

# ASSIGNMENT11.15 \_ 13Q

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## QUESTION:

Given below are some functions of  $x$  and  $t$  to represent the displacement (transverse or longitudinal) of an elastic wave. State which of these represents (a) travelling wave, (ii) a stationary wave or (iii) none at all:

- (a)  $y = 2 \cos(3x) \sin(10t)$
- (b)  $y = 2 \sqrt{x - vt}$
- (c)  $y = 3 \sin(5x - 0.5t) + 4 \cos(5x - 0.5t)$
- (d)  $y = \cos x \sin t + \cos 2x \sin 2t$

STATIONARY WAVE CONDITION	TRAVELLING WAVE CONDITION
(1) $A(x)$ should be a function of position $x$ , and it can be expressed as $A(x) = A_0 \cos(\omega t + \alpha)$ where $A_0$ is a constant, $k$ is the wavenumber, $x$ is the position and $\alpha$ is a phase constant.	(1) $A(x)$ should be a constant, and it can be expressed as $A(x) = A_0$ where $A_0$ is a constant number.
(2) $\phi(x)$ can be expressed as $\phi(x) = c$ where $c$ is a constant.	(2) $\phi(x)$ represents a linear expression in $x$ , and it can be expressed as $\phi(x) = kx + \theta$ where $k$ is the wavenumber and $\theta$ is the phase constant.

TABLE II

TRAVELLING WAVE vs STATIONARY WAVE

- (a) The given equation is:  $y = 2 \cos(3x) \sin(10t)$

## SOLUTION:

TRAVELLING WAVE	STATIONARY WAVE
$y(x, t) = A \sin(kx \pm \omega t)$	$y(x, t) = A \sin kx \cos \omega t$
PARAMETERS	DEFINITION
$A$	Amplitude
$\omega$	Angular Velocity
$x$	Position
$k$	Wavenumber

TABLE I

TRAVELLING WAVE vs STATIONARY WAVE

Let us assume an equation:

$$A(x) \cos(\omega t + \phi(x))$$

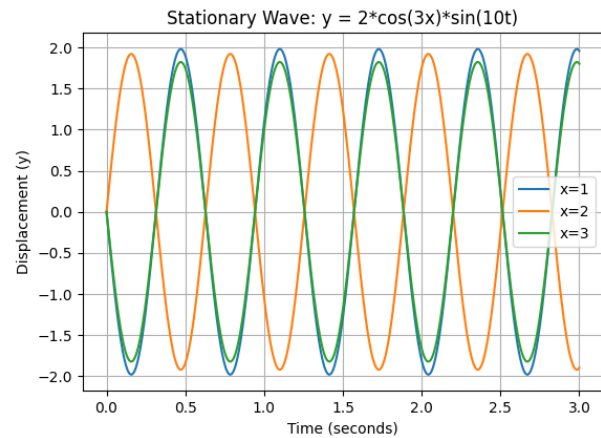


Fig. 1. DIPLACEMENT vs TIME-graph1

We can observe the nodes and antinodes in the graph with fixed spatial pattern and different amplitude peaks at various positions of  $x$  maintaining symmetry with axis. This shows that the graph is stationary or a standing wave.

- (b) The given equation is:  $y = 2 \sqrt{x - vt}$

We can observe the graph and conclude that the given equation is not a wave as there is no periodic oscillation and proper wave shape.

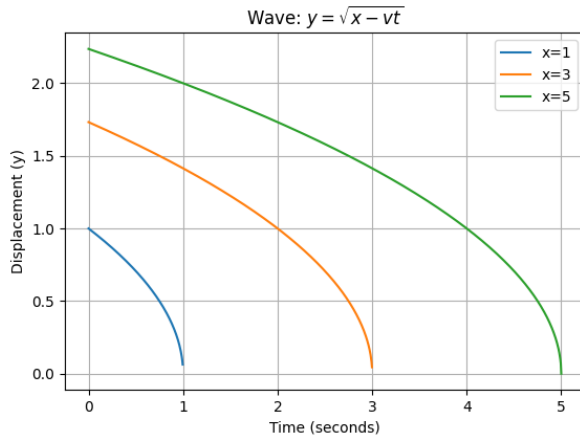


Fig. 2. DIPLACEMENT  $\nu s$  TIME-graph2

(c) The given equation is:  $y = 3 \sin(5x - 0.5t) + 4 \cos(5x - 0.5t)$

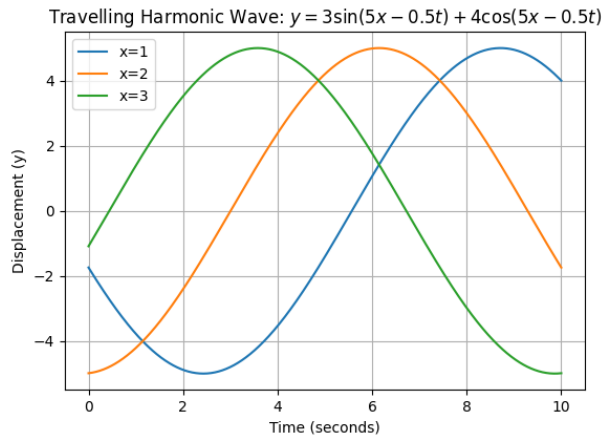


Fig. 3. DIPLACEMENT  $\nu s$  TIME-graph3

We can observe the graph having exhibiting periodic oscillations with equal amplitude and proper sinusoidal wave shape uniformly. Thus, we can conclude that is a travelling wave.

(d) The given equation is:  $y = \cos x \sin t + \cos 2x \sin 2t$

We can observe fixed spatial pattern but with multiple frequencies. The graph even shows interference patterns having uniformity by which we can say it is a superimposed stationary wave equation.

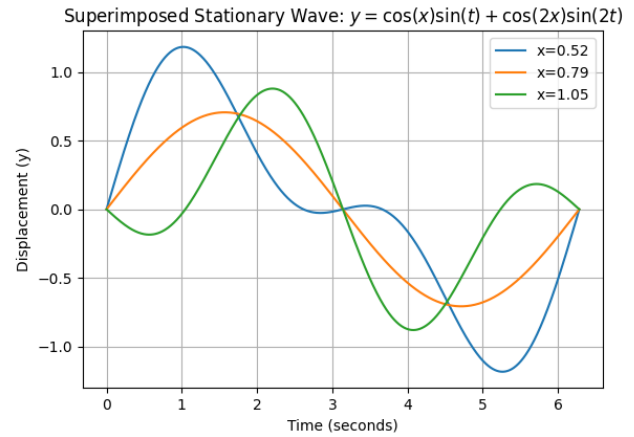


Fig. 4. DIPLACEMENT  $\nu s$  TIME-graph3