

Engineering Tripos Part IIB 2026  
4C6: Advanced Linear Vibration  
Solutions

Q1 // (a) input

- Instrumented hammer: + no added mass  
- hard to control bandwidth/  
get clear pulse
- EM Shaker: + can choose input signal  
- added mass
- Counter rotating masses: + can deliver large force  
- sinusoidal/sweep input only.

response

- Accelerometer: + good linearity & cost effective  
- added mass
- Laser vibrometer: + non-contact, high linearity, wide bandwidth  
- expensive, bulky.
- Laser triangulation: + non-contact  
- limited bandwidth

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(b) (i)  $H_1 = \frac{S_{yf}}{S_{ff}}$  ,  $H_2 = \frac{S_{yy}}{S_{fy}}$  //

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(ii) with output noise:

$$\begin{aligned} H_1 &= \frac{S_{yf}}{S_{ff}} = \frac{E[(Y+N)F^*]}{S_{ff}} \\ &= \frac{E[YF^*] + \cancel{E[NF^*]}}{S_{ff}} \\ &= \frac{S_{yf}}{S_{ff}} = H_{true} \end{aligned}$$

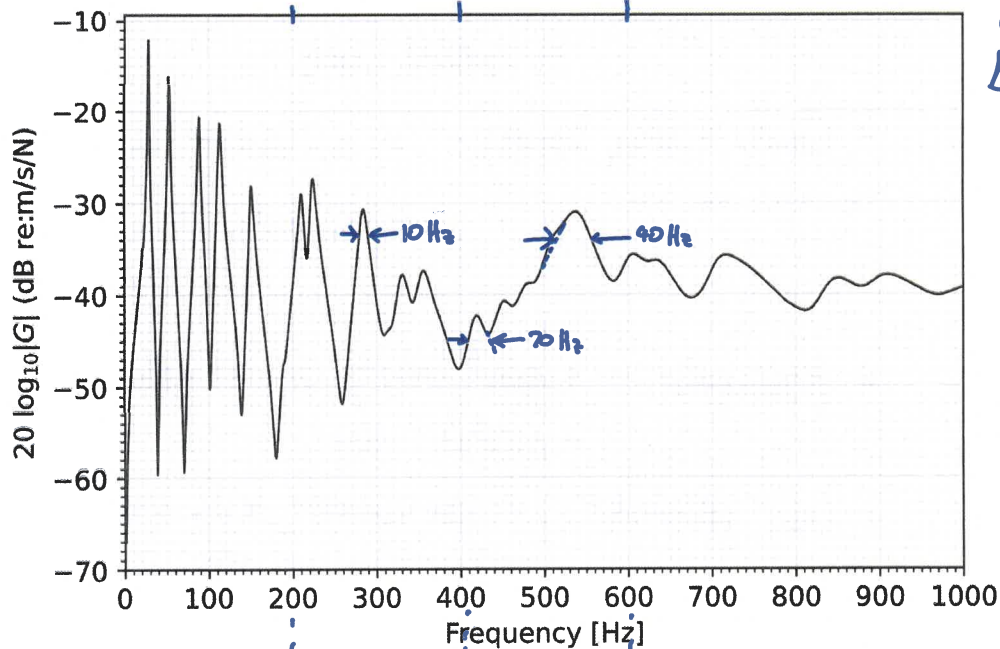
So  $H_1$  is best in this case //

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- (iii)
- Uncorrelated noise on input/output signals
  - Nonlinearity in the system
  - Too short frame lengths reducing coherence @ peaks.

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(c) no. modes: 5 5 5 = 15 modes in 0-600



$$\begin{aligned} \Delta f_n &\approx \frac{600}{15} \\ &= \underline{\underline{40 \text{ Hz}}} \end{aligned}$$

Bandwidth : 0-8 Hz | 10 Hz | 30 Hz |  
 (approx areas)  
 ↓  
 Same N<sub>ypoint</sub> of 1st mode!  
 or could measure

Model overlap:

|                  |                 |                 |
|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| $\frac{0.8}{40}$ | $\frac{10}{40}$ | $\frac{30}{40}$ |
| 0.02             | 0.25            | 0.75            |

