

# DUFFING's EQUATION

Presented by Christophe Zeeman.

G. Duffing introduced his equation in 1918  
to study electronics.

It is the simplest nonlinear forced damped oscillator.

Gradual changes in the forcing frequency can  
cause catastrophic jumps in amplitude & phase.

## References

1. G. Duffing: Erzwungene Schwingungen bei veränderlicher Eigenfrequenz, Braunschweig, 1918
2. J.J. Stoker: Nonlinear vibrations, Interscience, 1950
3. E.C. Zeeman: Duffing's equation in brain modelling,  
Bull. IMA 12 (1976) 207-214.
4. These transparencies: [math.utsa.edu/~ecz](http://math.utsa.edu/~ecz)

# DUFFING's EQUATION IS THE SIMPLEST NONLINEAR FORCED DAMPED OSCILLATOR.

simple harmonic oscillator with frequency  $\omega$

small damping

small nonlinearity

small periodic forcing term with frequency

$$\Omega = \omega + \epsilon\omega \quad \text{near state of the oscillator}$$

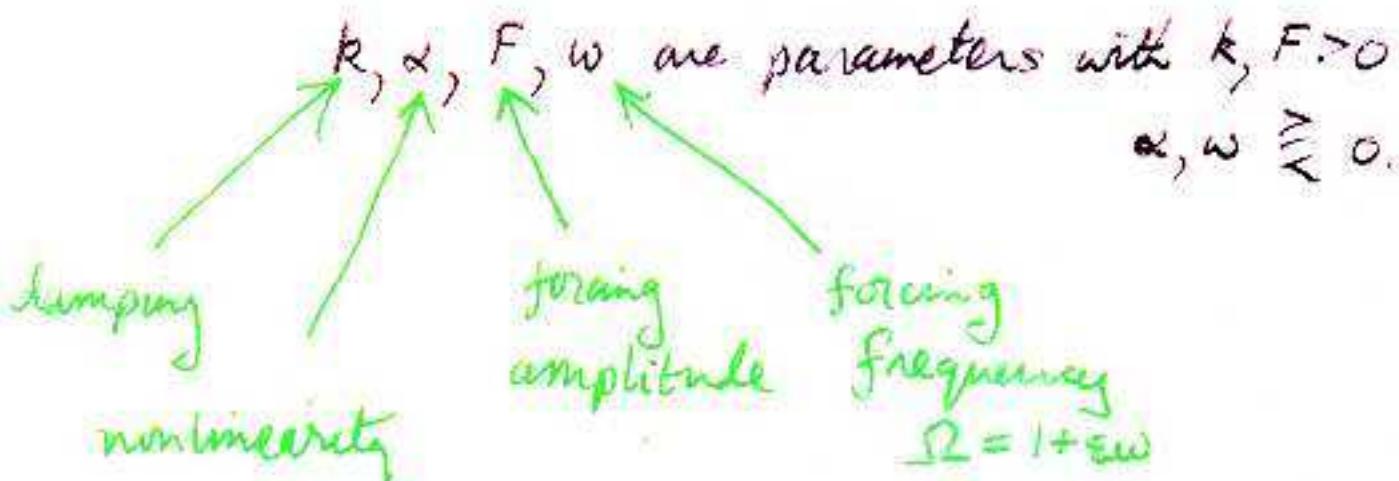
$$\ddot{x} + \omega^2 + \epsilon kx + \epsilon \alpha x^3 = \epsilon F \cos \Omega t$$

where  $x$  = variable

$\epsilon$  = time

$$\dot{x} = \frac{dx}{dt}, \quad \ddot{x} = \frac{d^2x}{dt^2}$$

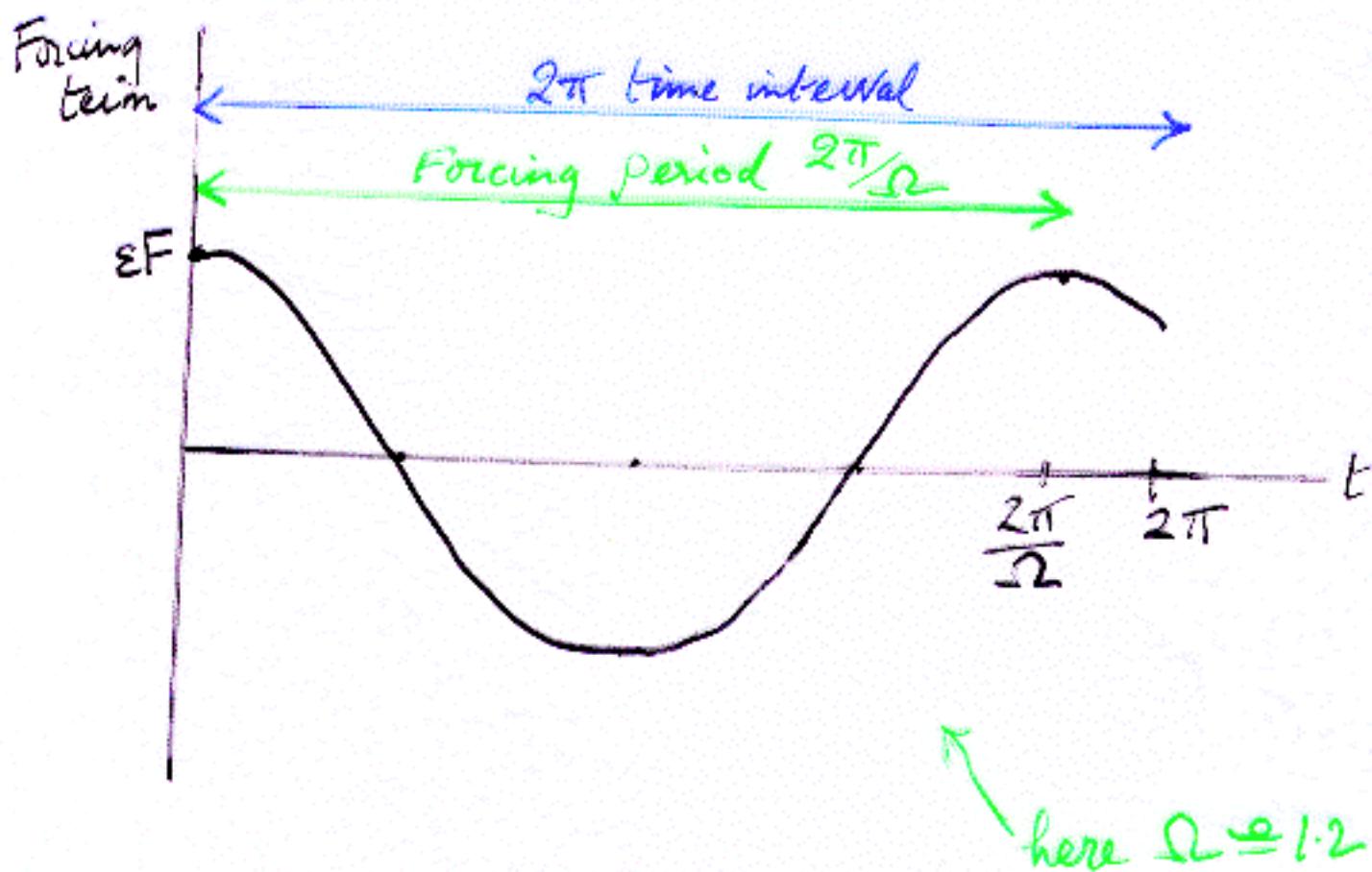
$\epsilon$  is a small constant  $> 0$



FORCING TERM =  $\epsilon F \cos \Omega t$

Forcing period =  $\frac{2\pi}{\Omega}$  = time between two peaks

Forcing frequency =  $\Omega$  = number of periods in a  $2\pi$  time interval.



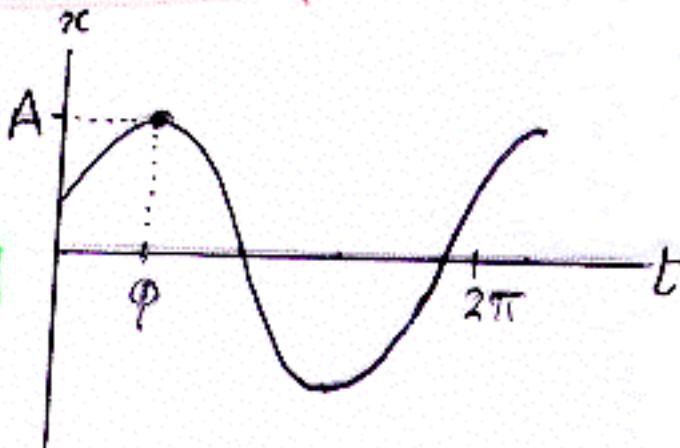
## PROGRAMME.

- ① Simple harmonic oscillator
  - ② Damped oscillator
  - ③ Forced oscillator
  - ④ Forced damped oscillator.
  - ⑤ Nonlinear forced damped oscillator = Duffing
- } all linear

# ① SIMPLE HARMONIC OSCILLATOR

$$\ddot{x} + \omega^2 x = 0$$

- Solution  $x = A \cos(t - \varphi)$
- amplitude initial phase-lag  
 frequency!

