

# *Wavepackets*

## Outline

- Review: Reflection & Refraction
- Superposition of Plane Waves
- Wavepackets
- $\Delta k - \Delta x$  Relations

## Sample Midterm 2

*(one of these would be Student X's Problem)*

Q1: Midterm 1 re-mix

(Ex: actuators with dielectrics)

Q2: Lorentz oscillator

(absorption / reflection / dielectric constant /  
index of refraction / phase velocity)

Q3: EM Waves

(Wavevectors / Poynting / Polarization /  
Malus' Law / Birefringence /LCDs)

Q4: Reflection & Refraction

(Snell's Law, Brewster angle, Fresnel Equations)

Q5: Interference / Diffraction

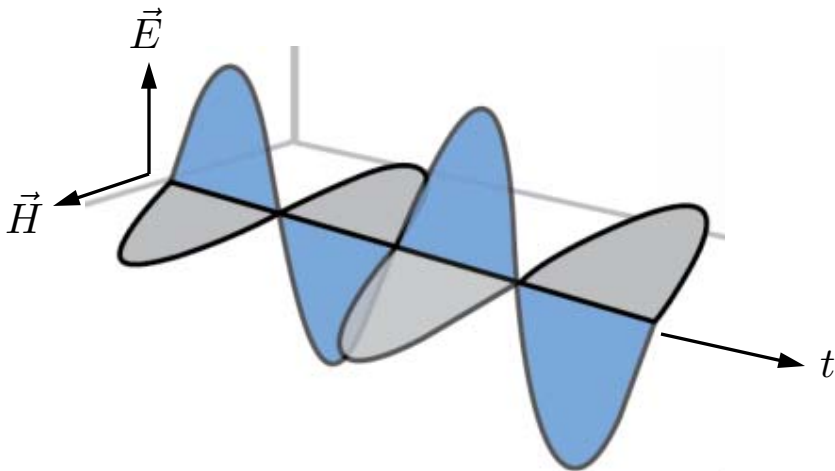
## Electromagnetic Plane Waves

### The Wave Equation

$$\frac{\partial^2 E_y}{\partial z^2} = \epsilon\mu \frac{\partial^2 E_y}{\partial t^2} \quad k = \frac{\omega}{c}$$

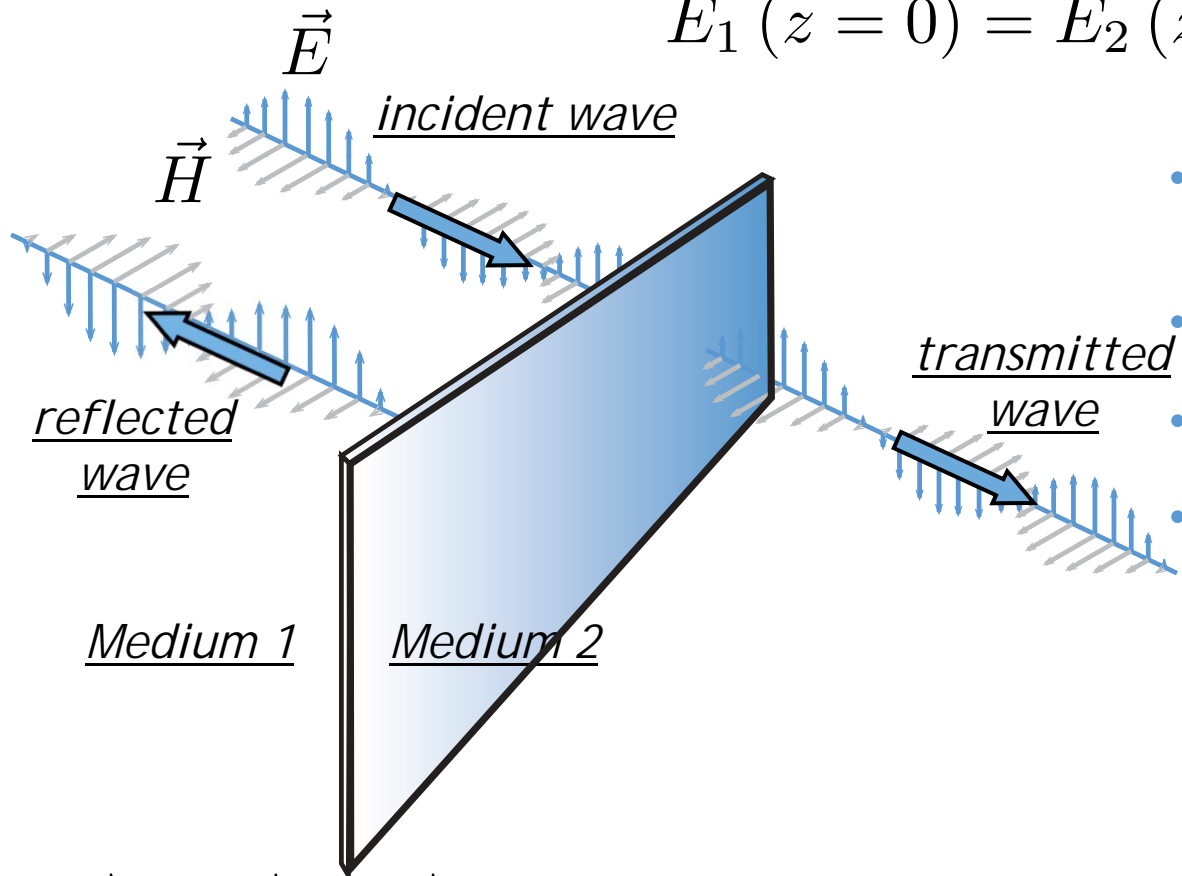
$$E_y = A_1 \cos(\omega t - kz) + A_2 \cos(\omega t + kz)$$

$$H_x = -\frac{A_1}{\eta} \cos(\omega t - kz) + \frac{A_2}{\eta} \cos(\omega t + kz)$$



## Reflection of EM Waves at Boundaries

$$\vec{E}_1(z=0) = \vec{E}_2(z=0)$$

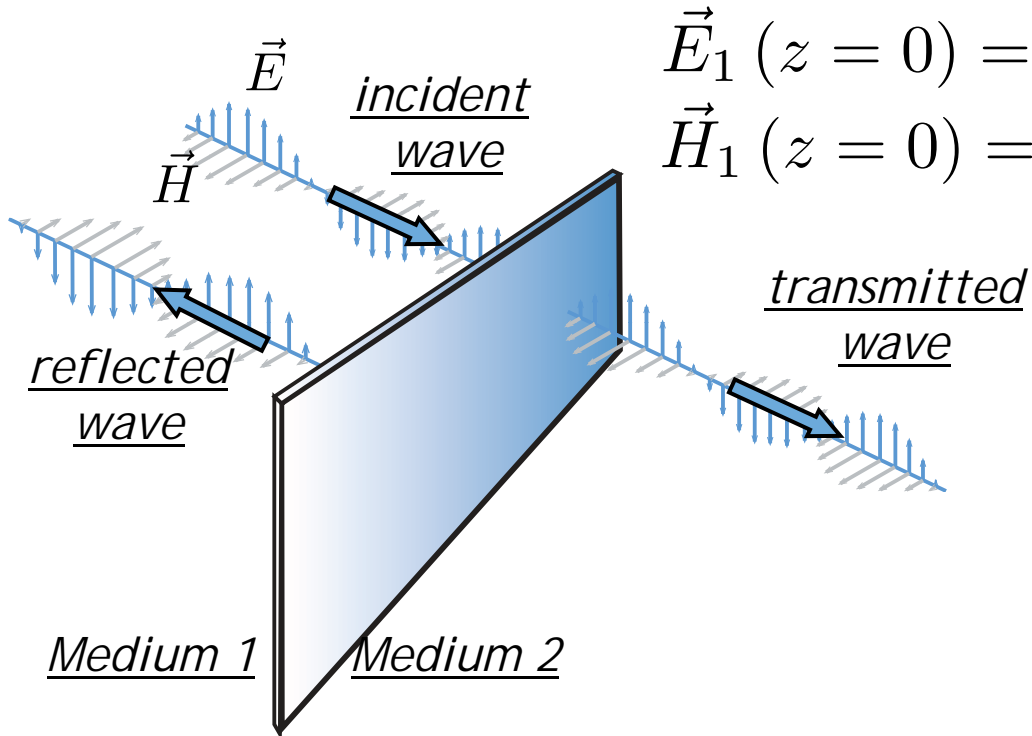


- Write traveling wave terms in each region
- Determine boundary condition
- Infer relationship of  $\omega_{1,2}$  &  $k_{1,2}$
- Solve for  $E_{r0}(r)$  and  $E_{t0}(t)$

$$\begin{aligned}\vec{E}_1 &= \vec{E}_i + \vec{E}_r \\ &= \hat{a}_x (E_{i0}e^{-jk_1z} + E_{r0}e^{+jk_1z}) \\ &= \hat{a}_x (E_{i0}e^{-jk_1z} + rE_{i0}e^{+jk_1z})\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\vec{E}_2 &= \vec{E}_t \\ &= \hat{a}_x E_{t0}e^{-jk_2z} \\ &= \hat{a}_x tE_{i0}e^{-jk_2z}\end{aligned}$$

