



Advanced Electromagnetics

Chapter 3 –Radiation

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3.1 Radiation in Free Space

3.1.1 Potentials

Consider no the magnetic sources, we have $\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{B} = 0$. Thus, from vector identity, the magnetic flux density can be expressed as

$$\vec{B} = \vec{\nabla} \times \vec{A} \quad (3.1.1)$$

where \vec{A} is called the magnetic vector potential. Substitute (3.1.1) into (1.5.5) with $\vec{M} = 0$, we get

$$\vec{\nabla} \times (\vec{E} + i\omega\vec{A}) = 0 \quad (3.1.2)$$

from which we can express the electric field intensity as

$$\vec{E} = -\vec{\nabla}\mathcal{V} - i\omega\vec{A} \quad (3.1.3)$$

where \mathcal{V} is called the electric scalar potential.

3.1.1 Potentials

Substitute (3.1.1) and (3.1.3) into (1.5.6), we get

$$\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{\nabla} \times \vec{A} = \mu \vec{J} + \omega^2 \mu \epsilon \vec{A} - i\omega \mu \epsilon \vec{\nabla} \mathcal{V} \quad (3.1.4)$$

Also, substitute (3.1.3) into (1.5.7), we get

$$\nabla^2 \mathcal{V} + i\omega \vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{A} = -\rho/\epsilon \quad (3.1.5)$$

Using the vector identity $\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{\nabla} \times \vec{A} = \vec{\nabla}(\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{A}) - \nabla^2 \vec{A}$, and rearranging the terms, (3.1.4) and (3.1.5) can be re-expressed as

$$\nabla^2 \vec{A} + k^2 \vec{A} = -\mu \vec{J} + \vec{\nabla}(\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{A} + i\omega \mu \epsilon \mathcal{V}) \quad (3.1.6)$$

$$\nabla^2 \mathcal{V} + k^2 \mathcal{V} = -\rho/\epsilon - i\omega(\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{A} + i\omega \mu \epsilon \mathcal{V}) \quad (3.1.7)$$

3.1.1 Potentials

where $k^2 = \omega^2 \mu \epsilon$. So far, we have specified the curl of \vec{A} , but not its divergence. To fully determine a vector field (up to a constant), both curl and divergence must be defined. We can use this freedom to simplify (3.1.6) and (3.1.7). Specifically, by choosing

$$\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{A} + i\omega\mu\epsilon\mathcal{V} = 0 \quad (3.1.8)$$

which is known as the Lorenz gauge condition, the equations become decoupled:

$$\nabla^2 \vec{A} + k^2 \vec{A} = -\mu \vec{J} \quad (3.1.9)$$

$$\nabla^2 \mathcal{V} + k^2 \mathcal{V} = -\frac{1}{\epsilon} \rho = \frac{1}{i\omega\epsilon} \vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{J} \quad (3.1.10)$$

3.1.2 Green Function

Both (3.1.10) and the Cartesian components of (3.1.9) satisfy the inhomogeneous scalar Helmholtz equation. Here, we are showing that the solution to the Helmholtz equation with a unit impulse

$$\nabla^2 G + k^2 G = -\delta(\vec{r} - \vec{r}') \quad (3.1.11)$$

is

$$G(\vec{r}; \vec{r}') = e^{-ikR} / 4\pi R \quad (3.1.12)$$

where $R = |\vec{r} - \vec{r}'|$, and

$$\begin{cases} \delta(\vec{r} - \vec{r}') = 0, & \vec{r} \neq \vec{r}' \\ \int_V \delta(\vec{r} - \vec{r}') d\mathbf{v} = 1, & \vec{r}' \text{ in } V \end{cases} \quad (3.1.13)$$

G is known as the Green function solution.

3.1.2 Green Function

From (3.1.13), (3.1.11) can be re-expressed as

$$\begin{cases} \nabla^2 G + k^2 G = 0, & \vec{r} \neq \vec{r}' \\ \int_V (\nabla^2 G + k^2 G) dv = -1, & \vec{r}' \text{ in } V \end{cases} \quad (3.1.14)$$

We first consider $\vec{r} \neq \vec{r}'$, or $R \neq 0$. Then

$$\nabla^2 G = \frac{1}{R^2} \partial_R \left(R^2 \partial_R \frac{e^{-ikR}}{4\pi R} \right) = -k^2 \frac{e^{-ikR}}{4\pi R} \quad (3.1.15)$$

Thus, we have $\nabla^2 G + k^2 G = 0$ when $R \neq 0$, which is the first equation in (3.1.14).

3.1.2 Green Function

Now, for the second equation, let us consider an infinitesimal spherical volume V_0 with its center located at \vec{r}' and its radius R_0 , then we have

$$\int_{V_0} \nabla^2 G dv = \oint_{S_0} \vec{\nabla} G \cdot d\vec{S} = \oint_{S_0} \partial_R G|_{R_0} \hat{R} \cdot d\vec{S} - e^{-ikR_0}(1 + ikR_0) \quad (3.1.16)$$

and

$$\int_{V_0} k^2 G dv = e^{-ikR_0}(1 + ikR_0) - 1 \quad (3.1.17)$$

Adding (3.1.16) and (3.1.17), we get $\int_{V_0} (\nabla^2 G + k^2 G) dv = -1$, which is basically the second equation in (3.1.14).

3.1.3 Radiation Solution

Multiply (3.1.11) with $\mu \vec{J}(\vec{r}')$ and perform integration over a volume containing all sources, we get

$$\begin{aligned} \int_V \mu \vec{J}(\vec{r}') [(\nabla^2 + k^2) G(\vec{r}; \vec{r}')] dv' &= (\nabla^2 + k^2) \int_V \mu \vec{J}(\vec{r}') G(\vec{r}; \vec{r}') dv' \\ &= - \int_V \mu \vec{J}(\vec{r}') \delta(\vec{r} - \vec{r}') dv' = -\mu \vec{J}(\vec{r}) \end{aligned} \quad (3.1.18)$$

By comparing (3.1.18) and (3.1.9), we have

$$\vec{A}(\vec{r}) = \int_V \mu \vec{J}(\vec{r}') G(\vec{r}; \vec{r}') dv' \quad (3.1.19)$$

Similarly, from (3.1.11) and (3.1.10), we have

$$\mathcal{V}(\vec{r}) = \frac{-1}{i\omega\epsilon} \int_V \vec{\nabla}' \cdot \vec{J}(\vec{r}') G(\vec{r}; \vec{r}') dv' \quad (3.1.20)$$

3.1.3 Radiation Solution

Substituting (3.1.19-20) into (3.1.3) and use $\omega\mu = k\eta$, we get

$$\vec{E}(\vec{r}) = -ik\eta \int_{V'} \left[\vec{J}(\vec{r}') + \frac{1}{k^2} \vec{\nabla} (\vec{\nabla}' \cdot \vec{J}(\vec{r}')) \right] G(\vec{r}; \vec{r}') dv' \quad (3.1.21)$$

Substituting (3.1.19) into (3.1.1), we get

$$\vec{H}(\vec{r}) = - \int_{V'} \vec{J}(\vec{r}') \times \vec{\nabla} G(\vec{r}; \vec{r}') dv' \quad (3.1.22)$$

Define the following operators

$$\mathfrak{L}(\vec{X}) \equiv -ik \int_{V'} \left[\vec{X} + \frac{1}{k^2} \vec{\nabla} (\vec{\nabla}' \cdot \vec{X}) \right] G dv' \quad (3.1.23)$$

$$\mathfrak{K}(\vec{X}) \equiv - \int_{V'} \vec{X} \times \vec{\nabla} G dv' \quad (3.1.24)$$

