

## Lecture 21

### Magnetostatics

Magnetic Field Far  
from Current  
Distribution

Levi-Civita Tensor

Magnetic moment

Planar loop

Moving point-like  
particles

Torques and forces  
on magnetic dipoles

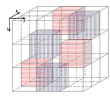
# PHYSICS 604

## Electricity and Magnetism

### Lecture 21

Physics Department  
Old Dominion University

November 30, 2021



# Outline

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### Magnetostatics

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## Magnetostatics

- Magnetic Field Far from Current Distribution
- Levi-Civita Tensor
- Magnetic moment
- Magnetic moment of a planar loop
- Magnetic moment of moving charged point-like particles
- Torques and forces on magnetic dipoles

# Magnetic Field Far from Current Distribution 3/16

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- Consider a localized current distribution  $\mathbf{J}(\mathbf{x}')$ , and the magnetic vector potential produced at a point  $P(\mathbf{x})$  where  $|\mathbf{x}| \gg |\mathbf{x}'|$ . In the Coulomb gauge

$$\mathbf{A}(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{\mu_0}{4\pi} \int d^3x' \frac{\mathbf{J}(\mathbf{x}')}{|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}'|}$$

- Expanding  $\frac{1}{|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}'|} = \frac{1}{|\mathbf{x}|} + \frac{\mathbf{x} \cdot \mathbf{x}'}{|\mathbf{x}|^3} + \dots$ , we get

$$\begin{aligned} A_i(\mathbf{x}) &= \frac{\mu_0}{4\pi} \left\{ \frac{1}{|\mathbf{x}|} \int d^3x' J_i(\mathbf{x}') + \frac{\mathbf{x}}{|\mathbf{x}|^3} \cdot \int d^3x' J_i(\mathbf{x}') \mathbf{x}' + \dots \right\} \\ &= \frac{\mu_0}{4\pi} \left\{ \frac{1}{|\mathbf{x}|} \int d^3x' J_i(\mathbf{x}') + \frac{1}{|\mathbf{x}|^3} \sum_{j=1}^3 x_j \int d^3x' J_i(\mathbf{x}') x'_j + \dots \right\} \end{aligned}$$

- We need to know the volume integrals of  $J_i(\mathbf{x}')$  and  $J_i(\mathbf{x}') x'_j$ , with  $J_i(\mathbf{x}')$  in principle being an arbitrary function
- For magnetostatics, however, it satisfies  $\nabla \cdot \mathbf{J}(\mathbf{x}) \equiv 0$
- Integrating  $\nabla' \cdot \mathbf{J}(\mathbf{x}') \equiv 0$  with any function  $F(\mathbf{x}')$ , we should get zero,

$$0 = - \int d^3x' F(\mathbf{x}') \nabla' \cdot \mathbf{J}(\mathbf{x}') = \int d^3x' \mathbf{J}(\mathbf{x}') \cdot \nabla' F(\mathbf{x}')$$

- In the second step we have integrated by parts and used the fact that the surface integral vanishes for a localized current distribution

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$$\Rightarrow \int d^3 x' \mathbf{J}(\mathbf{x}') \cdot \nabla' F(\mathbf{x}') = 0$$

- In components, we have

$$\sum_{k=1}^3 \int d^3 x' J_k(\mathbf{x}') \nabla'_k F(\mathbf{x}') = 0$$

- Consider the first term in the expansion

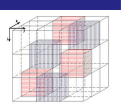
$$A_i(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{\mu_0}{4\pi} \left\{ \frac{1}{|\mathbf{x}|} \int d^3 x' J_i(\mathbf{x}') + \frac{\mathbf{x}}{|\mathbf{x}|^3} \cdot \int d^3 x' J_i(\mathbf{x}') \mathbf{x}' + \dots \right\}$$

- Take  $F(\mathbf{x}') = x'_i$ , which using  $\nabla'_k x'_i = \delta_{ik}$  results in

$$\sum_{k=1}^3 \int d^3 x' J_k \delta_{ik} = 0 \Rightarrow \int d^3 x' J_i = 0$$

$\Rightarrow$  the first term vanishes

- This is just a further restatement that there is no “monopole” contribution to the multipole expansion for magnetic fields



