

4 Surface Waves on Liquids

4.1 Introduction

- We consider waves on the **surface of liquids**, e.g. waves on the sea or a lake or a river. These can be generated by the wind, by a moving boat and in many other ways. One key factor is that if the surface is displaced from its equilibrium position $z = 0$ to $z = \eta(x, y, t)$, **gravity** will tend to **restore the surface** to its equilibrium position.

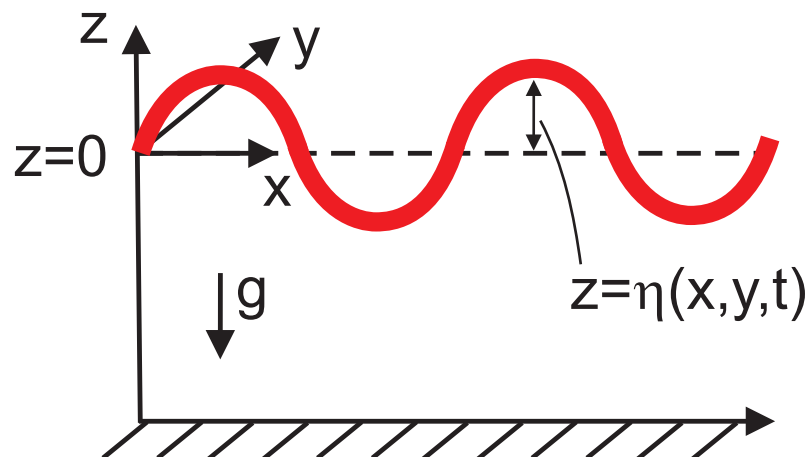


Figure 1: Surface waves

- In practice we can assume that the **disturbance is small** (i.e. the amplitude, e.g. $\sup|\eta|$, is much less than the wavelength) \Rightarrow **linear theory**.

- A further simplification is that for most liquids the equation of continuity Eq. (3.8) can be considerably simplified because liquids are **difficult to compress**
 \Rightarrow volume of small piece of liquid is unchanged as it moves
 \Rightarrow **density** is unchanged (since mass = density \times volume and mass is conserved).

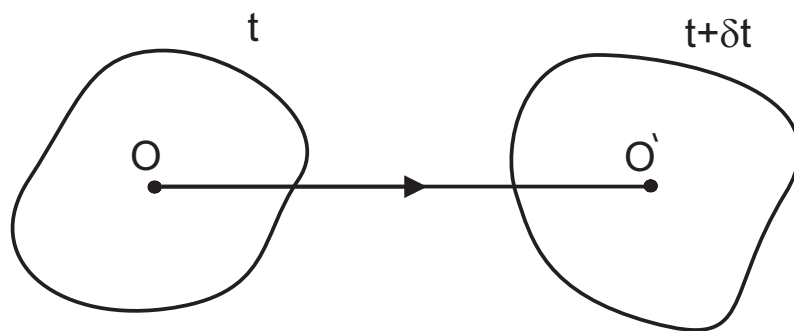


Figure 2: Incompressible liquids. $\vec{OO'} = \mathbf{u}(\mathbf{x}, t)\delta t$

Consider a small volume of liquid of density ρ . Suppose it is at \mathbf{x} at time t ; in a small interval of time δt ,

the volume will have moved from

$$\mathbf{x} \rightarrow \mathbf{x} + \mathbf{u}(\mathbf{x}, t)\delta t,$$

so the density will have changed from

$$\rho(\mathbf{x}, t) \rightarrow \rho(\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{u}\delta t, t + \delta t).$$

By hypothesis, these are the **same**. But...

$$\begin{aligned}\rho(\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{u}\delta t, t + \delta t) &= \rho(x + u\delta t, y + v\delta t, z + w\delta t, t + \delta t) \\ &\approx \rho(x, y, z, t) \\ &\quad + \left(u\frac{\partial\rho}{\partial x} + v\frac{\partial\rho}{\partial y} + w\frac{\partial\rho}{\partial z} + \frac{\partial\rho}{\partial t}\right)\delta t.\end{aligned}$$

Thus

$$\frac{D\rho}{Dt} = \frac{\partial\rho}{\partial t} + u\frac{\partial\rho}{\partial x} + v\frac{\partial\rho}{\partial y} + w\frac{\partial\rho}{\partial z} = 0 \quad (1)$$

where D/Dt is the [operator](#) defined by

$$\frac{D}{Dt} = \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial t} + u\frac{\partial}{\partial x} + v\frac{\partial}{\partial y} + w\frac{\partial}{\partial z}\right) \quad (2)$$

D/Dt applied to any function of (\mathbf{x}, t) [measures rate of change when moving with the liquid](#) (or fluid). From Eq. (3.8) we have

$$\frac{\partial\rho}{\partial t} + \left(u\frac{\partial\rho}{\partial x} + v\frac{\partial\rho}{\partial y} + w\frac{\partial\rho}{\partial z}\right) + \rho\left(\frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial v}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial w}{\partial z}\right) = 0,$$

so Eq. (1) \Rightarrow

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial v}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial w}{\partial z} = 0 \quad (3)$$

which is the equation of continuity for an **incompressible fluid** or liquid.

