

# Simulation of the dynamic motion of a pendulum under viscous friction with Cartesian coordinates

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## Problem Statement

Simulate the dynamic motion of a pendulum under viscous friction described with Cartesian coordinates  $x$  and  $y$ . Apply constraint stabilization method to convert the constraint into its almost equivalent ODE, then apply any ODE solver to solve a set of ODEs (equations of motion and equations for constraint stabilization) numerically.

## Dynamic analysis

According to previous content about viscous friction, the equation of the viscous friction is given by:

$$\tau = -b\dot{\theta} \quad (1)$$

where  $\tau$  is the torque,  $b$  is the viscous friction coefficient, and  $\dot{\theta}$  is the angular velocity. We can easily get the equation of motion under Cartesian coordinates:

$$f_v = -\frac{b}{l}v \quad (2)$$

where  $f_v$  is the force,  $b$  is the viscous friction coefficient,  $l$  is the length of the pendulum, and  $v$  is the velocity. Then we can get the equations for  $x$  and  $y$ :

$$\begin{bmatrix} f_x \\ f_y \end{bmatrix} = -\frac{b}{l} \begin{bmatrix} \dot{x} \\ \dot{y} \end{bmatrix} \quad (3)$$

where  $f_x$  and  $f_y$  are the viscous forces in  $x$  and  $y$  directions, respectively.

Treat the viscous forces as external forces, and use the above equations in the system that described in the sides. we can get the equations of motion:

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{x} &= v_x \\ \dot{y} &= v_y \\ \begin{bmatrix} m & & -R_x \\ & m & -R_y \\ -R_x & -R_y & \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \dot{v}_x \\ \dot{v}_y \\ \lambda \end{bmatrix} &= \begin{bmatrix} f_x \\ -mg + f_y \\ C(x, y, v_x, v_y) \end{bmatrix} \end{aligned} \quad (4)$$

where  $m$  is the mass of the pendulum,  $g$  is the acceleration of gravity,  $\lambda$  is the Lagrange multiplier,  $R_x$  and  $R_y$  are the constraint forces in  $x$  and  $y$  directions, respectively.  $C(x, y, v_x, v_y)$  is the constraint function, which is given by:

$$\begin{aligned} C(x, y, v_x, v_y) &= \begin{bmatrix} v_x & v_y \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} R_{xx} & R_{xy} \\ R_{yx} & R_{yy} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} v_x \\ v_y \end{bmatrix} \\ &\quad + 2\alpha(R_x v_x + R_y v_y) + \alpha^2 R \end{aligned} \quad (5)$$

where  $\alpha$  is a constant, and  $R$  is the distance between the pendulum and the constraint.  $R_x$ ,  $R_y$ ,  $R_{xx}$ ,  $R_{xy}$ ,  $R_{yx}$ , and  $R_{yy}$  are the derivatives of  $R$  with respect to  $x$  and  $y$ . With Equation 4, we can start our simulation in MATLAB.

## MATLAB code

The code of modified part is shown below:

Listing 1: MATLAB code for pendulum simulation

```
function dotq = pendulum_cartesian (t,q)
    global mass; global length; global grav; global alpha; global viscous_coeiff;
    x = q(1); y = q(2); vx = q(3); vy = q(4);

    dotx = vx; doty = vy;
    R = sqrt(x^2+(y-length)^2) - length;
    P = 1/sqrt(x^2+(y-length)^2); Rx = x*P; Ry = (y-length)*P;
    Rxx = P - x^2*P^3; Ryy = P - (y-length)^2*P^3;
    Rxy = -x*(y-length)*P^3;
    C = [vx,vy]*[Rxx, Rxy; Rxy, Ryy]*[vx;vy] ...
        + 2*alpha*(Rx*vx + Ry*vy) ...
        + alpha^2*R;
    A = [mass, 0, -Rx; 0, mass, -Ry; -Rx, -Ry, 0];
    \textcolor{red}{b = [ -viscous_coeiff*dotx; -mass*grav - viscous_coeiff*doty; C ];}

    s = A \ b;
    dotvx = s(1); dotvy = s(2);
    dotq = [dotx; doty; dotvx; dotvy];
end
```

Using ode45 function in MATLAB, we can solve the ODEs numerically.

## Results

Using the following parameters: mass of 0.01 kg, length of 2.0 m, gravitational acceleration of 9.8 m/s<sup>2</sup>, alpha of 1000, viscous coefficient of 0.01, initial angle of  $\frac{\pi}{3}$  radians, and a simulation time of 10 seconds, we can obtain the simulation results as shown below:

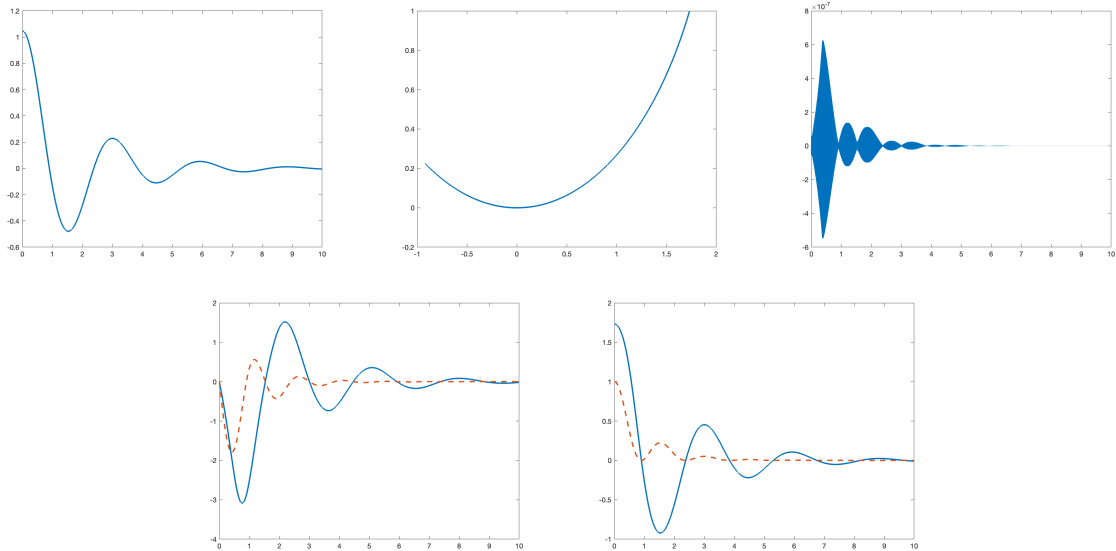


Figure 1: (a) Computed angle of the pendulum, (b) Path of the pendulum, (c) Distance R between the pendulum and the constraint, (d) Velocities  $v_x$  and  $v_y$ , (e) Positions  $x$  and  $y$  of the pendulum. (a) - (e) are ordered from left to right and top to bottom.