

Waves in Linear Optical Media

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Outline

- Plane waves in free space. Polarization.
- Plane waves in linear lossy media.
- Dispersion relations for linear waves in dispersionless, homogeneous media.
- Waves in anisotropic media: Faraday rotation, uniaxial crystals.
- Waves in piecewise-continuous media: Fresnel theory.
- Brewster and surface plasmon-polariton modes.





Light propagation in free space Maxwell's equations (ME) in free space:

$$\nabla \times \mathbf{E} = -\mu_0 \frac{\partial \mathbf{H}}{\partial t},$$
$$\nabla \times \mathbf{H} = \varepsilon_0 \frac{\partial \mathbf{E}}{\partial t},$$
$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{E} = 0,$$
$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{H} = 0.$$

Describe any classical optics phenomenon in free space!



Eliminating the magnetic field: $\nabla \times (\nabla \times \mathbf{E}) = \nabla (\nabla \cdot \mathbf{E}) - \nabla^2 \mathbf{E} = -\mu_0 \varepsilon_0 \frac{\partial^2 \mathbf{E}}{\partial t^2}.$ recalling that $\mu_0 \varepsilon_0 = 1/c^2$,

$$\nabla^2 \mathbf{E} - \frac{1}{c^2} \frac{\partial^2 \mathbf{E}}{\partial t^2} = 0.$$

Wave equation in free space.
 There exist plane wave solutions

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Plane wave solutions: $\mathbf{E} = \mathbf{E}_0 e^{i(\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{r} - \boldsymbol{\omega} t)},$

 $\mathbf{H} = \mathbf{H}_0 e^{i(\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{r} - \boldsymbol{\omega} t)^{\dagger}}$

with the dispersion relation:

$$k^2 = \omega^2/c^2$$

as well as the relations

$$\mathbf{H}_0 = \frac{(\hat{\mathbf{e}}_k \times \mathbf{E}_0)}{\eta_0}$$





$$\mathbf{E}_0 = -\boldsymbol{\eta}_0(\hat{\mathbf{e}}_k \times \mathbf{H}_0)$$

where $\eta_0 = \sqrt{\mu_0/\epsilon_0}$ (free space impedance). The transversality conditions: $\hat{\mathbf{e}}_k \cdot \mathbf{E}_0 = 0, \qquad \hat{\mathbf{e}}_k \cdot \mathbf{H}_0 = 0.$





 $\mathbf{E} = \overline{(E_x \hat{\mathbf{e}}_x + E_y \hat{\mathbf{e}}_y)} e^{i(kz - \omega t)},$

 $E_x = |E_x|e^{i\phi_x}, \qquad E_y = |E_y|e^{i\phi_y}.$

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φ_x = φ_y, linear polarization,
|E_x| = |E_y|, φ_x - φ_y = π/2, circular polarization
Otherwise, elliptical polarization.
The elliptic polarization is the most general case,
|E_x| ≠ |E_y| and φ_x ≠ φ_y.





Linear polarization,







Circular polarization,







Elliptical polarization,



$\mathbf{E} = (E_+ \hat{\mathbf{e}}_+ + E_- \hat{\mathbf{e}}_-) e^{i(kz - \omega t)}, \quad E_- / E_+ = r e^{i\alpha}.$





Constitutive relations $\mathscr{D} = \varepsilon_0 \varepsilon(\omega) \mathscr{E}, \quad \mathscr{B} = \mu_0 \mathscr{H},$ and $\varepsilon(\omega) = \varepsilon'(\omega) + i\varepsilon''(\omega),$ Maxwell's equations $\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathscr{E} = 0,$ $\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathcal{H} = 0$,

media



 $\mathbf{k} \times \mathscr{E} = \mu_0 \omega \mathscr{H}$

 $\mathbf{k} \times \mathscr{H} = -\varepsilon_0 \varepsilon(\boldsymbol{\omega}) \boldsymbol{\omega} \mathscr{E}.$

Seeking inhomogeneous plane wave solutions $\mathbf{E}(z,t) = \mathsf{Re}\{\mathscr{E}e^{i(kz-i\omega t)}\}$

$$\mathbf{H}(z,t) = \mathsf{Re}\{\mathscr{H}e^{i(kz-i\omega t)}\}$$



Dispersion relation

 $k = \beta_{\pm} + i\alpha_{\pm}/2.$

where

$$\beta_{\pm} = \pm \frac{\omega}{2c} \sqrt{\sqrt{\varepsilon'^2 + \varepsilon''^2} + \varepsilon'}$$

and

$$\alpha_{\pm} = \pm \frac{\omega}{c} \sqrt{\sqrt{\varepsilon'^2 + \varepsilon''^2} - \varepsilon'}$$





