

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) $y = \cos x \sin t + \cos 2x \sin 2t$

SOLUTION:

| TRAVELLING WAVE | STATIONARY WAVE |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| $y(x, t) = A \sin(kx \pm \omega t)$ | $y(x, t) = A \sin kx \cos \omega t$ |

TABLE I
TRAVELLING WAVE vs STATIONARY WAVE

| PARAMETERS | DEFINITION |
|------------|------------------|
| A | Amplitude |
| ω | Angular Velocity |
| x | Position |
| k | Wavenumber |

TABLE II
PARAMETER MEANINGS

Let us assume an equation:

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

CONDITION TO REPRESENT A STATIONARY WAVE:

$A(x)$ 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 α is a phase constant.

$\phi(x)$ can be expressed as $\phi(x) = c$ where c is a constant.

CONDITION TO REPRESENT A TRAVELLING WAVE:

$A(x)$ should be a constant, and it can be expressed as $A(x) = A_0$ where A_0 is a constant number.

$\phi(x)$ represents a linear expression in x , and it can be expressed as $\phi(x) = kx + \theta$ where k is the wavenumber and θ is the phaseconstant.

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

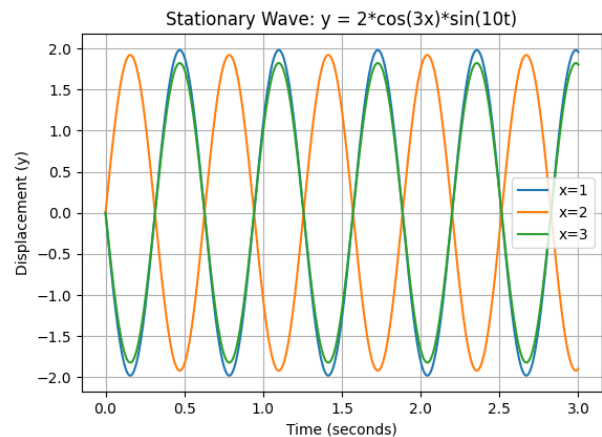


Fig. 1. DIPLACEMENT vs TIME-graph1

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.

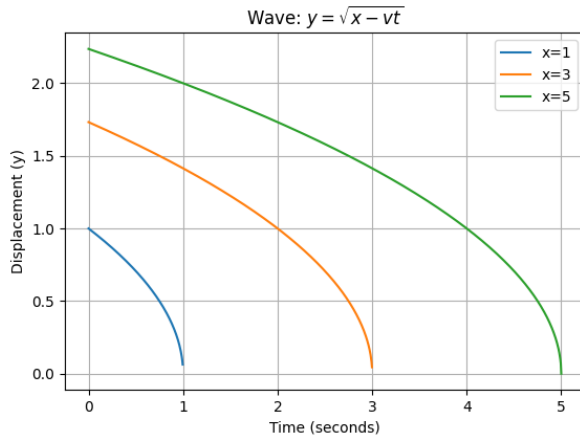


Fig. 2. DIPLACEMENT νs TIME-graph2

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

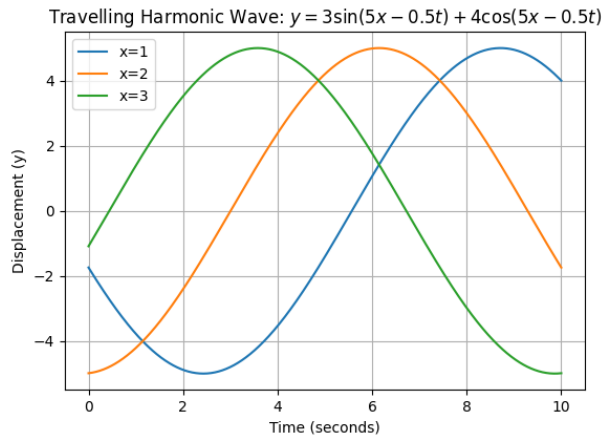


Fig. 3. DIPLACEMENT νs TIME-graph3

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.

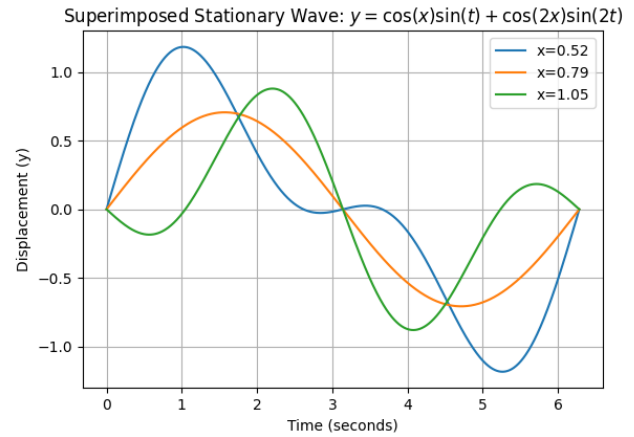


Fig. 4. DIPLACEMENT νs TIME-graph3