

Lecture 18

(18.1)

from previous lectures:

$$S(x, t) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dk \hat{S}(k, t) e^{ikx}$$

(relation between function and its Fourier trans.)

$$S_R(x, t) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} h(k) \cos(kx - \omega(k)t + \phi(k)) dk$$

(most general right-moving wave for dispersion relation $\omega(k)$)

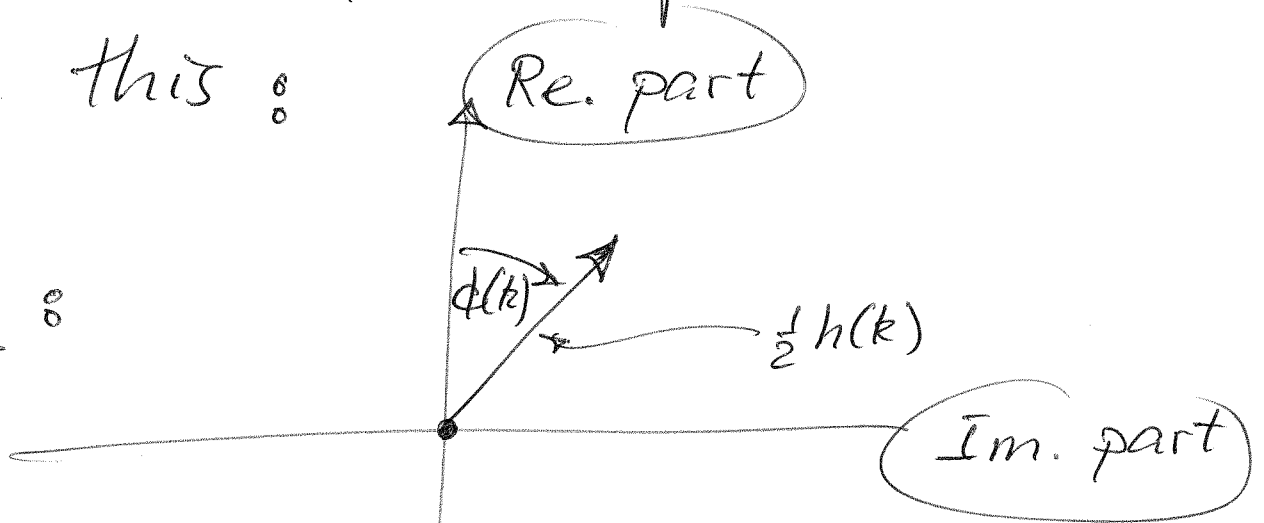
We rewrote 2nd equation so it looked like 1st equation and found:

$$\hat{S}_R(k, t) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{2} h(k) e^{i\phi(k) - i\omega(k)t} & , \quad \underline{k > 0} \\ \frac{1}{2} h(-k) e^{-i\phi(-k) + i\omega(-k)t} & , \quad \underline{k < 0} \end{cases} \quad (18.2)$$

