

Electromagnetic Theory (Hecht Ch. 3)

Last time, talked about waves in general

- wave equation: $\nabla^2 \psi(\mathbf{r}, t) = \frac{1}{v^2} \frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial t^2}$

ψ = amplitude of disturbance of medium

For light, “medium” = EM field

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This time:

- derive wave equation from Maxwell's Equations
- study properties of EM waves in vacuum

Next time:

- consider EM waves in matter

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Maxwell's Equations:

Basic postulates of electromagnetism

Physical quantities:

Electric field	$\mathbf{E}(\mathbf{r}, t)$	(Volts/m)
Magnetic field	$\mathbf{B}(\mathbf{r}, t)$	(Tesla)
Charge density	$\rho(\mathbf{r}, t)$	(Coulombs/m ³)
Current density	$\mathbf{J}(\mathbf{r}, t)$	(Amperes/m ²)

Gauss's Laws (charge produces a field):

$$\oiint \mathbf{E} \cdot d\mathbf{S} = \frac{1}{\epsilon_0} \iiint \rho dV \quad \oiint \mathbf{B} \cdot d\mathbf{S} = 0$$

ϵ_0 = permittivity of free space = 8.8 pF/m
(from capacitor measurements)

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Faraday's Law (changing \mathbf{B} produces \mathbf{E}):

$$\oint \mathbf{E} \cdot d\boldsymbol{\ell} = - \iint \frac{\partial \mathbf{B}}{\partial t} \cdot d\mathbf{S}$$

Ampere's Law (current, changing \mathbf{E} produce \mathbf{B}):

$$\oint \mathbf{B} \cdot d\boldsymbol{\ell} = \mu_0 \iint \left(\mathbf{J} + \epsilon_0 \frac{\partial \mathbf{E}}{\partial t} \right) \cdot d\mathbf{S}$$

μ_0 = permeability of free space
 $= 1.3 \mu\text{H/m} \equiv 4\pi \times 10^{-7} \text{ H/m}$

These are integral form of Maxwell's equations

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Will be more useful in *differential form*

Use Gauss's Theorem: for any $\mathbf{F}(\mathbf{r})$

$$\oiint \mathbf{F} \cdot d\mathbf{S} = \iiint \nabla \cdot \mathbf{F} dV$$

Here $\nabla \equiv \hat{\mathbf{x}} \frac{\partial}{\partial x} + \hat{\mathbf{y}} \frac{\partial}{\partial y} + \hat{\mathbf{z}} \frac{\partial}{\partial z}$

Also Stoke's Theorem: $\oint \mathbf{F} \cdot d\boldsymbol{\ell} = \iint (\nabla \times \mathbf{F}) \cdot d\mathbf{S}$

- Analogous to ordinary calculus:

$$f(x_2) - f(x_1) = \int_{x_1}^{x_2} \frac{df}{dx} dx$$

function on boundary

integral of derivative

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Apply to Maxwell:

$$\begin{aligned} \oiint \mathbf{E} \cdot d\mathbf{S} &= \iiint \nabla \cdot \mathbf{E} dV \\ &= \frac{1}{\epsilon_0} \iiint \rho dV \end{aligned}$$

True for any volume V , so at each point \mathbf{r}

$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{E}(\mathbf{r}) = \frac{1}{\epsilon_0} \rho(\mathbf{r})$$

Similarly, get $\nabla \cdot \mathbf{B} = 0$

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Also, for any surface S ,

$$\oint \mathbf{E} \cdot d\boldsymbol{\ell} = \iiint \nabla \times \mathbf{E} \cdot d\mathbf{S} = - \iint \frac{\partial \mathbf{B}}{\partial t} \cdot d\mathbf{S}$$

so

$$\nabla \times \mathbf{E} = -\frac{\partial \mathbf{B}}{\partial t}$$

and similarly

$$\nabla \times \mathbf{B} = \mu_0 \mathbf{J} + \epsilon_0 \mu_0 \frac{\partial \mathbf{E}}{\partial t}$$

These are differential form of Maxwell's equations

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Light Waves (Hecht 3.2)

Light propagates in vacuum: $\rho = \mathbf{J} = 0$

Maxwell equations become:

$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{E} = 0 \tag{1}$$

$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{B} = 0 \tag{2}$$

$$\nabla \times \mathbf{E} = -\frac{\partial \mathbf{B}}{\partial t} \tag{3}$$

$$\nabla \times \mathbf{B} = \epsilon_0 \mu_0 \frac{\partial \mathbf{E}}{\partial t} \tag{4}$$

Where's the wave equation?

