Physics 214, Fall 2002
Assignment #i

This is not a *real* assignment; it does not need to be turned in. The questions are taken from last fall's Prelim 1. They may be useful as you prepare for our Prelim 1.

1. A damped oscillator is modeled as a mass m with equilibrium position $x = x_{\text{eq}}$ acted on by an ideal spring of spring constant k and a viscous drag force proportional to the velocity, $\vec{F}_{\text{drag}} = -bm\vec{v}$. (See Figure 1.)

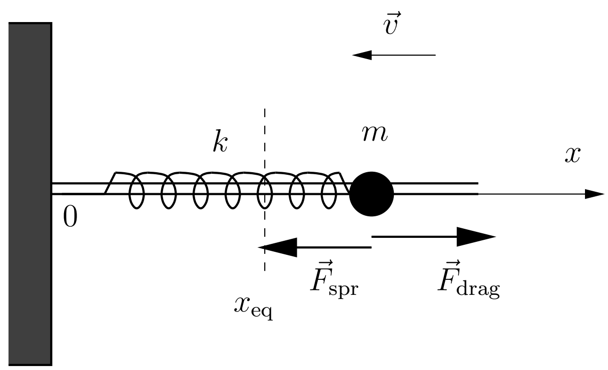

Figure 1: A mass-spring realization of a damped harmonic oscillator.

(a) Show that the Equation of Motion for the damped harmonic oscillator is:

$$\frac{d^2x}{dt^2} + b\frac{dx}{dt} + \omega_0^2(x - x_{\text{eq}}) = 0 \ , \qquad \omega_0 \equiv \sqrt{\frac{k}{m}} \ . \tag{0.1}$$

(b) In the case $b < 2\omega_0$ the expression

$$x(t) = x_{\text{eq}} + \mathfrak{Re}\left[\breve{A}e^{(-b/2+i\omega')t}\right] \ , \quad \omega' \equiv \sqrt{\omega_0^2 - b^2/4} \tag{0.2}$$

is a general solution to the Equation of Motion (0.1).

Find the real part $\mathfrak{Re}\left[\breve{A}\right]$, given the initial conditions $x_0 = x(t=0)$ and $v_0 = \dfrac{dx}{dt}(t=0)$. Express your answer using no quantities other than x_0, v_0, x_{eq}, b, and ω_0.

(c) Using the same initial conditions as in part (b), find the imaginary part $\mathfrak{Im}\left[\breve{A}\right]$. Express your answer using no quantities other than x_0, v_0, x_{eq}, b, and ω_0.

<u>Hint:</u> *Write $\breve{A} = A_r + iA_i$, where $A_r = \mathfrak{Re}\left[\breve{A}\right]$ and $A_i = \mathfrak{Im}\left[\breve{A}\right]$, and solve for A_i.*

(d) Roughly sketch the solution (0.2) assuming $x_0 > x_{\text{eq}}$ and $v_0 < 0$. (**<u>Pay attention</u>** to the slope and the value of the plot at $t = 0$.)

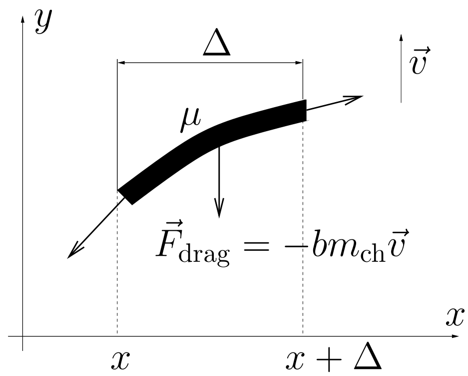

Figure 2: A chunk of string with air resistance.

2. Consider a chunk of string of length Δ and mass per unit length μ. The string is under tension τ. The displacement in the vertical direction is given by the variable y which is a function of both position x and time t. As opposed to the derivation in lecture where air resistance is neglected, we now include it. Note that air resistance on a chuck of string moving with velocity $\vec{v}$ creates a force *opposing* the direction of the velocity, i.e., with a y-component

$$F_{{\rm drag},y} = -bm_{\rm ch}v_y \ , \tag{0.3}$$

where b is a positive constant and $m_{\rm ch}$ is the mass of the chunk. A free body diagram on Figure 2 indicates all the forces acting on the chunk. Note that the positive y direction is upward and that we ignore the (small) effects of gravity in this problem.

Which of the following formulas best approximates the wave equation for small amplitude waves on the string with air resistance? (Provide your answer in the box on the next page.)

(A) $\mu\dfrac{\partial^2 y(x,t)}{\partial x^2} - b\dfrac{\partial y(x,t)}{\partial t} = \tau\dfrac{\partial^2 y(x,t)}{\partial t^2}$

(B) $\tau\dfrac{\partial^2 y(x,t)}{\partial x^2} = \mu\dfrac{\partial^2 y(x,t)}{\partial t^2}$

(C) $\tau\dfrac{\partial^2 y(x,t)}{\partial x^2} - b\mu\dfrac{\partial y(x,t)}{\partial t} = \mu\dfrac{\partial^2 y(x,t)}{\partial t^2}$

(D) $\tau\dfrac{\partial^2 y(x,t)}{\partial x^2} - b\mu\dfrac{\partial y(x,t)}{\partial x} = \mu\dfrac{\partial^2 y(x,t)}{\partial t^2}$

(E) $\tau\dfrac{\partial^2 y(x,t)}{\partial x^2} - b\dfrac{\partial y(x,t)}{\partial t} = \mu\dfrac{\partial^2 y(x,t)}{\partial t^2}$

(F) $\tau\dfrac{\partial y(x,t)}{\partial x} - b\mu\dfrac{\partial^2 y(x,t)}{\partial t^2} = \mu\dfrac{\partial y(x,t)}{\partial t}$

3. A chunk of vibrating string (tension $\tau = 1000$ N and linear mass density $\mu = 0.6$ kg/m) is shown on the graph below.

