

# CP2 ELECTROMAGNETISM

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

## LECTURE 13:

# MAGNETIC DIPOLES & THE DIVERGENCE OF $\mathbf{B}$



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

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

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

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

# *OUTLINE : 13. MAGNETIC DIPOLES & THE DIVERGENCE OF B*

*13.1 Magnetic dipole components*

*13.2 Torque on a magnetic dipole in a B-field*

*13.3 Energy of a magnetic dipole in a B-field*

*13.4 Divergence of B*

*13.5 Divergence of B from the Biot-Savart Law*

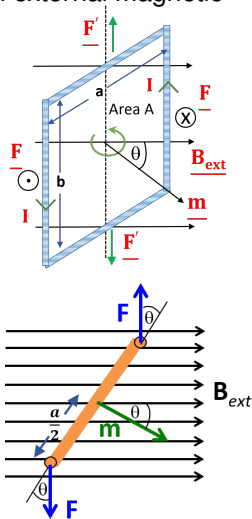
## 13.1 Magnetic dipole components

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

The magnetic and electric dipole components have exactly the same form. (The exact derivation of the magnetic field components are beyond the scope of this course.)

## 13.2 Torque on a magnetic dipole in a $\underline{B}$ -field

Calculate the torque on a current loop placed in an external magnetic field:

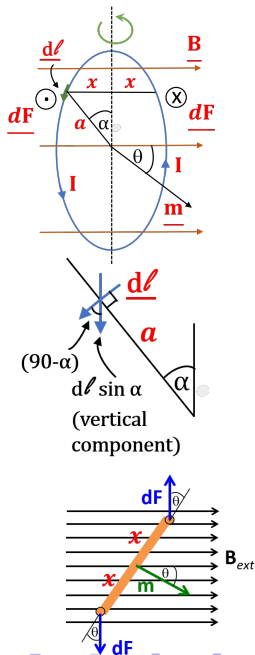


(\*) This has been done for a rectangular shape. But note that this is a general result for *any* shape. Any current loop can be built from infinitesimal rectangular loops with all the internal currents cancelling, yet contributing to the overall moment.

## Torque on a magnetic dipole, continued

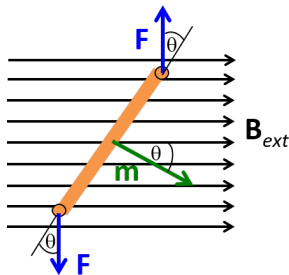
- ▶ Do the explicit calculation for a circular current loop:
- ▶ Only the vertical component of  $\underline{d\ell}$  results in a torque  $\rightarrow d\ell \sin \alpha$
- ▶ Torque due to facing elements  $\underline{d\ell}$  :  
 $|d\underline{\mathbf{T}}| = 2|\underline{\mathbf{x}} \times d\underline{\mathbf{F}}| = 2x(I d\ell B \sin \alpha) \sin \theta$
- ▶  $x = a \sin \alpha$  ;  $\ell = a \alpha \rightarrow d\ell = a d\alpha$   
 $|d\underline{\mathbf{T}}| = 2(I a^2 \sin^2 \alpha) B \sin \theta d\alpha$
- ▶ Hence  
 $|\underline{\mathbf{T}}| = I a^2 B \sin \theta \int_0^\pi (1 - \cos 2\alpha) d\alpha$   
 $= \pi a^2 I B \sin \theta = I A B \sin \theta = mB \sin \theta$
- ▶ Result : torque on the magnetic dipole

$$\underline{\mathbf{T}} = \underline{\mathbf{m}} \times \underline{\mathbf{B}}_{\text{ext}}$$



### 13.3 Energy of a magnetic dipole in a $\underline{B}$ -field

The energy of a magnetic dipole placed in an magnetic field  $\underline{B}_{\text{ext}}$  is equal to the work done in rotating dipole into its position:



Compare with the energy of an electric dipole

$$W_{\text{elec}} = -\underline{p} \cdot \underline{E}_{\text{ext}}$$

## Magnetic dipole summary

**Magnetic dipole moment**  $m$  of a current loop = current  $\times$  area of the loop:

$$\mathbf{m} = I \mathbf{A}$$

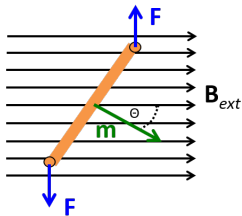


**Magnetic flux density** of a magnetic dipole:

$$B_r = \mu_0 \frac{2m \cos \theta}{4\pi r^3}$$

$$B_\theta = \mu_0 \frac{m \sin \theta}{4\pi r^3}$$

$$B_\phi = 0$$



Torque on a magnetic dipole in an external magnetic field  $\mathbf{B}_{ext}$ :

