

# Solution of the Wave Equation.

$$u_{tt} = c^2 \cdot u_{xx}, \quad u(x, 0) = \varphi_0(x)$$

$$u_t(x, 0) = \varphi_1(x).$$

1. Let  $\hat{u}(s, t)$  denote the Fourier transform of  $u(x, t)$  w.r.t.  $x$ -variable:

$$\hat{u}(s, t) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-2\pi i s x} u(x, t) dx, \quad u(x, t) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{2\pi i s x} \hat{u}(s, t) ds$$

$$u_{tt} = \frac{\partial^2}{\partial t^2} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{2\pi i s x} \hat{u}(s, t) ds = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{2\pi i s x} \cdot \frac{\partial^2 \hat{u}}{\partial t^2}(s, t) ds.$$

$$c^2 u_{xx} = c^2 \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{2\pi i s x} \hat{u}(s, t) ds = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} c^2 (2\pi i s)^2 \cdot \hat{u}(s, t) e^{2\pi i s x} ds.$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{\partial^2 \hat{u}}{\partial t^2}(s, t) = (2\pi i s c)^2 \cdot \hat{u}(s, t), \quad \text{for all } s \in \mathbb{R}.$$

$$\text{for all } t.$$

2. Solve for  $\hat{u}$ :

Fix  $s \in \mathbb{R}$ . Let  $f(t) = \hat{u}(s, t) \Rightarrow \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial t^2} = f''$

$$f'' = -(2\pi s c)^2 \cdot f$$

$$f'' + (2\pi s c)^2 \cdot f = 0$$

Charact. Equation:  $r^2 + (2\pi s c)^2 = 0 \Rightarrow r = \pm 2\pi i s c.$

$$f(t) = A e^{2\pi i s c t} + B e^{-2\pi i s c t}$$

where  $A = A(s)$ ,  $B = B(s)$  may depend on  $s$ .

We shall find  $A=A(s)$ ,  $B=B(s)$  in terms of the initial condition.

$$\hat{u}(s,t) = A(s) e^{2\pi i s c t} + B(s) e^{-2\pi i s c t}$$

$$\Rightarrow u(x,t) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{2\pi i s x} \hat{u}(s,t) ds = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{2\pi i s x + 2\pi i s c t} \cdot A(s) ds + \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{2\pi i s x - 2\pi i s c t} \cdot B(s) ds = a(x+ct) + b(x-ct)$$

where  $a(\cdot)$ ,  $b(\cdot)$  are the inverse Fourier transforms of  $A$  and  $B$  respectively.

3. Initial condition:

$$t=0: \varphi_0(x) = u(x,0) = a(x) + b(x)$$

$$t=0: \varphi_1(x) = \frac{\partial u}{\partial t}(x,0) = a'(x+ct) \Big|_{t=0} \cdot c + b'(x-ct) \Big|_{t=0} \cdot (-c) = c \cdot a'(x) - c \cdot b'(x).$$

We obtained:

$$\begin{cases} a(x) + b(x) = \varphi_0(x). \\ a'(x) - b'(x) = \frac{1}{c} \varphi_1(x). \end{cases} \quad \dots \rightarrow \begin{cases} a'(x) + b'(x) = \varphi_0'(x) \\ a'(x) - b'(x) = \frac{1}{c} \varphi_1(x). \end{cases}$$

$$+ : 2a'(x) = \varphi_0'(x) + \frac{1}{c} \varphi_1(x).$$

$$- : 2b'(x) = \varphi_0'(x) - \frac{1}{c} \varphi_1(x)$$

$$\Rightarrow \begin{cases} a'(x) = \frac{1}{2} \varphi_0'(x) + \frac{1}{2c} \varphi_1(x) \\ b'(x) = \frac{1}{2} \varphi_0'(x) - \frac{1}{2c} \varphi_1(x). \end{cases}$$

Integrate.  
w.r.t.  $x$

$$\begin{cases} a(x) = \frac{1}{2} \varphi_0(x) + \frac{1}{2c} \int_0^x \varphi_1(y) dy + C_1 \\ b(x) = \frac{1}{2} \varphi_0(x) - \frac{1}{2c} \int_0^x \varphi_1(y) dy + C_2 \end{cases}$$

$$\varphi_0(x) = a(x) + b(x) = \varphi_0(x) + \frac{1}{2c} \int_0^x \varphi_1(y) dy - \frac{1}{2c} \int_0^x \varphi_1(y) dy + C_1 + C_2 \Rightarrow \underline{C_1 + C_2 = 0}$$

