
THEORETICAL OPTICS

EXERCISE 2

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Institute of Theoretical Solid State Physics

Drop point: Your tutorial group in ILIAS

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Problem 1. (13 points) Pulse propagation in dispersive media

A Gaussian pulse with spectrum $U(z=0, \omega) = \frac{T u_0}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{T^2(\omega-\omega_0)^2}{2}}$, where u_0 is the pulse amplitude, T is the pulse duration and ω_0 the carrier frequency, propagates through a piece of glass with a thickness of $\Delta z = d$ and a dielectric function $\varepsilon(\omega)$.

- (a) Expand the dispersion relation $k(\omega)$ in the neighborhood of $\omega = \omega_0$ up to the quadratic term. (2 points)
- (b) Discuss the physical meaning of the three constant coefficients that appear in the expansion. (3 points)
- (c) Write down an expression of the spectrum at the output, $U(z=d, \omega)$. (2 points)
- (d) Compute the pulse wave form at the output, $u(z=d, t)$. (4 points)
- (e) Write down an expression of the reformed pulse duration at the output. (1 point)
- (f) Discuss the dependency of the term $\frac{d^2 k}{d\omega^2} \big|_{\omega=\omega_0}$ and the distance d for the reformed pulse duration. (1 point)

(Hint 1: Use the answer for question 1(a) in the other questions.)

(Hint 2: Use the formula $\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-AX^2+BX} dX = \sqrt{\frac{\pi}{A}} e^{\frac{B^2}{4A}}$ for $\text{Re}[A] > 0$.)

Problem 2. (11 points) Poynting Vector and Normal Mode

Consider a monochromatic plane wave of frequency ω_0 , propagating in a homogeneous isotropic weakly lossy dielectric medium of relative permittivity $\varepsilon = \varepsilon' + i\varepsilon''$ (where $\varepsilon', \varepsilon'' > 0$ and $\varepsilon' \gg \varepsilon''$). Its electric field has the form $\mathbf{E}_r(\mathbf{r}, t) = E_0 \mathbf{e}_x e^{-\alpha z} \cos(\beta z - \omega_0 t + \phi)$, where the subscript r is used for the real valued fields.

- (a) Even though the field is given here as a real valued quantity, in some of the following tasks, it might be better to use the complex representation as a mean to simplify your calculations. Therefore, write at first the same field as above but in complex notation. (1 point)
- (b) By starting from the dispersion relation of the plane wave in the medium, show that

$$\beta \approx \frac{\omega_0}{c} \sqrt{\varepsilon'} \quad \text{and} \quad \alpha \approx \frac{\omega_0}{c} \frac{\varepsilon''}{2\sqrt{\varepsilon'}}$$

Useful formula: $\sqrt{1+z} \approx 1 + \frac{1}{2}z$, $z \in \mathbb{C}$, $|z| \ll 1$. (2 points)

- (c) Start from Maxwell's equations to find the real valued magnetic field $\mathbf{H}_r(\mathbf{r}, t)$. (4 points)
- (d) Continue to use the real valued representation of the field to write down the formula for the instantaneous Poynting vector, $\mathbf{S}_r(\mathbf{r}, t)$. (1 point)
- (e) Find the time averaged Poynting vector using the formula $\langle \mathbf{S}_r(\mathbf{r}, t) \rangle = \lim_{T \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{2T} \int_{-T}^{+T} \mathbf{S}_r(\mathbf{r}, t) dt$.
Useful formula: $\cos(a) \cos(b) = \frac{1}{2} [\cos(a-b) + \cos(a+b)]$, $\sin(a) \cos(b) = \frac{1}{2} [\sin(a-b) + \sin(a+b)]$. (3 points)