

We calculated in October 2018 the action of oscillator. Now I will try to calculate it in another way, and understand deeper the relation of action with canonical transformations....

Recall the blog on action:

26 October 2018

We considered Lagrangian of harmonic oscillator:

$$L = \frac{m\dot{x}^2}{2} - \frac{m\omega^2 x^2}{2},$$

and calculated $S(x_1, t_1; x_0, t_0)$:

First we wrote down the path $x(t)$ which obeys the differential equation $\frac{d^2x}{dt^2} + \omega^2 x = 0$ and the boundary condition $x(t_0) = x_0$ and $x(t_1) = x_1$. This is:

$$x(t) = \frac{x_1 \sin \omega(t - t_0) - x_0 \sin \omega(t - t_1)}{\sin \omega(t_1 - t_0)}.$$

Respectively for velocity we have

$$v(t) = \omega \frac{x_1 \cos \omega(t - t_0) - x_0 \cos \omega(t - t_1)}{\sin \omega(t_1 - t_0)}.$$

Thus we have for Lagrangian

$$\begin{aligned} L(t) &= \left(\frac{mv^2}{2} - \frac{m\omega^2 x^2}{2} \right)_{x=x(t), v=v(t)} = \frac{m\omega^2}{2 \sin^2 \omega(t_1 - t_0)} \times \\ &\left[(x_1 \cos \omega(t - t_0) - x_0 \cos \omega(t - t_1))^2 - (x_1 \sin \omega(t - t_0) - x_0 \sin \omega(t - t_1))^2 \right] = \\ &\frac{m\omega^2}{2 \sin^2 \omega(t_1 - t_0)} \left[x_1^2 \cos 2\omega(t - t_0) + x_0^2 \cos 2\omega(t - t_1) - 2x_1 x_0 \cos 2\omega \left(t - \frac{t_0 + t_1}{2} \right) \right]. \end{aligned}$$

Finally we have that

$$\begin{aligned} S(x_1, t_1; x_0, t_0) &= \int_{t_0}^{t_1} \left(\frac{mv^2}{2} - \frac{m\omega^2 x^2}{2} \right)_{x=x(t), v=v(t)} dt = \int_{t_0}^{t_1} L(t) dt = \\ &\frac{m\omega^2}{2 \sin^2 \omega(t_1 - t_0)} \int_{t_0}^{t_1} dt \left[x_1^2 \cos 2\omega(t - t_0) + x_0^2 \cos 2\omega(t - t_1) - 2x_1 x_0 \cos 2\omega \left(t - \frac{t_0 + t_1}{2} \right) \right] = \\ &\frac{m\omega^2}{2 \sin^2 \omega(t_1 - t_0)} \left[(x_1^2 + x_0^2) \frac{\sin 2\omega(t_1 - t_0)}{2\omega} - 2x_1 x_0 \frac{\sin \omega(t_1 - t_0)}{\omega} \right] = \\ &\frac{m\omega}{2 \sin \omega(t_1 - t_0)} \left[(x_1^2 + x_0^2) \cos \omega(t_1 - t_0) - 2x_1 x_0 \right]. \end{aligned}$$

Change now the angle that we look at this problem.

Instead Lagrangian $L = \frac{1}{2} (\dot{q}^2 - q^2)$ we consider Hamiltonian

$$H = \frac{1}{2} (p^2 + x^2)$$

Previously we calculated action as integral of Lagrangian over time:

$$S(x_0, x_1, t) = \frac{1}{2 \sin t} [(x_1^2 + x_0^2) \cos t - 2x_1 x_0] .$$

It is useful to denote (x, p) initial coordinates and momenta and by (y, q) after time T