

Here is the derivation of Lorentz force using the Hamiltonian formalism (following DT's example 2 in section 4.1.3). Start with the Lagrangian that we used before, i.e., in terms of scalar ( $\phi$ ) and vector ( $\mathbf{A}$ ) potentials

$$L = \frac{1}{2}m|\dot{\mathbf{r}}|^2 - e(\phi - \dot{\mathbf{r}} \cdot \mathbf{A}) \quad (1)$$

so that momentum conjugate to the position is given by

$$\mathbf{p} = \frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{\mathbf{r}}} = m\dot{\mathbf{r}} + e\mathbf{A} \quad (2)$$

inverting which gives

$$\dot{\mathbf{r}} = \frac{1}{m}(\mathbf{p} - e\mathbf{A}) \quad (3)$$

Note that conjugate momentum is *not* entirely the mechanical momentum, which would be just  $m\dot{\mathbf{r}}$ . So, Hamiltonian is obtained as

$$\begin{aligned} H() &= \mathbf{p} \cdot \dot{\mathbf{r}} - L \\ &= \frac{1}{m}\mathbf{p} \cdot (\mathbf{p} - e\mathbf{A}) - \left[ \frac{1}{2m}(\mathbf{p} - e\mathbf{A})^2 - e\phi + \frac{e}{m}(\mathbf{p} - e\mathbf{A}) \cdot \mathbf{A} \right] \\ &= \frac{1}{2m}(\mathbf{p} - e\mathbf{A})^2 + e\phi \end{aligned} \quad (4)$$

(Note that both the potentials could have explicit time-dependence; in addition, they depend on position of the charged particle, which itself is changing with time.) This gives Hamilton's equations:

$$\dot{\mathbf{r}} = \frac{\partial H}{\partial \mathbf{p}} = \frac{1}{m}(\mathbf{p} - e\mathbf{A}) \quad (5)$$

and (in component form)

$$\dot{p}_x = -\frac{\partial H}{\partial x} = -e\frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x} + \frac{e}{m}(p_x - eA_x)\frac{\partial A_i}{\partial x} \quad (6)$$

where in the last term  $i$  is summed over  $x$ ,  $y$  and  $z$ . Using Eq. (5) in last term of Eq. (6), we get

$$\dot{p}_x = -e\frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x} + ev_x\frac{\partial A_i}{\partial x} \quad (7)$$

where  $v_i$ 's are components of the *velocity* of the particle, i.e.,  $\dot{\mathbf{r}}$ . We can take another time derivative of LHS of Eq. (5) to give the force:

$$\mathbf{F} = m\ddot{\mathbf{r}} = \dot{\mathbf{p}} - e\frac{d\mathbf{A}}{dt} \quad (8)$$

Now, in component form

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{dA_x(\mathbf{r}, t)}{dt} &= \frac{\partial A_x}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial A_x}{\partial x} \frac{dx}{dt} + \frac{\partial A_x}{\partial y} \frac{dy}{dt} + \frac{\partial A_x}{\partial z} \frac{dz}{dt} \\ &= \frac{\partial A_x}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial A_x}{\partial x} v_x + \frac{\partial A_x}{\partial y} v_y + \frac{\partial A_x}{\partial z} v_z\end{aligned}\quad (9)$$

Plugging Eqs. (7) and (9) into  $x$ -component of RHS of Eq. (8), and collecting/cancelling terms, gives

$$\begin{aligned}F_x &= -e \left( \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial A_x}{\partial t} \right) + e \left[ v_y \left( \frac{\partial A_y}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial A_x}{\partial y} \right) + v_z \left( \frac{\partial A_z}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial A_x}{\partial z} \right) \right] \\ &= eE_x + e \left[ v_y (\nabla \times \mathbf{A})_z - v_z (\nabla \times \mathbf{A})_y \right]\end{aligned}\quad (10)$$

$$= eE_x + e(v_y B_z - v_z B_y)\quad (11)$$

$$= eE_x + e(\mathbf{v} \times \mathbf{B})_x\quad (12)$$

where we used  $\mathbf{E} = -\nabla\phi$  in getting to the 1st term in Eq. (10) and  $\mathbf{B} = \nabla \times \mathbf{A}$  in last 2 terms in Eq. (11), ending up with the usual formula for the ( $x$ -component of the) Lorentz force acting on a charged particle moving in electric and magnetic fields.