

Uncertainty Propagation in the Dynamics of a Nonlinear Random Bar

Americo Barbosa da Cunha Junior
Rubens Sampaio

Department of Mechanical Engineering
Pontifícia Universidade Católica do Rio de Janeiro
americo.cunhajr@gmail.com
rsampaio@puc-rio.br

DINAME 2013
February 17 - 22, 2013
Búzios, RJ, Brazil

Outline

- 1 Introduction
- 2 Deterministic Approach
- 3 Stochastic Approach
- 4 Numerical Experiments
- 5 Concluding Remarks

Oil Exploration: historical aspects

Modern oil exploration **began in Poland in 1853** with the drilling of the first commercial oil well.

Oil demand **has been increasing**, since beginning of 20th century, due to a combination of several factors:

- demand for fuel (automobiles and industrial devices)
- high energy power of an oil barrel
- relative low cost of oil production (compared to coal)
- wide range of oil by-products

Oil Exploration: economical aspects

Table: Distribution of energy supply by source for Brazil in 2010 and world in 2008.

Source	Brazil (%)	World (%)
Biomass	25.4	10.2
Coal	5.6	27.2
Hydraulic and Eletric Energy	14.7	2.3
Natural Gas	10.2	20.9
Oil and Oil by-products	38.6	32.8
Other	4.0	0.8
Uranium	1.5	5.8



Brazilian Energy Balance 2012: Year 2011.

Directional Drilling: opportunities and challenges

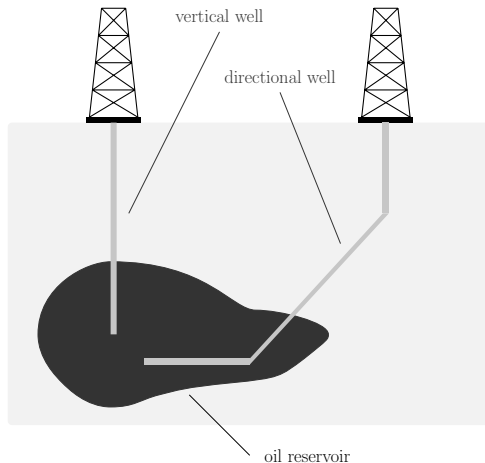


Figure: Schematic representation of two (onshore) oil wells. The left well configuration is vertical while the right one is directional.

Drillstring: an equipment for oil wells drilling

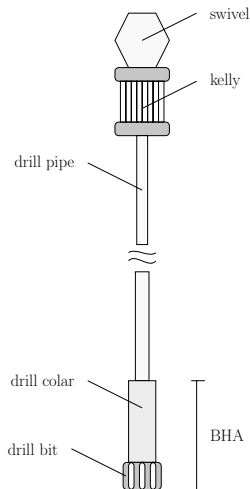
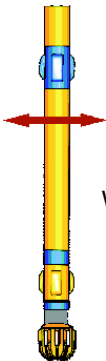


Figure: Schematic representation of a typical drillstring.

Drillstring Vibrations

Transversal



Whirl

Torsional



Stick-slip

Axial



Bit-bounce

Figure: Schematic representation of the three vibration mechanisms that act in a typical drillstring.

Research Objectives

This work is a first attempt to understand the **longitudinal dynamics** of a **horizontal drillstring**.

We intend to:

- Investigate the **nonlinear stochastic dynamics** of an elastic bar, attached to discrete elements.

Work Plan:

- Construct a **deterministic model** for the system;
- Construct a **stochastic model** for the system;
- Compute **uncertainty propagation** of the random parameters;
- Investigate the **influence of the lumped mass** on the system dynamical behavior.

Physical System: fixed-mass-spring bar

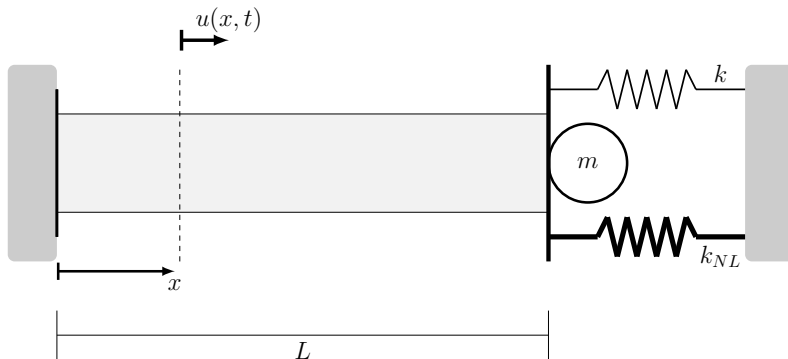


Figure: Sketch of a bar fixed at one and attached to two springs and a lumped mass on the other extreme, i.e. a **fixed-mass-spring bar**.

Strong Formulation

Find $u : [0, L] \times [0, T] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ that satisfies the **equation of motion**

$$\rho A \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial t^2} + c \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} = \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left(EA \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} \right) + f(x, t),$$

for all $(x, t) \in (0, L) \times (0, T)$, as well as the **boundary conditions**

$$u(0, t) = 0 \text{ and } EA \frac{\partial u}{\partial x}(L, t) = -ku(L, t) - k_{NL} (u(L, t))^3 - m \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial t^2}(L, t),$$

for all $t \in [0, T]$, and the **initial conditions**

$$u(x, 0) = u_0(x) \text{ and } \frac{\partial u}{\partial t}(x, 0) = v_0(x).$$

for all $x \in [0, L]$.

Variational Formulation: spaces of functions

Let

$$\mathcal{U}_t = \left\{ u(\cdot, t) : [0, L] \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \mid \int_0^L \left(\frac{\partial u}{\partial x}(\cdot, t) \right)^2 dx < \infty, \quad u(0, t) = 0 \right\},$$

be the class of (time dependent) **basis functions**, and

$$\mathcal{W} = \left\{ w : [0, L] \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \mid \int_0^L \left(\frac{dw}{dx} \right)^2 dx < \infty, \quad w(0) = 0 \right\},$$

be the class of **weight functions**.

