

# PHY117 HS2023

Week 11, Lecture 2

Nov. 29th, 2023

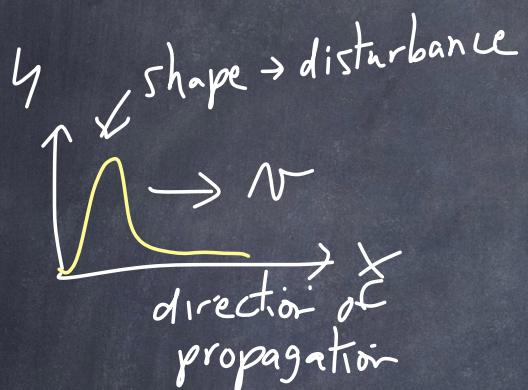
Prof. Ben Kilminster

WAVES

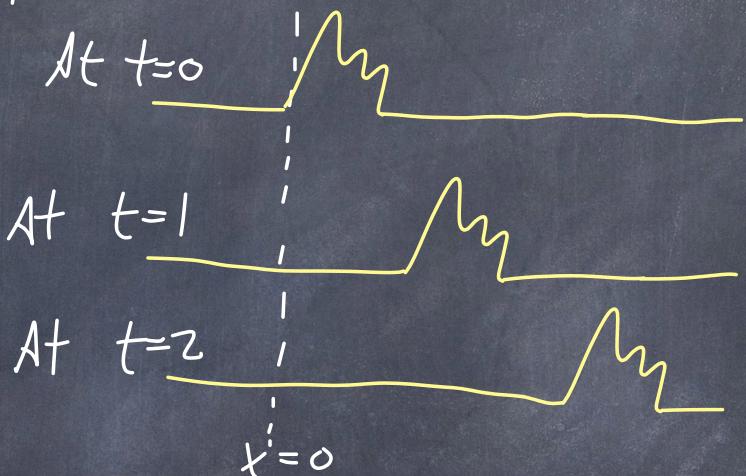
# WAVES:

wave propagation  $\rightarrow$  one makes a disturbance that propagates along some medium.

(air, water, string, ...)



Transverse wave: disturbance  $\perp$  propagation



The shape  
of the  
wave  
 $y = f(x)$   
at  $t=0$   
is the same  
at  $t=1, 2$



Transverse wave propagating at velocity  $v$ . Its value of  $y$  depends on  $x$  and  $t$ :  $y = f(x, t)$

$S$  reference frame  
(coordinate system  $x, y$ )

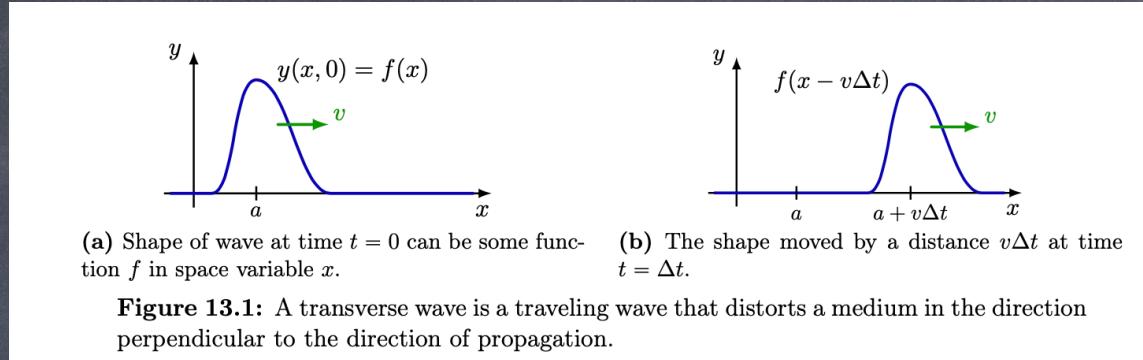


Figure 13.1: A transverse wave is a traveling wave that distorts a medium in the direction perpendicular to the direction of propagation.

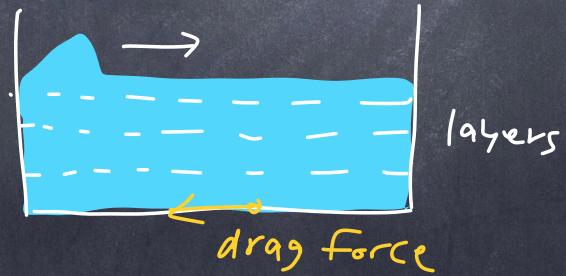
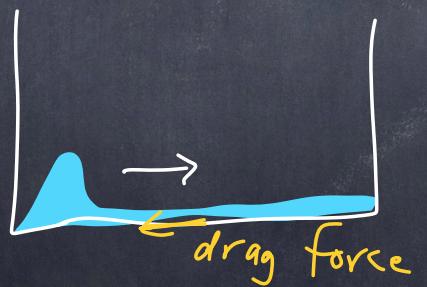
At time  $t=0$ , the wave has a shape  $y(x, t=0) = f(x)$ . The wave travels with velocity  $v$ , but shape stays same. The peak at  $x=a$  will move to  $x=a + vt$  after time  $t$ .

