


PH108

Lecture 22:

Maxwell's equations – Displacement current

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Recall: Modifications of electromagnetostatics if $\vec{B} = \vec{B}(r, t)$




$$\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{E} = \frac{\rho}{\epsilon_0}$$

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

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

$$\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{B} = \mu_0 \vec{J}$$


$$\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{E} = -\frac{\partial \vec{B}}{\partial t}$$

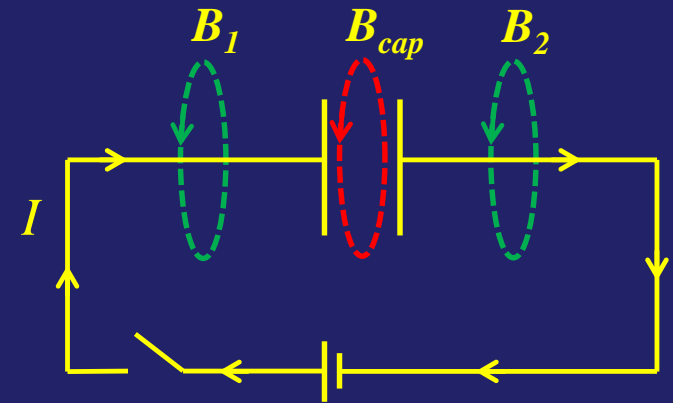
If magnetic flux varies in time (Lecture 21)

$\rho(r)$ and $\vec{J}(r)$ create electric field.
How is \vec{B} affected if $\vec{J}(r) = \vec{J}(r, t)$?

When switch is closed, current I charges a capacitor

Take Amperian loops of dia. d :

$$B_1 = \frac{\mu_0 I}{2\pi d} \quad B_2 = \frac{\mu_0 I}{2\pi d}$$



But *in* the capacitor:

$$B_{cap} = \frac{\mu_0 I_{enclosed}}{2\pi d} = 0$$

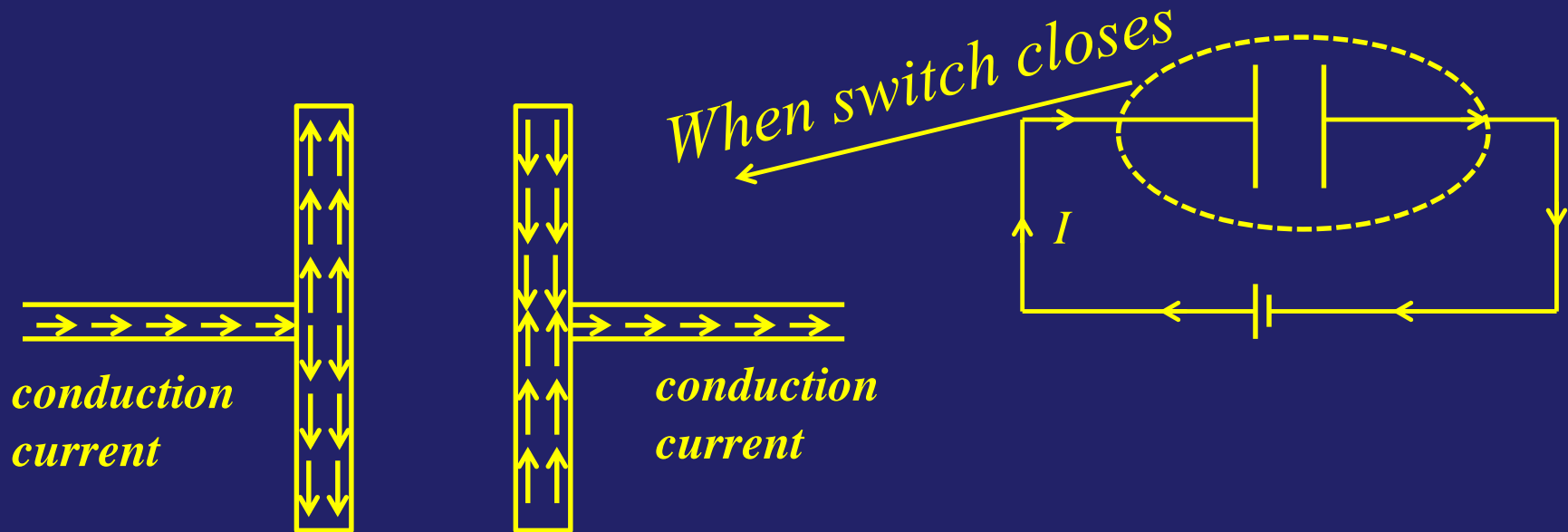
(a) Violates ΔB boundary condition

(b) I seems to vanish at the capacitor plates

$$\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{J} + \frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} = 0 \text{ goes for a toss!}$$

