# ECE 3317 Applied Electromagnetic Waves

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# Notes 15 Plane Waves





### **Introduction to Plane Waves**

- A plane wave is the simplest solution to Maxwell's equations for a wave that travels through <u>free space</u>.
- ✤ The wave does not require any conductors it exists in free space.
- A plane wave is a good model for radiation from an antenna, if we are far enough away from the antenna.



### The Electromagnetic Spectrum

$$\lambda_0 = c / f$$



http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Electromagnetic\_spectrum

# The Electromagnetic Spectrum (cont.)

Source	Frequency	Wavelength
U.S. AC Power	60 Hz	5000 km
ELF Submarine Communications	500 Hz	600 km
AM radio (KTRH)	740 kHz	405 m
TV ch. 2 (VHF)	60 MHz	5 m
FM radio (Sunny 99.1)	99.1 MHz	3 m
TV PBS ch. 8 (VHF ch 8)	183 MHz	1.6 m
TV KPRC ch. 2 (UHF ch. 35)	599 MHz	50 cm
Cell Phone (4G)	1.9 GHz	16 cm
μ-wave oven	2.45 GHz	12 cm
Police radar (X-band)	10.5 GHz	2.85 cm
Cell Phone (Verizon 5G mmWave)	28 GHz	1.1 cm
THz	1000 GHz	0.3 mm
Light	5×10 <sup>14</sup> [Hz]	0.60 μm
X-ray	10 <sup>18</sup> [Hz]	3 Å

$$\lambda_0 = c / f$$

**Note:**  $\lambda_0 [cm] \approx 30 / f[GHz]$ 

### **TV and Radio Spectrum**

#### AM Radio: 520-1610 kHz

VHF TV: 55-216 MHz (channels 2-13)

Band I : 55-88 MHz (channels 2-6) Band III: 174-216 MHz (channels 7-13)

FM Radio: (Band II) 88-108 MHz

UHF TV: 470-806 MHz (channels 14-69)

#### Digital TV broadcast takes place primarily in UHF and VHF Bands I & III.

#### Note:

Monopole antenna are ideally about one-quarter of a wavelength in length. Dipole antennas are ideally about one-half of a wavelength in length. Wireless systems using antennas will always be better (lower loss) than wired (transmission line) systems for large distances.

Power loss from antenna broadcast:  $1/r^2$  (always better for very large *r*) Power loss from waveguiding system:  $e^{-2\alpha r}$ 



#### **Comparison of Wired Systems with Wireless Systems (cont.)**

#### **Comparison of Two Functions**



### Comparison of Wired Systems with Wireless Systems (cont.)

#### Attenuation in dB 1 GHz

	RG59	Single Mode	Two Dipoles	34m Dish+Dipole
Distance	Coax	Fiber	Wireless	Wireless
1 m	0.4	0.0003	28.2	-
10 m	4	0.003	48.2	-
100 m	40	0.03	68.2	-
1 km	400	0.3	88.2	39.3
10 km	4000	3	108.2	59.3
100 km	-	30	128.2	79.3
1000 km	-	300	148.2	99.3
10,000 km	-	3000	168.2	119.3
100,000 km	-	-	188.2	139.3
1,000,000 km	-	-	208.2	159.3
10,000,000 km	-	-	228.2	179.3
100,000,000 km	-	-	248.2	199.3

### **Vector Wave Equation**

Start with Maxwell's equations in the phasor domain:

$$abla \times \underline{E} = -j\omega\mu\underline{H}$$
 Faraday's law  
 $abla \times \underline{H} = \underline{J} + j\omega\varepsilon\underline{E}$  Ampere's law

Assume free space:

Ohm's law: 
$$\underline{J} = \sigma \underline{E} = \underline{0}$$
  $\mathcal{E} = \mathcal{E}_0, \ \mu = \mu_0$ 

We then have:

$$\nabla \times \underline{E} = -j\omega\mu_0 \underline{H}$$
$$\nabla \times \underline{H} = j\omega\varepsilon_0 \underline{E}$$

### **Vector Wave Equation (cont.)**

$$\nabla \times \underline{E} = -j\omega\mu_0 \underline{H}$$
$$\nabla \times \underline{H} = j\omega\varepsilon_0 \underline{E}$$

Take the curl of the first equation and then substitute the second equation into the first one:

$$\nabla \times \left( \nabla \times \underline{E} \right) = -j\omega\mu_0 \left( \nabla \times \underline{H} \right)$$
$$= -j\omega\mu_0 \left( j\omega\varepsilon_0 \underline{E} \right)$$

Define:

$$k_0 \equiv \omega \sqrt{\mu_0 \varepsilon_0}$$

Wavenumber of free space [rad/m]

Then

$$\times (\nabla \times \underline{E}) - k_0^2 \underline{E} = \underline{0}$$
 "Vector wave equation"

### **Vector Helmholtz Equation**

$$\nabla \times \left(\nabla \times \underline{E}\right) - k_0^2 \underline{E} = \underline{0}$$

Recall the vector Laplacian identity:

$$\nabla^2 \underline{V} \equiv \nabla \left( \nabla \cdot \underline{V} \right) - \nabla \times \left( \nabla \times \underline{V} \right)$$

Hence, we have

$$\nabla \left( \nabla \cdot \underline{E} \right) - \nabla^2 \underline{E} - k_0^2 \underline{E} = \underline{0}$$

Also, from the electric Gauss law we have (in free space):

$$\nabla \cdot \underline{E} = \frac{1}{\varepsilon_0} \nabla \cdot \underline{D} = \frac{1}{\varepsilon_0} \rho_v = 0$$

# Vector Helmholtz Equation (cont.)

Hence, we have:

$$\nabla^2 \underline{E} + k_0^2 \underline{E} = \underline{0}$$
 Vector Helmholtz equation

Recall the property of the vector Laplacian in rectangular coordinates:

$$\nabla^2 \underline{V} = \underline{\hat{x}} \nabla^2 V_x + \underline{\hat{y}} \nabla^2 V_y + \underline{\hat{z}} \nabla^2 V_z$$

**Reminder:** This identity only holds in rectangular coordinates.

Taking the *x* component of the vector Helmholtz equation, we have

$$\nabla^2 E_x + k_0^2 E_x = 0$$
 Scalar Helmholtz equation

### **Plane Wave Field**

Assume 
$$\underline{E} = \hat{\underline{x}} E_x(z)$$

The electric field is <u>polarized</u> in the x direction, and the wave is <u>propagating</u> (traveling) in the z direction.





**Note:** The electric field is constant in the z = 0 plane.

For wave traveling in the negative *z* direction:

$$E_x(z) = E_0 e^{+jk_0 z}$$

Solution

on: 
$$E_x(z) = E_0 e^{-jk_0 z}$$
  $(k_0 = \omega \sqrt{\mu_0 \varepsilon_0})$ 

### Plane Wave Field (cont.)

#### Lossless Dielectric Medium:

For a plane wave traveling in a lossless <u>dielectric</u> medium (does not have to be free space):

$$E_x(z) = E_0 e^{-jkz}$$

#### where

$$k = \omega \sqrt{\mu \varepsilon} = k_0 \sqrt{\mu_r \varepsilon_r}$$

(wavenumber of dielectric medium)

$$\mathcal{E} = \mathcal{E}_0 \mathcal{E}_r$$
$$\mu = \mu_0 \mu_r$$

Plane Wave Field (cont.)

Comparison between plane wave and wave on a lossless transmission line

Plane Wave:

$$E_x(z) = E_0 e^{-jkz}$$

Transmission Line:  $V(z) = V_0 e^{-j\beta z}$ 

The electric field of a plane wave in a lossless medium propagates in z exactly as does the voltage on a lossless transmission line (filled with the same material):

$$\beta = \omega \sqrt{LC} = \omega \sqrt{\mu \varepsilon} = k$$

They have the same wavenumber!

