

GEOMETRIC ALGEBRAS IN E.M.

Manuel Berrondo
Brigham Young University
Provo, UT, 84097
berrondo@byu.edu

Physical Applications:

- Electro-magnetostatics
- Dispersion and diffraction E.M.

Examples of geometric algebras

- Complex Numbers $\mathcal{G}_{0,1} = \mathbb{C}$
- Hamilton Quaternions $\mathcal{G}_{0,2} = \mathbb{H}$
- Pauli Algebra \mathcal{G}_3
- Dirac Algebra $\mathcal{G}_{1,3}$

Extension of the vector space

- inverse of a vector: $\mathbf{A}^{-1}, \nabla^{-1}$
- reflections, rotations, Lorentz transform.
- integrals: Cauchy (≥ 2 d), Stokes' theorem

Based on the idea of **MULTIVECTORS**:

$$\mathbf{a}_1 \wedge \mathbf{a}_2 \wedge \mathbf{a}_3 \dots$$

and including lengths and angles: $\mathbf{a}_1 \cdot \mathbf{a}_2$

Algebraic Properties of R

$+$

- closure
- commutativity
- associativity
- zero
- negative

\cdot

- closure
- commutativity
- associativity
- unit
- reciprocal
- and $+$ distributivity

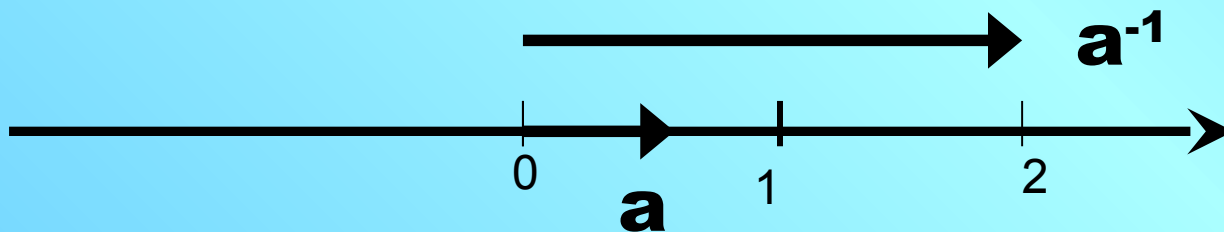
Vector spaces : linear combinations

Algebras

- include metrics: $\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b}$
- define geometric product

FIRST STEP: Inverse of a vector $\mathbf{a} \neq 0$

$$\mathbf{a}^{-1} = \frac{\hat{\mathbf{a}}}{|\mathbf{a}|} = \frac{\mathbf{a}}{|\mathbf{a}|^2} = \frac{\mathbf{a}}{a^2}, \quad a^2 = \mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{a}$$



Orthonormal basis

3d: $\hat{\mathbf{e}}_1 \hat{\mathbf{e}}_2 \hat{\mathbf{e}}_3$
 $\hat{\mathbf{e}}_i \cdot \hat{\mathbf{e}}_k = \delta_{ik}$

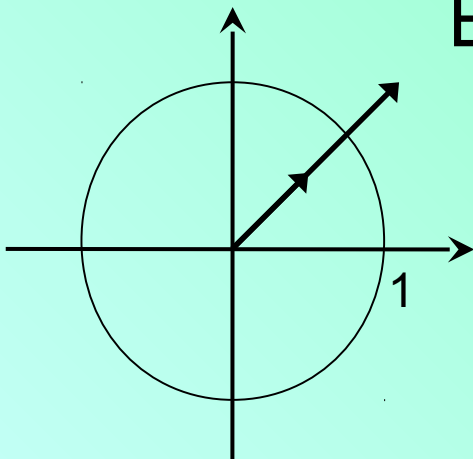
$$\hat{\mathbf{e}}_i^{-1} = \hat{\mathbf{e}}_i$$

