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We are given the transformation

$$\begin{aligned} Q &= q \cos \alpha - p \sin \alpha \\ P &= q \sin \alpha + p \cos \alpha. \end{aligned}$$

Lets see if this transformation satisfies the symplectic condition. The matrix M is given by

$$\begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial Q}{\partial q} & \frac{\partial Q}{\partial p} \\ \frac{\partial P}{\partial q} & \frac{\partial P}{\partial p} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \cos \alpha & -\sin \alpha \\ \sin \alpha & \cos \alpha \end{bmatrix}.$$

If, we evaluate the product MJM^T , we get

$$\begin{aligned} \begin{bmatrix} \cos \alpha & -\sin \alpha \\ \sin \alpha & \cos \alpha \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ -1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \cos \alpha & \sin \alpha \\ -\sin \alpha & \cos \alpha \end{bmatrix} &= \begin{bmatrix} \sin \alpha & \cos \alpha \\ -\cos \alpha & \sin \alpha \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \cos \alpha & \sin \alpha \\ -\sin \alpha & \cos \alpha \end{bmatrix} \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ -1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \end{aligned}$$

thus this transformation satisfies the symplectic condition. Now, we need to find a generating function for this transformation. I have decided to find a function of the first kind. First, I will need to solve for p

$$\begin{aligned} Q &= q \cos \alpha - p \sin \alpha \\ P &= q \sin \alpha + p \cos \alpha \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} p &= \frac{q \cos \alpha - Q}{\sin \alpha} \\ p &= \frac{P - q \sin \alpha}{\cos \alpha}. \end{aligned}$$

Notice that I can solve for p in terms of q and Q , or in terms of q and P . The first solution is valid only if $\sin \alpha \neq 0$, and the second is valid only if $\cos \alpha \neq 0$. Since I have decided to find a generating function of the first kind, I will need to use the solution for p in terms of q and Q . This means I must restrict myself to the case where $\sin \alpha \neq 0$, or equivalently $\alpha \neq n\pi$ $n \in \mathbb{Z}$. For these points, the transformation simplifies to the identity transformation, whose generating function is well known. Now, we can solve for the generating function

$$\begin{aligned} -\frac{\partial F_1}{\partial Q} &= P \\ -\frac{\partial F_1}{\partial Q} &= q \sin \alpha + p \cos \alpha \\ -\frac{\partial F_1}{\partial Q} &= q \sin \alpha + \frac{q \cos \alpha - Q}{\sin \alpha} \cos \alpha \\ F_1 &= -Qq \sin \alpha + \left(\frac{1}{2}Q^2 - Qq \cos \alpha \right) \cot \alpha + g(q). \end{aligned}$$

However, we also require that

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{\partial F_1}{\partial q} &= p \\ -Q \sin \alpha + (-Q \cos \alpha) \cot \alpha + g'(q) &= \frac{q \cos \alpha - Q}{\sin \alpha} \\ -Q \sin^2 \alpha + -Q \cos^2 \alpha + \sin \alpha g'(q) &= q \cos \alpha - Q \\ \sin \alpha g'(q) &= q \cos \alpha \\ g(q) &= \frac{1}{2} q^2 \cot \alpha.\end{aligned}$$

So, the generating function is

$$F_1 = -Qq \sin \alpha + \left(\frac{1}{2} Q^2 + \frac{1}{2} q^2 - Qq \cos \alpha \right) \cot \alpha + g(q).$$

The physical significance of the transformation at $\alpha = 0$, is the identity transformation, and the physical significance of the transformation at $\alpha = \frac{\pi}{2}$ is that coordinate is exchanged with the negative of momentum, and momentum is exchanged with coordinate. In the first case, the generating function fails, this is because a generating function of the first kind assumes that q and Q are independent, which is not the case if $q = Q$.

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The transformation is given by

$$\begin{aligned}Q &= \frac{\alpha p}{x} \\ P &= \beta x^2.\end{aligned}$$

In order for this transformation to be canonical, we must have

$$\begin{aligned}[Q, P]_{qp} &= 1 \\ \frac{\partial Q}{\partial q} \frac{\partial P}{\partial p} - \frac{\partial Q}{\partial p} \frac{\partial P}{\partial q} &= 1 \\ -2\alpha\beta &= 1 \\ \beta &= -\frac{1}{2\alpha}.\end{aligned}$$

Thus, the transformation is only canonical if $\beta = -\frac{1}{2\alpha}$. A generating function of the first kind for this transformation is

$$F_1 = \frac{Qx^2}{2\alpha}.$$

This is easy to verify

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{\partial F_1}{\partial x} &= \frac{Qx}{\alpha} = p \\ -\frac{\partial F_1}{\partial Q} &= -\frac{x^2}{\alpha} = P.\end{aligned}$$

The Hamiltonian in the new variables is

$$H = \frac{p^2}{2m} + \frac{kx^2}{2} = -\frac{Q^2 P}{m\alpha} - Pk\alpha,$$

and the equations of motion are

$$\begin{aligned}\dot{P} &= -\frac{\partial H}{\partial Q} \\ \dot{Q} &= \frac{\partial H}{\partial P} \\ \dot{P} &= \frac{2QP}{m\alpha} \\ \dot{Q} &= -\frac{Q^2}{m\alpha} - k\alpha.\end{aligned}$$

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In terms of Poisson brackets, the canonical condition is the following system of equations

