

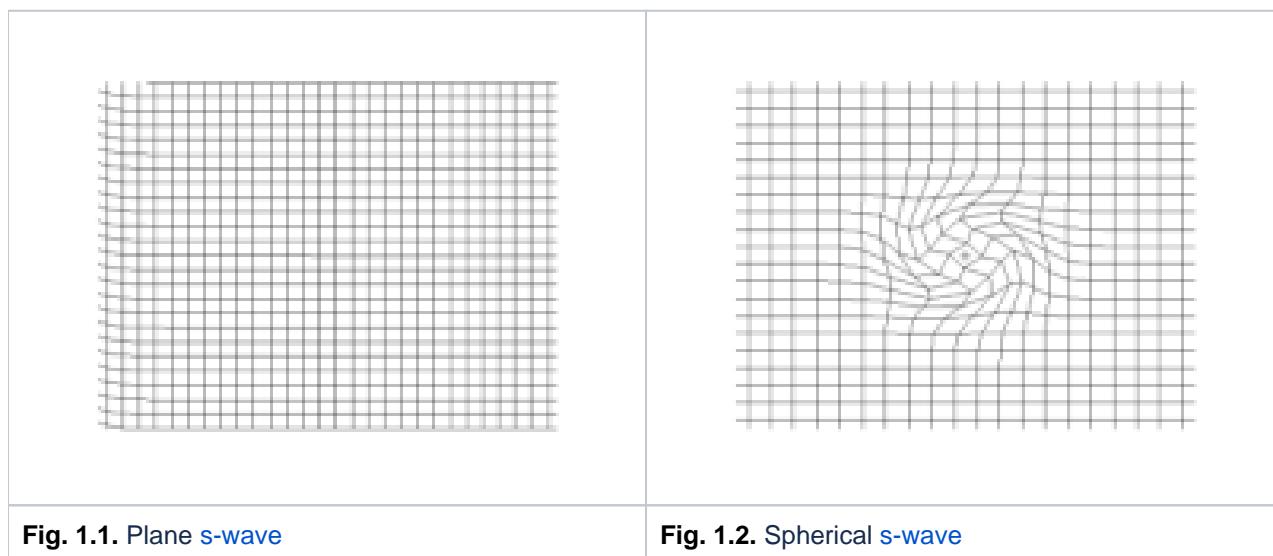
Shear wave

@wikipedia

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**).



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](#)]