

LECTURE 32: POTENTIAL FORMULATION OF ELECTROMAGNETISM

Previously, in electrostatics $\nabla \times \vec{E} = 0$ thus $\vec{E} = -\nabla V$ was a reasonable construction. Now, with time varying electric and magnetic fields we face $\nabla \times \vec{E} = -\frac{\partial \vec{B}}{\partial t}$ hence $\nabla \times \vec{E} \neq 0$ generally. That said, since $\nabla \cdot \vec{B} = 0$ we are able to continue using $\vec{A}$ for the vector potential of $\vec{B}$; $\nabla \times \vec{A} = \vec{B}$. What's new here is we allow a t -dependence for $\vec{A}$.

Def: Given $\vec{E}$ and $\vec{B}$ functions of $\vec{r}, t$ we say V is a scalar potential and $\vec{A}$ is a vector potential for the given fields provided

$$\vec{B} = \nabla \times \vec{A}$$

$$\vec{E} = -\nabla V - \frac{\partial \vec{A}}{\partial t}$$

Remark: really $(V, \vec{A})$ is a package deal. They go together here, much like $\vec{E} \neq \vec{B}$.

Thm: Given $\vec{B} = \nabla \times \vec{A}$ the field $\vec{E} + \frac{\partial \vec{A}}{\partial t} = -\nabla V$ for some V .

Proof: we assume Maxwell's Eq's hold for $\vec{E}$ & $\vec{B}$,

$$\nabla \times \left(\vec{E} + \frac{\partial \vec{A}}{\partial t} \right) = \nabla \times \vec{E} + \nabla \times \frac{\partial \vec{A}}{\partial t}$$

$$= -\frac{\partial \vec{B}}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial}{\partial t} (\nabla \times \vec{A})$$

$$= -\frac{\partial \vec{B}}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial \vec{B}}{\partial t}$$

$$= 0 \Rightarrow \exists V \text{ for which}$$

$$\vec{E} + \frac{\partial \vec{A}}{\partial t} = -\nabla V. //$$

(this justifies our formulation of $\vec{A}$ and V)

Thm/ Given $V, \vec{A}$, if we define $\vec{B} = \nabla \times \vec{A}$ and

$$\vec{E} = -\nabla V - \frac{\partial \vec{A}}{\partial t} \text{ then } \nabla \cdot \vec{B} = 0 \text{ and } \nabla \times \vec{E} = -\frac{\partial \vec{B}}{\partial t}.$$

Furthermore, if $\nabla \cdot \vec{E} = \rho/\epsilon_0$ and $\nabla \times \vec{B} = \mu_0 \vec{J} + \mu_0 \epsilon_0 \frac{\partial \vec{E}}{\partial t}$ then V and $\vec{A}$ must solve,

$$\nabla^2 V + \frac{\partial}{\partial t} (\nabla \cdot \vec{A}) = -\frac{1}{\epsilon_0} \rho \quad (\text{GRIFFITHS 10.4})$$

$$\nabla^2 \vec{A} - \mu_0 \epsilon_0 \frac{\partial^2 \vec{A}}{\partial t^2} - \nabla \left(\nabla \cdot \vec{A} + \mu_0 \epsilon_0 \frac{\partial V}{\partial t} \right) = -\mu_0 \vec{J} \quad (\text{GRIFFITHS 10.5})$$

Proof: $\nabla \cdot (\nabla \times \vec{A}) = 0 \therefore \nabla \cdot \vec{B} = 0$. Likewise,

$$\nabla \times \vec{E} = -\nabla \times \nabla V - \nabla \times \frac{\partial \vec{A}}{\partial t} = -\frac{\partial}{\partial t} (\nabla \times \vec{A}) = -\frac{\partial \vec{B}}{\partial t}.$$

Then suppose we substitute $\vec{E} = -\nabla V - \frac{\partial \vec{A}}{\partial t}$ into

Gauss' Law $\nabla \cdot \vec{E} = \rho/\epsilon_0$,

$$\nabla \cdot \left(-\nabla V - \frac{\partial \vec{A}}{\partial t} \right) = \rho/\epsilon_0 \Rightarrow \nabla^2 V + \frac{\partial}{\partial t} (\nabla \cdot \vec{A}) = -\rho/\epsilon_0.$$

Next, substitute $\vec{E} = -\nabla V - \frac{\partial \vec{A}}{\partial t}$ and $\vec{B} = \nabla \times \vec{A}$ into

Ampere's Law with Maxwell's correction $\nabla \times \vec{B} = \mu_0 \vec{J} + \mu_0 \epsilon_0 \frac{\partial \vec{E}}{\partial t}$

$$\nabla \times (\nabla \times \vec{A}) = \mu_0 \vec{J} + \mu_0 \epsilon_0 \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \left[-\nabla V - \frac{\partial \vec{A}}{\partial t} \right]$$

$$\nabla (\nabla \cdot \vec{A}) - \nabla^2 \vec{A} = \mu_0 \vec{J} - \mu_0 \epsilon_0 \nabla \left(\frac{\partial V}{\partial t} \right) - \mu_0 \epsilon_0 \frac{\partial^2 \vec{A}}{\partial t^2}$$

$$\therefore \nabla^2 \vec{A} - \mu_0 \epsilon_0 \frac{\partial^2 \vec{A}}{\partial t^2} - \nabla \left(\nabla \cdot \vec{A} + \mu_0 \epsilon_0 \frac{\partial V}{\partial t} \right) = -\mu_0 \vec{J}$$

GAUGE FREEDOM IN ELECTROMAGNETISM

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Suppose $(V, \vec{A})$ and $(V', \vec{A}')$ produce the same $\vec{E}$ and $\vec{B}$ fields then

$$\underbrace{\nabla \times \vec{A} = \nabla \times \vec{A}'} \quad \text{and} \quad -\nabla V - \frac{\partial \vec{A}}{\partial t} = -\nabla V' - \frac{\partial \vec{A}'}{\partial t}$$

$$\nabla \times (\vec{A}' - \vec{A}) = 0$$

$$\nabla(V' - V) = -\frac{\partial}{\partial t}(\vec{A}' - \vec{A})$$

$$\Rightarrow \underline{\vec{A}' - \vec{A} = \nabla \lambda}$$

$$\Rightarrow \nabla(V' - V) = -\frac{\partial}{\partial t}(\nabla \lambda) = -\nabla\left(\frac{\partial \lambda}{\partial t}\right)$$

$$\Rightarrow \underline{V' - V = -\frac{\partial \lambda}{\partial t} + C}$$

Absorbing the constant into $\frac{\partial \lambda}{\partial t}$ we find

$$\boxed{\begin{aligned} \vec{A}' &= \vec{A} + \nabla \lambda \\ V' &= V - \frac{\partial \lambda}{\partial t} \end{aligned}}$$

← gauge transformation of potentials, these do not change the fields $\vec{E}$ & $\vec{B}$.

There are two common choices to freeze out the above freedom

$$\text{Def}^n / \text{Coulomb Gauge} \quad \nabla \cdot \vec{A} = 0$$

$$\text{Def}^n / \text{Lorentz Gauge} \quad \nabla \cdot \vec{A} = -\mu_0 \epsilon_0 \frac{\partial V}{\partial t}$$

COULOMB GAUGE $\nabla \cdot \vec{A} = 0$

(4)

We've studied this already, $\nabla^2 V = -\frac{1}{\epsilon_0} \rho$ has solution

$$V(\vec{r}, t) = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \int \frac{\rho(\vec{r}', t)}{r} d\tau'$$

Notice even when $\vec{r}$ and $\vec{r}'$ are vastly apart, the effect of the charge density ρ changing in time is immediately seen in $V(\vec{r}, t)$. How can this be? (relativity forbids faster than light speed information travel)

$$\nabla^2 \vec{A} - \mu_0 \epsilon_0 \frac{\partial^2 \vec{A}}{\partial t^2} - \nabla \left(\cancel{\nabla \cdot \vec{A}} + \mu_0 \epsilon_0 \frac{\partial V}{\partial t} \right) = -\mu_0 \vec{J} \quad *$$

$\Rightarrow \vec{A}$ will have t -dependence as well

$$\vec{E} = -\nabla V - \left(\frac{\partial \vec{A}}{\partial t} \right) \leftarrow \text{has to build-in the delayed propagation of charge density in time}$$

* no fun to solve.

