



# Sound of Music

## How It Works

Session 2

Resonance: Building Musical Sounds

OLLI at Illinois

Spring 2020

D. H. Tracy



**Ocarina** (Helmholtz Resonator)

Lena Leclaire 2012

*Legend of Zelda Medley*

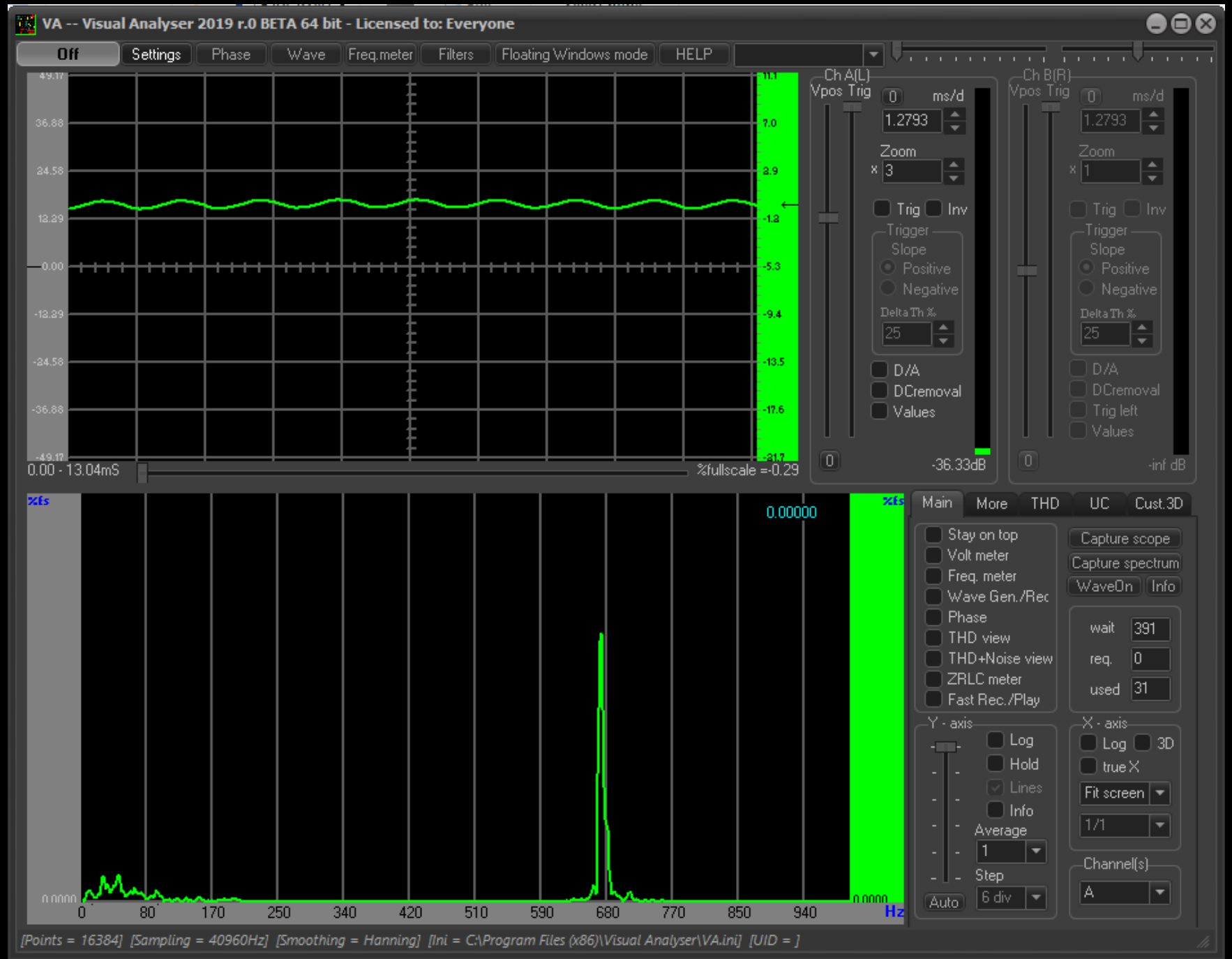
# Course Outline



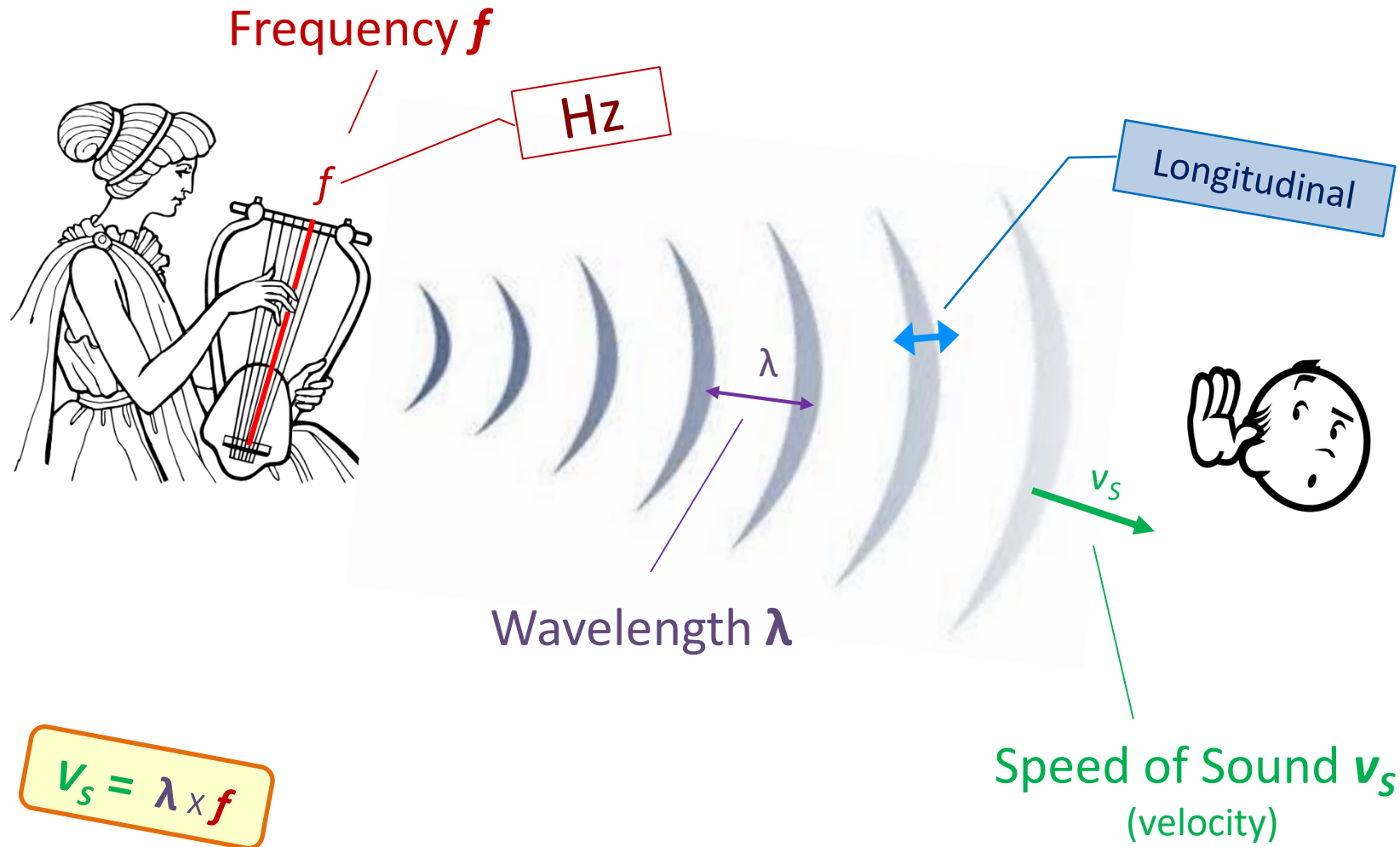
1. Building Blocks: Some basic concepts
- 2. Resonance: Building Musical Sounds**
3. Hearing and the Ear
4. Musical Scales
5. Musical Instruments
6. Singing and Musical Notation
7. Harmony and Dissonance; Chords
8. Combining the Elements of Music

# Visual Analyzer Demo

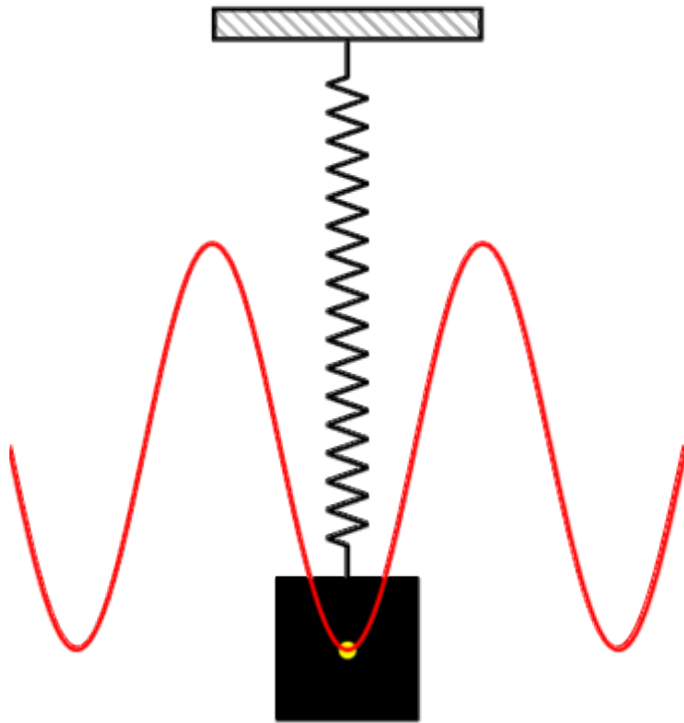
## Whistle



# Sound As Compression Waves



# Simple Harmonic Oscillator



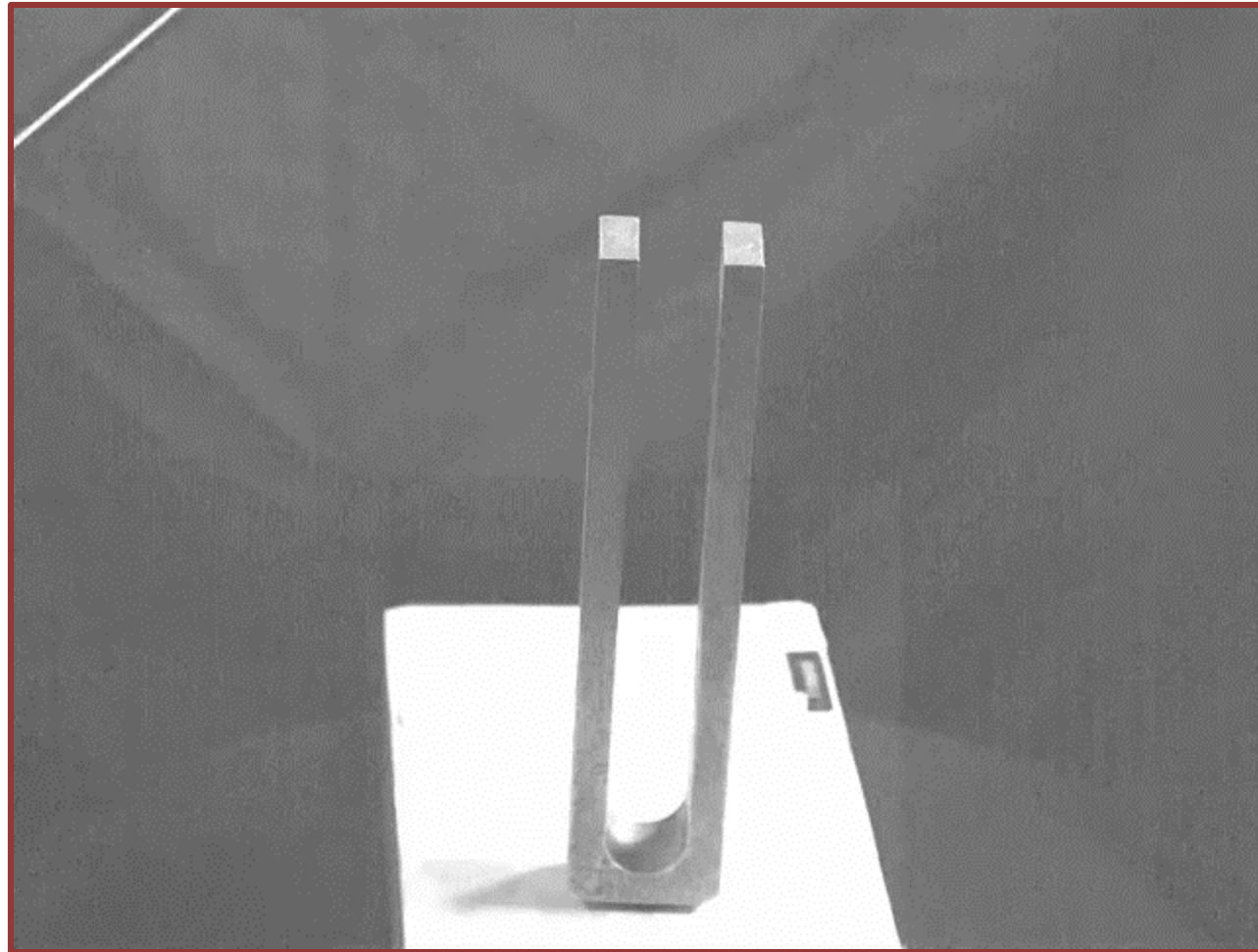
Imgur.com



James Dodd: You-Tube

# Tuning Fork

Slo-Motion  
Video



Michigan Tech  
YouTube  
9/11/2014

# Resonators can be excited by well-timed nudges

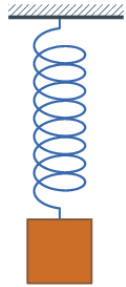


# How can we make Sine Waves?

- Simple Harmonic Oscillators do it



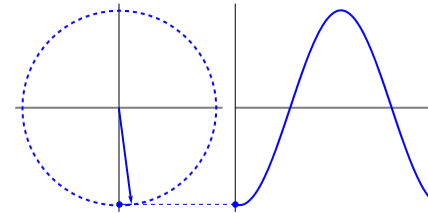
Simple  
Pendulum



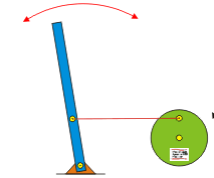
Mass on  
Spring



e.g. Tuning  
Fork



Circular  
Projection



e.g. Rotational  
Crank Mechanism

- Electronics can also do it

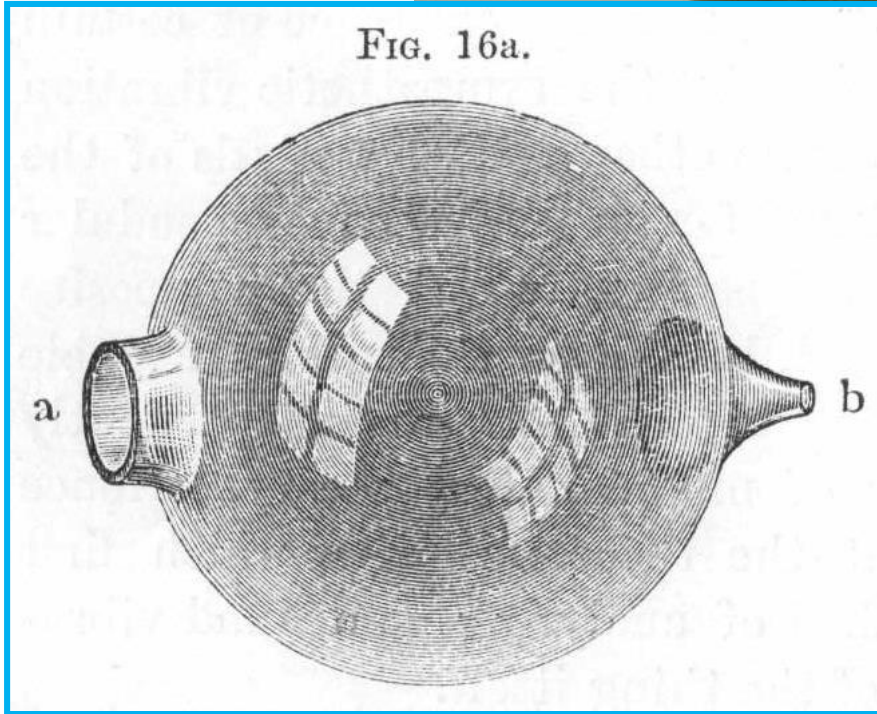
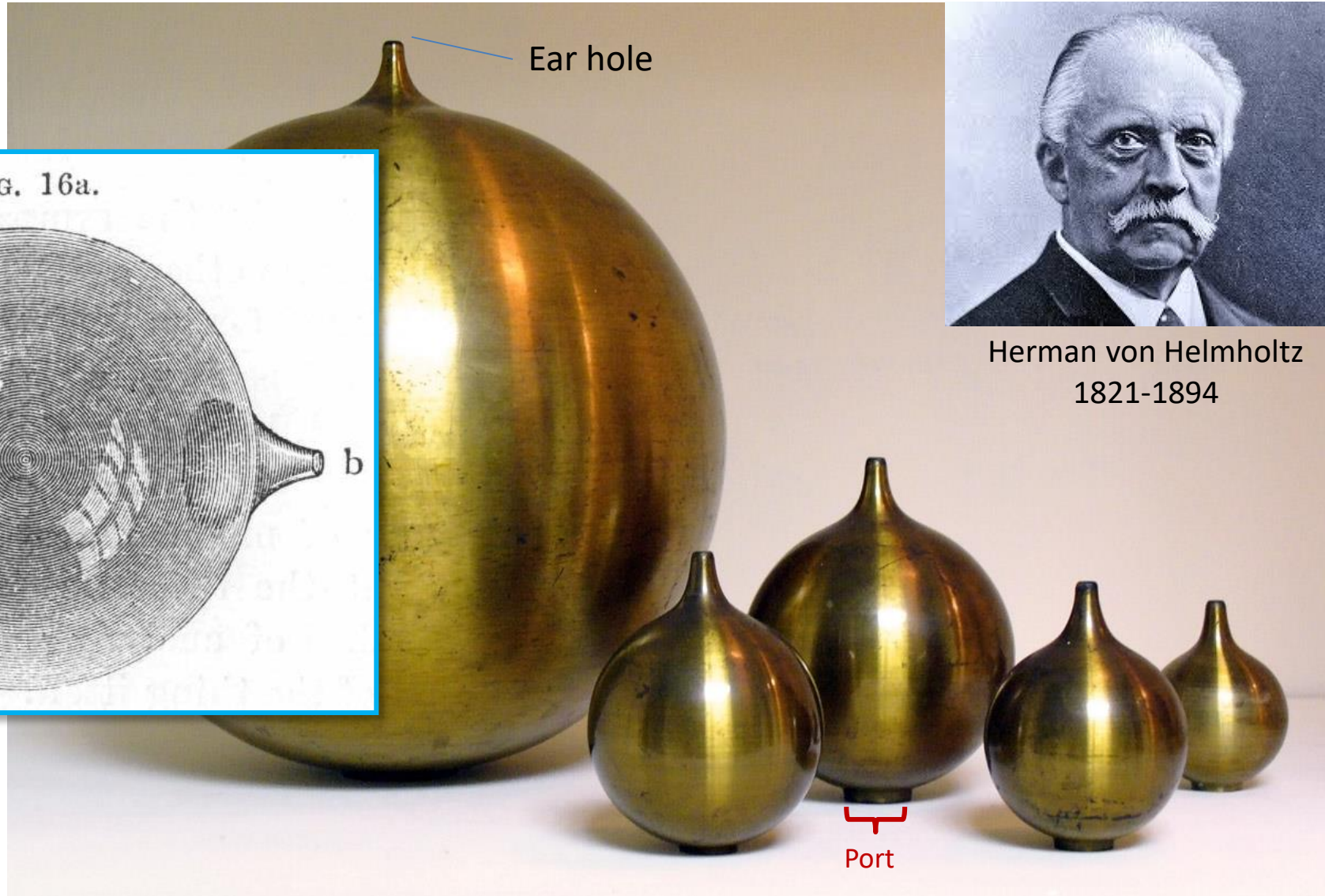




