CP4 REVISION LECTURE ON WAVES

 \triangleright The wave equation.

▷ Traveling waves. Standing waves.

▷ Dispersion. Phase and group velocities.

▷ Boundary effects. Reflection and transmission of waves.

Sept 2004 Q8 Phys & Phil

8. A string of linear density ρ is under tension T, and lies along the x-axis. Derive the wave equation for small transverse displacements y(x, t) of the string.

A finite string of length L lies between x = a and x = a + L, and has its ends fixed with y = 0. Deduce forms of the initial displacement y(x, t = 0) such that subsequently the displacement y(x, t) retains the same shape, but has a different normalisation f(t)i.e

$$y(x,t) = f(t) \times y(x,t=0)$$

Find the function f(t) for each of these initial displacements.

For such a string between x = a and x = a + L, the initial displacement is

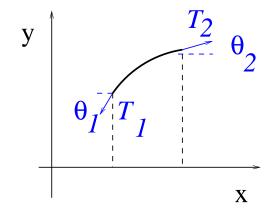
$$y(x,t=0) = A\sin(2\pi(x-a)/L)\cos(\pi(x-a)/L)$$

Initially the string is at rest. Determine the subsequent displacement of the string.

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[7]

- uniform linear density ρ
- small displacements y



• $T_1 \cos \theta_1 = T_2 \cos \theta_2$ for small θ , $\cos \theta \simeq 1 \implies T_1 = T_2 = T$ • $\rho \, \delta x \, \frac{\partial^2 y}{\partial t^2} = T \sin \theta_2 - T \sin \theta_1$

$$\sin\theta \simeq \tan\theta \simeq \frac{\partial y}{\partial x} \implies \rho \ \delta x \ \frac{\partial^2 y}{\partial t^2} = T \underbrace{\left[(\frac{\partial y}{\partial x})_2 - (\frac{\partial y}{\partial x})_1 \right]}_{(\partial^2 y/\partial x^2)\delta x + \dots}$$

Thus
$$\rho \frac{\partial^2 y}{\partial t^2} = T \frac{\partial^2 y}{\partial x^2}$$

i.e.,
$$\frac{\partial^2 y}{\partial x^2} = \frac{1}{v^2} \frac{\partial^2 y}{\partial t^2}$$
, $v^2 \equiv \frac{T}{\rho}$ wave equation



• Consider general solution with separated variables:

 $y(x,t) = (A\cos k(x-a) + B\sin k(x-a))(C\cos kvt + D\sin kvt) , v = \sqrt{T/\rho}$

• Fixed ends:
$$y(x = a, t) = y(x = a + L, t) = 0 \implies A = 0, k = n\pi/L$$

 $\implies y_n(x,t) = \sin[n\pi(x-a)/L] \left(C_n \cos(n\pi vt/L) + D_n \sin(n\pi vt/L)\right)$ normal modes

general solution :
$$y(x,t) = \sum_{n} y_n(x,t)$$

• Then, if the initial displacement is of the form $y(x,0) = C \sin[n\pi(x-a)/L]$ for some integer n, subsequent displacements y(x,t) retain the same shape, but with a different time-dependent normalisation $f(t) = C \cos(n\pi v t/L) + D \sin(n\pi v t/L)$ Normal modes of the string with fixed ends:

 $y_n(x,t) = \sin[n\pi(x-a)/L] \left(C_n \cos(n\pi v t/L) + D_n \sin(n\pi v t/L)\right) , \quad v = \sqrt{T/\rho}$ (c)

- String initially at rest $\Rightarrow \partial y/\partial t(x,0) = 0 \Rightarrow D_n = 0$
- Initial displacement $y(x,0) = A \sin[2\pi(x-a)/L] \cos[\pi(x-a)/L]$

can be written as $y(x,0) = \frac{1}{2}A\sin[3\pi(x-a)/L] + \frac{1}{2}A\sin[\pi(x-a)/L]$.

Therefore the displacement of the string at subsequent times is given by $y(x,t) = \frac{1}{2}A\sin[3\pi(x-a)/L]\cos(3\pi vt/L) + \frac{1}{2}A\sin[\pi(x-a)/L]\cos(\pi vt/L)$

6. A uniform string is stretched along the x-axis between fixed endpoints at x = 0 and x = D. If the speed of transverse waves on the string is c, find the wavenumbers and associated frequencies of the standing waves. Write down the precise functional form of y(x,t) for the two lowest frequency modes.

