

Electromagnetism and its units of measurement

I. Saltini

In the present document, we shall strive to provide a description of electromagnetism that is independent of the system of units being used. In order to do that, we shall introduce a number of constants, determine how these constants relate to each other, and finally provide the values of the constants for the most commonly used systems.

1 Charge and current

We take the concept of **electric charge** Q as a primitive. All particles have a certain electric charge, which can be positive, negative or zero, this value determines how the particle couples with electromagnetic interactions. A fundamental law of physics is that total electric charge is conserved. The amount of charge contained within some region of space can still change due to particles moving in or out of the region itself, so that in general Q can be taken to be a function of time.

The force acting between two point charges Q_1 and Q_2 at a distance d from each other is observed experimentally to follow **Coulomb's law**.

$$F = k_C \frac{|Q_1| |Q_2|}{d^2}$$

The choice of units for charge is implicit in the value given to k_C ; two fundamentally distinct approaches are possible: in the first electrical units arise naturally from mechanical units and k_C is just a number, in the second electrical phenomena are linked to a new *base* quantity and k_C is a constant with its own units.

We follow by defining the **electric current** i as the rate of change of the electric charge contained in a region of space, scaled by a constant κ_c . The negative sign is used so that a positive current means that charge is leaving the region.

$$i = -\frac{1}{\kappa_c} \frac{\partial Q}{\partial t} \tag{1}$$

While κ_c is often taken to be unity, its presence is useful for several reasons. It allows us to choose the units of current independently of the units of charge, moreover, with the choice $\kappa_c = c$, it gives additional symmetry to Maxwell's equations and makes the relativistic treatment of electromagnetism appear more natural.

The force (per unit length) acting between two straight wires at a distance d from each other, each carrying a *constant* current (respectively i_1 and i_2) is observed experimentally to follow **Ampère's force law**.

$$\frac{F}{L} = 2 k_A \frac{|i_1| |i_2|}{d}$$

Once again, the choice of units for current is implicit in the value given to k_A and we can either take it to be a number, or give it units. We could, in principle, define two distinct base quantities, one for charge and one for current, and choose the appropriate units for κ_c , although this is not very convenient in practice.

1.1 Densities

It is often useful to work with **charge density** ρ , rather than total electric charge. We define ρ as a function of position and time, such that its volume integral over some region Ω gives us exactly the charge contained in the region at the given time.

$$Q(t) = \iiint_{\Omega} \rho(\xi, t) d^3\xi \quad (2)$$

Since total electric charge must be conserved, this implies that in the presence of current, some motion of charges across the boundary of the region is taking place. There exists some quantity, which we shall name the **current density** vector \mathbf{j} , of which the total electric current is the flux.

$$i(t) = \iint_{\Sigma} \mathbf{j}(\xi, t) \cdot \mathbf{n} d^2\xi \quad (3)$$

Two special cases are the charge density of a point charge Q located at \mathbf{r}_0

$$\rho(\mathbf{r}) = Q \delta(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}_0)$$

and the current density of a thin wire described by a curve γ and carrying a current i .

$$\mathbf{j}(\mathbf{r}) = i \int_{\mathbb{R}} \delta(\mathbf{r} - \gamma(s)) \mathbf{t}(s) ds$$

1.2 Continuity equation

We now take equation (3) specify it to the case where Σ is the boundary of the region Ω where the charge is contained, we also take equation (2) and substitute both

in (1) and apply the divergence theorem.

$$\begin{aligned}\oint_{\partial\Omega} \mathbf{j}(\xi, t) \cdot \mathbf{n} d^2\xi &= -\frac{1}{\kappa_c} \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \iiint_{\Omega} \rho(\xi, t) d^3\xi \\ \iiint_{\Omega} \nabla \cdot \mathbf{j} d^3\xi &= -\frac{1}{\kappa_c} \iiint_{\Omega} \frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} d^3\xi \\ \iiint_{\Omega} \left(\nabla \cdot \mathbf{j} + \frac{1}{\kappa_c} \frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} \right) d^3\xi &= 0\end{aligned}$$

Since this identity must hold regardless of the choice of Ω it must be that the integrand itself is zero. We get the **continuity equation**.

$$\frac{1}{\kappa_c} \frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot \mathbf{j} = 0 \quad (4)$$

We can now relate the current density to the velocity field. Let us consider a surface enclosing a region Ω_0 at time t_0 and containing a charge Q . We define $\Omega(t)$ as the region containing exactly the same particles as Ω_0 . If the motion of the particles is continuous, the motion of the surface will also be continuous; we can therefore apply the Reynolds transport theorem from continuum mechanics. We take the time derivative of the charge within the region, which must be zero since it is constant.

$$\frac{dQ}{dt} = \frac{d}{dt} \iiint_{\Omega(t)} \rho(\xi, t) d^3\xi = \iiint_{\Omega(t)} \left(\frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (\rho \mathbf{v}) \right) d^3\xi = 0$$

If we divide everything by κ_c we obtain an integrand that shows a strong resemblance to the continuity equation.

$$\frac{1}{\kappa_c} \frac{dQ}{dt} = \iiint_{\Omega(t)} \left(\frac{1}{\kappa_c} \frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot \frac{\rho \mathbf{v}}{\kappa_c} \right) d^3\xi = 0$$

As this integral must be zero for any choice of the starting surface Ω_0 , it is the integrand itself that must vanish. For this to happen it must be true that the term of which we are taking the divergence must be the current density.

$$\mathbf{j}(\mathbf{r}, t) = \frac{\mathbf{v}(\mathbf{r}, t) \rho(\mathbf{r}, t)}{\kappa_c} \quad (5)$$

2 Electric and magnetic fields

The force acting on a small *test charge* q as a result of electromagnetic phenomena can be split into two contributions, an electric force which is independent of the charge's motion and a magnetic term which also depends on its velocity.

$$\mathbf{F}(\mathbf{r}, t) = \mathbf{F}_e(\mathbf{r}, t) + \mathbf{F}_m(\mathbf{v}, \mathbf{r}, t)$$

Experimentally, both terms are observed to be linear in q .

The **electric field** \mathcal{E} is defined in terms of the electric force and is obtained by factoring out charge, since we have just observed that the force depends linearly upon it.

$$\mathbf{F}_e(\mathbf{r}, t) = q \mathcal{E}(\mathbf{r}, t)$$

The **magnetic field** \mathbf{B} behaves in a slightly more complicated manner. The magnetic force is observed to always be perpendicular to the particle's velocity, which suggests that a cross product is involved in the definition. Moreover, we need to introduce a scaling constant κ_f , which will be necessary to give us the correct value for the speed of light as an electromagnetic wave.

$$\mathbf{F}_m(\mathbf{v}, \mathbf{r}, t) = \frac{q\mathbf{v} \times \mathbf{B}(\mathbf{r}, t)}{\kappa_f}$$

The sum of these two contributions is called the **Lorentz force**.

$$\mathbf{F}(\mathbf{r}, t) = q \left(\mathcal{E}(\mathbf{r}, t) + \frac{\mathbf{v} \times \mathbf{B}(\mathbf{r}, t)}{\kappa_f} \right) \quad (6)$$

The Lorentz force can also be expressed in terms of charge and current densities, in order to do so it is convenient to define the **force density** \mathbf{f} , a local property defined by the amount of force per unit volume.

$$\mathbf{F}(t) = \iiint_{\Omega} \mathbf{f}(\xi, t) d^3\xi$$

We start with the electric force, we can turn the expression above into a volume integral by using the definition of the Dirac delta.

$$\mathbf{F}_e(\mathbf{r}, t) = \iiint_{\Omega} q \delta(\mathbf{r} - \xi) \mathcal{E}(\xi, t) d^3\xi$$

The expression $q \delta(\mathbf{r} - \xi)$ is the charge density of a point charge q located at \mathbf{r} , this leads us to an expression for the electric force density.

$$\mathbf{F}_e(t) = \iiint_{\Omega} \rho(\xi, t) \mathcal{E}(\xi, t) d^3\xi \quad \mathbf{f}_e(\mathbf{r}, t) = \rho(\mathbf{r}, t) \mathcal{E}(\mathbf{r}, t)$$

We can proceed in a similar manner with the magnetic force, we immediately identify the expression for the charge density.

$$\mathbf{F}_m(t) = \iiint_{\Omega} \frac{\rho(\xi, t) \mathbf{v} \times \mathbf{B}(\xi, t)}{\kappa_f} d^3\xi$$

We now refer to equation (5) and replace $\rho(\xi, t) \mathbf{v}$ with $\kappa_c \mathbf{j}(\xi, t)$, obtaining an expression for the magnetic force density.

$$\mathbf{F}_m(t) = \iiint_{\Omega} \frac{\kappa_c}{\kappa_f} \mathbf{j}(\xi, t) \times \mathbf{B}(\xi, t) d^3\xi \quad \mathbf{f}_m(\mathbf{r}, t) = \frac{\kappa_c}{\kappa_f} \mathbf{j}(\mathbf{r}, t) \times \mathbf{B}(\mathbf{r}, t)$$

Taking both contributions together gives us the Lorentz force density.

$$\mathbf{f}(\mathbf{r}, t) = \rho(\mathbf{r}, t) \mathcal{E}(\mathbf{r}, t) + \frac{\kappa_c}{\kappa_f} \mathbf{j}(\mathbf{r}, t) \times \mathbf{B}(\mathbf{r}, t)$$

2.1 Electromotive force

We consider a closed loop built out of an electrical conductor, delimiting a surface Σ . We define the **electromotive force** as the work per unit of charge performed by the electromagnetic force on a charge going around the whole loop, which is to say, the *circulation* of the Lorentz force per unit charge.

$$\mathcal{V}(t) = \frac{1}{q} \oint_{\partial \Sigma(t)} \mathbf{F}(\xi, t) \cdot \mathbf{t}(\xi, t) d\xi$$

By substituting the expression for the Lorentz force we obtain the following.

$$\mathcal{V}(t) = \oint_{\partial \Sigma(t)} \left(\mathcal{E}(\xi, t) + \frac{\mathbf{v}(\xi, t) \times \mathbf{B}(\xi, t)}{\kappa_f} \right) \cdot \mathbf{t}(\xi, t) d\xi$$

The electromotive force is therefore the sum of two contributions, the first is due to the electric field and is called **induced electromotive force**, the second is due to motion in a magnetic field and is called **motional electromotive force**.

$$\mathcal{V} = \mathcal{V}_{\text{ind}} + \mathcal{V}_{\text{mot}}$$

$$\mathcal{V}_{\text{ind}}(t) = \oint_{\partial \Sigma(t)} \mathcal{E}(\xi, t) \cdot \mathbf{t}(\xi, t) d\xi \quad \mathcal{V}_{\text{mot}}(t) = \oint_{\partial \Sigma(t)} \frac{\mathbf{v}(\xi, t) \times \mathbf{B}(\xi, t)}{\kappa_f} \cdot \mathbf{t}(\xi, t) d\xi$$

Experimentally, it is known that the electromotive force on a circuit depends upon the time derivative of the magnetic flux through the surface delimited by the circuit; this relationship is known as the **Faraday–Neumann–Lenz law**.

$$\mathcal{V} = -k_F \frac{d\Phi_B}{dt}$$

2.2 Joule–Lenz law

Consider a charge distribution $\rho(\mathbf{r}, t)$ together with a velocity field $\mathbf{v}(\mathbf{r}, t)$ in a region where both an electric and magnetic fields exist. The power density of such a system can be computed as the dot product between the force density and the velocity field.

$$\dot{u} = \mathbf{f} \cdot \mathbf{v} = \rho \mathcal{E} \cdot \mathbf{v} + \frac{\kappa_c}{\kappa_f} (\mathbf{v} \times \mathbf{B}) \cdot \mathbf{v} = \mathcal{E} \cdot (\rho \mathbf{v})$$

The second term vanishes because we're taking the dot product of two perpendicular vectors. We recognise the expression for the current density.

$$\dot{u} = \kappa_c \mathcal{E} \cdot \mathbf{j} \quad \frac{1}{\kappa_c} \frac{du}{dt} = \mathcal{E} \cdot \mathbf{j}$$

This is known as the **Joule–Lenz law**.

