

Do the fields \vec{E} and \vec{B} inside such a material with an $\epsilon(\omega)$ obey the wave equation when $\rho_f = 0$, $\vec{j}_f = 0$?

For simplicity we take a material with no magnetic response

$$\mu = \mu_0 \quad \rightarrow \quad \vec{H} = \frac{\vec{B}}{\mu_0}$$

Ampere's law when $\vec{j}_f = 0$ is

$$\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{H} = \frac{\partial \vec{D}}{\partial t} \quad \rightarrow \quad \vec{\nabla} \times \vec{B} = \mu_0 \frac{\partial \vec{D}}{\partial t}$$

$$\text{Use } \vec{D}(\vec{r}, t) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{dt'}{2\pi} \vec{E}(\vec{r}, t') \tilde{\epsilon}(t-t')$$

$$\text{where } \tilde{\epsilon}(t) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} d\omega e^{-i\omega t} \epsilon(\omega)$$

is F.T. of $\epsilon(\omega)$

Then

$$\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{B} = \mu_0 \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \int \frac{dt'}{2\pi} \vec{E}(\vec{r}, t') \tilde{\epsilon}(t-t') = \mu_0 \int \frac{dt'}{2\pi} \vec{E}(\vec{r}, t') \frac{\partial \tilde{\epsilon}(t-t')}{\partial t}$$

Take curl of both sides

$$\vec{\nabla} \times (\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{B}) = -\nabla^2 \vec{B} = \mu_0 \int \frac{dt'}{2\pi} \left[\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{E}(\vec{r}, t') \right] \frac{\partial \tilde{\epsilon}(t-t')}{\partial t}$$

$$\text{use } \vec{\nabla} \times \vec{E}(\vec{r}, t') = -\frac{\partial \vec{B}(\vec{r}, t')}{\partial t'} \quad \text{Faraday's law}$$

$$-\nabla^2 \vec{B}(\vec{r}, t) = -\mu_0 \int \frac{dt'}{2\pi} \frac{\partial \vec{B}(\vec{r}, t')}{\partial t'} \frac{\partial \tilde{\epsilon}(t-t')}{\partial t}$$

$$\text{use } \frac{\partial \tilde{\epsilon}(t-t')}{\partial t} = -\frac{\partial \tilde{\epsilon}(t-t')}{\partial t'}$$

$$-\nabla^2 \vec{B}(\vec{r}, t) = \mu_0 \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{dt'}{2\pi} \frac{\partial \vec{B}(\vec{r}, t')}{\partial t'} \frac{\partial \tilde{\epsilon}(t-t')}{\partial t'}$$

integrate by parts

$$-\nabla^2 \vec{B}(\vec{r}, t) = -\mu_0 \int \frac{dt'}{2\pi} \frac{\partial^2 \vec{B}(\vec{r}, t')}{\partial t'^2} \tilde{\epsilon}(t-t')$$

$$\nabla^2 \vec{B}(\vec{r}, t) - \mu_0 \int \frac{dt'}{2\pi} \frac{\partial^2 \vec{B}(\vec{r}, t')}{\partial t'^2} \tilde{\epsilon}(t-t') = 0$$

looks somewhat like the wave equation, except for the integration.

Suppose $\tilde{\epsilon}(t-t') = 2\pi\epsilon \delta(t-t')$ with ϵ a constant

Then we would get

$$\nabla^2 \vec{B}(\vec{r}, t) - \mu_0 \epsilon \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dt' \frac{\partial^2 \vec{B}(\vec{r}, t')}{\partial t'^2} \delta(t-t') = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \nabla^2 \vec{B}(\vec{r}, t) - \mu_0 \epsilon \frac{\partial^2 \vec{B}(\vec{r}, t)}{\partial t^2} = 0 \quad \text{The wave equation!}$$

So only if the response function $\tilde{\epsilon}(t) = 2\pi\epsilon \delta(t)$,
 i.e. it is instantaneous in time, will \vec{B} solve the wave equation
 with wave velocity $v = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\mu_0 \epsilon}}$

What $\epsilon(\omega)$ corresponds to $\tilde{\epsilon}(t-t') = 2\pi\epsilon \delta(t-t')$?

$$\epsilon(\omega) \equiv \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{dt}{2\pi} e^{i\omega t} \tilde{\epsilon}(t) \quad \text{definition of Fourier transform}$$

$$= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{dt}{2\pi} e^{-i\omega t} 2\pi\epsilon \delta(t) = \epsilon$$

So only when $\epsilon(\omega) = \epsilon$ is a constant, indep of ω ,
 will the fields obey the wave equation!

