

Radiation force exerted by progressive waves on a string in terms of polarizability

Chirag A. Gokani Michael R. Haberman Mark F. Hamilton

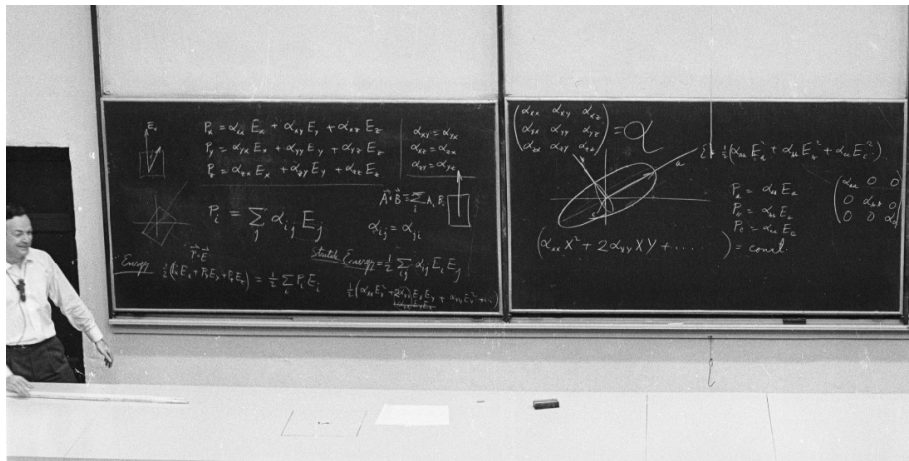
Applied Research Laboratories & Walker Department of Mechanical Engineering
University of Texas at Austin

December 2, 2025



The University of Texas at Austin
Walker Department
of Mechanical Engineering
Cockrell School of Engineering

Electric polarizability



From *The Feynman Lectures*, Volume II, Ch. 31. California Institute of Technology, 1962.

Electric polarizability

Summary

In anisotropic system, electric polarization is proportional to Electric field but not necessarily in same direction:

$$\left. \begin{aligned} P_x &= \alpha_{xx} E_x + \alpha_{xy} E_y + \alpha_{xz} E_z \\ P_y &= \alpha_{yx} E_x + \alpha_{yy} E_y + \alpha_{yz} E_z \\ P_z &= \alpha_{zx} E_x + \alpha_{zy} E_y + \alpha_{zz} E_z \end{aligned} \right\} \begin{aligned} &\text{written } P_i = \sum_j \alpha_{ij} E_j \quad (i+j \text{ go } x, y, z) \\ &\text{The set of 9 coeff's } \alpha_{ij} \text{ form a tensor (2nd rank).} \\ &\text{(They change when you change coordinate axes)} \end{aligned}$$

In this case $\alpha_{ij} = \alpha_{ji}$ & α is a symmetrical tensor. For sym. tensor, axes (principle axes) can always be found so α_{xy} etc = 0, only $\alpha_{xx}, \alpha_{yy}, \alpha_{zz} \neq 0$.

Examples Electric conductivity. Moment of inertia.

Stress. Eg. S_{xz} = X-Component of force per unit area across a plane \perp to the z axis.

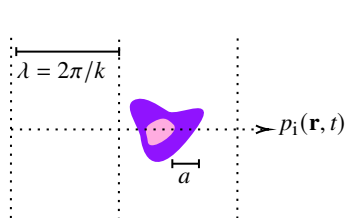


Stress.

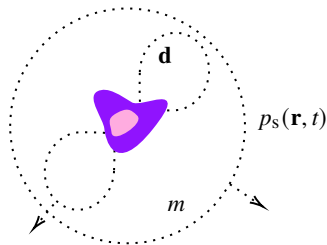
There are tensors with more than two indices (no. of indices is called "rank")

Unit Tensor: $\delta_{ij} = 0$ if $i \neq j$, $= 1$ if $i = j$ (also called Kronecker delta)

From *The Feynman Lectures*, Volume II, Ch. 31. California Institute of Technology, 1962.



