Superposition of Traveling Waves
Physics 131

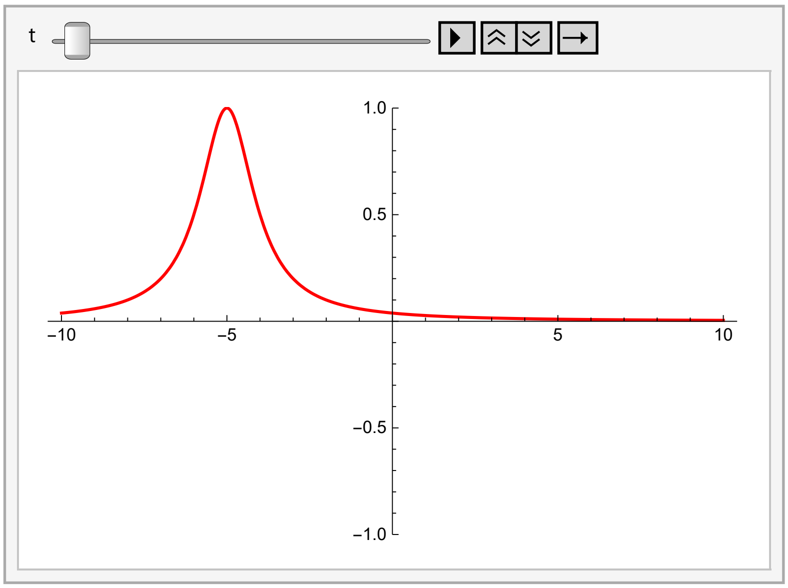
In[100]:=
```
Clear["Global`*"]
```

Two wave pulses traveling in opposite directions

In[101]:=
```
p[x_, x0_] := 1/(1 + (x - x0)^2) (* A pulse centered at x0 *)
v = 2;
p1[x_, t_] :=  p[x - v t, -5]
p2[x_, t_] := -p[x + v t, 5]
```

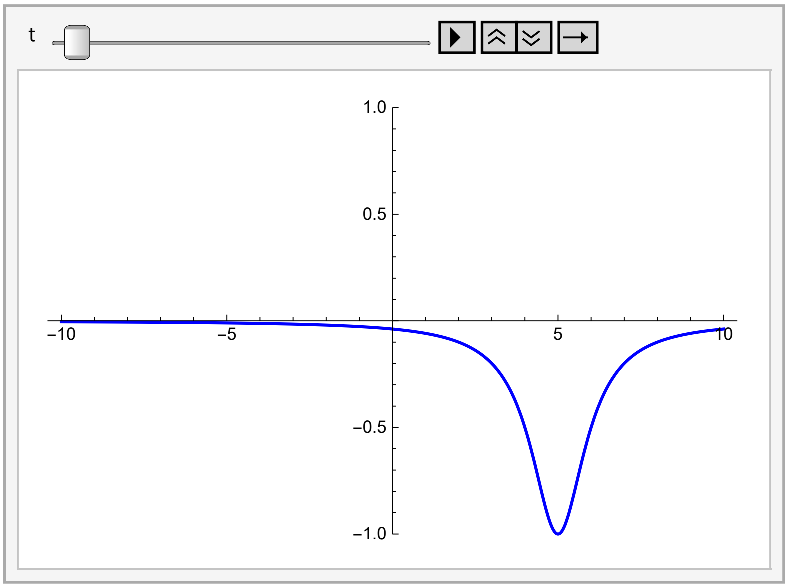
In[105]:=
```
Animate[Plot[p1[x, t], {x, -10, 10}, PlotStyle → Red, PlotRange → {-1, 1}],
 {t, 0, 5}, AnimationRunning → False, DefaultDuration → 5]
```

