

## VIBRATIONS & WAVES

"Someday, after mastering the winds, the waves, the tides and gravity, we shall harness for God the energies of love, and then, for a second time in the history of the world, man will have discovered fire."

-- Teilhard de Chardin  
*French Geologist*

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Water drops falling onto the surface of water produce a disturbance that moves outward as expanding rings. *But WHAT is moving outward?*

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- The answer to the question is **ENERGY**, not **MATTER!**
- **When matter is disturbed, it emits or transmits energy**
  - Can be explained using Conservation Laws

**Wave** – the propagation or movement of a disturbance of energy

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## 2 General Wave Classifications

- **Mechanical Waves** (*direct*)
  - Waves that require matter to transport energy
  - **Medium** - the matter/material thru which a wave passes
  - Mechanical Waves travel through the medium without actually moving the medium along with it.
  
- **Electromagnetic Waves** (*indirect*)
  - Waves that do NOT require matter to transport energy
  - Only type of wave that can travel thru space

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## Analogy

- How can information be sent between people?

- **Directly**



- **Indirectly**



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## How are Mechanical Waves Produced?

- **Vibration**

- Regularly repeated disturbance of a medium



- **Pulse**

- A single disturbance of short duration



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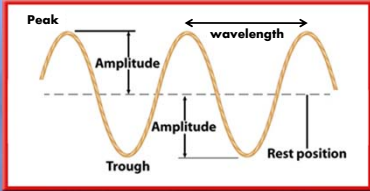
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### Wave Properties



The diagram shows a sinusoidal wave on a horizontal dashed line representing the rest position. The highest point is labeled 'Peak' and the lowest point is labeled 'Trough'. The vertical distance from the rest position to the peak is labeled 'Amplitude'. The horizontal distance between two consecutive peaks is labeled 'wavelength'. The rest position is also explicitly labeled.

Amplitude (A) – The maximum displacement from the rest or equilibrium position

Wavelength ( $\lambda$ ) – the distance between two like points on a wave  
*(typically peak to peak for convenience)*

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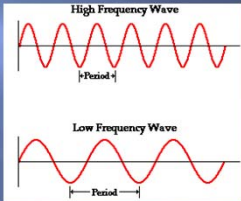
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### Wave Properties



The diagram shows two waves. The top wave is labeled 'High Frequency Wave' and has a shorter period. The bottom wave is labeled 'Low Frequency Wave' and has a longer period. Both waves have a horizontal line through their center, and the time for one full cycle is labeled 'Period'.

Period (T) – the time it takes to complete 1 vibration or cycle

Frequency (f) – # of vibrations per second  
*(units are 1/s  $\equiv$  Hz (Hertz))*

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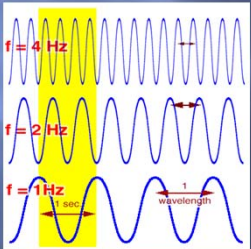
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### Relating Period and Frequency

Period and frequency are related through the expression:

$$f = \frac{1}{T} \text{ or } T = \frac{1}{f}$$


The diagram shows three waves with increasing frequency. The top wave has  $f = 4 \text{ Hz}$  and  $T = 0.25 \text{ s}$ . The middle wave has  $f = 2 \text{ Hz}$  and  $T = 0.5 \text{ s}$ . The bottom wave has  $f = 1 \text{ Hz}$  and  $T = 1.0 \text{ s}$ . A vertical yellow bar highlights the first wave. A horizontal arrow labeled '1 sec' is shown below the first wave, and a horizontal arrow labeled 'wavelength' is shown below the second wave.

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### Types of Mechanical Waves

**Transverse Wave**  
 a wave that causes particles within the medium to vibrate in a direction *perpendicular* to the direction the wave is moving

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### Types of Mechanical Waves

**Longitudinal Wave (Pressure Wave)**  
 a wave that causes particles within the medium to vibrate in the *same* direction as the motion of the wave

Forward motion of the plunger creates a compression (a zone of high density); backward motion creates a rarefaction (a zone of low density).

The wavelength  $\lambda$  is the distance between corresponding points on successive cycles.