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• Standing waves with speed *c*:

 $y(x,t) = (\alpha \cos kx + \beta \sin kx) (\gamma \cos ckt + \delta \sin ckt) , \quad \omega = ck$

• Fixed endpoints:

 $y(x = 0, t) = 0 \implies \alpha \ (\gamma \cos ckt + \delta \sin ckt) = 0 \text{ for any } t \implies \alpha = 0$ $y(x = D, t) = 0 \implies \beta \sin kD = 0 \implies kD = n\pi \ , \ n \text{ integer}$ $\implies \text{wavenumbers and frequencies:} \ k_n = n\pi/D \ , \ \omega_n = n\pi c/D$ $\bullet \text{ General solution :} \ y(x, t) = \sum_n y_n(x, t) \text{ where}$ $y_n(x, t) = \sin \frac{n\pi x}{D} \left(\gamma_n \cos \frac{n\pi ct}{D} + \delta_n \sin \frac{n\pi ct}{D} \right)$

• Two lowest modes:

$$n = 1 \quad : \qquad y_1(x,t) = \sin \frac{\pi x}{D} \left(\gamma_1 \cos \frac{\pi ct}{D} + \delta_1 \sin \frac{\pi ct}{D} \right)$$
$$n = 2 \quad : \qquad y_2(x,t) = \sin \frac{2\pi x}{D} \left(\gamma_2 \cos \frac{2\pi ct}{D} + \delta_2 \sin \frac{2\pi ct}{D} \right)$$

7. The properties of a string are altered so that the wave equation describing small amplitude transverse waves on the string becomes

$$rac{\partial^2 y(x,t)}{\partial t^2} - c^2 rac{\partial^2 y(x,t)}{\partial x^2} = -\mu^2 y(x,t) \, .$$

By utilizing the ansatz, $y(x,t) = \operatorname{Re}[\exp i(\omega t \pm kx)]$, or otherwise, find the relation that the modified wave equation implies between the wavenumber k and angular frequency ω for a string of infinite extent. Compute the phase velocity v_p and group velocity v_g of the waves as a function of wavenumber, and comment on the relation of these to c. What are the limiting behaviours of both v_p and v_g as $k \to 0$ and $k \to \infty$?

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 \diamond Substituting the ansatz $e^{i(\omega t \pm kx)}$ into the equation gives

$$-\omega^{2} + c^{2}k^{2} = -\mu^{2}$$

i.e., $\omega^{2} = c^{2}k^{2} + \mu^{2}$
• Phase velocity : $v_{p} = \frac{\omega}{k} = \frac{\sqrt{c^{2}k^{2} + \mu^{2}}}{k} = c \sqrt{1 + \mu^{2}/(c^{2}k^{2})}$
• Group velocity : $v_{g} = \frac{\partial\omega}{\partial k} = \frac{c^{2}k}{\sqrt{c^{2}k^{2} + \mu^{2}}} = \frac{c}{\sqrt{1 + \mu^{2}/(c^{2}k^{2})}}$
 $\implies v_{p}v_{g} = c^{2}$
with $v_{p} > c$, $v_{g} < c$
 \diamond For $k \rightarrow 0$, $v_{p} \sim \frac{\mu}{k} \rightarrow \infty$; $v_{g} \sim \frac{c^{2}k}{\mu} \rightarrow 0$
 \diamond For $k \rightarrow \infty$, $v_{p} \rightarrow c$; $v_{g} \rightarrow c$

September 2009

9. Consider the superposition of two travelling waves of equal amplitude with closely spaced angular frequencies and wave numbers, $\Delta \omega = \omega_1 - \omega_2$ and $\Delta k = k_1 - k_2$, respectively. Show that the resultant wave exhibits beats, and sketch the waveform. Explain the significance of the phase and group velocities, v_p and v_g , respectively.

Show that for waves travelling through a dispersive medium,

$$v_g = v_p - \lambda \frac{dv_p}{d\lambda} \,,$$

where λ is the wavelength in the medium.

Waves propagate through a medium and are characterized by the dispersion relation

$$v_p^2 = c^2 + \lambda^2 \omega_0^2 \,,$$

where ω_0 is a constant and c is the speed of light. Show that the product of the phase and group velocities is c^2 , and comment on the physical significance of the values of v_p and v_g with respect to c.

