

Tuesday, November 14, 2017

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## Liénard-Wiechert Potentials for a point charge in motion

Retarded potential:

$$V(\vec{r}, t) = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \int \frac{\rho(\vec{r}', t_{r'})}{|\vec{r} - \vec{r}'|} d^3r' \quad \text{with } \rho = q \delta(\vec{r}' - \vec{r}_q(t_{r'}))$$
$$= \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{q}{|\vec{r} - \vec{r}_q(t_r)|} \quad \text{naïve answer}$$

However, last time we showed that in 1D:  $\int q \delta(\vec{r}' - \vec{r}_q(t_{r'})) dr' = \frac{q}{1 - v/c}$

in 3D:

$$\int \frac{\rho(\vec{r}'_q(t_{r'}), t_{r'})}{q \delta(\vec{r}' - \vec{r}_q(t_{r'}))} d^3r'(t_{r'}) = \frac{q}{1 - \vec{v} \cdot \frac{\vec{r} - \vec{r}_q(t_r)}{c}}$$

$\vec{v}$  = velocity of charge  $q$   
at  $t_r$

$$\text{Thus, } V(\vec{r}, t) = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \int \frac{\rho(\vec{r}'(t_{r'}), t_{r'})}{|\vec{r} - \vec{r}'(t_{r'})|} d^3r'(t_{r'})$$

$$= \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{q}{1 - \vec{v} \cdot \frac{\vec{r} - \vec{r}_q(t_r)}{c}} \frac{1}{|\vec{r} - \vec{r}_q(t_r)|}$$

$$\Rightarrow V(\vec{r}, t) = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{qc}{|\vec{r} - \vec{r}_q(t_r)| c - \vec{v} \cdot (\vec{r} - \vec{r}_q(t_r))}$$

↑  
at  $t_r$

Similarly,

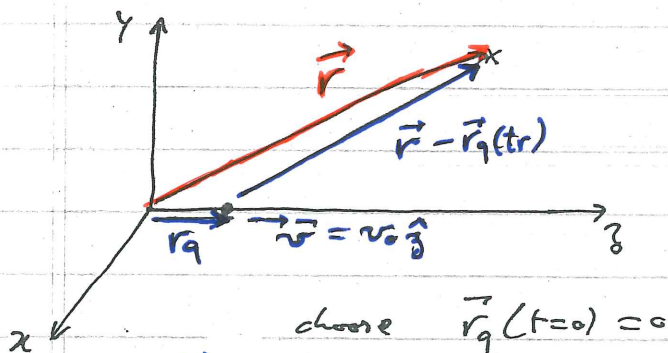
$$\vec{A}(\vec{r}, t) = \frac{\mu_0}{4\pi} \frac{c q \vec{v}(t_r)}{|\vec{r} - \vec{r}_q(t_r)| c - \vec{v} \cdot (\vec{r} - \vec{r}_q(t_r))} = \frac{\vec{v}(t_r) V(\vec{r}, t)}{c^2}$$

Liénard - Wiechert electrodynamic potentials for a point charge in ~~uniform~~ motion, (in Lorentz gauge)

Electromagnetic Fields of moving and accelerating point charges

Point charge in uniform motion

Consider a point charge in uniform motion:



$$t_r = t - \frac{|\vec{r} - \vec{r}_q(t_r)|}{c}$$

choose  $\vec{r}_q(t=0) = 0$

$$\begin{aligned} \vec{r}_q(t) &= v_0 t \hat{z} \\ \Rightarrow \vec{r}_q(t_r) &= v_0 t_r \hat{z} \end{aligned}$$

$$V(\vec{r}, t) = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{q c}{|\vec{r} - \vec{r}_q(t_r)| c - \vec{v}(t_r) \cdot (\vec{r} - \vec{r}_q(t_r))}$$

$$\vec{A}(\vec{r}, t) = \frac{\vec{v}(t_r) V(\vec{r}, t)}{c^2}$$

Roadmap: - Calculate  $V(\vec{r}, t) \rightarrow$  get  $\vec{A}(\vec{r}, t)$

- Calculate  $\vec{E} \pm \vec{B}$  using

$$\begin{cases} \vec{E} = -\vec{\nabla}V - \frac{\partial \vec{A}}{\partial t} \\ \vec{B} = \vec{\nabla} \times \vec{A} \end{cases}$$

We need to determine the retarded time  $t_r(t)$

retarded time is defined implicitly:  $|\vec{r} - \vec{r}_q(t_r)| = c(t - t_r)$

$$\Leftrightarrow \sqrt{x^2 + y^2 + (z - v_0 t_r)^2} = c(t - t_r)$$

$$\vec{r}_q(t_r) = v_0 t_r \hat{z}$$

$$\Rightarrow x^2 + y^2 + (z - v_0 t_r)^2 = c^2(t - t_r)^2 \quad (*)$$

$$\Leftrightarrow x^2 + y^2 + z^2 + v_0^2 t_r^2 - 2z v_0 t_r = c^2 t^2 - c^2 t_r^2 + 2c^2 t_r t = 0$$

$$\Leftrightarrow (c^2 - v_0^2) t_r^2 - 2(c^2 t - z v_0) t_r - [(x^2 + y^2 + z^2) - c^2 t^2] = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow t_{r\pm} = \frac{2(c^2 t - z v_0) \pm \sqrt{4(c^2 t - z v_0)^2 + 4(c^2 - v_0^2)(x^2 + y^2 + z^2 - c^2 t^2)}}{2(c^2 - v_0^2)}$$

$$\text{if } v_0 = 0 \text{ then } t_{r\pm} = \frac{c^2 t \pm \sqrt{(c^2 t)^2 + c^2(x^2 + y^2 + z^2 - c^2 t^2)}}{c^2 - v_0^2}$$

$$= t \pm \frac{\sqrt{x^2 + y^2 + z^2}}{c} \left\{ \begin{array}{l} + \text{ advanced time} \\ - \text{ retarded time} \end{array} \right.$$

We will use  $t_r \rightarrow$  retarded time

$$t_r = \frac{(c^2 t - z v_0) - \sqrt{(c^2 t - z v_0)^2 + (c^2 - v_0^2)(x^2 + y^2 + z^2 - c^2 t^2)}}{c^2 - v_0^2}$$

We can now calculate the denominator of  $V(\vec{r}, t)$ :

$$|\vec{r} - \vec{r}_q(t_r)| c - \underbrace{\vec{v}(t_r) \cdot (\vec{r} - \vec{r}_q(t_r))}_{v_0 z - v_0^2 t_r} = v_0 (z - v_0 t_r)$$

$$= c \sqrt{\underbrace{x^2 + y^2 + (z - v_0 t_r)^2}_{c^2 (t - t_r)^2 \text{ see (*)}}} - v_0 (z - v_0 t_r)$$

$$= c^2 (t - t_r) - v_0 (z - v_0 t_r)$$

$$= c^2 t - v_0 z - (c^2 - v_0^2) t_r$$

now replace  $t_r$

$$= \cancel{c^2 t - v_0 z} - \cancel{(c^2 - v_0^2)} \left\{ \frac{\cancel{c^2 t - z v_0} - \sqrt{\cancel{(c^2 t - z v_0)^2 + (c^2 - v_0^2)(x^2 + y^2 + z^2 - c^2 t^2)}}}{\cancel{c^2 - v_0^2}} \right\}$$

$$= \sqrt{\cancel{c^4 t^2} + \cancel{z^2 v_0^2} - 2c^2 t z v_0 + (c^2 - v_0^2)(x^2 + y^2) + \cancel{c^2 z^2} - \cancel{v_0^2 z^2} - \cancel{c^4 t^2} + \cancel{c^2 t^2 v_0^2}}$$

$$= \sqrt{c^2 (z - v_0 t)^2 + (c^2 - v_0^2)(x^2 + y^2)}$$

$$= c \sqrt{(z - v_0 t)^2 + \left(1 - \left(\frac{v_0}{c}\right)^2\right)(x^2 + y^2)}$$

$$= c \sqrt{1 - \left(\frac{v_0}{c}\right)^2} \sqrt{x^2 + y^2 + \left(\frac{z - v_0 t}{\sqrt{1 - \left(\frac{v_0}{c}\right)^2}}\right)^2}$$

thus

$$V(\vec{r}, t) = \frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 - \left(\frac{v_0}{c}\right)^2} \sqrt{x^2 + y^2 + \left(\frac{z - v_0 t}{\sqrt{1 - \left(\frac{v_0}{c}\right)^2}}\right)^2}}$$

and  $\vec{A}(\vec{r}, t) = \frac{qv_0 \hat{z}}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r^2 \frac{1}{\mu_0} \sqrt{1 - \left(\frac{v_0}{c}\right)^2} \sqrt{x^2 + y^2 + \left(\frac{z - v_0 t}{\sqrt{1 - \left(\frac{v_0}{c}\right)^2}}\right)^2}}$

first hints of Lorentz transformation

$$x \rightarrow x$$

$$y \rightarrow y$$

$$z \rightarrow \frac{z - v_0 t}{\sqrt{1 - \left(\frac{v_0}{c}\right)^2}}$$

note: for  $v_0 = 0$

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} V = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{q}{\sqrt{x^2 + y^2 + z^2}} = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{q}{r} \\ \vec{A} = 0 \Rightarrow \text{no B-field} \end{array} \right.$$

Let's get  $\vec{E}$  &  $\vec{B}$ :  $\vec{E} = -\vec{\nabla} V(\vec{r}, t) - \frac{\partial \vec{A}}{\partial t}$

$$\vec{\nabla} V(\vec{r}, t) = \frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 - \left(\frac{v_0}{c}\right)^2}} (\partial_x, \partial_y, \partial_z) \frac{1}{\sqrt{x^2 + y^2 + \left(\frac{z - v_0 t}{\sqrt{1 - \left(\frac{v_0}{c}\right)^2}}\right)^2}}$$

$$= \frac{\partial q}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \left(\frac{-1}{r^2}\right) \frac{1}{[x^2 + y^2 + \delta^2(z - v_0 t)^2]^{3/2}} (\cancel{2x}, \cancel{2y}, \delta^2(z - v_0 t))$$

$$= \frac{-\partial q}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{(x, y, \delta^2(z - v_0 t))}{[x^2 + y^2 + \delta^2(z - v_0 t)^2]^{3/2}}$$

$$\frac{\partial \vec{A}}{\partial t} = \frac{\gamma q}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{v_0 \hat{z}}{c^2} \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \left[ \frac{1}{\sqrt{x^2 + y^2 + \gamma^2(z - v_0 t)^2}} \right]$$

$$= \frac{\gamma q v_0}{4\pi\epsilon_0 c^2} \hat{z} \left( \frac{-1}{2} \right) \frac{\gamma^2 (z - v_0 t)(-v_0)}{[x^2 + y^2 + \gamma^2(z - v_0 t)^2]^{3/2}}$$

$$= \frac{\gamma q v_0^2}{4\pi\epsilon_0 c^2} \left( 0, 0, \frac{\gamma^2(z - v_0 t)}{[x^2 + y^2 + \gamma^2(z - v_0 t)^2]^{3/2}} \right)$$

