

Problem 1 (20 marks)

Mr. Ah Beng is eyeing Miss Ah Lian, who sees a particle moving with velocity \vec{u} . If he took his eyes off her and watched the particle as well, which velocity \vec{u}' would he observe, given that she has velocity \vec{v} relative to him, with \vec{v} perpendicular to \vec{u} ? Verify that $u' \leq c$ for $v < c$ and $u \leq c$.

Problem 2 (20 marks)

In lecture we met the Lagrange density for the electromagnetic field,

$$\mathcal{L} = \frac{1}{4\pi} \left[\vec{E} \cdot \left(-\frac{1}{c} \frac{\partial \vec{A}}{\partial t} - \vec{\nabla} \Phi \right) - \vec{B} \cdot (\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{A}) - \frac{1}{2} (\vec{E}^2 - \vec{B}^2) \right],$$

where \vec{E} , \vec{B} , Φ , and \vec{A} are regarded as independent fields. Use their known transformation laws to establish how \mathcal{L} responds to infinitesimal Lorentz transformations.

Problem 3 (30 marks)

The Schwinger-type Lagrange function for a relativistic particle of mass m , in force-free motion, is

$$L = \vec{p} \cdot \left(\frac{d\vec{r}}{dt} - \vec{v} \right) + mc \left(c - \sqrt{c^2 - v^2} \right).$$

Show that this gives the familiar nonrelativistic expression for $v \ll c$. Then use the implied relation between \vec{v} and \vec{p} to eliminate the velocity \vec{v} and so find the corresponding Hamilton function $H(\vec{r}, \vec{p})$. What is the physical meaning of the action $W_{12} = \int_2^1 dt L$ evaluated for an actual trajectory?

Problem 4 (30 marks)

The charge density of an electric point dipole \vec{d} at rest at $\vec{r} = 0$ is given by

$$\rho(\vec{r}) = -\vec{d} \cdot \vec{\nabla} \delta(\vec{r}).$$

Verify that

$$\int (d\vec{r}) \rho(\vec{r}) = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad \int (d\vec{r}) \vec{r} \rho(\vec{r}) = \vec{d}.$$

Then find the electrostatic potential $\Phi(\vec{r})$ and the electric field $\vec{E}(\vec{r})$ of the point dipole. You may find it convenient to make use of the dyadic double gradient of $\frac{1}{r}$ that is given by

$$\vec{\nabla} \vec{\nabla} \frac{1}{r} = \frac{3\vec{r}\vec{r} - r^2 \vec{1}}{r^5} - \frac{4\pi}{3} \vec{1} \delta(\vec{r}).$$

Why do we need to subtract the “contact term” $\frac{4\pi}{3} \vec{1} \delta(\vec{r})$?