- The reasoning applied to $\rho(\mathbf{x}, t)$ above can also be applied to $\mathbf{u}(\mathbf{x}, t)$ (i.e. velocity).

The **rate of change of the velocity** of the piece of fluid, i.e. its **acceleration**, is

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{D}{Dt}(u, v, w) &= \frac{\partial}{\partial t}(u, v, w) \\ &+ \left(u \frac{\partial}{\partial x} + v \frac{\partial}{\partial y} + w \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \right) (u, v, w). \end{aligned}$$

But our assumption that the disturbance is small \Rightarrow second term is small \Rightarrow

$$\text{acceleration} \approx \left(\frac{\partial u}{\partial t}, \frac{\partial v}{\partial t}, \frac{\partial w}{\partial t} \right).$$

(This has already been used in Eqs (3.3) and (3.10).)

4.2 The governing equations for 1D water waves

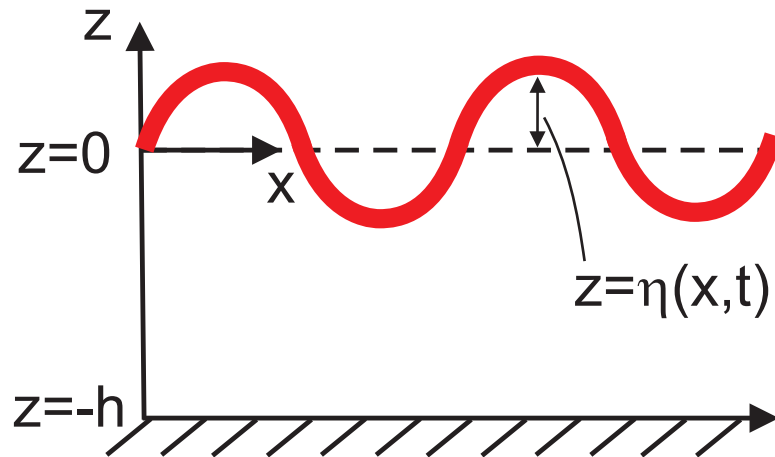


Figure 3: 1-dimensional free surface

- We consider only cases where the **disturbance** of the free surface is **independent** of $y \Rightarrow z = \eta(x, t)$ is the disturbance. We therefore assume that

$$\mathbf{u} = u(x, z, t)\mathbf{i} + w(x, z, t)\mathbf{k} \quad (4)$$

Then Eq. (3) \Rightarrow

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial w}{\partial z} = 0. \quad (5)$$

Recalling N2 \Rightarrow

$$\rho \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} = -\frac{\partial p}{\partial x}, \quad \rho \frac{\partial w}{\partial t} = -\frac{\partial p}{\partial z} - \rho g \quad (6)$$

where ρ can be regarded as constant*, and the term ρg represents the **weight** $\rho g \delta V$ acting vertically downwards.

*This is an extension of Eq. (1) - we assume ρ is an **absolute constant**, independent of both \mathbf{x} and t . In the ocean, ρ does vary (slightly) with height, but not enough to affect the analysis of **surface** waves.

- As in § (3.3), it can be shown that, in most circumstances, there is a **velocity potential**, ϕ such that Eq. (3.13) holds¹. In the present case $\phi = \phi(x, z, t)$ and

$$u = \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x}, \quad w = \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial z} \quad (7)$$

¹To show this is beyond the scope of this course. In brief we require the effects of **viscosity** to be small. See **AMA 305**.

Then Eq. (5) becomes

$$\frac{\partial^2 \phi}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 \phi}{\partial z^2} = 0 \quad (8)$$

This is the 2D form of **Laplace's equation** and is the PDE that must be solved. NB **Surface waves are not governed by the wave equation!**

• The special features of surface waves arise because of the **boundary conditions**. There will be **three** in the problems we consider:

1. $w = 0$ on $z = -h$, where h is constant (see Fig 3).
 2. the vertical velocity given by $\frac{\partial \phi}{\partial z}$ at the free surface must **equal the vertical velocity** given by $z = \eta(x, t)$.
 3. the **pressure at the free surface** must be **continuous** and since the density of air is much less than that of water, we can assume the air pressure is constant p_0 .
- (1): \Rightarrow

$$\frac{\partial \phi}{\partial z} = 0, \quad z = -h \quad (9)$$

- (2):

$$\frac{D}{Dt}\{z - \eta(x, t)\} = 0 \quad \text{at} \quad z = \eta$$

\Rightarrow

$$w - \frac{\partial \eta}{\partial t} - \underbrace{u \frac{\partial \eta}{\partial x}}_{\approx \text{small}} = 0 \quad \text{at} \quad z = \eta.$$

