

## Physics 101: Lecture 21

### Waves

Today's lecture will cover Textbook Chapter 11



# Waves Overview

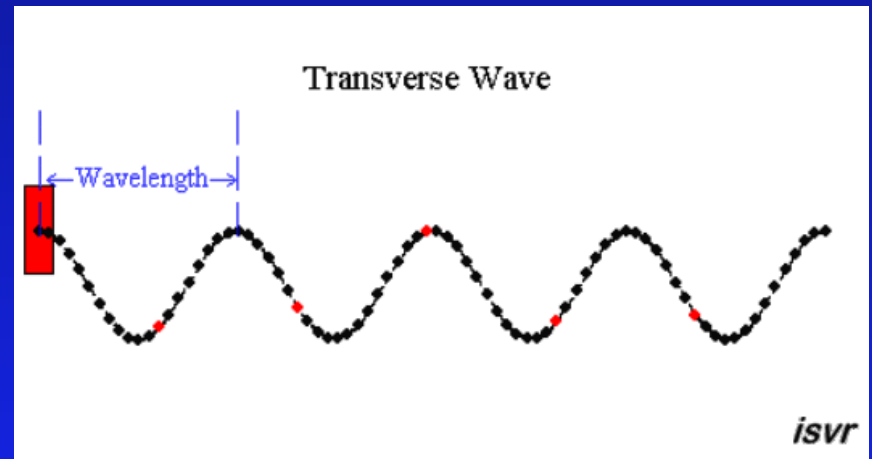
- Types
- Speed
- Harmonic
- Superposition and Interference
- Standing

# Types of Waves

- **Transverse:** The medium oscillates perpendicularly to the direction the wave is moving.

→ Water (more or less)

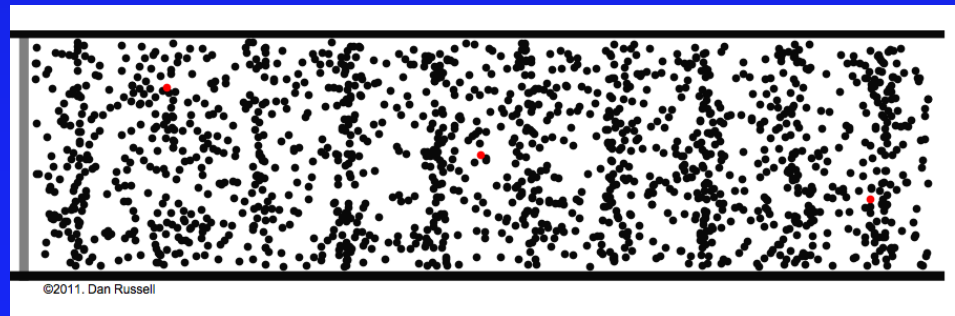
→ Slinky demo



- **Longitudinal:** The medium oscillates in the same direction as the wave is moving

→ Sound

→ Slinky demo



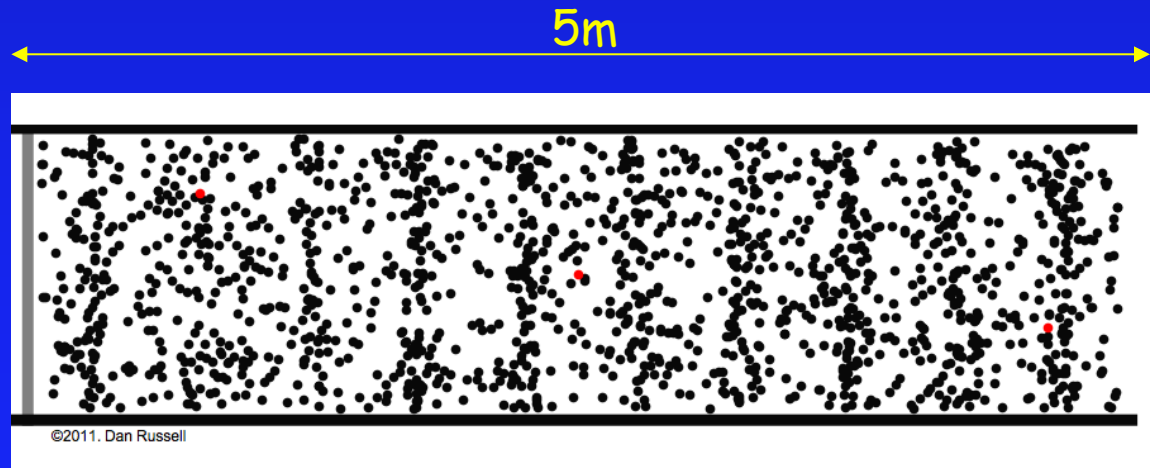
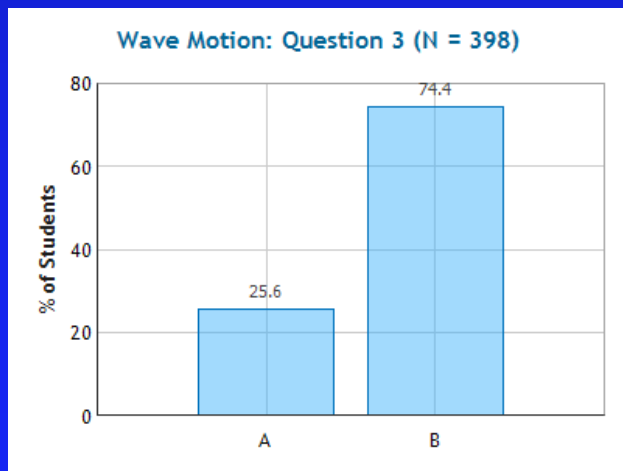
# Slinky Checkpoint 3

Suppose that a longitudinal wave moves along a Slinky at a speed of 5 m/s. Does one coil of the slinky move through a distance of five meters in one second?

1. Yes

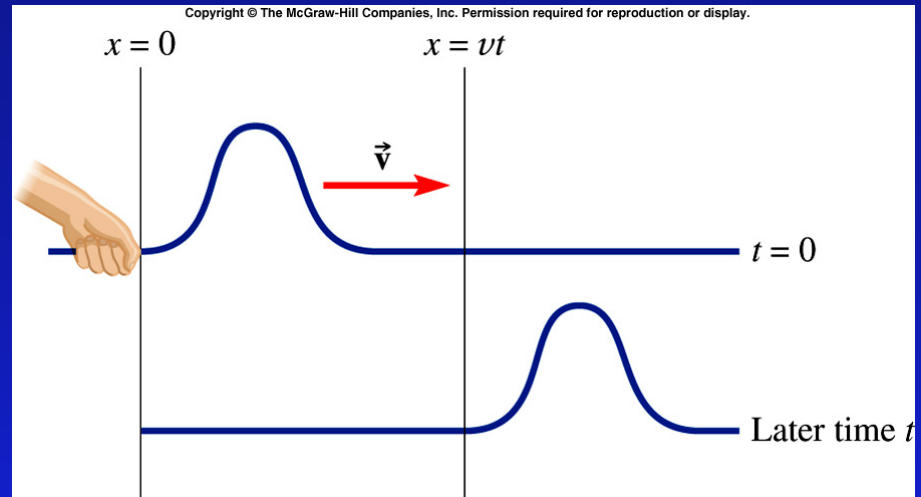
2. No ← correct

the coil won't move, 5m/s is the speed for wave propagation



# Velocity of Waves Act

$$v = \sqrt{\frac{T_{\text{ension}}}{m/L}} = \sqrt{\frac{T_{\text{ension}}}{\mu}}$$



A spring and slinky are attached and stretched. Compare the speed of the wave pulse in the slinky with the speed of the wave pulse in the spring.

- A)  $v_{\text{slinky}} > v_{\text{spring}}$     B)  $v_{\text{slinky}} = v_{\text{spring}}$     C)  $v_{\text{slinky}} < v_{\text{spring}}$

Slinky stretches more, so it has a smaller mass/length  $\mu$ .

# Waves

$$y(x,t) = A \cos(\omega t - kx)$$

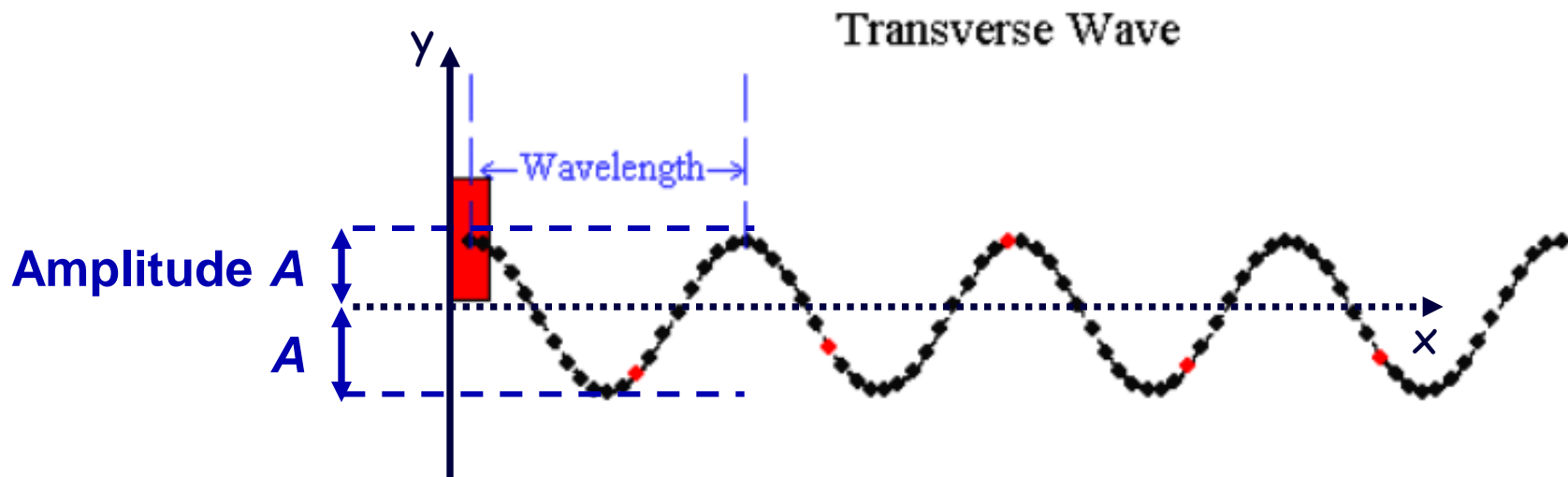
**Wavelength:** The distance  $\lambda$  between identical points on the wave.

**Amplitude:** The maximum displacement  $A$  of a point on the wave.

**Angular Frequency  $\omega$ :**  $\omega = 2 \pi f$

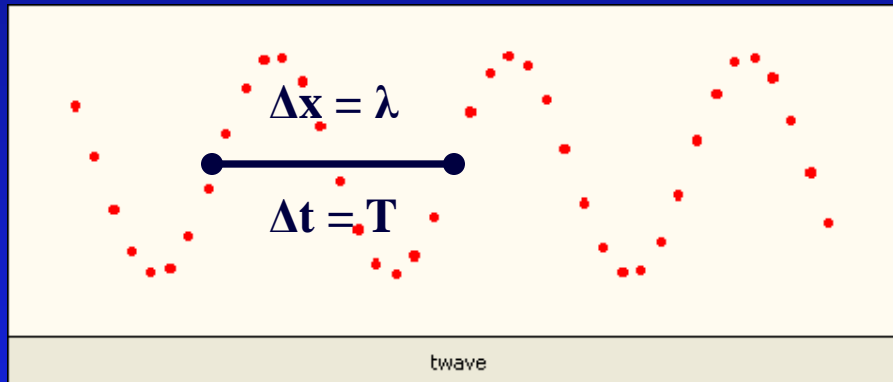
**Wave Number  $k$ :**  $k = 2 \pi / \lambda$

**Remember:**  $f = v / \lambda$



# Period and Velocity

- **Period:** The time  $T$  for a point on the wave to undergo one complete oscillation.



- **Speed:** The wave moves one wavelength  $\lambda$  in one period  $T$  so its speed is  $v = \lambda / T$ .

$$v = \frac{\lambda}{T} = \lambda f$$

# Waves Exercise

Graph  $y(x,t) = 2 \cos(4t - 2x)$  at  $x=0$ .

