

$$1) \vec{D} \cdot \vec{D}_f \Rightarrow -i\vec{k} \cdot \vec{D}_w = f_w$$

$$\Rightarrow i\vec{k} \cdot \epsilon_b(\omega) \vec{E}_w = \frac{\sigma(\omega)}{\omega} \vec{k} \cdot \vec{E}_w$$

$$i\vec{k} \cdot \vec{E}_w \left[ \epsilon_b(\omega) + i\frac{\sigma(\omega)}{\omega} \right] = 0$$

$$2) i\vec{k} \cdot \mu \vec{H}_w = 0$$

$$3) i\vec{k} \times \vec{E}_w = i\omega \vec{B}_w = i\omega \mu \vec{H}_w$$

$$4) i\vec{k} \times \vec{H}_w = -i\omega \epsilon_b(\omega) \vec{E}_w + \sigma(\omega) \vec{E}_w$$

$$= -i\omega \left[ \epsilon_b(\omega) + i\frac{\sigma(\omega)}{\omega} \right] \vec{E}_w$$

Equations have exactly the same form as for waves in a dielectric provided we use

$$\boxed{\epsilon(\omega) = \epsilon_b(\omega) + i\frac{\sigma(\omega)}{\omega}}$$

transverse waves  
 $\vec{E} \perp \vec{k}$

and replace  $\mu_0$  by  $\mu$ .

dispersion relation for transverse waves is given by

$$\boxed{k^2 = \omega^2 \mu \epsilon = \frac{\omega^2}{c^2} \frac{\mu}{\mu_0} \frac{\epsilon(\omega)}{\epsilon_0}}$$

with  $\epsilon(\omega) = \epsilon_b(\omega) + i\frac{\sigma(\omega)}{\omega}$

[Note: for transverse mode,  $\vec{k} + \vec{E}_\omega$ , so  $\vec{k} + \vec{j}_\omega = \sigma(\omega) \vec{E}_\omega$   
 $\Rightarrow j_\omega = \frac{\vec{k} \cdot \vec{E}_\omega}{\omega} = 0$  no charge density oscillator!]

The main difference between wave propagation in dielectrics & conductors has to do with the contribution that the  $i\frac{\sigma(\omega)}{\omega}$  term makes to the real & imaginary parts of  $\epsilon(\omega)$

For our simple model (Drude model)

$$\sigma(\omega) = \frac{\sigma_0}{1-i\omega\tau} \quad \text{where } \sigma_0 = \sigma(0) = \frac{Ne^2c}{m} \text{ is d.c. conductivity}$$

① Low frequencies  $\omega \ll 1/\tau$ ,  $\omega \ll \omega_0$   $\omega_0$  is resonant freq of  $E_b$

$$\epsilon_b(\omega) \approx \epsilon_b(0) \text{ real}$$

$$\sigma(\omega) \approx \sigma_0 \text{ real} \sim \tau$$

$$\boxed{\frac{\epsilon(\omega)}{\epsilon_0} \approx \frac{\epsilon_b(0)}{\epsilon_0} + \frac{i\sigma_0}{\epsilon_0 \omega}}$$

gives large imaginary part to  $\epsilon(\omega)$   
 grows as  $\frac{1}{\omega}$  as  $\omega \rightarrow 0$   
 $\Rightarrow$  strong dissipation

② High frequencies  $\omega \gg 1/\tau$ ,  $\omega \gg \omega_p$

$$\frac{\epsilon_b(\omega)}{\epsilon_0} \approx 1$$

$$\sigma(\omega) \approx \frac{\sigma_0}{-i\omega\tau} = \frac{iNe^2\tau}{mw\tau} = \frac{iNe^2}{mw} \text{ imaginary indep of } \tau$$

$$\frac{\epsilon(\omega)}{\epsilon_0} \approx 1 + \frac{i\sigma}{\epsilon_0 \omega} \approx 1 - \frac{Ne^2}{\epsilon_0 m \omega^2} = \boxed{1 - \frac{\omega_p^2}{\omega^2} = \epsilon(\omega)}$$

where  $\omega_p = \sqrt{Ne^2/\epsilon_0 m}$  "plasma freq" of conduction electrons

## ① Behavior at low freq

$$\frac{\epsilon(\omega)}{\epsilon_0} = \frac{\epsilon_b(0)}{\epsilon_0} + \frac{i\sigma_0}{\epsilon_0 \omega} = \frac{\epsilon_b(0)}{\epsilon_0} \left( 1 + \frac{i\sigma_0}{\epsilon_b(0)\omega} \right)$$

