
Derivation of Vector Potential Due to Magnetization: Bound Currents \vec{J}_b and \vec{K}_b

October 21, 2015

Since the vector potential due to a magnetic moment \vec{m} is

$$d\vec{A} = \frac{\mu_0}{4\pi} \frac{\vec{m} \times \hat{z}}{r^2}.$$

Therefore total vector potential becomes

$$\vec{A} = \frac{\mu_0}{4\pi} \int \frac{\vec{M} \times \hat{z}}{r^2} d\tau'$$

Rewrite the equation with the help of $\frac{\hat{z}}{r^2} = -\vec{\nabla} \frac{1}{r} = \vec{\nabla}' \frac{1}{r}$ (See *).

With this

$$\vec{A}(\vec{r}) = \frac{\mu_0}{4\pi} \int \vec{M}(\vec{r}') \times \vec{\nabla}' \frac{1}{r} d\tau'.$$

By use of the vector identity

$$\vec{\nabla}' \times (f\vec{A}) = f(\vec{\nabla}' \times \vec{A}) - \vec{A} \times (\vec{\nabla}' f),$$

we could rearrange the terms such that

$$\vec{A}(\vec{r}) = \frac{\mu_0}{4\pi} \int \frac{\nabla \times \vec{M}}{r} d\tau' - \frac{\mu_0}{4\pi} \oint \vec{\nabla}' \times \frac{\vec{M}}{r} d\tau'.$$

The second term reduces to an area integral (See ** and Griffiths Prob 1.60b):

$$\vec{A}(\vec{r}) = \frac{\mu_0}{4\pi} \int \frac{\nabla \times \vec{M}}{r} d\tau' + \frac{\mu_0}{4\pi} \oint \frac{\vec{M} \times d\vec{a}'}{r}.$$

By comparing the formula to the expression for the vector potential due to volume current and surface current, we could see that having magnetization is equivalent to having current sources $\vec{J}_b = \nabla \times \vec{M}$ and $\vec{K}_b = \vec{M} \times d\hat{n}$.

(*) Simple to derive it in Cartesian coordinate (xyz), since

$$\frac{1}{r} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{(x-x')^2 + (y-y')^2 + (z-z')^2}}.$$

Insert into the definition of gradient,

$$\begin{aligned}\vec{\nabla} \frac{1}{r} &= \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \frac{1}{\sqrt{(x-x')^2 + (y-y')^2 + (z-z')^2}} \hat{x} \\ &+ \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \frac{1}{\sqrt{(x-x')^2 + (y-y')^2 + (z-z')^2}} \hat{y} \\ &+ \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \frac{1}{\sqrt{(x-x')^2 + (y-y')^2 + (z-z')^2}} \hat{z}.\end{aligned}$$

The differentiation would result in

$$\begin{aligned}\vec{\nabla} \frac{1}{r} &= \frac{x' - x}{((x-x')^2 + (y-y')^2 + (z-z')^2)^{\frac{3}{2}}} \hat{x} \\ &+ \frac{y' - y}{((x-x')^2 + (y-y')^2 + (z-z')^2)^{\frac{3}{2}}} \hat{y} \\ &+ \frac{z' - z}{((x-x')^2 + (y-y')^2 + (z-z')^2)^{\frac{3}{2}}} \hat{z}.\end{aligned}\tag{0.1}$$

or

$$\vec{\nabla} \frac{1}{r} = -\frac{\vec{r}}{r^3} = -\frac{\hat{r}}{r^2}.$$

Similarly for $\vec{\nabla}' \frac{1}{r}$, the differentiations are with respect to x', y', z' , instead. This result in another factor of -1.

$$\vec{\nabla}' \frac{1}{r} = \frac{\vec{r}}{r^3} = \frac{\hat{r}}{r^2}.$$

(**) From a divergence theorem,

$$\int \vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{v} d\tau' = \oint \vec{v} \cdot d\vec{a}'.$$

By setting $\vec{v} \rightarrow \vec{v} \times \vec{c}$, where \vec{c} is a constant. The left hand side becomes

$$\vec{\nabla} \cdot (\vec{v} \times \vec{c}) = \vec{c} \cdot (\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{v}) - \vec{v} \cdot (\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{c}) = \vec{c} \cdot (\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{v}),$$

since \vec{c} is a constant.

On the right hand side,

$$(\vec{v} \times \vec{c}) \cdot d\vec{a}' = \vec{c} \cdot (d\vec{a}' \times \vec{v}) = -\vec{c} \cdot (\vec{v} \times d\vec{a}'),$$

using the vector product property:

$$\vec{A} \cdot (\vec{B} \times \vec{C}) = \vec{C} \cdot (\vec{A} \times \vec{B}) = -\vec{C} \cdot (\vec{B} \times \vec{A}).$$

By combining things together,

$$\int \vec{c} \cdot (\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{v}) d\tau' = \oint -\vec{c} \cdot (\vec{v} \times d\vec{a}')$$

or

$$\int (\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{v}) d\tau' = - \oint \vec{v} \times d\vec{a}'.$$

The setting of $\vec{v} = \frac{\vec{M}}{2}$ would result in the desired result.