

Maxwell's Equations Rendered into English

Equation	What it means	A commonplace demonstration
$\frac{1}{\mu_0} \nabla \times \mathbf{B} = \mathbf{J} + \epsilon_0 \frac{\partial \mathbf{E}}{\partial t}$	<p>The “curliness” ($\nabla \times$) of the magnetic field (\mathbf{B}) is caused by the electrical current (\mathbf{J})</p> <p>A changing electric field acts much like a current</p>	A current running through a wire sets up a magnetic field in a circle around the wire.
$\nabla \times \mathbf{E} = -\frac{\partial \mathbf{B}}{\partial t}$	The “curliness” ($\nabla \times$) of the electrical field (\mathbf{E}) is caused by a change in a magnetic field (\mathbf{B})	A moving magnet causes a current to flow in a wire
$\epsilon_0 \nabla \cdot \mathbf{E} = \rho$	The “spokiness” ($\nabla \cdot$) of the electrical field (\mathbf{E}) is related to the charge density (ρ).	A charge creates an electrical field that radiates in all directions. Like charges attract; opposite charges repel
$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{B} = 0$	The divergence ($\nabla \cdot$) of the magnetic field (\mathbf{B}) is always zero.	A magnetic field is a closed loop; if you cut a magnet in half, each half has a north and a south end; there is no such thing as a monopole magnet