



Institut **Langevin**  
ONDES ET IMAGES

# Time Manipulations of Waves

**Mathias Fink**

Ecole Supérieure de Physique et Chimie Industrielles (ESPCI Paris),  
CNRS, PSL Research University  
1 rue Jussieu, 75005 Paris, France  
[mathias.fink@espci.fr](mailto:mathias.fink@espci.fr)



# The duality between Space and Time variables in Wave Physics

$$\left\{ \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2}{\partial y^2} + \frac{\partial^2}{\partial z^2} - \frac{1}{c(\vec{r})^2} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial t^2} \right\} \varphi(\vec{r}, t) = 0 \quad \begin{array}{l} 2^{\text{d}} \text{ order Linear PDE} \\ \text{Space-Time (4D)} \end{array}$$

Physicists want to determine the solutions in a « hypervolume (4D) » if one knows the field on its boundary ( a « hypersurface (3D) »)

We may define two types of Cauchy conditions that contain enough information to predict the field everywhere at any time (past or future) :

1 – Cauchy (spatial) boundary conditions (**BC**) prescribe both

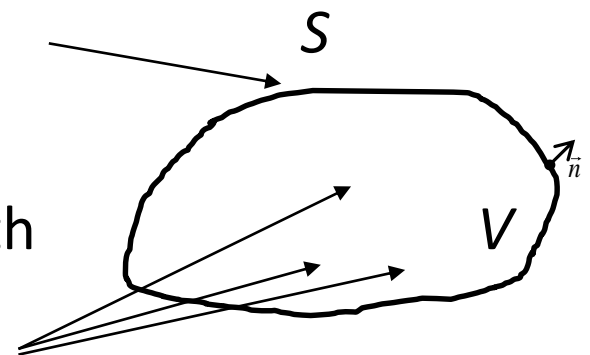
$$\left\{ \varphi(\vec{r}, t), \partial_{\vec{n}} \varphi(\vec{r}, t) \right\} \text{ for } \vec{r} \in S, \text{ for all } t$$

2 spatial and 1 temporal dimensions

2 – Cauchy Initial conditions (**IC**) prescribe both

$$\left\{ \varphi(\vec{r}, t = t_i), \partial_t \varphi(\vec{r}, t = t_i) \right\} \text{ for all } \vec{r} \in V$$

3 spatial dimensions

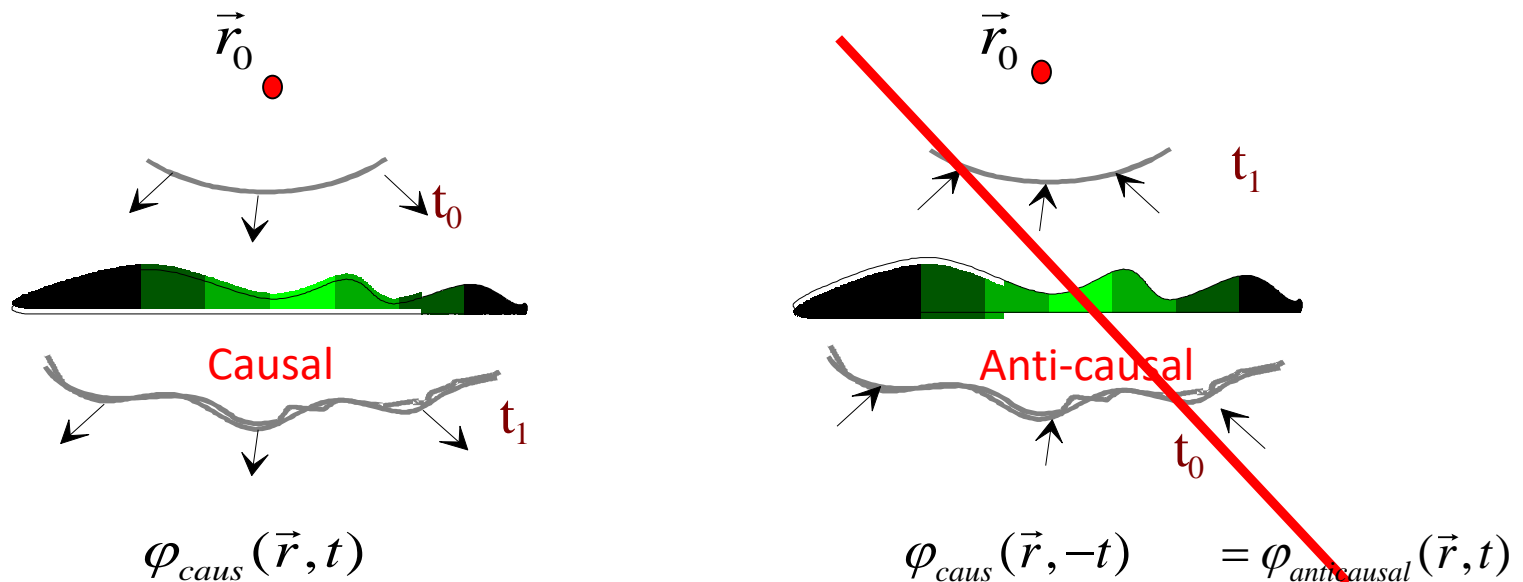


# Causality

Non dissipative heterogeneous medium with a source

$$\left\{ \Delta - \frac{1}{c^2(\vec{r})} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial t^2} \right\} \varphi(\vec{r}, t) = s(\vec{r}, t)$$

Dual Solutions - Time-Reversal Invariance



**To build a Time Machine for Waves : 2 approaches**

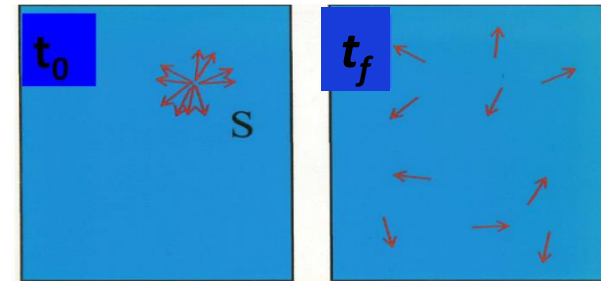
- 1- The Loschmidt approach (IC) : instantaneous TR
- 2- TR on the boundary (BC) : the time reversal mirror

# I – Manipulating initial conditions (IC). The Instantaneous Time Mirror (ITM) “à la Loschmidt”

- record on the whole volume V the final conditions at time  $t_f$

$$\{\varphi(\vec{r}', t_f); \partial_t \varphi(\vec{r}', t_f)\}$$

Analogy with  
Trajectory  
Reversal of  
N particles

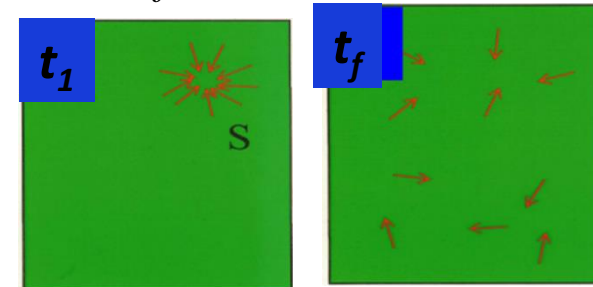


- prepare new initial conditions:

$$\varphi(\vec{r}', t_i) = \varphi(\vec{r}', t_f) \quad \text{and} \quad \partial_t \varphi(\vec{r}', t_i) = -\partial_t \varphi(\vec{r}', t_f)$$

$$\{\varphi(\vec{r}', t_f); -\partial_t \varphi(\vec{r}', t_f)\}$$

The Loschmidt  
Daemon



**How can you change the relation between the wave field and its  
temporal derivative ?      The concept of time boundary!!**

# II – Manipulating (spatial) boundary conditions (BC) : the Time-Reversal Mirror approach

- record on the boundary  $\varphi(\vec{r}', t); \cancel{\partial_n \varphi(\vec{r}', t)}$
- transmit from the boundary  $\varphi(\vec{r}', T - t); \cancel{\partial_n \varphi(\vec{r}', T - t)}$

In the far field of the source

Heterogeneous medium

Source

$\varphi(\vec{r}', t)$

Electronic memories

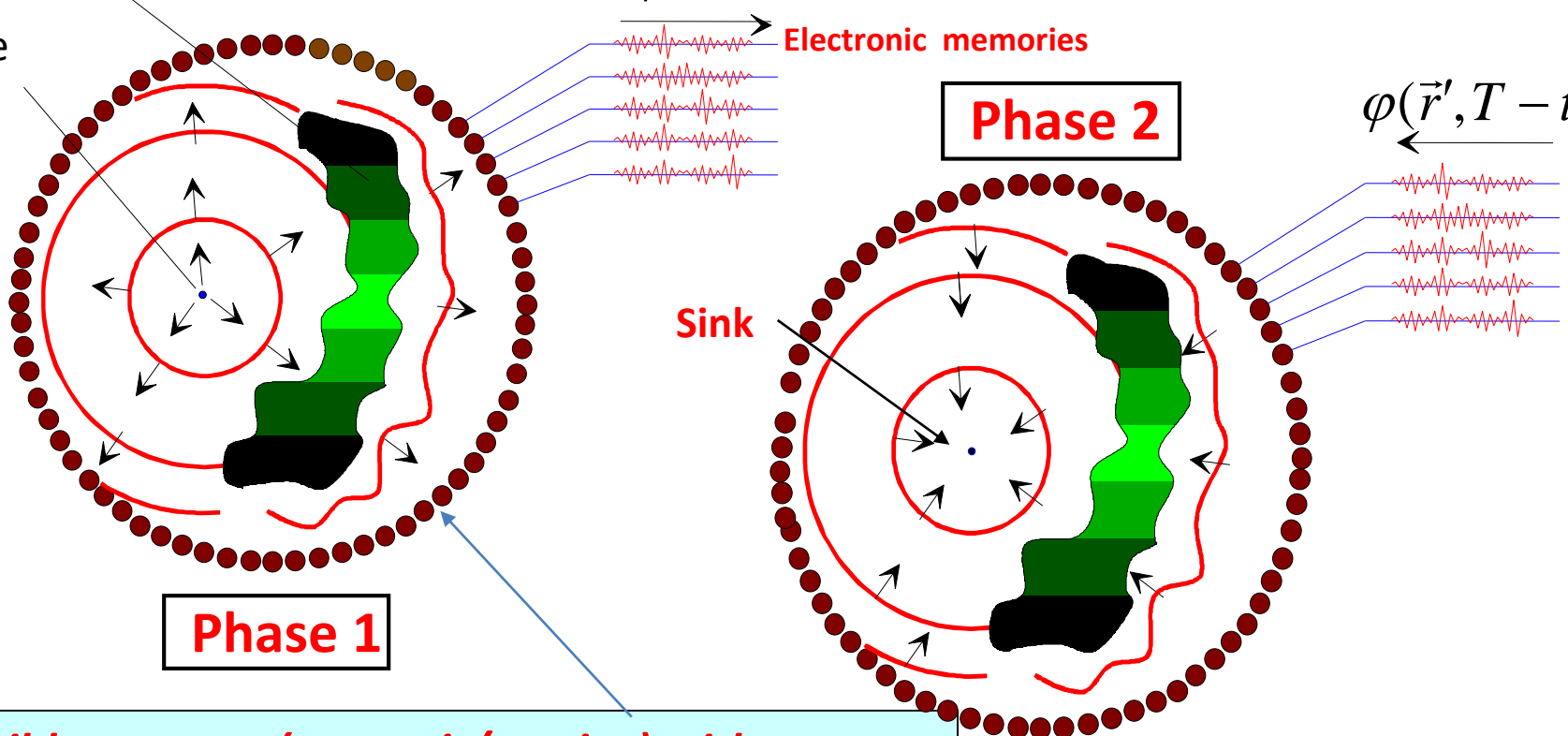
Phase 2

$\varphi(\vec{r}', T - t)$

Sink

Phase 1

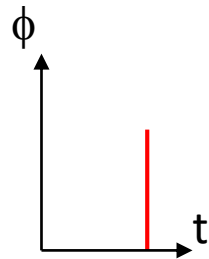
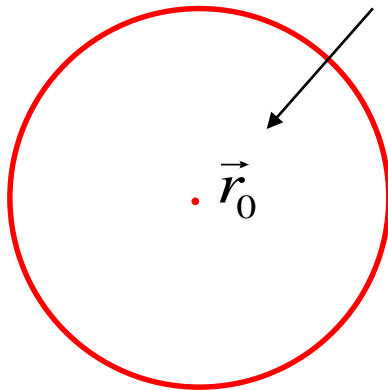
Reversible antenna (transmit/receive) with memory



