

# Electromagnetic Waves

**1. Displacement Current** The current which comes into play in the region in which the electric field and the electric flux is changing with time. It is given by

$$I_D = \epsilon_0 \frac{d\phi_E}{dt}$$

**2. Need for Displacement Current** Ampere's circuital law for conduction current during charging of a capacitor was found inconsistent. Therefore, Maxwell modified Ampere's circuital law.

**3.** The displacement current produces in space due to change of electric flux linked with the surface. This reveals that, varying electric field is the source of magnetic field.

**4. Maxwell's Equations of Electromagnetic Waves** Maxwell's equations are the basic laws of electricity and magnetism. These equations give complete description of all electromagnetic interactions.

There are four Maxwell's equations which are explained below:

(i) Gauss' law in electrostatics,  $\oint \mathbf{E} \cdot d\mathbf{S} = \frac{q}{\epsilon_0}$

(ii) Gauss' law in magnetism,  $\oint \mathbf{B} \cdot d\mathbf{S} = 0$

(iii) Faraday's law of electromagnetic induction,

$$\oint \mathbf{E} \cdot d\mathbf{l} = - \frac{d\phi_B}{dt}$$

(iv) Modified Ampere's circuital law,

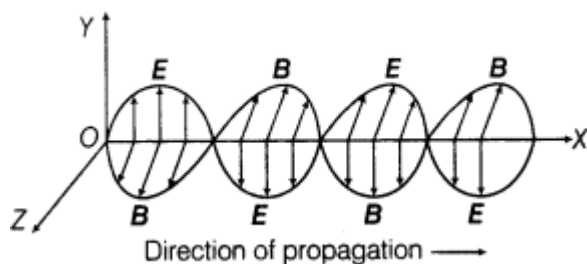
$$\oint \mathbf{B} \cdot d\mathbf{l} = \mu_0 (I_C + I_D)$$

where,  $I_C$  is conduction current and  $I_D$  is displacement current and given by

$$I_D = \epsilon_0 \frac{d\phi_E}{dt}$$

**5. Electromagnetic Waves** An electromagnetic wave is a wave radiated by an accelerated or oscillatory charge in which varying magnetic field is the source of electric field and varying electric field is the source of magnetic field. Thus two fields become source of each other and the wave propagates in a direction perpendicular to both the fields.

**6. Electromagnetic waves** are transverse in nature, i.e. electric and magnetic fields are perpendicular to each other and to the direction of wave propagation. Electromagnetic waves are not deflected by electric and magnetic fields.



**7.** E (electric field) and B (magnetic field) in electromagnetic waves are in same phase.

**8.** Speed of electromagnetic wave

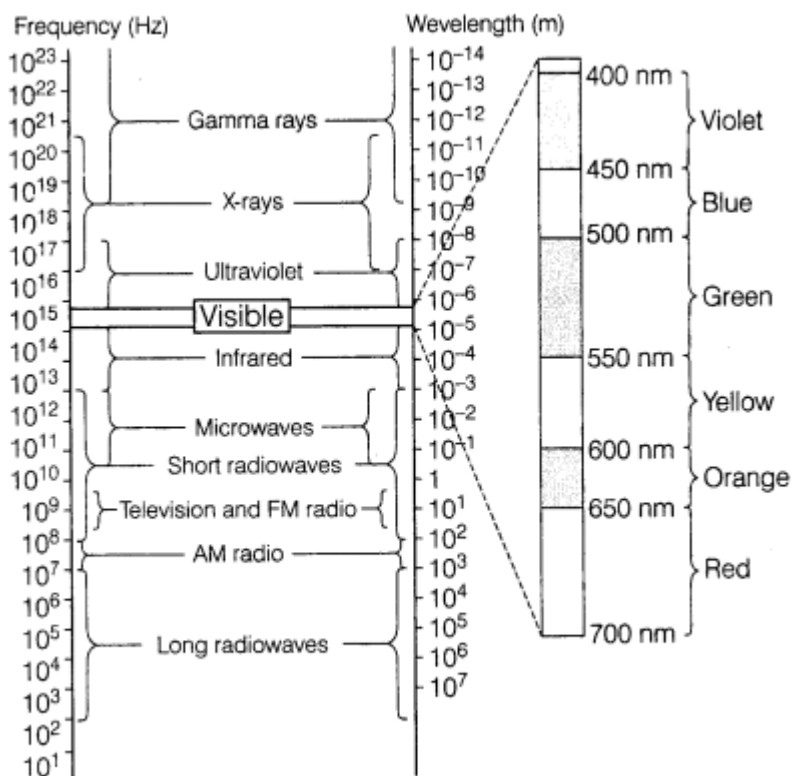
$$c = \frac{E_0}{B_0} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\mu_0 \epsilon_0}} = 3 \times 10^8 \text{ m/s}$$

9. The energy in electromagnetic wave is divided on average equally between electric and magnetic fields.

10. Energy associated with an electromagnetic wave is  $U = \frac{1}{2} \epsilon_0 E^2 + \frac{B^2}{2\mu_0}$

11. Linear momentum delivered to the surface,  $p = U/c$   
where,  $U$  = total energy transmitted by electromagnetic waves and  $c$  = speed of electromagnetic wave.

12. **Electromagnetic Spectrum** The systematic sequential distribution of electromagnetic waves in ascending or descending order of frequency or wavelength is known as electromagnetic spectrum. The range varies from  $10^{-12}$  m, to  $10^4$  m, i.e. from  $\gamma$ -rays to radio waves.



13. Elementary facts about the uses of electromagnetic waves

#### Radio waves

- (i) In radio and TV communication.
- (ii) In astronomical field.

#### Microwaves

- (i) In RADAR communication.
- (ii) In analysis of molecular and atomic structure.
- (iii) For cooking purpose.

#### Infrared waves

- (i) In knowing molecular structure. (ii) In remote control of TV VCR, etc.

#### Ultraviolet rays

- (i) Used in burglar alarm. (ii) To kill germs in minerals.

#### X-rays

- (i) In medical diagnosis as they pass through the muscles not through the bones.  
(ii) In detecting faults, cracks, etc., in metal products,

### **γ-rays**

- (i) As food preservation. (ii) In radiotherapy.

**14.** The optical effect is produced by electric field vector of the electromagnetic waves.

**Different types of electromagnetic waves**

Type	Wavelength range	Frequency range (Hz)	Production	Detection
Radio wave	> 0.1 m	$3 \times 10^3$ to $3 \times 10^8$	Rapid acceleration and deceleration of electrons in aerials.	Receiver's aerials
Microwave	0.1 m to 1 mm	$3 \times 10^8$ to $3 \times 10^{11}$	Klystron valve or magnetron valve.	Point contact diodes
Infrared wave	1 mm to 700 nm	$3 \times 10^{11}$ to $4 \times 10^{14}$	Vibration of atoms and molecules.	Thermopile, Bolometer, infrared photographic film
Light	700 nm to 400 nm	$4 \times 10^{14}$ to $8 \times 10^{14}$	Electrons in atoms emit light when they move from one energy level to a lower energy level.	The eye, photocells, photographic film
Ultraviolet rays	400 nm to 1 nm	$8 \times 10^{14}$ to $8 \times 10^{16}$	Inner shell electrons in atoms moving from one energy level to a lower level.	Photocells, photographic film
X-rays	1 nm to $10^{-3}$ nm	$1 \times 10^{16}$ to $3 \times 10^{21}$	X-ray tubes or inner shell electrons.	Photographic film Geiger tubes
γ-rays	$< 10^{-3}$ nm	$5 \times 10^{18}$ to $5 \times 10^{22}$	Radioactive decay of the nucleus.	Photographic film, ionisation chamber