



Lecture 11-1

Radiating
Systems

Radiation

Dipole Radiation

PHYSICS 453

Electromagnetism II

Lecture 11-1

Physics Department
Old Dominion University

March 10, 2026



Outline

Lecture 11-1

Radiating
Systems

Radiation

Dipole Radiation

- 1 Radiating Systems
 - Radiation
 - Dipole Radiation



What is radiation

3/10

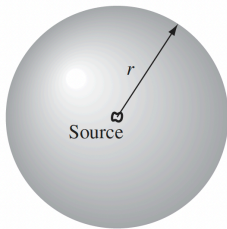
Lecture 11-1

- Energy flow thru the surface of radius $R \rightarrow \infty$

$$P = \oint d\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{S} = \oint d\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{E} \times \mathbf{H}$$

- Since electromagnetic fields travel with a speed of light

$$P_{\text{rad}}(t_0) = \lim_{r \rightarrow \infty} P\left(r, t_0 + \frac{r}{c}\right)$$



- $P_{\text{rad}} = 0$: no radiation
- $P_{\text{rad}} \neq 0$: radiation

Radiating
Systems

Radiation

Dipole Radiation



- In electro/magnetostatics

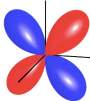
$$\left. \begin{aligned} \mathbf{E}(\mathbf{x}, t) &= \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \int d^3x' \frac{\rho(\mathbf{x}')}{\varsigma^2} \hat{\mathbf{e}}_\varsigma \sim O\left(\frac{1}{r^2}\right) \\ \mathbf{B}(\mathbf{x}, t) &= \frac{\mu_0}{4\pi} \int d^3x' \frac{\mathbf{J}(\mathbf{x}')}{\varsigma^2} \times \hat{\mathbf{e}}_\varsigma \sim O\left(\frac{1}{r^2}\right) \end{aligned} \right\} \Rightarrow \begin{aligned} P_{\text{rad}} &= \lim_{r \rightarrow \infty} \oint d\mathbf{a} \cdot \frac{1}{\mu_0} \mathbf{E} \times \mathbf{B} \\ &\sim r^2 \times \frac{1}{r^4} = 0 \end{aligned}$$

- In electrodynamics

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{E}(\mathbf{x}, t) &= \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \int d^3x' \left[\frac{\rho(\mathbf{x}', t_{\text{ret}})}{\varsigma^2} \hat{\mathbf{e}}_\varsigma + \frac{\dot{\rho}(\mathbf{x}', t_{\text{ret}})}{c\varsigma} \hat{\mathbf{e}}_\varsigma - \frac{\dot{\mathbf{J}}(\mathbf{x}', t_{\text{ret}})}{c^2\varsigma} \right] \sim O\left(\frac{1}{r}\right) \\ \mathbf{B}(\mathbf{x}, t) &= \frac{\mu_0}{4\pi} \int d^3x' \left[\frac{\mathbf{J}(\mathbf{x}', t_{\text{ret}})}{\varsigma^2} + \frac{\dot{\mathbf{J}}(\mathbf{x}', t_{\text{ret}})}{c\varsigma} \right] \times \hat{\mathbf{e}}_\varsigma \sim O\left(\frac{1}{r}\right) \end{aligned}$$

$$\Rightarrow P_{\text{rad}} = \lim_{r \rightarrow \infty} \oint d\mathbf{a} \cdot \frac{1}{\mu_0} \mathbf{E} \times \mathbf{B} \sim r^2 \times \frac{1}{r^2} \neq 0$$

\Rightarrow radiation is possible

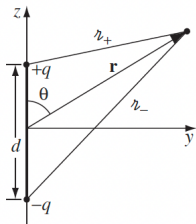


- Vector and scalar potentials due to an arbitrary source are:

$$\Phi(\mathbf{x}, t) = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \int d^3x' \frac{\rho(\mathbf{x}', t_r)}{|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}'|}, \quad \mathbf{A}(\mathbf{x}, t) = \frac{\mu_0}{4\pi} \int d^3x' \frac{\mathbf{J}(\mathbf{x}', t_r)}{|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}'|},$$

where $t_r = t - \frac{|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}'|}{c}$ is the retarded time

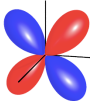
- Consider the electric dipole with $q(t) = q_0 \cos \omega t$ so that $\mathbf{p} = \mathbf{p}_0 \cos \omega t$



$$\begin{aligned} \boldsymbol{\varsigma}_+ &= \mathbf{r} - \frac{d}{2} \hat{\mathbf{e}}_3, & t_r^+ &= t - \frac{\varsigma_+}{c} \\ \boldsymbol{\varsigma}_- &= \mathbf{r} + \frac{d}{2} \hat{\mathbf{e}}_3, & t_r^- &= t - \frac{\varsigma_-}{c} \end{aligned}$$

