

$$\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{E} = -\nabla^2 \left(k_1 \int d^3r' \frac{\rho(r')}{|\vec{r}-\vec{r}'|} \right) \quad \text{where } \nabla^2 = \vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{\nabla}$$

Consider

$$\nabla^2 \left(\frac{1}{|\vec{r}-\vec{r}'|} \right)$$

as before, define $\vec{r} = \vec{r}-\vec{r}'$, so $\vec{\nabla}_r = \vec{\nabla}_r$, and go to spherical coords centered at $\vec{r}=0$.

$$\nabla^2 \left(\frac{1}{|\vec{r}-\vec{r}'|} \right) = \nabla_r^2 \left(\frac{1}{r} \right) \quad \text{use expression for } \nabla^2 \text{ in spherical coords}$$

$$= \frac{1}{r} \frac{d^2}{dr^2} r \left(\frac{1}{r} \right)$$

$$= \begin{cases} 0! & \text{for } r \neq 0 \\ \text{singular} & \text{at } r=0 \end{cases}$$

So

$\nabla^2 \left(\frac{1}{r} \right)$ vanishes everywhere except at $r=0$

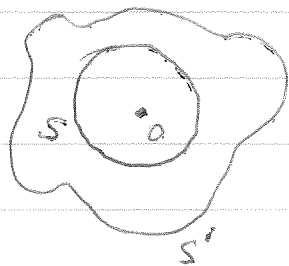
to see what happens at $r=0$, consider integrating over a sphere V of radius R centered at the origin

$$\int_V d^3r \nabla^2 \left(\frac{1}{r} \right) = \int_V d^3r \vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{\nabla} \left(\frac{1}{r} \right) = \int_S da \hat{n} \cdot \vec{\nabla} \left(\frac{1}{r} \right) \quad \text{using Gauss' Theorem}$$

integral $\hat{n} \cdot \vec{\nabla} \left(\frac{1}{r} \right) = \frac{d}{dr} \left(\frac{1}{r} \right) = -\frac{1}{r^2}$ is constant on surface S so

$$\int_S da \hat{n} \cdot \vec{\nabla} \left(\frac{1}{r} \right) = 4\pi R^2 \left(-\frac{1}{R^2} \right) = -4\pi$$

Above was integrating over a sphere, but we would get same result if integrated over any volume containing $\vec{r}=0$.



S is sphere of radius R

S' is any surface

let V' be volume between S and S' .

Then by Gauss theorem

$$\int_{V'} d^3r \nabla \cdot \vec{\nabla} \left(\frac{1}{r} \right) = \oint_{S'} da \hat{n} \cdot \vec{\nabla} \left(\frac{1}{r} \right) - \oint_S da \hat{n} \cdot \vec{\nabla} \left(\frac{1}{r} \right)$$

$$= 0 \quad \text{since } \nabla^2 \left(\frac{1}{r} \right) = 0 \text{ everywhere in } V'$$

$$\Rightarrow \oint_{S'} da \hat{n} \cdot \vec{\nabla} \left(\frac{1}{r} \right) = \oint_S da \hat{n} \cdot \vec{\nabla} \left(\frac{1}{r} \right)$$

$$\Rightarrow \int_{V'} d^3r \nabla^2 \left(\frac{1}{r} \right) = \int_V d^3r \nabla^2 \left(\frac{1}{r} \right)$$

$$\begin{matrix} \nwarrow & \nwarrow \\ V' & V \\ \text{bounded by } S' & \text{bounded by } S \end{matrix}$$

So we conclude: for any volume V

$$\int_V d^3r \nabla^2 \left(\frac{1}{r} \right) = \begin{cases} -4\pi & \text{if } \vec{r}=0 \text{ in } V \\ 0 & \text{if } \vec{r}=0 \text{ not in } V \end{cases}$$

$$\Rightarrow \nabla^2 \left(\frac{1}{r} \right) = -4\pi \delta(\vec{r}) \quad \text{Dirac delta function}$$

$$\boxed{\nabla^2 \left(\frac{1}{|\vec{r}-\vec{r}'|} \right) = -4\pi \delta(\vec{r}-\vec{r}')} \quad \text{Dirac delta function}$$

So now

$$\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{E} = -k_1 \int d^3r' \rho(r') \nabla^2 \left(\frac{1}{|\vec{r} - \vec{r}'|} \right)$$

acts only on \vec{r}

(9)

$$= -k_1 \int d^3r' \rho(r') (-4\pi) \delta(\vec{r} - \vec{r}')$$

$$= 4\pi k_1 \rho(\vec{r}) \quad \text{by property of } \delta \text{-function}$$

proof is done!

we have shown that

$$\vec{E}(\vec{r}) = k_1 \int d^3r' \rho(\vec{r}') \frac{\vec{r} - \vec{r}'}{|\vec{r} - \vec{r}'|^3} \Rightarrow \begin{cases} \vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{E} = 4\pi k_1 \rho \\ \vec{\nabla} \times \vec{E} = 0 \end{cases}$$

is the reverse true? is this formulation in terms of partial differential equations completely equivalent to Coulomb's law? yes! because of Helmholtz's Theorem.

