

# On Spring-Mass System Simulation

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## Abstract

This paper details a Python-based model of a spring-mass system with friction. Through the use of quadratic equations, we investigate the damped harmonic motion of the system, illuminating the cumulative effect of friction on locations and velocities. Dynamic graphs show the outcomes, making the system's behaviour easy to understand and interesting to look at. To further our knowledge of energy conservation and damping effects in oscillatory systems, this work combines theoretical mechanics with computational methods.

An further demonstration of the spring-mass system's behaviour was generated via the use of a simulation programme known as Manim. You can check results here.

- <https://youtu.be/RgjisvuKB4A>
- <https://youtu.be/PuFPSKJDIVg>
- <https://youtu.be/LHb4WntRk3w>
- <https://youtu.be/7UzmPqWWYUg>
- <https://youtu.be/Up1AWDpUsnc>
- <https://youtu.be/DW0ILGI25X0>

**Note.** Code formatting is in accordance with PEP 8 - Style Guide for Python Code; <https://peps.python.org/pep-0008/> requirements. Guidelines for Python code organisation were drafted by Guido van Rossum, Barry Warsaw, and Alyssa Coghlan and are outlined in these guidelines. Following the guidelines laid down by *PEP 8*, the code is now structured in this format.

# Contents

# Listings

# List of Algorithms

# List of Figures

# List of Tables

# Chapter 1

## Introduction

### 1.1 Background

To demonstrate harmonic motion in which the restoring force is directly proportionate to displacement, spring-mass systems serve as a foundational example in classical mechanics. An investigation of a frictional rod with a spring-mass system is carried out in this project. Damping effects are included to bring the oscillation to a gradual halt. We get the equations that characterise the locations and velocities of the moving mass block by using the laws of energy conservation.

### 1.2 Objective

A Python program simulating and visualising the friction-induced motion of a spring-mass system needs to be developed. During the first cycle, the program will compute the block's locations as it moves, create a graph showing this movement, and find the velocity profile. This study combines computational methods with theoretical mechanics to examine energy conservation in dynamical systems in depth and to demonstrate the effects of friction on oscillatory systems.



## Chapter 2

# Problem Statement

### 2.1 Overview

Consider a spring-mass system where a mass  $m$  is attached to a spring with spring constant  $k$ , sliding on a frictional rod with a coefficient of friction  $\mu$ . Initially, the system is at rest, with the spring unstretched. The mass is pulled to extend the spring by a distance  $x_0$  and then released, initiating harmonic motion influenced by the damping effect of friction. The objective is to model this dynamic system using Python, calculate the positions and velocities at various stages, and visualize the movement over multiple cycles.

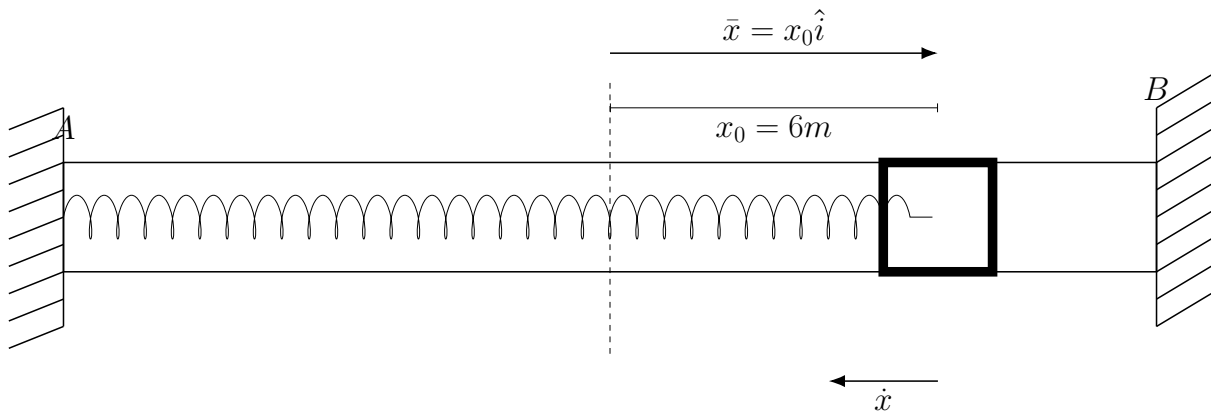


Figure 2.1: Illustration of the problem.

### 2.2 Challenges

The primary challenges involve solving the differential equations governing the system's motion, accounting for energy dissipation due to friction, and ensuring accurate numerical solutions for the positions and velocities. Additionally, graphical representation of the motion and velocity profiles requires precise plotting and interpretation of the results.

# Chapter 3

## Methodology

### 3.1 Approach

Consider a spring-mass system with mass  $m$ , spring constant  $k$ , gravitational acceleration  $g$ , and coefficient of friction  $\mu$ . Let the initial displacement be  $x_0$ , and the total number of cycles  $N_{\text{cyc}}$ .

Let  $x(t)$  represent the position of the mass  $m$  at time  $t$ . Initially,  $x(0) = x_0$  and  $\dot{x}(0) = 0$ . The forces acting on the mass include the restoring force of the spring,  $F_s = -kx$ , and the frictional force,  $F_f = -\mu mg \text{sgn}(\dot{x})$ .

Using the conservation of energy, analyze the system from position  $x_0$  to  $x_1$ . The initial mechanical energy is purely potential:

$$E_{\text{initial}} = \frac{1}{2}kx_0^2.$$

At position  $x_1$ , the energy comprises potential energy and the work done against friction:

$$\frac{1}{2}kx_0^2 = \frac{1}{2}kx_1^2 + \mu mg(x_0 + x_1).$$

Rearranging, obtain the quadratic equation:

$$\frac{1}{2}kx_1^2 + \mu mgx_1 + \mu mgx_0 - \frac{1}{2}kx_0^2 = 0.$$

Let  $A = \frac{1}{2}k$ ,  $B = \mu mg$ , and  $C_0 = \mu mgx_0 - \frac{1}{2}kx_0^2$ . The equation becomes:

$$Ax_1^2 + Bx_1 + C_0 = 0.$$

Solving for  $x_1$ :

$$x_1 = \frac{-B \pm \sqrt{B^2 - 4AC_0}}{2A}.$$

Select the physically meaningful root where  $|x_1| < |x_0|$ .

Next, for the motion from  $x_1$  to  $x_2$ , the analysis is similar. The energy equation is:

$$\frac{1}{2}kx_1^2 = \frac{1}{2}kx_2^2 + \mu mg(x_1 + x_2).$$

Rearranging, we have:

$$\frac{1}{2}kx_2^2 + \mu mgx_2 + \mu mgx_1 - \frac{1}{2}kx_1^2 = 0.$$

Let  $C_1 = \mu mgx_1 - \frac{1}{2}kx_1^2$ . The equation becomes:

$$Ax_2^2 + Bx_2 + C_1 = 0.$$

Solving for  $x_2$ :

$$x_2 = \frac{-B \pm \sqrt{B^2 - 4AC_1}}{2A}.$$

Select the root  $|x_2| < |x_1|$ .

