

# Forced Oscillations:

June 27, 2008  
[Fri.]  
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PG 39

So far we have considered simple harmonic motion with ~~no force~~

① restoring force. (simplest case)  
(No friction)

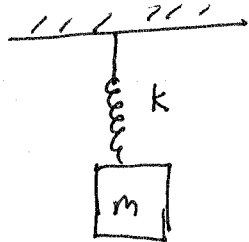
② restoring force + friction  
(damping)

Today, we study oscillations with restoring force (proportional to displacement from equilibrium)  
+ damping force (proportional to velocity of particle)  
+ other types of force (namely, ~~force~~ external force that is a function of time  $t$ .)  
= Forced oscillator

Let's first ignore damping force, and only consider a very simple external force: a constant force acting on a particle.

Case 1: Constant external force: We've actually encountered a situation before, in which there was a force other than the spring force, acting on a block (No friction); and in which that force was constant.

I'm talking about:

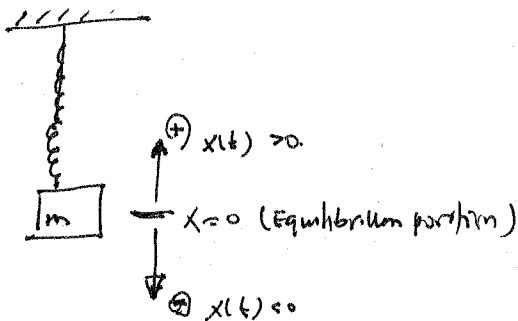


$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{spring force} \\ \text{(restoring force)} \end{array} \right\} + \text{gravity } mg = \vec{F}_{\text{net}}$$

But we already know how the block moves: just a simple harmonic motion (SHM).

We've been a little bit coy all this time; we always chose to describe motion of block using  $x(t) \equiv$  displacement from the equilibrium position

i.e.

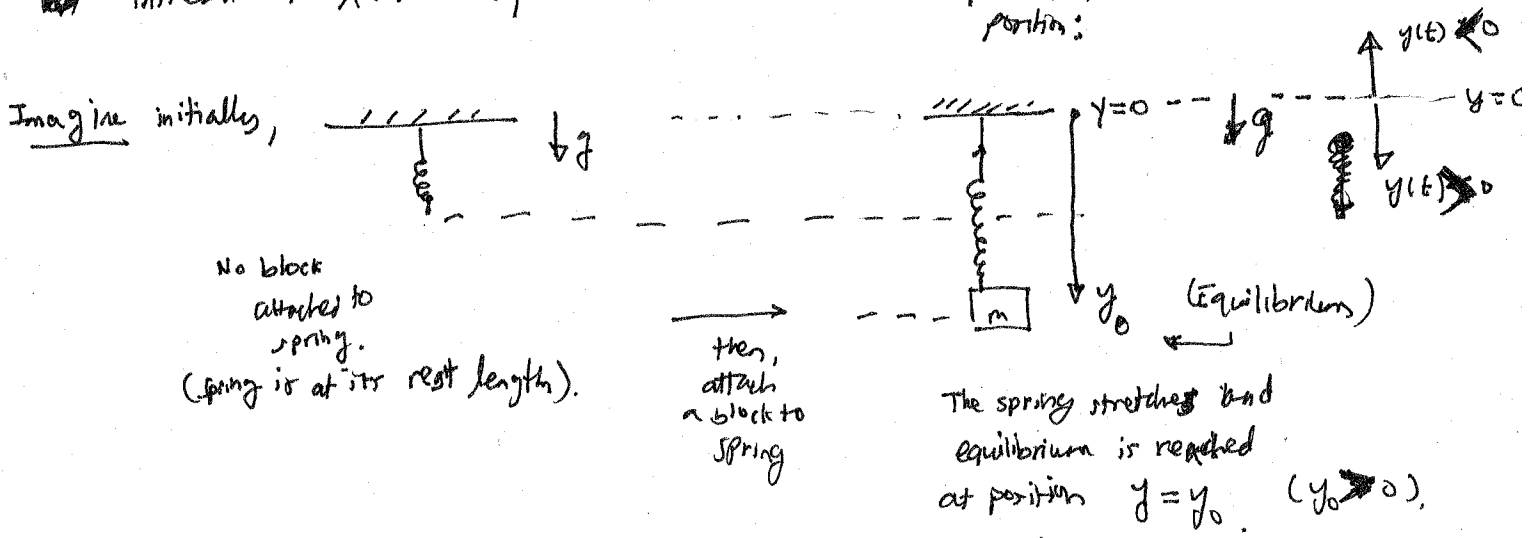


In this picture, we didn't have to think about the effect of gravity on the block. Why?

