Electrodynamics and Radiative Processes I

Lecture 4 – Basic theory of radiation fields & Radiation from moving charges

Bhaswati Bhattacharyya

bhaswati@ncra.tifr.res.in

IUCAA-NCRA Graduate School August-September 2019

Date : 19th August 2019

Lecture -4 Questions raised in the class

Why do not we see HI emission in earth, what fraction spin up what fraction down?

Einstein's coefficients are valid when thermodynamic equilibrium is not present?

Are the relation between Einstein coefficients truly independent of temperature?

Radiation pressure derivation in Rybicki and lightman's textbook. Consider only the solid angle of 2π instead of 4π . Why?

Can the proton flip the spin instead of the electron (regarding 21cm line)? Reserve for later

Electric and magnetic field



Static charge → Electric field Force on a test charge

Field of force @ Maxwell

Space around electrified object @ Faraday

Units \rightarrow Newton/Coulomb \rightarrow volts per m



Moving charge → Magnetic field → Electric current Magnetic force on a moving charge

> Units \rightarrow Newton/(Coulomb m/s) \rightarrow Tesla

- → Gauss

Lorentz force
$$\mathbf{F} = q \left(\mathbf{E} + \frac{\mathbf{v}}{c} \times \mathbf{B} \right)$$

Rate of work done $\mathbf{v} \cdot \mathbf{F} = q \mathbf{v} \cdot \mathbf{E}_{\mathbf{r}}$

Current density
$$\mathbf{j} = \lim_{\Delta V \to 0} \frac{1}{\Delta V} \sum_{i} q_i \mathbf{v}_i$$

Rate of work done

$$\frac{1}{\Delta V} \sum_{i} q_i \mathbf{v}_i \cdot \mathbf{E} = \mathbf{j} \cdot \mathbf{E}.$$

Rate of change in mechanical energy of system per unit volume

$$\frac{dU_{\text{mech}}}{dt} = \mathbf{j} \cdot \mathbf{E}$$

Maxwell's Equations (in Gaussian units)

 $\nabla \cdot \mathbf{D} = 4\pi\rho \qquad \nabla \cdot \mathbf{B} = 0$ $\nabla \times \mathbf{E} = -\frac{1}{c} \frac{\partial \mathbf{B}}{\partial t} \qquad \nabla \times \mathbf{H} = \frac{4\pi}{c} \mathbf{j} + \frac{1}{c} \frac{\partial \mathbf{D}}{\partial t}$

Maxwell's Equations (in Gaussian units)

 $\nabla \cdot \mathbf{D} = 4\pi\rho$ $\nabla \cdot \mathbf{B} = 0$ $\nabla \times \mathbf{E} = -\frac{1}{c} \frac{\partial \mathbf{B}}{\partial t}$ $\nabla \times \mathbf{H} = \frac{4\pi}{c} \mathbf{j} + \frac{1}{c} \frac{\partial \mathbf{D}}{\partial t}$ $\mathbf{D} = \epsilon \mathbf{E}$ $\mathbf{B} = \mu \mathbf{H},$ $\nabla \cdot \mathbf{j} + \frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} = 0.$

$$\mathbf{j} \cdot \mathbf{E} = \frac{1}{4\pi} \left[c(\nabla \times \mathbf{H}) \cdot \mathbf{E} - \mathbf{E} \cdot \frac{\partial \mathbf{D}}{\partial t} \right]$$

Using the following relation

$$\mathbf{E} \cdot (\nabla \times \mathbf{H}) = \mathbf{H} \cdot (\nabla \times \mathbf{E}) - \nabla \cdot (\mathbf{E} \times \mathbf{H})$$

$$\mathbf{j} \cdot \mathbf{E} = \frac{1}{4\pi} \left[-\mathbf{H} \cdot \frac{\partial \mathbf{B}}{\partial t} - c \nabla \cdot (\mathbf{E} \times \mathbf{H}) - \mathbf{E} \cdot \frac{\partial \mathbf{D}}{\partial t} \right]$$

$$\mathbf{j} \cdot \mathbf{E} = \frac{1}{4\pi} \left[c(\nabla \times \mathbf{H}) \cdot \mathbf{E} - \mathbf{E} \cdot \frac{\partial \mathbf{D}}{\partial t} \right]$$

