

Supposed for some distribution ρ we have the monopole moment $q=0$. $\Rightarrow$ dipole moment $\vec{p}$ is independent of the choice of the coordinate system.

Can we then choose coordinates such that $\vec{Q} = 0$?

$$Q_{ij} = \int d^3r \rho(\vec{r}) (3r_i r_j - r^2 \delta_{ij})$$

$\vec{Q}$ is not only symmetric, i.e. $Q_{ij} = Q_{ji}$, but it is traceless $\sum_i Q_{ii} = Q_{xx} + Q_{yy} + Q_{zz} = 0$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{proof: } \sum_i Q_{ii} &= \int d^3r \rho(\vec{r}) \left[3 \sum_i r_i r_i - r^2 \sum_i \delta_{ii} \right] \\ &= \int d^3r \rho(\vec{r}) [3r^2 - r^2(3)] = 0 \end{aligned}$$

So there are really only 5 independent components to $\vec{Q}$.

But since $\vec{Q}$ is symmetric, we know that we can always diagonalize the matrix Q_{ij} and its eigenvalues are real. Or equivalently, we can always rotate our orthonormal coordinate system so that $\vec{Q}$ is diagonal in that coordinate system

$$\begin{pmatrix} Q_{xx} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & Q_{yy} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & Q_{zz} \end{pmatrix}$$

and if $\vec{Q}$ is traceless in one coord system, it is traceless in all coordinate systems $\Rightarrow Q_{xx} + Q_{yy} + Q_{zz} = 0$
 $\rightarrow$ only two independent components in the diagonal trace

Since we have three degrees of freedom dx, dy, dz in translating to a new origin, one might think that we can always choose a ~~new~~ new coordinate system in which $Q_{xx} = Q_{yy} = 0$ and then by traceless condition $Q_{zz} = 0$ also and so $\vec{Q} = 0$ (if all eigenvalues are zero, the matrix must vanish)

Under a shift of coordinates $\vec{r} = \vec{r} - \vec{d}$, the new quadrupole tensor is related to the old by

$$\vec{\tilde{Q}} = \vec{Q} - 3\vec{p}\vec{d} - 3\vec{d}\vec{p} + 3\vec{d}\vec{d}\vec{g} - (d^2\vec{g} - 2\vec{p}\cdot\vec{d})\vec{I}$$

if, as assumed, $g = 0$, then

$$\vec{\tilde{Q}} = \vec{Q} - 3\vec{p}\vec{d} - 3\vec{d}\vec{p} + 2\vec{p}\cdot\vec{d}\vec{I}$$

Suppose we start in a frame in which $\vec{Q}$ is diagonal, i.e. only $Q_{xx}, Q_{yy}, Q_{zz} \neq 0$ then we have the transformations

- 1) $\tilde{Q}_{xx} = Q_{xx} - 4p_x dx + 2p_y dy + 2p_z dz$
- 2) $\tilde{Q}_{yy} = Q_{yy} + 2p_x dx - 4p_y dy + 2p_z dz$
- 3) $\tilde{Q}_{zz} = Q_{zz} + 2p_x dx + 2p_y dy - 4p_z dz$
- 4) $\tilde{Q}_{xy} = -3(p_x dy + p_y dx)$
- 5) $\tilde{Q}_{yz} = -3(p_y dz + p_z dy)$
- 6) $\tilde{Q}_{zx} = -3(p_z dx + p_x dz)$

we have 6 ^{linear} equations in three unknowns dx, dy, dz

Since we know $\hat{Q}$ is always traceless then we can eliminate one of equations (1), (2), and (3) since $\hat{Q}_{zz} = -(\hat{Q}_{xx} + \hat{Q}_{yy})$ so (3) is dependent on (1) and (2)

That gives 5 equations.

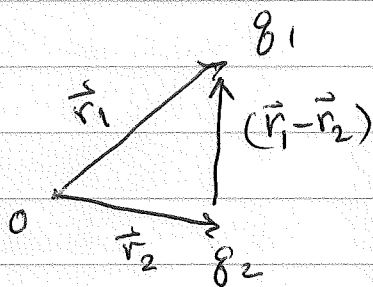
Can we choose dx, dy, dz so that $\tilde{Q}_{xx} = \tilde{Q}_{yy} = \tilde{Q}_{xy} = \tilde{Q}_{yz} = \tilde{Q}_{zx} = 0$?

