



SIGN CONVENTIONS FOR EM WAVES

EE 3321 Electromagnetic Field Theory

EQUATION(S)	ENGINEERING (Negative Sign Convention)	PHYSICS / SCIENCE (Positive Sign Convention)
Wave Propagating in +z Direction	$\cos(\omega t \mp kz)$ – forward wave $\exp(\mp jkz)$ + backward wave	$\cos(-\omega t \pm kz)$ – backward wave $\exp(\pm ikz)$ + forward wave
Maxwell's Equations	$\nabla \times \vec{E} = -j\omega\vec{B}$ $\nabla \times \vec{H} = \vec{J} + j\omega\vec{D}$	$\nabla \times \vec{E} = i\omega\vec{B}$ $\nabla \times \vec{H} = -\vec{J} - i\omega\vec{D}$
Wave Vector & Propagation Constant	$k = \beta - j\alpha$ $\gamma = jk = \alpha + j\beta$	$k = \beta + i\alpha$ $\gamma = ik = -\alpha + i\beta$
Complex μ, ϵ, and n	$\tilde{\epsilon} = \epsilon' - j\epsilon''$ $\tilde{\mu} = \mu' - j\mu''$	$\tilde{\epsilon} = \epsilon' + i\epsilon''$ $\tilde{\mu} = \mu' + i\mu''$
Lorentz Model	$\tilde{\epsilon}_r(\omega) = 1 + \frac{\omega_p^2}{\omega_0^2 - \omega^2 + j\omega\Gamma}$	$\tilde{\epsilon}_r(\omega) = 1 + \frac{\omega_p^2}{\omega_0^2 - \omega^2 - i\omega\Gamma}$
Fourier Transform	<p>Temporal: $F(\omega) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(t) e^{-j\omega t} dt$</p> <p>Spatial: $F(k) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(x) e^{jkx} dx$</p> <p>Inverse Temporal: $f(t) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} F(\omega) e^{j\omega t} d\omega$</p> <p>Inverse Spatial: $f(x) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} F(k) e^{-jkx} dk$</p>	<p>Temporal: $F(\omega) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(t) e^{i\omega t} dt$</p> <p>Spatial: $F(k) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(x) e^{-ikx} dx$</p> <p>Inverse Temporal: $f(t) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} F(\omega) e^{-i\omega t} d\omega$</p> <p>Inverse Spatial: $f(x) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} F(k) e^{ikx} dk$</p>
Fourier Series	<p>Temporal: $a_n = \frac{1}{\tau} \int_{-\tau/2}^{\tau/2} f(t) e^{-j\omega t} dt$</p> <p>Spatial: $a_n = \frac{1}{\Lambda} \int_{-\Lambda/2}^{\Lambda/2} f(x) e^{j\frac{2\pi nx}{\Lambda}} dx$</p> <p>Inverse Temporal: $f(t) = \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} a_n e^{j\omega t}$</p> <p>Inverse Spatial: $f(x) = \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} a_n e^{-j\frac{2\pi nx}{\Lambda}}$</p>	<p>Temporal: $a_n = \frac{1}{\tau} \int_{-\tau/2}^{\tau/2} f(t) e^{i\omega t} dt$</p> <p>Spatial: $a_n = \frac{1}{\Lambda} \int_{-\Lambda/2}^{\Lambda/2} f(x) e^{-i\frac{2\pi nx}{\Lambda}} dx$</p> <p>Inverse Temporal: $f(t) = \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} a_n e^{-i\omega t}$</p> <p>Inverse Spatial: $f(x) = \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} a_n e^{i\frac{2\pi nx}{\Lambda}}$</p>

$-j \leftrightarrow i$

$\alpha < 0$ gain (grow) $\beta < 0$ backward
 $\alpha > 0$ loss (decay) $\beta > 0$ forward

$n < 0$ negative index $\kappa < 0$ gain (growth)
 $n > 0$ positive index $\kappa > 0$ loss (decay)

$\Gamma < 0$ gain (grow)
 $\Gamma > 0$ loss (decay)