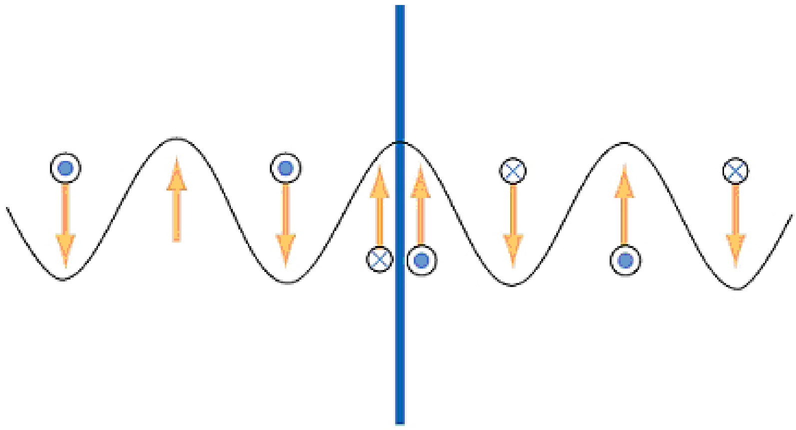
Energy and Momentum in EM Waves
Challenge Problems

Problem 1:

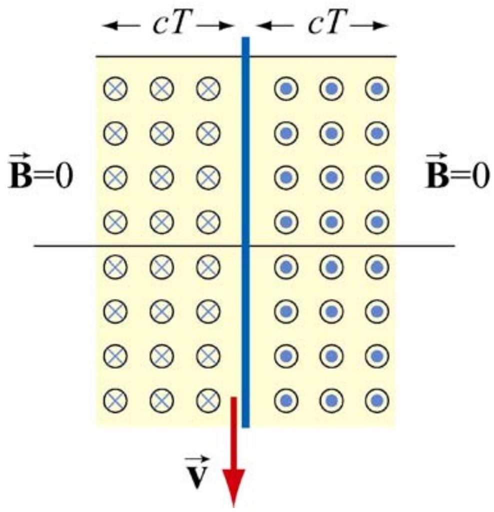


A plane E&M wave is generated by shaking a sheet of positive charge up and down. At the time shown

1. The E field is oscillating into and out of the page and the sheet is moving up
2. The E field is oscillating into and out of the page and the sheet is moving down
3. The B field is oscillating into and out of the page and the sheet is moving up
4. The B field is oscillating into and out of the page and the sheet is moving down
5. I don't know (this answer is worth 1 point)

Problem 2:
The charged sheet at right has a uniform charge density σ and is being pulled downward at a velocity $\vec{\mathbf{v}}$.

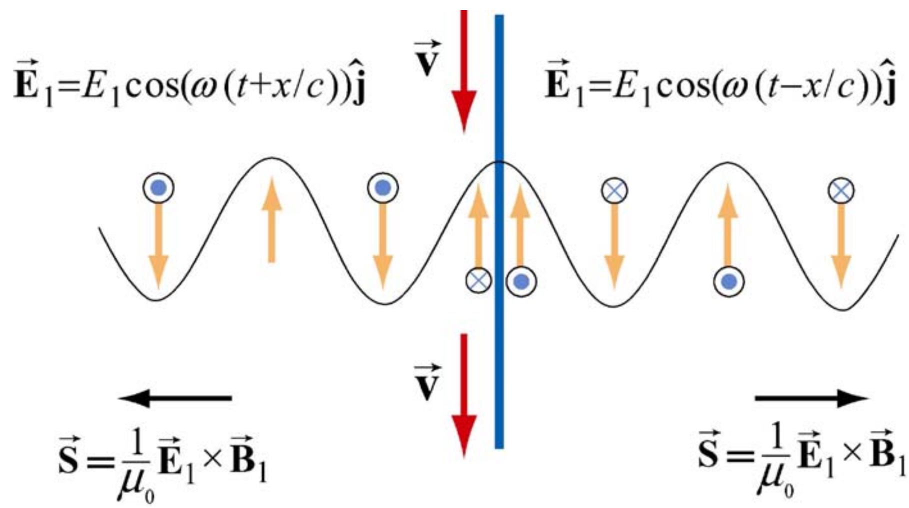
1) What is the B field that is generated?
2) If the sheet position oscillates as $y(t) = y_0 \sin(\omega t)$, what are the $\vec{\mathbf{E}}(x,t)$ and $\vec{\mathbf{B}}(x,t)$?