For the velocity profile, the energy conservation at any position  $x$  is:

$$\frac{1}{2}kx_0^2 - \mu mgx = \frac{1}{2}k(x_0 - x)^2 + \frac{1}{2}mv^2.$$

Rearranging for  $v$ :

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{2}kx_0^2 - \mu mgx &= \frac{1}{2}kx_0^2 - kx_0x + \frac{1}{2}kx^2 + \frac{1}{2}mv^2, \\ \Rightarrow \frac{-kx^2 + 2(kx_0 - \mu mg)x}{m} &= v^2, \\ v &= \sqrt{\frac{-kx^2 + 2(kx_0 - \mu mg)x}{m}}. \end{aligned}$$

Given constants:

$$m = 30 \text{ kg}, \quad k = 50 \text{ N/m}, \quad g = 9.81 \text{ m/s}^2, \quad \mu = 0.05, \quad x_0 = 6 \text{ m}.$$

Total number of cycles:  $N_{\text{cyc}} = 5$ .

At each step of the motion, use the resulting equations to determine the location and velocity. Make the velocity profile by finding several points  $x$  and evaluating the equation for  $v$ .

If you plot the locations and velocities as functions of time, you can see the motion spanning numerous cycles. The exact results and graphs will show how the spring-mass system behaves when friction is present, with damped harmonic motion and, finally, a stop in motion as a result of dissipative forces.

## 3.2 Design

Let  $m = 30 \text{ kg}$ ,  $k = 50 \text{ N/m}$ ,  $g = 9.81 \text{ m/s}^2$ ,  $\mu = 0.05$ ,  $x_0 = 6 \text{ m}$ , and  $N_{\text{cyc}} = 5$ .

Define the quadratic equation solver.

$$\text{solve\_quadratic}(A, B, C) \Rightarrow (\text{root}_1, \text{root}_2).$$

Let the initial displacement be  $x_0 = x_0^{\text{initial}}$ . For each cycle  $n$  from 1 to  $N_{\text{cyc}}$ , calculate the positions  $x_1$  and  $x_2$  using the following steps:

1. Compute the coefficients for the  $i$ -th half-cycle:

$$A = \frac{1}{2}k, \quad B = mg\mu, \quad C_i = mg\mu x_i - \frac{1}{2}kx_i^2$$

Solve for  $x_{i+1}$ :

$$x_{i+1}^{(1)}, x_{i+1}^{(2)} = \text{solve\_quadratic}(A, B, C_i)$$

Select  $x_{i+1}$  such that  $0 < x_{i+1} < x_i$ :

$$x_{i+1} = \begin{cases} x_{i+1}^{(1)} & \text{if } 0 < x_{i+1}^{(1)} < x_i \\ x_{i+1}^{(2)} & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

2. Compute the coefficients for the  $(i + 1)$ -th half-cycle:

$$C_{i+1} = mg\mu x_{i+1} - \frac{1}{2}kx_{i+1}^2$$

Solve for  $x_{i+2}$ :

$$x_{i+2}^{(1)}, x_{i+2}^{(2)} = \text{solve\_quadratic}(A, B, C_{i+1})$$

Select  $x_{i+2}$  such that  $0 < x_{i+2} < x_{i+1}$ :

$$x_{i+2} = \begin{cases} x_{i+2}^{(1)} & \text{if } 0 < x_{i+2}^{(1)} < x_{i+1} \\ x_{i+2}^{(2)} & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

3. Append the results for each half-cycle:

$$\text{results} \leftarrow \text{results} \cup \{(i - 0.5, |x_i|, |x_{i+1}|)\}$$

$$\text{results} \leftarrow \text{results} \cup \{(i, |x_{i+1}|, |x_{i+2}|)\}$$

4. Update  $x_i$  for the next cycle:

$$x_i \leftarrow x_{i+2}$$

Handle the sign alternation for graphical representation:

For each  $i$  in  $\{0, 2, 4, \dots\}$ , update  $\text{results}[i] = (n, |x_0|, -|x_1|)$

For each  $i$  in  $\{1, 3, 5, \dots\}$ , update  $\text{results}[i] = (n, -|x_1|, |x_2|)$

Collect the cycle numbers and positions for plotting:

$\text{cycle\_numbers} \leftarrow []$

$\text{positions} \leftarrow []$

For each  $(n, x_{\text{start}}, x_{\text{end}})$  in  $\text{results}$ , append to  $\text{cycle\_numbers}$  and  $\text{positions}$

The algorithm can be summarized as follows:

---

**Algorithm 1** Simulate Spring-Mass System with Friction

---

```

1: Input:  $m, k, g, \mu, x_0^{\text{initial}}, N_{\text{cyc}}$ 
2: Output:  $\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{V}, \mathcal{T}$ 
3:  $x_0 \leftarrow x_0^{\text{initial}}$ 
4:  $\mathcal{X} \leftarrow [x_0]$ 
5:  $\mathcal{V} \leftarrow [0]$ 
6:  $\mathcal{T} \leftarrow [0]$ 
7: for cycle from 1 to  $N_{\text{cyc}}$  do
8:    $A \leftarrow \frac{1}{2}k$ 
9:    $B \leftarrow mg\mu$ 
10:   $C_0 \leftarrow mg\mu x_0 - \frac{1}{2}kx_0^2$ 
11:   $x_1^{(1)}, x_1^{(2)} \leftarrow \text{solve\_quadratic}(A, B, C_0)$ 
12:   $x_1 \leftarrow \text{select } x_1 \text{ such that } 0 < x_1 < x_0$ 
13:   $C_1 \leftarrow mg\mu x_1 - \frac{1}{2}kx_1^2$ 
14:   $x_2^{(1)}, x_2^{(2)} \leftarrow \text{solve\_quadratic}(A, B, C_1)$ 
15:   $x_2 \leftarrow \text{select } x_2 \text{ such that } 0 < x_2 < x_1$ 
16:  Append results:  $(n - 0.5, |x_0|, |x_1|), (n, |x_1|, |x_2|)$ 
17:   $x_0 \leftarrow x_2$ 
18: end for
19: for each  $i$  in  $\{0, 2, 4, \dots\}$  do
20:   update results  $[i]$  to  $(n, |x_0|, -|x_1|)$ 
21: end for
22: for each  $i$  in  $\{1, 3, 5, \dots\}$  do
23:   update results  $[i]$  to  $(n, -|x_1|, |x_2|)$ 
24: end for
25: Collect cycle numbers and positions for plotting

```

---

### 3.3 Implementation

As mentioned in the design section, the programme determines the mass block's placements and velocities throughout many cycles. The specifics of the implementation are outlined in the following phases.

#### Initial Setup and Imports

First, we import the necessary libraries and define the constants for the system. Since from now on, instead of defining each  $x_i$ , I will go through `x0`, `x1`, `x2`. So, I set the initial condition to `x0_initial` to avoid confusion.