## Reflection of EM Waves at Boundaries



$$\vec{E}_1(z=0) = \vec{E}_2(z=0)$$

$$\vec{H}_1(z=0) = \vec{H}_2(z=0)$$

- Write traveling wave terms in each region
- Determine boundary condition
- Infer relationship of  $\omega_{1,2}$  &  $k_{1,2}$
- Solve for  $E_{r0}(r)$  and  $E_{t0}(t)$

$$\vec{E}_1 = \hat{a}_x (E_{i0} e^{-jk_1 z} + E_{r0} e^{+jk_1 z})$$

$$\vec{H}_1 = \hat{a}_y \left( \frac{E_{i0}}{\eta_1} e^{-jk_1 z} - \frac{E_{r0}}{\eta_1} e^{+jk_1 z} \right)$$

$$\vec{E}_2 = \hat{a}_x E_{t0} e^{-jk_2 z}$$

$$\vec{H}_2 = \hat{a}_y \frac{E_{t0}}{\eta_2} e^{-jk_2 z}$$

$$r = \frac{E_0^r}{E_0^i} = \frac{\eta_2 - \eta_1}{\eta_2 + \eta_1}$$

At normal incidence..

## Oblique Incidence at Dielectric Interface

*E*-field polarization perpendicular to the plane of incidence (TE)

$$\vec{E}_i = \hat{a}_y E_{i0} e^{-jk_{ix}x - jk_{iz}z}$$

*E*-field polarization parallel to the plane of incidence (TM)

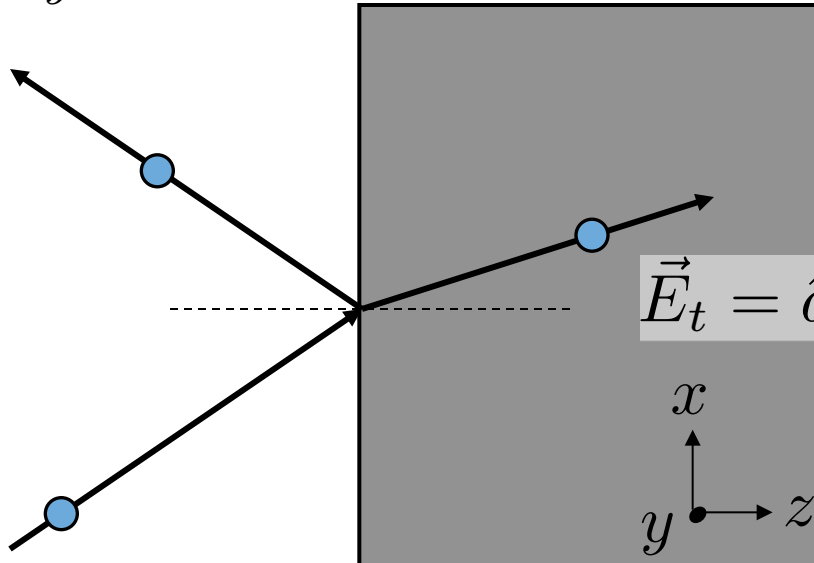
$$\vec{H}_i = \hat{a}_y H_{i0} e^{-jk_{ix}x - jk_{iz}z}$$

- Write traveling wave terms in each region
- Determine boundary condition
- Infer relationship of  $\omega_{1,2}$  &  $k_{1,2}$
- Solve for  $E_{r0}(r)$  and  $E_{t0}(t)$

## Oblique Incidence at Dielectric Interface

- Write traveling wave terms in each region
- Determine boundary condition
- Infer relationship of  $\omega_{1,2}$  &  $k_{1,2}$
- Solve for  $E_{r0}(r)$  and  $E_{t0}(t)$

$$\vec{E}_r = \hat{a}_y E_{r0} e^{-jk_{rx}x + jk_{rz}z}$$



$$\vec{E}_t = \hat{a}_y E_{t0} e^{-jk_{tx}x - jk_{tz}z}$$

$$\vec{E}_i = \hat{a}_y E_{i0} e^{-jk_{ix}x - jk_{iz}z}$$

## Oblique Incidence at Dielectric Interface

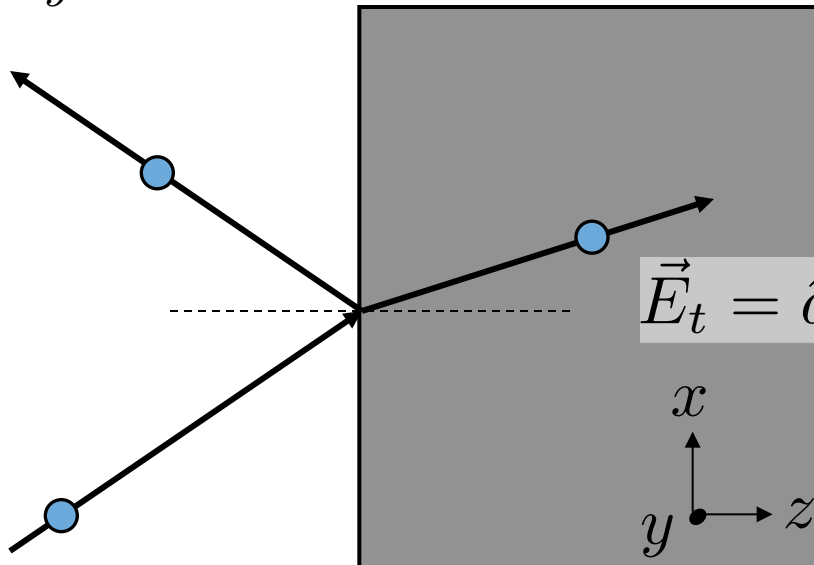
- Write traveling wave terms in each region

- Determine boundary condition

- Infer relationship of  $\omega_{1,2}$  &  $k_{1,2}$

- Solve for  $E_{r0}(r)$  and  $E_{t0}(t)$

$$\vec{E}_r = \hat{a}_y E_{r0} e^{-jk_{rx}x + jk_{rz}z}$$



$$\vec{E}_t = \hat{a}_y E_{t0} e^{-jk_{tx}x - jk_{tz}z}$$

$$\vec{E}_i = \hat{a}_y E_{i0} e^{-jk_{ix}x - jk_{iz}z}$$

Tangential field is continuous ( $z=0$ ).

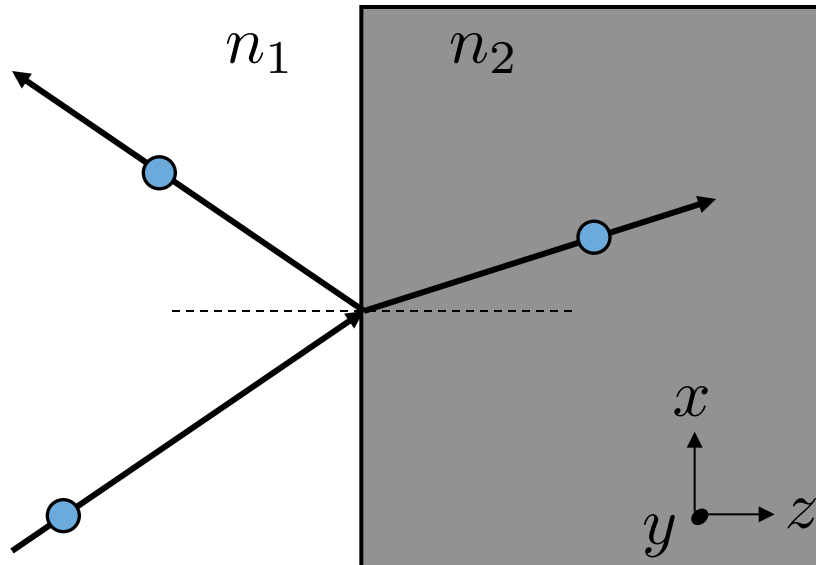
$$E_{i0} e^{-jk_{ix}x} + E_{r0} e^{-jk_{rx}x} = E_{t0} e^{-jk_{tx}x}$$



