

INTERFERENCE & DIFFRACTION OF WAVES + 3 BASIC TENETS OF QUANTUM MECHANICS

- What does interference mean? (Sections 17.1 & 17.5)
 - Constructive and Destructive interference
 - Both Transverse and Longitudinal Waves interfere
- Standing Waves & the *1st basic tenet of QM: Energy Quantization*
 - Standing Waves created by 2 traveling waves in opposite direction; Nodes and Antinodes (Sections 17.2, 17.3, Figs. 17.5, 17.6, 17.9)
 - The energy-levels of an atom are quantized (Bohr model) because the electron is a wave! (classnotes)
- Beats & the *2nd basic tenet of QM: Wave-Particle Duality*
 - Waves can behave like Particles
 - Consider Beats (Demo with tuning forks) (Section 17.8).
 - Many sinusoidal waves added together yield a wavepacket.
 - Time-duration of wavepacket and frequency bandwidth of the source are related.
 - Spatial extent of wavepacket – deBroglie wavelength (Section 38.4 and 39.5)
 - Can the deBroglie wavelength of an electron, or of an atom, equal the optical wavelength?
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 - Electrons interfere! Demo: Davisson-Germer expt
 - Atoms interfere! New state of Matter – Bose-Einstein condensate (1997, 2001 Physics Nobels)
- Diffraction and the *3rd basic tenet of QM: Heisenberg Uncertainty Principle (Sec. 39.6)*
 - Waves diffract, i.e., bend around obstacles

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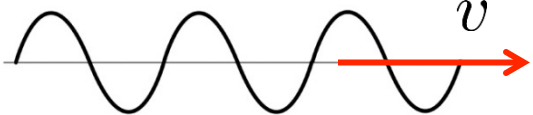
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Sec. 17.2: Standing Waves

We can form a **Standing Wave** by superposing (i.e. adding together) two travelling waves of the same amplitude, wavelength, and frequency, but travelling in the opposite directions. [1D case: Watch a video.](#)

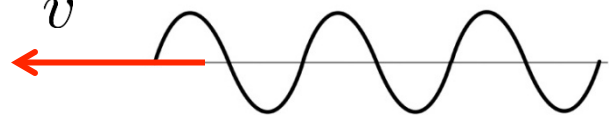
The name Standing Wave comes from the fact that the resultant wave has an amplitude that oscillates in place.

Right Travelling Wave



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

Left Travelling Wave



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

The Resultant Wave: $D(x, t) = D_R(x, t) + D_L(x, t)$

$$D(x, t) = \underbrace{2a \sin kx}_{A(x)} \cos \omega t$$

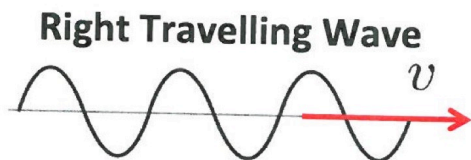
$A(x)$, amplitude function

What does
this look like
in 2D and 3D?!

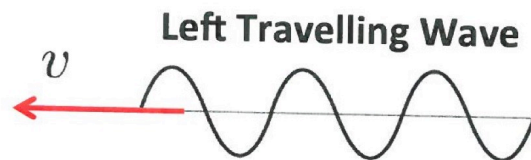
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$$D_R(x, t) = a \sin(kx - \omega t)$$



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

$$\sin A + \sin B = 2 \sin\left(\frac{A+B}{2}\right) \cos\left(\frac{A-B}{2}\right)$$

The Resultant Wave: $D(x, t) = D_R(x, t) + D_L(x, t)$

$$= a [\sin(kx - \omega t) + \sin(kx + \omega t)]$$

$$= 2a \sin kx \cos(-\omega t)$$

$$\cos(\theta) = \cos \theta$$

NOTE!
NO MATTER WHAT TIME,
STANDING WAVE ←
IS ZERO AT LOCATIONS
WHERE $\sin kx = 0$

$$D(x, t) = \underbrace{2a \sin kx}_{A(x), \text{ amplitude function}} \cos \omega t \quad \checkmark$$