- For a point charge $\rho(\mathbf{x}, t) = q\delta(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{w}(t))$ where $\mathbf{w}(t)$ is the trajectory.

$$\Rightarrow \rho(\mathbf{r}', t_r) = q(t_r^+) \delta(\boldsymbol{\varsigma}_+) - q(t_r^-) \delta(\boldsymbol{\varsigma}_-)$$

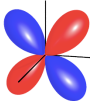


- We will study case when wavelength $\lambda = \frac{2\pi c}{\omega} \gg$ size of the dipole d . Also, we consider fields in so-called **radiation zone** $r \gg \lambda$
- Expand at large r and $\frac{\omega d}{c} \sim \frac{d}{\lambda} \ll 1$

$$\begin{aligned}\zeta_{\pm} &= \sqrt{r^2 \mp 2rd \cos \theta + \frac{d^2}{4}} \simeq r \left(1 \mp \frac{d}{2r}\right) \Rightarrow \frac{1}{\zeta_{\pm}} \simeq \frac{1}{r} \left(1 \pm \frac{d}{2r} \cos \theta\right) \\ \Rightarrow \cos \omega \left(t - \frac{\zeta_{\pm}}{c}\right) &\simeq \cos \omega \left(t - \frac{r}{c} \pm \frac{\omega d}{2c} \cos \theta\right) \\ &\simeq \cos \omega \left(t - \frac{r}{c}\right) \mp \frac{\omega d}{2c} \cos \theta \sin \left(t - \frac{\zeta_{\pm}}{c}\right) + O\left(\frac{d^2}{\lambda^2}\right)\end{aligned}$$

- We get scalar potential in the form

$$\begin{aligned}\Rightarrow \Phi(\mathbf{r}, t) &= \frac{q_0 \cos \left(\omega - \frac{\zeta_+}{c}\right)}{4\pi\epsilon_0\zeta_+} - \frac{q_0 \cos \left(\omega - \frac{\zeta_-}{c}\right)}{4\pi\epsilon_0\zeta_-} \\ &= -\frac{p_0\omega \cos \theta}{4\pi\epsilon_0 cr} \sin \omega \left(t - \frac{r}{c}\right) + \frac{p_0 \cos \theta}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r^2} \cos \omega \left(t - \frac{r}{c}\right) \\ &= -\frac{p_0\omega \cos \theta}{4\pi\epsilon_0 cr} \sin \omega \left(t - \frac{r}{c}\right) \left[1 + O\left(\frac{c}{\omega r} \sim \frac{\lambda}{r}\right)\right]\end{aligned}$$



- Vector potential is determined by the current flowing in the wire

$$\mathbf{I}(t) = \hat{\mathbf{e}}_3 \frac{dq(t)}{dt} = -q_0 \hat{\mathbf{e}}_3 \omega \sin \omega t$$

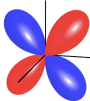
- For the vector potential, the first term in the expansions is sufficient:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{A}(\mathbf{r}, t) &= \frac{\mu_0}{4\pi} \int d^3x' \frac{\mathbf{J}(\mathbf{r}', t_r)}{|\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}'|} \xrightarrow{\text{line currents}} \mathbf{A}(\mathbf{r}, t) = \frac{\mu_0}{4\pi} \int dl' \frac{\mathbf{I}(\mathbf{r}', t_r)}{|\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}'|} \\ &= -\frac{\mu_0}{4\pi} \hat{\mathbf{e}}_3 q_0 \omega \int_{-\frac{d}{2}}^{\frac{d}{2}} dz \frac{\sin(t - \frac{z}{c})}{z} \simeq -\frac{\mu_0}{4\pi r} \hat{\mathbf{e}}_3 q_0 \omega \sin(t - \frac{r}{c}) \end{aligned}$$

- Fields

$$\mathbf{E}(\mathbf{r}, t) = -\nabla\Phi(\mathbf{r}, t) - \frac{\partial}{\partial t}\mathbf{A}(\mathbf{r}, t), \quad \mathbf{B}(\mathbf{r}, t) = \nabla \times \mathbf{A}(\mathbf{r}, t)$$

We need to differentiate potentials keeping only $\sim \frac{1}{r}$ terms and neglecting $\mathcal{O}(\frac{1}{r^2})$ contributions



