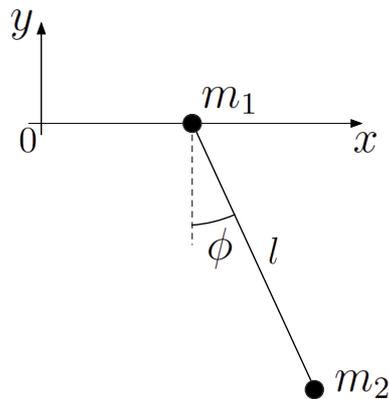


Wednesday 18 January 2012

THEORETICAL PHYSICS I

Answers

1



(a) The x position of mass m_2 is given by

$$\begin{aligned} x' &= x + l \sin \phi \\ \dot{x}' &= \dot{x} + l \dot{\phi} \cos \phi \\ \dot{x}'^2 &= \dot{x}^2 + 2l \dot{x} \dot{\phi} \cos \phi + l^2 \dot{\phi}^2 \cos^2 \phi \end{aligned}$$

The y position of mass m_2 is given by

$$\begin{aligned} y' &= -l \cos \phi \\ \dot{y}' &= l \dot{\phi} \sin \phi \\ \dot{y}'^2 &= l^2 \dot{\phi}^2 \sin^2 \phi \end{aligned}$$

The total kinetic energy is therefore

$$T = \frac{1}{2} m_1 \dot{x}^2 + \frac{1}{2} m_2 (\dot{x}^2 + 2l \dot{x} \dot{\phi} \cos \phi + l^2 \dot{\phi}^2)$$

and the potential energy is

$$V = -m_2 g l \cos \phi$$

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Hence the Lagrangian is given by

$$L = T - V = \frac{1}{2}m_1\dot{x}^2 + \frac{1}{2}m_2(\dot{x}^2 + 2l\dot{\phi}\cos\phi + l^2\dot{\phi}^2) + m_2gl\cos\phi$$

(b) The canonical momentum conjugate to x is

$$p_x = \frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{x}} = (m_1 + m_2)\dot{x} + m_2l\dot{\phi}\cos\phi$$

Using the associated Euler-Lagrange equation

$$\dot{p}_x = \frac{d}{dt} \frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{x}} = \frac{\partial L}{\partial x} = 0$$

so p_x is a conserved quantity.

The canonical momentum conjugate to ϕ is

$$p_\phi = \frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{\phi}} = m_2l^2\dot{\phi} + 2l\dot{x}\cos\phi$$

Using the associated Euler-Lagrange equation

$$\dot{p}_\phi = \frac{d}{dt} \frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{\phi}} = \frac{\partial L}{\partial \phi} = -m_2l\dot{x}\sin\phi - m_2gl\sin\phi$$

so p_ϕ is not a conserved quantity.

(c) Using conservation of p_x

$$0 = (m_1 + m_2)\dot{x} + m_2l\dot{\phi}\cos\phi$$

Integrating this we find

$$\lambda = (m_1 + m_2)x + m_2l\sin\phi$$

where λ is a constant. Using the expression for x' above we therefore find

$$\sin\phi = \frac{(m_1 + m_2)x' - \lambda}{m_1l}$$

Re-arranging the expression for y' we have

$$\cos\phi = \frac{-y'}{l}$$

Squaring and summing these we find

$$\left(\frac{(m_1 + m_2)x' - \lambda}{m_1l}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{y'}{l}\right)^2 = 1$$

which, as required, is an equation for an ellipse.

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(d) Energy is conserved so

$$E = T + V = \frac{1}{2}m_1\dot{x}^2 + \frac{1}{2}m_2(\dot{x}^2 + 2l\dot{x}\dot{\phi}\cos\phi + l^2\dot{\phi}^2) - m_2gl\cos\phi \quad (1)$$

Substituting for \dot{x} from part (c) we find

$$E = \frac{1}{2}m_2l^2\dot{\phi}^2 \left(\frac{m_1 + m_2\sin^2\phi}{m_1 + m_2} \right) - m_2gl\cos\phi$$

