

# Wave Motion and Sound I

Wave: Mechanical Wave — motion of massive string, water surface  
— sound wave...

Electromagnetic wave — light, microwave

Gravitational wave — variation of spacetime

## Mechanical Wave

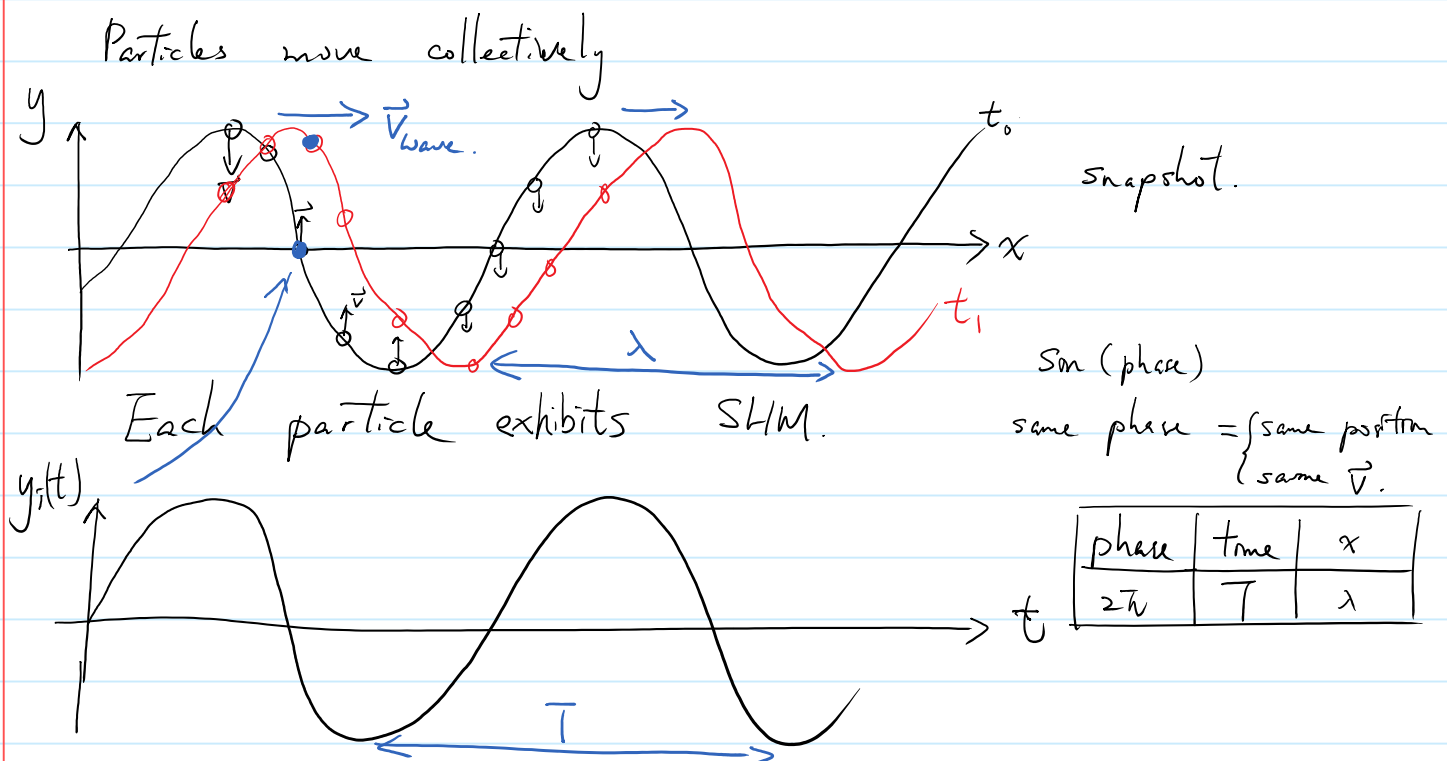
- e.g.
- ① transverse up/down vibration S-wave  $\sim 3000 \text{ m/s}$
  - ② longitudinal back/forth vibration P-wave  $\sim 5000 \text{ m/s}$

No matter/particles actually propagate

only the "phase" is propagating.