(a) incident acoustic waves, $ka \ll 1$



(b) scattered acoustic waves

- *Polarizabilities* describe a scatterer's response to incident fields.¹
- The scattered monopole strength m and dipole moment \mathbf{d} are given by

$$m = -\beta_0 \alpha_m p_i - i c_0^{-1} \alpha_c \cdot \mathbf{v}_i, \quad (1a)$$

$$\mathbf{d} = -i c_0^{-1} \alpha_c p_i + \rho_0 \underline{\alpha}_d \cdot \mathbf{v}_i. \quad (1b)$$

- No exact formulas for α_m , $\underline{\alpha}_d$, and α_c in terms of material properties
- Approximations must be made to obtain explicit formulas.

¹C. F. Sieck, A. Alù, and M. R. Haberman. *Phys. Rev. B*. 96 (2017), 104303.

Closed-form expressions for acoustic polarizability

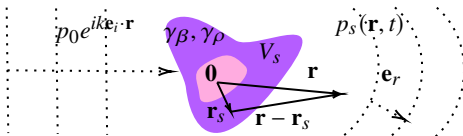
- Consider scatterer with material properties $\gamma_\beta(\mathbf{r}) = \beta_s(\mathbf{r})/\beta_0 - 1$ and $\gamma_\rho(\mathbf{r}) = 1 - \rho_0/\rho_s(\mathbf{r})$, where β = compressibility and ρ = density.
- The Born and subwavelength approximations yield the scattered wave,

$$\tilde{p}_s(\mathbf{r}) = p_0 \frac{e^{ikr}}{r} \Phi, \quad \Phi(\mathbf{k}_s) = \frac{k^2}{4\pi} [\alpha_m + i\alpha_c \cdot (\mathbf{e}_i - \mathbf{e}_r) + \alpha_d \mathbf{e}_i \cdot \mathbf{e}_r]. \quad (2)$$

- The *acoustic polarizabilities* appearing in Eq. (2) are

$$\alpha_m = \int_{V_s} \gamma_\beta(\mathbf{r}_s) dV_s, \quad \alpha_d = \int_{V_s} \gamma_\rho(\mathbf{r}_s) dV_s, \quad (3a)$$

$$\alpha_c = k \left[\int_{V_s} \gamma_\beta(\mathbf{r}_s) \mathbf{r}_s dV_s + \mathbf{e}_i \cdot \mathbf{e}_r \int_{V_s} \gamma_\rho(\mathbf{r}_s) \mathbf{r}_s dV_s \right]. \quad (3b)$$



- ▶ Waves on a string can elucidate acoustic radiation force.²
- ▶ Scattering of waves on a string is easier than acoustic scattering.³
- ▶ **Objective:** Study scattering and radiation force for waves on a string using *polarizability*.

²Lord Rayleigh. *Philos. Mag.* 3 (1902), 338–346.

³P. M. Morse and K. U. Ingard. Princeton, New Jersey: Princeton University Press, 1968.

Momentum conservation

Polarizability

Uniform scatterer

Inhomogeneous scatterer

Momentum conservation

Polarizability

Uniform scatterer

Inhomogeneous scatterer

Equation of motion

- The kinetic and potential energy densities are

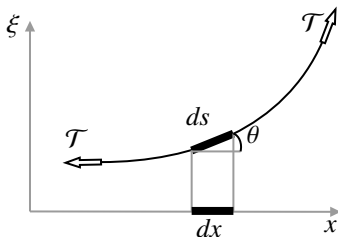
$$T = \frac{1}{2}\rho_0(\partial\xi/\partial t)^2, \quad U = \frac{1}{2}\mathcal{T}(\partial\xi/\partial x)^2, \quad \partial\xi/\partial x \ll 1. \quad (4)$$

