

METR 5123, Advanced Atmospheric Dynamics II
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REVIEW OF SURFACE GRAVITY WAVES

First, we'll review some notation and concepts that will be applicable to many kinds of waves (not just surface gravity waves).

Often we'll work w/ waves of the form:

$$\text{some flow property} \sim a \sin\left[\frac{2\pi}{\lambda}(x - ct)\right] \quad \text{or} \quad a \cos\left[\frac{2\pi}{\lambda}(x - ct)\right]$$

a is amplitude

$\frac{2\pi}{\lambda}(x - ct)$ is phase of wave

λ is wavelength

c is phase speed

Why consider waves of this form?

-- Many waves in atmosphere "look" like sines or cosines.

-- Many waves approximately satisfy linear const coeff odes and pdes that permit sin and cos solns. Can use Fourier analysis to get solns of complicated problems by summing sin and cos solns of various amplitudes and wavelengths.

A closer look at wave parameters:

phase: $\frac{2\pi}{\lambda} (x - ct)$

Wave repeats itself when phase changes by 2π . So, at a fixed moment in time, phase changes by 2π when x changes by λ . Hence the name wavelength for λ .

$k \equiv \frac{2\pi}{\lambda}$ is wavenumber, # waves in (dimensional) length of 2π .

e.g., if $\lambda = \pi$ (meters) then there are 2 waves in 2π meters.

$k = \frac{2\pi}{\pi \text{ m}} = 2 \text{ m}^{-1}$.

Think: long waves --> small k
 short waves --> big k

At a fixed point, phase changes by 2π when time changes by $\frac{\lambda}{c}$

So wave period is: $T \equiv \frac{\lambda}{c}$.

$\nu \equiv \frac{1}{T}$ is frequency, # of oscillations per unit time

$\omega \equiv \frac{2\pi}{T} = 2\pi\nu$ is circular (or radian) frequency.

Since $T = \frac{\lambda}{c} \rightarrow \omega = 2\pi \frac{c}{\lambda} = kc$

$\therefore \boxed{c = \frac{\omega}{k}}$

alternate expressions:

$$\sin\frac{2\pi}{\lambda}(x - ct)$$

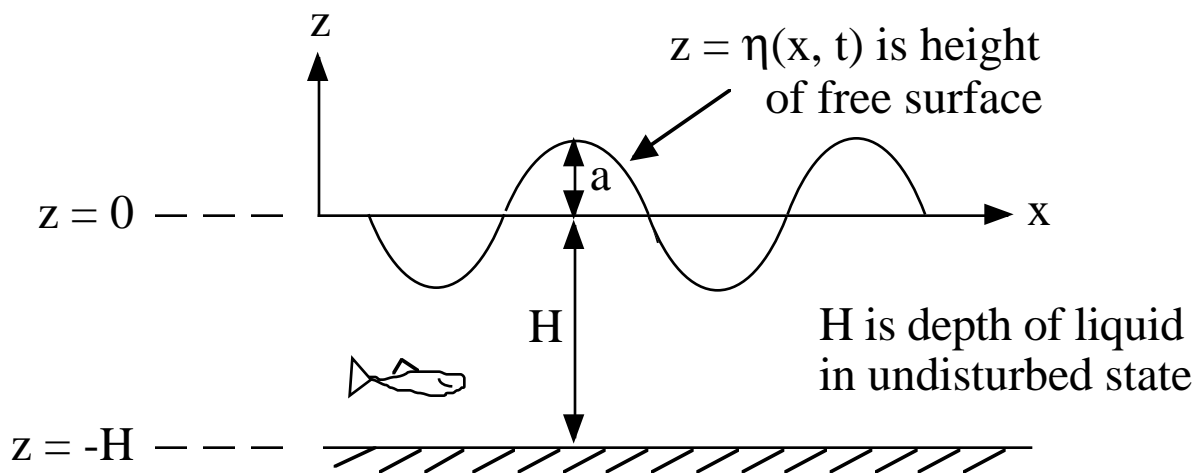
$$\sin[k(x - ct)]$$

$$\sin(kx - \omega t)$$

Motion of crests/troughs is motion of a geometric pattern. Fluid does not generally move with the wave pattern, e.g. Rossby waves, e.g., ocean waves might propagate toward shore at 20 m/s, but fluid moves toward and away from shore at ~ 1 m/s.

Surface gravity waves

Consider 2-D motion in the x-z plane of a liquid w/ a free surface (e.g. air/sea interface) [a pool of cold air underlying warm air is similar but more complicated]



-- assume disturbance is "infinitesimal", i.e., a is so small that:

$$a \ll H \quad (a/H \ll 1)$$

and $a \ll \lambda \quad (a/\lambda \ll 1)$

Because of this, nonlinear accelⁿ terms are very small compared to local derivs (products of small quantities are really small)

-- neglect friction

-- assume $T \ll$ rotation period of earth, or equivalently $\omega \gg f$
 \therefore can safely neglect Coriolis force.

