

# ACOUSTIC WAVES IN GASES

## Basic Differences with EM Waves:

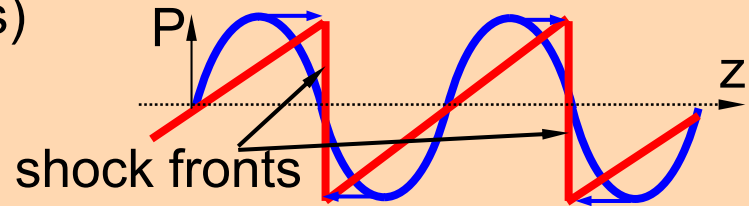
Electromagnetic Waves	Acoustic Waves
$\bar{E}$ , $\bar{H}$ are vectors $\perp \bar{S}$ Linear physics	$\bar{U}$ (velocity) $\parallel \bar{S}$ , $P$ (pressure) is scalar Non-linear physics, use perturbations

## Acoustic Non-linearities:

Compression heats the gas; cooling by conduction and radiation (adiabatic assumption—no heat transfer)

Compression and advection introduce position shifts in wave

Wave velocity depends on pressure, varies along wave  
 (loud sounds form shock waves)



## Acoustic Variables:

Pressure:  $P \text{ [Nm}^{-2}\text{]} = P_0 + p$

Velocity:  $\bar{U} \text{ [ms}^{-1}\text{]} = \bar{U}_0 + \bar{u} = \bar{u}$  (set  $\bar{U}_0 = 0$  here)

Density:  $\rho \text{ [kg m}^3\text{]} = \rho_0 + \rho_1$  ← use perturbations

# ACOUSTIC EQUATIONS

## Mass Conservation Equation:

Recall:  $\nabla \cdot \bar{\mathbf{J}} = \nabla \cdot \rho_e \bar{\mathbf{u}} = -\frac{\partial \rho_e}{\partial t}$  Conservation of charge

Acoustics:  $\nabla \cdot \rho \bar{\mathbf{u}} = -\frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t}$  Conservation of mass

Linearize:  $\nabla \cdot (\rho_o + \rho_1)(\bar{\mathbf{u}}_o + \bar{\mathbf{u}}) \cong -\frac{\partial (\rho_o + \rho_1)}{\partial t} = -\frac{\partial \rho_1}{\partial t}$

Drop 2<sup>nd</sup> order term ( $\rho_1 \bar{\mathbf{u}}$ )

## Linearized Conservation of Mass:

$$\rho_o \nabla \cdot \bar{\mathbf{u}} \cong -\frac{\partial \rho_1}{\partial t}$$

## Linearized Force Equation (f = ma):

$$\nabla p = -\rho_o \frac{\partial \bar{\mathbf{u}}}{\partial t}$$

## Constitutive Equation:

Fractional changes in gas density and pressure are proportional:

$$\frac{d\rho}{\rho} = \frac{1}{\gamma} \frac{dP}{P} \Rightarrow \rho_1 = \left(\frac{\rho_o}{\gamma P_o}\right) p$$

"adiabatic exponent"  $\gamma = 5/3$  monotomic gas,  $\sim 1.4$  air, 1-2 else

**3 Equations, 3 Unknowns:** Reduce to 2 unknowns ( $p, \bar{\mathbf{u}}$ )

# ACOUSTIC EQUATIONS

## Differential Equations:

Newton's Law ( $f = ma$ ):  $\nabla p = -\rho_o \frac{\partial \bar{u}}{\partial t}$  [ $\text{Nm}^{-3}$ ] [ $\text{kg m}^{-2}\text{s}^{-2}$ ]

Conservation of Mass:  $\nabla \cdot \bar{u} \cong -\frac{1}{\gamma P_o} \frac{\partial p}{\partial t}$  [ $\text{s}^{-1}$ ]

## Acoustic Wave Equation:

$$\nabla \cdot \nabla p \Rightarrow \underbrace{\nabla^2 p}_{\text{2}^{\text{nd}} \text{ spatial derivative}} - \underbrace{\frac{\rho_o}{\gamma P_o} \frac{\partial^2 p}{\partial t^2}}_{\text{2}^{\text{nd}} \text{ derivative in time}} = 0 \quad \text{"Acoustic Wave Equation"}$$