- Insertion of the Lagrangian $L = T - U$ in the Euler-Lagrange equation

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial \xi} - \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \frac{\partial L}{\partial \xi_x} - \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{\xi}} = 0$$

yields the linear wave equation,

$$\frac{\partial^2 \xi}{\partial x^2} - \frac{1}{c_0^2} \frac{\partial^2 \xi}{\partial t^2} = 0, \quad c_0 = \sqrt{\mathcal{T}/\rho_0}. \quad (5)$$



- ▶ Multiplying the wave equation [Eq. (5)] by $\partial\xi/\partial x$ yields

$$\frac{\partial g}{\partial t} = \frac{\partial S}{\partial x}, \quad (6)$$

where

$$g \equiv I/c_0^2 = \text{momentum density} \quad (7)$$

$$I = -\mathcal{T}(\partial\xi/\partial t)(\partial\xi/\partial x) = \text{intensity} \quad (8)$$

$$S \equiv L - \rho_0(\partial\xi/\partial t)^2 = \text{radiation stress}. \quad (9)$$

- ▶ Equation (6) was presented without derivation by Morse and Ingard.⁴
- ▶ The integral form of Eq. (6) is

$$S(x_2) - S(x_1) - \frac{d}{dt} \int_{x_1}^{x_2} g \, dx = 0, \quad (10)$$

i.e., a wave unperturbed loses no momentum in passing from x_1 to x_2 .

⁴P. M. Morse and K. U. Ingard. Princeton, New Jersey: Princeton University Press, 1968, pp. 100–106.

- ▶ For time-harmonic solutions, $\langle \frac{d}{dt} \int_{x_1}^{x_2} g dx \rangle = 0$.
- ▶ If an object between points x_1 and x_2 scatters the wave, then the difference in stress at x_1 and x_2 is the *radiation force*:

$$F = \langle S(x_2) - S(x_1) \rangle . \quad (11)$$

Quantity	Waves on a string	Acoustic waves
kinetic energy	$T = \frac{1}{2} \rho_0 (\partial \xi / \partial t)^2$	$T = \frac{1}{2} \rho_0 v^2$
potential energy	$U = \frac{1}{2} \mathcal{T} (\partial \xi / \partial x)^2$	$U = \frac{1}{2} p^2 / \rho_0 c_0^2$
intensity	$I = -\mathcal{T} (\partial \xi / \partial t) (\partial \xi / \partial x)$	$\mathbf{I} = p \mathbf{v}$
momentum dens.	$g = I / c_0^2$	$\mathbf{g} = \mathbf{I} / c_0^2$
radiation stress	$S = L - \rho_0 (\partial \xi / \partial t)^2$	$\underline{\mathbf{S}} = \underline{\mathbf{I}} L - \rho_0 \mathbf{v} \otimes \mathbf{v}$
energy cons.	$\partial I / \partial x + \partial E / \partial t = 0$	$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{I} + \partial E / \partial t = 0$
momentum cons.	$\partial g / \partial t = \partial S / \partial x$	$\partial \mathbf{g} / \partial t = \nabla \cdot \underline{\mathbf{S}}$
radiation force	$F = \langle S(x_2) - S(x_1) \rangle$	$\mathbf{F} = \oint \langle \underline{\mathbf{S}} \rangle \cdot d\mathbf{A}$

Momentum conservation

Polarizability

Uniform scatterer

Inhomogeneous scatterer

Scattering from an extended mass on a string

- For $\xi(x, t) = \text{Re}[\tilde{\xi}(x)e^{-i\omega t}]$, the inhomogeneous Helmholtz equation is⁵

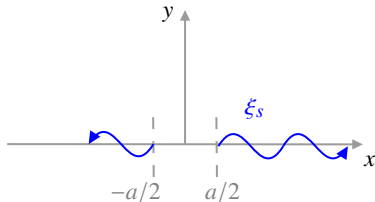
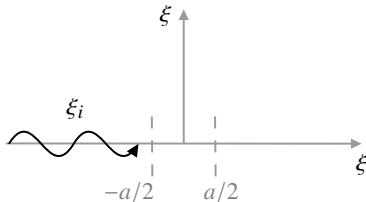
$$\frac{d^2 \tilde{\xi}}{dx^2} + k^2 \tilde{\xi}(x) = -k^2 \mu(x) \tilde{\xi}(x), \quad (12)$$

where $\mu(x) = \rho_s(x)/\rho_0 - 1$ and $\rho_s(x)$ = density of scatterer.

