

LECTURE NOTES 5

ELECTROMAGNETIC WAVES IN VACUUM

THE WAVE EQUATION FOR \vec{E} AND \vec{B}

In regions of free space (*i.e.* the vacuum), where no electric charges, no electric currents and no matter of any kind are present, Maxwell's equations (in differential form) are:

1) $\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{E}(\vec{r}, t) = 0$ 3) $\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{E}(\vec{r}, t) = -\frac{\partial \vec{B}(\vec{r}, t)}{\partial t}$	2) $\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{B}(\vec{r}, t) = 0$ 4) $\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{B}(\vec{r}, t) = \mu_0 \epsilon_0 \frac{\partial \vec{E}(\vec{r}, t)}{\partial t} = \frac{1}{c^2} \frac{\partial \vec{E}(\vec{r}, t)}{\partial t}$ <div style="text-align: center; margin-top: -10px;"> $(c^2 = 1/\epsilon_0 \mu_0)$ </div>	$\left. \vphantom{\begin{matrix} 1) \\ 3) \end{matrix}} \right\}$	Set of coupled first-order partial differential equations
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We can de-couple Maxwell's equations *e.g.* by applying the curl operator to equations 3) and 4):

$\begin{aligned} \vec{\nabla} \times (\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{E}) &= \vec{\nabla} \times \left(-\frac{\partial \vec{B}}{\partial t} \right) \\ &= \vec{\nabla} (\cancel{\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{E}}) - \nabla^2 \vec{E} = -\frac{\partial}{\partial t} (\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{B}) \\ &= -\nabla^2 \vec{E} = -\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \left(\frac{1}{c^2} \frac{\partial \vec{E}}{\partial t} \right) \\ &= \boxed{\nabla^2 \vec{E} = \frac{1}{c^2} \frac{\partial^2 \vec{E}}{\partial t^2}} \end{aligned}$	$\begin{aligned} \vec{\nabla} \times (\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{B}) &= \vec{\nabla} \times \left(\frac{1}{c^2} \frac{\partial \vec{E}}{\partial t} \right) \\ &= \vec{\nabla} (\cancel{\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{B}}) - \nabla^2 \vec{B} = \frac{1}{c^2} \frac{\partial}{\partial t} (\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{E}) \\ &= -\nabla^2 \vec{B} = \frac{1}{c^2} \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \left(-\frac{\partial \vec{B}}{\partial t} \right) \\ &= \boxed{\nabla^2 \vec{B} = \frac{1}{c^2} \frac{\partial^2 \vec{B}}{\partial t^2}} \end{aligned}$
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These are three-dimensional de-coupled wave equations for \vec{E} and \vec{B} - note that they have exactly the same structure – both are linear, homogeneous, 2nd order differential equations.

Remember that each of the above equations is explicitly dependent on space and time,

i.e. $\vec{E} = \vec{E}(\vec{r}, t)$ and $\vec{B} = \vec{B}(\vec{r}, t)$:

$$\boxed{\nabla^2 \vec{E}(\vec{r}, t) = \frac{1}{c^2} \frac{\partial^2 \vec{E}(\vec{r}, t)}{\partial t^2}}$$

$$\boxed{\nabla^2 \vec{B}(\vec{r}, t) = \frac{1}{c^2} \frac{\partial^2 \vec{B}(\vec{r}, t)}{\partial t^2}}$$

or:

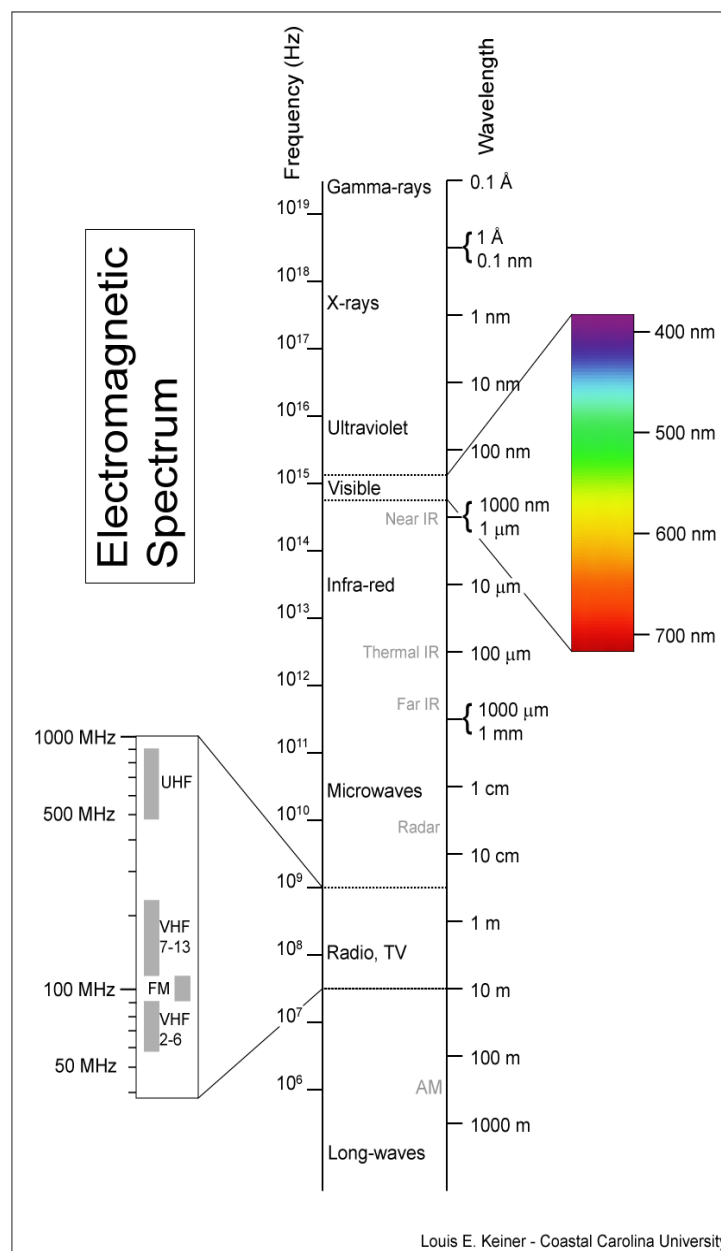
$$\boxed{\nabla^2 \vec{E}(\vec{r}, t) - \frac{1}{c^2} \frac{\partial^2 \vec{E}(\vec{r}, t)}{\partial t^2} = 0}$$

$$\boxed{\nabla^2 \vec{B}(\vec{r}, t) - \frac{1}{c^2} \frac{\partial^2 \vec{B}(\vec{r}, t)}{\partial t^2} = 0}$$

Thus, Maxwell's equations implies that empty space – the vacuum {which is not empty, at the microscopic scale} – supports the propagation of {macroscopic} electromagnetic waves, which propagate at the speed of light {in vacuum}: $c = 1/\sqrt{\epsilon_0 \mu_0} = 3 \times 10^8 \text{ m/s}$.

EM waves have associated with them a frequency f and wavelength λ , related to each other via $c = f\lambda$. At the microscopic level, EM waves consist of large numbers of {massless} real photons, each carrying energy $E = hf = hc/\lambda$, linear momentum $|\vec{p}| = h/\lambda = hf/c = E/c$ and angular momentum $|\vec{\ell}| = 1\hbar$ where $h = \text{Planck's constant} = 6.626 \times 10^{-34} \text{ Joule-sec}$ and $\hbar \equiv h/2\pi$.

EM waves can have any frequency/any wavelength – the continuum of EM waves over the frequency region $0 < f < \infty$ (c.p.s. or Hertz {aka Hz}), or equivalently, over the wavelength region $0 < \lambda < \infty$ (m) is known as the electromagnetic spectrum, which has been divided up (for convenience) into eight bands as shown in the figure below (kindly provided by Prof. Louis E. Keiner, of Coastal Carolina University, Conway, SC):

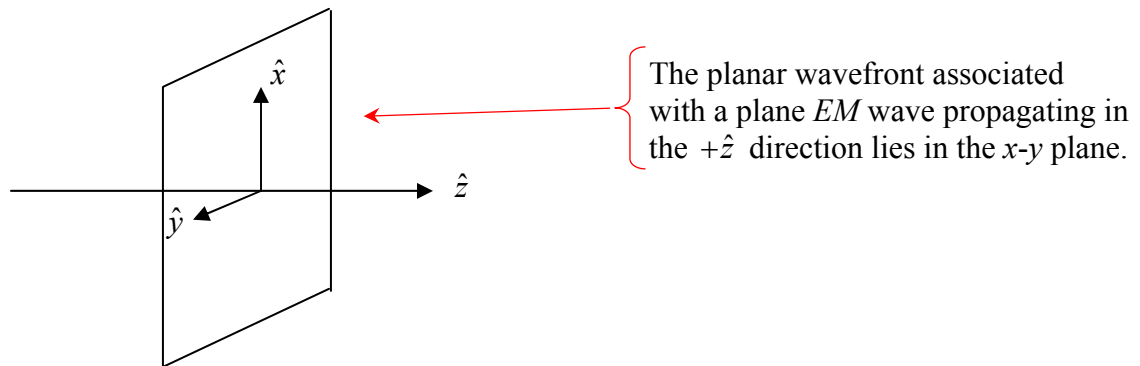


Monochromatic EM Plane Waves:

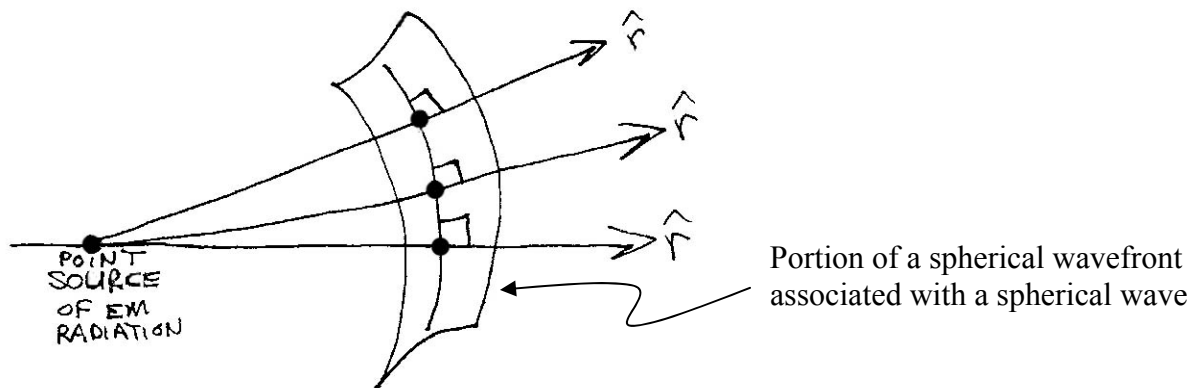
Monochromatic *EM* plane waves propagating in free space/the vacuum are sinusoidal *EM* plane waves consisting of a single frequency f , wavelength $\lambda = c/f$, angular frequency $\omega = 2\pi f$ and wavenumber $k = 2\pi/\lambda$. They propagate with speed $c = f\lambda = \omega/k$.

In the visible region of the *EM* spectrum $\{\sim 380 \text{ nm (violet)} \leq \lambda \leq \sim 780 \text{ nm (red)}\}$, *EM* light waves (consisting of real photons) of a given frequency / wavelength are perceived by the human eye as having a specific, single color. Hence we call such single-frequency, sinusoidal *EM* waves mono-chromatic.

EM waves that propagate *e.g.* in the $+\hat{z}$ direction but which additionally have no explicit x - or y -dependence are known as plane waves, because for a given time, t the wave front(s) of the *EM* wave lie in a plane which is \perp to the \hat{z} -axis, as shown in the figure below:



Note that there also exist spherical *EM* waves – *e.g.* emitted from a point source (*e.g.* an atom) or a small antenna – the wavefronts associated with these *EM* waves are spherical, and thus do not lie in a plane \perp to the direction of propagation of the *EM* wave:



n.b. If the point source is infinitely far away from observer, then a spherical wave \rightarrow plane wave in this limit, (the radius of curvature $\rightarrow \infty$); a spherical surface becomes planar as $R_C \rightarrow \infty$.

Criterion for a plane wave: $\boxed{\lambda \ll R_C}$

Monochromatic plane waves associated with \vec{E} and \vec{B} :

$$\boxed{\vec{E}(z,t) = \vec{E}_o e^{i(kz-\omega t)}}$$

Propagating in
 $+\hat{z}$ direction

n.b. complex vectors:
e.g. $\boxed{\vec{E}_o = E_o e^{i\delta} \hat{x}}$

$$\boxed{\vec{B}(z,t) = \vec{B}_o e^{i(kz-\omega t)}}$$

Propagating in
 $+\hat{z}$ direction

n.b. complex vectors:
e.g. $\boxed{\vec{B}_o = B_o e^{i\delta} \hat{y}}$

n.b. The real, physical (instantaneous) fields are:

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \boxed{\vec{E}(\vec{r},t) \equiv \text{Re}(\vec{E}(\vec{r},t))} \\ \boxed{\vec{B}(\vec{r},t) \equiv \text{Re}(\vec{B}(\vec{r},t))} \end{array} \right\} \quad \boxed{\text{Very important to keep in mind!!}}$$

Note that Maxwell's equations for free space impose additional constraints on \vec{E}_o and \vec{B}_o .
 \rightarrow Not just any \vec{E}_o and/or \vec{B}_o is acceptable / allowed !!!

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Since: } \vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{E} &= 0 & \text{and: } \vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{B} &= 0 \\ &= \text{Re}(\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{E}) = 0 & &= \text{Re}(\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{B}) = 0 \end{aligned}$$

These two relations can only be satisfied $\forall(\vec{r},t)$ if $\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{E} = 0 \quad \forall(\vec{r},t)$ and $\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{B} = 0 \quad \forall(\vec{r},t)$.

