

the observer counts n crests and the observer records the period of the wave as equal to T given by

$$T = T_0 \left(1 + \frac{v_s - v_o}{v + v_o} \right) = T_0 \left(\frac{v + v_s}{v + v_o} \right) \tag{15.54}$$

The frequency ν observed by the observer is given by

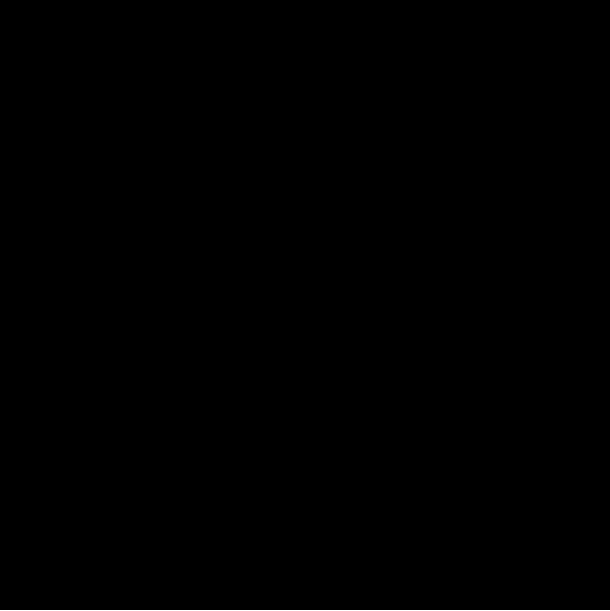
$$\nu = \nu_0 \left(\frac{v + v_o}{v + v_s} \right) \tag{15.55}$$

Consider a passenger sitting in a train moving on a straight track. Suppose she hears a whistle sounded by the driver of the train. What frequency will she measure or hear? Here both the observer and the source are moving with the same velocity, so there will be no shift in frequency and the passenger will note the natural frequency. But an observer who is stationary with respect to the ground will hear a higher frequency if the train is moving towards him and a lower frequency if it is moving away from him.

Note that we have defined the velocity of the observer to the source as v_o in the direction of the sound. Therefore, if the observer is moving towards the source, v_o has a positive value whereas if O is moving away from the source, v_o has a negative value. On the other hand, if the source is moving towards the observer, v_s has a positive value whereas if it is moving away from the observer, v_s has a negative value. The sound emitted by the source travels in all directions. It is the component of the sound coming towards the observer that is detected. Therefore, the velocity of sound with respect to the observer is $v + v_o$ in all cases.

Example 15.7 A rocket is moving at a speed of 200 m s^{-1} towards a stationary target. While moving, it emits a wave of frequency 1000 Hz . Some of the sound reaching the target gets reflected back to the rocket as an echo. Calculate (1) the frequency of the sound as detected by the target and (2) the frequency of the echo as detected by the rocket.

Answer (1) The observer is at rest and the source is moving with a speed of 200 m s^{-1} . Since this is comparable with the velocity of sound, 330 m s^{-1} , we must use Eq. (15.50) and not the approximate Eq. (15.51). Since the source is approaching a stationary target, $v_o = 0$, and v_s must be replaced by $-v_s$. Thus, we have



$$= 1000 \text{ Hz} \left(\frac{330 \text{ m s}^{-1}}{330 \text{ m s}^{-1} - 200 \text{ m s}^{-1}} \right)$$

the source (because it is the rocket's detector is the observer (because it detects the sound). Therefore, v_o has a positive value. The frequency emitted by the source is 1000 Hz . The frequency intercepted by the target is therefore, the frequency detected is

$$= 1000 \text{ Hz} \left(\frac{330 \text{ m s}^{-1} + 330 \text{ m s}^{-1}}{330 \text{ m s}^{-1}} \right)$$

$$\approx 4080 \text{ Hz}$$

SUMMARY

1. *Mechanical waves* can exist in material media and are governed by Newton's Laws.
2. *Transverse waves* are waves in which the particles of the medium oscillate perpendicular to the direction of wave propagation.
3. *Longitudinal waves* are waves in which the particles of the medium oscillate along the direction of wave propagation.
4. *Progressive wave* is a wave that moves from one point of medium to another.
5. *The displacement* in a sinusoidal wave propagating in the positive x direction is given by

$$y(x, t) = a \sin(kx - \omega t + \phi)$$

where a is the amplitude of the wave, k is the angular wave number, ω is the angular frequency, $(kx - \omega t + \phi)$ is the phase, and ϕ is the phase constant or phase angle.