Helmholtz Theorem of vector calculus — if one specifies the divergence and curl of a vector function, and boundary conditions (here $E \rightarrow 0$ as $r \rightarrow \infty$ and one is away from all charges), then vector function is uniquely determined.

Helmholtz Theorem

$$\text{Suppose } \left. \begin{aligned} \vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{E}(\vec{r}) &= f(\vec{r}) \\ \vec{\nabla} \times \vec{E}(\vec{r}) &= \vec{g}(\vec{r}) \end{aligned} \right\} \text{ for } \vec{r} \text{ in a volume } V$$
$$\vec{E}(\vec{r}) = \vec{h}(\vec{r}) \quad \text{for } \vec{r} \text{ on surface } S \text{ of vol } V$$

Then if we know $f(\vec{r})$, $\vec{g}(\vec{r})$ and $\vec{h}(\vec{r})$, that information uniquely determines the vector function $\vec{E}(\vec{r})$

Proof:

Suppose we had two different solutions $\vec{E}(\vec{r})$ and $\vec{E}'(\vec{r})$
then define

$$\vec{G}(\vec{r}) = \vec{E}(\vec{r}) - \vec{E}'(\vec{r})$$

\vec{G} must satisfy

$$\left. \begin{aligned} \vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{G} &= 0 \\ \vec{\nabla} \times \vec{G} &= 0 \end{aligned} \right\} \text{ for all } \vec{r} \text{ in } V$$

$$\vec{G} = 0 \quad \text{for all } \vec{r} \text{ on } S$$

Now $\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{G} = 0$ implies we can find a scalar function ϕ such that $\vec{G} = \vec{\nabla} \phi$. Then

$$\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{G} = 0 \Rightarrow \nabla^2 \phi = 0 \quad \text{for all } \vec{r} \text{ in } V.$$

A function ϕ that satisfies $\nabla^2 \phi = 0$ within a region V is said to be a harmonic function on V .

An important property of harmonic functions is that the value at a position \vec{r} , is equal to the average of the values on the surface of a sphere centered at \vec{r} .

$$\phi(\vec{r}) = \frac{1}{4\pi R^2} \oint_{\vec{S}} \phi(\vec{r}') d\vec{a}'$$

\vec{S}
↖ surface of sphere of radius R
centered at \vec{r} .

From this property we can conclude that a harmonic function on V can have no local maximum or minimum within the volume V . All maxima and minima must lie on surface S of V .

Proof: Just consider a small sphere centered on \vec{r} that fits within the volume V . If \vec{r} was a max, then for \vec{r}' on surface of sphere, $\phi(\vec{r}') < \phi(\vec{r})$. But then we would have $\phi(\vec{r}) < \frac{1}{4\pi R^2} \oint da' \phi(\vec{r}')$ in violation of the above property of harmonic functions.

Back to our function $\vec{G}(\vec{r})$. We have

$$\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{G} = 0, \quad \vec{G} = \vec{\nabla} \phi \Rightarrow \nabla^2 \phi = 0 \text{ in } V$$

$$\vec{G} = \vec{\nabla} \phi = 0 \text{ on surface } S \text{ of } V \Rightarrow \phi = \text{constant on } S.$$

All max and min of ϕ must be on surface S

$$\Rightarrow \phi_{\max} = \phi_{\min} = \text{constant},$$

$$\Rightarrow \phi = \text{constant throughout volume } V$$

$$\Rightarrow \vec{\nabla} \phi = \vec{G} = 0 \text{ throughout } V$$

$$\Rightarrow \vec{E} = \vec{E}' \text{ for all } \vec{r} \text{ in } V$$

\Rightarrow solution is unique!

Magnetostatics

Loentz Force

a charge q , in motion with velocity \vec{v} , feels the force

$$\vec{F} = q (\vec{E} + k_4 \vec{v} \times \vec{B}) \quad \leftarrow \text{loentz force}$$

\vec{B} is the magnetic field at the position of the charge.
 k_4 is a universal constant.

Just as the constant k_1 fixed the units of charge q , the constant k_4 can be viewed as fixing the units of B magnetic field. By choosing the units of q and B appropriately, we are free to choose any values for k_1 and k_4 .