Euclidian

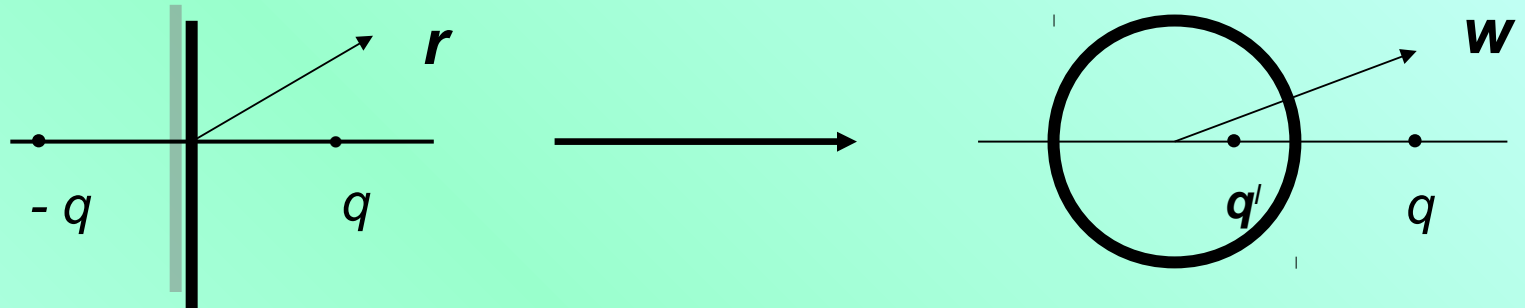
4d: $\gamma_0 \gamma_1 \gamma_2 \gamma_3$
 $\gamma_\mu \cdot \gamma_\nu = g_{\mu\nu} \Rightarrow (1, -1, -1, -1)$

Minkowski

Example: $(\hat{\mathbf{e}}_1 + \hat{\mathbf{e}}_2)^{-1} = (\hat{\mathbf{e}}_1 + \hat{\mathbf{e}}_2)/2$



Electrostatics: method of images



$$\mathbf{r} \rightarrow \mathbf{r} + \hat{\mathbf{e}}_1 \rightarrow \frac{1}{\mathbf{r} + \hat{\mathbf{e}}_1} \rightarrow \frac{1}{\mathbf{r} + \hat{\mathbf{e}}_1} - \frac{\hat{\mathbf{e}}_1}{2} \rightarrow 2 \left(\frac{1}{\mathbf{r} + \hat{\mathbf{e}}_1} - \frac{\hat{\mathbf{e}}_1}{2} \right)$$

Plane: charge $-q$ at $c\hat{\mathbf{e}}_1$, image $(-q)$ at $-c\hat{\mathbf{e}}_1$

Sphere radius a , charge q at $b\hat{\mathbf{e}}_1$, find image (?)

r	w	charge
0	a	$V = 0$
c	b	q
-c	?	$q' = ?$

Choose scales for **r** and **w**:

$$\mathbf{w} = 2a \left(\frac{1}{\beta \mathbf{r} / c + \hat{\mathbf{e}}_1} - \frac{\hat{\mathbf{e}}_1}{2} \right)$$

$$V(\mathbf{w}) = \frac{1}{4\pi \epsilon_0} \left[\frac{q}{|\mathbf{w} - b\hat{\mathbf{e}}_1|} - \frac{a}{b} \frac{q}{|\mathbf{w} - a^2\hat{\mathbf{e}}_1 / b|} \right]$$

SECOND STEP: EULER FORMULAS

$$e^{i\hat{\mathbf{a}}} = \cos a + i\hat{\mathbf{a}} \sin a \quad (i\hat{\mathbf{a}})^2 = -1$$

$$e^{\hat{\mathbf{b}}} = \cosh b + \hat{\mathbf{b}} \sinh b \quad \hat{\mathbf{b}}^2 = 1$$

In 3-d: $e^{\theta \hat{\mathbf{k}} \times} \mathbf{A}_{\perp} = (\cos \theta + \sin \theta \hat{\mathbf{k}} \times) \mathbf{A}_{\perp}$

given that $\hat{\mathbf{k}} \times (\hat{\mathbf{k}} \times \mathbf{A}_{\perp}) = -\mathbf{A}_{\perp}$

