

# Gravity Waves

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# Waves

- Transport energy
- No physical movement of matter
- Transport of fluctuations of different quantities (e.g.: pressure, density, velocity, magnetic field, current density etc.)

# The wave equation in 1D

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Solution:

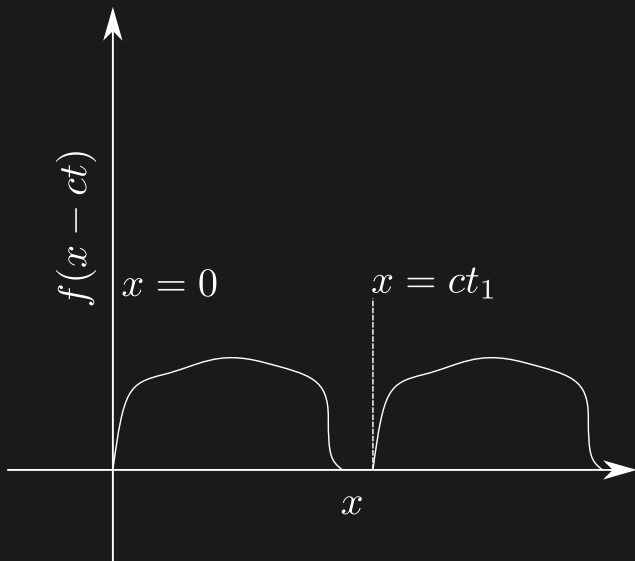
$$\xi = x - ct, \eta = x + ct$$

$$\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial \xi \partial \eta} = 0 \quad (2)$$

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial \xi} = 0 \text{ or } \frac{\partial u}{\partial \eta} = 0$$

$$u(x, t) = f(\xi) + g(\eta) = f(x - ct) + g(x + ct)$$

# What does it mean?



$c$  is the speed of propagation, also known as “phase speed”

# Sinusoids

- Any function  $f$  can be decomposed into a sum of sinusoidal functions
- We focus on a sinusoidal wave:

$$u(x, t) = a \sin \left[ \frac{2\pi}{\lambda} (x - ct) \right] \quad (3)$$

# Important quantities

$$u(x, t) = a \sin \left[ \frac{2\pi}{\lambda} (x - ct) \right]$$

Diagram illustrating the important quantities in the wave equation:

- Amplitude** ( $a$ ): Indicated by a purple arrow pointing to the coefficient  $a$ .
- Wavelength** ( $\lambda$ ): Indicated by a blue arrow pointing to the denominator  $\lambda$  in the fraction  $\frac{2\pi}{\lambda}$ .
- Wavenumber** ( $\frac{2\pi}{\lambda}$ ): Indicated by a green arrow pointing to the entire fraction  $\frac{2\pi}{\lambda}$ .
- Phase speed** ( $c$ ): Indicated by an orange arrow pointing to the coefficient  $c$  in the term  $ct$ .

# Important quantities



# Alternative forms

$$u = a \sin \left[ \frac{2\pi}{\lambda} (x - ct) \right] = a \sin [k(x - ct)] = a \sin(kx - \omega t) \quad (4)$$

- Period:  $T = \frac{\lambda}{c}$
- Frequency:  $\nu = \frac{1}{T} = \frac{c}{\lambda}$
- Circular or angular frequency:  $\omega = 2\pi\nu = ck$
- $c = \frac{\omega}{k} =$  phase speed

$$\nabla^2 \mathbf{u} - \frac{1}{c^2} \frac{\partial^2 \mathbf{u}}{\partial t^2} = 0 \quad (5)$$

