

Wave packets: Group and phase velocity

1. Consider two wave functions $\psi_1(y, t) = 5y \cos 7t$ and $\psi_2(y, t) = -5y \cos 9t$, where y and t are in meters and seconds, respectively. Show that their superposition generates a wave packet. Plot it and identify the modulated and modulating functions.

Q3 $\psi_1(y, t) = 5y \cos 7t$, $\psi_2(y, t) = -5y \cos 9t$
 $y \rightarrow m, t \rightarrow s$

Superposition $\Rightarrow \psi_1 + \psi_2$

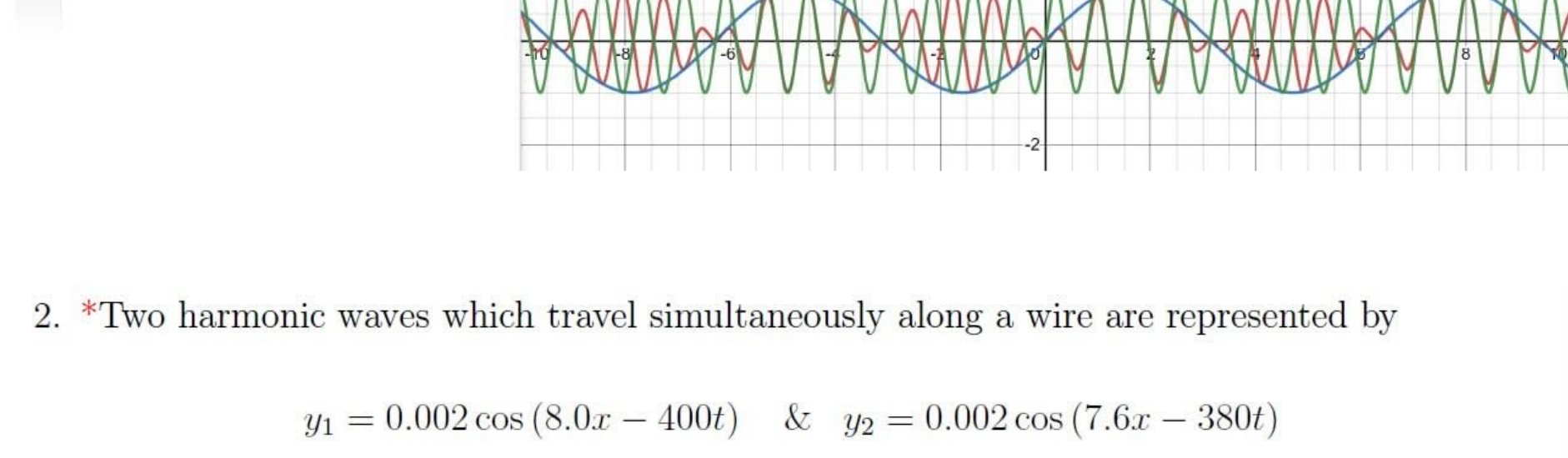
$\Rightarrow 5y (\cos 7t - \cos 9t)$

$\Rightarrow 5y \left[-2 \sin \left(\frac{9t+7t}{2} \right) \sin \left(\frac{9t-7t}{2} \right) \right]$

$\cos A - \cos B = -2 \sin \left(\frac{A+B}{2} \right) \sin \left(\frac{A-B}{2} \right)$

$\Rightarrow 5y \left[2 \sin 8t \sin t \right]$

$\Rightarrow 10y \sin t \sin 8t$
 wave packet modulating wave
 modulated wave fast oscillating term



2. *Two harmonic waves which travel simultaneously along a wire are represented by

$y_1 = 0.002 \cos(8.0x - 400t)$ & $y_2 = 0.002 \cos(7.6x - 380t)$

where x, y are in meters and t is in sec.

- (a) Find the resultant wave and its phase and group velocities
 (b) Calculate the range Δx between the zeros of the group wave. Find the product of Δx and Δk ?

