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CS7GV2: Mathematics of Light and Sound,
M.Sc. in Computer Science.

✱ [Physics, Engineering
Maths] ✱

5 ECTS \rightarrow 125 hrs

125 hrs / (11+1+1+1) wks

Lecture #1: Waves

Fergal Shevlin, Ph.D.

School of Computer Science and Statistics,
Trinity College Dublin

2 hrs lectures

7 hrs follow-up

(a) re-read notes
+ investigate!

(b) programming
assignment

September 24, 2021

Plotting
+ Visualisation

Python

SciPy

Matlab
Mathematics

Anaconda ✱

①

② ✱ gitlab.scss.tcd.ie ✱

TAKS-AT
-HOME

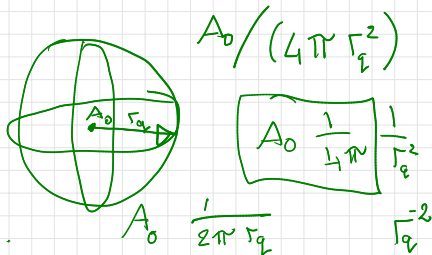
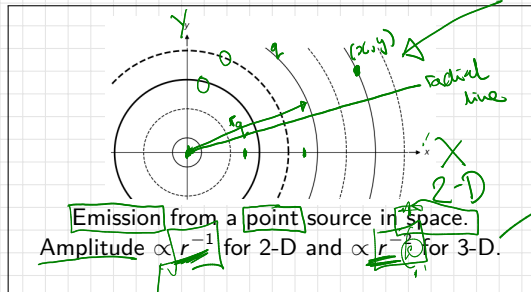
EXAM!

3hr

not marked

\rightarrow 10 questions

Physical waves



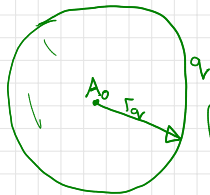
Proportional to

$$r^{-1} \equiv \frac{1}{r}$$

$$A_q \propto \frac{1}{r_q}$$

$$= \left[A_0 \frac{1}{2\pi} \right] \frac{1}{r_q}$$

$$A_0 = 10 \text{ cm}$$



$$2\pi r_q$$

$$A_q = A_0 / (2\pi r_q)$$

$$\propto \frac{1}{r_q}$$

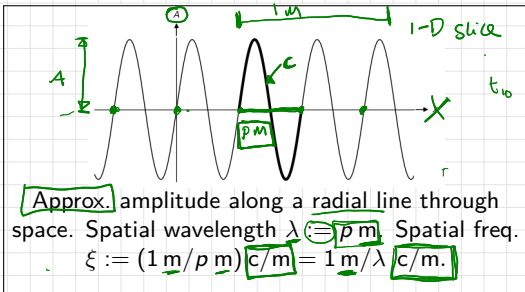
$$\propto r_q^{-1}$$

Physical waves

$$A \propto \frac{1}{r} = r^{-1}$$

Wavelength λ lambda
Spatial frequency ξ xi

Spatial characteristics



$$\lambda = p\ m$$

$$\lambda :=$$

$$1/\lambda$$

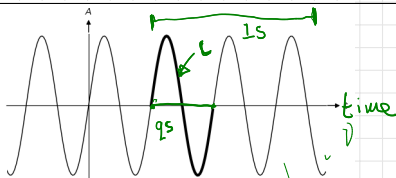
Physical waves

temporal freq ν - nu

$$\nu = 2.5 \text{ (c/s)}$$

KHz
 MHz
 GHz

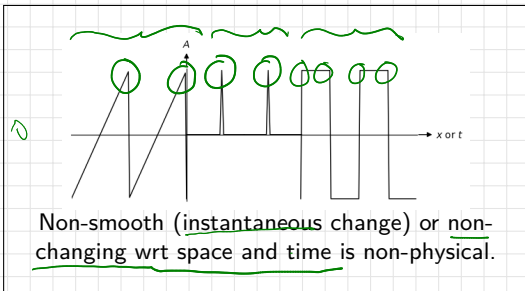
Temporal characteristics
of a single point (x, y)



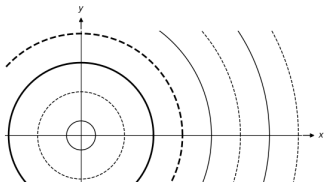
Approx. amplitude at any point x in space wrt time t . Temporal period $\hat{T} := \boxed{q \text{ s}}$. Temporal freq. $\nu := (1 \text{ s} / \underline{q \text{ s}}) \text{ c/s} = 1/q \text{ s} = 1 \text{ s} / T \text{ (c/s)}$ Hz

Physical waves

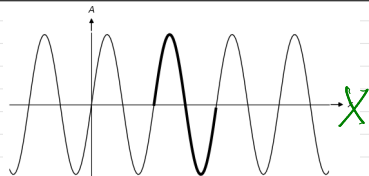
Waveforms
 Saw-tooth
 triangular
 impulse
 square



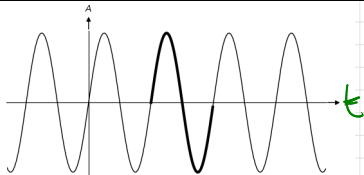
Physical waves



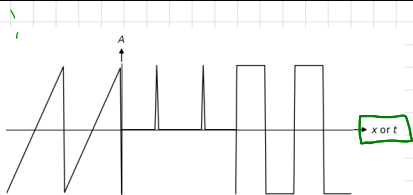
Emission from a point source in space.
Amplitude $\propto r^{-1}$ for 2-D and $\propto r^{-2}$ for 3-D.



Approx. amplitude along a radial line through space. Spatial wavelength $\lambda := p$ m. Spatial freq. $\xi := (1 \text{ m}/p \text{ m}) \text{ c/m} = 1/\lambda \text{ c/m}$.

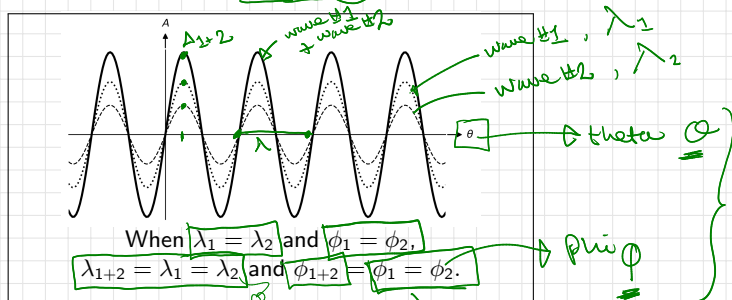


Approx. amplitude at any point x in space wrt time t . Temporal period $T := q$ s. Temporal freq. $\nu := (1 \text{ s}/q \text{ s}) \text{ c/s} = 1/q \text{ s} = 1/T \text{ c/s}$.



Non-smooth (instantaneous change) or non-changing wrt space and time is non-physical.

Wave summation, $A_{1+2} := A_1 + A_2$



angles!