Magnetic field \vec{B} is generated by moving charge.
A charge q' with velocity \vec{v}' ($v' \ll c$) located at the origin $\vec{r}'=0$ produces a magnetic field at position \vec{r} ,

holds only non relativistically $\rightarrow \vec{B}(\vec{r}) = k_5 q' \frac{\vec{v}' \times \vec{r}}{r^3} = \frac{k_5}{k_1} \vec{v}' \times \vec{E}(\vec{r})$

k_5 is a universal constant. we will see that it cannot be chosen independently of k_1 and k_4 .
(since k_1 fixed units of q , and k_4 fixed units of \vec{B} , there are no further new quantities whose units could be adjoined to allow us to fix k_5 arbitrarily)

The force on a charge q at position \vec{r} , moving with velocity \vec{v} , due to a charge q' at the origin moving with velocity \vec{v}' is, in non-relativistic limit ($v, v' \ll c$),

$$\vec{F} = k_1 q q' \frac{\vec{r}}{r^3} + k_4 k_5 q q' \frac{\vec{v} \times (\vec{v}' \times \vec{r})}{r^3}$$

↑
Coulomb force

↑
magnetic analog of Coulomb force

The magnetic part is just the point charge equivalent of the Biot-Savart law for the force between current carrying wires. If we regard $q\vec{v} = \vec{I}$ as the current of charge q , and $q'\vec{v}' = \vec{I}'$ as the current of charge q' , then the magnetic force is $k_4 k_5 \frac{\vec{I} \times (\vec{I}' \times \frac{\vec{r}}{r^3})}{r^3}$ which is the Biot-Savart Law.

Rewrite above force as

$$\vec{F} = k_1 \left(1 + \frac{k_4 k_5}{k_1} \vec{v} \times \vec{v}' \times \right) \frac{\vec{r}}{r^3} q q'$$

we see that $\left(\frac{k_4 k_5}{k_1} \right)$ has units of $(\text{velocity})^{-2}$

it must be independent of whatever convention one used to choose the units of q or B (is independent of choices for k_1 and k_4). Experimentally it is found that

$$\left(\frac{k_4 k_5}{k_1} \right) = \frac{1}{c^2}$$

c = speed of light in vacuum

Continuum current density

For charges q_i at positions $\vec{r}_i(t)$ with $\vec{v}_i = \frac{d\vec{r}_i}{dt}$
we define the current density

$$\vec{j}(\vec{r}, t) = \sum_i q_i \vec{v}_i(t) \delta(\vec{r} - \vec{r}_i(t))$$

units of \vec{j} are $(\text{charge}) \left(\frac{\text{length}}{\text{time}} \right) \left(\frac{1}{\text{length}^3} \right) = \left(\frac{\text{charge}}{\text{area} \cdot \text{time}} \right)$

charge per unit area per unit time

For a surface S'

$$\int_{S'} da \hat{n} \cdot \vec{j} = I \quad \text{current (charge per unit time)} \\ \text{passing through surface } S'$$

Charge Conservation

vol V bounded by surface S'

$$\frac{d}{dt} \int_V d^3r \rho(\vec{r}, t) = - \oint_{S'} da \hat{n} \cdot \vec{j}$$

rate of change of total charge in V = (-) charge flowing out of V through S' per unit time

$$\text{use } \oint_{S'} da \hat{n} \cdot \vec{j} = \int_V d^3r \vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{j} = - \int_V d^3r \frac{\partial \rho(\vec{r}, t)}{\partial t}$$

\Rightarrow local charge conservation

$$\frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} + \vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{j} = 0$$

A static situation has $\frac{\partial \mathbf{J}}{\partial t} = 0$

\Rightarrow magnetostatics is defined by the condition $\nabla \cdot \vec{\mathbf{J}} = 0$

Differential formulation of Biot-Savart

For a set of charges q_i at \vec{r}_i we have

$$\vec{\mathbf{B}}(\vec{r}) = \sum_i k_S q_i \vec{v}_i \times \frac{(\vec{r} - \vec{r}_i)}{|\vec{r} - \vec{r}_i|^3}$$

$$= k_S \int d^3r' \vec{\mathbf{J}}(\vec{r}') \times \frac{(\vec{r} - \vec{r}')}{|\vec{r} - \vec{r}'|^3}$$

$$= k_S \int d^3r' \vec{\mathbf{J}}(\vec{r}') \times \vec{\nabla} \left(\frac{-1}{|\vec{r} - \vec{r}'|} \right)$$

$$\vec{\mathbf{B}}(\vec{r}) = k_S \vec{\nabla} \times \left[\int d^3r' \frac{\vec{\mathbf{J}}(\vec{r}')}{|\vec{r} - \vec{r}'|} \right]$$

where we used $\vec{\nabla} \times (\vec{\mathbf{A}} \phi) = -\vec{\mathbf{A}} \times \vec{\nabla} \phi$ when $\vec{\mathbf{A}}$ is indep of \vec{r}

$\Rightarrow \boxed{\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{\mathbf{B}} = 0}$ since $\vec{\nabla} \cdot (\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{\mathbf{A}}) = 0$ for any vector function $\vec{\mathbf{A}}$
 integral form $\oint d\vec{a} \cdot \vec{\mathbf{B}} = 0$

$$\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{\mathbf{B}} = k_S \vec{\nabla} \times \left[\vec{\nabla} \times \left(\int d^3r' \frac{\vec{\mathbf{J}}(\vec{r}')}{|\vec{r} - \vec{r}'|} \right) \right]$$

$$\text{use } \vec{\nabla} \times (\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{\mathbf{A}}) = \vec{\nabla} (\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{\mathbf{A}}) - \nabla^2 \vec{\mathbf{A}}$$