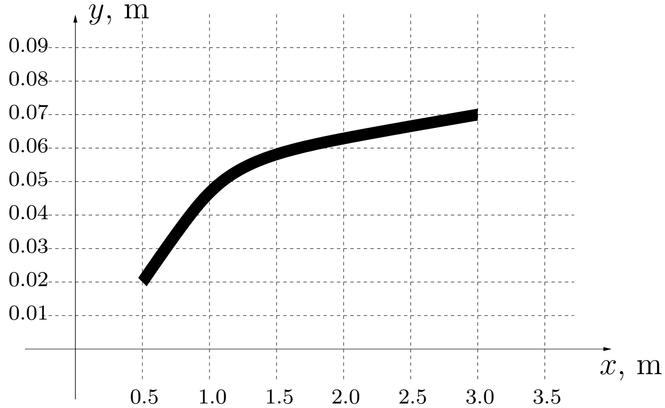

Figure 3: A chunk of vibrating string.

Neglecting air resistance and gravity, and using the graphical information on Figure 3, complete the tasks below:

(a) For each of the parts below choose the value, **(A)**, **(B)**, **(C)**, **(D)**, **(E)**, or **(F)**, which is closest to the answer of the question: (Note that your answer may not match any of these exactly.)

(A) 60 N , **(B)** 6 N , **(C)** 20 N , **(D)** 15 N , **(E)** 1000 N , **(F)** 53 N .

- What is the magnitude of the y-component of the force on the right hand end of the chunk?
- What is the magnitude of the y-component of force on the left hand end of the chunk?
- What is the magnitude of the net force on the chunk?

(b) Using your answer from part (a) (we won't penalize propagation of your errors):

- Find the magnitude $|a_y|$ of the y-acceleration of the chunk. (**Write out** your numerical answer including units. This part is **not** multiple choice!)
- Using the wave equation, estimate the curvature $\left|\frac{\partial^2 y}{\partial x^2}\right|$ of the chunk. (**Write out** your numerical answer including units. This part is **not** multiple choice!)

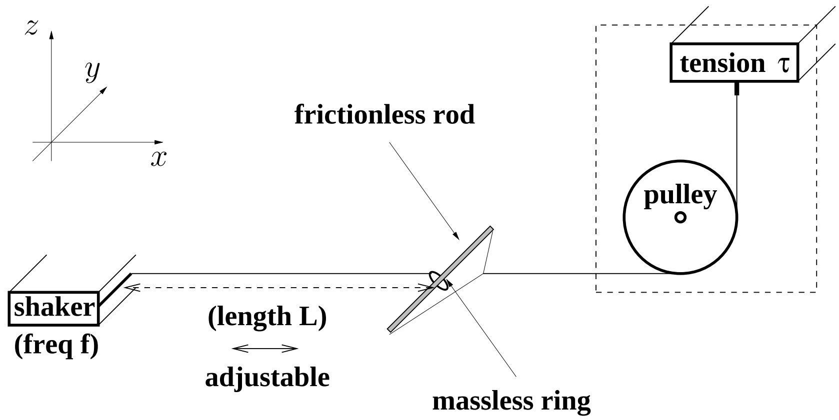

Figure 4: Lab Experiment I.

4. In your first laboratory experiment, you studied a vibrating string with two fixed ends. Consider now a modification of the experiment in which the right hand end of the string is attached to a small massless ring which slides up and down a horizontal (in and out of the page) post without friction. The post is attached through additional strings to a pulley on the other side of which spring scales (like the ones in lab) provide constant tension (see Figure 4).

As in lecture, L is the length of the string between the rod and the shaker, f is the frequency of the shaker, τ is the string tension and μ is the mass per unit length of the string. Assume μ is constant throughout the problem. The shaker vibrates the string *in and out* of the page. Assume that the left hand end is *fixed* at the shaker while the horizontal motion (along the y-direction) of the right hand end has no constraint, i.e., the right hand end is *free*.

(a) Sketch the shape of the standing wave corresponding to the lowest (fundamental) mode. Find an expression for the lowest (fundamental) frequency f_1 in terms of L, τ and μ.

(b) Sketch the shape of standing wave on the string corresponding to the second mode. What should the frequency f_2 of the shaker be for this standing wave mode to be formed? (Express f_2 in terms of L, τ and μ.)

(c) Now suppose that you can vary the length of the the string. Find the string length ℓ at which the 2nd standing wave mode will be formed if the frequency of the shaker is fixed at f_1 and the tension τ remains constant. (Express ℓ in terms of the original length L.)