



Nano-Optics

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General remarks

- Light fields are treated in the wave picture (Maxwell's equations)
- Microscopic matter is treated by Quantum Mechanics

→ Semiclassical description

Exceptions: non-classical fields emitted by single emitters!

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Maxwell's equations

Maxwell:

$$\nabla \times \mathbf{E}(\mathbf{r}, t) = -\frac{\partial \mathbf{B}(\mathbf{r}, t)}{\partial t} \quad (1) \quad \text{macroscopic Maxwell equations}$$

$$\nabla \times \mathbf{H}(\mathbf{r}, t) = \frac{\partial \mathbf{D}(\mathbf{r}, t)}{\partial t} + \mathbf{j}(\mathbf{r}, t) \quad (2)$$

$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{D}(\mathbf{r}, t) = \rho(\mathbf{r}, t) \quad (3)$$

$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{B}(\mathbf{r}, t) = 0 \quad (4)$$

Conservation of charge:

$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{j}(\mathbf{r}, t) + \frac{\partial \rho(\mathbf{r}, t)}{\partial t} = 0$$

From (2)

using $\nabla \cdot \nabla \times \mathbf{H} = 0$

Response of a medium

$$\mathbf{D}(\mathbf{r}, t) = \epsilon_0 \mathbf{E}(\mathbf{r}, t) + \mathbf{P}(\mathbf{r}, t) \quad (5)$$

$$\mathbf{H}(\mathbf{r}, t) = \frac{1}{\mu_0} \mathbf{B}(\mathbf{r}, t) - \mathbf{M}(\mathbf{r}, t) \quad (6)$$

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Wave equations

$$\nabla \times \nabla \times \mathbf{E} + \frac{1}{c^2} \frac{\partial^2 \mathbf{E}}{\partial t^2} = -\mu_0 \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \left(\mathbf{j} + \frac{\partial \mathbf{P}}{\partial t} + \nabla \times \mathbf{M} \right)$$

$$\nabla \times \nabla \times \mathbf{H} + \frac{1}{c^2} \frac{\partial^2 \mathbf{H}}{\partial t^2} = \nabla \times \mathbf{j} + \nabla \times \frac{\partial \mathbf{P}}{\partial t} + \mu_0 \frac{\partial \mathbf{M}}{\partial t}.$$

Obtained by applying $\nabla \times$
to the Maxwell curl equations (1) and (2)
and using the material equations

$$c = (\epsilon_0 \mu_0)^{-1/2} \quad \text{speed of light in vacuum}$$

The source of the fields is a current density:

$$\mathbf{j}_t = \mathbf{j}_s + \mathbf{j}_c + \frac{\partial \mathbf{P}}{\partial t} + \nabla \times \mathbf{M}$$

source current density
conduction current density
polarization current density
magnetization current density

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Response of matter to e.m. fields

for linear, isotropic, non-dispersive media

$$\mathbf{D} = \epsilon_0 \epsilon \mathbf{E} \quad \mathbf{P} = \epsilon_0 \chi_e \mathbf{E}$$

$$\mathbf{B} = \mu_0 \mu \mathbf{H} \quad \mathbf{M} = \chi_m \mathbf{H}$$

$$\mathbf{j}_c = \sigma \mathbf{E}$$

- Higher order terms for nonlinear media
- Tensors for anisotropic media
- Functions of space for inhomogeneous media

temporal dispersion: material parameters are functions of the frequency

spatial dispersion: material parameters are convolutions over space
→ non-local medium

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Time-harmonic fields

Separation of the wave equations → harmonic differential eq.

$$\mathbf{E}(\mathbf{r}, t) = \text{Re}\{\mathbf{E}(\mathbf{r}) e^{-i\omega t}\} = \frac{1}{2} [\mathbf{E}(\mathbf{r}) e^{-i\omega t} + \mathbf{E}^*(\mathbf{r}) e^{i\omega t}]$$

$$\mathbf{E}(\mathbf{r}, t) = \text{Re}\{\mathbf{E}(\mathbf{r})\} \cos \omega t + \text{Im}\{\mathbf{E}(\mathbf{r})\} \sin \omega t = |\mathbf{E}(\mathbf{r})| \cos[\omega t + \varphi(\mathbf{r})]$$

