

What is a wave?

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What is a wave? Is a wave a “thing”, or is it merely a way of speaking about pieces of stuff changing in a certain way in time? This is related to William of Ockham’s ideas about motion, that “motion” does not deserve to be thought about as a thing but merely as a convenient way of discussing the position of things at different points in time. The following are some references I assembled about waves.

Lamb [24, p. 369, §236]
Preston [33, p. 412, §289]
Basset [2, p. 163, §405]
Whewell [49, Book IV]
Whewell [50, Book VIII]
Russo [37, p. 229]
Crombie [9, p. 126]
Philoponus [29, p. 149]
De anima [17, §447]
Einstein and Infeld [16, p. 100]
Vitruvius [21, p. 11]
Thagard [45, p. 39]
Thorndike [46, p. 32]
Pretor-Pinney [34, pp. 35, 81, 161, 269]
Truesdell [48, p. 71] and [47, pp. CXXI–CXXIII]
Clagett [7, p. 74]
Hofstadter and Sander [20, p. 209],
Sambursky [40, pp. 138–141] and [41, pp. 89, 100–104] and [39, p. 22–29]
Needham [28, pp. 8–10]
Beare [3, pp. 93–95]
Hankinson [19, p. 240]

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