Physics 1240: Sound and Music

Today (8/7/19): Special Topics: Music in Modern Physics

<u>Next time</u>: Review for Final



<u>Review</u>

- <u>Audio File Formats</u>:
 - Uncompressed: .wav, .aiff
 - Compressed (lossless): .wma, .flac
 - Compressed (lossy): .mp3
 - Other: MIDI
- <u>Electrophones</u>:
 - Sampler
 - Drum pads
 - Synthesizer (Moog)
 - Electric guitar
 - Theremin







Quantum Mechanics

- <u>Wave function</u>: $\Psi(x,t)$ Mathematical description of the quantum state of a particle
- $|\Psi|^2$ gives the probability a particle is at a certain location





Quantum Mechanics

- Uncertainty Principle:
 - How long do you need to determine whether two notes are in tune?
 - $\Delta x \, \Delta p \geq \hbar/2$



"One cannot simultaneously sharpen a signal in both the frequency and time domains $(\Delta f \Delta t \sim 1)$

Quantum Mechanics

- "Essentially, all of physics is the study of harmonic oscillators and their applications"
 - Macroscopic behavior
 - **RLC** circuits
 - Star motion
 - Hydrogen-like atoms
 - Phonons •
 - Quantum field theory ullet





Recent Research

- Visualizing vibrational modes with quantum dots
- Tiny quantum drums (Cindy Regal, Konrad Lehnert)





String Theory

- \sum
- Point particles replaced by 1D strings
 - open or closed
 - different vibrational modes correspond to different particle properties
- Attempts to merge quantum theories with gravitational theories ("theory of everything"?)
- Requires extra dimensions (10+1)





Astrophysics

- No sound in space!
- Sonification: converting data into audio signals

Plasma waves from Saturn



Gamma ray burst from blazar



<u>Pulsars</u>

- First radio pulsar (LGM-1) discovered 1967 by Jocelyn Bell
 - Period: 1.3373 sec
 - Pulse width: 0.04 sec
- Sonifying pulsars:

http://www.jb.man.ac.uk/pulsar/ Education/Sounds/





But what is a pulsar?

- Rapidly rotating <u>neutron star</u>
- Result of stellar explosion ("supernova") for stars with masses between 10 and 30 solar masses
- Neutron degeneracy pressure (Pauli exclusion principle)



What if two neutron stars collide?

- Head-on collision unlikely
- Two stars orbiting each other (binary system) will eventually merge



What if two neutron stars collide?

Neutron star merger (GW170817, Aug 17, 2017)



- LIGO: gravitational interferometer
- Black hole mergers ("chirp")







Tomorrow: FCQs, review session

Question:

What would you like to do for the review session tomorrow?

- Review lecture
- Review tutorial
- Clicker question review
- In-class practice final
- Open question session
- Something else?