

MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY  
Experimental Study Group

Physics 8.022, Spring 2011

**Problem Set 10 Solutions**  
**Maxwell's equations, waves**

**Due: Wednesday, May 4th 10 am IN CLASS**

**Problem 1: Discovery of magnetic charge**

**Problem**

You discover magnetic charge. The units of magnetic charge density,  $\mu$ , are chosen such that  $\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{B} = 4\pi\mu$ .

- (a) When this magnetic charge is in motion, there is a “magnetic current density”  $\vec{L} = \mu\vec{v}$ . In analogy to electric charge density and electric current densities, write down the equation of continuity for magnetic charge.
- (b) What do Maxwell's equations become with this new charge?

**Solution**

(a)

$$\frac{\partial\mu}{\partial t} + \vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{L} = 0. \quad (1)$$

(b) Take the divergence of the  $\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{E}$  equation; you'll find that the new equation of magnetic charge continuity is violated. To fix it, you must add a term that is proportional to  $\vec{L}$  to Faraday's law. The resulting Maxwell equations are:

$$\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{E} = -\frac{1}{c} \frac{\partial \vec{B}}{\partial t} - \frac{4\pi}{c} \vec{L} \quad (2)$$

$$\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{B} = \frac{1}{c} \frac{\partial \vec{E}}{\partial t} + \frac{4\pi}{c} \vec{J} \quad (3)$$

$$\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{E} = 4\pi\rho \quad (4)$$

$$\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{B} = 4\pi\mu. \quad (5)$$

**Problem 2: Magnetic field of a moving charge**

**Problem**

A charge  $q$  moving along the  $x$ -axis at constant speed  $v \ll c$ . When it is at  $x = -d$ , what is the magnetic field at  $(x, y, z) = (0, r, 0)$ ?

- (a) Solve this first using Biot-Savart. (Hint: the current from the moving charge isn't particularly well defined. However, B-S only needs the combination  $I dl = (dq/dt) dl = dq(dl/dt) \simeq q_{\text{pt charge}}(dl/dt)$ . Sloppy physicist calculus in action!)

(b) Now solve this using displacement current. Look at a circle of radius  $r$  centered at the origin and passing through the point  $(0, r, 0)$ . By symmetry,  $\vec{B}$  will be constant on this circle and oriented in the tangential direction. Find a surface which has this circle as a boundary and for which  $\int \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{a}$  is simple. Evaluate this flux, apply the “generalized” form of Ampere’s law (integral formulation) and you’re there.

Note, there’s a third way: Lorentz transform from the rest frame electric field (which you used on a previous pset). All three answers should agree, at least in the limit  $v \ll c$ .

## Solution

a) Solve this first using Biot-Savart.

For low speed  $v \ll c$ , we can ignore the relativistic effects. To apply B-S law, we simply treat the moving charge at  $x = -d$  as an element current at the same location and  $I d\vec{l} = qv\hat{x}$ . Then we have

$$\vec{B} = \frac{qv\hat{x} \times \hat{r}_1}{cr_1^2}, \quad (6)$$

where  $\vec{r}_1$  is the position vector from the moving charge to the test point  $(0, r, 0)$ . Using  $r_1 = \sqrt{r^2 + d^2}$  and  $\hat{x} \times \hat{r}_1 = \hat{z} \sin \theta_1 = \hat{z}r/r_1$ , we find

$$\vec{B} = \hat{z} \frac{qvr}{c(r^2 + d^2)^{3/2}}. \quad (7)$$

(b) Now solve this using displacement current.

