

Homework 1: Phys 141

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Problem 1.2

Starting from the wave equation:

$$\frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial z^2} = \frac{1}{u^2} \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial t^2}$$

if $f = f(z - ut)$, then we can use the chain rule to show that

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial z} = f'(z - ut) \frac{\partial(z - ut)}{\partial z} = f'(z - ut)$$

$$\frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial z^2} = \frac{\partial f'(z - ut)}{\partial z} = f''(z - ut) \frac{\partial(z - ut)}{\partial z} = f''(z - ut)$$

Similarly,

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial t} = f'(z - ut) \frac{\partial(z - ut)}{\partial t} = -u f'(z - ut)$$

$$\frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial t^2} = -u \frac{\partial f'(z - ut)}{\partial t} = -u f''(z - ut) \frac{\partial(z - ut)}{\partial t} = u^2 f''(z - ut)$$

These clearly satisfy the wave equation.

Problem 1.3

In three dimensions, we have

$$\frac{1}{u^2} \frac{\partial^2 f(\hat{n} \cdot \vec{r} - ut)}{\partial t^2} = \nabla^2 f(\hat{n} \cdot \vec{r} - ut) = \nabla^2 f(n_x x + n_y y + n_z z - ut) =$$

$$\frac{\partial^2 f(n_x x + n_y y + n_z z - ut)}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 f(n_x x + n_y y + n_z z - ut)}{\partial y^2} + \frac{\partial^2 f(n_x x + n_y y + n_z z - ut)}{\partial z^2}$$

Now, all of these derivatives can be done as in the previous problem,

$$\frac{\partial^2 f(\hat{n} \cdot \vec{r} - ut)}{\partial t^2} = u^2 f''$$

$$\frac{\partial^2 f(n_x x + n_y y + n_z z - ut)}{\partial x^2} = n_x^2 f''$$

$$\frac{\partial^2 f(n_x x + n_y y + n_z z - ut)}{\partial y^2} = n_y^2 f''$$

$$\frac{\partial^2 f(n_x x + n_y y + n_z z - ut)}{\partial z^2} = n_z^2 f''$$

Putting these back into the wave equation, we find

$$\frac{1}{u^2} u^2 f'' = (n_x^2 + n_y^2 + n_z^2) f''$$

Which clearly holds, since \hat{n} is a unit vector.

Problem 1.4

Starting from the 3D wave equation,

$$\nabla^2 f = \frac{1}{u^2} \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial t^2}$$

In spherical coordinates,

$$\nabla^2 f = \frac{1}{r^2} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} \left[r^2 \frac{\partial f}{\partial r} \right] + \text{Derivatives in } \theta \text{ and } \phi$$

Since our function, $f = \frac{1}{r} e^{i(kr - \omega t)}$ does not depend on θ or ϕ , the terms containing derivatives with respect to θ and ϕ will be zero. This leaves

$$\frac{1}{r^2} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} \left[r^2 \frac{\partial}{\partial r} \frac{1}{r} e^{i(kr - \omega t)} \right] = \frac{1}{u^2} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial t^2} \left[\frac{1}{r} e^{i(kr - \omega t)} \right]$$

The right hand side becomes

$$\frac{1}{u^2} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial t^2} \left[\frac{1}{r} e^{i(kr - \omega t)} \right] = -\frac{1}{r} \frac{\omega^2}{u^2} e^{i(kr - \omega t)}$$

The left hand side becomes

$$\frac{1}{r^2} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} \left[r^2 \frac{\partial}{\partial r} \frac{1}{r} e^{i(kr - \omega t)} \right] = \frac{1}{r^2} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} \left[(ikr - 1) e^{i(kr - \omega t)} \right] = -\frac{1}{r} k^2 e^{i(kr - \omega t)}$$

Putting these together,

$$k^2 e^{i(kr - \omega t)} = \frac{\omega^2}{u^2} e^{i(kr - \omega t)}$$

Which holds if $u = \frac{\omega}{k}$.