Using the following relation

$$\mathbf{E} \cdot (\nabla \times \mathbf{H}) = \mathbf{H} \cdot (\nabla \times \mathbf{E}) - \nabla \cdot (\mathbf{E} \times \mathbf{H}).$$

Rate of change of Mechanical energy

Rate of change of field energy $U_E + U_B$

Divergence of field energy flux

Electromagnetic field energy per unit volume

$$U_{\text{field}} = \frac{1}{8\pi} \left(\epsilon E^2 + \frac{B^2}{\mu} \right) = U_E + U_B,$$

Electromagnetic flux vector or Poynting vector

$$\mathbf{S} = \frac{c}{4\pi} \mathbf{E} \times \mathbf{H}.$$

Maxwell's equation in vacuum

 $\nabla \cdot \mathbf{E} = 0 \qquad \nabla \cdot \mathbf{B} = 0$ $\nabla \times \mathbf{E} = -\frac{1}{c} \frac{\partial \mathbf{B}}{\partial t} \qquad \nabla \times \mathbf{B} = \frac{1}{c} \frac{\partial \mathbf{E}}{\partial t}$

Wave equation $\nabla^2 \mathbf{E} - \frac{1}{c^2} \frac{\partial^2 \mathbf{E}}{\partial t^2} = 0$ How?

Wave equation with B?

Maxwell's equation in vacuum

 $\nabla \cdot \mathbf{E} = 0$ $\nabla \cdot \mathbf{B} = 0$ $\nabla \mathbf{x} \mathbf{E} = -\frac{1}{c} \frac{\partial \mathbf{B}}{\partial t}$ $\nabla \mathbf{x} \mathbf{B} = \frac{1}{c} \frac{\partial \mathbf{E}}{\partial t}$ $\nabla^2 \mathbf{E} - \frac{1}{c^2} \frac{\partial^2 \mathbf{E}}{\partial t^2} = 0$ Wave equation wave vector frequency Solutions of wave equation $\mathbf{B} = \hat{\mathbf{a}}_2 B_0$ unit vectors complex constants

Substitution in Maxwell's equation

Substitution in Maxwell's equation



Substitution in Maxwell's equation

$$i\mathbf{k} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{a}}_{1}E_{0} = 0 \qquad i\mathbf{k} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{a}}_{2}B_{0} = 0$$

$$i\mathbf{k} \times \hat{\mathbf{a}}_{1}E_{0} = \frac{i\omega}{c} \hat{\mathbf{a}}_{2}B_{0} \qquad i\mathbf{k} \times \hat{\mathbf{a}}_{2}B_{0} = -\frac{i\omega}{c} \hat{\mathbf{a}}_{1}E_{0}.$$

$$E_{0} = \frac{\omega}{kc}B_{0}, \qquad B_{0} = \frac{\omega}{kc}E_{0}, \qquad \mathbf{k} \qquad \mathbf{a}_{1}, \mathbf{a}_{2} \text{ and } \mathbf{k} \text{ are perpendicular}$$

$$E_{0} = \left(\frac{\omega}{kc}\right)^{2}E_{0} \implies \omega = ck. \qquad \mathbf{a}_{1}$$

$$E_{0} = B_{0}, \qquad \psi_{ph} = c. \implies \text{EM waves travels at speed of light}$$

Plane electromagnetic waves Energy flux and energy density

Time averaged pointing vector

$$\langle S \rangle = \frac{c}{8\pi} \operatorname{Re}(E_0 B_0^*).$$

Since $E_0 = B_0$

$$\langle S \rangle = \frac{c}{8\pi} |E_0|^2 = \frac{c}{8\pi} |B_0|^2$$

Similarly time averaged energy density

$$\langle U \rangle = \frac{1}{16\pi} \operatorname{Re}(E_0 E_0^* + B_0 B_0^*)$$

 $\langle U \rangle = \frac{1}{8\pi} |E_0|^2 = \frac{1}{8\pi} |B_0|^2$

Plane electromagnetic waves Energy flux and energy density

Time averaged pointing vector

$$\langle S \rangle = \frac{c}{8\pi} \operatorname{Re}(E_0 B_0^*).$$

Since $E_0 = B_0$

$$\langle S \rangle = \frac{c}{8\pi} |E_0|^2 = \frac{c}{8\pi} |B_0|^2$$

Similarly time averaged energy density

$$\langle U \rangle = \frac{1}{16\pi} \operatorname{Re}(E_0 E_0^* + B_0 B_0^*)$$

 $\langle U \rangle = \frac{1}{8\pi} |E_0|^2 = \frac{1}{8\pi} |B_0|^2$



with a radiation field of length Δt we can define spectrum with in $\Delta \omega$

$$\hat{E}(\omega) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} E(t) e^{i\omega t} dt.$$