(c) Gets worse for an observer co-moving with I

We have to look carefully at the current



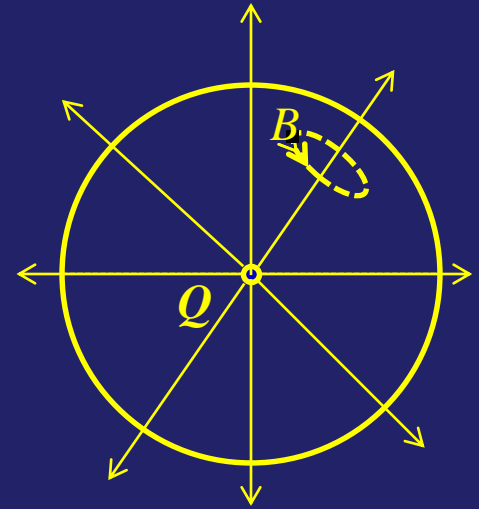
$$\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{J} + \frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} = 0 \text{ needs to be examined carefully}$$

Consider a current ‘source’

Q is a source that *emits* charged particles q isotropically

→ Q is a source of radially symmetric current: $\frac{\partial Q}{\partial t} = J$

Take an Amperian loop on the spherical surface enclosing Q



I_{encl} for loop $\neq 0$, So there is a magnetic field B around the loop

But the loop can be of any size! → I_{encl} can have any value

We have no way to uniquely determine B !

Maxwell's fix for Ampere's law

The problem is: $\vec{\nabla} \cdot (\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{B}) = \mu_0 \vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{J}$

We need to make the RHS vanish

$$\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{J} + \frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} = 0 \rightarrow \vec{\nabla} \cdot (\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{B}) = \mu_0 \left(-\frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} \right)$$

Where there is ρ , there must be \vec{E} $\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{E} = \frac{\rho}{\epsilon_0}$

$$\vec{\nabla} \cdot (\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{B}) = -\vec{\nabla} \cdot (\mu_0 \epsilon_0 \frac{\partial \vec{E}}{\partial t})$$

We need to put \vec{E} into $\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{B}$

$$\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{B} = \mu_0 \vec{J} + \mu_0 \epsilon_0 \frac{\partial \vec{E}}{\partial t}$$



$\mu_0 \epsilon_0 \frac{\partial \vec{E}}{\partial t}$ is very small compared to $\mu_0 \vec{J}$

It's effect is hard to measure (first done by Hertz in 1888)

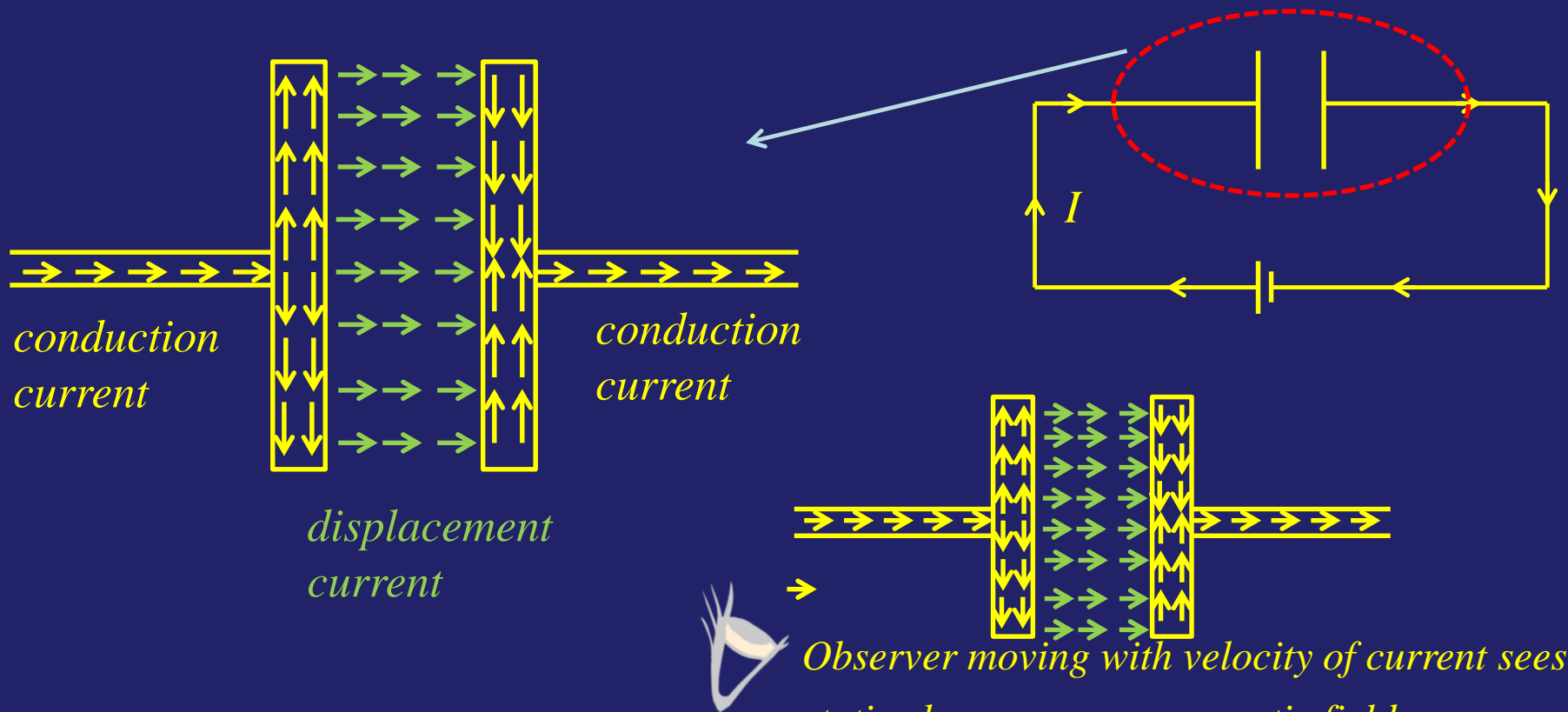
The effect becomes noticeable if the observer is moving