3.1.3 Radiation Solution

Then, we can express the electric and magnetic field as

$$\vec{E} = \eta \mathcal{L}(\vec{J}) \quad (3.1.25)$$

$$\vec{H} = \mathfrak{K}(\vec{J}) \quad (3.1.26)$$

Apply the duality transform (1.1.24), we get

$$\vec{E} = -\mathfrak{K}(\vec{M}) \quad (3.1.27)$$

$$\vec{H} = \mathcal{L}(\vec{M})/\eta \quad (3.1.28)$$

By superposition:

$$\vec{E} = \eta \mathcal{L}(\vec{J}) - \mathfrak{K}(\vec{M}) \quad (3.1.29)$$

$$\vec{H} = \mathfrak{K}(\vec{J}) + \mathcal{L}(\vec{M})/\eta \quad (3.1.30)$$

3.1.3 Radiation Solution

It is noted that we can also derive the electric field representation by Substituting (3.1.19) and (3.1.8) into (3.1.3)

$$\vec{E}(\vec{r}) = -ik\eta \int_V' \left(1 + \frac{1}{k^2} \vec{\nabla} \vec{\nabla} \cdot\right) [\vec{J}(\vec{r}')G(\vec{r}; \vec{r}')] dv' \quad (3.1.31)$$

Note the distinction between (3.1.21) and (3.1.31). In (3.1.21), one $\vec{\nabla}$ acts on \vec{r} (on G), while the other $\vec{\nabla}'$ acts on \vec{r}' (on $\vec{J}(\vec{r}')$). The resulting singularity is weaker.

In (3.1.31), both $\vec{\nabla}$ operators act on \vec{r} , and thus on the Green function G , leading to a higher-order singularity in the integrand. This form is typically used for far-field calculations, where simplifications are possible.

3.1.4 Far-Field Approximation

For far-field approximation, we have $r \gg r'$, or $kR \gg 1$. Thus, the denominator of Green function solution (3.1.12) is $\cong 4\pi r$, and the nominator is approximated as

$$e^{-ikR} = e^{-ik[(\vec{r}-\vec{r}')\cdot(\vec{r}-\vec{r}')]^{1/2}} \cong e^{-ikr(1-\hat{r}\cdot\vec{r}')} \quad (3.1.32)$$

Thus, in far field, the Green function solution is

$$G(\vec{r}; \vec{r}') \cong \frac{e^{-ikr}}{4\pi r} e^{ik\hat{r}\cdot\vec{r}'} = G_r(r)G_a(\theta, \phi) \quad (3.1.33)$$

where $G_r(r) = \frac{e^{-ikr}}{4\pi r}$ is the part containing only radial component, and $G_a(\theta, \phi) = e^{ik\hat{r}\cdot\vec{r}'}$ containing only angular component.

3.1.4 Far-Field Approximation

In order to apply (3.1.31), let us first find $\vec{\nabla}G_r$ and $\vec{\nabla}G_a$:

$$\vec{\nabla}G_r = \hat{r} \partial_r \left(\frac{e^{-ikr}}{4\pi r} \right) = \hat{r} \left[-ikG_r + O\left(\frac{1}{r^2}\right) \right] \quad (3.1.34)$$

$$\vec{\nabla}G_a = \hat{\theta} \frac{1}{r} \partial_\theta (e^{ik\hat{r} \cdot \vec{r}'}) + \hat{\phi} \frac{1}{r \sin \theta} \partial_\phi (e^{ik\hat{r} \cdot \vec{r}'}) = O\left(\frac{1}{r}\right) \quad (3.1.35)$$

Thus

$$\vec{\nabla}G = G_a \vec{\nabla}G_r + G_r \vec{\nabla}G_a = -ikG\hat{r} + O\left(\frac{1}{r^2}\right) \cong -ikG\hat{r} \quad (3.1.36)$$

Then

$$\begin{aligned} \vec{\nabla} \vec{\nabla} \cdot [\vec{J}(\vec{r}')G] &= \vec{\nabla} [\vec{J}(\vec{r}') \vec{\nabla} \cdot G] \cong -ik\vec{\nabla} [\hat{r} \cdot \vec{J}(\vec{r}')G] \\ &= -ik\{\hat{r} \cdot \vec{J}(\vec{r}') \vec{\nabla}G + G\vec{\nabla}[\hat{r} \cdot \vec{J}(\vec{r}')]\} \end{aligned} \quad (3.1.37)$$

