

Problem 1. (Jackson 9.1) A common textbook example of a radiating system is a configuration of charges fixed relative to each other but in rotation. The charge density is obviously a function of time, but it is *not* of the form

$$\rho(\mathbf{x}, t) = \rho(\mathbf{x}) e^{-i\omega t}, \quad \mathbf{J}(\mathbf{x}, t) = \mathbf{J}(\mathbf{x}) e^{-i\omega t}. \quad (1)$$

1(a) Show that for rotating charges one alternative is to calculate *real* time-dependent multipole moments using $\rho(\mathbf{x}, t)$ directly and then compute the multipole moments for a given harmonic frequency with the convention of Eq. (1) by inspection or Fourier decomposition of the time-dependent moments. Note that care must be taken when calculating $q_{lm}(t)$ to form linear combinations that are real before making the connection.

Solution. The multipole moments are given by Wald (2.80),

$$q_{lm} = \int \rho(\mathbf{x}') r'^l Y_{lm}^*(\theta', \phi') d^3x', \quad (2)$$

where the spherical harmonics Y_{lm} are given by Wald (2.58),

$$Y_{lm}(\theta, \phi) = \sqrt{\frac{2l+1}{4\pi} \frac{(l-m)!}{(l+m)!}} P_l(\cos \theta) e^{im\phi}, \quad (3)$$

and P_l are the Legendre polynomials.

We will choose coordinates for a frame K such that the charge distribution rotates counterclockwise about the z axis with angular velocity ω . Note that a point charge orbiting counterclockwise about z axis in the xy plane has the position vector

$$\mathbf{x}(t) = R \cos(\omega t) \hat{\mathbf{x}} + R \sin(\omega t) \hat{\mathbf{y}} = R \hat{\mathbf{r}} + \omega t \hat{\phi}, \quad (4)$$

where R is its distance from the origin. This means that, if we take a stationary charge distribution $\rho(\mathbf{x})$ and set it rotating in this way, we are making the change of variable $\phi \rightarrow \phi + \omega t$. Hence $\rho(\mathbf{x}, t) = \rho(r, \theta, \phi + \omega t)$.

Making this substitution into Eq. (2), we obtain the time-dependent multipole moments

$$q_{lm}(t) = \int \rho(\mathbf{x}', t) r'^l Y_{lm}^*(\theta', \phi') d^3x' = \int \rho(r', \theta', \phi' + \omega t) r'^l Y_{lm}^*(\theta', \phi') d^3x'.$$

To find something that resembles Eq. (1), we transform to a rotating coordinate frame \tilde{K} with $(\tilde{r}, \tilde{\theta}, \tilde{\phi}) = (r, \theta, \phi + \omega t)$. In this frame, $\rho(\mathbf{x}, t)$ is stationary and the time dependence is in Y_{lm} . Then the complex moments are

$$\tilde{q}_{lm}(t) = \int \rho(\tilde{r}', \tilde{\theta}', \tilde{\phi}') r'^l Y_{lm}^*(\tilde{\theta}', \tilde{\phi}' - \omega t) d^3x'.$$

From Eq. (3),

$$Y_{lm}^*(\theta, \phi - \omega t) = \sqrt{\frac{2l+1}{4\pi} \frac{(l-m)!}{(l+m)!}} P_l(\cos \theta) e^{-im(\phi - \omega t)} = e^{im\omega t} Y_{lm}^*(\theta, \phi),$$

so we have

$$\tilde{q}_{lm}(t) = e^{im\omega t} \int \rho(\tilde{r}', \tilde{\theta}', \tilde{\phi}') r'^l Y_{lm}^*(\tilde{\theta}', \tilde{\phi}') d^3x' = e^{im\omega t} \tilde{q}_{lm}.$$

Since the charge distribution is stationary in \tilde{K} , $\tilde{q}_{lm}(t) = q_{lm}$ and $q_{lm}(t) = \tilde{q}_{lm}$. Switching back to K , then, gives us

$$q_{lm}(t) = q_{lm} e^{-im\omega t},$$

which has the convention of Eq. (1). Here, however, we have multiple frequencies $m\omega$, where $m \in [-l, l]$ for integer m . However, a frequency $m\omega$ is unphysical for $m < 0$.