Maxwell's equations (1) – (4) then become:

$$\begin{aligned} \nabla \times \mathbf{E}(\mathbf{r}) &= i\omega \mathbf{B}(\mathbf{r}), \\ \nabla \times \mathbf{H}(\mathbf{r}) &= -i\omega \mathbf{D}(\mathbf{r}) + \mathbf{j}(\mathbf{r}), \\ \nabla \cdot \mathbf{D}(\mathbf{r}) &= \rho(\mathbf{r}), \\ \nabla \cdot \mathbf{B}(\mathbf{r}) &= 0, \end{aligned}$$

complex, frequency dependent field amplitudes



Complex dielectric constant

Constitutive relations

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{D} &= \epsilon_0 \epsilon \mathbf{E} & \mathbf{P} &= \epsilon_0 \chi_e \mathbf{E} \\ \mathbf{B} &= \mu_0 \mu \mathbf{H} & \mathbf{M} &= \chi_m \mathbf{H} \\ \mathbf{j}_c &= \sigma \mathbf{E} \end{aligned}$$

Maxwell:

$$\begin{aligned} \nabla \times \mathbf{E}(\mathbf{r}) &= i\omega \mathbf{B}(\mathbf{r}), \\ \nabla \times \mathbf{H}(\mathbf{r}) &= -i\omega \mathbf{D}(\mathbf{r}) + \mathbf{j}(\mathbf{r}), \\ \nabla \cdot \mathbf{D}(\mathbf{r}) &= \rho(\mathbf{r}), \\ \nabla \cdot \mathbf{B}(\mathbf{r}) &= 0, \end{aligned} \quad \left| \begin{array}{c} \mu^{-1} \\ \nabla \times \end{array} \right.$$

$$\nabla \times \mu^{-1} \nabla \times \mathbf{E} - \frac{\omega^2}{c^2} [\epsilon + i\sigma/(\omega\epsilon_0)] \mathbf{E} = i\omega \mu_0 \mathbf{j}_s$$

Dielectric function is a complex quantity



With the new ε

$$\nabla \times \mu^{-1} \nabla \times \mathbf{E} - k_o^2 \varepsilon \mathbf{E} = i\omega \mu_o \mathbf{j}_s,$$

$$\nabla \times \varepsilon^{-1} \nabla \times \mathbf{H} - k_o^2 \mu \mathbf{H} = \nabla \times \varepsilon^{-1} \mathbf{j}_s$$

in linear, isotropic, but **inhomogeneous** media

$$k_o = \omega/c$$



Piecewise homogeneous media

Inhomogeneity is confined to the boundary between isotropic media!

→ Find solutions in each isotropic area and connect those via boundary conditions.

$$(\nabla^2 + k_i^2) \mathbf{E}_i = -i\omega \mu_o \mu_i \mathbf{j}_i + \frac{\nabla \rho_i}{\varepsilon_o \varepsilon_i} \quad \text{inhomogeneous vector Helmholtz equations}$$

$$(\nabla^2 + k_i^2) \mathbf{H}_i = -\nabla \times \mathbf{j}_i,$$

$$k_i = (\omega/c) \sqrt{\mu_i \varepsilon_i}$$

\mathbf{j}_i, ρ_i sources in the domain D_i

Derivation: $\nabla \times \nabla \times = -\nabla^2 + \nabla \nabla \cdot$

$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{D}(\mathbf{r}, t) = \rho(\mathbf{r}, t)$$



Boundary conditions

integral form of Maxwell's equations (1) – (4)

Faraday's law

$$\int_{\partial S} \mathbf{E}(\mathbf{r}, t) \cdot d\mathbf{s} = - \int_S \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \mathbf{B}(\mathbf{r}, t) \cdot \mathbf{n}_s da ,$$

$$\int_{\partial S} \mathbf{H}(\mathbf{r}, t) \cdot d\mathbf{s} = \int_S \left[\mathbf{j}(\mathbf{r}, t) + \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \mathbf{D}(\mathbf{r}, t) \right] \cdot \mathbf{n}_s da ,$$

$$\int_{\partial V} \mathbf{D}(\mathbf{r}, t) \cdot \mathbf{n}_s da = \int_V \rho(\mathbf{r}, t) dV ,$$

