

M3/4A16 Assessed Coursework 1 Solutions
Due in class Tuesday November 10, 2009

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Exercise.

1. Show that the canonical bracket operation

$$\{F, H\} := \frac{\partial F}{\partial \mathbf{q}} \cdot \frac{\partial H}{\partial \mathbf{p}} - \frac{\partial F}{\partial \mathbf{p}} \cdot \frac{\partial H}{\partial \mathbf{q}}, \quad (1)$$

satisfies the conditions to be a Poisson bracket.

Answer. By direct computation, the canonical bracket operation is skew symmetric, bilinear and satisfies Leibnitz and Jacobi. ▲

2. Show that the following transformations of coordinates are each canonical.

- (a) $T^*\mathbb{R}^2 \setminus \{0\} \rightarrow T^*\mathbb{R}_+ \times T^*S^1$, given by $x + iy = re^{i\theta}$, $p_x + ip_y = (p_r + ip_\theta/r)e^{i\theta}$.
 (b) $T^*\mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^2$, given by $a_k = q_k + ip_k$, $a_k^* = q_k - ip_k$, with $k = 1, 2$.
 (c) $T^*\mathbb{R}^2 \setminus \{0\} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_+^2 \times T^2$, given by $I_k = \frac{1}{2}(q_k^2 + p_k^2)$, $\phi_k = \tan^{-1}(p_k/q_k)$, with $k = 1, 2$.

Answer.

- (a) Evaluating $\text{Re}((p_x + ip_y)(dx - idy)) = \text{Re}((p_r + ip_\theta/r)(dr - ird\theta))$ yields

$$p_x dx + p_y dy = p_r dr + p_\theta d\theta.$$

Taking exterior derivative gives

$$dp_x \wedge dx + dp_y \wedge dy = dp_r \wedge dr + dp_\theta \wedge d\theta.$$

- (b) $da \wedge da^* = (dq_k + idp_k) \wedge (dq_k - idp_k) = -2idq \wedge dp$
 (c) For each k define

$$a_k = q_k + ip_k, \quad r_k = |a_k| = (q_k^2 + p_k^2)^{1/2}, \quad \phi_k = \tan(p_k/q_k) \quad (\text{no sum})$$

Then for each k (no sum) with $I_k = \frac{1}{2}r_k^2$ and

$$\begin{aligned} dI_k \wedge d\phi_k &= \frac{1}{2}dr_k^2 \wedge d\phi_k = (q_k dq_k + p_k dp_k) \wedge \frac{q_k dp_k - p_k dq_k}{q_k^2 + p_k^2} \\ &= \frac{q_k^2 dq_k \wedge dp_k - p_k^2 dp_k \wedge dq_k}{q_k^2 + p_k^2} \\ &= dq_k \wedge dp_k \end{aligned}$$

Exercise: Write the canonical transformation $(I, \phi) \rightarrow (a, a^*)!$

▲

3. Write the Hamiltonian equations for PISHO using each of the canonical coordinate systems of the previous exercise.

Answer.

$$(a) H = \frac{1}{2} \left(p_r^2 + \frac{p_\theta^2}{r^2} + r^2 \right),$$

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{r} &= \partial H / \partial p_r = p_r, & \dot{p}_r &= -\partial H / \partial r = -r \\ \dot{\theta} &= \partial H / \partial p_\theta = p_\theta / r^2, & \dot{p}_\theta &= -\partial H / \partial \theta = 0. \end{aligned}$$

$$(b) H = \frac{1}{2}(|a_1|^2 + |a_2|^2) \text{ and } \{a, a^*\} = -2i, \text{ so}$$

$$\dot{a}_k = \{a_k, H\} = -ia_k \quad \text{and} \quad a_k(t) = a_k(0)e^{-it}.$$

In these variables, PISHO dynamics is just a linear phase shift at frequency -1.

$$(c) H = I_1 + I_2 \text{ and } \{I_k, \phi_l\} = \delta_{kl}, \text{ so}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{I}_k &= \{I_k, H\} = \frac{\partial H}{\partial \phi_k} = 0, \\ \dot{\phi}_k &= \{\phi_k, H\} = -\frac{\partial H}{\partial I_k} = -1 \quad \text{and} \quad \phi(t) = \phi(0) - t. \end{aligned}$$

This is no surprise for us, since in the previous part $a_k = \sqrt{2} I_k e^{i\phi_k}$.

