

II. CANONICAL QUANTIZATION OF ELECTRODYNAMICS:

With the foregoing preparation, we are now in a position to apply the *classical analogy* or *canonical quantization* program to achieve the *second quantization* of the electromagnetic field.⁵ As our starting point and for reference, we, once again, set forth the vacuum or microscopic Maxwell's equations in the time domain:

$$\nabla \times \vec{E}(\vec{r}, t) = -\frac{\partial \vec{B}(\vec{r}, t)}{\partial t} \quad [\text{II-1a}]$$

$$\nabla \times \vec{B}(\vec{r}, t) = \mu_0 \vec{J}(\vec{r}, t) + \mu_0 \frac{\partial \vec{E}(\vec{r}, t)}{\partial t} \quad [\text{II-1b}]$$

$$\nabla \cdot \vec{E}(\vec{r}, t) = \rho(\vec{r}, t) / \epsilon_0 \quad [\text{II-1c}]$$

$$\nabla \cdot \vec{B}(\vec{r}, t) = 0 \quad [\text{II-1d}]$$

The canonical formulation of classical electrodynamics (**Jeans' Theorem**) is most conveniently achieved in terms of the (magnetic) vector potential in the time domain -- *viz.*

$$\vec{B}(\vec{r}, t) = \nabla \times \vec{A}(\vec{r}, t) \quad [\text{II-2a}]$$

$$\vec{E}(\vec{r}, t) = -\frac{\partial \vec{A}(\vec{r}, t)}{\partial t} - \nabla \phi(\vec{r}, t) \quad [\text{II-2b}]$$

so that

$$\nabla \left[\nabla \cdot \vec{A}(\vec{r}, t) \right] - \nabla^2 \vec{A}(\vec{r}, t) + \frac{1}{c^2} \frac{\partial^2 \vec{A}(\vec{r}, t)}{\partial t^2} + \frac{1}{c^2} \frac{\partial \rho(\vec{r}, t)}{\partial t} = \mu_0 \vec{J}(\vec{r}, t) \quad [\text{II-3a}]$$

⁵ In common usage, the process of treating the coordinates q_i and p_i as quantized variables is called *first quantization*. *Second quantization* is the process of quantizing *fields* -- say, $\vec{A}(\vec{r}, t)$ -- which have an infinite number of degrees of freedom.

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$$\nabla \cdot \vec{A}(\vec{r}, t) = \vec{A}(\vec{r}, t) \cdot \nabla \quad [\text{II-3b}]$$

In QED (Quantum Electrodynamics) it is *convenient and traditional* to make use of the **Coulomb gauge** -- *i.e.* $\nabla \cdot \vec{A}(\vec{r}, t) = 0$ -- so that

$$\nabla^2 \vec{A}(\vec{r}, t) = -\mu_0 \vec{J}_T(\vec{r}, t) \quad [\text{II-4a}]$$

$$\vec{A}(\vec{r}, t) = -\int \frac{\vec{J}_T(\vec{r}', t')}{|\vec{r} - \vec{r}'|} d^3r' dt' \quad [\text{II-4b}]$$

where $\vec{J}_T(\vec{r}, t) = \vec{J}(\vec{r}, t) - \vec{J}_L(\vec{r}, t) = \vec{J}(\vec{r}, t) - \nabla \phi(\vec{r}, t)$ is the so called **transverse** current density. Since $\vec{A}(\vec{r}, t)$ is completely determined by the transverse current density in the Coulomb gauge, electromagnetic problems become in a sense separable -- *i.e.*

The transverse field problem:

$$\begin{aligned} \nabla \cdot \vec{E}_T(\vec{r}, t) &= 0 \\ \nabla \times \vec{E}_T(\vec{r}, t) &= -\mu_0 \nabla \times \vec{H}(\vec{r}, t) \\ \nabla \times \vec{H}_T(\vec{r}, t) &= \vec{J}_T(\vec{r}, t) + \frac{1}{c^2} \nabla \times \vec{E}_T(\vec{r}, t) \end{aligned} \quad [\text{II-5a}]$$

