

**PHYS 5210**  
**Graduate Classical Mechanics**  
**Fall 2023**

**Lecture 20**

**Sound waves in solids**

October 13

EFT for a solid:  $\sigma^I(x_i, t) = \delta^I_j(x_i - \phi_i)$

↑

infinitesimally small displacement.

elastic moduli

$$\mathcal{L} = \frac{\rho}{2} \partial_t \phi_i \partial_t \phi_i - \frac{1}{2} \lambda_{ijkl} \partial_i \phi_j \partial_k \phi_l$$

for isotropic solid:  $\lambda_{ijkl} = \underbrace{K \delta_{ij} \delta_{kl}}_{\text{compression (volume changing)}} + \underbrace{\mu (\delta_{ik} \delta_{jl} + \delta_{il} \delta_{jk} - \frac{2}{3} \delta_{ij} \delta_{kl})}_{\text{shear (volume preserving)}}$

$K, \mu \geq 0 \rightarrow$  ensures solids are stable.

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Today: normal modes of solid.

EOMs:  $0 = \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \phi_i} - \partial_t \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial (\partial_t \phi_i)} - \partial_j \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial (\partial_j \phi_i)}$

$0 = -\rho \partial_t^2 \phi_i + \partial_j [\lambda_{jike} \partial_k \phi_e]$  ←

used  $\lambda_{ijkl} = \lambda_{jikl} = \lambda_{klij}$

Plug in: plane wave ansatz:  $\phi_i = a_i e^{i(\vec{k} \cdot \vec{x} - \omega t)}$

$$0 = \rho \omega^2 a_i - \lambda_{jike} k_j k_k a_e$$

For isotropic solids:  $\vec{k} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ k \end{pmatrix}$ .

$$\rho \omega^2 a_i = \left[ K \delta_{ij} \delta_{kl} + \mu (\delta_{ik} \delta_{jl} + \delta_{il} \delta_{jk} - \frac{2}{3} \delta_{ij} \delta_{kl}) \right] k_j k_k a_l$$

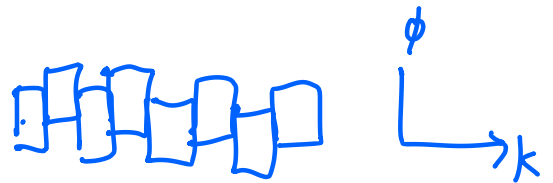
$$= K k_i k_l a_l + \mu k_i k_l a_l + \mu a_i k^2 - \frac{2}{3} \mu k_i k_l a_l = M_{il}(k) a_l$$

$$\rho \omega^2 \begin{pmatrix} a_x \\ a_y \\ a_z \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \boxed{\mu k^2} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \boxed{\mu k^2} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \boxed{(K + \frac{4}{3}\mu) k^2} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} a_x \\ a_y \\ a_z \end{pmatrix}$$

transverse  
 $\vec{a}, \vec{\phi} \perp \vec{k}$ :  
 S-waves

$$\omega = \pm v_s k$$

$$v_s = \sqrt{\frac{\mu}{\rho}}$$



longitudinal

$\vec{a}, \vec{\phi} \parallel \vec{k}$ :

$$\omega = \pm v_p k$$

$$v_p = \sqrt{\frac{K + \frac{4}{3}\mu}{\rho}}$$

P-waves



Bulk solids have 2 types of sound (S & P):

A quantitative prediction:

$$\frac{v_p}{v_s} \geq \sqrt{\frac{4}{3}}$$

→ b/c  $K, \mu \geq 0$ .

For typical crystalline solid: estimate  $v_s, v_p$ :

$$\bullet \rho \approx \frac{m_{\text{atom}}}{d_{\text{atom}}^3} \sim \frac{10^{-25} \text{ kg}}{(3 \times 10^{-10} \text{ nm})^3} \sim 3 \times 10^3 \text{ kg/m}^3$$

[compare to  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ :  $10^3 \text{ kg/m}^3$ ]

• estimate elastic modulus:

$$K, \mu \sim \frac{E_{\text{bond}}}{d_{\text{atom}}^3} \sim \frac{10^{-18} \text{ J}}{(3 \times 10^{-10} \text{ m})^3}$$

$$\sim 3 \times 10^{10} \frac{\text{J}}{\text{m}^3} \sim 3 \times 10^{10} \text{ Pa}$$

$$\sim 3 \times 10^5 \text{ atm.}$$

very hard to shear/compress solids.

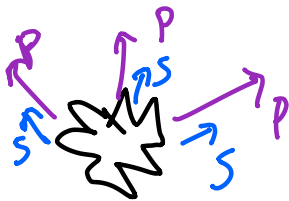
$$\left[ \begin{aligned} [v^2] &= \frac{[\mu]}{[\rho]} \\ [\mu] &= [\rho][v]^2 \\ &= \frac{[\text{energy}]}{[\text{vol}]} \end{aligned} \right]$$

So speed of sound:

$$v \sim \sqrt{\frac{K}{\rho}} \sim 3 \times 10^3 \text{ m/s} = 3 \frac{\text{km}}{\text{s}}$$

10x faster in air

Application: earthquakes



t-translation

$$\omega = v_p k_p = v_s k_s \rightarrow k_s > k_p$$

x-translation:

$$\hookrightarrow k_{p,x} = k_{s,x} \rightarrow k_{s,y} > k_{p,y}$$