Problem 1.6

The book leaves the derivation at

$$u_g = \frac{c}{n} - \frac{ck}{n^2} \frac{dn}{dk} = u - \frac{ck}{n^2} \frac{dn}{dk}$$

By the chain rule

$$u_g = u - \frac{ck}{n^2} \frac{dn}{du} \frac{d\lambda}{dk} \frac{du}{d\lambda}$$

Using that:

$$n = \frac{c}{u} \Rightarrow \frac{dn}{du} = -\frac{c}{u^2}$$

and

$$\lambda = \frac{2\pi}{k} \Rightarrow \frac{d\lambda}{dk} = -\frac{2\pi}{k^2}$$

we find

$$u_g = u - \frac{ck}{n^2} \frac{c}{u^2} \frac{2\pi}{k^2} \frac{du}{d\lambda} = u - \frac{2\pi}{k} \frac{du}{d\lambda} = u - \lambda \frac{du}{d\lambda}$$

To derive the second identity, we start from

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{u_g} &= \frac{dk}{d\omega} = \frac{d}{d\omega} \left(\frac{\omega}{u} \right) \\ &= \frac{1}{u} + \omega \frac{d}{d\omega} \left(\frac{1}{u} \right) = \frac{1}{u} + \omega \frac{d}{du} \left(\frac{1}{u} \right) \frac{du}{d\omega} = \frac{1}{u} - \frac{\omega}{u^2} \frac{du}{d\omega} \end{aligned}$$

Using the chain rule,

$$\frac{1}{u} - \frac{\omega}{u^2} \frac{du}{d\omega} = \frac{1}{u} - \frac{\omega}{u^2} \frac{du}{dn} \frac{d\lambda_0}{d\omega} \frac{dn}{d\lambda_0}$$

Using that

$$u = \frac{c}{n} \Rightarrow \frac{du}{dn} = -\frac{c}{n^2}$$

and

$$\lambda_0 = \frac{2\pi}{k} = \frac{2\pi u}{\omega} \Rightarrow \frac{d\lambda_0}{d\omega} = -\frac{2\pi u}{\omega^2}$$

we find

$$\frac{1}{u} - \frac{\omega}{u^2} \frac{du}{dn} \frac{d\lambda_0}{d\omega} \frac{dn}{d\lambda_0} = \frac{1}{u} - \frac{\omega}{u^2} \frac{c}{n^2} \frac{2\pi u}{\omega^2} \frac{dn}{d\lambda_0} = \frac{1}{u} - \frac{\lambda_0}{c} \frac{dn}{d\lambda_0}$$

Problem 1.7

We start from the equation

$$\frac{1}{u_g} = \frac{1}{u} - \frac{\lambda_0}{c} \frac{dn}{d\lambda_0}$$

In this case,

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{dn}{d\lambda_0} &= -2B\lambda_0^{-3} \\ \Rightarrow \frac{1}{u_g} &= \frac{n}{c} + \frac{2B\lambda_0^{-2}}{c} = \frac{A}{c} + \frac{B\lambda_0^{-2}}{c} + \frac{2B\lambda_0^{-2}}{c} = \frac{A}{c} + \frac{3B\lambda_0^{-2}}{c} \end{aligned}$$

Putting in numerical values, we find that

$$u_g = 1.6 \times 10^8 \frac{m}{s}$$

Problem 1.8

We start from:

$$\frac{1}{u_g} = \frac{1}{u} - \frac{\lambda_0}{c} \frac{dn}{d\lambda_0}$$

If $n = \frac{A}{\lambda_0}$, then $\frac{dn}{d\lambda_0} = -\frac{A}{\lambda_0^2}$. So,

$$\frac{1}{u_g} = \frac{1}{u} - \frac{\lambda_0}{c} \frac{dn}{d\lambda_0} = \frac{1}{u} + \frac{\lambda_0}{c} \frac{A}{\lambda_0^2} = \frac{1}{u} + \frac{A}{c\lambda_0} = \frac{1}{u} + \frac{n}{c} = \frac{2}{u}$$

