

Theoretical Mechanics II - Final Exam

6PM - 9PM, Jun. 20th, 2018

Check out useful equations on the blackboard.

Problem 1. (30 pts) Warm-ups - hopefully.

(a) (8 pts) If $Q = \alpha q^a p$ and $P = \beta q^b$ is a canonical transformation, determine parameters a and b in terms of α and β . Assume that a, b, α , and β are all real parameters.

(b) (5 pts) Show that for a dynamical quantity $a(q, p, t)$,

$$\frac{da}{dt} = [a, H] + \frac{\partial a}{\partial t}.$$

(c) (5 pts) Use the Poisson bracket to show that the Hamiltonian of a free particle ($H = p^2/2m$) under a infinitesimal translation remains a constant.

(d) (12 pts) Use variational principle to obtain the evolution equation of ψ (assume to be a real function for simplicity) for the following action,

$$S = \int (-a\psi^2 + b\partial_\mu\psi\partial^\mu\psi) d^4x,$$

and value of ψ is held fixed at the boundary.

Problem 2. (30 pts) Rigid body rotation.

(a) (6 pts) Draw three graphs to explain clearly the operation of three Euler's angles ϕ (precession), θ (nutation), and ψ (spin).

(b) (9 pts) From (a), express the angular velocity observed in the "space" frame in terms of $\dot{\phi}$, $\dot{\theta}$, and $\dot{\psi}$. That is to express $\omega_{x'}$, $\omega_{y'}$, $\omega_{z'}$ in terms of $\dot{\phi}$, $\dot{\theta}$, $\dot{\psi}$.

(c) (9 pts) For a heavy symmetric top ($I_1 = I_2 \neq I_3$) subject to gravity, the Lagrangian is

$$L = T - U = \frac{1}{2}I_1(\dot{\theta}^2 + \dot{\phi}^2 \sin^2 \theta) + \frac{1}{2}I_3(\dot{\psi} + \dot{\phi} \cos \theta)^2 - mgl \cos \theta.$$

Find all conserved physical quantities, and explain the physical meaning of these quantities.

(d) (6 pts) Does the relation $I_1 = I_2 \neq I_3$ hold for a uniform solid sphere spinning on your fingertip? Why or why not?

Problem 3. (32 pts) For a charged particle placed in a prescribed (fixed) EM field, the action needs to take into consideration has the following form,

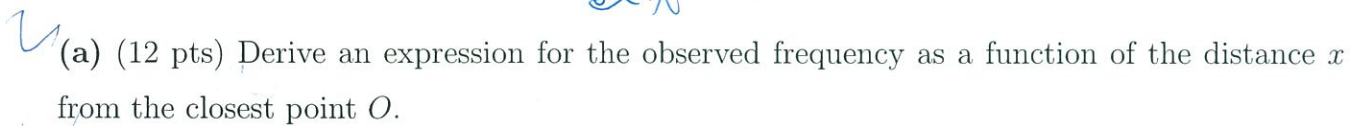
$$S = - \int_a^b mc^2 d\tau - \frac{e}{c} \int_a^b A_\mu dx^\mu.$$

(a) (8 pts) Obtain the Lagrangian for a charged particle in an EM field from the above action.

(b) (16 pts) Obtain the Hamiltonian for a charged particle in an EM field.

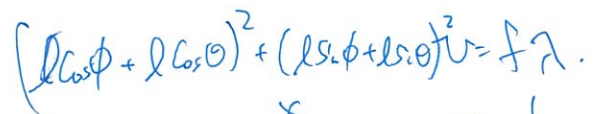
(c) (8 pts) Write down the Hamilton-Jacobi equation for a charged particle in an EM field.

Problem 4. (18 pts) A point source S emits light of a constant frequency f . An observer A moves at constant speed v along a straight line passes at a distance d from S as figure below.


$$2 + 2(\alpha\theta - \phi))$$
$$l^2(\cancel{c_0^2} + 2c_0c_1 + \cancel{c_1^2} + \cancel{s_0^2} + 2s_0s_1 + \cancel{s_1^2}).$$

You do not have to go through the following questions, unless you REALLY want to ...

Use ϕ and θ shown in the figure below as generalized coordinates to solve this problem.

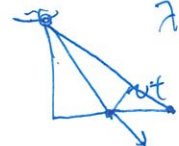


$$N = \frac{x}{t}$$

$$f = \frac{1}{T}$$

$$\frac{L}{\lambda + \nu}$$

$$\frac{C}{\lambda(1 + \frac{v}{c})}$$



$$A + \frac{c^2}{\lambda} = 1$$

- moment of inertia of the rod
- kinetic energy and potential energy of the system
- equations of motion
- normal frequencies
- normal modes