Label axis and tic marks if the graph shows a snapshot of the wave

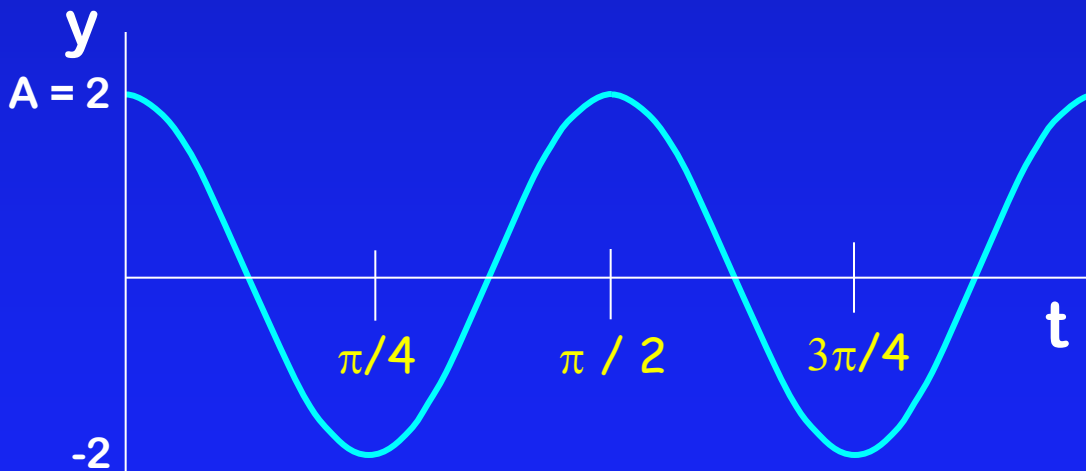
$$y(x,t) = A \cos(\omega t) \quad (x = 0)$$

$$\text{Recall: } T = 2\pi / \omega$$

$$T = 2\pi / \omega$$

$$= 2\pi / 4$$

$$= \pi / 2$$

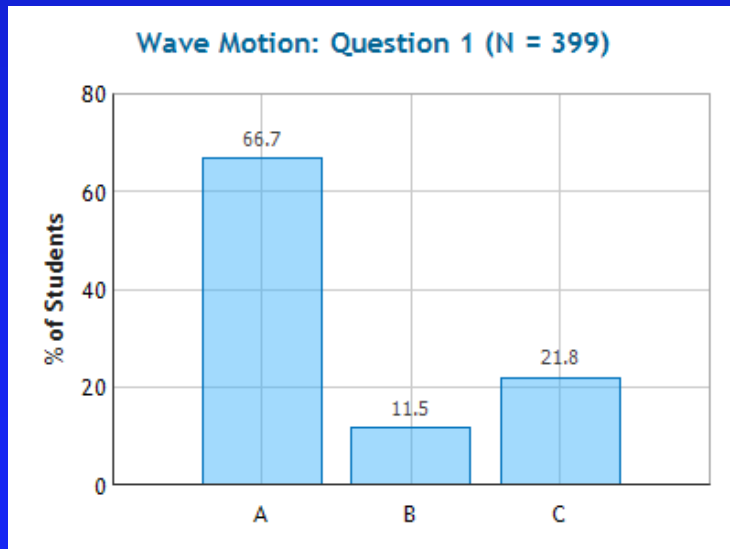




# Checkpoint 1+2

Suppose a periodic wave moves through some medium. If the period of the wave is increased, what happens to the wavelength assuming the speed remains the same?

1. The wavelength increases ← correct
2. The wavelength remains the same
3. The wavelength decreases



$$v = \lambda/T$$
$$\Rightarrow \lambda = vT$$

# ACT

- The wavelength of microwaves generated by a microwave oven is about **3 cm**. At what frequency do these waves cause the water molecules in your burrito to vibrate ?