3 Maxwell's equations

While the Lorentz force gives us a way to compute the way a distribution of charges and currents interacts with the electromagnetic field, we still need a way to determine how the fields themselves are generated by a distribution of charges. This is achieved by **Maxwell's equations**, which can be stated either in integral or differential form. For the sake of simplicity, we choose to use the differential form.

$$M_I \quad \text{Gauss's law (for } \mathcal{E} \text{)} \quad \nabla \cdot \mathcal{E} = \alpha_G \rho$$

$$M_{II} \quad \text{Gauss's law (for } \mathcal{B} \text{)} \quad \nabla \cdot \mathcal{B} = 0$$

$$M_{III} \quad \text{Faraday-Maxwell's law} \quad \nabla \times \mathcal{E} = -\frac{1}{\gamma_F} \frac{\partial \mathcal{B}}{\partial t}$$

$$M_{IV} \quad \text{Ampère-Maxwell's law} \quad \nabla \times \mathcal{B} = \alpha_A \mathbf{j} + \frac{1}{\gamma_M} \frac{\partial \mathcal{E}}{\partial t}$$

We have used two different types of constants, α_G and α_A that couple the fields to the charges and currents respectively, and γ_F and γ_M that couple the fields to each other.

3.1 Continuity equation

We can verify that the continuity equation is consistent with Maxwell's equation, under a proper choice of constants. We begin by taking the divergence of M_{IV} , recalling that the divergence of a curl must be zero.

$$\begin{aligned} \nabla \cdot (\nabla \times \mathcal{B}) &= \alpha_A \nabla \cdot \mathbf{j} + \frac{1}{\gamma_M} \nabla \cdot \frac{\partial \mathcal{E}}{\partial t} \\ 0 &= \alpha_A \nabla \cdot \mathbf{j} + \frac{1}{\gamma_M} \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \nabla \cdot \mathcal{E} \\ 0 &= \alpha_A \nabla \cdot \mathbf{j} + \frac{\alpha_G}{\gamma_M} \frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} \end{aligned}$$

We obtain something that resembles a continuity equation.

$$\frac{\alpha_G}{\alpha_A \gamma_M} \frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot \mathbf{j} = 0$$

Comparing it to equation (4) we obtain a relation between the constants.

$$\frac{\alpha_A \gamma_M}{\alpha_G} = \kappa_c$$

3.2 Propagation of light

We consider Maxwell's equation in the absence of charges or currents.

$$M_I \quad \nabla \cdot \mathcal{E} = 0$$

$$M_{II} \quad \nabla \cdot \mathcal{B} = 0$$

$$M_{III} \quad \nabla \times \mathcal{E} = -\frac{1}{\gamma_F} \frac{\partial \mathcal{B}}{\partial t}$$

$$M_{IV} \quad \nabla \times \mathcal{B} = \frac{1}{\gamma_M} \frac{\partial \mathcal{E}}{\partial t}$$

We take the curl of M_{III} , use the identity $\nabla \times \mathbf{a} = \nabla(\nabla \cdot \mathbf{a}) - \nabla^2 \mathbf{a}$ and substitute M_I and M_{IV} where the corresponding terms appear.

$$\begin{aligned} \nabla \times (\nabla \times \mathcal{E}) &= -\frac{1}{\gamma_F} \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \nabla \times \mathcal{B} \\ \nabla(\nabla \cdot \mathcal{E}) - \nabla^2 \mathcal{E} &= -\frac{1}{\gamma_F} \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \nabla \times \mathcal{B} \\ -\nabla^2 \mathcal{E} &= -\frac{1}{\gamma_F \gamma_M} \frac{\partial^2 \mathcal{E}}{\partial t^2} \end{aligned}$$

We obtain d'Alembert's equation for the electric field.

$$\frac{1}{\gamma_F \gamma_M} \frac{\partial^2 \mathcal{E}}{\partial t^2} - \nabla^2 \mathcal{E} = 0$$

We know for a fact that the propagation speed of an electromagnetic wave is c ; in terms of our constants, this means that the following condition must hold.

$$\gamma_F \gamma_M = c^2$$

The process can be repeated by taking the curl of M_{IV} , and proceeding in a similar manner, but this won't give us any new condition. The fact that electric and magnetic waves travel at the same speed is intrinsic in the structure of Maxwell's equations.

$$\begin{aligned} \nabla \times (\nabla \times \mathcal{B}) &= \frac{1}{\gamma_M} \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \nabla \times \mathcal{E} \\ \nabla(\nabla \cdot \mathcal{B}) - \nabla^2 \mathcal{B} &= \frac{1}{\gamma_M} \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \nabla \times \mathcal{E} \\ -\nabla^2 \mathcal{B} &= -\frac{1}{\gamma_F \gamma_M} \frac{\partial^2 \mathcal{B}}{\partial t^2} \end{aligned}$$

As mentioned, we obtain exactly the same equation we had for the electric field.

$$\frac{1}{\gamma_F \gamma_M} \frac{\partial^2 \mathcal{B}}{\partial t^2} - \nabla^2 \mathcal{B} = 0$$

3.3 Faraday–Neumann–Lenz law

Let us consider a closed loop built out of an electrical conductor, delimiting a surface Σ and let us take the time derivative of the flux of the magnetic field through this surface. The shape and position of the loop can change with time.

$$\frac{d\Phi_B}{dt} = \frac{d}{dt} \iint_{\Sigma(t)} \mathbf{B}(\xi, t) \cdot \mathbf{n}(\xi, t) d^2\xi$$

The rate of change depends both on the change in magnetic field and in the geometry of the loop. We can resort to a form of the Reynolds transport theorem in order to compute this derivative.

$$\frac{d\Phi_B}{dt} = \iint_{\Sigma(t)} \left(\frac{\partial \mathbf{B}}{\partial t} + (\nabla \cdot \mathbf{B}) \mathbf{v}(\xi, t) \right) \cdot \mathbf{n}(\xi, t) d^2\xi - \oint_{\partial \Sigma(t)} (\mathbf{v}(\xi, t) \times \mathbf{B}(\xi, t)) \cdot \mathbf{t}(\xi, t) d\xi$$

We now use Gauss's law for magnetism to remove the term involving the divergence of the magnetic field, which is zero.

$$\frac{d\Phi_B}{dt} = \iint_{\Sigma(t)} \frac{\partial \mathbf{B}}{\partial t} \cdot \mathbf{n}(\xi, t) d^2\xi - \oint_{\partial \Sigma(t)} (\mathbf{v}(\xi, t) \times \mathbf{B}(\xi, t)) \cdot \mathbf{t}(\xi, t) d\xi$$

We then use Faraday–Maxwell's law to replace the first term

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d\Phi_B}{dt} &= -\gamma_F \iint_{\Sigma(t)} \nabla \times \mathcal{E} \cdot \mathbf{n}(\xi, t) d^2\xi - \oint_{\partial \Sigma(t)} (\mathbf{v}(\xi, t) \times \mathbf{B}(\xi, t)) \cdot \mathbf{t}(\xi, t) d\xi \\ \frac{d\Phi_B}{dt} &= -\gamma_F \oint_{\partial \Sigma(t)} \mathcal{E}(\xi, t) \cdot \mathbf{t}(\xi, t) d\xi - \oint_{\partial \Sigma(t)} (\mathbf{v}(\xi, t) \times \mathbf{B}(\xi, t)) \cdot \mathbf{t}(\xi, t) d\xi \end{aligned}$$

Finally, we recognise the expressions for the induced and motional electromotive forces.

$$\frac{d\Phi_B}{dt} = -\gamma_F \mathcal{V}_{\text{ind}} - \kappa_f \mathcal{V}_{\text{mot}}$$

In order for the Faraday–Neumann–Lenz law to be valid, we need to be able to factor this expression, so we obtain a third and last condition for our constants, along with an expression giving us the value of Faraday's constant in terms of such constants.

$$\gamma_F = \kappa_f = k_F$$

3.4 Adding it all up

We started out with six constants: $\kappa_c, \kappa_f, \alpha_G, \alpha_A, \gamma_F$ and γ_M , but we observed that requiring the consistency of Maxwell's equations with the continuity equation for electric charges, with the fact that electromagnetic waves propagate with a speed of c and

with the Faraday–Neumann–Lenz law has given us three equations that relate these constants to each other.

$$\alpha_G = \frac{c^2}{\kappa_f \kappa_c} \alpha_A \quad \gamma_M = \frac{c^2}{\kappa_f} \quad \gamma_F = \kappa_f \quad (7)$$

We are left with only three constants which we can freely choose. We rearrange the above equations in order to give us a system where we are free to choose the couplings between the fields and the charges, in addition to the constant κ_c that defines current.

$$\kappa_f = \gamma_F = \frac{c^2}{\kappa_c} \frac{\alpha_A}{\alpha_G} \quad \gamma_M = \frac{\alpha_G}{\alpha_A} \kappa_c \quad (8)$$

In such a system Maxwell's equations take the following form.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{M}_I \quad & \text{Gauss's law (for } \mathcal{E} \text{)} & \nabla \cdot \mathcal{E} &= \alpha_G \rho \\ \text{M}_{II} \quad & \text{Gauss's law (for } \mathcal{B} \text{)} & \nabla \cdot \mathcal{B} &= 0 \\ \text{M}_{III} \quad & \text{Faraday–Maxwell's law} & \nabla \times \mathcal{E} &= -\frac{1}{\kappa_f} \frac{\partial \mathcal{B}}{\partial t} \\ \text{M}_{IV} \quad & \text{Ampère–Maxwell's law} & \nabla \times \mathcal{B} &= \alpha_A \mathbf{j} + \frac{\kappa_f}{c^2} \frac{\partial \mathcal{E}}{\partial t} \end{aligned}$$

4 Force laws

We have already introduced the two experimental force laws, namely Coulomb's and Ampère's laws. We now endeavour to derive them from Maxwell's equation in order to find a connection between the experimental constants k_C and k_A and the constants that appear in Maxwell's equations.

4.1 Coulomb's law

We consider an immobile point charge Q at the origin, for which $\rho(\mathbf{r}, t) = Q \delta(\mathbf{r})$, and integrate Gauss's law over a spherical volume Ω with radius d .

$$\iiint_{\Omega} \nabla \cdot \mathcal{E} d^3 \xi = \alpha_G \iiint_{\Omega} Q \delta(\xi) d^3 \xi \quad \Rightarrow \quad \oint_{\partial \Omega} \mathcal{E}(\xi) \cdot \mathbf{n}(\xi) d^2 \xi = \alpha_G Q$$

Since the system is spherically symmetrical we can assume that the electric field shares such a property, this means that it must be directed radially and that its magnitude only depends upon the magnitude of ξ , giving us the following expression for it.

$$\mathcal{E}(\xi) = \mathcal{E}_n(\xi) \mathbf{n}(\xi)$$

We plug this into the previous expression and recall that the sphere has radius d , so that ξ is the same at all points and we can extract \mathcal{E}_n from the integral.

$$\oint_{\partial\Omega} \mathcal{E}_n(d) d^2\xi = \mathcal{E}_n(d) \oint_{\partial\Omega} d^2\xi = 4\pi d^2 \mathcal{E}_n(d)$$

Solving for the electric field gives us an inverse square law.

$$\mathcal{E}_n(d) = \frac{\alpha_G Q}{4\pi d^2}$$

Assuming we have a second charge Q_2 at a distance d from the first, which we shall now denote by Q_1 , the resulting force in the radial direction can be computed as the electric force produced by this field.

$$F_n(d) = Q_2 \mathcal{E}_n(d) = \frac{\alpha_G Q_1 Q_2}{4\pi d^2}$$

Taking the magnitude of this force gives us Coulomb's law and therefore Coulomb's constant, which only depends upon α_G .