In general, rotating \mathbf{A} about $\theta \mathbf{k}$:

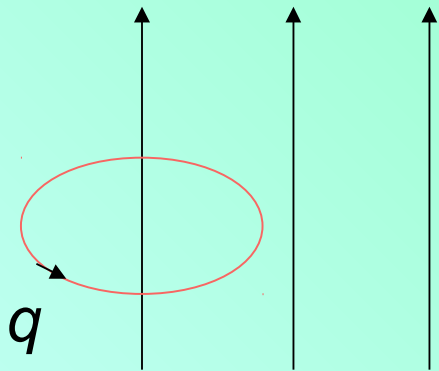
$$e^{\theta \hat{\mathbf{k}} \times} \mathbf{A} = \mathbf{A}'$$

Example: Lorentz Equation

$$\theta = -\omega t \quad \mathbf{v}(t) = e^{-\omega t \hat{\mathbf{k}} \times} \mathbf{v}_0$$

Derivative: $\dot{\mathbf{v}}(t) = -\omega \hat{\mathbf{k}} \times \mathbf{v}(t)$

solves: $m\dot{\mathbf{v}} = -qB \hat{\mathbf{k}} \times \mathbf{v}$

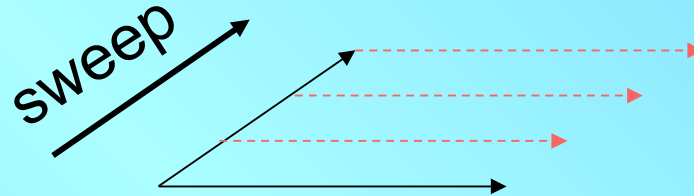
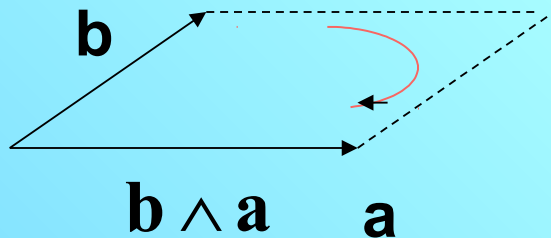
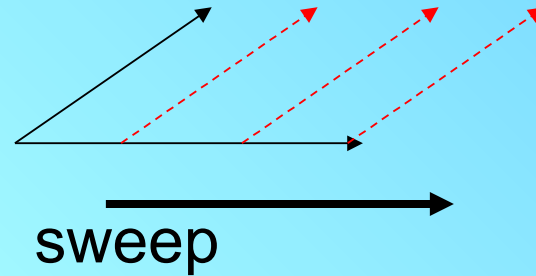
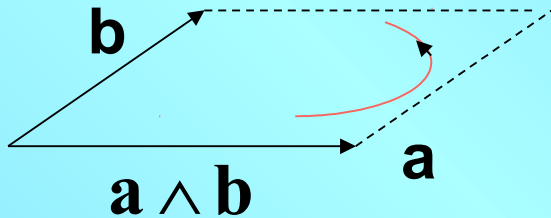


$$\mathbf{B} = B \mathbf{k}$$

$$\hat{\mathbf{k}} = \frac{\mathbf{B}}{B}, \quad \omega = \frac{qB}{m}$$

$$\mathbf{v}(t) = \mathbf{v}_{0\parallel} + \cos(\omega t) \mathbf{v}_{0\perp} - \sin(\omega t) \hat{\mathbf{k}} \times \mathbf{v}_{0\perp}$$

THIRD STEP: ANTISYM. PRODUCT



- anticommutative
- associative
- distributive
- absolute value \Rightarrow area

Geometric or matrix product

$$\mathbf{ab} = \mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b} + \mathbf{a} \wedge \mathbf{b}$$

$$\mathbf{ba} = \mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b} - \mathbf{a} \wedge \mathbf{b}$$

$$\mathbf{aa} = \mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{a} = a^2$$

$$\mathbf{a}^{-1} = \frac{\mathbf{a}}{a^2}$$

- non commutative
- associative
- distributive
- closure:
extend vector space
- unit = 1
- inverse (conditional)