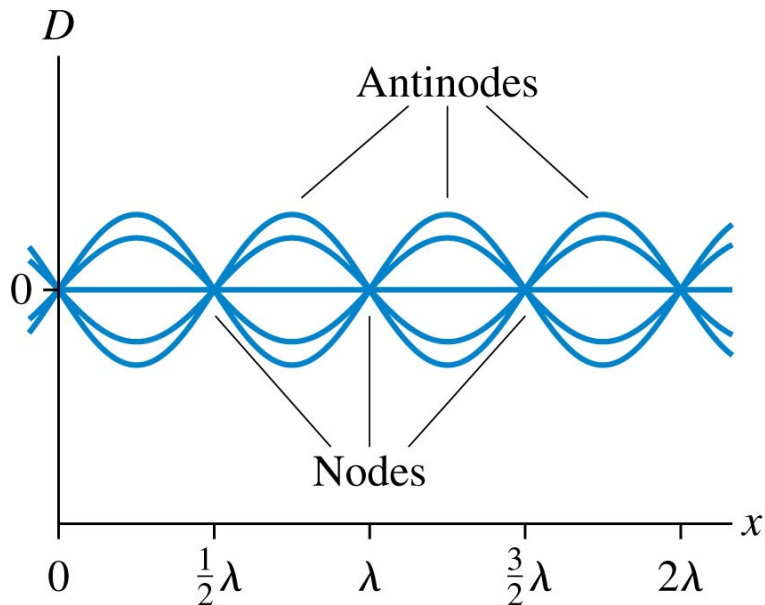
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(Back to 1D) Standing Wave Terminology

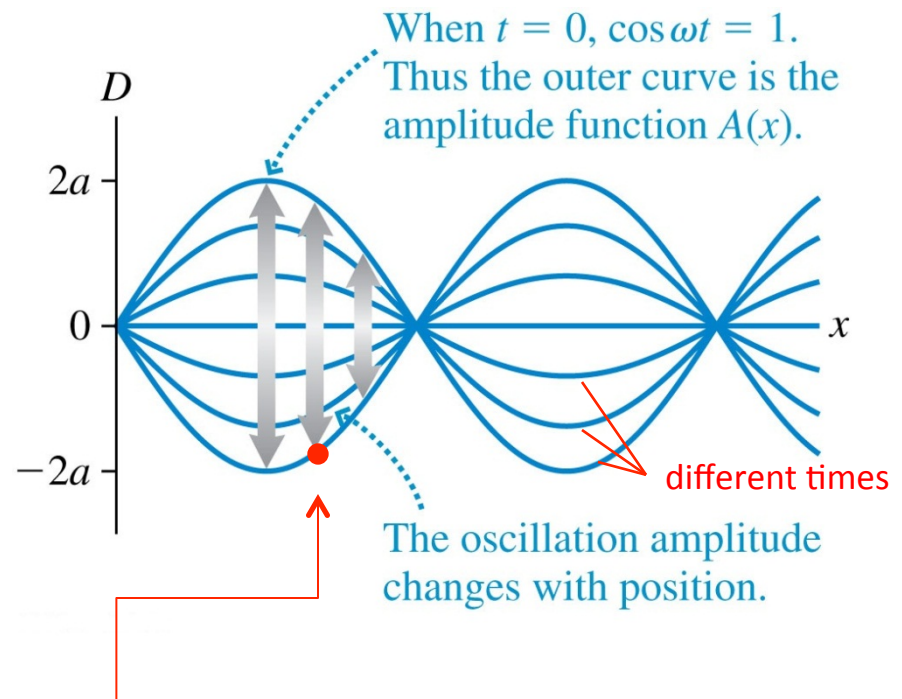
$$D(x, t) = 2a \sin kx \cos \omega t = 2a \sin \frac{2\pi x}{\lambda} \cos \omega t = A(x) \cos \omega t$$

When $\frac{x}{\lambda} = 0, \frac{1}{2}, 1, \frac{3}{2}, 2, \dots \Rightarrow$ No displacement, a **Node**

When $\frac{x}{\lambda} = \frac{1}{4}, \frac{3}{4}, \frac{5}{4}, \frac{7}{4}, \dots \Rightarrow$ Displacement is maximum, an **Antinode**



The nodes and antinodes are spaced $\lambda/2$ apart.



