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Oscillations

Example

A block whose mass m is 680 g is fastened to a spring whose spring constant k is 65 N/m. The block is pulled a distance $x = 11$ cm from its equilibrium position at $x = 0$ on a frictionless surface and released from rest at $t = 0$.

(a) What are the angular frequency, the frequency, and the period of the resulting motion?

KEY IDEA The block–spring system forms a linear simple harmonic oscillator, with the block undergoing SHM.

Calculations: The angular frequency is given by Eq. 15-12:

$$\omega = \sqrt{\frac{k}{m}} = \sqrt{\frac{65\ \text{N/m}}{0.68\ \text{kg}}} = 9.78\ \text{rad/s}$$

$$\approx 9.8\ \text{rad/s}. \qquad \text{(Answer)}$$

The frequency follows from Eq. 15-5, which yields

$$f = \frac{\omega}{2\pi} = \frac{9.78\ \text{rad/s}}{2\pi\ \text{rad}} = 1.56\ \text{Hz} \approx 1.6\ \text{Hz}. \qquad \text{(Answer)}$$

The period follows from Eq. 15-2, which yields

$$T = \frac{1}{f} = \frac{1}{1.56\ \text{Hz}} = 0.64\ \text{s} = 640\ \text{ms}. \qquad \text{(Answer)}$$

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(b) What is the amplitude of the oscillation?

KEY IDEA With no friction involved, the mechanical energy of the spring–block system is conserved.

Reasoning: The block is released from rest 11 cm from its equilibrium position, with zero kinetic energy and the elastic potential energy of the system at a maximum. Thus, the block will have zero kinetic energy whenever it is again 11 cm from its equilibrium position, which means it will never be farther than 11 cm from that position. Its maximum displacement is 11 cm:

$$x_m = 11 \text{ cm}. \qquad \text{(Answer)}$$

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(c) What is the maximum speed v_m of the oscillating block, and where is the block when it has this speed?

KEY IDEA The maximum speed v_m is the velocity amplitude ωx_m in Eq. 15-6.

Calculation: Thus, we have

$$v_m = \omega x_m = (9.78\ \text{rad/s})(0.11\ \text{m}) = 1.1\ \text{m/s}. \qquad \text{(Answer)}$$

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(d) What is the magnitude a_m of the maximum acceleration of the block?

KEY IDEA The magnitude a_m of the maximum acceleration is the acceleration amplitude $\omega^2 x_m$ in Eq. 15-7.

Calculation: So, we have

$$a_m = \omega^2 x_m = (9.78 \text{ rad/s})^2(0.11 \text{ m})$$
$$= 11 \text{ m/s}^2. \qquad \text{(Answer)}$$

This maximum acceleration occurs when the block is at the ends of its path. At those points, the force acting on the block has its maximum magnitude; compare Figs. 15-4*a* and 15-4*c*, where you can see that the magnitudes of the displacement and acceleration are maximum at the same times.

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(e) What is the phase constant ϕ for the motion?

Calculations: Equation 15-3 gives the displacement of the block as a function of time. We know that at time $t = 0$, the block is located at $x = x_m$. Substituting these *initial conditions*, as they are called, into Eq. 15-3 and canceling x_m give us

$$1 = \cos\phi. \tag{15-14}$$

Taking the inverse cosine then yields

$$\phi = 0 \text{ rad.} \qquad \text{(Answer)}$$

(Any angle that is an integer multiple of 2π rad also satisfies Eq. 15-14; we chose the smallest angle.)

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(f) What is the displacement function $x(t)$ for the spring–block system?

Calculation: The function $x(t)$ is given in general form by Eq. 15-3. Substituting known quantities into that equation gives us

$$\begin{aligned} x(t) &= x_m \cos(\omega t + \phi) \\ &= (0.11\text{ m}) \cos[(9.8\text{ rad/s})t + 0] \\ &= 0.11 \cos(9.8t), \qquad \text{(Answer)} \end{aligned}$$

where x is in meters and t is in seconds.

Example, energy in SHM:

Many tall building have mass dampers, which are anti-sway devices to prevent them from oscillating in a wind. The device might be a block oscillating at the end of a spring and on a lubricated track. If the building sways, say eastward, the block also moves eastward but delayed enough so that when it finally moves, the building is then moving back westward. Thus, the motion of the oscillator is out of step with the motion of the building.

Suppose that the block has mass m = 2.72×10^5 kg and is designed to oscillate at frequency f = 10.0 Hz and with amplitude x_m = 20.0 cm.

(a) What is the total mechanical energy E of the spring-block system?

KEY IDEA The mechanical energy E (the sum of the kinetic energy $K = \frac{1}{2}mv^2$ of the block and the potential energy $U = \frac{1}{2}kx^2$ of the spring) is constant throughout the motion of the oscillator. Thus, we can evaluate E at any point during the motion.

