Positive and negative effective mass of classical particles in oscillatory and static fields

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A classical particle oscillating in an arbitrary high-frequency or static field effectively exhibits a modified rest mass $m_{\text{eff}}$ derived from the particle averaged Lagrangian. Relativistic ponderomotive and diamagnetic forces, as well as magnetic drifts, are obtained from the $m_{\text{eff}}$ dependence on the guiding center location and velocity. The effective mass is not necessarily positive and can result in backward acceleration when an additional perturbation force is applied. As an example, adiabatic dynamics with $m_\parallel > 0$ and $m_\perp < 0$ is demonstrated for a wave-driven particle along a dc magnetic field, $m_\perp$ being the effective longitudinal mass derived from $m_{\text{eff}}$. Multiple energy states are realized in this case, yielding up to three branches of $m_{\text{eff}}$ for a given magnetic moment and parallel velocity.

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I. INTRODUCTION

A large number of problems connected with multiscale adiabatic dynamics of classical particles in oscillatory and static fields enjoy critical simplification within the guiding-center approach, which allows separating fast oscillatory motion of the particles from their slow translational motion. Often, the average forces on a particle are then written in terms of effective potentials $\Psi$, such as ponderomotive, diamagnetic, or others. Yet the applicability of the potential approximation is limited to, at most, nonrelativistic interactions, another drawback being the unphysical difference in fictitious fields $-\nabla \Psi$ seen by different species.

The purpose of this paper is to offer an alternative approach that allows embedding the average forces into the guiding center properties, through redefining the particle rest mass $m_{\text{eff}}$. The average acceleration is then attributed to the effective mass variations, which are seen by different species.

The guiding center approach, which allows separating fast oscillations superimposed on the average motion. In the oscillatory and static fields, if any. In Sec. III, we explore the average mass formalism to the particle motion in a static magnetic field and derive both the particle Hamiltonian and the magnetic drifts. In Sec. IV, we explore the average motion of a laser-driven particle in a static magnetic field and demonstrate the possibility for adiabatic dynamics at negative $m_{\text{eff}}$ and $m_{\text{eff}}$. In Sec. V, we summarize our main ideas. Supplementary calculations are given in Appendixes: In Appendix A, we obtain the general form of the guiding-center Hamiltonian employed in Sec. I. In Appendix B, we show how the effective mass formalism allows derivation of ponderomotive forces in various cases of interest.

II. EFFECTIVE MASS

Consider a particle undergoing arbitrary quasi-periodic oscillations superimposed on the average motion. In the adiabatic regime, one can map out the quiver dynamics by changing variables, hence the guiding center is treated as a “dressed”, or quasi-particle. Suppose, for now, that the background fields causing the oscillations do not vary along the trajectory. Then the associated field tensor $F_{\mu\nu}'$ will not enter the averaged equations as a force. However, it will affect the motion such that, in response to additional perturbation fields $\tilde{F}_{\mu\nu}$, the guiding center will react as if it had a modified mass.

The effect is shown as follows. At zero $\tilde{F}_{\mu\nu}$, the average dynamics is determined only by the field tensor $F_{\mu\nu}'$ seen by the particle in the guiding-center rest frame $K'$, further denoted by prime. The action increment $dS = \mathcal{L} dt$ in the laboratory frame $K$ is then written as

$$dS(A_\mu, \nabla) = dS'(F_{\mu\nu}') + d\mathcal{G},$$  \(1\)
where $A_{\mu}$ is the four-potential such that $F_{\mu\nu} = \partial_{\mu}A_{\nu} - \partial_{\nu}A_{\mu}$, $\vec{v} = (\langle \ldots \rangle)$ denotes the time-average, and $d\mathcal{G}$ depends on the selected gauge. Use $dt = \tilde{\gamma} dt'$, where $dt'$ is the time interval in $K'$, $\tilde{\gamma} = (1 - \tilde{v}^2/c^2)^{-1/2}$, and $c$ is the speed of light. Then the guiding center Lagrangian reads

$$\mathcal{L} = \mathcal{L}'/\tilde{\gamma} + \tilde{\mathcal{G}},$$

where $\mathcal{L}' = d\mathcal{S}'/dt'$. Omitting an insignificant full time derivative, one can rewrite Eq. (2) as 

$$\mathcal{L} = -m_{\text{eff}}c^2\sqrt{1 - \tilde{v}^2/c^2}. \tag{3}$$

Hence $\mathcal{L}$ is formally equivalent to the Lagrangian of a free particle with an effective mass

$$m_{\text{eff}} = -\mathcal{L}'/c^2 \tag{4}$$

that is, by definition, both gauge- and Lorentz-invariant.

By definition, $\mathcal{L}' = \mathcal{L}'(F'_{\mu\nu})$, where $F'_{\mu\nu}$ can be written in terms of $A'_{\mu}$; thus

$$m_{\text{eff}} = -\mathcal{L}'/c^2 \tag{5}$$

for any $\vec{v}$. Consider $\vec{v} \to 0$; in this case, $A_{\mu} \to A'_{\mu}$, so

$$\mathcal{L}'(F'_{\mu\nu}) = \left[\mathcal{L}'_{A'_{\mu}} - (\partial G_{A'}/\partial t)\right]_{\vec{v}=0}, \tag{6}$$

where we removed the subindex “$A'_{\mu}$” in the left-hand side, as $\mathcal{L}'$ is gauge-invariant.