$$F(d) = \frac{\alpha_G |Q_1| |Q_2|}{4\pi d^2} \quad k_C = \frac{\alpha_G}{4\pi}$$

4.2 Ampère's force law

We consider an infinitely long straight wire carrying a current I , passing through the origin and going in the direction z . The wire can be parametrised $\gamma(s) = (0, 0, s)$, the tangent to which is simply \mathbf{u}_z . The current density for such a system is as follows.

$$\mathbf{j}(\mathbf{r}, t) = I \delta(x) \delta(y) \mathbf{u}_z \int_{\mathbb{R}} \delta(z-s) ds = I \delta(x) \delta(y) \mathbf{u}_z$$

We take the flux of Ampère-Maxwell's law over a circle Σ with radius d lying in the (x, y) plane and thus having the vector \mathbf{u}_z as a normal.

$$\iint_{\Sigma} (\nabla \times \mathbf{B}) \cdot \mathbf{u}_z d^2\xi = \alpha_A \iint_{\Sigma} (I \delta(x) \delta(y)) \mathbf{u}_z \cdot \mathbf{u}_z d^2\xi \quad \Rightarrow \quad \oint_{\partial\Sigma} \mathbf{B} \cdot \mathbf{u}_{\phi} d\xi = \alpha_A I$$

This system has cylindrical symmetry, so we can expect the magnetic field to also have such a property. Therefore it should be directed along the tangent to the circle at each point and have a magnitude dependent only upon the distance from the origin.

$$\mathbf{B}(\xi) = B_{\phi}(\xi) \mathbf{u}_{\phi}(\xi)$$

We plug this into the previous expression and recall that the circle has radius d , so that ξ is the same at all points and we can extract B_{ϕ} from the integral.

$$\oint_{\partial\Sigma} B_{\phi}(d) d\xi = B_{\phi}(d) \oint_{\partial\Sigma} d\xi = 2\pi d B_{\phi}(d)$$

Solving for the magnetic field gives us the **Biot–Savart law**.

$$B_\phi(d) = \frac{\alpha_A I}{2\pi d}$$

We now take a second wire carrying a current I_2 , parallel to the original wire and located at a point (x_0, y_0) such that its distance from the first wire is d , that is to say that $x_0^2 + y_0^2 = d^2$. The current density for this wire is $\mathbf{j}_2(\mathbf{r}, t) = I_2 \delta(x - x_0) \delta(y - y_0) \mathbf{u}_z$. We also denote the current on the first wire by I_1 .

We should expect the force acting between the two wires to be infinite, since they are indefinitely long, to get around this we must consider the force per unit length, which we can compute by considering the expression for the magnetic force density, integrating it over a region of space spanning the whole (x, y) plane and between 0 and L in the z direction, then dividing this result by L .

$$\frac{\mathbf{F}}{L} = \frac{1}{L} \int_0^L \left(\iint_{\mathbb{R}^2} \mathbf{f}_m dx dy \right) dz = \frac{1}{L} \int_0^L \left(\iint_{\mathbb{R}^2} \frac{\kappa_c}{\kappa_f} \mathbf{j}_2 \times \mathbf{B} dx dy \right) dz$$

Replacing the expressions relating to our case we find the following.

$$\frac{\mathbf{F}}{L} = \frac{\kappa_c \alpha_A}{\kappa_f 2\pi} \frac{1}{L} \int_0^L dz \iint_{\mathbb{R}^2} \frac{I_1 I_2 (\mathbf{u}_\phi \times \mathbf{u}_z)}{\sqrt{x^2 + y^2}} \delta(x - x_0) \delta(y - y_0) dx dy$$

Solving the integral on z simply gives us L , then by using the property of the Dirac's delta, replacing $\sqrt{x_0^2 + y_0^2}$ with d and recalling that $\mathbf{u}_\phi \times \mathbf{u}_z = -\mathbf{u}_r$ we obtain the following expression for the force per unit length.

$$\frac{\mathbf{F}}{L} = -\frac{\kappa_c \alpha_A}{\kappa_f 2\pi} \frac{I_1 I_2}{d} \mathbf{u}_r$$

Taking its magnitude we find Ampère's force law and therefore find the relation between Ampère's force constant and α_A , κ_c and κ_f .

$$\frac{F}{L} = 2 \frac{\kappa_c \alpha_A}{\kappa_f 4\pi} \frac{|I_1| |I_2|}{d} \quad k_A = \frac{\kappa_c \alpha_A}{\kappa_f 4\pi}$$

We notice that, unlike Coulomb's constant, Ampère's force constant does not depend solely upon the coupling constant in the relevant Maxwell's equation, but also on the scaling constants for the currents and fields.

5 Poynting's theorem

We consider M_{III} and M_{IV} and take their scalar product with, respectively, \mathbf{B} and \mathcal{E} .

$$\mathbf{B} \cdot (\nabla \times \mathcal{E}) = -\frac{\mathbf{B}}{\gamma_F} \cdot \frac{\partial \mathbf{B}}{\partial t} \quad \mathcal{E} \cdot (\nabla \times \mathbf{B}) = \alpha_A \mathcal{E} \cdot \mathbf{j} + \frac{\mathcal{E}}{\gamma_M} \cdot \frac{\partial \mathcal{E}}{\partial t}$$

We then subtract the second equation from the first.

$$\mathcal{E} \cdot (\nabla \times \mathcal{B}) - \mathcal{B} \cdot (\nabla \times \mathcal{E}) = \alpha_A \mathcal{E} \cdot \mathbf{j} + \frac{\mathcal{E}}{\gamma_M} \cdot \frac{\partial \mathcal{E}}{\partial t} + \frac{\mathcal{B}}{\gamma_F} \cdot \frac{\partial \mathcal{B}}{\partial t}$$

The left hand side of this equation is the divergence of $\mathcal{E} \times \mathcal{B}$.

$$-\nabla \cdot (\mathcal{E} \times \mathcal{B}) = \alpha_A \mathcal{E} \cdot \mathbf{j} + \frac{\mathcal{E}}{\gamma_M} \cdot \frac{\partial \mathcal{E}}{\partial t} + \frac{\mathcal{B}}{\gamma_F} \cdot \frac{\partial \mathcal{B}}{\partial t}$$

We now isolate the term containing $\mathcal{E} \cdot \mathbf{j}$.

$$\begin{aligned} -\mathcal{E} \cdot \mathbf{j} &= \nabla \cdot \left(\frac{\mathcal{E} \times \mathcal{B}}{\alpha_A} \right) + \frac{\mathcal{E}}{\alpha_A \gamma_M} \cdot \frac{\partial \mathcal{E}}{\partial t} + \frac{\mathcal{B}}{\alpha_A \gamma_F} \cdot \frac{\partial \mathcal{B}}{\partial t} \\ -\mathcal{E} \cdot \mathbf{j} &= \nabla \cdot \left(\frac{\mathcal{E} \times \mathcal{B}}{\alpha_A} \right) + \frac{\mathcal{E}}{\alpha_G \kappa_c} \cdot \frac{\partial \mathcal{E}}{\partial t} + \frac{\mathcal{B}}{\alpha_A \kappa_f} \cdot \frac{\partial \mathcal{B}}{\partial t} \end{aligned}$$

We then use the identity for the derivative of a product to rewrite the second and third terms in the right hand side.

$$\begin{aligned} -\mathcal{E} \cdot \mathbf{j} &= \nabla \cdot \left(\frac{\mathcal{E} \times \mathcal{B}}{\alpha_A} \right) + \frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \left(\frac{\mathcal{E} \cdot \mathcal{E}}{\kappa_c \alpha_G} + \frac{\mathcal{B} \cdot \mathcal{B}}{\kappa_f \alpha_A} \right) \\ -\mathcal{E} \cdot \mathbf{j} &= \nabla \cdot \left(\frac{\mathcal{E} \times \mathcal{B}}{\alpha_A} \right) + \frac{1}{2 \kappa_c} \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \left(\frac{\mathcal{E} \cdot \mathcal{E}}{\alpha_G} + \frac{\kappa_c}{\kappa_f} \frac{\mathcal{B} \cdot \mathcal{B}}{\alpha_A} \right) \end{aligned}$$

The left hand side is related to the power density dissipated due to the Joule–Lenz effect; this suggests that the term in the derivative is an **energy density**, and the vector of which we are taking the divergence is its flux, called the **Poynting vector** \mathcal{S} .

$$\mathcal{S} = \frac{\mathcal{E} \times \mathcal{B}}{\alpha_A} \quad u = \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{\mathcal{E} \cdot \mathcal{E}}{\alpha_G} + \frac{\kappa_c}{\kappa_f} \frac{\mathcal{B} \cdot \mathcal{B}}{\alpha_A} \right)$$

In these terms, Poynting’s theorem states the following.

$$\frac{1}{\kappa_c} \frac{du}{dt} = \frac{1}{\kappa_c} \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot \mathcal{S}$$

5.1 Maxwell’s stress tensor

We start with the expression of the Lorentz force density and replace the charge and current densities with expressions resulting from Maxwell’s equations.

$$\mathbf{f} = \rho \mathcal{E} + \frac{\kappa_c}{\kappa_f} \mathbf{j} \times \mathcal{B} = \frac{\nabla \cdot \mathcal{E}}{\alpha_G} \mathcal{E} + \frac{\kappa_c}{\kappa_f} \left(\frac{\nabla \times \mathcal{B}}{\alpha_A} \times \mathcal{B} - \frac{1}{\alpha_A \gamma_M} \frac{\partial \mathcal{E}}{\partial t} \times \mathcal{B} \right)$$

We can then replace the last term with its expression in terms of $\mathcal{E} \times \mathcal{B}$.

$$\mathbf{f} = \frac{\nabla \cdot \mathcal{E}}{\alpha_G} \mathcal{E} + \frac{\kappa_c}{\kappa_f} \left(\frac{\nabla \times \mathcal{B}}{\alpha_A} \times \mathcal{B} - \frac{1}{\alpha_A \gamma_M} \frac{\partial}{\partial t} (\mathcal{E} \times \mathcal{B}) + \frac{1}{\alpha_A \gamma_M} \mathcal{E} \times \frac{\partial \mathcal{B}}{\partial t} \right)$$

Then we can use Faraday–Maxwell’s equation to replace the derivative of \mathcal{B} .

$$\begin{aligned} f &= \frac{\nabla \cdot \mathcal{E}}{\alpha_G} \mathcal{E} + \frac{\kappa_c}{\kappa_f} \left(\frac{\nabla \times \mathcal{B}}{\alpha_A} \times \mathcal{B} - \frac{1}{\alpha_A \gamma_M} \frac{\partial}{\partial t} (\mathcal{E} \times \mathcal{B}) - \frac{\gamma_F}{\alpha_A \gamma_M} \mathcal{E} \times (\nabla \times \mathcal{E}) \right) \\ f &= \frac{\nabla \cdot \mathcal{E}}{\alpha_G} \mathcal{E} + \frac{\kappa_c}{\kappa_f} \left(-\frac{\mathcal{B} \times (\nabla \times \mathcal{B})}{\alpha_A} - \frac{1}{\gamma_M} \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \left(\frac{\mathcal{E} \times \mathcal{B}}{\alpha_A} \right) - \frac{\kappa_f}{\kappa_c} \frac{1}{\alpha_G} \mathcal{E} \times (\nabla \times \mathcal{E}) \right) \\ f + \frac{\kappa_c}{\gamma_M \kappa_f} \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \left(\frac{\mathcal{E} \times \mathcal{B}}{\alpha_A} \right) &= \frac{\mathcal{E} (\nabla \cdot \mathcal{E}) - \mathcal{E} \times (\nabla \times \mathcal{E})}{\alpha_G} - \frac{\kappa_c}{\kappa_f} \frac{\mathcal{B} \times (\nabla \times \mathcal{B})}{\alpha_A} \end{aligned}$$

We notice that a term is missing to achieve symmetry, this term would contain the divergence of \mathcal{B} , which is zero, so it can be freely added to the expression.

