

Homework-1

By TA, Zhi Li

April 2, 2016

Problem.2 Prove:

$$\delta[g(x)] = \sum_i \frac{\delta(x - x_i)}{|g'(x_i)|} \quad (1)$$

Properties of $\delta(x)$:

Obviously, we see that, from the definition, Dirac's delta function must be even in x , $\delta(-x) = \delta(x)$ If $a > 0$,

$$\delta(ax) = \frac{1}{a}\delta(x), a > 0. \quad (2)$$

Equation (2) can be proved by making the substitution $x = y/a$:

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(x)\delta(ax)dx = \frac{1}{a} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(y/a)\delta(y)dy = \frac{1}{a}f(0). \quad (3)$$

Shift of origin:

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \delta(x - x_0)f(x)dx = f(x_0), \quad (4)$$

which can be proved by making the substitution $y = x - x_0$ and noting that when $y = 0$, $x = x_0$.

If the argument of $\delta(x)$ is a function $g(x)$ with simple zeros at points a_i on the real axis (and therefore $g'(a_i) \neq 0$),

$$\delta[g(x)] = \sum_i \frac{\delta(x - x_i)}{|g'(x_i)|}. \quad (5)$$

To prove it, we write

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(x) \delta(x) dx = \sum_i \int_{a_i - \varepsilon}^{a_i + \varepsilon} f(x) \delta((x - a_i)g'(a_i)) dx, \quad (6)$$

where we have decomposed the original integral into a sum of integrals over small intervals containing the zeros of $g(x)$. In these intervals, we replaced $g(x)$ by the leading term in its Taylor series. Applying Eq.(2) and Eq.(4) to each term of the sum, we confirm Eq.(5).

Problem.3

Prove:

The Galilean transformation of the coordinates is:

$$\begin{cases} x' = x + v \cdot t \\ t' = t \end{cases} \quad (7)$$

The Galilean transformation of the differential operator is:

$$\begin{cases} \frac{\partial}{\partial t'} = \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \frac{\partial t}{\partial t'} + \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \frac{\partial x}{\partial t'} \\ \frac{\partial}{\partial x'} = \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \frac{\partial t}{\partial x'} + \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \frac{\partial x}{\partial x'} \end{cases} \quad (8)$$

So apply Eq.(7) to Eq.(8), we have:

$$\begin{cases} \frac{\partial^2 \phi}{\partial t'^2} = \frac{\partial}{\partial t'} \left[\frac{\partial \phi}{\partial t} \frac{\partial t}{\partial t'} + \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x} \frac{\partial x}{\partial t'} \right] \\ \frac{\partial^2 \phi}{\partial x'^2} = \frac{\partial}{\partial x'} \left[\frac{\partial \phi}{\partial t} \frac{\partial t}{\partial x'} + \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x} \frac{\partial x}{\partial x'} \right] \end{cases} \quad (9)$$

then,

$$\begin{cases} \frac{\partial^2 \phi}{\partial t'^2} = \frac{\partial^2 \phi}{\partial t^2} + 2 \frac{\partial^2 \phi}{\partial t \partial x} v + \frac{\partial^2 \phi}{\partial x^2} v^2 \\ \frac{\partial^2 \phi}{\partial x'^2} = \frac{\partial^2 \phi}{\partial x^2} \end{cases} \quad (10)$$

Finally, we got

$$\frac{\partial^2 \phi}{\partial t'^2} - c^2 \frac{\partial^2 \phi}{\partial x'^2} = \frac{\partial^2 \phi}{\partial t^2} - c^2 \frac{\partial^2 \phi}{\partial x^2} + 2 \frac{\partial^2 \phi}{\partial t \partial x} v + \frac{\partial^2 \phi}{\partial x^2} v^2 \quad (11)$$

so, in most cases, the equation is not invariant under Galilean transformation.

Problem.4

Please refer to Prof. Xin Tao's Lecture note, Page 103, it gives details about the derivation of 3-D Electromagnetic Wave Equation.

Problem.5

$$(\nabla \times \mathbf{B}) \times \mathbf{B} = \nabla \cdot (\mathbf{B}\mathbf{B} - \frac{1}{2}B^2\mathbf{I}) - (\nabla \cdot \mathbf{B})\mathbf{B} \quad (12)$$

Prove:

$$LHS = (\nabla \times \mathbf{B}) \times \mathbf{B} = (\mathbf{B} \cdot \nabla)\mathbf{B} - \nabla\mathbf{B} \cdot \mathbf{B} \text{ (By middle-outer rule)}$$

$$RHS = \nabla \cdot (\mathbf{B}\mathbf{B}) - \nabla \cdot (\frac{1}{2}B^2\mathbf{I}) - (\nabla \cdot \mathbf{B})\mathbf{B}$$
$$= \mathbf{B} \cdot \nabla\mathbf{B} + \underbrace{(\nabla \cdot \mathbf{B})\mathbf{B}} - \frac{1}{2}\nabla B^2 - \underbrace{(\nabla \cdot \mathbf{B})\mathbf{B}}$$

$$= \mathbf{B} \cdot \nabla\mathbf{B} - \frac{1}{2}\nabla(\mathbf{B} \cdot \mathbf{B})$$

$$= \mathbf{B} \cdot \nabla\mathbf{B} - \frac{1}{2}(\nabla\mathbf{B} \cdot \mathbf{B} + \nabla\mathbf{B} \cdot \mathbf{B})$$

$$= \mathbf{B} \cdot \nabla\mathbf{B} - \nabla\mathbf{B} \cdot \mathbf{B}$$

Reference

Mathematics Methods for Physicists, Arfken
Lecture Notes on Electrodynamics, Xin Tao