Examples of Clifford algebras

Notation	Geometry	Dim.
\mathcal{G}_2	plane	4
$\mathcal{G}_{0,1}$	complex	2
$\mathcal{G}_{0,2}$	quaternions	4
\mathcal{G}_3	Pauli	8
$\mathcal{G}_{1,3}$	Dirac	16
$\mathcal{G}_{m,n}$	signature (m,n)	2^{m+n}

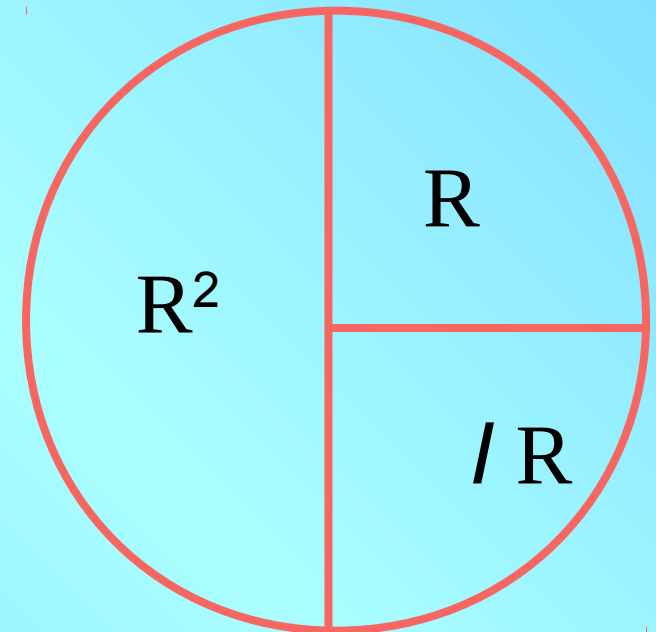
$\mathcal{G}_2 :$

1		scalar
$\hat{\mathbf{e}}_1$	$\hat{\mathbf{e}}_2$	vector
$\hat{\mathbf{e}}_1 \wedge \hat{\mathbf{e}}_2 = \hat{\mathbf{e}}_1 \hat{\mathbf{e}}_2 = I$		bivector

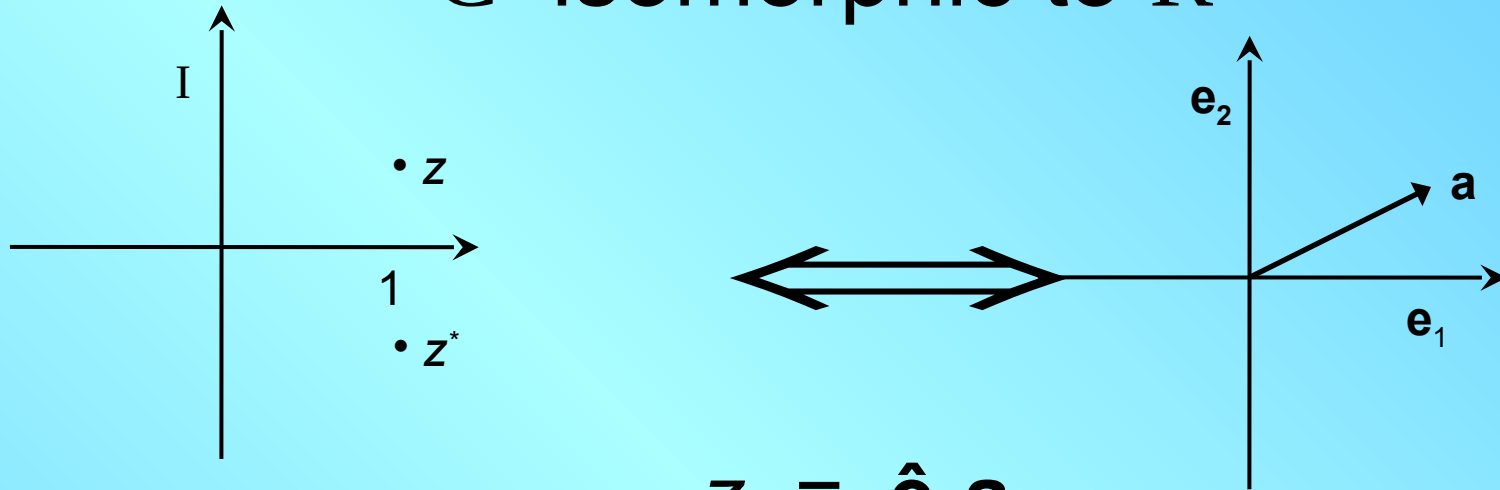
$$\{\hat{\mathbf{e}}_i, \hat{\mathbf{e}}_k\} = \hat{\mathbf{e}}_i \hat{\mathbf{e}}_k + \hat{\mathbf{e}}_k \hat{\mathbf{e}}_i = 2\delta_{ik}$$

