

§2.6 - FORCED VIBRATIONS

We now consider vibrating systems where some <sup>known</sup> external force is applied. This corresponds to the DE  $my'' + \gamma y' + ky = g(t)$ , where the function  $g(t)$  is no longer 0.

The most important case to consider is where  $g(t)$  is periodic in nature, <sup>eg.  $\cos(\omega t)$  etc.</sup> as this is what we most often encounter in real-world situations.

2.6.1 Forced Vibrations without Damping

In some situations friction is negligible over short-enough time periods. We investigate such systems when  $g(t)$  is sinusoidal, i.e. we consider the equation

$$my'' + ky = F_0 \cos(\omega t) \quad \text{--- (1)}$$

for known constants  $m, k, F_0$  &  $\omega$ .

Let  $\omega_0$  be the natural frequency of the system i.e.  $\omega_0 = \sqrt{\frac{k}{m}}$ . The <sup>behaviour</sup> ~~nature~~ of a solution to (1) depends on whether  $\omega = \omega_0$  or  $\omega \neq \omega_0$ .

2.6.2

Case 1:  $\omega \neq \omega_0$ :

We know that a general solution to the homogeneous solution looks like  $y = c_1 \cos(\omega_0 t) + c_2 \sin(\omega_0 t)$ .

A Claim:  $Y = \frac{F_0}{m(\omega_0^2 - \omega^2)} \cos(\omega t)$  is a particular solution to

the nonhomogeneous ~~inhomogeneous~~ DE.

Proof:  $Y'' = \frac{-\omega^2 F_0}{m(\omega_0^2 - \omega^2)} \cos(\omega t)$ .

$$\begin{aligned} \text{So } mY'' + kY &= \left( \frac{-\omega^2 F_0}{\omega_0^2 - \omega^2} + \frac{kF_0}{m(\omega_0^2 - \omega^2)} \right) \cos(\omega t) = \frac{F_0}{(\omega_0^2 - \omega^2)} \left( -\omega^2 + \frac{k}{m} \right) \cos(\omega t) \\ &= F_0 \cos(\omega t) \quad \checkmark. \end{aligned}$$

Hence  $y = C_1 \cos(\omega_0 t) + C_2 \sin(\omega_0 t) + \frac{F_0}{m(\omega_0^2 - \omega^2)} \cos(\omega t)$

is a full general solution to the DE.

So any solution to the DE will be a weighted sum of 2 sinusoids with different frequency. Of particular interest is when ~~unknown~~  $\omega$  is close to  $\omega_0$ , i.e.  $|\omega - \omega_0|$  is small: in that case we observe interference.

For simplicity let  $y(0) = 0$ ,  $y'(0) = 0$  i.e. the vibrating object starts from rest.

$\Rightarrow C_1 = \frac{-F_0}{m(\omega_0^2 - \omega^2)}$ ,  $C_2 = 0$ .

So the solution to the IVP is

$$y = \frac{F_0}{m(\omega_0^2 - \omega^2)} [\cos(\omega t) - \cos(\omega_0 t)]$$

Cool trick: Let  $A = \frac{1}{2}(\omega_0 + \omega)t$  &  $B = \frac{1}{2}(\omega_0 - \omega)t$

Then  $\omega = A - B$  &  $\omega_0 = A + B$ .

$$\begin{aligned} \text{So } \cos(\omega t) - \cos(\omega_0 t) &= \cos(A - B) - \cos(A + B) \\ &= \cos A \cos B + \sin A \sin B \\ &\quad - (\cos A \cos B - \sin A \sin B) \\ &= 2 \sin A \sin B \\ &= 2 \sin\left(\frac{1}{2}(\omega_0 + \omega)t\right) \sin\left(\frac{1}{2}(\omega_0 - \omega)t\right) \end{aligned}$$

Hence we can also write the solution to the IVP as

$$y = \left[ \frac{2F_0}{m(\omega_0^2 - \omega^2)} \sin\left(\frac{1}{2}(\omega_0 - \omega)t\right) \right] \sin\left(\frac{1}{2}(\omega_0 + \omega)t\right).$$

If  $\omega$  is <sup>very</sup> close to  $\omega_0$ , then the  $\sin\left(\frac{1}{2}(\omega_0 - \omega)t\right)$  term will oscillate very slowly compared to the  $\sin\left(\frac{1}{2}(\omega_0 + \omega)t\right)$  term. We can therefore think of the solution function as one which oscillates rapidly with frequency  $\frac{1}{2}(\omega_0 + \omega)$ , but the amplitude of the oscillation varies slowly in a sinusoidal fashion: amplitude =  $\frac{2F_0}{m(\omega_0^2 - \omega^2)} \sin\left(\frac{1}{2}(\omega_0 - \omega)t\right)$

Definition 2.6.3: • If a rapidly oscillating function exhibits a periodically varying amplitude, that function is said to possess a beat.

• The radial beat frequency is the frequency (in rad/sec) of the variation of amplitude, i.e.  $\frac{1}{2}(\omega_0 - \omega)$  in our case to the left.

