, O\vec{e}_2, O\vec{e}_3$ are the principal axes of inertia: I = diag(A, B, C). Let $\text{diag}(I_i, I_i, I_i)$ and m_i be the inertia operator and the mass of the *i*-th ball B_i. Then the configuration space and the kinetic energy of the problem are given by:

$$Q = SO(3)^{n+1} \times (S^2)^n \{ g, g_1, \dots, g_n, \vec{\gamma}_1, \dots, \vec{\gamma}_n \},$$

$$T = \frac{1}{2} \langle I \vec{\Omega}, \vec{\Omega} \rangle + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^n I_i \langle \vec{\omega}_i, \vec{\omega}_i \rangle + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^n m_i \langle \vec{v}_{O_i}, \vec{v}_{O_i} \rangle.$$

Here $\vec{\gamma}_i$ is the unit vector $\vec{\gamma}_i = \frac{\overrightarrow{OO_i}}{|\overrightarrow{OO_i}|}$ determining the position O_i of the centre of *i*-th ball B_i and \vec{v}_{O_i} is its velocity, i = 1, ..., n. In cases I and II, $\vec{v}_{O_i} = (R \pm r)\dot{\vec{\gamma}_i}$ while in cases III and IV $\vec{v}_{O_1} = \pm (r - R)\vec{\gamma}_1$.

Let us denote the contact points of the balls B_1, \ldots, B_n with the spheres S_0 and S by A_1, \ldots, A_n and B_1, B_2, \ldots, B_n , respectively. The condition that the rolling of the balls B_1, \ldots, B_n and the sphere S are without slipping leads to the nonholonomic constraints: In cases I and II

$$\vec{v}_{O_i} = \pm r \vec{\omega}_i \times \vec{\gamma}_i, \qquad \vec{v}_{O_i} = (R \pm 2r) \vec{\omega} \times \vec{\gamma}_i \pm r \vec{\omega}_i \times \vec{\gamma}_i.$$

and in cases III and IV

$$ec{v}_{O_1} = \pm r ec{\omega}_1 imes ec{\gamma}_1, \qquad ec{v}_{O_1} = \pm (2r-R) ec{\omega} imes ec{\gamma}_1 \pm r ec{\gamma}_1 imes ec{\omega}_1.$$

The dimension of the configuration space Q is 5n + 3. There are 4n independent constraints, defining a nonintegrable distribution $\mathcal{D} \subset TQ$. Therefore, the dimension of the vector subspaces of admissible velocities $\mathcal{D}_q \subset T_qQ$ is n + 3, $q \in Q$. The phase space of the system has the dimension 6n + 6, which is the dimension of the bundle \mathcal{D} as a submanifold of TQ.

The kinetic energy and the constraints are invariant with respect to the $SO(3)^{n+1}$ -action defined by

$$(g, g_1, \ldots, g_n, \vec{\gamma}_1, \ldots, \vec{\gamma}_n) \longmapsto (ag, ag_1a_1^{-1}, \ldots, ag_na_n^{-1}, a\vec{\gamma}_1, \ldots, a\vec{\gamma}_n),$$

 $a, a_1, \ldots, a_n \in SO(3)$. For the coordinates in the space $(TQ)/SO(3)^{n+1}$ we can take the angular velocities and the unit position vectors in the reference frame attached to the sphere S:

$$(TQ)/SO(3)^{n+1} \cong \mathbb{R}^{3(n+1)} \times (TS^2)^n \{\vec{\Omega}, \vec{\Omega}_1, \ldots, \vec{\Omega}_n, \vec{\Gamma}_1, \ldots, \vec{\Gamma}_n, \vec{\Gamma}_1, \ldots, \vec{\Gamma}_n\}.$$

In the moving reference frame $O\vec{e}_1, \vec{e}_2, \vec{e}_3$, the constraints become:

$$\vec{V}_{O_i} = \pm r \vec{\Omega}_i imes \vec{\Gamma}_i, \qquad \vec{\Omega}_i imes \vec{\Gamma}_i = \delta \vec{\Omega} imes \vec{\Gamma}_i, \qquad i = 1, \dots, n,$$

where

$$\begin{split} \varepsilon &= \frac{R}{2R \pm 2r} & \text{and} & \delta &= \pm \frac{R \pm 2r}{2r} & \text{(cases I and II)}, \\ \varepsilon &= \frac{R}{2R - 2r} & \text{and} & \delta &= \frac{2r - R}{2r} & \text{(cases III and IV)}. \end{split}$$

Since both the kinetic energy and the constraints are invariant with respect to the $SO(3)^{n+1}$ -action, the equations of motion are also $SO(3)^{n+1}$ -invariant. Thus, they induce a well defined system on the reduced phase space

$$\mathcal{M} = \mathcal{D}/SO(3)^{n+1} \subset (TQ)/SO(3)^{n+1}$$

of dimension 3n + 3.