Gauss' law

$$\int_{\partial V} \mathbf{B}(\mathbf{r}, t) \cdot \mathbf{n}_s da = 0 .$$

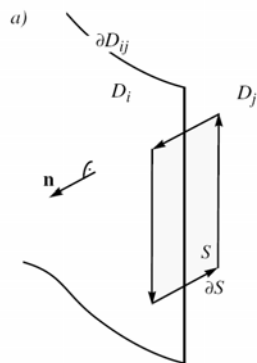
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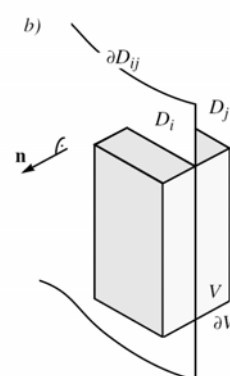


Boundary conditions



Parallel component of the electric field is continuous

$$\mathbf{n} \times (\mathbf{E}_i - \mathbf{E}_j) = \mathbf{0} \text{ on } \partial D_{ij} ,$$
$$\mathbf{n} \times (\mathbf{H}_i - \mathbf{H}_j) = \mathbf{K} \text{ on } \partial D_{ij} ,$$



Normal component of the dielectric displacement is continuous

$$\mathbf{n} \cdot (\mathbf{D}_i - \mathbf{D}_j) = \sigma \text{ on } \partial D_{ij}$$
$$\mathbf{n} \cdot (\mathbf{B}_i - \mathbf{B}_j) = 0 \text{ on } \partial D_{ij} .$$

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Poyntings theorem

$$\nabla \times \mathbf{E}(\mathbf{r}, t) = -\frac{\partial \mathbf{B}(\mathbf{r}, t)}{\partial t}, \quad (1)$$

$$\nabla \times \mathbf{H}(\mathbf{r}, t) = \frac{\partial \mathbf{D}(\mathbf{r}, t)}{\partial t} + \mathbf{j}(\mathbf{r}, t), \quad (2)$$

$$\mathbf{H} \cdot (1) - \mathbf{E} \cdot (2)$$

$$\mathbf{H} \cdot (\nabla \times \mathbf{E}) - \mathbf{E} \cdot (\nabla \times \mathbf{H}) = -\mathbf{H} \cdot \frac{\partial \mathbf{B}}{\partial t} - \mathbf{E} \cdot \frac{\partial \mathbf{D}}{\partial t} - \mathbf{j} \cdot \mathbf{E}$$
$$= \nabla \cdot (\mathbf{E} \times \mathbf{H})$$

integrating both sides over space and applying Gauss' theorem

$$\int_{\partial V} (\mathbf{E} \times \mathbf{H}) \cdot \mathbf{n} \, da = - \int_V \left[\mathbf{H} \cdot \frac{\partial \mathbf{B}}{\partial t} + \mathbf{E} \cdot \frac{\partial \mathbf{D}}{\partial t} + \mathbf{j} \cdot \mathbf{E} \right] dV$$
$$\mathbf{D}(\mathbf{r}, t) = \epsilon_0 \mathbf{E}(\mathbf{r}, t) + \mathbf{P}(\mathbf{r}, t),$$
$$\mathbf{H}(\mathbf{r}, t) = \mu_0^{-1} \mathbf{B}(\mathbf{r}, t) - \mathbf{M}(\mathbf{r}, t)$$

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Energy conservation

Flow of e.m. energy in or out of V time rate of change of electromagnetic energy inside V

$$\int_{\partial V} (\mathbf{E} \times \mathbf{H}) \cdot \mathbf{n} \, da + \frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \int_V [\mathbf{D} \cdot \mathbf{E} + \mathbf{B} \cdot \mathbf{H}] dV =$$
$$- \int_V \mathbf{j} \cdot \mathbf{E} dV \quad \text{for linear media}$$

