

Magnetic monopole

Assume that there is a magnetic monopole with charge.

Similarly to the electric charge, the Gauss's law (for a closed manifold)

$$\int d\vec{S} \cdot \vec{B} = 4\pi q_m$$

The \vec{B} field is:

$$\vec{B} = q_m \frac{\vec{e}_r}{r^2} = q_m \frac{\vec{r}}{r^3} = q_m \frac{(x, y, z)}{(x^2 + y^2 + z^2)^{3/2}}$$

The vector potential $\nabla \times \vec{A} = \vec{B}$

The value of \vec{A} is not unique, but they are all connected by a gauge transformation.

For example:

$$\vec{A} = q_m \frac{(y, -x, 0)}{r(r-z)}$$

This vector potential has one problem. It is singular at the north pole ($z = r$). In fact, one can prove that no matter which gauge one uses, there will always be a singular point.

This singularity is not a physical singularity. All physical observables are smooth and non-singular functions at this point. Only A (which is not a measurable quantity) shows singular behavior. In addition, the location of this singularity point is gauge dependent.

For example, using another gauge, which gives the same B field

$$\vec{A} = q_m \frac{(-y, x, 0)}{r(r+z)}$$

This singular at the south pole ($z = -r$).

Use the first one to describe the south hemisphere and the second one to describe the north hemisphere:

$$\vec{A}_N = q_m \frac{(-y, x, 0)}{r(r+z)} \quad \vec{A}_S = q_m \frac{(y, -x, 0)}{r(r-z)}$$

At the equator, the vector potential is multivalued (depending on whether we use A_N or A_S). Because we know that A is not a physical observable and it is multivalued. As long as they differ by a gauge transformation, they describe the same physics (same B field).

The gauge transformation between A_N and A_S is:

$$\vec{A}_N = \vec{A}_S + 2q_m \frac{(-y, x, 0)}{(r-z)(r+z)}$$

At the equator ($z = 0$)

$$\vec{A}_N = \vec{A}_S + 2q_m \frac{(-y, x, 0)}{r^2} = \vec{A}_S + 2q_m \nabla \varphi$$

Gauge transformation:

$$\begin{aligned} \phi &\rightarrow \phi' = \phi - \frac{\partial \Lambda(\vec{r}, t)}{\partial t} \\ \vec{A} &\rightarrow \vec{A}' = \vec{A} + \nabla \Lambda(\vec{r}, t) \\ \psi(\vec{r}, t) &\rightarrow \psi'(\vec{r}, t) = \psi(\vec{r}, t) e^{i \frac{q_e}{\hbar} \Lambda(\vec{r}, t)} \end{aligned}$$

Here

$$\begin{aligned} \Lambda(\vec{r}, t) &= 2q_m \varphi \\ \psi_N(\vec{r}, t) &= \psi_S(\vec{r}, t) e^{i \frac{q_e}{\hbar} \Lambda(\vec{r}, t)} = \psi_S(\vec{r}, t) e^{i \frac{2q_e q_m}{\hbar} \varphi} \end{aligned}$$

We know φ and $\varphi + 2\pi$ are the same points, therefore

$$\frac{2q_e q_m}{\hbar} = n$$

where n is an integer.

$$\psi_N(\vec{r}, t) = \psi_S(\vec{r}, t)e^{in\varphi}$$

The magnetic charge is quantized (up till now we have used the $c = 1$ units)

$$q_m = \frac{c\hbar}{2q_e} n$$

For a closed surface enclosing a magnetic monopole, no matter what gauge one uses, the vector potential must have some singularities.

If A is a non-singular function on a closed manifold, the magnetic flux through this manifold must be zero.

To proof this, we cut the manifold into two parts D_I and D_{II}

The magnetic flux through D_I

$$\int_{D_I} d\vec{S} \cdot \vec{B} = \int_{D_I} d\vec{S} \cdot \nabla \times \vec{A} = \oint_{C_I} d\vec{l} \cdot \vec{A}$$

where C_I is the edge of D_I , and we used the Stokes' theorem for nonsingular functions.

The expression is the same for the magnetic flux through D_{II}

Therefore, the total magnetic field flux is

$$\int d\vec{S} \cdot \vec{B} = \oint_{C_I} d\vec{l} \cdot \vec{A} + \oint_{C_{II}} d\vec{l} \cdot \vec{A}$$

The edge of D_I and D_{II} are the same curve but their directions are opposite, therefore

$$\int d\vec{S} \cdot \vec{B} = 0$$

The only way to have nonzero magnetic flux here is to have some singular vector potential. If A is singular, we must use at least two different gauge choice to cover the whole manifold.

If we use A_I for D_I and A_{II} for D_{II} , we get

$$\int d\vec{S} \cdot \vec{B} = \oint_{C_I} d\vec{l} \cdot (\vec{A}_I - \vec{A}_{II})$$

Replacing $\vec{A}_I = \vec{A}_N$ and $\vec{A}_{II} = \vec{A}_S$

$$\int d\vec{S} \cdot \vec{B} = \oint_{C_I} d\vec{l} \cdot (\vec{A}_N - \vec{A}_S) = 2q_m \oint_{C_I} d\vec{l} \cdot \nabla\varphi = 4\pi q_m$$

(Going from CGS to SI units $\vec{B} \rightarrow \vec{B}/4\pi$)

Another choice of the vector potential, using spherical polar coordinates

$$A_\varphi^N = \frac{q_m}{r} \frac{1 - \cos\theta}{\sin\theta}$$

$$A_\varphi^S = -\frac{q_m}{r} \frac{1 + \cos\theta}{\sin\theta}$$

The gauge transformation connecting the two

$$A_\varphi^N = A_\varphi^S + \frac{2q_m}{r \sin\theta} \partial_\varphi\varphi$$

leads to the same result.