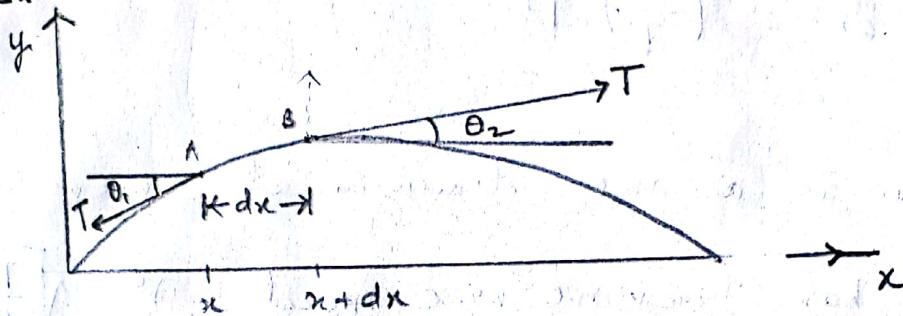


# TRANSVERSE VIBRATION - STRETCHED STRING.

Consider a stretched string having tension  $T$ .

In the equilibrium position, the string is assumed to lie on the  $x$ -axis. If the string is pulled in the  $y$ -direction, then forces will act on the string to bring it back to its equilibrium position.



Let us consider a small length  $AB$  of the string & calculate the net force acting on it in the  $y$ -direction. Due to tension  $T$ , the end points  $A$  &  $B$  experience force in the direction shown.

Force at  $A$  in upward direction is

$$-T \sin \theta_1 \approx -T \tan \theta_1 = -T \left. \frac{\partial y}{\partial x} \right|_x$$

Force at  $B$  in upward direction is

$$+T \sin \theta_2 \approx T \tan \theta_2 = +T \left. \frac{\partial y}{\partial x} \right|_{x+dx}$$

We have assumed  $\theta_1$  &  $\theta_2$  to be small.

$$\text{Net force in the } y\text{-direction} = T \left( \left. \frac{\partial y}{\partial x} \right|_{x+dx} - \left. \frac{\partial y}{\partial x} \right|_x \right)$$

[Using Taylor Series Expansion]

$$\left( \frac{\partial y}{\partial x} \right)_{x+dx} = \left( \frac{\partial y}{\partial x} \right)_x + \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left( \frac{\partial y}{\partial x} \right) dx$$

$$f(x+h) = f(x) + hf'(x) + \frac{h^2}{2} f''(x) + \dots + \frac{h^n}{n!} f^{(n)}(x)$$

$$\Delta m \frac{d^2 y}{dt^2} = T \frac{d^2 y}{dx^2} dx$$

where  $\Delta m$  is the small mass element AB.

$\Delta m = \rho dx$  ; where  $\rho$  is mass per unit length.

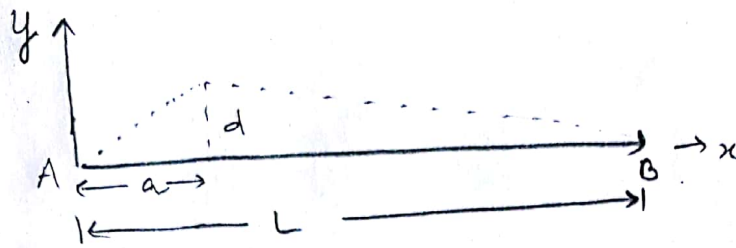
$$\therefore \frac{d^2 y}{dx^2} = \left( \frac{\rho}{T} \right) \frac{d^2 y}{dt^2} \dots$$

which is a one dimensional wave equation which has transverse wave speed  $v = \sqrt{\frac{T}{\rho}}$

$\therefore$  this wave, phase velocity depends on the density of the string & tension applied to the string.

Any function  $f(x \pm vt)$  satisfies the differential equation

# Transverse vibrations of plucked string



equilibrium position is along the x-axis

A point of the string is moved upwards by a distance d: If the displacement occurs at a distance 'a' from the origin then

$$y = \frac{d}{a}x \quad \text{for } 0 < x < a \quad \dots (1)$$

$$y = \frac{d}{L-a}(L-x) \quad \text{for } a < x < L \quad \dots (2)$$

If the string is released, determine the shape of the string at any subsequent time t.

We know  $\frac{\partial^2 y}{\partial x^2} = \frac{1}{v^2} \frac{\partial^2 y}{\partial t^2}$  where  $v = \sqrt{T/\rho}$   $\dots (3)$

Using boundary conditions

(1)  $y = 0$  at  $x = 0$  &  $x = L$ .

(2)  $t = 0 \quad \frac{dy}{dt} = 0$

let  $y = X(x) \cdot T(t) \quad \& \quad T = \cos \omega t$ .

then  $y = X(x) \cos \omega t \dots (4)$  substitute in (3)

$$\frac{d^2 X}{dx^2} = -\frac{\omega^2}{v^2} X \quad \text{or} \quad \frac{d^2 X}{dx^2} + \frac{\omega^2}{v^2} X = 0$$

if  $k = \omega/v$  then solution

$$X = (A \sin kx + B \cos kx)$$



$$y(x,t) = (A \sin kx + B \cos kx) (\cos \omega t + D \sin \omega t)$$

we know.

