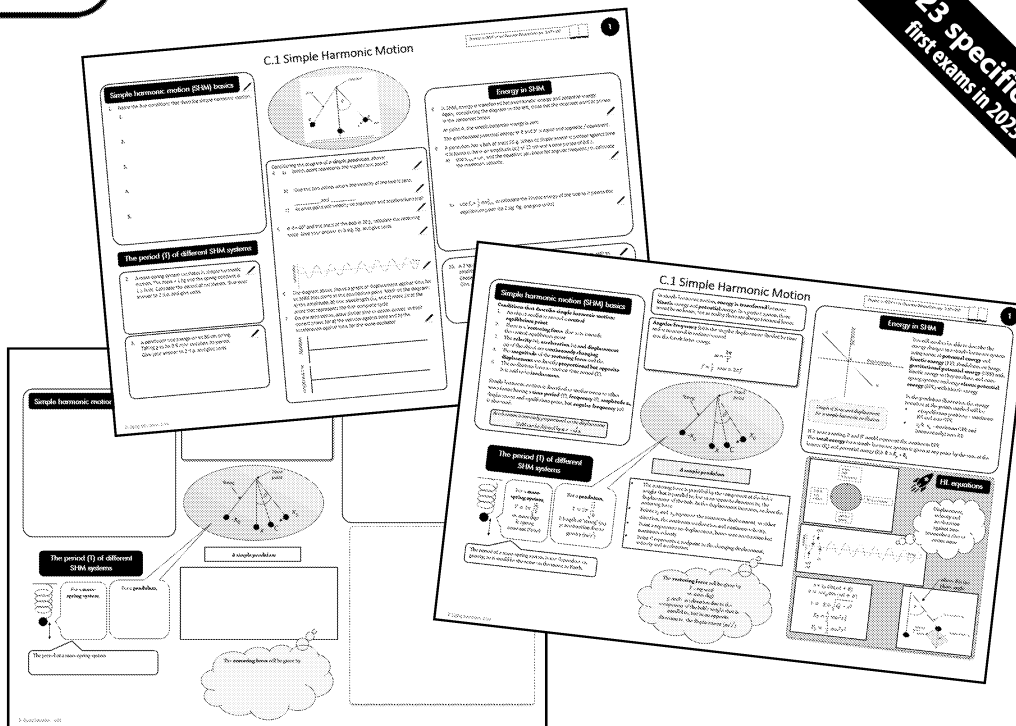


2023 specification
first exams in 2025



Topic on a Page

for IB Physics

Theme C: Wave Behaviour

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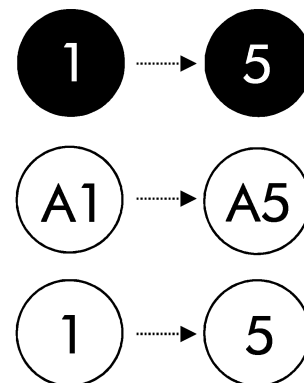
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Teacher's Introduction

This topic-on-a-page resource has been designed to help your students revise the key points of each topic and test their knowledge after you have taught each section of the **IB Physics: Theme C – Wave behaviour** specification from topics 1 to 5. Each page is closely tied to the IB specification, ensuring all aspects of the course are covered.

There are five sections to this resource, each with its own features:

1. **Summary posters:** these are the main pages which intend to clearly consolidate and recap all the key information from the IB Physics course.
2. **Activity worksheets:** these are similar to the summary posters, but contain a variety of tasks, from choosing the correct words to performing calculations. The activity worksheets aim to ensure the student understands all the key knowledge required of them and gives them the opportunity to demonstrate how well they have remembered and understood the content of the course.
3. **Outline-only pages:** these are the summary posters, but with most of the content removed. Students can research the topics, e.g. for homework, and fill in as much information as they can.
4. **Mark scheme:** full answers for the activity worksheets.



The 'summary', 'activity' and 'outline-only' sheets are designed to be A3 size, although they are still usable at A4 with no loss of detail. When photocopying activity worksheets on A3, we suggest photocopying the relevant summary poster on the reverse. If using at A4 size, we suggest photocopying each A3 'activity worksheet' (for writing answers) as a double-sided A4 page to avoid shrinking the space available for answers.

Higher Level content is clearly marked so Standard and Higher Level students can both use the resource as needed.

Each page presents information in a variety of ways, including:

- **Bold key words** – essential terminology in bold, allowing students to skim and revise main points quickly.
- **Bullet-point processes** – complex processes and lists have been summarised into quick, easy-to-learn points.
- **Illustrative diagrams** – detailed diagrams that visually represent a concept or an event.
- **Method and calculation boxes** – concisely state the equations used in required calculations.
- **Thought and speech bubbles** – to link information and develop ideas.
- **Tips and tricks** – extra useful information that can help students when solving problems.

We hope you find these pages useful during your teaching and your students' revision.

October 2024

C.1 Simple Harmonic Motion

Simple harmonic motion (SHM) basics

Conditions that describe simple harmonic motion:

1. An object oscillates around a **central equilibrium point**
2. There is a '**restoring force**' that always points towards the central equilibrium point
3. The **velocity (v)**, **acceleration (a)** and **displacement (x)** of the object are **continuously changing**
4. The **magnitude** of the **restoring force** and the **displacement** are directly **proportional but opposite**
5. The oscillations have a constant time period (T). It is said to be **isochronous**.

Simple harmonic motion is described in similar terms to other wave forms having a **time period (T)**, **frequency (f)**, **amplitude x₀**, displacement and equilibrium point, but **angular frequency (ω)** is also used.

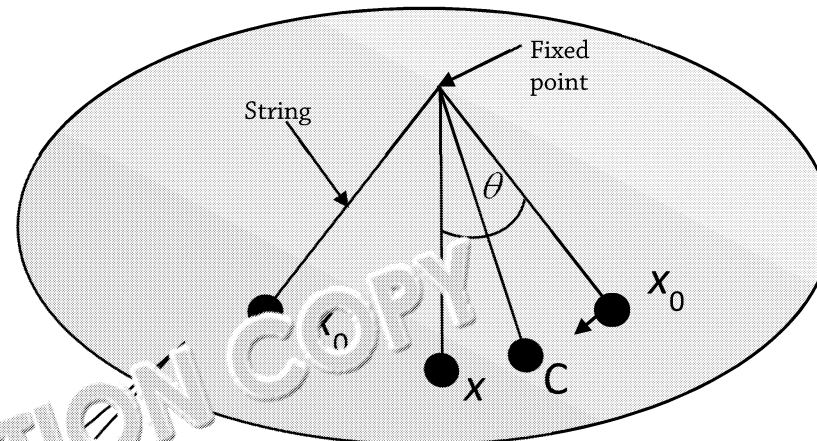
Acceleration is inversely proportional to the displacement
 SHM can be defined by $a = -\omega^2 x$

In simple harmonic motion, **energy is transferred** between **kinetic energy** and **potential energy**. In a perfect system there would be no loss of energy, but in reality there are always frictional losses.

Angular frequency (ω) is the angular displacement divided by time and is measured in radians/second
 ω is the Greek letter omega

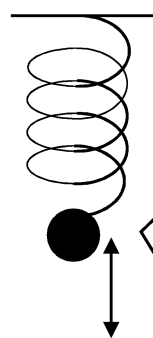
$$\omega = \frac{2\pi}{T}$$

$$f = \frac{1}{T} \text{ so } \omega = 2\pi f$$



A simple pendulum

The period (T) of different SHM systems



For a **mass-spring system**,

$$T = 2\pi \sqrt{\frac{m}{k}}$$

m: mass (kg)
 k: spring constant (N/m)

For a **pendulum**,

$$T = 2\pi \sqrt{\frac{l}{g}}$$

l: length of 'string' (m)
 g: acceleration due to gravity (m/s²)

The period of a mass-spring system is not dependent on gravity, so it would be the same on the moon as Earth.

- The restoring force is provided by the component of the bob's weight that is parallel to, but in an opposite direction to, the displacement of the bob. As the displacement increases, so does the restoring force.
- Points x₀ and -x₀ represent the maximum displacement, in either direction, the maximum acceleration and minimum velocity.
- Point x represents no displacement, hence zero acceleration but maximum velocity.
- Point C represents a midpoint in the changing displacement, velocity and acceleration.

The **restoring force** will be given by

$$F = mg \sin \theta$$

m: mass (kg)

g sin θ - acceleration due to the component of the bob's weight that is parallel to, but in an opposite direction to, the displacement (m/s²)

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C.2 The Wave Model

Wave basics

Travelling waves are characterised by a **continuous** disturbance or **oscillation** in a medium that results in **energy transfer**. The medium is not transferred. The direction of the wave is given by the **direction of energy transfer**.

In **transverse waves**, the direction of the oscillation is **perpendicular** to the direction of **energy transfer**.

In **longitudinal waves**, the direction of oscillation is **parallel** to the direction of **energy transfer**.

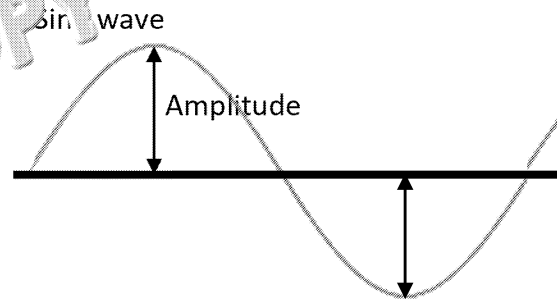
Both types obey the **wave equation** ↓

$$v = f\lambda = \lambda/T$$

v is wave speed (m/s), f is frequency (Hz), λ is wavelength (m) and T is the period (seconds)

Two types of travelling waves – **mechanical waves** that need a **medium** to propagate the wave, and **electromagnetic waves** which can transfer energy through a **vacuum**.

Property	Longitudinal waves	Transverse waves
The oscillation is perpendicular to the transmission of energy	✗	✓
The oscillation is parallel to the transmission of energy	✓	✗
No medium is required	✓	✗
Changes the density and pressure within the transmitting medium	✓	✗
The speed depends on the medium it travels through	✓	✓
The energy moves, but the medium of transmission doesn't	✓	✓
Can reflect off some surfaces	✓	✓



Wavelength (λ) is the distance from any point to the next point in phase.
Amplitude is the distance from the maximum displacement to the equilibrium position.
Frequency is the number of oscillations in one second.
Period is the time for one oscillation, measured in seconds.
Wave speed (v) is given by $v = f\lambda = \lambda/T$

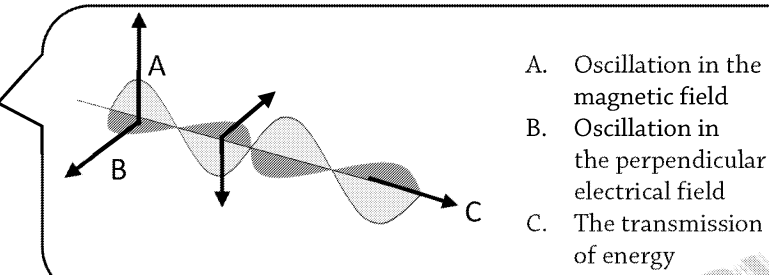
Travelling wave: is an oscillation in which energy is transferred.
Standing wave: is an oscillation where the energy is not transmitted but stored.
Oscillation: the repeated variation of displacement from an equilibrium position.

The points of maximum displacement in transverse waves are called **peaks** and **troughs**. The amplitude of a wave is the maximum displacement from the equilibrium position. The points of zero displacement in a longitudinal wave, like a sound wave where the particles are vibrating, are called **compressions** (the particles are compressed together) and **rarefaction**.

Electromagnetic spectrum

Transverse waves

- Do not require a physical medium of transmission and can propagate in a vacuum
- Have a range of frequencies from 10^{20} Hz to 3 Hz (humans can detect visible light $10^{14} - 10^{17}$ Hz)
- Transmit through the electromagnetic field



- A. Oscillation in the magnetic field
- B. Oscillation in the perpendicular electrical field
- C. The transmission of energy

Sound travels at an approximate speed of **340 m/s** in air. Humans can hear sound in the frequency range 20 Hz to 20 000 Hz. Low-frequency sounds have a lower pitch.

Electromagnetic spectrum	Radio waves	Microwaves	Infrared	Visible light	Ultraviolet	X-rays	Gamma rays
Frequency Hz	$< 3 \times 10^{11}$	$3 \times 10^{11} - 10^{13}$	$10^{13} - 10^{14}$	$4 \times 10^{14} - 7.5 \times 10^{14}$	$10^{14} - 10^{17}$	$10^{17} - 10^{20}$	$10^{20} - 10^{24}$
Wavelength	$> 1 \text{ mm}$	$1 \text{ mm} - 2 \text{ cm}$	$700 \text{ nm} - 750 \text{ nm}$	$750 \text{ nm} - 400 \text{ nm}$	$400 \text{ nm} - 1 \text{ nm}$	$1 \text{ nm} - 1 \text{ pm}$	$< 10 \text{ pm}$

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C.3 Wave Phenomena

What happens to waves when they meet boundaries, obstacles or other waves?

When waves meet **boundaries** between different media they can be **reflected**, **transmitted** or **absorbed** (sometimes more than one).

Waves meeting an **object within the medium** of transmission may be curved or **diffracted** around the object.

Waves passing through the **same medium** or field can **interact**.

Their **combined effect** is the **sum** of their individual oscillations.

Examples

1. When light shines on a swimming pool, a small amount will be **reflected**, but most energy will continue to be **transmitted** by the water as it changes speed and direction at the boundary; we call this **refraction**.

2. Light moving from a more to a less dense medium will be transmitted, with angles of incidence less than the **critical angle** resulting in transmission. For angles of incidence greater than the critical angle causing **internal reflection**.

3. Light can be held within a material, like a fibre-optic cable, by **total internal reflection**. Gamma rays shielded by a thick lead box will be absorbed by the lead.

4. When the mechanical waves on the sea meet an obstacle like a groyne or a breakwater, they are momentarily **disrupted**, but the wave pattern reforms.

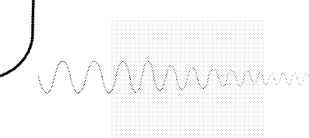
6. Comparable waves meeting in 2D or 3D space can **enhance** or **diminish** each other.

7. Light flooding through a narrow slit spreads out to form a **fan shape**.

8. Light passing through two adjacent slits can create **interference patterns**.

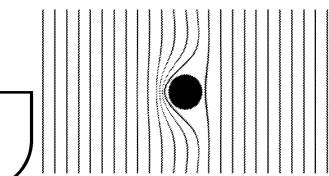
Other wave phenomena

Not all waves are **transmitted**; some or all can be **absorbed**. Partial absorption can reduce the intensity of the transmitted wave – see below.



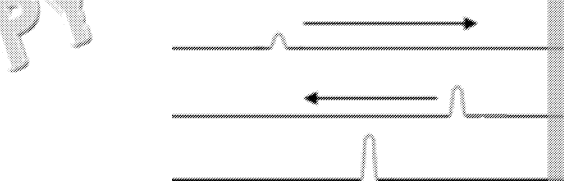
Coloured materials absorb certain wavelengths of light or transmit others.

Waves meeting at a boundary between two different media of transmission can be curved or **diffracted**. This is illustrated by wave front diagrams – see below.



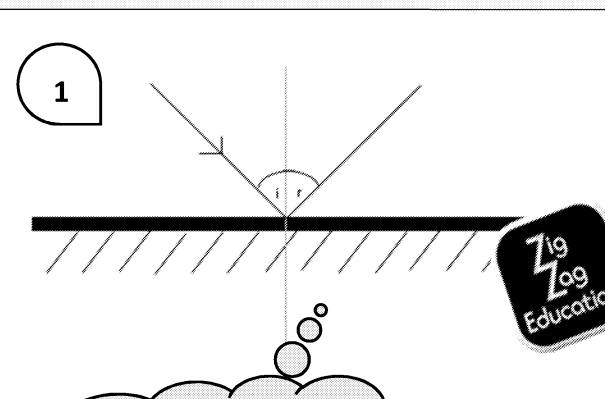
Constructive interference occurs when the path difference is an integer multiple of the wavelength, which indicates a maximum in wave amplitude.

When **coherent** pulses meet in 2D or 3D space, the effects of their combined disturbance is the sum of their individual disturbances.



Two pulses (above) will create a single momentary pulse of their combined amplitude when they meet. They then continue in their original direction.

Reflection

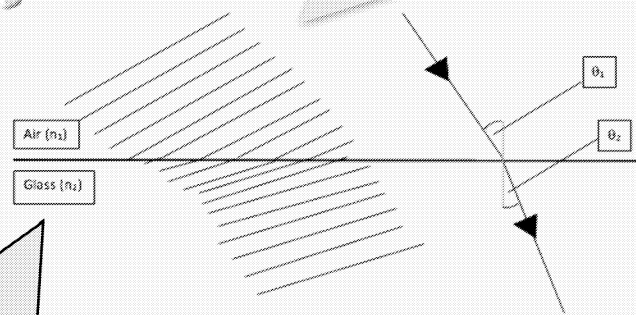


Law of reflection:
Angle of incidence = Angle of reflection

$$v = f\lambda$$

In **refraction** the speed (v) and wavelength (λ) change, but the frequency remains the same, so there is no colour change (compare to Doppler shift).

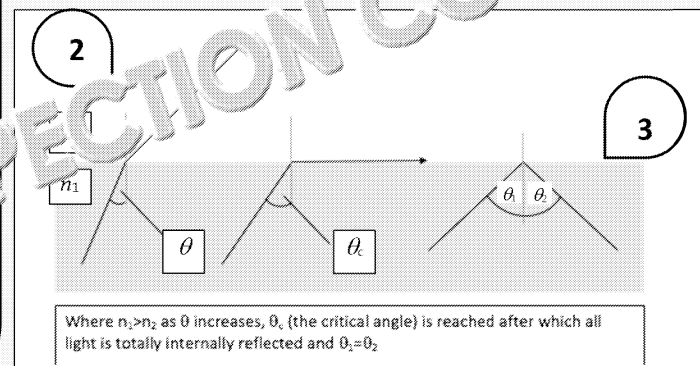
Waves can be illustrated by arrows or rays. Rays (of light, for instance) are straight lines connecting points on adjacent wave fronts. A single ray can be used to depict wave fronts are illustrated as shown below.



Refraction

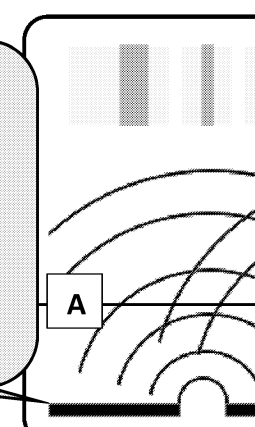
Snell's law gives $n_1/n_2 = \sin \theta_2/\sin \theta_1 = v_2/v_1$ where v is the wave speed in that medium, n is the refractive index of the media, and θ (theta) represents an angle.

Light moves at different speeds in different mediums. It moves more slowly in more dense mediums and faster in less dense ones. The refractive index (n) of a material is the ratio of the speed of light in a vacuum to its speed in that medium. This slows down and speeding up the light to take a shorter path or to bend. The wavelength decreases in denser mediums. The frequency remains the same.



Total internal reflection

In **Young's double slit interference**, the separation of the fringes (s) is given by $s = \lambda D/d$ where D = distance from slits to screen and d = separation of the slits.



Single slit diffraction

- pattern with a central maximum and smaller peaks
- because diffracted waves have different phases
- $\theta = \lambda/b$ (where b is slit width)
- interference pattern from a diffraction grating

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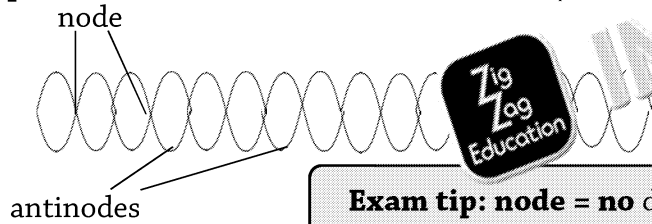


C.4 Standing Waves and Resonance

Standing waves

Standing waves are a special type of **interference**. The oscillations of waves and pulses occupying the same space in a medium can add or subtract to give **constructive** or **destructive** interference. This is called **superposition**.

A **standing wave pattern** is the result of two waves of the same frequency and wavelength travelling in **opposite directions** in the **same medium**. They are often described as waves that are 'standing still'.



Exam tip: node = no displacement

The drawing represents areas of **no displacement (nodes)** and areas of **maximum displacement (antinodes)** that appear to be stationary in the medium.

- The **phase difference** between the two waves creating a standing wave must be zero.
- Their amplitudes summate.
- The distance between any two successive nodes or antinodes will be $\lambda/2$ or half a wavelength.

A **standing wave** could be described as 'perfectly timed interference'. It appears to be standing still!

A **travelling wave** moves energy through a medium. Successive points are either displaced or still at any given time as the wave passes. With the standing wave, fixed points within the medium are either oscillating or still.

At the **nodes**, no disturbance can be perceived.

Musical instruments

Many **natural** **properties**

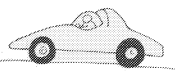
Such a string has fixed ends; these are the boundary conditions. A string with two fixed ends is described as **two fixed boundaries**. The string cannot move at these fixed ends, so **fixed boundaries create nodes**. If the length of the string is L , the wavelength of the **first harmonic will be $2L$** with nodes at the closed boundaries. Having determined the wavelength (λ), if the wave speed is known, frequency can be determined by $v = f\lambda$

Wind instruments depend on a free boundary, so antinodes are at the open ends. A **flute** has **two free boundaries**. Its harmonics are given by:

Resonance

Nodes – areas where the destructive interference of the two waves is total
Antinodes – areas where the constructive interference of the two waves is maximal

Resonance is not always desirable. Sometimes parts of a car can 'rattle' at certain speeds, when the driving force of the car's motion matches the natural frequency of the rattling part.



There's an old trick where an opera soprano sings a clear note at a wine glass, causing it to shatter. The sung note provides the driving force and the wine glass vibrates at its natural frequency, breaking itself!



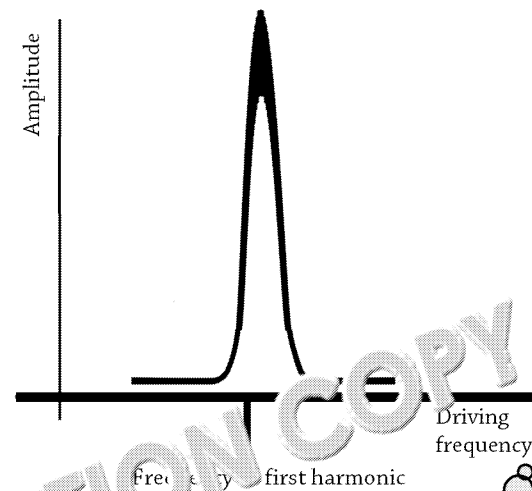
An **oscillation** can be forced by a **driving force**. (The blowing over the top of a bottle is the driving force that causes a resonance in the air column, causing it to oscillate with an increased amplitude.)

All bodies have a **natural frequency** or set of frequencies with which they vibrate.

(The flute vibrates with a single frequency and produces a pure tone; other instruments, for instance a tuba, will oscillate with a series of frequencies that have a mathematical relationship and produces a rich tone.)

Other objects vibrate with many frequencies that have no relationship to each other; we call this **noise**.

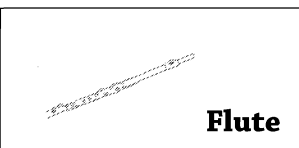
Graph to show amplitude of resonance against driving force



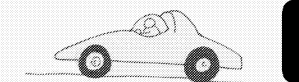
The diagram (above) illustrates a driving force that is forcing a **resonance** in an object with a single natural frequency. As the frequency of the driving force reaches the **natural frequency**, the amplitude of the **resonance increases**. If the frequency of the driving force increases **beyond the natural frequency**, the **amplitude** of the resonance will **decrease**.

Further increase in frequency of the driving force can give **additional harmonics**.

The driving frequency of a violin bow is derived from it having just enough friction to create a stick/slip oscillation.



Flute



Car

To ensure a smooth ride, a car has springs which help to prevent the driver and passenger feeling every bump on the road. However, the springs have a natural resonance and could result in 'bouncing'. This would be nauseating if worse the car cannot be controlled. The oscillation of the springs are damped by the shock absorbers which are like devices that take energy out of the springs, lessening the compression and extensions.

If you have ever pushed a child on a swing you will know that pushing with the same force at the right time is most effective. If you stop pushing the swing slows down due to the air resistance and the mechanism damping the swing.

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C.5 The Doppler Effect

The basics

The phenomenon by which the **frequency** of waves is altered if there is **relative movement** between the **source** of a wave and any **observer** was first explained by **Christian Johann Doppler** in 1842 and takes his name. The Doppler effect is observed when:

- the source of the waves moves closer to or away from the observer,
- the observer moves closer to or away from the source,
- or when they are both moving.

It applies to all types of **travelling wave**, though we usually give two examples: sound waves and light.

Distance between source and observer **diminishing**: Frequency of the travelling wave appears to **increase** to the observer.

Distance between source and observer **increasing**: Frequency of the travelling wave appears to **decrease** to the observer.

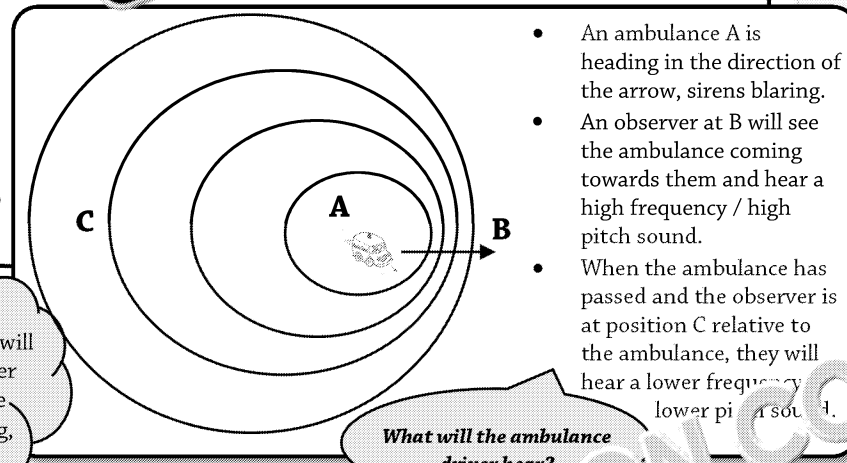
THE WAVE IS COMPRESSED

THE WAVE IS STRETCHED

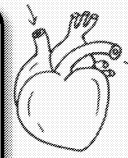
Ultrasound (around 20 000 Hz) is used for **medical** purposes. Most organs in the body stay still, but blood moves. Sometimes it is important to know the velocity of blood flow within the vessels and heart.

- Too fast: can indicate congenital heart defects or damage to the heart valves
- Too slow: can indicate blocked arteries

The **incident frequency** of the ultrasound is known. Measuring the **observed frequency** can indicate the **velocity** and **direction** of blood flow.



- An ambulance A is heading in the direction of the arrow, sirens blaring.
- An observer at B will see the ambulance coming towards them and hear a high frequency / high pitch sound.
- When the ambulance has passed and the observer is at position C relative to the ambulance, they will hear a lower frequency / lower pitch sound.



Normal flow is proportional to the cross-sectional area of the blood vessels, so blood flows faster in the arteries than the capillaries. Normal blood flow through the heart is around 32–35 cm/s and it differs between men and women.

Equations you need to know

HL Only

Any calculations will only involve either the **source** or the **observer** moving, not both.

Similar changes in frequency occur when the **observer is moving** towards the source. If the observer is moving towards the source, more wavelengths pass the observer in any given time, so the observed frequency is increased. Similarly, when the observer moves away, the apparent frequency decreases.

Emission spectra

- Atoms in a light source emit different **wavelengths**
- Characteristic emission spectra for any element
- The intensity and composition of the spectrum
- Emission spectra can allow scientists to determine the composition of stars

Situation	Equation	Notes	Towards or away?	Plus or minus?
The source is moving, and the observer is stationary.	$f' = f \left(\frac{v}{v \pm u_s} \right)$	f' - observed frequency f - actual frequency v - velocity of the waves u_s - velocity of the moving force		f' will increase So $(v \pm u_s)$ needs to be smaller - use minus
The observer is moving, and the source is stationary.	$f' = f \left(\frac{v \pm u_o}{v} \right)$	f' , f and v as above u_o - velocity of moving observer		f' will increase So $(v \pm u_o)$ needs to be bigger - use plus
				f' will decrease So $(v \pm u_o)$ needs to be smaller - use minus

The Doppler shift

The stars of Alpha Centauri triple star system are moving towards Earth and so their emission spectra are slightly shifted towards the blue end of the spectrum.

Did you know? The universe's stars are getting closer because of their gravitational attraction over local stars and the Andromeda Galaxy.

Regarding **electromagnetic waves**, as opposed to mechanical waves: $\frac{\Delta f}{f} = \frac{\Delta \lambda}{\lambda} \approx \frac{v}{c}$ where v is the speed of separation of source and observer and $v \ll c$ (c being the speed of light). It doesn't matter which is moving; source, observer or both.

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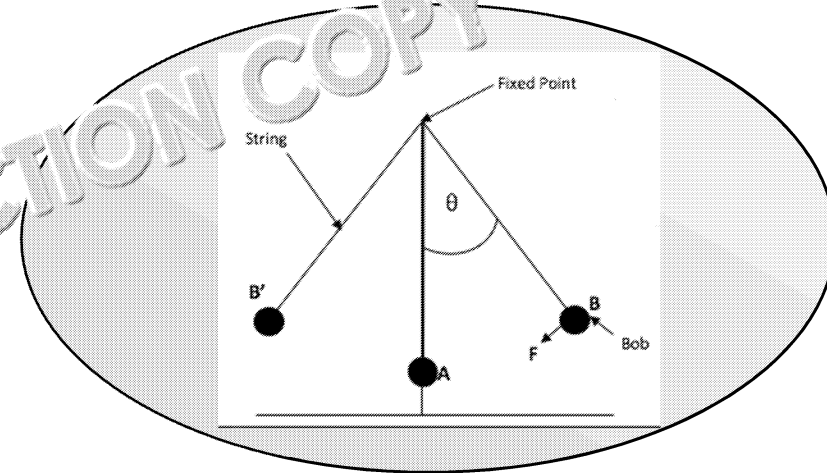


C.1 Simple Harmonic Motion

Simple harmonic motion (SHM) basics

1. Name the five conditions that describe simple harmonic motion:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.



Considering the diagram of a **simple pendulum**, above:

4. a) Which point represents the equilibrium point?

b) Give the two points where the velocity of the bob is zero.

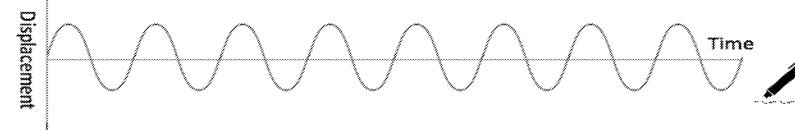
c) At what points will the velocity be maximum and acceleration zero?

4. c) and the mass of the bob is 20 g, calculate the restoring force. Give your answer to 3 sig. fig. and give units.

The period (T) of different SHM systems

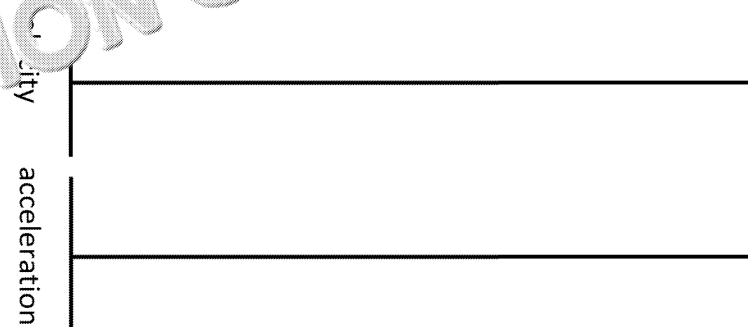
2. A mass-spring system oscillates in simple harmonic motion. The mass = 1 kg and the spring constant is 1.2 N/m. Calculate the period of oscillation. Give your answer to 2 d.p. and give units.

3. A pendulum bob swings on an 80 cm string. Taking g to be 9.8 m/s^2 calculate its period. Give your answer to 2 d.p. and give units.



6. The diagram above shows a graph of displacement against time for an SHM that starts at the equilibrium point. Mark on the diagram: a) the amplitude, b) one wavelength (λ), and c) mark 2π at the point that represents the first complete cycle.

7. On the axes below, draw sine or cosine curves, in their correct phase for a) the velocity against time and b) the acceleration against time for the same oscillator.



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Wave basics

1. Cross out the wrong word or words in the following statements, e.g. *perpendicular/transverse*

Travelling/Standing waves are characterised by a continuous disturbance or oscillation in a medium that results in energy *store/transfer*. The medium *is / is not* transferred. The direction of the wave is given by *the up and down movement of the medium / the direction of energy transfer*.

In transverse waves, the direction of the oscillation is *perpendicular/parallel* to the direction of energy transfer, whereas in *longitudinal/sound* waves it is *parallel/opposite*.

Mechanical/Physical waves need a medium to propagate the wave. *All electromagnetic waves / Only light* can transfer energy through a vacuum.

The points of maximum displacement in transverse waves are called *peaks and troughs / peaks* and the corresponding points in a longitudinal wave, like a sound wave where the particles are vibrating, are known as *compressions and rarefaction/refractions*.

Some/All types obey the wave equation $v = f\lambda = \lambda/T$ where v is wave speed measured in m/s, f is frequency measured in Hertz/Heinz, λ (lambda) represents *distance/wavelength* (m), and T is the *duration/period* measured in *time/seconds*.

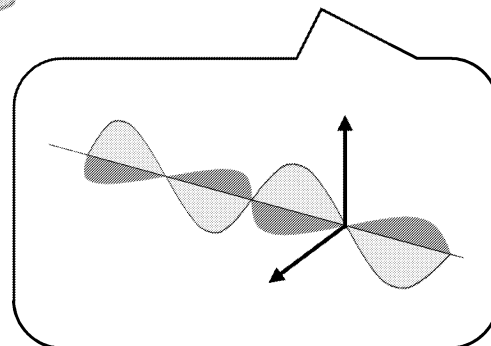
What wave...?



Electromagnetic spectrum

4. The diagram in the speech bubble (right) illustrates the propagation of electromagnetic waves using the *oscillation of electric/magnetic* fields.

- Can these electromagnetic fields propagate through a vacuum?
- What is the name of the particle postulated to oscillate in these fields?



C.2 The Wave Model

2. Complete the chart by placing a tick (✓) or a cross (✗) in each cell.

	Longitudinal waves	Transverse waves
The oscillation is perpendicular to the transmission of energy		
The oscillation is parallel to the transmission of energy		
No waves of this type can transmit in a vacuum		
Changes the density and pressure within the transmitting medium		
The speed depends on the medium it travels through		
The energy moves, but the medium of transmission doesn't		
Can reflect off some surfaces		

3. Here's a quick quiz to test your waves basics.

- This is a longitudinal wave; it has a speed of approximately 340 m/s, and dogs can hear it at frequencies between 67000 Hz and 45 000 Hz: _____
- These waves can be caused by the movement of Earth's structure, perhaps movement along a fault between tectonic plates: _____
- These waves can travel through a vacuum and have very high frequencies and short wavelengths. They are used to make images of internal structures: _____
- These waves of the EMS that can be used for cooking and communication: _____
- These waves are caused by the relative motion of Earth and its moon: _____
- These huge mechanical waves can cause disasters. They occur when there are earthquakes under the sea: _____
- These longitudinal waves are used for medical imaging: _____
- These waves can result from radioactive decay of some nuclei: _____
- This spectrum of waves can propagate through a vacuum: _____
- These waves of the EMS have very long wavelengths and can transmit the news: _____

5. An oscilloscope is used to measure the displacement of a wave. The oscilloscope screen shows a wave. a) Draw scales on the screen to measure the wavelength and the amplitude of the wave.

Displacement

- b) The speed of the wave is 5 m/s. On the right, draw this wave and mark one wavelength.

6.

The rubber duck is used to measure the displacement of a wave. a) Draw a double-headed arrow to measure the wavelength and the amplitude of the wave on the screen.

- Draw a double-headed arrow to measure the wavelength and the amplitude of the wave on the screen.
- If you were to measure the wavelength and the amplitude of the wave on the screen, what would you measure?

7. Circle the correct answer. What happens to the wavelength of a wave when the frequency increases? The waves become longer. The waves become shorter. The waves become more frequent.

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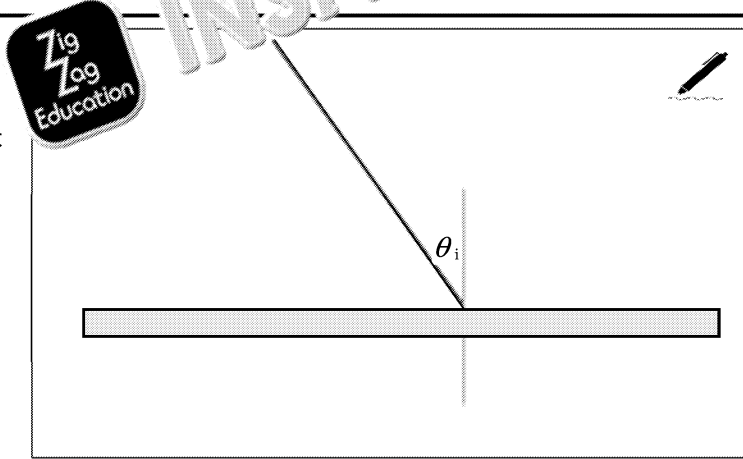
C.3 Wave Phenomena

What happens to waves when they meet boundaries, obstacles or other waves?

- Cross out the incorrect word or words in the following statements, e.g. *reflected/refracted*
 - When waves meet *edges/boundaries* between different media they can be reflected, transmitted or *consumed/absorbed* (sometimes more than one).
 - Waves meeting an object within the medium of transmission may be *reflected* around the object.
 - Waves passing through the same medium or field of view have a combined effect is the *product/sum* of their individual oscillation.

Reflection

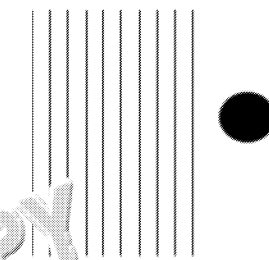
- The diagram shows a ray of light incident on a plain mirror.
 - Show the reflected ray
 - Give the angle of reflection θ_r in terms of the angle of incidence θ_i



Other wave phenomena

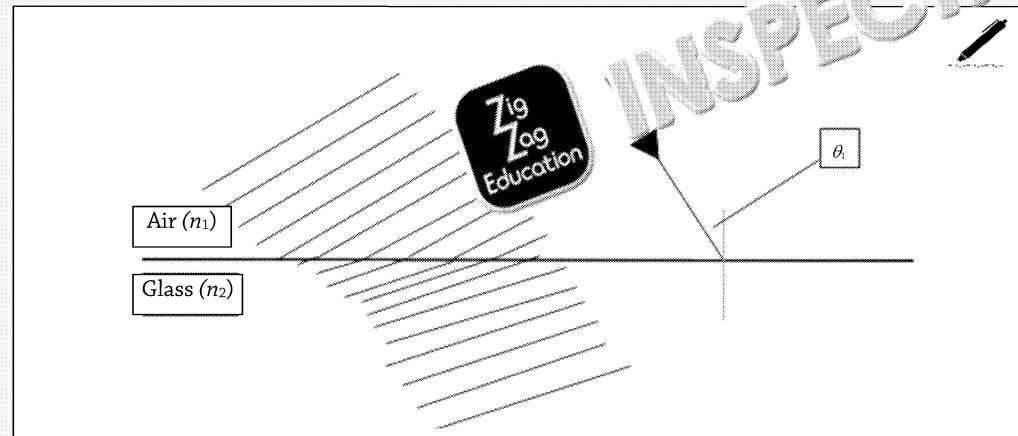
The diagram below represents a gamma ray passing through a lead block. Lead will absorb the energy of gamma rays.

- Draw a continuation of the sine wave to the right.



Refraction

- The diagram shows both wave fronts and a ray of light incident on a transparent glass block.
 - Show the refracted ray
 - Give the angle of refraction θ_2 in terms of the angle of incidence θ_1



Total internal reflection

- Match the words/phrases in the table (right) to the correct numbered space in the paragraph below:
When light transmits from a (1) medium to a (2) medium, under certain circumstances the light can (3) internally and be 'trapped' within the material. As the angle of incidence increases, the (4) moves closer to the boundary. At the (5) angle, the ray travels along the boundary. At greater angle, light is (6). (7) communication depend on this phenomenon.

refract
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Fibre

- Give Snell's law.

- Complete the wave equation $V = \lambda f$
- Wave fronts of blue light pass from air to the glass. What will happen to:
 - their speed?
 - their frequency?
 - their wavelength?

- The refractive index of air (n_{air}) is 1.00 and the refractive index of glass (n_{glass}) is 1.7. If the angle of incidence θ_1 is 25° , what is the angle of refraction? Give your answer to the nearest degree.



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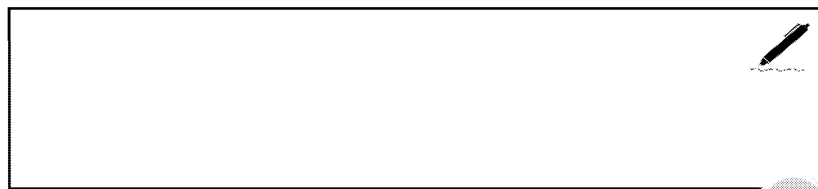


C.4 Standing Waves and Resonance

Standing waves

- Cross out the incorrect word or words in the following statements, e.g. *wave/interference*.
 - Standing waves are a special type of *wave/interference*.
 - The oscillations of waves and pulses occupying the same space can *multiply/add* to give constructive or destructive interference.
 - This is called *superposition/isoprovision*.
 - A standing wave pattern is the result of two waves of the same frequency and wavelength travelling in the *opposite/same* direction in the same medium.
 - The phase difference between waves creating a standing wave must be *positive/zero*.
 - Nodes are areas where the *destructive/constructive* interference between the two waves is total.
 - Antinodes are areas where the *destructive/constructive* interference between the two waves is maximal.
 - The distance between any two successive *nodes / nodes or antinodes* will be $\lambda/2$ or half a wavelength.

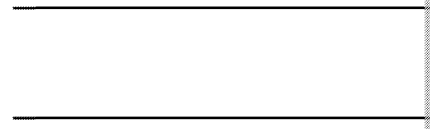
- In the space (right) draw a representation of a standing wave, labelling some nodes and antinodes.



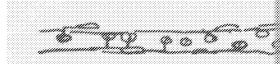
Musical instruments

Many musical instruments rely on standing waves. A string fixed at both ends has a **natural frequency** that is determined by its length, mass, and tension.

- On the two strings below, draw the first harmonic.

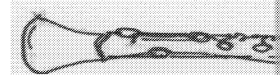


- On the 'tube' below, which represents a tube open at both ends, draw the first harmonic.



free

- On the 'tube' below, which represents a tube closed at one end, draw the first harmonic.



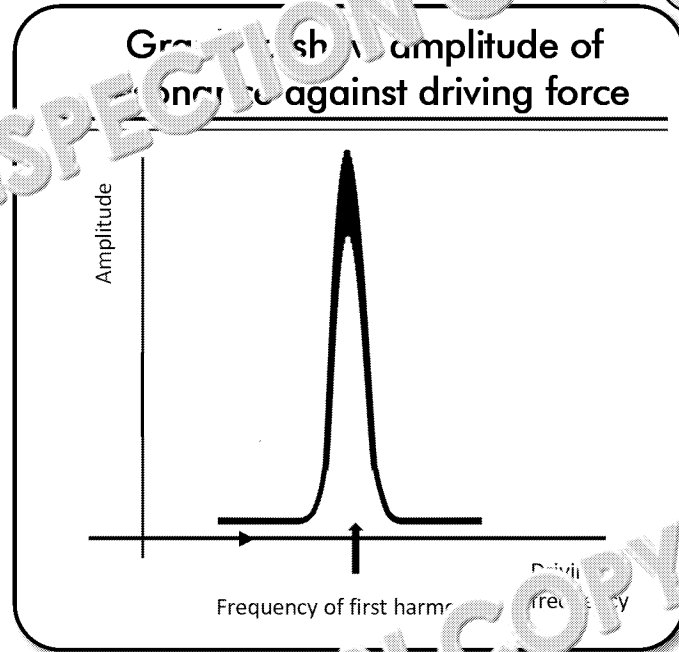
free

- Why can a clarinet only give notes of odd harmonics?

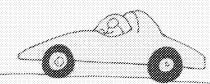
Resonance

The diagram (right) shows the resonance response of a harmonic oscillator when the frequency of the driving force is increased both up to and down from the natural frequency.

- Explain what is happening to the amplitude of the oscillator as the driving frequency increases:



- Give one example of a resonance that is considered useful, and one where it is a problem. Identify the driving force in each case.



Damping

- The springs on a car help give it a smooth ride. What prevents the springs from oscillating at their natural frequency?

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Zig Zag Education

C.5 The Doppler Effect

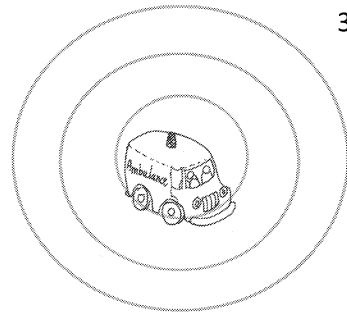
The basics

1. Insert the correct word or phrase from the following list to complete these paragraphs.
light, relative movement, source, frequency, observer, sound waves, Doppler effect

The phenomenon by which the _____ of waves is altered when there is a _____ between the _____ wave and any _____ was first described by Christian Johann _____ in 1842 and takes his name. It applies to _____ types of travelling wave, though we often give two examples: _____ and _____.

2. Tick the true statement below:
 The Doppler effect is observed when:

- only the source of the waves moves relative to the observer
- only the observer moves closer to the source
- the source and the observer are moving relative to each other



3. The sound waves from an ambulance siren can be depicted by concentric rings representing wave fronts (see diagram, left). Using a similar notation, show what happens to the sound waves as perceived by the two boys as the ambulance passes by, annotating the diagrams below.

a)

b)

Equations

4. Chose the correct form of the Doppler effect equation for a moving source and calculate the change in frequency as perceived by the two boys when the ambulance approaches. The frequency of the siren (f) is 900 Hz, and the boys are stationary. It's a very hot day so you can take the speed of sound (v) to be 346 m/s and the speed of the ambulance (u) is 60 mph (27 m/s). Give your answer to 2 d.p. and give units.

Some modern speed 'cameras' use infrared to detect speeding cars. A signal is transmitted to the car. It is reflected and received by the camera. Both a transmitter and a receiver are on the camera. The change in frequency between the transmitted and returning signal allows the car's speed to be calculated using $\Delta f = \frac{2fv}{c}$ where Δf = the change in frequency
 f = the original source frequency
 v = the car's speed
 c = the speed of light (take as 3×10^8)

- a) When the infrared signal is initially transmitted to the car, is the source or the observer that is moving?
- b) When the signal is reflected back, is it the source or the observer that is moving?
- c) Use your answers to a) and b) to postulate the equation for the Doppler shift. There is a 2 in the numerator of the equation.

The Doppler shift

7. In the 1920s, it was discovered that the frequencies of light from distant galaxies had shifted towards the red end of the spectrum. This led to the conclusion that the universe is expanding and moving away from us.

The ratio of an object's recessional velocity to the speed of light is equal to the ratio between the perceived change in frequency and the original frequency.

Light of wavelength 430.0 nm has red shifted to 440.0 nm.

a) Calculate the recessional velocity of the galaxy.

b) The emission spectrum of a star is shifted towards the red end of the spectrum as viewed from Earth.

8. What did Edwin Hubble discover? State Hubble's law, and how it is used.

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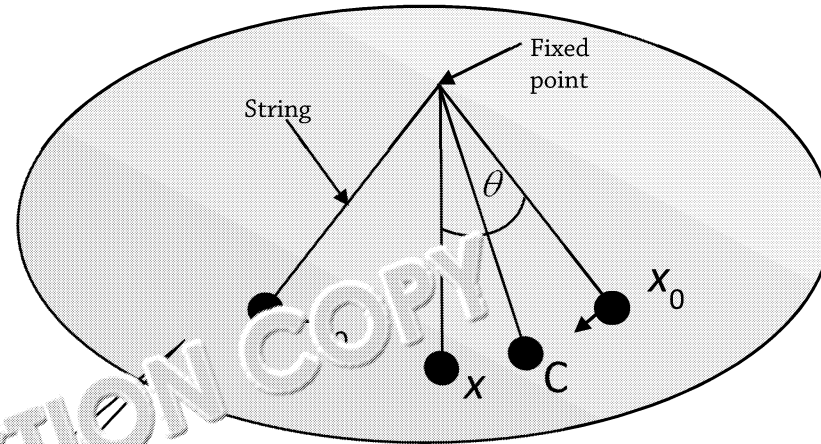
C.1 Simple Harmonic Motion

Simple harmonic motion (SHM) basics



In simple harmonic motion, energy is transferred between

kinetic energy and potential energy at a constant frequency



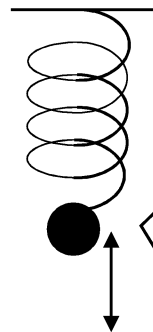
A simple pendulum

The period (T) of different SHM systems



For a **mass-spring system**,

For a **pendulum**,



The period of a mass-spring system



The **restoring force** will be given by

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C.2 The Wave Model

Wave basics



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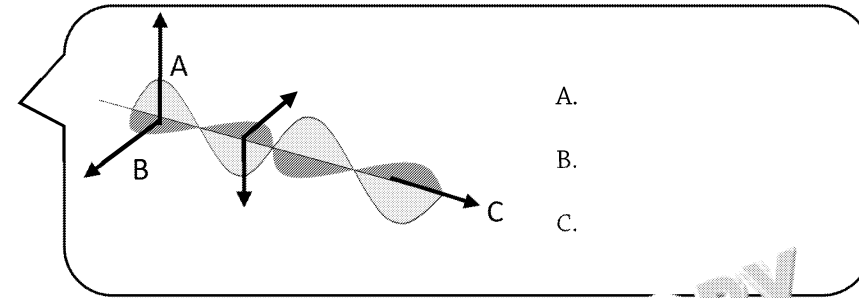
Transverse waves

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Electromagnetic spect



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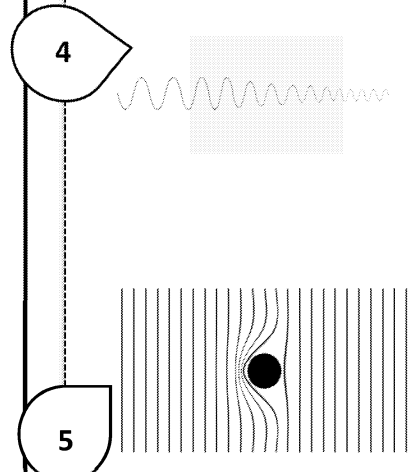
What happens to waves when they meet boundaries, obstacles or other waves?

C.3 Wave Phenomena

Other wave phenomena

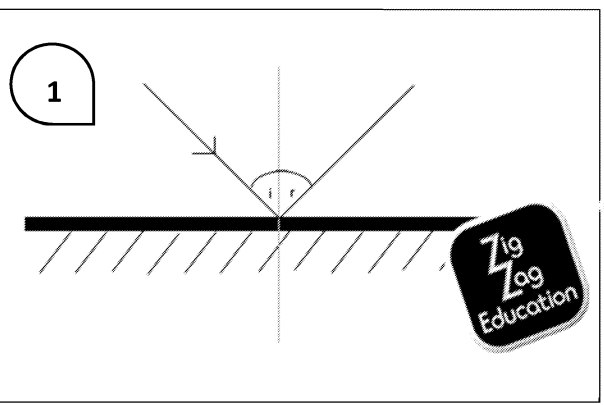


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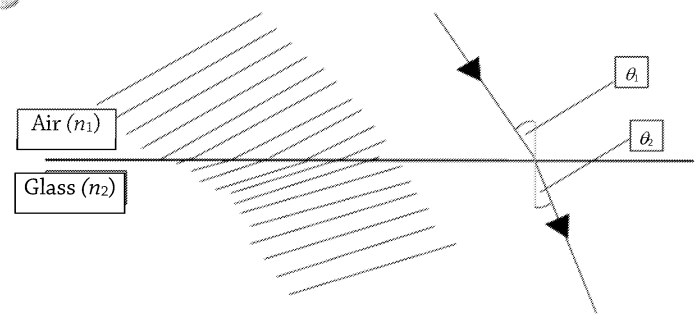


$$v = f\lambda$$

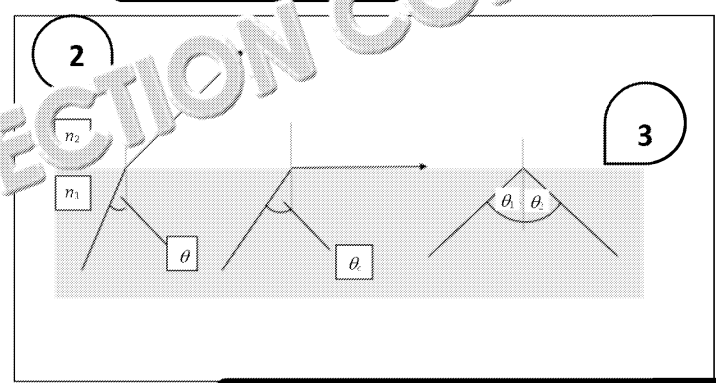
Reflection



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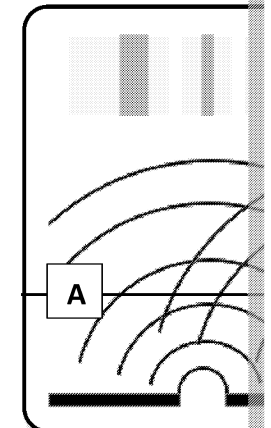
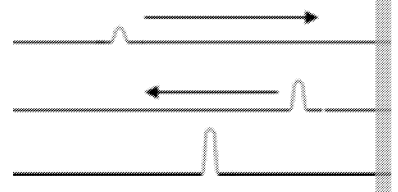
Refraction



Total internal reflection



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Single slit diffraction

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C.4 Standing Waves and Resonance

Standing waves

Musical instruments



A **standing wave** could be described as

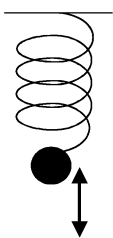
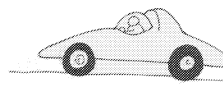
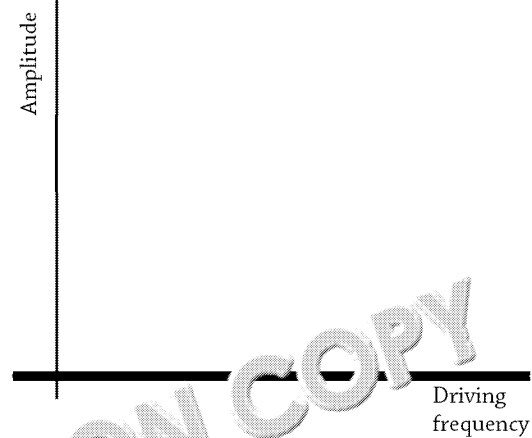
A **travelling wave**

Resonance

Nodes -
Antinodes -



Graph to show amplitude of resonance against driving force



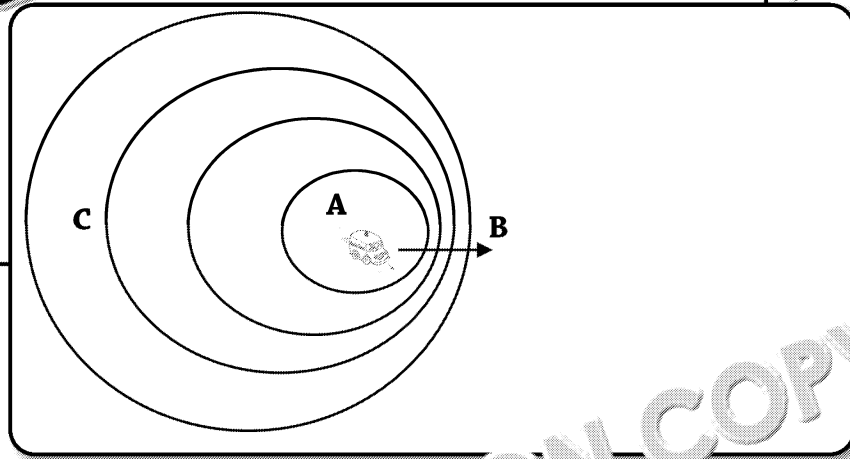
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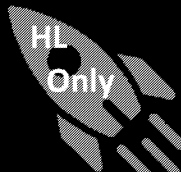


C.5 The Doppler Effect

The basics



Equations you need to know



Similar characteristics occur when

Emission spectra

Situation	Equation	Notes	Towards or away?	Plus or minus?
The source is moving, and the observer is stationary.				
The observer is moving, and the source is stationary.				

Regarding **electromagnetic waves**, as mechanical waves:

The Doppler shift

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IB Topic on a Page, Theme B: Mark

C.1 Simple Harmonic Motion

- 1) In any order:
 1. The object oscillates around a central equilibrium point
 2. There is a 'restoring force' that acts towards the central equilibrium point
 3. The velocity, acceleration and displacement of the object are continuous
 4. The magnitude of the restoring force and the displacement are directly proportional
 5. The oscillations have a constant time period (T)

- 2) Using equation $T = 2\pi\sqrt{\frac{m}{k}}$ and $m = 1 \text{ kg}$, $k = 1.2 \text{ N/m}$:

$$T = 2\pi\sqrt{\frac{1}{1.2}}$$

= 5.74 seconds (to 2 d.p.)

- 3) Using equation $T = 2\pi\sqrt{\frac{l}{g}}$ and $l = 0.8\text{m}$, $g = 9.8 \text{ m/s}^2$:

$$T = 2\pi\sqrt{\frac{0.8}{9.8}}$$

= 1.80 seconds (to 2 d.p.)