Re-arranging this expression for $\dot{\phi}$ we find

$$l\frac{d\phi}{dt} = \sqrt{\frac{E + m_2gl\cos\phi}{\frac{1}{2}m_2l} \cdot \frac{m_2 + m_1}{m_1 + m_2\sin^2\phi}}$$

Hence, integrating, we find

$$t = l\sqrt{\frac{m_2}{2(m_2 + m_1)}} \int_{\phi_1}^{\phi_2} d\phi \sqrt{\frac{m_1 + m_2\sin^2\phi}{E + m_2gl\cos\phi}}$$

2

(a) The transformation

$$\begin{aligned} x &= X + \alpha_1X^2 + 2\alpha_2XP + \alpha_3P^2 \\ p &= P + \beta_1X^2 + 2\beta_2XP + \beta_3P^2 \end{aligned}$$

will be canonical if the Poisson bracket

$$\begin{aligned} \{x, p\}_{X,P} &= \frac{\partial x}{\partial X} \frac{\partial p}{\partial P} - \frac{\partial x}{\partial P} \frac{\partial p}{\partial X} = 1 \\ &= (1 + 2\alpha_1X + 2\alpha_2P)(1 + 2\beta_2X + 2\beta_3P) + \text{higher order terms} \\ &= 1 + 2(\alpha_1 + \beta_2)X + 2(\alpha_2 + \beta_3)P + \text{higher order terms} \end{aligned}$$

Therefore we must have $\beta_2 = -\alpha_1$ and $\beta_3 = -\alpha_2$.

(b)

$$\begin{aligned} K(X, P) &= \frac{(X + \beta_1X^2 - 2\alpha_1XP + \alpha_2P^2)^2}{2m} + \frac{1}{2}m\omega^2(X + \alpha_1X^2 + 2\alpha_2XP + \alpha_3P^2)^2 \\ &+ \lambda(X + \alpha_1X^2 + 2\alpha_2XP + \alpha_3P^2)^3 \\ &= \frac{P^2}{2m} + \frac{1}{2}m\omega^2X^2 + X^3(\alpha_1m\omega^2 + \lambda) + P^3\left(-\frac{\alpha_2}{m}\right) \\ &+ XP^2\left(-\frac{2\alpha_1}{m} + \alpha_3m\omega^2\right) + PX^2\left(\frac{\beta_1}{m} + 2\alpha_2m\omega^2\right) \end{aligned}$$

Hence we must have

$$\begin{aligned} \alpha_1 &= -\frac{\lambda}{m\omega^2}, \alpha_2 = 0, \alpha_3 = -\frac{2}{m}\frac{\lambda}{m\omega^2} \\ \beta_1 &= 0, \beta_2 = \frac{\lambda}{m\omega^2}, \beta_3 = 0 \end{aligned}$$

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hence

$$\begin{aligned}x &= X - \frac{\lambda}{m\omega} \left(X^2 + \frac{2}{m} \frac{P^2}{m\omega^2} \right) \\p &= P + \frac{2\lambda}{m\omega^2} XP\end{aligned}$$

(c)

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{dX}{dt} &= \frac{\partial K}{\partial P} = \frac{P}{m} \\ \frac{dP}{dt} &= -\frac{\partial K}{\partial X} = -m\omega^2 X\end{aligned}$$

Hence

$$\begin{aligned}P &= A \cos(\omega t + \phi) \\ X &= \frac{A}{m\omega} \sin(\omega t + \phi)\end{aligned}$$

(d) Using definitions for X and P from part (c)

$$\begin{aligned}x &= X - \frac{\lambda}{m\omega} \left(X^2 + \frac{2}{m} \frac{P^2}{m\omega^2} \right) \\p &= P + \frac{2\lambda}{m\omega^2} XP\end{aligned}$$

Substituting for X and P from above we find that x and p now have components oscillating at 2ω .