Dissipation is due to  $\epsilon_2 = \text{Im } \epsilon$

Dissipation dominate when  $\epsilon_2 \gg \epsilon_1 = \text{Re } \epsilon$

i.e. when  $\frac{\sigma_0}{\epsilon_b(0)\omega} \gg 1$

this regime is called a "good" conductor - conduction electrons playing dominant role waves strongly attenuated

opposite limit

$$\frac{\sigma_0}{\epsilon_b(0)\omega} \ll 1$$

this regime is called a "poor" conductor - waves propagate transparently - little relative absorption of energy from conduction electrons

One  $\Rightarrow$  always gets into the "good" conductor limit as  $\omega$  decreases. For good conductor,

$$k = \frac{\omega}{c} \sqrt{\frac{\mu}{\mu_0} \frac{\epsilon}{\epsilon_0}} \approx \frac{\omega}{c} \sqrt{\frac{\mu}{\mu_0}} \sqrt{i \frac{\epsilon_2}{\epsilon_0}} = \frac{\omega}{c} \sqrt{\frac{\mu}{\mu_0}} \sqrt{\frac{\sigma_0}{\epsilon_0 \omega}} \sqrt{i}$$

$$k = \frac{\omega}{c} \sqrt{\frac{\mu}{\mu_0} \frac{\sigma_0}{\epsilon_0 \omega}} \left( \frac{1+i}{\sqrt{2}} \right) \Rightarrow k_1 = k_2$$

real and imaginary parts of  $k$  are equal

$$\frac{1}{c} = \sqrt{\mu_0 \epsilon_0}$$

$$k_1 = k_2 = \frac{\omega}{c} \sqrt{\frac{\mu}{\epsilon_0 \mu_0}} \frac{\sigma_0}{2\omega} = \sqrt{\frac{\mu \sigma_0}{2} \frac{\omega}{c}} \sim \sqrt{\omega}$$

waves have form  $\vec{E} = E_w e^{-k_2 z} e^{i(k_1 z - \omega t)}$

decay length of amplitude is

$$1/k_2 = \sqrt{\frac{2}{\mu \sigma_0 \omega}} = \delta \text{ "called the Faraday cage skin depth"}$$

$\delta$  is distance wave penetrates into conductor

$\delta \sim 1/\sqrt{\omega}$  gets larger as  $\omega$  decreases

$$\vec{H} = H_w e^{-k_2 z} e^{i(k_1 z - \omega t + \phi)} \quad \left| \frac{\vec{H}_w}{\vec{E}_w} \right| = \frac{1}{\omega \mu}$$

phase shift between  $\vec{H}$  and  $\vec{E}$  is  $\phi$

Given by  $\tan \phi = k_2/k_1 \approx 1$

$$\Rightarrow \phi \approx 45^\circ$$

$$\text{Amplitude ratio } \left| \frac{\vec{H}_w}{\vec{E}_w} \right| = \frac{|k|}{\omega \mu} = \frac{\sqrt{2} k_1}{\omega \mu} = \frac{\sqrt{2}}{\omega \mu} \sqrt{\frac{\mu \sigma_0 \omega}{2}}$$

$$= \frac{\sigma_0}{\omega \mu} \text{ increases as } \frac{1}{\sqrt{\omega}} \text{ as } \omega \rightarrow 0$$

$\Rightarrow$  as  $\omega \rightarrow 0$ , most of energy of wave is carried by the magnetic field part of the wave.

## ② Behavior at high freq

$$\frac{\epsilon(\omega)}{\epsilon_0} \approx 1 - \left(\frac{\omega_p}{\omega}\right)^2 \quad \omega_p^2 = \frac{Ne^2}{m\epsilon_0}$$

plasma freq

$\epsilon(\omega)$  is real ( $\epsilon_2 \ll \epsilon_1$ )

1) If  $\omega > \omega_p$ , then  $\epsilon > 0$

$$\Rightarrow \text{transparent propagation} \quad k_1 = \frac{\omega}{c} \sqrt{\frac{\mu\epsilon}{\mu_0\epsilon_0}}$$

$k$  is pure real

$$k_2 \approx 0$$

2) If  $\omega < \omega_p$ , then  $\epsilon < 0$

$$\Rightarrow \text{total reflection} \quad k_1 = 0$$

$$k_2 = \frac{\omega}{c} \sqrt{\frac{\mu}{\mu_0} \left( \frac{\omega_p^2}{\omega^2} - 1 \right)}$$

$k$  is pure imaginary

plasma freq  $\omega_p$  gives cross over between  
reflection + transparent propagation.

