

# MUSICAL SAW AND FREQUENCY

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Kakogawa Higashi High School Group OTONOKO

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2. PURPOSE

3. EXPERIMENT

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## 1. Key Words

# What is a MUSICAL SAW?



Bend the saw  
Into a **S-shape**



Bow or mallet

[http://s3.amazonaws.com/production.mediajoint.prx.org/public/piece\\_images/186083/musicsaw\\_small.jpg](http://s3.amazonaws.com/production.mediajoint.prx.org/public/piece_images/186083/musicsaw_small.jpg)

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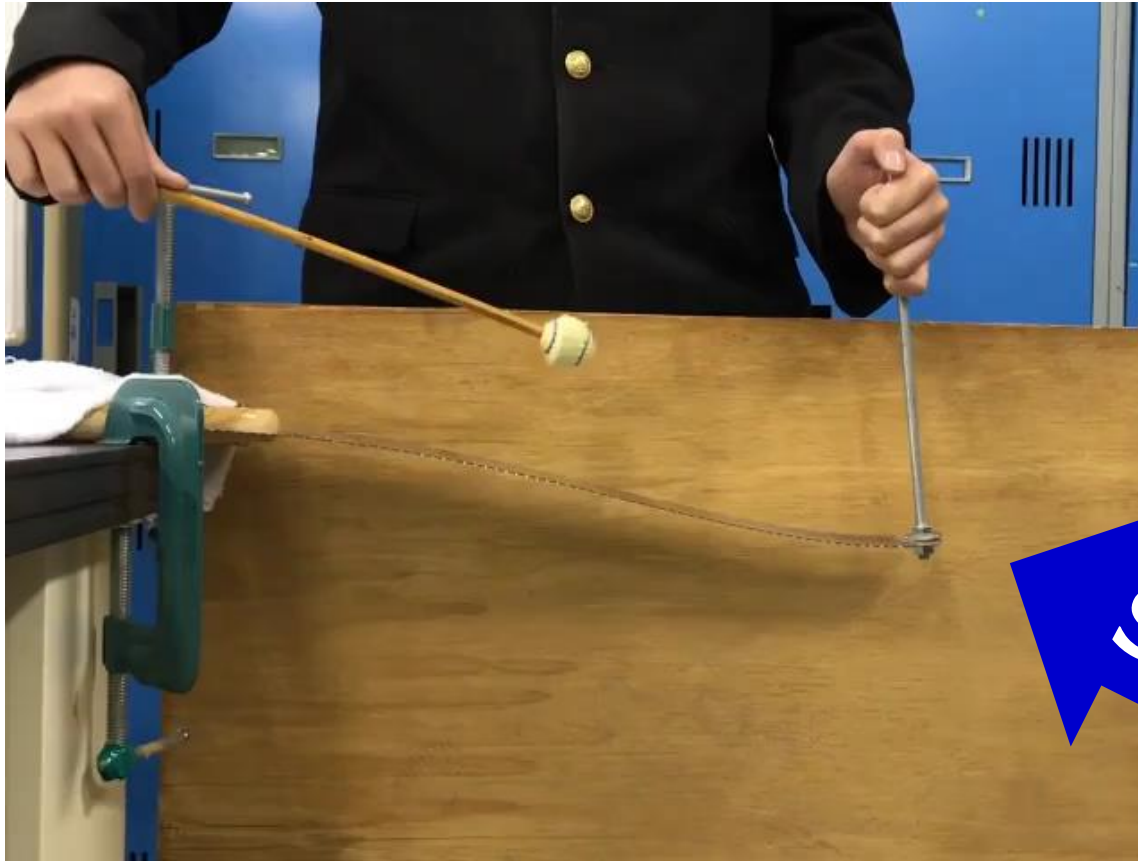
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## 2. Purpose



The frequency of sound can be changed

## 2.Purpose

The relationship between  
frequency and law shape



A player must find it  
**only by “try and error”!!**

## 2.Purpose

# THE FINAL PURPOSE OF OUR EXPERIMENT

Clarifying the relationship  
&

Creating a tuning guide for  
this musical saw

**It could be played  
more easily.**

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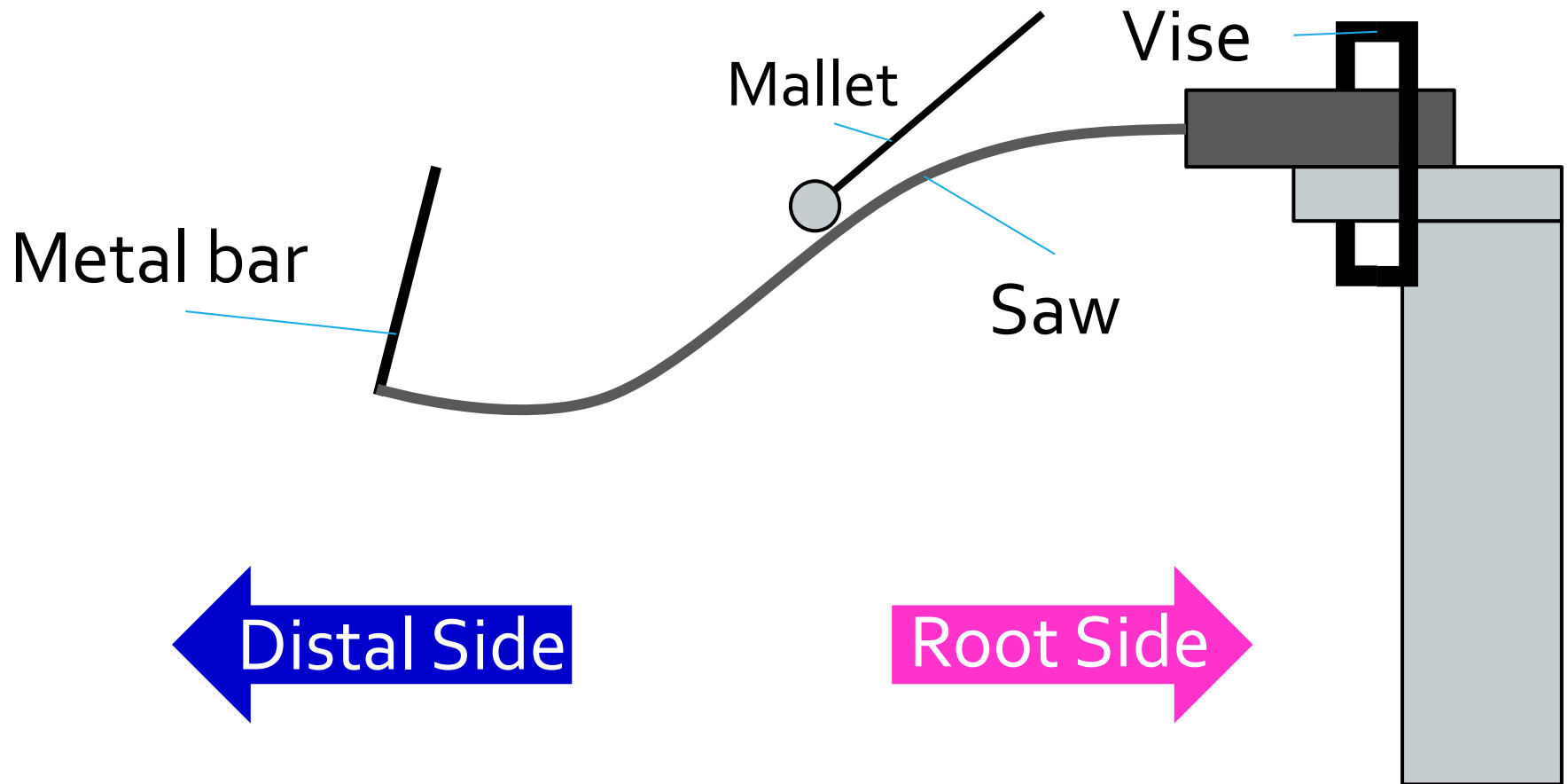
## 3.a Method