Variational Formulation: weak problem

Find $u \in \mathcal{U}_t$ that satisfies the **weak equation of motion**

$$\mathcal{M}(\ddot{u}, w) + \mathcal{C}(\dot{u}, w) + \mathcal{K}(u, w) = \mathcal{F}(w) + \mathcal{F}_{NL}(u, w),$$

for all $w \in \mathcal{W}$, as well as the **weak form of initial conditions**

$$\widetilde{\mathcal{M}}(u(\cdot, 0), w) = \widetilde{\mathcal{M}}(u_0, w),$$

and

$$\widetilde{\mathcal{M}}(\dot{u}(\cdot, 0), w) = \widetilde{\mathcal{M}}(v_0, w).$$

Variational Formulation: system operators

- \mathcal{M} is the **mass operator**

$$\mathcal{M}(\ddot{u}, w) = \int_0^L \rho A \ddot{u}(x, t) w(x) dx + m \ddot{u}(L, t) w(L)$$

- \mathcal{C} is the **damping operator**

$$\mathcal{C}(\dot{u}, w) = \int_0^L c \dot{u}(x, t) w(x) dx$$

- \mathcal{K} is the **stiffness operator**

$$\mathcal{K}(u, w) = \int_0^L E A u'(x, t) w'(x) dx + k u(L, t) w(L)$$

- $\widetilde{\mathcal{M}}$ is the **associated mass operator**

$$\widetilde{\mathcal{M}}(u, w) = \int_0^L \rho A u(x, t) w(x) dx$$

Variational Formulation: forcing operators

- \mathcal{F} is the external force operator

$$\mathcal{F}(w) = \int_0^L f(x, t) w(x) dx$$

- \mathcal{F}_{NL} is the nonlinear force operator

$$\mathcal{F}_{NL}(u, w) = -k_{NL} (u(L, t))^3 w(L)$$

Linear Conservative Dynamics: harmonic solution

Consider the **associated homogeneous equation** to the variational problem above,

$$\mathcal{M}(\ddot{u}, w) + \mathcal{K}(u, w) = 0,$$

and suppose it has a solution of the form

$$u(x, t) = e^{i\nu t} \phi(x),$$

where ν is a natural frequency, ϕ is the associated mode and $i = \sqrt{-1}$.

Linear Conservative Dynamics: an eigenvalue problem

Due to the linearity of the operators \mathcal{M} and \mathcal{K} , one gets

$$-\nu^2 \mathcal{M}(\phi, w) + \mathcal{K}(\phi, w) = 0,$$

a **generalized eigenvalue problem**, with countable number of solutions.

Note that, for a fixed instant t , the $\{\phi_n\}_{n=1}^{+\infty}$ **span the space of functions** which contains the solution of the variational problem.

Linear Conservative Dynamics: orthogonality relations

It is possible to show that, a pair (ν_n^2, ϕ_n) and (ν_m^2, ϕ_m) with $\nu_m \neq \nu_n$, satisfy the following **relations of orthogonality**

$$\mathcal{M}(\phi_n, \phi_m) = 0,$$

and

$$\mathcal{K}(\phi_n, \phi_m) = 0.$$

These make then **good choices for basis function** when a weighted residual procedure to approximate the nonlinear weak equation solution.

Fixed-Mass-Spring Bar: orthogonal modes

The fixed-mass-spring bar has **natural frequencies** and **orthogonal modes** given by

$$\nu_n = \lambda_n \frac{\bar{c}}{L} \quad \text{and} \quad \phi_n(x) = \sin \left(\lambda_n \frac{x}{L} \right),$$

where $\bar{c} = \sqrt{E/\rho}$ and the λ_n are the solutions of

$$\cot(\lambda_n) + \left(\frac{kL}{AE} \right) \frac{1}{\lambda_n} - \left(\frac{m}{\rho AL} \right) \lambda_n = 0,$$

for $n = 1, \dots, \infty$.

Fixed-Mass-Spring Bar: modes examples

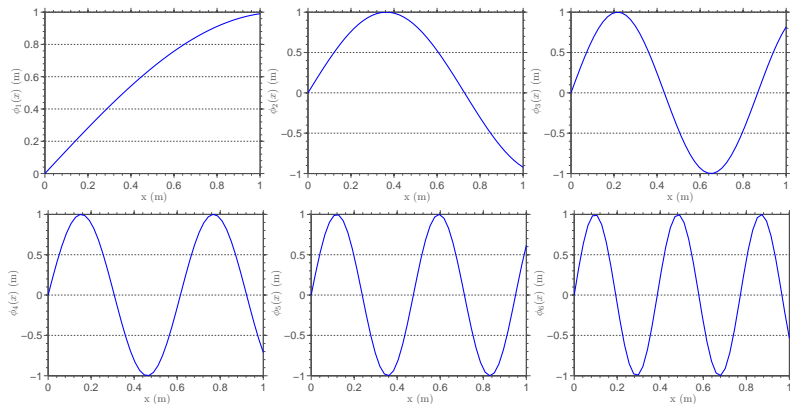


Figure: The first six orthogonal modes of a fixed-mass-spring bar.

Model Equation Discretization

The **Galerkin method** is used to approximate the solution of the variational problem

$$u(x, t) \approx \sum_{n=1}^N u_n(t) \phi_n(x),$$

where ϕ_n are orthogonal modes and u_n are time-dependent functions.

The result is a $N \times N$ set of **nonlinear ordinary differential equations**

$$[M] \ddot{\mathbf{u}}(t) + [C] \dot{\mathbf{u}}(t) + [K] \mathbf{u}(t) = \mathbf{f}(t) + \mathbf{f}_{NL}(\mathbf{u}(t)),$$

supplemented by a pair of initial conditions

$$\mathbf{u}(0) = \mathbf{u}_0 \quad \text{and} \quad \dot{\mathbf{u}}(0) = \mathbf{v}_0.$$

Nonlinear ODE System Solution

An approximation for the solution of the initial value problem (IVP) above is computed by **Newmark method**,

$$\mathbf{v}_{n+1} = \mathbf{v}_n + (1 - \gamma)\Delta t \mathbf{a}_n + \gamma\Delta t \mathbf{a}_{n+1},$$

$$\mathbf{d}_{n+1} = \mathbf{d}_n + \Delta t \mathbf{v}_n + \left(\frac{1}{2} - \beta\right) \Delta t^2 \mathbf{a}_n + \beta \Delta t^2 \mathbf{a}_{n+1}.$$

where \mathbf{d}_n , \mathbf{v}_n and \mathbf{a}_n are approximations to $\mathbf{u}(t_n)$, $\dot{\mathbf{u}}(t_n)$ and $\ddot{\mathbf{u}}(t_n)$.

