

1. Besides the current loop, the space inside the spherical cavity is current free, so it can be described by a scalar potential. By linearity, this scalar potential inside the cavity is the superposition of the scalar potential by the current loop  $\Phi_{\text{loop}}$  and the scalar potential due to the presence of the iron material  $\Phi_{\text{iron}}$ , where  $\Phi_{\text{iron}}$  satisfies the Laplace equation in a cylindrically symmetric setup, therefore can be written as

$$\Phi_{\text{iron}} = \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} c_l r^l P_l(\cos \theta) \quad (1)$$

We won't need to come up with an expression for  $\Phi_{\text{loop}}$ , since we have readily obtained the magnetic induction flux generated by the loop in equation (5.48) and (5.49), i.e.,

$$B_{r,\text{loop}}(r, \theta) = \frac{\mu_0 I a}{2r} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n (2n+1)!!}{2^n n!} \frac{r_{<}^{2n+1}}{r_{>}^{2n+2}} P_{2n+1}(\cos \theta) \quad (2)$$

$$B_{\theta,\text{loop}}(r, \theta) = -\frac{\mu_0 I a^2}{4} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n (2n+1)!!}{2^n (n+1)!} P_{2n+1}^1(\cos \theta) \begin{cases} -\left(\frac{2n+2}{2n+1}\right) \frac{1}{a^3} \left(\frac{r}{a}\right)^{2n} & \text{for } r < a \\ \frac{1}{r^3} \left(\frac{a}{r}\right)^{2n} & \text{for } r \geq a \end{cases} \quad (3)$$

We are going to determine the coefficients  $c_l$  by imposing the boundary condition. Recall the comment below equation (5.89), the magnetic field (hence magnetic induction flux) at  $r \rightarrow b^-$  must have zero tangential component, i.e.,

$$B_{\theta}(b, \theta) = B_{\theta,\text{loop}}(b, \theta) + B_{\theta,\text{iron}}(b, \theta) = 0 \quad (4)$$

Setting  $r = b$  in (3) yields

$$B_{\theta,\text{loop}}(b, \theta) = -\frac{\mu_0 I a^2}{4} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n (2n+1)!!}{2^n (n+1)!} \frac{1}{b^3} \left(\frac{a}{b}\right)^{2n} P_{2n+1}^1(\cos \theta) \quad (5)$$

Yet by (1)

$$B_{\theta,\text{iron}}(b, \theta) = -\frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial \Phi_{\text{iron}}}{\partial \theta} \Big|_{r=b} = -\sum_{l=1}^{\infty} c_l b^{l-1} \overbrace{P_l^1(\cos \theta)}^{P_l^1(\cos \theta)} (-\sin \theta) \quad (6)$$

Due to the orthogonality of  $P_l^m(x)$ , for (4) to hold, we must have matching coefficients, i.e.,

$$c_{2n} = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad c_{2n+1} = -\frac{\mu_0 I a^2}{4} \frac{(-1)^n (2n+1)!!}{2^n (n+1)!} \frac{1}{b^3} \left(\frac{a}{b}\right)^{2n} \frac{1}{b^{2n}} \quad (7)$$

With this, we can calculate  $\mathbf{B}_{\text{iron}}$  everywhere inside the cavity:

$$\begin{aligned} B_{r,\text{iron}}(r, \theta) &= -\frac{\partial \Phi_{\text{iron}}}{\partial r} = -\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (2n+1) c_{2n+1} r^{2n} P_{2n+1}(\cos \theta) \\ &= \frac{\mu_0 I a^2}{4} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n (2n+1)(2n+1)!!}{2^n (n+1)!} \frac{1}{b^3} \left(\frac{a}{b}\right)^{2n} \left(\frac{r}{b}\right)^{2n} P_{2n+1}(\cos \theta) \end{aligned} \quad (8)$$

$$\begin{aligned} B_{\theta,\text{iron}}(r, \theta) &= -\frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial \Phi_{\text{iron}}}{\partial \theta} = -\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_{2n+1} r^{2n} P_{2n+1}^1(\cos \theta) \\ &= \frac{\mu_0 I a^2}{4} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n (2n+1)!!}{2^n (n+1)!} \frac{1}{b^3} \left(\frac{a}{b}\right)^{2n} \left(\frac{r}{b}\right)^{2n} P_{2n+1}^1(\cos \theta) \end{aligned} \quad (9)$$

At  $r \rightarrow 0$ , the 0th order of (2), (3), (8), (9) will dominate, which are

$$B_{r,\text{loop}}^{(0)} = \frac{\mu_0 I}{2a} \cos \theta \quad B_{r,\text{iron}}^{(0)} = \frac{\mu_0 I a^2}{4} \cdot \frac{1}{b^3} \cos \theta = \frac{a^3}{2b^3} B_{r,\text{loop}}^{(0)} \quad (10)$$

$$B_{\theta,\text{loop}}^{(0)} = \frac{\mu_0 I}{2a} (-\sin \theta) \quad B_{\theta,\text{iron}}^{(0)} = \frac{\mu_0 I a^2}{4} \frac{1}{b^3} (-\sin \theta) = \frac{a^3}{2b^3} B_{\theta,\text{loop}}^{(0)} \quad (11)$$

After superposition, this gives an overall factor of  $1 + a^3/2b^3$  compared to situations without the iron.

2. Clearly from (8) and (9), if we consider only the 0th order, for all points inside the cavity ( $r < b$ ), the iron's effect will be equivalent to a loop with radius  $2b^3/a^2$  carrying the same current  $I$ . But for higher orders, we can not attribute the effect of iron to one single image current, since they have different coefficients according to (8) and (9).