

## LECTURE NOTES 5

### ELECTROMAGNETIC WAVES IN VACUUM

#### THE WAVE EQUATION(S) 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) $\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{E}(\vec{r}, t) = 0$	2) $\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{B}(\vec{r}, t) = 0$	} Set of coupled first-order partial differential equations
3) $\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{E}(\vec{r}, t) = -\frac{\partial \vec{B}(\vec{r}, t)}{\partial t}$	4) $\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{B}(\vec{r}, t) = \mu_0 \epsilon_0 \frac{\partial \vec{E}(\vec{r}, t)}{\partial t} = \frac{1}{c^2} \frac{\partial \vec{E}(\vec{r}, t)}{\partial t}$ <span style="margin-left: 100px;"><math>(c^2 = 1/\epsilon_0 \mu_0)</math></span>	

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, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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:

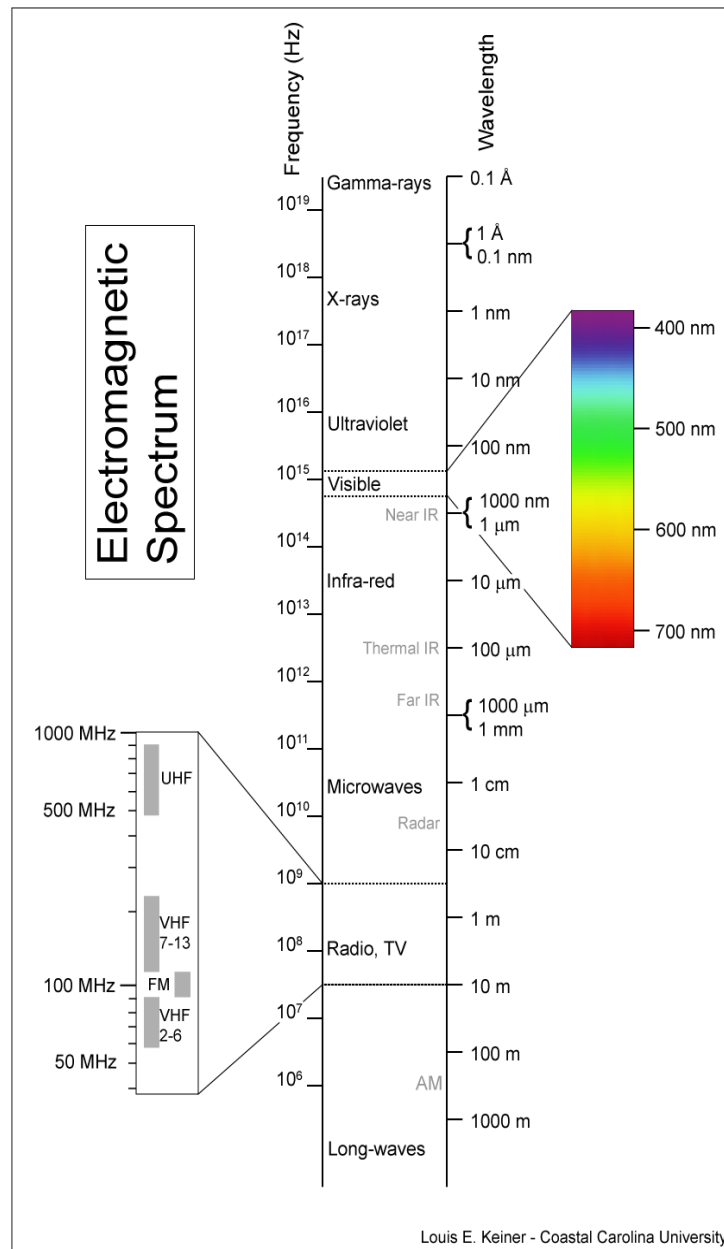
$$\boxed{\nabla^2 \vec{E}(\vec{r}, t) - \frac{1}{c^2} \frac{\partial^2 \vec{E}(\vec{r}, t)}{\partial t^2} = 0}$$

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

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}:  $c = 1/\sqrt{\epsilon_0 \mu_0} = 3 \times 10^8$  m/s.

$EM$  waves have associated with them a frequency  $f$  and wavelength  $\lambda$ , 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  $|\vec{\ell}_z| = 1\hbar$  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):

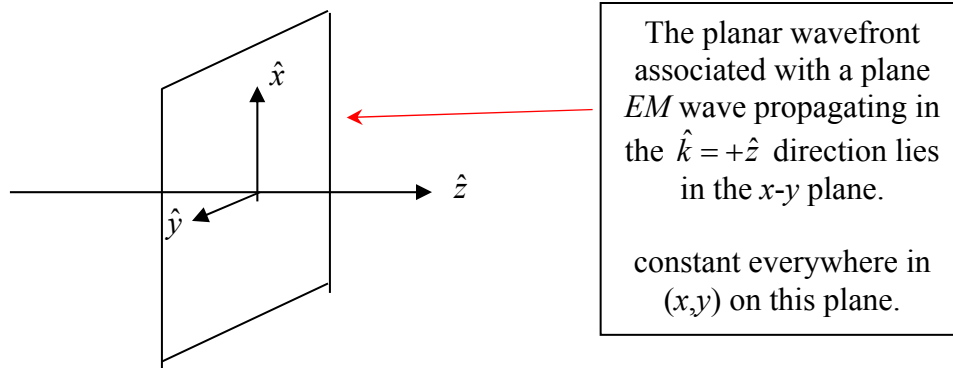


### Monochromatic EM Plane Waves:

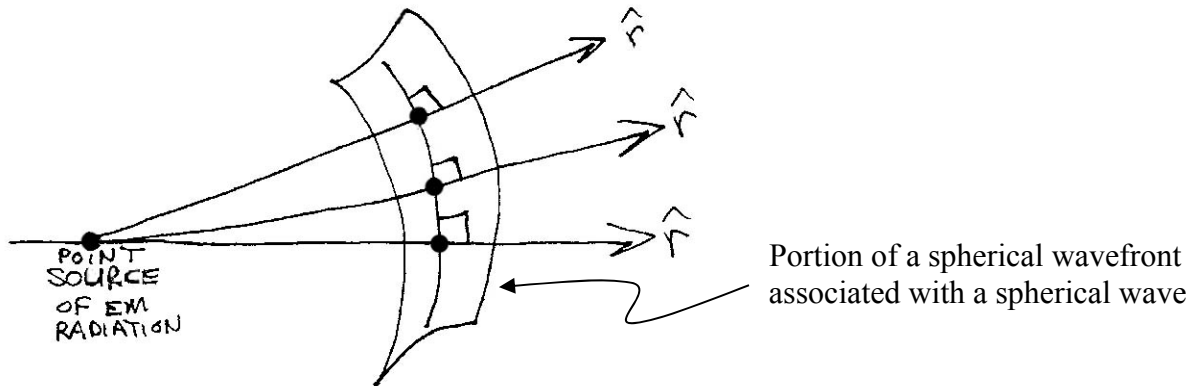
Monochromatic *EM* plane waves propagating in free space/the vacuum are sinusoidal *EM* plane waves consisting of a single frequency  $f$ , wavelength  $\lambda = c/f$ , angular frequency  $\omega = 2\pi f$  and wavenumber  $k = 2\pi/\lambda$ . They propagate with speed  $c = f\lambda = \omega/k$ .

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, such as an atom, a small antenna or a pinhole aperture – 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  $R_C \rightarrow \infty$ . *i.e.* a spherical surface becomes planar as  $R_C \rightarrow \infty$ .

A criterion for a {good} approximation of spherical wave as a plane wave is:  $\lambda \ll R_C$

Monochromatic traveling *EM* plane waves can be represented by complex  $\vec{E}$  and  $\vec{B}$  fields:

$$\vec{E}(z,t) = \vec{E}_o e^{i(kz-\omega t)} \quad \text{Propagating in the } \hat{k} = +\hat{z} \text{ direction}$$

$$\vec{B}(z,t) = \vec{B}_o e^{i(kz-\omega t)} \quad \text{Propagating in the } \hat{k} = +\hat{z} \text{ direction}$$

*n.b.* complex **vectors**:

$$e.g. \quad \vec{E}_o = \tilde{E}_o \hat{x} = |\tilde{E}_o| e^{i\delta} \hat{x} \equiv E_o e^{i\delta} \hat{x}$$

*n.b.* complex **vectors**:

$$e.g. \quad \vec{B}_o = \tilde{B}_o \hat{y} = |\tilde{B}_o| e^{i\delta} \hat{y} \equiv B_o e^{i\delta} \hat{y}$$

*n.b.* The **real, physical** instantaneous time-domain *EM* fields are related to their corresponding complex time-domain fields via:

$$\vec{E}(\vec{r},t) \equiv \text{Re}\left(\vec{\tilde{E}}(\vec{r},t)\right)$$

$$\vec{B}(\vec{r},t) \equiv \text{Re}\left(\vec{\tilde{B}}(\vec{r},t)\right)$$

Note that Maxwell's equations for free space impose additional constraints on  $\vec{\tilde{E}}_o$  and  $\vec{\tilde{B}}_o$ .

→ Not just any  $\vec{\tilde{E}}_o$  and/or  $\vec{\tilde{B}}_o$  is acceptable / allowed !!!

$$\text{Since: } \vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{E} = 0 \quad \text{and: } \quad \vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{B} = 0$$

$$= \text{Re}\left(\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{\tilde{E}}\right) = 0 \quad = \text{Re}\left(\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{\tilde{B}}\right) = 0$$

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

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

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

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

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

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

Then:

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

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

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:

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

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

- Thus, Maxwell's equations additionally tell us/impose the restriction that an electromagnetic plane wave **cannot** have **any** component of  $\vec{E}$  or  $\vec{B}$  || to (or anti-|| to) the propagation direction (in this case here, the  $\hat{k} = +\hat{z}$  -direction)
- Another way of stating this is that an EM plane 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 plane 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 plane 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:

$$\begin{array}{l} \boxed{\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{\tilde{E}} = \left( \frac{\overset{=0}{\partial \tilde{E}_z}}{\partial y} - \frac{\partial \tilde{E}_y}{\partial z} \right) \hat{x} + \left( \frac{\partial \tilde{E}_x}{\partial z} - \frac{\overset{=0}{\partial \tilde{E}_y}}{\partial x} \right) \hat{y} + \left( \frac{\overset{=0}{\partial \tilde{E}_y}}{\partial x} - \frac{\overset{=0}{\partial \tilde{E}_x}}{\partial y} \right) \hat{z} = -\frac{\partial \tilde{B}_x}{\partial t} \hat{x} - \frac{\partial \tilde{B}_y}{\partial t} \hat{y} - \frac{\partial \tilde{B}_z}{\partial t} \hat{z}} \\ \boxed{\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{\tilde{B}} = \left( \frac{\overset{=0}{\partial \tilde{B}_z}}{\partial y} - \frac{\partial \tilde{B}_y}{\partial z} \right) \hat{x} + \left( \frac{\partial \tilde{B}_x}{\partial z} - \frac{\overset{=0}{\partial \tilde{B}_y}}{\partial x} \right) \hat{y} + \left( \frac{\overset{=0}{\partial \tilde{B}_y}}{\partial x} - \frac{\overset{=0}{\partial \tilde{B}_x}}{\partial y} \right) \hat{z} = \frac{1}{c^2} \frac{\partial \tilde{E}_x}{\partial t} \hat{x} + \frac{1}{c^2} \frac{\partial \tilde{E}_y}{\partial t} \hat{y} + \frac{1}{c^2} \frac{\partial \tilde{E}_z}{\partial t} \hat{z}} \end{array}$$

With:

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

Thus:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

$\therefore \vec{\nabla} \times \vec{E}$ : (1)  $B_{ox} = -\frac{1}{c} E_{oy}$   
 (2)  $B_{oy} = +\frac{1}{c} E_{ox}$   
 $\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{B}$ : (3)  $B_{oy} = +\frac{1}{c} E_{ox}$   
 (4)  $B_{ox} = -\frac{1}{c} E_{oy}$

Maxwell's equations also have some **redundancy** encrypted into them!

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

But:  $\hat{z} \times \hat{y} = -\hat{x}$  and  $\hat{z} \times \hat{x} = +\hat{y}$

Very Useful Table:

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

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

Physically, the mathematical relation  $\vec{B}_o = \frac{1}{c} \hat{k} \times \vec{E}_o$  tells us that for a monochromatic  $EM$  plane wave propagating in free space,  $\vec{E}$  and  $\vec{B}$  are:

- in phase** with each other.
- mutually perpendicular** to each other **.and.** each is **perpendicular** to the **propagation direction**:  $(\vec{E} \perp \vec{B}) \perp \hat{k}$  ( $\hat{k} = +\hat{z}$  = 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 purely **real/physical 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, propagating in the  $\hat{k} = +\hat{z}$  direction in free space, has:

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

$$\therefore \vec{B} = \frac{1}{c} (\hat{k} \times \vec{E}) = \frac{1}{c} (\hat{z} \times E \hat{x}) = \frac{1}{c} E (\underbrace{\hat{z} \times \hat{x}}_{=\hat{y}}) = \frac{1}{c} E \hat{y}$$

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

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

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

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

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

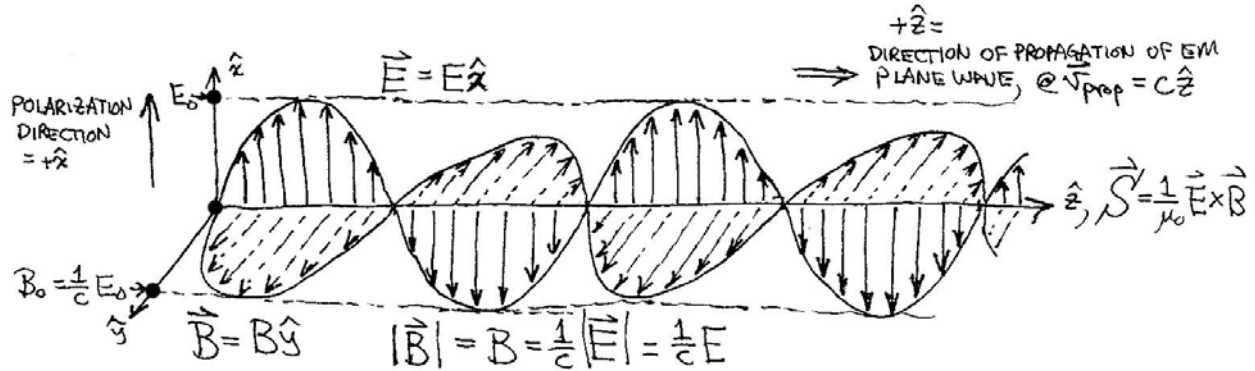
$$\vec{E}(z, t) = E_o \cos(kz - \omega t + \delta) \hat{x}$$

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

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

The **physical** instantaneous  $\vec{E}$  and  $\vec{B}$  fields are in-phase with each other for a linearly polarized  $EM$  plane 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 plane wave propagating in free space:

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

$\Rightarrow$  EM power flows in the direction of propagation of the EM plane wave (here,  $\hat{k} = +\hat{z}$  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 3-D generalization of  $kz$ :

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

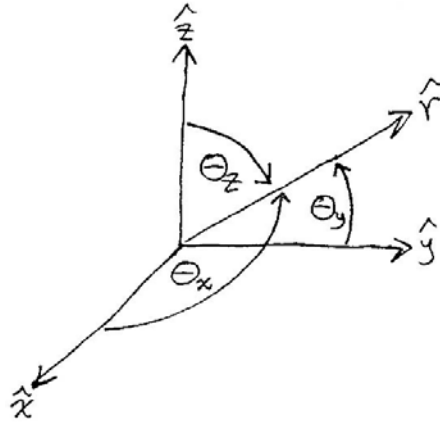
3-D: If:  $\vec{k} = k_x\hat{x} + k_y\hat{y} + k_z\hat{z}$  with  $|\vec{k}| = \sqrt{k_x^2 + k_y^2 + k_z^2}$  and:  $\vec{r} = x\hat{x} + y\hat{y} + z\hat{z}$

Then:  $(\vec{k} \cdot \vec{r}) = k_x x + k_y y + k_z z$  with  $|\vec{r}| = \sqrt{x^2 + y^2 + z^2}$

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: 
$$\left\{ \begin{aligned} \cos \Theta_x &= \hat{k} \cdot \hat{x} = \sin \theta \cos \varphi \\ \cos \Theta_y &= \hat{k} \cdot \hat{y} = \sin \theta \sin \varphi \\ \cos \Theta_z &= \hat{k} \cdot \hat{z} = \cos \theta \end{aligned} \right\} \text{ in spherical-polar coordinates}$$

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:

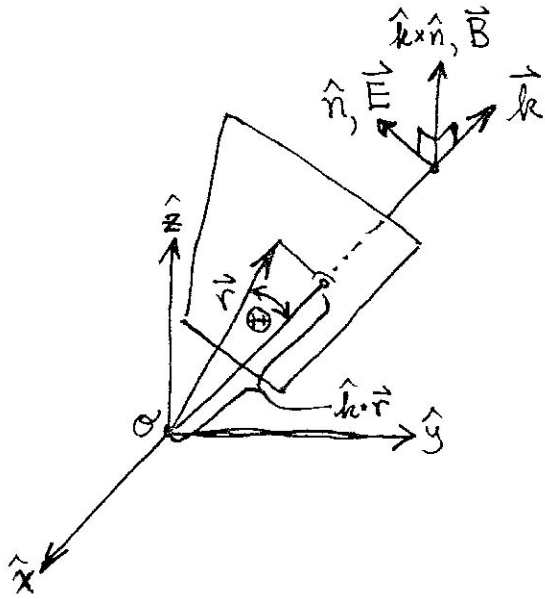
$$\vec{E}(\vec{r}, t) = \tilde{E}_o e^{i(\vec{k} \cdot \vec{r} - \omega t)} \hat{n}$$
 where:  $\hat{n} \equiv$  polarization vector  $\hat{n} \perp \hat{k}$

$$\vec{B}(\vec{r}, t) = \tilde{B}_o e^{i(\vec{k} \cdot \vec{r} - \omega t)} (\hat{k} \times \hat{n})$$
 i.e.  $\hat{n} \cdot \hat{k} = 0$  because  $\vec{E}$  is **transverse**

$$\vec{B}(\vec{r}, t) = \frac{1}{c} \hat{k} \times \vec{E}(\vec{r}, t) = \frac{1}{c} \tilde{E}_o e^{i(\vec{k} \cdot \vec{r} - \omega t)} (\hat{k} \times \hat{n}) = \tilde{B}_o e^{i(\vec{k} \cdot \vec{r} - \omega t)} (\hat{k} \times \hat{n})$$

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

### 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** ( $\parallel \vec{E}$ )

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

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

### Instantaneous Energy, Linear & Angular Momentum in EM Plane Waves (Free Space)

#### Instantaneous Energy Density Associated with an EM Plane Wave (Free Space):

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

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:  $B^2 = \frac{1}{c^2} E^2$  and  $\frac{1}{c^2} = \epsilon_o \mu_o$  for EM waves propagating in vacuum/free space

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

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.* for EM plane waves propagating in the vacuum:

$$u_{mag}(\vec{r}, t) = u_{elect}(\vec{r}, t) \text{ and/or: } u_{mag}(\vec{r}, t) / u_{elect}(\vec{r}, t) = 1$$

**Instantaneous Poynting's Vector Associated with an EM Plane Wave (Free Space):**

$$\vec{S}(\vec{r}, t) = \vec{E}(\vec{r}, t) \times \vec{H}(\vec{r}, t) = \frac{1}{\mu_0} \vec{E}(\vec{r}, t) \times \vec{B}(\vec{r}, t) = \frac{1}{\mu_0} \operatorname{Re} \left\{ \tilde{\vec{E}}(z, t) \right\} \times \operatorname{Re} \left\{ \tilde{\vec{B}}(z, t) \right\} \left( \frac{\text{Watts}}{\text{m}^2} \right)$$

For a linearly polarized monochromatic plane EM plane 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:  $\vec{S}(\vec{r}, t) = \frac{1}{\mu_0} E_o B_o \cos^2(kz - \omega t + \delta) \hat{z}$  but:  $B_o = \frac{1}{c} E_o$  for EM plane waves in vacuum.

Thus:  $\vec{S}(\vec{r}, t) = \frac{1}{\mu_0 c} E_o^2 \cos^2(kz - \omega t + \delta) \hat{z}$  ← multiply RHS by  $1 = \left( \frac{c}{c} \right)$

Hence:  $\vec{S}(\vec{r}, t) = c \left( \frac{1}{\mu_0 c^2} \right) E_o^2 \cos^2(kz - \omega t + \delta) \hat{z}$  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, the propagation **velocity** of EM field **energy**:  $\vec{v}_E = c \hat{z}$

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

**Instantaneous Linear Momentum Density Associated with an EM Plane Wave (Free Space):**

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

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

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


**Instantaneous Angular Momentum Density Associated with an EM Plane Wave (Free Space):**

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

But: 
$$\vec{\phi}_{EM}(\vec{r}, t) = \epsilon_0 \mu_0 \vec{S}(\vec{r}, t) = \frac{1}{c^2} \vec{S}(\vec{r}, t) = \frac{1}{c} u_{EM}(\vec{r}, t) \hat{z} \quad \left( \frac{\text{kg}}{\text{m}^2\text{-sec}} \right)$$


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

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

 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:

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

 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:

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

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

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

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

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

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

### 3-D Vector Impedance Associated with an EM Plane Wave (Free Space):

$$\boxed{\vec{Z}(\vec{r}, t) \equiv \vec{E}(\vec{r}, t) \times (1/\vec{H}(\vec{r}, t))} \quad (\text{Ohms}) = \text{Ohm's law for EM fields! (n.b. a vector quantity)}$$

Analog of: Ohm's law for AC circuits:  $\boxed{Z(t) = V(t)/I(t)}$  (n.b. a scalar quantity)

Complex form of Ohm's Law:  $\boxed{\tilde{Z}(t) = \tilde{V}(t)/\tilde{I}(t) = \tilde{V}(t) \cdot \tilde{I}^*(t) / |\tilde{I}(t)|^2}$

What {precisely} is the mathematical meaning of a “generic” reciprocal vector  $1/\vec{A}(\vec{r}, t)$  ???

The magnitude of the reciprocal vector  $|1/\vec{A}(\vec{r}, t)| = 1/|\vec{A}(\vec{r}, t)|$  is invariant (i.e. cannot change) for arbitrary rotations & translations of the coordinate system. The direction that the reciprocal vector  $1/\vec{A}(\vec{r}, t)$  points in space {at time  $t$ } is also invariant for arbitrary rotations & translations of the coordinate system.

Note further that inverse unit vectors {such as  $1/\hat{x}$ ,  $1/\hat{y}$ ,  $1/\hat{z}$ } are meaningless!

For a purely real “generic” vector  $\vec{A}(\vec{r}, t) = A_x(\vec{r}, t)\hat{x} + A_y(\vec{r}, t)\hat{y} + A_z(\vec{r}, t)\hat{z}$  {e.g. expressed in rectangular/Cartesian coordinates}, the mathematical definition of a purely real reciprocal vector  $1/\vec{A}(\vec{r}, t)$ , satisfying all of the above requirements is:

$$\boxed{\frac{1}{\vec{A}(\vec{r}, t)} \equiv \frac{1}{|\vec{A}(\vec{r}, t)|} \hat{A}(\vec{r}, t)} \quad \text{where:} \quad \boxed{\hat{A}(\vec{r}, t) \equiv \frac{\vec{A}(\vec{r}, t)}{|\vec{A}(\vec{r}, t)|} = \frac{A_x(\vec{r}, t)\hat{x} + A_y(\vec{r}, t)\hat{y} + A_z(\vec{r}, t)\hat{z}}{|\vec{A}(\vec{r}, t)|}}$$

Using rectangular / Cartesian coordinates

Hence, we also see that:

$$\boxed{\frac{1}{\vec{A}(\vec{r}, t)} \equiv \frac{\hat{A}(\vec{r}, t)}{|\vec{A}(\vec{r}, t)|} = \frac{\vec{A}(\vec{r}, t)}{|\vec{A}(\vec{r}, t)|^2} = \frac{A_x(\vec{r}, t)\hat{x} + A_y(\vec{r}, t)\hat{y} + A_z(\vec{r}, t)\hat{z}}{|\vec{A}(\vec{r}, t)|^2}}$$

Using rectangular / Cartesian coordinates

**Note:** For the more general case of complex reciprocal vectors  $1/\tilde{\vec{A}}(\vec{r}, t)$  these relations become:

$$\boxed{\frac{1}{\tilde{\vec{A}}(\vec{r}, t)} \equiv \frac{1}{|\tilde{\vec{A}}(\vec{r}, t)|} \tilde{\vec{A}}^*(\vec{r}, t)} \quad \text{where:} \quad \boxed{\tilde{\vec{A}}^*(\vec{r}, t) \equiv \frac{\tilde{\vec{A}}^*(\vec{r}, t)}{|\tilde{\vec{A}}(\vec{r}, t)|} = \frac{\tilde{A}_x^*(\vec{r}, t)\hat{x} + \tilde{A}_y^*(\vec{r}, t)\hat{y} + \tilde{A}_z^*(\vec{r}, t)\hat{z}}{|\tilde{\vec{A}}(\vec{r}, t)|}}$$

Using rectangular / Cartesian coordinates

Hence, we also see that:

$$\boxed{\frac{1}{\tilde{\vec{A}}(\vec{r}, t)} \equiv \frac{\tilde{\vec{A}}^*(\vec{r}, t)}{|\tilde{\vec{A}}(\vec{r}, t)|} = \frac{\tilde{\vec{A}}^*(\vec{r}, t)}{|\tilde{\vec{A}}(\vec{r}, t)|^2} = \frac{\tilde{A}_x^*(\vec{r}, t)\hat{x} + \tilde{A}_y^*(\vec{r}, t)\hat{y} + \tilde{A}_z^*(\vec{r}, t)\hat{z}}{|\tilde{\vec{A}}(\vec{r}, t)|^2}}$$

