

# Vector Potential:

In Electrostatics,

$$\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{E} = 0$$

Hence, we could introduce a scalar potential  $V$  such that

$$\vec{E} = -\vec{\nabla} V$$

In Magnetostatics,

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

Hence, we can introduce a vector potential,  $\vec{A}$  such that

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

② Ampere's law with introduction of  $\vec{A}$

$$\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{B} = \vec{\nabla} \times (\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{A}) = \vec{\nabla} (\underbrace{\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{A}}_0) - \nabla^2 \vec{A} = \mu_0 \vec{J}$$

We can eliminate  $\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{A}$

$$\Rightarrow \underline{\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{A} = 0} \quad \leadsto \text{this can always be achieved}$$

③ Say, we have a vector potential,  $\vec{A}_0$  for which  $\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{A}_0 \neq 0$

Redefine the vector potential,

$$\vec{A} = \vec{A}_0 + \vec{\nabla} \lambda$$

↳ scalar

$\Rightarrow$  keeps  $\vec{B}$  unchanged. since  $\vec{\nabla} \times (\vec{\nabla} \lambda) = 0$

Hence,  $\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{A} = \vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{A}_0 + \nabla^2 \lambda = 0$

$\Rightarrow \nabla^2 \lambda = -\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{A}_0 \sim$  Analogous to

identify

$\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{A}_0 = \frac{\rho}{\epsilon_0}$

Poisson's eq ( $\nabla^2 V = -\frac{\rho}{\epsilon_0}$ )  
 $\rightarrow V = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \int \frac{\rho}{r} d\tau'$   
 $\rho \rightarrow 0$  at  $\infty$

$\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{A}_0 \rightarrow 0$  at  $\pm\infty$

Hence,  $\lambda = \frac{1}{4\pi} \int \frac{\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{A}_0}{r} d\tau'$

$\Rightarrow$  It is always possible to make the vector potential divergenceless.

⊗ Now the Ampere's law becomes

$\nabla^2 \vec{A} = -\mu_0 \vec{j}$

$\rightarrow$  Assuming that  $\vec{j} \rightarrow 0$  at  $\infty$

$\vec{A}(\vec{r}) = \frac{\mu_0}{4\pi} \int \frac{\vec{j}(\vec{r}')}{r} d\tau'$

⊗ For line current,  $\vec{A}(\vec{r}) = \frac{\mu_0 I}{4\pi} \int \frac{d\vec{r}'}{r}$

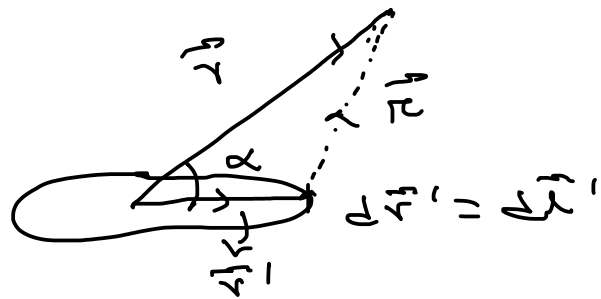
⊗ For surface current,  $\vec{A}(\vec{r}) = \frac{\mu_0}{4\pi} \int \frac{\vec{j}}{r} da'$

→ Usually the direction of  $\vec{A}$  matches the direction of current

→ It is possible to add arbitrary const. vector to  $\vec{A}$ . It does not affect the definition of  $\vec{B}$  & its properties.

Section  
5.4.3

## Multipole Expansion of $\vec{A}$ :



Idea is to write  $\vec{A}$  in form of a power series in  $1/r$ . If  $r$  is sufficiently large, the series will be dominated by the lowest order terms.

$$\vec{r} = \vec{r} - \vec{r}'$$

For this loop,

$$\vec{A} = \frac{\mu_0 I}{4\pi} \oint \frac{d\vec{r}'}{|\vec{r} - \vec{r}'|}$$

$$|\vec{r} - \vec{r}'| = \left[ (\vec{r} - \vec{r}') \cdot (\vec{r} - \vec{r}') \right]^{1/2}$$

$$= \left[ r^2 + r'^2 - 2\vec{r} \cdot \vec{r}' \right]^{1/2}$$

$$\vec{r} \cdot \vec{r}' = rr' \cos \alpha$$

$$|\vec{r} - \vec{r}'| = \left[ r^2 + r'^2 - 2rr' \cos \alpha \right]^{1/2}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \Rightarrow \frac{1}{|\vec{r} - \vec{r}'|} &= \left[ r^2 + r'^2 - 2rr' \cos \alpha \right]^{-1/2} \\
 &\approx \frac{1}{r} \left[ 1 - \frac{2r'}{r} \cos \alpha + \frac{r'^2}{r^2} \right]^{-1/2} \\
 &\approx \frac{1}{r} \left[ 1 + \frac{r'}{r} \cos \alpha + \dots \right] \\
 &= \frac{1}{r} + \frac{r'}{r^2} \cos \alpha + \dots
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\Rightarrow \Phi = \frac{q_0 \int}{4\pi r} d\vec{r}' + \frac{q_0 \int}{4\pi r^2} r' \cos \alpha d\vec{r}' + \dots$$

$\downarrow$  Monopole contribution       $\downarrow$  Dipole contribution

$\oint d\vec{r}' = 0$  since the total vector displacement around a closed loop is zero.