In the absence of oscillations, $\mathcal{L}'$ must equal $-mc^2$, where $m$ is the true mass; therefore,

$$\mathcal{L}' = -mc^2 + \mathcal{L}'_{A'_{\mu}}(\vec{v} = 0) - \mathcal{L}'_{A'_{\mu}}(v = 0). \tag{7}$$

For clarity, we assume below that $L(v = 0) = -mc^2$. Then, using Eq. (6), one can write $m_{\text{eff}}$ as

$$m_{\text{eff}} = \frac{1}{c^2} \left[ \mathcal{J} \cdot \mathcal{J} - \langle L \rangle \right]_{\vec{v}=0}, \tag{8}$$

where the right-hand side is to be evaluated in $K'$ (here the index “$\vec{v} = 0$”); $\mathcal{J}$ are the actions and $\nu$ are the frequencies of oscillations in canonical angles, if any, to average over (Appendix A). Therefore, apart from the latter, $m_{\text{eff}}$ is proportional to the gauge-independent part of the averaged Lagrangian in the guiding-center rest frame \[8].

Since $\mathcal{L}'$ is calculated in $K'(\vec{v})$, $m_{\text{eff}}$ is generally a function of the velocity $\vec{v}$. When $F'_{\mu\nu}$ is slowly varies with the guiding center coordinate $\vec{r}$ or time $t$, $m_{\text{eff}}$ may similarly depend on those as well, so Eq. (3) will automatically yield the average forces [Eq. (A8)].

Suppose now that a particle interacts with a perturbation field $F_{\mu\nu}$ governed by $A_{\mu} = (\vec{A}, \tilde{\phi})$, which is imposed over $F'_{\mu\nu}$ [16, 24, 32]. In the adiabatic regime, the orbit is not altered on the oscillation time scale; thus,

$$\mathcal{L} = -m_{\text{eff}}c^2\sqrt{1 - \tilde{v}^2/c^2} + \frac{e}{c} \left( \vec{v} \cdot \vec{A} \right) - e\tilde{\phi} \tag{9}$$

($e$ being the particle charge), and a nonelectromagnetic potential can be added similarly. Then, the canonical momentum equals $\vec{P} = \vec{p} + (e/c)\vec{A}$, and the kinetic momentum $\vec{p}$ is given by

$$\vec{p} = \gamma m_{\text{eff}}\vec{v} - \frac{e}{\gamma} \frac{\partial m_{\text{eff}}}{\partial \vec{v}}. \tag{10}$$

Correspondingly, the Hamiltonian $\mathcal{H} = \vec{P} \cdot \vec{v} - \mathcal{L}$ reads

$$\mathcal{H} = \gamma m_{\text{eff}}c^2 - \frac{e^2}{\gamma} \left( \vec{v} \cdot \frac{\partial m_{\text{eff}}}{\partial \vec{v}} \right) + e\tilde{\phi}, \tag{11}$$

and $\mathcal{E} = \mathcal{H}(\vec{r}, \vec{P}, t)$ is conserved when $\mathcal{H}$ is independent of time. Thus, $m_{\text{eff}}$ can be viewed also as the normalized quasi-energy of an unperturbed ($F'_{\mu\nu} = 0$) particle in the guiding-center rest frame, $m_{\text{eff}} = \mathcal{E}'/c^2$.

### III. STATIC MAGNETIC FIELD

Let us demonstrate how the effective mass formalism applies to the problem of particle motion in a dc magnetic field $\vec{B} = \nabla \times \vec{A}$, where

$$L = -\frac{mc^2}{\gamma} + \frac{e}{c} (\vec{v} \cdot \vec{A}), \tag{12}$$

and $\gamma = (1 - \tilde{v}^2/c^2)^{-1/2}$. Assuming a smooth $\vec{B}$, the motion can be averaged over Larmor oscillations at frequency $\Omega = eB/mc\gamma$, so the guiding center dynamics that remains is one-dimensional, and the associated action $J = (mc/e)\mu$ is conserved [13], where $\mu = p_{\perp}^2/2Bm$ is the magnetic moment, and $p_{\perp} = \gamma m_{\text{eff}}v_{\perp}$ is the relativistic kinetic momentum transverse to $\vec{B}$. Thus, the effective mass reads $m_{\text{eff}} = [\mu B/\gamma' - \langle L' \rangle]/c^2$, where the prime denotes the guiding-center rest frame $K'$; $\mu$ and $B$ are Lorentz invariants, and

$$\gamma' = \sqrt{1 + 2\mu B/mc^2} \tag{13}$$

is constant. Since $\langle L' \rangle = -(mc^2 + \mu B)/\gamma'$, one obtains

$$m_{\text{eff}} = m\sqrt{1 + 2\mu B/mc^2}, \tag{14}$$

which is a relativistic invariant. The guiding center momentum is then given by $\gamma m_{\text{eff}}\tilde{v} = p_{\|}'$, where we used a Lorentz transformation $\gamma = \gamma'$. Hence the Hamiltonian [11] reads [33, 34]

$$\mathcal{H} = \sqrt{m^2c^4 + 2\mu B mc^2 + p_{\|}'^2c^2} + e\tilde{\phi}, \tag{15}$$

yielding, after omitting an insignificant constant, the well known nonrelativistic limit

$$\mathcal{H} = \frac{1}{2m} p_{\|}'^2 + \mu B + e\tilde{\phi}. \tag{16}$$

A more precise calculation also delivers particle drifts [1, 13, 34]. Allow arbitrary $\tilde{v}_{||}$, yet assume nonrelativistic...
\[ \mathbf{v}_\perp \text{ so as to treat the transverse drift as a perturbation.} \]

