

The transformation law for an n^{th} rank tensor is

$$T'_{\mu_1, \mu_2, \dots, \mu_n} = a_{\mu_1 \nu_1} a_{\mu_2 \nu_2} \dots a_{\mu_n \nu_n} T_{\nu_1, \nu_2, \dots, \nu_n}$$

Inhomogeneous Maxwell's Equations

Using the field strength tensor $F_{\mu\nu}$ we can write the inhomogeneous Maxwell's equations (ie the ones involving the sources ρ and \mathbf{j}) as follows:

$$\boxed{\frac{\partial F_{\mu\nu}}{\partial x_\nu} = \mu_0 j_\mu}$$

$F_{\mu\nu}$ is a 4-tensor 2nd rank
 $\frac{\partial}{\partial x_\nu}$ is a 4-vector

$\Rightarrow \frac{\partial F_{\mu\nu}}{\partial x_\nu}$ is a 4-vector

Proof that $\frac{\partial F_{\mu\nu}}{\partial x_\nu}$ is a 4-vector. Using the transformation

laws of $F_{\mu\nu}$ and $\frac{\partial}{\partial x_\nu}$ we get

$$\frac{\partial F'_{\mu\nu}}{\partial x'_\nu} = a_{\mu\lambda} a_{\nu\sigma} a_{\nu\tau} \frac{\partial F_{\lambda\sigma}}{\partial x_\tau}$$

$$\text{write } \sum_\nu a_{\nu\sigma} a_{\nu\tau} = \sum_\nu a_{\sigma\nu}^t a_{\tau\nu}$$

but since a is orthogonal $a^t = a^{-1}$ and $\sum_\nu a_{\sigma\nu}^t a_{\tau\nu} = \delta_{\sigma\tau}$

$$\frac{\partial F'_{\mu\nu}}{\partial x'_\nu} = a_{\mu\lambda} \delta_{\sigma\tau} \frac{\partial F_{\lambda\sigma}}{\partial x_\tau} = a_{\mu\lambda} \frac{\partial F_{\lambda\sigma}}{\partial x_\sigma} \quad \text{so transforms like a 4-vector}$$

back to

$$\frac{\partial F_{\mu\nu}}{\partial x_\nu} = \mu_0 j_\mu$$

to see this as so, substitute in definition of $F_{\mu\nu}$ in terms of 4-potential A_μ

$$\frac{\partial F_{\mu\nu}}{\partial x_\nu} = \frac{\partial}{\partial x_\nu} \left(\frac{\partial A_\nu}{\partial x_\mu} - \frac{\partial A_\mu}{\partial x_\nu} \right) = \frac{\partial}{\partial x_\mu} \left(\frac{\partial A_\nu}{\partial x_\nu} \right) - \frac{\partial^2 A_\mu}{\partial x_\nu^2}$$

1st term = 0 by Lorentz gauge condition. So

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

$$\frac{\partial F_{\mu\nu}}{\partial x_\nu} = \mu_0 j_\mu \Rightarrow \begin{cases} \nabla \times \vec{B} - \frac{1}{c^2} \frac{\partial \vec{E}}{\partial t} = \mu_0 \vec{j} & \text{spatial components} \\ \nabla \cdot \vec{E} = \mu_0 c^2 \rho = \rho / \epsilon_0 & \text{temporal component} \end{cases}$$

We still need to have a Lorentz covariant way to write the homogeneous Maxwell Equations.

$$\nabla \cdot \vec{B} = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad \nabla \times \vec{E} + \frac{\partial \vec{B}}{\partial t} = 0$$

Homogeneous Maxwell Equations

Construct the 3rd rank co-variant tensor

$$\tilde{G}_{\mu\nu\lambda} \equiv \frac{\partial F_{\mu\nu}}{\partial x_\lambda} + \frac{\partial F_{\lambda\mu}}{\partial x_\nu} + \frac{\partial F_{\nu\lambda}}{\partial x_\mu}$$

transforms as $\tilde{G}'_{\mu\nu\lambda} = a_{\mu\alpha} a_{\nu\beta} a_{\lambda\gamma} \tilde{G}_{\alpha\beta\gamma}$

$\tilde{G}_{\mu\nu\lambda}$ has in principle $4^3 = 64$ components

But can show that \tilde{G} is antisymmetric in exchange of any two indices

$$\begin{aligned}\tilde{G}_{\nu\mu\lambda} &= \frac{\partial F_{\nu\mu}}{\partial x_\lambda} + \frac{\partial F_{\lambda\nu}}{\partial x_\mu} + \frac{\partial F_{\mu\lambda}}{\partial x_\nu} \quad \text{but since } F_{\mu\nu} = -F_{\nu\mu} \\ &= -\frac{\partial F_{\mu\nu}}{\partial x_\lambda} - \frac{\partial F_{\nu\lambda}}{\partial x_\mu} - \frac{\partial F_{\lambda\mu}}{\partial x_\nu} = -\tilde{G}_{\mu\nu\lambda}\end{aligned}$$

$\Rightarrow \tilde{G}_{\nu\mu\lambda} = 0$ if any two indices are equal

\Rightarrow there are only 4 independent components of $G_{\mu\nu\lambda}$
these are

~~64 components~~ $\tilde{G}_{123}, \tilde{G}_{124}, \tilde{G}_{134}, \tilde{G}_{234}$

all other components are just equal to \pm one of these according to permutation of indices.

The 4 homogeneous Maxwell equations can be written as

$$\boxed{\tilde{G}_{\mu\nu\lambda} = 0}$$

To see that above is true, substitute in for $F_{\mu\nu}$ in terms of potential A_μ in definition of \tilde{G}

$$\tilde{G}_{\mu\nu\lambda} = \frac{\partial^2 A_\nu}{\partial x_\lambda \partial x_\mu} - \frac{\partial^2 A_\mu}{\partial x_\lambda \partial x_\nu} + \frac{\partial^2 A_\mu}{\partial x_\nu \partial x_\lambda} - \frac{\partial^2 A_\lambda}{\partial x_\nu \partial x_\mu} + \frac{\partial^2 A_\lambda}{\partial x_\mu \partial x_\nu} - \frac{\partial^2 A_\nu}{\partial x_\mu \partial x_\lambda}$$

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also, one has

$$\tilde{G}_{123} = \frac{\partial F_{12}}{\partial x_3} + \frac{\partial F_{31}}{\partial x_2} + \frac{\partial F_{23}}{\partial x_1} = \frac{\partial B_3}{\partial x_3} + \frac{\partial B_2}{\partial x_2} + \frac{\partial B_1}{\partial x_1} = 0$$

$$\tilde{G}_{123} = 0 \Rightarrow \vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{B} = 0$$

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{G}_{412} &= \frac{\partial F_{41}}{\partial x_2} + \frac{\partial F_{24}}{\partial x_1} + \frac{\partial F_{12}}{\partial x_4} = \frac{i \partial E_1}{c \partial x_2} + \frac{i \partial E_2}{c \partial x_1} + \frac{\partial B_3}{i c \partial t} \\ &= \frac{i}{c} \left[\frac{\partial E_1}{\partial x_2} - \frac{\partial E_2}{\partial x_1} - \frac{\partial B_3}{\partial t} \right] = -\frac{i}{c} \left[(\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{E})_3 + \frac{\partial B_3}{\partial t} \right] = 0 \end{aligned}$$

this is the z-component of Faraday's law $\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{E} + \frac{\partial \vec{B}}{\partial t} = 0$

$\tilde{G}_{413} = 0$ and $\tilde{G}_{423} = 0$ give x and y components of Faraday's law.

An alternative way to write the homogeneous Maxwell's Equations

Note: we can get the homogeneous Maxwell's equations from the inhomogeneous equations by making the substitutions

$$\vec{j} \rightarrow 0, \rho \rightarrow 0, \frac{\vec{E}}{c} \rightarrow \vec{B}, \vec{B} \rightarrow -\frac{\vec{E}}{c}$$

so we define the dual field strength tensor

$$G_{\mu\nu} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -E_3/c & E_2/c & -iB_1 \\ E_3/c & 0 & -E_1/c & -iB_2 \\ -E_2/c & E_1/c & 0 & -iB_3 \\ iB_1 & iB_2 & iB_3 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

or equivalently if

Generalization of the Levi-Civita symbol

$$\epsilon_{\mu\nu\sigma\lambda} = \begin{cases} +1 & \text{if } \mu\nu\sigma\lambda \text{ is an even permutation of } 1234 \\ -1 & \text{if } \mu\nu\sigma\lambda \text{ is an odd permutation of } 1234 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise, i.e. any two indices equal} \end{cases}$$

then $G_{\mu\nu} = \frac{1}{2i} \epsilon_{\mu\nu\sigma\lambda} F_{\sigma\lambda}$

pseudo-tensor
gives wrong sign
under parity transform.