- The solution of Eq. (12) is *implicit*:

$$\tilde{\xi}(x) = \tilde{\xi}_i(x) + \tilde{\xi}_s(x), \quad (13a)$$

$$\tilde{\xi}_s(x) = \frac{1}{2}ik \int_{-a/2}^{a/2} e^{ik|x-x_s|} \mu(x_s) \tilde{\xi}(x_s) dx_s. \quad (13b)$$



⁵P. M. Morse and K. U. Ingard. Princeton, New Jersey: Princeton University Press, 1968, Eq. (4.5.11) and p. 160.

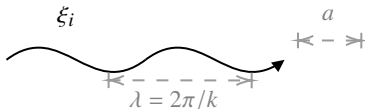
Two approximations

1. **Born:** If $|\mu| \ll 1$, then $|\xi_s| \ll |\xi_i|$, making Eq. (13) explicit:

$$\tilde{\xi}_s(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{2}ik\xi_0 e^{-ikx} \int_{-a/2}^{a/2} e^{2ikx_s} \mu(x_s) dx_s, & x \leq -a/2, \\ \frac{1}{2}ik\xi_0 e^{ikx} \int_{-a/2}^{a/2} \mu(x_s) dx_s, & x \geq a/2. \end{cases} \quad (14)$$

2. **Subwavelength:** Since $ka \sim |k_s x_s| \ll 1$, the complex exponentials in the integrand of the first line of Eq. (14) can be Taylor expanded to linear order:

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{\xi}_s(x) &= \frac{1}{2}ik\xi_0 e^{-ikx} \int_{-a/2}^{a/2} (1 + 2ikx_s) \mu(x_s) dx_s, \quad x \leq -a/2 \\ &= \frac{1}{2}ik\xi_0 e^{-ikx} \left[\int_{-a/2}^{a/2} \mu(x_s) dx_s + 2ik \int_{-a/2}^{a/2} \mu(x_s) x_s dx_s \right]. \end{aligned} \quad (15)$$



Scattered field in terms of polarizabilities

- The approximations made in Eqs. (14) and (15) yield

$$\tilde{\xi}_s(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{2}ik\xi_0 e^{-ikx}(\alpha_0 + i\alpha_1), & x \leq -a/2 \\ \frac{1}{2}ik\xi_0 e^{ikx}\alpha_0, & x \geq a/2 \end{cases} \quad (16)$$

where the polarizabilities (dimensions of length) are

$$\alpha_0 = \int_{-a/2}^{a/2} \mu(x_s) dx_s \quad (17a)$$

$$\alpha_1 = 2k \int_{-a/2}^{a/2} \mu(x_s) x_s dx_s \quad (17b)$$

- In quasistatic limit and/or in the absence of asymmetry, $\alpha_1 \rightarrow 0$.
- Combining Eqs. (13) and (16) yields the total field:⁶

$$\tilde{\xi}(x) = \begin{cases} \xi_0 [e^{ikx} + \frac{1}{2}ike^{-ikx}(\alpha_0 + i\alpha_1)], & x \leq -a/2, \\ \xi_0 e^{ikx} (1 + \frac{1}{2}ik\alpha_0), & x > a/2. \end{cases} \quad (18)$$

⁶P. M. Morse and K. U. Ingard. Princeton, New Jersey: Princeton University Press, 1968, compare to Eq. (4.5.15).