If we make a new reference frame  $S'$  with coordinates  $x', y'$  that moves at  $v$ , then  $y'$  is always  $f(x')$ , for any time  $t$ . In general, we can transform between  $S'$  and  $S$  using a Galilean transformation:  $x = x' + vt$   $y = y'$

Therefore, in the  $S$  frame, the wave can be described as  $y(x, t) = f(x - vt)$  gives us the same shape  $f(x, t=0)$  at



Disturbance moving in water



waves move slower in shallow water  
due to the drag force

A wave moving to the right has a form like  $y = y(x, t) = f(x - vt)$

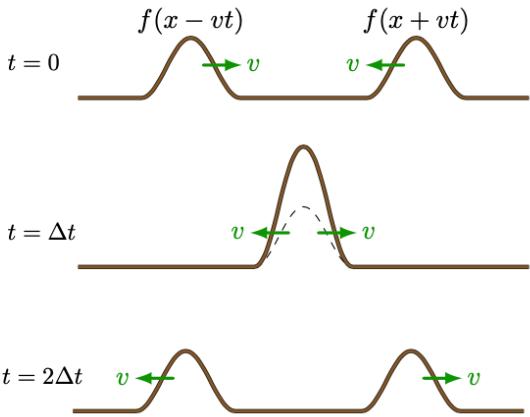
↑  
any shape

Moving to the left,  $y(x, t) = f(x + vt)$

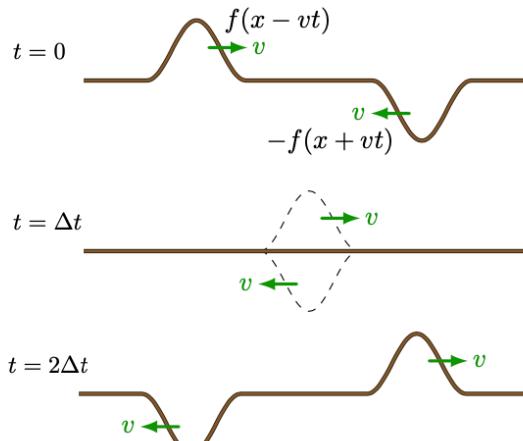
If we had 2 waves, one to the left + one to the right, we can add them linearly