LORENZ GAUGE (apparently no t here, different dude)

Notice $\nabla \cdot \vec{A} = -\mu_0 \epsilon_0 \frac{\partial V}{\partial t}$ simplifies * to

$$\nabla^2 \vec{A} - \mu_0 \epsilon_0 \frac{\partial^2 \vec{A}}{\partial t^2} = -\mu_0 \vec{J}$$

On the other hand, $\nabla^2 V + \frac{\partial}{\partial t} (\nabla \cdot \vec{A}) = -\rho/\epsilon_0$ yields that $\nabla^2 V + \frac{\partial}{\partial t} (-\mu_0 \epsilon_0 \frac{\partial V}{\partial t}) = -\rho/\epsilon_0$ hence,

$$\nabla^2 V - \mu_0 \epsilon_0 \frac{\partial^2 V}{\partial t^2} = -\frac{1}{\epsilon_0} \rho$$

$$\begin{aligned} \square^2 \vec{A} &= -\mu_0 \vec{J} \\ \square^2 V &= -\rho/\epsilon_0 \end{aligned}$$

In short, $\nabla^2 - \mu_0 \epsilon_0 \frac{\partial^2}{\partial t^2} = \square^2 \leftarrow \text{d'Alembertian}$

RETARDED POTENTIALS

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We know solutions of the static $\nabla^2 V = \frac{-1}{\epsilon_0} \rho$ and $\nabla^2 \vec{A} = -\mu_0 \vec{J}$ are given by $V(\vec{r}) = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \int \frac{\rho(\vec{r}') d\tau'}{r}$ and $\vec{A}(\vec{r}) = \frac{\mu_0}{4\pi} \int \frac{\vec{J}(\vec{r}') d\tau'}{r}$

where $r = \|\vec{r} - \vec{r}'\|$ and $\vec{r}$ is the field point

and $\vec{r}'$ is the source point. We now introduce

the retarded time for message to travel in straight line from $\vec{r}'$ to $\vec{r}$ at speed c ,

$$t_r = t - \frac{r}{c}$$

In view of the above notation, the RETARDED POTENTIALS are given in terms of integrals of the source charge density and current density at retarded time

$$V(\vec{r}, t) = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \int \frac{\rho(\vec{r}', t_r)}{r} d\tau'$$

$$\vec{A}(\vec{r}, t) = \frac{\mu_0}{4\pi} \int \frac{\vec{J}(\vec{r}', t_r)}{r} d\tau'$$

We claim the $(V, \vec{A})$ given above solve

$$(1.) \nabla \cdot \vec{A} = -\mu_0 \epsilon_0 \frac{\partial V}{\partial t} \quad (\text{Lorenz Gauge Condition})$$

$$(2.) \square^2 \vec{A} = -\mu_0 \vec{J} \quad \text{and} \quad \square^2 V = -\rho/\epsilon_0$$

inhomogeneous wave eqⁿs for $\vec{A}$ & V .

Proof: Suppose $V(\vec{r}, t) = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \int \frac{\rho(\vec{r}', t_r)}{r} d\tau'$ (6)

and $\vec{A}(\vec{r}, t) = \frac{\mu_0}{4\pi} \int \frac{\vec{J}(\vec{r}', t_r)}{r} d\tau'$ where $t_r = t - \frac{r}{c}$

and $r = \|\vec{r} - \vec{r}'\|$

$$\begin{aligned} \nabla V &= \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \int \nabla \left(\frac{1}{r} \rho \right) d\tau' \\ &= \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \int \left(\nabla \left(\frac{1}{r} \right) \rho + \frac{1}{r} \nabla \rho \right) d\tau' \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \nabla \rho &= \nabla (\rho(\vec{r}', t_r)) \\ &= \frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t_r} \nabla t_r \quad \text{note } \vec{r}' \text{ independent of } \vec{r} \text{ which forms } \nabla \\ &= \dot{\rho} \left(-\frac{1}{c} \nabla r \right) \\ &= -\frac{1}{c} \dot{\rho} \hat{r} \end{aligned}$$

