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Ana, Bihar, India.

[MJC PHY 06 - 06]

Date: 08/02/2025

Time: 09 am

- Poynting's theorem
- Definition
- Mathematical form (Differential & Integral)
- Continuity equation analog
- Derivation

Poynting's theorem was developed by British physicist John Henry Poynting. It is law of conservation energy in electromagnetic field. It is strictly true for non dispersive media. This theorem is analogous to the work-energy theorem in classical mechanics and mathematically similar to continuity equation.

Poynting's theorem \rightarrow This theorem states that the rate of energy transfer per unit volume from a region of space is equal to rate of work done on the charge distribution in the region plus the energy flux leaving that region.

Mathematically

$$-\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} = \nabla \cdot \mathbf{S} + \mathbf{J} \cdot \mathbf{E} \quad \text{--- (1)}$$

where $-\frac{\partial u}{\partial t}$ = rate of change of energy density in a given volume.

$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{S}$ = energy flowing out of the volume.

$\mathbf{J} \cdot \mathbf{E}$ = rate at which the fields do work of charges in the volume

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J = current density corresponding to the motion of charges, E = electric field.

Integral form of Poynting's theorem: \rightarrow

$$\boxed{-\frac{d}{dt} \int_V u dV = \oint_{\partial V} S \cdot dA + \int_V J \cdot E dV}$$

S = energy flow, u = energy density
 ∂V = boundary volume.

Continuity equation: \rightarrow

$$\nabla \cdot S + \epsilon_0 \epsilon \frac{\partial E}{\partial t} + \frac{B}{\mu_0} \frac{\partial B}{\partial t} + J \cdot E = 0$$

• ϵ_0 = permittivity of the free space.

• μ_0 = permeability of the free space.

• $\epsilon_0 \epsilon \frac{\partial E}{\partial t}$ - Density of reactive power driving the build up of electric field.

• $\frac{B}{\mu_0} \frac{\partial B}{\partial t}$ - Density of reactive power driving the build up of magnetic field.

• $J \cdot E$ = Density of electric power dissipated by the Lorentz force acting on charge carriers.

Derivation: \rightarrow magnitude of the infinitesimal charge $dq = \rho d^3x$ (1)

work done by the electromagnetic field is given by Lorentz force law

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$$dP = dF \cdot v = (E + v \times B) dq \cdot v = E \cdot \rho v d^3x + 0 = E \cdot J d^3x \quad \dots (2)$$

because $(v \times B) \cdot v = 0$

& the volume charge density $\rho = \rho$

& current charge density $J = \rho v$

& $v =$ velocity of charge dq .

The rate of work done on the whole charges in the volume V is P

$$P = \int_V dP = \int_V J \cdot E d^3x \quad \dots (3)$$

By Ampere's circuital law

$$J = \nabla \times H - \frac{\partial D}{\partial t} \quad \dots (4)$$

$$\int_V J \cdot E d^3x = \int_V \left[E \cdot (\nabla \times H) - E \cdot \frac{\partial D}{\partial t} \right] d^3x \quad \dots (5)$$

Now using vector identity

$$\nabla \cdot (E \times H) = (\nabla \times E) \cdot H - E \cdot (\nabla \times H) \quad \dots (5)$$

$$\int_V J \cdot E d^3x = - \int_V \left[\nabla \cdot (E \times H) - H \cdot (\nabla \times E) + E \cdot \frac{\partial D}{\partial t} \right] d^3x \quad \dots (6)$$

We know Faraday's law $\nabla \times E = -\frac{\partial B}{\partial t}$ using in (6)

$$\int_V J \cdot E d^3x = - \int_V \left[\nabla \cdot (E \times H) + H \cdot \frac{\partial B}{\partial t} + E \cdot \frac{\partial D}{\partial t} \right] d^3x \quad \dots (7)$$

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The following assumption is also required

- charges are moving in non dispersive medium
- The total electromagnetic energy density for time varying field is given as

$$u = \frac{1}{2} [E \cdot D + B \cdot H]$$

- It can be shown that

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} (E \cdot D) = 2E \cdot \frac{\partial D}{\partial t}$$

$$\& \frac{\partial}{\partial t} (H \cdot B) = 2H \cdot \frac{\partial B}{\partial t}$$

using all the above relation in eqn (7) we have

$$\int_V J \cdot E d^3x = - \int_V \left[\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (E \times H) \right] d^3x$$

$$\Rightarrow \left[\frac{-\partial u}{\partial t} = \nabla \cdot S + J \cdot E \right] \quad \text{as } S = E \times H$$

$S = E \times H$ is known as Poynting's vector.