Out[105]=



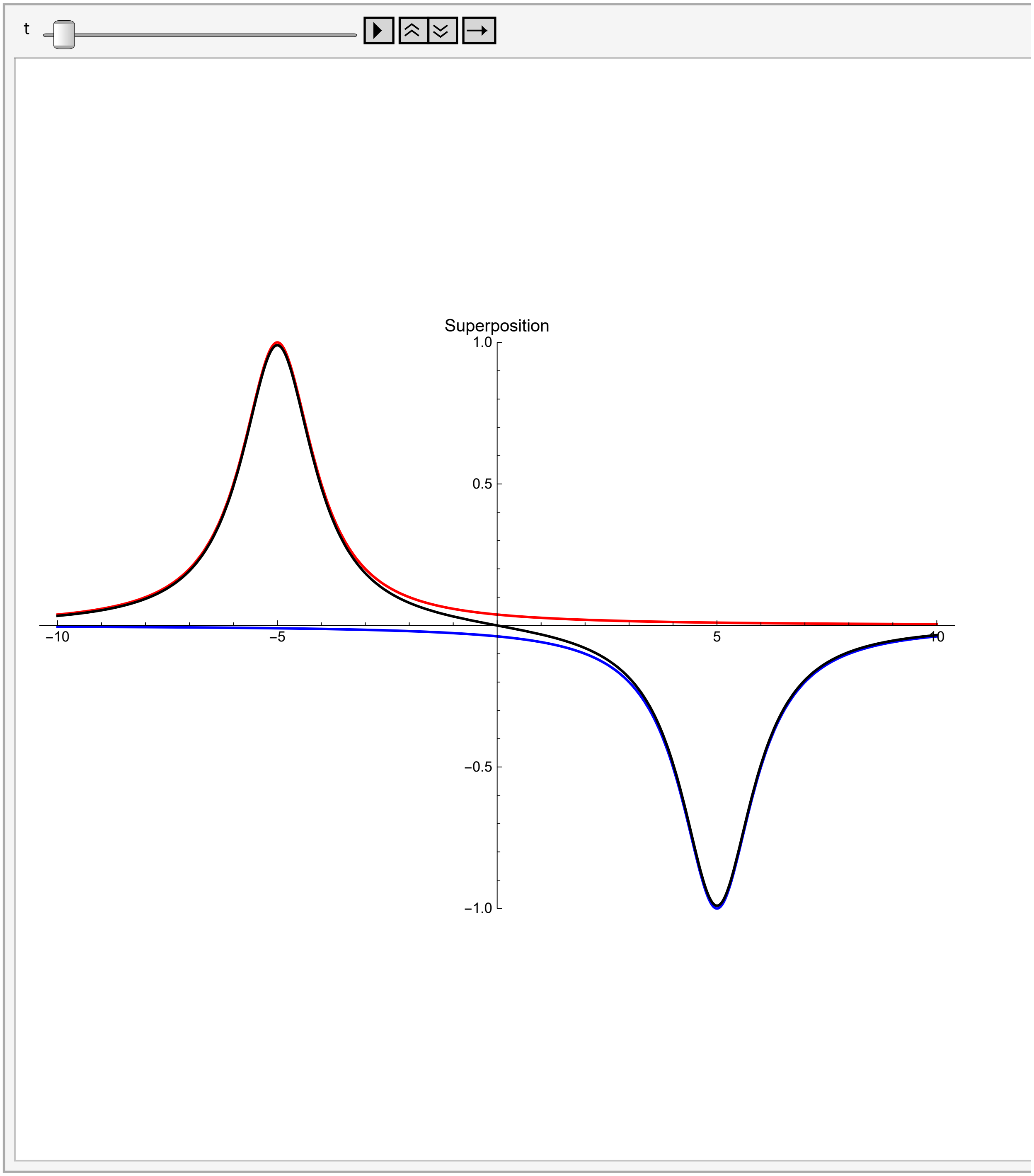
In[106]:=
```
Animate[Plot[p2[x, t], {x, -10, 10}, PlotStyle → Blue, PlotRange → {-1, 1}],
 {t, 0, 5}, AnimationRunning → False, DefaultDuration → 5]
```

