

Field Theory:

A Modern Primer

Chapter 1

Section 1.1

A. i) The action is invariant under the infinitesimal transformation $\delta x = \epsilon$. Given that to $O(\epsilon^2)$

$$\begin{aligned} S[x + \delta x] &= \int_{t_0}^{t_f} dt \frac{1}{2} m \left(\frac{d(x + \delta x)}{dt} \right)^2 = \int_{t_0}^{t_f} dt \frac{1}{2} m \left(\dot{x}^2 + 2\dot{x} \cdot \frac{d\delta x}{dt} \right) \\ &= \int_{t_0}^{t_f} dt \frac{1}{2} m \left(\dot{x}^2 - 2\ddot{x}\delta x + 2 \frac{d}{dt}(\dot{x}\delta x) \right) \\ &= S[x] - \int_{t_0}^{t_f} dt m\ddot{x}\delta x + \left[m\dot{x}\delta x \right]_{t_0}^{t_f}, \end{aligned}$$

If x satisfies Newton's second law, i.e. $\ddot{x} = 0$, we have

$$\delta = \delta S = S[x + \delta x] - S[x] = \left[m\dot{x}\delta x \right]_{t_0}^{t_f} = (m\dot{x}(t_f) - m\dot{x}(t_0))\epsilon.$$

Since this is true for any ϵ, t_0, t_f we conclude that momentum is conserved.

ii) From equation (1.1.8) we have

$$\frac{d}{dt}(m\dot{x}) = m\ddot{x} = -\nabla V = \frac{v}{a} \sin\left(\frac{r}{a}\right) \frac{\dot{x}}{r}$$

B) We have from equation (1.1.8)

$$\frac{d}{dt}(m\dot{x}) = -\nabla V$$

c) Consider an infinitesimal rotation $\delta x^i = \omega_{ij} x^j$. Given that

$$r^2 = x^2 = (x + \delta x) \cdot (x + \delta x) = x^2 + 2x^i \omega_{ij} x^j + O(\omega_{ij}^2)$$

and $x^i x^j$ is symmetric, we have $\omega_{ij} = -\omega_{ji}$. Since r is left invariant by this transformation, S is too. Therefore by (1.1.6) we have

$$m\dot{x} \cdot \delta x = m\dot{x}^i \omega_{ij} x^j$$

is conserved by choosing a basis for the antisymmetric matrices $(\Omega^{ab})_{ij} = \delta_i^a \delta_j^b - \delta_i^b \delta_j^a$ we obtain that

$$m(\dot{x}^a x^b - \dot{x}^b x^a)$$

is conserved. This corresponds to the conservation of angular momentum. From now on let $L^{ab} = \dot{x}^a x^b - x^b \dot{x}^a$

Now consider the infinitesimal change $\delta x^i = \epsilon L^i{}^k$ for some fixed index k . The term $\frac{1}{2} m \dot{x}^2$ is left invariant since $L^i{}^k$ is constant

as we just showed. On the other hand, to order ϵ^2

$$r + \delta r = ((x^i + \delta x^i)(x_i + \delta x_i))^{1/2} = (r^2 + 2\epsilon x_i L^{ik})^{1/2} = r \left(1 + \epsilon \frac{x_i L^{ik}}{r^2} \right) = r + \epsilon \frac{x_i L^{ik}}{r}$$

and therefore the potential changes to

$$\frac{\alpha}{r + \delta r} = \frac{\alpha}{r} \left(1 - \frac{\delta r}{r} \right) = \frac{\alpha}{r} - \frac{\epsilon \alpha x_i L^{ik}}{r^3}$$

$$= \frac{\alpha}{r} - \frac{\epsilon \alpha}{r^3} (\dot{x}^i x^k x_i - \dot{x}^k r^2) = \frac{\alpha}{r} - \frac{\epsilon \alpha}{r^3} \dot{x}^i x^k x_i + \frac{\epsilon \alpha \dot{x}^k}{r}$$

$$= \frac{\alpha}{r} + \epsilon \frac{d}{dt} \left(\frac{\alpha x^k}{r} \right).$$

