

Problem 1. Waves for the gauge potentials

- (a) For the coulomb gauge, analyze the equations Maxwell equations for in vacuum

$$\varphi(t, \mathbf{x}) = \alpha e^{-i\omega t + i\mathbf{k}\cdot\mathbf{x}} \quad (1)$$

$$\mathbf{A}(t, \mathbf{x}) = \vec{\mathcal{A}} e^{-i\omega t + i\mathbf{k}\cdot\mathbf{x}} \quad (2)$$

What are the conditions on α and $\vec{\mathcal{A}}$? What is the direction of $\vec{\mathcal{A}}$ relative to \mathbf{k} ? What are the fields \mathbf{E} and \mathbf{B} in this gauge? Conclude that there are two degrees of freedom (in α and $\vec{\mathcal{A}}$) and that these two degrees of freedom determine \mathbf{E} and \mathbf{B} .

- (b) For the Lorenz gauge α and $\vec{\mathcal{A}}$ are different from the Coulomb gauge. What are the conditions on α and $\vec{\mathcal{A}}$ in this gauge. Hint: decompose $\vec{\mathcal{A}}$ into pieces longitudinal, $\vec{\mathcal{A}}_L$ and transverse $\vec{\mathcal{A}}_T$ to the propagation direction \mathbf{k} .

$$\mathbf{k} \cdot \vec{\mathcal{A}}_T = 0 \quad (3)$$

$$\mathbf{k} \times \vec{\mathcal{A}}_L = 0 \quad (4)$$

Conclude that there are three degrees of freedom (in α and $\vec{\mathcal{A}}$) and but that only two of these degrees of freedom determine \mathbf{E} and \mathbf{B} . The currents parallel to the line of sight determine $\vec{\mathcal{A}}_L$.

- (c) In the Lorenz gauge, determine the electric and magnetic fields, and show that only $\vec{\mathcal{A}}_T$ contributes to the fields.
- (d) Recall that under gauge transformation, we choose some $\Lambda(t, \mathbf{x})$ at will, and change the potentials according to this rule

$$\varphi(t, \mathbf{x}) \rightarrow \underline{\varphi}(t, \mathbf{x}) = \varphi(t, \mathbf{x}) - \partial_t \Lambda(t, \mathbf{x}) \quad (5)$$

$$A_i(t, \mathbf{x}) \rightarrow \underline{A}_i(t, \mathbf{x}) = A_i(t, \mathbf{x}) + \partial_i \Lambda(t, \mathbf{x}) \quad (6)$$

This does not change the \mathbf{E} , \mathbf{B} fields. Find the gauge transformation which converts the coulomb gauge waves into the Lorenz gauge.