

Homework 1

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1 Electric and magnetic field energies of a time-harmonic mode in lossless media

In this problem, we explore the contributions of the electric (U_e) and magnetic energies (U_m) to the total electromagnetic energy (U_{em}) of a mode. There are no free charges in this system, $\mu_r = 1$, and the dielectric distribution, $\epsilon_r(\mathbf{r})$, can take on an arbitrary spatial distribution; the dielectric is lossless and non-dispersive. We also assume that the electric and magnetic field profiles are squareintegrable. (In other words, the electric and magnetic fields vanish at large distances, $r \rightarrow \infty$). For an electromagnetic mode of arbitrary form, show that $U_e = U_m = \frac{1}{2}U_{em}$. Here, we define $U_e = \frac{\epsilon_0}{4} \int \epsilon_r(\mathbf{r}) \tilde{\mathbf{E}}^* \cdot \tilde{\mathbf{E}} dV$, and $U_m = \frac{\mu_0 \mu_r}{4} \int \tilde{\mathbf{H}}^* \cdot \tilde{\mathbf{H}} dV$ as the time-averaged electric and magnetic energy densities.

From $\nabla \times \tilde{\mathbf{E}} = i\omega\mu_0\mu_r \tilde{\mathbf{H}}$ we can rewrite the magnetic energy as

$$\begin{aligned} U_m &= \frac{\mu_0 \mu_r}{4} \int dV \tilde{\mathbf{H}}^* \cdot \tilde{\mathbf{H}} \\ &= \frac{\mu_0 \mu_r}{4} \frac{1}{\omega^2 \mu_0^2 \mu_r^2} \int dV \nabla \times \tilde{\mathbf{E}}^* \cdot \nabla \times \tilde{\mathbf{E}} \\ &= \frac{\mu_0 \mu_r}{4} \frac{1}{\omega^2 \mu_0^2 \mu_r^2} \int dV (\tilde{\mathbf{E}}^* \cdot \nabla \times (\nabla \times \tilde{\mathbf{E}}) + \nabla \cdot (\tilde{\mathbf{E}}^* \times (\nabla \times \tilde{\mathbf{E}}))) \\ &= \frac{\mu_0 \mu_r}{4} \frac{1}{\omega^2 \mu_0^2 \mu_r^2} \int dV \tilde{\mathbf{E}}^* \cdot \nabla \times (\nabla \times \tilde{\mathbf{E}}). \end{aligned} \quad (1)$$

From $\nabla \times \tilde{\mathbf{H}} = -i\omega\epsilon_0\epsilon_r \tilde{\mathbf{E}}$, we find

$$\nabla \times (\nabla \times \tilde{\mathbf{E}}) = i\omega\mu_0\mu_r \nabla \times \tilde{\mathbf{H}} = \omega^2 \epsilon_0 \mu_0 \epsilon_r(\mathbf{r}) \mu_r \tilde{\mathbf{E}},$$

and hence

$$U_m = \frac{\mu_0 \mu_r}{4} \frac{1}{\omega^2 \mu_0^2 \mu_r^2} \int dV \omega^2 \epsilon_0 \mu_0 \epsilon_r(\mathbf{r}) \mu_r \tilde{\mathbf{E}} \cdot \tilde{\mathbf{E}}^* = \frac{\epsilon_0}{4} \int dV \epsilon_r(\mathbf{r}) \tilde{\mathbf{E}}^* \cdot \tilde{\mathbf{E}} = U_e, \quad (2)$$

and therefore both U_e and U_m are half of the total energy.

2 Hermitian Operators

(a) When \mathbf{A} is a real vector, we have

$$\int d^3\mathbf{r} \mathbf{a}^* \cdot (\mathbf{A} \times \mathbf{b}) = \int d^3\mathbf{r} (\mathbf{a}^* \times \mathbf{A}) \cdot \mathbf{b} = \int d^3\mathbf{r} (-\mathbf{A} \times \mathbf{a}^*) \cdot \mathbf{b}. \quad (3)$$

Therefore the Hermitian adjoint of $\mathbf{A} \times (\cdots)$ is $-\mathbf{A} \times (\cdots)$; the operator is anti-Hermitian.

(b) When \mathbf{A}, \mathbf{B} are both real vectors, we have

$$\int d^3\mathbf{r} \mathbf{a}^* \cdot (\mathbf{A} \times (\mathbf{B} \times \mathbf{b})) = \int d^3\mathbf{r} ((\mathbf{a}^* \times \mathbf{A}) \times \mathbf{B}) \cdot \mathbf{b} = \int d^3\mathbf{r} (\mathbf{B} \times (\mathbf{A} \times \mathbf{a}^*)) \cdot \mathbf{b}. \quad (4)$$

So the Hermitian adjoint of $\mathbf{A} \times (\mathbf{B} \times \cdots)$ is $\mathbf{B} \times (\mathbf{A} \times \cdots)$. The operator is neither Hermitian nor anti-Hermitian.

(c) From

$$\nabla \cdot (\mathbf{a}^* \times \mathbf{b}) = (\nabla \times \mathbf{a}^*) \cdot \mathbf{b} - \mathbf{a}^* \cdot \nabla \times \mathbf{b},$$

and the assumption that the integral of LHS over the whole space vanishes, we have

$$\int d^3\mathbf{r} \mathbf{a}^* \cdot \nabla \times \mathbf{b} = \int d^3\mathbf{r} (\nabla \times \mathbf{a})^* \cdot \mathbf{b}, \quad (5)$$

and therefore the Hermitian adjoint of $\nabla \times \dots$ is itself and the operator is Hermitian.

(d) Since $\nabla \times \dots$ is Hermitian, so is $\nabla \times \nabla \times \dots$, and its Hermitian adjoint is again itself.

(e) Using the above facts it's easy to show that

$$\int d^3\mathbf{r} \mathbf{a}^* \cdot \nabla \times (f \nabla \times \mathbf{b}) = \int d^3\mathbf{r} (\nabla \times f^* \nabla \times \mathbf{a})^* \cdot \mathbf{b}. \quad (6)$$

Therefore, the operator $\nabla \times f \nabla \times \dots$ is Hermitian, if and only if f is a real function.

3 Hermitian eigenvalue problems

3.1 Electromagnetic Modes in Vacuum

In class, we saw that the magnetic vector potential can be used to express the electromagnetic field as a Hermitian eigenvalue problem. We also outlined the steps by which the mode energy can be cast in the form of a simple harmonic oscillator. In this problem, we use operator methods to derive these results in a very slick way. We assume that each mode ($\mathbf{A}_i(\mathbf{r}, t) = q_i(t) \mathbf{A}_i^o(\mathbf{r})$) is an eigenfunction of the Hermitian eigenvalue equation $\hat{O} \mathbf{A}_i^o(x) = (\omega_i/c)^2 \mathbf{A}_i^o(x)$, with a time-dependent amplitude, q_i , that obeys the relation $\ddot{q}_i = -\omega_i^2 q_i$, and $\hat{O}(\dots) = \nabla \times \nabla \times (\dots)$.

(a) *Let's begin by considering the energy of an individual time-harmonic mode, $\mathbf{A}_i(\mathbf{r}, t) = q_i(t) \mathbf{A}_i^o(\mathbf{r})$. From Eqs. 17-18 of Lecture 3 Note N1, notice that the electric field energy can be written as $U_{e,i} = \frac{1}{2} \epsilon_0 \dot{q}_i^2 (\mathbf{A}_i^o | \mathbf{A}_i^o)$, and $U_{m,i} = \frac{1}{2} \mu_0^{-1} q_i^2 (\nabla \times \mathbf{A}_i^o | \nabla \times \mathbf{A}_i^o)$. Using operator properties and the eigenvalue equation above, show that the total energy of the mode can be expressed as $U_{em,i} = \frac{1}{2} [\dot{q}_i^2 + \omega_i^2 q_i^2]$. How must $\mathbf{A}_i^o(x)$ be normalized to express the energy in this way? [Remember, it is our convention to choose a normalization such that the mass m of our simple harmonic oscillator takes the value $m = 1$.]*

What we want is to see

$$\epsilon_0 \langle \mathbf{A}_i^0 | \mathbf{A}_i^0 \rangle = 1, \quad \frac{1}{\mu_0} \langle \nabla \times \mathbf{A}_i^0 | \nabla \times \mathbf{A}_i^0 \rangle = \omega_i^2. \quad (7)$$

The second condition is actually equivalent to the first condition. Since we assume no spatial inhomogeneity of ϵ , the modes follow the Helmholtz equation

$$\left(\nabla^2 + \frac{\omega_i^2}{c^2} \right) \mathbf{A}_i^0 = (\nabla^2 + \epsilon_0 \mu_0 \omega_i^2) \mathbf{A}_i^0 = 0, \quad (8)$$

and therefore

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{\mu_0} \langle \nabla \times \mathbf{A}_i^0 | \nabla \times \mathbf{A}_i^0 \rangle &= \frac{1}{\mu_0} \int d^3\mathbf{r} (\nabla \times \nabla \times \mathbf{A}_i^{0*}) \cdot \mathbf{A}_i^0 \\ &= \frac{1}{\mu_0} (-\nabla^2 \mathbf{A}_i^{0*}) \cdot \mathbf{A}_i^0 \\ &= \epsilon_0 \omega_i^2 \int d^3\mathbf{r} \mathbf{A}_i^{0*} \cdot \mathbf{A}_i^0, \end{aligned} \quad (9)$$

where at the second line we use the Hermitian property of $\nabla \times \dots$, the second line comes from the Coulomb gauge $\nabla \cdot \mathbf{A} = 0$, and therefore as long as

$$\epsilon_0 \langle \mathbf{A}_i^0 | \mathbf{A}_i^0 \rangle = 1, \quad (10)$$

which is just a normalization condition, we can write the energy as

$$H_i = U_{em,i} = \frac{1}{2} (\dot{q}_i^2 + \omega_i^2 q_i^2). \quad (11)$$

(b) Given an individual mode with the form described in part (a), show that the time average of the electric field energy $\langle U_{e,i} \rangle$ is equal to the time average of the magnetic field energy $\langle U_{m,i} \rangle$. In the case of time-harmonic systems, we define the time average $\langle \dots \rangle$ as $\frac{1}{T} \int_t^{t+T} (\dots) dt'$, where $\omega = 2\pi/T$. [Hint: Use integration by parts to make the time averages of the electric and magnetic field energies look identical. You do not need to evaluate the integral.]

Suppose $q_i = A_i \cos(\omega_i t)$, where by shifting the definition of the $t = 0$ point we eliminate the phase. This means $\dot{q}_i = -\omega_i A_i \sin(\omega_i t)$. The time average of the magnetic energy is

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{2} \omega_i^2 \langle q_i^2 \rangle &= \frac{1}{2} \omega_i^2 \cdot \frac{1}{T} \int_0^T dt \cos^2 \omega_i t \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \omega_i^2 \cdot \frac{1}{T} \int_0^T \frac{1}{\omega_i} \cos \omega_i t d \sin \omega_i t \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \omega_i^2 \cdot \frac{1}{T} \frac{1}{\omega_i} \left(\cos \omega_i t \sin \omega_i t \Big|_0^T - \int_0^T \frac{d \cos \omega_i t}{dt} \sin \omega_i t dt \right) \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \omega_i^2 \cdot \frac{1}{T} \int_0^T \sin^2 \omega_i t dt = \frac{1}{2} \langle \dot{q}_i^2 \rangle. \end{aligned} \quad (12)$$

(c) With the definitions $\mathbf{E}(r, t) = p_i \mathbf{E}_i^o(r) = -p_i \mathbf{A}_i^o(r)$, and $\mathbf{B}(r, t) = q_i \mathbf{B}_i^o(r) = q_i \nabla \times \mathbf{A}_i^o(r)$, use Maxwell's equations find two first order equations for the evolution of p_i and q_i . [Hint: You should find coupled first order equations that are identical to those produced by Hamilton's equations for our simple harmonic oscillator.]

From $\nabla \times \mathbf{E} = -\partial \mathbf{B} / \partial t$ we get

$$\dot{q}_i = p_i, \quad (13)$$

and from $\nabla \times \mathbf{B} = \frac{1}{c^2} \frac{\partial \mathbf{E}}{\partial t}$ we get

$$q_i \nabla \times (\nabla \times \mathbf{A}_i^o) = \frac{1}{c^2} (-\dot{p}_i) \mathbf{A}_i^o,$$

and from the aforementioned Helmholtz equation we have

$$\nabla \times (\nabla \times \mathbf{A}_i^o) = -\nabla^2 \mathbf{A}_i^o = \frac{\omega_i^2}{c^2} \mathbf{A}_i^o,$$

and therefore

$$\dot{p}_i = -\omega_i^2 q_i. \quad (14)$$

3.2 Electromagnetic Modes in Dielectric

Next let's consider the modes within a dielectric medium with a real dielectric constant, $\epsilon_r(r)$, that can vary in space. We assume that each mode ($\mathbf{H}_i(r, t) = q_i(t) \mathbf{H}_i^o(r)$) is an eigenfunction of the Hermitian eigenvalue equation $\hat{O} \mathbf{H}_i^o(r) = (\omega_i/c)^2 \mathbf{H}_i^o(r)$, with a time-dependent amplitude, q_i , that obeys the relation $\ddot{q}_i = -\omega_i^2 q_i$, and $\hat{O}(\dots) = \nabla \times (\epsilon_r^{-1} \nabla \times) (\dots)$. Notice we switched from magnetic flux density \mathbf{B} to magnetic field strength \mathbf{H} . You can directly substitute $\mathbf{B} = \mu_0 \mathbf{H}$ where needed, because we usually assume $\mu = \mu_0$ this class.

(a) Let's begin by considering the energy of an individual time-harmonic mode, with electric and magnetic fields of the form $\mathbf{E}_i(r, t) = \dot{q}_i(t) \mathbf{E}_i^o(r)$ and $\mathbf{H}_i(r, t) = q_i(t) \mathbf{H}_i^o(r)$ respectively. Notice that the electric field energy can be written as $U_{e,i} = \frac{1}{2} \epsilon_0 \dot{q}_i^2 (\mathbf{E}_i^o | \epsilon_r | \mathbf{E}_i^o)$, and $U_{m,i} = \frac{1}{2} \mu_0 q_i^2 (\mathbf{H}_i^o | \mathbf{H}_i^o)$. Using operator properties and the eigenvalue equation above, show that the total energy of the mode can be expressed as $U_{em,i} = \frac{1}{2} [\dot{q}_i^2 + \omega_i^2 q_i^2]$. How must $\mathbf{E}_i^o(x)$ and $\mathbf{H}_i^o(x)$ be normalized to express the energy in this way? Use Maxwell's equations to show that the normalization conditions for $\mathbf{E}_i^o(x)$ and $\mathbf{H}_i^o(x)$ are equivalent.

Since $\mathbf{H}_i^o = \tilde{\mathbf{H}}/q_i$, the results in Problem 1 can't be immediately used here. From Maxwell's equations we have

$$\nabla \times \mathbf{E} = -\partial \mathbf{B} / \partial t \Rightarrow \nabla \times \mathbf{E}_i^o = -\mu_0 \mathbf{H}_i^o,$$

and similarly

$$\nabla \times \mathbf{H} = \partial \mathbf{D} / \partial t \Rightarrow q_i \nabla \times \mathbf{H}_i^o = \epsilon_0 \epsilon_r \ddot{q}_i \mathbf{E}_i^o = -\omega_i^2 \epsilon_r \epsilon_0 q_i \mathbf{E}_i^o,$$

and therefore

$$\nabla \times (\nabla \times \mathbf{E}_i^0) = \epsilon_r \frac{\omega_i^2}{c^2} \mathbf{E}_i^0.$$

Therefore we have

$$\begin{aligned} \mu_0 \langle \mathbf{H}_i^0 | \mathbf{H}_i^0 \rangle &= \frac{1}{\mu_0} \int d^3 \mathbf{r} (\nabla \times \mathbf{E}_i^{0*}) \cdot (\nabla \times \mathbf{E}_i^0) \\ &= \frac{1}{\mu_0} \int d^3 \mathbf{r} \nabla \times (\nabla \times \mathbf{E}_i^{0*}) \cdot \mathbf{E}_i^0 \\ &= \frac{\omega_i^2}{\mu_0 c^2} \int d^3 \mathbf{r} \epsilon_r \mathbf{E}_i^{0*} \cdot \mathbf{E}_i^0 \\ &= \omega_i^2 \epsilon_0 \langle \mathbf{E}_i^0 | \epsilon_r | \mathbf{E}_i^0 \rangle. \end{aligned} \quad (15)$$

In order to get a harmonic oscillator form of the total energy, we want to have

$$\epsilon_0 \langle \mathbf{E}_i^0 | \epsilon_r | \mathbf{E}_i^0 \rangle = 1, \quad \mu_0 \langle \mathbf{H}_i^0 | \mathbf{H}_i^0 \rangle = \omega_i^2, \quad (16)$$

which, from (15), is equivalent to the normalization condition

$$\epsilon_0 \langle \mathbf{E}_i^0 | \epsilon_r | \mathbf{E}_i^0 \rangle = 1. \quad (17)$$

(b) Next, we consider superposition of such modes. Use orthogonality to show that the electromagnetic energy stored in a superposition of modes, $\mathbf{E}(\mathbf{r}, t) = \sum_l \dot{q}_l(t) \mathbf{E}_l^o(\mathbf{r})$, $\mathbf{H}(\mathbf{r}, t) = \sum_l q_l(t) \mathbf{H}_l^o(\mathbf{r})$, can be expressed as $U_{em}^{tot} = \sum_l \frac{1}{2} [\dot{q}_l^2 + \omega_l^2 q_l^2]$.

The eigenvalue problem about \mathbf{H} gives us the orthogonality condition

$$\int d^3 \mathbf{r} \mathbf{H}_i^{0*} \cdot \mathbf{H}_j^0 = \frac{\omega_i^2}{\mu_0} \delta_{ij}, \quad (18)$$

and hence the magnetic part of the energy is

$$\frac{1}{2} \mu_0 \int d^3 \mathbf{r} \sum_{i,j} q_i \mathbf{H}_i^{0*} q_j \mathbf{H}_j^0 = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i,j} \delta_{ij} q_i q_j \omega_i^2 = \frac{1}{2} \sum_i \omega_i^2 q_i^2. \quad (19)$$

The generalized eigenvalue problem about \mathbf{E} is

$$\nabla \times \nabla \times \mathbf{E}_i^0 = \frac{\omega_i^2}{c^2} \epsilon_r \mathbf{E}_i^0, \quad (20)$$

and therefore the orthogonality condition is

$$\int d^3 \mathbf{r} \mathbf{E}_i^{0*} \epsilon_r \mathbf{E}_j^0 = \frac{1}{\epsilon_0} \delta_{ij}, \quad (21)$$

and therefore

$$\frac{1}{2} \epsilon_0 \int d^3 \mathbf{r} \epsilon_r \mathbf{E}^2 = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i,j} \dot{q}_i \dot{q}_j \epsilon_0 \langle \mathbf{E}_i^0 | \epsilon_r | \mathbf{E}_j^0 \rangle = \frac{1}{2} \sum_i \dot{q}_i^2. \quad (22)$$

Therefore

$$U_{em} = \frac{1}{2} \sum_i (\dot{q}_i^2 + \omega_i^2 q_i^2). \quad (23)$$

Complex Coordinates: Building on the insights from Problem 3.1, one can define real valued fields as $\mathbf{E}(\mathbf{r}, t) = p_i \mathbf{E}_i^o(\mathbf{r})$, and $\mathbf{H}(\mathbf{r}, t) = q_i \mathbf{H}_i^o(\mathbf{r})$. However, complex coordinates (and complex fields) provide a much more practical description of traveling waves. Using complex coordinates $a_i = \alpha q_i + i\beta p_i$ and $a_i^* = \alpha q_i - i\beta p_i$ to reduce our simple harmonic oscillator to $H_i(p_i(a_i, a_i^*), q_i(a_i, a_i^*)) = \omega_i a_i^* a_i$, we can define our complex fields as, $\tilde{\mathbf{E}}(\mathbf{r}, t) = i a_i \tilde{\mathbf{E}}_i^o(\mathbf{r})$, and $\tilde{\mathbf{B}}(\mathbf{r}, t) = a_i \tilde{\mathbf{B}}_i^o(\mathbf{r})$.

(c) (c) Following steps similar to Part (a), show that the total electromagnetic energy (or field energy) of an individual mode reduces to $\omega_i a_i^* a_i$. Remember that we must use real-valued fields of the form $\mathbf{E}(r, t) = (ia_i \tilde{\mathbf{E}}_i^o - ia_i^* \tilde{\mathbf{E}}_i^{o*})$, and $\mathbf{B}(r, t) = (a_i \tilde{\mathbf{B}}_i^o + a_i^* \tilde{\mathbf{B}}_i^{o*})$ to evaluate the energy density. [Hint: do not use time-averaging; most of the terms will cancel!] What field normalization is necessary to express the field energy in this way?

The electromagnetic energy density of a single mode is

$$u_{\text{em},i} = \frac{1}{2} \epsilon_0 \epsilon_r \mathbf{E}^2 + \frac{1}{2\mu_0} \mathbf{B}^2$$

$$= \left(\epsilon_0 \epsilon_r |\tilde{\mathbf{E}}_i^0|^2 + \frac{1}{\mu_0} |\tilde{\mathbf{B}}_i^0|^2 \right) a_i^* a_i + \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{1}{\mu_0} (\tilde{\mathbf{B}}_i^0)^2 - \epsilon_0 \epsilon_r (\tilde{\mathbf{E}}_i^0)^2 \right) a_i^2 + \text{c.c.}, \quad (24)$$

and the Maxwell's equation dictates the following relation between $\tilde{\mathbf{E}}_i^0$ and $\tilde{\mathbf{B}}_i^0$:

$$\nabla \times \mathbf{E} = -\partial \mathbf{B} / \partial t \Rightarrow \nabla \times \mathbf{E}_i^0 = \omega_i \mathbf{B}_i^0, \quad (25)$$

and

$$\nabla \times \mathbf{B} = \mu_0 \epsilon_0 \epsilon_r \partial \mathbf{E} / \partial t \Rightarrow \nabla \times \mathbf{B}_i^0 = \mu_0 \epsilon_0 \epsilon_r \omega_i \mathbf{E}_i^0. \quad (26)$$

By exactly the same procedure applied in the previous problems, we have

$$\frac{1}{\mu_0} \int d^3 \mathbf{r} \mathbf{B}_i^0 \cdot \mathbf{B}_i^0 = \epsilon_0 \int d^3 \mathbf{r} \mathbf{E}_i^0 \cdot \epsilon_r \mathbf{E}_i^0, \quad (27)$$

and

$$\frac{1}{\mu_0} \int d^3 \mathbf{r} \mathbf{B}_i^{0*} \cdot \mathbf{B}_i^0 = \epsilon_0 \int d^3 \mathbf{r} \mathbf{E}_i^{0*} \cdot \epsilon_r \mathbf{E}_i^0. \quad (28)$$

The first equation means the a^2 and $(a^*)^2$ terms in u_{em} vanish after we integrate over the whole space; the second equation means that

$$U_{\text{em},i} = \int d^3 \mathbf{r} u_{\text{em},i} = 2a_i^* a_i \int d^3 \mathbf{r} \epsilon_0 \epsilon_r |\tilde{\mathbf{E}}_i^0|^2. \quad (29)$$

What we want is

$$U_{\text{em},i} = \omega_i a_i^* a_i, \quad (30)$$

and that means the normalization condition has to be

$$2 \int d^3 \mathbf{r} \epsilon_0 \epsilon_r |\tilde{\mathbf{E}}_i^0|^2 = \frac{2}{\mu_0} \int d^3 \mathbf{r} |\tilde{\mathbf{B}}_i^0|^2 = \omega_i. \quad (31)$$

4 Hamilton's Equation in Complex Coordinates

As discussed in Lectures 3-4, complex coordinates provide a natural way to describe oscillatory systems. We defined our complex coordinates as $a = \alpha q + i\beta p$ and $a^* = \alpha q - i\beta p$, in close analogy with the quantum mechanical raising/lower operators; here, α and β are real-valued coefficients. Since, we can use the relations $q = (a + a^*)/2\alpha$ and $p = (a - a^*)/2i\beta$ to express any Hamiltonian $H(p, q)$ as $H(p(a, a^*), q(a, a^*))$, our new Hamiltonian can always be expressed as $H(a, a^*)$. Notice that a and a^* are independent coordinates that replace q and p . Our next task is to find a new version of Hamilton's equations in complex coordinates.