

22. They pass each other at time t , at $x_1 = x_2 = \frac{1}{2}x_m$ where

$$x_1 = x_m \cos(\omega t + \phi_1) \quad \text{and} \quad x_2 = x_m \cos(\omega t + \phi_2) .$$

From this, we conclude that $\cos(\omega t + \phi_1) = \cos(\omega t + \phi_2) = \frac{1}{2}$, and therefore that the phases (the arguments of the cosines) are either both equal to $\pi/3$ or one is $\pi/3$ while the other is $-\pi/3$. Also at this instant, we have $v_1 = -v_2 \neq 0$ where

$$v_1 = -x_m \omega \sin(\omega t + \phi_1) \quad \text{and} \quad v_2 = -x_m \omega \sin(\omega t + \phi_2) .$$

This leads to $\sin(\omega t + \phi_1) = -\sin(\omega t + \phi_2)$. This leads us to conclude that the phases have opposite sign. Thus, one phase is $\pi/3$ and the other phase is $-\pi/3$; the ωt term cancels if we take the phase difference, which is seen to be $\pi/3 - (-\pi/3) = 2\pi/3$.