Notebook 'B': Physics Waves Lecture Demonstrations



























































DRIVEN HARMONIC OSCILLATIONS.

B+20+20

Film Loop: Tacoma Narrows Bridge Collapse Length(min.):4:40 Color: No Sound: No Note: This is also available in 16 mm Film: color, 4 Min. Also on VHS Tape: color.4 Min.

The main span of the bridge near Tacoma, Washington was 2800 ft long, 39 ft wide, and the steel stiffening girders (shown during construction) were 8 ft tall. The bridge was opened for traffic on July 1, 1940. In the four months of active life of the bridge before failure, many transverse (vertical) modes of vibration were observed before November 7, 1940. The main towers were nodes, of course, and between them there were from 0 to 8 additional nodes. Maximum double amplitude (crest to trough) was about 5 ft in a mode with 2 nodes between the towers; the frequency of vibration at that time was 12 vib/min.

Measurements made before failure indicated that higher wind velocities favored modes with higher frequency. This correlation may be explained by the fact that turbulent velocity fluctuations of winds can be considered as composed of a superposition of many periodic fluctuations, and the fluctuations of higher frequency are preponderant at higher wind velocities. There was no correlation between wind velocity and amplitude of vibration. Early on the morning of November 7 the wind velocity was 40 to 45 mi/hr, perhaps larger than any previously encountered by the bridge. Traffic was shut down. By 9:30 a.m. the span was vibrating in 8 or 9 segments with frequency 36 vib/min and double amplitude about 3 ft. While measurements were under way, at about 10:00 a.m., the main span abruptly began to vibrate torsionally in 2 segments with frequency 14 vib/min. The amplitude of torsional vibration quickly built up to about 35° each direction from horizontal. The main span broke up shortly after 11:00 a.m. During most of the catastrophic torsional vibration there was a transverse nodal line at mid-span, and a longitudinal nodal line down the center of the roadway (the yellow center stripe!). Note that Prof. Farquharson sensibly strides (?) down the nodal line as he leaves the bridge after making observations.

The crucial event at 10 a.m. which directly led to the catastrophic torsional vibration was apparently the loosening in its collar of the north cable by which the roadway was suspended. The center of the cable was moving back and forth relative to the center of the suspended span. This allowed the structure to twist. The wind velocity was close enough to the critical velocity for the torsional mode observed, and the vibration built up by resonance and was maintained until collapse inevitably took place.

The bridge was rebuilt using the original anchorages and tower foundations. Studies at the University of Washington Engineering Experiment Station resulted in a design for the new bridge which used deep stiffening trusses instead of girders. The new bridge is entirely successful.

HARMONIC RESONATOR.

B+20+25

One oscillating mass on rod sets another mass on rod oscillating in resonance.

The apparatus consists of two sets of masses on light springy vertical rods. In a set, masses are all the same, but the rods differ in length. The two sets are weakly coupled by a horizontal bar. When mass 1a oscillates, mass 1b starts to oscillate in resonance (but 2a,2b,3a & 3b do not oscillate). When mass 2a oscillates, mass 2b oscillates in resonance, etc.



































INTERFERENCE.

B+35+25

Beats using two glass bottles.

This demonstration requires two long-winded volunteers. The volunteers must hold the bottles as close together as humanly possible, and achieve both a loud and sustained volume.

NOTE: It is also possible to arrange a compressed-air nozzle at a suitable angle over the top of each bottle in order to produce the beats.





INTERFERENCE.

Film Loop: Multiple Slit Diffraction

B+35+35 Length (min.):3:25

Color: No Sound: No Note: This is also available on videotape.

The interference pattern of two narrow slits is shown to be similar to that produced by two point sources; the wavelengths are the same, and the slit separation equals the source separation. Using 2, 3, 4, and finally 8 narrow slits, the interference maxima are shown to become stronger directional beams; i.e. the wave fronts become straight. The zero and first order beams are emphasized by shading portions of the pattern.

APPARATUS. A long vibrating bar was used to generate the periodic straight

waves. An abnormally large wave amplitude was generated so that the diffracted wave on the far side of the slits was easily visible. The water depth was about 0.8 inch. The metal barrier protruded above the water surface.

DATA AND NOTES. The angular positions of the maxima and minima for all patterns shown (2, 3, 4 and 8 slits) are the same as those of the interference pattern from two point sources which have the same wavelength and a source separation equal to the separation of the slits; first maxima at about 50° and ratio l/d = 0.75. The slits were narrow enough (about half the wavelength) so that there were no diffraction nodes, but the intensity of the diffracted wave decreased with increasing angle, up to 90°. Therefore, the interference pattern from the multiple slits is quite weak at large angles from the normal, whereas the pattern from two point sources is strong at large angles. Even with only 8 slits in the "grating", the interference maxima are developed into very nearly non-diverging beams which head in the direction of the maxima of the double-slit pattern.

In order to prevent stroboscopic effects in the projected picture the sequences were photographed with a high speed camera; the projected phenomena are slowed down by about a factor of 3.

INTERFERENCE.