Out[106]=



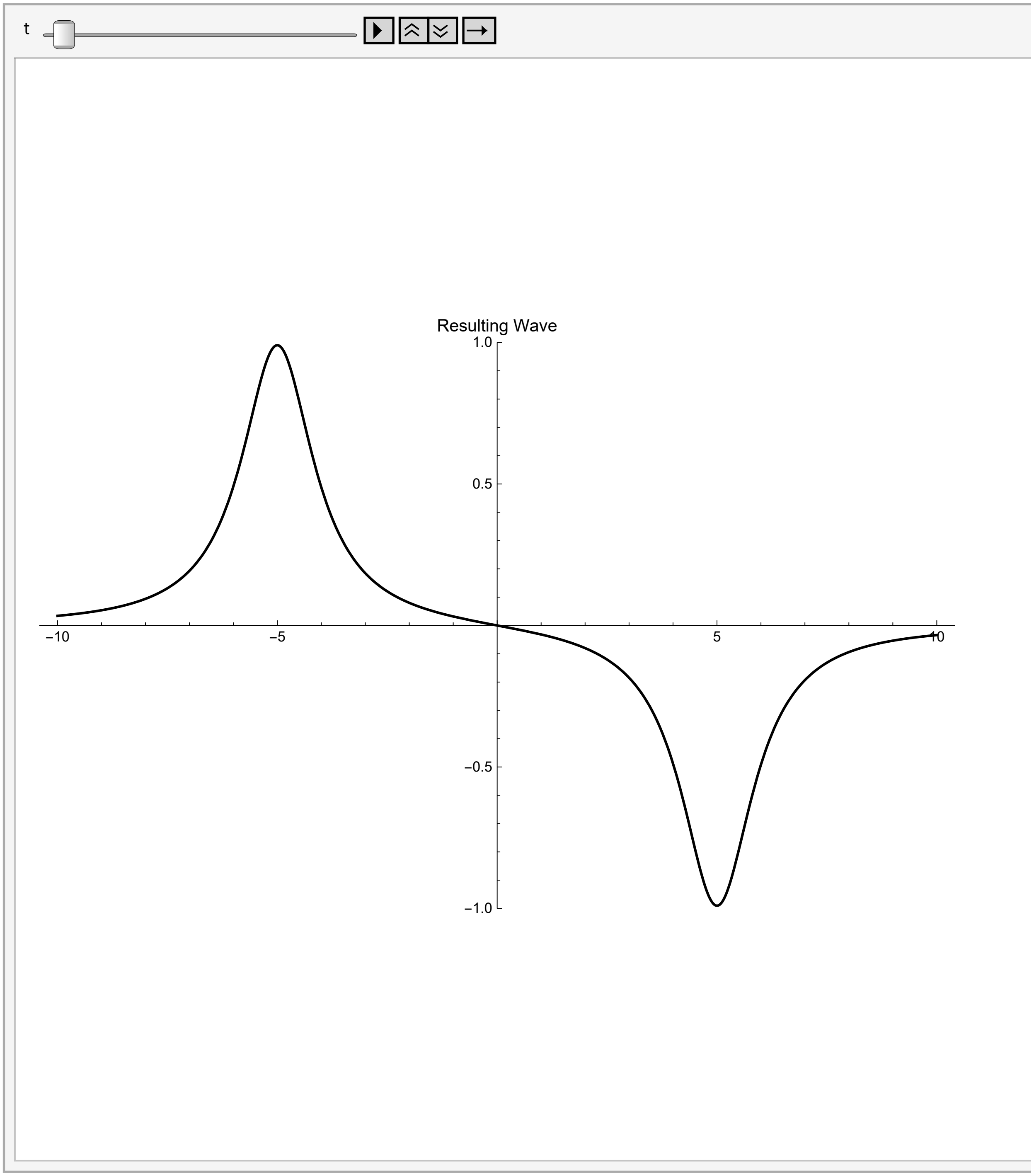
In[107]:=
```
Animate[Plot[{
    p1[x, t], p2[x, t], p1[x, t] + p2[x, t]}, {x, -10, 10}, PlotStyle → {Red, Blue, Black},
   PlotRange → {-1, 1}, ImageSize → Large, PlotLabel → "Superposition"],
  {t, 0, 5}, AnimationRunning → False, DefaultDuration -> 15]
```

Out[107]=



In[108]:=
```
Animate[
 Plot[p1[x, t] + p2[x, t], {x, -10, 10}, PlotStyle → Black,
  PlotRange → {-1.0, 1.0}, ImageSize → Large, PlotLabel → "Resulting Wave"],
 {t, 0, 5}, AnimationRunning → False, DefaultDuration → 10]
```

Out[108]=



Two sine waves traveling to the right

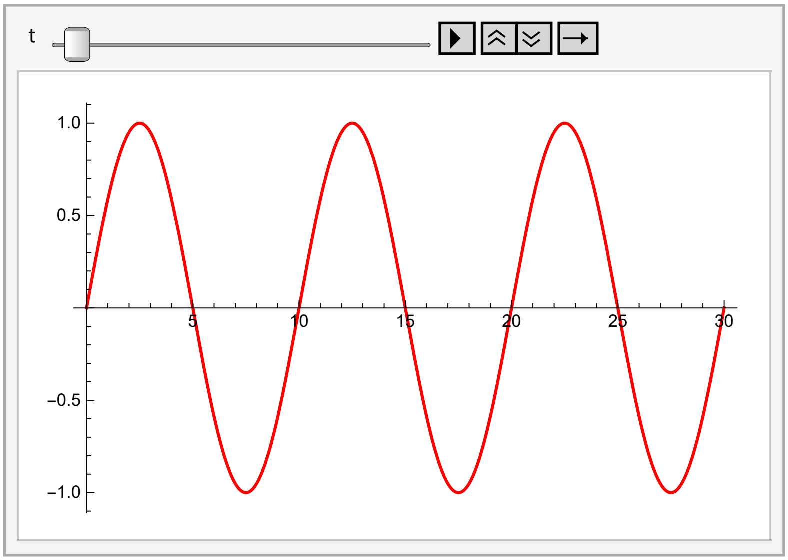
Consider some simple waves, each of amplitude 1, wavelength λ, and wave speed v.