A wave travels with $v_g = 0.9 c$ at $\lambda = 350 \,\mathrm{nm}$. Calculate the change in group velocity when λ decreases by 0.02 nm.

[6]

[6]

(a) • Superposition of travelling waves $y_1(x,t)$ and $y_2(x,t)$: $y_1 = A \sin[(k + \Delta k/2)x - (\omega + \Delta \omega/2)t]$, $y_2 = A \sin[(k - \Delta k/2)x - (\omega - \Delta \omega/2)t]$

• Using $\sin \alpha + \sin \beta = 2 \sin[(\alpha + \beta)/2] \cos[(\alpha - \beta)/2]$, the resultant wave is

$$y = y_1 + y_2 = 2A\sin(kx - \omega t)\cos[(\Delta k \ x - \Delta \omega \ t)/2]$$

♠ 1st factor sin varies with frequency ω and wave number k, i.e., close to the original waves y₁ and y₂, and corresponding speed v = ω/k (<u>phase velocity</u>).
♠ 2nd factor cos varies much more slowly, with frequency Δω/2 and wave number Δk/2
⇒ amplitude modulation, moving at speed v_g = Δω/Δk (group velocity). The modulating envelope encloses a group of short waves.

For
$$\Delta \omega$$
, $\Delta k \to 0$, $v_g = \frac{d\omega}{dk}$

(b)

(c)

• Waves travelling through a dispersive medium:

$$v_g = \frac{d\omega}{dk} = \frac{d(vk)}{dk} = v + k\frac{dv}{dk} = v + \frac{2\pi}{\lambda}\frac{dv}{d\lambda}\frac{1}{dk/d\lambda}$$
$$= v + \frac{2\pi}{\lambda}\frac{dv}{d\lambda}\left(-\frac{\lambda^2}{2\pi}\right) = v - \lambda\frac{dv}{d\lambda}$$

• Suppose the dispersion relation $v = v(\lambda)$ is given by

 $v^2 = c^2 + \lambda^2 \omega_0^2$

Then
$$2v \ dv = 2\lambda \ d\lambda \ \omega_0^2$$
, *i.e.* $\frac{dv}{d\lambda} = \frac{\lambda \omega_0^2}{v}$

So
$$v_g = v - \lambda \frac{dv}{d\lambda} = v - \frac{\lambda^2 \omega_0^2}{v}$$
, *i.e.* $v_g = v - \frac{v^2 - c^2}{v} = \frac{c^2}{v} \implies v_g v = c^2$

$$v_g = \frac{c^2}{v} \Rightarrow \delta v_g = -\frac{c^2}{v^2} \frac{dv}{d\lambda} \ \delta \lambda = -\frac{c^2}{v^2} \frac{v_g - v}{\lambda} \ \delta \lambda$$

$$v_g = xc \Rightarrow v = \frac{c}{x}$$

So
$$\delta v_g = -x^2 c \left(x - \frac{1}{x}\right) \frac{\delta \lambda}{\lambda} = c x (1 - x^2) \frac{\delta \lambda}{\lambda}$$

x = 0.9, $\lambda = 350 \, nm$, $\delta \lambda = 0.02 \, nm \implies \delta v_g = 9.77 \, 10^{-6} \, c$

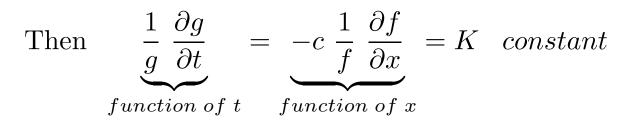
June 2008

3. Find all possible solutions to the equation

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} + c \ \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} = 0$$

of the form u = g(t)f(x), where c is a real constant.

$$u = g(t)f(x) \implies f \frac{\partial g}{\partial t} + c g \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} = 0$$



$$\implies g = g_0 e^{Kt} \quad , \qquad f = f_0 e^{-Kx/c}$$

So
$$u = \underbrace{g_0 f_0}_A e^{K(t-x/c)}$$

6. The propagation of transverse waves on a stretched string is described by the wave equation

$$rac{\partial^2 z}{\partial x^2} = rac{1}{c^2} rac{\partial^2 z}{\partial t^2}$$

where z is the transverse displacement at point x at time t and c is the speed of propagation.

A string is made of two semi-infinite pieces joined at the origin. For x < 0, the speed is c_1 ; for x > 0, the speed is c_2 . The wave $z = \cos(\omega t - k_1 x)$ is incident on the boundary, where $k_1 = \omega/c_1$. Find the amplitudes of the reflected and the transmitted waves.