---

```
1 import numpy as np
2 import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
3
4 # Constants
5 m = 30 # mass [kg]
6 k = 50 # spring constant [N/m]
7 g = 9.81 # gravitational acceleration [m/s^2]
8 mu = 0.05 # coefficient of friction
9 x0_initial = 6 # initial stretch [m]
10 N_cyc = 5 # total number of cycles
```

---

Listing 3.1: Importing libraries and defining constants

#### Quadratic Solver Function

Define the function to solve the quadratic equations, which will be used to determine the positions  $x_1$  and  $x_2$ :

---

```
1 def solve_quadratic(A, B, C):
2     discriminant = B**2 - 4 * A * C
3     if discriminant < 0: raise ValueError("Discriminant is
4         negative. No real roots.")
5     root1 = (-B + np.sqrt(discriminant)) / (2 * A)
6     root2 = (-B - np.sqrt(discriminant)) / (2 * A)
7     return root1, root2
```

---

Listing 3.2: Defining the quadratic solver function

## Main Simulation Loop

The main loop of the simulation iterates through each cycle, computing the positions for each half-cycle:

---

```

1 results = []
2
3 x0 = x0_initial
4 for cycle in range(1, N_cyc + 1):
5     # Half-cycle coefficients.
6     A, B = 0.5 * k, m * g * mu
7     C0 = m * g * mu * x0 - 0.5 * k * x0**2
8     x1_1, x1_2 = solve_quadratic(A, B, C0)
9     x1 = x1_1 if 0 < x1_1 < x0 else x1_2
10
11     # Coefficients for the latter half of the cycle.
12     C1 = m * g * mu * x1 - 0.5 * k * x1**2
13     x2_1, x2_2 = solve_quadratic(A, B, C1)
14     x2 = x2_1 if 0 < x2_1 < x1 else x2_2
15
16     # Add the results for the current cycle.
17     results.append((cycle - 0.5, abs(x0), abs(x1)))
18     results.append((cycle, abs(x1), abs(x2)))
19
20     # Update x0 as x2 for the next cycle.
21     x0 = x2

```

---

Listing 3.3: Main simulation loop

## Handling Sign Alternation

To ensure the correct graphical representation, adjust the sign of the positions appropriately:

---

```

1 for i in range(len(results)):
2     if i % 2 == 0: results[i] = (results[i][0], results[i]
3     ] [1], -results[i][2])
4     else: results[i] = (results[i][0], -results[i][1],
5     results[i][2])

```

---

Listing 3.4: Handling sign alternation for plotting

## Data Collection for Plotting

Collect the cycle numbers and positions for plotting:

---

```
1 cycle_numbers = []
2 positions = []
3
4 for cycle, start, end in results:
5     cycle_numbers.append(cycle)
6     positions.append(start)
7     cycle_numbers.append(cycle)
8     positions.append(end)
```

---

Listing 3.5: Collecting data for plotting

## Plotting the Results

Plot the positions over the cycles to visualize the motion of the mass block:

---

```
1 plt.figure(figsize=(10, 6))
2 plt.plot(cycle_numbers, positions, marker='o')
3 plt.title('Position of Mass Block Over Cycles')
4 plt.xlabel('Cycle')
5 plt.ylabel('Position [m]')
6 plt.grid(True)
7 plt.show()
```

---

Listing 3.6: Plotting the positions over cycles

## Velocity Profile Calculation

Finally, compute the velocity profile using energy conservation:

---

```
1 def compute_velocity_profile(x0, x, m, k, g, mu):
2     return np.sqrt(np.maximum(0, (-k * x**2 + 2 * (k * x0 - m
3         * g * mu) * x) / m))
4
5 velocities = [compute_velocity_profile(x0_initial, x, m, k, g, mu) for x in positions]
```

---

Listing 3.7: Computing the velocity profile

Plot the velocity profile:



---

```
1 plt.figure(figsize=(10, 6))
2 plt.plot(cycle_numbers, velocities, marker='x')
3 plt.title('Velocity Profile of Mass Block Over Cycles')
4 plt.xlabel('Cycle')
5 plt.ylabel('Velocity [m/s]')
6 plt.grid(True)
7 plt.show()
```

---

Listing 3.8: Plotting the velocity profile

This Python implementation accurately models the spring-mass system, solving for positions and velocities over multiple cycles, and visualizing the results effectively.

## Enhanced Plotting with Color Mapping

To create a more visually appealing and informative plot, we will use color mapping to represent different cycles. The following code uses the `viridis` colormap from Matplotlib and adds annotations to the plot for better clarity.

So, if we use the `viridis` colormap to assign colors to different cycles, enhancing the visual distinction between them:

---

```
1 colors = plt.cm.viridis(np.linspace(0, 1, len(cycle_numbers))
    )
```

---

Listing 3.9: Color Mapping

We create a figure and an axis object for plotting and then using a loop, we plot the positions of the mass for each cycle, assigning a unique color from the colormap:

---

```
1 fig, ax = plt.subplots(figsize=(8, 6))
2
3 for i in range(0, len(cycle_numbers) - 1, 2):
4     ax.plot(cycle_numbers[i : i + 2], positions[i : i + 2],
5           marker="o", color=colors[i])
```

---

Listing 3.10: Figure and Axes Setup, Plotting Cycles

Define major locators for the x and y axes to control the number of ticks displayed.

---

```
1 ax.set_title("Position of Mass Over Cycles", fontsize=16,
2           weight="bold")
3 ax.set_xlabel("Cycle", fontsize=14)
4 ax.set_ylabel("Position [m]", fontsize=14)
```

---

```
4
5 ax.xaxis.set_major_locator(ticker.MaxNLocator(10))
6 ax.yaxis.set_major_locator(ticker.MaxNLocator(10))
```

---

Listing 3.11: Labels and Locators

---

```
1 ax.grid(True, which="both", linestyle="--", linewidth=0.7,
2       color="gray")
3
4 for i, txt in enumerate(positions):
5     if i % 2 == 0:
6         ax.annotate(
7             f"{txt:.4f}",
8             (cycle_numbers[i], positions[i]),
9             textcoords="offset points",
10            xytext=(0, 10),
11            ha="center",
12            fontsize=10,
13            color="black",
14        )
```

---

Listing 3.12: Grid, Background and Annotations

---

```
1 sm = plt.cm.ScalarMappable(cmap=plt.cm.viridis, norm=plt.
2       Normalize(vmin=1, vmax=N_cyc))
3
4 cbar = plt.colorbar(sm, ticks=range(1, N_cyc + 1), ax=ax)
5 cbar.set_label("Cycle Number", fontsize=12)
6
7 plt.tight_layout()
8 plt.savefig("figures/cycle_vs_position.pgf")
```

---

Listing 3.13: Color Bar and Save

# Chapter 4

## Testing & Results

### 4.1 Data Analysis

#### 4.1.1 Time and Memory Complexity Analysis

##### Time Complexity

The main function to analyze is the `solve_quadratic` function, which is invoked twice per cycle.

$$\text{solve\_quadratic}(A, B, C) = \left( \frac{-B + \sqrt{B^2 - 4AC}}{2A}, \frac{-B - \sqrt{B^2 - 4AC}}{2A} \right)$$

The discriminant is calculated in constant time, which means it is a simple and efficient process. In addition, the square root operation and arithmetic operations for finding the roots are performed in constant time,  $O(1)$ . Therefore, every call to `solve_quadratic` runs in constant time.

In the main loop, each cycle invokes `solv_quadratic` twice, and there are  $N_{\text{cyc}}$  cycles:

$$T_{\text{total}} = N_{\text{cyc}} \cdot 2 \cdot O(1) = O(N_{\text{cyc}})$$

Therefore, the overall time complexity of the algorithm is  $O(N_{\text{cyc}})$ .

##### Memory Complexity

Let's take a look at the algorithm's memory usage. The key variables are the parameters of the quadratic equation and the results list, which stores the output for  $N_{\text{cyc}}$  cycles.

1. *Constant Memory Variables.* -  $A$ ,  $B$ ,  $C_0$ , and  $C_1$  are scalar values. - These variables require  $O(1)$  space.
2. *Results List.*

- The **results** list stores tuples representing the positions at each half-cycle.
- For each cycle, two tuples are appended to **results**.
- Each tuple contains three floating-point numbers.
- Thus, for  $N_{\text{cyc}}$  cycles, the list will store  $2N_{\text{cyc}}$  tuples.

