



## Crack Notes [Physics 6] Waves

### Definitions

*Wave*: transfer of momentum/energy from a point to another

*Mechanical wave*: physical displacement of medium

*Transverse wave*: displacement perpendicular to propagation direction

*Longitudinal wave*: displacement parallel to propagation direction

*Surface wave*: i.e. waves in ocean, gravity plays a role

### Sine Function Waves

Describes most transverse/longitudinal waves

*Wavelength  $\lambda$* : the distance between the wave's "repeats"

*Frequency  $f$* : number of wavelengths that go through an imaginary line in 1 second (Hz)

*Period  $T$* : number of seconds it takes for each wavelength to go through imaginary line

FORMULAS:  $v = f\lambda$ ,  $T = 1 / f$

*Amplitude  $A$* : how "strong" the wave is, equal to max displacement from zero

Velocity depends on the medium

-> Heavier/denser medium (more inertia) = slower wave

-> Stiffer medium (more elasticity) = faster wave

-> In a gas, higher temperature = faster wave

-> SURFACE WAVES: velocity doesn't depend on density, only depth

*Intensity  $I$* : wave power, units are W/m<sup>2</sup>. Depends on frequency<sup>2</sup> and amplitude<sup>2</sup>

-> Decibels:  $\beta = 10 \log \frac{I}{I_0}$  - always has to be relative to something

Increasing intensity by a factor of ten = +10 decibels

So if intensity is increased by 1000000x, it's only +60 decibels

### Wave Effects

Waves can *interfere*, or boost each other/cancel each other out

*Constructive interference*: waves have displacement in same direction at certain points, increasing the total displacement

*Destructive interference*: waves have displacement in opposite direction at certain points, decreasing the total displacement

*Beat frequency*: when two waves of different frequencies are mixed together, will have constructive at some points and destructive at other points.  $f_{beat} = |f_1 - f_2|$

Waves traveling between mediums: wavelength will change, FREQUENCY STAYS THE SAME

Wave reflection: next medium more dense = inverted, less dense = upright



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*Standing wave*: when wave doesn't look like it's moving, just going up and down

-> Some points will always have 0 amplitude = NODES

-> Some points will oscillate between max positive and min negative amplitudes = ANTI NODES

Usually only certain frequencies can have standing waves

*String with both ends fixed/pipe closed or open at both ends*:

-> Fundamental wavelength/first harmonic: 2 nodes at ends

-> Second harmonic: 3 nodes, third harmonic: 4 nodes, etc

$$\rightarrow L = \frac{n\lambda_n}{2}, n = 1, 2, 3, \dots$$

*String with one end fixed/pipe open on one end, closed on other end*:

-> Fundamental wavelength/first harmonic: 1 node at closed/tied end

-> Second harmonic: 2 nodes, third harmonic: 3 nodes, etc

$$\rightarrow L = \frac{n\lambda_n}{4}, n = 1, 3, 5, \dots$$

Standing waves will go up/down at the *resonant frequency* which is given by  $f = \frac{v}{\lambda}$

### Simple Harmonic Motion

#### CONSERVATION OF ENERGY

Max displacement: highest potential energy, zero kinetic energy

Min displacement: zero potential energy, highest kinetic energy

*Mass on a spring*:  $T = 2\pi\sqrt{\frac{m}{k}}$ ,  $\omega = 2\pi f = \sqrt{\frac{k}{m}}$ ,  $m$  is mass of object,  $k$  is spring constant

*Pendulum*:  $T = 2\pi\sqrt{\frac{L}{g}}$ ,  $\omega = 2\pi f = \sqrt{\frac{g}{L}}$ ,  $L$  is length of string,  $g$  is gravity

General principles:

-> Acceleration, displacement directly proportional but opposite in sign (highest displacement = highest acceleration in opposite direction)

-> Acceleration, frequency<sup>2</sup> directly proportional (2x frequency = 4x acceleration)

### Doppler Effect

When source of waves is moving relative to observer

$\frac{\Delta f}{f_s} = \frac{v}{c}$ ,  $\frac{\Delta \lambda}{\lambda_s} = \frac{v}{c}$  where  $v$  is how fast source, observer are moving towards each other