

LECTURE 34: $\vec{E}$ & $\vec{B}$ FIELDS OF POINT CHARGE

(1)

We found the Liénard-Wiechert potentials for a point charge q in arbitrary motion

$$V(\vec{r}, t) = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \left(\frac{q}{r - \vec{r} \cdot \vec{\beta}} \right) \quad \vec{A}(\vec{r}, t) = \frac{\vec{V}}{c^2} V(\vec{r}, t)$$

We should review the terms and conditions here,

$\vec{w}(t)$ = position of q at time t

t_r is retarded time given by $\|\vec{r} - \vec{w}(t_r)\| = c(t - t_r)$

$$\vec{r} = \vec{r} - \vec{w}(t_r)$$

separation vector from field point $\vec{r}$ (at time t) and retarded position of q

Our goal today (gulp) is to calculate $\vec{E}$ & $\vec{B}$ from the potentials by calculating

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

It turns out,

$$\vec{E}(\vec{r}, t) = \frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{r}{(\vec{r} \cdot \vec{u})^3} [(c^2 - v^2)\vec{u} + \vec{r} \times (\vec{u} \times \vec{a})]$$
$$\vec{B}(\vec{r}, t) = \frac{1}{c} \hat{r} \times \vec{E}(\vec{r}, t)$$

- the magnetic field of a point charge is always $\perp$ to the $\vec{E}$, and to the vector from the retarded point.

$$V(\vec{r}, t) = \underbrace{\frac{qc}{4\pi\epsilon_0}}_k \left(\frac{1}{rc - \vec{r} \cdot \vec{v}} \right) \quad (10.53)$$

Differentiate,

$$\nabla V = \frac{-k}{(rc - \vec{r} \cdot \vec{v})^2} \nabla (rc - \vec{r} \cdot \vec{v}) \quad (10.56)$$

We have $\vec{r} = \vec{r} - \vec{w}(t_r)$ and $\vec{v} = \dot{\vec{w}}(t_r) = \frac{d\vec{w}}{dt_r}$

Consequently $r = c(t - t_r)$ and,

$$\nabla r = -c \nabla t_r \quad (10.57)$$

Next we work on $\nabla(\vec{r} \cdot \vec{v})$ from 10.56, we need one of the less known product rules

$$(10.58) \quad \nabla(\vec{r} \cdot \vec{v}) = \underbrace{(\vec{r} \cdot \nabla)}_{(1)} \vec{v} + \underbrace{(\vec{v} \cdot \nabla)}_{(2)} \vec{r} + \underbrace{\vec{r} \times (\nabla \times \vec{v})}_{(3)} + \underbrace{\vec{v} \times (\nabla \times \vec{r})}_{(4)}$$

Begin with (1),

$$\begin{aligned} (\vec{r} \cdot \nabla) \vec{v} &= \left(r_x \frac{\partial}{\partial x} + r_y \frac{\partial}{\partial y} + r_z \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \right) \vec{v}(t_r) \\ &= r_x \frac{d\vec{v}}{dt_r} \frac{\partial t_r}{\partial x} + r_y \frac{d\vec{v}}{dt_r} \frac{\partial t_r}{\partial y} + r_z \frac{d\vec{v}}{dt_r} \frac{\partial t_r}{\partial z} \\ &= \frac{d\vec{v}}{dt_r} \left(r_x \frac{\partial t_r}{\partial x} + r_y \frac{\partial t_r}{\partial y} + r_z \frac{\partial t_r}{\partial z} \right) \\ &= \underline{\underline{\vec{a}(\vec{r} \cdot \nabla t_r)}} \quad (1) \end{aligned}$$

$\vec{v}$ is function of t_r
we usually omit.

$$\text{Defn/ } \vec{a} = \frac{d\vec{v}}{dt_r} \quad \text{where } \vec{v} = \frac{d\vec{w}}{dt_r}$$

acceleration
also at
retarded time.