In Cartesian coordinates: $\vec{\nabla} = \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \hat{x} + \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \hat{y} + \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \hat{z}$

Thus: $(\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{E}) = 0$ and $(\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{B}) = 0$ become:

$$\left(\frac{\partial}{\partial x} \hat{x} + \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \hat{y} + \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \hat{z} \right) \cdot \left(\vec{E}_o e^{i(kz-\omega t)} \right) = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial x} \hat{x} + \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \hat{y} + \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \hat{z} \right) \cdot \left(\vec{B}_o e^{i(kz-\omega t)} \right) = 0$$

Now suppose we do allow: $\vec{E}_o = \underbrace{(E_{ox} \hat{x} + E_{oy} \hat{y} + E_{oz} \hat{z})}_{\text{polarization in } \hat{x}-\hat{y}-\hat{z} \text{ (3-D)}} e^{i\delta} \equiv \vec{E}_o e^{i\delta}$

$\vec{B}_o = \underbrace{(B_{ox} \hat{x} + B_{oy} \hat{y} + B_{oz} \hat{z})}_{\text{polarization in } \hat{x}-\hat{y}-\hat{z} \text{ (3-D)}} e^{i\delta} \equiv \vec{B}_o e^{i\delta}$

Then:

$$\begin{array}{l} \boxed{\left(\frac{\partial}{\partial x} \hat{x} + \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \hat{y} + \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \hat{z} \right) \cdot (E_{ox} \hat{x} + E_{oy} \hat{y} + E_{oz} \hat{z}) e^{i\delta} e^{i(kz-\omega t)} = 0} \\ \boxed{\left(\frac{\partial}{\partial x} \hat{x} + \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \hat{y} + \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \hat{z} \right) \cdot (B_{ox} \hat{x} + B_{oy} \hat{y} + B_{oz} \hat{z}) e^{i\delta} e^{i(kz-\omega t)} = 0} \end{array}$$

Or:

$$\left(\frac{\partial}{\partial x} \hat{x} + \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \hat{y} + \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \hat{z} \right) \cdot (E_{ox} \hat{x} + E_{oy} \hat{y} + E_{oz} \hat{z}) e^{i(kz - \omega t)} e^{i\delta} = 0$$

$$\left(\frac{\partial}{\partial x} \hat{x} + \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \hat{y} + \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \hat{z} \right) \cdot (B_{ox} \hat{x} + B_{oy} \hat{y} + B_{oz} \hat{z}) e^{i(kz - \omega t)} e^{i\delta} = 0$$

Now: E_{ox}, E_{oy}, E_{oz} = Amplitudes (constants) of the electric field components in x, y, z directions respectively.

B_{ox}, B_{oy}, B_{oz} = Amplitudes (constants) of the magnetic field components in x, y, z directions respectively.

We see that:

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial x} \hat{x} \cdot E_{ox} \hat{x} e^{i(kz - \omega t)} e^{i\delta} = 0 \quad \leftarrow \text{has no explicit } x\text{-dependence}$$

And:

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial y} \hat{y} \cdot E_{oy} \hat{y} e^{i(kz - \omega t)} e^{i\delta} = 0 \quad \leftarrow \text{has no explicit } y\text{-dependence}$$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial x} \hat{x} \cdot B_{ox} \hat{x} e^{i(kz - \omega t)} e^{i\delta} = 0 \quad \leftarrow \text{has no explicit } x\text{-dependence}$$

And:

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial y} \hat{y} \cdot B_{oy} \hat{y} e^{i(kz - \omega t)} e^{i\delta} = 0 \quad \leftarrow \text{has no explicit } y\text{-dependence}$$

However:

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial z} (e^{az}) = a e^{az}$$

Thus:

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial z} \hat{z} \cdot E_{oz} \hat{z} e^{i(kz - \omega t)} e^{i\delta} = ik E_{oz} e^{i(kz - \omega t)} e^{i\delta} = 0 \quad \Leftarrow \text{true iff } E_{oz} \equiv 0 !!!$$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial z} \hat{z} \cdot B_{oz} \hat{z} e^{i(kz - \omega t)} e^{i\delta} = ik B_{oz} e^{i(kz - \omega t)} e^{i\delta} = 0 \quad \Leftarrow \text{true iff } B_{oz} \equiv 0 !!!$$

- Thus, Maxwell's equations additionally tell us/impose the restriction that an electromagnetic plane wave cannot have any component of \vec{E} or \vec{B} \parallel to (or anti- \parallel to) the propagation direction (in this case here, the \hat{z} -direction)
- Another way of stating this is that an *EM* wave cannot have any longitudinal components of \vec{E} and \vec{B} (*i.e.* components of \vec{E} and \vec{B} lying along the propagation direction).
- Thus, Maxwell's equations additionally tell us that an *EM* wave is a purely transverse wave (at least while it is propagating in free space) – *i.e.* the components of \vec{E} and \vec{B} must be \perp to propagation direction.
- The plane of polarization of an *EM* wave is defined (by convention) to be parallel to \vec{E} .

Furthermore: Maxwell's equations impose yet another restriction on the allowed form of \vec{E} and \vec{B} for an EM wave:

$$\begin{array}{l} \boxed{\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{E} = -\frac{\partial \vec{B}}{\partial t}} \quad \text{and/or:} \quad \boxed{\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{B} = \frac{1}{c^2} \frac{\partial \vec{E}}{\partial t}} \\ \boxed{= \text{Re} \left(\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{\tilde{E}} \right) = \text{Re} \left(-\frac{\partial \vec{\tilde{B}}}{\partial t} \right)} \quad \boxed{= \text{Re} \left(\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{\tilde{B}} \right) = \text{Re} \left(\frac{1}{c^2} \frac{\partial \vec{\tilde{E}}}{\partial t} \right)} \end{array}$$

Can only be satisfied $\forall (\vec{r}, t)$ **iff**:

$$\boxed{\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{\tilde{E}} = -\frac{\partial \vec{\tilde{B}}}{\partial t}} \quad \text{and/or:} \quad \boxed{\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{\tilde{B}} = \frac{1}{c^2} \frac{\partial \vec{\tilde{E}}}{\partial t}}$$

Thus:

$$\begin{array}{l} \vec{\nabla} \times \vec{\tilde{E}} = \left(\frac{\partial \tilde{E}_z}{\partial y} - \frac{\partial \tilde{E}_y}{\partial z} \right) \hat{x} + \left(\frac{\partial \tilde{E}_x}{\partial z} - \frac{\partial \tilde{E}_z}{\partial x} \right) \hat{y} + \left(\frac{\partial \tilde{E}_y}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial \tilde{E}_x}{\partial y} \right) \hat{z} = -\frac{\partial \tilde{B}_x}{\partial t} \hat{x} - \frac{\partial \tilde{B}_y}{\partial t} \hat{y} - \frac{\partial \tilde{B}_z}{\partial t} \hat{z} \\ \vec{\nabla} \times \vec{\tilde{B}} = \left(\frac{\partial \tilde{B}_z}{\partial y} - \frac{\partial \tilde{B}_y}{\partial z} \right) \hat{x} + \left(\frac{\partial \tilde{B}_x}{\partial z} - \frac{\partial \tilde{B}_z}{\partial x} \right) \hat{y} + \left(\frac{\partial \tilde{B}_y}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial \tilde{B}_x}{\partial y} \right) \hat{z} = \frac{1}{c^2} \frac{\partial \tilde{E}_x}{\partial t} \hat{x} + \frac{1}{c^2} \frac{\partial \tilde{E}_y}{\partial t} \hat{y} + \frac{1}{c^2} \frac{\partial \tilde{E}_z}{\partial t} \hat{z} \end{array}$$

With:

$$\begin{array}{l} \vec{\tilde{E}} = \tilde{E}_x \hat{x} + \tilde{E}_y \hat{y} + \tilde{E}_z \hat{z} = \left(E_{ox} \hat{x} + E_{oy} \hat{y} + E_{oz} \hat{z} \right) e^{i(kz - \omega t)} e^{i\delta} \\ \vec{\tilde{B}} = \tilde{B}_x \hat{x} + \tilde{B}_y \hat{y} + \tilde{B}_z \hat{z} = \left(B_{ox} \hat{x} + B_{oy} \hat{y} + B_{oz} \hat{z} \right) e^{i(kz - \omega t)} e^{i\delta} \end{array}$$

Thus:

$$\begin{array}{l} \vec{\tilde{E}} = \tilde{E}_x \hat{x} + \tilde{E}_y \hat{y} = \left(E_{ox} \hat{x} + E_{oy} \hat{y} \right) e^{i(kz - \omega t)} e^{i\delta} \\ \vec{\tilde{B}} = \tilde{B}_x \hat{x} + \tilde{B}_y \hat{y} = \left(B_{ox} \hat{x} + B_{oy} \hat{y} \right) e^{i(kz - \omega t)} e^{i\delta} \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{l} \therefore \vec{\nabla} \times \vec{\tilde{E}} = -\frac{\partial \tilde{E}_y}{\partial z} \hat{x} + \frac{\partial \tilde{E}_x}{\partial z} \hat{y} = -\frac{\partial \tilde{B}_x}{\partial t} \hat{x} - \frac{\partial \tilde{B}_y}{\partial t} \hat{y} \\ \therefore \vec{\nabla} \times \vec{\tilde{B}} = -\frac{\partial \tilde{B}_y}{\partial z} \hat{x} + \frac{\partial \tilde{B}_x}{\partial z} \hat{y} = \frac{1}{c^2} \frac{\partial \tilde{E}_x}{\partial t} \hat{x} + \frac{1}{c^2} \frac{\partial \tilde{E}_y}{\partial t} \hat{y} \end{array}$$

Can only be satisfied /
can only be true **iff** the
 \hat{x} and \hat{y} relations are
separately / independently
satisfied $\forall (\vec{r}, t)$!

$$\text{i.e. } \vec{\nabla} \times \vec{E}: \quad \begin{aligned} -\frac{\partial \tilde{E}_y}{\partial z} \hat{x} &= -\frac{\partial \tilde{B}_x}{\partial t} \hat{x} \Rightarrow \frac{\partial \tilde{E}_y}{\partial z} = \frac{\partial \tilde{B}_x}{\partial t} \Rightarrow ikE_{oy} = -i\omega B_{ox} \end{aligned} \quad (1)$$

$$+\frac{\partial \tilde{E}_x}{\partial z} \hat{y} = -\frac{\partial \tilde{B}_y}{\partial t} \hat{y} \Rightarrow \frac{\partial \tilde{E}_x}{\partial z} = -\frac{\partial \tilde{B}_y}{\partial t} \Rightarrow ikE_{ox} = +i\omega B_{oy} \quad (2)$$

$$\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{B}: \quad \begin{aligned} -\frac{\partial \tilde{B}_y}{\partial z} \hat{x} &= \frac{1}{c^2} \frac{\partial \tilde{E}_x}{\partial t} \hat{x} \Rightarrow -\frac{\partial \tilde{B}_y}{\partial z} = \frac{1}{c^2} \frac{\partial \tilde{E}_x}{\partial t} \Rightarrow -ikB_{oy} = -\frac{1}{c^2} i\omega E_{ox} \end{aligned} \quad (3)$$

$$+\frac{\partial \tilde{B}_x}{\partial z} \hat{y} = \frac{1}{c^2} \frac{\partial \tilde{E}_y}{\partial t} \hat{y} \Rightarrow \frac{\partial \tilde{B}_x}{\partial z} = \frac{1}{c^2} \frac{\partial \tilde{E}_y}{\partial t} \Rightarrow ikB_{ox} = -\frac{1}{c^2} i\omega E_{oy} \quad (4)$$

$$\text{From (1): } ik\tilde{E}_{oy} = -i\omega B_{ox} \Rightarrow E_{oy} = -\left(\frac{\omega}{k}\right) B_{ox} \quad \text{or: } B_{ox} = -\left(\frac{k}{\omega}\right) E_{oy}$$

$$\text{From (2): } ik\tilde{E}_{ox} = +i\omega B_{oy} \Rightarrow E_{ox} = +\left(\frac{\omega}{k}\right) B_{oy} \quad \text{or: } B_{oy} = +\left(\frac{k}{\omega}\right) E_{ox}$$

$$\text{From (3): } -ikB_{oy} = -\frac{1}{c^2} i\omega E_{ox} \Rightarrow B_{oy} = +\frac{1}{c^2} \left(\frac{\omega}{k}\right) E_{ox}$$

$$\text{From (4): } ikB_{ox} = -\frac{1}{c^2} i\omega E_{oy} \Rightarrow B_{ox} = -\frac{1}{c^2} \left(\frac{\omega}{k}\right) E_{oy}$$

$$\text{Now: } c = f\lambda = (2\pi f) \left(\frac{\lambda}{2\pi}\right) = \left(\frac{\omega}{k}\right) \quad \text{and} \quad \frac{1}{c} = \left(k/\omega\right) \quad \left(k = 2\pi/\lambda\right)$$

$$\therefore \vec{\nabla} \times \vec{E}: \quad \begin{aligned} (1) \quad & B_{ox} = -\frac{1}{c} E_{oy} \\ (2) \quad & B_{oy} = +\frac{1}{c} E_{ox} \end{aligned}$$

$$\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{B}: \quad \begin{aligned} (3) \quad & B_{oy} = +\frac{1}{c} E_{ox} \\ (4) \quad & B_{ox} = -\frac{1}{c} E_{oy} \end{aligned}$$

Maxwell's Equations also have some redundancy encrypted into them!

$$\text{So we really / actually only have two independent relations: } B_{ox} = -\frac{1}{c} E_{oy} \quad \text{and} \quad B_{oy} = +\frac{1}{c} E_{ox}$$

But:

$$\hat{z} \times \hat{y} = -\hat{x}$$

$$\hat{z} \times \hat{x} = +\hat{y}$$

Very Useful Table:

$\hat{x} \times \hat{y} = \hat{z}$	$\hat{y} \times \hat{x} = -\hat{z}$
$\hat{y} \times \hat{z} = \hat{x}$	$\hat{z} \times \hat{y} = -\hat{x}$
$\hat{z} \times \hat{x} = \hat{y}$	$\hat{x} \times \hat{z} = -\hat{y}$

$$\therefore \text{We can write the above two relations succinctly/compactly with one relation: } \vec{B}_o = \frac{1}{c} \left(\hat{z} \times \vec{E}_o \right)$$

Physically, the mathematical relation $\vec{\tilde{B}}_o = \frac{1}{c} (\hat{z} \times \vec{\tilde{E}}_o)$ states that \vec{E} and \vec{B} are:

- in phase with each other.
- mutually perpendicular to each other - i.e. $(\vec{E} \perp \vec{B}) \perp \hat{z}$ (\hat{z} = propagation direction)

The \vec{E} and \vec{B} fields associated with this monochromatic plane *EM* wave are purely transverse { *n.b.* this is as also required by relativity at the microscopic level – for the extreme relativistic particles – the (massless) real photons traveling at the speed of light c that make up the macroscopic monochromatic plane *EM* wave. }

The real amplitudes of \vec{E} and \vec{B} are {also} related to each other by: $B_o = \frac{1}{c} E_o$

with $B_o = \sqrt{B_{ox}^2 + B_{oy}^2}$ and $E_o = \sqrt{E_{ox}^2 + E_{oy}^2}$

Griffiths Example 9.2:

A monochromatic (single-frequency) plane *EM* wave that is plane polarized/linearly polarized in the $+\hat{x}$ direction and is propagating in the $+\hat{z}$ direction, has:

$$\vec{E} = E \hat{x} \iff \text{definition of linearly polarized EM wave in the } +\hat{x} \text{ direction.}$$

$$\therefore \vec{B} = \frac{1}{c} (\hat{z} \times \vec{E}) = \frac{1}{c} (\hat{z} \times E \hat{x}) = \frac{1}{c} E (\underbrace{\hat{z} \times \hat{x}}_{=+\hat{y} \text{ by right-hand rule}}) = \frac{1}{c} E \hat{y}$$

With: $\vec{B} = \frac{1}{c} (\hat{z} \times \vec{E})$, $B = \frac{1}{c} E$ and $B_o = \frac{1}{c} E_o$

Then: $\vec{\tilde{E}}(z, t) = \tilde{E}_o e^{i(kz - \omega t)} \hat{x} = E_o e^{i(kz - \omega t)} e^{i\delta} \hat{x} = E_o e^{i(kz - \omega t + \delta)} \hat{x}$
 $\vec{\tilde{B}}(z, t) = \tilde{B}_o e^{i(kz - \omega t)} \hat{y} = B_o e^{i(kz - \omega t)} e^{i\delta} \hat{y} = B_o e^{i(kz - \omega t + \delta)} \hat{y}$

$$e^{i\theta} = \cos \theta + i \sin \theta$$

The physical (instantaneous) electric and magnetic fields are given by the following expressions:

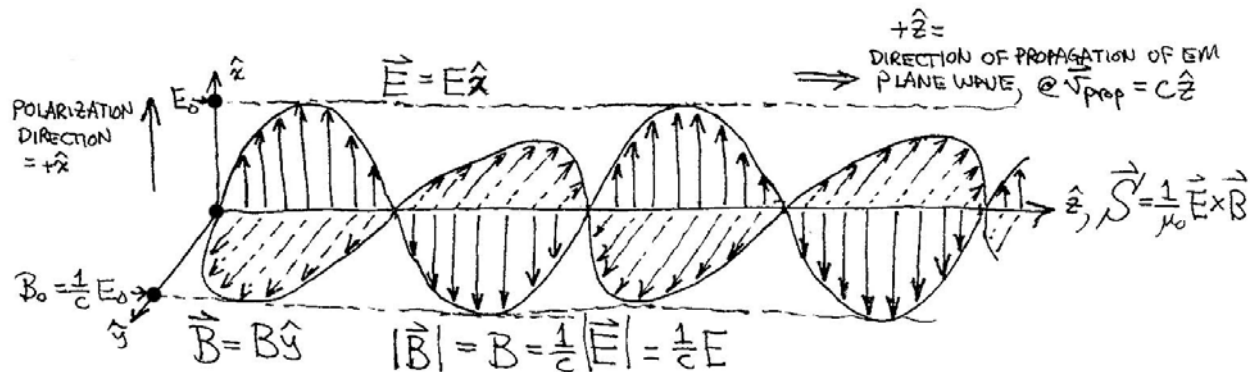
$$\vec{E}(z, t) = \text{Re}(\vec{\tilde{E}}(z, t)) = \text{Re} \left\{ \overbrace{E_o \cos(kz - \omega t + \delta)}^{\text{real}} \hat{x} + i \overbrace{E_o \sin(kz - \omega t + \delta)}^{\text{imaginary}} \hat{x} \right\}$$

$$\vec{E}(z, t) = E_o \cos(kz - \omega t + \delta) \hat{x}$$

$$\vec{B}(z, t) = \text{Re}(\vec{\tilde{B}}(z, t)) = \text{Re} \left\{ \overbrace{B_o \cos(kz - \omega t + \delta)}^{\text{real}} \hat{y} + i \overbrace{B_o \sin(kz - \omega t + \delta)}^{\text{imaginary}} \hat{y} \right\}$$

$$\vec{B}(z, t) = B_o \cos(kz - \omega t + \delta) \hat{y} = \frac{1}{c} E_o \cos(kz - \omega t + \delta) \hat{y}$$

The physical (instantaneous) \vec{E} and \vec{B} fields are in-phase with each other for a linearly polarized *EM* wave



Note that: $(\vec{E} \perp \vec{B}) \perp \hat{z} \Rightarrow \vec{E} \perp \hat{z}, \vec{B} \perp \hat{z}$ (\hat{z} = direction of propagation of EM wave)

Instantaneous Poynting's Vector for a linearly polarized EM wave:

$$\begin{aligned} \vec{S}(z, t) &= \frac{1}{\mu_0} \vec{E}(z, t) \times \vec{B}(z, t) = \frac{1}{\mu_0} \text{Re} \left\{ \tilde{\vec{E}}(z, t) \right\} \times \text{Re} \left\{ \tilde{\vec{B}}(z, t) \right\} \\ \vec{S}(z, t) &= \frac{1}{\mu_0} E_0 B_0 \cos^2(kz - \omega t + \delta) (\hat{x} \times \hat{y}) \\ \vec{S}(z, t) &= \frac{1}{\mu_0} E_0 B_0 \cos^2(kz - \omega t + \delta) \hat{z} \quad \left(\frac{\text{Watts}}{\text{m}^2} \right) \end{aligned}$$

\Rightarrow EM Power flows in the direction of propagation of the EM wave (here, the $+\hat{z}$ direction)

Generalization for Propagation of Monochromatic Plane EM Waves in an Arbitrary Direction

Obviously, there is nothing special / profound with regard to plane EM waves propagating in a specific direction in free space / the vacuum. They can propagate in any direction. We can easily generalize the mathematical description for monochromatic plane EM waves traveling in an arbitrary direction as follows:

Introduce the notion / concept of a wave vector (or propagation vector) \vec{k} which points in the direction of propagation, whose magnitude $|\vec{k}| = k$. Then the scalar product $\vec{k} \cdot \vec{r}$ is the appropriate generalization of kz :

If: $\vec{k} = k\hat{z}$ with $|\vec{k}| = k$ and $\vec{r} = x\hat{x} + y\hat{y} + z\hat{z}$ with $|\vec{r}| = r = \sqrt{x^2 + y^2 + z^2}$

Then: $(\vec{k} \cdot \vec{r}) = k\hat{z} \cdot (x\hat{x} + y\hat{y} + z\hat{z}) = kz$

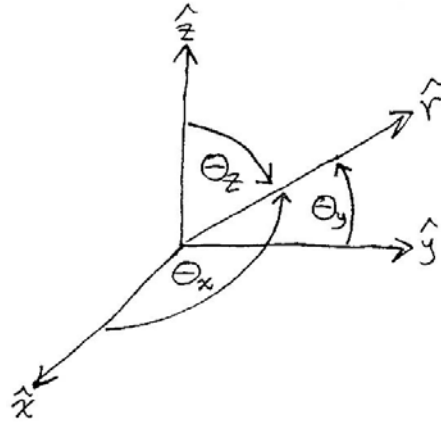
If: $\vec{k} = k_x\hat{x} + k_y\hat{y} + k_z\hat{z}$ with $|\vec{k}| = \sqrt{k_x^2 + k_y^2 + k_z^2}$ and $\vec{r} = x\hat{x} + y\hat{y} + z\hat{z}$ with $|\vec{r}| = \sqrt{x^2 + y^2 + z^2}$

Then: $(\vec{k} \cdot \vec{r}) = k_x x + k_y y + k_z z$

Now:
$$\left. \begin{aligned} k_x &= k \cos \Theta_x \\ k_y &= k \cos \Theta_y \\ k_z &= k \cos \Theta_z \end{aligned} \right\} \text{ where } \cos \Theta_x, \cos \Theta_y, \cos \Theta_z = \text{direction cosines w.r.t.} \\ \text{(with respect to) the } \hat{x}, \hat{y}, \hat{z} \text{-axes respectively}$$

Direction Cosines:
$$\left\{ \begin{aligned} \cos \Theta_x &= \sin \theta \cos \varphi \\ \cos \Theta_y &= \sin \theta \sin \varphi \\ \cos \Theta_z &= \cos \theta \end{aligned} \right\} \text{ in spherical-polar coordinates}$$

Note:
$$\begin{aligned} &\sqrt{\cos^2 \Theta_x + \cos^2 \Theta_y + \cos^2 \Theta_z} \\ &= \sqrt{\sin^2 \theta \cos^2 \varphi + \sin^2 \theta \sin^2 \varphi + \cos^2 \theta} \\ &= \sqrt{\sin^2 \theta + \cos^2 \theta} = 1 \end{aligned}$$



If e.g. $\vec{k} \parallel \vec{r}$ then: $\vec{k} \cdot \vec{r} = kr$. We explicitly demonstrate this in spherical polar coordinates:

For $\vec{k} \parallel \vec{r}$:
$$\left\{ \begin{aligned} k_x &= k \cos \Theta_x = k \sin \theta \cos \varphi \\ k_y &= k \cos \Theta_y = k \sin \theta \sin \varphi \\ k_z &= k \cos \Theta_z = k \cos \theta \end{aligned} \right\} \quad \text{and:} \quad \left\{ \begin{aligned} x &= r \cos \Theta_x = r \sin \theta \cos \varphi \\ y &= r \cos \Theta_y = r \sin \theta \sin \varphi \\ z &= r \cos \Theta_z = r \cos \theta \end{aligned} \right\}$$

Then:
$$\begin{aligned} (\vec{k} \cdot \vec{r}) &= k_x x + k_y y + k_z z = kx \cos \Theta_x + ky \cos \Theta_y + kz \cos \Theta_z \\ &= kr \cos^2 \Theta_x + kr \cos^2 \Theta_y + kr \cos^2 \Theta_z \\ &= kr \sin^2 \theta \cos^2 \varphi + kr \sin^2 \theta \sin^2 \varphi + kr \cos^2 \theta \\ &= kr \{ \sin^2 \theta \cos^2 \varphi + \sin^2 \theta \sin^2 \varphi + \cos^2 \theta \} = kr \{ \sin^2 \theta (\cos^2 \varphi + \sin^2 \varphi) + \cos^2 \theta \} \\ &= kr \{ \sin^2 \theta + \cos^2 \theta \} = kr \end{aligned}$$

Thus, most generally, we can write the $\vec{E}(\vec{r}, t)$ and $\vec{B}(\vec{r}, t)$ -fields as:

$$\vec{E}(\vec{r}, t) = \tilde{E}_o e^{i(\vec{k} \cdot \vec{r} - \omega t)} \hat{n}$$

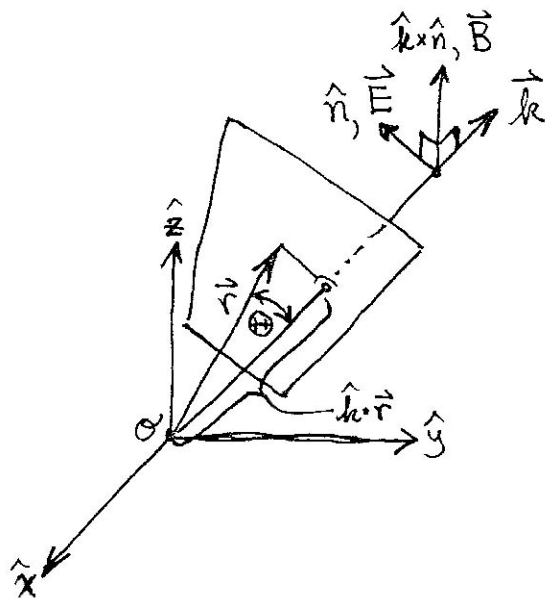
$$\vec{B}(\vec{r}, t) = \tilde{B}_o e^{i(\vec{k} \cdot \vec{r} - \omega t)} (\hat{k} \times \hat{n})$$

$$\vec{B} = \frac{1}{c} \hat{k} \times \vec{E}$$

where: $\hat{n} \equiv$ polarization vector $\hat{n} \perp \vec{k}$
 i.e. $\hat{n} \cdot \hat{k} = 0$ because \vec{E} is transverse

We must have: $\vec{B}(\vec{r}, t) \perp \vec{E}(\vec{r}, t) \perp \hat{k}$ i.e. $\vec{E} \cdot \vec{B} = 0$ and $\vec{E} \cdot \hat{k} = 0$ and $\vec{B} \cdot \hat{k} = 0$

The Direction of Propagation of a Monochromatic Plane *EM* Wave: \hat{k}



The Real/Physical (Instantaneous) *EM* Fields are:

$$\vec{E}(\vec{r}, t) = \text{Re}(\vec{\tilde{E}}(\vec{r}, t)) = E_o \cos(\vec{k} \cdot \vec{r} - \omega t + \delta) \hat{n}$$

where: $\hat{n} \equiv$ polarization vector ($\parallel \vec{E}$)

$$\vec{B}(\vec{r}, t) = \text{Re}(\vec{\tilde{B}}(\vec{r}, t)) = B_o \cos(\vec{k} \cdot \vec{r} - \omega t + \delta) (\hat{k} \times \hat{n})$$

$$\left(B_o = \frac{1}{c} E_o \right) \text{ in free space}$$

Instantaneous Energy & Linear Momentum & Angular Momentum in *EM* Waves

Instantaneous Energy Density Associated with an *EM* Wave:

$$u_{EM}(\vec{r}, t) = \frac{1}{2} \left(\epsilon_o E^2(\vec{r}, t) + \frac{1}{\mu_o} B^2(\vec{r}, t) \right) = u_{elect}(\vec{r}, t) + u_{mag}(\vec{r}, t)$$

where: $u_{elect}(\vec{r}, t) = \frac{1}{2} \epsilon_o E^2(\vec{r}, t)$ and $u_{mag}(\vec{r}, t) = \frac{1}{2\mu_o} B^2(\vec{r}, t) = \frac{1}{2} \epsilon_o E^2(\vec{r}, t)$

But: $B^2 = \frac{1}{c^2} E^2$ for *EM* waves in vacuum, and $\frac{1}{c^2} = \epsilon_o \mu_o$

Thus: $u_{EM}(\vec{r}, t) = \frac{1}{2} \left(\epsilon_o E^2(\vec{r}, t) + \frac{\epsilon_o \cancel{\mu_o}}{\cancel{\mu_o}} E^2(\vec{r}, t) \right) = \frac{1}{2} (\epsilon_o E^2(\vec{r}, t) + \epsilon_o E^2(\vec{r}, t))$

Or: $u_{EM}(\vec{r}, t) = \epsilon_o E^2(\vec{r}, t) = \epsilon_o E_o^2 \cos^2(\vec{k} \cdot \vec{r} - \omega t + \delta) \left(\frac{\text{Joules}}{\text{m}^3} \right)$

n.b. $u_{elect}(\vec{r}, t) = u_{mag}(\vec{r}, t)$ for *EM* waves propagating in the vacuum !!!!

Instantaneous Poynting's Vector Associated with an EM Wave:

$$\vec{S}(\vec{r}, t) = \frac{1}{\mu_o} \vec{E}(\vec{r}, t) \times \vec{B}(\vec{r}, t) = \frac{1}{\mu_o} \operatorname{Re} \left\{ \tilde{\vec{E}}(z, t) \right\} \times \operatorname{Re} \left\{ \tilde{\vec{B}}(z, t) \right\} \quad \left(\frac{\text{Watts}}{\text{m}^2} \right)$$

For a linearly polarized monochromatic plane EM wave propagating in the vacuum, e.g.:

$$\vec{E}(\vec{r}, t) = E_o \cos(kz - \omega t + \delta) \hat{x} \quad \text{and:} \quad \vec{B}(\vec{r}, t) = B_o \cos(kz - \omega t + \delta) \hat{y}$$

Then: $\vec{S}(\vec{r}, t) = \frac{1}{\mu_o} E_o B_o \cos^2(kz - \omega t + \delta) \hat{z}$ but: $B_o = \frac{1}{c} E_o$ for EM waves in vacuum.

Thus: $\vec{S}(\vec{r}, t) = \frac{1}{\mu_o c} E_o^2 \cos^2(kz - \omega t + \delta) \hat{z}$ ← multiply RHS by $1 = \left(\frac{c}{c} \right)$

Hence: $\vec{S}(\vec{r}, t) = c \left(\frac{1}{\mu_o c^2} \right) E_o^2 \cos^2(kz - \omega t + \delta) \hat{z}$ but: $\frac{1}{c^2} = \epsilon_o \mu_o$

Thus: $\vec{S}(\vec{r}, t) = c \left(\frac{\cancel{\epsilon_o} \cancel{\mu_o}}{\cancel{\mu_o}} \right) E_o^2 \cos^2(kz - \omega t + \delta) \hat{z} = c \epsilon_o E_o^2 \cos^2(kz - \omega t + \delta) \hat{z}$

But: $u_{EM}(\vec{r}, t) = \epsilon_o E^2(\vec{r}, t) = \epsilon_o E_o^2 \cos^2(kz - \omega t + \delta)$

∴ $\vec{S}(\vec{r}, t) = c u_{EM}(\vec{r}, t) \hat{z}$ Here, in **this** example, the propagation velocity of energy: $\vec{v}_{prop} = c \hat{z}$

⇒ Poynting's Vector = Energy Density * (Energy) Propagation Velocity: $\vec{S}(\vec{r}, t) = u_{EM}(\vec{r}, t) \vec{v}_{prop}$

Instantaneous Linear Momentum Density Associated with an EM Wave:

$$\vec{\phi}_{EM}(\vec{r}, t) = \epsilon_o \mu_o \vec{S}(\vec{r}, t) = \frac{1}{c^2} \vec{S}(\vec{r}, t) \quad \left(\frac{\text{kg}}{\text{m}^2 \cdot \text{sec}} \right)$$

For linearly polarized monochromatic plane EM waves propagating in the vacuum:

$$\vec{\phi}_{EM} = \frac{1}{c^2} \cancel{\epsilon_o} E_o^2 \cos^2(kz - \omega t + \delta) \hat{z} = \frac{1}{c} \underbrace{\epsilon_o E_o^2 \cos^2(kz - \omega t + \delta)}_{=u_{EM}} \hat{z}$$

But: $u_{EM}(\vec{r}, t) = \epsilon_o E^2(\vec{r}, t) = \epsilon_o E_o^2 \cos^2(kz - \omega t + \delta)$

∴ $\vec{\phi}_{EM}(\vec{r}, t) = \epsilon_o \mu_o \vec{S}(\vec{r}, t) = \frac{1}{c^2} \vec{S}(\vec{r}, t) = \frac{1}{c} u_{EM}(\vec{r}, t) \hat{z} \quad \left(\frac{\text{kg}}{\text{m}^2 \cdot \text{sec}} \right)$


Instantaneous Angular Momentum Density Associated with an EM wave:

$$\boxed{\vec{\ell}_{EM}(\vec{r}, t) = \vec{r} \times \vec{\phi}_{EM}(\vec{r}, t)} \quad \left(\frac{\text{kg}}{\text{m-sec}} \right)$$

But:
$$\boxed{\vec{\phi}_{EM}(\vec{r}, t) = \epsilon_o \mu_o \vec{S}(\vec{r}, t) = \frac{1}{c^2} \vec{S}(\vec{r}, t) = \frac{1}{c} u_{EM}(\vec{r}, t) \hat{z}} \quad \left(\frac{\text{kg}}{\text{m}^2\text{-sec}} \right)$$


∴ for an EM wave propagating in the $+\hat{z}$ direction:

$$\boxed{\vec{\ell}_{EM}(\vec{r}, t) = \frac{1}{c^2} \vec{r} \times \vec{S}(\vec{r}, t) = \frac{1}{c} u_{EM}(\vec{r}, t) (\vec{r} \times \hat{z})} \quad \left(\frac{\text{kg}}{\text{m-sec}} \right)$$

 n.b. depends on the choice of origin

The instantaneous EM power flowing into/out of volume v with bounding surface S enclosing volume v (containing EM fields in the volume v) is:

$$\boxed{P_{EM}(t) = \frac{\partial U_{EM}(t)}{\partial t} = \int_v \frac{\partial u_{EM}(\vec{r}, t)}{\partial t} d\tau = -\oint_S \vec{S}(\vec{r}, t) \cdot d\vec{a}} \quad (\text{Watts})$$

 n.b. closed surface S enclosing volume v .

The instantaneous EM power crossing an (imaginary) surface (e.g. a 2-D plane – a window!) is:

$$\boxed{P_{EM}(t) = -\int_S \vec{S}(\vec{r}, t) \cdot d\vec{a}_\perp}$$

The instantaneous total EM energy contained in volume v is:
$$\boxed{U_{EM}(t) = \int_v u_{EM}(\vec{r}, t) d\tau} \quad (\text{Joules})$$

The instantaneous total EM linear momentum contained in the volume v is:

$$\boxed{\vec{p}_{EM}(t) = \int_v \vec{\phi}_{EM}(\vec{r}, t) d\tau} \quad \left(\frac{\text{kg-m}}{\text{sec}} \right)$$

The instantaneous total EM angular momentum contained in the volume v is:

$$\boxed{\vec{\mathcal{L}}_{EM}(t) = \int_v \vec{\ell}_{EM}(\vec{r}, t) d\tau} \quad \left(\frac{\text{kg-m}^2}{\text{sec}} \right)$$

Time-Averaged Quantities Associated with EM Waves:

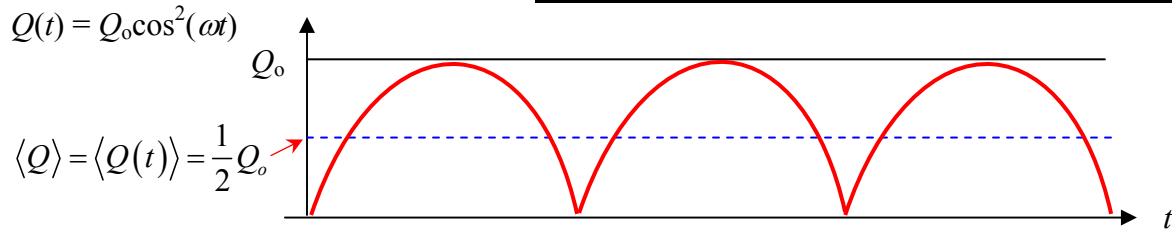
Frequently, we are *not* interested in knowing the instantaneous power $P(t)$, energy / energy density, Poynting's vector, linear and angular momentum, *etc.*- *e.g.* simply because experimental measurements of these quantities are very often averages over many extremely fast cycles of oscillation...

(*e.g.* period of oscillation of light wave $\tau_{\text{light}} = 1/f_{\text{light}} \approx \frac{1}{10^{15} \text{ cps}} = 10^{-15} \text{ sec/cycle} = 1 \text{ femto-sec}$)

$\therefore \Rightarrow$ We want/need time averaged expressions for each of these quantities (*e.g.* in order to compare directly with experimental data) *e.g.* for monochromatic plane EM light waves:

If we have *e.g.* a “generic” instantaneous physical quantity of the form: $Q(t) = Q_o \cos^2(\omega t)$

The time-average of $Q(t)$ is defined as: $\langle Q(t) \rangle = \langle Q \rangle = \frac{1}{\tau} \int_{t=0}^{t=\tau} Q(t) dt = \frac{Q_o}{\tau} \int_{t=0}^{t=\tau} \cos^2(\omega t) dt$



The time average of the $\cos^2(\omega t)$ function:

$$\frac{1}{\tau} \int_0^\tau \cos^2(\omega t) dt = \frac{1}{\tau} \left[\frac{t}{2} + \frac{\sin 2\omega t}{4\omega} \right]_{t=0}^{t=\tau} = \frac{1}{2\tau} \left[(\tau - 0) + \left(\frac{\sin 2\omega\tau}{2\omega} - 0 \right) \right] = \frac{1}{2\tau} \left[\tau + \frac{\sin 2\omega\tau}{2\omega} \right]$$

But: $\omega\tau = 2\pi f\tau$ and: $f = 1/\tau$ $\therefore \omega\tau = 2\pi(\tau/\tau) = 2\pi$ $\therefore \sin(\omega\tau) = \sin(2\pi) = 0$

$$\therefore \frac{1}{\tau} \int_0^\tau \cos^2(\omega t) dt = \frac{1}{2\cancel{\tau}} [\cancel{\tau}] = \frac{1}{2} \therefore \langle Q(t) \rangle = \langle Q \rangle = \frac{1}{2} Q_o$$

Thus, the time-averaged quantities associated with an *EM* wave propagating in free space are:

EM Energy Density:	$u_{EM}(\vec{r}, t) \Rightarrow \langle u_{EM}(\vec{r}, t) \rangle$	Total EM Energy:	$U_{EM}(t) \Rightarrow \langle U_{EM}(t) \rangle$
Poynting's Vector:	$\vec{S}(\vec{r}, t) \Rightarrow \langle \vec{S}_{EM}(\vec{r}, t) \rangle$	EM Power:	$P_{EM}(t) \Rightarrow \langle P_{EM}(t) \rangle$
Linear Momentum Density:	$\vec{\phi}_{EM}(\vec{r}, t) \Rightarrow \langle \vec{\phi}_{EM}(\vec{r}, t) \rangle$	Linear Momentum:	$\vec{p}_{EM}(t) \Rightarrow \langle \vec{p}_{EM}(t) \rangle$
Angular Momentum Density:	$\vec{\ell}_{EM}(\vec{r}, t) \Rightarrow \langle \vec{\ell}_{EM}(\vec{r}, t) \rangle$	Angular Momentum:	$\vec{\mathcal{L}}_{EM}(t) \Rightarrow \langle \vec{\mathcal{L}}_{EM}(t) \rangle$

For a monochromatic *EM* plane wave propagating in free space / vacuum in \hat{z} direction:

Time – averaged quantities for <i>EM</i> plane wave propagating in the $+\hat{z}$ direction	{	$\langle u_{EM}(\vec{r}, t) \rangle = \frac{1}{2} \epsilon_o E_o^2 \quad \left(\frac{\text{Joules}}{\text{m}^3} \right)$
		$\langle \vec{S}(\vec{r}, t) \rangle = \frac{1}{2} c \epsilon_o E_o^2 \hat{z} = c \langle u_{EM}(\vec{r}, t) \rangle \hat{z} \quad \left(\frac{\text{Watts}}{\text{m}^2} \right)$
		$\langle \vec{\ell}_{EM}(\vec{r}, t) \rangle = \frac{1}{2c} \epsilon_o E_o^2 \hat{z} = \frac{1}{c^2} \langle \vec{S}(\vec{r}, t) \rangle = \frac{1}{c} \langle u_{EM}(\vec{r}, t) \rangle \hat{z} \quad \left(\frac{\text{kg}}{\text{m}^2 \cdot \text{sec}} \right)$
		$\langle \vec{\ell}_{EM}(\vec{r}, t) \rangle = (\vec{r} \times \langle \vec{\ell}_{EM}(\vec{r}, t) \rangle) = \frac{1}{c^2} (\vec{r} \times \langle \vec{S}(\vec{r}, t) \rangle) = \frac{1}{c} \langle u_{EM}(\vec{r}, t) \rangle (\hat{r} \times \hat{z}) \quad \left(\frac{\text{kg}}{\text{m} \cdot \text{sec}} \right)$

We define the *intensity* I associated with an *EM* wave as the time average of the magnitude of Poynting's vector:

Intensity of an *EM* wave: $I(\vec{r}) \equiv \langle S(\vec{r}, t) \rangle = \langle |\vec{S}(\vec{r}, t)| \rangle = c \langle u_{EM}(\vec{r}, t) \rangle = \frac{1}{2} c \epsilon_o E_o^2 \quad \left(\frac{\text{Watts}}{\text{m}^2} \right)$

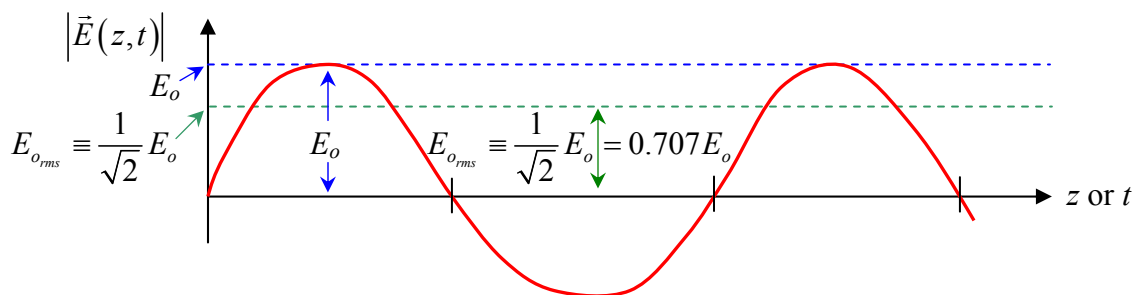
The intensity of an *EM* wave is also known as the irradiance of the *EM* wave – it is the radiant power incident per unit area upon a surface.

When working with time-averaged quantities such as $\langle u_{EM}(\vec{r}, t) \rangle$, $\langle \vec{S}(\vec{r}, t) \rangle$, $\langle \vec{\ell}_{EM}(\vec{r}, t) \rangle$, $\langle \vec{\ell}_{EM}(\vec{r}, t) \rangle$, etc. it is convenient/useful to define the so-called root-mean-square (\equiv RMS) values of the \vec{E} and \vec{B} electric and magnetic field amplitudes (using the mathematical definition of RMS from probability and statistics):

For a monochromatic (*i.e.* single frequency, sinusoidally-varying) *EM* wave (only):

$\vec{E}_{rms} \equiv \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \vec{E}$	\Rightarrow	$E_{o_{rms}} \equiv \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} E_o = 0.707 E_o$
$\vec{B}_{rms} \equiv \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \vec{B}$	\Rightarrow	$B_{o_{rms}} \equiv \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} B_o = 0.707 B_o$

Where: $E_o =$ peak (*i.e.* max) value of the \vec{E} -field = amplitude of the \vec{E} -field.
 $B_o =$ peak (*i.e.* max) value of the \vec{B} -field = amplitude of the \vec{B} -field.



Thus we see that:

$$\begin{array}{l}
 \vec{E}_{rms} \cdot \vec{E}_{rms} = \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \vec{E} \right) \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \vec{E} \right) = \frac{1}{2} \vec{E} \cdot \vec{E} \quad \text{and} \quad \vec{B}_{rms} \cdot \vec{B}_{rms} = \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \vec{B} \right) \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \vec{B} \right) = \frac{1}{2} \vec{B} \cdot \vec{B} \\
 \text{i.e. that:} \quad E_{rms}^2 = \frac{1}{2} E^2 = \frac{1}{2} E_{peak}^2 \Rightarrow E_{o_{rms}}^2 = \frac{1}{2} E_o^2 \quad \text{and} \quad B_{rms}^2 = \frac{1}{2} B^2 = \frac{1}{2} B_{peak}^2 \Rightarrow B_{o_{rms}}^2 = \frac{1}{2} B_o^2
 \end{array}$$

Then:

For mono-
chromatic
EM plane
waves
(only):

$$\begin{array}{l}
 \langle u_{EM}^{rms}(t) \rangle = \frac{1}{2} \langle u_{EM}(t) \rangle = \frac{1}{2} \left\langle \frac{1}{2} \epsilon_o E_o^2 \right\rangle = \frac{1}{4} \epsilon_o E_o^2 = \frac{1}{2} \epsilon_o E_{o_{rms}}^2 \quad \left(\frac{\text{Joules}}{\text{m}^3} \right) \\
 \langle \vec{S}_{rms}(t) \rangle = \frac{1}{2} \langle \vec{S}(t) \rangle = \frac{1}{2} c \langle u_{EM}(t) \rangle \hat{z} = c \langle u_{EM}^{rms}(t) \rangle \hat{z} \quad \left(\frac{\text{Watts}}{\text{m}^2} \right) \\
 \langle \vec{\mathcal{E}}_{EM}^{rms}(t) \rangle = \frac{1}{2c^2} \langle \vec{S}(t) \rangle = \frac{1}{2c} \langle u_{EM}(t) \rangle \hat{z} = \frac{1}{c^2} \langle \vec{S}_{rms}(t) \rangle = \frac{1}{c} \langle u_{EM}^{rms}(t) \rangle \hat{z} \quad \left(\frac{\text{kg}}{\text{m}^2 \cdot \text{sec}} \right) \\
 \langle \vec{\ell}_{EM}^{rms}(t) \rangle = \frac{1}{2} \vec{r} \times \langle \vec{\mathcal{E}}_{EM}(t) \rangle = \vec{r} \times \langle \vec{\mathcal{E}}_{EM}^{rms}(t) \rangle = \frac{1}{c^2} \left(\vec{r} \times \langle \vec{S}_{rms}(t) \rangle \right) = \frac{1}{c} \langle u_{EM}^{rms}(t) \rangle (\vec{r} \times \hat{z}) \quad \left(\frac{\text{kg}}{\text{m} \cdot \text{sec}} \right) \\
 I_{rms} = \left| \langle \vec{S}_{rms}(t) \rangle \right| = \left| \langle \vec{S}(t) \rangle \right| = \frac{1}{2} I = \frac{1}{2} \left| \langle \vec{S}(t) \rangle \right| = c \langle u_{EM}^{rms}(t) \rangle = \frac{1}{2} c \epsilon_o E_{o_{rms}}^2 \quad \left(\frac{\text{Watts}}{\text{m}^2} \right)
 \end{array}$$

Real world example: 120 Vac/60 Hz “wall power” refers to the RMS AC voltage!

The peak voltage (i.e. voltage amplitude) is $V_{peak} = \sqrt{2} V_{rms} = \sqrt{2} \cdot 120 = 169.7 \approx 170.0$ Volts.

n.b. For EM waves \neq sinusoidal waves, the root-mean-square (RMS) must be defined properly / mathematically – e.g. the RMS value of square or triangle wave amplitudes (from Fourier analysis these consist of linear combinations of infinite # of harmonics)

$E_{rms}^{\square} \neq \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} E^{\square}$

$E_{rms}^{\triangle} \neq \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} E^{\triangle}$

(See/refer to probability & statistics reference books!!)

Radiation Pressure: $P_{rad} \left(\frac{\text{Newtons}}{\text{m}^2} \right)$

When an *EM* wave impinges (*i.e.* is incident) on a **perfect absorber** (*e.g.* a totally **black** object with absorbance {*aka* absorption coefficient} $A = 1$, as “seen” at the frequency of the *EM* wave), all of the *EM* energy (by definition) is **absorbed** {ultimately winding up as heat...}.

By conservation of energy, linear momentum & angular momentum the object being irradiated by the incident *EM* wave acquires energy, linear momentum & angular momentum from the incident *EM* wave.

The *EM* Radiation Pressure acting on a **perfect absorber** for a **normally incident** *EM* wave is defined as:

$$P_{EM}^{Rad} \left\{ \begin{array}{c} \text{perfect} \\ \text{absorber} \end{array} \right\}_{(A=1)} = \frac{\text{Time-Averaged |Force|}}{\perp \text{ Unit Area}} = \frac{\langle |\vec{F}_{EM}^{net}(t)| \rangle}{A_{\perp}} \left(\frac{\text{Newtons}}{\text{m}^2} \right)$$

However, the time-averaged *EM* force is defined as:

$$\langle \vec{F}_{EM}^{net}(t) \rangle \equiv \frac{d \langle \vec{p}_{EM}(t) \rangle}{dt} = \frac{\langle \Delta \vec{p}_{EM}(t) \rangle}{\Delta t} = \text{time rate of change of the time-averaged linear momentum}$$

\therefore the *EM* Radiation Pressure at **normal incidence** is:

$$P_{EM}^{Rad} \left\{ \begin{array}{c} \text{perfect} \\ \text{absorber} \end{array} \right\}_{(A=1)} = \frac{\langle |\Delta \vec{p}_{EM}(t)| \rangle}{\Delta t} \frac{1}{A_{\perp}} \left(\frac{\text{Newtons}}{\text{m}^2} \right)$$

In a time interval $\Delta t \gg \tau = 1/f$, the time-averaged magnitude of the *EM* linear momentum transfer $\langle |\Delta \vec{p}_{EM}(t)| \rangle$ at **normal incidence** to a **perfect absorber** of *EM* radiation is:

$$\langle |\Delta \vec{p}_{EM}(t)| \rangle = \langle |\vec{\phi}_{EM}(t)| \rangle \Delta V$$

EM Linear momentum density $\xrightarrow{\text{red arrow}}$ Volume of *EM* wave associated with time interval Δt

The volume associated with an *EM* wave propagating in free space over a time interval Δt is:

$$\Delta V = A_{\perp} \cdot (c \Delta t) \quad \text{where } c \Delta t = \text{distance traveled by the } EM \text{ wave in the time interval } \Delta t.$$

$$\therefore P_{EM}^{Rad} \left\{ \begin{array}{c} \text{perfect} \\ \text{absorber} \end{array} \right\}_{(A=1)} = \frac{\langle |\Delta \vec{p}_{EM}(t)| \rangle}{\Delta t} \frac{1}{A_{\perp}} = \frac{\langle |\vec{\phi}_{EM}(t)| \rangle \Delta V}{\Delta t} \frac{1}{A_{\perp}} = \frac{\langle |\vec{\phi}_{EM}(t)| \rangle \cancel{A_{\perp}} \cancel{c} \cancel{\Delta t}}{\cancel{\Delta t} \cancel{A_{\perp}}} = c \langle |\vec{\phi}_{EM}(t)| \rangle$$

Thus, we see that for a monochromatic *EM* plane wave propagating in free space **normally incident** on a **perfect absorber** ($A = 1$):

$$P_{EM}^{Rad} \left\{ \begin{array}{c} \text{perfect} \\ \text{absorber} \end{array} \right\}_{(A=1)} = c \langle |\vec{\phi}_{EM}(t)| \rangle = \frac{1}{2} \epsilon_0 E_o^2 = \langle u_{EM} \rangle = I/c \left(\frac{\text{Newtons}}{\text{m}^2} \right)$$

For a **perfect reflector** (e.g. a **perfect** mirror, with reflection coefficient (*aka* reflectance) $R = 1$ ($A = 0$)), note that:

$$\left\langle \left| \Delta \vec{p}_{EM}(t) \right| \right\rangle_{\text{perfect reflector}}^{\text{perfect}} = 2 \times \left\langle \left| \Delta \vec{p}_{EM}(t) \right| \right\rangle_{\text{perfect absorber}}^{\text{perfect}}$$

Since $\Delta \vec{p}_{EM} \equiv \vec{p}_{EM}^{\text{initial}} - \vec{p}_{EM}^{\text{final}}$ and $\vec{p}_{EM}^{\text{final}} = -\vec{p}_{EM}^{\text{initial}}$ for an *EM* wave reflecting off of a **perfect reflector**, then $\Delta \vec{p}_{EM} \equiv \vec{p}_{EM}^{\text{initial}} - \vec{p}_{EM}^{\text{final}} = \vec{p}_{EM}^{\text{initial}} + \vec{p}_{EM}^{\text{initial}} = 2\vec{p}_{EM}^{\text{initial}}$

i.e. an *EM* wave that reflects off of (*i.e.* “bounces” off of) a **perfect reflector** delivers **twice** ($2\times$) the momentum kick (*i.e.* impulse) to the **perfect reflector** than the same *EM* wave that is absorbed by a **perfect absorber**! Thus at **normal incidence**:

$$\therefore P_{EM}^{\text{Rad}} \left\{ \text{perfect reflector} \right\}_{(R=1)} = 2 P_{EM}^{\text{Rad}} \left\{ \text{perfect absorber} \right\}_{(A=1)} = 2 \left(\frac{I}{c} \right) \left(\frac{\text{Newtons}}{\text{m}^2} \right)$$