Using rectangular / Cartesian coordinates

Thus, *e.g.* for a linearly polarized monochromatic *EM* plane wave propagating in the vacuum in the  $\hat{k} = +\hat{z}$  direction, with instantaneous/physical purely real time-domain *EM* fields of:

$$\boxed{\vec{E}(\vec{r}, t) = E_o \cos(kz - \omega t + \delta) \hat{x}} \quad \text{and:} \quad \boxed{\vec{B}(\vec{r}, t) = B_o \cos(kz - \omega t + \delta) \hat{y}} \quad \text{with:} \quad \boxed{B_o = \frac{1}{c} E_o}$$

$$\text{and:} \quad \boxed{\vec{H}(\vec{r}, t) = \frac{1}{\mu_o} \vec{B}(\vec{r}, t) = \frac{1}{\mu_o} B_o \cos(kz - \omega t + \delta) \hat{y} = \frac{1}{\mu_o c} E_o \cos(kz - \omega t + \delta) \hat{y}}$$

The vector impedance  $\vec{Z}(\vec{r}, t)$  associated with a monochromatic plane *EM* plane wave propagating in the  $\hat{k} = +\hat{z}$  direction in free space is:

$$\begin{aligned} \vec{Z}(\vec{r}, t) &\equiv \vec{E}(\vec{r}, t) \times (1/\vec{H}(\vec{r}, t)) = \frac{\vec{E}(\vec{r}, t) \times \hat{H}(\vec{r}, t)}{|\vec{H}(\vec{r}, t)|} = \frac{\overbrace{\vec{E}(\vec{r}, t) \times \vec{H}(\vec{r}, t)}^{=S(\vec{r}, t)}}{|\vec{H}(\vec{r}, t)|^2} = \frac{\vec{S}(\vec{r}, t)}{|\vec{H}(\vec{r}, t)|^2} \\ &= \frac{c \epsilon_o E_o^2 \cos^2(kz - \omega t + \delta) \hat{z}}{\left(\frac{1}{\mu_o c}\right)^2 E_o^2 \cos^2(kz - \omega t + \delta)} = \mu_o^2 c^3 \epsilon_o \hat{z} = \mu_o c \cdot c^2 \cdot (\epsilon_o \mu_o) \hat{z} \\ &= \mu_o c \cdot \left(\frac{1}{\epsilon_o \mu_o}\right) \cdot (\epsilon_o \mu_o) \hat{z} = \mu_o c \hat{z} = \mu_o \frac{1}{\sqrt{\epsilon_o \mu_o}} \hat{z} = \sqrt{\frac{\mu_o}{\epsilon_o}} \hat{z} \equiv Z_o \hat{z} \end{aligned}$$

Note the cancellations!!!  
**Here**,  $Z$  has **no spatial**  
 and/or **temporal**  
 dependence – for a  
 monochromatic *EM*  
 plane wave propagating  
 in free space!

$$\text{Thus, in free space:} \quad \boxed{\vec{Z}(\vec{r}, t) = Z_o \hat{z} = \sqrt{\frac{\mu_o}{\epsilon_o}} \hat{z}} \quad (\text{Ohms})$$

where:  $Z_o \equiv \sqrt{\frac{\mu_o}{\epsilon_o}}$  is known as the **{scalar!}** **characteristic impedance** of free space.

The **vector** impedance  $\vec{Z}(\vec{r}, t)$  associated with an *EM* field is a **physical** property of the **medium** that the **EM** field is **propagating** – which in **this** case **{here}** – is the **vacuum**.

Microscopically, the quantum numbers of the **{QED}** vacuum – free space {which, at the microscopic level is **not** empty!} – must all be associated with **scalar-type** quantities – spin = 0, even parity (+) for both space inversion operation *P* and charge conjugation *C*, *i.e.* the quantum numbers of the **{QED}** vacuum are  $J^{PC} = 0^{++}$ .

Note further that **all** of the physical **macroscopic** (mean-field) parameters of the vacuum **must** be **invariant** *{i.e. unchanged}* under arbitrary rotations, translations and Lorentz boosts - from one reference frame to any other. This means that **all** macroscopic physical parameters of the vacuum intrinsically **must** have **no spatial** and/or **temporal** dependence – they are **constants**:

$$\epsilon_o = 8.85 \times 10^{-12} \text{ Farads/m} = \text{electric permittivity of free space}$$

$$\mu_o = 4\pi \times 10^{-7} \text{ Henrys/m} = \text{magnetic permeability of free space}$$

$$c = 1/\epsilon_o \mu_o = 3 \times 10^8 \text{ m/s} = \text{speed of EM waves propagating in free space}$$

$$Z_o = \sqrt{\frac{\mu_o}{\epsilon_o}} = 376.82 \Omega = \text{characteristic impedance of EM waves propagating in free space}$$

The **vectorial** nature of  $\vec{Z}(\vec{r}, t)$  is simply associated with the direction of propagation of the *EM* wave – here, in **this** case *i.e.* the vacuum} the  $\hat{k} = +\hat{z}$  direction, so:  $\vec{Z}(\vec{r}, t) = Z_o \hat{z} = \sqrt{\frac{\mu_o}{\epsilon_o}} \hat{z}$ . For *EM* waves propagating in the vacuum, it **can't** physically matter which direction they are propagating in – **any** direction  $\hat{k}$  will give  $\vec{Z}(\vec{r}, t) = Z_o \hat{k} = \sqrt{\frac{\mu_o}{\epsilon_o}} \hat{k}$ !

Note also from the above derivations, that we also have a relation between the vector impedance  $\vec{Z}(\vec{r}, t)$  and Poynting's vector  $\vec{S}(\vec{r}, t)$  associated with a propagating *EM* wave:

$$\vec{Z}(\vec{r}, t) \equiv \vec{E}(\vec{r}, t) \times (1/\vec{H}(\vec{r}, t)) = \frac{\vec{E}(\vec{r}, t) \times \hat{H}(\vec{r}, t)}{|\vec{H}(\vec{r}, t)|} = \frac{\overbrace{\vec{E}(\vec{r}, t) \times \vec{H}(\vec{r}, t)}^{= \vec{S}(\vec{r}, t)}}{|\vec{H}(\vec{r}, t)|^2} = \frac{\vec{S}(\vec{r}, t)}{|\vec{H}(\vec{r}, t)|^2}$$

For the **complex** time-domain representation of *EM* fields – at least those associated with monochromatic (*i.e.* single-frequency) *EM* waves, then in general we have:

$\vec{E}(\vec{r}, t; \omega) = \vec{E}(\vec{r}; \omega) \cdot e^{-i\omega t}$  and:  $\vec{H}(\vec{r}, t; \omega) = \vec{H}(\vec{r}; \omega) \cdot e^{-i\omega t}$ , and thus the **complex** vector impedance is:

$$\begin{aligned} \vec{Z}(\vec{r}, t; \omega) &\equiv \vec{E}(\vec{r}, t; \omega) \times (1/\vec{H}(\vec{r}, t; \omega)) = \frac{\vec{E}(\vec{r}, t; \omega) \times \vec{H}^*(\vec{r}, t; \omega)}{|\vec{H}(\vec{r}, t; \omega)|} = \frac{\vec{E}(\vec{r}, t; \omega) \times \vec{H}^*(\vec{r}, t; \omega)}{|\vec{H}(\vec{r}, t; \omega)|^2} \text{ (Ohms)} \\ &= \frac{\vec{E}(\vec{r}; \omega) \cdot \cancel{e^{-i\omega t}} \times \vec{H}^*(\vec{r}; \omega) \cdot \cancel{e^{+i\omega t}}}{\vec{H}(\vec{r}; \omega) \cdot \cancel{e^{-i\omega t}} \cdot \vec{H}^*(\vec{r}; \omega) \cdot \cancel{e^{+i\omega t}}} = \frac{\vec{E}(\vec{r}; \omega) \times \vec{H}^*(\vec{r}; \omega)}{\vec{H}(\vec{r}; \omega) \cdot \vec{H}^*(\vec{r}; \omega)} = \frac{\overbrace{\vec{E}(\vec{r}; \omega) \times \vec{H}^*(\vec{r}; \omega)}^{= \vec{S}(\vec{r}; \omega)}}{|\vec{H}(\vec{r}; \omega)|^2} = \frac{\vec{S}(\vec{r}; \omega)}{|\vec{H}(\vec{r}; \omega)|^2} \equiv \vec{Z}(\vec{r}; \omega) \end{aligned}$$

where  $\vec{S}(\vec{r}, \omega)$  and  $\vec{Z}(\vec{r}; \omega)$  are the complex **frequency-domain** Poynting's vector and vector impedance, respectively. Note that – at least for monochromatic/single-frequency *EM* waves – that:  $\vec{Z}(\vec{r}, t; \omega) = \vec{Z}(\vec{r}; \omega)$ , *i.e.* the complex vector impedance associated with monochromatic *EM* waves has **no** time dependence! It is a manifestly **frequency-domain** quantity!