Following Ref. \[35\], we write the new guiding center Lagrangian as \[L = L_0 + L_{\text{int}}, \] where \[L_0 = -m_{\text{eff}}c^2/\ddot{\gamma} \] is that for the unperturbed motion, and

\[ L_{\text{int}} = \frac{e}{c}(\ddot{\mathbf{v}} \cdot \mathbf{A}) - e\dot{\varphi} \]

is the interaction Lagrangian small compared to \[L_0. \] For simplicity, assume static fields, so the guiding center quasi-energy \([11]\) is conserved. In this case, we can consider \(\mathbf{v}\) as a function of \(\hat{r}\); hence \(\delta S = 0\) yields

\[ (\mathbf{v} \cdot \nabla) \mathbf{p} = \frac{e}{c} \mathbf{v} \times \mathbf{B} - \frac{e^2}{\gamma} \nabla m_{\text{eff}}, \]

where \(\nabla\) differentiates with respect to \(\hat{r}\) at fixed \(\mathbf{v}\), and \(\nabla \equiv \nabla + \sum_i (\nabla \tilde{E}_i)(\partial/\partial \tilde{E}_i)\) is the full spatial derivative. Eq. \([18]\) is equivalent to

\[ \mathbf{v} \times \mathbf{B}^* = 0, \quad \mathbf{B}^* = \mathbf{B} + (c/e) \nabla \times \mathbf{p}, \]

which can as well be put in the form

\[ \mathbf{v} = \tilde{v}_i \mathbf{B} + (c/e) \nabla \times (p_i \hat{b}) B + (c/e)p_i \hat{b} \cdot (\nabla \times \mathbf{B}), \]

where \(\hat{b} = \mathbf{B}/B\), and \(\mathbf{p} \approx p_i \hat{b}\). This generalizes a similar analysis, which was proposed in Ref. \([35]\) for \(v \ll c\), to any \(v\), such that \(\tilde{v}_i \ll c\).

Eqs. \([19], [20]\) yield the known expressions of the traditional drift approximation \([4, 33, 36, 37, 38, 39]\). However, they also allow for an arbitrary \(m_{\text{eff}}\), not necessarily that given by Eq. \([14]\); thus additional strong fields, if any, are as well embedded here. Derivation of time-dependent and fully relativistic magnetic drifts \([10, 41]\) using the effective mass formalism should be possible, too, but remains out of the scope of the present paper.

### IV. RELATIVISTIC WAVE FIELD OVER A STATIC MAGNETIC FIELD

The unified effective mass formulation readily yields the ponderomotive forces previously derived from other considerations (Appendix \([3]\)). In this section, we contemplate another example of particle ponderomotive dynamics, which exhibits unusual properties that, to our knowledge, have not been covered in literature.

#### A. Basic equations

Consider a relativistic particle in a wave propagating along a static magnetic field \([42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50]\). Assume a smooth magnetic field \(\mathbf{B} = \nabla \times \mathbf{A}_{\text{dc}}\), approximately in the \(\hat{z}\) direction; then the vector potential \(\mathbf{A}_{\text{dc}}\) can be considered a linear function of the particle displacement from the guiding center location:

\[ \mathbf{A}_{\text{dc}} = \frac{1}{2} B(z)(\hat{z} \times \mathbf{r}_\perp). \]

For simplicity, we will also assume a vacuum electromagnetic wave with circular polarization in the plane transverse to \(\mathbf{B}\), so the corresponding vector potential reads

\[ \mathbf{A}_w = \left( \frac{mc^2}{e} \right) \frac{a_0}{\sqrt{2}} (\mathbf{\hat{x}} \cos \xi - \mathbf{\hat{y}} \sin \xi), \]

where the invariant \(a_0 = \epsilon E_0/mc\omega\) is allowed to slowly vary in space and time, \(E_0\) is the amplitude of the electric field \(\mathbf{E} = -(1/e)(\partial \mathbf{A}_w/\partial t)\), and \(\xi = \omega t - kz\) is the phase, with \(k = \omega/c\). In this case, the particle motion is fully integrable, and the problem can be solved analytically.

According to Sec. \([11]\) we calculate \(m_{\text{eff}}\) for uniform fields, using Eq. \([12]\) with \(\mathbf{A} = \mathbf{A}_{\text{dc}} + \mathbf{A}_w\). The effective mass is determined by the averaged Lagrangian in the guiding-center rest frame \(K'\) (further denoted by prime), which is found as follows. Since \(\mathbf{A}\) depends on \(z\) and \(t\) only via \(\xi(z, t)\), there exists an integral

\[ u = \gamma - p_z/m_c, \]

yielding that the following equality holds for any \(f_\xi\):

\[ \langle f \rangle = \langle f \rangle_\xi \langle \gamma \rangle_\xi. \]

(The subindex \(\xi\) denotes that the averaging is performed over the phase rather than time.) Take \(f = L'\); then

\[ \langle L' \rangle = -\frac{1}{\langle \gamma \rangle_\xi} \left( mc^2 - \frac{e}{mc} \langle p' \cdot \mathbf{A}' \rangle_\xi \right). \]

With \(f = \mathbf{v}\), Eq. \([21]\) also yields

\[ \mathbf{v} = \langle \mathbf{p} \rangle_\xi/m \langle \gamma \rangle_\xi, \quad \langle \mathbf{p}' \rangle_\xi = 0, \quad \langle \gamma \rangle_\xi = u'. \]

Given that the average motion is solely in the \(\hat{z}\) direction, \(K'\) is now defined as the frame where \(\langle p'_z \rangle_\xi = 0\).

