

Q2(7): Derivation of the Classical and Relativistic Binet Equations of Orbits.

Consider the Lagrangian equation:

$$\ddot{r} - r\dot{\phi}^2 = -\frac{mG}{r^2} \quad - (1)$$

so the change of variable:

$$u = \frac{1}{r} \quad - (2)$$

it follows that:

$$\frac{du}{d\phi} = -\frac{1}{r^2} \frac{dr}{d\phi} = \frac{du}{dr} \frac{dr}{d\phi} \quad - (3)$$

$$= -\frac{1}{r^2} \frac{dr}{dt} \frac{dt}{d\phi} \quad - (4)$$

By conservation of angular momentum:

$$\frac{d\phi}{dt} = \frac{L}{mr^2} \quad - (5)$$

so

$$\frac{du}{d\phi} = -\frac{m}{L} \dot{r} \quad - (6)$$

and

$$\frac{d^2 u}{d\phi^2} = \frac{d}{d\phi} \left( -\frac{m}{L} \dot{r} \right) = \frac{dt}{d\phi} \frac{d}{dt} \left( -\frac{m}{L} \dot{r} \right) \quad - (7)$$

$$= -\frac{m}{L} \ddot{r}$$

$$\text{So } \ddot{r} = -\frac{L^2}{m^2} u^2 \frac{d^2 u}{d\phi^2} \quad - (8)$$

$$\text{and } r\dot{\phi}^2 = \frac{L^2}{m^2} u^3 \quad - (9)$$

From eqs. (1), (8) and (9):

$$\frac{d^2}{d\phi^2} \left( \frac{1}{r} \right) + \frac{1}{r} = -\frac{m r^2}{L^2} F(r) \quad (10)$$

here

$$F(r) = -\frac{\partial U}{\partial r} = -\frac{mG}{r^2} \quad (11)$$

so

$$\boxed{\frac{d^2}{d\phi^2} \left( \frac{1}{r} \right) + \frac{1}{r} = \frac{1}{\alpha}} \quad (12)$$

This is the classical Binet equation for  $U$  from (11).  
 It is valid for all  $F(r)$  and all orbits. Here

$$\alpha = \frac{L^2}{m^2 m G} \quad (13)$$

of half right  $\frac{m^2 m G}{L^2}$ . By inspection, it is  
 seen that the conic section:

$$r = \frac{\alpha}{1 + \epsilon \cos \phi} \quad (14)$$

The solution of eq. (12).

As shown in note 402(5), the relativistic  
 Binet equation is:

$$\gamma (\ddot{r} - r \dot{\phi}^2) + \dot{r} \frac{d\gamma}{dt} = -\frac{mG}{r^2} \quad (15)$$

$$= F(r) = -\frac{\partial U(r)}{\partial r}$$

Now note that:

$$\frac{d}{dt} (\gamma \dot{r}) = \gamma \ddot{r} + \dot{r} \frac{d\gamma}{dt} \quad (16)$$

So eq. (15) is:

$$\frac{d}{dt} (\gamma \dot{r}) - \gamma r \dot{\phi}^2 = -\frac{m \dot{r}}{r^2} \quad (17)$$

The relativistic angular momentum is conserved:

$$\frac{dL}{dt} = 0 \quad (18)$$

hence

$$L = \gamma m r^2 \dot{\phi} \quad (19)$$

so

$$\frac{d\phi}{dt} = \frac{L}{\gamma m r^2} \quad (20)$$

and

$$\frac{du}{d\phi} = -\frac{1}{r^2} \frac{dr}{dt} \frac{dt}{d\phi} = -\frac{\gamma m}{L} r \dot{r} \quad (21)$$

it follows that:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d^2 u}{d\phi^2} &= \frac{d}{d\phi} \left( -\frac{\gamma m}{L} \dot{r} \right) = -\frac{m}{L} \frac{dt}{d\phi} \frac{d}{dt} (\gamma \dot{r}) \\ &= -\frac{\gamma m^2 r^2}{L^2} \frac{d}{dt} (\gamma \dot{r}) \quad (22) \end{aligned}$$

So

$$\frac{d}{dt} (\gamma \dot{r}) = -\frac{L^2}{\gamma m^2 r^2} \frac{d^2 u}{d\phi^2} \quad (23)$$

and

$$\gamma r \dot{\phi}^2 = -\frac{L^2}{\gamma m^2 r^3} \quad (24)$$

From eqs. (17), (23) and (24):

$$\boxed{\frac{d^2}{d\phi^2} \left( \frac{1}{r} \right) + \frac{1}{r} = -\frac{\gamma m r^2}{L^2} F(r)} \quad (25)$$

1) This is the relativistic Binet equation of orbits.

