

## The wave equation - solution by separation of variables

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

Try  $y(x,t) = X(x)T(t)$

$$T(t) \frac{d^2 X(x)}{dx^2} = \frac{1}{v^2} X(x) \frac{d^2 T(t)}{dt^2} \Rightarrow \frac{\ddot{X}}{X} = \frac{1}{v^2} \frac{\ddot{T}}{T}$$

Hence  $\frac{\ddot{X}}{X} = \frac{1}{v^2} \frac{\ddot{T}}{T} = C_s = -k^2$ ,  $C_s$  "Separation Constant" (taken **-ve** here)

A,B,C,D constants

$$\begin{array}{l} \ddot{X} + k^2 X = 0 \\ \ddot{T} + k^2 v^2 T = 0 \end{array} \Rightarrow \begin{array}{l} X = A \sin kx + B \cos kx \\ T = C \sin kvt + D \cos kvt \end{array}$$

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Hence  $\frac{\ddot{X}}{X} = \frac{1}{v^2} \frac{\ddot{T}}{T} = C_s = +k^2$ ,  $C_s$  "Separation Constant" (taken +ve here)

$k$  complex possible too



A, B, C, D constants

$\ddot{X} + k^2 X = 0$	$\Rightarrow$	$X = Ae^{kx} + Be^{-kx}$
$\ddot{T} + k^2 v^2 T = 0$		$T = Ce^{kvt} + De^{-kvt}$

For vibrating string physically relevant case is  $-k^2$

$$y(x,t) = X(x)T(t) = (A \sin kx + B \cos kx)(C \sin kvt + D \cos kvt) \\ = A'(\sin kx + B' \cos kx)(\sin kvt + D' \cos kvt)$$

Relation to d'Alembert's solution?

$$y(x,t) = \alpha \cos(kx + \delta) \cos(kvt + \rho), \quad (\alpha, \rho, \delta \text{ constants})$$

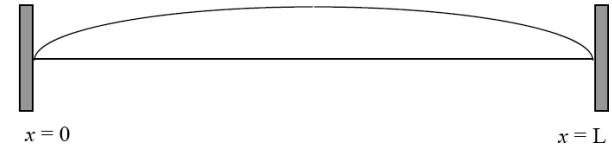
$$= \frac{\alpha}{2} [\cos(k(x + vt) + \delta + \rho) + \cos(k(x - vt) + \delta - \rho)]$$

$$(= f(x + vt) + g(x - vt))$$

## Example 1

String with fixed ends initially displaced and at rest

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



Initial conditions :  $y(x,t=0) = h(x)$ ,  $\frac{\partial y}{\partial t}(x,t=0) = 0$

End points:  $y(0,t)=y(L,t)=0$ , for all  $t$

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

$$y(0,t) = 0 \Rightarrow B=0$$

$$\frac{\partial y}{\partial t}(x,t=0) = 0 \Rightarrow C = 0$$

$$y(L,t) = 0 \Rightarrow kL = n\pi, n \in \mathbb{Z}$$

Eigenvalue equation

Principle of superposition

$$y(x,t) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n \sin \frac{n\pi x}{L} \cos \frac{n\pi vt}{L}$$

$A_n$  constants

$$y(x,t) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n \sin \frac{n\pi x}{L} \cos \frac{n\pi vt}{L}$$

$A_n$  fixed by initial conditions

$$y(x,0) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n \sin \frac{n\pi x}{L} = h(x)$$

*eg(a)*  $h(x) = B \sin(m\pi x / L)$

$$A_m = B, \quad A_{n \neq m} = 0$$

$$y(x,t) = B \sin \frac{m\pi x}{L} \cos \frac{m\pi vt}{L}$$

Standing wave - single normal mode excited

$$y(x,t) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n \sin \frac{n\pi x}{L} \cos \frac{n\pi vt}{L}$$

$A_n$  fixed by initial conditions

$$y(x,0) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n \sin \frac{n\pi x}{L} = h(x)$$

*eg(b)*  $h(x) = \sin \frac{\pi x}{L} + \frac{1}{2} \sin \frac{2\pi x}{L} \quad A_1 = 1, \quad A_2 = \frac{1}{2}, \quad A_{n \neq 1,2} = 0$

