


Lec 8: - wave eqn
- standing waves

Wave Eqn
(P.D.E) $\frac{\partial^2 y}{\partial x^2} = \frac{1}{v^2} \frac{\partial^2 y}{\partial t^2}$

$y(x,t)$ is disp. of ^{speed} medium from equilib.

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Claim: any wave with small amplitude obeys wave eqn.
(interest: look eqn (x))
One soln is sinusoidal travelling wave
 $y(x,t) = A \cos(kx - \omega t)$
Note $v = \frac{\omega}{k}$

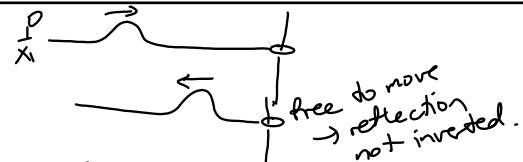
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we derived for stretched rope
and showed $v = \sqrt{\frac{F}{\mu}}$

Reflection



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Superposition

Principle of Superposition

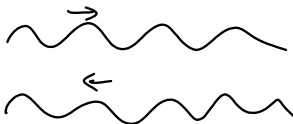
two waves in medium, total displ. is just sum of two displ.
True provided small amplitudes.

$$y_{\text{tot}} = y_1 + y_2$$

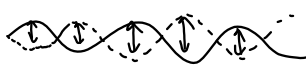
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- suppose two sinusoidal waves in opposite directions

add:



Result
(see movie)



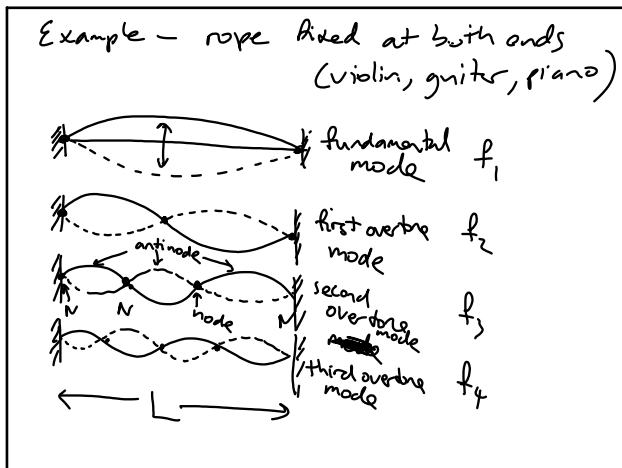
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so mathematically, can think of standing wave as sum of oppositely travelling sinusoidal waves.

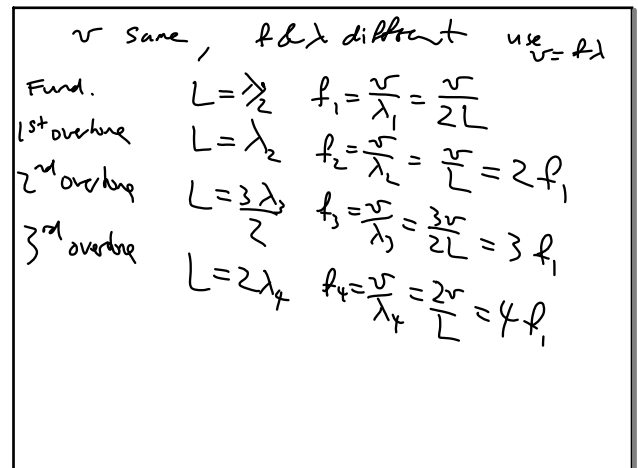
In practice we achieve using reflection

Another way to think of standing wave is an oscillating system
each part oscillating SHM.

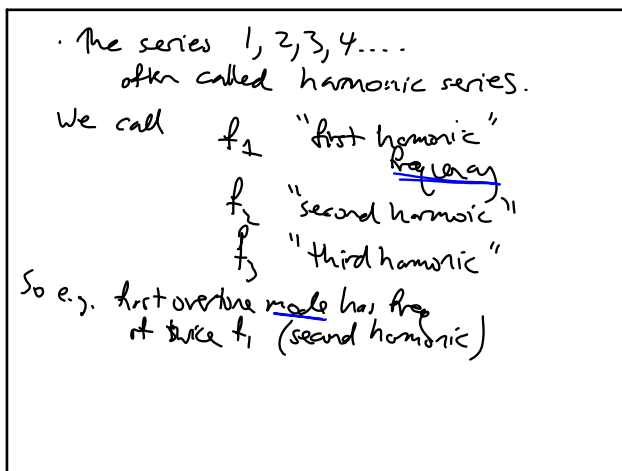
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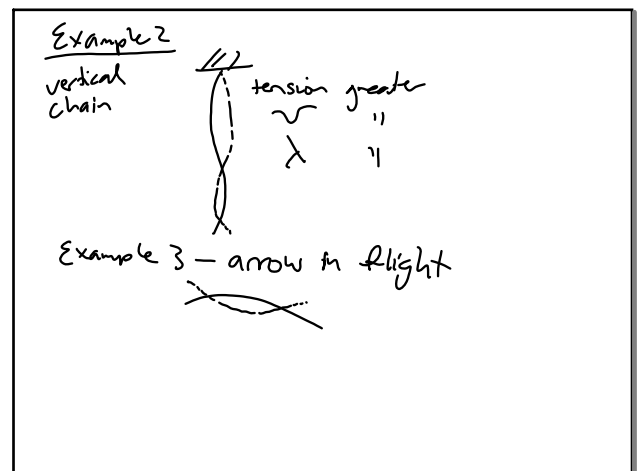
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