Recall $\vec{\mathcal{L}} = \vec{r} - \vec{w}(t_r)$ hence ② can be analyzed,

③

$$(\vec{v} \cdot \nabla) \vec{\mathcal{L}} = (\vec{v} \cdot \nabla) (\vec{r} - \vec{w}(t_r))$$

$$(\vec{v} \cdot \nabla) \vec{r} = (\vec{v} \cdot \nabla) \vec{r}$$

$$= (\vec{v} \cdot \nabla) (x \hat{x} + y \hat{y} + z \hat{z})$$

$$= v_x \partial_x \vec{r} + v_y \partial_y \vec{r} + v_z \partial_z \vec{r}$$

$$= v_x \hat{x} + v_y \hat{y} + v_z \hat{z}$$

$$= \vec{v}$$

$$(\vec{v} \cdot \nabla) \vec{w} = (v_x \partial_x + v_y \partial_y + v_z \partial_z) (\vec{w}(t_r))$$

$$= v_x \frac{d\vec{w}}{dt_r} \frac{\partial t_r}{\partial x} + v_y \frac{d\vec{w}}{dt_r} \frac{\partial t_r}{\partial y} + v_z \frac{d\vec{w}}{dt_r} \frac{\partial t_r}{\partial z}$$

$$= \left(\frac{d\vec{w}}{dt_r} \right) \left[v_x \frac{\partial t_r}{\partial x} + v_y \frac{\partial t_r}{\partial y} + v_z \frac{\partial t_r}{\partial z} \right]$$

$$= \vec{v} (\vec{v} \cdot \nabla t_r)$$

In summary for ② we find,

$$(\vec{v} \cdot \nabla) \vec{\mathcal{L}} = \vec{v} - (\vec{v} \cdot \nabla t_r) \vec{v}$$

Continuing, let's attach $\vec{\mathcal{L}} \times (\nabla \times \vec{v})$ ③ by examining,

(4)

$$\begin{aligned}\nabla \times \vec{V} &= \left(\frac{\partial V_z}{\partial y} - \frac{\partial V_y}{\partial z} \right) \hat{x} + \left(\frac{\partial V_x}{\partial z} - \frac{\partial V_z}{\partial x} \right) \hat{y} + \left(\frac{\partial V_y}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial V_x}{\partial y} \right) \hat{z} \\&= \left(\frac{dV_z}{dt_r} \frac{\partial t_r}{\partial y} - \frac{dV_y}{dt_r} \frac{\partial t_r}{\partial z} \right) \hat{x} + \left(\frac{dV_x}{dt_r} \frac{\partial t_r}{\partial z} - \frac{dV_z}{dt_r} \frac{\partial t_r}{\partial x} \right) \hat{y} \\&\quad + \left(\frac{dV_y}{dt_r} \frac{\partial t_r}{\partial x} - \frac{dV_x}{dt_r} \frac{\partial t_r}{\partial y} \right) \hat{z} \\&= - \left\langle \frac{dV_x}{dt_r}, \frac{dV_y}{dt_r}, \frac{dV_z}{dt_r} \right\rangle \times \left\langle \frac{\partial t_r}{\partial x}, \frac{\partial t_r}{\partial y}, \frac{\partial t_r}{\partial z} \right\rangle \\&= - \vec{a} \times \nabla t_r\end{aligned}$$

Finally move onto ④ and analyze $\nabla \times \vec{\mathcal{L}}$ where $\vec{\mathcal{L}} = \vec{r} - \vec{w}$ and since $\nabla \times \vec{r} = 0$ we find,

$$\begin{aligned}\nabla \times \vec{\mathcal{L}} &= \nabla \times (\vec{r} - \vec{w}) \\&= -\nabla \times \vec{w} \\&= - \left[\left(\frac{\partial w_z}{\partial y} - \frac{\partial w_y}{\partial z} \right) \hat{x} + \left(\frac{\partial w_x}{\partial z} - \frac{\partial w_z}{\partial x} \right) \hat{y} + \left(\frac{\partial w_y}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial w_x}{\partial y} \right) \hat{z} \right] \\&= - \left[-\vec{v} \times \nabla t_r \right] \quad \text{(by same calculation as we just completed for } \nabla \times \vec{v} \text{ just replace } \vec{v} \text{ with } \vec{w}) \\&= \vec{v} \times \nabla t_r\end{aligned}$$