We conclude

$$S[x^i + \delta x^i] = S[x] + \epsilon \alpha \left[\frac{x^k}{r} \right]_{t_1}^{t_2}$$

However, since we have by equation (1.1.6)

$$S[x^i + \delta x^i] = S[x^i] + m \left[\delta x_i \dot{x}^i \right]_{t_1}^{t_2},$$

we conclude that $m x_i \delta x^i - \epsilon \alpha \frac{x^k}{r}$ is a constant. We thus obtain

that the vector

$$m x_i L^{ik} - \frac{\alpha x^k}{r} = m(x_i \dot{x}^i x^k - x_i x^i \dot{x}^k) - \frac{\alpha x^k}{r}$$

is constant.

The final constant of motion is obtained by letting $\delta x = \varepsilon \dot{x}$.

Then the kinetic energy changes by

$$\frac{1}{2} m (\dot{x}_i + \varepsilon \ddot{x}_i) (\dot{x}_i + \varepsilon \ddot{x}_i) = \frac{1}{2} m \dot{x}_i^2 + m \varepsilon \dot{x}_i^2 + \frac{1}{2} m \dot{x}_i^2 + \varepsilon \frac{d}{dt} \left(\frac{1}{2} m \dot{x}_i^2 \right)$$

The potential changes by

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{a}{r + \delta r} &= \frac{a}{((x_i + \delta x_i)(x_i + \delta x_i))^{1/2}} = \frac{a}{(r^2 + 2x_i \delta x_i)^{1/2}} = \frac{a}{r} \left(1 - \frac{x_i \delta x_i}{r^2} \right) \\ &= \frac{a}{r} - \varepsilon \frac{a x_i \dot{x}_i}{r^3} = \frac{a}{r} + \varepsilon \frac{d}{dt} \left(\frac{a}{r} \right) \end{aligned}$$

Much like before we have

$$S[x] + \varepsilon \left[m \dot{x}_i^2 + \frac{a}{r} \right]_{t_1}^{t_2} = S[x] + m \left[\dot{x}_i \delta x_i \right]_{t_1}^{t_2} = S[x + \delta x] = S[x] + \varepsilon \left[\frac{1}{2} m \dot{x}_i^2 + \frac{a}{r} \right]_{t_1}^{t_2}.$$

We thus conclude that

$$\frac{1}{2} m \dot{x}_i^2 + \frac{a}{r}$$

is a constant of motion.

Observation: The solution given for the Runge-Lenz vector was

inspired on Gorni, G. & Zampieri, G. "Revisiting Noether's Theorem on constants of motion".

D) Consider an infinitesimal variation $\delta x = \varepsilon \dot{x}$. Then as we saw in the previous problem

$$\frac{1}{2}m\left(\frac{d(x+\delta x)}{dt}\right)^2 = \frac{1}{2}m\dot{x}^2 + \varepsilon \frac{d}{dt}\left(\frac{1}{2}m\dot{x}^2\right).$$

On the other hand

$$\begin{aligned} V(t, x + \delta x) &= V(t, x) + \partial_i V(t, x) \delta x^i = V(t, x) + \varepsilon \partial_i V(t, x) \dot{x}^i \\ &= V(t, x) + \varepsilon \left(\frac{dV(t, x)}{dt} - \frac{\partial V(t, x)}{\partial t} \right). \end{aligned}$$

Therefore the change in the action is

$$\varepsilon \left[m\dot{x}^2 \right]_{t_1}^{t_2} = m \left[\dot{x} \delta x \right]_{t_1}^{t_2} = \delta S = \varepsilon \left[\frac{1}{2}m\dot{x}^2 \right]_{t_1}^{t_2} - \varepsilon \left[V \right]_{t_1}^{t_2} + \varepsilon \int_{t_1}^{t_2} dt \frac{\partial V}{\partial t}.$$

We conclude that if $E = \frac{1}{2}m\dot{x}^2 + V$

$$\frac{dE}{dt} = \frac{\partial V}{\partial t}.$$

In particular, if V is time independent the E is conserved.

Section 1.2.

