

To make the discussion more concrete, we shall concentrate on the spring-mass incarnation of a harmonic oscillator, but similar considerations hold for other types of oscillators.

We have seen a RLC circuit, a cork in a pond. There are many more.

Recall that the equation of motion is

$$m \frac{d^2 y}{dt^2} + d \frac{dy}{dt} + k y = F(t)$$

mass of object attached to spring damping constant spring constant driving force

Dividing by m and rewriting slightly,

$$\frac{d^2 y}{dt^2} + 2 \left(\frac{d}{2m} \right) \frac{dy}{dt} + \left(\frac{k}{m} \right) y = \frac{F}{m}$$

Introduce the notation

$$\frac{d}{2m} = \gamma,$$

$$\frac{k}{m} = \omega_0^2,$$

$$\frac{F}{m} = f.$$

" ω_0 " is called the natural frequency of the system.

It is the frequency the system would oscillate with without damping and forcing.

Indeed, $\frac{d^2y}{dt^2} + \omega_0^2 y = 0$ has characteristic polynomial $\chi(z) = z^2 + \omega_0^2 = (z - i\omega_0)(z + i\omega_0)$.
Hence solutions $c_1 \cos(\omega_0 t) + c_2 \sin(\omega_0 t) = A \cos(\omega_0 t + \phi)$
↑
frequency of oscillation

With this notation, the equation becomes

$$\frac{d^2y}{dt^2} + 2\gamma \frac{dy}{dt} + \omega_0^2 y = f.$$

The associated homogeneous equation is

$$\frac{d^2y}{dt^2} + 2\gamma \frac{dy}{dt} + \omega_0^2 y = 0.$$

This has characteristic polynomial

$$\chi(z) = z^2 + 2\gamma z + \omega_0^2.$$

As before, the roots of the characteristic polynomial may be found using the quadratic formula:

$$\frac{-2\gamma \pm \sqrt{4\gamma^2 - 4\omega_0^2}}{2} = -\gamma \pm \sqrt{\gamma^2 - \omega_0^2}.$$

Suppose that $\gamma^2 - \omega_0^2 < 0$, so that the roots are complex.

A basis of solutions is then given by

$$\left\{ e^{-\gamma t} \cos(\sqrt{\omega_0^2 - \gamma^2} t), e^{-\gamma t} \sin(\sqrt{\omega_0^2 - \gamma^2} t) \right\}.$$

A solution

$$c_1 e^{-\gamma t} \cos(\sqrt{\omega_0^2 - \gamma^2} t) + c_2 e^{-\gamma t} \sin(\sqrt{\omega_0^2 - \gamma^2} t)$$