The result is a **nonlinear system of algebraic equations** with unknowns \mathbf{d}_n , \mathbf{v}_n and \mathbf{a}_n , solved by **Newton-Rapson method**.

Stochastic Parameters Modeling

Consider a probability space $(\Omega, \mathbb{A}, \mathbb{P})$.

The external force is modeled as the **random field**

$$F : \Omega \times [0, L] \times [0, T] \rightarrow \mathbb{R},$$

such that

$$F(\omega, x, t) = \sigma \sin \left(\lambda_1 \frac{x}{L} \right) N(\omega, t),$$

where the $N(\omega, t)$ is a normalized **Gaussian white noise**.

The elastic modulus is modeled as a **random variable**

$$E : \Omega \rightarrow (0, \infty).$$

Stochastic Initial–Boundary Value Problem

Therefore, the displacement of the bar is a **random field**

$$U : \Omega \times [0, L] \times [0, T] \rightarrow \mathbb{R},$$

such that

$$\rho A \frac{\partial^2 U}{\partial t^2} + c \frac{\partial U}{\partial t} = \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left(EA \frac{\partial U}{\partial x} \right) + F(\omega, x, t).$$

This problem has boundary and initial conditions similar to those defined in deterministic case, by changing u for U only.

Random External Force

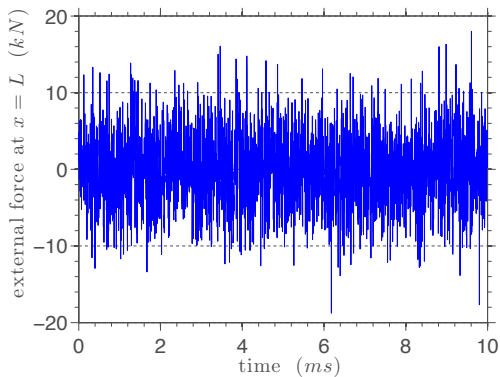


Figure: This figure illustrates a Gaussian white noise realization.

Random Variable Distribution: optimization problem

The **maximum entropy principle** is used to obtain the probability distribution of E .

It consists in choosing a **probability density function (PDF)**, p_E , which **maximizes the entropy**

$$\mathbb{S}(p_E) = - \int_0^{\infty} p_E(\xi) \ln(p_E(\xi)) d\xi,$$

subjected to the constraints:

- $\int_0^{\infty} p_E(\xi) d\xi = 1,$
- $\mathbb{E}[E] = \mu_E,$
- $\mathbb{E}[E^2] = \sigma_E^2 + \mu_E^2$
- $\mathbb{E}[\ln(E)] < \infty.$

Random Variable Distribution: maximum entropy PDF

The **maximum entropy PDF** for the optimization problem above is

$$p_E(\xi) = \mathbb{1}_{(0,\infty)} \frac{1}{\mu_E} \left(\frac{1}{\delta_E^2} \right)^{\left(\frac{1}{\delta_E^2} \right)} \frac{1}{\Gamma(1/\delta_E^2)} \left(\frac{\xi}{\mu_E} \right)^{\left(\frac{1}{\delta_E^2} - 1 \right)} \exp \left(-\frac{\xi}{\delta_E^2 \mu_E} \right),$$

which corresponds to the **gamma distribution**.

Random Variable Distribution: gamma PDF

An illustration for the PDF of the random variable E , with mean $\mu_E = 203 \text{ GPa}$ and dispersion factor $\delta_E = 10\%$, is presented below.

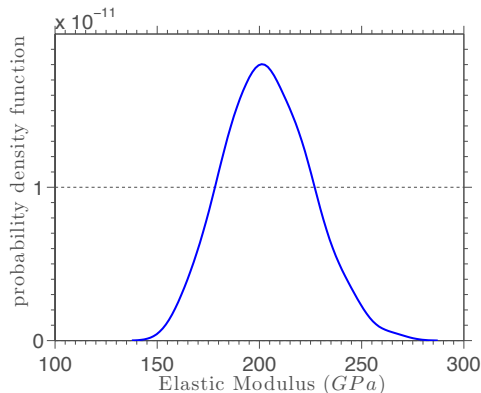


Figure: This figure illustrates the elastic modulus PDF.

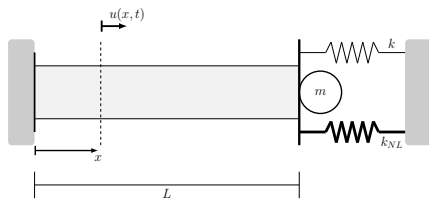
Monte Carlo Method: stochastic solver

The uncertainty propagation is computed by **Monte Carlo method**:

- An ensemble of **4096 realizations** is used to sample the random space Ω ;
- The realizations of E and F are generated by (Mersenne twister) **pseudorandom number generator** of Matlab;

Then, statistics of the random field U , such as **mean value**, **confidence intervals** and **PDFs** are obtained.

Simulation Parameters



Initial Conditions:

- $u_0(x) = \alpha_1 \sin\left(\lambda_3 \frac{x}{L}\right) + \alpha_2 x$
- $v_0(x) = 0$

Parametric Study:

- $\frac{m}{\rho AL} = 0.1, 1, 10, \text{ and } 50$

Deterministic Parameters:

- $\rho = 7900 \text{ kg/m}^3$
- $L = 1 \text{ m}$
- $A = 625\pi \text{ mm}^2$
- $c = 0.1 \text{ kNs/m}$
- $k = 650 \text{ N/m}$
- $k_{NL} = 650 \times 10^{13} \text{ N/m}^3$
- $\sigma = 5 \text{ kN/m}$
- $\alpha_1 = 0.1 \text{ mm}$
- $\alpha_2 = 0.5 \times 10^{-3}$

Study of Galerkin Approximation Convergence

Table: Residual (difference between two successive approximations) as function of the number of modes.