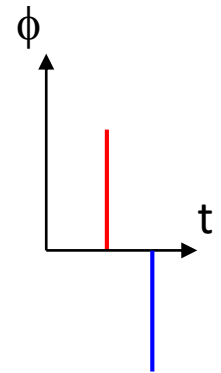
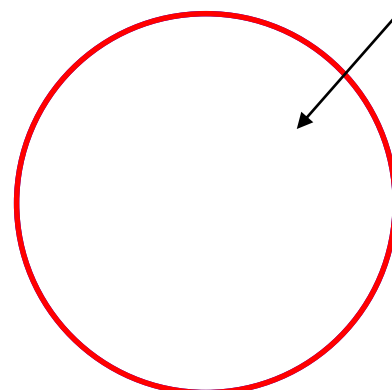
# Origin of Diffraction Limits in Wave Physics

Pulsed mode – the homogeneous medium

Forward Step



Time-reversed Step



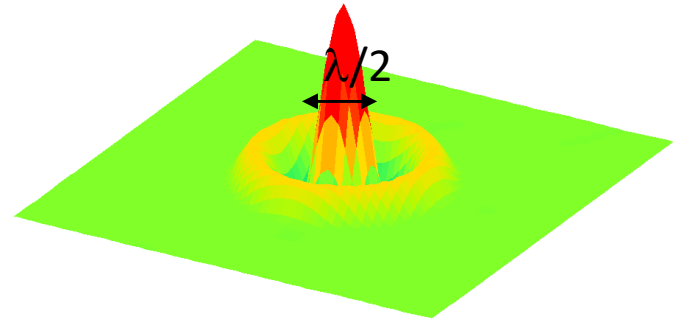
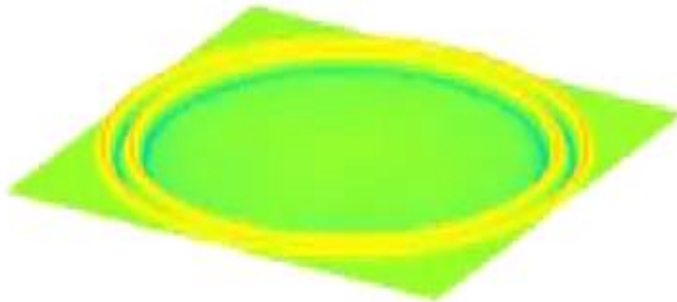
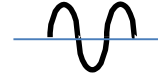
$$G_{caus}^0(\vec{r}, \vec{r}_0; t)$$

$$\varphi_{tr}(\vec{r}, t) = G_{caus}^0(\vec{r}, \vec{r}_0; -t) - G_{caus}^0(\vec{r}, \vec{r}_0; t)$$

# Origin of Diffraction Limits in Wave Physics

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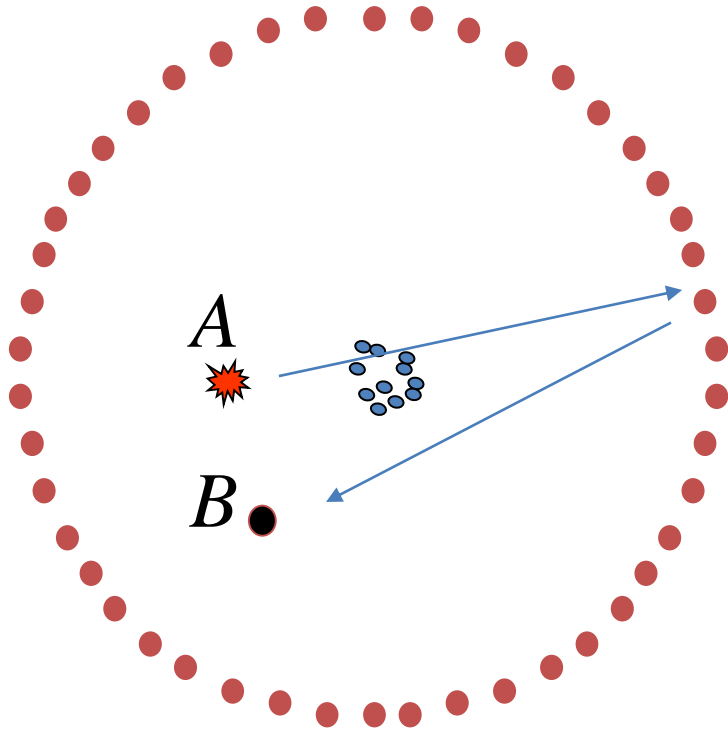
wavelength  $\lambda$



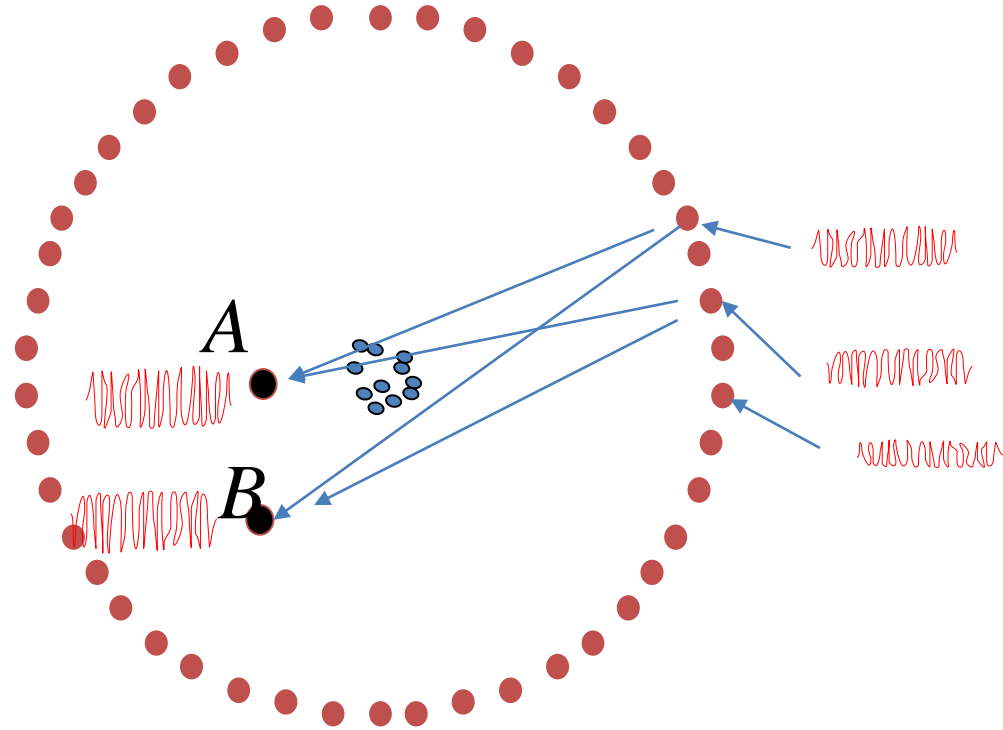
Diffraction limit is only due to the fact that we live in a **Causal World**