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$$k_{1} = \omega / c_{1}$$

$$k_{2} = \omega / c_{2}$$

$$c_{1}$$

$$c_{2}$$

$$c_{2}$$

$$x=0$$

$$z_I = \operatorname{Re} e^{i(\omega t - k_1 x)}$$
; $z_T = \operatorname{Re} \left(t e^{i(\omega t - k_2 x)} \right)$; $z_R = \operatorname{Re} \left(r e^{i(\omega t + k_1 x)} \right)$

- continuity of z at x = 0: $z_I + z_R = z_T \implies 1 + r = t$
- continuity of $\partial z/\partial x$ at $x=0 \implies -ik_1+ik_1r=-ik_2t$

Hence $-ik_1(1-r) = -ik_2(1+r) \implies r = \frac{k_1 - k_2}{k_1 + k_2}$ reflected amplitude

$$t = 1 + r = \frac{2k_1}{k_1 + k_2}$$
 transmitted amplitude

<u>Note</u>

• The continuity of z and $\partial z/\partial x$ at the boundary x = 0in the previous problem determines the amplitudes of the reflected and transmitted waves in terms of the amplitude of the incident wave as a function of the wave numbers k_1 and k_2 :

$$r = \frac{k_1 - k_2}{k_1 + k_2}$$
; $t = \frac{2k_1}{k_1 + k_2}$

The energy transport across the boundary is described by the coefficients (see next problem)

$$R \equiv \frac{reflected \ flux}{incident \ flux} = r^2 \qquad \text{reflection coefficient}$$
$$T \equiv \frac{transmitted \ flux}{incident \ flux} = \frac{k_2}{k_1} \ t^2 \qquad \text{transmission coefficient}$$

The relation 1 = R + T expresses energy conservation.

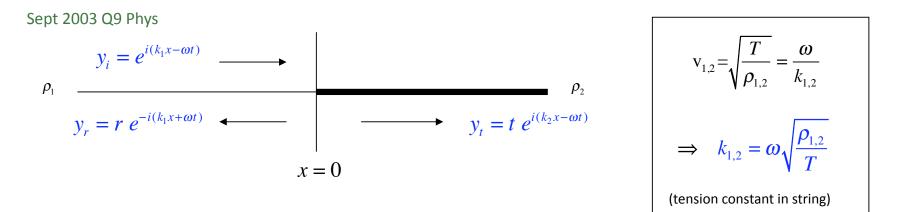
9. A long string lies along the x-axis and is under tension T. The displacement of the string from its equilibrium position at x is given by y(x,t). By considering the forces acting on an element of the string show that y satisfies the wave equation.

Two long strings of different densities ρ_1 and ρ_2 are joined together at x = 0. Write down the boundary conditions which must hold at x = 0 and use these to show that the power reflection and transmission coefficients R and T, respectively, for a wave incident on the boundary are

$$R = \left(\frac{\sqrt{\rho_1} - \sqrt{\rho_2}}{\sqrt{\rho_1} + \sqrt{\rho_2}}\right)^2,$$

$$T = \frac{4\sqrt{\rho_1}\sqrt{\rho_2}}{\left(\sqrt{\rho_1} + \sqrt{\rho_2}\right)^2}.$$
[12]

What is the phase difference between the incident and reflected waves when ρ_1 is less than ρ_2 ? [3]



Boundary conditions

$$y_{1}(x=0,t) = y_{2}(x=0,t) \quad \text{(String continuous)}$$

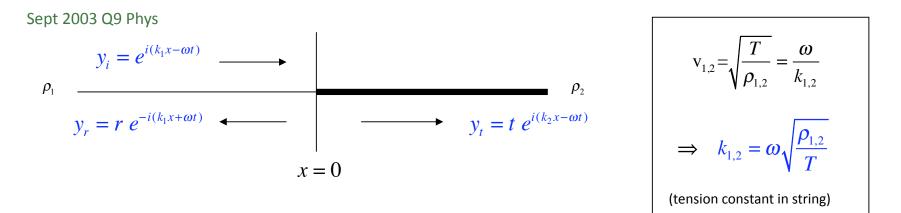
$$\frac{\partial y_{1}}{\partial t}(x=0,t) = \frac{\partial y_{2}}{\partial t}(x=0,t) \quad \text{(Forces continuous if no mass at join)}$$

$$1+r=t$$

$$k_{1}(1-r) = k_{2} t \implies r = \frac{1-k_{2}/k_{1}}{1+k_{2}/k_{1}} = \frac{1-\sqrt{\rho_{2}/\rho_{1}}}{1+\sqrt{\rho_{2}/\rho_{1}}}, \qquad t = \frac{2}{1+k_{2}/k_{1}} = \frac{2}{1+\sqrt{\rho_{2}/\rho_{1}}}$$

