

Lecture Notes III

Waves & Wave Propagation

Sound waves propagate in a physical medium:

- * gas, liquid or solid (and/or a *plasma* – the 4th state of matter @ very high temperature!)
- * mass density of the medium ρ (= mass per unit volume) is important
- * sound wave (“disturbance” = energy pulse) propagates in the medium with a characteristic speed of propagation v in that medium.
- * propagation speed, v depends on density & elastic properties of the medium.

Simple model of (one-dimensional) medium:

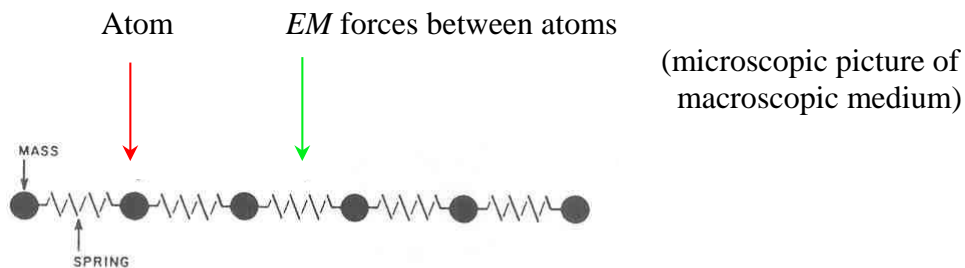
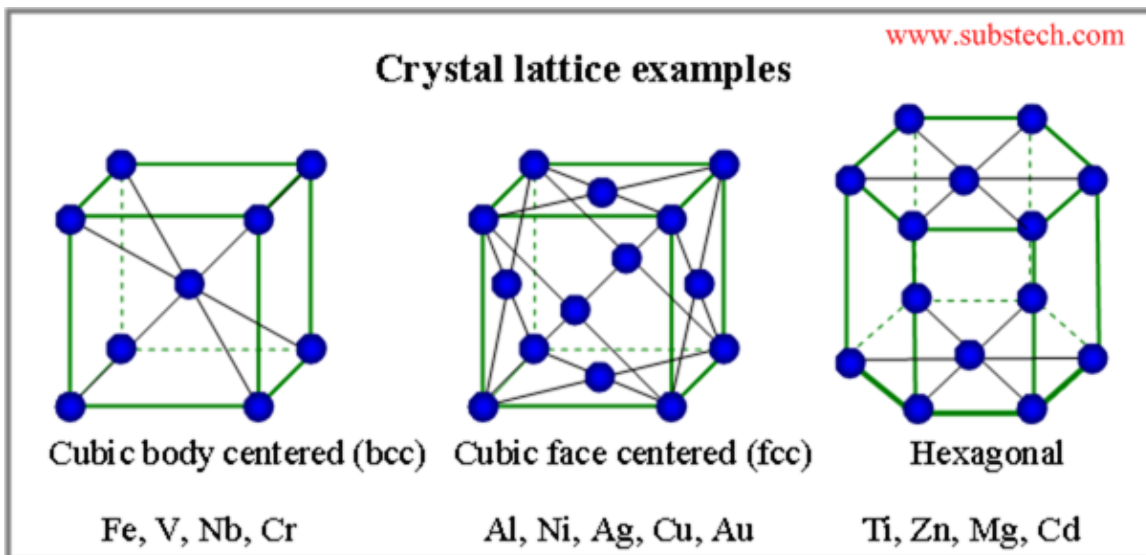
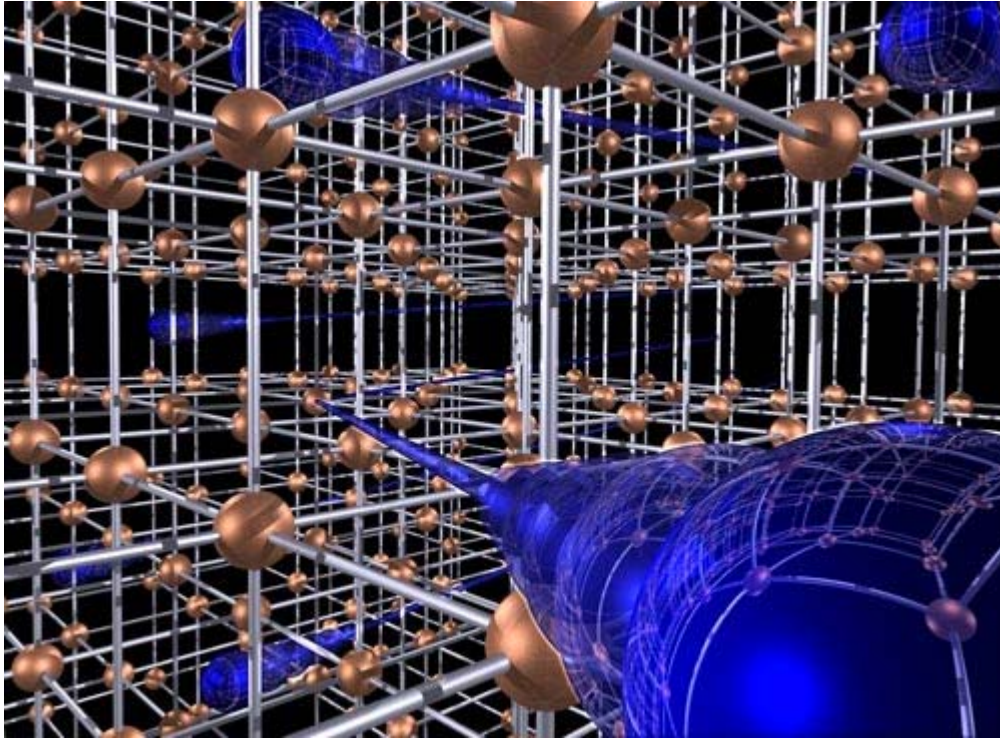


FIG. 1. A simple one-dimensional medium.

