

Answer on Question 66683, Physics, Mechanics, Relativity

Question:

A 2 m long string vibrates in 4 loops at 50 Hz. The linear density of the string is 0.0004 g/cm. Calculate the tension in the string.

Solution:

We know from the conditions of the task that the string vibrates in 4 loops. One complete wave in a standing wave pattern consists of two loops. Therefore, the length of the string is equal to two wavelengths of the wave:

$$L = \frac{1}{2}n\lambda = \frac{4}{2}\lambda = 2\lambda,$$

here, L is the length of the string, n is the number of the loops, λ is the wavelength.

From this formula we can find the wavelength of the wave travelling in the string:

$$\lambda = \frac{L}{2} = \frac{2 \text{ m}}{2} = 1 \text{ m}.$$

Then, we can find the velocity of the wave from the wave speed formula:

$$v = f\lambda,$$

here, v is the velocity of the wave, f is the frequency and λ is the wavelength.

Let's substitute the numbers:

$$v = f\lambda = 50 \text{ Hz} \cdot 1 \text{ m} = 50 \frac{\text{m}}{\text{s}}.$$

Finally, we can find the tension in the string from the formula:

$$v = \sqrt{\frac{T}{\mu}},$$

here, v is the velocity of the wave in the string, T is the tension in the string, μ is the linear density of the string.

Then, we get:

$$v^2 = \frac{T}{\mu}$$

$$T = \mu v^2 = 0.00004 \frac{kg}{m} \cdot \left(50 \frac{m}{s}\right)^2 = 0.1 N.$$

Answer:

$$T = 0.1 N.$$

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