

# Astro 501: Radiative Processes

## Lecture 14

Sept. 28, 2018

### Announcements:

- **Problem Set 4** due now
- **Problem Set 5** due next Friday

### Last time:

- polarization
- moving charges

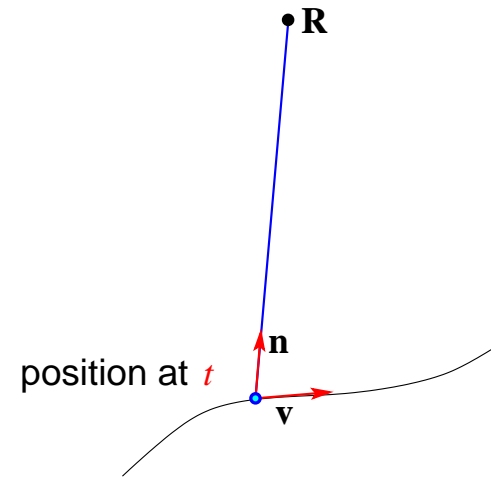
# Electrodynamics of Moving Charges: Strategy

point charge  $q$ :

position  $\vec{R}(t)$

velocity  $\vec{v} = \dot{\vec{R}} = \beta c$

and acceleration  $\vec{a} = \ddot{\vec{R}} = c \, d\vec{\beta}/dt = c\dot{\vec{\beta}}$



Maxwell sources:

charge density  $\rho(\vec{x}) = q \delta(\vec{x} - \vec{R})$ , current density  $\vec{j} = \rho\vec{v}$

**Procedure** (see R&L and Extras for more):

0. Use **full Special Relativity**

1. write EM fields as derivatives of *4-potential*  $(\phi, \vec{A})$

2. *Maxwell*  $\rightarrow$  2nd-order equations  $\partial^2 \text{potential} = \text{source}$

3. solve for fields given above source terms

## Electrodynamics of Moving Charges: Results

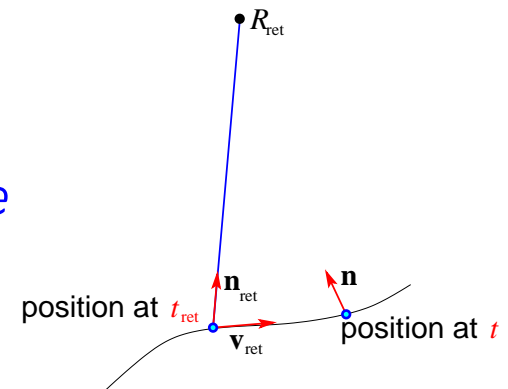
A careful calculation, and a lot of algebra, gives an exact formula for the field of a moving point charge

$$\vec{E}(\vec{R}, t) = q \left[ \frac{(\hat{n} - \vec{\beta})(1 - \beta^2)}{\kappa^3 R^2} \right]_{\text{ret}} + \frac{q}{c} \left[ \frac{\hat{n}}{\kappa^3 R} \times \left\{ (\hat{n} - \vec{\beta}) \times \dot{\vec{\beta}} \right\} \right]_{\text{ret}}$$

where  $\kappa = 1 - \hat{n} \cdot \vec{\beta}$

and “ret” = particle position at *retarded time*

$$t_{\text{ret}} = t - R/c$$



form is rich = complicated, but also complete and exact!

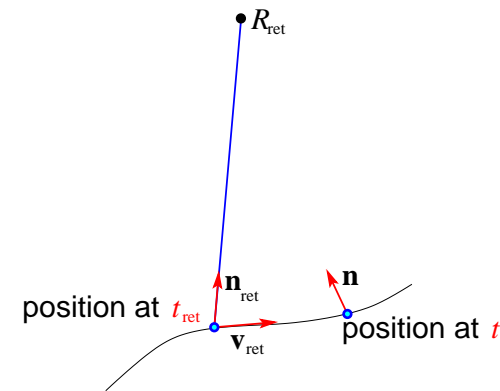
ω depends on charge position, velocity, and acceleration

for electric field

$$\vec{E}(\vec{R}, t) = q \left[ \frac{(\hat{n} - \vec{\beta})(1 - \beta^2)}{\kappa^3 R^2} \right]_{\text{ret}} + \frac{q}{c} \left[ \frac{\hat{n}}{\kappa^3 R} \times \left\{ (\hat{n} - \vec{\beta}) \times \dot{\vec{\beta}} \right\} \right]_{\text{ret}}$$

with  $\kappa = 1 - \hat{n} \cdot \vec{\beta}$

magnetic field is  $\vec{B}(\vec{R}, t) = [\hat{n} \times \vec{E}(\vec{R}, t)]_{\text{ret}}$



