

## Waves on the string

- Take the wave equation

$$\frac{1}{v^2} \frac{\partial^2 y}{\partial t^2} - \frac{\partial^2 y}{\partial x^2} = 0$$

- Then we find <sup>specific</sup> solution  $y(t, x) = \text{Re} \left[ A e^{i(kx - \omega(k)t)} \right]$   
with

$$\omega(k) = \pm vk \quad \text{from} \quad -\frac{\omega^2(k)}{v^2} + k^2 = 0$$

- Then the general solution is a sum of these

$$y(t, x) = \text{Re} \left[ \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{dk}{2\pi} \tilde{A}(k) e^{ik(x-vt)} + \tilde{B}(k) e^{-ik(x+vt)} \right]$$

$$= A(x-vt) + B(x+vt)$$

↑  
right mover

↑  
left mover

- Lets evaluate the energy in the string:

$$\overline{\mathcal{E}} = \frac{1}{2} \mu \left( \frac{\partial y}{\partial t} \right)^2 + T \left( \frac{\partial y}{\partial x} \right)^2$$

← bar indicates  
a time average

For a plane wave

## Averaging over Time

- Then for harmonic quantities

$$A(t) = \text{Re} [A_\omega e^{-i\omega t}] \quad \text{or} \quad B(t) = \text{Re} [B_\omega e^{-i\omega t}]$$

- Then

$$A(t) B(t) = \frac{1}{2} (A_\omega e^{-i\omega t} + A_\omega^* e^{i\omega t}) \times$$

$$\frac{1}{2} (B_\omega e^{-i\omega t} + B_\omega^* e^{i\omega t})$$

$$= \frac{1}{4} (A_\omega^* B_\omega^* + A_\omega^* B_\omega) + \underbrace{\sim e^{-2i\omega t}}_{\text{and } e^{+2i\omega t}}$$

- Thus

$$\overline{A(t) B(t)} = \frac{1}{2} \text{Re} (A_\omega B_\omega^*)$$

these are  
oscillating

and so

$$\overline{A^2(t)} = \frac{|A_\omega|^2}{2}$$

So for  $y = A e^{ikx - i\omega t}$   $\frac{\partial y}{\partial x} = ik A e^{ikx - i\omega t}$

$$\overline{\left(\frac{\partial y}{\partial x}\right)^2} = \frac{|ikA|^2}{2} = \frac{k^2 |A|^2}{2}$$



• So similarly

$$\bar{\mathcal{E}} = \frac{1}{2} \mu \left( \frac{\partial y}{\partial t} \right)^2 + T \left( \frac{\partial y}{\partial x} \right)^2$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} \mu \omega^2 A^2 + T k^2 A^2$$

$$T k^2 = \mu \omega^2$$

$$\bar{\mathcal{E}} = \frac{1}{2} \mu \omega^2 A^2$$

average  
energy / length  
in a plane wave

$$\text{Since } v^2 = \frac{T}{\mu}$$

• And then notice the force,

$F = T \frac{\partial y}{\partial x}$ , is in phase with the velocity  $\frac{\partial y}{\partial t}$ . So:

definition  
of impedance  
(and why we care)

$$\frac{F}{\partial y / \partial t} = \frac{T i k}{-i \omega} = \pm \sqrt{T \mu}$$

$$\sqrt{T \mu} \equiv \text{impedance } Z$$

= ratio of force  
term to velocity  
term.

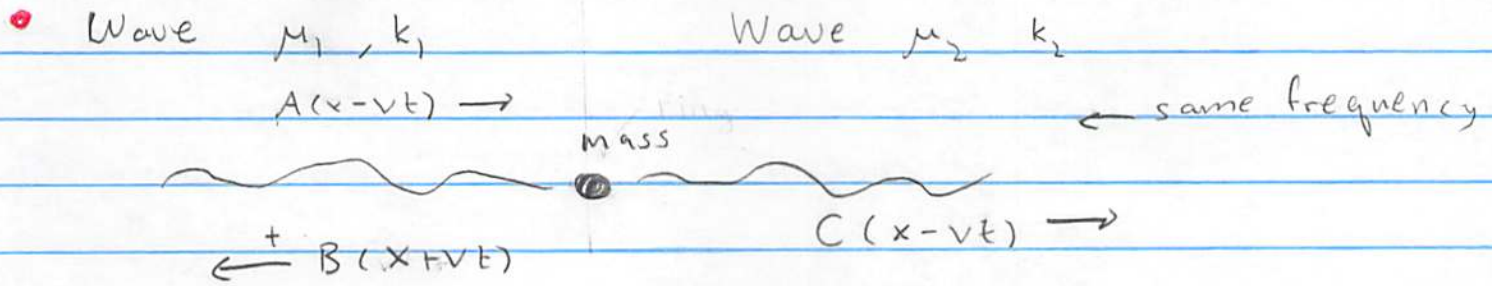
• The power is

$$\bar{S}^x = \overline{-T \frac{\partial y}{\partial t} \frac{\partial y}{\partial x}} = T k \omega \frac{|A|^2}{2} = \frac{Z \omega^2 |A|^2}{2} = \bar{S}^x$$

$$T \frac{\partial y}{\partial x} = Z \frac{\partial y}{\partial t}$$

average power  
transmitted

## Transmission and Reflection



- A wave  $A(x-vt)$  comes in and gets reflected by a mass of mass  $m$ . Determine the reflected and transmitted wave forms given  $A(x-vt)$

• Let's work in Fourier space;

• The solution to the left reads

$$y(t, x) = \tilde{A}_k e^{i k_1 x - i \omega t} + \tilde{B}_k e^{-i k_1 x - i \omega t}$$

While to the right

$$y(t, x) = \tilde{C}_k e^{i k_2 x - i \omega t}$$

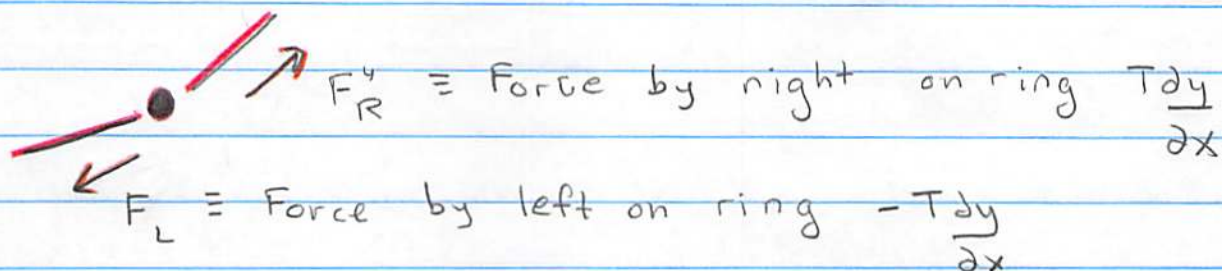
• We need to determine  $\tilde{C}_k$  and  $\tilde{B}_k$  given  $\tilde{A}_k$

• Demanding continuity

★  $\tilde{A} + \tilde{B} = \tilde{C}$



A free body diagram of the mass is



So we have:

$$F_R^y + F_L^y = m \ddot{y}$$

$$T \frac{\partial y}{\partial x}_R - T \frac{\partial y}{\partial x}_L = m \ddot{y}$$

$$T \frac{\partial y}{\partial x} = z \frac{\partial y}{\partial t}$$

note;  $Tk = z\omega$

So in fourier space

$$T i k_2 C = T i k_1 (A - B) = -m\omega^2 C$$

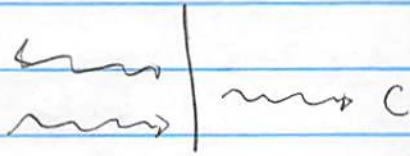
$$\star\star \quad i\omega z_2 C - i\omega z_1 (A - B) = -m\omega^2 C$$

Solving Eq  $\star\star$  and Eq  $\star$  for  $C/A$  and  $B/A$ :

$$r(k) \equiv \frac{B}{A} = \frac{m\omega + i(z_1 - z_2)}{m\omega - i(z_1 + z_2)}$$

$$t(k) \equiv \frac{C}{A} = - \frac{2i z_1}{m\omega - i(z_1 + z_2)}$$

- First lets check that the power is conserved



- The incoming energy per time is

$$P_{in} = S_A^x = z_1 \frac{\omega^2}{2} |A|^2$$

- While the outgoing powers are

$$S_B^x = z_1 \frac{\omega^2}{2} |B|^2$$

$$S_C^x = z_2 \frac{\omega^2}{2} |C|^2$$

note:



- So need to have

$$S_A^x = S_B^x + S_C^x \Rightarrow 1 = |r|^2 + |t|^2 \frac{z_2}{z_1}$$

divide  
by  $S_A^x$

You can check that this is the case given the  $r(\omega)$  and  $t(\omega)$  coefficients on the previous page



- Now let's explore the solution in space. For this part set  $\mu_1 = \mu_2$

$$\left. \begin{aligned} \tilde{B}(k) &= \tilde{A}(k) r(k) \\ \tilde{C}(k) &= \tilde{A}(k) t(k) \end{aligned} \right\} \text{ so } z_1 = z_2 \text{ from now on,}$$

- $\mathbb{I}$  will also return to  $k$ ,  $\omega = vk$ , define

$$k_0 \equiv \frac{z_1 + z_2}{mv} \equiv \frac{2\mu}{m}$$

So

$$r(k) = -\frac{k}{k - ik_0} \xrightarrow{m \rightarrow \infty} -1 \quad \text{notice the limit } m \rightarrow \infty \text{ means } k_0 \rightarrow 0$$

$$t(k) = \frac{-ik_0}{k - ik_0} \xrightarrow{m \rightarrow \infty} 0$$

- And thus, for example, the transmitted wave is

$$C(x - vt) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{dk}{2\pi} A(k) t(k) e^{ik(x - vt)}$$

This is a product in Fourier space, which in coordinate space becomes a convolution

• So defining  $\xi \equiv x - vt$  (comoving coordinate)

$$C(x-vt) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dx' A(x') t(\xi - x')$$

Where the transmission kernel is  $t(k) = -k_0 / (k - ik_0)$

$$T(x) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{dk}{2\pi} t(k) e^{ikx} = k_0 e^{-k_0 x'} \theta(-x')$$

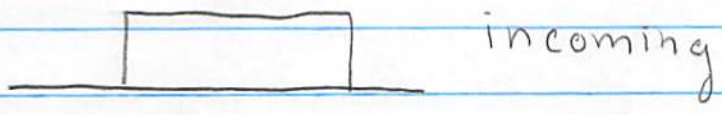
↔ do integral

• Thus the outgoing wave takes the waveform which comes in and linearly smears with a transformation kernel to produce the outgoing wave

For example:

• Take a square pulse of width  $a$

$$A(x-vt) = \Theta(a - |x-vt|)$$



• The transmission kernel will smear over a length  $k_0$  leading to distorted shape