N	Residual	
	$\ \cdot\ _{L_2}$	$\ \cdot\ _{H^1}$
5	$\sim 4.1 \times 10^{-5}$	$\sim 1.1 \times 10^{-4}$
10	$\sim 6.8 \times 10^{-6}$	$\sim 8.2 \times 10^{-5}$
15	$\sim 2.2 \times 10^{-6}$	$\sim 8.2 \times 10^{-5}$
20	$\sim 2.2 \times 10^{-6}$	$\sim 1.3 \times 10^{-4}$
25	$\sim 1.8 \times 10^{-6}$	$\sim 1.4 \times 10^{-4}$
30	$\sim 1.0 \times 10^{-6}$	$\sim 9.1 \times 10^{-5}$

An approximation with **10 modes** incurs an residual of $\mathcal{O}(10^{-5})$ in L_2 norm, and $\mathcal{O}(10^{-4})$ in H^1 norm,

Mean Value and Interval of Confidence for $U(\cdot, L, \cdot)$

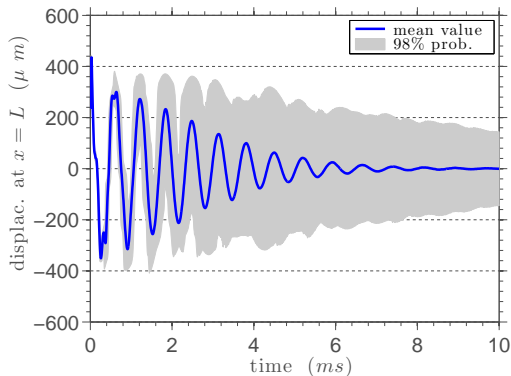


Figure: This figure illustrates the mean value (blue line) and an interval of confidence (grey shadow) for the random process $U(\cdot, L, \cdot)$, with $\frac{m}{\rho AL} = 0.1$.

Mean Value and Interval of Confidence for $U(\cdot, L, \cdot)$

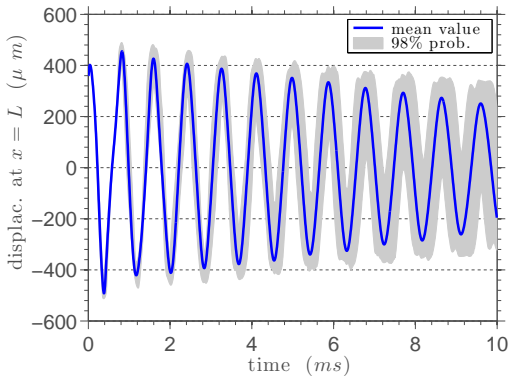


Figure: This figure illustrates the mean value (blue line) and an interval of confidence (grey shadow) for the random process $U(\cdot, L, \cdot)$, with $\frac{m}{\rho AL} = 1$.

Mean Value and Interval of Confidence for $U(\cdot, L, \cdot)$

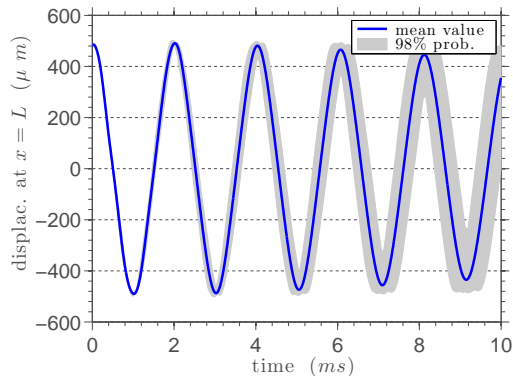


Figure: This figure illustrates the mean value (blue line) and an interval of confidence (grey shadow) for the random process $U(\cdot, L, \cdot)$, with $\frac{m}{\rho AL} = 10$.

Mean Value and Interval of Confidence for $U(\cdot, L, \cdot)$

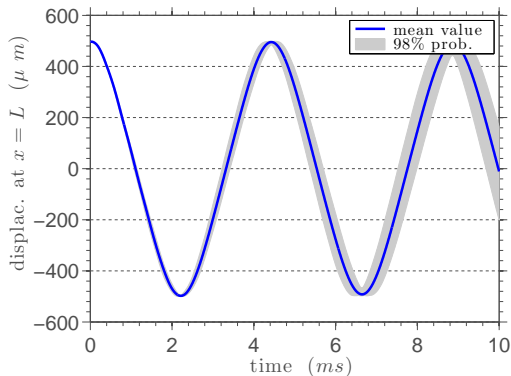
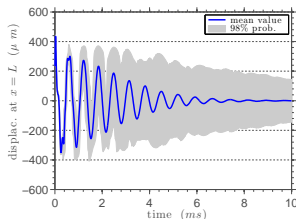
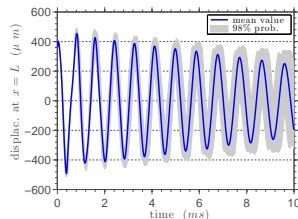


Figure: This figure illustrates the mean value (blue line) and an interval of confidence (grey shadow) for the random process $U(\cdot, L, \cdot)$, with $\frac{m}{\rho AL} = 50$.

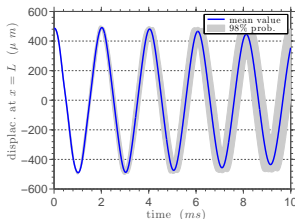
Mean Value and Interval of Confidence for $U(\cdot, L, \cdot)$



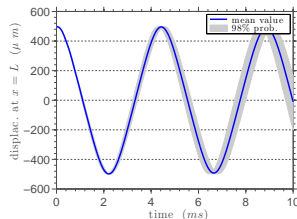
(a) $\frac{m}{\rho AL} = 0.1$



(b) $\frac{m}{\rho AL} = 1$



(c) $\frac{m}{\rho AL} = 10$



(d) $\frac{m}{\rho AL} = 50$

Mean Value and Interval of Confidence for $\dot{U}(\cdot, L, \cdot)$

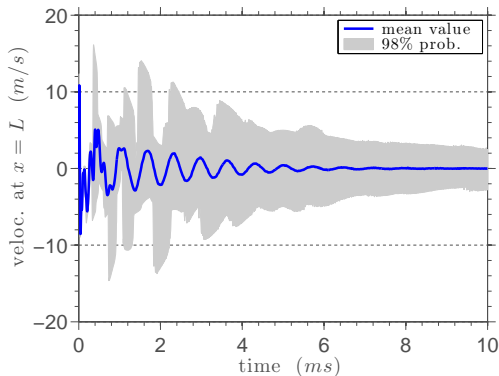


Figure: This figure illustrates the mean value (blue line) and an interval of confidence (grey shadow) for the random process $\dot{U}(\cdot, L, \cdot)$, with $\frac{m}{\rho AL} = 0.1$.

