



JOINT INSTITUTE
交大密西根学院

PHYSICS LABORATORY I

VP141

Exercise III

Simple Harmonic Motion Oscillations Mechanical Systems

Name:

Tianyi GE

Teammate:

Yukang TIAN

Student Number:

516370910168

Student Number:

516370910093

Group:

17

Teaching Assistant:

Yicheng JIANG

Instructor:

Prof. Mateusz KRZYZOSIAK

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1 Introduction

The objective of this exercise is to study simple harmonic oscillation, including how to find the spring constant, how to analyze the relationship between the oscillation period and the mass of the oscillator, whether the oscillation period depends on the amplitude. Besides, the relationship between the maximum speed and the amplitude will also be examined. Simple harmonic motion is one of the most fundamental periodic motions, where the restoring force is proportional to the displacement from the equilibrium position so that the position of a particle depends on time as a sine (or cosine) function.

1.1 Hooke's law

Within the elastic limit of deformation, the force F_x needed to compress or stretch a spring is proportional to the distance, *i.e.*,

$$F_x = kx, \quad (1)$$

where k , the spring constant, characterizing how easy to deform a spring. We use *Jolly balance* in this exercise to find that constant. The relation 1 is known as the *Hooke's Law*. Therefore, the elastic force is found according to Newton's third law of dynamics, whose magnitude is the same but direction is opposite. It's also known as restoring force as it always tries to restore the system back to the equilibrium.

1.2 Equation of Motion of the Simple Harmonic Oscillator

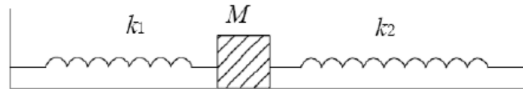


Figure 1: Mass-spring system

As shown in Figure 1.2, the mass with two springs is placed on an air track, which aims at eliminating the frictional forces. Assuming that the restoring force is the only force acting on mass M , the equation of motion of mass M is

$$M \frac{d^2x}{dt^2} + (k_1 + k_2)x = 0. \quad (2)$$

Hence the general solution to Eq. 2 is

$$x(t) = A \cos(\omega_0 t + \phi_0), \quad (3)$$

where $\omega_0 = \sqrt{(k_1 + k_2)/M}$ is the natural angular frequency of the oscillations (determined by the parameters of the system), A is the amplitude, and ϕ_0 is the initial phase (determined by initial conditions). The natural period of oscillation is

$$T = \frac{2\pi}{\omega_0} = 2\pi \sqrt{\frac{M}{k_1 + k_2}}. \quad (4)$$

In this exercise, the relationship mentioned above will be studied.

1.3 Mass of the Spring

We take into the mass of the springs in terms of the so-called *effective mass*, which is the sum of the mass of the object M and the effective mass of springs m_0 . The angular frequency can be expressed as

$$\omega_0 = \sqrt{\frac{k_1 + k_2}{M + m_0}} \quad (5)$$

where m_0 is 1/3 of the actual mass of the spring.

1.4 Mechanical Energy in Harmonic Motion

The elastic potential energy for a spring-mass system is $U = kx^2/2$ and the kinetic energy of an oscillating mass is $K = mv^2/2$. At the equilibrium position ($x = 0$), the speed of the mass is maximum $v = v_{max}$. At this point the total mechanical energy is equal to maximum kinetic energy K_{max} . On the other hand, at maximum displacement ($x = \pm A$) the mass is instantaneously at rest, and the contribution to the total mechanical energy is due to the potential energy only, which is at its maximum U_{max} . In the absence of non-conservative forces (such as frictional forces or drag forces), the total mechanical energy is conserved and $K_{max} = U_{max}$, which implies

$$k = \frac{mv_{max}^2}{A^2}. \quad (6)$$

2 Experimental Setup

The measurement equipment consists of the following elements: springs, Jolly balance, air track, electronic timer, electronic balance and masses.

In order to measure the spring constant using the Jolly balance, we need to place the small mirror C (see Figure 2) in the tube D and make three lines coincide: the line on the mirror, the line on the glass tube and its reflection in the mirror. First, without adding any

A: Sliding bar with metric scale;
 H: Vernier for reading;
 C: Small mirror with a horizontal line in the middle;
 D: Fixed glass tube also with a horizontal line in the middle;
 G: Knob for ascending and descending the sliding bar;
 S: Spring attached to top of the bar
 A.

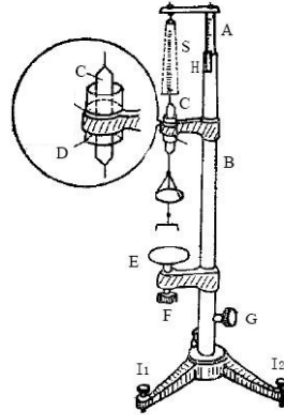


Figure 2: Jolly balance

weight on the bottom end of the spring, adjust the knob G and make the three lines coincide. Then read the scale L_1 .

