

SECOND-ORDER LINEAR EQUATIONS - MASS-SPRING SYSTEMS - POWER SERIES

1. Consider the following second-order linear ordinary differential equation with constant coefficients,

$$a \frac{d^2 y}{dt^2} + b \frac{dy}{dt} + cy = f(t), \quad a, b, c \in \mathbb{R}. \quad (1)$$

Solve (1) for the following cases, when possible solve for any unknown coefficients,

- (a) $a = 1, b = -2, c = -3, f(t) = 3e^{-t}$.
 - (b) $a = 1, b = 4, c = 4, f(t) = 3e^{-t} + t^2$.
 - (c) $a = 1, b = -4, c = 13, f(t) = 0$, subject to, $y(0) = 1$ and $y'(0) = -1$.
 - (d) $a = 1, b = 0, c = 9, f(t) = 2 \sin(2t)$.
 - (e) $a = 1, b = 0, c = 9, f(t) = \cos(3t)$.
2. Consider the model equation for a mass suspended from an ideal spring. If we include the effects of frictional forces and an external applied force, $f(t)$, we can derive from force laws³ the second-order linear ordinary differential equations with constant coefficients:

$$m \frac{d^2 y}{dt^2} + b \frac{dy}{dt} + ky = f(t), \quad m, b, k \in \mathbb{R}^+ \cup \{0\}, \quad (2)$$

- (a) Convert the second-order linear ODE (3) to a system of first-order ODE's.
 - (b) If $f(t) = 0$ for all t and $b = 0$ we call this unforced oscillator *simple*. Show that the fixed point of an unforced simple harmonic oscillator is always a center.⁴
 - (c) We now consider the effects of friction using MASSSPRING and the systems defined by $m = k = 1$ and $b_1 = 0, b_2 = 0.5, b_3 = 1, b_4 = 1.5, b_5 = 2$. For each of the previous systems plot a trajectory whose initial condition is somewhere near the center of the first quadrant and using these plots describe effects of friction on the long-term behavior to each of the trajectories.⁵
3. Now we consider the effects of external forcing on a simple harmonic oscillator.⁶ Of all of the external forces to consider the most interesting involve periodic forcing. Here we consider an applied force given by $f(t) = F \cos(\omega t)$, $F, \omega \in \mathbb{R}^+ \cup \{0\}$. Run the program FORCEDMASSSPRING for all permutations of the values, $F_1 = 1, F_2 = 2, \omega_1 = 0, \omega_2 = 0.5, \omega_3 = 0.75, \omega_4 = 1$, plotting the trajectories whose initial condition is roughly in the center of the first quadrant. Using this information respond to the following:
- (a) How does constant forcing effect the fixed point of the system? ⁷
 - (b) Now considering the parameter ω , for $\omega < 1$, how does oscillatory forcing effect the behavior of trajectories in phase space?⁸

³Remember that when deriving this equation we used Hook's law, which says that in the elastic limit the restoring force is linearly proportional to the displacement/deformation. Outside of this limit the relationship becomes nonlinear and can be used to explain phenomenon like non-reversible deformations associated with large displacements.

⁴We may call this oscillator simple but it is also classic example of a conservative system. In this case it is energy, which is conserved. The notion of conserved quantities will be explored in the next homework and applied to nonlinear systems in chapter 5.3

⁵Friction is considered a dissipative effect. Normally when discussing a conservative system it is common to also discuss the effects of corresponding dissipative effects. This may not always be as simple as studying the effects of a single term in the system.

⁶What we are about to see here is so important to physical systems prone to oscillations that we will study it again in the next homework through the model equation (3) and not the displacement-velocity system found in problem (2).

⁷In mathematical terms the time-independent inhomogeneity has shifted the fixed point to be off the origin.

⁸Since the system is no longer autonomous there are no *fixed points*, however the trajectories do appear to be 'orbiting' points in phase space and one of them seems to correspond to the fixed point of part (a). That is to say, though we do not have *fixed points*, by definition, our understanding of them can be useful in describing non-autonomous cases.