in the span of the basis may be written

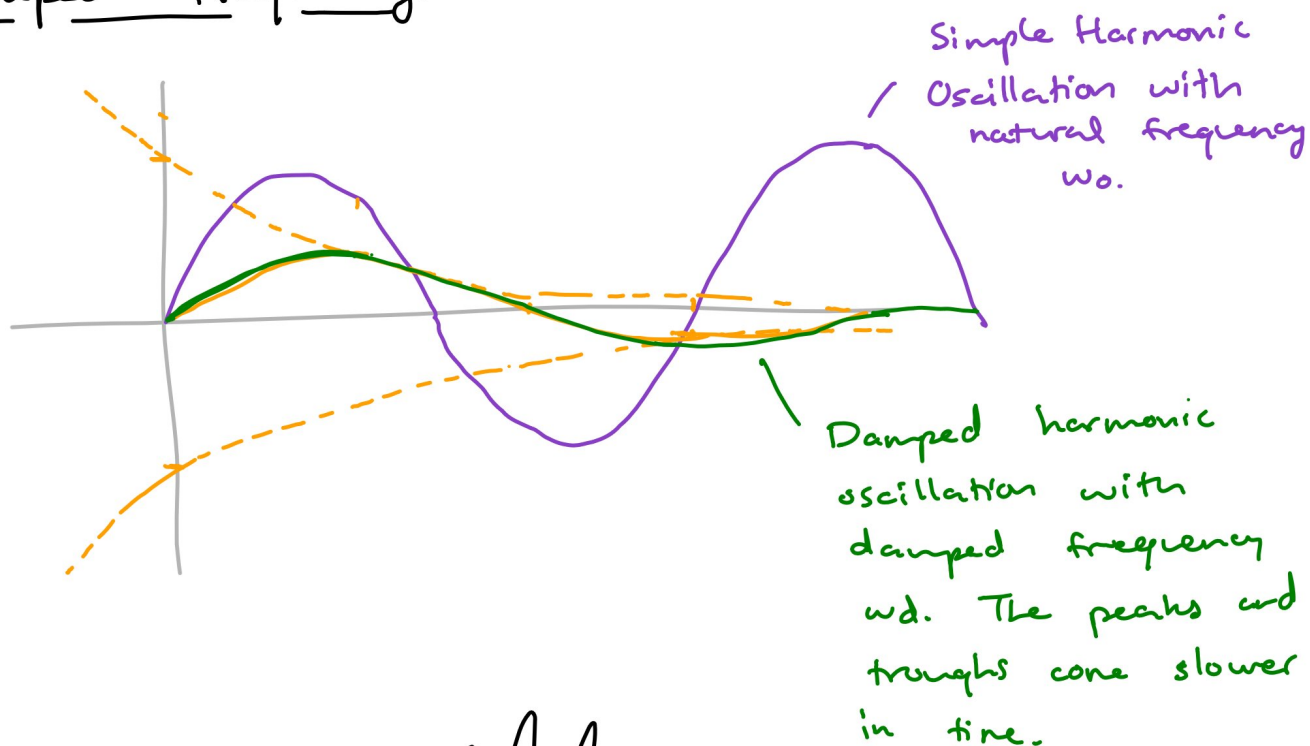
in phase-amplitude form as

$$A e^{-\gamma t} \cos(\sqrt{\omega_0^2 - \gamma^2} t + \varphi), \quad A \geq 0, \quad \varphi \in (-\pi, \pi].$$

We see that the frequency of the underdamped oscillation is $\sqrt{\omega_0^2 - \gamma^2} < \omega_0$.

It becomes equal to the natural frequency ω_0 when the damping γ is zero, as we may have expected.

We denote $\sqrt{\omega_0^2 - \gamma^2}$ by ω_d , and call it the damped frequency.



(Relatively unimportant) aside: how to estimate how much smaller ω_d is than ω_0 ?

$$\frac{\omega_d}{\omega_0} = \frac{\sqrt{\omega_0^2 - \gamma^2}}{\omega_0} = \sqrt{\frac{\omega_0^2 - \gamma^2}{\omega_0^2}} = \sqrt{1 - \frac{\gamma^2}{\omega_0^2}}$$

= Expand in Taylor series.

A way of finding the Taylor expansion of $(1+x)^d$, $d \in \mathbb{R}$, without computing derivatives makes use of:

Def. For $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}$ and $k \in \mathbb{N}$, the generalized binomial coefficient is defined to be

$$\binom{\alpha}{k} := \frac{\alpha(\alpha-1)\dots(\alpha-k+1)}{k!}$$

Note when $\alpha \in \mathbb{Z}$, this is the same as the binomial coefficient defined previously:

$$\begin{aligned} \binom{n}{k} &= \frac{n!}{k!(n-k)!} = \frac{1}{k!} \left(\frac{n(n-1)\dots(n-k+1)(n-k)\dots 2 \cdot 1}{(n-k)(n-k-1)\dots 2 \cdot 1} \right) \\ &= \frac{n(n-1)\dots(n-k+1)}{k!} \end{aligned}$$

Examples:

$$\binom{\frac{1}{2}}{0} = 1 \quad (\text{by convention})$$

$$\binom{\frac{1}{2}}{1} = \frac{\frac{1}{2}}{1!} = \frac{1}{2}$$

$$\binom{\frac{1}{2}}{2} = \frac{\frac{1}{2}(\frac{1}{2}-1)}{2!} = \frac{\frac{1}{2}(-\frac{1}{2})}{2} = -\frac{1}{8}$$

$$\binom{\frac{1}{2}}{3} = \frac{\frac{1}{2}(\frac{1}{2}-1)(\frac{1}{2}-2)}{3!} = \frac{\frac{1}{2}(-\frac{1}{2})(-\frac{3}{2})}{6} = \frac{3}{48} = \frac{1}{16}$$

We have Newton's binomial series:

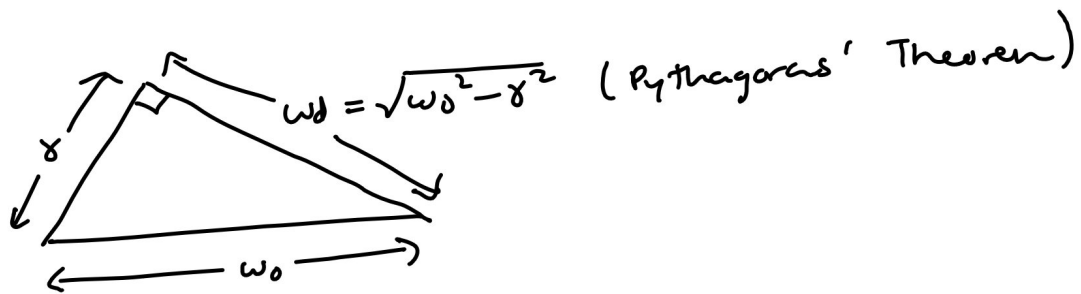
$$(1+x)^\alpha = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \binom{\alpha}{k} x^k.$$

$$\text{Therefore, } (1+x)^{\frac{1}{2}} = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \binom{\frac{1}{2}}{k} x^k = 1 + \frac{1}{2}x - \frac{1}{8}x^2 + \frac{1}{16}x^3 + \dots$$

Finally,
$$\sqrt{1 - \frac{\gamma^2}{\omega_0^2}} = \left(1 - \frac{\gamma^2}{\omega_0^2}\right)^{1/2} \approx 1 - \frac{1}{2} \frac{\gamma^2}{\omega_0^2} - \frac{1}{8} \frac{\gamma^4}{\omega_0^4} - \frac{1}{16} \frac{\gamma^6}{\omega_0^6}$$



The relationship between the natural frequency ω_0 , the damped frequency ω_d and γ may be displayed on a right triangle:



Now that we understand a bit more about the underdamped oscillations, including the damped frequency ω_d , let's study the following question:

What is the resulting motion if the damped spring-mass system is driven by a motor exerting the periodic force

$$F(t) = m F_0 \cos(\omega t),$$
 with driving frequency ω ?

(F_0 is a constant)

$$\varphi_p(t) = c_1 \cos(\omega t) + c_2 \sin(\omega t)$$

$$\varphi_p'(t) = -\omega c_1 \sin(\omega t) + \omega c_2 \cos(\omega t)$$

$$\varphi_p''(t) = -\omega^2 c_1 \cos(\omega t) - \omega^2 c_2 \sin(\omega t)$$

Thus,

$$\begin{aligned} & \varphi_p'' + 2\gamma \varphi_p' + \omega_0^2 \varphi_p \\ &= \left(-\omega^2 c_1 + 2\gamma \omega c_2 + \omega_0^2 c_1 \right) \cos(\omega t) \\ & \quad + \left(-\omega^2 c_2 - 2\gamma \omega c_1 + \omega_0^2 c_2 \right) \sin(\omega t) \end{aligned}$$

For φ_p to be a particular solution, this should equal $F_0 \cos(\omega t) (+ 0 \cdot \sin(\omega t))$.

Matching coefficients, we obtain the system of equations

$$\begin{cases} (1) & (\omega_0^2 - \omega^2) c_1 + 2\gamma \omega c_2 = F_0 \\ (2) & (\omega_0^2 - \omega^2) c_2 - 2\gamma \omega c_1 = 0 \end{cases}$$

From (2), $c_1 = \frac{\omega_0^2 - \omega^2}{2\gamma \omega} c_2$. Into (1),

$$\left(\frac{(\omega_0^2 - \omega^2)^2}{2\gamma \omega} + 2\gamma \omega \right) c_2 = F_0$$

$$\text{So } \left(\frac{(\omega_0^2 - \omega^2)^2 + 4\gamma^2 \omega^2}{2\gamma\omega} \right) c_2 = F_0$$

$$\left. \begin{aligned} c_2 &= \left(\frac{2\gamma\omega}{(\omega_0^2 - \omega^2)^2 + 4\gamma^2 \omega^2} \right) F_0 \\ c_1 &= \left(\frac{\omega_0^2 - \omega^2}{(\omega_0^2 - \omega^2)^2 + 4\gamma^2 \omega^2} \right) F_0 \end{aligned} \right\} \text{ are the solutions.}$$