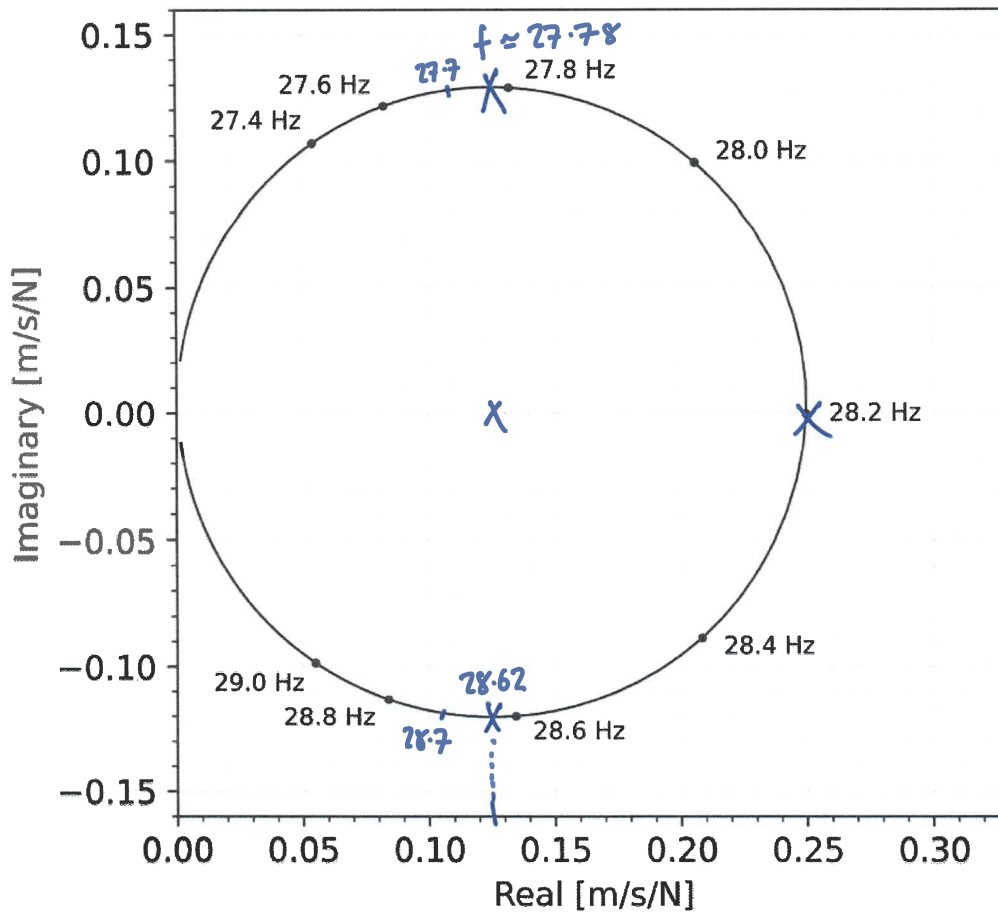
$M = \frac{f_{3ms}}{\Delta f_n}$

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(ii) Modal analysis best when  $M \ll 1$ , so modal analysis most effective for  $f < 400 \text{ Hz}$ , but may be ok to 600 Hz. Answer in the range 400-600 Hz accepted.

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(iii)



$$\Delta f_{3dB} \approx 28.62 - 27.78 = 0.84$$

$$f_n \approx 28.2 \text{ Hz}$$

$$\zeta_n \approx \frac{0.84}{2 \times 28.2} = 0.015, \quad Q = 34$$

$$\text{radius} = \frac{a_n}{4\zeta_n \omega_n} = 0.125$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{so } a_n &= 0.125 \cdot 4 \cdot 0.015 \cdot 2\pi \cdot 28.2 \\ &= 1.33 \text{ kg}^{-1} \end{aligned}$$