# Magnetic Field Far from Current Distribution, cont.

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- Consider the second term in the expansion of  $\mathbf{A}(\mathbf{x})$

$$A_i(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{\mu_0}{4\pi} \left\{ \frac{\mathbf{x}}{|\mathbf{x}|^3} \cdot \int d^3x' J_i(\mathbf{x}') \mathbf{x}' + \dots \right\}$$

and recall

$$\sum_{k=1}^3 \int d^3x' J_k(\mathbf{x}') \nabla'_k F(\mathbf{x}') = 0$$

- To get  $J_i(\mathbf{x}') x'_j$  in the integrand we take  $F = x'_i x'_j$  and obtain

$$\sum_{k=1}^3 \int d^3x' J_k \left[ \frac{\partial x'_i}{\partial x'_k} x'_j + x'_i \frac{\partial x'_j}{\partial x'_k} \right] = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \sum_{k=1}^3 \int d^3x' J_k [\delta_{ik} x'_j + x'_i \delta_{jk}] = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \int d^3x' [J_i x'_j + J_j x'_i] = 0$$

or

$$\int d^3x' J_i x'_j = - \int d^3x' J_j x'_i = \frac{1}{2} \int d^3x' [J_i x'_j - J_j x'_i]$$

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$$\int d^3x' J_i x'_j = - \int d^3x' J_j x'_i = \frac{1}{2} \int d^3x' [J_i x'_j - J_j x'_i]$$

- Thus, we may write

$$\begin{aligned} A_i(\mathbf{x}) &= \frac{\mu_0}{4\pi} \frac{1}{|\mathbf{x}|^3} \sum_{j=1}^3 x_j \int d^3x' J_i x'_j \\ &= -\frac{1}{2} \frac{\mu_0}{4\pi} \frac{1}{|\mathbf{x}|^3} \sum_{j=1}^3 x_j \int d^3x' [x'_i J_j - x'_j J_i], \end{aligned}$$

- In vector form,

$$\mathbf{A}(\mathbf{x}) = -\frac{1}{2} \frac{\mu_0}{4\pi} \frac{1}{|\mathbf{x}|^3} \int d^3x' [\mathbf{x}'(\mathbf{x} \cdot \mathbf{J}) - (\mathbf{x}' \cdot \mathbf{x})\mathbf{J}],$$

which may be also written as

$$\mathbf{A}(\mathbf{x}) = -\frac{1}{2} \frac{\mu_0}{4\pi} \frac{1}{|\mathbf{x}|^3} \mathbf{x} \times \int d^3x' \mathbf{x}' \times \mathbf{J}$$

using  $\mathbf{A} \times (\mathbf{B} \times \mathbf{C}) = \mathbf{B}(\mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{C}) - \mathbf{C}(\mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{B})$ .

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## Magnetostatics

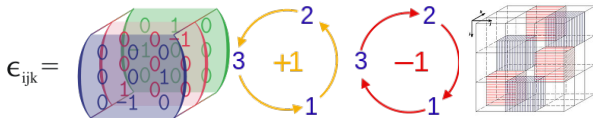
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## Levi-Civita Tensor

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- Recall the definition of the **Levi-Civita tensor**

$$\epsilon_{ijk} = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if any two of } i, j, k \text{ are equal} \\ 1 & \text{if } (ijk) \text{ is an even permutation of } (123) \\ -1 & \text{if } (ijk) \text{ is an odd permutation of } (123) \end{cases}$$

- This tensor is *isotropic*, and *totally anti-symmetric*. In particular, we have

$$\mathbf{A} \times \mathbf{B}|_i = \sum_{j=1}^3 \sum_{k=1}^3 \epsilon_{ijk} A_j B_k \stackrel{\text{Einstein}}{\equiv} \epsilon_{ijk} A_j B_k$$