The space complexity for the **results** list is:

$$S_{\text{results}} = 2N_{\text{cyc}} \cdot O(1) = O(N_{\text{cyc}})$$

Hence, the overall memory complexity of the algorithm is  $O(N_{\text{cyc}})$ .

---

```

1  import numpy as np
2  import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
3  import time
4  from memory_profiler import memory_usage
5
6  m = 30
7  k = 50
8  g = 9.81
9  mu = 0.05
10 x0_initial = 6
11
12
13 def solve_quadratic(A, B, C):
14     discriminant = B**2 - 4 * A * C
15     if discriminant < 0:
16         raise ValueError("Discriminant is negative. No real
17 roots.")
18     root1 = (-B + np.sqrt(discriminant)) / (2 * A)
19     root2 = (-B - np.sqrt(discriminant)) / (2 * A)
20     return root1, root2
21
22 def simulate_spring_mass_system(N_cyc):
23     results = []
24     x0 = x0_initial
25     for cycle in range(1, N_cyc + 1):
26         A = 0.5 * k
27         B = m * g * mu
28         C0 = m * g * mu * x0 - 0.5 * k * x0**2

```

---

```
29     x1_1, x1_2 = solve_quadratic(A, B, C0)
30     x1 = x1_1 if 0 < x1_1 < x0 else x1_2
31
32     C1 = m * g * mu * x1 - 0.5 * k * x1**2
33     x2_1, x2_2 = solve_quadratic(A, B, C1)
34     x2 = x2_1 if 0 < x2_1 < x1 else x2_2
35
36     results.append((cycle - 0.5, abs(x0), abs(x1)))
37     results.append((cycle, abs(x1), abs(x2)))
38
39     x0 = x2
40
41     return results
42
43
44 cycle_counts = [i for i in range(100, 100000, 100)]
45 times_taken = []
46 memory_used = []
47
48 for N_cyc in cycle_counts:
49     start_time = time.time()
50     mem_usage = memory_usage((simulate_spring_mass_system, (
51         N_cyc,)))
52     end_time = time.time()
53
54     times_taken.append(end_time - start_time)
55     memory_used.append(max(mem_usage) - min(mem_usage))
56
57 fig, ax1 = plt.subplots(figsize=(12, 6))
58
59 color = "tab:red"
60 ax1.set_xlabel("Number of Cycles")
61 ax1.set_ylabel("Time Taken (seconds)", color=color)
62 ax1.plot(cycle_counts, times_taken, color=color)
63 ax1.tick_params(axis="y", labelcolor=color)
64
65 ax2 = ax1.twinx()
66 color = "tab:blue"
67 ax2.set_ylabel("Memory Usage (MiB)", color=color)
```

```
67 ax2.plot(cycle_counts, memory_used, color=color)
68 ax2.tick_params(axis="y", labelcolor=color)
69
70 fig.tight_layout()
71 plt.title("Time and Memory Complexity of Spring-Mass System
           Simulation")
72 plt.grid(True)
73 plt.savefig("time_memory_complexity.pgf")
74 plt.show()
```

