

# Electromagnetic Wave Propagation

Consider waves propagating in a homogeneous, non-conducting medium. Maxwell's Eqs give

$$\nabla \cdot \underline{E} = 0 \quad \nabla \times \underline{E} + \frac{1}{\epsilon} \frac{\partial \underline{B}}{\partial t} = 0 \quad (1)$$

$$\nabla \cdot \underline{B} = 0 \quad \nabla \times \underline{B} - \frac{\mu \epsilon}{\epsilon_0} \frac{\partial \underline{E}}{\partial t} = 0 \quad (2)$$

Take the curl of (1)

$$\nabla \times (\nabla \times \underline{E}) = \nabla (\nabla \cdot \underline{E}) - \nabla^2 \underline{E} = -\frac{1}{\epsilon} \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \frac{\partial \underline{B}}{\partial t}$$

$$\left( \nabla^2 - \frac{\mu \epsilon}{\epsilon_0} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial t^2} \right) \underline{E} = 0 \quad \Rightarrow \text{wave eqn.}$$

$\Rightarrow$  same for  $\underline{B}$

$\Rightarrow$  exponential solutions

$$\underline{E} = \text{Re} \left( \underline{E}_0 e^{i \underline{k} \cdot \underline{x} - i \omega t} \right)$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} \left[ \underline{E}_0 e^{i \underline{k} \cdot \underline{x} - i \omega t} + \underline{E}_0^* e^{-i \underline{k} \cdot \underline{x} + i \omega t} \right]$$

$$\left( k^2 - \frac{\mu \epsilon}{\epsilon_0} \omega^2 \right) \underline{E}_0 = 0$$

$$c = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\mu_0 \epsilon_0}}$$

$$\omega = \pm k v_p$$

dispersion relation

$$v_p = \frac{c}{n} = \frac{c}{\sqrt{\mu \epsilon}}$$

$n =$  index of refraction  
 $n = \sqrt{\mu \epsilon / \mu_0 \epsilon_0}$

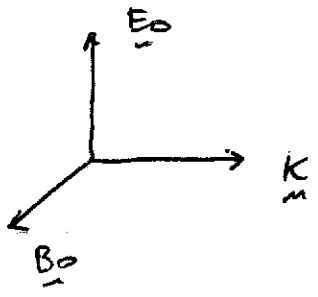
To find vector direction of  $\underline{E}$  and  $\underline{B}$

$$\left( \underline{k} \times \underline{E}_0 - \frac{\omega}{c} \underline{B}_0 = 0 \right), \quad \underline{k} \cdot \underline{E}_0 = 0$$

$$\underline{k} \cdot \underline{B}_0 = 0 \quad \omega = \frac{kc}{n}$$

$$\underline{B}_0 = \frac{1}{\omega} \underline{k} \times \underline{E}_0 \quad \underline{B}_0 = \frac{n \underline{E}_0}{c}$$

for  $\omega > 0$



$$\underline{S} = \underline{E} \times \underline{H}$$

$\Rightarrow \underline{S}$  is in the direction of  $\underline{k}$   
and is  $\perp$  to  $\underline{E}, \underline{B}$

Let  $\delta = \underline{k} \cdot \underline{x} - \omega t$

$\Rightarrow$  flow of energy is along  $\underline{k}$   
 $\Rightarrow$  transverse wave

$$\underline{S} = \frac{1}{\mu_0} \left( \frac{\underline{E}_0 e^{i\delta} + \underline{E}_0^* e^{-i\delta}}{2} \right) \times \left( \frac{\underline{H}_0 e^{i\delta} + \underline{H}_0^* e^{-i\delta}}{2} \right)$$

$$= \frac{1}{4} \left[ \underline{E}_0 \times \underline{H}_0 e^{2i\delta} + \underline{E}_0^* \times \underline{H}_0^* e^{-2i\delta} + \underline{E}_0 \times \underline{H}_0^* + \underline{E}_0^* \times \underline{H}_0 \right]$$

$\Rightarrow$  time or space average is important quantity

$$\overline{\underline{S}} = \frac{1}{2} \text{Re} (\underline{E}_0 \times \underline{H}_0^*)$$

$$\frac{1}{\mu_0} \frac{1}{\omega} \underline{E}_0 \times (\underline{k} \times \underline{E}_0^*)$$

General rule for evaluating time-averaged products

$$\overline{C D} = \frac{1}{2} \operatorname{Re}(C_0 D_0^*)$$

$$\overline{S}_z = \frac{1}{2} \frac{k}{\omega} |E_0|^2 = \frac{1}{2} \frac{k}{\omega} |E_0|^2 \frac{v}{\mu k c}$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} \frac{k}{\omega} \epsilon |E_0|^2 \underbrace{\frac{v}{\mu c}}_{c/v = v_p}$$

$$\overline{S}_z = \frac{1}{2} \frac{k}{\omega} \epsilon |E_0|^2 v_p$$

Want to express this in terms of the wave energy

$$u = \frac{1}{2} (\epsilon |E|^2 + \frac{1}{\mu} |B|^2)$$

$$\bar{u} = \frac{1}{4} (\epsilon |E_0|^2 + \frac{1}{\mu} |B_0|^2)$$

$$\frac{1}{\mu} |B_0|^2 = \frac{1}{\mu} \frac{k^2}{\omega^2} |E_0|^2 = \epsilon |E_0|^2$$

