

B from a spinning disk of charge 2016

A disk of radius a has a uniform surface charge density σ . It is spinning about its axis with a constant angular velocity ω . Calculate the magnetic field along the symmetry axis.

The law of Biot-Savart says

$$\vec{B} = \frac{\mu_0}{4\pi} \int_{\text{all currents}} \frac{\vec{K} \times \vec{r}_{ip}}{|\vec{r}_{ip}|^3} dA_i$$

where K is a surface current in the simplest case given by $\vec{K} = \sigma \vec{v}$

Here the problem is to find the current as a function of s . At a radius s on the disk, the velocity is given by $\vec{v} = \omega s \hat{\phi}$. We can then obtain the surface current easily from this: $\vec{K} = \sigma \vec{v} = \sigma \omega s \hat{\phi}$. The vector can also be obtained from:

$$\vec{v} = \vec{\omega} \times \vec{s} = \omega s [\hat{z} \times (\cos \phi \hat{x} + \sin \phi \hat{y})] = \omega s \begin{vmatrix} \hat{x} & \hat{y} & \hat{z} \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \\ \cos \phi & \sin \phi & 0 \end{vmatrix} = \omega s (-\sin \phi \hat{x} + \cos \phi \hat{y}) = \omega s \hat{\phi}$$

Along the symmetry axis at a point z_p we have:

$$\vec{r}_i = x_i \hat{x} + y_i \hat{y}; \vec{r}_p = z_p \hat{z}; \vec{r}_{ip} = -s \cos \phi \hat{x} - s \sin \phi \hat{y} + z_p \hat{z}$$

if we put everything together, we then have:

$$\vec{B} = \frac{\mu_0}{4\pi} \iint \frac{[(\sigma \omega s \hat{\phi}) \times (-s \cos \phi \hat{x} - s \sin \phi \hat{y} + z_p \hat{z})]}{[s^2 + z_p^2]^{3/2}} s ds d\phi$$

$$\hat{\phi} \times (s \hat{s} + z_p \hat{z}) = \begin{vmatrix} \hat{x} & \hat{y} & \hat{z} \\ -\sin \phi & \cos \phi & 0 \\ s \cos \phi & s \sin \phi & z_p \end{vmatrix} = \hat{x} (z_p \cos \phi) - \hat{y} (-z_p \sin \phi) + \hat{z} (-s)$$

After integration through ϕ and by the right hand rule, along the symmetry axis only the z component will survive. The calculation for the magnetic field then reduces to:

$$\vec{B} = \frac{\mu_0}{4\pi} 2\pi \sigma \omega \hat{z} \int_{s=0}^{s=a} \frac{s^3 ds}{[s^2 + z_p^2]^{3/2}} = \frac{1}{2} \mu_0 \sigma \omega \hat{z} \int_{s=0}^{s=a} \frac{s^3 ds}{[s^2 + z_p^2]^{3/2}}$$

from the alpha site, $\int \frac{x^3 ds}{[s^2 + z_p^2]^{3/2}} = \frac{s^2 + 2z_p^2}{\sqrt{s^2 + z_p^2}}$ from $x=0$ to $x=a$:

$$\int \frac{s^3 ds}{[s^2 + z_p^2]^{3/2}} = \frac{s^2 + 2z_p^2}{\sqrt{s^2 + z_p^2}}$$

$$\text{So: } \vec{B} = \frac{1}{2} \mu_0 \sigma \omega \left[\frac{a^2 + 2z_p^2}{\sqrt{a^2 + z_p^2}} - 2|z_p| \right] \hat{z}$$