$$y(x,t) = 0 \text{ at } x=0$$

$$\Rightarrow B (\cos \omega t + D \sin \omega t) = 0 \text{ or } B = 0.$$

$$y(x,t) = A \sin kx (C \cos \omega t + D \sin \omega t)$$

$$y(x,t) = 0 \text{ at } x=L.$$

$$\therefore A \sin(kL) = 0$$

$$\text{or } kL = n\pi \quad \text{or } k_n = \frac{n\pi}{L} \quad n=1,2,3,\dots \quad \&$$

$$f_n = \frac{nv}{2L}; \quad \omega_n = \frac{n\pi v}{L} \quad \& \quad \lambda = \frac{2L}{n}$$

$$\therefore y(x,t) = A \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right) (C \cos \omega t + D \sin \omega t)$$

$$\text{or } y(x,t) = \sum_n \sin(k_n x) (C_n \cos \omega_n t + D_n \sin \omega_n t)$$

$$\left. \frac{\partial y}{\partial t} \right|_{t=0} = 0 \quad \therefore$$

$$\sin(k_n x) (-C_n \sin \omega_n t + D_n \cos \omega_n t) = 0$$

$$\text{or } D_n = 0$$

$$\therefore y(x,t) = \sum_{n=1,2,3} C_n \sin k_n x \cdot \cos \omega_n t$$

$$\& \quad y(x,0) = \sum C_n \sin k_n x = \sum_n C_n \sin\left(\frac{n\pi}{L} x\right)$$

$y(x,0) = \sum_n C_n \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right)$  is essentially  
 a fourier series. So to get constant  $C_n$   
 multiply both sides by  $\sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right) dx$  & integrate  
 from 0 to L.

$$C_m = \frac{2}{L} \int_0^L y(x,0) \sin \frac{n\pi x}{L} dx$$

where  $\int_0^L \sin \frac{n\pi x}{L} \cdot \sin \frac{m\pi x}{L} dx = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } m \neq n \\ L/2 & \text{if } m = n \end{cases}$

$$\therefore C_n = \frac{2}{L} \int_0^a \frac{d}{a} x \sin \frac{n\pi x}{L} dx + \frac{2}{L} \int_a^L \frac{d}{L-a} (L-x) \sin \frac{n\pi x}{L} dx$$

$$= \frac{2dL^2}{a(L-a)\pi^2 n^2} \sin\left(\frac{n\pi a}{L}\right)$$

$$\Delta y(x,t) = \frac{2dL^2}{a(L-a)\pi^2} \sum \frac{1}{n^2} \sin \frac{n\pi a}{L} \sin \frac{n\pi x}{L} \cdot \cos\left(\frac{n\pi f t}{L}\right)$$

When a string is set into vibrations, the vibrations consist of the fundamental frequency accompanied by certain higher frequencies called overtones.

Harmonics are simply integral multiples of the fundamental frequency. If fundamental frequency is  $n$ , then harmonics are  $2n, 3n, 4n \dots$

$2n$  is the second harmonic

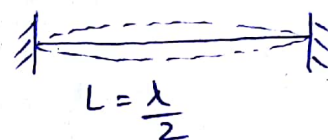
$3n$  is the third harmonic

$$K_n = \frac{n\pi}{L} \quad \& \quad \omega_n = kv \quad \& \quad \omega_n = 2\pi f_n$$

$$\therefore f_n = \frac{nv}{2L} \quad \& \quad v = \sqrt{\frac{T}{\rho}}$$

$$\therefore \text{fundamental frequency} = f = \frac{v}{2L}$$

$$\text{we know } f = \frac{v}{\lambda} \therefore \lambda_n = 2L.$$



for second harmonic,  $n=2$ .

$$f_2 = \frac{v}{L} \quad \& \quad \lambda_2 = L.$$

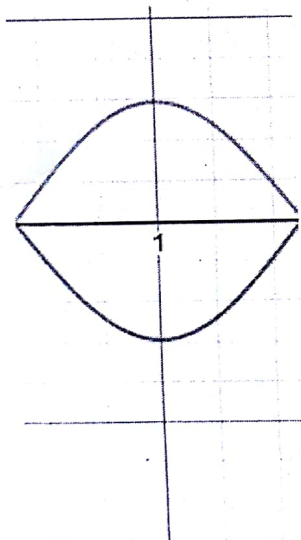


Standing wave pattern created using Desmos  
graphing calculator

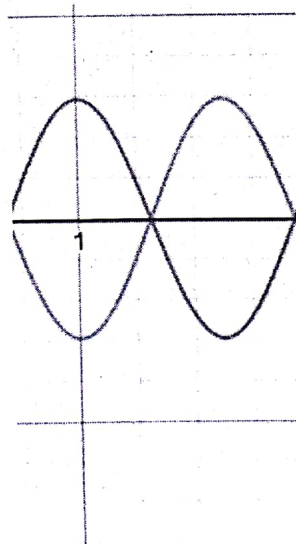
$$\Psi = A \sin(k_n x) \cdot \cos(\omega_n t)$$

$$k = \frac{n\pi}{L}$$

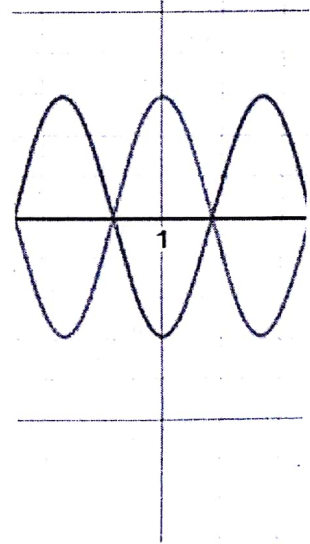
Choose  $L$ ,  $t$ ,  $\omega$  &  $A$ . & vary  $n$ .



1st mode  $n=1$   
fundamental



2nd mode  $n=2$   
2nd harmonic



3rd mode  $n=3$   
3rd harmonic