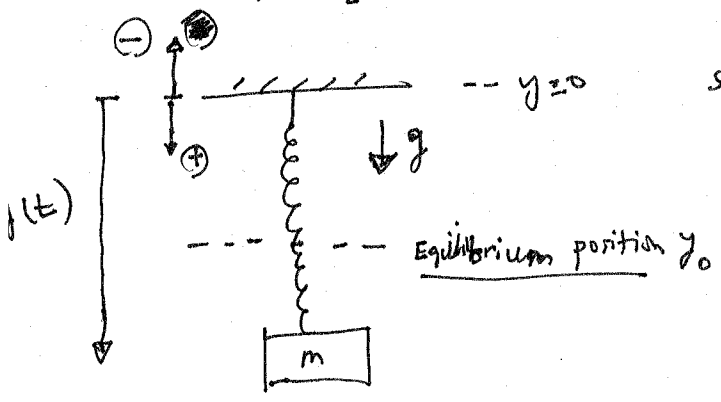
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Answer: To answer this question, let's work with  $y(t) \equiv$  position of block measured relative to the ceiling

instead of  $x(t) \equiv$  displacement of block from equilibrium position:



Next, grab the block from its equilibrium, pull it down by some distance "A" (amplitude) then release the block. The subsequent motion of block is described by the following EOM:



so:

$$m\ddot{y} = -ky + mg$$

$$m\ddot{y} = -k\left(y - \frac{mg}{k}\right)$$

$$\Rightarrow \ddot{y} + \frac{k}{m}\left(y - \frac{mg}{k}\right) = 0$$

But  $\frac{mg}{k} = y_0$   
 equilibrium position.

So  $y(t) - \frac{mg}{k}$  represents displacement from equilibrium.

Let  $x(t) \equiv y(t) - \frac{mg}{k}$

then we now have:  $\ddot{y} + \frac{k}{m}x = 0$

But  $\ddot{x} = \ddot{y}$  (since  $mg/k$  is just a constant)

so we get:

$$\ddot{x} + \frac{k}{m}x = 0$$

Exactly what we've been implicitly using all this time.

We've just studied a particular example ~~of~~ involving a constant <sup>(pg 4)</sup> force (gravity  $mg$  in the example) but the EOM we would get for any other system involving: restoring force + Constant force (proportional to displacement) (and no damping) would ~~be~~ "look" the same as the EOM of previous example:

we'd get: 
$$\ddot{y} + \omega_0^2 \left( y - \frac{F_0}{m\omega_0^2} \right) = 0 \quad \dots \text{Eq'n (4)}$$

(where  $F_0 \equiv$  constant force exerted on a particle)  
 (e.g. for the previous example, we had  $F_0 = mg$ .)

so: 
$$\frac{F_0}{m\omega_0^2} = \frac{mg}{m k/m} = mg/k \equiv y_0 \leftarrow \text{equilibrium position.}$$

That is, above eq'n (1) ~~can~~ can be rewritten as:

$$\ddot{y} + \omega_0^2 (y - y_0) = 0 \quad \text{where } y_0 \equiv \text{Equilibrium position}$$

So, the only effect of a constant force is ~~all~~ in determining the equilibrium position; but beyond that, we don't need to think about the constant force any further: ~~we~~ we can just think about displacement from the equilibrium position since above equation can be rewritten only in terms of displacement  $x(t) \equiv y(t) - y_0$  as: (since  $\ddot{x} = \ddot{y}$ ).

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

$\leftarrow$  usual SHM eq'n

□

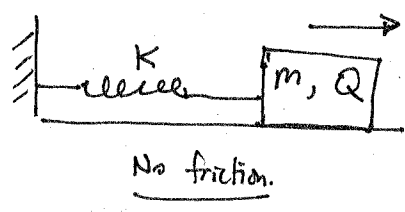
Case 2: More interesting:  
t-dependent force

$$F_{\text{external}}(t) = F_0 \cos(\omega t)$$

(sinusoidally varying external force)

First, consider the case w/o friction.

EX: Consider:  
(see footnote\*)



$$F(t) = E_0 \cos(\omega t)$$

mass = m  
Electric charge = Q.

$$E(t) = E_0 \cos(\omega t)$$

Then, the force felt by the block

is: (1) restoring force:  $-kx$

(2) External force:  $F(t) = QE(t)$

$$= QE_0 \cos(\omega t)$$

$$= F_0 \cos(\omega t), \text{ where } F_0 \equiv QE_0.$$

↑ Electric field, varying w/ time  
(but not with respect to position)

↑ Amplitude of force (i.e. maximal external force that would act on block.)

$x(t) \equiv$  Displacement from equilibrium, as usual.

So, EOM is:

$$m\ddot{x} = -kx + F_{\text{ext}}(t) \\ = -kx + F_0 \cos(\omega t)$$

$$\Rightarrow \ddot{x} + \frac{k}{m}x = \frac{F_0}{m} \cos(\omega t) \quad ; \quad \text{let}$$

$$\omega_0^2 \equiv k/m$$

$\omega_0 \equiv$  "Natural angular frequency"

$$\Rightarrow \ddot{x} + \omega_0^2 x = \frac{F_0}{m} \cos(\omega t)$$

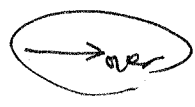
↑ Eqn (2)

↑ EOM for our forced oscillator

↑ Angular frequency with which the block will oscillate in the absence of external force.

(Notice that  $\omega$  can be different from  $\omega_0$ ).

