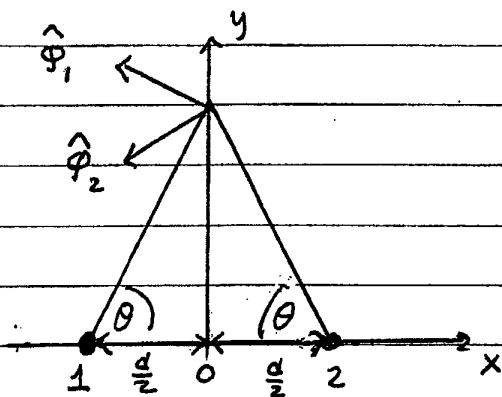


1) Top view of the wires



wires out of plane of page

At the point  $(x=0, y, z)$  on the plane that bisects the space between the two wires,

$$\vec{B} = \frac{2I_1}{c\sqrt{(\frac{d}{2})^2 + y^2}} \hat{\phi}_1 + \frac{2I_2}{c\sqrt{(\frac{d}{2})^2 + y^2}} \hat{\phi}_2$$

where  $\hat{\phi}_1$  and  $\hat{\phi}_2$  are the polar angle unit vectors with respect to wires 1 and 2 (see diagram)

$$\hat{\phi}_1 = \cos\theta \hat{y} - \sin\theta \hat{x}$$

$$\hat{\phi}_2 = -\cos\theta \hat{y} - \sin\theta \hat{x}$$

$$\cos\theta = \frac{d/2}{\sqrt{(\frac{d}{2})^2 + y^2}}$$

$$\sin\theta = \frac{y}{\sqrt{(\frac{d}{2})^2 + y^2}}$$

So on the  $yz$  plane separating the two wires

$$\vec{B}(y) = \frac{2\cos\theta}{c\sqrt{(\frac{d}{2})^2 + y^2}} (I_1 - I_2) \hat{y} - \frac{2\sin\theta}{c\sqrt{(\frac{d}{2})^2 + y^2}} (I_1 + I_2) \hat{x}$$

$$\vec{B} = \frac{d(I_1 - I_2)}{c[(\frac{d}{2})^2 + y^2]} \hat{y} - \frac{2y(I_1 + I_2)}{c[(\frac{d}{2})^2 + y^2]} \hat{x}$$

when  $I_1 = I_2$ , 1st term vanishes!  $\vec{B} = B \hat{x}$ when  $I_1 = -I_2$ , 2nd term vanishes!  $\vec{B} = B \hat{y}$

## Maxwell stress tensor

$$\text{when } \vec{E} = 0 \quad T_{ij} = \frac{1}{4\pi} \left\{ B_i B_j - \frac{1}{2} \delta_{ij} B^2 \right\}$$

$$\text{we want } - \int da \, \vec{T} \cdot \hat{n} = - \int dz \int dy \, \vec{T} \cdot \hat{x}$$

$$\vec{T} \cdot \hat{x} = T_{xx} \hat{x} + T_{yx} \hat{y} + T_{zx} \hat{z}$$

$$\text{Since } \vec{B} = \frac{d(I_1 - I_2)}{c[y^2 + (\frac{d}{2})^2]} \hat{y} - \frac{2y(I_1 + I_2)}{c[y^2 + (\frac{d}{2})^2]} \hat{x}$$

has only x and y components, then  $T_{xz} = T_{yz} = 0$

$$T_{ij} = \frac{1}{4\pi} \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{2} B_x^2 - \frac{1}{2} B_y^2 & B_x B_y & 0 \\ B_y B_x & \frac{1}{2} B_y^2 - \frac{1}{2} B_x^2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -\frac{1}{2} (B_x^2 + B_y^2) \end{pmatrix}$$

Consider the term  $\int dy \, T_{yx}$

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dy \, T_{yx} = \frac{1}{4\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dy \, B_x B_y = \frac{-1}{4\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dy \, \frac{d(I_1 - I_2) 2y(I_1 + I_2)}{c^2 [y^2 + (\frac{d}{2})^2]^2}$$

= 0 since integrand is odd in  $y$ .

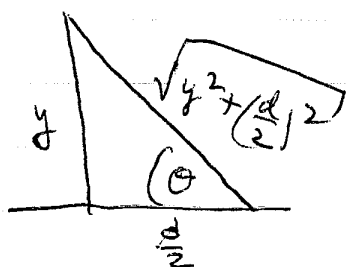
So the only term that contributes to

$$\int da \, \vec{T} \cdot \hat{n} \text{ is } \hat{x} \int da \, T_{xx}$$

$$\int da T_{xx} = \frac{1}{8\pi} \int dz \int dy \left[ B_x^2 - B_y^2 \right]$$

$$= \frac{1}{8\pi c^2} \int dz \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dy \left[ \frac{4y^2 (I_1 + I_2)^2}{(y^2 + (\frac{d}{2})^2)^2} - \frac{d^2 (I_1 - I_2)^2}{(y^2 + (\frac{d}{2})^2)^2} \right]$$

To do the integrals do a trig substitution of variables



$$\Rightarrow \frac{y^2}{[y^2 + (\frac{d}{2})^2]} = \sin^2 \theta$$

$$\frac{1}{[y^2 + (\frac{d}{2})^2]} = \left(\frac{2}{d}\right)^2 \cos^2 \theta$$

$$y = \frac{d}{2} \tan \theta \Rightarrow dy = \frac{d}{2} \frac{d \tan \theta}{d\theta} d\theta = \frac{d}{2} \frac{d\theta}{\cos^2 \theta}$$

$$\int da T_{xx} = \frac{1}{8\pi c^2} \int dz \int_{-\frac{\pi}{2}}^{\frac{\pi}{2}} d\theta \frac{d}{2 \cos^2 \theta} \left[ 4(I_1 + I_2)^2 \sin^2 \theta \left(\frac{2}{d}\right)^2 \cos^2 \theta - d^2 (I_1 - I_2)^2 \left(\frac{2}{d}\right)^4 \cos^2 \theta \right]$$

$$= \frac{1}{8\pi c^2} \frac{d}{d} \int dz \int_{-\frac{\pi}{2}}^{\frac{\pi}{2}} d\theta \left[ (I_1 + I_2)^2 \sin^2 \theta - (I_1 - I_2)^2 \cos^2 \theta \right]$$

$$= \frac{1}{\pi d c^2} \int dz \frac{\pi}{2} \left[ (I_1 + I_2)^2 - (I_1 - I_2)^2 \right]$$

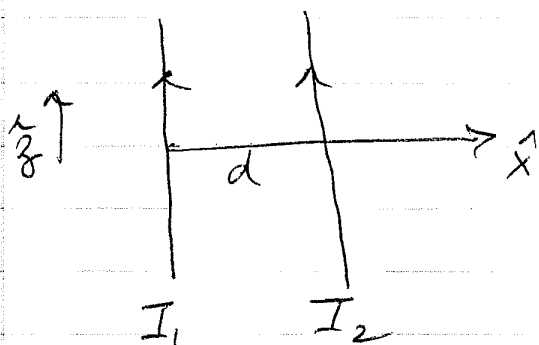
$$= \frac{L_3}{2 d c^2} \left[ I_1^2 + I_2^2 + 2 I_1 I_2 - (I_1^2 + I_2^2 - 2 I_1 I_2) \right]$$

$$= \frac{2 L_3}{d c^2} I_1 I_2$$

So 
$$-\int da \vec{T} \cdot \hat{n} = -2 L_3 \frac{I_1 I_2}{c^2} \hat{x}$$

for all values of  $I_1$  and  $I_2$

The above is exactly equal to the magnetostatic force on wire 2 due to the magnetic field of wire 1.



$$\vec{F}_2 = L_3 \frac{\vec{I}_2}{c} \times \vec{B}_1$$

$$= L_3 \frac{I_2}{c} \hat{z} \times \left( \frac{2 I_1}{d c} \hat{y} \right)$$

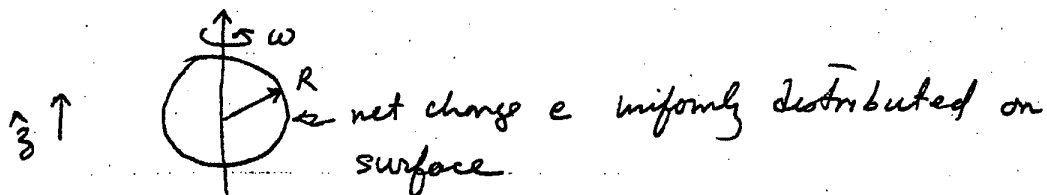
$$= -2 \frac{L_3 I_1 I_2}{d c^2} \hat{x}$$

If  $I_1$  and  $I_2$  are in the same direction, the force is attractive.