Q:  $\vec{E}$  result for charge at rest?  $\vec{B}$ ?

Q:  $\vec{E}$  for charge with with constant velocity?

Q: result at large  $R$ ?

## Electric “Velocity” Field

point source first term = “velocity field”

$$\vec{E}(\vec{R}, t)_{\text{vel}} = q \left[ \frac{(\hat{n} - \vec{\beta})(1 - \beta^2)}{\kappa^2 R^2} \right]_{\text{ret}} \quad (1)$$

- depends only on position and velocity  
evaluated at a *past* location of the particle
- velocity field *not isotropic* if particle moving

displacement from retarded position  $\vec{R}(t_{\text{ret}})$

to the field position  $\vec{R}$  is  $\hat{n}c(t - t_{\text{ret}})$

to the current particle position  $\beta c(t - t_{\text{ret}})$

so  $\vec{E}$  *points to current* position!

↳ → legal? yes! velocity constant, trajectory always “available”

## Electric Acceleration Field

electric velocity field  $\propto 1/R^2$

but other *acceleration* term  $\propto \dot{v}_0$

$$\vec{E}(\vec{R}, t)_{\text{accel}} = \frac{q}{c} \left[ \frac{\hat{n}}{\kappa^3 R} \times \left\{ (\hat{n} - \hat{\beta}) \times \dot{\hat{\beta}} \right\} \right]_{\text{ret}} \quad (2)$$

drops with distance  $\propto 1/R$ : always larger at large  $R$

for nonrelativistic motion,  $\beta_0 = v_0/c \ll 1$ ,

and so to first order

$$\vec{E}(\vec{R}, t)_{\text{accel}} \approx \left[ \frac{q}{c^2 R} \hat{n} \times (\hat{n} \times \vec{a}) \right]_{\text{ret}} \quad (3)$$

a huge result!

o

Q: if acceleration is linear, what is polarization?

at large distances

$$\vec{E}(\vec{R}, t) \rightarrow \vec{E}(\vec{R}, t)_{\text{accel}} \approx \left[ \frac{q}{c^2 R} \hat{n} \times (\hat{n} \times \vec{a}) \right]_{\text{ret}} \quad (4)$$

instantaneous  $\vec{E}$  *direction* set by  $\hat{a}$  and  $\hat{n}$

*if acceleration is linear*  $\rightarrow \hat{a}$  fixed

then  $\vec{E}$  lies within  $(\hat{n}, \hat{a})$  plane  $\rightarrow$  *100% linearly polarized*

using  $\vec{B} \rightarrow \hat{n} \times \vec{E}_{\text{accel}}$ , the Poynting flux is

$$\vec{S} \approx \frac{c}{4\pi} E_{\text{accel}}^2 \hat{n} = \frac{q^2}{4\pi c^3 R^2} \left| \hat{n} \times (\hat{n} \times \dot{\vec{\beta}}) \right|^2 \hat{n} \quad (5)$$

✓ Q: noteworthy features?

the Poynting flux is

$$\vec{S} \approx \frac{q^2}{4\pi c^3 R^2} \left| \hat{n} \times (\hat{n} \times \dot{\vec{\beta}}) \right|^2 \quad (6)$$

$S \propto R_{\text{ret}}^{-2}$ : flux obeys inverse square law!

Power per unit solid angle is

$$\frac{dP}{d\Omega} = R^2 \hat{n} \cdot \vec{S} \approx \frac{c}{4\pi} |R \vec{E}_{\text{accel}}|^2 = \frac{q^2}{4\pi c^3} \left| \hat{n} \times (\hat{n} \times \dot{\vec{\beta}}) \right|^2 \quad (7)$$

independent of distance! Q: why did this have to be true?