Note that for a **partially** reflecting surface, with reflection coefficient $R < 1$, since $R + A = 1$, the radiation pressure associated with an *EM* wave propagating in free space and reflecting off of a **partially** reflecting surface at **normal incidence** is given by:

$$P_{EM}^{\text{Rad}} \left\{ \text{partial reflector} \right\}_{(R+A=1)} = A \cdot P_{EM}^{\text{Rad}} \left\{ \text{perfect absorber} \right\}_{(A=1)} + 2R \cdot P_{EM}^{\text{Rad}} \left\{ \text{perfect absorber} \right\}_{(R=1)} = (A + 2R) \left(\frac{I}{c} \right) \left(\frac{\text{Newtons}}{\text{m}^2} \right)$$

Since $A = 1 - R$, we can equivalently re-write this relation as:

$$P_{EM}^{\text{Rad}} \left\{ \text{partial reflector} \right\}_{(R+A=1)} = (A + 2R) \left(\frac{I}{c} \right) = (1 - R + 2R) \left(\frac{I}{c} \right) = (1 + R) \left(\frac{I}{c} \right) \left(\frac{\text{Newtons}}{\text{m}^2} \right)$$

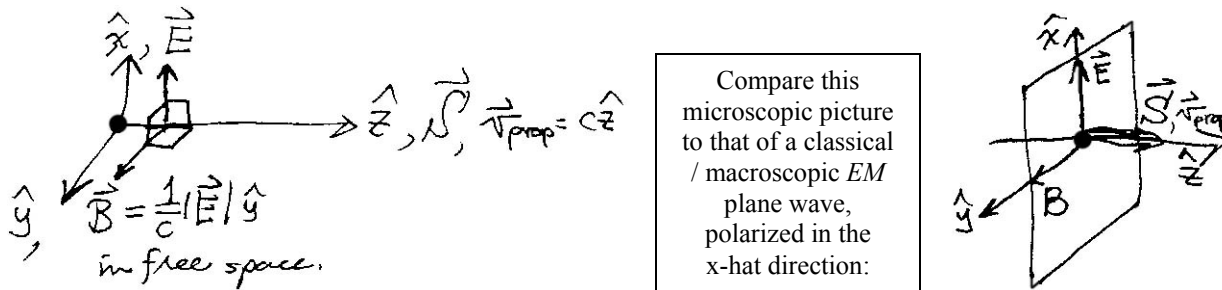
If the *EM* wave is **not** at normal incidence on the absorbing/reflecting surface, but instead makes a finite angle θ with respect to the unit normal of the surface, these relations need to be modified, due to the cosine θ factor $\langle \vec{S} \rangle \cdot \hat{n} = \langle |\vec{S}| \rangle \cos \theta = I \cos \theta$ associated with the flux of *EM* energy/momentum $\langle \vec{\rho}_{EM}(t) \rangle \cdot \hat{n} = \langle |\vec{\rho}_{EM}(t)| \rangle \cos \theta = \epsilon_o \mu_o \langle |\vec{S}(t)| \rangle \cos \theta = \frac{1}{c^2} \langle |\vec{S}(t)| \rangle \cos \theta = \frac{1}{c^2} I \cos \theta$ crossing the surface area A_{\perp} at a finite angle θ :

$$P_{EM}^{\text{Rad}} \left\{ \text{perfect absorber} \right\}_{(A=1)} = \left(\frac{I}{c} \right) \cos \theta \left(\frac{\text{Newtons}}{\text{m}^2} \right)$$

$$P_{EM}^{\text{Rad}} \left\{ \text{perfect reflector} \right\}_{(R=1)} = 2 \left(\frac{I}{c} \right) \cos \theta \left(\frac{\text{Newtons}}{\text{m}^2} \right)$$

$$P_{EM}^{\text{Rad}} \left\{ \text{partial reflector} \right\}_{(R+A=1)} = (A + 2R) \left(\frac{I}{c} \right) \cos \theta = (1 + R) \left(\frac{I}{c} \right) \cos \theta \left(\frac{\text{Newtons}}{\text{m}^2} \right)$$

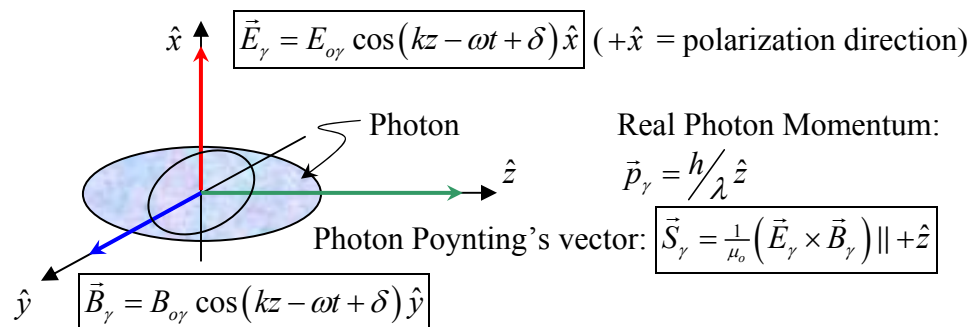
Maxwell's equations (and relativity) for the macroscopic \vec{E} and \vec{B} fields associated with an EM wave propagating in free space mandate / require that $\vec{E} \perp \vec{B} \perp$ propagation direction (here $= \hat{z}$) $\{\vec{v}_{prop} = c\hat{z}\}$, as shown in the figure below:



Macroscopic EM waves propagating in free space are purely transverse waves, *i.e.* $\vec{E} \perp \vec{B}$, and both of the \vec{E} and \vec{B} fields are also \perp to the propagation direction of the EM wave, *e.g.* $\vec{v}_{prop} = c\hat{z}$. Thus, $\vec{E} \perp \vec{v}_{prop} = c\hat{z}$ and $\vec{B} \perp \vec{v}_{prop} = c\hat{z}$.

The behavior of the macroscopic \vec{E} and \vec{B} fields associated with *e.g.* a monochromatic EM plane wave propagating in free space, at the microscopic scale is simply the sum over (*i.e.* linear superposition of) the \vec{E} and \vec{B} -field contributions from {large numbers of} individual real photons making up the EM field.

Each real photon has associated with it, its own \vec{E} and \vec{B} field – *e.g.* a linearly polarized real photon, polarized in $+\hat{x}$ direction:



$$\vec{B}_\gamma = \frac{1}{c} \hat{k} \times \vec{E}_\gamma \text{ where the unit wavevector } \hat{k} = +\hat{z} \text{ \{here\} and } B_{o\gamma} = \frac{1}{c} E_{o\gamma} \text{ in vacuum.}$$

Real photon energy: $E_\gamma = hf = p_\gamma c = |\vec{p}_\gamma| c$ (Total Relativistic Energy² = $E_\gamma^2 = p_\gamma^2 c^2 + \overset{=0}{m_\gamma^2 c^4}$)

Real photon momentum (deBroglie relation): $m_\gamma c^2 \equiv 0$ for real photon

$$p_\gamma = \frac{h}{\lambda} \text{ and } c = f\lambda \quad c = \text{speed of light (in vacuum)} = 3 \times 10^8 \text{ m/sec}$$

Question: How many real photons per second are emitted *e.g.* from a 10 mW laser?
 (mW = milli-Watt = 10^{-3} Watt)

Answer: Depends on the color (*i.e.* wavelength λ , frequency f , photon energy) of the laser beam!
 $E_\gamma = hf$

When we say 10 mW laser, what precisely does this refer to?

It refers to the time-averaged EM power:

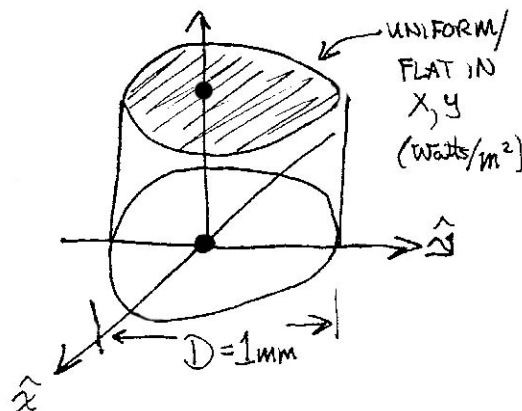
$$\langle P_{\text{laser}}(t) \rangle = 10 \text{ mW} = 10 \times 10^{-3} \text{ Watts} = 0.010 \text{ Watts} (= 0.010 \text{ Joules/sec})$$

Let's assume that the laser beam points in the $+\hat{z}$ direction.

Also assume that the diameter of the laser beam is $D = 1 \text{ mm} = 0.001 \text{ m}$ (typical).

Further assume (for simplicity's sake): Power flux density = intensity profile $I(x, y)$ is uniform in x and y over the diameter of the laser beam (not true in real life – laser beams have \sim Gaussian intensity profiles in x and y (*i.e.* $I(\rho) = I_0 e^{-\rho^2/2\sigma^2}$); note that there also exist *e.g.* diffraction {beam-spreading} effects that should/need to be taken into account...)

$$I(x, y) = \langle |\vec{S}(x, y, t)| \rangle$$



In $\Delta t = 1$ second, the time-averaged energy associated with the 10 mW laser beam is:

$$\langle \Delta E_{\text{laser}}(t) \rangle = \langle P_{\text{laser}}(t) \rangle \Delta t$$

$$\langle \Delta E_{\text{laser}}(t) \rangle = 0.010 \text{ Watts} * 1 \text{ sec}$$

$$\langle \Delta E_{\text{laser}}(t) \rangle = 0.010 \frac{\text{Joules}}{\text{sec}} * 1 \text{ sec}$$

$$\langle \Delta E_{\text{laser}}(t) \rangle = 0.010 \text{ Joules} = \text{Time-averaged energy of laser beam}$$

The {instantaneous} energy of the laser beam crosses an imaginary planar surface that is \perp to the laser beam.

If the laser has red light, *e.g.* $\lambda_{\text{red}} = 750 \text{ nm}$ (*n.b.* $1 \text{ nm} = 1 \text{ nano-meter} = 10^{-9} \text{ meters}$)
 or if the laser has blue light, *e.g.* $\lambda_{\text{blue}} = 400 \text{ nm}$

Since $f = c/\lambda$ the corresponding photon frequencies associated with red and blue laser light are:

$$f_{\text{red}}^{\gamma} = \frac{c}{\lambda_{\text{red}}^{\gamma}} = \frac{3 \times 10^8 \text{ m/s}}{750 \times 10^{-9} \text{ m}} = 4.0 \times 10^{14} \text{ cycles/sec (= Hertz, or Hz)}$$

$$f_{\text{blue}}^{\gamma} = \frac{c}{\lambda_{\text{blue}}^{\gamma}} = \frac{3 \times 10^8 \text{ m/s}}{400 \times 10^{-9} \text{ m}} = 7.5 \times 10^{14} \text{ cycles/sec (= Hertz, or Hz)}$$

The energy associated with a single, real photon is: $E_{\gamma} = hf^{\gamma} = hc/\lambda^{\gamma}$, where h = Planck's constant: $h = 6.626 \times 10^{-34} \text{ Joule-sec}$ and $c = 3 \times 10^8 \text{ m/sec}$ (speed of light in vacuum).
 Thus, the corresponding photon energies associated with red and blue laser light are:

$$E_{\gamma}^{\text{red}} = hf_{\text{red}}^{\gamma} = hc/\lambda_{\text{red}}^{\gamma} \quad \text{and:} \quad E_{\gamma}^{\text{blue}} = hf_{\text{blue}}^{\gamma} = hc/\lambda_{\text{blue}}^{\gamma} \quad \text{since } f = c/\lambda$$

$$\begin{array}{l} E_{\gamma}^{\text{red}} = hf_{\text{red}}^{\gamma} = 6.626 \times 10^{-34} \text{ Joule/sec} \times 4.0 \times 10^{14} / \text{sec} = 2.6504 \times 10^{-19} \text{ Joules (red light)} \\ E_{\gamma}^{\text{blue}} = hf_{\text{blue}}^{\gamma} = 6.626 \times 10^{-34} \text{ Joule/sec} \times 7.5 \times 10^{14} / \text{sec} = 4.9695 \times 10^{-19} \text{ Joules (blue light)} \end{array}$$

In a time interval of $\Delta t = 1 \text{ sec}$, the time-averaged energy $\langle \Delta E_{\text{laser}}(t) \rangle = \langle \Delta N_{\gamma}(t) \rangle E_{\gamma}$ where $\langle \Delta N_{\gamma}(t) \rangle$ is the {time-averaged} number of photons crossing a \perp area in the time interval Δt .