-- assume fluid was initially at rest (so irrotational) and waves created irrotationally. So from Kelvin's Th^m, the flow will always be irrot. So $\vec{\omega}(t) = 0$

$$\therefore \boxed{\vec{u}(t) = \nabla\phi(t)}$$

-- assume flow is incompressible, $\nabla \cdot \vec{u} = 0$

Substituting in $\vec{u} = \nabla\phi$ we get:

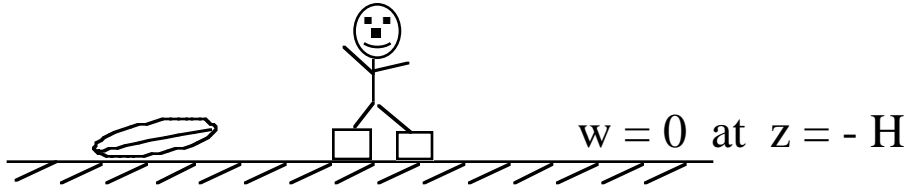
$$\nabla \cdot \nabla\phi = 0$$

$\therefore \nabla^2\phi = 0$ Laplace's eqn.

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

Need b.c.s to solve it.

At bottom: impermeability condⁿ:



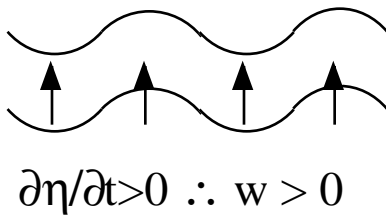
$$\therefore \boxed{\frac{\partial \phi}{\partial z} = 0 \text{ at } z = -H}$$

On top (free surface): a kinematic b.c. and a dynamic b.c.

Top Kinematic b.c.: A fluid element on free sfc remains on that sfc no matter how sfc moves or deforms. $\therefore z_{\text{parcel on sfc}} = \eta$

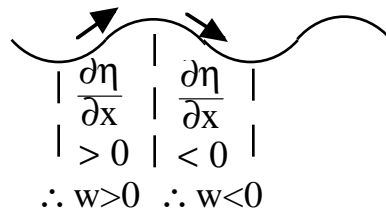
$$\begin{aligned} \therefore w_{\text{parcel on sfc}} &= \frac{D}{Dt} z_{\text{parcel on sfc}} = \frac{D\eta}{Dt} = \frac{\partial \eta}{\partial t} + u \frac{\partial \eta}{\partial x} \\ \therefore \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial z} &= \frac{\partial \eta}{\partial t} + u \frac{\partial \eta}{\partial x} \quad \text{on } z = \eta(x,t) \end{aligned}$$

sfc moving upward:



$$\frac{\partial \eta}{\partial t} > 0 \therefore w > 0$$

Stationary sfc with $u > 0$



$$\therefore w > 0 \quad \therefore w < 0$$

For infinitesimal waves, neglect products of small quantities (nonlinear terms). Neglect $u \frac{\partial \eta}{\partial x}$.

$$\therefore \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial z} = \frac{\partial \eta}{\partial t} \quad \text{on } z = \eta(x,t) \quad [\text{still nonlinear: } \eta \text{ is affected by flow}]$$

Exapnd l.h.s. in a Taylor series about $z = 0$:

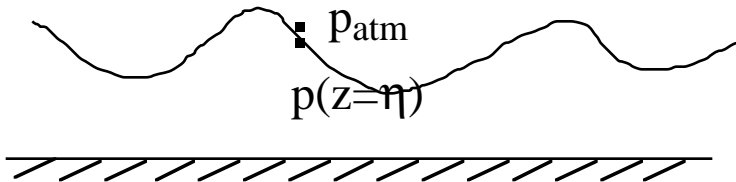
$$\frac{\partial \phi}{\partial z} \Big|_{z=\eta} = \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial z} \Big|_{z=0} + \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \left(\frac{\partial \phi}{\partial z} \right) \Big|_{z=0} \eta + \dots$$

[
neglect these terms since η is small



$\therefore \boxed{\frac{\partial \phi}{\partial z} = \frac{\partial \eta}{\partial t} \text{ on } z = 0}$ Linearized kinematic b.c. on free sfc.
[Neglected a nonlinear term and put b.c. at $z=0$ instead of $z=\eta$]

Dynamic b.c. on free surface: pressure is continuous across air/sea interface. So pressure on liquid side of interface = atm pressure.



$$p(z = \eta(x,t)) = p_{\text{atm}}$$

Translate this b.c. into a b.c. on ϕ , using Bernoulli's eqⁿ for unsteady, irrot flow:

$$\frac{\partial \phi}{\partial t} + \frac{q^2}{2} + \frac{p}{\rho} + gz = C \quad (\text{same const everywhere})$$

Apply it on free sfc $z=\eta$ (liquid side), w/ $p=p_{\text{atm}}$, and neglect q^2 :

$$\therefore \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial t} + \frac{p_{\text{atm}}}{\rho} + g\eta = C$$

$$\therefore \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial t} + g\eta = \left(C - \frac{p_{\text{atm}}}{\rho}\right) = \text{const}$$

Set $\text{const} = 0$. [Flow doesn't care about it. Equivalently, define $\phi_{\text{new}} = \phi_{\text{old}} + \text{const } t$, and plug into above eqn. The const cancels out, but since $\vec{u} = \nabla \phi$ and $\nabla \phi_{\text{new}} = \nabla \phi_{\text{old}}$, the flow is unchanged.]

$$\therefore \boxed{\frac{\partial \phi}{\partial t}} + g\eta = 0 \quad \text{at } z = \eta$$

Expand it in a Taylor series in z about $z = 0$:

$$\therefore \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial t} \Big|_{z=\eta} = \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial t} \Big|_{z=0} + \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \left(\frac{\partial \phi}{\partial t} \right) \Big|_{z=0} \eta + \text{h.o.t.}$$

[neglect since η is small]

\therefore linearized dynamic free sfc b.c. is:

$$\boxed{\frac{\partial \phi}{\partial t} + g\eta = 0 \quad \text{at } z = 0}$$

Want to solve $\frac{\partial^2 \phi}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 \phi}{\partial z^2} = 0$ subject to the above b.c.

