

Level 2 EM Q6 2002/3

A circular parallel plate air-filled capacitor of radius R has a small plate separation, d , and large plate area such that edge effects may be neglected.

- a) In terms of the electric field, E , how much energy is stored within the capacitor?
- b) If E changes with time at what rate does the energy in a) change with time?
- c) By integrating Maxwell's 4th equation, $\nabla \times \underline{B} = \mu_o \underline{J} + \mu_o \epsilon_o \frac{\partial \underline{E}}{\partial t}$ over a circular surface between and parallel to the plates demonstrate that $H \left(= \frac{B}{\mu_o} \right) = \left(\frac{\epsilon_o R}{2} \right) \frac{\partial E}{\partial t}$ tangential to the circle at the edge of the plates.
- d) Make a rough sketch showing the relative directions of \underline{E} and \underline{H} if E is increasing with time and also indicate the direction of the Poynting vector, \underline{S} . By performing the integration $\int \underline{S} \cdot d\underline{a}$ over a closed "pill box" shaped area just enclosing the capacitor show that the energy/time flowing into the region between the capacitor plates is exactly equal to your answer in a).