$$f + \frac{\kappa_c}{c^2} \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \left(\frac{\mathcal{E} \times \mathcal{B}}{\alpha_A} \right) = \frac{\mathcal{E} (\nabla \cdot \mathcal{E}) - \mathcal{E} \times (\nabla \times \mathcal{E})}{\alpha_G} + \frac{\kappa_c}{\kappa_f} \frac{\mathcal{B} (\nabla \cdot \mathcal{B}) - \mathcal{B} \times (\nabla \times \mathcal{B})}{\alpha_A}$$

We recognise the Poynting vector and use $\mathbf{a} \times (\nabla \times \mathbf{a}) = \frac{1}{2} \nabla (\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{a}) - (\mathbf{a} \cdot \nabla) \mathbf{a}$.

$$f + \frac{\kappa_c}{c^2} \frac{\partial \mathcal{S}}{\partial t} = \frac{\mathcal{E} (\nabla \cdot \mathcal{E}) + (\mathcal{E} \cdot \nabla) \mathcal{E} - \frac{1}{2} \nabla (\mathcal{E} \cdot \mathcal{E})}{\alpha_G} + \frac{\kappa_c}{\kappa_f} \frac{\mathcal{B} (\nabla \cdot \mathcal{B}) + (\mathcal{B} \cdot \nabla) \mathcal{B} - \frac{1}{2} \nabla (\mathcal{B} \cdot \mathcal{B})}{\alpha_A}$$

We use the identity $\nabla \cdot (\mathbf{a} \otimes \mathbf{a}) = \mathbf{a} (\nabla \cdot \mathbf{a}) + (\mathbf{a} \cdot \nabla) \mathbf{a}$.

$$f + \frac{\kappa_c}{c^2} \frac{\partial \mathcal{S}}{\partial t} = \frac{\nabla \cdot (\mathcal{E} \otimes \mathcal{E}) - \frac{1}{2} \nabla (\mathcal{E} \cdot \mathcal{E})}{\alpha_G} + \frac{\kappa_c}{\kappa_f} \frac{\nabla \cdot (\mathcal{B} \otimes \mathcal{B}) - \frac{1}{2} \nabla (\mathcal{B} \cdot \mathcal{B})}{\alpha_A}$$

By recalling that we can write the gradient of a scalar function as the divergence of the same function multiplied by the identity tensor $\mathbf{1}$, we can write the right hand side of this expression as the divergence of a tensor called the **Maxwell stress tensor**.

$$\mathcal{T} = \left(\frac{\mathcal{E} \otimes \mathcal{E}}{\alpha_G} + \frac{\kappa_c}{\kappa_f} \frac{\mathcal{B} \otimes \mathcal{B}}{\alpha_A} \right) - \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{\mathcal{E} \cdot \mathcal{E}}{\alpha_G} + \frac{\kappa_c}{\kappa_f} \frac{\mathcal{B} \cdot \mathcal{B}}{\alpha_A} \right)$$

We obtain the following expression, which expresses conservation of momentum (recall that force is the time derivative of momentum).

$$f + \frac{\kappa_c}{c^2} \frac{\partial \mathcal{S}}{\partial t} = \nabla \cdot \mathcal{T}$$

Looking at the expression for \mathcal{T} , we notice that it can be written as a tensor minus half its trace. Moreover, the trace part is exactly the energy density for the electromagnetic field which we found in Poynting’s theorem, for this reason we denote this tensor by \mathbf{u} and define it by including the $\frac{1}{2}$ factor, so the trace is exactly the energy density.

$$\mathbf{u} = \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{\mathcal{E} \otimes \mathcal{E}}{\alpha_G} + \frac{\kappa_c}{\kappa_f} \frac{\mathcal{B} \otimes \mathcal{B}}{\alpha_A} \right) \quad \text{tr } \mathbf{u} = u$$

In terms of this new tensor, the Maxwell stress tensor can be written as follows, making it evident that its trace is, once again, the energy density.

$$\mathcal{T} = 2\mathbf{u} - (\text{tr } \mathbf{u}) \mathbf{1} \quad \text{tr } \mathcal{T} = u$$

6 Electromagnetic Radiation

We have already shown that the solution to Maxwell's equations in the absence of charges and currents gives us d'Alembert's equation.

$$\frac{1}{c^2} \frac{\partial^2 \mathcal{E}}{\partial t^2} - \nabla^2 \mathcal{E} = 0 \quad \frac{1}{c^2} \frac{\partial^2 \mathcal{B}}{\partial t^2} - \nabla^2 \mathcal{B} = 0$$

We know that a possible set of solutions to d'Alembert's equation are plane waves, we take ω to be the pulsantance and \mathbf{k} to be the (angular) wave vector of the solution.

$$\mathcal{E}(\mathbf{r}, t) = \mathcal{E}_0 e^{i\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{r}} e^{-i\omega t} \quad \mathcal{B}(\mathbf{r}, t) = \mathcal{B}_0 e^{i\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{r}} e^{-i\omega t}$$

6.1 Dispersion relation

Substituting the plane waves into d'Alembert's equation gives us the *dispersion relation*.

$$\frac{\omega^2}{c^2} \mathcal{E} - k^2 \mathcal{E} = 0 \quad \omega = c k$$

6.2 Orientation of the fields

Substituting the plane waves into M_I and M_{II} gives us the following conditions.

$$\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathcal{E} = 0 \quad \mathbf{k} \cdot \mathcal{B} = 0$$

This shows that the electric and magnetic fields are *transverse*, i.e. they are perpendicular to the direction of propagation of the wave.

Substituting instead into M_{III} and M_{IV} gives us the following conditions.

$$\mathbf{k} \times \mathcal{E} = \frac{\omega}{\kappa_f} \mathcal{B} \quad \mathbf{k} \times \mathcal{B} = -\frac{\kappa_f \omega}{c^2} \mathcal{E}$$

Through the dispersion relation, these can be rewritten as follows.

$$\mathcal{B} = \frac{\kappa_f}{c} \mathbf{u}_k \times \mathcal{E} \quad \mathcal{E} = -\frac{c}{\kappa_f} \mathbf{u}_k \times \mathcal{B}$$

This shows that the electric and magnetic field are perpendicular to each other.

6.3 Impedance of free space

We can also compute the Poynting vector of the wave.

$$\mathcal{S} = \frac{\mathcal{E} \times \mathcal{B}}{\alpha_A} = \frac{\kappa_f}{c} \frac{1}{\alpha_A} \mathcal{E} \times (\mathbf{u}_k \times \mathcal{E}) = \frac{\kappa_f}{c} \frac{\mathcal{E}^2}{\alpha_A} \mathbf{u}_k$$

We take notice of the fact that it is in the same direction as the wave vector, i.e. in the direction of wave propagation. Taking just its norm we can write the following.

$$S = \frac{\mathcal{E}^2}{Z_0} \quad Z_0 = \frac{c}{\kappa_f} \alpha_A = \frac{\kappa_c}{c} \alpha_G$$

Where Z_0 is the **impedance of free space**. Another convention is sometimes in use, where one naïvely extends the impedance of free space found in the SI to another unit system. This does not, in general, have the correct units to be called an impedance and doesn't, of course, give the correct ratio between the Poynting vector and the electric field. We shall denote this by \tilde{Z}_0 .

$$\tilde{Z}_0 = \sqrt{\alpha_G \alpha_A} = \frac{c}{\sqrt{\kappa_c \kappa_f}} \alpha_A = \frac{\sqrt{\kappa_c \kappa_f}}{c} \alpha_G$$

We see that this definition is identical to Z_0 only when $\kappa_c = \kappa_f$.

7 Potentials

From M_{II} we can say that the magnetic field is solenoidal, which means that it can be written as the curl of a **vector potential** \mathcal{A} .

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

We substitute this expression for \mathcal{B} into M_{III} .

$$\nabla \times \mathcal{E} = -\frac{1}{\gamma_F} \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \nabla \times \mathcal{A} \quad \nabla \times \left(\mathcal{E} + \frac{1}{\kappa_f} \frac{\partial \mathcal{A}}{\partial t} \right) = 0$$

This shows that the combination of the electric field with the time derivative of the vector potential is irrotational, meaning that it admits a **scalar potential** ϕ .

$$\mathcal{E} = -\nabla \phi - \frac{1}{\kappa_f} \frac{\partial \mathcal{A}}{\partial t}$$

Notice how the fields depend only upon the derivatives of the potentials, due to this if we are given a pair of potentials ϕ and \mathcal{A} we can define a new pair ϕ' and \mathcal{A}' producing the same fields. The easiest example of this would be simply adding a constant to each potential, but the most general case involves adding a field $\Lambda(\mathbf{r}, t)$ as follows.

$$\mathcal{A}'(\mathbf{r}, t) = \mathcal{A}(\mathbf{r}, t) + \nabla \Lambda(\mathbf{r}, t) \quad \phi'(\mathbf{r}, t) = \phi(\mathbf{r}, t) + \frac{1}{\kappa_f} \frac{\partial \Lambda}{\partial t}$$

It is important to remark that the transformation must be performed on both fields at the same time. This phenomenon is known as **gauge invariance**. The ambiguity in the definition of the fields can be solved, or at least assuaged, by requiring an additional

condition that the potentials must satisfy, this is called **gauge fixing**.

The most used gauge choices in physics are the **Coulomb gauge** and the **Lorenz gauge**.

$$\text{Coulomb: } \nabla \cdot \mathcal{A} = 0 \quad \text{Lorenz: } \frac{\kappa_c}{c^2} \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot \mathcal{A} = 0$$

Substituting the fields expressed in terms of the potential into Maxwell's equations gives us equations for the potentials themselves, two of the equations, namely M_{II} and M_{III} , are already satisfied by virtue of how we defined the potentials. We start by considering M_I , from which we obtain the following expression.

$$\nabla \cdot \mathcal{E} = \alpha_G \rho \quad - \nabla^2 \phi - \frac{1}{\kappa_f} \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \nabla \cdot \mathcal{A} = \alpha_G \rho$$

We now consider M_{IV} , which requires some further manipulation.

$$\nabla \times \mathcal{B} = \alpha_A \mathbf{j} + \frac{1}{\gamma_M} \frac{\partial \mathcal{E}}{\partial t} \quad \nabla \times (\nabla \times \mathcal{A}) = \alpha_A \mathbf{j} - \frac{1}{\gamma_M} \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \nabla \phi - \frac{1}{\gamma_M \kappa_f} \frac{\partial^2 \mathcal{A}}{\partial t^2}$$

We recall that $\nabla \times (\nabla \times \mathbf{a}) = \nabla(\nabla \cdot \mathbf{a}) - \nabla^2 \mathbf{a}$ and that $\gamma_M \kappa_f = \gamma_M \gamma_F = c^2$.

$$\begin{aligned} \nabla(\nabla \cdot \mathcal{A}) - \nabla^2 \mathcal{A} &= \alpha_A \mathbf{j} - \frac{1}{\gamma_M} \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \nabla \phi - \frac{1}{c^2} \frac{\partial^2 \mathcal{A}}{\partial t^2} \\ \frac{1}{c^2} \frac{\partial^2 \mathcal{A}}{\partial t^2} - \nabla^2 \mathcal{A} + \nabla \left(\nabla \cdot \mathcal{A} + \frac{\kappa_f}{c^2} \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial t} \right) &= \alpha_A \mathbf{j} \end{aligned}$$

We thus have a system of coupled differential equations, which is not trivial to solve. With the correct gauge choice, though, the equations become simpler.