⇒ magnetic and electric wave energies are equal

$$\bar{u} = \frac{1}{2} \epsilon |E_0|^2$$

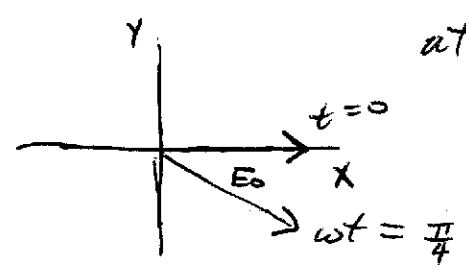
$$\overline{S}_z = \bar{u} \frac{k}{\omega} v_p$$

polarization  $\Rightarrow$  defined by direction of  $\underline{E}$

plane polarized  $\Rightarrow \underline{E}$  in single direction

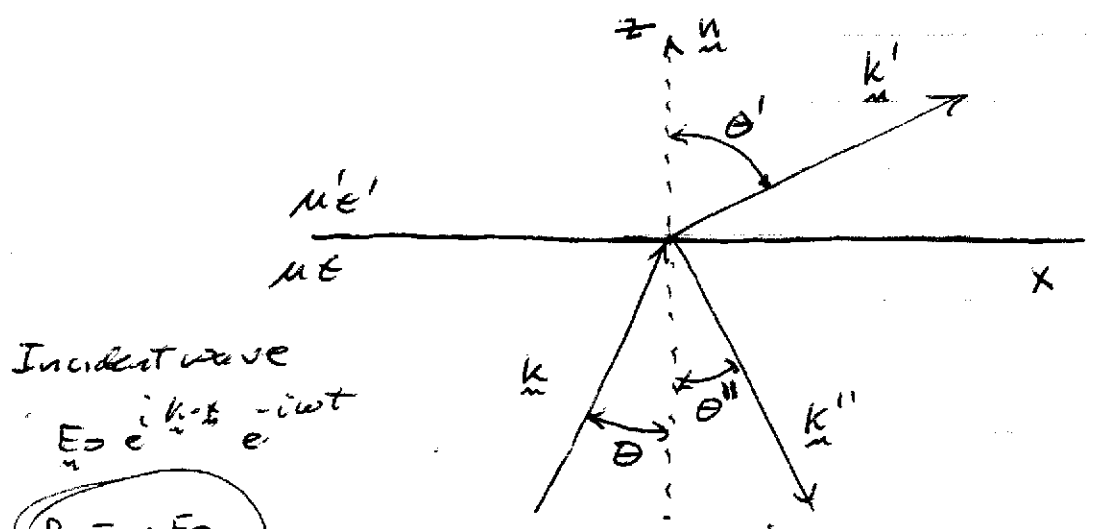
circularly polarized  $\Rightarrow$

$$\underline{E}_m = E_0 \left[ \hat{i} \cos(kz - \omega t) + \hat{j} \sin(kz - \omega t) \right]$$



$\Rightarrow$  left hand circularly polarized.

Reflection and refraction of EM waves from a plane interface between dielectrics.



Incident wave  
 $E_0 e^{i(k \cdot r - \omega t)}$

$$B_0 = \frac{n E_0}{c}$$

Wave creates oscillating polarization charges and magnetization currents which cause reflected waves and alters direction of transmitted wave

# Preparation

What are the frequencies of the transmitted and reflected waves?

$\Rightarrow \omega$  (homogeneity in time)

Each wave must satisfy local dispersion relation

$$\omega = \omega'' \Rightarrow \boxed{k = k''} = \boxed{\frac{\omega n}{c}}$$

$$\omega = \frac{k c}{n} = \omega' = \frac{k' c}{n'}$$

$$\boxed{k' = \frac{n'}{n} k}$$

## Boundary Conditions

$$\underline{B} \cdot \underline{n} \text{ continuous} \quad \textcircled{1}$$

$$\underline{D} \cdot \underline{n} \text{ continuous} \quad \textcircled{2}$$

$$\underline{H} \times \underline{n} \text{ continuous} \quad \textcircled{3}$$

$$\underline{E} \times \underline{n} \text{ continuous} \quad \textcircled{4}$$

B.C. must be matched along entire interface

$\Rightarrow$  phases must match at  $z=0$

$$\sim e^{i k_x x} e^{-i \omega t}$$

$$\Rightarrow k_x = k'_x = k''_x$$

$\Rightarrow k_y = 0 \Rightarrow k$  vectors form a plane

$k_x = k_x''$  with  $k = k''$  implies  $\theta = \theta''$

⇒ angle of reflection equals angle of incidence

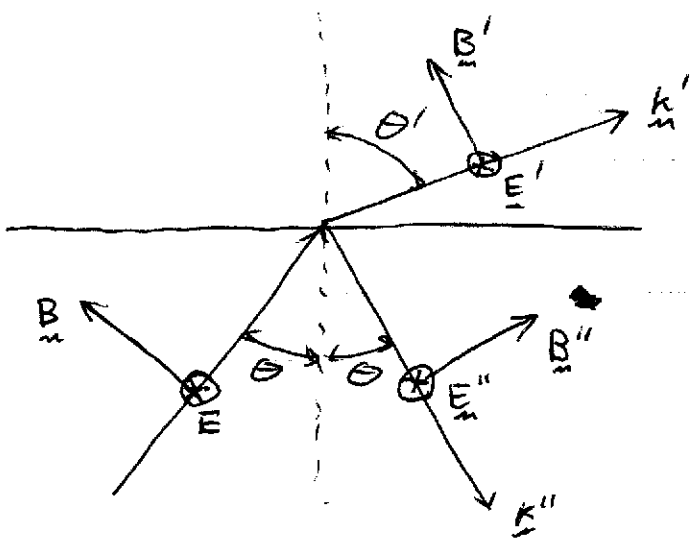
$k_x = k_x' \Rightarrow k \sin \theta = k' \sin \theta'$

