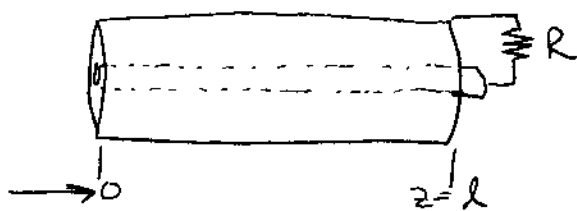


Transmission lines: what happens at the end?

Place a terminating resistor R :



Incoming
 $V_+ = V_{+0} e^{i(kz - \omega t)}$

where $\frac{V}{I} = Z_0 = \sqrt{\frac{L\ell}{C\ell}}$ for propagating waves.

Resistor enforces $v(l,t) = i(l,t)R$. Can satisfy this by introducing a reflected wave $V_- = V_{-0} e^{i(kz - \omega t)}$ where V_- may have a phase shift, and $\frac{V_{+0}}{I_{+0}} = -\frac{V_{-0}}{I_{-0}} = Z_0$.

But $\frac{v(l,t)}{i(l,t)} = R = \frac{V_+ e^{ikl} + V_- e^{-ikl}}{I_+ e^{ikl} + I_- e^{-ikl}}$ (eliminating $e^{-i\omega t}$)

so $R = \frac{Z_0 (I_{+0} e^{ikl} + I_{-0} e^{-ikl})}{I_+ e^{ikl} + I_- e^{-ikl}}$

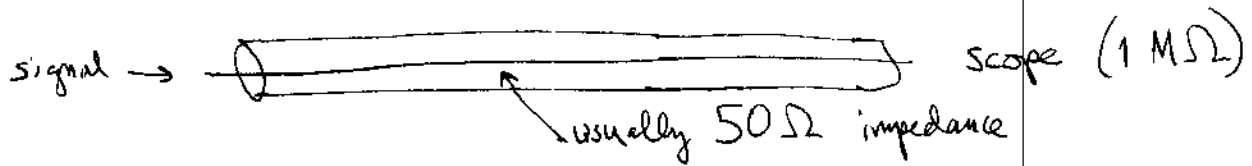
Define an "input" impedance, $Z_g = \frac{v(0,t)}{i(0,t)} = \frac{V_{+0} + V_{-0}}{I_{+0} + I_{-0}} = \frac{Z_0 (I_{+0} - I_{-0})}{(I_{+0} + I_{-0})}$

Solving for $\frac{I_{-0}}{I_{+0}}$: $Z_0 (I_{+0} e^{ikl} - I_{-0} e^{-ikl}) = R (I_{+0} e^{ikl} + I_{-0} e^{-ikl})$
 $Z_g (I_{+0} + I_{-0}) = Z_0 (I_{+0} - I_{-0})$

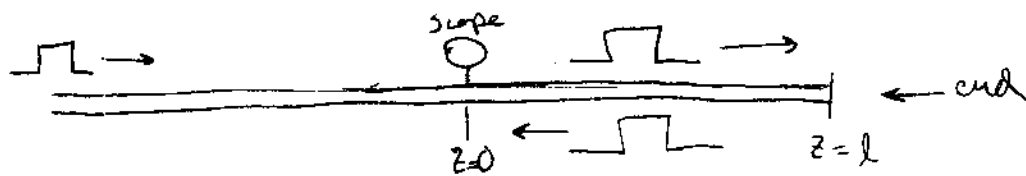
$\Rightarrow \frac{I_{-0}}{I_{+0}} = \frac{Z_0 e^{+ikl} - R e^{+ikl}}{Z_0 e^{+ikl} + R e^{-ikl}} = \frac{Z_0 - Z_g}{Z_0 + Z_g}$

From which one can find the amplitude ratio: $\frac{V_{-0} e^{-ikl}}{V_{+0} e^{+ikl}} = \frac{R - Z_0}{R + Z_0} \Rightarrow \begin{matrix} -1 \text{ for } R \rightarrow 0 \\ +1 \text{ for } R \rightarrow \infty \end{matrix}$

What does this mean in practice? Many applications, but one you will likely encounter is looking at "fast" (ns \rightarrow μ s) signals on an oscilloscope:

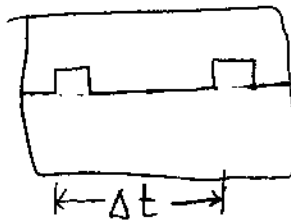


BNC connector on scope is carefully (expensively) matched to be 50Ω , but scope input is $1M\Omega$ (effectively ∞). If you connect directly, there will be a negative reflected wave! Can see this by using a T connector:



open end:
scope trace will be:

$$\text{where } \Delta t = \frac{2l}{u}$$



if you short the end:



if you put 50Ω resistor:

