

1. The physical (real) electric field in a monochromatic wave is given by

$$\begin{aligned}\mathfrak{E}(\mathbf{r}, t) &= \text{Re} \left\{ \mathbf{E}_0 e^{(i\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{r} - \omega t)} \right\} \\ &= \sum_{i=1,2} \epsilon_i \text{Re} \left\{ E_{0i} e^{(i\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{r} - \omega t)} \right\} \\ &= \sum_{i=1,2} \epsilon_i \mathfrak{E}_i(\mathbf{r}, t),\end{aligned}$$

in terms of linear polarization vector $\epsilon_{1,2}$, satisfying $\epsilon_i \cdot \epsilon_j = \delta_{ij}$, $\epsilon_i \times \epsilon_j = \hat{\mathbf{k}}$. Show that the physical electric field, $\mathfrak{E}(\mathbf{r}, t)$, is constrained by

$$\sum_{i,j=1}^2 \mathfrak{E}_i(\mathbf{r}, t) \underline{\underline{A}}_{ij} \mathfrak{E}_j(\mathbf{r}, t) = 1.$$

This is a double sum over polarizations. Find the 2×2 matrix $\underline{\underline{A}}$ and show that the tip of the electric field vector traces out an ellipse as a function of time at each point \mathbf{r} in space.