

29. (a) First consider a single spring with spring constant k and unstretched length L . One end is attached to a wall and the other is attached to an object. If it is elongated by Δx the magnitude of the force it exerts on the object is $F = k \Delta x$. Now consider it to be two springs, with spring constants k_1 and k_2 , arranged so spring 1 is attached to the object. If spring 1 is elongated by Δx_1 then the magnitude of the force exerted on the object is $F = k_1 \Delta x_1$. This must be the same as the force of the single spring, so $k \Delta x = k_1 \Delta x_1$. We must determine the relationship between Δx and Δx_1 . The springs are uniform so equal unstretched lengths are elongated by the same amount and the elongation of any portion of the spring is proportional to its unstretched length. This means spring 1 is elongated by $\Delta x_1 = CL_1$ and spring 2 is elongated by $\Delta x_2 = CL_2$, where C is a constant of proportionality. The total elongation is $\Delta x = \Delta x_1 + \Delta x_2 = C(L_1 + L_2) = CL_2(n + 1)$, where $L_1 = nL_2$ was used to obtain the last form. Since $L_2 = L_1/n$, this can also be written $\Delta x = CL_1(n + 1)/n$. We substitute $\Delta x_1 = CL_1$ and $\Delta x = CL_1(n + 1)/n$ into $k \Delta x = k_1 \Delta x_1$ and solve for k_1 . The result is $k_1 = k(n + 1)/n$.
- (b) Now suppose the object is placed at the other end of the composite spring, so spring 2 exerts a force on it. Now $k \Delta x = k_2 \Delta x_2$. We use $\Delta x_2 = CL_2$ and $\Delta x = CL_2(n + 1)$, then solve for k_2 . The result is $k_2 = k(n + 1)$.
- (c) To find the frequency when spring 1 is attached to mass m , we replace k in $(1/2\pi)\sqrt{k/m}$ with $k(n + 1)/n$ to obtain

$$f_1 = \frac{1}{2\pi} \sqrt{\frac{(n+1)k}{nm}} = \sqrt{\frac{n+1}{n}} f$$

where the substitution $f = (1/2\pi)\sqrt{k/m}$ was made.

- (d) To find the frequency when spring 2 is attached to the mass, we replace k with $k(n + 1)$ to obtain

$$f_2 = \frac{1}{2\pi} \sqrt{\frac{(n+1)k}{m}} = \sqrt{n+1} f$$

where the same substitution was made.