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# A novel generalized dispersion equation to design circumferential wave fluid sensors

J. Y. Le Pommellec<sup>1</sup> · A. El Baroudi<sup>1</sup> 

## Abstract

A novel analytical investigation of circumferential (i.e. torsional) wave propagation in long anisotropic cylindrical rod (waveguide), surrounded by a viscoelastic fluid is proposed. The material is transversely isotropic, with its symmetry axis coincident with the axial axis of the cylindrical rod. In particular, a new form of the complex dispersion equation is presented. The aim of this paper is to study the correlation between the rheological properties of the fluid and the wave characteristics (phase and attenuation). The effect of the frequency and the waveguide radius on the wave characteristics are highlighted. The obtained results show that the measurements should be performed at high frequency using small rod radius. Accordingly, the results can be serve as benchmark solutions in design of torsional wave fluid sensors.

**Keywords** Circumferential wave · Transversely isotropic material · Viscoelastic fluid

## 1 Introduction

The concept of circumferential wave dipstick is attractive in industry for fluid characterizations. The idea is that the wave propagation in a solid elastic rod can sense the fluid rheological properties. The circumferential wave which propagates along the waveguide interacts with fluid boundary, it follows that the circumferential wave properties (velocity and attenuation) are highly affected [1].

The circumferential elastic waves in dry cylinders has been studied by many authors [2–4]. They have investigated the material properties effects on the phase velocity of the circumferential modes. Huiling et al. have developed a theoretical model of guided circumferential waves propagating in double-walled carbon nanotubes [5]. They studied the dispersion curves of the guided circumferential wave propagation. Xu et al. have modeled the torsional wave propagation along a micro-tube with elastic membrane attached to its inner surface. They have presented numerically the dispersion diagram of the lowest-order wave with the membrane surface effect [6]. The interaction between the circumferential waves and viscous fluid has

been considered by [7–11]. Nevertheless, the interaction modeling between the circumferential wave and a viscoelastic fluid is still lacking. Indeed, in the field of chemistry [12], medical diagnostics [13], or industrial monitoring [14], it is necessary to characterize the fluid viscoelasticity. One interesting application is the monitoring of polymerization [15]. During the process, the material changes from viscous fluid to elastic solids. This modification affects the propagation of the circumferential waves in a immersed circular rod.

Circumferential waves in elastic waveguide have been widely exploited to measure the fluid viscosity [1, 11, 16, 17]. However, in these papers the character viscoelastic of fluid has not been taken into account. A novel approach based on the exact theory, to be able to accurately predict the circumferential wave behavior in elastic waveguide loaded on its surface with a viscoelastic fluid, remains a daunting task and is the purpose of the present paper. The effects of frequency and waveguide radius on the phase velocity and attenuation of circumferential waves are investigated. The obtained curves show that the attenuation is much more sensitive than phase velocity to

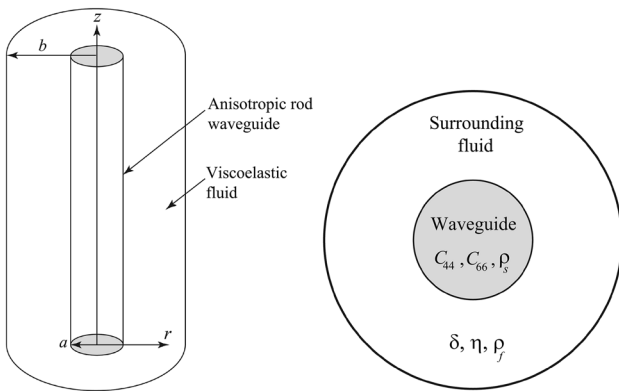
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glycerol concentration. Otherwise, the sensitivity is more significant for small waveguide radius and high frequencies. These results can provide interesting information to design sensors: we can use circumferential wave propagation at high frequency (100 kHz) in anisotropic waveguide with small radius (1 mm).