If  $I_1$  and  $I_2$  are in opposite directions, the force is repulsive.

- $\int da \vec{T} \cdot \hat{n}$  is the flux of electromagnetic momentum passing through the plane which is the total electromagnetic force on the plane (force = momentum / time) pushing from side 1 to side 2. We would get the same result if we computed  $-\int da \vec{T} \cdot \hat{n}$  over any  $y-z$  plane in between the two wires (not just midway). We can view this like an electromagnetic pressure that fills space and transmits the force from wire 1 to wire 2.

2)



first we find  $\vec{E} + \vec{B}$  fields. The above is an electrostatic and magnetostatic situation, since  $\frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} = 0$  and  $\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{j} = 0$

$$\vec{E}(\vec{r}) = \begin{cases} e \frac{\hat{r}}{r^2} & r > R \\ 0 & r < R \end{cases}$$

outside spherical shell,  $\vec{E}$  looks just like pt charge at the origin

From problem Set 5, problem 1(b), we had

$$r \leq R \quad \vec{B} = \frac{5\pi\sigma}{3c} \omega R \hat{z}$$

$$\text{here } \sigma = \frac{e}{4\pi R^2}$$

$$\vec{B} = \frac{2e\omega}{3cR} \hat{z}$$

$$r \geq R \quad \vec{B} = \frac{4}{3c} \pi \sigma \omega R^4 \frac{2\cos\theta \hat{r} + \sin\theta \hat{\theta}}{r^3}$$

$$\vec{B} = \frac{e\omega R^2}{3c r^3} [2\cos\theta \hat{r} + \sin\theta \hat{\theta}]$$

This is just a dipole field with total dipole moment  $|\vec{m}| = \frac{e\omega R^2}{3c} = \frac{4\pi\omega\sigma R^4}{3c}$

a) The total electromagnetic energy is

$$W = \frac{1}{8\pi} \int d^3r [E^2 + B^2]$$

Since this is an electrostatic and magnetostatic situation it is easier to use

$$W = \frac{1}{2} \int d^3r \rho \phi + \frac{1}{2c} \int d^3r \vec{j} \cdot \vec{A}$$

since then the integrals are confined to the shell  $r=R$  where  $\rho$  and  $\vec{j}$  are not zero.

We have for electrostatic potential

$$\phi(r) = \begin{cases} \frac{e}{r} & r \geq R \\ \frac{e}{R} & r \leq R \end{cases}$$

$$W_{elec} = \frac{1}{2} \int d^3r \rho \phi = \frac{1}{2} 4\pi R^2 \sigma \phi(R) = \frac{1}{2} \frac{e^2}{R}$$

For the magnetostatic vector potential we have

$$\vec{A}(\vec{r}) = \frac{\vec{m} \times \hat{r}}{r^2} = \frac{m \sin \theta}{r^2} \hat{\phi} \quad r \geq R$$

since  $\vec{B}$  is a pure dipole field. The magnetic dipole moment is

$$\vec{m} = \frac{4\pi}{3c} \omega \sigma R^4$$

$$\vec{A}(r=R) = \frac{4\pi}{3c} \omega \sigma R^2 \sin \theta \hat{\phi}$$

$$W_{\text{mag}} = \frac{1}{2c} \int d^3r \vec{j} \cdot \vec{A} = \frac{1}{2} \int da \vec{k} \cdot \vec{A}$$

$$\vec{k} = \sigma \omega R \sin \theta \hat{\phi} \quad (\text{see prob 1a, Set 5})$$

$$W_{\text{mag}} = \frac{1}{2c} \int da \frac{4\pi}{3c} \omega^2 \sigma^2 R^3 \sin^2 \theta$$

$$= \frac{2\pi R^2}{2c} \frac{4\pi}{3c} \omega^2 \sigma^2 R^3 \int_0^\pi d\theta \sin \theta \sin^2 \theta$$

$$= \frac{4\pi^2}{3c^2} \omega^2 \sigma^2 R^5 \int_0^\pi d\theta \sin \theta [1 - \cos^2 \theta]$$

$$= \left[ -\cos \theta + \frac{\cos^3 \theta}{3} \right]_0^\pi$$

$$= \left(1 - \frac{1}{3}\right) - \left(-1 + \frac{1}{3}\right) = \frac{4}{3}$$

$$W_{\text{mag}} = \frac{(4\pi)^2}{9c^2} \omega^2 \sigma^2 R^5 = \frac{(4\pi)^2}{9c^2} \omega^2 \frac{e^2 R^5}{(4\pi R^2)^2}$$

$$= \frac{\omega^2 e^2 R}{9c^2}$$

$$W = W_{\text{elec}} + W_{\text{mag}}$$

$$W = \frac{1}{2} \frac{e^2}{R} \left[ 1 + \frac{2}{9} \frac{R^2 \omega^2}{c^2} \right]$$

b) Angular momentum density

$$\vec{L} = \vec{r} \times \vec{\Pi} = \frac{1}{4\pi c} \vec{r} \times (\vec{E} \times \vec{B})$$

$L = 0$  inside shell since  $\vec{E} = 0$  inside  
outside shell

$$\vec{E} \times \vec{B} = \frac{e}{r^2} \hat{r} \times \left[ \frac{e\omega R^2}{3c r^3} (2\cos\theta \hat{r} + \sin\theta \hat{\theta}) \right]$$

$$= \frac{e^2 \omega R^2}{3c r^5} \sin\theta \hat{\phi} \quad \text{as } \hat{r} \times \hat{\theta} = \hat{\phi}$$

$$\vec{L} = \frac{1}{4\pi c} \hat{r} \times (\vec{E} \times \vec{B}) = -\frac{e^2 \omega R^2}{12\pi c^2 r^4} \sin\theta \hat{\theta} \quad \text{as } \hat{r} \times \hat{\phi} = -\hat{\theta}$$

$$\boxed{\vec{L} = -\frac{e^2 \omega R^2}{12\pi c^2 r^4} \sin\theta \hat{\theta}} \quad r \geq R, \quad L=0, \quad r \leq R$$

integrate over all space to get total angular momentum

$$\vec{L} = \int d^3r \vec{L} = 2\pi \int_0^\pi d\theta \sin\theta \int_0^\infty dr r^2 \vec{L}$$

By symmetry we only need to integrate  $L_z$   
since other components will vanish.

$$\hat{\theta} \cdot \hat{z} = -\sin \theta \Rightarrow L_z = \frac{e^2 \omega R^2}{12 \pi c^2 r^4} \sin^2 \theta$$

$$L_z = \frac{e^2 \omega R^2}{12 \pi c^2} \underbrace{2\pi \int_0^\pi d\theta \sin^3 \theta}_{\frac{4}{3}} \underbrace{\int_R^\infty dr \frac{1}{r^2}}_{\frac{1}{R}} \quad \text{since } L=0 \text{ for } r \leq R$$

$$L_z = \frac{2}{9} \frac{e^2 \omega R}{c^2}$$

c)

$$L_z = \frac{2}{9} \frac{e^2 \omega R}{c^2} = \frac{\hbar}{2}$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{\omega R}{c} = \frac{9}{4} \frac{\hbar c}{e^2}$$

$$\text{use } \frac{\hbar c}{e^2} = 137 = \frac{1}{\alpha}$$

fine structure constant

$$\frac{\omega R}{c} = \left(\frac{9}{4}\right)(137) = 308.25$$

so the velocity at the equator is

$$\boxed{\omega R = 308.25 c}$$

much faster than the speed of light!

clearly this model cannot be correct!

