

IA Mechanics

No. 1

Date 9 . 1 . 18

Dimensions and Units

- Physical quantities have dimensions: some product of $M L T$.
- Can be used to guess relationships using $[LHS] = [RHS]$
- If there are too many unknowns, we can form a **dimensionless group**.

Quantities $\left[\frac{A}{B}\right] = 1 \Rightarrow [A] = [B] \Rightarrow A = f(B)$ for some dimensionless f .

- Units can be treated as the product of the value and unit.

Experimental Physics

- **Random errors**: can only be removed by taking more readings.
- **Systematic errors** cannot be removed by repetition.
- The best estimate of the true value is the sample mean

$$\bar{x} = \frac{1}{n} \sum x_i \quad s_{n-1} = \sqrt{\frac{1}{n-1} \sum (x_i - \bar{x})^2}$$

- For n independent measurements, the error in the mean is $\frac{s_{n-1}}{\sqrt{n}}$
 - σ_{mean} should be reported to 1sf unless it starts with a 1 or 2
 - then \bar{x} rounded to same no. of decimals

e.g. $(31.42 \pm 0.16) \text{ cm}$ $(12.93 \pm 0.07) \Omega$

- To combine independent errors: adding in quadrature

$$Z = f(x, y) \Rightarrow (\Delta Z)^2 = \left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \Delta x\right)^2 + \left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial y} \Delta y\right)^2$$

special cases: $Z = A^n \Rightarrow \frac{\Delta Z}{Z} = n \frac{\Delta A}{A}$

- To reduce time-dependent systematic errors, we can vary the independent variable in a different order.

• If we are measuring the a continuous attribute of a discrete variable (e.g time of a pendulum swing), we can use the **method of exact fractions**

↳ get an initial estimate and error, e.g time 5 swings 3x.

↳ time an unknown number of swings

↳ divide by estimated T to get estimated no. of swings

↳ update estimate of T

Forces

• Vector quantity: $\vec{F}_{\text{net}} = \sum \vec{F}_i$

• In equilibrium, $\vec{F}_{\text{net}} = 0$. This applies to any cut we make

• Contact forces (e.g the normal) are described by Newton's 3rd.

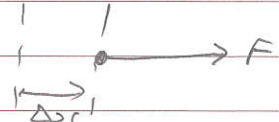
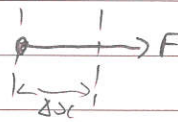
• Friction is described as:

$$F_{\text{max}} = \mu_s N \quad (\text{static}) \quad \text{or} \quad F_s \leq \mu_s N$$

$$F_d = \mu_d N \quad (\text{dynamic})$$

• Work is done when the point of application of the force moves in the direction of the force.

$$\Delta W = F \Delta x$$



• More generally: $W_{12} = \int_{r_1}^{r_2} \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{r}$

• The **potential energy** is the work done to put particles in a particular arrangement, starting from some reference point.

$$F_{\text{int}} = -\frac{dU}{dx} \Rightarrow \text{equilibrium when } \frac{dU}{dx} = 0$$

- if U is a minimum, **stable equilibrium**

- else U is at an **unstable equilibrium**, small Δx leads to force away from equilibrium.

Dynamics

- Equation of motion: $\ddot{x} = F/m$ (Newton's 2nd).
- Power is the rate at which work is done:

$$P = \frac{dW}{dt} = F \cdot v$$

- If work is done on an object, its speed increases, giving it KE.
- Momentum: $p = mv$ or $F = \frac{dp}{dt}$
- Conservation of momentum: the total linear momentum of an isolated system is constant.
 - ↳ applies to components
 - ↳ even with external F , sum (internal F) = 0.
- In a collision, momentum is conserved
 - ↳ elastic: KE conserved
 - ↳ inelastic: some KE \rightarrow internal energy.
- In a collision, force is unlikely to be constant. Thus we need to integrate: impulse = $\int F dt$ = change in momentum.

Frames of reference

- We can transform frames by adding/subtracting velocity.
- In an **inertial frame of reference**, Newton's 1st law is valid.
- An **instantaneous rest frame** makes one object stationary for a moment.
- Although the total KE may be different for different frames, ΔKE will be the same.
- The **zero momentum frame** is such that the total momentum is zero, found by subtracting v_{zm} from each particle.

$$v_{zm} = \frac{P}{\sum_i m_i} = \frac{\sum_i m_i v_i}{\sum m_i}$$

↳ after working out the collision, add back v_{zm} to all particles.

IA Circuits

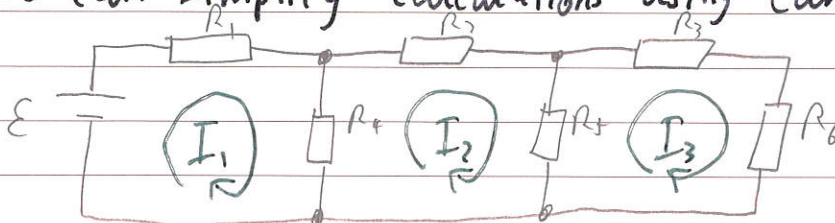
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- charge in an electric field experiences $\vec{F} = q\vec{E}$
- In a wire: $I = \frac{dQ}{dt} = nqA \langle v \rangle$ cross sectional area.
- p.d is work done per unit charge, in moving q in \vec{E} .
- emf \mathcal{E} is the energy gained per unit charge in a cell.

- ~~Kirchoff~~ Kirchhoff's current law: current conserved at junction
- Kirchhoff's voltage law: around any loop, $\sum V_i = 0$ (for cons energy).

We can simplify calculations using current loops:



$$\therefore \mathcal{E} - I_1 R_1 - (I_1 - I_2) R_4 = 0, \quad -I_2 R_2 - (I_2 - I_3) R_5 - (I_2 - I_1) R_4 = 0$$

... (3 eq with 3 unknowns).

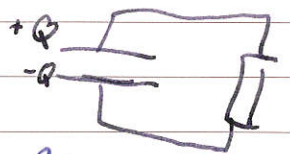
- For voltage, we can arbitrarily label voltage w.r.t any reference point of our choosing (negative terminal usually).

Capacitors

Defined by $C = \frac{Q}{V}$. $\therefore W = Vdq = \frac{1}{2} CV^2$

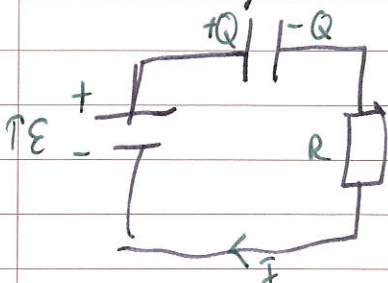
- In an RC circuit with a charged capacitor:

$$V = IR = \frac{Q}{C} \quad \therefore \frac{dQ}{dt} = \frac{Q}{RC} \Rightarrow Q(t) = Q_0 e^{-\frac{t}{RC}}$$



\hookrightarrow exponential decay with characteristic time $\tau = RC$

- To charge a cap



$$\mathcal{E} = IR + \frac{Q}{C}$$

$$\Rightarrow Q = C\mathcal{E}(1 - e^{-\frac{t}{RC}})$$

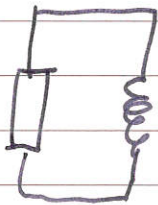
Inductors

$$\mathcal{E} = - \frac{d\phi_B}{dt}$$

But we also have $\phi_B = LI$ by definition.
↑
self-inductance.

$$\therefore \mathcal{E} = -L \frac{dI}{dt}$$

↳ stores energy in the field: $w = \frac{1}{2} LI^2$



In an RL circuit, $-IR - L \frac{dI}{dt} = 0$

$$\Rightarrow I(t) = I(0) e^{-\frac{tR}{L}}$$

i.e. exponential decay with characteristic $\tau = \frac{L}{R}$.