6. *Wavelength* λ of a progressive wave is the distance between two consecutive points of the same phase at a given time. In a stationary wave, it is twice the distance between two consecutive nodes or antinodes.
7. *Period* T of oscillation of a wave is defined as the time any element of the medium takes to move through one complete oscillation. It is related to the *angular frequency* ω through the relation

$$T = \frac{2\pi}{\omega}$$

8. *Frequency* ν of a wave is defined as $1/T$ and is related to angular frequency by

$$\nu = \frac{\omega}{2\pi}$$

9. *Speed* of a progressive wave is given by $v = \frac{\omega}{k} = \frac{\lambda}{T} = \lambda\nu$

10. *The speed of a transverse wave* on a stretched string is set by the properties of the string. The speed on a string with tension T and linear mass density μ is

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

11. *Sound waves* are longitudinal mechanical waves that can travel through solids, liquids, or gases. The speed v of sound wave in a fluid having *bulk modulus* B and density ρ is

$$v = \sqrt{\frac{B}{\rho}}$$

The speed of longitudinal waves in a metallic bar is

$$v = \sqrt{\frac{Y}{\rho}}$$

For gases, since $B = \gamma P$, the speed of sound is

$$v = \sqrt{\frac{\gamma P}{\rho}}$$

12. When two or more waves traverse simultaneously in the same medium, the displacement of any element of the medium is the algebraic sum of the displacements due to each wave. This is known as the *principle of superposition* of waves

$$y = \sum_{i=1}^n f_i(x - vt)$$

13. Two sinusoidal waves on the same string exhibit *interference*, adding or cancelling according to the principle of superposition. If the two are travelling in the same direction and have the same amplitude a and frequency but differ in phase by a *phase constant* ϕ , the result is a single wave with the same frequency ω :

$$y(x, t) = \left[2a \cos \frac{1}{2} \phi \right] \sin \left(kx - \omega t + \frac{1}{2} \phi \right)$$

If $\phi = 0$ or an integral multiple of 2π , the waves are exactly in phase and the interference is constructive; if $\phi = \pi$, they are exactly out of phase and the interference is destructive.

14. A travelling wave, at a rigid boundary or a closed end, is reflected with a phase reversal but the reflection at an open boundary takes place without any phase change.

For an incident wave

$$y_i(x, t) = a \sin(kx - \omega t)$$

the reflected wave at a rigid boundary is

$$y_r(x, t) = -a \sin(kx + \omega t)$$

For reflection at an open boundary

$$y_r(x, t) = a \sin(kx + \omega t)$$

15. The interference of two identical waves moving in opposite directions produces *standing waves*. For a string with fixed ends, the standing wave is given by

$$y(x, t) = [2a \sin kx] \cos \omega t$$

Standing waves are characterised by fixed locations of zero displacement called *nodes* and fixed locations of maximum displacements called *antinodes*. The separation between two consecutive nodes or antinodes is $\lambda/2$.

A stretched string of length L fixed at both the ends vibrates with frequencies given by

$$v = \frac{nv}{2L}, \quad n = 1, 2, 3, \dots$$

The set of frequencies given by the above relation are called the *normal modes* of oscillation of the system. The oscillation mode with lowest frequency is called the *fundamental mode* or the *first harmonic*. The *second harmonic* is the oscillation mode with $n = 2$ and so on.

