

1 El efecto Cerenkov

Por las ecuaciones de Maxwell

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{E} &= -\nabla\phi \\ \mathbf{H} &= -\nabla\psi\end{aligned}\tag{1}$$

por lo tanto

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{E}^* &= \mathbf{E} + \frac{1}{c}\mathbf{V} \times \mathbf{B} = -\nabla\phi + \frac{1}{c}\mathbf{V} \times \mathbf{B} \\ \mathbf{H}^* &= \mathbf{H} - \frac{1}{c}\mathbf{V} \times \mathbf{D} = -\nabla\psi - \frac{1}{c}\mathbf{V} \times \mathbf{D}\end{aligned}\tag{2}$$

y las relaciones constitutivas dan

$$\begin{aligned}\left(1 - \frac{V^2}{c^2}\right)\mathbf{D} &= \epsilon \left[\mathbf{E}^* - \frac{\mathbf{V}}{c^2}(\mathbf{V} \cdot \mathbf{E}^*) \right] - \frac{\mathbf{V}}{c} \times \mathbf{H}^* \\ \left(1 - \frac{V^2}{c^2}\right)\mathbf{B} &= \mu \left[\mathbf{H}^* - \frac{\mathbf{V}}{c^2}(\mathbf{V} \cdot \mathbf{H}^*) \right] + \frac{\mathbf{V}}{c} \times \mathbf{E}^*\end{aligned}\tag{3}$$

Entonces, llamando

$$\gamma^2 = \frac{1}{\left(1 - \frac{V^2}{c^2}\right)}\tag{4}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{E}^* &= -\nabla\phi + \gamma^2 \frac{\mathbf{V}}{c} \times \left[\mu \mathbf{H}^* + \frac{\mathbf{V}}{c} \times \mathbf{E}^* \right] \\ \mathbf{H}^* &= -\nabla\psi - \gamma^2 \frac{\mathbf{V}}{c} \times \left[\epsilon \mathbf{E}^* - \frac{\mathbf{V}}{c} \times \mathbf{H}^* \right]\end{aligned}\tag{5}$$

vemos que

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{\mathbf{V}}{c} \cdot \mathbf{E}^* &= -\frac{\mathbf{V}}{c} \cdot \nabla\phi \\ \frac{\mathbf{V}}{c} \times \frac{\mathbf{V}}{c} \times \mathbf{E}^* &= -\frac{\mathbf{V}}{c} \left(\frac{\mathbf{V}}{c} \cdot \nabla\phi \right) - \frac{V^2}{c^2} \mathbf{E}^*\end{aligned}\tag{6}$$

Entonces

$$\mathbf{E}^* = -\nabla\phi + \mu\gamma^2 \frac{\mathbf{V}}{c} \times \mathbf{H}^* + \gamma^2 \left[-\frac{\mathbf{V}}{c} \left(\frac{\mathbf{V}}{c} \cdot \nabla\phi \right) - \frac{V^2}{c^2} \mathbf{E}^* \right]\tag{7}$$

Ahora

$$1 + \gamma^2 \frac{V^2}{c^2} = \gamma^2\tag{8}$$

de modo que

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{E}^* &= -\left(1 - \frac{V^2}{c^2}\right) \nabla\phi - \frac{\mathbf{V}}{c} \left(\frac{\mathbf{V}}{c} \cdot \nabla\phi \right) + \mu \frac{\mathbf{V}}{c} \times \mathbf{H}^* \\ &= -\nabla\phi - \frac{\mathbf{V}}{c} \times \left(\frac{\mathbf{V}}{c} \times \nabla\phi \right) + \mu \frac{\mathbf{V}}{c} \times \mathbf{H}^*\end{aligned}\tag{9}$$