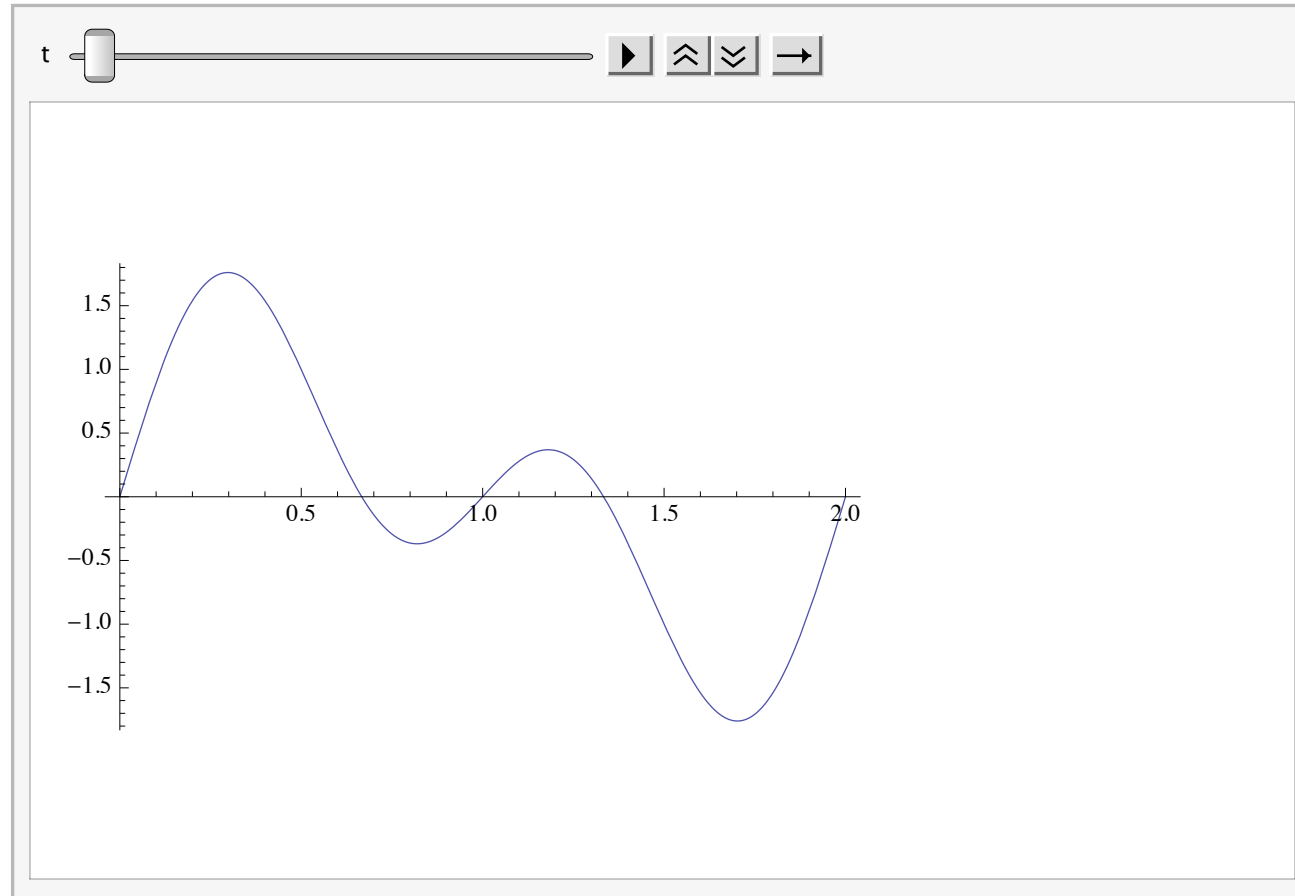
$$y(x,t) = \sin \frac{\pi x}{L} \cos \frac{\pi vt}{L} + \frac{1}{2} \sin \frac{2\pi x}{L} \cos \frac{2\pi vt}{L}$$

N.B. For non-NM initial displacement, subsequent motion is NOT EQUAL to initial displacement  $\times$  varying amplitude.