Film Loop: Single Slit Diffraction

B+35+40 Length (min.):3:30

Color: No Sound: No Note: This is also available on videotape.

With the slit width held constant, the wavelength is first decreased from about the size of the slit width to 1/ 4 that length, and is then increased again to the original wavelength. Next, holding the wavelength constant, the slit width is increased from slightly greater than the wavelength to about 5 times that width. In the last sequence the slit width is about 15 times the wavelength.

APPARATUS. A long vibrating bar was used to generate the periodic straight waves. An abnormally large wave amplitude was generated so that the diffracted wave on the far side of the slit was easily visible. The water depth was about 0.8 inch. The metal barrier protruded above the water surface.

NOTES. In the diffraction pattern, as in interference phenomena (see Film-Loop 80-240), the positions of nodes and maxima depend on both the slit width and the wavelength. In the last sequence one sees strong straight wave fronts beyond the slit, and the diffraction effects are relatively less significant. Even if the slit were very much wider than shown, there would still be diffraction effects at the edge of the slit; see Film-Loop 80-244. Multiple slit diffraction is shown in Film-Loop 80-243.

In order to prevent stroboscopic effects in the projected picture the sequences were photographed with a high speed camera; the projected phenomena are slowed down by about a factor of 3.

INTERFERENCE.

Film Loop: Interference of Waves.

B+35+45 Length (min.):4:00

Color: No Sound: No Note: This is also available on videotape.

An interference pattern is produced by two sources vibrating in phase. At one point the motion is frozen, and superposed marks identify the source separation and the wavelength of the periodic waves. A fixed reference mark is superposed on one of the first order maxima. Then the source separation is doubled without changing the wavelength; the mark now lies on a second order maximum in the new interference pattern. Next, keeping this separation the same, the wavelength is doubled; the fixed mark again lies on a first order maximum of the interference pattern. In the last sequence the interference pattern is slowly changed by continuously decreasing the wavelength.

APPARATUS. The water depth was about 0.8 inch, but was not critical. The periodic circular waves were produced by magnetically vibrating small spheres on the water surface; small electromagnets placed underneath the tank activated the floating spheres.

DATA.	First sequence	d = 6 cm;	l = 2 cm
	Double separation	d = 12 cm;	l = 4 cm
	Double wavelength	d = 12 cm;	l = 4 cm

NOTES. The principal emphasis in the film is to show the dependence of the interference pattern on the wavelength and source separation. Other related demonstrations of interference phenomena are shown in Film-Loops 80-239 and 80-241.

In order to prevent stroboscopic effects in the projected picture the sequences were photographed with a high speed camera; the projected phenomena are slowed down by about a factor of 3.





STANDING WAVES/RESONANCE.

B+50+20

Vibrating Air Columns: Organ Pipes.

These organ pipes can be played individually. They reproduce one octave of the Major scale. The relative lengths of the pipes are in exact proportion to the frequency ratios of the notes.

VIBRATIONAL MODES.

B+55+0 Length (min.):3:45

Film Loop: Vibrations of a Metal Plate Color: No Sound: No Note: This is also available on videotape.

In many finite physical systems, we can generate a phenomenon known as standing waves. A wave in a medium is usually reflected at the boundaries. Characteristic patterns will sometimes be formed, depending on the shape of the medium, the frequency of the wave, and the material. At certain points or lines in these patterns there are no vibrations, because all the partial waves passing through these points just manage to cancel each other out through superposition.

Standing wave patterns only occur for certain frequencies. The physical process selects a spectrum of frequencies from all the possible ones. Often there are an infinite number of such discrete frequencies. Sometimes there are simple mathematical relationships between the selected frequencies, but for other bodies the relationships are more complex. Several films in this series show vibrating systems with such patterns.

The physical system in this film is a square metal plate. The various vibrational modes are produced by a loudspeaker, as with the vibrating membrane in "Vibrations of a Drum". The metal plate is clamped at the center, so that point is always a node for each of the standing wave patterns. Because this is a metal plate, the vibrations are too slight in amplitude to be directly seen. The trick used to make the patterns visible is to sprinkle sand on the plate. This sand is jiggled away from the parts of the plates in rapid motion and tends to fall along the nodal lines. The beautiful patterns of sand are known as Chaladni figures which have often been admired by artists. Similar patterns are formed when a metal plate is excited by means of a violin bow, as seen at the end of the film.

Not all frequencies lead to stable patterns. As in the case of the drum, the harmonic frequencies for the metal plate obey complex mathematical relationships, rather than the simple arithmetic progression seen in a onedimensional string. But as we scan the frequency spectrum, only certain sharp, well-defined frequencies produce these elegant patterns.

VIBRATIONAL MODES.

B+55+1 Length (min.):3:25

Film Loop: Vibrations of a Drum Color: No Sound: No Note: This is also available on videotape.

In many finite physical systems, we can generate a phenomenon known as standing waves. A wave in a medium is reflected at the boundaries. Characteristic patterns will sometimes be formed, depending on the shape of the medium, the frequency of the wave and the material. At certain points or lines in these patterns there are no vibrations, because all the partial waves passing through these points just manage to cancel each other out, through superposition.