# Our device



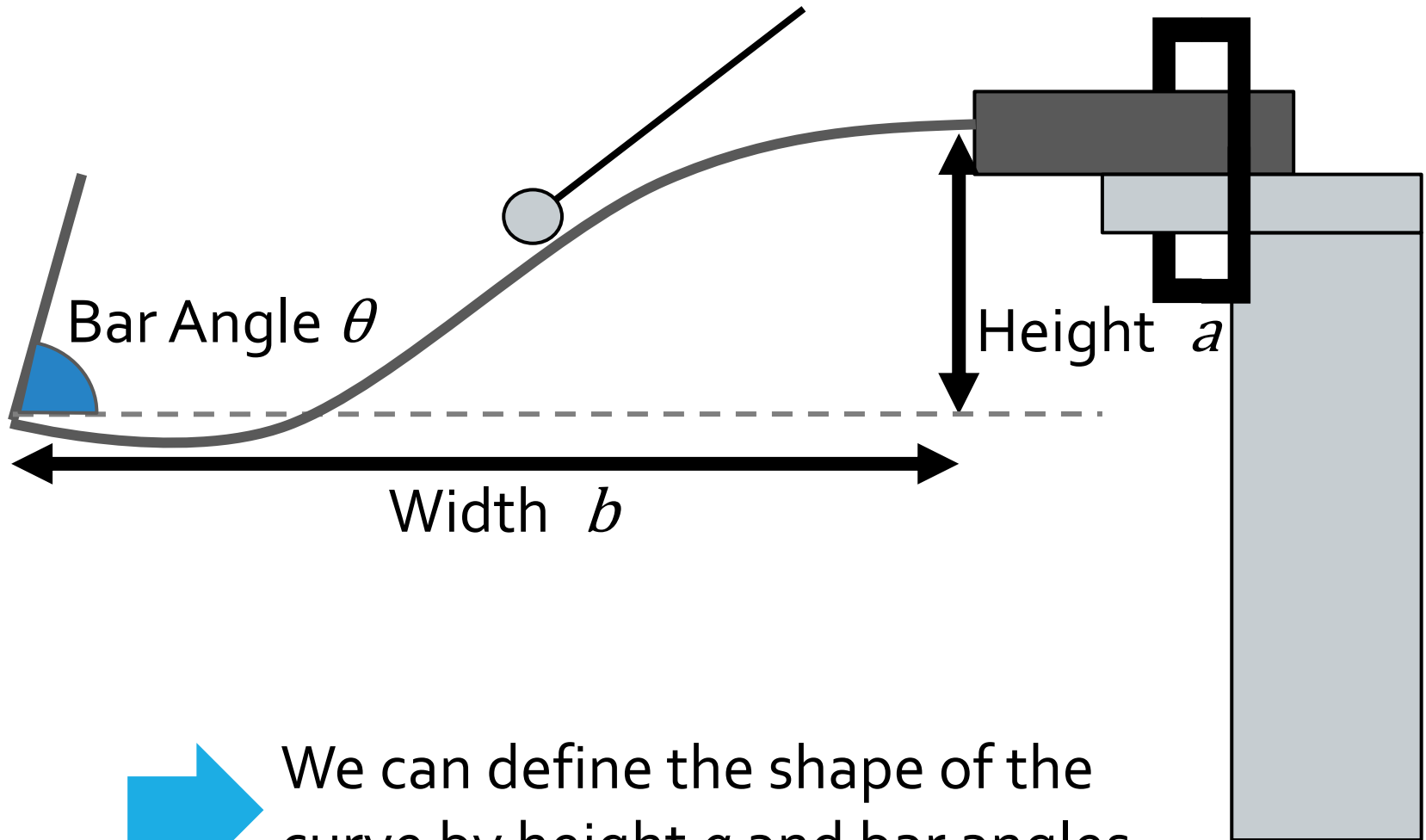
## 3.a Method

## 【Experimental Device】



## 3.a Method

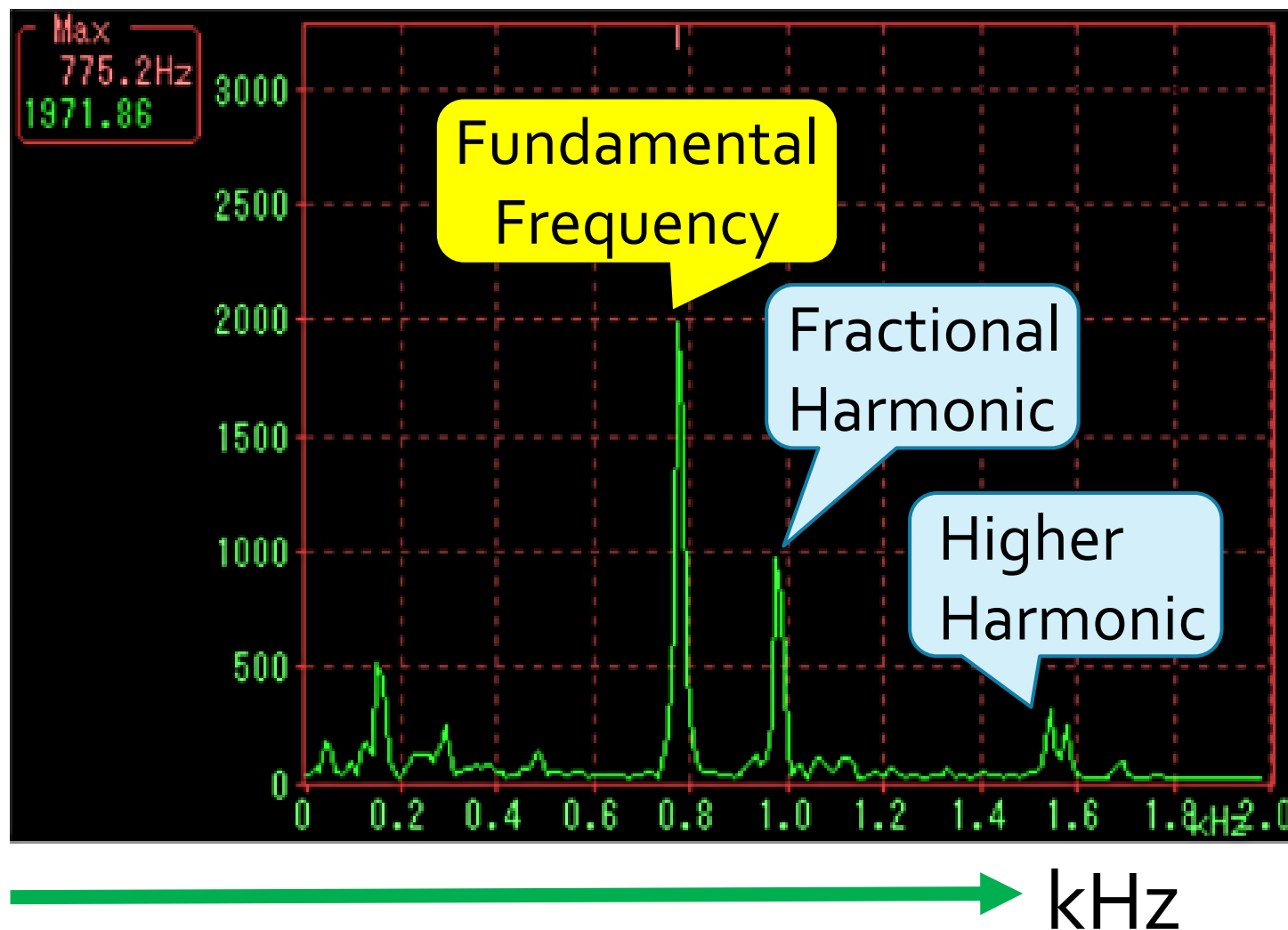
## 【Index of Curvature】



We can define the shape of the