Consider a "wavy" pattern for η : $\eta = a \cos(kx - \omega t)$

From either top b.c., suspect $\phi \propto \sin(kx - \omega t)$ w/ a z dependence.

Trial solution: $\phi = f(z) \sin(kx - \omega t)$ [will it work?]

Plug it into Laplace's eqn, get:

$$-k^2 f \sin(kx - \omega t) + \frac{d^2 f}{dz^2} \sin(kx - \omega t) = 0$$

$\therefore \frac{d^2 f}{dz^2} - k^2 f = 0$ a 2nd order linear const coeff ode

Trial soln for f: $f = e^{mz}$. Plug into ode, get:

$$m^2 - k^2 = 0, \therefore m = k \text{ or } -k$$

So general solⁿ for f is: $f = A e^{kz} + B e^{-kz}$

and so ϕ becomes:

$$(*) \quad \phi = \left(A e^{kz} + B e^{-kz} \right) \sin(kx - \omega t)$$

Now use b.c. to pin down A, B.

Lower kinematic b.c. is

$$\frac{\partial \phi}{\partial z} = 0 \text{ at } z = -H.$$

Apply it in (*), get

$$\left(A k e^{kz} - k B e^{-kz} \right) \Big|_{z=-H} \sin(kx - \omega t) = 0$$

$$\therefore A k e^{-kH} - k B e^{kH} = 0$$

$$\therefore \boxed{A = B e^{2kH}}$$

Top linearized kinematic b.c. is

$$\frac{\partial \phi}{\partial z} = \frac{\partial \eta}{\partial t} \text{ on } z = 0.$$

Apply it in (*), get

$$\therefore \left(Ake^{kz} - kB e^{-kz} \right) \Big|_{z=0} \sin(kx - \omega t) = -a(-\omega) \sin(kx - \omega t)$$

$$\therefore \boxed{k(A - B) = a\omega}$$

2 linear algebraic eq^{ns} for 2 unknowns, A, B. Solution is:

$$A = \frac{a\omega}{k(e^{2kH} - 1)} e^{2kH}, \quad B = \frac{a\omega}{k(e^{2kH} - 1)}$$

$$\therefore \phi = \frac{a\omega}{k(e^{2kH} - 1)} \left(e^{2kH} e^{kz} + e^{-kz} \right) \sin(kx - \omega t)$$

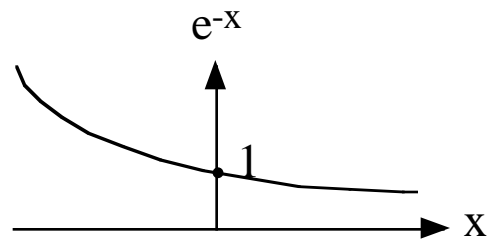
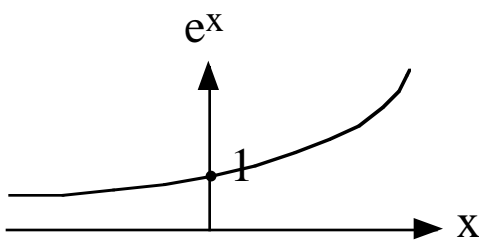
factor out e^{kH} from top and bottom, and mult by $\frac{2}{2}$

$$\therefore \phi = \frac{a\omega}{k} \frac{2}{e^{kH} - e^{-kH}} \left(\frac{e^{k(z+H)} + e^{-k(z+H)}}{2} \right) \sin(kx - \omega t)$$

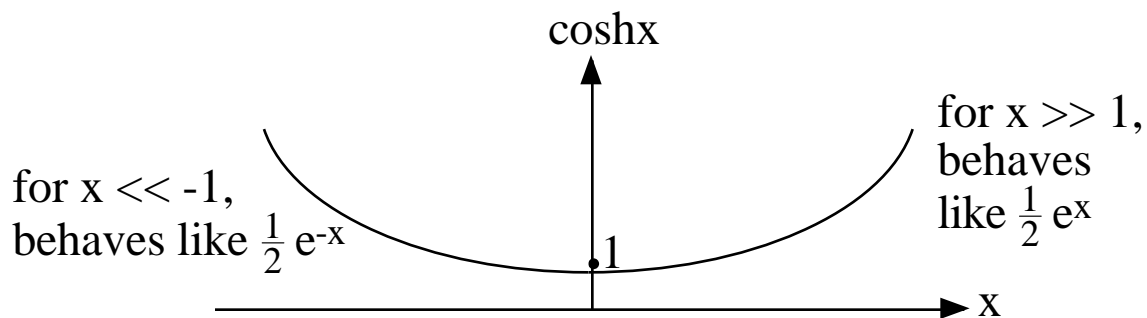
$$\therefore \phi = \frac{a\omega}{k} \frac{\cosh [k(z+H)]}{\sinh(kH)} \sin(kx - \omega t)$$