(a) **1 GHz** (b) **10 GHz** (c) **100 GHz**



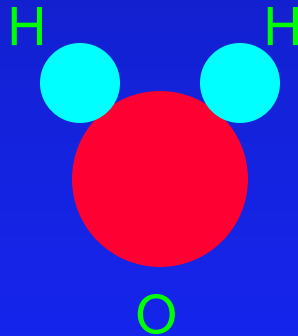
$1 \text{ GHz} = 10^9 \text{ cycles/sec}$

The speed of light is  $v = 3 \times 10^8 \text{ m/s}$

# ACT Solution

- Recall that  $v = \lambda f$

$$f = \frac{v}{\lambda} = \frac{3 \times 10^8 \text{ m/s}}{.03 \text{ m}} = 10^{10} \text{ Hz} = 10 \text{ GHz}$$



*Makes water molecules wiggle*

1 GHz =  $10^9$  cycles/sec

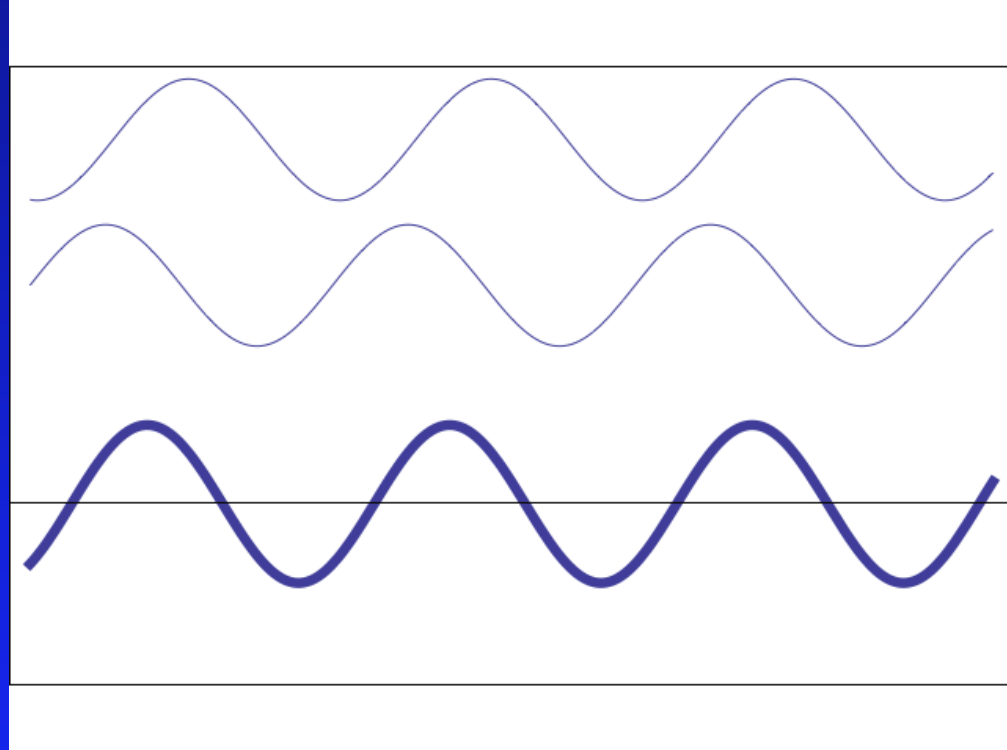
The speed of light is  $c = 3 \times 10^8 \text{ m/s}$

# Interference and Superposition

- When two waves overlap, the amplitudes add.

