

Physics 511

Problem Set #6: Solutions

Problem 1: Spherical waves: (Wave fronts on spheres)

Wave equation for a scalar field $\psi(\vec{r}, t)$

$$\nabla^2 \psi - \frac{1}{v^2} \frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial t^2} = 0$$

(a) Monochromatic field whose amplitude depends only on the radial distance $r = |\vec{r}|$

$$\psi(\vec{r}, t) = \tilde{\psi}(r) e^{-i\omega t}$$

$$\frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial t^2} = -\omega^2 \tilde{\psi}(r) e^{-i\omega t}$$

$$\nabla^2 \psi = e^{-i\omega t} \left(\frac{1}{r^2} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial r^2} (r^2 \tilde{\psi}(r)) + \cancel{\frac{\partial^2}{\partial \theta^2}} + \cancel{\frac{\partial^2}{\partial \phi^2}} \right)$$

No θ or ϕ dependence

$$\Rightarrow \frac{e^{-i\omega t}}{r^2} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial r^2} (r^2 \tilde{\psi}(r)) + \frac{\omega^2}{v^2} \tilde{\psi}(r) e^{-i\omega t} = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{1}{r^2} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial r^2} (r^2 \tilde{\psi}(r)) + k^2 \tilde{\psi}(r) = 0$$

$$\text{where } k = \frac{\omega}{v}$$

Let $\tilde{\psi}(r) = \frac{u(r)}{r}$ (u is known as the "reduced radial" wave function)

$$\frac{\partial \tilde{\psi}}{\partial r} = \frac{u'}{r} - \frac{u}{r^2} \quad \text{where} \quad u' = \frac{du}{dr}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \Rightarrow \frac{1}{r^2} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} \left(r^2 \frac{\partial \tilde{\psi}}{\partial r} \right) &= \frac{1}{r^2} \frac{d}{dr} [r u' - u] \\ &= \frac{1}{r^2} [r^2 u'' + u' - u'] = \frac{u''}{r} = \frac{1}{r} \frac{d^2 u}{dr^2} \\ &= -k^2 \tilde{\psi} = -k^2 \frac{u(r)}{r} \end{aligned}$$

$$\Rightarrow \boxed{\frac{d^2 u}{dr^2} + k^2 u = 0}$$

This is nothing other than the simple harmonic oscillator equation.

General solution $u(r) = u_0 e^{\pm ikr} e^{i\phi}$
 u_0 and ϕ arbitrary

$$\Rightarrow \Psi(r, t) = \text{Re} \left(\frac{u_0}{r} e^{\pm i(kr \pm \omega t + \phi)} \right)$$

$$\Rightarrow \boxed{\Psi = \frac{u_0 \cos(kr \pm \omega t + \phi)}{r}}$$

These are spherical waves (ϕ constant on a sphere)

$\Psi_1 \Rightarrow$ outward propagation, $\Psi_2 \Rightarrow$ inward propagation

(b) Vector spherical wave:

$$\text{Ansatz: } \vec{E} = E_0 \frac{\cos(kr - \omega t)}{kr} \hat{\phi} = E_{\phi}(r) \hat{\phi}$$

$$\text{Transverse? } \vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{E} = \frac{1}{r \sin \theta} \frac{\partial E_{\phi}}{\partial \phi} = 0 \quad \checkmark$$

$\Rightarrow \vec{E}$ must satisfy the wave equation

$$(\nabla^2 - \frac{1}{c^2} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial t^2}) \vec{E} = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \nabla^2 \vec{E} = -\frac{\omega^2}{c^2} \vec{E} \quad ?$$

$$\nabla^2 \vec{E} = \hat{x} (\nabla^2 E_x) + \hat{y} (\nabla^2 E_y) \quad (\text{since } \hat{x}, \hat{y} \text{ independent of position})$$

$$\hat{\phi} = \cos \phi \hat{x} + \sin \phi \hat{y}$$
$$E_x = \cos \phi E_{\phi}(r) \quad E_y = \sin \phi E_{\phi}(r)$$

$$\Rightarrow \nabla^2 E_x = \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial r^2} (r E_x(r, \phi)) + \frac{1}{r^2 \sin^2 \theta} \frac{\partial^2 E_x(r, \phi)}{\partial \phi^2}$$
$$= -k^2 E_x(r, \phi) - \frac{1}{r^2 \sin^2 \theta} E_x(r, \phi)$$

$$\Rightarrow \nabla^2 \vec{E} = \left(-k^2 - \frac{1}{r^2 \sin^2 \theta} \right) \vec{E} \neq -\frac{\omega^2}{c^2} \vec{E}$$

$\Rightarrow \vec{E}$ is not a solution to

Maxwell's Eqs in free space

(c) Given $\vec{E} = E_0 \left(\frac{\sin \theta}{kr} \right) \left(\cos(kr - \omega t) - \frac{1}{kr} \sin(kr - \omega t) \right) \hat{\phi}$
 $= \text{Re} \left(\vec{E}(r, \theta) e^{-i\omega t} \right)$

where $\vec{E}(r, \theta) = E_0 \sin \theta \left(\frac{1}{kr} + \frac{i}{(kr)^2} \right) e^{ikr} \hat{\phi}$ is the complex amplitude

Given the harmonic time dependence $e^{-i\omega t}$, Maxwell's Equations for the complex amplitudes are (in vacuum)

$$\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{E} = 0, \quad \vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{B} = 0, \quad \vec{\nabla} \times \vec{E} = ik\vec{B}, \quad \vec{\nabla} \times \vec{B} = -ik\vec{E}$$

where $k = \frac{\omega}{c}$

We can find the magnetic field associated with this wave through Faraday's Law

$$\vec{B} = \frac{-i}{k} \vec{\nabla} \times \vec{E} = \frac{-i}{k} \left(\frac{1}{r \sin \theta} \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} (\sin \theta E_\phi) \hat{\theta} - \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} (r E_\phi) \hat{r} \right)$$

Aside: $\frac{1}{\sin \theta} \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} (\sin \theta E_\phi) = \frac{\partial E_\phi}{\partial \theta} + \frac{\cos \theta}{\sin \theta} E_\phi = 2 E_0 \cos \theta \left(\frac{1}{kr} + \frac{i}{(kr)^2} \right)$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial r} (r E_\phi) = \frac{\partial}{\partial r} \left\{ \sin \theta \left(\frac{1}{kr} + \frac{i}{k^2 r} \right) e^{ikr} \right\} = \left[i - \frac{1}{kr} - \frac{i}{k^2 r^2} \right] \sin \theta e^{ikr}$$

$$\Rightarrow \vec{B} = \left\{ 2 \cos \theta \left(\frac{1}{(kr)^2} - \frac{i}{kr} \right) \hat{r} + \sin \theta \left(-1 - \frac{i}{kr} + \frac{1}{(kr)^2} \right) \hat{\theta} \right\} E_0 e^{ikr} / kr$$

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Thus, the real magnetic field is

$$\vec{B} = (2\cos\theta \hat{r} + \sin\theta \hat{\theta}) \left(\frac{E_0 \cos(kr - \omega t)}{(kr)^3} + \frac{E_0 \sin(kr - \omega t)}{(kr)^2} \right) - E_0 \sin\theta \frac{\cos(kr - \omega t)}{kr} \hat{\phi}$$

What about the other Maxwell eqns!

$$\checkmark \vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{E} = \frac{1}{r \sin\theta} \frac{\partial E_\phi}{\partial \phi} = 0 \quad (\text{no } \phi \text{ dependence})$$

$$\checkmark \vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{B} = -\frac{i}{k} \vec{\nabla} \cdot (\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{E}) = 0 \quad [\vec{\nabla} \cdot (\vec{\nabla} \times) = 0]$$

$$\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{B} = \frac{1}{r} \left[\frac{\partial}{\partial r} (r B_\theta) - \frac{\partial B_r}{\partial \theta} \right] \hat{\phi}$$

Aside:

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial r} (r B_\theta) = B_\theta + r \frac{\partial B_\theta}{\partial r} =$$

$$= E_0 \sin\theta \left[\left(-\frac{1}{kr} - \frac{i}{(kr)^2} + \frac{1}{(kr)^3} \right) e^{ikr} + \left(-i + \frac{1}{kr} + \frac{i}{(kr)^2} \right) e^{ikr} + \left(\frac{1}{kr} + \frac{2i}{k^2 r^2} - \frac{3}{(kr)^3} \right) e^{ikr} \right]$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{\partial}{\partial r} (r B_\theta) = \left(-i + \frac{1}{kr} + \frac{2i}{(kr)^2} - \frac{2}{(kr)^3} \right) E_0 \sin\theta e^{ikr}$$

$$\frac{\partial B_r}{\partial \theta} = \left(\frac{-2}{(kr)^3} + \frac{2i}{(kr)^2} \right) E_0 \sin\theta e^{ikr}$$

$$\therefore \vec{\nabla} \times \vec{B} = E_0 \sin\theta \left(-\frac{i}{r} + \frac{1}{kr^2} \right) e^{ikr} \hat{\phi} = -ik \vec{E}$$

(d) In the $\text{lim } kr \ll 1$, $\frac{1}{r^3}$ dominates

$$\vec{B} \rightarrow (2\cos\theta \hat{r} + \sin\theta \hat{\theta}) \frac{E_0 \cos(\omega t)}{(kr)^3}$$

We recognize this as a dipole field, for a dipole along the z -axis

$$\begin{aligned} 3(\hat{z} \cdot \hat{r}) \hat{r} - \hat{z} &= 3\cos\theta \hat{r} - (\cos\theta \hat{r} - \sin\theta \hat{\theta}) \\ &= 2\cos\theta \hat{r} + \sin\theta \hat{\theta} \end{aligned}$$

$$\Rightarrow \vec{B} \rightarrow (3(\hat{z} \cdot \hat{r}) \hat{r} - \hat{z}) \frac{E_0 \cos\omega t}{(kr)^3} = \frac{3(\vec{m}(t) \cdot \hat{r}) \hat{r} - \vec{m}(t)}{r^3}$$

where $\vec{m}(t) = \frac{E_0}{k^3} \cos\omega t \hat{z}$ is the effective magnetic dipole

(e) Time averaged Poynting vector $\langle \vec{S} \rangle = \frac{c}{8\pi} \text{Re}(\vec{E}^* \times \vec{B})$

$$\text{And } \vec{E}^* \times \vec{B} = E_\phi^* \hat{\phi} \times (B_r \hat{r} + B_\theta \hat{\theta}) = E_\phi^* B_r \hat{\theta} - E_\phi^* B_\theta \hat{r}$$

$$E_\phi^* B_r = 2E_0^2 \frac{\sin\theta \cos\theta}{kr} \left(\frac{1}{kr} - \frac{i}{(kr)^2} \right) \left(\frac{1}{(kr)^2} - \frac{i}{kr} \right)$$

$$= -2E_0^2 \frac{\sin\theta \cos\theta}{(kr)^3} i \left(1 + \frac{1}{(kr)^2} \right) \quad \text{Pure imaginary!}$$

$$E_\phi^* B_\theta = \frac{E_0^2 \sin^2\theta}{kr} \left(\frac{1}{kr} - \frac{i}{(kr)^2} \right) \left(-1 - \frac{i}{kr} + \frac{1}{(kr)^2} \right)$$

$$= \frac{E_0^2 \sin^2\theta}{kr} \left(-\frac{1}{kr} - \frac{2i}{(kr)^2} - \frac{i}{(kr)^4} \right)$$

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Thus:

$$\langle \vec{S} \rangle = \frac{c}{8\pi} \operatorname{Re} (\vec{E}^* \times \vec{B}) = -\frac{c}{8\pi} \operatorname{Re} (E_\phi^* B_\theta) \hat{r}$$

$$\Rightarrow \boxed{\langle \vec{S} \rangle = \frac{c E_0^2 \sin^2 \theta}{8\pi (kr)^2} \hat{r}}$$

The Poynting vector points in the \hat{r} -direction and falls off a $\frac{1}{r^2}$. This is expected for a spherical wave.

~~(f)~~ Energy flux

$$\frac{dW}{dt} = \oint \vec{S} \cdot d\vec{a} = \oint S_r r^2 d\Omega$$

where $d\Omega = \sin\theta d\theta d\phi = -d(\cos\theta) d\phi$ is the element of solid angle

Since the field is azimuthally symmetric $d\Omega = -2\pi d(\cos\theta)$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{dW}{dt} = \int_{-1}^1 S_r 2\pi r^2 d(\cos\theta) = \frac{c}{4} \frac{E_0^2}{k^2} \int_{-1}^1 (1 - \cos^2\theta) d(\cos\theta)$$

$$= \frac{c}{4} \frac{E_0^2}{k^2} \left(\cos\theta - \frac{\cos^3\theta}{3} \right) \Big|_{-1}^1$$

$$\Rightarrow \boxed{\frac{dW}{dt} = \frac{c E_0^2}{3k^3}}$$

As expected the energy flux is independent of the radius of the sphere

(2) Standing EEM wave

$$\vec{k}_1 = k\hat{z}$$

$$\vec{E}_1 = \hat{x} E_0 \cos(kz - \omega t)$$

$$\vec{k}_2 = -k\hat{z}$$

$$\vec{E}_2 = \hat{x} E_0 \cos(kz + \omega t)$$

$$(a) \vec{E}_3 = \vec{E}_1 + \vec{E}_2 = \hat{x} E_0 (\cos(kz - \omega t) + \cos(kz + \omega t))$$

$$= \hat{x} E_0 (\cos(kz) \cos(\omega t) + \sin(kz) \sin(\omega t) + \cos(kz) \cos(\omega t) - \sin(kz) \sin(\omega t))$$

$$\Rightarrow \boxed{\vec{E}_3 = \hat{x} 2E_0 \cos(kz) \cos(\omega t)}$$

Alternative solution using complex representation

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \vec{E}_3 = \text{Re}(\vec{E}_3 e^{-i\omega t}) \quad , \quad \vec{E}_3 = \vec{E}_1 + \vec{E}_2 \\ \vec{E}_1 = \text{Re}(\vec{E}_1 e^{-i\omega t}) = \hat{x} E_0 \cos(kz - \omega t) \Rightarrow \vec{E}_1 = \hat{x} E_0 e^{ikz} \\ \vec{E}_2 = \text{Re}(\vec{E}_2 e^{-i\omega t}) = \hat{x} E_0 \cos(-kz - \omega t) \Rightarrow \vec{E}_2 = \hat{x} E_0 e^{-ikz} \end{array} \right.$$

$$\Rightarrow \vec{E}_3 = \hat{x} E_0 (e^{ikz} + e^{-ikz}) = \hat{x} 2E_0 \cos(kz)$$

$$\Rightarrow \vec{E}_3 = \text{Re}(\vec{E}_3 e^{-i\omega t}) = \hat{x} 2E_0 \cos(kz) \text{Re}(e^{-i\omega t}) = \hat{x} 2E_0 \cos(kz) \cos(\omega t) \quad \checkmark$$

(b) Since the total field is not a travelling wave, we cannot use $\vec{B} = \frac{\vec{k}}{\omega} \times \vec{E}$

However \vec{B}_3 is monochromatic

$$\Rightarrow \vec{B}_3 = \text{Re}(\vec{B}_3 e^{-i\omega t})$$

Plug this into $\vec{\nabla}_x \vec{E} = -\frac{1}{c} \frac{\partial \vec{B}}{\partial t}$

$$\Rightarrow i\omega \vec{B}_3(z) = \vec{\nabla}_x \vec{E}_3(z) = \hat{y} \frac{\partial}{\partial z} (2E_0 \cos kz) \\ = 2kE_0 \sin kz \hat{y}$$

$$\therefore \vec{B}_3(z) = +2i \frac{kc}{\omega} E_0 \sin kz \hat{y} = +2i E_0 \sin kz \hat{y}$$

$$\therefore \vec{B}_3(z,t) = \text{Re}(\vec{B}_3(z) e^{-i\omega t}) = 2E_0 \sin kz \text{Re}(i e^{-i\omega t}) \hat{y}$$

$$\Rightarrow \vec{B}_3(z,t) = 2E_0 \sin kz \sin \omega t \hat{y}$$

Alternative solution

Find \vec{B}_1 and \vec{B}_2 (the mag-field of the two plane waves)

$$\vec{B}_1 = \hat{y} E_0 \cos(kz - \omega t)$$

since $\hat{k}_1 = \hat{z}$

$$\vec{B}_2 = -\hat{y} E_0 \cos(kz + \omega t)$$

since $\hat{k}_2 = -\hat{z}$

$$\vec{B}_3(z,t) = \vec{B}_1 + \vec{B}_2 = \hat{y} E_0 \text{Re}(e^{i(kz - \omega t)} + e^{-i(kz + \omega t)})$$

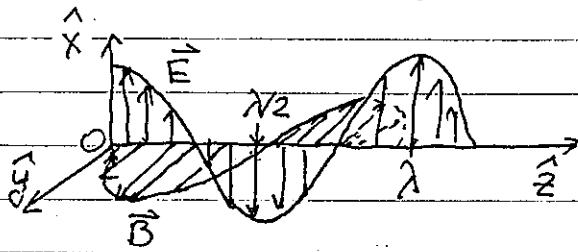
$$= \hat{y} E_0 \text{Re}[e^{ikz} - e^{-ikz}] e^{-i\omega t} = \hat{y} E_0 \text{Re}[2i \sin kz e^{-i\omega t}]$$

$$= \hat{y} E_0 2 \sin kz \sin \omega t \quad \checkmark$$

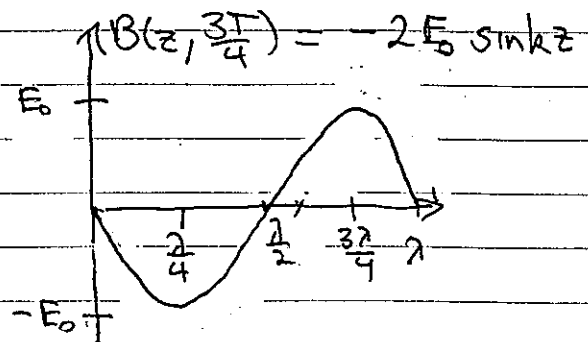
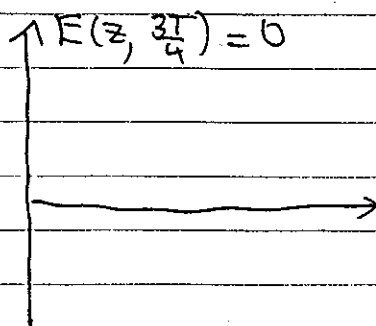
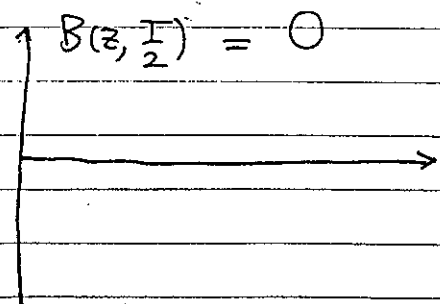
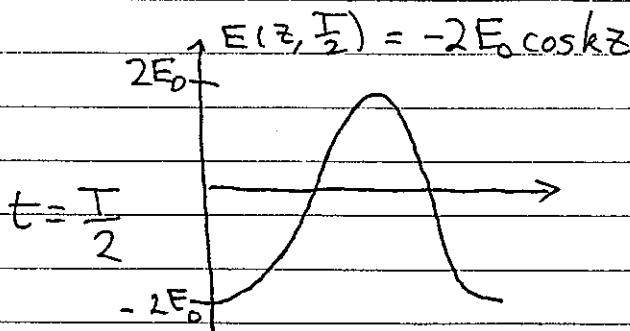
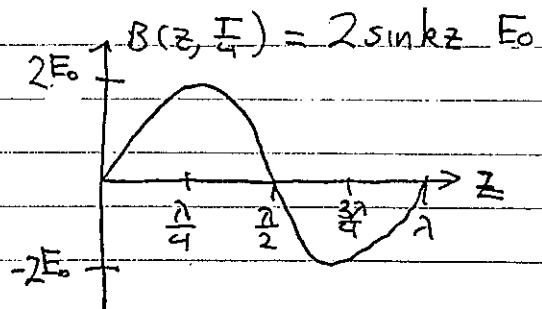
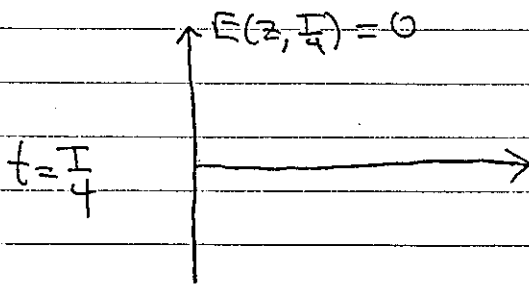
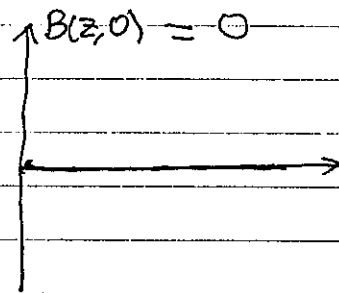
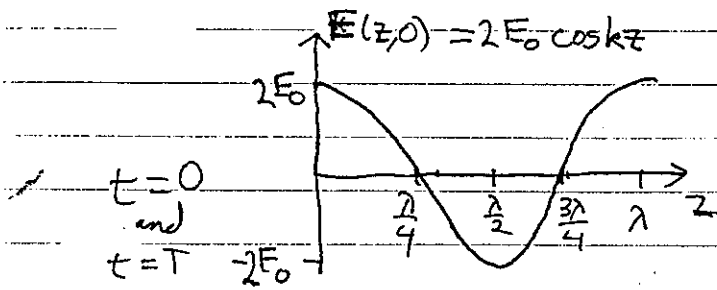
Thus, for a standing wave \vec{E} and \vec{B} are

90° out of phase, both in time and space

Problem 3 continued



\vec{E} and \vec{B} at $t = T/8$



Anti-nodes of E at $\frac{m\lambda}{2}$
 nodes of E at $\frac{\lambda}{2}(m + \frac{1}{2})$
 $m = 0, \pm 1, \dots$

Anti-nodes of B at $(m + \frac{1}{2})\lambda$
 nodes of B at $m\frac{\lambda}{2}$

(b) Time averaged electric and magnetic field energy densities

Using real fields:

$$\langle u_E(\vec{x}) \rangle = \left\langle \frac{\vec{E}^2}{8\pi} \right\rangle = \frac{1}{8\pi} 4E_0^2 \cos^2 kz \langle \cos^2 \omega t \rangle = \frac{E_0^2}{4\pi} \cos^2 kz$$
$$\langle u_B(\vec{x}) \rangle = \left\langle \frac{\vec{B}^2}{8\pi} \right\rangle = \frac{1}{8\pi} 4B_0^2 \sin^2 kz \langle \sin^2 \omega t \rangle = \frac{B_0^2}{4\pi} \sin^2 kz$$

Using complex amplitudes $\vec{E} = (2E_0 \cos kz) \hat{x}$, $\vec{B} = (2E_0 \sin kz) \hat{y}$

$$\langle u_E(\vec{x}) \rangle = \frac{1}{16\pi} \vec{E}^* \cdot \vec{E} = \frac{1}{4\pi} E_0^2 \cos^2 kz$$
$$\langle u_B(\vec{x}) \rangle = \frac{1}{16\pi} \vec{B}^* \cdot \vec{B} = \frac{1}{4\pi} B_0^2 \sin^2 kz$$

Intensity $\langle \vec{S} \rangle = \frac{c}{4\pi} \langle \vec{E} \times \vec{B} \rangle = \frac{c}{4\pi} 4E_0^2 \sin kz \cos kz \langle \cos \omega t \sin \omega t \rangle$

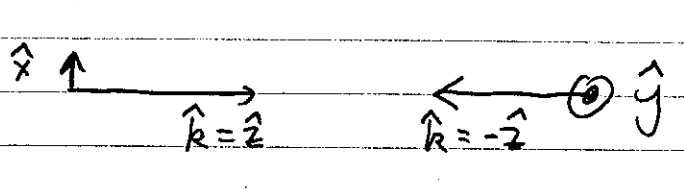
(Complex amplitude $\langle \vec{S} \rangle = \text{Re} \left(\frac{c}{8\pi} \vec{E} \times \vec{B}^* \right) = \frac{c}{4\pi} 4E_0^2 \text{Re} (i \sin kz \cos kz)$

$$\Rightarrow \boxed{\langle \vec{S} \rangle = 0}$$

\Rightarrow

In a standing wave there is no flux of energy as in a traveling wave. Instead, the energy is oscillating back and forth between electric and magnetic fields as in an LC oscillator.

(c) The "lens" field



$$\vec{E}_1 = \hat{x} E_0 \cos(kz - \omega t)$$

$$\vec{E}_2 = \hat{y} E_0 \sin(kz - \omega t)$$

Cross polarized counter-propagating plane waves

Complex amplitude representation

$$\bullet \vec{E}_1(z, t) = \text{Re}(\vec{\tilde{E}}_1(z) e^{-i\omega t}) = \text{Re}(\hat{x} E_0 e^{ikz} e^{-i\omega t})$$

$$\Rightarrow \vec{\tilde{E}}_1(z) = \hat{x} E_0 e^{ikz}$$

$$\bullet \vec{E}_2(z, t) = \text{Re}(\vec{\tilde{E}}_2(z) e^{-i\omega t}) = \text{Re}(\hat{z} i E_0 e^{-ikz} e^{-i\omega t})$$

$$\Rightarrow \vec{\tilde{E}}_2(z) = i \hat{z} E_0 e^{-ikz}$$

$$\Rightarrow \text{Total field } \vec{E}_3(z, t) = \text{Re}(\vec{\tilde{E}}_3(z) e^{-i\omega t})$$

$$\Rightarrow \vec{\tilde{E}}_3 = (e^{ikz} \hat{x} + i e^{-ikz} \hat{y}) E_0$$

$$= \left(\frac{\hat{x} + i e^{-2ikz} \hat{y}}{\sqrt{2}} \right) \sqrt{2} E_0 e^{ikz}$$

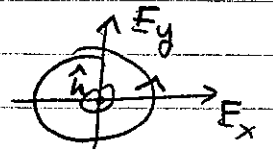
$$\Rightarrow \vec{\tilde{E}}_3 = \vec{\tilde{E}}(z) \sqrt{2} E_0 e^{ik_0 z}$$

$$\vec{\tilde{E}}(z) = \frac{\hat{x} + i e^{-2ikz} \hat{y}}{\sqrt{2}}$$

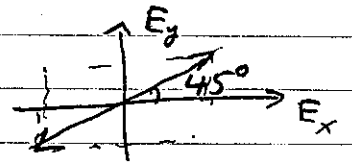
I have written this in such a way that we see the normalized position dependent complex polarization vector $\vec{\tilde{E}}(z)$

As a function of position

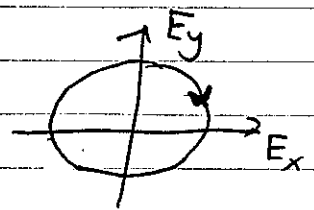
• $\vec{E}(0) = \frac{\hat{x} + i\hat{y}}{\sqrt{2}} = \hat{e}_+$ Positive helicity



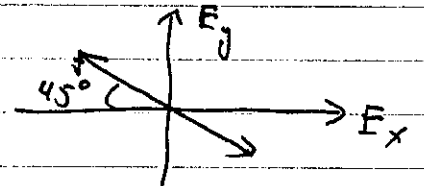
• $\vec{E}(\frac{\lambda}{8}) = \frac{\hat{x} + i e^{-i\pi/2} \hat{y}}{\sqrt{2}} = \frac{\hat{x} + \hat{y}}{\sqrt{2}}$ Linear



• $\vec{E}(\frac{\lambda}{4}) = \frac{\hat{x} + i e^{-i\pi} \hat{y}}{\sqrt{2}} = \frac{\hat{x} - i\hat{y}}{\sqrt{2}}$ Negative helicity



• $\vec{E}(\frac{3\lambda}{8}) = \frac{\hat{x} + i e^{-i3\pi/2} \hat{y}}{\sqrt{2}} = \frac{\hat{x} - \hat{y}}{\sqrt{2}}$ Linear



• $\vec{E}(\frac{\lambda}{2}) = \frac{\hat{x} + i e^{-i2\pi} \hat{y}}{\sqrt{2}} = \frac{\hat{x} + i\hat{y}}{2}$ Positive helicity

etc.