Power transmission

$$P_{1,2} = \frac{1}{2}T\omega k_{1,2}|A|^2 \implies R = \frac{k_1}{k_1}|r|^2 = \left(\frac{\sqrt{\rho_1} - \sqrt{\rho_2}}{\sqrt{\rho_1} + \sqrt{\rho_2}}\right)^2 \qquad T = \frac{k_2}{k_1}|t|^2 = \sqrt{\frac{\rho_2}{\rho_1}}\frac{4}{\left(1 + \sqrt{\rho_2}/\rho_1\right)^2} = \frac{4\sqrt{\rho_1}\sqrt{\rho_2}}{\left(\sqrt{\rho_1} + \sqrt{\rho_2}\right)^2}$$



Boundary conditions

$$y_{1}(x=0,t) = y_{2}(x=0,t) \quad \text{(String continuous)}$$

$$\frac{\partial y_{1}}{\partial t}(x=0,t) = \frac{\partial y_{2}}{\partial t}(x=0,t) \quad \text{(Forces continuous if no mass at join)}$$

$$1+r=t$$

$$k_{1}(1-r) = k_{2} t \implies r = \frac{1-k_{2}/k_{1}}{1+k_{2}/k_{1}} = \frac{1-\sqrt{\rho_{2}/\rho_{1}}}{1+\sqrt{\rho_{2}/\rho_{1}}}, \qquad t = \frac{2}{1+k_{2}/k_{1}} = \frac{2}{1+\sqrt{\rho_{2}/\rho_{1}}}$$

Phase difference between incident and reflected waves

$$r = \frac{\sqrt{\rho_1} - \sqrt{\rho_2}}{\sqrt{\rho_1} + \sqrt{\rho_2}} = |r|e^{i\phi}, \qquad r \text{ is negative for } \rho_1 < \rho_2 \quad i.e. \quad \phi = \pi$$

11. A long uniform string is stretched along the x-axis, has a mass density μ, and is held under tension T. A transverse wave of displacement y(x, t) travels along the string.
(a) The wave equation for transverse waves propagating along the string may be June 2010 written as

$$\frac{\partial^2 y(x,t)}{\partial x^2} = \frac{\mu}{T} \frac{\partial^2 y(x,t)}{\partial t^2} .$$

Show that a Gaussian pulse propagating along the string, $A \exp \left[-(x+vt)^2/x_0^2\right]$, where A, v, and x_0 are constants, is a solution of the above differential equation. Sketch the pulse at two different locations corresponding to times t_1 and $t_2 > t_1$.

(b) Show that the wave energy density along the string is given by

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

Hence show that for a sinusoidal wave of amplitude A and angular velocity ω travelling along the string, the energy per wavelength is given by

$$E_{\lambda} = \frac{1}{2} \mu A^2 \omega^2 \; .$$

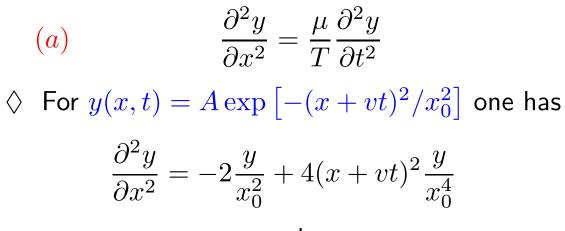
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(c) Assume now that the string extends to infinity in the -x direction, but the other end is terminated by a mass m at x = 0 which is free to move in the y-direction. Calculate the fraction of the energy reflected when a sinusoidal wave propagates in the +x direction. What happens to the rest of the energy?