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4. Write the Hamiltonian forms of the PISHO equations in terms of S^1 -invariant quantities, for the following cases:

$$(a) (X_1, X_2, X_3) = (|\mathbf{q}|^2, |\mathbf{p}|^2, \mathbf{q} \cdot \mathbf{p}) \text{ and } p_\theta^2 = |\mathbf{p} \times \mathbf{q}|^2 \text{ with } (\mathbf{q}, \mathbf{p}) \in \mathbb{R}^2 \times \mathbb{R}^2.$$

$$(b) R = |a_1|^2 + |a_2|^2, Y_1 + iY_2 = 2a_1^* a_2 \text{ and } Y_3 = |a_1|^2 - |a_2|^2, \text{ with } a_k := q_k + ip_k \in \mathbb{C}^1 \text{ for } k = 1, 2.$$

Answer.

$$(a) \text{ Set } p_\theta^2 = |\mathbf{p} \times \mathbf{q}|^2 = |\mathbf{q}|^2 |\mathbf{p}|^2 - (\mathbf{p} \cdot \mathbf{q})^2 = X_1 X_2 - X_3^2 =: S^2(\mathbf{X}) \text{ and write the flow on } \mathbf{X} \in \mathbb{R}^3 \text{ with } H(\mathbf{X}) = \frac{1}{2}(X_1 + X_2) \text{ for PISHO as}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} \dot{X}_1 \\ \dot{X}_2 \\ \dot{X}_3 \end{bmatrix} = \dot{\mathbf{X}} = \nabla S^2(\mathbf{X}) \times \nabla H(\mathbf{X}) = \det \begin{bmatrix} \hat{\mathbf{1}} & \hat{\mathbf{2}} & \hat{\mathbf{3}} \\ X_2 & X_1 & -2X_3 \\ X_1 & X_2 & 0 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 2X_3 \\ -2X_3 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$(b) \text{ In this case, } H = R \text{ for PISHO and } R^2 = |\mathbf{Y}|^2 = Y_1^2 + Y_2^2 + Y_3^2$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} \dot{Y}_1 \\ \dot{Y}_2 \\ \dot{Y}_3 \end{bmatrix} = \dot{\mathbf{Y}} = \nabla R^2(\mathbf{Y}) \times \nabla H(\mathbf{Y}) = \nabla R^2 \times \nabla R = \mathbf{0} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Substituting $a_k(t) = a_k(0)e^{-it}$ shows that indeed each of the S^1 -invariant quantities in the vector \mathbf{Y} are invariant under the dynamics of PISHO.

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**Exercise.**

1. Use the canonical Poisson brackets in (1) to compute $(\{X_1, X_2\}, \text{etc.})$ among the three rotationally invariant quadratic phase space functions

$$(X_1, X_2, X_3) = (|\mathbf{q}|^2, |\mathbf{p}|^2, \mathbf{q} \cdot \mathbf{p}), \quad (\mathbf{q}, \mathbf{p}) \in \mathbb{R}^2 \times \mathbb{R}^2. \quad (2)$$

Answer. The canonical Poisson brackets among the axisymmetric variables X_1, X_2 and X_3 in (2) close among themselves,

$$\{X_1, X_2\} = 4X_3, \quad \{X_2, X_3\} = -2X_2, \quad \{X_3, X_1\} = -2X_1.$$



2. Show that these Poisson brackets may be expressed as a closed system

$$\{X_i, X_j\} = c_{ij}^k X_k, \quad i, j, k = 1, 2, 3, \quad (3)$$

in terms of these invariants, by computing the coefficients c_{ij}^k .

Answer. The constants c_{ij}^k are immediately read off as

$$c_{12}^3 = 4 = -c_{21}^3, \quad c_{13}^2 = c_{32}^2 = 2 = -c_{23}^2 = -c_{31}^1, \quad (4)$$

and all the other c_{ij}^k 's vanish.