$\nabla = \hat{x} \partial_x + \hat{y} \partial_y + \hat{z} \partial_z$

We also know that $\nabla \left(\frac{1}{r} \right) = \frac{-1}{r^2} \hat{r}$ thus,

$$\nabla V = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \int \left[\frac{-\rho}{r^2} - \frac{\dot{\rho}}{rc} \right] \hat{r} d\tau'$$

continued $\rightarrow$

$$\begin{aligned} \nabla \dot{\rho} &= \nabla (\dot{\rho}(\vec{r}', t_r)) \\ &= \frac{\partial \dot{\rho}}{\partial t_r} \nabla t_r \\ &= -\frac{1}{c} \ddot{\rho} \hat{r} \quad (\text{save for later } \rightarrow) \end{aligned}$$

Beginning with $\nabla V = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \int \left[\frac{-\rho}{r^2} - \frac{\dot{\rho}}{rc} \right] \hat{r} d\tau'$ (7)

$$\nabla^2 V = \nabla \cdot \nabla V$$

$$= \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \int \left[-\nabla \cdot \left(\frac{\rho}{r^2} + \frac{\dot{\rho}}{rc} \right) \hat{r} \right] d\tau'$$

$$= \frac{-1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \int \left[\nabla \cdot \left(\rho \frac{\hat{r}}{r^2} \right) + \nabla \cdot \left(\frac{\dot{\rho}}{c} \frac{\hat{r}}{r} \right) \right] d\tau'$$

$$= \frac{-1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \int \left[(\nabla \rho) \cdot \frac{\hat{r}}{r^2} + \rho \nabla \cdot \left(\frac{\hat{r}}{r^2} \right) + \frac{1}{c} (\nabla \dot{\rho}) \cdot \frac{\hat{r}}{r} + \frac{\dot{\rho}}{c} \nabla \cdot \left(\frac{\hat{r}}{r} \right) \right] d\tau'$$

$$= \frac{-1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \int \left[\frac{-1}{c} \dot{\rho} \hat{r} \cdot \frac{\hat{r}}{r^2} + \rho \nabla \cdot \left(\frac{\hat{r}}{r^2} \right) - \frac{1}{c^2} (\ddot{\rho} \hat{r}) \cdot \frac{\hat{r}}{r} + \frac{\dot{\rho}}{cr^2} \right] d\tau'$$

$$= \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \int \left[\frac{1}{c^2} \left(\frac{\ddot{\rho}}{r} \right) - 4\pi \rho \delta^3(\vec{r}) \right] d\tau'$$

$$= \frac{1}{c^2} \left[\frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \int \frac{\ddot{\rho}}{r} d\tau' \right] - \frac{1}{\epsilon_0} \int \rho \delta^3(\vec{r}) d\tau'$$

$$= \frac{1}{c^2} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial t^2} \left[\frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \int \frac{\rho(\vec{r}', t_r)}{r} d\tau' \right] - \frac{\rho(\vec{r}', t)}{\epsilon_0}$$

$$= \frac{1}{c^2} \frac{\partial^2 V}{\partial t^2} - \frac{1}{\epsilon_0} \rho(\vec{r}, t)$$

$$\left(\begin{aligned} t_r &= t - \frac{1}{c} r \\ \frac{\partial}{\partial t_r} &= \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \end{aligned} \right)$$

Remark: it remains to show

$$\square^2 \vec{A} = -\mu_0 \vec{J} \quad \text{and} \quad \nabla \cdot \vec{A} = \gamma \cdot \epsilon_0 \frac{\partial V}{\partial t}$$

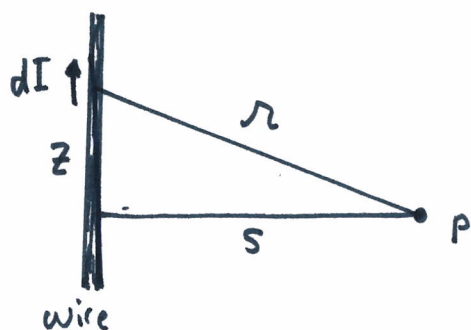
E1 An infinite straight wire carries current

$$I(t) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{for } t \leq 0, \\ I_0 & \text{for } t > 0. \end{cases}$$