Q: in which directions is  $dP/d\Omega$  largest? smallest?

Q: radiation pattern?



## Larmor Formula

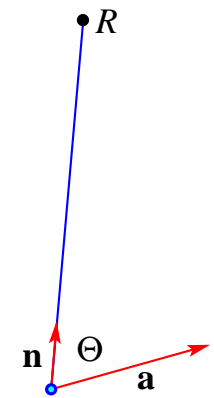
*Nonrelativistic charges radiate when accelerated!*

Power per unit solid angle is

$$\frac{dP}{d\Omega} = \frac{q^2}{4\pi c^3} \left| \hat{n} \times (\hat{n} \times \dot{\vec{\beta}}) \right|^2$$

define angle  $\Theta$  between  $\vec{a}$  and  $\hat{n}$  via  $\hat{n} \cdot \hat{\beta} = \cos \Theta$ :

$$\frac{dP}{d\Omega} = \frac{q^2 a^2}{4\pi c^3} \sin^2 \Theta$$



a  $\sin^2 \Theta$  pattern!

→ no radiation in direction of acceleration, maximum  $\perp \vec{a}$   
integrate over all solid angles: *total radiated power* is

$$P = \frac{q^2 a^2}{4\pi c^3} \int \sin^2 \Theta d\Omega = \frac{2}{3} \frac{q^2}{c^3} a^2 \quad (8)$$

⊙ this will be our workhorse!

relates radiation to particle acceleration via  $P \propto a^2$

## An Accelerated Point Charge

consider a particle rapidly *decelerated* from speed  $v$  to rest over time  $\delta t$



consider a later time  $t \gg \delta t$

Q: field configuration *near* particle ( $r \ll ct$ ) ?

Q: field configuration *near* particle ( $r \gg ct$ ) ?

Q: consequences?

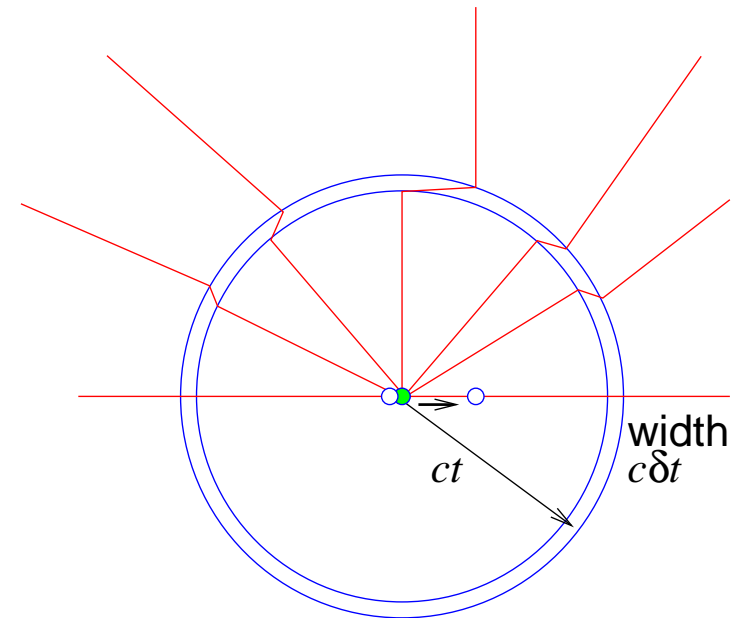
for fields track particle location expected for constant velocity

- nearby:  $r \ll ct$ , fields radial around particle at rest
- far away:  $r \gg ct$ : fields don't "know" particle has stopped  
→ "anticipate" location displaced by  $ct$  from original particle  
radially oriented around this expected point

between the two regimes:  $r = ct \pm c\delta t$

field lines must have "kinks" which

- have tangential field component
- tangential component is *anisotropic*  
and largest  $\perp \vec{v}$



consider *vertical fieldline*  $\perp \vec{v}$ :

kink radial width  $c\delta t$

kink tangential width  $vt = (v/c)r$

*tangential/radial ratio* is  $(v/\delta t)r/c^2$

but  $v/\delta t = a$ , average acceleration:

$$\rightarrow E_{\perp}/E_r = ar/c^2$$

more generally, tangential width is

$$vt \sin \Theta = (v/c)r \sin \Theta$$

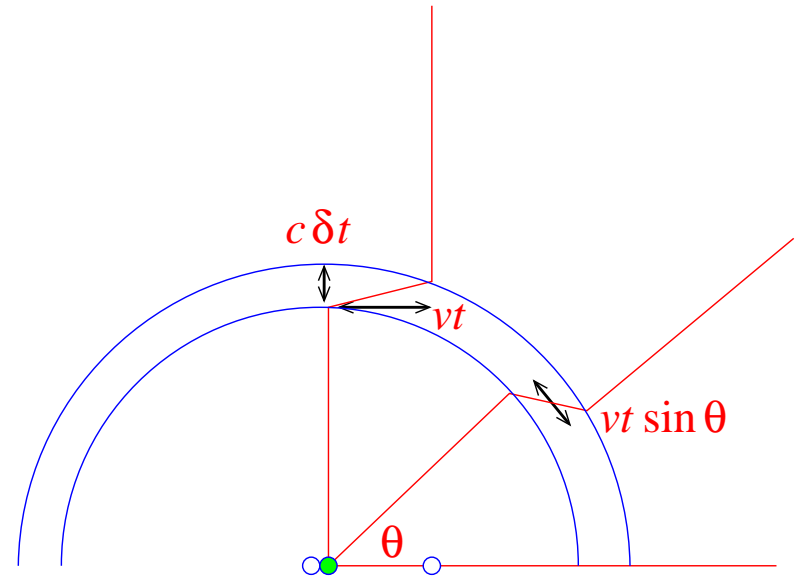
with angle  $\Theta$  *between*  $\vec{a}$  and  $\hat{n}$

and so using Coulomb for  $E_r$ :

$$E_{\perp} = \frac{ar \sin \Theta}{c^2} E_r = \frac{qa}{c^2 r} \sin \Theta \quad (9)$$

this is huge! Q: *why?*

Q: *relation to radiated flux?*



We find acceleration leads to a propagating field perturbation that is **tangential = transverse!**  
just what we expect for EM radiation

so we expect also a transverse  $\vec{B}$  component, with

$$B_{\perp} = E_{\perp} = \frac{ar \sin \Theta}{c^2} E_r = \frac{qa}{c^2 r} \sin \Theta \quad (10)$$

and thus a radial Poynting vector with magnitude

$$S = \frac{c}{4\pi} E_{\perp}^2 = \frac{q^2 a^2}{4\pi c^3 r^2} \sin^2 \Theta \quad (11)$$

## An Ensemble of Point Charges

Note: existence of kink and thus of radiation demanded by combination of

- Gauss' law (field lines not created or destroyed in vacuum)
- finite propagation speed  $c$

So far: field of a single point charge

Now: consider  $N$  particles, with  $q_i$ ,  $\vec{R}_i$ ,  $\vec{v}_i = \dot{\vec{R}}_i$

Net  $\vec{E}$  will be sum over all particles

*Q: complications beyond "simple" bookkeeping?*

*Q: when will things simplify?*

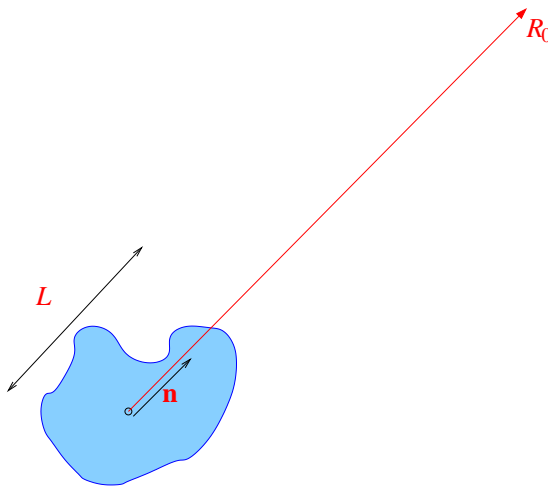
## Approximate Phase Coherence

fields for each charge depend on its *retarded time*  
and these are different for each charge

→ leads to *phase differences* between particles  
which we in general would have to track

When are phase differences not a problem?