3 The Euler-Lagrange equation is:

$$\frac{d}{dt} \left(\frac{\partial L}{\partial \mathbf{v}} \right) = \frac{\partial L}{\partial \mathbf{x}} = e \nabla(\mathbf{v} \cdot \mathbf{A}) - e \nabla\phi = e(\mathbf{v} \cdot \nabla)\mathbf{A} + e[\mathbf{v} \times (\nabla \times \mathbf{A})] - e \nabla\phi$$

Then using

$$\frac{d\mathbf{A}}{dt} = \frac{\partial \mathbf{A}}{\partial t} + (\mathbf{v} \cdot \nabla)\mathbf{A},$$

we obtain the equation of motion

$$\frac{d(m\mathbf{v})}{dt} = -e \frac{\partial \mathbf{A}}{\partial t} - e \nabla\phi + e[\mathbf{v} \times (\nabla \times \mathbf{A})] = e\mathbf{E} + e\mathbf{v} \times \mathbf{B},$$

as expected.

The equation of motion of a physical particle is determined by the physically observable fields \mathbf{E} and \mathbf{B} . However the potentials ϕ and \mathbf{A} which determine these

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fields and contribute to the Lagrangian function are not unique. If we add the gradient of an arbitrary scalar function $f(\mathbf{x}, t)$ to the vector potential \mathbf{A} , i.e.

$$A'_i = A_i + \frac{\partial f}{\partial x_i},$$

the magnetic flux density \mathbf{B} will not change, because $\text{curl } \nabla f \equiv 0$. To have the electric field unchanged as well, we must simultaneously subtract the time-derivative of f from the scalar potential:

$$\phi' = \phi - \frac{\partial f}{\partial t}.$$

The invariance of all electromagnetic processes with respect to the above transformation of the potentials by an arbitrary function f is called *gauge invariance*.

(a) Using the given expressions for \mathbf{A} and ϕ , the Lagrangian becomes

$$L = \frac{1}{2}m(\dot{r}^2 + r^2\dot{\theta}^2 + \dot{z}^2) - e\lambda z^2 + e\mu r^2\dot{\theta}.$$

The E-L equation corresponding to coordinate r is then:

$$\frac{d(m\dot{r})}{dt} = mr\dot{\theta}^2 + 2e\mu r\dot{\theta} = r\dot{\theta}[m\dot{\theta} + 2e\mu],$$

and for θ :

$$\frac{d}{dt} [mr^2\dot{\theta} + e\mu r^2] = 0,$$

and for z :

$$\frac{d(m\dot{z})}{dt} = -2e\lambda z \quad \Rightarrow \quad \ddot{z} + \kappa^2 z = 0, \quad \kappa^2 = 2e\lambda/m.$$

(b) Because L does not depend explicitly on t , the total energy as given by the Hamiltonian of the system is conserved, $dH/dt = 0$. In general

$$H = \sum_i \frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{q}_i} \dot{q}_i - L.$$

with here $q_i = (r, \theta, z)$. Hence the total energy of the particle

$$E = \frac{1}{2}m(\dot{r}^2 + r^2\dot{\theta}^2 + \dot{z}^2) + e\lambda z^2$$

is a constant of the motion.

(c) From the E-L equation for $\theta(t)$ above, we have immediately that

$$J = mr^2\dot{\theta} + e\mu r^2 = r^2[m\dot{\theta} + e\mu]$$

is another constant of the motion (generalised angular momentum).

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(d) If $r = R$, then $\dot{r} = \ddot{r} = 0$ and from the above equation for r we obtain $\dot{\theta} = -2e\mu/m = \text{constant}$, i.e. circular motion around the z axis with constant angular velocity. In terms of the z coordinate, the particle undergoes simple harmonic motion, $z(t) = a \sin \kappa t + b \cos \kappa t$, with average value $z = 0$.

(e) The time for one rotation around the z axis is $T = m/(2e\mu)$. Suppose $\kappa T = 2\pi n$, i.e. $\lambda = (2e\mu^2/m)n^2$. Then the period of rotation around the z axis is an integer multiple of the simple harmonic oscillation in the z direction, i.e. the two motions are *in phase*.