curve by height  $a$  and bar angles.

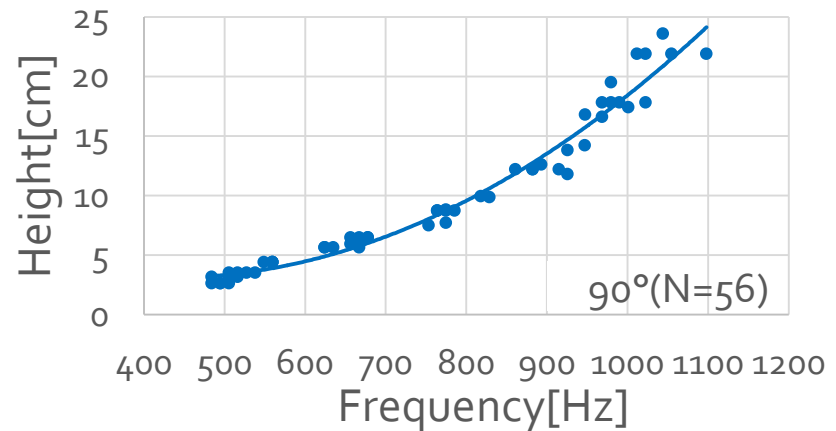
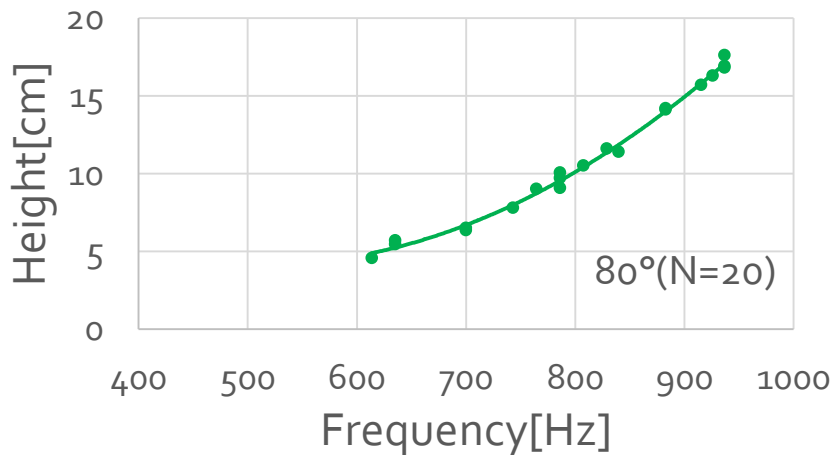
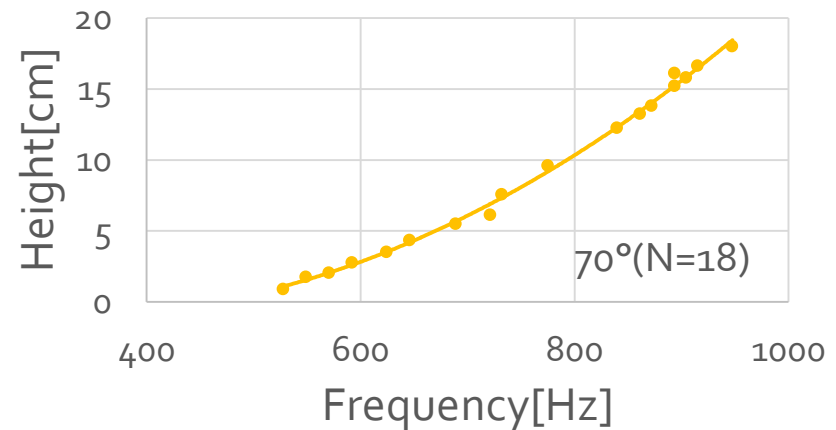
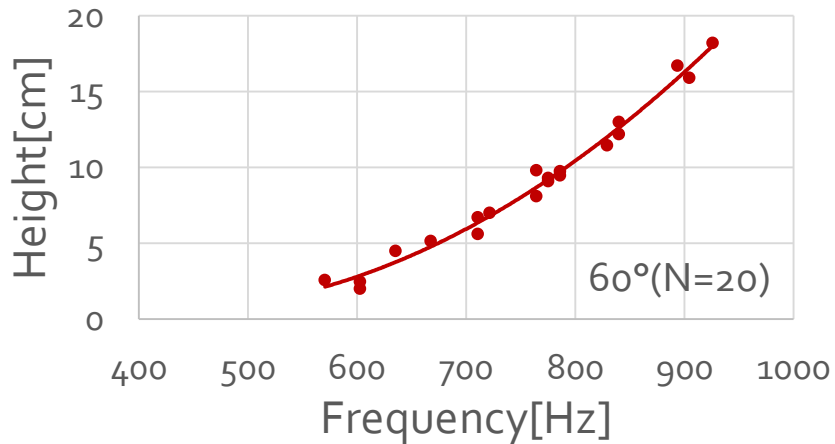
## 3.b Results

