Force, Work, and Energy in Field-Particle Interactions

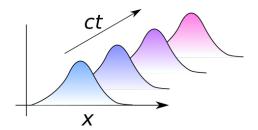
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September 7, 2020

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The Homogeneous Wave Equation:

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

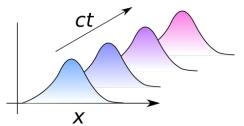


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Today: Force, energy, and work in the EM field

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Outline for Today:

Electromagnetic Work

2 The Poynting Vector and Energy Density

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



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

$$\boldsymbol{v} \cdot (\boldsymbol{v} \times \boldsymbol{b}(\boldsymbol{r}, t)) = 0.$$

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

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

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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

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

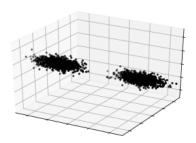
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The **energy density** represents the "amount" of electromagnetic energy in a given region of space.

If the volume V contains the whole field:

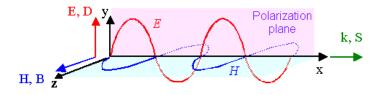
$$W_{\mathsf{el}} = \int_{t_1}^{t_2} dt \int_V d\boldsymbol{x} \, \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} = \int_V d\boldsymbol{x} \, u(x, t_2) - \int_V d\boldsymbol{x} \, u(x, t_1).$$



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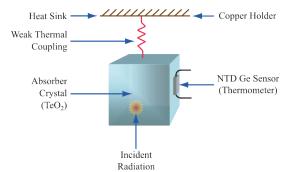
NB: optical fields oscillate too quickly for electronic circuits to follow!

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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

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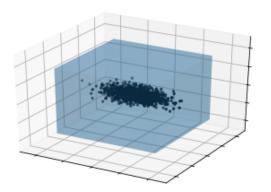
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Pulse Energy:

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

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

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

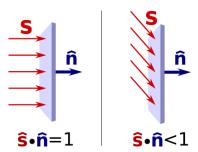
Determined by $\hat{\mathbf{s}} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{n}}$ and the **intensity** $I(\boldsymbol{x},t)$ or $I(\boldsymbol{x},\omega)$.

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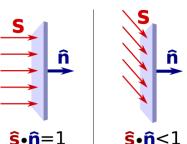


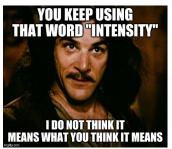
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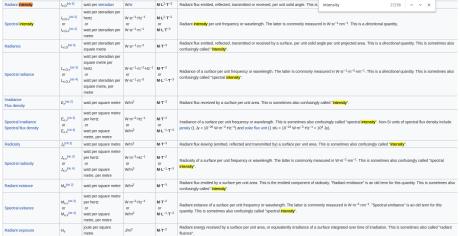
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"Intensity"

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 $I(\boldsymbol{x},t) = \|\boldsymbol{e}(\boldsymbol{x},t)\|^2$ or $I(\boldsymbol{x},\omega) = \|\boldsymbol{e}(\boldsymbol{x},\omega)\|^2$.