Electromagnetic guided waves on linear arrays of spheres

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Abstract

Guided electromagnetic waves propagating along one-dimensional arrays of dielectric spheres are studied. The quasi-periodic wave field is constructed as a superposition of vector spherical wave functions and then application of the boundary condition on the sphere surfaces leads to an infinite system of real linear algebraic equations. The vanishing of the determinant of the associated infinite matrix provides the condition for surface waves to exist and these are determined numerically after truncation of the infinite system. Dispersion curves are presented for a range of azimuthal modes and the effects of varying the sphere radius and electric permittivity are shown. We also demonstrate that a suitable truncation of the full system is precisely equivalent to the dipole approximation that has been used previously by other authors, in which the incident field on a sphere is approximated by its value at the centre of that sphere.

1 Introduction

Guided modes propagating along periodic structures have been received considerable attention and, depending on the physical context, are known variously as edge waves [1], Rayleigh-Bloch surface waves [2], array-guided surface waves [3] or bound states [4]. Most of this work has focused on two-dimensional problems. There have been previous studies of electromagnetic surface waves guided by periodic arrays, but these have concentrated on cases where the spheres can be modelled by some combination of electric and magnetic dipoles [5, 6, 7, 8].

The work described here is a complete analysis, based on the full Maxwell equations, of travelling electromagnetic waves propagating along linear arrays of dielectric spheres in the absence of any incident field. A theory for electromagnetic wave scattering by an infinite planar array of spheres was developed in [9, 10] and our approach builds on the formalism presented there; it would be straightforward to modify our analysis to consider the corresponding scattering problem. A similar formalism for full vector problems in elasticity has also been developed [11, 12, 13].

Our goal is to provide a thorough study of the modes that can exist. The problem is a natural extension of the equivalent acoustic problem [14] and, as in that case, there is a cut-off frequency below which waves cannot radiate energy away from the array. The modes that we seek have frequencies below this cut-off and decay exponentially as one moves away from the array. We do not address the far more difficult question of whether surface modes exist at frequencies above the cut-off (in which case they are usually referred to as embedded modes); a review of work on embedded modes in two dimensions can be found in [15].

In section 2 we formulate the general problem of electromagnetic waves traveling on an arbitrary infinite periodic array of penetrable dielectric spheres and then the special case of a one-dimensional array is treated in section 3. We derive a homogeneous infinite system of real linear algebraic equations and the condition for the existence of a guided wave is that the determinant of this systems should vanish. The matrix associated with this system is truncated and the determinant then computed numerically; results are presented in section 4.
2 Representation of the electromagnetic field

We assume time-harmonic fields with an \( \exp(-i\omega t) \) \( (\omega > 0) \) dependence throughout. Spherical polar coordinates are \((r, \theta, \phi)\) with unit vectors \(\mathbf{e}_r, \mathbf{e}_\theta, \mathbf{e}_\phi\). In an isotropic homogeneous, source free medium Maxwell’s equations are

\[
\nabla \times \mathbf{E} - i\omega \mu \mathbf{H} = 0, \quad \nabla \cdot \mathbf{E} = 0, \tag{1}
\]
\[
\nabla \times \mathbf{H} + i\omega \epsilon \mathbf{E} = 0, \quad \nabla \cdot \mathbf{H} = 0. \tag{2}
\]

Here \(\mathbf{E}\) is the electric intensity, \(\mathbf{H}\) is the magnetic intensity, \(\epsilon\) is the electric permittivity, and \(\mu\) is the magnetic permeability. It follows that both \(\mathbf{E}\) and \(\mathbf{H}\) satisfy the vector Helmholtz equation:

\[
\nabla^2 \mathbf{E} + k^2 \mathbf{E} = 0, \quad \nabla^2 \mathbf{H} + k^2 \mathbf{H} = 0, \tag{3}
\]

in which \(k^2 = \omega^2 \epsilon \mu\). Our analysis is built around vector spherical wavefunctions \(\mathbf{M}_n^m\) and \(\mathbf{N}_n^m\), defined in Appendix A, which are divergence-free solutions to the vector Helmholtz equation. Vector spherical wavefunctions which are regular at the origin (i.e. with the function \(z_n(kr)\) in Appendix A taken as the spherical Bessel function of the first kind, \(j_n(kr)\)) will be denoted by \(\mathbf{M}_n^m\) and \(\mathbf{N}_n^m\) and we will use the notation \(\mathbf{M}_0^0\) and \(\mathbf{N}_0^0\) for functions containing spherical Hankel functions \(h_n^{(1)}(kr)\) (which are singular at the origin and behave like outgoing waves as \(kr \to \infty\)).

To begin with we will consider an arbitrary periodic array \(\Lambda\) of dielectric spheres, centred at the points \(\mathbf{R}_j \in \Lambda\). Without loss of generality we can assume that \(\mathbf{R}_0 = \mathbf{0}\). Outside the spheres we write \(\epsilon\) and \(\mu\) for the electric permittivity and the magnetic permeability, respectively, whereas inside the spheres we use \(\epsilon'\) and \(\mu'\) with \(k' = \omega \sqrt{\epsilon' \mu'}\). We seek a quasi-periodic solution which satisfies

\[
\mathbf{E}(\mathbf{r} + \mathbf{R}_j) = e^{i\beta \mathbf{R}_j} \mathbf{E}(\mathbf{r}), \quad \mathbf{H}(\mathbf{r} + \mathbf{R}_j) = e^{i\beta \mathbf{R}_j} \mathbf{H}(\mathbf{r}) \tag{4}
\]

for some Bloch vector \(\beta\). Let

\[
\mathbf{r}_j = \mathbf{r} - \mathbf{R}_j. \tag{5}
\]

