

$$\rho_0 \frac{\partial^2 \vec{u}}{\partial t^2} = (\lambda + 2\mu) \nabla (\nabla \cdot \vec{u}) - \mu \nabla \times (\nabla \times \vec{u}).$$

Let $\vec{u} = \nabla \phi + \nabla \times \psi$. Then

$$\rho_0 [\nabla \ddot{\phi} + \nabla \times \ddot{\psi}] = (\lambda + 2\mu) \nabla [\nabla^2 \phi + \underbrace{\nabla \cdot \nabla \times \psi}] - \mu \nabla \times [\nabla \times (\nabla \phi + \nabla \times \psi)].$$

But $\nabla \cdot \nabla \times \psi = 0$ and $\nabla \times \nabla \phi = 0$.

Thus

$$\rho_0 \nabla \ddot{\phi} + \rho_0 \nabla \times \ddot{\psi} = (\lambda + 2\mu) \nabla (\nabla^2 \phi) - \mu \nabla \times \nabla \times \ddot{\psi}.$$

But $-\nabla \times \nabla \times \ddot{\psi} = \nabla^2 \ddot{\psi} - \nabla (\nabla \cdot \ddot{\psi})$.

$\nabla \cdot \ddot{\psi} = 0$ because $\ddot{\psi}$ is purely rotational.

Thus

$$\rho_0 \nabla [\ddot{\phi} - (\lambda + 2\mu) \nabla^2 \phi] + \rho_0 \nabla \times [\ddot{\psi} - \nabla^2 \psi] = 0.$$

{ Compressional waves
primary
longitudinal }

{ Shear waves
secondary
transverse }

Evidently the speed of compressional waves is given by

$$\frac{1}{c_{comp}} = \sqrt{\frac{\rho_0}{\lambda + 2\mu}} \rightarrow c_{comp} = \sqrt{\frac{\lambda + 2\mu}{\rho_0}}$$

and the shear

$$\frac{1}{c_{sh}} = \sqrt{\frac{\rho_0}{\mu}} \rightarrow c_{sh} = \sqrt{\frac{\mu}{\rho_0}}$$

$c_{comp} > c_{sh}$ hence
primary secondary