Problem 3:

For the wave pictured below, where you calculated that $B_1 = \mu_o \sigma v/2$:

1) What is total power per unit area radiated away?
2) Where is that energy coming from?
3) Calculate power generated to see efficiency



Problem 4:

Amazing Communication

Cell phones are pretty cool. So is the deep space network used to communicate with the voyager spacecraft (http://voyager.jpl.nasa.gov/news/profiles_dsn.html), which are currently about 80 AU away (1 AU = 150 million km). Let's think about both.

a) About how much power does a cell phone use? Think about how often you need to charge your cell phone and how much energy could realistically be stored in it.

b) Assuming that most of the power from the cellphone is used in signal transmission (which is becoming a progressively worse assumption, but use it anyway), and knowing the average size of a cell phone cell (26 km^2), what kind of signal strength (power per unit area) is needed at the receiver in order to still "have signal?"

c) Let's compare that with a radio, to see if its in the same ballpark. FCC regulations prevent broadcasts at powers above 100 kW. How far away from a radio transmitter can you still hear the station? How much power density are you then receiving?

d) What kind of electric fields do these power densities correspond to?

e) The voyager spacecraft have 20 Watt transmitters (3 meter dishes broadcasting at 2.3 GHz). The dishes are aimed at the Earth. How wide an angular dispersion could they have such that there is still enough power at the Earth to receive the signal?

Problem 5:

1. Spark Gap Distance and Timing

Consider an LC spark gap transmitter. Transmitter. The time to charge the transmitter capacitor until it discharges depends on the resistance in the charging circuit (R = 4.5 MΩ), the capacitance (C = 33 pF) and the voltage required to initiate breakdown. Assume that the power supply supplies 800 V but that breakdown typically occurs at a voltage of about 500 V on the capacitor.

(a) Thinking of the tungsten electrodes as parallel plates, how far apart must they be in order generate a spark at 500 V?

(b) In reality, the electrodes aren't parallel plates, but rather cylinders with a fairly small radius of curvature. Given this, will the distance needed between the electrodes to generate sparking be smaller or larger than you calculated in (a)? Why?

(c) About how much time will it take for the power supply to charge the capacitor from empty to discharge?

2. Wavelength and Frequency of the Radiation

The spark-gap antenna is a quarter-wavelength antenna, radiating as described above. Using l = 31 mm for the length of one of the arms of the antenna, what is

(a) the wavelength of the emitted radiation?

(b) the frequency of the emitted radiation?

3. Reflections

Suppose you place the transmitter some distance in front of a perfectly conducting sheet, oriented so that the propagation direction of the waves hitting the reflector is perpendicular to the plane of the reflector (so that they'll reflect straight back out towards the transmitter). For example, place the transmitter at $z = -D$ with the antenna parallel to the x-axis, and have the reflector fill the z = 0 (xy-) plane.

(a) Write an equation for the electric field component of the radiation from the transmitter (the *incident* wave). Treat the field as plane wave, with a constant amplitude E_0 and angular frequency ω_0.

(b) What condition must the total electric field satisfy at the surface of the conductor (z = 0)?

(c) What is the direction of propagation of the reflected wave?

(d) Write an equation for the time dependent amplitude & direction of the reflected wave, making the same assumptions as above.

(e) Write an equation for the total amplitude of the electric field as a function of position, by adding (c) and (d).

(f) Nodes are locations (in this case planes) where the electric field is zero at all times. What is the distance between nodes along the z-axis?

(g) What is the numerical distance you thus expect for our transmitter (i.e. use 2a)?

Problem 6:

Reflections of True Love

(a) A light bulb puts out 100 W of electromagnetic radiation. What is the time-average intensity of radiation from this light bulb at a distance of one meter from the bulb? What are the maximum values of electric and magnetic fields, E_0 and B_0, at this same distance from the bulb? Assume a plane wave.

(b) The face of your true love is one meter from this 100 W bulb. What maximum surface current must flow on your true love's face in order to reflect the light from the bulb into your adoring eyes? Assume that your true love's face is (what else?) perfect--perfectly smooth and perfectly reflecting--and that the incident light and reflected light are normal to the surface.

8.02SC Physics II: Electricity and Magnetism
Fall 2010