

**ME 563**  
**Mechanical Vibrations**  
**Lecture #22**

Forced Response of Continuous  
Systems Using Modal Approach

# String Forced Response

Consider the string equation of motion:

$$\rightarrow \rho \frac{\partial^2 y(x,t)}{\partial t^2} - T \frac{\partial^2 y(x,t)}{\partial x^2} = f(x,t)$$

If we assume a solution of the form,  $y(x,t) = Y(x) \cdot G(t)$ , we can turn the partial differential equation into an ordinary differential equation of motion.

To solve this ordinary differential equation, we can use the free response (eigenvalue solution) to decouple the individual modal equations from one another.

# Recall Normal Coordinates

If we normalize the spatial functions,  $Y_n(x)$ , as follows:

$$\rightarrow \int_0^L \rho(x) Y_r(x) Y_s(x) dx = \delta_{rs} = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{for } r \neq s \\ 1 & \text{for } r = s \end{cases} \quad Y_r(x) = \sqrt{\frac{2}{\rho L}} \sin\left(\frac{r\pi x}{L}\right)$$

$$\rightarrow \int_0^L T(x) \frac{dY_r(x)}{dx} \frac{dY_s(x)}{dx} dx = \omega_r^2 \delta_{rs} \quad \omega_r = r\pi \sqrt{\frac{T}{\rho L^2}}$$

and we expand the solution as follows:

$$\rightarrow y(x, t) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} Y_n(x) G_n(t) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} Y_n(x) G_n \cos(\omega_n t + \phi_n)$$

then we multiply by one function  $Y_r(x)$  at a time to uncouple the modes of vibration from one another.

$$\rightarrow \rho \frac{\partial^2 \sum_n Y_n(x) G_n(t)}{\partial t^2} - T \frac{\partial^2 \sum_n Y_n(x) G_n(t)}{\partial x^2} = f(x, t)$$

$$\rightarrow \rho \sum_n Y_n(x) \ddot{G}_n(t) - T \sum_n G_n(t) Y_n''(x) = f(x, t)$$

$$\rightarrow Y_r(x) \rho \sum_n Y_n(x) \ddot{G}_n(t) - T Y_r(x) \sum_n G_n(t) Y_n''(x) = Y_r(x) f(x, t)$$

$$\rightarrow \int_0^L Y_r(x) \rho \sum_n Y_n(x) \ddot{G}_n(t) dx - \int_0^L T Y_r(x) \sum_n G_n(t) Y_n''(x) dx = \int_0^L Y_r(x) f(x, t) dx$$

$$\rightarrow \ddot{G}_r(t) + \frac{\rho}{T} \int_0^L T Y_r(x) \sum_n \omega_n^2 G_n(t) Y_n(x) dx = \int_0^L Y_r(x) f(x, t) dx$$

$$\rightarrow \ddot{G}_r(t) + \omega_r^2 G_r(t) = \int_0^L Y_r(x) f(x, t) dx$$

# Analogy to Discrete Case

Does this single degree of freedom equation remind you of anything?

→

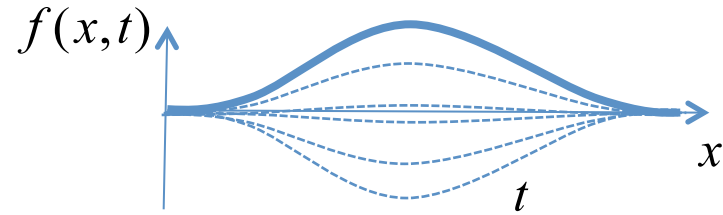
$$\ddot{G}_r(t) + \omega_r^2 G_r(t) = \int_0^L Y_r(x) f(x, t) dx \quad r = 1, 2, 3, \dots$$

→

$$[M_r] \{\ddot{p}\} + [C_r] \{\dot{p}\} + [K_r] \{p\} = [\Psi]^T \{f\}$$

**Both of these sets of equations describe how forcing functions (in space and time) excite uncoupled modes of vibration.**

# Example $f(x,t)$



If we assume a forcing function,

$$\rightarrow f(x,t) = \left[ 1 - \cos\left(\frac{2x\pi}{L}\right) \right] \sin \omega t$$

then we can arrive at the following set of equations:

$$\rightarrow \ddot{G}_r(t) + \omega_r^2 G_r(t) = \int_0^L \sqrt{\frac{2}{\rho L}} \sin\left(\frac{r\pi}{L} x\right) f(x,t) dx \quad r = 1, 2, 3, \dots$$

$$\rightarrow \ddot{G}_r(t) + \omega_r^2 G_r(t) = \sqrt{\frac{2}{\rho L}} \int_0^L \sin\left(\frac{r\pi}{L} x\right) \left[ 1 - \cos\left(\frac{2\pi}{L} x\right) \right] \sin(\omega t) dx$$

$$\rightarrow \ddot{G}_r(t) + \omega_r^2 G_r(t) = \sqrt{\frac{2}{\rho L}} \sin(\omega t) \frac{L}{r\pi} [1 - \cos(r\pi)]$$

# Example

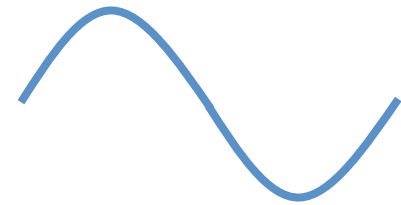
The meaning of this solution,

$$\ddot{G}_r(t) + \omega_r^2 G_r(t) = \sqrt{\frac{2}{\rho L}} \sin(\omega t) \frac{L}{r\pi} [1 - \cos(r\pi)]$$

is that only modes like



not



are excited by a spatial forcing function like



Also, modes of vibration with natural frequencies,  $\omega_r$ , close to the forcing frequency,  $\omega$ , are excited the most.

Note the analogy to FRFs...

$$\ddot{G}_r(t) + \omega_r^2 G_r(t) = \sqrt{\frac{2}{\rho L}} \sin(\omega t) \frac{L}{r\pi} [1 - \cos(r\pi)]$$

↑ Numerator  
↓ Denominator