Since we are [linearising](#), this condition can be applied at $z = 0 \Rightarrow$

$$\frac{\partial \eta}{\partial t} = \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial z} \quad \text{at} \quad z = 0. \quad (10)$$

- (3) : Eq. (6) \Rightarrow

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left\{ \frac{p - p_0}{\rho} + \dot{\phi} \right\} = \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \left\{ \frac{p - p_0}{\rho} + \dot{\phi} + gz \right\} = 0$$

\Rightarrow

$$\frac{p - p_0}{\rho} + \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial t} + gz \quad \text{depends only on} \quad t.$$

However we can incorporate this function of t by adding it to ϕ .

This has no effect on \mathbf{u} by Eq. (7). Since $p = p_0$ at $z = \eta$, and we are linearising, we can apply this condition at $z = 0$ as far as ϕ is concerned. Thus from (3) \Rightarrow

$$\frac{\partial \phi}{\partial t} + g\eta = 0 \quad \text{at} \quad z = 0. \quad (11)$$

4.3 Monochromatic surface waves

• **Monochromatic** \Rightarrow single wave number k , single (angular) frequency ω . We assume the free surface is given by

$$\begin{aligned} \eta &= \eta_0 \sin(kx - \omega t) = \eta_0 \sin k(x - ct) \\ \omega &= kc \end{aligned} \quad (12)$$

Eq. (12b) has already been used several times, e.g. Eq. (2.28). We could also work with the complex form Eq. (1.27), viz

$$\eta = \eta_0^* e^{i(kx - \omega t)}.$$

In order to satisfy Eqs. (10) and (11) we must have

$$\phi = f(z) \cos(kx - \omega t) \quad (13)$$

where Eq. (8) \Rightarrow

$$f'' = k^2 f. \quad (14)$$

In view of the BC (9), it is convenient to write the GS of Eq. (14) in the form

$$f = A \cosh k(z + h) + B \sinh k(z + h),$$

when from Eq. (9) $\Rightarrow B = 0$, so

$$\phi = A \cosh k(z + h) \cos(kx - \omega t) \quad (15)$$

[or : GS of Eq. (14) is, using exp functions,

$$f = \gamma e^{kz} + \delta e^{-kz}.$$

Eq. (9) \Rightarrow

$$k\gamma e^{-kh} - k\delta e^{kh} = 0 \quad \Rightarrow \quad \delta = \gamma e^{-2kh}.$$

Thus

$$\begin{aligned} f &= \gamma e^{kz} + \gamma e^{-2kh} e^{-kz} = \gamma e^{-kh} e^{k(z+h)} + \gamma e^{-kh} e^{-k(z+h)} \\ &= 2\gamma e^{-kh} \cosh k(z + h) = A \cosh k(z + h) \end{aligned}$$

with

$$A = 2\gamma e^{-kh}.]$$

4 Surface Waves on Liquids

- There remain Eqs. (10) and (11).

From Eq. (10) \Rightarrow

$$-\omega\eta_0 \cos(kx - \omega t) = kA \sinh kh \cos(kx - \omega t)$$

\Rightarrow

$$-\omega\eta_0 = kA \sinh kh \quad (\text{A})$$

From Eq. (11) \Rightarrow

$$\omega A \cosh kh \sin(kx - \omega t) + g\eta_0 \sin(kx - \omega t) = 0$$

\Rightarrow

$$-g\eta_0 = \omega A \cosh kh \quad (\text{B})$$

Then (A)/(B) \Rightarrow

$$\frac{\omega}{g} = \frac{k}{\omega} \tanh kh$$

\Rightarrow

$$\omega^2 = gk \tanh kh, \quad c^2 = \frac{g}{k} \tanh kh \quad (16)$$

and

$$\phi = -\frac{g\eta_0 \cosh k(z+h)}{\omega \cosh kh} \cos(kx - \omega t). \quad (17)$$

Thus waves with different wavelengths travel at different speeds c , where

$$c = \frac{\omega}{k} \quad (18)$$

is the phase velocity (speed). This phenomenon is known as dispersion.

We note two special cases:

$$\text{Deep water } h \rightarrow \infty, \quad \omega^2 = gk, \quad c^2 = \frac{g}{k} \quad (19a)$$

$$\text{Shallow water } kh \ll 1, \quad \omega^2 \approx gk^2h \quad c^2 = gh \quad (19b)$$

NB: Shallow water waves are not dispersive. This is a progressive wave, but standing waves can be dealt with similarly - see S4 Q3.

