

[lex36] Magnetic dipole field

Given the dipole term in the multipole expansion of the vector potential $\mathbf{A}(\mathbf{x})$ as derived in [lln12], derive the following expression for the magnetic dipole field $\mathbf{B}(\mathbf{x})$:

$$\mathbf{A}(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{\mu_0}{4\pi} \frac{\mathbf{m} \times \hat{\mathbf{r}}}{r^2} \quad \Rightarrow \quad \mathbf{B}(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{\mu_0}{4\pi} \frac{[3\hat{\mathbf{r}}(\mathbf{m} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{r}}) - \mathbf{m}]}{r^3},$$

where \mathbf{m} is the magnetic dipole moment and $\hat{\mathbf{r}} = \mathbf{x}/r$ the unit vector pointing from the dipole (assumed localized) to the field point.

(a) Work out the solution by hand.

(b) Work out the solution in a Mathematica notebook. A vector is `List`. Its magnitude is `Norm`. The cross product is `Cross`, The curl is `Curl`.

(c) What is the relative orientation of \mathbf{B} and \mathbf{m} (i) if $\hat{\mathbf{r}}$ and \mathbf{m} are parallel, (ii) if $\hat{\mathbf{r}}$ and \mathbf{m} are perpendicular, (iii) if $\hat{\mathbf{r}}$ and \mathbf{m} are antiparallel.

Solution: