

Spring Mass Problems

Example 1. A mass weighing 6 pounds stretches a spring 1 foot. The mass is replaced by another weighing 16 pounds. At time $t = 0$, it is released from a position 4 inches above equilibrium with a downward velocity of 2 ft/s. ⁽¹⁾ ⁽²⁾

Find the equation of motion in phase form, the maximum displacement and the time at which the mass first goes through the equilibrium position.

• ⁽¹⁾ $mg = ks \quad 6 = k \cdot 1 \quad k = 6$

• ODE $m x'' + \beta x' + kx = 0$

$\beta = 0$ no damping

• $mg = 16$ so $m = \frac{16}{g}$
 $= \frac{1}{2}$

so $\frac{1}{2} x'' + 6x = 0$

$x'' + 12x = 0$

• soln $x(t) = c_1 \cos(\sqrt{12}t) + c_2 \sin(\sqrt{12}t)$

• ⁽²⁾ IC $x(0) = -\frac{1}{3} \quad x'(0) = +2$

$-\frac{1}{3} = x(0) = c_1 + 0 \quad c_1 = -\frac{1}{3}$

$x' = -\sqrt{12}(-\frac{1}{3}) \sin \sqrt{12}t + \sqrt{12}c_2 \cos \sqrt{12}t$

$2 = x'(0) = 0 + \sqrt{12}c_2 \quad c_2 = \frac{2}{\sqrt{12}}$

• phase form $x(t) = A \sin(\sqrt{12}t + \phi)$

$A^2 = c_1^2 + c_2^2 = \frac{1}{9} + \frac{4}{12} = \frac{4}{9} \quad \text{so } A = \frac{2}{3}$

$\cos \phi = \frac{c_2}{A} = \frac{2/\sqrt{12}}{2/3} = \frac{3}{\sqrt{12}} = \frac{3}{2\sqrt{3}} = \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}$

$\sin \phi = \frac{c_1}{A} = \frac{-1/3}{2/3} = -1/2$

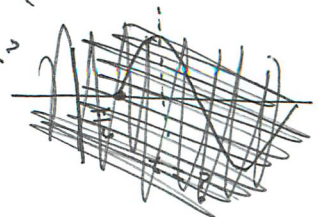
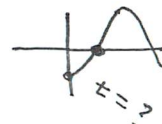


• $x(t) = \frac{2}{3} \sin(\sqrt{12}t - \frac{\pi}{6})$ so $\phi = \sin^{-1}(-\frac{1}{2}) = -\frac{\pi}{6}$

• max displacement: $x = \frac{2}{3}$

• time to $x = 0$ is when

$x = \frac{2}{3} \sin \theta \quad \text{so } \sqrt{12}t - \frac{\pi}{6} = 0$
 $t = \frac{\pi/6}{\sqrt{12}} = .15 \text{ sec}$



$$m = 1$$

$$k = 15$$

Example 2. A 1 kg mass is attached to a spring whose constant is 15 N/m. The system is submerged in a liquid that imparts a damping force numerically equal to 8 times the instantaneous velocity. The mass is released from rest at a point 1 m below equilibrium. Find the equation of motion.

$$\beta = 8$$

$$x'(0) = 0$$

$$x(0) = 1$$

$$x'' + 8x' + 15x = 0$$

$$(m+3)(m+5)$$

$$x(t) = c_1 e^{-\frac{5}{2}t} + c_2 e^{-\frac{3}{2}t}$$

overdamped

$$m = 2$$

$$k = 40$$

Example 3. A 2 kg mass is attached to a spring whose constant is 40 N/m. The system is submerged in a liquid that imparts a damping force numerically equal to 12 times the instantaneous velocity. The mass is released from a point 1 m below equilibrium with an initial upward velocity of 1 m/s. Find the equation of motion. $x(0) = 1$

$$\beta = 12$$

$$x'(0) = -1$$

$$2x'' + 12x' + 40x = 0$$

$$x'' + 6x' + 20x = 0$$

underdamped

$$m = -3 \pm i\sqrt{11}$$

$$x(t) = \underset{\downarrow}{c_1} e^{-3t} \cos \sqrt{11}t + \underset{\downarrow}{\frac{2}{\sqrt{11}}} c_2 e^{-3t} \sin \sqrt{11}t$$

$$m = 3$$

$$k = 48$$

Example 4. A 3 kg mass is attached to a spring whose constant is 48 N/m. The system is submerged in a liquid that imparts a damping force numerically equal to 24 times the instantaneous velocity. Find the equation of motion.

$$\beta = 24$$

$$3x'' + 24x' + 48x = 0$$

$$x'' + 8x' + 16x = 0$$

$$(m+4)^2$$

$$x(t) = c_1 e^{-4t} + c_2 t e^{-4t}$$

critically damped

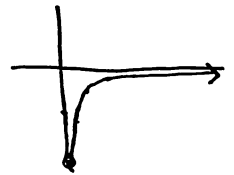
i) $x(0) = 1$ $x'(0) = 2$ \rightarrow $c_1 = 1, c_2 = 6$



adding just a bit of initial energy leads to the slightest bit of oscillation, but the mass doesn't cross the equilibrium position

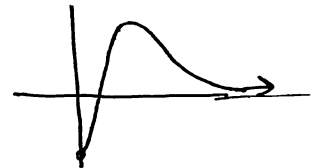
ii) $x(0) = -1$ $x'(0) = 2$ \rightarrow $c_1 = -1, c_2 = -2$

changing the initial configuration still doesn't lead to oscillation



iii) $x(0) = -1$ $x'(0) = 5$ \rightarrow $c_1 = -1, c_2 = 1$

adding more initial energy makes the spring a bit more oscillatory



Example 5. The system in Example 4 now has a piston attached to it, providing an external source of the form $f(t) = 6 \sin 4t$, so the ODE is $x'' + 8x' + 16x = 2 \sin 4t$. Find the equation of motion and identify the transient component and the steady state component.

$$x'' + 8x' + 16x = 2 \sin 4t$$

$$y_p = A \sin 4t + B \cos 4t$$

$$x(t) = \underbrace{c_1 e^{-4t} + c_2 t e^{-4t}}_{\text{transient}} - \frac{1}{16} \cos 4t$$

$(A=0, B=-\frac{1}{16})$
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 steady state

Example 6. The driven system of Example 5 is removed from the damping liquid, so the ODE is $x'' + 16x = 2\sin 4t$. Find the equation of motion and identify whether or not the system exhibits resonance.

$$x_1 = \sin 4t \quad x_2 = \cos 4t$$

$$\text{Standard } x_p = A \sin 4t + B \cos 4t$$

$$\text{duplication, so go to } x_p = At \sin 4t + Bt \cos 4t$$

$$\text{soln is } x = c_1 \sin 4t + c_2 \cos 4t - \frac{1}{4} t \cos 4t$$

There are several ways to identify resonance:

- i) From eqn, $\omega^2 = 16$ so $\omega = 4$, and $m = 4$
- ii) From technique, duplication implies resonance when right hand side is \sin/\cos
- iii) From $x_p = -\frac{1}{4} t \cos 4t$
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increases the amplitude