

Problem Set # 9

Reading on current material and for coming lectures: *Young & Freedman*, Sections 40.1—40.3, 40.10, 41.1—41.4.

Problems: (due 11/29)

Skills to be mastered:

- Be able to determine energy densities (kinetic, potential, total) given the solution $y(x, t)$.
- Be able to determine the total energy (i.e., integrated density) given the solution $y(x, t)$.

1. Problem 1 (Total Energy in a Traveling Wave):

Four identical strings, each with equal tensions $\tau = 9$ N and mass per unit length $\mu = 1$ kg/m, carry traveling wave pulses, as shown on Figure 1, and traveling to the right. (Figure 1 represents a snapshot of the strings at $t = 0$.)

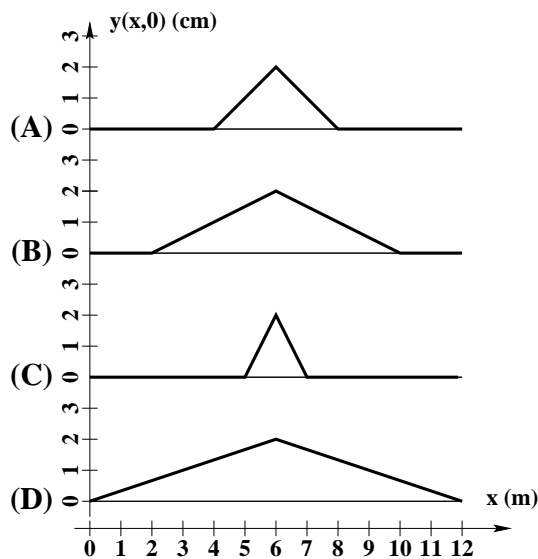


Figure 1: Total energy of various pulses.

- (a) **Calculate** the **kinetic energy density** $ke(x)$ and the **potential energy density** $pe(x)$ for each of the pulses. **Is it true** that $ke(x) = pe(x)$?
- (b) **Calculate the energy density** $e(x)$ for **each** of these pulses. **Which one** (A, B, C, or D) has the **lowest energy density in the region of the pulse**?
- (c) **Calculate the total energy** for **each** of these pulses. Which one (A, B, C, or D) has the **highest** total energy?

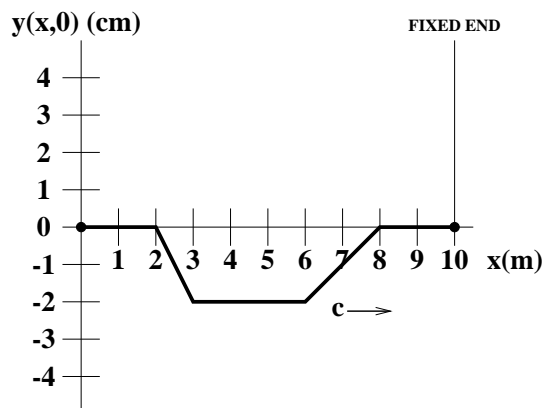


Figure 2: Power in a travelling pulse.

2. Problem 2 (Power in a Traveling Wave):

Figure 2 above shows a traveling wave propagating on a string at time $t = 0$. The wave is propagating to the right (positive x -direction). The tension in the string is $\tau = 9$ N, and the string has a mass per unit length of $\mu = 1$ kg/m. The string has a length of 10 m, and has a *fixed end* at $x = 10$ m.

- Draw a graph** of the **transverse velocity** (chunk speed) of the wave at $t = 0$, as a function of x . Label your axes clearly and be sure to give units.
- Draw a graph** of the **power** in the wave at $t=0$, as a function of x . Label your axes clearly and be sure to give units.
- Draw a graph** of the **amplitude** of the wave at $t = 1$ s, as a function of x . Label your axes clearly and be sure to give units.
- Draw a graph** of the **transverse velocity** (chunk speed) of the wave at $t = 1$ s, as a function of x . Label your axes clearly and be sure to give units.
- Draw a graph** of the **power** in the wave at $t = 1$ s, as a function of x . Label your axes clearly and be sure to give units.

Note: In **Problems 3, 4, and 5**, “**The Pulse**” refers to the pulse shown on Figure 3 (a snapshot at $t = 0$). In each problem, The Pulse is initially moving down the string to the left at wave speed c . The string *does not necessarily* end at $x = 0$. Everywhere in these two problems, “**plot**” means: use graph paper, plot carefully, and label numerical values on the axes.

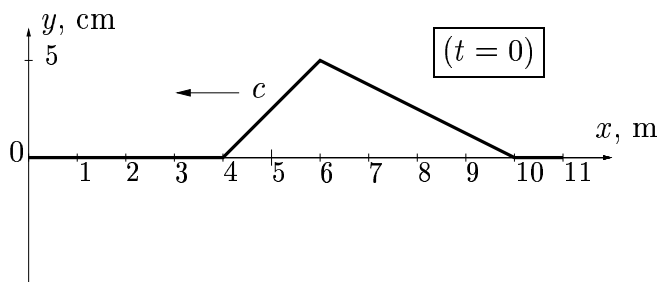


Figure 3: The Pulse.

3. Problem 3:

The Pulse is headed at speed $c = 100$ m/s toward a change in medium at $x = 0$. The string does not end at $x = 0$; rather, it is tied to a more massive string at $x = 0$ such that $\mu' = 9\mu$ (where μ is the linear mass density for $x > 0$ and μ' is the linear mass density for $x < 0$).

Hint: Use your results from *Problem Set #8, Problem 3*, replacing $B \rightarrow \tau$ and $\rho \rightarrow \mu$.

- (a) **Plot the snapshots** for $t = 0.06$ s and 0.12 s;

Hint: Draw the 0.12 s snapshot first.

- (b) **Find the total energies** of the *incoming, reflected and transmitted* pulses. **Verify that energy is conserved.**

4. Problem 4:

The Pulse moves on a string with $\mu = 0.001$ kg/m and $\tau = 10$ N. The string ends at $x = 0$.

- (a) At $t = 0$, **plot** the **kinetic energy density** $ke(x)$, the **potential energy density** $pe(x)$, the total energy density $e(x)$, and the **instantaneous power** $P(x)$;
- (b) How does $e(x)$ **compare** with $P(x)$?

Hint: How fast does energy move along the string?

- (c) **What is the power at $x = 0$ as a function of time** if the string has a **fixed end** there? **Explain your result in terms of energy conservation.**
- (d) **Repeat** (c) if $x = 0$ is a **free end**.

5. Problem 5:

In *Problem 5 of Problem Set #6*, you found that if $b = \tau/c = \sqrt{\tau\mu}$, there is no reflected pulse. Suppose The Pulse is moving at $c = 100$ m/s toward $x = 0$, at which point this "perfect absorber" has been set up; in other words the string ends at $x = 0$ and the endpoint is attached to a dashpot with just the right value of b to completely absorb The Pulse.

- (a) **Plot** $P(t)$, the **power as a function of time**, at the **endpoint** $x = 0$.
- (b) The rate at which energy is dissipated by the dashpot is $P_d = F_y v_y$, where F_y is the viscous drag force and v_y the y -velocity of the endpoint (i.e., of the piston). **Is $P(t) = P_d(t)$? Explain briefly**, based on **energy conservation**.