## 【 Saw Frequency Spectra 】



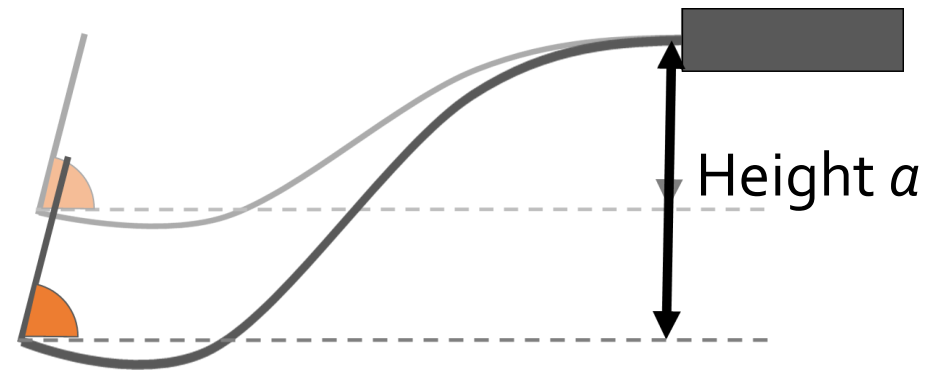
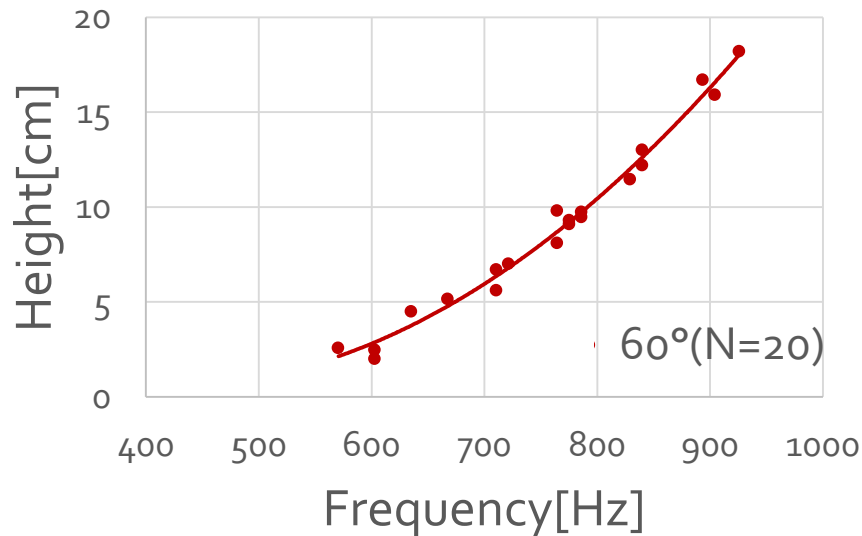
## 3.b Results

## 【Relationship between Fundamental Frequency and Height】



## 3.b Results

## 【Analysis】



Height  $a$  is proportional to  
the square of the fundamental frequency.

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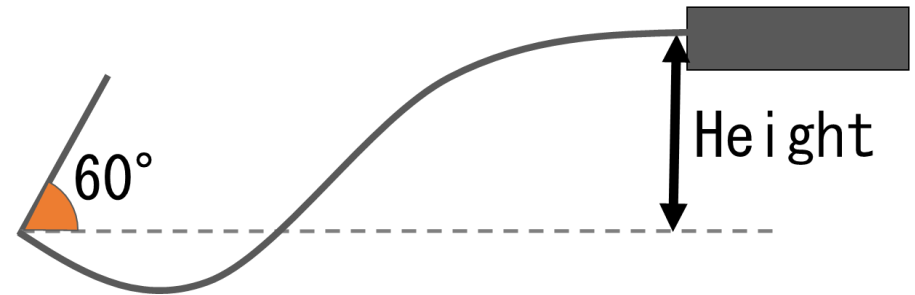
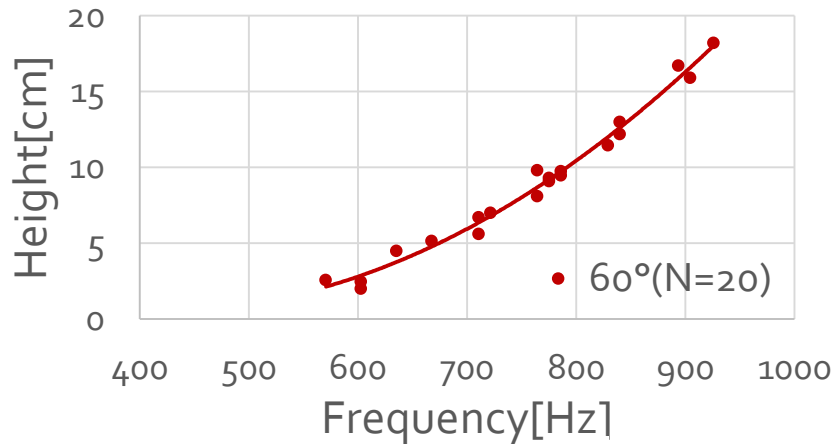
a. METHOD

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## 4 .Tuning Guide 【 Equation of Frequency and Height 】



$$\theta = 60^\circ$$

$$y = 0.0000675371 x^2 - 0.0563386 x + 12.2942$$

(x[Hz]:Frequency of Sound, y[cm]:Height)