In[109]:=
```
y1[λ_, f_, x_, t_] := Sin[(2 π / λ) x - (2 π f) t]
y2[λ_, f_, x_, t_] := Sin[(2 π / λ) x - (2 π f) t + π / 2]
 (* Add a phase to make it interesting *)
```

In[111]:=
```
λ = 10;
f = 4;
T = 1 / f;
L = 8 * (λ / 2);
```

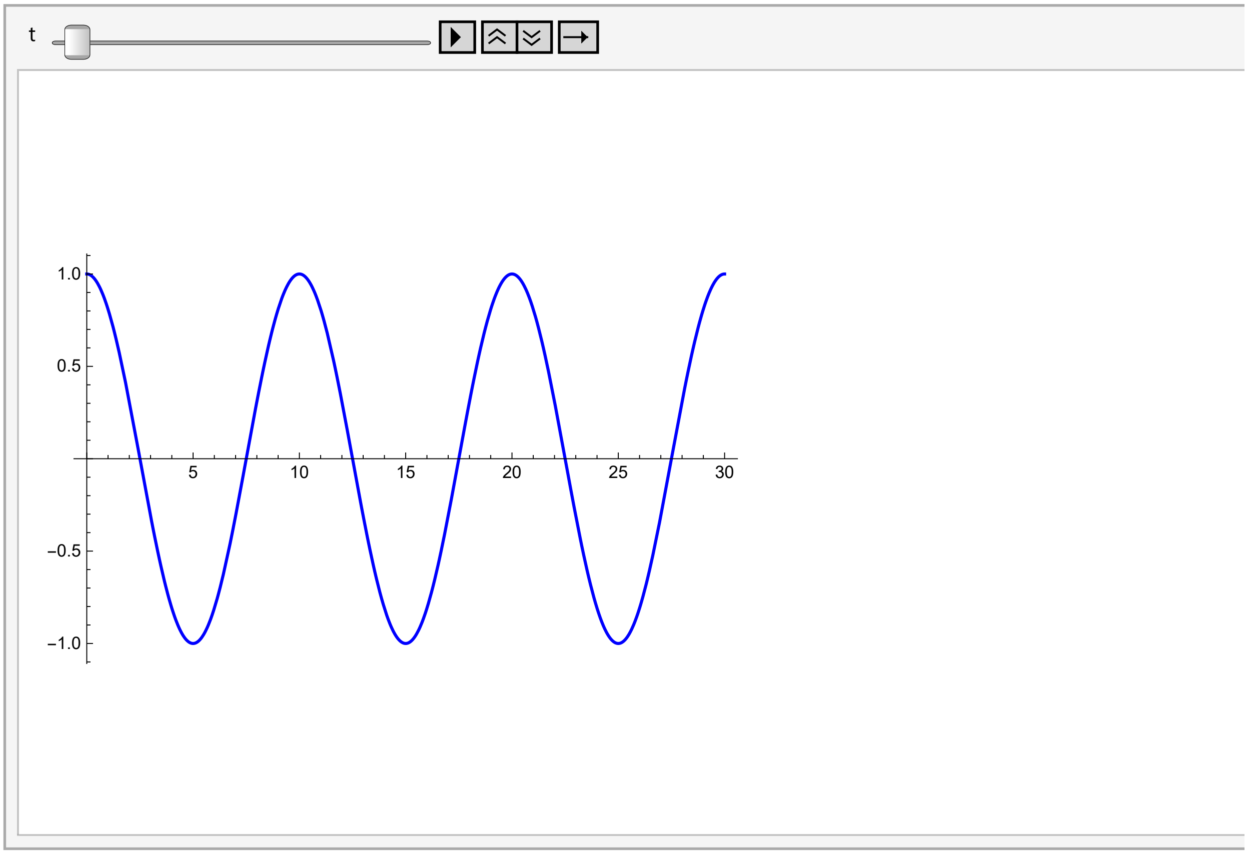
In[115]:=
```
Animate[Plot[y1[λ, f, x, t], {x, 0, L}, PlotStyle → Red],
 {t, 0, 5 * T}, AnimationRunning → False, DefaultDuration → 5]
```