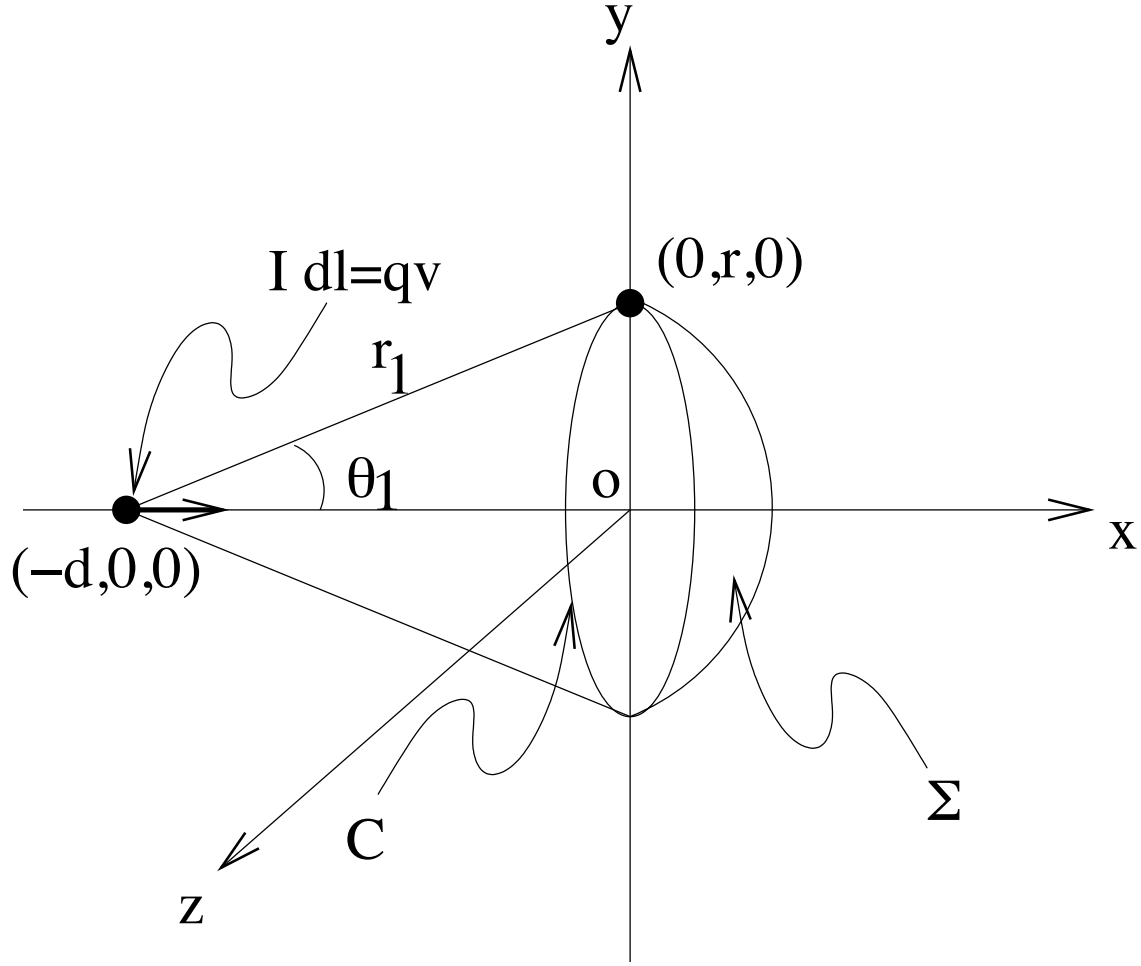


Figure 1: Calculation of magnetic field of a moving charge by “generalized” Ampere’s law.

Consider a surface  $\Sigma$  whose boundary is the circle  $C$  centered at the origin and in Y-Z plane, and all points on  $\Sigma$  have the same distance  $r_1$  to the moving charge at  $(-d, 0, 0)$ . Apply Stoke’s Theorem,

$$\int_{\Sigma} \vec{\nabla} \times \vec{B} \cdot d\vec{a} = \int_C \vec{B} \cdot d\vec{l} \quad (8)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{while} \quad \int_{\Sigma} \vec{\nabla} \times \vec{B} \cdot d\vec{a} &= \frac{1}{c} \int_{\Sigma} \frac{\partial \vec{E}}{\partial t} \cdot d\vec{a} \\ &= \frac{1}{c} \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \int_{\Sigma} \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{a} \end{aligned} \quad (9)$$

$$\text{so} \quad \int_C \vec{B} \cdot d\vec{l} = \frac{1}{c} \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \int_{\Sigma} \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{a}. \quad (10)$$

On the surface  $\Sigma$ ,  $E = q/r_1^2$  in radial direction (seen from the moving charge). So

$$\begin{aligned}
 \int \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{a} &= \frac{q}{r_1^2} \int da \\
 &= \frac{q}{r_1^2} r_1^2 \int_0^{\theta_1} \sin \theta d\theta \int_0^{2\pi} d\phi \\
 &= 2\pi q [\cos(0) - \cos(\theta_1)] \\
 &= 2\pi q \left(1 - \frac{d}{\sqrt{d^2 + r^2}}\right).
 \end{aligned} \tag{11}$$