Shorter wavelengths oscillate faster (constant speed) -Hence shape of wave varies during oscillation.

```
In[1]:= Animate[Plot[Sin[ $\pi x$ ] Cos[ $\pi t$ ] + Sin[ $2 \pi x$ ] Cos[ $2 \pi t$ ], {x, 0, 2}],  
{t, 0, 2}, AnimationRunning  $\rightarrow$  False]
```

Out[1]=



$$y(x,t) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n \sin \frac{n\pi x}{L} \cos \frac{n\pi vt}{L}$$

“Fourier series” (2nd year)

$A_n$  fixed by initial conditions

$$y(x,0) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n \sin \frac{n\pi x}{L} = h(x)$$

General solution

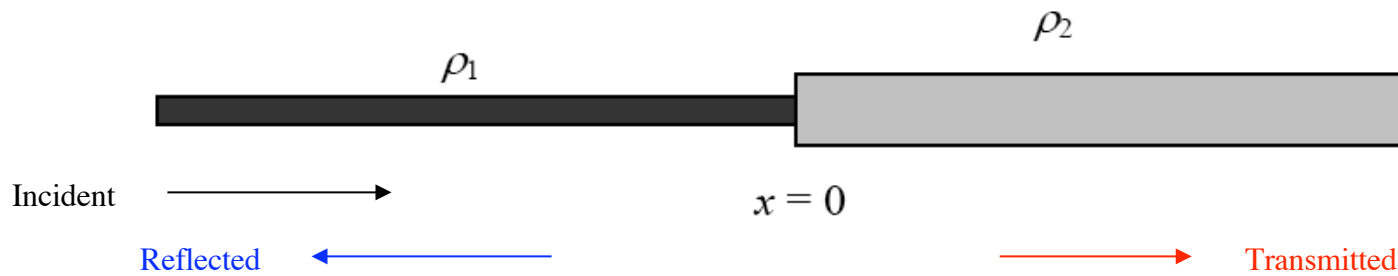
$$A_n = \frac{2}{L} \int_0^L h(x) \sin \frac{n\pi x}{L} dx$$

Follows from orthogonality of sines

$$\frac{2}{L} \int_0^L \sin \frac{m\pi x}{L} \sin \frac{n\pi x}{L} dx = \begin{cases} 0, & \text{if } m \neq n \\ 1, & \text{if } m=n \end{cases}$$







$$\psi_{incident} = A \sin(\omega t - k_1 x)$$

$$\text{Im}\{Ae^{i\{k_1 x - \omega t\}}\} \quad (A, A', A'' \text{ real here})$$

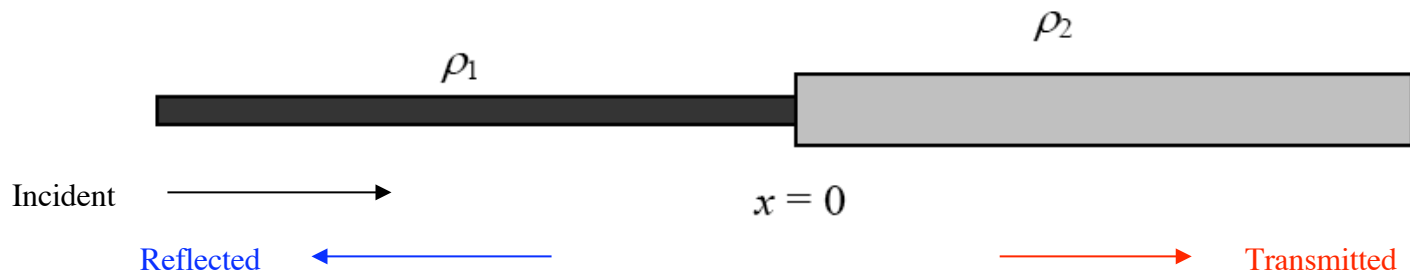
$$\psi_{reflected} = A' \sin(\omega t + k_1 x)$$

$$\text{Im}\{A'e^{-i\{k_1 x + \omega t\}}\}$$

$$\psi_{transmitted} = A'' \sin(\omega t - k_2 x)$$

$$\text{Im}\{A''e^{i\{k_2 x - \omega t\}}\}$$

- All waves have same  $\omega$  - necessary to satisfy boundary condition at  $x=0$
- Right moving waves  $-k_1 x$
- Left moving waves  $+k_2 x$



