

Title: The symmetric Jacobi identity

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Abstract: The main axiom of a vertex (operator) algebra is the Jacobi identity, an analogue of the Jacobi identity for a Lie algebra. The Jacobi identity of a vertex algebra is equivalent to many other axioms, in fact a whole system of axioms. This feature lies at the root of some of the non-classical properties of vertex operator algebra theory. I will discuss some of these other axioms and their equivalences, and, in particular, will discuss a somewhat obscure (but long known) version of the vertex algebra Jacobi identity, the symmetric Jacobi identity, which is an analogue of the cyclic form of the Lie algebra Jacobi identity.