

Key Points for Electromagnetic Waves (II)

10. Polarization:

- Describes the orientation of the electric field vector. Common types are linear, circular, and elliptical polarization.

11. Plane Wave Solutions:

- Electromagnetic waves can be described as plane waves, where field vectors are uniform in planes perpendicular to the direction of propagation.

12. Boundary Conditions:

- At the interface between two media, the continuity of the tangential components of \vec{E} and \vec{H} must be maintained.

13. Reflection and Refraction:

- Governed by the laws of reflection and Snell's law, resulting from boundary conditions at interfaces.

14. Complex Representation:

- Using phasor notation, the fields can be represented as complex vectors, simplifying the analysis of harmonic waves.

15. Harmonic Waves:

- For sinusoidal steady-state conditions, the fields oscillate harmonically with time.

16. Electromagnetic Spectrum:

- Electromagnetic waves cover a wide range of frequencies, including radio waves, microwaves, infrared, visible light, ultraviolet, X-rays, and gamma rays.

17. Energy Density:

- The energy density of an electromagnetic wave is given by: $u = \frac{1}{2} \left(\epsilon_0 E^2 + \frac{B^2}{\mu_0} \right)$

18. Applications:

- Electromagnetic wave equations and field vectors are fundamental in telecommunications, radar systems, optical devices, and medical imaging technologies.