----- scratch paper, review of hyperbolic functions

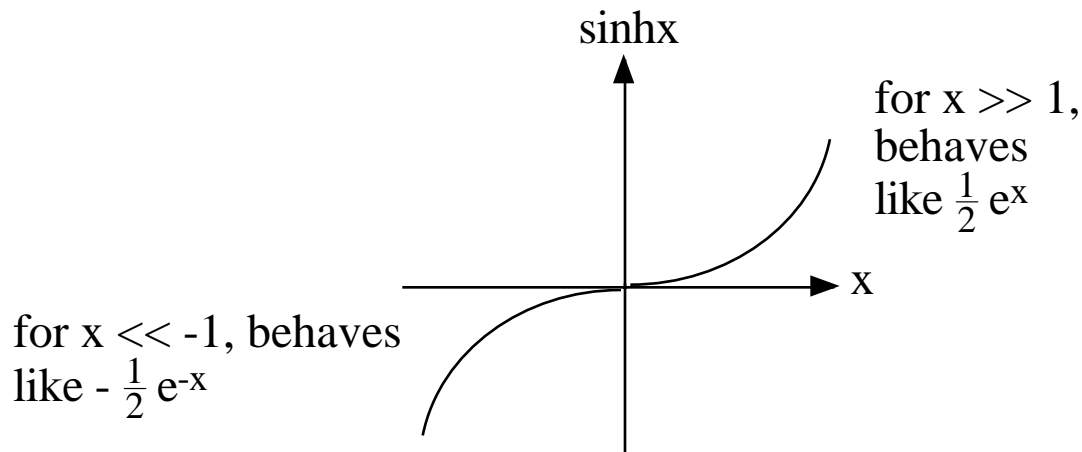
here's how e^x and e^{-x} behave:



Now define $\cosh x \equiv \frac{e^x + e^{-x}}{2}$, the average of e^x and e^{-x} :



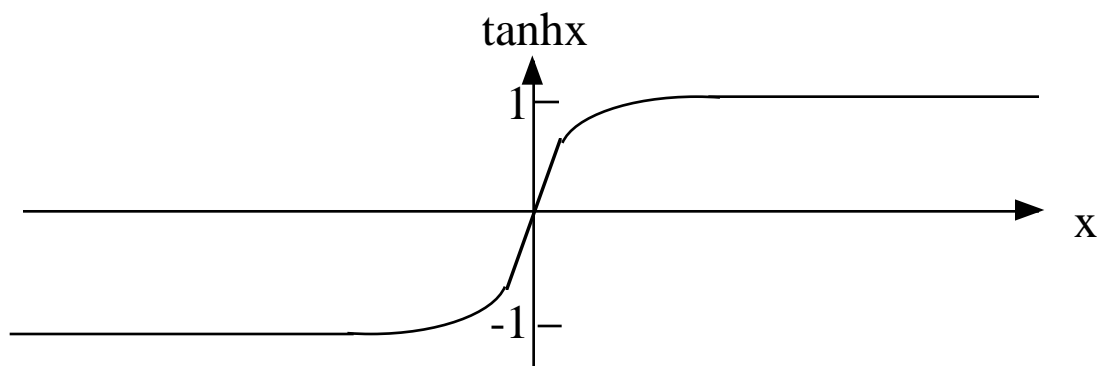
Now define $\sinh x \equiv \frac{e^x - e^{-x}}{2}$, the difference btw e^x and e^{-x}
(divided by 2):



$$\frac{d}{dx} \cosh x = \frac{1}{2} \frac{d}{dx} (e^x + e^{-x}) = \frac{1}{2} (e^x - e^{-x}) = \sinh x$$

$$\frac{d}{dx} \sinh x = \frac{1}{2} \frac{d}{dx} (e^x - e^{-x}) = \frac{1}{2} (e^x + e^{-x}) = \cosh x$$

Now define $\tanh x \equiv \frac{\sinh x}{\cosh x}$



----- end of scratch paper

$$u = \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x} = a\omega \frac{\cosh[k(z + H)]}{\sinh(kH)} \cos(kx - \omega t)$$

$$w = \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial z} = a\omega \frac{\sinh[k(z+H)]}{\sinh(kH)} \sin(kx - \omega t)$$

Get p from linearized Bernoulli eqⁿ:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{p}{\rho} &= \text{const} - gz - \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial t} \\ &= \text{const} - gz + \frac{a\omega^2 \cosh[k(z+H)]}{k \sinh(kH)} \cos(kx - \omega t) \end{aligned}$$

Now apply linearized dynamic b.c.: $\frac{\partial \phi}{\partial t} + g\eta = 0$ on $z = 0$

$$\therefore -\frac{a\omega^2 \cosh(kH)}{k \sinh(kH)} \cos(kx - \omega t) + g a \cos(kx - \omega t) = 0$$

$$\omega^2 = gk \tanh(kH)$$

$$\therefore \boxed{\omega = \sqrt{gk \tanh(kH)}} \quad \text{dispersion relation } [\omega = \omega(k)]$$

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

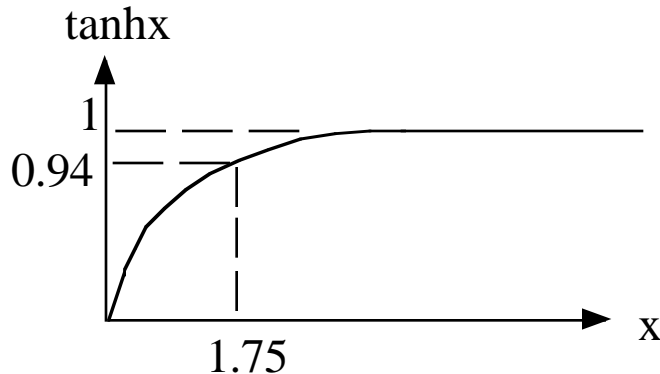
Note: c, ω indep of amplitude a (a feature of linear waves).