Energy per unit area per unit time

$$\frac{dW}{dt\,dA} = \frac{c}{4\pi} E^2(t)$$

Total Energy per unit area

$$\frac{dW}{dA} = \frac{c}{4\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} E^2(t) dt$$

Radiation spectrum

Radiation spectrum



Time extent of pulse T determines width of finest features : $\Delta\omega$ ~ 1/T

Sinusoidal time dependence in pulse shape causes spectrum concentrated near $\omega^{\sim}\omega_{0}$

E and **B** are replaced by Φ(r,t) and **A(r,t)**

Why we need EM potentials?

1) One scalar plus one vector simpler than two vectors

2) Determining **A** and Φ are simpler

3) Relativistic EM theory will be simpler

E and B are replaced by Φ(r,t) and A(r,t)

Why we need EM potentials?

1) One scalar plus one vector simpler than two vectors

2) Determining **A** and Φ are simpler

3) Relativistic EM theory will be simpler

Maxwell's equation $\nabla \cdot \mathbf{B} = \mathbf{0}$

Vector potential A(r,t) defined as $B = \nabla \times A$.

Thus

$$\nabla \times \mathbf{E} = -\frac{1}{c} \frac{\partial \mathbf{B}}{\partial t} \longrightarrow \nabla \times \left(\mathbf{E} + \frac{1}{c} \frac{\partial \mathbf{A}}{\partial t}\right) = 0.$$

Scalar potential $\Phi(r,t)$ defined as

$$\mathbf{E} + \frac{1}{c} \frac{\partial \mathbf{A}}{\partial t} = -\nabla \phi$$

E and B are replaced by Φ(r,t) and A(r,t)

$$\mathbf{E} + \frac{1}{c} \frac{\partial \mathbf{A}}{\partial t} = -\nabla \phi$$
$$\mathbf{I}$$
$$\mathbf{E} = -\nabla \phi - \frac{1}{c} \frac{\partial \mathbf{A}}{\partial t}$$

Remember

$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{D} = 4\pi \rho$$

$$\nabla^2 \phi + \frac{1}{c} \frac{\partial}{\partial t} (\nabla \cdot \mathbf{A}) = -4\pi\rho$$

$$\nabla \times \mathbf{H} = \frac{4\pi}{c}\mathbf{j} + \frac{1}{c}\frac{\partial \mathbf{D}}{\partial t}$$

$$\nabla \times (\nabla \times \mathbf{A}) - \frac{1}{c} \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \left(-\nabla \phi - \frac{1}{c} \frac{\partial \mathbf{A}}{\partial t} \right) = \frac{4\pi}{c} \mathbf{j}$$
$$\nabla \times (\nabla \times \mathbf{A}) = -\nabla^2 \mathbf{A} + \nabla (\nabla \cdot \mathbf{A})$$

$$\nabla \times \mathbf{H} = \frac{4\pi}{c}\mathbf{j} + \frac{1}{c}\frac{\partial \mathbf{D}}{\partial t}$$

$$\nabla \times (\nabla \times \mathbf{A}) - \frac{1}{c} \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \left(-\nabla \phi - \frac{1}{c} \frac{\partial \mathbf{A}}{\partial t} \right) = \frac{4\pi}{c} \mathbf{j}$$
$$\nabla \times (\nabla \times \mathbf{A}) = -\nabla^2 \mathbf{A} + \nabla (\nabla \cdot \mathbf{A})$$

$$\nabla^2 \mathbf{A} - \frac{1}{c^2} \frac{\partial^2 \mathbf{A}}{\partial t^2} - \nabla \left(\nabla \cdot \mathbf{A} + \frac{1}{c} \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial t} \right) = -\frac{4\pi}{c} \mathbf{j}$$