7.1 Static potentials

M_I seems to suggest the Coulomb gauge, producing Poisson's equation.

$$\nabla^2 \phi = -\alpha_G \rho$$

In this gauge M_{IV} is not particularly simple. We obtain d'Alembert's equation with a source term depending on ϕ (which, however, we can find independently of \mathcal{A} from the previous equation).

$$\square^2 \mathcal{A} = \alpha_A \mathbf{j} - \frac{\kappa_f}{c^2} \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \nabla \phi$$

Things become a lot simpler in the static case, that is when the system is independent of time and therefore all time derivatives vanish. We obtain Poisson's equation.

$$\nabla^2 \mathcal{A} = -\alpha_A \mathbf{j}$$

Using the Green function for the Laplacian operator we find the **static potentials**.

$$\phi(\mathbf{r}) = \frac{\alpha_G}{4\pi} \iiint_{\Omega} \frac{\rho(\xi)}{\|\mathbf{r} - \xi\|} d^3\xi \quad \mathcal{A}(\mathbf{r}) = \frac{\alpha_A}{4\pi} \iiint_{\Omega} \frac{\mathbf{j}(\xi)}{\|\mathbf{r} - \xi\|} d^3\xi$$

7.2 Retarded potentials

A different way to simplify M_{IV} is to use the Lorenz gauge, so that the whole term within the gradient vanishes. Doing so we obtain d'Alembert's equation.

$$\square^2 \mathcal{A} = \alpha_A j$$

In this gauge the two equations are fully decoupled, indeed we obtain d'Alembert's equation for the scalar potential as well.

$$\square^2 \phi = \alpha_G \rho$$

Using the Green function method we find the **retarded potentials**.

$$\phi(\mathbf{r}, t) = \frac{\alpha_G}{4\pi} \iiint_{\Omega} \frac{\rho(\xi, t_r)}{\|\mathbf{r} - \xi\|} d^3\xi \quad \mathcal{A}(\mathbf{r}, t) = \frac{\alpha_A}{4\pi} \iiint_{\Omega} \frac{j(\xi, t_r)}{\|\mathbf{r} - \xi\|} d^3\xi$$

The **retarded time** t_r used in the expression accounts exactly for the time it takes for light to travel from the point \mathbf{r} to the point ξ and is defined as follows.

$$t_r = t - \frac{c}{\|\mathbf{r} - \xi\|}$$

So the potentials in the Lorenz gauge properly satisfy causality. Another advantage of the Lorenz gauge is that it can be written in a manifestly covariant manner, making it very useful for relativistic purposes.

8 Maxwell's equations for macroscopic fields

Maxwell's equations depend upon all of the charges and currents present in a physical system; if we study the behaviour of the electric and magnetic field given by Maxwell's equation in some medium, we have contributions coming from the nuclei and electrons of each atom in the medium. We obtain two fields \mathcal{E}_{loc} and \mathcal{B}_{loc} are called the **microscopic** or **local fields** because they explicitly depend upon these microscopic phenomena, which are generally not easy to treat.

We can simplify the problem by averaging the local fields over a volume $\Delta\Omega$, that must be chosen so that the average is statistically significant, but at the same time it must be small enough to still allow us to treat the system as a continuum. Doing so we obtain the **macroscopic fields** \mathcal{E} and \mathcal{B} .

$$\mathcal{E}(\mathbf{r}, t) = \frac{1}{\Delta\Omega} \iiint_{\Delta\Omega} \mathcal{E}_{\text{loc}}(\mathbf{r} + \xi, t) d^3\xi$$

$$\mathcal{B}(\mathbf{r}, t) = \frac{1}{\Delta\Omega} \iiint_{\Delta\Omega} \mathcal{B}_{\text{loc}}(\mathbf{r} + \xi, t) d^3\xi$$

Despite this approximation, several contributions still find their way into the source terms in Maxwell's equations. The total charge and current densities can be split into a free and a bound term.

$$\rho = \rho_f + \rho_b \quad \mathbf{j} = \mathbf{j}_f + \mathbf{j}_b$$

Bound charges or currents are phenomena that generally happen as a result of the interaction of a physical system with the electric and magnetic field, such as polarisation or magnetisation. The former produces both a charge and a current density, while the latter only produces a current density.

$$\rho_b = \rho_p \quad \mathbf{j}_b = \mathbf{j}_p + \mathbf{j}_m$$

The polarisation terms can be represented by a **polarisation field \mathcal{P}** .

$$\rho_p = -\nabla \cdot \mathcal{P} \quad \mathbf{j}_p = \frac{1}{\kappa_c} \frac{\partial \mathcal{P}}{\partial t}$$

The magnetisation term can be represented by a **magnetisation field \mathcal{M}** .

$$\mathbf{j}_m = \frac{\kappa_f}{\kappa_c} \nabla \times \mathcal{M}$$

The polarisation and magnetisation fields are defined in such a way that the corresponding densities each respect a continuity equation. In the case of the magnetisation current, no charge density is necessary, since the divergence of a curl is zero.

We rewrite Maxwell's equations, explicitly separating the free and bound terms.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{M}_I \quad \nabla \cdot \mathcal{E} &= \alpha_G (\rho_f + \rho_p) \\ \text{M}_{II} \quad \nabla \cdot \mathcal{B} &= 0 \\ \text{M}_{III} \quad \nabla \times \mathcal{E} &= -\frac{1}{\gamma_F} \frac{\partial \mathcal{B}}{\partial t} \\ \text{M}_{IV} \quad \nabla \times \mathcal{B} &= \alpha_A (\mathbf{j}_f + \mathbf{j}_p + \mathbf{j}_m) + \frac{1}{\gamma_M} \frac{\partial \mathcal{E}}{\partial t} \end{aligned}$$

We focus on Gauss's law for electricity.

$$\begin{aligned} \nabla \cdot \mathcal{E} &= \alpha_G (\rho_f + \rho_p) \\ \nabla \cdot \mathcal{E} - \alpha_G \rho_p &= \alpha_G \rho_f \\ \nabla \cdot \mathcal{E} + \alpha_G \nabla \cdot \mathcal{P} &= \alpha_G \rho_f \\ \nabla \cdot (\mathcal{E} + \alpha_G \mathcal{P}) &= \alpha_G \rho_f \end{aligned}$$

We have two choices on how to define the **electric displacement field \mathcal{D}** .

$$\mathcal{D}_1 = \mathcal{E} + \alpha_G \mathcal{P} \quad \mathcal{D}_2 = \frac{\mathcal{E}}{\alpha_G} + \mathcal{P} \quad (9)$$

They produce, respectively, the following equations.

$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{D}_1 = \alpha_G \rho_f \quad \nabla \cdot \mathbf{D}_2 = \rho_f \quad (10)$$

We now take Ampère–Maxwell’s law.

$$\begin{aligned} \nabla \times \mathbf{B} &= \alpha_A \left(\mathbf{j}_f + \mathbf{j}_p + \mathbf{j}_m \right) + \frac{1}{\gamma_M} \frac{\partial \mathcal{E}}{\partial t} \\ \nabla \times \mathbf{B} - \alpha_A \mathbf{j}_m &= \alpha_A \mathbf{j}_f + \frac{1}{\gamma_M} \frac{\partial \mathcal{E}}{\partial t} + \alpha_A \mathbf{j}_p \\ \nabla \times \mathbf{B} - \frac{\kappa_f}{\kappa_c} \alpha_A \nabla \times \mathcal{M} &= \alpha_A \mathbf{j}_f + \frac{1}{\gamma_M} \frac{\partial \mathcal{E}}{\partial t} + \frac{\alpha_A}{\kappa_c} \frac{\partial \mathcal{P}}{\partial t} \\ \nabla \times \left(\mathbf{B} - \frac{\kappa_f}{\kappa_c} \alpha_A \mathcal{M} \right) &= \alpha_A \mathbf{j}_f + \frac{1}{\gamma_M} \frac{\partial \mathcal{E}}{\partial t} + \frac{\alpha_G}{\gamma_M} \frac{\partial \mathcal{P}}{\partial t} \\ \nabla \times \left(\mathbf{B} - \frac{\kappa_f}{\kappa_c} \alpha_A \mathcal{M} \right) &= \alpha_A \mathbf{j}_f + \frac{1}{\gamma_M} \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \left(\mathcal{E} + \alpha_G \frac{\partial \mathcal{P}}{\partial t} \right) \end{aligned}$$

We have two choices on how to define the **magnetising field** \mathcal{H} .

$$\mathcal{H}_1 = \mathbf{B} - \frac{\kappa_f}{\kappa_c} \alpha_A \mathcal{M} \quad \mathcal{H}_2 = \frac{\kappa_c}{\kappa_f} \frac{\mathbf{B}}{\alpha_A} - \mathcal{M} \quad (11)$$

They produce, respectively, the following equations.

$$\nabla \times \mathcal{H}_1 = \alpha_A \mathbf{j}_f + \frac{1}{\gamma_M} \frac{\partial \mathcal{D}_1}{\partial t} \quad \nabla \times \mathcal{H}_2 = \frac{\kappa_c}{\kappa_f} \mathbf{j}_f + \frac{1}{\kappa_f} \frac{\partial \mathcal{D}_2}{\partial t} \quad (12)$$

8.1 Auxiliary fields

We have defined two **auxiliary fields** to aid in our description of electromagnetic phenomena in matter, these are \mathcal{D} and \mathcal{H} . We can take two different approaches in the way we define these fields, one is aimed at maintaining the appearance of Maxwell’s equations substantially unchanged, while the other is aimed at getting rid of the coupling constants with the sources by including them in the definition of the auxiliary field. For the sake of brevity, we define the following constants.

$$\lambda_e = \alpha_G \quad \lambda_m = \alpha_A \frac{\kappa_f}{\kappa_c}$$

We call the fields in the first approach **non-rescaled auxiliary fields** because in a vacuum (absence of polarisation/magnetisation) we have $\mathcal{D}_1 = \mathcal{E}$ and $\mathcal{H}_1 = \mathbf{B}$.

$$\mathcal{D}_1 = \mathcal{E} + \lambda_e \mathcal{P} \quad \mathcal{H}_1 = \mathbf{B} - \lambda_m \mathcal{M}$$

In contrast to this, we call the fields in the first approach **rescaled auxiliary fields** because in a vacuum we have $\mathcal{D}_2 = \frac{1}{\lambda_e} \mathcal{E}$ and $\mathcal{H}_2 = \frac{1}{\lambda_m} \mathbf{B}$.

$$\mathcal{D}_2 = \frac{1}{\lambda_e} \mathcal{E} + \mathcal{P} \quad \mathcal{H}_2 = \frac{1}{\lambda_m} \mathbf{B} - \mathcal{M}$$

Both approaches are equally legitimate, and each provides a set of Maxwell's equations in which only the free charges and currents appear.

	Non-rescaled	Rescaled
M _I	$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{D}_1 = \alpha_G \rho_f$	$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{D}_2 = \rho_f$
M _{II}	$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{B} = 0$	$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{B} = 0$
M _{III}	$\nabla \times \mathcal{E} = -\frac{1}{\gamma_F} \frac{\partial \mathbf{B}}{\partial t}$	$\nabla \times \mathcal{E} = -\frac{1}{\kappa_f} \frac{\partial \mathbf{B}}{\partial t}$
M _{IV}	$\nabla \times \mathcal{H}_1 = \alpha_A \mathbf{j}_f + \frac{1}{\gamma_M} \frac{\partial \mathbf{D}_1}{\partial t}$	$\nabla \times \mathcal{H}_2 = \frac{\kappa_c}{\kappa_f} \mathbf{j}_f + \frac{1}{\kappa_f} \frac{\partial \mathbf{D}_2}{\partial t}$

Equations M_{II} and M_{III} do not change, however in the rescaling approach we have written κ_f instead of γ_F to make it apparent that the equations do not depend upon physical coupling constants, but only upon the constants used in the definition of the magnetic field and of current (κ_c and κ_f).

It can be convenient to summarise the two approaches into a single expression involving constants κ_e and κ_m as follows.

$$\mathbf{D} = \frac{1}{\kappa_e} (\mathcal{E} + \lambda_e \mathcal{P}) \quad \mathcal{H} = \frac{1}{\kappa_m} (\mathbf{B} - \lambda_m \mathcal{M})$$

Choosing $\kappa_e = \kappa_m = 1$ gives us the non-rescaled fields, while we get the rescaled fields with $\kappa_e = \lambda_e$ and $\kappa_m = \lambda_m$. We once again remark that, while the definition of λ_e and λ_m is simply a matter of convenience, and they depend solely upon previously defined constants, the choice of κ_e and κ_m is entirely independent of our previous conventions.