Mean Value and Interval of Confidence for $\dot{U}(\cdot, L, \cdot)$

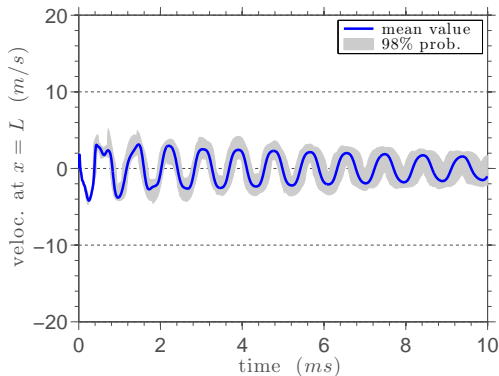


Figure: This figure illustrates the mean value (blue line) and an interval of confidence (grey shadow) for the random process $\dot{U}(\cdot, L, \cdot)$, with $\frac{m}{\rho AL} = 1$.

Mean Value and Interval of Confidence for $\dot{U}(\cdot, L, \cdot)$

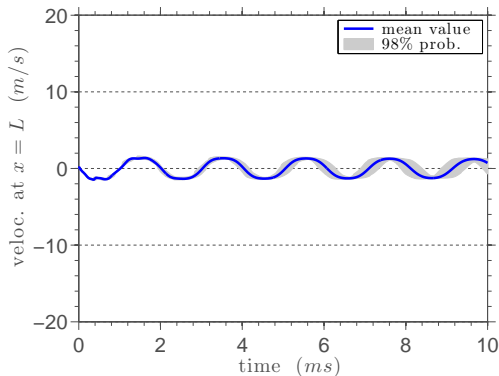


Figure: This figure illustrates the mean value (blue line) and an interval of confidence (grey shadow) for the random process $\dot{U}(\cdot, L, \cdot)$, with $\frac{m}{\rho AL} = 10$.

Mean Value and Interval of Confidence for $\dot{U}(\cdot, L, \cdot)$

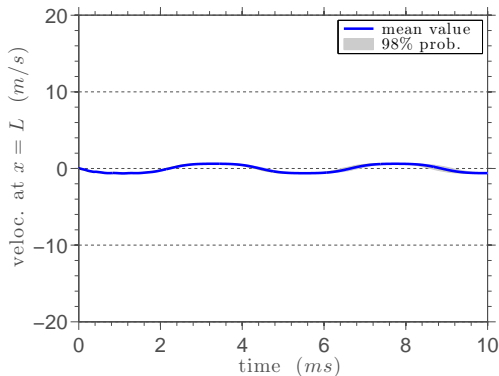
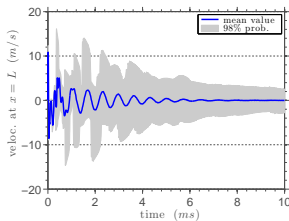
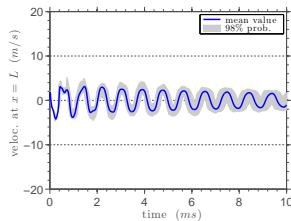


Figure: This figure illustrates the mean value (blue line) and an interval of confidence (grey shadow) for the random process $\dot{U}(\cdot, L, \cdot)$, with $\frac{m}{\rho AL} = 50$.

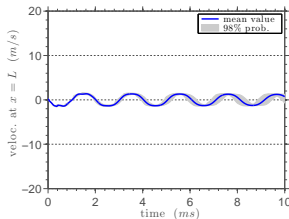
Mean Value and Interval of Confidence for $\dot{U}(\cdot, L, \cdot)$



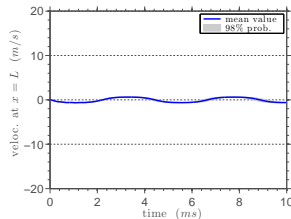
(a) $\frac{m}{\rho AL} = 0.1$



(b) $\frac{m}{\rho AL} = 1$



(c) $\frac{m}{\rho AL} = 10$



(d) $\frac{m}{\rho AL} = 50$

Mean Phase Space of Fixed-Mass-Spring Bar at $x = L$

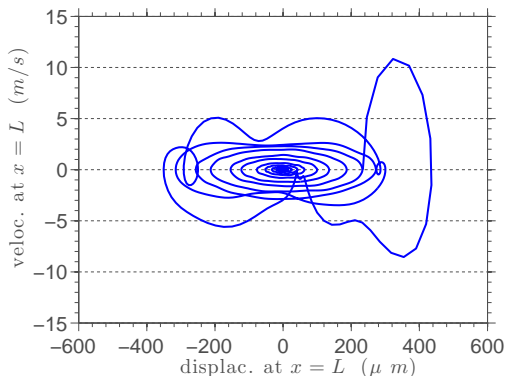


Figure: This figure illustrates the mean phase space of fixed-mass-spring bar at $x = L$, with $\frac{m}{\rho AL} = 0.1$.

Mean Phase Space of Fixed-Mass-Spring Bar at $x = L$

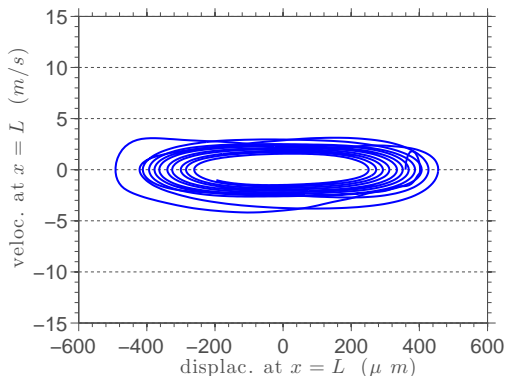


Figure: This figure illustrates the mean phase space of fixed-mass-spring bar at $x = L$, with $\frac{m}{\rho AL} = 1$.

