

1. Maxwell's equations can be written in manifestly relativistic form if they are expressed in terms of the electromagnetic current 4-vector and the antisymmetric electromagnetic field-strength tensor, defined by

$$\begin{pmatrix} J^0 \\ J^x \\ J^y \\ J^z \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad \begin{pmatrix} F_{00} & F_{01} & F_{02} & F_{03} \\ F_{10} & F_{11} & F_{12} & F_{13} \\ F_{20} & F_{21} & F_{22} & F_{23} \\ F_{30} & F_{31} & F_{32} & F_{33} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -E_x & -E_y & -E_z \\ E_x & 0 & B_z & -B_y \\ E_y & -B_z & 0 & B_x \\ E_z & B_y & -B_x & 0 \end{pmatrix},$$

where J^i are the components of the electromagnetic current \mathbf{J} , while E_i and B_i are the components of the electric and magnetic fields, and j^0 is the electric charge density. 4-vectors and tensors with indices written as superscripts and subscripts are related using the Minkowski metric, with (for instance) $J^\mu = \eta^{\mu\nu} J_\nu$ and $F^{\mu\nu} = \eta^{\mu\lambda} \eta^{\nu\beta} F_{\lambda\beta}$ and so on, where $\eta_{\mu\nu} = \text{diag}(-1, +1, +1, +1)$ and $\eta^{\mu\nu}$ is its inverse matrix (so $\eta^{\mu\nu} \eta_{\nu\lambda} = \delta_\lambda^\mu$). The Einstein summation convention is in force throughout.

- (a) Show that the four Maxwell equations can be written in terms of these as

$$\partial_\mu F^{\mu\nu} + J^\nu = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad \partial_\mu F_{\nu\lambda} + \partial_\nu F_{\lambda\mu} + \partial_\lambda F_{\mu\nu} = 0.$$

- (b) Show that there is a unique Lorentz-invariant quantity that is bilinear in $F_{\mu\nu}$ and has all of its indices contracted using only the metric $\eta_{\mu\nu}$, and show by doing so that the quantity $\mathbf{E}^2 - \mathbf{B}^2$ is a Lorentz scalar.
- (c) Show that the relationships $\mathbf{E} = -\partial_t \mathbf{A} - \nabla \phi$ and $\mathbf{B} = \nabla \times \mathbf{A}$ relating electromagnetic fields and the electromagnetic potentials \mathbf{A} and ϕ are given relativistically by

$$F_{\mu\nu} = \partial_\mu A_\nu - \partial_\nu A_\mu$$

and identify from this how the components of the electromagnetic potential A_μ are related to ϕ and \mathbf{A} .

- (d) In relativity the energy density is the time-time component of a symmetric tensor $\mathcal{H} = T_{00}$ where for electromagnetism

$$T_{\mu\nu} = F_{\mu\lambda} F_\nu{}^\lambda - \frac{1}{4} \eta_{\mu\nu} F^{\lambda\rho} F_{\lambda\rho}$$

Use this to verify that the energy density of an electromagnetic field is $\mathcal{H} = \frac{1}{2}(\mathbf{E}^2 + \mathbf{B}^2)$.

2. Suppose a relativistic scalar field $\phi(x)$ is related to creation and annihilation operators for its particle and antiparticle by

$$\phi(x) = \int \frac{d^3p}{\sqrt{(2\pi)^3 2E_p}} \left[\mathbf{a}_{\mathbf{p}} e^{ip \cdot x} + \bar{\mathbf{a}}_{\mathbf{p}}^* e^{-ip \cdot x} \right] \quad (0.1)$$

where $p \cdot x := \eta_{\mu\nu} p^\mu x^\nu = -E_p t + \mathbf{p} \cdot \mathbf{x}$ and the momentum 4-vector has components $p^\mu = \{p^0 = E_p, \mathbf{p}\}$ and the position 4-vector is $x^\mu = \{x^0 = t, \mathbf{x}\}$. Here $E_p = \sqrt{\mathbf{p}^2 + m^2}$ is the relativistic single-particle energy as a function of momentum.

- (a) Assuming that the particle and antiparticle are bosons, so $[\mathbf{a}_{\mathbf{p}}, \mathbf{a}_{\mathbf{q}}^*] = \delta^3(\mathbf{p} - \mathbf{q})$ and $[\bar{\mathbf{a}}_{\mathbf{p}}, \bar{\mathbf{a}}_{\mathbf{q}}^*] = \delta^3(\mathbf{p} - \mathbf{q})$ (with all other commutators, like $[\mathbf{a}_{\mathbf{p}}, \bar{\mathbf{a}}_{\mathbf{q}}] = 0$ and so on, vanishing) evaluate the commutator $[\phi(x)\phi^*(y)]$ as a function of x^μ and y^ν and show in particular that it vanishes when $(x-y)^2 = \eta_{\mu\nu}(x-y)^\mu(x-y)^\nu > 0$ (so the separation between x^μ and y^μ is spacelike). Notice that this commutator would not vanish for spacelike separations if the antiparticle creation operator did not appear in (0.1).
- (b) Repeat the previous calculation evaluating $[\phi(x), \phi^*(y)]$ as a function of x^μ and y^ν , but this time assuming that the particle and antiparticle are fermions rather than bosons (so $\{\mathbf{a}_{\mathbf{p}}, \mathbf{a}_{\mathbf{q}}^*\} = \delta^3(\mathbf{p} - \mathbf{q})$ and so on, with $\{\mathbf{a}_{\mathbf{p}}, \bar{\mathbf{a}}_{\mathbf{q}}\} = 0$ etc.. Verify in particular that $[\phi(x), \phi^*(y)]$ does *not* vanish in this case when x^μ and y^ν are spacelike separated.
- (c) Suppose the interaction Hamiltonian for this field is given by $\mathcal{H} = \lambda(\phi^*\phi)^2$ where λ is a positive real coupling parameter. Show that $[\mathcal{H}(x), \mathcal{H}(y)]$ vanishes for space-like separated points only if $[\phi(x), \phi^*(y)]$ also vanishes for these separations. As discussed in class it turns out to be important that $[\mathcal{H}(x), \mathcal{H}(y)]$ vanish for space-like separated points since otherwise Lorentz invariance fails, and so the above calculations show why spinless particles (those appearing in scalar fields) must be bosons. This is a simple example of the spin-statistics theorem – that states that all integer-spin particles must be bosons and all half-integer spin particles must be fermions – that is a general consequence of merging special relativity with quantum mechanics.