$k \sin \theta = \frac{n'}{n} k \sin \theta'$

$n \sin \theta = n' \sin \theta'$

Snell's Law

Case I Polarization ⊥ to Plane



② Gives nothing

④ gives

$E_0 + E_0'' = E_0'$

③ gives  $(H_{\perp n})$  (continuous)

~~B\_{\perp n}~~

$$B = \frac{nE}{c}$$

~~$$-\frac{B_0}{\mu} \cos \theta + \frac{B_0''}{\mu} \cos \theta = -\frac{B_0'}{\mu'} \cos \theta'$$~~

$$n \frac{\cos \theta}{\mu} (E_0'' - E_0) = -\frac{\cos \theta'}{\mu'} n' E_0'$$

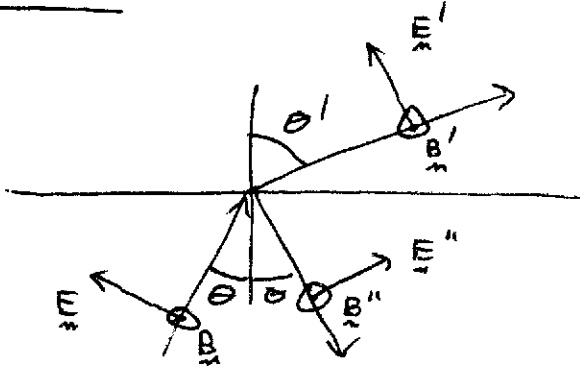
$$\frac{\mu' E_0'}{E_0} = \frac{2n \cos \theta}{n \cos \theta + \frac{\mu}{\mu'} \sqrt{n'^2 - n^2 \sin^2 \theta}}$$

$$\frac{\mu' E_0''}{E_0} = \frac{n \cos \theta - \frac{\mu}{\mu'} \sqrt{n'^2 - n^2 \sin^2 \theta}}{n \cos \theta + \frac{\mu}{\mu'} \sqrt{n'^2 - n^2 \sin^2 \theta}}$$

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Case II

Polarization in plane



$$\frac{\mu' E_0'}{E_0} = \frac{2\mu n' \cos \theta}{\frac{\mu}{\mu'} n'^2 \cos \theta + \mu \sqrt{n'^2 - n^2 \sin^2 \theta}}$$

$$\frac{\mu' E_0''}{E_0} = \frac{\frac{\mu}{\mu'} n'^2 \cos \theta - \mu \sqrt{n'^2 - n^2 \sin^2 \theta}}{\frac{\mu}{\mu'} n'^2 \cos \theta + \mu \sqrt{n'^2 - n^2 \sin^2 \theta}}$$

Take  $\theta = 0$  and  $n = n'$

$$\frac{E_0'}{E_0} = \frac{2nn'}{n^2 + nn'} = \frac{2n}{n'+n}$$

$$\frac{E_0''}{E_0} = \frac{n^2 - n^2}{n^2 + nn'} = \frac{n'-n}{n'+n}$$

phase of reflected wave depends on relative size of  $n', n$



## Brewster's Angle

Consider  $\vec{E}$  in plane of incidence

can have  ~~$E_0'' = 0$~~   $E_0'' = 0$  (take  $n = n' = \mu_0$ )

$$\cancel{f} \quad n^2 \cos i = n \sqrt{n^2 - n'^2 \sin^2 i}$$

$$\frac{n^2}{n^2} \cos i = \sqrt{\frac{n^2}{n^2} - \sin^2 i} \quad f = \frac{n^2}{n^2}$$

$$f^2 \cos^2 i = f - \sin^2 i \quad s^2 + c^2 = 1$$

$$f^2 = \frac{f^2}{c^2} - t^2 \quad t^2 + 1 = \frac{1}{c^2}$$

$$f^2 = \cancel{f} (1+t^2) - t^2$$

$$f^2 - f(1+t^2) + t^2 = 0$$

$$f = \frac{1+t^2 \pm \sqrt{(1+t^2)^2 - 4t^2}}{2} = \frac{1+t^2 \pm (1-t^2)}{2}$$

$$f = 1, t^2$$

$$\Rightarrow \begin{cases} n = n' \\ \frac{n'}{n} = \tan i_B \end{cases}$$

no reflection at  $i = i_B$ .

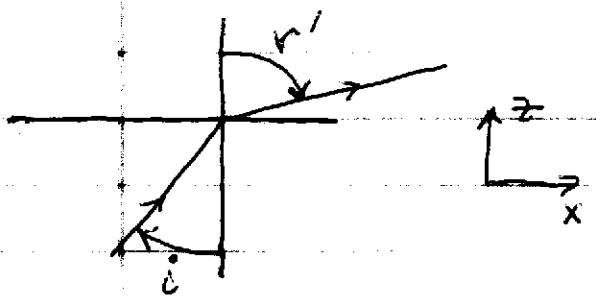
At this angle, light reflected from a dielectric is polarized perpendicular to the plane of incidence

⇒ how do polarized sunglasses work?