For 
$$F(r) = -\frac{mMG}{r^2} \quad - (26)$$

$$\boxed{\frac{d^2}{d\phi^2} \left( \frac{1}{r} \right) + \frac{1}{r} = \frac{\gamma}{\alpha}} \quad - (27)$$

also 
$$\gamma = \left( 1 - \frac{v^2}{c^2} \right)^{-1/2} \quad - (28)$$

and 
$$v^2 = \dot{r}^2 + r^2 \dot{\phi}^2 \quad - (29)$$

Eq. (27) is the same as obtained in previous  
MFT papers, Q.E.D. thus proving overall self-  
consistency.

In general:

$$\dot{r} = -\frac{L}{m\gamma} \frac{d}{d\phi} \left( \frac{1}{r} \right) \quad - (30)$$

and 
$$\dot{\phi} = \frac{L}{\gamma m r^2} \quad - (31)$$

so 
$$v^2 = \frac{L^2}{m^2 \gamma^2} \left( \frac{d}{d\phi} \left( \frac{1}{r} \right) \right)^2 + \frac{L^2}{\gamma^2 m^2 r^2}$$
$$= \frac{L^2}{m^2 \gamma^2} \left( \frac{1}{r^2} + \left( \frac{d}{d\phi} \left( \frac{1}{r} \right) \right)^2 \right) \quad - (32)$$

So:

$$\frac{1}{\gamma^2} = 1 - \frac{v^2}{c^2}$$

$$= 1 - \frac{L^2}{\gamma^2 m^2 c^2} \left( \frac{1}{r^2} + \left( \frac{d}{d\phi} \left( \frac{1}{r} \right) \right)^2 \right) \quad (33)$$

So:

$$\frac{1}{\gamma^2} \left( 1 + \frac{L^2}{m^2 c^2} \left( \frac{1}{r^2} + \left( \frac{d}{d\phi} \left( \frac{1}{r} \right) \right)^2 \right) \right) = 1 \quad (34)$$

∴

$$\gamma^2 = 1 + \frac{L^2}{m^2 c^2} \left( \frac{1}{r^2} + \left( \frac{d}{d\phi} \left( \frac{1}{r} \right) \right)^2 \right) \quad (35)$$

From eqs. (27) and (35):

$$\frac{d^2}{d\phi^2} \left( \frac{1}{r} \right) + \frac{1}{r} = \frac{1}{d} \left( 1 + \frac{L^2}{m^2 c^2} \left( \frac{1}{r^2} + \left( \frac{d}{d\phi} \left( \frac{1}{r} \right) \right)^2 \right) \right)^{1/2} \quad (36)$$

Eq. (36) is the precise equation of  $\phi$  orbit, and is derived in  $\phi$ , note for the first time.

If the orbital velocity  $v$  is observable then the orbit is given by:

$$v^2 = \frac{L^2 \left( \frac{1}{r^2} + \left( \frac{d}{d\phi} \left( \frac{1}{r} \right) \right)^2 \right)}{m^2} \quad (37)$$

$$\frac{L^2 \left( \frac{1}{r^2} + \left( \frac{d}{d\phi} \left( \frac{1}{r} \right) \right)^2 \right)}{m^2 \left( 1 + \frac{L^2}{m^2 c^2} \left( \frac{1}{r^2} + \left( \frac{d}{d\phi} \left( \frac{1}{r} \right) \right)^2 \right) \right)}$$

Eq. (36) can be written as:

$$\frac{d^2}{d\phi^2} \left( \frac{1}{r} \right) + \frac{1}{r} = \frac{1}{d} (1+x)^{1/3} \quad - (38)$$

where

$$x = \frac{L^2}{2m^2 c^2} \left( \frac{1}{r^2} + \left( \frac{d}{d\phi} \left( \frac{1}{r} \right) \right)^2 \right) \quad - (39)$$

If

$$x \ll 1 \quad - (40)$$

then:

$$\frac{d^2}{d\phi^2} \left( \frac{1}{r} \right) + \frac{1}{r} = \frac{1}{d} \left( 1 + \frac{x}{2} + \dots \right) \quad - (41)$$

so to an excellent approximation for planetary orbits:

$$\frac{d^2}{d\phi^2} \left( \frac{1}{r} \right) + \frac{1}{r} = \frac{1}{d} \left( 1 + \frac{L^2}{2m^2 c^2} \left( \frac{1}{r^2} + \left( \frac{d}{d\phi} \left( \frac{1}{r} \right) \right)^2 \right) \right) \quad - (42)$$

This is a second order non-linear differential equation, which can be compared with the result in 4FT401, but it is shown that retrograde or forward precession depends on the sign of the spin connection.