A pipe of length L with one end closed and other end open (such as air columns) vibrates with frequencies given by

$$v = (n + \frac{1}{2}) \frac{v}{2L}, \quad n = 0, 1, 2, 3, \dots$$

The set of frequencies represented by the above relation are the *normal modes* of oscillation of such a system. The lowest frequency given by $v/4L$ is the fundamental mode or the first harmonic.

16. A string of length L fixed at both ends or an air column closed at one end and open at the other end or open at both the ends, vibrates with certain frequencies called their normal modes. Each of these frequencies is a *resonant frequency* of the system.
17. *Beats* arise when two waves having slightly different frequencies, v_1 and v_2 and comparable amplitudes, are superposed. The beat frequency is

$$v_{\text{beat}} = v_1 - v_2$$

18. The *Doppler effect* is a change in the observed frequency of a wave when the source (S) or the observer (O) or both move(s) relative to the medium. For sound the observed frequency ν is given in terms of the source frequency ν_0 by

$$\nu = \nu_0 \left(\frac{v + v_o}{v + v_s} \right)$$

here v is the speed of sound through the medium, v_o is the velocity of observer relative to the medium, and v_s is the source velocity relative to the medium. In using this formula, velocities in the direction OS should be treated as positive and those opposite to it should be taken to be negative.

Physical quantity	Symbol	Dimensions	Unit	Remarks
Wavelength	λ	[L]	m	Distance between two consecutive points with the same phase.
Propagation constant	k	[L ⁻¹]	m ⁻¹	$k = \frac{2\pi}{\lambda}$
Wave speed	v	[LT ⁻¹]	m s ⁻¹	$v = \nu\lambda$
Beat frequency	ν_{beat}	[T ⁻¹]	s ⁻¹	Difference of two close frequencies of superposing waves.

POINTS TO PONDER

1. A wave is not motion of matter as a whole in a medium. A wind is different from the sound wave in air. The former involves motion of air from one place to the other. The latter involves compressions and rarefactions of layers of air.
2. In a wave, energy and *not the matter* is transferred from one point to the other.
3. In a mechanical wave, energy transfer takes place because of the coupling through elastic forces between neighbouring oscillating parts of the medium.
4. Transverse waves can propagate only in medium with shear modulus of elasticity, Longitudinal waves need bulk modulus of elasticity and are therefore, possible in all media, solids, liquids and gases.
5. In a harmonic progressive wave of a given frequency, all particles have the same amplitude but different phases at a given instant of time. In a stationary wave, all particles between two nodes have the same phase at a given instant but have different amplitudes.
6. Relative to an observer at rest in a medium the speed of a mechanical wave in that medium (v) depends only on elastic and other properties (such as mass density) of the medium. It does not depend on the velocity of the source.
7. For an observer moving with velocity v_o relative to the medium, the speed of a wave is obviously different from v and is given by $v \pm v_o$.