Mean Phase Space of Fixed-Mass-Spring Bar at $x = L$

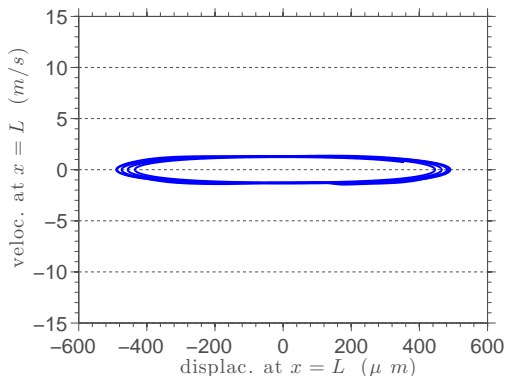


Figure: This figure illustrates the mean phase space of fixed-mass-spring bar at $x = L$, with $\frac{m}{\rho AL} = 10$.

Mean Phase Space of Fixed-Mass-Spring Bar at $x = L$

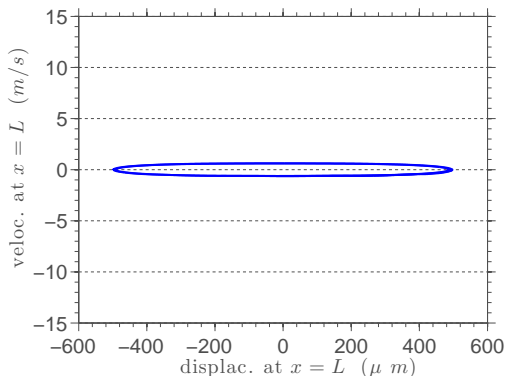
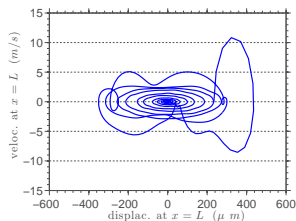
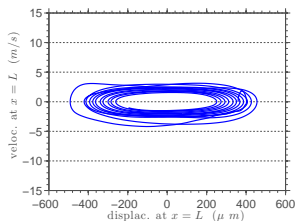


Figure: This figure illustrates the mean phase space of fixed-mass-spring bar at $x = L$, with $\frac{m}{\rho AL} = 50$.

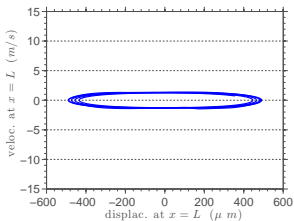
Mean Phase Space of Fixed-Mass-Spring Bar at $x = L$



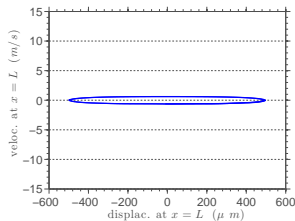
(a) $\frac{m}{\rho AL} = 0.1$



(b) $\frac{m}{\rho AL} = 1$



(c) $\frac{m}{\rho AL} = 10$



(d) $\frac{m}{\rho AL} = 50$

Spectral Density of $\dot{U}(\cdot, L, \cdot)$

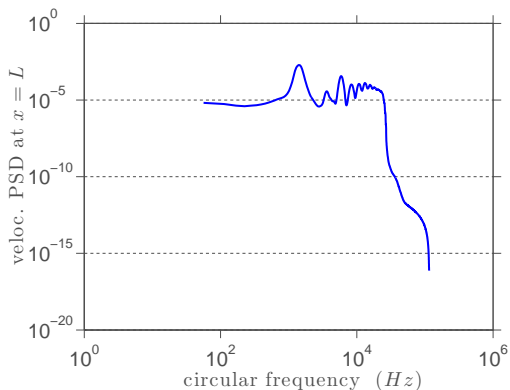


Figure: This figure illustrates the power spectral density for the random process $\dot{U}(\cdot, L, \cdot)$, with $\frac{m}{\rho AL} = 0.1$.

Spectral Density of $\dot{U}(\cdot, L, \cdot)$

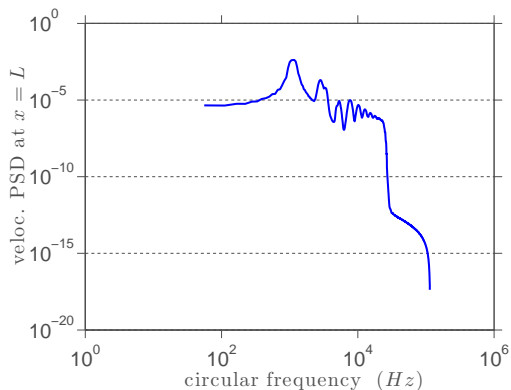


Figure: This figure illustrates the power spectral density for the random process $\dot{U}(\cdot, L, \cdot)$, with $\frac{m}{\rho AL} = 1$.

Spectral Density of $\dot{U}(\cdot, L, \cdot)$

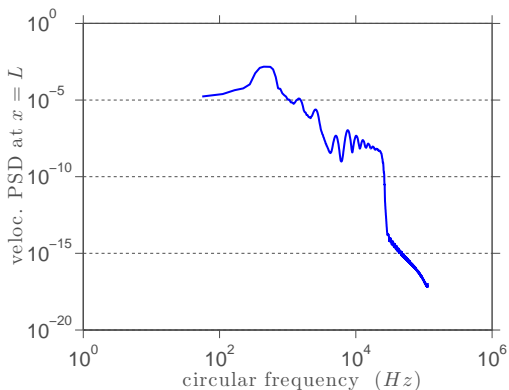


Figure: This figure illustrates the power spectral density for the random process $\dot{U}(\cdot, L, \cdot)$, with $\frac{m}{\rho AL} = 10$.

