

6.5 Solution: (a) Using the expression for the momentum of the EM field and the Maxwell equations, we have

$$\mathbf{P}_{\text{field}} = \frac{1}{c^2} \int (\mathbf{E} \times \mathbf{H}) d^3x \quad (1)$$

$$\begin{aligned} &= -\frac{1}{c^2} \int (\nabla \Phi \times \mathbf{H}) d^3x \\ &= -\frac{1}{c^2} \int \left[\nabla \times (\Phi \mathbf{H}) - \Phi (\nabla \times \mathbf{H}) \right] d^3x \\ &= \frac{1}{c^2} \int \Phi \mathbf{J} d^3x - \frac{1}{c^2} \int \nabla \times (\Phi \mathbf{H}) d^3x \\ &= \frac{1}{c^2} \int \Phi \mathbf{J} d^3x - \frac{1}{c^2} \oint \mathbf{n} \times (\Phi \mathbf{H}) da, \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

where we have used $\mathbf{E} = -\nabla \Phi$, $\nabla \times \mathbf{H} = \mathbf{J}$, $\nabla \times (\psi \mathbf{a}) = \nabla \psi \times \mathbf{a} + \psi (\nabla \times \mathbf{a})$, and the Stokes theorem to transform the volume integral to the surface integral in the last step. The surface integral can be dropped, as long as the integrand $\Phi \mathbf{H}$ falls faster than r^{-2} , which is the case for electric and magnetic fields generated from localized charge and current, as both of them fall as r^{-2} . Therefore, we can write the EM field momentum as

$$\mathbf{P}_{\text{field}} = \frac{1}{c^2} \int \Phi \mathbf{J} d^3x. \quad (3)$$

(b) We can apply the result from part (a), and notice that near the current distribution,

$$\Phi(\mathbf{x}) = \Phi(\mathbf{0}) + \nabla \Phi(\mathbf{0}) \cdot \mathbf{x} = \Phi(\mathbf{0}) - \mathbf{E}(\mathbf{0}) \cdot \mathbf{x},$$

the EM field momentum becomes

$$\mathbf{P}_{\text{field}} = \frac{\Phi(\mathbf{0})}{c^2} \int \mathbf{J}(\mathbf{x}) d^3x - \frac{1}{c^2} \mathbf{E}(\mathbf{0}) \cdot \int \mathbf{x} \mathbf{J}(\mathbf{x}) d^3x.$$

From section 5.6, we know that

$$\int \mathbf{J}(\mathbf{x}) d^3x = 0, \quad \mathbf{n} \cdot \int \mathbf{x} \mathbf{J}(\mathbf{x}) d^3x = -\frac{1}{2} \mathbf{n} \times \int [\mathbf{x} \times \mathbf{J}(\mathbf{x})] d^3x = -\mathbf{n} \times \mathbf{m}.$$

Then,

$$\mathbf{P}_{\text{field}} = -\frac{1}{c^2} E(\mathbf{0}) \mathbf{n} \cdot \int \mathbf{x} \mathbf{J}(\mathbf{x}) d^3x = \frac{1}{c^2} E(\mathbf{0}) \mathbf{n} \times \mathbf{m} = \frac{1}{c^2} E(\mathbf{0}) \times \mathbf{m}.$$

(c) For a uniform electric field, the surface integral term in Eq. (2) cannot be dropped, as $\Phi \sim r$ and $|\mathbf{H}| \sim r^{-2}$ by a crude estimation.

We can calculate the EM field momentum in two ways. First, using Eq. (1) and notice that the electric field is a uniform one, we can express the result as

$$\mathbf{P}_{\text{field}} = \frac{1}{c^2} \mathbf{E}_0 \times \int \mathbf{H} d^3x.$$

From Section 5.6, by Eq. (5.62), we also know

$$\int \mathbf{H} d^3x = \frac{2}{3} \mathbf{m}.$$

Then,

$$\mathbf{P}_{\text{field}} = \frac{2}{3c^2} \mathbf{E}_0 \times \mathbf{m}.$$

We can also determine the EM field momentum by explicit calculation of the surface intergral. In Eq. (2), since $\Phi(\mathbf{x}) = -\mathbf{E}_0 \cdot \mathbf{x}$, the first term becomes

$$\frac{1}{c^2} \int \Phi \mathbf{J} d^3x = -\frac{1}{c^2} \mathbf{E}_0 \cdot \int \mathbf{x} \mathbf{J}(\mathbf{x}) d^3x,$$

which, from the result of part (b), is

$$\frac{1}{c^2} \int \Phi \mathbf{J} d^3x = \frac{1}{c^2} \mathbf{E}_0 \times \mathbf{m}.$$

For the second term, the surface integral, we can use the expression for the magnetic field,

$$\mathbf{H}(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{1}{4\pi} \int \mathbf{J}(\mathbf{x}') \times \frac{\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}'}{|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}'|^3} d^3x',$$

to write it as

$$\begin{aligned} -\frac{1}{c^2} \oint \mathbf{n} \times (\Phi \mathbf{H}) da &= -\frac{1}{4\pi c^2} \oint \mathbf{n} \times \left(\Phi(\mathbf{x}) \int \mathbf{J}(\mathbf{x}') \times \frac{\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}'}{|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}'|^3} d^3x' \right) da \\ &= -\frac{1}{4\pi c^2} \int d^3x' \oint da \left[\mathbf{n} \times \left(\Phi(\mathbf{x}) \mathbf{J}(\mathbf{x}') \times \frac{\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}'}{|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}'|^3} \right) \right]. \end{aligned} \quad (4)$$

Since

$$\mathbf{n} \times \left(\Phi(\mathbf{x}) \mathbf{J}(\mathbf{x}') \times \frac{\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}'}{|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}'|^3} \right) = \Phi(\mathbf{x}) \left[\mathbf{J}(\mathbf{x}') \left(\mathbf{n} \cdot \frac{\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}'}{|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}'|^3} \right) - \frac{\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}'}{|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}'|^3} (\mathbf{n} \cdot \mathbf{J}(\mathbf{x}')) \right],$$

(cannot proceed further...)