

ELECTROMAGNETIC WAVES

in various contexts

■ free space; $c = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\mu_0 \epsilon_0}}$

■ simple linear materials
dielectrics

$$v_{\text{phase}} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\mu\epsilon}} = \frac{c}{n} \implies \text{optics}$$

■ conductors and plasmas

■ waveguides

What is the speed of EM waves
in a wave guide?

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Maxwell Equations

where there are no
free charges or currents

| | |
|----------------------------|---|
| $\nabla \cdot \vec{B} = 0$ | $\nabla \times \vec{E} = - \frac{\partial \vec{B}}{\partial t}$ |
| $\nabla \cdot \vec{D} = 0$ | $\nabla \times \vec{H} = \frac{\partial \vec{D}}{\partial t}$ |

For simple materials,

$$\vec{D}(\vec{x}, t) = \epsilon \vec{E}(\vec{x}, t), \text{ constant } \epsilon$$

$$\vec{B}(\vec{x}, t) = \mu \vec{H}(\vec{x}, t), \text{ constant } \mu$$

In free space, $\mu = \mu_0$ and $\epsilon = \epsilon_0$.

The PDEs

$\vec{E}(\vec{x},t)$ and $\vec{B}(\vec{x},t)$ obey the wave equation.

sc1

$$\begin{aligned}\nabla \times (\nabla \times \vec{E}) &= \nabla(\nabla \cdot \vec{E}) - \nabla^2 \vec{E} \\ &= -\nabla^2 \vec{E} \\ \hookrightarrow &= \nabla \times \left(-\frac{\partial \vec{B}}{\partial t}\right) = -\mu \frac{\partial}{\partial t} (\nabla \times \vec{H}) \\ &= -\mu \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \epsilon \frac{\partial \vec{E}}{\partial t} = -\mu \epsilon \frac{\partial^2 \vec{E}}{\partial t^2} \\ \therefore \nabla^2 \vec{E} - \mu \epsilon \frac{\partial^2 \vec{E}}{\partial t^2} &= 0.\end{aligned}$$

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Plane wave solutions in a uniform medium (including free space); and so far we are not specifying any boundaries

$$\vec{E} = \vec{E}_0 \cos(\vec{k} \cdot \vec{x} - \omega t)$$

| | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| $\vec{E} = \vec{E}_0 \cos(\vec{k} \cdot \vec{x} - \omega t)$ | |
| $\nabla \cdot \vec{D} = 0$ | $\vec{k} \cdot \vec{E}_0 = 0$ |
| $(\nabla^2 - \mu \epsilon \frac{\partial^2}{\partial t^2}) \vec{E} = 0$ | $-k^2 + \mu \epsilon \omega^2 = 0$ |
| $\frac{\omega}{k} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\mu \epsilon}} = v_{\text{phase}} = \frac{c}{n}$ | |

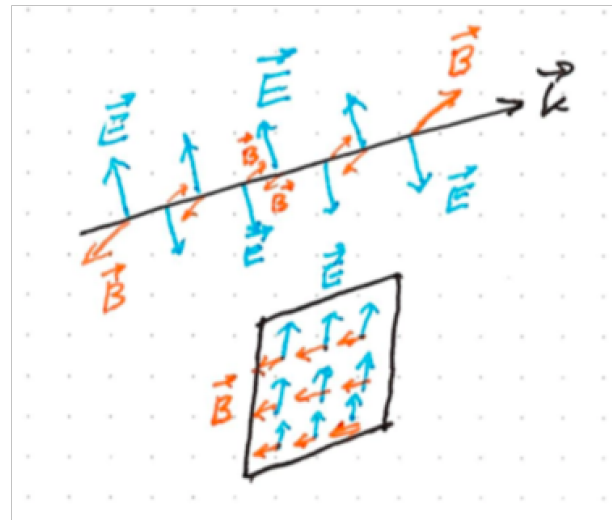
But there is more to it ...

$$\frac{\partial \vec{B}}{\partial t} = -\nabla \times \vec{E} = \vec{k} \times \vec{E}_0 \sin(\vec{k} \cdot \vec{x} - \omega t)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \therefore \vec{B} &= \frac{\vec{k} \times \vec{E}_0}{\omega} \cos(\vec{k} \cdot \vec{x} - \omega t) \\ &= \vec{B}_0 \cos(\vec{k} \cdot \vec{x} - \omega t) \end{aligned}$$

$$\vec{B}_0 = \frac{\vec{k} \times \vec{E}_0}{\omega} = \frac{1}{v_{\text{phase}}} \hat{k} \times \vec{E}_0$$

sc2



The wave fronts are planes \perp to \vec{k} .

EM waves in an enclosed space

— waveguides

The PDFs are the same, but now we have boundary surfaces!

A rectangular waveguide, with dimensions $\delta x = a$ and $\delta y = a/2$; waves propagating in the z direction.

Inside is free space; $\mu = \mu_0$ and $\epsilon = \epsilon_0$.

The walls are metal, which we'll approximate by a perfect conductor.

