

MtHe 237  
Lecture 36  
Dec. 01, 2017

Topic: Some examples

## I. Examples around Newton's Law of Heating / Cooling

Suppose that an object is in contact with a reservoir of heat (often called a "heat bath") that is kept at a constant temperature  $T_{\text{ext}}$ .

Newton's Law of Heating / Cooling states that the temperature  $T$  of the object will tend toward that of the reservoir at a rate proportional to  $(T - T_{\text{ext}})$ .

[ This is an approximation that only holds for certain types of heat transfer. ]

This leads to the differential equation

$$\dot{T} = -k(T - T_{\text{ext}}) \quad (k > 0).$$

( If  $T > T_{\text{ext}}$ , so that  $T - T_{\text{ext}} > 0$ ,  $\dot{T}$  should be negative, which explains the sign. )

This differential equation is both linear and separable.

Separating variables,

$$\frac{1}{T - T_{\text{ext}}} \frac{dT}{dt} = -k.$$

Integrating both sides,

$$\ln |T - T_{\text{ext}}| = -kt + \text{const.}$$

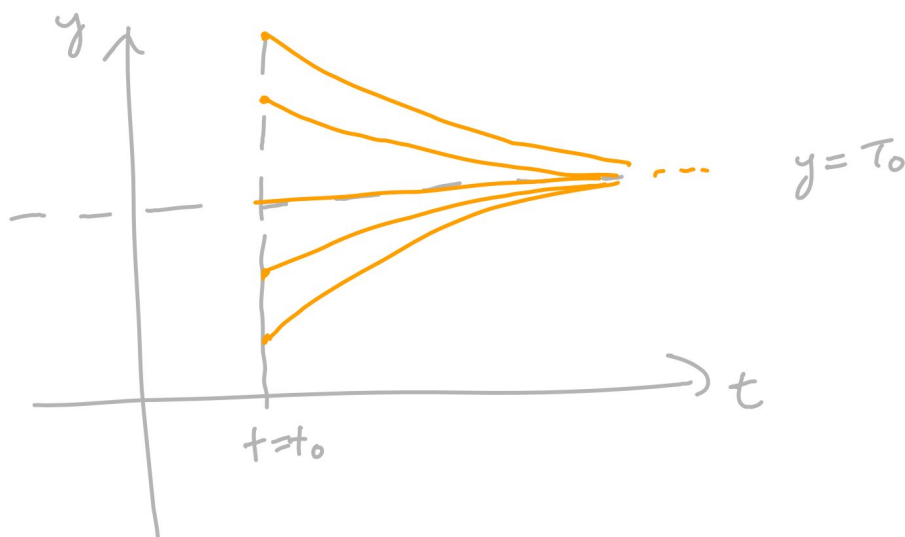
$$T - T_{\text{ext}} = A e^{-kt}.$$

If  $T(t_0) = T_0$ , we can determine  $A$ :

$$T_0 - T_{\text{ext}} = A e^{-kt_0}$$

$$A = (T_0 - T_{\text{ext}}) e^{kt_0}, \text{ so that}$$

$$T(t) = T_{\text{ext}} + (T_0 - T_{\text{ext}}) e^{-k(t-t_0)}$$



The solutions exhibit the exponential decay typical of first-order linear equations, but shifted vertically by  $T_{\text{ext}}$ .

What if  $T_{ext}$  is a function of time?

For instance,  $T_{ext}$  could change with the day-night cycle, or yearly, or in a non-periodic manner.

For an interesting example, suppose that

$$T_{ext}(t) = \frac{\cos(\omega t)}{k}, \quad \omega \neq 0 \text{ real.}$$

(Periodic functions can be approximated well by sufficiently many of such terms - This is the theory of Fourier Series.)

By similar reasoning as before, arrive at the differential equation

$$\dot{T} = -k \left( T - \frac{\cos(\omega t)}{k} \right).$$

This is no longer separable, but it is linear.

$$\dot{T} + kT = \cos(\omega t)$$

An annihilator of the right side is

$$P\left(\frac{d}{dt}\right) = \left(\frac{d}{dt} + \omega\right)$$

We have

$$p\left(\frac{d}{dt}\right)x\left(\frac{d}{dt}\right) = \left(\frac{d^2}{dt^2} + \omega^2\right)\left(\frac{d}{dt} + k\right).$$