e.g. human wave

## Travelling Wave (sinusoidal wave, continuous)



# Mathematical Description

in fixed time



Let  $y = A \cos(kx)$

to satisfy  $x=0, y=A$

$x=\lambda, y=A$

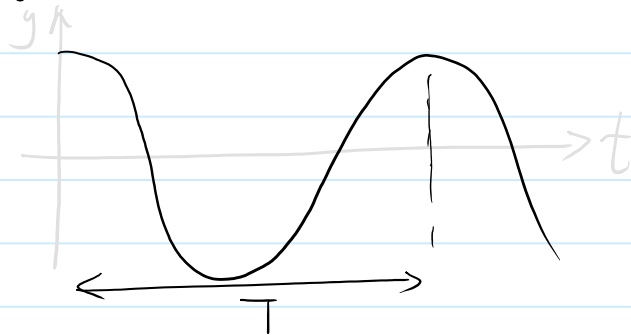
$\Rightarrow \cos(k\lambda) = 1$

$\Rightarrow k\lambda = 2\pi$

$k = \frac{2\pi}{\lambda}$

wave number

for fixed x



$y = A \cos(\omega t)$

for  $t=0$  &  $t=T, y=A$

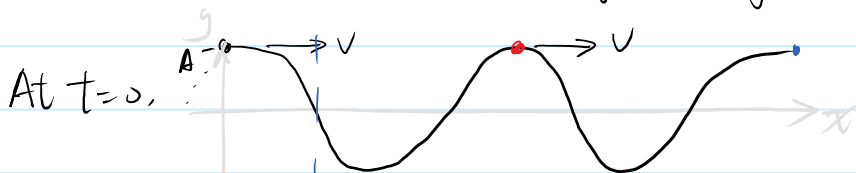
$\Rightarrow \omega t = 2\pi \Rightarrow \omega = \frac{2\pi}{T} = 2\pi f$

angular frequency (rad/s)

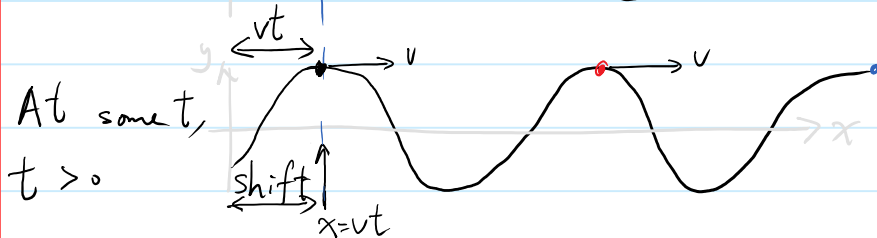
## Wave function

$y(x, t)$  at time  $t$   
the mass at  $x$   
has a displacement  $y$ .

How to write down a wavefunction for a sinusoidal wave?



$y(x, 0) = A \cos(kx), k = \frac{2\pi}{\lambda}$



$y(x, t) = A \cos(kx + \phi)$   
shift in cos

at  $x=vt, y=A \Rightarrow \cos(kx + \phi) = 1 \Rightarrow kx + \phi = 0$  first max.  
 $\Rightarrow \phi = -kx = -kvt$

Therefore, a wavefunction at any time  $t$  is

$$y(x,t) = A \cos(kx - \omega t)$$

Since every part of the wave exhibits SHM, taking  $x=0$  as example

$$y(0,t) = A \cos(-\omega t) = A \overset{\text{SHM}}{\cos(\omega t)} = A \cos(\omega t)$$

$$\Rightarrow \omega = kv$$

$$\Rightarrow 2\pi f = \frac{2\pi}{\lambda} v$$

$$\Rightarrow \boxed{v = f\lambda} = \frac{\omega}{k}$$

Finally, we write

$$y(x,t) = A \cos(kx - \omega t + \phi_0)$$

relatively opposite sign.