⇒ Maxwell's Eqs only look simple when expressed in terms of Fourier Transforms.

For pure sinusoidal solutions:

$$\begin{aligned}\vec{E}(\vec{r}, t) &= \vec{E}_\omega e^{i(\vec{k} \cdot \vec{r} - \omega t)} \\ \vec{B}(\vec{r}, t) &= \vec{B}_\omega e^{i(\vec{k} \cdot \vec{r} - \omega t)} \\ \vec{H}(\vec{r}, t) &= \vec{H}_\omega e^{i(\vec{k} \cdot \vec{r} - \omega t)} \\ \vec{D}(\vec{r}, t) &= \vec{D}_\omega e^{i(\vec{k} \cdot \vec{r} - \omega t)}\end{aligned}$$

for EM waves in dielectric, assume $\rho_f = \vec{j}_f = 0$

Maxwell's Eqs: $\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{D} = 0$, $\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{B} = 0$, $\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{E} = -\frac{\partial \vec{B}}{\partial t}$, $\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{H} = \frac{\partial \vec{D}}{\partial t}$

assume $\mu = \mu_0 \Rightarrow \vec{H}_\omega = \frac{1}{\mu_0} \vec{B}_\omega$

dielectric response given by $\epsilon(\omega) \Rightarrow \vec{D}_\omega = \epsilon(\omega) \vec{E}_\omega$

For $\rho_f = \vec{j}_f = 0$, Maxwell's Eqs in terms of the Fourier amplitudes are then

- 1) $i\vec{k} \cdot \vec{D}_\omega = i\epsilon(\omega) \vec{k} \cdot \vec{E}_\omega = 0 \Rightarrow \vec{k} \cdot \vec{E}_\omega = 0$
- 2) $i\vec{k} \cdot \vec{B}_\omega = 0 \Rightarrow \vec{k} \cdot \vec{B}_\omega = 0$
- 3) Faraday $i\vec{k} \times \vec{E}_\omega = i\omega \vec{B}_\omega$
- 4) Ampere $i\vec{k} \times \vec{H}_\omega = -i\omega \vec{D}_\omega \Rightarrow \frac{i\vec{k} \times \vec{B}_\omega}{\mu_0} = -i\omega \epsilon(\omega) \vec{E}_\omega$

} transverse

$\vec{k} \times (\text{Faraday}) = i\vec{k} \times (\vec{k} \times \vec{E}_\omega) = i\omega (\vec{k} \times \vec{B}_\omega)$ substitute in from Ampere

$$= -i\omega^2 \epsilon(\omega) \mu_0 \vec{E}_\omega$$

$$\vec{k} \times (\vec{k} \times \vec{E}_\omega) = \vec{k} (\underbrace{\vec{k} \cdot \vec{E}_\omega}_{=0 \text{ by (1)}}) - \vec{E}_\omega (\vec{k} \cdot \vec{k}) = -\omega^2 \epsilon(\omega) \mu_0 \vec{E}_\omega$$

$$\Rightarrow k^2 \vec{E}_\omega = \omega^2 \epsilon(\omega) \mu_0 \vec{E}_\omega$$

$$\Rightarrow \boxed{\begin{aligned} k^2 &= \omega^2 \epsilon(\omega) \mu_0 \\ k^2 &= \frac{\omega^2}{c^2} \left(\frac{\epsilon(\omega)}{\epsilon_0} \right) \end{aligned}}$$

$$\text{use } \frac{1}{c^2} = \mu_0 \epsilon_0$$

"dispersion" relation for waves in dielectric

dispersion relation determines wave vector k , for a given frequency ω .

Note $\frac{\omega^2}{k^2} \neq \text{constant} \Rightarrow \vec{E}$ is not solution of a wave equation $\nabla^2 \vec{E} = 0$.
different frequencies travel with different speeds.

