Oscillations and Waves



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Module Outline

- 10 Lectures
- Lab + tutorials + assignments
- Assignment #6 due 6 June
- "University Physics", Young & Freedman
- Ch. 14: Periodic Motion
- Ch. 15: Mechanical Waves
- Ch. 16: Sound and Hearing

Overview

- L1: Intro to Simple Harmonic Motion (SHM)
- L2: Applications of SHM; Energy of Oscillations
- L3: Simple and Physical Pendulums; Resonance
- L4: Intro to Mechanical Waves
- L5: Wave Equation and Wave Speed
- L6: Interference and Superposition
- L7: Standing Waves; Normal Modes
- L8: Sound Waves; Perception of Sound
- L9: Interference; Beats
- L10: Doppler Effect; Shock Waves

What is an oscillation?

- Any motion that repeats itself
- Described with reference to an

equilibrium position

where the net force is zero, and a

restoring force

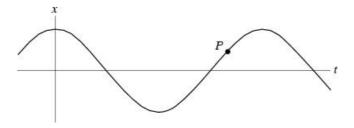
which acts to return object to equilibrium

- Characterised by:
 - Period (T) or frequency (f) or angular freq (ω)
 - Amplitude (A)

§14.1

Test your understanding

A mass attached to a spring oscillates back and forth as indicated in the position vs. time plot below.



Simple Harmonic Motion

Suppose the restoring force varies linearly with displacement from equilibrium

$$F(t) = -k x(t)$$

Then the displacement, velocity, and acceleration are all sinusoidal functions of time

This defines Simple Harmonic Motion (SHM)

• Period/frequency depend only on k and m with $\omega = \sqrt{(k/m)}$ (does not depend on amplitude!)

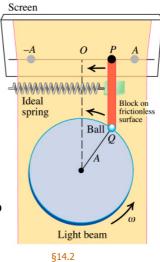
§14.2

SHM & circular motion

- An object moves with uniform angular velocity ω in a circle.
- The projection of the motion onto the *x*-axis is

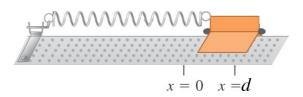
$$x(t) = A\cos(\omega t + \phi)$$

- The projected velocity & acceleration also agree with SHM.
- Every kind of SHM can be related to a motion around an equivalent reference circle.



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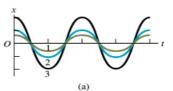
A block on a frictionless table is attached to a wall with a spring. The block is pulled a distance *d* to the right of its equilibrium position and released from rest. It takes a time *t* to get back to the equilibrium point.



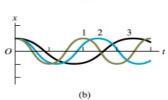
If instead the mass is pulled a distance 2d to the right and then released from rest, how long will it take to get back to the equilibrium point?

Period and Amplitude

Identical Periods Different Amplitudes



Identical Amplitudes
Different Periods



§14.1

Next lecture

Applications of SHM

Read §14.1-14.3