

IA Oscillating Systems

No. 1

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- A system oscillates if $x(t) = x(t+T)$ for some **period** T .
- the frequency of osc. is defined as $\nu = \frac{1}{T}$ (s^{-1})

• The angular freq is $\omega = 2\pi/T$

- For an object to undergo **simple harmonic motion (SHM)**:
 - must be some inertia
 - and a restoring force $\propto (-\text{displacement})$

$$F = -kx = ma \text{ for a spring} \Rightarrow \ddot{x} = -\frac{k}{m}x$$

- If we sub $x = a_0 \cos \omega t$ we find $\omega = \sqrt{\frac{k}{m}}$

• The general equation for undamped SHM is $\ddot{x} + \omega_0^2 x = 0$

- Solved by:

$$\left. \begin{aligned} x(t) &= a_0 \cos(\omega t + \phi) \\ x(t) &= A \cos(\omega t) + B \sin(\omega t) \end{aligned} \right\} \text{2 unknowns}$$

• SHM is unique among oscs because freq is independent to amplitude.

- The velocity and acceleration can be found by differentiating:

$$\dot{x}(t) = -\omega_0 a_0 \sin(\omega_0 t + \phi) \quad (\tfrac{1}{4} \text{ cycle ahead})$$

$$\ddot{x}(t) = -\omega_0^2 a_0 \cos(\omega_0 t + \phi) \quad (\tfrac{1}{2} \text{ cycle ahead}).$$

we then see that $v_{\max} = -\omega_0 a_0$ and $a_{\max} = -\omega_0^2 a_0$

- We can instead analyse systems in terms of energy. For a spring:

$$KE = \frac{1}{2} m \dot{x}^2 \quad PE = \int_0^x kx dx = \frac{1}{2} kx^2$$

$$\Rightarrow KE = \frac{1}{2} k a_0^2 \sin^2(\omega_0 t + \phi)$$

$$PE = \frac{1}{2} k a_0^2 \cos^2(\omega_0 t + \phi)$$

$$E_{\text{total}} = \frac{1}{2} k a_0^2$$

- Thus the energy terms oscillate twice as fast (e.g write $\sin^2 \theta = \frac{1}{2}(1 - \cos 2\theta)$)

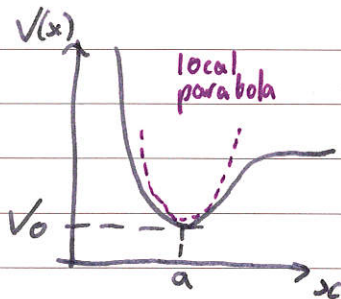
- Because $\langle \sin^2 \theta \rangle = \langle \cos^2 \theta \rangle = \frac{1}{2}$, we know that $\langle KE \rangle = \langle PE \rangle = \frac{1}{4} k a_0^2$

- We can instead derive SHM using the conservation of energy

$$E = \frac{1}{2} m \dot{x}^2 + \frac{1}{2} k x^2 \Rightarrow \dot{E} = m \dot{x} \ddot{x} + k x \dot{x} \Rightarrow \ddot{x} + \frac{k}{m} x = 0.$$

- Thus, any time a particle moves in a quadratic PE, it will undergo SHM.

- This can be applied to more complex potentials:



Taylor expanding about $x=a$:

$$V(a+\Delta x) = V(a) + V'(a)\Delta x + \frac{V''(a)}{2}(\Delta x)^2 + \dots$$

At the minimum, $V'(a)=0$

$$\therefore V(a+\Delta x) \approx V(a) + \frac{1}{2}V''(a)(\Delta x)^2$$

- Small perturbations can be approximated by quadratic potentials \rightarrow modeled with SHM.