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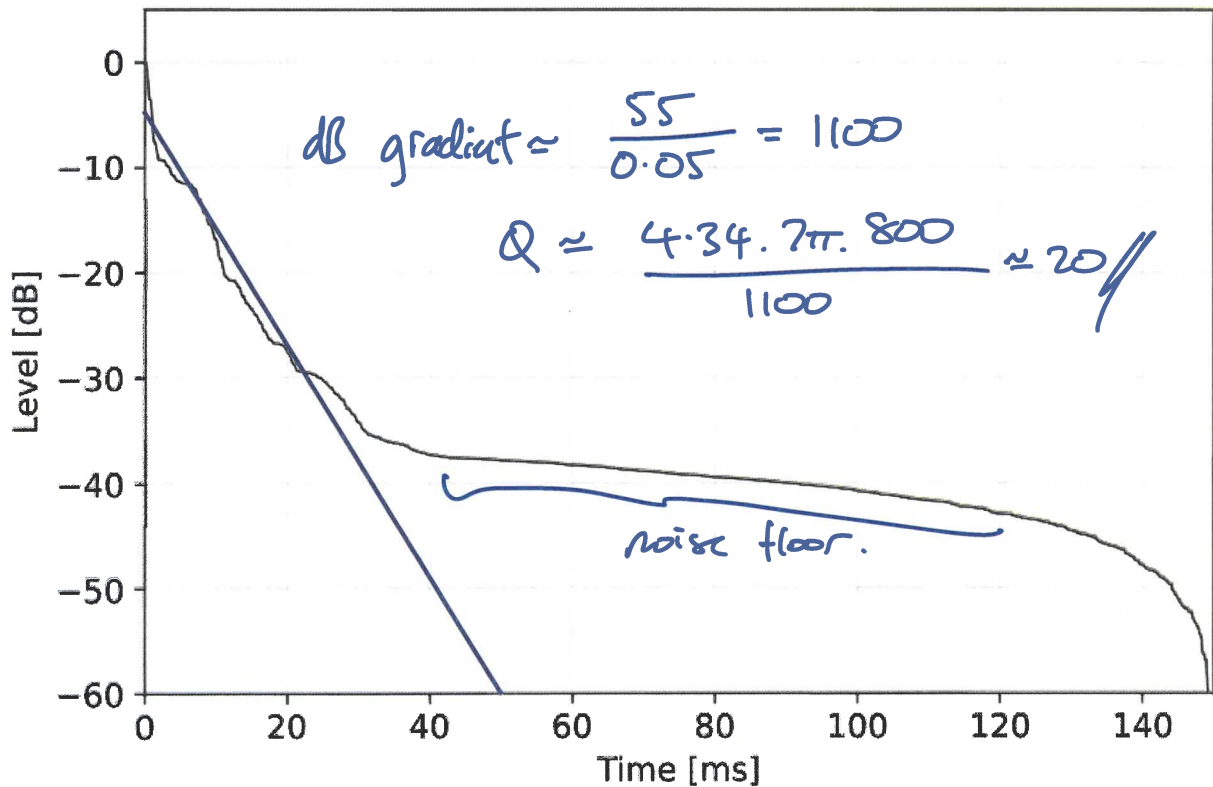
$$(d) \quad E = \int_t^\infty g^2 dt \quad (\text{Schroeder integral}).$$

$$\text{assuming envelope squared follows: } E = E_0 e^{-2\zeta \omega_n t}$$

$$\Rightarrow 10 \log E = C - 2\zeta \omega_n t \cdot 10 \log_{10} e$$

$$= C - \frac{\omega_n}{Q} \log_e t$$

$$\text{dB gradient} = -4.34 \frac{\omega_n}{Q}$$



$$Q \approx 20 \quad \left( \text{approx } 15-25 \text{ accepted if method correct} \right)$$

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Q2// (a)  $y = \alpha \sin kx + \beta \cos kx \Rightarrow \beta \Rightarrow K \sin kL + \beta \cos kL$  use  $\alpha, \beta$  to distinguish for Area A

$$F = -EA y' = -EA \alpha k \cos kx + EA \beta k \sin kx \Rightarrow \underbrace{-EA \alpha k}_{x=0} \Rightarrow \underbrace{-EA k \cos kL + EA \beta k \sin kL}_{x=L}$$

So  $\begin{bmatrix} y(0) \\ F(0) \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ -EAk & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \alpha \\ \beta \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} y(L) \\ F(L) \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \sin kL & \cos kL \\ -EAk \cos kL & EAk \sin kL \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \alpha \\ \beta \end{bmatrix}$

$\text{inv} = \frac{1}{EAk} \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -1 \\ EAk & 0 \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow$

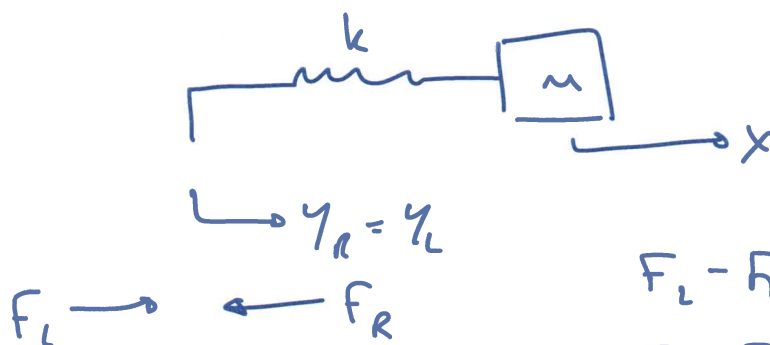
$$\begin{bmatrix} y(L) \\ F(L) \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \sin kL & \cos kL \\ -EAk \cos kL & EAk \sin kL \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -1/EAk \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} y(0) \\ F(0) \end{bmatrix}$$

$$= \begin{bmatrix} \cos kL & -\frac{1}{EAk} \sin kL \\ EAk \sin kL & \cos kL \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} y(0) \\ F(0) \end{bmatrix}$$

