

# WAVE PHYSICS

## Part I Fundamentals of vibrations and waves

### **1. Introduction to the course: what is a wave?**

### **2. 1-Degree of Freedom (DOF) Systems**

Harmonic oscillator, Natural frequency. Damping, Damping regimes, Q factor. Forcing, Transients and stationary regime. Resonance.

### **3. 2&N DOF systems**

Coupled oscillators. Discrete propagating systems. Acoustical phonons, Optical phonons, Dispersion. “Free” modes.

### **4. The wave equation**

Transverse waves on a string. Sound waves.

#### **The wave function**

The wave function. Harmonic waves. Energy, Power & Intensity.

### **5. Wave phenomena**

Superposition principle. Interference. Beats. Heterogeneous string, Reflection and transmission. Boundary conditions & modes. String with fixed and free ends. Air columns with fixed and free ends.

### **6. Vibration in lattices**

Brillouin zone. Modes of monoatomic lattices. Phonons

#### **Wave propagation**

Reflection and refraction, Snell’s law..

## Part II Waves in solids

### **7. Elasticity**

Theory of elasticity. Deformation, Strain tensor. Stress tensor.

#### **Body waves**

Generalized Hooke’s law. Navier equations. Body waves (P and S).

### **8. Rays and body waves**

Harmonic and spherical body waves. Body waves at interfaces. Free surface, Apparent velocity. Traveltimes in layered media. Direct, reflected and head waves. Ray Parameter. Traveltimes in layered spherical media.

### **9. Surface waves and Dispersion**

Surface waves. Rayleigh waves in a halfspace. Phase velocity.  
Group and phase velocity

### **10. Surface waves and Dispersion**

SH waves in plates.

### **11. Surface waves in layered media**

Surface waves in layered halfspaces. Love waves. Rayleigh waves.

### **12. Free modes of the Earth**

3D: wave equation in spherical coordinates; Spherical harmonics. Torsional modes;  
Spheroidal modes.

### **Tutorials:**

Complex sound waves; Fourier synthesis & analysis; Vibrating string.  
Huygens' and Fermat's principles.