

[lex116] Poynting vector and radiation power of electric dipole

(a) Given the electric and magnetic radiation fields,

$$\mathbf{E}(\mathbf{x}, t)_{\text{rad}} = \frac{\mu_0}{4\pi r} \left[\hat{\mathbf{r}} \left(\hat{\mathbf{r}} \cdot \frac{d^2 \mathbf{p}}{dt^2} \Big|_{t_r} \right) - \frac{d^2 \mathbf{p}}{dt^2} \Big|_{t_r} \right], \quad \mathbf{B}(\mathbf{x}, t)_{\text{rad}} = -\frac{\mu_0}{4\pi r c} \hat{\mathbf{r}} \times \frac{d^2 \mathbf{p}}{dt^2} \Big|_{t_r}, \quad t_r \doteq t - \frac{r}{c},$$

worked out in [lex222] and [lex114] for the radiation of an electric dipole $\mathbf{p}(t)$, show that the Poynting vector in the radiation zone becomes

$$\mathbf{S}(\mathbf{x}, t)_{\text{rad}} \doteq \frac{1}{\mu_0} \mathbf{E}(\mathbf{x}, t)_{\text{rad}} \times \mathbf{B}(\mathbf{x}, t)_{\text{rad}} = \frac{\mu_0/c}{(4\pi r)^2} \left[\left(\frac{d^2 \mathbf{p}}{dt^2} \Big|_{t_r} \right)^2 - \left(\hat{\mathbf{r}} \cdot \frac{d^2 \mathbf{p}}{dt^2} \Big|_{t_r} \right)^2 \right] \hat{\mathbf{r}},$$

representing the energy per unit time and unit area radiated in its direction.

(b) Calculate the radiation power of the electric dipole $\mathbf{p}(t)$ from the integral of the vector \mathbf{S} over a spherical surface at radius r ,

$$P(r, t) = \oint d\Omega r^2 \hat{\mathbf{r}} \cdot \mathbf{S}(\mathbf{x}, t)_{\text{rad}}.$$

This quantity is independent of r as dictated by energy conservation.

Solution: