

# Physics 207 – Lecture 23

**Physics 207, Lecture 23, Nov. 22**

- Agenda: Catch up
- Chapter 18, Superposition and Standing Waves
  - ❖ Superposition
  - ❖ Interference
  - ❖ Standing Waves
  - ❖ Nodes, Anti-nodes


Assignments:

- Problem Set 9 due Tuesday, Dec. 5, 11:59 PM
- Ch. 18: 3, 18, 30, 40, 58
- Mid-term 3, Tuesday, Nov. 28, Chapters 14-17, 90 minutes, 7:15-8:45 PM in rooms 105 and 113 Psychology
- Monday is a review for Tuesday's mid-term

Physics 207: Lecture 23, Pg 1

**Superposition & Interference  
(How do waves add)**

- Consider two harmonic waves  $A$  and  $B$  meeting.
  - ❖ Same frequency and amplitudes, but phases differ ( $\phi$ ).
- The displacement versus time for each is shown below:



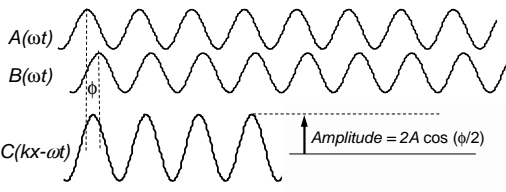
What does  $C(t) = A(t) + B(t)$  look like ?

Wave Superposition

Physics 207: Lecture 23, Pg 2

**Superposition & Interference**

- Consider  $A + B$ ,
  - $A(x,t) = A \cos(kx - \omega t)$     $B(x,t) = A \cos(kx - \omega t + \phi)$
  - ❖ We can show:  $C = 2A \cos(\phi/2) \cos(kx - \omega t + \phi/2)$
  - ❖ Using half-angle identities.....see text 18.1



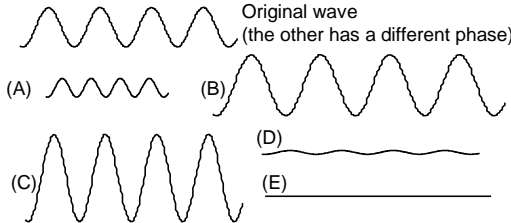
Phase shift =  $\phi / 2$

Amplitude =  $2A \cos(\phi/2)$

Physics 207: Lecture 23, Pg 3

**Lecture 23, Exercise 1  
Superposition**

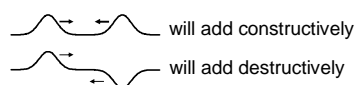
- Two continuous harmonic waves with the same frequency and amplitude but, at a certain time, have a phase difference of  $170^\circ$  are superimposed. Which of the following best represents the resultant wave at this moment?



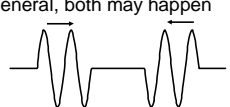
Physics 207: Lecture 23, Pg 4

**Superposition & Interference**

- We have just seen that when waves combine (superimpose) the result can either be bigger or smaller than the original waves.
- Waves can add "constructively" or "destructively" depending on the relative sign of each wave.



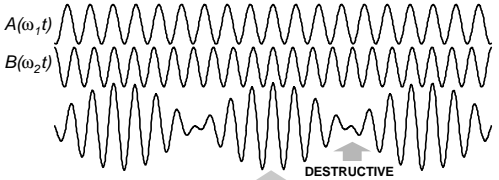
- In general, both may happen Pulse Superposition



Physics 207: Lecture 23, Pg 5

**Superposition & Interference**

- Consider two harmonic waves  $A$  and  $B$  meet at  $t=0$ .
  - ❖ They have same amplitudes and phase, but  $\omega_2 = 1.15 \times \omega_1$ . Beat Superposition
- The displacement versus time for each is shown below:



$C(t) = A(t) + B(t)$

CONSTRUCTIVE INTERFERENCE      DESTRUCTIVE INTERFERENCE

Physics 207: Lecture 23, Pg 6

# Physics 207 – Lecture 23

### Aside: Why superposition works

- The equation governing waves (Chapter 16, "the Wave Equation") is linear. For linear equations, if we have two (or more) separate solutions,  $f_1$  and  $f_2$ , then  $B f_1 + C f_2$  is also a solution.
- For linear equations, if we have two (or more) separate solutions,  $f_1$  and  $f_2$ , then  $B f_1 + C f_2$  is also a solution
- This is called the "Superposition Principle"
- You have already seen this in the case of simple harmonic motion:
 
$$\frac{d^2 x}{dt^2} = -\omega^2 x \quad \text{linear in } x!$$

$$\Rightarrow x(t) = B \sin(\omega t) + C \cos(\omega t)$$

Physics 207: Lecture 23, Pg 7

### Superposition & Interference

- Consider  $A + B$ ,
 
$$y_A(x,t) = A \cos(k_1 x - \omega_1 t) \quad y_B(x,t) = A \cos(k_2 x - \omega_2 t)$$
 And let  $x=0$ ,  $y = y_A + y_B = 2A \cos[2\pi (f_1 - f_2)t/2] \cos[2\pi (f_1 + f_2)t/2]$  and  $|f_1 - f_2| \equiv f_{\text{beat}} = 1/T_{\text{beat}}$

Physics 207: Lecture 23, Pg 8

### Lecture 23, Exercise 2 Superposition

- The traces below show beats that occur when two different pairs of waves are added (the time axes are the same).
- For which of the two is the difference in frequency of the original waves greater?

- Pair 1
- Pair 2
- The frequency difference was the same for both pairs of waves.
- Need more information.

Physics 207: Lecture 23, Pg 9

### Interference of Waves

- A path corresponds to a phase [recall the  $\cos(2\pi x/\lambda)$ ]  
 Path (or  $x$ )  $\rightarrow$  phase =  $2\pi (\text{path}/\lambda)$  (modulo  $2\pi$ )
- If two waves start out "in-phase" (at the same time) and then travel different distances before they are superimposed then the path difference,  $\Delta L$ , corresponds to a phase difference with constructive or destructive interference.
 
$$\Delta L = \frac{\phi}{2\pi} \lambda = 2n \frac{\lambda}{2} \quad (\text{constructive})$$

$$\Delta L = \frac{\phi}{2\pi} \lambda = (2n+1) \frac{\lambda}{2} \quad (\text{destructive})$$
 with  $n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$

Physics 207: Lecture 23, Pg 10

### Interference of Waves

- 2D Surface Waves on Water

In phase sources separated by a distance  $d$

Physics 207: Lecture 23, Pg 11

### Interference of Sound

Sound waves interfere, just like transverse waves do. The resulting wave (displacement, pressure) is the sum of the two (or more) waves you started with.

$$\Delta L = |L_1 - L_2|$$

$$\phi = 2\pi \frac{\Delta L}{\lambda}$$

Constructive interference:  $\phi = n(2\pi)$

$$\frac{\Delta L}{\lambda} = 0, 1, 2, 3, \dots$$

Destructive interference:  $\phi = (2n+1)\pi$

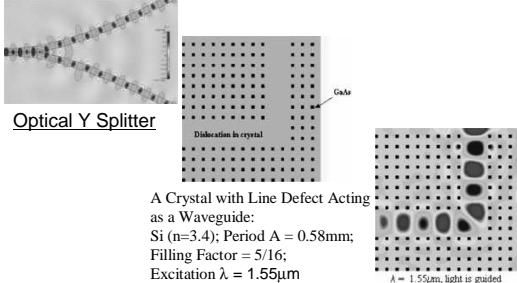
$$\frac{\Delta L}{\lambda} = \frac{1}{2}, \frac{3}{2}, \frac{5}{2}, \frac{7}{2}, \dots$$

Physics 207: Lecture 23, Pg 12

# Physics 207 – Lecture 23

**Interference of Waves, Splitting and Guiding**

- Controlling wave sources is exploited in numerous applications



**Optical Y Splitter**

Dislocation in crystal

A Crystal with Line Defect Acting as a Waveguide:  
 Si ( $n=3.4$ ); Period  $\Lambda = 0.58\text{mm}$ ;  
 Filling Factor = 5/16;  
 Excitation  $\lambda = 1.55\mu\text{m}$

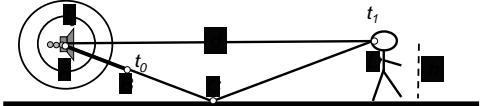
$\Lambda = 1.55\mu\text{m}$ , light is guided

Light turning a corner

Physics 207: Lecture 23, Pg 13

**Lecture 23, Example Interference**

- A speaker sits on a pedestal 2 m tall and emits a sine wave at 343 Hz (the speed of sound in air is 343 m/s, so  $\lambda = 1\text{m}$ ). Only the direct sound wave and that which reflects off the ground at a position half-way between the speaker and the person (also 2 m tall) makes it to the person's ear.
- How close to the speaker can the person stand (A to D) so they hear a maximum sound intensity assuming there is no phase change at the ground (this is a bad assumption)?



The distances AD and BCD have equal transit times so the sound waves will be in phase. The only need is for AB = 1 wavelength

Physics 207: Lecture 23, Pg 14

**Lecture 23, Example Interference**

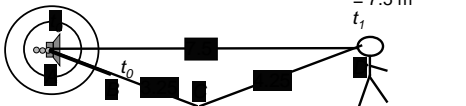
- The geometry dictates everything else.

$$AB = \lambda \quad AD = BC + CD = BC + (h^2 + (d/2)^2)^{1/2} = d$$

$$AC = AB + BC = \lambda + BC = (h^2 + d^2)^{1/2}$$

Eliminating BC gives  $\lambda + d = 2(h^2 + d^2)^{1/2}$

$$\lambda + 2\lambda d + d^2 = 4(h^2 + d^2)$$

$$1 + 2d = 4h^2/\lambda \rightarrow d = 2h^2/\lambda - 1/2 = 7.5\text{ m}$$


Because the ground is more dense than air there will be a phase change of  $\pi$  and so we really should set AB to  $\lambda/2$  or 0.5 m.

Physics 207: Lecture 23, Pg 15

**Main point**

- Path differences will give phase differences.
- This will lead to a superposition with constructive or destructive interference.
- If two waves start out "in-phase" (at the same time) and then travel different distances before they are superimposed then the path difference,  $\Delta L$ , corresponds to a phase difference with:

$$\Delta L = \frac{\phi}{2\pi} \lambda = 2n \frac{\lambda}{2} \text{ (constructive)}$$

$$\Delta L = \frac{\phi}{2\pi} \lambda = (2n + 1) \frac{\lambda}{2} \text{ (destructive)}$$

Physics 207: Lecture 23, Pg 16

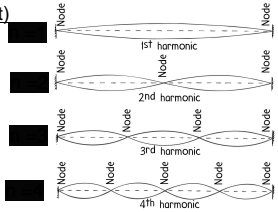
**Standing Waves: A special kind of superposition**

- Consider A + B, same  $\lambda$  and  $\omega$  but traveling to the left and right.  
 $A(x,t) = A \cos(kx - \omega t)$   $B(x,t) = A \cos(kx + \omega t + \pi)$   
 Now  $C(x,t) = 2A \cos(2\pi x/\lambda) \cos(\omega t)$  and there is no net energy flow. If  $\phi = \pi/2$  then

$$C'(x,t) = 2A \sin(2\pi x/\lambda) \sin(\omega t)$$

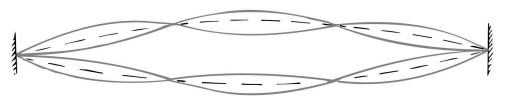
These are "standing waves".