Then, since  $d(-d)/dt = v$ ,

$$\frac{1}{c} \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \int_{\Sigma} \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{a} = \frac{2\pi q v}{c} \frac{r^2}{(d^2 + r^2)^{3/2}} \tag{12}$$

$$\int_C \vec{B} \cdot d\vec{l} = 2\pi r B \tag{13}$$

$$B = \frac{q v r}{c(r^2 + d^2)^{3/2}}. \tag{14}$$

### Problem 3: General questions

#### Problem

$$\begin{array}{lll}
 \text{I. } \oint\!\!\!\oint_{\text{closed surface}} \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{a} = 4\pi q_{\text{enclosed}} & \text{II. } \oint\!\!\!\oint_{\text{closed surface}} \vec{B} \cdot d\vec{a} = 0 & \text{III. } \oint_{\text{closed loop}} \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{s} = -\frac{1}{c} \frac{d}{dt} \iint_{\text{open surface}} \vec{B} \cdot d\vec{a} \\
 \text{IV. } \oint_{\text{closed loop}} \vec{B} \cdot d\vec{s} = \frac{4\pi}{c} I_{\text{enclosed}} + \frac{1}{c} \frac{d}{dt} \iint_{\text{open surface}} \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{a}
 \end{array}$$

#### Lorentz Force Equation:

$$\text{V. } \vec{F}_q = q\vec{E} + q\frac{\vec{v}}{c} \times \vec{B}$$

Figure 2: Equations

Indicate the number(s) of the Maxwell equation(s) or the Lorentz Force Equation (V.) that can be used to explain the given phenomena:

- A. A coil with a sinusoidal current flowing can levitate above a conducting plate.
- B. The electric field of an isolated point charge drops off like  $1/r^2$ .
- C. There are no magnetic monopoles.
- D. A conducting disc falls more slowly between the poles of a magnet than does a disc which is an insulator.
- E. The lines of  $\vec{B}$  never end.
- F. Iron struck by lightning often becomes magnetized.
- G. There is no magnetic equivalent of a Faraday cage.
- H. All unbalanced charge in a metal is found at the surface under static conditions.
- I. Moving a coil through a magnet generates an electric current in the coil
- J. Radios can tune in to different frequencies.
- K. A transformer can step up or step down voltage.

Figure 3: Maxwell's equations

## Problem 4: Purcell 9.1

### Problem

**9.1** If the electric field in free space is  $\mathbf{E} = E_0(\hat{x} + \hat{y}) \sin(2\pi/\lambda)(z + ct)$ , with  $E_0 = 2$  statvolts/cm, the magnetic field, not including any static magnetic field, must be what?

Figure 4: Purcell 9.1

## Solution

We are given the electric field:

$$\vec{E} = E_0(\hat{x} + \hat{y}) \sin\left(\frac{2\pi}{\lambda}(z + ct)\right)$$

The corresponding magnetic field must satisfy Maxwell's equations. Using Faraday's Law, we find:

$$\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{E} = E_0(-\hat{x} + \hat{y}) \left(\frac{2\pi}{\lambda}\right) \cos\left(\frac{2\pi}{\lambda}(z + ct)\right) = -\frac{1}{c} \frac{\partial \vec{B}}{\partial t} \rightarrow \vec{B} = E_0(\hat{x} - \hat{y}) \sin\left(\frac{2\pi}{\lambda}(z + ct)\right)$$

where we have dropped a constant of integration (static magnetic field).

Figure 5: Solution Purcell 9.1

## Problem 5: Purcell 9.5a

### Problem

**9.5** Here is a particular electromagnetic field in free space:

$$E_x = 0 \quad E_y = E_0 \sin(kx + \omega t) \quad E_z = 0$$

$$B_x = 0 \quad B_y = 0 \quad B_z = -E_0 \sin(kx + \omega t)$$

(a) Show that this field can satisfy Maxwell's equations if  $\omega$  and  $k$  are related in a certain way.