## Snell's Law

*Tangential E-field is continuous ...*

$$E_{i0}e^{-jk_{ix}x} + E_{r0}e^{-jk_{rx}x} = E_{t0}e^{-jk_{tx}x}$$



**REMINDER:**

$$k = \frac{\omega}{v_p} = \frac{\omega n}{c}$$

$$k_{ix} = k_{rx}$$

$$n_1 \sin \theta_i = n_1 \sin \theta_r$$

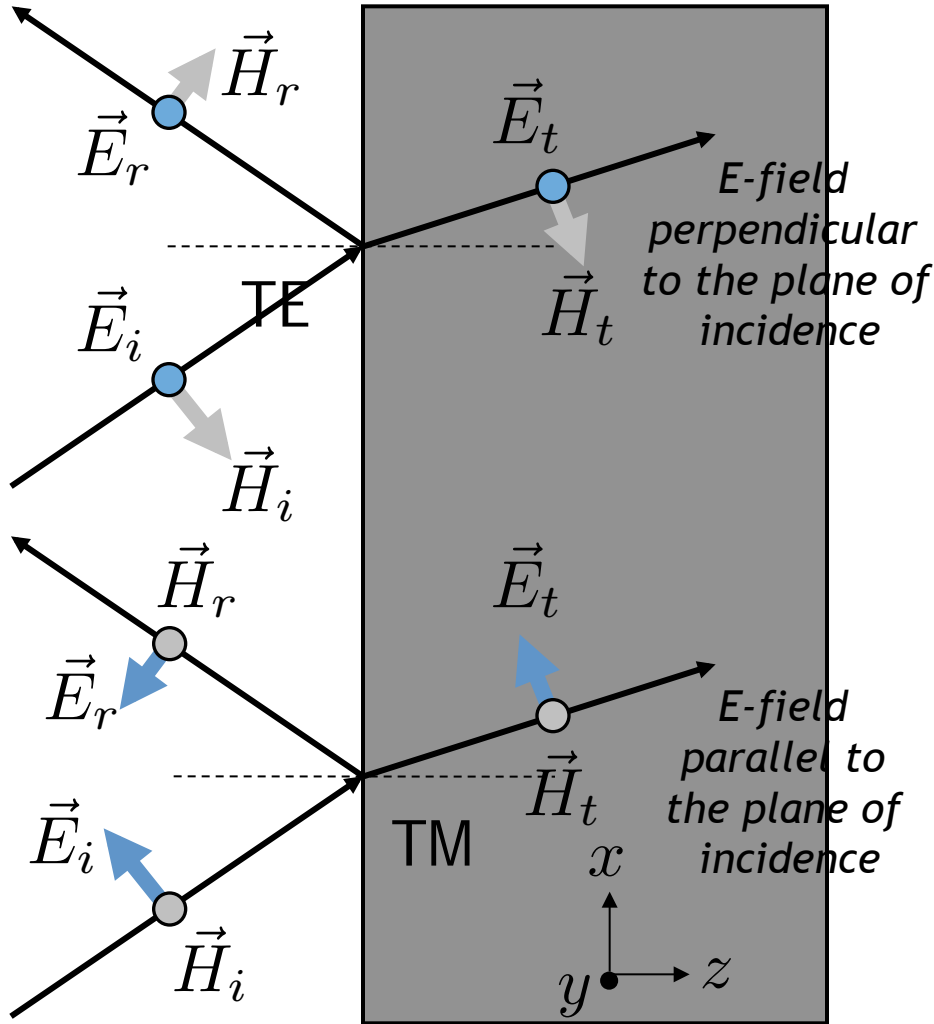
$$\theta_i = \theta_r$$

$$k_{ix} = k_{tx}$$

$$n_1 \sin \theta_i = n_2 \sin \theta_t$$

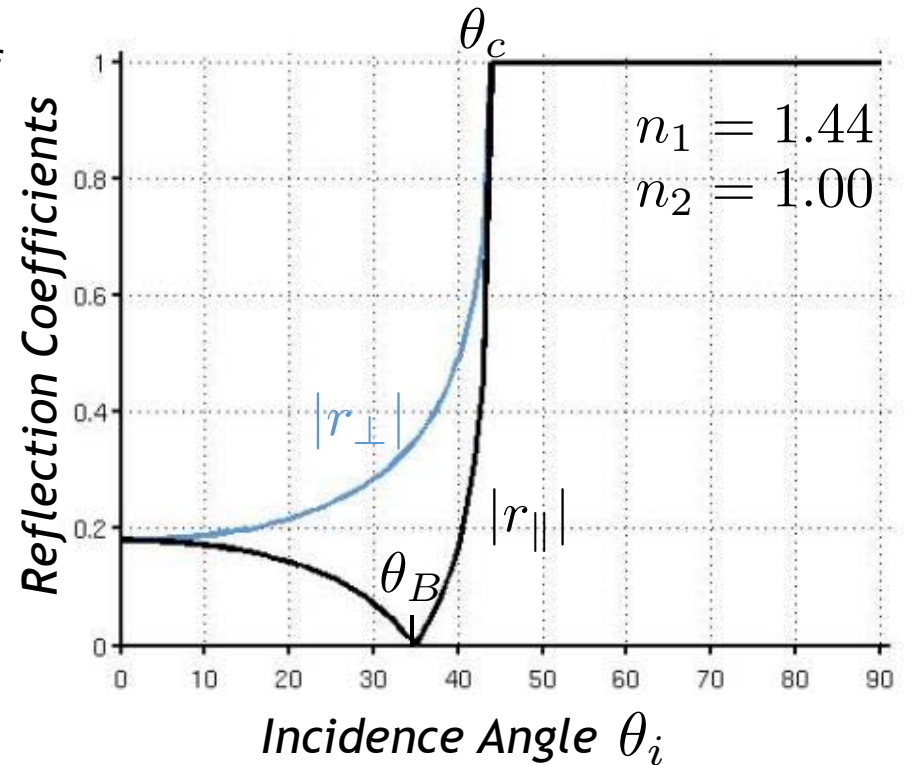
# Reflection of Light

(Optics Viewpoint ...  $\mu_1 = \mu_2$ )



$$\text{TE: } r_{\perp} = \frac{n_1 \cos \theta_i - n_2 \cos \theta_t}{n_1 \cos \theta_i + n_2 \cos \theta_t}$$

$$\text{TM: } r_{\parallel} = \frac{n_2 \cos \theta_i - n_1 \cos \theta_t}{n_2 \cos \theta_i + n_1 \cos \theta_t}$$



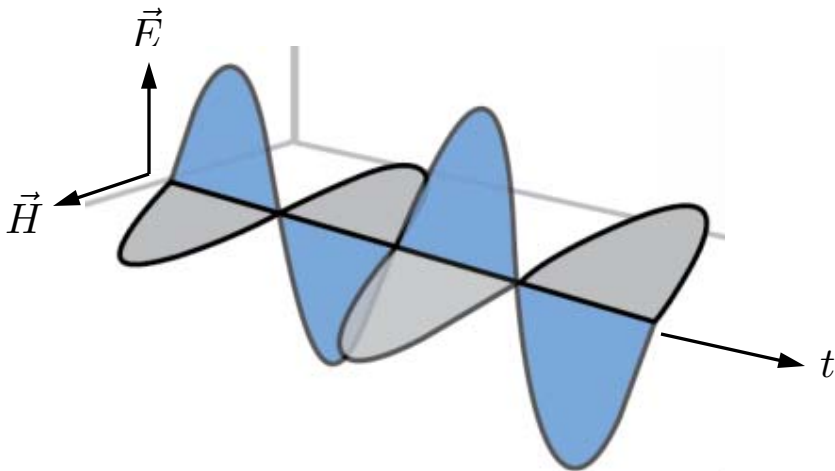
## Electromagnetic Plane Waves

### The Wave Equation

$$\frac{\partial^2 E_y}{\partial z^2} = \epsilon\mu \frac{\partial^2 E_y}{\partial t^2} \quad k = \frac{\omega}{c}$$