Assuming that there is no incident field, we can then represent the electric and magnetic field outside the spheres via

\[
\mathbf{E}(\mathbf{r}) = \sum_{\mathbf{R}_j \in \Lambda} e^{i\beta \mathbf{R}_j} \sum_{n,m} (a_n^m \mathbf{M}_n^m(\mathbf{r}_j) + b_n^m \mathbf{N}_n^m(\mathbf{r}_j)), \tag{6}
\]
\[
\mathbf{H}(\mathbf{r}) = -i\zeta \sum_{\mathbf{R}_j \in \Lambda} e^{i\beta \mathbf{R}_j} \sum_{n,m} (a_n^m \mathbf{N}_n^m(\mathbf{r}_j) + b_n^m \mathbf{M}_n^m(\mathbf{r}_j)), \tag{7}
\]

where the complex coefficients \(a_n^m\) and \(b_n^m\) are to be determined, \(\zeta = \sqrt{\epsilon/\mu}\) is the admittance of the medium and we have introduced the shorthand notation

\[
\sum_{n,m} = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \sum_{m=-n}^{n}.
\]

Note that, unlike in the equivalent scalar problem, there is no monopole \((n = m = 0)\) term \([16, \S 9.1]\). Inside sphere \(j\) the field is given by

\[
\mathbf{E}_j(\mathbf{r}_j) = e^{i\beta \mathbf{R}_j} \sum_{n,m} (a_n^m \mathbf{M}_n^m(\mathbf{r}_j) + b_n^m \mathbf{N}_n^m(\mathbf{r}_j)), \tag{8}
\]
\[
\mathbf{H}_j(\mathbf{r}_j) = -i\zeta' e^{i\beta \mathbf{R}_j} \sum_{n,m} (a_n^m \mathbf{N}_n^m(\mathbf{r}_j) + b_n^m \mathbf{M}_n^m(\mathbf{r}_j)). \tag{9}
\]
in which the primed quantities \( \zeta', \hat{M}_n^m \) and \( \hat{N}_n^m \) are the same as their unprimed equivalents except with \( \epsilon \) and \( \mu \) replaced with \( \epsilon' \) and \( \mu' \) appropriate for the medium inside the spheres.

It then suffices to consider the boundary conditions on a single sphere, which we take to be that at the origin. We can separate the total field, given by (6) and (7), into parts incident on and radiating from this particular sphere; the latter is given by

\[
E_0^{\text{rad}}(r) = \sum_{n,m} \left( a_n^m M_n^m(r) + b_n^m N_n^m(r) \right),
\]

\[
H_0^{\text{rad}}(r) = -i\zeta \sum_{n,m} \left( a_n^m N_n^m(r) + b_n^m M_n^m(r) \right).
\]

The field incident on the sphere at the origin (which is made up from the radiated fields from all the other spheres) can be expanded, in the vicinity of that sphere, in terms of regular wavefunctions:

\[
E_0^{\text{inc}}(r) = \sum_{n,m} \left( c_n^m M_n^m(r) + d_n^m N_n^m(r) \right),
\]

\[
H_0^{\text{inc}}(r) = -i\zeta \sum_{n,m} \left( c_n^m N_n^m(r) + d_n^m M_n^m(r) \right),
\]

and then comparing this with (6) and (7) and using the addition theorem (72) we find that

\[
c_n^\nu = \sum_{n,m} \left( a_n^m A_{n\nu}^{mu} + b_n^m B_{n\nu}^{mu} \right), \quad d_n^\nu = \sum_{n,m} \left( a_n^m B_{n\nu}^{mu} + b_n^m A_{n\nu}^{mu} \right),
\]

where we have defined the lattice sums

\[
A_{n\nu}^{mu} = \sum_{R_j \in A} e^{i\beta R_j} A_{n\nu}^{mu}(-R_j), \quad B_{n\nu}^{mu} = \sum_{R_j \in A} e^{i\beta R_j} B_{n\nu}^{mu}(-R_j),
\]

with \( A_{n\nu}^{mu}(\cdot) \) and \( B_{n\nu}^{mu}(\cdot) \) given by (76) and (79), respectively. Here the dash on the summation indicates that the \( j = 0 \) term is to be omitted.

The boundary conditions to be satisfied at \( r = a \) are that the tangential component of both \( E \) and \( H \) must be continuous. In other words \( e_r \times E \) and \( e_r \times H \) need to be continuous. Using (63) and (66) and the fact that \( e_r \times (e_r \times X_n^m) = -X_n^m \), we see that continuity of \( e_r \times E \) implies that

\[
\sum_{n,m} \left( a_n^m j_n(k') e_r \times X_n^m - b_n^m \Delta j_n(k') X_n^m \right) = \sum_{n,m} \left( (a_n^m h_n(ka) + c_n^m j_n(ka)) e_r \times X_n^m - (b_n^m h_n(ka) + d_n^m \Delta j_n(ka)) X_n^m \right)
\]

and continuity of \( e_r \times H \) gives

\[
\zeta' \sum_{n,m} \left( b_n^m j_n(k') e_r \times X_n^m - a_n^m \Delta j_n(k') X_n^m \right) = \zeta \sum_{n,m} \left( (b_n^m h_n(ka) + d_n^m j_n(ka)) e_r \times X_n^m - (a_n^m \Delta h_n(ka) + c_n^m \Delta j_n(ka)) X_n^m \right).
\]
Here $D$ is the differential operator defined in (67).