- There is the following identity

$$\epsilon_{ijk} \epsilon_{ilm} \equiv \sum_{i=1}^3 \epsilon_{ijk} \epsilon_{ilm} = \delta_{jl} \delta_{km} - \delta_{jm} \delta_{kl}$$

equivalent to  $\mathbf{A} \times (\mathbf{B} \times \mathbf{C}) = \mathbf{B}(\mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{C}) - \mathbf{C}(\mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{B})$

# Levi-Civita Tensor

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$$\epsilon_{ijk}\epsilon_{ilm} = \delta_{jl}\delta_{km} - \delta_{jm}\delta_{kl}$$

- Using this identity we write

$$\begin{aligned} x'_i J_j - x'_j J_i &= (\delta_{il}\delta_{jm} - \delta_{im}\delta_{jl})x'_l J_m \\ &= \epsilon_{kij}\epsilon_{klm}x'_l J_m = \epsilon_{ijk}(\mathbf{x}' \times \mathbf{J})_k \end{aligned}$$

and

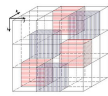
$$\sum_{j=1}^3 x_j [x'_i J_j - x'_j J_i] = x_j \epsilon_{ijk}(\mathbf{x}' \times \mathbf{J})_k = [\mathbf{x} \times (\mathbf{x}' \times \mathbf{J})]_i$$

- Thus we have

$$A_i(\mathbf{x}) = -\frac{1}{2} \frac{\mu_0}{4\pi} \frac{1}{|\mathbf{x}|^3} \left[ \mathbf{x} \times \int d^3x' \mathbf{x}' \times \mathbf{J} \right]_i$$



# Magnetic moment



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$$\mathbf{A}(\mathbf{x}) = -\frac{1}{2} \frac{\mu_0}{4\pi} \frac{1}{|\mathbf{x}|^3} \mathbf{x} \times \int d^3x' \mathbf{x}' \times \mathbf{J}$$

- **Magnetic moment** is given by the vector

$$\mathbf{m} = \frac{1}{2} \int d^3x' \mathbf{x}' \times \mathbf{J}$$

- **Magnetic moment density**

$$\boldsymbol{\mu} = \frac{1}{2} \mathbf{x}' \times \mathbf{J}$$

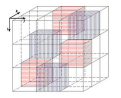
- Thus we can write

$$\mathbf{A}(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{\mu_0}{4\pi} \frac{1}{|\mathbf{x}|^3} \mathbf{m} \times \mathbf{x}$$

- This is the lowest non-vanishing term in the multipole expansion of the magnetic vector potential for a localized current density
- Applying  $\mathbf{B} = \nabla \times \mathbf{A}$ , we have

$$\mathbf{B} = \frac{\mu_0}{4\pi} \left[ \frac{3(\mathbf{x} \cdot \mathbf{m})\mathbf{x} - r^2\mathbf{m}}{r^5} \right],$$

exactly analogous to the electrostatic field due to a point dipole



# Derivation of formula for $\mathbf{B}(\mathbf{x})$

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$$A_k(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{\mu_0}{4\pi} \frac{1}{|\mathbf{x}|^3} [\mathbf{m} \times \mathbf{x}]_k = \frac{\mu_0}{4\pi} \frac{1}{|\mathbf{x}|^3} \epsilon_{ijk} m_i x_j$$

$$\left[ \nabla \times (\mathbf{m} \times \mathbf{x}) \frac{1}{|\mathbf{x}|^3} \right]_n = \epsilon_{nlk} \frac{\partial}{\partial x^l} \frac{1}{|\mathbf{x}|^3} \epsilon_{kij} m_i x_j$$

$$\epsilon_{nlk} \epsilon_{kij} = -\epsilon_{lnk} \epsilon_{ijk} = -\delta_{il} \delta_{jn} + \delta_{jl} \delta_{in}$$

