

(Chapter 5) **Magnetostatics**

5.1 The Lorentz Force Law

5.1.1 Magnetic Fields

Consider a collection of charges.

If charges are at rest, then the problem is one of electrostatics and we need only to consider electric fields.

But, if the charges are in motion, then we have a current and we must also consider magnetic fields.

(Recall "right hand rule" for Magnetic Fields generated by current-carrying conductors – see the figure.)



Figure 5.3

5.1.2 Magnetic Forces

Consider a charge Q , moving with velocity \vec{v} in a magnetic field \vec{B} :
The magnetic force is given by the Lorentz force law:

$$\vec{F}_{mag} = Q(\vec{v} \times \vec{B})$$

And the total force, if there is also an electric field present, is:

$$\vec{F} = Q(\vec{E} + \vec{v} \times \vec{B})$$

Note the cross product indicates that:

Magnetic Forces do no work.

$$\vec{F} \perp \vec{v}, \vec{B} \Rightarrow W = \int_a^b \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{l} = \int_{t_1}^{t_2} \vec{F} \cdot \vec{v} dt = 0$$

5.1.3 Currents

To measure the motion of charge we have to define a current.
A current is the charge per unit time that passes across a surface.
Current is defined such that a positive current is in the direction of motion of the positive charge.

Current (I) has an associated direction.
 $\Rightarrow \vec{I}$ is a vector quantity.

Consider a line charge λ , traveling at a velocity \vec{v}

$$\vec{I} = \lambda \vec{v}$$

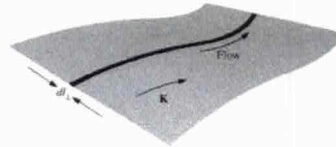
If $d\vec{l}$ is a segment of a wire, then $F_{mag} = \int I(d\vec{l} \times \vec{B})$

$$I = const \therefore F_{mag} = I \int d\vec{l} \times \vec{B}$$

λ represents a one dimensional line charge. $\vec{I} = \lambda \vec{v}$

We can also have 2-D and 3-D charge distributions in motion.

We define a surface current density $\vec{K} \equiv \frac{d\vec{I}}{dl_{\perp}} = \sigma \vec{v}$



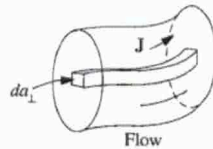
And the Lorentz force law becomes

$$\vec{F}_{mag} = \int (\vec{v} \times \vec{B}) \sigma da = \int (\vec{K} \times \vec{B}) da$$

For a volume current, we define "volume current density" as:

$$\vec{J} = \frac{d\vec{I}}{da_{\perp}} = \rho \vec{v}$$

$$\vec{F}_{mag} = \int \vec{v} \times \vec{B} \rho d\tau = \int \vec{J} \times \vec{B} d\tau$$



Note that \vec{J} can be used to calculate

$$I = \int_s \vec{J} \cdot d\vec{a}$$

Then using the divergence theorem: $\int_s \vec{J} \cdot d\vec{a} = \int_v (\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{J}) d\tau$

$$\int_v (\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{J}) d\tau = - \frac{d}{dt} \int_v \rho d\tau \Rightarrow \vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{J} = - \frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t}$$

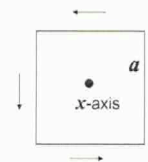
Outward flow decreases the charge left in the volume.

PROBLEM 5.4

Suppose that the magnetic field in some region has the form

$$\vec{B} = kz\hat{x}$$

where k is a constant. Find the force on a square loop (side a), lying on the yz plane and centered at the origin, if it carries a current I , flowing counterclockwise, when you look down the x axis.



PROBLEM 5.4

IDENTIFY relevant concepts

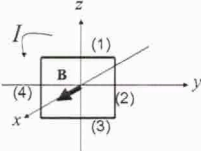
Lorentz force law for a current-carrying element $F_{mag} = \int I(d\vec{l} \times \vec{B})$

Vector products (Eq. 1.12)

SET UP

Draw a diagram:

Break square loop into four segments, as shown in the diagram.