→ **Constructive:** increases amplitude

→ **Destructive:** decreases amplitude

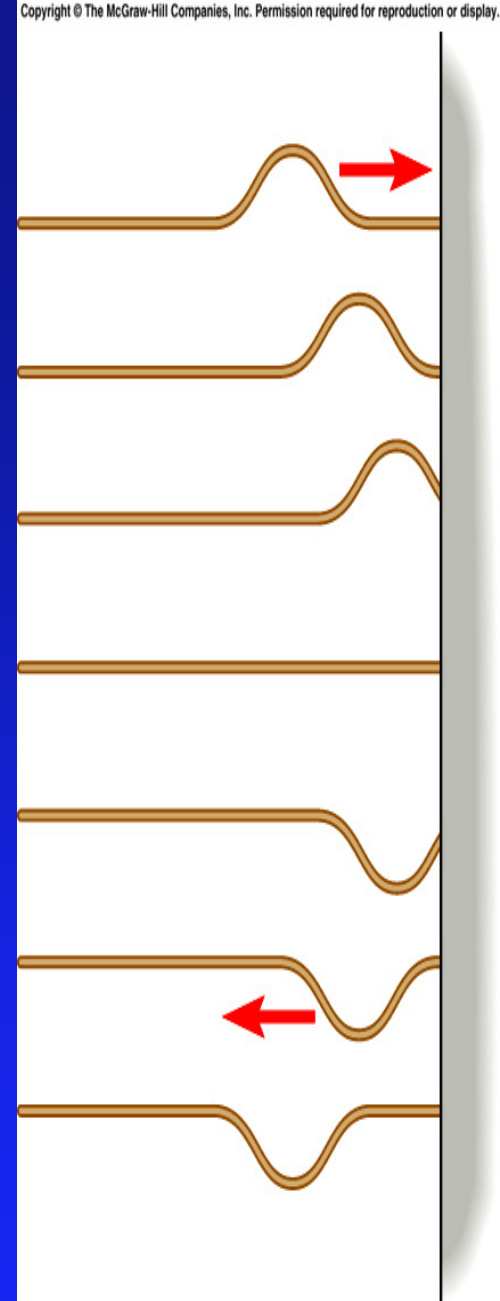
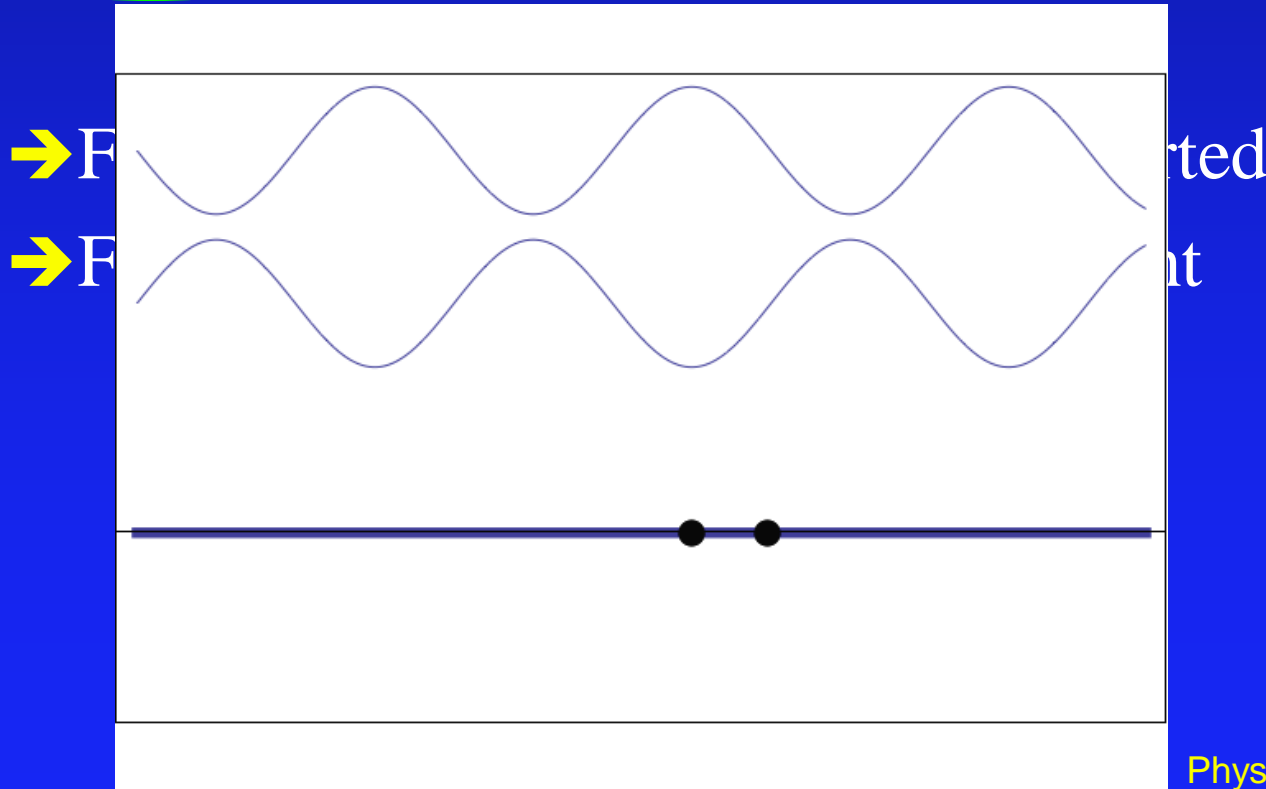