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Derivation of wave equation

Take $\partial/\partial t$ of (4):

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t}(\nabla \times \mathbf{B}) = \epsilon_0 \mu_0 \frac{\partial^2 \mathbf{E}}{\partial t^2}$$

or

$$\nabla \times \frac{\partial \mathbf{B}}{\partial t} = \epsilon_0 \mu_0 \frac{\partial^2 \mathbf{E}}{\partial t^2}$$

Then using (3):

$$-\nabla \times (\nabla \times \mathbf{E}) = \epsilon_0 \mu_0 \frac{\partial^2 \mathbf{E}}{\partial t^2}$$

Need to simplify $\nabla \times (\nabla \times \mathbf{E})$

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Cross product rule:

$$\mathbf{a} \times (\mathbf{b} \times \mathbf{c}) = \mathbf{b}(\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{c}) - (\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b})\mathbf{c}$$

so

$$\nabla \times (\nabla \times \mathbf{E}) = \nabla(\nabla \cdot \mathbf{E}) - (\nabla \cdot \nabla)\mathbf{E}$$

But $\nabla \cdot \mathbf{E} = 0$, and $\nabla \cdot \nabla = \nabla^2$, so

$$\nabla^2 \mathbf{E} = \epsilon_0 \mu_0 \frac{\partial^2 \mathbf{E}}{\partial t^2}$$

wave equation, $v = (\epsilon_0 \mu_0)^{-1/2}$

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Similarly, take $\partial/\partial t$ of (3), end up with

$$\nabla^2 \mathbf{B} = \epsilon_0 \mu_0 \frac{\partial^2 \mathbf{B}}{\partial t^2}$$

So expect EM waves to exist. Do they correspond to light?

Compare speeds: $(\epsilon_0 \mu_0)^{-1/2} = 3 \times 10^8 \text{ m/s}$

Measured light speed $c = 3 \times 10^8 \text{ m/s}$

Conclude light is EM wave

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EM waves are *vector waves*

Previously considered scalar waves

Actually six coupled wave equations:

$$(E_x, E_y, E_z, B_x, B_y, B_z)$$

Components must still obey Maxwell's equations

example:

$$\frac{\partial B_x}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial B_y}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial B_z}{\partial z} = 0$$

and

$$\frac{\partial E_x}{\partial y} - \frac{\partial E_y}{\partial x} = -\frac{\partial B_z}{\partial t}$$

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Can simplify for plane wave solutions:

$$\mathbf{E}(\mathbf{r}, t) = \mathbf{E}_0 e^{i(\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{r} - \omega t)}$$

$$\mathbf{B}(\mathbf{r}, t) = \mathbf{B}_0 e^{i(\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{r} - \omega t)}$$

with $\mathbf{E}_0, \mathbf{B}_0 =$ complex vector amplitudes

Sometimes confusing, so write out:

$$\mathbf{E}_0 = |E_{0x}|e^{i\phi_x}\hat{\mathbf{x}} + |E_{0y}|e^{i\phi_y}\hat{\mathbf{y}} + |E_{0z}|e^{i\phi_z}\hat{\mathbf{z}}$$

and actual wave is

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{E} = & |E_{0x}|\hat{\mathbf{x}} \cos(\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{r} - \omega t + \phi_x) \\ & + |E_{0y}|\hat{\mathbf{y}} \cos(\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{r} - \omega t + \phi_y) \\ & + |E_{0z}|\hat{\mathbf{z}} \cos(\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{r} - \omega t + \phi_z) \end{aligned}$$

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Plane Waves

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Have } \frac{\partial \mathbf{E}}{\partial x} &= \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \mathbf{E}_0 e^{i(k_x x + k_y y + k_z z - \omega t)} \\ &= ik_x \mathbf{E}_0 e^{i(k_x x + k_y y + k_z z - \omega t)} \\ &= ik_x \mathbf{E}(\mathbf{r}, t) \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{Also } \frac{\partial \mathbf{E}}{\partial y} = ik_y \mathbf{E}, \quad \frac{\partial \mathbf{E}}{\partial z} = ik_z \mathbf{E}$$

$$\text{and } \frac{\partial \mathbf{B}}{\partial x} = ik_x \mathbf{B}, \quad \frac{\partial \mathbf{B}}{\partial y} = ik_y \mathbf{B}, \quad \frac{\partial \mathbf{B}}{\partial z} = ik_z \mathbf{B}$$

Thus, for plane waves, can replace

$$\nabla = \hat{\mathbf{x}} \frac{\partial}{\partial x} + \hat{\mathbf{y}} \frac{\partial}{\partial y} + \hat{\mathbf{z}} \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \rightarrow i(\hat{\mathbf{x}} k_x + \hat{\mathbf{y}} k_y + \hat{\mathbf{z}} k_z) = i\mathbf{k}$$

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Also, $\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \rightarrow -i\omega$

So wave equation becomes

$$\nabla^2 \mathbf{E} = \frac{1}{c^2} \frac{\partial^2 \mathbf{E}}{\partial t^2} \rightarrow -k^2 \mathbf{E} = -\frac{\omega^2}{c^2} \mathbf{E}$$

Solution if $k = \omega/c$, as before.