Thus from Maxwell's equations,

$$\nabla^2 \phi + \frac{1}{c} \frac{\partial}{\partial t} (\nabla \cdot \mathbf{A}) = -4\pi\rho$$

$$\nabla^2 \phi - \frac{1}{c^2} \frac{\partial^2 \phi}{\partial t^2} + \frac{1}{c} \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \left(\nabla \cdot \mathbf{A} + \frac{1}{c} \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial t} \right) = -4\pi\rho$$

$$\nabla \times (\nabla \times \mathbf{A}) - \frac{1}{c} \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \left(-\nabla \phi - \frac{1}{c} \frac{\partial \mathbf{A}}{\partial t} \right) = \frac{4\pi}{c} \mathbf{j}$$

$$\nabla^2 \mathbf{A} - \frac{1}{c^2} \frac{\partial^2 \mathbf{A}}{\partial t^2} - \nabla \left(\nabla \cdot \mathbf{A} + \frac{1}{c} \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial t} \right) = -\frac{4\pi}{c} \mathbf{j}$$

Scalar and vector potential are not uniquely determined by the conditions

For example, the addition of gradient ψ to **A** will not change **B**

$\mathbf{A} \rightarrow \mathbf{A} + \nabla \psi, \qquad \mathbf{B} \rightarrow \mathbf{B}.$

Electric field will not change if ϕ is changed in following manner

$$\phi \rightarrow \phi - \frac{1}{c} \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial t}, \qquad \mathbf{E} \rightarrow \mathbf{E}.$$

Such alterations of $\boldsymbol{\mathsf{A}}$ and $\boldsymbol{\phi}$ are called Gauge transformation

Lorentz Gauge
$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{A} + \frac{1}{c} \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial t} = 0$$

Retarded Potentials



Information from point r' propagates at speed of light.

The potential at r can only be affected by conditions at r' at a retarded time t-|r-r'|/c

Retarded Potentials

 ✓ Retarded time refers to conditions at the point r' that existed at a time earlier than t by time required for light to travel between r and r'

 \checkmark Information from point r' propagates at speed of light, so potential at r can be affected by conditions of r' at this retarded time

✓ Solutions with advanced time are not permitted physically

For given charge and current density first find the retarded potentials and then determine **E** and **B**

Retarded potential of single moving charges : Lienard-Wiechart potentials

Particle of charge q moving along a trajectory $r=r_0(t)$, velocity $u(t)=r_0(t)$

Charge and current density

$$\rho(\mathbf{r},t) = q\delta(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}_0(t)),$$

$$\mathbf{j}(\mathbf{r},t) = q\mathbf{u}(t)\delta(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}_0(t))$$

$$q = \int \rho(\mathbf{r}, t) d^3 \mathbf{r}$$

 $q\mathbf{u} = \int \mathbf{j}(\mathbf{r}, t) d^3 \mathbf{r}.$ \oint Total Current

Total Charge

Reterded potential of single moving charges : Lienard-Wiechart potentials

Particle of charge q moving along a trajectory $r=r_0(t)$, velocity $u(t)=r_0(t)$

Charge and current density

$$\rho(\mathbf{r},t) = q\delta(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}_0(t)),$$

$$\mathbf{j}(\mathbf{r},t) = q\mathbf{u}(t)\delta(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}_0(t))$$

$$\phi(\mathbf{r},t) = \int \frac{[\rho]d^3\mathbf{r}'}{|\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}'|} \longrightarrow \text{Scalar Potential}$$

$$[Q] \equiv Q\left(\mathbf{r}', t - \frac{1}{c}|\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}'|\right)$$

$$\phi(\mathbf{r},t) = \int d^3\mathbf{r}' \int dt' \frac{\rho(\mathbf{r}',t')}{|\mathbf{r}-\mathbf{r}'|} \,\delta(t'-t+|\mathbf{r}-\mathbf{r}'|/c),$$

Retarded potential of single moving charges : Lienard-Wiechart potentials

Particle of charge q moving along a trajectory $r=r_0(t)$, velocity $u(t)=r_0(t)$

Charge and current density

$$\rho(\mathbf{r}, t) = q\delta(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}_0(t)),$$

$$\mathbf{j}(\mathbf{r}, t) = q\mathbf{u}(t)\delta(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}_0(t))$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} Q \end{bmatrix} \equiv Q \Big(\mathbf{r}', t - \frac{1}{c} |\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}'| \Big) \qquad \phi(\mathbf{r}, t) = \int \frac{\left[\rho \right] d^3 \mathbf{r}'}{|\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}'|} \longrightarrow \text{Scalar Potential}$$

$$\phi(\mathbf{r}, t) = \int d^3 \mathbf{r}' \int dt' \frac{\rho(\mathbf{r}', t')}{|\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}'|} \,\delta(t' - t + |\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}'|/c),$$

$$\prod \quad q = \int \rho(\mathbf{r}, t) \,d^3 \mathbf{r},$$

$$\phi(\mathbf{r}, t) = q \int \delta(t' - t + |\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}_0(t')|/c) \frac{dt'}{|\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}_0(t')|}$$