To form real linear combinations, we note that $q_{lm}Y_{lm}$ is real since the scalar potential defined by Wald (2.79),

$$\Phi(\mathbf{x}) = \sum_{l,m} \frac{4\pi}{2l+1} \frac{q_{lm}}{r^{l+1}} Y_{lm}(\theta, \phi),$$

is a linear combination of $q_{lm}Y_{lm}$ and is real. According to Jackson (3.54) and (4.7), $Y_{l-m}(\theta, \phi) = (-1)^m Y_{lm}^*(\theta, \phi)$ and $q_{l-m} = (-1)^m q_{lm}^*$. So

$$q_{l-m}(t) Y_{l-m}(\theta, \phi) = (-1)^{2m} q_{lm}^*(t) Y_{lm}^*(\theta, \phi) = q_{lm}^*(t) Y_{lm}^*(\theta, \phi).$$

Let $q_{lm}(t) Y_{lm}(\theta, \phi) = a + ib$, so $\text{Re}[q_{lm}(t) Y_{lm}(\theta, \phi)] = a$ and $\text{Im}[q_{lm}(t) Y_{lm}(\theta, \phi)] = b$. Then

$$q_{lm}(t) Y_{lm}(\theta, \phi) + q_{l-m}(t) Y_{l-m}(\theta, \phi) = a + ib + a - ib = 2a = 2 \text{Re}[q_{lm}(t) Y_{lm}(\theta, \phi)]. \quad (5)$$

This expression gives the real time-dependent multipole moments, which let us avoid negative frequencies.

Finally, let \hat{q}_{lm} be the multipole moment corresponding to the harmonic frequency $m\omega$. These multipole moments are given by

$$\hat{q}_{lm} = \begin{cases} 2 \text{Re}[q_{lm}] & m > 0, \\ q_{lm} & m = 0, \\ 0 & m < 0, \end{cases} \quad (6)$$

where q_{lm} is defined by Eq. (2) with $\rho(\mathbf{x}) \rightarrow \rho(\mathbf{x}, t = 0)$.

1(b) Consider a charge density $\rho(\mathbf{x}, t)$ that is periodic in time with period $T = 2\pi/\omega$. By making a Fourier series expansion, show that it can be written as

$$\rho(\mathbf{x}, t) = \rho_0(x) + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \text{Re}[2\rho_n(\mathbf{x}) e^{-in\omega_0 t}],$$

where

$$\rho_n(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{1}{T} \int_0^T \rho(\mathbf{x}, t) e^{in\omega_0 t} dt.$$

This shows explicitly how to establish connection with Eq. (1).

Solution. The Fourier series is, according to Jackson (2.36–37),

$$f(x) = \frac{A_0}{2} + \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \left[A_m \cos\left(\frac{2\pi m x}{a}\right) + B_m \sin\left(\frac{2\pi m x}{a}\right) \right]$$

where the interval in x is $(-a/2, a/2)$, and

$$A_m = \frac{2}{a} \int_{-a/2}^{a/2} f(x) \cos\left(\frac{2\pi m x}{a}\right) dx, \quad B_m = \frac{2}{a} \int_{-a/2}^{a/2} f(x) \sin\left(\frac{2\pi m x}{a}\right) dx.$$

Making the variables changes $x \rightarrow t$, $a \rightarrow T$, and $m \rightarrow n$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \rho(\mathbf{x}, t) &= \frac{A_0}{2} + \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} [A_m \cos(n\omega_0 t) + B_m \sin(n\omega_0 t)] = \frac{A_0}{2} + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left(A_n \frac{e^{in\omega_0 t} + e^{-in\omega_0 t}}{2} + B_n \frac{e^{in\omega_0 t} - e^{-in\omega_0 t}}{2i} \right) \\ &= \frac{A_0}{2} + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left(\frac{A_n - iB_n}{2} e^{in\omega_0 t} + \frac{A_n + iB_n}{2} e^{-in\omega_0 t} \right). \end{aligned} \quad (7)$$

For the coefficients, since the integrands are T -periodic, we can freely shift the bounds of integration. Doing so,

$$A_0 = \frac{2}{T} \int_0^T \rho(\mathbf{x}, t) dt, \quad A_n = \frac{2}{T} \int_0^T \rho(\mathbf{x}, t) \cos(n\omega_0 t) dt, \quad B_n = \frac{2}{T} \int_0^T \rho(\mathbf{x}, t) \sin(n\omega_0 t) dt.$$

Then the “new” coefficients are

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{A_n - iB_n}{2} &= \frac{1}{T} \int_0^T \rho(\mathbf{x}, t) [\cos(n\omega_0 t) - i \sin(n\omega_0 t)] dt = \frac{1}{T} \int_0^T \rho(\mathbf{x}, t) e^{-in\omega_0 t} dt \equiv \rho_{-n}(\mathbf{x}, t), \\ \frac{A_0}{2} &= \frac{1}{T} \int_0^T \rho(\mathbf{x}, t) dt \equiv \rho_0(\mathbf{x}, t), \\ \frac{A_n + iB_n}{2} &= \frac{1}{T} \int_0^T \rho(\mathbf{x}, t) [\cos(n\omega_0 t) + i \sin(n\omega_0 t)] dt = \frac{1}{T} \int_0^T \rho(\mathbf{x}, t) e^{in\omega_0 t} dt \equiv \rho_n(\mathbf{x}, t), \end{aligned}$$