Out[115]=



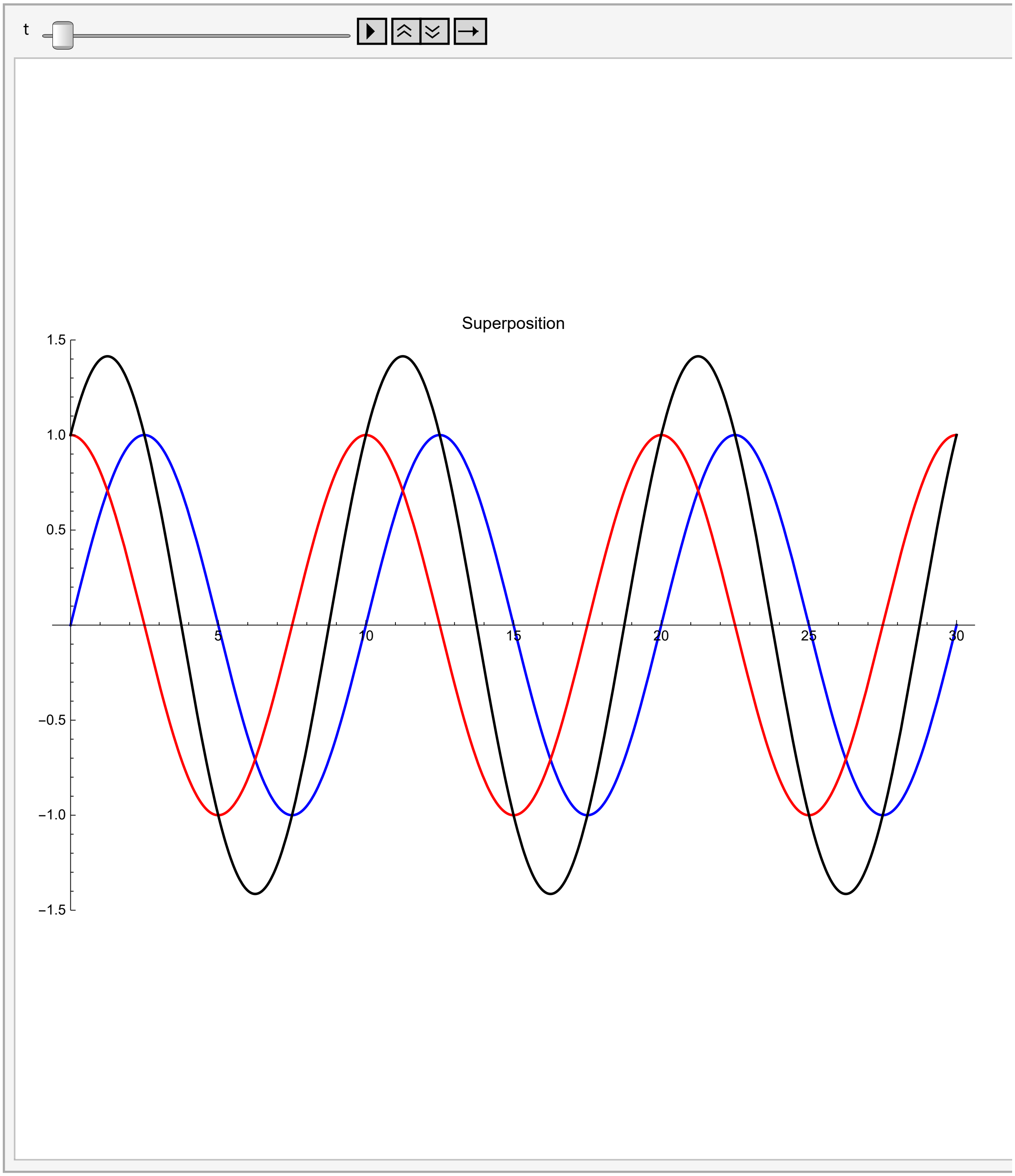
In[116]:=
```
Animate[Plot[y2[λ, f, x, t], {x, 0, L}, PlotStyle → Blue],
  {t, 0, 5 * T}, AnimationRunning → False, DefaultDuration → 5]
```