We want to solve this EOM:



Footnote: Technically, our example here is incorrect. When a charge accelerates (as our block is doing all the time), the charge would radiate away energy. ~~There~~ ~~is~~ ~~even~~ this would be a "damping" term that we neglected above.

Let's consider a guess :  $X_p(t) \equiv A \cos(\omega t)$

(we "guess & check" instead of solving EOM)

Then plugging into EOM:

$$\ddot{X}_p + \omega_0^2 X_p = -\omega^2 A \cos(\omega t) + \omega_0^2 A \cos(\omega t)$$

$$= [\omega_0^2 - \omega^2] A \cos(\omega t)$$

We want this to equal:

$$(\omega_0^2 - \omega^2) A \cos(\omega t) = \frac{F_0}{m} \cos(\omega t)$$

$$\Rightarrow A = \frac{F_0}{m(\omega_0^2 - \omega^2)}$$

(Assuming that  $\omega_0 \neq \omega$ ).  
 Notice that if  $\omega_0 = \omega$ , this can't be a sol'n since  $\frac{1}{\omega_0^2 - \omega^2} \rightarrow \infty$  as  $\omega \rightarrow \omega_0$ .

so:  $X_p(t) = \frac{F_0}{m(\omega_0^2 - \omega^2)} \cos(\omega t)$

is a sol'n to forced SHM EOM.

Strange: This solution has no free parameters. But since our EOM is a 2<sup>nd</sup> order differential eqn, we know that the ~~most~~ most general solution has to have 2 free parameters.

(Amplitude & phase shift)  
 "C" "φ"

What we found above:  $X_p(t)$  is a "particular solution"

(that's the subscript "p")

It's a "particular" solution since the amplitude  $\left(\frac{F_0}{m(\omega_0^2 - \omega^2)}\right)$  and phase constant ( $\phi=0$ ) have been already picked out for you.

(i.e. ~~It's a particular solution~~  
 It's describing the particular situation in which  $\frac{F_0}{m(\omega_0^2 - \omega^2)}$  is amplitude, and phase shift is zero.)

Now, find the general sol'n:

Going back to (pg 42),

our EOM is:  $\ddot{X} + \omega_0^2 X = \frac{F_0}{m} \cos(\omega t)$ .

But notice that:  $\ddot{X} + \omega_0^2 X$  is a linear differential eq'n.

That is, if I plug in  $X = X_1 + X_2$ ,

=> get:  $(\ddot{X}_1 + \omega_0^2 X_1) + (\ddot{X}_2 + \omega_0^2 X_2)$

↑                          ↑  
Addition of 2 versions of our original differential eq'n. (one for  $X_1$ , the other for  $X_2$ )

Keeping this in mind, notice that if we let  $X_{SHM}(t) = C \cos(\omega_0 t - \phi)$

and  $X_2(t) = X_p(t)$ , then:

let  $X(t) = X_{SHM} + X_p$

we'd get:  $\ddot{X} + \omega_0^2 X = (\ddot{X}_{SHM} + \omega_0^2 X_{SHM}) + (\ddot{X}_p + \omega_0^2 X_p)$

∴  $X_1(t)$  is a sol'n to SHM EOM.                           $\frac{F_0}{m} \cos(\omega t)$  (found before)

=  $\frac{F_0}{m} \cos(\omega t)$

Hence, using the superposition (aka linearity) principle of EOM, we have just found that

$X(t) = X_{SHM}(t) + X_p(t)$   
 $= C \cos(\omega_0 t - \phi) + \frac{F_0}{m(\omega_0^2 - \omega^2)} \cos(\omega t)$

is a sol'n to EOM.

In fact, this must be the general sol'n to EOM since it has

2 free parameters:  $C \equiv$  Amplitude you decide on.  
 $\phi \equiv$  phase constant you decide on.



Let's look at the behavior of  $X(t) \equiv$  position of our charged blocks  
a m

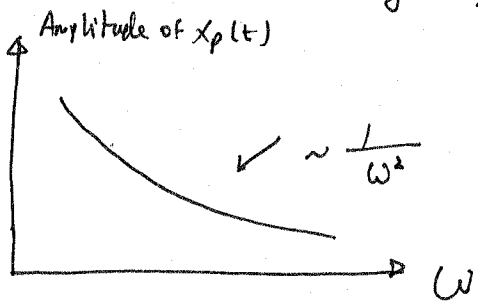
we look at the following 2 "limiting" cases:

Limiting case 1: Large <sup>angular</sup> frequency  $\omega$  of force:  $\omega \gg \omega_0$

Then  $X_p(t) = \frac{F_0 \cos(\omega t)}{m(\omega_0^2 - \omega^2)} \xrightarrow[\omega \gg \omega_0]{} -\frac{F_0 \cos(\omega t)}{m\omega^2}$

so, as  $\omega \rightarrow +\infty$ ,  $X_p(t)$  decays like  $\sim \frac{1}{\omega^2}$

(i.e. Amplitude of  $X_p(t)$  is  $\frac{-F_0}{m\omega^2}$ , which decays as  $\frac{1}{\omega^2}$  as  $\omega$  gets large.)