EXERCISES

- 15.1** A string of mass 2.50 kg is under a tension of 200 N. The length of the stretched string is 20.0 m. If the transverse jerk is struck at one end of the string, how long does the disturbance take to reach the other end?
- 15.2** A stone dropped from the top of a tower of height 300 m splashes into the water of a pond near the base of the tower. When is the splash heard at the top given that the speed of sound in air is 340 m s^{-1} ? ($g = 9.8 \text{ m s}^{-2}$)
- 15.3** A steel wire has a length of 12.0 m and a mass of 2.10 kg. What should be the tension in the wire so that speed of a transverse wave on the wire equals the speed of sound in dry air at $20^\circ\text{C} = 343 \text{ m s}^{-1}$.
- 15.4** Use the formula $v = \sqrt{\frac{\gamma P}{\rho}}$ to explain why the speed of sound in air
- is independent of pressure,
 - increases with temperature,
 - increases with humidity.
- 15.5** You have learnt that a travelling wave in one dimension is represented by a function $y = f(x, t)$ where x and t must appear in the combination $x - vt$ or $x + vt$, i.e. $y = f(x \pm vt)$. Is the converse true? Examine if the following functions for y can possibly represent a travelling wave :
- $(x - vt)^2$
 - $\log [(x + vt)/x_0]$
 - $1/(x + vt)$
- 15.6** A bat emits ultrasonic sound of frequency 1000 kHz in air. If the sound meets a water surface, what is the wavelength of (a) the reflected sound, (b) the transmitted sound? Speed of sound in air is 340 m s^{-1} and in water 1486 m s^{-1} .
- 15.7** A hospital uses an ultrasonic scanner to locate tumours in a tissue. What is the wavelength of sound in the tissue in which the speed of sound is 1.7 km s^{-1} ? The operating frequency of the scanner is 4.2 MHz.
- 15.8** A transverse harmonic wave on a string is described by
- $$y(x, t) = 3.0 \sin (36 \pi t + 0.018 \pi x + \pi/4)$$
- where x and y are in cm and t in s. The positive direction of x is from left to right.
- Is this a travelling wave or a stationary wave ?
If it is travelling, what are the speed and direction of its propagation ?
 - What are its amplitude and frequency ?
 - What is the initial phase at the origin ?
 - What is the least distance between two successive crests in the wave ?
- 15.9** For the wave described in Exercise 15.8, plot the displacement (y) versus (t) graphs for $x = 0, 2$ and 4 cm. What are the shapes of these graphs? In which aspects does the oscillatory motion in travelling wave differ from one point to another: amplitude, frequency or phase ?
- 15.10** For the travelling harmonic wave
- $$y(x, t) = 2.0 \cos 2\pi (10t - 0.0080 x + 0.35)$$

where x and y are in cm and t in s. Calculate the phase difference between oscillatory motion of two points separated by a distance of

- (a) 4 m,
- (b) 0.5 m,
- (c) $\lambda/2$,
- (d) $3\lambda/4$

15.11 The transverse displacement of a string (clamped at its both ends) is given by

$$y(x, t) = 0.06 \sin \left(\frac{2\pi}{3} x \right) \cos (120 \pi t)$$

where x and y are in m and t in s. The length of the string is 1.5 m and its mass is 3.0×10^{-2} kg.

Answer the following :

- (a) Does the function represent a travelling wave or a stationary wave?
- (b) Interpret the wave as a superposition of two waves travelling in opposite directions. What is the wavelength, frequency, and speed of each wave ?
- (c) Determine the tension in the string.

15.12 (i) For the wave on a string described in Exercise 15.11, do all the points on the string oscillate with the same (a) frequency, (b) phase, (c) amplitude? Explain your answers. (ii) What is the amplitude of a point 0.375 m away from one end?

15.13 Given below are some functions of x and t to represent the displacement (transverse or longitudinal) of an elastic wave. State which of these represent (i) a travelling wave, (ii) a stationary wave or (iii) none at all:

- (a) $y = 2 \cos (3x) \sin (10t)$
- (b) $y = 2\sqrt{x - vt}$
- (c) $y = 3 \sin (5x - 0.5t) + 4 \cos (5x - 0.5t)$
- (d) $y = \cos x \sin t + \cos 2x \sin 2t$

15.14 A wire stretched between two rigid supports vibrates in its fundamental mode with a frequency of 45 Hz. The mass of the wire is 3.5×10^{-2} kg and its linear mass density is 4.0×10^{-2} kg m⁻¹. What is (a) the speed of a transverse wave on the string, and (b) the tension in the string?

15.15 A metre-long tube open at one end, with a movable piston at the other end, shows resonance with a fixed frequency source (a tuning fork of frequency 340 Hz) when the tube length is 25.5 cm or 79.3 cm. Estimate the speed of sound in air at the temperature of the experiment. The edge effects may be neglected.

15.16 A steel rod 100 cm long is clamped at its middle. The fundamental frequency of longitudinal vibrations of the rod are given to be 2.53 kHz. What is the speed of sound in steel?

15.17 A pipe 20 cm long is closed at one end. Which harmonic mode of the pipe is resonantly excited by a 430 Hz source ? Will the same source be in resonance with the pipe if both ends are open? (speed of sound in air is 340 m s⁻¹).