When light-travel-time lags between particles  
represent small phase differences



Let system size be  $L$ , and timescale for variations  $\tau$   
if  $\tau \gg L/c$ , phase differences will be small

or: characteristic frequency is  $\nu \sim 1/\tau$

so phase differences small if  $c/\nu \gg L$ , or  $\lambda \gg L$

note that typical particle speeds  $u \sim L/\tau$ , so

16 phase coherence condition  $\rightarrow u \ll c \rightarrow$  *nonrelativistic motion*



## Dipole Approximation

so for **non-relativistic systems** we may ignore

- differences in time retardation, and
- the correction factor  $\kappa = 1 - \hat{n} \cdot \vec{v}/c \rightarrow 1$

and thus we have

$$\vec{E}_{\text{rad}} = \sum_i \frac{q_i}{c^2} \frac{\hat{n} \times (\hat{n} \times \vec{a}_i)}{R_i} \quad (12)$$

but the system has  $R_i \approx R_0 \gg L$ , and so

$$\vec{E}_{\text{rad}} = \hat{n} \times \left( \frac{\hat{n}}{c^2 R_0} \times \sum_i q_i \vec{a}_i \right) = \frac{\hat{n} \times (\hat{n} \times \ddot{\vec{d}})}{c^2 R_0} \quad (13)$$

where the **dipole moment** is

$$\vec{d} = \sum_i q_i \vec{R}_i \quad (14)$$

for a non-relativistic dipole, we have

$$\vec{E}_{\text{rad}} = \frac{\hat{n} \times (\hat{n} \times \ddot{\vec{d}})}{c^2 R_0} \quad (15)$$

this *dipole approximation* gives: power per unit solid angle

$$\frac{dP}{d\Omega} = \frac{\ddot{d}^2}{4\pi c^3} \sin^2 \Theta \quad (16)$$

and the total power radiated

$$\frac{dP}{d\Omega} = \frac{2}{3} \frac{\ddot{d}^2}{c^3} \quad (17)$$

consider a dipole that maintains the same orientation  $\vec{d}$

$$E(t) = \ddot{d}(t) \frac{\sin \Theta}{c^2 R_0} \quad (18)$$

using Fourier transform of  $d(t)$ , we have

$$d(t) = \int e^{-i\omega t} \tilde{d}(\omega) d\omega \quad (19)$$

and so

$$\tilde{E}(\omega) = -\omega^2 \tilde{d}(\omega) \frac{\sin \Theta}{c^2 R_0} \quad (20)$$

and thus the energy per solid angle and frequency is

$$\frac{dW}{d\Omega d\omega} = \frac{1}{c^3} \omega^4 |\tilde{d}(\omega)|^2 \sin^2 \Theta \quad (21)$$

and

$$\frac{dW}{d\omega} = \frac{8\pi}{3c^3} \omega^4 |\tilde{d}(\omega)|^2 \quad (22)$$

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- note the  $\omega^4 \propto \lambda^{-4}$  dependence
- and  $\tilde{d}(\omega)$ : *dipole frequencies control radiation frequencies*

# Director's Cut Extras

## The Vector Potential

No-monopoles condition  $\nabla \cdot \vec{B}$   
strongly restricts  $\vec{B}$  configurations

condition *automatically* satisfied if we write

$$\vec{B} = \nabla \times \vec{A} \quad (23)$$

guarantees zero divergence because, for *any*  $\vec{A}$

$$\nabla \cdot (\nabla \times \vec{A}) = 0 \quad (24)$$

where  $\vec{A}$  is the **vector potential**

Q: *units of  $\vec{A}$ ?*

write Faraday's law in terms of  $\vec{A}$ :

$$\nabla \times \vec{E} = -\frac{1}{c} \partial_t (\nabla \times \vec{A}) \quad (25)$$

and so

$$\nabla \times \left( \vec{E} + \frac{1}{c} \partial_t \vec{A} \right) = 0 \quad (26)$$