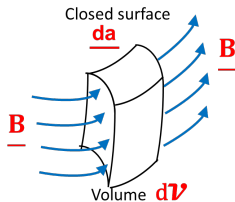
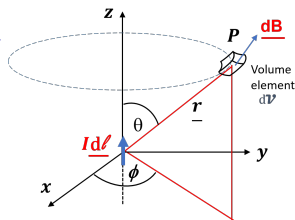
$$\mathbf{T} = I \mathbf{A} \times \mathbf{B}_{ext} = \mathbf{m} \times \mathbf{B}_{ext}$$

Energy of a magnetic dipole in an external magnetic flux density  $\mathbf{B}_{ext}$ :

$$W = -m B_{ext} \cos \theta = -\mathbf{m} \cdot \mathbf{B}_{ext}$$

## 13.4 Divergence of $\underline{\mathbf{B}}$

- ▶ Place a current element  $I \underline{d\ell}$  at the origin pointing along the z-axis
- ▶ The Biot-Savart Law gives the field at point  $P \rightarrow \underline{d\mathbf{B}} = \mu_0 I \frac{\underline{d\ell} \times \hat{\mathbf{r}}}{4\pi r^2}$
- ▶  $\underline{d\mathbf{B}}$  is perpendicular to  $\underline{\mathbf{r}}$  and  $\hat{\mathbf{z}}$
- ▶ Rotate  $\underline{\mathbf{r}}$  around  $\phi$ , and it can be seen the lines of  $\underline{\mathbf{B}}$  are *circles* in planes perpendicular to  $\underline{d\ell}$  and centred on it  
 $\rightarrow$  the net outward flux of  $\underline{\mathbf{B}}$  due to  $\underline{d\ell}$  through the surface of the volume element  $dV$  is zero



- ▶ Any volume can be made up of volume elements as  $dV$
- ▶ Hence  $\oint_S \underline{\mathbf{B}} \cdot \underline{d\mathbf{a}} = 0 \rightarrow$  no magnetic monopoles.
- ▶ Divergence Theorem :  $\oint_S \underline{\mathbf{B}} \cdot \underline{d\mathbf{a}} = \int_V (\nabla \cdot \underline{\mathbf{B}}) dV \rightarrow$

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



## 13.5 Divergence of $\underline{\mathbf{B}}$ from the Biot-Savart Law

Calculate  $\underline{\mathbf{B}}$ -field at point  $P$  due to a current density  $\underline{\mathbf{J}}$ .

$$\underline{\mathbf{B}} = \int_V \mu_0 \frac{\underline{\mathbf{J}}(\underline{\mathbf{r}}') \times \hat{\underline{\mathbf{R}}}}{4\pi R^2} dV'$$

$$\underline{\mathbf{R}} = \underline{\mathbf{r}} - \underline{\mathbf{r}}' = (x - x', y - y', z - z')$$

where  $dV' = dx' dy' dz'$ . (Note carefully the primed and unprimed coordinates)

$$\underbrace{\underline{\nabla} \cdot \underline{\mathbf{B}}}_{\text{w.r.t. } \underline{\mathbf{r}}} = \frac{\mu_0}{4\pi} \int \underline{\nabla} \cdot \left( \underline{\mathbf{J}}(\underline{\mathbf{r}}') \times \frac{\hat{\underline{\mathbf{R}}}}{R^2} \right) dV'$$

▶ Using the product rule :

$$\underline{\nabla} \cdot \left( \underline{\mathbf{J}}(\underline{\mathbf{r}}') \times \frac{\hat{\underline{\mathbf{R}}}}{R^2} \right) = \frac{\hat{\underline{\mathbf{R}}}}{R^2} \cdot \underbrace{(\underline{\nabla} \times \underline{\mathbf{J}}(\underline{\mathbf{r}}'))}_{=0 \text{ (because } \underline{\mathbf{J}}(\underline{\mathbf{r}}') \text{ does not depend on } \underline{\mathbf{r}})} - \underline{\mathbf{J}}(\underline{\mathbf{r}}') \cdot \left( \underline{\nabla} \times \frac{\hat{\underline{\mathbf{R}}}}{R^2} \right)$$

$$\underline{\nabla} \times \frac{\hat{\underline{\mathbf{R}}}}{R^2} = \underline{\nabla} \times \frac{\underline{\mathbf{R}}}{R^3} = \frac{1}{R^3} \underbrace{(\underline{\nabla} \times \underline{\mathbf{R}})}_{=0} + \underbrace{\underline{\nabla} \cdot \left( \frac{1}{R^3} \right)}_{\text{Vector along } \underline{\mathbf{R}}} \times \underline{\mathbf{R}} = 0$$

▶ Hence  $\underline{\nabla} \cdot \underline{\mathbf{B}} = 0$  and  $\oint_S \underline{\mathbf{B}} \cdot d\underline{\mathbf{a}} = 0$