Hence the particle motion can be written as follows:

\begin{align*}
  x &= x_0 + R \cos \theta - \frac{a_0}{ku \sqrt{2}} \frac{\sin \xi}{(1 - \sigma)}, \\
  y &= y_0 - R \sin \theta - \frac{a_0}{ku \sqrt{2}} \frac{\cos \xi}{(1 - \sigma)}, \\
  z &= z_0 + \frac{\rho_0 \xi}{ku} + \frac{R a_0}{u \sqrt{2}} \frac{\sigma \cos(\xi - \theta)}{(1 - \sigma)^2}, \\
  p_x &= -P \sin \theta - \frac{mc a_0}{\sqrt{2}} \frac{\cos \xi}{(1 - \sigma)}, \\
  p_y &= -P \cos \theta - \frac{mc a_0}{\sqrt{2}} \frac{\sin \xi}{(1 - \sigma)}, \\
  p_z &= m_c p_0 - \frac{P a_0}{u \sqrt{2}} \frac{\sin(\xi - \theta)}{(1 - \sigma)}. \quad (27a-f)
\end{align*}

Here \(\rho_0 = u \bar{v}/(c - \bar{v})\) is the normalized phase-averaged momentum; \(R \equiv P/m_0 a_0\), \(P\), and \(\theta = \sigma \xi + \theta_0\) denote the gyroradius, the transverse momentum, and the phase of the free gyromotion superimposed on the wave-induced oscillations, \(\sigma\) being a Lorentz invariant:

\[ \sigma = \frac{\Omega_0}{\omega u} = \frac{\Omega_0}{\omega - k u}. \]
μ = 2P^2 / 2Bm is the invariant action of this gyromotion conserved under adiabatic perturbations [cf. Eq. (36)]; x0, y0, z0, v, P, θ0 are determined by initial conditions.

To find u, substitute γ = u + ρ into γ^2 = 1 + ρ^2 + ρ_z^2, where ρ = p/mc, and average over ξ using ⟨ρ_ξ⟩ = ρ_0:

(u + ρ_0)^2 = 1 + ρ_0^2 + ⟨ρ_z^2⟩_{ξ}. \quad (29)

Then,

u = h \sqrt{1 + s^2 + \frac{a_0^2}{2(1 - σ)^2}}, \quad h = \frac{c - v}{c + v}, \quad (30)

where σ = σ(u), s^2 = 2μB/me^2 is an invariant, and 1/2mc^2a_0^2 equals the zero-B nonrelativistic ponderomotive potential Φ = e^2E_0^2 / 4mω^2 [Eq. (33)].

Combining Eqs. (25)-(30), one gets

m_{eff} = \left[1 + s^2 + \frac{a_0^2(2 - σ)}{4(1 - σ)^2}\right]^{-1/2} \left[1 + s^2 + \frac{a_0^2}{2(1 - σ)^2}\right], \quad (31)

which is a covariant form of m_{eff} for the effective mass is expressed as a function of Lorentz invariants. Eq. (31) yields Eqs. (14)-(20) at a_0 = 0, Eqs. (B13), (B14) at B = 0, Eqs. (B9), (B10) at v/c < 1, and Eqs. (B3)-(B5) at v/c ≈ 1 together with B = 0. From Eq. (31), it also readily follows that m_{eff}(a_0 < 4) > 0; yet m_{eff}(a_0 > 4) < 0 at least for some σ > 1 (Fig. 1). Other properties of m_{eff} are discussed in Sec. IVB and C.

B. Tristability

In the presence of both relativistic effects and nonzero B, the cyclotron resonance is essentially nonlinear and permits multiple energy states at given v and μ. To see this, rewrite Eq. (30) as

U(u) ≡ (u - σ_0)^2 (h^2 u^2 - s^2 - 1) - a_0^2 u^2 = 0, \quad (32)

where σ_0 = Ω_0 / ω, Eq. (32) is a fourth-order algebraic equation; thus it allows up to four values of u, which also can be found analytically [52, §1.8-5]. (Explicit solutions are not shown here because of their complexity.) Since U(0) < 0 and U(±∞) = +∞, two solutions always exist, one of them being unphysical (u_4 < 0). Further consideration of the signs in Eq. (32) shows [52, §1.6-6(c)] that, apart from degenerate cases, there exist either one or three positive roots, u_1 > u_2 > u_3. Therefore, one or three energy states are possible (Fig. 2), allowing for hysteretic effects [53, 54, 55, 56], which also have quantum analogies in solid-state physics [57, 58, 59].

The condition for multiple u_i reads

σ_0 > σ_c ≡ h \left(1 + s^2\right)^{1/3} + (a_0^2 / 2)^{1/3} \right)^{3/2}. \quad (33)

Therefore, assuming that three branches exist for a given s, there must exist the same number of energy states for s = 0. The latter energy states correspond to three equilibria in the momentum space (p_1 cos ψ, p_2 sin ψ, p_z), where ψ = ξ + χ, χ being the gyrophase. Apart from the degenerate case when u_2 approaches u_3, the particle trajectory (27) is a continuous function of the initial conditions for each branch. Thus, assuming negligible dissipation (Sec. IV C), all the three equilibria are stable here (Fig. 3), unlike for a one-dimensional (1D) nonlinear oscillator [60], as well as in contrast to the 3D cyclotron resonance in a quasi-static field [50] or any wave with a parallel refraction index n_o other than unity [61, 62, 63, 64].

The difference from Refs. [53, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65] is understood from the angle-action equations for the transverse oscillations, which now are governed by the Hamiltonian

\[ H = (σ - 1)\tilde{J} - λ \sqrt{3} \cos ψ. \quad (34) \]
Here \( \mathcal{J} = \frac{p_\psi^2}{2\sigma} \) is the action conjugate to the angle \( \psi \), and \( \lambda = a_0/\sqrt{\sigma} \); the effective time is \( \xi, d\xi = (\omega u/\gamma) \; dt \). Since \( \rho_u = (1 - u^2 + 2\sigma/3)/2u \) [Eq. (27)], and \( dr/d\xi = p/m_u\omega \), the particle motion stability in the \((\psi, \lambda, \xi, r, p)\) space is equivalent to that in the 6D phase space \((\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{p})\). (We define \( \psi \) through \( \chi \) being the cylindrical phase in the momentum space rather than that in the coordinate space. In this case, Eq. (34) is exact; otherwise, a similar yet approximate equation follows, in agreement with Refs. [61, 63] for \( n_\perp = 1, n_\parallel = 0 \) and \( v/c < 1 \).)

