

# Crystal optics

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# Overview

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- Birefringence

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- Birefringence
- Absorption

## Overview

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## Birefringence

## Absorption

## Drude model

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- three eigenvalues equal: isotropic medium
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- Absorption
- Drude model

# Linear medium

# Linear medium

- for a sufficiently weak light wave, the polarization is linear in the electric field strength

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- however retarded, but local

$$P_i(t, \mathbf{x}) = \epsilon_0 \int_0^\infty d\tau G_{ij}(\tau) E_j(t - \tau, \mathbf{x})$$

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$$d_i(\omega, \mathbf{x}) = \epsilon_0 \epsilon_{ij}(\omega) e_j(\omega, \mathbf{x})$$

- $\epsilon_{ij}(\omega) = \delta_{ij} + \chi_{ij}(\omega)$  where  $\chi_{ij} = \tilde{G}_{ij}$

# Refraction and absorption

# Refraction and absorption

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- decompose

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- both are Hermitian:  $A_{ij} = A_{ji}^*$
- we shall see later while absorptive part causes absorption
- i. e. the conversion of field energy into internal energy

# Transparent medium

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- assume  $\epsilon''_{ij}(\omega) \approx 0$  for the frequencies under discussion

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$$\epsilon_{ij}(\omega; \mathcal{E}, \mathcal{B}) = \epsilon_{ji}(\omega; \mathcal{E}, -\mathcal{B})$$

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- $\epsilon_{ij}$  can be diagonalized by an orthogonal matrix

# Main axes

there is a Cartesian coordinate system such that

$$\epsilon_{ij} = \begin{pmatrix} \epsilon^1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \epsilon^2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \epsilon^3 \end{pmatrix}$$

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There are three cases

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- ③  $\epsilon^1 < \epsilon^2 < \epsilon^3$  biaxial (KNbO<sub>3</sub>)

# Maxwell's equations

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- With  $c = 1/\sqrt{\epsilon_0\mu_0}$

$$(\mathbf{k} \times \mathbf{k} \times \mathbf{e})_i = -\frac{\omega^2}{c^2} \epsilon_{ij} e_j$$

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- to be solved is the mode equation

$$n^2 (\hat{\mathbf{k}} \times \hat{\mathbf{k}} \times \hat{\mathbf{e}})_i = -\epsilon_{ij} \hat{e}_j$$

# Maxwell's equations ctd.

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- $\mathbf{c} \times \mathbf{b} \times \mathbf{a} = (\mathbf{c} \cdot \mathbf{a})\mathbf{b} - (\mathbf{c} \cdot \mathbf{b})\mathbf{a}$

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- no solution for  $\hat{\mathbf{k}} \parallel \hat{\mathbf{e}}$
- therefore  $\hat{\mathbf{k}} \perp \hat{\mathbf{e}}$
- electromagnetic plane waves in a homogeneous medium are always transversally polarized

# Optically isotropic medium

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- if  $\epsilon^1 = \epsilon^2 = \epsilon^3 = \epsilon$

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- we find  $\epsilon_{ij} = \epsilon \delta_{ij}$

# Optically isotropic medium

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- we find  $\epsilon_{ij} = \epsilon \delta_{ij}$
- this is true for an arbitrary Cartesian coordinate system

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- we say the medium is optically isotropic
- the mode equation reads
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- $\hat{\mathbf{k}} \perp \hat{\mathbf{e}}$ :  $n = \sqrt{\epsilon}$

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# Optically isotropic medium

Overview

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Absorption

Drude model

- if  $\epsilon^1 = \epsilon^2 = \epsilon^3 = \epsilon$
- we find  $\epsilon_{ij} = \epsilon \delta_{ij}$
- this is true for an arbitrary Cartesian coordinate system
- we say the medium is optically isotropic
- the mode equation reads
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# Optically isotropic medium

## Overview

## Permittivity tensor

## Maxwell's equations

## Isotropic medium

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# Optical axis

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- calcite (at which birefringence was discovered)

# Birefringence

Overview

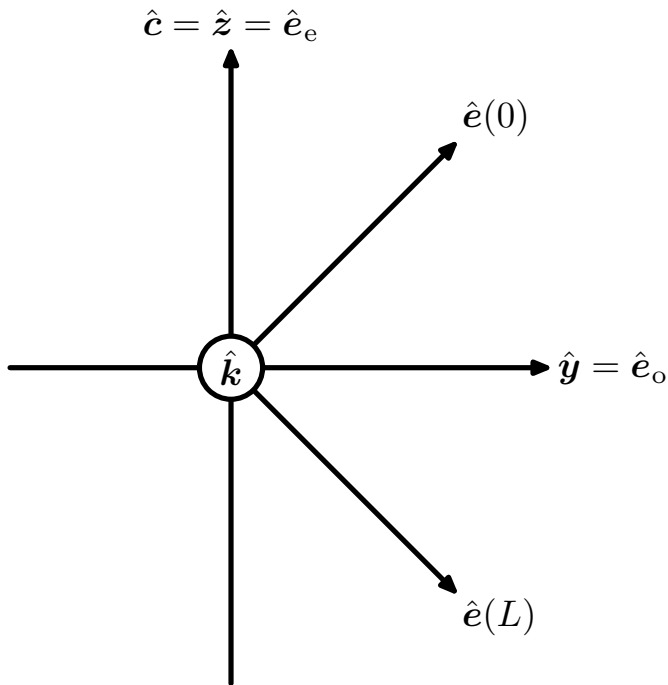
Permittivity  
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- elastooptics



A 45 degree polarized wave enters the crystal and leaves it at -45 degrees polarization.

Crystal optics

Peter Hertel

Overview

Permittivity  
tensor

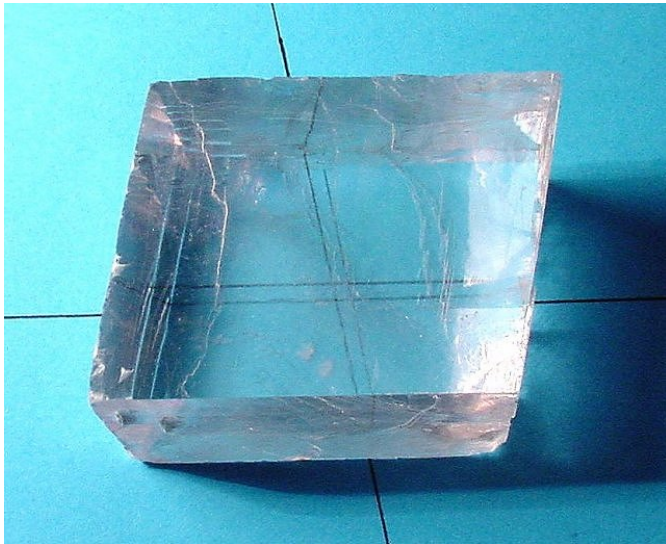
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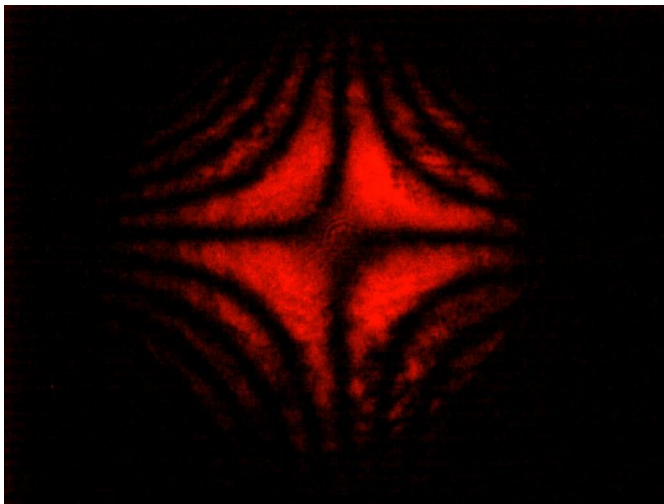
**Birefringence**

Absorption

Drude model



Birefringence, or double refraction, by calcite



Normally isotropic polymers become birefringent when stressed.  
Observed with a polarizer.

# Remarks

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- rather difficult to show that there are two optical axes

# Absorption

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**Absorption**

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- $\alpha$  is absorption constant

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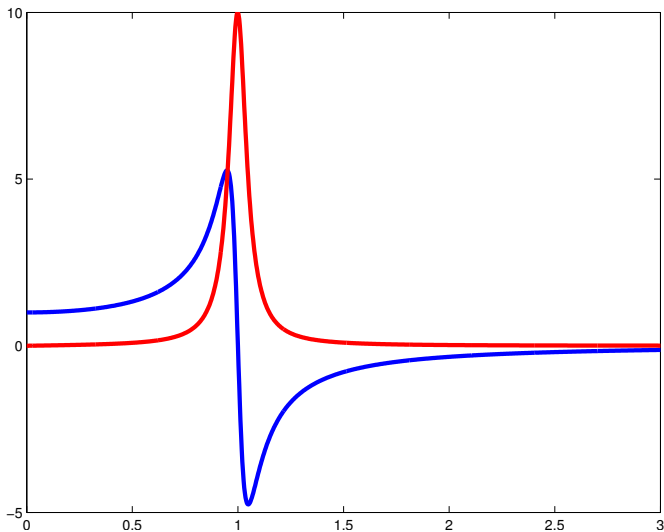
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- static susceptibility

$$\chi(0) = \frac{Nq^2}{m\Omega^2\epsilon_0}$$



Real (blue) and imaginary part (red) of susceptibility  $\chi(\omega)$  relative to  $\chi(0)$  over  $\omega/\Omega$ .  $\Gamma/\Omega = 0.1$