

Electrodynamic Solved Problems

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About these notes

These notes contain a set of selected problems to discuss during the problem solving session of Classical Electrodynamics subject at Uppsala University (Sweden). The order you see in the table of content correspond to chronological order of the lectures for this course. The title of each problem statement is linked to its solution. Try first without looking at... Exercises with an **E** in front of them correspond to old exams.

Recommended Bibliography

- **Classical Electrodynamics**, John David Jackson. You may not like this book at first glance. Neither second, third... but it contains a formal and serious approach to all the topics that are going to be covered during the lectures. It contains important examples and explanations.
- **Introduction to Electrodynamics**, David J. Griffiths. Excellent book for a first approach to many of the concepts in this course. Its level does not cover the one expected for this course, but after reading once¹ you can jump into Jackson.
- **Electromagnetic Field Theory**, Bo Thidé. It does not contain all the material of the course, but it includes several derivations of formulae and a good final appendix with tons of identities and explanations of the mathematical tools.
- **Space and Geometry: An introduction to General Relativity**, Sean Carroll. This is some extra material to read about tensor notation. The first chapter, and part of the second one, cover the properties of the tensorial language we are going to use. This will be useful for the covariant formalism of electrodynamics and Lagrangian manipulation parts of this course.
- **FMM: Exercise Notes**, S.Giri & G. Kälin. Uploaded to Studium. It contains the most useful mathematical methods and examples that show how to use them. Totally recommended to refresh your mathematical manipulation.
- **Internet**. As you may know, apart from Social Networks and kitten videos, it contains an enormous amount of resources when used in a proper way.

Tips to enhance your understanding

Here we offer a set of tips in order to enhance your problem-solving capability.

- Read twice/ thrice/ hundredice the statement of a problem until you really understand what is asking you to solve. You can apply the same principle when reading through sections of books, notes, etc.
- "Pachanguera": Although it is a Spanish word to describe dynamic-noisy-low quality music, it can be also used to describe what a drawing sketch is. It is easier to remember what the problem is asking for if you draw a low quality

¹Sections, not the whole book.

picture of the set up. You can understand a problem in a better way if you translate to a picture the description given in the statement.

- "Explain yourself": It is nice for your future self² and for the people who will correct your exercises/exam if you explain with descriptive sentences the process of your calculations. It gives a context to whoever reads through your problems and help you to stay focus on the final target (solution) you are looking for.
- "Tolle, Lege": Take it, read it. Saint Augustine was wise enough to know that if you do not open and read books, you will not learn. It applies from religion to physics. If you do not understand what you are reading, try first point of these recommendations. Also, you are more than encouraged to ask the Teacher or teacher assistant.

²Has it not happened to you that you try to do your exercises again to prepare for the exam and you cannot understand why you calculated something in a particular way?

1 Electrostatics

Conducting ball

A conducting ball of radius R and total charge Q sits in a homogeneous electric field $\vec{E} = E_0 \hat{z}$. How does the electric field change by the presence of the ball? (Make an Ansatz of the form $\Phi(r, \theta, \phi) = f_0(r) + f_1(r) \cos \theta$ and motivate it.) Tip: $\hat{z} = \cos \theta \hat{r} + \sin \theta \hat{\theta}$.

Conducting ball Again

1. A point charge q sits at \vec{a} inside a conducting uncharged sphere that is earthed with radius R ($|\vec{a}| < R$). Compute the potential and the electric field inside the sphere using the method of mirror charges. Compute also the induced charge density on the surface of the sphere and show that the total charge on the surface is $-q$. What does the Gauss theorem say about the electrical field outside the sphere?
2. Do the same analysis with the change that the sphere is isolated and uncharged. Tip: Determine the electric field outside the sphere with the new b.c.
3. Follow again the same procedure as b for a sphere that is isolated and with charge Q .

The Capacitance of an off-centered Capacitor

A spherical conducting shell centered at the origin has radius R_1 and is maintained at potential V_1 . A second spherical conducting shell maintained at potential V_2 has radius $R_2 > R_1$ but is centered at the point $s \hat{z}$ where $s \ll R_1$.

1. To lowest order in s , show that the charge density induced on the surface of the inner shell is

$$\sigma(\theta) = \epsilon_0 \frac{R_1 R_2 (V_2 - V_1)}{R_2 - R_1} \left[\frac{1}{R_1^2} - \frac{3s}{R_2^3 - R_1^3} \cos \theta \right]. \quad (1)$$

Hint: Show first that the boundary of the outer shell is $r_2 \approx R_2 + s \cos \theta$.

2. To lowest order in s , show that the force exerted on the inner shell is:

$$\mathbf{F} = \int dS \frac{\sigma^2}{2\epsilon_0} \hat{\mathbf{n}} = \hat{\mathbf{z}} 2\pi R_1^2 \int^\pi d\theta \sin\theta \frac{\sigma^2(\theta)}{2\epsilon_0} \cos\theta = -\frac{Q^2}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{s\hat{\mathbf{z}}}{R_2^3 - R_1^3}. \quad (2)$$

Spherical cavity and spherical functions

Consider a sphere of radius a where the surface of the upper hemisphere has a potential $+\Phi_0$ and the surface of the lower hemisphere has a potential $-\Phi_0$. In this case the Green Function is given by:

$$G(r, r') = \frac{1}{|\vec{r} - \vec{r}'|} - \frac{a}{r' |\vec{r} - \frac{a^2}{r'^2} \vec{r}'|}, \quad (3)$$

where \vec{r}' refers to a unit source outside the sphere and \vec{r} to the point where the potential is evaluated.

1. Using the expression for the expansion of $\frac{1}{|\vec{r} - \vec{r}'|}$ in the appropriate basis show that the Green's function can be written as

$$G(r, r') = 4\pi \sum_{l,m} \frac{1}{2l+1} \left[\frac{r_{<}^l}{r_{>}^{l+1}} - \frac{1}{a} \left(\frac{a^2}{rr'} \right)^{l+1} \right] Y_{l,m}^*(\theta', \phi') Y_{l,m}(\theta, \phi), \quad (4)$$

2. Using Dirichlet boundary conditions, show that the potential outside the sphere has following the expansion.

$$\Phi(r, \theta, \phi) = \sum_{lm} \frac{l+1}{a^2(2l+1)} \left(\frac{a}{r} \right)^{l+1} Y_{l,m}(\theta, \phi) \int \Phi_0(\theta', \phi') Y_{l,m}^*(\theta', \phi') d\Sigma', \quad (5)$$

which tends to 0 as $r \rightarrow \infty$.

Green's function between concentric spheres

Consider the green's function for Neumann b.c. in the volume V between two concentric spheres between $r = a$ and $r = b$, $a < b$. We write the potential as

$$\Phi(x) = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \int_V \rho(x') G(x, x') d^3x' + \frac{1}{4\pi} \oint_S \frac{\partial\Phi}{\partial n'} G da', \quad (6)$$

where S is the surface of the boundary. This implies that the b.c. for the Green's function is given by:

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial n'} G(x, x') = -\frac{4\pi}{S}, \quad (7)$$

or x' in S . Expanding the Green's function in spherical harmonics we get:

$$G(x, x') = \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} g_l(r, r') P_l(\cos \gamma), \quad (8)$$

where $g_l(r, r') = \frac{r_{<}^l}{r_{>}^{l+1}} + f_l(r, r')$, and γ is the angle between the vector x and x' .

Also here one can prove that $P_l(\cos \gamma) = \frac{4\pi}{2l+1} \sum_m Y_{l,m}^*(\theta', \phi') Y_{l,m}(\theta, \phi)$.

1. Show for $l > 0$ that the Green's function takes the symmetric form:

$$g_l(r, r') = \frac{r_{<}^l}{r_{>}^{l+1}} + \frac{1}{b^{2l+1} - a^{2l+1}} \left[\frac{l+1}{l} (rr')^l + \frac{l}{l+1} \frac{(ab)^{2l+1}}{(rr')^{l+1}} + a^{2l+1} \left(\frac{r^l}{r'^{l+1}} + \frac{r'^l}{r^{l+1}} \right) \right] \quad (9)$$

2. Use the Green's function that you found in the situation that you have a normal electric field $E_r = -E_0 \cos \theta$ at $r = b$ and $E_r = 0$ at $r = a$. Show that the potential inside V is

$$\Phi(x) = E_0 \frac{r \cos \theta}{1 - p^3} \left(1 + \frac{a^3}{2r^3} \right), \quad (10)$$

where $p = \frac{a}{b}$. Find also for the electric field that:

$$E_r(r, \theta) = -E_0 \frac{\cos \theta}{1 - p^3} \left(1 + \frac{a^3}{r^3} \right), \quad E_\theta(r, \theta) = E_0 \frac{\sin \theta}{1 - p^3} \left(1 + \frac{a^3}{2r^3} \right). \quad (11)$$

2 Multipoles

2.1 Spherical Multiple Moment

Consider the system where you have point charges $+q$ at $(a, 0, 0)$ and $(0, a, 0)$ and charges $-q$ at $(-a, 0, 0)$ and $(0, -a, 0)$. Derive the spherical multiple moment $q_{l,m}$ and write down the first two non vanishing terms. Express the charge density in spherical coordinates and check that the integral over these densities produce the appropriate total charge.

2.2 Multiple Moments in Cartesian Coordinates

1. Prove that Q_{ij} is traceless.
2. Assume that q, \vec{p}, Q_{ij} are in a specific coordinate system. Now find the new quantities in a coordinate system which is related to the previous one by an \vec{R} displacement. Assume now that you have charges q at $(0, a, 0)$ and $(0, 0, a)$ and charge $-q$ at $(a, 0, 0)$
3. Find q, \vec{p}, Q_{ij} and check that the later one is traceless.
4. Can you find a coordinate system such that $\vec{p}' = 0$? If yes what is the displacement vector \vec{R} ?

2.3 Exterior Multipoles for a Specified Potential on a Sphere

Let $\Phi(R, \theta, \phi)$ be specified values of the electrostatic potential on the surface of a sphere. Show that the general form of an exterior, spherical multipole expansion implies that,

$$\Phi[\vec{r}] = \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} \sum_{m=-l}^l \left(\frac{R}{r}\right)^{l+1} Y_{l,m}[\Omega] \int d\Omega' \Phi[R, \Omega'] Y_{l',m'}^*[\Omega'] \quad (12)$$

For $r > R$. Given the previous potential expression, imagine the eight octants of a spherical shell which are maintained at alternating electrostatic potentials $\pm V$ as shown below in the following picture:

Where view a is in perspective and b is looking down the z axis from above. Use the results from previous section to find the asymptotic ($r \rightarrow \infty$) form of the potential produced by this shell configuration.

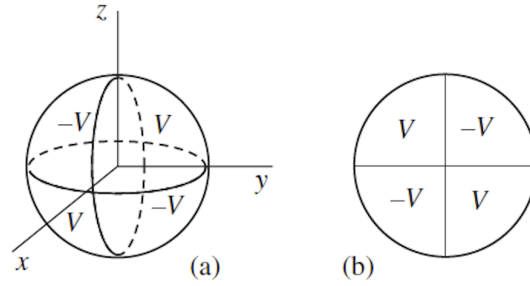


Figure 1: Potential distribution across the octants.

2.4 Radiating Fidget Spinner

Three identical point charges q are at the corners of an imaginary equilateral triangle that lies in the $x - y$ plane. The charges rotate with constant angular velocity ω around the z -axis, which passes through the center of the triangle. Find the angular distribution of electric dipole, magnetic dipole, and electric quadrupole radiation (treated separately) produced by this source.

3 Macroscopic Media

3.1 A Conducting Sphere at a Dielectric Boundary

A conducting sphere with radius R and charge Q sits at the origin of coordinates. The space outside the sphere above the $z = 0$ plane has dielectric constant κ_1 . The space outside the sphere below the $z = 0$ plane has dielectric constant κ_2 .

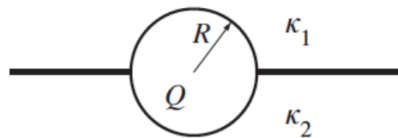


Figure 2: Dielectric distribution around the sphere.

1. Find the potential everywhere outside the conductor.
2. Find the distributions of free charge and polarization charge wherever they may be.

3.2 Polarization by Superposition

Two spheres with radius R have uniform but equal and opposite charge densities $\pm\rho$. The centers of the two spheres fail to coincide by an infinitesimal displacement vector δ . Show by direct superposition that the electric field produced by the spheres is identical to the electric field produced by a sphere with a suitably chosen uniform polarization \mathbf{P} .

3.3 The Field at the Center of a Polarized Cube

A cube is polarized uniformly parallel to one of its edges. Show that the electric field at the center of the cube is $\mathbf{E}(0) = -\mathbf{P}/3\epsilon_0$. Compare with $\mathbf{E}(0)$ for a uniformly polarized sphere. Hint: Recall the definition of solid angle.

3.4 \mathbf{E} and \mathbf{D} for an Annular Dielectric

1. The entire volume between two concentric spherical shells is filled with a material with uniform polarization \mathbf{P} . Find $\mathbf{E}(\mathbf{r})$ everywhere.
2. The entire volume inside a sphere of radius R is filled with polarized matter. Find $\mathbf{D}(\mathbf{r})$ everywhere if $\mathbf{P} = P\hat{\mathbf{r}}/r^2$.

3.5 \mathbf{E} : A Charge and A Conducting Sphere

1. A charge q is placed at a distance d away from the center of a conducting sphere of radius $a < d$. Let the potential at infinity and on the surface of the sphere be 0. Using the method of images find the total charge induced on the surface of the sphere.
2. Suppose the conducting sphere and the charge q are as above but the potential on the surface of the sphere is $V \neq 0$ (the potential at infinity is 0). Find the total charge on the surface of the sphere (hint: you need to place a second "image charge" at the center of the sphere).
3. Now consider a different situation. There are two conducting spheres of radius a whose centres are at a distance d that is much greater than a . The potential at infinity is 0. One of the spheres is kept at a potential V and the other at $-V$. Because $a \ll d$ when discussing the fields near one of the spheres you can approximate the other sphere as a single point charge located at its center. Using this approximation find the total charge on the surface of each of the spheres.
4. Finally imagine that the space in between the two spheres is filled with a medium

of conductivity σ so that, in the presence of an electric field, there will be a current density $\vec{J} = \sigma \vec{E}$. Using Gauss's law find the total current I flowing between the two spheres. (Note: ignore the effects of any \vec{B} produced by the moving charges). Compute the effective resistance of the circuit $R = \frac{2V}{I}$ as a function of a and d . What happens to R as $d \rightarrow \infty$. What happens to R as $a \rightarrow 0$?

5. (For a bonus point) Can you give a qualitative reason for the behavior of R found above? (Hint: think of resistors in series and parallel).

3.6 E: Critical strain

A parallel plate capacitor is made of two identical parallel conducting plates of area A . One plate carries a charge $+q$ and the other a charge $-q$. The capacitor is filled with a dielectric medium with permittivity ϵ . The distance between the two plates d is variable because the dielectric is elastic. The elastic energy stored in the dielectric is:

$$U_{\text{el}} = \frac{1}{2}k(d - d_0)^2. \quad (13)$$

where d_0 and k are constants.

1. Find the separation of the plates at equilibrium $d(q)$.
2. Find and plot the potential difference between the plates at equilibrium $V(q)$ as a function of q . Interpret the result.

4 Light and Polarisation

4.1 Elliptic Polarisation Wave

Assume electromagnetic wave $\vec{E}(x, t)$ and the magnetic part of it that will not contribute in the exercise. The propagation vector is in the z direction $\vec{k} = k\hat{z}$ and the wave has the following form

$$E_x(\vec{x}, t) = A \cos(kz - \omega t), \quad (14a)$$

$$E_y(\vec{x}, t) = B \cos(kz - \omega t + \phi). \quad (14b)$$

1. Show that the vector $\vec{E}(0, t)$ parametrizes an ellipse. Note that this vector describe the polarization. For which values of A, B and ϕ the polarization parametrizes a circle? Tip: The ellipse equation is of the form $ax^2 + 2bxy + cy^2 + f = 0$.

2. Show for general A and B that the wave can be written as a superposition of two opposite circular polarized waves

$$\vec{E}(\vec{x}, t) = \text{Re}(\vec{E}_+(z, t) + \vec{E}_-(z, t)) \quad (15)$$

where $\vec{E}_\pm(z, t) = A_\pm \epsilon_\pm e^{i(kz - \omega t)}$. Here we have that A_\pm are constants that need to be found and $\epsilon_\pm = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(\hat{x} \pm i\hat{y})$.

4.2 A Sandwich of Light

Assume two half planes made out of a homogeneous isotropic, non magnetic, loss-free, dielectric medium with refraction index n . The two planes are separated by vacuum and they are d distance away from each-other.

A wave is propagated from the below hitting the first surface of the medium with vacuum with angle α . The wave has frequency ω .

Consider the two cases where the propagation is perpendicular to the plane of incident. Describe the phenomenon and find how much of the wave was transmitted or reflected (energy/time).

4.3 Faraday Rotation During Propagation

For propagation along the z -axis, a medium supports left circular polarization with index of refraction n_L and right circular polarization with index of refraction n_R . If a plane wave propagating through this medium has $\mathbf{E}(z=0, t) = \hat{x}E \exp(-i\omega t)$, find the values of z where the wave is linearly polarized along the y -axis.

4.4 Charged Particle Motion in a Circularly Polarized Plane Wave

A particle with charge q and mass m interacts with a circularly polarized plane wave in vacuum. The electric field of the wave is $\mathbf{E}(z, t) = \text{Re}\{(\hat{x} + i\hat{y})E_0 \exp[i(kz - \omega t)]\}$.

1. Let $v_\pm = v_x \pm i v_y$ and $\Omega = 2qE_0/mc$. Show that the equations of motion for the components of the particle's velocity v can be written

$$\frac{dv_z}{dt} = \frac{1}{2}\Omega \left\{ v_+ e^{+i(kz - \omega t)} + v_- e^{-i(kz - \omega t)} \right\} \quad (16a)$$

$$\frac{dv_\pm}{dt} = \Omega(c - v_z) e^{\mp i(kz - \omega t)} \quad (16b)$$

2. Let $\ell_{\pm} = v_{\pm} e^{\pm i(kz - \omega t)} \pm i c \Omega \omega$ and show that

$$\frac{dv_z}{dt} = \frac{1}{2} \Omega (\ell_+ + \ell_-) = i \frac{\Omega}{2\omega} \frac{d}{dt} (\ell_+ - \ell_-) \quad (17)$$

3. Let K be the constant of the motion defined by the two \dot{v}_z equations above. Differentiate the equations in part (a) and establish that

$$\frac{d^2 v_z}{dt^2} + [\Omega^2 + \omega^2] v_z = \omega^2 K \quad (18)$$

Use the initial conditions $v(0) = 0$ and $v'_z(0) = 0$ to evaluate K and solve for $v_z(t)$. Describe the nature of the particle acceleration in the z -direction.

4.5 E: A Wave and Some Boundary Conditions

Consider an electromagnetic wave propagating in the vacuum in the half-space $x_3 \geq 0$.

$$\vec{E}_i(\vec{x}, t) = \vec{E}_0 e^{i\vec{k} \cdot \vec{x} - i\omega t}, \quad (19a)$$

$$\vec{B}_i(\vec{x}, t) = \frac{\hat{k}}{c} \times \vec{E}, \quad (19b)$$

where \vec{E}_i satisfies $\vec{k} \cdot \vec{E}_i = 0$ and the components of \vec{k} are real. The frequency satisfies $\omega^2 = c^2 \vec{k} \cdot \vec{k}$.

1. Suppose this wave is incident on a perfectly conducting plane placed at $x_3 = 0$. Let the plane of incidence be formed by \vec{k} and \hat{x}_3 . Write down an expression for the electric and magnetic fields for the reflected wave \vec{E}_r and \vec{B}_r . (Consider separately the case where \vec{E}_r and \vec{E}_i are both perpendicular to the plane of incidence and the case where they are both contained in it.)
2. Now suppose there is a second conducting plane located at $x_3 = d > 0$. Derive what are the conditions on \vec{k} , such that in the region $0 < x_3 < d$ the electric and magnetic fields are given by:

$$\vec{E} = \vec{E}_i + \vec{E}_r, \quad \vec{B} = \vec{B}_i + \vec{B}_r, \quad (20)$$

where the incident and reflected fields are those found above.

3. Suppose now that the two conducting planes are orthogonal to each other. One is placed at $x_3 = 0$ and the other at $x_1 = 0$. How many plane-waves do you need generically to satisfy the Maxwell equations (with the appropriate boundary conditions) in the region $x_1 > 0$, $-\infty < x_2 < +\infty$, $x_3 > 0$? Write down the electric and magnetic fields for one such solution.

4.6 E: Waving at the Properties of a Wave

Let $\vec{E} = \hat{y}E_0 e^{i(hz - \omega t) - \kappa x}$ be the electric field of a wave propagating in vacuum. The parameters E_0, h, ω, κ are real.

1. What is the magnetic field of the wave?
2. Use the wave equation for \vec{E} to determine a relation between h, κ and ω .
3. Compute the time averaged Poynting vector.

5 Waveguides and Cavities

5.1 Electromagnetic Crosswalk

Imagine two electromagnetic beams intersecting at right angles. (\vec{E}_H, \vec{B}_H) (moving in the horizontal direction) propagates in the $+x$ axis. (\vec{E}_V, \vec{B}_V) (Vertical direction) propagates in the $+y$ direction. For simplicity, each beam is taken as a pure plane wave cut of transversely so its cross section is a perfect square of area λ^2 (Here λ stands for the "space" each beam occupy). The fields are given by:

$$\vec{E}_H = -E_0 e^{i(kx - \omega t)} \hat{z} \quad (21a)$$

$$c\vec{B}_H = E_0 e^{i(kx - \omega t)} \hat{y} \quad (21b)$$

$$\vec{E}_V = E_0 e^{i(ky - \omega t)} \hat{y} \quad (21c)$$

$$c\vec{B}_V = E_0 e^{i(ky - \omega t)} \hat{x} \quad (21d)$$

Where $|x| = |y| = |z| < \lambda/2$. The beams overlap in a cube centered at the origin where the total fields are given by a linear combination of vertical and horizontal ones.

1. Calculate the time-averaged energy density $\langle u_{EM}(\vec{r}) \rangle$ for the horizontal beam, the vertical beam and the total field in the overlap region. Show that the least of these takes its minimum value on the plane $x = y$. Compute \vec{E} and \vec{B} on this plane.

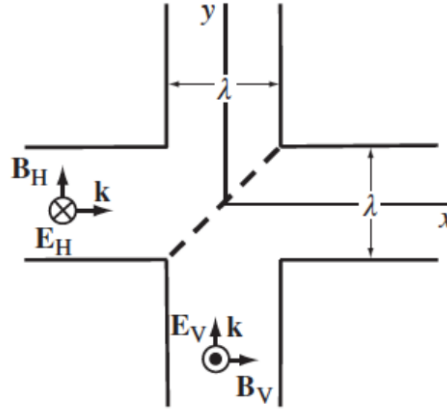


Figure 3: A sketch representation of the crossing beams and their components.

2. Calculate the time-averaged Poynting vector $\langle S(\vec{r}) \rangle$ for the H beam, the V beam and the total field as in previous part. Try to make a sketch of $\langle S(x, y) \rangle$ everywhere the fields are defined.

5.2 Waveguide Discontinuity

Two rectangular waveguides with different major sides ($a_1 < a_2$) along the x -axis and equal minor sides ($b_1 = b_2$) along the y -axis³ are joined in the $z = 0$ plane ($x = y = 0$). The first region (a_1) propagates a $TE_{1,0}$ mode in the $+z$ -direction towards the second region (a_2). Find the amplitude of some excited modes in the second region. Check also the limit where $a_1 = a_2$ ⁴.

5.3 Guess Who? (Wavefilter Edition)

The figure below shows two circular conducting tubes in cross section. Each tube has a thin metal screen inserted at one point along its length. One screen takes the form of metal wires bent into concentric circles. The other takes the form of metal wires arranged like the spokes of a wheel. One of these tubes transmits only a low-frequency TE waveguide mode down the tube. The other transmits only a low-frequency TM waveguide mode down the tube. Explain which tube is which and why, using the fact that the fields of a general waveguide satisfy $\nabla \times \mathbf{E}_\perp = i\omega B_z \hat{z}$.

³I rotate the axis in my solution, but the result should be the same.

⁴To find the modes and limits, consider that the remaining open space at $x = y = 0$ between waveguides is closed by a perfect conductor, so modes cannot scape from our set up.

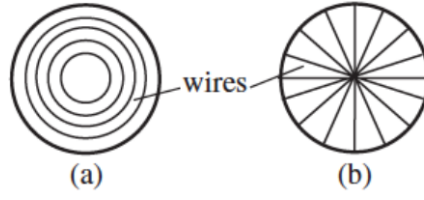


Figure 4: Both described wavefilters.

5.4 An Electromagnetic Bat in a Resonant Cavity

The two-dimensional vectors \mathbf{k}_m shown below are inclined at angles $\theta_m = m\pi/3$ with respect to the positive x -axis. The vectors share a common magnitude $|\mathbf{k}_m| = k$. Superpose six waves with alternating amplitudes to form the scalar function

$$\psi(x, y, t) = \sum_{m=0}^5 (-1)^m \sin(\mathbf{k}_m \cdot \mathbf{r} - ckt) \quad (22)$$

Draw the outline of a two-dimensional resonant cavity which supports a TM mode built from $\psi(x, y, t)$.

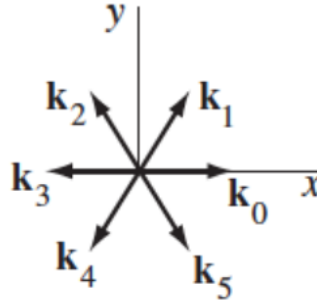


Figure 5: The vectorial distribution of the six waves.

5.5 Cutting off the Modes

Transverse electric and magnetic waves are propagated along a hollow, right, circular cylinder with inner radius R and conductivity σ . Find the cutoff frequencies of the various TE and TM modes. Determine numerically the lowest cutoff frequency (dominant mode) in terms of the tube radius and the ratio of cutoff frequencies of

the next four higher modes to that of the dominant mode. For this part, assume that the conductivity of the cylinder is infinite.

5.6 E: Rectangular Waveguide and its Modes

Consider a waveguide whose section in the x - y plane is a rectangle with sides of length a and b (see figure). The waveguide walls are perfect conductors. The inside of the waveguide can be considered to be the vacuum.

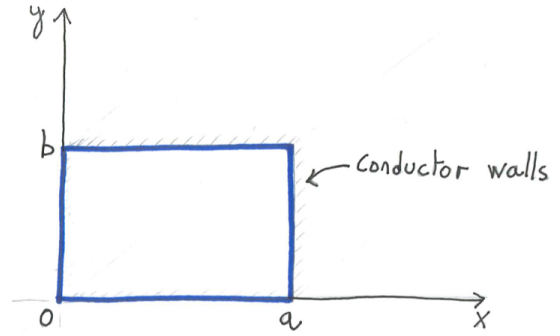


Figure 6: A sketch picture of the waveguide's section.

1. What are the boundary conditions that the electric \vec{E} and magnetic \vec{B} fields need to satisfy at the surface of a perfect conductor?
2. Consider a function $\psi(x, y)$ that satisfies the equation

$$\left(\partial_x^2 + \partial_y^2\right)\psi(x, y) + \gamma^2\psi(x, y) = 0. \quad (23)$$

in the interior of the rectangle for some $\gamma > 0$. The cutoff frequencies of TE and TM modes for the waveguide are obtained determining the possible values of $\gamma > 0$ in the equation above provided that the function $\psi(x, y)$ satisfies certain boundary conditions at the walls of the waveguide. For TM modes it must be that

$$\psi|_{\text{wall}} = 0, \quad (24)$$

while for TE modes,

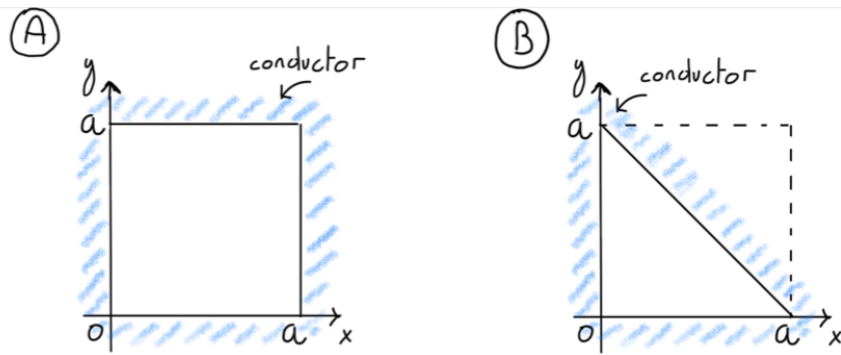
$$\left. \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial n} \right|_{\text{wall}} = 0. \quad (25)$$

Where $\left. \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial n} \right|_{\text{wall}}$ is the derivative in the direction perpendicular to the wall. The cutoff frequencies are then given by $\omega = c\gamma$.

- (a) For TM modes what is the smallest cut-off frequency?
- (b) For TE modes what is the smallest cut-toff frequency?

5.7 E: Mirror mirror on the wall...

Consider a waveguide whose section in the x-y plane is a square with sides of length a (see figure A below). The waveguide walls are perfect conductors. The inside of the waveguide can be considered to be the vacuum.



1. What are the boundary conditions that the electric \vec{E} and magnetic \vec{B} fields need to satisfy at the surface of a perfect conductor?
2. Find the TM and TE modes for this wave-guide. For each mode display $\vec{E} \cdot \hat{z}$ for the TM modes and $\vec{B} \cdot \hat{z}$ for the TE modes. Also find the cutoff frequency for every mode.
3. Certain distinct modes have the same cutoff frequency. Why? By taking appropriate linear combinations of the modes sharing the same cutoff frequency construct TM and TE modes for a waveguide whose section is a right isosceles triangle with catheti (short sides) of length a (see figure B above). Show explicitly $\vec{E} \cdot \hat{z}$ for the TM modes and $\vec{B} \cdot \hat{z}$ for the TE modes.

6 Radiation and Scattering

6.1 Electric Dipole Radiation

Imagine two tiny metal spheres at distance d from each other connected by a wire, where at time t , the one sphere carries a charge $q(t) = q_0 \cos(\omega t)$ while the other sphere is given by $-q(t)$.

1. Calculate the electric potential far away from the dipole. Use $d \ll r$ and $d \ll \frac{c}{\omega}$.
2. Take the limit of $\omega \rightarrow 0$. What do you expect?
3. Now look at the case where also $r \gg \frac{c}{\omega}$, that is, when we are interested in large distances from the source in comparison to the wavelength. How does the expression for the potential simplify in this case?
4. Obtain an expression for the vector potential in the limit $d \ll r$ and $d \ll \frac{c}{\omega}$.
5. Calculate the resulting electric and magnetic fields in the same limit with also $r \gg \frac{c}{\omega}$.

6.2 Metallic Shells

Two halves of a spherical metallic shell of radius R and infinite conductivity are separated by a very small insulating gap. an alternating potential is applied between the two halves of the sphere so that the potentials are $\pm V \cos \omega t$. In the long-wavelength limit, find the radiation field, the angular distribution of radiated power and the total radiated power from the sphere.

6.3 Electrostatic Potential from a Dipole

Consider a dipole that has distance \vec{x}' and a point P at distance \vec{x} far away from the dipole. Considering the general expression for the potential without boundary conditions show that at large distances from the charge distribution the potential can be approximated by using the electric dipole moment in first order. Then calculate the potential in the case where the dipole is formed by two charges q^+ and q^- with distance d between them.

6.4 Radiation Interference

Let the origin of coordinates be centered on a compact, time-harmonic source of electromagnetic radiation. The time-averaged power radiated into a differential ele-

ment of solid angle $d\Omega$ centered on an observation point \mathbf{r} has the form

$$\frac{dP}{d\Omega} \propto |\hat{\mathbf{r}} \times \boldsymbol{\alpha}| \quad (26)$$

The vector $\boldsymbol{\alpha} = \mathbf{p}_0$ if the source has a time-dependent electric dipole moment $\mathbf{p}(t) = \mathbf{p}_0 \cos \omega t$. The vector $\boldsymbol{\alpha} = \mathbf{m}_0 \times \hat{\mathbf{r}}$ if the source has a time-dependent magnetic dipole moment $\mathbf{m}(t) = \mathbf{m}_0 \cos \omega t$. For this problem, consider a source where $\mathbf{p}(t)$ and $\mathbf{m}(t)$ are present simultaneously.

1. Show that the time-averaged angular distribution of power generally exhibits interference between the two types of dipole radiation. Under what conditions is there no interference?
2. Show that the time-averaged total power emitted by the source does not exhibit interference.

6.5 Sinusoidal thin Antenna

A thin linear antenna of length d is excited in such a way that the sinusoidal current makes a full wavelength of oscillation.

1. Calculate exactly the power radiated per unit solid angle and plot the angular distribution of radiation.
2. Determine the total power radiated and find a numerical value for the radiation resistance.
3. Calculate the multipole moments (electric dipole, magnetic dipole, and electric quadrupole) exactly.

6.6 Scattering in Solid Sphere

A solid uniform sphere of radius R and conductivity σ acts as a scatterer of a plane-wave beam of unpolarized radiation of frequency ω , with $\omega R/c \ll 1$. The conductivity is large enough that the skin depth δ is small compared to R .

1. Justify and use a magnetostatic scalar potential to determine the magnetic field around the sphere, assuming the conductivity is infinite.
2. determine the absorption cross section of the sphere. Tip: The power loss from a waveguide is $\frac{P_{\text{loss}}}{da} = \frac{1}{2\sigma\delta} |\hat{\mathbf{n}} \times \vec{H}|^2$.

6.7 Aperture (Science)

The aperture or apertures in a perfectly conducting plane screen can be viewed as the location of effective sources that produce radiation (the diffracted fields). An aperture whose dimensions are small compared with a wavelength acts as a source of dipole radiation with the contributions of other multipoles being negligible.

1. Show that the effective electric and magnetic dipole moments can be expressed in terms of integrals of the tangential electric field in the aperture as follows:

$$\vec{p} = \epsilon \hat{n} \int (\vec{x} \cdot \vec{E}_{tan}) da, \quad (27a)$$

$$\vec{m} = \frac{2}{i\omega\mu} \int (\hat{n} \times \vec{E}_{tan}) da. \quad (27b)$$

where \vec{E}_{tan} is the exact tangential electric field in the aperture, \hat{n} is the normal to the plane screen, directed into the region of interest, and the integration is over the area of the openings.

2. Show that the expression for the magnetic moment can be transformed into

$$\vec{m} = \frac{2}{\mu} \int \vec{x} (\hat{n} \cdot \vec{B}) da. \quad (28)$$

6.8 Born Scattering from a Dielectric Cube

A plane wave $\mathbf{E}_0 \exp[i(\mathbf{k}_0 \cdot \mathbf{r} - \omega t)]$ scatters from a dielectric cube with volume $V = a^3$ and electric susceptibility $\chi \ll 1$. Two cube edges align with \mathbf{k}_0 and \mathbf{E}_0 .

1. Calculate the differential scattering cross section in the Born approximation.
2. Show that $\sigma_{\text{Born}} \approx \frac{1}{4} k^2 a^4 \chi^2$ when $ka \gg 1$. Hint: The near-forward direction dominates the scattering when $ka \gg 1$
3. The weak scattering assumed by the Born approximation implies that

$$|\mathbf{E}_{\text{rad}}| / |\mathbf{E}_0| \ll 1, \quad (29)$$

for all \mathbf{q} , even when $r \approx a$. Deduce from this that the $ka \gg 1$ result of part (b) is valid only when $\sigma_{\text{Born}} \ll \chi a^2$.

6.9 E: Two Antennas Sitting Together

A circular loop of radius a made of conducting wire is centred at the origin and lies in the $x_3 = 0$ plane. Let θ be the polar angle in the $x_3 = 0$ plane (i.e. figure). The wire carries a current oscillating at frequency

$$\vec{I} = I_0 \hat{\phi} e^{-i\omega t}, \quad (30)$$

with I_0 real. There is also a small antenna wire of length $2a$ along \hat{x}_3 centered at the origin as in figure. An oscillating current is fed into the antenna at its midpoint so that, away from the midpoint, the wire carries a linear charge density

$$\lambda = i\lambda_0 e^{-i\omega t}, \quad \text{for } 0 < x_3 < a, \quad \lambda = -i\lambda_0 e^{-i\omega t} + c.c., \quad \text{for } -a < x_3 < 0. \quad (31)$$

Where λ_0 is real.

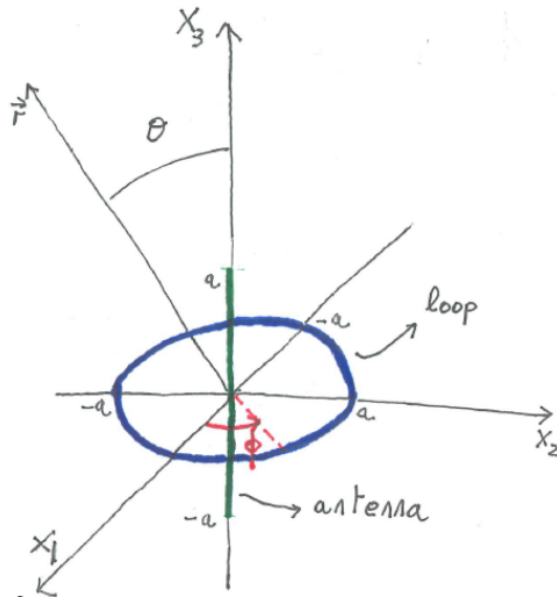


Figure 7: The two described antennas.

1. Find the electric dipole moment $\vec{p}(\omega)$ and the magnetic dipole moment $\vec{m}(\omega)$ at frequency ω due to the antenna and to the wire loop.

2. Work in the approximation that $\frac{c}{\omega} \gg a$ so that a multipole expansion is meaningful. Determine the vector potential $\vec{A}(\vec{r}, \omega)$ in Lorentz gauge due to the dipole moments above in the radiation zone (that is $|\vec{r}| \gg \frac{c}{\omega}$).
3. In the same approximation write down the electric and magnetic fields $\vec{E}(\vec{r}, \omega)$ and $\vec{B}(\vec{r}, \omega)$ in the radiation zone.
4. Determine the power emitted per unit solid angle by the antenna and loop in the radiation zone. Write the answer as a function of the angle θ between \hat{x}_3 and \hat{r} .

6.10 E: One... Err, Two Antennas

Consider a small antenna wire of length $2a$ along \hat{x}_3 . Let the center of the wire be at the origin. A current oscillating at frequency ω is fed into the antenna at its midpoint so that away from the midpoint, the wire carries a linear charge density

$$\lambda = \lambda_0 e^{-i\omega t} \text{ for } 0 < x_3 < a, \quad \lambda = -\lambda_0 e^{-i\omega t} \text{ for } -a < x_3 < 0, \quad (32)$$

Where λ_0 is real.

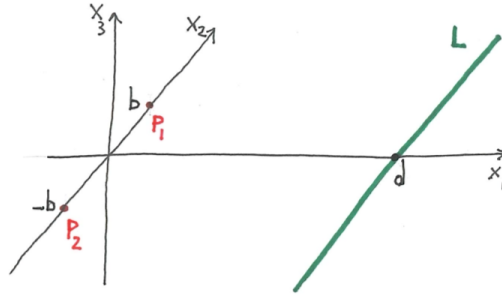


Figure 8: The aforementioned antennas.

1. Find the electric dipole moment at frequency ω of the antenna $\vec{p}(\omega)$.
2. Determine the current $\vec{I}(x_3)$ flowing along the wire.
3. Work in the approximation that $\frac{c}{\omega} \gg a$ so that a multipole expansion is meaningful. Determine the vector potential $\vec{A}(\vec{r}, \omega)$ in Lorentz gauge due to the antenna in the radiation zone (that is $|\vec{r}| \gg \frac{c}{\omega}$).

4. In the same approximation write down the electric and magnetic fields $\vec{E}(\vec{r}, \omega)$ and $\vec{B}(\vec{r}, \omega)$ in the radiation zone.
5. Now consider placing two antennas identical to the one above at the two points (see figure)

$$P1 : (x_1 = 0, x_2 = b, x_3 = 0) \text{ and } P2 : (x_1 = 0, x_2 = -b, x_3 = 0). \quad (33)$$

The two antennas are pointing along \hat{x}_3 and they are oscillating in phase.

- (a) Let $b = \frac{5\pi c}{\omega}$. Determine the electric field $\vec{E}(x_2)$ along the line L (see figure) located at $x_3 = 0, x_1 = d$. Assume that $d \gg b$
- (b) Does the electric field you found above vanish somewhere along the line L ? If so where? Explain your result.

6.11 E : Who bent my Antenna?

An antenna is made of a circular conducting wire loop of radius a centered at the origin. It lies in the $x = 0$ plane. Let $-\pi < \alpha \leq \pi$ be the polar angle in the $x = 0$ plane (see figure at the top of next page). There is a gap in the wire at $\alpha = \pi$ so no current can flow across. The antenna is fed an RF signal at $\alpha = 0$ so that the wire carries a current oscillating at frequency ω

$$\vec{I} = I_0(\pi - |\alpha|)\hat{\alpha}e^{-i\omega t}, \quad -\pi < \alpha < \pi, \quad (34)$$

with I_0 real.

1. Find the electric dipole moment $\vec{p}(\omega)$ and the magnetic dipole moment $\vec{m}(\omega)$ at frequency ω of the wire loop.
2. Work in the approximation that $\frac{c}{\omega} \gg a$ so that a multipole expansion is meaningful. Determine the vector potential $\vec{A}(\vec{r}, \omega)$ in Lorentz gauge in the radiation zone (that is $|\vec{r}| \gg \frac{c}{\omega}$) due to the dipole moments above.
3. In the same approximation write down the electric and magnetic fields $\vec{E}(\vec{r}, \omega)$ and $\vec{B}(\vec{r}, \omega)$ in the radiation zone.
4. Determine the power emitted per unit solid angle by the loop in the radiation zone.

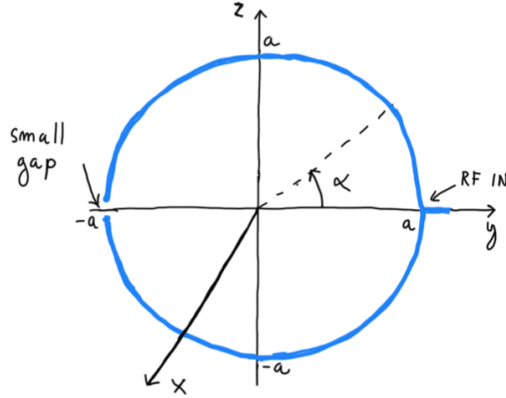


Figure 9: Who bent it?

7 Covariant Formalism of Electrodynamics

7.1 Getting Familiar with Four-Vectors

In the following exercise, we will learn some basic four-vector manipulations. The greek indices μ, ν, \dots take values $0, 1, \dots, d$, where d is the dimension of space:

1. Derive the position vector: Let now $x^\mu = (x^0, x^1, \dots, x^d)$ and $\partial_\mu = \frac{\partial}{\partial x^\mu}$. What is $\partial_\mu x^\mu$? Can you see that it is indeed a (Lorentz) scalar?
2. We can define a general tensor as an object with multiple indices, both up and down, i.e. $A_{\gamma\delta\sigma}^{\mu\nu\rho}$. Its transformation properties follow from those ones of the tensor product of vectors, i.e. $x'^\mu y'^\nu = \Lambda_\sigma^\mu \Lambda_\gamma^\nu x^\sigma y^\gamma$, which implies that $A'^{\mu\nu} = \Lambda_\sigma^\mu \Lambda_\gamma^\nu A^{\sigma\gamma}$.

Prove however, that not every tensor can be written as a product of vectors. This means that it is not always possible to find a^μ, b^ν such that $\Sigma^{\mu\nu} a^\mu b^\nu$ (even if $S^{\mu\nu}$ is symmetric).

3. In order to distinguish between different tensors, we can tag them depending on their properties. In the following, let $A^{\mu\nu}$ be an antisymmetric tensor, that is $A^{\mu\nu} = -A^{\nu\mu}$ and $S^{\mu\nu}$ to be a symmetric tensor, so $S^{\mu\nu} = S^{\nu\mu}$.
 - (a) Show that the (anti)symmetry property of a tensor is preserved by the Lorentz transformations.
 - (b) Prove that $S^{\mu\nu} A_{\mu\nu} = 0$.

- (c) Let us now introduce the concept of symmetrization and antisymmetrization of a tensor with two indices. For an arbitrary tensor $C^{\mu\nu}$ we can define that $C^{(\mu\nu)} = \frac{1}{2}(C^{\mu\nu} + C^{\nu\mu})$. In the same spirit, its antisymmetrisation goes as $C^{[\mu\nu]} = \frac{1}{2}(C^{\mu\nu} - C^{\nu\mu})$.

Show that a general tensor with two indices can be uniquely decomposed into the symmetric and antisymmetric part $C^{\mu\nu} = C^{(\mu\nu)} + C^{[\mu\nu]}$.

7.2 Covariant Formalism of Electrodynamics

1. Given the electromagnetic field tensor $F^{\mu\nu}$ with components

$$F^{0i} = -E^i, \quad F^{ij} = -\epsilon^{ijk} B_k, \quad F^{\mu\nu} = -F^{\nu\mu} \quad (35)$$

where $\epsilon_{123} = 1$, compute in terms of \vec{E} and \vec{B} fields the following tensor objects:

- $-F^{\mu\nu} F_{\mu\nu}$
- $\epsilon_{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} F^{\mu\nu} F^{\rho\sigma}$

2. Show that the Maxwell equations,

$$\partial_t \vec{B} + \vec{\nabla} \times \vec{E} = 0, \quad (36)$$

$$\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{B} = 0, \quad (37)$$

are equivalent to the Bianchi identity $\partial_\mu F_{\nu\lambda} + \partial_\nu F_{\lambda\mu} + \partial_\lambda F_{\mu\nu} = 0$.

3. Given the energy-momentum tensor,

$$T^{\mu\nu} = F^\mu_\rho F^{\rho\nu} - \frac{1}{4} g^{\mu\nu} F^{\rho\sigma} F_{\rho\sigma}, \quad (38)$$

compute the components of T^{ij} in terms of \vec{E} and \vec{B} fields.

4. Show that the Levi-Civita tensor $\epsilon^{\mu\nu\rho\sigma}$ is invariant under Lorentz transformations.

7.3 Lorentz Transformations for the Electromagnetic Field

1. Prove the general Lorentz transformation of the electric and the magnetic field.
2. Argue what happens to the angle between the electric and the magnetic field under a general boost transformation.

7.4 Three Observers. "One Field"

For some event, observer A measures $\mathbf{E} = (\alpha, 0, 0)$ and $\mathbf{B} = (\alpha, 0, 2\alpha)$ and observer B measures $\mathbf{E}' = (E'_x, \alpha, 0)$ and $\mathbf{B}' = (\alpha, B'_y, \alpha)$. Observer C moves with velocity $v\hat{\mathbf{x}}$ with respect to observer B.

Find:

1. the fields \mathbf{E}' and \mathbf{B}' measured by observer B.
2. the fields \mathbf{E}'' and \mathbf{B}'' measured by observer C.

7.5 Transformation of Force

A cylindrical column of electrons has uniform charge density ρ_0 and radius a .

1. Find the force on an electron at a radius $r < a$.
2. A moving observer sees the column as a beam of electrons, each moving with uniform speed \mathbf{v} . What force does this observer report is felt by an electron in the beam at a radius $r < a$?

7.6 A Long Wire Moving Fast

An infinitely long straight wire of negligible cross-sectional area is at rest and has a uniform linear charge density q_0 in the inertial frame K' . The frame K' move with a velocity \vec{v} parallel to the direction of the wire with respect to the laboratory frame K .

1. Write down the electric and magnetic fields in cylindrical coordinates in the rest frame of the wire. Using the Lorentz transformation properties of the fields, find the components of the electric and magnetic fields in the laboratory.
2. What are the charge and current densities associated with the wire in its rest frame? In the laboratory?
3. From the laboratory charge and current densities, calculate directly the electric and magnetic fields in the laboratory. Compare with the results of part 1.

7.7 Relativistic Ohm's law

In the rest frame of a conducting medium the current density satisfies Ohm's law, $\vec{J}' = \sigma \vec{E}'$ in the rest frame.

1. Taking into account the possibility of convection current as well as conduction current, show that the covariant generalization of Ohm's law is

$$J^\mu - \frac{1}{c^2} (U_\nu J^\nu) U^\mu = \frac{\sigma}{c} F^{\mu\nu} U_\nu, \quad (39)$$

where U^μ is the 4-velocity in the medium.

2. Find the 3-vector current in a frame where the medium has velocity $\vec{v} = c\vec{\beta}$ with respect to some initial frame.
3. If the medium is uncharged in its rest frame, what is the charge density and the expression of the current density in the above frame.

7.8 E: A Looooong Cylinder and Several Frames

1. An infinitely long cylinder of radius R has a uniform charge density ρ_0 and is at rest in an inertial frame K_0 . The frame K_0 moves with a speed \vec{v} parallel to the direction of the cylinder with respect to the laboratory frame K_L .
 - (a) Find the electric field \vec{E}_0 and the magnetic field \vec{B}_0 in the rest frame (inside and outside the cylinder).
 - (b) Find the electric field \vec{E}_L and the magnetic field \vec{B}_L in the frame of the laboratory (again both inside and outside the cylinder). Also find the current density \vec{J}_L and the charge density ρ_L in the laboratory.
 - (c) Add a second cylinder of radius R parallel to the first. The second cylinder carries a charge density ρ_L and current density $-\vec{J}_L$ in the frame of the laboratory. Let the distance between the axes of the two cylinders in the laboratory be $d > 2R$. Find the electric and magnetic fields outside the cylinders in the rest frame of the first cylinder K_0 .
 - (d) When there is only one cylinder is there an inertial reference frame where the electric field vanishes? In the situation with the two cylinders is there an inertial reference frame where the magnetic field \vec{B} vanishes? Motivate your answers.

2. Consider the energy momentum tensor $T^{\mu\nu}(x)$ of some theory invariant under translations and Lorentz transformations. The energy momentum is conserved i.e. $\partial_\mu T^{\mu\nu} = 0$.

(a) Using the energy momentum tensor we can build a new object

$$cM^{\mu\nu\rho}(x) = x^\rho T^{\mu\nu}(x) - x^\nu T^{\mu\rho}(x). \quad (40)$$

Find what condition does $T^{\mu\nu}$ need to satisfy so that $\partial_\mu M^{\mu\nu\rho} = 0$. (that is $M^{\mu\nu\rho}$ is conserved.)

- (b) (For a bonus point) As seen in class the conserved four-momentum is an integral over space at any fixed time $P^\mu = \int_{t=\text{const}} d^3x T^{0\mu}$. Can you give an interpretation to the conserved quantities $N^{\nu\rho} = \int_{t=\text{const}} d^3x M^{0\nu\rho}$? Explain.

7.9 E: Planes and Frames

In an inertial frame K_0 there are two planes at $x_3 = 0$ and $x_3 = a$. The plane at $x_3 = 0$ carries a uniform charge surface density σ while the plane at $x_3 = a$ carries a uniform charge surface density $-\sigma$. Both planes are at rest in K_0 . The frame K_0 moves with a speed $\vec{v} = v\hat{x}_1$ parallel to the x_1 axis with respect to the laboratory frame K_L .

1. Consider the electric field \vec{E}_0 in the inertial frame K_0 . Assume that \vec{E}_0 vanishes for $x_3 < 0$. What is \vec{E}_0 between the two planes (that is for $0 < x_3 < a$) and in the region $x_3 > a$?
2. Find the electric \vec{E}_L and magnetic \vec{B}_L fields in the frame of the laboratory K_L .
3. Find the charge surface densities on the two planes in the laboratory frame K_L .
4. Find the surface current densities on the two planes in the laboratory frame K_L .
5. Is there an inertial reference frame where the electric field \vec{E} vanishes everywhere?
6. Consider the energy momentum tensor $T^{\mu\nu}(x)$ of some theory invariant under translations and Lorentz transformations. The energy momentum is conserved i.e. $\partial_\mu T^{\mu\nu} = 0$.

(a) Using the energy momentum tensor we can build a new object

$$D^\mu(x) = x_\nu T^{\mu\nu}(x). \quad (41)$$

Find what condition does $T^{\mu\nu}$ need to satisfy so that $\partial_\mu D^\mu = 0$. (that is D^μ is conserved.)

- (b) Is the condition you found satisfied by the energy momentum tensor of the electromagnetic fields $T^{\mu\nu} = \frac{1}{4\pi} \left(F^{\mu\rho} F_\rho^\nu + \frac{1}{4} g^{\mu\nu} F^{\rho\lambda} F_{\rho\lambda} \right)$?

7.10 E: Different Points of View

In an inertial reference frame there is an infinite long wire along the \hat{z} direction. The wire is at rest and carries a nonzero linear charge density λ and a nonzero current $\vec{I} = I\hat{z}$.

1. Boost to a different inertial reference frame moving with speed $\vec{v} = v\hat{z}$ with respect to the rest frame of the wire. What is the linear charge density carried by the wire in the new reference frame? What is the current?
2. Under which condition on the values of λ and \vec{I} in the rest frame of the wire is it possible to boost to a frame where the electric field produced by the wire vanishes? Similarly under which condition on the values of λ and \vec{I} in the rest frame of the wire is it possible to boost to a frame where the magnetic field produced by the wire vanishes?

