

Solutions to
Gravitation: Foundations and Frontiers
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Chapter 1

Special relativity

Problem 1. Perpendicular:

$$ct' = \sqrt{c^2 - v^2}t$$
$$t = \frac{t'}{\sqrt{1 - v^2/c^2}} = \gamma t'$$

Parallel: Using proper time -

$$dt = \gamma d\tau$$
$$\frac{L'}{c+v} + \frac{L'}{c-v} = \gamma \frac{2L}{c}$$
$$L' \frac{2c}{c^2 - v^2} = \gamma \frac{2L}{c}$$
$$L' = \frac{1 - v^2/c^2}{\sqrt{1 - v^2/c^2}} = \frac{L}{\gamma}$$

Problem 2. Superluminal motion:

$$\Delta t' = t'_2 - t'_1$$
$$t'_1 - t_1 \approx \frac{v}{c} \Delta t \cos \theta$$
$$t'_2 - t_1 = L/c$$
$$\Delta t' = \Delta t (1 - (v/c) \cos \theta)$$
$$v_{app} = v \Delta t \sin \theta = \frac{v \sin \theta}{1 - (v/c) \cos \theta}$$

Problem 3.

Problem 4. Using a Lorentz transformation on the ‘time’ component of the four-vector $k^a = (\omega, \omega \mathbf{n}/c)$:

$$(a) \quad \omega_R = \gamma \left(\omega_L - \frac{\omega_L v \cos \theta}{c} \right) = \gamma \omega_L (1 - (v/c) \cos \theta)$$

$$REDO = \frac{\gamma \omega_L (\cos \theta - (v/c))}{\gamma \omega_L (1 - (v/c) \cos \theta)}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \int d(\cos \theta) d\phi &= - \int \sin \theta d\theta d\phi = - d\Omega \\ d(\cos \theta_R) &= \left[\frac{(v/c) [\cos \theta_L - (v/c)]}{[1 - (v/c) \cos \theta_L]^2} + \frac{1}{[1 - (v/c) \cos \theta_L]} \right] d(\cos \theta_L) \\ d\Omega' &= \frac{1}{\gamma^2} \frac{d\Omega}{[1 - (v/c) \cos \theta]^2} \end{aligned}$$

Problem 5.

$$A^{i'k'} = L_k^{k'} L_i^{i'} A^{ik} = \frac{\partial x^{k'}}{\partial x^k} \frac{\partial x^{i'}}{\partial x^i} A^{ik}$$

If $A^{ik} = -A^{ki}$ then:

$$A^{k'i'} = -A^{i'k'}?$$

Problem 6.

Problem 7.

$$\eta_{ij} x^i x^j = -t^2 + x^2 + y^2 + z^2 = 0$$

Problem 8.

Problem 9.

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{A} &= \int_{t_2}^{t_1} dt [p\dot{q} - H(p, q)] \\ \delta \mathcal{A} &= \int_{t_2}^{t_1} dt \left[\dot{q} \delta p + p \delta \dot{q} - \frac{\partial H}{\partial p} \delta p - \frac{\partial H}{\partial q} \delta q \right] = 0 \end{aligned}$$

Using $\delta \dot{q} = \dot{d}(\delta q)$ and integrating by parts:

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{t_2}^{t_1} dt p \delta \dot{q} &= \cancel{p \delta q} \Big|_{t_1}^{t_2} - \int_{t_2}^{t_1} dt \dot{p} \delta q \\ \int_{t_2}^{t_1} dt \left[\left(\dot{q} - \frac{\partial H}{\partial p} \right) \delta p - \left(\dot{p} + \frac{\partial H}{\partial q} \right) \delta q \right] &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

Since $\delta q = 0$ at the endpoints, the second term is zero; therefore, the first term in parentheses should be zero, leading to the equations of motion:

$$\dot{q} = \frac{\partial H}{\partial p}, \quad \dot{p} = -\frac{\partial H}{\partial q}$$

Problem 10.

$$\mathcal{A} = \int_{\lambda_1}^{\lambda_2} \mathrm{d}\lambda \left[p_a \dot{x}^a - \frac{1}{2} C \left(\frac{H}{m} + m \right) \right]$$

Problem 11.

Chapter 2

Scalar and electromagnetic fields in special relativity

Problem 1.

Problem 2.

Problem 3.

Problem 4.

Problem 5.