So on the surfaces,

$$\vec{E}_{\text{tangential}} = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad B_{\text{normal}} = 0;$$

$$E_{\text{normal}} = \Sigma / \epsilon_0 \quad \text{and} \quad \vec{B}_{\text{tangential}} = \mu_0 \hat{n} \times \vec{K}.$$

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We are looking for solutions such that the fields are $\propto e^{i(kz - \omega t)}$;

(using complex functions; the Re Part is understood);

so $\frac{\partial}{\partial z} \rightarrow ik$ and $\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \rightarrow -i\omega$.

| | |
|---|---|
| $\vec{F} = \hat{z} F_z + \vec{F}_T$ where $\vec{F}_T = \hat{x} F_x + \hat{y} F_y$ | |
| $\nabla \cdot \vec{D} = 0$ | $ik E_z + \nabla_T \cdot \vec{E}_T = 0$ |
| $\nabla \cdot \vec{B} = 0$ | $ik B_z + \nabla_T \cdot \vec{B}_T = 0$ |
| $i\omega \vec{B} = \nabla \times \vec{E}$ | $i\omega\mu \vec{H} = (\hat{z}ik + \nabla_T) \times (\hat{z}E_z + \vec{E}_T)$ |
| $-i\omega \vec{D} = \nabla \times \vec{H}$ | $-i\omega\epsilon \vec{E} = (\hat{z}ik + \nabla_T) \times (\hat{z}H_z + \vec{H}_T)$ |

Separate the curl equations into longitudinal and transverse components,

$$i\omega\mu H_z = \hat{z} \cdot (\nabla_T \times \vec{E}_T)$$

$$i\omega\mu \vec{H}_T = \hat{z} \times (ik \vec{E}_T - \nabla_T E_z)$$

and

$$-i\omega\epsilon E_z = \hat{z} \cdot (\nabla_T \times \vec{H}_T)$$

$$-i\omega\epsilon \vec{E}_T = \hat{z} \times (ik \vec{H}_T - \nabla_T H_z)$$

And now solve for \vec{E}_T and \vec{H}_T in terms of E_z and H_z ...

$$\begin{aligned} i\omega\mu \vec{H}_T &= ik \hat{z} \times \vec{E}_T - \hat{z} \times \nabla_T E_z \\ &= ik \hat{z} \times \left[\frac{i}{\omega\epsilon} \hat{z} \times (ik \vec{H}_T - \nabla_T H_z) \right] - \hat{z} \times \nabla_T E_z \end{aligned}$$

$$\left(i\omega\mu - \frac{ik^2}{\omega\epsilon} \right) \vec{H}_T = -\frac{k}{\omega\epsilon} \nabla_T H_z - \hat{z} \times \nabla_T E_z$$

$$\vec{H}_T = \frac{ik}{(\mu\epsilon\omega^2 - k^2)} \left[\nabla_T H_z - \sqrt{\epsilon/\mu} \hat{z} \times \nabla_T E_z \right]$$

and similarly

$$\vec{E}_T = \frac{ik}{(\mu\epsilon\omega^2 - k^2)} \left[\nabla_T E_z - \sqrt{\mu/\epsilon} \hat{z} \times \nabla_T H_z \right]$$

Let $\gamma^2 = \mu\epsilon\omega^2 - k^2$

TE waves

$$E_z = 0 \text{ and } H_z = H_0 \psi(x,y) e^{i(kz - \omega t)}$$

$$E_x = \frac{ik}{\gamma^2} \sqrt{\frac{\mu}{\epsilon}} \frac{\partial H_z}{\partial y} \text{ and } E_y = \frac{-ik}{\gamma^2} \sqrt{\frac{\mu}{\epsilon}} \frac{\partial H_z}{\partial x}$$

The wave equation \implies

$$(\nabla^2 - \mu\epsilon \partial_t^2) H_z = 0$$

$$(\nabla_T^2 + \mu\epsilon\omega^2 - k^2) \psi = 0$$

-- with boundary conditions --

$$\partial_x \psi(0,y) = \partial_x \psi(a,y) = \partial_y \psi(x,0) = \partial_y \psi(x,a/2) = 0$$

-- implies --

$$\psi(x,y) = \cos\left(\frac{m\pi x}{a}\right) \cos\left(\frac{n\pi y}{a/2}\right) \text{ where } m,n \in \mathbb{Z}$$

$$\text{and } \mu\epsilon\omega^2 - k^2 = \left(\frac{m\pi}{a}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{n\pi}{a/2}\right)^2 \equiv \gamma^2$$

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★ The cutoff frequency ω_{mn}

Propagation $\propto e^{i(kz - \omega t)}$ requires that k is real; i.e., $k^2 > 0$.

Then we must have $\omega > \omega_{mn}$ where

$$\mu\epsilon \omega_{mn}^2 = \gamma_{mn}^2 = \left(\frac{m\pi}{a}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{n\pi}{a/2}\right)^2$$

Note: In the limit $a \rightarrow \infty$, $\omega_{mn} \rightarrow 0$; the frequency cutoff goes away.