then $\frac{\partial G_{\mu\nu}}{\partial x_\nu} = 0$

gives the homogeneous Maxwell's equations

From $F_{\mu\nu}$ and $G_{\mu\nu}$ we can construct the following Lorentz invariant scalars

$$\left. \begin{aligned} \frac{1}{2} F_{\mu\nu} F_{\mu\nu} &= B^2 - \frac{E^2}{c^2} \\ -\frac{1}{4} F_{\mu\nu} G_{\mu\nu} &= \frac{\vec{B} \cdot \vec{E}}{c} \end{aligned} \right\} \begin{array}{l} \text{these have the} \\ \text{same value in} \\ \text{any inertial frame} \\ \text{of reference!} \end{array}$$

\Rightarrow 1) If $\vec{E} \perp \vec{B}$ and $|\vec{B}| = \frac{|\vec{E}|}{c}$ in one frame of reference, then it is so in all frames of reference.

$$(\vec{E} \cdot \vec{B} = 0 \text{ and } |\vec{B}|^2 - \frac{|\vec{E}|^2}{c^2} = 0)$$

This property is satisfied by EM waves in the vacuum

2) If in one frame $\vec{E} \cdot \vec{B} = 0$ and $\frac{E^2}{c^2} > B^2$, then there exists a frame in which $\vec{B}' = 0$. If in one frame $\vec{E} \cdot \vec{B} = 0$ and $B^2 > \frac{E^2}{c^2}$, then there exists a frame in which $\vec{E}' = 0$.

Relativistic Kinematics

4-momentum of a particle $p_\mu = m \dot{x}_\mu = m u_\mu = (m\gamma \vec{v}, i m c \gamma)$

m is mass of particle as measured in the frame in which the particle is instantaneous at rest. $m =$ "rest mass"
 p_μ is a 4-vector since m is a scalar and u_μ is a 4-vector

$$p_\mu^2 = m^2 u_\mu^2 = -m^2 c^2 \quad \text{since } u_\mu^2 = -c^2$$

4-force $K_\mu = (\vec{K}, i K_0)$ also called "Minkowski force"

We guess that the relativistic generalization of Newton's 2nd law of motion is

$$m \frac{d^2 x_\mu}{ds^2} = K_\mu \quad \text{or} \quad m \frac{d u_\mu}{ds} = K_\mu$$

$$\text{or} \quad \frac{d p_\mu}{ds} = K_\mu \quad (p_\mu = m u_\mu = m \dot{x}_\mu)$$

Now since $p_\mu^2 = -m^2 c^2$ is a constant, we have

$$0 = \frac{d}{ds} (p_\mu^2) = 2 p_\mu \frac{d p_\mu}{ds} = 2 p_\mu K_\mu$$

$$\Rightarrow p_\mu K_\mu = 0$$

$$p_\mu K_\mu = m\gamma \vec{v} \cdot \vec{K} - m c \gamma K_0 = 0$$

$$\text{so } \boxed{K_0 = \frac{\vec{v} \cdot \vec{K}}{c}}$$

Time component of 4-force is determined by the spatial components \vec{K}

Define the usual 3-force by

$$\frac{d\vec{p}}{dt} = \vec{F} \quad (\text{we identify the Newtonian momentum } \vec{p} \text{ with the spatial components of } p^\mu)$$

$$\frac{d\vec{p}}{ds} = \vec{K} \quad \text{spatial part of relativistic Newton's law}$$

$$\frac{d\vec{p}}{ds} = \gamma \frac{d\vec{p}}{dt} = \gamma \vec{F} \quad \text{since } ds = dt/\gamma$$

$$\Rightarrow \boxed{\vec{K} = \gamma \vec{F}} \quad \text{relation between spatial part of 4-force and the usual 3-force } \vec{F}$$

$$\Rightarrow K_0 = \frac{\vec{v}}{c} \cdot \vec{K} = \gamma \frac{\vec{v}}{c} \cdot \vec{F}$$

Consider now the 4-th component of Newton's equation

$$\frac{dp_4}{ds} = m \frac{du_4}{ds} = m \frac{d}{ds} (ic\gamma) = iK_0 = i\gamma \frac{\vec{v}}{c} \cdot \vec{F}$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{d}{ds} (m\gamma c^2) = \gamma \vec{v} \cdot \vec{F}$$

$$d(m\gamma c^2) = \gamma \vec{v} \cdot \vec{F} ds = \gamma \vec{v} \cdot \vec{F} \frac{dt}{\gamma}$$

$$= \vec{v} \cdot \vec{F} dt = d\vec{r} \cdot \vec{F}$$



Work-energy theorem: $d(m\gamma c^2) = d\vec{r} \cdot \vec{F}$

↑ work done on particle

⇒ change in kinetic energy of particle

relativistic kinetic energy $\boxed{E = m\gamma c^2}$

$$p_4 = im\gamma c = iE/c$$

$$p_\mu = (\vec{p}, i\frac{E}{c})$$

momentum-energy 4-vector

$$\vec{p} = m\gamma\vec{v}$$

$$E = m\gamma c^2$$

For particles moving at non-relativistic speeds
 $v \ll c$

$$E = m\gamma c^2 = \frac{mc^2}{\sqrt{1-v^2/c^2}} \approx \frac{mc^2}{1-\frac{v^2}{2c^2}} \approx mc^2 \left(1 + \frac{v^2}{2c^2}\right)$$

$$\approx mc^2 + \frac{1}{2}mv^2$$

\uparrow
rest mass energy

\uparrow non-relativistic kinetic energy

$\frac{dp_\mu}{ds} = K_\mu$ is therefore both the relativistic analogue of Newton's 2nd law, but also the law of conservation of energy (i.e. the work-energy theorem)

Conservation of momentum and energy

① why is relativistic momentum ~~$\vec{p} = m\vec{v}$~~ $\vec{p} = m\gamma\vec{v}$ and not just $m\vec{v}$ as in non-relativistic case?

Because we want momentum to be conserved in all frames of reference, \vec{p} must be the spatial part of a 4-vector. We see this as follows.

Suppose momentum was $m\vec{v}$. For a collection of particles, conservation of momentum would mean

$$(*) \quad \sum_i m_i \vec{v}_i(t_1) = \sum_i m_i \vec{v}_i(t_2)$$

for any times t_1 and t_2

If (*) holds in one frame of reference K , and we now transform to another frame of reference K' moving with velocity \vec{w} w.r.t K , we would find that in K' , (*) is no longer satisfied

$$\text{ie } \sum_i m_i \vec{v}'_i(t_1) \neq \sum_i m_i \vec{v}'_i(t_2)$$

see Griffiths ~~chpt 10.2.2~~
example 12.6

\vec{v}'_i related to \vec{v}_i
and \vec{w} via relativistic
law for addition of
velocities

However, for the 4-momentum, if

$$P_\mu^{\text{tot}}(t_1) = \sum_i P_{\mu i}(t_1) = \sum_i P_{\mu i}(t_2) = P_\mu^{\text{tot}}(t_2)$$

in frame K , then $P_\mu^{\text{tot}}(t_1) = P_\mu^{\text{tot}}(t_2)$ in any other frame K' , since $P_\mu^{\text{tot}}(t_1)$ and $P_\mu^{\text{tot}}(t_2)$ both transform

the same way under Lorentz transf.

$$P_{\mu}^{\text{tot}}(t_1) = P_{\mu}^{\text{tot}}(t_2)$$

space components \Rightarrow momentum conservation holds in all frames
time component \Rightarrow energy conservation holds in all frames

② Why did we write Newton's eqn as $\frac{d\vec{p}}{dt} = \vec{F}$, with $\vec{p} = m\gamma\vec{v}$,

instead of $m\frac{d\vec{v}}{dt} = \vec{F}$ (as if used non-relativistic momentum)

If use $m\frac{d\vec{v}}{dt} = \vec{F}$, then $m\vec{v} \cdot \frac{d\vec{v}}{dt} = \vec{v} \cdot \vec{F}$

$$\frac{1}{2} m d(v^2) = dt \vec{v} \cdot \vec{F} = d\vec{v} \cdot \vec{F} = dW$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{1}{2} m \int d(v^2) = \int dW$$

$$\frac{1}{2} m v^2 = W \quad \text{get non-relativistic kinetic energy}$$

in this formulation, energy W is not the time component of any 4-vector. Therefore if energy was conserved in one frame K , it need not be conserved in another frame K' !