- (c) Consider the case where $\omega = 0.75$ and looking at the graph of y versus t notice that the curve is an oscillatory function whose amplitude is itself also oscillating.⁹ This pattern, which occurs when the frequency of forcing nears the frequency of natural oscillation, is called a beat pattern. Using http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Beat_%28acoustics%29 explain the connection between this mass-spring phenomenon and acoustics.
- (d) Explain what occurs to the mass-spring system when $\omega = 1$ and give examples of other phenomenon, which have similar qualitative features.¹⁰

4. Consider the governing equation for a mass suspended from an ideal spring. Including forces due to friction, and an external applied force, $f(t)$, leads to the second order linear ordinary differential equations with constant coefficients:

$$m \frac{d^2 y}{dt^2} + b \frac{dy}{dt} + ky = f(t), \quad m, b, k \in \mathbb{R}^+ \cup \{0\}, \quad (3)$$

- (a) If $b = 0$ then the oscillator is called *simple*. Show that from the homogeneous (not forced) simple harmonic oscillator one can derive the conservation law $E_{total} = \frac{mv^2}{2} + \frac{ky^2}{2}$ where $v = \frac{dy}{dt}$ and E_{total} is a constant.¹
- (b) Assume that $m = k = 2$ and graph the conservation law in the yv -plane for $E_{total} = 1, 4, 9$.²
- (c) Show that, for an unforced simple harmonic oscillator, the that the solution can be written as $y_h(t) = c_1 \cos(\omega_0 t) + c_2 \sin(\omega_0 t)$. Determine ω_0 in terms of m and k .
- (d) Let $f(t) = \cos(\alpha t)$, $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}$. Pick the form of the particular solution, $y_p(t)$, for the simple harmonic oscillator. What happens when $\alpha = \omega_0$? Write down the functional form of the general solution for both of these cases. (DO NOT SOLVE FOR THE UNDETERMINED COEFFICIENTS)
- (e) Consider the program BEATSANDRESONANCE where $a = 1.5$.
- Describe what happens to the general solution (green) as the circular frequency, ω , of forcing is changed from 0.5 through 1.5.³
 - Describe the changes to the homogenous solution (blurple) and nonhomogenous solution (red), relative to one another, as the frequency of forcing is changed from 0.5 through 1.5.
 - If the energy of a single cycle of a sinusoidal-wave is proportional to the square of the amplitude then compare the amount of energy in one beat envelope for when $\omega \approx 0.5$ to when $\omega \approx 1.2$. What happens to the energy when $\omega \approx 1.5$?

5. Consider the ordinary differential equation:

$$y'' - y = 0 \quad (4)$$

We know that the general solution to this equation is $y(t) = c_1 e^t + c_2 e^{-t}$. It is common to write the solutions to (4) in terms of the hyperbolic trigonometric functions, $\sinh(t) = \frac{e^t - e^{-t}}{2}$, $\cosh(t) = \frac{e^t + e^{-t}}{2}$.

- (a) Show that $y(t) = b_1 \sinh(t) + b_2 \cosh(t)$ is a solution to the differential equation (4).
- (b) Show that if $c_1 = \frac{b_1 + b_2}{2}$ and $c_2 = \frac{b_1 - b_2}{2}$ then $y(t) = c_1 e^t + c_2 e^{-t} = b_1 \cosh(t) + b_2 \sinh(t)$.
- (c) Assume that $y(t) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n t^n$ and find the general solution of (4) in terms of the hyperbolic sine and cosine functions.⁴

⁹We say that the higher frequency oscillations are bounded by a lower frequency *envelope*. Qualitative changes to this envelope are important in the diffraction pattern of waves and as we will see, in a moment, resonance.

¹⁰You may want to consider the following website to guide your thoughts <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Resonance>¹¹

¹In physics one would call this conservation law a *constant of motion*.

²These *constants of motion* are nothing more than trajectories of the simple harmonic oscillator in the phase-plane.

³You may find it useful to toggle the *Envelope* feature.

⁴The hyperbolic sine and cosine have the following Taylor's series representations centered about $t = 0$:

$$\cosh(t) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{t^{2n}}{(2n)!} \quad \sinh(t) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{t^{2n+1}}{(2n+1)!} \quad (5)$$