

34.32. Model: A polarized radio wave is an electromagnetic wave.

Solve: (a) From Equation 34.40,

$$B_0 = \frac{E_0}{c} = \frac{1000 \text{ V/m}}{3.0 \times 10^8 \text{ m/s}} = 3.33 \times 10^{-6} \text{ T}$$

(b) Likewise,

$$B = \frac{E}{c} = \frac{500 \text{ V/m}}{3.0 \times 10^8 \text{ m/s}} = 1.67 \times 10^{-6} \text{ T}$$

The direction of the wave is into the page ($-\hat{k}$ direction) and \vec{E} is down ($-\hat{j}$ direction). Using the right-hand rule and $\vec{S} = \mu_0^{-1} \vec{E} \times \vec{B}$, \vec{B} is to the left ($-\hat{i}$ direction).

(c) The wavelength of the radio wave is

$$\lambda = \frac{3 \times 10^8 \text{ m/s}}{f} = \frac{3 \times 10^8 \text{ m/s}}{1.0 \times 10^6 \text{ Hz}} = 300 \text{ m}$$

The magnetic field has half its maximum value at a point where

$$\cos\left(\frac{2\pi x}{\lambda}\right) = \frac{1}{2} \Rightarrow \frac{2\pi x}{\lambda} = 1.05 \text{ rad} \Rightarrow x = 0.1667\lambda = 50 \text{ m}$$