4 We start from the Euler-Lagrange equations for ϕ :

$$\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \phi} = \frac{\partial}{\partial x^\mu} \left(\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial (\partial \phi / \partial x^\mu)} \right) \equiv \partial_\mu \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial [\partial_\mu \phi]},$$

which immediately gives

$$-m^2 \phi = \partial^\mu \partial_\mu \phi \quad \Rightarrow \quad \partial^\mu \partial_\mu \phi + m^2 \phi = 0 \quad \Rightarrow \quad \frac{\partial^2 \phi}{\partial t^2} - \nabla^2 \phi + m^2 \phi = 0.$$

The Fourier transformed field $\tilde{\phi}(\mathbf{k}, t)$ is defined by

$$\phi(\mathbf{x}, t) = \int d^3 \mathbf{k} \tilde{\phi}(\mathbf{k}, t) e^{i\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{x}}.$$

Substituting into the equation of motion gives

$$\frac{\partial^2 \tilde{\phi}}{\partial t^2} + (m^2 + k^2) \tilde{\phi} = 0.$$

Define $\omega = +\sqrt{m^2 + k^2}$. Then

$$\tilde{\phi}(\mathbf{k}, t) = a(\mathbf{k}) e^{-i\omega t} + b(\mathbf{k}) e^{i\omega t}.$$

The reality of ϕ requires $b(\mathbf{k}) = a^*(-\mathbf{k})$. With

$$\mathcal{L} = \frac{1}{2} (\partial^\mu \varphi_1) (\partial_\mu \varphi_1) - \frac{1}{2} m^2 \varphi_1^2 + \frac{1}{2} (\partial^\mu \varphi_2) (\partial_\mu \varphi_2) - \frac{1}{2} m^2 \varphi_2^2 + g \varphi_1 \varphi_2$$

we now have two equations of motion, corresponding to the E-L equations corresponding to φ_1 and φ_2 respectively:

$$\partial^\mu \partial_\mu \varphi_1 + m^2 \varphi_1 - g \varphi_2 = 0, \quad \partial^\mu \partial_\mu \varphi_2 + m^2 \varphi_2 - g \varphi_1 = 0.$$

Now define two linear combinations of the φ_i fields: $\varphi_\pm = \varphi_1 \pm \varphi_2$. By adding and subtracting the above two equations of motion, we obtain two corresponding equations for the φ_\pm :

$$\partial^\mu \partial_\mu \varphi_+ + (m^2 - g) \varphi_+ = 0, \quad \partial^\mu \partial_\mu \varphi_- + (m^2 + g) \varphi_- = 0.$$

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Note that these are now decoupled, and so we can solve them as we do for the normal (massive) Klein-Gordon field. Thus

$$\varphi_{\pm}(\mathbf{x}, t) = \int d^3\mathbf{k} \left[a_{\pm}(\mathbf{k}) e^{i\mathbf{k}\cdot\mathbf{x} - i\omega_{\pm}t} + a_{\pm}^*(\mathbf{k}) e^{-i\mathbf{k}\cdot\mathbf{x} + i\omega_{\pm}t} \right]$$

where the frequencies ω_{\pm} are given by

$$\omega_{\pm}^2 = k^2 + m^2 \mp g > 0.$$

It is now straightforward to recover the solutions for φ_1 and φ_2 :

$$\varphi_1(\mathbf{x}, t) = \int d^3\mathbf{k} N(\mathbf{k}) \frac{1}{2} \left[a_+(\mathbf{k}) e^{i\mathbf{k}\cdot\mathbf{x} - i\omega_+t} + a_-(\mathbf{k}) e^{i\mathbf{k}\cdot\mathbf{x} - i\omega_-t} + \text{c.c.} \right],$$

$$\varphi_2(\mathbf{x}, t) = \int d^3\mathbf{k} N(\mathbf{k}) \frac{1}{2} \left[a_+(\mathbf{k}) e^{i\mathbf{k}\cdot\mathbf{x} - i\omega_+t} - a_-(\mathbf{k}) e^{i\mathbf{k}\cdot\mathbf{x} - i\omega_-t} + \text{c.c.} \right].$$

To solve for the fields for the given boundary conditions at $t = 0$, we first transform these into boundary conditions on φ_{\pm} :

$$\varphi_+(\mathbf{x}, 0) = \varphi_-(\mathbf{x}, 0) = A \sin(\mathbf{q} \cdot \mathbf{x}), \quad \dot{\varphi}_+(\mathbf{x}, 0) = \dot{\varphi}_-(\mathbf{x}, 0) = 0.$$