With this new convention Maxwell's equations take the following form.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{M}_I \quad \nabla \cdot \mathbf{D} &= \frac{\alpha_G}{\kappa_e} \rho_f \\ \text{M}_{II} \quad \nabla \cdot \mathbf{B} &= 0 \\ \text{M}_{III} \quad \nabla \times \mathcal{E} &= -\frac{1}{\gamma_F} \frac{\partial \mathbf{B}}{\partial t} \\ \text{M}_{IV} \quad \nabla \times \mathcal{H} &= \frac{\alpha_A}{\kappa_m} \mathbf{j}_f + \frac{\kappa_e}{\kappa_m} \frac{1}{\gamma_M} \frac{\partial \mathbf{D}}{\partial t} \end{aligned}$$

9 Response functions

We have mentioned that the polarisation and magnetisation vectors are induced by the presence of, respectively, an electric or magnetic field. We consider, in more general terms, how to write an induced response $\mathcal{Y}(\mathbf{r}, t)$ in terms of a stimulus $\mathcal{X}(\mathbf{r}, t)$; both

fields can be either scalar, vectors or tensors of higher orders. The most general case is given by the **Volterra series**, giving a nonlinear response that depends upon the value of the stimulus at all points in space and at all instants in time.

$$\mathcal{Y}(\mathbf{r}, t) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \int \dots \int \varrho_n(\mathbf{r}, \{\xi_m\}, t, \{\tau_m\}) \prod_{j=1}^n \mathcal{X}(\xi_j, \tau_j) d^3\xi_j d\tau_j$$

The functions ϱ_n are the **Volterra kernels**. In this formula and the following, we shall use the convention that the index m varies between 1 and n . To clarify what this means we write the arguments of the first three kernels explicitly.

$$\begin{aligned}\varrho_0 &= \varrho_0(\mathbf{r}, t) \\ \varrho_1 &= \varrho_1(\mathbf{r}, \xi_1, t, \tau_1) \\ \varrho_2 &= \varrho_2(\mathbf{r}, \xi_1, \xi_2, t, \tau_1, \tau_2)\end{aligned}$$

An important assumption in physics is that physical laws must be time-invariant, i.e. there is no such thing as *absolute time*. Therefore, the kernels can only depend on differences between their temporal arguments, and not just the argument itself.

$$\mathcal{Y}(\mathbf{r}, t) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \int \dots \int \varrho_n(\mathbf{r}, \{\xi_m\}, \{t - \tau_m\}) \prod_{j=1}^n \mathcal{X}(\xi_j, \tau_j) d^3\xi_j d\tau_j$$

In addition, physical systems must obey causality; this further restricts the choice of kernels to functions that vanish if, for any of their arguments, $\tau_m > t$ so that future values of the stimulus cannot influence the response. This can be enforced through the use of the Heaviside step function Θ .

$$\varrho_n(\mathbf{r}, \{\xi_m\}, \{t - \tau_m\}) = \varrho_n(\mathbf{r}, \{\xi_m\}, \{t - \tau_m\}) \prod_{j=1}^n \Theta(t - \tau_j)$$

The spatial part of the function cannot in general be simplified. Some physical systems, for example crystalline materials, are only invariant under finite translations. While these symmetries do influence the functional form of the kernel, they don't do so in a general enough manner to be treated here, but they do prevent us from having a function that only depends on distances, rather than absolute positions.

In systems that are symmetric under infinitesimal translations, such as fluids or amorphous materials, we can write the Volterra series in the **semilocal approximation**.

$$\mathcal{Y}(\mathbf{r}, t) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \int \dots \int \varrho_n(\{\mathbf{r} - \xi_m\}, \{t - \tau_m\}) \prod_{j=1}^n \mathcal{X}(\xi_j, \tau_j) d^3\xi_j d\tau_j$$

An even stronger approximation is the **local approximation**, where the response is assumed to only be due to the value of the stimulus at the same point in space. That

is to say, the spatial part of the kernel is a Dirac delta.

$$\varrho_n(\{\mathbf{r} - \boldsymbol{\xi}_m\}, \{t - \tau_m\}) = \varrho_n(\{t - \tau_m\}) \prod_{j=1}^n \delta(\mathbf{r} - \boldsymbol{\xi}_j)$$

In terms of the Volterra series, this gives us the following expression.

$$\mathcal{Y}(\mathbf{r}, t) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \int \dots \int \varrho_n(\{t - \tau_m\}) \prod_{j=1}^n \mathcal{X}(\mathbf{r}, \tau_j) d\tau_j$$

Finally, we have the case of a **non-dispersive medium**, where both the spatial and temporal part of the kernel are Dirac deltas.

$$\varrho_n(\{\mathbf{r} - \boldsymbol{\xi}_m\}, \{t - \tau_m\}) = \varrho_n \prod_{j=1}^n \delta(\mathbf{r} - \boldsymbol{\xi}_j) \delta(t - \tau_j)$$

In this last case, the Volterra series simply becomes a Taylor series.

$$\mathcal{Y}(\mathbf{r}, t) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \varrho_n \mathcal{X}^n(\mathbf{r}, t)$$

9.1 Response functions for electromagnetic fields

This allows us to define the **susceptibility** χ of the material. Depending on which field we choose to work with, we obtain two different definitions of susceptibility, we denote the susceptibility to the physical field as χ' and the susceptibility to the auxiliary field as χ'' .

$$\mathcal{P} = \frac{\chi'_e}{\kappa_e} \mathcal{E} = \chi''_e \mathcal{D} \quad \mathcal{M} = \frac{\chi'_m}{\kappa_m} \mathcal{B} = \chi''_m \mathcal{H} \quad (13)$$

While it might be tempting to say that the two definitions provide the same value, since in a vacuum we have that $\mathcal{E} = \kappa_e \mathcal{D}$ and $\mathcal{B} = \kappa_m \mathcal{H}$, that is only true in a vacuum where, in any case, the susceptibilities vanish.

We now substitute these relations into the definitions of the auxiliary fields in order to find a response function binding the physical to the auxiliary field. We start by using the susceptibility to the physical fields.

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{D} &= \frac{1}{\kappa_e} (\mathcal{E} + \lambda_e \mathcal{P}) = \frac{1}{\kappa_e} \left(\mathcal{E} + \frac{\lambda_e}{\kappa_e} \chi'_e \mathcal{E} \right) = \frac{1}{\kappa_e} \left(1 + \frac{\lambda_e}{\kappa_e} \chi'_e \right) \mathcal{E} = \frac{\epsilon_r}{\kappa_e} \mathcal{E} = \epsilon \mathcal{E} \\ \mathcal{H} &= \frac{1}{\kappa_m} (\mathcal{B} + \lambda_m \mathcal{M}) = \frac{1}{\kappa_m} \left(\mathcal{B} + \frac{\lambda_m}{\kappa_m} \chi'_m \mathcal{B} \right) = \frac{1}{\kappa_m} \left(1 + \frac{\lambda_m}{\kappa_m} \chi'_m \right) \mathcal{B} = \frac{\nu_r}{\kappa_m} \mathcal{B} = \nu \mathcal{B} \end{aligned}$$

Unfortunately ϵ usually named **permittivity** despite being a measure of how strongly the material is able to resist the electric field by polarizing. In order to get around this contradiction, we shall be naming this quantity **austerity**. On the other hand ν is more aptly named **reluctivity**.

We now switch to using the susceptibility to the auxiliary fields.

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{E} &= \kappa_e \mathbf{D} - \lambda_e \mathbf{P} = \kappa_e \mathbf{D} - \lambda_e \chi_e'' \mathbf{D} = \kappa_e \left(1 - \frac{\lambda_e}{\kappa_e} \chi_e'' \right) \mathbf{D} = \kappa_e \eta_r \mathbf{D} = \eta \mathbf{D} \\ \mathbf{B} &= \kappa_m \mathbf{H} - \lambda_m \mathbf{M} = \kappa_m \mathbf{H} - \lambda_m \chi_m'' \mathbf{H} = \kappa_m \left(1 - \frac{\lambda_m}{\kappa_m} \chi_m'' \right) \mathbf{H} = \kappa_m \mu_r \mathbf{H} = \mu \mathbf{H}\end{aligned}$$

The quantity η is rarely used and does not have a name, we shall refer to it as **leniency**. The much more commonly used μ is named **permeability**.

All of the quantities we have defined have both an **absolute** value (ϵ , ν , η , μ) and a **relative** (ϵ_r , ν_r , η_r , μ_r) value, although if we are working with the non-rescaled fields the two values are the same since $\kappa_e = \kappa_m = 1$.

We can prove that ϵ and η are mutually inverse and the same is true for ν and μ .

$$\mathcal{E} = \eta \mathbf{D} = \eta \epsilon \mathcal{E} \quad \eta \epsilon = 1$$

$$\mathbf{B} = \mu \mathbf{H} = \mu \nu \mathbf{B} \quad \mu \nu = 1$$

The same is true for the relative values. By writing this explicitly, for example in the case of ϵ and η we can gain further insight in the matter.

$$\eta = \frac{1}{\epsilon} \quad \Rightarrow \quad 1 - \frac{\lambda_e}{\kappa_e} \chi_e'' = \frac{1}{1 + \frac{\lambda_e}{\kappa_e} \chi_e'} = 1 - \frac{\lambda_e}{\kappa_e} \chi_e' + o(\chi_e')$$

This shows that, for small susceptibilities, $\chi_e' \approx \chi_e''$.

All the previous considerations can be generalised to dispersive media if they are written in terms of Fourier components, rather than treating them as constants (at least up to the semi-local approximation). In the case of anisotropic media the response functions become tensors.

Due to a long-standing debate on whether the \mathbf{B} -field or the \mathbf{H} -field is the most fundamental, possibly spurred by the fact that magnetic phenomena are often weak in matter, there is an unfortunate difference in which quantity is most commonly used as a response function. While for the electric field the choice falls on ϵ (for some reason there has never been any doubt that \mathcal{E} is the most fundamental), called the **dielectric constant**, for the magnetic field it is customary to use μ , called the **diamagnetic constant**. The reason for this is that it is much easier to measure the \mathbf{H} -field, leading to

a preference for this field in the engineering community. In physical terms, however, the B -field is clearly the most fundamental for several reasons, including the fact that it appears in the Lorentz force and that its source term is the total current, rather than just the free current.

10 Conduction

Another interesting response function is the one linking current density to the electric field, called **conductivity** σ .

$$\mathbf{j} = \sigma \mathbf{E} \quad (14)$$

Its reciprocal is called **resistivity** and is unfortunately denoted with the letter ρ , risking confusion with the charge density. Resistivity is widely used in engineering applications, but in solid state physics it is more common to work with conductivity, possibly because the electric field causing the current density is the more direct implication.