## 2 Physical model description

To describe the waveguide structure that guides circumferential waves, we consider a two-layer system consisting of a viscoelastic fluid and an anisotropic cylindrical rod as shown in Fig. 1. The length of the waveguide is much greater than the radius  $a$  of the cross-section so that the interaction of the right-end face with the viscoelastic fluid is negligible [11]. Therefore, the current work focuses on the circumferential modes. The circumferential waves exhibit a multimode character, the fundamental mode plays an important role in many application such as NDT and sensors. Accordingly, in this work, the attention is focused on the properties of the fundamental mode of circumferential waves. For this set of modes, the non-zero components of displacement and velocity are  $u_\theta$  and  $v_\theta$ . Moreover, due to the axisymmetry of the studied modes, the velocity field,  $\mathbf{v}(r, \theta, z) = (0, v_\theta, 0)$ , and displacement field,  $\mathbf{u}(r, \theta, z) = (0, u_\theta, 0)$ , are independent of the  $\theta$  variable and can be displayed in the  $(r, z)$  plane. Note that in previous works the circumferential vibration in an isotropic elastic cylinder was used to determine fluid viscosity. In the present work a novel theoretical approach is developed taking into account both the fluid viscoelasticity and anisotropy of the waveguide.



**Fig. 1** The model geometry of anisotropic cylindrical rod waveguide.  $\rho_s$ ,  $C_{44}$  and  $C_{66}$  correspond to the density and elastic constants of the cylindrical rod. The surface of the anisotropic cylinder is loaded by a viscoelastic fluid. The boundary between the anisotropic cylinder and viscoelastic fluid is at  $r = a$ . For viscoelastic fluid,  $\delta$ ,  $\eta$  and  $\rho_f$  are, respectively, relaxation time, dynamic viscosity and density

### 2.1 Mathematical formulation of waveguide

Based on the elastodynamic theory, the equation describing the motion of torsional vibrations of the waveguide in the absence of body forces is governed by

$$\frac{\partial \sigma_{r\theta}}{\partial r} + \frac{2\sigma_{r\theta}}{r} + \frac{\partial \sigma_{z\theta}}{\partial z} = \rho_s \frac{\partial^2 u_\theta}{\partial t^2} \quad (1)$$

where  $\rho_s$  is density,  $u_\theta$  is displacement components along circumferential directions, and  $\sigma_{\theta z}$ ,  $\sigma_{r\theta}$ , are the stress components and can be written using generalized Hooke's law as

$$\sigma_{\theta z} = C_{44} \frac{\partial u_\theta}{\partial z}, \quad \sigma_{r\theta} = C_{66} \left( \frac{\partial u_\theta}{\partial r} - \frac{u_\theta}{r} \right) \quad (2)$$

where  $C_{44}$  and  $C_{66}$  are the elastic coefficients. Substituting Eq. (2) in Eq. (1), yields the following partial differential equation

$$\frac{\partial^2 u_\theta}{\partial r^2} + \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial u_\theta}{\partial r} - \frac{u_\theta}{r^2} + \frac{C_{44}}{C_{66}} \frac{\partial^2 u_\theta}{\partial z^2} = \frac{\rho_s}{C_{66}} \frac{\partial^2 u_\theta}{\partial t^2} \quad (3)$$

Note that in the case of an isotropic waveguide,  $C_{44} = C_{66} = \mu$ , the Lamé constant.

### 2.2 Mathematical formulation of viscoelastic fluid

In this study, we consider that the fluid velocity is small compared to the dimensions of the model, it then follows that all nonlinear convective inertia effects in the Navier–Stokes equation (NSE) can be neglected, therefore the linearized NSE takes the form

$$\rho_f \frac{\partial \mathbf{v}}{\partial t} = \nabla \cdot \boldsymbol{\tau} \quad (4)$$

where  $\mathbf{v}$  is the velocity vector,  $t$  is the time,  $\rho_f$  is the density and  $\boldsymbol{\tau}$  is the shear stress tensor. In this paper Maxwell model is adopted to describe the fluid viscoelasticity. Therefore, the differential equation for the relation between force and deformation can be written as [18]

$$\delta \frac{\partial \boldsymbol{\tau}}{\partial t} + \boldsymbol{\tau} = 2\eta \boldsymbol{\epsilon}(\mathbf{v}) \quad (5)$$

where  $\delta$  is the relaxation time,  $\eta$  is the dynamic viscosity and  $\boldsymbol{\epsilon}$  is the strain rate tensor. Applying the divergence operator to both sides of Eq. (5) and taking into account Eq. (4), we get the following viscoelastic fluid equation expressed in terms of the circumferential component of the velocity field

$$\frac{\partial^2 v_\theta}{\partial r^2} + \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial v_\theta}{\partial r} - \frac{v_\theta}{r^2} + \frac{\partial^2 v_\theta}{\partial z^2} = \frac{\rho_f}{\eta} \left( \frac{\partial v_\theta}{\partial t} + \delta \frac{\partial^2 v_\theta}{\partial t^2} \right) \quad (6)$$

The Eq. (6) is known as the telegraph equation.

