

Lecture 2.2 Last time: We explored the phenomenon of superposition: When a physical system is linear (equations only involve  $x, \dot{x}$ , not  $x^2$ ...)  
 SUM of solutions = Solution

Superposition principle  $\leftrightarrow$  Interference phenomena  
 BEATS, Interference patterns, iridescence

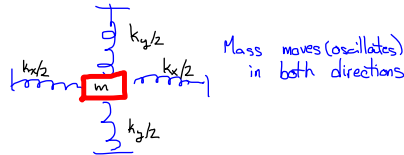
CRUCIAL for wave propagation

So far we have examined 1D superposition (i.e. effects of 2 superposed sound waves on eardrum)

Phenomena of 2 (or more) degrees of freedom far richer!

Show video of bowling ball pendula  $\rightarrow$  Jeff & Margot in NC (on website) Most systems have many ways in which they move!

I. 2 vibrations  $\perp$  to each other:



$$F_x = -k_x x = m\ddot{x} \quad F_y = -k_y y = m\ddot{y}$$

$$\omega_x = \sqrt{\frac{k_x}{m}} \quad \omega_y = \sqrt{\frac{k_y}{m}}$$

Aside: **MATRICES ARE USEFUL!**

$$\vec{F} = \begin{pmatrix} F_x \\ F_y \end{pmatrix} = -\hat{K}\vec{x} = -\begin{pmatrix} k_x & 0 \\ 0 & k_y \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix}$$

$$= -\begin{pmatrix} k_x x \\ k_y y \end{pmatrix} = m\ddot{\vec{x}} = m \begin{pmatrix} \ddot{x} \\ \ddot{y} \end{pmatrix}$$

Compact way to represent complicated phenomena!

Solutions 2 identical diff. eq's to integrate / solve

$$\underline{x}: \quad x(t) = A_x \cos(\omega_x t + \alpha_x) \quad y(t) = A_y \cos(\omega_y t + \alpha_y)$$

$$\text{or } x(t) = \text{Re}[A_x e^{i(\omega_x t + \alpha_x)}] \quad y(t) = \text{Re}[A_y \cos(\omega_y t + \alpha_y)]$$

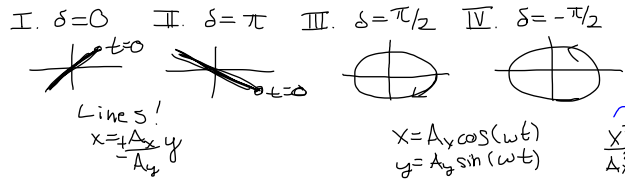
What are the phenomena of such 2D systems? (Also UBIQUITOUS): 2D  $V(x,y)$ , near minimum!  $V_{\text{springs}} = \frac{1}{2} k_y y^2 + \frac{1}{2} k_x x^2$

II. 2D oscillations, same frequency!

$$\left. \begin{aligned} x(t) &= A_x \cos(\omega t + \alpha_x) \\ y(t) &= A_y \cos(\omega t + \alpha_y) \end{aligned} \right\} \begin{aligned} x(t) &= A_x \cos(\omega t) \\ y(t) &= A_y \cos(\omega t + \delta) \end{aligned}$$

Depending on relative phase, different phenomena possible

Figure 2-10 in textbook



$$x = A_x \cos(\omega t) \quad y = A_y \sin(\omega t)$$

$$\frac{x^2}{A_x^2} + \frac{y^2}{A_y^2} = \cos^2(\omega t) + \sin^2(\omega t) = 1$$

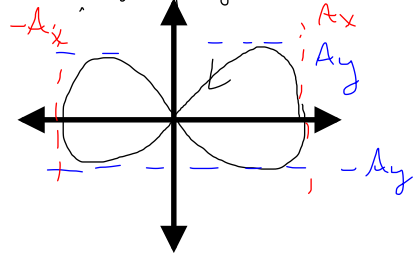
ellipse!

III. 2D oscillations, 2 frequencies

Demo w/ frequency generators

$$x(t) = A_x \cos \omega t \quad y(t) = A_y \sin(2\omega t)$$

$-\pi/2$  phase shift



Show in Mathematica

Aside by far, coupled oscillators are the most interesting!  
 I. Willburton pendulum  
 II. 32 metronomes

Now for a return to the SHO (and beyond)

There are always 2 ways to write the equations for a mech. system

1) Newton's Laws  $-kx = ma = m\ddot{x}$

2) Conservation of Energy  $\frac{1}{2}mv^2 + \frac{1}{2}kx^2 = E_{\text{total}}$  (just integral of 1st)  
 $\frac{1}{2}m(\dot{x})^2 + \frac{1}{2}kx^2 = E_{\text{tot}}$

Let us study a method of solving such equations starting with complex exponentials

$\ddot{x} = -\omega^2 x$  Now guess solution has form  $x = Ce^{pt}$  and plug in...  $\ddot{x} = p^2 Ce^{pt} = -\omega^2 Ce^{pt}$  Works! iff  $p^2 = -\omega^2$ , or  $p = \pm\sqrt{k/m}\omega = \omega\sqrt{-1} = i\omega$

$$x = C_+ e^{i\omega t} + C_- e^{-i\omega t}$$

Damping...