$$y(x, t) = y(x - vt) + y(x + vt)$$

Superposition: is the addition of waves

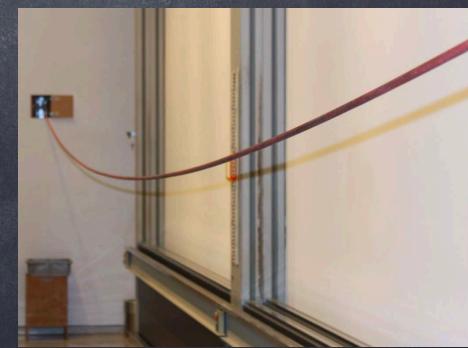


**(a)** Constructive interference happens when two oppositely waves meet on a string.

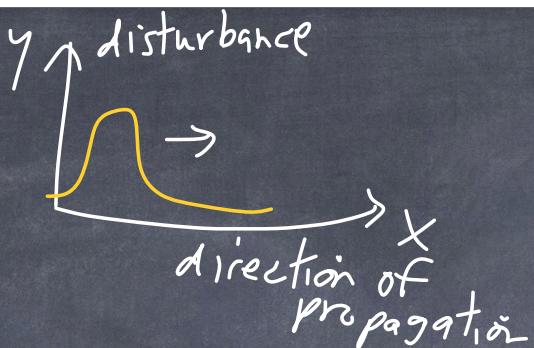


**(b)** Destructive interference. If the waves are the same but for a sign, they cancel completely.

**Figure 13.5:** Superposition between two oppositely travelling waves in the same medium is a simple linear sum.

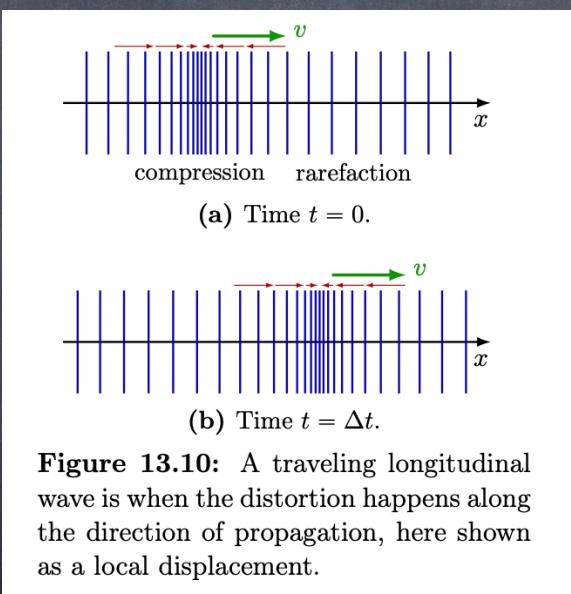


Transverse  
wave:



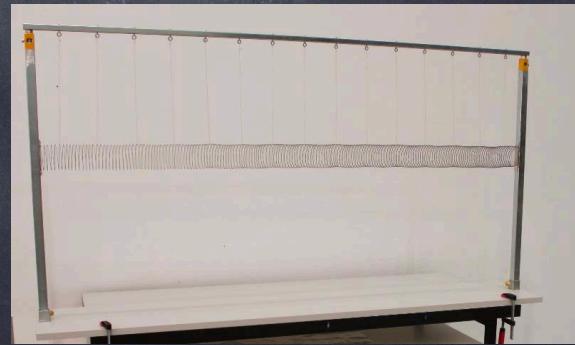
disturbance  $\perp$  direction  
it moves

Longitudinal  
wave



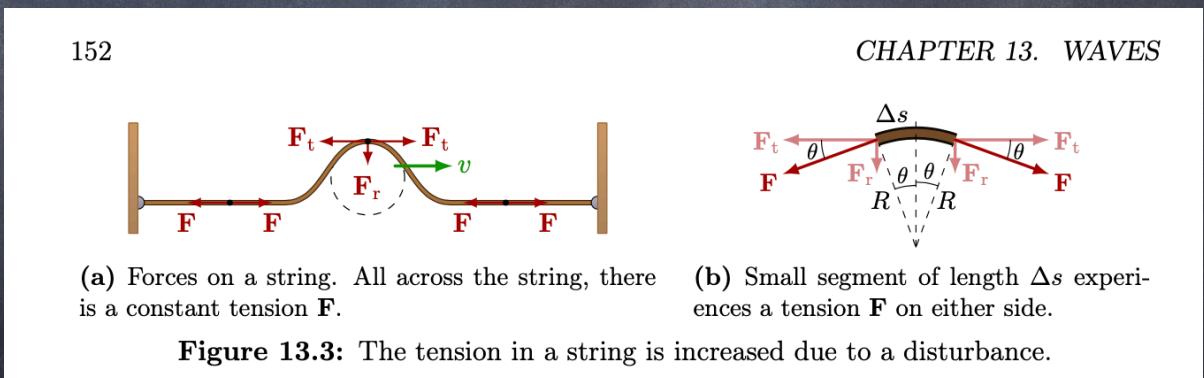
**Figure 13.10:** A traveling longitudinal wave is when the distortion happens along the direction of propagation, here shown as a local displacement.

disturbance  $\parallel$  direction  
it moves  
(Sound waves are longitudinal waves)



Speed of a wave on a string ] T: tension of string  
 velocity of the disturbance  $V = \sqrt{\frac{T}{M}}$  ← Faster if tension is larger  
 M: mass per length  
 Slower if mass per length is larger