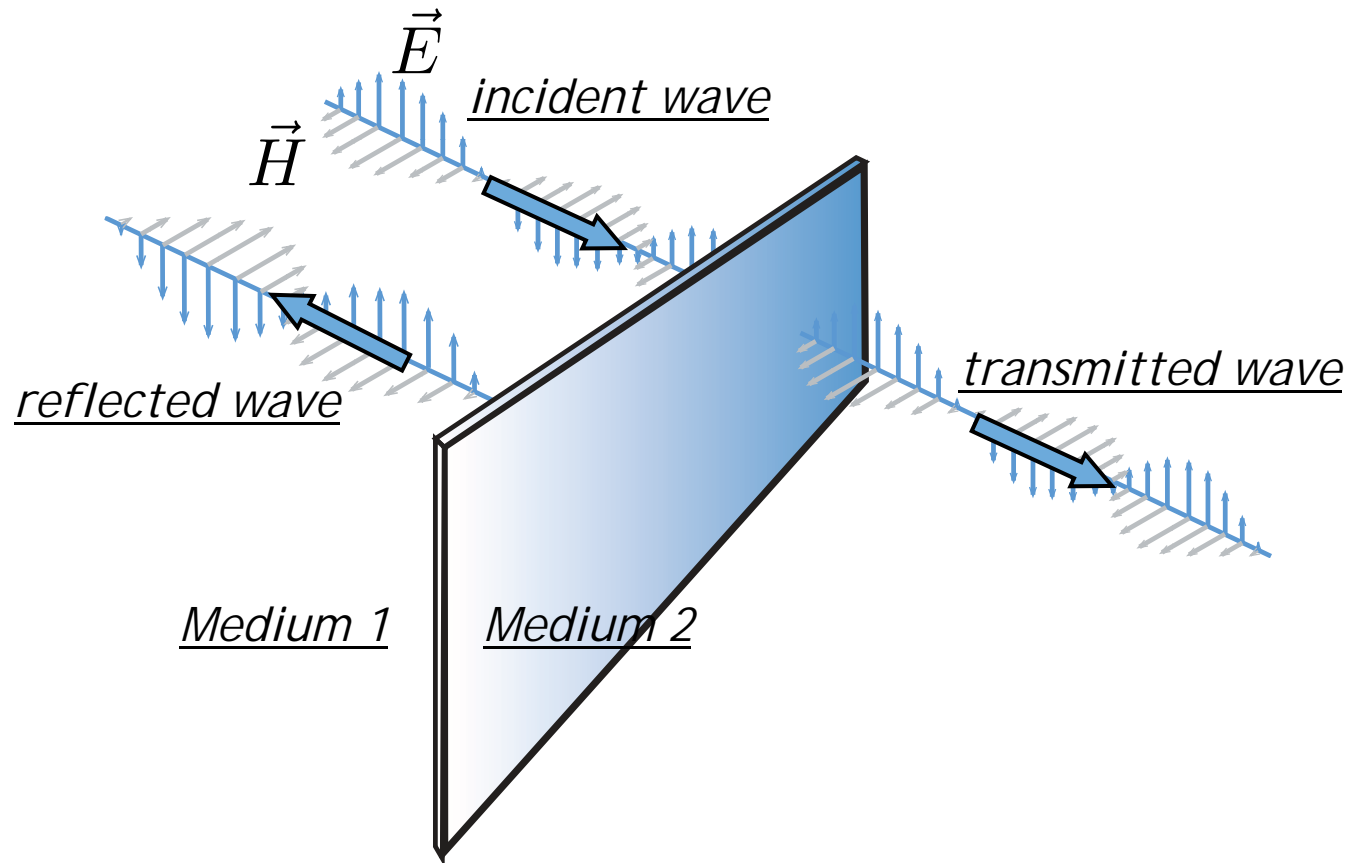
$$E_y = A_1 \cos(\omega t - kz) + A_2 \cos(\omega t + kz)$$

$$H_x = -\frac{A_1}{\eta} \cos(\omega t - kz) + \frac{A_2}{\eta} \cos(\omega t + kz)$$



- *When did this plane wave turn on?*
- *Where is there no plane wave?*

## Superposition Example: Reflection



*How do we get a wavepacket (localized EM waves) ?*

# Superposition Example: Interference

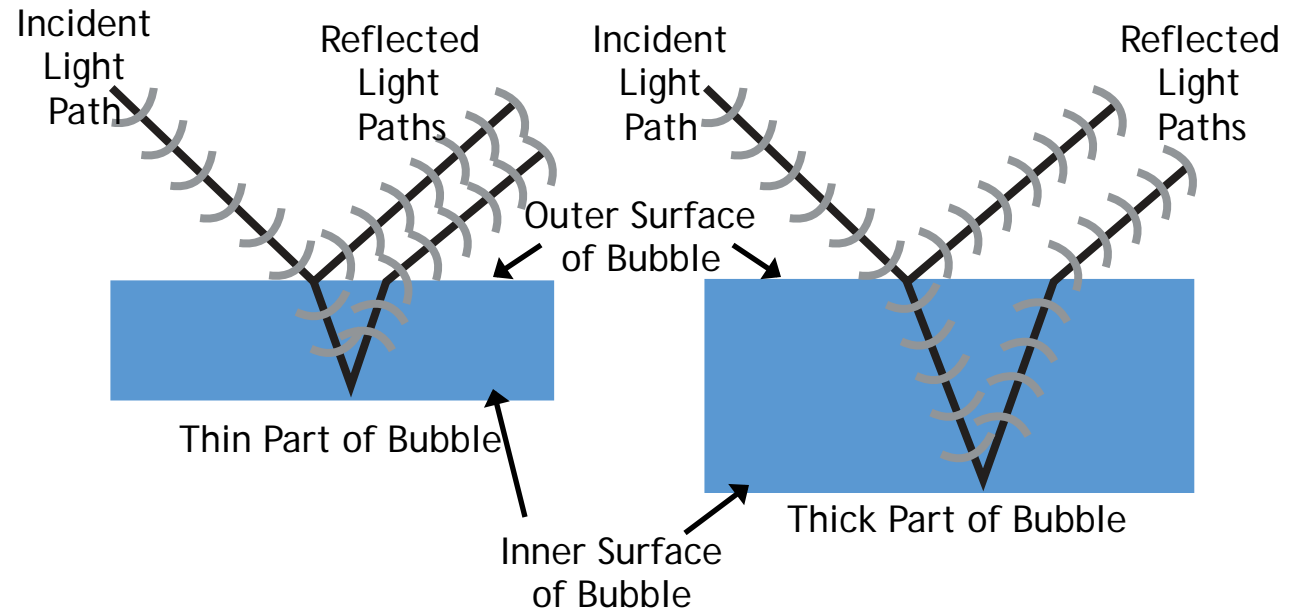
## Reflected Light Pathways Through Soap Bubbles

Constructive Interference  
(Wavefronts in Step)

Destructive Interference  
(Wavefronts out of Step)



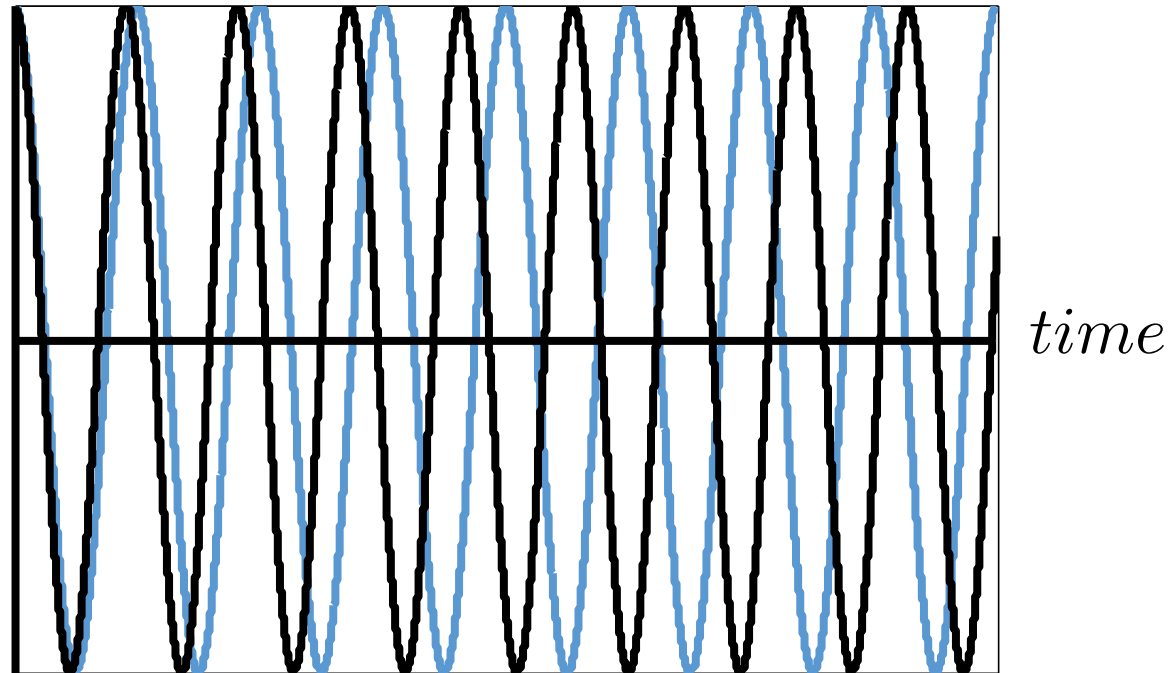
Image by Ali T <http://www.flickr.com/photos/77682540@N00/2789338547/> on Flickr.