7.11 E: Waves Across Reference Frames

In an inertial reference frame K the electric and magnetic fields of an electromagnetic wave are given by

$$\vec{E} = \hat{z} C e^{i(k_x x + k_y y - \omega t)}, \quad \vec{B} = \frac{c}{\omega} (k_y \hat{x} - k_x \hat{y}) C e^{i(k_x x + k_y y - \omega t)}. \quad (42)$$

A second reference frame K' moves with speed $\vec{v} = v\hat{x}$ with respect to K . Let the origin of K and K' coincide at $t = t' = 0$.

1. Determine the electric and magnetic fields in the reference frame K' that is $\vec{E}'(x', y', z', t')$ and $\vec{B}'(x', y', z', t')$.
2. What is the direction of propagation of the wave in K' ? what is its frequency?

8 Lagrangian Manipulation

8.1 A Relativistic Particle Coupled to a Scalar Field

The action for a relativistic point particle coupled by a strength g to a space-time-dependent Lorentz scalar field $\varphi(x)$ is

$$S = -mc^2 \int ds - g \int ds \varphi(\mathbf{r}(s)). \quad (43)$$

Find the equation of motion for the particle. How does the force on the particle differ from the Coulomb force of an electric field?

8.2 One-Dimensional Massive Scalar Field

A one-dimensional field theory with scalar potential $\varphi(x, t)$ is characterized by the action

$$S = \frac{1}{2} \iint dt dx \left[\frac{1}{c^2} \left(\frac{\partial \varphi}{\partial t} \right)^2 - \left(\frac{\partial \varphi}{\partial x} \right)^2 - m^2 \varphi^2 \right]. \quad (44)$$

Find the equation of motion for $\varphi(x, t)$ by both Lagrangian and Hamiltonian methods.

8.3 Introduction to Lagrangian Manipulations

An alternative Lagrangian density for the electromagnetic field⁵ is,

$$\mathcal{L} = -\frac{1}{8\pi} \partial_\alpha A_\beta \partial^\alpha A^\beta - \frac{1}{c} J_\alpha A^\alpha. \quad (45)$$

1. Derive the Euler-Lagrange equations of motion. Are they the Maxwell equations? Under what assumptions?
2. Show explicitly, and with those previous assumptions, that this Lagrangian density differs from the usual one⁶ by a four-divergence. Does this divergence affect the action or the equations of motion?

⁵The one you have seen during lectures and/or books.

⁶ $\mathcal{L} = -\frac{1}{16\pi} F_{\alpha\beta} F^{\alpha\beta} - \frac{1}{c} J_\alpha A^\alpha.$

8.4 Coupling Extra Fields to

An axionic field⁷ $a(x)$ is coupled to a gauge field $A_\mu(\vec{x})$ with an associated field strength $F_{\mu\nu}$. The action describing this system goes as:

$$\mathcal{S}[a(\vec{x}), A_\mu(\vec{x})] = -\frac{1}{2} \int d^4\vec{x} \partial_\mu a \partial^\mu a - \frac{1}{4} \int d^4\vec{x} F^{\mu\nu} F_{\mu\nu} - \frac{1}{f} \int d^4\vec{x} [a F_{\mu\nu} * F^{\mu\nu} - 2\partial_\mu (a A_\nu * F^{\mu\nu})]. \quad (46)$$

Where $*F$ is dual to F and f is a constant.

1. Under what circumstances is this action Lorentz invariant?
2. Find the Equations of Motion.
3. Show that \mathcal{S} is invariant under a displacement of the axionic field as $a(\vec{x}) \rightarrow a(\vec{x}) + \epsilon$.
4. Calculate the Noether current associated to the previous displacement invariance.

8.5 E: Ponderous Light

Consider the following action for the four-potential A^μ and a scalar field ϕ .

$$S = \int d^4x \left(\frac{1}{8\pi} (\partial^\mu \phi - m A^\mu) (\partial_\mu \phi - m A_\mu) - \frac{1}{16\pi} F^{\mu\nu} F_{\mu\nu} - \frac{1}{c} J^\mu A_\mu \right), \quad (47)$$

where $F_{\mu\nu} = \partial_\mu A_\nu - \partial_\nu A_\mu$ and J^μ is a conserved current that is $\partial_\mu J^\mu = 0$.

1. Show that the action is invariant under gauge transformations $A_\mu \rightarrow A_\mu + \partial_\mu \alpha$ provided that the scalar ϕ also shifts as $\phi \rightarrow \phi + m \alpha$. Gauge fix by imposing $\phi = 0$. Rewrite the action in this gauge.
2. Using the gauge fixed action write the equations of motion for A^μ .
3. By contracting the equations of motion with ∂_μ obtain an equation for $\partial_\mu A^\mu$. Use this equation to simplify the equations of motion.

⁷Can be thought as a scalar. We will see in the solutions that indeed it needs to behave as a pseudoscalar field.

4. Find the form of a plane wave solution to the equations of motion with no sources ($J^\mu = 0$). Given a wave-vector \vec{k} what is the frequency of the wave? How many independent polarizations are there?
5. In the electrostatic case we have $\vec{A} = 0$. Find the electrostatic potential $\Phi = A^0$ due to a single electric charge q at rest at the origin. (Hint: you may try a solution of the form $\Phi(\vec{x}) = e^{-\alpha|\vec{x}|} f(\vec{x})$ for some function f and an appropriately chosen constant α)

9 Radiation and Relativistic Dynamics

9.1 Emission Rates by Lorentz Transformation

An electron enters and exits a capacitor with parallel-plate separation d through two small holes. The electron velocity is given by $v\hat{z}$ and it is parallel to the capacitor electric field \vec{E} . The change in the electron velocity is small. Calculate the total energy $\Delta U'_{EM}$ and its linear momentum $\Delta P'_{EM}$ that was radiated by the electron in both rest and laboratory frames (ΔU_{EM} and ΔP_{EM} respectively).

9.2 A Merry Go Round of Radiating Particles

N identical, equally spaced⁸ point particles, each with a charge q , move in a circle of radius a . All of them have the same constant speed v around the ring. Show that the Lienard-Wiechert electric field is *static* everywhere on the symmetry axis.

9.3 The Direction of the Velocity Field

Prove that the "velocity" part of the Lienard-Wiechert electric field points to the observer from the "anticipated position" of the moving point charge. The latter is the position the charge *would* have moved *if* it retained the velocity \vec{v}_{ret} from $t = t_{ret}$ to the present time of observation.

9.4 Radiating 14.4 Jackson Problem

Using the Liénard - Wiechert electric field, discuss the time-averaged power radiated per unit solid angle by a charged particle (e^-) in a **non-relativistic** motion in the next two different cases:

1. Along the z axis with position given by $z(t) = a \cos(\omega t)$,

⁸Is coronavirus still around?

2. In a circle of radius R in the plane xy with constant angular frequency ω_0 .

9.5 A Fast Particle in a Constant Electric Field

A relativistic point particle with charge q and mass m moves in response to a uniform electric field $\mathbf{E} = E\hat{\mathbf{z}}$. The initial energy, linear momentum, and velocity are \mathcal{E}_0 , p_0 , and $\mathbf{u}(0) = u_0\hat{\mathbf{y}}$. Find $\mathbf{r}(t)$ and show that eliminating t gives the particle trajectory

$$z = \frac{\mathcal{E}_0}{qE} \cosh\left(\frac{qEy}{cp_0}\right). \quad (48)$$

Check the non-relativistic limit.

9.6 A Ringy Radiating Problem

1. A small current loop moves with constant velocity \mathbf{v}_0 as viewed in the laboratory frame. Find the vector potential $\mathbf{A}(\mathbf{r})$ and the scalar potential $\varphi(\mathbf{r})$ in the lab frame. It may be convenient to introduce the vector $\mathbf{R} = \mathbf{r} - \mathbf{v}_0 t$
2. Take the limit $v_0 \ll c$ in your formulae and deduce that the moving loop possesses both a magnetic dipole moment and an electric dipole moment.

10 Solutions: Electrostatics