

Secondary wave = s-wave

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Synonym: [Secondary wave \(s-wave\)](#) = [Shear wave](#)

A [body wave](#) caused by oscillation of a shear [stress](#) in a [matter](#) and as such resulting in [strain](#) oscillations perpendicular to the direction of [s-wave](#) propagation.

In terms of corpuscular structure of the [matter](#) the [s-wave](#) is characterised by the fact that particles of the [matter](#) are moving back and forth perpendicular to the [s-wave](#) travel direction (see **Fig. 1**).

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Fig. 1.1. Plane s-wave	Fig. 1.2. Spherical s-wave

[S-wave](#) can propagate through solids only and move slower than [p-wave](#).

When all [body waves](#) are excited at the same time the [s-wave](#) arrives after the [p-wave](#) to the sensor, hence the name "secondary".

See also

[Physics](#) / [Mechanics](#) / [Continuum mechanics](#) / [Mechanical waves](#) / [Body wave](#)

[[p-wave](#)]