For monochromatic *EM* plane waves propagating in free space/the vacuum in the  $\hat{k} = +\hat{z}$  direction, the complex vector impedance is a purely real quantity:

$$\vec{Z}(\vec{r}, t; \omega) = \vec{Z}(\vec{r}; \omega) = Z_o \hat{z} = \sqrt{\frac{\mu_o}{\epsilon_o}} \hat{z} = 376.82 \Omega \hat{z}$$

Physically, the **real** part of the complex vector impedance  $\Re\{\vec{Z}(\vec{r}; \omega)\}$  is associated with **propagating** *EM* waves/**propagating** *EM* wave energy, whereas the **imaginary** part of the complex vector impedance  $\Im\{\vec{Z}(\vec{r}; \omega)\}$  is associated with **non-propagating** *EM* wave energy – *i.e.* *EM* wave energy that simply **slashes back and forth locally**,  $2\times$  per cycle of oscillation!



### Time-Averaged Quantities Associated with EM Waves:

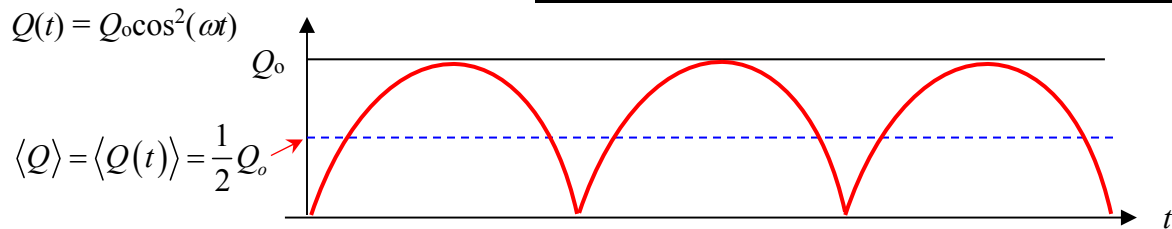
Frequently, we are **not** interested in knowing the instantaneous power  $P(t)$ , energy / energy density, Poynting's vector, linear and angular momentum, *etc.*- *e.g.* simply because experimental measurements of these quantities are very often only **averages** over **many** extremely fast cycles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

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

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

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

The **time-averaged** quantities associated with an **EM** plane wave propagating in free space are:

<i>EM</i> Energy Density:	$u_{EM}(\vec{r}, t) \Rightarrow \langle u_{EM}(\vec{r}, t) \rangle$	<i>Total EM</i> Energy:	$U_{EM}(t) \Rightarrow \langle U_{EM}(t) \rangle$
Poynting's Vector:	$\vec{S}(\vec{r}, t) \Rightarrow \langle \vec{S}_{EM}(\vec{r}, t) \rangle$	<i>EM</i> Power:	$P_{EM}(t) \Rightarrow \langle P_{EM}(t) \rangle$
Linear Momentum Density:	$\vec{\rho}_{EM}(\vec{r}, t) \Rightarrow \langle \vec{\rho}_{EM}(\vec{r}, t) \rangle$	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 the  $\hat{k} = +\hat{z}$  direction:

Time – averaged quantities for <i>EM</i> plane wave propagating in the $+\hat{z}$ direction	$\langle u_{EM}(\vec{r}, t) \rangle = \frac{1}{2} \epsilon_0 E_o^2 \quad \left( \frac{\text{Joules}}{\text{m}^3} \right)$
	$\langle \vec{S}(\vec{r}, t) \rangle = \frac{1}{2} c \epsilon_0 E_o^2 \hat{z} = c \langle u_{EM}(\vec{r}, t) \rangle \hat{z} \quad \left( \frac{\text{Watts}}{\text{m}^2} \right)$
	$\langle \vec{\phi}_{EM}(\vec{r}, t) \rangle = \frac{1}{2c} \epsilon_0 E_o^2 \hat{z} = \frac{1}{c^2} \langle \vec{S}(\vec{r}, t) \rangle = \frac{1}{c} \langle u_{EM}(\vec{r}, t) \rangle \hat{z} \quad \left( \frac{\text{kg}}{\text{m}^2 \cdot \text{sec}} \right)$
	$\langle \vec{\ell}_{EM}(\vec{r}, t) \rangle = (\vec{r} \times \langle \vec{\phi}_{EM}(\vec{r}, t) \rangle) = \frac{1}{c^2} (\vec{r} \times \langle \vec{S}(\vec{r}, t) \rangle) = \frac{1}{c} \langle u_{EM}(\vec{r}, t) \rangle (\hat{r} \times \hat{z}) \quad \left( \frac{\text{kg}}{\text{m} \cdot \text{sec}} \right)$

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: 
$$I(\vec{r}) \equiv \langle S(\vec{r}, t) \rangle = \langle |\vec{S}(\vec{r}, t)| \rangle = c \langle u_{EM}(\vec{r}, t) \rangle = \frac{1}{2} c \epsilon_0 E_o^2 \quad \left( \frac{\text{Watts}}{\text{m}^2} \right)$$

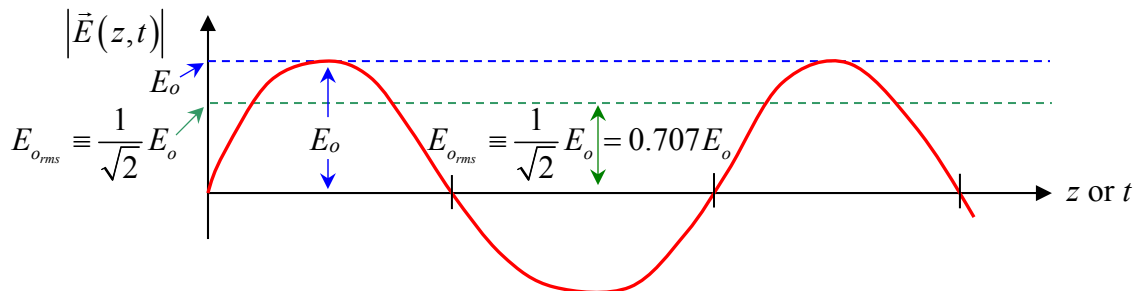
The **intensity** of an *EM* wave is also known as the **irradiance** of the *EM* wave – it is the so-called **radiant power incident per unit area** on a surface.

When working with **time-averaged** quantities such as  $\langle u_{EM}(\vec{r}, t) \rangle$ ,  $\langle \vec{S}(\vec{r}, t) \rangle$ ,  $\langle \vec{\phi}_{EM}(\vec{r}, t) \rangle$ ,  $\langle \vec{\ell}_{EM}(\vec{r}, t) \rangle$ , 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:

$$\vec{E}_{rms} \cdot \vec{E}_{rms} = \left( \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \vec{E} \right) \left( \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \vec{E} \right) = \frac{1}{2} \vec{E} \cdot \vec{E} \quad \text{and} \quad \vec{B}_{rms} \cdot \vec{B}_{rms} = \left( \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \vec{B} \right) \left( \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \vec{B} \right) = \frac{1}{2} \vec{B} \cdot \vec{B}$$

$$i.e. \text{ that: } E_{rms}^2 = \frac{1}{2} E^2 = \frac{1}{2} E_{peak}^2 \Rightarrow E_{o,rms}^2 = \frac{1}{2} E_o^2 \quad \text{and} \quad B_{rms}^2 = \frac{1}{2} B^2 = \frac{1}{2} B_{peak}^2 \Rightarrow B_{o,rms}^2 = \frac{1}{2} B_o^2$$

Then:

$$\langle u_{EM}^{rms}(t) \rangle = \frac{1}{2} \langle u_{EM}(t) \rangle = \frac{1}{2} \left\langle \frac{1}{2} \epsilon_o E_o^2 \right\rangle = \frac{1}{4} \epsilon_o E_o^2 = \frac{1}{2} \epsilon_o E_{o,rms}^2 \quad \left( \frac{\text{RMS Joules}}{\text{m}^3} \right)$$

For mono-  
chromatic  
EM plane  
waves  
(only):

$$\langle \vec{S}_{rms}(t) \rangle = \frac{1}{2} \langle \vec{S}(t) \rangle = \frac{1}{2} c \langle u_{EM}(t) \rangle \hat{z} = c \langle u_{EM}^{rms}(t) \rangle \hat{z} \quad \left( \frac{\text{RMS Watts}}{\text{m}^2} \right)$$



$$\langle \vec{\rho}_{EM}^{rms}(t) \rangle = \frac{1}{2c^2} \langle \vec{S}(t) \rangle = \frac{1}{2c} \langle u_{EM}(t) \rangle \hat{z} = \frac{1}{c^2} \langle \vec{S}_{rms}(t) \rangle = \frac{1}{c} \langle u_{EM}^{rms}(t) \rangle \hat{z} \quad \left( \frac{\text{RMS kg}}{\text{m}^2 \cdot \text{sec}} \right)$$

$$\langle \vec{\ell}_{EM}^{rms}(t) \rangle = \frac{1}{2} \vec{r} \times \langle \vec{\rho}_{EM}(t) \rangle = \vec{r} \times \langle \vec{\rho}_{EM}^{rms}(t) \rangle = \frac{1}{c^2} (\vec{r} \times \langle \vec{S}_{rms}(t) \rangle) = \frac{1}{c} \langle u_{EM}^{rms}(t) \rangle (\vec{r} \times \hat{z}) \quad \left( \frac{\text{RMS kg}}{\text{m} \cdot \text{sec}} \right)$$

$$I_{rms} = \langle |\vec{S}_{rms}(t)| \rangle = \langle |\vec{S}(t)| \rangle = \frac{1}{2} I = \frac{1}{2} \langle |\vec{S}(t)| \rangle = c \langle u_{EM}^{rms}(t) \rangle = \frac{1}{2} c \epsilon_o E_{o,rms}^2 \quad \left( \frac{\text{RMS Watts}}{\text{m}^2} \right)$$

**Real world example:** Here in the U.S., 120 Vac/60 Hz “wall power” refers to the RMS AC voltage!

The peak voltage (*i.e.* the 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!!)