In general NO! That would be 5 equations in 3 unknowns so the system is in general over-specified and there is no solution. Only in special cases might there be a solution.

Note, even though $Q_{xy} = Q_{yz} = Q_{zx} = 0$ in the original coordinate system, that does not generally remain so in the translated coordinate system

In general we cannot use rotations to rotate a non-zero tensor into a zero tensor. This is why adding the rotational degrees of freedom to our coordinate transformation does not help.

Example two charges q_1 at $\vec{r}_1$ and q_2 at $\vec{r}_2$
 $q_1 + q_2 = q \neq 0$



monopole $q_1 + q_2 = q$

dipole $\vec{p} = q_1 \vec{r}_1 + q_2 \vec{r}_2$

quadrupole $\vec{Q} = (3\vec{r}_1 \vec{r}_1 - r_1^2 \vec{I}) q_1 + (3\vec{r}_2 \vec{r}_2 - r_2^2 \vec{I}) q_2$

We can make the dipole moment vanish by shifting to a new coord system $\vec{r}' = \vec{r} - \vec{d}$ where $\vec{d} = \frac{\vec{p}}{q}$

$$\vec{r}' = \vec{r} - \frac{q_1 \vec{r}_1 + q_2 \vec{r}_2}{q_1 + q_2} = \frac{q_1 (\vec{r} - \vec{r}_1) + q_2 (\vec{r} - \vec{r}_2)}{q_1 + q_2}$$

positions of q_1, q_2 in new coords are

$$\vec{r}'_1 = \frac{q_2}{q_1 + q_2} (\vec{r}_1 - \vec{r}_2)$$

$$\vec{r}'_2 = \frac{-q_1}{q_1 + q_2} (\vec{r}_1 - \vec{r}_2)$$

origin of new coord system is at

$$\vec{r}' = 0 \Rightarrow \vec{r} = \frac{q_1 \vec{r}_1 + q_2 \vec{r}_2}{q_1 + q_2}$$

lies along vector from $\vec{r}_2$ to $\vec{r}_1$

"center of charge"

for many charges q_i at positions $\vec{r}_i$, the origin that makes dipole moment vanish is at

$$\vec{r} = \frac{\sum_i q_i \vec{r}_i}{\sum_i q_i}$$

In this coord system

$$\vec{p}' = q_1 \vec{r}_1' + q_2 \vec{r}_2' = \frac{q_1 q_2}{q_1 + q_2} (\vec{r}_1 - \vec{r}_2) - \frac{q_2 q_1}{q_1 + q_2} (\vec{r}_1 - \vec{r}_2) \\ = 0 \quad \text{as it must be!}$$

Quadrupole moment in the coord system in which $\vec{p}' = 0$
the quadrupole tensor is

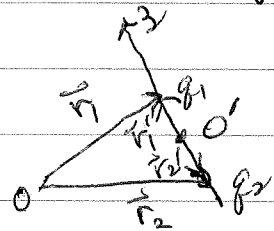
$$\vec{Q}' = [3 \vec{r}_1' \vec{r}_1' - (r_1')^2 \vec{I}] q_1 + [3 \vec{r}_2' \vec{r}_2' - (r_2')^2 \vec{I}] q_2$$

let us choose ~~coord~~ spherical coordinates with origin at O'
and $\hat{z}$ axis aligned along $\vec{r}_1 - \vec{r}_2$, so that

$$\vec{r}_1 - \vec{r}_2 = s \hat{z} \quad \text{where } s = |\vec{r}_1 - \vec{r}_2| \text{ is separation between the charges}$$

$$\text{then } \vec{r}_1' = \frac{q_2}{q_1 + q_2} s \hat{z}$$

$$\vec{r}_2' = \frac{-q_1}{q_1 + q_2} s \hat{z}$$



$$\vec{Q}' = \left(\frac{q_2}{q_1 + q_2} \right)^2 q_1 [3 s^2 \hat{z} \hat{z} - s^2 \vec{I}] \\ + \left(\frac{-q_1}{q_1 + q_2} \right)^2 q_2 [3 s^2 \hat{z} \hat{z} - s^2 \vec{I}]$$

$$\vec{Q}' = \frac{q_2^2 q_1 + q_1^2 q_2}{(q_1 + q_2)^2} s^2 [3 \hat{z} \hat{z} - \vec{I}]$$

$$= \frac{q_1 q_2}{q_1 + q_2} s^2 [3 \hat{z} \hat{z} - \vec{I}]$$

$$Q'_{ij} = \frac{q_1 q_2}{q_1 + q_2} s^2 \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 2 \end{pmatrix}$$

in xyz coord system

$$\text{as } \hat{z} \hat{z} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\vec{I} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