$$I^2 = -1 \qquad I \mathbf{a} = -\mathbf{a} I$$

C = even algebra = spinors



\mathbb{C} isomorphic to \mathbb{R}^2



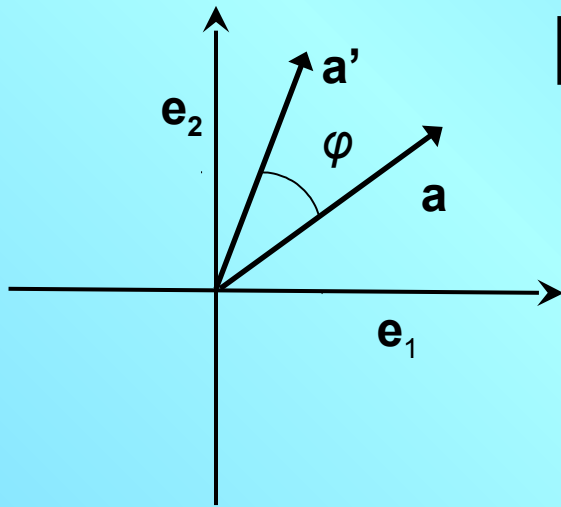
$$z = \hat{e}_1 a$$

$$\hat{e}_1 z = a$$

Reflection: $z \rightarrow z^*$

$$a \rightarrow a' = \hat{e}_1 z^* = \hat{e}_1 a \hat{e}_1$$

In general, $a' = n a n$, with $n^2 = 1$



Rotations in \mathbb{R}^2

$$\mathbf{a}' = \mathbf{a} e^{I\varphi} = e^{-I\varphi} \mathbf{a}$$

$$\mathbf{a}' = e^{-I\varphi/2} \mathbf{a} e^{I\varphi/2}$$

Euler:

$$e^{(\hat{\mathbf{e}}_1 \hat{\mathbf{e}}_2) \varphi} = \cos \varphi + \hat{\mathbf{e}}_1 \hat{\mathbf{e}}_2 \sin \varphi$$

Inverse of multivector in \mathcal{G}_2

Conjugate:

$$A = \alpha + \mathbf{a} + \beta I \quad \Leftrightarrow \quad \tilde{A} = \alpha - \mathbf{a} - \beta I$$

$$A\tilde{A} = \tilde{A}A \quad \text{scalar}$$

$$A^{-1} = \frac{\tilde{A}}{\tilde{A}A} = \frac{\tilde{A}}{A\tilde{A}}$$

Generalizing $\mathbf{a}^{-1} = \frac{\mathbf{a}}{a^2}$ and $z^{-1} = \frac{z^*}{z z^*}$