Derivation of this formula in script §13.1.2



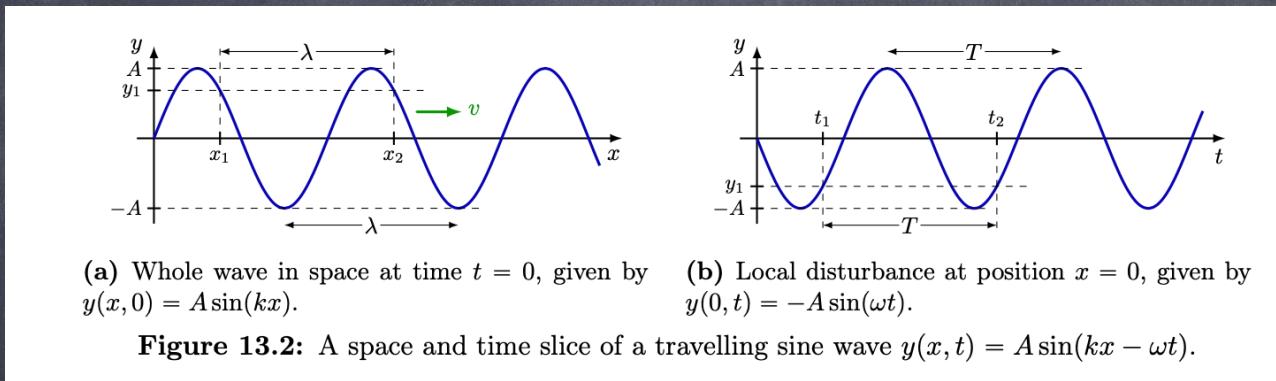
General form for a wave is  $y(x,t) = f(x-vt)$

One type of wave is a sine wave:

$$y(x,t) = A \sin(kx - \omega t) \quad (1)$$

$t=0 \Downarrow$

$x=0 \Downarrow$



(a) Whole wave in space at time  $t = 0$ , given by  $y(x, 0) = A \sin(kx)$ .

(b) Local disturbance at position  $x = 0$ , given by  $y(0, t) = -A \sin(\omega t)$ .

Figure 13.2: A space and time slice of a travelling sine wave  $y(x,t) = A \sin(kx - \omega t)$ .

what is  $k$ ? we see that the wave repeats every wavelength  
So for  $x_2 = x_1 + \lambda$ ,  $y(x_1, 0) = y(x_2, 0)$

from (1) (with  $t=0$ ),  $A \sin(kx_1) = A \sin(kx_2) = A \sin(kx_1 + k\lambda)$

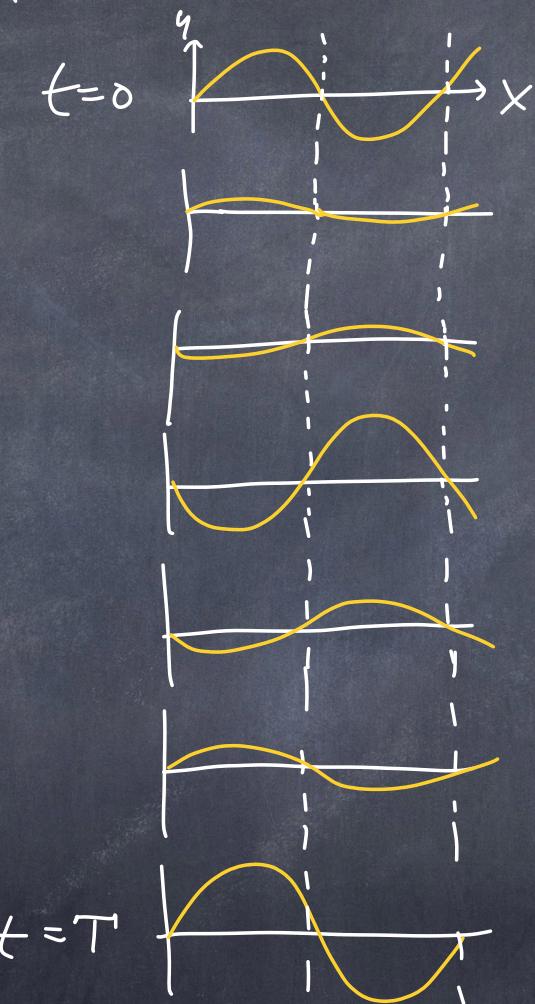
This happens only if  $k\lambda = n(2\pi)$  where  $n = 0, \pm 1, \pm 2, \dots$

The smallest interval between repeating points is for  $n = 1$

$$\text{so } k\lambda = 2\pi$$

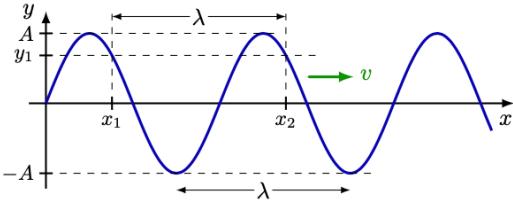
$$\Rightarrow \boxed{k = \frac{2\pi}{\lambda} \text{ wave number}}$$

The shape of a wave changes in the same place, with time.