Find resulting electric and magnetic fields

Here $V = 0$ since we assume the wire is neutral
Let's place the current flow on the z -axis,

$$\vec{A}(s, t) = \frac{\mu_0}{4\pi} \hat{z} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{I(tr)}{r} dz$$



$$\vec{A}(s, t) = 0.$$

$t < s/c$ no "news" to P

$t > s/c$ signal reached P

For $t > s/c$,

$$\vec{A}(s, t) = \left(\frac{\mu_0 I_0}{4\pi} \hat{z} \right) \int_{-\sqrt{(ct)^2 - s^2}}^{\sqrt{(ct)^2 - s^2}} \frac{dz}{\sqrt{s^2 + z^2}}$$

$$= \frac{\mu_0 I_0}{2\pi} \hat{z} \int_0^{\sqrt{(ct)^2 - s^2}} \frac{dz}{\sqrt{s^2 + z^2}}$$

$$= \frac{\mu_0 I_0}{2\pi} \hat{z} \left[\ln(\sqrt{s^2 + z^2} + z) \right]_0^{\sqrt{(ct)^2 - s^2}}$$

$$= \frac{\mu_0 I_0}{2\pi} \ln \left(\frac{ct + \sqrt{(ct)^2 - s^2}}{s} \right) \hat{z}$$

We calculated the retarded potentials, $V = 0$,

$$\vec{A}(s, t) = \frac{\mu_0 I_0}{2\pi} \ln\left(\frac{ct + \sqrt{(ct)^2 - s^2}}{s}\right) \hat{z}$$

Then we calculate fields from $\vec{B} = \nabla \times \vec{A}$ and $\vec{E} = -\nabla V - \frac{\partial \vec{A}}{\partial t} = -\frac{\partial \vec{A}}{\partial t}$. Use curl in cylindrical coordinates formula, since $A_\phi = 0$ and $A_s = 0$,

$$\begin{aligned} \nabla \times \vec{A} &= \frac{1}{s} \frac{\partial A_z}{\partial \phi} \hat{s} - \frac{\partial A_z}{\partial s} \hat{\phi} \\ &= -\frac{\mu_0 I_0}{2\pi} \frac{\partial}{\partial s} \left[\ln(ct + \sqrt{(ct)^2 - s^2}) - \ln(s) \right] \hat{\phi} \\ &= \frac{\mu_0 I_0}{2\pi} \left[-\frac{1}{s} - \left(\frac{1}{ct + \sqrt{(ct)^2 - s^2}} \right) \left(\frac{-2s}{2\sqrt{(ct)^2 - s^2}} \right) \right] \hat{\phi} \\ &= \frac{\mu_0 I_0}{2\pi s} \left[1 + \frac{s^2}{ct \sqrt{(ct)^2 - s^2} + (ct)^2 - s^2} \right] \hat{\phi} \\ &= \frac{\mu_0 I_0}{2\pi s} \left[\frac{ct \sqrt{(ct)^2 - s^2} + (ct)^2 - s^2 + s^2}{ct \sqrt{(ct)^2 - s^2} + (ct)^2 - s^2} \right] \\ &= \frac{\mu_0 I_0}{2\pi s} \left[\frac{ct \sqrt{(ct)^2 - s^2} + (ct)^2}{ct \sqrt{(ct)^2 - s^2} + (ct)^2 - s^2} \right] \\ &= \frac{\mu_0 I_0}{2\pi s} \left[\frac{ct}{\sqrt{(ct)^2 - s^2}} \right] \hat{\phi} \end{aligned}$$

(see over for another attempt) ↷

E1 continued

I thought maybe I had a mistake, but, no it's just algebra. The last couple lines were tricky,

$$\nabla \times \vec{A} = -\frac{\partial A_s}{\partial s} \hat{\phi}$$

$$= -\frac{\mu_0 I_0}{2\pi} \frac{\partial}{\partial s} [\ln(u)] \hat{\phi} \quad u = \frac{ct + \sqrt{(ct)^2 - s^2}}{s}$$

$$= \left(-\frac{\mu_0 I_0}{2\pi} \hat{\phi} \right) \left[\frac{1}{u} \frac{\partial}{\partial s} \left[\frac{ct + \sqrt{(ct)^2 - s^2}}{s} \right] \right]$$