3. Write the Poisson brackets among the invariants $\{X_i, X_j\}$ as a 3×3 skew-symmetric table.

Answer. In tabular form, the Poisson brackets among the invariants $\{X_i, X_j\}$ are

$$\{X_i, X_j\} = \begin{array}{c|ccc} \{\cdot, \cdot\} & X_1 & X_2 & X_3 \\ \hline X_1 & 0 & 4X_3 & 2X_1 \\ X_2 & -4X_3 & 0 & -2X_2 \\ X_3 & -2X_1 & 2X_2 & 0 \end{array} \quad (5)$$



4. Write the Poisson brackets for functions of these three invariants (X_1, X_2, X_3) as a vector cross product of gradients of functions of $\mathbf{X} \in \mathbb{R}^3$.

Answer. The Poisson bracket among the variables $\mathbf{X} = (X_1, X_2, X_3) \in \mathbb{R}^3$ may be expressed by using the chain rule as,

$$\frac{dF}{dt} = \{F, H\} = \frac{\partial F}{\partial X_i} \{X_i, X_j\} \frac{\partial H}{\partial X_j}. \quad (6)$$

This may be expressed for $\frac{1}{2}S^2 = X_1X_2 - X_3^2$ as

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{dF}{dt} = \{F, H\} &= -\nabla S^2 \cdot \nabla F \times \nabla H \\ &= -\frac{\partial S^2}{\partial X_l} \epsilon_{ljk} \frac{\partial F}{\partial X_j} \frac{\partial H}{\partial X_k}. \end{aligned} \quad (7)$$

This is a direct verification using formula (6). For example,

$$\epsilon_{123} \frac{\partial S^2}{\partial X_3} = -4X_3, \quad \epsilon_{132} \frac{\partial S^2}{\partial X_2} = 2X_1, \quad \epsilon_{231} \frac{\partial S^2}{\partial X_1} = -2X_2.$$

The quantity ∇S^2 with $\frac{1}{2}S^2 = X_1X_2 - X_3^2$ defines the symmetric matrix

$$\nabla S^2 = \begin{bmatrix} X_2 \\ X_1 \\ -2X_3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 2 & 0 \\ 2 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -4 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} X_1 \\ X_2 \\ X_3 \end{bmatrix} =: \mathbf{K}\mathbf{X}.$$

The \mathbb{R}^3 bracket in vector form (7) may be written equivalently in several forms by using the matrix \mathbf{K} as a Riemannian metric,

$$\begin{aligned} \{F, H\}_{\mathbf{K}} &= -\nabla S^2 \cdot \nabla F \times \nabla H \\ &= -X_l \mathbf{K}^{li} \epsilon_{ijk} \frac{\partial F}{\partial X_j} \frac{\partial H}{\partial X_k} \\ &= -\mathbf{X} \cdot \mathbf{K} \left(\frac{\partial F}{\partial \mathbf{X}} \times \frac{\partial H}{\partial \mathbf{X}} \right) \\ &=: -\left\langle \mathbf{X}, \left[\frac{\partial F}{\partial \mathbf{X}}, \frac{\partial H}{\partial \mathbf{X}} \right]_{\mathbf{K}} \right\rangle. \end{aligned} \quad (8)$$

This is the Lie-Poisson bracket for the Lie algebra structure represented on \mathbb{R}^3 by the vector product,

$$[\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v}]_{\mathbf{K}} = \mathbf{K}(\mathbf{u} \times \mathbf{v}) \quad \text{for } \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v} \in \mathbb{R}^3. \quad (9)$$

One may verify that the bracket

$$\{X_j, X_k\}_{\mathbf{K}} := -X_l \mathbf{K}^{li} \epsilon_{ijk} = c_{jk}^l X_l, \quad (10)$$

matches the c_{jk}^l constants in (4).

Exercise. What is the hat map for this bracket?

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5. Take the Poisson brackets of the three invariants (X_1, X_2, X_3) with the function,

$$\frac{1}{2}S^2 = X_1X_2 - X_3^2. \quad (11)$$

Explain your answers geometrically in terms of vectors in \mathbb{R}^3 .