Thus:

$$\begin{aligned}
 u(x,t) &= a(x+ct) + b(x-ct) = \frac{1}{2} \varphi_0(x+ct) + \frac{1}{2c} \int_0^{x+ct} \varphi_1(y) dy + \underline{C_1} + \\
 &+ \frac{1}{2} \varphi_0(x-ct) - \frac{1}{2c} \int_0^{x-ct} \varphi_1(y) dy + \underline{C_2} = \\
 &= \frac{1}{2} (\varphi_0(x+ct) + \varphi_0(x-ct)) + \frac{1}{2c} \left[ \int_0^{x+ct} \varphi_1(y) dy + \int_{x-ct}^0 \varphi_1(y) dy \right] = \\
 &= \frac{1}{2} (\varphi_0(x+ct) + \varphi_0(x-ct)) + \frac{1}{2c} \int_{x-ct}^{x+ct} \varphi_1(y) dy
 \end{aligned}$$

Wave Equation on  $\mathbb{T}^1$  (with Periodic Boundary Conditions):

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} u_{tt} = c^2 u_{xx} \\ u(x,0) = \varphi_0(x) \\ u_t(x,0) = \varphi_1(x) \\ u(x+p,t) = u(x,t) \end{array} \right\} \Rightarrow u(x,t) = \frac{1}{2} (\varphi_0(x+ct) + \varphi_0(x-ct)) + \frac{1}{2c} \int_{x-ct}^{x+ct} \varphi_1(y) dy.$$

Q: Is  $u(x,t)$   $p$ -periodic in variable  $x$ ?

Answer: Yes, as long as  $\varphi_0$  and  $\varphi_1$  are  $p$ -periodic:

$$\begin{aligned}
 u(x+p,t) &= \frac{1}{2} (\varphi_0(x+p+ct) + \varphi_0(x+p-ct)) + \frac{1}{2c} \int_{x+p-ct}^{x+p+ct} \varphi_1(y) dy = \\
 &= \frac{1}{2} (\varphi_0(x+ct) + \varphi_0(x-ct)) + \frac{1}{2c} \int_{x-ct}^{x+ct} \varphi_1(u+p) du = u(x,t),
 \end{aligned}$$

" because  $\varphi_0$  is  $p$ -periodic " " because  $\varphi_1$  is  $p$ -periodic " (with  $y = u+p$ )

Alternative Approach:

$$u(x,t) = \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} c_n(t) \cdot e^{\frac{2n\pi i x}{p}}, \quad \text{since } x \mapsto u(x,t) \text{ is } p\text{-periodic, } \forall t.$$

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## Vibrating String with Fixed End Point

$u(x,t)$  satisfies:

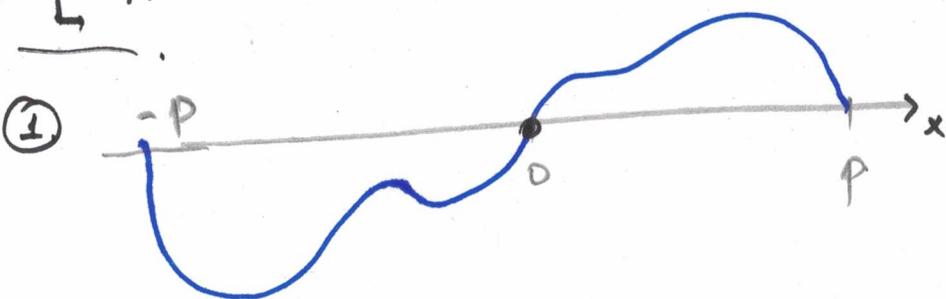
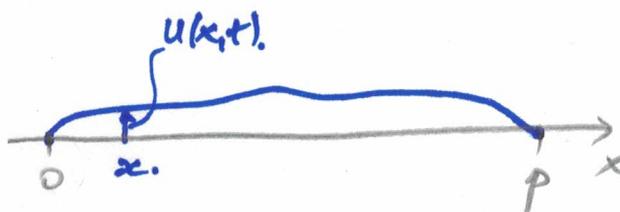
$$\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial t^2} = c^2 \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} \quad (\text{PDE}).$$

$$u(x,0) = f(x) \quad \left. \begin{array}{l} \\ \\ \end{array} \right\} \text{Initial Conditions.}$$

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t}(x,0) = g(x).$$

$$u(0,t) = 0 \quad \left. \begin{array}{l} \\ \\ \end{array} \right\} \text{Fixed End Points Condition (Boundary Conditions).}$$

$$u(p,t) = 0.$$



Given  $u(x,t)$  defined on  $[0,p]$   $\rightarrow$  Extend to  $[-p,0]$  by antisymmetry.

$$u(-x,t) = -u(x,t), \quad x \in [0,p].$$

We obtained an antisymmetric function  $u(\cdot, t) : [-p,p] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ .  
 $x \mapsto u(x,t)$ .

② Expand  $u: [-p, p] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  in Fourier series, w.r.t. variable  $x$ .

$$u(x, t) = \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} c_n(t) \cdot e^{\frac{2\pi i n x}{2p}} = c_0(t) + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n(t) \cdot \cos\left(\frac{\pi n x}{p}\right) + a_0(t) + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} b_n(t) \cdot \sin\left(\frac{\pi n x}{p}\right)$$

where:

$$c_n(t) = \frac{1}{2p} \int_{-p}^p e^{-\frac{2\pi i n x}{2p}} \cdot u(x, t) dx.$$

where:

$$a_0(t) = c_0(t) = \frac{1}{2p} \int_{-p}^p u(x, t) dx = 0.$$

$$a_n(t) = \frac{2}{2p} \int_{-p}^p \cos\left(\frac{\pi n x}{p}\right) \cdot u(x, t) dx = 0$$

Because:  
 $\cos\left(-\frac{\pi n x}{p}\right) \cdot u(-x, t) = -\cos\left(\frac{\pi n x}{p}\right) \cdot u(x, t).$

$$b_n(t) = \frac{2}{2p} \int_{-p}^p \sin\left(\frac{\pi n x}{p}\right) u(x, t) dx = \frac{2}{p} \int_0^p \sin\left(\frac{\pi n x}{p}\right) u(x, t) dx$$

symmetric in  $x$  (even in  $x$ )

We obtained:

$$u(x, t) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} b_n(t) \cdot \sin\left(\frac{\pi n x}{p}\right), \quad b_n(t) = \frac{2}{p} \int_0^p \sin\left(\frac{\pi n x}{p}\right) \cdot u(x, t) dx.$$

Note:  $u(0, t) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} b_n(t) \cdot \sin(0) = 0, \quad u(p, t) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} b_n(t) \cdot \sin(\pi n) = 0.$

Sine-Expansion (as opposed to Sine-Cosine Expansion  $\equiv$  Fourier Series).

③ Substitute into Equation:

$$\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial t^2} = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \underbrace{b_n''(t)}_u \cdot \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{p}\right) \quad \forall x \in [0, p].$$

$$c^2 \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} b_n(t) \cdot c^2 \left(\frac{n\pi}{p}\right)^2 \cdot (-1) \cdot \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{p}\right) \quad \forall t.$$

At every t, For each n ≥ 1:

$$b_n'' = -\left(\frac{n\pi c}{p}\right)^2 \cdot b_n$$

$$b_n'' + \left(\frac{n\pi c}{p}\right)^2 \cdot b_n = 0$$

General solution:  $k_1 \cdot e^{\frac{i n \pi c t}{p}} + k_2 \cdot e^{-\frac{i n \pi c t}{p}} \equiv \alpha_n \cdot \cos\left(\frac{n\pi c t}{p}\right) + \beta_n \cdot \sin\left(\frac{n\pi c t}{p}\right)$

For  $\alpha_n, \beta_n$  scalars.

$$b_n(t) = \alpha_n \cdot \cos\left(\frac{n\pi c t}{p}\right) + \beta_n \cdot \sin\left(\frac{n\pi c t}{p}\right)$$

$$u(x, t) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left[ \alpha_n \cos\left(\frac{n\pi c t}{p}\right) + \beta_n \sin\left(\frac{n\pi c t}{p}\right) \right] \cdot \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{p}\right)$$

④ Use initial condition to solve for  $\alpha_n, \beta_n$ :

At  $t=0$ :  $f(x) = u(x, 0) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \alpha_n \cdot \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{p}\right) \rightarrow$  Sine expansion of  $f$

$g(x) = \frac{\partial u}{\partial t}(x, 0) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \beta_n \frac{n\pi c}{p} \cdot \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{p}\right) \rightarrow$  Sine expansion of  $g$ .

