

5.12 Do the Maxwell's equations explain all magnetic phenomena?

For the lecture, problems, written exam: yes!

In general: No! Why? Maxwell's equations created in 1860's.
Relativity was discovered later.

5.12.1 Beyond Maxwell's equations: Lorentz transformation and relativity

There are subjects in electrodynamics which are not covered by Maxwell's equations, for example, spin-orbit coupling and fields generated by ultrafast charges: in such cases a relativistic approach is needed based on

Lorentz transformation of inertial frames \tilde{F}

Result in qualitative terms:

Electrical and magnetic fields are different aspects of the same electromagnetic field.

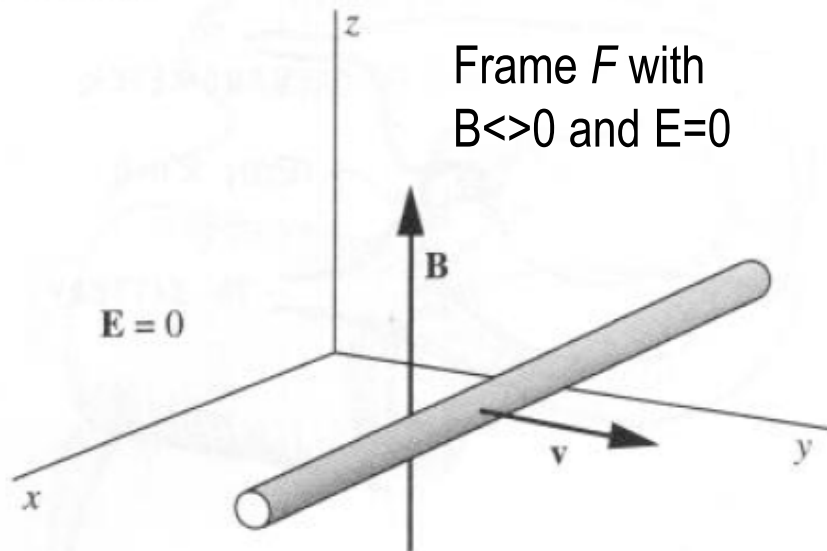
In moving from one inertial frame \tilde{F} to another, the field \vec{E} can change in whole or in part to a field \vec{B} or vice versa.

On the next slide
the basic idea is sketched
(taken from Purcell).

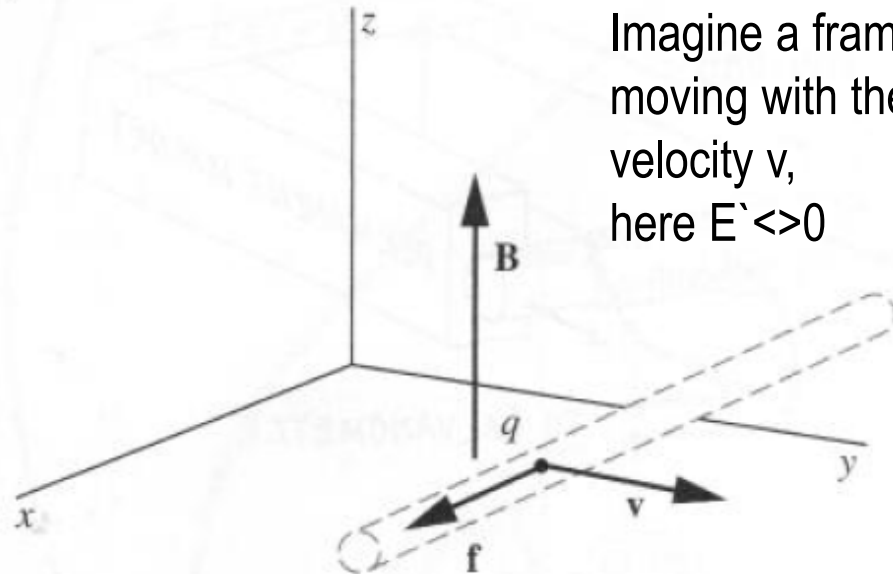
5.12.2 How fields transform

Illustration:

(a) Frame F



(b)



Formulas for transformation into frame F' :

$$\begin{aligned} \vec{E}'_{\parallel} &= \vec{E}_{\parallel} & \vec{E}'_{\perp} &= \gamma(\vec{E}_{\perp} + \vec{v} \times \vec{B}_{\perp}) \\ \vec{B}'_{\parallel} &= \vec{B}_{\parallel} & \vec{B}'_{\perp} &= \gamma(\vec{B}_{\perp} - \left(\frac{\vec{v}}{c^2}\right) \times \vec{E}_{\perp}) \\ \gamma &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 - \beta^2}} & \beta &= \frac{v}{c} \end{aligned}$$

The term $\vec{E}'_{\perp} = \gamma \vec{v} \times \vec{B}_{\perp}$ provides the magnetic force

$$\vec{F} = q \vec{v} \times \vec{B}$$

if $\beta \ll 1$ (i.e. charges are slow).

\parallel : component parallel to \vec{v} of \vec{F}'
 \perp : component perpendicular to \vec{v} of \vec{F}'

Summary 1: Maxwell equations in matter (2 scenarios)

in matter with
polarization
effects

in matter without
any polarization
effect

$$\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{D} = \rho_{free}$$

$$\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{B} = 0$$

$$\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{E} = -\frac{\partial \vec{B}}{\partial t}$$

$$\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{H} = \vec{j} + \frac{\partial \vec{D}}{\partial t}$$

$$\vec{D} = \epsilon_r \epsilon_0 \vec{E}$$

$$\vec{H} = \frac{1}{\mu_0} \vec{B} - \vec{M}$$

$$\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{E} = \frac{\rho}{\epsilon_0}$$

$$\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{B} = 0$$

$$\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{E} = -\frac{\partial \vec{B}}{\partial t}$$

$$\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{B} = \mu_0 \vec{j} + \frac{1}{c^2} \frac{\partial \vec{E}}{\partial t}$$



Fields E and B enter the **Lorentz force law**:

$$\vec{F} = q\vec{E} + q\vec{v} \times \vec{B}$$

Coulomb
force

magnetic Force

Relativistic effects are not described by these equations.

Summary 2: Maxwell's equations in vacuum without free charges

Maxwell equations in empty space **without** charges and currents:

$$\begin{aligned}\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{E} &= 0 & \vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{B} &= 0 \\ \vec{\nabla} \times \vec{E} &= -\frac{\partial \vec{B}}{\partial t} & \vec{\nabla} \times \vec{B} &= \frac{1}{c^2} \frac{\partial \vec{E}}{\partial t}\end{aligned}$$

The induction law and “displacement current” exist in vacuum, without considering any matter or body with charges.

These two observables led to the **theory of light**.