*What if the interfering waves do not have the same frequency ( $\omega$ ,  $k$ ) ?*

## Two waves at different frequencies

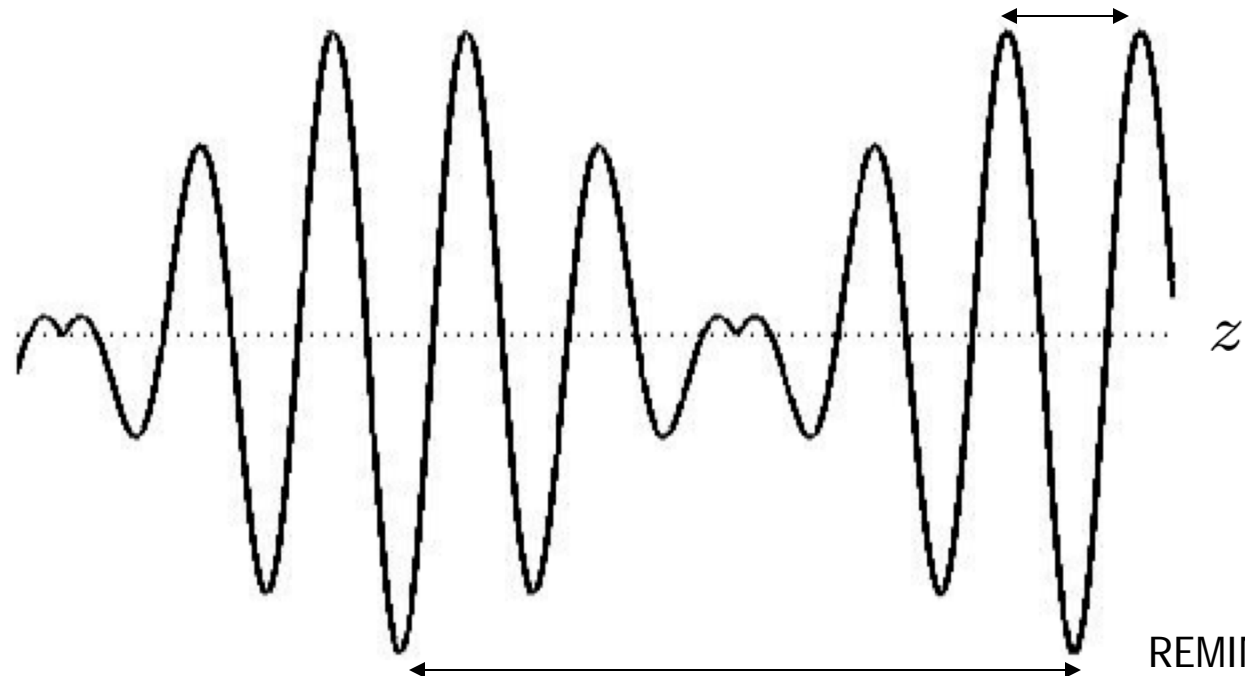
... will constructively interfere and destructively interfere at different times



In Figure above the waves are chosen to have a 10% frequency difference. So when the slower wave goes through 5 full cycles (and is positive again), the faster wave goes through 5.5 cycles (and is negative).

## Wavepackets: Superpositions Along Travel Direction

$$\vec{E} = \vec{E}_o \left( e^{j(\omega_1 t - k_1 z)} + e^{j(\omega_2 t - k_2 z)} \right) \hat{y} \quad \frac{4\pi}{|k_2 + k_1|}$$



REMINDER:

$$k = \frac{n}{c} \omega$$

**SUPERPOSITION OF TWO WAVES OF DIFFERENT FREQUENCIES  
(hence different k's)**

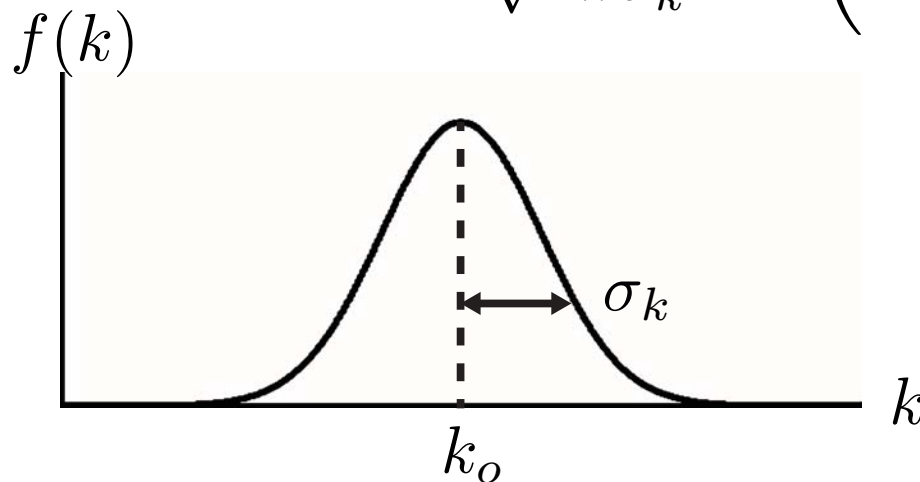
## Wavepackets: Superpositions Along Travel Direction

WHAT WOULD WE GET IF WE SUPERIMPOSED WAVES OF MANY DIFFERENT FREQUENCIES ?

$$\vec{E} = \vec{E}_o \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} f(k) e^{+j(\omega t - kz)} dk$$

LET'S SET THE FREQUENCY DISTRIBUTION as GAUSSIAN

$$f(k) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma_k} \exp\left(-\frac{(k - k_o)^2}{2\sigma_k^2}\right)$$



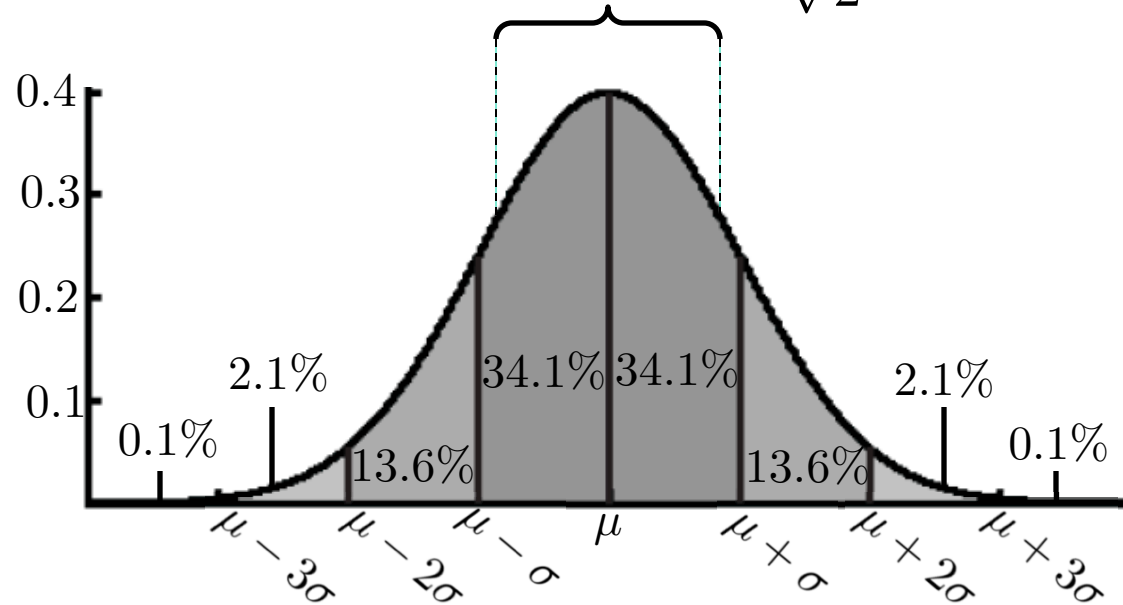
REMINDER:

$$k = \frac{n}{c}\omega$$



## Reminder: Gaussian Distribution

50% of data within  $\pm \frac{\sigma}{\sqrt{2}}$



$$f(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma}} e^{-\frac{(x-\mu)^2}{2\sigma^2}}$$

