

Waves and Sound

LCCHS Honors Physics

$$T_p = 2\pi\sqrt{\frac{l}{g}} \quad T_{SHO} = 2\pi\sqrt{\frac{m}{k}} \quad F = Kx \quad T = \frac{1}{f} \quad f = \frac{1}{T}$$

Harmonic Motion Problems:

1. What is the period of a pendulum with a length of 1.8m?

$$T = 2\pi\sqrt{\frac{l}{g}} = 2\pi\sqrt{\frac{1.8}{9.8}} = 2.69 \text{ sec}$$

2. A student sets up a pendulum in the classroom with a period of 1.0 seconds and wants to use it as a timer. What length is required in order to obtain the period of 1 second?

$$T = 2\pi\sqrt{\frac{l}{g}} \quad \left(\frac{1}{2\pi}\right)^2 = \frac{l}{9.8} \quad l = 9.8(.0253)$$
$$l = 2\pi\sqrt{\frac{l}{9.8}} \quad 0.0253 = \frac{l}{9.8} \quad l = 0.248 \text{ m}$$

3. What would the period be if the student takes the pendulum to the moon where the gravitational constant is approximately 1/6 of the earth's gravitational constant?

$$T = 2\pi\sqrt{\frac{l}{g}} \quad g = 9.8/6 = 1.63 \quad T = 2\pi\sqrt{\frac{.248}{1.63}} = 2.4 \text{ sec}$$

4. By what factor must you increase the length of the string of a pendulum in order to double the period?

$$T \propto \sqrt{\frac{l}{g}} \quad T \text{ increases } 2x$$
$$l \uparrow 4x$$

5. A student sets up a simple harmonic oscillator (SHO) with a mass of 0.25 kg and a spring constant of 65 N/m. What is the period of this oscillator?

$$T = 2\pi\sqrt{\frac{m}{k}} = 2\pi\sqrt{\frac{.25}{65}} = 0.39 \text{ sec}$$

What is the frequency?

$$f = 1/T = 1/0.39 = 2.6 \text{ Hz}$$

6. What force is required to displace a spring with a spring constant "k" of 98 N/m by 0.28m?

$$F = Kx = 98(.28) = 27.4 \text{ N}$$

7. A spring is displaced 15 cm by a force of 12.8 N, what is the spring constant "k"?

$$F = Kx \quad 12.8 = k(.15) \quad k = \frac{12.8}{0.15} = 85.3 \text{ N/m}$$

Bonus: A student displaces a SHO by a distance of 25 cm with a force of 18N. The mass of the oscillator is 1.5 kg. What is the oscillator's frequency of vibration?

$$k = \frac{F}{x} = \frac{18}{.25} = 72 \text{ N/m} \quad f = \frac{1}{T} = \frac{1}{.907} = 1.1 \text{ Hz}$$

$$T = 2\pi\sqrt{\frac{m}{k}} = 2\pi\sqrt{\frac{1.5}{72}} = 0.907$$