We would like to write

$$c_1 \cos(\omega t) + c_2 \sin(\omega t) = A \cos(\omega t + \phi)$$

for some A and ϕ . Recall from the homework that

$$\begin{aligned} A \cos(\omega t + \phi) &= A (\cos(\omega t) \cos(\phi) - \sin(\omega t) \sin(\phi)) \\ &= (A \cos(\phi)) \cos(\omega t) + (-A \sin(\phi)) \sin(\omega t) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} c_1 &= A \cos(\phi) \\ c_2 &= -A \sin(\phi) \end{aligned} \quad \left(\text{This uses uniqueness of a representation of a vector in terms of basis elements} \right)$$

$$\text{So } c_1^2 + c_2^2 = A^2 (\cos^2(\phi) + \sin^2(\phi)) = A^2.$$

$$A = \sqrt{c_1^2 + c_2^2}$$

$$\text{and } -\frac{c_2}{c_1} = \tan(\phi).$$

We compute, with the previously found c_1 and c_2 , that

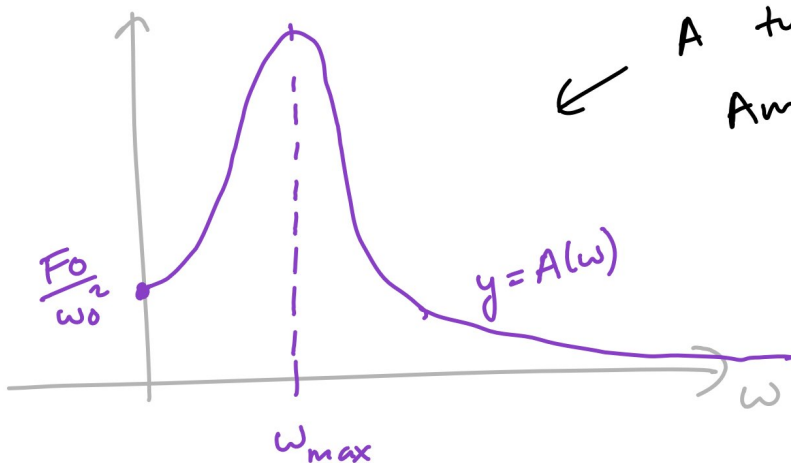
$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{F_0^2}(C_1^2 + C_2^2) &= \left(\frac{(\omega_0^2 - \omega^2)}{(\omega_0^2 - \omega^2)^2 + 4\gamma^2\omega^2} \right)^2 + \left(\frac{2\gamma\omega}{(\omega_0^2 - \omega^2)^2 + 4\gamma^2\omega^2} \right)^2 \\ &= \frac{(\omega_0^2 - \omega^2)^2 + 4\gamma^2\omega^2}{\left[(\omega_0^2 - \omega^2)^2 + 4\gamma^2\omega^2 \right]^2} = \frac{1}{(\omega_0^2 - \omega^2)^2 + 4\gamma^2\omega^2} \end{aligned}$$

So that the amplitude of the particular solution φ_p is

$$A = \sqrt{C_1^2 + C_2^2} = \frac{F_0}{\sqrt{(\omega_0^2 - \omega^2)^2 + 4\gamma^2\omega^2}}$$

As $\omega \rightarrow 0$, $A \rightarrow \frac{F_0}{\omega_0^2}$

$\omega \rightarrow \infty$, $A \rightarrow 0$



← A typical graph of Amplitude as a function of ω

is called the resonant frequency

$$\omega_{\max} = \sqrt{\omega_0^2 - 2\gamma^2} \text{ (as you will check in homework!)}$$

$$\frac{C_2}{C_1} = \frac{2\gamma\omega}{(\omega_0^2 - \omega^2)^2 + 4\gamma^2\omega^2} = \frac{2\gamma\omega}{\omega_0^2 - \omega^2}$$

$$\tan \phi = -\frac{C_2}{C_1} = \frac{2\gamma\omega}{\omega^2 - \omega_0^2}$$

As $\omega \rightarrow 0$, $\tan \phi \rightarrow 0$, so $\phi \rightarrow 0$
 The driving force and the motion are in phase

$\omega \rightarrow \omega_0$,
 ↑
 Natural frequency
 $\tan \phi \rightarrow \infty$, so $\phi \rightarrow -\frac{\pi}{2}$
 The driving force and the motion are $\frac{\pi}{2}$ out of phase.

$\omega \rightarrow \infty$, $\tan \phi \rightarrow 0$ again. This time $\phi \rightarrow -\pi$