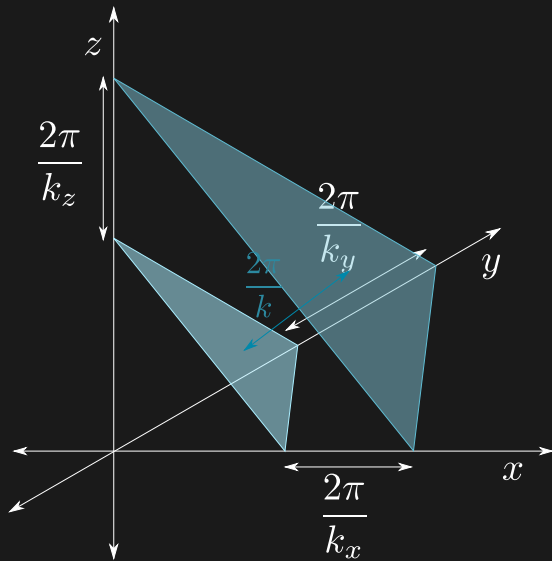
# In 3D

$$\nabla^2 \mathbf{u} - \frac{1}{c^2} \frac{\partial^2 \mathbf{u}}{\partial t^2} = 0 \quad (5)$$

$$\mathbf{u} = a \sin(k_x x + k_y y + k_z z - \omega t) = a \sin(\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{r} - \omega t) \quad (6)$$

- Wavevector:  $\mathbf{k} = k_x \hat{\mathbf{x}} + k_y \hat{\mathbf{y}} + k_z \hat{\mathbf{z}}$
- Position vector:  $\mathbf{r} = x \hat{\mathbf{x}} + y \hat{\mathbf{y}} + z \hat{\mathbf{z}}$
- Wavelength:  $\lambda = \frac{2\pi}{|\mathbf{k}|} = \frac{2\pi}{\sqrt{k_x^2 + k_y^2 + k_z^2}}$
- Phase speed:  $\mathbf{c} = \frac{\omega}{k} \hat{\mathbf{k}}$

# In 3D



# Complex form

Using the Euler identity:  $Ae^{i\theta} = A(\cos \theta + i \sin \theta)$ ,

In 1D:

$$u = ae^{i(kx - \omega t)} \quad (7)$$

In 3D:

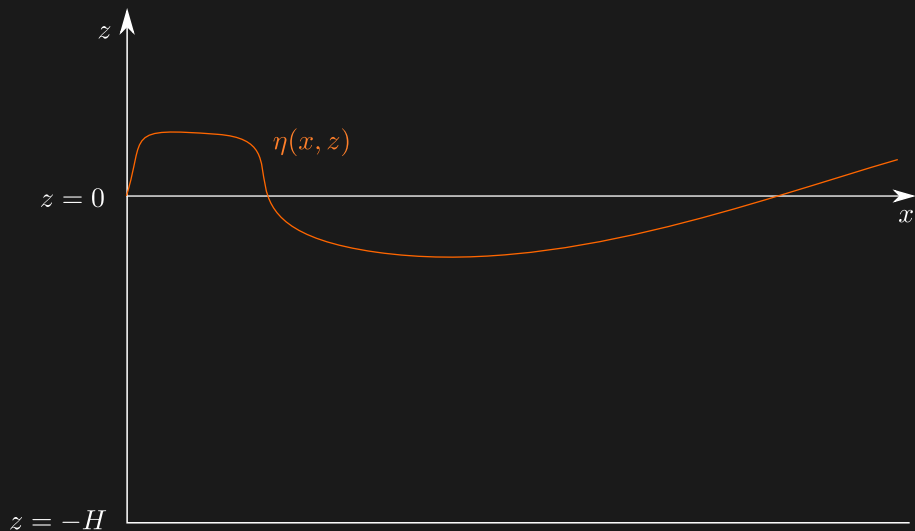
$$\mathbf{u} = ae^{i(\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{r} - \omega t)} \quad (8)$$