Total internal reflection  $n' < n$

For  $\sin(i) > \frac{n'}{n} \Rightarrow \sin(r') = \sin(i) \frac{n}{n'} > 1$

⇒  $r'$  is complex



$$\begin{aligned} \cos(r') &= \left[ 1 - \sin^2(r') \right]^{1/2} \\ &= \left[ 1 - \frac{\sin^2(i) n^2}{n'^2} \right]^{1/2} \\ &= i \left[ \frac{n^2}{n'^2} \sin^2(i) - 1 \right]^{1/2} \\ &\quad \swarrow \\ &\quad \sqrt{-1} \end{aligned}$$

$\vec{E}' = E_0' e^{i k_x' x - i \omega t} \Rightarrow k_x'$  is complex

$k_x' = k' \sin(r') = k' \frac{n}{n'} \sin(i)$

$k_z' = k' \cos(r') = i k' \left[ \frac{n^2}{n'^2} \sin^2(i) - 1 \right]^{1/2}$

$\vec{E}' = E_0' e^{i k_x' x} e^{-k_z' z} \left[ \frac{n^2}{n'^2} \sin^2(i) - 1 \right]^{1/2}$

⇒ the transmitted wave falls off exponentially as  $z$  increases.

Is energy dissipated in the  $n'$  medium  
 or is there no energy transmission?  
 $\Rightarrow$  evaluate the Poynting flux

$$\vec{S} \cdot \hat{n} = \frac{1}{\mu'} \vec{E}' \times \vec{B}' \cdot \hat{n}$$

Need to do a time average so write  
 $\vec{E}'$  and  $\vec{B}'$  in terms of amplitude and  
 phase  $\delta = k' \cdot \vec{r} - \omega t$

$$\vec{E}' = \left[ \vec{E}_0 e^{i\delta} + \vec{E}_0^* e^{-i\delta^*} \right] \frac{1}{2} \Rightarrow \delta \neq \delta^*$$

$$\vec{S} \cdot \hat{n} = \frac{1}{4} \cdot \left[ (\vec{E}_0 e^{i\delta} + \vec{E}_0^* e^{-i\delta^*}) \times (\vec{B}_0 e^{i\delta} + \vec{B}_0^* e^{-i\delta^*}) \right]$$

$\Rightarrow$  average over time  $\Rightarrow$  only  $\delta - \delta^*$  terms  
 survive

$$\vec{S} \cdot \hat{n} = \frac{1}{4} \hat{n} \cdot \left[ \vec{E}_0 \times \vec{B}_0^* e^{i(\delta - \delta^*)} + \vec{E}_0^* \times \vec{B}_0 e^{i(\delta - \delta^*)} \right]$$

$$\delta - \delta^* = 2ik' [z] \equiv 2|k_z|z$$

$$e^{i(\delta - \delta^*)} = e^{-2k' [z]} = e^{-2|k_z|z}$$

$$\vec{S} \cdot \hat{n} = \frac{1}{4} e^{-2|k_z|z} \underbrace{(\vec{E}_0 \times \vec{B}_0^* + \vec{E}_0^* \times \vec{B}_0)}_{2 \operatorname{Re}(\vec{E}_0 \times \vec{B}_0^*)}$$

where  $\vec{B}_0^* = \frac{1}{\omega} k' \times \vec{E}_0^*$

$$\vec{S} \cdot \vec{S} = \frac{1}{2} \frac{1}{\mu} e^{-2|k_z'|z} \cdot \text{Re} \left[ \vec{E}_0 \times \left( \frac{1}{\omega} \vec{k}'^* \times \vec{E}_0^* \right) \right]$$

$$\frac{1}{\omega} \vec{k}'^* \cdot \underbrace{\vec{E}_0 \cdot \vec{E}_0^*}_{\text{real}}$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} \frac{E_0 \cdot E_0^*}{\omega} e^{-2|k_z'|z} \text{Re} \left( \hat{n} \cdot \vec{k}'^* \right)$$

$$\underbrace{k_z'}_{k_z'}$$

$\Rightarrow k_z'$  is imaginary

$$\Rightarrow \hat{S} \cdot \hat{n} = 0$$

Can evaluate the amplitude  $E_0''$  of the reflected wave,

$$\frac{E_0''}{E_0} = \frac{n \cos \theta_i - \frac{\mu}{\mu'} i (n^2 \sin^2 \theta_i - n'^2)^{\frac{1}{2}}}{n \cos \theta_i + \frac{\mu}{\mu'} i (n^2 \sin^2 \theta_i - n'^2)^{\frac{1}{2}}}$$

$$\Rightarrow |E_0''| = |E_0|$$

$\Rightarrow$  All energy reflected from surface

$\Rightarrow E_0''$  has a phase shift. This can be used to convert light to circular polarization

# Wave propagation in a conductor

In a good conductor there will be free currents that flow in response to the electric field of the wave. Maxwell's eqns are given by

$$\nabla \times H = \underline{J} + \frac{\partial D}{\partial t}$$

$$\nabla \times \underline{E} + \frac{\partial B}{\partial t} = 0$$

Since we are interested in transverse waves  $\nabla \cdot \underline{D} = 0$  so there is no free charge. We calculate  $\underline{J}$  from the electron momentum eqn,

$$m_e \frac{d}{dt} \underline{v}_e = -e \underline{E} - m_e \nu_{ei} (\underline{v}_e - \underline{v}_i)$$

with  $\nu_{ei}$  = electron/ion collision rate. The ion velocity can be neglected since their velocity is small because of their much greater mass since they form a stationary lattice.

$$m_e \frac{d}{dt} \underline{v}_e = -e \underline{E} - m_e \nu_{ei} \underline{v}_e$$

Typically  $\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \ll \nu_{ei}$  so electron inertia

can also be neglected

$\Rightarrow$  For copper  $\nu_{ei} \sim 10^{13}/s$  so this requires  $\omega < 10^{13}/s$

$$\Rightarrow \underline{v}_e = - \frac{e \underline{E}}{m_e \nu_{ei}}$$

and

$$\underline{J} = -ne \underline{v}_e = \frac{ne^2}{m_e \nu_{ei}} \underline{E} \equiv \underline{\sigma} \underline{E}$$

with  $n = \#$  of free electrons / unit vol.

$$\sigma = \text{conductivity} \sim 5.9 \times 10^7 \frac{1}{\Omega \cdot m}$$

for Cu.

$$\text{units: } \Omega = \text{Ohm} = \frac{\text{Volt}}{\text{amp}} = \frac{Nm}{C^2}$$

$$\nabla \times \underline{B} = \mu \sigma \underline{E} + \mu \epsilon \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \underline{E}$$

$$\nabla \times \underline{E} + \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \underline{B} = 0$$

As before take  $\underline{E}, \underline{B} \sim e^{i(\underline{k} \cdot \underline{r} - \omega t)}$

$$i \underline{k} \times \underline{B}_0 = \mu \sigma \underline{E}_0 - \mu \epsilon i \omega \underline{E}_0$$

$$i \underline{k} \times \underline{E}_0 - i \omega \underline{B}_0 = 0$$

$$\frac{1}{\omega} \underline{k} \times (\underline{k} \times \underline{E}_0) = (-i \mu \sigma - \mu \epsilon \omega) \underline{E}_0$$

$$-k^2 \underline{E}_0$$

$$k^2 = \omega^2 \mu \epsilon \left(1 + i \frac{\sigma}{\omega \epsilon}\right)$$

$\Rightarrow k$  is now complex

$\Rightarrow$  dissipation of wave energy from collisions

$$\Rightarrow \underline{J} \cdot \underline{E} = \sigma E^2 > 0$$

compare  $1, \frac{\sigma}{\omega \epsilon}$

$$\frac{\sigma}{\omega \epsilon} \sim \frac{6 \times 10^7}{\Omega m} \frac{1 \text{ Nm}^2}{9 \times 10^{-12} \text{ C}^2 \text{ W}}$$

$$\sim \frac{6 \times 10^7}{9 \times 10^{-12} \text{ W}} \frac{1 \text{ Nm}^2 \text{ C}^2}{\text{C}^2 \text{ Nm}^2 \text{ s m}} \sim 10^{19} \frac{1}{\text{W s}}$$

Since already assumed  $\omega < 10^{13} / \text{s}$ ,

$$\frac{\sigma}{\omega \epsilon} \gg 1 \Rightarrow \sigma \underline{E} \gg \epsilon \frac{\partial \underline{E}}{\partial t}$$

$\Rightarrow \underline{J}$  dominates displacement current

$$\Rightarrow k^2 = i \omega \mu \sigma$$

$$k = (1+i) \sqrt{\frac{\omega \mu \sigma}{2}} \equiv (1+i) \frac{1}{\delta}$$

$$\delta = \text{skin depth} = \sqrt{\frac{2}{\omega \mu \sigma}}$$

$$\underline{E}_z = E_0 e^{i(\frac{z}{\delta} - \omega t)} e^{-\frac{z}{\delta}}$$

⇒ skin depth is the characteristic dissipation scale length in a conductor

For copper,  $\delta \sim 10^{-3}$  cm for  $\omega = 100$  MHz

⇒ waves don't penetrate very far into a good conductor

Why are the waves evanescent?

Waves are doing work on electrons at a rate

$$\underline{J} \cdot \underline{E} = \sigma |\underline{E}|^2 \Rightarrow \text{Joule heating}$$

⇒ energy absorbed by the medium

Compare  $\delta$  with the free space wavelength

$$\Rightarrow k_0 = \frac{\omega}{c}, \mu, \epsilon \sim \mu_0, \epsilon_0$$

$$k_0 \delta = \frac{\omega}{c} \sqrt{\frac{2}{\omega \mu \sigma}} \sim \sqrt{\mu_0 \epsilon_0} \sqrt{\frac{\omega}{\mu_0 \sigma}}$$

$$\sim \sqrt{\frac{\omega}{\sigma} \epsilon_0} \ll 1$$

⇒  $\delta$  shorter than free space wavelength



## Wave propagation in a collisionless plasma

A plasma is a gas of electrons and ions.

⇒ must calculate  $\vec{J}$  since electrons are free to move

⇒ electron current dominates that of ions because of smaller mass.

$$m_e \frac{d}{dt} \vec{v}_e = -e \vec{E}$$

$$-i m_e \omega \vec{v}_{e0} = -e \vec{E}_0$$

$$\Rightarrow \vec{v}_{e0} = \frac{e \vec{E}_0}{i \omega m_e}$$

$$\vec{J}_0 = -ne \vec{v}_{e0} = -\frac{ne^2}{m_e i \omega} \vec{E}_0$$

⇒ again, no charge  $\rho$  since  $\vec{k} \cdot \vec{E}_0 = 0$

⇒ transverse waves

$$i \vec{k} \times \vec{B}_0 = \mu_0 \vec{J}_0 - \frac{1}{c^2} i \omega \vec{E}_0$$

$$\vec{k} \times \vec{E}_0 - \omega \vec{B}_0 = 0$$

$$\underbrace{k \times (k \times E_0)}_{-k^2 E_0} \frac{1}{\omega} = -i \mu_0 \left( -\frac{ne^2}{m_e i \omega} \right) E_0 - \frac{\omega}{c^2} E_0$$

$$\omega^2 = \omega_{pe}^2 + k^2 c^2 \quad \text{plasma dispersion relation}$$

$$\omega_{pe} = \left( \frac{ne^2}{m_e \epsilon_0} \right)^{1/2} = \text{plasma frequency}$$

$$= 5.6 \times 10^4 \sqrt{n} / \text{sec}$$

with  $n$  in units of  $\text{cm}^{-3}$ .