Second, add mass m to the bottom of the spring. The spring is stretched and the three lines no longer coincide. Adjust knob G to make them into one line again and read the corresponding number on scale L_2 . The spring constant may be then found as

$$k = \frac{mg}{L_2 - L_1} \quad (7)$$

so that we can estimate the spring constant by finding a linear fit to the data using the least squares method.

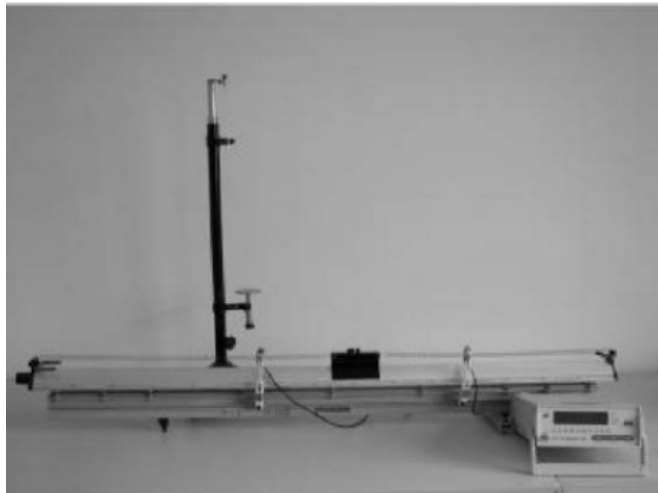


Figure 3: The experimental setup

A photoelectric measuring system consists of two photoelectric gates and an electronic timer. When a shutter on the object blocks the light, the computer will record the time. For period measurements, we use the I-shape shutter.

When measuring the instantaneous speed, the U-shape shutter is required. Δt presents the time interval when the object travels a distance of $\Delta x = (x_{in} + x_{out})/2$. Hence we estimate the speed as $v = \Delta x / \Delta t$.

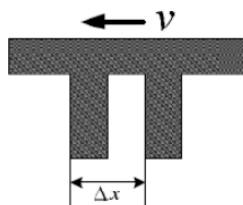


Figure 4: The U-shape shutter

3 Measurement Procedure

3.1 Spring constant

1. Adjust the Jolly balance to vertical and attach the spring. Add a 20g preload and adjust knob I_1 and I_2 to make sure the mirror can move freely through the tube. Check if the balance parallel to the spring.
2. Adjust knob G to make the three lines in the tube coincide.
3. Reading the reading on the scale, add mass from 1 to 6 and record L_i in order.
4. Estimate the spring constant k_1 by fitting.
5. Repeat the measurements with spring 2. Calculate k_2 .
6. Remove the preload and repeat the measurements for spring 1 and 2 connected. Calculate k_3 .

3.2 Relation between oscillation period T and the mass of the oscillator M

(a) Adjust the air track so that it's horizontal.

1. Turn on the air track and check whether there's blocked holes.
2. Place the cart on the track. Adjust the track with the knob on the side with a single one.

(b) Horizontal air track

1. Attach springs to the sides of the cart and set up the I-shape shutter. Make sure that the photoelectric gate is at the equilibrium position.
2. Set the timer into "T" mode. Add weight in order and release it with a caliper. Record the corresponding time intervals for 10 periods.
3. Analyze the relation between M and T by plotting a graph.

(c) Inclined air track

1. Add three plastic plates under the air track everytime. Repeat the steps in (b).
2. Analyze the relation between M and T by plotting a graph.

3.3 Relation between the oscillation period and the amplitude

1. Keep the mass of the cart unchanged and change the amplitude (choose 6 different values). The amplitude is about 5.0/ 10.0/ 15.0/ ... /30.0 cm.
2. Apply linear fit to the data and comment on the relation between the oscillation period T and the amplitude A based on the correlation coefficient γ .

3.4 Relation between the maximum speed and the amplitude

1. Keep the mass of the cart unchanged and change the amplitude from 5.0 to 30.0cm with gap of 5.0cm.
2. Measure v_{max} for different amplitudes.

3.5 Mass measurement

1. Adjust the electronic balance every time before you use it. The level bubble should be in the center of the circle.
2. Add weights according to a fixed order. Weigh the cart with the I-shape shutter and with the U-shape shutter. Measure the mass of spring 1 and spring 2.
3. Record the data only after the circular symbol on the scales display disappears.

3.6 Devices Precision

The precision of the devices are shown in Table 1.

Devices	Precision	Unit
Jolly balance	0.01	[cm]
Ruler	0.1	[cm]
Timer for periods	0.1	[ms]
Timer for maximum speed	0.01	[ms]
Calliper	0.02	[mm]
Electronic scale	0.01	[g]

Table 1: Devices precision

4 Results

4.1 Measurements for spring constant

From the raw spring length measurement data in Table 2, we obtain the change amount of the spring length by $\Delta_{L_i} = L_i - L_0$ in Table 3.