The electric and magnetic field amplitudes: $\mathscr{E} = -\eta(\hat{\mathbf{e}}_{z} \times \mathscr{H}),$ and $\mathscr{H}=\frac{(\hat{\mathbf{e}}_z\times\mathscr{E})}{n},$ η being a complex impedance of the medium $\eta = \frac{\eta_0}{\sqrt{\varepsilon(\omega)}}$ $|\eta| = rac{\eta_0}{(\varepsilon'^2 + \varepsilon''^2)^{1/4}}, \quad \tan \theta_\eta = -\varepsilon''/\varepsilon'$





Linearly polarized plane wave $\mathbf{E}(z,t) = \hat{\mathbf{e}}_{x} \mathscr{E} e^{-\alpha z} \cos(\beta z - \omega t)$ and $\mathbf{H}(z,t) = \hat{\mathbf{e}}_{y} \frac{\mathscr{E}}{|\eta|} e^{-\alpha z} \cos(\beta z - \omega t - \theta_{\eta}).$



Lossless dielectrics, $\varepsilon'' = 0$ $\mathbf{E}(z,t) = \hat{\mathbf{e}}_x \mathscr{E} \cos(\beta z - \omega t),$ $\mathbf{H}(z,t) = \hat{\mathbf{e}}_y \frac{\mathscr{E}}{|\eta|} \cos(\beta z - \omega t).$

Homogeneous plane wave with parameters

 $\lambda = 2\pi/\beta,$







Light propagation in linear anisotropic media

MEs in source-free nonmagnetic media $\nabla \times \mathbf{E} = -\frac{\partial \mathbf{B}}{\partial t},$ $\nabla \times \mathbf{H} = \frac{\partial \mathbf{D}}{\partial t},$ $\overline{\nabla} \cdot \mathbf{D} = 0,$ $\nabla \cdot \mathbf{B} = 0.$ $\mathbf{B} = \mu_0 \mathbf{H}$



Eliminating magnetic field from MEs: $\nabla(\nabla \cdot \mathbf{E}) - \nabla^2 \mathbf{E} = -\mu_0 \frac{\partial^2 \mathbf{D}}{\partial t^2}$

and

$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{D} = 0,$

The electric flux density in such media:

$$D_i = \sum_{j=1}^3 \varepsilon_{ij} E_j,$$



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Plane-wave solution for the field:

$$E_i = \frac{1}{2}\mathscr{E}_i e^{i(\mathbf{k}\cdot\mathbf{r}-\boldsymbol{\omega}t)} + c.c.,.$$

and the flux density:

 $D_i = \frac{1}{2} \sum_j \varepsilon_{ij} \varepsilon_{j} e^{i(\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{r} - \boldsymbol{\omega} t)} + c.c..$

Modes supported by the medium:

$$\sum_{j} \left(k_i k_j - k^2 \delta_{ij} + \frac{\omega^2}{c^2} \varepsilon_{ij} \right) \mathscr{E}_j = 0,$$



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 $k_y^2 + k_z^2 - \frac{\omega^2}{c^2} \varepsilon_{xx} - k_x k_y - \frac{\omega^2}{c^2} \varepsilon_{xy} - k_x k_z - \frac{\omega^2}{c^2} \varepsilon_{xz}$ $-k_x k_y - \frac{\omega^2}{c^2} \varepsilon_{yx} k_x^2 + k_z^2 - \frac{\omega^2}{c^2} \varepsilon_{yy} - k_y k_z - \frac{\omega^2}{c^2} \varepsilon_{yz}$ $-k_x k_z - \frac{\omega^2}{c^2} \varepsilon_{zx} - k_y k_z - \frac{\omega^2}{c^2} \varepsilon_{zy} k_x^2 + k_y^2 - \frac{\omega^2}{c^2} \varepsilon_{zz}$ 20/53 $\begin{pmatrix} \mathscr{E}_{x} \\ \mathscr{E}_{y} \\ \mathscr{E}_{z} \end{pmatrix} = 0$

or

 $\sum_{j} \left[k^2 \left(\delta_{ij} - \frac{k_i k_j}{k^2} \right) - \frac{\omega^2}{c^2} \varepsilon_{ij} \right] \mathscr{E}_j = 0,$