IA Oscillating Systems

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- A system oscillates if $x(t) = x(t+T)$ for some period T .
- the frequency of osc. is defined as $\nu = \frac{1}{T}$ (s^{-1})

• The angular freq is $\omega = 2\pi/T$

- For an object to undergo simple harmonic motion (SHM):
 - must be some inertia
 - and a restoring force \propto (- displacement)

$$F = -kx = ma \text{ for a spring} \Rightarrow \ddot{x} = -\frac{k}{m}x$$

• If we sub $x = a_0 \cos \omega t$ we find $\omega = \sqrt{\frac{k}{m}}$

• The general equation for undamped SHM is $\ddot{x} + \omega_0^2 x = 0$

• Solved by:

$$\left. \begin{aligned} x(t) &= a_0 \cos(\omega t + \phi) \\ x(t) &= A \cos(\omega t) + B \sin(\omega t) \end{aligned} \right\} \text{ 2 unknowns}$$

• SHM is unique among oscs because freq is independent to amplitude.

• The velocity and acceleration can be found by differentiating:

$$\dot{x}(t) = -\omega_0 a_0 \sin(\omega_0 t + \phi) \quad (\frac{1}{4} \text{ cycle ahead})$$

$$\ddot{x}(t) = -\omega_0^2 a_0 \cos(\omega_0 t + \phi). \quad (\frac{1}{2} \text{ cycle ahead}).$$

we then see that $v_{\max} = -\omega_0 a_0$ and $a_{\max} = -\omega_0^2 a_0$

• We can instead analyse systems in terms of energy. For a spring:

$$KE = \frac{1}{2} m \dot{x}^2 \quad PE = \int_0^x kx dx = \frac{1}{2} kx^2$$

$$\Rightarrow KE = \frac{1}{2} k a_0^2 \sin^2(\omega_0 t + \phi)$$

$$PE = \frac{1}{2} k a_0^2 \cos^2(\omega_0 t + \phi)$$

$$E_{\text{total}} = \frac{1}{2} k a_0^2$$

• Thus the energy terms oscillate twice as fast (e.g write $\sin^2 \theta = \frac{1}{2}(1 - \cos 2\theta)$)

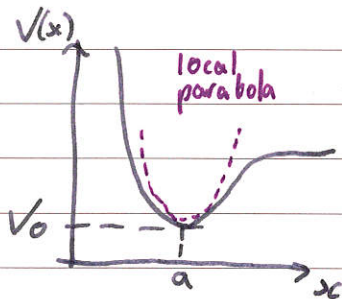
• Because $\langle \sin^2 \theta \rangle = \langle \cos^2 \theta \rangle = \frac{1}{2}$, we know that $\langle KE \rangle = \langle PE \rangle = \frac{1}{4} k a_0^2$

• We can instead derive SHM using the conservation of energy

$$E = \frac{1}{2} m \dot{x}^2 + \frac{1}{2} kx^2 \Rightarrow \dot{E} = m \dot{x} \ddot{x} + kx \dot{x} \Rightarrow \ddot{x} + \frac{k}{m}x = 0.$$

• Thus, any time a particle moves in a quadratic PE, it will undergo SHM.

• This can be applied to more complex potentials:



Taylor expanding about $x=a$:

$$V(a+\Delta x) = V(a) + V'(a)\Delta x + \frac{V''(a)}{2}(\Delta x)^2 + \dots$$

At the minimum, $V'(a)=0$

$$\therefore V(a+\Delta x) \approx V(a) + \frac{1}{2}V''(a)(\Delta x)^2$$

• Small perturbations can be approximated by quadratic potentials
 \hookrightarrow modeled with SHM.

• Generally, if $E = \frac{1}{2}\alpha \dot{x}^2 + \frac{1}{2}\beta x^2$

then $\dot{E} = \alpha \dot{x} \ddot{x} + \beta x \dot{x} = 0 \Rightarrow \ddot{x} + \frac{\beta}{\alpha} x = 0$

e.g. mass on spring with gravity

• In equilibrium, $kx_0 = Mg$

• If the mass is displaced further: $-k(x_0+x_1) + Mg = M\ddot{x}_1$

$$\Rightarrow \ddot{x}_1 + \frac{k}{m} x_1 = 0$$

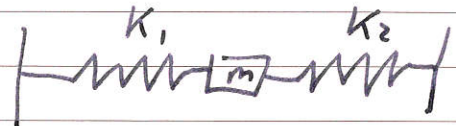
• i.e. gravity is irrelevant and system oscillates around equilibrium.