A) Let L_1 and L_2 be Lorentz transformations. Then

$$g = (L_1 L_1^{-1})^T g (L_1 L_1^{-1}) = (L_1^{-1})^T L_1^T g L_1 L_1^{-1} = (L_1^{-1})^T g L_1^{-1}$$

and

$$(L_1 L_2)^T g (L_1 L_2) = L_2^T L_1^T g L_1 L_2 = L_2^T g L_2 = g,$$

showing that the set of Lorentz transformations is closed under multiplication and taking inverses. It is therefore a subgroup of the 4×4 matrices.

B) Let L' be a Lorentz transformation. In the frame to which L' transforms, L becomes $(L')^{-1} L L'$. We have

$$\det((L')^{-1} L L') = (\det L')^{-1} \det L \cancel{\det L'} = \det L$$

showing that $\det L$ is Lorentz invariant.

For any Lorentz transformation L we have

$$L^T = g L^{-1} g.$$

Since g is a Lorentz transformation (as a matrix) the

The previous exercise shows that L^T is also one. Therefore

(1.2.12) is also valid for L^T

$$(L^0)^2 - \sum_{i=1}^3 (L_i^0)^2 = 1 = (L^0)^2 - \sum_{i=1}^3 (L_i^0)^2.$$

Let L' be another Lorentz transformation. Then by the Cauchy-Schwartz inequalities and letting $L'' = LL'$ we obtain

$$L''^0 = L^0 L'^0 = L^0 L'^0 + \sum_{i=1}^3 L_i^0 L'^i_0$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} |L''^0 - L^0 L'^0| &= \left| \sum_{i=1}^3 L_i^0 L'^i_0 \right| \leq \left(\sum_{i=1}^3 (L_i^0)^2 \right)^{1/2} \left(\sum_{i=1}^3 (L'^i_0)^2 \right)^{1/2} \\ &= \sqrt{(L^0)^2 - 1} \sqrt{(L'^0)^2 - 1} \leq |L^0 L'^0|. \end{aligned}$$

We conclude that

$$L^0 L'^0 - |L^0 L'^0| \leq L''^0 \leq L^0 L'^0 + |L^0 L'^0|,$$

$$L''^0 - |L^0 L'^0| \leq L^0 L'^0 \leq L''^0 + |L^0 L'^0|$$

Therefore $L^0 L'^0 > 0$ if and only if $L''^0 > 0$ and $L^0 L'^0 < 0$ if and only if $L''^0 < 0$. From that we conclude that

$((L')^{-1})^o \circ L^o \geq 0$ and therefore $((L')^{-1} L L')^o$ has the same sign as L^o .

C) Considerate $L \in L_-^\dagger$ y sea $P = g$ como matriz. Luego $P^2 = 1$,
 $\det(LP) = \det L \det P = (-1)(-1) = 1$

$$(LP)^o = L^o \circ P^m = L^o P^o = L^o \geq 1.$$

En vista de que P es una transformación de Lorentz se tiene que $LP \in L_+^\dagger$ y $L = LPP$.

Ahora tome $L \in L_-^\dagger$ y $T = -P$. Es claro que T es una transformación de Lorentz, $T^2 = 1$, $\det(LT) = (-1)(-1) = 1$ y

$$(LT)^o = L^o \circ T^m = L^o T^o = -L^o \geq 1.$$

Luego $L\bar{T} \in L_+^\dagger$ y $L = L\bar{T}\bar{T}$.

Finalmente, sea $L \in L_+^\dagger$. Entonces $\det(LTP) = \det(\bar{T}P) = 1$ y
 $(LTP)^o = L^o \circ \bar{T}^m \circ P^o = L^o \circ \bar{T}^m = -L^o \geq 1$. Luego $L\bar{T}P \in L_+^\dagger$ y $L = L\bar{T}P\bar{P}\bar{T}$.