Figure 6: Purcell 9.5

## Solution

Just to be complete, let's test all four of Maxwell's equations on this wave.

$$\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{E} = 0 \rightarrow \frac{\partial E_x}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial E_y}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial E_z}{\partial z} = 0 + 0 + 0 = 0$$

$$\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{B} = 0 \rightarrow \frac{\partial B_x}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial B_y}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial B_z}{\partial z} = 0 + 0 + 0 = 0$$

$$\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{E} = -\frac{\partial E_y}{\partial z} \hat{x} + \frac{\partial E_y}{\partial x} \hat{z} = 0 + E_0 k \cos(kx + \omega t) \hat{z} \quad -\frac{1}{c} \frac{\partial \vec{B}}{\partial t} = E_0 \frac{\omega}{c} \cos(kx + \omega t) \hat{z} \rightarrow \omega = ck$$

$$\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{B} = \frac{\partial B_z}{\partial y} \hat{x} - \frac{\partial B_z}{\partial x} \hat{y} = 0 + E_0 k \cos(kx + \omega t) \hat{z} \quad \frac{1}{c} \frac{\partial \vec{E}}{\partial t} = E_0 \frac{\omega}{c} \cos(kx + \omega t) \hat{z} \rightarrow \omega = ck$$

Figure 7: Solution Purcell 9.5a

## Problem 6: EM waves

### Problem

**Problem 7: *Electromagnetic Plane Waves.*** Suppose that in the absence of any charges (free space) an electric field exists in the form

$$\vec{E} = E_0 \sin(kz + \omega t) \hat{i} + E_0 \cos(kz + \omega t) \hat{j}.$$

Show that  $\vec{E}$  satisfies Maxwell's equations provided that a certain magnetic field  $\vec{B}(x, y, z, t)$  also exists, and a relation between  $\omega$  and  $k$  is satisfied.

- What is the relation between  $\omega$  and  $k$ ?
- What is  $\vec{B}(x, y, z, t)$ ?
- Describe what the electric and magnetic fields look like at the origin as a function of time.

Figure 8: Waves

## Solution

$$a) \quad \frac{\partial E_x}{\partial z^2} = \frac{1}{c^2} \frac{\partial^2 E_x}{\partial t^2} \Rightarrow -k^2 E_x = -\frac{\omega^2}{c^2} E_x \Rightarrow \omega = c k$$

$$b) \quad \vec{B} = -\int (\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{E}) dt$$

$$\vec{B} = -\int \frac{\partial E_x}{\partial z} dt \hat{j} - \int \left(-\frac{\partial E_y}{\partial z}\right) dt \hat{i}$$

$$= -\int k E_0 \cos(kz + \omega t) dt \hat{j} + \int E_0 k \sin(kz + \omega t) dt \hat{i}$$

$$= -\frac{k E_0}{\omega} \sin(kz + \omega t) \hat{j} + \frac{E_0 k}{\omega} \cos(kz + \omega t) \hat{i}$$

$$= -\frac{E_0}{c} \sin(kz + \omega t) \hat{j} + \frac{E_0}{c} \cos(kz + \omega t) \hat{i}$$

$$c) \quad \text{at } z=0: \quad \vec{E} = E_0 \sin \omega t \hat{i} + E_0 \cos \omega t \hat{j}$$

$$\vec{B} = -\frac{E_0}{c} \sin \omega t \hat{j} + \frac{E_0}{c} \cos \omega t \hat{i}$$