where we have identified each with $\rho_n(\mathbf{x}, t)$. We note that $\rho_{-n}(\mathbf{x}, t) = \rho_n^*(\mathbf{x}, t)$, and that $\rho_n(\mathbf{x}, t) e^{in\omega_0 t}$ is real. Then, similarly to Eq. (5),

$$\rho_n(\mathbf{x}, t) e^{in\omega_0 t} + \rho_{-n}(\mathbf{x}, t) e^{-in\omega_0 t} = 2 \operatorname{Re}[\rho_n(\mathbf{x}, t) e^{-in\omega_0 t}].$$

Making these substitutions in Eq. (7), we have

$$\rho(\mathbf{x}, t) = \rho_0(\mathbf{x}, t) + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \operatorname{Re}[2\rho_n(\mathbf{x}) e^{-in\omega_0 t}], \quad \text{where } \rho_n(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{1}{T} \int_0^T \rho(\mathbf{x}, t) e^{in\omega_0 t} dt,$$

as desired. □

1(c) For a single charge q rotating about the origin in the xy plane in a circle of radius R at constant angular speed ω_0 , calculate the $l = 0$ and $l = 1$ multipole moments by the methods of Probs. 1(a) and 1(b) and compare. In method (b) express the charge density $\rho_n(\mathbf{x})$ in cylindrical coordinates. Are there higher multipoles, for example, quadrupole? At what frequencies?

Solution. From Eq. (4), the charge distribution for the orbiting point charge is,

$$\rho(\mathbf{x}, t) = \frac{q}{R^2} \delta(r - R) \delta(\cos \theta) \delta(\phi - \omega_0 t)$$

where $\cos \theta = z = 0$ reflects the fact that the particle is in the xy plane.

We want to find \hat{q}_{00} , \hat{q}_{10} , \hat{q}_{11} , and \hat{q}_{1-1} . Using the method of Prob. 1(a), Eq. (6) gives us

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{q}_{00} = q_{00} &= \int \rho(\mathbf{x}', 0) r'^0 Y_{00}^*(\theta', \phi') d^3 x' = \frac{1}{\sqrt{4\pi}} \frac{q}{R^2} \int_0^\infty \delta(r' - R) r'^2 dr' \int_0^\pi \delta(\theta') \sin \theta d\theta' \int_0^{2\pi} \delta(\phi') d\phi' = \frac{q}{\sqrt{4\pi}}, \\ \hat{q}_{10} = q_{10} &= \int \rho(\mathbf{x}', 0) r' Y_{10}^*(\theta', \phi') d^3 x' = \sqrt{\frac{3}{4\pi}} \frac{q}{R^2} \int \delta(r' - R) r'^3 dr' \int_0^\pi \delta(\theta') \cos \theta \sin \theta d\theta' \int_0^{2\pi} \delta(\phi') d\phi' = \end{aligned}$$

where we have used the table of spherical harmonics on p. 109 in Jackson and the fact that

$$\int_0^\pi f(\theta) \sin \theta d\theta = \int_{-1}^1 f(\theta) d(\cos \theta).$$

Problem 2. (Jackson 9.2) A radiating quadrupole consists of a square of side a with charges $\pm q$ at alternate corners. The square rotates with angular velocity ω about an axis normal to the plane of the square and through its center. Calculate the quadrupole moments, the radiation fields, the angular distribution of radiation, and the total radiated power, all in the long-wavelength approximation. What is the frequency of the radiation?

Problem 3. (Jackson 9.4) Apply the approach of Prob. 1(b) to the current and magnetization densities of the particle of charge q rotating about the origin in the xy plane in a circle of radius R at constant angular speed ω_0 . The motion is such that $\omega_0 R \ll c$.

3(a) Find $(J_x)_n$, $(J_y)_n$, and $(J_z)_n$ in terms of cylindrical coordinates for all n . Also determine the components of the orbital “magnetization,” $(\mathbf{x} \times \mathbf{J}_n)/2$, and its divergence (which plays the role of a magnetic charge density for magnetic multipoles, as in M_{lm} (9.172)).

3(b) What long-wavelength magnetic multipoles (l, m) occur and at what frequencies? (Remember that the multipole order l does not necessarily equal the harmonic number n .)

3(c) Use linear superposition to generalize your argument to the four charges rotating in Prob. 2 at radius $R = a/\sqrt{2}$. What harmonics occur, and what magnetic multipoles at each harmonic? Is there a magnetic multipole contribution at the $E2$ frequency of Prob. 2? Is it significant relative to the $E2$ radiation?