Look for a particular solution of the form

$$\varphi_p = A \cos(\omega t) + B \sin(\omega t)$$

$$\dot{\varphi}_p = -A\omega \sin(\omega t) + B\omega \cos(\omega t)$$

$$\dot{\varphi}_p + k\varphi_p = (B\omega + Ak) \cos(\omega t) + (Bk - A\omega) \sin(\omega t)$$

The left side should be equal to  $k \cos(\omega t)$ ,  
hence

$$B\omega + Ak = 1$$

$$Bk - A\omega = 0$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} k & \omega \\ -\omega & k \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} A \\ B \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} A \\ B \end{pmatrix} = \frac{1}{\omega^2 + k^2} \begin{pmatrix} k & -\omega \\ \omega & k \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$= \frac{1}{\omega^2 + k^2} \begin{pmatrix} k \\ \omega \end{pmatrix} \quad \begin{aligned} A &= k/\omega^2 + k^2 \\ B &= \omega/\omega^2 + k^2 \end{aligned}$$

$$C_p = \frac{k}{\omega^2 + k^2} \cos(\omega t) + \frac{\omega}{\omega^2 + k^2} \sin(\omega t).$$

We can rewrite this in phase-amplitude form as

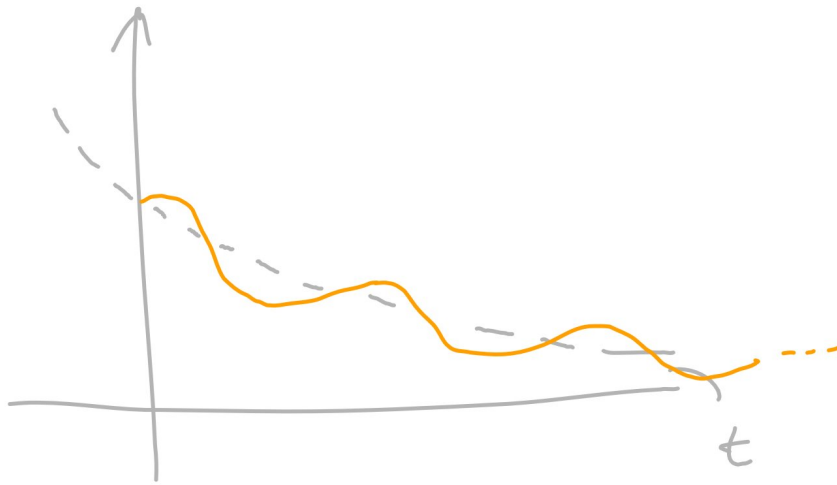
$$C_p = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\omega^2 + k^2}} \cos(\omega t + \phi), \quad \tan \phi = -\frac{\omega}{k}.$$

All solutions then have the form

$$C_p + \underbrace{ae^{-kt}}_{\text{solution of}} \\ \frac{dT}{dt} + kT = 0$$

or

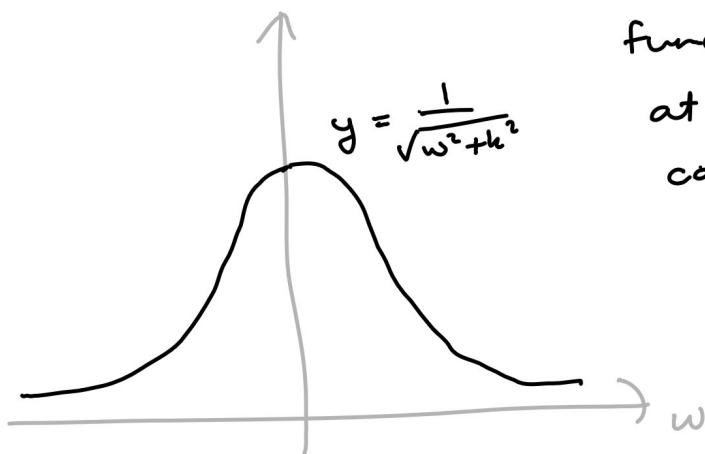
$$\underbrace{\frac{1}{\sqrt{\omega^2 + k^2}} \cos(\omega t + \phi)}_{\text{periodic response to reservoir}} + \underbrace{ae^{-kt}}_{\substack{\text{transient} \\ \text{term} \\ (\rightarrow 0 \text{ as } t \rightarrow \infty)}}$$



Solutions oscillate about the graph of  $ae^{-kt}$  with the same frequency  $\omega$  as  $\frac{\cos(\omega t)}{k}$ , but with a delay of  $\phi$ .