⊗ In absence of monopole contribution, leading order contribution comes from dipole.

$$\begin{aligned}
 \Phi_{\text{dip.}}(\vec{r}) &= \frac{q_0 \int}{4\pi r^2} r' \cos \alpha d\vec{r}' \\
 &= \frac{q_0 \int}{4\pi r^2} (\vec{r} \cdot \vec{r}') d\vec{r}'
 \end{aligned}$$

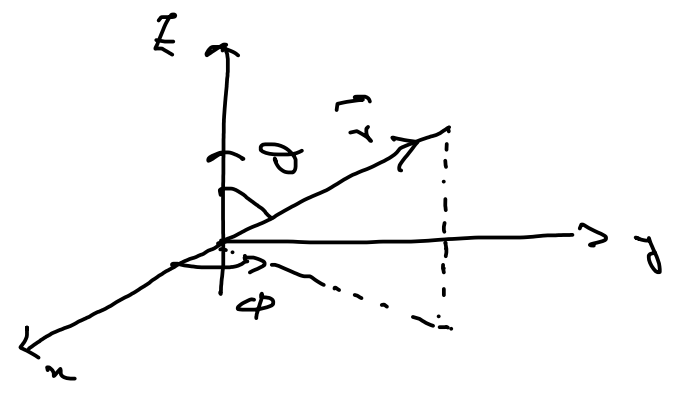
using identity,  
 $\oint (\vec{c}_y \cdot \vec{z}_y) d\vec{c}_y$   
 $\parallel \vec{c}_y \times \vec{z}_y$   
 the vector of  
 the loop

$$\oint (\vec{c}_y \cdot \vec{z}_y) d\vec{c}_y = \vec{c}_y \times \vec{z}_y$$

$$\Rightarrow \vec{B}_{\text{dip}}(\vec{r}) = \frac{\mu_0 I}{4\pi r^2} (\vec{c}_y \times \vec{z}_y)$$

$$\parallel \frac{\mu_0}{4\pi r^2} (\vec{m} \times \vec{r})$$

Here,  $\vec{m} = \mu_0 I \vec{c}_y \parallel$  Magnetic dipole moment.



$$\vec{B}_{\text{dip}}(\vec{r}) = \frac{\mu_0}{4\pi} \frac{\sin \theta}{r^2} \hat{\phi}$$

$$\Rightarrow \vec{B}_{\text{dip}}(\vec{r}) = \nabla \times \vec{A}$$

$$\parallel \frac{\mu_0 m}{4\pi r^3} (2 \cos \theta \hat{r} + \sin \theta \hat{\phi})$$

(\*) Identity:  $\oint (\vec{c}_y \cdot \vec{z}_y) d\vec{c}_y = \vec{c}_y \times \vec{z}_y$

We start with the identity

$$\oint \vec{c}_y \times \vec{z}_y = \oint \vec{c}_y \cdot \vec{z}_y$$

$$\text{Let } \vec{a} = a_1 \hat{i}$$

→ const. vector

⇒ Stokes' Th: 2

$$\oint (\vec{v} \times \vec{a}) \cdot d\vec{r} = \oint \vec{a} \cdot d\vec{r}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \vec{v} \times \vec{a} &= \hat{i} (\vec{v} \times a_1 \hat{i}) = \vec{v} \times (a_1 \hat{i}) \\ &= -a_1 \hat{i} \times (\vec{v} \hat{i}) \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{Hence, } - \oint (a_1 \hat{i} \times \vec{v} \hat{i}) \cdot d\vec{r} = \oint a_1 \hat{i} \cdot d\vec{r}$$

$$\Rightarrow - \oint a_1 \hat{i} \cdot (\vec{v} \hat{i} \times d\vec{r}) = \oint a_1 \hat{i} \cdot d\vec{r}$$

$$\Rightarrow \oint \vec{v} \hat{i} \times d\vec{r} = - \oint \hat{i} \cdot d\vec{r}$$

$$\text{Let, } \hat{i} = a_1 \hat{r}$$

$$\vec{v} \hat{i} = \vec{v} (a_1 \hat{r}) = a_1 \times (\vec{v} \times \hat{r}) + (a_1 \cdot \vec{v}) \hat{r}$$

$$= (a_1 \cdot \vec{v}) \hat{r}$$

$$= a_1$$

$$\oint \hat{i} \cdot d\vec{r} = \oint (a_1 \hat{r}) \cdot d\vec{r} = \oint a_1 \hat{r} \cdot d\vec{r}$$

$$\begin{aligned} &= \oint a_1 \hat{r} \cdot d\vec{r} = \oint a_1 \hat{r} \cdot \hat{r} dr \\ &= \oint a_1 dr = a_1 \oint dr = a_1 \oint d\theta = a_1 \oint d\theta \end{aligned}$$