For given \( \sigma \) and \( \lambda(\sigma) \), only one equilibrium, namely, a center, is allowed on the phase plane \((\psi \mod 2\pi, \mathcal{J})\) and located at \( \mathcal{J} = [\lambda/2(1 - \sigma)]^2, \psi = 0 \) \((\sigma > 1) \) or \( \psi = \pi \) \((\sigma < 1) \). However, as \( \sigma = \sigma(u_i) \), there exist up to three different phase planes, and hence the equal number of center points \((i = 1, 2, 3) \). This situation is different from that, e.g., in Refs. [62, 63], where several equilibria are bound to coexist on a single phase plot: as multiple centers are topologically impossible on a plane without a saddle [65], the intermediate-energy equilibrium is unstable and cannot be observed there. For the topological constraint does not apply in our case, all the three equilibria are now stable and equally realized. This results in unusual particle dynamics, which we discuss in Sec. IV C.

### C. Longitudinal mass

As the three energy states correspond to different effective masses, a guiding center behaves differently depending on which \( m_{\text{eff}} \) is selected; even the sign of the particle acceleration in response to perturbation forces can vary. To see this, rewrite the average motion equation (A8) as

\[
\frac{m_\parallel}{m} \frac{d\bar{v}}{dt} = F_\parallel, \quad (35)
\]

where \( m_\parallel = \partial p/\partial \bar{v}, \) or

\[
m_\parallel = \frac{\partial}{\partial \bar{v}} \left( \bar{\gamma} m_{\text{eff}} \frac{c^2}{\gamma} \frac{\partial m_{\text{eff}}}{\partial \bar{v}} \right), \quad (36)
\]

is the effective longitudinal mass [67, 68],

\[
F_\parallel = -\frac{\partial}{\partial \bar{z}} \left[ \bar{\gamma} m_{\text{eff}} c^2 - \frac{c^2}{\gamma} \left( \bar{v} \frac{\partial m_{\text{eff}}}{\partial \bar{v}} \right) + e\phi \right] - \frac{\partial \bar{p}}{\partial t} \quad (37)
\]

is the perturbation force, and \( \bar{p} = \bar{p}(\bar{z}, \bar{v}, t) \) [Eq. (10)].

A tedious yet straightforward derivation yields

\[
m_\parallel = m \gamma^3 \frac{1}{2} \frac{1 - \sigma}{\Gamma_3}, \quad \Gamma_n = 1 + s^2 + \frac{a_0^2}{2(1 - \sigma)n}, \quad (38)
\]

\( \Gamma_2 \) coinciding with \( u^2 \). In the absence of the laser field \((a_0 = 0)\), Eq. (38) reads \( m_\parallel = m_{\text{eff}} \gamma^3 > 0 \) [Eq. (14)], as one would expect for a particle with \( m_{\text{eff}} \) independent of \( \bar{v} \). Given a nonzero \( a_0 \), one as well has \( m_\parallel > 0 \), because \( \sigma < 1 \) at the first branch, as seen from Fig. 2. It is also seen from Fig. 2 that \( u_3 > (\sigma_0/\sigma_c) u_c \), where \( u_c \equiv u(\sigma_c) \),

\[
u_c = \hbar (1 + s^2)^{1/3} \left[ 1 + s^2 \right]^{1/3} \left[ (a_0^2/2)^{1/3} \right]^{1/2}; \quad (39)
\]

thus \( m_\parallel > 0 \), correspondingly. However, \( u_2 < (\sigma_0/\sigma_c) u_c \), yielding \( m_{\parallel 2} < 0 \) for any \( \bar{v} \) and \( s \) (Fig. 4).

Given the oscillation orbit stability (Sec. IV B), a particle residing at the second branch will exhibit unusual behavior in response to perturbation forces \( F_\parallel \), including gravitational and electrostatic potentials. Unlike a “normal” particle with a positive mass, a particle with \( m_\parallel < 0 \) will accelerate adiabatically in the direction opposite to \( F_\parallel \) (Fig. 5). Alternatively, should the unperturbed particle exhibit bounce oscillations in \( z \) (e.g., due to inhomogeneity of \( E \) or \( B \)), \( F_\parallel \) will shift the equilibrium point in the direction determined by the sign of \( F_\parallel/m_\parallel \), with
FIG. 4: (color online) Longitudinal mass \( m_\parallel \) in units \( m \) vs. \( \sigma_0 \equiv \Omega_0/\omega \) for \( s = 0, \bar{v} = 0 \): (a) weakly relativistic case, \( a_0 = 10^{-2}\sqrt{2} \); (b) strongly relativistic case, \( a_0 = 5\sqrt{2} \). The branches corresponding to \( u_1, u_2, \) and \( u_3 \) are shown in blue, red, and green, respectively; \( m_\parallel (\sigma_0 = 0) = \sqrt{1 + a_0^2/2} \). The horizontal dashed lines mark zero and asymptotes at \( \sigma_0 \to \infty \): \( m_{\parallel 1,2} \to \pm a_0/\sqrt{2}, m_{\parallel 3} \to 1 \). The vertical dashed asymptote also marks the transition between the regimes with single and multiple branches; for conditions see the caption of Fig. 2.

 stable bouncing to persist for either sign of \( m_\parallel \) (Fig. 5). Merely a dissipative instability is possible for \( m_\parallel < 0 \) (e.g., \( m_\parallel \bar{\nu} = -\eta \bar{v} \) yields \( \bar{v} \propto e^{\sigma t/|m_\parallel|} \)); yet it develops on a time scale different from that of the oscillations and, for weak damping, remains insignificant until large \( t \).