Plane Wave Field (cont.)

$$E_x(z) = E_0 e^{-jkz}$$

The  $\underline{H}$  field is found from:

$$\nabla \times \underline{E} = -j\omega\mu \underline{H}$$

**SO** 

$$\underline{H} = -\frac{1}{j\omega\mu} \nabla \times \left( \hat{\underline{x}} E_x(z) \right)$$

$$= -\frac{1}{j\omega\mu} \left( \hat{\underline{y}} \frac{d E_x}{dz} \right)$$

$$\nabla \times \underline{E} = \begin{vmatrix} \hat{\underline{x}} & \hat{\underline{y}} & \hat{\underline{z}} \\ \partial & \partial & \partial \\ \partial x & \partial y & \partial \\ \partial z \\ E_x & E_y & E_z \end{vmatrix}$$

**Intrinsic Impedance** 

We then have 
$$\underline{H} = \hat{\underline{y}} \left( \frac{k}{\omega \mu} \right) E_x$$
 so  $H_y = \left( \frac{k}{\omega \mu} \right) E_x$ 

Hence

$$\underline{H} = \underline{y} \left( \frac{\partial \mu}{\partial \mu} \right) E_x \qquad \text{so} \quad H_y = \left( \frac{\partial \mu}{\partial \mu} \right) E_x$$

$$\frac{E_x}{H_y} = \frac{\omega\mu}{k} = \frac{\omega\mu}{\omega\sqrt{\mu\varepsilon}} = \sqrt{\frac{\mu}{\varepsilon}} = \eta$$

#### where

$$\eta \equiv \sqrt{\frac{\mu}{\varepsilon}} = \eta_0 \sqrt{\frac{\mu_r}{\varepsilon_r}}$$

(intrinsic impedance of the medium)

$$\mu_0 = 4\pi \times 10^{-7} \,[\text{H/m}] \quad (\text{exact before 2019})$$
$$\varepsilon_0 = \frac{1}{\mu_0 c^2} \doteq 8.854 \times 10^{-12} \,[\text{F/m}]$$
$$c \equiv 2.99792458 \times 10^8 \,[\text{m/s}] \quad (\text{exact})$$

$$c = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\mu_0 \varepsilon_0}}$$

Intrinsic impedance of free-space:

$$\eta_0 = \sqrt{\frac{\mu_0}{\varepsilon_0}} \doteq 376.730313 \, [\Omega]$$

# **Poynting Vector**

For a wave traveling in a lossless dielectric medium:

$$\underline{E} = \underline{\hat{x}} E_0 e^{-jkz}$$
$$\underline{H} = \underline{\hat{y}} \frac{1}{\eta} E_0 e^{-jkz}$$

**Note:** k and  $\eta$  are real here (lossless medium).

The complex Poynting vector is given by  $\underline{S} = \frac{1}{2} \left( \underline{E} \times \underline{H}^* \right)$ 

Hence, we have:

### **Phase Velocity**

From our previous discussion on phase velocity for transmission lines, we know that for a wave on a transmission line:

$$v_p = \frac{\omega}{\beta}$$

Hence, for a plane wave in a lossless dielectric medium (letting  $\beta = k$ ):

$$v_p = \frac{\omega}{k} = \frac{\omega}{\omega\sqrt{\mu\varepsilon}} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\mu\varepsilon}}$$

SO

 $v_p = c_d = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\mu\varepsilon}}$  (speed of light in the dielectric material)

#### Notes:

- All plane waves travel at the same speed in a lossless medium, regardless of the frequency.
- This implies that there is no dispersion in a lossless medium, which in turn implies that there is no distortion of the signal.
- The phase velocity of a plane wave in a lossless medium is the same as that of a wave on a lossless transmission line that is filled with the same material.

### Wavelength

From our previous discussion on wavelength for transmission lines, we know that  $\lambda_g = \frac{2\pi}{\beta}$ 

Hence, for a plane wave in a lossless dielectric medium (letting  $\beta = k$ ):

$$\lambda_{g} = \frac{2\pi}{k} = \frac{2\pi}{\omega\sqrt{\mu\varepsilon}} = \frac{2\pi}{2\pi f\sqrt{\mu\varepsilon}} = \frac{1}{f\sqrt{\mu\varepsilon}} = \frac{c_{d}}{f} = \frac{c/f}{\sqrt{\mu_{r}\varepsilon_{r}}} = \frac{\lambda_{0}}{\sqrt{\mu_{r}\varepsilon_{r}}} = \lambda_{d}$$