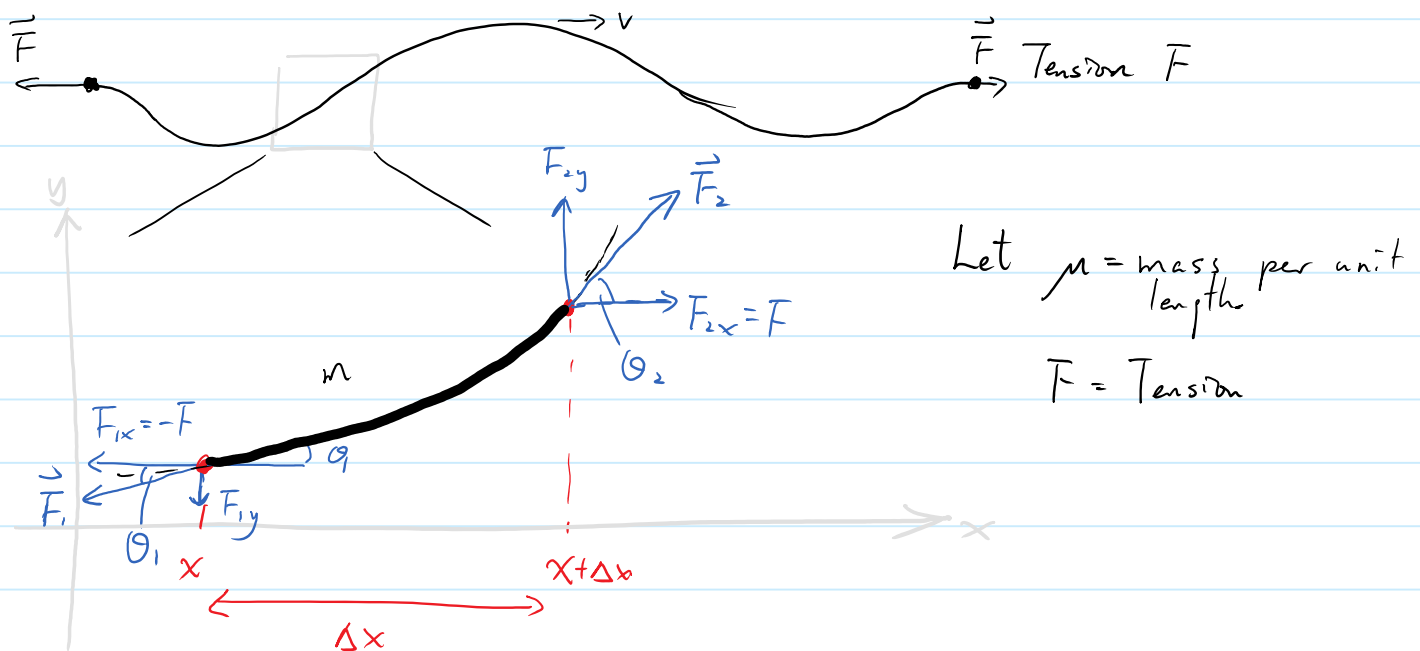
defined by initial conditions

for a wave travelling to the  $+x$  direction with speed  $v = \frac{\omega}{k}$ .

For a wave travelling to the  $-x$ -direction  $v \rightarrow -v$ ,  $\phi = kvx = -\omega t$

$$y(x,t) = A \cos(\underbrace{kx + \omega t}_{\text{relatively same sign}} + \phi_0)$$

# Wave Equation (string)



The segment of string has a mass  $m = \mu \cdot \Delta x$

The segment accelerates only vertically but not horizontally.

$$\Rightarrow a_x = 0 \quad \text{as} \quad F_{1x} = -F = -F_{2x}.$$

For vertical motion,  $F_{\text{net}y} = m a_y$

$$F_{1y} + F_{2y} = (\mu \Delta x) a_y$$

$$-F \tan \theta_1 + F \tan \theta_2 = \mu \Delta x a_y$$

$$\tan \theta = \text{slope} = \frac{\partial y}{\partial x}$$

$$-F \left( \frac{\partial y}{\partial x} \Big|_x - \frac{\partial y}{\partial x} \Big|_{x+\Delta x} \right) = \mu \Delta x a_y$$

$$a_y = \frac{\partial^2 y}{\partial t^2}$$

$$\frac{\frac{\partial y}{\partial x} \Big|_{x+\Delta x} - \frac{\partial y}{\partial x} \Big|_x}{\Delta x} = \frac{\mu}{F} \frac{\partial^2 y}{\partial t^2}$$

partial derivative  
∵ y is function  
of 2 variables

for  $\Delta x \rightarrow 0$ ,

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left( \frac{\partial y}{\partial x} \right) = \frac{\mu}{F} \frac{\partial^2 y}{\partial t^2}$$