### 2.3 General solution of wave equations

For a circumferential harmonic wave propagation in the  $z$ -direction, the solution of Eqs. (3) and (6) (waveguide displacement  $u_\theta$  and viscoelastic fluid velocity  $v_\theta$ ) are sought in the form

$$\begin{Bmatrix} v_\theta \\ u_\theta \end{Bmatrix}(r, z, t) = \begin{Bmatrix} V(r) \\ U(r) \end{Bmatrix} e^{j(kz - \omega t)} \quad (7)$$

where  $k = k_0 + j\alpha$  is the complex wave number. Note that the real part of the wave number  $k_0$  determines the circumferential wave phase velocity, and the imaginary part  $\alpha$  represents the circumferential wave attenuation in the propagation direction. After substitution of Eq. (7) into Eqs. (3) and (6), the radial dependence can be expressed as

$$V(r) = BI_1(\beta_f r) + CK_1(\beta_f r), \quad U(r) = AI_1(\beta_s r)$$

where  $A$ ,  $B$  and  $C$  are arbitrary amplitudes,  $I_1$  and  $K_1$  are modified Bessel functions of the first and second kind, and  $\beta_s$  and  $\beta_f$  are the radial wavenumbers

$$\beta_f = \sqrt{k^2 - \frac{2j}{d^2}(1 - j\omega\delta)}, \quad \beta_s = \sqrt{\frac{C_{44}}{C_{66}} \left( k^2 - \frac{\omega^2}{c_s^2} \right)}$$

where  $d = \sqrt{2\eta/(\rho_f \omega)}$  defines the fluid penetration depth [19], and  $c_s = \sqrt{C_{44}/\rho_s}$  is the shear wave velocity in the waveguide. Thus, using Eqs. (2) and (5) the shear stress components that will be used in boundary conditions are given by

$$\begin{aligned} \begin{Bmatrix} \tau \\ \sigma_{r\theta} \end{Bmatrix}(r, z, t) &= \begin{Bmatrix} \frac{\eta}{1 - j\omega\delta} \left( \partial_r v_\theta - \frac{v_\theta}{r} \right) \\ C_{66} \left( \partial_r u_\theta - \frac{u_\theta}{r} \right) \end{Bmatrix} \\ &= \begin{Bmatrix} \frac{\eta}{1 - j\omega\delta} \Sigma_f(r) \\ C_{66} \Sigma_s(r) \end{Bmatrix} e^{j(kz - \omega t)} \end{aligned} \quad (8)$$

where the radial dependence is defined as

$$\Sigma_f(r) = \beta_f [BI_2(\beta_f r) + CK_2(\beta_f r)], \quad \Sigma_s(r) = \beta_s AI_2(\beta_s r)$$

### 2.4 Complex dispersion equation

In this paragraph boundary conditions must be used to determine the constants  $A$ ,  $B$  and  $C$ . Assuming wall outer fluid surface, one can write: (i) continuity of velocity and shear stress at the interface between viscoelastic fluid and waveguide

$$(v_\theta + j\omega u_\theta)_{r=a} = 0 \quad (9)$$

$$(\tau - \sigma_{r\theta})_{r=a} = 0 \quad (10)$$

(ii) wall outer surface of viscoelastic fluid is assumed

$$v_\theta|_{r=b} = 0 \quad (11)$$

By substituting Eqs. (7) and (8) into these boundary conditions provides three homogeneous and linear equations for the constants  $A$ ,  $B$  and  $C$ . This system of equations has a nontrivial solution if the determinant of the coefficients equals zero. This leads to the following complex dispersion equation

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{j\omega\eta\beta_f}{1 - j\delta\omega} I_1(\beta_s a) \left[ I_2(\beta_f a) K_1(\beta_f b) + I_1(\beta_f b) K_2(\beta_f a) \right] \\ + C_{66}\beta_s I_2(\beta_s a) \left[ I_1(\beta_f a) K_1(\beta_f b) - I_1(\beta_f b) K_1(\beta_f a) \right] = 0 \end{aligned} \quad (12)$$