$\mu$  specifies the position of the bell curve's central peak  
 $\sigma$  specifies the half-distance between inflection points

---

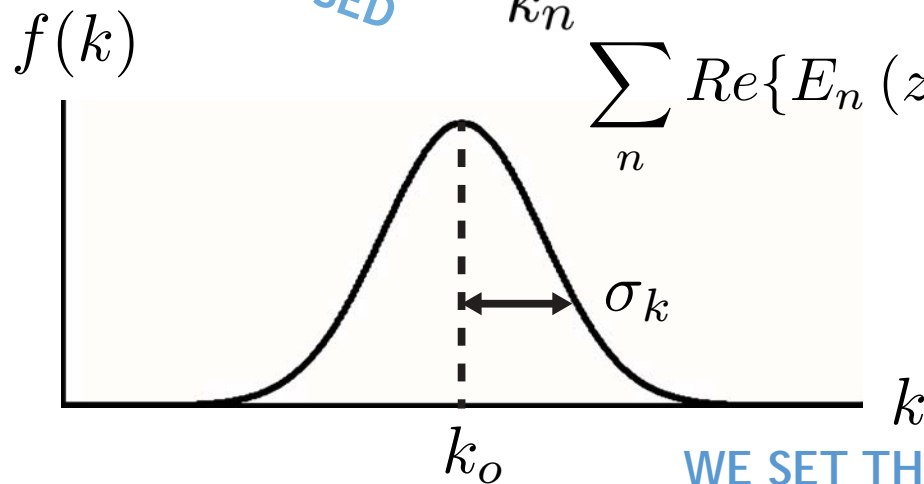
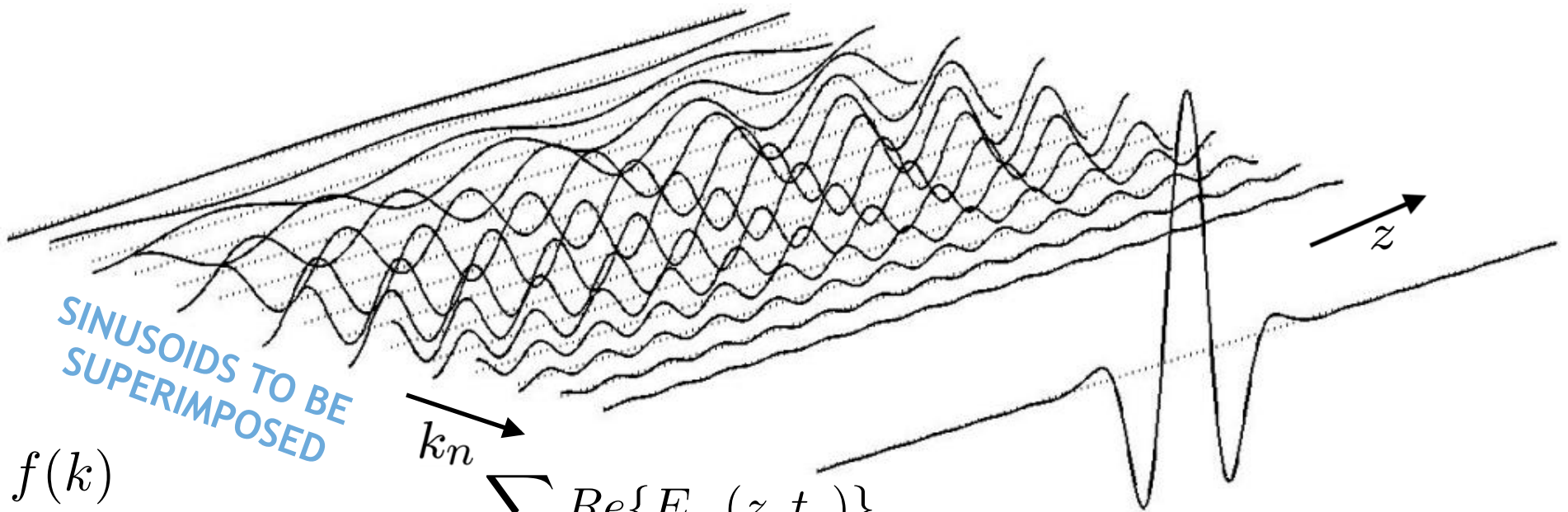
**FOURIER TRANSFORM OF A GAUSSIAN IS A GAUSSIAN**

$$\mathcal{F}_x \left[ e^{-ax^2} \right] (k) = \sqrt{\frac{\pi}{a}} e^{-\frac{\pi^2 k^2}{a}}$$

## Gaussian Wavepacket in Space

$$\text{Re}\{E_n(z, t_o)\}$$

$$t = t_o$$



$$\sum_n \text{Re}\{E_n(z, t_o)\}$$

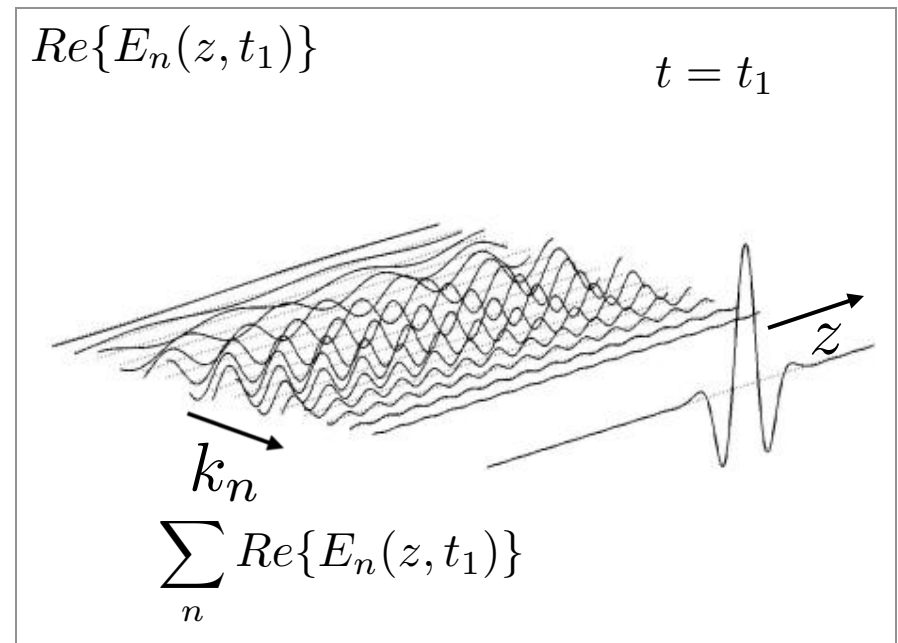
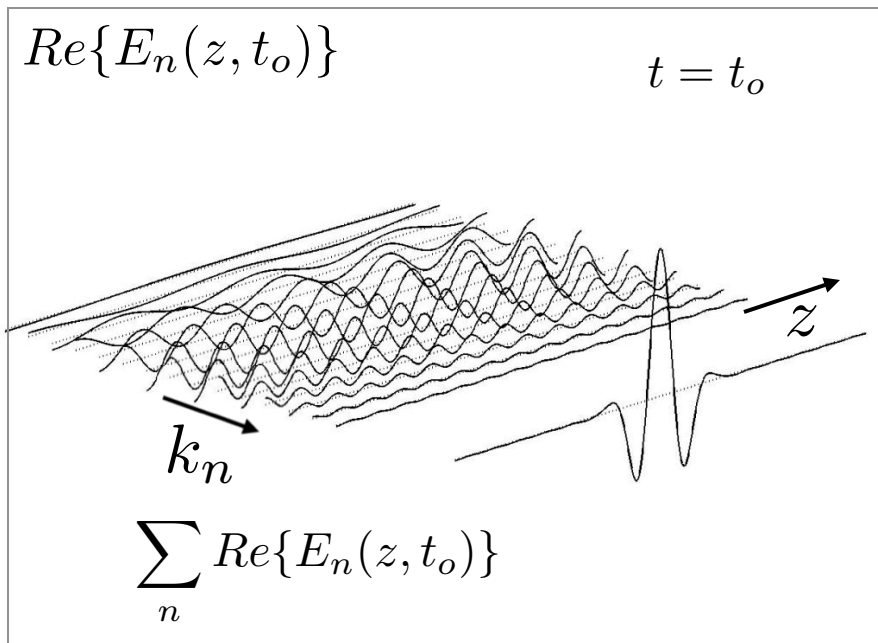
$$f(k) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma_k}} \exp\left(-\frac{(k - k_o)^2}{2\sigma_k^2}\right)$$