strongly restricts  $\vec{E}$  configurations

*Q: how to automatically satisfy?*

## The Scalar Potential

Faraday with  $\vec{A}$

$$\nabla \times \left( \vec{E} + \frac{1}{c} \partial_t \vec{A} \right) = 0 \quad (27)$$

vector field  $\vec{E} + \frac{1}{c} \partial_t \vec{A}$  is curl-free

to automatically satisfy this, note that

$$\nabla \times (\nabla \phi) = 0 \quad (28)$$

curl of grad vanishes for any scalar field (=function)  $\phi$

define **scalar potential** via

$$\vec{E} = -\nabla \phi - \frac{1}{c} \partial_t \vec{A} \quad (29)$$

Q: *units of  $\phi$ ?*

Q: *are  $\vec{A}$  and  $\phi$  unique? why?*

## Gauge Freedom

vector potential defined to give  $\nabla \times \vec{A} = \vec{B}$   
clearly if  $\vec{A} \rightarrow \vec{A}' = \vec{A} + \text{constant}$ ,  $\vec{B} \rightarrow \vec{B}$   
 $\Rightarrow$  physical field unchanged

in fact:  $\vec{B}$  unchanged for *any transformation*  
 $\vec{A} \rightarrow \vec{A}'$  which preserves  $\nabla \times \vec{A}' = \vec{B}$ :

$$\nabla \times (\vec{A}' - \vec{A}) = 0 \quad (30)$$

and thus there is no physical change if

$$\vec{A}' = \vec{A} + \nabla\psi \quad (31)$$

because  $\nabla \times (\nabla\psi) = 0$  for any  $\psi$

$\rightarrow$  *gauge invariance*

Q: *what condition needed to keep  $\vec{E}$  unchanged?*



## Gauge Invariance

the physical electric field has

$$\vec{E} = -\nabla\phi - \frac{1}{c}\partial_t\vec{A} \quad (32)$$

and must remain the same when  $\vec{A} \rightarrow \vec{A} + \nabla\psi$

but we have

$$\vec{E} \rightarrow \vec{E}' = -\nabla\phi - \frac{1}{c}\partial_t\vec{A}' \quad (33)$$

$$= -\nabla\left(\phi + \frac{1}{c}\partial_t\psi\right) - \frac{1}{c}\partial_t\vec{A} \quad (34)$$

Q: and so?

$$\vec{E} \rightarrow \vec{E}' = -\nabla \left( \phi + \frac{1}{c} \partial_t \psi \right) - \frac{1}{c} \partial_t \vec{A} \quad (35)$$

and so to keep  $\vec{E}' = \vec{E}$  requires

$$\phi \rightarrow \phi' = \phi - \frac{1}{c} \partial_t \psi \quad (36)$$

the  $\vec{E}, \vec{B}$  preserving mappings

$$(\phi, \vec{A}) \rightarrow (\phi, \vec{A}) + (\partial_t \psi / c, \nabla \psi) \quad (37)$$

is a **gauge transformation**

a deep but also annoying property of electromagnetism for our purposes, a useful but not unique choice

$$\nabla \cdot \vec{A} + \frac{1}{c} \partial_t \phi = 0 \quad (38)$$

“Lorentz gauge”

## Maxwell Revisited

express Maxwell in terms of potentials: Coulomb

$$-\nabla \cdot \left( \nabla \phi - \frac{1}{c} \partial_t \vec{A} \right) = -\nabla^2 \phi - \frac{1}{c} \partial_t (\nabla \cdot \vec{A}) \quad (39)$$

$$= 4\pi \rho_q \quad (40)$$

and so in Lorentz gauge

$$\nabla^2 \phi - \frac{1}{c^2} \partial_t^2 \phi = -4\pi \rho_q \quad (41)$$

*scalar potential satisfies a wave equation!*

$\phi$  source is charge density  $\rho_q$

changes in  $\phi$  propagate at speed  $c$

for *static* situation  $\partial_t \phi = 0$ , Poisson  $\nabla^2 \phi = -4\pi \rho_q$ , and

$$\phi(\vec{r}) = \int d^3 \vec{r}' \frac{\rho_q(\vec{r}')}{|\vec{r}' - \vec{r}|} \quad (42)$$

Q: solution for full wave equation?