Equation (12) represents the complex dispersion equation of circumferential waves propagating in waveguide loaded with a viscoelastic fluid. For given dimensions, elastic waveguide constants and fluid properties, Eq. (12) constitutes an implicit transcendental function of  $k$ . The complex roots  $k$  may be computed using Mathematica software for a first mode vibration. After finding the real part  $k_0$  and the imaginary part  $\alpha$  of the wavenumber, the circumferential wave phase velocity  $c_p = \omega/k_0$  can be calculated. As a remark, for a semi-infinite viscoelastic fluid, the complex dispersion equation (12) becomes

$$\frac{j\omega\eta\beta_f}{1 - j\delta\omega} I_1(\beta_s a) K_2(\beta_f a) - C_{66}\beta_s I_2(\beta_s a) K_1(\beta_f a) = 0 \quad (13)$$

In the case of a viscous Newtonian fluid, the complex dispersion equation (13) takes the following form

$$j\omega\eta\beta_f I_1(\beta_s a) K_2(\beta_f a) - \mu\beta_s I_2(\beta_s a) K_1(\beta_f a) = 0 \quad (14)$$

which was previously obtained by Kim and Bau [11] for an isotropic waveguide.

## 3 Results and discussion

The same material properties used in [20, 21] and given in Table 1 for viscoelastic fluid were taken to construct this numerical example. The waveguide parameters were derived from [22] are given in Table 2. In this work, numerical calculations are performed in the frequency range from 1 to 50 (kHz) and for five values of glycerol concentrations 0, 71, 85, 95 and 100%. Table 3 highlighted the influence of glycerol concentration in water on the phase velocity and attenuation of the wave calculated using the dispersion equation (12). It can be seen from Table 3 that for each frequency, the phase velocity decreases with the glycerol concentration while the attenuation increases. As a

**Table 1** Material parameters used for water–glycerol mixtures

| $\chi$ (%) | $\eta$ (Pa s) | $\rho_f$ (kg/m <sup>3</sup> ) | $\delta$ (ps) |
|------------|---------------|-------------------------------|---------------|
| 0          | 0.000894      | 1000                          | 0.647         |
| 36         | 0.0027        | 1090                          | 1.87          |
| 56         | 0.00527       | 1140                          | 3.51          |
| 71         | 0.02          | 1190                          | 12.7          |
| 80         | 0.0447        | 1210                          | 27.1          |
| 85         | 0.0923        | 1220                          | 54.2          |
| 95         | 0.452         | 1250                          | 243           |
| 100        | 0.988         | 1260                          | 500           |

$\chi$  is the concentration of glycerol in water

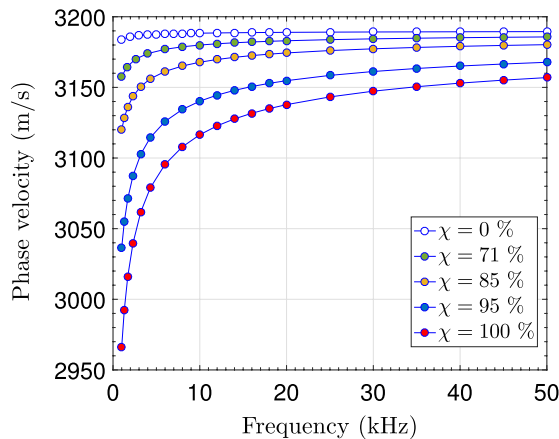
**Table 2** Material parameters used for anisotropic cylindrical rod (waveguide)

|                 | $\rho_s$ (kg/m <sup>3</sup> ) | $C_{44}$ (Pa)          | $C_{66}$ (Pa)          | $c_s$ (m/s) |
|-----------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|-------------|
| Anisotropic rod | 2800                          | $2.850 \times 10^{10}$ | $2.345 \times 10^{10}$ | 3190.39     |

remark, for a zero glycerol concentration (pure water), the phase velocity is very close to the shear wave velocity in the waveguide  $c_s$  (see Table 2). When the glycerol concentration increases the phase velocity slowly decreases, and the attenuation significantly increases.