Why? We want a physical explanation:

Ans: Large  $\omega$  corresponds to ~~fast~~ fast oscillation of ~~the~~ external force  $F_0 \cos(\omega t)$  between its ~~amplitudes~~ extreme values:  $+F_0$  and  $-F_0$ . (recall that period of oscillation is

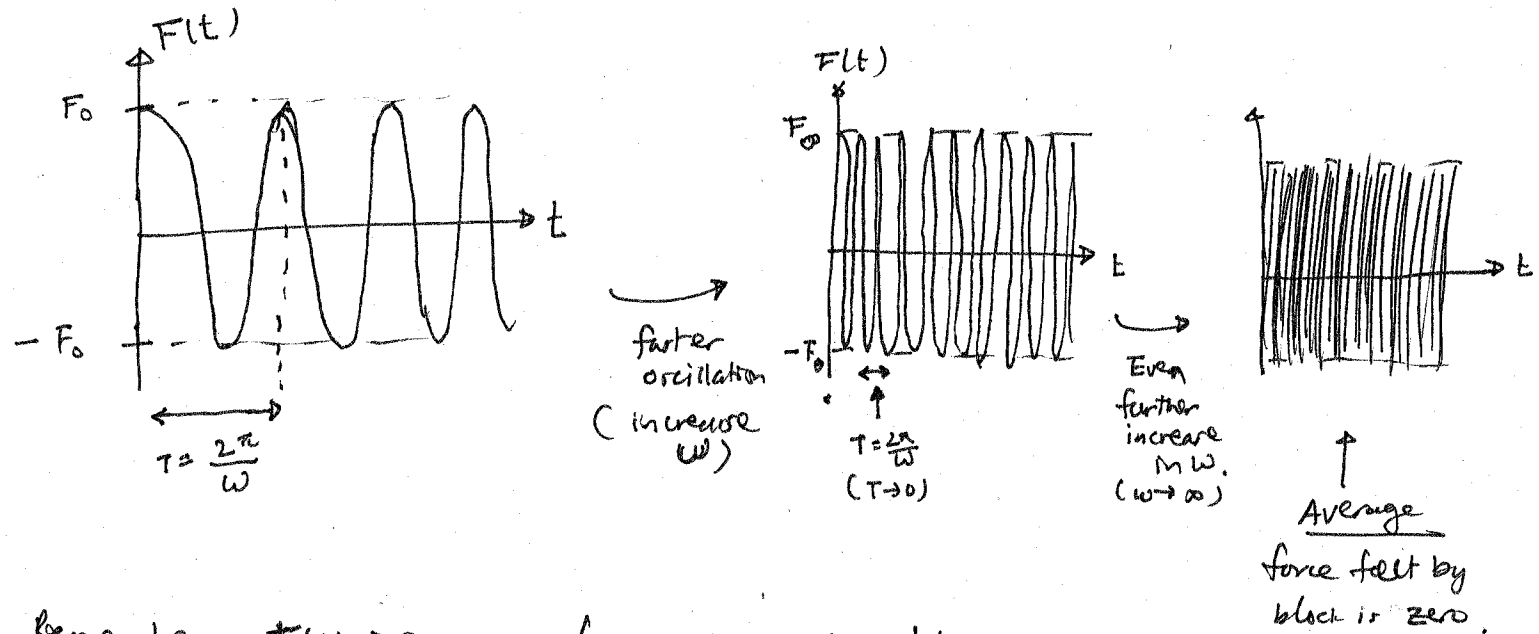
$(T = \frac{2\pi}{\omega})$ , so large  $\omega$ ,  $\rightarrow$  small  $T$ .

When the oscillation of the force becomes so fast ( $\omega \gg \omega_0$ ;  $\omega \rightarrow \infty$ ), then the block feels an average force; which in our case is zero (since  $F(t) = F_0 \cos(\omega t)$ )

Hence, the effect of external force becomes more and more irrelevant as  $\omega$  gets larger & larger. (i.e.  $X_p \rightarrow 0$ .)

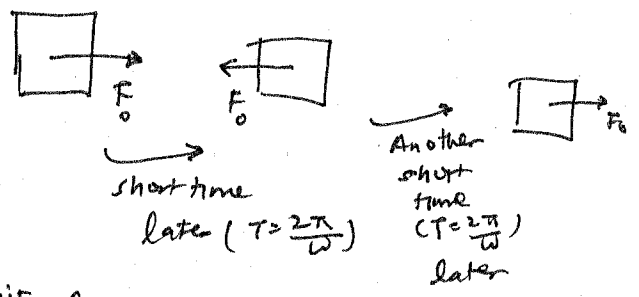
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Graphically, we can ~~obtain~~ see this:



Remember,  $F(t) > 0$  means force acting on the block to the right.  
 and  $F(t) < 0$  means force acting on the block to the left.  
 (given our sign convention for  $x$  on pg 42)

So: for large  $\omega$ :



and so on. Due to this flipping back & forth (very fast flips), the block feels avg. force = 0.

So, in this case,  $x(t) \rightsquigarrow x_{\text{avg}}(t)$  (since  $x_p(t) \rightarrow 0$ ).

