



PES
UNIVERSITY

ENGINEERING PHYSICS

Radhakrishnan S, Ph.D.

Department of Science and Humanities

ENGINEERING PHYSICS

Unit I : Review of concepts leading to Quantum Mechanics



- Group velocity relations

➤ *Suggested Reading*

1. *Concepts of Modern Physics, Arthur Beiser, Chapter 2*
2. *Learning Material prepared by the Department of Physics*

➤ *Reference Videos*

1. *Video lectures : MIT 8.04 Quantum Physics I*
2. *Institute of Sound and Vibrations Research, UK*

Group and Phase velocity relation

- **Group velocity**

$$v_g = \frac{d}{dk}(\omega) = \frac{d}{dk}(v_{ph}k)$$

$$= v_{ph} - k \frac{dv_{ph}}{dk} = v_{ph} - k \frac{dv_{ph}}{d\lambda} \frac{d\lambda}{dk}$$

$$= v_{ph} - \lambda \frac{dv_{ph}}{d\lambda}$$

- **Group velocity is dependent on the phase velocity and how the phase velocity changes with wavelength**

Group and Phase velocity relation

Group velocity = Phase velocity

$$v_g = v_{ph}$$

$$-\lambda \frac{dv_{ph}}{d\lambda} = 0$$

- *Phase velocity does not change with wavelength*
- *The medium is non dispersive*
- *A dispersive medium is one in which*

Group velocity <> Phase velocity

- $v_g < v_{ph}$
- $v_g > v_{ph}$

Group and Phase velocity relation

- $v_g < v_{ph}$ - group velocity is half the phase velocity
- $v_g = v_{ph}/2$
- $\frac{dv_p}{v_{ph}} = \frac{1}{2} \frac{d\lambda}{\lambda}$ on integration yields
- $\ln(v_{ph}) \propto \ln \sqrt{\lambda}$ or $v_{ph} \propto \sqrt{\lambda}$
- This implies that the phase velocity is proportional to the square root of the wavelength

Group and Phase velocity relations

- $v_g > v_{ph}$ - group velocity is twice the phase velocity
- $v_g = 2v_{ph}$
- $\frac{dv_p}{v_{ph}} = -\frac{d\lambda}{\lambda}$ on integration yields
- $\ln(v_{ph}) \propto \ln\frac{1}{\lambda}$ or $v_{ph} \propto \lambda^{-1}$
- This implies that the phase velocity is inversely proportional to the wavelength

The concepts which true of matter waves

- 1. Wave packets do not disperse in any medium**
- 2. Group and phase velocities of a wave packet is dependent on the medium in which it propagates**
- 3. In a non dispersive medium the group velocity is equal to the phase velocity**



THANK YOU

Radhakrishnan S, Ph.D.

Professor, Department of Science and Humanities

sradhakrishnan@pes.edu

+91 80 21722683 Extn 759