

Math 33B Worksheet 4 (Harmonic Motion)

Name: KEY Score: _____

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Circle the day of your discussion: Tuesday Thursday

Overview: Second order linear ODE with constant coefficients usually describes a harmonic motion. When there is no damping force, the solution is a periodic cosine function. When there is a damping force, the solution can be **underdamped**, **critically damped**, or **overdamped**, depending on the coefficients.

Now we are going to learn harmonic motion through two examples in physics.

1. RLC Circuit

Recall in first week's worksheet we discussed simple "RC circuit", where the circuit is composed of resistors (R) and capacitors (C). Now we introduce inductor (L):

	R	L	C
$V =$	IR	$L \frac{dI}{dt}$	$\frac{Q}{C}$

Figure 1 below illustrates the "RLC circuit". By Kirchhoff's law we have equation

$$L \frac{dI}{dt} + IR + \frac{Q}{C} = 0 \quad (1)$$

(Here source voltage $V_{in} = 0$ because we only study homogeneous equation.)

Since $I = \frac{dQ}{dt}$, take derivative to equation (1), we get

$$L \frac{d^2I}{dt^2} + R \frac{dI}{dt} + \frac{I}{C} = 0 \quad (2)$$

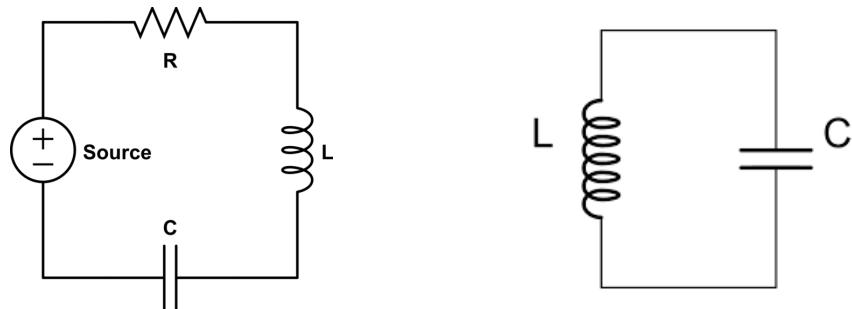


Figure 1: RLC circuit

Figure 2: LC circuit

* assume $L, R, C > 0$ (a) If there is no resistor (R), it is "LC circuit" (as shown in figure 2), which satisfies

$$L \frac{d^2 I}{dt^2} + \frac{I}{C} = 0 \quad (3)$$

Given initial condition $I(0) = A \cos(\phi)$, $I'(0) = -\frac{A}{\sqrt{LC}} \sin(\phi)$, try to find solution to (3).

Explain the meaning of A , ϕ and $\omega_0 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{LC}}$.

(Hint: Try cosine solution.)

Characteristic equation: $L m^2 + \frac{1}{C} = 0$

$$m^2 = -\frac{1}{LC}$$

$$m = \pm \sqrt{-\frac{1}{LC}}$$

$$m = \pm i \sqrt{\frac{1}{LC}}$$

$$I(t) = C_1 \cos\left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{LC}}t\right) + C_2 \sin\left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{LC}}t\right)$$

$$I(0) = A \cos\phi : A \cos\phi = C_1 \cdot 1 + C_2 \cdot 0$$

$$C_1 = A \cos\phi$$

$$I(t) = A \cos\phi \cos\left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{LC}}t\right) + C_2 \sin\left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{LC}}t\right)$$

$$I'(t) = -\frac{A}{\sqrt{LC}} \sin\phi \sin\left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{LC}}t\right) + \frac{C_2}{\sqrt{LC}} \cos\left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{LC}}t\right)$$

$$I'(0) = -\frac{A}{\sqrt{LC}} \sin\phi : -\frac{A}{\sqrt{LC}} \sin\phi = 0 + \frac{C_2}{\sqrt{LC}} \cdot 1$$

$$C_2 = -A \sin\phi$$

$$I(t) = A \cos\phi \cos\left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{LC}}t\right) - A \sin\phi \sin\left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{LC}}t\right)$$

$$I(t) = A \cos\left(\frac{t}{\sqrt{LC}} + \phi\right)$$

since $\cos(\alpha + \beta) = \cos\alpha\cos\beta - \sin\alpha\sin\beta$

(b) Let's come back to RLC circuit. Try to find the general solution to equation (2). You may need to divide into cases according to parameters.