## 4 .Tuning Guide

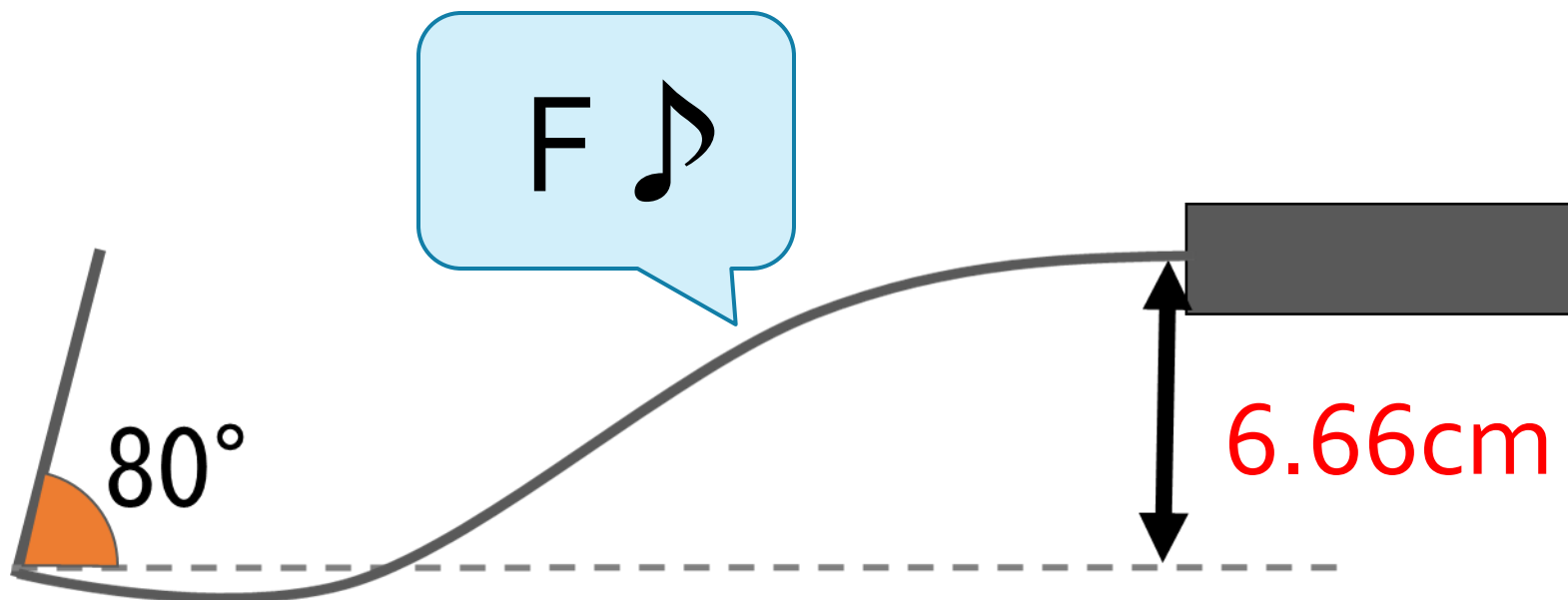
## 【Tuning Guide for each Bar Angle】

Relationship between the Musical Note Pitch and the Height

Pitch Name		C	D	E	F	G	A	B	C
Frequency[Hz]		523.25	587.33	659.26	698.46	783.99	880.00	987.77	1046.50
Height[cm]	$\theta = 60^\circ$	1.31	2.50	4.51	5.89	9.64	15.02		
	$\theta = 70^\circ$	1.00	2.48	4.63	6.02	9.59	14.46		
	$\theta = 80^\circ$	4.13	4.55	5.71	6.66	9.47	13.86		
	$\theta = 90^\circ$	3.52	4.28	5.59	6.51	9.02	12.66	17.77	21.02

## 4 .Tuning Guide

【Tuning Guide for each Bar Angle】



## Conclusion

- Devised **the new indexes** to determine the shape of the saw
- Discovered that **height is proportional to the square of the fundamental frequency**
- Made **a tuning guide** to play the musical saw

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## 5. Future Tasks

- Do a theoretical study or physical analysis into why height is proportional to the square of frequency
- Check the precision of the tuning guide

## Acknowledgment

KANSAI SAW MFG. CO., LTD.  
Mr. Ashihara (president, CEO)

We express our thanks to Mr. Ashihara who gave us a saw which we use for our experiment.

## References

- 1) Georg Essl, Stefania Serafin, Perry R. Cook, and Julius O. Smith: Musical Applications of Banded Waveguides, *Computer Music Journal*, 28:1, pp.51-63, Spring 2004
- 2) Neville H. Fletcher, Thomas D. Rossing, (Translated by Kenji Kishi, Hidemi Kubota, Shigeru Yoshikawa) "THE PHYSICS OF MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS", Maruzen Publishing, 2012  
2012
- 3) Erin Else Stuckenbruck: The Singing Blade: The History, Acoustics, and Techniques of the Musical Saw, Senior Projects Spring 2016, Paper 383, 2016



