

Problem 1

$$(a) \quad p = \frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{x}} = \frac{\partial}{\partial \dot{x}} \left(-mc^2 \sqrt{1 - \left(\frac{\dot{x}}{c}\right)^2} \right)$$

$$= \frac{mc^2 \cdot \left(-\frac{1}{2}\right)}{\sqrt{1 - \left(\frac{\dot{x}}{c}\right)^2}} \cdot \left(-\frac{2\dot{x}}{c^2}\right) = \frac{m\dot{x}}{\sqrt{1 - \left(\frac{\dot{x}}{c}\right)^2}} = \gamma m\dot{x}$$

$$H = \dot{x} \frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{x}} - L = \frac{m\dot{x}^2}{\sqrt{1 - \left(\frac{\dot{x}}{c}\right)^2}} + mc^2 \sqrt{1 - \left(\frac{\dot{x}}{c}\right)^2}$$

$$= \frac{mc^2}{\sqrt{1 - \left(\frac{\dot{x}}{c}\right)^2}} = \gamma mc^2 \quad \left(\gamma = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 - \left(\frac{\dot{x}}{c}\right)^2}} \right)$$

\Rightarrow The same as special relativity results

$$(b) \quad \frac{\dot{x}}{c} \rightarrow 0, \quad L \rightarrow -mc^2 \left[1 - \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{\dot{x}}{c}\right)^2 \right]$$

$$= -mc^2 + \frac{1}{2} m\dot{x}^2$$

\Rightarrow Non-relativistic Lagrangian

$$\text{Also } H \rightarrow mc^2 \left[1 + \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{\dot{x}}{c}\right)^2 \right]$$

$$= mc^2 + \frac{1}{2} m\dot{x}^2$$

\downarrow
 Rest Mass energy Non-rel kinetic energy

$$p \rightarrow m\dot{x} \quad (\text{Momentum of low vel})$$

(c)

$$L = T - U = -mc^2 \sqrt{1 - \left(\frac{\dot{x}}{c}\right)^2} - \frac{1}{2} m \omega^2 x^2$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{\partial L}{\partial x} = \frac{d}{dt} \left(\frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{x}} \right)$$

$$\Rightarrow -m\omega^2 x = \gamma m \ddot{x} + \gamma^3 m \ddot{x} \dot{x} / c$$

Negligible as $\frac{\dot{x}}{c} \rightarrow 0$

$$\Rightarrow \ddot{x} + \omega^2 \sqrt{1 - \left(\frac{v}{c}\right)^2} x = 0$$

∴ New frequency

$$\omega' \approx \omega \left(1 - \frac{\bar{v}^2}{c^2}\right)^{\frac{1}{4}} \approx \omega \left(1 - \frac{\bar{v}^2}{4c^2}\right)$$

Note that the \bar{v} here is some time-averaged velocity, not the maximum velocity v_{\max} .

From numerical simulation, we found that $\bar{v} \approx \frac{1}{2} v_{\max}$, this is understandable, as the velocity in one period varies with some sinusoidal function.