

# Math 211

Lecture #32

Higher Order Equations  
Harmonic Motion

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## Higher Order Equations

- Linear homogenous equation of order  $n$ .

$$y^{(n)} + a_1 y^{(n-1)} + \cdots + a_{n-1} y' + a_n y = 0$$

- Linear homogenous equation of second order.

$$y'' + py' + qy = 0$$

- Equivalent system:  $\mathbf{x}' = A\mathbf{x}$ , where

$$\mathbf{x} = \begin{pmatrix} y \\ y' \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad A = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ -q & -p \end{pmatrix}.$$

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## Linear Independence

- A fundamental set of solutions for the system consists of two linearly independent solutions.

**Definition:** Two functions  $u(t)$  and  $v(t)$  are *linearly independent* if neither is a constant multiple of the other.

- $u(t)$  and  $v(t)$  are linearly independent solutions to  $y'' + py' + qy = 0 \Leftrightarrow \begin{pmatrix} u \\ u' \end{pmatrix}$  &  $\begin{pmatrix} v \\ v' \end{pmatrix}$  are linearly independent solutions to the equivalent system.

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## General Solution

**Theorem:** Suppose that  $y_1(t)$  &  $y_2(t)$  are linearly independent solutions to the equation

$$y'' + py' + qy = 0.$$

Then the general solution is

$$y(t) = C_1y_1(t) + C_2y_2(t).$$

**Definition:** A set of two linearly independent solutions is called a *fundamental set of solutions*.

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[LI](#)

[System](#)

## Solutions to $y'' + py' + qy = 0$ .

- The equivalent system has exponential solutions.
- Look for exponential solutions to the 2nd order equation of the form  $y(t) = e^{\lambda t}$ .
- *Characteristic equation:*  $\lambda^2 + p\lambda + q = 0$ .
  - ♦ *Characteristic polynomial:*  $\lambda^2 + p\lambda + q$ .
  - ♦ Same for the 2<sup>nd</sup> order equation and the system.

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## Real Roots

- If  $\lambda$  is a root to the characteristic polynomial then  $y(t) = e^{\lambda t}$  is a solution.
  - ♦ If the characteristic polynomial has two distinct real roots we have a fundamental set of solutions.
- If  $\lambda$  is a root to the characteristic polynomial of multiplicity 2, then  $y_1(t) = e^{\lambda t}$  and  $y_2(t) = te^{\lambda t}$  are a fundamental set of solutions.

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## Complex Roots

- If  $\lambda = \alpha + i\beta$  is a complex root of the characteristic equation, then so is  $\bar{\lambda} = \alpha - i\beta$ .
- A complex valued fundamental set of solutions is

$$z(t) = e^{\lambda t} \quad \text{and} \quad \bar{z}(t) = e^{\bar{\lambda}t}.$$

- A real valued fundamental set of solutions is

$$x(t) = e^{\alpha t} \cos \beta t \quad \text{and} \quad y(t) = e^{\alpha t} \sin \beta t.$$

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## Examples

- $y'' - 5y' + 6y = 0$ , with  $y(0) = 0$  and  $y'(0) = 1$ .
- $y'' + 4y' + 13y = 0$ , with  $y(0) = -1$  and  $y'(0) = 14$ .
- $y'' + 4y' + 4y = 0$ , with  $y(0) = 2$  and  $y'(0) = 0$ .
- $y'' + 25y = 0$ , with  $y(0) = 3$  and  $y'(0) = -2$ .

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## The Vibrating Spring

Newton's second law:  $ma = \text{total force}$ .

- Forces acting:
  - ♦ Gravity  $mg$ .
  - ♦ Restoring force  $R(x)$ .
  - ♦ Damping force  $D(v)$ .
  - ♦ External force  $F(t)$ .

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- Including all of the forces, Newton's law becomes
 
$$ma = mg + R(x) + D(v) + F(t)$$

- Hooke's law:  $R(x) = -kx$ .

- $k > 0$  is the *spring constant*.

- Spring-mass equilibrium  $x_0 = mg/k$ .