(2.6)

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{d)} \quad W &= \frac{1}{2} \frac{e^2}{R} \left[ 1 + \frac{2}{9} \left( \frac{R\omega}{c} \right)^2 \right] \\
 &= \frac{1}{2} \frac{e^2}{R} \left[ 1 + \frac{2}{9} \left( \frac{9}{4} \right)^2 (137)^2 \right] \\
 W &= \frac{1}{2} \frac{e^2}{R} [2.1116 \times 10^4] = mc^2
 \end{aligned}$$

$$R = \frac{1}{2} \frac{e^2}{mc^2} (2.1116 \times 10^4)$$

if  $a_0$  is Bohr radius

$$\frac{R}{a_0} = \frac{1}{2} \frac{e^2}{a_0 mc^2} (2.1116 \times 10^4)$$

$$\text{use } \frac{e^2}{2a_0} = 13.6 \text{ eV}, \quad mc^2 = 0.511 \times 10^6 \text{ eV}$$

$$\text{so } \frac{R}{a_0} = \frac{(13.6)(2.1116 \times 10^4)}{0.511 \times 10^6} = \boxed{0.562 = \frac{R}{a_0}}$$

electron radius is  $\sim \frac{1}{2}$  Bohr radius! clearly not correct! Much too big!

$$\text{Putting in numbers: } R = (0.562)(0.529 \times 10^{-8} \text{ cm}) = 0.297 \text{ \AA}$$

$$\omega = \frac{(309.25)(3 \times 10^{10} \text{ cm/sec})}{(0.297 \times 10^{-8} \text{ cm})} = 3.11 \times 10^{21} \frac{\text{rads}}{\text{sec}}$$

## Problem Set 8, problem 2

In my solution to problem 2 on Problem Set 8, I computed the electromagnetic energy of the spinning charged sphere,

$$W = \frac{1}{8\pi} \int d^3r [|\mathbf{E}|^2 + |\mathbf{B}|^2] \quad (1)$$

as

$$W = \frac{1}{2} \int d^3r \rho \phi + \frac{1}{2c} \int d^2r \mathbf{j} \cdot \mathbf{A} \quad (2)$$

which should be correct in an electrostatic and magnetostatic situation such as we have in the problem.

I then wrote the above as,

$$W = \frac{1}{2} \oint_S da \sigma \phi + \frac{1}{2c} \oint_S da \mathbf{K} \cdot \mathbf{A} \quad \text{with } S \text{ the surface of the sphere of radius } R \quad (3)$$

since all the charge and current are restricted to the surface of the sphere. Here  $\sigma = e/(4\pi R^2)$  is the surface charge density, and  $\mathbf{K} = \sigma \omega R \sin \theta \hat{\boldsymbol{\phi}}$  is the surface current density.

But you may have wondered, is that OK to do? When I compute the above surface integrals, should I use the values of  $\phi$  and  $\mathbf{A}$  just on the outside of the surface of the sphere, or should I use their values just on the inside of the surface of the sphere? There could possibly be a difference if either  $\phi$  or  $\mathbf{A}$  were discontinuous at the surface.

The answer is, YES! it is OK to do. One reason is that one can choose potentials  $\phi$  and  $\mathbf{A}$  that are continuous at the surface  $S$ , so it does not matter if we use the values just outside or just inside. We can also directly compute the energy  $W$  using Eq. (1) and confirm we get the same answer.

### Electrostatic Energy

For the electrostatic part of the problem, we know that  $\phi$  can be chosen to be continuous at the surface. The electric field due to the uniform surface charge on the sphere is,

$$\mathbf{E} = \begin{cases} \frac{q}{r^2} \hat{\mathbf{r}} & r > R \quad \text{outside} \\ 0 & r < R \quad \text{inside} \end{cases} \quad (4)$$

and we can take as the potential

$$\phi = \begin{cases} \frac{q}{r} & r > R \quad \text{outside} \\ \frac{q}{R} & r < R \quad \text{inside} \end{cases} \quad (5)$$

You can confirm that the above satisfies  $\mathbf{E} = -\nabla\phi$ . Since  $\phi(r)$  is continuous at  $r = R$ , there is no problem defining the integral  $\oint da \sigma \phi$ . But we can also explicitly compute  $W_{\text{elec}}$  from  $\mathbf{E}$ ,

$$W_{\text{elec}} = \frac{1}{8\pi} \int d^2r |\mathbf{E}|^2 = \frac{1}{8\pi} 4\pi \int_R^\infty dr r^2 E^2 = \frac{q^2}{2} \int_0^\infty dr \frac{1}{r^2} = \frac{q^2}{2R} \quad (6)$$

which is exactly the same as we found from  $\frac{1}{2} \oint da \sigma \phi$ .