Out[116]=



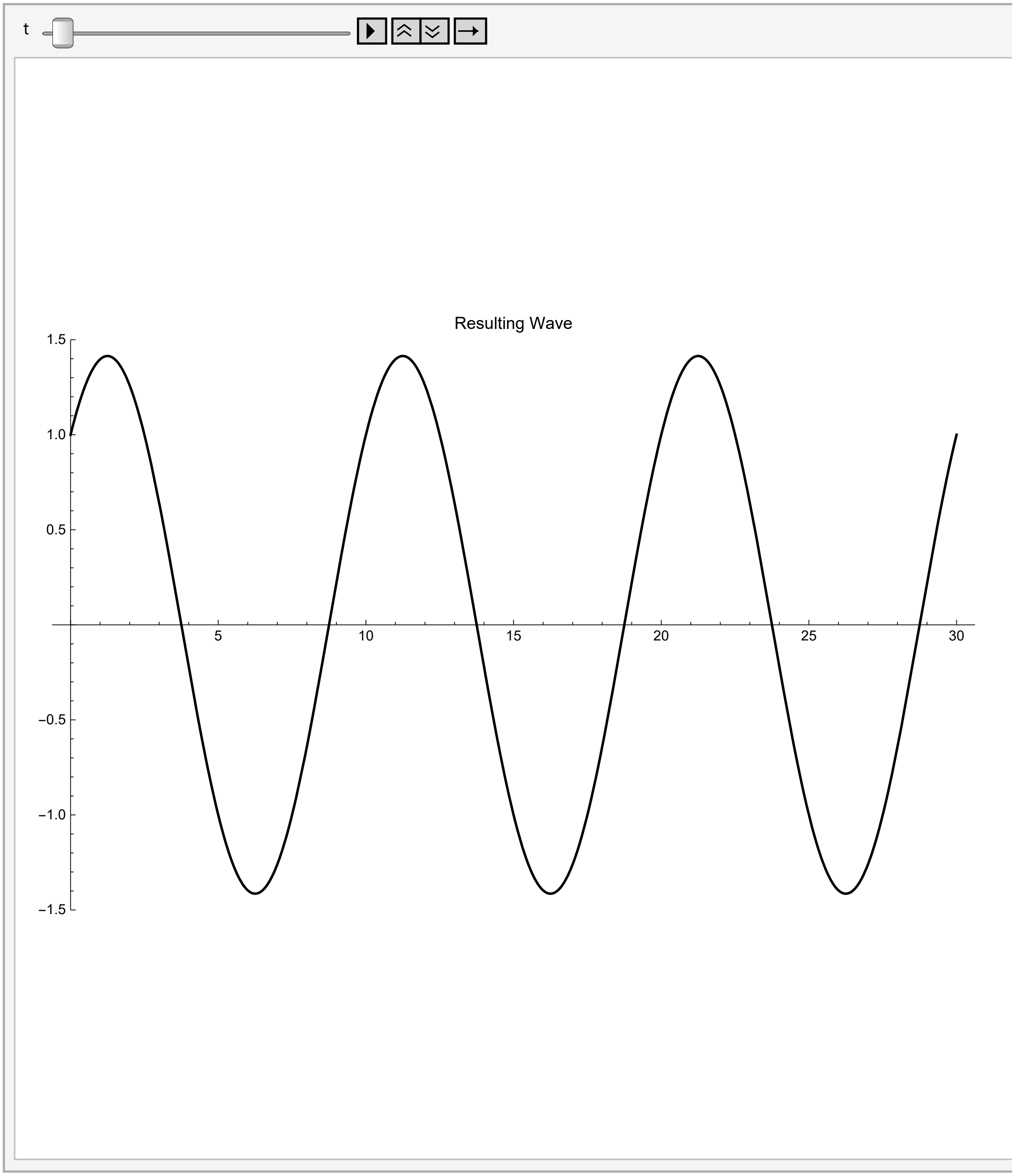
In[117]:=
```
Animate[
 Plot[{y1[λ, f, x, t], y2[λ, f, x, t], y1[λ, f, x, t] + y2[λ, f, x, t]},
  {x, 0, L}, PlotStyle → {Blue, Red, Black}, PlotRange → {-1.5, 1.5},
  ImageSize → 600, PlotLabel → "Superposition"],
 {t, 0, 5 * T}, AnimationRunning → False, DefaultDuration -> 15]
```