2<sup>nd</sup> spatial derivative = 2<sup>nd</sup> derivative in time

## Solution:

$$p(t, \bar{r}) = p(\omega t - \bar{k} \cdot \bar{r}) \quad [\text{Nm}^{-2}]$$

# UNIFORM PLANE WAVES

**Example: assume  $p(t,r) = \cos(\omega t - kz)$ :**

$$\nabla p = -\rho_o \frac{\partial \bar{u}}{\partial t} \Rightarrow \bar{u} = -\hat{z} \int \frac{1}{\rho_o} \nabla p \, dt = \hat{z} \frac{k}{\underbrace{\rho_o \omega}_{\eta_s^{-1}}} \cos(\omega t - kz)$$

Substituting solution into wave equation

$\Rightarrow$  “Acoustic Dispersion Relation”:

$$k = \omega \sqrt{\frac{\rho_o}{\gamma P_o}} = \frac{\omega}{c_s}$$

Acoustic Impedance of Gas:

$$\eta_s = \frac{\omega \rho_o}{k} = \sqrt{\rho_o \gamma P_o} \quad (\eta_s \cong 425 \text{ Nsm}^{-3} [\neq \Omega] \text{ for air } 20^\circ\text{C})$$

## Velocity of Sound:

Phase velocity:  $v_p = \frac{\omega}{k} = \sqrt{\frac{\gamma P_o}{\rho_o}} = c_s$

Group velocity:  $v_g = \left(\frac{\partial k}{\partial \omega}\right)^{-1} = \sqrt{\frac{\gamma P_o}{\rho_o}} = c_s$

Example:

Air at  $0^\circ\text{C}$ , Surface at  $P_o$   
 $\Rightarrow c_s \cong 330 \text{ m/s}$   
( $\gamma = 1.4$ ,  $\rho_o = 1.29 \text{ kg/m}^3$   
 $P_o = 1.01 \times 10^5 \text{ N/m}^2$ )

## Velocity of Sound in Liquids and Solids:

$c_s = (K/\rho_o)^{0.5} \cong 1,500 \text{ ms}^{-1}$  in water,  $\cong 1,500 - 13,000$  in solids

“Bulk modulus”

# ACOUSTIC POWER AND ENERGY

## Poynting Theorem, differential form:

Recall:  $\nabla p = -\rho_o \frac{\partial \bar{u}}{\partial t}$  [Nm<sup>-3</sup>] [kg m<sup>-2</sup>s<sup>-2</sup>]       $\nabla \cdot \bar{u} \cong -\frac{1}{\gamma P_o} \frac{\partial p}{\partial t}$  [s<sup>-1</sup>]

Note: Wave intensity [Wm<sup>-2</sup>] =  $p\bar{u}$  [(Nm<sup>-2</sup>)(ms<sup>-1</sup>)]  
[Watts]

Try:  $\nabla \cdot \bar{u}p = \bar{u} \cdot \nabla p + p\nabla \cdot \bar{u} = -\rho_o \bar{u} \cdot \frac{\partial \bar{u}}{\partial t} - \frac{1}{\gamma P_o} p \frac{\partial p}{\partial t}$

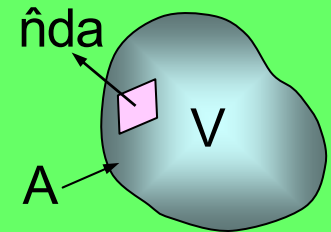
$$\nabla \cdot \bar{u}p = -\frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \left[ \rho_o |\bar{u}|^2 - \frac{1}{\gamma P_o} p^2 \right] \quad [\text{W/m}^3] \quad \text{Acoustic Poynting Theorem}$$

## Integral form:

$$\int_A p\bar{u} \cdot \hat{n} da = -\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \int_V \left[ \rho_o \frac{|\bar{u}|^2}{2} + \frac{p^2}{2\gamma P_o} \right] dv$$

$I$  [Wm<sup>-2</sup>]
 $W_k$  [Jm<sup>-3</sup>]
 $W_p$

Acoustic intensity
Kinetic
Potential



## Plane Wave Intensity $I = p\bar{u} \cdot \hat{n}$ [Wm<sup>-2</sup>]:

Intensity:  $I(t) = \frac{p^2}{\eta_s} = \eta_s |\bar{u}|^2$  [Wm<sup>-2</sup>],

$$I_o = \langle I(t) \rangle = \frac{|p_o|^2}{2\eta_s} = \eta_s \frac{|\bar{u}_o|^2}{2}$$