(Hint: Try complex exponential solution.)

$$L I'' + R I' + \frac{I}{C} = 0$$

Characteristic equation: $L m^2 + Rm + \frac{1}{C} = 0 \Rightarrow m = \frac{-R \pm \sqrt{R^2 - \frac{4L}{C}}}{2L}$

• If $R^2 - \frac{4L}{C} < 0$ then $m = \frac{-R \pm i\sqrt{\frac{4L}{C} - R^2}}{2L} = \frac{-R \pm i\sqrt{\frac{4L}{C} - R^2}}{2L}$

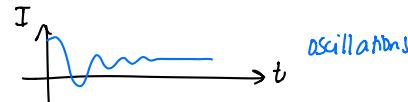
$$\Rightarrow I(t) = e^{-Rt/2L} \left[C_1 \cos\left(\frac{\sqrt{\frac{4L}{C} - R^2}}{2L}t\right) + C_2 \sin\left(\frac{\sqrt{\frac{4L}{C} - R^2}}{2L}t\right) \right]$$

• If $R^2 - \frac{4L}{C} = 0$ then $m = \frac{-R \pm 0}{2L}$ multiplying 2 $\Rightarrow I(t) = C_1 e^{-Rt/2L} + C_2 t e^{-Rt/2L}$

• If $R^2 - \frac{4L}{C} > 0$ then $I(t) = C_1 e^{\left(\frac{-R + \sqrt{R^2 - \frac{4L}{C}}}{2L}\right)t} + C_2 e^{\left(\frac{-R - \sqrt{R^2 - \frac{4L}{C}}}{2L}\right)t}$

(c) In part (b), classify solutions as "underdamped", "overdamped" and "critical damped". Try to explain their long term behavior. How does the behavior of solution depend on parameters?

$R^2 - \frac{4L}{C} < 0$ Underdamped



oscillations

$R^2 - \frac{4L}{C} = 0$ Critically damped



No oscillations

$R^2 - \frac{4L}{C} > 0$ Overdamped



No oscillations

Similar behavior

2. Mass on a Spring

Let's look at another example of harmonic motion. Consider a spring-mass system (shown below). The motion can be described in following equation:

$$m \frac{d^2x}{dt^2} = -kx + D(x') + F(t) \quad (4)$$

where $D(x')$ is damping force, and $F(t)$ is external force. Again, since we are talking about homogeneous equation, here assume $F(t) = 0$.

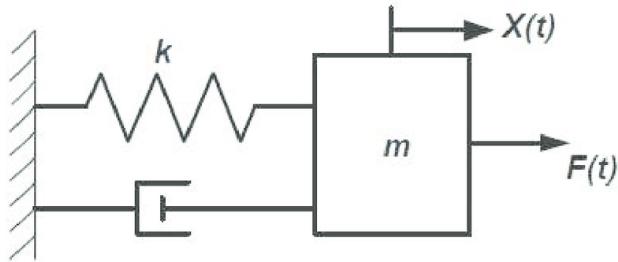


Figure 3: Mass on a spring

* assuming k, m (a) If there is no damping force

$$m \frac{d^2x}{dt^2} = -kx \quad (5)$$

Given initial condition $x(0) = x_0, x'(0) = v_0$, try to find the solution to (5). What are the "amplitude", "phase angle" and "natural frequency"?

$$mx'' + kx = 0$$

$$\text{Characteristic equation: } m\lambda^2 + k = 0$$

$$\lambda^2 = -\frac{k}{m}$$

$$\lambda = \pm \sqrt{-\frac{k}{m}}$$

$$\lambda = \pm i\sqrt{\frac{k}{m}}$$

$$x(t) = C_1 \cos\left(\sqrt{\frac{k}{m}}t\right) + C_2 \sin\left(\sqrt{\frac{k}{m}}t\right)$$