# Analogy between a TR experiment and spatial correlation in white noise

Closed Time-Reversal Mirror



Isotropic white noise

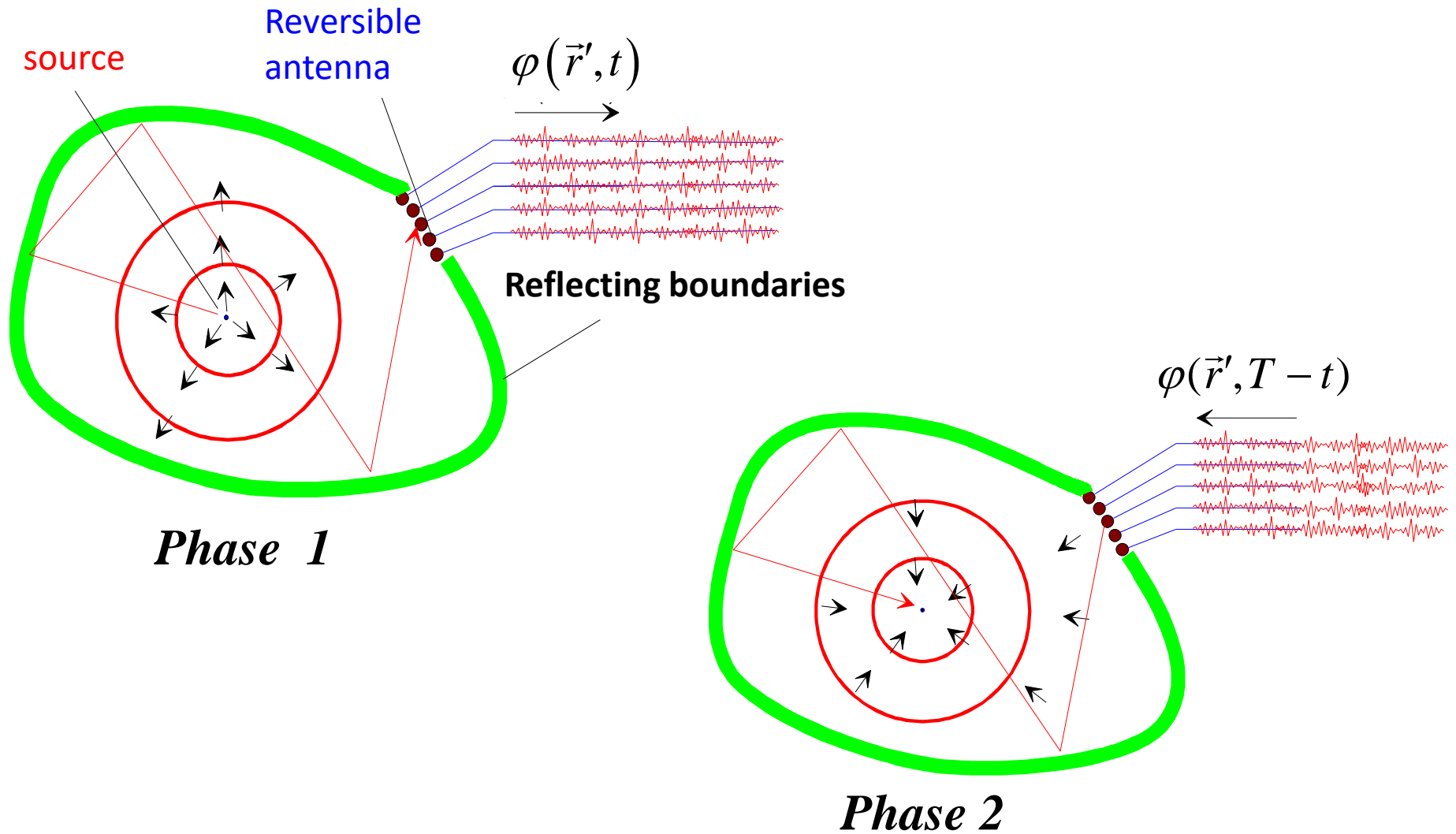


$$\Phi_{TR-mirror}(B, t) = G_{caus}(A, B; -t) - G_{caus}(A, B; t)$$

$$\partial_t C(A, B, t) \prec G_{caus}(A, B; -t) - G_{caus}(A, B; t)$$

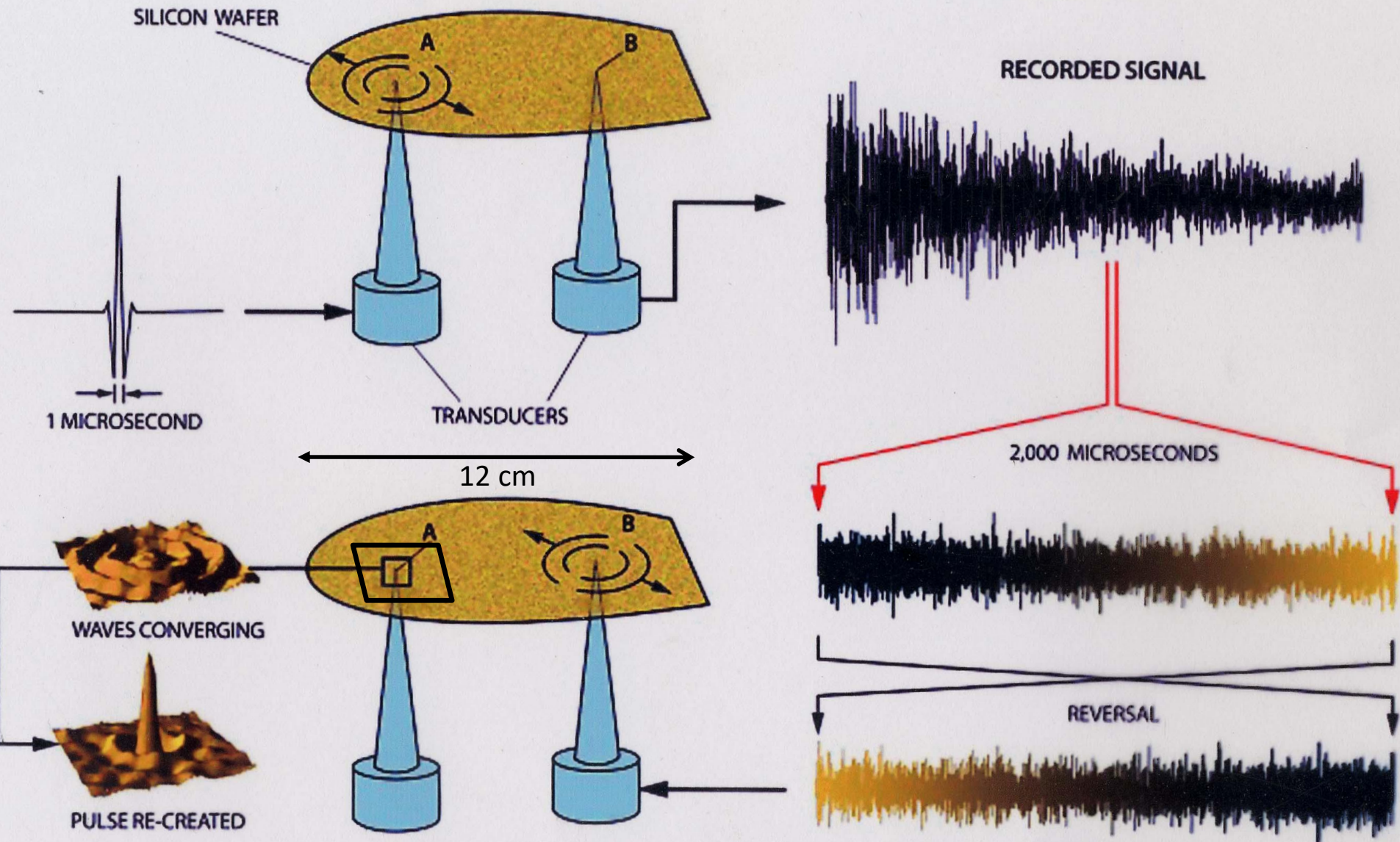


# Time-reversal mirror in a reverberating medium



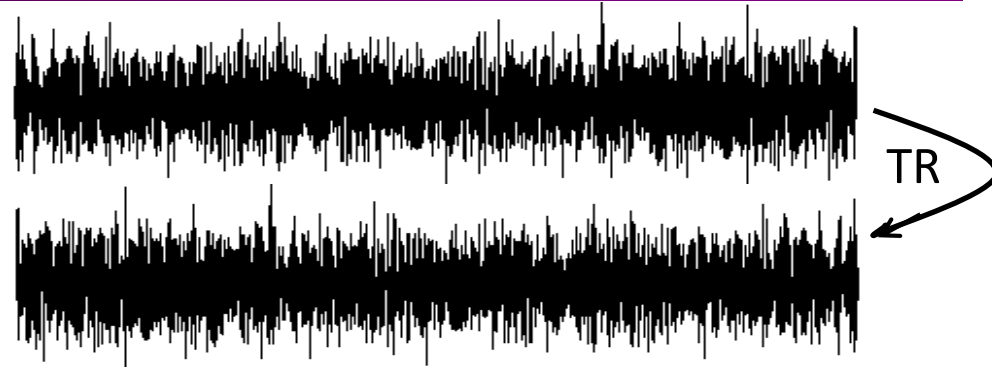
A small number of antenna with large memory is enough !!!

# A one transducer time-reversal mirror

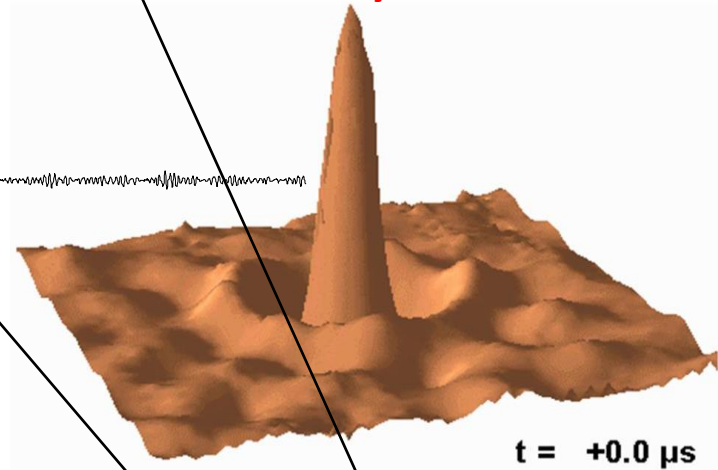
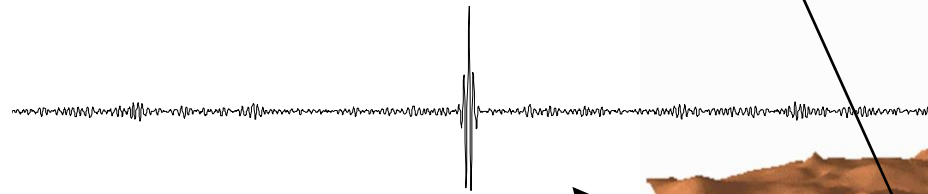
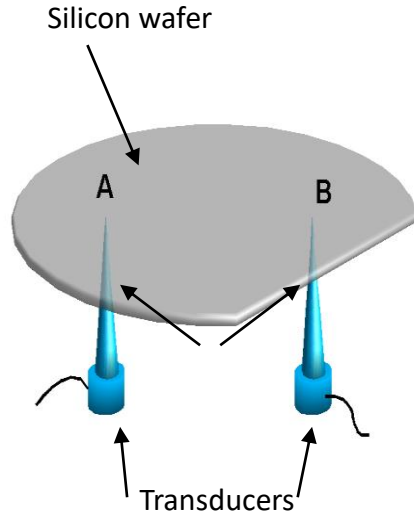


# The time-reversed wave optically detected

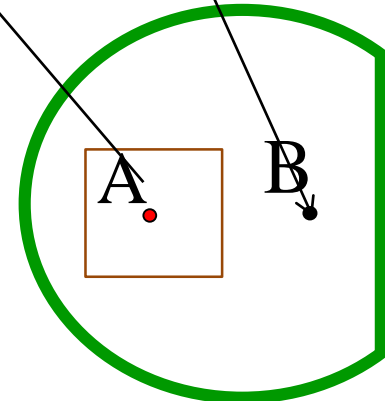
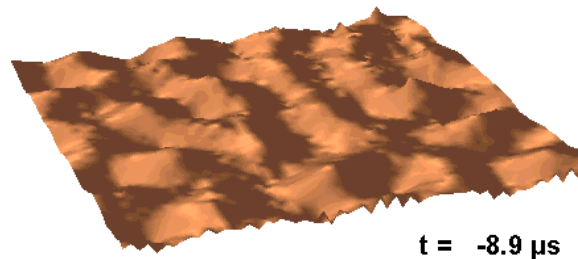
A 2 ms duration signal transmitted by point B :



The key: number of eigenmodes excited by the source.  
Frequency diversity



Displacement field recorded on a square  $15 \times 15 \text{ mm}^2$



**II- Time-Reversal « à la Loschmidt »  
Manipulating time boundaries.**

**The Instantaneous Time Mirror**

**A water wave experiment**

# Revisiting Loschmidt point of view

- record on the whole volume V the final conditions at time  $t_f$

$$\varphi(\vec{r}, t_f); \partial_t \varphi(\vec{r}, t_f)$$

- prepare new initial conditions : **changing the relation between the wave field and its temporal derivative**

$$\{\varphi(\vec{r}, t_i); \partial_t \varphi(\vec{r}, t_i)\} = \{\varphi(\vec{r}, t_f); -\partial_t \varphi(\vec{r}, t_f)\}$$

---

A first alternative : Canceling the time derivative :  $\partial_t \varphi(\vec{r}, t_i) = 0$

$$\{\varphi(\vec{r}, t_i); \partial_t \varphi(\vec{r}, t_i)\} = \{\varphi(\vec{r}, t_f); 0\} \quad \text{« À la Neumann »}$$

$$\{1/2 \varphi(\vec{r}, t_f); 1/2 \partial_t \varphi(\vec{r}, t_f)\} + \{1/2 \varphi(\vec{r}, t_f); -1/2 \partial_t \varphi(\vec{r}, t_f)\}$$

1/2 the forward wave + 1/2 the time-reversed wave

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A second alternative : Canceling the field :  $\varphi(\vec{r}, t_i) = 0$

$$\{\varphi(\vec{r}, t_i); \partial_t \varphi(\vec{r}, t_i)\} = \{0; \partial_t \varphi(\vec{r}, t_i)\} \quad \text{« À la Dirichlet »}$$

$$\{1/2 \varphi(\vec{r}, t_f); 1/2 \partial_t \varphi(\vec{r}, t_f)\} - \{1/2 \varphi(\vec{r}, t_f); -1/2 \partial_t \varphi(\vec{r}, t_f)\}$$

1/2 the forward wave - 1/2 the time-reversed wave

How to change suddenly the relation between the wavefield and its temporal derivative ?