- In spherical coordinates

$$\begin{aligned} -\nabla\Phi(r, \theta) &= \left(\hat{\mathbf{r}} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} + \frac{\hat{\theta}}{r} \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \right) \frac{p_0 \omega \cos \theta}{4\pi\epsilon_0 c r} \sin \omega \left(t - \frac{r}{c} \right) \\ &= \hat{\mathbf{r}} p_0 \frac{\omega \cos \theta}{4\pi\epsilon_0 c r} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} \sin \omega \left(t - \frac{r}{c} \right) + \mathcal{O} \left(\frac{1}{r^2} \right) = -\hat{\mathbf{r}} \frac{p_0 \omega^2 \cos \theta}{4\pi\epsilon_0 c^2 r} \cos \omega \left(t - \frac{r}{c} \right), \\ -\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \mathbf{A}(\mathbf{r}, t) &= \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \frac{\mu_0}{4\pi r} \hat{\mathbf{e}}_3 q_0 \omega \sin \omega \left(t - \frac{r}{c} \right) = \hat{\mathbf{e}}_3 \frac{p_0 \omega^2 \cos \theta}{4\pi\epsilon_0 c^2 r} \cos \omega \left(t - \frac{r}{c} \right) \\ \Rightarrow \mathbf{E}(\mathbf{r}, t) &= -\frac{p_0 \omega^2 \sin \theta}{4\pi\epsilon_0 c^2 r} \cos \omega \left(t - \frac{r}{c} \right) \hat{\theta} \qquad \hat{\mathbf{r}} \cos \theta - \hat{\mathbf{e}}_3 = \hat{\theta} \sin \theta \end{aligned}$$

- Magnetic vector potential in spherical coordinates is

$$A_r = -\frac{\mu_0 p_0 \omega}{4\pi r} \cos \theta \sin \omega \left(t - \frac{r}{c} \right), \quad A_\theta = \frac{\mu_0 p_0 \omega}{4\pi r} \sin \theta \sin \omega \left(t - \frac{r}{c} \right), \quad A_\phi = 0$$



$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{B}(\mathbf{r}, t) &= \nabla \times \mathbf{A}(\mathbf{r}, t) = \frac{\hat{\phi}}{r} \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial r} (r A_\theta) - \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} A_r \right) \\ &= \frac{\hat{\phi}}{r} \left[\frac{\partial}{\partial r} \frac{\mu_0 p_0 \omega}{4\pi} \sin \theta \sin \omega \left(t - \frac{r}{c} \right) + \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \frac{\mu_0 p_0 \omega}{4\pi r} \cos \theta \sin \omega \left(t - \frac{r}{c} \right) \right] \\ &= -\frac{\hat{\phi}}{r} \frac{\mu_0 p_0 \omega^2}{4\pi c} \sin \theta \cos \omega \left(t - \frac{r}{c} \right)\end{aligned}$$

- We get

$$\left. \begin{aligned}\mathbf{E}(\mathbf{r}, t) &= -\frac{p_0 \omega^2}{4\pi \epsilon_0 c^2 r} \sin \theta \cos \omega \left(t - \frac{r}{c} \right) \hat{\theta} \\ \mathbf{B}(\mathbf{r}, t) &= -\frac{\mu_0 p_0 \omega^2}{4\pi c r} \sin \theta \cos \omega \left(t - \frac{r}{c} \right) \hat{\phi}\end{aligned}\right\} \text{ spherical wave with } \mathbf{B} = \frac{\hat{\mathbf{r}}}{c} \times \mathbf{E}$$

- The Poynting vector is then

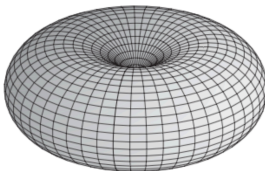
$$\mathbf{S} = \frac{1}{\mu_0} \mathbf{E} \times \mathbf{B} = \frac{\mu_0 p_0^2 \omega^4}{16\pi^2 c r^2} \sin^2 \theta \cos^2 \omega \left(t - \frac{r}{c} \right) \hat{\mathbf{r}}$$

- Time average of the Poynting vector

$$\langle \mathbf{S} \rangle = \frac{\mu_0 p_0^2 \omega^4}{32\pi^2 c r^2} \sin^2 \theta \hat{\mathbf{r}}$$



- Intensity profile of the dipole radiation:



- \Rightarrow the total radiated power takes the form

$$\langle P \rangle = \int \langle \mathbf{S} \rangle \cdot \hat{\mathbf{n}} dA \stackrel{\mathbf{n} \equiv \mathbf{r}}{=} \frac{\mu_0}{32\pi^2 c} p_0^2 \omega^4 \underbrace{\int_0^{2\pi} d\varphi}_{2\pi} \underbrace{\int_0^\pi d\theta \sin^3 \theta}_{4/3} = \frac{\mu_0}{12\pi c} p_0^2 \omega^4$$

- The total radiated power

$$P = \frac{\mu_0}{12\pi c} p_0^2 \omega^4$$