Maxwell equations become

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{E} &= 0 & \mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{B} &= 0 \\ \mathbf{k} \times \mathbf{E} &= \omega \mathbf{B} & \mathbf{k} \times \mathbf{B} &= -\frac{\omega}{c^2} \mathbf{E} \end{aligned}$$

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Exponential factors $e^{i(\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{r} - \omega t)}$ drop out, so

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{\mathbf{k}} \cdot \mathbf{E}_0 &= 0 & \hat{\mathbf{k}} \cdot \mathbf{B}_0 &= 0 \\ \hat{\mathbf{k}} \times \mathbf{E}_0 &= c \mathbf{B}_0 & \hat{\mathbf{k}} \times \mathbf{B}_0 &= -\frac{1}{c} \mathbf{E}_0 \end{aligned}$$

with $\hat{\mathbf{k}}$ = propagation direction

Dot products indicate $\mathbf{E}_0, \mathbf{B}_0 \perp \mathbf{k}$

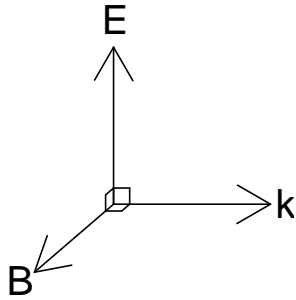
- Say EM waves are *transverse*

Cross products indicate $\mathbf{B}_0 = \frac{1}{c} \hat{\mathbf{k}} \times \mathbf{E}_0$

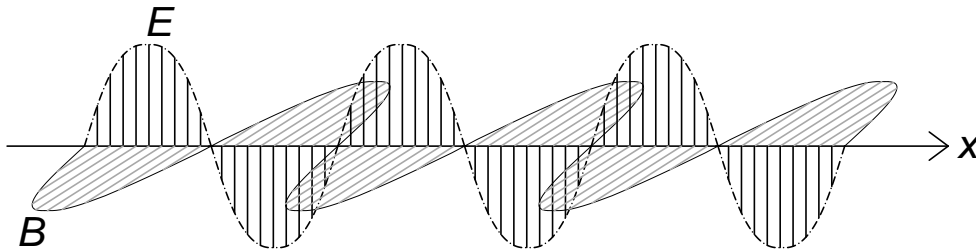
- So $\mathbf{B} \perp \mathbf{E}$ as well
- $|\mathbf{B}_0| = |\mathbf{E}_0|/c$

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So $(\mathbf{E}, \mathbf{B}, \mathbf{k})$ form orthogonal basis



Picture: (snapshot at fixed t ; $\hat{\mathbf{k}} = \hat{\mathbf{x}}$)



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Question: If a wave has \mathbf{E} along $\hat{\mathbf{x}}$ and \mathbf{B} along $\hat{\mathbf{z}}$, what is the direction of propagation?

Question: How would my 'snapshot' picture evolve in time?

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Frequencies (Hecht 3.6)

EM waves observed over large range of ω :

ν (Hz)	λ	Name
$< 10^5$	> 3000 m	ELF wave
$10^5 - 10^9$	3000 m – 30 cm	radio wave
$10^9 - 10^{11}$	30 cm – 3 mm	microwave
$10^{11} - 10^{13}$	3 mm – 30 μm	terahertz
$10^{13} - 4 \times 10^{14}$	30 μm – 750 nm	infrared
$4 - 8 \times 10^{14}$	750–375 nm	visible light
$8 \times 10^{14} - 10^{16}$	375–30 nm	ultraviolet
$10^{16} - 10^{19}$	30 nm – 30 pm	x-rays
$> 10^{19}$	< 30 pm	gamma rays

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Optics particularly deals with “light:”
infrared to ultraviolet

Lower ν : approximations not valid
ray optics fails
wave approximations fail

Higher ν : quantum effects important
wave effects hard to see
ray optics OK, but no optical materials

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Properties of plane waves

Sometimes write $\mathbf{E}_0 = E_0 \hat{j}$ with $|\hat{j}| = 1$

- E_0 = complex amplitude (V/m)
- \hat{j} = polarization vector = Jones vector

- More on polarization later
- Amplitude related to energy in wave:
discuss now

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General EM energy density (J/m³):

$$u(\mathbf{r}) = \frac{\epsilon_0}{2} |\mathbf{E}|^2 + \frac{1}{2\mu_0} |\mathbf{B}|^2$$

$$\text{Energy in volume } V = \iiint_V u(\mathbf{r}) dV$$

For plane wave $|\mathbf{B}| = |\mathbf{E}|/c$. So

$$\begin{aligned} u &= \frac{\epsilon_0}{2} |\mathbf{E}|^2 + \frac{1}{2\mu_0 c^2} |\mathbf{E}|^2 \\ &= \frac{\epsilon_0}{2} |\mathbf{E}|^2 + \frac{\epsilon_0}{2} |\mathbf{E}|^2 = \epsilon_0 |\mathbf{E}|^2 \end{aligned}$$