Since the acceleration due to gravity is exactly $9.794m/s^2$, we obtain the weights of weight stacks from their masses, as shown in Table 4. The relation between the elastic force

Unit: $[\times 10^{-2}m] \pm 0.01[\times 10^{-2}m]$					
No.	spring 1	No.	spring 2	No.	series
L_0	2.25	L_0	2.84	L_0	5.06
L_1	4.40	L_1	4.96	L_1	9.25
L_2	6.56	L_2	7.08	L_2	13.38
L_3	8.70	L_3	9.18	L_3	17.60
L_4	10.78	L_4	11.25	L_4	21.98
L_5	12.85	L_5	13.30	L_5	26.09
L_6	15.03	L_6	15.42	L_6	30.31

Table 2: Spring constant measurement data

and the change of spring length is linear. Using the least-squares method, we can calculate the most optimal estimate of the slope and intercept. The errorbars of W and Δ_L are based on their own combined uncertainties, which is just their type B uncertainties Δ_B in this case. Specific error calculation is included in Section 5.

The errorbar is **not clear enough** because the error is relatively **small**. The sample calculation of k_1 done by Matlab is also shown here. The fitting curve in Figure 5 is based on Table 5.

Unit: $[\times 10^{-2}m] \pm 0.01[\times 10^{-2}m]$					
No.	spring 1	No.	spring 2	No.	series
Δ_{L_1}	2.15	Δ_{L_1}	2.12	Δ_{L_1}	4.19
Δ_{L_2}	4.31	Δ_{L_2}	4.24	Δ_{L_2}	8.32
Δ_{L_3}	6.45	Δ_{L_3}	6.34	Δ_{L_3}	12.54
Δ_{L_4}	8.53	Δ_{L_4}	8.41	Δ_{L_4}	16.92
Δ_{L_5}	10.60	Δ_{L_5}	10.46	Δ_{L_5}	21.03
Δ_{L_6}	12.78	Δ_{L_6}	12.58	Δ_{L_6}	25.25

Table 3: Calculated spring measurement data

	$m[\times 10^{-3}kg] \pm 0.01[\times 10^{-3}kg]$	$W[\times 10^{-3}N] \pm 0.1[\times 10^{-3}N]$
1	4.83	47.3
2	9.65	94.5
3	14.50	142.0
4	19.24	188.4
5	23.99	235.0
6	28.80	282.1

Table 4: Weight measurement data

No.	$\Delta_L[m]$	$u_{\Delta_L}[m]$	$W[N]$	$u_W[N]$
1	0.0215	0.0001	0.04730	0.0001
1	0.0431	0.0001	0.09451	0.0001
1	0.0645	0.0001	0.1420	0.0001
1	0.0853	0.0001	0.1884	0.0001
1	0.1060	0.0001	0.2350	0.0001
1	0.1278	0.0001	0.2821	0.0001

Table 5: Data for $W vs. \Delta_L$ of spring 1 in Figure 5

$$\begin{aligned}
k_1 &= \frac{\overline{\Delta_L W} - \overline{\Delta_L} \cdot \overline{W}}{\overline{\Delta_L^2} - \overline{\Delta_L}^2} \\
&\approx \frac{1.52 \times 10^{-2} - 7.47 \times 10^{-2} \times 0.165}{68.9 \times 10^{-4} - 55.8 \times 10^{-4}} \\
&= 2.22 \pm 0.02 \text{ kg/s}^2.
\end{aligned}$$

$$u_{r,k_1} = 0.9\%$$

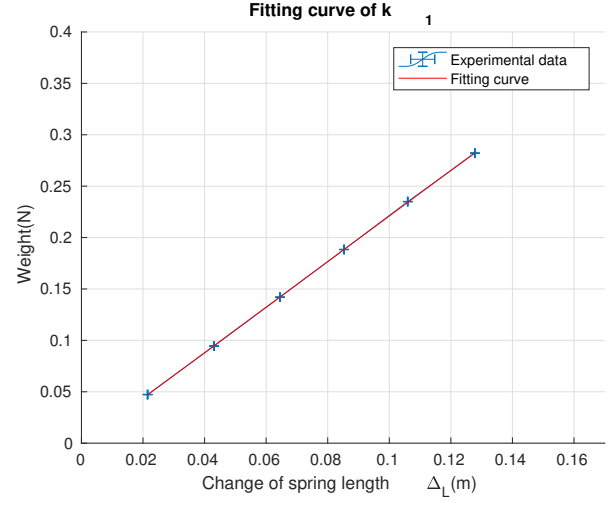


Figure 5: Fitting curve of spring 1

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Linear model Poly1:
f(x) = p1*x + p2
Coefficients (with 95% confidence bounds):
p1 = 2.216 (2.199, 2.232)
p2 = -0.0006251 (-0.001971, 0.0007208)

