

EGT3  
ENGINEERING TRIPOS PART IIB

---

Wednesday 24 April 2024    2.00 to 3.40

---

**Module 4C7**

**RANDOM AND NONLINEAR VIBRATIONS**

*Answer not more than **three** questions.*

*All questions carry the same number of marks.*

*The **approximate** percentage of marks allocated to each part of a question is indicated in the right margin.*

*Write your candidate number **not** your name on the cover sheet.*

**STATIONERY REQUIREMENTS**

Single-sided script paper.

**SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS TO BE SUPPLIED FOR THIS EXAM**

CUED approved calculator allowed.

Attachment: 4C7 Random and Non-linear Vibrations data sheet (4 pages).

Engineering Data Book.

**10 minutes reading time is allowed for this paper at the start of the exam.**

**You may not start to read the questions printed on the subsequent pages of this question paper until instructed to do so.**

**You may not remove any stationery from the Examination Room.**

1 A nonlinear, undamped, single degree-of-freedom vibratory system, of mass  $m$  is supported by a spring arrangement as shown in Fig. 1. Springs  $k_2$  engage after the mass displaces a distance  $d$  either side of the nominal equilibrium position. The mass is sinusoidally driven at an angular frequency  $\omega$  and the response amplitude is  $\alpha$ .

- (a) Sketch the force-displacement characteristic for the system. [10%]
- (b) Sketch the input and output waveforms when the system is sinusoidally driven at an angular frequency  $\omega$  with a response amplitude  $\alpha > d$ . [20%]
- (c) Determine the Describing Function for a sinusoidal input corresponding to a response amplitude  $\alpha > d$  and show that this reverts to the case of a simple linear spring when  $d = 0$ . [50%]
- (d) Write an equation to determine the response amplitude  $\alpha$  over a range of frequencies  $\omega$  for  $\alpha > d$  when the system is driven by an external force  $f\cos\omega t$ . [20%]

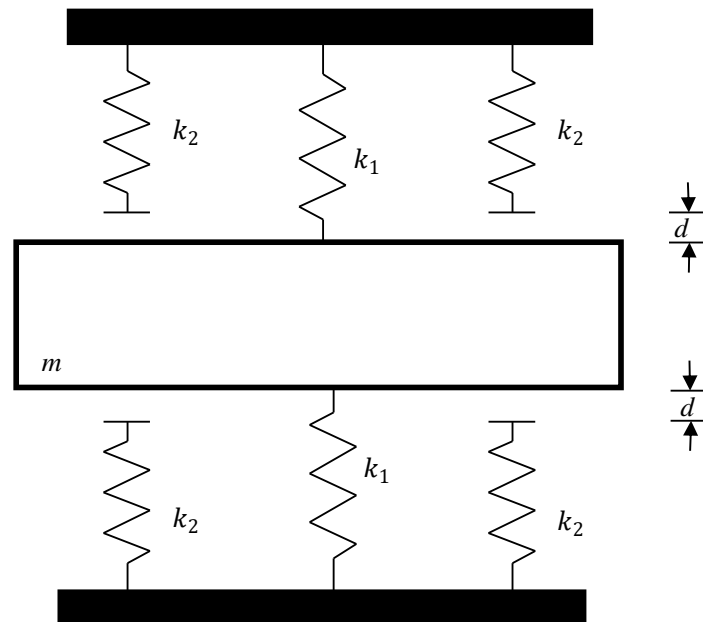


Fig. 1

2 A self-excited nonlinear system is characterised by the equation below, where parameters  $\alpha$ ,  $\beta$ ,  $\gamma$ ,  $\delta$  are all positive constants.

$$\ddot{x} - (\beta - \delta \dot{x}^2)\dot{x} - \alpha x + \gamma x^3 = 0$$

- (a) Determine the equilibrium points of the system and their type and stability. [30%]
- (b) Sketch the behaviour of the system in the phase plane for  $\beta^2 < 8\alpha$ . [30%]
- (c) Obtain an approximate expression for the amplitude of limit cycle oscillations about the origin by assuming a solution of the form  $x = A \cos \Omega t$ , where  $A$  is the amplitude of the limit cycle and  $\Omega$  is the oscillation frequency. [40%]

3 A structural member in part of an offshore platform is stressed by pounding waves and the stress  $s(t)$  can be approximated by a narrow-band random process with mean-square spectral density  $S_s(\omega)$  as shown in Fig. 2.