~~T<sub>b</sub>~~

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(b)



$$F_L - F_R = -m\omega^2 X \quad \text{--- ①}$$

$$F_L - F_R = k(y_L - X) \quad \text{--- ②}$$

need to eliminate  $X$

$$\textcircled{2} \Rightarrow X = y_L - \frac{F_L - F_R}{k}$$

$$\rightarrow \textcircled{1} \Rightarrow F_L - F_R = -m\omega^2 \left[ y_L - \frac{F_L - F_R}{k} \right]$$

$$F_R = F_L + m\omega^2 \left[ y_L - \frac{F_L - F_R}{k} \right]$$

$$F_R \left( 1 - \frac{m\omega^2}{k} \right) = F_L \left( 1 - \frac{m\omega^2}{k} \right) + m\omega^2 y_L$$

$$F_R = F_L + \frac{m\omega^2 k}{k - m\omega^2} y_L$$

so: 
$$\begin{bmatrix} y_R \\ F_R \end{bmatrix} = \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ z & 1 \end{bmatrix}}_{T_F} \begin{bmatrix} y_L \\ F_L \end{bmatrix}, \quad z = \frac{m\omega^2 k}{k - m\omega^2}$$

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$$(c) \begin{bmatrix} y_R \\ F_R \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ z & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \cos kL & -\frac{1}{EAk} \sin kL \\ EAk \sin kL & \cos kL \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} y(0) \\ F(0) \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} y_R \\ F_R \end{bmatrix} = \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} \cos kL & -\frac{1}{EAk} \sin kL \\ z \cos kL + EAk \sin kL & -\frac{z}{EAk} \sin kL + \cos kL \end{bmatrix}}_{T_{br}} \begin{bmatrix} y(0) \\ F(0) \end{bmatrix}$$

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$$(d) \quad T = \begin{bmatrix} a & 0 \\ b & c \end{bmatrix}$$

Passive, so  $\det(T) = 1$

characteristic eq:  $\lambda^2 - \text{tr}(T)\lambda + \det(T) = 0.$

let  $\lambda = e^{i\delta}$

$$e^{2i\delta} - \text{tr}(T)e^{i\delta} + 1 = 0.$$

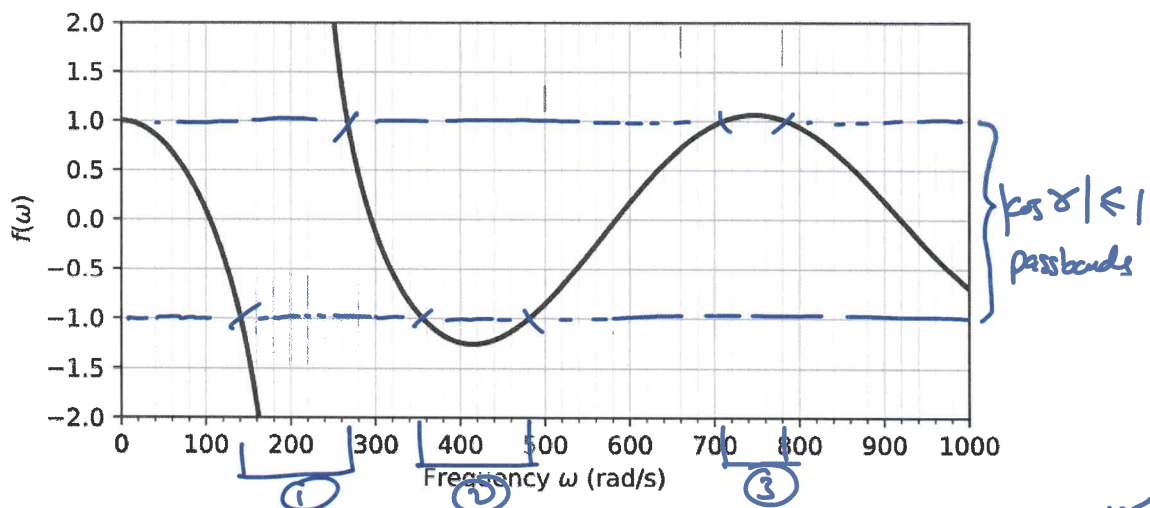
$$e^{i\delta} - \text{tr}(T) + e^{-i\delta} = 0.$$