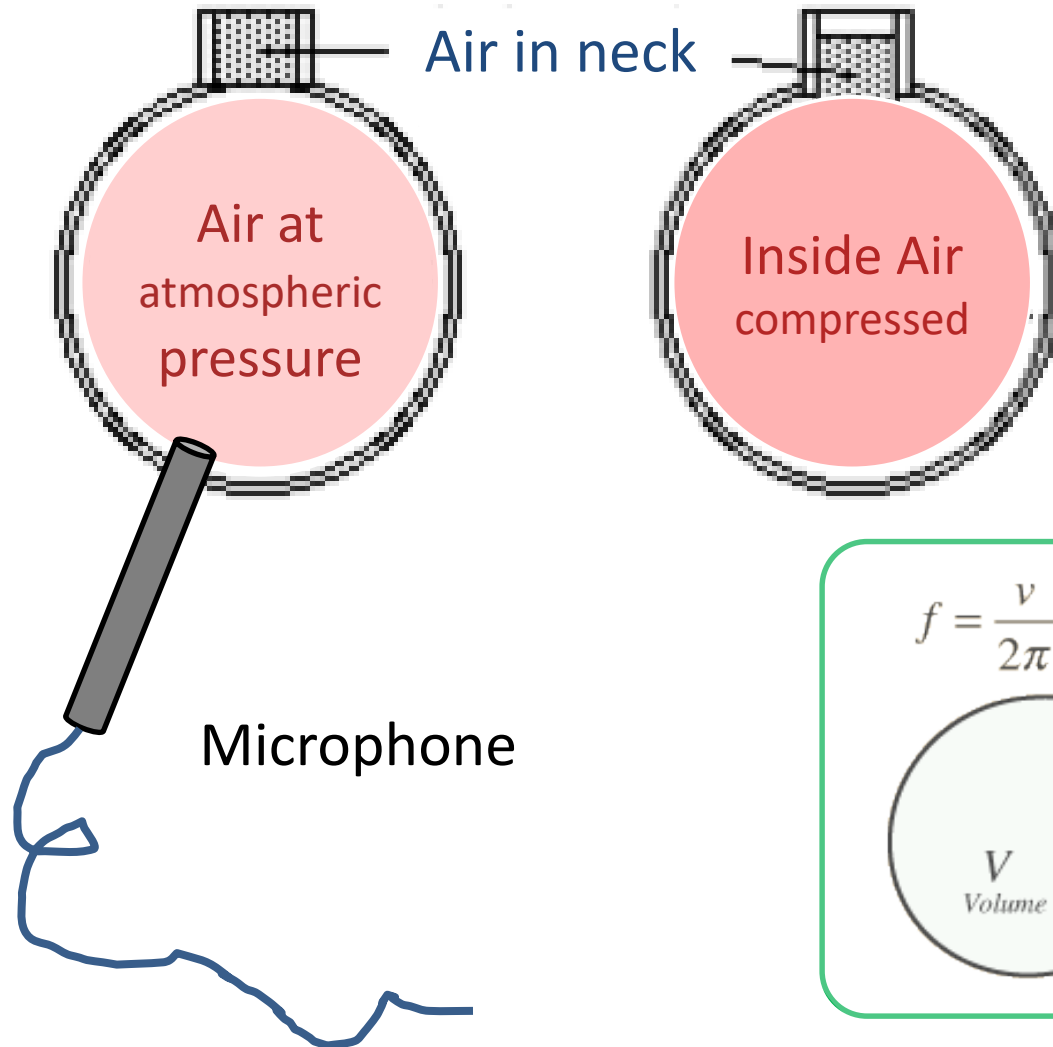
# Helmholtz Resonators



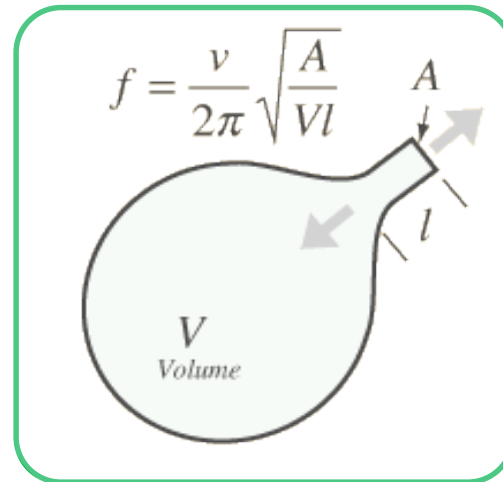
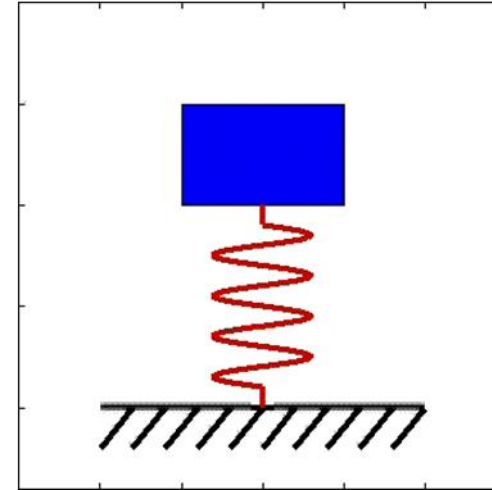
Herman von Helmholtz  
1821-1894



# Helmholtz Resonators



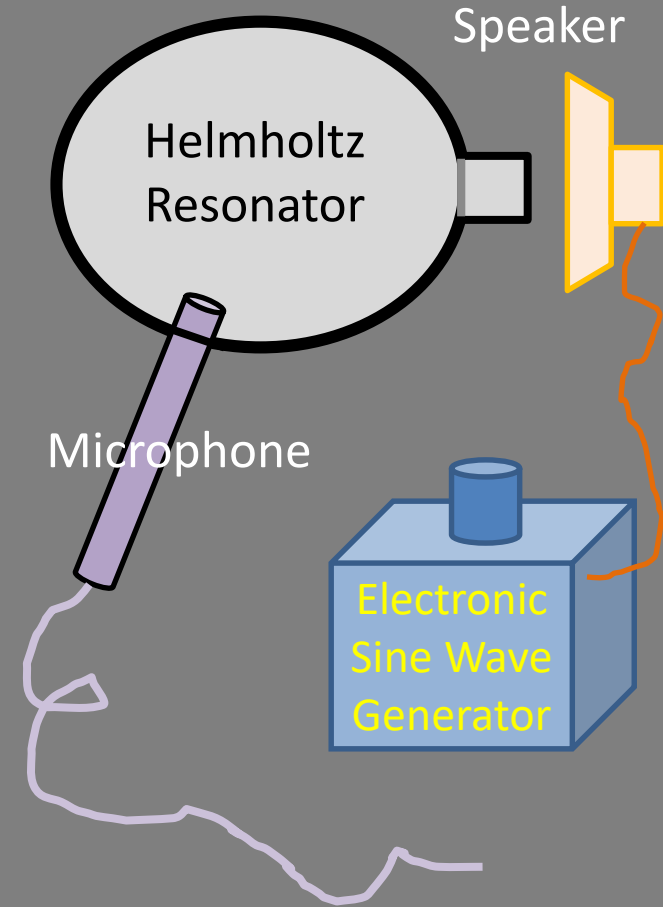
Simple Harmonic Oscillator



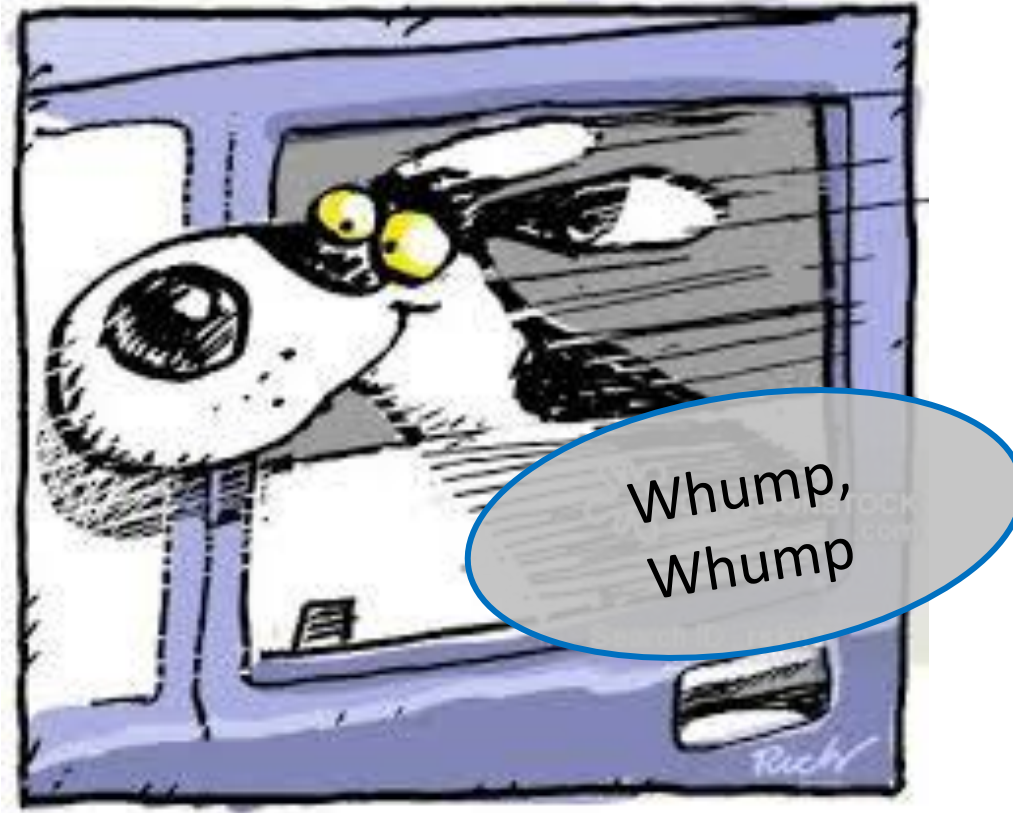
Demo

# Helmholtz Resonator

147 Hz Resonance



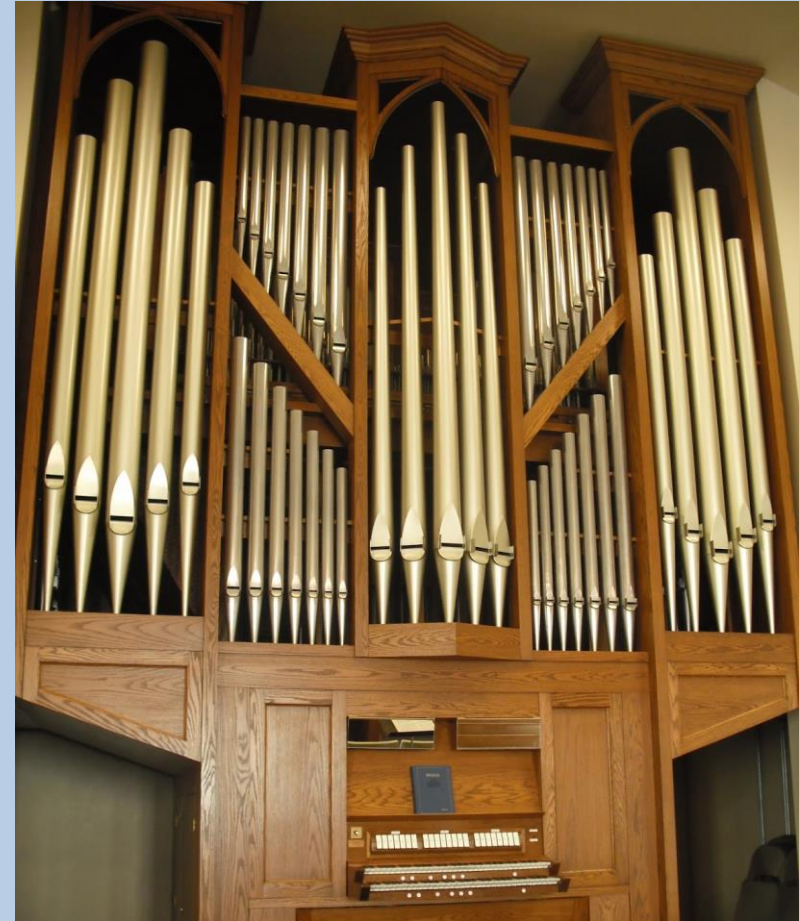
Ever experience a Whump-Whump in your car when a rear window is cracked open?



Ever experience a Whump-Whump in your car when a rear window is cracked open?



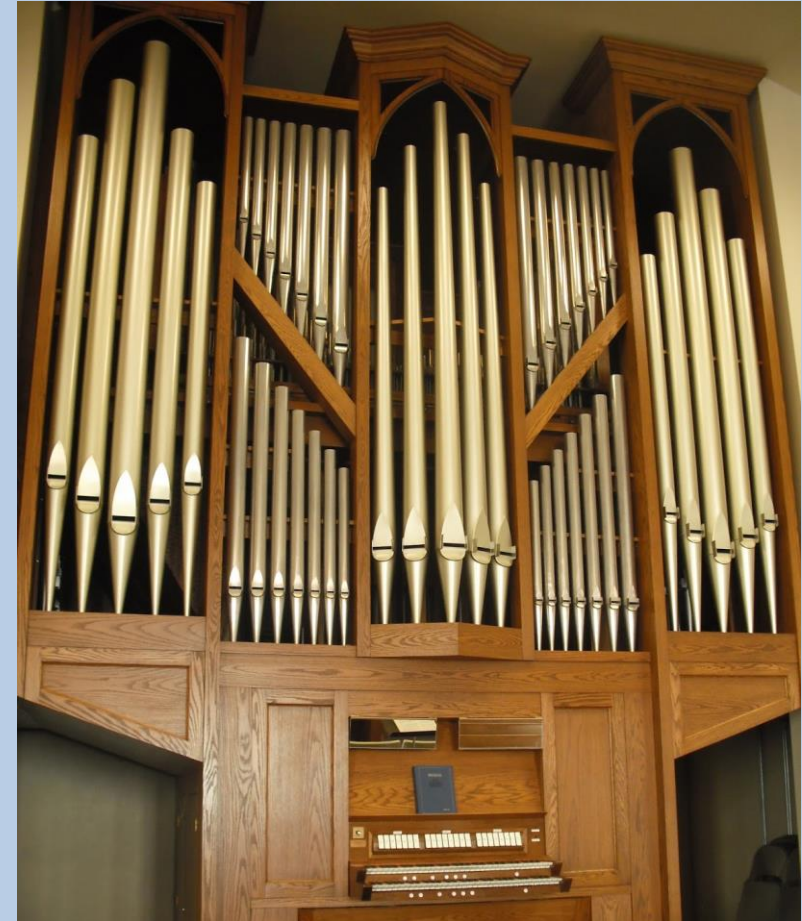
# Resonators Using Strings and Pipes



# Resonators Using Strings and Pipes



Anne Sullivan playing *Siciliana* (Respighi)



# Resonators Using Strings and Pipes



Prelude in C Major (Bach): Brian of the LDS [ [Liahona.net](http://Liahona.net) ]