(d) Let us reexpress \hat{x} and \hat{y} in terms of $\hat{e}_\pm = \frac{\hat{x} \pm i\hat{y}}{\sqrt{2}}$

$$\Rightarrow \hat{x} = \frac{\hat{e}_+ + \hat{e}_-}{\sqrt{2}}, \quad \hat{y} = \frac{\hat{e}_+ - \hat{e}_-}{i\sqrt{2}}$$

$$\Rightarrow \vec{E} = \left(e^{ikz} \left(\frac{\hat{e}_+ + \hat{e}_-}{\sqrt{2}} \right) + i e^{-ikz} \left(\frac{\hat{e}_+ - \hat{e}_-}{i\sqrt{2}} \right) \right) E_0$$

$$= \left[\hat{e}_+ \left(\frac{e^{ikz} + e^{-ikz}}{\sqrt{2}} \right) + \hat{e}_- \left(\frac{e^{ikz} - e^{-ikz}}{\sqrt{2}} \right) \right] E_0$$

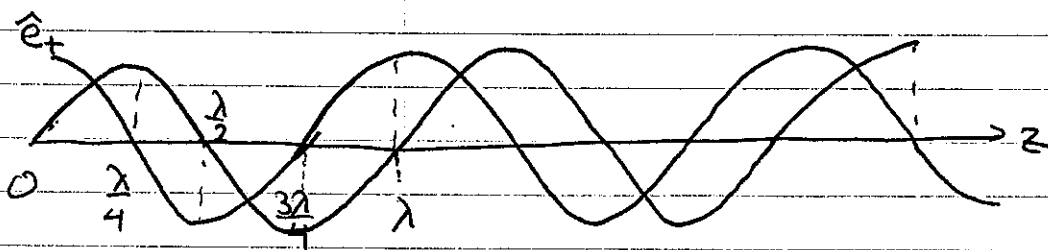
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Thus $\vec{E}_3 = \sqrt{2} E_0 (\hat{e}_+ \cos kz + i \hat{e}_- \sin kz)$

$$\vec{E}_3(z, t) = \text{Re}(\vec{E}_3 e^{-i\omega t}) =$$

$$\vec{E}_3(z, t) = \hat{e}_+ \sqrt{2} E_0 \cos kz \cos \omega t + \hat{e}_- \sqrt{2} E_0 \sin kz \cos \omega t$$

Superposition of standing waves of \hat{e}_\pm



Node of one standing wave corresponds to anti-nodes of other (places where \hat{e}_+ wave = \hat{e}_- wave \Rightarrow linear polarization)

(c) Intensity as a function of position

$$I = \langle \vec{S} \rangle, \quad \vec{S} = \frac{c}{4\pi} (\vec{E} \times \vec{B})$$

$$\vec{B}_3 = \frac{ck_1}{\omega} \times \vec{E}_1 + \frac{ck_2}{\omega} \times \vec{E}_2 = \hat{z} \times (\vec{E}_1 - \vec{E}_2)$$

$$\Rightarrow \vec{B}_3(z) = \hat{z} \times (e^{ikz} \hat{x} - i e^{-ikz} \hat{y}) E_0 = (e^{ikz} \hat{y} + i e^{-ikz} \hat{x}) E_0$$

$$\Rightarrow I = \frac{c}{8\pi} \text{Re}(\vec{E}_3 \times \vec{B}_3^*) = \frac{c E_0^2}{8\pi} \text{Re}[(\hat{x} + i e^{-2ikz} \hat{y}) \times (\hat{y} - i e^{2ikz} \hat{x})]$$

$$= \frac{c E_0^2}{8\pi} \text{Re}[\hat{z} - \hat{z}] = \boxed{0} \quad \text{As expected}$$

Note: Since $\vec{E}_1 \perp \vec{E}_2$ $\vec{S} = \vec{S}_1 + \vec{S}_2 = 0$ Orthogonal waves do not interfere

Problem 3: Paraxial Wave Equation:

Wave in vacuum: \vec{E} -field satisfies wave eqn $[\nabla^2 - \frac{1}{c^2} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial t^2}] \vec{E} = 0$

a) Monochromatic paraxial Ansatz:

$$\vec{E}(\vec{x}, t) = \hat{e} E(\vec{x}) e^{ik_0 z - i\omega_0 t}, \quad E(\vec{x}): \text{Slowly varying envelope}$$

Plug into W.E., with $\nabla^2 = \nabla_{\perp}^2 + \frac{\partial^2}{\partial z^2}$, $\frac{\partial^2}{\partial t^2} \Rightarrow -\omega_0^2$

$$\Rightarrow (\nabla_{\perp}^2 \frac{E}{c}) e^{ik_0 z} + \frac{\partial^2}{\partial z^2} (E e^{ik_0 z}) + \frac{\omega_0^2}{c^2} E(\vec{x}) e^{ik_0 z} = 0$$

$$\text{Aside: } \left\{ \begin{aligned} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial z^2} (E e^{ik_0 z}) &= \frac{\partial}{\partial z} [ik_0 E(\vec{x}) e^{ik_0 z} + \frac{\partial E}{\partial z} e^{ik_0 z}] \\ &= (2ik_0 \frac{\partial E}{\partial z} + \frac{\partial^2 E}{\partial z^2} - k_0^2 E) e^{ik_0 z} \end{aligned} \right.$$

$$\Rightarrow \nabla_{\perp}^2 E + 2ik_0 \frac{\partial E}{\partial z} + \frac{\partial^2 E}{\partial z^2} = 0 \quad (\text{using } k_0 = \frac{\omega_0}{c})$$

So far exact

Now make the S.V.E.A. $|\frac{\partial^2 E}{\partial z^2}| \ll k_0 |\frac{\partial E}{\partial z}|$

(Envelope varies much more slowly in z -direction than x and variations along $z \ll$ variations along x - y) $\ll |\nabla_{\perp}^2 E|$

$$\Rightarrow \boxed{i \frac{\partial E}{\partial z} = -\frac{1}{2k_0} \nabla_{\perp}^2 E} \quad \text{the paraxial wave equation}$$

(b) Fourier transform of the complex field

$$\tilde{E}(\vec{k}, \omega) = \int d^3x dt \underbrace{E(\vec{x}) e^{i(k_0 z - \omega t)}}_{\tilde{E}(\vec{x}, t)} e^{-i(\vec{k} \cdot \vec{x} - c|\vec{k}|t)}$$

$$= \int dt \underbrace{e^{-i(\omega_0 - c|\vec{k}|)t}}_{2\pi \delta(\omega_0 - c|\vec{k}|)} \int \underbrace{E(\vec{x}) e^{-i(\vec{k} - k_0 \vec{e}_z) \cdot \vec{x}}}_{\tilde{E}(\vec{k} - k_0 \vec{e}_z)} d^3\vec{x}$$

$$\therefore \boxed{\tilde{E}(\vec{k}, \omega) = \tilde{E}(\vec{k} - k_0 \vec{e}_z) 2\pi \delta(\omega_0 - c|\vec{k}|)}$$

Because the field is monochromatic, all the wave vectors have the same magnitude $|\vec{k}| = \frac{\omega_0}{c}$. However, because

of the envelope, there is a spread in the direction of the wave vectors whose distribution is given by

$$\tilde{E}(\vec{k} - k_0 \vec{e}_z) = \tilde{E}(\vec{q}) \quad \text{where } \vec{q} = \vec{k} - \vec{k}_0$$

$$\text{In the SVEA: } \left| \frac{\partial^2 E}{\partial z^2} \right| \ll k_0 \left| \frac{\partial E}{\partial z} \right| \quad \left| \frac{\partial^2 E}{\partial z^2} \right| \ll |\nabla_{\perp}^2 E|$$