# Reflection Act

- A slinky is connected to a wall at one end. A pulse travels to the right, hits the wall and is reflected back to the left. The reflected wave is

A) Inverted

B) Upright

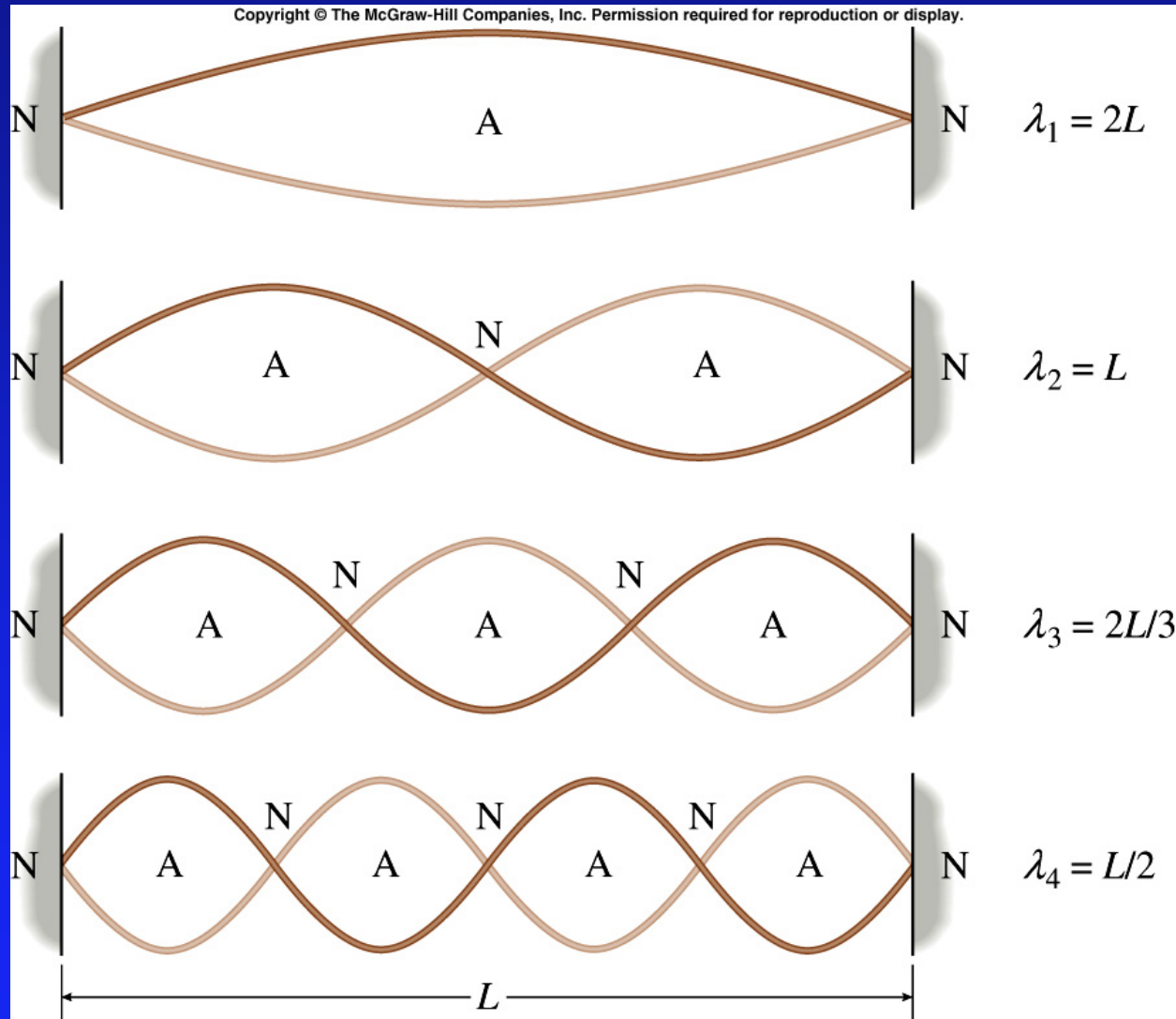


# Standing Waves Fixed Endpoints

- Fundamental  
 $n=1$  (2 nodes)