Energy dissipation in V
= Ohmic losses

$$\mathbf{S} = (\mathbf{E} \times \mathbf{H}) \quad \text{energy flux density, Poynting vector} \quad \langle \mathbf{S} \rangle = \frac{1}{2} \text{Re} \{ \mathbf{E} \times \mathbf{H}^* \}$$

time- averaged Poynting vector

$$W = \frac{1}{2} [\mathbf{D} \cdot \mathbf{E} + \mathbf{B} \cdot \mathbf{H}] \quad \text{density of electromagnetic energy}$$

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Dyadic Green's function

The dyadic Green's function defines the electric field at the point \mathbf{r} generated by a radiating electric dipole source at \mathbf{r}'

$$\mathbf{E}(\mathbf{r}) = \omega^2 \mu_0 \mu \vec{\mathbf{G}}(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}') \boldsymbol{\mu}$$

Some basics:

$$\mathcal{L} \mathbf{A}(\mathbf{r}) = \mathbf{B}(\mathbf{r})$$

source function

unknown system
response

complete solution = solution of the homogeneous problem
+ particular inhomogeneous solution

Assume homogeneous solution is known – how to find a particular
inhomogeneous solution?

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Dyadic Green's function

Consider special inhomogeneity $\delta(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}')$

$$\mathcal{L} \mathbf{G}_i(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}') = \mathbf{n}_i \delta(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}') \quad (i=x, y, z)$$

oder $\mathcal{L} \vec{\mathbf{G}}(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}') = \vec{\mathbf{I}} \delta(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}')$

\mathcal{L} acts on each column of $\vec{\mathbf{G}}(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}')$

separately and $\vec{\mathbf{I}}$ is the unit dyad.

Once $\vec{\mathbf{G}}(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}')$ is known:

$$\int_V \mathcal{L} \vec{\mathbf{G}}(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}') \mathbf{B}(\mathbf{r}') dV' = \int_V \mathbf{B}(\mathbf{r}') \delta(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}') dV'$$

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Dyadic Green's function

$$\mathcal{L} \mathbf{A}(\mathbf{r}) = \int_V \mathcal{L} \vec{\mathbf{G}}(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}') \mathbf{B}(\mathbf{r}') dV' \quad \text{mit} \quad \mathcal{L} \mathbf{A}(\mathbf{r}) = \mathbf{B}(\mathbf{r})$$

$$\rightarrow \mathbf{A}(\mathbf{r}) = \int_V \vec{\mathbf{G}}(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}') \mathbf{B}(\mathbf{r}') dV'$$

What is $\vec{\mathbf{G}}(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}')$ for the electric field?



Dyadic Green's function

$$\mathbf{E}(\mathbf{r}) = i\omega \mathbf{A}(\mathbf{r}) - \nabla \phi(\mathbf{r})$$

$$\mathbf{H}(\mathbf{r}) = \frac{1}{\mu_0 \mu} \nabla \times \mathbf{A}(\mathbf{r}) .$$

plugged into $\nabla \times \mathbf{H}(\mathbf{r}, t) = \frac{\partial \mathbf{D}(\mathbf{r}, t)}{\partial t} + \mathbf{j}(\mathbf{r}, t)$

using $\mathbf{D} = \epsilon_0 \epsilon \mathbf{E}$

$$\rightarrow \nabla \times \nabla \times \mathbf{A}(\mathbf{r}) = \mu_0 \mu \mathbf{j}(\mathbf{r}) - i\omega \mu_0 \mu \epsilon_0 \epsilon [i\omega \mathbf{A}(\mathbf{r}) - \nabla \phi(\mathbf{r})]$$

Lorenz gauge: $\nabla \cdot \mathbf{A}(\mathbf{r}) = i\omega \mu_0 \mu \epsilon_0 \epsilon \phi(\mathbf{r})$



Dyadic Green's function

using again $\nabla \times \nabla \times = -\nabla^2 + \nabla \nabla \cdot$.