### Magnetostatic Energy

For the magnetostatic part of the problem, we have the magnetic field from problem 1 of Problem Set 5,

$$\mathbf{B} = \begin{cases} \frac{m}{r^3} [2 \cos \theta \hat{\mathbf{r}} + \sin \theta \hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}}] & r > R \quad \text{outside} \\ \frac{2m}{R^3} \hat{\mathbf{z}} & r < R \quad \text{inside} \end{cases} \quad (7)$$

where the magnetic dipole moment is  $\mathbf{m} = m\hat{\mathbf{z}}$  with  $m = \frac{e\omega R^2}{3c}$ . Outside the magnetic field is just like a point magnetic dipole with dipole moment  $\mathbf{m}$ , while inside the magnetic field is constant.

The vector potential for the field outside is therefore just the dipole vector potential,

$$\mathbf{A}^{\text{out}} = \frac{\mathbf{m} \times \hat{\mathbf{r}}}{r^3} = \frac{m \sin \theta}{r^2} \hat{\boldsymbol{\phi}} \quad (8)$$

To get the vector potential inside, we note that a constant magnetic field  $B\hat{\mathbf{z}}$  can be given by the potential

$$\mathbf{A} = \frac{B}{2}[x\hat{\mathbf{y}} - y\hat{\mathbf{x}}] \quad \Rightarrow \quad \nabla \times \mathbf{A} = B\hat{\mathbf{z}} \quad (9)$$

Now  $\hat{\mathbf{z}} \times \mathbf{r} = \hat{\mathbf{z}} \times (x\hat{\mathbf{x}} + y\hat{\mathbf{y}} + z\hat{\mathbf{z}}) = (x\hat{\mathbf{y}} - y\hat{\mathbf{x}})$ , so we can rewrite the above as,  $\mathbf{A} = \frac{B}{2}\hat{\mathbf{z}} \times \mathbf{r} = \frac{Br \sin \theta}{2}\hat{\boldsymbol{\phi}}$ . So we therefore have,

$$\mathbf{A}^{\text{in}} = \frac{2m}{R^3} \frac{r \sin \theta}{2} \hat{\boldsymbol{\phi}} = \frac{mr \sin \theta}{R^3} \hat{\boldsymbol{\phi}} \quad (10)$$

Evaluating on the surface at  $r = R$  we have,

$$\mathbf{A}^{\text{out}} = \frac{m \sin \theta}{R^2} \hat{\boldsymbol{\phi}}, \quad \mathbf{A}^{\text{in}} = \frac{mR \sin \theta}{R^3} \hat{\boldsymbol{\phi}} = \frac{m \sin \theta}{R^2} \hat{\boldsymbol{\phi}} \quad (11)$$

and so on the surface of the sphere  $\mathbf{A}^{\text{out}} = \mathbf{A}^{\text{in}}$  and the vector potential is continuous. Hence there is no problem defining the integral  $\oint d\mathbf{a} \mathbf{K} \cdot \mathbf{A}$ . You might ask, what if we chose a different form for  $\mathbf{A}^{\text{in}}$  than that of Eq. (9). But we have shown in an earlier discussion question that  $\int d^3r \mathbf{j} \cdot \mathbf{A}$  is independent of the gauge of  $\mathbf{A}$ , and one can show that the same is true of a surface term  $\oint d\mathbf{a} \mathbf{K} \cdot \mathbf{A}$ .

We can also check that we have the correct answer by directly computing  $W_{\text{mag}}$  from  $\mathbf{B}$ .

$$W_{\text{mag}} = \frac{1}{8\pi} \int d^3r |\mathbf{B}|^2 = \frac{1}{8\pi} \int_{\text{outside}} d^3r |\mathbf{B}^{\text{out}}|^2 + \frac{1}{8\pi} \int_{\text{inside}} d^3r |\mathbf{B}^{\text{in}}|^2 \quad (12)$$

Since  $\mathbf{B}^{\text{in}} = (2m/R^3)\hat{\mathbf{z}}$  is constant, the contribution from the inside is,

$$W_{\text{mag,in}} = \frac{1}{8\pi} \frac{4\pi R^3}{3} \left( \frac{2m}{R^3} \right)^2 = \frac{2m^2}{3R^3} \quad (13)$$