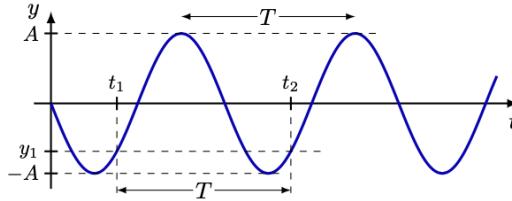


The wave repeats  
every time =  $T$   
↗  
the period

so when  $x=0$



(a) Whole wave in space at time  $t = 0$ , given by  
 $y(x, 0) = A \sin(kx)$ .



(b) Local disturbance at position  $x = 0$ , given by  
 $y(0, t) = -A \sin(\omega t)$ .

Figure 13.2: A space and time slice of a travelling sine wave  $y(x, t) = A \sin(kx - \omega t)$ .

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

$$\text{when } x=0, y(0, t) = A \sin(-\omega t)$$

Two moments in time,  $t_1$  and  $t_2 = t_1 + T$   
must be separated by  $2\pi$

$$\text{so } \omega(t_1 + T) = \omega t_1 + 2\pi$$

and 
$$\boxed{\omega = \frac{2\pi}{T} \quad \text{angular velocity}}$$

Summary: For our wave,  $\lambda$  wavelength [m]  
 $T$  period [s]  
 $v$  velocity  $\left[\frac{m}{s}\right]$

The velocity of our wave is

$$v = \frac{\lambda}{T} = f\lambda \quad f = \frac{1}{T} \left[ \frac{1}{s} \right] = [\text{Hz}]$$

wave number  $k = \frac{2\pi}{\lambda} \left[ \frac{1}{m} \right]$

angular velocity  $\omega = 2\pi f = \frac{2\pi}{T} \left[ \frac{1}{s} \right]$   
 (angular frequency)

$$v = \frac{\lambda}{T} = \frac{\frac{2\pi}{k}}{\frac{2\pi}{\omega}} = \frac{\omega}{k}$$

$v = \frac{\omega}{k}$

Example  
 for a  
 sine  
 wave

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

$$y(x,t) = A \sin\left[2\pi\left(\frac{x}{\lambda} - \frac{t}{T}\right)\right]$$

wave function  
 for a moving  
 sine wave  
 same form but  
 with  $\lambda + T$

wave equation  $\frac{\partial^2 y}{\partial x^2} = \frac{1}{N^2} \frac{\partial^2 y}{\partial t^2}$   $y(x, t)$

see derivation  $\rightarrow$

### 13.2 Wave equation

all wave functions satisfy the wave equation:

consider  $f(x, t) = A \sin(kx - \omega t)$

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

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial t} = -Aw \cos(kx - \omega t), \quad \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial t^2} = -Aw^2 \sin(kx - \omega t)$$

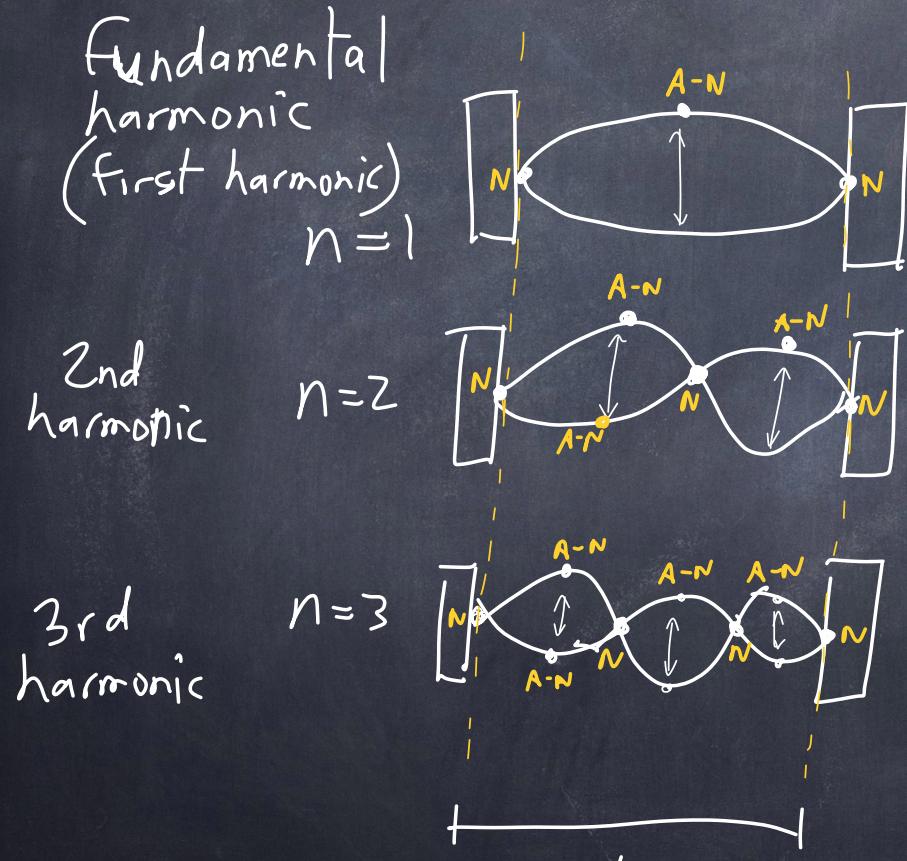
$$\frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x^2} = \frac{1}{N^2} \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial t^2}$$

