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Given:  $L$  is the Lagrangian for a system w/  $n$  dof's. Thus,

$$\frac{d}{dt} \left( \frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{q}_i} \right) - \frac{\partial L}{\partial q_i} = 0$$

Prove:  $L' = L + \frac{dF(q_1, \dots, q_n, t)}{dt}$ . Show  $L'$  satisfies Lagrange's Eq. where  $F$  is an arbitrary, differentiable fn. of its arguments.

$$\frac{d}{dt} \left( \frac{\partial L'}{\partial \dot{q}_i} \right) - \frac{\partial L'}{\partial q_i} = \frac{d}{dt} \left( \frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{q}_i} + \frac{\partial}{\partial \dot{q}_i} \left( \frac{dF}{dt} \right) \right) - \left( \frac{\partial L}{\partial q_i} + \frac{\partial}{\partial q_i} \left( \frac{dF}{dt} \right) \right)$$

By definition of  $L'$ .

$$= \underbrace{\frac{d}{dt} \left( \frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{q}_i} \right) - \frac{\partial L}{\partial q_i}}_0 + \frac{d}{dt} \left( \frac{\partial}{\partial \dot{q}_i} \left( \frac{dF}{dt} \right) \right) - \frac{\partial}{\partial q_i} \left( \frac{dF}{dt} \right)$$

By the given assumption that  $L$  satisfies Lagrange's Equations.

Now, expand the  $\frac{dF}{dt}$ 's using chain rule:

$$= \frac{d}{dt} \left( \frac{\partial}{\partial \dot{q}_i} \left( \frac{\partial F}{\partial \dot{q}_i} \frac{\partial q_i}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial F}{\partial t} \right) \right) - \frac{\partial}{\partial q_i} \left( \frac{\partial F}{\partial \dot{q}_i} \frac{\partial q_i}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial F}{\partial t} \right)$$

$$= \frac{d}{dt} \left( \frac{\partial}{\partial \dot{q}_i} \left( \frac{\partial F}{\partial \dot{q}_i} \dot{q}_i + \frac{\partial F}{\partial t} \right) \right) - \frac{\partial}{\partial q_i} \left( \frac{\partial F}{\partial \dot{q}_i} \dot{q}_i + \frac{\partial F}{\partial t} \right)$$

Carrying out the derivative of  $\dot{q}_i$  w/ respect to  $\dot{q}_i$

$$= \frac{d}{dt} \left( \frac{\partial F}{\partial \dot{q}_i} \right) + \frac{\partial}{\partial \dot{q}_i} \left( \frac{\partial F}{\partial \dot{q}_i} \frac{\partial \dot{q}_i}{\partial t} \right) - \frac{\partial}{\partial q_i} \left( \frac{\partial F}{\partial \dot{q}_i} \dot{q}_i + \frac{\partial F}{\partial t} \right)$$

$$= \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \left( \frac{\partial F}{\partial \dot{q}_i} \right) \dot{q}_i + \frac{\partial}{\partial \dot{q}_i} \left( \frac{\partial F}{\partial \dot{q}_i} \right) \frac{\partial \dot{q}_i}{\partial t} - \frac{\partial}{\partial q_i} \left( \frac{\partial F}{\partial \dot{q}_i} \right) \dot{q}_i - \frac{\partial}{\partial q_i} \left( \frac{\partial F}{\partial t} \right) \dot{q}_i$$

The middle two terms obviously cancel, and assuming  $F$  is "well-behaved" we use Clairaut's Theorem to reverse the order of partials, and the 1<sup>st</sup> and last term cancel.

$= 0$ . Thus  $L'$  satisfies Lagrange's equation.

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Comment on uniqueness of  $L'$