$$\psi_{\text{incident}} = A \sin(\omega t - k_1 x)$$

$$\psi_{\text{reflected}} = A' \sin(\omega t + k_1 x)$$

$$\psi_{\text{transmitted}} = A'' \sin(\omega t - k_2 x)$$

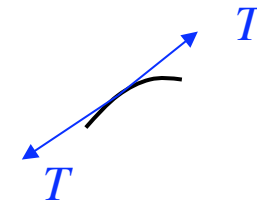
### Boundary conditions

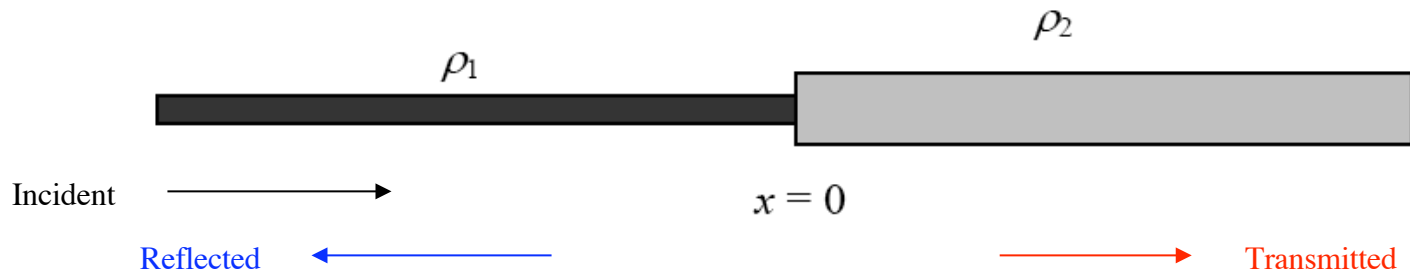
$$y(x = 0-, t) = y(x = 0+, t)$$

$$\frac{\partial y}{\partial x}(x = 0-, t) = \frac{\partial y}{\partial x}(x = 0+, t)$$

String continuous

Forces continuous





$$\psi_{incident} = A \sin(\omega t - k_1 x)$$

$$\psi_{reflected} = A' \sin(\omega t + k_1 x)$$

$$\psi_{transmitted} = A'' \sin(\omega t - k_2 x)$$

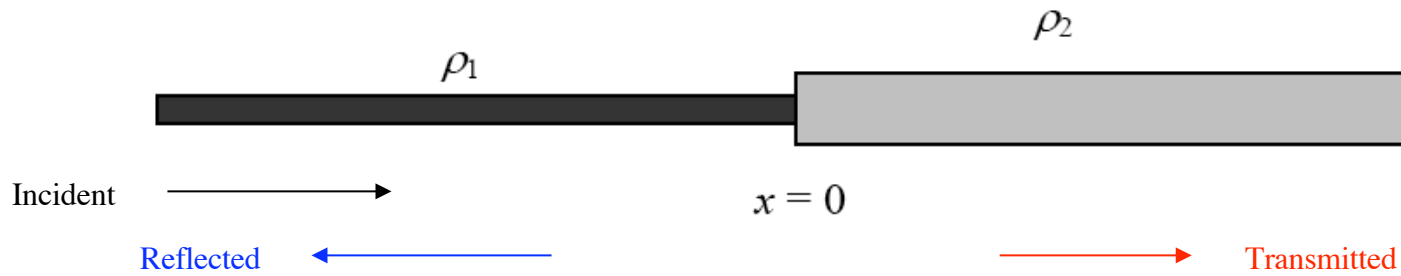
### Boundary conditions

$$y(x = 0-, t) = y(x = 0+, t)$$

$$\psi_{incident}(x = 0, t) + \psi_{reflected}(0, t) = \psi_{transmitted}(0, t)$$

$$\frac{\partial y}{\partial x}(x = 0-, t) = \frac{\partial y}{\partial x}(x = 0+, t)$$

$$\frac{\partial \psi_{incident}(x = 0, t)}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial \psi_{reflected}(0, t)}{\partial x} = \frac{\partial \psi_{transmitted}(0, t)}{\partial x}$$