\mathcal{G}_3

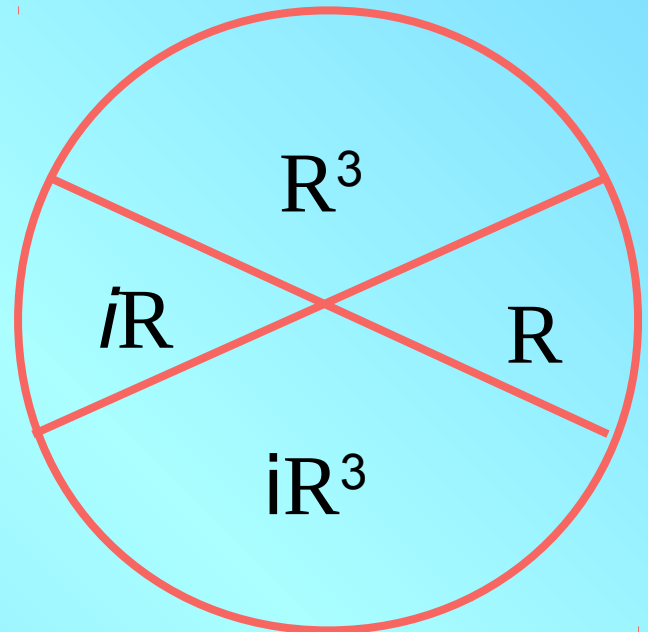
1			1	scalar
$\hat{\mathbf{e}}_1$	$\hat{\mathbf{e}}_2$	$\hat{\mathbf{e}}_3$	3	vector
$\hat{\mathbf{e}}_1\hat{\mathbf{e}}_2 = i\hat{\mathbf{e}}_3$	$\hat{\mathbf{e}}_3\hat{\mathbf{e}}_1 = i\hat{\mathbf{e}}_2$	$\hat{\mathbf{e}}_2\hat{\mathbf{e}}_3 = i\hat{\mathbf{e}}_1$	3	bivector
$\hat{\mathbf{e}}_1\hat{\mathbf{e}}_2\hat{\mathbf{e}}_3 = i$			1	pseudoscalar

$$\{\hat{\mathbf{e}}_i, \hat{\mathbf{e}}_k\} = \hat{\mathbf{e}}_i\hat{\mathbf{e}}_k + \hat{\mathbf{e}}_k\hat{\mathbf{e}}_i = 2\delta_{ik}$$

$$i^2 = -1$$

$$i\mathbf{a} = \mathbf{a}i$$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{H} &= \mathbf{R} + i\mathbf{R}^3 = \\ &= \text{even algebra} = \text{spinors} \end{aligned}$$



Geometric product in \mathcal{G}_3 :

$$\mathbf{a}\mathbf{b} = \mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b} + i \mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{b}$$

$$\mathbf{a} \wedge \mathbf{b} = i \mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{b}, \quad \mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{b} = -i \mathbf{a} \wedge \mathbf{b}$$

Rotations:

$$\mathbf{a} = \hat{\mathbf{n}}(\hat{\mathbf{n}}\mathbf{a}) = \mathbf{a}_{\parallel} + \mathbf{a}_{\perp}$$
$$\mathbf{a}'_{\perp} = \mathbf{a}_{\perp} e^{i\hat{\mathbf{n}}\varphi} = e^{-i\hat{\mathbf{n}}\varphi} \mathbf{a}_{\perp}$$
$$\mathbf{a}' = e^{-\frac{1}{2}i\hat{\mathbf{n}}\varphi} \mathbf{a} e^{\frac{1}{2}i\hat{\mathbf{n}}\varphi}$$

$e^{P/2}$ generates rotations with respect to plane defined by bivector P

Inverse of multivector in \mathcal{G}_3
defining Clifford conjugate:

$$A = \alpha + \beta i + \mathbf{a} + \mathbf{b}i \quad \Leftrightarrow \quad \tilde{A} = \alpha + \beta i - \mathbf{a} - \mathbf{b}i$$

$$A\tilde{A} = \tilde{A}A \quad \text{scalar}$$

$$A^{-1} = \frac{\tilde{A}}{\tilde{A}A} = \frac{\tilde{A}}{A\tilde{A}}$$

- Generalizing: $\mathbf{a}^{-1} = \frac{\mathbf{a}}{a^2}$

Geometric Calculus (3d)