## Scalar Potential and Retarded Time

general solution to

$$\nabla^2 \phi - \frac{1}{c^2} \partial_t^2 \phi = -4\pi \rho_q \quad (43)$$

turns out to be

$$\phi(\vec{r}, t) = \int d^3\vec{r}' \frac{\rho_q(\vec{r}', t')}{|\vec{r}' - \vec{r}|} = \int d^3\vec{r}' \left[ \frac{\rho_q}{|\vec{r}' - \vec{r}|} \right]_{\text{ret}} \quad (44)$$

where source density  $\rho_q(\vec{r}', t')$   
is evaluated at **retarded time**

$$t' \equiv [t_{\text{ret}}] = t - \frac{|\vec{r} - \vec{r}'|}{c} \quad (45)$$

→  $\phi$  “learns” about changes in charge density at  $\vec{r}'$   
only after signal propagation time  $ct_{\text{prop}} = |\vec{r}'|$

## Maxwell and the Vector Potential

in terms of potentials, Ampère in Cartesian coords:

$$\nabla \times (\nabla \times \vec{A}) = \nabla^2 \vec{A} - \nabla(\nabla \cdot \vec{A}) \quad (46)$$

$$= \frac{4\pi}{c} \vec{j} + \frac{1}{c} (\nabla \phi + \partial_t \vec{A}) \quad (47)$$

so in Lorentz gauge

$$\nabla^2 \vec{A} - \frac{1}{c^2} \partial_t^2 \vec{A} = -\frac{4\pi}{c} \vec{j} \quad (48)$$

vector potential also satisfies a wave equation  
source is current density  $\vec{j}$

*Q: solution?*

each component  $A_i$  of vector potential satisfies

$$\nabla^2 A_i - \frac{1}{c^2} \partial_t^2 A_i = -\frac{4\pi}{c} j_i \quad (49)$$

formally identical to scalar potential equation

if we put  $\phi \rightarrow A_i$  and  $\rho_q \rightarrow j_i/c$

and thus we can import the solution:

$$A_i(\vec{r}, t) = \int d^3\vec{r}' \left[ \frac{j_i}{|\vec{r}' - \vec{r}|} \right]_{\text{ret}} \quad (50)$$

→ vector potential responds to current changes  
after “retarded time” delay

Integral solutions for  $\phi$  and  $\vec{A}$  are huge!

∞ Q: why? what's the Big Deal?

## Recipe for Electromagnetic Fields

our mission: find  $\vec{E}(\vec{r}, t)$  and  $\vec{B}(\vec{r}, t)$   
given charge  $\rho_q(\vec{r}, t)$  and current  $\vec{j}(\vec{r}, t)$  distributions

solution: first find potentials via

$$\phi(\vec{r}, t) = \int d^3\vec{r}' \left[ \frac{\rho_q}{|\vec{r}' - \vec{r}|} \right]_{\text{ret}} \quad (51)$$

$$\vec{A}(\vec{r}, t) = \int d^3\vec{r}' \left[ \frac{\vec{j}}{|\vec{r}' - \vec{r}|} \right]_{\text{ret}} \quad (52)$$

from these, find fields via

$$\vec{E} = -\nabla\phi - \frac{1}{c}\partial_t\vec{A} \quad (53)$$

$$\vec{B} = \nabla \times \vec{A} \quad (54)$$

in the 3-D spatial integrals

$$\phi(\vec{r}, t) = - \int d^3\vec{r}' \left[ \frac{\rho_q}{|\vec{r}' - \vec{r}|} \right]_{\text{ret}} \quad (55)$$

it is convenient (and pretty!) to recast as integrals over 4-D spacetime:

$$\phi(\vec{r}, t) = - \int d^3\vec{r}' dt' \frac{\rho_q(\vec{r}', t')}{|\vec{r}' - \vec{r}|} \delta(t' - t + |\vec{r} - \vec{r}'|/c) \quad (56)$$

where the  $\delta$  function enforces the retarded time condition

*Q: What if charges are all pointlike?*



## Potentials from Point Charges

if  $N$  point charges, where  $i$ th charge  $q_i$  has trajectory with position  $\vec{r}_i(t)$ , and velocity  $\vec{v}_i(t)$ , then