Goodness of fit:
SSE: 1.07e-06
R-square: 1
Adjusted R-square: 1
RMSE: 0.0005173

```

Figure 6: Information of fit in Figure 5

Similiarly, we obtain k_2 and k_3 .

No.	$\Delta_L[m]$	$u_{\Delta_L}[m]$	$W[N]$	$u_W[N]$
1	0.0212	0.0001	0.04730	0.0001
1	0.0424	0.0001	0.09451	0.0001
1	0.0634	0.0001	0.1420	0.0001
1	0.0841	0.0001	0.1884	0.0001
1	0.1046	0.0001	0.2350	0.0001
1	0.1258	0.0001	0.2821	0.0001

Table 6: Data for W vs. Δ_L of spring 2 in Figure 7

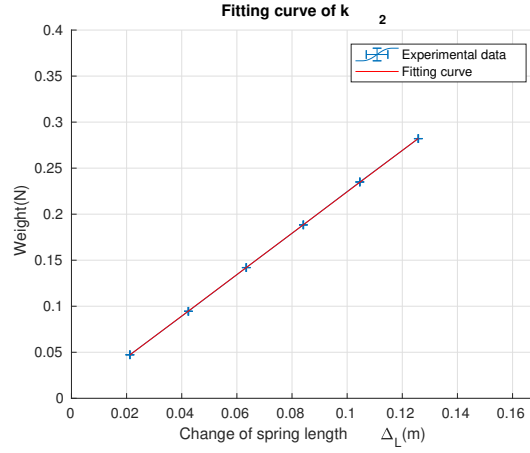


Figure 7: Fitting curve of spring 2

```
Linear model Poly1:
f(x) = p1*x + p2
Coefficients (with 95% confidence bounds):
p1 = 2.248 (2.239, 2.257)
p2 = -0.0005441 (-0.001258, 0.0001694)

Goodness of fit:
SSE: 3.011e-07
R-square: 1
Adjusted R-square: 1
RMSE: 0.0002744
```

Figure 8: Information of fit in Figure 7

$$k_2 \approx 2.25 \pm 0.01 kg/s^2, \quad u_{r,k_2} = 0.4\%$$

No.	$\Delta_L[m]$	$u_{\Delta_L}[m]$	$W[N]$	$u_W[N]$
1	0.0419	0.0001	0.04730	0.0001
2	0.0832	0.0001	0.09451	0.0001
3	0.1254	0.0001	0.1420	0.0001
4	0.1692	0.0001	0.1884	0.0001
5	0.2103	0.0001	0.2350	0.0001
6	0.2525	0.0001	0.2821	0.0001

Table 7: Data for W vs. Δ_L of spring series in Figure 9

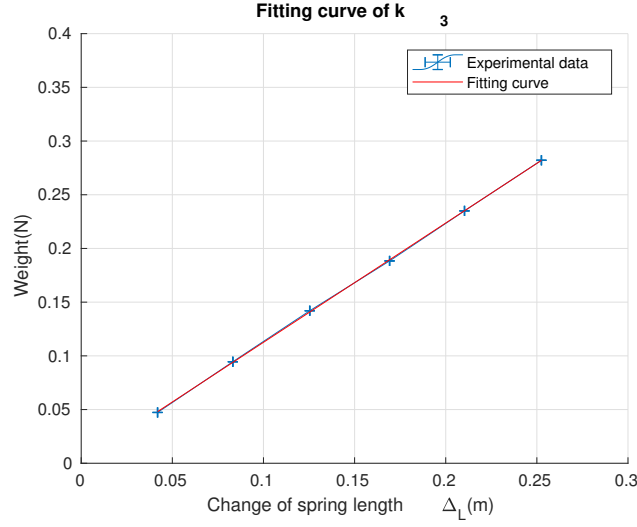


Figure 9: Fitting curve of series of spring 1 and spring 2

```

Linear model Poly1:
f(x) = p1*x + p2
Coefficients (with 95% confidence bounds):
p1 = 1.111 (1.096, 1.125)
p2 = 0.001516 (-0.0008839, 0.003916)