Or, equivalently, the fields \vec{E}, \vec{B} are moving \rightarrow wave propagation

What is the physical effect of \vec{E} in $\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{B}$?

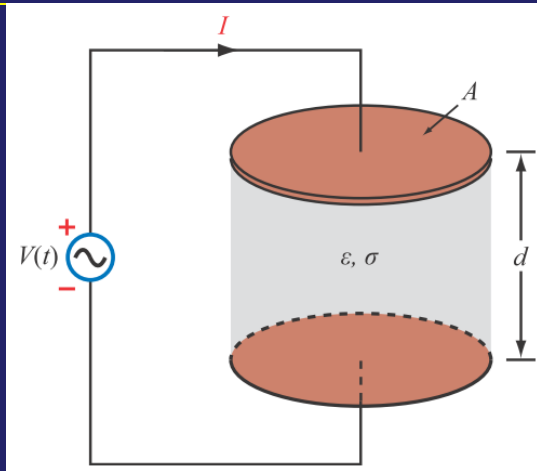
$$\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{B} = \mu_0 \vec{J} + \mu_0 \epsilon_0 \frac{\partial \vec{E}}{\partial t}$$

(1) Resolve the problem of vanishing current in capacitor



Observer moving with velocity of current sees static charge – so no magnetic field
Sees Electric field in capacitor \rightarrow displacement current

How to calculate I_d in capacitors with dielectric



Circular parallel plate capacitor

Filled with dielectric ϵ , conductance σ

Charged by time varying voltage $V(t)$

The dielectric is “imperfect” : conductance $\sigma \rightarrow R = \frac{d}{\sigma A}$

Conduction current:
$$I_C = \frac{V(t)}{R} = \frac{V(t)\sigma A}{d}$$

Displacement current:
$$I_d = A \frac{\partial D}{\partial t} \quad \text{with } D = \epsilon E \quad \rightarrow \quad I_d = \frac{A\epsilon}{d} \frac{\partial V}{\partial t}$$