$$\begin{aligned} \rightarrow [\nabla^2 + k^2] \mathbf{A}(\mathbf{r}) &= -\mu_o \mu \mathbf{j}(\mathbf{r}) \\ [\nabla^2 + k^2] \phi(\mathbf{r}) &= -\rho(\mathbf{r}) / \epsilon_o \epsilon \end{aligned}$$

four scalar Helmholtz equations of the form

$$[\nabla^2 + k^2] f(\mathbf{r}) = -g(\mathbf{r})$$

to obtain the scalar Green's function for the Helmholtz operator:

$$[\nabla^2 + k^2] G_o(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}') = -\delta(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}')$$



Dyadic Green's function

$$G_o(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}') = \frac{e^{\pm ik|\mathbf{r}-\mathbf{r}'|}}{4\pi|\mathbf{r}-\mathbf{r}'|}$$

free-space Green's function of the Helmholtz operator

$$\rightarrow \mathbf{A}(\mathbf{r}) = \mu_o \mu \int_V \mathbf{j}(\mathbf{r}') G_o(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}') dV'$$

How about the fields?

for the fields the Greens function must be a tensor since a current element in x direction causes fields in x, y, and z direction!

$$\mathbf{E}(\mathbf{r}) = i\omega \mathbf{A}(\mathbf{r}) - \nabla \phi(\mathbf{r}) \quad \text{together with the Lorenz gauge}$$

$$\rightarrow \mathbf{E}(\mathbf{r}) = i\omega \left[1 + \frac{1}{k^2} \nabla \nabla \cdot \right] \mathbf{A}(\mathbf{r})$$



Dyadic Green's function

The vector potential originating from a point source current

$$\mathbf{j} = (i\omega\mu_o)^{-1}\delta(\mathbf{r}-\mathbf{r}')\mathbf{n}_x$$

because of $\mathbf{A}(\mathbf{r}) = \mu_o\mu \int_V \mathbf{j}(\mathbf{r}') G_o(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}') dV'$ is:

$$\mathbf{A}(\mathbf{r}) = (i\omega)^{-1} G_o(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}') \mathbf{n}_x$$

putting this into $\mathbf{E}(\mathbf{r}) = i\omega \left[1 + \frac{1}{k^2} \nabla \nabla \cdot \right] \mathbf{A}(\mathbf{r})$
point source current!

$$\mathbf{G}_x(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}') = \left[1 + \frac{1}{k^2} \nabla \nabla \cdot \right] G_o(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}') \mathbf{n}_x$$

$$\boxed{\vec{\mathbf{G}}(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}') = \left[\vec{\mathbf{I}} + \frac{1}{k^2} \nabla \nabla \cdot \right] G_o(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}')}$$

$$\nabla \cdot [G_o \vec{\mathbf{I}}] = \nabla G_o$$



Dyadic Green's function

$$\boxed{\mathbf{E}(\mathbf{r}) = \mathbf{E}_o(\mathbf{r}) + i\omega\mu_o\mu \int_V \vec{\mathbf{G}}(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}') \mathbf{j}(\mathbf{r}') dV' \quad \mathbf{r} \notin V}$$

$$\boxed{\mathbf{H}(\mathbf{r}) = \mathbf{H}_o(\mathbf{r}) + \int_V \left[\nabla \times \vec{\mathbf{G}}(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}') \right] \mathbf{j}(\mathbf{r}') dV' \quad \mathbf{r} \notin V}$$

Volume integral equations



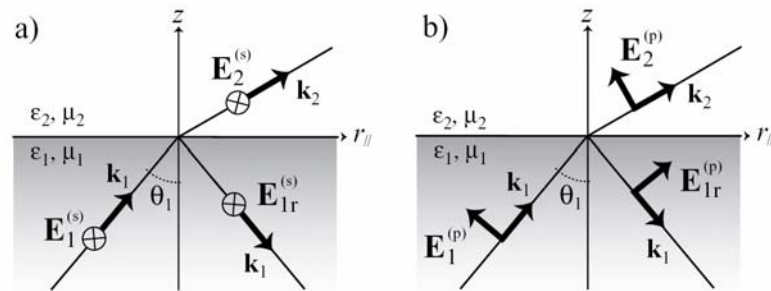
Evanescent fields

evanescere: latin. Has meanings like *vanishing from notice* or *imperceptible*.