∇ is a vector differential operator acting on:

$\varphi(\mathbf{r})$ – scalar field

$\mathbf{E}(\mathbf{r})$ – vector field

$$\begin{aligned}\nabla(\varphi + \mathbf{E}) &= \nabla \varphi + \nabla \cdot \mathbf{E} + \nabla \wedge \mathbf{E} = \\ &= \nabla \varphi + \nabla \cdot \mathbf{E} + i \nabla \times \mathbf{E}\end{aligned}$$

First order Green Functions

$$\nabla^{-1} = \frac{\nabla}{\nabla^2}$$

$$\nabla^2 \left(-\frac{1}{4\pi r} \right) = \delta(\mathbf{r})$$

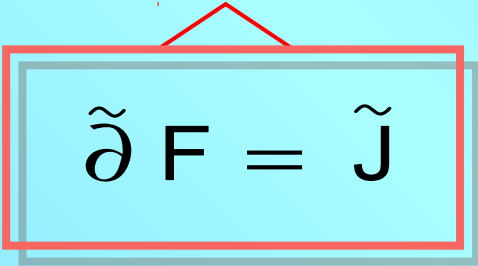
Euclidian spaces :

$$g(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) = \frac{1}{\Omega} \frac{\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y}}{|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y}|^n} \quad \text{is solution of}$$

$$\nabla g(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) = \delta^{(n)}(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y})$$

Maxwell's Equation

- Maxwell's multivector $\mathbf{F} = \mathbf{E} + i c \mathbf{B}$
- current density paravector $\mathbf{J} = (\epsilon_0 c)^{-1}(c\rho + \mathbf{j})$
- Maxwell's equation:


$$\tilde{\partial} \mathbf{F} = \tilde{\mathbf{J}}$$

$$\left(\frac{1}{c} \frac{\partial}{\partial t} + \nabla \right) (\mathbf{E} + i c \mathbf{B}) = \frac{1}{\epsilon_0 c} (c\rho - \mathbf{j})$$

Electrostatics

Gauss's law. Solution using first order Green's function:

$$\nabla \mathbf{E} = \frac{1}{\epsilon_0} \rho \quad \mathbf{E} = \nabla^{-1} \left(\frac{1}{\epsilon_0} \rho \right) = \nabla \frac{1}{\nabla^2} \left(\frac{1}{\epsilon_0} \rho \right)$$

Explicitly:

$$\mathbf{E}(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \int \frac{\mathbf{r}}{r^3} \rho(\mathbf{x}') d\tau' \quad \text{with} \quad \mathbf{r} = \mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}'$$

Magnetostatics

Ampère's law. Solution using first order Green's function:

$$\nabla \mathbf{B} = i\mu_0 \mathbf{j} \quad \mathbf{B} = i\mu_0 \frac{1}{\nabla^2} \nabla \mathbf{j} = -\mu_0 \nabla \times \frac{1}{\nabla^2} \mathbf{j}$$

Explicitly:

$$\mathbf{B}(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{\mu_0}{4\pi} \int \frac{\mathbf{j}(\mathbf{x}') \times \mathbf{r}}{r^3} d\tau' \quad \text{with} \quad \mathbf{r} = \mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}'$$

Fundamental Theorem of Calculus

- Euclidian case :

$d^k x$ = oriented volume, e.g. $\hat{\mathbf{e}}_1 \hat{\mathbf{e}}_2 \hat{\mathbf{e}}_3 = i$

$d^{k-1} x$ = oriented surface, e.g. $\hat{\mathbf{e}}_1 \hat{\mathbf{e}}_2 = i \hat{\mathbf{e}}_3$

$F(x)$ – multivector field, ∂V – boundary of

$$\int_V d^k x \nabla F = (-1)^{k-1} \oint_{\partial V} d^{k-1} x F$$

$$\int_V \mathcal{G}^S d^k x \nabla^S = (-1)^{k-1} \oint_{\partial V} \mathcal{G} d^{k-1} x$$