4.4 Energy

- The PE relative to the the undisturbed position is

$$\left(\int_0^\eta \rho g z dz \right) \delta A = \frac{1}{2} \rho g \eta^2 \delta A.$$

Thus the PE in a wavelength per unit width in the direction of $0y$ is V_* , where

$$V_* = \frac{1}{2} \rho g \eta_0^2 \int_0^{2\pi/k} \sin^2 k(x - ct) dx$$

using Eq. (12). This is

$$\frac{1}{2} \rho g \eta_0^2 \cdot \frac{\pi}{k} = \frac{1}{4} \rho g \eta_0^2 \lambda,$$

where $\lambda = \frac{2\pi}{k}$ is the wavelength. Thus the potential energy density per unit area of water surface is $V_\rho = V_*/\lambda$.

$$V_\rho = \frac{1}{4} \rho g \eta_0^2 \tag{20a}$$

- Likewise the KE in a wavelength per unit width in the direction of $0y$ is T_* , where

$$T_* = \frac{1}{2}\rho \int_{-h}^0 dz \int_0^{2\pi/k} \left[\left(\frac{\partial\phi}{\partial x} \right)^2 + \left(\frac{\partial\phi}{\partial z} \right)^2 \right] dx$$

$$\left(\frac{\partial\phi}{\partial x} \right)^2 = \frac{g^2\eta_0^2 k^2}{\omega^2 \cosh^2 kh} \cosh^2 k(z+h) \sin^2 k(x-ct)$$

$$\left(\frac{\partial\phi}{\partial z} \right)^2 = \frac{g^2\eta_0^2 k^2}{\omega^2 \cosh^2 kh} \sinh^2 k(z+h) \cos^2 k(x-ct)$$

Since (as with V_*)

$$\int_0^{2\pi/k} \sin^2 k(x-ct) dx = \int_0^{2\pi/k} \cos^2 k(x-ct) dx = \frac{\pi}{k},$$

we find

$$T_* = \frac{\pi}{2} \frac{\rho g^2 \eta_0^2 k}{\omega^2 \cosh^2 kh} \int_{-h}^0 \cosh 2k(z+h) dz,$$

(since $\cosh^2 \theta + \sinh^2 \theta = \cosh 2\theta$). Thus

$$T_* = \frac{\pi}{4} \frac{\rho g^2 \eta_0^2}{\omega^2 \cosh^2 kh} \cdot \sinh 2kh = \frac{\pi}{2} \frac{\rho g^2 \eta_0^2}{\omega^2} \tanh kh$$

(since $\sinh 2\theta = 2 \sinh \theta \cosh \theta$).

\Rightarrow from Eq. (16),

$$T_* = \frac{1}{2} \rho g \eta_0^2 \frac{\pi}{k} = \frac{1}{4} \rho g \eta_0^2 \lambda = V_*.$$

\Rightarrow the **kinetic energy density** per unit area of the water surface is $T_\rho = T_*/\lambda$

$$T_\rho = \frac{1}{4} \rho g \eta_0^2. \quad (20b)$$

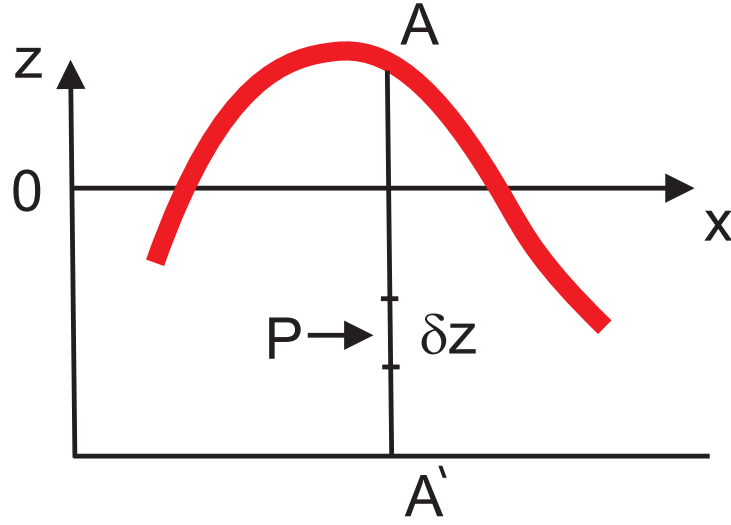


Figure 4: 1-dimensional distorted free surface

- We now calculate the rate at which **work** is being done **by** the fluid on the left of AA' **on** the fluid on the right. The force per unit width in the direction of $0y$ is $p \delta z$ so its rate of working P_* (for power) per unit width is given by

$$P_* = \int_{-h}^0 p u \, dz = \int_{-h}^0 \left(p_0 - \rho \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial t} - gz \right) \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x} \, dz,$$

since $p = p_0 - \rho \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial t} - gz$ from derivation of Eq. (11). It is sufficient for our purposes to calculate the **mean** of P_* over one period. Since the mean of $\sin k(x - ct)$ is 0, and the mean of $\sin^2 k(x - ct) = \frac{1}{2}$, we let P be the mean of P_* and find:

$$P = \frac{\rho g^2 \eta_0^2 k}{2\omega \cosh^2 kh} \int_{-h}^0 \cosh^2 k(z+h) dz$$

after some algebra (exercise for student). Since $c = \omega/k$ and $\cosh^2 \theta = \frac{1}{2}(1 + \cosh 2\theta)$, we find

$$\begin{aligned} P &= \frac{\rho g^2 \eta_0^2}{4c \cosh^2 kh} \left[h + \frac{\sinh 2kh}{2k} \right] \\ &= \frac{\rho g^2 \eta_0^2}{8kc} \left[1 + \frac{2kh}{\sinh 2kh} \right] 2 \tanh kh \end{aligned}$$

since $\sinh 2\theta = 2 \sinh \theta \cosh \theta$. Thus, using Eq. (16),

$$P = \frac{1}{4} \rho g \eta_0^2 c \left[1 + \frac{2kh}{\sinh 2kh} \right]. \quad (21)$$

- There is an interesting and important consequence of Eqs. (20a), (20b) and (21) which can be extended to many sorts of waves leading to the concept of [group velocity](#).

As a consequence of the passage of the waves, energy is being transmitted from left to right with a (mean) speed U to be determined.

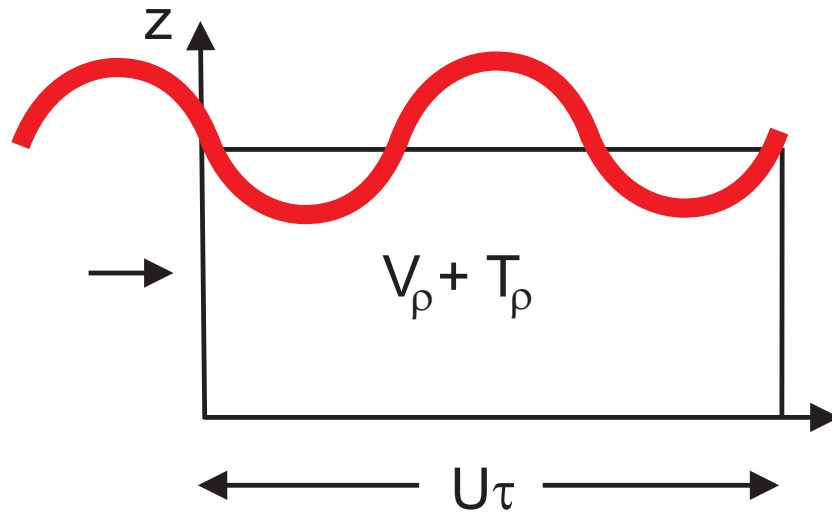


Figure 5: Concept of group velocity

In a time τ , this results in new energy per unit width equal to $(V_\rho + T_\rho)U\tau$, and this must be equal to $P\tau$, the work done. \Rightarrow

$$U = P/(V_\rho + T_\rho) = P/(\frac{1}{2}\rho g\eta_0^2),$$

i.e.

$$U = c_g = \frac{1}{2}c \left[1 + \frac{2kh}{\sinh 2kh} \right] \quad (22)$$

where c_g is known as the group velocity for reasons that will be discussed later.

- From the first of Eq. (16), we have

$$2\omega \frac{d\omega}{dk} = g \tanh kh + \frac{gkh}{\cosh^2 kh}$$

(since $\frac{d}{d\theta}(\tanh \theta) = \operatorname{sech}^2 \theta = \frac{1}{\cosh^2 \theta}$). Thus

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d\omega}{dk} &= \frac{g \tanh kh}{2\omega} \left[1 + \frac{kh}{\tanh kh \cosh^2 kh} \right] \\ &= \frac{kc^2}{2\omega} \left[1 + \frac{2kh}{\sinh 2kh} \right], \end{aligned}$$

i.e. see Eqs. (18) and (22)

$$c_g = \frac{d\omega}{dk}. \quad (23)$$

Eq. (23) is the general definition of group velocity.

[Note that $\omega = kc$ so that when c is independent of k , as for waves on strings and sound waves, i.e. when the waves are non-dispersive, Eq. (23) gives

$$c_g = c \quad (24)$$

i.e. the group velocity c_g is equal to c , the phase velocity.]

4 Surface Waves on Liquids

20

- Finally, we record the results for the two special cases considered in Eqs. (19a)-(19b)

Deep water $h \rightarrow \infty \Rightarrow$

$$\omega^2 = gk, \quad c^2 = \frac{g}{k}, \quad c_g = \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{\frac{g}{k}} = \frac{1}{2}c \quad (25a)$$

Shallow water $kh \ll 1 \Rightarrow$

$$\omega^2 \approx gk^2h, \quad c^2 = gh, \quad c_g = \sqrt{gh} = c \quad (25b)$$

4.5 Group velocity

- **Energy** is (often and at an average over time) **transported at** the group velocity c_g . This applies to many sorts of wave.

