

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 ωt and βz terms are opposite the wave moves in the forward $+z$ direction. If the signs of ωt and βz are the same, the wave moves in the $-z$ direction.

In the next several sections, we will look at how to find the constants β , \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 ωt and βz have the opposite sign, as in Equation 2, the wave moves in the forward $+z$ direction. If the signs of ωt and βz 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.*

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.

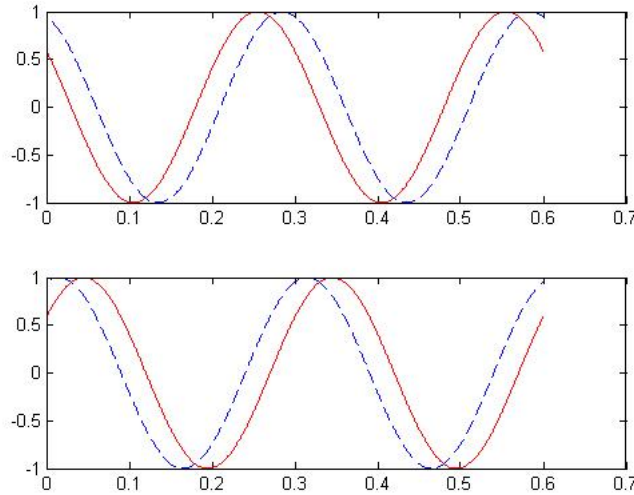


Figure 1: Forward (top) and reflected (bottom) waves on a transmission line.

```
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 ωt 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 βz and ωt is opposite for the forward going wave.

Multiple Choice:

- (a) True ✓
- (b) False