(check: $\vec{Q}'$ is traceless - $-1 - 1 + 2 = 0$)

the contribution of quadrupole to the potential is

$$\phi_{\text{quad}} = \frac{1}{2} \frac{\hat{r} \cdot \vec{Q} \cdot \hat{r}}{r^3}$$

$$\hat{r} = \begin{pmatrix} \sin \theta \cos \varphi \\ \sin \theta \sin \varphi \\ \cos \theta \end{pmatrix}$$

with origin at O' this becomes

in xyz coords

$$\phi_{\text{quad}} = \frac{s^2}{2r^3} \frac{q_1 q_2}{q_1 + q_2} (\sin \theta \cos \varphi, \sin \theta \sin \varphi, \cos \theta) \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 2 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \sin \theta \cos \varphi \\ \sin \theta \sin \varphi \\ \cos \theta \end{pmatrix}$$

do matrix multiplications

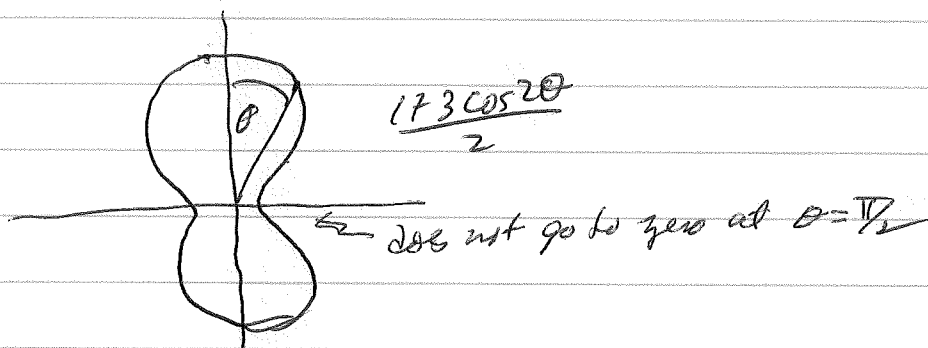
$$\phi_{\text{quad}} = \frac{s^2}{2r^3} \frac{q_1 q_2}{q_1 + q_2} (2 \cos^2 \theta - \sin^2 \theta)$$

independent of φ as it must be due to azimuthal symmetry

$$\phi_{\text{quad}} = \frac{S^2}{2r^3} \frac{q_1 q_2}{q_1 + q_2} (2\cos^2\theta - \sin^2\theta)$$

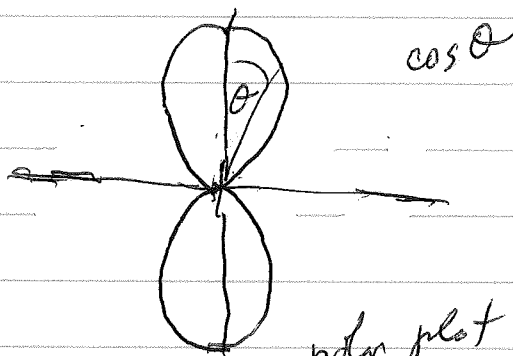
use $\sin^2\theta = 1 - \cos^2\theta \Rightarrow 2\cos^2\theta - \sin^2\theta = 3\cos^2\theta - 1$

use $\cos^2\theta = \frac{1 + \cos 2\theta}{2} \Rightarrow 3\cos^2\theta - 1 = \frac{1 + 3\cos 2\theta}{2}$



polar plot

compare to dipole $\phi_{\text{dip}} = \frac{p \cos\theta}{r^2}$



polar plot

Example

sample charge configs

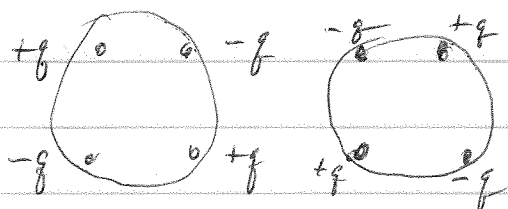
• $q \Rightarrow$ monopole is leading term