Answer.

$$\{S^2, X_i\} = -\nabla S^2 \cdot \nabla S^2 \times \nabla X_i = 0, \quad i = 1, 2, 3, \quad \text{since} \quad \nabla S^2 \times \nabla S^2 = 0.$$

▲

6. Write the results of applying the Poisson brackets in the form

$$\{\mathbf{z}, X_k\} = m_k \mathbf{z},$$

for $\mathbf{z} = (\mathbf{q}, \mathbf{p})^T \in \mathbb{R}^2 \times \mathbb{R}^2$ and 2×2 matrices m_k , with $k = 1, 2, 3$. Identify the type of matrix that results (symmetric, skew symmetric, etc.) Write a 3×3 skew-symmetric table of their matrix commutation relations $[m_i, m_j]$, etc. Compare it with the table in Part 3.

Answer. The traceless constant matrices

$$m_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ -2 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad m_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad m_3 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad (12)$$

satisfy a commutator table that corresponds to the Poisson bracket table (5). In particular,

$$[m_1, m_2] = 4m_3, \quad [m_2, m_3] = -2m_2, \quad [m_3, m_1] = -2m_1.$$

▲

7. Show that the flows

$$\phi_k : \mathbf{z}(t) = e^{m_k t} \mathbf{z}(0) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n!} (m_k t)^n \mathbf{z}(0)$$

of the Hamiltonian vector fields $\{\cdot, X_k\}$ arising from the three rotationally invariant quadratic phase space functions in (2) acting on the phase space vector $\mathbf{z} = (\mathbf{q}, \mathbf{p})^T$ may be written as symplectic matrix transformations $\mathbf{z}(t) = S(t)\mathbf{z}(0)$, with $S^T J S = J$.

Answer. Taking the derivative of the definition of symplectic matrix transformations $\mathbf{z}(t) = S(t)\mathbf{z}(0)$, with $S^T(t)JS(t) = J$, yields

$$Jm_i + m_i^T J = 0, \quad \text{where} \quad J = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}. \quad (13)$$

That is, if $(Jm_i) = (Jm_i)^T$ is a symmetric matrix, then its flow $\phi_k : \mathbf{z}(t) = e^{m_k t} \mathbf{z}(0)$ is a symplectic matrix transformation. This is easily verified, as

$$Jm_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad Jm_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 \end{pmatrix}, \quad Jm_3 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix},$$

are all symmetric.

▲

**Exercise.**

1. Use the canonical Poisson brackets in (1) to compute $(\{Y_1, Y_2\}, \text{etc.})$ among the three S^1 -invariant quadratic phase space functions

$$Y_1 + iY_2 = 2a_1^*a_2 \quad \text{and} \quad Y_3 = |a_1|^2 - |a_2|^2, \quad (14)$$

with $a_k := q_k + ip_k \in \mathbb{C}^1$ for $k = 1, 2$.

Answer. Denote $z_A = (a_A, a_A^*)$, with $A = 1, 2, 3$, and use the chain rule for Poisson brackets twice; first as $\{a_k, a_l^*\} = -2i\delta_{kl}$ and second as

$$\{Y_i, Y_j\} = \frac{\partial Y_i}{\partial z_A} \{z_A, z_B\} \frac{\partial Y_j}{\partial z_B} = 4\epsilon_{ijk} Y_k, \quad (15)$$

for the invariant bilinear functions Y_i in (15). ▲

2. Show that these Poisson brackets may be expressed as a closed system

$$\{Y_i, Y_j\} = c_{ij}^k Y_k, \quad i, j, k = 1, 2, 3, \quad (16)$$

in terms of these invariants, by computing the coefficients c_{ij}^k .

Answer.

$$c_{ij}^k = 4\epsilon_{ijk}$$



3. Write the Poisson brackets $\{Y_i, Y_j\}$ among these invariants as a 3×3 skew-symmetric table.

Answer. This is also expressed in tabular form as

$$\{Y_i, Y_j\} = \begin{array}{c|ccc} \{\cdot, \cdot\} & Y_1 & Y_2 & Y_3 \\ \hline Y_1 & 0 & 4Y_3 & -4Y_2 \\ Y_2 & -4Y_3 & 0 & 4Y_1 \\ Y_3 & 4Y_2 & -4Y_1 & 0 \end{array}$$



4. Write the Poisson brackets for functions of these three invariants (Y_1, Y_2, Y_3) as a vector cross product of gradients of functions of $\mathbf{Y} \in \mathbb{R}^3$.