Since  $\mathbf{B}^{\text{out}} = m(2 \cos \theta \hat{\mathbf{r}} + \sin \theta \hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}})/r^3$ , the contribution from the outside is,

$$W_{\text{mag,out}} = \frac{1}{8\pi} m^2 \int_0^{2\pi} d\varphi \int_0^\pi d\theta \sin \theta \int_R^\infty dr r^2 \frac{4 \cos^2 \theta + \sin^2 \theta}{r^6} \quad (14)$$

$$= \frac{1}{8\pi} m^2 2\pi \int_0^\pi d\theta (4 \sin \theta \cos^2 \theta + \sin^3 \theta) \int_R^\infty dr \frac{1}{r^4} \quad (15)$$

$$= \frac{m^2}{4} \frac{1}{3R^3} \int_0^\pi d\theta (4 \sin \theta \cos^2 \theta + \sin \theta [1 - \cos^2 \theta]) \quad (16)$$

$$= \frac{m^2}{12R^3} \left[ -\frac{4}{3} \cos^3 \theta - \cos \theta + \frac{1}{3} \cos^3 \theta \right]_0^\pi = \frac{m^2}{12R^3} [4] = \frac{m^2}{3R^3} \quad (17)$$

Note,  $W_{\text{mag,in}} = 2W_{\text{mag,out}}$ . So the total magnetostatic energy stored in the magnetic fields is,

$$W_{\text{mag}} = W_{\text{mag,in}} + W_{\text{mag,out}} = \frac{2m^2}{3R^3} + \frac{m^2}{3R^3} = \frac{m^2}{R^3} \quad (18)$$

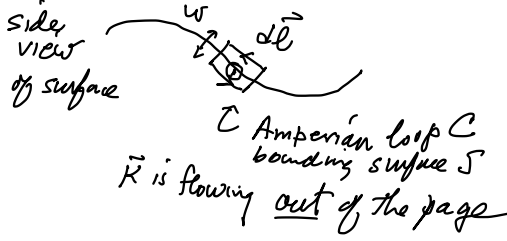
Using  $m = e\omega R^2/3c$ , we then get,

$$W_{\text{mag}} = \frac{e^2\omega^2 R^4}{9c^2 R^3} = \frac{e^2\omega^2 R}{9c^2} \quad (19)$$

This is the same result as we obtained from  $(1/2c) \oint da \mathbf{K} \cdot \mathbf{A}$ .

### General Comments

One can ask, is it just some peculiarity of this particular example that caused  $\mathbf{A}^{\text{in}} = \mathbf{A}^{\text{out}}$  on the surface of the sphere? Might it be different for some other situation?



Let us consider the behavior of  $\mathbf{A}$  at a surface current. Take a small Amperian loop  $C$  of length  $dl$  parallel to the surface, and width  $w$  perpendicular to the surface. By Stokes law we can write for the magnetic flux through that loop,

$$\int_S da \hat{\mathbf{n}} \cdot \mathbf{B} = \int_S da \hat{\mathbf{n}} \cdot (\nabla \times \mathbf{A}) = \oint_C d\ell \cdot \mathbf{A} \quad (20)$$

where  $S$  is the surface bounded by the Amperian loop  $C$  and  $\hat{\mathbf{n}}$  is the normal to that surface.

As we take  $w \rightarrow 0$ , the flux through the loop vanishes as  $\mathbf{B}$  stays finite. The contribution of the sides of width  $w$  to the circulation of  $\mathbf{A}$  around the loop also vanishes. We thus get,

$$0 = d\ell \cdot (\mathbf{A}^{\text{above}} - \mathbf{A}^{\text{below}}) \quad (21)$$

Since  $d\ell$  can point in any direction within the tangent plane of the surface, we conclude that the tangential component of  $\mathbf{A}$  must always be continuous at a surface current.

Now consider,

$$\int da \mathbf{K} \cdot \mathbf{A} \quad (22)$$

where the integral is over a surface containing the surface current  $\mathbf{K}$ . Since  $\mathbf{K}$  necessarily lies in a direction tangent to the surface, it is only the tangential component of  $\mathbf{A}$  that contributes to this integral. Since the tangential components of  $\mathbf{A}^{\text{above}}$  and  $\mathbf{A}^{\text{below}}$  must be equal, it therefore does not matter whether we use  $\mathbf{A}^{\text{above}}$  or  $\mathbf{A}^{\text{below}}$  when computing this integral – we must get the same answer in either case.