

(g) For a fixed x , the chunk of string under consideration exhibits SIMPLE HARMONIC MOTION in the y -direction.

Therefore, we can define an EFFECTIVE SPRING CONSTANT k_{eff} , as for a point particle attached to a spring (SHO):

$$k_{\text{eff}} = m_{\text{ch}} \cdot \omega^2 = \left(\frac{dx}{L}\right) m \omega^2 (5g)$$

We see that $k_{\text{eff}} \propto m \omega^2$, a combination that appears in the expressions for all the forces (5c) — (5e).