Crystalline metal – sound waves propagating in a 3-D lattice of atoms:





Longitudinal Sound Waves Propagating in 1-Dimension:

Displacement of atoms from equilibrium positions – *i.e.* compression/rarefaction is in/along/parallel to direction of propagation of soundwave

Longitudinal sound waves – in gases, liquids and solids (*i.e.* bulk materials)

Propagation of Longitudinal Waves in One Dimension as a Function of Time:

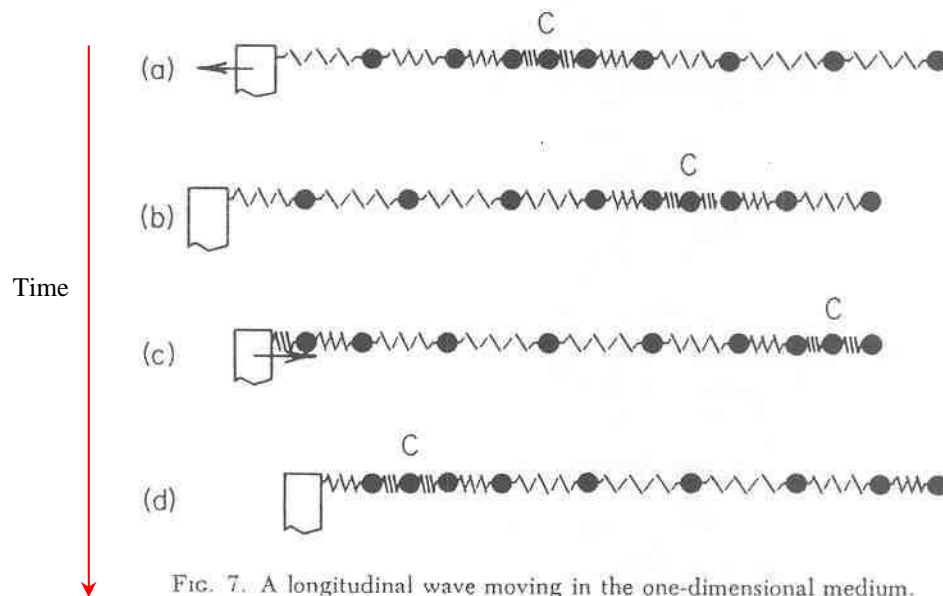


FIG. 7. A longitudinal wave moving in the one-dimensional medium.

Tuning Fork Used to Generate 1-Dimensional Longitudinal Waves:

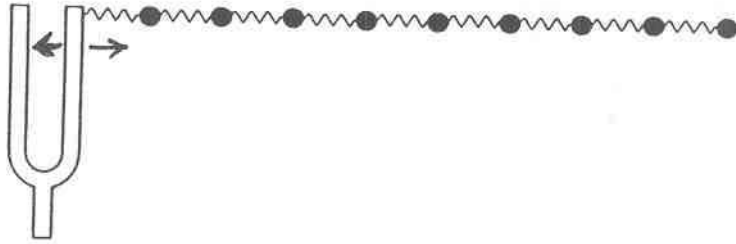


FIG. 6. Tuning fork attached to the one-dimensional medium to generate longitudinal waves.

Transverse Sound Waves Propagating in 1-Dimension:

Displacement of atoms from equilibrium positions is perpendicular (i.e. transverse) to direction of propagation of wave.

Waves in a solid – e.g. a vibrating string (1-D), or a vibrating rectangular, triangular or circular sheet/membrane (2-D), a vibrating hollow box, pyramid, cylinder or sphere (3-D)!

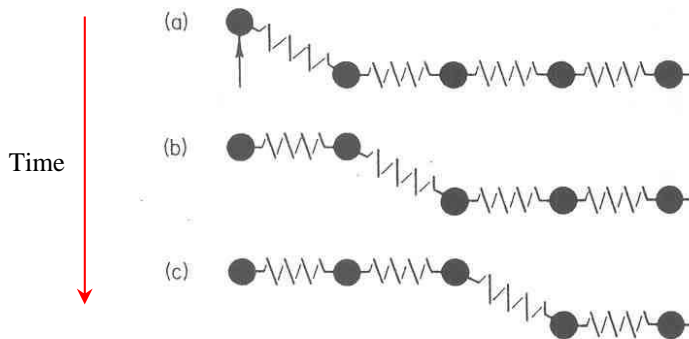


FIG. 3. (a), (b), (c). Successive positions of a transverse disturbance traveling in the one-dimensional medium.