EXECUTE

$$(1) \quad Id\vec{l} = -Idy \cdot \hat{y}; \quad \vec{B} = k \frac{a}{2} \hat{x} \Rightarrow$$

$$\vec{F}_{(1)} = I \int d\vec{l} \times \vec{B} = -Ik \frac{a}{2} \int_{-a/2}^{a/2} dy (\hat{y} \times \hat{x}) = \frac{Ika^2}{2} \hat{z}$$

PROBLEM 5.4 (cont.) EXECUTE (cont.)

$$(2) \quad Id\vec{l} = Idz \cdot \hat{z}; \quad \vec{B} = kz\hat{x} \Rightarrow$$

$$\vec{F}_{(2)} = I \int d\vec{l} \times \vec{B} = Ik \int_{-a/2}^{a/2} z dz (\hat{z} \times \hat{x}) = \frac{Ika^2}{2} \hat{y}$$

$$(3) \quad Id\vec{l} = Idy \cdot \hat{y}; \quad \vec{B} = -k \frac{a}{2} \hat{x} \Rightarrow$$

$$\vec{F}_{(3)} = I \int d\vec{l} \times \vec{B} = -Ik \frac{a}{2} \int_{-a/2}^{a/2} dy (\hat{y} \times \hat{x}) = -\frac{Ika^2}{2} \hat{z}$$

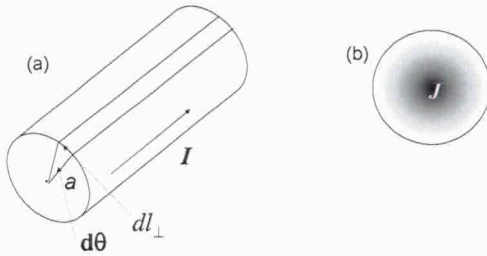
$$(4) \quad Id\vec{l} = -Idz \cdot \hat{z}; \quad \vec{B} = kz\hat{x} \Rightarrow$$

$$\vec{F}_{(4)} = I \int d\vec{l} \times \vec{B} = -Ik \int_{-a/2}^{a/2} z dz (\hat{z} \times \hat{x}) = -\frac{Ika^2}{2} \hat{y}$$

$$\vec{F} = \vec{F}_{(1)} + \vec{F}_{(2)} + \vec{F}_{(3)} + \vec{F}_{(4)} = I \frac{ka^2}{2} [(1+1)\hat{z} + (1-1)\hat{y}] = Ika^2 \hat{z}$$

PROBLEM 5.5 A current I flows down a wire of radius a .

- (a) If it is uniformly distributed over the surface, what is the surface current density K ?
- (b) If it is distributed in such a way that the volume current is inversely proportional to the distance from the axis, what is J ?



PROBLEM 5.5

Surface current density $K = \frac{dI}{dl_{\perp}}$

IDENTIFY relevant concepts

Relation between current and volume current density $I = \int \vec{J} \cdot d\vec{a}$

SET UP & EXECUTE Draw diagram (see previous slide)

$$(a) \quad dl = I \frac{d\theta}{2\pi}, \quad dl_{\perp} = ad\theta \quad K = \frac{dI}{dl_{\perp}} = \frac{I}{2\pi a}$$

$$(b) \quad J \propto \frac{1}{r} \Rightarrow \text{let } J = \frac{\alpha}{r}$$

$$I = \int J da = \int \frac{\alpha}{r} r dr d\theta = \int_0^a \alpha dr \int_0^{2\pi} d\theta = 2\pi \alpha a$$

$$\Rightarrow \alpha = \frac{I}{2\pi a} \Rightarrow J = \frac{I}{2\pi ar}$$

5.2. The Biot-Savart Law

Where do magnetic fields come from? \Rightarrow **Currents**

If the current does not change with time, we say this is a **steady current** as opposed to a **time-varying current**.

Analogy: steady charge – electrostatics
steady currents – magnetostatics

The magnetic field produced by a steady current is given by the **Biot-Savart Law**.

$$\vec{B}(\vec{r}) = \frac{\mu_0}{4\pi} \int \frac{\vec{I} \times \hat{\mathcal{R}}}{\mathcal{R}^2} dl'$$

$$= \frac{\mu_0 I}{4\pi} \int \frac{d\vec{l}' \times \hat{\mathcal{R}}}{\mathcal{R}^2}$$

μ_0 is the **permeability of free space** $= 4\pi \times 10^{-7} \text{ N/A}^2$

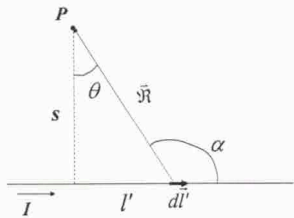
The extension to surface and volume integrals is straightforward:

$$\vec{B}(\vec{r}) = \frac{\mu_0}{4\pi} \int_s \frac{\vec{K}(\vec{r}') \times \hat{\mathcal{R}}}{\mathcal{R}^2} da'$$

$$\vec{B}(\vec{r}) = \frac{\mu_0}{4\pi} \int_v \frac{\vec{J}(\vec{r}') \times \hat{\mathcal{R}}}{\mathcal{R}^2} d\tau' \quad (5.39)$$

Just like Coulomb's law, superposition applies to magnetic fields too.

