

PHYS 404/690 Quantum and Nonlinear Optics

Problem set # 1 (due January 30)

Each problem is 10 points. The problems marked with * are required for graduate students only, and are extra credit problems for undergraduates.

P1 Starting from the wave equation:

$$-\nabla^2 \vec{E} + \frac{1}{c^2} \frac{\partial^2 \vec{E}}{\partial t^2} = -\mu_0 \frac{\partial^2 \vec{P}}{\partial t^2}$$

derive the following equations of motion for the slowly-varying amplitude E_0 and phase ϕ , defined as $\vec{E} = \vec{e}_x E_0(z, t) e^{i[kz - \omega t + \phi(z, t)]}$:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial E_0}{\partial z} + \frac{1}{c} \frac{\partial E_0}{\partial t} &= -\frac{k}{2\epsilon_0} \text{Im}(\mathcal{P}_0) \\ E_0 \left(\frac{\partial \phi}{\partial z} + \frac{1}{c} \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial t} \right) &= \frac{k}{2\epsilon_0} \text{Re}(\mathcal{P}_0) \end{aligned}$$

P2 Calculate the absorption length ($1/\alpha_0$) for a 1.06 μm Nd:YAG laser beam propagating through a resonant linear medium with 10^{16} dipoles/ m^3 .

P3 Calculate the magnitudes of the electric and magnetic fields for a 3 mW 628.3 nm laser focused down to a spot with a 2 μm radius. Assume constant intensity across the spot. How does this result scale with wavelength?

P4 In an optical cavity, the resonant wavelengths are determined by the constructive-interference condition that an integer number of wavelengths must occur in a round trip. The corresponding frequencies are determined by these wavelengths and the speed of light in the cavity. Given a cavity with a medium having anomalous dispersion, would it be possible to have more than one frequency resonant for a single wavelength? How?

P5* Calculate the first and second-order coherence functions for the field:

$$E^+(\vec{r}, t) = \frac{E_0}{r} e^{-(\gamma + i\omega)(t - r/c)} \Theta(t - r/c),$$

where Θ is the Heaviside (step) function. This would be the field emitted by an atom located at $r = 0$ and decaying spontaneously from time $t = 0$, if such a field could be described totally classically.