Limiting case 2: Slow oscillation of force:  $0 < \omega \ll \omega_0$

Here,  $x_p(t) = \frac{F_0}{m(\omega_0^2 - \omega^2)} \cos(\omega t) \approx \frac{F_0 \cos(\omega t)}{m\omega_0^2}$   
 ( $\omega_0 \gg \omega$ )

So:  $x(t) \approx \underbrace{C \cos(\omega_0 t - \phi)}_{\substack{\text{oscillates } \omega_0 \\ \text{period } \frac{2\pi}{\omega_0}}} + \frac{F_0}{m\omega_0^2} \underbrace{\cos(\omega t)}_{\substack{\text{oscillates } \omega \\ \text{period } \frac{2\pi}{\omega}}}$

much faster oscillation than this.



Subcase 2.1: If  $\omega_0 \gg \omega$ , and  $F_0 \gg m\omega^2$

(Note  $m\omega^2 = k$ )

So, large natural <sup>angular</sup> frequency  $\omega_0$  and very strong force  $F_0$ :  $\uparrow$  spring constant

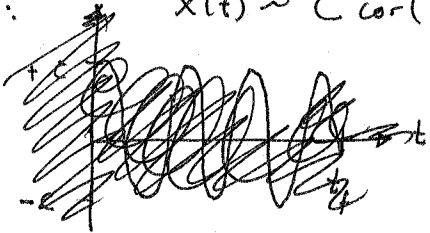
then we have: 
$$x(t) \approx C \underbrace{\cos(\omega_0 t - \phi)}_{\substack{\text{fast} \\ \text{oscillation}}} + \underbrace{\left(\frac{F_0}{m\omega_0^2}\right)}_{\substack{\text{large amplitude}}} \underbrace{\cos(\omega t)}_{\text{slow oscillation}}$$

then, if you pay attention to a time interval ~~is~~ much smaller than

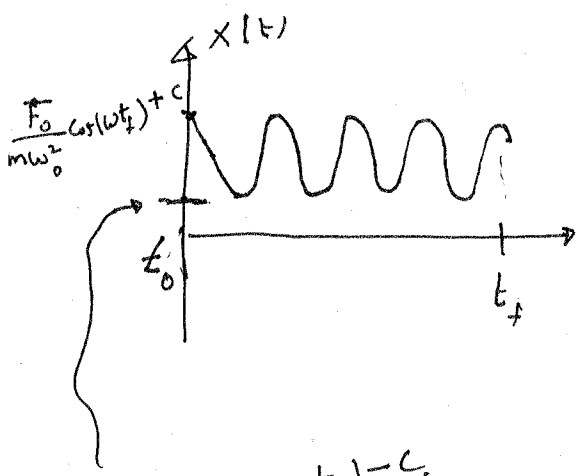
$T' = \frac{2\pi}{\omega}$  (say ~~the~~ time interval on the order of  $T_0 = \frac{2\pi}{\omega_0}$  (recall, here:  $T' \gg T_0$ ))

then  $\frac{F_0}{m\omega_0^2} \cos(\omega t)$  looks like a constant on this short time interval.

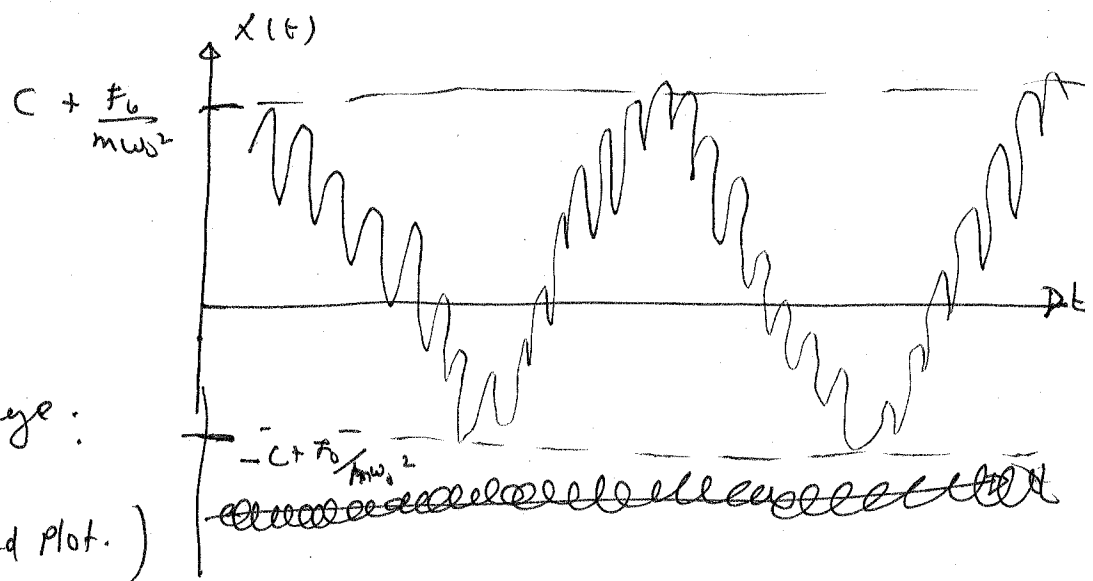
And we'd see approximately:  $x(t) \sim C \cos(\omega_0 t - \phi) + \left(\frac{F_0}{m\omega_0^2}\right) \cos(\omega t_f)$