Thus, the number of red (blue) photons emitted from a red (blue) laser in a $\Delta t = 1 \text{ sec}$ time interval is:

$$\begin{array}{l} \# \text{ red photons: } \langle \Delta N_{\gamma}^{\text{red}}(t) \rangle = \frac{\langle \Delta E_{\text{laser}}(t) \rangle}{E_{\gamma}^{\text{red}}} = \frac{0.010 \text{ Joules}}{2.6504 \times 10^{-19} \text{ Joules/photon}} = 3.7730 \times 10^{16} \\ \# \text{ blue photons: } \langle \Delta N_{\gamma}^{\text{blue}}(t) \rangle = \frac{\langle \Delta E_{\text{laser}}(t) \rangle}{E_{\gamma}^{\text{blue}}} = \frac{0.010 \text{ Joules}}{4.9695 \times 10^{-19} \text{ Joules/photon}} = 2.0123 \times 10^{16} \end{array}$$

Thus, the {time-averaged} rate of emission of red (blue) photons from a red (blue) laser is:

$$\begin{array}{l} \langle R_{\gamma}^{\text{red}}(t) \rangle = \frac{\langle \Delta N_{\gamma}^{\text{red}}(t) \rangle}{\Delta t} = 3.7730 \times 10^{16} \text{ red photons/sec} \\ \langle R_{\gamma}^{\text{blue}}(t) \rangle = \frac{\langle \Delta N_{\gamma}^{\text{blue}}(t) \rangle}{\Delta t} = 2.0123 \times 10^{16} \text{ blue photons/sec} \end{array}$$

Note: In a time interval of $\Delta t = 1 \text{ sec}$, photons (of any color / λ^{γ} / f^{γ} / E_{γ}) will travel a distance
 of $d = c\Delta t = 3 \times 10^8 \text{ m/s} \times 1 \text{ s} = 3 \times 10^8 \text{ meters}$

If the flux of photons is assumed (for simplicity) to be uniform across the $D = 1$ mm diameter laser beam, then the time-averaged flux of photons ($\#/\text{m}^2/\text{sec}$) is:

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \mathcal{J}_\gamma^{\text{red}}(t) \rangle &= \frac{\langle R_\gamma^{\text{red}}(t) \rangle}{A_\perp^{\text{laser}}} = \frac{3.7730 \times 10^{16} \left(\frac{\gamma}{\text{sec}} \right)}{\pi \left(\frac{10^{-3} \text{ m}}{2} \right)^2} = 4.8039 \times 10^{22} \left(\text{red } \gamma / \text{m}^2 / \text{sec} \right) \\ \langle \mathcal{J}_\gamma^{\text{blue}}(t) \rangle &= \frac{\langle R_\gamma^{\text{blue}}(t) \rangle}{A_\perp^{\text{laser}}} = \frac{2.0123 \times 10^{16} \left(\frac{\gamma}{\text{sec}} \right)}{\pi \left(\frac{10^{-3} \text{ m}}{2} \right)^2} = 2.562 \times 10^{22} \left(\text{blue } \gamma / \text{m}^2 / \text{sec} \right) \end{aligned}$$

If each photon has E_γ Joules of energy, then power associated with red (blue) laser beam:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\langle P_\gamma^{\text{red}}(t) \rangle}{A_\perp^{\text{laser}}} &= \left| \langle \vec{S}_\gamma^{\text{red}}(t) \rangle \right| = E_\gamma^{\text{red}} \cdot \langle \mathcal{J}_\gamma^{\text{red}}(t) \rangle = 2.6504 \times 10^{-19} \text{ Joules} \times 4.8039 \times 10^{22} \left(\text{red } \gamma / \text{m}^2 / \text{sec} \right) \\ &= 1.2732 \times 10^4 \text{ Watts/m}^2 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\langle P_\gamma^{\text{blue}}(t) \rangle}{A_\perp^{\text{laser}}} &= \left| \langle \vec{S}_\gamma^{\text{blue}}(t) \rangle \right| = E_\gamma^{\text{blue}} \cdot \langle \mathcal{J}_\gamma^{\text{blue}}(t) \rangle = 4.9695 \times 10^{-19} \text{ Joules} \times 2.5621 \times 10^{22} \left(\text{blue } \gamma / \text{m}^2 / \text{sec} \right) \\ &= 1.2732 \times 10^4 \text{ Watts/m}^2 \end{aligned}$$

Thus we see that:

$$\frac{\langle P_\gamma^{\text{red}}(t) \rangle}{A_\perp^{\text{laser}}} = \frac{\langle P_\gamma^{\text{blue}}(t) \rangle}{A_\perp^{\text{laser}}} = \left| \langle \vec{S}_\gamma^{\text{red}}(t) \rangle \right| = \left| \langle \vec{S}_\gamma^{\text{blue}}(t) \rangle \right| = 1.2732 \times 10^4 \text{ Watts/m}^2 \leftarrow 10 \text{ mW laser}$$

n.b. This is precisely why you shouldn't look into a laser beam {with your one remaining eye}!!!

Time-averaged linear momentum density:

$$\begin{aligned} \left| \langle \vec{\phi}_\gamma^{\text{red}}(t) \rangle \right| &= \epsilon_o \mu_o \left| \langle \vec{S}_\gamma^{\text{red}}(t) \rangle \right| = \frac{1}{c^2} \left| \langle \vec{S}_\gamma^{\text{red}}(t) \rangle \right| = \frac{1}{c} \langle u_\gamma^{\text{red}}(t) \rangle \hat{z} = 1.4147 \times 10^{-13} \text{ kg/m}^2\text{-sec} \\ \left| \langle \vec{\phi}_\gamma^{\text{blue}}(t) \rangle \right| &= \epsilon_o \mu_o \left| \langle \vec{S}_\gamma^{\text{blue}}(t) \rangle \right| = \frac{1}{c^2} \left| \langle \vec{S}_\gamma^{\text{blue}}(t) \rangle \right| = \frac{1}{c} \langle u_\gamma^{\text{blue}}(t) \rangle \hat{z} = 1.4147 \times 10^{-13} \text{ kg/m}^2\text{-sec} \end{aligned}$$

Thus: $\left \langle \vec{\phi}_\gamma^{\text{red}} \rangle \right = \left \langle \vec{\phi}_\gamma^{\text{blue}} \rangle \right = 1.4147 \times 10^{-13} \text{ kg/m}^2\text{-sec}$	Momentum density, Poyntings vector, energy density are independent of frequency / wavelength / photon energy
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The time-averaged linear momentum contained in $\Delta t = 1$ second's worth of laser beam:

Time averaged linear momentum: $\langle \Delta \vec{p}_\gamma(t) \rangle = \text{momentum density } \langle \left| \vec{\phi}_\gamma(t) \right| \rangle \times \text{volume } \Delta V$

Volume $\Delta V = A_\perp^{\text{laser}} * (c \Delta t)$ (m^3)


 Distance light travels in Δt sec.

Red light momentum:

$$\begin{aligned} \left\langle \left| \Delta \vec{p}_\gamma^{\text{red}}(t) \right| \right\rangle &= \left\langle \left| \vec{\phi}_\gamma^{\text{red}}(t) \right| \right\rangle c \Delta t A_\perp = 1.4147 \times 10^{-13} \times 3 \times 10^8 \times 1 \times \pi \times \left(\frac{0.001}{2} \right)^2 \left(\frac{\text{kg-m}}{\text{sec}} \right) \\ &= 3.3333 \times 10^{-11} \text{ kg-m/sec} \end{aligned}$$

Blue light momentum:

$$\begin{aligned} \left\langle \left| \Delta \vec{p}_\gamma^{\text{blue}}(t) \right| \right\rangle &= \left\langle \left| \vec{\phi}_\gamma^{\text{blue}}(t) \right| \right\rangle c \Delta t A_\perp = 1.4147 \times 10^{-13} \times 3 \times 10^8 \times 1 \times \pi \times \left(\frac{0.001}{2} \right)^2 \left(\frac{\text{kg-m}}{\text{sec}} \right) \\ &= 3.3333 \times 10^{-11} \text{ kg-m/sec} \end{aligned}$$

Thus: $\left\langle \left| \Delta \vec{p}_\gamma^{\text{red}}(t) \right| \right\rangle = \left\langle \left| \Delta \vec{p}_\gamma^{\text{blue}}(t) \right| \right\rangle = 3.3333 \times 10^{-11} \text{ kg-m/sec}$

{“TRICK”}:

The time-averaged energy density $\langle u_{EM}(t) \rangle$ = time-averaged momentum density $\langle \left| \vec{\phi}_{EM}(t) \right| \rangle * c$
 (Since photon energy, $E_\gamma = p_\gamma c$). Thus:

$$\begin{aligned} \langle u_\gamma^{\text{red}}(t) \rangle &= \left\langle \left| \vec{\phi}_\gamma^{\text{red}}(t) \right| \right\rangle c = 1.4147 \times 10^{-13} \left(\frac{\text{kg}}{\text{m}^2/\text{sec}} \right) \times 3 \times 10^8 \text{ (m/s)} = 4.2441 \times 10^{-5} \text{ (Joules/m}^3\text{)} \\ \langle u_\gamma^{\text{blue}}(t) \rangle &= \left\langle \left| \vec{\phi}_\gamma^{\text{blue}}(t) \right| \right\rangle c = 1.4147 \times 10^{-13} \left(\frac{\text{kg}}{\text{m}^2/\text{sec}} \right) \times 3 \times 10^8 \text{ (m/s)} = 4.2441 \times 10^{-5} \text{ (Joules/m}^3\text{)} \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{Joule} = \frac{\text{kg-m}^2}{\text{s}^2} \quad \Rightarrow \quad \frac{\text{Joule}}{\text{m}^2} = \frac{\text{kg}}{\text{m/s}^2}$$

The time-averaged energy contained in $\Delta t = 1$ second's worth of laser beam is:

The time-averaged energy $\langle U_\gamma(t) \rangle$ = time-averaged energy density $\langle u_\gamma(t) \rangle$ * volume ΔV

$$\Delta V = A_\perp^{\text{laser}} * (c \Delta t)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \therefore \langle U_\gamma^{\text{red}}(t) \rangle &= \langle u_\gamma^{\text{red}}(t) \rangle * A_\perp c \Delta t = 4.2441 \times 10^{-5} \left(\frac{\text{Joules}}{\text{m}^3} \right) * \pi \times \left(\frac{0.001}{2} \right)^2 * 3 \times 10^8 * 1 \text{ (m}^3\text{)} \\ &= 0.010 \text{ Joules} = 10 \text{ mJ} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \langle U_\gamma^{\text{blue}}(t) \rangle &= \langle u_\gamma^{\text{blue}}(t) \rangle * A_\perp c \Delta t = 4.2441 \times 10^{-5} \left(\frac{\text{Joules}}{\text{m}^3} \right) * \pi \times \left(\frac{0.001}{2} \right)^2 * 3 \times 10^8 * 1 \text{ (m}^3\text{)} \\ &= 0.010 \text{ Joules} = 10 \text{ mJ} \end{aligned}$$

The time-averaged power in the laser beam: $\langle P_{\text{laser}}^{\text{red}}(t) \rangle = \frac{\langle U_{\text{laser}}(t) \rangle}{\Delta t} = 10 \text{ mW} = \langle P_{\text{laser}}^{\text{blue}}(t) \rangle$

Time-averaged Power (Watts) = $\frac{d \langle U(t) \rangle}{dt} \left(\frac{\text{Joules}}{\text{sec}} \right)$ $\Delta t = 1 \text{ sec}$

Note: P_{laser} (laser power) is measured by the total time-averaged energy $\langle U(t) \rangle$ deposited in (a very accurately) known time interval Δt using an absolutely calibrated photodiode (e.g. by NIST).

A typical time interval $\Delta t = 10$ secs $\rightarrow \Delta t \gg \tau$ (oscillation period) $= 1/f$!!

$$\begin{aligned} \tau_{red} &= \frac{1}{f_{red}} = 2.500 \times 10^{-15} \text{ sec} = 2.500 \text{ femto-sec} = 2.500 \text{ fs} \\ \tau_{blue} &= \frac{1}{f_{blue}} = 1.333 \times 10^{-15} \text{ sec} = 1.333 \text{ femto-sec} = 1.333 \text{ fs} \end{aligned}$$

\rightarrow The laser power measured is time-averaged power, i.e. $\langle P_{laser}(t) \rangle = \frac{1}{2} P_{laser}^{peak}(t)$

Consider (the time-averaged) energy density associated with this 10 mW laser:

$$\langle u_{EM}(t) \rangle = 4.2441 \times 10^{-5} \left(\frac{\text{Joules}}{\text{m}^3} \right)$$

Now: $\langle u_{EM}(t) \rangle = \langle u_{elect}(t) \rangle + \langle u_{mag}(t) \rangle = \frac{1}{2} \epsilon_o E_o^2 = \frac{1}{2} u_{EM}^{peak}(t)$

And because: $|\vec{B}(t)| = \frac{1}{c} |\vec{E}(t)|$ for EM waves propagating in free space / vacuum ($\frac{1}{c^2} = \epsilon_o \mu_o$)

We showed that:

$$\begin{aligned} \langle u_{elect}(t) \rangle &= \langle u_{mag}(t) \rangle \\ \langle u_{elect}(t) \rangle &= \frac{1}{2} \left\{ \frac{1}{2} \epsilon_o E_o^2 \right\} & B_o^2 = \frac{1}{c^2} E_o^2 = \epsilon_o \mu_o E_o^2 \\ \langle u_{mag}(t) \rangle &= \frac{1}{2} \left\{ \frac{1}{2 \mu_o} B_o^2 \right\} = \frac{1}{2} \left\{ \frac{\epsilon_o \cancel{\mu_o}}{2 \cancel{\mu_o}} E_o^2 \right\} = \frac{1}{2} \left\{ \frac{1}{2} \epsilon_o E_o^2 \right\} \end{aligned}$$

Now: $E_o = \text{amplitude}$ of the macroscopic electric field: $\vec{E}(z, t) = E_o \cos(kz - \omega t + \delta) \hat{x}$
 $B_o = \text{amplitude}$ of the macroscopic magnetic field: $\vec{B}(z, t) = B_o \cos(kz - \omega t + \delta) \hat{y}$

Define the RMS (Root-Mean-Square) amplitudes of the \vec{E} and \vec{B} fields:

$$\begin{aligned} E_{o_{rms}} &\equiv \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} E_o \Rightarrow E_{o_{rms}}^2 = \frac{1}{2} E_o^2 \\ B_{o_{rms}} &\equiv \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} B_o \Rightarrow B_{o_{rms}}^2 = \frac{1}{2} B_o^2 = \frac{1}{2c^2} E_o^2 \text{ in free space / vacuum} \end{aligned}$$

Then:

$$\begin{aligned} \langle u_{elect}(t) \rangle &= \frac{1}{2} \left\{ \frac{1}{2} \epsilon_o E_o^2 \right\} = \frac{1}{2} \epsilon_o E_{o_{rms}}^2 \quad (\text{Joules/m}^3) \\ \langle u_{mag}(t) \rangle &= \frac{1}{2} \left\{ \frac{1}{2 \mu_o} B_o^2 \right\} = \frac{1}{2 \mu_o} B_{o_{rms}}^2 = \frac{1}{2} \epsilon_o E_{o_{rms}}^2 \text{ in free space / vacuum} \end{aligned}$$

