

Problems in Quantum Field Theory 1: Classical fields

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NOTE: Priority to exercises marked by a “*” will be given during the tutorials.

1. How much is 1 Tesla in natural units?
2. Write the field-strength tensor $F^{\mu\nu}$ as a function of the electric field E_i and of the magnetic field B_i .
3. * What is the field of a static charge in each of the following gauges:

$$\text{Lorenz} \quad \partial_\mu A^\mu = 0,$$

$$\text{Axial} \quad n_\mu A^\mu = 0,$$

$$\text{Coulomb} \quad \vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{A} = 0?$$

4. Show that the rapidity y is additive with respect to boosts and that $y \sim v$ if $c \rightarrow \infty$.
5. * Derive the canonical equation of motion from the Hamiltonian

$$H(p, q) = \sum_i [p_i \dot{q}_i(q, p) - L(q, \dot{q}(q, p))].$$

6. * Find, for a single particle, the action which is invariant with respect to boosts and obtain the Euler-Lagrange equation, the momentum and the energy.
7. Show that, with fields, the canonical equations of motion are given by

$$\frac{\partial H}{\partial \pi} = \dot{\varphi},$$
$$\frac{\partial H}{\partial \varphi} = \dot{\pi}.$$

8. Show that $F_{\mu\nu} \tilde{F}^{\mu\nu}$ is a total derivative.
9. Show that the current

$$j_\mu = -\frac{i}{2}(\varphi \partial_\mu \varphi^* - \varphi^* \partial_\mu \varphi)$$

is conserved if φ obeys the Klein-Gordon equation.

10. * The Lagrangian density for a massive vector field A^μ is given by

$$\mathcal{L} = -\frac{1}{4}F_{\mu\nu}F^{\mu\nu} + \frac{1}{2}m^2 A_\mu A^\mu.$$

Prove that the equation $\partial_\mu A^\mu = 0$ is a consequence of the equations of motion.

11. Find the canonical Hamiltonian for free scalar and spinor fields.