Goodness of fit:
SSE: 3.477e-06
R-square: 0.9999
Adjusted R-square: 0.9999
RMSE: 0.0009323

```

Figure 10: Information of fit in Figure 9

$$k_3 \approx 1.11 \pm 0.017 \text{ kg/s}^2, \quad u_{r,k_3} = 1.5\%$$

However, k_3 could be theoretically calculated by k_1 and k_2 . This will be further discussed in Section 5.

4.2 Relation between the period T and the mass M

In this experiment we use I-shape shutter to block the photoelectric gate. The mass and period data are listed in Table 8 and ???. The effective mass in Table ??? is the sum of m_{objI} and the mass of weights in Table 4.

object with I-shape	$m_{objI} = 176.55 \pm 0.01 [\times 10^{-3} kg]$
object with U-shape	$m_{objU} = 186.75 \pm 0.01 [\times 10^{-3} kg]$
mass of spring 1	$m_{spr1} = 10.74 \pm 0.01 [\times 10^{-3} kg]$
mass of spring 2	$m_{spr2} = 10.77 \pm 0.01 [\times 10^{-3} kg]$
equivalent mass	$M_I = m_{objI} + \frac{1}{3}m_{spr1} + \frac{1}{3}m_{spr2} = 183.72 \pm 0.01 [\times 10^{-3} kg]$
equivalent mass	$M_U = m_{objU} + \frac{1}{3}m_{spr1} + \frac{1}{3}m_{spr2} = 193.92 \pm 0.01 [\times 10^{-3} kg]$

Table 8: Mass measurement data

Again using the least-squares method we can plot the fitting curve of $T^2 vs. M$ (see Figure 11). The errorbar is still not clear though.

No.	$M[kg]$	$u_M[kg]$	$T^2[s^2]$	$u_{T^2}[s^2]$
1	0.18855	0.00001	1.63812	0.00003
2	0.19337	0.00001	1.68089	0.00003
3	0.19822	0.00001	1.72323	0.00003
4	0.20296	0.00001	1.76427	0.00003
5	0.20771	0.00001	1.80534	0.00003
6	0.21252	0.00001	1.84753	0.00003

Table 9: Data for $T^2 vs. M$ for the horizontal track in Figure 11

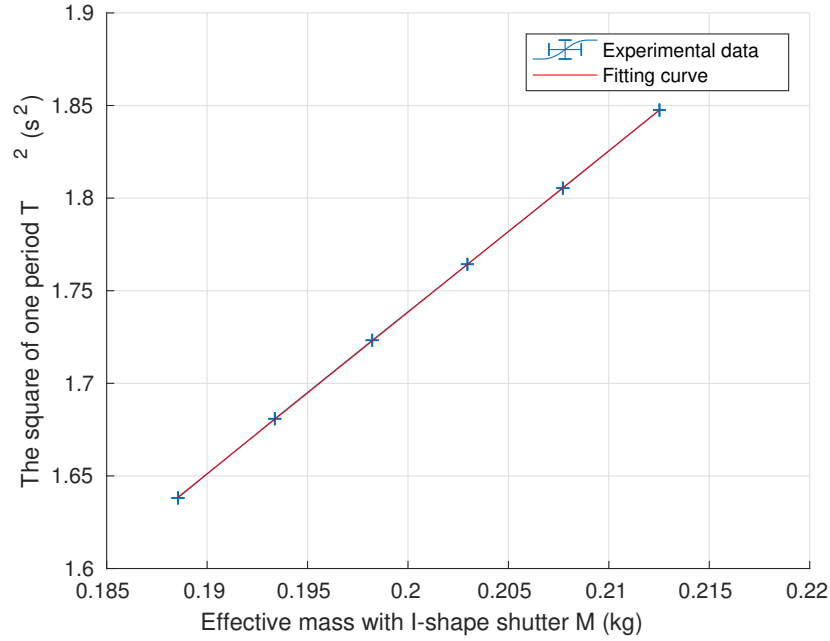


Figure 11: $T^2 vs. M$ for the horizontal track. $R^2 = 1$

```

Linear model Poly1:
f(x) = p1*x + p2
Coefficients (with 95% confidence bounds):
p1 =      8.72 (8.671, 8.768)
p2 = -0.005537 (-0.01534, 0.004267)

Goodness of fit:
SSE: 4.969e-07
R-square: 1
Adjusted R-square: 1
RMSE: 0.0003524

```

Figure 12: Information of fit in Figure 11

No.	$M[kg]$	$u_M[kg]$	$T^2[s^2]$	$u_{T^2}[s^2]$
1	0.18855	0.00001	1.63945	0.00003
2	0.19337	0.00001	1.67884	0.00003
3	0.19822	0.00001	1.72232	0.00003
4	0.20296	0.00001	1.76430	0.00003
5	0.20771	0.00001	1.80615	0.00003
6	0.21252	0.00001	1.84732	0.00003

Table 10: Data for $T^2 vs. M$ for incline 1 in Figure 13

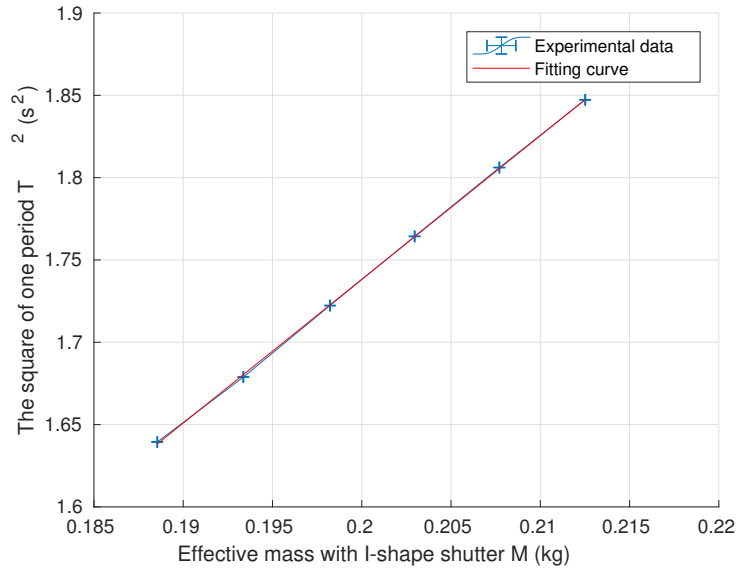


Figure 13: $T^2 vs. M$ for incline 1. $R^2 = 0.9999$