Transferring particles between the different mass branches also allows for a current drive effect distinguishable from the traditional wave-induced methods, which rely on wave-induced diffusion to higher kinetic energies [69]. The effect is explained as follows. Stationary fields conserve the particle quasi-energy [11] for a given \( m_\parallel \) branch and therefore do not permit acceleration along a closed loop. However, should \( m_\parallel \) be changed nonadiabatically along the loop, the overall work performed can be nonzero; hence, even curl-

free fields such as those due to electrostatic or ponderomotive potentials will be able to produce a continuous energy gain. Similar effects were previously discussed in Refs. [12, 61, 63, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75]. With the effective-mass formalism, these effects can now be explained within a unified approach.

V. CONCLUSIONS

We showed that a classical particle oscillating in an arbitrary high-frequency or static field effectively exhibits a modified mass \( m_{\text{eff}} \) derived from the particle averaged Lagrangian [Eq. (8)]. We obtained relativistic ponderomotive and diamagnetic forces, as well as magnetic drifts, from the \( m_{\text{eff}} \) dependence on the guiding center location.

FIG. 5: \( z(t) \) for a particle with initial \( \bar{v} = 0, s = 0 \) adiabatically accelerated along a magnetic field by a perturbation force \( F_1 = 10^{-2}mc\omega \); \( \sigma_0 = 8.3, a_0 = 5\sqrt{2} \). The sign of acceleration varies depending on the initial energy state 1-3 corresponding to: (a) \( m_{\parallel 1} > 0 \), (b) \( m_{\parallel 2} < 0 \), (c) \( m_{\parallel 3} > 0 \) (see Fig. 3). Solid is the numerical data; dashed are analytic fits \( z(t) = F_1 t^2/2m_\parallel \), with \( m_\parallel \) given by Eq. (8) and \( z \) and \( t \) are measured in units \( k^{-1} \) and \( \omega^{-1} \), respectively.

FIG. 6: (color online) Phase plots \( z, p_z \) showing bounce oscillations along a magnetic field due to inhomogeneity of \( E \) or \( B \). An additional perturbation force \( F_1 \) shifts the equilibrium point in the direction determined by the sign of \( F_1/m_\parallel \) (not just \( F_1 \)), with stable bouncing to persist for either sign of \( m_\parallel \). (a, b) \( E(z) \) has a minimum at \( z = 0 \); \( B \) is uniform. Bounce oscillations are stable for the branches 1 (Fig. a) and 2 (Fig. b) yet unstable for the branch 3 (particles seek high \( E \); not shown); \( F_1 = 0 \) (black) and \( F_1 = 10^{-2}mc\omega \) (blue). (c, d) \( B(z) \) is uniform. (b) \( B(z) \) has a maximum at \( z = 0 \). Bounce oscillations are stable for the branch 2 (shown) yet unstable for the branches 1 and 3 (particles seek low \( B \); not shown); \( F_1 = 0 \) (black) and \( F_1 = 10^{-2}mc\omega \) (blue). (d) \( B(z) \) has a minimum at \( z = 0 \). Bounce oscillations are stable for the branches 1 (not shown) and 3 (shown) yet unstable for the branch 2 (particles seek high \( B \); not shown); same \( F_1 \) as in Fig. c. All figures: particles are initially at \( (0,1,0) \), \( s = 0 \); \( z \) and \( p_z \) are measured in units \( k^{-1} \) and \( mc \), respectively. At the extrema: \( a_0 \approx 5\sqrt{2} \), and \( \sigma_0 \approx 8.3; m_{\parallel 1,3} > 0, m_{\parallel 2} < 0 \).
and velocity. The effective mass is not necessarily positive and can result in backward acceleration when an additional perturbation force is applied.

As an example, we explored the average motion of a laser-driven particle immersed in a dc magnetic field. Multiple energy states are realized in this case and yield adiabatic dynamics. From other contexts, such negative masses are known to be capable of driving intriguing effects like absolute negative conductivity [76, 77], negative masses are known to be capable of driving interesting effects like absolute negative conductivity [76, 77], negative mass instability [78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86], and related phenomena [87, 88, 89]. Yet the effects that may flow from the variable sign of $m_i$ (or $m_{eff}$) particularly for laser-driven particles in a magnetic field remain to be studied.

VI. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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APPENDIX A: GUIDING CENTER LAGRANGIAN

Consider a dynamical system, which exhibits slow translational motion in some guiding center variables $(\mathbf{Q}, \mathbf{P})$ superimposed on fast oscillations in angle-action variables $(\mathbf{\theta}, \mathbf{J})$. In the adiabatic regime, $\mathbf{J}$ is conserved, so the system action $S$ can be put in the form

$$S = \mathbf{J} \cdot \mathbf{\dot{\theta}} + \int \mathbf{P} \cdot d\mathbf{Q} - \int H dt,$$

where $\Delta \mathbf{\theta}$ is the increment of $\mathbf{\theta}$ along a given trajectory, $H(\mathbf{Q}, \mathbf{P}; \mathbf{J})$ is the Hamiltonian, and $t$ is the time. Suppose that we are only interested in guiding center trajectories, that is, those in the $(\mathbf{Q}, \mathbf{P})$ space. In this case, we can neglect the first term in Eq. (A1), so as to come up with a reduced variational principle $\delta S = 0$, where

$$\dot{S} = \int \left( \mathbf{P} \cdot \dot{\mathbf{Q}} - H \right) dt$$

is the new action to be varied with respect to $\mathbf{Q}$ and $\mathbf{P}$ only (cf., e.g., Ref. [44]).