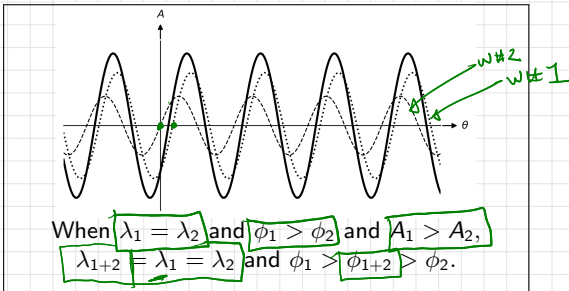
Wave characteristics

λ - wavelength
 A - amplitude
 ϕ - phase

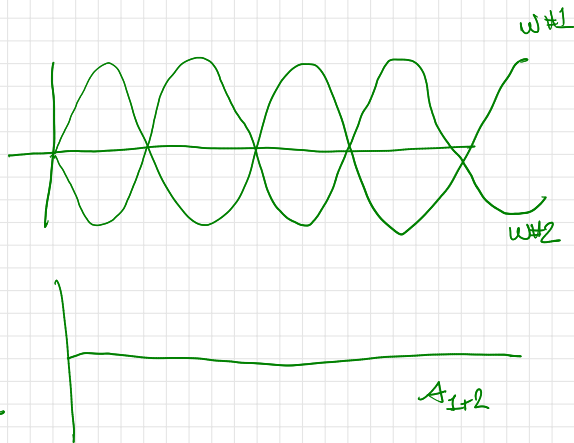
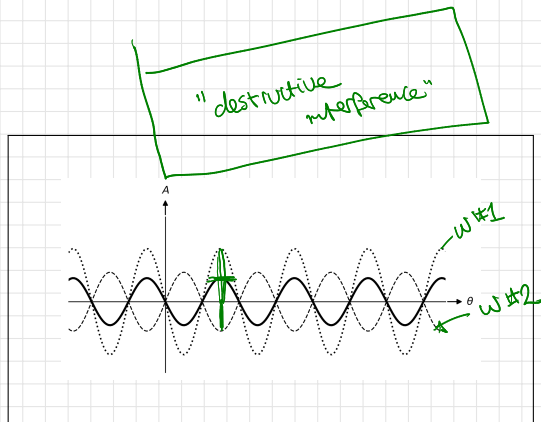
Wave summation, $A_{1+2} := A_1 + A_2$

$$\phi_1 = \frac{1}{2} \quad \phi_2 = 0$$

"out of phase"
→ different phases.



Wave summation, $A_{1+2} := A_1 + A_2$

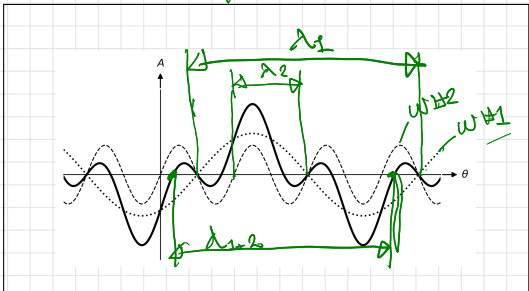


Wave summation, $A_{1+2} := A_1 + A_2$

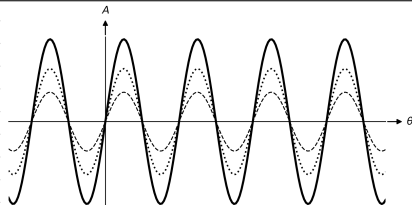
Will see more of this later as part of Fourier transform for image processing & analysis.

⊗

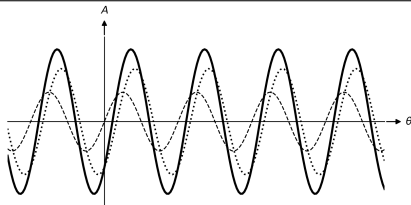
$\lambda_1 \neq \lambda_2$
 $\phi_1 \neq \phi_2$ } $\lambda_{1+2} \neq \lambda_1 \text{ or } \lambda_2$



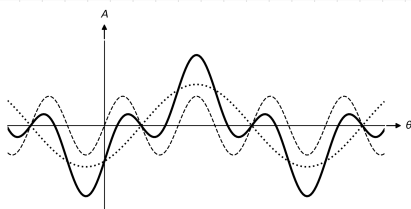
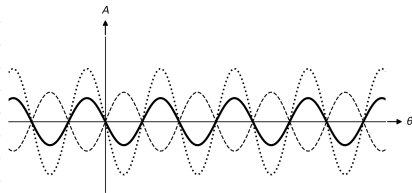
Wave summation, $A_{1+2} := A_1 + A_2$



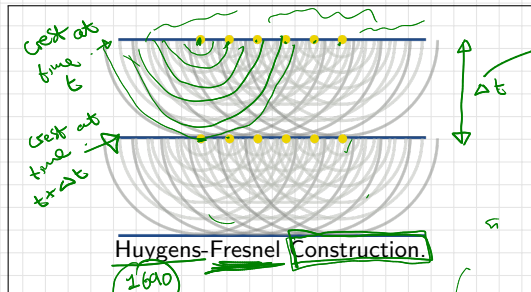
When $\lambda_1 = \lambda_2$ and $\phi_1 = \phi_2$,
 $\lambda_{1+2} = \lambda_1 = \lambda_2$ and $\phi_{1+2} = \phi_1 = \phi_2$.