EXAMPLE 5.5 Find the magnetic field a distance s from a long straight wire carrying a steady current I .



EXAMPLE 5.5

Biot-Savart law

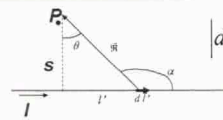
$$\vec{B}(\vec{r}) = \frac{\mu_0}{4\pi} I \int \frac{d\vec{l}' \times \hat{\mathcal{R}}}{\mathcal{R}^2}$$

IDENTIFY relevant principles

Geometrical and trigonometric relations

SET UP & EXECUTE

$$\alpha = \frac{\pi}{2} + \theta$$



$$|d\vec{l}' \times \hat{\mathcal{R}}| = dl' \sin \alpha = dl' \cos \theta$$

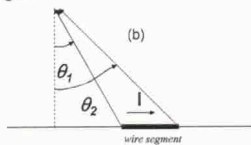
$$l' = s \tan \theta = s \frac{\sin \theta}{\cos \theta} \Rightarrow dl' = s \frac{\cos^2 \theta - (-\sin^2 \theta)}{\cos^2 \theta} d\theta = \frac{s}{\cos^2 \theta} d\theta$$

$$s = \mathcal{R} \cos \theta \Rightarrow \frac{1}{\mathcal{R}^2} = \frac{\cos^2 \theta}{s^2}$$

EXAMPLE 5.5

SET UP & EXECUTE (cont.)

For the wire segment in Figure:



$$\vec{B} = B\hat{k}, \quad B = \frac{\mu_0 I}{4\pi} \int_{\theta_1}^{\theta_2} \left(\frac{\cos^2 \theta}{s^2} \right) \left(\frac{s}{\cos^2 \theta} \right) \cos \theta d\theta$$

$$B = \frac{\mu_0 I}{4\pi s} (\sin \theta_2 - \sin \theta_1) \quad \text{Infinite wire: } \theta_1 = -\frac{\pi}{2}, \quad \theta_2 = \frac{\pi}{2} \Rightarrow$$

$$B = \frac{\mu_0 I}{4\pi s} [1 - (-1)] = \frac{\mu_0 I}{2\pi s}$$

EXAMPLE 5.6 Find the magnetic field a distance z above the center of a circular loop of radius R , which carries a steady current I (see the figure).

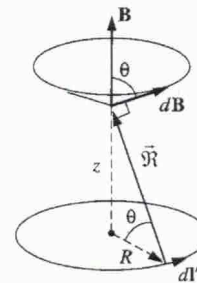


Figure 5.21

We can now use the Biot-Savart Law for volume current (Eq. 5.39)

$$\vec{B}(\vec{r}) = \frac{\mu_0}{4\pi} \int \frac{\vec{J}(\vec{r}') \times \hat{r}}{r^2} d\tau' \quad \text{to show that} \quad \vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{B} = 0$$

i.e. the magnetic field is a divergenceless field (no sources or sinks).

$$\vec{\nabla} \cdot \left\{ \vec{B}(\vec{r}) = \frac{\mu_0}{4\pi} \int \frac{\vec{J}(\vec{r}') \times \hat{r}}{r^2} d\tau' \right\} \Rightarrow \vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{B} = \frac{\mu_0}{4\pi} \int \vec{\nabla} \cdot \left(\vec{J} \times \frac{\hat{r}}{r^2} \right) d\tau'$$

Recall vector identity No. 6 (inside the cover page):
 $\vec{\nabla} \cdot (\vec{A} \times \vec{B}) = \vec{B} \cdot (\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{A}) - \vec{A} \cdot (\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{B})$

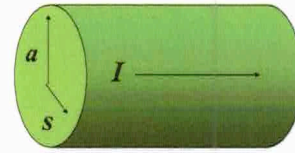
$$\Rightarrow \vec{\nabla} \cdot \left(\vec{J} \times \frac{\hat{r}}{r^2} \right) = \frac{\hat{r}}{r^2} \cdot (\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{J}) - \vec{J} \cdot \left(\vec{\nabla} \times \frac{\hat{r}}{r^2} \right)$$

$$\Rightarrow \vec{\nabla} \cdot \left(\vec{J} \times \frac{\hat{r}}{r^2} \right) = 0 \Rightarrow \vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{B} = 0. \quad \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \vec{\nabla} \times \vec{J}(\vec{r}) = 0 \quad \vec{J}(\vec{r}) \neq f(\vec{r}) \\ \vec{\nabla} \times \frac{\hat{r}}{r^2} = 0 \quad (\text{see prob. 1.62}) \end{array} \right.$$

PROBLEM 5.13

A steady current I flows down a long cylindrical wire of radius a (see the fig.). Find the magnetic field, both inside and outside the wire, if

- The current is uniformly distributed over the outside surface of the wire.
- The current is distributed in such a way that J is proportional to s , the distance from the axis.



