ELECTROMAGNETICS

AND OPTICS

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ELECTROMAGNETICS AND OPTICS

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To our wives:

Zaharoula

Ariadne

Christine

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Preface

*Εἴτε φῶς εἴτ' ἀήρ ἐστὶ τὸ μεταξὺ τοῦ
ορωμένου καὶ τοῦ ὀφθαλμοῦ ἡ διὰ τούτου
κίνησις ἐστὶν ἡ ποιοῦσα τὸ ὁρᾶν.¹*
Αριστοτέλης

Modern communication systems encompass information-carrying and information processing devices. The need for ever higher capacity has gradually linked progress in communications with light signals traveling through low-loss fibres and optical devices. Multichannel fibre links of enormous capacity are currently in use in developed parts of the world. Moreover, the scientists' dream of optical supercomputers that will be able to perform numbercrunching at the speed of light, has renewed interest in optics as well as in electromagnetics, since light is a high-frequency electromagnetic radiation.

Although both electromagnetics and optics are based on Maxwell's equations, their common origin is only superficially realised by students of applied physics or electrical engineering. Deeper physical insight might be achieved by treating electromagnetics and optics in parallel and from common ground, thus enlightening the natural link between them.

By presenting principles, theory and phenomena of electromagnetics and optics, this book contributes to the task of bridging the two disciplines. Implicit in our effort is the general communication problem.

Wavefunctions and rays used by electromagnetics and optics, respectively, to represent the information-carrying signal are associated with solutions of

¹ Whether light or air is the medium between the visible object and the eye, the motion through this medium is what produces vision.

Aristotle, *De Anima*, 438^b3-5

the wave and ray equations. Waveguides and resonators used in optical applications are analysed from the standpoint of both field theory and ray theory, the dual approach aimed at revealing to the reader the interrelations between electromagnetics and optics.

The book covers five subjects in fourteen chapters. The subjects covered are light/matter interactions, guidance, resonance, processing and applications. An outline of the contents of each chapter follows.

Starting from Maxwell's equations, the wave equation is formulated in Chapter 1. Solutions are given for isotropic and anisotropic media. Reflection/refraction of a uniform plane wave at a dielectric boundary, the Brewster angle and the critical angle are treated next. Chapter 1 is concluded with a discussion concerning the concept of coherent radiation and the uncertainty principle, chiefly for use in subsequent chapters.

The asymptotic solution of the wave equation in the high-frequency limit leads to geometrical optics, which is examined in Chapter 2. The Huygens principle and the concept of optical path length are used to formulate the eikonal and ray equations. The laws of geometrical optics are derived next by using Fermat's principle. Variational principles and quantum considerations in optics are finally discussed.

The laws of geometrical optics lead to ray theory, which is presented in Chapter 3. Several forms of light/matter interactions, such as reflection, refraction, diffraction and scattering in the optical band, are treated. Ray tracing by the ABCD transition matrix as well as rays in layered and inhomogeneous media are examined. A hybrid wave/ray approach is used on some occasions.

Guidance of light by dielectric waveguides is treated in Chapters 4 and 5. Step-index, graded-index and weakly guiding structures are analysed, appropriate wavefunctions are determined and rays are traced. Brief discussions of coupling and dispersion are also included.

Chapter 6 deals with resonance. Oscillating waveforms in microwave resonators are determined in rectangular, cylindrical and spherical cavities bounded by metallic walls. Interest is next focussed on optical resonators. Repetitive ray paths are determined through the ABCD matrix method. The Fabry-Perot etalon is treated next. Finally, an introduction to paraxial resonator theory is presented with reference to geometrical and perturbational stability of optical cavities.

The Gaussian beam is introduced in Chapter 7. Starting from the scalar wave equation for the beam, the corresponding waveforms are determined. Trans-

formation and propagation of the Gaussian beam are also examined.

Problems related with the laser are examined in Chapter 8. The basic equation of the laser is determined and the broadening mechanism is discussed. Oscillation of the laser and the gain saturation are also treated.

Chapter 9 deals with Fourier optics. Considering light as a scalar disturbance, the features of light propagation and the associated filtering process are thoroughly investigated. The transmittance function of a discontinuity surface is introduced next; basic reflection/refraction phenomena with regard to the thin lens are treated, thus establishing a link between Fourier and Gaussian optics.

The results of Fourier optics are also compared with the results of the scalar theory of diffraction, which is developed in Chapter 10. Kirchhoff's diffraction theory is presented there and the Fresnel/Fraunhofer approximations are analysed. Several representative applications are included in Chapter 10.

The scalar diffraction theory is used in Chapter 11 to explain the process of holographic wavefront reconstruction. Properties of the reconstructed images and beams are investigated. A qualitative description of various kinds of holograms concludes chapter 11.

Elements of optical radiation are presented in Chapter 12. Radiometric and photometric quantities are defined and discussed. Thermal radiation and the field of light are also examined there.

Chapter 13 deals with optical techniques and components applied to remote sensing. Photographic imaging by aerial cameras and the operation of radiometers are discussed in the first part of the chapter, which refers to passive remote sensing. Optical data processing is discussed next, chiefly as a prerequisite for the ensuing description of the optical processor used by synthetic aperture radars.

Finally, chapter 14 examines the fundamental principles of the non-linear optics. Classical atomic models are described and the coupled wave equations are treated. A generalisation of the laws of optics is thus obtained.

Considering that the contemporary problems (dielectric waveguides, holography, lasers etc.) of the electrical engineer require a more advanced background, we feel that the proposed book will help senior-level students and engineers not only to understand the various physical problems but also to cope with applications.

We are deeply indebted to all those who have assisted in the realisation of this book. Many thanks are due to Prof. J.A. Tsoukalas for his valuable

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Thessaloniki, 1991

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