Answer.

$$\{F, H\}(\mathbf{Y}) = 4\mathbf{Y} \cdot \frac{\partial F}{\partial \mathbf{Y}} \times \frac{\partial H}{\partial \mathbf{Y}},$$



5. Take the Poisson brackets of the three invariants (Y_1, Y_2, Y_3) with the function,

$$R = |a_1|^2 + |a_2|^2. \quad (17)$$

Explain your answers geometrically in terms of vectors in \mathbb{R}^3 .

Answer. The \mathbb{R}^3 -bracket for functions of the vector \mathbf{Y} on the sphere $R^2 = |\mathbf{Y}|^2 = \text{const}$ is

$$\{F, H\}(\mathbf{Y}) = \frac{\partial C}{\partial \mathbf{Y}} \cdot \frac{\partial F}{\partial \mathbf{Y}} \times \frac{\partial H}{\partial \mathbf{Y}} \quad \text{with} \quad C(\mathbf{Y}) = 2|\mathbf{Y}|^2,$$

and

$$\{C, \mathbf{Y}\} = \frac{\partial C}{\partial \mathbf{Y}} \times \frac{\partial C}{\partial \mathbf{Y}} = 0, \quad \text{with} \quad C(\mathbf{Y}) = 2|\mathbf{Y}|^2.$$

▲

6. Write the results of applying the Poisson brackets in the form

$$\{\mathbf{a}, Y_k\} = c_k \mathbf{a} \quad k = 1, 2, 3,$$

for $\mathbf{a} = (a_1, a_2)^T \in \mathbb{C}^2$ and 2×2 matrices c_k , with $k = 1, 2, 3$. Identify the type of matrix that results (symmetric, skew symmetric, etc.) Write a 3×3 skew-symmetric table of their matrix commutation relations $[c_i, c_j]$, etc. Compare it with the table in Part 3.

Answer. One writes

$$\mathbf{Y} = a_k \boldsymbol{\sigma}_{kl} a_l^*.$$

where $\boldsymbol{\sigma} = (\sigma_1, \sigma_2, \sigma_3)$ is the ‘vector’ of Pauli Spin Matrices, given by

$$\sigma_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \sigma_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -i \\ i & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \sigma_3 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{bmatrix}. \quad (18)$$

Then $\{a_k, a_l^*\} = -2i\delta_{kl}$ implies

$$\{\mathbf{a}, Y_k\} = -2i\sigma_k \mathbf{a} = c_k \mathbf{a} \quad k = 1, 2, 3. \quad (19)$$

▲

7. Show that the flows

$$\phi_k : \mathbf{z}(t) = e^{c_k t} \mathbf{z}(0) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n!} (c_k t)^n \mathbf{z}(0)$$

of the Hamiltonian vector fields $\{\cdot, Y_k\}$ arising from the three S^1 phase invariant quadratic phase space functions in (15) acting on the phase space vector $\mathbf{a} = (a_1, a_2)^T \in \mathbb{C}^2$ may be written as $SU(2)$ matrix transformations $\mathbf{a}(t) = U(t)\mathbf{a}(0)$, with $U^\dagger U = \text{Id}$.

Answer. Taking the derivative of the definition of unitary matrix transformations $\mathbf{a}(t) = U(t)\mathbf{a}(0)$, with $U(t)^\dagger U(t) = \text{Id}$, yields

$$c_k + c_k^\dagger = 0$$

where superscript dagger (\dagger) denotes Hermitian conjugate. In fact, the matrices $c_k = -2i\sigma_k$ in (20) satisfy $c_k^\dagger = -c_k$. The flows of such matrices, $\phi_k : \mathbf{a}(t) = e^{c_k t}\mathbf{a}(0)$ are unitary matrix transformations. \blacktriangle

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Exercise.

1. Compute the canonical Poisson brackets ($\{L_1, L_2\}$, etc.) among the three components of the vector $\mathbf{L} = \mathbf{q} \times \mathbf{p}$ for $(\mathbf{q}, \mathbf{p}) \in \mathbb{R}^3 \times \mathbb{R}^3$ so that $\mathbf{L} \in \mathbb{R}^3$ also.

Answer.

$$\{L_1, L_2\} = L_3, \quad \{L_2, L_3\} = L_1, \quad \{L_3, L_1\} = L_2.$$

▲

2. Show that these Poisson brackets may be expressed as a closed system

$$\{L_i, L_j\} = c_{ij}^k L_k, \quad i, j, k = 1, 2, 3, \quad (20)$$

in terms of these invariants, by computing the coefficients c_{ij}^k .