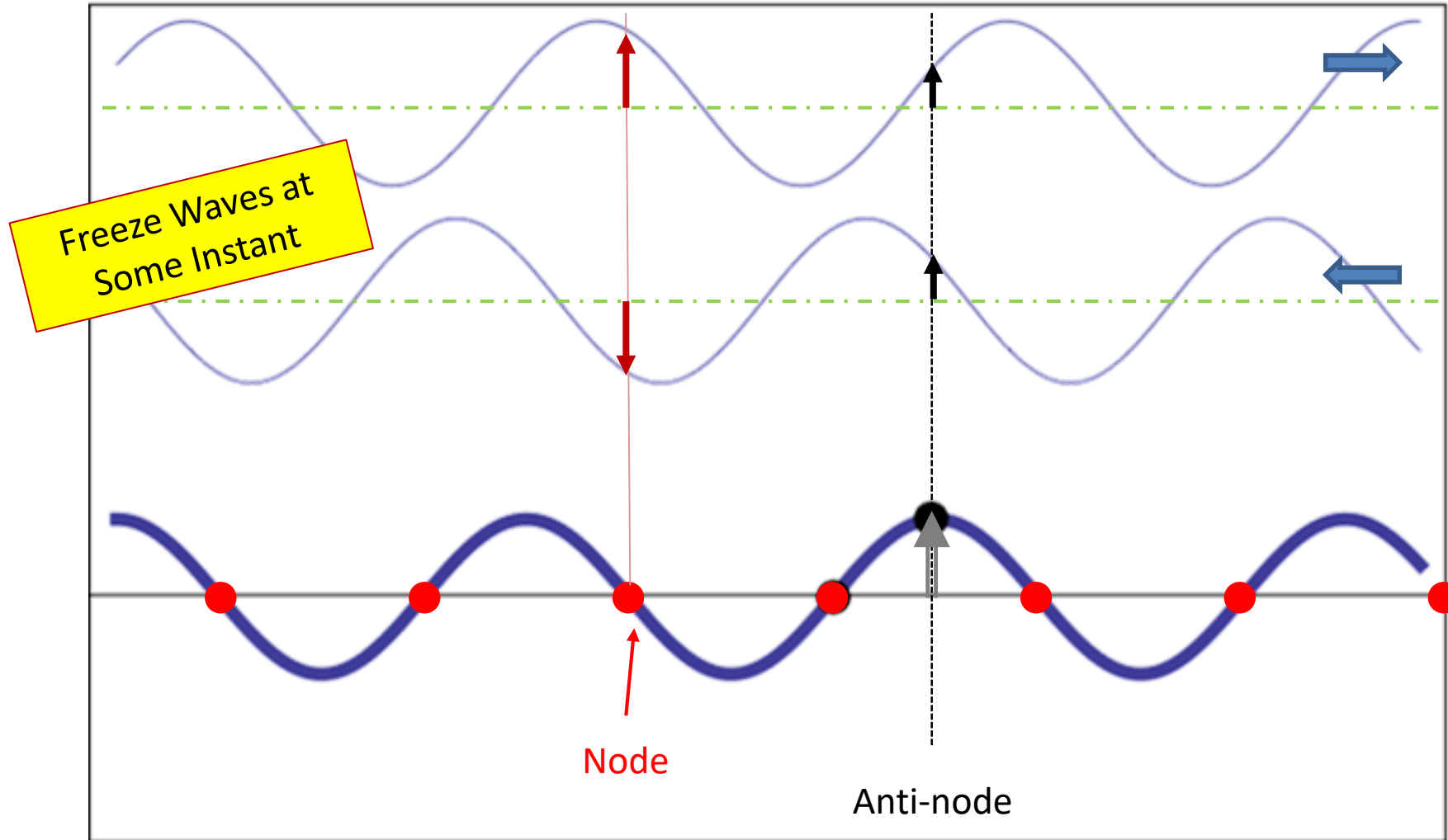


# Resonators Using Strings and Pipes



Easiest way to understand these is via the concept of  
“Standing Waves”

## 2 Traveling Waves Combine... To Form a Standing Wave

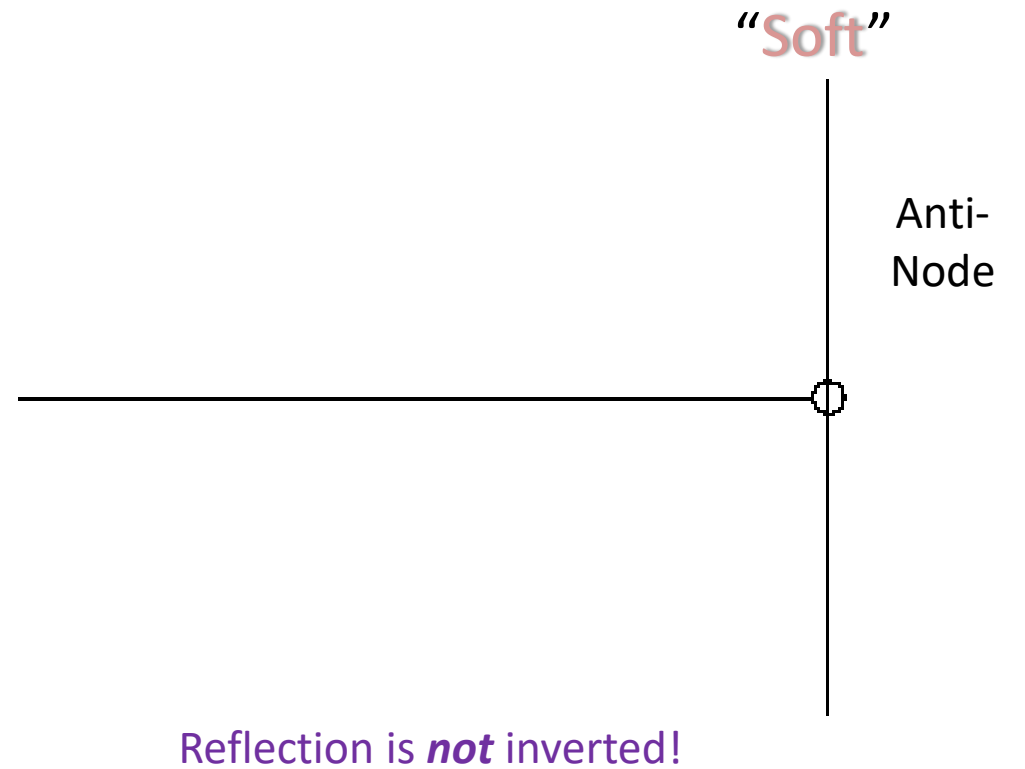
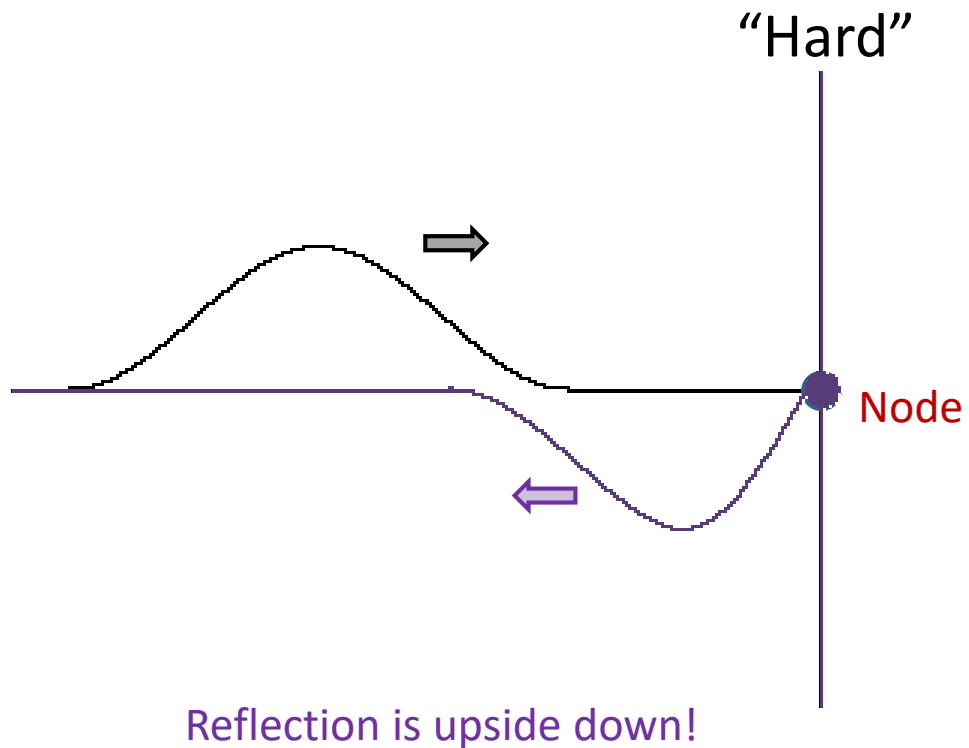


# Standing Waves in Air



# Q: How Do We Make Standing Waves?

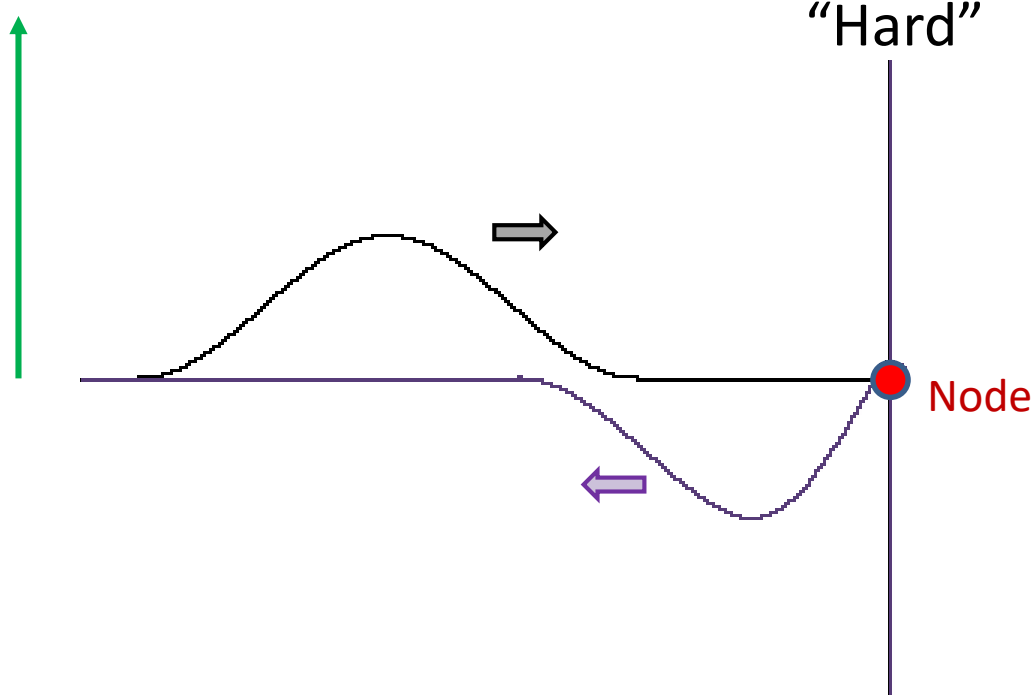
## A: Reflections at a Boundary



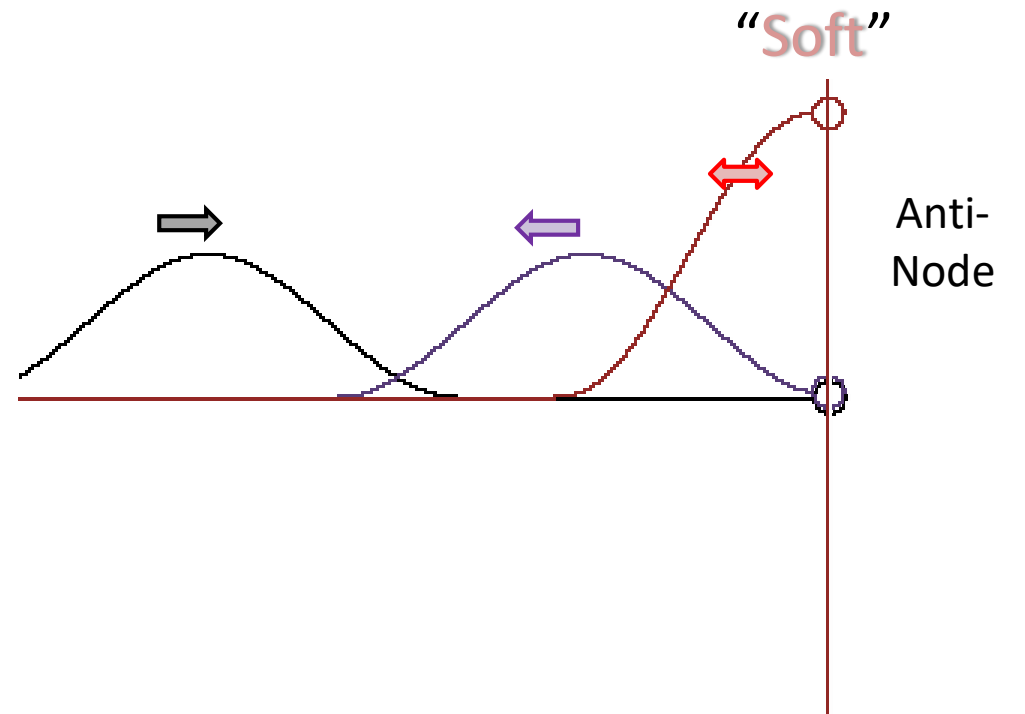
# Q: How Do We Make Standing Waves?

## A: Reflections at a Boundary

Displacement



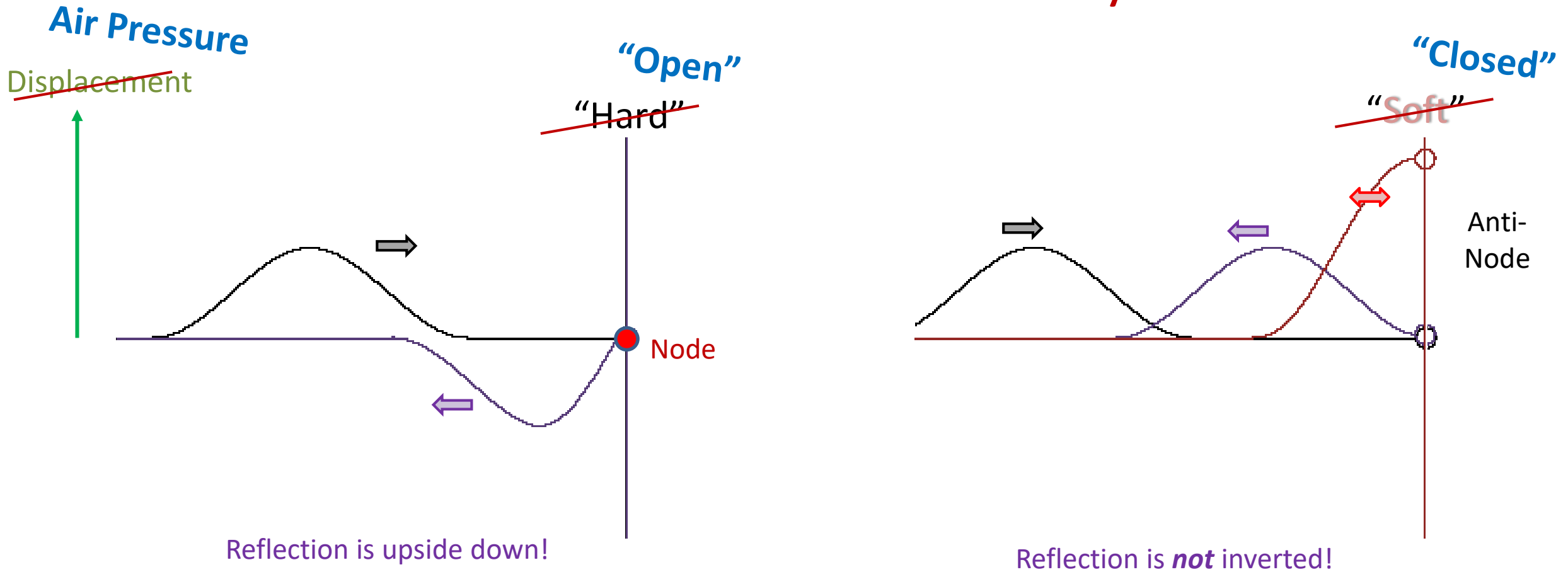
Reflection is upside down!



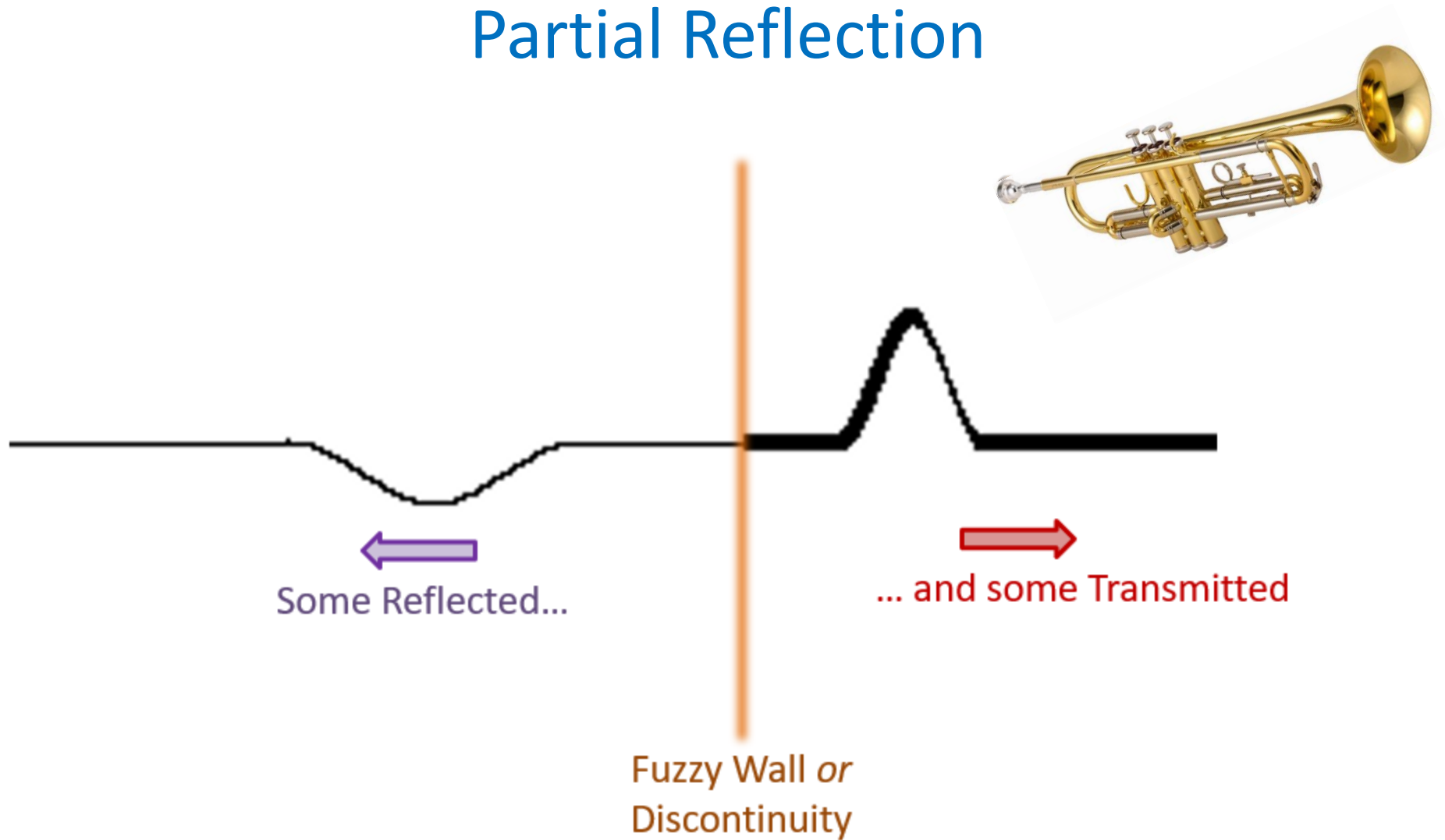
Reflection is *not* inverted!

# Q: How Do We Make Standing Waves?

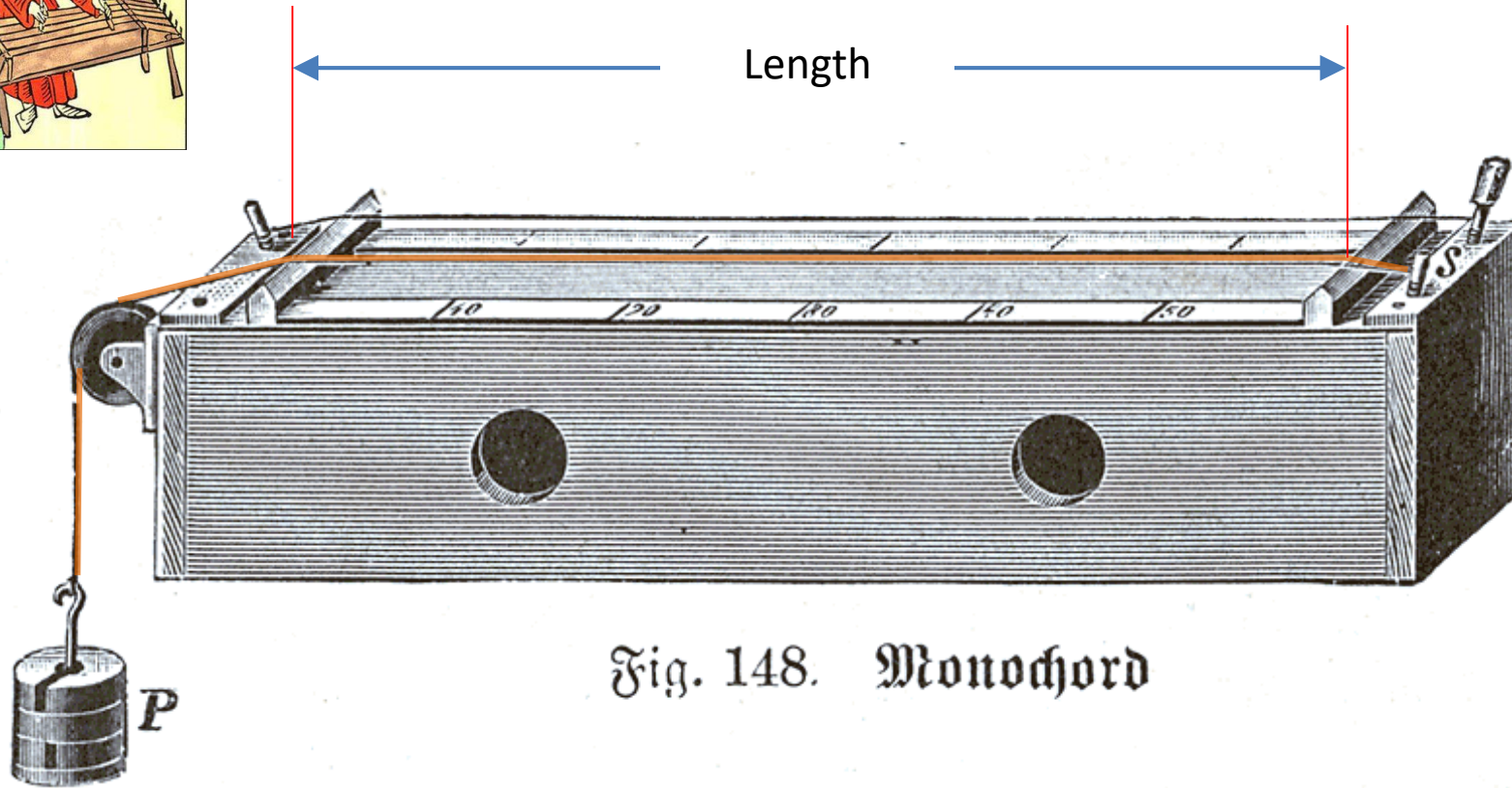
## A: Reflections at a Boundary



# Partial Reflection



# The Monochord

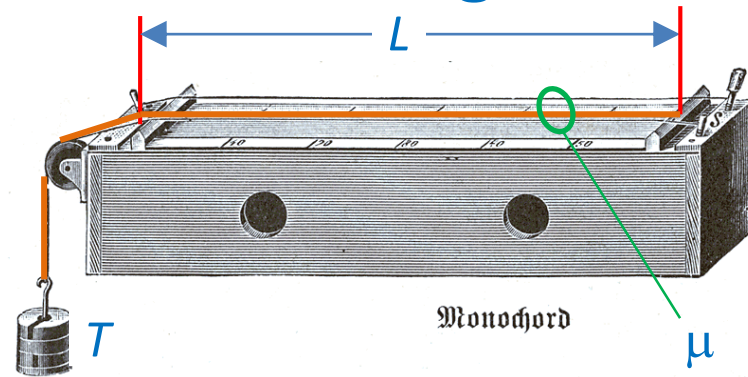






# Mersenne's Laws of Strings

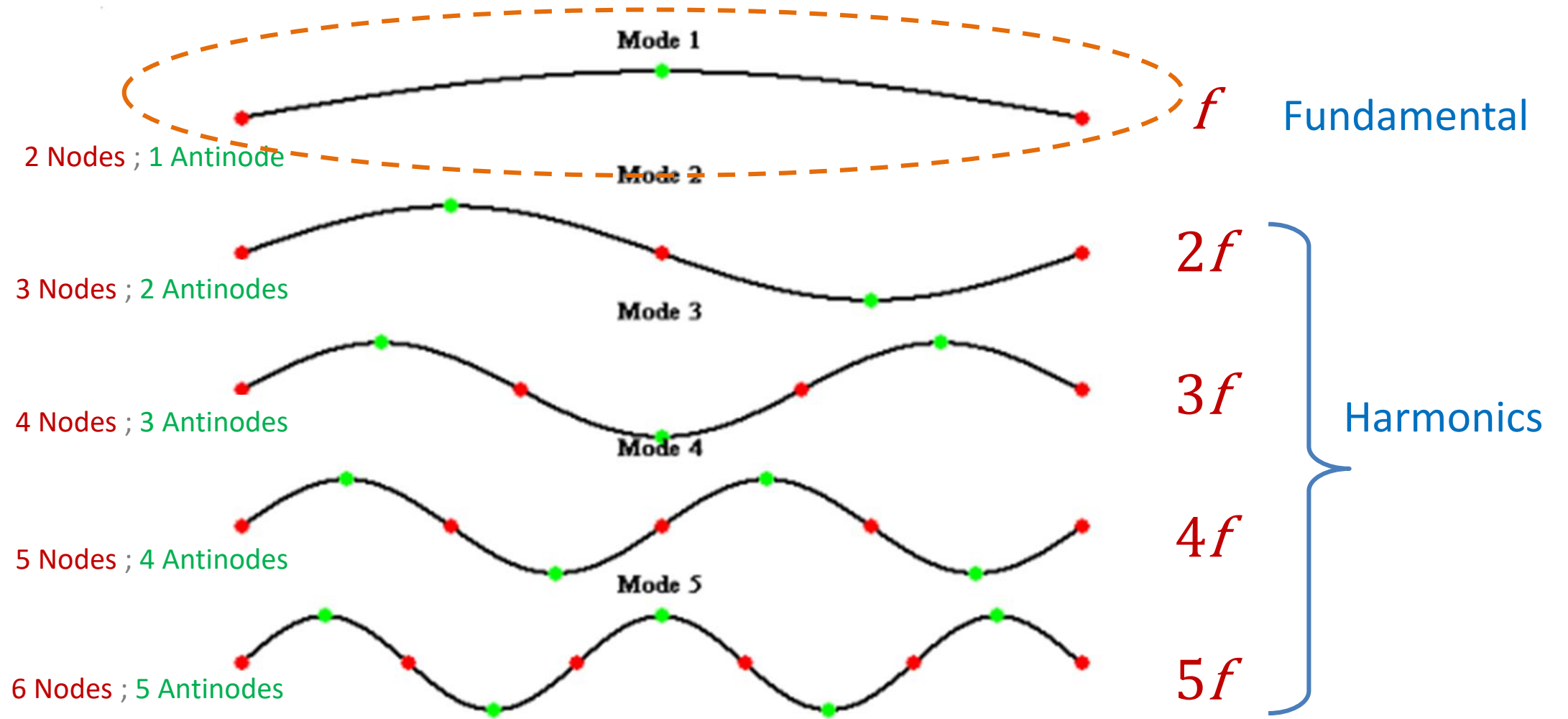
$$f_0 = \frac{1}{2L} \sqrt{T/\mu}$$



Frequency  $f$  depends on Length  $L$ , Tension Force  $T$ , and String Mass/length  $\mu$ :

- $f_0 \propto 1 / L$       inversely proportional to length
- $f_0 \propto \sqrt{T}$       proportional to *square root* of tension
- $f_0 \propto 1 / \sqrt{\mu}$       inversely proportional to *square root* of mass per unit length ('fatness')

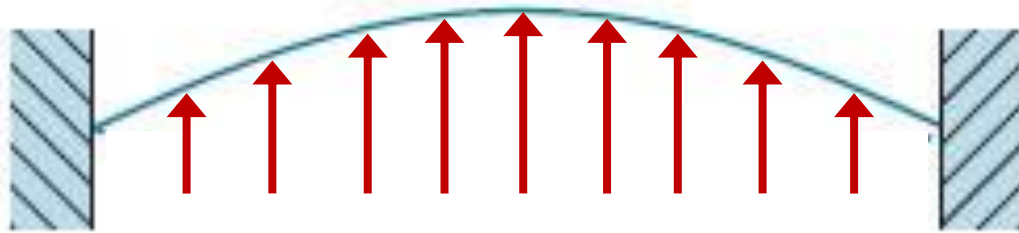
# Possible Pure String Modes



IVSR

# Try to Launch the Fundamental Mode:

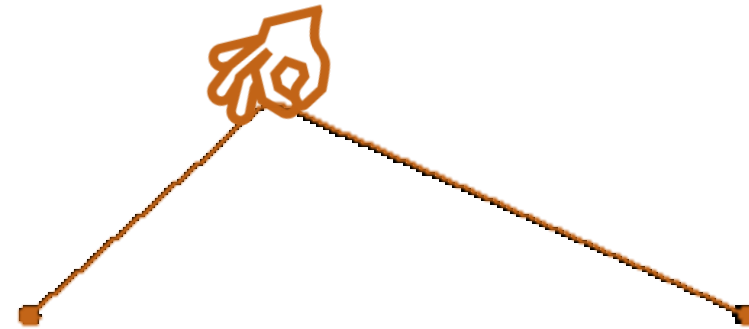
Sine shape



We could carefully pull the string into a half-sine wave and then suddenly let it go....

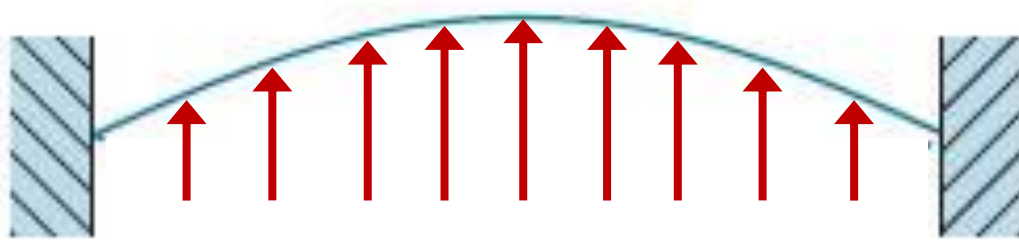


But we actually pluck a triangle ...



# Try to Launch the Fundamental Mode:

Sine shape



We could carefully pull the string into a half-sine wave and then suddenly let it go....



But we actually pluck a triangle ...



Many modes superimposed!

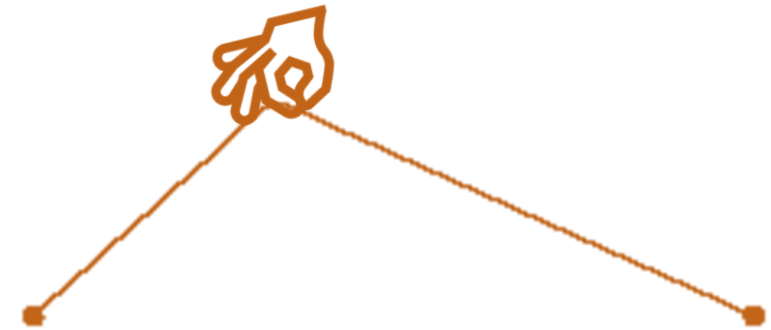


# Try to Launch the Fundamental Mode:

Plucked String in Slo-Mo



Dan Russell, Kettering/Penn State  
(2011)



Many modes  
superimposed!

# The First Electric Monochord?



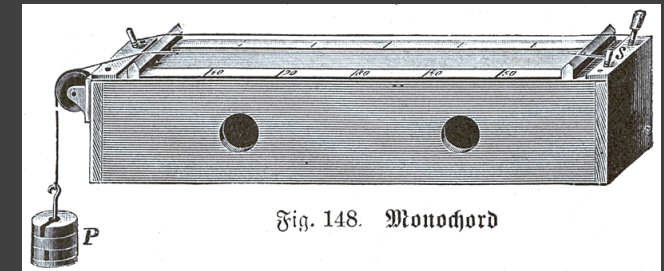
Yuri Landman (YouTube 2011)

Tristan Andreas (YouTube 2012)