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But here \mathbf{E} refers to real electric field

If $\mathbf{E} = \text{Re} [E_0 \hat{e}^{i(\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{r} - \omega t)}]$, then really

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{E} = & |E_{0x}| \hat{\mathbf{x}} \cos(\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{r} - \omega t + \phi_x) \\ & + |E_{0y}| \hat{\mathbf{y}} \cos(\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{r} - \omega t + \phi_y) \\ & + |E_{0z}| \hat{\mathbf{z}} \cos(\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{r} - \omega t + \phi_z)\end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned}u = & \epsilon_0 |E_{0x}|^2 \cos^2(\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{r} - \omega t + \phi_x) \\ & + \epsilon_0 |E_{0y}|^2 \cos^2(\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{r} - \omega t + \phi_y) \\ & + \epsilon_0 |E_{0z}|^2 \cos^2(\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{r} - \omega t + \phi_z)\end{aligned}$$

Energy oscillates in time.

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For light, oscillation is rapid:

usually average over many periods

Average of $\cos^2()$ over many periods $= \frac{1}{2}$

So time-average $\langle u \rangle = \frac{\epsilon_0}{2} (|E_{0x}|^2 + |E_{0y}|^2 + |E_{0z}|^2)$

In terms of complex fields, $\langle u \rangle = \frac{\epsilon_0}{2} |\mathbf{E}|^2$

where $|\mathbf{E}|^2 = \mathbf{E} \cdot \mathbf{E}^* = |E_{0x}|^2 + |E_{0y}|^2 + |E_{0z}|^2$

Question: What is the *total* energy in a plane wave with amplitude E_0 ?

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Also interested in energy flow:

Use Poynting vector $\mathbf{S} = \frac{1}{\mu_0} \mathbf{E} \times \mathbf{B}$

Can show that

$$W = \iint_{\Sigma} \mathbf{S} \cdot d\mathbf{\Sigma}$$

is energy per unit time crossing surface Σ

Units of \mathbf{S} are W/m^2

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Plane waves: $\mathbf{B} = \frac{1}{c} \hat{\mathbf{k}} \times \mathbf{E}$, so

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{S} = \frac{1}{\mu_0 c} \hat{\mathbf{k}} & (|E_{0x}|^2 \cos^2(\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{r} - \omega t + \phi_x) \\ & + |E_{0y}|^2 \cos^2(\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{r} - \omega t + \phi_y) \\ & + |E_{0z}|^2 \cos^2(\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{r} - \omega t + \phi_z)) \end{aligned}$$

Direction of propagation $\hat{\mathbf{k}}$
= direction of energy flow $\hat{\mathbf{S}}$

Question: What do you think $\mathbf{S}(\mathbf{r})$ looks like for a spherical wave?

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Define *irradiance* (aka intensity) =
time-average of magnitude of \mathbf{S}

$$I = \langle |\mathbf{S}| \rangle = \frac{1}{2\mu_0 c} |\mathbf{E}_0|^2 = \boxed{\frac{1}{2\eta_0} |\mathbf{E}_0|^2}$$

where $\eta_0 \equiv (\mu_0/\epsilon_0)^{1/2} = 377 \, \Omega$
“impedance of free space”

Units check: $(\text{W}/\text{m}^2) = (\text{V}/\text{m})^2/\Omega$
(Recall $P = V^2/R$ from electronics)

I is most common measure of optical field strength

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In terms of complex fields: $\mathbf{S} = \frac{1}{2\mu_0} \mathbf{E} \times \mathbf{B}^*$
(implicit time average!)

Poynting vector gives other properties too:

- Energy density $\langle u \rangle = \frac{|\mathbf{S}|}{c}$
- Linear momentum $\langle \mathbf{p} \rangle = \frac{1}{c^2} \iiint \mathbf{S} \, dV$
- Angular momentum $\langle \mathbf{L} \rangle = \frac{1}{c^2} \iiint \mathbf{r} \times \mathbf{S} \, dV$

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Summary:

- Light is EM wave
- Coupled \mathbf{E} , \mathbf{B} fields
- Plane waves, complex vector amplitudes
- Irradiance $I = \frac{1}{2\eta_0}|\mathbf{E}_0|^2$ (W/m²)