Figure 9: Waves



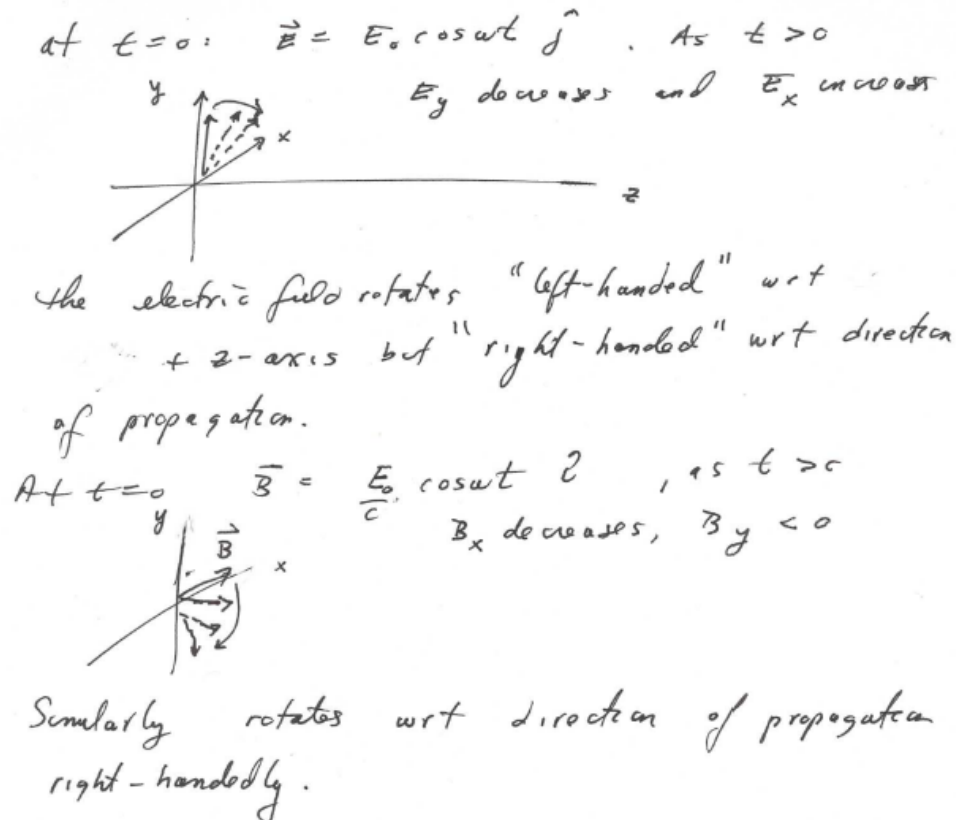


Figure 10: Waves

## Problem 7: Purcell 9.8

### Problem

**9.8** Show that the electromagnetic field described by

$$\mathbf{E} = E_0 \hat{z} \cos kx \cos ky \cos \omega t$$

$$\mathbf{B} = B_0 (\hat{x} \cos kx \sin ky - \hat{y} \sin kx \cos ky) \sin \omega t$$

will satisfy Eqs. 16 if  $E_0 = \sqrt{2}B_0$  and  $\omega = \sqrt{2}ck$ . This field can exist inside a square metal box, of dimension  $\pi/k$  in the  $x$  and  $y$  directions and arbitrary height. What does the magnetic field look like?

Figure 11: Wave in a box

## Solution

For the EM field

$$\vec{E} = \hat{z} E_0 \cos kx \cos ky \cos \omega t \quad (15)$$

$$\vec{B} = B_0 (\hat{x} \cos kx \sin ky - \hat{y} \sin kx \cos ky) \sin \omega t, \quad (16)$$

the two divergencelessness equations of Purcell eqs.(16)

$$\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{E} = 0;$$

$$\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{B} = 0,$$

can be easily verified. The other two equations give

$$\begin{aligned} \vec{\nabla} \times \vec{E} + \frac{1}{c} \frac{\partial \vec{B}}{\partial t} &= \left( \frac{\omega B_0}{c} - E_0 k \right) (\hat{x} \cos kx \sin ky - \hat{y} \sin kx \cos ky) \cos \omega t = 0 \\ \vec{\nabla} \times \vec{B} - \frac{1}{c} \frac{\partial \vec{E}}{\partial t} &= \left( \frac{E_0 \omega}{c} - 2B_0 k \right) \hat{z} \cos kx \cos ky \sin \omega t = 0 \\ \text{or} \quad E_0 &= \frac{\omega}{kc} B_0 \end{aligned} \quad (17)$$

$$E_0 = 2 \frac{kc}{\omega} B_0. \quad (18)$$

So the condition is that

$$\omega = \sqrt{2} ck \quad (19)$$

$$E_0 = \sqrt{2} B_0. \quad (20)$$

The magnetic field inside a square metal box of size  $\pi/k$  is shown in Figure ?? . Note that the box must run from  $-\pi/(2k)$  to  $\pi/(2k)$  in both  $x$  and  $y$  in order to satisfy the boundary condition that  $E = 0$  on the box (which follows from the fact that electric fields vanish on conductors).