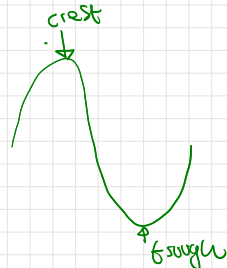
When $\lambda_1 = \lambda_2$ and $\phi_1 > \phi_2$ and $A_1 > A_2$,
 $\lambda_{1+2} = \lambda_1 = \lambda_2$ and $\phi_1 > \phi_{1+2} > \phi_2$.



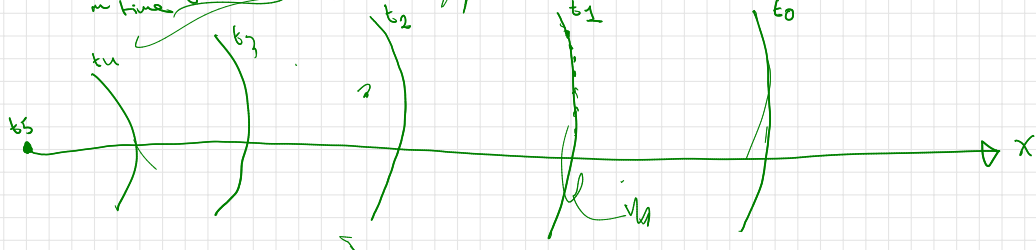
Wavefront propagation → movement through space



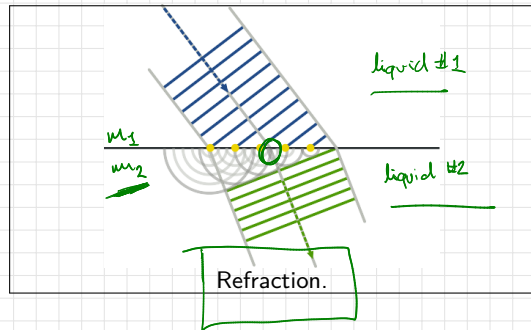
Δt
often used for an interval.



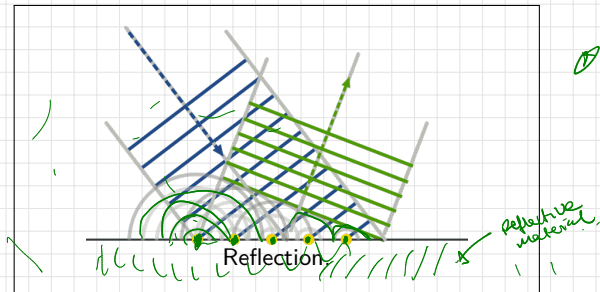
a line through all the points that were emitted from the source at the same moment in time