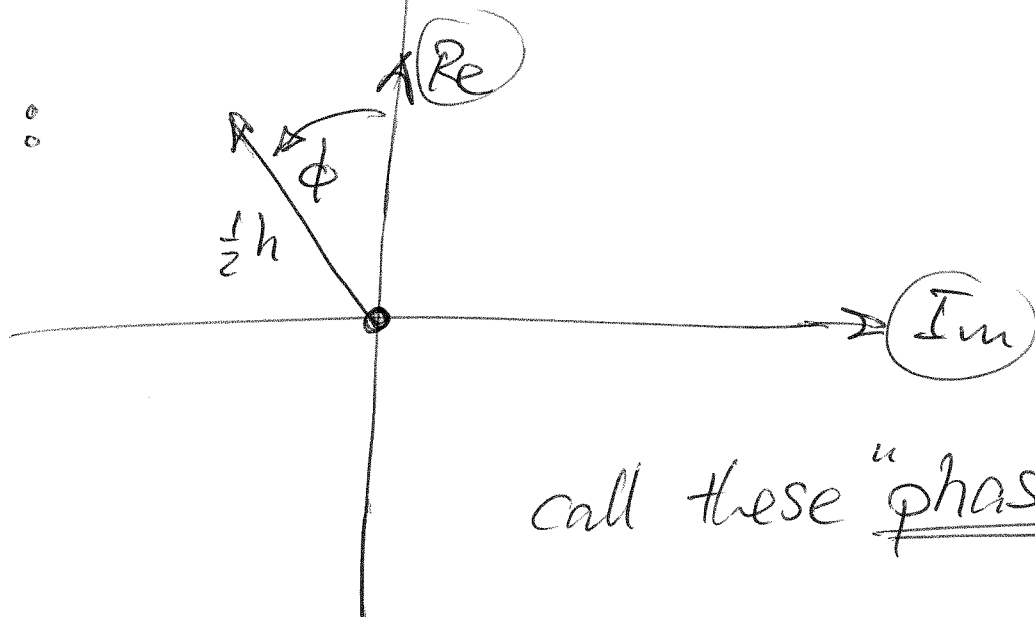
↑
right-moving

To better visualize structure of $\hat{S}_R(k, t)$ we plot complex numbers like this :

$k > 0$:

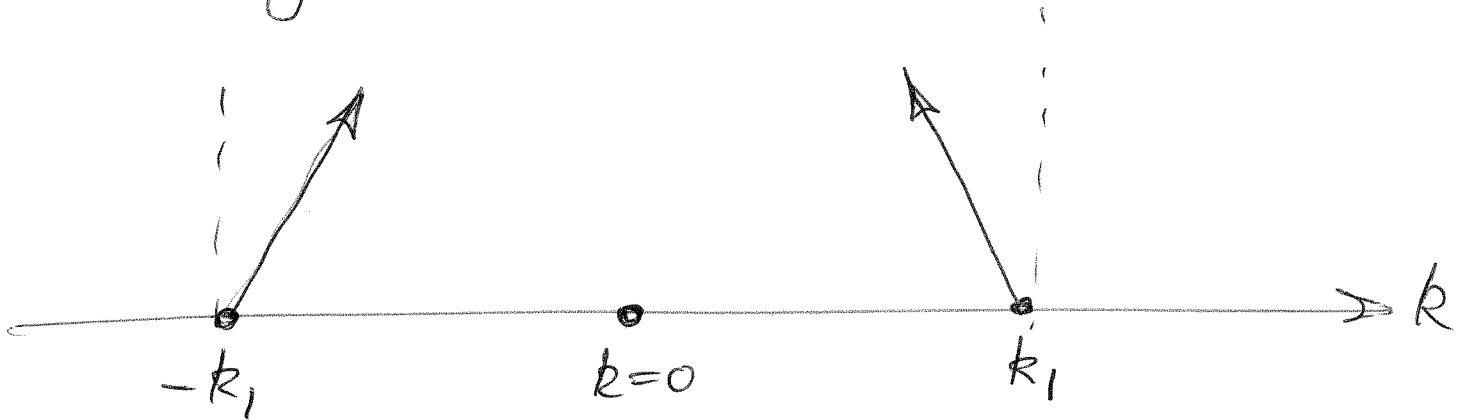


$k < 0$:



call these "phasors"

Plant phasors for different k along k -axis :



These diagrams ~~are~~ always have a mirror symmetry about $k=0$. As time advances, phasors for $k>0$ rotate as