Calculations: Because we are given amplitude x_m of the oscillations, let's evaluate E when the block is at position $x = x_m$, where it has velocity $v = 0$. However, to evaluate U at that point, we first need to find the spring constant k. From Eq. 15-12 ($\omega = \sqrt{k/m}$) and Eq. 15-5 ($\omega = 2\pi f$), we find

$$\begin{aligned} k &= m\omega^2 = m(2\pi f)^2 \\ &= (2.72 \times 10^5 \text{ kg})(2\pi)^2(10.0 \text{ Hz})^2 \\ &= 1.073 \times 10^9 \text{ N/m}. \end{aligned}$$

We can now evaluate E as

$$\begin{aligned} E &= K + U = \tfrac{1}{2}mv^2 + \tfrac{1}{2}kx^2 \\ &= 0 + \tfrac{1}{2}(1.073 \times 10^9 \text{ N/m})(0.20 \text{ m})^2 \\ &= 2.147 \times 10^7 \text{ J} \approx 2.1 \times 10^7 \text{ J}. \qquad \text{(Answer)} \end{aligned}$$

Example, energy, continued:

(b) What is the block's speed as it passes through the equilibrium point?

Calculations: We want the speed at $x = 0$, where the potential energy is $U = \frac{1}{2}kx^2 = 0$ and the mechanical energy is entirely kinetic energy. So, we can write

$$E = K + U = \tfrac{1}{2}mv^2 + \tfrac{1}{2}kx^2$$

$$2.147 \times 10^7 \text{ J} = \tfrac{1}{2}(2.72 \times 10^5 \text{ kg})v^2 + 0,$$

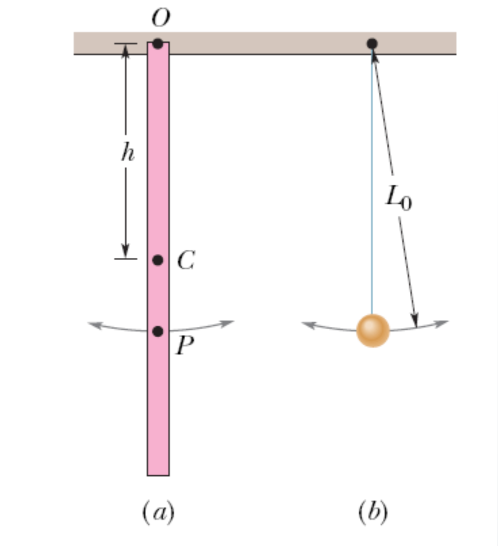
or

$$v = 12.6 \text{ m/s.} \qquad \text{(Answer)}$$

Because E is entirely kinetic energy, this is the maximum speed v_m.

Example, pendulum:

In Fig. *a, a meter stick swings about a pivot point* at one end, at distance *h from the stick's center of mass.*
(a)What is the period of oscillation *T?*



KEY IDEA: The stick is not a simple pendulum because its mass is not concentrated in a bob at the end opposite the pivot point—so the stick is a physical pendulum.

Calculations: The period for a physical pendulum depends on the rotational inertia, I, of the stick about the pivot point. We can treat the stick as a uniform rod of length L and mass m. Then I =1/3 mL^2, where the distance h is L.
Therefore,

$$T = 2\pi\sqrt{\frac{I}{mgh}} = 2\pi\sqrt{\frac{\frac{1}{3}mL^2}{mg(\frac{1}{2}L)}} = 2\pi\sqrt{\frac{2L}{3g}}$$

$$= 2\pi\sqrt{\frac{(2)(1.00\text{ m})}{(3)(9.8\text{ m/s}^2)}} = 1.64\text{ s.} \qquad \text{(Answer)}$$

Note the result is independent of the pendulum's mass *m*.

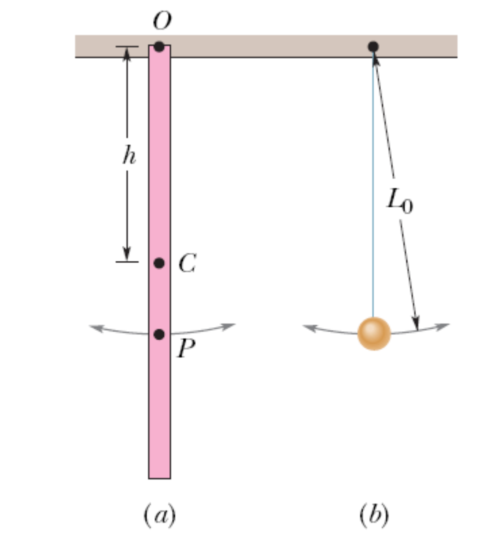
Example, pendulum, continued:

(b) What is the distance L_0 *between the pivot point O* of the stick and the center of oscillation of the stick?

Calculations: We want the length L_0 of the simple pendulum (drawn in Fig. *b)* that has the same period as the physical pendulum (the stick) of Fig. *a*.

$$T = 2\pi\sqrt{\frac{L_0}{g}} = 2\pi\sqrt{\frac{2L}{3g}}.$$

$$L_0 = \tfrac{2}{3}L = (\tfrac{2}{3})(100 \text{ cm}) = 66.7 \text{ cm}. \quad \text{(Answer)}$$



Circular Motion with Constant Angular Speed

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A particle rotates counterclockwise in a circle of radius 3.00 m with a constant angular speed of 8.00 rad/s. At , the particle has an *x* coordinate of 2.00 m and is moving to the right. (a) Determine the *x* coordinate as a function of time.