3.1.4 Far-Field Approximation

To proceed the derivation, let us first calculate the following

$$\vec{\nabla} \vec{r} = (\hat{x} \partial_x + \hat{y} \partial_y + \hat{z} \partial_z)(\hat{x}x + \hat{y}y + \hat{z}z) = \hat{x}\hat{x} + \hat{y}\hat{y} + \hat{z}\hat{z} = \bar{\bar{I}} \quad (3.1.38)$$

where $\bar{\bar{F}}$ is the dyadic notation with

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{\bar{F}} &= F_{xx}\hat{x}\hat{x} + F_{yx}\hat{y}\hat{x} + F_{zx}\hat{z}\hat{x} + F_{xy}\hat{x}\hat{y} + \\ &\quad F_{yy}\hat{y}\hat{y} + F_{zy}\hat{z}\hat{y} + F_{xz}\hat{x}\hat{z} + F_{yz}\hat{y}\hat{z} + F_{zz}\hat{z}\hat{z} \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} F_{xx} & F_{xy} & F_{xz} \\ F_{yx} & F_{yy} & F_{yz} \\ F_{zx} & F_{zy} & F_{zz} \end{bmatrix} \end{aligned} \quad (3.1.39)$$

and $\bar{\bar{I}}$ is the unit dyadic.

3.1.4 Far-Field Approximation

The juxtaposition of two vectors $\vec{\vec{F}} = \vec{a}\vec{b}$ is called a dyadic product with $F_{mn} = a_m b_n$. A component of the dyadic is called a dyad. We have the following rule for dyadic calculations:

$$\vec{c} \cdot (\vec{a}\vec{b}) = (\vec{c} \cdot \vec{a})\vec{b}$$

$$(\vec{a}\vec{b}) \cdot \vec{c} = \vec{a}(\vec{b} \cdot \vec{c})$$

$$\vec{c} \times (\vec{a}\vec{b}) = (\vec{c} \times \vec{a})\vec{b}$$

$$(\vec{a}\vec{b}) \times \vec{c} = \vec{a}(\vec{b} \times \vec{c})$$

Then, from $\vec{\nabla}\vec{r} = \vec{\nabla}(r\hat{r}) = \vec{\nabla}(r)\hat{r} + \vec{\nabla}(\hat{r})r = \hat{r}\hat{r} + \vec{\nabla}(\hat{r})r = \vec{\vec{I}}$

$$\vec{\nabla}\hat{r} = (\vec{\vec{I}} - \hat{r}\hat{r})/r \quad (3.1.40)$$

3.1.4 Far-Field Approximation

The term $\vec{\nabla}[\hat{r} \cdot \vec{J}(\vec{r}')]]$ in (3.1.37) is, by the vector identity $\vec{\nabla}(\vec{a} \cdot \vec{b}) = \vec{a} \times \vec{\nabla} \times \vec{b} + \vec{b} \times \vec{\nabla} \times \vec{a} + (\vec{a} \cdot \vec{\nabla})\vec{b} + (\vec{b} \cdot \vec{\nabla})\vec{a}$:

$$\vec{\nabla}[\hat{r} \cdot \vec{J}(\vec{r}')] = [\vec{J}(\vec{r}') \cdot \vec{\nabla}]\hat{r} = \vec{J}(\vec{r}') \cdot \vec{\nabla}\hat{r} = \frac{\vec{J} - J_r \hat{r}}{r} = \frac{J_\theta \hat{\theta} + J_\phi \hat{\phi}}{r} = O\left(\frac{1}{r}\right) \quad (3.1.41)$$

Thus (3.1.37) continues

$$\begin{aligned} \dots &= -ik \left\{ \hat{r} \cdot \vec{J}(\vec{r}') \left[-ikG\hat{r} + O\left(\frac{1}{r^2}\right) \right] + G \times O\left(\frac{1}{r}\right) \right\} \\ &= -k^2 [\vec{J}(\vec{r}') \cdot \hat{r}] \hat{r} G + O\left(\frac{1}{r^2}\right) \end{aligned} \quad (3.1.42)$$