Now consider the limiting cases of "deep-water" and "shallow-water" surface gravity waves.

"deep-water" condition: $\boxed{\lambda \ll H}$ or $\frac{H}{\lambda} \gg 1$ or $kH \gg 1$

$$\therefore \tanh(kH) \approx 1$$

Actually, $\tanh(kH) \approx 1$ even for H/λ not too big:



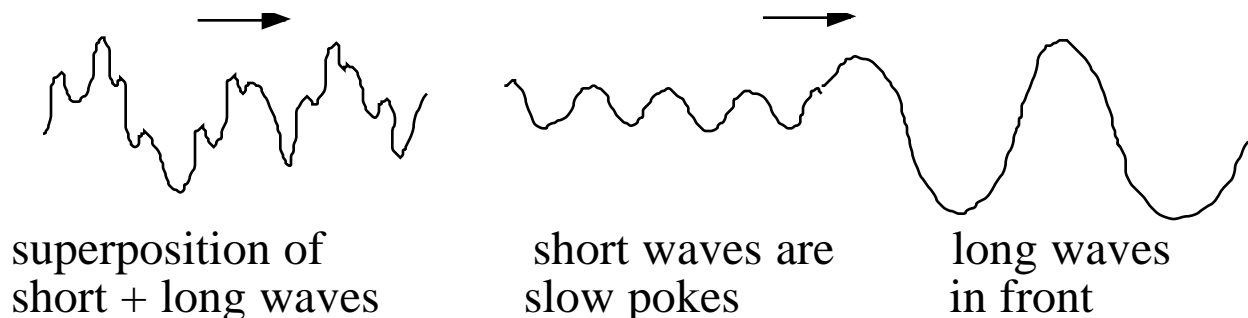
So, in practice, have
"deep water" for $kH > 1.75$

So for deep water: $\omega_{\text{deep}} = \sqrt{gk}$, $c_{\text{deep}} = \sqrt{\frac{g}{k}} = \sqrt{\frac{g\lambda}{2\pi}}$

\therefore Longer waves have faster phase speeds. [No H dependence]

Consider a mixture of short
and long waves in deep water.

After a while, waves sort
themselves out (disperse):



When there's a storm way out at sea, the first waves to reach the shore are the long waves (low frequency waves).

"shallow-water" condition: $\lambda \gg H$ or $\frac{H}{\lambda} \ll 1$ or $kH \ll 1$

$$\therefore \tanh(kH) = \frac{e^{kH} - e^{-kH}}{e^{kH} + e^{-kH}} = \frac{(1 + kH + \dots) - (1 - kH + \dots)}{(1 + kH + \dots) + (1 - kH + \dots)}$$

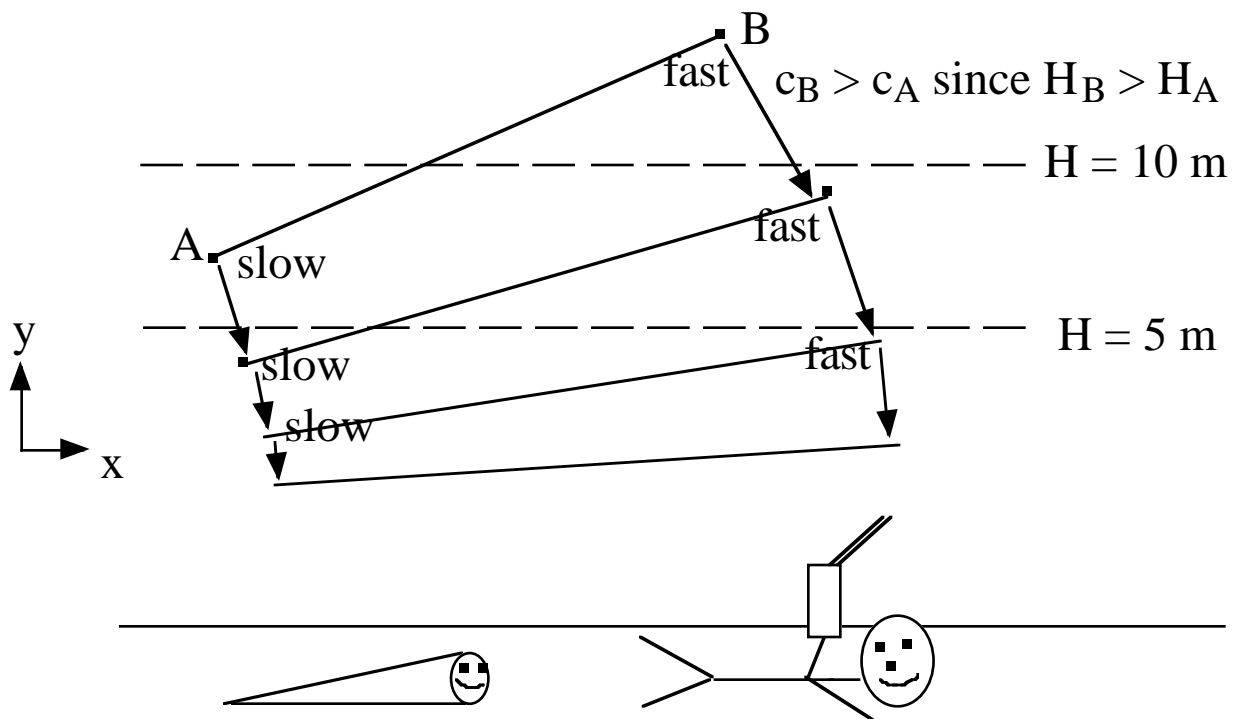
$$= \frac{2kH + \dots}{2 + \dots} \approx kH$$

