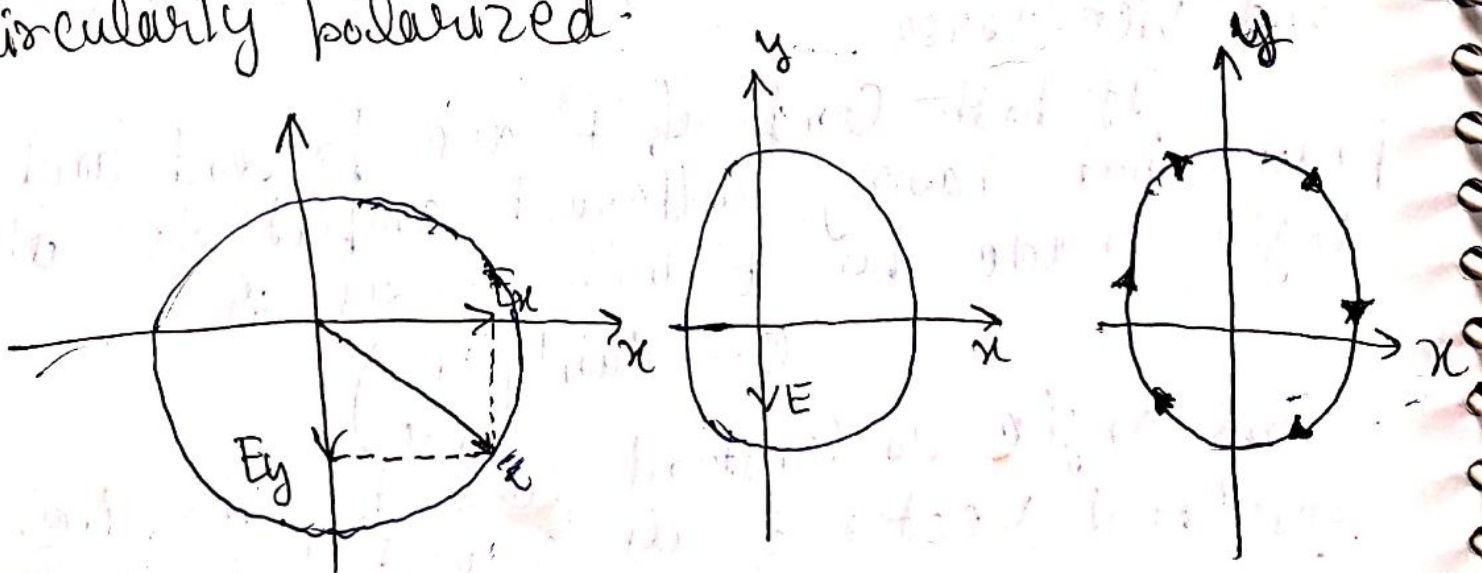


Circular polarization:— Let, $\vec{E}$ has two components E_x and E_y of equal amplitude but phase difference b/w them is $\pi/2$. Therefore, at any instant of time the magnitude of resultant vector $\vec{E}$ is constant but direction changes with respect to time.

If $\vec{E}$ is projected on a plane perpendicular to the direction of propagation then locus of all points forms a circle with centre on z -axis. In one wave length span the resultant vector $\vec{E}$ completes one cycle of rotation. Such a wave is said to be circularly polarized.



$$\vec{E} = \vec{E}_x \sin(\omega t - kz) \hat{x} + \vec{E}_y \sin(\omega t - kz + \delta) \hat{y} \quad (1)$$

δ is phase shift b/w two components if $\vec{E}$ is observed at $z=0$,

$$\vec{E} = \vec{E}_x \sin \omega t \hat{x} + \vec{E}_y \sin(\omega t + \delta) \hat{y} \quad (2)$$

Now, we may consider two cases:-

Case (i) -

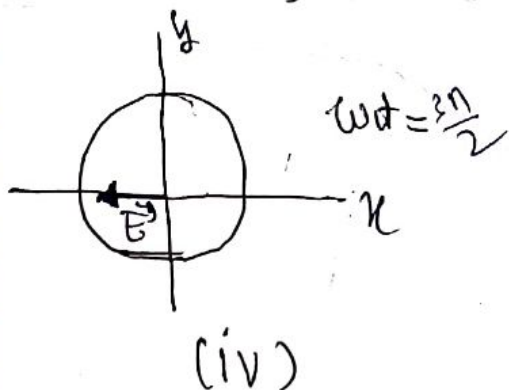
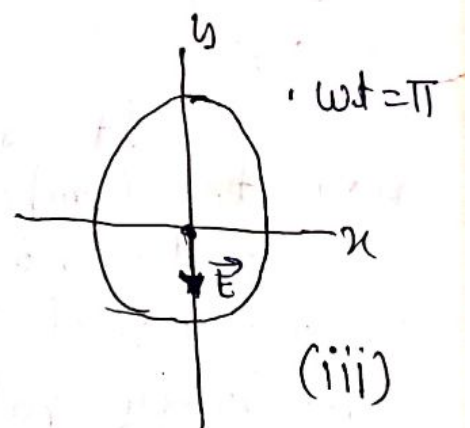
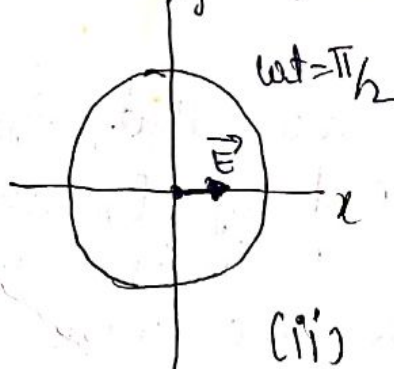
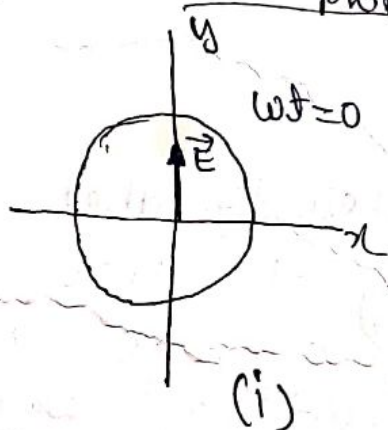
$$\text{If } \delta = \pi/2, \quad \text{If } \omega t = 0, \quad |\vec{E}_x| = 0 \quad \& \quad |\vec{E}_y| = E_y$$

$$\text{If } \omega t = \pi/2, \quad |\vec{E}_x| = E_x \quad \& \quad |\vec{E}_y| = 0$$

$$\text{If } \omega t = \pi, \quad |\vec{E}_x| = 0 \quad \& \quad |\vec{E}_y| = -E_y$$

$$\text{If } \omega t = 3\pi/2, \quad |\vec{E}_x| = -E_x \quad \& \quad |\vec{E}_y| = 0$$

We plot above in ~~the~~ ~~fig.~~



It is clear from these fig. that resultant vector $\vec{E}$ rotates in clock wise direction. and the wave is said to be left circularly polarized.

Case (ii) -

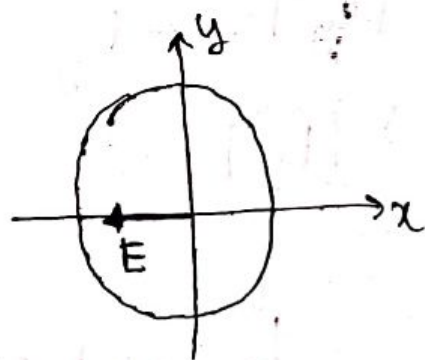
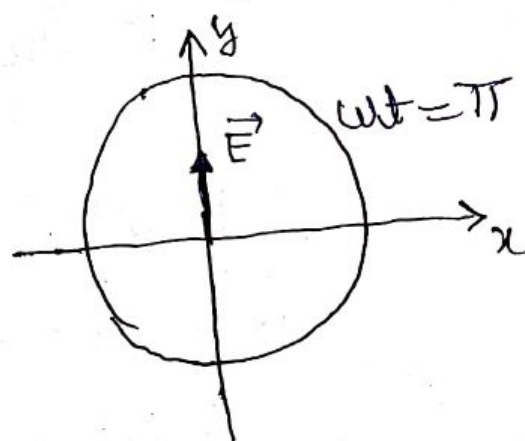
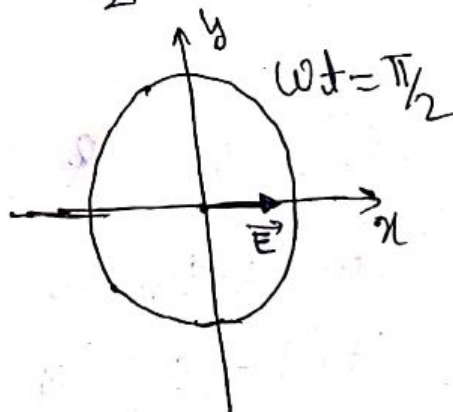
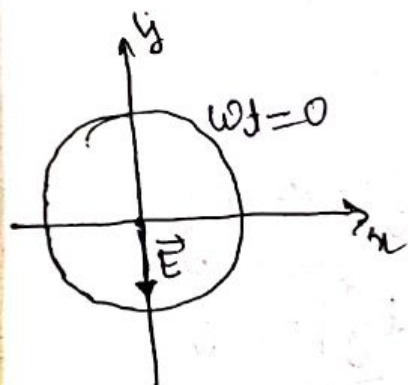
$$\delta = -\pi/2$$

$$\text{at } \omega t = 0 \quad |\vec{E}_x| = 0 \quad \& \quad |\vec{E}_y| = -E_y$$

$$\omega t = \pi/2 \quad |\vec{E}_x| = E_x \quad \& \quad |\vec{E}_y| = 0$$

$$\omega t = \pi \quad |\vec{E}_x| = 0 \quad \& \quad |\vec{E}_y| = E_y$$

$$\omega t = \frac{3\pi}{2} \quad |\vec{E}_x| = -E_x \quad \& \quad |\vec{E}_y| = 0$$



It is clear that, from these fig. that when two component of E_x and E_y of equal amplitude have a constant non-zero phase difference of $\pi/2$, the wave is said to be Right circularly polarized.

Electromagnetic waves in a Conducting Medium

Let, us Consider the propagation of e.m. waves in a Conducting medium. According to Ohm's law the current density in a Conductor is proportional to the e.f.

$$\vec{J}_f = \sigma \vec{E} \quad \text{--- (1)}$$

Maxwell's equation -

$$(i) \nabla \cdot \vec{E} = \rho_f / \epsilon$$

$$(ii) \nabla \cdot \vec{B} = 0$$

$$(iii) \nabla \times \vec{E} = -\frac{\partial \vec{B}}{\partial t} \quad \text{--- (2)}$$

$$(iv) \nabla \times \vec{B} = \mu \sigma \vec{E} + \mu \epsilon \frac{\partial \vec{E}}{\partial t}$$

from eqⁿ of Continuity -

$$\nabla \cdot \vec{J}_f = -\frac{\partial \rho_f}{\partial t} \quad \text{--- (3)}$$

using (i) & (3), we can write

$$\frac{\partial \rho_f}{\partial t} = -\sigma (\nabla \cdot \vec{E})$$

$$\frac{\partial \rho_f}{\partial t} = -\frac{\sigma}{\epsilon} \rho_f \quad \text{or,} \quad \frac{\partial \rho_f}{\partial t} + \left(\frac{\sigma}{\epsilon}\right) \rho_f = 0$$

$$\rho_f(t) = e^{-(\sigma/\epsilon)t} \rho_f(0) \quad \text{--- (4)}$$

This eqⁿ (4) indicates that any free charge density $\rho_f(0)$ dissipates in a time ' $\tau = \epsilon/\sigma$ ' for, a perfect Conductor,

' $\sigma = \infty$ ' & $\tau = 0$
and, for a poor Conductor

$$\tau \leq 1/\omega$$

$$\tau \geq 1/\omega$$

When, $\rho = 0$ Maxwell's eqn can be written as

$$(i) \nabla \cdot \vec{E} = 0$$

$$(ii) \nabla \cdot \vec{B} = 0$$

$$(iii) \nabla \times \vec{E} = -\frac{\partial \vec{B}}{\partial t} \quad \text{--- (5)}$$

$$(iv) \nabla \times \vec{B} = \mu\epsilon \frac{\partial \vec{E}}{\partial t} + \mu\sigma \vec{E}$$

Let, us apply curl to eqn (iii) & (iv) of eqn (5) we get,

$$\nabla^2 \vec{E} = \mu\epsilon \frac{\partial^2 \vec{E}}{\partial t^2} + \mu\sigma \frac{\partial \vec{E}}{\partial t}$$

$$\& \nabla^2 \vec{B} = \mu\epsilon \frac{\partial^2 \vec{B}}{\partial t^2} + \mu\sigma \frac{\partial \vec{B}}{\partial t} \quad \text{--- (6)}$$

The solutions of these eqn are,

$$\vec{E}(z,t) = \vec{E}_0 \cdot e^{i(\vec{k}z - \omega t)}$$

$$\& \vec{B}(z,t) = \vec{B}_0 \cdot e^{i(\vec{k}z - \omega t)} \quad \text{--- (7)}$$

for the present case, wave no. k is a complex quantity. let,

$$\vec{k} = k' + ik''$$

$$\text{and, } \vec{k}^2 = \mu\epsilon\omega^2 + i\mu\sigma\omega$$

where

$$k' = \omega \sqrt{\frac{\mu\epsilon}{2}} \left[\sqrt{1 + \left(\frac{\sigma}{\epsilon\omega}\right)^2} + 1 \right]^{1/2}$$

$$k'' = \omega \sqrt{\frac{\mu\epsilon}{2}} \left[\sqrt{1 + \left(\frac{\sigma}{\epsilon\omega}\right)^2} - 1 \right]^{1/2} \quad \text{--- (8)}$$

The real part of $\vec{k}$ (wave no.) determines the propagation speed, wave length and refractive index:

$$v = \frac{\omega}{k'}, \quad \lambda = \frac{2\pi}{k'}, \quad \eta = \frac{ck'}{\omega}$$

Imaginary part of $\omega\mu$ results in attenuation of wave. the distance it takes to reduce the amplitude by a factor of $1/e$ is called the 'Skin depth' (d) it represents by $d = \frac{1}{k}$ (decreasing amplitude with increasing distance) %

Skin depth is a measure of How far e.m. wave penetrates into the Conductor.

the attenuated plane waves satisfies eqn (6), and $\vec{E}$, polarized along x -direction are:

$$\vec{E}(z, t) = \vec{E}_0 e^{-kz} e^{i(kz - \omega t)} \hat{x} \quad \text{--- (9)}$$

$$\text{and, } \vec{B}(z, t) = \vec{B}_0 e^{-kz} e^{i(kz - \omega t)} \hat{y}$$

$$K \text{ Can be expressed as } K = k \cdot e^{i\phi} \quad \text{--- (10)}$$

$$\text{Where } |K| = |\vec{K}| = \sqrt{k^2 + k^2}$$

$$\tan \phi = \frac{k}{k} = \omega \sqrt{\mu \epsilon} \sqrt{1 + \left(\frac{\sigma}{\epsilon \omega}\right)^2}$$

$$\phi = \tan^{-1} \left(\frac{k}{k} \right) \quad \text{--- (11)}$$

According to eqn (9) the Complex amplitudes of $\vec{E}$ & $\vec{B}$ are related by,

$$B_0 \cdot e^{i\delta_B} = \frac{k \cdot e^{i\phi}}{\omega} \cdot E_0 \cdot e^{i\delta_E}$$

this means, that the e.f. & m.f. are not in phase i.e. $\delta_B - \delta_E = \phi$ (12)

the m.f. ~~lag~~ behind the e.f. The real amplitude of e.f. & m.f. $\vec{E}$ & $\vec{B}$ are related by,

$$\frac{B_0}{E_0} = \frac{k}{\omega} = \sqrt{\mu\epsilon \left[1 + \left(\frac{\sigma}{\epsilon\omega} \right)^2 \right]}$$

finally, the e.f. & m.f. of an e.m. wave inside a
conducting medium can be expressed as,

$$\begin{aligned} \vec{E}(z, t) &= \vec{E}_0 \cdot e^{-kz} \cdot \cos(kz - \omega t + \delta_E) \hat{x} \\ \vec{B}(z, t) &= \vec{B}_0 \cdot e^{-kz} \cdot \cos(kz - \omega t + \delta_E + \phi) \hat{y} \end{aligned}$$