$t_f \ll T'$   
 $t_f$  on the order of  $T_0$ .  
 (say 2 or 3 times  $T_0$ )



But on a time scale comparable to the large  $T'$ , we'd see:

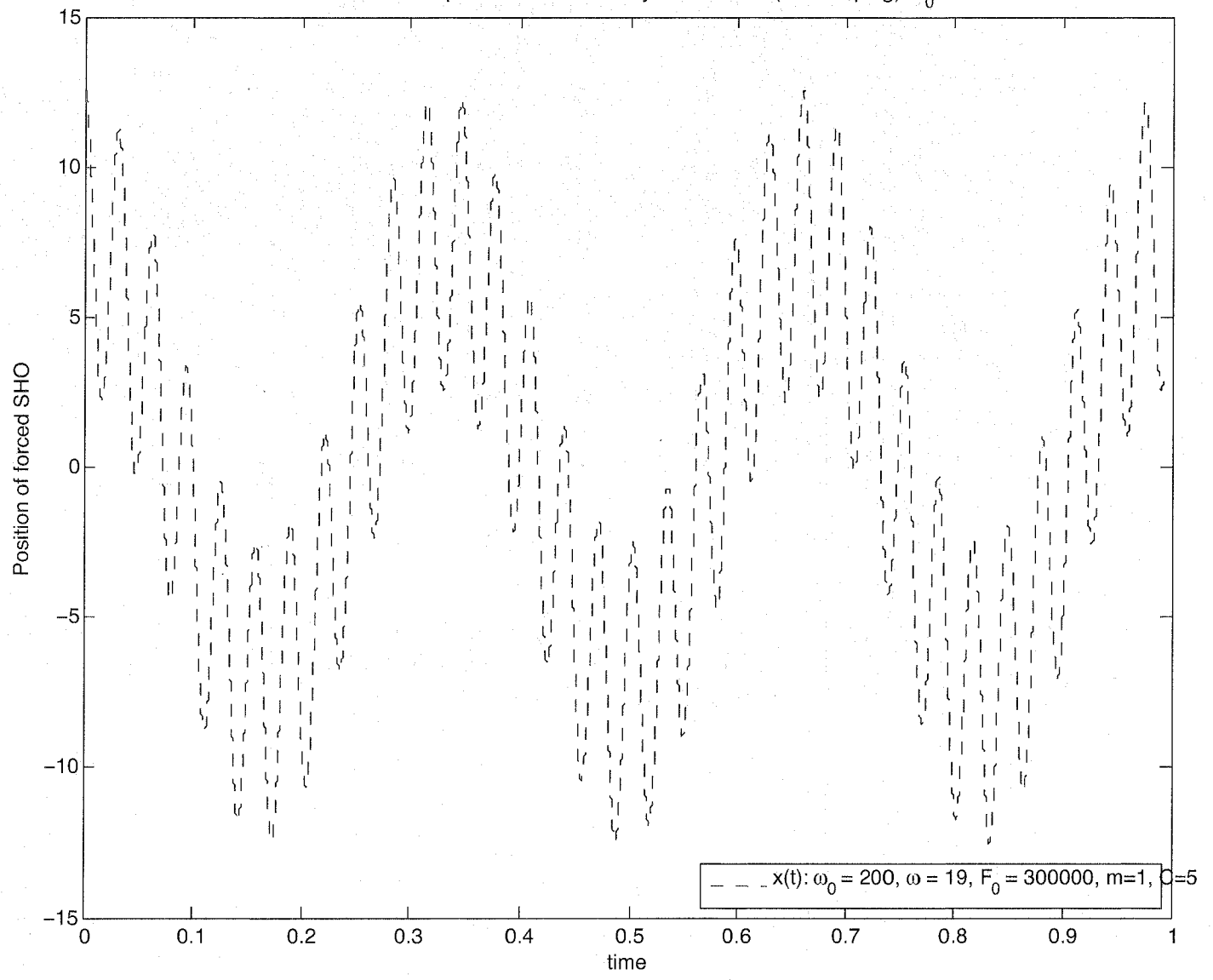


(See next page:  
 for a neat  
 MATLAB generated plot.)

Limiting case :  
Large natural frequency  
and large force amplitude

$$\left. \begin{aligned} \omega_0 &\gg \omega \\ F_0 &\gg m\omega^2 \end{aligned} \right\}$$

Motion of particle in sinusoidally forced SHO (No damping):  $\omega_0 \gg \omega$



Subcase 2.2 :  $|F_0| \ll m\omega_0^2$  , and  $\omega_0 \gg \omega$  ;

(small force)

then  $x(t) \sim C \cos(\omega_0 t - \phi)$  (can ignore the <sup>effect of</sup> force :  $x_p(t)$ ).

\* Basically, the physical idea in the case where  $\omega_0 \gg \omega$  is that since the period associated w/ natural angular frequency  $\omega_0$  is  $T_0 \equiv \frac{2\pi}{\omega_0}$  is much smaller than that associated w/ the force:  $T = \frac{2\pi}{\omega}$ , then on a time scale much shorter than  $T$ , we can treat the external force as constant.



