

[lex72] Solid sphere placed in a uniform magnetic field

A solid sphere of radius R made of magnetic material with relative permeability κ_m is placed in a region of uniform applied magnetic field $\mathbf{B}_{\text{ap}} = B_0 \hat{\mathbf{k}}$. We use spherical coordinates with azimuthal symmetry. The irrotational nature of the magnetic field in this situation can be described by the scalar potential $\Phi_m(\mathbf{x})$. Solutions of the Laplace equation, $\nabla^2 \Phi_m = 0$, that satisfy the symmetry in place are of the form,

$$\Phi_m^{(\text{int})}(r, \theta) = ar \cos \theta + \frac{b \cos \theta}{r^2}, \quad \Phi_m^{(\text{ext})}(r, \theta) = cr \cos \theta + \frac{d \cos \theta}{r^2},$$

as previously used in [lex30] for a dielectric sphere in an electric field.

Determine the constants a, b, c, d by imposing all relevant boundary conditions. Then determine the fields \mathbf{H} and \mathbf{B} in the interior and exterior regions. Work out the limits $\kappa_m \rightarrow 1$ (non-magnetizable material) and $\kappa_m \rightarrow 0$ (perfect diamagnet).

Solution:

