

HUYGENS' PRINCIPLE

Every point on a wave front acts as a source of *wavelets* that move forward with the same speed as the wave. The wave front at a later instant is the *envelope*, i.e. the surface that is tangent to the wavelets.

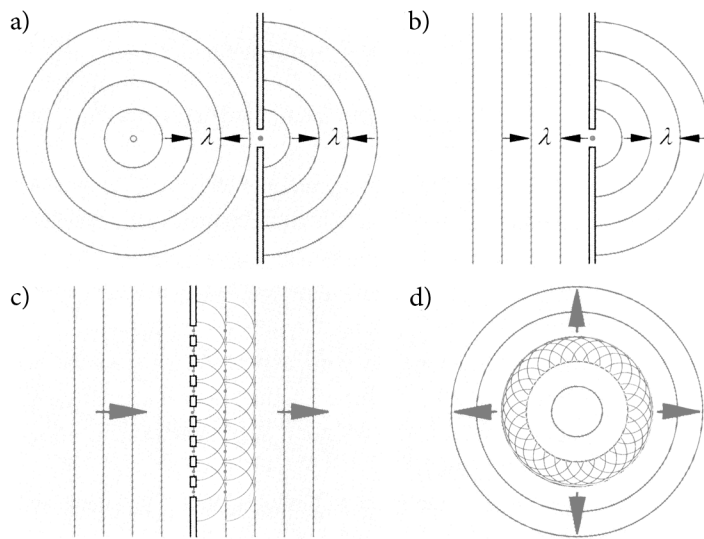


FIGURE: Huygens' principle: Wavelets for a) circular waves and b) plane waves. Envelopes for c) plane waves and d) circular waves