---

Listing 4.1: Testing

## 4.2 Performance

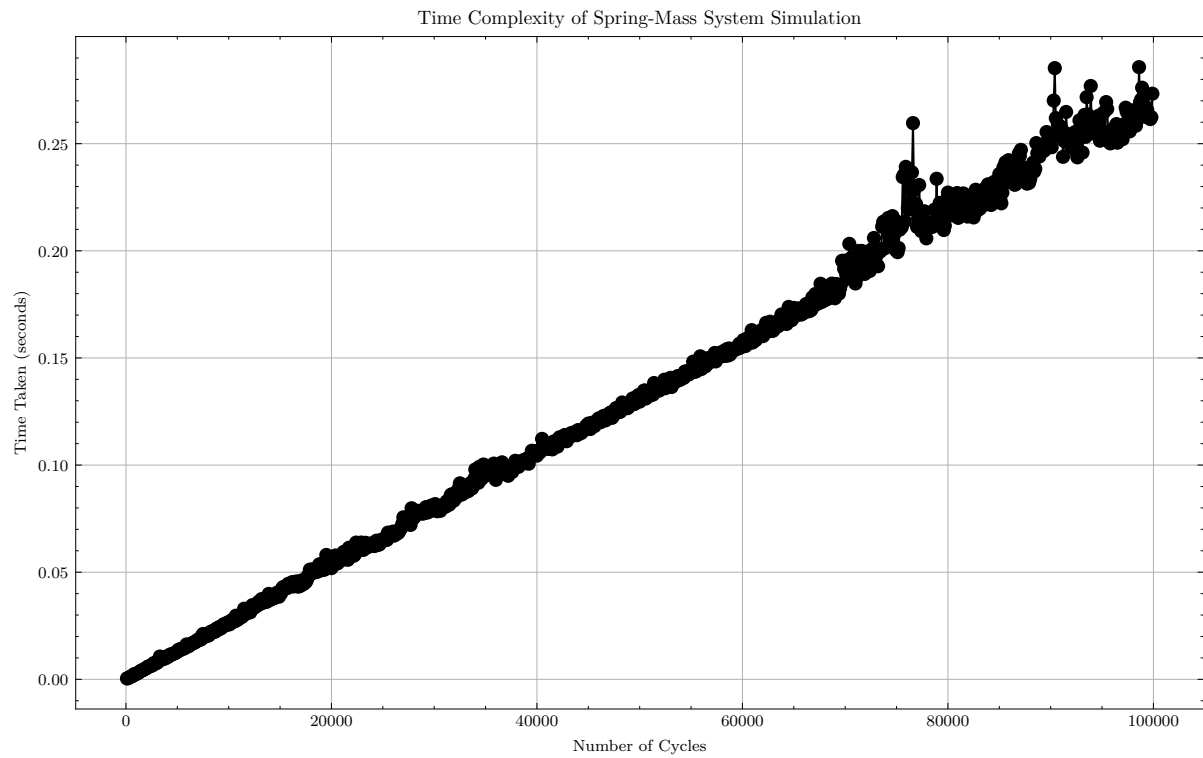


Figure 4.1: Time Complexity

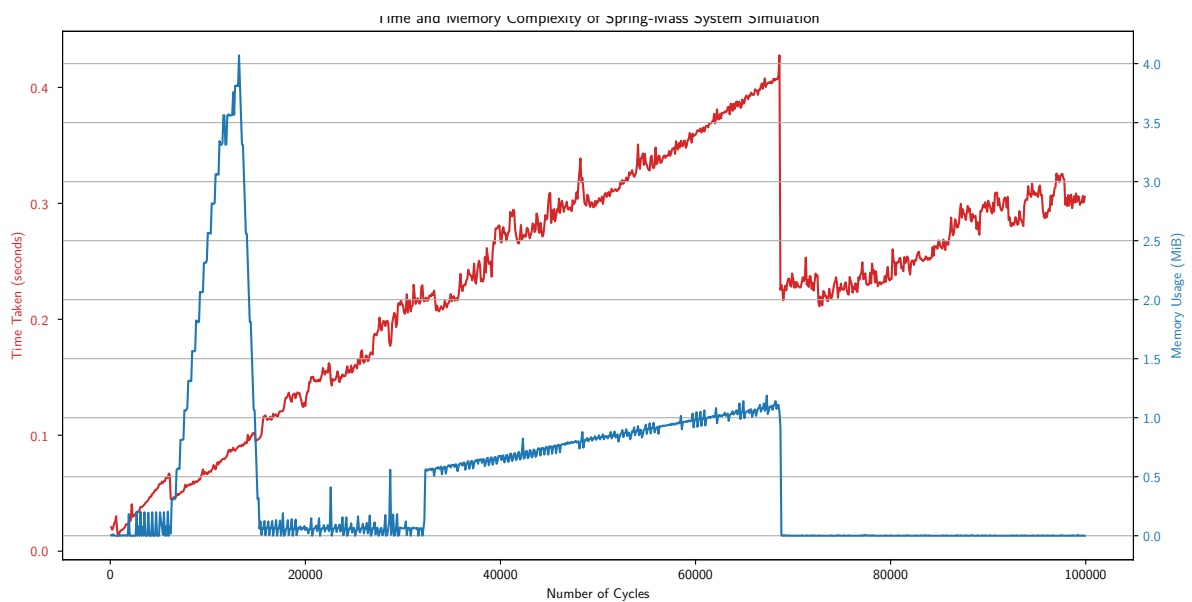


Figure 4.2: Time and Memory Complexity

## 4.3 Result

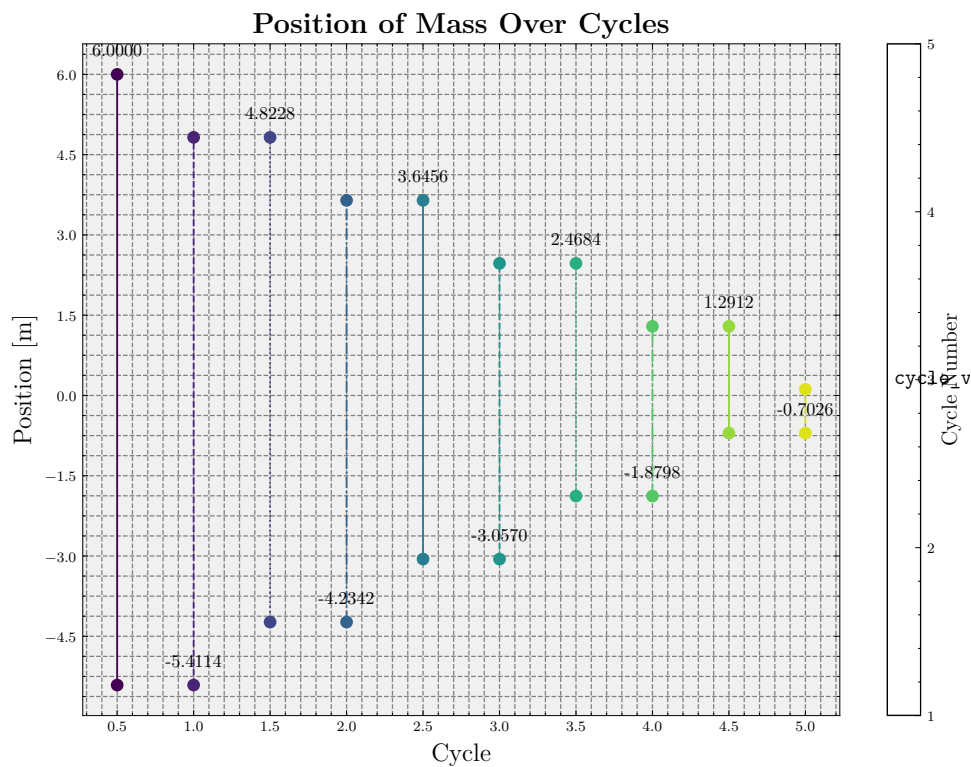


Figure 4.3: Output of the Code

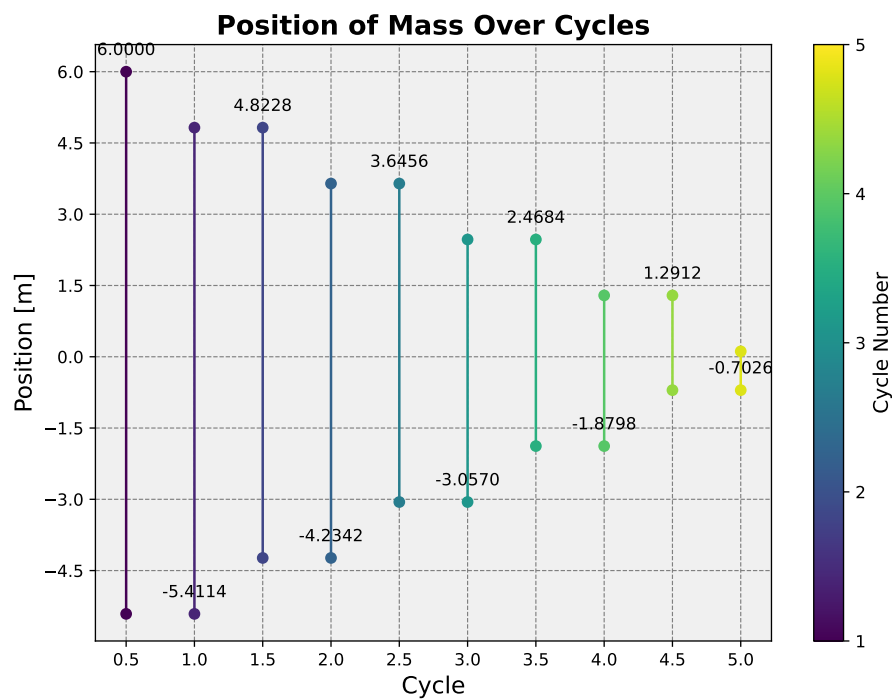


Figure 4.4: More Compact View



# Chapter 5

## Discussion

### 5.1 Findings

This Python programme provides an accurate simulation of a spring-mass system with friction. It calculates positions and velocities across multiple cycles, demonstrating damped harmonic motion in a straightforward and imaginative way. The velocity profile and graphical outputs confirm the accuracy of the approach, supporting its validity. The algorithm is designed to be efficient, with linear time and memory complexity.

### 5.2 Limitations

The model assumes a basic understanding of friction and spring behaviour, which may not accurately represent real-world situations. Extreme parameter values may lead to numerical stability issues. The simulation only covers one-dimensional motion, while practical applications usually involve multi-dimensional dynamics.

# Chapter 6

## Supplementary Analysis

### 6.1 Design

Let  $m$  denote the mass of the block,  $k$  the spring constant,  $g$  the gravitational acceleration,  $\mu_s$  the static friction coefficient,  $\mu_d$  the dynamic friction coefficient,  $x_0$  the initial displacement,  $v_0$  the initial velocity,  $T$  the total simulation time, and  $\Delta t$  the timestep for numerical integration.