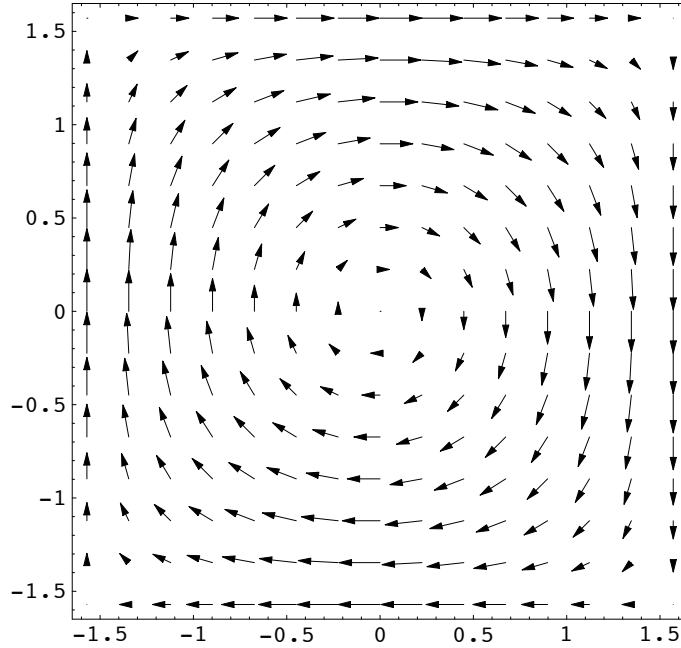


Figure 12: The magnetic field inside a square metal box at  $t = \pi/2\omega$ . The horizontal axis is  $kx$  and vertical axis  $ky$ .

## Problem 8: Galilean Transformation of Maxwell's Wave Equation

### Problem

### Solution

a. Using chain rule we get,

$$\frac{\partial E}{\partial x} = \frac{\partial x'}{\partial x} \frac{\partial E}{\partial x'} + \frac{\partial t'}{\partial x} \frac{\partial E}{\partial t'}$$

Note that

$$\frac{\partial x'}{\partial x} = 1 \quad \text{and} \quad \frac{\partial t'}{\partial x} = 0$$

Hence,

$$\frac{\partial E}{\partial x} = \frac{\partial E}{\partial x'}$$

b. In this case

$$\frac{\partial E}{\partial t} = \frac{\partial x'}{\partial t} \frac{\partial E}{\partial x'} + \frac{\partial t'}{\partial t} \frac{\partial E}{\partial t'}$$

We also know that

$$\frac{\partial x'}{\partial t} = -v \quad \text{and} \quad \frac{\partial t'}{\partial t} = 1$$

Therefore,

$$\frac{\partial E}{\partial t} = -v \frac{\partial E}{\partial x'} + \frac{\partial E}{\partial t'}$$

c. Using the result of part (a) we get,

$$\frac{\partial^2 E}{\partial x^2} = \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left( \frac{\partial E}{\partial x'} \right) = \frac{\partial}{\partial x'} \left( \frac{\partial E}{\partial x'} \right)$$

Similarly replacing in the result of part (b)  $E$  by  $\partial E / \partial t$  we get

$$\frac{\partial^2 E}{\partial t^2} = \left( -v \frac{\partial}{\partial x'} + \frac{\partial}{\partial t'} \right) \left( \frac{\partial E}{\partial t} \right)$$

Using the result of part (b) again we get (after some algebra)

$$\frac{1}{c^2} \frac{\partial^2 E}{\partial t^2} = \frac{1}{c^2} \frac{\partial^2 E}{\partial t'^2} - \frac{2v}{c^2} \frac{\partial^2 E}{\partial x' \partial t'} + \frac{v^2}{c^2} \frac{\partial^2 E}{\partial x'^2}$$

Hence, the wave equation in frame  $F'$  is given by,

$$\frac{\partial^2 E}{\partial x'^2} - \frac{1}{c^2} \frac{\partial^2 E}{\partial t'^2} = -\frac{2v}{c^2} \frac{\partial^2 E}{\partial x' \partial t'} + \frac{v^2}{c^2} \frac{\partial^2 E}{\partial x'^2}$$

d. Substituting the given ansatz into the wave equation of  $F'$  we get,

$$\left( 1 - \frac{V^2}{c^2} \right) E''(x' \pm Vt') = \mp \frac{2vV}{c^2} E''(x' \pm Vt') - \frac{v^2}{c^2} E''(x' \pm Vt')$$

Hence, the assumed ansatz is a solution if

$$1 = \frac{1}{c^2} (V \mp v)^2$$

This implies the speed of the wave in frame  $F'$  is  $c \pm v$ . It is known from experiments that the speed of light in vacuum is frame independent. But just now we had shown that EM waves in frame  $F'$  (according to Galilean relativity) is  $c \pm v$ . Hence, it is clear that “Galilean/Newtonian relativity” is not consistent with Maxwell's equation. This is why we need Einstein's theory of special relativity.