D) First we need to find an expression for a boost in

an arbitrary direction \vec{v} . We have

$$\begin{aligned} x'^M &= L(\vec{v})^M v x^0 = \left(\gamma(x^0 - \vec{v} \cdot \vec{x}), \left(\vec{x} - \frac{\vec{v} \cdot \vec{x}}{\|\vec{v}\|^2} \vec{v} \right) + \gamma \left(\frac{\vec{v} \cdot \vec{x}}{\|\vec{v}\|^2} \vec{v} - \vec{v} x^0 \right) \right) \\ &= \left(\gamma(x^0 - \vec{v} \cdot \vec{x}), \vec{x} + (\gamma - 1) \frac{\vec{v} \cdot \vec{x}}{\|\vec{v}\|^2} \vec{v} - \gamma \vec{v} x^0 \right) \end{aligned}$$

from the fact that we know how x^0 , $\frac{\vec{x} \cdot \vec{v}}{\|\vec{v}\|^2} \vec{v}$ and its complement changes. We conclude that

$$L(\vec{v}) = \begin{bmatrix} \gamma & -\gamma v^1 & -\gamma v^2 & -\gamma v^3 \\ -\gamma v^1 & 1 + (\gamma - 1) \frac{v^1}{\|\vec{v}\|^2} & (\gamma - 1) \frac{v^2}{\|\vec{v}\|^2} v^1 & (\gamma - 1) \frac{v^3}{\|\vec{v}\|^2} v^1 \\ -\gamma v^2 & (\gamma - 1) \frac{v^1}{\|\vec{v}\|^2} v^2 & 1 + (\gamma - 1) \frac{v^2}{\|\vec{v}\|^2} & (\gamma - 1) \frac{v^3}{\|\vec{v}\|^2} v^2 \\ -\gamma v^3 & (\gamma - 1) \frac{v^1}{\|\vec{v}\|^2} v^3 & (\gamma - 1) \frac{v^2}{\|\vec{v}\|^2} v^3 & 1 + (\gamma - 1) \frac{v^3}{\|\vec{v}\|^2} \end{bmatrix}$$

Dado $R \in SO(3)$ definimos

$$L(R) = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & R \end{bmatrix}.$$

Sea $L \in \mathbb{L}_+^{\uparrow}$. Defina $v^i = L^i_0 / L^0_0$. Note que

$$\|\vec{v}\|^2 = L - \frac{1}{(L^0_0)^2} \leq 1,$$

$$y = (L - \|\vec{v}\|^2)^{-\frac{1}{2}} = L^0_0$$

$$L(\vec{v})^i_k = \delta^i_k + (\gamma - 1) \frac{v^i v^k}{\|\vec{v}\|^2} = \delta^i_k + \frac{L^0_0 - 1}{1 - (L^0_0)^2} \frac{L^i_0 L^k_0}{L^0_0 L^0_0}$$

$$= \delta^i_k + \frac{L^0_0 - 1}{(L^0_0)^2 - 1} L^i_0 L^k_0 = \delta^i_k + \frac{L^i_0 L^k_0}{1 + L^0_0}.$$

Defina $R = L(\vec{v})^{-1} L = L(-\vec{v}) L$. Luego $\det R = L$,

$$R^0 = L(-\vec{v})^0 \mu L^0 = (L^0_0)^2 - \sum_{i=1}^3 (L^i_0)^2 = 1 \quad y$$

$$R^i_j = L(-\vec{v})^0 \mu L^i_j = L^0_0 L^0_i - \sum_{j=1}^3 L^i_0 L^j_i = g_{0i} = 0.$$

Entonces existe $R \in SO(3)$ t.q. $R = L(R)$. Concluimos que

$$L = L(\vec{v}) L(R)$$

Suponga que existe $\vec{v} \in \mathbb{R}^3$ y $\tilde{R} \in SO(3)$ t.q.

$$L(\vec{v}) L(R) = L = L(\tilde{\vec{v}}) L(\tilde{R}).$$

Luego

$$L = L(-\vec{v}) L(\tilde{\vec{v}}) L(\tilde{R}) L(R)^{-1}.$$

Therefore

$$L = L(-\vec{v})^\sigma \mu L(\tilde{\vec{v}})^\nu \nu L(\tilde{R})^\sigma \sigma L(R^{-1})^\nu = L(-\vec{v})^\sigma \mu L(\tilde{\vec{v}})^\nu \nu L(\tilde{R})^\nu.$$

$$= L(-\vec{v})^\sigma \mu L(\tilde{\vec{v}})^\nu \nu = \frac{1 - \vec{v} \cdot \tilde{\vec{v}}}{\sqrt{1 - \vec{v}^2} \sqrt{1 - \tilde{\vec{v}}^2}}$$

and we conclude $\tilde{\vec{v}} = \vec{v}$. Therefore $L = L(\tilde{R}) L(R)^{-1}$ and $\tilde{R} = R$.