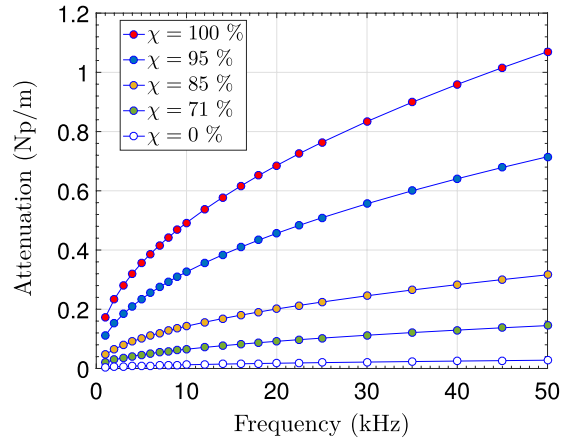
**Table 3** Phase velocity  $c_p$  and attenuation  $\alpha$  with  $a = 3$  (mm)

| $\chi$ (%) | $f = 1$ (kHz) |                 | $f = 10$ (kHz) |                 | $f = 50$ (kHz) |                 |
|------------|---------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|
|            | $c_p$ (m/s)   | $\alpha$ (Np/m) | $c_p$ (m/s)    | $\alpha$ (Np/m) | $c_p$ (m/s)    | $\alpha$ (Np/m) |
| 0          | 3183.99       | 0.004           | 3188.36        | 0.013           | 3189.48        | 0.028           |
| 71         | 3157.66       | 0.021           | 3179.97        | 0.065           | 3185.72        | 0.145           |
| 85         | 3120.01       | 0.047           | 3167.81        | 0.143           | 3180.25        | 0.316           |
| 95         | 3036.50       | 0.111           | 3140.23        | 0.326           | 3167.77        | 0.715           |
| 100        | 2966.22       | 0.172           | 3116.47        | 0.492           | 3156.93        | 1.069           |



The effect of the frequency on the phase velocity and attenuation is depicted on Fig. 2. It is seen from Fig. 2 that the phase velocity increases with frequency and tends towards waveguide shear velocity  $c_s$ . It is also shown that the attenuation increases with the frequency. Otherwise, for a given frequency, the phase velocity decreases with the glycerol concentration while the attenuation augments. Finally, we can see that the attenuation is much more sensitive than phase velocity to glycerol concentration. The results highlighted in Fig. 2 can be justified by the influence of frequency on the penetration depth of the circumferential wave in the viscoelastic fluid. When the frequency augments the penetration decreases and the influence of the glycerol concentration on the phase velocity decreases. For high frequency this influence is negligible and the phase velocity is approximatively equal to the waveguide shear velocity  $c_s$ . Otherwise, the decreasing of the penetration depth linked to the frequency generates an increasing of the attenuation. Consequently, this attenuation is much more sensitive to glycerol concentration for high frequencies.

Waveguide radius is an another essential parameter in design of circumferential wave sensors. The influence of the rod radius on the phase velocity and attenuation is shown on Figs. 3 and 4. It can be seen from these figures

**Fig. 2** Phase velocity and attenuation versus frequency for  $a = 3$  (mm)

that the phase velocity increases with the rod radius and reach shear wave velocity in the waveguide  $c_s$  (Fig. 3). Otherwise, the attenuation decreases in a monotonous way (Fig. 4). For each radius value, phase velocity decreases with glycerol concentration while attenuation increases. This effect is more significant for low radius values.

The effect of the glycerol mass fraction on the phase velocity and attenuation is shown on Figs. 5 and 6. The calculations are performed for frequency range from 1 to 100 kHz and two rod radius 1 and 6 mm. Each curve shows two regions :

- For glycerol concentration less than about 40%, the phase velocity (Fig. 5) is approximately equal to the shear wave velocity  $c_s$  in the waveguide (Table 2). Otherwise, the attenuation (Fig. 6) is negligible. The influence of the frequency value is very low.
- For the glycerol mass fraction exceeding 40%, the phase velocity decreases with mass fraction while the attenuation augments. These behaviors are more significant for small rod radius ( $a = 1$  mm) and high frequency. We can see that the attenuation is much more sensitive than phase velocity to glycerol concentration.