e.g. mass on two springs

• For a small displacement:

$$-k_1 x - k_2 x = m\ddot{x} \Rightarrow \ddot{x} + \frac{k_1+k_2}{m} x = 0$$

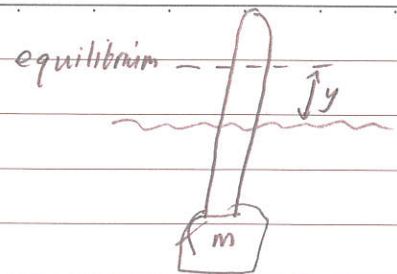
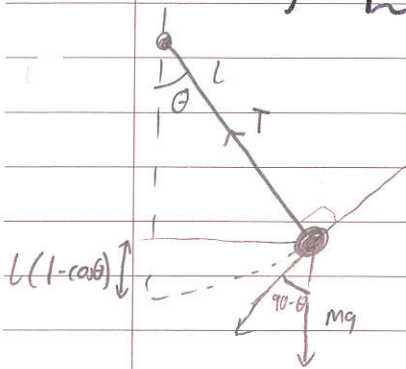
i.e. SHM with $\omega_0^2 = \frac{k_1+k_2}{m}$.



e.g. hydrometer

- Archimedes' principle: buoyancy force is equal to the weight of the displaced fluid.
- When displaced from eq., the submerged volume changes by Ay ($A \equiv$ cross section area)

$$\therefore m\ddot{y} = -\rho g Ay \Rightarrow \ddot{y} + \frac{\rho g A}{m} y = 0.$$

e.g. pendulum

- Resolving perp. to tension, we have $ml\ddot{\theta} = -mg\sin\theta$.
- For small angular displacements:
 $\sin\theta \approx \theta \Rightarrow ml\ddot{\theta} = -mg\theta$

$$\therefore \ddot{\theta} + \frac{g}{l}\theta = 0.$$

- Alternatively, we can argue by energy:

$$PE = mgl(1 - \cos\theta) \approx \frac{1}{2}mgl\theta^2 \quad \text{for } \cos\theta = 1 - \frac{1}{2}\theta^2.$$

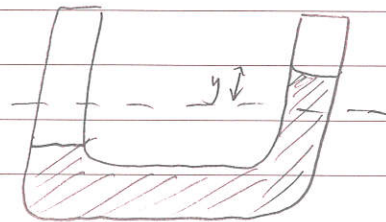
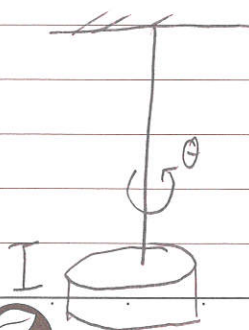
- Then we use the energy formula with $\alpha = ml^2$, $\beta = mgl$

e.g. water in U-tube

$$PE = (\rho Ay)gy = \rho Agy^2$$

$$KE = \frac{1}{2}\rho A l \dot{y}^2$$

$$\alpha = \rho A l, \quad \beta = 2\rho A g \Rightarrow \omega_0^2 = \frac{2g}{l}$$

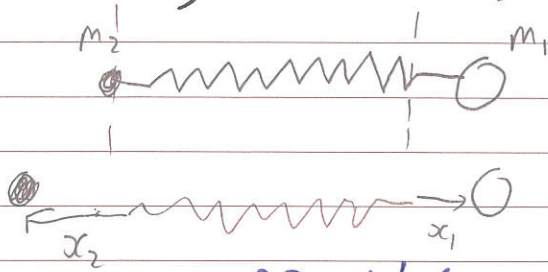
e.g. torsional oscillator

$$PE = \frac{1}{2}\tau\theta^2 \quad \leftarrow \tau \text{ is the torsional stiffness, Nm rad}^{-1}.$$

$$KE = \frac{1}{2}I\dot{\theta}^2 \quad \text{with } I = \frac{1}{2}mR^2 \Rightarrow KE = \frac{1}{4}mR^2\dot{\theta}^2$$

$$\text{Then } \omega_0^2 = \frac{\tau}{I}$$

e.g. mass-spring-mass



- For a displacement with no net external force, the centre of mass can't move
- So we know $m_1 x_1 = m_2 x_2$

$$PE = \frac{1}{2} k (x_1 + x_2)^2 = \frac{1}{2} k x_1^2 \left(1 + \frac{m_1}{m_2}\right)^2$$

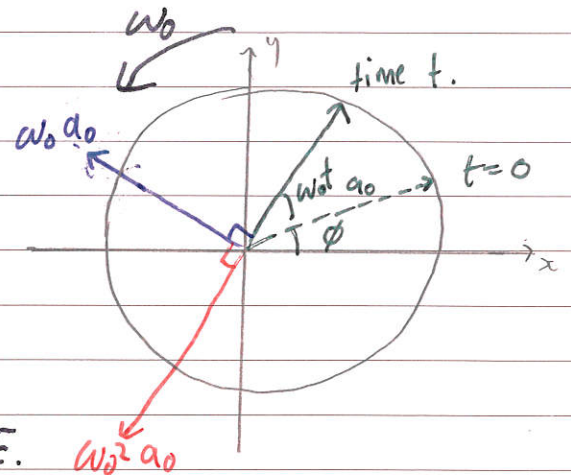
$$KE = \frac{1}{2} m_1 \left(1 + \frac{m_1}{m_2}\right) \dot{x}_1^2$$

$$\therefore \text{SHM with } \omega_0^2 = k \left(\frac{1}{m_1} + \frac{1}{m_2}\right)$$

• This defines the reduced mass: $\mu = \left(\frac{1}{m_1} + \frac{1}{m_2}\right)^{-1}$

Phasor diagrams

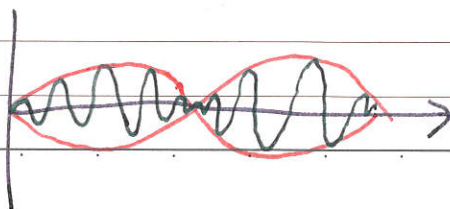
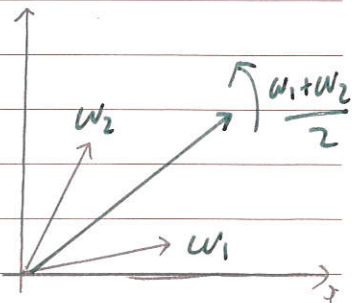
- SHM can be visualised as rotation around a circle of radius a_0 .
- x , \dot{x} and \ddot{x} all rotate at ω_0 .
- We can use this to analyse the superposition of SHMs.
- ↳ must also be SHM because linear ODE.



e.g. superposition of 2 frequencies to form beats

- The phase difference is $(\omega_2 - \omega_1)t$, so the frequency is $\omega_2 - \omega_1$.
- Alternatively:

$$x = a_0 (\cos \omega_1 t + \cos \omega_2 t) \approx 2a_0 \underbrace{\cos\left(\frac{\omega_2 + \omega_1}{2} t\right)}_{\text{fast}} \underbrace{\cos\left(\frac{\omega_2 - \omega_1}{2} t\right)}_{\text{slow}}$$



Complex representation of SHM

- We can derive from the phasor diagram: $z = a_0 e^{i(\omega_0 t + \phi)} = A e^{i\omega_0 t}$
 - ↳ the real part of z undergoes SHM.
 - ↳ all of the previous formulae follow.
- This expression satisfies $\ddot{z} + \omega_0^2 z = 0$.
- The total energy can be written as: $E = \frac{1}{2} k |z|^2$

Damped Harmonic Motion

- Damping is modelled as a resistive force proportional to velocity i.e. $m\ddot{x} = -kx - b\dot{x}$ for a spring.

The general form of the damped harmonic motion eq is:

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

- For a spring, $\gamma = b/2m$ and $\omega_0^2 = k/m$ as before.
- Both γ and ω_0 have dimensions $1/\text{time}$, but with diff interpretations:
 - $T = 2\pi/\omega_0$ is the period
 - ~~$T = 2\pi/\omega_0$~~ $T = \frac{1}{2\gamma}$ is a decay time

Substituting $x = A e^{-\rho t}$, the most general solution is:

$$x = A e^{(-\gamma - \sqrt{\gamma^2 - \omega_0^2})t} + B e^{(-\gamma + \sqrt{\gamma^2 - \omega_0^2})t}$$

↳ the two constants fix the initial position and velocity.

Heavy damping $\gamma > \omega_0$

ρ is real ($\rho \equiv \gamma \pm \sqrt{\gamma^2 - \omega_0^2}$), so the solution is the sum of two exponentials.

Light damping $\gamma < \omega_0$

Because $\gamma < \omega_0$, $p = \gamma \pm i\sqrt{\omega_0^2 - \gamma^2} = \gamma \pm i\omega_d$

$$\therefore z = Ae^{-\gamma t} e^{i\sqrt{\omega_0^2 - \gamma^2} t}$$

with $A \equiv a_0 e^{i\phi}$

$$\therefore x(t) = \text{Re}(z) = a_0 e^{-\gamma t} \cos(\omega_d t + \phi)$$

The frequency of the oscillations does not change even though amplitude diminishes.

Critical damping $\gamma = \omega_0$

- Different solution in this case: $x = Ae^{-\gamma t} + Bt e^{-\gamma t}$
- Fastest decaying system: no osc, and minimal friction.

Comparing oscillators

- The **logarithmic decrement** measures how much the amplitude of a lightly damped oscillator drops per cycle

$$\frac{a_{n+1}}{a_n} = \frac{e^{-\gamma t_{n+1}}}{e^{-\gamma t_n}} = e^{-\gamma T}$$

$$\Rightarrow \Delta = \frac{2\pi\gamma}{\omega_d}$$

\hookrightarrow a good oscillator has small Δ .

- Alternatively, the **Quality factor** Q of an oscillator is the number of radians of osc for energy to fall by a factor of e .

$$Q = \frac{\omega_0}{2\gamma} \quad \omega_d \approx \omega_0 \text{ for good oscillators, so } \Delta \approx \frac{\pi}{Q}$$

Forced Oscillations

$$\ddot{x} + 2\gamma\dot{x} + \omega_0^2 x = f \cos \omega t.$$

• For low-freq response, we can ignore velocity and acc

$$\hookrightarrow x = \frac{f}{\omega_0^2} \cos \omega t$$

• For high freq response, we can ignore velocity and displacement

$$\hookrightarrow x = -\frac{f \cos \omega t}{\omega^2}$$

• At resonance, $\ddot{x} + \omega_0^2 x = 0$

$$\hookrightarrow x = \frac{f \sin(\omega_0 t)}{2\gamma\omega_0}$$

More generally: $\ddot{z} + 2\gamma\dot{z} + \omega_0^2 z = f e^{i\omega t}$

Solved by $z = A e^{i\omega t}$ with $A = \frac{f}{\omega_0^2 - \omega^2 + 2i\gamma\omega} = a_0 e^{i\phi}$.

a_0 and ϕ can be found using the standard methods.

Power and resonance

$$P_{av} = \langle Fv \rangle = \langle b \dot{x}^2 \rangle = \frac{1}{2} b \frac{f^2}{(\omega_0^2 - \omega^2)^2 + 4\gamma^2}$$

From this we can derive the **width at half power** $\Delta\omega$.

$$\omega_{hp} = \mp \gamma + \sqrt{\omega_0^2 + \gamma^2} \Rightarrow \Delta\omega = 2\gamma$$

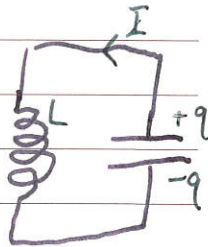
In terms of the quality factor:

$$\frac{\Delta\omega}{\omega_0} = \frac{1}{Q} \quad \text{i.e. high quality oscillators have a very narrow resonance peak.}$$

Electrical Oscillations

Consider a charged cap in a circuit with an inductor

- Current starts to flow, reducing q and thus reducing the voltage drop over both circuit elements
- Thus I is ~~negative~~, so current decreases but is still positive, so $I \uparrow$ and the cap discharges faster.
- When $q=0$, the cap begins to charge negatively, causing the current to decrease.
- Thus, the system oscillates.



By Kirchhoff's Voltage Law: $-LI - \frac{q}{C} = 0$

$$\Rightarrow \ddot{q} + \frac{1}{LC} q = 0$$

i.e. SHM with $\omega^2 = 1/LC$.