Let's collect our calculations from ①, ②, ③, ④

⑤

$$\begin{aligned}
 \nabla(\vec{r} \cdot \vec{v}) &= (\vec{r} \cdot \nabla) \vec{v} + (\vec{v} \cdot \nabla) \vec{r} + \vec{r} \times (\nabla \times \vec{v}) + \vec{v} \times (\nabla \times \vec{r}) \\
 &= \underbrace{\vec{a}(\vec{r} \cdot \nabla t_r)}_{\textcircled{1}} + \underbrace{\vec{v} - \vec{v}(\vec{v} \cdot \nabla t_r)}_{\textcircled{2}} - \underbrace{\vec{r} \times (\vec{a} \times \nabla t_r)}_{\textcircled{3}} + \underbrace{\vec{v} \times (\vec{v} \times \nabla t_r)}_{\textcircled{4}} \\
 &= \cancel{\vec{a}(\vec{r} \cdot \nabla t_r)}^{\textcircled{1}} + \vec{v} - \cancel{\vec{v}(\vec{v} \cdot \nabla t_r)}^{\textcircled{2}} \\
 &\quad - \cancel{\vec{a}(\vec{r} \cdot \nabla t_r)}^{\textcircled{1}} + \nabla t_r(\vec{r} \cdot \vec{a}) + \cancel{\vec{v}(\vec{v} \cdot \nabla t_r)}^{\textcircled{2}} - (\nabla t_r)(\vec{v} \cdot \vec{v}) \\
 &= \vec{v} + (\vec{r} \cdot \vec{a} - v^2) \nabla t_r \quad (10.65)
 \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, recalling $\nabla \mathcal{L} = -c \nabla t_r$ we calculate,

$$\begin{aligned}
 \nabla V &= \frac{qc}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{-1}{(\mathcal{L}c - \vec{r} \cdot \vec{v})^2} \nabla(\mathcal{L}c - \vec{r} \cdot \vec{v}) \\
 &= \frac{qc}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{-1}{(\mathcal{L}c - \vec{r} \cdot \vec{v})^2} [-c^2 \nabla t_r - \vec{v} - (\vec{r} \cdot \vec{a} - v^2) \nabla t_r] \\
 &= \frac{qc}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{1}{(\mathcal{L}c - \vec{r} \cdot \vec{v})^2} [\vec{v} + (c^2 - v^2 + \vec{r} \cdot \vec{a}) \nabla t_r] \\
 &= \frac{qc}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{1}{(\mathcal{L}c - \vec{r} \cdot \vec{v})^2} \left[\vec{v} + (c^2 - v^2 + \vec{r} \cdot \vec{a}) \left(\frac{-\vec{r}}{\mathcal{L}c - \vec{r} \cdot \vec{v}} \right) \right] \\
 &\quad \downarrow \text{Lemma} \\
 &= \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{qc}{(\mathcal{L}c - \vec{r} \cdot \vec{v})^3} [(\mathcal{L}c - \vec{r} \cdot \vec{v}) \vec{v} - (c^2 - v^2 + \vec{r} \cdot \vec{a}) \vec{r}]
 \end{aligned}$$

(10.69)

Lemma: $\nabla t_r = \frac{-\vec{r}}{\mathcal{L}c - \vec{r} \cdot \vec{v}}$

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Lemma: $\nabla t_r = \frac{-\vec{r}}{rc - \vec{r} \cdot \vec{v}}$