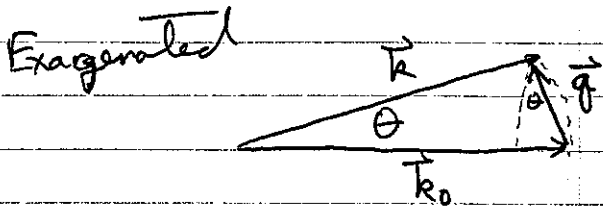
In the Fourier domain this translates into

$$|q_z^2 \tilde{E}| \ll |k_0 q_z \tilde{E}| \quad \text{and} \quad |q_z^2 \tilde{E}| \ll |q_{\perp}|^2 \tilde{E}$$

$$\text{Or } |q_z| \ll k_0 \quad \text{and} \quad |q_z| \ll |q_{\perp}|$$

(Next page)

This can be seen geometrically as a "paraxial approximation", i.e. all the wave vectors make a small angle θ with respect to the main propagation direction, \vec{k}_0



For small θ

$$\bullet q_z = k_0 - k \cos \theta \approx k_0 (1 - \cos \theta) \approx \frac{1}{2} k_0 \theta^2$$

$$\bullet |\vec{q}_\perp| = k \sin \theta \approx k_0 \theta$$

Thus the paraxial approximation amounts to keeping terms to order θ^2 in the small angle

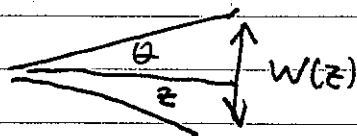
(c) If the beam has a characteristic width w_0 , then by the uncertainty principle the spread in transverse wave vectors

$$|\Delta \vec{k}_\perp| = |\Delta \vec{q}_\perp| \sim \frac{1}{w_0}$$

But according to the geometrical construction above, the characteristic $|\vec{q}_\perp|$ is of order $k_0 \theta = \theta/\lambda$

$$\Rightarrow \boxed{\theta \sim \frac{1}{k_0 w_0} = \frac{\lambda}{w_0}} \quad \text{The "diffraction angle"}$$

Because of the finite transverse components the beam will spread, or diffract



The width at z is approximately

$$\Rightarrow w(z) \approx z \sin \theta \approx \theta z$$

The characteristic spreading distance is when $w(z) = w_0$

$$\Rightarrow -\theta z_c \approx w_0 \Rightarrow \boxed{z_c \sim \frac{w_0}{\theta} = \frac{k w_0^2}{2}}$$

(d) Given the envelope function at $z=0$, we can propagate forward to $z>0$ the same as we propagate the wave function forward in time

Note the analogy:

$$i \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \psi = -\frac{\hbar}{2m} \nabla_{\perp}^2 \psi : \text{ Schrödinger equation for free particle in 2D}$$

$$i \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \mathcal{E} = -\frac{1}{2k_0} \nabla_{\perp}^2 \mathcal{E} : \text{ Paraxial wave equation}$$

$$t \Leftrightarrow z \quad \left(\text{If we let } z=ct \text{ then the "effective mass" is } m_{\text{eff}} = \frac{\hbar c_0}{c^2} \right)$$

$$\text{Thus } \mathcal{E}(\vec{x}_{\perp}, z) = U(z) \mathcal{E}(\vec{x}_{\perp}, 0) = e^{+i \frac{\nabla_{\perp}^2}{2k_0} z} \mathcal{E}(\vec{x}_{\perp}, 0)$$

$$= \int \frac{d^2 q_{\perp}}{(2\pi)^2} e^{-i \frac{|\vec{q}_{\perp}|^2}{2k_0} z} \tilde{\mathcal{E}}(\vec{q}_{\perp}) e^{i \vec{q}_{\perp} \cdot \vec{x}_{\perp}}$$

$$\text{Where } \tilde{\mathcal{E}}(\vec{q}_{\perp}) = \int d^2 x_{\perp} \mathcal{E}(\vec{x}_{\perp}, 0) e^{-i \vec{q}_{\perp} \cdot \vec{x}_{\perp}} \quad (\text{F.T. of incident envelope})$$

$$\text{Given initial profile: } \mathcal{E}(\vec{x}_{\perp}, 0) = E_0 e^{-\frac{x^2+y^2}{w_0^2}} \quad \text{Gaussian beam}$$

$$\tilde{\mathcal{E}}(\vec{q}_{\perp}) = E_0 \underbrace{\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dx e^{-\frac{x^2}{w_0^2}} e^{-i q_x x}}_{\sqrt{\pi} w_0 e^{-\frac{(q_x^2 w_0^2)}{4}}} \underbrace{\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dy e^{-\frac{y^2}{w_0^2}} e^{-i q_y y}}_{\sqrt{\pi} w_0 e^{-\frac{(q_y^2 w_0^2)}{4}}}$$

$$= E_0 \pi w_0^2 \exp\left\{-|\vec{q}_{\perp}|^2 \frac{w_0^2}{4}\right\}$$

(Gaussian in Fourier domain)

Now we add the propagation phase for each \vec{q}_T and integrate:

$$\tilde{E}(\vec{x}_T, z) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{d^2 q_T}{(2\pi)^2} \tilde{E}(\vec{q}_T) \exp\left\{i\vec{q}_T \cdot \vec{x}_T - i\frac{|\vec{q}_T|^2}{2k_0} z\right\}$$

$$= E_0 \pi W_0^2 \left[\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{dq_x^2}{(2\pi)^2} \exp\left\{i\vec{q}_T \cdot \vec{x}_T - \frac{|\vec{q}_T|^2}{4} W_0^2 - i\frac{|\vec{q}_T|^2}{2k_0} z\right\} \right]$$

$$= E_0 \pi W_0^2 \left[\underbrace{\text{Integral over } q_x}_{dx} \right] \times \left[\underbrace{\text{Integral over } q_y}_{dy} \right]$$

Aside

$$dx = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{dq_x}{2\pi} \exp\left\{iq_x x - q_x^2 \left(\frac{W_0^2}{4} + i\frac{z}{2k_0}\right)\right\}$$

Aside again: Complete the square

$$-q_x^2 \left(\frac{W_0^2}{4} + i\frac{z}{2k_0}\right) + iq_x x = -\frac{a^2}{4} \left(q_x - 2i\frac{x}{a}\right) - \frac{x^2}{a^2}$$

where $a^2 = W_0^2 + i\frac{2z}{k_0}$ (complex)

$$\Rightarrow dx = \frac{e^{-\frac{x^2}{a^2}}}{2\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dq_x \exp\left\{-\frac{a^2}{4} \left(q_x - \frac{2ix}{a}\right)\right\}$$

Magic of Gaussians: everything as if real = $\sqrt{\frac{4\pi}{a^2}}$

$$\Rightarrow dx = \frac{\sqrt{\pi}}{a} e^{-\frac{x^2}{a^2}}$$

Similarly $dy = \frac{\sqrt{\pi}}{a} e^{-\frac{y^2}{a^2}}$ (Next Page)

Thus,
$$\boxed{E(\vec{x}_T, z) = E_0 \frac{W_0^2}{a^2} \exp\left\{-\frac{x^2 + y^2}{a^2}\right\}}$$

The rest is getting it in the given form

• First $a^2 = W_0^2 \left(1 + i \frac{2z}{kW_0^2}\right) = W_0^2 \left(1 + i \frac{z}{z_0}\right)$

where $z_0 = \frac{1}{2} kW_0^2$ (Rayleigh range)

