

ECE 3300 Displacement current

Displacement Current

Time-varying electric field produces magnetic field

$$\frac{\partial \bar{D}}{\partial t} = -\nabla \times \bar{H}$$

To relate this to current:

$$\int_s \frac{\partial \bar{D}}{\partial t} \cdot d\bar{s} = \int_s (\nabla \times \bar{H}) \cdot d\bar{s}$$

Stokes Theorem :

$$= \oint_C \bar{H} \cdot d\bar{\ell}$$

Ampere's Law :

$$\oint_C \bar{H} \cdot d\bar{\ell} = I_{\text{enclosed}}$$

Which Gives :

$$\int_s \frac{\partial \bar{D}}{\partial t} \cdot d\bar{s} = \oint_C \bar{H} \cdot d\bar{\ell} = \text{Displacement_Current}$$

$$\oint_C \bar{H} \cdot d\bar{\ell} = \text{Conduction_Current} + \text{Displacement_Current}$$

$$\text{Total_current} = \sigma \bar{E} + \frac{\partial \bar{D}}{\partial t} = \sigma \bar{E} + \frac{\partial \epsilon \bar{E}}{\partial t} = \left(\sigma + \frac{\partial \epsilon}{\partial t} \right) \bar{E}$$

For $e^{-j\omega t}$ time dependence

$$\frac{\partial \bar{E}}{\partial t} = -j\omega \bar{E}$$

So :

$$\text{Total_current} = (\sigma + j\omega\epsilon) \bar{E} = \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \epsilon^* \bar{E} = j\omega\epsilon^* \bar{E}$$

Complex ϵ :

$$(\sigma + j\omega\epsilon) = j\omega\epsilon^* = j\omega\epsilon_o (\epsilon_r - j\sigma / \omega\epsilon_o)$$

$$\epsilon^* = \epsilon_o (\epsilon_r - j\sigma / \omega\epsilon_o) = \epsilon_o (\epsilon' - \epsilon'')$$

Why all this???

Conduction Current carries charges.

Displacement current represents displacement (rotationally) of molecules, but no actual motion.

Parallel Plate capacitor example:

$$V_s(t) = V_o \cos(\omega t) \quad (\text{Time-varying voltage})$$

Conduction current in wire:

$$I_c = C \, dV/dt = -CV_o \, \omega \sin(\omega t)$$

Displacement current in wire = 0 because $D=E=0$ in metal wire

Electric field between the plates:

$$\mathbf{E} = \mathbf{y} \, V_c / d = \mathbf{y} \, V_o \cos(\omega t) / d$$

Displacement Current between the plates

$$I_d = \int_S \frac{\partial \bar{D}}{\partial t} \cdot d\bar{S} = \int_A \left[\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \left(\hat{y} \frac{\epsilon V_o}{d} \cos \omega t \right) \right] \cdot (\hat{y} ds)$$

$$= -\frac{\epsilon A}{d} V_o \omega \sin \omega t = -CV_o \omega \sin \omega t = I_c$$

Conduction Current is flowing down the wire, and becomes displacement current flowing through the plates.