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plus the transversality condition:

$$\sum_{i,j} k_i \varepsilon_{ij} \mathscr{E}_j = 0.$$

Dispersion relations:

Det
$$\left(k_ik_j - k^2\delta_{ij} + \frac{\omega^2}{c^2}\varepsilon_{ij}\right) = 0.$$

or





Back Close Faraday rotation in external magnetic field The dielectric tensor (phenomenological) $\varepsilon_{ii}(\omega) = \varepsilon(\omega)\delta_{ii} + ig(\omega)e_{ijl}B_{0l},$

 $gB_0\ll \varepsilon$.

 $\mathbf{B}_0 \Leftrightarrow$ weak magnetic field.

 $e_{ijk} = \begin{cases} 1 \text{ even permutation of ijk;} \\ -1 \text{ odd permutation of ijk} \end{cases}$



Assume $\mathbf{k} = (0, 0, k)$; Dispersion relation: $k_{\pm} = k \pm \Delta k$,

where

$$k = \frac{\omega}{c} \sqrt{\varepsilon(\omega)}; \quad \Delta k = \frac{\omega g(\omega) B_0}{2\sqrt{\varepsilon(\omega)}c}.$$

Eigenmodes are circularly polarized plane waves, $\mathbf{E}_{\pm}(z,t) = \hat{\mathbf{e}}_{\pm} E_0 e^{i(k_{\pm}z - \omega t)}.$

• Magnetic field breaks down the symmetry!





Evolution of a linearly polarized wave $\mathbf{E}(0,t) = E_0 \hat{\mathbf{e}}_x e^{-i\omega t}$ By superposition at any plane z = const > 0: $\mathbf{E}(z,t) = a_{+}\mathbf{\hat{e}}_{+}e^{i(k_{+}z-\boldsymbol{\omega}t)} + a_{-}\mathbf{\hat{e}}_{-}e^{i(k_{-}z-\boldsymbol{\omega}t)}.$ after some algebra: $\mathbf{E}(z,t) = E_0 \hat{\mathbf{e}}_r(z) e^{i(kz - \omega t)}$ where $\hat{\mathbf{e}}_r(z) = \hat{\mathbf{e}}_x \cos \Delta kz - \hat{\mathbf{e}}_y \sin \Delta kz.$



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 Linearly polarized wave with rotating polarization plane

Rotation angle:

 $\Delta \phi = \Delta kL = VB_0L,$

where V is the so-called Verdet constant: $V = \frac{\omega g(\omega)}{2c\sqrt{\varepsilon(\omega)}}.$

Verdet constant gives the rate of rotation
Application: polarization control.





Linear waves in uniaxial media

Dielectric tensor of a uniaxial crystal with the principal axis along **n**:

$$\varepsilon_{ij} = \varepsilon_{\parallel} n_i n_j + \varepsilon_{\perp} (\delta_{ij} - n_i n_j).$$

IllustrationChoose $\mathbf{n} = (0,0,1)$ and $\mathbf{k} = (k_x,0,k_z)$: $\boldsymbol{\varepsilon} = \begin{pmatrix} \boldsymbol{\varepsilon}_{\perp} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \boldsymbol{\varepsilon}_{\perp} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \boldsymbol{\varepsilon}_{\parallel} \end{pmatrix}$





Dispersion relations

• Ordinary waves:

$$k = \frac{\omega}{c} \sqrt{\varepsilon_{\perp}}.$$

• Extraordinary waves:

$$k = \frac{\omega}{c} \left(\frac{\sin^2 \theta}{\varepsilon_{\parallel}} + \frac{\cos^2 \theta}{\varepsilon_{\perp}} \right)^{-1/2}$$







$$\frac{\omega^2}{c^2} = \frac{k_x^2}{\varepsilon_{\parallel}} + \frac{k_z^2}{\varepsilon_{\perp}}.$$

Dispersion ellipse



Properties of extraordinary waves:

- Magnitude of the wave vector depends on the propagation direction.
- Propagation direction does not coincide with the energy flow direction – S need not be parallel to k.

Applications:

• Can be used for phase matching in secondharmonic generation processes.