This solution was adapted from Scheck, F. "Mechanics"

E) We have that under a Lorentz transformation $B_{\mu\nu}$
transforms by

$$B'_{\mu\nu} = \Lambda_\mu^\sigma \Lambda_\nu^\rho B_{\sigma\rho} = -\Lambda_\mu^\sigma \Lambda_\nu^\rho B_{\rho\sigma} = -B_{\nu\mu}.$$

In particular, we confirm $B'_{\mu\nu}$ is antisymmetric.

Note that

$$\epsilon^{\alpha\beta\delta\epsilon} \Lambda^\mu \alpha \Lambda^\nu \beta \Lambda^\rho \gamma \Lambda^\sigma \epsilon = \det \Lambda \epsilon^{\mu\nu\rho\sigma}$$

Therefore, since $\det \Lambda^2 = 1$

$$\frac{1}{2} \epsilon^{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} B'_{\rho\sigma} = \frac{1}{2} \det \Lambda \epsilon^{\alpha\beta\delta\varepsilon} \Lambda^M \times \Lambda^N \beta \Lambda^\rho \delta \Lambda^\sigma \varepsilon \Lambda_\rho^\xi \Lambda_\sigma^\zeta B_{\xi\zeta}$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} \det \Lambda \epsilon^{\alpha\beta\delta\varepsilon} \Lambda^M \times \Lambda^N \beta \delta_\delta^\xi \delta_\varepsilon^\zeta B_{\xi\zeta}$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} \det \Lambda \epsilon^{\alpha\beta\delta\varepsilon} \Lambda^M \times \Lambda^N \beta B_{\delta\varepsilon}$$

$$= \det \Lambda \Lambda^M \times \Lambda^N \beta B^{\alpha\beta} = \det \Lambda B^{MN}.$$

In particular, if $\Lambda \in \overset{\uparrow}{L_+}$ (which is the most we can hope to get a representation for since it is the connected component of the identity) we get that the antisymmetric self-dual second-rank tensors are closed under the action of $\overset{\uparrow}{L_+}$.

Section 1.3.

A) The product is defined by

$$(\Lambda_1, \alpha_1)(\Lambda_2, \alpha_2) = (\Lambda_1 \Lambda_2, \alpha_1 + \Lambda_1 \alpha_2).$$

It is associative:

$$\begin{aligned} ((\Lambda_1, \alpha_1)(\Lambda_2, \alpha_2))(\Lambda_3, \alpha_3) &= (\Lambda_1 \Lambda_2, \alpha_1 + \Lambda_1 \alpha_2)(\Lambda_3, \alpha_3) \\ &= (\Lambda_1 \Lambda_2 \Lambda_3, \alpha_1 + \Lambda_1 \alpha_2 + \Lambda_1 \Lambda_2 \alpha_3) \\ &= (\Lambda_1, \alpha_1)(\Lambda_2 \Lambda_3, \alpha_2 + \Lambda_2 \alpha_3) \\ &= (\Lambda_1, \alpha_1)((\Lambda_2, \alpha_2)(\Lambda_3, \alpha_3)). \end{aligned}$$

It has an identity:

$$(1, 0)(\Lambda, \alpha) = (\Lambda, \alpha) = (\Lambda, \alpha)(1, 0).$$

Every element has an inverse:

$$\begin{aligned} (\Lambda, \alpha)(\Lambda^{-1}, -\Lambda^{-1}\alpha) &= (\Lambda \Lambda^{-1}, \alpha - \Lambda \Lambda^{-1}\alpha) = (1, 0) \\ &= (\Lambda^{-1}\Lambda, -\Lambda^{-1}\alpha + \Lambda^{-1}\alpha) = (\Lambda^{-1}, -\Lambda^{-1}\alpha)(\Lambda, \alpha). \end{aligned}$$