10.1 Ohm's Laws

We can consider a simple system consisting of a conductor of length ℓ , cross section a and uniform conductivity σ to which a uniform electric field $\mathbf{E}(t)$ is applied. The current density through the conductor will have the following expression, where $f(\mathbf{x})$ is a function that is unity within the conductor and zero outside.

$$\mathbf{j}(\mathbf{x}, t) = \sigma f(\mathbf{x}) \mathbf{E}(t)$$

We can compute the current from the definition of current density, for brevity we stop writing the time dependence explicitly.

$$i = \iint_{\Sigma} \mathbf{j}(\xi) \cdot \mathbf{n} \, d^2\xi = \sigma \mathbf{E} \cdot \mathbf{n} \iint_{\Sigma} f(\xi) \, d^2\xi$$

From the way we defined f , its integral is the area of the cross section.

$$i = \sigma a \mathbf{E} \cdot \mathbf{n}$$

We integrate again along the path γ of the conductor.

$$\int_{\gamma} i \, d\lambda = \sigma a \int_{\gamma} \mathbf{E} \cdot \mathbf{n} \, d\lambda$$

The normal to the cross section \mathbf{n} is the tangent to the path of the conductor, allowing us to recognise the expression for the electromotive force.

$$i\ell = \sigma a \mathcal{V}$$

This leads us to Ohm's laws expressed in terms of the **conductance** G .

$$i = G \mathcal{V} \quad G = \sigma \frac{a}{\ell}$$

10.2 Drude model

A very simple model for conduction involves considering a gas of charged particles with mass m , charge q and number density n subject to scattering with a relaxation time of τ . The motion of these particles is described by the following differential equation.

$$\frac{d\mathbf{p}}{dt} = q\mathcal{E} - \frac{1}{\tau}\mathbf{p}$$

This equation can be easily solved in Fourier space.

$$-i\omega\mathbf{p} = q\mathcal{E} - \frac{1}{\tau}\mathbf{p} \quad \mathbf{p} = \frac{q\tau}{1 - i\omega\tau}\mathcal{E}$$

We now recall equation (5) and observe that charge density is simply nq .

$$\mathbf{j} = \frac{\rho}{\kappa_c}\mathbf{v} = \frac{nq}{\kappa_c}\frac{\mathbf{p}}{m} = \frac{nq^2\tau}{\kappa_cm} \frac{1}{1 - i\omega\tau}\mathcal{E}$$

We denote the steady state ($\omega \rightarrow 0$) conductivity as σ_0 , obtaining the following expression for conductivity as a function of angular frequency.

$$\sigma(\omega) = \frac{\sigma_0}{1 - i\omega\tau} \quad \sigma_0 = \frac{nq^2\tau}{\kappa_cm} \quad (15)$$

11 Systems of Units

A system of units is said to be **rationalised** when no factors of 4π appear in Maxwell's equations. This is useful because the absence of such factors implies that equations relating to specific charge distributions will end up having factors related to the symmetry of the system, such as 4π for spherical symmetry or 2π for cylindrical symmetry.

11.1 The International System – SI

The International System of units makes the following choice for the couplings.

$$\alpha_G = \frac{1}{\epsilon_0} \quad \alpha_A = \mu_0 \quad \kappa_c = 1 \quad \kappa_f = 1 \quad \gamma_M = c^2 \quad \gamma_F = 1$$

Here ϵ_0 and μ_0 are constants determined by experiment; the current (2020) CODATA recommended values are

$$\epsilon_0 = 8.854\,187\,812\,8(13) \cdot 10^{-12} \frac{\text{F}}{\text{m}} \quad \mu_0 = 1.256\,637\,062\,12(19) \cdot 10^{-6} \frac{\text{H}}{\text{m}}$$

The SI is now a truly rationalised system. Before its redefinition in 2019 it used to be an unrationalised system in disguise, because μ_0 was defined as exactly $4\pi \cdot 10^{-7} \frac{\text{H}}{\text{m}}$.

We can make this explicit by defining a scaling constant $a = 10^7 \frac{\text{A}^2}{\text{N}}$.

$$\alpha_G = \frac{4\pi c^2}{a} \quad \alpha_A = \frac{4\pi}{a} \quad \kappa_c = 1 \quad \kappa_f = 1 \quad \gamma_M = c^2 \quad \gamma_F = 1$$

11.2 Electrostatic units – ESU

Electrostatic units are defined by taking Coulomb's constant to be unity.

$$\alpha_G = 4\pi \quad \alpha_A = \frac{4\pi}{c^2} \quad \kappa_c = 1 \quad \kappa_f = 1 \quad \gamma_M = c^2 \quad \gamma_F = 1$$

This system is explicitly unrationalised.

11.3 Electromagnetic units – EMU

Electromagnetic units are defined in order to make Ampère's force constant unity. The name electromagnetic is not very apt, since Ampère's force law is only valid in the magnetostatic limit.

$$\alpha_G = 4\pi c^2 \quad \alpha_A = 4\pi \quad \kappa_c = 1 \quad \kappa_f = 1 \quad \gamma_M = c^2 \quad \gamma_F = 1$$

This system is explicitly unrationalised, but notice how it is the same as the old SI units, except for the lack of the scaling factor a . The reason for this is that the SI adopted a rescaled version of EMU that were in practical use among engineers.

11.4 Gaussian units – GU

Gaussian units are defined as follows.

$$\alpha_G = 4\pi \quad \alpha_A = \frac{4\pi}{c} \quad \kappa_c = 1 \quad \kappa_f = c \quad \gamma_M = c \quad \gamma_F = c$$

This system is explicitly unrationalised.

11.5 Lorentz-Heaviside units – LHU

Lorentz-Heaviside units are obtained by rationalising Gaussian units.

$$\alpha_G = 1 \quad \alpha_A = \frac{1}{c} \quad \kappa_c = 1 \quad \kappa_f = c \quad \gamma_M = c \quad \gamma_F = c$$

Obviously, this system is rationalised.

11.6 Symetrised Gaussian units – SGU

Gaussian units can be made fully symmetrical, with $\alpha_G = \alpha_A = 4\pi$, by taking $\kappa_c = c$. This also has the advantage of making current density and charge density have the same units, like the electric and magnetic field in the standard Gaussian system.

$$\alpha_G = 4\pi \quad \alpha_A = 4\pi \quad \kappa_c = c \quad \kappa_f = c \quad \gamma_M = c \quad \gamma_F = c$$

This system is explicitly unrationalised.

11.7 Symmetrised Lorentz-Heaviside units – SLHU

Lorentz-Heaviside units can also be made fully symmetrical, with $\alpha_G = \alpha_A = 1$.

$$\alpha_G = 1 \quad \alpha_A = 1 \quad \kappa_c = c \quad \kappa_f = c \quad \gamma_M = c \quad \gamma_F = c$$

This system is rationalised.

12 Magnetic monopoles

Looking at Maxwell's equations, there appears to be a fundamental lack of symmetry between the electric and magnetic fields. This lack of symmetry is due to the fact that, as of now, no experiment has ever observed particles which carry such a thing as **magnetic charge**, that is to say some particle which is capable of generating a magnetic field while standing still. All magnetic phenomena are related to the motion of *electric* charges, whether this motion is macroscopic (as is the case with current-carrying wires) or microscopic (as is the case with bar magnets).

Despite the absence of evidence, there have been theoretical arguments for the existence of such particles, and a correction to Maxwell's equations is in order to account for their presence. From here on we denote electric charges and currents with the subscript e and magnetic charges and currents with the subscript m.

After introducing the concept of magnetic charge Q_m , the concept of magnetic current quickly follows. While we could, in principle, take a different proportionality constant between the current and the time derivative of charge, this would not be particularly useful, we thus use κ_c as we did for electric charge.

$$I_m = -\frac{1}{\kappa_c} \frac{\partial Q_m}{\partial t}$$

12.1 Continuity equation

Naturally, we can define the corresponding densities.

$$Q_m = \iiint_{\Omega} \rho_m(\xi, t) d^3\xi \quad I_m = \iint_{\Sigma} \mathbf{j}_m(\xi, t) \cdot \mathbf{n} d^2\xi$$

The densities must satisfy a continuity equation, the proof of which is identical to the one given for the electric case, and shall not be repeated.

$$\frac{1}{\kappa_c} \frac{\partial \rho_m}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot \mathbf{j}_m = 0$$

Due to the existence of a continuity equation, we also have the following relation with the velocity field, once again the proof is identical to the previous.

$$\mathbf{j}_m(\mathbf{r}, t) = \frac{\mathbf{v}(\mathbf{r}, t) \rho_m(\mathbf{r}, t)}{\kappa_c} \quad (16)$$

12.2 Maxwell's equations

To correct Maxwell's equations we introduce two new coupling constants β_G and β_A for Gauss's law and Faraday–Maxwell's law, respectively.

$$\begin{aligned}
 M_I \quad \text{Gauss's law (for } \mathcal{E} \text{)} \quad \nabla \cdot \mathcal{E} &= \alpha_G \rho_e \\
 M_{II} \quad \text{Gauss's law (for } \mathcal{B} \text{)} \quad \nabla \cdot \mathcal{B} &= \beta_G \rho_m \\
 M_{III} \quad \text{Faraday–Maxwell's law} \quad \nabla \times \mathcal{E} &= -\beta_A \mathbf{j}_m - \frac{1}{\gamma_F} \frac{\partial \mathcal{B}}{\partial t} \\
 M_{IV} \quad \text{Ampère–Maxwell's law} \quad \nabla \times \mathcal{B} &= \alpha_A \mathbf{j}_e + \frac{1}{\gamma_M} \frac{\partial \mathcal{E}}{\partial t}
 \end{aligned}$$

12.3 Lorentz force

We must now find the correct expression for the Lorentz force of a magnetically charged particle. To do so we attempt to find an analogue of the Faraday–Neumann–Lenz law that relates the flux of the electric field to the work done per unit charge. As before, we consider a closed loop delimiting a surface Σ and we take the time derivative of the flux of the electric field through this surface.

$$\frac{d\Phi_{\mathcal{E}}}{dt} = \frac{d}{dt} \iint_{\Sigma(t)} \mathcal{E}(\xi, t) \cdot \mathbf{n}(\xi, t) d^2\xi$$

We apply the Reynolds transport theorem in order to compute this derivative.

$$\frac{d\Phi_{\mathcal{E}}}{dt} = \iint_{\Sigma(t)} \left(\frac{\partial \mathcal{E}}{\partial t} + (\nabla \cdot \mathcal{E}) \mathbf{v} \right) \cdot \mathbf{n} d^2\xi - \oint_{\partial \Sigma(t)} (\mathbf{v} \times \mathcal{E}) \cdot \mathbf{t} d\xi$$

This time the field is not solenoidal, using Gauss's law for the electric field and the Ampère–Maxwell law, we get the following expression.

$$\begin{aligned}
 \frac{d\Phi_{\mathcal{E}}}{dt} &= \iint_{\Sigma(t)} (\gamma_M \nabla \times \mathcal{B} - \alpha_A \gamma_M \mathbf{j}_e + \alpha_G \rho_e \mathbf{v}) \cdot \mathbf{n} d^2\xi - \oint_{\partial \Sigma(t)} (\mathbf{v} \times \mathcal{E}) \cdot \mathbf{t} d\xi \\
 \frac{d\Phi_{\mathcal{E}}}{dt} &= \iint_{\Sigma(t)} (-\alpha_A \gamma_M \mathbf{j}_e + \alpha_G \rho_e \mathbf{v}) \cdot \mathbf{n} d^2\xi + \oint_{\partial \Sigma(t)} (\gamma_M \mathcal{B} - \mathbf{v} \times \mathcal{E}) \cdot \mathbf{t} d\xi
 \end{aligned}$$

We recall that $\alpha_A \gamma_M = \alpha_G \kappa_c$, giving us the following expression.

$$\frac{d\Phi_{\mathcal{E}}}{dt} = \alpha_G \iint_{\Sigma(t)} (\rho_e \mathbf{v} - \kappa_c \mathbf{j}_e) \cdot \mathbf{n} d^2\xi + \gamma_M \oint_{\partial \Sigma(t)} \left(\mathcal{B} - \frac{\mathbf{v} \times \mathcal{E}}{\gamma_M} \right) \cdot \mathbf{t} d\xi$$

Then we notice that the first integral vanishes, because $\rho_e \mathbf{v} = \kappa_c \mathbf{j}_e$.

$$\frac{d\Phi_{\mathcal{E}}}{dt} = \gamma_M \oint_{\partial \Sigma(t)} \left(\mathcal{B} - \frac{\mathbf{v} \times \mathcal{E}}{\gamma_M} \right) \cdot \mathbf{t} d\xi$$

We have managed to find an expression similar to the Faraday–Neumann–Lenz law, but some care must be taken in naming the right hand side of this equation. We shall call this **magnetomotive force** \mathcal{V}_m , but we remark that this term is already in use for a distinct concept in magnetic circuits.