### The Relationship(s) Between the Complex Time-Domain Poynting's Vector and the Complex Vector Impedance/Admittance of an EM Plane Wave:

#### Complex Time-Domain Poynting's Vector:

$$\tilde{\vec{S}}(\vec{r}, t; \omega) \equiv \tilde{\vec{E}}(\vec{r}, t; \omega) \times \tilde{\vec{H}}(\vec{r}, t; \omega) \quad (\text{Watts/m}^2)$$

#### Complex Vector Impedance of an EM Plane Wave:

$$\tilde{Z}(\vec{r}, t; \omega) \equiv \tilde{\vec{E}}(\vec{r}, t; \omega) \times \tilde{\vec{H}}^{-1}(\vec{r}, t; \omega) = \left\{ \tilde{\vec{E}}(\vec{r}, t; \omega) \times \tilde{\vec{H}}^*(\vec{r}, t; \omega) \right\} / \left| \tilde{\vec{H}}(\vec{r}, t; \omega) \right|^2 \quad (\text{Ohms})$$

#### Complex Vector Admittance = Reciprocal of Complex Vector Impedance:

$$\tilde{Y}(\vec{r}, t; \omega) = \tilde{Z}^{-1}(\vec{r}, t; \omega) = \tilde{\vec{E}}^{-1}(\vec{r}, t; \omega) \times \tilde{\vec{H}}(\vec{r}, t; \omega) = \left\{ \tilde{\vec{E}}^*(\vec{r}, t; \omega) \times \tilde{\vec{H}}(\vec{r}, t; \omega) \right\} / \left| \tilde{\vec{E}}(\vec{r}, t; \omega) \right|^2 \quad (\text{Siemens})$$

If we start with Poynting's vector, we show that it is linearly related to vector admittance and/or reciprocal vector impedance {we suppress (here) the argument  $(\vec{r}, t; \omega)$  for notation clarity}:

$$\tilde{S} \equiv \tilde{E} \times \tilde{H} = \frac{(\tilde{E} \cdot \tilde{E})}{\tilde{E}} \times \tilde{H} = (\tilde{E} \cdot \tilde{E}) \underbrace{\tilde{E}^{-1}}_{\equiv \tilde{Y}} \times \tilde{H} = (\tilde{E} \cdot \tilde{E}) \tilde{Y} = (\tilde{E} \cdot \tilde{E}) \tilde{Z}^{-1} \text{ (Watts/m}^2\text{)}$$

Note that the units of  $\tilde{E}$  (Volts/m), hence:  $(\tilde{E} \cdot \tilde{E}) \tilde{Z}^{-1} \left( (\text{Volts/m})^2 / \text{Ohms} = \text{Watts/m}^2 \text{!!!} \right)$

We can also obtain the alternate relations:

$$\tilde{S} \equiv \tilde{E} \times \tilde{H} = \tilde{E} \times \frac{(\tilde{H} \cdot \tilde{H})}{\tilde{H}} = (\tilde{H} \cdot \tilde{H}) \underbrace{\tilde{E} \times \tilde{H}^{-1}}_{\equiv \tilde{Z}} = (\tilde{H} \cdot \tilde{H}) \tilde{Z} = (\tilde{H} \cdot \tilde{H}) \tilde{Y}^{-1} \text{ (Watts/m}^2\text{)}$$

Note that the units of  $\tilde{H}$  (Amps/m), hence:  $(\tilde{H} \cdot \tilde{H}) \tilde{Z} \left( (\text{Amp/m})^2 \cdot \text{Ohms} = \text{Watts/m}^2 \text{!!!} \right)$

Note that the above complex relations are the **vector** analogs of the complex **scalar** power and Ohm's law relations associated with AC circuits {suppressing the arguments  $(t; \omega)$  for notational clarity}:

**Complex time-domain AC power:**

$$\tilde{P} \equiv \tilde{V} \cdot \tilde{I} \text{ (Volts} \cdot \text{Amps} = \text{Watts)}$$

**Complex Ohm's Law:**

$$\tilde{Z} = \tilde{V} / \tilde{I} = (\tilde{V} \cdot \tilde{I}^*) / |\tilde{I}|^2 \text{ (Volts/Amps} = \text{Ohms)}$$

**Complex Scalar Admittance = Reciprocal of Complex Scalar Impedance:**

$$\tilde{Y} = 1/\tilde{Z} = \tilde{I} / \tilde{V} = \tilde{I} \cdot \tilde{V}^* / |\tilde{V}|^2 \text{ (Amps/Volts} = \text{Siemens} = \text{Ohms}^{-1}\text{)}$$

Starting with complex time-domain AC power, we show that it is linearly related to scalar admittance and/or reciprocal scalar impedance:

$$\tilde{P} \equiv \tilde{V} \cdot \tilde{I} = \frac{(\tilde{V} \cdot \tilde{V})}{\tilde{V}} \cdot \tilde{I} = (\tilde{V} \cdot \tilde{V}) \frac{\tilde{I}}{\tilde{V}} = (\tilde{V} \cdot \tilde{V}) \tilde{Y} = (\tilde{V} \cdot \tilde{V}) / \tilde{Z} \text{ (Watts)}$$

Note that the units of  $\tilde{V}$  (Volts), hence:  $(\tilde{V} \cdot \tilde{V}) / \tilde{Z} \text{ (Volts}^2\text{/Ohms} = \text{Watts!!!)}$

We can also obtain the alternate relations:

$$\tilde{P} \equiv \tilde{V} \cdot \tilde{I} = \tilde{V} \cdot \frac{(\tilde{I} \cdot \tilde{I})}{\tilde{I}} = (\tilde{I} \cdot \tilde{I}) \frac{\tilde{V}}{\tilde{I}} = (\tilde{I} \cdot \tilde{I}) \tilde{Z} = (\tilde{I} \cdot \tilde{I}) / \tilde{Y} \text{ (Watts)}$$

Note that the units of  $\tilde{I}$  (Amps), hence:  $(\tilde{I} \cdot \tilde{I}) \tilde{Z} \text{ (Amp}^2 \cdot \text{Ohms} = \text{Watts!!!)}$

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

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:

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

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

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  $\nearrow$  Volume of *EM* wave associated with time interval  $\Delta t$

The volume associated with an *EM* wave propagating in free space over a time interval  $\Delta t$  is:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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**:

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

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:

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

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

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

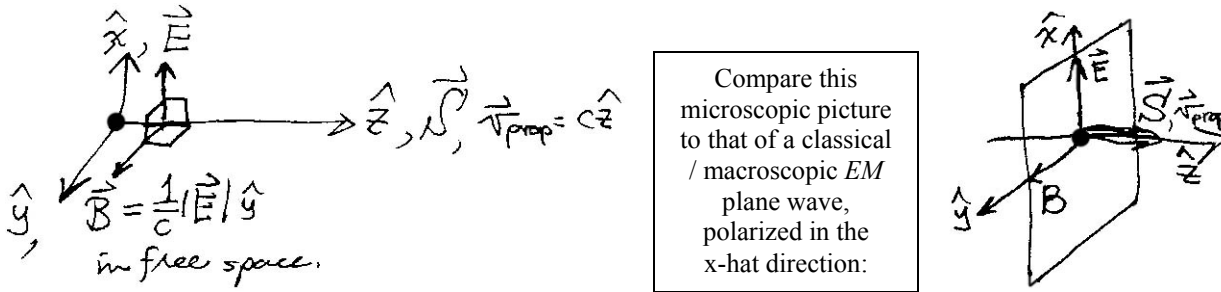
If the *EM* wave is **not** at normal incidence on the absorbing/reflecting surface, but instead makes a finite angle  $\theta$  with respect to the unit normal of the surface, these relations need to be modified, due to the cosine  $\theta$  factor  $\langle \vec{S} \rangle \cdot \hat{n} = \langle |\vec{S}| \rangle \cos \theta = I \cos \theta$  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  $\theta$ :