- Easier to treat mathematically
- Only real part contributes to solution

# Types of waves in planetary fluid dynamics

Type of wave	Restoring force(s)
Acoustic ( $p$ -modes)	$-\nabla p$
Inertial	$-\nabla p - 2\boldsymbol{\Omega} \times \mathbf{u}$
Surface/Internal gravity ( $f$ -/ $g$ -modes)	$\rho' \mathbf{g}$
Inertia-gravity or gravito-inertial	$-\nabla p - 2\boldsymbol{\Omega} \times \mathbf{u} + \rho' \mathbf{g}$
Alfvén	$\mathbf{B} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{B}$
Magnetoacoustic	$-\nabla p + \mathbf{B} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{B}$
Magneto-Coriolis (MC)	$-\nabla p - 2\boldsymbol{\Omega} \times \mathbf{u} + \mathbf{B} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{B}$
Magnetic, Archimedean, Coriolis (MAC)	$-2\boldsymbol{\Omega} \times \mathbf{u} + \rho' \mathbf{g} + \mathbf{B} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{B}$

# Surface gravity waves



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Assumptions:

- Inviscid fluid
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$$\nabla \times \mathbf{u} = 0 \Rightarrow \mathbf{u} = \nabla \phi$$

$$u_x = \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x}, \quad u_z = \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial z} \tag{9}$$

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Continuity equation

$$\frac{\partial u_x}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial u_z}{\partial z} = 0 \Rightarrow \frac{\partial^2 \phi}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 \phi}{\partial z^2} = 0\tag{10}$$

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$$\frac{\partial \eta}{\partial t} + \mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla \eta = u_z(\eta) = \left. \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial z} \right|_{z=\eta}, \quad z = \eta \quad (12)$$

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Approximations:

- $\mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla \eta$  is 'small' compared to other terms,
- $\left. \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial z} \right|_{z=\eta} = \left. \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial z} \right|_{z=0} + \eta \left. \frac{\partial^2 \phi}{\partial z^2} \right|_{z=0} + \dots \approx \left. \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial z} \right|_{z=0}$

Thus, (12) can be written as

$$\frac{\partial \eta}{\partial t} = \left. \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial z} \right|_{z=0}, \quad z = 0 \quad (13)$$

# Boundary conditions

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Considering inviscid Navier-Stokes (Euler equation) in  $z$ -direction,

$$\begin{aligned} \rho \frac{\partial u_z}{\partial t} &= -\frac{\partial p}{\partial z} - \rho g \\ \Rightarrow \rho \frac{\partial^2 \phi}{\partial t \partial z} &= -\frac{\partial p}{\partial z} - \rho g \\ \Rightarrow \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial t} &= -\frac{p}{\rho} - gz \end{aligned} \quad (15)$$

# Boundary conditions

At  $z = \eta$ ,  $p = 0$ , so

$$\frac{\partial \phi}{\partial t} = -g\eta \quad (16)$$

$\frac{\partial \phi}{\partial t}$  at  $z = \eta$  can be approximated by its value at  $z = 0$ ,

$$\frac{\partial \phi}{\partial t} = -g\eta, \quad z = 0 \quad (17)$$



# Problem recap

To solve:

$$\frac{\partial^2 \phi}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 \phi}{\partial z^2} = 0 \quad (18)$$

with boundary conditions:

$$\frac{\partial \phi}{\partial z} = 0, \quad z = -H \quad (19)$$

$$\frac{\partial \phi}{\partial z} = \frac{\partial \eta}{\partial t}, \quad z = 0 \quad (20)$$

$$\frac{\partial \phi}{\partial t} = -g\eta, \quad z = 0 \quad (21)$$

# Solution

$$\phi = f(z)e^{i(kx - \omega t)} \quad (22)$$

$\frac{\partial^2 \phi}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 \phi}{\partial z^2} = 0$  gives us

$$-k^2 f + \frac{d^2 f}{dz^2} = 0 \quad (23)$$

$$f = C_1 e^{kz} + C_2 e^{-kz}$$

# Solution

$$\text{At, } z = -H, \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial z} = 0,$$

$$C_1 e^{-kH} - C_2 e^{kH} = 0 \quad (24)$$

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Also, at  $z = 0$ ,  $\frac{\partial \phi}{\partial z} = \frac{\partial \eta}{\partial t}$ . If  $a$  is the amplitude of  $\eta$ ,

$$\eta = a e^{i(kx - \omega t)} \quad (25)$$

which gives us

$$k(C_1 - C_2) = -i a \omega \quad (26)$$

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Solving for  $C_1$  and  $C_2$  gives us:

$$C_1 = -\frac{i a \omega}{k(1 - e^{-2kH})}, \quad C_2 = -\frac{i a \omega e^{-2kH}}{k(1 - e^{-2kH})} \quad (27)$$