$$\therefore \omega_{\text{shallow}} = \sqrt{gk kH} = k \sqrt{gH}$$

$$\therefore c_{\text{shallow}} = \frac{\omega_{\text{shallow}}}{k} = \sqrt{gH} \quad \text{indep of } k!$$

So shallow-water waves are non-dispersive.
For shallow water waves, $c \downarrow$ as $H \downarrow$

Consider wave crests approaching a beach obliquely:



Wave crests turn as they approach beach, end up \parallel to beach. A case of wave refraction (bending of wave fronts in inhomogeneous media -- in this case variable $H(x)$).

recall that for general surface gravity waves:

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

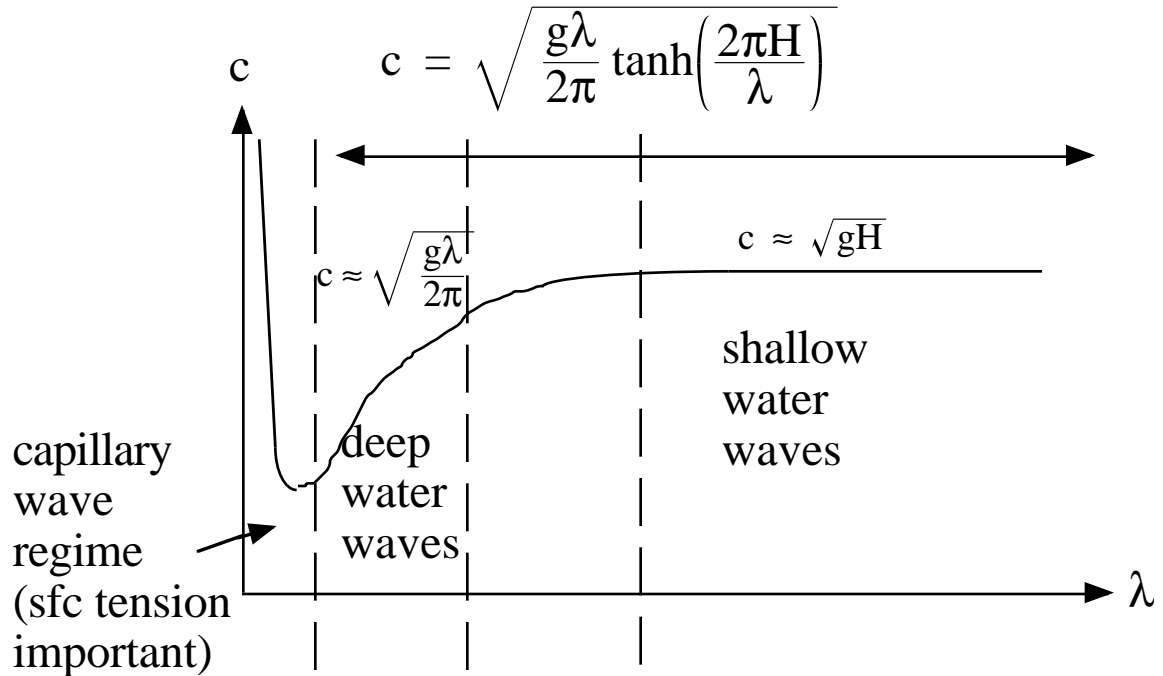
and that for "shallow water": $kH \ll 1$ so we're led to

$$\omega_{\text{shallow}} = k \sqrt{gH}, \quad c_{\text{shallow}} = \sqrt{gH}$$

Now consider pressure in shallow water conditions:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{p_{\text{shallow}}}{\rho} &= \text{const} - gz + \frac{a \omega^2 \approx k^2 gH}{k} \frac{\cosh[k(z+H)] \approx 1}{\sinh(kH) \approx kH} \cos(kx - \omega t) \\ &= \text{const} - gz + ag \cos(kx - \omega t) \\ &= \text{const} - g(z - \eta) \quad \underline{\text{Hydrostatic pressure distribution.}} \end{aligned}$$

Now look at phase speed c for the general surface wave case (deep/shallow/whatever):



"deep" or "shallow" depends on λ relative to H . Water that's 100 m deep is "deep" for $\lambda = 10\text{m}$ but "shallow" for $\lambda = 1000\text{ m}$.