- ▶ Evaluating $\langle S \rangle$ in Eq. (11) yields the radiation force:

$$F = \langle S(a/2) - S(-a/2) \rangle = \frac{1}{8} \mathcal{T} k^4 \xi_0^2 \alpha_1^2. \quad (19)$$

- ▶ Check dimensions: $k^4 \xi_0^2 \alpha_1^2$ is dimensionless and \mathcal{T} has units of force.
- ▶ Recall from Eq. (17b) that $\alpha_1 \propto k$. To leading order, $F \propto k^6$.
- ▶ Since α_0 does not appear in Eq. (19), symmetric Born-subwavelength scatterers on a string experience zero radiation force at leading order.
- ▶ Since $\langle S \rangle$ is independent of x on either side of the scatterer,

$$F = \langle S(x_2) - S(x_1) \rangle, \quad (20)$$

where x_1 and x_2 are any points behind/ahead of scatterer, respectively.

Momentum conservation

Polarizability

Uniform scatterer

Inhomogeneous scatterer

Uniform scatterer with $\mu = \rho_1/\rho_0 - 1$

- From Eqs. (17), the polarizabilities are $\alpha_1 = 0$ and

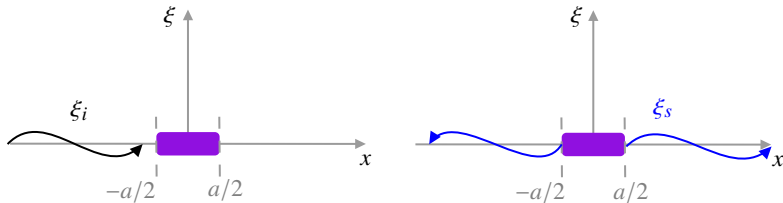
$$\alpha_0 = \int_{-a/2}^{a/2} \mu(x_s) dx_s = a\rho_1/\rho_0. \quad (21)$$

- From Eq. (19) (Born and subwavelength approximations),

$$F = 0. \quad (22)$$

- Meanwhile, according to Born scattering [Eq. (14)],⁷

$$\tilde{\xi}_s = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{2}i\xi_0 e^{-ikx}(\rho_1/\rho_0) \sin ka, & x \leq -a/2 \\ \frac{1}{2}i\xi_0 e^{ikx}(\rho_1/\rho_0) ka, & x \geq a/2. \end{cases} \quad (23)$$



⁷P. M. Morse and K. U. Ingard. Princeton, New Jersey: Princeton University Press, 1968, Eqs. (4.5.29).

Uniform scatterer with $\mu = \rho_1/\rho_0 - 1$

- Nondimensionalizing the forces to $\mathcal{T}(\xi_0/a)^2$ yields

$$\frac{F}{\mathcal{T}(\xi_0/a)^2} = 0 \quad \text{(Born subwavelength)}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{F}{\mathcal{T}(\xi_0/a)^2} &= -\frac{1}{8}(ka)^2(\rho_1/\rho_0) \left[(ka)^2 - \sin^2 ka \right] \quad \text{(Born)} \\ &\simeq -\frac{1}{24}(\rho_1/\rho_0) \left[(ka)^6 - \frac{1}{12}(ka)^8 \right]. \end{aligned}$$

where $\rho_1/\rho_0 \lesssim 0.4$.⁸ *To leading order, the force is negative!*

- Born-subwavelength predicts zero force on scatterer because magnitudes of fields ahead and behind scatterer are equal
- Pulling forces have been studied extensively in acoustics.⁹

⁸P. M. Morse and K. U. Ingard. Princeton, New Jersey: Princeton University Press, 1968, p. 161.

⁹P. L. Marston. *J. Acoust. Soc. Am.* 120 (2006), 3518–3524; X.-D. Fan and L. Zhang. *J. Acoust. Soc. Am.* 150 (2021), 102–110; Y. Li et al. *Chinese Phys. B* 29 (2020), 054302.