Proof: $-c \nabla t_r = \nabla r = \nabla \sqrt{\vec{r} \cdot \vec{r}} = \frac{1}{2\sqrt{\vec{r} \cdot \vec{r}}} \nabla (\vec{r} \cdot \vec{r})$

$$\begin{aligned} -c \nabla t_r &= \frac{1}{2r} (\vec{r} \times (\nabla \times \vec{r}) + \vec{r} \times (\nabla \times \vec{r}) + (\vec{r} \cdot \nabla) \vec{r} + (\vec{r} \cdot \nabla) \vec{r}) \\ &= \frac{1}{r} (\vec{r} \times (\nabla \times \vec{r}) + \underline{(\vec{r} \cdot \nabla) \vec{r}}) \quad \text{sublemma} \\ &= \frac{1}{r} (\vec{r} \times (\vec{v} \times \nabla t_r) + \underline{\vec{r} - \vec{v}(\vec{r} \cdot \nabla t_r)}) \end{aligned}$$

sublemma: $(\vec{r} \cdot \nabla) \vec{r} = \vec{r} - \vec{v}(\vec{r} \cdot \nabla t_r)$

$$\begin{aligned} (\vec{r} \cdot \nabla) \vec{r} &= (r_x \partial_x + r_y \partial_y + r_z \partial_z) (\vec{r} - \vec{w}) \\ &= r_x \hat{x} + r_y \hat{y} + r_z \hat{z} - r_x \partial_x \vec{w} - r_y \partial_y \vec{w} - r_z \partial_z \vec{w} \\ &= \vec{r} - r_x \frac{d\vec{w}}{dt_r} \frac{\partial t_r}{\partial x} - r_y \frac{d\vec{w}}{dt_r} \frac{\partial t_r}{\partial y} - r_z \frac{d\vec{w}}{dt_r} \frac{\partial t_r}{\partial z} \\ &= \vec{r} - (\vec{r} \cdot \nabla t_r) \vec{v} // \end{aligned}$$

Hence,

$$\begin{aligned} -c \nabla t_r &= \frac{1}{r} (\cancel{\vec{v}(\vec{r} \cdot \nabla t_r)} - \nabla t_r (\vec{r} \cdot \vec{v}) + \vec{r} - \cancel{\vec{v}(\vec{r} \cdot \nabla t_r)}) \\ &= \frac{1}{r} (\vec{r} - (\vec{r} \cdot \vec{v}) \nabla t_r) \end{aligned}$$

$$\Rightarrow (\vec{r} \cdot \vec{v} - cr) \nabla t_r = \vec{r}$$

$$\therefore \nabla t_r = \frac{-\vec{r}}{cr - \vec{r} \cdot \vec{v}} //$$

Problem 10.20 yields

(7)

$$\frac{\partial \vec{A}}{\partial t} = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{qc}{(\kappa c - \vec{\kappa} \cdot \vec{v})^3} \left[(\kappa c - \vec{\kappa} \cdot \vec{v})(-\vec{v} + \kappa \vec{a}/c) + \frac{\kappa}{c}(c^2 - v^2 + \vec{\kappa} \cdot \vec{a})\vec{v} \right]$$

Therefore, as $\vec{E} = -\nabla V - \frac{\partial \vec{A}}{\partial t}$
we calculate,

$$\vec{E} = \frac{-1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{qc}{(\kappa c - \vec{\kappa} \cdot \vec{v})^3} \left[\overbrace{(\kappa c - \vec{\kappa} \cdot \vec{v})\vec{v} - (c^2 - v^2 + \vec{\kappa} \cdot \vec{a})\vec{\kappa}}^{10.69 \text{ from (5)}} + (\kappa c - \vec{\kappa} \cdot \vec{v})(-\vec{v} + \kappa \vec{a}/c) + \frac{\kappa}{c}(c^2 - v^2 + \vec{\kappa} \cdot \vec{a})\vec{v} \right]$$