↳ cap provides 'restoring force'

↳ inductor provides inertia

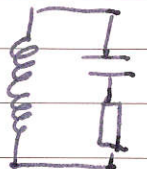
Alternatively, via cons energy:

$$E = \frac{1}{2C} q^2 + \frac{1}{2} L \dot{q}^2 \Rightarrow \text{SHM}$$

RLC circuits

A resistor acts as a damper because it dissipates energy

$$\dot{E} = \frac{1}{C} q \dot{q} + L \dot{q} \ddot{q} = -\dot{q}^2 R \Rightarrow \ddot{q} + \frac{R}{L} \dot{q} + \frac{1}{LC} q = 0$$



- This gives different solutions depending on the damping regime as before. For light damping:

$$q = q_0 e^{-\frac{R}{2L}t} \cos(\omega_d t + \phi), \text{ with } Q = \frac{1}{R} \sqrt{\frac{L}{C}}$$

Alternating current

- An AC power source produces voltage $V = V_0 \cos \omega t$
- The rms voltage is given by $V_{\text{rms}} = \sqrt{\langle V^2 \rangle}$

Resistor:

$$- I(t) = \frac{V_0}{R} \cos \omega t \quad P = IV = \frac{V_0^2}{R} \cos^2 \omega t$$

Capacitor

- $Q = CV = CV_0 \cos \omega t \Rightarrow I(t) = \omega (CV_0 \cos(\omega t + \pi/2))$
- Current oscillates $\frac{1}{4}$ cycle ahead of voltage
- $P = VI = -\frac{1}{2} \omega C V_0^2 \sin(2\omega t)$

Inductor

- $I = \frac{V_0 \cos \omega t}{L} \Rightarrow I(t) = \frac{V_0}{L\omega} \cos(\omega t - \pi/2)$
- I maxes when sign of voltage changes, i.e. $\frac{1}{4}$ cycle behind V .
- $P = \frac{1}{2} \frac{V_0^2}{L\omega} \sin(2\omega t)$.

- We can treat osc. current/voltage/charge as the real parts of complex quantities: $V = V_0 e^{i\omega t}$, $I = I_0 e^{i\omega t}$ with V_0, I_0 complex.

- We define **impedance** as the complex generalisation of resistance:

$$Z = \frac{V_0}{I_0}, \quad \text{with } |Z| = \frac{V_0}{I_0} \text{ and } \arg(Z) = -\phi.$$

• Resistor: $Z = \frac{V}{I} = \frac{V_0 e^{i\omega t}}{V_0 e^{i\omega t} / R} = R.$

- Z is real because V and I in phase.

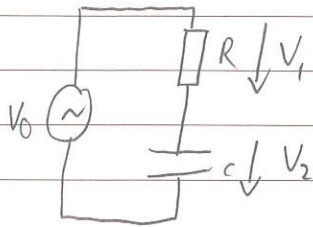
• Capacitor: $Z = \frac{V}{I} = \frac{V_0 e^{i\omega t}}{i\omega C V_0 e^{i\omega t}} = \frac{1}{i\omega C}$

• Inductor: $Z = \frac{V}{I} = \frac{V_0 e^{i\omega t}}{-i \frac{V_0}{L\omega} e^{i\omega t}} = i\omega L$

• Kirchhoff's laws apply to AC circuits with complex numbers

• Impedances add in series/parallel just like with DC circuits

e.g. RC filter



Potential divider $\therefore \frac{V_2}{V_0} = \frac{1}{1+i\omega RC}$

with $|\frac{V_2}{V_0}| = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1+\omega^2 R^2 C^2}}$ and $\arg(\frac{V_2}{V_0}) = -\tan^{-1}(\omega RC)$

Thus the voltage across the cap can be used to 'remove' ^{low} _{high} frequencies: low-pass filter.

Electrical resonance

$$\dot{q} + \frac{R}{L} \dot{q} + \frac{1}{LC} q = \frac{V_0}{L} \cos \omega t$$

• Resonance when $\omega = \frac{1}{\sqrt{LC}}$

↳ current ~~from~~ in circuit maximised