Thank you for listening



# Q. and A.

1. KEY WORDS

2. PURPOSE

3. EXPERIMENT

a. METHOD

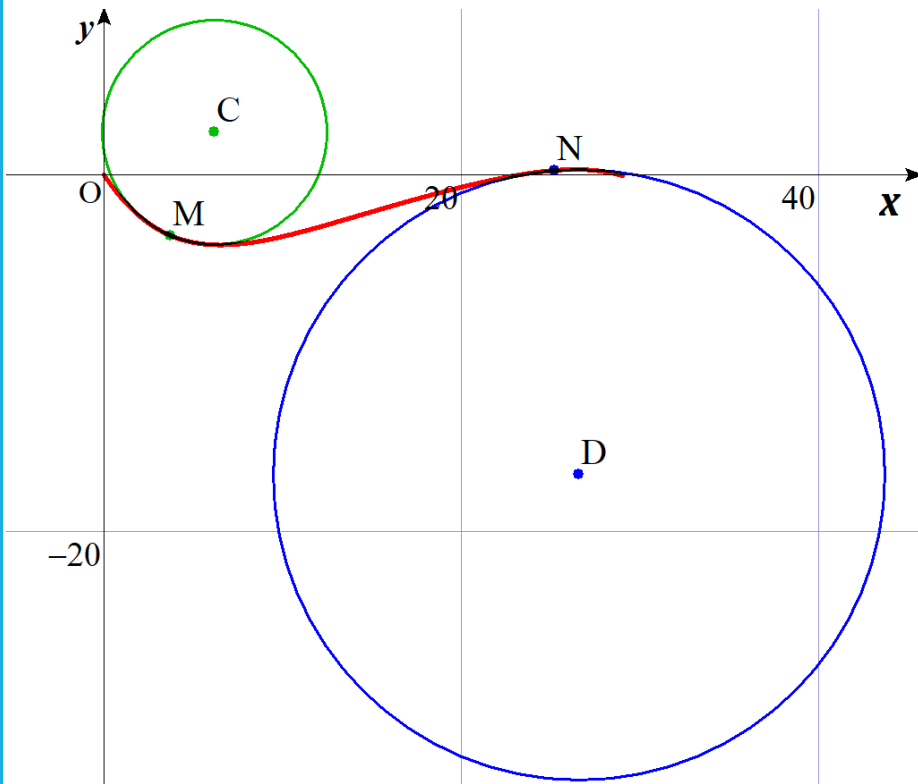
b. RESULTS

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# 1.Key Words

# 【Curvature】



The amount that something is curved

Radius of Curvature

Radius of circle that was approximated curve to circle

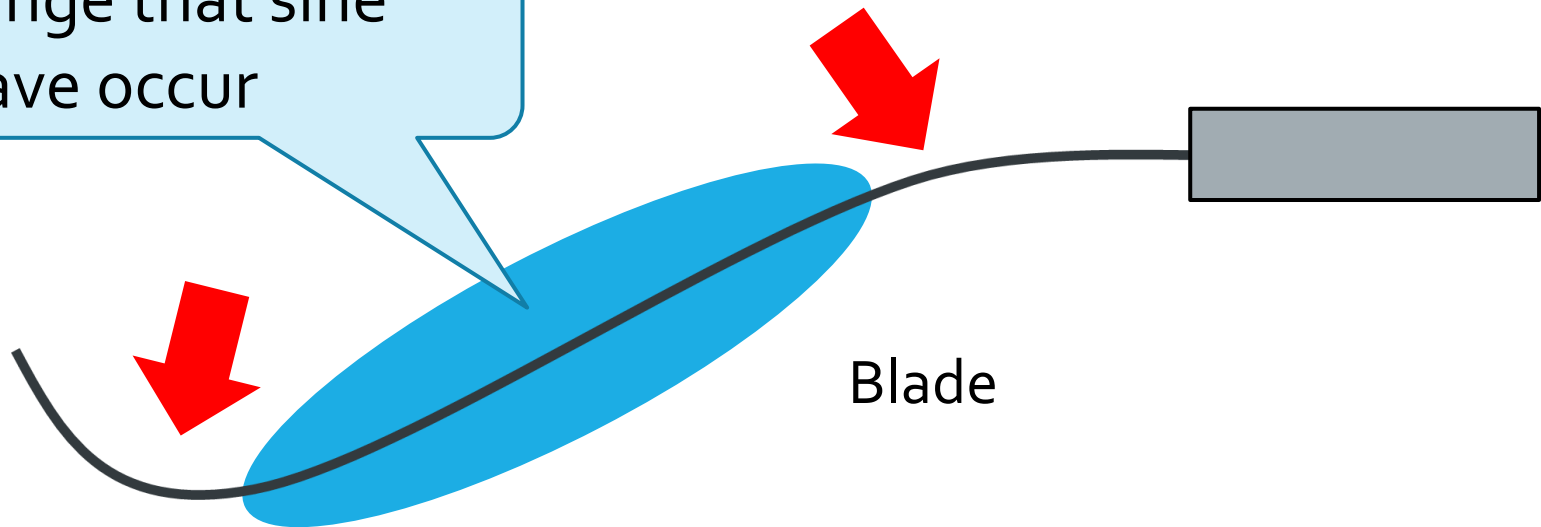
$$(\text{Curvature}) = \frac{1}{(\text{Radius of Curvature})}$$

## 2. Purpose

## 【Previous Research】

2 Point of Bigger Curvature  Role of Fixed End

Range that sine wave occur



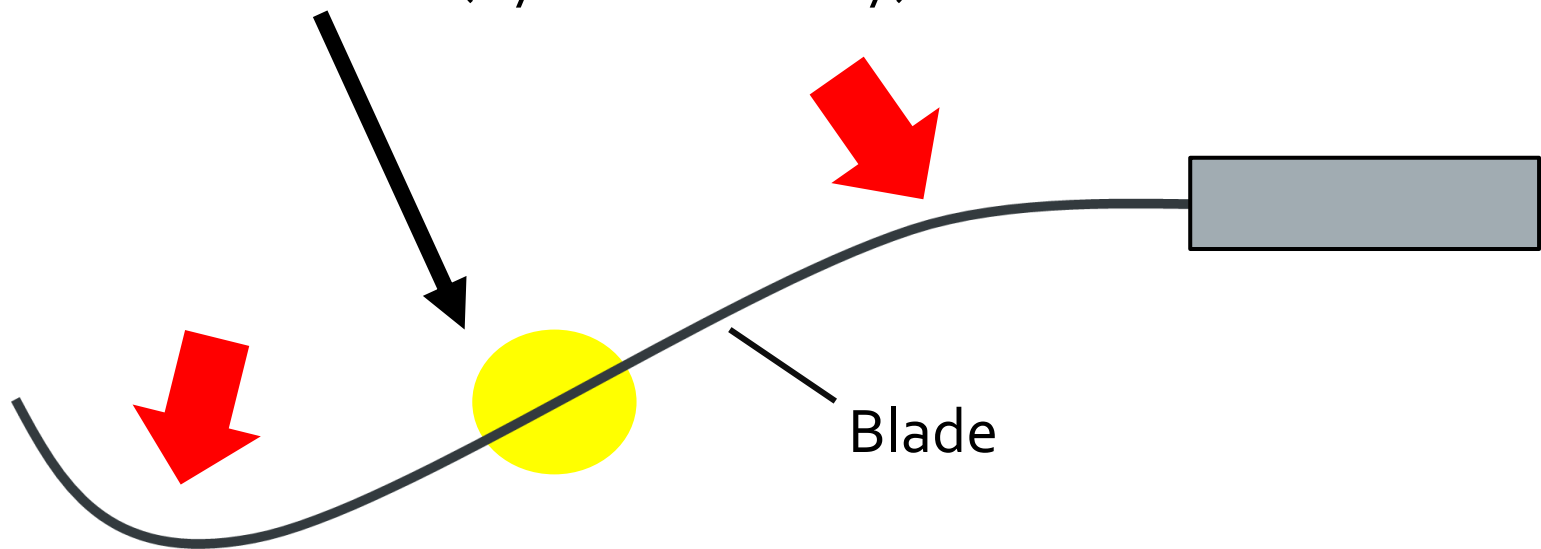
Sectional view of S shape musical saw

## 3.a Method

## 【 Position to Knock on 】

### Sweet Spot

...The place where a sound sounds through more than ten seconds (by former study)