Since $\epsilon(\omega)$ is complex $\epsilon(\omega) = \epsilon_1(\omega) + i\epsilon_2(\omega)$
 $\uparrow \text{Re}[\epsilon] \quad \uparrow \text{Im}[\epsilon]$

then in general the wavevector is also complex

$$k = k_1 + ik_2 = \pm \frac{\omega}{c} \sqrt{\frac{\epsilon_1}{\epsilon_0} + i \frac{\epsilon_2}{\epsilon_0}}$$

For a wave traveling in \hat{z} direction, $\vec{k} = k\hat{z}$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \vec{E}(\vec{r}, t) &= \vec{E}_\omega e^{i(\vec{k} \cdot \vec{r} - \omega t)} = \vec{E}_\omega e^{i(k_1 + ik_2)z - \omega t} \\ &= \vec{E}_\omega e^{-k_2 z} e^{i(k_1 z - \omega t)} \end{aligned}$$

If choose $+\sqrt{\quad}$ solution for k_1 , so that wave propagates in $+\hat{z}$ direction, then should take $+\sqrt{\quad}$ solution for k_2 , so that wave decays as it propagates into material.

decay length = $1/k_2$ k_2 is called the attenuation

Since intensity is $\sim E^2$ decays as $e^{-2k_2 z}$, $2k_2$ is called the absorption coefficient

physical origin of decay: EM wave excites atom to oscillate. Oscillations pump energy into other degrees of freedom, due to damping γ . \Rightarrow EM wave is pumping energy into material \Rightarrow Energy contained in EM wave should decrease as it propagates into material \Rightarrow amplitude decays.

phase velocity of wave $v_p \equiv \frac{\omega}{k_1}$ depends on frequency

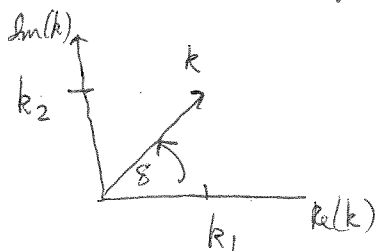
index of refraction $n \equiv \frac{c}{v_p} = \frac{ck_1}{\omega}$ depends on freq

Let's look now at magnetic field. From Faraday

$$\vec{B}_\omega = \frac{\vec{k}}{\omega} \times \vec{E}_\omega = \frac{(k_1 + ik_2)}{\omega} \hat{z} \times \vec{E}_\omega$$

writes $k_1 + ik_2 = \sqrt{k_1^2 + k_2^2} e^{i\delta}$
 $= |k| e^{i\delta}$

where $\delta = \arctan\left(\frac{k_2}{k_1}\right)$
is phase of k



$$\vec{B}_\omega = \frac{|k|}{\omega} \hat{z} \times \vec{E}_\omega e^{i\delta}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\vec{B}(\vec{r}, t) &= \frac{|k|}{\omega} (\hat{z} \times \vec{E}_\omega) e^{i(\vec{k} \cdot \vec{r} - \omega t + \delta)} \\ &= \frac{|k|}{\omega} (\hat{z} \times \vec{E}_\omega) e^{-k_2 z} e^{i(k_1 z - \omega t + \delta)}\end{aligned}$$

Physical fields:

$$\vec{E}(\vec{r}, t) = \vec{E}_\omega e^{-k_2 z} \cos(k_1 z - \omega t)$$

$$\vec{B}(\vec{r}, t) = (\hat{z} \times \vec{E}_\omega) \frac{|k|}{\omega} e^{-k_2 z} \cos(k_1 z - \omega t + \delta)$$

→ (1) \vec{E} and \vec{B} are transverse to \vec{k} , and $\vec{E} \perp \vec{B}$

(2) ratio of amplitudes $\frac{|\vec{B}|}{|\vec{E}|} = \frac{|k|}{\omega} = \frac{\sqrt{k_1^2 + k_2^2}}{\omega} = \sqrt{\frac{|\epsilon(\omega)|}{\epsilon_0}} \frac{1}{c}$

(3) \vec{B} wave is shifted with respect to \vec{E} wave by phase shift $\delta = \arctan(k_2/k_1)$ (see Fig 8.21 in text)

Summary

Main consequences of complex $\epsilon(\omega)$

- 1) Waves decay as they propagate $\sim e^{-k_2 z}$
- 2) \vec{E} and \vec{B} waves shifted in phase by $\delta = \arctan(k_2/k_1)$

If $\epsilon_2 = \text{Im}[\epsilon(\omega)] = 0$, then ϵ real, \Rightarrow k real, $k_2 = 0$ (and if $\epsilon_1 > 0$)
 \Rightarrow no decay and no phase shift.