In the solar wind at 1 AU,  $n \approx 1 / \text{cm}^3$   
 $\Rightarrow \omega_{pe} \approx 6 \times 10^4 / \text{s}$

Note that in a collisionless plasma  $k$  is real for  $\omega > \omega_{pe}$ . Why?

$$\overline{J \cdot E} = \frac{1}{2} \text{Re} (J_0 \cdot E_0^*)$$

$$\sim \text{Re} (i E_0 \cdot E_0^*) = 0$$

$\Rightarrow$  no electron heating

$\Rightarrow$  no dissipation

For  $\omega < \omega_{pe}$ ,

$$kc = \sqrt{\omega^2 - \omega_{pe}^2} = i \sqrt{\omega_{pe}^2 - \omega^2}$$

- ⇒ wave reflection but no dissipation
- ⇒ like total internal reflection

Group versus phase velocity

For a plasma wave

$$\omega^2 = \omega_{pe}^2 + kc^2$$

Consider the phase of a wave,

$$E \sim e^{ikx - i\omega t} = e^{i\phi}$$

Velocity of phase of the wave,  $v_p$ ,

$$\frac{d}{dt} \phi = k \dot{x} - \omega = 0$$

$$v_p = \dot{x} = \frac{\omega}{k}$$

For a plasma wave

$$\frac{v_p}{c} = \frac{\sqrt{\omega_{pe}^2 + kc^2}}{kc} = \sqrt{1 + \frac{\omega_{pe}^2}{k^2 c^2}} > 1$$

$$\Rightarrow v_p > c$$

- ⇒ How is this possible?
- ⇒ no information propagation at  $v_p$
- ⇒ must modulate the signal.

⇒ modulated signal propagates at the group velocity.

## Group velocity

Consider 1-D wave propagation

$$E_x, B_y, \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \neq 0$$

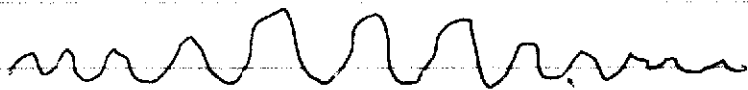
$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \vec{B} + \nabla \times \vec{E} = 0$$

$$\textcircled{1} \quad \frac{\partial}{\partial t} B_y + \frac{\partial}{\partial z} E_x = 0$$

$$\nabla \times \vec{B} = \mu_0 \vec{J} + \mu_0 \epsilon_0 \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \vec{E}$$

$$\textcircled{2} \quad -\frac{\partial}{\partial z} B_y = \mu_0 J_x + \frac{1}{c^2} \frac{\partial}{\partial t} E_x$$

Consider a nearly monochromatic wave



⇒ modulation transfers information

$$E_x(z, t) = E_0(z, t) \cos(k_0 z - \omega_0 t)$$

with  $E_0(z, t)$  slowly varying in space and time.

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} E_0 \ll k_0 E_0$$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} E_0 \ll \omega_0 E_0$$

Take  $\frac{\partial}{\partial t}$  of eqn. (2)

$$-\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \frac{\partial}{\partial z} B_y = -\frac{\partial}{\partial z} \left( -\frac{\partial}{\partial t} E_x \right)$$

$$= \mu_0 \underbrace{\frac{\partial}{\partial t} J_x}_{-ne \frac{\partial}{\partial t} v_{ex}} + \frac{1}{c^2} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial t^2} E_x - \frac{e}{m_e} E_x$$

$$\frac{\partial^2}{\partial t^2} E_x - c^2 \frac{\partial^2}{\partial z^2} E_x + \omega_{pe}^2 E_x = 0$$

$$\ddot{E}_x = -\omega_0^2 E_0(z,t) \cos(L) + 2\omega_0 \dot{E}_0 \sin(L) + \ddot{E}_0 \cos(L)$$

$$\frac{\partial^2}{\partial z^2} E_x = -k_0^2 E_0 \cos(L) - 2k_0 \left( \frac{\partial}{\partial z} E_0 \right) \sin(L) + \frac{\partial^2 E_0}{\partial z^2} \cos(L)$$

⇒ Keep only first order in derivatives acting on  $E_0$ .

$$\left( -\omega_0^2 + k_0^2 c^2 + \omega_{pe}^2 \right) E_0 \cos(L)$$

$$+ 2 \left( \omega_0 \dot{E}_0 + k_0 c^2 \frac{\partial}{\partial z} E_0 \right) \sin(L) = 0$$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} E_0 + \frac{k_0 c^2}{\omega_0} \frac{\partial}{\partial z} E_0 = 0$$

$$\omega_0^2 = \omega_{pe}^2 + k_0^2 c^2$$

$$2 \omega_0 \underbrace{\frac{d\omega_0}{dk_0}}_{V_g} = 2 k_0 c^2$$

$$\frac{d\omega_0}{dk_0} = V_g = \frac{k_0 c^2}{\omega_0} = \text{group velocity}$$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} E_0 + V_g \frac{\partial}{\partial z} E_0 = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow E_0(z, t) = E_0(z - V_g t, 0)$$

