

Harmonic Oscillator

$$m\ddot{x} + b\dot{x} + kx = 0$$

$$\ddot{x} + 2\beta\dot{x} + \omega_0^2 x = 0$$

Undamped:

$$x(t) = A \cos(\omega t - \delta)$$

$$x(t) = B_1 \cos(\omega t) + B_2 \sin(\omega t)$$

$$x(t) = C_1 e^{i\omega t} + C_2 e^{-i\omega t}$$

Overdamped: $x = C_{\pm} e^{-(\beta \pm \sqrt{\beta^2 - \omega_0^2})t}$

Critical: $x = C_1 e^{-\beta t} + C_2 t e^{-\beta t}$

Underdamped: $x = A e^{-\beta t} \cos(\omega_1 t - \delta)$

$$\omega_1 = \sqrt{\omega_0^2 - \beta^2}$$

Driven:

$$\ddot{x} + 2\beta\dot{x} + \omega_0^2 x = A \cos \omega t$$

$$x(t) = D \cos(\omega t - \delta) + \text{homogeneous soln}$$

$$D^2 = \frac{A^2}{(\omega_0^2 - \omega^2)^2 + 4\beta^2 \omega^2}$$

$$\delta = \arctan\left(\frac{2\beta\omega}{\omega_0^2 - \omega^2}\right)$$

$$Q = \frac{\omega_0}{2\beta} = \pi \frac{\text{decay time}}{\text{period}}$$

Fourier Series

$$F(t) = \frac{1}{2}a_0 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (a_n \cos n\omega t + b_n \sin n\omega t)$$

$$\left. \begin{aligned} a_n &= \frac{2}{\tau} \int_0^{\tau} F(t') \cos n\omega t' dt' \\ b_n &= \frac{2}{\tau} \int_0^{\tau} F(t') \sin n\omega t' dt' \end{aligned} \right\}$$

Green - underdamped

$$G(t, t') \equiv \begin{cases} \frac{1}{m\omega_1} e^{-\beta(t-t')} \sin \omega_1(t-t'), & t \geq t' \\ 0, & t < t' \end{cases}$$

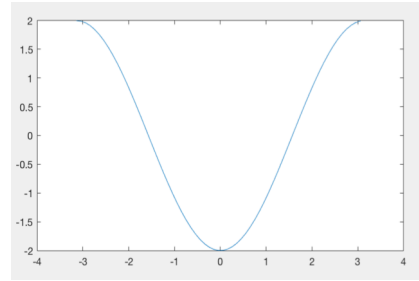
$$x(t) = \int_{-\infty}^t F(t') G(t, t') dt'$$

Calculus of Variations

$$\int_a^b f\{y, y'; x\} dx \text{ is stationary when } \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} - \frac{d}{dx} \left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial y'} \right) = 0$$

Note that y is a function of x , and $y' \equiv \frac{dy}{dx}$.

1a. The figure shows the potential energy $U = -2\cos(x)$ (in Joules), where x (in meters) is plotted horizontally and U is plotted vertically.



A mass $m=0.125$ kg moves in this potential without damping. What is the angular frequency ω_0 of small oscillations about $x=0$?

1b. For large oscillations (but with amplitude $< \pi$), what will be true:

- a) the motion will be purely sinusoidal, because the potential is
- b) the motion will include “overtones”, both odd and even multiples of ω_0
- c) the motion will include only odd harmonics (motion at $\omega_0, 3\omega_0, 5\omega_0$, etc.)
- d) the motion will include only even harmonics (motion at $2\omega_0, 4\omega_0, 6\omega_0$, etc.)
- e) the motion will be chaotic, with no well-defined frequencies

1c. For large oscillations (but with amplitude $< \pi$), what else?

- a) the fundamental frequency ω_0 will get smaller (longer period)
- b) the fundamental frequency ω_0 will get bigger (shorter period)
- c) the fundamental frequency ω_0 will be unchanged
- d) because of the chaotic motion, it is no longer meaningful to talk about a fundamental frequency

2a. A mass hangs on a spring (on Earth). What happens to the period of oscillation if the mass doubles?

- a) it gets faster (shorter) by a factor of 2
- b) it gets slower (longer) by a factor of 2
- c) it gets faster by a factor of $\sqrt{2}$
- d) it gets slower by a factor of $\sqrt{2}$
- e) it is unchanged

2b. What happens to the period of oscillation if, **instead**, gravity (G) suddenly doubles?

- a) it gets faster by a factor of 2
- b) it gets slower by a factor of 2
- c) it gets faster by a factor of $\sqrt{2}$
- d) it gets slower by a factor of $\sqrt{2}$
- e) it is unchanged

3a. If the distance to the moon were halved, how would it affect the gravitational force the moon exerts on you?

- a) it would be $1/8^{\text{th}}$ as much
- b) it would be $1/4$ as much
- c) it would be half as much
- d) it would be unchanged

- e) it would be twice as big
- f) it would be four times as big
- g) it would be eight times as big

3b. If the distance to the moon were halved, how would it affect the tidal force from the moon?