Main consequences of freq dependent $\epsilon(\omega)$

- (1) $\vec{E}(t)$ and $\vec{D}(t)$ not-locally related in time
- (2) waves of different ω travel with different velocities $v_p = \frac{\omega}{k_1}$

(3) dispersion - wave pulses do not travel with v_p , and do not keep their shape as they propagate

Phase velocity and group velocity and dispersion

$$k^2 = \frac{\omega^2}{c^2} \frac{\epsilon(\omega)}{\epsilon_0}$$

For simplicity, assume $\epsilon(\omega)$ is real and positive

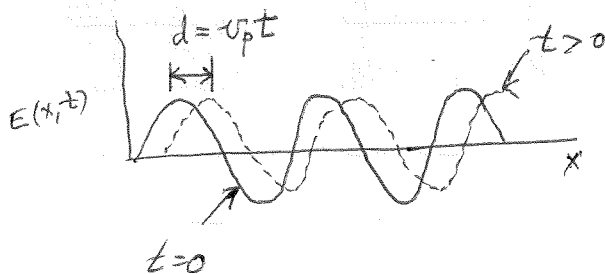
$$k = \frac{\omega}{c} \sqrt{\frac{\epsilon(\omega)}{\epsilon_0}}$$

$$v_p = \frac{\omega}{k} = c \sqrt{\frac{\epsilon_0}{\epsilon(\omega)}} = \frac{c}{n}$$

index of refraction $n(\omega) = \sqrt{\frac{\epsilon(\omega)}{\epsilon_0}} = \sqrt{k(\omega)}$ dielectric function

sinusoidal waves $e^{i(\vec{k} \cdot \vec{r} - \omega t)}$ propagate with different phase speeds $v_p(\omega)$ for different ω .

v_p is speed with which peaks in oscillation move to right



$$\text{for } \vec{E} = E e^{i(kx - \omega t)} \\ \text{with } \omega = v_p(\omega) k$$

If take linear superposition of many sinusoidal waves, then each different freq ω , moves with different speed $v_p(\omega)$. So the shape of the wave is not preserved in time.

[This is another way to see that waves in a dielectric do not solve the wave equation - for the wave equation, all freq move with same speed v indep of ω , and the shape of the wave is always preserved in time, i.e. solutions are always of form $f(\vec{k} \cdot \vec{r} - \omega t)$]

Consider a superposition of waves all traveling in \hat{z} direction

$$\vec{E}(\vec{r}, t) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} d\omega \vec{E}_\omega e^{i(k(\omega)z - \omega t)} \quad k(\omega) = \frac{\omega}{c} \sqrt{\frac{\epsilon(\omega)}{\epsilon_0}}$$

At $\vec{r}=0$, $\vec{E}(0, t) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} d\omega \vec{E}_\omega e^{-i\omega t}$ so \vec{E}_ω is F.T. of $\vec{E}(0, t)$

At some position $\vec{r} \neq 0$

$$\vec{E}(\vec{r}, t) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} d\omega \vec{E}_\omega e^{i(k(\omega)z - \omega t)}$$

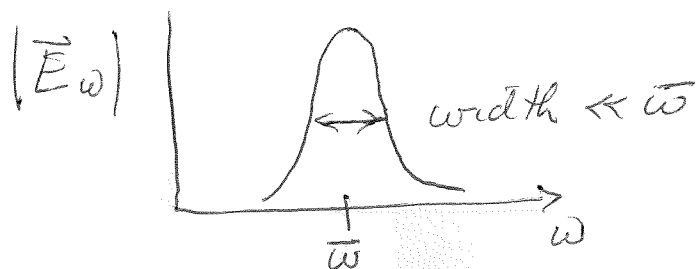
if no dispersion, i.e. $k = \frac{\omega}{c} \sqrt{\frac{\epsilon}{\epsilon_0}} = \frac{\omega}{v_p}$ with v_p indep of ω

Then $\vec{E}(\vec{r}, t) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} d\omega \vec{E}_\omega e^{-i\omega(t - z/v_p)}$

$$= \vec{E}(0, t - z/v_p) \leftarrow \text{form of solution to wave equation}$$

field at z at time t , is same field as was at $z=0$ at the earlier time $t - z/v_p \Rightarrow$ wave moved distance z in time $z/v_p \Rightarrow$ speed of wave is v_p