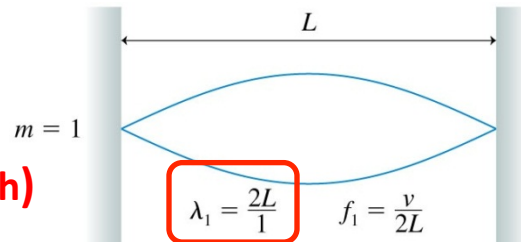
A point here has SHM with Amplitude $A(x)$

Sec. 17.3: Standing Waves on a String

For a string clamped at both ends, what are the wavelengths and frequencies of the allowed standing waves?

Standing wave condition: Both ends must be a node. So an integer number of half wavelengths can fit on the string.

**“Fundamental”
(longest wavelength)**



So, following the pattern, the allowed wavelengths are:

$$\lambda_n = \frac{2L}{n}, \text{ where } n = 1, 2, 3, \dots$$

And the allowed frequencies (v = wavespeed) are:

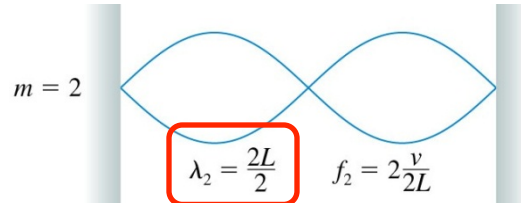
$$f_n = v / \lambda_n = n v / (2L) = n f_1$$

$$\text{where: } f_1 = \frac{v}{2L}$$

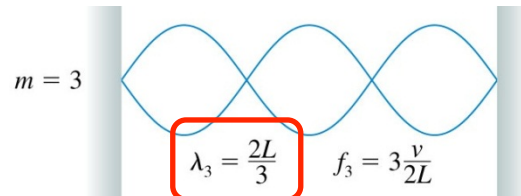
Note the important fact:

The n^{th} harmonic has n antinodes.

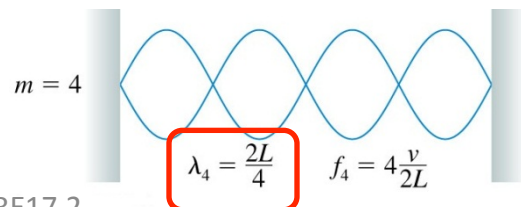
“Second Harmonic”



“Third Harmonic”



“Fourth Harmonic”



**THE FIRST
BASIC TENET
OF
QUANTUM
MECHANICS:
ENERGY
QUANTIZATION
(simplified
description of
Sections
38.4 & 38.5)**

An electron is a wave.
Q: How should I draw an atom now?

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(where do the Bohr levels of an atom
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Sections
40.2 – 40.4)

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Replace



by a simpler 1-D atom



Electron going back & forth
like a "particle in a box".

See Fig. 38.14

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• Electron
wavefunction

$$\Psi(x, t) = A \sin(kx - \omega t + \beta)$$

See Fig. 38.14

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- Electron wavefunction $\Psi(x,t) = A \sin(kx - \omega t + \beta)$
- Electron does not exist outside walls

$$\therefore \Psi(x \leq 0) = \Psi(x \geq L) = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$$

$\Rightarrow \Psi$ has at both ends.