And $1 + i \frac{z}{z_0} = \sqrt{1 + \frac{z^2}{z_0^2}} e^{i\phi(z)}$, $\phi(z) = \tan^{-1}\left(\frac{z}{z_0}\right)$
(Polar decomposition)

$\Rightarrow \frac{W_0^2}{a^2} = \frac{W_0}{W(z)} e^{-i\phi(z)}$ where $W(z) = W_0 \sqrt{1 + \frac{z^2}{z_0^2}}$

• Second $\frac{1}{a^2} = \frac{1}{W_0^2} \frac{1}{1 + i \frac{z}{z_0}} = \frac{1 - i \frac{z}{z_0}}{W_0^2 \left(1 + \frac{z^2}{z_0^2}\right)}$

$= \frac{1}{W^2(z)} - \frac{i}{\frac{W_0^2}{z_0} \left(z + \frac{z_0^2}{z}\right)}$

$= \frac{1}{W^2(z)} - \frac{i k}{2R(z)}$, $R(z) = z + \frac{z_0^2}{z}$

Putting it all together:

$$\boxed{E(\vec{x}_T, z) = E_0 e^{-i\phi(z)} \frac{W_0}{W(z)} e^{-\frac{x^2 + y^2}{W^2(z)}} e^{i k_0 \frac{(x^2 + y^2)}{2R(z)}}$$

$z_0 = \frac{kW_0^2}{2}$, $W(z) = W_0 \left(1 + \frac{z^2}{z_0^2}\right)^{1/2}$, $\phi(z) = \tan^{-1}\left(\frac{z}{z_0}\right)$ when!

$R(z) = z + \frac{z_0^2}{z}$

Interpretation:

The solution we found is well known in laser physics. It's the Gaussian beam solution. Because of the finite width w_0 at $z=0$, there must be a finite spread of transverse wave vectors. The resulting beam spreads as it propagates with a width

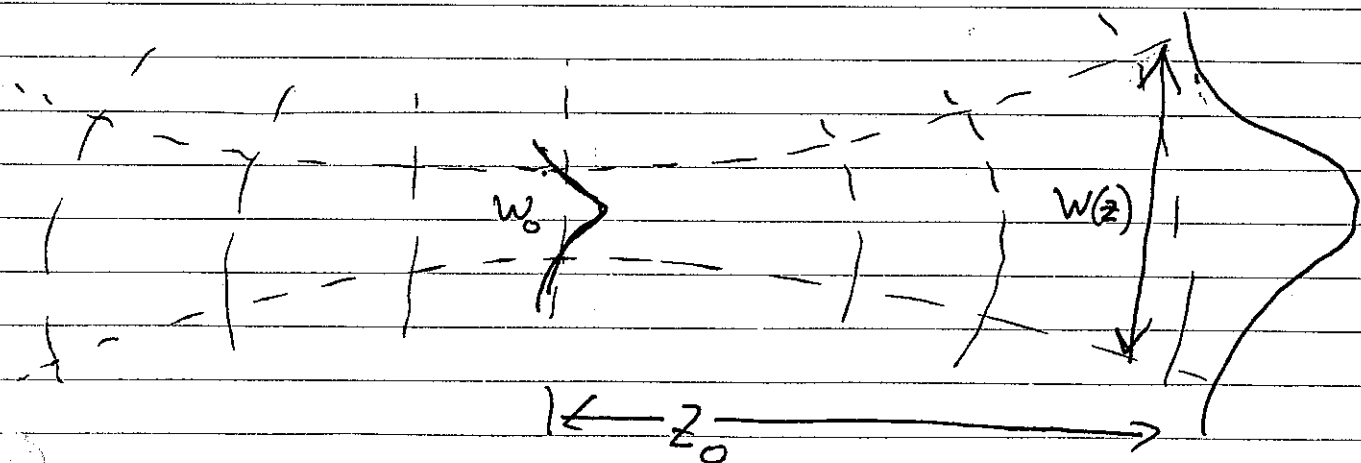
$$W(z) = w_0 \sqrt{1 + \frac{z^2}{z_0^2}}$$

Note when $z = z_0 = \frac{kw_0^2}{2}$ $w_0 \Rightarrow \sqrt{2} w_0$
i.e. noticeable spread, as we estimated in part (c)

In addition to the spreading of the intensity the initially uniform phase front \perp to z becomes curved surfaces

$$\text{phase}(x, y, z) = kz + \phi(z) + \frac{k_0(x^2 + y^2)}{2R(z)}$$

We can sketch this beam as



Note: for an optical field with $\lambda \sim 0.5 \mu\text{m}$

and $w_0 = 1 \text{ mm}$, $z_0 = \left(\frac{1}{2}\right) \frac{2\pi}{\lambda} w_0^2 = \frac{\pi w_0^2}{\lambda} \cong 6 \text{ meters}$

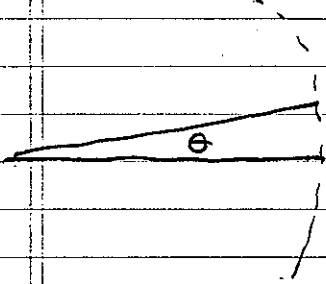
(e) For $z \gg z_0$.

$$R(z) \approx z, \quad W(z) \approx W_0 \frac{z}{z_0} = \frac{z}{k_0 W_0} z = \frac{z}{k W_0} R(z)$$

$$\Rightarrow \mathcal{E}(\vec{x}_T, z) \approx E_0 e^{-\frac{x^2+y^2}{W^2(z)}} \frac{e^{i k_0 (x^2+y^2)/2z}}{kz}$$

Recall the spherical wave: $E = E_0 \frac{e^{i k r}}{k r} = \frac{e^{i k_0 \sqrt{x^2+y^2+z^2}}}{k_0 \sqrt{x^2+y^2+z^2}}$

Because the propagation is paraxial we need only consider the wave front for small angles, so $x^2+y^2 \ll z^2$



$$k r = k_0 \sqrt{x^2+y^2+z^2} = k_0 z \left(1 + \frac{x^2+y^2}{z^2}\right)^{1/2}$$

$$\approx k_0 z + \frac{k_0 (x^2+y^2)}{2z} \quad (z \gg \sqrt{x^2+y^2})$$

$$\Rightarrow E \approx E_0 \frac{e^{i k_0 \frac{(x^2+y^2)}{2z}}}{z} e^{i k_0 z}$$

Envelope function

\Rightarrow For $z \gg z_0$, the wave fronts are approximately spherical

(f) The fudge: $\nabla \cdot \vec{E} = 0$? No since we assumed uniform polarization, yet $\mathcal{E}(\vec{x}_T, z)$ dependence in z -direction

Resolution: The neglected part of \vec{E} which would make $\nabla \cdot \vec{E} = 0$ is higher order in the paraxial approximation

See M. Lax et al., Phys Rev A 11, 1365 (1975).