Only when we take $\frac{d\vec{p}}{dt} = \vec{F}$ with $\vec{p} = m\gamma\vec{v}$

do we get $\int \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{r} = m\gamma c^2 = p_0 c$ - time component of a 4-vector

\Rightarrow energy conservation holds in all reference frames

Lorentz force in relativistic form

$$\frac{dP_\mu}{ds} = K_\mu$$

What is the K_μ that represents the Lorentz force?
And how can we write it in a Lorentz covariant way?

K_μ should depend on the fields $F_{\mu\nu}$ and on the particle's trajectory x_μ

$$\text{as } \vec{v} \rightarrow 0 \quad \vec{K} = q\vec{E} \quad (\text{since magnetic force} \rightarrow 0 \text{ as } \vec{v} \rightarrow 0)$$

K_μ can't depend directly on x_μ as the force should be independent of where one puts the origin of the coordinates.
So K_μ can depend only on derivatives \dot{x}_μ , \ddot{x}_μ , etc.

As $\vec{v} \rightarrow 0$, \vec{K} does not depend on the acceleration, so \vec{K} does not depend on \dot{x}_μ or higher derivatives.

So K_μ depends only on $F_{\mu\nu}$ and \dot{x}_μ

We need to form a 4-vector out of $F_{\mu\nu}$ and \dot{x}_μ that is linear in the fields $F_{\mu\nu}$ and proportional to the charge q . (since we want superposition to hold)

The only possibility is

$$K_\mu = q f(\dot{x}^2) F_{\mu\nu} \dot{x}_\nu$$

where $f(\dot{x}_\mu^2)$ is some function of \dot{x}_μ^2 .

But $\dot{x}_\mu^2 = -c^2$ is a constant, so $f(\dot{x}_\mu^2)$ is a constant, that constant, $f(\dot{x}_\mu^2) = 1$, is determined by the requirement that $\vec{K} = q\vec{E}$ as $\vec{v} \rightarrow 0$.

So we have

$$K_\mu = q F_{\mu\nu} \dot{x}_\nu$$

Let's check what this gives for the ordinary 3-force

$$\vec{F} = \frac{1}{\gamma} \vec{K}$$

ith component $F_i = \frac{1}{\gamma} K_i = \frac{q}{\gamma} \left(\sum_{j=1}^3 F_{ij} \dot{x}_j + F_{i4} \dot{x}_4 \right)$

sub in for F_{ij} in terms of \vec{A} $= \frac{q}{\gamma} \left(\sum_{j=1}^3 \left(\frac{\partial A_j}{\partial x_i} - \frac{\partial A_i}{\partial x_j} \right) \dot{x}_j - \frac{iE_i}{c} (i c \gamma) \right)$

use $x_4 = i c \gamma$ since $F_{i4} = \frac{-iE_i}{c}$

Now $\frac{\partial A_j}{\partial x_i} - \frac{\partial A_i}{\partial x_j} = \epsilon_{ijk} B_k$

proof: $\epsilon_{ijk} B_k = \epsilon_{ijk} \epsilon_{klm} \frac{\partial A_m}{\partial x_l}$ (using ϵ_{ijk} notation to take $\vec{v} \times \vec{A}$)

$$= (\delta_{il} \delta_{jm} - \delta_{im} \delta_{jl}) \frac{\partial A_m}{\partial x_l}$$

$$= \frac{\partial A_j}{\partial x_i} - \frac{\partial A_i}{\partial x_j}$$

use $\dot{x}_j = \gamma v_j$

So $F_i = \frac{q}{\gamma} \sum_{j=1}^3 \epsilon_{ijk} B_k \gamma v_j + \frac{q}{\gamma} E_i \gamma$

$$= q \sum_{j=1}^3 \epsilon_{ijk} B_k v_j + q E_i$$

$$= q E_i + q (\vec{v} \times \vec{B})_i$$

$$\text{so } \boxed{\vec{F} = q\vec{E} + q\vec{v} \times \vec{B}} = \frac{1}{\gamma} \vec{K}$$

The Lorentz force has the same form in all inertial frames.
No relativistic modification is needed