(a) Calculate the mean stress and the standard deviation of the stress, and estimate the standard deviation of  $\dot{s} = ds/dt$ . [10%]

(b) Assuming that  $s$  and  $\dot{s}$  are independent Gaussian random processes, calculate the frequency of positive-slope crossing of the level  $s = a$ . You may assume:

$$v_a^+ = \int_0^\infty \dot{s} p(a, \dot{s}) d\dot{s}$$

where  $p(a, \dot{s})$  is the joint probability distribution. [20%]

(c) Show that the probability distribution of the peaks in stress is

$$p_p(s) = \frac{s}{2s_0\Delta\omega} \exp\left(-\frac{s^2}{4s_0\Delta\omega}\right). \quad [20\%]$$

(d) What is the expected number of cycles with peaks in the range  $s$  to  $s + ds$  during time  $T$ ? [20%]

(e) If the number of cycles to failure  $N_f$  at stress level  $s$  is given by  $N_f(s) = Cs^{-k}$ , where  $C$  and  $k$  are constants, determine an integral expression for the expected life of the member and evaluate it for  $k = 1$ . You may assume that Miner's Rule applies, i.e. failure occurs when  $\sum \frac{n(s)}{N_f(s)} = 1$ , where  $n(s)$  is the number of stress cycles at level  $s$ . [30%]

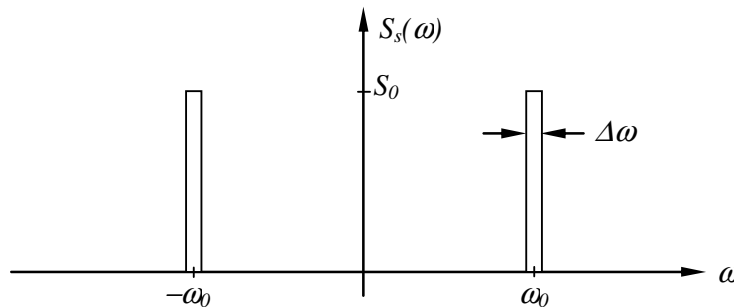


Fig. 2

4 The electric circuit shown in Fig. 3 has source voltage  $u(t)$ , resistance  $R$  and capacitance  $C$ . The output voltage measured across the capacitor is  $v(t)$  and the current in the resistor is  $i(t)$ .

(a) If the input voltage  $u(t)$  is sinusoidal with amplitude  $U$  at angular frequency  $\omega$ , and the output voltage  $v(t)$  has amplitude  $V$ , derive an expression for the transfer function  $V(j\omega)/U(j\omega)$ , where  $j = \sqrt{-1}$ . [20%]

(b)  $u(t)$  is a zero-mean, white noise, random signal with constant mean square spectral density  $S_{uu}(\omega) = S_0$ ,  $-\infty < \omega < \infty$ .

(i) Write an expression for the mean square spectral density of the output voltage  $S_{vv}(\omega)$  and sketch its form. [10%]

(ii) Calculate the mean-square output voltage  $\sigma_v^2$ . [10%]

(iii) Verify that with a suitable value for the constant  $\omega_0$ , the autocorrelation function of the output can be written in the form:  $R_{vv}(\tau) = \pi S_0 \omega_0 e^{-\omega_0 |\tau|}$  [20%]

(c) Derive an integral expression for the mean power dissipated in resistor  $R$ . [20%]

(d) With the aid of sketches, explain why it is not possible in practice for  $u(t)$  to be white noise at all frequencies. [20%]

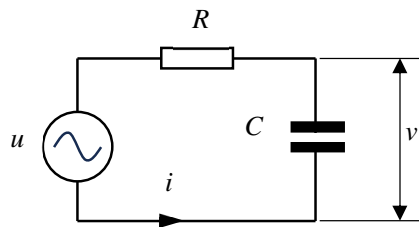


Fig. 3

**END OF PAPER**

THIS PAGE IS BLANK

**PART IIB Module 4C7**  
**Random and Non-linear Vibrations Data Sheet**

**Part One: Random Vibration**

Gaussian Probability Distribution

$$p(x) = \frac{1}{\sigma\sqrt{2\pi}} \exp\left\{-\frac{(x-\mu)^2}{2\sigma^2}\right\}$$

$$p(x, y) = \frac{1}{2\pi\sigma_x\sigma_y\sqrt{1-\rho^2}} \exp\left\{-\frac{\sigma_y^2(x-\mu_x)^2 + \sigma_x^2(y-\mu_y)^2 - 2\rho\sigma_x\sigma_y(x-\mu_x)(y-\mu_y)}{2\sigma_x^2\sigma_y^2(1-\rho^2)}\right\}$$

$$\int_0^{\infty} e^{-x^2/(2\sigma^2)} dx = \sigma\sqrt{\frac{\pi}{2}}, \quad \int_0^{\infty} xe^{-x^2/(2\sigma^2)} dx = \sigma^2, \quad \int_0^{\infty} x^2 e^{-x^2/(2\sigma^2)} dx = \sigma^3\sqrt{\frac{\pi}{2}}$$

Crossing rates: general case

$$\nu_b^+ = \int_0^{\infty} \dot{x} p(b, \dot{x}) d\dot{x}$$

Crossing rates: Gaussian case

$$\nu_b^+ = \frac{1}{2\pi} \left(\frac{\sigma_{\dot{x}}}{\sigma_x}\right) \exp\left\{-\frac{b^2}{2\sigma^2}\right\}$$