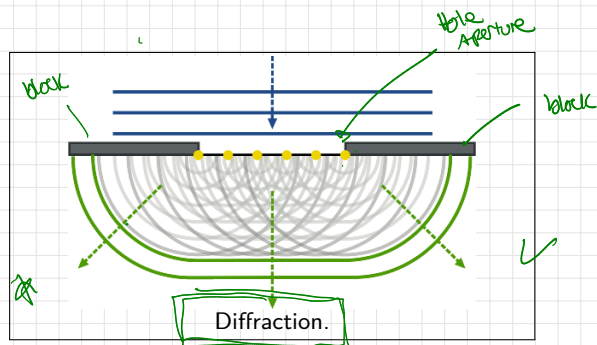
Wavefront propagation



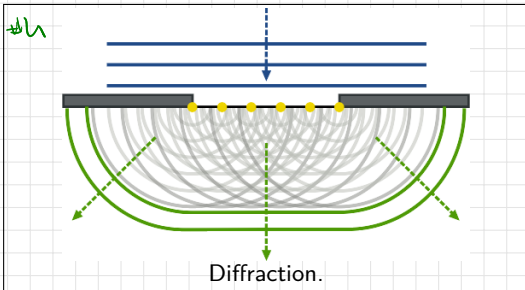
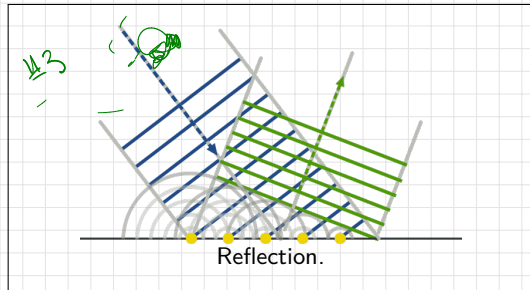
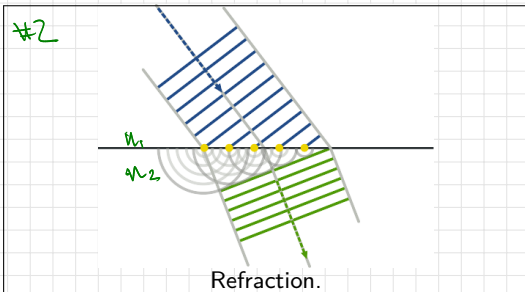
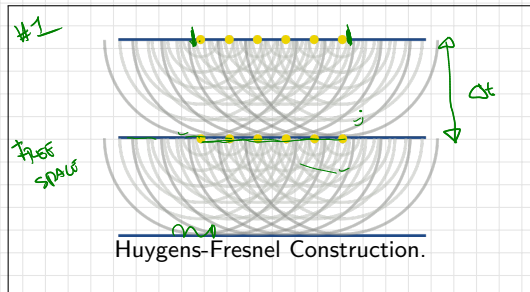
Wavefront propagation