See Fig. 38.14

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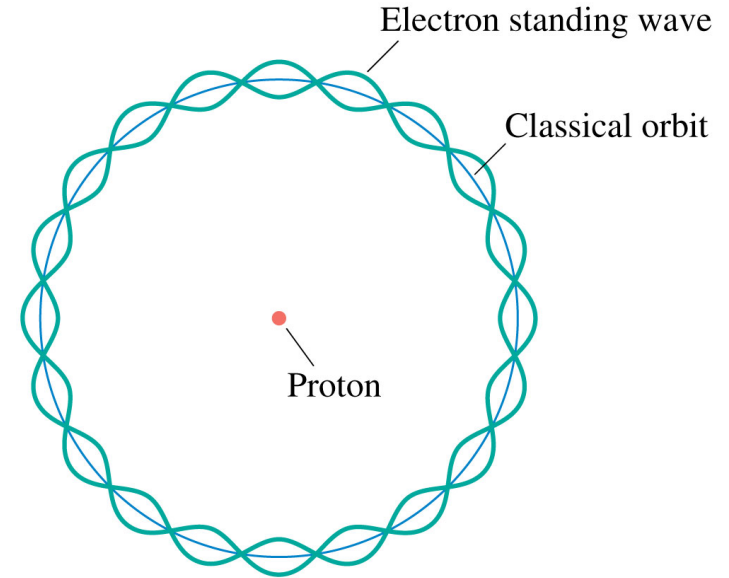
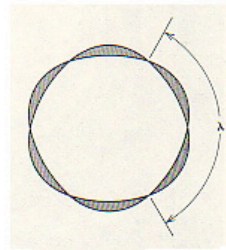
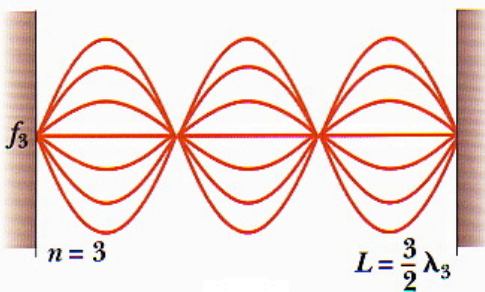
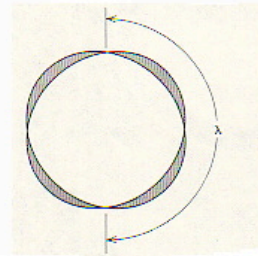
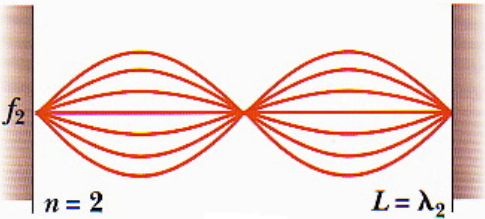
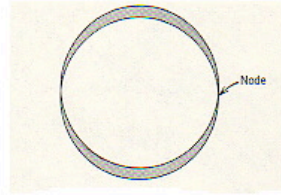
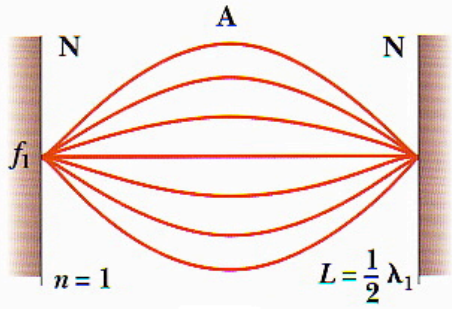


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 $\therefore \Psi(x \leq 0) = \Psi(x \geq L) = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$
- $\Rightarrow \Psi$ has at both ends.
- Ψ is beginning to remind us of !!

See Fig. 38.14

Sec. 38.4: BOHR MODEL - THE ENERGY-LEVELS OF AN ATOM ARE QUANTIZED! (see Fig. 38.18)



An $n = 10$ electron standing wave around the orbit's circumference.

- In a Bohr hydrogen atom, the wave-like electron sets up a circular standing wave.
- The orbital circumference is an integer number (10 in this case) of the electron's wavelength

$$\lambda_n = 2L / n, \text{ where } n = 1, 2, 3\dots$$

Defining signature of waves!

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Use Videos to prove: “Particles can behave like Waves”

- Recall from the pbs-nova video: Brian Greene’s “Fabric of the Cosmos” that you watched just after Thanksgiving that the **double-slit interference experiment** *with electrons (not just water waves)* yields an interference pattern!

This means electrons must be waves, not particles!

- Let’s re-watch a ~7 minute segment from 14:07 to 20.33 from Brian Greene’s “Fabric of the Cosmos” located at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eCFTVdExxPA>
- Next, let’s watch another video on the double-slit experiment, with electrons. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DfPeprQ7oGc>

In class, during the last few minutes, we watched this video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nAGPAb4obs8>

which shows that not just electrons but atoms too can be shown to behave like waves, producing a Bose-Einstein condensate. These condensates represent a new state of matter – neither gas, nor liquid, nor solid, nor plasma – and their discovery was awarded a Nobel Prize in physics in 2001. These condensates have since been used to demonstrate atom lasers, quantum computers, slow light crawling at few m/s, etc. etc. etc., leading to two further Nobels in 2005 and 2012.

WE KINDA ABRUPTLY STOPPED HERE