

The electromagnetic Lagrangian

$$d) \quad \mathcal{L} = -\frac{1}{4} F_{\mu\nu} F^{\mu\nu} + A_\mu J^\mu, \quad F_{\mu\nu} = \partial_\mu A_\nu - \partial_\nu A_\mu$$

We want to show $\frac{\partial F_{\alpha\beta}}{\partial(\partial_\mu A_\nu)} = \delta_\alpha^\mu \delta_\beta^\nu - \delta_\beta^\mu \delta_\alpha^\nu$

Plugging $F_{\alpha\beta} = \partial_\alpha A_\beta - \partial_\beta A_\alpha$ into $\frac{\partial F_{\alpha\beta}}{\partial(\partial_\mu A_\nu)}$,

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial F_{\alpha\beta}}{\partial(\partial_\mu A_\nu)} &= \frac{\partial}{\partial(\partial_\mu A_\nu)} (\partial_\alpha A_\beta - \partial_\beta A_\alpha) \\ &= \delta_\alpha^\mu \delta_\beta^\nu - \delta_\beta^\mu \delta_\alpha^\nu \end{aligned}$$

Note that each term is only nonzero if $\partial_\alpha A_\beta = \partial_\mu A_\nu$, or $\partial_\beta A_\alpha = \partial_\mu A_\nu$, in which case it is 1.

b) We want to show $\frac{\partial(F_{\alpha\beta} F^{\alpha\beta})}{\partial(\partial_\mu A_\nu)} = 4 F^{\mu\nu}$

Applying the product rule gives

$$\frac{\partial(F_{\alpha\beta} F^{\alpha\beta})}{\partial(\partial_\mu A_\nu)} = F_{\alpha\beta} \frac{\partial F^{\alpha\beta}}{\partial(\partial_\mu A_\nu)} + F^{\alpha\beta} \frac{\partial F_{\alpha\beta}}{\partial(\partial_\mu A_\nu)}$$

We can pull out two metrics to lower the indices in the first term.

$$= F_{\alpha\beta} \eta^{\alpha\sigma} \eta^{\beta\lambda} \frac{\partial F_{\sigma\lambda}}{\partial(\partial_\mu A_\nu)} + F^{\alpha\beta} \frac{\partial F_{\alpha\beta}}{\partial(\partial_\mu A_\nu)}$$

Now we realize that if we use the metrics to raise the indices on $F_{\alpha\beta}$, both terms are equal.

$$= 2 F^{\alpha\beta} \frac{\partial F_{\alpha\beta}}{\partial(\partial_\mu A_\nu)} \quad \text{Plugging in } \frac{\partial F_{\alpha\beta}}{\partial(\partial_\mu A_\nu)} \text{ from a)}$$

$$= 2 F^{\alpha\beta} (\delta_\alpha^\mu \delta_\beta^\nu - \delta_\beta^\mu \delta_\alpha^\nu)$$

$$= 2 (F^{\mu\nu} - F^{\nu\mu})$$

We know that $F^{\mu\nu} = -F^{\nu\mu}$.

$$= \underline{4 F^{\mu\nu}}$$

c) we know $\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial A_\nu} - \partial_\mu \left(\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial (\partial_\mu A_\nu)} \right) = 0$

We want to show $\partial_\mu F^{\mu\nu} = -J^\nu$

Let's start by plugging \mathcal{L} into the above equation.

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial A_\nu} \left(\underbrace{-\frac{1}{4} F_{\alpha\beta} F^{\alpha\beta}}_{\text{This is independent of } A_\nu} + A_\alpha J^\alpha \right) - \partial_\mu \left[\frac{\partial}{\partial (\partial_\mu A_\nu)} \left(\underbrace{-\frac{1}{4} F_{\alpha\beta} F^{\alpha\beta}}_{\substack{\text{From part b),} \\ \text{we know this} \\ \text{is } -F^{\mu\nu}}} + \underbrace{A_\alpha J^\alpha}_{\text{This is independent of } \partial_\mu A_\nu} \right) \right] = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{\partial}{\partial A_\nu} (A_\alpha J^\alpha) + \partial_\mu F^{\mu\nu} = 0$$

\parallel
 $\delta_\alpha^\nu J^\alpha$

$$\partial_\mu F^{\mu\nu} = -J^\nu$$