

A transverse sinusoidal wave on a horizontal string travels to the **right** with a speed of 20 m/s. The wavelength of the wave is 1.5 m. A point on the string at $x = 0$ and $t = 0$ has a vertical position of 30 cm **below** $y = 0$ and a vertical velocity of 2.5 m/s **upward**. Assume the mathematical form of the wave is $y(x,t) = A \sin(kx \pm \omega t + \phi)$. Assume the usual positive directions for x and y .

1. What is the proper sign of the ωt term?

- a) + **b) -** c) either is correct d) neither is correct

Use the minus sign for waves traveling to the right (toward positive x).

2. What is the value of k ?

- a) $\frac{\pi}{3} m^{-1}$ b) $\frac{2\pi}{3} m^{-1}$ c) πm^{-1} **d) $\frac{4\pi}{3} m^{-1}$**

$$k = \frac{2\pi}{\lambda} = \frac{2\pi}{1.5m} = \frac{2\pi}{\frac{3}{2}m} = \frac{4\pi}{3} m^{-1}$$

3. What is the value of ω ?

- a) $\frac{20\pi}{3} s^{-1}$ b) $\frac{50\pi}{3} s^{-1}$ **c) $\frac{80\pi}{3} s^{-1}$** d) $\frac{100\pi}{3} s^{-1}$

$$v = \frac{\omega}{k} \text{ so that } \omega = kv = \left(\frac{4\pi}{3}\right)(20) = \frac{80\pi}{3} s^{-1}$$

4. What is the value of A ?

- a) 0.128 m b) 0.224 m **c) 0.301 m** d) 0.493 m

5. What is the value of ϕ ?

- a) 1.51 rad b) 2.84 rad c) 3.77 rad **d) 4.61 rad**

Solve 4 and 5 in reverse order. Note that since $y = A \sin[kx - \omega t + \phi]$, we can take a derivative with respect to time and get $v_y = -\omega A \cos[kx - \omega t + \phi]$. Now put in the information given in the statement of the problem to get

$$-0.3 = A \sin \phi$$

$$2.5 = -\frac{80\pi}{3} A \cos \phi$$

Manipulate the two equations to get $\tan\phi = \frac{80\pi}{3} \frac{0.3}{2.5}$, which gives $\phi = 1.472 \text{ rad}$. However, if you substitute this value into the first equation above, you can't get a positive value for A as required. Therefore you have to add π to get $\phi = 4.61 \text{ rad}$. Use this value in the first equation and find $A = 0.301 \text{ m}$.

Possibly useful equations: $\omega = 2\pi f$, $f = \frac{1}{T}$, $k = \frac{2\pi}{\lambda}$, $v = \lambda f$, $v = \frac{\omega}{k}$