# The Monochord

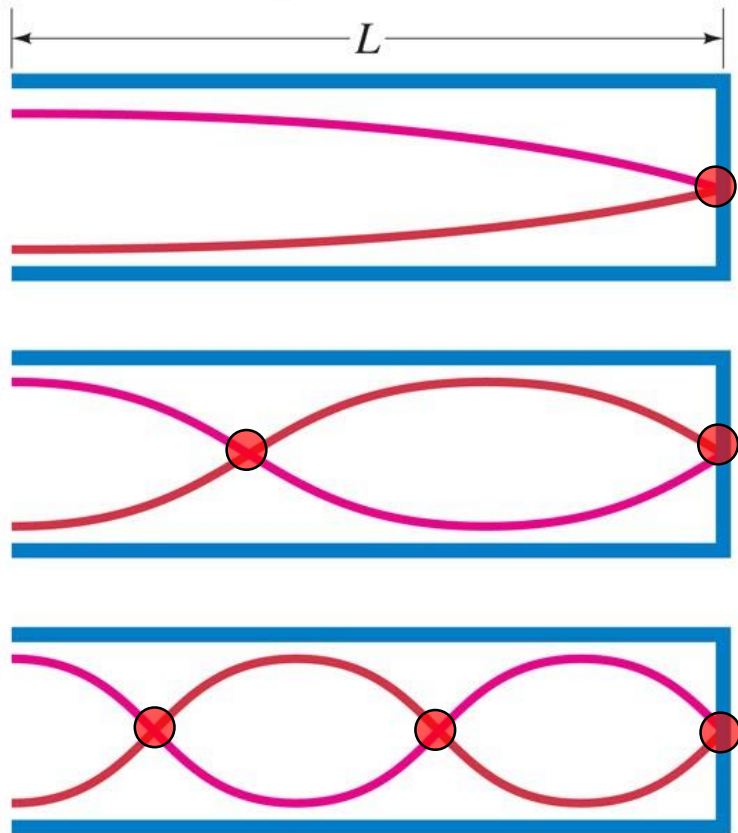
8 foot Electric  
Monochord Demo



# Organ Pipe – One Closed End



Air Displacement



Fundamental Mode

$$L = \lambda/4$$

Third Harmonic

$$L = (3/4) \lambda$$

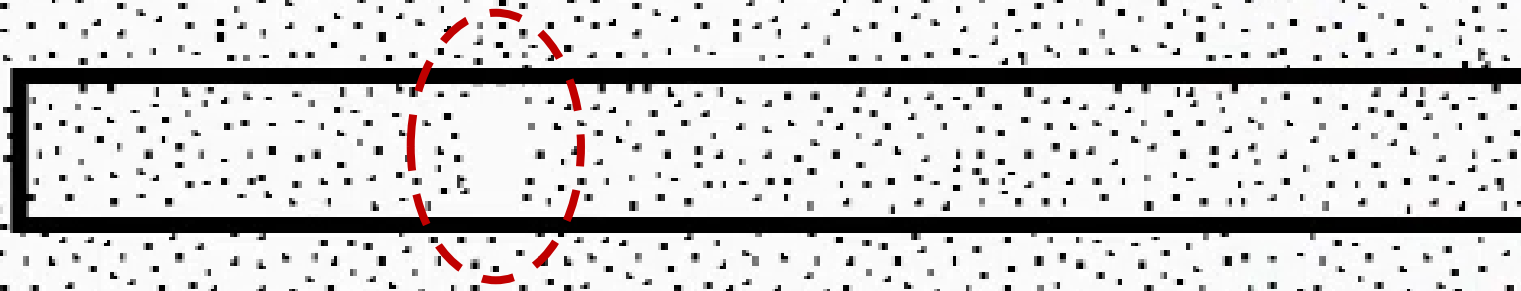
Fifth Harmonic

$$L = (5/4) \lambda$$

Standing Sound Waves  
in the Pipe



# Illustration of Wave Reflection at Open End of Pipe



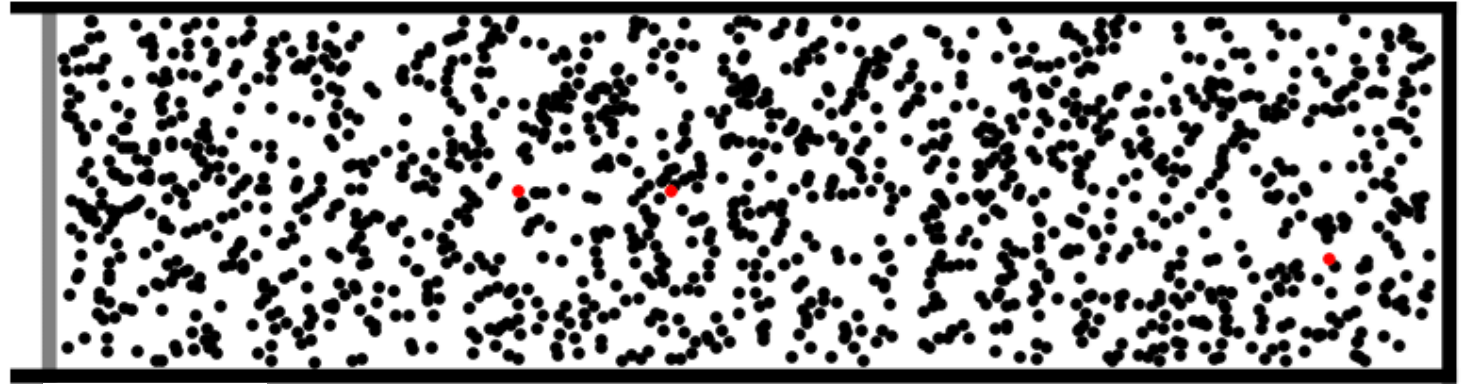
music acoustics at UNSW

(Animation)



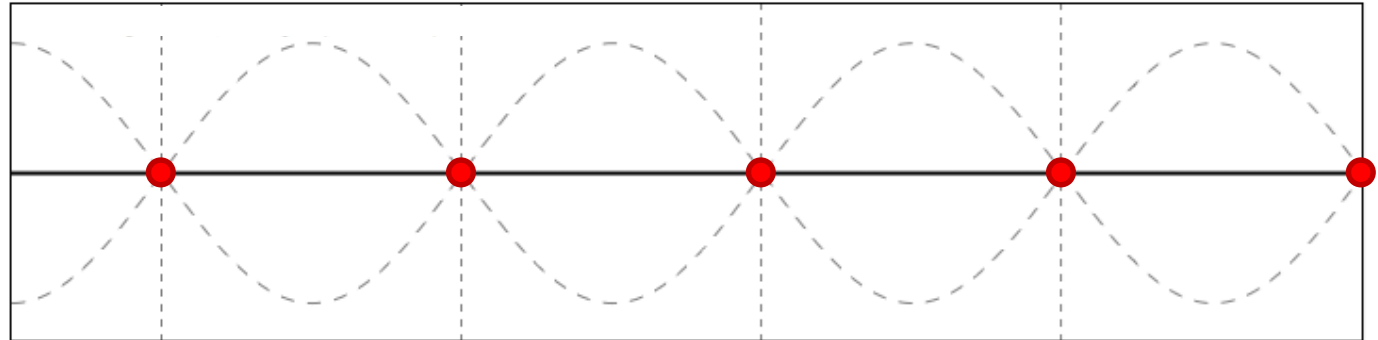
What's Actually Going On?

Open End of Pipe

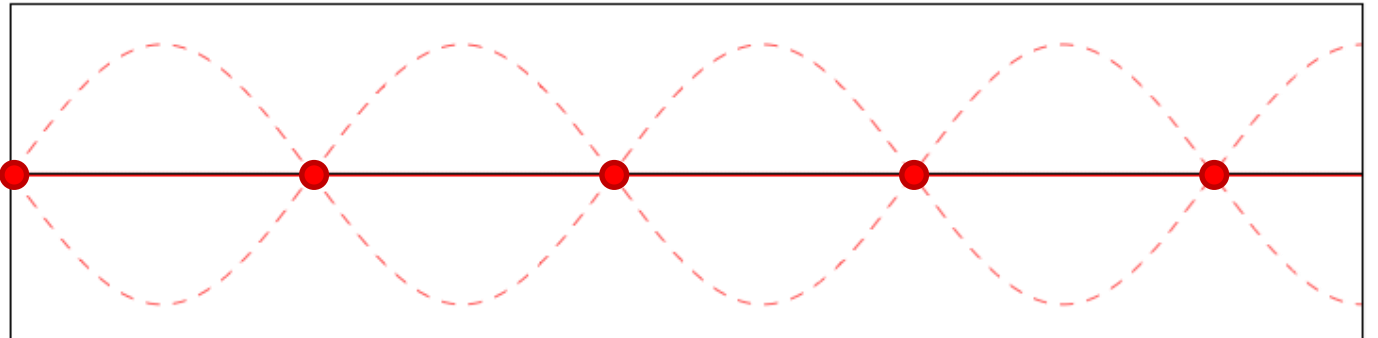


Open  
Organ  
Pipe:  
9th  
Harmonic

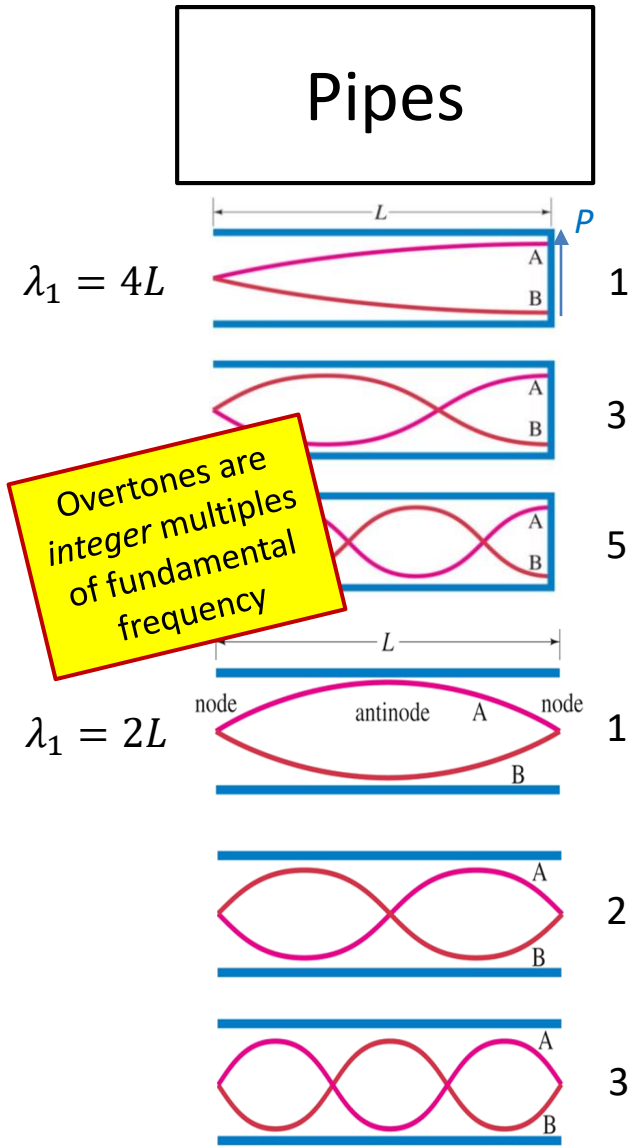
Particle Displacement  
↔



Pressure ↕

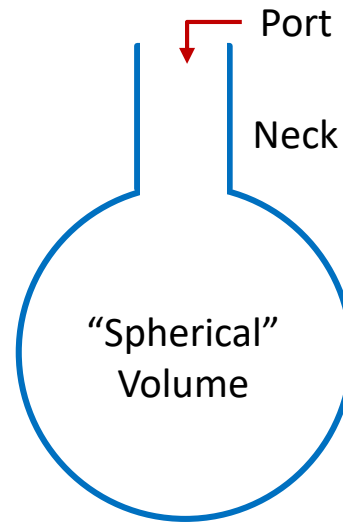


# Resonant Cavities: Augmenting Sounds



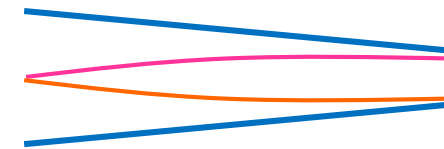
Overtone is integer multiples of fundamental frequency

## Helmholtz Resonators



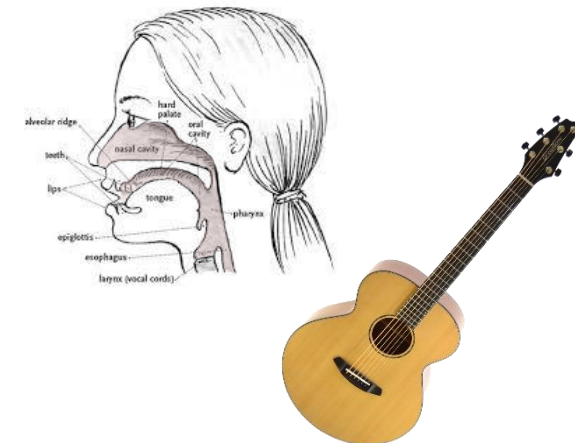
- Mainly has fundamental resonance
- Typically lower frequency than a pipe of similar length

## Irregular Resonators



Non-uniform Pipe

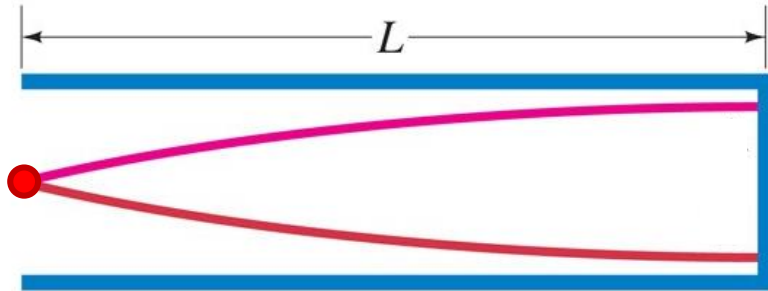
- Overtone *not* integer multiples unless conical
- Example: Saxophone



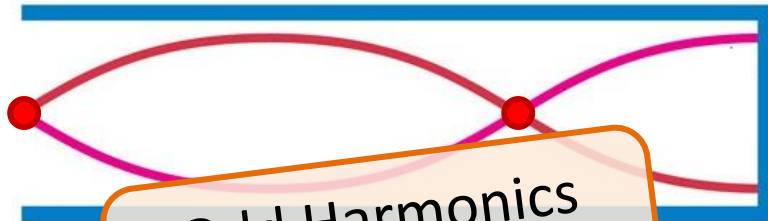
# Closed vs. Open Pipe (*Pressure Modes*)

*Closed One End*

Clarinet, e.g.



$f_C$



$3f_C$

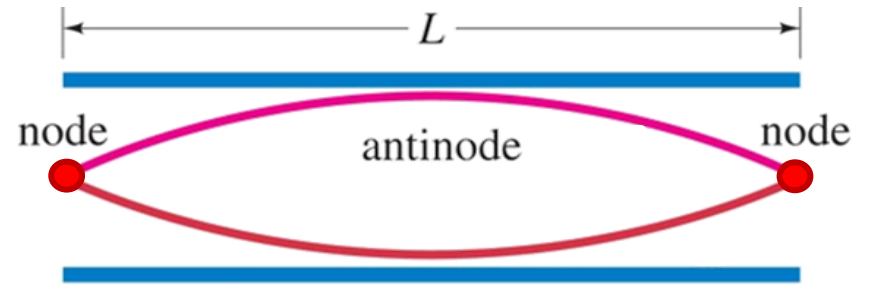


$5f_C$

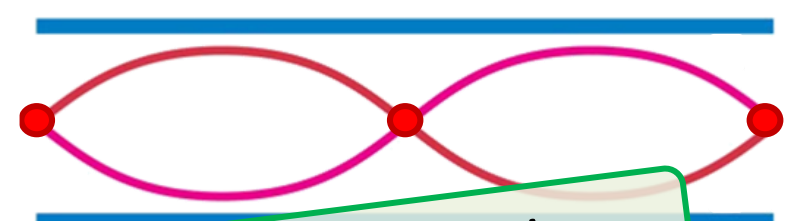
Odd Harmonics Only

*Open Both Ends*

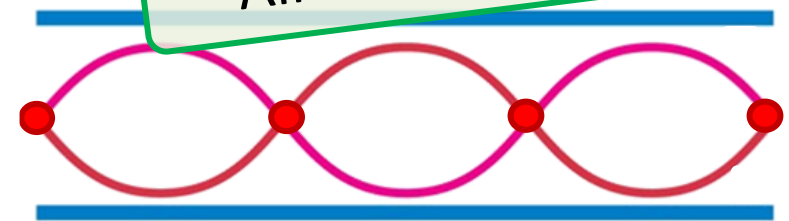
Flute, e.g.



$f_0 = 2f_C$



$2f_0$



$3f_0$

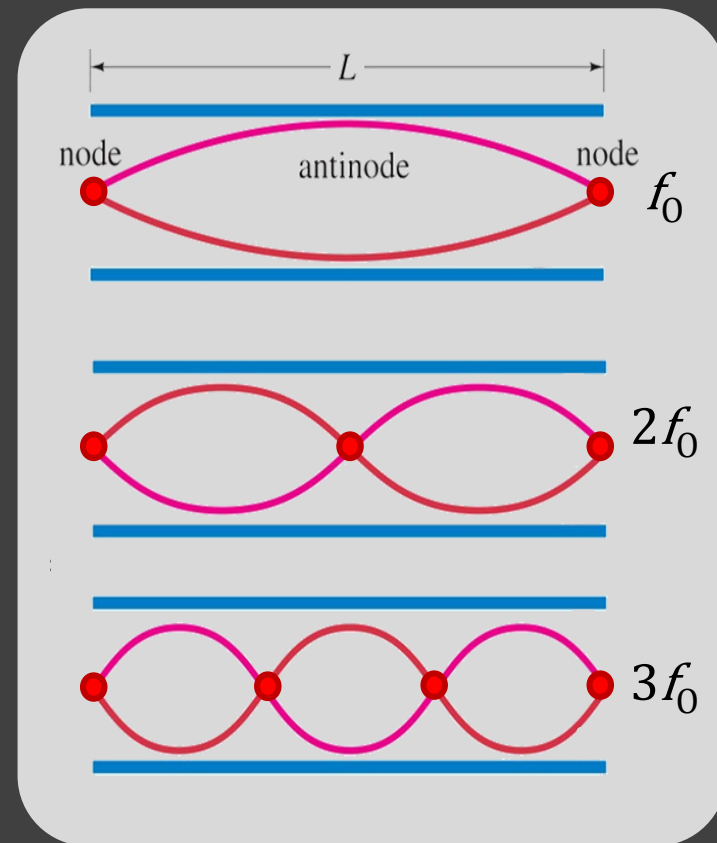
All Harmonics



# Open Pipe

≈5.6 ft

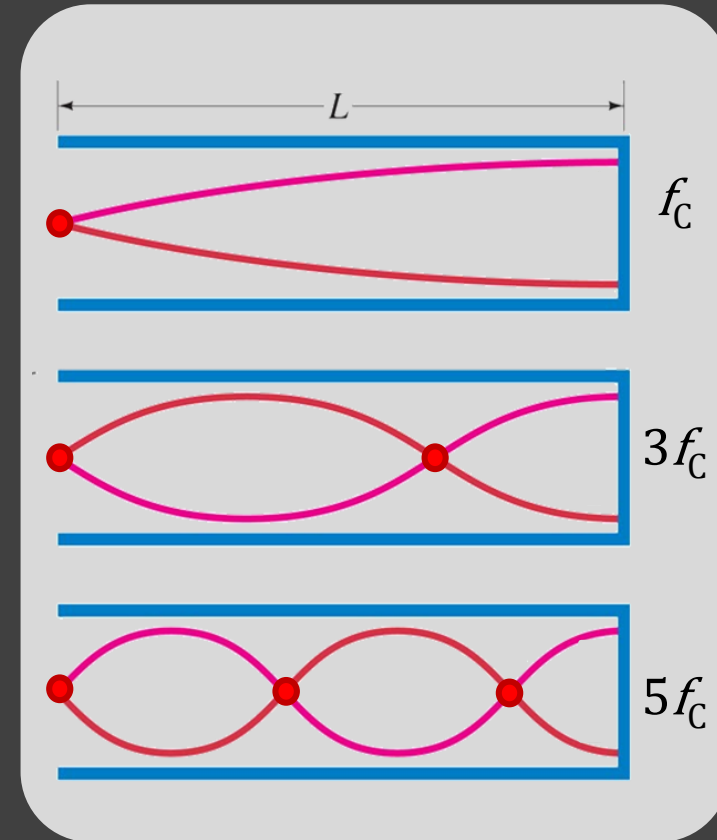
Demo



# Closed Pipe

$\approx 5.6$  ft

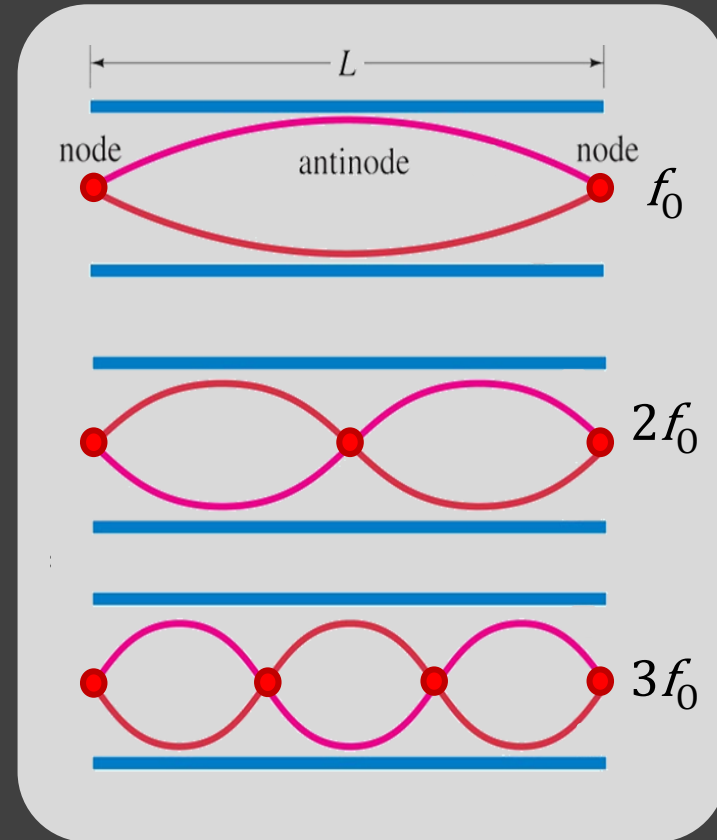
Demo



# Open Pipe

(Bent 4.7ft)

Demo: Not Carried Out

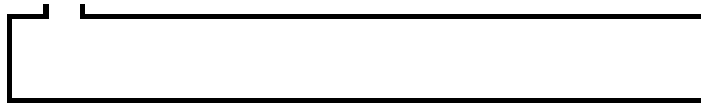


This is as far as we got.....