The amplitude of the response is

$$\frac{1}{\sqrt{\omega^2 + k^2}}$$



For a fixed  $k$ , this function is maximized at  $\omega = 0$ , and is in this case equal to

$$\frac{1}{\sqrt{0^2 + k^2}} = \frac{1}{k},$$

which is equal to the amplitude of  $\frac{\cos(\omega t)}{k}$ .

There is no resonance here. The response amplitude is bounded above by that of the input.

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What happens when the temperature of the reservoir is not controlled, but also follows Newton's Law of Heating/Cooling?

The temperatures  $T_1, T_2$  of the two objects then obey the system of differential equations

$$\dot{T}_1 = -k_1 (T_1 - T_2)$$

$$\dot{T}_2 = -k_2 (T_2 - T_1)$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} \dot{T}_1 \\ \dot{T}_2 \end{pmatrix} = \underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} -k_1 & k_1 \\ k_2 & -k_2 \end{pmatrix}}_A \begin{pmatrix} T_1 \\ T_2 \end{pmatrix}$$

Eigenvalues/Eigenvectors of  $A$ :

$$\det(A - zI) = \det \begin{pmatrix} -k_1 - z & k_1 \\ k_2 & -k_2 - z \end{pmatrix}$$

$$= (-k_1 - z)(-k_2 - z) - k_1 k_2$$

$$= k_1 k_2 + (k_1 + k_2)z + z^2 - k_1 k_2$$

$$= z(z + (k_1 + k_2)).$$

The eigenvalues are

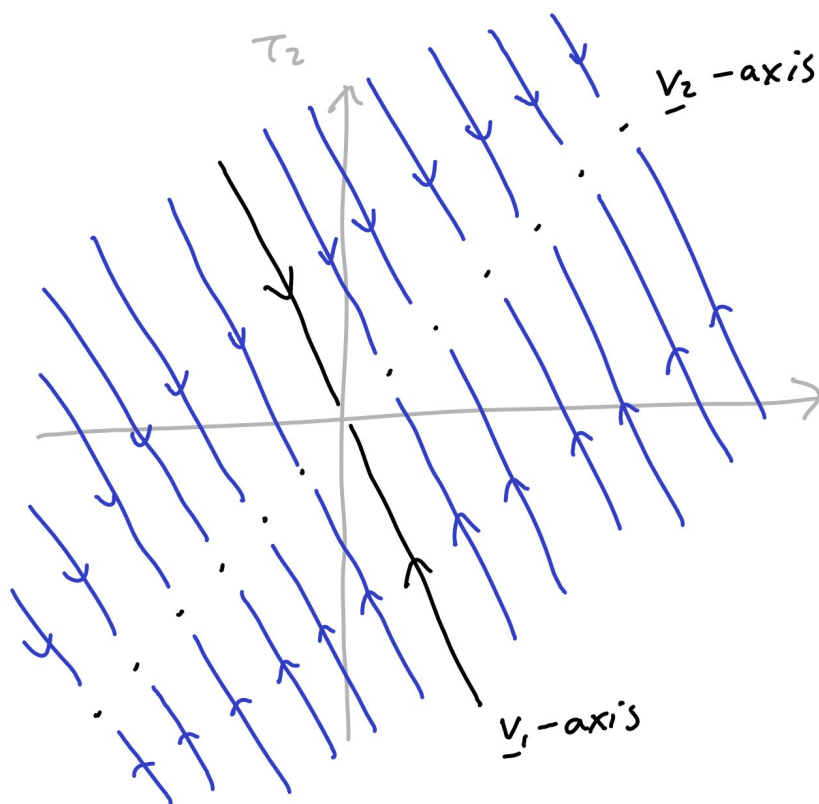
$$\lambda_1 = -(k_1 + k_2) \quad \text{and} \quad \lambda_2 = 0.$$

Eigenvector for  $\lambda_1$ :

$$\ker \begin{pmatrix} k_2 & k_1 \\ k_2 & k_1 \end{pmatrix} \quad \underline{v}_1 = \begin{pmatrix} k_1 \\ -k_2 \end{pmatrix}$$

Eigenvector for  $\lambda_2$ :

$$\ker \begin{pmatrix} -k_1 & k_1 \\ k_2 & -k_2 \end{pmatrix} \quad \underline{v}_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$



There are equilibrium points along the  $\underline{v}_2$ -axis.

These correspond to points at which the two objects have equal temperatures.



