

## How to derive the Hamiltonian of a particle in the electromagnetic fields

The Lagrangian of Lorentz invariant electromagnetic fields becomes:

$$L(\vec{r}, \vec{v}, t) = -m_0 c^2 \sqrt{1 - v^2/c^2} - e\phi(\vec{r}, t) + e\vec{v}\vec{A}(\vec{r}, t) \quad (1)$$

The first term in the Lagrangian,  $-m_0 c^2 \sqrt{1 - v^2/c^2}$ , is consistent to derive the relativistically invariant Newton's equation.

Hamiltonian is described by the Legendre transformation of the Lagrangian:

$$H(\vec{r}, \vec{p}, t) = \sum_i p_i \dot{r}_i - L(\vec{r}, \vec{r}, t) \quad (2)$$

The momentum is described with a Lagrangian:

$$p_i = \frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{r}_i}$$

Using (1), we obtain

$$\vec{p} = \frac{m_0 \vec{v}}{\sqrt{1 - v^2/c^2}} + e\vec{A} \quad (3)$$

The first term of right hand side of (3) is relativistic momentum:

$$\vec{p}_{\text{rel}} = \frac{m_0 v}{\sqrt{1 - v^2/c^2}} \quad (3)'$$

Therefore, (3) is rewritten as

$$\vec{p}_{\text{rel}} = \vec{p} - e\vec{A} \quad (4)$$

The relativistic energy of a free particle is:

$$\mathcal{E} = \frac{m_0 c^2}{\sqrt{1 - v^2/c^2}} \quad (5)$$

Eliminate  $v$  using (3)' and (5).

$$\mathcal{E}^2 = m_0^2 c^4 + c^2 p_{\text{rel}}^2 \quad (6)$$

Now, let us derive the Hamiltonian. Using (1), (2), and (3), we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} H &= \frac{m_0 v^2}{\sqrt{1-v^2/c^2}} + m_0 c^2 \sqrt{1-v^2/c^2} + e\phi \\ &= \frac{m_0 v^2 + m_0 c^2 (1-v^2/c^2)}{\sqrt{1-v^2/c^2}} + e\phi \\ &= \frac{m_0 c^2}{\sqrt{1-v^2/c^2}} + e\phi \end{aligned} \tag{7}$$

Using (5) and (6), we have

$$H = \sqrt{m_0^2 c^4 + c^2 p_{\text{rel}}^2} + e\phi \tag{8}$$

Substituting (4) into (8), we derive the final form of the Hamiltonian.

$$H = \sqrt{m_0^2 c^4 + c^2 (\vec{p} - e\vec{A})^2} + e\phi$$