$\tau \sim 10^{-14} \text{ sec}$  for typical metal

$\omega_p \approx 10^{16} \text{ sec}^{-1}$  for most metals

$$\lambda_p = \frac{2\pi c}{\omega_p} \sim 3 \times 10^3 \text{ Å} \quad (\text{visible is } \lambda \sim 5 \times 10^3 \text{ Å})$$

Example: The ionosphere is a layer of charged gas surrounding the earth. In many respects the charged gas behaves like conduction electrons in a metal. The plasma freq of the ionosphere is such that

for AM radio  $\omega_{AM} < \omega_p \Rightarrow$  AM radio reflected back to earth

for FM radio  $\omega_{FM} > \omega_p \Rightarrow$  FM radio propagates through ionosphere & escapes into space

Explains why you can pick up AM stations from far away - they are reflected back by ionosphere - but you only pick up local FM stations - they do not get reflected by ionosphere.

what about longitudinal modes? (i.e.  $H_w, E_w \perp \vec{k}$ )

magnetic field

$$i\mu k \cdot \vec{H}_w = 0 \Rightarrow \vec{H}_w \perp \vec{k} \text{ or } \vec{k} = 0 \text{ uniform magnetic field}$$

Faraday  $i\vec{k} \times \vec{E}_w = i\omega \mu \vec{H}_w \Rightarrow \omega = 0$   
 " " 0 as  $\vec{k} = 0$

$\vec{H} \perp \vec{k}$  would be transverse mode  
 so longitudinal mode must have  $\vec{k} = 0$   
 and so  $\omega = 0$ .

so only possible longitudinal magnetic field is a spatially uniform, constant in time  $\vec{H}$ .

Electric field

$$i\epsilon(\omega) \vec{k} \cdot \vec{E}_w = 0 \Rightarrow \vec{E}_w \perp \vec{k}, \text{ or } \vec{k} = 0, \text{ or } \epsilon(\omega) = 0!$$

we can satisfy all Maxwell's equations for a  $\vec{E}_w \parallel \vec{k}$ , provided  $\epsilon(\omega) = 0$ , and by above,  $\vec{H}_w = 0$  for this mode.

$$i\vec{k} \times \vec{E}_w = i\omega \mu \vec{H}_w - \text{both sides vanish.}$$

$$\text{LHS} = 0 \text{ as } \vec{E}_w \parallel \vec{k} \Rightarrow \vec{k} \times \vec{E}_w = 0$$

$$\text{RHS} = 0 \text{ as } \vec{H}_w = 0$$

$$i\vec{k} \times \vec{H}_w = -i\omega \epsilon(\omega) \vec{E}_w - \text{LHS} = 0 \text{ as } \vec{H}_w = 0$$

$$\text{RHS} = 0 \text{ as } \epsilon(\omega) = 0$$

$$i\mu \vec{k} \cdot \vec{H}_w = 0 - \text{satisfied as } \vec{H}_w = 0$$

So we can have a longitudinal ~~oscillator~~  $\vec{E}$   
 provided  $\epsilon(\omega) = 0$

Frequencies of longitudinal mode given by  $\epsilon(\omega) = 0$ .

low freq  $\omega \ll \omega_0, \omega \tau \ll 1$

$$\frac{\epsilon}{\epsilon_0} = \frac{\epsilon_b}{\epsilon_0} + \frac{i\sigma}{\epsilon_0 \omega} \approx 1 + \frac{Na e^2}{m \epsilon_0} + \frac{i\sigma_0}{\epsilon_0 \omega} = \frac{1}{\epsilon_0} (\epsilon_b(0) + \frac{C\sigma_0}{\omega})$$

$$\frac{\epsilon}{\epsilon_0} = 0 \text{ when } \omega = -\frac{i\sigma_0}{\epsilon_b(0)}$$

$$\Rightarrow \vec{E}(r,t) = \vec{E}_w e^{i(k \cdot \vec{r} - \omega t)} = \vec{E}_w e^{-\sigma_0 t / \epsilon_b(0)} e^{ik \cdot \vec{r}}$$

$\Rightarrow$  if set up a longitudinal  $\vec{E}$  field, it decays to zero exponentially fast, with decay time  $\frac{\epsilon_b(0)}{\sigma_0}$

Consistent with our assumption that  $\vec{E} = 0$  inside a conductor for electrostatics.

(electrostatic fields are always longitudinal)

$$\vec{E} = -\vec{\nabla}V \Rightarrow \vec{E} \propto \vec{k} V_k \text{ for axial component}$$

$$\vec{E} \sim -ik V_k e^{ik \cdot \vec{r}} \quad \vec{E} \sim \vec{k}$$