3.1.4 Far-Field Approximation

Applying the calculations above, (3.1.31) becomes

$$\begin{aligned}\vec{E} &\cong -ik\eta \int_{V'} G[\vec{J}(\vec{r}') - J_r \hat{r}] dv' \\ &= -ik\eta \frac{e^{-ikr}}{4\pi r} \int_{V'} (J_\theta \hat{\theta} + J_\phi \hat{\phi}) e^{ik\hat{r} \cdot \vec{r}'} dv' \\ &= -ik\eta \frac{e^{-ikr}}{4\pi r} \int_{V'} (\hat{\theta} \hat{\theta} + \hat{\phi} \hat{\phi}) \cdot \vec{J}(\vec{r}') e^{ik\hat{r} \cdot \vec{r}'} dv' \\ &= ik\eta \frac{e^{-ikr}}{4\pi r} \int_{V'} \hat{r} \times [\hat{r} \times \vec{J}(\vec{r}')] e^{ik\hat{r} \cdot \vec{r}'} dv'\end{aligned}$$

(3.1.43)

3.1.4 Far-Field Approximation

From (3.1.22), we can get

$$\vec{H} \cong -ik \frac{e^{-ikr}}{4\pi r} \int_{V'} [\hat{r} \times \vec{J}(\vec{r}')] e^{ik\hat{r} \cdot \vec{r}'} dv' = \frac{1}{\eta} \hat{r} \times \vec{E} \quad (3.1.44)$$

For general cases, by applying the duality theorem, we have

$$\vec{E} \cong -ik \frac{e^{-ikr}}{4\pi r} \int_{V'} [\eta(\hat{\theta}\hat{\theta} + \hat{\phi}\hat{\phi}) \cdot \vec{J}(\vec{r}') + \hat{r} \times \vec{M}(\vec{r}')] e^{ik\hat{r} \cdot \vec{r}'} dv' \quad (3.1.45)$$

$$\vec{H} \cong -ik \frac{e^{-ikr}}{4\pi r} \int_{V'} \left[\frac{1}{\eta} (\hat{\theta}\hat{\theta} + \hat{\phi}\hat{\phi}) \cdot \vec{M}(\vec{r}') - \hat{r} \times \vec{J}(\vec{r}') \right] e^{ik\hat{r} \cdot \vec{r}'} dv' \quad (3.1.46)$$

It is noted that by expressing $k\hat{r}$ in Cartesian coordinates, the far field can be interpreted as the inverse Fourier transform (up to a constant factor) of the components of the source distribution.

3.1.5 Stratton-Chu Formulation

From surface equivalence principle (Section 1.6.4B), if all sources are included in a closed surface S_0 , then by placing the surface currents

$$\begin{cases} \vec{J}_s = \hat{n} \times \vec{H} \\ \vec{M}_s = -\hat{n} \times \vec{E} \end{cases} \quad (3.1.47)$$

where \hat{n} is the unit normal vector on S_0 , we can set the field inside S_0 to be zero. Thus, using (3.1.29), the electric field outside S_0 is

$$\begin{aligned} \vec{E} &= \eta \mathcal{L}(\vec{J}_s) - \mathcal{K}(\vec{M}_s) \\ &= -ik\eta \oint_{S_0} \left[\vec{J}_s G - \frac{1}{k^2} (\vec{\nabla}' \cdot \vec{J}_s) \vec{\nabla} G \right] ds' + \oint_{S_0} (\vec{M}_s \times \vec{\nabla} G) ds' \end{aligned} \quad (3.1.48)$$

3.1.5 Stratton-Chu Formulation

From continuity equation (1.1.3) and the matching condition (1.3.8)

$$\vec{\nabla}' \cdot \vec{J}_s = -i\omega\rho_s = -i\omega\epsilon(\hat{n} \cdot \vec{E}) \quad (3.1.49)$$

Substitute (3.1.47) and (3.1.49) in (3.1.48) and apply the property $\vec{\nabla}' G = -\vec{\nabla} G$, we get

$$\vec{E} = \oint_{S_0} [-ik\eta(\hat{n} \times \vec{H})G + (\hat{n} \cdot \vec{E})\vec{\nabla}' G + (\hat{n} \times \vec{E}) \times \vec{\nabla}' G] ds' \quad (3.1.50)$$

Applying duality transform (1.1.24), we get the magnetic field

$$\vec{H} = \oint_{S_0} \left[i \frac{k}{\eta} (\hat{n} \times \vec{E})G + (\hat{n} \cdot \vec{H})\vec{\nabla}' G + (\hat{n} \times \vec{H}) \times \vec{\nabla}' G \right] ds' \quad (3.1.51)$$

This is the Stratton-Chu formulation.