$\Rightarrow$  wave modulation propagates at  $V_g$

For plasma waves

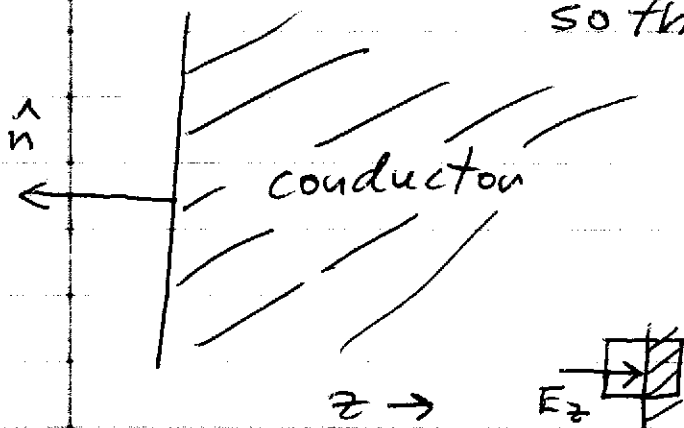
$$\frac{V_g}{c} = \frac{k_0 c}{\omega_0} = \frac{c}{v_p} < 1$$

$\Rightarrow$  information propagates at a velocity less than  $c$ .

## Fields at the surface of a conductor

First consider a perfect conductor with  $\sigma \rightarrow \infty$ .

$\Rightarrow \vec{E} = 0$  inside the conductor so that  $\vec{J} \neq \infty$ .



From  $\nabla \cdot \vec{D} = \rho$

$$\hat{n} \cdot \vec{D}_m = \sigma = \text{surface charge density}$$

$\Rightarrow$  at the surface  $E_z \neq 0$ .

From Faraday's law

$$\frac{\partial \vec{B}}{\partial t} = -\nabla \times \vec{E} \quad \Rightarrow \quad \vec{B} = 0 \text{ inside conductor for a time varying wave.}$$

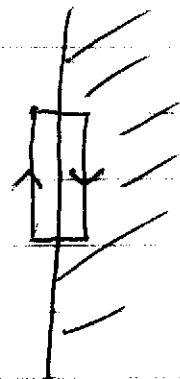
$$\Rightarrow \hat{n} \cdot \vec{B} = 0$$

$\Rightarrow B_z = 0$  at the surface

From

$$\nabla \times \vec{H} = \vec{J} + \epsilon_0 \frac{\partial \vec{E}}{\partial t}$$

From integral around loop and  $\vec{E}$  zero on finite inside loop



$$\hat{n} \times \underline{H}_m = \underline{K} = \text{surface current}$$

$$\Rightarrow \text{tangential } \underline{H} \neq 0$$

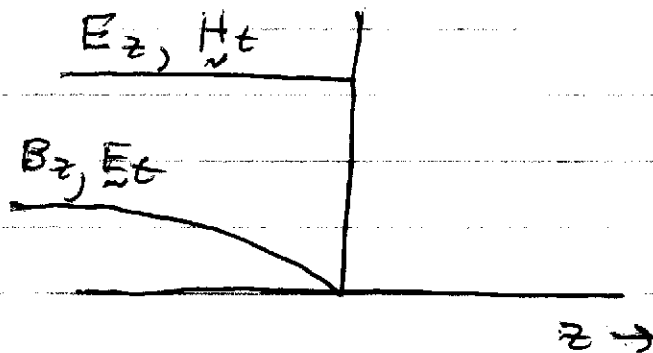
$$\Rightarrow H_t \neq 0$$

From  $\nabla \times \underline{E}_m + \frac{\partial \underline{B}_m}{\partial t} = 0$  integrated around loop and  $\underline{B}_m$  finite (outside) and zero inside

$$\hat{n} \times \underline{E}_m = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow E_t = 0$$

$\Rightarrow$  field profiles at the surface of an ideal conductor



Now consider a non-ideal conductor with finite  $\sigma$  and small but non zero skin depth  $\delta$ .

$\Rightarrow$  EM waves decay over a distance  $\delta$  that is small compared with  $k_0 = c/\omega$ .



$\Rightarrow \vec{E}_m \rightarrow 0$  once one is at a distance greater than  $\delta$  in the conductor

$\Rightarrow$  very close to the surface  $\vec{E}_m \neq 0$ .

What are the BCs at the surface?

$$\nabla \times \vec{H} = \vec{J} + \epsilon_0 \frac{\partial \vec{E}}{\partial t}$$

$\Rightarrow$  from Amperian loop with  $\vec{J}$ ,  $\vec{E}$  finite

$$\hat{n} \times \vec{H} \Big|_{-}^{+} = 0 \quad \Rightarrow \text{no singular currents for } \epsilon \neq \infty$$

From  $\nabla \times \vec{E} + \frac{\partial \vec{B}}{\partial t} = 0$  and  $\vec{B}$  finite,

$$\hat{n} \times \vec{E} \Big|_{-}^{+} = 0$$

$$\text{From } \nabla \cdot \vec{E} = \frac{\rho}{\epsilon_0} \Rightarrow \vec{E} \cdot \hat{n} \Big|_{-}^{+} = \frac{\Sigma}{\epsilon_0}$$

$\Rightarrow$  surface charge can be non-zero

$$\text{From } \nabla \cdot \vec{B} = 0 \Rightarrow \vec{B} \cdot \hat{n} \Big|_{-}^{+} = 0$$

