

AUTHOR'S CLOSURE

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It is obvious that the comments of Herrera and Bielak on my paper [1] are aimed at bringing two things to the readers' attention. Firstly, the variational principles developed in [1] are also obtained by taking the second derivatives of functionals in Leitman [5]. Secondly, their works on variational principles [3, 6, 7]. It is unfortunate that Herrera and Bielak do not refer, in their comments, to Tonti [8], who first discovered the convolution bilinear form.

In reference to the comments of Herrera and Bielak, I must point out the following. The functionals in [1] are constructed in a direct and straight forward manner—without taking a second order time derivative of a functional derived earlier. Thus, one is not required to construct Gurtin's type functional first and then take appropriate time derivative of it to obtain the desired functional. The admissible functions in [1] are only restricted to satisfy the *homogeneous* boundary and initial conditions, not the *given* boundary and initial conditions, as commented on by Herrera and Bielak.

In closing I wish to thank Profs. Herrera and Bielak for their interest in my paper.

REFERENCES

- 1.–7. Refer to those referenced by Herrera and Bielak in their comments, *Int. J. Solids Structures* **13**, 377–378 (1977).
8. E. Tonti, On the variational formulation for linear initial-value problems. *Anal. Mat. Pura Appl.* **95**, 331–359 (1973).