

# Vector Potential (a review)

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \nabla \times \vec{E} = -\frac{\partial \vec{B}}{\partial t} \\ \nabla \times \vec{H} = \vec{J} + \frac{\partial \vec{D}}{\partial t} \\ \nabla \cdot \vec{D} = \rho \\ \nabla \cdot \vec{B} = 0 \end{array} \right. \quad \text{Maxwell's Eqs.}$$

Since  $\nabla \cdot (\nabla \times \vec{A}) = 0$

$$\Rightarrow \vec{B} = \nabla \times \vec{A}$$

↑ vector potential

$$\vec{A}' = \vec{A} + \nabla \xi$$

$$\nabla \times \vec{A}' = \vec{B} \quad \text{vector potential not unique}$$

$$\nabla \times \vec{E} = -\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \nabla \times \vec{A} \Rightarrow \nabla \times \left( \vec{E} + \underbrace{\frac{\partial \vec{A}}{\partial t}}_{-\nabla \phi} \right) = 0$$

$$\vec{E} = -\frac{\partial \vec{A}}{\partial t} - \nabla \phi$$

Wave equations:

$$(\nabla^2 \vec{A} - \mu \epsilon \frac{\partial^2 \vec{A}}{\partial t^2}) - \nabla (\nabla \cdot \vec{A} + \mu \epsilon \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial t}) = -\mu \vec{J}$$

$$\nabla^2 \phi + \frac{\partial}{\partial t} (\nabla \cdot \vec{A}) = -\frac{\rho}{\epsilon}$$

Gauge transformation

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \vec{A}' = \vec{A} + \nabla \xi \\ \phi' = \phi - \frac{\partial \xi}{\partial t} \end{array} \right. \quad \leftarrow \text{xc}$$

also satisfy the wave eqs.

Lorentz Gauge.

$$\nabla \cdot \vec{A} = -\mu \epsilon \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial t}$$

$$\Rightarrow \begin{cases} \nabla^2 \vec{A} - \mu \epsilon \frac{\partial^2 \vec{A}}{\partial t^2} = -\mu \vec{J} \\ \nabla^2 \phi - \mu \epsilon \frac{\partial^2 \phi}{\partial t^2} = -\frac{\rho}{\epsilon} \end{cases}$$

Coulomb Gauge.

$$\nabla \cdot \vec{A} = 0$$

$$\nabla^2 \phi = -\frac{\rho}{\epsilon}$$

For optical field.  $\rho = 0$ ,  $\phi = 0$

$$\vec{E} = -\frac{\partial \vec{A}}{\partial t}$$