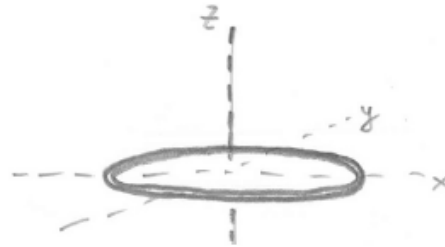
## Problem 9: Optional: loop antenna

### Problem

**Problem 9: Loop Antenna.** An electromagnetic wave propagating in air has a magnetic field given by

$$B_x = 0 \quad B_y = 0 \quad B_z = B_0 \cos(\omega t - kx).$$

It encounters a circular loop antenna of radius  $a$  centered at the origin  $(x, y, z) = (0, 0, 0)$  and lying in the  $x$ - $y$  plane. The radius of the antenna  $a \ll \lambda$  where  $\lambda$  is the wavelength of the wave. So you can assume that at any time  $t$  the magnetic field inside the loop is approximately equal to its value at the center of the loop.



- a) What is the magnetic flux,  $\Phi_{mag}(t) \equiv \iint_{disk} \vec{B} \cdot d\vec{a}$ , through the plane of the loop of the antenna?

The loop has a self-inductance  $L$  and a resistance  $R$ . Faraday's law for the circuit is

$$IR = -\frac{d\Phi_{mag}}{dt} - L\frac{dI}{dt}.$$

- b) Assume a solution for the current of the form  $I(t) = I_0 \sin(\omega t - \phi)$  where  $\omega$  is the angular frequency of the electromagnetic wave,  $I_0$  is the amplitude of the current, and  $\phi$  is a phase shift between the changing magnetic flux and the current. Find expressions for the constants  $\phi$  and  $I_0$ .
- c) What is the magnetic field created at the center of the loop by this current  $I(t)$ ?

Figure 13: Antenna

## Problem 10: Optional — Magnetic monopole: experiments

### Problem

**Magnetic monopoles: experiment.** [EXTRA CREDIT, 15 bonus points]  
 One way to search for magnetic monopoles is by monitoring the current through a highly conductive (preferably superconducting) loop. Suppose a monopole with magnetic charge  $s$  passes through a perfectly conducting circular loop with self-inductance  $L$ . The monopole has a constant speed  $v$ , perpendicular to the plane of the loop. It approaches from very far away, and then recedes to infinity. Calculate the current  $I$  that flows around the loop as a result of the monopole's passage.

(Note: experiments of this type have been running for decades, and have produced a few candidate events, but there has been no unambiguous detection.)

Figure 14: Magnetic monopole

### Solution

We want to calculate the rate of change of the flux passing through a superconducting loop. First, let's calculate the flux of a monopole sitting a distance  $z$  below the loop along the axis of the loop. We will orient the loop so that the surface element  $d\vec{a}$  is pointing in the positive  $z$  direction. The expression for this flux is then:

$$\Phi = \int d\vec{a} \cdot \vec{B} = \int_0^{2\pi} d\phi \int_0^R dr \frac{s}{r^2 + z^2} \hat{r}' \cdot \hat{z} = \int_0^{2\pi} d\phi \int_0^R dr \frac{s}{r^2 + z^2} \frac{z}{\sqrt{r^2 + z^2}}$$

where  $s$  is the magnetic charge and  $\hat{r}'$  is the radial vector from the monopole. We have taken  $\theta$  to be the angle between the  $z$ -axis and the vector  $\vec{r}'$ . Keep in mind that  $\vec{r}'$  points from the monopole to a point on the superconducting ring. Evaluating the integral, we find:

$$\Phi = 2\pi s z \left( -\frac{1}{\sqrt{R^2 + z^2}} + \frac{1}{z} \right) = 2\pi s \left( 1 - \frac{vt}{\sqrt{R^2 + (vt)^2}} \right)$$