Resonance : What happens as  $\omega_0$  approaches  $\omega$  ?

As  $\omega$  approaches  $\omega_0$ ,  $X_p(t) = \frac{F_0}{m(\omega_0^2 - \omega^2)} \cos(\omega t) \rightarrow \infty$ .

( $\because \frac{1}{\omega_0^2 - \omega^2} \rightarrow \infty$ )

This is called resonance.

Before delving into resonance any further, let's first investigate the

most general scenario: A physical system w/ restoring force  
+ damping  
+ external force that sinusoidally varies

EOM :

$$\ddot{x} + 2\gamma \dot{x} + \omega_0^2 x = \frac{F_0}{m} \cos(\omega t)$$

← EOM

How to solve this EOM ?

Ans : Use linearity principle again.

→ over

(often : "superposition principle.")

But first, find the particular soln to EOM:  $X_p(t)$ :

To do this, let's solve the C-analogue of EOM:

R:  $\ddot{X} + 2\gamma\dot{X} + \omega_0^2 X = \frac{F_0}{m} \cos(\omega t)$       But,  $\cos(\omega t) = \frac{e^{i\omega t} + e^{-i\omega t}}{2}$

$= \frac{F_0}{m} \left[ \frac{e^{i\omega t} + e^{-i\omega t}}{2} \right]$       (recall:  $e^{i\omega t} = \cos(\omega t) + i\sin(\omega t)$   
 so,  $e^{-i\omega t} = \cos(-\omega t) + i\sin(-\omega t) = \cos(\omega t) - i\sin(\omega t)$ )

To get C-analogue of EOM, just change:  $x \rightarrow z$ :

$\ddot{z} + 2\gamma\dot{z} + \omega_0^2 z = \frac{F_0}{2m} [e^{i\omega t} + e^{-i\omega t}]$

← C-equivalent EOM,

To solve, "guess and check" method is used.

~~guess~~  $z_1 = A e^{i\omega t}$

But first, notice that we can think of above eqn as 2 separate linear differential equations added together:

$\ddot{z}_1 + 2\gamma\dot{z}_1 + \omega_0^2 z_1 = \frac{F_0}{2m} e^{i\omega t}$  ... (1)

and  $\ddot{z}_2 + 2\gamma\dot{z}_2 + \omega_0^2 z_2 = \frac{F_0}{2m} e^{-i\omega t}$  ... (2)

Adding eqns (1) + (2) we get:

original EOM  $\rightarrow \underbrace{(\ddot{z}_1 + \ddot{z}_2)}_{\ddot{z}_p} + 2\gamma \underbrace{(\dot{z}_1 + \dot{z}_2)}_{\dot{z}_p} + \omega_0^2 \underbrace{(z_1 + z_2)}_{z_p} = \frac{F_0}{2m} [e^{i\omega t} + e^{-i\omega t}]$

↳ "linearity" (aka. "superposition") principle.

\* We look for particular soln  $z_p(t) = z_1 + z_2$  first.

So, what are  $Z_1(t)$  and  $Z_2(t)$ ?

• Guess & check method of solving:

Given:  $Z_1(t) = Ae^{i\omega t}$ . (Motivated by how we solved no damped forced SHM eqn on pg 43 ( $\gamma=0$ ))

Then: Check:

$$\ddot{Z}_1 + 2\gamma\dot{Z}_1 + Z_1\omega_0^2 = -\omega^2 Z_1 + 2\gamma i\omega Z_1 + Z_1\omega_0^2$$
$$= (-\omega^2 + 2\gamma i\omega + \omega_0^2) Z_1$$

We want this to equal to:

$$(-\omega^2 + 2\gamma i\omega + \omega_0^2) \cancel{Ae^{i\omega t}} = \frac{F_0}{2m} \cancel{e^{i\omega t}}$$

⇒ Need:  $A = \frac{F_0}{2m [\omega_0^2 - \omega^2 + 2i\gamma\omega]}$

(As w/ the  $\gamma=0$ , we found the necessary amplitude "A" for the particular sol'n  $Z_1(t)$ .)

Similarly:

$Z_2(t) = Be^{-i\omega t}$  and:

~~Similarly~~  $B = \frac{F_0}{2m [\omega_0^2 - \omega^2 - 2i\gamma\omega]}$

(Just by changing:  $\omega \rightarrow (-\omega)$ .)

