

**PHY 711 Classical Mechanics and  
Mathematical Methods  
10-10:50 AM MWF Olin 103**

**Plan for Lecture 18:**

**Finish reading Chapter 4 and start reading  
Chapter 7**

- 1. Linear versus non-linear oscillators**
- 2. Coupled motion of extended systems; relationship to continuum models & wave equation**

10/07/2013

PHY 711 Fall 2013 – Lecture 18

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**Course schedule**

(Preliminary schedule – subject to frequent adjustment.)

Date	F&W	Reading	Topic	Assignment
1 Wed, 8/28/2013	Chap. 1		Review of basic principles, Scattering theory	#1
2 Fri, 8/30/2013	Chap. 1		Scattering theory continued	#2
3 Mon, 9/02/2013	Chap. 1		Scattering theory continued	#3
4 Wed, 9/04/2013	Chap. 2		Accelerated Coordinate Systems	#4
5 Fri, 9/06/2013	Chap. 3		Calculus of variations	#5
6 Mon, 9/09/2013	Chap. 3		Calculus of variations – continued	
7 Wed, 9/11/2013	Chap. 3		Calculus of variations applied to Lagrangians	#6
8 Fri, 9/13/2013	Chap. 3		Lagrangian mechanics	#7
9 Mon, 9/16/2013	Chap. 3 & 6		Lagrangian mechanics	#8
10 Wed, 9/18/2013	Chap. 3 & 6		Lagrangian mechanics	#9
11 Fri, 9/20/2013	Chap. 3 & 6		Lagrangian & Hamiltonian mechanics	#10
12 Mon, 9/23/2013	Chap. 3 & 6		Hamiltonian formalism	#11
13 Wed, 9/25/2013	Chap. 3 & 6		Hamiltonian formalism	#12
14 Fri, 9/27/2013	Chap. 3 & 6		Hamiltonian formalism	#13
15 Mon, 9/30/2013	Chap. 4		Small Oscillations	#14
16 Wed, 10/02/2013	Chap. 4		Small Oscillations	
17 Fri, 10/04/2013	Chap. 4		Small Oscillations	#15
18 Mon, 10/07/2013	Chap. 4 & 7		Small Oscillations and waves	#16
19 Wed, 10/09/2013	Chap. 7		Wave equation	
Fri, 10/11/2013			No class (Fall Break)	
20 Wed, 10/14/2013	Chap. 7		Wave equation (Presentation topic due)	

10/07/2013

PHY 711 Fall 2013 – Lecture 18

2

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Linear oscillator equations (example from one dimension)

$$V(x) \approx V(x_{eq}) + \frac{1}{2}(x - x_{eq})^2 \left. \frac{d^2V}{dx^2} \right|_{x_{eq}} + \dots$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{1}{2}kx^2 \equiv \frac{1}{2}m\omega^2 x^2$$

$$L(x, \dot{x}) = \frac{1}{2}m\dot{x}^2 - \frac{1}{2}m\omega^2 x^2$$

Euler - Lagrange equations :

$$\ddot{x} = -\omega^2 x$$

Superposition :

Suppose that the functions  $x_1(t)$  and  $x_2(t)$  are solutions

$$\Rightarrow Ax_1(t) + Bx_2(t) \text{ are also solutions (all } A, B)$$

10/07/2013

PHY 711 Fall 2013 – Lecture 18

3

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Non - linear oscillator equations (example from one dimension)

$$V(x) \approx V(x_{eq}) + \frac{1}{2}(x - x_{eq})^2 \left. \frac{d^2V}{dx^2} \right|_{x_{eq}} + \frac{1}{4!}(x - x_{eq})^4 \left. \frac{d^4V}{dx^4} \right|_{x_{eq}} + \dots$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{1}{2}m\omega^2 \left( x^2 + \frac{1}{2}\epsilon x^4 \right)$$

$$L(x, \dot{x}) = \frac{1}{2}m\dot{x}^2 - \frac{1}{2}m\omega^2 \left( x^2 + \frac{1}{2}\epsilon x^4 \right)$$