The longitudinal field problem:

$$\begin{aligned} \nabla \cdot \vec{E}_L(\vec{r}, t) &= \rho(\vec{r}, t) / \epsilon_0 \\ \vec{J}_L(\vec{r}, t) &= -\epsilon_0 \nabla \phi(\vec{r}, t) \end{aligned} \quad [\text{II-5b}]$$

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We turn now explicitly to a treatment of the *free electromagnetic field* -- formally the case of $\vec{\mathbf{J}}_{\text{T}}(\vec{\mathbf{r}}, t) = 0$ wherein

$$\nabla^2 \vec{\mathbf{A}}(\vec{\mathbf{r}}, t) - \frac{1}{c^2} \frac{\partial^2 \vec{\mathbf{A}}(\vec{\mathbf{r}}, t)}{\partial t^2} = 0 \quad [\text{II-6}]$$

We look for solutions in the form

$$\vec{\mathbf{A}}(\vec{\mathbf{r}}, t) = \frac{1}{2\sqrt{\epsilon_0}} \sum_s \left\{ u_s(t) \vec{\mathbf{u}}_s(\vec{\mathbf{r}}) + c.c. \right\} \quad [\text{II-7}]$$

Substituting into Equation [II-6] we obtain

$$\sum_s u_s(t) \vec{\mathbf{u}}_s(\vec{\mathbf{r}}) \left[\frac{\nabla^2 \vec{\mathbf{u}}_s(\vec{\mathbf{r}})}{\vec{\mathbf{u}}_s(\vec{\mathbf{r}})} - \frac{1}{c^2} \frac{\partial^2 u_s(t)}{\partial t^2} \right] + c.c. = 0 \quad [\text{II-8}]$$

Thus we may apply **separation of variables** techniques and the original problem is divided into **two new and distinct** problems -- *viz.* solutions of the following set of equations:

$$\nabla^2 \vec{\mathbf{u}}_s(\vec{\mathbf{r}}) + \frac{\epsilon_s}{c^2} \vec{\mathbf{u}}_s(\vec{\mathbf{r}}) = 0 \quad [\text{II-9}]$$

$$\ddot{u}_s(t) + \frac{\epsilon_s}{c^2} u_s(t) = 0 \quad [\text{II-10}]$$

where the ϵ_s 's are **separation constants**. The spatial equations allow us to treat the boundary value problem of the cavity or defining field space in whatever detail that might seem appropriate in a particular case.⁶ But the *bottom line* is that the boundary condition

⁶ The $\vec{\mathbf{u}}_i(\vec{\mathbf{r}})$'s do not form a true complete set of solutions since no longitudinal vector field can be expanded in terms of such *divergentless* functions.

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taken together with the characteristics of the normal modes or eigenfunctions determine the ω_s 's which may, in turn, be identified as the eigenfrequencies of the normal modes.

Thus, we may now write

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{\mathbf{E}}_T(\vec{\mathbf{r}}, t) &= -\frac{1}{t} \bar{\mathbf{A}}(\vec{\mathbf{r}}, t) = -\frac{1}{2\sqrt{\epsilon_0}} \left\{ \dot{a}_s(t) \vec{\mathbf{u}}_s(\vec{\mathbf{r}}) + c.c. \right\} \\ &= \frac{1}{2\sqrt{\epsilon_0}} \left\{ i \omega_s a_s(t) \vec{\mathbf{u}}_s(\vec{\mathbf{r}}) + c.c. \right\} \quad [\text{II-11}] \end{aligned}$$

and
$$\bar{\mathbf{H}}_T(\vec{\mathbf{r}}, t) = \frac{1}{\mu_0} \nabla \times \bar{\mathbf{A}}(\vec{\mathbf{r}}, t) = \frac{c}{2\sqrt{\mu_0}} \left\{ \dot{a}_s(t) \vec{\mathbf{u}}_s(\vec{\mathbf{r}}) + c.c. \right\}. \quad [\text{II-12}]$$

The crucial step required in establishing Jeans' Theorem is the expansion of the instantaneous value of the stored electromagnetic energy in terms of the cavity modes -- viz.

$$\langle W(t) \rangle = \frac{1}{2V} \int \left[\epsilon_0 |\bar{\mathbf{E}}(\vec{\mathbf{r}}, t)|^2 + \mu_0 |\bar{\mathbf{H}}(\vec{\mathbf{r}}, t)|^2 \right] dV \quad [\text{II-13a}]$$

which, in light of Equations [II-11] and [II-12], becomes

$$\langle W(t) \rangle = \frac{1}{4V} \sum_{s,s} \left[\omega_s^2 \vec{\mathbf{u}}_s \vec{\mathbf{u}}_s^* + c^2 \nabla \times \vec{\mathbf{u}}_s \nabla \times \vec{\mathbf{u}}_s^* \right] a_s(t) a_s^*(t) dV \quad [\text{II-13b}]$$

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To proceed we need the value of the integral $\int_{\text{cavity}} [\vec{r} \times \vec{u}_s - \vec{r} \times \vec{u}_s^*] dV$. Using a well known vector identity,⁷ we obtain

$$\int_{\text{cavity}} [\vec{r} \times \vec{u}_s - \vec{r} \times \vec{u}_s^*] dV = \int_{\text{cavity}} \vec{u}_s \times (\vec{r} \times \vec{u}_s^*) d\vec{S} + \int_{\text{cavity}} \vec{u}_s - \vec{r} \times (\vec{r} \times \vec{u}_s^*) dV \quad [\text{II-14a}]$$

By boundary value arguments we may easily show that the first term on the RHS of this equation vanishes and by using an even more familiar (famous) vector identity⁸ for a divergenceless field, we obtain

$$\int_{\text{cavity}} [\vec{r} \times \vec{u}_s - \vec{r} \times \vec{u}_s^*] dV = - \int_{\text{cavity}} \vec{u}_s \cdot \nabla^2 \vec{u}_s^* dV = \frac{2}{c^2} \int_{\text{cavity}} \vec{u}_s \cdot \vec{u}_s^* dV \quad [\text{II-14b}]$$

Therefore, Equation [II-13b] becomes

$$\langle W(t) \rangle = \frac{1}{4V} \int_{\text{s,s}} [\vec{u}_s \cdot \vec{u}_s + \frac{2}{c^2} \vec{u}_s \cdot \vec{u}_s^*] dV \quad [\text{II-15}]$$

From Equation [II-14b] we may also write

⁷ Namely, that $\vec{r} \cdot (\vec{X} \times \vec{r} \times \vec{Y}) = (\vec{r} \times \vec{X}) \cdot (\vec{r} \times \vec{Y}) - \vec{X} \cdot (\vec{r} \times \vec{r} \times \vec{Y})$

⁸ Namely, that

$$\begin{aligned} \vec{X} \cdot (\vec{r} \times \vec{Y}) &= (\vec{r} \times \vec{X}) \cdot (\vec{r} \times \vec{Y}) - \vec{X} \cdot \vec{r} \times (\vec{r} \times \vec{Y}) \\ &= (\vec{r} \times \vec{X}) \cdot (\vec{r} \times \vec{Y}) - \vec{X} \cdot \vec{r} \cdot (\vec{r} \times \vec{Y}) + \vec{X} \cdot \vec{r}^2 \cdot \vec{Y} \end{aligned}$$

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$$\int_V \left[\vec{u}_s \times \vec{u}_s^* - \vec{u}_s^* \times \vec{u}_s \right] dV = \frac{1}{c^2} \left(\frac{\partial^2}{\partial t^2} - \nabla^2 \right) \int_V \vec{u}_s \vec{u}_s^* dV \quad \text{[II-16a]}$$

and, again, by boundary value arguments we may easily show that the resultant surface integral on the left vanishes

$$\int_V \left(\frac{\partial^2}{\partial t^2} - \nabla^2 \right) \int_V \vec{u}_s \vec{u}_s^* dV = 0 \quad \text{[II-16b]}$$

Therefore, we may take

$$\int_V \left[\vec{u}_s \vec{u}_s^* \right] dV = \text{const.} \quad \text{[II-17]}$$

so that Equation [II-15] becomes

$$\langle W(t) \rangle = \frac{1}{2} \int_V \left(\frac{\partial^2}{\partial t^2} - \nabla^2 \right) \int_V \vec{u}_s \vec{u}_s^* dV \quad \text{[II-18]}$$

which when compared to Equation [I-6]⁹ **is effectively the content of Jean's Theorem** with

$$\begin{aligned} \sqrt{\frac{m}{2}} a &= \sqrt{\frac{m}{2}} [q + i p/m] \\ \sqrt{\frac{m}{2}} a^\dagger &= \sqrt{\frac{m}{2}} [q - i p/m] \end{aligned} \quad \text{[II-19]}$$

⁹ That is $\mathcal{H} = a^\dagger a$

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To accomplish the *canonical quantization* program, field variables are expressed as field operators by making the identification

$$\begin{aligned} \sqrt{\frac{\hbar}{2}} \left[q + i p / m \right] &= \sqrt{\hbar} a \\ \sqrt{\frac{\hbar}{2}} \left[q - i p / m \right] &= \sqrt{\hbar} a^\dagger \end{aligned} \quad [\text{II-20}]$$

which leads to the following set of field operators:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{H} &= \sum_s \frac{\hbar}{2} \left(a_s a_s^\dagger + a_s^\dagger a_s \right) \\ \vec{\mathbf{A}}(\vec{\mathbf{r}}, t) &= \sum_s \sqrt{\frac{\hbar}{2}} \left(a_s(t) \vec{\mathbf{u}}_s(\vec{\mathbf{r}}) + a_s^\dagger(t) \vec{\mathbf{u}}_s^* \right) \\ \vec{\mathbf{E}}_T(\vec{\mathbf{r}}, t) &= \sum_s \sqrt{\frac{\hbar}{2}} \left(a_s(t) \vec{\mathbf{u}}_s(\vec{\mathbf{r}}) - a_s^\dagger(t) \vec{\mathbf{u}}_s^* \right) \\ \vec{\mathbf{H}}_T(\vec{\mathbf{r}}, t) &= c \sum_s \sqrt{\frac{\hbar}{2}} \left(a_s(t) \vec{\mathbf{u}}_s(\vec{\mathbf{r}}) + a_s^\dagger(t) \vec{\mathbf{u}}_s^* \right) \times \vec{\mathbf{u}}_s \end{aligned} \quad [\text{II-21}]$$

The Plane Wave Expansion of the Electromagnetic Field Hamiltonian:

To be definite, we may write an explicit plane wave representation for the field as

$$\vec{\mathbf{A}}(\vec{\mathbf{r}}, t) = \sum_{\mathbf{k}} \sqrt{\frac{\hbar}{2}} \hat{\mathbf{e}}_i \left(a_{\mathbf{k}} \exp \left[i \left(\vec{\mathbf{k}} \cdot \vec{\mathbf{r}} - \omega t \right) \right] + a_{\mathbf{k}}^\dagger \exp \left[-i \left(\vec{\mathbf{k}} \cdot \vec{\mathbf{r}} - \omega t \right) \right] \right) \quad [\text{II-22a}]$$

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or¹⁰

$$\vec{A}(\vec{r}, t) = \sum_{s=1}^2 \sqrt{\frac{\hbar}{2\epsilon_0 V}} a_s(t) \vec{u}_s(\vec{r}) + a_s^\dagger(t) \vec{u}_s(\vec{r}) \quad [\text{II-22b}]$$

where

$$\vec{u}_s(\vec{r}) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{V}} \hat{e}_s \exp[i \vec{k}_s \cdot \vec{r}] \quad \text{and} \quad \vec{u}_s(\vec{r}) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{V}} \hat{e}_s \exp[-i \vec{k}_s \cdot \vec{r}] \quad [\text{II-23a}]$$

$$a_s(t) = a_s(0) \exp[-i \omega_s t] \quad \text{and} \quad a_s^\dagger(t) = a_s^\dagger(0) \exp[+i \omega_s t] \quad [\text{II-23b}]$$

Of course, $k_s = |\vec{k}_s| = \omega_s/c$ in all of these expansions. Further the electric field expansion is given by

$$\begin{aligned} \vec{E}(\vec{r}, t) &= i \sum_{s=1}^2 \sqrt{\frac{\hbar}{2\epsilon_0 V}} a_s(t) \vec{u}_s(\vec{r}) - a_s^\dagger(t) \vec{u}_s(\vec{r}) \\ &= i \sum_{s=1}^2 \hat{e}_s \mathcal{E}_s a_s \exp[i \vec{k}_s \cdot \vec{r} - i \omega_s t] - a_s^\dagger(t) \exp[i \vec{k}_s \cdot \vec{r} - i \omega_s t] \end{aligned} \quad [\text{II-24a}]$$

where $\mathcal{E}_s = \sqrt{\frac{\hbar}{2\epsilon_0 V}}$ and the magnetic field expansion by

$$\vec{H}(\vec{r}, t) = \frac{i}{c\mu_0} \sum_{s=1}^2 \sqrt{\frac{\hbar}{2\epsilon_0 V}} a_s(t) [\hat{k}_s \times \vec{u}_s(\vec{r})] - a_s^\dagger(t) [\hat{k}_s \times \vec{u}_s(\vec{r})] \quad [\text{II-24b}]$$

¹⁰ This expansion is often written as $\vec{E}(\vec{r}, t) = \vec{E}^{(+)}(\vec{r}, t) + \vec{E}^{(-)}(\vec{r}, t)$ where

$$\vec{E}^{(+)}(\vec{r}, t) = i \sum_{s=1}^2 \hat{e}_s \mathcal{E}_s a_s \exp[i \vec{k}_s \cdot \vec{r} - i \omega_s t] \quad \text{and} \quad \vec{E}^{(-)}(\vec{r}, t) = -i \sum_{s=1}^2 \hat{e}_s \mathcal{E}_s a_s^\dagger(t) \exp[i \vec{k}_s \cdot \vec{r} - i \omega_s t]$$

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In light of Equations [II-18] and [II-21], the Hamiltonian of the radiation field is

$$\mathcal{H}_{rad} = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{\{l\}} \hbar \left[a_{\{l\}} a_{\{l\}}^\dagger + a_{\{l\}}^\dagger a_{\{l\}} \right] = \sum_{\{l\}} \hbar \left\{ \mathcal{N}_{\{l\}} + 1/2 \right\} \quad [\text{II-25}]$$

where

$$\bar{\mathbf{k}}_{\{l\}} = \frac{2}{L} \left[l_x \hat{\mathbf{x}} + l_y \hat{\mathbf{y}} + l_z \hat{\mathbf{z}} \right] \quad [\text{II-26}]$$

$$\{l\} = c \left| \bar{\mathbf{k}}_{\{l\}} \right|$$

The electromagnetic momentum (Poynting vector divided by c^2) is given classical by

$$\vec{\mathcal{M}} = \frac{1}{c^2} \int_{\text{cavity}} \vec{\mathbf{E}} \times \vec{\mathbf{H}} dV \quad [\text{II-27a}]$$

and in terms of the second quantization operators it becomes

$$\vec{\mathcal{M}} = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{\{l\}} \hbar \bar{\mathbf{k}}_{\{l\}} \left[a_{\{l\}} a_{\{l\}}^\dagger + a_{\{l\}}^\dagger a_{\{l\}} \right] \quad [\text{II-27b}]$$

$$= \sum_{\{l\}} \hbar \bar{\mathbf{k}}_{\{l\}} \mathcal{N}_{\{l\}}$$

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Thus, the Fock or number states are eigenstates of both the energy and the momentum of the field.