Hence, we have

$$\lambda_g = \lambda_d = \frac{\lambda_0}{\sqrt{\mu_r \varepsilon_r}}$$

For free space:  $\lambda_0 = c / f$ 

# **Summary (Lossless Case)**

$$E_x = E_0 e^{-jkz}$$
$$H_y = \frac{1}{\eta} E_0 e^{-jkz}$$
$$S_z = \frac{|E_0|^2}{2\eta}$$



$$k = \omega \sqrt{\mu \varepsilon} \qquad \qquad v_p = c_d = \frac{c}{\sqrt{\mu_r \varepsilon_r}} \qquad \qquad \lambda_g = \lambda_d = \frac{\lambda_0}{\sqrt{\varepsilon_r \mu_r}}$$
$$\eta = \sqrt{\frac{\mu}{\varepsilon}} = \eta_0 \sqrt{\frac{\mu_r}{\varepsilon_r}} \qquad \qquad \eta_0 = \sqrt{\frac{\mu_0}{\varepsilon_0}} \doteq 376.730313 \ [\Omega]$$

### Lossy Medium

### Return to Maxwell's equations:

$$\nabla \times \underline{E} = -j\omega\mu\underline{H}$$
$$\nabla \times \underline{H} = \underline{J} + j\omega\varepsilon\underline{E}$$

Assume Ohm's law:  $\underline{J} = \sigma \underline{E}$ 

$$\nabla \times \underline{H} = \sigma \underline{E} + j\omega \varepsilon \underline{E}$$
$$= (\sigma + j\omega \varepsilon) \underline{E}$$



We define an effective (complex) permittivity  $\varepsilon_c$  that accounts for conductivity:

Set 
$$j\omega\varepsilon_c = \sigma + j\omega\varepsilon$$
  $\Longrightarrow$   $\varepsilon_c \equiv \varepsilon - j\left(\frac{\sigma}{\omega}\right)$ 

Maxwell's equations then become:

 $\nabla \times \underline{E} = -j\omega\mu\underline{H} \qquad \nabla \times \underline{E} = -j\omega\mu\underline{H}$  $\nabla \times \underline{H} = j\omega\varepsilon_c\underline{E} \qquad \nabla \times \underline{H} = j\omega\varepsilon\underline{E}$ Lossy Lossless

The lossy form is exactly the same as we have for the lossless case, with

$$\mathcal{E} \to \mathcal{E}_c$$

Hence, we have for a lossy medium:

$$E_{x} = E_{0} e^{-jkz} \qquad k = \omega \sqrt{\mu \varepsilon_{c}} \quad \text{(complex)}$$
$$H_{y} = \frac{1}{\eta} E_{0} e^{-jkz} \qquad \eta = \sqrt{\frac{\mu}{\varepsilon_{c}}} \quad \text{(complex)}$$

Examine the wavenumber:

$$k = \omega \sqrt{\mu \varepsilon_c} \qquad \varepsilon_c = \varepsilon - j \left(\frac{\sigma}{\omega}\right)$$



Reminder about  
principal branch:  
$$\sqrt{z} = \sqrt{|z|e^{j\theta}} = \sqrt{|z|}e^{j\theta/2}$$
  
 $-\pi < \theta \le \pi$ 

Denote: k = k' - jk''

$$E_x = E_0 e^{-jkz} = E_0 e^{-jk'z} e^{-k''z}$$

Compare with lossy TL:

$$k' \leftrightarrow \beta$$
$$k'' \leftrightarrow \alpha$$

$$E_{x}(z) = E_{0} e^{-jk'z} e^{-k''z} \qquad \Longrightarrow \qquad \mathscr{E}_{x}(z,t) = |E_{0}| \cos(\omega t - k'z + \phi_{0}) e^{-k''z}$$
$$E_{0} = |E_{0}| e^{j\phi_{0}}$$



$$\lambda_g = \frac{2\pi}{k'}$$

$$E_x(z) = E_0 e^{-jk'z} e^{-k''z}$$

(choose  $E_0 = 1$ )



The "depth of penetration"  $d_p$  is defined.