$\mathbf{E}e^{i(\mathbf{k}\mathbf{r}-\omega t)}$ plane waves with one component of the wave vector imaginary.

This never occurs in a homogeneous medium!

Simplest inhomogeneity: plane interface between two media



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Evanescent fields

$$\mathbf{E}_2 = \begin{bmatrix} -\mathbf{E}_1^{(p)} t^p(k_x) k_{z2}/k_2 \\ \mathbf{E}_1^{(s)} t^s(k_x) \\ \mathbf{E}_1^{(p)} t^p(k_x) k_x/k_2 \end{bmatrix} e^{ik_x x + ik_{z2} z}$$

with the Fresnel reflection and transmission coefficients

$$r^s(k_x, k_y) = \frac{\mu_2 k_{z1} - \mu_1 k_{z2}}{\mu_2 k_{z1} + \mu_1 k_{z2}}, \quad r^p(k_x, k_y) = \frac{\varepsilon_2 k_{z1} - \varepsilon_1 k_{z2}}{\varepsilon_2 k_{z1} + \varepsilon_1 k_{z2}}$$

$$t^s(k_x, k_y) = \frac{2\mu_2 k_{z1}}{\mu_2 k_{z1} + \mu_1 k_{z2}}, \quad t^p(k_x, k_y) = \frac{2\varepsilon_2 k_{z1}}{\varepsilon_2 k_{z1} + \varepsilon_1 k_{z2}} \sqrt{\frac{\mu_2 \varepsilon_1}{\mu_1 \varepsilon_2}}$$

$$k_{z1} = \sqrt{k_1^2 - (k_x^2 + k_y^2)}, \quad k_{z2} = \sqrt{k_2^2 - (k_x^2 + k_y^2)}$$

$$k_{z1} = k_1 \sqrt{1 - \sin^2 \theta_1}, \quad k_{z2} = k_2 \sqrt{1 - \tilde{n}^2 \sin^2 \theta_1}$$

$$\tilde{n} = \frac{\sqrt{\varepsilon_1 \mu_1}}{\sqrt{\varepsilon_2 \mu_2}}$$

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Evanescent fields

with increasing θ_1 the argument of the square root in the expression of k_{z2} gets smaller and smaller and eventually becomes negative. The critical angle θ_c can be defined by the condition

$$[1 - \tilde{n}^2 \sin^2 \theta_1] = 0 \rightarrow \theta_c = \arcsin [1/\tilde{n}]$$

$$\varepsilon_2 = 1, \varepsilon_1 = 2.25 \rightarrow \theta_c = 41.8^\circ$$

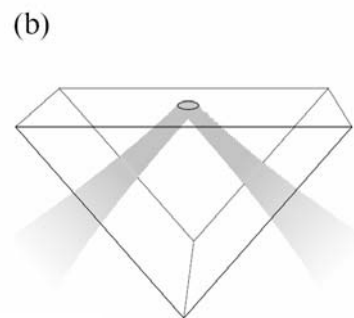
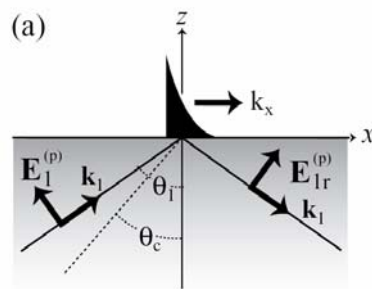
For $\theta_1 > \theta_c$, k_{z2} becomes imaginary

$$\mathbf{E}_2 = \begin{bmatrix} -i\mathbf{E}_1^{(p)} t^p(\theta_1) \sqrt{\tilde{n}^2 \sin^2 \theta_1 - 1} \\ \mathbf{E}_1^{(s)} t^p(\theta_1) \\ \mathbf{E}_1^{(p)} t^p(\theta_1) \tilde{n} \sin \theta_1 \end{bmatrix} e^{i \sin \theta_1 k_1 x} e^{-\gamma z}$$