Retarded potential of single moving charges : Lienard-Wiechart potentials

$$\phi(\mathbf{r},t) = q \int R^{-1}(t') \delta(t'-t+R(t')/c) dt'$$

$$\mathbf{A}(\mathbf{r},t) = \frac{q}{c} \int \mathbf{u}(t') R^{-1}(t') \delta(t'-t+R(t')/c) dt'$$



Retarded potential of single moving charges : Lienard-Wiechart potentials



Retarded potential of single moving charges : Lienard-Wiechart potentials

Change the variable from
$$t' \rightarrow t''$$

 $t'' = t' - t + [R(t')/c]$

$$dt'' = dt' + \frac{1}{c} \dot{R}(t') dt'$$

$$R^{2}(t') = R^{2}(t')$$

$$2R(t')\dot{R}(t') = -2R(t') \cdot \mathbf{u}(t'),$$

$$\mathbf{n} = \frac{R}{R}$$

$$dt'' = \left[1 - \frac{1}{c}\mathbf{n}(t') \cdot \mathbf{u}(t')\right] dt',$$

$$\kappa(t') = 1 - \frac{1}{c}\mathbf{n}(t') \cdot \mathbf{u}(t')$$

Retarded potential of single moving charges : Lienard-Wiechart potentials

Change the variable from t' \rightarrow t" $dt'' = dt' + \frac{1}{c} \dot{R}(t') dt'.$ $\int_{c} dt'' = \left[1 - \frac{1}{c} \mathbf{n}(t') \cdot \mathbf{u}(t')\right] dt',$ t'' = t' - t + [R(t')/c] $\phi(\mathbf{r},t) = q \int R^{-1}(t') \left[1 - \frac{1}{c} \mathbf{n}(t') \cdot \mathbf{u}(t') \right]^{-1} \delta(t'') dt''$ $\phi(\mathbf{r},t) = \frac{q}{\kappa(t_{ret})R(t_{ret})} \qquad \kappa(t') = 1 - \frac{1}{c}\mathbf{n}(t') \cdot \mathbf{u}(t')$

Lienard-Wiechart Potential

$$\phi = \left[\frac{q}{\kappa R} \right] \qquad \mathbf{A} = \left[\frac{q\mathbf{u}}{c\kappa R} \right]$$

Retarded potential of single moving charges : Lienard-Wiechart potentials

$$\phi = \left[\frac{q}{\kappa R}\right] \qquad \mathbf{A} = \left[\frac{q\mathbf{u}}{c\kappa R}\right]$$

Differ from static electromagnetic theory in two ways

 Extra factor κ : Important for velocities close to light. Tends to concentrate/beam potential into a narrow cone about particle velocity. Beaming effect (will be detailed in coming lectures)

2) Quantities are evaluated at retarded time.

Differentiate the potentials to get electric field(E) and magnetic field(B) (Jackson Section 14)

Velocity and Radiation field



Fig : Radiation field at R from position of the radiating particle at the retarded time

$$\mathbf{E}(\mathbf{r},t) = q \begin{bmatrix} \frac{(\mathbf{n}-\boldsymbol{\beta})(1-\boldsymbol{\beta}^2)}{\kappa^3 R^2} \end{bmatrix} + \frac{q}{c} \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\mathbf{n}}{\kappa^3 R} \times \{(\mathbf{n}-\boldsymbol{\beta}) \times \dot{\boldsymbol{\beta}}\} \end{bmatrix} \mathbf{B}(\mathbf{r},t) = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{n} \times \mathbf{E}(\mathbf{r},t) \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\downarrow$$
Velocity field
$$\downarrow$$
Acceleration/Radiation field

Radiation field

$$\mathbf{E}(\mathbf{r},t) = q \left[\frac{(\mathbf{n} - \boldsymbol{\beta})(1 - \boldsymbol{\beta}^2)}{\kappa^3 R^2} \right] + \frac{q}{c} \left[\frac{\mathbf{n}}{\kappa^3 R} \times \{(\mathbf{n} - \boldsymbol{\beta}) \times \boldsymbol{\beta}\} \right]$$