$$2\cos\delta = \text{tr}(T).$$

$$\cos\delta = \frac{1}{2}\text{tr}(T) = \frac{1}{2}[a(\omega) + c(\omega)]$$

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(e)



stopbands where  $|f(\omega)| > 1$

stopbands: (1) 140 - 270 Hz

(2) 350 - 480 Hz

(3) 710 - 790 Hz

Waves propagate as  $e^{i\delta}$  from cell to cell. This happens without attenuation if  $\delta$  is real.

In stop bands,  $\cos\delta > 1$ , so  $\delta$  is complex, & waves will attenuate from cell to cell. 20%

Q3 // (a) uniform:  $A(x) = A_0$

$$\frac{\partial^2 \rho}{\partial x^2} - \frac{1}{c^2} \frac{\partial^2 \rho}{\partial t^2} = 0 \quad \begin{array}{l} \longrightarrow \text{wave eqn.} \\ \Rightarrow \text{sinusoidal modes.} \end{array}$$

BC's: @  $x=0, L$ ,  $\rho=0$ .

$$u_n = \sin \frac{n\pi x}{L} \quad \omega_n = kc = \frac{n\pi c}{L}$$

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(b)  $A(x) = A_0 x^n$

(i)  $\rho = P e^{i\omega t}$

$$\rightarrow \text{ODE} \Rightarrow P'' + \frac{A'}{A} P' + \frac{\omega^2}{c^2} P = 0 \quad \text{ODE for } P.$$

(ii)  $P = x^{-\nu} \phi(x)$

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$$P' = -\nu x^{-(\nu+1)} \phi + x^{-\nu} \phi'$$

$$P'' = \nu(\nu+1)x^{-(\nu+2)}\phi - \underbrace{\nu x^{-(\nu+1)}\phi' - \nu x^{-(\nu+1)}\phi'}_{(2\nu x^{-(\nu+1)}\phi')} + x^{-\nu}\phi''$$

$$\text{now } A = A_0 x^n$$

$$A' = A_0 n x^{n-1}$$

$$\text{so } \frac{A'}{A} = \frac{A_0 n x^{n-1}}{A_0 x^n} = n x^{-1}$$

$$\text{ODE: } \nu(\nu+1)x^{-(\nu+2)}\phi - 2\nu x^{-(\nu+1)}\phi' + x^{-\nu}\phi'' + nx^{-1}[-\nu x^{-(\nu+1)}\phi + x^{-\nu}\phi'] + \frac{\omega^2}{c^2}x^{-\nu}\phi = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \phi \left[ \frac{\omega^2}{c^2} x^{-\nu} - n\nu x^{-1} \cdot x^{-(\nu+1)} + \nu(\nu+1)x^{-(\nu+2)} \right] + \phi' \left[ nx^{-1} \cdot x^{-\nu} - 2\nu x^{-(\nu+1)} \right] + x^{-\nu}\phi'' = 0.$$

$$\phi \left[ \frac{\omega^2}{c^2} x^{-\nu} + \underline{\nu(\nu+1) - n\nu} x^{-(\nu+2)} \right] + \phi' \left( \underline{n-2\nu} \right) x^{-(\nu+1)} + x^{-\nu} \phi'' = 0.$$

using:  $\underline{\nu(\nu+1) - n\nu} = \frac{n-1}{2} \cdot \frac{n+1}{2} - n \frac{n-1}{2}$

$$= \frac{n^2-1}{4} - \frac{2n^2-2n}{4} = \frac{-n^2+2n-1}{4} = -\left[\frac{n-1}{2}\right]^2 = -\nu^2$$

2  $\underline{n-2\nu} = n - (n-1) = 1$

$$\Rightarrow x^{-\nu} \phi'' + x^{-(\nu+1)} \phi' + \left( \frac{\omega^2}{c^2} x^{-\nu} - \nu^2 x^{-(\nu+2)} \right) \phi = 0$$

$\times x^{\nu+2}$ :  $x^2 \phi'' + x \phi' + \left( \frac{\omega^2}{c^2} x^2 - \nu^2 \right) \phi = 0$  as req.

$$\alpha = \frac{\omega^2}{c^2} = k^2, \quad \beta = \nu$$

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(iii) No singularity @  $x=0$  so no contr'n of Bessel func. of second kind  $Y_\nu$ , so  $C_2 = 0$ .

