

7.3.5 Maxwell's equations in matter

We are going to separate things into contributions from free and bound charges and currents. If you will recall:

$$\rho_b = -\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{P} \quad \text{and} \quad \vec{J}_b = \vec{\nabla} \times \vec{M}$$

There is now one additional current which is to be considered: it arises from a system which undergoes a time rate of change of polarization. I can show it from above:

$$\frac{\partial \rho_b}{\partial t} = -\vec{\nabla} \cdot \frac{\partial \vec{P}}{\partial t}$$

From the continuity equation, a change in charge density implies a current:

$$\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{J} = -\frac{\partial \rho_b}{\partial t} \Rightarrow \vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{J}_p = \vec{\nabla} \cdot \frac{\partial \vec{P}}{\partial t} \Rightarrow \vec{J}_p = \frac{\partial \vec{P}}{\partial t}$$

So a change in polarization implies there must be a corresponding current density associated with this change. Your author argues this a different way and then shows that the continuity equation is satisfied. I prefer this method. Notice the subscript p on this current to delineate that it came from polarization and is not related to bound currents.

So far, here is what we have: charge is divided into two parts:

$$\rho = \rho_f + \rho_b = \rho_f - \vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{P}$$

and now currents are divided into 3 parts:

$$\vec{J} = \vec{J}_f + \vec{J}_b + \vec{J}_p = \vec{J}_f + \vec{\nabla} \times \vec{M} + \frac{\partial \vec{P}}{\partial t}$$

Let's look at Gauss's law:

$$\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{E} = \frac{\rho_f}{\epsilon_0} - \frac{(\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{P})}{\epsilon_0}$$

But since $\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{D} = \rho_f$, we can write: $\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{E} = \frac{1}{\epsilon_0} [\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{D} - \vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{P}] \Rightarrow \vec{D} = \epsilon_0 \vec{E} + \vec{P}$.

Let's look at Ampere's law:

$$\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{B} = \mu_0 \left(\vec{J}_f + \vec{\nabla} \times \vec{M} + \frac{\partial \vec{P}}{\partial t} \right) + \epsilon_0 \mu_0 \frac{\partial \vec{E}}{\partial t}$$

Since $\vec{D} = \epsilon_0 \vec{E} + \vec{P}$, we can write this as:

$$\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{B} = \mu_0 \left(\vec{J}_f + \vec{\nabla} \times \vec{M} \right) + \mu_0 \frac{\partial \vec{D}}{\partial t}$$

Now since

$$\vec{H} = \frac{1}{\mu_0} \vec{B} - \vec{M} \Rightarrow \vec{\nabla} \times \vec{H} = \frac{1}{\mu_0} \vec{\nabla} \times \vec{B} - \vec{\nabla} \times \vec{M} \Rightarrow \vec{\nabla} \times \vec{B} = \mu_0 \vec{\nabla} \times \vec{H} + \mu_0 \vec{\nabla} \times \vec{M}$$

we can write:

$$\mu_0 \vec{\nabla} \times \vec{H} + \mu_0 \vec{\nabla} \times \vec{M} = \mu_0 \vec{J}_f + \mu_0 \vec{\nabla} \times \vec{M} + \mu_0 \frac{\partial \vec{D}}{\partial t} \Rightarrow \vec{\nabla} \times \vec{H} = \vec{J}_f + \frac{\partial \vec{D}}{\partial t}$$

So we now have Maxwell's equations for matter:

$$\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{D} = \rho_f; \vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{B} = 0; \vec{\nabla} \times \vec{E} = -\frac{\partial \vec{B}}{\partial t}; \vec{\nabla} \times \vec{H} = \vec{J}_f + \frac{\partial \vec{D}}{\partial t}$$

You can see that D was called the electric displacement and it gives rise to the displacement current. Thus the similarity in names.

You also need the constitutive relations which for linear materials are:

$$\vec{P} = \epsilon_0 \chi_E \vec{E}; \vec{M} = \chi_M \vec{H}; \vec{D} = \epsilon \vec{E}; \vec{B} = \mu \vec{H}; \epsilon \equiv \epsilon_0 (1 + \chi_E); \mu = \mu_0 (1 + \chi_M); \vec{J}_D = \frac{\partial \vec{D}}{\partial t}$$