Euler - Lagrange equations :

$$\ddot{x} = -\omega^2(x + \epsilon x^3)$$

Superposition -- no longer applies

10/07/2013

PHY 711 Fall 2013 - Lecture 18

4

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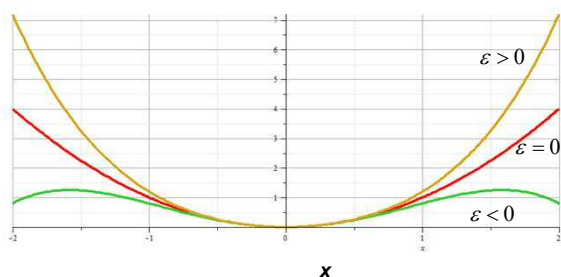
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$$V(x) \approx \frac{1}{2}m\omega^2(x^2 + \epsilon x^4)$$



10/07/2013

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5

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Non - linear example -- continued

$$L(x, \dot{x}) = \frac{1}{2}m\dot{x}^2 - \frac{1}{2}m\omega^2 \left( x^2 + \frac{1}{2}\epsilon x^4 \right)$$

Euler - Lagrange equations :

$$\ddot{x} + \omega^2(x + \epsilon x^3) = 0$$

Perturbation expansion :

$$x(t) = x_0(t) + \epsilon x_1(t) + \dots$$

Euler - Lagrange equations :

zero order :  $\ddot{x}_0 + \omega^2 x_0 = 0$

first order :  $\ddot{x}_1 + \omega^2 x_1 + \omega^2 x_0^3 = 0$

10/07/2013

PHY 711 Fall 2013 - Lecture 18

6

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Non - linear example -- continued

$\ddot{x} + \omega^2(x + \epsilon x^3) = 0$  Initial conditions :  
 $x(0) = X_0 \quad \dot{x}(0) = 0$

Perturbation expansion :  
 $x(t) = x_0(t) + \epsilon x_1(t) + \dots$

Euler - Lagrange equations :  
 zero order :  $\ddot{x}_0 + \omega^2 x_0 = 0 \Rightarrow x_0(t) = X_0 \cos(\omega t)$   
 first order :  $\ddot{x}_1 + \omega^2 x_1 + \omega^2 x_0^3 = 0$

$\Rightarrow \ddot{x}_1(t) + \omega^2 x_1(t) = -X_0^3 \cos^3(\omega t) = -\frac{X_0^3}{4}(\cos(\omega t) - \cos(3\omega t))$   
 $\Rightarrow x_1(t) = -\frac{X_0^3}{8} \left\{ 3\omega t \sin(\omega t) + \frac{1}{4}[\cos(\omega t) - \cos(3\omega t)] \right\}$   
 $x(t) = X_0 \cos(\omega t) - \epsilon \frac{X_0^3}{8} \left\{ 3\omega t \sin(\omega t) + \frac{1}{4}[\cos(\omega t) - \cos(3\omega t)] \right\} + O(\epsilon^2)$

10/07/2013 PHY 711 Fall 2013 - Lecture 18 7

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Non - linear example -- continued

$\ddot{x} + \omega^2(x + \epsilon x^3) = 0$  Initial conditions :  
 $x(0) = X_0 \quad \dot{x}(0) = 0$

Perturbation expansion :  
 $x(t) = x_0(t) + \epsilon x_1(t) + \dots$

Previous result (blows up at large  $t$ ):  
 $x(t) = X_0 \cos(\omega t) - \epsilon \frac{X_0^3}{8} \left\{ 3\omega t \sin(\omega t) + \frac{1}{4}[\cos(\omega t) - \cos(3\omega t)] \right\} + O(\epsilon^2)$

By rearranging terms (allowing argument to vary):  
 $x(t) = X_0 \cos\left(\omega \left(1 + \epsilon \frac{3X_0^2}{8}\right) t\right) - \epsilon \frac{X_0^3}{32} \{\cos(\omega t) - \cos(3\omega t)\} + O(\epsilon^2)$

10/07/2013 PHY 711 Fall 2013 - Lecture 18 8

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Non - linear example with driving term -- Duffing equation

Georg Duffing ~ 1915

$\ddot{x} + \omega^2(x + \epsilon x^3) = A \cos(\Omega t)$

Trial solution from :  $x(t) \approx c_1 \cos(\Omega t) + c_3 \cos(3\Omega t)$

$\left[ (\omega^2 - \Omega^2)c_1 - \epsilon \frac{3}{4} \omega^2 c_1^3 [1 + \dots] - A \right] \cos(\Omega t) +$   
 $\left[ (\omega^2 - 9\Omega^2)c_3 - \epsilon \frac{1}{4} \omega^2 c_1^3 [1 + \dots] \right] \cos(3\Omega t) + \dots = 0$

Approximate solution :  
 $\frac{c_3}{c_1} \approx \epsilon \frac{1}{4} c_1^2 \frac{1}{1 - 9\omega^2 / \Omega^2}$   
 $(\omega^2 - \Omega^2)c_1 - \epsilon \frac{3}{4} \omega^2 c_1^3 - A = 0$

10/07/2013 PHY 711 Fall 2013 - Lecture 18 9

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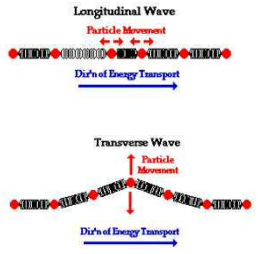
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Longitudinal versus transverse vibrations  
 Images from web page:  
<http://www.physicsclassroom.com/class/waves/u10l1c.cfm>



10/07/2013 PHY 711 Fall 2013 – Lecture 18 10

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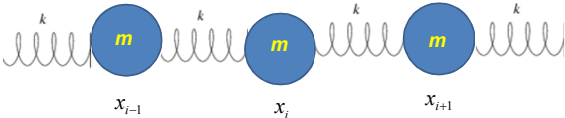
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Longitudinal case: a system of masses and springs:



$$L = T - V = \frac{1}{2} m \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} \dot{x}_i^2 - \frac{1}{2} k \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} (x_{i+1} - x_i)^2$$

$$\Rightarrow m \ddot{x}_i = k(x_{i+1} - 2x_i + x_{i-1})$$

Now imagine the continuum version of this system :

$$x_i(t) \Rightarrow \mu(x, t) \quad \ddot{x}_i \Rightarrow \frac{\partial^2 \mu}{\partial t^2}$$

$$x_{i+1} - 2x_i + x_{i-1} \Rightarrow \frac{\partial^2 \mu}{\partial x^2} (\Delta x)^2$$

10/07/2013 PHY 711 Fall 2013 – Lecture 18 11

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Discrete equation :  $m \ddot{x}_i = k(x_{i+1} - 2x_i + x_{i-1})$

Continuum equation :  $m \frac{\partial^2 \mu}{\partial t^2} = k(\Delta x)^2 \frac{\partial^2 \mu}{\partial x^2}$

$$\frac{\partial^2 \mu}{\partial t^2} = \left( \frac{k \Delta x}{m / \Delta x} \right) \frac{\partial^2 \mu}{\partial x^2}$$


 system parameter with units of (velocity)<sup>2</sup>

For transverse oscillations on a string  
 with tension  $\tau$  and mass/length  $\sigma$  :

$$\left( \frac{k \Delta x}{m / \Delta x} \right) \Rightarrow \frac{\tau}{\sigma}$$

10/07/2013 PHY 711 Fall 2013 – Lecture 18 12

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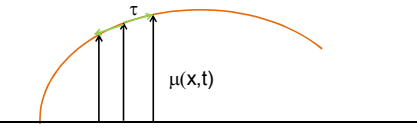
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Transverse displacement:



Wave equation :

$$\frac{\partial^2 \mu}{\partial t^2} = c^2 \frac{\partial^2 \mu}{\partial x^2}$$

10/07/2013 PHY 711 Fall 2013 – Lecture 18 13

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Lagrangian for continuous system :

Denote the generalized displacement by  $\mu(x,t)$  :

$$L = L\left(\mu, \frac{\partial \mu}{\partial x}, \frac{\partial \mu}{\partial t}; x, t\right)$$

Hamilton's principle :

$$\delta \int_{t_i}^{t_f} \int_{x_i}^{x_f} dx L\left(\mu, \frac{\partial \mu}{\partial x}, \frac{\partial \mu}{\partial t}; x, t\right) = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{\partial L}{\partial \mu} - \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \frac{\partial L}{\partial (\partial \mu / \partial x)} - \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \frac{\partial L}{\partial (\partial \mu / \partial t)} = 0$$

10/07/2013 PHY 711 Fall 2013 – Lecture 18 14

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Euler - Lagrange equations for continuous system :

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial \mu} - \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \frac{\partial L}{\partial (\partial \mu / \partial x)} - \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \frac{\partial L}{\partial (\partial \mu / \partial t)} = 0$$

Example :

$$L = \frac{\sigma}{2} \left(\frac{\partial \mu}{\partial t}\right)^2 - \frac{\tau}{2} \left(\frac{\partial \mu}{\partial x}\right)^2$$

$$\Rightarrow \sigma \frac{\partial^2 \mu}{\partial t^2} - \tau \frac{\partial^2 \mu}{\partial x^2} = 0$$

$$\frac{\partial^2 \mu}{\partial t^2} - c^2 \frac{\partial^2 \mu}{\partial x^2} = 0 \quad \text{for } c^2 = \frac{\tau}{\sigma}$$

10/07/2013 PHY 711 Fall 2013 – Lecture 18 15

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General solutions  $\mu(x,t)$  to the wave equation :

$$\frac{\partial^2 \mu}{\partial t^2} - c^2 \frac{\partial^2 \mu}{\partial x^2} = 0$$

Note that for any function  $f(q)$  or  $g(q)$ :

$$\mu(x,t) = f(x-ct) + g(x+ct)$$

satisfies the wave equation.

10/07/2013

PHY 711 Fall 2013 - Lecture 18

16

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Initial value solutions  $\mu(x,t)$  to the wave equation;  
attributed to D'Alembert :

$$\frac{\partial^2 \mu}{\partial t^2} - c^2 \frac{\partial^2 \mu}{\partial x^2} = 0 \quad \text{where } \mu(x,0) = \phi(x) \text{ and } \frac{\partial \mu}{\partial t}(x,0) = \psi(x)$$

Assume:

$$\mu(x,t) = f(x-ct) + g(x+ct)$$

$$\text{then: } \mu(x,0) = \phi(x) = f(x) + g(x)$$

$$\frac{\partial \mu}{\partial t}(x,0) = \psi(x) = -c \left( \frac{df(x)}{dx} - \frac{dg(x)}{dx} \right)$$

$$\Rightarrow f(x) - g(x) = -\frac{1}{c} \int \psi(x') dx'$$

10/07/2013

PHY 711 Fall 2013 - Lecture 18

17

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Solution -- continued:  $\mu(x,t) = f(x-ct) + g(x+ct)$

$$\text{then: } \mu(x,0) = \phi(x) = f(x) + g(x)$$

$$\frac{\partial \mu}{\partial t}(x,0) = \psi(x) = -c \left( \frac{df(x)}{dx} - \frac{dg(x)}{dx} \right)$$

$$\Rightarrow f(x) - g(x) = -\frac{1}{c} \int \psi(x') dx'$$

For each  $x$ , find  $f(x)$  and  $g(x)$ :

$$f(x) = \frac{1}{2} \left( \phi(x) - \frac{1}{c} \int \psi(x') dx' \right)$$

$$g(x) = \frac{1}{2} \left( \phi(x) + \frac{1}{c} \int \psi(x') dx' \right)$$

$$\Rightarrow \mu(x,t) = \frac{1}{2} (\phi(x-ct) + \phi(x+ct)) + \frac{1}{2c} \int_{x-ct}^{x+ct} \psi(x') dx'$$

10/07/2013

PHY 711 Fall 2013 - Lecture 18

18

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Example:

$$\frac{\partial^2 \mu}{\partial t^2} - c^2 \frac{\partial^2 \mu}{\partial x^2} = 0 \quad \text{where } \mu(x,0) = e^{-x^2/\sigma^2} \text{ and } \frac{\partial \mu}{\partial t}(x,0) = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \mu(x,t) = \frac{1}{2} \left( e^{-(x+ct)^2/\sigma^2} + e^{-(x-ct)^2/\sigma^2} \right)$$

10/07/2013

PHY 711 Fall 2013 – Lecture 18

19

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Example:

$$\frac{\partial^2 \mu}{\partial t^2} - c^2 \frac{\partial^2 \mu}{\partial x^2} = 0 \quad \text{where } \mu(x,0) = 0 \text{ and } \frac{\partial \mu}{\partial t}(x,0) = -\frac{2x}{\sigma^2} e^{-x^2/\sigma^2}$$

$$\Rightarrow \mu(x,t) = \frac{1}{2c} \left( e^{-(x+ct)^2/\sigma^2} - e^{-(x-ct)^2/\sigma^2} \right)$$

Note that  $\frac{\partial \mu(x,t)}{\partial t} = -\frac{1}{\sigma^2} \left( (x+ct)e^{-(x+ct)^2/\sigma^2} + (x-ct)e^{-(x-ct)^2/\sigma^2} \right)$

10/07/2013

PHY 711 Fall 2013 – Lecture 18

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