Spectral Density of $\dot{U}(\cdot, L, \cdot)$

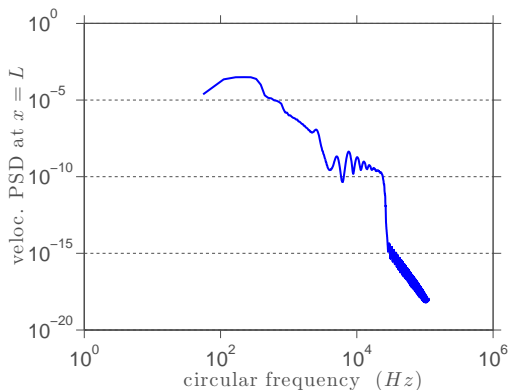
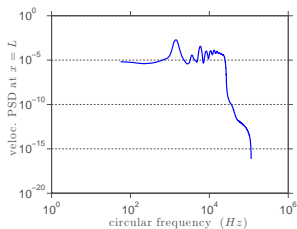
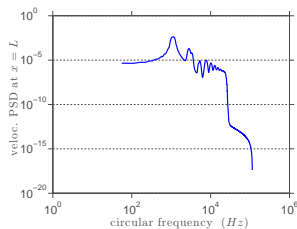


Figure: This figure illustrates the power spectral density for the random process $\dot{U}(\cdot, L, \cdot)$, with $\frac{m}{\rho AL} = 50$.

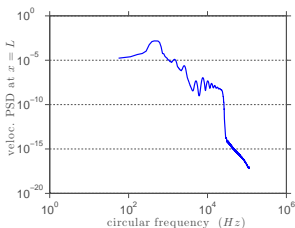
Spectral Density of $\dot{U}(\cdot, L, \cdot)$



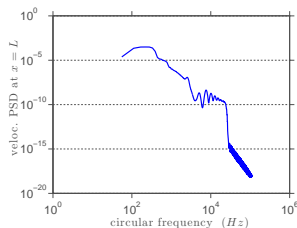
(a) $\frac{m}{\rho AL} = 0.1$



(b) $\frac{m}{\rho AL} = 1$



(c) $\frac{m}{\rho AL} = 10$



(d) $\frac{m}{\rho AL} = 50$

Probability Density Function of $U(\cdot, L, T)$

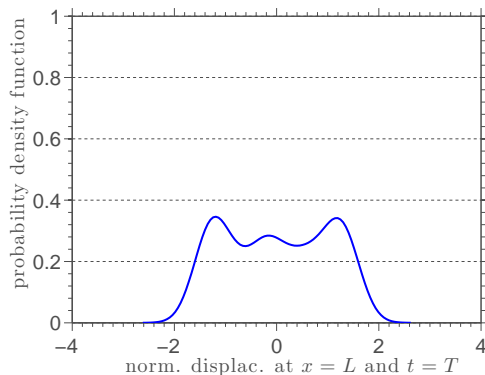


Figure: This figure illustrates an estimation to the PDF of the (normalized) random variable $U(\cdot, L, T)$, with $\frac{m}{\rho AL} = 0.1$.

Probability Density Function of $U(\cdot, L, T)$

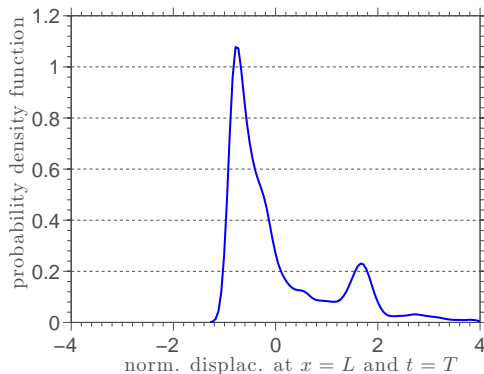


Figure: This figure illustrates an estimation to the PDF of the (normalized) random variable $U(\cdot, L, T)$, with $\frac{m}{\rho AL} = 1$.

Probability Density Function of $U(\cdot, L, T)$

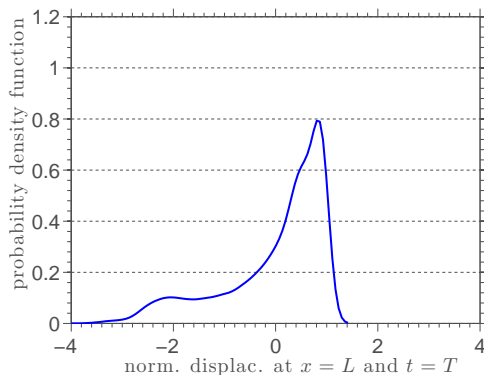


Figure: This figure illustrates an estimation to the PDF of the (normalized) random variable $U(\cdot, L, T)$, with $\frac{m}{\rho AL} = 10$.

Probability Density Function of $U(\cdot, L, T)$

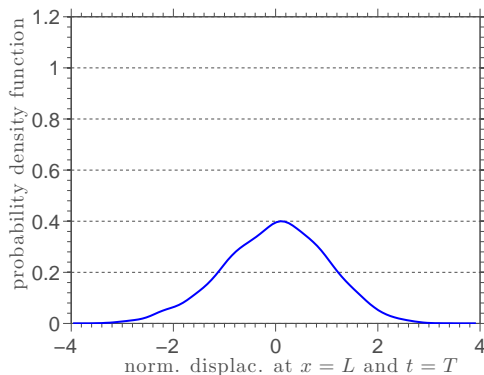
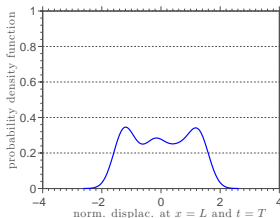
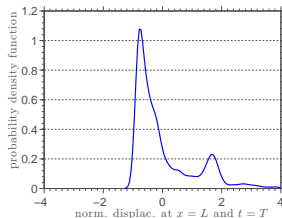


Figure: This figure illustrates an estimation to the PDF of the (normalized) random variable $U(\cdot, L, T)$, with $\frac{m}{\rho AL} = 50$.

