

Harmonics



If
one wave
passes through
a similar wave in space
and in time they'll
combine

to

create a
new waveform via
superposition's principle
before moving on
unchanged.

Ah,

but if
the conditions are
right then the two waves,
both still travelling,
will form

a

standing,
called a stationary,
waveform in which peaks
and their troughs
combine

to

yield for
us an envelope
appearing not to move in
our space but alive
in time

yet.

This is
what we can make
when science and poetry
sit together and
speak of

life



Bob Newport is a (retired) Professor of Physics with a passion for sharing his love of science with a wide range of audiences via his blog posts and illustrated talks: from primary school classes to the University of the Third Age, and from the Canterbury Museums to the Turner Contemporary gallery.