Reflection of plane waves at normal incidence





Incident wave $\mathbf{E}_i(z,t) = \hat{\mathbf{e}}_x E_{0i} e^{i(k_i z - \omega_i t)}$ $\mathbf{H}_{i}(z,t) = \mathbf{\hat{e}}_{y} \frac{E_{0i}}{n_{i}} e^{i(k_{i}z - \boldsymbol{\omega}_{i}t)}.$ Reflected wave $\mathbf{E}_r(z,t) = \hat{\mathbf{e}}_x E_{0r} e^{-i(k_r z + \omega_r t)}$ $\mathbf{H}_{r}(z,t) = -\mathbf{\hat{e}}_{y} \frac{E_{0r}}{\eta_{r}} e^{-i(k_{r}z + \omega_{r}t)}.$

and





Transmitted wave

$$\mathbf{E}_{t}(z,t) = \mathbf{\hat{e}}_{x} E_{0t} e^{i(\gamma_{t}z - \omega_{t}t)},$$
$$\mathbf{H}_{t}(z,t) = \mathbf{\hat{e}}_{y} \frac{E_{0t}}{\eta_{t}} e^{i(\gamma_{t}z - \omega_{t}t)}.$$

Boundary conditions

 $\mathbf{E}_{1\tau}|_{z=0} = \mathbf{E}_{2\tau}|_{z=0}, \quad \mathbf{H}_{1\tau}|_{z=0} = \mathbf{H}_{2\tau}|_{z=0}.$ imply that

$$e^{i(k_i z - \omega_i t)}|_{z=0} = e^{-i(k_r z + \omega_r t)}|_{z=0} = e^{i(\gamma_t z - \omega_t t)}|_{z=0}$$





 $-\mathbf{0}$.

Thus

 $\omega_i = \omega_r = \omega_t = \omega;$

 $k_i = k_r = k_1 = \frac{\omega}{c} \sqrt{\varepsilon_1},$

and



also

$$\eta_i = \eta_r = \eta_1 = \eta_0 / \sqrt{\varepsilon_1},$$

 $\eta_t = \eta_2 = \eta_0 / \sqrt{\varepsilon_2}, \quad \varepsilon_2 = \varepsilon_2' + i\varepsilon_2''.$



The transmission and reflection amplitudes

$$r\equivrac{E_{0r}}{E_{0i}}=rac{\eta_2-\eta_1}{\eta_1+\eta_2}$$

$$t \equiv \frac{E_{0t}}{E_{0i}} = \frac{2\eta_2}{\eta_1 + \eta_2}$$

Energy flux conservation:

1+r=t.





Perfect conductor, $\sigma ightarrow \infty$





No transmitted wave!



Refraction & reflection at oblique incidence



$$\mathbf{k}_{i} = k_{ix}\hat{\mathbf{e}}_{x} + k_{iz}\hat{\mathbf{e}}_{z},$$
$$\mathbf{k}_{r} = k_{rx}\hat{\mathbf{e}}_{x} + k_{rz}\hat{\mathbf{e}}_{z},$$
$$\mathbf{k}_{t} = k_{tx}\hat{\mathbf{e}}_{x} + k_{tz}\hat{\mathbf{e}}_{z},$$



Image: A state of the state of the







$$k_{ix} = k_{rx} = k_{tx} = k_x$$

$$k_{ix} = k_{rx} \Longrightarrow \theta_i = \theta_r$$
Snell's law
$$= k_{tx} \Longrightarrow n_1 \sin \theta_1 = n_2 \sin \theta_2$$

 v_{tx}





TM-polarized waves







Incident waves $\mathbf{H}_{i}(\mathbf{r},t) = H_{0i} \mathbf{\hat{e}}_{v} e^{i(\mathbf{k}_{i} \cdot \mathbf{r} - \boldsymbol{\omega}t)}$ $\mathbf{E}_{i}(\mathbf{r},t) = \boldsymbol{\eta}_{1} H_{0i}(k_{iz} \hat{\mathbf{e}}_{x} - k_{x} \hat{\mathbf{e}}_{z}) e^{i(\mathbf{k}_{i} \cdot \mathbf{r} - \omega t)}$ Reflected waves $\mathbf{H}_{r}(\mathbf{r},t) = -H_{0r}\hat{\mathbf{e}}_{v}e^{i(\mathbf{k}_{r}\cdot\mathbf{r}-\boldsymbol{\omega}t)}$ $\mathbf{E}_{r}(\mathbf{r},t) = \eta_{1}H_{0r}(-k_{1z}\mathbf{e}_{x}-k_{x}\mathbf{e}_{z})e^{i(\mathbf{k}_{r}\cdot\mathbf{r}-\boldsymbol{\omega}t)}$ Transmitted waves $\mathbf{H}_t(\mathbf{r},t) = H_{0t} \hat{\mathbf{e}}_v e^{i(\mathbf{k}_t \cdot \mathbf{r} - \boldsymbol{\omega}_t)}$ $\mathbf{E}_t(\mathbf{r},t) = \eta_2 H_{0t}(k_{2z}\mathbf{e}_x - k_x\mathbf{e}_z) e^{i(\mathbf{k}_t \cdot \mathbf{r} - \boldsymbol{\omega}_t)}$