```

Linear model Poly1:
f(x) = p1*x + p2
Coefficients (with 95% confidence bounds):
p1 =      8.73 (8.586, 8.873)
p2 =  -0.007759 (-0.03655, 0.02103)

Goodness of fit:
SSE: 4.283e-06
R-square: 0.9999
Adjusted R-square: 0.9998
RMSE: 0.001035

```

Figure 14: Information of fit in Figure 13

No.	$M[kg]$	$u_M[kg]$	$T^2[s^2]$	$u_{T^2}[s^2]$
1	0.18855	0.00001	1.63843	0.00003
2	0.19337	0.00001	1.67842	0.00003
3	0.19822	0.00001	1.72318	0.00003
4	0.20296	0.00001	1.76242	0.00003
5	0.20771	0.00001	1.80534	0.00003
6	0.21252	0.00001	1.84821	0.00003

Table 11: Data for $T^2 vs. M$ for incline 2 in Figure 15

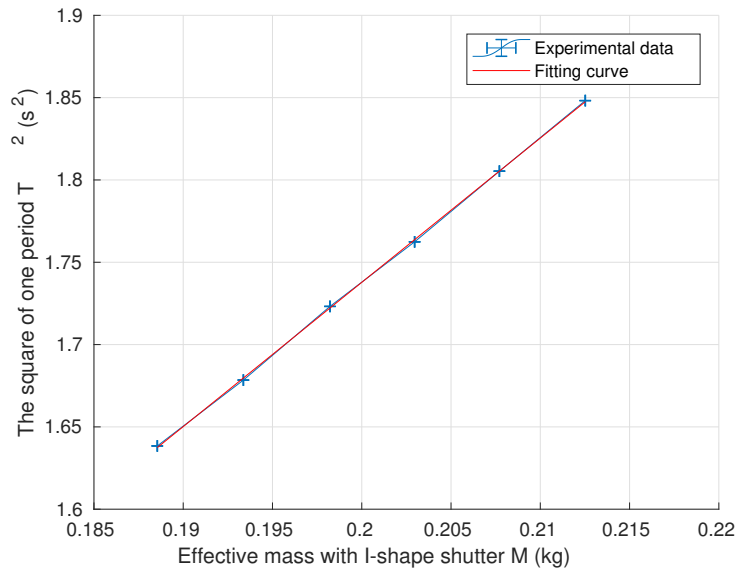


Figure 15: $T^2 vs. M$ for incline 2. $R^2 = 0.9998$

```

Linear model Poly1:
f(x) = p1*x + p2
Coefficients (with 95% confidence bounds):
p1 =      8.764 (8.598, 8.93)
p2 =    -0.01499 (-0.04836, 0.01838)

Goodness of fit:
SSE: 5.757e-06
R-square: 0.9998
Adjusted R-square: 0.9998
RMSE: 0.0012

```

Figure 16: Information of fit in Figure 15

From the results above, we can conclude that the relation between T^2 and M is that $T^2 \propto M$. Whether it's incline or horizontal will not affect the relation.

4.3 Relation between period T and amplitude A

No.	$A[m]$	$u_A[m]$	$T[s]$	$u_T[s]$
1	0.05	0.001	1.26451	0.0001
2	0.10	0.001	1.26361	0.0001
3	0.15	0.001	1.26287	0.0001
4	0.20	0.001	1.26358	0.0001
5	0.25	0.001	1.26362	0.0001
6	0.30	0.001	1.26360	0.0001

Table 12: Data for A vs. T in Figure 17

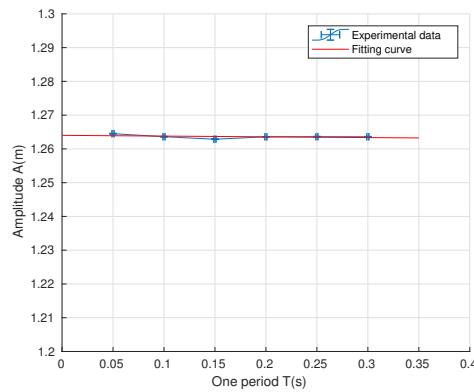


Figure 17: Fitting curve of T vs. A

```

Linear model Poly1:
f(x) = p1*x + p2
Coefficients (with 95% confidence bounds):
p1 = -0.002177 (-0.00929, 0.004936)
p2 = 1.264 (1.263, 1.265)