Phase vel \Rightarrow vel of pt of const phase on wave
 Group vel \Rightarrow vel of wave packet

Q3 $y_1 = 0.002 \cos(8x - 400t)$, $y_2 = 0.002 \cos(7.6x - 380t)$

$x \rightarrow m, t \rightarrow s$

a) Resultant wave $\Rightarrow y_1 + y_2$

$\Rightarrow 0.004 \cos(7.8x - 390t) \cos(0.2x - 10t)$
 fast oscillating slow oscillating (envelope)

$v_g = \frac{\Delta \omega}{\Delta k} = \left(\frac{d\omega}{dk} \right)_{k_0} = \frac{10}{0.2} = 50 \text{ m/s}$

$v_p = \frac{\omega}{k} = \frac{390}{7.8} = 50 \text{ m/s}$

For Δx , $0.2 \Delta x = \pi \Rightarrow \Delta x = 5\pi$
 $\Delta k \Rightarrow$ diff bet k_1 & k_2 of comp waves = 0.4

$\Delta k \Delta x = 2\pi$

$p = \hbar k$, $\Delta p = \hbar \Delta k$ $k = \frac{2\pi}{\lambda}$

$\Rightarrow \Delta p \frac{\Delta \lambda}{\hbar} = 2\pi$

$\Delta \lambda \Delta p \approx \Delta x \Delta p = 2\pi \hbar > \frac{\hbar}{2} \left[\frac{\hbar}{4\pi} \right]$

3. The angular frequency of the surface waves in a liquid is given in terms of the wave number k by $\omega = \sqrt{gk + Tk^3/\rho}$, where g is the acceleration due to gravity, ρ is the density of the liquid, and T is the surface tension (which gives an upward force on an element of the surface liquid). Find the phase and group velocities for the limiting cases when the surface waves have:

- (a) very large wavelengths and
 (b) very small wavelengths.

Q3 $\omega = \left(gk + \frac{Tk^3}{\rho} \right)^{1/2}$
 $T \Rightarrow$ surface tension

$k = \frac{2\pi}{\lambda}$

(a) very large $\lambda \Rightarrow$ small k

$v_p = \frac{\omega}{k} = \left(\frac{g}{k} + \frac{Tk}{\rho} \right)^{1/2}$
 $\Rightarrow \frac{Tk}{\rho} \ll \frac{g}{k} \Rightarrow v_p = (g/k)^{1/2}$

$v_g = \frac{d\omega}{dk} = \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{g + 3k^2 T/\rho}{gk + Tk^3/\rho} \right)^{1/2} = \frac{g}{2\sqrt{gk}} = \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{\frac{g}{k}}$

(b) small $\lambda \Rightarrow$ large k

$v_p = (Tk/\rho)^{1/2}$ $v_g = \frac{3k^2 T/\rho}{2(Tk^3/\rho)^{1/2}} = \frac{3}{2} \sqrt{\frac{kT}{\rho}}$

4. *Calculate the group and phase velocities for the wave packet corresponding to a relativistic particle.

imp Q3 Dispersion reltns \Rightarrow curves betⁿ ω and k .

which of v_p or v_g is vel of particle to which wave packet corresponds:

$v_p = \omega/k = \lambda v$

$p = \frac{h}{\lambda} = \hbar k = \gamma mv \Rightarrow \lambda = \frac{h}{\gamma m v}$

$\lambda = h/mv$, $v = E/h = mc^2/h = \frac{\gamma m_0 c^2}{h}$
 $= \left(p^2 c^2 + \frac{m_0^2 c^4}{h^2} \right)^{1/2}$

$v_p = v \lambda = \frac{h}{mv} \times \frac{mc^2}{h} = \frac{c^2}{v} > c$

not possible $\Rightarrow \therefore v_p \neq v$

wave of particle travels faster than particle \Rightarrow conflicting duality.

Dispersion reltn: $E^2 = p^2 c^2 + m_0^2 c^4$

$\hbar^2 \omega^2 = \hbar^2 k^2 c^2 + m_0^2 c^4$

$\Rightarrow \omega^2 - k^2 c^2 = \frac{m_0^2 c^4}{\hbar^2} \Rightarrow \omega = \left(k^2 c^2 + \frac{m_0^2 c^4}{\hbar^2} \right)^{1/2}$

$\therefore 2\omega d\omega = 2kc^2 dk = 0$

$\Rightarrow \frac{d\omega}{dk} = \frac{kc^2}{\omega} = v_p$
 vel of particle

5. Consider an electromagnetic (EM) wave of the form $A \exp(i[kx - \omega t])$. Its speed in free space is given by $c = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\epsilon_0 \mu_0}}$, where ϵ_0 , μ_0 is the electric permittivity, magnetic permeability of free space, respectively.