Thus:

$$\alpha_n = \frac{2}{p} \int_0^p f(x) \cdot \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{p}\right) dx$$

$$\beta_n \cdot \frac{n\pi c}{p} = \frac{2}{p} \int_0^p g(x) \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{p}\right) dx \Rightarrow \beta_n = \frac{2}{n\pi c} \int_0^p g(x) \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{p}\right) dx$$

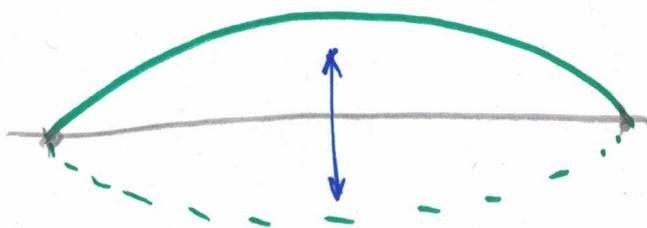
and:

$$u(x,t) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left[ \alpha_n \cos\left(\frac{n\pi ct}{p}\right) + \beta_n \sin\left(\frac{n\pi ct}{p}\right) \right] \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{p}\right) \\ = \sqrt{\alpha_n^2 + \beta_n^2} \cos\left(\frac{n\pi ct}{p} + \varphi_n\right)$$

Remark:

$$n=1 \quad u_1(x,t) = \left( \alpha_1 \cos\left(\frac{\pi ct}{p}\right) + \beta_1 \sin\left(\frac{\pi ct}{p}\right) \right) \sin\left(\frac{\pi x}{p}\right) =$$

$$= \sqrt{\alpha_1^2 + \beta_1^2} \cos\left(\frac{\pi ct}{p} + \varphi_1\right) \cdot \sin\left(\frac{\pi x}{p}\right) \equiv \left( A_1 \sin\left(\frac{\pi x}{p}\right) \right) \cdot \cos\left(\frac{\pi ct}{p} + \varphi_1\right)$$



Over time, it oscillates.

Time period:

$$\frac{\pi c(t+T_1)}{p} = \frac{\pi ct}{p} + 2\pi$$

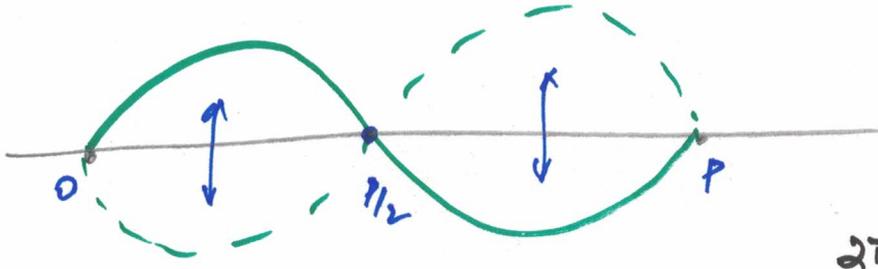
$$\frac{\pi c T_1}{p} = 2\pi \Rightarrow \boxed{T_1 = \frac{2p}{c}}$$

$f_1 = \frac{1}{T_1} = \frac{c}{2p}$ : Fundamental frequency (pitch frequency).

$n=2$

$$u_2(x,t) = \left( \alpha_2 \cos\left(\frac{2\pi ct}{p}\right) + \beta_2 \sin\left(\frac{2\pi ct}{p}\right) \right) \sin\left(\frac{2\pi x}{p}\right) =$$

$$= \left( A_2 \cdot \sin\left(\frac{2\pi x}{p}\right) \right) \cdot \cos\left(\frac{2\pi ct}{p} + \varphi_2\right).$$



If oscillates:

$$\frac{2\pi c \cdot T_2}{p} = 2\pi$$

$$T_2 = \frac{p}{c} = \frac{T_1}{2} \rightarrow f_2 = \frac{1}{T_2} = \frac{2}{T_1} = 2f_1$$

$n$

$$u_n(x,t) = \left( A_n \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{p}\right) \right) \cos\left(\frac{n\pi ct}{p} + \varphi_n\right).$$

If oscillates:  $\frac{n\pi c T_n}{p} = 2\pi$

$$T_n = \frac{2p}{nc} \rightarrow f_n = \frac{1}{T_n} = \frac{nc}{2p} = n f_1$$

$n$ th mode  $\rightarrow n \cdot f_1$  oscillating frequency.