It depends on the wave velocity.

Imagine that you can **change instantaneously the wave velocity** in the whole space ?

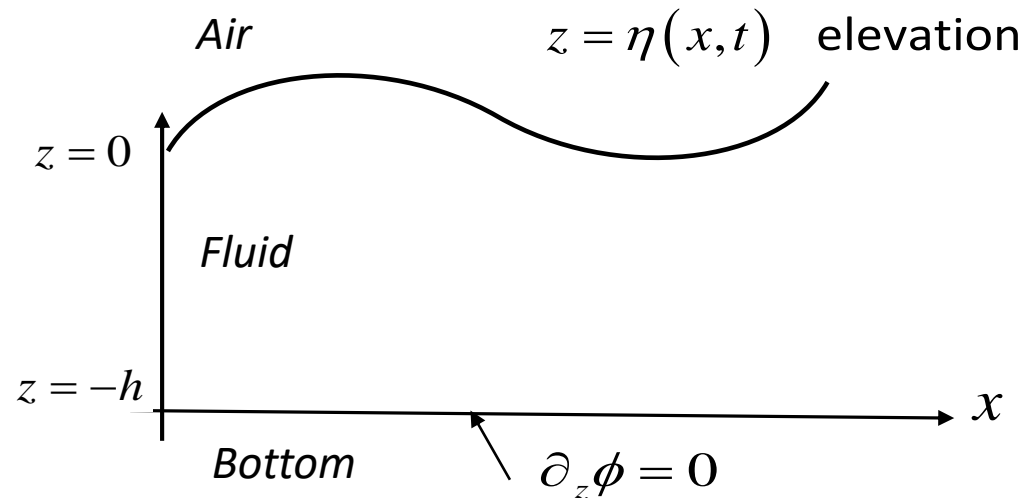
Let us look **Water Waves** as a first example

# The case of Water Waves .

## The main restoring force is Gravity : Gravity Waves

inviscid and  
incompressible flow

$$\vec{v}(\vec{r}, t) = \vec{\nabla} \phi$$
$$\Delta \phi = 0$$



### Linearization

$$\partial_t \eta = \partial_z \phi \quad \text{at } z = 0$$

$$\partial_t \phi + g\eta = 0 \quad \text{at } z = 0$$

$$\phi(x, z, t) = Z(z) \exp(kx - \omega t) \Rightarrow \text{Dispersion relation } \omega^2 = gk \tanh(kh)$$

For shallow water

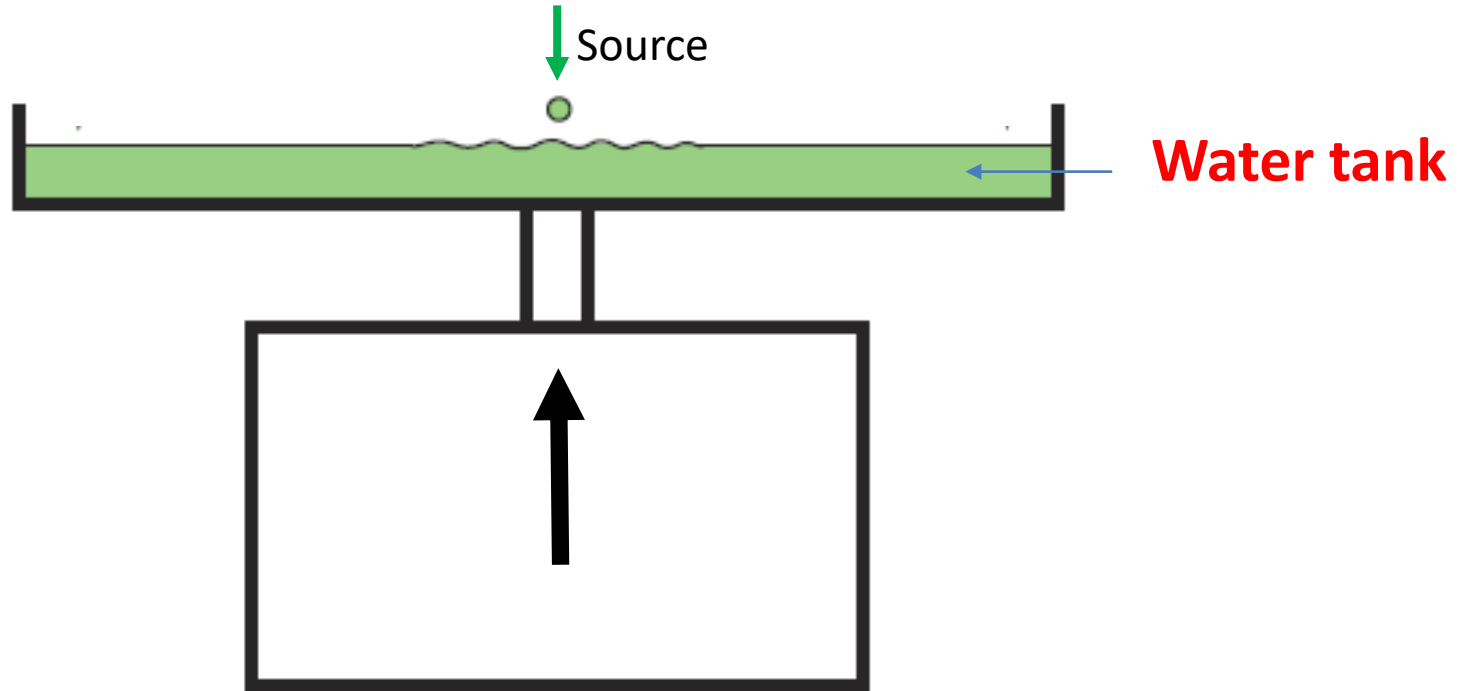
$$c_0 = \sqrt{gh}$$

How to change wave velocity ?  
change gravity !!!!!

Let us try a very brief vertical acceleration of a water tank !!



# Transient observation of water wave radiated by an impulsive source



Here some time after the wave is radiated, we suddenly shake vertically the water tank. The gravity is modulated

$g \Rightarrow g + \gamma(t)$ , therefore the wave velocity is suddenly changed with respect to  $c_0^2$  to  $c_0^2(1 + \gamma(t)/g)$  with  $\gamma(t)/g \sim \beta\delta(t - t_f)$

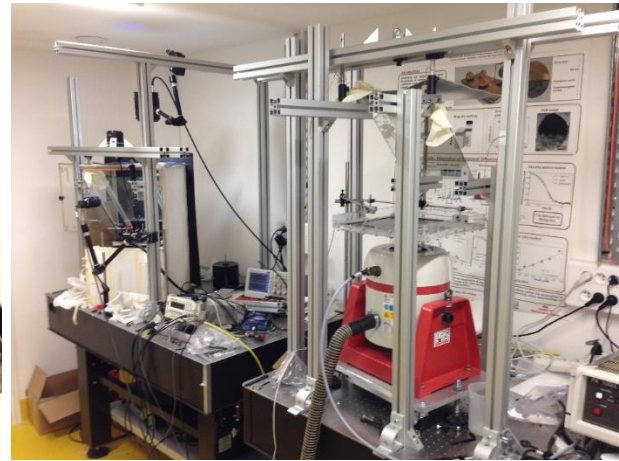
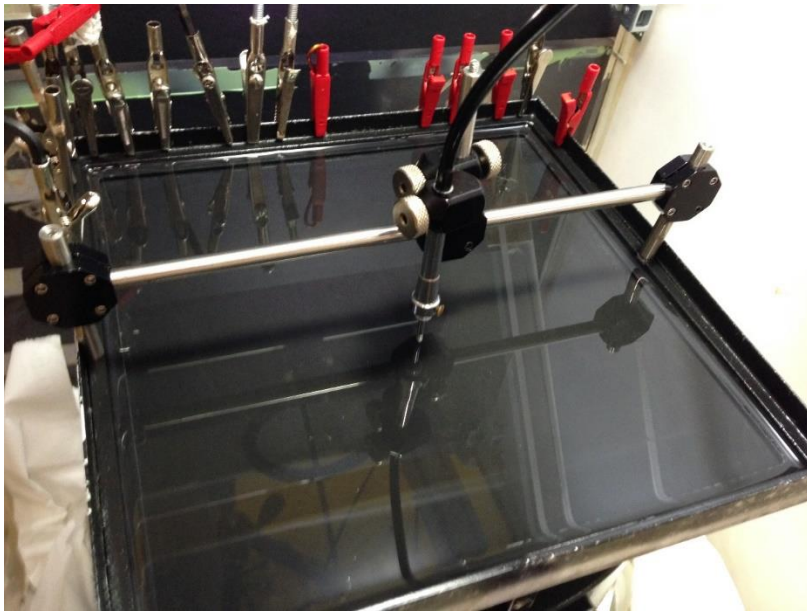
**One creates a time discontinuity in the water tank by changing suddenly the wave velocity**