Momentum conservation

Polarizability

Uniform scatterer

Inhomogeneous scatterer

Inhomogeneous scatterer with $\mu(x) = (2x/a)\rho_1/\rho_0$

- From Eqs. (17), the polarizabilities are $\alpha_0 = 0$ and

$$\alpha_1 = 4(k/a)(\rho_1/\rho_0) \int_{-a/2}^{a/2} x_s^2 dx_s = \frac{1}{3}ka^2\rho_1/\rho_0. \quad (25)$$

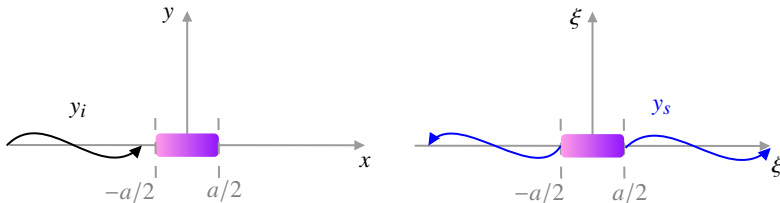
- From Eq. (19) (Born and subwavelength approximations),

$$F = \frac{1}{72}\mathcal{T}(\xi_0/a)^2(\rho_1/\rho_0)^2(ka)^6. \quad (26)$$

- Meanwhile, according to Born scattering [Eq. (14)],

$$\tilde{\xi}_s = \begin{cases} -\frac{1}{2}\xi_0 e^{-ikx} \frac{\rho_1}{\rho_0} \left(\frac{\sin ka}{ka} - \cos ka \right), & x \leq -a/2 \\ 0, & x \geq a/2. \end{cases} \quad (27)$$

- Equation (27) shows that scattered field is direction-dependent.



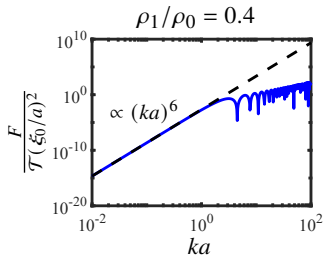
Inhomogeneous scatterer with $\mu(x) = (2x/a)\rho_1/\rho_0$

- Nondimensionalizing the forces to $\mathcal{T}(\xi_0/a)^2$ yields

$$\frac{F}{\mathcal{T}(\xi_0/a)^2} = \frac{1}{72}(\rho_1/\rho_0)^2(ka)^6 \quad (\text{Born subwavelength})$$

$$\frac{F}{\mathcal{T}(\xi_0/a)^2} = \frac{1}{8}(\rho_1/\rho_0)^2 (\sin ka - ka \cos ka)^2. \quad (\text{Born})$$

- The force is in the direction of the incident wave.
- Magnitude of force is 3× weaker than that on homogeneous scatterer.



Summary

- ▶ Derived the **momentum conservation equation** at $O(\xi^2)$
- ▶ Solved the **linear scattering problem** for extended scatterers
- ▶ Obtained the **radiation force** in terms of **polarizabilities**
- ▶ Compared the results to **Born scattering** for two examples

Future work

- ▶ Radiation force due to **standing waves** on a string
- ▶ Radiation force due to progressive waves in **2D** (water waves)

Acknowledgments

- ▶ Chester M. McKinney Graduate Fellowship in Acoustics at ARL:UT









Dr. T. S. Jerome



Prof. M. R. Haberman



Prof. M. F. Hamilton

-  C. F. Sieck, A. Alù, and M. R. Haberman. “Origins of Willis coupling and acoustic bianisotropy in acoustic metamaterials through source-driven homogenization”. *Phys. Rev. B*. 96 (2017), 104303.
-  Lord Rayleigh. “On the pressure of vibrations”. *Philos. Mag.* 3 (1902), 338–346.
-  P. M. Morse and K. U. Ingard. *Theoretical Acoustics*. Princeton, New Jersey: Princeton University Press, 1968.
-  P. L. Marston. “Axial radiation force of a Bessel beam on a sphere and direction reversal of the force”. *J. Acoust. Soc. Am.* 120 (2006), 3518–3524.
-  X.-D. Fan and L. Zhang. “Phase shift approach for engineering desired radiation force: Acoustic pulling force example”. *J. Acoust. Soc. Am.* 150 (2021), 102–110.
-  Y. Li et al. “Pulling force of acoustic-vortex beams on centered elastic spheres based on the annular transducer model”. *Chinese Phys. B* 29 (2020), 054302.