Problem 4: Angular Momentum in Electromagnetic Waves

$$\vec{L} = \frac{1}{4\pi c} \int d^3x \vec{x} \times (\vec{E} \times \vec{B}) \quad (\text{ang. mom. in field})$$

$$(a) L_i = \epsilon_{ijk} \epsilon_{klm} \frac{1}{4\pi c} \int d^3x x_j E_l B_m$$

$$\text{Use } \vec{B} = \vec{\nabla} \times \vec{A} \Rightarrow B_m = \epsilon_{mnp} \partial_n A_p$$

$$L_i = \underbrace{\epsilon_{ijk} \epsilon_{klm} \epsilon_{mnp}}_{\delta_{kn} \delta_{lp} - \delta_{kp} \delta_{ln}} \frac{1}{4\pi c} \int d^3x x_j E_l \partial_n A_p$$

$$\Rightarrow L_i = \epsilon_{ijk} \frac{1}{4\pi c} \int d^3x \left[E_l (x_j \partial_k) A_l - x_j E_l \partial_l A_k \right]$$

$$\text{Aside: } \epsilon_{ijk} x_j \partial_k = (\vec{x} \times \vec{\nabla})_i$$

$$\text{Aside: } \int x_j E_l \partial_l A_k \stackrel{\text{by parts}}{=} - \int [\partial_l (x_j E_l)] A_k$$

$$= - \int \delta_{lj} E_l A_k - \int x_j (\partial_l E_l) A_k$$

$$= - \int E_j A_k - \int x_j (\underbrace{\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{E}}_0) A_k$$

0 in free space

$$\Rightarrow L_i = \frac{1}{4\pi c} \int d^3x \left[E_l (\vec{x} \times \vec{\nabla})_i A_l + (\vec{E} \times \vec{A})_i \right]$$

(Next Page)

Thus: $\vec{L} = \vec{L}_{\text{orbital}} + \vec{L}_{\text{spin}}$

$$\vec{L}_{\text{orbital}} = \frac{1}{4\pi c} \int d^3x \left(\vec{E}_\ell (\vec{x} \times \vec{\nabla}) A_\ell \right) \quad (\text{sum over } \ell)$$

$$\vec{L}_{\text{spin}} = \frac{1}{4\pi c} \int d^3x \left(\vec{E}(\vec{x}) \times \vec{A}(\vec{x}) \right)$$

- The "orbital" angular momentum depends on the spatial variation of the field via $\vec{x} \times \vec{\nabla}$
- The "spin" angular momentum depends on the vector nature of the field ("intrinsic" angular momentum)

(b) Given plane wave decomposition

$$\vec{A}(\vec{x}, t) = \sum_{\mu} \int \frac{d^3k}{(2\pi)^3} \left[\tilde{A}_{\mu}(\vec{k}) \vec{e}_{\mu}(\vec{k}) e^{i(\vec{k} \cdot \vec{x} - \omega t)} + \text{c.c.} \right]$$

where $\vec{e}_{\pm}(\vec{k}) = \frac{\vec{e}_1 \pm i\vec{e}_2}{\sqrt{2}}$ $\vec{e}_1, \vec{e}_2 \perp$ to \hat{k}

$$\vec{E}(\vec{x}, t) = -\frac{1}{c} \frac{\partial \vec{A}}{\partial t} \quad (\text{In radiation gauge. The longitudinal part of } \vec{E} \text{ does not contribute to } \vec{L})$$

$$\Rightarrow \vec{E}(\vec{x}, t) = i \sum_{\mu} \int \frac{d^3k}{(2\pi)^3} k \left[\tilde{A}_{\mu}(\vec{k}) \vec{e}_{\mu}(\vec{k}) e^{i(\vec{k} \cdot \vec{x} - \omega t)} \right] + \text{c.c.}$$

$$\vec{A}(\vec{x}, t) = \vec{A}^{(+)}(\vec{x}, t) + \vec{A}^{(-)}(\vec{x}, t)$$

$$\vec{E}(\vec{x}, t) = \vec{E}^{(+)}(\vec{x}, t) + \vec{E}^{(-)}(\vec{x}, t)$$

$$\text{where } \vec{A}^{(+)} = \sum_{\mu} \int \frac{d^3k}{(2\pi)^3} \tilde{A}_{\mu}(\vec{k}) \vec{e}_{\mu}(\vec{k}) e^{i(\vec{k} \cdot \vec{x} - \omega t)}$$

$$= \vec{A}^{(-)*}$$

$$\vec{E}^{(+)} = i \sum_{\mu} \int \frac{d^3k}{(2\pi)^3} k \tilde{A}_{\mu}(\vec{k}) \vec{e}_{\mu}(\vec{k}) e^{i(\vec{k} \cdot \vec{x} - \omega t)} = \vec{E}^{(-)*}$$

$$\Rightarrow \vec{T}_{\text{spin}} = \int d^3x \left(\frac{\vec{E}^{(-)} \times \vec{A}^{(+)}}{4\pi c} + \frac{\vec{E}^{(+)} \times \vec{A}^{(-)}}{4\pi c} \right) + c.c.$$

Aside:

$$\int d^3x \frac{\vec{E}^{(-)} \times \vec{A}^{(+)}}{4\pi c} = \frac{-i}{4\pi c} \int \frac{d^3k d^3k'}{(2\pi)^6} \sum_{\mu, \mu'} k \tilde{A}_{\mu}(\vec{k}) \tilde{A}_{\mu'}^*(\vec{k}') \vec{e}_{\mu}(\vec{k}) \times \vec{e}_{\mu'}^*(\vec{k}')$$

$$\underbrace{\int d^3x e^{-i(\vec{k}-\vec{k}') \cdot \vec{x}} e^{i(\omega_k - \omega_{k'})t}}_{(2\pi)^3 \delta(\vec{k}-\vec{k}')$$

$$= \frac{-i}{4\pi c} \int \frac{d^3k}{(2\pi)^3} k \sum_{\mu} \tilde{A}_{\mu}(\vec{k}) \tilde{A}_{\mu'}^*(\vec{k}) \vec{e}_{\mu}(\vec{k}) \times \vec{e}_{\mu'}^*(\vec{k})$$

Double Aside:

$$\vec{e}_{\mu}(\vec{k}) \times \vec{e}_{\mu'}(\vec{k}) = \pm i \hat{k} \delta_{\mu\mu'}$$

$$\vec{e}_{\mu=\pm 1}(\vec{k}) \times \vec{e}_{\mu'=\pm 1}(\vec{k}) = \pm i \hat{k}$$

$$\Rightarrow \int d^3x \frac{\vec{E}^{(-)} \times \vec{A}^{(+)}}{4\pi c} = \frac{1}{4\pi c} \int \frac{d^3k}{(2\pi)^3} \vec{k} \left[|\tilde{A}_{+}(\vec{k})|^2 - |\tilde{A}_{-}(\vec{k})|^2 \right]$$

Note: $\vec{e}_u(\hat{k}) \times \vec{e}_u(\hat{k}) = 0$

$$\Rightarrow \int \vec{E}^{(+)} \times \vec{A}^{(+)} d^3x = 0$$

$$\therefore \vec{L}_{spin} = \int d^3x \frac{\vec{E}^{(+)} \times \vec{A}^{(+)}}{4\pi c} + c.c$$

$$\Rightarrow \boxed{\vec{L}_{spin} = \frac{1}{2\pi c} \int \frac{d^3k}{(2\pi)^3} \vec{k} \left[|\vec{A}_+(\vec{k})|^2 - |\vec{A}_-(\vec{k})|^2 \right]}$$

Thus, a circularly polarized field with $\vec{e}_\pm = \frac{\vec{e}_1 \pm i\vec{e}_2}{\sqrt{2}}$ carries angular momentum in the $\pm \vec{k}$ direction (positive/negative helicity)