Example: divergence theorem

- $d^3x = i d\tau$, where $d\tau = |d^3x|$
- $d^2x = i \mathbf{n} da$, where $da = |d^2x|$
- $\mathbf{F} = \mathbf{v}(\mathbf{r})$

$$\int_V \nabla \mathbf{v} i d\tau = \oint_{\partial V} \hat{\mathbf{n}} \mathbf{v} i da$$

scalar part :

$$\int_V \nabla \cdot \mathbf{v} d\tau = \oint_{\partial V} \hat{\mathbf{n}} \cdot \mathbf{v} da$$

Green's Theorem (Euclidian case)

$$F(\mathbf{x}) = -\frac{(-)^n}{I(\mathbf{x})} \int_V g(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') d^n x' \nabla' F(\mathbf{x}') + \\ + \frac{(-)^n}{I(\mathbf{x})} \oint_{\partial V} g(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') d^{n-1} x' F(\mathbf{x}')$$

- where the first order Green function is:

$$g(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') = \frac{1}{\Omega_n} \frac{\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}'}{|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}'|^n} \quad \text{with} \quad \Omega_n = \frac{2\pi^{n/2}}{\Gamma(n/2)}$$

Cauchy's theorem in n dimensions

- particular case : $\mathbf{F} = f \quad \nabla f = 0$

$$f(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{(-)^n}{I(\mathbf{x})} \oint_{\partial V} \frac{1}{\Omega_n} \frac{\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}'}{|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}'|^n} d^{n-1} \mathbf{x}' f(\mathbf{x}')$$

where $f(\mathbf{x})$ is a monogenic multivectorial field: $\nabla f = 0$

Inverse of differential paravectors:

$$\tilde{\partial} = \frac{\partial}{\partial t} + \nabla,$$

$$\tilde{\partial}^{-1} = \frac{\frac{\partial}{\partial t} - \nabla}{\frac{\partial^2}{\partial t^2} - \nabla^2}$$

Helmholtz:

$$(\nabla - jk)^{-1} = \frac{\nabla + jk}{\nabla^2 + k^2},$$

$$G(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}') = \frac{-1}{4\pi} \frac{e^{\pm jkr}}{r},$$

$$j^2 = -1$$

Spherical wave (outgoing or incoming)

Electromagnetic diffraction

- First order Helmholtz equation:

$$\nabla^2 F = -\tilde{J} + jkF$$

- Exact Huygens' principle:

$$F(\mathbf{x}) = -\oint_S (\nabla + jk)G(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}') \hat{\mathbf{n}}' F(\mathbf{x}') da'$$

$$\text{for } F = \mathbf{E} + ic\mathbf{B}$$

In the homogeneous case $J = 0$

Special relativity and paravectors in \mathcal{G}_3

- Paravector $p = p_0 + \mathbf{p}$

Examples of paravectors:

x	$ct + \mathbf{r}$
u	$\gamma(1 + \mathbf{v}/c)$
p	$E/c + \mathbf{p}$
Φ	$\varphi + c\mathbf{A}$
j	$c\rho + \mathbf{j}$

$$\gamma = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 - v^2 / c^2}}$$

Lorentz transformations

$$B = e^{\frac{1}{2}\mathbf{w}} = \cosh(\tfrac{1}{2} w) + \hat{\mathbf{w}} \sinh(\tfrac{1}{2} w)$$

$$R = e^{-\frac{1}{2}i\theta} = \cos(\tfrac{1}{2} \theta) - i \hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}} \sin(\tfrac{1}{2} \theta)$$

Transform the paravector

$$p = p_0 + \mathbf{p} = p_0 + \mathbf{p}_= + \mathbf{p}_\perp \quad \text{into:}$$

$$B p B = B^2 (p_0 + \mathbf{p}_=) + \mathbf{p}_\perp$$

$$R p R^\dagger = p_0 + \mathbf{p}_= + R^2 \mathbf{p}_\perp$$