• The cyclic beat frequency and beat period are  $\frac{\frac{1}{2}(\omega_0 - \omega)}{2\pi}$  (in Hertz or cycles per second)

and  $\frac{2\pi}{\frac{1}{2}(\omega_0 - \omega)}$  (in seconds) respectively.

This phenomenon is also known as amplitude modulation in electronics. In acoustics beats are readily noticeable, for example when two <sup>side by side</sup> instruments play two very slightly out of tune notes.

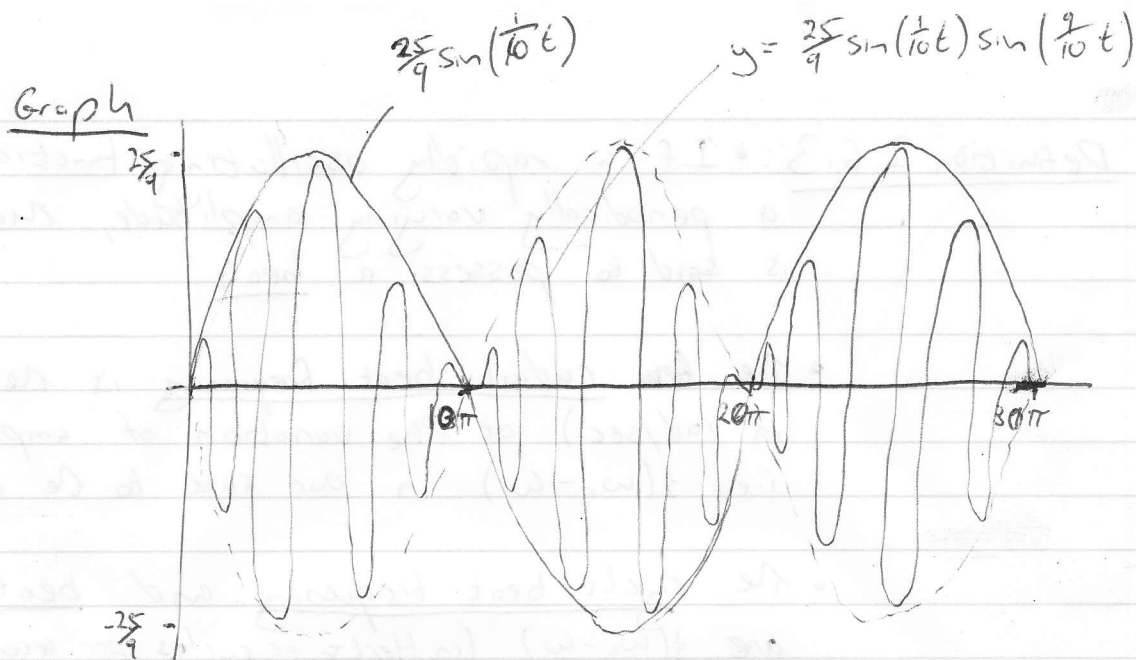
Example 2.6.4: Solve the IVP  $y'' + y = \frac{1}{2} \cos(\frac{4}{5}t)$ ,  
 $y(0) = 0, y'(0) = 0$ .

We've already worked down the ~~shorter~~ form of the solution on the previous page. Here we have  $F_0 = \frac{1}{2}, m=1, k=1$ ,  
 $\omega_0 = 1, \omega = \frac{4}{5}$ . So  $\frac{1}{2}(\omega_0 + \omega) = \frac{9}{10}$  &  $\frac{1}{2}(\omega_0 - \omega) = \frac{1}{10}$ ,  
&  $\frac{2F_0}{m(\omega_0^2 - \omega^2)} = \frac{2 \cdot \frac{1}{2}}{1(1 - (\frac{4}{5})^2)} = \frac{25}{9} = 2.777...$

So the solution to the IVP is

$$y = \left[ \frac{2F_0}{m(\omega_0^2 - \omega^2)} \sin\left(\frac{1}{2}(\omega_0 - \omega)t\right) \right] \sin\left(\frac{1}{2}(\omega_0 + \omega)t\right)$$

or  $y = \left( \frac{25}{9} \sin\left(\frac{1}{10}t\right) \right) \sin\left(\frac{9}{10}t\right)$



What happens if  $\omega$  is increased to 0.9?

$\Rightarrow$

- $\frac{1}{2}(\omega_0 + \omega) = \frac{19}{20} = 0.95$
- $\frac{1}{2}(\omega_0 - \omega) = \frac{1}{20} = 0.05$
- $\frac{2F_0}{m(\omega_0^2 - \omega^2)} = \frac{100}{19} \approx 5.263$

So if the difference between  $\omega$  &  $\omega_0$  is halved

- the rapid oscillation  $\frac{1}{2}(\omega_0 + \omega)$  is relatively unchanged
- the beat frequency  $\frac{1}{2}(\omega_0 - \omega)$  is halved
- the oscillation amplitude  $\frac{2F_0}{m(\omega_0^2 - \omega^2)}$  about doubles.