WE SET THE FREQUENCY DISTRIBUTION as GAUSSIAN

## Gaussian Wavepacket in Time

$$E(z, t) = E_o \exp \left( -\frac{\sigma_k^2}{2} (ct - z)^2 \right) \cos(\omega_o t - k_o z)$$

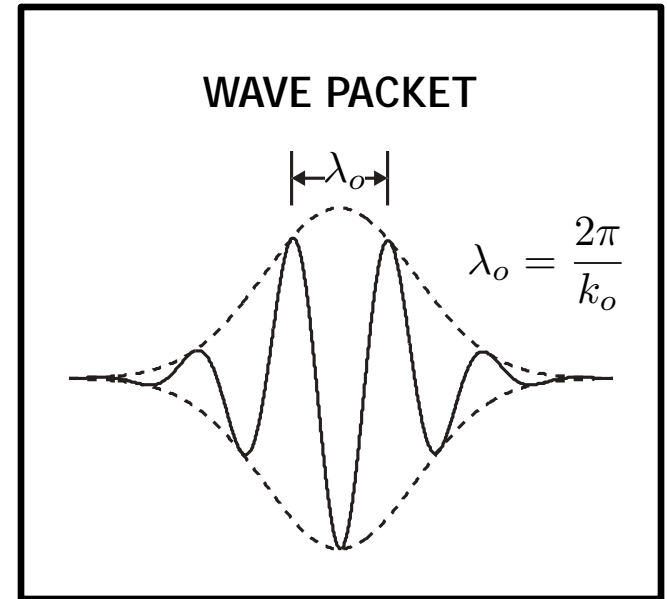
GAUSSIAN ENVELOPE



# Gaussian Wavepacket in Space

$$E(z, t) = E_o \exp\left(-\frac{\sigma_k^2}{2} (ct - z)^2\right) \cos(\omega_o t - k_o z)$$

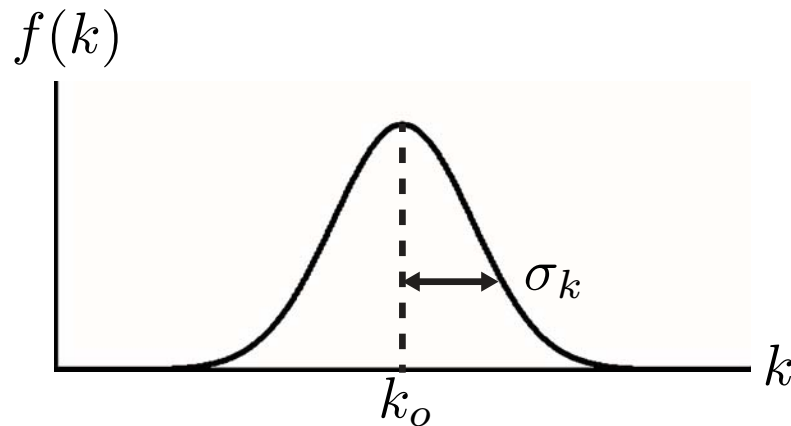
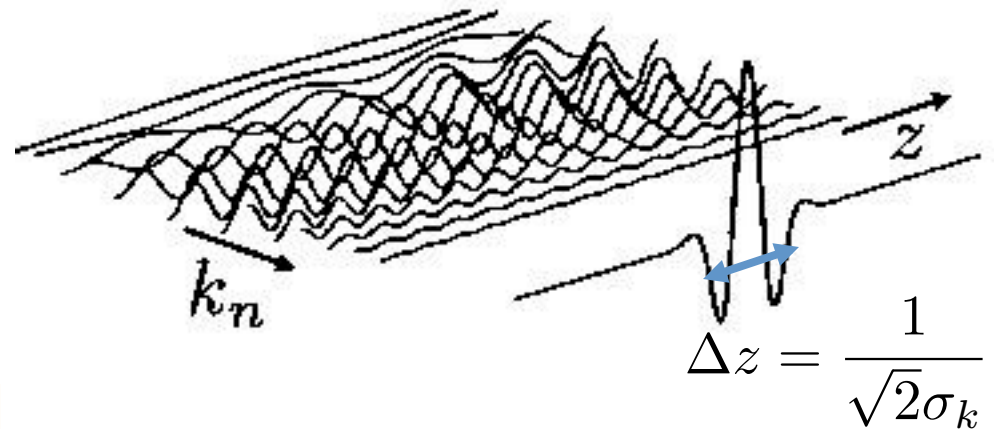
GAUSSIAN ENVELOPE



In free space ...

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

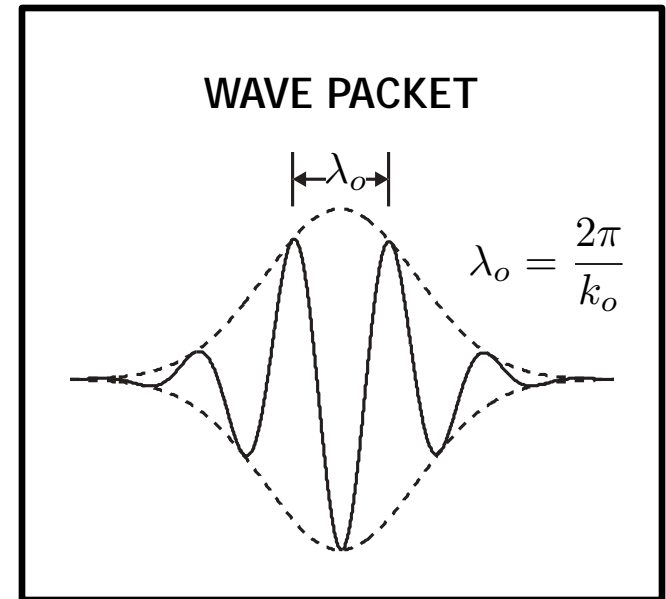
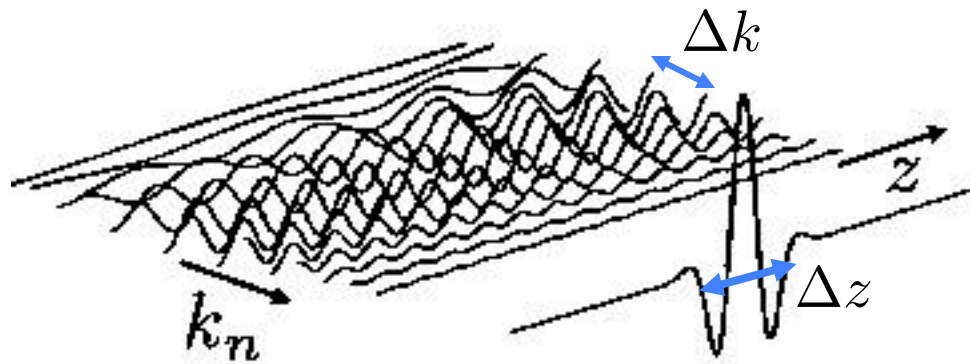
... this plot then shows the PROBABILITY OF WHICH  $k$  (or frequency) EM WAVES are MOST LIKELY TO BE IN THE WAVEPACKET



$$\Delta k \Delta z = 1/2$$

## Gaussian Wavepacket in Time

$$E(z, t) = E_o \exp\left(-\frac{\sigma_k^2}{2} (ct - z)^2\right) \cos(\omega_o t - k_o z)$$



### UNCERTAINTY RELATIONS

$$\Delta z = \frac{c}{n} \Delta t$$

$$\Delta k = \frac{c}{n} \Delta \omega$$

$$\Delta k \Delta z = 1/2$$

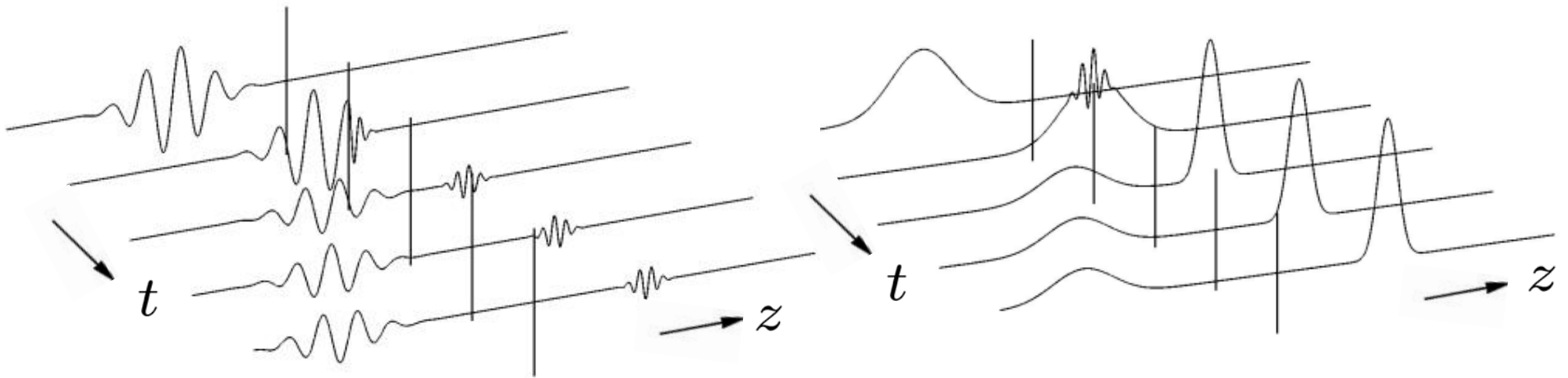
$$\Delta \omega \Delta t = 1/2$$

If you want to LOCATE THE WAVEPACKET WITHIN THE SPACE  $\Delta z$   
you need to use a set of EM-WAVES THAT SPAN THE WAVENUMBER SPACE OF  $\Delta k = 1/(2\Delta z)$

