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Lecture PowerPoints

Chapter 14

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Chapter 14 Oscillations



Units of Chapter 14

- Oscillations of a Spring
- Simple Harmonic Motion
- Energy in the Simple Harmonic Oscillator
- Simple Harmonic Motion Related to Uniform Circular Motion
- The Simple Pendulum



If an object vibrates or oscillates back and forth over the same path, each cycle taking the same amount of time, the motion is called periodic. The mass and spring system is a useful model for a periodic system.

We assume that the surface is frictionless. There is a point where the spring is neither stretched nor compressed; this is the equilibrium position. We measure displacement from that point (x = 0 on the previous figure).

The force exerted by the spring depends on the displacement:

$$F = -kx.$$

- The minus sign on the force indicates that it is a restoring force—it is directed to restore the mass to its equilibrium position.
- *k* is the spring constant.
- The force is not constant, so the acceleration is not constant either.











- Displacement is measured from the equilibrium point.
- Amplitude is the maximum displacement.
- A cycle is a full to-and-fro motion.
- Period is the time required to complete one cycle.
- Frequency is the number of cycles completed per second.



Any vibrating system where the restoring force is proportional to the negative of the displacement is in simple harmonic motion (SHM), and is often called a simple harmonic oscillator (SHO).

Substituting F = kx into Newton's second law gives the equation of motion:

$$\frac{d^2x}{dt^2} + \frac{k}{m}x = 0,$$

with solutions of the form:

$$x = A\cos(\omega t + \phi).$$

Substituting, we verify that this solution does indeed satisfy the equation of motion, with:



$$\omega^2 = \frac{k}{m}$$

The constants *A* and φ will be determined by initial conditions; *A* is the amplitude, and φ gives the phase of the motion at *t* = **0**.

The velocity can be found by differentiating the displacement:

$$v = \frac{dx}{dt} = \frac{d}{dt} \left[A \cos(\omega t + \phi) \right] = -\omega A \sin(\omega t + \phi).$$

These figures illustrate the effect of φ :



Because
$$\omega = 2\pi f = \sqrt{k/m}$$
, then

$$f = \frac{1}{2\pi} \sqrt{\frac{k}{m}},$$
$$T = 2\pi \sqrt{\frac{m}{k}}.$$



We already know that the potential energy of a spring is given by:

$$U = -\int F \, dx = \frac{1}{2}kx^2.$$

The total mechanical energy is then:

$$E = \frac{1}{2}mv^2 + \frac{1}{2}kx^2.$$

The total mechanical energy will be conserved, as we are assuming the system is frictionless.



If the mass is at the limits of its motion, the energy is all potential.

If the mass is at the equilibrium point, the energy is all kinetic.

We know what the potential energy is at the turning points:

 $E = \frac{1}{2}kA^{2}$.

The total energy is, therefore, $\frac{1}{2}kA^2$.

And we can write:

$$\frac{1}{2}mv^2 + \frac{1}{2}kx^2 = \frac{1}{2}kA^2.$$

This can be solved for the velocity as a function of position:

$$v = \pm v_{\max} \sqrt{1 - \frac{x^2}{A^2}},$$

where $v_{\max}^2 = (k/m) A^2$.

This graph shows the potential energy function of a spring. The total energy is constant.









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Conceptual Example 14-8: Doubling the amplitude.

Suppose this spring is stretched twice as far (to x = 2A).What happens to (a) the energy of the system, (b) the maximum velocity of the oscillating mass, (c) the maximum acceleration of the mass?

14-4 Simple Harmonic Motion Related to Uniform Circular Motion









This is identical to SHM.



14-5 The Simple Pendulum



A simple pendulum consists of a mass at the end of a lightweight cord. We assume that the cord does not stretch, and that its mass is negligible.

14-5 The Simple Pendulum



In order to be in SHM, the restoring force must be proportional to the negative of the displacement. Here we have: $F = -mg \sin \theta$, which is proportional to $\sin \theta$ and not to θ itself.

However, if the angle is small, $\sin \theta \approx \theta$.

14-5 The Simple Pendulum Therefore, for small angles, we have:

$$F \approx -\frac{mg}{L}x,$$

where $x = L\theta$.

The period and frequency are:

$$T = 2\pi \sqrt{\frac{L}{g}},$$

$$f = \frac{1}{2\pi} \sqrt{\frac{g}{L}}.$$

14-5 The Simple Pendulum



So, as long as the cord can be considered massless and the amplitude is small, the period does not depend on the mass.

Summary of Chapter 14

• For SHM, the restoring force is proportional to the displacement.

• The period is the time required for one cycle, and the frequency is the number of cycles per second.

- Period for a mass on a spring: $T = 2\pi \sqrt{\frac{m}{k}}$.
- SHM is sinusoidal.

• During SHM, the total energy is continually changing from kinetic to potential and back.

Summary of Chapter 14

• A simple pendulum approximates SHM if its amplitude is not large. Its period in that case is:

$$T = 2\pi \sqrt{\frac{L}{g}}.$$

• When friction is present, the motion is damped.

• If an oscillating force is applied to a SHO, its amplitude depends on how close to the natural frequency the driving frequency is. If it is close, the amplitude becomes quite large. This is called resonance.