# Air Column Instrument Examples

Open Cylinder

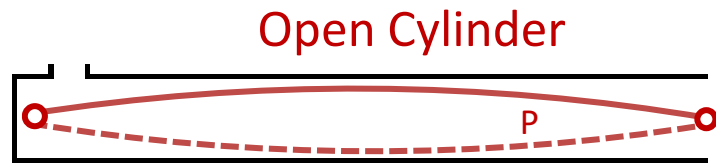


Flute



# Air Column Instrument Examples

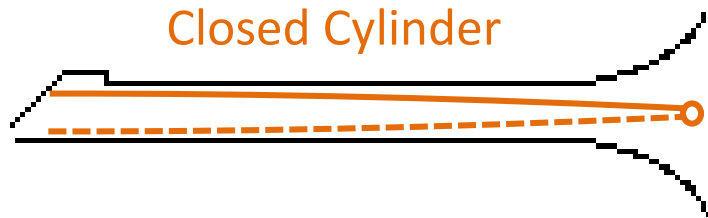
← 2 ft →



1/2 wave

Flute

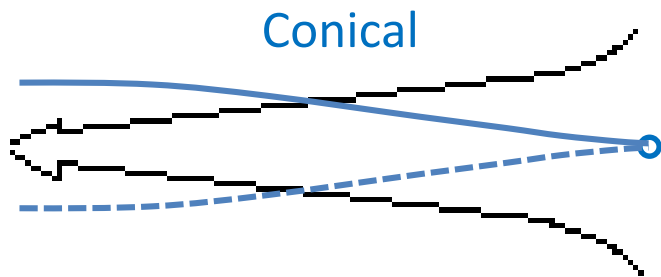
$\lambda_o \approx 4 \text{ ft}$



1/4 wave

Clarinet

$\lambda_o \approx 8 \text{ ft}$



1/2 wave

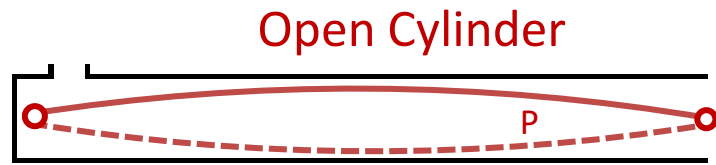
Oboe

$\lambda_o \approx 4 \text{ ft}$



# What About Timbre?

← 2 ft →

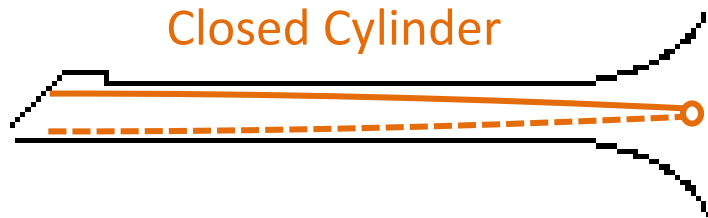


1/2 wave

Flute

All Harmonics

$\lambda_o \approx 4 \text{ ft}$

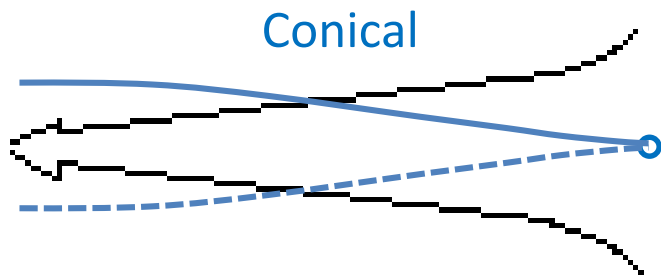


1/4 wave

Clarinet

Odd Harmonics only

$\lambda_o \approx 8 \text{ ft}$



1/2 wave

Oboe

All Harmonics

$\lambda_o \approx 4 \text{ ft}$

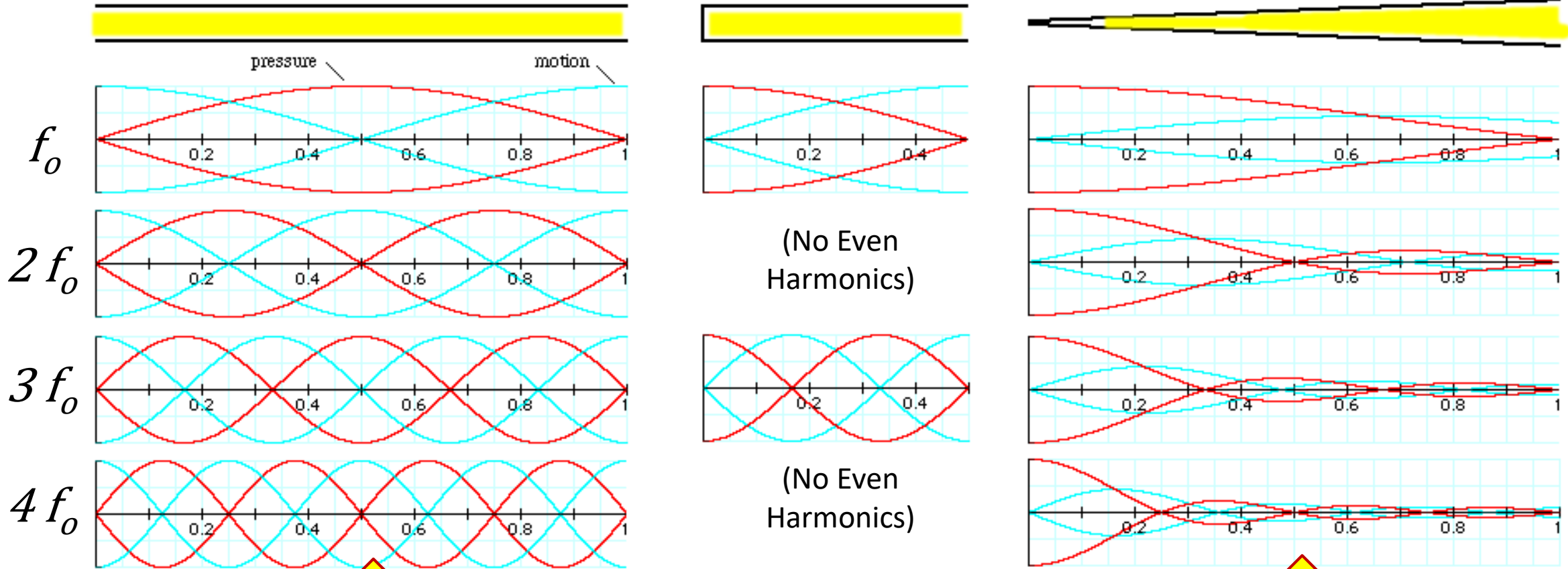


# Comparison of Standing Wave Modes

Open Cylinder Pipe

Closed Pipe

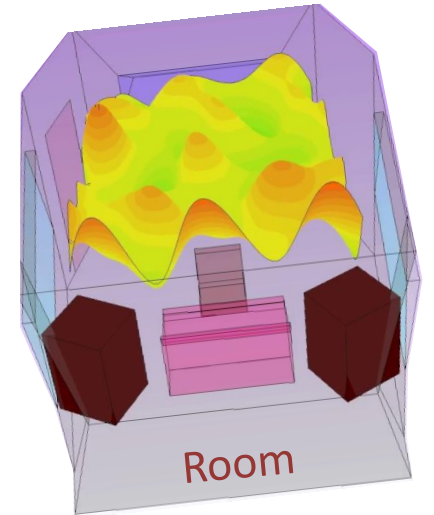
Conical Pipe



Same Length,  
Fundamental Frequency,  
and Harmonics

J Wolfe, University of  
New South Wales

# More Complex Resonators

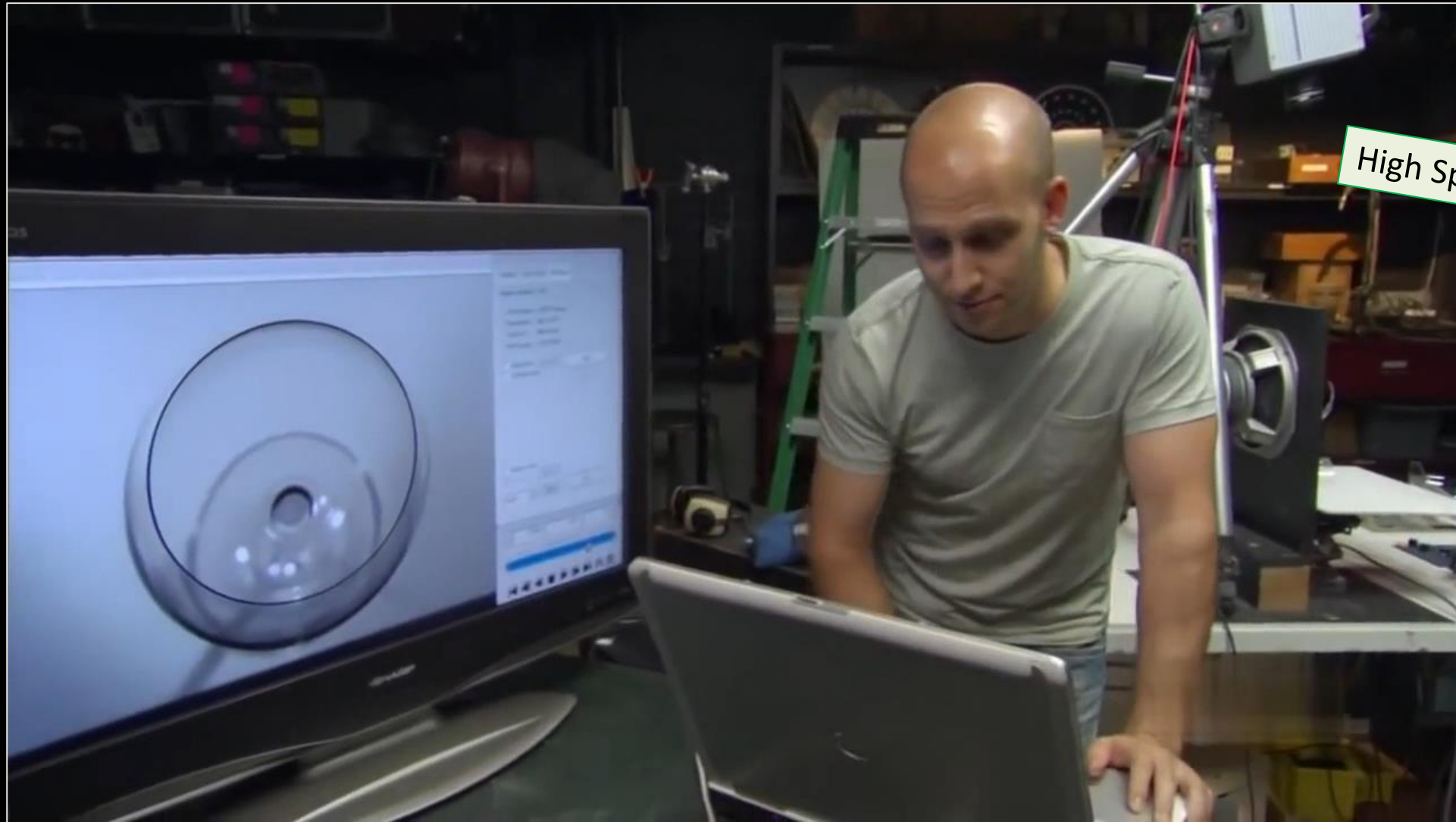


Common Characteristic:  
Modes are generally *not* harmonics of Fundamental

# Singing Prayer Bowl



# Resonant Vibrational Modes of a Wine Glass



High Speed Camera



# Benjamin Franklin's Glass Harmonica (1761)



Stick/Slip on rotating glass bowls



Thomas Bloch, Paris Music Museum 2007



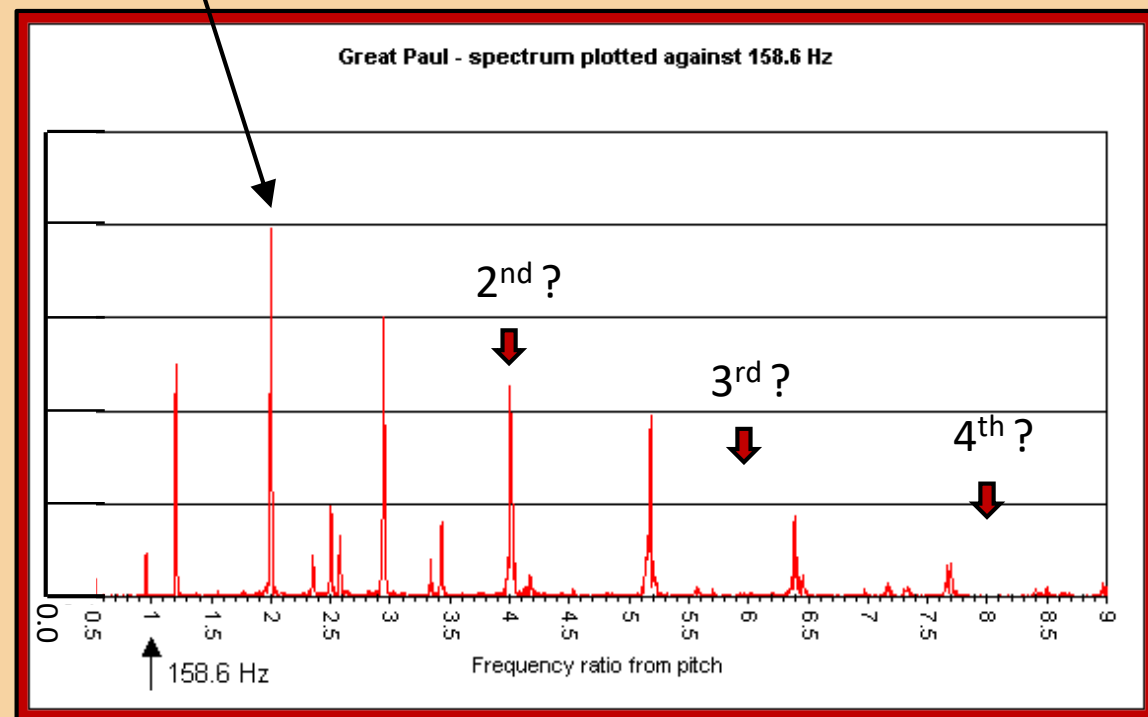


# Great Paul Bell

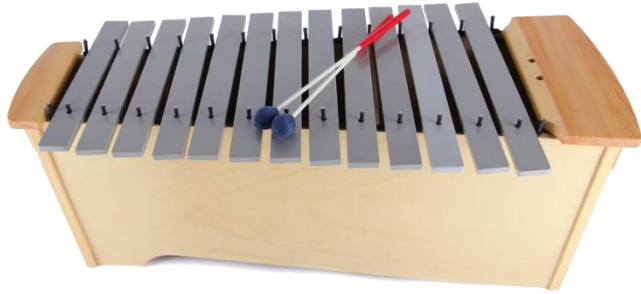
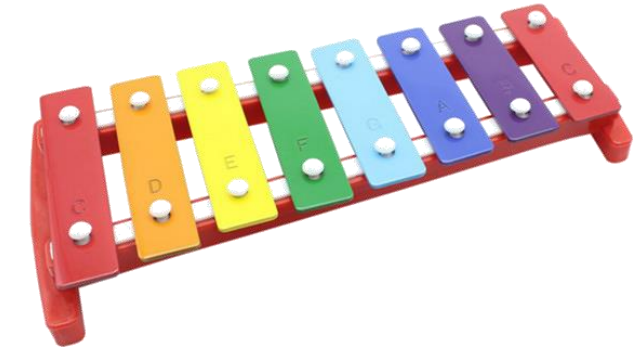
## St. Paul's Cathedral

