

I.4 Damped simple harmonic motion

If there is to motion then the spring / mass (or pendulum) will gradually lose

To model this, we have to introduce a into our SHM analysis.

The retarding force (in this analysis) is proportional to the velocity

(b is a constant)

Balancing forces;

So, for damped motion, we have the equation of motion;

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

To solve it, we try a solution of the form;

(C will have the dimensions of length, α of inverse time.)

Differentiate w.r.t time;

Then into top equation;

Simplifying;

The solution
 $C = 0$ is trivial;

Therefore, we look for solutions to

We can use the standard
..... equation for this;

And when simplified slightly;

Therefore, the solution to the equation of motion for this damped oscillator is;

Or, slightly more simply,

We find this solution for x gives us three regimes of physical motion.

$$x = Ce^{-\frac{b}{2m}t} \cdot e\left(\pm\sqrt{\frac{b^2}{4m^2} - \frac{k}{m}}\right)t$$

The problem

.....;

This can be;

Damping term

Stiffness term

i) the system is; the damping term dominates over the stiffness term and a motion results.

ii); when the damping term and stiffness term are equal, the system returns to zero amplitude in

iii) the system is and gives oscillatory (simple harmonic) but

Case i): Heavy damping (damping term dominates over stiffness term)
(Pain, p31).



This leads to motion;

The equation to predict the displacement of our object is; $x = Ce^{-\frac{b}{2m}t} \cdot e^{\left(\pm\sqrt{\frac{b^2}{4m^2} - \frac{k}{m}}\right)t}$

Under certain boundary conditions, it can be re-expressed as;

$$x = C'e^{-\frac{b}{2m}t} \sinh\left(\left(\frac{b^2}{4m^2} - \frac{k}{m}\right)^{\frac{1}{2}} t\right)$$

(Pain, p31).



This illustrates the non-oscillatory behavior of a oscillator.

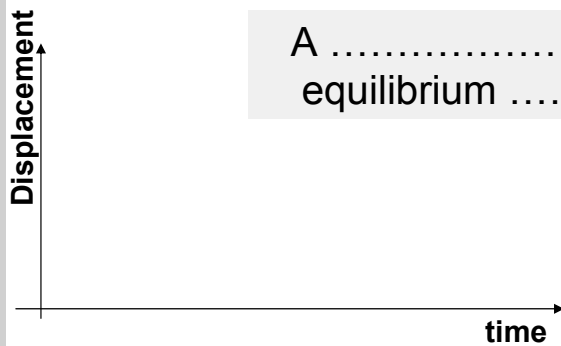
Case ii): Critical damping (damping term equals stiffness term)
(See Pain, p32).



Again this case leads to motion;

This time, instead of our original equation; $x = Ce^{-\frac{b}{2m}t} \cdot e^{\left(\pm\sqrt{\frac{b^2}{4m^2} - \frac{k}{m}}\right)t}$

We can re-express it as; $x = (A + Bt)e^{-\frac{bt}{2m}}$ (since α has equal roots Pain, p32).



A oscillator returns to equilibrium

(albeit very damped oscillation).

Case iii): Light damping (stiffness term dominates over damping term)

**This case leads to
..... damped SHM**

The most common examples occur for this last type of case; i.e. when the damping is light.

e.g.

This case demands a rigorous analysis.....

But, there is a problem!

So rewrite as;

Therefore the solution to the equation of motion for this case is;

Or for simplicity;

Where;

$$\omega' = \sqrt{\frac{k}{m} - \frac{b^2}{4m^2}}$$



ie. the is modified because of the !

can be written as

If we take the of this (which is the part), then we get the solution of the form;

To allow for motion starting anywhere in the cycle, we (ϕ) (Pain p33).

so re- write as;

$$x = Ce^{-\frac{bt}{2m}} (\cos \omega' t + \phi)$$

Equally, the solution could be written as;