## Wavepacket Reflection

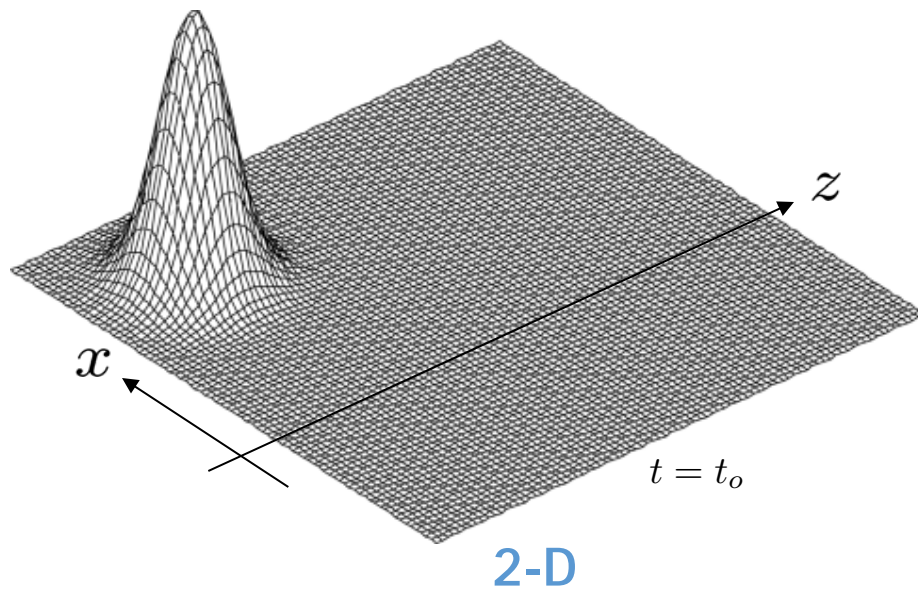
$$E(z, t)$$

$$E_c E_c^*$$

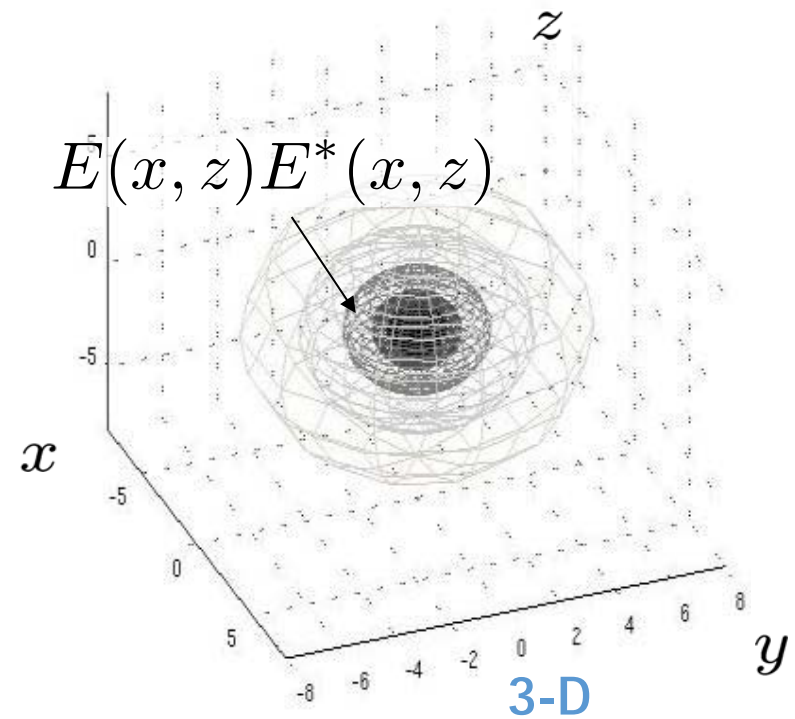


## Wavepackets in 2-D and 3-D

$$E(x, z)E^*(x, z)$$



Contours of constant amplitude

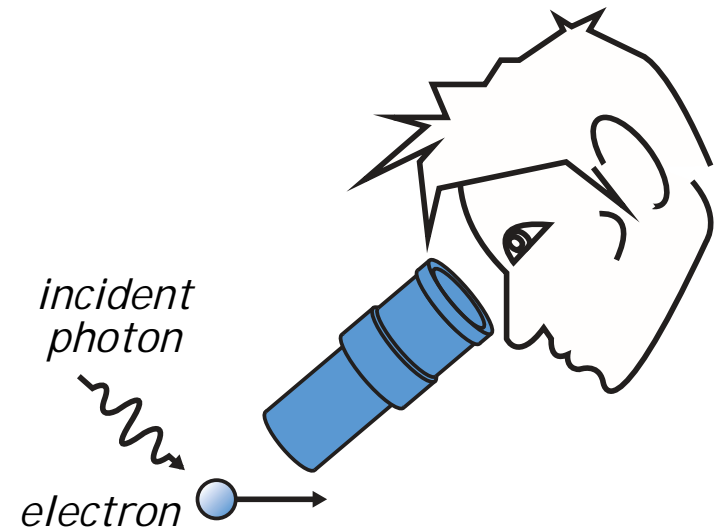


Spherical probability distribution for the magnitude of the amplitudes of the waves in the wave packet.

*In the next few lectures we will start considering the limits of*

## *Light Microscopes*

*and how these might affect our understanding of the world we live in*



- Suppose the positions and speeds of all particles in the universe are measured to sufficient accuracy at a particular instant in time
- It is possible to predict the motions of every particle at any time in the future (or in the past for that matter)

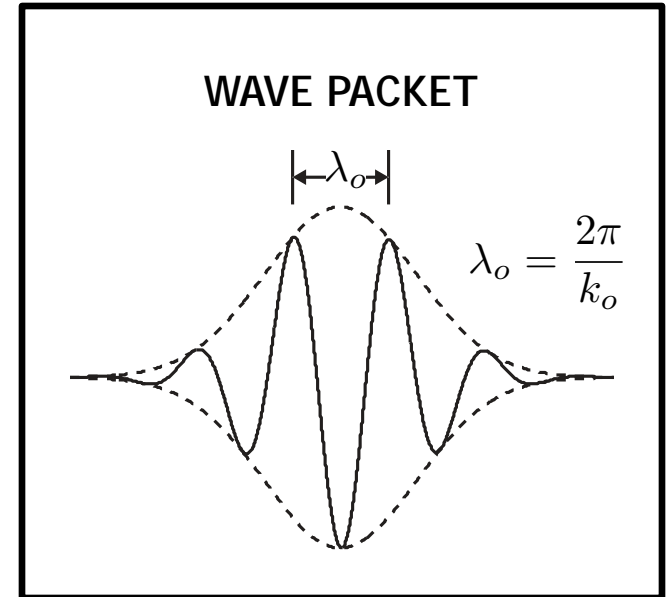


# Key Takeaways

## GAUSSIAN WAVEPACKET IN SPACE

$$E(z, t) = E_o \exp\left(-\frac{\sigma_k^2}{2} (ct - z)^2\right) \cos(\omega_o t - k_o z)$$

GAUSSIAN  
ENVELOPE



UNCERTAINTY  
RELATIONS

$$\Delta k \Delta z = 1/2$$

$$\Delta \omega \Delta t = 1/2$$

MIT OpenCourseWare  
<http://ocw.mit.edu>

6.007 Electromagnetic Energy: From Motors to Lasers  
Spring 2011

For information about citing these materials or our Terms of Use, visit: <http://ocw.mit.edu/terms>.