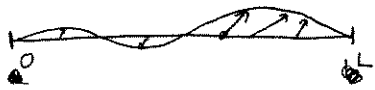


§9.6

Vibrating strings & the wave equation



vibrating string.

We assume tension in string changes as it is stretched,

i.e.  $T = T(\rho)$   $\rho = \text{density}$  (probably  $T(\rho) \propto \rho g \ell$ )

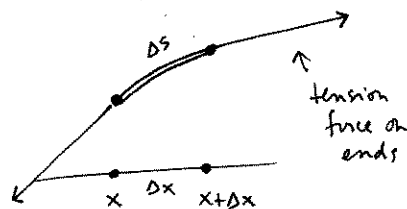
$$T = \underbrace{T(\rho_0)}_{T_0} + T'(\rho_0)(\rho - \rho_0) \quad \text{linearized model; } T_0, \rho_0 \text{ for stationary (but stretched) string.}$$

case 1 transverse (vertical) vibrations

$y = y(x, t) = \text{vertical displacement}$



isolate a tiny piece, apply Newton's Law, linearize, to deduce wave eqn:



$$\underbrace{\rho \Delta s}_{\text{mass}} \underbrace{y_{tt}}_{\text{accel}} =$$

$$\underbrace{T \frac{y_x}{\sqrt{1+y_x^2}}}_{\substack{\text{net forces} \\ \text{tension} \\ \downarrow \\ \text{vertical component} \\ \text{of unit} \\ \text{tang. vector to} \\ \text{profile curve}}} \Bigg|_x^{x+\Delta x}$$

linearize

$$\frac{\Delta s}{\Delta x} \approx \sqrt{1+y_x^2} \approx 1$$

( $y_x$  small  $\Rightarrow y_x^2$  negligible)

$$\rho_0(\Delta x) y_{tt} \approx T_0 (y_x(x+\Delta x) - y_x(x))$$

$$\rho \Delta s = \rho_0 \Delta x$$

$$\Rightarrow \rho = \rho_0 \frac{ds}{dx} = \rho_0 \sqrt{1+y_x^2} \approx \rho_0$$

$$\Rightarrow T \approx T_0$$

$$\rho_0 y_{tt} \approx T_0 \left( \frac{y_x(x+\Delta x) - y_x(x)}{\Delta x} \right)$$

$$y_{tt} = \left( \frac{T_0}{\rho_0} \right) y_{xx}$$

$$\boxed{y_{tt} = a^2 y_{xx}}$$

$$a = \sqrt{\frac{T_0}{\rho_0}}$$

What does "a" mean?

Special solution:

Let  $f(z)$  a function of 1-variable.

consider  $y(x,t) = f(x-at)$

$y_t = f'(x-at)(-a)$  chain rule!

$y_{tt} = f''(x-at) a^2$

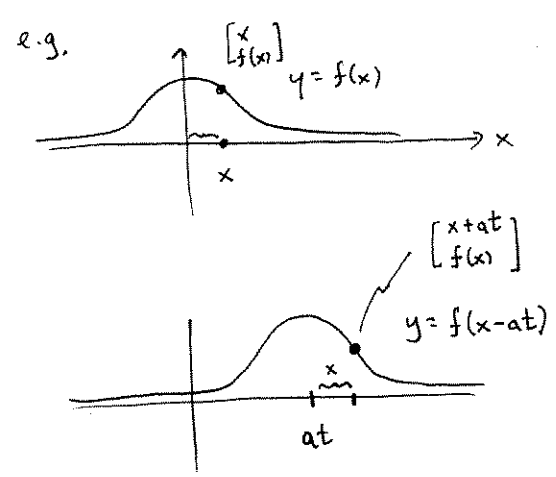
$y_x = f'(x-at) 1$

$y_{xx} = f''(x-at) 1$

$y_{tt} = a^2 y_{xx} !$

(also,  $y(x,t) = f(x+at)$  solves the wave equation.)

$y(x,t) = f(x-at)$  is a wave (with constant "profile") moving to the right  
with speed  $a$ !



profile at  $t=0$

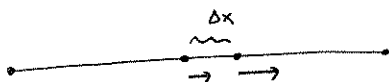
profile at time  $t$

$y(x,t) = f(x+at)$  is a wave moving to the left!

(It will turn out that every solution to the wave eqn  $y_{tt} - a^2 y_{xx} = 0$  is a superposition of waves traveling to the left or right with speed  $a$ !)

In case 1,  $a = \sqrt{\frac{T_0}{\rho_0}}$ , so higher tension  $\Rightarrow$  faster speed  
lower density  $\Rightarrow$  faster speed.

case 2 parallel (horizontal) vibrations



$u(x, t)$  = horizontal displacement.

$$\Delta s = (x + \Delta x) + u(x + \Delta x, t) - [x + u(x, t)]$$

$$\Delta s = \Delta x + \Delta u$$

$$\frac{ds}{dx} = 1 + u_x$$

$$\rho ds = \rho_0 dx$$

$$\rho = \rho_0 \frac{dx}{ds} = \rho_0 \frac{1}{1 + u_x} \approx \rho_0 (1 - u_x) \quad (\text{linearize!})$$

$$\text{so } T = T(\rho) = T(\rho_0) + T'(\rho_0)(-\rho_0 u_x)$$

Newton:

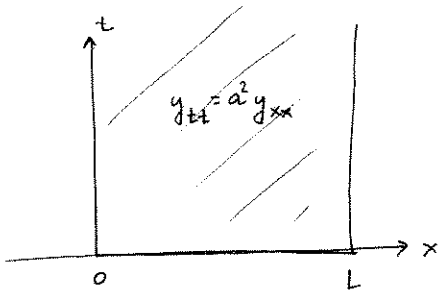
$$\begin{aligned} \underbrace{(\rho \Delta s)}_{\rho_0 \Delta x} u_{tt} &= T \Big|_x^{x+\Delta x} = T(\rho_0) + T'(\rho_0)(-\rho_0 u_x(x+\Delta x, t)) - [T(\rho_0) + T'(\rho_0)(-\rho_0 u_x(x, t))] \\ &= -\rho_0 T'(\rho_0) [u_x(x+\Delta x, t) - u_x(x, t)] \end{aligned}$$

↓

$$u_{tt} = [-T'(\rho_0)] u_{xx}$$

also a wave eqn,  
but with different speed  $a = \sqrt{-T'(\rho_0)}$

Natural IBVP's for wave eqn:



$$\left\{ \begin{array}{ll} y_{tt} = a^2 y_{xx} & t > 0, 0 < x < L \\ y(x, 0) = f(x) & \text{initial displacement} \\ y_t(x, 0) = g(x) & \text{initial velocity} \end{array} \right.$$

- plus
- ①  $y(0, t) = y(L, t) = 0$  fixed endpoints
  - ②  $y_x(0, t) = y_x(L, t) = 0$  free endpoints

Separated soltns:

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

$$XT'' = a^2 X''T$$

$$\frac{1}{a^2} \frac{T''(t)}{T(t)} = \frac{X''(x)}{X(x)} = -\lambda$$

interesting case  $\lambda = -r^2$  yields  $X(x) = \text{span} \{ \cos rx, \sin rx \}$   
 $T(t) = \text{span} \{ \cos(art), \sin(art) \}$ .

Use Fourier series & superposition: ( $2 \times 2 = 4$ )

①  $\sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right) \cos\left(\frac{an\pi}{L} t\right)$

$$\begin{array}{l} y(x, 0) = f(x) \quad (y_t(x, 0) = 0) \\ y(0, t) = y(L, t) = 0 \end{array}$$

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$$\sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right) \sin\left(\frac{an\pi}{L} t\right)$$

$$\begin{array}{l} y_t(x, 0) = g(x) \quad (y(x, 0) = 0) \\ y(0, t) = y(L, t) = 0 \end{array}$$

②  $\cos\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right) \cos\left(\frac{an\pi}{L} t\right)$

$$\begin{array}{l} y(x, 0) = f(x) \quad (y_t(x, 0) = 0) \\ y_x(0, t) = y_x(L, t) = 0 \end{array}$$

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$$\sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right) \sin\left(\frac{an\pi}{L} t\right)$$

$$\begin{array}{l} y_t(x, 0) = g(x) \quad (y(x, 0) = 0) \\ y_x(0, t) = y_x(L, t) = 0 \end{array}$$

# Slinky math

assume equil. slinky has length  $\approx 0$ , and is Hooke's-like and mass  $m$ .

So if it's stretched to length  $L$

$$e = \frac{m}{L}$$

$$T = kL$$

$k = \text{Hooke's const.}$

## transverse oscillations

$$a = \sqrt{\frac{T}{\rho}} = \sqrt{\frac{kL}{m/L}} = L\sqrt{\frac{k}{m}}$$

## parallel oscillations:

$$T = f(e) = kL = \frac{km}{e}$$

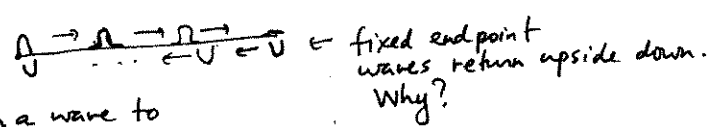
$$T'(e) = -\frac{km}{e^2}$$

$$a = \sqrt{-T'(e)} = \sqrt{\frac{km}{e^2}} = \sqrt{\frac{km}{m^2/L^2}} = L\sqrt{\frac{k}{m}}$$



① test this

## pulse period:



time for a wave to go back and forth (i.e. distance  $2L$ ) is

$$\begin{aligned} (\text{speed})(\text{time}) &= 2L \\ \text{time} &= \frac{2L}{L\sqrt{k/m}} = 2\sqrt{\frac{m}{k}} \text{ is independent of } L!! \end{aligned}$$

② test this

## alternate way to measure speed: fundamental mode (fixed endpoint)



$$y(x,t) = \sin\left(\frac{x\pi}{L}\right) \cos\left(\frac{a\pi}{L}t\right)$$

same  $a!$

$$\text{one period} = \frac{2\pi}{\omega} = \frac{2\pi}{\left(\frac{a\pi}{L}\right)}$$

$$= \frac{2L}{a} = \frac{2L}{L\sqrt{k/m}} = 2\sqrt{\frac{m}{k}}$$

= pulse period

③ test this

~~$y = \sin\left(\frac{x\pi}{L}\right)$~~   
$$y = \frac{1}{2} \left[ \sin\left(\frac{\pi}{L}(x-at)\right) + \sin\left(\frac{\pi}{L}(x+at)\right) \right]$$