PROBLEM 5.13

IDENTIFY relevant concepts

Ampere's law $\oint \vec{B} \cdot d\vec{l} = \mu_0 I_{\text{enclosed}}$

SET UP & EXECUTE

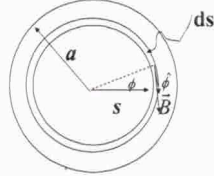
$$(a) \quad \oint \vec{B} \cdot d\vec{l} = \mu_0 I_{\text{enclosed}} \Rightarrow \begin{cases} \vec{B} = 0 & s < a \\ \vec{B} = \frac{\mu_0 I}{2\pi s} \hat{\phi} & s > a \end{cases}$$

$$B(2\pi s) = \mu_0 I_{\text{enclosed}}$$

$$(b) \quad J \propto s \Rightarrow J = ks$$

$$dA = (2\pi s) ds$$

$$I = \int \vec{J} \cdot d\vec{A} = \int_0^a ks \cdot (2\pi s) ds$$



PROBLEM 5.13 (cont.)

EXECUTE (cont.)

$$I = \int_0^a ks \cdot (2\pi s) ds = 2\pi k \int_0^a s^2 ds = 2\pi k \frac{s^3}{3} \Big|_0^a = 2\pi k \frac{a^3}{3}$$

$$\Rightarrow k = \frac{3I}{2\pi a^3}, \quad \text{and} \quad J = \frac{3I}{2\pi a^3} s$$

$$B(2\pi s) = \mu_0 I_{\text{enclosed}}$$

$$I_{\text{enclosed}} = \int_0^s J dA = \int_0^s ks(2\pi s) ds = 2\pi k \frac{s^3}{3} = 2\pi \frac{3I}{2\pi a^3} \frac{s^3}{3} = I \frac{s^3}{a^3}$$

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} s < a, \quad I_{\text{enclosed}} = I \frac{s^3}{a^3} \\ s \geq a, \quad I_{\text{enclosed}} = I \end{array} \right\} \Rightarrow \vec{B} = \begin{cases} \frac{\mu_0 I s^2}{2\pi a^3} \hat{\phi} & \text{for } s < a \\ \frac{\mu_0 I}{2\pi s} \hat{\phi} & \text{for } s \geq a \end{cases}$$

5.4 Magnetic Vector Potential

5.4.1. The Vector Potential

Recall that **if** $\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{F} = 0 \Leftrightarrow \vec{F} = -\vec{\nabla} V$ (Eqn. 1.103) Scalar potential

Similarly, **if** $\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{F} = 0 \Leftrightarrow \vec{F} = \vec{\nabla} \times \vec{A}$ (Eqn. 1.104) Vector potential

Since $\vec{B} \Rightarrow \vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{B} = 0$ we can write magnetic field as

$$\vec{B} = \vec{\nabla} \times \vec{A}$$

\vec{A} is known as the **magnetic vector potential**.

Just as V is defined to within any function whose curl is zero (V is gradient of that function),

we can always add to \vec{A} any function whose divergence is zero.

Hence we can always define \vec{A} so that $\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{A} = 0$.

Magnetic vector potential could be calculated: $\vec{A} = \frac{\mu_0}{4\pi} \int \frac{\vec{J}(\vec{r}')}{r} d\tau'$

PROBLEM 5.25

- By whatever means you can think of, find the vector potential a distance s from an infinite straight wire carrying a current I (outside the wire). Check that

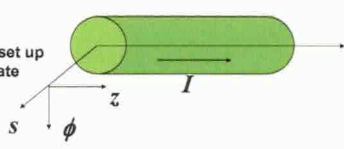
$$\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{A} = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad \vec{\nabla} \times \vec{A} = \vec{B}.$$

- Find the magnetic potential inside the wire, if it has radius R and the current is uniformly distributed.

