

More generally

Since x_μ^2 is Lorentz invariant scalar,

$$x_\mu'^2 = a_{\mu\nu}(L) a_{\mu\lambda}(L) x_\nu x_\lambda = x_\lambda^2$$

$$\Rightarrow a_{\mu\nu}(L) a_{\mu\lambda}(L) = \delta_{\nu\lambda}$$

$$\Rightarrow a_{\nu\mu}^t(L) a_{\mu\lambda}(L) = \delta_{\nu\lambda}$$

$$\Rightarrow a_{\nu\mu}^t = a_{\mu\nu}^{-1}(L) \quad \text{transpose} = \text{inverse}$$

a matrix whose transpose equals its inverse is called an orthogonal matrix.
 $a_{\mu\nu}$ is 4x4 orthogonal matrix

If L_1 is a Lorentz transf from K to K'

L_2 is a Lorentz transf from K' to K''

Then the Lorentz transf from K to K'' is given by the matrix

$$a(L_2 L_1) = a(L_2) a(L_1)$$

if $L_1 = L$ and $L_2 = L^{-1}$ so $L_2 L_1 = I$ identity

$$\Rightarrow a^{-1}(L) = a(L^{-1})$$

4-differential

$$dx_\mu = (dx_1, dx_2, dx_3, icdt)$$

particle on trajectory

$$dx_1 = x_1(t+dt) - x_1(t)$$

etc

$$-(dx_\mu)^2 \equiv c^2 ds^2 = c^2 dt^2 - dr^2 \quad \text{Lorentz invariant scalar}$$

$$ds^2 = dt^2 \left[1 - \frac{1}{c^2} \left(\frac{dx_1}{dt} \right)^2 - \frac{1}{c^2} \left(\frac{dx_2}{dt} \right)^2 - \frac{1}{c^2} \left(\frac{dx_3}{dt} \right)^2 \right]$$

$$ds^2 = \frac{dt^2}{\gamma^2} \quad \vec{v} = \frac{d\vec{x}}{dt}$$

$$\boxed{ds = \frac{dt}{\gamma}} \quad \text{proper time interval}$$

A 4-vector is any 4 numbers that transform under a Lorentz transformation the same way as does x_μ

4-velocity $u_\mu \equiv \frac{dx_\mu}{ds} \equiv \dot{x}_\mu$

$$= \gamma \frac{dx_\mu}{dt}$$

since dx_μ is a 4-vector and ds is Lorentz invariant scalar, then $\frac{dx_\mu}{ds}$ is a 4-vector,

space components $\vec{u} = \gamma \vec{v}$
 $u_4 = ic\gamma$

$$u_\mu u_\mu = \gamma^2 v^2 - c^2 \gamma^2 = \gamma^2 (v^2 - c^2)$$

$$= \frac{v^2 - c^2}{1 - \frac{v^2}{c^2}} = -c^2 \quad \text{Lorentz invariant scalar}$$

4-acceleration $a_\mu \equiv \frac{du_\mu}{ds} = \gamma \frac{du_\mu}{dt}$

4-gradient $\frac{\partial}{\partial x_\mu} \equiv \left(\vec{\nabla}, -\frac{i}{c} \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \right) = \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial x_1}, \frac{\partial}{\partial x_2}, \frac{\partial}{\partial x_3}, \frac{\partial}{\partial x_4} \right)$

where $x_4 = ict$

proof $\frac{\partial}{\partial x_\mu}$ is a 4-vector

by chain rule: $\frac{\partial}{\partial x_\mu} = \frac{\partial x_\lambda}{\partial x'_\mu} \frac{\partial}{\partial x_\lambda} \longrightarrow$ but $\frac{\partial x_\lambda}{\partial x'_\mu} = a_{\mu\lambda}(L^{-1})$
 $= a_{\mu\lambda}(L)$

So $\frac{\partial}{\partial x'_\mu} = a_{\mu\lambda}(L) \frac{\partial}{\partial x_\lambda}$ inverse = transpose

so transforms same as x_μ

$$\left(\frac{\partial}{\partial x_\mu} \right)^2 = \nabla^2 - \frac{1}{c^2} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial t^2}$$

wave equation operator!