- Generally, if $E = \frac{1}{2}\alpha \dot{x}^2 + \frac{1}{2}\beta x^2$

$$\text{then } \dot{E} = \alpha \dot{x} \ddot{x} + \beta x \dot{x} = 0 \Rightarrow \ddot{x} + \frac{\beta}{\alpha} x = 0$$

e.g. mass on spring with gravity

- In equilibrium, $Kx_0 = Mg$

- If the mass is displaced further: $-k(x_0+x_1) + Mg = M\ddot{x}_1$

$$\Rightarrow \ddot{x}_1 + \frac{k}{m} x_1 = 0$$

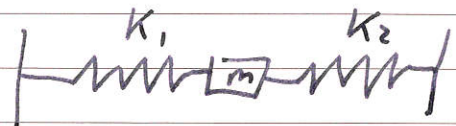
- i.e. gravity is irrelevant and system oscillates around equilibrium.

e.g. mass on two springs

- For a small displacement:

$$-k_1 x - k_2 x = m\ddot{x} \Rightarrow \ddot{x} + \frac{k_1+k_2}{m} x = 0$$

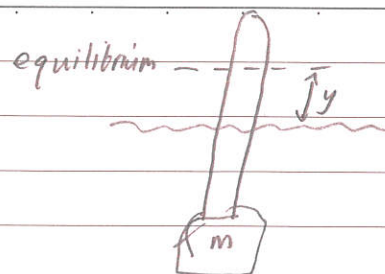
i.e. SHM with $\omega_0^2 = \frac{k_1+k_2}{m}$.



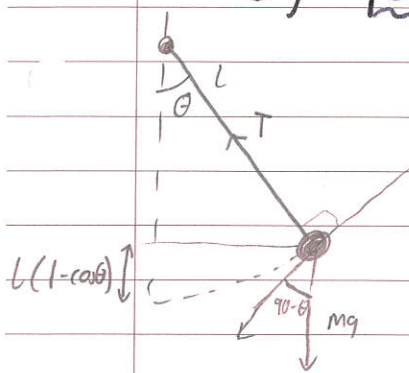
e.g. hydrometer

- Archimedes' principle: buoyancy force is equal to the weight of the displaced fluid.
- When displaced from eq., the submerged volume changes by Ay ($A \equiv$ cross section area)

$$\therefore m\ddot{y} = -\rho g Ay \Rightarrow \ddot{y} + \frac{\rho g A}{m} y = 0.$$



e.g. pendulum



- Resolving perp. to tension, we have $ml\ddot{\theta} = -mg\sin\theta$.
- For small angular displacements:
 $\sin\theta \approx \theta \Rightarrow ml\ddot{\theta} = -mg\theta$

$$\therefore \ddot{\theta} + \frac{g}{l}\theta = 0.$$

- Alternatively, we can argue by energy:

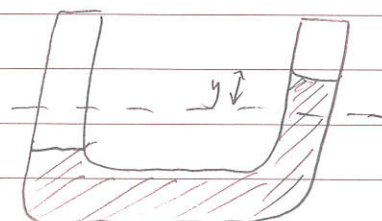
$$PE = mgl(1 - \cos\theta) \approx \frac{1}{2}mgl\theta^2 \quad \text{for } \cos\theta = 1 - \frac{1}{2}\theta^2.$$

- Then we use the energy formula with $\alpha = ml^2$, $\beta = mgl$

e.g. water in U-tube

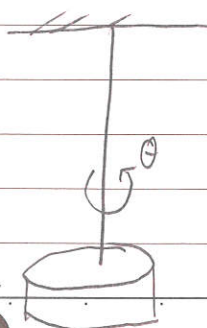
$$PE = (\rho Ay)gy = \rho Agy^2$$

$$KE = \frac{1}{2}\rho A l \dot{y}^2$$



$$\alpha = \rho A l, \quad \beta = 2\rho A g \Rightarrow \omega^2 = \frac{2g}{l}$$

e.g. torsional oscillator

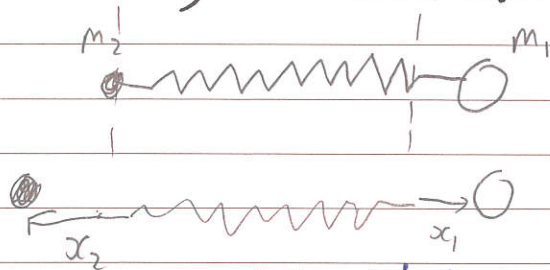


$$PE = \frac{1}{2}\tau\theta^2 \quad \leftarrow \tau \text{ is the torsional stiffness, Nm rad}^{-1}.$$

$$KE = \frac{1}{2}I\dot{\theta}^2 \quad \text{with } I = \frac{1}{2}mR^2 \Rightarrow KE = \frac{1}{4}mR^2\dot{\theta}^2$$