$$= \left(-\frac{\mu_0 I_0}{2\pi} \hat{\phi} \right) \left[\frac{1}{u} \left[\frac{-s}{\sqrt{(ct)^2 - s^2}} \cdot s - (ct + \sqrt{(ct)^2 - s^2}) \right] \right]$$

$$= \left(-\frac{\mu_0 I_0}{2\pi} \hat{\phi} \right) \left(\frac{s}{ct + \sqrt{(ct)^2 - s^2}} \right) \left(\frac{1}{s^2} \right) \left(\frac{-s^2}{\sqrt{(ct)^2 - s^2}} - (ct + \sqrt{(ct)^2 - s^2}) \right)$$

$$= \left(\frac{\mu_0 I_0}{2\pi s} \hat{\phi} \right) \left(ct + \sqrt{(ct)^2 - s^2} + \frac{s^2}{\sqrt{(ct)^2 - s^2}} \right) \left(\frac{1}{ct + \sqrt{(ct)^2 - s^2}} \right)$$

$$= \left(\frac{\mu_0 I_0}{2\pi s} \hat{\phi} \right) \left[1 + \frac{s^2}{(ct)^2 - s^2 + ct \sqrt{(ct)^2 - s^2}} \right]$$

$$= \left(\frac{\mu_0 I_0}{2\pi s} \hat{\phi} \right) \left(\frac{(ct)^2 - s^2 + ct \sqrt{(ct)^2 - s^2} + s^2}{(ct)^2 - s^2 + ct \sqrt{(ct)^2 - s^2}} \right)$$

$$= \left(\frac{\mu_0 I_0}{2\pi s} \hat{\phi} \right) \left(\frac{ct (ct + \sqrt{(ct)^2 - s^2})}{\sqrt{(ct)^2 - s^2} (\sqrt{(ct)^2 - s^2} + ct)} \right)$$

$$= \frac{\mu_0 I_0}{2\pi s} \frac{ct}{\sqrt{(ct)^2 - s^2}} \hat{\phi}$$

EI continued

(11)

After some calculation we found $\vec{B} = \frac{\mu_0 I_0}{2\pi s} \frac{ct}{\sqrt{(ct)^2 - s^2}} \hat{\phi}$
Next we find $\vec{E}$,

$$\begin{aligned}\vec{E} &= -\frac{\partial \vec{A}}{\partial t} \quad (\text{since } V = 0 \text{ here}) \\ &= -\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \left[\frac{\mu_0 I_0}{2\pi} \left[\ln(ct + \sqrt{(ct)^2 - s^2}) - \ln(s) \right] \hat{z} \right] \\ &= \frac{-\mu_0 I_0}{2\pi} \left(\frac{1}{ct + \sqrt{(ct)^2 - s^2}} \right) \left(c + \frac{2c^2 t}{2\sqrt{(ct)^2 - s^2}} \right) \hat{z} \\ &= \frac{-\mu_0 I_0 c}{2\pi} \left[\frac{1}{ct + \sqrt{(ct)^2 - s^2}} \right] \left[\frac{\sqrt{(ct)^2 - s^2} + ct}{\sqrt{(ct)^2 - s^2}} \right] \hat{z} \\ &= \frac{-\mu_0 I_0 c}{2\pi \sqrt{(ct)^2 - s^2}} \hat{z}\end{aligned}$$

In summary, there is a cylinder of nontrivial fields of radius $s = ct$ in which the fields expand.

$$\vec{E} = \frac{-\mu_0 I_0 c}{2\pi \sqrt{(ct)^2 - s^2}} \hat{z}$$

$$\vec{B} = \left(\frac{\mu_0 I}{2\pi s} \right) \left[\frac{ct}{\sqrt{(ct)^2 - s^2}} \right] \hat{\phi}$$

for
 $s < ct$

$\vec{E}, \vec{B} = 0$ } for $s > ct$ where $\vec{A}(s,t), V(s,t)$ both zero.

Remark: as $ct \rightarrow \infty$ notice $\vec{E} \rightarrow 0$
whereas $\vec{B} \rightarrow \frac{\mu_0 I}{2\pi s} \hat{\phi}$.