- (a) Find an expression for the speed (v) of EM waves in a medium, in terms of its permittivity ϵ and permeability μ .
 (b) Suppose the permittivity of the medium depends on the frequency, given by $\epsilon = \epsilon_0 \left(1 - \frac{\omega_p^2}{\omega^2} \right)$ where ω_p is a constant called the plasma frequency, find the dispersion relation for the EM waves in a medium. ω_p is a constant and is called the plasma frequency of the medium (assume $\mu = \mu_0$).
 (c) Consider waves with $\omega = 3\omega_p$. Find the phase and group velocity of the waves. What is the product of group and phase velocities?

Q3 EM wave: $A e^{i(kx - \omega t)}$

$c = \frac{\omega}{k} = \frac{1}{(\epsilon_0 \mu_0)^{1/2}}$ $\epsilon_0 \Rightarrow$ electric permittivity
 $\mu_0 \Rightarrow$ magnetic permeability (free space)

(a) $v = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\epsilon \mu}}$

(b) $\epsilon = \epsilon_0 \left(1 - \frac{\omega_p^2}{\omega^2} \right)$ $\omega_p \Rightarrow$ plasma freq \Rightarrow const
 $\mu = \mu_0$

dispersion reltn

$\Rightarrow \frac{1}{\epsilon \mu} = \left(\frac{\omega}{k} \right)^2 = \frac{1}{\mu_0 \epsilon_0 \left(1 - \frac{\omega_p^2}{\omega^2} \right)} = \frac{\omega^2}{k^2}$

$\Rightarrow (\omega^2 - \omega_p^2) \mu_0 \epsilon_0 = k^2$
 \downarrow
 c^2

(c) $\omega = 3\omega_p$

$v_p = \frac{\omega}{k} = \frac{c}{(1 - 1/9)^{1/2}} = \frac{3c}{2\sqrt{2}} = 1.06c$
 note \Rightarrow greater than c

$v_g = \frac{d\omega}{dk} \Rightarrow \frac{1}{c^2} (2\omega d\omega) = \gamma^3 c dk \Rightarrow \frac{d\omega}{dk} = \frac{kc^2}{\omega} = 0.94c$

$v_p v_g = c^2$

6. A wave packet describes a particle having momentum p . Starting with the relativistic relationship $E^2 = p^2 c^2 + E_0^2$, show that the group velocity is βc and the phase velocity is c/β (where $\beta = v/c$). How can the phase velocity physically be greater than c ?

Q3 Same as Q4

7. *Consider a square 2-D system with small balls (each of mass m) connected by springs. The spring constants along the x - and y -directions are β_x and β_y , respectively. The dispersion relation for this system is given by

$-\omega^2 m + 2\beta_x (1 - \cos k_x a_x) + 2\beta_y (1 - \cos k_y a_y) = 0$

where $\vec{k} = k_x \hat{i} + k_y \hat{j}$ is the wave vector and a_x, a_y are the natural distances between the two successive masses along the x -, y -directions, respectively. Find the group velocity and the angle that it makes with the x -axis

Q3 Dispersion reltn:

$-m\omega^2 + 2\beta_x (1 - \cos k_x a_x) + 2\beta_y (1 - \cos k_y a_y) = 0$

imp \Rightarrow partial differentials in 2 directions

$\vec{k} = k_x \hat{i} + k_y \hat{j}$, $a_x, a_y \Rightarrow$ natural disp

$v_g = \frac{d\omega}{dk} = \left(\frac{\partial \omega}{\partial k_x} \right) \hat{i} + \left(\frac{\partial \omega}{\partial k_y} \right) \hat{j}$

Differentiate eqn wrt x :

$-m(2\omega \frac{\partial \omega}{\partial \omega}) + a_x 2\beta_x \sin k_x a_x \frac{\partial k_x}{\partial \omega} = 0$

$\frac{\partial \omega}{\partial k_x} = \left(\frac{\sin k_x a_x}{m\omega} \right) \beta_x a_x$

||| $\frac{\partial \omega}{\partial k_y} = \left(\frac{\sin k_y a_y}{m\omega} \right) \beta_y a_y$

$\theta = \frac{\partial \omega / \partial k_y}{\partial \omega / \partial k_x} = \frac{\beta_y a_y}{\beta_x a_x} \left[\frac{\sin k_y a_y}{\sin k_x a_x} \right]$