$$\epsilon_{nlk} \epsilon_{kij} m_i x_j = (-\delta_{il} \delta_{jn} + \delta_{jl} \delta_{in}) m_i x_j = -m_l x_n + m_n x_l$$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial}{\partial x^l} \frac{1}{|\mathbf{x}|^3} (-m_l x_n + m_n x_l) &= 3 \frac{x_l}{|\mathbf{x}|^5} (m_l x_n - m_n x_l) + \frac{1}{|\mathbf{x}|^3} (-m_l \delta_{ln} + m_n) \\ &= 3 \frac{x_n (\mathbf{x} \cdot \mathbf{m}) - m_n |\mathbf{x}|^2}{|\mathbf{x}|^5} + \frac{-m_n + 3m_n}{|\mathbf{x}|^3} = \frac{3x_n (\mathbf{x} \cdot \mathbf{m}) - m_n |\mathbf{x}|^2}{|\mathbf{x}|^5} \end{aligned}$$

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## Magnetostatics

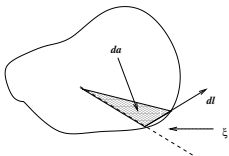
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## Planar loop

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- For the case of a current confined to a loop, we have

$$\mathbf{m} = \frac{I}{2} \oint \mathbf{x} \times d\mathbf{l}$$



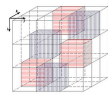
- If we have a planar loop,  $\mathbf{x} \times d\mathbf{l}$  is normal to the plane of the loop, and we have

$$\frac{1}{2} \mathbf{x} \times d\mathbf{l} = \mathbf{n} \frac{1}{2} x dl \sin \xi = da \mathbf{n}$$

- As a result,

$$\mathbf{m} = IA \mathbf{n}$$

- $\mathbf{n}$  is a normal to the plane of the loop, and  $A$  is the total area of the loop



# Magnetic moment of moving charged point-like particles

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- Consider the case where the current distribution arises from the motion of a number of charged point-like particles:

$$\mathbf{J} = \sum_i q_i \mathbf{v}_i \delta(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_i)$$

- $\mathbf{v}_i$  is the velocity of the  $i^{\text{th}}$  particle, which we assume is much less than the velocity of light. Then we have

$$\mathbf{m} = \frac{1}{2} \sum_i q_i \mathbf{x}_i \times \mathbf{v}_i$$

- The orbital angular momentum of a particle is given by

$$\mathbf{L}_i = M_i \mathbf{x}_i \times \mathbf{v}_i$$

where  $M_i$  is the mass of the  $i^{\text{th}}$  particle. Thus, we may write

$$\mathbf{m} = \sum_i \frac{q_i}{2M_i} \mathbf{L}_i$$

- When all the particles have equal  $q_i/M_i$  ratio, the magnetic moment is proportional to the **total angular momentum**

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- Consider a magnetic dipole in the uniform magnetic field  $\mathbf{B}$  and take  $\mathbf{m}$  due to wire loop with area  $a$  carrying current  $I$  such as  $\mathbf{m} = I\mathbf{a}$
- Force on a current element  $I\mathbf{dl}$  at  $\mathbf{x}$  in a magnetic field  $\mathbf{B}(\mathbf{x})$  is

$$d\mathbf{F} = I\mathbf{dl} \times \mathbf{B}$$

- The total force acting on the loop is zero:

$$\mathbf{F} = I \oint \mathbf{dl} \times \mathbf{B} = -I\mathbf{B} \times \oint \mathbf{dl} = 0$$

- The torque acting on the loop is  $\mathbf{m} \times \mathbf{B}$   
Proof: using  $d\mathbf{x}' \equiv \mathbf{dl}$ , we start with

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{N} &= \oint \mathbf{x}' \times d\mathbf{F} = \oint \mathbf{x}' \times (I\mathbf{dx}' \times \mathbf{B}) \\ &= I \oint \mathbf{dx}' (\mathbf{x}' \cdot \mathbf{B}) - \frac{1}{2} \mathbf{BI} \oint d(x'^2) = I \oint \mathbf{dx}' (\mathbf{x}' \cdot \mathbf{B}) \end{aligned}$$