Peak distribution for a narrow band process: general case

$$P(b) = 1 - \frac{\nu_b^+}{\nu_0^+}, \quad p(b) = -\frac{d}{db} \left(\frac{\nu_b^+}{\nu_0^+}\right)$$

Peak distribution for a narrow band process: Gaussian case

$$p(b) = \frac{b}{\sigma_x^2} \exp\left\{-\frac{b^2}{2\sigma_x^2}\right\}$$

Probability of failure after duration  $T$

$$P_f = 1 - \exp\{-\nu_b^+ T\}$$

## Spectral relations

$$S_{xx}(\omega) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} R_{xx}(\tau) e^{-i\omega\tau} d\tau, \quad R_{xx}(\tau) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} S_{xx}(\omega) e^{i\omega\tau} d\omega$$

## Input-output relations

$$S_{xx}(\omega) = |H(\omega)|^2 S_{FF}(\omega)$$

$$S_{x_i x_j}(\omega) = \sum_r \sum_s H_{ir}^*(\omega) H_{js}(\omega) S_{F_r F_s}(\omega)$$

## Calculation of mean-square response integrals

$$I_n = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} |H_n(i\omega)|^2 d\omega$$

$$\text{where } H_n(i\omega) = \frac{B_0 + (i\omega)B_1 + \dots + (i\omega)^{n-1} B_{n-1}}{A_0 + (i\omega)A_1 + \dots + (i\omega)^n A_n},$$

and the roots  $\lambda$  of the characteristic equation  $(A_0 + \lambda A_1 + \lambda^2 A_2 + \dots + \lambda^n A_n = 0)$  all have negative real parts, takes the values:

$$I_1 = \pi \frac{B_0^2}{A_0 A_1} \quad I_2 = \pi \frac{A_0 B_1^2 + A_2 B_0^2}{A_0 A_1 A_2}$$

$$I_3 = \pi \frac{A_0 A_1 B_2^2 + A_2 A_3 B_0^2 + A_0 A_3 (B_1^2 - 2B_0 B_2)}{A_0 A_3 (A_1 A_2 - A_0 A_3)}.$$

## White noise input: standard form

$$m\ddot{x} + c\dot{x} + kx = G, \quad S_{GG}(\omega) = S_0 \text{ (double sided)}$$

$$\sigma_x^2 = \frac{\pi S_0}{ck}, \quad \sigma_{\dot{x}}^2 = \frac{\pi S_0}{cm}$$

## White noise input: scaled form

$$\ddot{x} + 2\beta\omega_n \dot{x} + \omega_n^2 x = F, \quad S_{FF}(\omega) = S_0 \text{ (double sided)}$$

$$\sigma_x^2 = \frac{\pi S_0}{2\beta\omega_n^3}, \quad \sigma_{\dot{x}}^2 = \frac{\pi S_0}{2\beta\omega_n}$$

## Fatigue Damage

$E[D] = E[1/N(S)] \nu_0^+ T$  where  $S$  is proportional to the peak height  $b$

**End of Part One**



## Part Two: Nonlinear Vibration

### Describing functions

System described by the undamped Duffing equation subject to harmonic forcing:

$$\ddot{x} + p^2 x + \mu x^3 = a \cos \omega t$$

$$x \approx \alpha \cos \omega t$$

$$\text{Describing Function} = \frac{\text{output}}{\text{input}} = \frac{3\mu\alpha^2}{4}$$

### Classification of equilibrium or singular points

(nonlinear system) 
$$\begin{cases} \dot{x} = f(x, y) \\ \dot{y} = g(x, y) \end{cases}$$

(linearised about singular point (0,0)) 
$$\begin{bmatrix} \dot{x} \\ \dot{y} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\mathbf{A} = \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} \end{bmatrix}$$

Eigenvalues of matrix A	Type of singular point
Both real and positive	Unstable node
Both real and negative	Stable node
Both real but opposite sign	Saddle point
Both complex with real part = 0	Centre
Both complex with real part > 0	Unstable focus
Both complex with real part < 0	Stable focus

$T = \text{tr}(\mathbf{A})$  and  $D = \det(\mathbf{A})$

Conditions on T and D	Type of singular point
$D < 0$	Saddle point
$D > 0, T = 0$	Centre
$D > 0, -2\sqrt{D} < T < 0$	Stable focus
$D > 0, 0 < T < 2\sqrt{D}$	Unstable focus
$D > 0, T > 2\sqrt{D}$	Unstable node
$D > 0, T < -2\sqrt{D}$	Stable node

**Classification of equilibrium or singular points for conservative systems:**

(nonlinear system)  $\frac{1}{2}m\dot{x}^2 + V(x) = E$

<b>Sign of <math>V''(x)</math></b>	<b>Type of singular point</b>
positive	Centre
negative	Saddle point

**End of Part Two**

RSL/AAS/DC  
December 2020