- There are other important properties of c_g . Consider the **superposition of two waves** like Eq. (12) in the case when the **amplitudes** are **equal** but the waves numbers and **frequencies** are **slightly different**. We have

$$\begin{aligned}\eta &= \eta_0 \sin(kx - \omega t) + \eta_0 \sin[(k + \delta k)x - (\omega + \delta \omega)t] \\ &= 2\eta_0 \sin \left[\left(k + \frac{1}{2}\delta k\right)x - \left(\omega + \frac{1}{2}\delta \omega\right)t \right] \\ &\quad \times \cos \left[\frac{1}{2}\delta k \left(x - \frac{\delta \omega}{\delta k}t\right) \right]\end{aligned}$$

\Rightarrow

$$\eta \approx 2\eta_0 \cos \left[\frac{1}{2}\delta k \left(x - c_g t\right) \right] \sin[kx - \omega t] \quad \left(c_g \approx \frac{\delta \omega}{\delta k} \right) \quad (26)$$

The combined displacement can be thought of as the original wave but with an amplitude that **gradually changes** between $\pm 2\eta_0$ over a distance $\pi/(\frac{1}{2}\delta k) = 2\pi/(\delta k)$.

The surface will be a series of **groups of waves**, separated by essentially smooth water where

$$\cos\left[\frac{1}{2}\delta k(x - c_g t)\right] \approx 0.$$

The **groups** are **travelling** at speed c_g , whereas the **individual** waves within each group are **travelling** at speed c . See top sketch in handout.

NB In passing, suppose η is density or velocity potential in sound waves, where $c_g = c$. Then Eq. (26) becomes

$$\eta \approx 2\eta_0 \cos \left[\frac{1}{2}(\delta kx - \delta\omega t) \right] \sin [kx - \omega t],$$

so that the wave has a fluctuating intensity known as **beats**; the **beat frequency** is $\delta\omega$. This phenomenon can be used to determine unknown frequencies, by determining the beat frequency between a standard tuning fork and the unknown.

- We can develop the above analysis to consider a [wave packet](#). As noted in § (2.5i), we can generalise to consider the disturbance $\eta(x, t)$, where

$$\eta(x, t) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} A(k)e^{i(kx-\omega t)} dk,$$

and the real part of this is eventually to be taken. Here we shall consider the special case when

$$A(k) = Ae^{-d^2(k-k_0)^2},$$

where A , d , k_0 are constants. This gives the [Gaussian wave packet](#)

$$\eta(x, t) = A \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-d^2(k-k_0)^2} e^{i(kx-\omega t)} dk, \quad (27)$$

The [dominant contribution](#) comes from values of k near k_0 because of the nature of $e^{-d^2(k-k_0)^2}$. We write

$$\omega = \omega(k_0) + \frac{d\omega}{dk}(k - k_0) + \dots = \omega_0 + c_g(k - k_0) + \dots$$

and neglect terms of higher order to obtain

$$\eta(x, t) = Ae^{i(k_0x - \omega_0t)} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-d^2(k-k_0)^2 + i(k-k_0)(x-c_gt)} dk$$

Substitute $d(k - k_0) = \xi$ to obtain (after some algebra):

$$\eta(x, t) = Ae^{i(k_0x - \omega_0t)} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-\{\xi - \frac{i}{2d}(x - c_gt)\}^2} e^{-\frac{(x - c_gt)^2}{4d^2}} \frac{d\xi}{d}$$

Now substitute $\zeta = \xi - \frac{i}{2d}(x - c_gt)$ to get

$$\eta(x, t) = \frac{A}{d} e^{-(x - c_gt)^2 / (4d^2)} e^{i(k_0x - \omega_0t)} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-\zeta^2} d\zeta$$

Now

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-\zeta^2} d\zeta = \sqrt{\pi} \quad (28)$$

Proof of Eq. (28) is via a clever trick!

Proof:

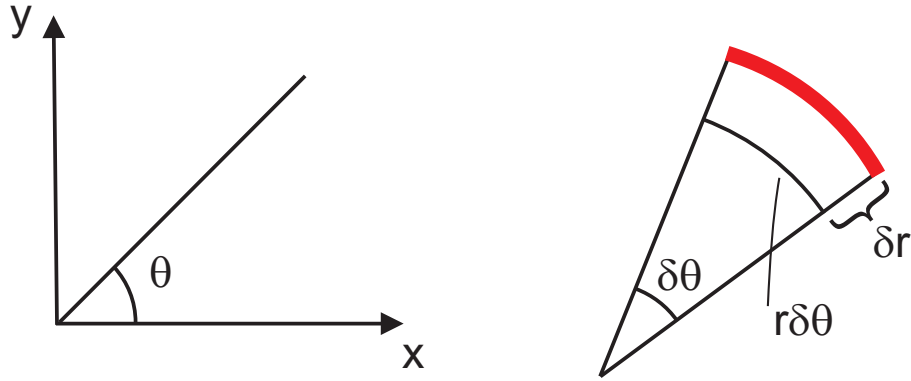


Figure 6: Infinitesimal element in polar coordinate system

$$I = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-x^2} = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-y^2}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \therefore I^2 &= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-x^2} e^{-y^2} dx dy \\ &= \int_0^{2\pi} d\theta \int_0^{\infty} e^{-r^2} r dr \\ &= 2\pi \int_0^{\infty} r e^{-r^2} = 2\pi \left[-\frac{1}{2} e^{-r^2} \right]_0^{\infty} = \pi \end{aligned}$$

