

Alex Meng's Notes

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Table of contents

Preface	4
I ELECTROMAGNETICS	5
Maxwell's Equations - Dan Fleisch	6
1 Gauss's law for electric fields	6
Introduction	6
Integral Form of Gauss's Law	6
Differential Form of Gauss's Law	10
Advanced Engineering Electromagnetics - C. Balanis	12
1 Time-Varying and Time-Harmonic Electromagnetic Fields	12
Maxwell's Equations	12
Constitutive Parameters and Relations	14
Circuit-Field Relations	14
Boundary Conditions	14
Power and Energy	14
Time-Harmonic Electromagnetic Fields	15
Exercises	15
2 Electrical Properties of Matter	15
Introduction	15
Dielectrics, Polarization, and Permittivity	15
Magnetics, Magnetization, and Permeability	15
Current, Conductors, and Conductivity	15
Semiconductors	16
Superconductors	16
Metamaterials	16
Linear, Homogeneous, Isotropic, and Nondispersive Media	16
Exercises	16
3 Wave Equation and Its Solutions	16
Introduction	16
Time-Varying Electromagnetic Fields	16
Time-Harmonic Electromagnetic Fields	17
Solution to the Wave Equation	17

Exercises	17
4 Wave Propagation and Polarization	17
Introduction	17
Transverse Electromagnetic Modes	17
Transverse Electromagnetic Modes in Lossy Media	17
Polarization	17
Exercises	18
5 Reflection and Transmission	18
Introduction	18
Normal Incidence - Lossless Media	18
Oblique Incidence - Lossless Media	18
II MACHINE LEARNING	19
Deep Learning with PyTorch	20
Introduction	20
What are “Neural Networks”?	21
Learning Paradigms	21

Preface

If you are reading this, you may be interested in seeing what is “Alex’s Notes”.

These notes are just things that I am documenting, that I wish could become a useful resource for my future students, either when I TA or become a professor.

Here’s how to learn anything:

1. Write it out! (Document, Code along)
2. EXPERIMENT and explore
3. Visualize things you don’t understand
4. Ask Questions
5. Answer Exercise and Problems (stretch your knowledge)
6. Share with like-minded individuals

Part I

ELECTROMAGNETICS

Maxwell's Equations - Dan Fleisch

Website: [Official Website](#)

1 Gauss's law for electric fields

Introduction

Expand

- What are the two kinds of Electric Fields in Maxwell's Equation?

Answer

- Electrostatic Fields (from electric charge)
- Induced Electric Field (from changing magnetic field)
- What type of fields does Gauss's law deal with?

Answer

Electrostatic Fields (from electric charge)

Integral Form of Gauss's Law

Expand

Electric charge produces an electric field. The flux of that field passing through any closed surface is proportional to the total charge contained within that surface.

$$\oint_S \vec{E} \cdot \hat{n} da = \frac{q_{enc}}{\epsilon_0}$$

💡 Expand To Learn About Left Hand Side

- What does the left hand side represent?

Answer

The number of electric field lines (AKA electric flux) passing through a closed surface S .

- What is Electric field?

Answer

The electrical force exerted on one coulomb of charge at that point in space is the electric field at that location.

$$\vec{E} = \frac{\vec{F}_e}{q_0}$$

\vec{E} has units of $\frac{N}{C} = \frac{V}{m}$

Spacing of electric field lines tells you the strength of it.

- Electric field lines go from positive to negative
- Electric field lines vector sums, so they never cross
- Why do physicists and engineers always talk about small test charges?

Answer

Because the job of this charge is to test the electric field at a location, not to add another electric field into the mix (although you can't stop it from doing so). Making the test charge infinitesimally small minimizes the effect of the test charge's own field.

- What is the dot product? Why are we taking the dot product between \vec{E} and \hat{n} in Gauss's Law?

Answer

Consider vectors \vec{A} and \vec{B} in space.

What is the projection of \vec{A} onto \vec{B} ? From trig, it's $|\vec{A}| \cos \theta$.

Now the dot product is that projection, multiplied by the magnitude of \vec{B} .

$$\vec{A} \cdot \vec{B} = |\vec{A}| |\vec{B}| \cos \theta$$

- What is \hat{n} ?

Answer

It is the unit normal vector, which has a length of one, and points in the direction perpendicular to the surface.

Note that since da is the tiny amount of area we are considering

$$\hat{n} da = d\vec{a}$$

- What is the difference between closed surface and open surface?

Answer

- Open Surface - any surface for which it is possible to get from one side to the other without going through the surface
- Closed Surface - a surface that divides space into an “inside” and “outside”. Unit Normal Vector \hat{n} always points outwards, away from the volume enclosed by the surface.
- What does $\vec{E} \cdot \hat{n}$ represent?

Answer

The component of the electric field vector that is perpendicular to the surface.

$$\vec{E} \cdot \hat{n} = |\vec{E}| \cos \theta$$

- How do you find the mass of a surface with varying density function $\sigma(x, y)$?

Answer

Since mass is density times volume, we can write:

$$Mass = \sigma \cdot Area$$

$$Mass_S = \sum_{i=1}^N \sigma_i \cdot Area_i$$

If we let Areas to become infinitesimally small dA , we get

$$Mass = \int_S \sigma dA$$

This is a *surface intergal*.

- What does $\int_S \vec{A} \cdot \hat{n} da$ represent?

Answer

It represents the flux of a vector field.

What's a vector field?

It is magnitude and direction quantities distributed in space.

- Scalar Field - something like temperature distribution in a room, where at each point theres a number
- Vector Field - something like flow of fluid, there at every point it has a speed and direction

- What's flux Φ ?

Answer

Flux Φ of a field over a surface is the amount of flow through that surface.

$$\Phi = \vec{A} \cdot \hat{n} \times (SurfaceArea)$$

💡 Expand To Learn About Right Hand Side

- What is the right hand side in words?

Answer

The total amount of enclosed charge normalized by the permittivity of free space.

- What is ϵ_0 and why is it there?

Answer

It is called the permittivity of free space or “vacuum permittivity”.

$$\epsilon_0 = 8.854 \times 10^{-12} \frac{F}{m}$$

When we say the permittivity of a material, when are referring to its reponse to an electric field. It is also the key parameter in determining the speed at which an electromagnetic wave propagates through that medium.

High permittivity means it provides higher capacitance.

In Gauss's Law, ϵ_0 acts as a proportionality constant that relates electric flux to enclosed charge.

💡 Exercises

- Five point charges are enclosed in a cylindrical surface S . If the values of the charges are $q_1 = +3nC$, $q_2 = -2nC$, $q_3 = +2nC$, $q_4 = +4nC$, and $q_5 = -1nC$, find the total flux through S .

Answer

$$\sum_{i=1}^5 q_i = 3 - 2 + 2 + 4 - 1 = 6nC = 6 \times 10^{-9}C$$

$$\Phi_E = \frac{q_e nc}{\epsilon_0} = \frac{6 \times 10^{-9}C}{8.854 \times 10^{-12} \frac{C}{V \cdot m}} = \boxed{678 \text{ Vm}}$$

Differential Form of Gauss's Law

Expand

The electric field produced by electric diverges from positive charge and converges upon negative charge.

$$\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{E} = \frac{\rho}{\epsilon_0}$$

💡 Expand To Learn About Left Hand Side

- What does the left hand side represent?

Answer

The tendency of electric field to flow away from a point in space - AKA the divergence.

- What is the difference between differential and integral form of Gauss's Law?

Answer

Differential deals with individual points in space, whereas integral deals with a closed surface.

- What is $\vec{\nabla}$?

Answer

It is called “del” or “nabla”. It tells you to take the derivative of whatever quantity comes after it.

$$\vec{\nabla} = \hat{i} \frac{\partial}{\partial x} + \hat{j} \frac{\partial}{\partial y} + \hat{k} \frac{\partial}{\partial z}$$

It is a *mathematical operator*, which just means that it needs something to act on and cannot just appear by itself.

$\vec{\nabla}$ is gradient, $\vec{\nabla} \cdot$ is divergence, and $\vec{\nabla} \times$ is curl.

- What is $\vec{\nabla} \cdot$ specifically?

Expand

Oliver Heaviside suggested the word “divergence” to describe the rate at which electric field flow outwards from a positive charge.

- source - diverge from that point (positive charge for electric field)
- sink - converge to that point (negative charge for magnetic field)

💡 Expand To Learn About Right Hand Side

- What is the right hand side in words?

Answer

💡 Exercises

- Five point charges are enclosed in a cylindrical surface S . If the values of the charges are $q_1 = +3nC$, $q_2 = -2nC$, $q_3 = +2nC$, $q_4 = +4nC$, and $q_5 = -1nC$, find the total flux through S .

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Advanced Engineering Electromagnetics - C. Balanis

Link: [Internet Archive](#)

1 Time-Varying and Time-Harmonic Electromagnetic Fields

Maxwell's Equations

Expand

- Who is James Clerk Maxwell?

Answer

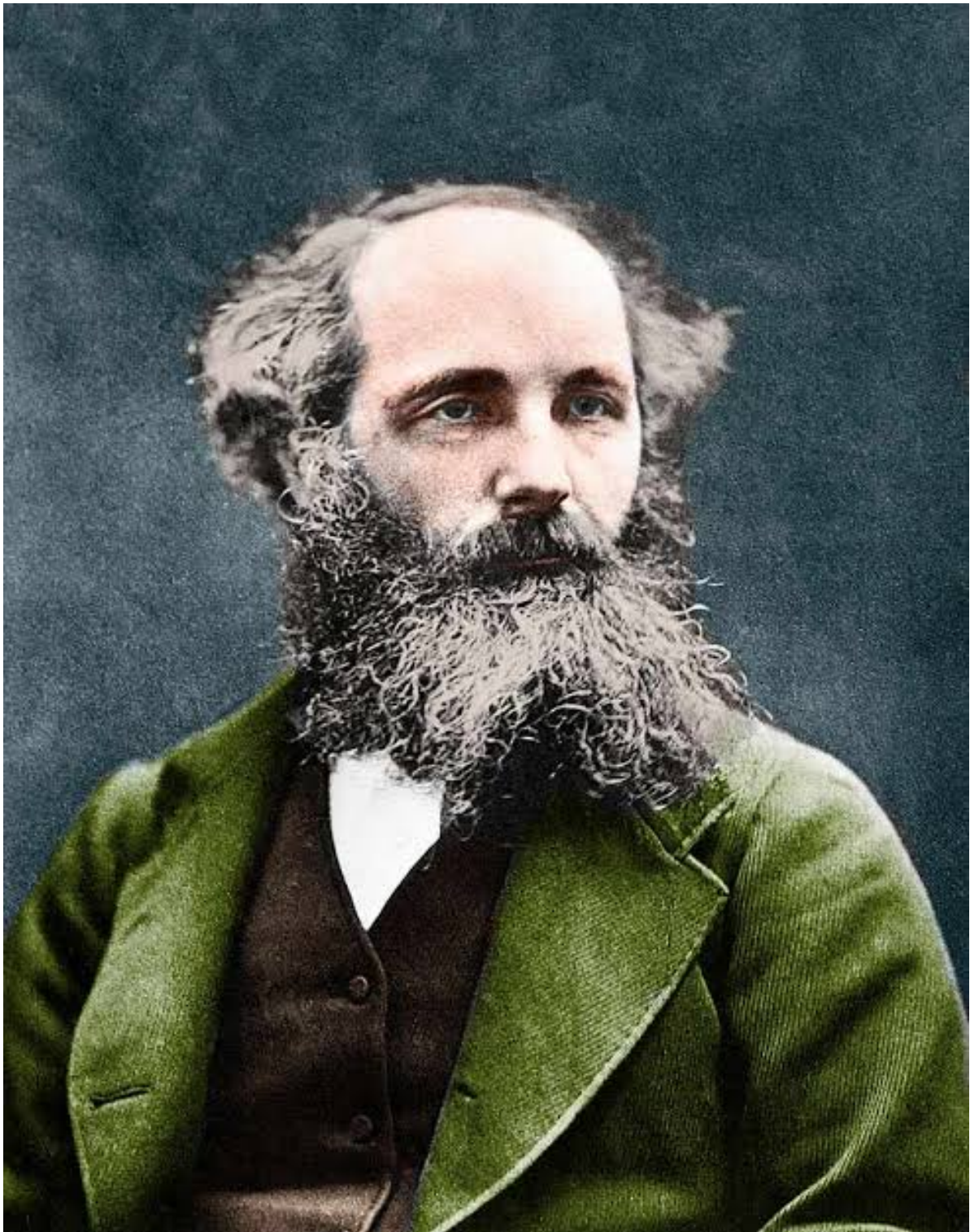


Figure 1: James Clerk Maxwell

A Scottish physicist and mathematician that lived from 1831 to 1879.

[The Father of Modern Physics](#)

See [my notes on Dan Fleisch's A student's guide to Maxwell's Equations](#) for detailed explanation of the differential and integral forms of the four maxwell's equations.

Constitutive Parameters and Relations

Expand

Circuit-Field Relations

Expand

- What is Circuit Theory?

Answer

A special case of electromagnetic theory, when the physical dimensions of the circuit are small compared to the wavelength.

KVL

KCL

Element Laws

Boundary Conditions

Expand

Finite Conductivity Media

Infinite Conductivity Media

Sources Along Boundaries

Power and Energy

Expand

Time-Harmonic Electromagnetic Fields

Expand

Maxwell's Equations in Differential and Integral Forms

Boundary Conditions

Power and Energy

Exercises

Expand

2 Electrical Properties of Matter

Introduction

Expand

Dielectrics, Polarization, and Permittivity

Expand

Magnetics, Magnetization, and Permeability

Expand

Current, Conductors, and Conductivity

Expand

Current

Conductors

Conductivity

Semiconductors

Expand

Superconductors

Expand

Metamaterials

Expand

Linear, Homogeneous, Isotropic, and Nondispersive Media

Expand

Exercises

Expand

3 Wave Equation and Its Solutions

Introduction

Expand

Time-Varying Electromagnetic Fields

Expand

Time-Harmonic Electromagnetic Fields

Expand

Solution to the Wave Equation

Expand

Rectangular Coordinate System

Cylindrical Coordinate System

Spherical Coordinate System

Exercises

Expand

4 Wave Propagation and Polarization

Introduction

Expand

Transverse Electromagnetic Modes

Expand

Transverse Electromagnetic Modes in Lossy Media

Expand

Polarization

Expand

Exercises

Expand

5 Reflection and Transmission

Introduction

Expand

Normal Incidence - Lossless Media

Expand

Oblique Incidence - Lossless Media

Expand

Perpendicular Polarization

Parallel Polarization

Total Transmission - Brewster Angle

Total Reflection - Critical Angle

Part II

MACHINE LEARNING

Deep Learning with PyTorch

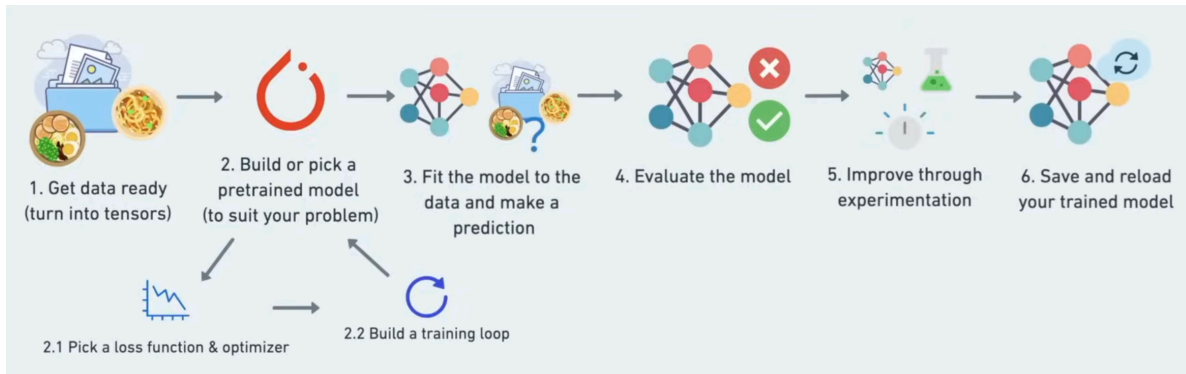
Instructor: Daniel Bourke

[Youtube](#)

[PyTorch Docs](#)

[Wikipedia: Deep Learning](#)

Here we master the basics of Deep Learning through the **PyTorch Workflow**:



Introduction

AI includes machine learning, which includes deep learning. All three aim to approximate the rules of a system from examples.

Before using machine learning, ask: Can you write down all the rules to solve this problem? If yes, use a rule-based system—it's simpler, faster, and more interpretable.

But when rules are too complex or unclear, machine learning or deep learning helps.

Deep Learning is good for:

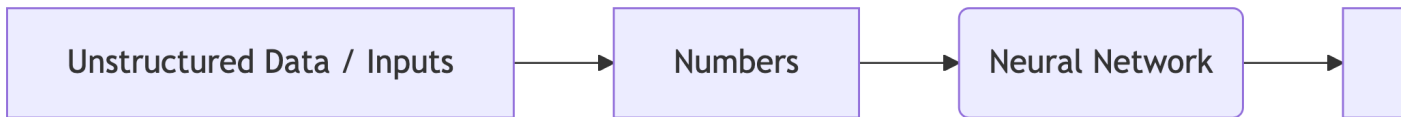
- Problems with long lists of rules
- Continually changing environments
- Discovering insights within large collections of data

Deep Learning is not good for:

- When you need explainability
- When the traditional approach is a better option
- When errors are unacceptable

Machine Learning is better than Deep Learning at structured Data, neural networks typically work best with unstructured data.

What are “Neural Networks”?



Anatomy of Neural Networks



Each layer is a combination of functions, linear or non-linear.

Learning Paradigms

Supervised	Unsupervised & Self-supervised	Transfer	Reinforcement
Lot of Data that are labeled	Just Data	Building on top of already learned model	Action and Reward

What are deep learning used for?

If you can encode something into numbers, you can build a deep learning model to find pattern in those numbers.

Computer Vision, NLP, Recommendation, and literally anything complex.