⇒ Wave Eq<sup>n</sup>.

$$\frac{\partial^2 y}{\partial x^2} = \frac{\mu}{F} \frac{\partial^2 y}{\partial t^2}$$

Why is it called wave eq<sup>n</sup>? Because function behaves as a wave satisfies the eq<sup>n</sup>.

Try  $y(x,t) = A \cos(kx - \omega t)$

$$\frac{\partial y}{\partial x} = -k A \sin(kx - \omega t) \quad , \quad \frac{\partial^2 y}{\partial x^2} = -k^2 A \cos(kx - \omega t)$$

$$\frac{\partial y}{\partial t} = +\omega A \sin(kx - \omega t) \quad , \quad \frac{\partial^2 y}{\partial t^2} = -\omega^2 A \cos(kx - \omega t)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{LHS} &= \frac{\partial^2 y}{\partial x^2} & \text{RHS} &= \frac{\mu}{F} \frac{\partial^2 y}{\partial t^2} \\ &= -k^2 A \cos(kx - \omega t) & &= \frac{\mu}{F} (-\omega^2) A \cos(kx - \omega t) \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{LHS} = \text{RHS} \quad \text{iff.} \quad k^2 = \frac{\mu}{F} \omega^2 \Rightarrow \frac{F}{\mu} = \frac{\omega^2}{k^2} = v^2$$

⇒  $y(x,t)$  satisfies the wave eq<sup>n</sup>. iff.  $v = \frac{\omega}{k}$ .

In general, a wave eq<sup>n</sup> has a form.

$$\frac{\partial^2 y}{\partial x^2} = \frac{1}{v^2} \frac{\partial^2 y}{\partial t^2}$$

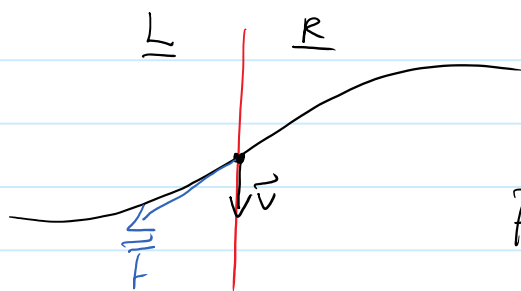
where  $v$  is the wave propagation speed.

i.e. for a string the speed of the wave is

$$v = \sqrt{\frac{F}{\mu}}$$

depends on the properties of the string,  
but not how the wave is generated.

