

3. “3+1” split of the electromagnetic field:

An observer with 4-velocity \vec{U} interacting with an electromagnetic field \mathbf{F} measures electric and magnetic fields $\vec{E}_{\vec{U}}$ and $\vec{B}_{\vec{U}}$ in their instantaneous local inertial reference frame (that is, in an orthonormal basis with $\vec{e}_{\hat{0}} = \vec{U}$). These fields are 4-vectors with components

$$E_{\vec{U}}^{\alpha} = F^{\alpha\beta}U_{\beta}, \quad B_{\vec{U}}^{\alpha} = -\frac{1}{2}\epsilon^{\alpha\beta\gamma\delta}U_{\beta}F_{\gamma\delta}.$$

(a) Show that $\vec{E}_{\vec{U}}$ and $\vec{B}_{\vec{U}}$ lie orthogonal to observer’s worldline. Thus, they are spatial vectors according to the observer, living entirely in that observer’s hypersurface of simultaneity. (Hint: recall the projection tensor defined in Pset 1.)

(b) Show that the field tensor can be reconstructed from the observer’s 4-velocity and the electric and magnetic fields they measure via the following tensor equation (valid for any basis):

$$F^{\alpha\beta} = U^{\alpha}E_{\vec{U}}^{\beta} - E_{\vec{U}}^{\alpha}U^{\beta} + \epsilon^{\alpha\beta}{}_{\gamma\delta}U^{\gamma}B_{\vec{U}}^{\delta}.$$

The identity $\epsilon^{\alpha\beta\rho\sigma}\epsilon_{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} = 2(\delta^{\alpha}{}_{\nu}\delta^{\beta}{}_{\mu} - \delta^{\alpha}{}_{\mu}\delta^{\beta}{}_{\nu})$ may prove useful.

(c) The wedge product between two vectors is defined as

$$\vec{A} \wedge \vec{B} = \vec{A} \otimes \vec{B} - \vec{B} \otimes \vec{A}.$$

The Hodge dual of a (0, 2) tensor is defined as

$${}^*C_{\mu\nu} = \frac{1}{2}\epsilon^{\alpha\beta}{}_{\mu\nu}C_{\alpha\beta}.$$

Show that the field tensor may be written

$$\mathbf{F} = a\vec{U} \wedge \vec{E}_{\vec{U}} + b({}^*(\vec{U} \wedge \vec{B}_{\vec{U}})).$$

What are the values of the real constants a and b ?

4. Transformation of Christoffel symbols:

(a) Show that, under a coordinate transformation, the components of the Christoffel symbol transform as follows:

$$\Gamma^{\alpha'}{}_{\beta'\gamma'} = \frac{\partial x^{\alpha'}}{\partial x^{\alpha}} \frac{\partial x^{\beta}}{\partial x^{\beta'}} \frac{\partial x^{\gamma}}{\partial x^{\gamma'}} \Gamma^{\alpha}{}_{\beta\gamma} - \frac{\partial^2 x^{\alpha'}}{\partial x^{\beta} \partial x^{\gamma}} \frac{\partial x^{\beta}}{\partial x^{\beta'}} \frac{\partial x^{\gamma}}{\partial x^{\gamma'}}$$

Do this by considering the form of the Christoffel symbol in terms of derivatives of the metric.

(b) Show that, using this rule, the components of the covariant derivative of a vector transform as tensors should:

$$\nabla_{\alpha'} A^{\beta'} = \frac{\partial x^{\alpha}}{\partial x^{\alpha'}} \frac{\partial x^{\beta'}}{\partial x^{\beta}} \nabla_{\alpha} A^{\beta}.$$