Where:  $\eta_s = \sqrt{\rho_o \gamma P_o}$  { $\cong 425$  Nsm<sup>-3</sup> in surface air}

# ACOUSTIC INTENSITY

**Plane Wave Intensity  $I = p\bar{u} \cdot \hat{n}$  [ $\text{Wm}^{-2}$ ]:**

$$\text{Intensity: } I(t) = \frac{p^2}{\eta_s} = \eta_s |\bar{u}|^2 \quad [\text{Wm}^{-2}], \quad I_o = \langle I(t) \rangle = \frac{|p_o|^2}{2\eta_s} = \eta_s \frac{|\bar{u}_o|^2}{2}$$

$$\text{Where: } \eta_s = \sqrt{\rho_o \gamma P_o} \quad \{\cong 425 \text{ Nsm}^{-3} \text{ in surface air}\}$$

**Example: small radio at beach:**

$$I_o = 1 \text{ [Wm}^{-2}\text{] at 1 kHz}$$

$$\Rightarrow p_o = \sqrt{2\eta_s I_o} = \sqrt{850} = \sim 30 \text{ [N/m}^2\text{]}$$

$$u_o = p_o/\eta_s = 0.07 \text{ [ms}^{-1}\text{]}; \quad \Delta z = 2u_o/\omega = 10 \text{ microns}$$

**Example: Threshold of hearing:**

$$I_{\text{thresh}} \cong 0 \text{ dB (acoustic scale)} = 10^{-12} \text{ [Wm}^{-2}\text{]}$$

$$p_o = \sqrt{2\eta_s I_o} = \sqrt{850 \times 10^{-12}} = \sim 3 \times 10^{-5} \text{ [N/m}^2\text{]}$$

$$u_o = p_o/\eta_s = 3 \times 10^{-5}/425 \cong 7 \times 10^{-8} \text{ [ms}^{-1}\text{]}$$

$$\Delta z \cong 2 \frac{u_o}{\omega} \cong 2 \frac{7 \times 10^{-8}}{7 \times 10^3} = 2 \times 10^{-11} \text{ [m]} = 0.2 \text{ \AA} (< \text{atom})$$

# BOUNDARY CONDITIONS

## Interfaces between gases or liquids:

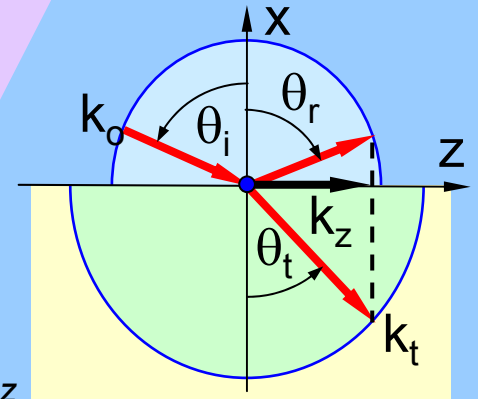
Pressure:  $\Delta p = 0$  (otherwise  $\infty$  acceleration of zero-mass boundary)

Velocity:  $\Delta u_{\perp} = 0$  (otherwise  $\infty$  mass-density accumulation)

## Rigid Boundaries:

Pressure: Unconstrained

Velocity:  $\Delta u_{\perp} = 0$  (rigid body is motionless)



## Reflection at Non-Rigid Boundaries:

Incident wave:  $\underline{p}_i = p_o e^{-jk_i \bar{r}} = p_o e^{+jk_o \cos \theta_i x - jk_o \sin \theta_i z}$

Reflected wave:  $\underline{p}_r = p_r e^{-jk_r \bar{r}} = p_{r_o} e^{-jk_o \cos \theta_r x - jk_o \sin \theta_r z}$

Transmitted wave:  $\underline{p}_t = p_t e^{-jk_t \bar{r}} = p_{t_o} e^{+jk_t \cos \theta_t x - jk_t \sin \theta_t z}$

Velocities: Same, but  $\underline{p}_{o,ro,to} \rightarrow \underline{u}_{o,ro,to}$ ,  $\underline{p}_{r,t} \rightarrow \underline{u}_{r,t}$