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

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

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

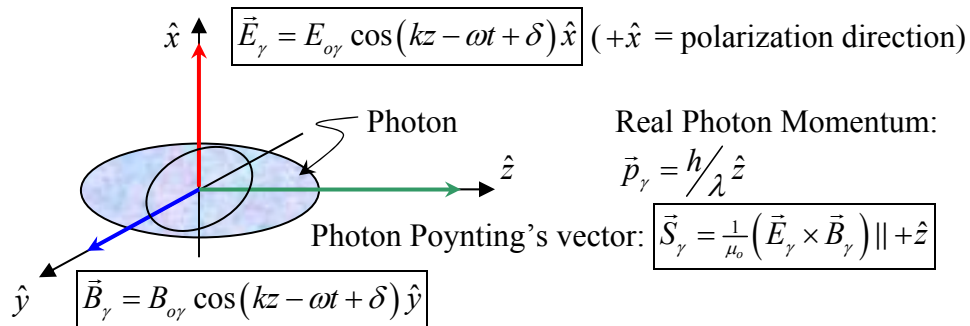
Maxwell's equations (and relativity) for the macroscopic  $\vec{E}$  and  $\vec{B}$  fields associated with an EM plane wave propagating in free space mandate / require that  $\vec{E} \perp \vec{B} \perp$  propagation direction (here,  $\hat{k} = +\hat{z}$ )  $\{\vec{v}_{prop} = c\hat{z}\}$ , as shown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



Macroscopic EM plane 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 plane 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:



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

Real photon energy:  $E_\gamma = hf = p_\gamma c = |\vec{p}_\gamma| c$  (Total Relativistic Energy<sup>2</sup> =  $E_\gamma^2 = p_\gamma^2 c^2 + m_\gamma^2 c^4$ )

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

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

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

**Answer:** The rate at which visible-light photons from a 10 mW laser depends on the color (i.e. the wavelength  $\lambda$ , frequency  $f$ , and/or photon energy  $E_\gamma$ ) of the laser beam!  $E_\gamma = hf = hc/\lambda$ .

When we say a 10 mW power laser, what precisely does this mean/refer to?

It refers to the time-averaged *EM* power:

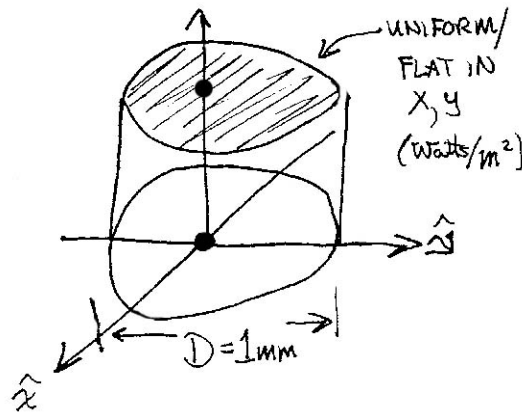
$$\langle P_{laser}(t) \rangle = 10 \text{ mW (RMS)} = 10 \times 10^{-3} \text{ Watts (RMS)} = 0.010 \text{ Watts (RMS)}$$

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 (RMS) mW laser beam is:

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

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

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

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



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  $h = \text{Planck's constant}$ :  $h = 6.626 \times 10^{-34} \text{ Joule-sec}$  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:

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

$$E_{\gamma}^{\text{red}} = hf_{\text{red}}^{\gamma} = 6.626 \times 10^{-34} \text{ Joule/sec} \times 4.0 \times 10^{14} / \text{sec} = 2.6504 \times 10^{-19} \text{ Joules (red light)}$$

$$E_{\gamma}^{\text{blue}} = hf_{\text{blue}}^{\gamma} = 6.626 \times 10^{-34} \text{ Joule/sec} \times 7.5 \times 10^{14} / \text{sec} = 4.9695 \times 10^{-19} \text{ Joules (blue light)}$$

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  $\Delta t$ .

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

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

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

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

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

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

Note: In a time interval of  $\Delta t = 1 \text{ sec}$ , photons (of any color /  $\lambda^{\gamma}$  /  $f^{\gamma}$  /  $E_{\gamma}$ ) 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 ( $\#/m^2/sec$ ) is:

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

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

If each photon has  $E_\gamma$  Joules of energy, then power associated with red (blue) laser beam:

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

$$= 1.2732 \times 10^4 \text{ Watts} / m^2$$

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

$$= 1.2732 \times 10^4 \text{ Watts} / m^2$$

Thus we see that:

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

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

Time-averaged linear momentum density:

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

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

Thus:  $\left| \langle \vec{\phi}_\gamma^{red} \rangle \right| = \left| \langle \vec{\phi}_\gamma^{blue} \rangle \right| = 1.4147 \times 10^{-13} \text{ kg} / m^2 \text{-sec}$  Momentum density, Poyntings vector, energy density are independent of frequency / wavelength / photon energy

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

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

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

 Distance light travels in  $\Delta t$  sec.

Red light momentum:

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

Blue light momentum:

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

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

**{“TRICK”}:**

For an *EM* plane wave, the time-averaged energy density  $\langle u_{EM}(t) \rangle =$  time-averaged momentum density  $\langle |\vec{s}_{EM}(t)| \rangle * c$  (Since photon energy,  $E_\gamma = p_\gamma c$ ). Thus:

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

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

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  $\langle u_\gamma(t) \rangle * \text{volume } \Delta V$

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

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

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

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

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

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  $\Delta t$  using an absolutely calibrated photodiode (e.g. by NIST).

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

$$\tau_{red} = \frac{1}{f_{red}} = 2.500 \times 10^{-15} \text{ sec} = 2.500 \text{ femto-sec} = 2.500 \text{ fs}$$

$$\tau_{blue} = \frac{1}{f_{blue}} = 1.333 \times 10^{-15} \text{ sec} = 1.333 \text{ femto-sec} = 1.333 \text{ fs}$$

$\rightarrow$  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 plane waves propagating in free space / vacuum ( $\frac{1}{c^2} = \epsilon_o \mu_o$ )

We showed that:

$$\langle u_{elect}(t) \rangle = \langle u_{mag}(t) \rangle$$

$$\langle u_{elect}(t) \rangle = \frac{1}{2} \left\{ \frac{1}{2} \epsilon_o E_o^2 \right\}$$

$$B_o^2 = \frac{1}{c^2} E_o^2 = \epsilon_o \mu_o E_o^2$$

$$\langle u_{mag}(t) \rangle = \frac{1}{2} \left\{ \frac{1}{2\mu_o} B_o^2 \right\} = \frac{1}{2} \left\{ \frac{\epsilon_o \cancel{\mu_o}}{2\cancel{\mu_o}} E_o^2 \right\} = \frac{1}{2} \left\{ \frac{1}{2} \epsilon_o E_o^2 \right\}$$

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

$$E_{o_{rms}} \equiv \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} E_o \Rightarrow E_{o_{rms}}^2 = \frac{1}{2} E_o^2$$

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

Then:  $\langle u_{elect}(t) \rangle = \frac{1}{2} \left\{ \frac{1}{2} \epsilon_o E_o^2 \right\} = \frac{1}{2} \epsilon_o E_{o_{rms}}^2$  (Joules/m<sup>3</sup>)

$$\langle u_{mag}(t) \rangle = \frac{1}{2} \left\{ \frac{1}{2\mu_o} B_o^2 \right\} = \frac{1}{2\mu_o} B_{o_{rms}}^2 = \frac{1}{2} \epsilon_o E_{o_{rms}}^2 \text{ in free space / vacuum}$$

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

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

Thus:  $E_{o_{rms}}^{laser} = \sqrt{\frac{1}{\epsilon_o} \langle u_{EM}(t) \rangle} = \left[ \frac{4.2441 \times 10^{-5} \text{ Joules/m}}{8.85 \times 10^{-12} \text{ Farads/m}} \right]^{1/2}$  (Volts/m)  
 $E_{o_{rms}}^{laser} \approx 3.0970 \times 10^3 = 3097$  RMS Volts/m (*n.b. same for red vs. blue laser light!*)

Then:  $E_o^{laser} = E_{peak}^{laser} = \sqrt{2} E_{o_{rms}}^{laser} \approx 4380$  Volts/m

Then:  $B_{o_{rms}}^{laser} = \frac{1}{c} E_{o_{rms}}^{laser} \approx 10.3232 \times 10^{-6}$  RMS Tesla (=  $10.3232 \times 10^{-2}$  RMS Gauss)

Note: 1 Tesla {SI/MKS units} =  $10^4$  Gauss {CGS units}

Thus:  $B_o^{laser} = \frac{1}{c} E_o^{laser} = \sqrt{2} B_{o_{rms}}^{laser} \approx 14.5970 \times 10^{-6}$  Tesla (=  $14.5970 \times 10^{-2}$  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:  $E_\gamma^{red} = h f_\gamma^{red} = 2.6504 \times 10^{-19}$  Joules

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

$$\langle u_{EM}(t) \rangle = \epsilon_o E_{o_{rms}}^2 = \frac{1}{2} \epsilon_o E_o^2 \left( \frac{\text{Joules}}{\text{m}^3} \right)$$

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

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

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  $E_{\gamma}$ ) is proportional to  $E_o^2$  = the square of the macroscopic electric field amplitude!

