

### em waves- intensity and radiation pressure

1. Consider a 5mW red HeNe laser ( $\lambda=632.8$  nm). At a distance of 10 m from the exit of the laser, the spot size is about 2.5 cm in diameter. Determine:
  - (a) The amplitude of  $\vec{E}$  and  $\vec{B}$ .
  - (b) The photon flux (number of photons/s per  $\text{cm}^2$ )
2. Most of the electromagnetic energy in the Universe is in the cosmic microwave background radiation, a remnant of the Big Bang. This radiation was discovered by A. Penzias and R. Wilson in 1965, by observations with a radio telescope. The radiation is electromagnetic waves with wavelengths around 1.1 mm. The energy density is  $4.0 \times 10^{-14}$  J/ $\text{m}^3$ . (This is  $2.5 \times 10^5$  eV/ $\text{m}^3$ , or about half the rest energy of an electron in each cubic meter of the Universe.)
  - (a) What is the RMS electric (in V/m) and magnetic field (in T) strength of the cosmic microwave background radiation?
  - (b) How far from a 1000 W transmitter would you have to go to have the same field strength? Assume the power from the transmitter is isotropic.
3. The dust tail of a comet points away from the sun because of radiation pressure by sunlight. Estimate the order of magnitude of the force on a dust grain with linear dimension  $1 \mu\text{m}$  at the radius of the Earth's orbit, where the intensity of sunlight is  $1300 \text{ W}/\text{m}^2$ . Compare the radiation force to the force of solar gravity on the grain assuming the grain has density  $5 \text{ g}/\text{cm}^3$ . Can the radiation affect significantly the orbit of the dust grain?