1882, 17 tons

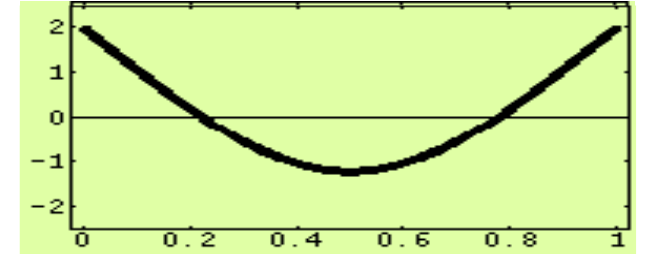
Apparent Frequency:  
317 Hz



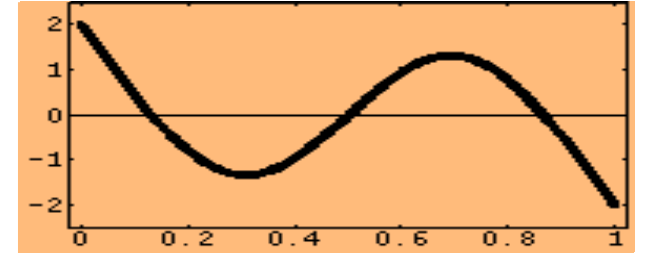
# Vibrating Bars



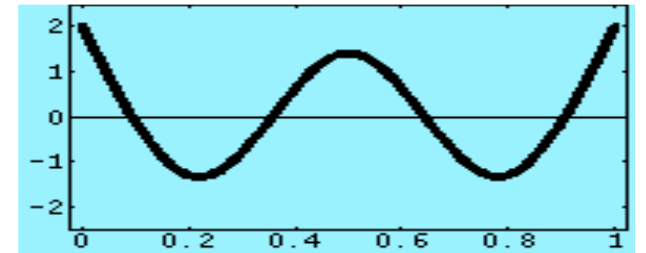
$$f_0$$



$$2.76 f_0$$



$$5.40 f_0$$



$$8.93 f_0$$

Dan Russell  
(Penn State)

**Not anywhere  
near harmonic!**

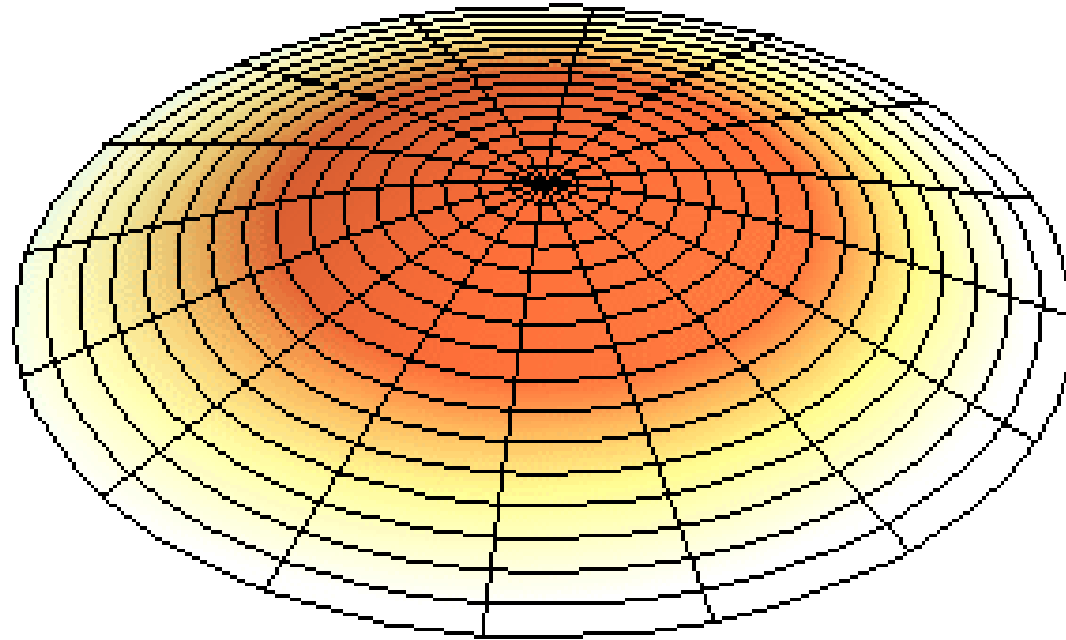
Open University [GB]

Sound of Music 2

# Drumheads: Two Dimensional Membranes

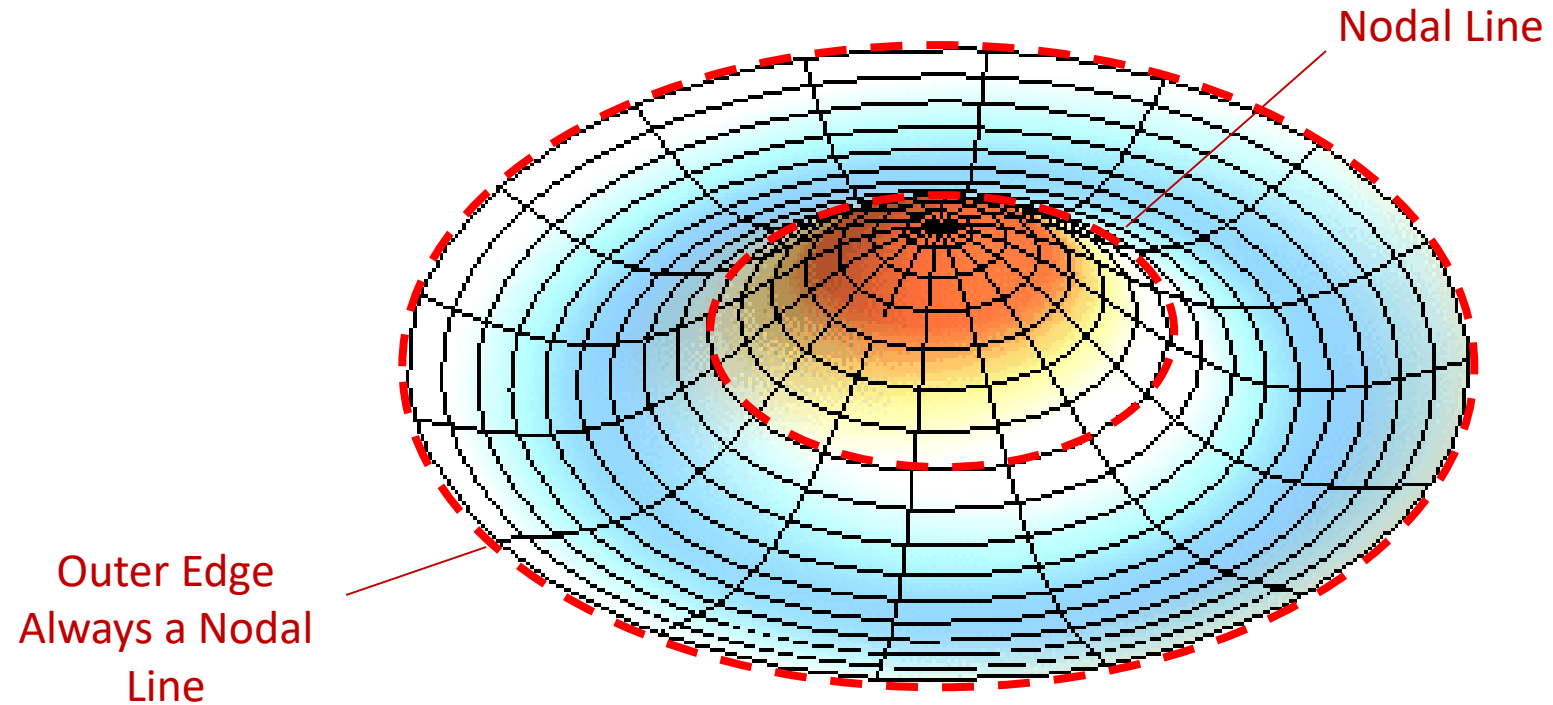


# Fundamental Mode of a Drumhead (0,1)



D Russell Penn State

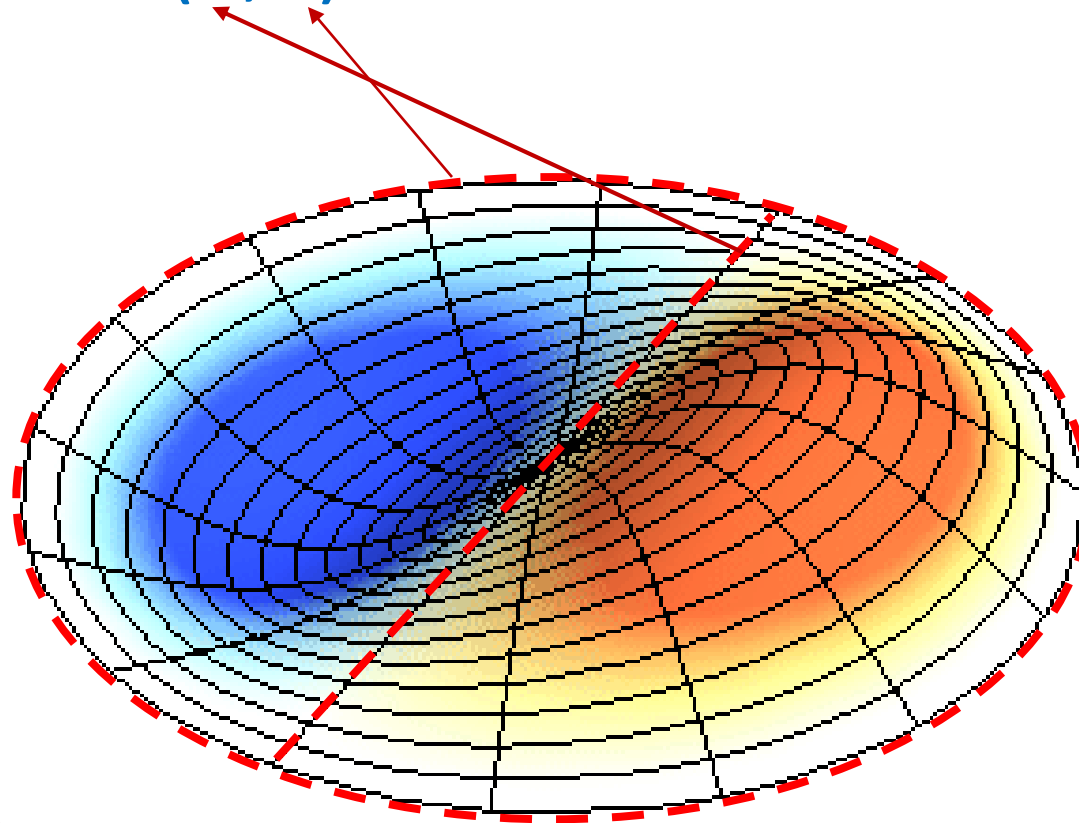
# The (0,2) Drumhead Mode



$$f = 2.295 f_0$$

D Russell Penn State

# The (1,1) Drumhead Mode

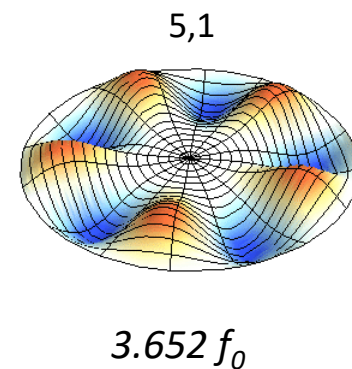
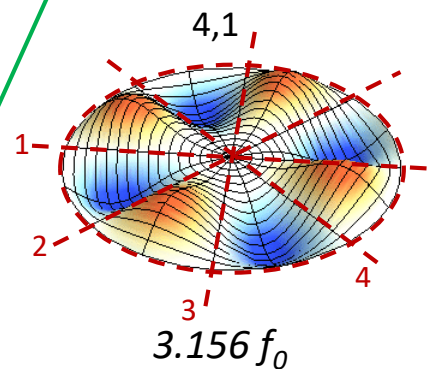
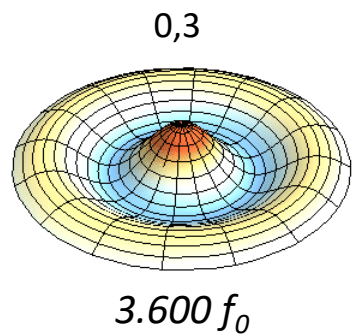
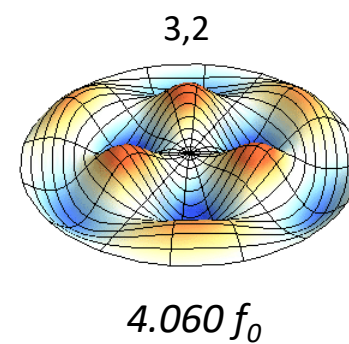
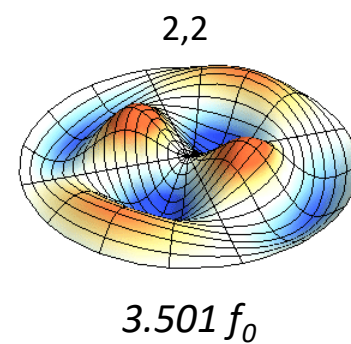
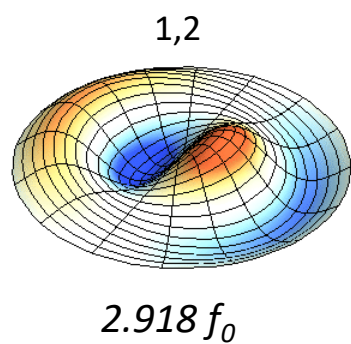
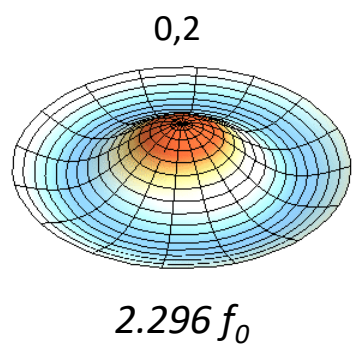
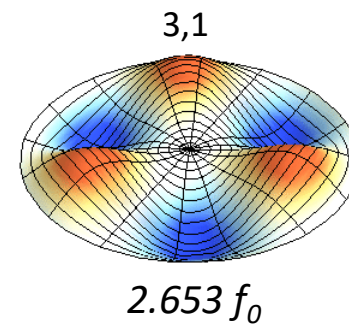
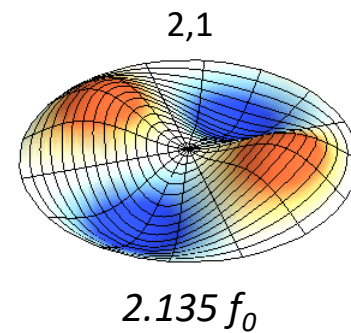
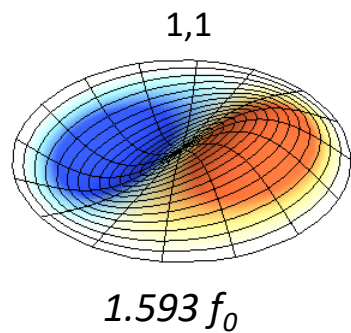
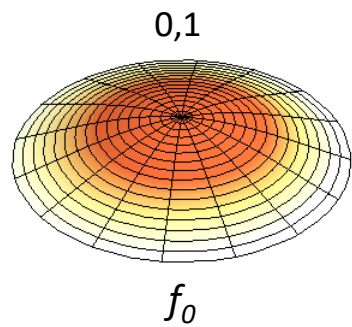