Out[117]=



In[118]:=
```
Animate[
 Plot[y1[λ, f, x, t] + y2[λ, f, x, t], {x, 0, L}, PlotStyle → Black,
  PlotRange → {-1.5, 1.5}, ImageSize → 600, PlotLabel → "Resulting Wave"],
 {t, 0, 5 * T}, AnimationRunning → False, DefaultDuration → 10]
```

Out[118]=



Left and Right-going waves

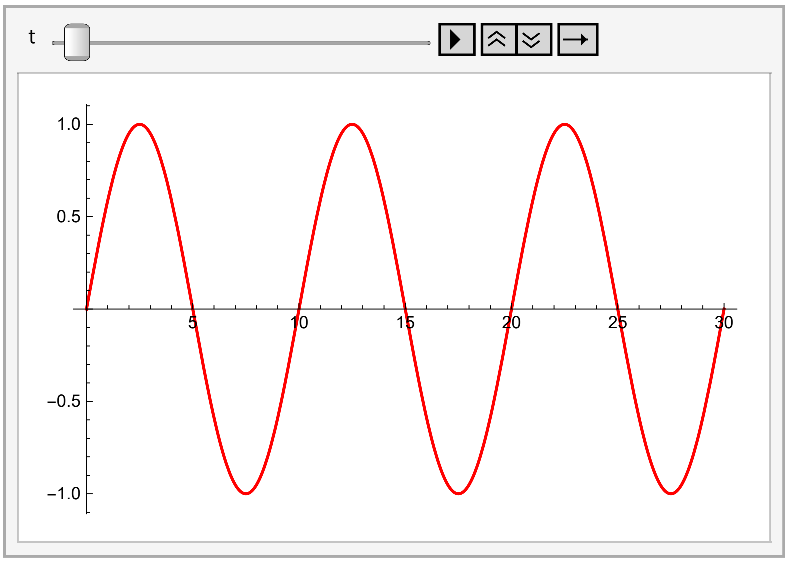
Assume the wave is confined to a length L. To get standing waves, we will see that we need to have L = (integer) * (λ/2)

In[119]:=
```
yr[λ_, f_, x_, t_] := Sin[(2 π / λ) x - (2 π f) t]
yl[λ_, f_, x_, t_] := Sin[(2 π / λ) x + (2 π f) t]
```

In[121]:=
```
λ = 10;
f = 4;
T = 1/f;
L = 6 * (λ/2);
```

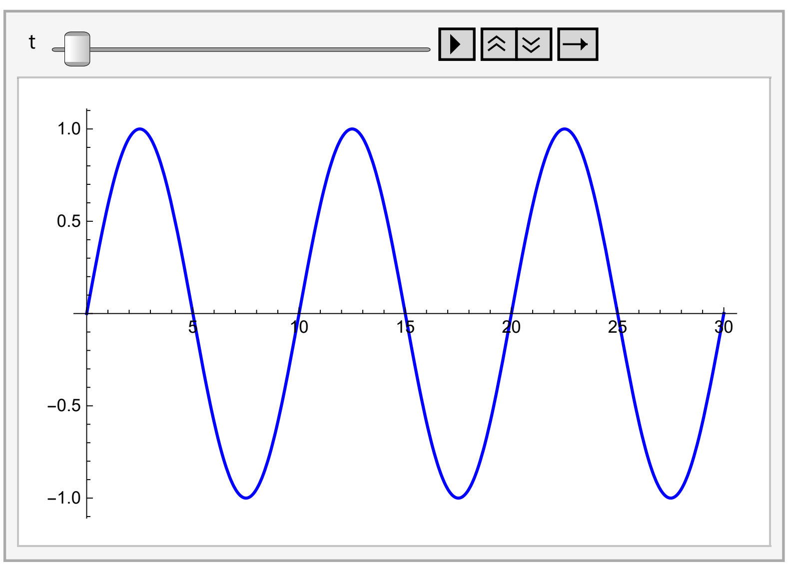
In[125]:=
```
Animate[Plot[yr[λ, f, x, t], {x, 0, L}, PlotStyle → Red],
 {t, 0, 5 * T}, AnimationRunning → False, DefaultDuration → 5]
```