B). We first calculate

$$\begin{aligned}
\varepsilon^{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} \varepsilon_{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} &= \cancel{\delta_\mu^\nu \delta_\alpha^\rho \delta_\beta^\sigma} - \cancel{\delta_\mu^\nu \delta_\alpha^\rho \delta_\gamma^\sigma} + \cancel{\delta_\mu^\nu \delta_\gamma^\rho \delta_\alpha^\sigma} - \cancel{\delta_\mu^\nu \delta_\gamma^\rho \delta_\beta^\sigma} \\
&\quad + \cancel{\delta_\mu^\nu \delta_\beta^\rho \delta_\gamma^\sigma} - \cancel{\delta_\mu^\nu \delta_\beta^\rho \delta_\alpha^\sigma} \\
&\quad + \cancel{\delta_\beta^\mu \delta_\alpha^\nu \delta_\gamma^\rho} - \cancel{\delta_\beta^\mu \delta_\alpha^\nu \delta_\alpha^\sigma} + \cancel{\delta_\beta^\mu \delta_\gamma^\nu \delta_\mu^\sigma} - \cancel{\delta_\beta^\mu \delta_\gamma^\nu \delta_\alpha^\sigma} \\
&\quad + \cancel{\delta_\beta^\mu \delta_\alpha^\nu \delta_\gamma^\rho} - \cancel{\delta_\beta^\mu \delta_\alpha^\nu \delta_\gamma^\sigma} \\
&\quad + \cancel{\delta_\alpha^\mu \delta_\beta^\nu \delta_\gamma^\rho} - \cancel{\delta_\alpha^\mu \delta_\beta^\nu \delta_\mu^\sigma} + \cancel{\delta_\alpha^\mu \delta_\gamma^\nu \delta_\beta^\sigma} - \cancel{\delta_\alpha^\mu \delta_\gamma^\nu \delta_\beta^\sigma} \\
&\quad + \cancel{\delta_\alpha^\mu \delta_\gamma^\nu \delta_\beta^\rho} - \cancel{\delta_\alpha^\mu \delta_\gamma^\nu \delta_\beta^\sigma} \\
&= \delta_\alpha^\nu \delta_\beta^\rho \delta_\gamma^\sigma - \delta_\alpha^\nu \delta_\gamma^\rho \delta_\beta^\sigma + \delta_\gamma^\nu \delta_\alpha^\rho \delta_\beta^\sigma - \delta_\gamma^\nu \delta_\beta^\rho \delta_\alpha^\sigma + \delta_\beta^\nu \delta_\gamma^\rho \delta_\alpha^\sigma - \delta_\beta^\nu \delta_\alpha^\rho \delta_\gamma^\sigma.
\end{aligned}$$

Por lo tanto, como $W = \frac{1}{2} \varepsilon^{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} S_{\rho\sigma} P_\nu$,

$$W^\mu W_\mu = \frac{1}{4} \varepsilon^{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} P_\nu S_{\rho\sigma} \varepsilon_{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} P^\mu S^\nu$$

$$= \frac{1}{4} P_\nu S_{\rho\sigma} (P^\nu S^{\rho\sigma} - P^\nu S^{\sigma\rho} + P^\rho S^{\sigma\nu} - P^\sigma S^{\rho\nu} + P^\sigma S^{\nu\rho} - P^\rho S^{\nu\sigma})$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} m^2 S_{\rho\sigma} S^{\rho\sigma} + \frac{1}{2} P_\nu S_{\rho\sigma} (P^\rho S^{\sigma\nu} - P^\sigma S^{\rho\nu}).$$

Notando que $S_{\rho\sigma} P^\sigma S^{\rho\nu} = -S_{\sigma\rho} P^\sigma S^{\rho\nu} = -S_{\rho\sigma} P^\rho S^{\sigma\nu}$ se obtiene

$$W^\mu W_\mu = \frac{1}{2} m^2 S_{\rho\sigma} S^{\rho\sigma} + \frac{1}{2} P_\nu S_{\rho\sigma} P^\rho S^{\sigma\nu}$$