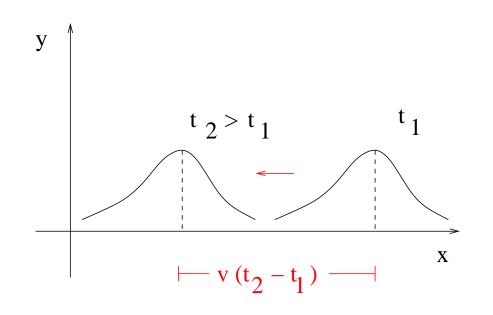
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$$\frac{\partial^2 y}{\partial t^2} = -2v^2 \frac{y}{x_0^2} + 4(x+vt)^2 v^2 \frac{y}{x_0^4} = v^2 \frac{\partial^2 y}{\partial x^2}$$

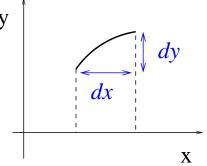
Thus y(x,t) is solution provided $v^2 = T/\mu$.



linear mass density μ y
tension T

• transverse displacements y

(b)



• Kinetic energy of element dx :
$$dK = \frac{1}{2} \mu dx \left(\frac{\partial y}{\partial t}\right)^2$$

$$\Rightarrow \text{ kinetic energy density}: \ \frac{dK}{dx} = \frac{1}{2} \ \mu \ \left(\frac{\partial y}{\partial t}\right)^2$$

• Potential energy of element dx : $dV = T\left(\sqrt{(dx)^2 + (dy)^2} - dx\right)$

$$= T\left(dx \quad \underbrace{\sqrt{1 + (\partial y/\partial x)^2}}_{1 + (1/2)(\partial y/\partial x)^2 + \dots} - dx\right) = \frac{1}{2} T dx \left(\frac{\partial y}{\partial x}\right)^2$$

 $\Rightarrow \text{ potential energy density}: \frac{dV}{dx} = \frac{1}{2} T \left(\frac{\partial y}{\partial x}\right)^2$

Energy density
$$u = \frac{dK}{dx} + \frac{dV}{dx} = \frac{1}{2} \mu \left(\frac{\partial y}{\partial t}\right)^2 + \frac{1}{2} T \left(\frac{\partial y}{\partial x}\right)^2$$

Energy density
$$u = \frac{dK}{dx} + \frac{dU}{dx} = \frac{1}{2} \mu \left(\frac{\partial y}{\partial t}\right)^2 + \frac{1}{2} T \left(\frac{\partial y}{\partial x}\right)^2$$

$$\diamond \text{ For } y(x,t) = A \sin(\omega t - kx), \ v = \omega/k = \sqrt{T/\mu}, \text{ one has}$$
$$\frac{\partial y}{\partial t} = \omega A \cos(\omega t - kx) \quad , \quad \frac{\partial y}{\partial x} = -kA \cos(\omega t - kx)$$

• kinetic energy per wavelength λ :

$$\frac{1}{\lambda} \int_0^\lambda dx \ \frac{dK}{dx} = \frac{1}{2\lambda} \ \mu \ \omega^2 \ A^2 \underbrace{\int_0^\lambda dx \ \cos^2(\omega t - kx)}_{\lambda/2} = \frac{1}{4} \ \mu \ \omega^2 \ A^2$$

• potential energy per wavelength λ :

$$\frac{1}{\lambda} \int_0^\lambda dx \, \frac{dV}{dx} = \frac{1}{2\lambda} T \, k^2 \, A^2 \underbrace{\int_0^\lambda dx \, \cos^2(\omega t - kx)}_{\lambda/2} = \frac{1}{4} T \, \frac{\omega^2}{v^2} \, A^2 = \frac{1}{4} \mu \, \omega^2 \, A^2$$

So
$$E_{\lambda} = \frac{1}{\lambda} \int_{0}^{\lambda} dx \left(\frac{dK}{dx} + \frac{dV}{dx} \right) = \frac{1}{4} \mu \omega^{2} A^{2} + \frac{1}{4} \mu \omega^{2} A^{2} = \frac{1}{2} \mu \omega^{2} A^{2}$$

(c)

• Terminating mass m at x = 0:

$$m\frac{\partial^2 y}{\partial t^2} = -T \,\,\frac{\partial y}{\partial x} \qquad \qquad$$

$$y(x,t) = e^{i(\omega t - kx)} + re^{i(\omega t + kx)}$$

$$\implies -m\omega^2(1+r) = ikT(1-r)$$

i.e.
$$r = \frac{kT - im\omega^2}{kT + im\omega^2}$$

$$R = |r|^2 = 1$$

all energy reflected with phase change 2ϕ , $\tan\phi=m\omega^2/Tk$ phase: + 1 if m=0, $e^{i\pi}=-1$ if $m\to\infty$