Thus,

$$\vec{E} = \frac{qc}{4\pi\epsilon_0(\kappa c - \vec{\kappa} \cdot \vec{v})^3} \left[\underline{(c^2 - v^2 + \vec{\kappa} \cdot \vec{a})\vec{\kappa}} - \frac{\kappa}{c} \underline{(c^2 - v^2 + \vec{\kappa} \cdot \vec{a})\vec{v}} - (\kappa c - \vec{\kappa} \cdot \vec{v})\kappa \vec{a}/c \right]$$

$$\vec{E} = \frac{qc}{4\pi\epsilon_0(\kappa c - \vec{\kappa} \cdot \vec{v})^3} \left[\underline{(c^2 - v^2 + \vec{\kappa} \cdot \vec{a})(\vec{\kappa} - \kappa \vec{v}/c)} - (\kappa c - \vec{\kappa} \cdot \vec{v})\kappa \vec{a}/c \right]$$

Let $\boxed{\vec{u} = c\hat{\kappa} - \vec{v}} \leftarrow \text{definition of } \vec{u} *$

Notice $\vec{\kappa} - \kappa \vec{v}/c = \kappa \hat{\kappa} - \kappa \vec{v}/c = \frac{\kappa}{c}(c\hat{\kappa} - \vec{v}) = \frac{\kappa}{c}\vec{u}$

Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned} \vec{E} &= \frac{qc}{4\pi\epsilon_0(\kappa c - \vec{\kappa} \cdot \vec{v})^3} \left[(c^2 - v^2) \frac{\kappa \vec{u}}{c} + (\vec{\kappa} \cdot \vec{a}) \frac{\vec{u}}{c} - \underline{(\kappa^2 - \kappa \vec{\kappa} \cdot \vec{v}/c) \vec{a}} \right] \\ &= \frac{qc}{4\pi\epsilon_0(\kappa c - \vec{\kappa} \cdot \vec{v})^3} \left[(c^2 - v^2) \frac{\vec{u}}{c} + \frac{\vec{u}(\vec{\kappa} \cdot \vec{a})}{c} - \frac{\kappa}{c}(\vec{\kappa} \cdot \vec{u})\vec{a} \right] \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \kappa^2 - \kappa \vec{\kappa} \cdot \vec{v}/c &= \vec{\kappa} \cdot (\vec{\kappa} - \kappa \vec{v}/c) \\ &= \frac{1}{c} \vec{\kappa} \cdot (c\kappa \hat{\kappa} - \vec{v}) \\ &= \frac{\kappa}{c} \vec{\kappa} \cdot (c\hat{\kappa} - \vec{v}) \end{aligned}$$

Continuing, notice the common $\cancel{c}/c$ factor whose rearrangement yields c cancelling to give

$$\vec{E}(\vec{r}, t) = \frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{\cancel{c}}{(\cancel{c} - \vec{r} \cdot \vec{v})^3} \left[(c^2 - v^2) \vec{u} + \vec{u}(\vec{r} \cdot \vec{a}) - \vec{a}(\vec{r} \cdot \vec{u}) \right]$$

Notice $\vec{u} = c\hat{n} - \vec{v} \Rightarrow \vec{r} \cdot \vec{u} = c\hat{n} \cdot \vec{r} - \vec{r} \cdot \vec{v} = c\cancel{r} - \vec{r} \cdot \vec{v}$
and applying the "BAC-CAB" identity we derive,

$$\vec{E}(\vec{r}, t) = \frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{\cancel{c}}{(\vec{r} \cdot \vec{u})^3} \left[(c^2 - v^2) \vec{u} + \vec{r} \times (\vec{u} \times \vec{a}) \right]$$