Figure 15: Magnetic monopole

where  $z = vt$ . A superconductor (no resistance) will actually produce a current that will exactly cancel the flux passing through the loop. The electro-motive force generated is from the self inductance:

$$\varepsilon = L \frac{dI}{dt}$$

We also know that the induced electro-motive force is related to the time derivative of the flux.

$$\varepsilon = -\frac{1}{c} \frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial t}$$

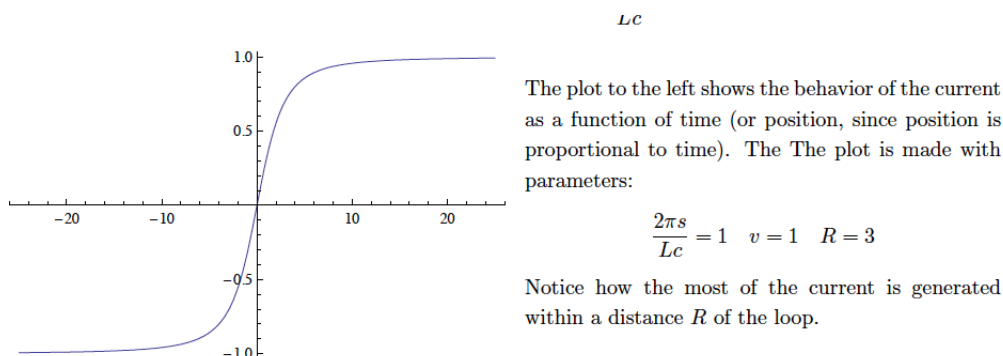
Comparing the two expressions and integrating, we find that the current is proportional to the flux up to a constant:

$$I(t) = -\frac{1}{Lc} \Phi(t) + C = -\frac{1}{Lc} 2\pi s \left( 1 - \frac{vt}{\sqrt{R^2 + (vt)^2}} \right) + C$$

Therefore, the change in current before and after a monopole passes through the loop is:

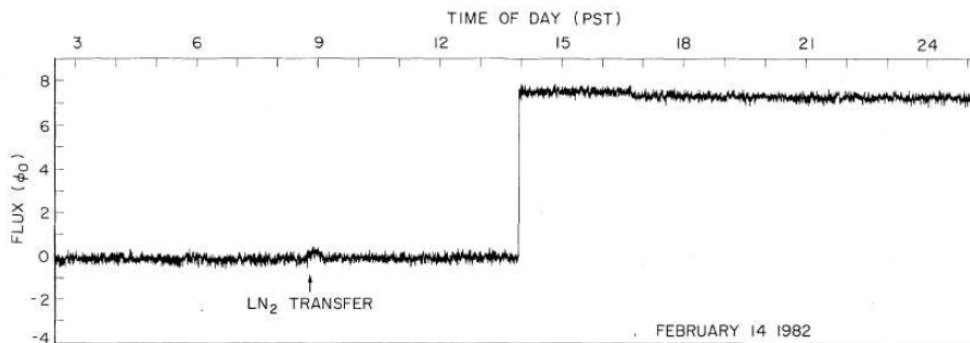
$$I(t \rightarrow \infty) - I(t \rightarrow -\infty) = \frac{4\pi s}{Lc}$$

Figure 16: Magnetic monopole



An actual experimental candidate for monopole detection in this setup was found about 25 years ago. Please see Cabrera, Blas. *First Results from a Superconductive Detector for Moving Monopoles*, Phys. Rev. Lett. (48) 1378 (1982) for more information.

Figure 17: Magnetic monopole



The jump in flux corresponds especially well with the expected value of the magnetic monopole charge from a fairly simple argument made by P.A.M. Dirac. “LN<sub>2</sub> TRANSFER” denotes the time at which liquid nitrogen was added to the container of the superconducting ring to keep it cool (and superconductive). However, no such signal was detected again, leaving us with no firm evidence for the existence of monopoles.

Figure 18: Magnetic monopole

## Problem 11: The Director’s Challenge — Extra credit!!!

### Problem

Formulate an interesting problem that relates a topic from 8.022 to your intended major or any other topic about which you are passionate. Give references to help future students to understand the context. Try to give a solution. Any method — theoretical, analytical, numerical, experimental — is acceptable. If you can’t give a full solution, outline partial solutions. Enjoy!