

April 5, 2017      Physics 132      Prof. E. F. Redish

■ **Theme Music: Antonio Carlos Jobim**  
*Wave*

■ **Cartoon: Pat Brady**  
*Rose is Rose*



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## Outline

- Go over Quiz 8
- Speed of a wave on a string
- Doing the math

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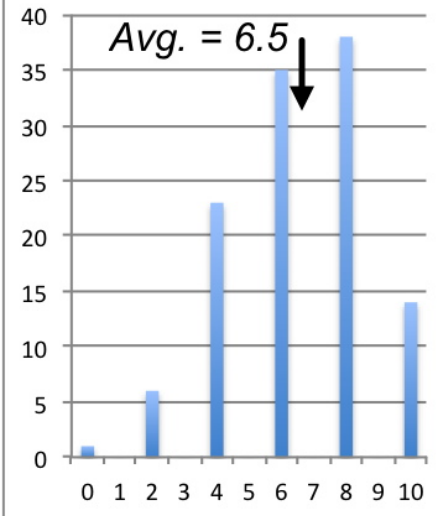
## Quiz 8

|   | 1.1 | 1.2 | 1.3 |   | 2   | 3   |
|---|-----|-----|-----|---|-----|-----|
| A | 0%  | 94% |     | A | 3%  | 50% |
| B | 0%  | 3%  |     | B | 2%  | 6%  |
| C | 15% | 0%  |     | C | 55% | 44% |
| D | 78% | 0%  |     | D | 38% | 0%  |
| N | 4%  | 2%  |     | E | 2%  |     |
| L |     |     | 32% |   |     |     |
| R |     |     | 62% |   |     |     |
| O |     |     | 7%  |   |     |     |

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## Quiz 8



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## What Controls the Speed of the Pulse?

### ■ Doing the wave

- Does it matter how high you stand up?
- Does it matter how the next person gets their info on when you moved?



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## Dimensional analysis

- Square brackets are used to indicate a quantities dimensions
  - mass ( $\mathcal{M}$ ), length ( $\mathcal{L}$ ), or time ( $\mathcal{T}$ )
  - $[m] = \mathcal{M}$
  - $[L] = \mathcal{L}$
  - $[t] = \mathcal{T}$
  - $[F] = \mathcal{ML}/\mathcal{T}^2$
- Build a velocity using mass ( $m$ ), length ( $L$ ), and tension ( $T$ ) of the string:
  - $[v] = \mathcal{L}/\mathcal{T}$
  - $[T] = \mathcal{ML}/\mathcal{T}^2$
  - $[T/m] = \mathcal{L}/\mathcal{T}^2$
  - $[TL/m] = \mathcal{L}^2/\mathcal{T}^2$



$$v_0^2 = \frac{TL}{m}$$

or, using  $\mu = m/L$   $v_0 = \sqrt{\frac{T}{\mu}}$

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## Foothold principles: Mechanical waves



- *Key concept:* We have to distinguish the motion of the bits of matter and the motion of the pattern.
- *Mechanism:* the pulse propagates by each bit of moving matter pulling on the next.
- *Pattern speed:* a disturbance moves into a medium with a speed that depends on the properties of the medium (but not on the shape of the disturbance)

$$v_0 = \sqrt{\frac{T}{\mu}}$$

$v_0$  = speed of pulse  
 $T$  = tension of spring  
 $\mu$  = mass density of spring ( $M/L$ )

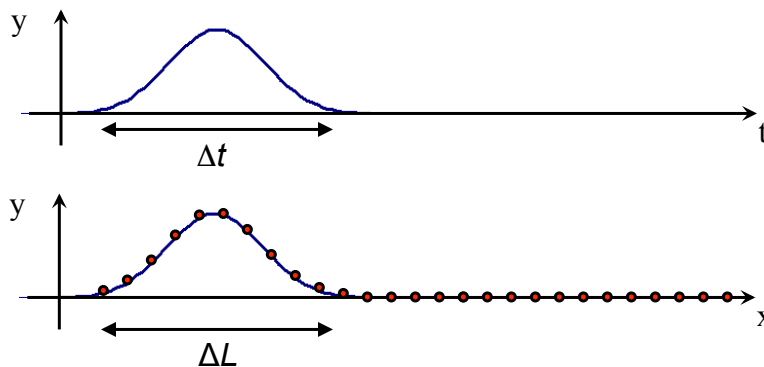
- *Matter speed:* the speed of the bits of matter depend on both the size and shape of the pulse and pattern speed.

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## What controls the widths of the pulses in time and space?



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## Width of a pulse

- The amount of time the demonstrator's hand was displaced up and down determines the time width of the t-pulse,  $\Delta t$ .
- The speed of the signal propagation on the string controls the width of the x-pulse,  $\Delta L$ .
  - The leading edge takes off with some speed,  $v_0$ .
  - The pulse is over when the trailing edge is done.
  - The width is determined by “how far the leading edge got to” before the displacement was over.

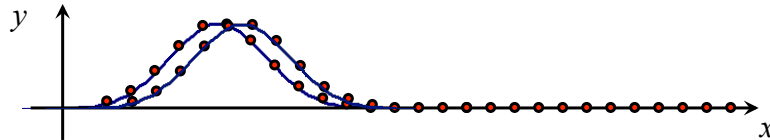
$$\Delta L = v_0 \Delta t$$

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## What controls the speed of the beads?



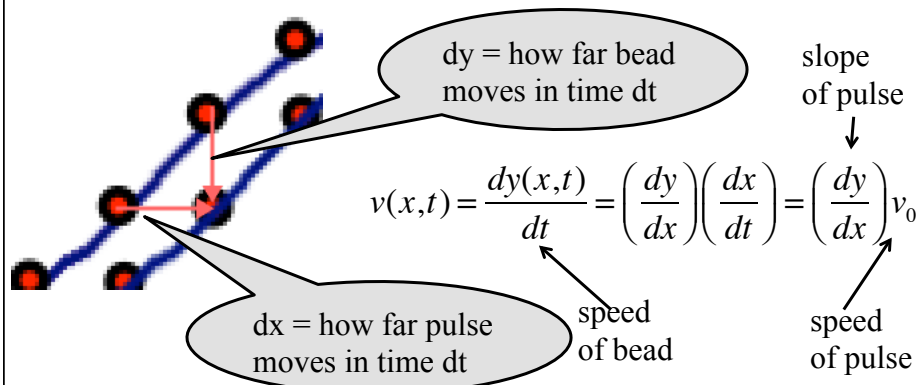
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## Speed of a bead

- The speed the bead moves depends on how fast the pulse is moving and how far it needs to travel to stay on the string.



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## Doing the math:

## Displacements on an elastic string / spring

- Each bit of the string can move up or down (perpendicular to its length).
- To describe the motion of the string we need to describe the motion of each bit of the string at every instant of time.
- We therefore need to tell both which bit and when in order to specify a displacement.

$$y_i = f_i(t)$$

$$y = f(x, t)$$



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