$$\therefore I = \sqrt{\pi}$$

Thus

$$\eta(x, t) = \frac{A\sqrt{\pi}}{d} e^{-\frac{(x-cgt)^2}{4d^2}} e^{i(k_0x - \omega_0t)} \quad (29)$$

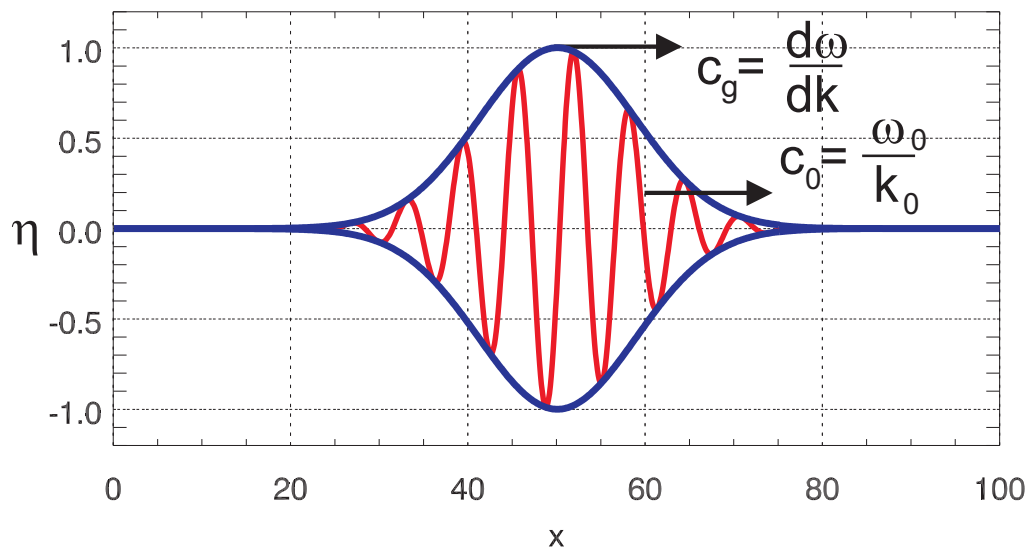


Figure 7: Wavepacket

4.6 The Doppler effect

• It is convenient here² to consider another general phenomenon connected with waves, namely the **changes in frequency** of waves sent out by a **moving source** and perceived by a stationary observer. Consider sound waves for sound waves for definiteness.

We shall work in terms of the actual frequency ν and the wavelength λ , where

$$\nu = \frac{\omega}{2\pi}, \quad \lambda = \frac{2\pi}{k}, \quad c = \nu\lambda \quad (30)$$

As seen in the sketch, in a time t the source emits νt waves. For a stationary source these occupy a length $\nu t\lambda$, whereas, for a source moving with speed u towards the observer, the wavelength changes to λ' and the νt waves occupy a distance $\nu t\lambda'$. Thus

$$\nu t\lambda = \nu t\lambda' + ut \quad \Rightarrow \quad \lambda' = \lambda - \frac{u}{\nu}$$

$$\lambda' = \lambda\left(1 - \frac{u}{c}\right) \quad (31)$$

See bottom sketch on Handout.

²But not logical since it is more relevant to sound waves and radio waves than to surface waves than to surface waves on water!

As a result the observer measures the frequency of the waves as ν' where $\nu'\lambda' = c = \nu\lambda$. Thus

$$\nu' = \frac{\nu c}{c - u} \quad (32)$$

Example

An observer at rest notices that the frequency of the sound waves from a car appears to drop from 281 Hz to 257 Hz as the car passes. Given that the speed of sound is 330 ms^{-1} , estimate the speed of the car.