Transverse Sinusoidal Traveling Wave in 1-Dimension:



FIG. 4. Tuning fork attached to the one-dimensional medium to generate transverse waves.

Propagation of Transverse Waves on a Stretched String as a Function of Time:

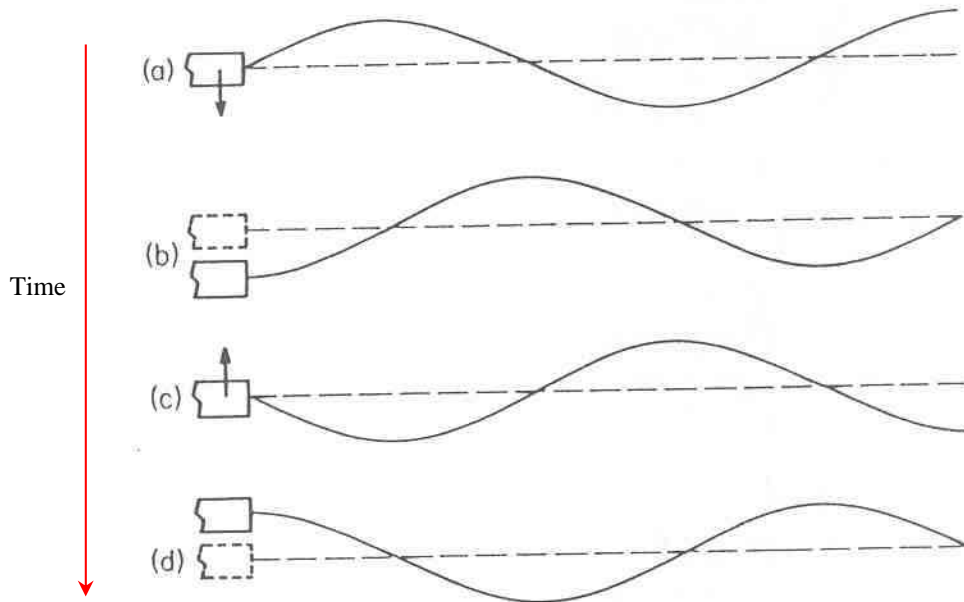


FIG. 8. A transverse wave in a string.

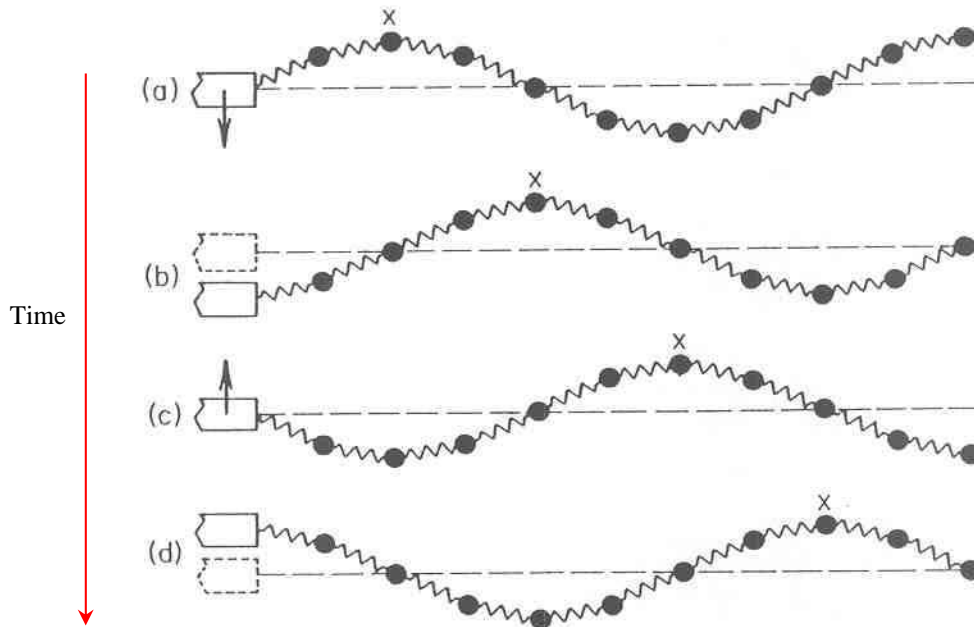


FIG. 5. A transverse wave moving in the one-dimensional medium.

Propagation of Longitudinal Waves in an Air Column:

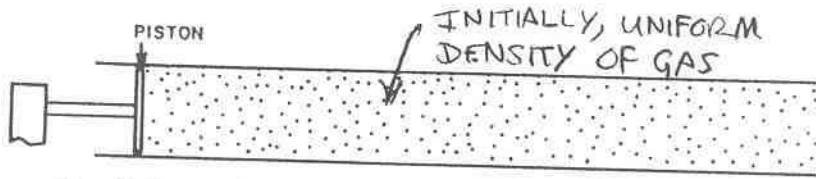


FIG. 9. Tuning fork attached to piston at the end of an air column.

