

RADIATION RESISTANCE OF AN OSCILLATING MAGNETIC DIPOLE

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References: Griffiths, David J. (2007), Introduction to Electrodynamics, 3rd Edition; Pearson Education - Chapter 11, Post 6

We can find the radiation resistance of an oscillating magnetic dipole produced by an AC current in a circular wire loop of radius b in the same way as for an oscillating electric dipole. The average power radiated by the magnetic dipole is the integral of the intensity over a sphere, so we have

$$\langle P \rangle = \int \langle \mathbf{S} \rangle \cdot d\mathbf{a} \quad (1)$$

$$= \int \frac{\mu_0 m_0^2 \omega^4 \sin^2 \theta}{32\pi^2 c^3 r^2} \hat{\mathbf{r}} \cdot d\mathbf{a} \quad (2)$$

$$= \frac{\mu_0 m_0^2 \omega^4}{32\pi^2 c^3} 2\pi \int_0^\pi \frac{\sin^2 \theta}{r^2} r^2 \sin \theta d\theta \quad (3)$$

$$= \frac{\mu_0 m_0^2 \omega^4}{12\pi c^3} \quad (4)$$

The resistance R required in the wire loop to generate the same power loss through heat is given by $P = \langle I^2 \rangle R$ where the current is

$$I(t) = I_0 \cos \omega t \quad (5)$$

with the maximum current I_0 given in terms of the maximum magnetic moment m_0 :

$$I_0 = \frac{m_0}{\pi b^2} \quad (6)$$

Since the average of $\cos^2 x$ over a complete cycle is $\frac{1}{2}$ we get

$$\langle I^2 \rangle R = \frac{m_0^2}{2\pi^2 b^4} R \quad (7)$$

$$= \frac{\mu_0 m_0^2 \omega^4}{12\pi c^3} \quad (8)$$

$$R = \frac{\mu_0 \pi \omega^4 b^4}{6c^3} \quad (9)$$

$$= \frac{8\mu_0 \pi^5 c b^4}{3 \lambda^4} \quad (10)$$

$$= 3.08 \times 10^5 \frac{b^4}{\lambda^4} \Omega \quad (11)$$

where in the fourth line we used $\omega/c = 2\pi/\lambda$.

To compare this to the electric dipole's radiation resistance, which is given in terms of the length l of the wire joining the two charges as:

$$R_e = 787 \frac{l^2}{\lambda^2} \Omega \quad (12)$$

we can take $l = 2\pi b$ so the lengths of wire in the two cases are the same. Then

$$\frac{R_e}{R_m} = \frac{787 (2\pi)^2 \lambda^2}{3.08 \times 10^5 b^2} \quad (13)$$

$$= 0.1 \frac{\lambda^2}{b^2} \quad (14)$$

Since we're assuming that $b \ll \lambda$, $R_e \gg R_m$.