$$-Ak^2 \sin(kx - \omega t) = \frac{1}{N^2} (-Aw^2 \sin(kx - \omega t))$$

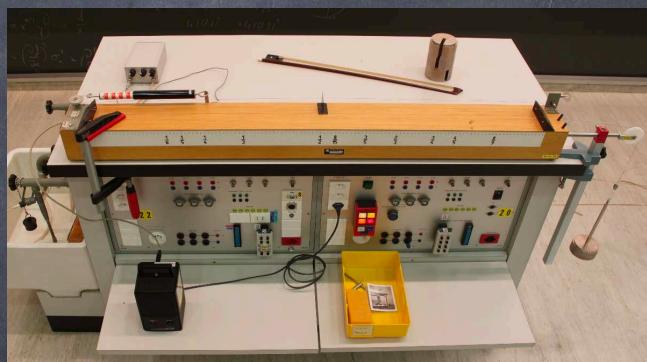
$$\frac{k^2}{w^2} = \frac{1}{N^2} \Rightarrow N = \frac{\omega}{k}, \text{ which is true.}$$

Standing waves - when we confine waves, the waves will reflect and combine by the superposition principle.

There are resonant frequencies and wavelengths in standing waves.



$L$ : size of the space that the wave is confined



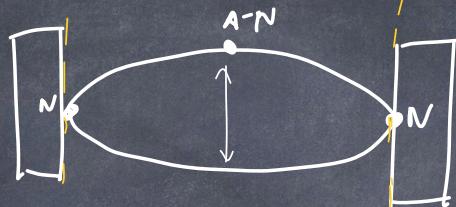
N: Nodes (points that don't move)  
A-N: anti-nodes (points that move maximally)



one  $\lambda = \text{---}$

key

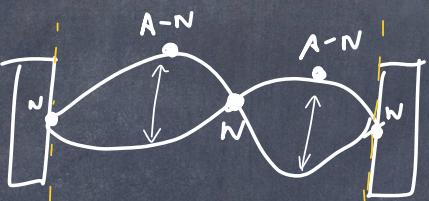
$n=1$



$\frac{1}{2}$  of wave

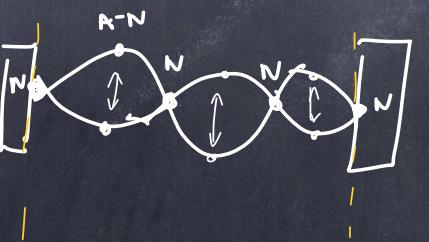
$$L = \frac{\lambda}{2} \Rightarrow \lambda = 2L$$

$n=2$



$$L = \lambda$$

$n=3$



$1 + \frac{1}{2}$  waves

$$L = \frac{3}{2} \lambda$$

$$\lambda = \frac{2}{3} L$$

In general, the wavelengths of the harmonics are  $\lambda_n = \frac{L}{n} 2$   
 $n = 1, 2, 3, \dots$

The frequencies of the  $n^{\text{th}}$  harmonic  $N = f \lambda$

$$f_n = \frac{N}{\lambda_n} = \frac{N}{\frac{2L}{n}} = \frac{nN}{2L} \quad \text{for } n=1, 2, 3, \dots$$

For  $n=1$ ,  
first harmonic

$$f_1 = \frac{1 \cdot N}{2L} = \frac{N}{2L}$$

for a string,  $N = \sqrt{\frac{F}{\mu}}$   $f_1 = \frac{1}{2L} \sqrt{\frac{F}{\mu}}$  tension on string

IF we know  $f_1$ ,  $f_n = n \cdot f_1$

$$f_1 = \frac{N}{2L} \quad f_n = \frac{nN}{2L}$$

All standing waves have a frequency that is a multiple of the first harmonic,  $f_1$ , depends on tension, length,  $\frac{\text{mass}}{\text{length}}$

$$f_n = n f_1$$

first, we find  $f_1$ , the frequency of the first harmonic.