## Wave characteristics at a conducting surface

Outside:

$$\vec{E}, \vec{B} \sim e^{i\vec{k} \cdot \vec{x} - i\omega t}$$

$$k_0^2 = \frac{\omega^2}{c^2} = k_t^2 + k_{z0}^2$$

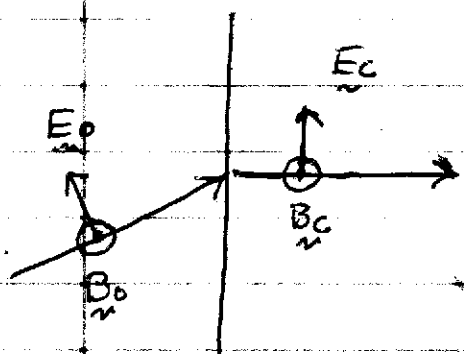
Inside:

$$k^2 = k_t^2 + k_{zc}^2$$

where  $k_{zc} = \frac{1+i}{\delta} \Rightarrow k_{z0}, k_t, \frac{\omega}{c}$

and  $k_t$  is unchanged across the boundary  $\Rightarrow$  as discussed in the case of a dielectric interface

Therefore, inside  $\vec{k} \sim k_{zc} \hat{z}$



Wave turns normal to the conducting surface.

$$\text{Let } \vec{B}_c = B_c(z) e^{i\frac{z}{\delta}} e^{-\frac{z}{\delta}}$$

Need to calculate  $\vec{E}_c$ ,

$$\nabla \times \vec{B}_c = \mu_0 \vec{J}_c = \mu_0 \sigma \vec{E}_c$$

$$\Rightarrow \vec{E}_c = \frac{1}{\mu_0 \sigma} \nabla \times \vec{B}_c = -\frac{1}{\sigma \mu_0} \hat{n} \times \vec{B}_c k_{zc}$$

$$\vec{E}_c = -\frac{1}{\sigma \mu_0} \frac{1}{\delta} (-1+i) \hat{n} \times \vec{B}_c$$

Since  $\sigma = \frac{2}{\mu_0 \omega \delta^2}$

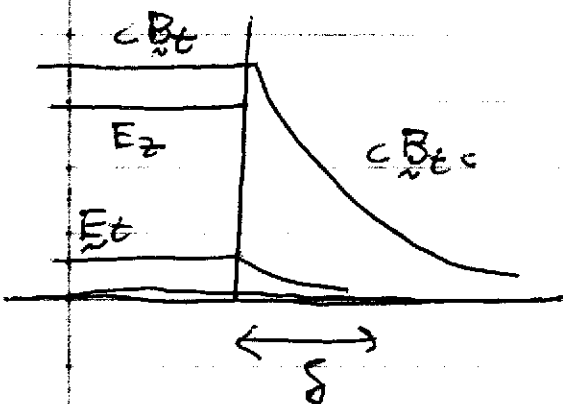
$$\vec{E}_c = -\frac{\omega \delta}{2} (-1+i) \hat{n} \times \vec{B}_c$$

Want to compare  $E_c/cB_c$  with the value in the vacuum where  $E_0/cB_0 = 1$ .

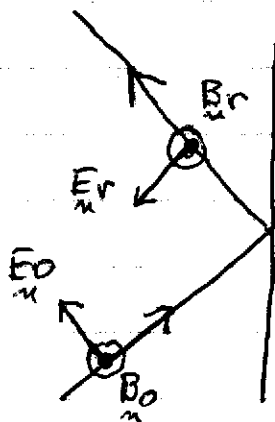
$$\frac{E_c}{cB_c} \approx \frac{\omega \delta}{c} \sim k_0 \delta \ll 1$$

$\Rightarrow \vec{E}_c$  inside the conductor is small

$\Rightarrow$  But  $\vec{E}_t$  is continuous across the boundary so  $\vec{E}_t$  is also small in the vacuum region near the surface



Why is  $\vec{E}_t$  small in the vacuum?



Most wave energy reflected.  
Tangential  $E_0, E_n$  cancel.

Is power flow into the conductor small?

$$\vec{S} = \vec{E} \times \vec{H}$$

$$-\hat{n} \cdot \vec{S}_c = -\frac{1}{2} \operatorname{Re} \hat{n} \cdot (\vec{E}_c \times \vec{B}_c^*) \frac{1}{\mu_0}$$

$$= \frac{1}{2\mu_0} \operatorname{Re} \hat{n} \cdot (\vec{B}_c^* \times (-\frac{\omega\delta}{2})(i-1)\hat{n} \times \vec{B}_c)$$

$$= -\frac{\omega\delta}{4\mu_0} \operatorname{Re} \left[ (i-1) \hat{n} \cdot [\vec{B}_c^* \times (\hat{n} \times \vec{B}_c)] \right]$$
  
$$|\vec{B}_c|^2 \hat{n} - \vec{B}_c \vec{B}_c^* \cdot \hat{n}$$

$$= +\frac{\omega\delta}{4\mu_0} (|\vec{B}_c|^2 - |\hat{n} \cdot \vec{B}_c|^2)$$

$$= \frac{\omega\delta}{4\mu_0} |\vec{B}_t|^2 = \frac{k_0\delta}{4} c \frac{1}{\mu_0} |\vec{B}_t|^2$$

$$\sim \frac{k_0\delta}{2} \left[ c \frac{1}{2\mu_0} |\vec{B}_t|^2 \right] \sim \frac{k_0\delta}{2} S_0$$

$S_c \sim k_0\delta S_0 \ll S_0$  with  $S_0$  the incident Poynting flux

$\Rightarrow$  most of the wave energy is reflected.

$\Rightarrow \hat{n} \times \vec{E}$  is small