$$k''d_p = 1 \quad \Box \Rightarrow \quad d_p \equiv 1 / k''$$

$$E_{x} = E_{0} e^{-jk'z} e^{-k''z}$$
$$H_{y} = \frac{1}{\eta} E_{0} e^{-jk'z} e^{-k''z}$$

$$\eta = \sqrt{\frac{\mu}{\varepsilon_c}} = \left|\eta\right| e^{j\phi}$$

**Note:** The angle between the  $E_x$  and  $H_y$  phasors is  $\phi$ .

#### The complex Poynting vector is

$$\underline{S} = \frac{1}{2} \left( \underline{E} \times \underline{H}^* \right) = \underline{\hat{z}} \frac{1}{2} E_x H_y^* = \underline{\hat{z}} \frac{\left| E_0 \right|^2}{2\eta^*} e^{-2k''z} = \underline{\hat{z}} \frac{\left| E_0 \right|^2}{2|\eta|} e^{j\phi} e^{-2k''z}$$

$$\langle S_z(t) \rangle = \operatorname{Re} S_z = \frac{|E_0|^2}{2|\eta|} \cos \phi e^{-2k''z}$$

$$\begin{vmatrix} S_{z}(z) \\ e^{-2} = 0.14 \end{vmatrix} \xrightarrow{e^{-2k''z}} z$$

$$d_{p} = 1/k''$$

#### **Summary for Depth of Penetration Formula:**

$$d_p \equiv 1 / k''$$

$$k = k' - jk'' \quad \left(k'' = -\operatorname{Im}(k)\right)$$

$$k = \omega \sqrt{\mu \varepsilon_c} = k_0 \sqrt{\varepsilon_c / \varepsilon_0} = k_0 \sqrt{\varepsilon_{rc}}$$

$$\varepsilon_c \equiv \varepsilon - j \left( \frac{\sigma}{\omega} \right), \quad \varepsilon_{rc} = \frac{\varepsilon_c}{\varepsilon_0} = \varepsilon_r - j \left( \frac{\sigma}{\omega \varepsilon_0} \right)$$

# Example

#### **Ocean water:**

$$\varepsilon_r = 81$$
  
 $\sigma = 4 \text{ [S/m]}$   
 $\mu = \mu_0$ 

(These values are fairly constant up through low microwave frequencies.)

#### Assume f = 2.0 GHz:

$$\varepsilon_{c} = \varepsilon - j \left(\frac{\sigma}{\omega}\right) = \varepsilon_{0} \left[\varepsilon_{r} - j \left(\frac{\sigma}{\omega\varepsilon_{0}}\right)\right]$$

$$\varepsilon_{c} = \varepsilon_{0} \left(81 - j \left(35.95\right)\right) [F/m]$$

$$\varepsilon_{rc} = 81 - j \left(35.95\right)$$

$$k = \omega \sqrt{\mu_{0}\varepsilon_{c}} = \omega \sqrt{\mu_{0}\varepsilon_{0}\varepsilon_{rc}} = k_{0} \sqrt{\varepsilon_{rc}}$$

$$k = 386.022 - j \left(81.816\right) [1/m]$$

$$k' = 386.022 [rad/m]$$

$$k' = 81.816 [nepers/m]$$

# Example (cont.)

f

The depth of penetration into ocean water is shown for various frequencies.

$$\varepsilon_r = 81$$
  
 $\sigma = 4 \text{ [S/m]}$   
 $\mu = \mu_0$ 

$$d_{p} = 1 / k''$$

251.6
79.6
25.2
7.96
2.52
0.796
0.262
0.080
0.0262
0.013
0.012
0.012

 $d_p$  [m]

Note: The relative permittivity of water starts changing at very high frequencies (above about 2GHz), but this is ignored here.



Recall:

$$\mathcal{E}_c = \mathcal{E} - j \left( \frac{\sigma}{\omega} \right)$$
  $\sigma = \sigma_d$  = conductivity of dielectric material

### To be more general:

 $\sigma = \sigma_d = \sigma_{eff} = effective \text{ conductivity of dielectric material}$ (accounts for actual conductivity + atomic and molecular loss effects)

$$\tan \delta \equiv \frac{\sigma}{\omega \varepsilon} = \frac{\sigma}{\omega \varepsilon_0 \varepsilon_r}$$

Sometimes we write:

$$\varepsilon_{c} = \varepsilon' - j\varepsilon'' \qquad \varepsilon_{rc} = \varepsilon_{c} / \varepsilon_{0} = \varepsilon'_{r} - j\varepsilon''_{r}$$
  

$$\varepsilon' = \varepsilon, \ \varepsilon'' = \frac{\sigma}{\omega} \qquad \varepsilon'_{r} = \varepsilon_{r}, \ \varepsilon''_{r} = \frac{\sigma}{\omega\varepsilon_{0}} \qquad \Box \qquad \tan \delta = \frac{\varepsilon''}{\varepsilon'}$$

### Loss Tangent (cont.)

### **Practical notes on loss tangent:**

• For some materials (mostly good conductors), it is the <u>conductivity</u> that is approximately constant with frequency.