- This describes motion on a bound string (length L)  
 $C(0,t) = C(L,t) = 0$  if  
 $L = n\lambda/2 \rightarrow \lambda = 2L/n$
- Or more generally  
 $C'(x,t) = 2A \sin(\pi n x/L) \sin(\omega t)$



Physics 207: Lecture 23, Pg 17

**Guitar Strings**



A combination wave composed of the 1st harmonic and the third harmonic.

Physics 207: Lecture 23, Pg 18

# Physics 207 – Lecture 23

### Music

- What makes instruments unique is the combination of harmonics produced by the different instruments.
- Flutes produce primarily the 1st harmonic
- They have a very pure tone
- Oboes produce a broad range of harmonics and sound very different

Physics 207: Lecture 23, Pg 19

### Combining Waves Revisited

Physics 207: Lecture 23, Pg 20

### Combining Waves

Fourier Synthesis

Physics 207: Lecture 23, Pg 21

### Musical Instruments

- Three ways to make sound
- Vibrate a string
- Vibrate an air column
- Vibrate a membrane

Physics 207: Lecture 23, Pg 22

### Vibrating Strings

- Violin, viola, cello, string bass
- Guitars
- Ukuleles
- Mandolins
- Banjos
- All vibrate a structure to “amplify” the sound

### Vibrating Air Columns

- Pipe Organs
- Brass Instruments
- Woodwinds
- Whistles

### Vibrating Membranes

- Percussion Instruments
- Drums
- Bongos

Physics 207: Lecture 23, Pg 23

### Standing Waves in Pipes

Open at both ends:  
 Pressure(speed) Node at ends  
 Displacement AntiNode at ends  
 $\lambda = 2L / n \quad n = 1, 2, 3, \dots$

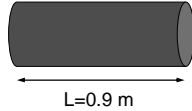
Open at one end:  
 Pressure AntiNode at closed end  
 Displacement Node at closed end  
 $\lambda = 4L / n \quad n = 1, 3, 5, \dots$

Physics 207: Lecture 23, Pg 24

## Physics 207 – Lecture 23

### Organ Pipe Example

A 0.9 m organ pipe (open at both ends) is measured to have its first harmonic (i.e., its fundamental) at a frequency of 382 Hz. What is the speed of sound (refers to energy transfer) in the pipe?



$$f = 382 \text{ Hz and } f\lambda = v \text{ with } \lambda = 2L/n \text{ (} n = 1 \text{)}$$
$$v = 382 \times 2(0.9) \text{ m} \rightarrow v = 687 \text{ m/s}$$

Physics 207: Lecture 23, Pg 25

### Lecture 23, Exercise 3 Standing Waves

- What happens to the fundamental frequency of a pipe, if the air ( $v = 300 \text{ m/s}$ ) is replaced by helium ( $v = 900 \text{ m/s}$ )?

Recall:  $f\lambda = v$

- (A) Increases      (B) Same      (C) Decreases

Physics 207: Lecture 23, Pg 26

### Recap, Lecture 23

- Agenda: Catch up
- Chapter 18, Superposition and Standing Waves
  - ❖ Superposition
  - ❖ Interference
  - ❖ Standing Waves
  - ❖ Nodes, Anti-nodes

Assignments:

- Problem Set 9 due Tuesday, Dec. 5, 11:59 PM
- Ch. 18: 9, 17, 21, 39, 53a (tentative)
- Mid-term 3, Tuesday, Nov. 28, Chapters 14-17, 90 minutes, 7:15-8:45 PM in rooms 105 and 113 Psychology
- Monday is a review session for Tuesday's mid-term
- Have a good Thanksgiving holiday and see you Monday!

Physics 207: Lecture 23, Pg 27