

# CP2 ELECTROMAGNETISM

<https://users.physics.ox.ac.uk/~harnew/lectures/>

## LECTURE 12:

# BIOT SAVART LAW & THE MAGNETIC DIPOLE



Neville Harnew<sup>1</sup>  
University of Oxford  
HT 2022

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

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

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

$$\frac{1}{\mu_0} \nabla \times \mathbf{B} = \mathbf{J} + \epsilon_0 \frac{\partial \mathbf{E}}{\partial t}$$

# *OUTLINE : 12. BIOT SAVART LAW & THE MAGNETIC DIPOLE*

*12.1 Example : B-field of a solenoid*

*12.2 Biot-Savart Law in terms of current density*

*12.3 The magnetic dipole*

## 12.1 Example : B-field of a solenoid

Calculate the B-field due to a solenoid with current  $I$ , radius  $a$ , length  $\ell$  with  $N$  turns. Sum over all contributions from all loops at a distance  $z$  (integrate from  $\theta_1$  to  $\theta_2$ ).

- ▶ Contribution from one element  $dz$ :  
$$dB = \frac{\mu_0}{2a} \sin^3 \theta dI \text{ where } dI = I \left( \frac{N}{\ell} \right) dz$$
along the axis of the solenoid.

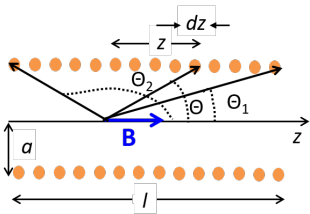
- ▶  $\tan \theta = \frac{a}{z} \rightarrow z = \frac{\cos \theta}{\sin \theta} a$   
$$\rightarrow dz = -a \frac{1}{\sin^2 \theta} d\theta$$

- ▶ 
$$B = - \int_{\theta_1}^{\theta_2} \frac{\mu_0}{2a} \sin^3 \theta \frac{IN}{\ell} \left( a \frac{1}{\sin^2 \theta} d\theta \right) = - \frac{\mu_0 I N}{2\ell} \int_{\theta_1}^{\theta_2} \sin \theta d\theta$$

- ▶ Hence 
$$B = \frac{\mu_0 I N}{2\ell} (\cos \theta_2 - \cos \theta_1)$$

- ▶ For a long coil  $\theta_1 = 0, \theta_2 = \pi \rightarrow B = -\mu_0 I \frac{N}{\ell}$

(sign depends on direction of current  $\rightarrow$  RH screw rule)



## 12.2 Biot-Savart Law in terms of current density

- ▶ The Biot-Savart Law :

$$\underline{dB} = \mu_0 I \frac{d\ell \times \hat{r}}{4\pi r^2}$$

- ▶ Define *current density*  $\underline{J}$  :

$$I = \underline{J} \cdot d\mathbf{a}$$

$\underline{J}$  is the current per unit area (a vector)

$$\underline{J} = \frac{dI}{da_{\perp}} \times \left( \frac{d\ell}{|d\ell|} \right)$$

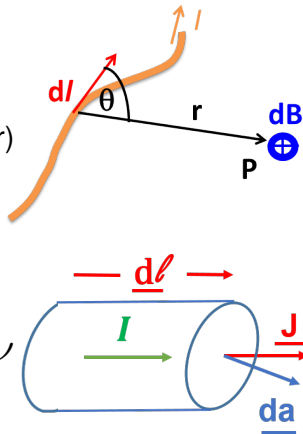
$da_{\perp}$  is the area perpendicular to the flow of current

- ▶ Also since  $\underline{J} \parallel d\ell$

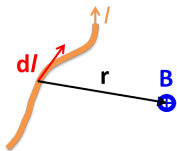
$$I d\ell = (\underline{J} \cdot d\mathbf{a}) d\ell = \underline{J} (d\mathbf{a} \cdot d\ell) = \underline{J} dV$$

- ▶ Hence 
$$\underline{B} = \int_V \mu_0 \frac{\underline{J} \times \hat{r}}{4\pi r^2} dV$$

Biot-Savart Law in terms of current density  $\underline{J}$  integrated over volume  $V$



## Biot-Savart Law summary

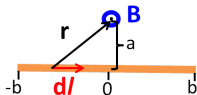


The magnetic flux density  $\mathbf{B}$  created by a current loop is given by:

$$\mathbf{B} = \frac{\mu_0}{4\pi} \int I \frac{d\mathbf{l} \times \hat{\mathbf{r}}}{r^2} \quad \longleftrightarrow \quad \mathbf{B} = \frac{\mu_0}{4\pi} \int \frac{\mathbf{J} \times \mathbf{r}}{r^3} d^3r$$

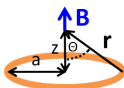
Biot-Savart Law

Straight wire.



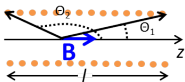
$$\mathbf{B} = \frac{\mu_0 I}{2\pi a} \frac{1}{(a^2/b^2 + 1)^{1/2}}$$

Circular loop.



$$\mathbf{B} = \frac{\mu_0 I a^2}{2\sqrt{z^2 + a^2}^3} = \frac{\mu_0 I}{2a} \sin^3 \theta$$

Solenoid.



$$\mathbf{B} = \frac{\mu_0 I N}{2l} (\cos \theta_2 - \cos \theta_1)$$

## 12.3 The magnetic dipole

A small current loop defines a *magnetic dipole*

- Re-visit the field due to a circular current loop :

$$\underline{\mathbf{B}} = \frac{\mu_0 I a^2}{2(z^2 + a^2)^{3/2}} \hat{\mathbf{z}}$$

In terms of loop area:  $\underline{\mathbf{B}} = \frac{2\mu_0 I (\pi a^2)}{4\pi r^3} \hat{\mathbf{z}}$

- Compare this with the on-axis field of the *electric* dipole (i.e. for  $\theta = 0$ ) which has the same form :

Electric dipole :  $\underline{\mathbf{E}}_r = \frac{2qd \cos \theta}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r^3} \hat{\mathbf{r}} \rightarrow \underline{\mathbf{E}}_z = \frac{2p}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r^3} \hat{\mathbf{z}}$  ( $p = qd$ )

- Define  $(I \pi a^2) = I A$  as the *magnetic dipole moment*  $m$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Magnetic dipole moment } \underline{\mathbf{m}} &= I \underline{\mathbf{A}} \\ &= [\text{Current}] \times [\text{Area bounded by the loop}] \end{aligned}$$

