

## Visualization of waves on lossless transmission lines

$$\begin{aligned}\tilde{V}(z) &= \tilde{V}_0^+ e^{-\gamma z} + \tilde{V}_0^- e^{\gamma z} \\ \tilde{I}(z) &= \tilde{I}_0^+ e^{-\gamma z} + \tilde{I}_0^- e^{\gamma z}\end{aligned}$$

In this equation  $\tilde{V}(z)$  is the total voltage anywhere on the line (at any point  $z$ ),  $\tilde{I}(z)$  is the total current anywhere on the line (at any point  $z$ ),  $\tilde{V}_0^+$  and  $\tilde{V}_0^-$  are the **phasors** of forward and reflected voltage waves at the load (where  $z=0$ ), and  $\tilde{I}_0^+$  and  $\tilde{I}_0^-$  are the phasors of forward and reflected current wave at the load (where  $z=0$ ). These voltages and currents are also phasors and have a constant magnitude and phase in a specific circuit, for example  $\tilde{V}_0^+ = |\tilde{V}_0^+|e^{j\Phi} = 4e^{25^\circ}$ , and  $\tilde{I}_0^+ = |\tilde{I}_0^+|e^{j\Phi} = 5e^{-40^\circ}$ . We can get the time-domain expression for the current and voltage on the transmission line by multiplying the phasor of the voltage and current with  $e^{j\omega t}$  and taking the real part of it.

$$\begin{aligned}v(t) &= \text{Re}\{\tilde{V}_0^+ e^{(-\alpha - j\beta)z} + \tilde{V}_0^- e^{(\alpha + j\beta)z}\} e^{j\omega t} \\ v(t) &= |\tilde{V}_0^+| e^{-\alpha z} \cos(\omega t - \beta z + \angle \tilde{V}_0^+) + |\tilde{V}_0^-| e^{\alpha z} \cos(\omega t + \beta z + \angle \tilde{V}_0^-)\end{aligned}\quad (1)$$

If the signs of the  $\omega t$  and  $\beta z$  terms are opposite the wave moves in the forward  $+z$  direction. If the signs of  $\omega t$  and  $\beta z$  are the same, the wave moves in the  $-z$  direction.

In the next several sections, we will look at how to find the constants  $\beta$ ,  $\tilde{V}_0^+$ ,  $\tilde{V}_0^-$ ,  $\tilde{I}_0^+$ ,  $\tilde{I}_0^-$ . In order to find the constants, we will introduce the concepts of transmission line impedance  $Z_0$ , reflection coefficient  $\Gamma(z)$ , input impedance  $Z_{in}$ .

**Example 1.** *We will show next that if the signs of the  $\omega t$  and  $\beta z$  have the opposite sign, as in Equation 2, the wave moves in the forward  $+z$  direction. If the signs of  $\omega t$  and  $\beta z$  are the same, as in Equation 3, the wave moves in the  $-z$  direction. In order to see this, we will visualize Equations 2 and 3 using Matlab code below.*

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Learning outcomes: identify whether the wave travels in the positive or negative direction from the equation of a wave. Describe how signal flows on a transmission line. Describe forward and reflected wave on a transmission line. Sketch forward and reflected wave as a function of distance, and explain how the graph changes as time passes.

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$$v_f(t) = |\tilde{V}_0^+|e^{-\alpha z} \cos(\omega t - \beta z + \angle \tilde{V}_0^+) \quad (2)$$

$$v_r(t) = |\tilde{V}_0^-|e^{\alpha z} \cos(\omega t + \beta z + \angle \tilde{V}_0^-) \quad (3)$$

**Explanation.** Figure 1 shows forward and reflected waves on a transmission line.  $z$  represents the length of the line, and on the  $y$ -axis is the magnitude of the voltage. The red line on both graphs is the voltage signal at a time .1 ns. We would obtain Figure 1 if we had a camera that can take a picture of the voltage, and we took the first picture at  $t_1 = .1$  ns on the entire transmission line. The blue dotted line on both graphs is the same signal .1 ns later, at time  $t_2 = .2$  ns. We see that the signal has moved to the right in 1 ns, from the generator to the load. On the bottom graph, we see that at a time .1 ns, the red line represents the reflected signal. The dashed blue line shows the signal at a time .2 ns. We see that the signal has moved to the left, from the load to the generator.

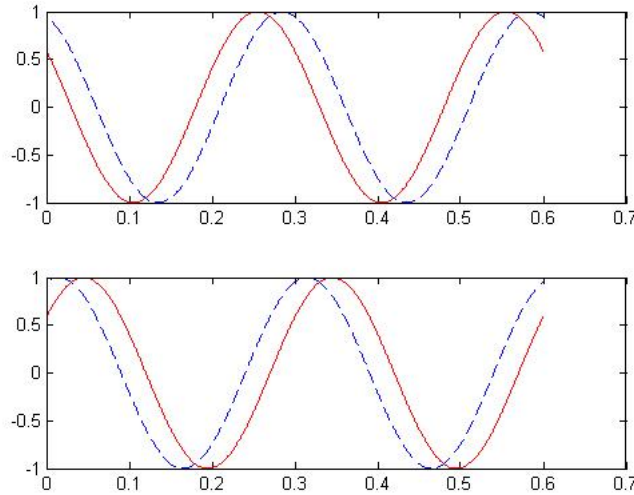


Figure 1: Forward (top) and reflected (bottom) waves on a transmission line.

```
clear all
clc
f = 10^9;
w = 2*pi*f;
c=3*10^8;
beta=2*pi*f/c;
lambda=c/f;
t1=0.1*10^(-9)
```

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```
t2=0.2*10^(-9)
x=0:lambda/20:2*lambda;

y1=sin(w*t1 - beta.*x);
y2=sin(w*t2 - beta.*x);
y3=sin(w*t1 + beta.*x);
y4=sin(w*t2 + beta.*x);

subplot (2,1,1),

    plot(x,y1,'r'),...
        hold on
    plot(x,y2,'--b'),...
        hold off
subplot (2,1,2),

    plot(x,y3,'r')
        hold on
    plot(x,y4,'--b')
        hold off
```

Using Matlab code above, repeat the visualization of signals in the previous section for a lossy transmission line. Assume that  $\alpha = 0.1 \text{ Np}$ , and all other variables are the same as in the previous section. How do the voltages compare in the lossy and lossless cases?

**Question 1** In the following simulation, we have three waves as a function of distance  $z$ . One is fixed  $\cos(\beta z + 0^0)$  with a constant phase of  $0^0$ , and for the other two signals the phase can be changed manually by changing the slider  $t$  that represents time. In the simulation,  $\beta = 1$  and  $\omega = 1$ . This simulation is realistic only if time moves forward from 0 to 5. Observe how phase change  $\omega t$  as the time increases from 0 to 5, then answer the question below.

Geogebra link: <https://tube.geogebra.org/m/x5q7p7jx>

The sign in front of  $\beta z$  and  $\omega t$  is opposite for the forward going wave.

**Multiple Choice:**

- (a) True ✓
- (b) False