

① MPHY-CC-6 Electrodynamics of plasma physics unit-1  
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Electric field vector in terms of scalar and vector potentials  
Wave equation in terms of scalar and vector potential:

\* Electric field vector in terms of scalar potential  $\phi$   
and vector potential  $\vec{A}$ :

Maxwell's equation of electromagnetism is

$$\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{D} = \rho \quad \text{--- (A)}$$

$$\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{B} = 0 \quad \text{--- (B)}$$

$$\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{E} = -\frac{\partial \vec{B}}{\partial t} \quad \text{--- (C)}$$

$$\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{H} = \vec{J} + \frac{\partial \vec{D}}{\partial t} \quad \text{--- (D)}$$

From eqn (B),  $\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{B} = 0$  or  $\text{div } \vec{B} = 0$

As we know that  $\text{div}(\text{curl } \vec{A}) = 0$  (i.e.,  $\vec{\nabla} \cdot (\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{A}) = 0$ )

Because divergence of curl of any vector is zero

$$\Rightarrow \vec{B} = \text{curl } \vec{A} \quad \text{or} \quad \vec{B} = \vec{\nabla} \times \vec{A} \quad \text{--- (1)}$$

Where  $\vec{A}$  is vector potential.

Therefore, curl of vector potential  $\vec{A}$  is equal to magnetic field  $\vec{B}$ .

From eqn (C),  $\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{E} = -\frac{\partial \vec{B}}{\partial t}$

$$\Rightarrow \vec{\nabla} \times \vec{E} = -\frac{\partial}{\partial t} (\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{A}) \quad \text{using eqn (1)}$$

$$\Rightarrow \vec{\nabla} \times \vec{E} = -\vec{\nabla} \times \frac{\partial \vec{A}}{\partial t} \Rightarrow \vec{\nabla} \times \vec{E} + \vec{\nabla} \times \frac{\partial \vec{A}}{\partial t} = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \vec{\nabla} \times \left( \vec{E} + \frac{\partial \vec{A}}{\partial t} \right) = 0 \quad \text{--- (2)}$$

As we know that  $\vec{\nabla} \times (\vec{\nabla} \phi) = 0$  or  $\vec{\nabla} \times (-\vec{\nabla} \phi) = 0$

Because curl of gradient of any scalar quantity is zero

On comparing with eqn (2), we get

DR. Md. NAJJAR PERWEZ

$$-\nabla\phi = \vec{E} + \frac{\delta\vec{A}}{\delta t}$$

where  $\phi =$  scalar potential

$$\Rightarrow \vec{E} = -\nabla\phi - \frac{\delta\vec{A}}{\delta t}$$

$$\Rightarrow \boxed{\vec{E} = -\left(\nabla\phi + \frac{\delta\vec{A}}{\delta t}\right) = -\left(\text{grad}\phi + \frac{\delta\vec{A}}{\delta t}\right)}$$

It is formula for electric field vector  $\vec{E}$  in terms of scalar potential  $\phi$  and vector potential  $\vec{A}$ .

\* Derivation of wave equation in terms of scalar and vector potential  $\vec{A}$ :

Maxwell's equation of electromagnetism is

$$\nabla \cdot \vec{D} = \rho \quad \text{--- (A)}$$

$$\nabla \cdot \vec{B} = 0 \quad \text{--- (B)}$$

$$\nabla \times \vec{E} = -\frac{\delta\vec{B}}{\delta t} \quad \text{--- (C)}$$

$$\nabla \times \vec{H} = \vec{J} + \frac{\delta\vec{D}}{\delta t} \quad \text{--- (D)}$$

From eqn (B),  $\nabla \cdot \vec{B} = 0$  or  $\text{div } \vec{B} = 0$

As we know that  $\text{div}(\text{curl } \vec{A}) = 0$  or  $\nabla \cdot (\nabla \times \vec{A}) = 0$

Because divergence of curl of any vector is zero

$$\Rightarrow \vec{B} = \nabla \times \vec{A} \quad \text{or} \quad \vec{B} = \text{curl } \vec{A} \quad \text{--- (1)}$$

Where  $\vec{A} =$  vector potential

Therefore, curl of vector potential  $\vec{A}$  is equal to magnetic field vector  $\vec{B}$ .

$$\text{From eqn (C), } \nabla \times \vec{E} = -\frac{\delta\vec{B}}{\delta t}$$

$$\Rightarrow \nabla \times \vec{E} = -\frac{\delta}{\delta t}(\nabla \times \vec{A}) \quad \because \text{using eqn (1)}$$



③ MPHY-CC-6 Electrodynamics & plasma physics Unit-1  
Dr. Md. NAZIAR. PERWEZ

$$\Rightarrow \nabla \times \vec{E} = - \nabla \times \frac{\delta \vec{A}}{\delta t} \Rightarrow \nabla \times \vec{E} + \nabla \times \frac{\delta \vec{A}}{\delta t} = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \nabla \times \left( \vec{E} + \frac{\delta \vec{A}}{\delta t} \right) = 0 \text{ ————— (2)}$$

As we know that  $\nabla \times (\nabla \phi) = 0$  or  $\nabla \times (-\nabla \phi) = 0$

Because curl of gradient of any scalar quantity is equal to zero

on comparing with eqn (2), we get

$$-\nabla \phi = \vec{E} + \frac{\delta \vec{A}}{\delta t}$$

where  $\phi =$  scalar potential

$$\Rightarrow \vec{E} = -\nabla \phi - \frac{\delta \vec{A}}{\delta t}$$

$$\Rightarrow \vec{E} = -\left( \nabla \phi + \frac{\delta \vec{A}}{\delta t} \right) = -(\text{grad} \phi + \frac{\delta \vec{A}}{\delta t}) \text{ ————— (3)}$$