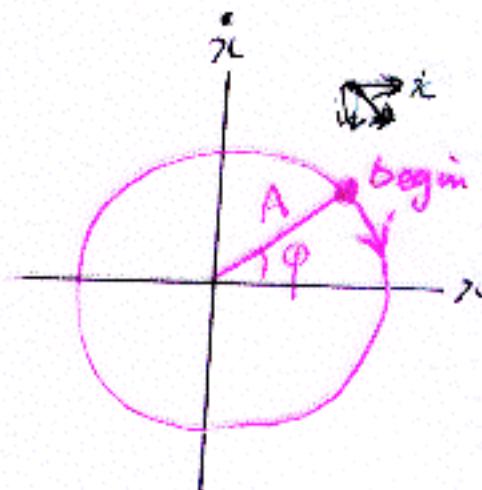


- Phase-space  $\mathbb{R}^2$ , with coordinates  $x, \dot{x}$

$$x = A \cos(t - \varphi) = A \cos(\varphi - t)$$

$$\dot{x} = -A \sin(t - \varphi) = A \sin(\varphi - t)$$

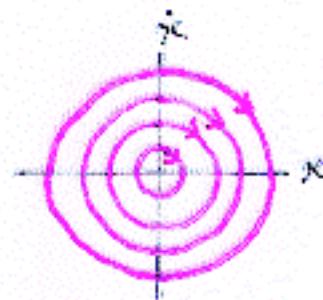
Orbit = circle radius A, clockwise.



- Phase space foliated by concentric circles.

- Structurally unstable ( $\therefore$  useless)

(phase portrait can be changed by arbitrarily small perturbations).



## ② DAMPED OSCILLATOR

$$\ddot{x} + \varepsilon k \dot{x} + x = 0$$

$\varepsilon$  small  $> 0$

$k > 0$ .

- Solution: put  $x = A e^{\lambda t}$

$$\therefore \lambda^2 + \varepsilon k \lambda + 1 = 0$$

$$\therefore \lambda = \frac{-\varepsilon k \pm \sqrt{\varepsilon^2 k^2 - 4}}{2} = -\frac{\varepsilon k}{2} \pm i\varphi$$

$$\text{where } \varphi = \sqrt{1 - \frac{\varepsilon^2 k^2}{4}} = 1 + O(\varepsilon^2)$$

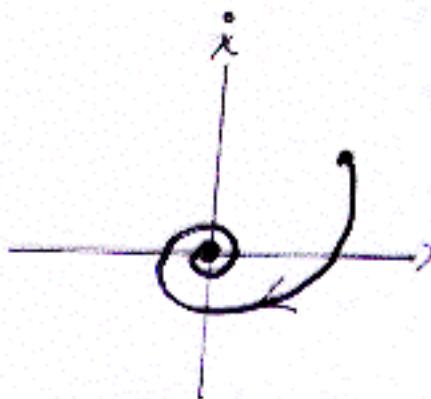
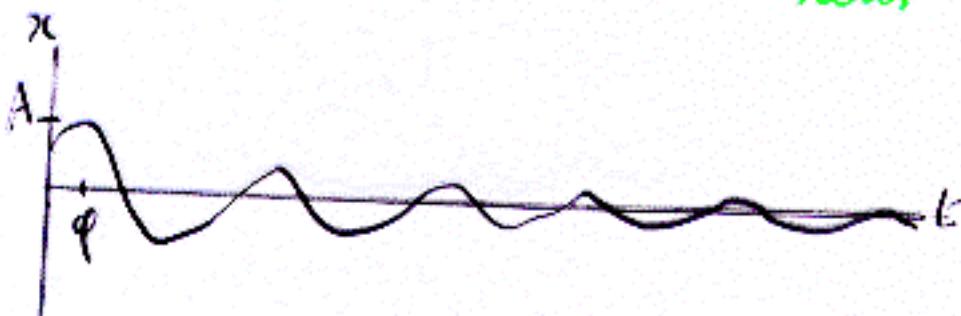
$$\therefore x = A e^{-\frac{\varepsilon k}{2}t} \cos(\varphi t - \varphi).$$

initial  
amplitude

transient

frequency  
near

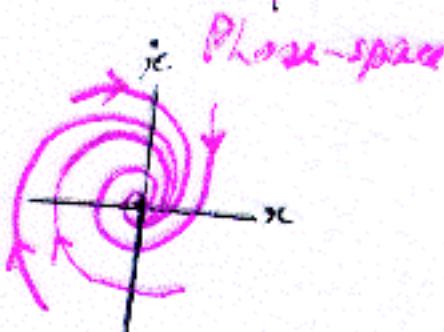
initial phase-lag



- Phase portrait foliated by spirals.  
O is an attractor.