★ The speed of EM waves in the waveguide

$$v_{\text{phase}} = \frac{\omega}{k} = \frac{c\omega}{\sqrt{\omega^2 - \omega_{mn}^2}} > c$$

$$v_{\text{group}} = \frac{d\omega}{dk} = \frac{c\sqrt{\omega^2 - \omega_{mn}^2}}{\omega} < c$$

Note: In the limit $a \rightarrow \infty$,
 v_{phase} and $v_{\text{group}} \rightarrow c$, as we know.

★ Surface current densities

Consider the case $\{mn\} = \{10\}$.

$$\psi(x,y) = \cos(\pi x/a) \quad \text{AND} \quad \gamma = \frac{\pi}{a}$$

$$\vec{H}_T = \frac{ikH_0}{\gamma^2} \hat{x} \left(\frac{-\pi}{a}\right) \sin(\pi x/a) e^{i(kz - \omega t)}$$

$$\vec{H}_T = \frac{kaH_0}{\pi} \hat{x} \sin(\pi x/a) \sin(kz - \omega t)$$

$$\vec{K} = \hat{n} \times \vec{H} = H_0 \hat{n} \times [$$

$$\hat{x} \frac{ka}{\pi} \sin(\pi x/a) \sin(kz - \omega t)$$

$$+ \hat{z} \cos(\pi x/a) \cos(kz - \omega t)]$$

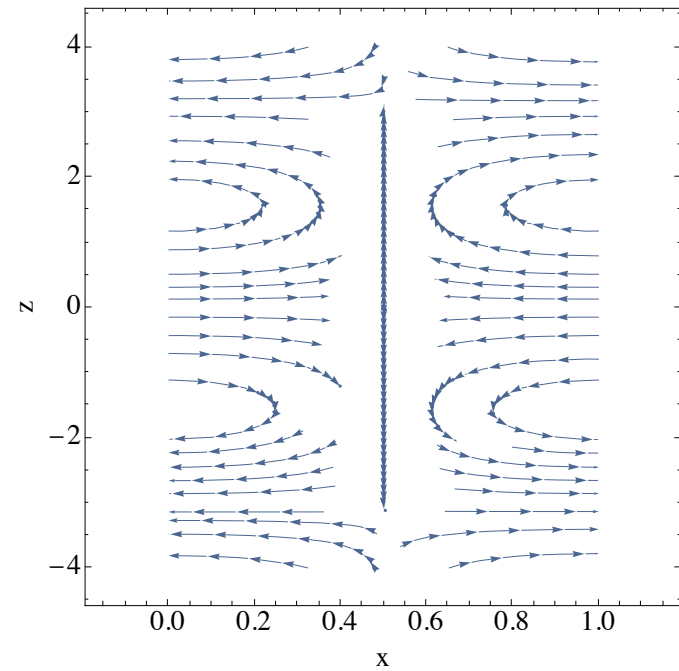
- The walls at $x = 0$ and $x = a$ have $\hat{n} = \pm \hat{x}$; there

$$\vec{K} = \pm \hat{y} H_0 \cos(kz - \omega t).$$

- The walls at $y = 0$ and $y = a/2$ have $\hat{n} = \pm \hat{y}$; there

$$\vec{K} = \pm \hat{z} H_0 \frac{ka}{\pi} \sin(\pi x/a) \sin(kz - \omega t) \mp \hat{x} H_0 \cos(\pi x/a) \cos(kz - \omega t)$$

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a = 1; k = 1 / a;
fz[x_, z_] = Sin[Pi * x / a] * Sin[k * z];
fx[x_, z_] = Cos[Pi * x / a] * Cos[k * z];
StreamPlot[{fx[x, z], fz[x, z]},
  {x, 0, 1}, {z, -4, 4}, FrameLabel -> {"x", "z"},
  BaseStyle -> {ff, 24}, ImageSize -> Large]
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Waves in a conducting medium

Recall homework problem 8-3.

8-3. (a) Derive the wave equation for an electromagnetic wave in a material with permittivity ϵ and conductivity g . (Ignore magnetization.)

(b) Solve the equation for a plane wave with frequency ω .

(c) Calculate the absorption length for a good conductor.

(What is meant by a “good” conductor?)

$$(A) \nabla \times \vec{E} = -\mu_0 \frac{\partial \vec{H}}{\partial t} \text{ and } \nabla \times \vec{H} = g \vec{E} + \epsilon \frac{\partial \vec{E}}{\partial t}.$$

Evaluate $\nabla \times (\nabla \times \vec{E})$ and simplify

$$\Rightarrow \mu_0 \epsilon \frac{\partial^2 \vec{E}}{\partial t^2} - \nabla^2 \vec{E} + \mu_0 g \frac{\partial \vec{E}}{\partial t} = 0$$

(B) A plane wave solution has $\vec{E} \propto e^{i(kz - \omega t)}$.

Solution requires $k^2 = \mu_0 \epsilon \omega^2 + i \mu_0 g \omega$.

(C) Write $k = \beta + \frac{i\alpha}{2}$ where α is the absorption coefficient.

Absorption length = $\delta = 1/\alpha$.

For a good conductor, $\delta \approx \sqrt{\frac{2}{\mu_0 g \omega}}$

(same as the “skin depth” defined in Section 5.18).