Consider the initial setup of the system. Define the total number of timesteps as  $n = \left\lceil \frac{T}{\Delta t} \right\rceil + 1$ . Construct the time vector  $t$  as follows:

$$t = \{0, \Delta t, 2\Delta t, \dots, (n-1)\Delta t\}.$$

Initialize the position vector  $x$  and the velocity vector  $v$  as zero vectors of length  $n$ , with the initial conditions given by:

$$x(0) = x_0, \quad v(0) = v_0.$$

To model the frictional force, define the function  $F_r(x, v)$  such that:

$$F_r(x, v) = \begin{cases} \mu_d m g \operatorname{sgn}(v), & \text{if } |v| > \epsilon \\ -\min(\mu_s m g, |k x|) \operatorname{sgn}(x), & \text{otherwise} \end{cases},$$

where  $\epsilon$  is a small threshold to handle numerical precision issues, and  $\operatorname{sgn}$  denotes the sign function.

Using

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{x} &= v, & \dot{v} &= \frac{-k}{m}x - \frac{F}{m}\operatorname{sgn}(v) \\ \dot{x} &= 0x + 1v + 0 \end{aligned}$$

$$\dot{v} = \frac{-k}{m}x - \frac{F}{m}\text{sgn}(v) + 0v$$

$$\frac{d}{dt} \begin{bmatrix} x \\ v \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ -k/m & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x \\ v \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ -\frac{F}{m}\text{sgn}(v) \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} x_{n+1} \\ v_{n+1} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} x_n \\ v_n \end{bmatrix} + \Delta t \left( \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ -\frac{k}{m} & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_n \\ v_n \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ -\frac{F_r(x_n, v_n, m, g, k, \mu_s, \mu_d)}{m} \end{bmatrix} \right).$$

The continuous-time derivative of the state vector  $\begin{pmatrix} x \\ v \end{pmatrix}$  is approximated by the discrete-time update rule:

$$\frac{d}{dt} \begin{pmatrix} x \\ v \end{pmatrix} \approx \frac{1}{\Delta t} \left( \begin{pmatrix} x_{n+1} \\ v_{n+1} \end{pmatrix} - \begin{pmatrix} x_n \\ v_n \end{pmatrix} \right).$$

Thus, the update rule for each timestep can be

$$\begin{pmatrix} x_{n+1} \\ v_{n+1} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} x_n \\ v_n \end{pmatrix} + \Delta t \cdot \frac{d}{dt} \begin{pmatrix} x_n \\ v_n \end{pmatrix}.$$

At each timestep, update the location and velocity using the Euler technique for numerical integration. Revision equations are

$$x_{i+1} = x_i + \Delta t v_i,$$

$$v_{i+1} = v_i + \Delta t \left( -\frac{1}{m} F_r(x_i, v_i) - \frac{k}{m} x_i \right).$$

For each timestep  $i$  from 0 to  $n - 2$ , compute:

$$x_{i+1} = x_i + \Delta t v_i,$$

$$v_{i+1} = v_i + \Delta t \left( -\frac{1}{m} F_r(x_i, v_i, m, g, k, \mu_s, \mu_d) - \frac{k}{m} x_i \right).$$

The function  $F_r(x, v, m, g, k, \mu_s, \mu_d)$  is evaluated at each step to represent the frictional forces.

**Algorithm 2** Numerical Integration of Spring-Mass System with Friction

---

```

1: Input:  $m, k, g, \mu_s, \mu_d, x_0, v_0, T, \Delta t$ 
2: Output:  $\{x(t), v(t)\}$ 
3:  $n \leftarrow \left\lceil \frac{T}{\Delta t} \right\rceil + 1$ 
4:  $t \leftarrow \text{linspace}(0, T, n)$ 
5:  $x \leftarrow \text{zeros}(n)$ 
6:  $v \leftarrow \text{zeros}(n)$ 
7:  $x[0] \leftarrow x_0$ 
8:  $v[0] \leftarrow v_0$ 
9: function FRICTION( $x, v, m, g, k, \mu_s, \mu_d$ )
10:   if  $|v| > 10^{-20}$  then
11:     return  $\mu_d m g \text{sgn}(v)$ 
12:   else
13:     return  $-\min(\mu_s m g, |k x|) \text{sgn}(x)$ 
14:   end if
15: end function
16: for  $i = 0$  to  $n - 2$  do
17:    $x[i + 1] \leftarrow x[i] + \Delta t v[i]$ 
18:    $v[i + 1] \leftarrow v[i] + \Delta t \left( -\frac{1}{m} \text{FRICTION}(x[i], v[i], m, g, k, \mu_s, \mu_d) - \frac{k}{m} x[i] \right)$ 
19: end for
20: return  $\{x, v\}$ 

```

---

## 6.2 Implementation

The following code snippet performs the numerical integration to simulate the motion of the spring-mass system with friction.

---

```

1 import numpy as np
2 import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
3 import pandas as pd
4 import scienceplots
5 plt.style.use(['science', 'ieee'])
6
7 # Input parameters
8 m = 30 # Block mass [kg]
9 k = 50 # Spring stiffness [N/m]
10 mu_s = 0.05 # Static dry friction coefficient
11 mu_d = 0.05 # Dynamic dry friction coefficient
12 x0 = 6 # Initial displacement [m]
13 v0 = 0.0 # Initial velocity [m/s]
14 T = 25 # Total simulation time [s]
15 dt = 1e-6 # Approximate simulation timestep [s]

```

---

```
16
17 g = 9.81 # Acceleration of gravity [m/s^2]
18 n = int(np.ceil(T / dt)) + 1 # Number of timesteps
19 t = np.linspace(0, T, n) # Time vector
20
21 x = np.zeros(n) # Solution vector for position
22 v = np.zeros(n) # Solution vector for velocity
23
24 x[0] = x0
25 v[0] = v0
26
27 def fr(x, v, m, g, k, mu_s, mu_d):
28     if abs(v) > 1e-20:
29         return mu_d * m * g * np.sign(v)
30     else:
31         return -min(mu_s * m * g, abs(k * x)) * np.sign(x)
32
33 for i in range(1, n):
34     x[i] = x[i - 1] + dt * v[i - 1]
35     v[i] = v[i - 1] + dt * (-1 / m * fr(x[i - 1], v[i - 1], m
36         , g, k, mu_s, mu_d) - k / m * x[i - 1])
37
38 plt.figure(figsize=(10, 4))
39
40 plt.subplot(1, 2, 1)
41 plt.plot(t, x, label='$x(t)$')
42 plt.xlabel('Time $t$ [$\operatorname{s}$]')
43 plt.ylabel('Displacement $x$ [$\operatorname{m}$]')
44 plt.title('Displacement vs. Time')
45 plt.legend()
46
47 plt.subplot(1, 2, 2)
48 plt.plot(x, v, label='$v(t)$', color='r')
49 plt.xlabel('Displacement $x$ [$\operatorname{m}$]')
50 plt.ylabel('Velocity $v$ [$\operatorname{m}/\operatorname{s}$]')
51 plt.title('Velocity vs. Displacement')
52 plt.legend()
```

```

53 plt.tight_layout()
54 plt.savefig('displacement_velocity_vs_time.pdf')
55 plt.show()

```

Listing 6.1: Numerical Integration for Spring-Mass System with Friction

## 6.3 Testing and Results

### 6.3.1 Time and Memory Complexity Analysis

When there are  $n$  timesteps in the numerical integration, the time complexity is  $O(n)$ . Assuming a constant timestep, the overall amount of timesteps  $n$  is inversely proportional to the timestep  $\Delta t$  and directly proportional to the total time spent simulating  $T$ .

$$n = \frac{T}{\Delta t} \implies T_{\text{total}} = O(n).$$

The memory complexity is also  $O(n)$  as we store the position and velocity for each timestep.