TM-reflection and transmission amplitudes:



and



Transmission and reflection coefficients:

$$R_{TM} \equiv |r_{TM}|^2$$
, $T_{TM} \equiv |t_{TM}|^2$.



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Reflectionless modes $r_{TM} = 0 \Longrightarrow, \varepsilon_2 k_{1z} = \varepsilon_1 k_{2z}$ Brewster mode $\Longrightarrow Im\{k_{1z}\} = Im\{k_{2z}\} = 0$ $\tan \theta_B = n_2/n_1$; where refractive indices are defined as

$$n_s = \sqrt{\varepsilon_s}; \quad s = 1, 2.$$





Surface plasmon polariton (SPP) modes



 $\varepsilon(\omega) = \begin{cases} \varepsilon_1 > 0, & z > 0, \\ \varepsilon_2(\omega) \le 0, & z < 0. \end{cases}$



Dispersion relation follows from

$$\varepsilon_2 k_{1z} = \varepsilon_1 k_{2z}$$

and

 $k_{jz} = \sqrt{k_0^2 \varepsilon_j - k_x^2}$ j = 1, 2 $k_0 = \omega/c$ SPP signature: $k_x^2 \ge 0$ $k_{jz}^2 \le 0$





Dispersion relations:

$$k_x = k_0 \sqrt{\frac{\varepsilon_1 \varepsilon_2}{\varepsilon_1 + \varepsilon_2}}$$

and

$$k_{jz} = k_0 \sqrt{\frac{\epsilon_j^2}{\epsilon_1 + \epsilon_2}}, \quad j = 1, 2.$$

SPP conditions:

$$\varepsilon_1 + \varepsilon_2 < 0, \quad \varepsilon_1 \varepsilon_2 < 0.$$





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Launching SPPs





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TE-polarization











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Transmission and reflection amplitudes:

$$r_{TE} = r_{\perp} = \frac{E_{0r}}{E_{0i}} = \frac{k_{1z} - k_{2z}}{k_{1z} + k_{2z}},$$

and

$$t_{TE} = t_{\perp} = \frac{E_{0t}}{E_{0t}} = \frac{2k_{1z}}{k_{1z} + k_{2z}}$$

No Brewster angle or SPPs:

 $r_{TE} \neq 0,$









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TM-polarized incident wave

Unimodular reflection amplitude

$$\overline{r}_{TM*} = e^{-2i\phi_{TM*}}$$

where

$$\phi_{TM*} = \tan^{-1}\left(\frac{\varepsilon_1|k_{2z}|}{\varepsilon_2 k_{1z}}\right)$$





TE-polarized incident wave

Unimodular reflection amplitude

$$\overline{r}_{TE*} = e^{-2i\phi_{TE*}},$$

and

$$\phi_{TE*} = \tan^{-1}\left(\frac{|k_{2z}|}{k_{1z}}\right)$$



Energy flow across the interface? Time-averaged Poynting vector, $\langle \mathbf{S}_t(z) \rangle = \frac{1}{2} \operatorname{Re}[\mathbf{E}_{0t}(z) \times \mathbf{H}_{0t}^*(z)].$

TM case:

$$\langle \mathbf{S}_{t}(z) \rangle = \mathbf{e}_{x} \frac{4 \boldsymbol{\varepsilon}_{2} k_{1z}^{2} k_{x}}{k_{0} (\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}_{2}^{2} k_{1z}^{2} + \boldsymbol{\varepsilon}_{1}^{2} |k_{2z}|^{2})} I_{i} e^{-2|k_{2z}|z},$$

Propagates along the interface!