From Eq. (32) \Rightarrow

$$281 = \frac{\nu}{1 - \frac{u}{c}}, \quad 257 = \frac{\nu}{1 + \frac{u}{c}} \Rightarrow \frac{281}{257} = \frac{1 + \frac{u}{c}}{1 - \frac{u}{c}}$$

\Rightarrow

$$\frac{u}{c} = \frac{24}{538} \Rightarrow u \approx 14.7 \text{ m s}^{-1} \quad (\text{About } 33 \text{ mph})$$

4.7 Particle paths in surface waves

Consider a particle whose equilibrium position is (x_0, z_0) . Suppose its position at time t is $(x_0 + X(t), z_0 + Z(t))$, where the time means of X and Z will be chosen to be zero. Then

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{dX}{dt} &= \left. \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x} \right|_{(x_0+X, z_0+Z)} \approx \left. \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x} \right|_{(x_0, z_0)} \\ &= \frac{kg\eta_0 \cosh k(z_0 + h)}{\omega \cosh kh} \sin(kx_0 - \omega t) \end{aligned} \tag{33}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{dZ}{dt} &= \left. \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial z} \right|_{(x_0+X, z_0+Z)} \approx \left. \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial z} \right|_{(x_0, z_0)} \\ &= -\frac{kg\eta_0 \sinh k(z_0 + h)}{\omega \cosh kh} \cos(kx_0 - \omega t) \end{aligned}$$

using Eq. (17). Thus, integrating and ensuring zero time means:

$$\begin{aligned}
 X &= \frac{kg\eta_0 \cosh k(z_0 + h)}{\omega^2 \cosh kh} \cos(kx_0 - \omega t) \\
 &= \eta_0 \frac{\cosh k(z_0 + h)}{\sinh kh} \cos(kx_0 - \omega t) \\
 Z &= \frac{kg\eta_0 \sinh k(z_0 + h)}{\omega^2 \cosh kh} \sin(kx_0 - \omega t) \\
 &= \eta_0 \frac{\sinh k(z_0 + h)}{\sinh kh} \sin(kx_0 - \omega t)
 \end{aligned} \tag{34}$$

using the first of Eq. (16). It follows on eliminating $\cos(kx_0 - \omega t)$ and $\sin(kx_0 - \omega t)$ that

$$\frac{X^2}{a^2} + \frac{Z^2}{b^2} = 1 \quad \text{where} \quad \begin{cases} a = \frac{\eta_0 \cosh k(z_0+h)}{\sinh kh}, \\ b = \frac{\eta_0 \sinh k(z_0+h)}{\sinh kh} \end{cases} \tag{35}$$

Thus the particle paths are [ellipses](#). As $z_0 \rightarrow -h$, $b \rightarrow 0$, $a \rightarrow \eta_0 / \sinh kh \Rightarrow$ rectilinear motion in direction of $0x$.

GROUP VELOCITY

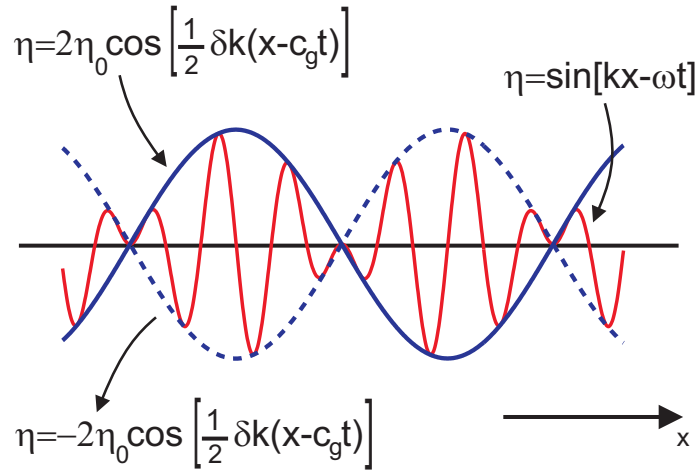


Figure 1: Sketch for Eq. (4.26).

DOPPLER EFFECT

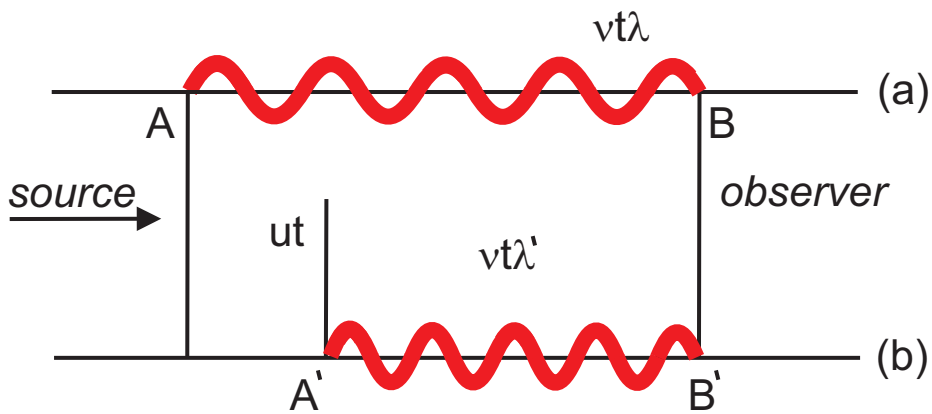


Figure 2: (a) Waves when source is stationary; (b) Waves when source is moving. Sketch for Eq. (4.31).