So:  $Z_p(t) = Z_1(t) + Z_2(t)$

$$= \frac{F_0}{2m} \left\{ \frac{e^{i\omega t}}{[\omega_0^2 - \omega^2 + 2i\gamma\omega]} + \frac{e^{-i\omega t}}{[\omega_0^2 - \omega^2 - 2i\gamma\omega]} \right\}$$

|||  $\Omega^2$

|||  $\Omega^2$  ← define as

over

so:  $Z(t) = \frac{F_0}{2m} \left\{ \frac{e^{i\omega t} (\Omega^2 - 2i\gamma\omega)}{[(\omega_0^2 - \omega^2) + 2i\gamma\omega](\Omega^2 - 2i\gamma\omega)} + \frac{e^{-i\omega t} (\Omega^2 + 2i\gamma\omega)}{[(\omega_0^2 - \omega^2) - 2i\gamma\omega](\Omega^2 + 2i\gamma\omega)} \right\}$

Multiply top & bottom of each term by complex conjugate

$$= \frac{F_0}{2m} \left\{ \frac{e^{i\omega t} (\Omega^2 - 2i\gamma\omega) + e^{-i\omega t} (\Omega^2 + 2i\gamma\omega)}{\Omega^4 + 4\gamma^2\omega^2} \right\}$$

$$= \frac{F_0}{2m} \left\{ \frac{\Omega^2 [e^{i\omega t} + e^{-i\omega t}] - 2i\gamma\omega [e^{i\omega t} - e^{-i\omega t}]}{\Omega^4 + 4\gamma^2\omega^2} \right\}$$

$\underbrace{e^{i\omega t} + e^{-i\omega t}}_{= 2\cos(\omega t)}$        $\underbrace{e^{i\omega t} - e^{-i\omega t}}_{= 2i\sin(\omega t)}$

$$= \frac{F_0}{2m} \left\{ \frac{\cancel{2}\Omega^2 \cos(\omega t) + \cancel{2}\gamma\omega \sin(\omega t)}{\Omega^4 + 4\gamma^2\omega^2} \right\}$$

$$\Rightarrow Z(t) = \frac{F_0 [\Omega^2 \cos(\omega t) + 2\gamma\omega \sin(\omega t)]}{m (\Omega^4 + 4\gamma^2\omega^2)}$$

← R actually (no imaginary terms)

⚡ This has no free parameters ("Particular" sol'n).

The missing part of sol'n (w/ 2 free parameters) comes from the "damped SHM" part.

That is!  $\ddot{Z} + 2\gamma\dot{Z} + \omega_0^2 Z = \frac{F_0}{2m} [e^{i\omega t} + e^{-i\omega t}]$

← C-# analogue of EOM.

• is sum of 2 eqns:

$$\ddot{Z}_{\text{damped SHM}} + 2\gamma\dot{Z}_{\text{damped SHM}} + \omega_0^2 Z_{\text{damped SHM}} = 0 \quad \dots (1)$$

and,  $\ddot{Z}_p + 2\gamma\dot{Z}_p + \omega_0^2 Z_p = \frac{F_0}{2m} [e^{i\omega t} + e^{-i\omega t}] \quad \dots (2)$

so adding eqn (1) & (2): we get

$$\underbrace{(\ddot{Z}_{\text{damped}} + \ddot{Z}_p)}_{\dots} + 2\gamma \underbrace{(\dot{Z}_{\text{damped}} + \dot{Z}_p)}_{\dots} + \omega_0^2 \underbrace{(Z_{\text{damped}} + Z_p)}_{\dots} = \frac{F_0}{2m} [e^{i\omega t} + e^{-i\omega t}]$$

so, letting  $Z(t) = Z_{\text{damped}}(t) + Z_p(t)$  solves Eom and

is in fact the general sol'n since it has 2 free parameters:

(coming from  $Z_{\text{damped}}$ )

where,

$$Z_{\text{damped}}(t) = e^{-\gamma t} [C_1 e^{i\tilde{\omega}t} + C_2 e^{-i\tilde{\omega}t}] ; \text{ where } \tilde{\omega} = \sqrt{\omega_0^2 - \gamma^2}$$

$C_1, C_2 \equiv 2$  free parameters

$\therefore$  The general sol'n to Eom is (C-analogue):

$$Z(t) = e^{-\gamma t} [C_1 e^{i\tilde{\omega}t} + C_2 e^{-i\tilde{\omega}t}] + \frac{F_0 [\Omega^2 \cos(\omega t) + 2\gamma \omega \sin(\omega t)]}{m (\Omega^4 + 4\gamma^2 \omega^2)}$$

\* Now, to get the R-analogue sol'n (the actual, physically meaningful part),

we need to first know what regime of damping we're in.

For example, if we're in underdamped case:  $\tilde{\omega} = \sqrt{\omega_0^2 - \gamma^2} > 0 \in \mathbb{R}$ .  
( $\omega_0 > \gamma$ )

then notice that:

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

~~$C_1 e^{i\tilde{\omega}t} + C_2 e^{-i\tilde{\omega}t}$~~

So,  $\text{Re}(Z(t)) = (C_1 + C_2) \cos(\tilde{\omega}t)$

↑ we need to stick in "φ"

so it's actually  $\frac{C_1 + C_2}{C_1 + C_2} \cos(\tilde{\omega}t - \phi) = X(t) = \text{Re}(Z(t))$

Thus, 
$$X(t) = e^{-\gamma t} \cos(\tilde{\omega}t - \phi) + \frac{F_0}{m} \frac{[\Omega^2 \cos(\omega t) + 2\gamma \omega \sin(\omega t)]}{[\Omega^4 + 4\gamma^2 \omega^2]}$$

↑ underdamped case.

\* I'll ask you to investigate how  $x(t)$  found on previous (Pg) behaves  
on Problem set 2. There, you'll learn about resonance.

☐