
Contents

1	Philosophy and Logic of Physical Theory	
1.1	<i>The nature and aim of theory in physics</i>	1
1.2	<i>The hierarchy of theories</i>	3
1.3	<i>A plan for the presentation of the classical theory of charged particles</i>	6
2	A Short History of the Classical Theory of Charged Particles	
2.1	<i>Before Lorentz</i>	8
2.2	<i>The work of Lorentz and Abraham</i>	11
2.3	<i>The impact of relativity</i>	16
2.4	<i>Attempts at modification and the eventual formulation of the theory for point charges</i>	19
3	Foundations of Classical Mechanics	
	A. The Equivalence of Static Coordinate Systems	26
3.1	<i>Reference frames</i>	26
3.2	<i>The Euclidean group</i>	27
	B.. The Relativity of Velocity	28
3.3	<i>Force and the law of inertia</i>	28
3.4	<i>Galilean invariance</i>	30
3.5	<i>Inertial frames of reference</i>	31
3.6	<i>Lorentz invariance</i>	32

	C. The Principle of Equivalence	35
3.7	<i>Three kinds of mass</i>	36
3.8	<i>Free fall</i>	37
3.9	<i>Fictitious forces and apparent gravitational fields</i>	39
3.10	<i>Einstein's principle of equivalence</i>	41
3.11	<i>Experimental confirmation</i>	42
	D. The Relativity of Acceleration	43
3.12	<i>Local inertial frames</i>	43
3.13	<i>Gravitational forces and space curvature</i>	45
3.14	<i>Mach's principle</i>	47
	E. The Basic Problem of Classical Dynamics	50
3.15	<i>Causality</i>	50
3.16	<i>The initial-value problem for Newtonian interactions</i>	52
3.17	<i>Conservation laws</i>	54
4	The Maxwell-Lorentz Field	
	A. The Equations	61
4.1	<i>Lorentz's microscopic theory</i>	61
4.2	<i>Free electromagnetic fields</i>	63
4.3	<i>Potentials and gauges</i>	65
4.4	<i>The solenoidal form of the Maxwell-Lorentz equations</i>	68
4.5	<i>The covariant form of the Maxwell-Lorentz equations</i>	70
	B. The Solutions	74
4.6	<i>Covariant solution of the source-free equations</i>	74
4.7	<i>The potentials</i>	77
4.8	<i>The field strengths</i>	83
	C. The Conservation Laws	85
4.9	<i>The Lagrangian and invariance under translations</i>	86
4.10	<i>Invariance under proper homogeneous Lorentz transformations</i>	94
4.11	<i>Gauge invariance</i>	102
4.12	<i>Conformal invariance</i>	104
5	Electromagnetic Radiation	
5.1	<i>Momentum and energy of radiation</i>	106
5.2	<i>Local criterion for radiation</i>	113

5.3	<i>Radiation from uniformly accelerated charges</i>	114
5.4	<i>Synchrotron radiation</i>	121
6	The Charged Particle	
	A. Structure and Kinematics	123
6.1	<i>The Abraham-Lorentz-Poincaré model</i>	123
6.2	<i>Charged particles without structure</i>	127
6.3	<i>The relativistic Lorentz electron</i>	129
	B. Dynamics of a Single Charged Particle	134
6.4	<i>The asymptotic conditions</i>	134
6.5	<i>Deductions for the Maxwell-Lorentz equations and the conservation laws</i>	137
6.6	<i>The equations of motion</i>	145
6.7	<i>Physical meaning of the equations of motion</i>	149
6.8	<i>Existence, uniqueness, and perturbation series of the solutions</i>	153
6.9	<i>The action principle</i>	157
	C. Special Systems	168
6.10	<i>The free particle</i>	168
6.11	<i>Uniform acceleration</i>	169
6.12	<i>The intrinsic orbit geometry</i>	173
6.13	<i>The pulse</i>	176
6.14	<i>The oscillator</i>	179
6.15	<i>Coulomb force problems</i>	182
7	Generalizations	
7.1	<i>Systems of more than one charge particle</i>	188
7.2	<i>Action at a distance</i>	194
7.3	<i>The test charge</i>	196
7.4	<i>Charged particles with structure</i>	197
7.5	<i>Point particles with spin</i>	204
8	The Relations of the Classical Lorentz-Invariant Charged-Particle Theory to Other Levels of Theory	
	A. Classical Theories	209
8.1	<i>The nonrelativistic approximation</i>	209

8.2	<i>The limit to neutral particles</i>	213
8.3	<i>Is the principle of equivalence valid for charged particles?</i>	215
8.4	<i>General relativity</i>	220
	B. Quantum Theories	224
8.5	<i>Nonrelativistic quantum mechanics</i>	224
8.6	<i>Relativistic quantum mechanics</i>	230
8.7	<i>Quantum electrodynamics</i>	238
9	The Theory's Structure and Place in Physics	
9.1	<i>Radiation fields, Coulomb fields and other kinds of electromagnetic fields</i>	241
9.2	<i>Symmetry properties of the theory</i>	244
9.3	<i>The radiation arrow of time</i>	250
9.4	<i>The structure of the theory</i>	250
9.5	<i>The theory in its larger context</i>	251
S	The Physically Correct Dynamics	
S.A	<i>Theory</i>	257
S.B	<i>Applications</i>	260
S.R	<i>Annotated references</i>	263
A1	The Space-Time of Special Relativity	
A1.1	<i>Derivation of the Lorentz transformation</i>	267
A1.2	<i>Lorentz transformations and space rotations</i>	270
A1.3	<i>The Lorentz groups</i>	274
A1.4	<i>Proper time and kinematics</i>	275
A1.5	<i>Spacelike planes</i>	279
A1.6	<i>The light-cone surface element</i>	282
A2	The Space-Time of General Relativity	
A2.1	<i>Generalizing Minkowski space</i>	286
A2.2	<i>The covariant derivative</i>	287
A2.3	<i>Parallelism and curvature tensor</i>	289
A2.4	<i>Geodesics</i>	291
A2.5	<i>Riemann space and Minkowski space</i>	293

Contents

xiii

Author index

299

Subject index

301