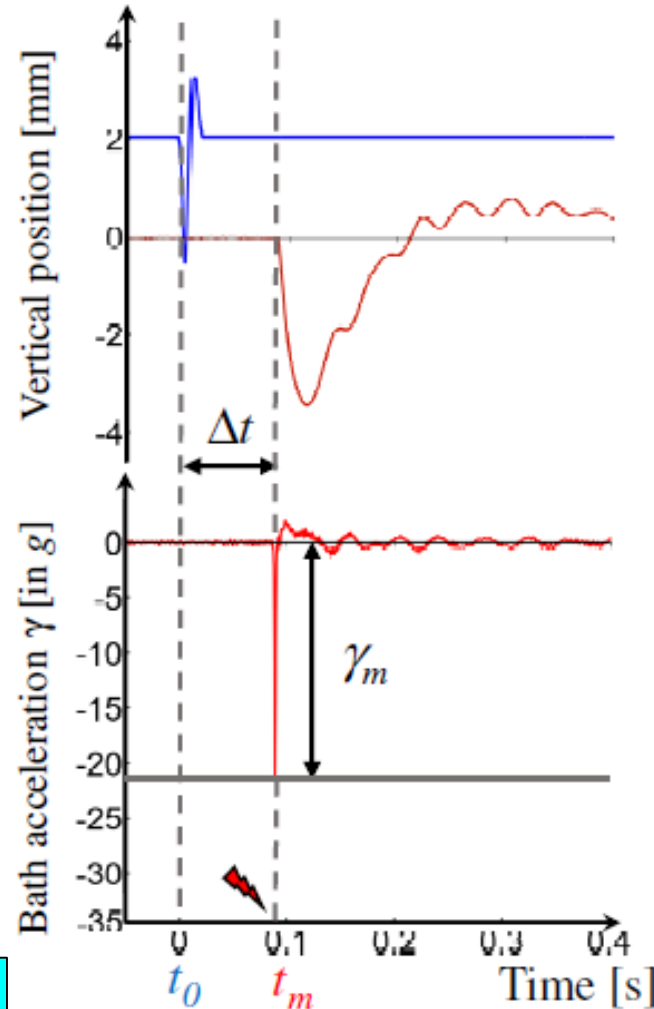
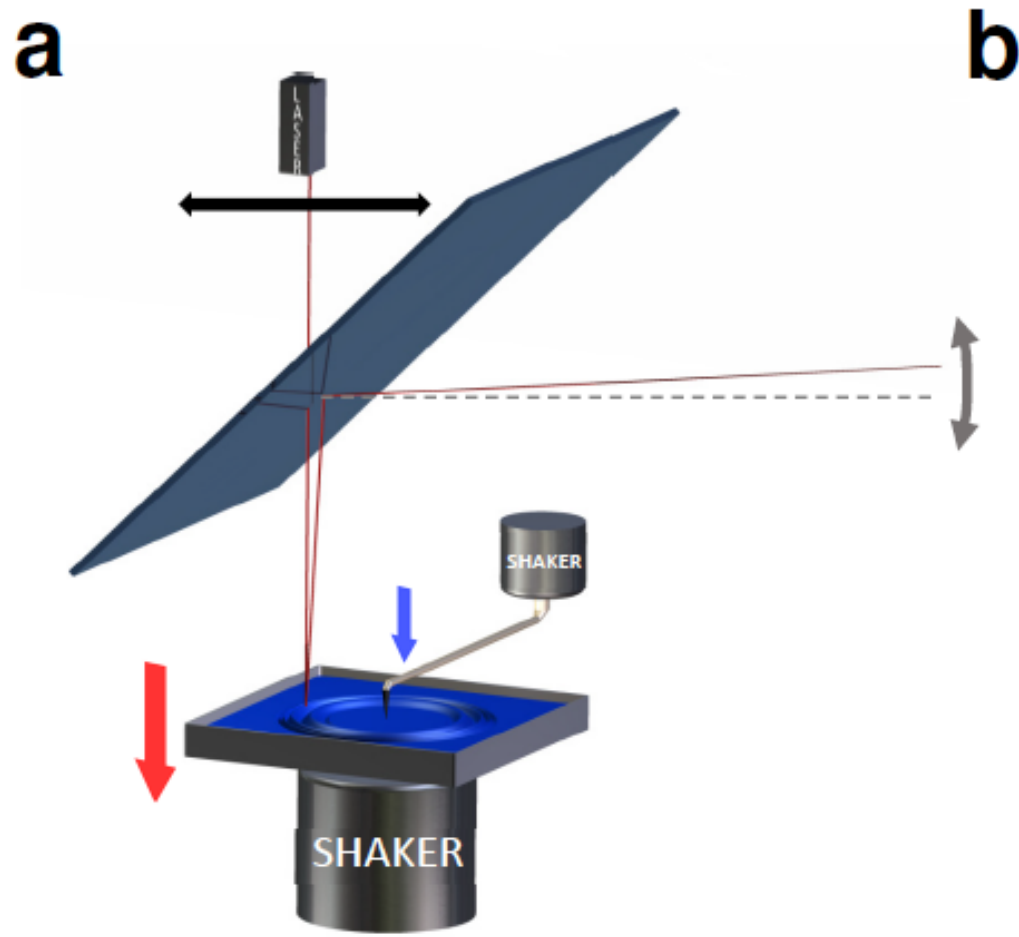
*V. Bacot, M. Labousse, A. Eddy, M. Fink, E. Fort.*

« Time reversal and holography with spacetime transformations », *Nature Physics* (Oct 2016)



# The setup

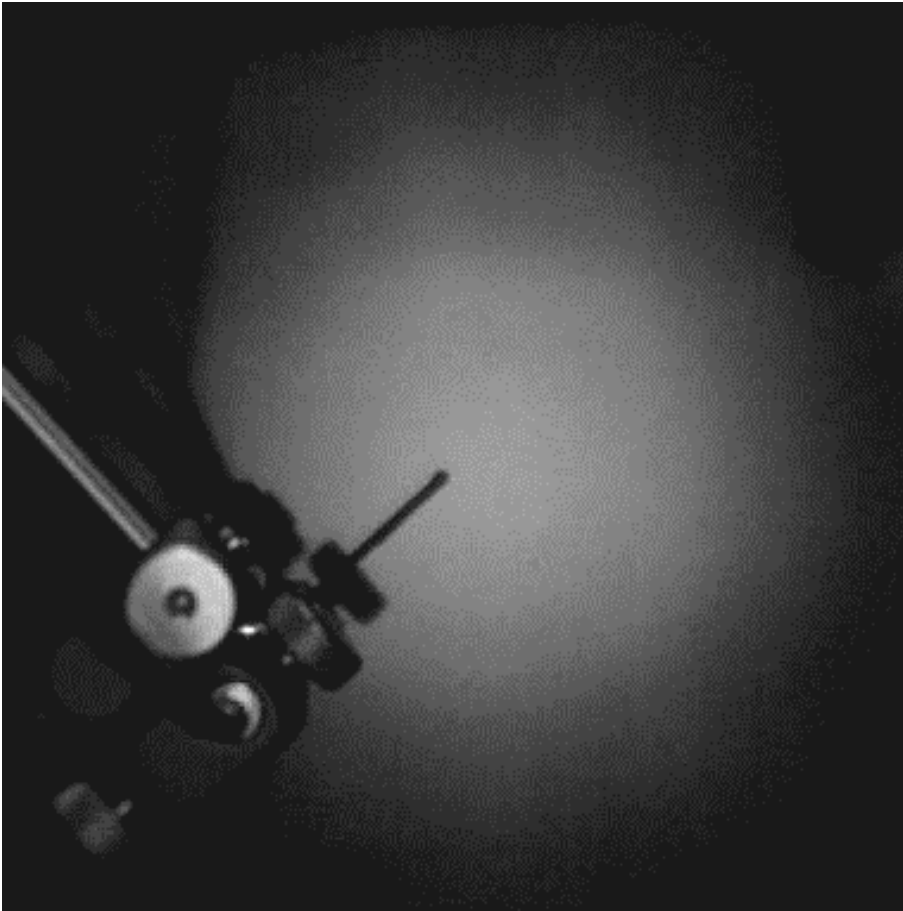




**c**

Effective gravity change  
from  $g$  to  $20g$  during 1 ms

# The instantaneous time mirror (ITM) experiment



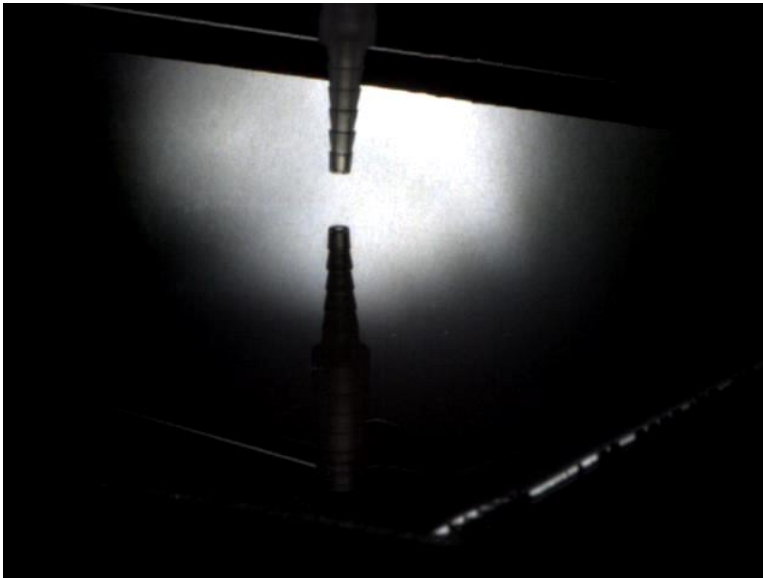
From above, slowed down 27 times

Instantaneous emission of a  
backpropagating wave ...

... from the whole space

In situ time reversal :  
instantaneous, no need to record  
the phase

# The instantaneous time mirror (ITM) experiment



Apparition of reversed wave  
at instant of jolt

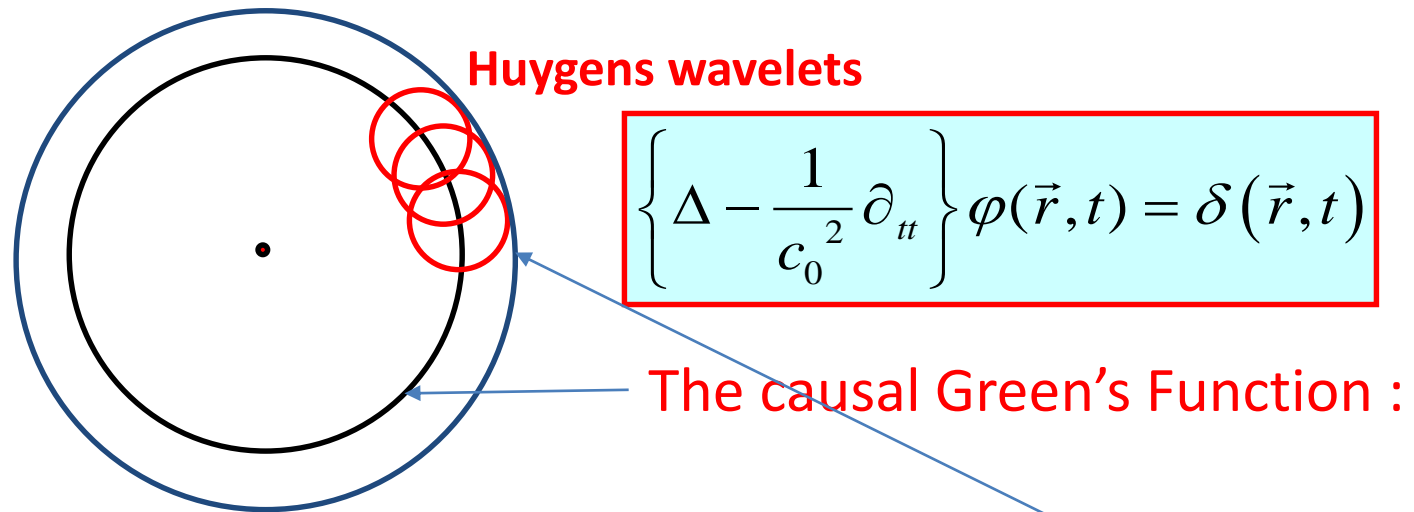
From the side, slowed down 50 times

Why ?

Huygens Principle revisited.  
The Cauchy Problem

# The Huygens Intuition

## The case of shallow water (no dispersion)

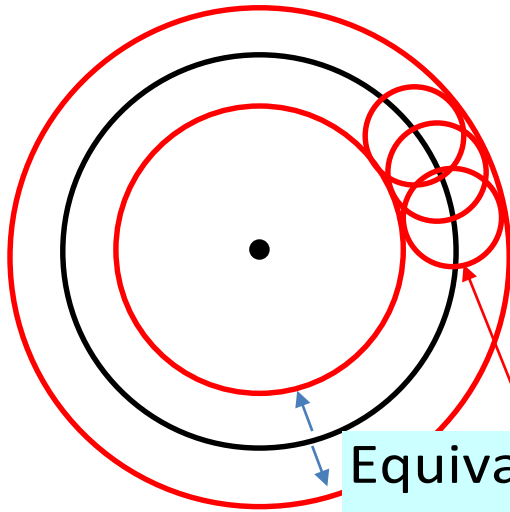


The wavefront at any instant conforms to the upper envelope of spherical wavelets emanating from every point on the wavefront at the prior instant

Why does an expanding spherical wave continue to expand outward from its source, rather than re-converging inward back toward the source ?