$$\text{Then } \omega^2 = \frac{\tau}{I}$$

e.g. mass-spring-mass



• For a displacement with no net external force, the centre of mass can't move

• So we know $m_1 x_1 = m_2 x_2$

$$PE = \frac{1}{2} k (x_1 + x_2)^2 = \frac{1}{2} k x_1^2 \left(1 + \frac{m_1}{m_2}\right)^2$$

$$KE = \frac{1}{2} m_1 \left(1 + \frac{m_1}{m_2}\right) \dot{x}_1^2$$

$$\therefore \text{SHM with } \omega_0^2 = k \left(\frac{1}{m_1} + \frac{1}{m_2}\right)$$

• This defines the reduced mass: $\mu = \left(\frac{1}{m_1} + \frac{1}{m_2}\right)^{-1}$

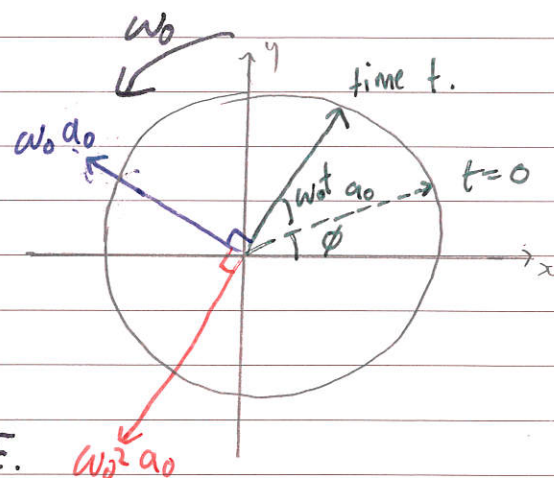
Phasor diagrams

• SHM can be visualised as rotation around a circle of radius a_0 .

• x , \dot{x} and \ddot{x} all rotate at ω_0 .

• We can use this to analyse the superposition of SHMs,

↳ must also be SHM because linear ODE.

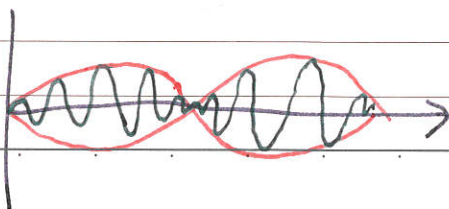
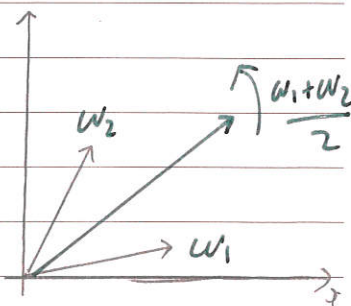


e.g. superposition of 2 frequencies to form beats

• The phase difference is $(\omega_2 - \omega_1)t$, so the frequency is $\omega_2 - \omega_1$.

• Alternatively:

$$x = a_0 (\cos \omega_1 t + \cos \omega_2 t) \\ \equiv \underbrace{2a_0 \cos \left(\frac{\omega_2 + \omega_1}{2} t\right)}_{\text{fast}} \underbrace{\cos \left(\frac{\omega_2 - \omega_1}{2} t\right)}_{\text{slow}}$$



Complex representation of SHM

- We can derive from the phasor diagram: $z = a_0 e^{i(\omega_0 t + \phi)} = A e^{i\omega_0 t}$
 - ↳ the real part of z undergoes SHM.
 - ↳ all of the previous formulae follow.
- This expression satisfies $\ddot{z} + \omega_0^2 z = 0$.
- The total energy can be written as: $E = \frac{1}{2} k |z|^2$

Damped Harmonic Motion

- Damping is modelled as a resistive force **proportional to velocity**
i.e. $m\ddot{x} = -kx - b\dot{x}$ for a spring.
- The general form of the damped harmonic motion eq is:

$$\ddot{x} + 2\gamma\dot{x} + \omega_0^2 x = 0$$
- For a spring, $\gamma = b/2m$ and $\omega_0^2 = k/m$ as before.
- Both γ and ω_0 have dimensions $1/\text{time}$, but with diff interpretations:
 - $T = 2\pi/\omega_0$ is the period
 - ~~$\tau = 1/\gamma$~~ $T = \frac{1}{2\gamma}$ is a decay time
- Substituting $x = A e^{-\rho t}$, the most general solution is:

$$x = A e^{(-\gamma - \sqrt{\gamma^2 - \omega_0^2})t} + B e^{(-\gamma + \sqrt{\gamma^2 - \omega_0^2})t}$$
 - ↳ the two constants fix the initial position and velocity.