This suggests looking for real solutions of the form:

$$\varphi_{\pm} = \sin(\mathbf{q} \cdot \mathbf{x}) [\alpha \cos(\omega_{\pm}t) + \beta \sin(\omega_{\pm}t)]$$

where now $\omega_{\pm} = \sqrt{q^2 + m^2 \mp g}$. Evidently the boundary conditions are satisfied for $\alpha = A$ and $\beta = 0$. Hence

$$\varphi_1(\mathbf{x}, t) = \frac{A}{2} \sin(\mathbf{q} \cdot \mathbf{x}) [\cos(\omega_+t) + \cos(\omega_-t)],$$

$$\varphi_2(\mathbf{x}, t) = \frac{A}{2} \sin(\mathbf{q} \cdot \mathbf{x}) [\cos(\omega_+t) - \cos(\omega_-t)].$$

Note that in the limit $g \rightarrow 0$, $\varphi_2 \rightarrow 0$.

5 The relationship between symmetries and conserved quantities, and the effects of symmetry breaking, are amongst the most important in theoretical physics. *Noether's theorem* is an important general result, which tells us that there is a *conserved current* associated with every continuous *symmetry* of the Lagrangian, i.e. with symmetry under a transformation of the form $\varphi \rightarrow \varphi + \delta\varphi$ where $\delta\varphi$ is infinitesimal. Symmetry means that \mathcal{L} does not change under this field transformation.

$$\delta\mathcal{L} = \frac{\partial\mathcal{L}}{\partial\varphi}\delta\varphi + \frac{\partial\mathcal{L}}{\partial\varphi'}\delta\varphi' + \frac{\partial\mathcal{L}}{\partial\dot{\varphi}}\delta\dot{\varphi} = 0$$

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where

$$\delta\varphi' = \delta\left(\frac{\partial\varphi}{\partial x}\right) = \frac{\partial}{\partial x}\delta\varphi$$

$$\delta\dot{\varphi} = \delta\left(\frac{\partial\varphi}{\partial t}\right) = \frac{\partial}{\partial t}\delta\varphi$$

(easily generalized to 3 spatial dimensions).

The Euler-Lagrange equation of motion

$$\frac{\partial\mathcal{L}}{\partial\varphi} - \frac{\partial}{\partial x}\left(\frac{\partial\mathcal{L}}{\partial\varphi'}\right) - \frac{\partial}{\partial t}\left(\frac{\partial\mathcal{L}}{\partial\dot{\varphi}}\right) = 0$$

then implies that

$$\begin{aligned}\delta\mathcal{L} &= \frac{\partial}{\partial x}\left(\frac{\partial\mathcal{L}}{\partial\varphi'}\right)\delta\varphi + \frac{\partial\mathcal{L}}{\partial\varphi'}\frac{\partial}{\partial x}(\delta\varphi) + \frac{\partial}{\partial t}\left(\frac{\partial\mathcal{L}}{\partial\dot{\varphi}}\right)\delta\varphi + \frac{\partial\mathcal{L}}{\partial\dot{\varphi}}\frac{\partial}{\partial t}(\delta\varphi) = 0 \\ &\Rightarrow \frac{\partial}{\partial x}\left(\frac{\partial\mathcal{L}}{\partial\varphi'}\delta\varphi\right) + \frac{\partial}{\partial t}\left(\frac{\partial\mathcal{L}}{\partial\dot{\varphi}}\delta\varphi\right) = 0\end{aligned}$$

Comparing with the conservation/continuity equation (in 1 spatial dimension)

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial x}(J_x) + \frac{\partial\rho}{\partial t} = 0$$

we see that the conserved density and current are (proportional to)

$$\rho = \frac{\partial\mathcal{L}}{\partial\dot{\varphi}}\delta\varphi, \quad J_x = \frac{\partial\mathcal{L}}{\partial\varphi'}\delta\varphi$$

In more than 1 spatial dimension

$$J_x = \frac{\partial\mathcal{L}}{\partial(\partial\varphi/\partial x)}\delta\varphi, \quad J_y = \frac{\partial\mathcal{L}}{\partial(\partial\varphi/\partial y)}\delta\varphi, \dots$$

and hence in covariant notation

$$J^\mu = \frac{\partial\mathcal{L}}{\partial(\partial_\mu\varphi)}\delta\varphi.$$

The Lagrangian density for a scalar field in n space-time dimensions, $\varphi(t, x_1, x_2, \dots, x_{n-1})$, is

$$\mathcal{L} = \frac{1}{2}(\partial_\mu\varphi)(\partial^\mu\varphi) - \lambda\varphi^4.$$

We use the E-L equation in the form

$$\frac{\partial\mathcal{L}}{\partial\varphi} = \partial_\mu\frac{\partial\mathcal{L}}{\partial[\partial_\mu\varphi]},$$

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to immediately obtain the equation of motion

$$\partial^\mu \partial_\mu \varphi + 4\lambda\phi^3 = 0.$$

A current J^μ is defined by

$$J^\mu = (\varphi + x^\nu \partial_\nu \varphi) \partial^\mu \varphi - x^\mu \mathcal{L}.$$

Splitting this into two pieces, we first have

$$\partial_\mu [(\varphi + x^\nu \partial_\nu \varphi)(\partial^\mu \varphi)] = 2(\partial_\mu \varphi)(\partial^\mu \varphi) + x^\nu (\partial_\mu \partial_\nu \varphi)(\partial^\mu \varphi) + (\varphi + x^\nu \partial_\nu \varphi)(-4\lambda\varphi^3),$$

where we have used the equation of motion in the last term. Also

$$\partial_\mu (x^\mu \mathcal{L}) = n\mathcal{L} - x^\mu [(\partial_\mu \partial_\nu \varphi)(\partial^\mu \varphi) - 4\lambda\varphi^3(\partial_\mu \varphi)].$$

Subtracting these and cancelling terms then gives

$$\partial_\mu J^\mu = \left(2 - \frac{n}{2}\right) (\partial_\mu \varphi)(\partial^\mu \varphi) + \lambda\varphi^4(-4 + n) = (4 - n)\mathcal{L}.$$

For $n = 4$ the right-hand side vanishes and the current is conserved.

6 (a) Taking the F.T in x we have

$$\left(k^2 + 2\alpha \frac{\partial}{\partial t} + \frac{1}{c^2} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial t^2}\right) G(k, t - t') = \delta(t - t')$$

This can be solved either using the ‘jump’ condition method from 1B maths or by taking a further F.T in t and using contour integration. The equation is identical in form to the damped harmonic oscillator for which the full solution is given in the lecture notes on pages 52,52, question 4 in the examples and Q6 in the 2010 paper.

$$\begin{aligned} G(k, t - t') &= 0 \quad t < t' \\ &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{\alpha^2 - k^2/c^2}} e^{-\alpha c^2(t-t')} \sinh \sqrt{\alpha^2 c^4 - k^2 c^2}(t - t') \end{aligned}$$

(b) From the inverse Fourier transform we have

$$G(x, x'; t, t') = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{ik(x-x')} G(k, t - t') dk$$

and with $s(x, t) = \cos(px)\delta(t - t_0)$

$$\begin{aligned} T(x, t) &= \int_{-\infty}^{t^+} dt' \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dx' s(x', t') G(x, x'; t, t') \\ &= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dx' \cos(px') \cdot \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dk e^{ik(x-x')} G(k, t - t_0) \\ &= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dk \frac{1}{2 \cdot 2\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dx' \left[e^{i(k-p)(x-x')} e^{ipx} G(k, t - t_0) + e^{i(k+p)(x-x')} e^{-ipx} G(k, t - t_0) \right] \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \left(e^{ipx} G(p, t - t_0) + e^{-ipx} G(-p, t - t_0) \right) = \cos(px) G(p, t - t_0) \end{aligned}$$

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Hence, for $\alpha c > p$ the oscillating temperature distribution decays without oscillating and for $\alpha c < p$ it executes damped harmonic motion.

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