Later Fresnel and Kirchoff introduced the concept of interference and shows that in order to build a self-consistent solution the wavelets are to be monopole and dipole with obliquity factors

# Huygens revisited by a sudden shake



$$\left\{ \Delta - \frac{1}{c_0^2 (1 + \gamma(t)/g)} \partial_{tt} \right\} \varphi(\vec{r}, t) = 0$$

↑  
Energy injection

Equivalent to a wave equation with a source term

at time  $t_f$   $\left\{ \Delta - \frac{1}{c_0^2} \partial_{tt} \right\} \varphi(\vec{r}, t) = s(\vec{r}, t)$

where  $s(\vec{r}, t) \simeq -\frac{\gamma(t)}{c_0^2 g} \partial_{tt} \varphi(\vec{r}, t)$  with  $\frac{\gamma(t)}{g} \approx \beta \delta(t - t_f)$

monopoles

$$\varphi(\vec{r}, t) = \iiint [G(\vec{r}, \vec{r}'; t - t_i) s(\vec{r}', t_f)] d^3 \vec{r}' \quad \text{with } s(\vec{r}', t_f) = -\frac{\beta}{c_0^2} \partial_{tt} \varphi(\vec{r}', t = t_f)$$



*V. Bacot, M. Labousse, A. Eddy, M. Fink, E. Fort.*

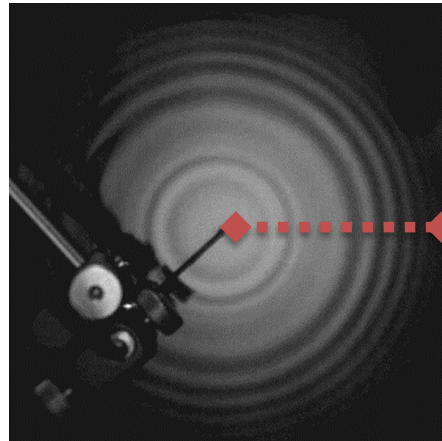
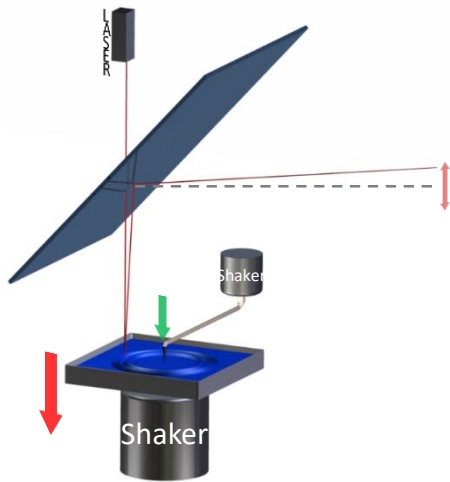
« Time reversal and holography with spacetime transformations », *Nature Physics* (2016)



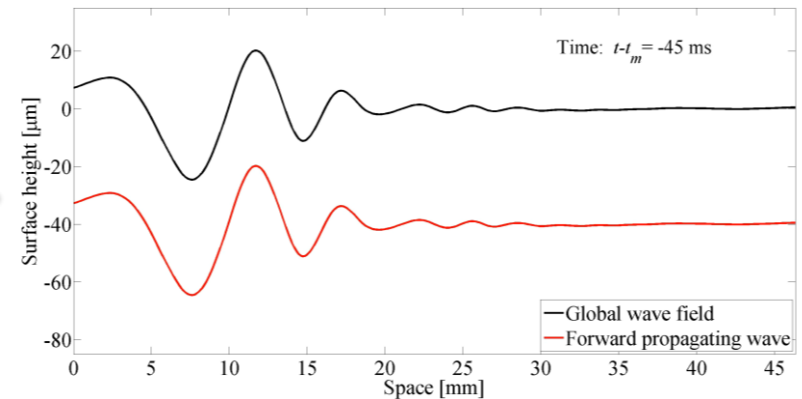


**An instantaneous hologram that is played back with a time discontinuity.  
It creates a real image of the object !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