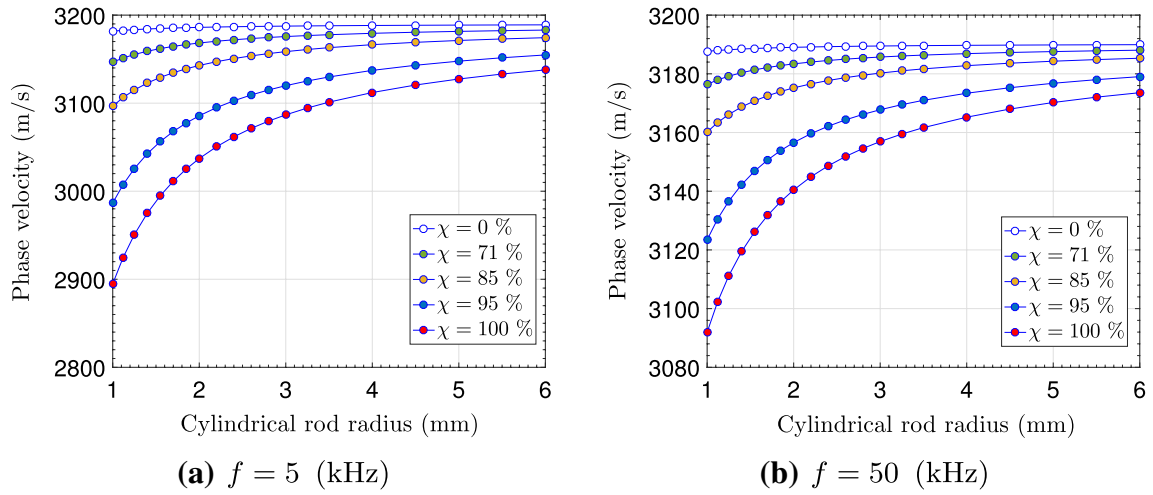


Fig. 3 Phase velocity versus cylindrical rod radius

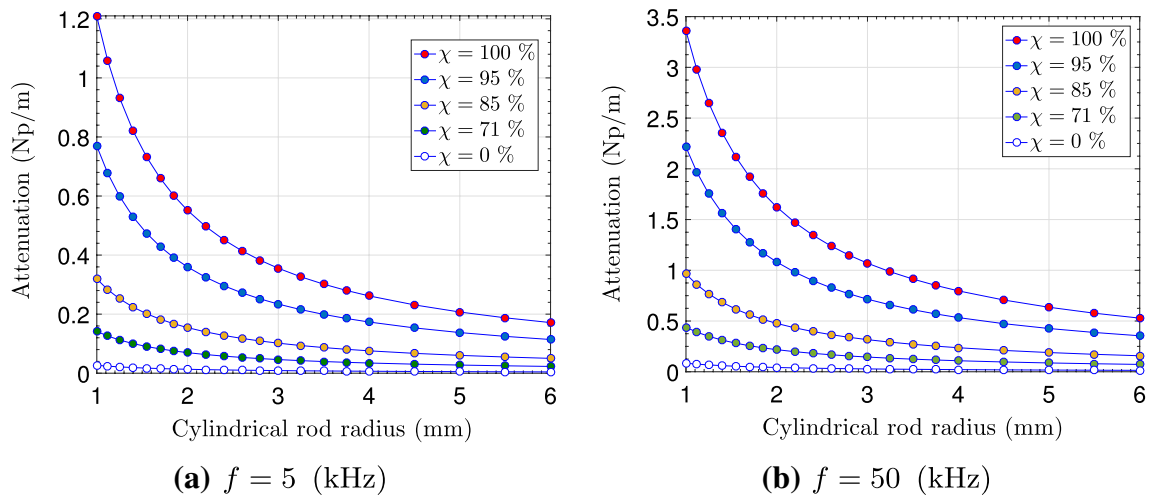
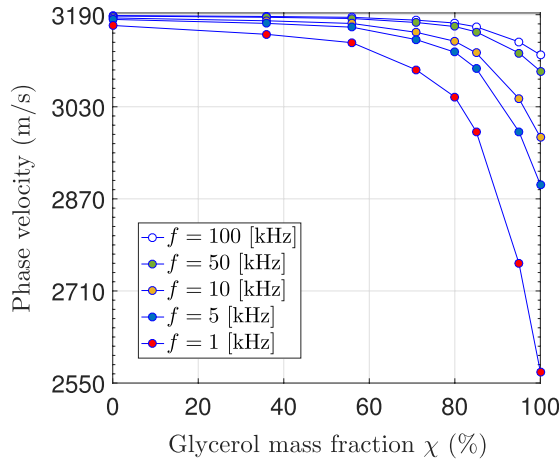
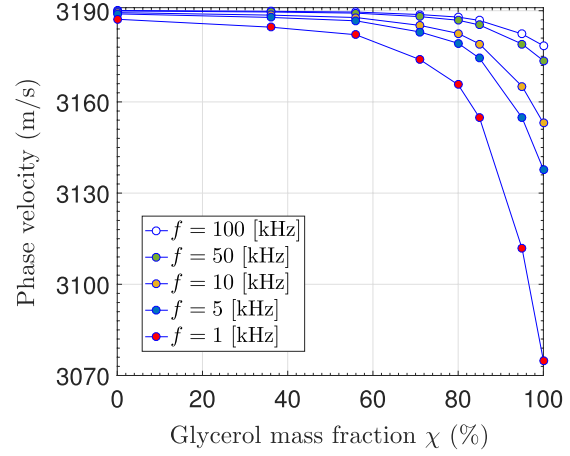