From eqn (1),  $\nabla \times \vec{H} = \vec{J} + \frac{\delta \vec{D}}{\delta t}$

$$\Rightarrow \nabla \times \frac{\vec{B}}{\mu} = \vec{J} + \frac{\delta \epsilon \vec{E}}{\delta t} \quad \because \vec{H} = \frac{\vec{B}}{\mu} \text{ and } \vec{D} = \epsilon \vec{E}$$

$$\Rightarrow \nabla \times \vec{B} = \mu \vec{J} + \mu \epsilon \frac{\delta \vec{E}}{\delta t} \text{ ————— (4)}$$

Using eqns (1) and (3) in eqn (4), we get

$$\nabla \times (\nabla \times \vec{A}) = \mu \vec{J} + \mu \epsilon \frac{\delta}{\delta t} \left( -\nabla \phi - \frac{\delta \vec{A}}{\delta t} \right)$$

$$\Rightarrow \nabla \times (\nabla \times \vec{A}) = \mu \vec{J} - \mu \epsilon \frac{\delta}{\delta t} \left( \nabla \phi + \frac{\delta \vec{A}}{\delta t} \right) \text{ ————— (5)}$$

Now  $\nabla \times (\nabla \times \vec{A}) = \nabla (\nabla \cdot \vec{A}) - \vec{A} (\nabla \cdot \nabla)$

$$\because \vec{a} \times (\vec{b} \times \vec{c}) = \vec{b} (\vec{a} \cdot \vec{c}) - \vec{c} (\vec{a} \cdot \vec{b})$$

$$\Rightarrow \nabla \times (\nabla \times \vec{A}) = \nabla (\nabla \cdot \vec{A}) - \vec{A} \nabla^2 \quad \because \nabla \cdot \nabla = \nabla^2$$

$$\Rightarrow \nabla \times (\nabla \times \vec{A}) = \text{grad}(\text{div} \vec{A}) - \nabla^2 \vec{A} \text{ ————— (6)}$$

put in eqn (5), we get

$$\text{grad}(\text{div } \vec{A}) - \nabla^2 \vec{A} = \mu \vec{J} - \mu \epsilon \frac{\partial}{\partial t} (\text{grad } \phi + \frac{\delta \vec{A}}{\delta t})$$

$$\Rightarrow \text{grad}(\text{div } \vec{A}) - \nabla^2 \vec{A} = \mu \vec{J} - \mu \epsilon \text{grad } \phi - \mu \epsilon \frac{\delta \vec{A}}{\delta t}$$

$$\Rightarrow \text{grad}(\text{div } \vec{A}) - \nabla^2 \vec{A} = \mu \vec{J} - \mu \epsilon \text{grad } \frac{\delta \phi}{\delta t} - \mu \epsilon \frac{\delta^2 \vec{A}}{\delta t^2}$$

$$\Rightarrow \nabla^2 \vec{A} - \mu \epsilon \frac{\delta^2 \vec{A}}{\delta t^2} - \mu \epsilon \text{grad } \frac{\delta \phi}{\delta t} - \text{grad}(\text{div } \vec{A}) = -\mu \vec{J}$$

$$\Rightarrow \boxed{\nabla^2 \vec{A} - \mu \epsilon \frac{\delta^2 \vec{A}}{\delta t^2} - \text{grad}(\text{div } \vec{A} + \mu \epsilon \frac{\delta \phi}{\delta t}) = -\mu \vec{J}} \quad \text{--- (7)}$$

From eqn (A),  $\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{D} = \rho \Rightarrow \vec{\nabla} \cdot \epsilon \vec{E} = \rho \quad \therefore \vec{D} = \epsilon \vec{E}$

$$\Rightarrow \vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{E} = \frac{\rho}{\epsilon}$$

$$\Rightarrow \vec{\nabla} \cdot (-\vec{\nabla} \phi - \frac{\delta \vec{A}}{\delta t}) = \frac{\rho}{\epsilon} \text{ using eqn (3) } \vec{E} = -\vec{\nabla} \phi - \frac{\delta \vec{A}}{\delta t}$$

$$\Rightarrow -\vec{\nabla} \cdot (\vec{\nabla} \phi) - \vec{\nabla} \cdot (\frac{\delta \vec{A}}{\delta t}) = \frac{\rho}{\epsilon}$$

$$\Rightarrow -\nabla^2 \phi - \text{div}(\frac{\delta \vec{A}}{\delta t}) = \frac{\rho}{\epsilon} \quad \therefore \vec{\nabla} \cdot (\vec{\nabla} \phi) = \nabla^2 \phi$$

$$\Rightarrow \nabla^2 \phi + \frac{\delta}{\delta t} (\text{div } \vec{A}) = -\frac{\rho}{\epsilon} \quad \text{--- (8)}$$

On subtracting and adding  $\mu \epsilon \frac{\delta^2 \phi}{\delta t^2}$  in eqn (8), we get

$$\nabla^2 \phi - \mu \epsilon \frac{\delta^2 \phi}{\delta t^2} + \frac{\delta}{\delta t} (\text{div } \vec{A}) + \mu \epsilon \frac{\delta^2 \phi}{\delta t^2} = -\frac{\rho}{\epsilon}$$

$$\Rightarrow \boxed{\nabla^2 \phi - \mu \epsilon \frac{\delta^2 \phi}{\delta t^2} + \frac{\delta}{\delta t} (\text{div } \vec{A} + \mu \epsilon \frac{\delta \phi}{\delta t}) = -\frac{\rho}{\epsilon}} \quad \text{--- (9)}$$

Eqns (7) and (9) represent wave equations in terms of scalar potential  $\phi$  and vector potential  $\vec{A}$ .