Next we take the dot product of each of (16) and (17) with $\mathbf{X}_p$ and integrate over the unit sphere to yield for each $p = 0, 1, 2, \ldots$ and $q = -p, \ldots, p$, on account of (59) and (69),

$$b_p^q D j_p(k'a) = b_p^q D h_p(ka) + d_p^q D j_p(ka).$$

and

$$c_p^q D j_p(k'a) = a_p^q D h_p(ka) + e_p^q D j_p(ka).$$

Similarly, if we take the cross product of (16) and (17) with $\mathbf{X}_p$ and integrate over the unit sphere we obtain, on account of (61) and (62),

$$a_p^q j_p(k'a) = a_p^q h_p(ka) + e_p^q j_p(ka)$$

and

$$c_p^q j_p(k'a) = b_p^q h_p(ka) + d_p^q j_p(ka).$$

Elimination of the interior coefficients $a_p^q$ and $b_p^q$ leads to the relations

$$a_p^q + Z_p^{(1)} c_p^q = 0, \quad b_p^q + Z_p^{(2)} d_p^q = 0,$$

where the so-called Lorenz-Mie coefficients $Z_p^{(n)}$ are given by

$$Z_p^{(1)} = \frac{\zeta' j_p(ka) D j_p(k'a) - \zeta D j_p(ka) j_p(k'a)}{\zeta' h_p(ka) D j_p(k'a) - \zeta D h_p(ka) j_p(k'a)}.$$  \hfill (23)

$$Z_p^{(2)} = \frac{\zeta' D j_p(ka) j_p(k'a) - \zeta j_p(ka) D j_p(k'a)}{\zeta' D h_p(ka) j_p(k'a) - \zeta h_p(ka) D j_p(k'a)}.$$  \hfill (24)

(These are equivalent to the expressions given in [17, p. 565]). Finally, if we substitute from (14) we obtain the coupled systems of homogeneous equations

$$\begin{cases}
a_p^q + Z_p^{(1)} \sum_{n,m} (a_n^m A_{np} + b_n^m B_{np}) = 0, \\
b_p^q + Z_p^{(2)} \sum_{n,m} (a_n^m B_{np} + b_n^m A_{np}) = 0
\end{cases} \quad p \geq 1, |q| \leq p.  \hfill (25)$$

For the purpose of making numerical computations we truncate this system. The crudest such truncation is to insist that $p = q = 1$ (i.e. retain only the dipole terms). It is possible (as in in [5]) to restrict attention at the outset to fields consisting solely of dipoles and then to replace the complicated machinery that results from the application of the addition theorem and which leads to (14) by the much simpler process of matching the value of the incident field at the centre of the chosen sphere. It is not obvious that this approach is equivalent to truncating (25) but this is the case, as we now demonstrate.

From (6), (7) we have, for dipole fields,

$$\mathbf{E}_0^{inc}(0) = \sum_{\mathbf{R}_j \in \Lambda} e^{i\beta \mathbf{R}_j} \sum_{m=-1}^1 (a_1^m M_1^m(-\mathbf{R}_j) + b_1^m N_1^m(-\mathbf{R}_j)),$$

$$\mathbf{H}_0^{inc}(0) = -i\kappa \sum_{\mathbf{R}_j \in \Lambda} e^{i\beta \mathbf{R}_j} \sum_{m=-1}^1 (a_1^m N_1^m(-\mathbf{R}_j) + b_1^m M_1^m(-\mathbf{R}_j)),$$
and the key step is to note that, from (85),

\[ M^m_1(-R_j) = \sum_{\mu=-1}^1 B^{m\mu}_{11}(-R_j) \tilde{N}^\mu_1(0), \quad N^m_1(-R_j) = \sum_{\mu=-1}^1 A^{m\mu}_{11}(-R_j) \tilde{N}^\mu_1(0). \]  

(28)

On the other hand, from (12) and (13), using (70), we have

\[ E_0^{inc}(0) = \sum_{m=-1}^1 d^m_1 \tilde{N}^m_1(0), \quad H_0^{inc}(0) = -i\zeta \sum_{m=-1}^1 c^m_1 \tilde{N}^m_1(0). \]  

(29)

Matching (29) with (26) and (27), using (15), thus yields

\[ \sum_{\mu=-1}^1 d^m_1 \tilde{N}^\mu_1(0) = \sum_{m=-1}^1 \sum_{\mu=-1}^1 (a^m_1 B^{m\mu}_{11} + b^m_1 A^{m\mu}_{11}) \tilde{N}^\mu_1(0), \]  

(30)

\[ \sum_{\mu=-1}^1 c^m_1 \tilde{N}^\mu_1(0) = \sum_{m=-1}^1 \sum_{\mu=-1}^1 (a^m_1 A^{m\mu}_{11} + b^m_1 B^{m\mu}_{11}) \tilde{N}^\mu_1(0), \]  

(31)

and this is clearly satisfied if

\[ c^m_1 = \sum_{m=-1}^1 (a^m_1 A^{m\mu}_{11} + b^m_1 B^{m\mu}_{11}), \quad d^m_1 = \sum_{m=-1}^1 (a^m_1 B^{m\mu}_{11} + b^m_1 A^{m\mu}_{11}), \quad \mu = -1, 0, 1 \]  

(32)

which is the truncated version of (14). In the general case this is a 6 × 6 system of equations.