Solution Because the amplitude of the particle's motion equals the radius of the circle and $\omega = 8.00$ rad/s, we have

$$x = A\cos(\omega t + \phi) = (3.00 \text{ m})\cos(8.00t + \phi)$$

We can evaluate ϕ by using the initial condition that $x = 2.00$ m at $t = 0$:

$$2.00 \text{ m} = (3.00 \text{ m})\cos(0 + \phi)$$

$$\phi = \cos^{-1}\left(\frac{2.00 \text{ m}}{3.00 \text{ m}}\right)$$

If we were to take our answer as $\phi = 48.2°$, then the coordinate $x = (3.00 \text{ m})\cos(8.00t + 48.2°)$ would be decreasing at time $t = 0$ (that is, moving to the left). Because our particle is first moving to the right, we must choose $\phi = -48.2° = -0.841$ rad. The *x* coordinate as a function of time is then

$$x = \boxed{(3.00 \text{ m})\cos(8.00t - 0.841)}$$

Note that ϕ in the cosine function must be in radians.

(b) Find the *x* components of the particle's velocity and acceleration at any time *t*.

Solution

$$v_x = \frac{dx}{dt} = (-3.00 \text{ m})(8.00 \text{ rad/s})\sin(8.00t - 0.841)$$

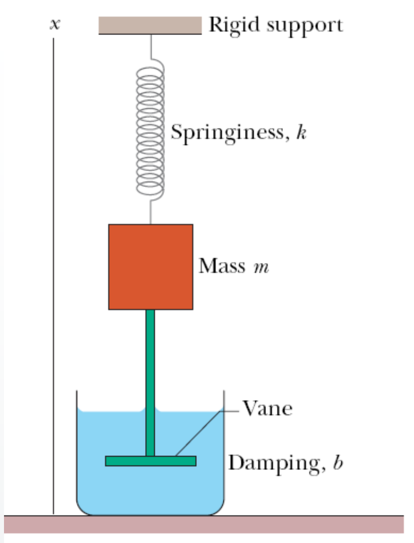
$$= \boxed{-(24.0 \text{ m/s})\sin(8.00t - 0.841)}$$

$$a_x = \frac{dv_x}{dt} = (-24.0 \text{ m/s})(8.00 \text{ rad/s})\cos(8.00t - 0.841)$$

$$= \boxed{-(192 \text{ m/s}^2)\cos(8.00t - 0.841)}$$

From these results, we conclude that $v_{max} = 24.0$ m/s and that $a_{max} = 192$ m/s^2. Note that these values also equal the tangential speed ωA and the centripetal acceleration $\omega^2 A$.

Example :



For the damped oscillator in the figure, m *250 g*, k = 85 N/m, and *b =70 g/s.*

(a) What is the period of the motion?

KEY IDEA Because $b \ll \sqrt{km} = 4.6$ kg/s, the period is approximately that of the undamped oscillator.

Calculation: From Eq. 15-13, we then have

$$T = 2\pi\sqrt{\frac{m}{k}} = 2\pi\sqrt{\frac{0.25\text{ kg}}{85\text{ N/m}}} = 0.34\text{ s.} \quad \text{(Answer)}$$

Example :

(b) How long does it take for the amplitude of the damped oscillations to drop to half its initial value?

KEY IDEA The amplitude at time t is $x_m e^{-bt/2m}$.

Calculations: The amplitude has the value x_m at $t = 0$. Thus, we must find the value of t for which

$$x_m e^{-bt/2m} = \tfrac{1}{2}x_m.$$

Canceling x_m and taking the natural logarithm of the equation that remains, we have $\ln \frac{1}{2}$ on the right side and

$$\ln(e^{-bt/2m}) = -bt/2m$$

$$t = \frac{-2m \ln \frac{1}{2}}{b} = \frac{-(2)(0.25\ \text{kg})(\ln \frac{1}{2})}{0.070\ \text{kg/s}}$$

$$= 5.0\ \text{s}. \qquad \text{(Answer)}$$

Because $T = 0.34$ s, this is about 15 periods of oscillation.

Example :

(c) How long does it take for the mechanical energy to drop to one-half its initial value?

KEY IDEA From Eq. 15-44, the mechanical energy at time t is $\frac{1}{2}kx_m^2\, e^{-bt/m}$.

Calculations: The mechanical energy has the value $\frac{1}{2}kx_m^2$ at $t = 0$. Thus, we must find the value of t for which

$$\tfrac{1}{2}kx_m^2\, e^{-bt/m} = \tfrac{1}{2}\left(\tfrac{1}{2}kx_m^2\right).$$

If we divide both sides of this equation by $\frac{1}{2}kx_m^2$ and solve for t as we did above, we find

$$t = \frac{-m \ln \frac{1}{2}}{b} = \frac{-(0.25 \text{ kg})(\ln \frac{1}{2})}{0.070 \text{ kg/s}} = 2.5 \text{ s.} \quad \text{(Answer)}$$