Derive streamfunction for surface gravity wave [recall this is a 2D incomp flow]

$$\frac{\partial \psi}{\partial z} = u = \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x} = a\omega \frac{\cosh[k(z+H)]}{\sinh(kH)} \cos(kx - \omega t)$$

integrate w.r.t. z :

$$(1) \quad \psi = \frac{a\omega}{k} \frac{\sinh[k(z+H)]}{\sinh(kH)} \cos(kx - \omega t) + F(x,t)$$

Similarly, $\frac{\partial \psi}{\partial x} = -w = \dots$ Integrate w.r.t. x , to get:

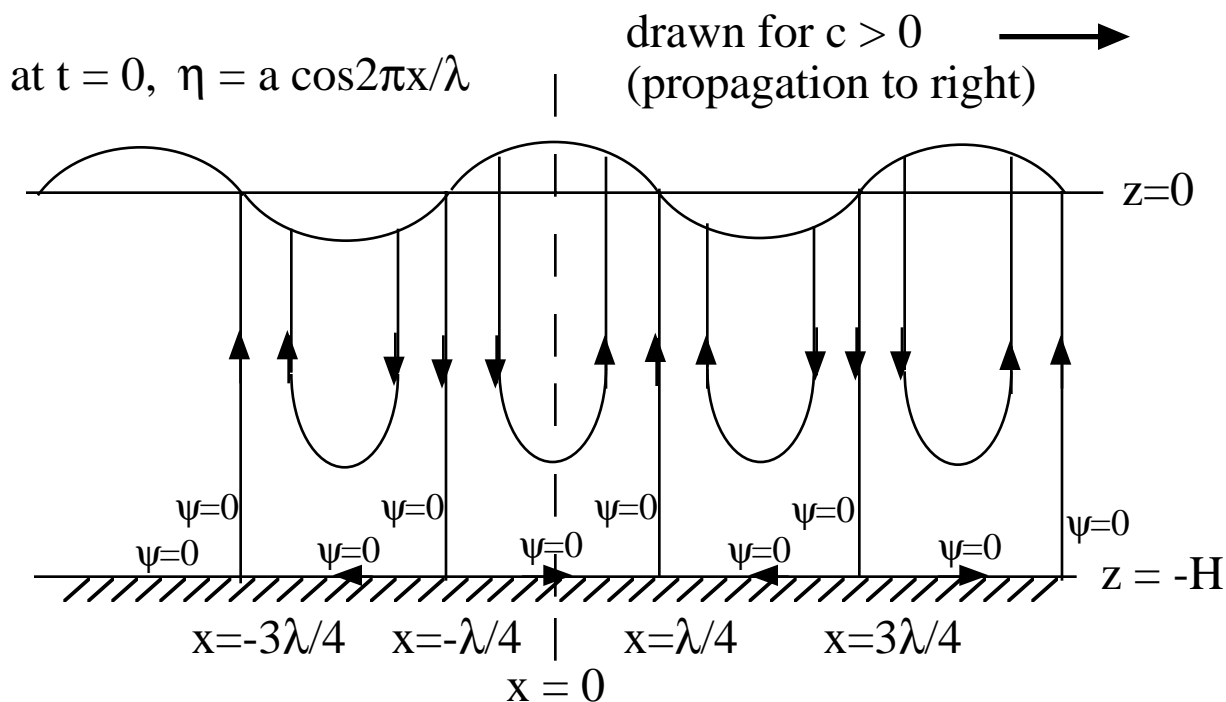
$$(2) \quad \psi = \frac{a\omega}{k} \frac{\sinh[k(z+H)]}{\sinh(kH)} \cos(kx - \omega t) + G(z,t)$$

$F(x,t) = G(z,t)$ but f^n of x can't be a f^n of z -- so no x or z dependence. So $F(x,t) = G(z,t) = E(t)$. But $E(t)$ is irrelevant since u, w only care about spatial derivs of ψ . So take $E(t) = 0$.

$$\therefore \boxed{\psi = \frac{a\omega}{k} \frac{\sinh[k(z+H)]}{\sinh(kH)} \cos(kx - \omega t)}$$

Graph streamlines ($\psi = \text{const}$) at $t = 0$.

$$\psi = 0 \text{ for: } z = -H \text{ and for: } \begin{array}{l} \boxed{k} x = \pm \frac{\pi}{2}, \pm \frac{3\pi}{2}, \pm \frac{5\pi}{2}, \dots \\ \downarrow \\ 2\pi/\lambda \\ x = \pm \frac{\lambda}{4}, \pm \frac{3\lambda}{4}, \pm \frac{5\lambda}{4}, \dots \end{array}$$



[Get dirn of flow (arrows) from soln for u or w , or consider: for pattern moving toward right, η is rising to right of crest (so $w > 0$ there) and η is falling to left of crest (so $w < 0$ there). Arrows on

bottom give sense of horiz conv/div needed to support this w field. Clearly parcel velocity differs from phase speed.].

Group Velocity

Concept of group velocity is appropriate for many different types of waves (not just surface gravity waves).

Consider 2 waves of equal amplitude and slightly different frequency and wavelength moving in same direction:

$$\omega_1 = \omega + \Delta\omega, \quad k_1 = k + \Delta k$$

$$\omega_2 = \omega - \Delta\omega, \quad k_2 = k - \Delta k$$

assume $\frac{\Delta\omega}{\omega} \ll 1$, $\frac{\Delta k}{k} \ll 1$

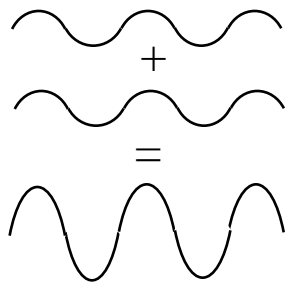
Because of dispersion relation, $\Delta\omega$ is related to Δk .