A real capacitor is = R in parallel with C

$$I_c = \frac{V(t)}{R} = \frac{V(t)\sigma A}{d}$$

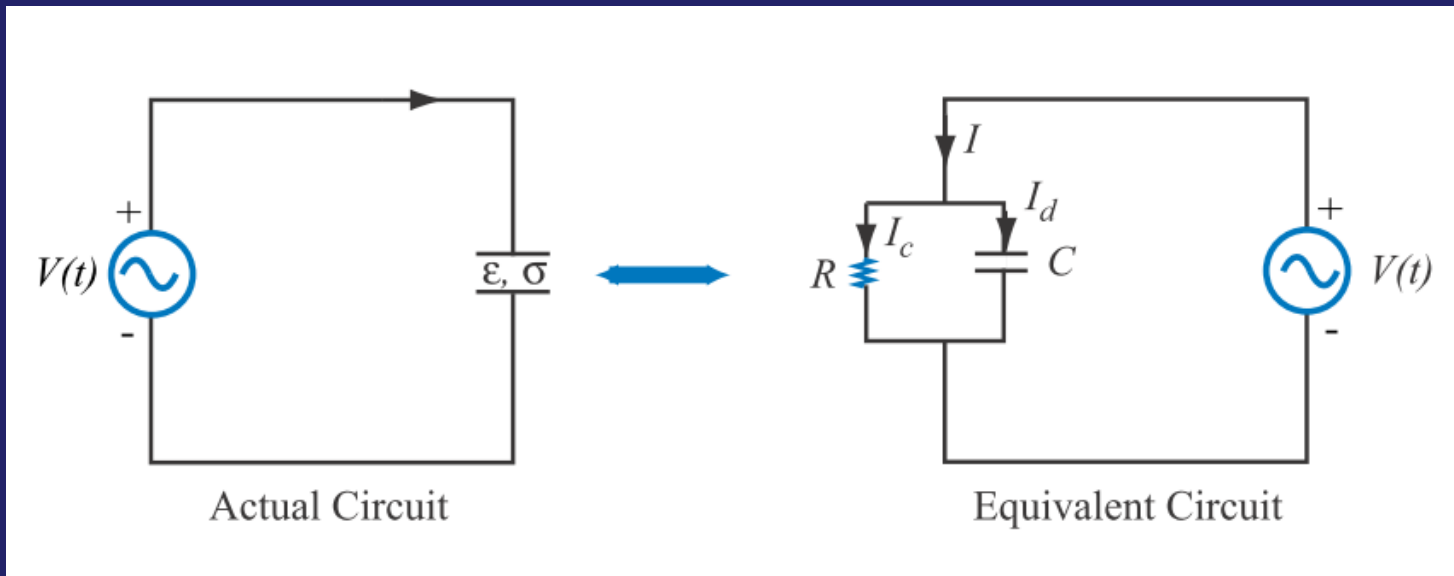


$$R = \frac{d}{\sigma A}$$

$$I_d = \frac{A\epsilon}{d} \frac{\partial V}{\partial t}$$



$$Q = CV \rightarrow \frac{dQ}{dt} = I = C \frac{dV}{dt}$$
$$C = \frac{A\epsilon}{d}$$



Displacement current resolves loop on sphere problem

$$E(r) = \frac{Q}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r^2}$$

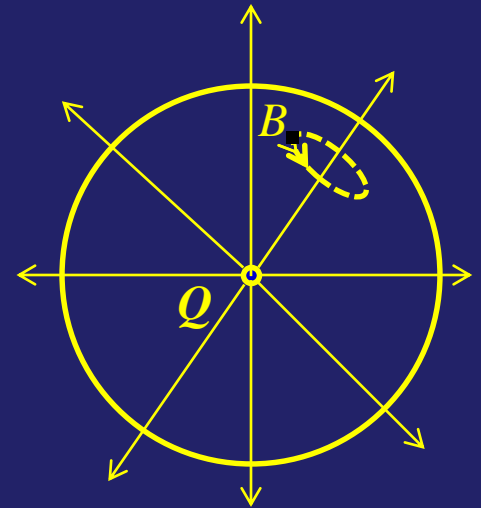
$$\frac{\partial E}{\partial t} = \epsilon_0 \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r^2} \frac{\partial Q}{\partial t}$$

$$= -\frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r^2} 4\pi r^2 J = -\frac{1}{\epsilon_0} J$$

Hence:

$$\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{B} = \mu_0 \vec{J} + \mu_0 \epsilon_0 \frac{\partial \vec{E}}{\partial t} = \mu_0 \vec{J} - \mu_0 \epsilon_0 * \frac{1}{\epsilon_0} \vec{J} = 0 \quad \rightarrow \quad \boxed{\vec{B} = 0}$$

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



$$\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{J} = -\frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t}$$

$$4\pi r^2 J = -\frac{\partial Q}{\partial t}$$

Complete Maxwell's equations

$$\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{E} = \frac{\rho}{\epsilon_0} \qquad \vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{B} = 0$$

$$\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{E} = -\frac{\partial \vec{B}}{\partial t} \qquad \vec{\nabla} \times \vec{B} = \mu_0 \vec{J} + \mu_0 \epsilon_0 \frac{\partial \vec{E}}{\partial t}$$

$$\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{J} + \frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} = 0$$

Physics motivation: measurable quantities (force) should not depend on observer frame of reference

Resolution: E and B fields are a function of reference frame, but the final measurable force is independent of frame