Velocity field

- 1/R² dependence
- Only contributing term for particle with constant velocity
- Generalization of the Coulomb's law to moving particles, approaches to coulomb's law when u<<c
- Electric filed always point towards current position of the particle

Acceleration field/Radiation field 1/R dependence Proportional to particle's acceleration perpendicular to n

Radiation field

$$\mathbf{E}(\mathbf{r},t) = q \left[\frac{(\mathbf{n} - \boldsymbol{\beta})(1 - \boldsymbol{\beta}^2)}{\kappa^3 R^2} \right] + \frac{q}{c} \left[\frac{\mathbf{n}}{\kappa^3 R} \times \{(\mathbf{n} - \boldsymbol{\beta}) \times \boldsymbol{\beta}\} \right]$$

Radiation field

$$\mathbf{E}_{\rm rad}(\mathbf{r},t) = \frac{q}{c} \left[\frac{\mathbf{n}}{\kappa^3 R} \times \left\{ (\mathbf{n} - \boldsymbol{\beta}) \times \boldsymbol{\beta} \right\} \right]_{\rm rad}^{\rm rad}$$
$$\mathbf{B}_{\rm rad}(\mathbf{r},t) = \left[\mathbf{n} \times \mathbf{E}_{\rm rad} \right]_{\rm rad}^{\rm rad}$$

 E_{rad} , B_{rad} , n : mutually perpendicular $|E_{rad}| = |B_{rad}|$

Radiation fields

Consider a particle originally moving at constant velocity along x axis is stopped at x=0 and t=0

At t=1 the field outside of a radius c is radial and points to the position where particle would have been if there was no deceleration (since no information Is yet propagated to that distance)

But field inside the radius c is informed.



Observables

From an empiricist's point of view there are 4 observables for radiation

- Energy Flux
- Direction
- Frequency
- Polarization

Polarimetry : study of polarization of incoming radiation

- Polarization is produced in various ways, including directly from some radiation processes (e.g. cyclotron and synchrotron emission), from differential absorption of radiation passing through the interstellar medium, and perhaps most commonly from the scattering of radiation.
- Property of a wave to have its Electric Field oscillating in a single plane (plane polarized wave) or in a rotating plane (elliptically or even circular polarized wave).



 Polarization is produced in various ways, including directly from some radiation processes (e.g. cyclotron and synchrotron emission), from differential absorption of radiation passing through the interstellar medium, and perhaps most commonly from the scattering of radiation.

Fractional polarizations detected from astronomical objects can be very high
 (pulsars: almost fully linearly polarised) to,
 very low
 (sun: one of the most sensitive polarization measurements ever made was by
 James Kemp in 1987, who showed that the fractional linear polarization of light
 from the Sun was ~ 10⁻⁷⁾

- Polarimetry, is a method used to study the polarization of incoming radiation and can provide substantial clues to the nature of the source.
- ✓ Polarimetry is used to extract information such as the strength of magnetic fields in the interstellar medium (ISM), provide evidence for inflation by observations of the CMB polarization, motivate a unified model for active galactic nuclei (AGN), probing emission geometry for pulsars etc.

- Study of polarization of electromagnetic plane waves from astrophysical sources and modification of the polarization in the medium.
- Plane waves are described by oscillating electric and magnetic fields, whose field vectors are orthogonal to each other and the direction of propagation.
- ✓ By convention, astronomers describe the polarization of light only in terms of the electric field vector (because E and B are orthogonal).

Maximum observed or expected degree of polarization for different astronomical objects

Radio		_
galactic continuum	70%	_
quasars (integrated / resolved)	15% / 70%	
Crab nebula	30%	
pulsars (linear / circular)	80% / 70%	
Optical		
planets	> 20%	_
interstellar dust acting on starlight (linear)	10%	
interstellar dust acting on starlight (circular)	0.05%	
Sun and A _p stars (Zeeman effect)	100%	
white dwarfs (Zeeman effect)	12%	
symbiotic stars (Raman scattering)	8%	
reflection nebulae (including Herbig-Haro and bipolar	60%	
post-AGB stars and proto-PN (global polarisation)	30%	
synchrotron (Crab nebula, blazars)	50%	
synchrotron (extragalactic jets)	20%	
Crab pulsar	10%	
X-ray (mainly 'expected')		
solar flares	5%	_
Crab nebula	15%	
accreting X–ray pulsars	80%	
rotation-powered X-ray pulsars	10%	
black hole (Lense–Thirring effect Cyg X–1)	2%	Cread
active galactic nuclei	20%	Crea
Seyfert accretion disc reprocessing	5%	These
		11103
γ -ray ('expected')		May
pulsars	100%	_