Ahora

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathbf{H}^* &= -\nabla\psi + \gamma^2 \frac{\mathbf{V}}{c} \times \left(\frac{\mathbf{V}}{c} \times \mathbf{H}^* \right) - \epsilon\gamma^2 \frac{\mathbf{V}}{c} \times \left[-\nabla\phi - \frac{\mathbf{V}}{c} \times \left(\frac{\mathbf{V}}{c} \times \nabla\phi \right) + \mu \frac{\mathbf{V}}{c} \times \mathbf{H}^* \right] \\
&= -\nabla\psi - (\epsilon\mu - 1) \gamma^2 \frac{\mathbf{V}}{c} \times \left(\frac{\mathbf{V}}{c} \times \mathbf{H}^* \right) - \epsilon\gamma^2 \frac{\mathbf{V}}{c} \times \left[-\nabla\phi - \frac{\mathbf{V}}{c} \times \left(\frac{\mathbf{V}}{c} \times \nabla\phi \right) \right] \\
&= -\nabla\psi + (\epsilon\mu - 1) \gamma^2 \frac{\mathbf{V}}{c} \left(\frac{\mathbf{V}}{c} \cdot \nabla\psi \right) + (\epsilon\mu - 1) (\gamma^2 - 1) \mathbf{H}^* - \epsilon\gamma^2 \frac{\mathbf{V}}{c} \times \left[-\nabla\phi - \frac{\mathbf{V}}{c} \times \left(\frac{\mathbf{V}}{c} \times \nabla\phi \right) \right] \\
&= -\frac{\left(1 - \frac{V^2}{c^2}\right)}{\left(1 - \epsilon\mu \frac{V^2}{c^2}\right)} \left[\nabla\psi - (\epsilon\mu - 1) \gamma^2 \frac{\mathbf{V}}{c} \left(\frac{\mathbf{V}}{c} \cdot \nabla\psi \right) + \epsilon\gamma^2 \frac{\mathbf{V}}{c} \times \left[-\nabla\phi - \frac{\mathbf{V}}{c} \times \left(\frac{\mathbf{V}}{c} \times \nabla\phi \right) \right] \right] \\
&= -\frac{\left(1 - \frac{V^2}{c^2}\right)}{\left(1 - \epsilon\mu \frac{V^2}{c^2}\right)} \left[\nabla\psi - (\epsilon\mu - 1) \gamma^2 \frac{\mathbf{V}}{c} \left(\frac{\mathbf{V}}{c} \cdot \nabla\psi \right) - \epsilon \left(\frac{\mathbf{V}}{c} \times \nabla\phi \right) \right] \tag{10}
\end{aligned}$$

Volvemos a \mathbf{E}^*

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathbf{E}^* &= -\nabla\phi - \frac{\mathbf{V}}{c} \times \left(\frac{\mathbf{V}}{c} \times \nabla\phi \right) \\
&\quad - \mu \frac{\left(1 - \frac{V^2}{c^2}\right)}{\left(1 - \epsilon\mu \frac{V^2}{c^2}\right)} \frac{\mathbf{V}}{c} \times \left[\nabla\psi - (\epsilon\mu - 1) \gamma^2 \frac{\mathbf{V}}{c} \left(\frac{\mathbf{V}}{c} \cdot \nabla\psi \right) - \epsilon \left(\frac{\mathbf{V}}{c} \times \nabla\phi \right) \right] \\
&= -\nabla\phi + \frac{(\epsilon\mu - 1)}{\left(1 - \epsilon\mu \frac{V^2}{c^2}\right)} \frac{\mathbf{V}}{c} \times \left(\frac{\mathbf{V}}{c} \times \nabla\phi \right) - \frac{\mu \left(1 - \frac{V^2}{c^2}\right)}{\left(1 - \epsilon\mu \frac{V^2}{c^2}\right)} \frac{\mathbf{V}}{c} \times \nabla\psi \tag{11}
\end{aligned}$$