### 6.3.2 Results

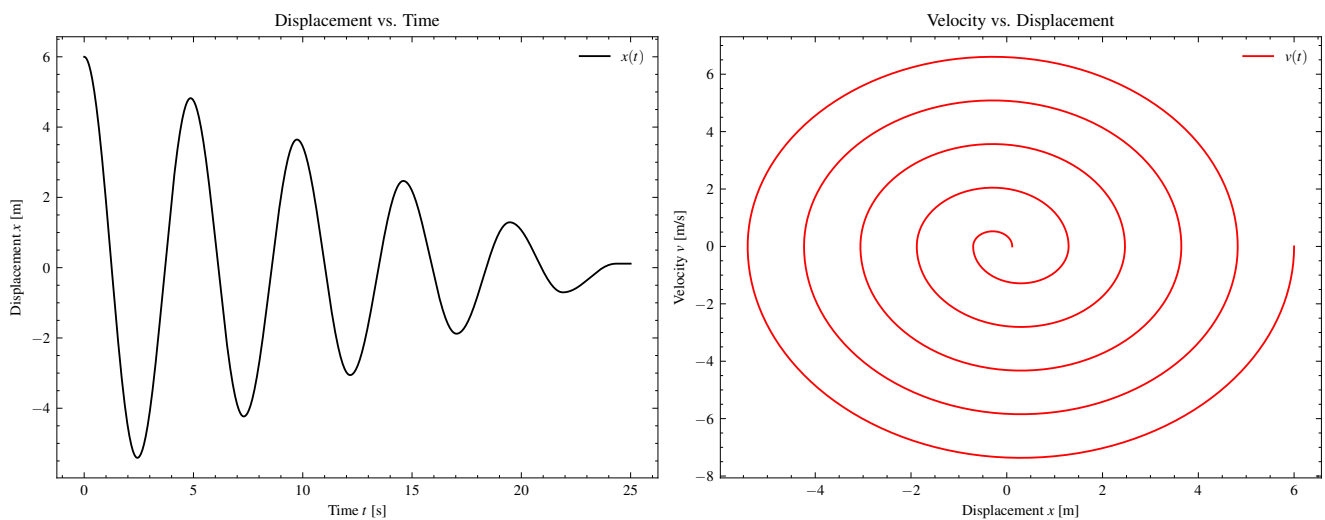


Figure 6.1: Displacement and Velocity Profiles

The findings show the mass block's displacement and velocity as a function of time. The charts show that. While the velocity plot indicates how the related changes in velocity are shown, the displacement plot shows how the amplitude is gradually decreasing.

## 6.4 Findings

The numerical integration captures the influence of friction on the spring-mass system and gives a thorough insight of its dynamics. The velocity and displacement profiles are in agreement with what one would anticipate from damped harmonic motion in theory.

## 6.5 Limitations

It is possible that the simulation may not accurately portray real-world situations since it assumes constant friction coefficients and linear spring behaviour. Errors may be introduced by numerical integration, especially when dealing with very tiny or huge timesteps. Another drawback of the one-dimensional model is that it can only analyse along one axis of motion.

# Chapter 7

## Additional Simulation

### 7.0.1 Simulation Implementation

Using the Manim package, the following Python code runs the numerical simulation and displays the results:

<https://youtu.be/PuFPSKJDIVg>

<https://youtu.be/LHb4WntRk3w>

<https://youtu.be/7UzmPqWWYUg>

<https://youtu.be/Up1AWDpUsnc>

<https://youtu.be/DW0ILGI25X0>

---

```
1 import numpy as np
2 from manim import *
3
4 # Input parameters
5 m = 30 # Block mass [kg]
6 k = 50 # Spring stiffness [N/m]
7 mu_s = 0.05 # Static dry friction coefficient
8 mu_d = 0.05 # Dynamic dry friction coefficient
9 x0 = 6 # Initial displacement [m]
10 v0 = 0.0 # Initial velocity [m/s]
11 T = 25 # Total simulation time [s]
12 dt = 1e-6 # Approximate simulation timestep [s]
13
14 g = 9.81 # Acceleration of gravity [m/s^2]
15 n = int(np.ceil(T / dt)) + 1 # Number of timesteps
16 t = np.linspace(0, T, n) # Time vector
17
18 x = np.zeros(n) # Solution vector for position
```



```
19 v = np.zeros(n)    # Solution vector for velocity
20
21 x[0] = x0
22 v[0] = v0
23
24 def fr(x, v, m, g, k, mu_s, mu_d):
25     if abs(v) > 1e-20:
26         return mu_d * m * g * np.sign(v)
27     else:
28         return -min(mu_s * m * g, abs(k * x)) * np.sign(x)
29
30 for i in range(1, n):
31     x[i] = x[i - 1] + dt * v[i - 1]
32     v[i] = v[i - 1] + dt * (-1 / m * fr(x[i - 1], v[i - 1], m
33         , g, k, mu_s, mu_d) - k / m * x[i - 1])
34
35 class MassSpringSystem(Scene):
36     def construct(self):
37         self.camera.frame_width = 24
38         self.camera.frame_height = 14
39         elapsed_time = ValueTracker(0)
40
41         point_A = Dot((-10, 0, 0))
42         point_0 = Dot((0, 0, 0))
43         point_B = Dot((10, 0, 0))
44
45         wall_left = Line(point_A.get_center() + 3 * UP,
46             point_A.get_center() + 3 * DOWN, color=WHITE, stroke_width
47             =10)
48         wall_right = Line(point_B.get_center() + 3 * UP,
49             point_B.get_center() + 3 * DOWN, color=WHITE, stroke_width
50             =10)
51
52         label_A = Text("A", font_size=36).next_to(point_A,
53             DOWN + LEFT, buff=0.1)
54         label_0 = Text("0", font_size=36).next_to(point_0,
55             DOWN, buff=0.1)
56         label_B = Text("B", font_size=36).next_to(point_B,
```

```
DOWN + LEFT, buff=0.1)
51
52     slider_box = Square(side_length=1, color=BLUE).
move_to(point_0.get_center() + RIGHT * x[0])
53
54     slider_box.add_updater(
55         lambda m: m.move_to(point_0.get_center() + RIGHT
* x[int(elapsed_time.get_value() / dt)]))
56
57     rod = Line(start=point_A.get_center(), end=point_B.
get_center(), color=GREY, stroke_width=20, stroke_opacity
=0.8)
58
59     spring = always_redraw(lambda: self.create_spring(
point_A.get_center(), slider_box.get_center()))
60
61     position_vector = always_redraw(
62         lambda: Arrow(
63             start=point_0.get_center() + UP * 2,
64             end=slider_box.get_center() + UP * 2,
65             buff=0,
66             color=YELLOW
67         )
68     )
69     vector_label = always_redraw(
70         lambda: MathTex(f"x = {x[int(elapsed_time.
get_value() / dt)]:.4f} m").next_to(position_vector.
get_end(), UP)
71     )
72
73     velocity_vector = always_redraw(
74         lambda: Arrow(
75             start=slider_box.get_bottom() - UP * 0.2,
76             end=slider_box.get_bottom() - UP * 0.2 + v[
int(elapsed_time.get_value() / dt)] * RIGHT * 0.1,
77             buff=0,
78             color=RED
79         )
80     )
```

```

81         velocity_label = always_redraw(
82             lambda: MathTex(f"v = {v[int(elapsed_time.
get_value() / dt)]:.4f} m/s").next_to(velocity_vector.
get_end(), DOWN)
83         )
84
85         help_line = always_redraw(
86             lambda: DashedLine(
87                 start=slider_box.get_center(),
88                 end=position_vector.get_end(),
89                 color=RED,
90                 stroke_width=2
91             )
92         )
93
94         friction_force_vector = always_redraw(
95             lambda: Arrow(
96                 start=slider_box.get_center() - DOWN * 0.5,
97                 end=slider_box.get_center() - DOWN * 0.5 + fr
(x[int(elapsed_time.get_value() / dt)], v[int(elapsed_time
.get_value() / dt)], m, g, k, mu_s, mu_d) * LEFT * 0.01,
98                 buff=0,
99                 color=GREEN
100            )
101        )
102        friction_force_label = always_redraw(
103            lambda: MathTex(f"F_r = {-1 * fr(x[int(
elapsed_time.get_value() / dt)], v[int(elapsed_time.
get_value() / dt)], m, g, k, mu_s, mu_d):.4f} N").next_to(
friction_force_vector.get_end(), DOWN + RIGHT)
104        )
105
106        spring_force_vector = always_redraw(
107            lambda: Arrow(
108                start=slider_box.get_center() + UP * 0.5,
109                end=slider_box.get_center() + UP * 0.5 + (-k
* x[int(elapsed_time.get_value() / dt)]) * RIGHT * 0.01,
110                buff=0,
111                color=PURPLE