# Solution

$$\begin{aligned} f &= -\frac{ia\omega}{k} \frac{e^{kz} + e^{-2kH} e^{-kz}}{1 - e^{-2kH}} \\ &= -\frac{ia\omega}{k} \frac{e^{k(z+H)} + e^{-k(z+H)}}{e^{kH} - e^{-kH}} \\ &= -\frac{ia\omega}{k} \frac{\cosh(k(z+H))}{\sinh(kH)} \end{aligned} \tag{28}$$

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Thus,

$$\phi = -\frac{ia\omega}{k} \frac{\cosh(k(z+H))}{\sinh(kH)} e^{i(kx-\omega t)} \quad (29)$$

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$$\phi = -\frac{ia\omega \cosh(k(z + H))}{k \sinh(kH)} e^{i(kx - \omega t)} \quad (29)$$

Taking real part,

$$\phi = \frac{a\omega \cosh(k(z + H))}{k \sinh(kH)} \sin(kx - \omega t) \quad (30)$$



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Taking real part,

$$\phi = \frac{a \omega \cosh(k(z+H))}{k \sinh(kH)} \sin(kx - \omega t) \quad (30)$$

which gives,

$$\begin{aligned} u_x &= \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x} = a \omega \frac{\cosh(k(z+H))}{\sinh(kH)} \cos(kx - \omega t) \\ u_z &= \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial z} = a \omega \frac{\sinh(k(z+H))}{\sinh(kH)} \sin(kx - \omega t) \end{aligned} \quad (31)$$

# Dispersion relation

Using  $\frac{\partial \phi}{\partial t} = -g\eta$  at  $z = 0$

$$\omega = \sqrt{gk \tanh(kH)} \quad (32)$$

# Particle trajectories

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{\partial x}{\partial t} = u_x &= a\omega \frac{\cosh(k(z_0 + H))}{\sinh(kH)} \cos(kx_0 - \omega t) \\ \frac{\partial z}{\partial t} = u_z &= a\omega \frac{\sinh(k(z_0 + H))}{\sinh(kH)} \sin(kx_0 - \omega t)\end{aligned}\tag{33}$$

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Integrating,

$$\begin{aligned}x &= -a \frac{\cosh(k(z_0 + H))}{\sinh(kH)} \sin(kx_0 - \omega t) \\ z &= a \frac{\sinh(k(z_0 + H))}{\sinh(kH)} \cos(kx_0 - \omega t)\end{aligned}\tag{34}$$

# Particle trajectories

$$\frac{x^2}{[a \cosh(k(z + H)) / \sinh(kH)]^2} + \frac{z^2}{[a \sinh(k(z + H)) / \sinh(kH)]^2} = 1 \quad (35)$$

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which is the equation for an ellipse:  $\frac{x^2}{A^2} + \frac{z^2}{B^2} = 1$ .

# Particle trajectories

- Semi-major axis  $A = a \frac{\cosh(k(z_0 + H))}{\sinh(kH)}$
- Semi-minor axis  $B = a \frac{\sinh(k(z_0 + H))}{\sinh(kH)}$
- Distance between foci  $= \sqrt{A^2 - B^2} = \frac{a}{\sinh(kH)} = \text{constant}$
- Phase  $= kx_0 - \omega t = \text{same for all particles at same } x_0$

# Particle trajectories

Movie ...



# Streamlines

$$\frac{\partial \psi}{\partial z} = u_x ; \quad \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial x} = -u_z \quad (36)$$

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$$\psi = \frac{a\omega}{k} \frac{\sinh(k(z + H))}{\sinh(kH)} \cos(kx - \omega t) \quad (37)$$

# Streamlines

Movie ...

