

Speed of Sound

- Speed of a wave on a string:

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

- T is tension sometimes listed as F for force on string.
- μ is the density of the string mass/length



$$v = \sqrt{\frac{T}{\mu}} \quad \text{and} \quad f = v/\lambda$$

If wavelength is fixed, how does frequency change if v goes up?

- a. Goes up
- b. Goes down

BORING – lost everyone very quickly.



$$v = \sqrt{\frac{T}{\mu}} \quad \text{and} \quad f = v/\lambda$$

If wavelength is fixed, how does frequency change if v **goes up**?

- a. **Goes up**
- b. Goes down

If the string is fatter - bigger μ , does the speed go up or down?

- a. Goes up
- b. Goes down



$$v = \sqrt{\frac{T}{\mu}} \quad \text{and} \quad f = v/\lambda$$

If wavelength is fixed, how does frequency change if v **goes up**?

- a. **Goes up**
- b. Goes down

If the string is fatter - bigger μ , does the speed go up or down?

- a. Goes up
- b. Goes down**

So, the frequency for a fatter string of the same length is?

- a. Lower
- b. higher**



$$v = \sqrt{\frac{T}{\mu}} \quad \text{and} \quad f = v/\lambda$$

If wavelength is fixed, how does frequency change if v **goes up**?

- a. **Goes up**
- b. Goes down

If you tighten a string, the speed

- a. Goes up
- b. Goes down



$$v = \sqrt{\frac{T}{\mu}} \quad \text{and} \quad f = v/\lambda$$

If wavelength is fixed, how does frequency change if v **goes up**?

- a. **Goes up**
- b. Goes down

If you tighten a string, the speed

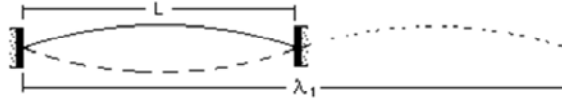
- a. **Goes up**
- b. Goes down

So, the frequency for a tighter string of the same length is?

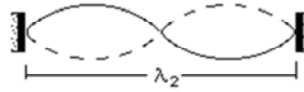
- a. Lower
- b. **higher**

$$f = v/\lambda$$

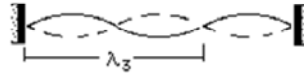
1st harmonic $\lambda_1 = 2L$



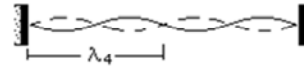
2nd harmonic $\lambda_2 = L$



3rd harmonic $\lambda_3 = 2/3L$



4th harmonic $\lambda_4 = 1/2L$



Nth harmonic $\lambda_n = 2L/n$

so $f = nv/(2L)$

In air

$$v = 331 \text{ m/s} \sqrt{1 + \frac{T}{273}}$$

If the air is hotter, is the speed of sound

- a. Faster
- b. slower

In air

$$v = 331 \text{ m/s} \sqrt{1 + \frac{T}{273}}$$

If the air is hotter, is the speed of sound

- a. **Faster**
- b. Slower

Does hotter air have more collisions or less than colder air?

- a. More
- b. less

In air

$$v = 331 \text{ m/s} \sqrt{1 + \frac{T}{273}}$$



©2002, Dan Russell

Does hotter air have more collisions or less than colder air?

- a. **More**
- b. less

$$V^2 = \frac{\text{rigidity}}{\text{Inertia}}$$

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

Material	Speed of sound	
Air (0°C)	331 m/s	
Air (20°C)	343 m/s	
hydrogen	1290 m/s	
Water	1490 m/s	
Aluminum	5100 m/s	
Lead	1320 m/s	
Rubber	54 m/s	