$\begin{matrix} +q & -q \end{matrix} \Rightarrow$ monopole $= 0 \Rightarrow$ dipole is leading term
 $\vec{p}$ is indep of origin

$\begin{matrix} +q & -q \\ -q & +q \end{matrix} \Rightarrow$ monopole $= 0 \Rightarrow$ total dipole is
sum of dipoles of individual neutral pairs

$\begin{matrix} \leftarrow + \\ + \rightarrow \end{matrix} = 0$

leading term is quadrupole



$$Q = Q_1 + Q_2$$

$$\text{with } Q_2 = -Q_1$$

$\Rightarrow Q = 0$ leading term is octopole

when monopole $= 0$ and dipole $= 0$,
quadrupole is indep of origin.
 $\rightarrow$ total quadrupole is sum of
quadrupoles of individual
clusters with $q = 0$ and $\vec{p} = 0$

Magnetostatics

$$\vec{B} = \vec{\nabla} \times \vec{A}, \quad \begin{cases} \vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{B} = 0 \\ \vec{\nabla} \times \vec{B} = \frac{4\pi \vec{j}}{c} \end{cases} \quad \text{Ampere's law (statics only!)}$$

$$\Rightarrow \vec{\nabla} \times (\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{A}) = \frac{4\pi \vec{j}}{c}$$

can write $\vec{\nabla} \times (\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{A}) = \vec{\nabla}(\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{A}) - \nabla^2 \vec{A}$

where by $\nabla^2 \vec{A}$ we mean $(\nabla^2 A_x) \hat{x} + (\nabla^2 A_y) \hat{y} + (\nabla^2 A_z) \hat{z}$

$\nabla^2 \vec{A}$ only has a single expression in Cartesian coords

If tried to write it in spherical coords, for example, one has

$$\begin{aligned} \nabla^2 \vec{A} &= \nabla^2 (A_r \hat{r} + A_\theta \hat{\theta} + A_\phi \hat{\phi}) \\ &= (\nabla^2 A_r) \hat{r} + A_r (\nabla^2 \hat{r}) + (\nabla^2 A_\theta) \hat{\theta} + A_\theta (\nabla^2 \hat{\theta}) \\ &\quad + (\nabla^2 A_\phi) \hat{\phi} + A_\phi (\nabla^2 \hat{\phi}) \end{aligned}$$

one must not forget to take the derivatives of $\hat{r}, \hat{\theta}, \hat{\phi}$ since they vary with position!

for example, $\hat{r} = \sin\theta \cos\phi \hat{x} + \sin\theta \sin\phi \hat{y} + \cos\theta \hat{z}$

one could compute $\nabla^2 \hat{r}$ by applying ∇^2 in spherical coords to each piece and summing up. Get a mess!

If work in Coulomb gauge, with $\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{A} = 0$, then

$$\vec{\nabla} \times (\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{A}) = \boxed{-\nabla^2 \vec{A} = \frac{4\pi \vec{j}}{c}} \quad \text{Poisson's equation!}$$

many of the same methods used to solve for electrostatic ϕ can therefore be applied to solve for magnetostatic $\vec{A}$. But vector nature of eqn makes for complications!

For simple geometries, one can do the Coulomb-like integral

$$\vec{A}(\vec{r}) = \frac{1}{c} \int d^3r' \frac{\vec{j}(\vec{r}')}{|\vec{r} - \vec{r}'|} \quad \text{three equations for } A_x, A_y, A_z !$$

for localized current sources $j(r) \rightarrow 0$ as $r \rightarrow \infty$

Multipole expansion - magnetic dipole moment

For a general treatment, analogous to how we did multipole expansion for electrostatics, one can use vector spherical harmonics - see Jackson Chpt 9.

Here we do a more straight forward approach, but only up to magnetic dipole term.