Using $\dot{S} = \int L dt$, where $L$ is the Lagrangian, Eq. (A2) can be written as [31]

$$\dot{S} = \int \left( L - \mathbf{J} \cdot \mathbf{\dot{\theta}} \right) dt.$$

By definition, the integrand here must be expressed in terms of the guiding center variables only. Hence $\dot{\mathbf{\theta}} = \nu(\mathbf{Q}, \mathbf{P})$ (a parametric dependence on $\mathbf{J}$ is implied hereafter), so $\mathbf{J} \cdot \mathbf{\dot{\theta}} dt$ is not an exact differential, and the first term in Eq. (A3) is transformed as follows. By definition, $L$ is a periodic function of $\mathbf{\theta}$, except that it may contain nonperiodic terms that are full time derivatives. Since omitting the latter does not affect the motion equations, below we assume that $L = L(\mathbf{J}) + L_{\infty}$, where the angle brackets stand for time averaging, $\langle L_{\infty} \rangle = 0$, and $L(\mathbf{J})$ is a function of $(\mathbf{Q}, \mathbf{P})$, or $(\mathbf{Q}, \mathbf{\theta})$ only. On time scales of interest, that is, $\Delta t \gg |v_i - v_j|^{-1} (v_i$ being any of the oscillation frequencies), the oscillatory term in Eq. (A3) vanishes; thus

$$S = \int \left[ \langle L \rangle - \mathbf{J} \cdot \mathbf{\nu} \right] dt.$$  \hspace{1cm} (A4)

We can now introduce a guiding center Lagrangian $\mathcal{L}(\mathbf{Q}, \mathbf{\theta})$ as $S = \int \mathcal{L} dt$. Since the equality

$$\int \mathcal{L} dt = \int \left( \langle L \rangle - \mathbf{J} \cdot \mathbf{\nu} \right) dt$$  \hspace{1cm} (A5)

must hold for any time interval, one has

$$\mathcal{L} = \langle L \rangle - \mathbf{J} \cdot \mathbf{\nu},$$

in agreement with Refs. [91][92]. (For a system exhibiting oscillations on multiple time scales, different $\mathcal{L}$s can be introduced depending on how the time averaging is defined.) One can also show that Eq. (A6) conforms to the requirement of gauge invariance: Replacing $L$ with $L + dG/dt$, where $G(\mathbf{\theta}, \mathbf{Q}, t)$ is an arbitrary function, will result in $\mathcal{L} \rightarrow \mathcal{L} + \Delta \mathcal{L}$, where

$$\Delta \mathcal{L} = \mathbf{\nu} \cdot \langle \partial G/\partial \mathbf{\theta} \rangle + \mathbf{\hat{Q}} \cdot \partial G/\partial \mathbf{Q} + \partial G/\partial t, \hspace{1cm} (A7)$$

and $\hat{G}(\mathbf{Q}, t) = \langle G(\mathbf{\theta}, \mathbf{Q}, t) \rangle$. The first term is equal to zero due to $G$ being periodic in $\mathbf{\theta}$. Thus, one has $\Delta \mathcal{L} = dG/dt$, i.e., $\Delta \mathcal{L}$ is, too, a full time derivative, and therefore does not affect the average motion equations

$$\frac{d}{dt} \left( \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \mathbf{Q}} \right) = \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \mathbf{Q}}.$$  \hspace{1cm} (A8)

For $L$ being a periodic function of $t$ (rather than, or in addition to, $\mathbf{\theta}$), the above procedure would map out the time variable, thus yielding an analogue of the Maupertuis principle [31][44]. However, should $t$ be kept (unlike $\mathbf{\theta}$) as the independent variable, the derivation of the guiding center Lagrangian is modified as follows. Consider the fast time $t$ and the slow time $t$ separately. Then we obtain an extended system having the action

$$\dot{\mathcal{S}} = \mathbf{J} \cdot \mathbf{\dot{\theta}} - \hat{H} \Delta \tilde{t} + \int \mathbf{P} \cdot d\mathbf{Q} - \int \hat{H} dt,$$

where the formally introduced momentum $-\hat{H}$ conjugate to $t$ is to remain constant in the adiabatic regime. The super-Hamiltonian $\hat{H}$ must generate the same canonical
equations as those of the original system; it must also provide that \(dt/d\phi = 1\), as follows from the definition of \(\dot{\phi}\). These conditions are satisfied if one takes \(\dot{H} = H + \dot{H}\), so the super-Lagrangian

\[
\dot{L} = \mathbf{p} \cdot \dot{\mathbf{q}} + J \cdot \dot{\mathbf{q}} - H \dot{H} - \dot{H}
\]

(A10)
equals \(L\). Then the guiding center Lagrangian reads

\[
\dot{L} = \langle L \rangle - J \cdot \nu + \dot{H},
\]

(A11)
which is equivalent to Eq. (A6), since constant \(\dot{H}\) can be omitted.

Results similar to those in this Appendix were obtained earlier for particle motion in a dc magnetic field [9, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29], oscillations in nonrelativistic high-frequency waves [8, 93], and laser-driven relativistic electron dynamics in vacuum [16, 24, 25]. In the main text, we make use of the general form of the theorem (A6), which contains the earlier results as particular cases. This generality allows us to formulate a fundamental concept of the effective mass for an oscillating particle without making preliminary assumptions on the nature of the oscillations.