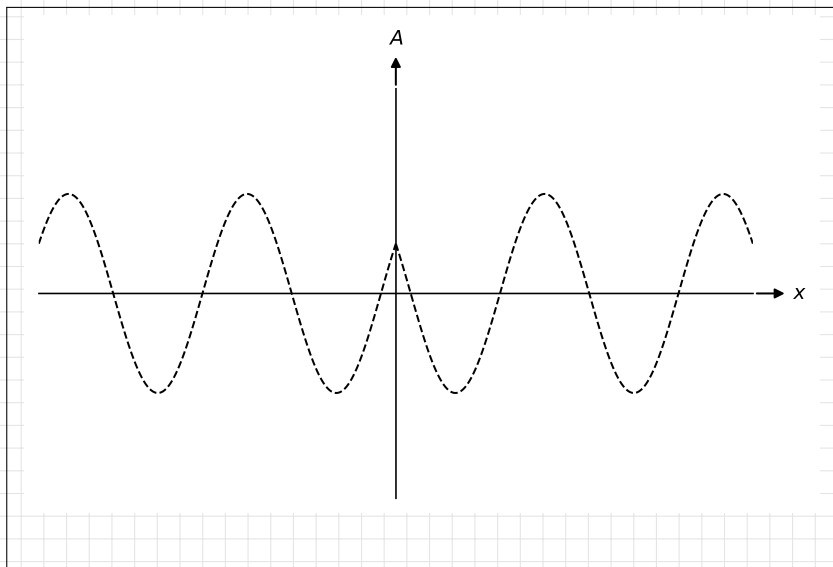
Wavefront propagation



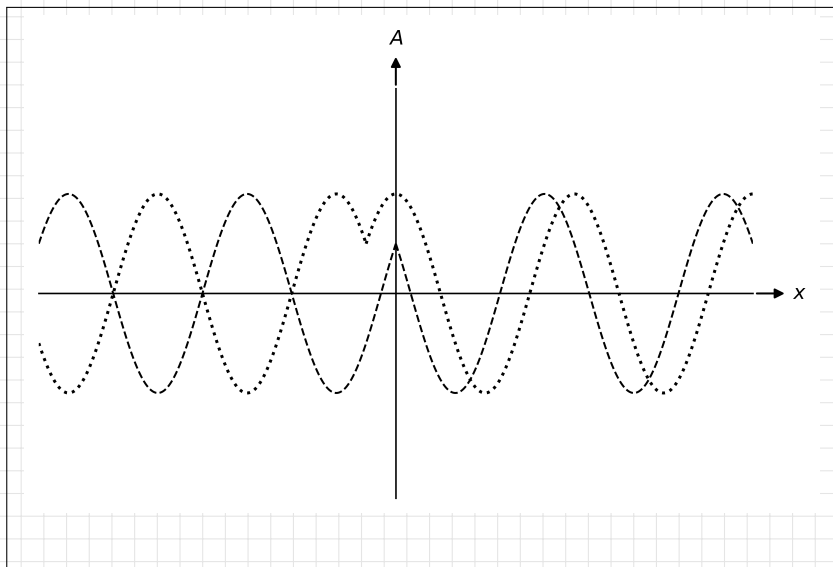
Wavefront propagation



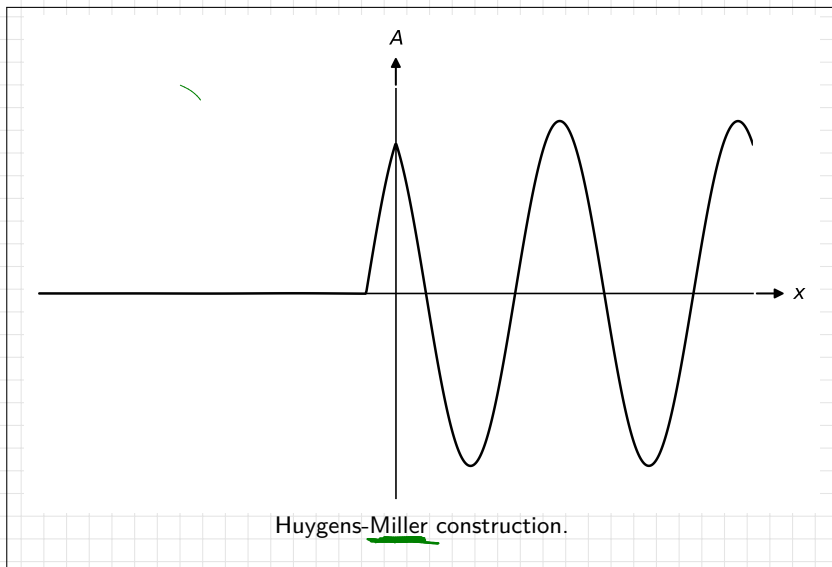
Propagation from a point where amplitude is increasing



...and from another point where amplitude is decreasing

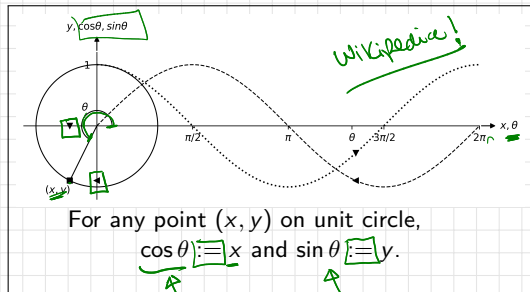


Radial propagation



Sinusoids

→ Sines and cosines



$\cos(\theta)$

$\sin(\theta)$

Sinusoids

Point coordinates corresponding to angle θ are,
 $(\cos \theta, \sin \theta)$.

Angle θ corresponding to point coords (x, y) is,

$\arccos x$ and $\arcsin y$.