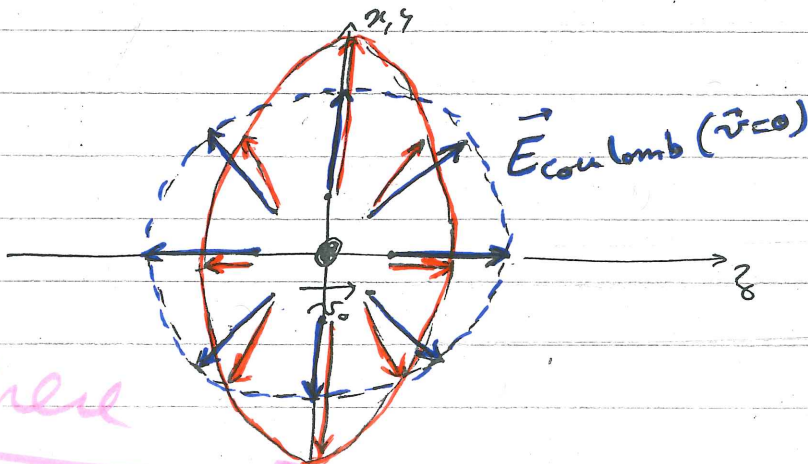
Thus  $\vec{E} = -\nabla V - \frac{\partial \vec{A}}{\partial t}$

$$= \frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \gamma \frac{\left( x, y, \cancel{\gamma^2(z - v_0 t)} \left( 1 - \left(\frac{v_0}{c}\right)^2 \right) \right)}{[x^2 + y^2 + \gamma^2(z - v_0 t)^2]^{3/2}}$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \vec{E}(\vec{r}, t) = \frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \gamma \frac{\left( x, y, z - v_0 t \right)}{[x^2 + y^2 + \gamma^2(z - v_0 t)^2]^{3/2}}$$

if  $v_0 = 0$  then  $\vec{E} = \frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{\hat{r}}{r^2}$

at  $t=0$  with  $v \ll c$



$\vec{E}(v_0)$  is reduced in the direction/axis of motion, but increased in direction perpendicular to motion

Stopped here

$$\text{also, } \vec{B} = \vec{\nabla} \times \vec{A}$$

$$= (\cancel{\partial_y A_3} - \cancel{\partial_z A_1}, \cancel{\partial_z A_2} - \cancel{\partial_x A_3}, \cancel{\partial_x A_1} - \cancel{\partial_y A_2})$$

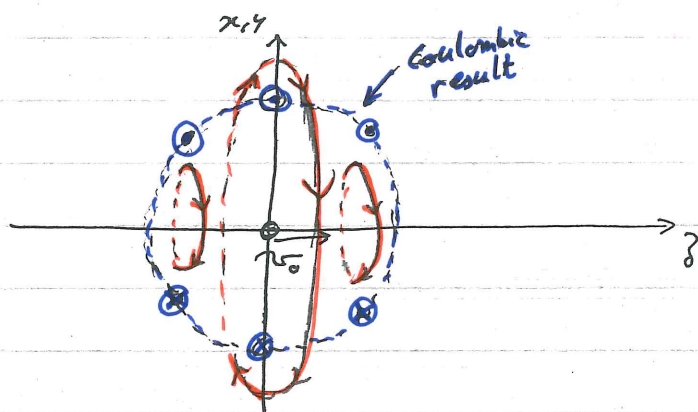
$$= \frac{\gamma q}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{v_0}{c^2} \left(\frac{-1}{2}\right) \frac{(-2y, +2x, 0)}{[x^2 + y^2 + \gamma^2(z - vt)^2]^{3/2}}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 \\ x & y & z \end{pmatrix} \times = (-y, x, 0)$$

$$\Rightarrow \vec{B} = \frac{\mu_0}{c^2} \times \vec{E}$$

$\Rightarrow \vec{B}$  is always perpendicular to  $\vec{E}$  and  $\vec{v}_0$

↑ direction of "current"



if  $v \ll c$  so that  $\gamma \approx 1$ , then

$$\vec{B} = \frac{\vec{v} \times \vec{r}}{c^2} \frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{1}{r^2} = \frac{\mu_0}{4\pi} \frac{q \vec{v} \times \vec{r}}{r^2}$$

↑  
Biot-Savart for a "point" current