

Exercise 33.24 The massless free-field equations for a photon (spin 1),

$$\nabla^{AA'}\psi_{AB} = 0 \quad (1)$$

and

$$\nabla^{AA'}\psi_{A'B'} = 0 \quad (2)$$

turn into Maxwell's equations in empty space if

$$\psi_{00} = E_x - B_y - iE_y - iB_x,$$

$$\psi_{01} = -E_z + iB_z$$

$$\psi_{11} = -E_x - B_y - iE_y + iB_x.$$

I left out a factor of 2, it doesn't matter because the righthand sides of (1) and (2) are 0.

There's a typo in the exercise, it should be  $\psi_{01} = -C_3$ , not  $-iC_3$ .

$\nabla^{AA'}$  is derived from  $\nabla^a = -\frac{\partial}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial}{\partial z}$  the same way that  $r^{AA'}$  is derived from  $(t, x, y, z)$ . So

$$\nabla^{AA'} = \begin{pmatrix} -\frac{\partial}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial}{\partial z} & \frac{\partial}{\partial x} + i\frac{\partial}{\partial y} \\ \frac{\partial}{\partial x} - i\frac{\partial}{\partial y} & -\frac{\partial}{\partial t} - \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \end{pmatrix}.$$

I just worked out  $\nabla^{AA'}\psi_{AB} = 0$ .

If  $A' = 0$  and  $B = 0$ , you get

$$-\frac{\partial\psi_{00}}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial\psi_{00}}{\partial z} + \frac{\partial\psi_{10}}{\partial x} - i\frac{\partial\psi_{10}}{\partial y} = 0, \text{ or}$$

$$-\frac{\partial E_x}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial B_y}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial E_x}{\partial z} - \frac{\partial B_y}{\partial z} - \frac{\partial E_z}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial B_z}{\partial y} = 0 \text{ and} \quad (3)$$

$$\frac{\partial E_y}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial B_x}{\partial t} - \frac{\partial E_y}{\partial z} - \frac{\partial B_x}{\partial z} + \frac{\partial B_z}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial E_z}{\partial y} = 0, \quad (4)$$

separating real and imaginary parts.

If  $A' = 0$  and  $B = 1$ , you get

$$-\frac{\partial\psi_{01}}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial\psi_{01}}{\partial z} + \frac{\partial\psi_{11}}{\partial x} - i\frac{\partial\psi_{11}}{\partial y} = 0, \text{ or}$$

$$\frac{\partial E_z}{\partial t} - \frac{\partial E_z}{\partial z} - \frac{\partial E_x}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial B_y}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial E_y}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial B_x}{\partial y} = 0 \text{ and} \quad (5)$$

$$-\frac{\partial B_z}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial B_z}{\partial z} - \frac{\partial E_y}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial B_x}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial E_x}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial B_y}{\partial y} = 0. \quad (6)$$

If  $A' = 1$  and  $B = 0$ , you get

$$\frac{\partial \psi_{00}}{\partial x} + i \frac{\partial \psi_{00}}{\partial y} - \frac{\partial \psi_{10}}{\partial t} - \frac{\partial \psi_{10}}{\partial z} = 0, \text{ or}$$

$$\frac{\partial E_x}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial B_y}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial E_y}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial B_x}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial E_z}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial E_z}{\partial z} = 0 \text{ and} \quad (7)$$

$$-\frac{\partial E_y}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial B_x}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial E_x}{\partial y} - \frac{\partial B_y}{\partial y} - \frac{\partial B_z}{\partial t} - \frac{\partial B_z}{\partial z} = 0. \quad (8)$$

If  $A' = 1$  and  $B = 1$ , you get

$$\frac{\partial \psi_{01}}{\partial x} + i \frac{\partial \psi_{01}}{\partial y} - \frac{\partial \psi_{11}}{\partial t} - \frac{\partial \psi_{11}}{\partial z} = 0, \text{ or}$$

$$-\frac{\partial E_z}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial B_z}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial E_x}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial B_y}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial E_x}{\partial z} + \frac{\partial B_y}{\partial z} = 0 \text{ and} \quad (9)$$

$$\frac{\partial B_z}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial E_z}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial E_y}{\partial t} - \frac{\partial B_x}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial E_y}{\partial z} - \frac{\partial B_x}{\partial z} = 0. \quad (10)$$

So equations (7) – (5) give you  $\nabla \cdot E = 0$ ,

eqs. (6) – (8) give  $\nabla \cdot B = 0$ ,

eqs. (3) – (9), (4) + (10), (5) + (7) give  $\frac{\partial E}{\partial t} = \nabla \times B$ ,

eqs. (4) – (10), (3) + (9), (6) + (8) give  $-\frac{\partial B}{\partial t} = \nabla \times E$ .

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