$$\gamma = k_1 \sqrt{\tilde{n}^2 \sin^2 \theta_1 - 1}$$



Evanescent fields

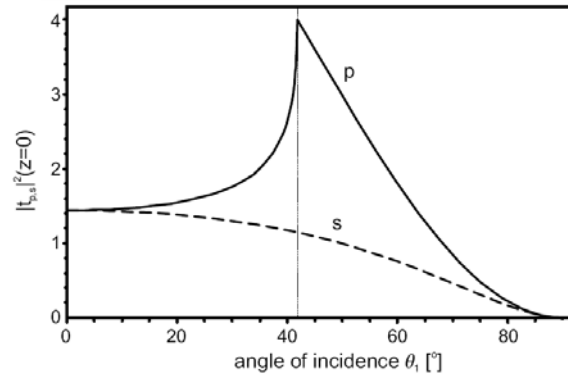


for $\theta_1 = 45^\circ$ and $\varepsilon_2 = 1, \varepsilon_1 = 2.25$
 $\rightarrow \gamma = 2.22/\lambda$



Evanescent fields

$$|\mathbf{E}_2(z=0)|/|\mathbf{E}_1(z=0)|$$



Energy transport by evanescent waves?

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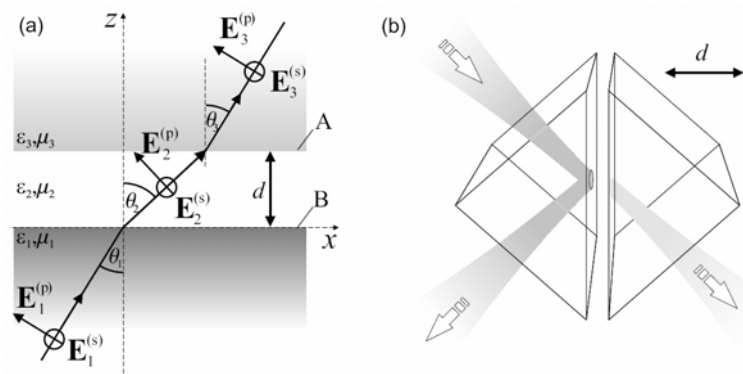
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Measurement of evanescent fields

Frustrated TIR



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Frustrated TIR

Perpendicular component of the wave vector in each medium:

$$k_{j,z} = \left(\epsilon_j \mu_j k^2 - k_{\parallel}^2 \right)^{1/2} = k \left(\epsilon_j \mu_j - \epsilon_1 \mu_1 \sin^2 \theta_1 \right)^{1/2}, \quad j \in \{1, 2, 3\}$$

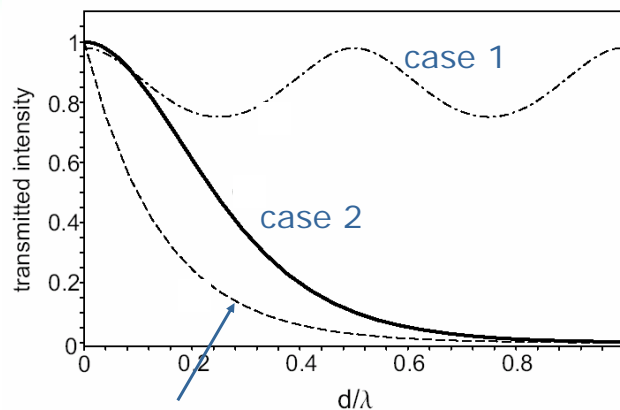
(exploit the fact that the parallel component is conserved!)