Goodness of fit:
SSE: 1.149e-06
R-square: 0.1529
Adjusted R-square: -0.05882
RMSE: 0.0005358

```

Figure 18: Information of fit in Figure 17

5 Measurement Uncertainty Analysis

5.1 Uncertainty of spring constants

To determine the uncertainty of $\Delta_L = L_i - L_0$, we need that

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{\partial \Delta_L}{\partial L_i} &= 1, \\ u_{L_i} &= \Delta_{dev} = 1 \times 10^{-4} m, \\ u_{\Delta_L} &= \sqrt{\left(\frac{\partial \Delta_L}{\partial L_i}\right)^2 \cdot (u_{L_i})^2} = \sqrt{(1)^2 \times (1 \times 10^{-4})^2} = 1 \times 10^{-4} m.\end{aligned}$$

. Similarly, u_W of $W = mg$ is

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{\partial W}{\partial m} &= g = 9.794 kg \cdot m/s^2, \\ u_m &= \Delta_{dev} = 1 \times 10^{-5} kg, \\ u_W &= \sqrt{\left(\frac{\partial W}{\partial m}\right)^2 \cdot (u_m)^2} = \sqrt{(9.794)^2 \times (1 \times 10^{-5})^2} \approx 0.1 \times 10^{-3} N.\end{aligned}$$

. The error of Δ_L and W will be shown in errorbar.

5.1.1 Uncertainty of fitting spring constants

The standard deviation of least-squares method is calculated by

$$\sigma_W = \sqrt{\frac{1}{k-n} \sum_{i=1}^k \varepsilon_i^2}$$

, where k is the number of measurements and n is the number of unknown quantity. In this experiment, we need to figure out both k and b so n should be 2 here. Considering spring 1, we plug in the data and obtain

$$\begin{aligned}\sigma_W &\approx \sqrt{\frac{1}{6-2} \times [(0.288)^2 + (-0.360)^2 + (-0.285)^2 + (0.0290)^2 + (0.765)^2 + (-0.437)^2]} \times 10^{-6} \\ &= 5.17 \times 10^{-4} N\end{aligned}$$

Therefore, the standard deviation of the slop estimate

$$\begin{aligned}\overline{\Delta_L^2} &= \frac{1}{6}[(0.0215)^2 + (0.0431)^2 + (0.0645)^2 + (0.0853)^2 + (0.1060)^2 + (0.1278)^2] \\ &\approx 0.00689m^2,\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\overline{\Delta_L^2} &= [\frac{1}{6}[0.0215 + 0.0431 + 0.0645 + 0.0853 + 0.1060 + 0.1278]]^2 \\ &\approx 0.00558m^2,\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\sigma_{k_1} &= \frac{\sigma_W}{\sqrt{\overline{\Delta_L^2} - \overline{\Delta_L^2}}} = \frac{5.17 \times 10^{-4}}{\sqrt{0.00689 - 0.00558}} \\ &\approx 14.3 \times 10^{-3} kg/s^2.\end{aligned}$$

Thus, the 0.95-confidence deviation is

$$u_{k_1} = \frac{t_{0.95}}{\sqrt{n-2}} \sigma_{k_1} = \frac{2.57}{\sqrt{6-2}} \times 14.3 \times 10^{-3} = 0.0184 \approx 0.02 kg/s^2.$$

Similarly, we obtain u_{k_2} and u_{k_3} .

$$\begin{aligned}\sigma_{k_2} &= 0.008 kg/s^2, & u_{k_2} &= \frac{t_{0.95}}{\sqrt{n-2}} \sigma_{k_2} = 0.01 kg/s^2. \\ \sigma_{k_3} &= 0.013 kg/s^2, & u_{k_3} &= \frac{t_{0.95}}{\sqrt{n-2}} \sigma_{k_3} = 0.017 kg/s^2.\end{aligned}$$

The relative uncertainty can be calculated by $u_r = u/\bar{X} \times 100\%$. For example,

$$u_{r,k_1} = \frac{0.02}{2.22} \times 100\% = 0.9\%.$$

Finally, the experimentally found k_1 , k_2 and k_3 is

$$\begin{aligned}k_1 &= 2.22 \pm 0.02 kg/s^2, & u_{r,k_1} &= 0.9\% \\ k_2 &= 2.25 \pm 0.01 kg/s^2, & u_{r,k_2} &= 0.4\% \\ k_3 &= 1.11 \pm 0.017 kg/s^2, & u_{r,k_3} &= 1.5\%\end{aligned}$$

5.1.2 Uncertainty of spring series' constants

To determine the theoretical value of k_3 , we have the equations

$$\begin{aligned} F &= k_1 \Delta_{L_1}, \\ F &= k_2 \Delta_{L_2}, \\ F &= k_3' (\Delta_{L_1} + \Delta_{L_2}), \end{aligned}$$

whose solution is $k_3' = \frac{k_1 k_2}{k_1 + k_2}$. The theoretical value of k_3 is

$$k_3' = \frac{k_1 k_2}{k_1 + k_2} = \frac{2.22 \times 2.25}{2.22 + 2.25} = 1.12 \text{ kg/s}^2.$$

The propagated uncertainty of k_3 is estimated by the formula

