

Problem 2.67) The \mathbf{E} and \mathbf{H} fields of the first plane-wave are written

$$\mathbf{E}_1(\mathbf{r}, t) = E_x \hat{\mathbf{x}} \cos[(\omega/c)(\sin \theta y + \cos \theta z - ct) + \varphi_1], \quad (1a)$$

$$\mathbf{H}_1(\mathbf{r}, t) = Z_0^{-1} E_x (\cos \theta \hat{\mathbf{y}} - \sin \theta \hat{\mathbf{z}}) \cos[(\omega/c)(\sin \theta y + \cos \theta z - ct) + \varphi_1]. \quad (1b)$$

Similarly, the \mathbf{E} and \mathbf{H} fields of the second plane-wave are given by

$$\mathbf{E}_2(\mathbf{r}, t) = -E_x (\cos \theta \hat{\mathbf{y}} + \sin \theta \hat{\mathbf{z}}) \cos[(\omega/c)(-\sin \theta y + \cos \theta z - ct) + \varphi_2], \quad (2a)$$

$$\mathbf{H}_2(\mathbf{r}, t) = Z_0^{-1} E_x \hat{\mathbf{x}} \cos[(\omega/c)(-\sin \theta y + \cos \theta z - ct) + \varphi_2]. \quad (2b)$$

The Poynting vector of the superposition may thus be written straightforwardly, as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{S}(\mathbf{r}, t) &= (\mathbf{E}_1 + \mathbf{E}_2) \times (\mathbf{H}_1 + \mathbf{H}_2) \\ &= Z_0^{-1} E_x^2 \{ (\sin \theta \hat{\mathbf{y}} + \cos \theta \hat{\mathbf{z}}) \cos^2[(\omega/c)(\sin \theta y + \cos \theta z - ct) + \varphi_1] \\ &\quad - (\sin \theta \hat{\mathbf{y}} - \cos \theta \hat{\mathbf{z}}) \cos^2[(\omega/c)(-\sin \theta y + \cos \theta z - ct) + \varphi_2] \\ &\quad + 2 \sin \theta \cos \theta \hat{\mathbf{x}} \cos[(\omega/c)(-\sin \theta y + \cos \theta z - ct) + \varphi_2] \\ &\quad \times \cos[(\omega/c)(\sin \theta y + \cos \theta z - ct) + \varphi_1] \}. \end{aligned} \quad (3)$$

The above expression for $\mathbf{S}(\mathbf{r}, t)$, when simplified and rearranged, yields

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{S}(\mathbf{r}, t) &= Z_0^{-1} E_x^2 \cos \theta \{ \hat{\mathbf{z}} + \sin \theta \cos[2(\omega/c) \sin \theta y + (\varphi_1 - \varphi_2)] \hat{\mathbf{x}} \\ &\quad + \sin \theta \cos[2(\omega/c) \cos \theta z - 2\omega t + (\varphi_1 + \varphi_2)] \hat{\mathbf{x}} \\ &\quad - \tan \theta \sin[2(\omega/c) \sin \theta y + \frac{1}{2}(\varphi_1 - \varphi_2)] \\ &\quad \times \sin[2(\omega/c) \cos \theta z - 2\omega t + \frac{1}{2}(\varphi_1 + \varphi_2)] \hat{\mathbf{y}} \\ &\quad + \cos[2(\omega/c) \sin \theta y + \frac{1}{2}(\varphi_1 - \varphi_2)] \\ &\quad \times \cos[2(\omega/c) \cos \theta z - 2\omega t + \frac{1}{2}(\varphi_1 + \varphi_2)] \hat{\mathbf{z}} \}. \end{aligned} \quad (4)$$

Finally, upon time-averaging, we find

$$\langle \mathbf{S}(\mathbf{r}, t) \rangle = Z_0^{-1} E_x^2 \cos \theta \{ \hat{\mathbf{z}} + \sin \theta \cos[2(\omega/c) \sin \theta y + (\varphi_1 - \varphi_2)] \hat{\mathbf{x}} \}. \quad (5)$$

The time-averaged component of the Poynting-vector along $\hat{\mathbf{x}}$ is thus seen to oscillate along the y -axis and have, relative to its z -component, a magnitude proportional to $\sin \theta$. The presence of a net Poynting vector along $\hat{\mathbf{x}}$ is rather surprising, considering that the two beams do not form interference fringes, as their polarization directions are orthogonal to each other.