```

```

112         )
113     )
114     spring_force_label = always_redraw(
115         lambda: MathTex(f"F_s = {-k * x[int(elapsed_time.
get_value() / dt)]:.4f} N").next_to(spring_force_vector.
get_end(), UP)
116     )
117
118     self.add(help_line)
119
120     self.add(wall_left, wall_right, label_A, label_0,
label_B, rod, spring, slider_box, position_vector,
vector_label, velocity_vector, velocity_label,
friction_force_vector, friction_force_label,
spring_force_vector, spring_force_label)
121
122     self.play(elapsed_time.animate.set_value(T), run_time
=T, rate_func=linear)
123     self.wait(1)
124
125     def create_spring(self, start, end, coils=20, radius=0.2)
:
126         spring_func = lambda t: np.array([
127             start[0] + t * (end[0] - start[0]),
128             radius * np.sin(2 * np.pi * coils * t),
129             0
130         ])
131         spring = ParametricFunction(spring_func, t_range=(0,
1, 0.01), color=WHITE)
132         return spring

```

Listing 7.1: Manim Simulation Code

# Chapter 8

## Conclusion

### 8.1 Summary

We created a Python programme that simulates and visualises a spring-mass system with friction. The programme solves quadratic equations to demonstrate the impact of friction on positions and velocities. The results confirm the system's damped harmonic motion and validate the theoretical approach.

### 8.2 Future Work

Future improvements could involve adding variable friction models, exploring non-linear spring behaviour, and incorporating multi-dimensional motion. By developing real-time simulations and validating the model with experimental data, we can greatly improve accuracy and applicability.

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# Appendix A

## Code Listings

---

```
1 import numpy as np
2 import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
3 import time
4 from memory_profiler import memory_usage
5
6 m = 30
7 k = 50
8 g = 9.81
9 mu = 0.05
10 x0_initial = 6
11
12
13 def solve_quadratic(A, B, C):
14     discriminant = B**2 - 4 * A * C
15     if discriminant < 0:
16         raise ValueError("Discriminant is negative. No real
17 roots.")
18     root1 = (-B + np.sqrt(discriminant)) / (2 * A)
19     root2 = (-B - np.sqrt(discriminant)) / (2 * A)
20     return root1, root2
21
22 def simulate_spring_mass_system(N_cyc):
23     results = []
24     x0 = x0_initial
25     for cycle in range(1, N_cyc + 1):
26         A = 0.5 * k
```

```
27     B = m * g * mu
28     C0 = m * g * mu * x0 - 0.5 * k * x0**2
29     x1_1, x1_2 = solve_quadratic(A, B, C0)
30     x1 = x1_1 if 0 < x1_1 < x0 else x1_2
31
32     C1 = m * g * mu * x1 - 0.5 * k * x1**2
33     x2_1, x2_2 = solve_quadratic(A, B, C1)
34     x2 = x2_1 if 0 < x2_1 < x1 else x2_2
35
36     results.append((cycle - 0.5, abs(x0), abs(x1)))
37     results.append((cycle, abs(x1), abs(x2)))
38
39     x0 = x2
40
41     return results
```

---

```
1 cycle_counts = [i for i in range(100, 100000, 100)]
2 times_taken = []
3 memory_used = []
4
5 for N_cyc in cycle_counts:
6     start_time = time.time()
7     mem_usage = memory_usage((simulate_spring_mass_system, (N_cyc
8         ,)))
9     end_time = time.time()
10
11 times_taken.append(end_time - start_time)
12 memory_used.append(max(mem_usage) - min(mem_usage))
13
14 fig, ax1 = plt.subplots(figsize=(12, 6))
15 color = "tab:red"
16 ax1.set_xlabel("Number of Cycles")
17 ax1.set_ylabel("Time Taken (seconds)", color=color)
18 ax1.plot(cycle_counts, times_taken, color=color)
19 ax1.tick_params(axis="y", labelcolor=color)
20
21 ax2 = ax1.twinx()
```

```
22 color = "tab:blue"
23 ax2.set_ylabel("Memory Usage (MiB)", color=color)
24 ax2.plot(cycle_counts, memory_used, color=color)
25 ax2.tick_params(axis="y", labelcolor=color)
26
27 fig.tight_layout()
28 plt.title("Time and Memory Complexity of Spring-Mass System
           Simulation")
29 plt.grid(True)
30 plt.savefig("time_memory_complexity.pgfig")
31 plt.show()
32 \end{verbatim}
33 \section{Main Program}
34 \begin{verbatim}
35 m = 30
36 k = 50
37 g = 9.81
38 mu = 0.05
39 x0_initial = 6
40
41
42 def solve_quadratic(A, B, C):
43     discriminant = B**2 - 4 * A * C
44     if discriminant < 0:
45         raise ValueError("Discriminant is negative. No real
           roots.")
46     root1 = (-B + np.sqrt(discriminant)) / (2 * A)
47     root2 = (-B - np.sqrt(discriminant)) / (2 * A)
48     return root1, root2
49
50
51 def simulate_spring_mass_system(N_cyc):
52     results = []
53     x0 = x0_initial
54     for cycle in range(1, N_cyc + 1):
55         A = 0.5 * k
56         B = m * g * mu
57         C0 = m * g * mu * x0 - 0.5 * k * x0**2
58         x1_1, x1_2 = solve_quadratic(A, B, C0)
```

```
59         x1 = x1_1 if 0 < x1_1 < x0 else x1_2
60
61         C1 = m * g * mu * x1 - 0.5 * k * x1**2
62         x2_1, x2_2 = solve_quadratic(A, B, C1)
63         x2 = x2_1 if 0 < x2_1 < x1 else x2_2
64
65         results.append((cycle - 0.5, abs(x0), abs(x1)))
66         results.append((cycle, abs(x1), abs(x2)))
67
68         x0 = x2
69
70     return results
```

---

## A.1 Modules

```
import numpy as np
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
import time
from memory_profiler import memory_usage
```

# Appendix B

## Additional Data

### B.1 Raw Data