Heavy damping $\gamma > \omega_0$

ρ is real ($\rho \equiv \gamma \pm \sqrt{\gamma^2 - \omega_0^2}$), so the solution is the sum of two exponentials.

Light damping $\gamma < \omega_0$

Because $\gamma < \omega_0$, $p = \gamma \pm i\sqrt{\omega_0^2 - \gamma^2} = \gamma \pm i\omega_d$

$$\therefore z = Ae^{-\gamma t} e^{i\sqrt{\omega_0^2 - \gamma^2} t}$$

with $A \equiv a_0 e^{i\phi}$

$$\therefore x(t) = \text{Re}(z) = a_0 e^{-\gamma t} \cos(\omega_d t + \phi)$$

The frequency of the oscillations does not change even though amplitude diminishes.

Critical damping $\gamma = \omega_0$

- Different solution in this case: $x = Ae^{-\gamma t} + Bt e^{-\gamma t}$
- Fastest decaying system: no osc, and minimal friction.

Comparing oscillators

- The **logarithmic decrement** measures how much the amplitude of a lightly damped oscillator drops per cycle

$$\frac{a_{n+1}}{a_n} = \frac{e^{-\gamma t_{n+1}}}{e^{-\gamma t_n}} = e^{-\gamma T}$$

$$\Rightarrow \Delta = \frac{2\pi\gamma}{\omega_d}$$

\hookrightarrow a good oscillator has small Δ .

- Alternatively, the **Quality factor** Q of an oscillator is the number of radians of osc for energy to fall by a factor of e .

$$Q = \frac{\omega_0}{2\gamma} \quad \omega_d \approx \omega_0 \text{ for good oscillators, so } \Delta \approx \frac{\pi}{Q}$$

Forced Oscillations

$$\ddot{x} + 2\gamma\dot{x} + \omega_0^2 x = f \cos \omega t.$$

- For low-freq response, we can ignore velocity and acc

$$\hookrightarrow x = \frac{f}{\omega_0^2} \cos \omega t$$

- For high freq response, we can ignore velocity and displacement

$$\hookrightarrow x = - \frac{f \cos \omega t}{\omega^2}$$

- At resonance, $\ddot{x} + \omega_0^2 x = 0$

$$\hookrightarrow x = \frac{f \sin(\omega_0 t)}{2\gamma\omega_0}$$

More generally: $\ddot{z} + 2\gamma\dot{z} + \omega_0^2 z = f e^{i\omega t}$

Solved by $z = A e^{i\omega t}$ with $A = \frac{f}{\omega_0^2 - \omega^2 + 2i\gamma\omega} = a_0 e^{i\phi}$.

a_0 and ϕ can be found using the standard methods.

Power and resonance

$$P_{av} = \langle Fv \rangle = \langle b \dot{x}^2 \rangle = \frac{1}{2} b \frac{f^2}{(\omega_0^2 - \omega^2)^2/\omega^2 + 4\gamma^2}$$

From this we can derive the **width at half power** $\Delta\omega$.

$$\omega_{hp} = \mp \gamma \pm \sqrt{\omega_0^2 + \gamma^2} \Rightarrow \Delta\omega = 2\gamma$$

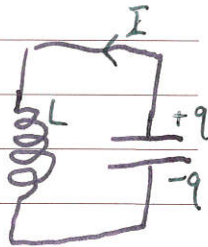
In terms of the quality factor:

$$\frac{\Delta\omega}{\omega_0} = \frac{1}{Q} \quad \text{i.e. high quality oscillators have a very narrow resonance peak.}$$

Electrical Oscillations

Consider a charged cap in a circuit with an inductor

- Current starts to flow, reducing q and thus reducing the voltage drop over both circuit elements
- Thus I is ~~negative~~, so current decreases but is still positive, so $I \uparrow$ and the cap discharges faster.
- When $q=0$, the cap begins to charge negatively, causing the current to decrease.
- Thus, the system oscillates.



