

Plane wave propagation



↑ spherical wave

↑ approximate plane wave
at long distances

Time-harmonic fields

$$\nabla \cdot \tilde{\mathbf{E}} = \tilde{\rho}_v / \epsilon$$

$$\nabla \times \tilde{\mathbf{E}} = -j\omega\mu\tilde{\mathbf{H}}$$

$$\nabla \cdot \tilde{\mathbf{H}} = 0$$

$$\nabla \times \tilde{\mathbf{H}} = \tilde{\mathbf{J}} + j\omega\epsilon\tilde{\mathbf{E}}$$

Complex permittivity

$$\nabla \times \tilde{\mathbf{H}} = \tilde{\mathbf{J}} + j\omega\epsilon\tilde{\mathbf{E}} = (\sigma + j\omega\epsilon)\tilde{\mathbf{E}} = j\omega(\epsilon - j\frac{\sigma}{\omega})\tilde{\mathbf{E}}$$

$$\epsilon_c = \epsilon - j\frac{\sigma}{\omega} = \epsilon' - j\epsilon''$$

$$\nabla \times \tilde{\mathbf{H}} = j\omega\epsilon_c\tilde{\mathbf{E}}$$

$$\nabla \cdot \nabla \times \tilde{\mathbf{H}} = 0 = \nabla \cdot (j\omega\epsilon_c\tilde{\mathbf{E}}), \text{ so } \nabla \cdot \tilde{\mathbf{E}} = 0 \rightarrow \tilde{\rho}_v = 0$$

now we have:

$$\nabla \cdot \tilde{\mathbf{E}} = 0$$

$$\nabla \times \tilde{\mathbf{E}} = -j\omega\mu\tilde{\mathbf{H}}$$

$$\nabla \cdot \tilde{\mathbf{H}} = 0$$

$$\nabla \times \tilde{\mathbf{H}} = j\omega\epsilon_c\tilde{\mathbf{E}}$$

$$\nabla \times (\nabla \times \tilde{\mathbf{E}}) = -j\omega\mu (\nabla \times \tilde{\mathbf{H}}) \quad (\text{take curl of } \nabla \times \tilde{\mathbf{E}} = j\omega\mu \tilde{\mathbf{H}})$$

$$\uparrow = j\omega\epsilon \tilde{\mathbf{E}}$$

$$\nabla \times (\nabla \times \tilde{\mathbf{E}}) = \omega^2 \mu \epsilon_c \tilde{\mathbf{E}} = \nabla(\nabla \cdot \tilde{\mathbf{E}}) - \nabla^2 \tilde{\mathbf{E}}$$


 vector identity

Since $\nabla \cdot \tilde{\mathbf{E}} = 0$,

$$\boxed{\nabla^2 \tilde{\mathbf{E}} + \omega^2 \mu \epsilon_c \tilde{\mathbf{E}} = 0}$$

$$\nabla^2 = \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2}{\partial y^2} + \frac{\partial^2}{\partial z^2}$$

$\uparrow$ homogeneous wave equation for $\mathbf{E}$

$$\gamma^2 = -\omega^2 \mu \epsilon_c \quad \gamma = \text{propagation constant}$$

$$\nabla^2 \tilde{\mathbf{E}} - \gamma^2 \tilde{\mathbf{E}} = 0$$

similarly, $\nabla^2 \tilde{\mathbf{H}} - \gamma^2 \tilde{\mathbf{H}} = 0$

• Plane wave propagation in lossless media

nonconducting $\rightarrow \sigma = 0$, $\epsilon_c = \epsilon$

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

wavenumber $k = \omega \sqrt{\mu \epsilon}$

$$\gamma^2 = -k^2$$

$$\nabla^2 \tilde{\mathbf{E}} + k^2 \tilde{\mathbf{E}} = 0$$

Uniform plane waves

$$\tilde{\mathbf{E}} = \hat{x}\tilde{E}_x + \hat{y}\tilde{E}_y + \hat{z}\tilde{E}_z \quad \nabla^2 \tilde{\mathbf{E}} + k^2 \tilde{\mathbf{E}} = 0$$

$$\left(\frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2}{\partial y^2} + \frac{\partial^2}{\partial z^2} + k^2\right)\tilde{E}_x = 0, \text{ similar for } \tilde{E}_y, \tilde{E}_z$$