Ahora

$$\begin{aligned}
\left(1 - \frac{V^2}{c^2}\right) \mathbf{B} &= \mu \left[\mathbf{H}^* - \frac{\mathbf{V}}{c^2} (\mathbf{V} \cdot \mathbf{H}^*) \right] + \frac{\mathbf{V}}{c} \times \mathbf{E}^* \\
&= -\mu \frac{\left(1 - \frac{V^2}{c^2}\right)}{\left(1 - \epsilon\mu \frac{V^2}{c^2}\right)} \left[\nabla\psi - (\epsilon\mu - 1) \gamma^2 \frac{\mathbf{V}}{c} \left(\frac{\mathbf{V}}{c} \cdot \nabla\psi \right) - \epsilon \left(\frac{\mathbf{V}}{c} \times \nabla\phi \right) \right] \\
&\quad + \mu \frac{\left(1 - \frac{V^2}{c^2}\right)}{\left(1 - \epsilon\mu \frac{V^2}{c^2}\right)} \frac{\mathbf{V}}{c^2} (\mathbf{V} \cdot \nabla\psi) \left[1 - (\epsilon\mu - 1) \gamma^2 \frac{V^2}{c^2} \right] \\
&\quad + \frac{\mathbf{V}}{c} \times \left[-\nabla\phi + \frac{(\epsilon\mu - 1)}{\left(1 - \epsilon\mu \frac{V^2}{c^2}\right)} \frac{\mathbf{V}}{c} \times \left(\frac{\mathbf{V}}{c} \times \nabla\phi \right) - \frac{\mu \left(1 - \frac{V^2}{c^2}\right)}{\left(1 - \epsilon\mu \frac{V^2}{c^2}\right)} \frac{\mathbf{V}}{c} \times \nabla\psi \right] \tag{12}
\end{aligned}$$

El último renglón da

$$\begin{aligned}
&-\frac{\mathbf{V}}{c} \times \nabla\phi - \frac{(\epsilon\mu - 1)}{\left(1 - \epsilon\mu \frac{V^2}{c^2}\right)} \frac{V^2}{c^2} \left(\frac{\mathbf{V}}{c} \times \nabla\phi \right) - \frac{\mu \left(1 - \frac{V^2}{c^2}\right)}{\left(1 - \epsilon\mu \frac{V^2}{c^2}\right)} \frac{\mathbf{V}}{c} \times \left(\frac{\mathbf{V}}{c} \times \nabla\psi \right) \\
&= - \left[1 + \frac{(\epsilon\mu - 1)}{\left(1 - \epsilon\mu \frac{V^2}{c^2}\right)} \frac{V^2}{c^2} \right] \left(\frac{\mathbf{V}}{c} \times \nabla\phi \right) - \frac{\mu \left(1 - \frac{V^2}{c^2}\right)}{\left(1 - \epsilon\mu \frac{V^2}{c^2}\right)} \frac{\mathbf{V}}{c} \times \left(\frac{\mathbf{V}}{c} \times \nabla\psi \right) \tag{13}
\end{aligned}$$

Se ve que \mathbf{B} depende de ϕ sólo a través de un término lineal en $\mathbf{V} \times \nabla\phi$. Ahora

$$\nabla \cdot (\mathbf{V} \times \nabla\phi) = \partial_i \epsilon^{ijk} V_j \partial_k \phi = 0 \tag{14}$$

Por lo tanto, $\nabla \cdot \mathbf{B}$ es una ecuación homogénea en ψ , de donde deducimos que $\psi = 0$. Ahora

$$\mathbf{E}^* = -\nabla\phi + \frac{(\epsilon\mu - 1)}{\left(1 - \epsilon\mu \frac{V^2}{c^2}\right)} \frac{\mathbf{V}}{c} \times \left(\frac{\mathbf{V}}{c} \times \nabla\phi \right)$$

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathbf{H}^* &= \frac{\epsilon \left(1 - \frac{V^2}{c^2}\right)}{\left(1 - \epsilon\mu \frac{V^2}{c^2}\right)} \left(\frac{\mathbf{V}}{c} \times \nabla\phi\right) \\
\left(1 - \frac{V^2}{c^2}\right) \mathbf{B} &= -\mu \frac{\left(1 - \frac{V^2}{c^2}\right)}{\left(1 - \epsilon\mu \frac{V^2}{c^2}\right)} \left[-\epsilon \left(\frac{\mathbf{V}}{c} \times \nabla\phi\right)\right] - \left[1 + \frac{(\epsilon\mu - 1) V^2}{\left(1 - \epsilon\mu \frac{V^2}{c^2}\right) c^2}\right] \left(\frac{\mathbf{V}}{c} \times \nabla\phi\right)
\end{aligned} \tag{15}$$

Finalmente

$$\mathbf{B} = \frac{(\epsilon\mu - 1) \mathbf{V}}{\left(1 - \epsilon\mu \frac{V^2}{c^2}\right) c} \times \nabla\phi \tag{16}$$

Ahora vamos por \mathbf{D}

$$\left(1 - \frac{V^2}{c^2}\right) \mathbf{D} = \epsilon \left[-\nabla\phi + \frac{(\epsilon\mu - 1) \mathbf{V}}{\left(1 - \epsilon\mu \frac{V^2}{c^2}\right) c} \times \left(\frac{\mathbf{V}}{c} \times \nabla\phi\right) + \frac{\mathbf{V}}{c^2} (\mathbf{V} \cdot \nabla\phi) \right] - \frac{\mathbf{V}}{c} \times \frac{\epsilon \left(1 - \frac{V^2}{c^2}\right)}{\left(1 - \epsilon\mu \frac{V^2}{c^2}\right)} \left(\frac{\mathbf{V}}{c} \times \nabla\phi\right) \tag{17}$$

Observamos que

$$\frac{\mathbf{V}}{c^2} (\mathbf{V} \cdot \nabla\phi) = \frac{\mathbf{V}}{c} \times \left(\frac{\mathbf{V}}{c} \times \nabla\phi\right) + \frac{V^2}{c^2} \nabla\phi \tag{18}$$

y finalmente

$$\mathbf{D} = \epsilon \left[-\nabla\phi + \frac{(\epsilon\mu - 1) \mathbf{V}}{\left(1 - \epsilon\mu \frac{V^2}{c^2}\right) c} \times \left(\frac{\mathbf{V}}{c} \times \nabla\phi\right) \right] \tag{19}$$

Ahora

$$\frac{\mathbf{V}}{c} \times \left(\frac{\mathbf{V}}{c} \times \nabla\phi\right) = \frac{\mathbf{V}}{c} \left(\frac{\mathbf{V}}{c} \cdot \nabla\phi\right) - \frac{V^2}{c^2} \nabla\phi \tag{20}$$

Por lo tanto

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathbf{D} &= \epsilon \left[-\left(1 + \frac{(\epsilon\mu - 1) \frac{V^2}{c^2}}{\left(1 - \epsilon\mu \frac{V^2}{c^2}\right)}\right) \nabla\phi + \frac{(\epsilon\mu - 1) \mathbf{V}}{\left(1 - \epsilon\mu \frac{V^2}{c^2}\right) c} \left(\frac{\mathbf{V}}{c} \cdot \nabla\phi\right) \right] \\
&= \frac{-\epsilon}{\left(1 - \epsilon\mu \frac{V^2}{c^2}\right)} \left[\left(1 - \frac{V^2}{c^2}\right) \nabla\phi - (\epsilon\mu - 1) \frac{\mathbf{V}}{c} \left(\frac{\mathbf{V}}{c} \cdot \nabla\phi\right) \right]
\end{aligned} \tag{21}$$

Si $\mathbf{V} = V\mathbf{I}$, entonces

$$\mathbf{D} = -\epsilon \left\{ \partial_x\phi \mathbf{I} - \frac{\left(1 - \frac{V^2}{c^2}\right)}{\left(\epsilon\mu \frac{V^2}{c^2} - 1\right)} [\partial_y\phi \mathbf{J} + \partial_z\phi \mathbf{K}] \right\} \tag{22}$$

y por lo tanto la Ley de Gauss

$$\partial_x^2\phi - \eta^2 [\partial_y^2\phi + \partial_z^2\phi] = -\frac{4\pi}{\epsilon} q\delta(\mathbf{x}) \tag{23}$$

$$\eta^2 = \frac{\left(1 - \frac{V^2}{c^2}\right)}{\left(\epsilon\mu \frac{V^2}{c^2} - 1\right)} \tag{24}$$

El caso que nos interesa es cuando $\eta^2 > 0$. Entonces

$$\phi = -\frac{4\pi q}{\eta\epsilon} \int \frac{d^2k_\perp}{(2\pi)^2} e^{i\mathbf{k}_\perp \cdot \mathbf{x}_\perp} \frac{\sin(\eta k_\perp x)}{k_\perp} \theta(x) \tag{25}$$

$\mathbf{x}_\perp = (y, z)$. En coordenadas cilíndricas

$$\phi = -\frac{q}{\pi\eta\epsilon} \int dk_\perp d\varphi e^{ik_\perp r \cos\varphi} \sin(\eta k_\perp x) \theta(x) \quad (26)$$

Haciendo la integral en k_\perp

$$\phi = -\frac{q}{2\pi\eta\epsilon} \int_0^{2\pi} d\varphi \left[\frac{1}{r \cos\varphi + \eta x + i\epsilon} - \frac{1}{r \cos\varphi - \eta x + i\epsilon} \right] \theta(x) \quad (27)$$

Si $r < \eta x$, la integral es inmediata

$$\phi = -\frac{q}{\eta\epsilon} \frac{1}{\sqrt{\eta^2 x^2 - r^2}} \quad (28)$$

La integral se anula para $r > \eta x$ por “causalidad”.

Por otro lado, el potencial vector

$$\mathbf{a} = \eta'^2 \phi \frac{\mathbf{V}}{c} \quad (29)$$

$$\eta'^2 = \frac{(\epsilon\mu - 1)}{(\epsilon\mu \frac{V^2}{c^2} - 1)} \quad (30)$$

En el referencial del laboratorio,

$$\begin{aligned} \Phi &= \gamma \left(\phi - \frac{V}{c} a \right) \\ A_x &= \gamma \left(-\frac{V}{c} \phi + a \right) \\ \mathbf{A}_\perp &= 0 \end{aligned} \quad (31)$$

donde el lado derecho es evaluado en

$$\begin{aligned} t &= \gamma \left(T + \frac{V}{c^2} X \right) \\ x &= \gamma (X + VT) \\ \mathbf{x}_\perp &= \mathbf{X}_\perp \end{aligned} \quad (32)$$

Entonces

$$\begin{aligned} \Phi &= \gamma \left(1 - \eta'^2 \frac{V^2}{c^2} \right) \phi = -\gamma \eta'^2 \phi \\ A_x &= \gamma \frac{V}{c} (\eta'^2 - 1) \phi = \gamma \epsilon \mu \frac{V}{c} \eta'^2 \phi \\ \mathbf{A}_\perp &= 0 \end{aligned} \quad (33)$$

donde

$$\phi = -\frac{4\pi q}{\eta\epsilon} \int \frac{d^2 k_\perp}{(2\pi)^2} e^{i\mathbf{k}_\perp \cdot \mathbf{x}_\perp} \frac{\sin(\gamma \eta k_\perp (X + VT))}{k_\perp} \theta(x) \quad (34)$$

Por lo tanto tenemos una superposición de ondas que se propagan en la dirección

$$\mathbf{K} = (-\gamma \eta k_\perp, \pm \mathbf{k}_\perp) \quad (35)$$

con

$$K = \sqrt{1 + \gamma^2 \eta^2} k_{\perp} = \sqrt{\frac{\epsilon \mu \frac{V^2}{c^2}}{(\epsilon \mu \frac{V^2}{c^2} - 1)}} k_{\perp} \quad (36)$$

y frecuencia

$$\Omega = V \gamma \eta k_{\perp} = \frac{V}{\sqrt{\epsilon \mu \frac{V^2}{c^2} - 1}} k_{\perp} \quad (37)$$

Por lo tanto, la velocidad de propagación es

$$C = \frac{\Omega}{K} = \frac{c}{\sqrt{\epsilon \mu}} \quad (38)$$

La dirección de propagación forma con el eje Y el mismo ángulo que el frente de onda forma con el eje X , es decir

$$\tan \theta = \frac{-K_x}{K_y} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\epsilon \mu \frac{V^2}{c^2} - 1}} \quad (39)$$

Entonces

$$\sin \theta = \frac{\tan \theta}{\sqrt{1 + \tan^2 \theta}} = \frac{c}{\sqrt{\epsilon \mu} V} \quad (40)$$

como esperábamos.

2 Arrastre parcial del éter

En 1818, Fresnel predijo que la velocidad de una onda en un medio de índice de refracción $n = \sqrt{\epsilon \mu}$ que a su vez se mueve con velocidad V es

$$\bar{c} = \frac{c}{n} + \left(1 - \frac{1}{n^2}\right) V \quad (41)$$

resultado que sería debido al “arrastre parcial” del éter por el medio en movimiento. Esto fue confirmado experimentalmente en 1851 por Fizeau. De hecho, el resultado de Fresnel se puede explicar simplemente si la velocidad de la onda respecto al medio es c/n , y sumando las dos velocidades a la manera relativista

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{c} &= \frac{V + \frac{c}{n}}{1 + \frac{V}{nc}} \\ &= \frac{c}{n} \frac{1 + \frac{nV}{c}}{1 + \frac{V}{nc}} \\ &\approx \frac{c}{n} \left[1 + \left(n - \frac{1}{n}\right) \frac{V}{c} + \dots \right] \end{aligned} \quad (42)$$

Es interesante deducir esta fórmula de la electrodinámica de medios en movimiento. Consideramos una onda de frecuencia ω y número de onda \mathbf{k} paralelo a la velocidad \mathbf{V} del medio. Las ecuaciones de Maxwell son

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{D} &= \mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{B} = 0 \\ \mathbf{k} \times \mathbf{E}^* - \frac{1}{c} (\omega - \mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{V}) \mathbf{B} &= 0 \\ \mathbf{k} \times \mathbf{H}^* + \frac{1}{c} (\omega - \mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{V}) \mathbf{D} &= 0 \end{aligned} \quad (43)$$

Las relaciones constitutivas son

$$\begin{aligned}
\left(1 - \frac{V^2}{c^2}\right) \mathbf{D} &= \epsilon \left[\mathbf{E}^* - \frac{\mathbf{V}}{c^2} (\mathbf{V} \cdot \mathbf{E}^*) \right] - \frac{\mathbf{V}}{c} \times \mathbf{H}^* \\
\left(1 - \frac{V^2}{c^2}\right) \mathbf{B} &= \mu \left[\mathbf{H}^* - \frac{\mathbf{V}}{c^2} (\mathbf{V} \cdot \mathbf{H}^*) \right] + \frac{\mathbf{V}}{c} \times \mathbf{E}^*
\end{aligned} \tag{44}$$

implican que $\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{E}^* = \mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{H}^* = 0$. Entonces

$$\mathbf{k} \times (\mathbf{k} \times \mathbf{E}^*) - \frac{\gamma^2}{c} (\omega - \mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{V}) \left[\mu \mathbf{k} \times \mathbf{H}^* - \mathbf{E}^* \left(\frac{\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{V}}{c} \right) \right] = 0 \tag{45}$$

Ahora

$$\mathbf{k} \times \mathbf{H}^* = -\frac{\gamma^2}{c} (\omega - \mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{V}) \left[\epsilon \mathbf{E}^* - \frac{\mathbf{V}}{c} \times \mathbf{H}^* \right] \tag{46}$$

y

$$\frac{\mathbf{V}}{c} \times \mathbf{H}^* = \frac{\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{V}}{ck^2} \mathbf{k} \times \mathbf{H}^* \tag{47}$$

de modo que

$$\mathbf{k} \times \mathbf{H}^* = -\frac{\frac{\gamma^2}{c} (\omega - \mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{V}) \epsilon \mathbf{E}^*}{1 - \frac{\gamma^2}{c^2 k^2} (\omega - \mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{V}) \mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{V}} \tag{48}$$

Finalmente, la relación de dispersión es

$$-k^2 \left(1 - \frac{\gamma^2}{c^2 k^2} (\omega - \mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{V}) \mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{V} \right)^2 + \left(\frac{n\gamma^2}{c} (\omega - \mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{V}) \right)^2 = 0 \tag{49}$$

que efectivamente se reduce a

$$\omega = \bar{c}k \tag{50}$$