Ocean water:  $\sigma \approx 4 \text{ [S/m]}$ 

 For other materials (mostly good insulators), it is the <u>loss tangent</u> that is approximately constant with frequency. In this case the effective permittivity is mainly due to molecular loss effects.

Teflon:  $\tan \delta \approx 0.001$ 

### **Low-Loss Limit:** $tan \delta \ll 1$

#### We approximate the wavenumber for <u>small</u> loss tangent:

(The derivation is omitted.)

$$d_p \approx \sqrt{\frac{\varepsilon}{\mu_0}} \left(\frac{2}{\sigma}\right) \quad (\tan \delta << 1)$$

#### In the low-loss limit, the depth of penetration is independent of frequency.

### **Ocean Water**

Ο	cean	wat	er
$\sim$	ooun	- Mar	

$$\tan \delta = \frac{\sigma}{\omega \varepsilon_0 \varepsilon_r}$$

 $\varepsilon_r = 81$   $\sigma = 4 \text{ [S/m]}$  $\mu = \mu_0$ 

"Low-loss" region

 $\tan \delta << 1$ 

	f	$d_p$ [m]	$ an\delta$
	1 [Hz]	251.6	8.88×10 <sup>8</sup>
	10 [Hz]	79.6	8.88×10 <sup>7</sup>
	100 [Hz]	25.2	8.88×10 <sup>6</sup>
	1 [kHz]	7.96	8.88×10 <sup>5</sup>
	10 [kHz]	2.52	8.88×10 <sup>4</sup>
	100 [kHz]	0.796	8.88×10 <sup>3</sup>
	1 [MHz]	0.262	888
	10 [MHz]	0.080	88.8
	100 [MHz]	0.0262	8.88
	1.0 [GHz]	0.013	0.888
<b>→</b>	10.0 [GHz]	0.012	0.0888
-	100 [GHz]	0.012	0.00888

### **Distilled Water**

#### Complex Relative Permittivity for Pure (Distilled) Water



Frequency [GHz]

Note: For pure distilled water, the effective conductivity  $\sigma$  is due entirely to molecular loss effects, since pure water is almost a perfect insulator (no ions to carry current as for ocean water).

# **Appendix: Summary of Formulas**

#### Lossless

$$E_x(z) = E_0 e^{-jkz}$$

$$k = \omega \sqrt{\mu \varepsilon}$$

$$\lambda_g = \lambda_d = \frac{\lambda_0}{\sqrt{\varepsilon_r \mu_r}}$$

$$\frac{E_x}{H_y} = \eta$$

$$c_d = \frac{c}{\sqrt{\mu_r \varepsilon_r}}$$

$$\eta = \sqrt{\frac{\mu}{\varepsilon}} = \eta_0 \sqrt{\frac{\mu_r}{\varepsilon_r}}$$

$$\lambda_0 = \frac{c}{f}$$

$$\eta_0 = \sqrt{\frac{\mu_0}{\varepsilon_0}} \doteq 376.730313 \ [\Omega]$$

 $v_p = c_d$ 

### **Appendix: Summary of Formulas (cont.)**

Lossy

 $E_x(z) = E_0 e^{-jkz}$ 

$$k = \omega \sqrt{\mu \varepsilon_c}$$
  $k = k' - jk''$   $\varepsilon_c = \varepsilon - j\left(\frac{\sigma}{\omega}\right)$ 

 $\lambda_g = \frac{2\pi}{k'}$ 

$$\frac{E_x}{H_y} = \eta$$

$$d_p \equiv 1/k''$$
  $\varepsilon_c = \varepsilon' - j\varepsilon''$ 

$$\eta = \sqrt{\frac{\mu}{\varepsilon_c}}$$

$$\tan \delta \equiv \frac{\varepsilon''}{\varepsilon'} = \frac{\sigma}{\omega \varepsilon} = \frac{\sigma}{\omega \varepsilon_0 \varepsilon_r}$$

 $\sigma$