

ELECTROMAGNETIC FIELD TENSOR - CYCLIC DERIVATIVE RELATION

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We've used the following relation between the derivatives of the electromagnetic field tensor F^{ij} to get several of Maxwell's equations.

$$\partial_i F_{jk} + \partial_k F_{ij} + \partial_j F_{ki} = 0 \quad (1)$$

Here we verify that this relation is true when F^{ij} is written in terms of the four-potential, that is

$$F^{ij} = \partial^i A^j - \partial^j A^i \quad (2)$$

We can lower both indices in this equation and then plug it into the first equation:

$$\partial_i F_{jk} + \partial_k F_{ij} + \partial_j F_{ki} = \partial_i (\partial_j A_k - \partial_k A_j) + \partial_k (\partial_i A_j - \partial_j A_i) + \partial_j (\partial_k A_i - \partial_i A_k) \quad (3)$$

$$= \partial_i \partial_j A_k - \partial_j \partial_i A_k + \partial_k \partial_i A_j - \partial_i \partial_k A_j + \partial_j \partial_k A_i - \partial_k \partial_j A_i \quad (4)$$

$$= 0 \quad (5)$$

The terms in the second line cancel in pairs since the order of the partials doesn't matter.