Standing wave patterns only occur for certain frequencies. The physical process selects a spectrum of frequencies from all the possible ones. Often there are an infinite number of such discrete frequencies. Sometimes there are simple mathematical relationships between the selected frequencies, but for other bodies the relationships are more complex. Several films in this series show vibrating systems with such patterns.

The standing wave patterns in this film are in a stretched, circular, rubber membrane driven by a loudspeaker. The loudspeaker is fed about 30 watts of power. The sound frequency can be changed electronically. The lines drawn on the membrane make it easier to see the patterns.

The rim of the drum can not move, so it must be in all cases a nodal circle, a circle which does not move as the waves bounce back and forth on the drum. By operating the camera at a frequency only slightly different from the resonant frequency, we get a stroboscopic effect enabling us to see the rapid vibrations as if they were in slow-motion.

In the first part of the film, the loudspeaker is directly under the membrane, and the vibratory patterns are symmetrical. In the fundamental harmonic, the membrane rises and falls as a whole. At a higher frequency a second circular node shows up between the center and the rim.

In the second part of the film, the speaker is placed to one side, so that a different set of modes, asymmetrical modes, are generated in the membrane. There will be an anti-symmetrical mode where there is a node along the diameter, with a hill on one side and a valley on the other.

Various symmetric and anti-symmetric vibration modes are shown. Describe each mode, identifying the nodal lines and circles.

In contrast to the one-dimensional hose in "Vibrations of a Rubber Hose" there is no simple relationship between resonant frequencies for this system. The frequencies are not integral multiples of any basic frequency. The relationship between values in the frequency spectrum is more complex than the values for the hose.

SHOCK WAVES

Film Loop: Formation of Shock Waves

B+65+5 Length (min.):3:45

Color: No Sound: No Note: This is also available on videotape.

A pulsed air jet producing a periodic circular wave first moves over the water surface at about 1/3 (and then 2/3) of the wave velocity; the wave fronts ahead of the source get closer together. When the source velocity exceeds the wave velocity (by about 5%) a shock wave builds up and moves along with the source. When the ratio of source to wave velocity is about 1.6 the cone of the shock wave is quite sharp. At one point the motion is frozen and animation is superposed to show the relationship of the shock wave angle to the wave and source velocities.

APPARATUS. Same as for Film-Loop 80-237.

NOTES. It took only 2.5 sec for the source to move across the tank at 1.6 times the wave velocity. In order to prevent stoboscopic effects and to be able to observe the effect for a reasonable time the sequence was photographed with a high speed camera. The film is designed to be screened at 16 frames per second (silent speed); the projected phenomena are slowed down by about a factor of 6. The ratio of source to wave velocity is usually called the Mach number. For Mach numbers greater than 1 the reciprocal of that number is equal to the sine of the half angle for the shock cone.

DATA AND DISCUSSION. In the sequence where we first see the shock wave (about Mach 1.05), the measured half angle of the shock cone is 73°. In the second sequence (about Mach 1.6) the measured half angle is about 40°; see Fig. 1. At Mach 1.6 we can see a circular concave wave to the rear of the source and moving in the same direction; this is the first circular wave formed as the source originally starts to move across one edge of the tank. What would you observe from the following vantage points: (a) outside the Mach cone, (b) inside the cone, (c) anywhere in the cone-shaped shock itself?

DOPPLER EFFECT.

Film Loop: The Doppler Effect

B+65+10 Length (min.):3:45

Color: No Sound: No Note: This is also available on videotape.

A pulsed air jet producing a periodic circular wave first moves over the water surface at about 1/3 of the wave velocity. The Doppler effect is clearly seen . At one point the motion is frozen on the screen to permit close examination of the wavelength differences. The source is also shown moving at twice the previous velocity. APPARATUS. The water depth was not critical. The wave generator was a small drum hit by a vibrating clapper mounted on a cart which moved uniformly along the edge of the tank. A narrow tube from the drum protruded out over the tank and directed puffs of air onto the water surface.

NOTES. It took only 10 sec for the source to move across the tank at 1/3 times the wave velocity. In order to prevent stoboscopic effects and to be able to observe the effect for a reasonable time the sequence was photographed with a high speed camera. The film is designed to be screened at 16 frames per second (silent speed); the projected phenomena are slowed down by about a factor of 6. The magnitude of the Doppler effect shown here, with a ratio of source to wave velocity of about 1/3 to 2/3, is large compared to what we normally hear or record. The ratio is then usually 1/10 or 1/20; e.g. when we hear the change of pitch of a car horn or a train whistle as it moves past us at 30 to 60 mph. When the ratio of source to wave velocity is greater than 1, a shock wave occurs. (see Film 80-238) In Fig. 1 (not included here) a stationary observer in front of the source (on the right) sees the source approaching and measures a higher than normal frequency (pitch); an observer behind the source (on the left) sees the source receding and measures a lower than normal frequency.

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