Cross section of the sigmoid musical saw

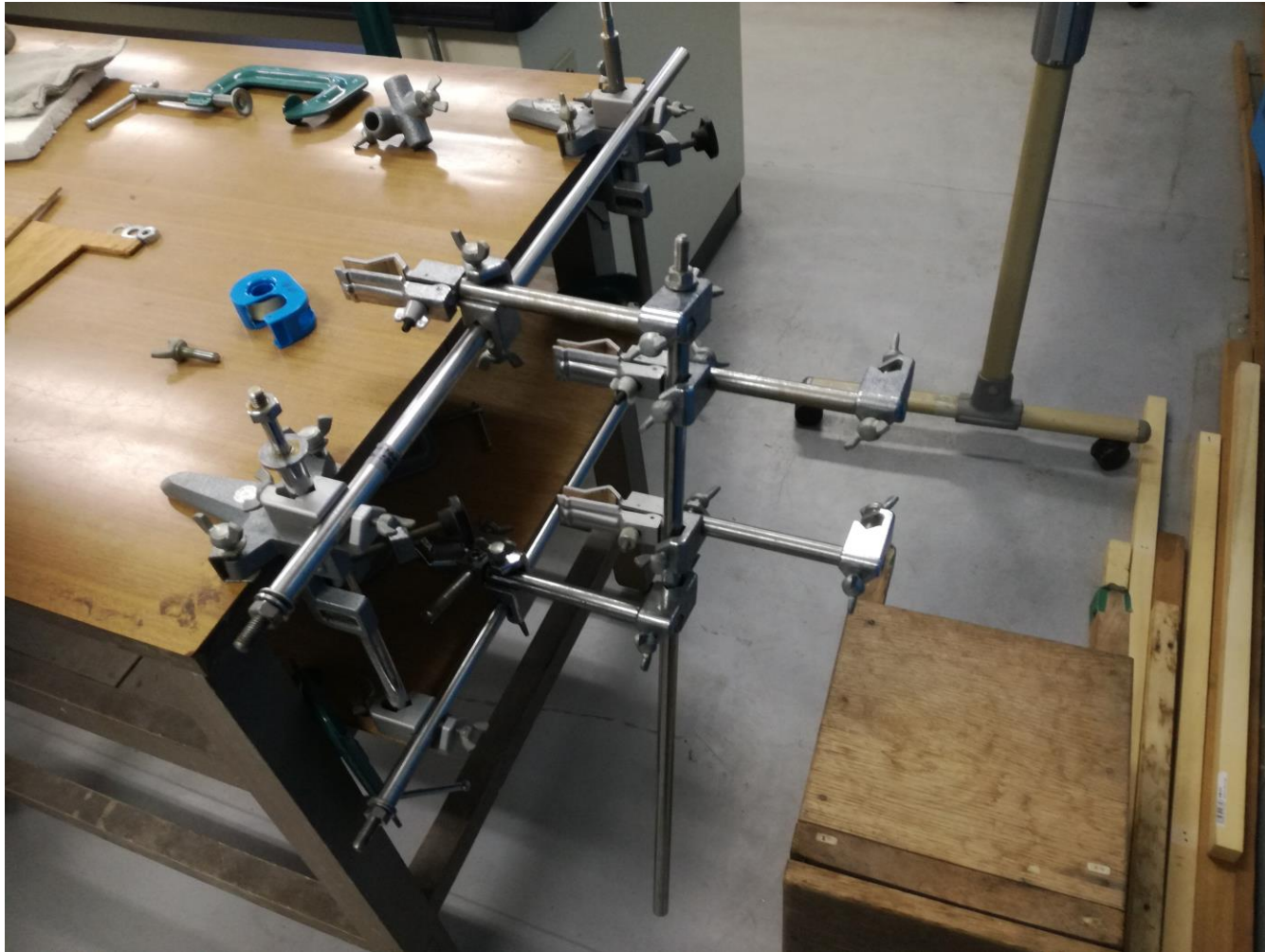
## 3.a Method

## 【Experimental Device】



## 3.a Method

## 【 Experimental Device 】



## 3.a Method

### 【Saw】



## SAWMASTER

- Steel
- Blade length  
56cm
- Thickness  
0.8mm

## 3.a Method

### 【Saw】



## SAWMASTER

- Steel
- Blade length 56cm
- Thickness 0.8mm



## 3.a Method

## 【Tools to Play】

Musical Tools	Sound
Bow	Variable Frequency
Mallet	Constant Frequency

## 3.a Method

### 【The Curvature of the Blade】

- 1 . Copy the shape of the blade to paper
- 2 . Import the shape of blade with a scanner
- 3 . Calculate the coordinate of one hundred points in the section of the blade by using the fitting software "Fig Date"
- 4 . Calculate a radius of circle to go along three points next to each other, calculate a radius of curvature, take the reciprocal number

## 3.a Method

## 【The Curvature of the Blade】

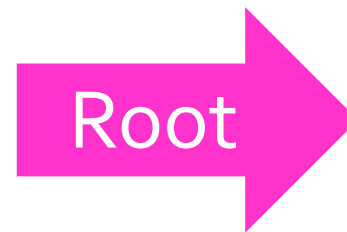
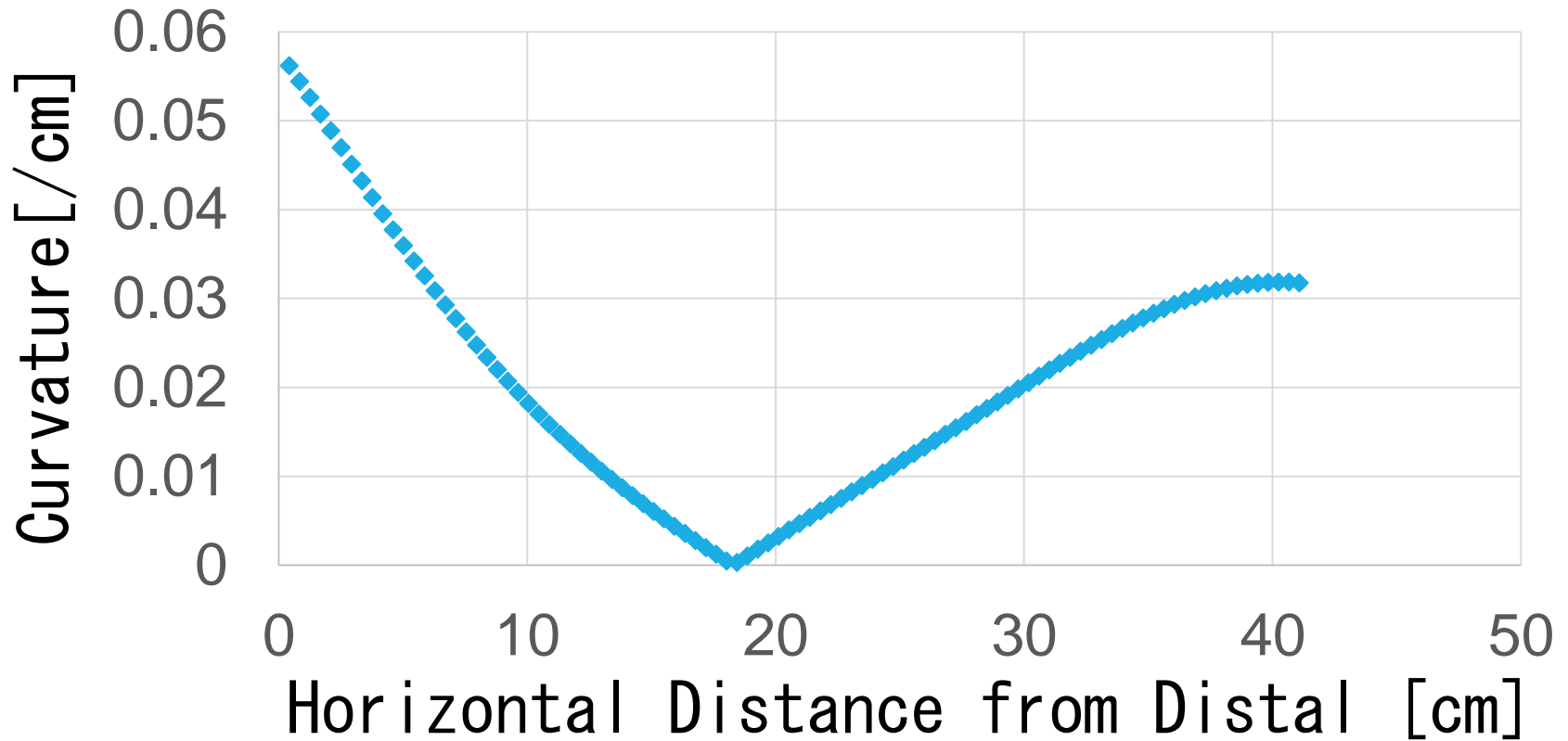
Formula for the radius of curvature

$$\frac{(1 + f'(x)^2)^{\frac{3}{2}}}{|f''(x)|}$$

※  $f(x)$  is the approximate curve of the saw.