APPENDIX B: PONDEROMOTIVE FORCES

1. Nonrelativistic wave fields

Let us apply the effective mass formalism to derive ponderomotive forces, starting with those in the nonrelativistic regime [7, 10, 11, 12, 24, 29]. Consider a particle oscillating in a high-frequency wave \(E = -\nabla \phi\), where

\[
\phi = \phi_0(r, t) \cos(\omega t - k \cdot r).
\]

(B1)
We will assume that \(kv \ll \omega\); we will also assume that the envelope \(\phi_0(r, t)\) varies little on the time scale \(\omega^{-1}\) and has a spatial scale \(\ell\) large compared to the amplitude of the particle oscillations (\(\ell \gg eE/m\omega^2\)) and the guiding center displacement on the oscillation period (\(\ell \gg \bar{v}/\omega\)) [7]. Then \(L' = -mc^2 + \langle L_{osc} \rangle\), where

\[
L_{osc} \approx \frac{me^2}{2} - e \mathbf{r}_{osc} \cdot \mathbf{E}(\mathbf{r}, t)
\]

(B2)
is obtained using \(\phi(r) \approx \phi(\mathbf{r}) - \mathbf{r}_{osc} \cdot \mathbf{E}\), with the quiver displacement \(\mathbf{r}_{osc} = -eE/m\omega^2\), and the Doppler-shifted frequency \(\omega' = \omega - k \cdot \bar{v}\). Then \(\langle L_{osc} \rangle = -\Phi\), where

\[
\Phi = \frac{e^2E_0^2}{4m(\omega - k \cdot \bar{v})^2}
\]

(B3)
is known as the ponderomotive potential [7, 10, 11, 12, 24], \(E_0\) being the field amplitude; thus

\[
m_{eff} = m + \frac{\Phi}{c^2}.
\]

(B4)
Omitting an insignificant constant, the guiding-center Lagrangian reads \(L = \frac{1}{2} m_{eff} \dot{r}^2 - \Phi\). Hence, the Hamiltonian takes the well-known form

\[
\mathcal{H} = \frac{1}{2m_{eff}} \dot{r}^2 + \Phi,
\]

(B5)
\(\Phi\) playing a role of an effective potential, as expected.

Suppose now that, under the same conditions, an additional dc magnetic field \(B\) is imposed. Assuming that \(B\) is smooth, one has \(L' = -mc^2 - \mu B + \langle L_{osc} \rangle\), where

\[
\mu = \frac{m}{2B} (\mathbf{v} - \mathbf{v}_{osc})^2
\]

(B6)
is the new adiabatic invariant proportional to the action of the particle Larmor rotation at frequency \(\Omega_0 = eB/mc\), \(v_{osc}\) is the induced oscillatory velocity proportional to \(E\) [11, 93, 94], and \(\langle L_{osc} \rangle\) is proportional to \(E^2\). Suppose \(\mathbf{B} \approx \mathbf{B}(z)\) [Eq. (21)] and take

\[
E = \mathbf{Re} \left( E_0^{(1)} \hat{T}_0^{(+)} + E_0^{(2)} \hat{T}_0^{(-)} + E_0^{(3)} \hat{T}_0^{(\perp)} \right) e^{-i\omega t + ikz},
\]

(B7)
where \(E_0^{(j)}\) are smooth envelopes, and \(\hat{T}_0^{(j)}\) are unit vectors denoting polarization circular in the plane transverse to the dc magnetic field and that parallel to \(\mathbf{B}\):

\[
\hat{T}_0^{(\pm)} = (\hat{x} \pm i\hat{y})/\sqrt{2}, \quad \hat{T}_0^{(\perp)} = \hat{z}.
\]

(B8)
In this case, \(\langle L_{osc} \rangle = -\Phi_B\) [99], where

\[
\Phi_B = \frac{e^2}{4m\omega^2} \left\{ \frac{|E_0^{(1)}|^2}{1 + \Omega_0/\omega'} + \frac{|E_0^{(2)}|^2}{1 - \Omega_0/\omega'} + |E_0^{(3)}|^2 \right\}
\]

(B9)
matches the known ponderomotive potential in a dc magnetic field [10, 11]. Thus, \(m_{eff} = m + (\mu B + \Phi_B)/c^2\), and

\[
\mathcal{H} = \frac{1}{2m_{eff}} \dot{r}^2 + \mu B + \mathbf{P}^2_{\perp},
\]

(B10)
in agreement with the earlier results [93].

2. Relativistic laser wave in vacuum

Now consider relativistic electron motion in a vacuum laser field \(\mathbf{A} = A_0(r, t) \cos \xi\) of arbitrary polarization, assuming that the vector-potential envelope \(A_0(r, t)\) has a scale large compared to the wavelength, \(\xi = \omega(t - r/c)\) is the phase, and \(\mathbf{u} = k/k\) is a unit vector, say, in the \(\mathbf{z}\) direction. Using Eqs. 23-26 and conservation of the transverse canonical momentum \(p_{\perp} = -(e/c)A'\), one has

\[
L' = -mc^2 \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 + (a')^2}} \mathcal{H}(\gamma'),
\]

(B11)
where \(a' = eA'/mc^2\), and \(a'^2\) is an invariant. Using Eq. 29, one also has, without solving the motion equations, that

\[
\frac{\langle \gamma' \rangle}{\xi} = \sqrt{1 + (p_{\perp}^2)/mc^2} = \sqrt{1 + (a'^2)\xi},
\]

(B12)
and \(L' = -mc^2 \langle \gamma' \rangle\). Thus, \(m_{eff}\) equals [16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29]

\[
m_{eff} = m \sqrt{1 + (a'^2)\xi},
\]

(B13)
which is a Lorentz invariant independent of $\bar{v}$. Correspondingly, the guiding center momentum reads $\bar{p} = \gamma m_{\text{eff}} \bar{v}$, and the well known Hamiltonian is given by

$$\mathcal{H} = \sqrt{m_{\text{eff}}^2 c^4 + \bar{p}^2 c^2}, \quad (B14)$$

the ponderomotive force resulting from the $m_{\text{eff}}$ dependence on $r$ and, possibly, slow dependence on $t$.

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