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**Certain mediums can transmit certain mechanical wave types**

- Solid - Longitudinal & Transverse
- Liquid - Longitudinal (*mostly*)
- Gas - Longitudinal **Only**

**Note:**  
 Transverse waves can propagate only in medium in which the molecules have cohesion (*solids only*)

- **BUT** they can propagate at the **SURFACE** of liquids because of *surface tension*

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### Wave Speed

- The speed of a wave can be determined from our original definition of speed:

$$v = \frac{d}{t}$$

- Replacing  $d$  and  $t$  with measurements of  $\lambda$  and  $T$ ,

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

- Using frequency instead of the period,

$$v = \lambda f \quad \text{Wave Speed Equation}$$

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#### Example:

What is the frequency of a wave that is traveling at 20 m/s and has a wavelength of 2 m?

#### Example:

What is the speed of a wave that has a frequency of 480 Hz and has a wavelength of 0.715 m?

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### Wave Interactions

- What happens when two waves meet while traveling through the same medium?
- What affect will the meeting of the waves have upon the appearance of the medium?
- Will the two waves bounce off each other upon meeting (*much like two billiard balls would*) or will the two waves pass through each other?

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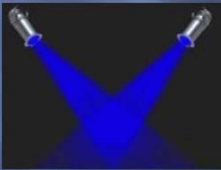
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- Wave interactions are based on **Superposition**.  
Superposition - *the total is the sum of the parts*
- When two waves meet, they do **NOT** collide like normal matter.



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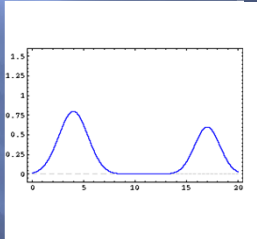
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Instead of colliding, waves add together as they interfere with each other and then continue traveling afterward as if they had never encountered each other.



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### Wave Interactions

- **Wave Interference** - when two or more waves interact at the same point in space and time
  - **Spatial Interference** - A regularly spaced increase/decrease in wave amplitude due to waves of *equal or similar frequencies*
  - **Temporal Interference** - A regularly spaced increase/decrease in wave amplitude due to waves of *different frequencies*
  - **General Interference** - Random increase/decrease in wave amplitude due to waves of *arbitrary frequency*

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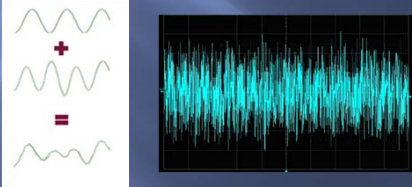
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### Wave Interactions

- ▣ **General Interference (Noise)**
  - Because the waves that are interfering have no similar characteristics, the resultant wave formed by superposition has **NO discernable pattern or behavior.**



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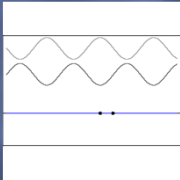
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### Wave Interactions

- ▣ **Standing Waves**
  - An observed wave pattern that vibrates in place and does not appear to move left or right
  - Formed when two waves of identical frequency are traveling in opposite directions and interfere.



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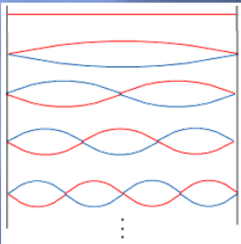
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### Wave Interactions

- ▣ **Standing Waves on a finite string/spring**



Each standing wave pattern is one of the many *natural frequencies* of the string.

**Notice**  
Standing waves **ONLY** contain an integer number of loops (1, 2, 3, 4 ....)

DEMO

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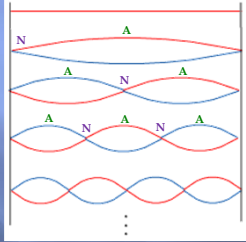
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### Wave Interactions

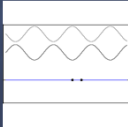
▣ **Nodes and Anti-Nodes**



Equilibrium Position

**Nodes**  
Points on a standing wave that do not move (zero amplitude)

**Anti-Nodes**  
Points on a standing wave of maximum displacement (max amplitude)



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### Wave Interactions

▣ Every system or object has a unique set of natural frequencies based on:

- Medium
- Material
- Shape



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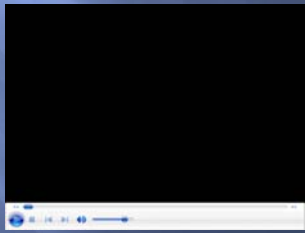
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### Wave Interactions

*Ruben's Tube*



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### Wave Interactions

The frequency of a standing wave on a string can be found using:

$$f_n = \frac{nv}{2L} = n\left(\frac{v}{2L}\right)$$

$n$  = number of loops (*anti-nodes*)  
 $v$  = wave speed  
 $L$  = length of string

The wavelength of a standing wave (*distance between anti-nodes*) can be found using:

$$\lambda_n = \frac{2L}{n} = \frac{1}{n}(2L)$$


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**NOTICE:**  $f_n = n\left(\frac{v}{2L}\right) = nf_1$

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**ANY** set of standing waves that can be written as:

$$f_n = nf_1 \quad \text{using} \quad f_1 = \frac{v}{2L}$$

is called a **harmonic series**.

Each frequency, natural frequency or normal mode of the series is called a **harmonic**.

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### Wave Interactions

Equilibrium

Fundamental frequency ( $f_1$ )  
(1<sup>st</sup> Harmonic)

2<sup>nd</sup> Harmonic ( $f_2$ )

3<sup>rd</sup> Harmonic ( $f_3$ )

4<sup>th</sup> Harmonic ( $f_4$ )

⋮

$f_n = n^{\text{th}}$  harmonic

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**Example**  
A string has a fundamental frequency of 311 Hz. What is the frequency of the 7<sup>th</sup> Harmonic?

**Example**  
A string is observed with 5 standing wave loops present vibrating at 120 Hz. The length of the string 2 m. What is the:  
wavelength  
wave speed

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- Every standing wave or harmonic frequency requires a certain amount of energy in order to be produced.
- Adding energy to a system to cause it to vibrate in one of its many natural frequencies is called **Resonance**.
  - Thus, standing waves can also be called **resonant frequencies**

**DEMO**  
2 Tuning Forks

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### Controlled Resonance



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### Uncontrolled Resonance



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### Video

- Tacoma Narrows Bridge

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### Interaction of Waves with Matter

- When waves encounter matter, a barrier or change in medium type, they can be:
  - **Absorbed**
    - Taken in by matter, resulting in temp increase or broken atomic or molecular bonds
  - **Transmitted (Refraction)**
    - Passes through
  - **Reflected (Reflection)**
    - Bounces back

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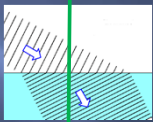
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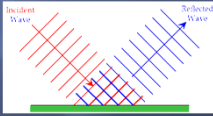
### Interaction of Waves with Matter

- **Refraction**
  - The bending of a wave due to the wave moving from one type of medium into another.

**Normal Line** – an imaginary line drawn perpendicular to a surface



- **Reflection**
  - When a wave bounces back off a surface




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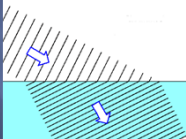
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### Interaction of Waves with Matter

- **Refraction**
  - The propagation of energy through a medium will depend on the properties of the medium
    - *Waves have different velocities in different media*
  - When a wave hits the boundary between 2 media at an oblique angle, one side changes speed sooner than the other causing the path to bend




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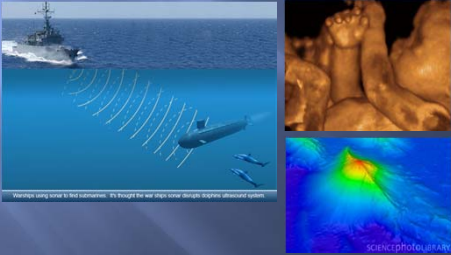
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### Interaction of Waves with Matter

- Reflection
  - Reflected waves can be used to create images at the boundaries of media or detect objects within a media



Ships using sonar to find submarines. It's thought the war ships have been largely invisible since World War II.

sciencephoto.com

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### Sound

- Sound Waves
  - Pressure (*longitudinal*) waves that we *perceive* through hearing
  - Can travel though ANY type of medium
  - Requirements for sound:
    - Energy Disturbance
    - Medium for Transmission
    - Detector /Receiver

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- If a tree falls in the woods, does it make a sound?



- Can they hear you scream in space?



**KHAAAAAN!**  
When you really hate someone, the best thing to do is scream their name so loud that it echoes in space.

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### Sound

- **Recall:**
  - Waves travel at different speeds in different media
  - Speed of Sound in:
    - Air is **767 mph** (343 m/s) – about 1 mile every 5 sec
    - Helium is **2,074 mph** (927 m/s)
    - Water is **3,315 mph** (1,482 m/s)
    - Sea Water is **3,490 mph** (1,560 m/s)
    - Steel is **13,330 mph** (5,960m/s)
  - The speed of sound depends on the **elasticity**, **density** and **temperature** of the medium.

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### Sound

- **The Speed of Sound in Air**

$$v_s = 331 \frac{m}{s} + 0.61T \quad v_s = 1086.9 \frac{ft}{s} + 1.83T$$

Temperature (°C)	Speed of Sound (m/s)	Speed of Sound (mph)
50	362	810
<b>20</b>	<b>343*</b>	<b>767</b>
0	331	740
-20	319	714
-50	300	671

\* SI default value at STP

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**Example**

A sound wave with a frequency of 492 Hz is observed at 30 °C. Find:

- the speed of the wave
- it's wavelength
- the time it takes the wave to travel 1 mile (1609 m)

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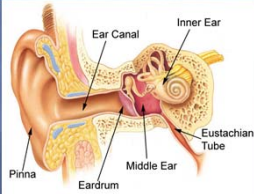
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### Human Hearing

Ears are sound wave detectors that are sensitive to a small range of sound frequencies:

- Infrasonic range  $f < 20 \text{ Hz}$
- Sonic (Audible) range:  $20 \text{ Hz} < f < 20,000 \text{ Hz}$
- Ultrasonic range  $f > 20,000 \text{ Hz}$




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### Human Hearing

*Example*

What are the wavelengths corresponding to the highest and lowest frequencies humans can hear?

Assume  $v_s = 343 \text{ m/s}$

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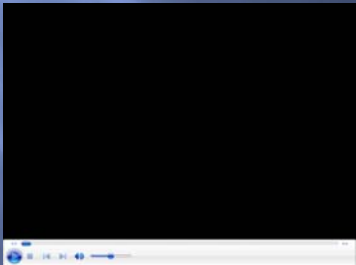
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### Human Hearing

*Example*

Hearing Test - How high a frequency can you hear?




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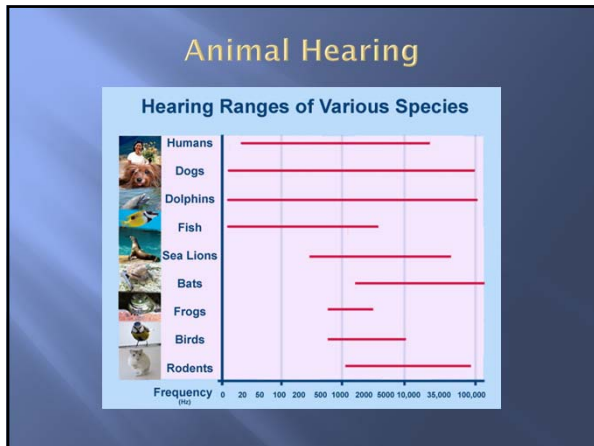
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### Sound Terms

- **Pitch (frequency)**  
 The *perceived* highness/lowness of a sound wave
  - High Pitch = High Frequency
  - Low Pitch = Low Frequency
  
- On average, Humans can only produce sounds vocally in the range:  
 80 Hz - 1,100 Hz
  - **Guinness Records**
    - Lowest Note: Roger Menees (F#-6 - 0.393 Hz) 2010
    - Highest Note: Adam Lopez (C#8 - 4435 Hz) 2005  
 Georgia Brown (C10 - 25104 Hz) 2006

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### Sound Terms

- **Loudness**  
 The *perceived* intensity (energy) of a sound wave
  
- **Intensity (I)** - the amount of energy the wave carries per second per meter squared  
 intensity = Watts / m<sup>2</sup>

Because sound originates from a point source and spreads in 3 dimensions, the loss of intensity with distance from the source depends on the geometry

$I \propto 1/r^2$

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### Sound Effects

- **Standing Sound Waves**
  - Standing sound waves can be produced in any object that is classified as an:
    - **Open Pipe** - A pipe that is open at both ends



- **Closed Pipe** - A pipe that is open at one end



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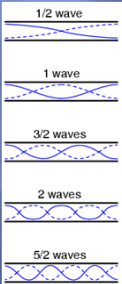
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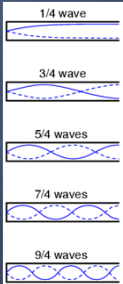
### Sound Effects

- In order to produce standing sound waves, you must have anti-nodes at the open ends

Open Pipe



Closed Pipe



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### Sound Effects

- **Open Pipe**

Open at Both Ends	Harmonic	Wavelength $\lambda$	Frequency $f$
	1 <sup>st</sup>	$2L$	$f_1$
	2 <sup>nd</sup>	$L$	$2f_1$
	3 <sup>rd</sup>	$2L/3$	$3f_1$

Odd and Even Harmonics

$$f_n = \frac{nv}{2L} \quad n = 1, 2, 3, 4 \dots$$

DEMOS - Tuning Forks & Open Pipes  
- Shell Horn

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## Sound Effects

☐ Closed Pipe

Closed at One End	Harmonic	Wavelength $\lambda$	Frequency $f$
	1 <sup>st</sup>	$4L$	$f_1$
	3 <sup>rd</sup>	$4L/3$	$3f_1$
	5 <sup>th</sup>	$4L/5$	$5f_1$
Odd Harmonics			

$$f_n = \frac{nv}{4L} \quad n = 1, 3, 5, 7 \dots$$

**DEMOS** - Bottle  
- Bottle Music

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### Why does sound carry farther at night than during the day? REFRACTION

As waves pass through media of different densities, they will always **bend** toward the denser medium

Warm air  
Cool air  
Sound waves curve downward

At night, cooler air is near the surface

Cool air  
Warm air  
Sound waves curve upward

During the day, warmer air is near the surface

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### What causes an echo? REFLECTION

An echo is a sound wave that bounces off a rigid wall back to the emitter

Distance to object

$$L = v_s \left( \frac{t}{2} \right)$$

$w/ t =$  time until echo is heard

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### Breaking the Sound Barrier


- ☐ **Chuck Yeager** – first man to **fly** faster than the speed of sound
- ☐ **Andy Green** – first man to **drive** a land vehicle faster than the speed of sound.



October 14, 1947 –  
in X1 "Glamorous Glennis"



October 15, 1997 –  
in SuperSonic Car  
"Thrust SSC"  
763 MPH



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### Music

- ☐ **Music** is a *human interpretation* of a series of simultaneous and organized sounds, **often** pleasing to the listener/performer
- ☐ The sounds produced in music are a direct result of superposition
  - *From a single source or from many*




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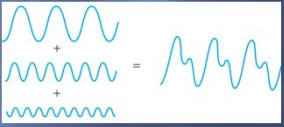
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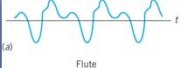
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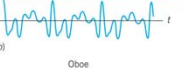
### Music

- ☐ How can a single source or a group play/sing the same *frequency (note)*, yet it sound different?
  - *Timbre (Musicians)*
  - *Different Superposition of Harmonic Frequencies (Science)*






(a) Flute



(b) Oboe



(c) Clarinet

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### Music

- Can you determine what harmonics go into a specific tone or timbre? **YES!**
  - Process is called **Fourier Analysis**

**A**

**Pure Tone (125 Hz)**

**B**

**Mixture of 3 Harmonics  
(125 Hz, 250 Hz, 375 Hz)**

**C**

**A<sub>3</sub> (440 Hz)**

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### Music

- **Synthesizers**

- **Impressionists**

John Madden

Frank Caliendo

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### Other Mechanical Waves

- **Seismic Waves** – waves caused by the release of energy due to earthquakes composed of
  - **Body Waves**
    - P - primary waves
    - S - secondary waves
  - **Surface Waves**
    - L - Love waves
    - R - Rayleigh waves

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Then [Jesus] got up and rebuked the winds and the waves, and it was completely calm. The [disciples] were amazed and asked, "What kind of man is this? Even the winds and the waves obey Him!"

*Matthew 8:26-27*

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