15.18 Two sitar strings A and B playing the note 'Ga' are slightly out of tune and produce beats of frequency 6 Hz. The tension in the string A is slightly reduced and the

beat frequency is found to reduce to 3 Hz. If the original frequency of A is 324 Hz, what is the frequency of B?

15.19 Explain why (or how):

- (a) in a sound wave, a displacement node is a pressure antinode and vice versa,
- (b) bats can ascertain distances, directions, nature, and sizes of the obstacles without any “eyes”,
- (c) a violin note and sitar note may have the same frequency, yet we can distinguish between the two notes,
- (d) solids can support both longitudinal and transverse waves, but only longitudinal waves can propagate in gases, and
- (e) the shape of a pulse gets distorted during propagation in a dispersive medium.

15.20 A train, standing at the outer signal of a railway station blows a whistle of frequency 400 Hz in still air. (i) What is the frequency of the whistle for a platform observer when the train (a) approaches the platform with a speed of 10 m s⁻¹, (b) recedes from the platform with a speed of 10 m s⁻¹? (ii) What is the speed of sound in each case? The speed of sound in still air can be taken as 340 m s⁻¹.

15.21 A train, standing in a station-yard, blows a whistle of frequency 400 Hz in still air. The wind starts blowing in the direction from the yard to the station with a speed of 10 m s⁻¹. What are the frequency, wavelength, and speed of sound for an observer standing on the station’s platform? Is the situation exactly identical to the case when the air is still and the observer runs towards the yard at a speed of 10 m s⁻¹? The speed of sound in still air can be taken as 340 m s⁻¹

Additional Exercises

15.22 A travelling harmonic wave on a string is described by

$$y(x, t) = 7.5 \sin(0.0050x + 12t + \pi/4)$$

- (a) what are the displacement and velocity of oscillation of a point at $x = 1$ cm, and $t = 1$ s? Is this velocity equal to the velocity of wave propagation?
- (b) Locate the points of the string which have the same transverse displacements and velocity as the $x = 1$ cm point at $t = 2$ s, 5 s and 11 s.

15.23 A narrow sound pulse (for example, a short pip by a whistle) is sent across a medium. (a) Does the pulse have a definite (i) frequency, (ii) wavelength, (iii) speed of propagation? (b) If the pulse rate is 1 after every 20 s, (that is the whistle is blown for a split of second after every 20 s), is the frequency of the note produced by the whistle equal to 1/20 or 0.05 Hz?

15.24 One end of a long string of linear mass density 8.0×10^{-3} kg m⁻¹ is connected to an electrically driven tuning fork of frequency 256 Hz. The other end passes over a pulley and is tied to a pan containing a mass of 90 kg. The pulley end absorbs all the incoming energy so that reflected waves at this end have negligible amplitude. At $t = 0$, the left end (fork end) of the string $x = 0$ has zero transverse displacement ($y = 0$) and is moving along positive y -direction. The amplitude of the wave is 5.0 cm. Write down the transverse displacement y as function of x and t that describes the wave on the string.

15.25 A SONAR system fixed in a submarine operates at a frequency 40.0 kHz. An enemy submarine moves towards the SONAR with a speed of 360 km h⁻¹. What is the frequency of sound reflected by the submarine? Take the speed of sound in water to be 1450 m s⁻¹.

- 15.26** Earthquakes generate sound waves inside the earth. Unlike a gas, the earth can experience both transverse (*S*) and longitudinal (*P*) sound waves. Typically the speed of *S* wave is about 4.0 km s^{-1} , and that of *P* wave is 8.0 km s^{-1} . A seismograph records *P* and *S* waves from an earthquake. The first *P* wave arrives 4 min before the first *S* wave. Assuming the waves travel in straight line, at what distance does the earthquake occur ?
- 15.27** A bat is flitting about in a cave, navigating via ultrasonic beeps. Assume that the sound emission frequency of the bat is 40 kHz. During one fast swoop directly toward a flat wall surface, the bat is moving at 0.03 times the speed of sound in air. What frequency does the bat hear reflected off the wall ?

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