So,

$$u_g = \frac{u}{2}$$

Problem 2.1

The function $f = e^{i(\vec{k} \cdot \vec{r} - \omega t)}$ can be expanded to

$$f = e^{i(k_x x + k_y y + k_z z - \omega t)}$$

Applying the del operator

$$\begin{aligned} \vec{\nabla} f &= \frac{d}{dx} e^{i(k_x x + k_y y + k_z z - \omega t)} \hat{x} + \frac{d}{dy} e^{i(k_x x + k_y y + k_z z - \omega t)} \hat{y} + \frac{d}{dz} e^{i(k_x x + k_y y + k_z z - \omega t)} \hat{z} \\ &= ik_x \hat{x} e^{i(k_x x + k_y y + k_z z - \omega t)} + ik_y \hat{y} e^{i(k_x x + k_y y + k_z z - \omega t)} + ik_z \hat{z} e^{i(k_x x + k_y y + k_z z - \omega t)} \\ &= i(k_x \hat{x} + k_y \hat{y} + k_z \hat{z}) e^{i(k_x x + k_y y + k_z z - \omega t)} = i\hat{k} f \end{aligned}$$

Problem 2.2

The magnitude of the average value of the Poynting vector is given by

$$\left| \langle \vec{S} \rangle \right| = \frac{1}{2} \left| \vec{E} \times \vec{H} \right| = \frac{\epsilon_0 c}{2} \left| \vec{E} \times \vec{E} \right| = \frac{\epsilon_0 c}{2} \left| \vec{E}^2 \right| = I = \frac{P}{A}$$

So then, the RMS is

$$\sqrt{\left| \vec{E}^2 \right|} = \sqrt{\frac{2P}{\epsilon_0 c A}} = 154.8 \frac{V}{m}$$

Problem 2.3

Starting with the magnitude of the Poynting vector

$$I = \left| \langle \vec{S} \rangle \right| = \frac{\text{Power}}{\text{Laser Area}} = \frac{100 * 10^6}{\pi (5 * 10^{-6})^2} \frac{W}{m^2} = 1.3 * 10^{18} \frac{W}{m^2}$$

In the previous problem, we showed that

$$I = \frac{\epsilon_0 c}{2} \left| \vec{E}^2 \right|$$

$$\Rightarrow \sqrt{|\vec{E}^2|} = \sqrt{\frac{2I}{\epsilon_0 c}} = 3.1 * 10^{10} \frac{V}{m}$$

Problem 2.4

We start with the definition of the Poynting vector.

$$\begin{aligned} \vec{S} &= \vec{E} \times \vec{H} \\ &= \text{Re} \left[E_0 e^{i(k \cdot r - \omega t)} \right] \times \text{Re} \left[H_0 e^{i(k \cdot r - \omega t)} \right] \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \left[E_0 e^{i(k \cdot r - \omega t)} + E_0^* e^{-i(k \cdot r - \omega t)} \right] \times \left[H_0 e^{i(k \cdot r - \omega t)} + H_0^* e^{-i(k \cdot r - \omega t)} \right] \\ &= \frac{1}{4} \left[E_0 \times H_0 e^{2i(k \cdot r - \omega t)} + E_0^* \times H_0^* e^{-2i(k \cdot r - \omega t)} + E_0^* \times H_0 + E_0 \times H_0^* \right] \\ &= \frac{1}{4} \left[E_0^* \times H_0 + E_0 \times H_0^* \right] + \frac{1}{4} \left[E_0 \times H_0 e^{2i(k \cdot r - \omega t)} + E_0^* \times H_0^* e^{-2i(k \cdot r - \omega t)} \right] \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \text{Re}(E_0 \times H_0^*) + \frac{1}{2} \text{Re}(E_0 \times H_0 e^{2i(k \cdot r - \omega t)}) \end{aligned}$$

So then,

$$\langle \vec{S} \rangle = \frac{1}{2} \langle \text{Re}(E_0 \times H_0^*) \rangle + \frac{1}{2} \langle \text{Re}(E_0 \times H_0 e^{2i(k \cdot r - \omega t)}) \rangle$$

The average is taken over one cycle, $T = \frac{2\pi}{\omega}$. The second term oscillates at twice this frequency, meaning the average is zero. This leaves only the first term, giving

$$\langle \vec{S} \rangle = \frac{1}{2} \langle \text{Re}(E_0 \times H_0^*) \rangle$$