3.2 Hertzian Dipole Radiation

3.2 Hertzian Dipole Radiation

Hertzian dipole is the simplest and the most fundamental radiator. Consider on an infinitesimal line dl , a charge q oscillates with an angular frequency ω , then we have the current expressed as $\mathcal{I} = i\omega q$. Suppose the line is oriented along the z -axis at the origin, we have $\vec{J}dv' = \mathcal{I}\hat{z}dz'$. Thus, from (3.1.31), the electric field is

$$\vec{E}(\vec{r}) = -ik\eta\mathcal{I}dl \left(1 + \frac{1}{k^2} \vec{\nabla} \vec{\nabla} \cdot\right) \hat{z}G \quad (3.2.1)$$

From (3.1.22), the magnetic field is

$$\vec{H}(\vec{r}) = -\mathcal{I}dl \hat{z} \times \vec{\nabla}G \quad (3.2.2)$$

3.2 Hertzian Dipole Radiation

To express (3.2.1-2) in spherical coordinates, let us calculate the following first:

$$\vec{\nabla} G = \vec{\nabla} \left(\frac{e^{-ikr}}{4\pi r} \right) = - \left(ik + \frac{1}{r} \right) G \hat{r} \quad (3.2.3)$$

$$\vec{\nabla} \cdot (\hat{z} G) = \hat{z} \cdot \vec{\nabla} G = - \left(ik + \frac{1}{r} \right) G \cos \theta \quad (3.2.4)$$

$$\vec{\nabla} [\vec{\nabla} \cdot (\hat{z} G)] = G \left[\left(-k^2 + \frac{2ik}{r} + \frac{1}{r^2} \right) \cos \theta \hat{r} + \left(ik + \frac{1}{r} \right) \sin \theta \hat{\theta} \right] \quad (3.2.5)$$

$$\hat{z} \times \vec{\nabla} G = (\cos \theta \hat{r} - \sin \theta \hat{\theta}) \times \vec{\nabla} G = - \left(ik + \frac{1}{r} \right) G \sin \theta \hat{\phi} \quad (3.2.6)$$

3.2 Hertzian Dipole Radiation

Thus, the electric field of an Hertzian dipole can be expressed as

$$\vec{E} = \frac{\eta J dl}{r} \left(1 + \frac{1}{ikr}\right) 2 \cos \theta G \hat{r} + ik\eta J dl \left(1 + \frac{1}{ikr} - \frac{1}{k^2 r^2}\right) \sin \theta G \hat{\theta} \quad (3.2.7)$$

Accordingly, the magnetic field can be expressed as

$$\vec{H} = ikJ dl \left(1 + \frac{1}{ikr}\right) \sin \theta G \hat{\phi} \quad (3.2.8)$$

Notice that the fields can be divided into dependent parts on r^{-1} , r^{-2} , and r^{-3} terms, and we characterize the region with $kr \ll 1$ as the near field and $kr \gg 1$ as the far field.

3.2 Hertzian Dipole Radiation

For the near-field region r^{-2} and r^{-3} terms dominate. Also using the approximation $e^{-ikr} \cong 1$, we get

$$\vec{E} \cong -i \frac{\eta \mathcal{I} dl}{4\pi k r^3} (2\cos\hat{r} + \sin\theta \hat{\theta}) \quad (3.2.9)$$

$$\vec{H} \cong \frac{\mathcal{I} dl}{4\pi r^2} \sin\theta \hat{\phi} \quad (3.2.10)$$

For the far-field region r^{-1} terms dominate and we get

$$\vec{E} \cong ik\eta \mathcal{I} dl \sin\theta G \hat{\theta} \quad (3.2.11)$$

$$\vec{H} \cong ik \mathcal{I} dl \sin\theta G \hat{\phi} \quad (3.2.12)$$

Problems

1. Complete the intermediate steps in (3.1.15-17).
2. Verify (3.1.27-28).
3. Verify (3.1.51).
4. Complete the intermediate steps in (3.2.5-8).
5. Complete the intermediate steps in (3.2.9-12).