## THE DAMPED HARMONIC OSCILLATOR

Reading: Main 3.1, 3.2, 3.3 Taylor 5.4 Giancoli 14.7, 14.8











How do we choose a model?

Physically reasonable, mathematically tractable ...

Validation comes IF it describes the experimental system accurately

Natural motion of damped harmonic oscillator

## $Force = m\ddot{x}$ restoring force + resistive force = m\ddot{x}

$$-kx - b\dot{x} = m\ddot{x}$$

Divide by coefficient of  $d^2x/dt^2$ and rearrange:



inverse time

 $\beta$  and  $\omega_0$  (rate or frequency) are generic to any oscillating system This is the notation of TM; Main uses  $\gamma = 2\beta$ . Natural motion of damped harmonic oscillator

$$\ddot{x} + 2\beta \dot{x} + \omega_0^2 x = 0$$
Try  $x(t) = Ce^{pt}$  C, p are unknown constants
$$\dot{x}(t) = px(t), \qquad \ddot{x}(t) = p^2 x(t)$$
Substitute:  $(p^2 + 2\beta p + \omega_0^2)x(t) = 0$ 

Now *p* is known (and 
$$p = -\beta \pm \sqrt{\beta^2 - \omega_0^2}$$
  
there are 2 *p* values)

$$x(t) = Ce^{p_+t} + C'e^{p_-t}$$

Must be sure to make *x* real!





underdamped  $\beta < \omega_0$ 



Damping time or "1/e" time is  $\tau = 1/\beta > 1/\omega_0$ (>>  $1/\omega_0$  if  $\beta$  is very small)

How many  $T_0$  periods elapse in the damping time? This number (times  $\pi$ ) is the **Quality factor** or Q of the system.

$$Q = \pi \frac{\tau}{T_0} = \frac{\omega_0}{2\beta}$$
 large if  $\beta$  is small compared to  $\omega_0$ 



$$V_L = L \frac{dI}{dt}; V_R = IR; V_C = \frac{q}{C}$$

$$-L\frac{dI}{dt} - IR - \frac{q}{C} = 0$$

*L* (*inductance*), *C* (*capacitance*), cause oscillation, *R* (*resistance*) causes damping

$$L\ddot{q} + R\dot{q} + \frac{q}{C} = 0$$

$$\ddot{q} + 2\beta \dot{q} + \omega_0^2 q = 0$$

$$\ddot{q} + \frac{R}{L}\dot{q} + \frac{1}{LC}q = 0$$



LCR circuit obeys precisely the same equation as the damped mass/spring.

Q factor:  $Q = \frac{1}{\omega_0 RC}$ 

Natural (resonance) frequency determined by the inductor and capacitor

Typical numbers:  $L \approx 500 \mu$ H;  $C \approx 100 \text{pF}$ ;  $R \approx 50 \Omega$   $\omega_0 \approx 10^6 \text{s}^{-1}$  ( $f_0 \approx 700 \text{ kHz}$ )  $\tau = 1/\beta \approx 2\mu$ s;  $Q \approx 45$ (your lab has different parameters)

$$\omega_0 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{LC}}$$

Damping determined by resistor & inductor

$$\beta = \frac{R}{2L}$$





## Does the model fit?

Time

Summary so far:

- Free, undamped, linear (harmonic) oscillator
- Free, undamped, non-linear oscillator
- Free, damped linear oscillator Next
- Driven, damped linear oscillator
- Laboratory to investigate LRC circuit as example of driven, damped oscillator
- Time and frequency representations
- Fourier series