PROBLEM 5.25a Ordinarily, magnetic vector potential is co-directional with current:
 $\vec{I}(\vec{r}) = I\hat{z} \Rightarrow \vec{A} = A(\vec{r})\hat{z}$
 Magnetic vector potential is defined by:
 $\vec{B} = \vec{\nabla} \times \vec{A}$

IDENTIFY relevant concepts

SET UP
 Draw diagram and set up cylindrical coordinate system ($r \rightarrow s$)



EXECUTE

$$\vec{A} = A_z \hat{z} = A(s)\hat{z} \Rightarrow \vec{\nabla} \times \vec{A} = \frac{1}{s} \frac{\partial A(s)}{\partial \phi} \hat{s} - \frac{\partial A(s)}{\partial s} \hat{\phi}$$

PROBLEM 5.25 a(cont.)

EXECUTE (cont.)

$$\vec{B} = \vec{\nabla} \times \vec{A} = -\frac{\partial A}{\partial s} \hat{\phi} = \frac{\mu_0 I}{2\pi s} \hat{\phi} \quad (\text{Curl in cylindrical coordinates (see Eq. 1.81)})$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{\partial A}{\partial s} = -\frac{\mu_0 I}{2\pi s} \Rightarrow A(s) = -\frac{\mu_0 I}{2\pi} \int \frac{ds}{s}$$

$$\Rightarrow \vec{A}(s) = -\frac{\mu_0 I}{2\pi} \ln\left(\frac{s}{a}\right) \hat{z} \quad a \text{ is the integration constant.}$$

EVALUATE

$$\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{A} = \frac{\partial A_z}{\partial z} \hat{z} = \frac{\partial A(s)}{\partial z} \hat{z} = 0 \quad (\text{Divergence in cylindrical coordinates (see Eq. 1.80)})$$


$$\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{A} = -\frac{\partial A_z}{\partial s} \hat{\phi} = -\frac{\partial A(s)}{\partial s} \hat{\phi} = \frac{\mu_0 I}{2\pi s} \hat{\phi} = \vec{B}$$

PROBLEM 5.25b

IDENTIFY relevant concepts

Ampere's law $\oint \vec{B} \cdot d\vec{l} = \mu_0 I_{encl}$
 Magnetic vector potential has to be continuous at $s = R$.
 Current distributed uniformly: $J = \text{const}$
 Also (see Problem 5.25a): $B = -\frac{dA}{ds} \hat{\phi}$

SET UP & EXECUTE



$$\oint \vec{B} \cdot d\vec{l} = B(2\pi s) = \mu_0 I_{encl} \Rightarrow B = \frac{\mu_0 I_{encl}}{2\pi s}$$

$$I_{encl} = J(\pi s^2) = \frac{I}{\pi R^2} \pi s^2 = I \frac{s^2}{R^2} \Rightarrow \vec{B} = \frac{\mu_0 I}{2\pi} \frac{s}{R^2} \hat{\phi}$$

PROBLEM 5.25b (cont.)

SET UP & EXECUTE (cont.)

$$\vec{B} = \frac{\mu_0 I}{2\pi} \frac{s}{R^2} \hat{\phi} = -\frac{\partial A}{\partial s} \hat{\phi} \Rightarrow \frac{\partial A}{\partial s} = -\frac{\mu_0 I}{2\pi} \frac{s}{R^2}$$

$$\Rightarrow A(s) = A_z = -\frac{\mu_0 I}{4\pi R^2} s^2 + c$$

$$A_{outside}(R) = A_{inside}(R) \Rightarrow -\frac{\mu_0 I}{2\pi} \ln\left(\frac{R}{a}\right) = -\frac{\mu_0 I R^2}{4\pi R^2} + c$$

a is arbitrary, so we adopt: $\Rightarrow a = R \Rightarrow c = \frac{\mu_0 I}{4\pi}$

$$\Rightarrow \vec{A} = \begin{cases} -\frac{\mu_0 I}{2\pi} \ln\left(\frac{s}{R}\right) \hat{z} & s \geq R \\ -\frac{\mu_0 I}{4\pi R^2} [s^2 - R^2] \hat{z} & s \leq R \end{cases}$$

5.4.3. Multipole Expansion of the Vector Potential

Just as we expanded $V(r)$ in powers of $1/r$ for a given charge distribution, we can expand the vector potential in powers of $1/r$ for a given current distribution.

Monopole term
 $\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{B} = 0 \Rightarrow \text{no monopoles}$
 \Rightarrow no monopole term in the expansion.

Dipole term

$$\vec{A}_{dip}(\vec{r}) = \frac{\mu_0}{4\pi} \frac{\vec{m} \times \hat{r}}{r^2}$$

m = magnetic dipole moment
 $\vec{m} = I \int d\vec{a}$