$$\rho_q(\vec{r}, t) = \sum_i q_i \delta^{(3)}(\vec{r} - \vec{r}_i) \quad (57)$$

$$\vec{j}(\vec{r}, t) = \sum_i q_i v_i(t) \delta^{(3)}(\vec{r} - \vec{r}_i) \quad (58)$$

with Dirac  $\delta$ -functions  $\delta^{(3)}(\vec{r} - \vec{r}_i) = \delta(x - x_i) \delta(y - y_i) \delta(z - z_i)$

scalar potential due to *one charge* with  $q_0, \vec{r}_0(t), \vec{v}_0(t)$  is

$$\phi(\vec{r}, t) = q_0 \int d^3\vec{r}' dt' \frac{\delta^{(3)}(\vec{r}' - \vec{r}_0(t))}{|\vec{r}' - \vec{r}|} \delta(t' - t + |\vec{r} - \vec{r}'|/c) \quad (59)$$

space part of integral is easy

$$\phi(\vec{r}, t) = q_0 \int dt' \frac{\delta(t' - t + |\vec{r} - \vec{r}_0(t')|/c)}{|\vec{r} - \vec{r}_0(t')|} \quad (60)$$

writing  $\vec{R}(t') \equiv \vec{r} - \vec{r}_0(t')$   
 and  $R(t') = |\vec{R}(t')|$ , we have

$$\phi(\vec{r}, t) = q_0 \int dt' \frac{\delta(t' - t + R(t')/c)}{R(t')} \quad (61)$$

and now the final  $\delta$  function is nontrivial

math aside: fun properties of the  $\delta$  function  
 $\delta(x)$  designed to give

$$\int f(y) \delta(y - x) dy = f(x) \quad (62)$$

but if  $\delta$  argument is a function of the integration variable

$$\int f(y) \delta(g(x)) dy = \sum_{\text{roots}_j} \frac{f(g(x_j))}{|dg/dx|_{x_j}} \quad (63)$$

where root  $x_j$  is the  $j$ th solution to  $y - g(x) = 0$

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here: define  $t'' = t' - t + R(t')/c$   
 then  $dt'' = dt' + \dot{R}(t')/c dt'$

## Liénard-Wiechert Potentials

for point source with arbitrary trajectory, we have

$$\phi(\vec{r}, t) = \frac{1}{1 - \hat{n} \cdot \hat{\beta}_0(t_{\text{ret}})} \frac{q_0}{R} \quad (64)$$

where  $\hat{n} = \vec{r}/r$  and  $\hat{\beta}_0(t) = \vec{v}_0(t)/c$

similarly, vector potential solution is

$$\vec{A}(\vec{r}, t) = \frac{1}{1 - \hat{r} \cdot \hat{\beta}_0(t_{\text{ret}})} \frac{q_0 \vec{v}_0(\vec{r}, t_{\text{ret}})}{R(t_{\text{ret}})} \quad (65)$$

these are the **Liénard-Wiechert potentials**

Q: equipotential surfaces  $\phi = \text{const}$  for stationary charge  $\vec{r}_0(t) = \text{const}$ ?

Q: for charge with  $\vec{v}_0$  large?

Q: implications?

potential factor  $\kappa \equiv [1 - \hat{n} \cdot \hat{\beta}]_{\text{ret}}$  is

- directional,
  - velocity dependent, such that
  - *potential  $\propto 1/\kappa$  enhanced along direction of charge motion*  
and *potential suppressed opposite direction of charge motion*
- $\Rightarrow$  expect forward “beaming” effects!

But we want the EM fields, not just potentials,  
so we need to evaluate

$$\vec{E} = -\nabla\phi - \frac{1}{c}\partial_t\vec{A} \quad (66)$$

$$\vec{B} = \nabla \times \vec{A} \quad (67)$$

using the beautiful Liénard-Wiechert point-source potentials  
where,  $\phi = \phi[\vec{r}, t; \vec{r}_0(t), \vec{v}_0(t)]$  and  $\vec{A} = \vec{A}[\vec{r}, t; \vec{r}_0(t), \vec{v}_0(t)]$

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Q: *what terms will appear in  $\vec{E}$ ?*