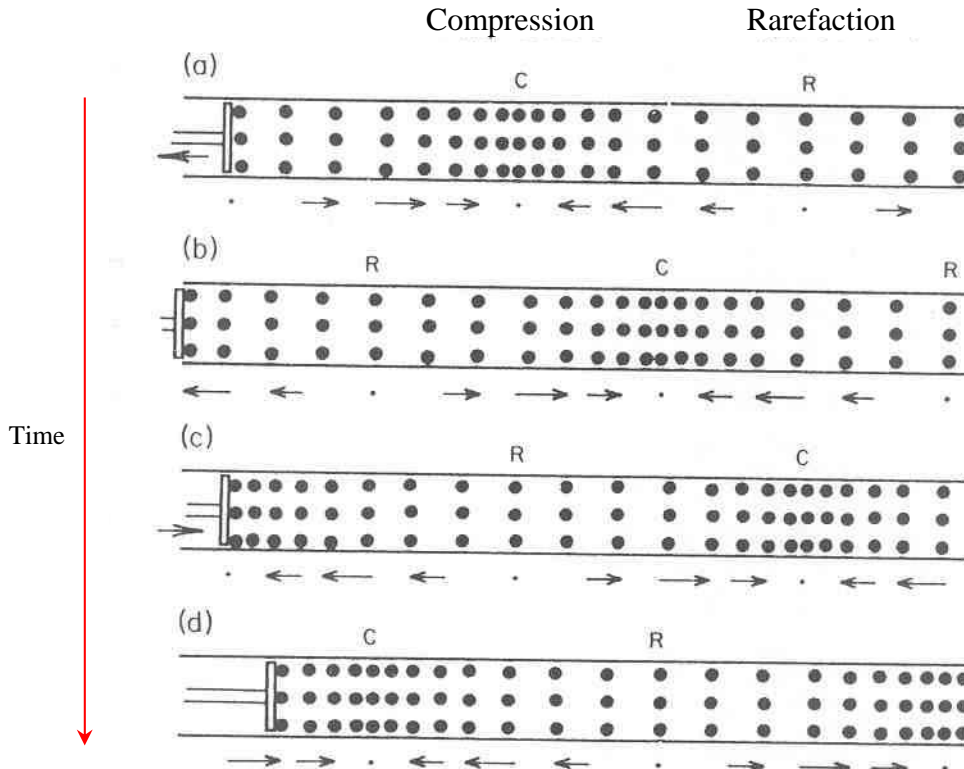


FIG. 10. A longitudinal wave in an air column.

(displacement of air molecules from their equilibrium positions)

&

(over-pressure “pressure displacement” from equilibrium pressure – 1 *Atm.*)

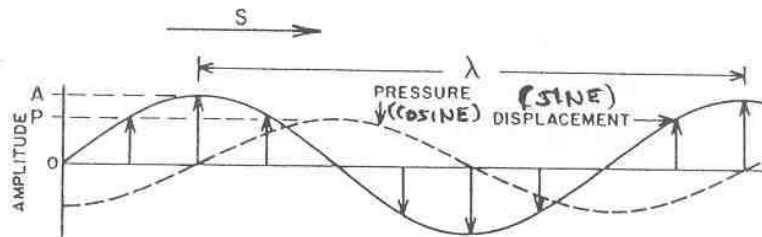
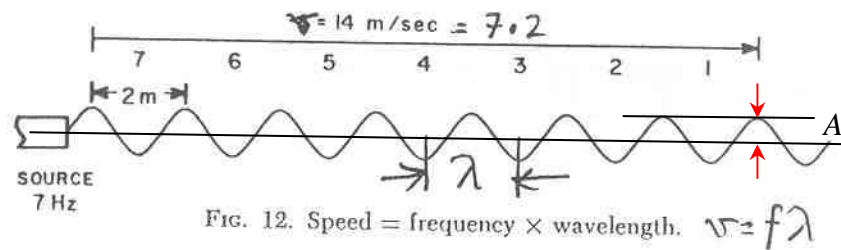


FIG. 11. Graph of the displacements of the air molecules and the pressure variation, plotted against distance along the column.

n.b. Over-pressure and displacement of air molecules are 90° out of phase with each other!



A = displacement amplitude of wave = max **displacement** from equilibrium position (meters, m)

f = frequency of wave = number of complete cycles per second of wave
(cycles per second = cps = Hertz, or Hz).

λ = “lambda” = spatial wavelength of wave – distance to complete one oscillation cycle
(meters, m)

τ = “tau” = period of wave = time to complete one oscillation cycle = “temporal wavelength”
(seconds (secs, or s)):

$$\tau = 1/f$$

v = speed of propagation of wave (meters/second = m/s): $v = f\lambda$

ω = “omega” = angular frequency (radians/second = rads/sec, or rads/s):

$$\omega = 2\pi f, \quad f = \omega/2\pi$$

k = spatial wave number (inverse meters, i.e. 1/meters = 1/m):

$$k = 2\pi/\lambda$$

Hence, we also see that: $v = f\lambda = 2\pi f \cdot \lambda/2\pi = \omega/k$

Sinusoidal **longitudinal** wave propagation {in the +ve z -direction} (relevant e.g. for sound propagation in air/water) is mathematically described by:

$$Z(z,t) = Z_o \sin(\omega t - kz)$$

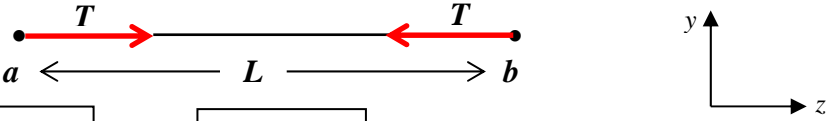
where z = listener’s position, Z_o = longitudinal displacement amplitude (i.e. along the direction of propagation) and $Z(z,t)$ is the instantaneous **longitudinal displacement** (i.e. longitudinal deviation) from the wave’s **equilibrium** position at the point z at time t .