3 Guided waves on linear arrays of spheres

The system of equations (25) applies equally well to a one-, two-, or three-dimensional lattice \( \Lambda \). In this section we consider the special case of a linear array of spheres, i.e. we take

\[ R_j = js e_z, \quad j \in \mathbb{Z}, \]  

(33)

where \( s \) is the spacing between the sphere centres. In this case the modes corresponding to different values of \( m \) decouple, since if \( m \neq q \), then \( A^{mq}_{np} = B^{mq}_{np} = 0 \) (see Appendix B) and without loss of generality we can assume that \( m \geq 0 \). We take \( \beta = \beta e_z \) and since \( \exp(i\beta \cdot R_j) = \exp(ijs\beta) \) it is clear that we only need to consider \( \beta s \in (-\pi, \pi] \). However, the symmetry of the geometry means that in fact we only need to consider \( \beta s \in [0, \pi] \). Then outside the spheres we have the representations

\[ E_m(r) = \sum_{j=-\infty}^{\infty} e^{ij\beta} \sum_{n=-m^*}^{\infty} (a^m_n M^m_n(r_j) + b^m_n N^m_n(r_j)), \]  

(34)

\[ H_m(r) = -i\zeta \sum_{j=-\infty}^{\infty} e^{ij\beta} \sum_{n=-m^*}^{\infty} (a^m_n N^m_n(r_j) + b^m_n M^m_n(r_j)), \]  

(35)

where we have written \( m^* = \max(1, m) \). We have, from (83) and (84),

\[ A^{m\mu}_{np} = 4\pi(-1)^m \sqrt{\nu(\nu+1) \over n(n+1)} \sum_{\nu'=|n-\nu|}^{n+\nu} \sum_{\nu''=-\nu}^{\nu} g_{n\nu p} G(n, m; \nu, -m; p) \sigma_p, \]  

(36)
\[ B_{\nu \nu}^{mn} = \frac{2\pi(-1)^m}{\sqrt{n(n+1)}\nu(\nu+1)} \sum_{p=|n-\nu|+1}^{n+\nu-1} i^{\nu-n-p} \sqrt{\frac{2p+1}{2p-1}} \mathcal{H}(n, m; \nu, -m; p) \sigma_p, \]  

where \( \sigma_p \) is defined in (86).

For a particular value of \( m \), the system of equations given by (25) reduces to

\[
\begin{align*}
  a^m_{\nu} + Z_{\nu}^{(1)} \sum_{n=m^{*}}^{\infty} (a^m_{n} A_{\nu n}^{mm} + b^m_{n} B_{\nu n}^{mm}) &= 0 \\
  b^m_{\nu} + Z_{\nu}^{(2)} \sum_{n=m^{*}}^{\infty} (a^m_{n} B_{\nu n}^{mm} + b^m_{n} A_{\nu n}^{mm}) &= 0 
\end{align*}
\]

\[ \nu \geq m^{*}. \]  

(38)

When \( 0 < k_s < \beta s < \pi \) this system of complex equations can be transformed into a real system as follows. We use (75), (78), (93) and (94), to show that

\[
\begin{align*}
  A_{\nu n}^{mm} &= i^{\nu-n+1} \tilde{A}_{\nu n}^{m} - \delta_{\nu n}, \\
  B_{\nu n}^{mm} &= i^{\nu-n+1} \tilde{B}_{\nu n}^{m}, 
\end{align*}
\]

where

\[
\begin{align*}
  \tilde{A}_{\nu n}^{m} &= 4\pi(-1)^m \nu(\nu+1) \sum_{p=|n-\nu|}^{n+\nu-1} g_{n\nu p} G(n, m; \nu, -m; p)(-1)^p \eta_p, \\
  \tilde{B}_{\nu n}^{m} &= \frac{2\pi(-1)^m}{\sqrt{n(n+1)}\nu(\nu+1)} \sum_{p=|n-\nu|+1}^{n+\nu-1} \sqrt{\frac{2p+1}{2p-1}} \mathcal{H}(n, m; \nu, -m; p)(-1)^p \eta_p 
\end{align*}
\]

(39)

and \( \eta_p \) is defined in (94). Thus (38) becomes

\[
\begin{align*}
  i^{\nu} a^m_{\nu} + W_{\nu}^{(1)} \sum_{n=m^{*}}^{\infty} i^{-n} \left( a^m_{n} \tilde{A}_{\nu n}^{m} + b^m_{n} \tilde{B}_{\nu n}^{m} \right) &= 0 \\
  i^{\nu} b^m_{\nu} + W_{\nu}^{(2)} \sum_{n=m^{*}}^{\infty} i^{-n} \left( a^m_{n} \tilde{B}_{\nu n}^{m} + b^m_{n} \tilde{A}_{\nu n}^{m} \right) &= 0 
\end{align*}
\]

\[ \nu \geq m^{*}, \]  

(40)

where

\[
W_{\nu}^{(i)} = \frac{i Z_{\nu}^{(i)}}{1 - Z_{\nu}^{(i)}}, \quad i = 1, 2. \]  

(41)

Substituting the definitions of the Lorenz-Mie coefficients (23), (24) shows that \( W_{\nu}^{(i)} \) is real and so (42) is a real system with unknowns \( i^{\nu} a^m_{\nu} \) and \( i^{\nu} b^m_{\nu} \).

The existence of guided waves along the array corresponds to values of \( k \) and \( \beta \) for which this system admits non-trivial solutions for the unknowns \( a^m_{n}, b^m_{n} \). Thus, equating to zero the determinant of the system we come to dispersion relations connecting \( k \) and \( \beta \).

The special case \( m = 1, N = 1 \) is worthy of consideration since this corresponds to the dipole approximation considered in [5, 18]. (In fact, those papers consider a particular polarization which is a linear combination of the \( m = 1 \) and \( m = -1 \) modes, but the dispersion relation is identical.) The general \( 6 \times 6 \) system given in (32) reduces to a \( 2 \times 2 \) system in this case. From (42), dropping the superfluous sub- and superscripts \( n, \nu \) and \( m \) (which are all 1) we get the (real) dispersion relation

\[
(1 + W_{\nu}^{(1)} \tilde{A})(1 + W_{\nu}^{(2)} \tilde{A}) - W_{\nu}^{(1)} W_{\nu}^{(2)} \tilde{B}^2 = 0
\]  

(44)
and \( \tilde{A} \) and \( \tilde{B} \) can be determined using (40), (41), (75), (78), together with the results
\[
G(1; 1, -1; 1) = 1/\sqrt{20\pi}, \quad H(1; 1, -1, 1) = -1/\sqrt{\pi}.
\] (45)

We obtain
\[
\tilde{A} = \sqrt{4\pi} \eta_0 + \sqrt{\pi/5} \eta_1, \quad \tilde{B} = -\sqrt{3\pi} \eta_1.
\] (46)

For convenience, we define
\[
\chi_{q}^{\pm} = \frac{\text{Cl}_{q}(ks + \beta s) \pm \text{Cl}_{q}(ks - \beta s)}{(ks)^{q}}.
\] (47)

Then, using (94), we have
\[
\tilde{A} = -\frac{3}{2} \left( \chi_{1}^{+} - \chi_{2}^{+} - \chi_{3}^{+} \right), \quad \tilde{B} = \frac{3}{2} \left( \chi_{1}^{-} - \chi_{2}^{-} \right).
\] (48)

To allow easy comparison with [5], we re-write the dispersion relation (44), using (43), as
\[
\frac{iZ^{(1)}\tilde{B}}{1 + Z^{(2)}(i\tilde{A} - 1)} = \frac{1 + Z^{(2)}(i\tilde{A} - 1)}{iZ^{(2)}\tilde{B}}
\] (49)

and define \( \Sigma_{1,2} \) and \( S_{\pm} \) via
\[
\Sigma_{1} = \chi_{1}^{+} - \chi_{2}^{+} - \chi_{3}^{+} - \frac{2i}{3}, \quad \Sigma_{2} = \chi_{1}^{-} - \chi_{2}^{-}, \quad S_{+} = 3iZ^{(1)}/2, \quad S_{-} = 3iZ^{(2)}/2.
\] (50)

Then (49) becomes
\[
\frac{S_{+}\Sigma_{2}}{1 - S_{+}\Sigma_{1}} = \frac{1 - S_{-}\Sigma_{1}}{S_{-}\Sigma_{2}},
\] (51)

which is equivalent to equation (18) of [5].

4 Numerical results

Results are presented with the problem scaled so that the spacing between consecutive sphere centres is unity (i.e. \( s = 1 \)). To restrict the number of parameters in the problem we also set \( \epsilon = \mu = \mu' = 1 \). This leaves three key parameters: the sphere radius \( a \), the electric permittivity of the spheres \( \epsilon' \), and the azimuthal mode number \( m \). Extensive numerical searches for guided waves with azimuthal mode numbers \( m = 0, \ldots, 4 \) that can propagate along linear arrays were carried out using program code written in Fortran 2003. The Gaunt coefficients were computed using an updated version of the ‘Root-Rational-Fraction package’ described in [19] and the lattice sums were evaluated using the method described in [20].

For computational purposes the infinite linear system (42) (which converges exponentially) is truncated to a \( 2N \times 2N \) system. The choice of \( N \) is then a balance between speed of computation and required accuracy. As the results which are presented below demonstrate, in most cases the crudest of truncations \( (N = 1) \) yields accurate results. The most challenging situation is when \( a \) is large (the spheres touch when \( a = 0.5 \)) and \( m = 0 \) and to illustrate the convergence as \( N \) is increased in such a situation we present in Table 1 results of computed values of \( \beta \in (k, \pi) \) for various values of \( k \) in the interval \( 2.715 < k < 2.75 \) with the parameters \( m = 0, a = 0.47 \) and \( \epsilon' = 10 \) for \( N = 1, 2, 4, 8, \) i.e. with system sizes \( 2 \times 2, 4 \times 4, 8 \times 8 \) and \( 16 \times 16 \). Even in this case, it is clear that small truncation parameters still yield extremely accurate results.
Table 1: Comparison of values of $\beta$ for $2.715 < k < 2.750$ and $m = 0$, $a = 0.47$ and $\epsilon' = 10$ given for $N = 1, 2, 4, 8$

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<th>$\beta$, $2 \times 2$</th>
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<td>2.745</td>
<td>2.851</td>
<td>2.956</td>
<td>3.063</td>
<td>3.059</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.750</td>
<td>2.888</td>
<td>2.927</td>
<td>2.869</td>
<td>2.866</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If the spheres are too small then we are unable to find any modes. In the absence of an existence proof for these guided waves (unlike in the equivalent acoustic problem where such proofs have recently been provided [21]) it is not possible to say whether this is because they do not exist or whether it is just that the values of $k$ and $\beta$ are so close that we are unable to resolve the difference. For $\epsilon' = 10$, the minimum values of $a$ for which modes have been computed are, approximately, $a = 0.327$ for $m = 0$, $a = 0.205$ for $m = 1$, and $a = 0.463$ for $m = 2$. We have been unable to find any solutions for $m > 2$.

In Figure 1 we present the dispersion curves showing how $\beta$ varies with $k$ for $s = 1$, $\epsilon = \mu = \mu' = 1$ and $\epsilon' = 10$. Continuous and dashed curves are for $a = 0.4$ and $a = 0.47$, respectively, computed using a truncation parameter of $N = 8$, with the stars showing the results computed using $N = 1$. Figure 1(a) shows axisymmetric modes ($m = 0$) while Figure 1(b) is for $m = 1$. Results for $a = 0.4$, $m = 1$, $N = 1$ are given in Figure 17 of [18] and these agree with the stars approximating the solid curves in Figure 1(b). Results for $m = 2$ (but with the other parameters as in Figure 1) are shown in Figure 2, this time for $a = 0.47$ and $a = 0.49$ as it is only for these large spheres that we have been able to find modes.

In Figure 3 we illustrate the effect of varying $\epsilon'$ with $s = 1$, $\epsilon = \mu = \mu' = 1$. The
most obvious effect is that if $\epsilon'$ is reduced sufficiently, modes cease to exist. As an example, Figure 3(a) shows results for $a = 0.49$ and $m = 0$, with different curves corresponding to, reading upwards, $\epsilon' = 4.3, 4.2, 4.1, 4.0$ and $3.9$. For $\epsilon' = 3.8$ we do not find any modes. On the other hand, increasing $\epsilon' = 20$ leads to the presence of more modes, as illustrated in Figure 3(b) which shows results for $\epsilon' = 20, a = 0.4$ with the dashed curve for $m = 0$ and the solid curve for $m = 1$.

5 Conclusion

Dispersion curves describing guided electromagnetic waves propagating along one-dimensional arrays of dielectric spheres have been determined based on a full vector solution of Maxwell’s equations. By writing the quasi-periodic wave field as a superposition of vector spherical wave functions and then applying the boundary condition on the sphere surfaces we are able to reduce the problem to an infinite system of real linear algebraic equations and surface waves exist when the determinant of the associated infinite matrix vanishes. A truncation procedure, with excellent convergence characteristics, has been used to enable these to be determined numerically.

Previous work based on a dipole approximation has shown that such guided waves do indeed exist. In this paper we have extended the understanding of these modes in two ways. First, we have demonstrated that the dipole approximation is equivalent to a truncation of the linear system that we derive from the full Maxwell equations and that the approximation yields accurate solutions over a wide parameter range so that it can be used with confidence. Secondly we have shown that modes exist for azimuthal modes $|m| = 0, 1, 2$ (previously only the case $|m| = 1$ had been treated) but our computations suggest that there are no modes for $|m| > 2$.

A Vector spherical harmonics

Spherical harmonics are defined by

$$Y^m_n(e_r) \equiv Y^m_n(\theta, \phi) = (-1)^m \lambda_{nm} P^m_n(\cos \theta) e^{im\phi}, \quad n \geq |m| \geq 0,$$

(52)
where
\[
\lambda_{nm} = \sqrt{\frac{(2n+1)(n-m)!}{4\pi(n+m)!}}
\]
and the associated Legendre function is defined here, for non-negative order and \(|x| \leq 1\), by
\[
P_m^n(x) = (1-x^2)^{m/2} \frac{Q_m^m}{dx^m} P_n(x) = \frac{(1-x^2)^{m/2}}{2^nn!} \frac{d^{m+n}}{dx^{m+n}} (x^2-1)^n, \quad n \geq m \geq 0.
\]
This is the convention adopted in [22]. If \(m > n\), \(P_m^n(x) \equiv 0\). The extension to negative order is accomplished via
\[
P_{-m}^n(x) = (-1)^m \frac{(n-m)!}{(n+m)!} P_m^n(x), \quad n \geq |m|.
\]
We note that
\[
Y_m^n(e_r) = (-1)^m Y_{-m}^n(e_r), \quad Y_m^n(-e_r) = (-1)^n Y_m^n(e_r)
\]
and
\[
\int_\Omega Y_m^n Y_{\nu}^\mu d\Omega = \delta_{n\nu}\delta_{m\mu},
\]
the integral being over the surface of the unit sphere.

For \(n \geq 1\), we can define vector spherical harmonics by
\[
X_m^n(\theta, \phi) = \nabla Y_m^n \times r \sqrt{n(n+1)} = \frac{(-1)^m \lambda_{nm} e^{im\phi}}{\sqrt{n(n+1)}} \left( \frac{im}{\sin \theta} P_m^n(\cos \theta) e_{\theta} - \partial_{\theta}(P_m^n(\cos \theta)) e_{\phi} \right).
\]
and it can be shown that
\[
\int_\Omega X_m^n \cdot \mathbf{X}_p^\mu d\Omega = \delta_{np}\delta_{mq}.
\]
(Note that no complex conjugation is implicit in the dot product.) Since $\overline{X_p^q \cdot e_r} = 0$, we have
\[
(e_r \times X_n^m) \times \overline{X_p^q} = -(X_n^m \cdot \overline{X_p^q})e_r
\]  
(60)
and hence
\[
\int \Omega (e_r \times X_n^m) \times \overline{X_p^q} d\Omega = -\delta_{np}\delta_{mq}e_r.
\]  
(61)
We also have
\[
\int \Omega X_n^m \times \overline{X_p^q} d\Omega = 0.
\]  
(62)

Our first set of divergence free solutions of the Helmholtz equation are taken as
\[
M_n^m = z_n(kr)X_n^m(\theta, \phi)
\]  
(63)
and we have
\[
\int \Omega M_n^m \cdot \overline{X_p^q} d\Omega = \delta_{np}\delta_{mq}z_n(kr).
\]  
(64)
The second set of divergence free solutions of the Helmholtz equation is
\[
N_n^m = \frac{1}{k} \nabla \times M_n^m = \frac{1}{k} (z_n(kr)\nabla \times X_n^m - X_n^m \times \nabla z_n(kr))
\]  
(65)
\[
= \frac{z_n(kr)}{kr} \sqrt{n(n+1)} Y_n^m e_r + D z_n(kr) e_r \times X_n^m,
\]  
(66)
where we have introduced the differential operator
\[
Df(x) = \frac{1}{x} d\left(\frac{xf(x)}{dx}\right).
\]  
(67)
From the last of these we see that
\[
N_n^m \cdot \overline{X_p^q} = D z_n(kr) e_r \times X_n^m \cdot \overline{X_p^q}
\]  
(68)
and we can show that
\[
\int \Omega N_n^m \cdot \overline{X_p^q} d\Omega = 0.
\]  
(69)
For more details, see [17, Chapter 7] and [16, §9.7].

Note that
\[
\hat{M}_n^m(0) = 0, \quad \hat{N}_n^m(0) = \frac{\delta_{n1}}{3} \left(\sqrt{2} Y_n^m(\theta, \phi) e_r + 2 e_r \times X_n^m\right).
\]  
(70)
If, for convenience, we introduce Cartesian unit vectors $e_x, e_y, e_z$ then we have
\[
\hat{N}_1^0(0) = \frac{e_z}{\sqrt{6\pi}}, \quad \hat{N}_1^\pm(0) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{12\pi}}(\mp e_x - ie_y).
\]  
(71)
\begin{equation}
\begin{aligned}
M^m_n(c) &= \sum_{\nu,\mu} \left( A^{\mu\nu}_n(b) M^\mu_\nu(a) + B^{\mu\nu}_n(b) \bar{N}^\mu_\nu(a) \right), \\
N^m_n(c) &= \sum_{\nu,\mu} \left( A^{\mu\nu}_n(b) \bar{N}^\mu_\nu(a) + B^{\mu\nu}_n(b) M^\mu_\nu(a) \right),
\end{aligned}
\end{equation}

where \( c = a + b \) and \(|a| < |b|\). Expressions for the \( A^{\mu\nu}_n(b) \) and \( B^{\mu\nu}_n(b) \) are given in [24], though care needs to be taken when converting his formulas to our notation, which is based on that of [22]. The formulas make use of so-called Gaunt coefficients, \( G \), which are integrals of products of three spherical harmonics:

\begin{equation}
G(n,m;\nu,\mu;p) = \int_\Omega Y^m_n Y^\mu_\nu Y^p_p d\Omega,
\end{equation}

the integration being over the surface of the unit sphere. These coefficients can also be expressed in terms of Wigner 3-\( j \) symbols via

\begin{equation}
G(n,m;\nu,\mu;p) = (-1)^{n+n+\mu} \sqrt{\frac{4\pi}{2n+1}(2\nu+1)(2\nu+1)} \binom{n & \nu & p \atop m & \mu & -m-\mu} \binom{n & \nu & p}{0 & 0 & 0}.
\end{equation}

For future reference we note that

\begin{equation}
G(n,m;\nu,-m;0) = \frac{(-1)^m \delta_{n\nu}}{\sqrt{4\pi}}.
\end{equation}

Theorems I and II of [24] imply that

\begin{equation}
A^{\mu\nu}_n(b) = 4\pi (-1)^{\mu-\nu-n} \sqrt{\frac{\nu(\nu+1)}{n(n+1)}} \sum_{p=|n-\nu|, n+\nu+p \text{ even}}^{n+n} g_{nvp} \mathcal{G}(n,m;\nu,-\mu;p) h_p(kb) Y^{m-\mu}_p(\hat{b}),
\end{equation}

where \( b = |b|, \hat{b} = b/b \) and

\begin{equation}
g_{nvp} = 1 + \frac{(n-\nu+p+1)(n+\nu-p)}{2\nu(2\nu+1)} - \frac{(\nu-n+p+1)(\nu+n+p+2)}{2(\nu+1)(2\nu+1)}.
\end{equation}

For future reference we note that

\begin{equation}
g_{n00} = 1, \quad g_{112} = -1/2.
\end{equation}

Similarly (note that there is a well-documented sign error in Cruzan’s paper [25, 26, 27])

\begin{equation}
B^{\mu\nu}_n(b) = \frac{2\pi (-1)^{\mu-\nu-n}}{\sqrt{n(n+1)\nu(\nu+1)}} \sum_{p=|n-\nu|, n+\nu+p \text{ odd}}^{n+n+1} \sqrt{\frac{2p+1}{2p-1}} \mathcal{H}(n,m;\nu,-\mu;p) h_p(kb) Y^{m-\mu}_p(\hat{b}),
\end{equation}

where

\begin{equation}
\mathcal{H}(n,m;\nu,\mu;p) = \sum_{j=-1}^{1} \mathcal{G}_j(n,m;\nu,\mu;p)
\end{equation}
with
\[ G_0(n, m; \nu, \mu; p) = -2\mu \sqrt{p^2 - (m + \mu)^2} \mathcal{G}(n, m; \nu, \mu; p - 1), \]
\[ G_{\pm 1}(n, m; \nu, \mu; p) = \mp \sqrt{(\nu \mp \mu)(\nu \pm \mu + 1)(p \mp (m + \mu))(p - 1 \mp (m + \mu))} \times \mathcal{G}(n, m; \nu, \mu \pm 1; p - 1). \]

For the case of a linear array we have \( \mathbf{a} = \mathbf{r}, \mathbf{b} = -\mathbf{R}_j = -js \mathbf{e}_x \) and \( \mathbf{c} = \mathbf{r}_j \). In this case \( A_{n\nu}^{m\mu}(-\mathbf{R}_j) = B_{n\nu}^{m\mu}(-\mathbf{R}_j) = 0 \) if \( m \neq \mu \), since \( P_n^{m}(\pm 1) = (\pm 1)^n \delta_{m0} \). We then have
\[ A_{n\nu}^{m\mu}(-\mathbf{R}_j) = 4\pi (-1)^{m\nu-n} \sqrt{\nu(\nu + 1)} \frac{\nu^\nu}{n(n + 1)} \]
\[ \times \sum_{p = |n - \nu|, n + \nu + p \text{ even}}^{n + \nu} g_{n\nu p}(n, m; \nu, -m; p) h_p(k|JS|) \lambda \rho_0 (-i \text{sgn} \, j)^p \] (83)
and
\[ B_{n\nu}^{m\mu}(-\mathbf{R}_j) = \frac{2\pi (-1)^{m\nu-n}}{\sqrt{n(n + 1)\nu(\nu + 1)}} \frac{\nu^\nu}{2p - 1} \sum_{p = |n - \nu| + 1, n + \nu + p \text{ odd}}^{n + \nu - 1} \mathcal{H}(n, m; \nu, -m; p) h_p(k|JS|) \lambda \rho_0 (-i \text{sgn} \, j)^p. \] (84)

If we set \( \mathbf{c} = \mathbf{r}, \mathbf{b} = \mathbf{r} \) and \( \mathbf{a} = \mathbf{0} \) in (72) and use (70) we see that we must have
\[ M_n^m(\mathbf{r}) = \sum_{\mu = -1}^{1} B_{n1\mu}^{m\nu}(\mathbf{r}) \tilde{N}_1^\mu(0), \quad N_n^m(\mathbf{r}) = \sum_{\mu = -1}^{1} A_{n1\mu}^{m\nu}(\mathbf{r}) \tilde{N}_1^\mu(0). \] (85)

These relations (which can, with difficulty, be verified) serve as a useful check on the expressions for \( A_{n\nu}^{m\mu} \) and \( B_{n\nu}^{m\mu} \).

C Lattice sums

We are concerned here with the lattice sums
\[ \sigma_p = \lambda \rho_0 \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} h_p(kjs) \left( e^{i\beta j} + (-1)^p e^{-i\beta j} \right) \] (66)
with \( \lambda \rho_0 \) defined in (53). We introduce the quantities
\[ \beta_q = \beta - 2q \pi / s, \quad q \in \mathbb{Z} \] (67)
and when \( |\beta_q| \leq k \) we define \( \psi_q \in [0, \pi] \) via \( \cos \psi_q = \beta_q / k \). Provided there is no integer \( q \) such that \( |\beta_q| = k \), we then have (see [20] for the details)
\[ \sigma_p = -\frac{\delta \rho_0}{\sqrt{4\pi}} + \frac{\pi \nu \lambda \rho_0}{ks} \sum_{|\beta_q| < k} P_p(\cos \psi_q) \]
\[ + \lambda \rho_0 (-i)^{p+1} \sum_{q=0}^{p} c_{ps} \Omega_q (k|s|q+1 \left[ Cl_{q+1}(ks + \beta s) + (-1)^p Cl_{q+1}(ks - \beta s) \right], \] (68)
where
\begin{align*}
  c_{pq} &= \frac{(p + q)!}{2q!(p - q)!}, \\
  \Omega_q &= \begin{cases} 
    i^q & q \text{ even}, \\
    i^{q+1} & q \text{ odd}, 
  \end{cases}
\end{align*}
and \( \mathrm{Cl}_q(\cdot) \) are the Clausen functions
\begin{align*}
  \mathrm{Cl}_{2m}(x) &= \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} \frac{\sin jx}{j^{2m}}, \\
  \mathrm{Cl}_{2m+1}(x) &= \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} \frac{\cos jx}{j^{2m+1}}.
\end{align*}

The function \( \mathrm{Cl}_1 \) has the closed form
\[ \mathrm{Cl}_1(x) = -\frac{1}{2} \ln(2 - 2 \cos x) \]
and as a result the lattice sum \( \sigma_0 \) has a particularly simple representation:
\[ \sigma_0 = \frac{1}{ks\sqrt{4\pi}} \left( M\pi - ks + i \log[2 | \cos \beta s - \cos ks|] \right), \]
where \( M \) is the number of integers \( q \) for which \( |\beta_q| < k \).

If \( 0 < ks < \beta s < \pi \), then \( |\beta_q| > k \) for all integers \( q \). In this case we have
\[ i^p\sigma_p = -\delta_{p0} + i\eta_p, \]
where
\[ \eta_p = -\lambda p0 \sum_{q=0}^{p} \frac{c_{pq}\Omega_q}{(ks)^{q+1}} [\mathrm{Cl}_{q+1}(ks + \beta s) + (-1)^p \mathrm{Cl}_{q+1}(ks - \beta s)] \]
is real. We also have
\[ \eta_0 = \frac{\log[2(\cos ks - \cos \beta s)]}{ks\sqrt{4\pi}}. \]

References