*Symmetric:*  
**No net air volume**  
change under the  
drumhead

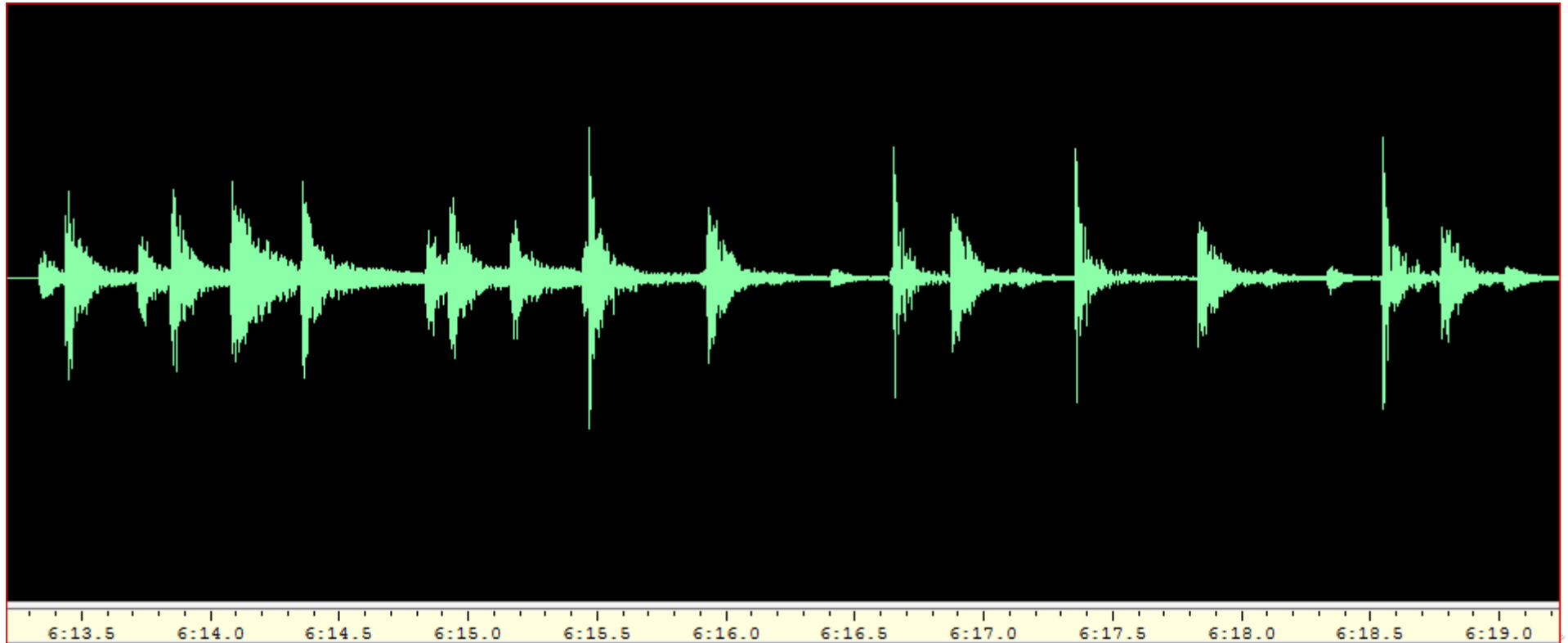
$$f = 1.593 f_0$$

D Russell Penn State

# More Drumhead Modes



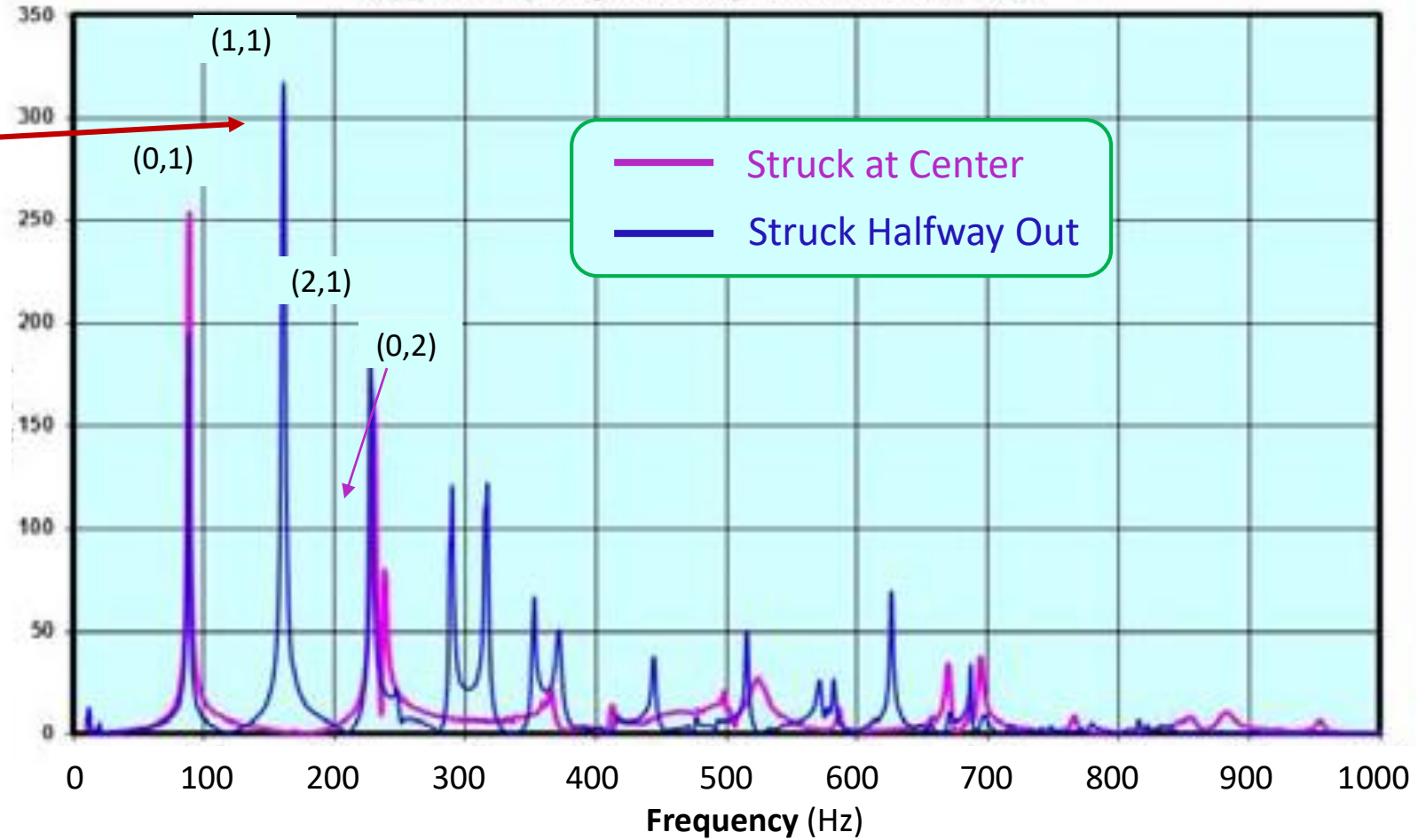
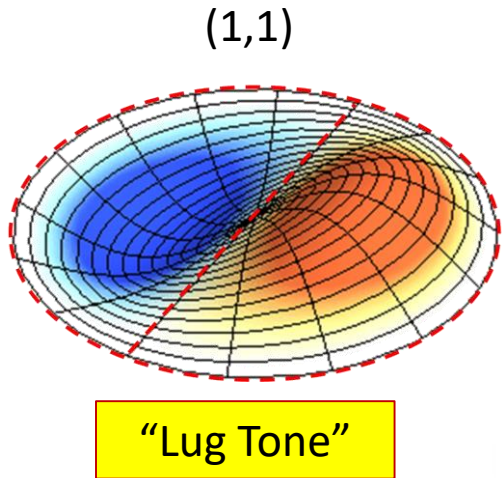
# What you're hearing...



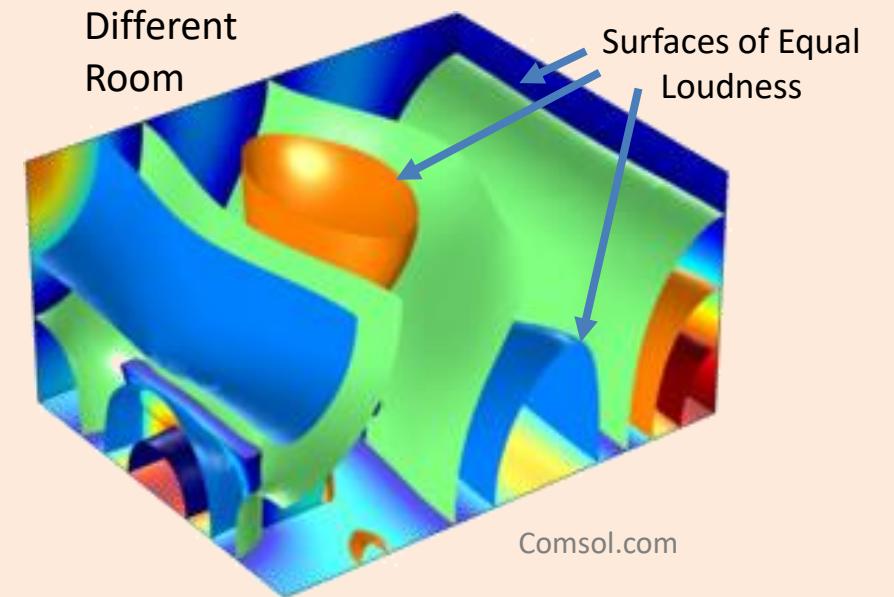
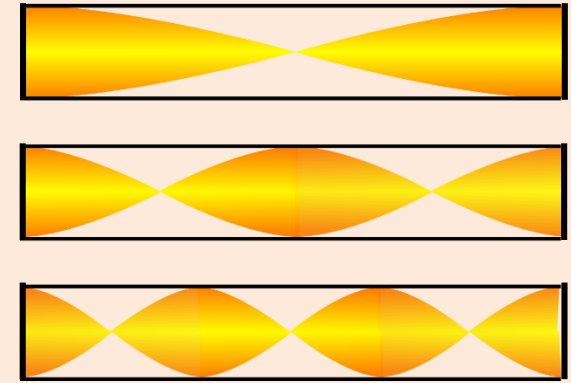
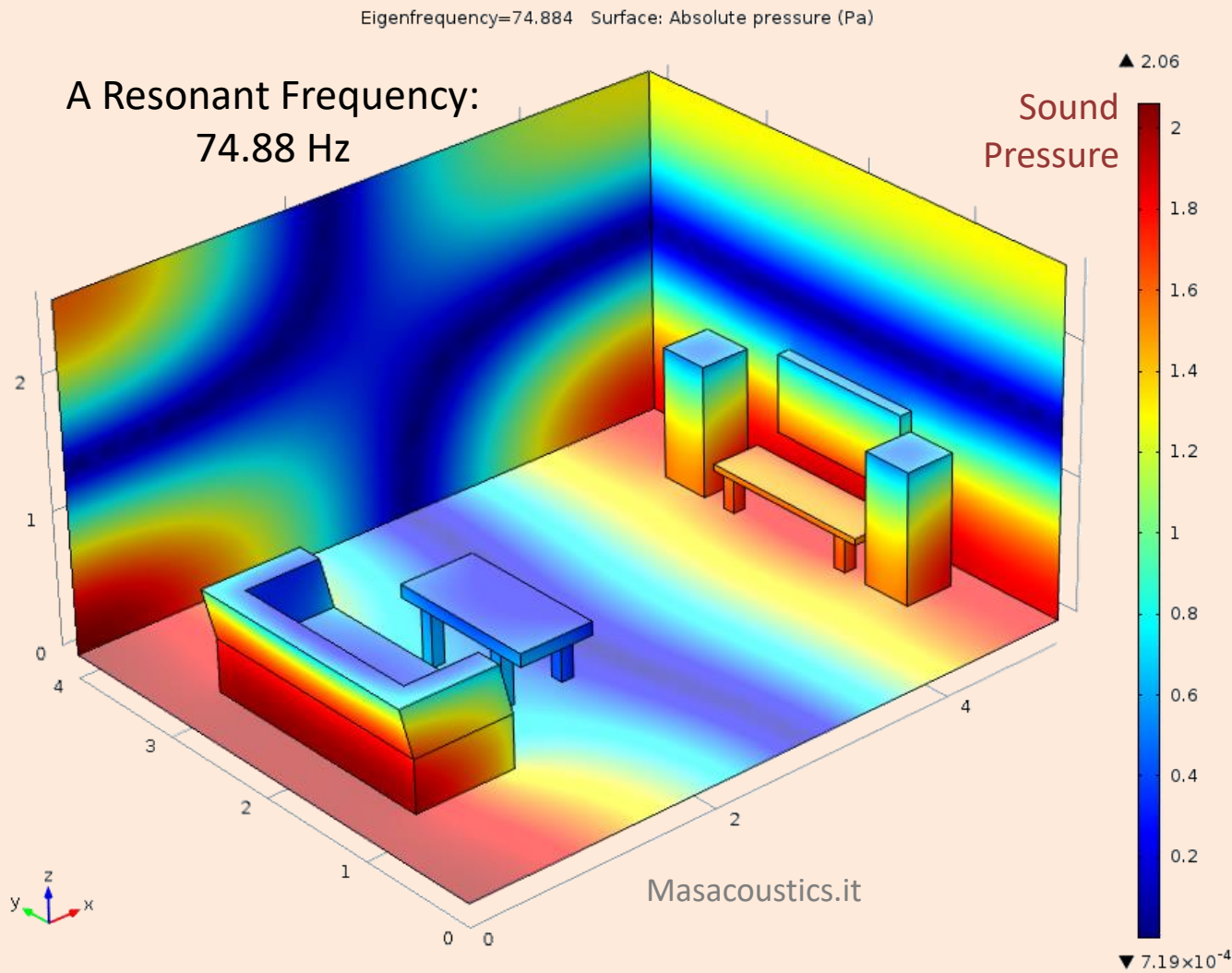


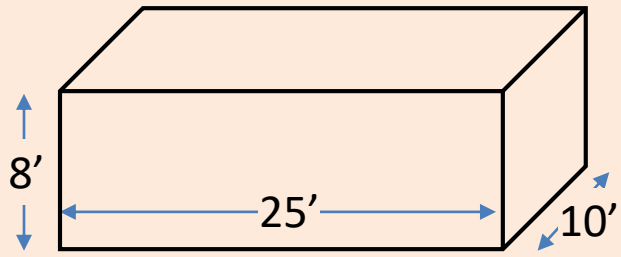
# Measured Sound Spectrum of 12" Tom Drum

UIUC Physics Course 193/406 (2007)

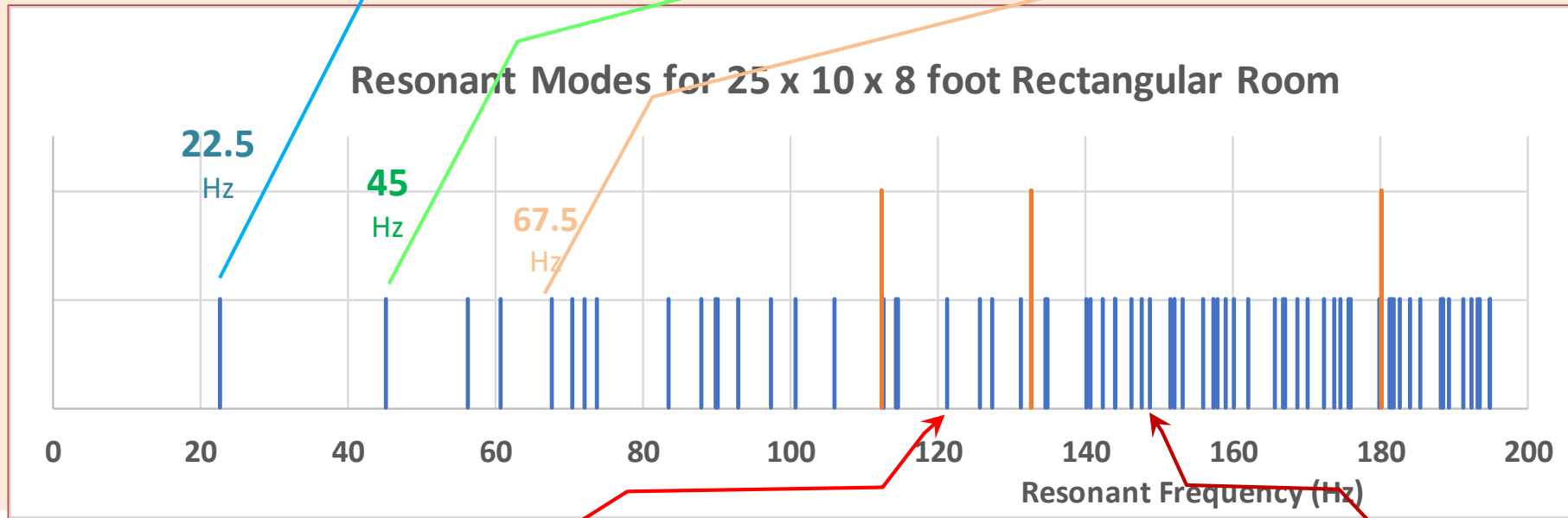
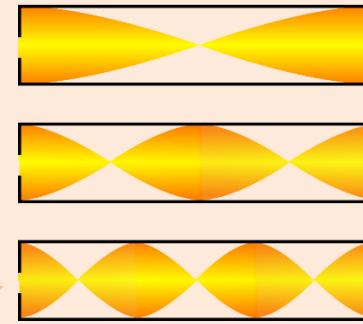


# Room Modes



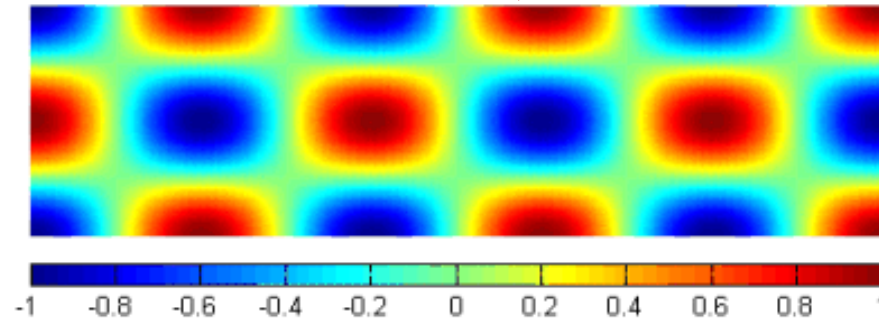
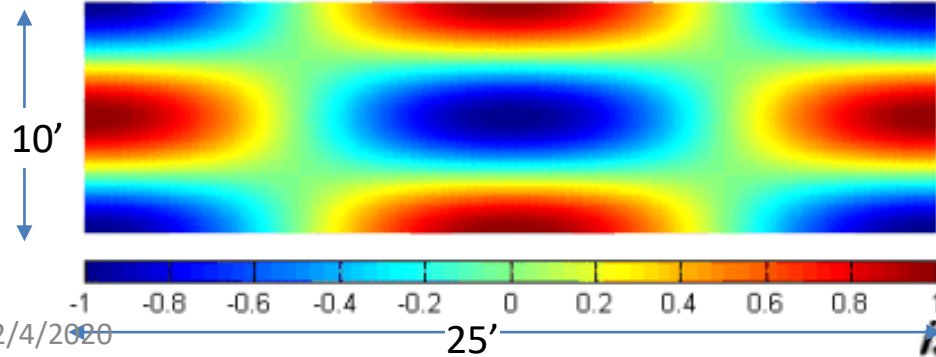


# Room Modes



Pressure Mode

Pressure Mode



# Course Outline



1. Building Blocks: Some basic concepts
- 2. Resonance: Building Musical Sounds**
3. Hearing and the Ear
4. Musical Scales
5. Musical Instruments
6. Singing and Musical Notation
7. Harmony and Dissonance; Chords
8. Combining the Elements of Music