Distinguish 3 cases:

- 1.: $\theta_1 < \arcsin(n_2/n_1)$ or $k_{\parallel} < n_2 k$
- 2.: $\arcsin(n_2/n_1) < \theta_1 < \arcsin(n_3/n_1)$
or $n_2 k < k_{\parallel}$
- 3.: $\theta_1 > \arcsin(n_3/n_1)$ or $k_{\parallel} > n_3 k$



Transmitted far-field intensity



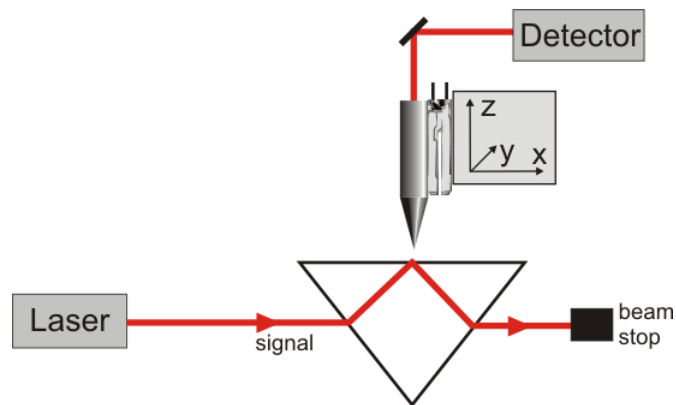
unperturbed evanescent wave

The second medium can convert evanescent fields into propagating fields!



STOM

Scanning tunneling optical microscope



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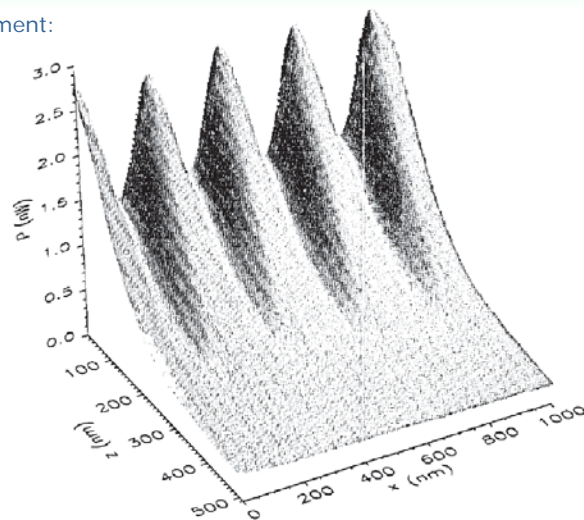
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Evanescent fields

Experiment:



A. Meixner, M. Bopp, and G. Tarrach, "Direct Measurement of Standing Evanescent Waves with a Photon Scanning Tunneling Microscope," *Appl. Opt.* 33, 7995 (1994).

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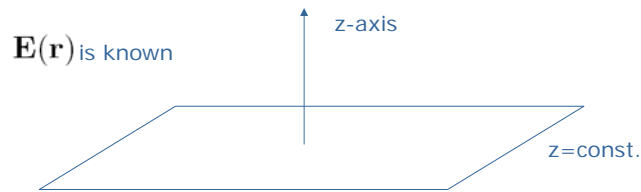
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Angular spectrum representation of optical fields

- mathematical technique to describe optical fields in homogeneous media
- Optical fields are described as a superposition of plane waves and evanescent waves which are physically intuitive solutions of Maxwell's equations.



$$\hat{\mathbf{E}}(k_x, k_y; z) = \frac{1}{4\pi^2} \iint_{-\infty}^{\infty} \mathbf{E}(x, y, z) e^{-i[k_x x + k_y y]} dx dy$$

two-dimensional Fourier transform of the field
 k_x, k_y spatial frequencies



inverse Fourier transform:

$$\mathbf{E}(x, y, z) = \iint_{-\infty}^{\infty} \hat{\mathbf{E}}(k_x, k_y; z) e^{i[k_x x + k_y y]} dk_x dk_y$$

the Fourier integrals hold separately for each vector component

homogeneous, isotropic, linear and source-free medium:

$$(\nabla^2 + k^2) \mathbf{E}(\mathbf{r}) = 0$$

$$k = (\omega/c) n$$

$$n = \sqrt{\mu\epsilon}$$

$$\hat{\mathbf{E}}(k_x, k_y; z) = \hat{\mathbf{E}}(k_x, k_y; 0) e^{\pm i k_z z}$$

$$k_z \equiv \sqrt{(k^2 - k_x^2 - k_y^2)}$$

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