Power

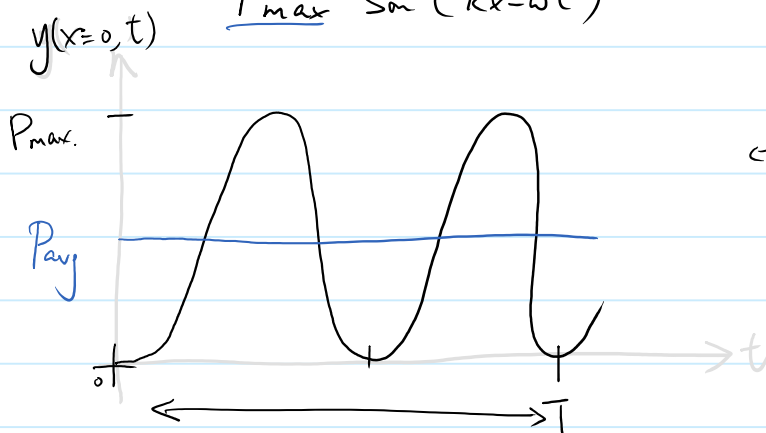


Work done on Right side by Left side / time

$$\begin{aligned}
 P &= \vec{F} \cdot \vec{v} \\
 &= F_y v_y \\
 &= -F \tan \theta \cdot v_y \quad y = A \cos(kx - \omega t) \\
 &= -F \frac{\partial y}{\partial x} \cdot \frac{\partial y}{\partial t} \\
 &= -F [-kA \sin(kx - \omega t)] \cdot [\omega A \sin(kx - \omega t)]
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 P &= F k \omega A^2 \sin^2(kx - \omega t) \\
 &= \underbrace{\mu F \omega^2 A^2}_{P_{\max}} \sin^2(kx - \omega t) \geq 0 \\
 &\equiv P_{\max} \sin^2(kx - \omega t)
 \end{aligned}$$

↑ consistent with right-going wave.



take  $x=0$  as example.

Average Power

$$\begin{aligned}
 P_{\text{avg}} &= \frac{1}{T} \int_0^T P(x,t) dt \quad \text{Time average.} \\
 &= \frac{1}{T} \int_0^T P_{\max} \sin^2(kx - \omega t) dt \\
 &= \frac{1}{T} P_{\max} \int_0^T \underbrace{\frac{1}{2}}_{=T/2} \underbrace{[1 - \cos(2kx - 2\omega t)]}_{=0 \text{ after integration}} dt
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\Rightarrow P_{\text{avg}} = \frac{P_{\max}}{2}$$

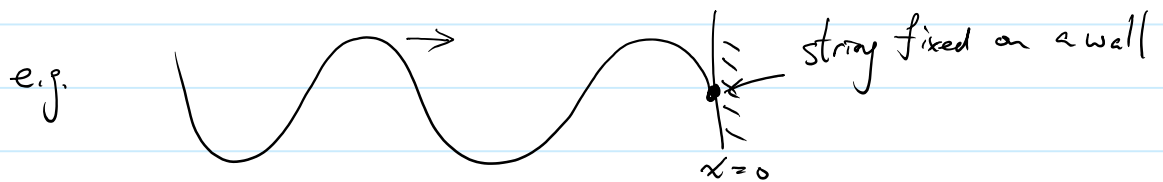
# Wave Reflection

## General properties of wave.

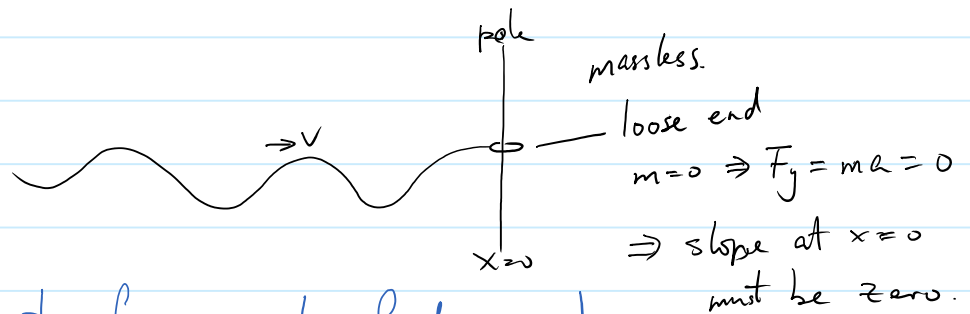
① Superposition of wave: if  $y_1, y_2$  are solutions of the wave eq<sup>n</sup>.

then  $y = y_1 + y_2$  is also a solution.

② Obey boundary condition: physical constraints the wave must satisfies.



The wave must have  $y=0$  at  $x=0$  for all time  $t$ .



## Image method (see note for examples & diagrams)

① Suppose a wave going towards the wall/pole is  $y_1$

② Imagine there is a wave coming from behind the wall/pole.  
 $\hookrightarrow y_2$

③ we know  $y_1 + y_2$  must satisfy the boundary condition

$$\begin{cases} \text{for wall, } y_1 + y_2 = 0 \text{ at } x=0 \text{ for } \forall t. \\ \text{for pole, slope of } (y_1 + y_2) = 0 \text{ at } x=0 \text{ for } \forall t. \end{cases}$$

④ Once a suitable  $y_2$  is found, we identify  $y_2$  as the reflection of  $y_1$ .