$$x(0) = x_0: \quad x_0 = C_1 \cdot 1 + C_2 \cdot 0 \Rightarrow C_1 = x_0$$

$$x(t) = x_0 \cos\left(\sqrt{\frac{k}{m}}t\right) + C_2 \sin\left(\sqrt{\frac{k}{m}}t\right)$$

$$x'(t) = x_0 \sqrt{\frac{k}{m}} \sin\left(\sqrt{\frac{k}{m}}t\right) + C_2 \sqrt{\frac{k}{m}} \cos\left(\sqrt{\frac{k}{m}}t\right)$$

$$x'(0) = v_0 \Rightarrow v_0 = C_2 \sqrt{\frac{k}{m}} \Rightarrow C_2 = v_0 \sqrt{\frac{m}{k}}$$

$$x(t) = x_0 \cos\left(\sqrt{\frac{k}{m}}t\right) + v_0 \sqrt{\frac{m}{k}} \sin\left(\sqrt{\frac{k}{m}}t\right)$$

$$x(t) = \sqrt{x_0^2 + v_0^2 \frac{m}{k}} \cos\left(\sqrt{\frac{k}{m}}t - \tan^{-1}\left(\frac{v_0 \sqrt{\frac{m}{k}}}{x_0}\right)\right)$$

amplitude

natural frequency

phase angle

(b) Let's come back to equation (4) with damping force $D(v) = -\mu v$, i.e.

$$m \frac{d^2x}{dt^2} = -kx - \mu x' \quad (6)$$

Try to find the general solution to (6). You may need to divide into cases according to parameters.

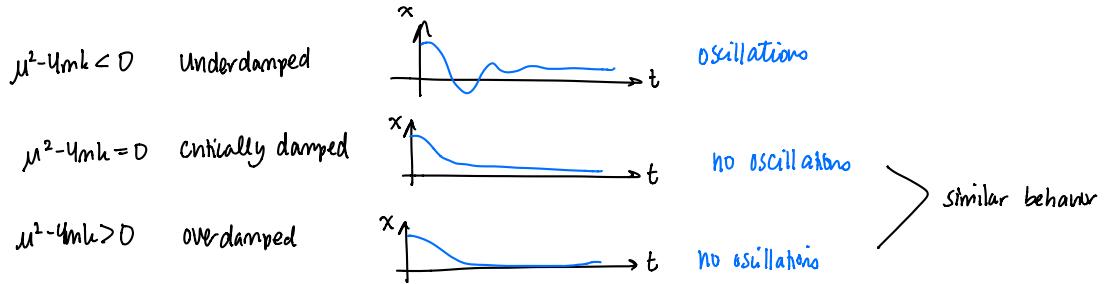
$$mx'' + \mu x' + kx = 0 \quad \text{characteristic equation: } m\lambda^2 + \mu\lambda + k = 0 \Rightarrow \lambda = -\frac{\mu \pm \sqrt{\mu^2 - 4mk}}{2m}$$

$$\text{If } \mu^2 - 4mk < 0 \text{ then } \lambda = -\frac{\mu \pm i\sqrt{4mk - \mu^2}}{2m} \Rightarrow x(t) = e^{-\mu t/2m} \left(C_1 \cos\left(\frac{\sqrt{4mk - \mu^2}}{2m}t\right) + C_2 \sin\left(\frac{\sqrt{4mk - \mu^2}}{2m}t\right) \right)$$

$$\text{If } \mu^2 - 4mk = 0 \text{ then } \lambda = -\frac{\mu \pm 0}{2m} \text{ mult. 2} \Rightarrow x(t) = C_1 e^{-\mu t/2m} + C_2 t e^{-\mu t/2m}$$

$$\text{If } \mu^2 - 4mk > 0 \text{ then } x(t) = C_1 e^{\left(\frac{-\mu + \sqrt{\mu^2 - 4mk}}{2m}\right)t} + C_2 e^{\left(\frac{-\mu - \sqrt{\mu^2 - 4mk}}{2m}\right)t}$$

(c) In part (b), classify solutions as "underdamped", "overdamped" and "critical damped". Try to explain their long term behavior. How does the behavior of solution depend on parameters?



3. Compare your solution in problem 1 and 2. Did you see they are actually the same math problem? What general conclusion can you get about harmonic motion?