Out[125]=



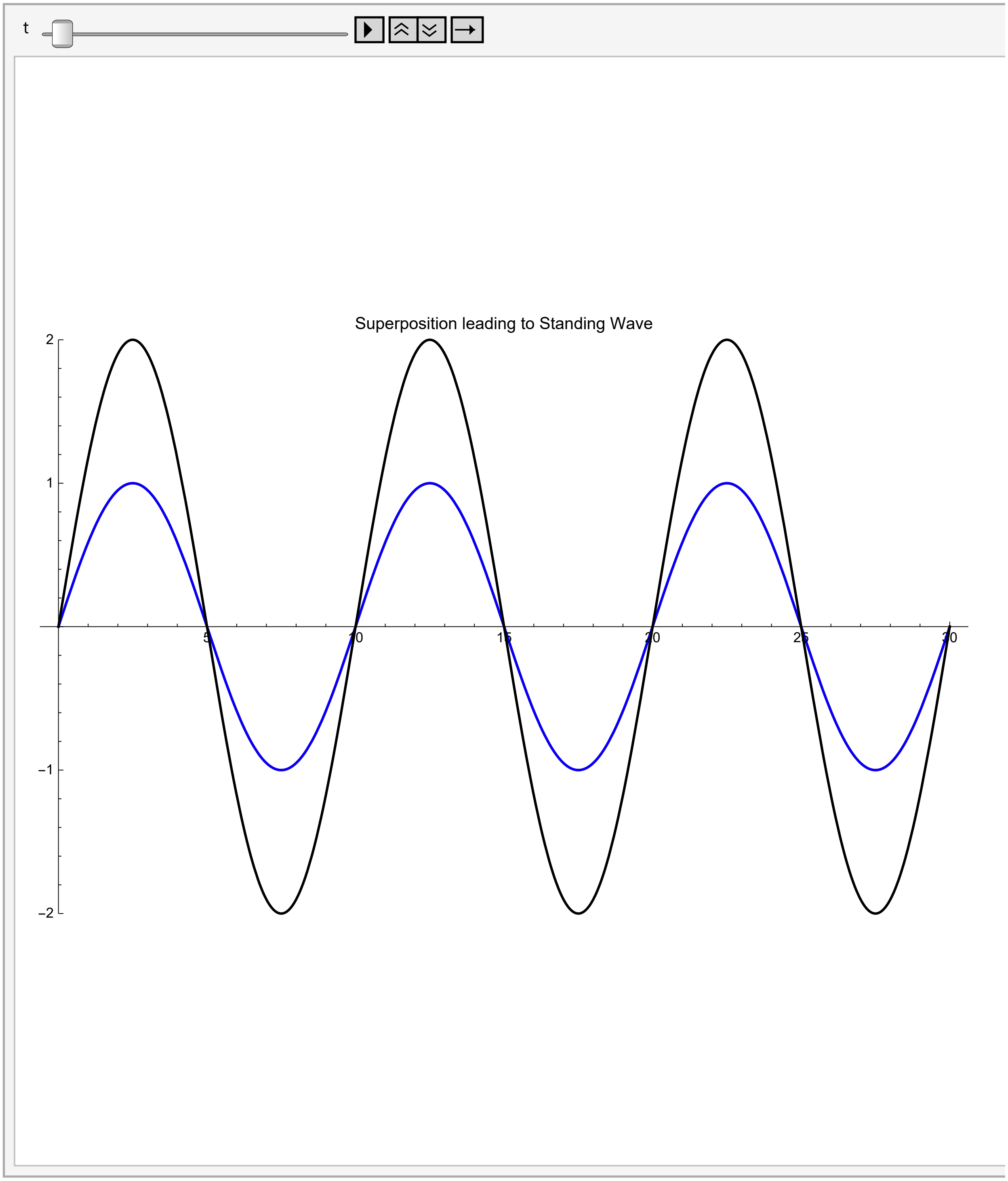
In[126]:=
```
Animate[Plot[yl[λ, f, x, t], {x, 0, L}, PlotStyle → Blue],
 {t, 0, 5 * T}, AnimationRunning → False, DefaultDuration → 5]
```

Out[126]=



In[127]:=
```
Animate[Plot[{yl[λ, f, x, t], yr[λ, f, x, t], yr[λ, f, x, t] + yl[λ, f, x, t]},
   {x, 0, L}, PlotStyle → {Red, Blue, Black}, PlotRange → {-2, 2},
   ImageSize → 600, PlotLabel → "Superposition leading to Standing Wave"],
  {t, 0, 5 * T}, AnimationRunning → False, DefaultDuration -> 15]
```

Out[127]=



In[128]:=
```
Animate[
 Plot[yr[λ, f, x, t] + yl[λ, f, x, t], {x, 0, L}, PlotStyle → Black,
  PlotRange → {-2, 2}, ImageSize → 600, PlotLabel → "Standing Wave"],
 {t, 0, 5 * T}, AnimationRunning → False, DefaultDuration → 10]
```

Out[128]=