Note that the **argument** of the sine function ($\omega t - kz$) = **constant**. Thus, as time t increases, the position z must also increase – hence the name **traveling** wave. Hence, we also see that an argument of the sine function of the form ($\omega t + kz$) = **constant** mathematically represents a traveling longitudinal displacement plane wave propagating in the $-z$ direction: $Z(z,t) = Z_o \sin(\omega t + kz)$.

The longitudinal speed of propagation v of **transverse** displacement traveling waves, where the displacement (from equilibrium position) is *e.g.* in the y -direction, perpendicular (*i.e.* transverse) to the direction of propagation, *e.g.* in the $\pm z$ -direction is mathematically described by:

$$Y(z, t) = Y_o \sin(\omega t \mp kz) \text{ for a } \underline{\text{transverse}} \text{ traveling plane wave propagating in the } \pm z\text{-direction.}$$

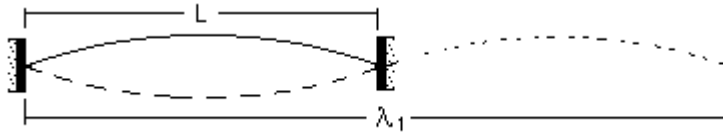
For **transverse** waves propagating on a **stretched string** having tension, T (*n.b.* the SI / metric units of tension T (= force) is Newtons, $N = \text{kg}\cdot\text{m}/\text{s}^2$), the string has mass M and length L , the longitudinal speed of propagation of transverse traveling waves on a string is given by:



$$v = \sqrt{T/\mu} \text{ where: } \mu = M/L \text{ = mass per unit length of string (SI units: kg/m)}$$

Example: Tension and Transverse {Standing} Waves on the High-E String of a Guitar:

n.b. A standing wave = superposition of two traveling waves propagating in opposite directions!



$$f_{\text{Hi-E}} = 332 \text{ Hz for open Hi-E string.}$$

The high- E string on a guitar has diameter, $D = 0.009''$ ($\sim 230 \mu\text{m}$) ($0.001'' = 1/1000'' = 25.4 \mu\text{m}$)

L = string length = $63.5 \text{ cm} = 0.635 \text{ m}$ ($= 25.0'' =$ scale length *e.g.* of a Fender electric guitar)

ρ = density of string = $7.9 \text{ gms}/\text{cm}^3 = 7900 \text{ kg}/\text{m}^3$ for **steel**.

A_{\perp} = cross-sectional area of string = $\pi R^2 = \pi(D/2)^2 = 4.104 \times 10^{-3} \text{ cm}^2 = 4.104 \times 10^{-9} \text{ m}^2$.

V = volume of string = $A_{\perp} \cdot L = \pi R^2 \cdot L = \pi(D/2)^2 \cdot L = \pi D^2 L / 4 = 0.026 \text{ cm}^3 = 0.026 \times 10^{-6} \text{ m}^3$

Mass of string: $M = \rho V = \rho(A_{\perp} \cdot L) = \rho(\pi D^2 L / 4) = 0.206 \text{ gms} = 0.206 \times 10^{-3} \text{ kg}$

$$\mu = \frac{M}{L} = \frac{\rho V}{L} = \frac{\rho(A_{\perp} \cdot L)}{L} = \rho \cdot A_{\perp} = \frac{0.206 \times 10^{-3} \text{ kg}}{0.635 \text{ m}} = 3.242 \times 10^{-4} \text{ kg/m}$$

Now $f_{\text{Hi-E}} = 332 \text{ Hz}$, and $\lambda_{\text{Hi-E}} = 2L = 2 \times 0.635 \text{ m} = 1.27 \text{ m}$ (see above pix, for fundamental)

Thus, the longitudinal speed of transverse traveling waves on the Hi- E string of a guitar is:

$$v_{\text{Hi-E}} = f_{\text{Hi-E}} * \lambda_{\text{Hi-E}} = 332 \text{ Hz} * 1.27 \text{ m} = 421.6 \text{ m/s}$$

Since $v = \sqrt{T/\mu}$, the string tension T on the Hi-E string of the guitar is:

$$T = \mu v^2 = (3.242 \times 10^{-4} \text{ kg/m}) * (421.6 \text{ m/s})^2 = 57.6 \text{ kg-m/s}^2 = 57.6 \text{ N} \approx 12.95 \text{ lbs of force.}$$

1 N = 0.2248
lbs of force,
1 lb of force =
4.448 N

The typical string tension on a steel-stringed acoustic and/or electric guitar is $T \sim 50 - 60 \text{ N}$.

