

# Lecture #4 - Multiple Timescale Methods

Hawes ①

## I. Application of Multiple Timescale Methods

A. We'll see how to apply this powerful analytical method with a simple example first.

### B. Example - Duffing's Equation

1. A simple nonlinear oscillator problem is given by

$$\text{Duffing's Equation } \frac{d^2x}{dt^2} = -x + x^3$$

(For more info, see

<http://mathworld.wolfram.com/DuffingDifferentialEquation.html>)

2. To solve this problem, we will assume the system evolves on two, separable timescales:

Short  $t$

Long  $\tau = \epsilon^2 t$

b. We will treat these as separate variables.

c. Here  $\epsilon \ll 1$  is a small dimensionless number, used for bookkeeping.

d. NOTE:  $\frac{d}{dt} = \frac{\partial}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial \tau}{\partial t} \frac{\partial}{\partial \tau} = \frac{\partial}{\partial t} + \epsilon^2 \frac{\partial}{\partial \tau}$

$$\frac{d^2}{dt^2} = \frac{\partial^2}{\partial t^2} + 2\epsilon^2 \frac{\partial^2}{\partial t \partial \tau} + \epsilon^4 \frac{\partial^2}{\partial \tau^2}$$

3. As usual with the simple harmonic oscillator, we'll make the assumption of small amplitude oscillations.

Expand Solution  $\longrightarrow x(t, \tau) = \epsilon x_1(t, \tau) + \epsilon^2 x_2(t, \tau) + \epsilon^3 x_3(t, \tau) + \dots$

4. Plug expansion for  $x$  and  $\frac{d}{dt}$  into original equation:

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{\partial^2}{\partial t^2} (\epsilon x_1 + \epsilon^2 x_2 + \epsilon^3 x_3) + 2\epsilon^2 \frac{\partial^2}{\partial t \partial \tau} (\epsilon x_1 + \epsilon^2 x_2 + \epsilon^3 x_3) + \epsilon^4 \frac{\partial^2}{\partial \tau^2} (\epsilon x_1 + \epsilon^2 x_2 + \epsilon^3 x_3) \\ &= -(\epsilon x_1 + \epsilon^2 x_2 + \epsilon^3 x_3) + (\epsilon^3 x_1^3 + 3\epsilon^4 x_1^2 x_2 + 3\epsilon^5 x_1 x_2^2 + 3\epsilon^5 x_1^2 x_3 + \dots) \end{aligned}$$

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5. Find equations at each power of  $\epsilon$ :

a.  $\mathcal{O}(\epsilon)$ :  $\frac{\partial^2 x_1}{\partial t^2} = -x_1$

b.  $\mathcal{O}(\epsilon^2)$ :  $\frac{\partial^2 x_2}{\partial t^2} = -x_2$

c.  $\mathcal{O}(\epsilon^3)$ :  $\frac{\partial^2 x_3}{\partial t^2} + 2 \frac{\partial^2 x_1}{\partial t \partial \tau} = -x_3 + x_1^3$

6. Solve  $\mathcal{O}(\epsilon)$  equation:

a. General solution for  $x_1(t, \tau)$ :  $x_1(t, \tau) = A(\tau) \cos t + B(\tau) \sin t$

b. On the slow timescale  $\tau$ ,  $A(\tau)$  and  $B(\tau)$  are treated as constants. The higher order equations will allow us to solve for  $A(\tau)$ ,  $B(\tau)$

7.  $\mathcal{O}(\epsilon^2)$  equation does not tell us anything new.

8. Solve  $\mathcal{O}(\epsilon^3)$  equation:

a. We have solved for  $x_1$ , so we can substitute in:

NOTE:  $\frac{\partial^2 x_1}{\partial t \partial \tau} = -\frac{\partial A}{\partial \tau} \sin t + \frac{\partial B}{\partial \tau} \cos t$

b. Thus:  $\frac{\partial^2 x_3}{\partial t^2} + x_3 = 2 \frac{\partial A}{\partial \tau} \sin t - 2 \frac{\partial B}{\partial \tau} \cos t + A^3 \cos^3 t + 3A^2 B \cos^2 t \sin t + 3AB^2 \cos t \sin^2 t + B^3 \sin^3 t$

c. 1. We assume the  $x_3$  is periodic over one oscillation  $[0, 2\pi]$

2. Therefore, we can annihilate  $x_3$  by averaging over an oscillation.

d. TRICK: Multiply the equation by  $\sin t$  and integrate  $\int_0^{2\pi} dt$

i. LHS:  $\int_0^{2\pi} \sin t \left( \frac{\partial^2 x_3}{\partial t^2} + x_3 \right) dt$

ii. Integrate by parts twice on  $\int_0^{2\pi} \sin t \frac{\partial^2 x_3}{\partial t^2} dt$  first term:

$$\int_0^{2\pi} \sin t \frac{\partial^2 x_3}{\partial t^2} dt = \cancel{\sin t \frac{\partial x_3}{\partial t}} \Big|_0^{2\pi} - \cancel{\cos t} x_3 \Big|_0^{2\pi} - \int_0^{2\pi} \sin t x_3 dt$$

by periodicity of  $x_3$

ii. Thus  $\int_0^{2\pi} \sin t (-x_3 + x_3) dt = 0$

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$$2. \text{RHS: } 2 \frac{\partial A}{\partial T} \int_0^{2\pi} \sin^2 t \, dt = 2\pi \frac{\partial A}{\partial T}$$

$$-2 \frac{\partial B}{\partial T} \int_0^{2\pi} \sin t \cos t \, dt = -2 \frac{\partial B}{\partial T} \left[ \frac{\sin^2 t}{2} \right]_0^{2\pi} = 0$$

$$A^3 \int_0^{2\pi} \sin t \cos^3 t \, dt = A^3 \left[ -\frac{\cos^4 t}{4} \right]_0^{2\pi} = 0$$

$$3A^2 B \int_0^{2\pi} \cos^2 t \sin^2 t \, dt = 3A^2 B \int_0^{2\pi} (\sin^2 t - \sin^4 t) \, dt = 3A^2 B \left( \pi - \frac{3\pi}{4} \right)$$

$$3AB^2 \int_0^{2\pi} \sin^3 t \cos t \, dt = 3AB^2 \left[ \frac{\sin^4 t}{4} \right]_0^{2\pi} = 0 \quad = \frac{3\pi}{4} A^2 B$$

$$B^3 \int_0^{2\pi} \sin^4 t \, dt = \frac{3\pi}{4} B^3$$

NOTE: 1.  $\int_0^{2\pi} \sin^2 t \, dt = \pi$

2.  $\int_0^{2\pi} \sin^4 t \, dt = \frac{3\pi}{4}$

3. Thus  $\text{RHS} = 2\pi \frac{\partial A}{\partial T} + \frac{3\pi}{4} A^2 B + \frac{3\pi}{4} B^3$

4. Thus

$$\frac{\partial A}{\partial T} = -\frac{3}{8} (A^2 B + B^3) = -\frac{3}{8} (A^2 + B^2) B$$

e. We can perform the same trick this time multiplying by  $\cos t$  and  $\int_0^{2\pi} dt$ .

1. Again  $\text{LHS} = 0$

2.  $\text{RHS} = -2\pi \frac{\partial B}{\partial T} + \frac{3\pi}{4} A^3 + \frac{3\pi}{4} AB^2$

3. Thus

$$\frac{\partial B}{\partial T} = \frac{3}{8} (A^3 + AB^2) = \frac{3}{8} (A^2 + B^2) A$$

f. Thus, we have

$$\boxed{\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial A}{\partial T} &= -\frac{3}{8} (A^2 + B^2) B \\ \frac{\partial B}{\partial T} &= \frac{3}{8} (A^2 + B^2) A \end{aligned}}$$

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g. These equations for  $A(\tau)$  &  $B(\tau)$  are also nonlinear, but they may be solved by another trick.

1. TRICK: Multiply  $\frac{\partial A}{\partial \tau}$  by  $A$ ,  $\frac{\partial B}{\partial \tau}$  by  $B$  and add equations

$$2. A \frac{\partial A}{\partial \tau} + B \frac{\partial B}{\partial \tau} = \frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial}{\partial \tau} (A^2 + B^2) = 0$$

3. Therefore  $A^2 + B^2 = \text{constant}$ . Let  $C^2 \equiv A^2 + B^2$

$$h. \text{ Thus } \frac{\partial A}{\partial \tau} = -\frac{3C^2}{8} B \quad \frac{\partial B}{\partial \tau} = \frac{3C^2}{8} A$$

$$1. \text{ Solving } \frac{\partial^2 A}{\partial \tau^2} = -\frac{3C^2}{8} \frac{\partial B}{\partial \tau} = -\left(\frac{3C^2}{8}\right)^2 A$$

2. General solution can be written

$$A(\tau) = A_0 \cos\left(\frac{3C^2}{8} \tau + \phi_0\right)$$

where  $A_0$  is amplitude  
 $\phi_0$  is phase

$$3. \text{ Thus } B(\tau) = A_0 \sin\left(\frac{3C^2}{8} \tau + \phi_0\right)$$

1. Plugging in  $A(\tau)$  and  $B(\tau)$  to get full  $x_1$  solution:

$$x_1(t, \tau) = A_0 \cos\left(\frac{3C^2}{8} \tau + \phi_0\right) \cos t + A_0 \sin\left(\frac{3C^2}{8} \tau + \phi_0\right) \sin t$$

$$\boxed{x_1(t, \tau) = A_0 \cos\left(t - \frac{3C^2}{8} \tau - \phi_0\right)} \quad \text{Using } \cos(F-G) = \cos F \cos G + \sin F \sin G$$

9. Let's check our assumption that  $x_3$  is periodic over oscillation in  $t$ .

$$a. \frac{\partial^2 x_3}{\partial t^2} + x_3 = -2 \frac{\partial^2 x_1}{\partial t \partial \tau} + x_1^3 \quad \text{This is a driven harmonic oscillator.}$$

$$b. \frac{\partial^2 x_1}{\partial t \partial \tau} = \frac{\partial}{\partial \tau} \left[ -A_0 \sin\left(t - \frac{3C^2}{8} \tau - \phi_0\right) \right] = \frac{3C^2 A_0}{8} \cos\left(t - \frac{3C^2}{8} \tau - \phi_0\right)$$

$$c. \text{ Thus, } \frac{\partial^2 x_3}{\partial t^2} + x_3 = \frac{6C^2 A_0}{8} \cos\left(t - \frac{3C^2}{8} \tau - \phi_0\right) + A_0^3 \cos^3\left(t - \frac{3C^2}{8} \tau - \phi_0\right)$$

d. Since forcing term (RHS) is periodic in  $t$ , so must be solution  $x_3(t, \tau)$ .

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### I. B. (Continued)

#### 10. Final Solution.

a. NOTE:  $C^2 = A^2 + B^2 = A_0^2$

b. Set our bookkeeping term  $\epsilon = 1$ .

$$x_1(t) = A_0 \cos\left(t - \frac{3A_0^2}{8}t - \phi_0\right)$$

c. Small amplitude assumption means  $t \gg \frac{3A_0^2}{8}t$

11. Interpretation: a. System is, to lowest order, a harmonic oscillator

b. Over long times,  $x_1(t)$  builds up a large phase shift  $-\frac{3A_0^2}{8}t$  due to the nonlinear term.

## II. Dimensionless Equations

A. Conversion of equations to a dimensionless form often leads to less cumbersome notation when working with the equations.

B. Example: Linearized Hydrodynamic Membrane Equation

1.  $\rho_0 \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} = -\nabla p$

2. Choose characteristic values by which to normalize!

a.  $u' = \frac{u}{c_s}$       $p' = \frac{p}{\rho_0}$

b.  $\nabla = \frac{\partial}{\partial x}$ , so  $x' = \frac{x}{L_0}$       $t' = \frac{t}{\left(\frac{L_0}{c_s}\right)} = \frac{c_s t}{L_0}$

3. Substitute normalized values into equation

a.  $\rho_0 \frac{\partial (u' c_s)}{\partial \left(t' \frac{L_0}{c_s}\right)} = - \frac{\partial (p' \rho_0)}{\partial (x' L_0)} \Rightarrow \frac{c_s^2}{L_0} \frac{\partial u'}{\partial t'} = - \left(\frac{\rho_0}{\rho_0}\right) \frac{1}{L_0} - \nabla' p'$

b. NOTE: Speed of sound  $c_s^2 \equiv \left(\frac{\rho_0}{\rho_0}\right)$ , so this leaves

$$\frac{\partial u'}{\partial t'} = -\nabla' p'$$