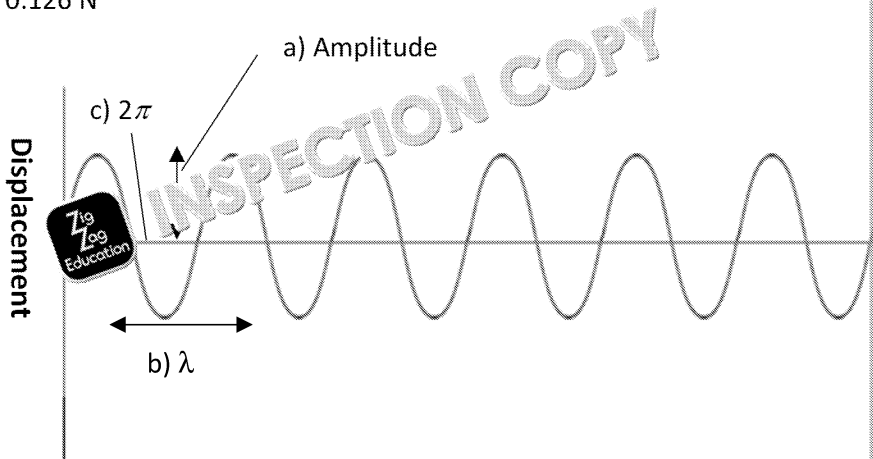
- 4) a) A
b) B and B' (in either order)
c) A

- 5) Using $F = mg \sin\theta$ and $\theta = 40^\circ$, $m = 0.02 \text{ kg}$:

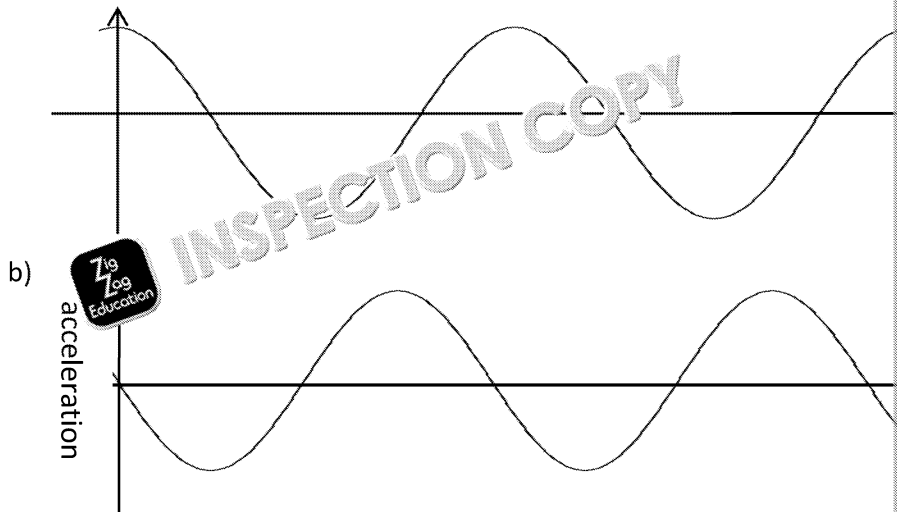
$$F = 0.02 \times 9.8 \times \sin 40^\circ$$

= 0.126 N

- 6)



- 7) The shape of the curve, amplitude and wavelength need only be approximately correct. For a), velocity must start at the maximum and fall to zero at $\pi/2$. For b), the acceleration curve must start at the maximum, but it is the negative of the displacement curve.



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- 8) At point A, the *kinetic/potential* energy is zero.
The gravitational potential energy at B and B' is *equal and opposite / equivalent*
- 9) a) mass = 0.02 kg, $x_0 = 0.015$ m, $T = 0.8$ s
Use equation $\omega = 2\pi/T$, and substitute into $v_{max} = \omega x_0$ to give $v_{max} = \frac{2\pi}{T} x_0$
- $$v_{max} = \frac{2\pi}{0.8} \times 0.015$$
- $$= 1.178 \text{ m/s}$$
- b) $E_k = \frac{1}{2} m v_{max}^2$
 $m = 0.02$ kg
 $v_{max} = 1.178$ m/s
 $E_k = \frac{1}{2} \times 0.02 \times (1.178)^2$
 $E_k = 0.0014 \text{ J} = 0.14 \text{ mJ}$ (to 2 sig. fig.)

10) **(Additional HL)**

$m = 2$ kg
Use equation $\omega = 2\pi/T = 2\pi/1.25$ rad/sec
 $x_0 = 0.3$ m
 $E_T = \frac{1}{2} m \omega^2 x_0^2$
 $E_T = 2.27 \text{ J}$ (to 3 sig. fig.)

C.2 The Wave Model

- 1) **Travelling/Standing** waves are characterised by a continuous disturbance or results in energy *store/transfer*. The medium *is / is not* transferred. The direction *up and down movement of the medium / the direction of energy transfer*. In *transverse* waves the direction of oscillation is *perpendicular/parallel* to the direction of energy transfer *in longitudinal waves* it is the opposite.

Mechanical/Physical waves need a medium to propagate the wave. *All electromagnetic waves* can transfer energy through a vacuum.

The points of maximum displacement in transverse waves are called **peaks** and troughs. In a longitudinal wave, like a sound wave where the particles oscillate parallel to the direction of energy transfer, the corresponding points are called **compressions** and **rarefaction/refractions**.

Some/All types obey the wave equation $v = f\lambda = \lambda/T$ where v is wave speed measured in **Hertz/Heinz**, λ (lambda) represents **distance/wavelength** (m), and T is measured in **time/seconds**.

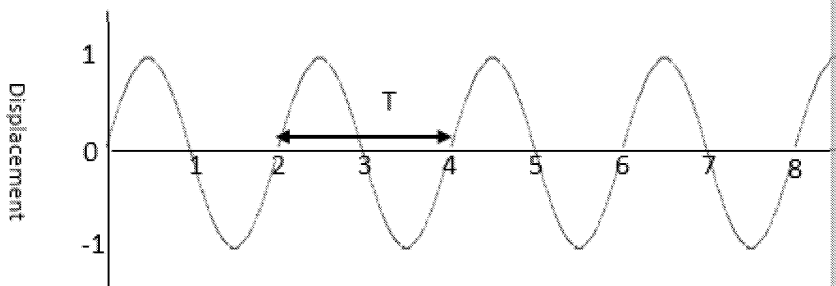
2)

Property	Longitudinal
The oscillation is perpendicular to the transmission of energy	
The oscillation is parallel to the transmission of energy	
No waves of this type can transmit in a vacuum	
Changes the density and pressure within the transmitting medium	
The speed depends on the medium it travels through	
The energy moves, but the medium of transmission doesn't	
Can reflect off some surfaces	

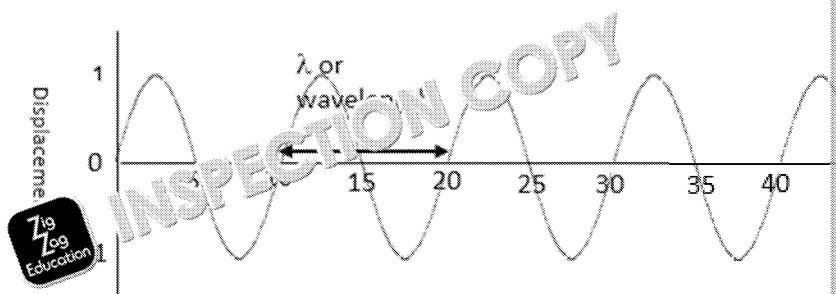
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- 3) a) Sound wave
 b) Seismic waves – accept s and p waves
 c) X-rays
 d) Microwaves
 e) Waves in the sea, tides (not tidal waves)
 f) Tsunamis or tidal waves
 g) Ultrasound
 h) Gamma rays
 i) EMS (electromagnetic spectrum)
 j) Radio waves
- 4) a) Yes
 b) The ... to ...
- 5) a) The ... periods

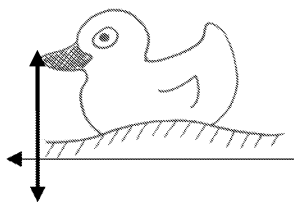


b)



- c) $f = 50 \text{ Hz}$ and $\pi/2$ radians $\equiv \lambda/4$
 $\lambda = 4 \times 0.002 \text{ metres} = 0.008 \text{ m}$
 $v = f\lambda$ so $50 \times 0.008 \text{ m/s}$
 $= 0.4 \text{ m/s}$

6) a)



NB The scale doesn't matter but the arrows should demonstrate understanding of the duck moving equally up and down from the mean in a disturbed water surface (its equilibrium) in the direction of the wave.

- b) A real duck would move up and down as the wave passes, but as it can pass through the water it has horizontal motion.

- 7) The following are correct:
- The crest of the wave accelerates.
 - The waves become elliptical.
 - The waves refract to become parallel to the shore.
- (The waves speed up. ✗)

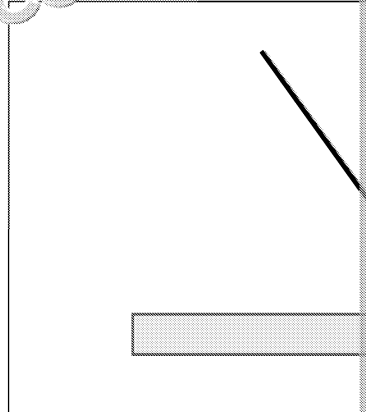
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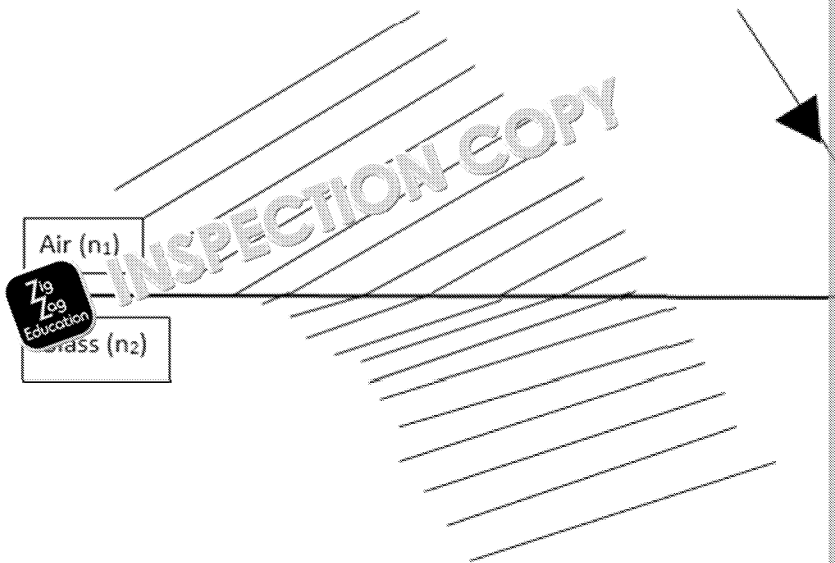
C.3 Wave Phenomena

- 1) a) When waves meet **edges/boundaries** between different media they can be **consumed/absorbed** (sometimes more than one).
- b) Waves meeting an object within the medium of transmission may be **reflected** by the object.
- c) Waves passing through the same medium or field can interact. Their combined effect is the **product/sum** of their individual oscillations.

- 2) a) Line with arrow so that θ_i approximately equals θ_r
- b) $\theta_i = \theta_r$



- 3) a) Line with arrow so that θ_2 is less than θ_1 and the arrow is roughly perpendicular to the boundary.



- b) $\theta_2 < \theta_1$
- 4) a) $n_1/n_2 = \sin \theta_2 / \sin \theta_1 = v_2/v_1$
- b) $(v =) f\lambda$
- c) i) The speed will decrease
ii) The frequency will remain the same
iii) The wavelength will decrease
- d) **(Additional HL)** $n_1/n_2 = \sin \theta_2 / \sin \theta_1$
 $\theta_2 = \sin^{-1}(\sin \theta_1 \cdot n_1/n_2)$
 $= \sin^{-1}(\sin 30^\circ \cdot 1/1.7)$
 $= 14^\circ$ (to 2 d.p.)
 $= 14^\circ$ to the nearest degree

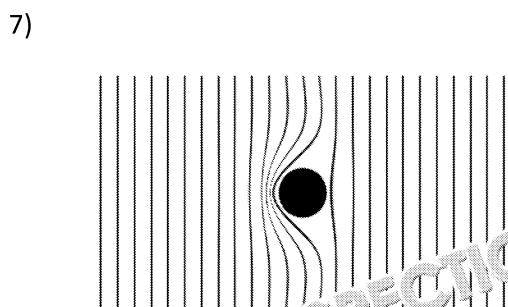
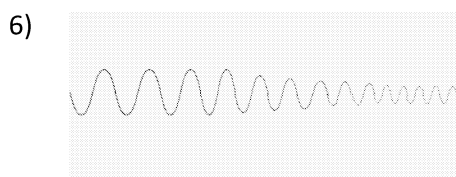
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- 5) When light transmits from a **denser** medium to a **less dense** medium, under certain conditions it can **reflect** internally and be 'trapped' within the material. As the angle of incidence of the **ray** moves closer to the boundary. At the **critical** angle, the ray is refracted at 90 degrees. At larger angles, light is **totally internally reflected**. **Fibre optic** communications depend on this principle.

	Number
refracted ray	4
reflect	3
critical	2
less dense	2
totally internally reflected	6
denser	1
Fibre optic	7



- 8) a) Single slit
b) Constructive
c) Coherent
d) Complex waves
- 9) The arced wave fronts beyond the slits can **interfere**. The **amplitude** of the disturbance at that point is the sum of the waves passing through the **medium** at that point and will range from **zero** to the maximum disturbance.
- 10) D represents the distance from the slits to the screen and d represents the separation of the slits
- 11) a) Waves incident on a narrow slit spread out to form a fan shape. This is called **diffraction** and occurs when the width of the slit and the wavelength are similar and is due to the wave nature of the propagating wave and the edge of the slit. The wave is briefly slowed and bent at the edge. The closer to the edge the wave passes, the more it is bent or diffracted. Waves that pass through the slit are unaffected.
- b) Diffraction

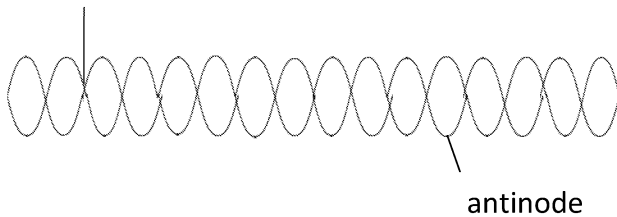
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C.4 Standing Waves and Resonance

- 1)
 - a) Standing waves are a special type of **wave/interference**.
 - b) The oscillations of waves and pulses occupying the same space in a medium can be **constructive or destructive interference**.
 - c) This is called **superposition/isoposition**.
 - d) A standing wave pattern is the result of two waves of the same frequency traveling in the **opposite/same** direction in the same medium.
 - e) The phase difference between the two waves creating a standing wave is **0 or π** .
 - f) Nodes are areas where there is **destructive/constructive** interference between the two waves.
 - g) Antinodes are areas where the **destructive/constructive** interference between the two waves is **maximal**.
 - h) The distance between any two successive **nodes / nodes or antinodes** will be **half a wavelength**.

2)



- 3) (This background **may** be given – A harmonic oscillator has a natural frequency. A driving frequency refers to the frequency of an oscillating force that is in contact with the oscillator.)

This information is **required** – The graph shows that as the driving force increases, the amplitude of the resonance increases. At the natural frequency the resonance peaks and then dies away as the frequency increases.

- 4) Useful harmonic resonance:

- Many musical instruments, especially wind instruments – driving force is provided by the friction of the bow against the string, and with wind instruments the driving force is provided by blowing across a vibrating reed.
- Microwave ovens have similar frequencies to the natural frequencies of food, so they are heated by the microwave radiation passing through the food.

Allow any correct answers.

Unwanted resonances:

- Unwanted buzzes in acoustic equipment – driving forces come from other sources.
- When a car rattles, the driving force comes from oscillations from bumps on the road.
- Vibration through the steering wheel at certain speeds can be caused by resonance and causing a driving oscillation.

Allow any correct answers.

5)

- a)

- b)

- b)

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c) i)



ii) The clarinet has different boundary conditions at each end. Nodes and antinodes form at open boundaries. This means that standing waves of wavelengths cannot exist, meaning that such instruments only re 1, 3, 5, etc.

6) a) The fifth harmonic will give two and a half wavelengths; $\lambda_5 = 2/5 \times L$
 Flute length = $L = 0.66$ m, one wavelength is 0.264 m = 26 cm

b) First harmonic: $\lambda_1 = 2L = 1.32$ m
 $v = f\lambda$, which re $\lambda_1 = 1.32$ so $f = v/\lambda$

$f = 260$ Hz

7) The springs in cars help smooth the ride and stop every bump in the road being at natural frequency. On their own they would amplify the bumps close to their natural frequency. Shock absorbers prevent this by dampening the resonance of the spring.

8) Light damping widens the range of frequency response and lessens the peak frequency response, but heavy damping causes a much less amplified response at all frequencies. Critical damping approximates to a level of damping between the two, it stops the oscillation so that the amplitude, range of response and time taken to reach equilibrium are all minimized.

Light damping	Wider range of driving frequencies responded to
Heavy damping	Much wider range of driving frequencies responded to

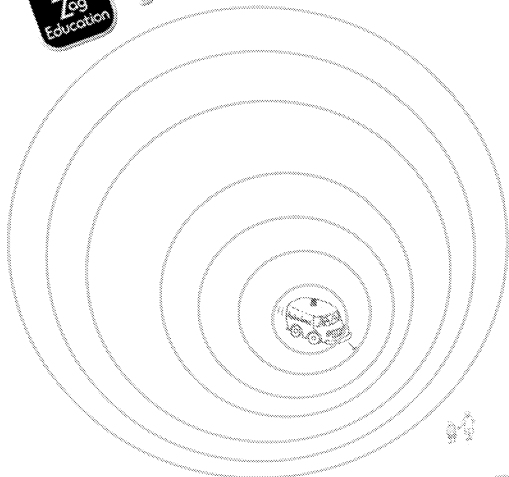
C.5 The Doppler Effect

1) The phenomenon by which the **frequency** of waves is altered if there is a **relative motion** between the **source** of a wave and any **observer** was first explained by Christian Johann Doppler.

It applies to all types of travelling waves, though we often give two examples: **light waves** (e.g. redshift) and **sound waves** (e.g. ambulance siren).

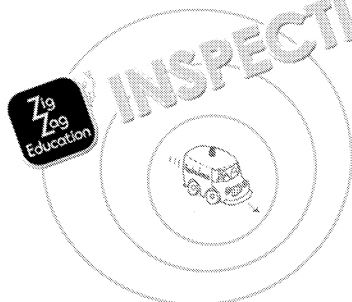
2) The source and the observer are moving relative to each other.

3) a)



The drawing needs to show that there will be a **compression** of the wave fronts in front of the ambulance.

b)



The drawing needs to show the **stretching** of the wave fronts as the ambulance moves away.

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4) **(Additional HL)**

Using $f^1 = f \left(\frac{v}{v-u} \right)$, $f = 900 \text{ Hz}$, $v = 346 \text{ m/s}$ and $u = 27 \text{ m/s}$
 $f^1 = 900 \times (346/319)$
 $= 976.18 \text{ Hz}$

- 5) a) The observer is moving
 b) The source is moving
 c) The effect of the reflection is that the car is both an observer and a source in frequency perceived. The addition of v/c in the equation corrects this.
 d) $\Delta f = \frac{2fv}{c}$ so rearranging gives $v = \frac{c \Delta f}{2f}$

$\Delta f = 1.18 \times 10^3 \text{ Hz}$, $c = 3 \times 10^8$, $f = 400 \times 10^9$
 So $v = 1.18 \times 10^3 \times 3 \times 10^8 / (2 \times 400 \times 10^9) = 442.5 \text{ m/s}$, therefore the car is exceeding the speed limit

6)

Example	What waves	Mechanism
Blood flow in medical investigations	Ultrasound	The incident frequency is known, the speed and direction of the blood cells can be calculated by the reflected frequency
Weather forecasting	Radar	Radar pulses reflecting off clouds systems are analysed for change in speed, phase or Doppler shift of the remaining pulse. Distance, motion and constitution can be determined.

7) a) $v = \frac{\Delta \lambda c}{\lambda}$, and $\lambda = 430 \text{ m}$, $\Delta \lambda = 432 \text{ m}$

$v = \frac{(432 - 430) \times 3 \times 10^8}{430}$

$= 1.4 \text{ km/s}$

- b) The universe appears to be expanding and most parts are moving away. But as we are not observing from the centre of expansion, some objects are moving towards us.
 8) Hubble's law states that the recessional velocities of galaxies are proportional to their distance. $v/c \approx \frac{\Delta f}{f} = \frac{\Delta \lambda}{\lambda}$ would confirm that the furthest away, and hence fastest-moving, galaxies show the greatest Doppler shift.

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