# The effect of dispersion: Capillary-Gravity waves



Mesurement of the elevation along a radius

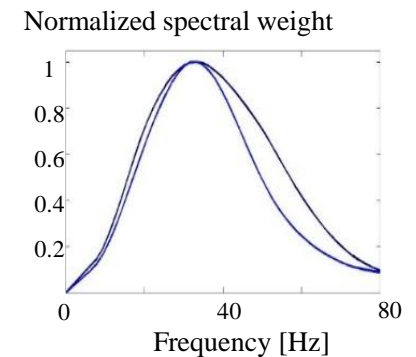


Blue curve : time-reversed wave  
Dispersion effect is canceled

with  $\gamma$  surface tension

$$\omega^2(k) = gk + \frac{\gamma}{\rho} k^3$$

**Broad band**  
Instantaneous  
Time Reversal



# Conservation Laws

# Conservation law for spatial discontinuity $c(z)$

Phase matching conditions  $\forall t$

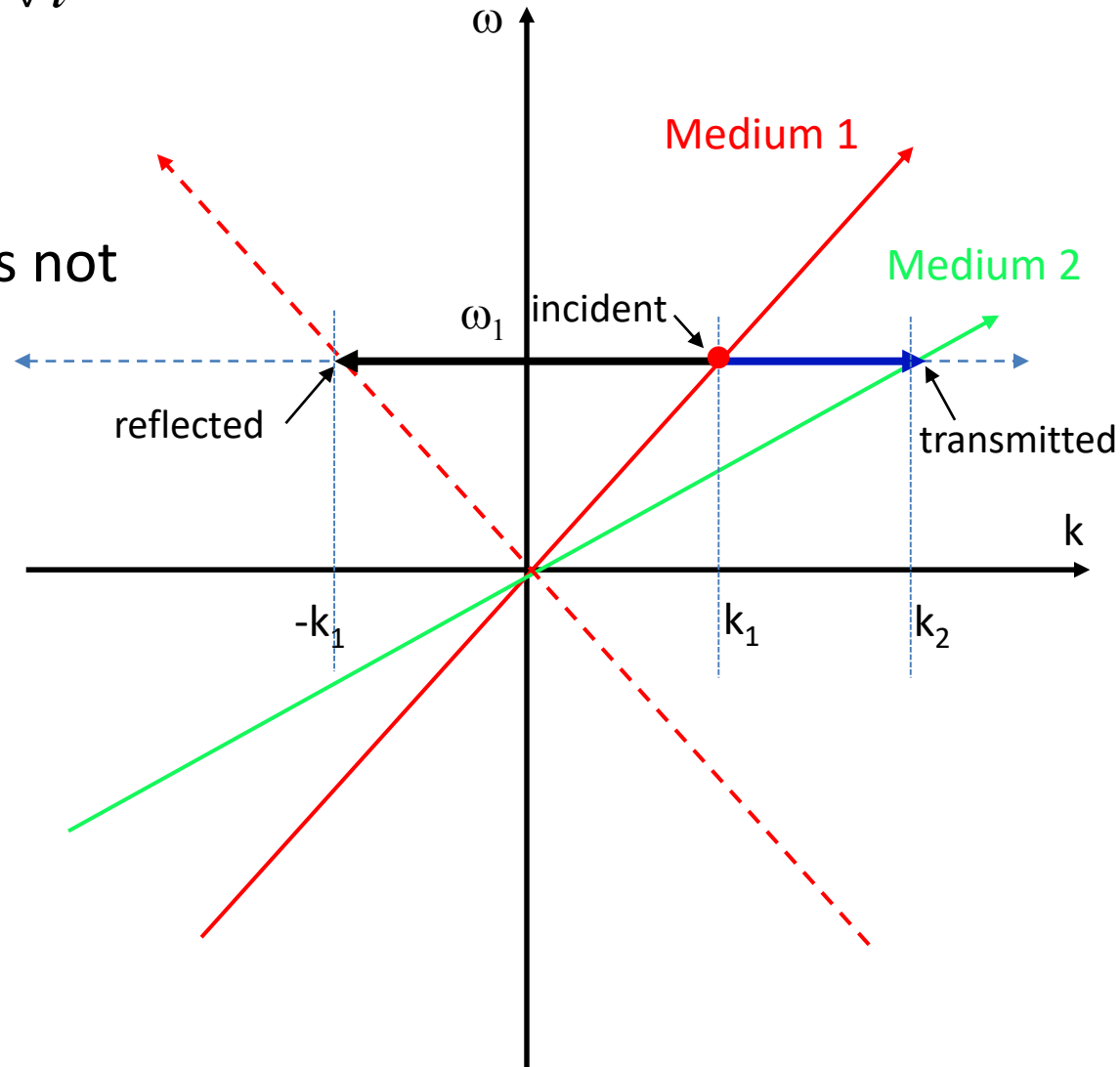
Energy conservation

$$\omega_1 = \omega_t = \omega_r$$

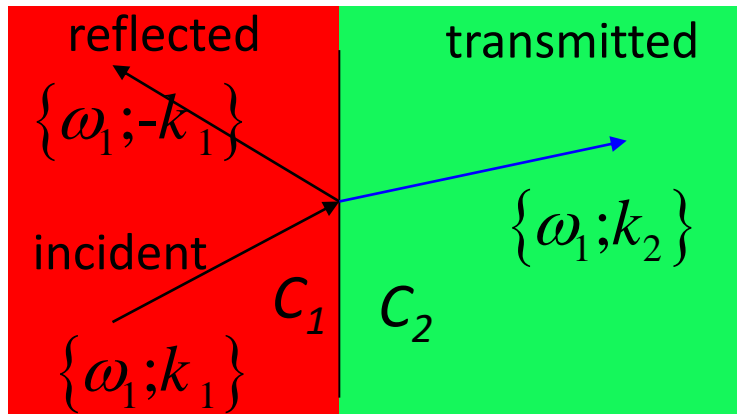
Wave vector (momentum) is not conserved

Medium without dispersion

Dispersion relation



A plane wave approach



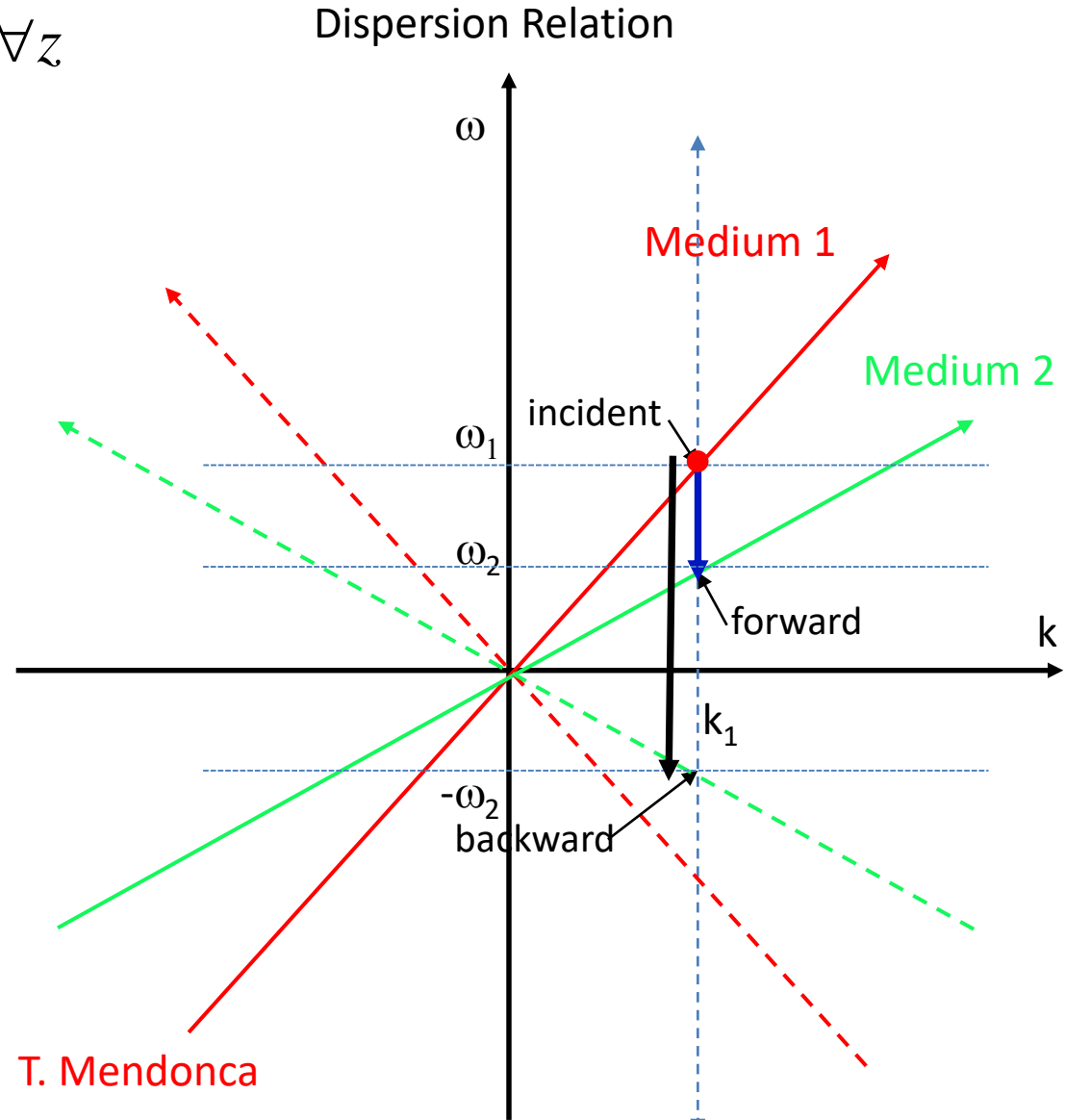
# Conservation law for temporal discontinuity $c(t)$

Phase matching conditions  $\forall z$

Energy (frequency) is not conserved  $\omega_2 \neq \omega_1$

Wave vector conservation

$k_1 = k_f = k_b$  momentum



Note that the backward and forward waves oscillate at frequency different from the one of the incident wave !

$t \leq t_f$   $\{\omega_1; k_1\}$

incident

$C_1$

$t > t_f$  forward  $\{\omega_2; k_1\}$

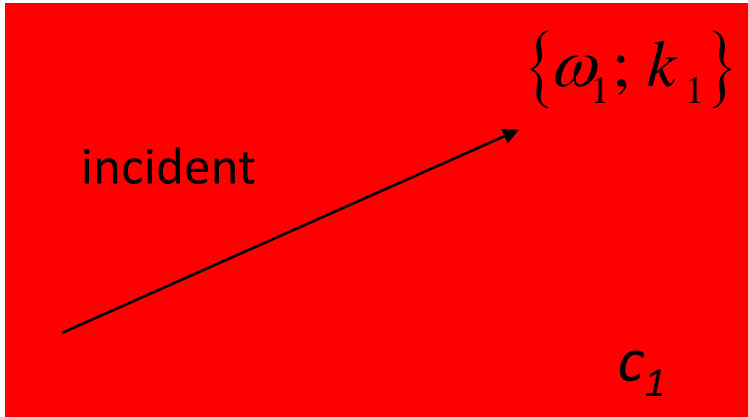
$\{-\omega_2; k_1\}$

backward

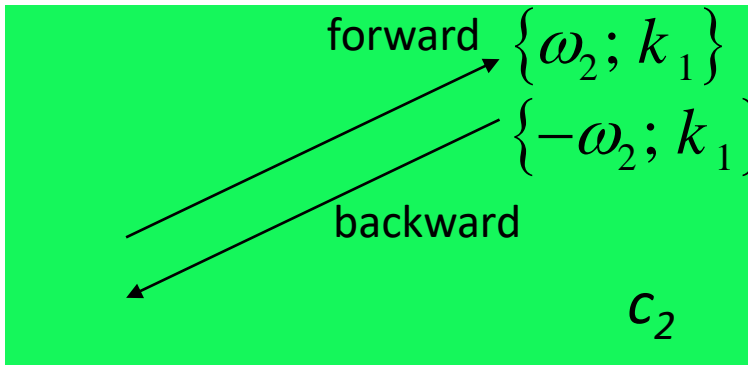
$C_2$

# To recover the initial spectrum : 2 successive discontinuities

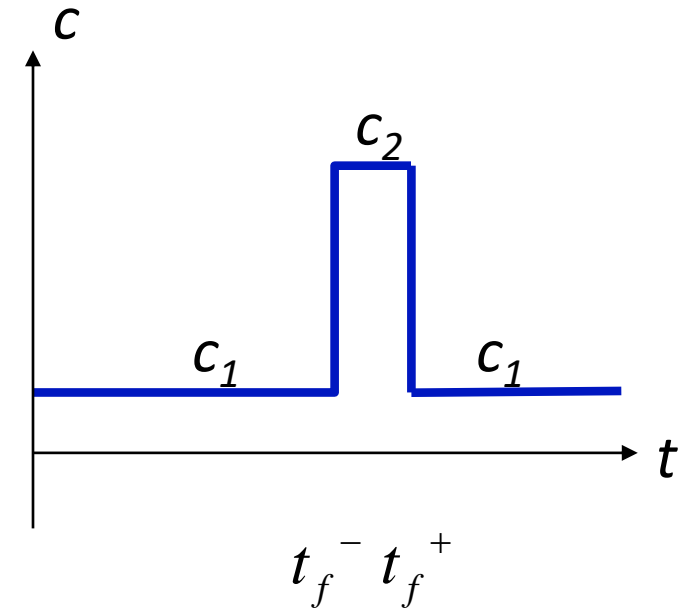
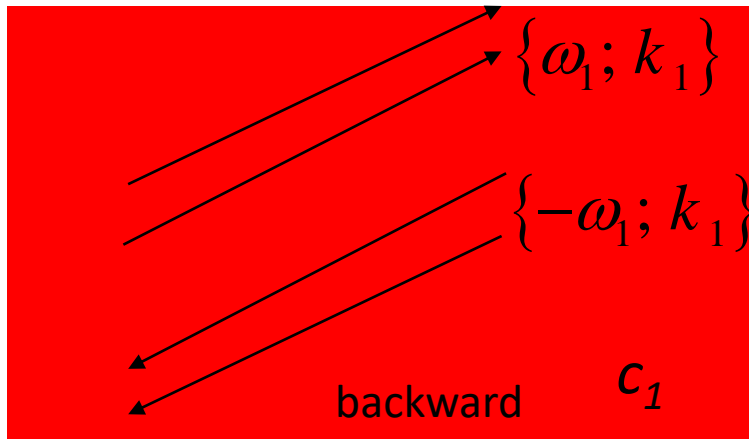
$$t \leq t_f^-$$