Mean frequency is: $\frac{\omega_1 + \omega_2}{2} = \frac{\omega + \Delta\omega + \omega - \Delta\omega}{2} = \omega$

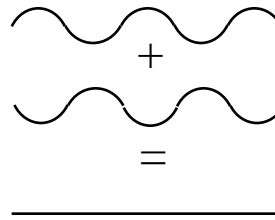
Mean wavenumber is: $\frac{k_1 + k_2}{2} = \dots = k$

Where the waves are in phase (or nearly so) they combine to form a wave of twice amplitude. Where they're out of phase, they kill each other off.

2 waves in phase:



2 waves out of phase:



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

$$= a \cos(kx - \omega t + \Delta k x - \Delta \omega t) + a \cos(kx - \omega t - (\Delta k x - \Delta \omega t))$$

$$= a \cos(kx - \omega t) \cos(\Delta k x - \Delta \omega t) \boxed{- a \sin(kx - \omega t) \sin(\Delta k x - \Delta \omega t)}$$

cancellation

$$+ a \cos(kx - \omega t) \cos(\Delta k x - \Delta \omega t) \boxed{+ a \sin(kx - \omega t) \sin(\Delta k x - \Delta \omega t)}$$

$$= 2a \cos(kx - \omega t) \cos(\Delta k x - \Delta \omega t)$$

$$\therefore \eta = \underset{\substack{\downarrow \\ \text{effective} \\ \text{amplitude}}}{A} \boxed{\cos(kx - \omega t)} \quad \text{where } A \equiv 2a \cos(\Delta k x - \Delta \omega t)$$

\downarrow
 carrier wave (mean wave)

Effective amplitude A is itself a wave with wavelength

$$\lambda_{\text{amplitude}} = \frac{2\pi}{\Delta k} \gg \frac{2\pi}{k} = \lambda_{\text{carrier wave}}$$

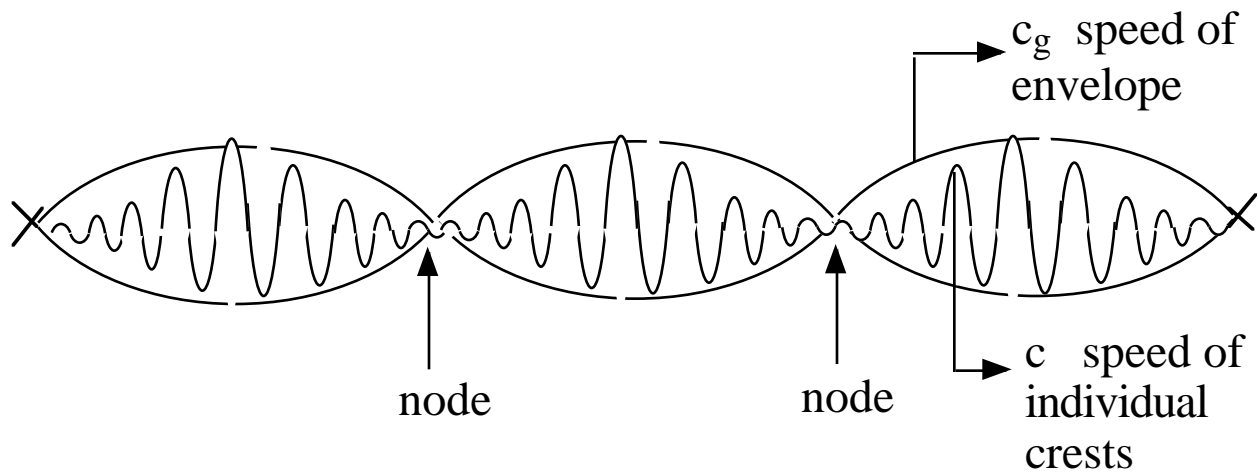
A propagates at speed $\frac{\Delta \omega}{\Delta k}$ where $\Delta \omega$ is related to Δk by

dispersion relⁿ. For small Δk , $\frac{\Delta \omega}{\Delta k} \rightarrow \frac{d\omega}{dk}$. Define $c_g \equiv \frac{d\omega}{dk}$

or $\vec{c}_g \equiv \frac{d\omega}{dk} \hat{i}$ Group velocity. A vector.

c is phase speed of crests [not a vector, see fig. 7.3 Kundu]

c_g is speed of envelope of crests.



Energy is trapped between nodes \therefore energy propagates at speed of nodes (speed of envelope), i.e. speed c_g , not phase speed c .

For deep-water sfc waves:

$$\omega = \sqrt{gk}$$

$$c = \sqrt{\frac{g}{k}}$$

$$c_g = \frac{d\omega}{dk} = \frac{1}{2\sqrt{k}} \sqrt{g}$$

\therefore $c_g = \frac{1}{2} c$ [since $c > c_g$, individual crests move through envelope, die at nodes]

For shallow water sfc waves:

$$\omega = k \sqrt{gH}$$

$$c = \sqrt{gH}$$

$$c_g = \frac{d\omega}{dk} = \sqrt{gH}$$

\therefore $c_g = c$