Credit: Agnieszka Słowikowska These are approximate numbers May not be updated

Stokes parameters

✓ The polarization can be described by the shape that the tip of E traced out over the course of a period, and it can be linear, circular, or elliptical.

Stokes parameters were defined by George Gabriel Stokes in 1852, as a mathematically convenient alternative to the more common description of incoherent or partially polarized radiation in terms of its total intensity (I), (fractional) degree of polarization (p), and the shape parameters of the polarization ellipse

Specific case We discussed about monochromatic plane wave

$$\mathbf{E} = \hat{\mathbf{a}}_{1} E_{0} e^{i(\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{r} - \omega t)}$$

$$\downarrow$$
Oscillates along a_{1}

Superposition of two such oscillations in perpendicular direction

$$\mathbf{E} = (\hat{\mathbf{x}}E_1 + \hat{\mathbf{y}}E_2)e^{-i\omega t} \equiv \mathbf{E}_0 e^{-i\omega t}$$

 E_1 and E_2 are complex amplitude and can be written as



Superposition of two such oscillations in perpendicular direction

$$\mathbf{E} = (\hat{\mathbf{x}}E_1 + \hat{\mathbf{y}}E_2)e^{-i\omega t} \equiv \mathbf{E}_0 e^{-i\omega t}$$

Considering real part of E, physical component of electric fields along x and y direction



Equations describing tip of **E** in x-y plane

$$E_x = \mathcal{E}_1 \cos(\omega t - \phi_1), \qquad E_y = \mathcal{E}_2 \cos(\omega t - \phi_2).$$

Figure traced out by tip of **E** is an ellipse

Equations for a general ellipse relative to its principal axes x' and y'



Superposition of two such oscillations in perpendicular direction

$$\mathbf{E} = (\hat{\mathbf{x}}E_1 + \hat{\mathbf{y}}E_2)e^{-i\omega t} \equiv \mathbf{E}_0 e^{-i\omega t}$$

Elliptically Polarized

$$E'_x = \mathcal{E}_0 \cos\beta\cos\omega t, \qquad E'_y = -\mathcal{E}_0 \sin\beta\sin\omega t$$



Two special cases of elliptical polarization



$$E'_x = \mathcal{E}_0 \cos\beta\cos\omega t, \qquad E'_y = -\mathcal{E}_0 \sin\beta\sin\omega t$$

Thus

$$E_x = \mathcal{E}_0(\cos\beta\cos\chi\cos\omega t + \sin\beta\sin\chi\sin\omega t)$$
$$E_y = \mathcal{E}_0(\cos\beta\sin\chi\cos\omega t - \sin\beta\cos\chi\sin\omega t)$$

Polarization and stokes parameters

$$E'_{x} = \mathfrak{S}_{0} \cos \beta \cos \omega t, \quad E'_{y} = -\mathfrak{S}_{0} \sin \beta \sin \omega t$$

Thus
 $E_{x} = \mathfrak{S}_{0} (\cos \beta \cos \chi \cos \omega t + \sin \beta \sin \chi \sin \omega t)$
 $E_{y} = \mathfrak{S}_{0} (\cos \beta \sin \chi \cos \omega t - \sin \beta \cos \chi \sin \omega t)$
However,

$$E_{1} = \mathcal{E}_{1} e^{i\phi_{1}}, \qquad E_{2} = \mathcal{E}_{2} e^{i\phi_{2}}$$

$$E_{x} = \mathcal{E}_{1} \cos(\omega t - \phi_{1}), \qquad E_{y} = \mathcal{E}_{2} \cos(\omega t - \phi_{2}).$$
Consider,
$$\mathcal{E}_{1} \cos\phi_{1} = \mathcal{E}_{0} \cos\beta\cos\chi,$$