Lemma

The kinematic part of the equations of motion of the spherical ball bearing system is:

$$\dot{\vec{\Gamma}}_i = \epsilon \vec{\Gamma}_i \times \vec{\Omega}, \qquad i = 1, \dots, n.$$

Let \vec{F}_{B_i} and \vec{F}_{A_i} be the reaction forces that act on the ball B_i at the points B_i and A_i , respectively. The reaction force at the point B_i on the sphere S is then $-\vec{F}_{B_i}$.

Lemma

The dynamical part of the equations of motion of the spherical ball bearing system is:

$$I_{i}\vec{\Omega}_{i} = I_{i}\vec{\Omega}_{i} \times \vec{\Omega} \pm r\vec{\Gamma}_{i} \times (\vec{F}_{B_{i}} - \vec{F}_{A_{i}}),$$

$$m_{i}\dot{\vec{V}}_{O_{i}} = m_{i}\vec{V}_{O_{i}} \times \vec{\Omega} + \vec{F}_{B_{i}} + \vec{F}_{A_{i}}, \qquad i = 1, ..., n$$

$$I\dot{\vec{\Omega}} = I\vec{\Omega} \times \vec{\Omega} \mp 2r\delta \sum_{i=1}^{n} \vec{\Gamma}_{i} \times \vec{F}_{B_{i}}.$$

Proposition

We have following first integrals

$$\begin{split} \langle \vec{\Omega}_i, \vec{\Gamma}_i \rangle &= c_i = const, \qquad i = 1, ..., n \\ \langle \vec{\Gamma}_i, \vec{\Gamma}_j \rangle &= \gamma_{ij} = const, \qquad 1 \leqslant i < j \leqslant n. \end{split}$$

So, the centers O_i of the homogeneous balls B_i are in rest in relation to each other.

The reduced system

The reduced phase space $\mathcal{M} = \mathcal{D}/SO(3)^{n+1}$ is foliated on 2n + 3-dimensional invariant varieties

$$\mathcal{M}_c$$
: $\langle \vec{\Omega}_i, \vec{\Gamma}_i \rangle = c_i = const, \qquad i = 1, ..., n.$

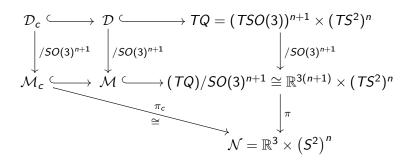
On the invariant variety \mathcal{M}_c , the vector-functions $\vec{\Omega}_i$ can be uniquely expressed as functions of $\vec{\Omega}$, $\vec{\Gamma}_i$:

$$\vec{\Omega}_i = c_i \vec{\Gamma}_i + \delta \vec{\Omega} - \delta \langle \vec{\Gamma}_i, \vec{\Omega} \rangle \vec{\Gamma}_i.$$

Whence, $\vec{\Omega}$ determines all velocities of the system on \mathcal{M}_c and \mathcal{M}_c is diffeomorphic to the *second reduced phase space*

$$\mathcal{N} = \mathbb{R}^3 \times (S^2)^n \{ \vec{\Omega}, \vec{\Gamma}_1, \dots, \vec{\Gamma}_n \}.$$

As a result we obtain the following diagram



We set

$$\vec{\mathcal{M}} = I\vec{\Omega} = I\vec{\Omega} + \delta^2 \sum_{i=1}^n (I_i + m_i r^2)\vec{\Omega} - \delta^2 \sum_{i=1}^n (I_i + m_i r^2) \langle \vec{\Gamma}_i, \vec{\Omega} \rangle \vec{\Gamma}_i,$$

$$\vec{\mathcal{N}} = \delta \sum_{i=1}^n I_i c_i \vec{\Gamma}_i.$$

We refer to I as the modified inertia operator.

Theorem

The reduction of the spherical ball bearing problem to $\mathcal{M}_c\cong\mathcal{N}$ is described by the equations

$$\frac{d}{dt}\vec{M} = \vec{M} \times \vec{\Omega} + (1 - \varepsilon)\vec{N} \times \vec{\Omega},$$
$$\frac{d}{dt}\vec{\Gamma}_i = \varepsilon\vec{\Gamma}_i \times \vec{\Omega}, \qquad i = 1, \dots, n.$$

The kinetic energy of the system takes the form

$$T = rac{1}{2} \langle ec{M}, ec{\Omega}
angle + rac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^n I_i c_i^2.$$

Also, since

$$rac{d}{dt}ec{N} = arepsilonec{N} imes ec{\Omega}$$

the first equation is equivalent to

$$rac{d}{dt}(ec{M}+ec{N})=(ec{M}+ec{N}) imesec{\Omega}.$$

Theorem

For arbitrary values of parameters c_i , the reduced system has the invariant measure

$$\mu(\vec{\Gamma}_1, \dots, \vec{\Gamma}_n) d\Omega \wedge \sigma_1 \wedge \dots \wedge \sigma_n, \qquad \mu = \sqrt{\det(\mathsf{I})},$$

where $d\Omega$ and σ_i are the standard measures on $\mathbb{R}^3{\{\vec{\Omega}\}}$ and $S^2{\{\vec{\Gamma}_i\}}$, i = 1, ..., n.

