

PROBLEM J99E.2

There are four fields at play:

1. The E -field of the plane wave,
2. The B -field of the plane wave,
3. The E -field of the charge,
4. The B -field of the charge.

The momentum we seek must be proportional to a cross-term between an E and a B field, since

$$\mathbf{P} = \frac{\mathbf{S}}{c^2} = \frac{\mathbf{E} \times \mathbf{B}}{\mu_0 c^2}.$$

Moreover, since the electron's motion (and thus its mechanical momentum) is linear in E_0 , the cross-term responsible for the transverse momentum must also be linear in E_0 .

Taylor expanding the aforementioned four fields with respect to E_0 , we obtain:

Field	Static Component	Linear Component ($\propto E_0$)
\mathbf{E}_{wave}	0	$E_0 \cos(kz - \omega t) \hat{\mathbf{x}}$
\mathbf{B}_{wave}	0	$c^{-1} E_0 \cos(kz - \omega t) \hat{\mathbf{y}}$
$\mathbf{E}_{\text{charge}}$	$e/(4\pi\epsilon_0 r^2) \hat{\mathbf{r}}$	something
$\mathbf{B}_{\text{charge}}$	0	something

The only two cross-terms with linear scaling in E_0 are $\mathbf{E}_{\text{charge, static}} \times \mathbf{B}_{\text{charge}}$ and $\mathbf{E}_{\text{charge, static}} \times \mathbf{B}_{\text{wave}}$. The former term is an electron self-interaction energy, and is ill-behaved (renormalized away).

Thus we compute

$$\begin{aligned} \int \mathbf{P} \, dV &= \frac{1}{\mu_0 c^2} \int (\mathbf{E}_{\text{charge, static}} \times \mathbf{B}_{\text{wave}}) \, dV \\ &= \frac{eE_0}{4\pi c} \int r^{-2} \cos(kz - \omega t) (\hat{\mathbf{r}} \times \hat{\mathbf{y}}) \, dV \\ &= \frac{eE_0}{4\pi c} \operatorname{Re} \left\{ e^{-i\omega t} \int r^{-2} e^{ikz} (\hat{\mathbf{r}} \times \hat{\mathbf{y}}) \, dV \right\}. \end{aligned}$$

The integral expands to

$$\begin{aligned} \int r^{-2} e^{ikz} (\hat{\mathbf{r}} \times \hat{\mathbf{y}}) \, dV &= \int r^{-3} e^{ikz} (x \hat{\mathbf{z}} - z \hat{\mathbf{x}}) \, dV \\ &= -i \hat{\mathbf{x}} \int r^{-3} z \sin(kz) \, dV, \end{aligned}$$

where we have eliminated the terms odd in x, z , since they integrate to zero. In spherical coordinates, we evaluate

$$\begin{aligned} I &:= \int r^{-3} z \sin(kz) \, dV \\ &= 2\pi \int_0^\infty \frac{1}{r^3} \int_0^\pi (r \cos \theta) \sin(kr \cos \theta) r^2 \sin \theta \, d\theta \, dr \\ &= 2\pi \int_0^\infty \int_{-1}^1 u \sin(kru) \, du \, dr \end{aligned}$$

where $u := \cos \theta$. Integration by parts yields

$$\begin{aligned}
\int_{-1}^1 u \sin(kru) \, du &= - \left[\frac{u \cos(kru)}{kr} \right]_{u=-1}^1 + \frac{1}{kr} \int_{-1}^1 \cos(kru) \, du \\
&= - \frac{2 \cos(kr)}{kr} + \frac{1}{(kr)^2} [\sin(kru)]_{u=-1}^1, \\
&= - \frac{2 \cos(kr)}{kr} + \frac{2 \sin(kr)}{(kr)^2} \\
&= - \frac{2}{k^2} \partial_r (r^{-1} \sin(kr)),
\end{aligned}$$

so that

$$I = - \frac{4\pi}{k^2} \int_0^\infty \partial_r (r^{-1} \sin(kr)) \, dr = \frac{4\pi}{k}.$$

Combining the above, we have

$$\int \mathbf{P} \, dV = - \frac{eE_0}{4\pi c} \sin(\omega t) I = - \frac{eE_0}{\omega} \sin(\omega t).$$

For comparison, the trajectory of the particle satisfies

$$\dot{p}_x = eE_0 \cos(kz - \omega t) \approx eE_0 \cos(\omega t)$$

assuming transverse motion, which yields

$$p_x = \frac{eE_0}{\omega} \sin(\omega t)$$

in the frame where the electron has zero average velocity. This is precisely the negative of the field momentum, so Newton's third law is satisfied.