Suppose now that $\epsilon(\omega)$ does depend on ω , so there is dispersion. Suppose \vec{E}_ω is strongly peaked about some average $\bar{\omega}$



then $k(\omega) \approx k(\bar{\omega}) + \left. \frac{dk}{d\omega} \right|_{\bar{\omega}} (\omega - \bar{\omega}) + \dots$

$$\vec{E}(\vec{r}, t) = \int d\omega \vec{E}_\omega e^{i(k(\bar{\omega})z + \frac{dk}{d\omega} \omega z - \frac{dk}{d\omega} \bar{\omega} z - \omega t)}$$

$$= e^{i(k(\bar{\omega}) - \frac{dk}{d\omega} \bar{\omega})z} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} d\omega \vec{E}_\omega e^{-i\omega(t - \frac{dk}{d\omega} z)}$$

$$= \underbrace{e^{i(k(\bar{\omega}) - \frac{dk}{d\omega} \bar{\omega})z}}_{\text{phase factor}} \underbrace{\vec{E}(0, t - \frac{dk}{d\omega} z)}_{\text{envelope - determines shape of pulse}}$$

intensity of wave $\sim |\vec{E}|^2$

$$|\vec{E}|^2(\vec{r}, t) = |\vec{E}|^2(0, t - \frac{dk}{d\omega} z)$$

intensity travels with velocity $v_g = \frac{1}{(\frac{dk}{d\omega})_{\bar{\omega}}} = \frac{d\omega}{dk} \equiv \underline{\text{group velocity}}$

not with average phase velocity $v_p = \frac{\bar{\omega}}{k(\bar{\omega})}$

only when $\epsilon(\omega)$ is indep of ω will $v_p = v_g$

$$\frac{1}{v_g} = \frac{dk}{d\omega} = \frac{d}{d\omega} \left[\frac{\omega}{c} n(\omega) \right] = \frac{n}{c} + \frac{\omega}{c} \frac{dn}{d\omega} = \frac{1}{v_p} + \frac{\omega}{c} \frac{dn}{d\omega}$$

$$v_g = \frac{v_p}{1 + \frac{v_p}{c} \omega \frac{dn}{d\omega}} \Rightarrow \text{when } \frac{dn}{d\omega} > 0, v_g < v_p \quad (1)$$

$$\text{when } \frac{dn}{d\omega} < 0, v_g > v_p \quad (2)$$

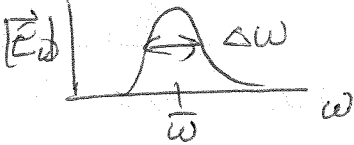
case (1) is called "normal" dispersion

case (2) is called "anomalous" dispersion

Our result $\vec{E}(r, t) = \vec{E}^2(0, t - \frac{dk}{d\omega} z)$ looks like we still preserve shape of wave - but this is due to the simplicity of our approximation. If we kept to next order, i.e. used $k(\omega) = k(\bar{\omega}) + \frac{dk}{d\omega}(\omega - \bar{\omega}) + \frac{1}{2} \frac{d^2k}{d\omega^2}(\omega - \bar{\omega})^2$

one would find that the wave pulse changes shape as it propagates - in particular, it spreads.

A simple way to estimate this effect:

If pulse initially has width $\Delta\omega$ about $\bar{\omega}$, i.e. \vec{E}_ω looks like 

there is a spread in group velocities

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta v_g &\approx \left| \frac{dv_g}{d\omega} \right| \Delta\omega = \left| \frac{d}{d\omega} \left(\frac{1}{dk/d\omega} \right) \right| \Delta\omega \\ &= \frac{1}{(dk/d\omega)^2} \left| \frac{d^2k}{d\omega^2} \right| \Delta\omega = v_g^2 \left| \frac{d^2k}{d\omega^2} \right| \Delta\omega \end{aligned}$$

So if pulse take a time $T = z/v_g$ to reach point z from the origin, there is also a spread in arrival times

$$\Delta T = \Delta(z/v_g) = \frac{z}{v_g^2} \Delta v_g = z \left| \frac{d^2k}{d\omega^2} \right| \Delta\omega$$

ΔT gives a spreading of width of the wave pulse, that grows linearly with the distance z traveled.

For a pulse of width $\Delta\omega$, the width in time is

$$\Delta t \sim \frac{1}{\Delta\omega} \quad (\text{like uncertainty principle in QM})$$

$$\Rightarrow \Delta T \approx 3 \left| \frac{d^2 k}{d\omega^2} \right| \frac{1}{\Delta\omega}$$

\Rightarrow The sharper the pulse is initially, (i.e. the smaller Δt) the faster it spreads as it travels (i.e. the larger ΔT is).