For $r \gg r'$ approx

$$\frac{1}{|\vec{r} - \vec{r}'|} = \frac{1}{(r^2 - 2\vec{r} \cdot \vec{r}' + r'^2)^{1/2}} = \frac{1}{r} \left[1 - \frac{2\vec{r} \cdot \vec{r}'}{r^2} + \left(\frac{r'}{r}\right)^2 \right]^{1/2}$$

do Taylor series to 1st order in $(\frac{r'}{r})$ to get

$$\frac{1}{|\vec{r} - \vec{r}'|} \approx \frac{1}{r} \left\{ 1 + \frac{\vec{r} \cdot \vec{r}'}{r^2} + \dots \right\} = \frac{1}{r} + \frac{\vec{r} \cdot \vec{r}'}{r^3} + \dots$$

$$\vec{A}(\vec{r}) = \overset{\textcircled{1}}{\int \frac{d^3r'}{c} \frac{\vec{j}(\vec{r}')}{r}} + \overset{\textcircled{2}}{\int \frac{d^3r'}{c} \vec{j}(\vec{r}') \frac{(\vec{r} \cdot \vec{r}')}{r^3}} + \dots$$

Consider term ①

$$\int d^3r \vec{j}(\vec{r}) \quad \int d^3r (\vec{j} \cdot \vec{r}) \vec{r} \quad \frac{\partial r_i}{\partial r_j} = \delta_{ij}$$

write $\int d^3r j_i(r) = \sum_{j=1}^3 \int d^3r j_j \frac{\partial r_i}{\partial r_j}$ integrate by parts
 for i^{th} component

$$= \sum_j \left\{ \oint_S da j_j r_i - \int d^3r \frac{\partial j_j}{\partial r_j} r_i \right\}$$

↑
 vanishes as $S \rightarrow \infty$ if
 $\vec{j}$ sufficiently localized
 i.e. $\vec{j}(\vec{r}) \rightarrow 0$ sufficiently
 fast as $r \rightarrow \infty$

↑
 vanishes in
 magnetostatics
 where $\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{j} = 0$

So $\int d^3r \vec{j}(\vec{r}) = 0$ in magnetostatics
 monopole term vanishes

term (2)

$$\int d^3r \vec{f}(\vec{r}) \vec{r} \quad \text{tensor}$$

Consider $\int d^3r \hat{j}_i r_j = \sum_k \int d^3r \hat{j}_k r_j \frac{\partial r_i}{\partial r_k}$ integrate by parts
 i, j^{th} element of tensor

$$= \sum_k \left\{ \oint_S da \hat{j}_k r_j r_i - \int d^3r \frac{\partial}{\partial r_k} (\hat{j}_k r_j) r_i \right\}$$

↑
 vanishes as $S \rightarrow \infty$ if $\vec{f}$ sufficiently localized

$$= - \sum_k \int d^3r \left(\frac{\partial \hat{j}_k}{\partial r_k} r_j r_i + \hat{j}_k \frac{\partial r_j}{\partial r_k} r_i \right)$$

↑
 vanishes as $\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{f} = 0$ in magnetostatics

↑
 $= \delta_{jk}$

$$= - \int d^3r \hat{j}_j r_i$$

$$\text{So } \int d^3r \hat{j}_i r_j = - \int d^3r \hat{j}_j r_i$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} \int d^3r (\hat{j}_i r_j - \hat{j}_j r_i)$$

Going back to term (2) in expansion for $\vec{A}$

So

$$\int d^3r' \hat{j}_i(\vec{r}') (\vec{r} \cdot \vec{r}') = \sum_{j=1}^3 r_j \int d^3r' \hat{j}_i(\vec{r}') r_j'$$

$$= \sum_j \frac{1}{2} \int d^3r' (\hat{j}_i r_j r_j' - r_j \hat{j}_j r_i')$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} \int d^3r' (\hat{j}_i (\vec{r} \cdot \vec{r}') - r_i' (\vec{r} \cdot \vec{f}))$$

use triple product rule

$$\vec{r} \times (\vec{r}' \times \vec{j}) = \vec{r}' (\vec{r} \cdot \vec{j}) - \vec{j} (\vec{r} \cdot \vec{r}')$$

to rewrite as

$$\int d^3r' \vec{j} (\vec{r} \cdot \vec{r}') = -\frac{1}{2} \hat{r} \times \left[\int d^3r' \vec{r}' \times \vec{j}(\vec{r}') \right]$$

define the magnetic dipole moment as

$$\boxed{\vec{m} \equiv \frac{1}{2c} \int d^3r' \vec{r}' \times \vec{j}(\vec{r}')} \quad \left(\text{SI units} \right)$$

then in the magnetic dipole approx (this is the lowest non-vanishing term)

$$\vec{A}_{\text{dip}}(\vec{r}) = -\frac{\vec{r} \times \vec{m}}{r^3} = \frac{\vec{m} \times \vec{r}}{r^3} = \frac{\vec{m} \times \hat{r}}{r^2}$$