Then,  $f_2 = 2 f_1$

$$f_3 = 3 f_1$$

...



standing wave functions - consider the superposition  
of a wave moving to the left and to the right.

$$y_R = A \sin(kx - \omega t)$$

$$y_L = A \sin(kx + \omega t)$$

$k + \omega$  are both the same

$$y(x, t) = y_R + y_L = A [\sin(kx - \omega t) + \sin(kx + \omega t)]$$

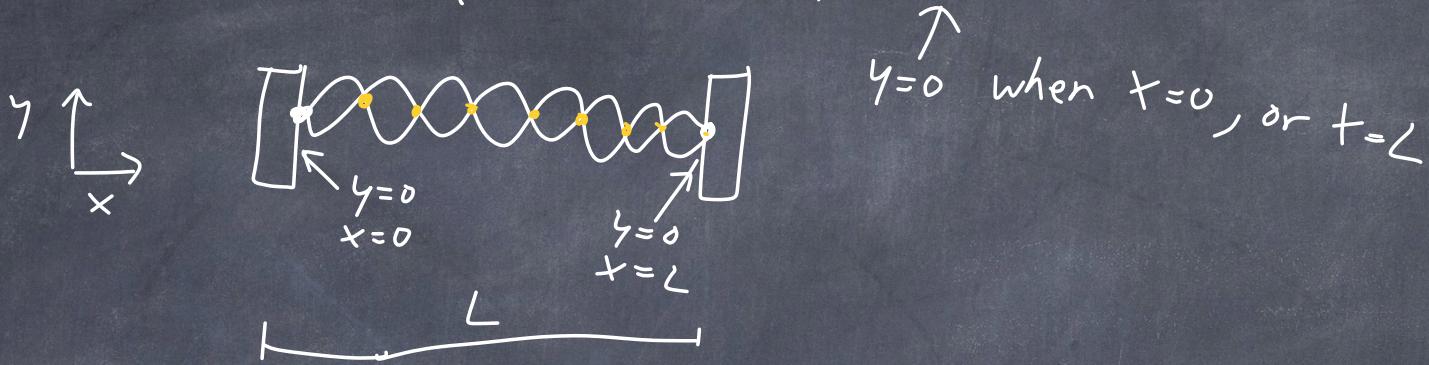
substitution

$$\begin{aligned} \sin \theta_1 + \sin \theta_2 &= 2 \cos \frac{1}{2}(\theta_1 - \theta_2) \sin \frac{1}{2}(\theta_1 + \theta_2) \\ \text{we set } \theta_1 &= kx + \omega t \\ \text{and } \theta_2 &= kx - \omega t \\ \text{add these: } \theta_1 + \theta_2 &= 2kx \\ \theta_1 - \theta_2 &= 2\omega t \end{aligned}$$

$$y(x, t) = 2A \cos \omega t \sin kx$$

formula for a standing wave with 2 fixed ends (nodes)

Now only some  $\omega + k$  work for standing waves.  
we consider the boundary conditions