$$\frac{d\Phi_{\mathcal{E}}}{dt} = \gamma_M \mathcal{V}_m \quad (17)$$

We notice there is a difference in sign with the Faraday–Neumann–Lenz law for the electromotive force, this is in line with the difference in sign between the Faraday–Maxwell and the Ampère–Maxwell laws. By analogy with the electromotive force, we can reasonably expect the Lorentz force for a moving magnetically charge particle to have the following expression.

$$\mathbf{F}(\mathbf{r}, t) = q_m \left(\mathbf{B}(\mathbf{r}, t) - \frac{\mathbf{v} \times \mathcal{E}(\mathbf{r}, t)}{\gamma_M} \right)$$

If a particle has both an electric and magnetic charge, then the Lorentz force must include both contributions.

$$\mathbf{F} = q_e \left(\mathcal{E} + \frac{\mathbf{v} \times \mathbf{B}}{\gamma_F} \right) + q_m \left(\mathbf{B} - \frac{\mathbf{v} \times \mathcal{E}}{\gamma_M} \right) \quad (18)$$

12.4 Electromotive force

13 Other laws

Coulomb's law

$$\mathbf{F}_{12} = k_C \iiint_{\Omega_1} \iiint_{\Omega_2} \frac{\rho_1(\boldsymbol{\xi}_1) \rho_2(\boldsymbol{\xi}_2)}{\|\mathbf{r}_1 - \mathbf{r}_2\|^3} (\mathbf{r}_1 - \mathbf{r}_2) d^3\xi_1 d^3\xi_2$$

$$\mathcal{E}(\mathbf{r}) = k_C \iiint_{\Omega} \frac{\rho(\boldsymbol{\xi})}{\|\mathbf{r} - \boldsymbol{\xi}\|^3} (\mathbf{r} - \boldsymbol{\xi}) d^3\xi$$

Ampère's law

$$\mathbf{F}_{12} = k_A \iiint_{\Omega_1} \iiint_{\Omega_2} \frac{\mathbf{j}_1(\boldsymbol{\xi}_1) \times (\mathbf{j}_2(\boldsymbol{\xi}_2) \times (\boldsymbol{\xi}_1 - \boldsymbol{\xi}_2))}{\|\boldsymbol{\xi}_1 - \boldsymbol{\xi}_2\|^3} d^3\xi_1 d^3\xi_2$$

Biot-Savart's law

$$\mathbf{B}(\mathbf{r}) = k_S \iiint_{\Omega} \frac{\mathbf{j}(\boldsymbol{\xi}) \times (\mathbf{r} - \boldsymbol{\xi})}{\|\mathbf{r} - \boldsymbol{\xi}\|^3} d^3\xi$$

14 Continuum mechanics

Consider a body undergoing deformation, a reference configuration in which the coordinates of the points are given by \mathbf{X} (Lagrangian or material picture) and the current configuration in which they are given by \mathbf{x} (Eulerian or spatial picture).

A **motion** in the body is given by a function χ mapping the coordinates in the reference configuration to those in the current configuration.

$$\mathbf{x} = \chi(\mathbf{X}, t)$$

We take this function to be invertible; we denote its inverse by ξ .

$$\mathbf{X} = \xi(\mathbf{x}, t)$$

We moreover take χ to be continuously differentiable and name its gradient (a rank 2 tensor) the **material deformation gradient** \mathbf{F} .

$$\mathbf{F} = \frac{\partial \mathbf{x}}{\partial \mathbf{X}} = \nabla_0 \mathbf{x}$$

In the same way, we name the gradient of ξ the **spatial deformation gradient** \mathbf{H} .

$$\mathbf{H} = \frac{\partial \mathbf{X}}{\partial \mathbf{x}} = \nabla \mathbf{X}$$

These two tensors are such that the following relations on the differentials are true.

$$d\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{F} \cdot d\mathbf{X} \quad d\mathbf{X} = \mathbf{H} \cdot d\mathbf{x}$$

The spatial deformation gradient is the inverse of the material deformation gradient, depending on the order in which they are contracted, we obtain either the Lagrangian or Eulerian identity tensor.

$$\mathbf{F} \cdot \mathbf{H} = \mathbf{I}_E \quad \mathbf{H} \cdot \mathbf{F} = \mathbf{I}_L$$

Another useful property of the material deformation gradient is that its determinant, usually denoted by J is a measure of the change of a volume element (trivial, since \mathbf{F} is the Jacobian of the coordinate change).

$$J = \det \mathbf{F} \quad d^3x = J d^3X$$

A useful relation to know is the derivative of J with regards to \mathbf{F} , which is just a restatement of the formula for the derivative of a determinant.

$$\frac{\partial J}{\partial \mathbf{F}} = J \mathbf{H}^\top$$

Less trivial is **Nanson's formula**, used to change the oriented area elements, here \mathbf{n} is the normal vector in the current configuration and \mathbf{N} is the normal vector in the reference configuration.

$$\mathbf{n} d^2x = \mathcal{J} \mathbf{H}^\top \cdot \mathbf{N} d^2X$$

We now take the time derivative of the material deformation gradient.

$$\dot{\mathbf{F}} = \frac{d}{dt} \frac{\partial \mathbf{x}}{\partial \mathbf{X}} = \frac{\partial}{\partial \mathbf{X}} \frac{d\mathbf{x}}{dt} = \frac{\partial \mathbf{V}}{\partial \mathbf{X}} = \nabla_0 \mathbf{V}$$

We have introduced the **velocity** $\mathbf{V}(\mathbf{X}, t)$ as the time derivative of the position in the current configuration. The time derivative of the material deformation gradient is thus the material velocity gradient. It is often more useful to express things in terms of a spatial gradient, in which case we denote the velocity by $\mathbf{v}(\mathbf{x}, t)$ because we consider it in the Eulerian picture, rather than in the Lagrangian.

$$\dot{\mathbf{F}} = \frac{\partial \mathbf{v}}{\partial \mathbf{x}} \cdot \frac{\partial \mathbf{x}}{\partial \mathbf{X}} = \mathbf{L} \cdot \mathbf{F}$$

This led us to defining the **spatial velocity gradient** \mathbf{L} .

$$\mathbf{L} = \frac{\partial \mathbf{v}}{\partial \mathbf{x}} = \nabla \mathbf{v}$$

We can use this result to compute the time derivative of the spatial deformation gradient, we do this by invoking the formula for the derivative of matrix inverse.

$$\dot{\mathbf{H}} = -\mathbf{H} \cdot \dot{\mathbf{F}} \cdot \mathbf{H} = -\mathbf{H} \cdot \mathbf{L} \cdot \mathbf{F} \cdot \mathbf{H} = -\mathbf{H} \cdot \mathbf{L}$$

And we can compute the time derivative of the determinant \mathcal{J} as well.

$$\dot{\mathcal{J}} = \frac{\partial \mathcal{J}}{\partial \mathbf{F}} : \dot{\mathbf{F}} = \mathcal{J} \mathbf{H}^\top : \mathbf{L} \cdot \mathbf{F} = \mathcal{J} \text{tr} \mathbf{L} = \mathcal{J} \nabla \cdot \mathbf{v}$$

Where we have used the property that $\mathbf{A} : \mathbf{B} = \text{tr}(\mathbf{A}^\top \cdot \mathbf{B})$ and the fact that the trace is conserved under transformations, so $\text{tr}(\mathbf{H} \cdot \mathbf{L} \cdot \mathbf{F}) = \text{tr} \mathbf{L}$.

15 Proof of the Reynolds Transport Theorem

Consider the flux of some vector field $\mathbf{a}(\mathbf{x}, t)$ through a surface $\Sigma(t)$, and take its time derivative, which will depend both on the intrinsic change in the vector field, and in the change of shape of the surface.

$$\frac{d\Phi_{\mathbf{a}}}{dt} = \frac{d}{dt} \iint_{\Sigma(t)} \mathbf{a}(\mathbf{x}, t) \cdot \mathbf{n}(\mathbf{x}, t) d^2x$$

We use Nanson's formula to bring the integral to the reference configuration, where the domain of integration is independent of time, we denote by \mathbf{A} the material representation of the vector field: $\mathbf{A}(\mathbf{X}, t) = \mathbf{a}(\mathbf{x}(\mathbf{X}, t), t)$.

$$\frac{d\Phi_a}{dt} = \frac{d}{dt} \iint_{\Sigma_0} \mathbf{A} \cdot \mathcal{J} \mathbf{H}^\top \cdot \mathbf{N} d^2 X$$

We can now bring the derivative inside the integral, giving us the following.

$$\frac{d\Phi_a}{dt} = \iint_{\Sigma_0} \left(\dot{\mathbf{A}} \cdot \mathcal{J} \mathbf{H}^\top + \mathbf{A} \cdot \mathcal{J} \dot{\mathbf{H}}^\top + \mathbf{A} \cdot \mathcal{J} \mathbf{H}^\top \right) \cdot \mathbf{N} d^2 X$$

Substituting the relevant quantities we find the following.

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d\Phi_a}{dt} &= \iint_{\Sigma_0} \left(\dot{\mathbf{A}} \cdot \mathcal{J} \mathbf{H}^\top + \mathbf{A} \cdot (\mathcal{J} \operatorname{tr} \mathbf{L}) \mathbf{H}^\top - \mathbf{A} \cdot \mathcal{J} (\mathbf{L}^\top \cdot \mathbf{H}^\top) \right) \cdot \mathbf{N} d^2 X \\ &= \iint_{\Sigma_0} \left(\dot{\mathbf{A}} + \mathbf{A} \operatorname{tr} \mathbf{L} - \mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{L}^\top \right) \cdot \mathcal{J} \mathbf{H}^\top \cdot \mathbf{N} d^2 X \end{aligned}$$

We can now apply Nanson's formula backwards to bring the integral back to the current configuration.

$$\frac{d\Phi_a}{dt} = \iint_{\Sigma(t)} \left(\dot{\mathbf{a}} + \mathbf{a} \operatorname{tr} \mathbf{L} - \mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{L}^\top \right) \cdot \mathbf{n} d^2 x$$

We expand $\dot{\mathbf{a}}$ as the material derivative and replace \mathbf{L} with the relevant expressions in terms of \mathbf{v} .

$$\frac{d\Phi_a}{dt} = \iint_{\Sigma(t)} \left(\frac{\partial \mathbf{a}}{\partial t} + \mathbf{v} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{a} + \mathbf{a} (\nabla \cdot \mathbf{v}) - \mathbf{a} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{v} \right) \cdot \mathbf{n} d^2 x$$

We now recall the following vector identity for the curl of a cross product.

$$\nabla \times (\mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{v}) = \mathbf{a} (\nabla \cdot \mathbf{v}) - \mathbf{v} (\nabla \cdot \mathbf{a}) + \mathbf{v} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{a} - \mathbf{a} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{v}$$

We notice that most of the terms appear in our expression, we thus obtain one of the many possible expressions of the transport theorem for the flux of a vector field.

$$\frac{d\Phi_a}{dt} = \iint_{\Sigma(t)} \left(\frac{\partial \mathbf{a}}{\partial t} + \mathbf{v} (\nabla \cdot \mathbf{a}) + \nabla \times (\mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{v}) \right) \cdot \mathbf{n} d^2 x$$

Using the curl theorem we can also bring the last term in terms of a circulation.

$$\frac{d\Phi_a}{dt} = \iint_{\Sigma(t)} \left(\frac{\partial \mathbf{a}}{\partial t} + \mathbf{v} (\nabla \cdot \mathbf{a}) \right) \cdot \mathbf{n} d^2 x + \oint_{\partial \Sigma(t)} (\mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{v}) \cdot \mathbf{t} dx$$

This form is especially useful for solenoidal fields, where $\nabla \cdot \mathbf{a}$ disappears.

$$\frac{d\Phi_a}{dt} = \iint_{\Sigma(t)} \frac{\partial \mathbf{a}}{\partial t} \cdot \mathbf{n} d^2 x + \oint_{\partial \Sigma(t)} (\mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{v}) \cdot \mathbf{t} dx$$