What is the magnetic field in this approx?

$$\vec{B}_{\text{dip}} = \vec{\nabla} \times \vec{A}_{\text{dip}} = \vec{\nabla} \times \left(\vec{m} \times \frac{\vec{r}}{r^3} \right)$$

to do the double cross product, it is convenient to use the Levi-Civita symbol ϵ_{ijk} defined as

$$\epsilon_{ijk} = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{any two of the indices are equal} \end{cases}$$

$$i, j, k = 1, 2, 3 \quad \left\{ \begin{array}{l} +1 \\ -1 \end{array} \right. \quad \begin{array}{l} ijk \text{ are an even permutation of } 123 \\ ijk \text{ are an odd permutation of } 123 \end{array}$$

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} +1 \\ -1 \end{array} \right. \quad \begin{array}{l} ijk \text{ are an odd permutation of } 123 \\ ijk \text{ are an even permutation of } 123 \end{array}$$

$$\text{In terms of Levi-Civita symbol } (\vec{A} \times \vec{B})_i = \sum_{j=1}^3 \sum_{k=1}^3 \epsilon_{ijk} A_j B_k$$

check by writing out $\vec{A} \times \vec{B}$ in terms of components

Summation convention: when ever we have a pair of indices repeated, we sum over them, so

$$\epsilon_{ijk} A_j B_k = \sum_{j=1}^3 \sum_{k=1}^3 \epsilon_{ijk} A_j B_k$$

index j appears twice

index k appears twice

A very useful identity:

Kronecker deltas

$$\epsilon_{kij} \epsilon_{k\ell m} = \delta_{ie} \delta_{jm} - \delta_{im} \delta_{je}$$

so we now put this to use!

$\vec{B}_{\text{dip}}$ component

$$= \vec{\nabla} \times \left(\vec{m} \times \frac{\vec{r}}{r^3} \right)$$

$$(B_{\text{dip}})_i = \epsilon_{ijk} \partial_j \epsilon_{k\ell m} m_\ell \frac{r_m}{r^3}$$

$$\text{where } \partial_j \equiv \frac{\partial}{\partial r_j}$$

$$= \epsilon_{kij} \epsilon_{k\ell m} \partial_j \left(m_\ell \frac{r_m}{r^3} \right)$$

$\epsilon_{ijk} = \epsilon_{kij}$ as an even permutation takes one to the other

$$= (\delta_{ie} \delta_{jm} - \delta_{im} \delta_{je}) \partial_j \left(m_\ell \frac{r_m}{r^3} \right)$$

$$= m_i \partial_j \left(\frac{r_j}{r^3} \right) - m_j \partial_j \left(\frac{r_i}{r^3} \right)$$

$$\text{Now } \partial_j \left(\frac{r_j}{r^3} \right) = \vec{\nabla} \cdot \left(\frac{\vec{r}}{r^3} \right) = \vec{\nabla} \cdot \left(\frac{\hat{r}}{r^2} \right) = 4\pi \delta(\vec{r})$$

$$\partial_j \left(\frac{r_i}{r^3} \right) = \frac{1}{r^3} \frac{\partial r_i}{\partial r_j} - \frac{3r_i}{r^4} \frac{\partial r}{\partial r_j}$$

by product rule
and $\frac{\partial r_i}{\partial r_j} = \delta_{ij}$

$$\text{Now } \frac{\partial r}{\partial x} = \frac{\partial \sqrt{x^2 + y^2 + z^2}}{\partial x} = \frac{x}{r} \quad \text{so} \quad \frac{\partial r}{\partial r_j} = \frac{r_j}{r}$$

don't care about this term since we only want $\vec{B}$ for, away from current where $\delta(\vec{r}) = 0$.

so

$$(\vec{B}_{\text{dip}})_i = m_i 4\pi \delta(\vec{r}) - m_j \left[\frac{\delta_{ij}}{r^3} - \frac{3r_i r_j}{r^5} \right]$$

$$= -\frac{m_i}{r^3} + \frac{3(\vec{m} \cdot \vec{r}) r_i}{r^5}$$

$$= -\frac{m_i}{r^3} + \frac{3(\vec{m} \cdot \hat{r}) \hat{r}_i}{r^3}$$

so

$$\boxed{\vec{B}_{\text{dip}} = \frac{3(\vec{m} \cdot \hat{r}) \hat{r} - \vec{m}}{r^3}}$$