

\* Critical Damping: Proof

Proceeding from:  $\frac{d^2u}{dt^2} + 2\alpha \frac{du}{dt} + \alpha^2 u = 0$

or  $\frac{d}{dt} \left( \frac{du}{dt} + \alpha u \right) + \alpha \left( \frac{du}{dt} + \alpha u \right) = 0$

Let  $\frac{du}{dt} + \alpha u = f$  ——— (A)

— Then  $\frac{df}{dt} + \alpha f = 0$

— This is a 1st order  $\Rightarrow$  so

$f = A_1 e^{-\alpha t}$  is the solution

— So we get from (A)

$$\frac{du}{dt} + \alpha u = A_1 e^{-\alpha t}$$

— or  $e^{\alpha t} \frac{du}{dt} + e^{\alpha t} (\alpha u) = A_1$

— This can be written as

$$\frac{d}{dt} (e^{\alpha t} u) = A_1$$

— Integrating both sides

$$e^{\alpha t} u = A_1 t + A_2$$

or  $u = e^{-\alpha t} (A_1 t + A_2), \quad \checkmark$