⇒ For steel 6 (12)-string guitar, total string tension is $\sim 300 - 360 (600 - 720) \text{ N} !!!$

PROPAGATION OF SOUND WAVES IN 2 & 3 DIMENSIONS
SOUNDWAVES EMANATING FROM A POINT SOURCE

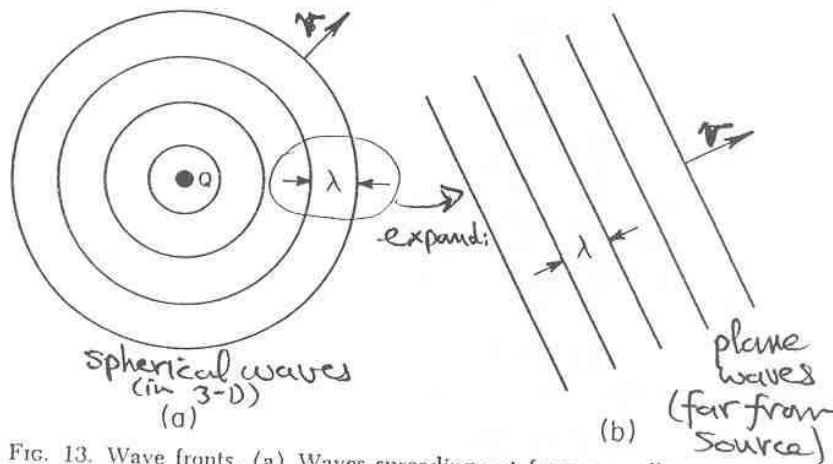


FIG. 13. Wave fronts. (a) Waves spreading out from a small source.
(b) Plane waves.

PROPAGATION OF SOUND WAVES IN A 3-D GAS (e.g. AIR)

A sound wave freely propagating in a gas is longitudinal compression/rarefaction of the gas.

Gives rise to a longitudinal displacement wave. If harmonic/sinusoidal in nature, far away from the sound source we have traveling plane waves, e.g. propagating in the + z-direction:

$$\xi_z(z, t) = \xi_o \cos(\omega t - kz) = \text{mean (or avg.) } \underline{\text{longitudinal}} \text{ (i.e. } z\text{-) displacement of air molecules}$$

and a corresponding over-pressure wave of the form: $p(z, t) = P(z, t) - P_{atm}$, where $P(z, t)$ is the instantaneous absolute pressure, and P_{atm} = atmospheric pressure = constant, typically $\sim 14.7 \text{ psi} \approx 1.03 \times 10^5 \text{ Pascals (Pa)}$ at NTP (i.e. sea level and temperature $T = 20 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$).

For a harmonic traveling plane wave, the instantaneous over-pressure is: $p(z, t) = p_o \sin(\omega t - kz)$

Sound waves can propagate through elastic, compressible media as longitudinal waves.

The over-pressure $p = P - P_{atm} = \Delta P$ required to compress a gas of initial volume V to $V - \Delta V$ is:

$$p = P - P_{atm} = \Delta P = -B \left(\frac{\Delta V}{V} \right)$$

Change in the pressure
for a fractional change in volume
(adiabatic conditions)

Fractional change in volume

(Adiabatic) bulk modulus, B of fluid (here, a gas)

B is the so-called adiabatic bulk modulus, $B = 1/\kappa$ where $\kappa =$ compressibility of the fluid (liquid or gas) – *n.b.* B has same *SI* units as pressure, p (from dimensional analysis of above formula)!

Thus, we see that the adiabatic bulk modulus B of a fluid (liquid or gas) is the (negative) of the change in the {over-pressure} divided by the fractional change in the volume of the fluid due to the change in the over-pressure:

$$B = \frac{-\Delta P}{(\Delta V/V)} \text{ (Pascals)}$$

Now, for so-called adiabatic (*i.e.* slow) compression of a gas due to *e.g.* propagation of sound waves in the gas:

$\gamma =$ “gamma” $\equiv C_V/C_P =$ Ratio of: specific heat of gas @ constant volume
specific heat of gas @ constant pressure

$\gamma = 5/3$ for monatomic gases (*e.g.* helium, neon, argon & xenon)

$\gamma = 7/5$ for diatomic gases (*e.g.* oxygen & nitrogen molecules – O_2 & N_2)

The Ideal Gas Law:

$$PV = NRT$$

Absolute temperature (*degrees Kelvin*)

Pressure (N/m^2) Volume (m^3) # Moles of gas $R =$ universal gas constant = 8.3145 (*Joules/mole/deg.K*)

e.g. Carbon atom has 12 atomic mass units (amu’s), and thus 1 *mole (mol)* of carbon {having Avogadro’s number, $N_A = 6.022 \times 10^{23}$ *atoms/mole*} weighs 12 *grams*.

Now air @ NTP (a mixture of oxygen & nitrogen molecules, traces of argon, *etc.*) is NOT a perfect ideal gas – but is close to an ideal gas.

For the so-called adiabatic condition: $PV^\gamma =$ constant = K , thus: $P = KV^{-\gamma}$

Then for **small** pressure variations ($p = P - P_{atm} = \Delta P \ll P_{atm}$): $\Rightarrow (\Delta P/P) = -\gamma(\Delta V/V)$

However, from above: $B \equiv -\frac{\Delta P}{(\Delta V/V)}$. Thus, we see that: $B = \gamma P \approx \gamma P_{atm}$ for $p = P - P_{atm} \ll P_{atm}$.

