Force, Work, and Energy in Field-Particle Interactions

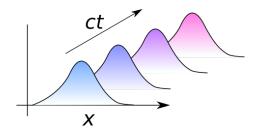
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August 26, 2019

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The Homogeneous Wave Equation:

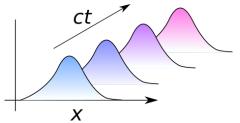
$$\left(\frac{1}{c^2}\frac{\partial^2}{\partial t^2} - \nabla^2\right)\boldsymbol{e}(\boldsymbol{x},t) = 0.$$



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Today: Force, energy, and work in the EM field

Outline for Today:

Electromagnetic Work

2 The Poynting Vector and Energy Density

3 Detection of the EM Field

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Recall the Lorentz Force Law for **finite particles**:

$$F_{EM} = q \left(e(r,t) + v \times b(r,t) \right)$$

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$$W_{EM} = -\int_{m{r}(t_1)}^{m{r}(t_2)} dm{r} \cdot m{F}_{EM}(m{r})$$

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$$= -\int_{t_1}^{t_2} dt \ \boldsymbol{v}(t) \cdot \boldsymbol{F}_{EM}(\boldsymbol{r}(t))$$



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Notice: The magnetic field *never* does work on a charged particle!

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On a collection of charged particles:

$$W_{\mathsf{el}} = -\sum_n q_n \int_{t_1}^{t_2} dt oldsymbol{v}_n(t) \cdot oldsymbol{e}(oldsymbol{r}_n,t)$$

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Here Be Dragons!
$$\Rightarrow \approx -\int_{t_1}^{t_2} dt \int_V d{m x} {m j}({m x},t) \cdot {m e}({m x},t)$$

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Take-Home Points

The electric field does work on charged particles – the integral of the Lorentz force over the particle displacement.

The magnetic field does no work on charged particles.

For *finite particles*, the EM work can be written as an integral over the current density $\boldsymbol{j}(\boldsymbol{x},t)$.

$$W_{\mathsf{el}} pprox - \int_{t_1}^{t_2} dt \int_V doldsymbol{x} oldsymbol{j}(oldsymbol{x},t) \cdot oldsymbol{e}(oldsymbol{x},t)$$

The Poynting Vector and Energy Density

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Solving the Maxwell-Faraday equation

$$abla imes oldsymbol{B} - rac{1}{c} rac{\partial oldsymbol{E}}{\partial t} = rac{4\pi}{c} oldsymbol{j}(oldsymbol{x}, t),$$

for $\boldsymbol{j}(\boldsymbol{x},t)$

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for j(x,t), we get (after some cross-product magic...)

$$W_{\rm el} = \int_{t_1}^{t_2} dt \int_V d\boldsymbol{x} \, \left(\nabla \cdot \boldsymbol{S} + \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} \right)$$

with the Poynting vector

$$m{S}(m{x},t) \equiv rac{c}{4\pi} m{e} imes m{b}$$

and the electromagnetic energy density

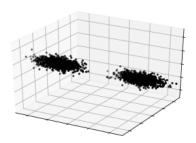
$$u(x,t) = \frac{1}{8\pi} (\|e\|^2 + \|b\|^2).$$

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The **energy density** represents the "amount" of electromagnetic energy in a given region of space.

If the volume V contains the whole field:

$$W_{\mathsf{el}} = \int_{t_1}^{t_2} dt \int_V d\boldsymbol{x} \, \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} = \int_V d\boldsymbol{x} \, u(x, t_2) - \int_V d\boldsymbol{x} \, u(x, t_1).$$



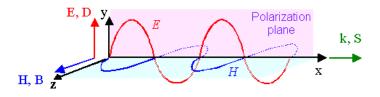
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The **Poynting vector** S represents the *magnitude* and direction of energy flow.

In vacuum, S and u satisfy a continuity equation:

$$\nabla \cdot \boldsymbol{S} + \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} = 0.$$



https:

//www.tf.uni-kiel.de/matwis/amat/admat_en/kap_5/backbone/r5_1_4.html

Take-Home Points

Electromagnetic work can be written as a time and space integral over two quantities:

The energy density $u(\boldsymbol{x},t)$ characterizes the "amount" of EM energy in a given region of space

The Poynting vector $S(\boldsymbol{x},t)$ characterizes the magnitude and direction of EM energy flow

The two are related by the continuity equation

$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{S} + \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} = 0.$$

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Q: How do we measure optical fields experimentally?

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NB: optical fields oscillate too quickly for electronic circuits to follow!

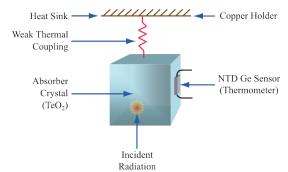
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Q: How do we measure optical fields experimentally?

NB: optical fields oscillate too quickly for electronic circuits to follow!

A: We measure the *energy absorbed* by a detector.



An example: the bolometer

https://cuore.lngs.infn.it/en/about/detectors

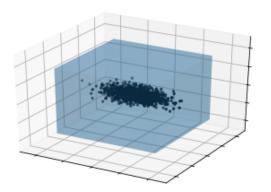
Pulse Energy:

$$U_{\mathsf{pulse}} = \int dm{x} \, u(m{x},t).$$

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Irradiance $\propto \boldsymbol{S}(\boldsymbol{x},t)\cdot\hat{\boldsymbol{n}}$:

$$\begin{split} & \operatorname{Ir}_{\mathsf{det}} = \frac{c \left(\hat{\mathbf{s}} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{n}} \right)}{4 \pi \tau_{\mathsf{det}} A_{\mathsf{det}}} \int_{t_o}^{t_o + \tau_{\mathsf{det}}} dt \int dA \, \| \boldsymbol{e}(\boldsymbol{x}, t) \|^2 \\ & \approx \frac{c \left(\hat{\mathbf{s}} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{n}} \right)}{8 \pi^2 \tau_{\mathsf{det}} A_{\mathsf{det}}} \int dA \int d\omega \, \left\| \boldsymbol{e}(\boldsymbol{x}, \omega) \right\|^2. \end{split}$$

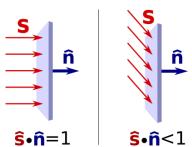
Determined by $\hat{\mathbf{s}} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{n}}$ and the **intensity** $I(\boldsymbol{x},t)$ or $I(\boldsymbol{x},\omega)$.

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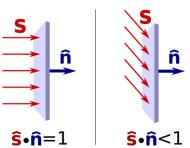
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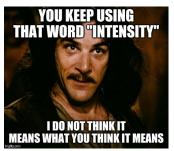


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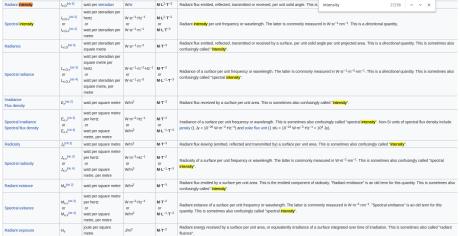
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"Intensity"

Lots of different things get called "intensity"!



https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Intensity_(physics)

Take-Home Points

Optical fields are characterized experimentally by the energy they carry.

Detectors monitor EM fields by measuring the *energy* absorbed by optically dense materials.

The *pulse energy* refers to the total EM energy carried by an ultrafast pulse, i.e. $\int d\boldsymbol{x} \, u(\boldsymbol{x},t)$

Irradiance refers to the rate at which a beam transmits energy in a given direction, i.e. $S \cdot \hat{n}$

Informally, we use the term "intensity" for either $I(\boldsymbol{x},t) = \|\boldsymbol{e}(\boldsymbol{x},t)\|^2 \text{ or } I(\boldsymbol{x},\omega) = \|\boldsymbol{e}(\boldsymbol{x},\omega)\|^2.$

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