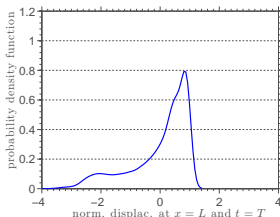
Probability Density Function of $U(\cdot, L, T)$



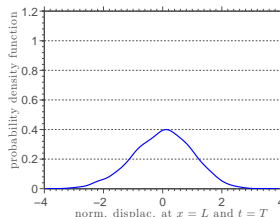
$$(a) \frac{m}{\rho AL} = 0.1$$



$$(b) \frac{m}{\rho AL} = 1$$



$$(c) \frac{m}{\rho AL} = 10$$



$$(d) \frac{m}{\rho AL} = 50$$

Probability Density Function of $\dot{U}(\cdot, L, T)$

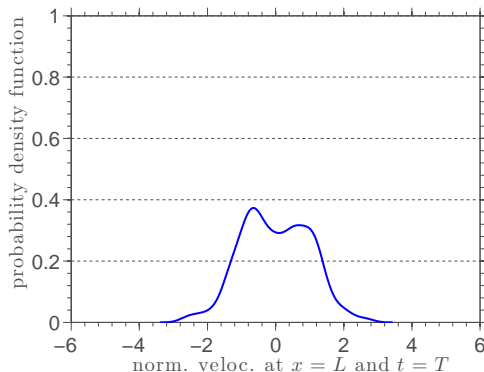


Figure: This figure illustrates an estimation to the PDF of the (normalized) random variable $\dot{U}(\cdot, L, T)$, with $\frac{m}{\rho AL} = 0.1$.

Probability Density Function of $\dot{U}(\cdot, L, T)$

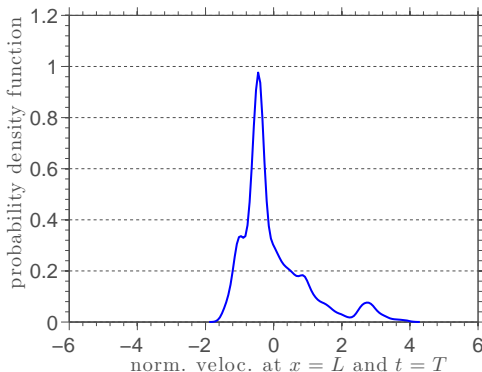


Figure: This figure illustrates an estimation to the PDF of the (normalized) random variable $\dot{U}(\cdot, L, T)$, with $\frac{m}{\rho AL} = 1$.

Probability Density Function of $\dot{U}(\cdot, L, T)$

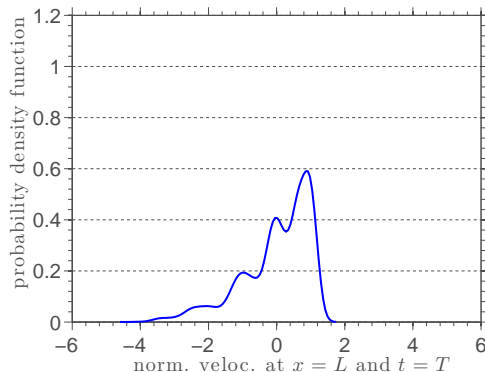


Figure: This figure illustrates an estimation to the PDF of the (normalized) random variable $\dot{U}(\cdot, L, T)$, with $\frac{m}{\rho AL} = 10$.

Probability Density Function of $\dot{U}(\cdot, L, T)$

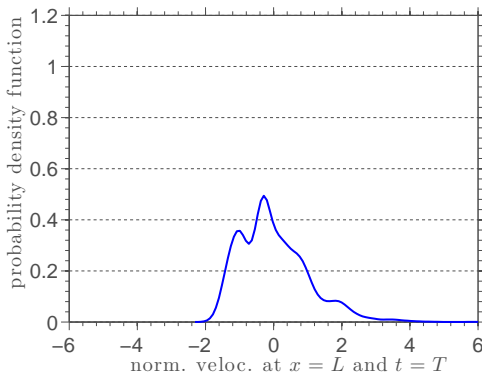
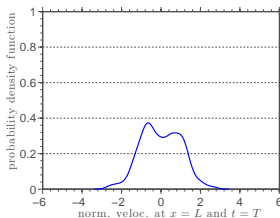
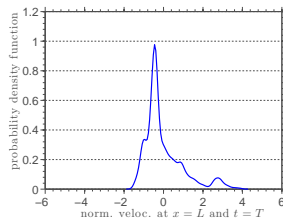


Figure: This figure illustrates an estimation to the PDF of the (normalized) random variable $\dot{U}(\cdot, L, T)$, with $\frac{m}{\rho AL} = 50$.

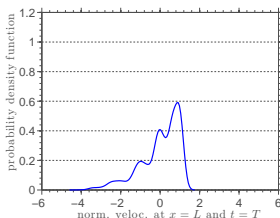
Probability Density Function of $\dot{U}(\cdot, L, T)$



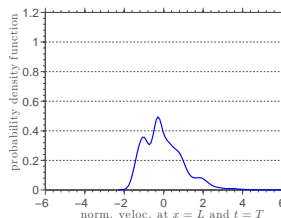
(a) $\frac{m}{\rho AL} = 0.1$



(b) $\frac{m}{\rho AL} = 1$



(c) $\frac{m}{\rho AL} = 10$



(d) $\frac{m}{\rho AL} = 50$

Final Remarks





- The system dynamics is altered when lumped mass changes;
- For large values of discrete–continuous mass ratio the system behaves like a mass-spring system;
- Irregular distribution of energy injected by random external force, due to the nonlinearity;
- Further analysis are necessary to better understand the nonlinear stochastic dynamics of this bar.

Acknowledgments

The authors are grateful to the financial support given by:

- CNPq
- CAPES
- FAPERJ

References

-  H. Brezis, **Functional Analysis, Sobolev Spaces and Partial Differential Equations**. New York: Springer, 2010.
-  T. J. R. Hughes, **The Finite Element Method**. New York: Dover Publications, 2000.
-  R. W. Shonkwiler and F. Mendivil, **Explorations in Monte Carlo Methods**. New York: Springer, 2009.
-  C. Soize, A nonparametric model of random uncertainties for reduced matrix models in structural dynamics. **Probabilistic Engineering Mechanics**, Vol. 15 pp. 277 – 294, 2000.