Homework 10

Michael Brodskiy
Professor: D. Wood

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1. As a simplified model of a planet being bombarded with cosmic rays at the poles, consider a conducting sphere of radius R that is being charged with wires at the north and south poles that each have a current $I/2$ flowing onto the sphere, so that the total charge of the sphere is increasing with time $\left(\frac{dQ}{dt} = I\right)$. Assume the charge is always distributed uniformly on the surface of the sphere.

   (a) Calculate the displacement current density just above the surface of the sphere.

   (b) Use the Ampr̀e-Maxwell equation to calculate the induced magnetic field just above the surface at location that is an angle θ from the north pole (latitude $= 90^\circ - \theta$). [Hint: Use a ring of constant latitudeas the amperian loop and use a cap-shaped enclosedsurface of the loop that follows the surface of the sphere.Be sure to include both the physical current and the displacement current.] (While this is an interesting calculation, note that this is not a significant contribution to the Earth's magnetic field.)

2. Consider a capacitor with circular parallel plates of radius a and separation d, where $d << a$, there the capacitor is discharging with a current I.

   (a) Find the Poynting vector in the space between the plates. Assume that the surface charge is distributed uniformly over the plates.

   (b) Calculate the rates of energy flow out of the volume between the plates by integrating $\vec{S}$ over an appropriate surface and show that it is equal to —IV—.

3. An ideal parallel plate capacitor with area A and separation d is oriented with the lower plate in the xy plane and is immersed in a uniform horizontal magnetic field $\vec{B} = B_o\hat{\mathbf{x}}$. The capacitor starts with a charge $+Q$ on the lower plate and Q on the upper plate. At time $t = 0$, a vertical wire with resistance R is connected between the plates.

   (a) Find the momentum (magnitude and direction) stored in the $\vec{E}$ and $\vec{B}$ fields at time $t = 0$.

(b) Find the force on the wire as a function of time

(c) Find the total impulse $\left(\int \vec{F}\, dt\right)$ on the wire for $t \to \infty$. Compare this with the change in stored momentum.

4. We re-revisit the spinning hollow sphere from earlier assignments — a hollow insulating sphere of radius R and mass M centered at the origin is covered with a uniform surface charge $\sigma = Q/(4\pi R^2)$, rotating about the z-axis with angular frequency ω. This time we consider both the magnetic field and the electric field produced by the sphere itself.

   (a) Calculate the total energy of the electric and magnetic fields. You can use the results from Homework 8, Problem 1 for the $\vec{B}$-field — you do not need to re-derive it. Be sure to include the magnetic field inside the sphere as well as outside.

   (b) Calculate the total angular momentum of the electromagnetic fields, L_Q.

   (c) Consider a spinning shell whose rest energy (Mc^2) is equal to its electrostatic potential energy ($Q^2/(8\pi\varepsilon_o R)$).Find the ratio between the mechanical (L_M) and electromagnetic (L_Q) contributions to the angular momentum.Use the fact that $c = 1/\sqrt{\varepsilon_o \mu_o}$.