So if: $\langle u_{EM}(t) \rangle = \langle u_{elect}(t) \rangle + \langle u_{mag}(t) \rangle = 2 \langle u_{elect}(t) \rangle$ in free space / vacuum

$$= 2 \epsilon_o E_{o_{rms}}^2 = 4.2441 \times 10^{-5} \text{ Joules/m}^3$$

Then: $E_{o_{rms}}^2 = \frac{1}{2 \epsilon_o} \langle u_{EM}(t) \rangle$ where $\epsilon_o = 8.85 \times 10^{-12}$ Farads/m = electric permittivity of free space

Thus: $E_{o_{rms}}^{laser} = \sqrt{\frac{1}{2 \epsilon_o} \langle u_{EM}(t) \rangle} = \left[\frac{4.2441 \times 10^{-5} \text{ Joules/m}}{2 \times 8.85 \times 10^{-12} \text{ Farads/m}} \right]^{1/2}$ (Volts/m)

$$E_{o_{rms}}^{laser} \approx 1.5485 \times 10^3 \text{ Volts/m} = 1548.5 \text{ Volts/m} \quad (n.b. \text{ same for red vs. blue laser light!})$$

Then: $E_o^{laser} = E_{peak}^{laser} = \sqrt{2} E_{o_{rms}}^{laser} \approx 2190 \text{ Volts/m}$

Then: $B_{o_{rms}}^{laser} = \frac{1}{c} E_{o_{rms}}^{laser} \approx 5.1616 \times 10^{-6} \text{ Tesla} (= 5.1616 \times 10^{-2} \text{ Gauss})$

SI (MKS) $\xrightarrow{\text{red arrow}}$ 1 Tesla = 10^4 Gauss $\xleftarrow{\text{blue arrow}}$ CGS Units

Thus: $B_o^{laser} = \frac{1}{c} E_o^{laser} = \sqrt{2} B_{o_{rms}}^{laser} \approx 7.2996 \times 10^{-2} \text{ Gauss}$

Now earlier (above) we calculated the (time-averaged) number of photons present in the {red and blue} laser beams that were emitted in a time interval of $\Delta t = 1$ sec.

red photons emitted in $\Delta t = 1$ sec: $\langle \Delta N_\gamma^{red}(t) \rangle = 3.7730 \times 10^{16}$ red photons

blue photons emitted in $\Delta t = 1$ sec: $\langle \Delta N_\gamma^{blue}(t) \rangle = 2.0123 \times 10^{16}$ blue photons

The volume associated with a $D = 1$ mm diameter laser beam turned on for $\Delta t = 1$ sec is:

$$\Delta V = A_\perp c \Delta t = \pi \left(\frac{D}{2} \right)^2 c \Delta t = \pi \left(\frac{0.001}{2} \right)^2 \cdot 3 \times 10^8 \cdot 1 = 235.6194 \text{ m}^3$$

The (time-averaged) number density $\langle n_\gamma(t) \rangle = \frac{\langle \Delta N_\gamma(t) \rangle}{\Delta V}$ of {red and blue} photons in the laser beam is:

$$\langle n_\gamma^{red}(t) \rangle = \frac{\langle \Delta N_\gamma^{red}(t) \rangle}{\Delta V} = \frac{3.7730 \times 10^{16}}{2.3562 \times 10^2} = 1.6009 \times 10^{14} \text{ red photons/m}^3$$

$$\langle n_\gamma^{blue}(t) \rangle = \frac{\langle \Delta N_\gamma^{blue}(t) \rangle}{\Delta V} = \frac{2.0123 \times 10^{16}}{2.3562 \times 10^2} = 8.5405 \times 10^{13} \text{ blue photons/m}^3$$

Then the (time-averaged) energy density $\langle u_{EM}(t) \rangle$ of the {red and blue} laser beam is:

Red photon energy: $E_\gamma^{red} = h f_\gamma^{red} = 2.6504 \times 10^{-19} \text{ Joules}$

Blue photon energy: $E_\gamma^{blue} = h f_\gamma^{blue} = 4.9695 \times 10^{-19} \text{ Joules}$

$$\begin{aligned}\langle u_{EM}^{red}(t) \rangle &= \langle n_{\gamma}^{red}(t) \rangle E_{\gamma}^{red} = 1.6009 \times 10^{14} \cdot 2.6504 \times 10^{-19} = 4.2442 \times 10^{-5} \text{ (Joules/m}^3\text{)} \\ \langle u_{EM}^{blue}(t) \rangle &= \langle n_{\gamma}^{blue}(t) \rangle E_{\gamma}^{blue} = 8.5405 \times 10^{13} \cdot 4.9695 \times 10^{-19} = 4.2442 \times 10^{-5} \text{ (Joules/m}^3\text{)}\end{aligned}$$

The (time-averaged) energy $\langle U_{EM}(t) \rangle = \langle u_{EM}(t) \rangle * \Delta V$ of the {red and blue} laser beams is:

$$\begin{aligned}\langle U_{EM}^{red}(t) \rangle &= \langle u_{EM}^{red}(t) \rangle * \Delta V = 4.2442 \times 10^{-5} * 2.3562 \times 10^2 = 0.010 \text{ Joules} = 10 \text{ mJoules} \\ \langle U_{EM}^{blue}(t) \rangle &= \langle u_{EM}^{blue}(t) \rangle * \Delta V = 4.2442 \times 10^{-5} * 2.3562 \times 10^2 = 0.010 \text{ Joules} = 10 \text{ mJoules}\end{aligned}$$

Now here is something quite interesting: Given that $E_{o_{rms}} \equiv E_o / \sqrt{2}$ for a monochromatic *EM* wave propagating in free space/the vacuum, with time-averaged *EM* energy density:

$$\langle u_{EM}(t) \rangle = 2\epsilon_o E_{o_{rms}}^2 = \epsilon_o E_o^2 \quad \left(\frac{\text{Joules}}{\text{m}^3} \right)$$

But: $\langle u_{EM}(t) \rangle = \langle n_{\gamma}(t) \rangle E_{\gamma} \quad \left(\frac{\text{Joules}}{\text{m}^3} \right) \quad \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \langle n_{\gamma}(t) \rangle = \text{photon number density (\#/m}^3\text{)} \text{ in laser beam} \\ E_{\gamma} = hf_{\gamma} = hc/\lambda_{\gamma} = \text{energy/photon (Joules)} \end{array} \right.$

$\therefore 2\epsilon_o E_{o_{rms}}^2 = \langle n_{\gamma}(t) \rangle E_{\gamma}$
 Or: $E_{o_{rms}}^2 = \frac{\langle n_{\gamma}(t) \rangle}{2\epsilon_o} E_{\gamma}$

This formula explicitly connects the amplitudes of the macroscopic \vec{E} and \vec{B} fields (since $B_o = E_o/c$) with the microscopic constituents of the \vec{E} and \vec{B} fields (i.e. the photons)!!!

n.b. This formula physically says that the number of {real} photons in the *EM* wave (each of photon energy E_{γ}) is proportional to E_o^2 = the square of the macroscopic electric field amplitude!

We can write this as: $\langle n_{\gamma}(t) \rangle = 2\epsilon_o E_{o_{rms}}^2 / E_{\gamma}$ and note also that: $E_{o_{rms}} = \sqrt{\frac{\langle n_{\gamma}(t) \rangle}{2\epsilon_o}} E_{\gamma} \quad !!!$

Thus, we can now see that the {time-averaged} *EM* energy density:

$$\langle u_{EM}(\vec{r}, t) \rangle = 2\epsilon_o E_{o_{rms}}^2(\vec{r}) = \langle n_{\gamma}(\vec{r}, t) \rangle E_{\gamma} \quad \text{with:} \quad \int_v \langle u_{EM}(\vec{r}, t) \rangle d\tau = U_{EM}$$

plays a role analogous to that of the probability density in quantum mechanics:

$$\mathcal{P}(\vec{r}, t) = \langle \psi(\vec{r}, t) | \psi(\vec{r}, t) \rangle = |\psi(\vec{r}, t)|^2 \quad \text{with:} \quad \int_v \mathcal{P}(\vec{r}, t) d\tau = 1$$

Since: $\langle n_{\gamma}(\vec{r}, t) \rangle = \langle u_{EM}(\vec{r}, t) \rangle / E_{\gamma} = 2\epsilon_o E_{o_{rms}}^2(\vec{r}) / E_{\gamma}$ and: $\int_v \langle n_{\gamma}(\vec{r}, t) \rangle d\tau = \langle \Delta N_{\gamma} \rangle$,

Then: $\langle \mathcal{P}_{\gamma}(\vec{r}, t) \rangle \equiv \langle n_{\gamma}(\vec{r}, t) \rangle / \langle \Delta N_{\gamma} \rangle = \langle \psi_{\gamma}(\vec{r}, t) | \psi_{\gamma}(\vec{r}, t) \rangle = |\psi_{\gamma}(\vec{r}, t)|^2 \quad !!!$

Thus, we also see that the electric field $\vec{E}(\vec{r}, t)$ plays a role analogous to that of the probability density amplitude $\psi(\vec{r}, t)$ in quantum mechanics!!!

The (real) photon number density in the laser beam is: $\langle n_\gamma(t) \rangle = \frac{\langle \Delta N_\gamma(t) \rangle}{\Delta V} = \frac{\langle \Delta N_\gamma(t) \rangle}{A_\perp c \Delta t} \left(\frac{\#}{\text{m}^3} \right)$

Then: $2\epsilon_o E_{o_{\text{rms}}}^2 A_\perp c \Delta t = \langle \Delta N_\gamma(t) \rangle E_\gamma$ or: $E_{o_{\text{rms}}}^2 = \frac{\langle \Delta N_\gamma(t) \rangle}{2\epsilon_o A_\perp c \Delta t} E_\gamma$

But: $\langle R_\gamma(t) \rangle = \frac{\langle \Delta N_\gamma(t) \rangle}{\Delta t}$ = the time averaged rate of photons in laser beam (#/sec)

$\therefore E_{o_{\text{rms}}}^2 = \frac{1}{2\epsilon_o} \frac{\langle R_\gamma(t) \rangle}{A_\perp c} E_\gamma$ and

$\langle \mathcal{J}_\gamma(t) \rangle = \frac{\langle \Delta N_\gamma(t) \rangle}{\Delta t} / A_\perp = \langle R_\gamma(t) \rangle / A_\perp \left(\frac{\#}{\text{m}^2 \cdot \text{s}} \right)$ = flux of photons in the laser beam

$\therefore E_{o_{\text{rms}}}^2 = \frac{1}{2\epsilon_o c} \langle \mathcal{J}_\gamma(t) \rangle E_\gamma$ and $\langle u_{EM}(t) \rangle = 2\epsilon_o E_{o_{\text{rms}}}^2 = \frac{1}{c} \langle \mathcal{J}_\gamma(t) \rangle E_\gamma = \langle n_\gamma(\vec{r}, t) \rangle E_\gamma \left(\frac{\text{Joules}}{\text{m}^3} \right)$

Thus, we see that the {real} photon flux: $\langle \mathcal{J}_\gamma(t) \rangle = c \langle n_\gamma(\vec{r}, t) \rangle \left(\frac{\#}{\text{m}^2 \cdot \text{s}} \right)$

Thus, the intensity {aka irradiance} of the laser beam is:

$$I \equiv \langle |\vec{S}(t)| \rangle = c \langle u_{EM}(t) \rangle = 2\epsilon_o E_{o_{\text{rms}}}^2 = \langle \mathcal{J}_\gamma(t) \rangle E_\gamma = c \langle n_\gamma(t) \rangle E_\gamma \left(\frac{\text{Watts}}{\text{m}^2} \right)$$

The {time-averaged} <longitudinal separation distance> between photons is defined as:

$$\langle \Delta d_\parallel(t) \rangle \equiv \frac{c \Delta t}{\langle N_\gamma(t) \rangle} \quad (\text{m})$$

For $\Delta t = 1 \text{ sec}$: $\langle \Delta d_\parallel^{\text{red}}(t) \rangle = \frac{3 \times 10^8 \text{ m}}{3.773 \times 10^{16} \gamma/s} = 7.85 \times 10^{-9} \text{ m} \sim 8 \times 10^{-9} \text{ m} \simeq 8 \text{ nm}$ (1 nm = 10^{-9} m)

$$\langle \Delta d_\parallel^{\text{blue}}(t) \rangle = \frac{3 \times 10^8 \text{ m}}{2.0123 \times 10^{16} \gamma/s} = 1.49 \times 10^{-8} \text{ m} \sim 15 \times 10^{-9} \text{ m} \simeq 15 \text{ nm}$$

Recall that: $\lambda_\gamma^{\text{red}} = 750 \text{ nm}$ and $\lambda_\gamma^{\text{blue}} = 400 \text{ nm}$

Thus: $\lambda_\gamma \gg \langle \Delta d_\parallel(t) \rangle$ for either red or blue laser light.

The {time-averaged} <transverse separation distance> between photons is defined as:

$$\langle \Delta d_\perp(t) \rangle \equiv \frac{\sqrt{A_\perp}}{\langle N_\gamma(t) \rangle}$$

Thus:

$$\langle \Delta d_{\perp}^{red}(t) \rangle = \frac{\sqrt{\pi \left(\frac{0.001}{2} \right)^2}}{3.773 \times 10^{16}} = 2.35 \times 10^{-20} \text{ m}$$
$$\langle \Delta d_{\perp}^{blue}(t) \rangle = \frac{\sqrt{\pi \left(\frac{0.001}{2} \right)^2}}{2.0123 \times 10^{16}} = 4.40 \times 10^{-20} \text{ m}$$