TFY4345 Classical Mechanics. Department of Physics, NTNU.

SOLUTION ASSIGNMENT 12

Question 1

Angular momentum:

$$L = r \times p$$

Consider first $[p_i, L_j]$ and start with i = j, e.g., i = 1 (see p 147 in notater97.pdf):

$$[p_x, L_x] = [p_x, yp_z - zp_y]$$

= $[p_x, y]p_z + [p_x, p_z]y - [p_x, z]p_y - [p_x, p_y]z$

We have

$$[p_i, x_j] = -\delta_{ij} \quad , \quad [p_i, p_j] = 0$$

and therefore

$$[p_x, L_x] = 0$$

Correspondingly:

$$[p_u, L_u] = [p_z, L_z] = 0$$

Next, consider $[p_i, L_j]$ with $i \neq j$, e.g., i = 1 og j = 2:

$$[p_x, L_y] = [p_x, zp_x - xp_z]$$

$$= [p_x, z]p_x + [p_x, p_x]z - [p_x, x]p_z - [p_x, p_z]x$$

$$= 0 + 0 - (-1)p_z - 0$$

$$= p_z$$

Cyclic change of x, y, z then gives

$$[p_y, L_z] = p_x \quad , \quad [p_z, L_y] = p_z$$

Interchanging indices only gives a change of sign, e.g.,

$$[p_z, L_y] = -p_x$$

In total,

$$[p_i, L_j] = \varepsilon_{ijk} p_k$$

With $L_j = \varepsilon_{jkl} x_k p_l$ this is obtained more directly:

$$[p_i, L_j] = [p_i, \varepsilon_{jkl} x_k p_l]$$

$$= [p_i, x_k] \varepsilon_{jkl} p_l$$

$$= -\delta_{ik} \varepsilon_{jkl} p_l$$

$$= -\varepsilon_{jil} p_l$$

$$= \varepsilon_{ijl} p_l$$

And now I guess we may handle $[x_i, L_j]$ the same way:

$$[x_i, L_j] = [x_i, \varepsilon_{jkl} x_k p_l]$$

$$= [x_i, p_l] \varepsilon_{jkl} x_k$$

$$= \delta_{il} \varepsilon_{jkl} x_k$$

$$= \varepsilon_{jki} x_k$$

$$= \varepsilon_{ijk} x_k$$

Question 2

Hand written solution in Norwegian on next page.