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Interference and Linear Superposition

The principle of superposition: when two waves meet one another the net displacement of the medium at a particular point equals the sum of the displacements of the waves at that point. In the situations below, sketch the shape of the medium when the wave pulses are



AP PHYSICS Chapter 16/17 Waves and Interference

Name:



Consider two pulses propagating in opposite directions along a string. The picture shows the profile of the string at t = 0 and at t = 2 seconds. Draw the profile of the string at t = 6 and t = 8 seconds.

This is the same situation as above, except that the pulse traveling to the left has been inverted. The picture shows the situation at t = 0 s. Draw the profile of the string at t = 5, t = 6 and t = 8 seconds.