By Kirchhoff's Voltage law: $-L\dot{I} - \frac{q}{C} = 0$

$$\Rightarrow \ddot{q} + \frac{1}{LC} q = 0$$

i.e. SHM with $\omega_0^2 = 1/LC$.

↳ cap provides 'restoring force'

↳ inductor provides inertia

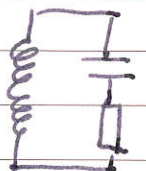
Alternatively, via cons energy:

$$E = \frac{1}{2C} q^2 + \frac{1}{2} L \dot{q}^2 \Rightarrow \text{SHM}$$

RLC circuits

A resistor acts as a damper because it dissipates energy

$$\dot{E} = \frac{1}{C} q \dot{q} + L \dot{q} \ddot{q} = -\dot{q}^2 R \Rightarrow \ddot{q} + \frac{R}{L} \dot{q} + \frac{1}{LC} q = 0$$



- This gives different solutions depending on the damping regime as before. For light damping:

$$q = q_0 e^{-\frac{R}{2L}t} \cos(\omega_d t + \phi), \text{ with } Q = \frac{1}{R} \sqrt{\frac{L}{C}}$$

Alternating current

- An AC power source produces voltage $V = V_0 \cos \omega t$
- The rms voltage is given by $V_{\text{rms}} = \sqrt{\langle V^2 \rangle}$

Resistor:

$$- I(t) = \frac{V_0}{R} \cos \omega t \quad P = IV = \frac{V_0^2}{R} \cos^2 \omega t$$

Capacitor

- $Q = CV = C V_0 \cos \omega t \Rightarrow I(t) = \omega (C V_0 \cos(\omega t + \pi/2))$
- Current oscillates $\frac{1}{4}$ cycle ahead of voltage
- $P = VI = -\frac{1}{2} \omega C V_0^2 \sin(2\omega t)$

Inductor

- $I = \frac{V_0 \cos \omega t}{L} \Rightarrow I(t) = \frac{V_0}{L\omega} \cos(\omega t - \pi/2)$
- I maxes when sign of voltage changes, i.e. $\frac{1}{4}$ cycle behind V .
- $P = \frac{1}{2} \frac{V_0^2}{L\omega} \sin(2\omega t)$.

- We can treat osc. current/voltage/charge as the real parts of complex quantities: $V = V_0 e^{i\omega t}$, $I = I_0 e^{i\omega t}$ with V_0, I_0 complex.

- We define **impedance** as the complex generalisation of resistance:

$$Z = \frac{V_0}{I_0}, \quad \text{with } |Z| = \frac{V_0}{I_0} \text{ and } \arg(Z) = -\phi.$$

- Resistor: $Z = \frac{V}{I} = \frac{V_0 e^{i\omega t}}{V_0 e^{i\omega t} / R} = R.$

- Z is real because V and I in phase.

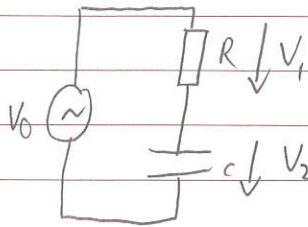
- Capacitor: $Z = \frac{V}{I} = \frac{V_0 e^{i\omega t}}{i\omega C V_0 e^{i\omega t}} = \frac{1}{i\omega C}$

- Inductor: $Z = \frac{V}{I} = \frac{V_0 e^{i\omega t}}{-i \frac{V_0}{L\omega} e^{i\omega t}} = i\omega L$

Kirchhoff's laws apply to AC circuits with complex numbers

- Impedances add in series/parallel just like with DC circuits

e.g. RC filter



Potential divider $\therefore \frac{V_2}{V_0} = \frac{1}{1 + i\omega RC}$

with $\left| \frac{V_2}{V_0} \right| = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 + \omega^2 R^2 C^2}}$ and $\arg\left(\frac{V_2}{V_0}\right) = -\tan^{-1}(\omega RC)$

Thus the voltage across the cap can be used to 'remove' ^{low} frequencies: low-pass filter.

Electrical resonance

$$\ddot{q} + \frac{R}{L} \dot{q} + \frac{1}{LC} q = \frac{V_0}{L} \cos \omega t$$

- Resonance when $\omega = \frac{1}{\sqrt{LC}}$

\rightarrow current ~~from~~ in circuit maximised