

You are expected to cross three problems amongst exercises 37, 38, 39 and 40. As usual, you are strongly encouraged to attempt more than three.

36 (“Raising and lowering of indices”) Define

$$B_\alpha := \eta_{\alpha\beta} A^\beta, \quad C^\gamma := \eta^{\gamma\sigma} B_\sigma. \quad (1)$$

Show that

$$C^\gamma = A^\gamma. \quad (2)$$

The first operation in (1) is called “lowering an index with the metric”; the second “raising an index with the metric”. What does (2) say about these operations?

From now on we shall simply write

$$A_\alpha := \eta_{\alpha\beta} A^\beta, \quad B^\gamma := \eta^{\gamma\sigma} B_\sigma.$$

Show that

$$A_\alpha B^\alpha = A^\alpha B_\alpha.$$

37 Define a *-operation on anti-symmetric tensors as

$$*F_{\alpha\beta} := \frac{1}{2} \epsilon_{\alpha\beta}{}^{\gamma\delta} F_{\gamma\delta}, \quad *F^{\alpha\beta} := \frac{1}{2} \epsilon^{\alpha\beta\gamma\delta} F_{\gamma\delta},$$

where

$$\epsilon_{\alpha\beta}{}^{\gamma\delta} := \eta_{\alpha\mu} \eta_{\beta\nu} \epsilon^{\mu\nu\gamma\delta}.$$

i. Show that

$$\partial_\mu (*F^{\mu\nu}) = 0 \iff \partial_\alpha F_{\beta\gamma} + \partial_\beta F_{\gamma\alpha} + \partial_\gamma F_{\alpha\beta} = 0 \iff \partial_{[\alpha} F_{\beta\gamma]} = 0.$$

ii. Show that

$$*F_{\alpha\beta} = \frac{1}{2} \epsilon_{\alpha\beta\gamma\delta} F^{\gamma\delta}.$$

iii. Show that the double star of an anti-symmetric tensor is the negative of this tensor.

iv. Show that if $F_{\mu\nu}$ and $G_{\mu\nu}$ are anti-symmetric, then $*F^{\alpha\beta} G_{\alpha\beta} = F^{\alpha\beta} *G_{\alpha\beta}$. Conclude that $*F^{\alpha\beta} *F_{\alpha\beta} = -F^{\alpha\beta} F_{\alpha\beta}$. Can you think of a simpler proof of the last equality?

38 Consider a charged particle which moves along a straight line in Minkowski space-time in an electromagnetic field. Show that its velocity \vec{v} satisfies $\vec{E} + \vec{v} \times \vec{B} = 0$ and $\vec{E} \cdot \vec{v} = 0$. Find all possible solutions for \vec{v} in terms of \vec{E} and \vec{B} . What can you say about $F^{\alpha\beta} F_{\alpha\beta}$ and $*F^{\alpha\beta} F_{\alpha\beta}$?

- 39 The tensor field

$$T_{\mu\nu} = \frac{1}{4\pi} \left(F_{\mu\alpha} F_{\nu}{}^{\alpha} - \frac{1}{4} F^{\alpha\beta} F_{\alpha\beta} \eta_{\mu\nu} \right) \quad (3)$$

is called the *energy-momentum tensor* of the electromagnetic field. Express T_{00} , T_{0i} , and T_{ij} in terms of E^i and B^j .

- 40 Describe the gauge transformations which preserve the Lorenz gauge condition.
- 41 [For self study:] Let $T_{\mu\nu}$ be given by (3). Show that

$$T_{\mu\rho} T^{\rho}{}_{\nu} = \frac{1}{4} T_{\alpha\beta} T^{\alpha\beta} \eta_{\mu\nu} .$$

[Hint: an efficient proof uses the Cayley-Hamilton theorem.]