Plane-Wave Propagation

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- We will have problems about fields from sources radiating
  - In a source-free region, there are no electric and magnetic fields. That would make Maxwell's equations:

$$\nabla \cdot \tilde{E} = 0$$
$$\nabla \times \tilde{E} = -j\omega\mu\tilde{H}$$
$$\nabla \cdot \tilde{H} = 0$$
$$\nabla \times \tilde{H} = \tilde{J} + j\omega\varepsilon\tilde{E}$$

  - In a region with a source, Maxwell's equations may be written as:

$$\nabla \cdot \tilde{E} = \frac{\rho_V}{\varepsilon}$$
$$\nabla \times \tilde{E} = -j\omega\mu\tilde{H}$$
$$\nabla \cdot \tilde{H} = 0$$
$$\nabla \times \tilde{H} = \tilde{J}_{cond} + j\omega\varepsilon\tilde{E}$$

  - There are two components that contribute to current density:

$$\tilde{J} = \tilde{J}_{impressed} + \tilde{J}_{cond}$$

    * Impressed is from a source, and conductive is an intrinsic property

$$\tilde{J} = \sigma\tilde{E}$$

  - The homogenous form of Maxwell's equations can thus be written as:

$$\nabla \cdot \tilde{E} = 0$$
$$\nabla \times \tilde{E} = -j\omega\mu\tilde{H}$$
$$\nabla \cdot \tilde{H} = 0$$
$$\nabla \times \tilde{H} = (\sigma + j\omega\varepsilon)\tilde{E}$$

- Far from sources, fields propagate like a plane wave (the circle becomes so large, it can be approximated as a line)
- The $\tilde{J}$ conduction component is known as drift
  - If the conductivity is non-zero, we can see from the equation above that:

$$\nabla \times \tilde{H} = j\omega \left(\varepsilon - \frac{j\sigma}{\omega}\right) \tilde{E}$$

$$\varepsilon_c = \varepsilon - \frac{j\sigma}{\omega}$$

    * If $\frac{\sigma}{\omega} << \varepsilon$, then the material is an insulator, and:

$$\varepsilon_c = \varepsilon$$

    * If $\frac{\sigma}{\omega} >> \varepsilon$, the material is conductive; Note: this means that a good conductor depends on the angular frequency
    * We can determine that:

$$\tan(\theta) = \frac{\sigma}{\omega\varepsilon}$$

    * If the tangent is approximately 0, the conductivity is negligible
- Wave Equations
  - From manipulating the first non-zero equation, we get:

$$\nabla \times \nabla \times \vec{E} - \omega^2 \mu \varepsilon_c \tilde{E} = 0$$

  - We can also get:

$$\nabla^2 \vec{E} - \omega \mu \varepsilon_c \tilde{E} = 0$$

  - In lossy media, $\sigma \neq 0$ and ε_c is a complex value. We assign $\gamma = -\omega^2 \mu \varepsilon_c$, and can now write:

$$(\nabla^2 - \gamma^2)\tilde{E} = 0$$
$$(\nabla^2 - \gamma^2)\tilde{H} = 0$$

  - For lossless media, $\sigma = 0$, and ε_c is purely real
  - We can rewrite the equation as:

$$(\nabla^2 + k^2)\tilde{E}(r) = 0, \text{ where } r = (x, y, z)$$

    * k is the wave number, $\omega\sqrt{\mu\varepsilon}$