

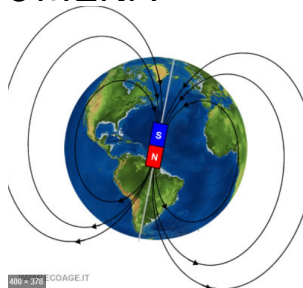
Potential Vector In Biology

Francesco Troisi

¹Dipartimento di Fisica E. Fermi
Università di Pisa

24 April 2020

NATURAL PHENOMENA



MAXWELL EQUATIONS

- $\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{E} = \frac{\rho}{\epsilon_0}$
- $\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{B} = 0$
- $\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{E} = -\frac{\partial \vec{B}}{\partial t}$
- $\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{B} = \mu_0 \vec{J} + \frac{1}{c^2} \frac{\partial \vec{E}}{\partial t}$
- Espressione dei campi mediante potenziali scalare (ϕ) e vettoriale (\vec{A})
- $\vec{B} = \vec{\nabla} \times \vec{A}$
- $\vec{E} = -\vec{\nabla}\phi - \frac{\partial \vec{A}}{\partial t}$

Electromagnetic waves

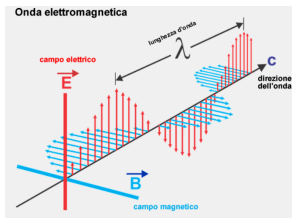


Figure: Plot of an em wave

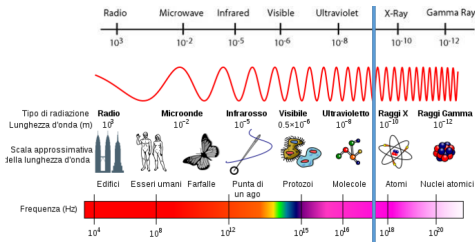


Figure: EM spectrum

- Both classical and quantum mechanical phenomena can be described starting with the determination of the Lagrangian and Hamiltonian function for a specific particle with mass m and charge q .
- Both in Lagrangian and Hamiltonian appear scalar and vector potential.

$$L = T - V = \frac{1}{2}m\dot{\vec{r}}^2 - q\phi + q\vec{A} \cdot \dot{\vec{r}} \quad (1)$$

$$\vec{p} = \frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{\vec{r}}} = m\dot{\vec{r}} + q\vec{A} \quad (2)$$

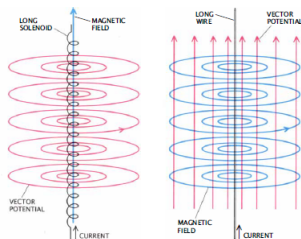
$$H = \vec{p} \cdot \dot{\vec{r}} - L = \frac{1}{2m}|\vec{p} - q\vec{A}|^2 + q\phi \quad (3)$$

So, Hamiltonian, which correspond (almost) to the total energy of the charged particle, doesn't depend on fields, instead it depends on potentials, scalar and vector.

The Bohm-Ahronov effect

- The Bohm Ahronov effect is a particular effect in which charges feel potential vector even when electromagnetic field is absent
- Difference of phase observed in an interference pattern of an electron gun going through an external path respect to a solenoid
- We are considering the case which $\phi = 0$. So the difference of phase depends only on potential vector.

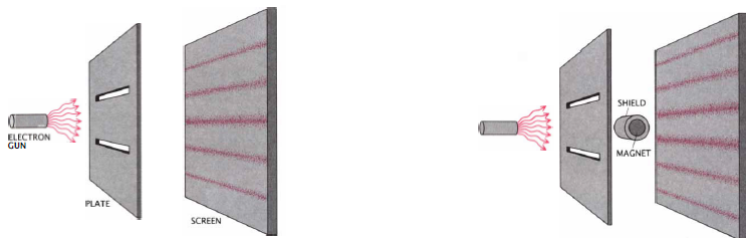
$$\delta\theta = \frac{q}{\hbar c} \oint_C \vec{A} \cdot d\vec{r} = \frac{q}{\hbar c} \Phi_B \quad (4)$$



VECTOR POTENTIAL FIELD (red lines) is compared with the magnetic field (blue lines) for a long solenoid (left) and a long wire (right). Each line represents its respective field at a given strength. The circulation of the vector potential field around a curve is equal to the magnetic field multiplied by the area bound by that curve.

Figure: Magnetic field and potential vector lines in a solenoid

Bohm Aharonov effect (2)



Difference of interference patterns between cases of absence and presence of magnetic field

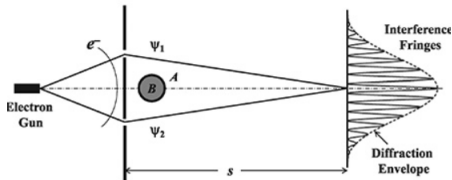
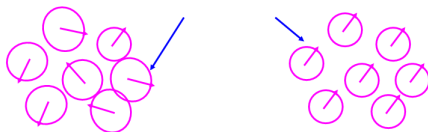


Figure: Interference path of an electron gun moving into two slits. The origin of interference is in the wave nature of electrons, as quantum mechanics states.

Consequences in biology: quantum coherence

- Potential Vector extends to a nearby large area, without transporting energy but just information, exerting a “fine influence”, that alters the phase of the present coherent systems. (Giuliano Preparata and Emilio del Giudice)



$N \sim 10^{23}$
!!!

Figure: Difference between coherent and incoherent system



D. Griffiths *Introduction to Electrodynamics*



Y. Aharonov And D. Bohm *Significance of Electromagnetic potentials in quantum theory*



Yoseph Imri and Richard Webb *Quantum Interference and the Aharonov-Bohm Effect*

THANKS FOR
YOUR ATTENTION