Uniform plane waves: $\mathbf{E}$ and $\mathbf{H}$ are uniform across infinite plane
assume uniform in xy plane

$$\frac{\partial \tilde{E}_x}{\partial x} = \frac{\partial \tilde{E}_y}{\partial y} = 0 \rightarrow \frac{\partial^2 \tilde{E}_x}{\partial z^2} + k^2 \tilde{E}_x = 0, \text{ similar for } \tilde{E}_y, \tilde{H}_x, \tilde{H}_y$$

$$\tilde{E}_z = \tilde{H}_z = 0 \quad \text{from} \quad \frac{\partial \tilde{H}_y}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial \tilde{H}_x}{\partial y} = j\omega\epsilon \tilde{E}_z$$

$\begin{matrix} \parallel & \parallel \\ 0 & 0 \end{matrix}$

- No $\mathbf{E}$ or $\mathbf{H}$ along direction of propagation: TEM wave

$$\tilde{E}_x(z) = \tilde{E}_x^+(z) + \tilde{E}_x^-(z) = E_{x0}^+ e^{-jkz} + E_{x0}^- e^{jkz}$$

just like in transmission lines

Assume one component $\tilde{\mathbf{E}}(z) = \hat{x}\tilde{E}_x(z) = \hat{x}\tilde{E}_{x0} e^{-jkz}$

find $\mathbf{H}$

$$\nabla \times \tilde{\mathbf{E}} = \begin{vmatrix} \hat{x} & \hat{y} & \hat{z} \\ \frac{\partial}{\partial x} & \frac{\partial}{\partial y} & \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \\ \tilde{E}_x^+(z) & 0 & 0 \end{vmatrix}$$

$$= j\omega\mu (\hat{x}\tilde{H}_x + \hat{y}\tilde{H}_y + \hat{z}\tilde{H}_z)$$

$$\tilde{H}_x = 0$$

$$\tilde{H}_y = \frac{1}{j\omega\mu} \frac{\partial \tilde{E}_x^+(z)}{\partial z}$$

$$\tilde{H}_z = \frac{1}{-j\omega\mu} \frac{\partial \tilde{E}_x^+(z)}{\partial z} = 0$$

$$\tilde{H}_y(z) = \frac{1}{\omega\mu} \tilde{E}_{x0}^+ e^{-jkz} = \tilde{H}_{y0}^+ e^{-jkz}$$

$$\frac{\tilde{E}_{x0}^+}{\tilde{H}_{y0}^+} = \frac{\omega\mu}{k} = \frac{\omega\mu}{\omega\sqrt{\mu\epsilon}} = \sqrt{\frac{\mu}{\epsilon}} = \eta \quad \text{intrinsic impedance}$$

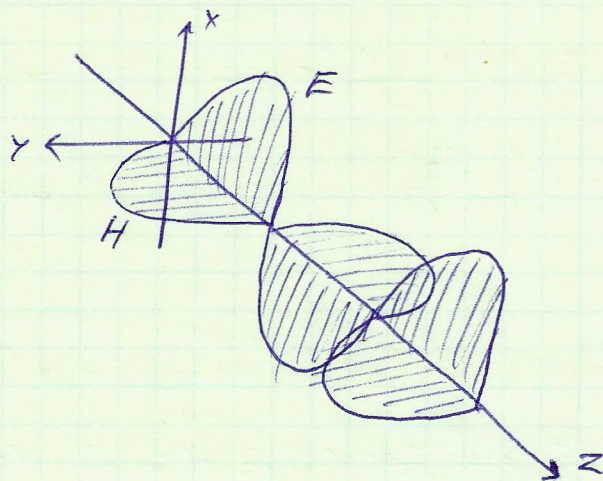
$$= 377\Omega \text{ for free space}$$

More on plane wave propagation

$$c_p = \frac{\omega}{k} = \frac{c_0}{\omega \sqrt{\mu \epsilon}} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\mu \epsilon}} = 3 \times 10^8 \text{ m/s for free space}$$

$$\lambda = \frac{2\pi}{k} = \frac{c_p}{f}$$

Note that E and H are in phase with each other
they reach maximum and minimum at the same time, except



General relation between E and H

$$\tilde{H} = \frac{1}{n} \hat{k} \times \tilde{E}$$

$$\tilde{E} = -n \hat{k} \times \tilde{H}$$

Also $\tilde{E} \times \tilde{H}$ gives direction of $\hat{k}$