Answer.

$$\{L_i, L_j\} = \epsilon_{ijk} L_k, \quad i, j, k = 1, 2, 3.$$

▲

3. Write the Poisson brackets $\{L_i, L_j\}$ among the (L_1, L_2, L_3) as a 3×3 skew-symmetric table.

Answer.

$$\{L_i, L_j\} = \begin{array}{c|ccc} \{\cdot, \cdot\} & L_1 & L_2 & L_3 \\ \hline L_1 & 0 & L_3 & -L_2 \\ L_2 & -L_3 & 0 & L_1 \\ L_3 & L_2 & -L_1 & 0 \end{array}$$

▲

4. Write the Poisson brackets for functions of the three components (L_1, L_2, L_3) as a vector cross product of gradients of functions of $\mathbf{L} \in \mathbb{R}^3$.

Answer.

$$\{F, H\}(\mathbf{L}) = \mathbf{L} \cdot \frac{\partial F}{\partial \mathbf{L}} \times \frac{\partial H}{\partial \mathbf{L}} = \frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial L^2}{\partial \mathbf{L}} \cdot \frac{\partial F}{\partial \mathbf{L}} \times \frac{\partial H}{\partial \mathbf{L}}.$$

▲

5. Take the Poisson brackets of the three components (L_1, L_2, L_3) with the function,

$$L^2 = L_1^2 + L_2^2 + L_3^2. \quad (21)$$

Explain your answers geometrically in terms of vectors in \mathbb{R}^3 .

Answer.

$$\{\mathbf{L}, L^2\} = -\mathbf{L} \times \mathbf{L} = 0.$$

▲

6. Write the results of applying the Poisson brackets in the form

$$\{\mathbf{z}, L_k\} = r_k \mathbf{z},$$

for $\mathbf{z} = (\mathbf{q}, \mathbf{p})^T \in \mathbb{R}^3 \times \mathbb{R}^3$ and 3×3 matrices r_k , with $k = 1, 2, 3$. Identify the type of matrix that results (symmetric, skew symmetric, etc.) Write a 3×3 skew-symmetric table of their matrix commutation relations $[r_i, r_j]$, etc. Compare it with the table in Part 3.

Answer.

$$\{\mathbf{z}, \boldsymbol{\xi} \cdot \mathbf{L}\} = \boldsymbol{\xi} \times \mathbf{z} = \widehat{\boldsymbol{\xi}} \mathbf{z},$$

with

$$\widehat{\boldsymbol{\xi}} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & \xi_3 & -\xi_2 \\ -\xi_3 & 0 & \xi_1 \\ \xi_2 & -\xi_1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} = \xi_k r_k$$

where

$$r_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & -1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \quad r_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \quad r_3 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 \\ -1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \quad (22)$$

whose matrix commutators satisfy

$$[r_i, r_j] = \epsilon_{ijk} r_k, \quad i, j, k = 1, 2, 3.$$

▲

7. Show that the flows

$$\phi_k : \mathbf{z}(t) = e^{r_k t} \mathbf{z}(0) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n!} (r_k t)^n \mathbf{z}(0)$$

of the Hamiltonian vector fields $\{\cdot, L_k\}$ arising from the three components of the vector $\mathbf{L} = \mathbf{q} \times \mathbf{p}$ acting on the phase space vector $\mathbf{z} = (\mathbf{q}, \mathbf{p})^T$ may be written as $SO(3)$ orthogonal matrix transformations $\mathbf{z}(t) = O(t)\mathbf{z}(0)$, with $O^T O = \text{Id}$.

Answer. The matrices r_k in (23) are skew symmetric; that is, they satisfy $r_k^T = -r_k$. The flows of such matrices, $\phi_k : \mathbf{z}(t) = e^{r_k t} \mathbf{z}(0)$ are orthogonal matrix transformations, as one may see by taking the time derivative of the relation $O^T(t)O(t) = \text{Id}$ with $O(t) = e^{r_k t}$ to find

$$0 = \dot{O}O^T + O\dot{O}^T = \dot{O}O^T + (\dot{O}O^T)^T = r_k + r_k^T.$$

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