

- ★ Problems 1 and 2 of this set concern radiation by a compact dipole with a time-dependent dipole moment  $\mathbf{p}(t)$ . In a pure dipole approximation — meaning, vanishing geometric size but finite  $\mathbf{p}(t)$ , the electric charge density and the current density of this system become

$$\rho(\mathbf{y}, t) = -(\mathbf{p}(t) \cdot \nabla_{\mathbf{y}}) \delta^{(3)}(\mathbf{y}), \quad \mathbf{J}(\mathbf{y}, t) = \frac{d\mathbf{p}}{dt} \delta^{(3)}(\mathbf{y}). \quad (1)$$

1. First, consider a harmonically oscillating dipole moment  $\mathbf{p}(t) = \mathbf{p}_0 e^{-i\omega t}$ .

- (a) Show that (in the Landau gauge), the vector potential generated by this dipole moment is

$$\mathbf{A}(\mathbf{x}, t) = \frac{-i\omega\mu_0}{4\pi} \frac{e^{ikr-i\omega t}}{r} \mathbf{p}_0 \quad (2)$$

at all distances from the dipole, long or short. Consequently, the exact electric and magnetic fields at all distances from the dipole are

$$\mathbf{H}(\mathbf{x}, t) = \frac{k\omega}{4\pi} \frac{e^{ikr-i\omega t}}{r} \left(1 + \frac{i}{kr}\right) (\mathbf{n} \times \mathbf{p}), \quad (3)$$

$$\mathbf{E}(\mathbf{x}, t) = \frac{k\omega Z_0}{4\pi} \frac{e^{ikr-i\omega t}}{r} \left[ \frac{i}{kr} \left(1 + \frac{i}{kr}\right) (\mathbf{p} - 3(\mathbf{n} \cdot \mathbf{p})\mathbf{n}) - \mathbf{n} \times (\mathbf{n} \times \mathbf{p}) \right]. \quad (4)$$

- (b) Explain the long-distance and the short-distance limits of these EM fields.  
(c) Calculate the (time-averaged) Poynting vector  $\mathbf{S}$  of this dipole radiation. Show that for a non-linear dipole with  $\mathbf{p} \times \mathbf{p}^* \neq 0$ , this  $\mathbf{S}$  has not only the usual radial component but also a lateral component in the direction of

$$\mathbf{n} \times \text{Im}(\mathbf{p} \times \mathbf{p}^*). \quad (5)$$

- (d) The lateral component of  $\mathbf{S}$  leads to non-zero angular momentum of the EM fields. Calculate the *rate*  $d\mathbf{L}_{\text{rad}}/dt$  at which this angular momentum is carried away by the dipole radiation.

Now consider a specific non-linear dipole moment, namely the classical Rutherford atom with an electron on a circular orbit around the nucleus. This atom loses both energy  $U$  and angular momentum  $\mathbf{L}$  to the radiation.

(e) Show that the rates at which they are lost are related as

$$\frac{dU}{dt} = \vec{\omega} \cdot \frac{d\mathbf{L}}{dt} \quad (6)$$

and also check that the  $d\mathbf{L}/dt$  has precisely opposite direction from the  $\mathbf{L}$ .

(f) Finally, use the results of part (e) to argue that the electron's orbital plane remains fixed, and if the orbit was initially circular that it would remain circular until the ultimate collapse.

Hint: an orbit in a Coulomb potential is circular if and only if its energy and angular momentum are related as

$$U\mathbf{L}^2 = -\frac{m\alpha^2}{2}, \quad \text{for } \alpha = \frac{e^2}{4\pi\epsilon_0}. \quad (7)$$

2. Now consider a dipole moment with a non-harmonic time dependence but completely general  $\mathbf{p}(t)$ .

(a) Use [Efimenko equations](#) to show that in this case

$$\mathbf{H}(\mathbf{x}, t) = \frac{1}{4\pi} \left[ \frac{\dot{\mathbf{p}} \times \mathbf{n}}{r^2} + \frac{\ddot{\mathbf{p}} \times \mathbf{n}}{rc} \right]_{\text{ret}}, \quad (8)$$

$$\mathbf{E}(\mathbf{x}, t) = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \left[ \frac{3(\mathbf{n} \cdot \mathbf{p})\mathbf{n} - \mathbf{p}}{r^3} + \frac{3(\mathbf{n} \cdot \dot{\mathbf{p}})\mathbf{n} - \dot{\mathbf{p}}}{r^2c} + \frac{(\mathbf{n} \cdot \ddot{\mathbf{p}})\mathbf{n} - \ddot{\mathbf{p}}}{rc^2} \right]_{\text{ret}}, \quad (9)$$

where the subscript 'ret' means evaluated at the retarded time

$$t_{\text{ret}} = t - \frac{r}{c}. \quad (10)$$

Hint: remember that the retarded time — and hence  $\mathbf{p}(t_{\text{ret}})$  and its time derivatives — depend on  $\mathbf{x}$ .

- (b) Calculate the long-distance limit of the Poynting vector and show that the net power emitted by the dipole moment is

$$P(t) = \frac{Z_0}{6\pi c^2} \|\ddot{\mathbf{p}}_{\text{ret}}\|^2. \quad (11)$$

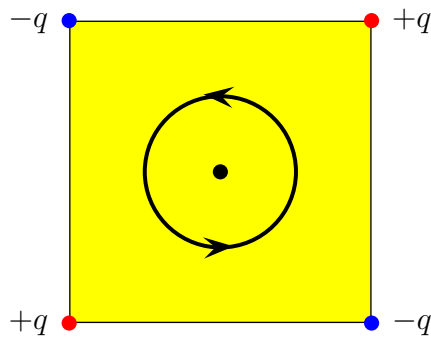
- (c) As an example, consider a parallel-plate capacitor with plates of area  $A$  at distance  $b$  from each other. The capacitor is slowly charged to charge  $Q_0$  and then is allowed to discharge through a resistor  $R$ , thus  $Q(t) = Q_0 \exp(-t/RC)$ .

Find the net energy radiated by the capacitor while it discharges as a fraction of its initial energy  $U_0 = Q_0^2/2C$ .

- (d) Calculate the actual numeric ratio  $U_{\text{rad}}/U_0$  for  $A = 10 \text{ cm} \times 10 \text{ cm}$ ,  $b = 1 \text{ mm}$ , and  $R = 10 \Omega$ .

3. Finally, a simple problem about the electric quadrupole radiation.

Four charges  $\pm q$  sit at corners of a square of size  $a \times a$ , which rotates with frequency  $\Omega$  around the  $\perp$  axis through the square's center.



- (a) Find the electric quadrupole moment tensor of this system. With what frequency does it oscillate?
- (b) Find the angular distribution of the EM power radiated by the rotating quadrupole.
- (c) Find the net EM power radiated by the rotating quadrupole.