- Set  $y = x - x_0$ . Newton's law becomes

$$my'' = -ky + D(y') + F(t).$$

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- Damping force  $D(y') = -\mu y'$ .

- $\mu \geq 0$  is the *damping constant*.

- Newton's law becomes

$$my'' = -ky - \mu y' + F(t), \quad \text{or}$$

$$my'' + \mu y' + ky = F(t), \quad \text{or}$$

$$y'' + \frac{\mu}{m}y' + \frac{k}{m}y = \frac{1}{m}F(t).$$

- This is the equation of the vibrating spring.

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Vibrating spring

### RLC Circuit



$$LI'' + RI' + \frac{1}{C}I = E'(t), \quad \text{or}$$

$$I'' + \frac{R}{L}I' + \frac{1}{LC}I = \frac{1}{L}E'(t).$$

- This is the equation of the *RLC* circuit.

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Vibrating spring equation

## Harmonic Motion

- Spring:  $y'' + \frac{\mu}{m}y' + \frac{k}{m}y = \frac{1}{m}F(t)$ .
- Circuit:  $I'' + \frac{R}{L}I' + \frac{1}{LC}I = \frac{1}{L}E'(t)$ .
- Essentially the same equation. Use

$$x'' + 2cx' + \omega_0^2x = f(t).$$

- ♦ We call this the equation for *harmonic motion*.
- ♦ It includes both the vibrating spring and the *RLC* circuit.

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## The Equation for Harmonic Motion

$$x'' + 2cx' + \omega_0^2x = f(t).$$

- $\omega_0$  is the *natural frequency*.
  - ♦ Spring:  $\omega_0 = \sqrt{k/m}$ .
  - ♦ Circuit:  $\omega_0 = \sqrt{1/LC}$ .
- $c$  is the *damping constant*.
  - ♦ Spring:  $2c = \mu/m$ .
  - ♦ Circuit:  $2c = R/L$ .
- $f(t)$  is the *forcing term*.

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## Simple Harmonic Motion

No forcing, and no damping.

$$x'' + \omega_0^2x = 0$$

- $p(\lambda) = \lambda^2 + \omega_0^2$ ,  $\lambda = \pm i\omega_0$ .
- Fundamental set of solutions:  $x_1(t) = \cos \omega_0 t$  &  $x_2(t) = \sin \omega_0 t$ .
- General solution:  $x(t) = C_1 \cos \omega_0 t + C_2 \sin \omega_0 t$ .
- Every solution is periodic with the natural frequency  $\omega_0$ .
  - ♦ The period is  $T = 2\pi/\omega_0$ .

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## Amplitude and Phase

- Put  $C_1$  and  $C_2$  in polar coordinates:

$$C_1 = A \cos \phi, \text{ \& } C_2 = A \sin \phi.$$

- Then  $x(t) = C_1 \cos \omega_0 t + C_2 \sin \omega_0 t$

$$= A \cos(\omega_0 t - \phi).$$

- $A$  is the *amplitude*;  $A = \sqrt{C_1^2 + C_2^2}$ .
- $\phi$  is the *phase*;  $\tan \phi = C_2/C_1$ .

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## Examples

- $C_1 = 3, C_2 = 4 \Rightarrow A = 5, \phi = 0.9273$ .
- $C_1 = -3, C_2 = 4 \Rightarrow A = 5, \phi = 2.2143$ .
- $C_1 = -3, C_2 = -4 \Rightarrow A = 5, \phi = -2.2143$ .

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Amplitude &amp; phase

## Example

$$x'' + 16x = 0, x(0) = -2 \text{ \& } x'(0) = 4$$

- Natural frequency:  $\omega_0^2 = 16 \Rightarrow \omega_0 = 4$ .
- General solution:  $x(t) = C_1 \cos 4t + C_2 \sin 4t$ .
- IC:  $-2 = x(0) = C_1$ , and  $4 = x'(0) = 4C_2$ .
- Solution

$$\begin{aligned} x(t) &= -2 \cos 2t + \sin 2t \\ &= \sqrt{5} \cos(2t - 2.6779). \end{aligned}$$

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Amplitude &amp; phase