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- For an arbitrary constant vector  $\mathbf{a}$

$$\oint d\mathbf{x}' (\mathbf{x}' \cdot \mathbf{a}) = -\frac{1}{2} \mathbf{a} \times \oint (\mathbf{x}' \times d\mathbf{x}')$$

- Proof:

$$\mathbf{a} \times \oint (\mathbf{x}' \times d\mathbf{x}') = \oint [\mathbf{x}' (\mathbf{a} \cdot d\mathbf{x}') - d\mathbf{x}' (\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{x}')] ,$$

furthermore

$$\oint \mathbf{x}' (\mathbf{a} \cdot d\mathbf{x}') = \oint [d(\mathbf{x}' (\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{x}')) - d\mathbf{x}' (\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{x}')] = - \oint d\mathbf{x}' (\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{x}'),$$

and therefore

$$\mathbf{a} \times \oint (\mathbf{x}' \times d\mathbf{x}') = -2 \oint d\mathbf{x}' (\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{x}')$$

- Taking  $\mathbf{a} = \mathbf{B}$  we get

$$\mathbf{N} = -\frac{I}{2} \mathbf{B} \times \oint (\mathbf{x}' \times d\mathbf{x}') = \left( \frac{I}{2} \oint \mathbf{x}' \times d\mathbf{x}' \right) \times \mathbf{B} = \mathbf{m} \times \mathbf{B}$$

- The torque in a uniform external field is a cross product of the magnetic moment and the field

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- Consider a small dipole in the non-uniform external field (the size of the dipole  $\ll$  characteristic size of the field)
- The formula for the torque remains the same:  $\mathbf{N} = \mathbf{m} \times \mathbf{B}$  (the magnetic field should be taken at the position of the dipole)
- However, the total force is no longer zero,

$$\mathbf{F} = I \oint d\mathbf{l} \times \mathbf{B} \neq 0$$

Since our dipole is small we can expand  $\mathbf{B}(\mathbf{x}')$  in powers of  $\mathbf{x}'$ . Suppose that the dipole is located at the origin. We get

$$\mathbf{B}(\mathbf{x}') = \mathbf{B}(0) + (\mathbf{x}' \cdot \nabla) \mathbf{B}(0) + \dots \quad \text{and using } d\mathbf{l}' \equiv d\mathbf{x}'$$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{F} &= I \oint d\mathbf{l}' \times \mathbf{B}(0) + I \oint d\mathbf{l}' \times (\mathbf{x}' \cdot \nabla) \mathbf{B} + O(x'^2) \\ &= I \oint d\mathbf{x}' (\mathbf{x}' \cdot \nabla) \times \mathbf{B} + O(x'^2) \end{aligned}$$

- Next we use

$$\oint d\mathbf{x}' (\mathbf{x}' \cdot \mathbf{a}) = \frac{1}{2} \oint (\mathbf{x}' \times d\mathbf{x}') \times \mathbf{a}$$

with  $\mathbf{a} = \nabla$  and obtain

$$I \oint d\mathbf{x}' (\mathbf{x}' \cdot \nabla) \times \mathbf{B} = \left( \frac{I}{2} \oint (\mathbf{x}' \times d\mathbf{x}') \times \nabla \right) \times \mathbf{B} = (\mathbf{m} \times \nabla) \times \mathbf{B}$$

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- Finally (incorporating  $\nabla \cdot \mathbf{B} = 0$ )

$$\mathbf{F} = (\mathbf{m} \times \nabla) \times \mathbf{B} = \nabla(\mathbf{m} \cdot \mathbf{B}) - \mathbf{m}(\nabla \cdot \mathbf{B}) = \nabla(\mathbf{m} \cdot \mathbf{B})$$

- Since  $\mathbf{F} = -\nabla U$  we see that the potential energy of a (small) magnetic dipole in the external magnetic field is

$$U = -\mathbf{m} \cdot \mathbf{B}$$

- Relation is similar to  $U = -\mathbf{p} \cdot \mathbf{E}$  for the electric dipole