# Phase speed

$$\omega = \sqrt{gk \tanh(kH)} \quad (38)$$

$$c = \frac{\omega}{k} = \frac{\sqrt{gk \tanh kH}}{k} = \sqrt{\frac{g}{k} \tanh kH} \quad (39)$$

# Deep water approximation

$$kH \gg 1, H > 0.28\lambda \quad (40)$$

$$A = a \frac{\cosh(k(z_0 + H))}{\sinh(kH)} \approx e^{kz_0}$$
$$B = a \frac{\sinh(k(z_0 + H))}{\sinh(kH)} \approx e^{kz_0} \quad (41)$$

$$\tanh kH \approx 1$$

$A = B$ , particles go in circles.

$$\omega = \sqrt{gk}$$
$$c = \frac{\omega}{k} = \sqrt{\frac{g}{k}} \quad (42)$$

# Shallow water approximation

$$kH \ll 1, \quad H < 0.07\lambda \quad (43)$$

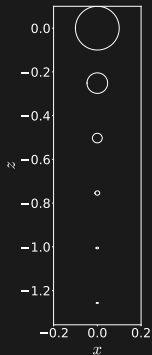
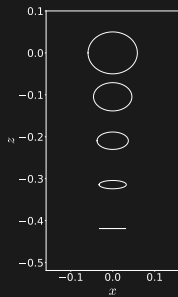
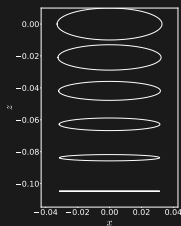
$$A = a \frac{\cosh(k(z_0 + H))}{\sinh(kH)} \approx \frac{a}{kH}$$
$$B = a \frac{\sinh(k(z_0 + H))}{\sinh(kH)} \approx a \left(1 + \frac{z}{H}\right) \quad (44)$$

$$\tanh kH \approx kH$$

$A = \text{constant}$ , particles go in ellipses, with same semi-major axis.  
Semi-minor axes gets smaller.

$$\omega = \sqrt{gk^2 H}$$
$$c = \frac{\omega}{k} = \sqrt{gH} \quad (45)$$

# Illustration



# Two interacting waves

$$\eta = a \cos(k_1 x - \omega_1 t) + a \cos(k_2 x - \omega_2 t) \quad (46)$$



# Trig 101

$$\begin{aligned}\cos(A + B) &= \cos A \cos B - \sin A \sin B \\ \cos(A - B) &= \cos A \cos B + \sin A \sin B\end{aligned}\tag{47}$$

Adding the two

$$2 \cos A \cos B = \cos(A + B) + \cos(A - B)\tag{48}$$

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Replace  $A \rightarrow \frac{a+b}{2}$ ,  $B \rightarrow \frac{a-b}{2}$

$$2 \cos\left(\frac{a+b}{2}\right) \cos\left(\frac{a-b}{2}\right) = \cos a + \cos b\tag{49}$$

## Two interacting waves

$$\eta = a \cos(k_1 x - \omega_1 t) + a \cos(k_2 x - \omega_2 t) \quad (50)$$

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$$\eta = a \cos(k_1 x - \omega_1 t) + a \cos(k_2 x - \omega_2 t) \quad (50)$$

$$\eta = 2a \cos\left(\frac{\Delta k}{2}x - \frac{\Delta \omega}{2}t\right) \cos(kx - \omega t) \quad (51)$$

where,

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta k &= k_1 - k_2 \\ \Delta \omega &= \omega_1 - \omega_2 \\ k &= \frac{1}{2}(k_1 + k_2) \\ \omega &= \frac{1}{2}(\omega_1 + \omega_2) \end{aligned} \quad (52)$$

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For a continuous distribution,  $\omega(k)$ ,

$$c_g = \frac{d\omega}{dk} \quad (56)$$

# Surface gravity waves

$$\omega(k) = \sqrt{gk \tanh(kH)} \quad (57)$$

$$c_g = \frac{d\omega}{dk} = \frac{c}{2} \left( 1 + \frac{2kH}{\sinh(2kH)} \right) \quad (58)$$