$\cos^{-1} x$

"deprecated"

$\sin^{-1} y$

Sinusoids

Geometric construction is impractical and mathematical expression is complicated:

$$\sin \theta = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n}{(2n+1)!} \theta^{2n+1}$$

so calculators with programmed buttons or printed tables are used.

Sinusoids

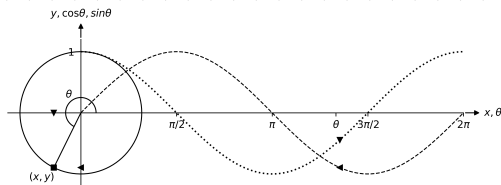
↓

Sinusoids with same λ but arbitrary ϕ and A sum to a sinusoid with same λ .

This is how physical waves behave.

Sinusoids are *only* periodic functions with this property.

Sinusoids



For any point (x, y) on unit circle,
 $\cos \theta := x$ and $\sin \theta := y$.

Point coordinates corresponding to angle θ are,
 $(\cos \theta, \sin \theta)$.

Angle θ corresponding to point coords (x, y) is,
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Wave equation

How can waves be described so their behaviour can be analysed mathematically?

“They look like sinusoids” isn’t rigorous enough.

Wave equation

We will soon derive this constraint equation from Hooke's and Newton's Laws:

$$\frac{\partial^2 A}{\partial x^2} - \frac{1}{c^2} \frac{\partial^2 A}{\partial t^2} = 0$$

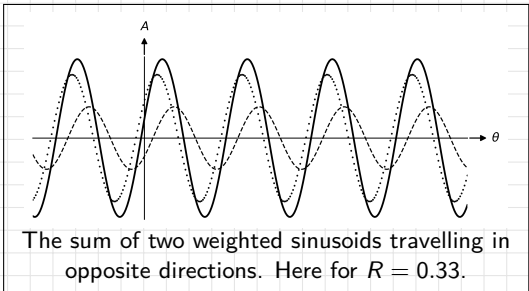
Wave equation

One of many solutions can be found algebraically as,

$$A(x, t) = R \cos(k x - \omega t) \\ + (1 - R) \cos(k x + \omega t)$$

where k and ω are constants related to (angular) wavelength and frequency and $|R| \leq 1$.

Wave equation



Wave equation

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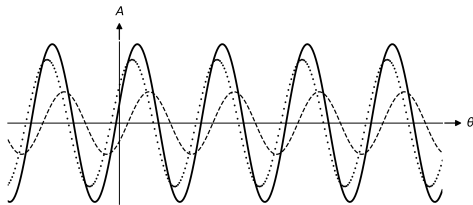
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The sum of two weighted sinusoids travelling in opposite directions. Here for $R = 0.33$.

Assignment # 1: Huygens-Fresnel construction

- ▶ Write a SciPy program to make at least one plot similar to those shown the wavefront propagation slide.
- ▶ Use Huygens-Fresnel construction to determine where the wavefront should be at different times.
- ▶ Make it into a self-contained project repository in your personal account on gitlab.scss.tcd.ie.

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Greek letters* often used as symbols in mathematics

α	alpha	θ	theta	\omicron	omicron	τ	tau
β	beta	ϑ	caligr. theta	π	pi	υ	upsilon
γ	gamma	ι	iota	ϖ	caligr. pi	ϕ	phi
δ	delta	κ	kappa	ρ	rho	φ	caligr. phi
ϵ	epsilon	λ	lambda	ϱ	caligr. rho	χ	chi
ε	caligr. epsilon	μ	mu	σ	sigma	ψ	psi
ζ	zeta	ν	nu	ς	caligr. sigma	ω	omega
η	eta	ξ	xi				
Γ	big gamma	Λ	big lambda	Σ	big sigma	Ψ	big psi
Δ	big delta	Ξ	big xi	Υ	big upsilon	Ω	big omega
Θ	big theta	Π	big pi	Φ	big phi		

*With their anglophone pronunciations.