For 1-D traveling plane waves: $p = \Delta P = -B(\Delta V/V) = -B \frac{\partial \xi_z(z,t)}{\partial z}$.

Thus, we see that there is a relation between overpressure $p(z,t)$ and the local slope (i.e. the spatial gradient) of the longitudinal displacement $\partial \xi(z,t)/\partial z$:

If longitudinal displacement: $\xi_z(z,t) = \xi_o \cos(\omega t - kz)$ then: $p(z,t) = -B \partial \xi_z(z,t)/\partial z$ gives:

$$p(z,t) = p(z,t) - P_{atm} = \Delta P(z,t) = -B \frac{\partial \xi_z(z,t)}{\partial z} = -Bk \xi_o \sin(\omega t - kz) = p_o \sin(\omega t - kz)$$

Hence, we see that the over-pressure $p(z,t)$ and the longitudinal displacement of air molecules from their equilibrium positions $Z(z,t)$ are 90° out-of-phase with each other.

The (mean, or avg.) longitudinal speed of air molecules $u_z(z,t)$ is the time rate of change of the (mean, or avg.) longitudinal displacement of air molecules, i.e. the time derivative $\partial \xi_z(z,t)/\partial t$.

Thus, for a harmonic/sinusoidal sound wave in air, the instantaneous particle velocity is:

$$u_z(z,t) = \partial \xi_z(z,t)/\partial t = -\omega \xi_o \sin(\omega t - kz) = u_o \sin(\omega t - kz)$$

Thus, we also see that the longitudinal speed of air molecules $u_z(z,t)$ and the overpressure $p(z,t)$ are in-phase with each other for sound waves propagating in “free” air:

$$p(z,t) = p_o \sin(\omega t - kz) = -B \frac{\partial \xi_z(z,t)}{\partial z} = -Bk \xi_o \sin(kz - \omega t) = -\frac{Bk}{\omega} \omega \xi_o \sin(kz - \omega t) = \frac{Bk}{\omega} u_z(z,t)$$

A medium has a so-called **characteristic specific acoustic impedance** $z_a(\vec{r})$ associated with it at the listener point \vec{r} – which physically is a measure of how easy (or difficult) it is for (acoustic) energy to **flow** from one point to another in the medium. For **longitudinal** traveling acoustic plane waves propagating **freely** in a gas, the **characteristic longitudinal specific acoustic impedance** $z_a^{\parallel}(\vec{r})$ is defined as (using $v = \omega/k = f\lambda$, and $B = \rho v^2$ {see below...}):

$$z_a^{\parallel}(\vec{r}) \equiv p(\vec{r})/u_z(\vec{r}) = Bk/\omega = B/v = \rho v \quad (SI \text{ units of } z_a(\vec{r}): Pa\cdot s/m = \text{acoustic Ohms}).$$

aka **Rayls**, in honor of Lord Rayleigh (John William Strutt)

The **characteristic longitudinal specific acoustic impedance** for **air** is:

$$z_a^{\parallel, air}(\vec{r}) = \rho_o^{air} v_o^{air} = 1.204 \text{ kg/m}^3 \cdot 345 \text{ m/s} = 415 \text{ Pa}\cdot\text{s/m} = 415 \Omega_{ac} = 415 \text{ Rayls} @ \text{NTP}.$$

Because $z_a^{\parallel, air}(\vec{r}) = \rho^{air} v^{air}$, since both the mass density of air ρ^{air} and the longitudinal speed of propagation v^{air} have a slight temperature (and pressure-) dependences (as well as slight humidity dependences), $z_a^{\parallel, air}(\vec{r})$ also has a slight temperature (and pressure-) dependence (as well as a slight humidity dependence) – see below....

The wave equation for describing propagation of longitudinal sound waves in a gas relates the speed of longitudinal sound propagation in the gas v (m/s) to the adiabatic bulk modulus of the gas B (in $N/m^2 = Pascals$) and the gas density, $\rho = M/V$ (in kg/m^3) by the following formula:

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

From dimensional analysis:

$$\text{SI units: } B/\rho = \frac{N/m^2}{kg/m^3} = \frac{(kg \cdot m / s^2) / m^2}{kg/m^3} = \frac{m^2}{s^2} \quad \text{note: } 1 N = 1 kg \cdot m / s^2$$

$$\text{Thus: } v = \sqrt{B/\rho} = \sqrt{m^2/s^2} = m/s = \text{meters/second} = \text{dimensions of speed}$$

$$\text{Now, since } B = \gamma P \text{ then: } v = \sqrt{B/\rho} = \sqrt{\gamma P / \rho}$$

$$\text{The gas density } \rho = \frac{M}{V} = \frac{M_{molar} n_{mole}}{V} = \frac{M_{molar} P}{RT} \text{ \{for an ideal gas, and using the ideal gas law\}}$$

where $M_{molar} = \underline{\text{molar}}$ mass (kg/mol), and $n_{mole} = \#$ of moles of gas.

$$\text{Then for an } \underline{\text{ideal}} \text{ gas: } v = \sqrt{B/\rho} = \sqrt{\gamma P / \rho} = \sqrt{\gamma RT / M_{molar}}$$

Hence, *e.g.* the speed of sound in air has a temperature-dependence!

Normalizing to the so-called standard temperature (300K) and pressure (1 atm):

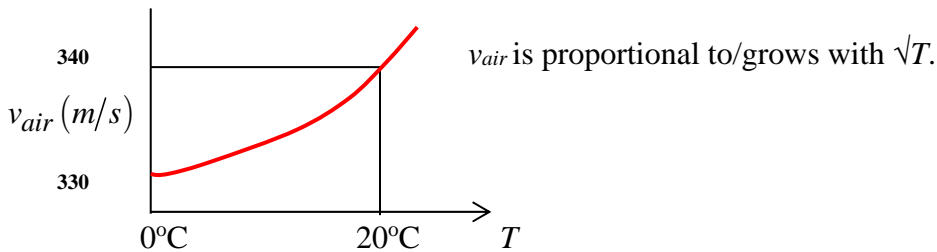
$$v_{air} \approx 330 \sqrt{\left[\frac{T(^{\circ}C) + 273^{\circ}}{273^{\circ}} \right]} \approx 330 + 0.6T(^{\circ}C) \quad (m/s)$$

The latter relation was obtained using the Taylor-series expansion for $\sqrt{1+\varepsilon} \approx 1 + \frac{1}{2}\varepsilon$ for $\varepsilon \ll 1$ and keeping only the first non-trivial term in the Taylor-series expansion, which is linear in $\varepsilon = T(^{\circ}C)/273^{\circ}K \ll 1$.

$$v_{air} \approx 330 \text{ m/s @ } T = 0^{\circ}C \quad (@ p = 1 \text{ atm (i.e. at sea level)})$$

$$v_{air} \approx 340 \text{ m/s @ } T = 20^{\circ}C \quad (@ p = 1 \text{ atm (i.e. at sea level)})$$

Thus, we see that that speed of sound in air, v_{air} increases with increasing temperature:



Note also that: $v_{helium} \sim 3v_{air}$ since: $\{M_{molar}(\text{Helium}) = 4 \text{ gms}\} \ll \{M_{molar}(\text{Air}) = 28 \text{ gms}\}$.
 { monatomic} { diatomic}

Longitudinal speed of sound propagation (in bulk)

and

Longitudinal characteristic specific acoustic impedance for water:

$$v_{H_2O} = \sqrt{\frac{B_{H_2O}}{\rho_{H_2O}}} \approx 1480 \text{ m/s} \gg v_{air} \approx 330 \text{ m/s}$$

$$z_{\parallel}^{H_2O} = \rho_o^{H_2O} v_o^{H_2O} \approx 1000 \text{ kg/m}^3 \cdot 1480 \text{ m/s} \approx 1.48 \times 10^6 \text{ Pa-s/m} = 1.48 \times 10^6 \Omega_{ac}$$

$$\text{Compare: } z_{\parallel}^{H_2O} \approx 1.5 \times 10^6 \Omega_{ac} \gg z_{\parallel}^{air} \approx 415 \Omega_{ac}$$

Longitudinal speed of sound propagation (in bulk)

and

Longitudinal characteristic specific acoustic impedance for an elastic solid:

$$v_{Solid} = \sqrt{\frac{Y_{Solid}}{\rho_{Solid}}} \text{ where: } Y_{Solid} = \text{Young's modulus (force/unit area, i.e. } N/m^2) - \text{i.e. Pascals!}$$

$$Y \equiv \frac{S}{\Delta L/L} (N/m^2) = \text{Ratio of compressive stress/compressive strain}$$

$$z_{\parallel}^{solid} = \rho_o^{solid} v_o^{solid}$$

Now, e.g. for steel: $Y_{steel} = 2 \times 10^{11} \text{ Pascals}$ and: $\rho_{steel} = 7.9 \text{ gm/cm}^3 = 7900 \text{ kg/m}^3$.

$$\text{Thus: } v_{Steel} = \sqrt{\frac{Y_{Steel}}{\rho_{Steel}}} = \sqrt{\frac{2 \times 10^{11}}{7800}} \approx 5000 \text{ m/s}$$

$$z_{\parallel}^{Steel} = \rho_o^{Steel} v_o^{Steel} \approx 7900 \text{ kg/m}^3 \cdot 5000 \text{ m/s} \approx 3.95 \times 10^7 \text{ Pa-s/m} = 3.95 \times 10^7 \Omega_{ac}$$

$$\text{Compare: } z_{\parallel}^{Steel} \approx 4.0 \times 10^7 \Omega_{ac} \gg z_{\parallel}^{H_2O} \approx 1.5 \times 10^6 \Omega_{ac} \gg z_{\parallel}^{air} \approx 415 \Omega_{ac}$$

Longitudinal Speed of Sound Propagation in Various Bulk Media

Gases	
Material	v (m/s)
Hydrogen (0°C)	1286
Helium (0°C)	972
Air (20°C)	343
Air (0°C)	331
Liquids at 25°C	
Material	v (m/s)
Glycerol	1904
Sea water	1533
Water	1493
Mercury	1450
Kerosene	1324
Methyl alcohol	1143
Carbon tetrachloride	926
Solids	
Material	v (m/s)
Diamond	12000
Pyrex glass	5640
Iron	5130
Aluminum	5100
Brass	4700
Copper	3560
Gold	3240
Lucite	2680
Lead	1322
Rubber	1600

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