

EQUATION OF WAVE MOTION

In wave motion, the basic equation describes how a disturbance travels through space and time.

General equation of a progressive wave.

For a wave moving in the $+x$ direction.

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

(or cosine form is equally valid)

Meaning of each term \rightarrow

$y(x, t) \rightarrow$ displacement at position x and time t

$A \rightarrow$ Amplitude (maximum displacement)

$k = \frac{2\pi}{\lambda} \rightarrow$ wave number

$\lambda =$ wavelength

$\omega = 2\pi f \rightarrow$ Angular frequency

$f \rightarrow$ Frequency

$\phi \rightarrow$ Phase constant

Wave moving in the opposite direction

For motion in the $-x$ direction

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

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Wave equation (Differential form)

The general wave equation is:

$$\frac{\partial^2 y}{\partial x^2} = \frac{1}{v^2} \frac{\partial^2 y}{\partial t^2}$$

where v is the wave speed.

If you want, tell me:

~~Is this for physics?~~