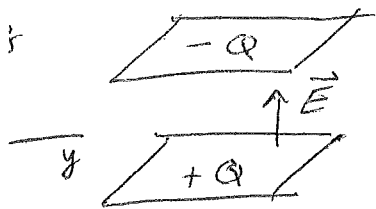
inner products

If u_μ and v_μ are 4-vectors, then $u_\mu v_\mu$ is Lorentz invariant scalar

Maxwell's Equations in Relativistic Form

How do \vec{E} and \vec{B} transform? under Lorentz transformation?
 \vec{E} and \vec{B} have much more complicated transformation laws than position 4-vectors $x^\mu = (\vec{r}, ict)$

Example : parallel plate capacitor at rest in K
 plates have area A , charge Q



$$\vec{E} = \frac{Q}{A\epsilon_0} \hat{z} \quad \text{uniform} \quad \frac{Q}{A} = \sigma \text{ surface charge den.}$$

$$\vec{B} = 0$$

In K' , moving with $\vec{v} = v\hat{y}$ w.r.t K , y dimension of plates is contracted by factor γ (FitzGerald Contraction)

$$\text{area } \sigma' = \frac{Q}{A'} = \frac{\gamma Q}{A} = \gamma\sigma$$

$$\vec{E}' = \frac{Q}{A'\epsilon_0} \hat{z} = \frac{\gamma Q}{A\epsilon_0} \hat{z} = \gamma \vec{E} \quad \vec{E} \text{ is along } \hat{z} \perp \vec{v}$$

This is different than transf. law for \vec{r} .

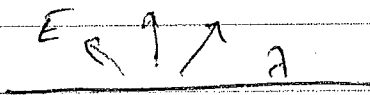
Under L.T., components of $\vec{r} \perp \vec{v}$ do not change
 But components of $\vec{E} \perp \vec{v}$ do change

Also, moving surface charge σ' gives rise to surface current density \Rightarrow there will be magnetic field \vec{B}' in frame K' . \Rightarrow Lorentz transf must couple together the components of \vec{E} and \vec{B} .

Electromagnetism

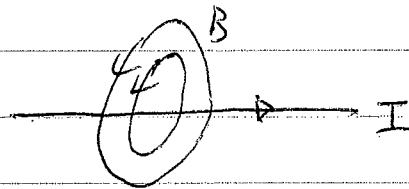
Clearly $\vec{E} + \vec{B}$ must transform into each other under Lorentz trans.

in inertial frame K
stationary line charge λ



cylindrical outward
electric field
no B-field

in frame K' moving with \vec{v} || to wire



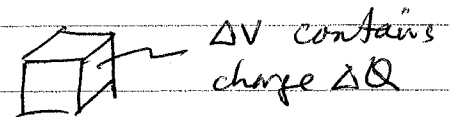
moving line charge gives current
 \Rightarrow B circulating around wire
as well as outward radial E

Lorentz force

$$\vec{F} = q\vec{E} + q\vec{v} \times \vec{B}$$

What is the velocity \vec{v} here? velocity with respect to what inertial frame? clearly \vec{E} and \vec{B} must change from one inertial frame to another if this force law can make sense.

charge density, current density



Consider charge ΔQ contained in a vol ΔV .
 ΔQ is a Lorentz invariant scalar.

Consider the reference frame in which the charge is instantaneously at rest. In this frame

$$\Delta Q = \rho^0 \Delta V^0 \quad \rho^0 \text{ is charge density in rest frame of charge}$$

ΔV^0 is volume of box in rest frame

ρ^0 is a Lorentz invariant scalar by definition

Now transform to another frame moving with velocity \vec{v} with respect to the rest frame.

ΔQ remains the same.

$$\Delta V = \frac{\Delta V^0}{\gamma} \quad \text{volume contracts in direction } \parallel \text{ to } \vec{v}$$

$$\Rightarrow \rho = \frac{\Delta Q}{\Delta V} = \frac{\Delta Q}{\Delta V^0} \gamma = \rho^0 \gamma$$

spatial components
of 4-velocity

$$\text{current density is } \vec{j} = \rho \vec{v} = (\rho/\gamma)(\gamma \vec{v}) = \rho^0 \vec{u}$$

$$\text{Define 4-current } j_\mu \equiv \rho^0 u_\mu = \rho^0 (\vec{u}, ic\gamma)$$

spatial components of j_μ are $\vec{j} = \rho^0 \vec{u} = \rho \vec{v}$ current density

temporal component of j_μ is $j_4 = ic\rho^0 \gamma = ic\rho$ charge density

$$\text{So } \boxed{j_\mu = (\vec{j}, ic\rho)}$$

j_μ is a 4-vector since
 u_μ is a 4-vector and
 ρ^0 is Lorentz invariant scalar

$$\text{length of the 4-current is } j_\mu j_\mu = |\vec{j}|^2 - c^2 \rho^2 = \rho^0{}^2 u_\mu u_\mu = -c^2 \rho^0{}^2$$

