

Answer on Question #69405-Physics / Other

The phase velocity of transverse wave in a solid with atomic separation distance is given by $v_p = A \sin(kd/2) / (kd/2)$. Obtain an expression for the group velocity.

Solution:

The phase velocity

$$v_p = \frac{\omega}{k}.$$

Thus

$$\omega = v_p k = \frac{A \sin\left(\frac{kd}{2}\right)}{\left(\frac{kd}{2}\right)} k = \frac{2A}{d} \sin\left(\frac{kd}{2}\right).$$

The group velocity

$$v_g = \frac{d\omega}{dk} = \frac{d}{dk} \left[\frac{2A}{d} \sin\left(\frac{kd}{2}\right) \right] = A \cos\left(\frac{kd}{2}\right).$$

Answer: $v_g = A \cos\left(\frac{kd}{2}\right)$.

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