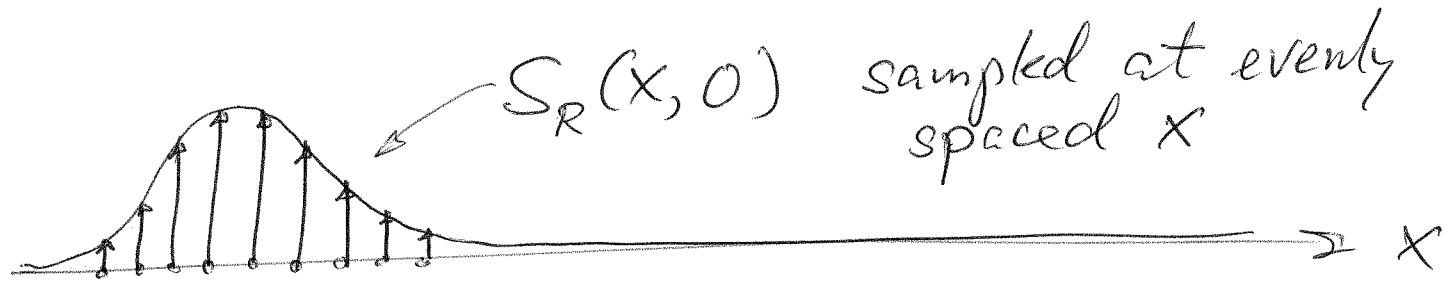
$$e^{-i\omega(k)t} \quad \text{counter-clockwise}$$

for $k<0$ as

$$e^{+i\omega(-k)t} \quad \text{clockwise}$$

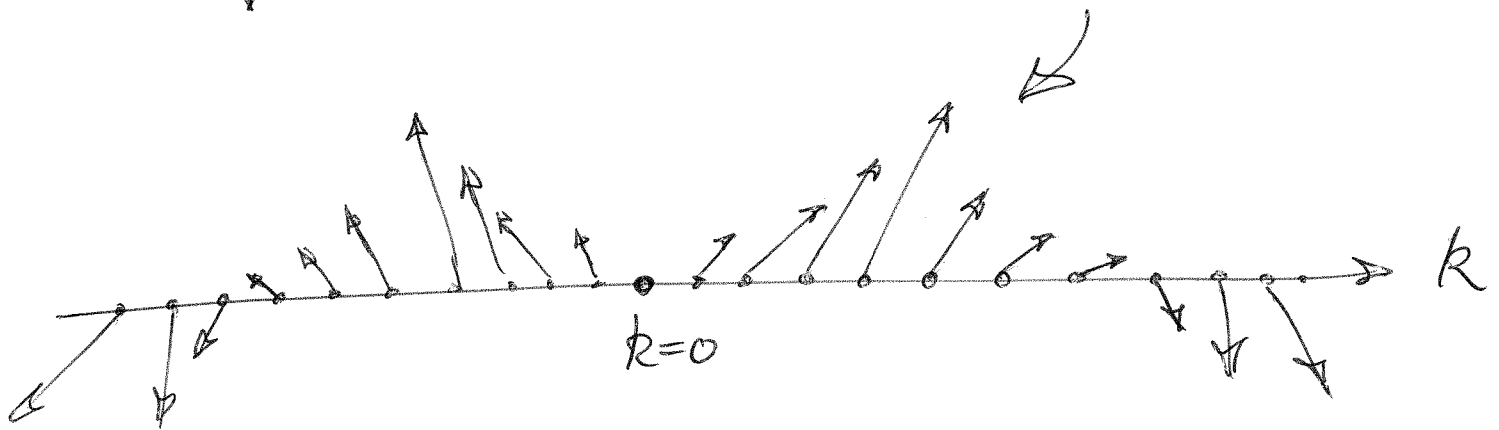
This maintains the mirror symmetry,

Wave dynamics in "Fourier space" (18.4) is simpler than in real space. Start with $t=0$:



F.T.

$\hat{S}(k, 0)$ phasors



F.T. = Fourier transform

(can be very efficiently computed on evenly sampled functions using FFT algorithm)

↑
"fast Fourier transform"

(18.5)

At $t > 0$ the function

$S_R(x, t)$ may have a very complex dynamics (see demo)

while $\hat{S}_R(k, t)$ changes very simply and predictably: the phases rotate at a rate and with a sense that depends on where they are on the k -axis.