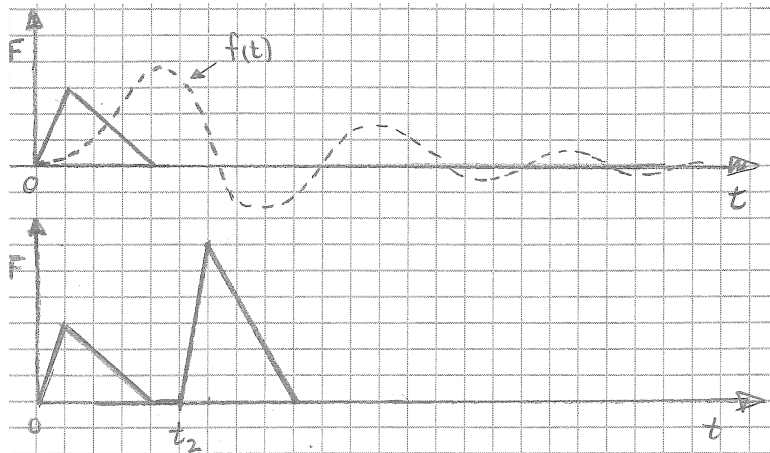
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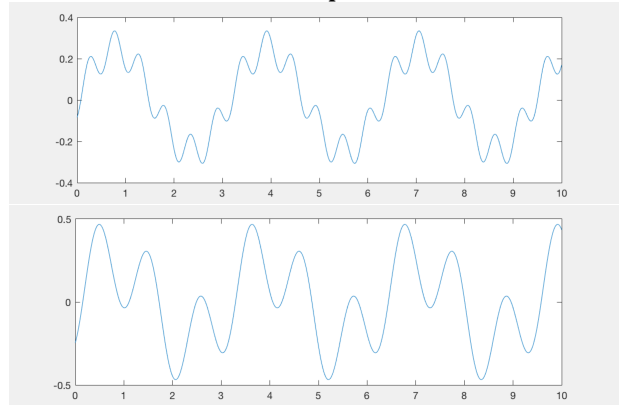
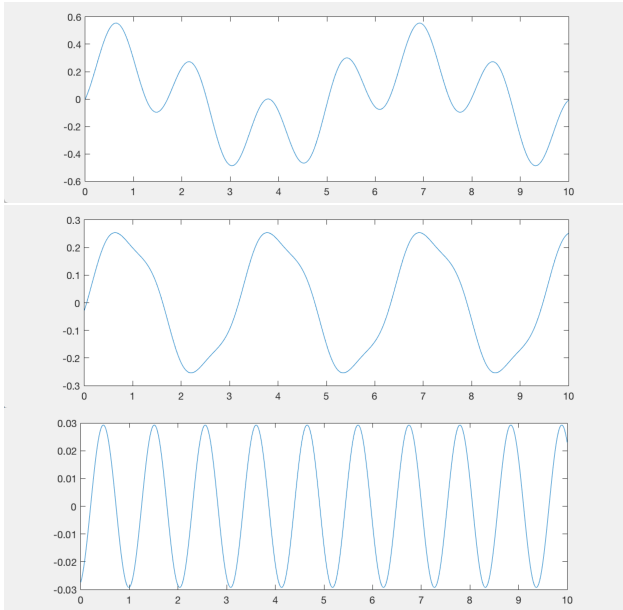
4. A dynamical system is described by a linear differential equation. When subject to the triangular pulse driving force shown (solid line), which begins at $t=0$, the response is the dashed line, $f(t)$.

In addition to the original driving force, a second “pulse” is applied at t_2 , with an amplitude twice as large as the original.

Is it possible to write down the response of the system to the two pulses, in terms of f and t_2 ? (Your answer would be a function of t , or course.) If so, write it down. If not, explain why it is not possible.



5a. A linear harmonic oscillator has $\omega_0 = 2 \text{ s}^{-1}$ and $\beta = 1 \text{ s}^{-1}$. It is driven with $F/m = \cos 2t + \cos 6t$ (in N/kg; for all t). Which plot shows the motion? The horizontal axis is time in seconds, vertical x in m. Circle the correct plot.



5b. The same harmonic oscillator is driven with $F/m = \cos 4.377t$ (for all time.) The resulting motion is given by $x(t) = D \cos(\omega^* t - \delta)$.

What are ω^* and δ ? (I'll give you $D = 0.057 \text{ m}$; you don't need it for this part.)

5c. Instead, this force is turned on at $t=0$. Find the position $x(t)$ for $t>0$.

6a. Find the Green's function (response to a unit impulse at time t') for the critically damped harmonic oscillator. Your Green's function may contain β , t , t' , m .

6b. The critically damped oscillator is subject to a force $=\alpha mt$ for $0 < t < 6$ s. m = mass, α is a constant. Write down (but do not solve) an integral that gives the motion for $0 < t < 6$ s.

7a. Find the differential equation of the path that minimizes $\int_{t_1}^{t_2} f(x, x'; t) dt$ where

$$f(x, x'; t) = \frac{1}{2} x'^2 + x.$$

7b. Solve the differential equation. You should have two undetermined constants.

7c. Solve for your undetermined constants, given that $x(0) = 0$ and $x(4) = 0$.