$$\begin{aligned} u_{k_3'} &= \sqrt{\left(\frac{\partial k_3'}{\partial k_1}\right)^2 (u_{k_1})^2 + \left(\frac{\partial k_3'}{\partial k_2}\right)^2 (u_{k_2})^2} \\ &= \sqrt{\left(\left(\frac{k_2}{k_1 + k_2}\right)^2 (u_{k_1})^2 + \left(\frac{k_1}{k_1 + k_2}\right)^2 (u_{k_2})^2\right)} \\ &= \sqrt{\left(\frac{2.25}{2.22 + 2.25}\right)^4 (0.02)^2 + \left(\frac{2.22}{2.22 + 2.25}\right)^4 (0.01)^2} \\ &= 0.006 \text{ kg/s}^2 \end{aligned}$$

and the relative uncertainty is

$$u_{rk_3'} = \frac{u_{k_3'}}{k_3'} = \frac{0.006}{1.12} = 0.5\%.$$

Hence the theoretical value of k_3' is

$$k_3' = 1.12 + 0.006 \text{ kg/s}^2, \quad u_{rk_3'} = 0.5\%.$$

Compared with k_3 we obtain from curve fitting, we can calculate the deviation Δ_{k_3} between k_3 and k_3' and the relative deviation Δ_{r,k_3} .

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta_{k_3} &= k_3 - k_3' = 1.11 - 1.12 = -0.01 \text{ kg/s}^2, \\ \Delta_{r,k_3} &= \frac{k_3 - k_3'}{k_3'} = \frac{1.11 - 1.12}{1.12} = -0.9\%. \end{aligned}$$

Recall that the 0.95-confidence interval of k_3 is (1.093, 1.127). The theoretical value $k_3' = 1.12 + 0.006 \text{ kg/s}^2$ is indeed in this interval, which means the uncertainty analysis of k_3 is reasonable.

5.2 Uncertainty of

From the formula of oscillation period $T = 2\pi\sqrt{\frac{M}{k}}$ we know that the slope of T^2 vs. M is

$$slope = \frac{T^2}{M} = \frac{4\pi^2}{k}, \quad (8)$$

where k is the effective spring constant. In this experiment, the effective spring constant can be calculated by

$$\begin{aligned} F &= k_1\Delta x + k_2\Delta x, \\ F &= k_{eff}\Delta x. \end{aligned}$$

Thus we get $k_{eff} = k_1 + k_2$. We take the results of k_1 and k_2 as the theoretical value, then

$$k_{eff} = k_1 + k_2 = 2.22 + 2.25 = 4.47 \text{ kg/s}^2.$$

Plugging it into Eq. 8, then we get the theoretical slope $slope_t = 4 \times 3.14^2 / 4.47 = 8.82 \text{ s}^2/\text{kg}$. By curve fitting, we get the slopes

$$\begin{aligned} slope_{hor} &= 8.72 \pm 0.05 \text{ s}^2/\text{kg}, \\ slope_{inc1} &= 8.73 \pm 0.14 \text{ s}^2/\text{kg}, \\ slope_{inc2} &= 8.76 \pm 0.17 \text{ s}^2/\text{kg}, \end{aligned}$$

where the uncertainty is calculated by $t_{0.95}/\sqrt{6-2} \times \sigma$. Hence the experimental value of the slope is $slope_e = \overline{slope} = 8.74 \text{ s}^2/\text{kg}$. Similarly, we get the propagated and relative uncertainty of slope, which is

$$\begin{aligned} u_{slope} &= \sqrt{\left(\frac{\partial slope}{\partial slope_{hor}}\right)^2 \cdot (u_{slope_{hor}})^2 + \left(\frac{\partial slope}{\partial slope_{inc1}}\right)^2 \cdot (u_{slope_{inc1}})^2 + \left(\frac{\partial slope}{\partial slope_{inc2}}\right)^2 \cdot (u_{slope_{inc2}})^2} \\ &= \sqrt{\left(\frac{1}{3}\right)^2 \cdot (0.05)^2 + \left(\frac{1}{3}\right)^2 \cdot (0.14)^2 + \left(\frac{1}{3}\right)^2 \cdot (0.17)^2} = 0.08 \text{ s}^2/\text{kg}. \\ u_{r,slope} &= \frac{u_{slope}}{\overline{slope}} \times 100\% = \frac{0.08}{8.74} \times 100\% = 0.9\%. \end{aligned}$$

Hence, $slope_e = \overline{slope} = 8.74 \pm 0.08 \text{ s}^2/\text{kg}$, $u_{r,slope} = 0.9\%$. Compared with the "theoretical" value of $slope_t = 8.82 \text{ s}^2/\text{kg}$, we calculate the deviation $\Delta_s slope$ and relative deviation $\Delta_{r,slope}$

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta_s slope &= 8.74 - 8.82 = -0.08 \text{ s}^2/\text{kg}, \\ \Delta_{r,slope} &= \frac{8.74 - 8.82}{8.82} \times 100\% = -0.9\%. \end{aligned}$$

The theoretical value is just on the boundary of uncertainty interval. It shows that our experimental values are relatively reliable.