$$t_f^- < t < t_f^+$$

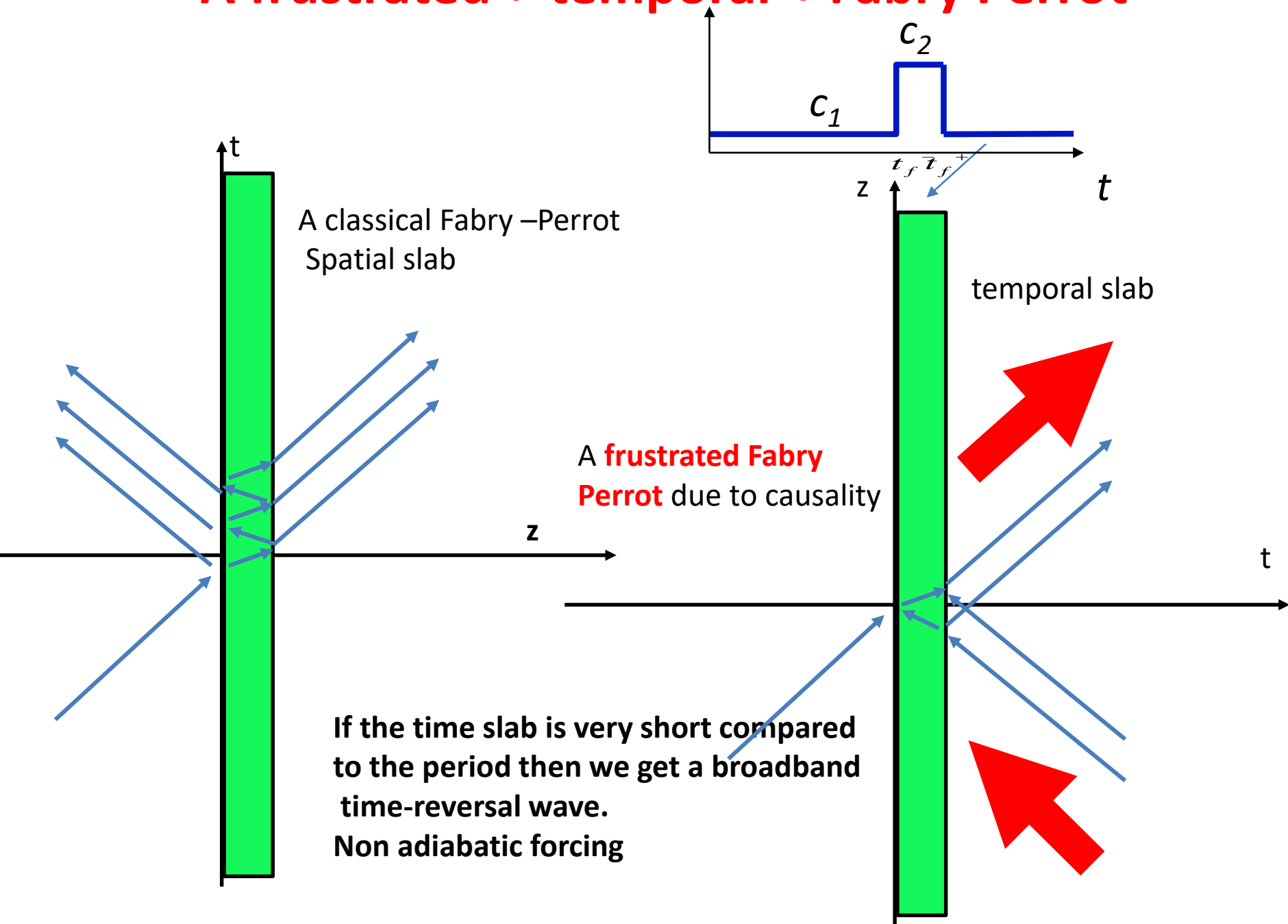


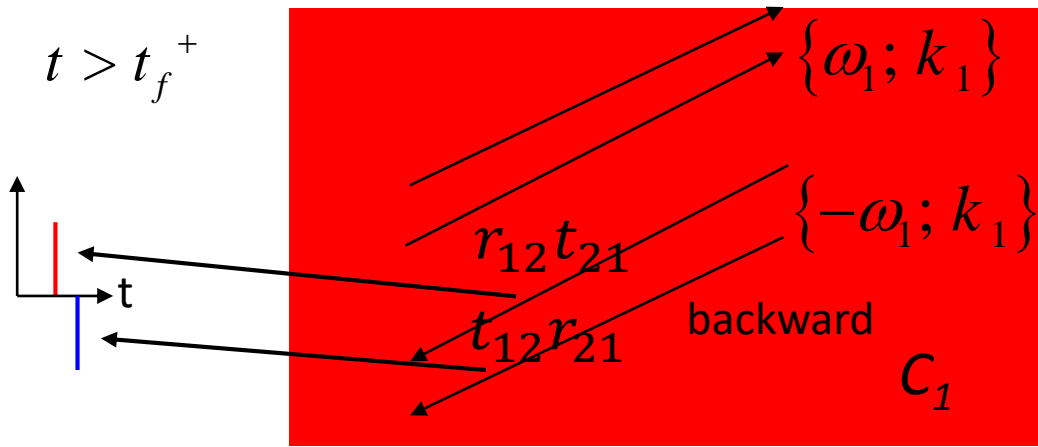
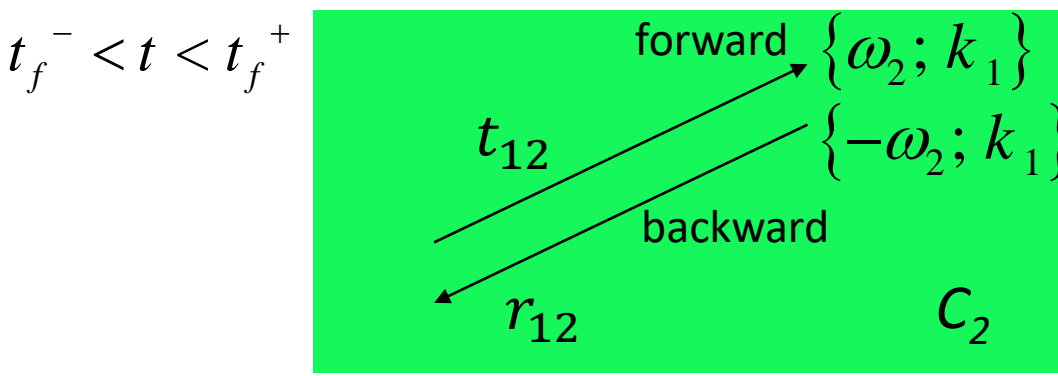
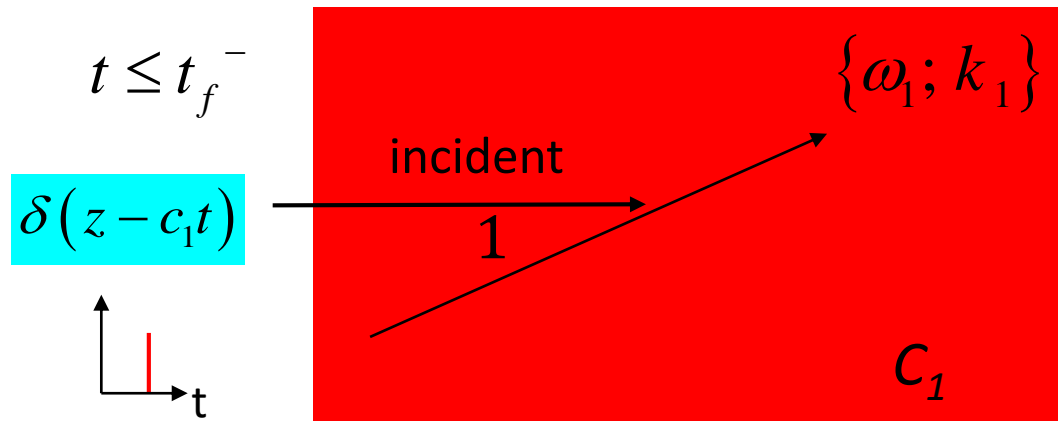
$$t > t_f^+$$



$$\Delta t < 1/\Delta\omega$$

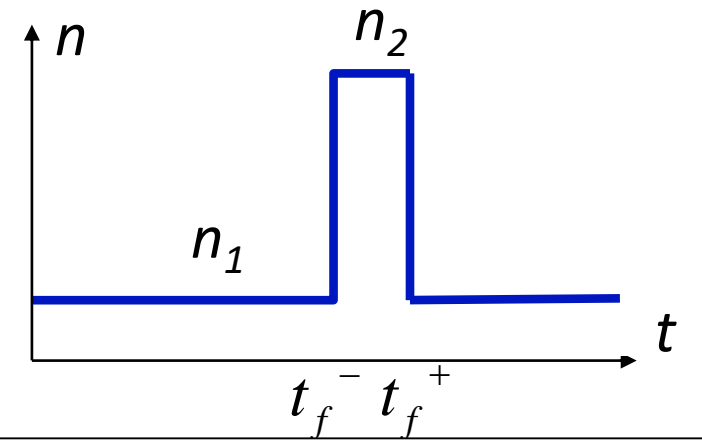
# A frustrated « temporal » Fabry Perrot





$$t_{12} = \frac{n_1 + n_2}{2n_1} \quad r_{12} = \frac{n_1 - n_2}{2n_1}$$

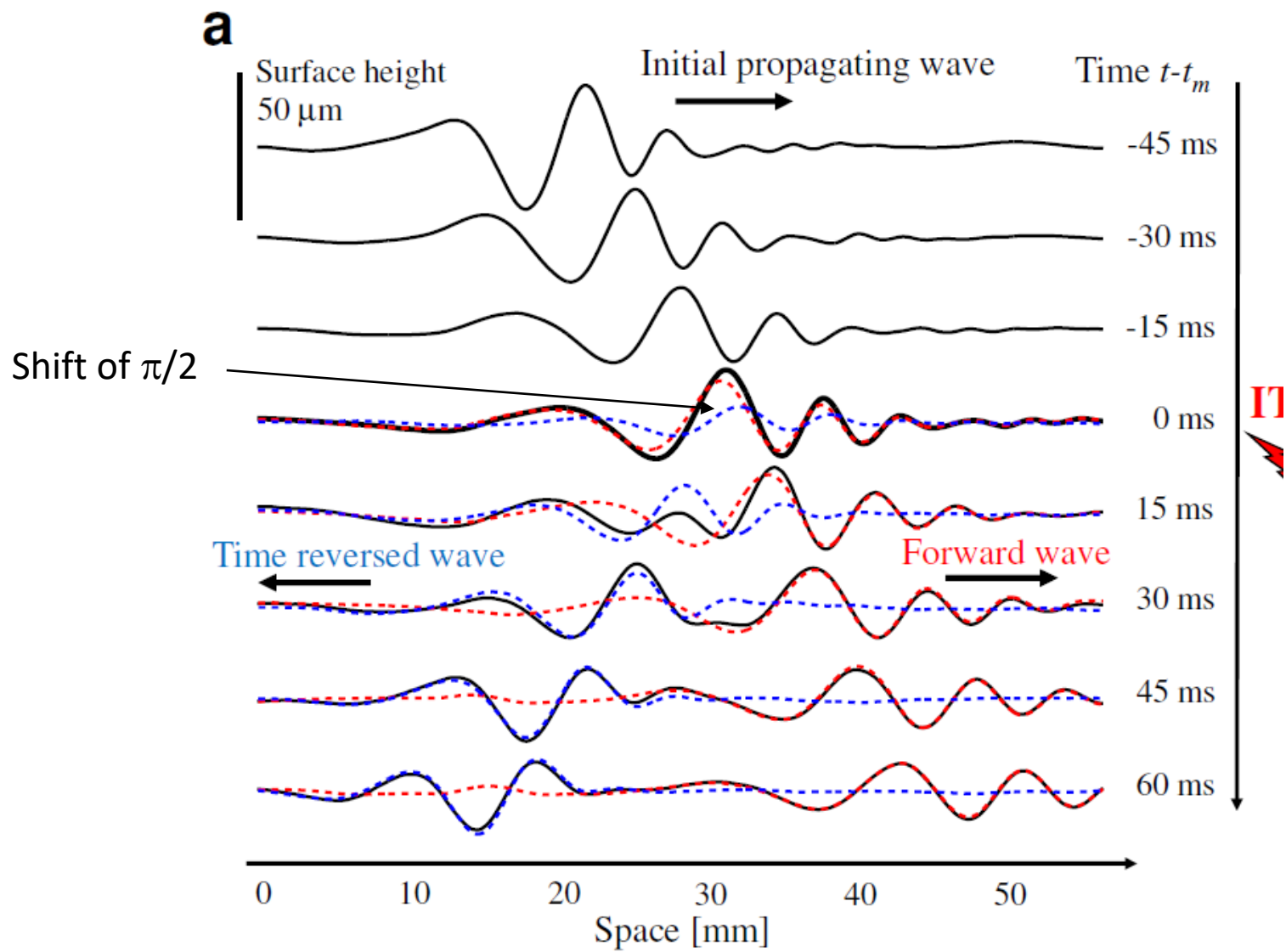
$$t_{21} = \frac{n_1 + n_2}{2n_2} \quad r_{21} = \frac{n_2 - n_1}{2n_2}$$



Note that the duration of the Temporal Fabry Perrot has to be shorter than the inverse of incident spectrum : **non adiabatic process**

When  $t_f^+ - t_f^-$  tends to 0, one gets for the total backward wave  $\delta'(z + c_1 t)$





# How to describe our Experiment in term of Initial Conditions Transformation ?

Our initial goal was (The Loschmidt Daemon) :

$$\left\{ \varphi(\vec{r}, t_f); \partial_t \varphi(\vec{r}, t_f) \right\} \Rightarrow \left\{ \varphi(\vec{r}, t_f); -\partial_t \varphi(\vec{r}, t_f) \right\}$$

Or more modestly :

$$\left\{ \varphi(\vec{r}, t_f); \partial_t \varphi(\vec{r}, t_f) \right\} \Rightarrow \left\{ 0; \partial_t \varphi(\vec{r}, t_f) \right\}$$

In fact we are doing only :

$$\left\{ \varphi(\vec{r}, t_f); \partial_t \varphi(\vec{r}, t_f) \right\} \Rightarrow \left\{ \varphi(\vec{r}, t_f); \partial_t \varphi(\vec{r}, t_f) \right\} + \left\{ 0; \frac{\beta}{c^2} \partial_{tt} \varphi(\vec{r}, t_f) \right\}$$