## Matching Phases: $\Rightarrow$

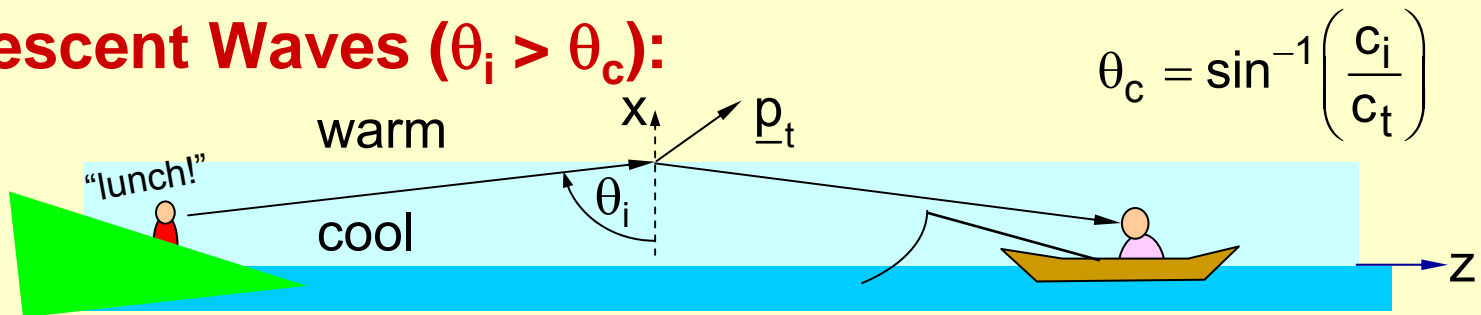
$$\text{Snell's Law: } \sin \theta_i / \sin \theta_t = k_t / k_i = \sqrt{\frac{\rho_t \gamma_i}{\rho_i \gamma_t}}$$

$$k = \omega \sqrt{\frac{\rho_o}{\gamma P_o}}$$

$$\theta_r = \theta_i \quad \text{Critical angle: } \theta_c = \sin^{-1} \left( \frac{c_i}{c_t} \right) = \sin^{-1} \sqrt{\frac{\rho_t \gamma_i}{\rho_i \gamma_t}}$$

# REFLECTIONS AT BOUNDARIES

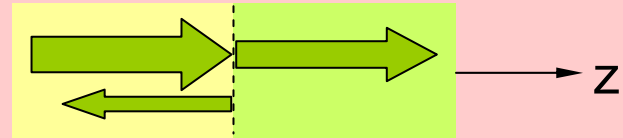
## Evanescent Waves ( $\theta_i > \theta_c$ ):



Recall:  $\underline{p}_t = \underline{p}_{to} e^{-j(k_t \cos \theta_t)x - j(k_t \sin \theta_t)z} = \underline{p}_{to} e^{-\alpha x - j(k_t \sin \theta_t)z}$

Where:  $\cos \theta_t = \sqrt{1 - \sin^2 \theta_t}$  and  $\sin \theta_t = \sqrt{\rho_i \gamma_t / \rho_t \gamma_i} \sin \theta_i > 1$

So:  $k_t \cos \theta_t = \pm j\alpha$



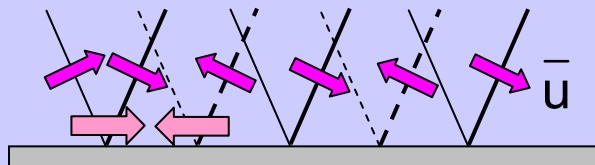
## Normal Incidence, two gases:

$\underline{p}$ :  $p_i e^{-jk_o z} + p_i \Gamma e^{+jk_o z} = p_i \underline{\Gamma} e^{-jk_t z} \rightarrow 1 + \Gamma = \underline{\Gamma}$  at  $z = 0$  ( $\Delta p = 0$ )

$\bar{u}$ :  $p_i / \eta_o - p_i \Gamma / \eta_o = p_i \underline{\Gamma} / \eta_t \rightarrow 1 - \Gamma = \underline{\Gamma} \eta_o / \eta_t$  at  $z = 0$  ( $\Delta \bar{u}_\perp = 0$ )

Solving:  $\underline{\Gamma} = 2\eta_t / (\eta_t + \eta_o)$  where  $\eta_o = \omega \rho_o / k = \sqrt{\rho_o \gamma P_o}$

## Reflections from Solid Surface ( $\hat{n} \cdot \bar{u} = 0$ ):





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