Proposition

The system always has the following first integrals

$$F_1 = \frac{1}{2} \langle \vec{M}, \vec{\Omega} \rangle, \quad F_2 = \langle \vec{M} + \vec{N}, \vec{M} + \vec{N} \rangle, \quad F_{ij} = \langle \vec{\Gamma}_i, \vec{\Gamma}_j \rangle, \quad 1 \le i < j \le n.$$

Thus, in the special case n = 1, we have the 5-dimensional phase space $\mathcal{N} = \mathbb{R}^3 \times S^2{\{\vec{\Omega}, \vec{\Gamma}_1\}}$, and the system has two first integrals and an invariant measure. For the integrability, one needs to find a third independent first integral.

Spherical support system and ε -modified L+R systems

If we set $\varepsilon = 1$ in the system, we obtain the equation of the spherical support system introduced by Fedorov. The system describes the rolling without slipping of a dynamically nonsymmetric sphere S over *n* homogeneous balls B₁,..., B_n of possibly different radii, but with fixed centers. It is an example of a class of nonhamiltonian L+R systems on Lie groups with an invariant measure.

On the other hand, if we set $\vec{N} = 0$, we obtain an example ε -modified L+R system.

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System with one homogeneous ball

We proceed with the case n=1. To simplify notation, we denote $\vec{\Gamma}_1$ by $\vec{\Gamma}$ and set

$$D = \delta^2 (I_1 + m_1 r^2), \qquad d = \delta I_1 c_1, \qquad L = \langle \vec{\Omega}, \vec{\Gamma} \rangle,$$

$$\vec{M} = \vec{M} + \vec{N} = \vec{M} + d\vec{\Gamma} = I\vec{\Omega} + D\vec{\Omega} + (d - DL)\vec{\Gamma}.$$

The reduced system, the operator I, and its determinant now read

$$\vec{\mathbf{M}} = \vec{\mathbf{M}} \times \vec{\Omega}, \qquad \vec{\mathbf{\Gamma}} = \varepsilon \vec{\mathbf{\Gamma}} \times \vec{\Omega},$$

$$\mathbf{I} = \mathbb{I} + D\mathbf{E} - D\vec{\Gamma} \otimes \vec{\mathbf{\Gamma}} = \begin{pmatrix} A + D - D\Gamma_1^2 & -D\Gamma_1\Gamma_2 & -D\Gamma_1\Gamma_3 \\ -D\Gamma_1\Gamma_2 & B + D - D\Gamma_2^2 & -D\Gamma_2\Gamma_3 \\ -D\Gamma_1\Gamma_3 & -D\Gamma_2\Gamma_3 & C + D - D\Gamma_3^2 \end{pmatrix},$$

$$\det(\mathsf{I}) = (A+D)(B+D)(C+D)(1-D\big(\frac{\mathsf{\Gamma}_1^2}{A+D} + \frac{\mathsf{\Gamma}_2^2}{B+D} + \frac{\mathsf{\Gamma}_3^2}{C+D}\big)\big).$$

The first integrable case (generic I, arepsilon=-1)

Condition $\varepsilon = -1$ corresponds to configuration III for 2r = 3R. We get the following statement.

Theorem

The spherical ball bearings problem (17) in the configuration III, when 2r = 3R, i.e., the radius of the moving sphere S is twice the radius of the fixed sphere S₀, is integrable. The third integral is

$$F_3 = (B+C-A+D)\mathsf{M}_1\mathsf{\Gamma}_1 + (A+C-B+D)\mathsf{M}_2\mathsf{\Gamma}_2 + (A+B-C+D)\mathsf{M}_3\mathsf{\Gamma}_3.$$

For d = 0, the integral F_3 reduces to the one found by Borisov and Fedorov for the rolling of a Chaplygin ball over a sphere.

The second integrable case $(B = C, \text{ generic } \varepsilon)$

Theorem

The spherical ball bearings problem (17) for B = C is integrable for all ε . Along with F_1 and F_2 , the system has two additional, nonalgebraic first integrals F_3 and F_4 :

$$F_{3,4} = \left(\pm \sqrt{D(A-C)}F + DG - dC\right)\exp(\pm(1-\varepsilon)\sqrt{D(A-C)}\Phi).$$

Note that the product of the two nonalgebraic first integrals

$$F_{3}F_{4} = (DG - dC)^{2} - D(A - C)F^{2}$$

= $D^{2}G^{2} - 2dCDG + d^{2}C^{2} - D(A - C)$
 $(C(A + D)\Omega_{1}^{2} + D(A - C)\Omega_{1}^{2}\Gamma_{1}^{2})$

is an affine combination of F_1 and F_2 :

$$F_3F_4 = CD(C+D)\langle ec{M},ec{\Omega}
angle - CD\langle ec{\mathsf{M}},ec{\mathsf{M}}
angle - C(C+D)d^2.$$

Rubber Chaplygin ball, gyroscopic Chaplygin ball

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Rubber and gyroscopic Chaplygin ball II

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