Fig. 4 Attenuation versus cylindrical rod radius

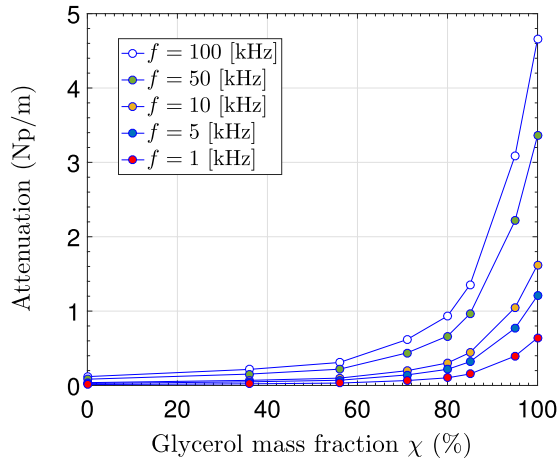


(a)  $a = 1$  (mm)

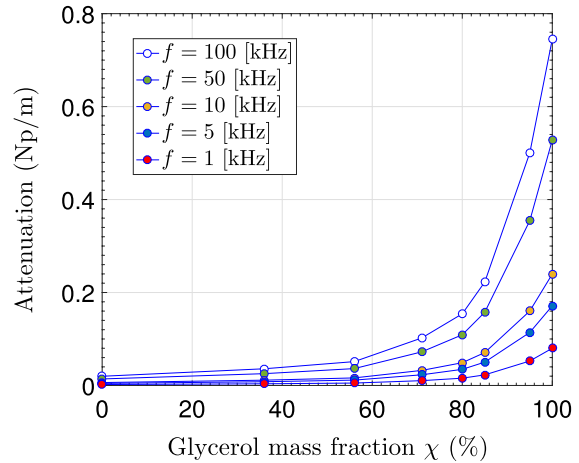


(b)  $a = 6$  (mm)

Fig. 5 Phase velocity versus glycerol mass fraction



(a)  $a = 1$  (mm)



(b)  $a = 6$  (mm)

Fig. 6 Attenuation versus glycerol mass fraction

## 4 Conclusions

In this paper a novel analytical approach was used for the study of an anisotropic cylindrical rod (waveguide) surrounded by a viscoelastic fluid (water–glycerol mixture). A new complex dispersion equation was developed. Therefore, the graphs highlighted the influence of the frequency and waveguide radius on the phase velocity and attenuation for different values of glycerol concentrations. The glycerol concentration effect was also depicted for two waveguide radius (1 mm and 6 mm) and frequency ranging from 1 to 100 kHz. The

obtained curves show that the attenuation is much more sensitive than phase velocity to glycerol concentration. Otherwise, The sensitivity is more significant for small waveguide radius and high frequency. Consequently, the characterization of a viscoelastic fluid can be performed using torsional wave propagation at high frequency in anisotropic waveguide with small radius.

## Compliance with ethical standards

**Conflict of interest** The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

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