As  $\omega \rightarrow \omega_0$  we get the second case.

### 2.6.5 Case 2: $\omega = \omega_0$

So now  $my'' + ky = F_0 \cos(\omega_0 t)$ ;

Since  $\cos(\omega_0 t)$  is a solution to the homogeneous solution, we must multiply our particular solution guess by  $t$

The particular solution now becomes  $Y = \frac{F_0}{2m\omega_0} t \sin(\omega_0 t)$

Check: Write  $Y = t \cdot f(t)$ , where we know  $mf'' + kf = 0$

then  $Y' = f + tf'$

$Y'' = 2f' + tf''$

PTO

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{So } mY'' + kY &= m(2f' + t f'') + k \cdot t f \\
 &= t(mf'' + kf') + 2mf' \\
 &= 2mf' \\
 &= 2m \frac{F_0}{2m\omega_0} \sin(\omega_0 t) \\
 &= F_0 \cos(\omega_0 t) \quad \checkmark
 \end{aligned}$$

So the general solution to the DE is  $y = c_1 \cos(\omega_0 t) + c_2 \sin(\omega_0 t) + \frac{F_0}{2m\omega_0} t \sin(\omega_0 t)$ .

The thing to realise here is that the  $t \sin(\omega_0 t)$  term grows in amplitude in time.

Definition 2.6.6 The case where  $\omega = \omega_0$  is called resonance. In this case the forcing function continues to pour energy into the system at just the right frequency. As such the amplitude of the resulting oscillation grows unchecked over time.

[ Contrast this with  $\omega \neq \omega_0$ , where eventually the solution will oscillate out of phase with the forcing function. The forcing function will then work in opposition to the vibrating object, reducing for a time the energy of the system until the oscillations line up ~~the~~ again ]

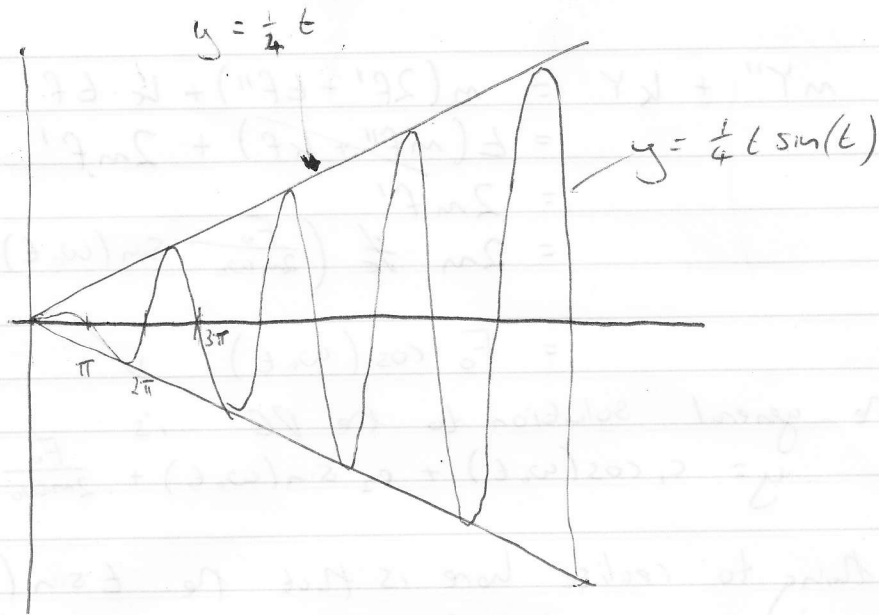
Example 2.6.7  $y'' + y'' = \frac{1}{2} \cos(t)$ ,  $y(0) = 0$ ,  $y'(0) = 0$   
i.e. same as before, except  $\omega = \omega_0 = 1$

We have  $\frac{F_0}{2m\omega_0} = \frac{1}{4}$ , so the solution looks like  $y = c_1 \cos(t) + c_2 \sin(t) + \frac{1}{4} t \sin(t)$

The initial conditions give  $c_1 = c_2 = 0$ , so the solution is

$$y = \frac{1}{4} t \sin(t).$$

Graph



If you calculate the <sup>total</sup> energy of the object:

$$E = \underbrace{\frac{1}{2} m \dot{y}^2}_{\text{kinetic}} + \underbrace{\frac{1}{2} k y^2}_{\text{spring}}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{here } E &= \frac{1}{2} (\sin(t) + t \cos(t))^2 + \frac{1}{2} (t \sin(t))^2 \\ &= \frac{1}{2} [\sin^2(t) + 2t \sin(t) \cos(t) + t^2 \cos^2(t)] + \frac{1}{2} t^2 \sin^2(t) \\ &= t^2 + \frac{1}{2} \sin^2(t) + t \sin(2t) \end{aligned}$$

we see that the energy is growing unbounded over time

Note that ~~unlike~~ in reality, of course, the mathematical model will break down before we reach infinity. At some point friction will become significant or the spring response will stop being linear. Thus the case of resonance is only valid for small  $t$ , when the amplitude of the oscillations is still relatively small.