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

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

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

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

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

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:  $\int_{\mathcal{V}} \langle n_{\gamma}(\vec{r}, t) \rangle d\tau = \langle \Delta N_{\gamma} \rangle$ ,

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

Thus, we also see that the macroscopic 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:  $\epsilon_o E_{o_{\text{rms}}}^2 A_\perp c \Delta t = \langle \Delta N_\gamma(t) \rangle E_\gamma$  or:  $E_{o_{\text{rms}}}^2 = \frac{\langle \Delta N_\gamma(t) \rangle}{\epsilon_o A_\perp c \Delta t} E_\gamma$

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

$$\langle \Delta d_\parallel^{\text{blue}}(t) \rangle = \frac{3 \times 10^8 \text{ m}}{2.012 \times 10^{16} \gamma/s} = 1.49 \times 10^{-8} \text{ m} \sim 15 \times 10^{-9} \text{ m} \approx 15 \text{ nm}$$

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:

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

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

We showed above that the time-averaged/mean **number density** of photons in the laser beam is:

$$\langle n_{\gamma}(\vec{r}, t) \rangle = \langle u_{EM}(\vec{r}, t) \rangle / E_{\gamma} = \frac{1}{2} \epsilon_0 E_o^2 / E_{\gamma} \text{ (photons/m}^3\text{)}.$$

The **instantaneous number density** of photons in the laser beam is:

$$n_{\gamma}(\vec{r}, t) = u_{EM}(\vec{r}, t) / E_{\gamma} = \epsilon_0 E_o^2 \cos^2(kz - \omega t) / E_{\gamma} \text{ (photons/m}^3\text{)}$$

We can **normalize** the **instantaneous** photon number density to obtain an **instantaneous** 3-D photon **probability density**,  $\mathcal{P}_{\gamma}^{3-D}(z, t)$  ( $1/m^3$ ). Recall that the laser beam intensity is uniform/constant in the cross-sectional area  $A_{\perp}$  of the laser beam.

The 3-D photon **probability density**,  $\mathcal{P}_{\gamma}^{3-D}(\vec{r}, t)$  is:

$$\mathcal{P}_{\gamma}^{3-D}(\vec{r}, t) \equiv n_{\gamma}(\vec{r}, t) / N_{\gamma} = u_{EM}(\vec{r}, t) / (N_{\gamma} \cdot E_{\gamma}) = \epsilon_0 E_o^2 \cos^2(kz - \omega t) / (N_{\gamma} \cdot E_{\gamma}) \text{ (1/m}^3\text{)}$$

But note that:  $(N_{\gamma} \cdot E_{\gamma}) = \langle \Delta U_{EM} \rangle$  (Joules) in time interval of  $\Delta t$  secs.

Then also note that:  $\langle \Delta U_{EM} \rangle = \langle u_{EM}(\vec{r}, t) \rangle \cdot Vol = \left( \frac{1}{2} \epsilon_0 E_o^2 \right) \cdot A_{\perp} \cdot \ell = \left( \langle n_{\gamma}(\vec{r}, t) \rangle \cdot E_{\gamma} \right) \cdot A_{\perp} \cdot \ell$ .

$$\text{Thus: } \mathcal{P}_{\gamma}^{3-D}(\vec{r}, t) \equiv \frac{n_{\gamma}(\vec{r}, t) u_{EM}(\vec{r}, t)}{N_{\gamma} \langle \Delta U_{EM} \rangle} = \frac{\cancel{\epsilon_0 E_o^2} \cos^2(kz - \omega t)}{\left( \frac{1}{2} \cancel{\epsilon_0 E_o^2} \right) \cdot A_{\perp} \cdot \ell} = \frac{2}{A_{\perp} \cdot \ell} \cos^2(kz - \omega t) \text{ (1/m}^3\text{)}$$

with:

$$\int_V \mathcal{P}_{\gamma}^{3-D}(\vec{r}, t) d\tau = \frac{2}{A_{\perp} \cdot \ell} \int_{A_{\perp}} \int_{z=0}^{z=\ell=c\Delta t} \cos^2(kz - \omega t) dz \cdot da = \frac{2 \cancel{A_{\perp}}}{\cancel{A_{\perp}} \cdot \ell} \int_{z=0}^{z=\ell=c\Delta t} \cos^2(kz - \omega t) dz$$

$$= 2 \cdot \underbrace{\frac{1}{\ell} \int_{z=0}^{z=\ell=c\Delta t} \cos^2(kz - \omega t) dz}_{= \frac{1}{2}} = 1$$

We thus see that the instantaneous normalized **photon number density**  $\mathcal{P}_{\gamma}^{3-D}(\vec{r}, t) \equiv n_{\gamma}(\vec{r}, t) / N_{\gamma}$  plays a role analogous to that of the **probability density** in **quantum mechanics**

$\mathcal{P}(\vec{r}, t) = \langle \psi(\vec{r}, t) | \psi(\vec{r}, t) \rangle = |\psi(\vec{r}, t)|^2$ , with:  $\int_V \mathcal{P}(\vec{r}, t) d\tau = 1$ . Hence, we **also** see that the



macroscopic electric field **amplitude**  $E_o = \sqrt{\frac{1}{\epsilon_o} \langle n_\gamma(\vec{r}, t) \rangle} E_\gamma$  plays a role analogous to the **probability density amplitude** in **quantum mechanics**!

We can calculate the time rate of change of the normalized 3-D photon **probability density**,  $\mathcal{P}_\gamma^{3-D}(\vec{r}, t)$ :

$$\frac{\partial \mathcal{P}_\gamma^{3-D}(\vec{r}, t)}{\partial t} = \frac{2}{A_\perp \cdot \ell} \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \cos^2(kz - \omega t) = + \frac{4\omega}{A_\perp \cdot \ell} \sin(kz - \omega t) \cdot \cos(kz - \omega t)$$

We can define a normalized 3-D photon **probability current density** as:  $\vec{\mathcal{J}}_\gamma^{3-D}(\vec{r}, t) = c \cdot \mathcal{P}_\gamma^{3-D}(\vec{r}, t) \hat{z}$ .

We calculate the divergence of the normalized 3-D photon **probability current density**:

$$\begin{aligned} \vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{\mathcal{J}}_\gamma^{3-D}(\vec{r}, t) &= \vec{\nabla} \cdot (c \cdot \mathcal{P}_\gamma^{3-D}(\vec{r}, t) \hat{z}) = c \cdot \frac{2}{A_\perp \cdot \ell} \vec{\nabla} \cdot (\cos^2(kz - \omega t) \hat{z}) \\ &= c \cdot \frac{2}{A_\perp \cdot \ell} \left( \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \cos^2(kz - \omega t) \right) = -c \cdot \frac{4k}{A_\perp \cdot \ell} \sin(kz - \omega t) \cdot \cos(kz - \omega t) \end{aligned}$$

We thus show that the photons in this laser beam obey the **continuity equation for photons**:

$$\frac{\partial \mathcal{P}_\gamma^{3-D}(\vec{r}, t)}{\partial t} + \vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{\mathcal{J}}_\gamma^{3-D}(\vec{r}, t) = 0$$

From above:

$$\frac{\partial \mathcal{P}_\gamma^{3-D}(\vec{r}, t)}{\partial t} = \frac{4\omega}{A_\perp \cdot \ell} \sin(kz - \omega t) \cdot \cos(kz - \omega t) \quad \text{and:} \quad \vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{\mathcal{J}}_\gamma^{3-D}(\vec{r}, t) = -c \cdot \frac{4k}{A_\perp \cdot \ell} \sin(kz - \omega t) \cdot \cos(kz - \omega t)$$

However, in free space, we have:  $\omega = ck$ .

$$\text{Hence:} \quad \frac{\partial \mathcal{P}_\gamma^{3-D}(\vec{r}, t)}{\partial t} = \frac{4ck}{A_\perp \cdot \ell} \sin(kz - \omega t) \cdot \cos(kz - \omega t) = -\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{\mathcal{J}}_\gamma^{3-D}(\vec{r}, t)$$

$$\text{Thus:} \quad \frac{\partial \mathcal{P}_\gamma^{3-D}(\vec{r}, t)}{\partial t} + \vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{\mathcal{J}}_\gamma^{3-D}(\vec{r}, t) = 0$$

*i.e.* microscopically, photons neither disappear, nor are they created in propagating as this laser beam!