$$\mathcal{E}_{1} \sin\phi_{1} = \mathcal{E}_{0} \sin\beta\sin\chi,$$

$$\mathcal{E}_{2} \cos\phi_{2} = \mathcal{E}_{0} \cos\beta\sin\chi,$$

$$\mathcal{E}_{2} \sin\phi_{2} = -\mathcal{E}_{0} \sin\beta\cos\chi.$$

$$\mathcal{E}_{1} \cos \phi_{1} = \mathcal{E}_{0} \cos \beta \cos \chi,$$

$$\mathcal{E}_{1} \sin \phi_{1} = \mathcal{E}_{0} \sin \beta \sin \chi,$$

$$\mathcal{E}_{2} \cos \phi_{2} = \mathcal{E}_{0} \cos \beta \sin \chi,$$

$$\mathcal{E}_{2} \sin \phi_{2} = -\mathcal{E}_{0} \sin \beta \cos \chi.$$

Stokes parameters

$$I \equiv \mathcal{E}_1^2 + \mathcal{E}_2^2 = \mathcal{E}_0^2$$

$$Q \equiv \mathcal{E}_1^2 - \mathcal{E}_2^2 = \mathcal{E}_0^2 \cos 2\beta \cos 2\chi$$

$$U \equiv 2\mathcal{E}_1 \mathcal{E}_2 \cos(\phi_1 - \phi_2) = \mathcal{E}_0^2 \cos 2\beta \sin 2\chi$$

$$V \equiv 2\mathcal{E}_1 \mathcal{E}_2 \sin(\phi_1 - \phi_2) = \mathcal{E}_0^2 \sin 2\beta.$$



Stokes parameters

 $I \equiv \mathcal{E}_{1}^{2} + \mathcal{E}_{2}^{2} = \mathcal{E}_{0}^{2}$

$$I^2 = Q^2 + U^2 + V^2$$

Valid for Monochromatic wave



✓ I is Proportional to intensity of wave (+ve)

 $V \equiv 2\mathcal{E}_1 \mathcal{E}_2 \sin(\phi_1 - \phi_2) = \mathcal{E}_0^2 \sin 2\beta.$

 $U \equiv 2\mathcal{E}_1 \mathcal{E}_2 \cos(\phi_1 - \phi_2) = \mathcal{E}_0^2 \cos 2\beta \sin 2\chi$

 $Q \equiv \mathcal{E}_1^2 - \mathcal{E}_2^2 = \mathcal{E}_0^2 \cos 2\beta \cos 2\chi$

Circularity parameter measure ratios of axes of the ellipse
 +ve for Right-handed polarization
 -ve for left handed polarization
 V=0 for linear polarization

✓ Q / U measures orientation of ellipse relative to x-axis Q=U=0 for circular polarization



Quasi monochromatic waves, $E_1(t) = \mathcal{E}_1(t) e^{i\phi_1(t)}$, $E_2(t) = \mathcal{E}_2(t) e^{i\phi_2(t)}$

$$I \equiv \langle E_1 E_1^* \rangle + \langle E_2 E_2^* \rangle = \langle \mathcal{E}_1^2 + \mathcal{E}_2^2 \rangle$$

$$Q \equiv \langle E_1 E_1^* \rangle - \langle E_2 E_2^* \rangle = \langle \mathcal{E}_1^2 - \mathcal{E}_2^2 \rangle$$

$$U \equiv \langle E_1 E_2^* \rangle + \langle E_2 E_1^* \rangle = \langle 2\mathcal{E}_1 \mathcal{E}_2 \cos(\phi_1 - \phi_2) \rangle$$

$$V \equiv \frac{1}{i} (\langle E_1 E_2^* \rangle - \langle E_2 E_1^* \rangle) = \langle 2\mathcal{E}_1 \mathcal{E}_2 \sin(\phi_1 - \phi_2) \rangle$$

$$I^2 \ge Q^2 + U^2 + V^2$$

Degree of polarization,

$$\Pi \equiv \frac{I_{\text{pol}}}{I} = \frac{\sqrt{Q^2 + U^2 + V^2}}{I}$$

Further reading

Poincare Sphere : a graphical tool to visualize different types of polarized radiation



Further reading

Mueller Matrix : Method for transforming Stokes parameters



End of Lecture 4

Reference: Rybicki Lightman Chapter 2,3

Next lecture : 22nd August

Topic of next Lecture: Radiation from moving charges (continued) (Chapter 3 of Rybicki & Lightman)

Preparation: Lecture 4