$$\psi_{incident} = A \sin(\omega t - k_1 x)$$

$$\psi_{reflected} = A' \sin(\omega t + k_1 x)$$

$$\psi_{transmitted} = A'' \sin(\omega t - k_2 x)$$

### Boundary conditions

$$y(x = 0-, t) = y(x = 0+, t)$$

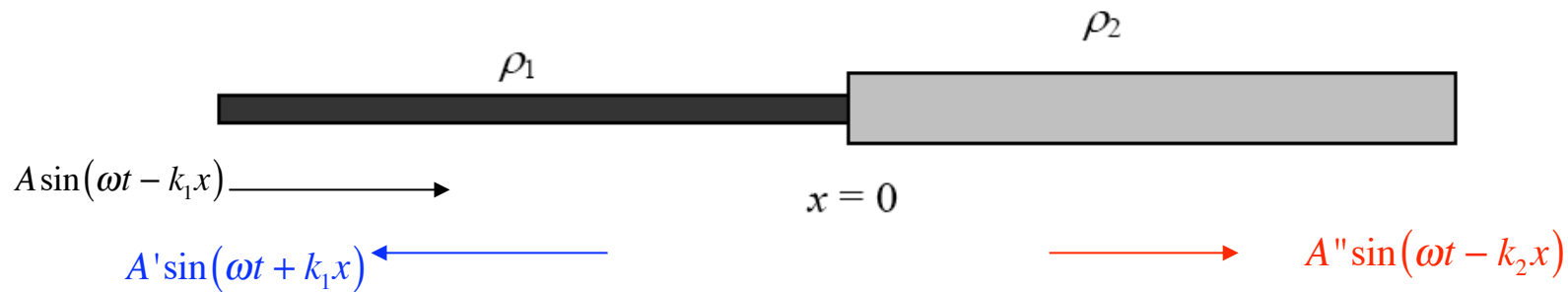
$$\psi_{incident}(x = 0, t) + \psi_{reflected}(0, t) = \psi_{transmitted}(0, t)$$

$$\frac{\partial y}{\partial x}(x = 0-, t) = \frac{\partial y}{\partial x}(x = 0+, t)$$

$$\frac{\partial \psi_{incident}(x = 0, t)}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial \psi_{reflected}(0, t)}{\partial x} = \frac{\partial \psi_{transmitted}(0, t)}{\partial x}$$

$$A + A' = A''$$

$$k_1(A - A') = k_2 A''$$



$$A + A' = A''$$

$$k_1 (A - A') = k_2 A''$$

$$r = \frac{A'}{A} = \frac{k_1 - k_2}{k_1 + k_2} \quad \text{reflection amplitude}$$

$$t = \frac{A''}{A} = \frac{2k_1}{k_1 + k_2} \quad \text{transmission amplitude}$$

Special cases:

1)  $k_1 = k_2 \Rightarrow A' = 0, t = \frac{A''}{A} = 1$  No reflection

2)  $k_1 < k_2 \Rightarrow A'$  is negative Reflected wave =  $-|A'| \sin(\omega t + k_1 x) = |A'| \sin(\omega t + k_1 x + \pi)$   
 i.e. PHASE CHANGE at rare-dense boundary ( $k_1 < k_2 \Rightarrow \rho_1 < \rho_2$ ) [ $v = \omega / k = \sqrt{T / \rho}$ ]

3)  $k_1 > k_2 \Rightarrow A'$  is positive

4)  $\rho_2 \rightarrow \infty \Rightarrow k_2 \rightarrow \infty \quad r = \frac{A'}{A} \rightarrow -1 \quad T \rightarrow 0$  No wave in very heavy string

## Energy flux at boundaries

Power flux  $P = \frac{1}{2}T\omega kA^2$  (Energy flow per unit time)

Incident power flux  $P_I = \frac{1}{2}T\omega k_1 A^2$

Reflected power flux  $P_R = \frac{1}{2}T\omega k_1 A'^2$

Transmitted power flux  $P_T = \frac{1}{2}T\omega k_2 A''^2$

$$R_P = \frac{P_R}{P_I} = \frac{A'^2}{A^2} = r^2 = \left( \frac{k_1 - k_2}{k_1 + k_2} \right)^2 \quad \text{Coefficient of reflection}$$

$$T_P = \frac{P_T}{P_I} = \frac{k_2 A''^2}{k_1 A^2} = \frac{k_2}{k_1} t^2 = \frac{k_2}{k_1} \left( \frac{2k_1}{k_1 + k_2} \right)^2 = \frac{4k_1 k_2}{(k_1 + k_2)^2} \quad \text{Coefficient of transmission}$$

$$R_P + T_P = \left( \frac{k_1 - k_2}{k_1 + k_2} \right)^2 + \frac{4k_1 k_2}{(k_1 + k_2)^2} = \frac{k_1^2 + 2k_1 k_2 + k_2^2}{(k_1 + k_2)^2} = 1 \quad \text{Conservation of energy}$$