

# Waveguide

Infinitely long rectangular membrane, width  $b$ , fixed at edges.  
Displacement  $\phi(x, y, t)$  satisfies 2-D wave equation

$$\nabla^2 \phi = \frac{\partial^2 \phi}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 \phi}{\partial y^2} = \frac{1}{c^2} \frac{\partial^2 \phi}{\partial t^2}$$

Subject to  $\phi(x, 0, t) = \phi(x, b, t) = 0$

Separate using  $\phi(x, y, t) = X(x)Y(y)T(t)$  giving

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d^2 X}{dx^2} &= -k_x^2 X & \frac{d^2 Y}{dy^2} &= -k_y^2 Y \\ \frac{d^2 T}{dt^2} &= -\omega^2 T & \omega^2 &= c^2 (k_x^2 + k_y^2) \end{aligned}$$

## Boundary conditions

$$Y(0) = Y(b) = \phi(x, 0, t) = 0$$

$$Y(y) = \sin \frac{n\pi y}{b} \rightarrow k_y = \frac{n\pi}{b} \text{ for } n = 1, 2, 3, \dots$$

For  $X$  use the real part of  $X(x) = e^{ik_x x}$

For  $T(t) = Ae^{i\omega t} + Be^{-i\omega t}$

Separable solutions:

$$\begin{aligned}\phi(x, y, t) &= e^{ik_x x} \sin \frac{n\pi y}{b} (Ae^{i\omega t} + Be^{-i\omega t}) \\ &= \sin \frac{n\pi y}{b} (Ae^{i(k_x x + \omega t)} + Be^{-i(k_x x - \omega t)})\end{aligned}$$

where  $\omega_n(k_x) = c\sqrt{k_x^2 + \frac{n^2\pi^2}{b^2}}$  - travelling waves with dispersive phase velocity  $v_p = c\sqrt{1 + n^2\pi^2/k_x^2 b^2}$  and so group velocity  $v_g = ck_x/(k_x^2 + n^2\pi^2/b^2)^{0.5}$

At  $k_x = 0$ , frequency is non-zero,  $\omega_n(0) = \omega_{nc} = cn\pi/b$ .

Travelling waves for  $\omega_n > \omega_{nc}$ .

But for  $\omega_n < \omega_{nc}$ ,  $k_x^2 < 0$ ,  $k_x$  imaginary - wave can not propagate.