### 3.a Method

### 【Curvature at Each Point of Blade】



## 3.a Method

### 【Curvature at each Point of Blade】

Going from the center of blade to the outside, the curvature becomes bigger



Correspond with previous research

# Fundamental Frequency

- The sound whose amplitude is bigger and attenuation is smaller
- When there are 2 sound whose attenuation is smaller, we treat the sound whose frequency is smaller as fundamental frequency

## 3.b Result

### Higher Harmonic

The sine wave that are **integer multiply** of the fundamental frequency

### Fractional Harmonic

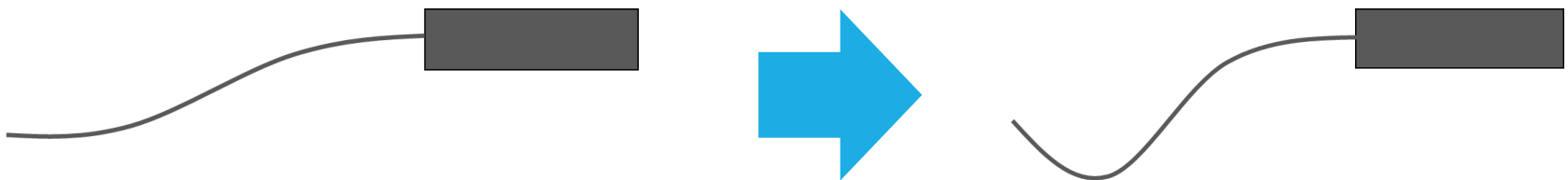
The sine wave that are **fraction multiply** of the fundamental frequency

## 3.b Result

【Analysis】

From  
Previous Research

The more the blade is  
bent, the bigger  
frequency is





## 3.b Result

【Analysis】

From Result

The bigger height  $a$  is,  
the bigger frequency is



More bent?

## 4. Tuning Guide

### 【Relationship between Frequency of Basic Sound and Height】

x[Hz]: Frequency of Basic Sound    y[cm]: Height

Relationship of  $\theta=70^\circ$

$$y = 0.0000498954 x^2 - 0.0322746 x + 4.22469$$

Relationship of  $\theta=80^\circ$

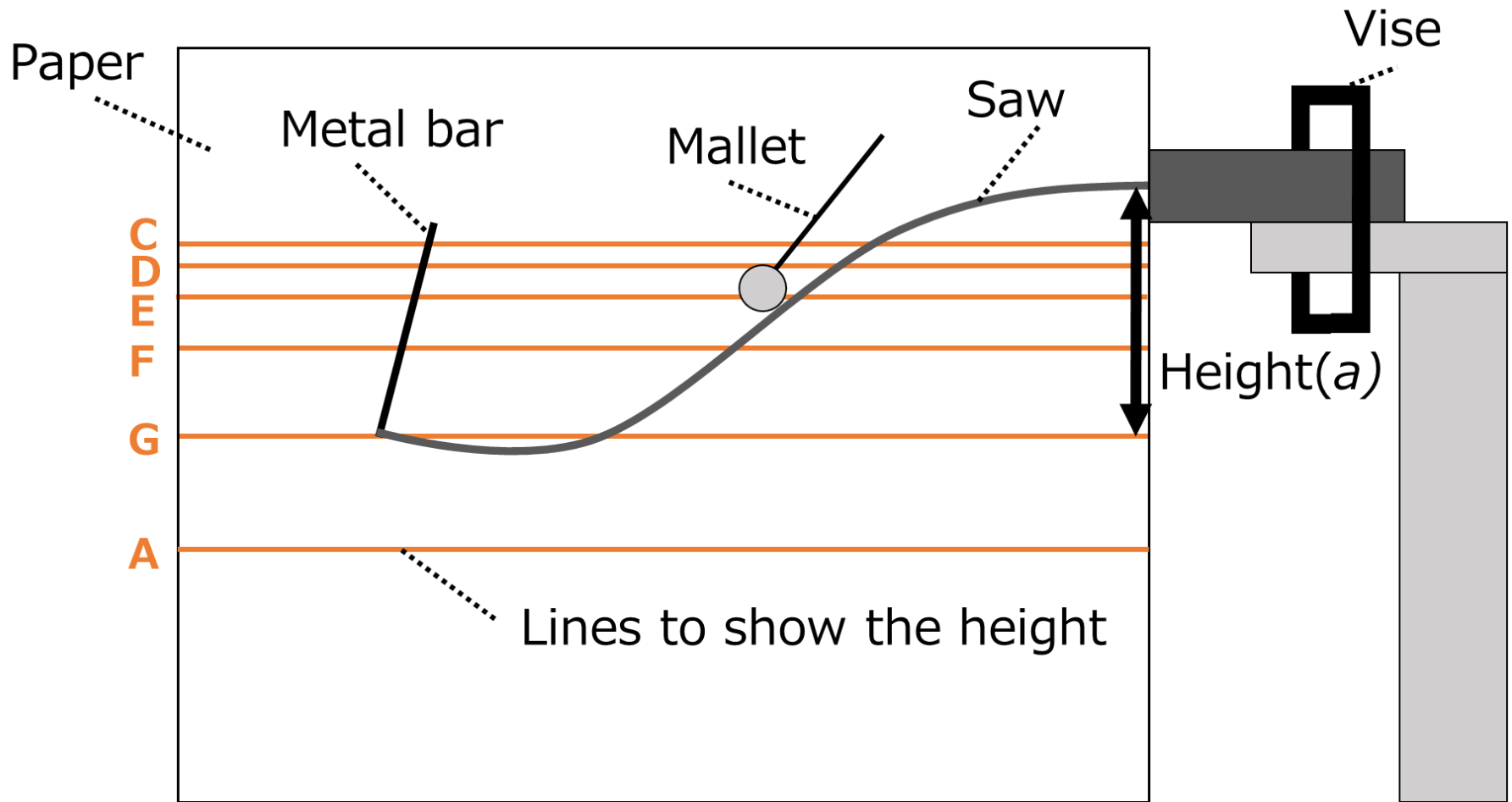
$$y = 0.0000709198 x^2 - 0.0722376 x + 22.5130$$

Relationship of  $\theta=90^\circ$

$$y = 0.0000469768 x^2 - 0.0403005 x + 11.7424$$

# Additional Experiment

## 【Experimental Device】



# Additional Experiment

## 【Results】