In the eigenbasis, the matrix exponential is

$$\begin{pmatrix} e^{-(k_1+k_2)t} & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\exp(At) = \begin{pmatrix} k_1 & 1 \\ -k_2 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} e^{-(k_1+k_2)t} & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \frac{1}{k_1+k_2} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -1 \\ k_2 & k_1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$= \frac{1}{k_1+k_2} \begin{pmatrix} k_1 & 1 \\ -k_2 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} e^{-(k_1+k_2)t} & -e^{-(k_1+k_2)t} \\ k_2 & k_1 \end{pmatrix}$$

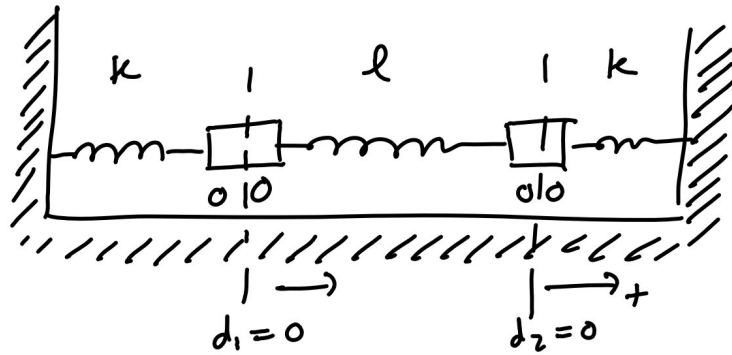
$$= \frac{1}{k_1+k_2} \begin{pmatrix} k_1 e^{-(k_1+k_2)t} + k_2 & -k_1 e^{-(k_1+k_2)t} + k_1 \\ -k_2 e^{-(k_1+k_2)t} + k_2 & k_2 e^{-(k_1+k_2)t} + k_1 \end{pmatrix}$$

So that the solution satisfying  $\underline{x}(0) = \begin{pmatrix} T_1(0) \\ T_2(0) \end{pmatrix}$

is  $\exp(tA) \begin{pmatrix} T_1(0) \\ T_2(0) \end{pmatrix}$

$$= \frac{1}{k_1+k_2} \begin{pmatrix} k_1 (T_1(0) - T_2(0)) e^{-(k_1+k_2)t} + (k_1 T_2(0) + k_2 T_1(0)) \\ k_2 (T_2(0) - T_1(0)) e^{-(k_1+k_2)t} + (k_2 T_1(0) + k_1 T_2(0)) \end{pmatrix}$$

II.



Assume  
 $m_1 = m_2 = 1.$

Previously, we found that the displacements of the two masses from their rest positions satisfy the system of equations

$$\ddot{d}_1 = -(k+l)d_1 + l d_2$$

$$\ddot{d}_2 = l d_1 - (k+l)d_2$$

This has the equivalent first-order system

$$\dot{x}_1 = x_2$$

$$\dot{x}_2 = -(k+l)x_1 + l x_3$$

$$\dot{x}_3 = x_4$$

$$\dot{x}_4 = l x_1 - (k+l)x_3$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} \dot{x}_1 \\ \dot{x}_2 \\ \dot{x}_3 \\ \dot{x}_4 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ -k-l & 0 & l & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ l & 0 & -k-l & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \\ x_4 \end{pmatrix}$$

Skipping the (quite long) details, we find that

the eigenvalues of  $A$  are

$$i\sqrt{k}, -i\sqrt{k}, i\sqrt{k+z^2}, -i\sqrt{k+z^2}$$

Eigenvector

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -i\sqrt{k} \\ 1 \\ -i\sqrt{k} \end{pmatrix}$$

Eigenvector

$$\begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ i\sqrt{k+z^2} \\ 1 \\ -i\sqrt{k+z^2} \end{pmatrix}$$

real

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

imaginary

$$\begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ -\sqrt{k} \\ 0 \\ -\sqrt{k} \end{pmatrix}$$

real

$$\begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

imaginary

$$\begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ \sqrt{k+z^2} \\ 0 \\ -\sqrt{k+z^2} \end{pmatrix}$$

In the basis of real/imaginary parts of the two complex eigenvectors, the matrix exponential becomes

$$\left( \begin{array}{cc|cc} \cos(\sqrt{k}t) & \sin(\sqrt{k}t) & 0 & 0 \\ -\sin(\sqrt{k}t) & \cos(\sqrt{k}t) & 0 & 0 \\ \hline 0 & 0 & \cos(\sqrt{k+z^2}t) & \sin(\sqrt{k+z^2}t) \\ 0 & 0 & -\sin(\sqrt{k+z^2}t) & \cos(\sqrt{k+z^2}t) \end{array} \right)$$

We can interpret the variables  $x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4$  as:

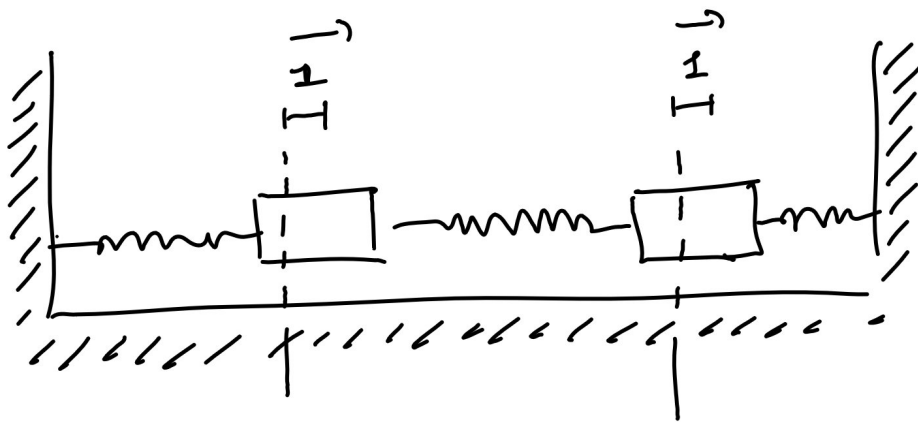
$x_1$  - displacement of first mass from rest

$x_2$  - velocity of first mass

$x_3$  - displacement of second mass from rest

$x_4$  - velocity of second mass

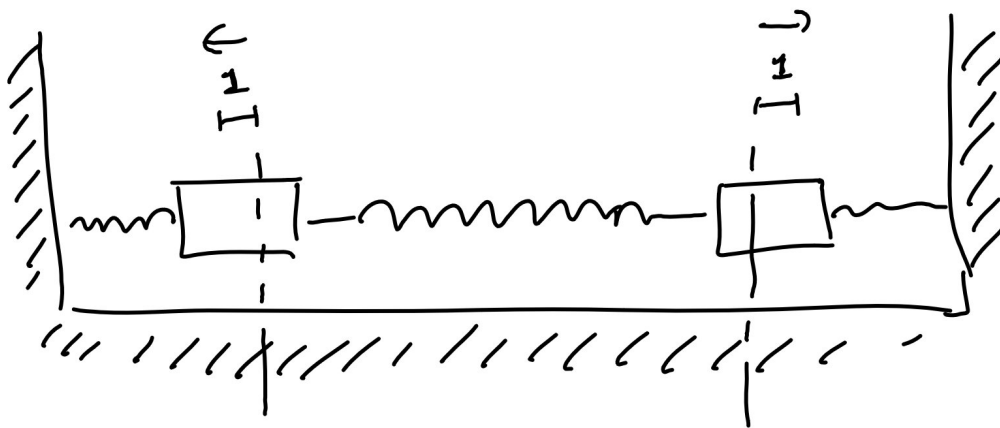
Taking the eigenvector  $\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$  as the initial condition,

$$\underline{x}(t) = \begin{pmatrix} \cos(\sqrt{k}t) \\ -\sqrt{k} \sin(\sqrt{k}t) \\ \cos(\sqrt{k}t) \\ -\sqrt{k} \sin(\sqrt{k}t) \end{pmatrix}$$


Both masses are displaced one unit to the right. The resulting motion does not compress or stretch the middle spring. The two masses oscillate with frequency  $\sqrt{k}$ , the natural frequency of the left and right springs. The masses move "in phase".

Taking the eigenvector  $\begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$  as the initial condition,

$$\underline{x}(t) = \begin{pmatrix} -\cos(\sqrt{k+2\ell}t) \\ \sqrt{k+2\ell} \sin(\sqrt{k+2\ell}t) \\ \cos(\sqrt{k+2\ell}t) \\ -\sqrt{k+2\ell} \sin(\sqrt{k+2\ell}t) \end{pmatrix}$$



The left mass is displaced one unit left, the right mass is displaced one unit right.

The middle spring is initially stretched by 2 units.

The masses move "inward", then "outward", completely "out of phase" with one another, both at frequency  $\sqrt{k+2\ell}$ .

The general motion starting at rest is a superposition of these two motions, since

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \text{ and } \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \text{ span } \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ 0 \\ x_3 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

The other two eigenvectors correspond to starting the masses at rest, but with prescribed initial velocities.

Any motion (with arbitrary initial positions and velocities) is a superposition of the four eigenvectors.

— The End —

Thanks for a fun semester,  
everyone.