The magnetic field is found from the curl of the vector potential,

recall $\vec{A}(\vec{r}, t) = \frac{1}{c^2} \vec{v} V(\vec{r}, t)$ hence,

gives the generalized Coulomb Field $\propto \frac{1}{r^2}$

gives the radiation field $\propto \frac{1}{r}$

$$\vec{B} = \nabla \times \vec{A} = \frac{1}{c^2} \nabla \times (\vec{v} V) \quad \text{a product rule for curl,}$$

$$= \frac{1}{c^2} [V(\nabla \times \vec{v}) - \vec{v} \times (\nabla V)]$$

$$= \frac{1}{c^2} \left[\frac{qc}{4\pi\epsilon_0 \vec{r} \cdot \vec{u}} (\nabla t_r \times \vec{a}) - \vec{v} \times \left(\frac{qc}{4\pi\epsilon_0 (\vec{r} \cdot \vec{u})^2} [\vec{v} + (c^2 - v^2 + \vec{r} \cdot \vec{a}) \nabla t_r] \right) \right]$$

$$= \frac{1}{c} \frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \left[\left(\frac{-\vec{r}}{(\vec{r} \cdot \vec{u})^2} \right) \times \vec{a} - \frac{1}{(\vec{r} \cdot \vec{u})^2} (c^2 - v^2 + \vec{r} \cdot \vec{a}) \vec{v} \times \left(\frac{-\vec{r}}{\vec{r} \cdot \vec{u}} \right) \right]$$

$$= \frac{-1}{c} \frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{1}{(\vec{r} \cdot \vec{u})^3} \vec{r} \times [(\vec{r} \cdot \vec{u}) \vec{a} + (c^2 - v^2 + \vec{r} \cdot \vec{a}) \vec{v}]$$

$$= \frac{-1}{c} \frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{1}{(\vec{r} \cdot \vec{u})^3} \vec{r} \times \left[(c^2 - v^2) \vec{v} + (\vec{r} \cdot \vec{a}) \vec{v} + (\vec{r} \cdot \vec{u}) \vec{a} \right]$$

can replace $\vec{v}$ with $-\vec{u}$ since

$$\vec{r} \times \vec{u} = \vec{r} \times (c\hat{n} - \vec{v}) = -\vec{r} \times \vec{v}$$

Continuing to simplify $\nabla \times \vec{A}$, $\vec{u} \cdot (\vec{r} \cdot \vec{a}) - \vec{a}(\vec{r} \cdot \vec{u}) = \vec{r} \times (\vec{u} \times \vec{a})$ (9)

$$\begin{aligned}\vec{B} &= \frac{-1}{c} \frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{1}{(\vec{r} \cdot \vec{u})^3} \vec{r} \times [-(c^2 - v^2)\vec{u} + \vec{a}(\vec{r} \cdot \vec{u}) - \vec{u}(\vec{r} \cdot \vec{a})] \\ &= \frac{1}{c} \hat{r} \times \left[\frac{q\vec{r}}{(\vec{r} \cdot \vec{u})^3} [(c^2 - v^2)\vec{u} + \vec{r} \times (\vec{u} \times \vec{a})] \right] \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \\ &= \frac{1}{c} \hat{r} \times \vec{E}\end{aligned}$$

That is,

$$\boxed{\vec{B}(\vec{r}, t) = \frac{1}{c} \hat{r} \times \vec{E}(\vec{r}, t)} \quad (10.73)$$

Finally as an application of our formulae, let us write the force on Q due to the q undergoing the motion described thus far by $\vec{w}(t)$,

$$\vec{F} = Q(\vec{E} + \vec{v}_Q \times \vec{B})$$

$$\begin{aligned}\vec{F} &= \frac{qQ}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{\vec{r}}{(\vec{r} \cdot \vec{u})^3} \left\{ (c^2 - v^2)\vec{u} + \vec{r} \times (\vec{u} \times \vec{a}) \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \frac{\vec{V}_Q}{c} \times [\hat{r} \times ((c^2 - v^2)\vec{u} + \vec{r} \times (\vec{u} \times \vec{a}))] \right\}\end{aligned}$$

GRIFFITHS SUGGESTS THIS FORMULA
PAIRED WITH SUPERPOSITION GIVES
THE ENTIRE THEORY OF CLASSICAL ELECTRODYNAMICS.
(keep in mind $\vec{a}$, $\vec{r}$, $\vec{u}$, $\vec{v}$ are all evaluated at t_r)