[Note:  $x^{-\nu} J_\nu \rightarrow$  finite as  $x \rightarrow 0$  though this is not required for this question] 10%

| (iv) | $n$ | $\nu$ | $k_1 L$ | $k_2 L$ | $\omega_1 = c k$ | $\omega_2$ |
|------|-----|-------|---------|---------|------------------|------------|
|      | 1   | 0     | 2.40    | 5.52    | $2.4 c/L$        | $5.52 c/L$ |
|      | 2   | 0.5   | 3.14    | 6.78    | $3.14 c/L$       | $6.78 c/L$ |
| 30%  | 3   | 1     | 3.83    | 7.02    | $3.83 c/L$       | $7.02 c/L$ |

Q4// (a)  $u = A \sin \frac{m\pi x}{a} \sin \frac{n\pi y}{b} e^{i\omega t}$

$$\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial t^2} = -\omega^2 u$$

$$\frac{\partial^4 u}{\partial x^4} = \left(\frac{m\pi}{a}\right)^4 u, \quad \frac{\partial^4 u}{\partial y^4} = \left(\frac{n\pi}{b}\right)^4 u$$

$$\frac{\partial^4 u}{\partial x^2 \partial y^2} = \left(\frac{m\pi}{a}\right)^2 \left(\frac{n\pi}{b}\right)^2 u$$

$$\Rightarrow -\omega^2 \rho h u + D \cdot \left[ \left(\frac{m\pi}{a}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{n\pi}{b}\right)^2 \right]^2 u = 0.$$

satisfies PDE for some  $\omega, m, n$  //

non-zero  $u$ :  $\omega_{m,n} = \left[ \left(\frac{m\pi}{a}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{n\pi}{b}\right)^2 \right] \sqrt{D/\rho h}$  //

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(b) • Free/constrained damping layer: explicit loss from material in added layer

- Tuned mass damper: add a mass-on-spring tuned to a specific resonance. Splits mode & large amp motion of TMD can be damped locally.
- Add a particle damper: multiple local impacts cause energy to scatter to high frequencies where damped by other mechanisms, in addition to friction damping between particles.

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$$(c) \quad D \rightarrow D(1+i\gamma_E)$$

$$\text{so } V \rightarrow V(1+i\gamma_E)$$

$$\omega_1'^2 = \omega_1^2(1+i\gamma_E)$$

$$\omega_1' \approx \omega_1(1+\frac{1}{2}i\gamma_E)$$

$$\Rightarrow \text{transient decay: } e^{i\omega_1(1+\frac{1}{2}i\gamma_E)t}$$

$$= e^{i\omega_1 t} \cdot e^{-\frac{1}{2}\omega_1 \gamma_E t}$$

$$\text{cf } e^{-\gamma \omega_1 t} = e^{-\frac{1}{2Q} \omega_1 t}$$

$$\Rightarrow Q_n = \frac{1}{\gamma_E} //$$

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$$(d) \quad V = \frac{1}{2} K_{nn}(1+i\gamma_E) + \frac{1}{2} k(1+\gamma_k) \underbrace{\phi^2(x_0, y_0)}_{\phi_0^2} \quad \text{for amplitude } A=1.$$

$$= \underbrace{\frac{1}{2} K_{nn}}_{V_0} + \underbrace{\frac{1}{2} k \phi_0^2 + \frac{1}{2} i [K_{nn} \gamma_E + k \phi_0^2 \gamma_k]}_{V'}$$

$$\omega_1'^2 = \frac{V_0 + V'}{T_0} = \frac{V_0}{T_0} \left(1 + \frac{V'}{V_0}\right) = \omega_1^2 \left(1 + \frac{V'}{V_0}\right)$$

$$\& \text{ we need } \gamma_{eff} = \frac{\text{im} \{ \omega_1'^2 \}}{\text{re} \{ \omega_1'^2 \}}$$

$$= \frac{K_{nn} \gamma_E + k \phi_0^2 \gamma_k}{K_{nn} + k \phi_0^2} //$$

$$\text{so } Q = \frac{K_{nn} + k \phi_0^2}{K_{nn} \gamma_E + k \phi_0^2 \gamma_k} //$$

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(e)  $K \rightarrow \infty \Rightarrow$  constraint, so new frequencies higher & must satisfy  
involving. //

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