when does  $y=0$ ? Happens when  $\sin kL = 0$

$$\text{So } k_n L = n\pi \quad n = 1, 2, 3, \dots$$

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

$$k_n = \frac{n\pi}{L} \quad \text{for } n = 1, 2, \dots$$

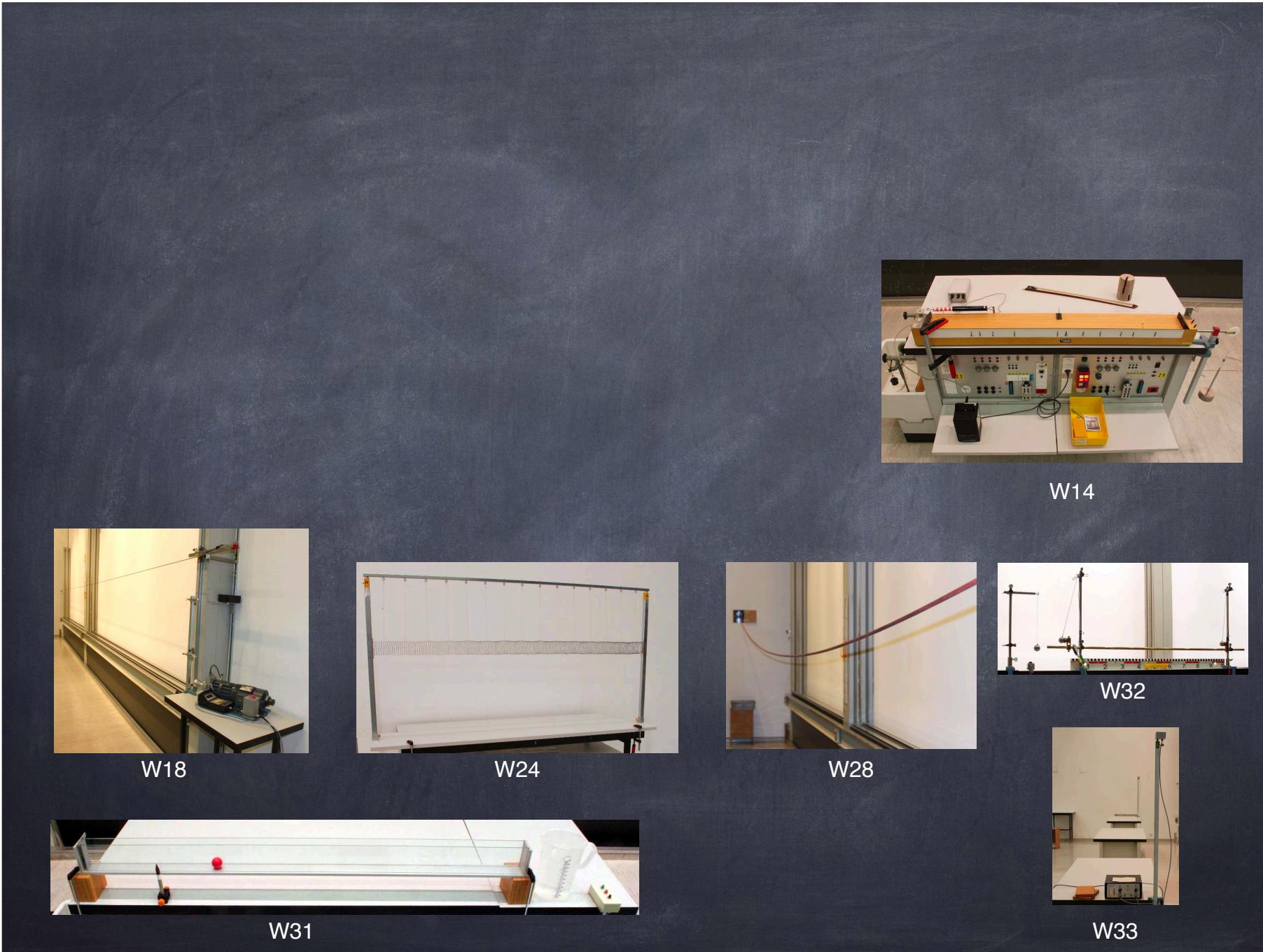
allowed  
wave numbers

$$\text{we know } f_n = \frac{\nu}{\lambda_n} = \frac{Nn}{2L} \quad n = 1, 2, 3, \dots$$

$$f_n = n \cdot f_1$$

$$f_1 = \frac{1}{2L} \sqrt{\frac{F}{m}}$$

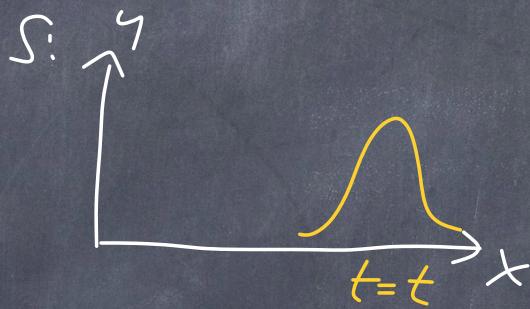
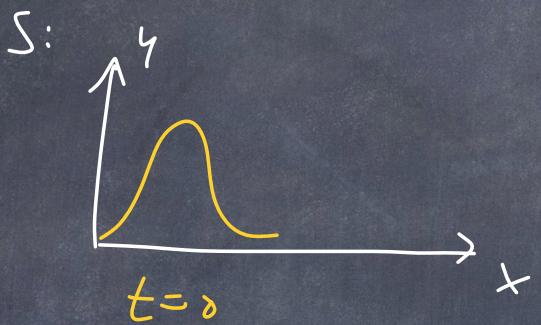
$$\text{Since } \omega_n = 2\pi f_n \quad \omega_n = 2\pi n f_1 \quad \text{for } n = 1, 2, 3, \dots$$



we define 2 coordinate systems (or rest frames):

$S$ : not moving

$S'$ : moving with same velocity as wave



$S'$  has  
velocity  $\sim$



$$y' = y$$
$$x' = x - vt$$

So we see that we can describe our wave in the  $S$  frame by transforming its shape back to time  $t=0$ :  $y(x',t) = y(x-vt)$

wave function  
for wave moving  
to the right