

#### **PHY 106 Quantum Physics** Instructor: Sebastian Wüster, IISER Bhopal, 2018

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# 2) Waves and Particles

## revision of movie:

Quantum physics is essentially all about "things that ought to be particles are **also** waves" and

"things that ought to be waves are **also** particles".

Thus, let's make sure we are all on the same page regarding waves.....

# 2.1) Introduction to wave mechanics

What is a wave?

Definition of **wave**:

A perturbation of some **property** is transported through a **medium**, without transport of the medium itself

Book: A.P. French, "Vibrations and waves"





Image: Constraint of the string of cars behind have solved or stopped.

#### Water wave





**Traffic waves** 

#### Gravitational wave









$$y(x,t) = A \sin(kx - \omega t)$$
 (6)  $k = \frac{2\pi}{\lambda}$  (7)

Relation between **frequency**, **wave length** or **wave number** and **phase velocity** of any wave (unit m/s)

$$\frac{\omega}{k} = V \quad (8) \qquad \qquad \nu \ \lambda = V \quad (10)$$

**k** is the wave number  $\boldsymbol{\omega}$  is the angular frequency  $\boldsymbol{\mathcal{V}}$  is the frequency

~ >

$$\omega = 2\pi\nu$$
 (9)

#### Wave velocities



#### Wave velocities



## **2.1.2)** The wave equation

Is there a general equation that governs wave behavior?

$$y(x,t) = A\sin\left(kx - \omega t\right)$$

We see:

$$\frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} y(x,t) = -k^2 A \sin\left(kx - \omega t\right) = -k^2 y(x,t)$$
(11)  
$$\frac{\partial^2}{\partial t^2} y(x,t) = -(-\omega)^2 A \sin\left(kx - \omega t\right) = -\omega^2 y(x,t)$$
(12)

#### Wave equation

Any function:

$$y(x,t) = f(x - Vt)$$

Chain rule:

$$\frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} y(x,t) = (1)^2 f''(x - Vt)$$
$$\frac{\partial^2}{\partial t^2} y(x,t) = (-V)^2 f''(x - Vt)$$

Fulfills wave-equation: (13)

$$\frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} y(x,t) = \frac{1}{V^2} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial t^2} y(x,t)$$

#### The wave equation



Change in time causes change in space and vice versa.

# Wave equation

y(x, t) = f(x - Vt) moves to the right with velocity V!!



# Wave equation

y(x, t) = f(x - Vt) moves to the right with velocity V!!



- y(x, t) = f(x + vt) Moves to the left with velocity V, also fulfills wave equation
- Can be generalized to 2D, 3D
- There are many wave-equations, one for each medium.

# **Superposition principle**

The wave equation is linear. That means any **combination of waves** is also a **solution** 

let:  

$$\frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} y(x,t) = \frac{1}{V^2} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial t^2} y(x,t)$$

$$\frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} w(x,t) = \frac{1}{V^2} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial t^2} w(x,t)$$

Then:

$$\frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} \Big[ y(x,t) + w(x,t) \Big] = \frac{1}{V^2} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial t^2} \Big[ y(x,t) + w(x,t) \Big]$$

# 2.1.3) Standing waves

# What happens if we combine two identical waves travelling in opposite directions?

https://phet.colorado.edu/sims/html/wave-on-a-string/latest/wave-on-a-string\_en.html

# 2.1.3) Standing waves

What happens if we combine two identical waves travelling in opposite directions?



Animation from: <u>https://</u> <u>www.youtube.com/</u> <u>watch?v=ic73oZoqr70</u>

Using (6), we can write this as:  $y(x, t) = A \sin(kx - \omega t) + A \sin(-kx - \omega t)$ 

## **Standing waves**

$$y(x,t) = A\sin(kx - \omega t) + A\sin(-kx - \omega t)$$

#### **Trigonometric identity**

 $sin(\alpha \pm \beta) = sin(\alpha)cos(\beta) \pm cos(\alpha)sin(\beta)$  (14)

$$y(x, t) = A \begin{bmatrix} \sin(kx)\cos(\omega t) - \cos(kx)\sin(\omega t) \\ +\sin(-kx)\cos(\omega t) - \cos(-kx)\sin(\omega t) \end{bmatrix}$$
$$-\sin(kx) \qquad \cos(kx)$$
$$y(x, t) = -2A\cos(kx)\sin(\omega t)$$

#### **Standing waves**

(15)

Formula for some standing wave  $y(x, t) = \tilde{A} \cos(kx) \sin(\omega t)$ 





\* Q: Eq. (15) is an example that does not fulfill Eq. (16b). Find another example that does.

## **Standing waves**

# **Examples:**

Backreflected string wave

#### Musical instruments

http://whatmusicreallyis.com/research/physics/



#### Micro-wave oven



# 2.1.4) Phenomena characteristic for waves Interference

Superposition principle: Waves taking different paths get added.

Standing wave: example where superimposed waves always cancel at anti-node:



#### Interference

#### Usually (2D, 3D) more options:



#### Circular waves on a water surface

#### Interference

Usually (2D, 3D) more options:



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ovZkFMuxZNc

Two circular waves: — strengthen — cancel

#### Interference

Waves can show interference

-strengthening in certain directions/ at certain times: constructive interference

-weakening in certain directions/ at certain times: destructive interference



#### Diffraction

#### Waves can turn around corners:



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BH0NfVUTWG4

#### Diffraction

#### Decompose wave into lots of spherical waves:



#### Could see this from 2D wave equation



equal phase fronts

Diffraction



Slit larger than wavelength: waves destructively interfere if direction not almost forward *(tutorial, waves and optics course)* 



#### Double slit interference

Double slit interference



Double slit interference













double slit interference pattern

$$I(\theta) \approx I_0 \cos(\pi d \frac{\sin \theta}{\lambda})$$
 (17)











double slit interference pattern

$$I(\theta) \approx I_0 \cos^2(\pi d \frac{\sin \theta}{\lambda})$$
 (17)

#### **Examples:**



Colors reflected from CD VLA Radio Astronomy





Water in bay

## **2.1.5) Electromagnetic waves**

You will learn in Electro-magnetism lecture:

Changing **magnetic** field causes **electric** field (**induction**) Changing **electric** field causes **magnetic** field









Electric field

# Magnetic field

Electromagnetic wave equation:

$$\left(\frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2}{\partial y^2} + \frac{\partial^2}{\partial z^2}\right) \mathbf{E}(\mathbf{r}, t) = \frac{1}{c^2} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial t^2} \mathbf{E}(\mathbf{r}, t) \quad (18)$$

Speed of light (vacuum) c =(19) $\mathcal{U}_{\Omega}\mathcal{E}_{\Omega}$ 

 $c = 29\,97\,92\,458\,m/s$ 

#### **Electromagnetic waves**

#### $\nu \lambda = c$ (10)