Charge conservation

$$0 = \vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{j} + \frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} = \vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{j} + \frac{\partial (ic\rho)}{\partial (ict)} = \vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{j} + \frac{\partial j_4}{\partial x_4}$$

$$\Rightarrow \boxed{\frac{\partial j_\mu}{\partial x_\mu} = 0} \quad \text{charge conservation in Lorentz covariant form}$$

Equations for potentials in Lorentz gauge

$$\left(\nabla^2 - \frac{1}{c^2} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial t^2}\right) \vec{A} = \square^2 \vec{A} = -\mu_0 \vec{j} \quad c^2 = \frac{1}{\mu_0 \epsilon_0}$$

$$\left(\nabla^2 - \frac{1}{c^2} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial t^2}\right) V = \square^2 V = -\rho/\epsilon_0 = -c^2 \mu_0 \rho$$
$$= -\mu_0 (ic\rho) \left(\frac{c}{i}\right)$$

So

$$\square^2 \vec{A} = -\mu_0 \vec{j}$$

$$\square^2 (iV/c) = -\mu_0 j_4$$

$$= -\mu_0 j_4 \left(\frac{c}{i}\right)$$

Define 4-potential $A_\mu = (\vec{A}, iV/c)$

$$\Rightarrow \square^2 A_\mu = -\mu_0 j_\mu \quad \text{equation for potentials}$$

$$\square^2 = \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x_\nu^2} \text{ is Lorentz invariant operator}$$

So we can write the above as

$$\frac{\partial^2 A_\mu}{\partial x_\nu^2} = -\mu_0 j_\mu$$

Lorentz gauge condition is

$$0 = \vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{A} + \mu_0 \epsilon_0 \frac{\partial V}{\partial t} = \vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{A} + \frac{1}{c^2} \frac{\partial V}{\partial t}$$

$$= \vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{A} + \frac{\partial (iV/c)}{\partial (ict)} = \vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{A} + \frac{\partial A_4}{\partial x_4}$$

$$= \frac{\partial A_\mu}{\partial x_\mu}$$

So Lorentz Gauge condition is

$$\frac{\partial A_\mu}{\partial x_\mu} = 0$$

Electric and Magnetic Fields

$$\vec{B} = \vec{\nabla} \times \vec{A} \Rightarrow B_i = \frac{\partial A_k}{\partial x_j} - \frac{\partial A_j}{\partial x_k}$$

where i, j, k
are a cyclic
permutation of $1, 2, 3$

$$\vec{E} = -\vec{\nabla}V - \frac{\partial \vec{A}}{\partial t}$$

$$V = \frac{cA_4}{i}, \quad x_4 = ict$$

$$\Rightarrow E_i = -\frac{\partial (\frac{c}{i}A_4)}{\partial x_i} - \frac{\partial A_i}{\partial (\frac{x_4}{ic})} = -\frac{c}{i} \frac{\partial A_4}{\partial x_i} - ic \frac{\partial A_i}{\partial x_4}$$

$$\frac{E_i}{c} = i \left(\frac{\partial A_4}{\partial x_i} - \frac{\partial A_i}{\partial x_4} \right)$$

has a similar form to B_i

We define the field strength tensor

$$F_{\mu\nu} = \frac{\partial A_\nu}{\partial x_\mu} - \frac{\partial A_\mu}{\partial x_\nu} = -F_{\nu\mu}$$

4x4 antisymmetric
2nd rank tensor

$$F_{\mu\nu} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & B_3 & -B_2 & -iE_1/c \\ -B_3 & 0 & B_1 & -iE_2/c \\ B_2 & -B_1 & 0 & -iE_3/c \\ iE_1/c & iE_2/c & iE_3/c & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

"curl" of a 4-vector is a 4x4 antisymmetric
2nd rank tensor

4x4 antisymmetric 2nd rank tensor has only 6
independent components - just the right number
to specify the \vec{E} and \vec{B} fields!