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{\partial P_1}{\partial p_1} + \frac{\partial P_1}{\partial p_2} &= 0 \\ 2q_1 \frac{\partial P_2}{\partial p_1} &= 0 \\ 2q_1 \frac{\partial P_1}{\partial p_1} &= 1 \\ q_2 \frac{\partial P_2}{\partial p_1} + q_1 \frac{\partial P_2}{\partial p_2} &= 1.\end{aligned}$$

One of the poisson brackets is zero for any choice of P , and the last poisson bracket I will deal with later. Here is the most general form for P_1 and P_2

$$\begin{aligned}P_1 &= \frac{p_1 - p_2}{2q_1} + f_1(q_1, q_2) \\ P_2 &= p_2 + f_2(q_1, q_2).\end{aligned}$$

Now, a good choice for P_1 and P_2 is

$$\begin{aligned}P_1 &= \frac{p_1 - p_2}{2q_1} \\ P_2 &= p_2 + (q_1 + q_2)^2.\end{aligned}$$

The hamiltonian can be written entirely in terms of P_1 and P_2 , but lets see if this transformation is canonical. The last poisson bracket is

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{\partial P_1}{\partial p_1} \frac{\partial P_2}{\partial q_1} + \frac{\partial P_1}{\partial p_2} \frac{\partial P_2}{\partial q_2} - \frac{\partial P_1}{\partial q_1} \frac{\partial P_2}{\partial p_1} - \frac{\partial P_1}{\partial q_2} \frac{\partial P_2}{\partial p_2} &= 0 \\ \frac{\partial f_1}{\partial q_1} - \left(\frac{\partial f_2}{\partial q_1} \frac{1}{2q_1} - \frac{\partial f_2}{\partial q_2} \frac{1}{2q_1} \right) &= 0.\end{aligned}$$

So, if $f_1 = 0$ and $f_2 = (q_1 + q_2)^2$, then this condition will be satisfied so the transformation will be canonical. The new hamiltonian is

$$\begin{aligned} H &= \left(\frac{p_1 - p_2}{2q_1} \right)^2 + p_2 + (q_1 + q_2)^2 \\ &= (P_1)^2 + P_2. \end{aligned}$$

So, the equations of motion are

$$\begin{aligned} P_1 &= \alpha \\ P_2 &= \beta \\ Q_1 &= 2\alpha t + c_1 \\ Q_2 &= t + c_2. \end{aligned}$$

With a little bit more algebra, these equations can be put in terms of q_1, q_2 , and p_1, p_2 using the inverse of the original canonical transformation. In this for the solution will probably not be linear, so by doing a transformation we essentially solved the problem without having to solve the original Hamilton's equations.

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a)

I will show that this transformation is canonical using Poisson brackets

$$\begin{aligned} [Q, P]_{qp} &= \frac{\partial Q}{\partial q} \frac{\partial P}{\partial p} - \frac{\partial Q}{\partial p} \frac{\partial P}{\partial q} \\ [Q, P]_{qp} &= \frac{i\alpha}{2i\alpha} + \frac{1}{2} = 1. \end{aligned}$$

Thus, the transformation is canonical. A generating function of the first kind is given by

$$F_1 = -\frac{Q^2}{4i\alpha} + qQ - \frac{i\alpha}{2}q^2.$$

This can be easily verified

$$\begin{aligned} -\frac{\partial F_1}{\partial Q} &= \frac{Q}{2i\alpha} - q \\ &= \frac{Q - 2qi\alpha}{2i\alpha} = \frac{p - qi\alpha}{2i\alpha} = P \end{aligned}$$

$$\frac{\partial F_1}{\partial q} = Q - i\alpha q = p.$$

b)

In terms of there new variables, the solution to the harmonic oscillator is given

by

$$\begin{aligned}\dot{Q} &= -kq + i\alpha \frac{p}{m} = \frac{Q}{m} - P \frac{(1+k)2i\alpha}{(1-i\alpha)m} \\ \dot{P} &= \frac{-kq}{2i\alpha} - \frac{p}{2m} = \frac{-Q}{2mi\alpha} - P \frac{(k-1)}{m(1-i\alpha)}\end{aligned}$$

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a)

The equations of motion are given by:

$$\begin{aligned}\dot{p} &= -\frac{\partial H}{\partial q} \\ \dot{q} &= \frac{\partial H}{\partial p}\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\dot{p} &= \frac{1}{2q} + 2p^2q^3 \\ \dot{q} &= pq^4.\end{aligned}$$

b)

The following transformation:

$$\begin{aligned}q &= \frac{1}{Q\sqrt{k}} \\ p &= \frac{PQ^2k}{\sqrt{m}},\end{aligned}$$

will make the Hamiltonian in part a reduce to a harmonic oscillator. However, this transformation is not canonical, since $[Q, P] = \sqrt{\frac{k}{m}}$. The only canonical transformation I could find was

$$\begin{aligned}q &= \frac{\sqrt{m}}{P} \\ p &= \frac{QP^2}{\sqrt{m}},\end{aligned}$$

but this reduces to the special harmonic oscillator with $k = m$. For this transformation, the equation of motion from part a is

$$\begin{aligned}\dot{q} &= pq^4 \\ -\dot{P} \frac{\sqrt{m}}{P^2} &= \frac{m^2}{P^2} \frac{Q}{\sqrt{m}} \\ \dot{P} &= -mQ,\end{aligned}$$

which is just the equation of motion for the harmonic oscillator with $k = m$. So, the equation from part a is satisfied.