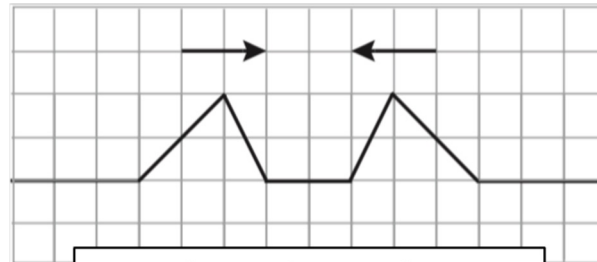
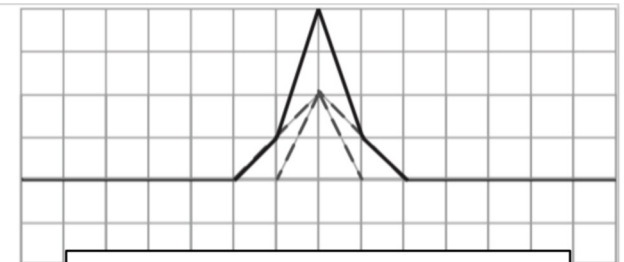


Superposition mechanism question

When two wave pulses on the same side of a spring meet, they add, as in the figure at right. This is an example of superposition.



Two pulses moving toward one another on the same side of a spring.



A few moments later, when the pulses meet. (Dotted lines indicate the original pulses; solid line indicates the shape of the spring.)

How do you make sense of this phenomenon? In other words, why do pulses add when they're on the same side of the spring/why does the superposition principle work the way it does?