- $\lambda_n = 2L/n$

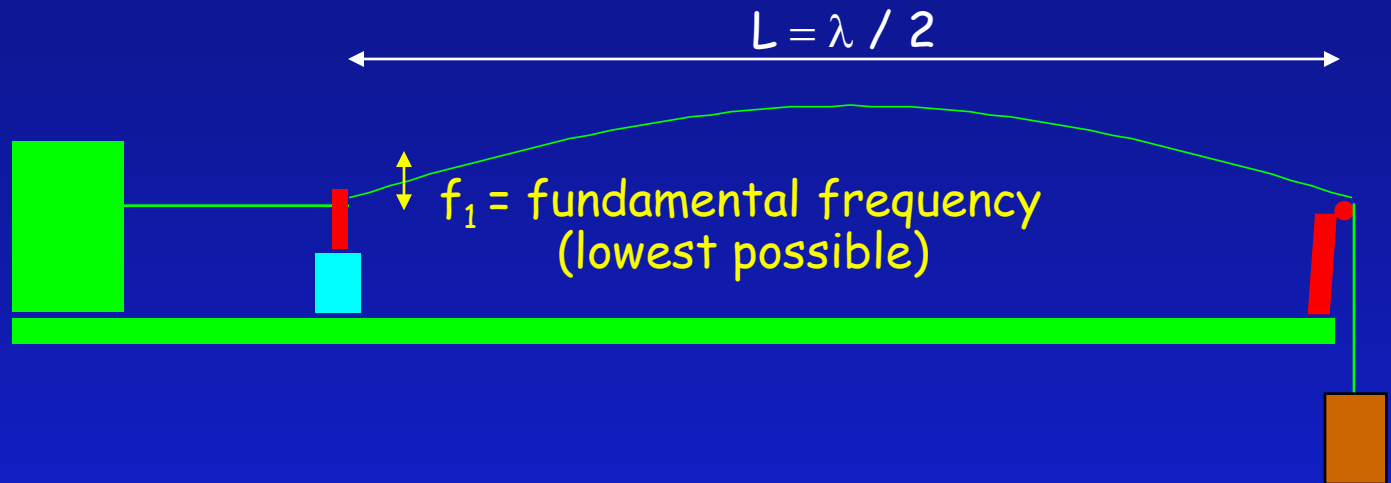
- $f_n = n v / (2L)$



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j2pPJywRGTk>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xhrBDcQq2DM>

# Standing Waves:



A guitar's E-string has a length of 65 cm and is stretched to a tension of 82N. If it vibrates with a fundamental frequency of 329.63 Hz, what is the mass of the string?

$$v = \sqrt{\frac{T}{\mu}}$$

$f = v / \lambda$  tells us  $v$  if we know  $f$  (frequency) and  $\lambda$  (wavelength)

$$\begin{aligned} v &= \lambda f \\ &= 2 (0.65 \text{ m}) (329.63 \text{ s}^{-1}) \\ &= 428.5 \text{ m/s} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} v^2 &= T / \mu \\ \mu &= m/L = T / v^2 \\ m &= T L / v^2 \\ &= 82 (0.65) / (428.5)^2 \\ &= 2.9 \times 10^{-4} \text{ kg} \end{aligned}$$

# Summary

- Wave Types
  - Transverse (eg pulse on string, water)
  - Longitudinal (sound, slinky)
- Harmonic
  - $y(x,t) = A \cos(\omega t - kx)$  or  $A \sin(\omega t - kx)$
- Superposition
  - Just add amplitudes
- Reflection (fixed point inverts wave)
- Standing Waves (fixed ends)
  - $\lambda_n = 2L/n$
  - $f_n = n v / 2L$