- Structurally stable ( $\therefore$  useful)

(phase portrait remains homeomorphic under sufficiently small perturbations).



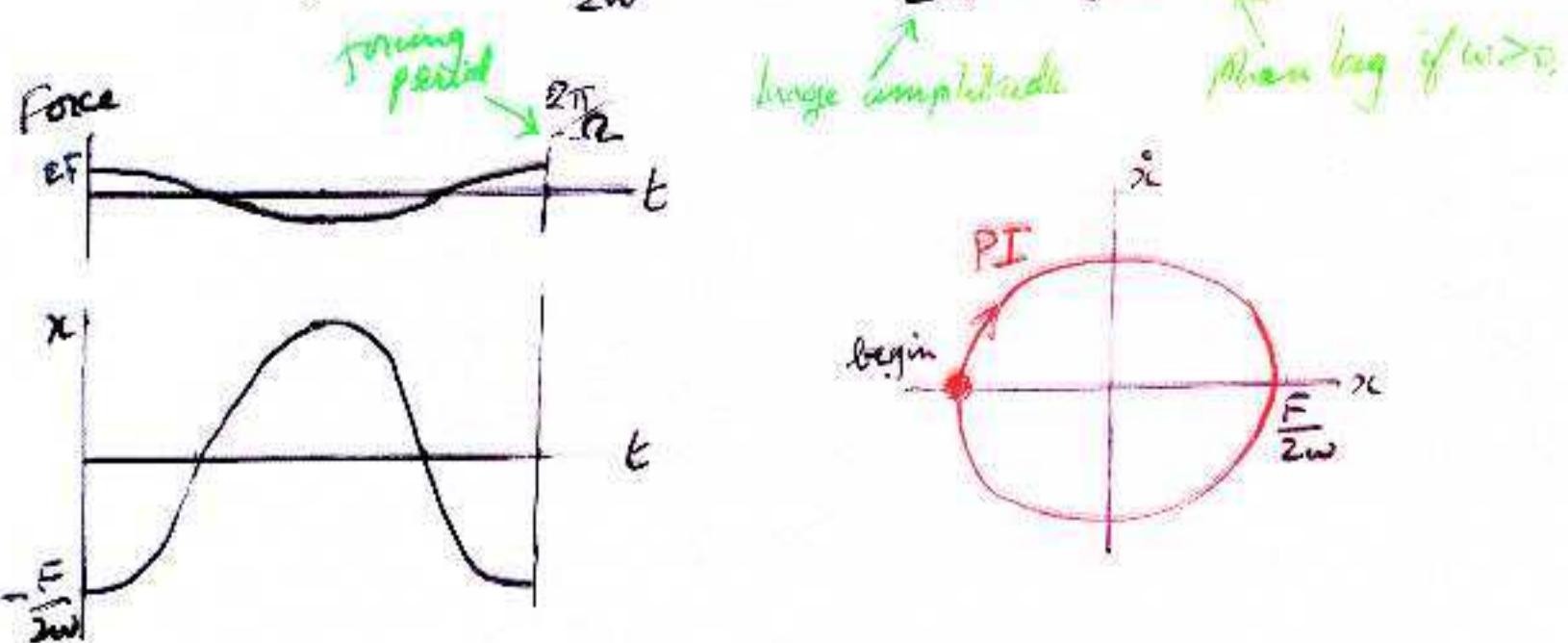
### ③ FORCED OSCILLATOR

$$\ddot{x} + x = \varepsilon F \cos \Omega t,$$

(where  $\varepsilon$  small  $> 0$ )

- PI (Particular Integral) = sol<sup>n</sup> with freq  $\Omega$ .  $F > 0$   
 $\Omega = 1 + \varepsilon \omega$   
 $\Omega^2 = 1 + 2\varepsilon\omega + \varepsilon^2\omega^2$
- Let  $x = A \cos \Omega t$ .  $\therefore -\Omega^2 A + A = \varepsilon F$ .
- $$\therefore A = \frac{\varepsilon F}{-\Omega^2 + 1} = \frac{\varepsilon F}{-2\varepsilon\omega - \varepsilon^2\omega^2} = -\frac{F}{2\omega} + O(\varepsilon)$$

$$\therefore \text{to order } \varepsilon, x = -\frac{F}{2\omega} \cos \Omega t = \frac{F}{2\omega} \cos(\Omega t - \pi)$$



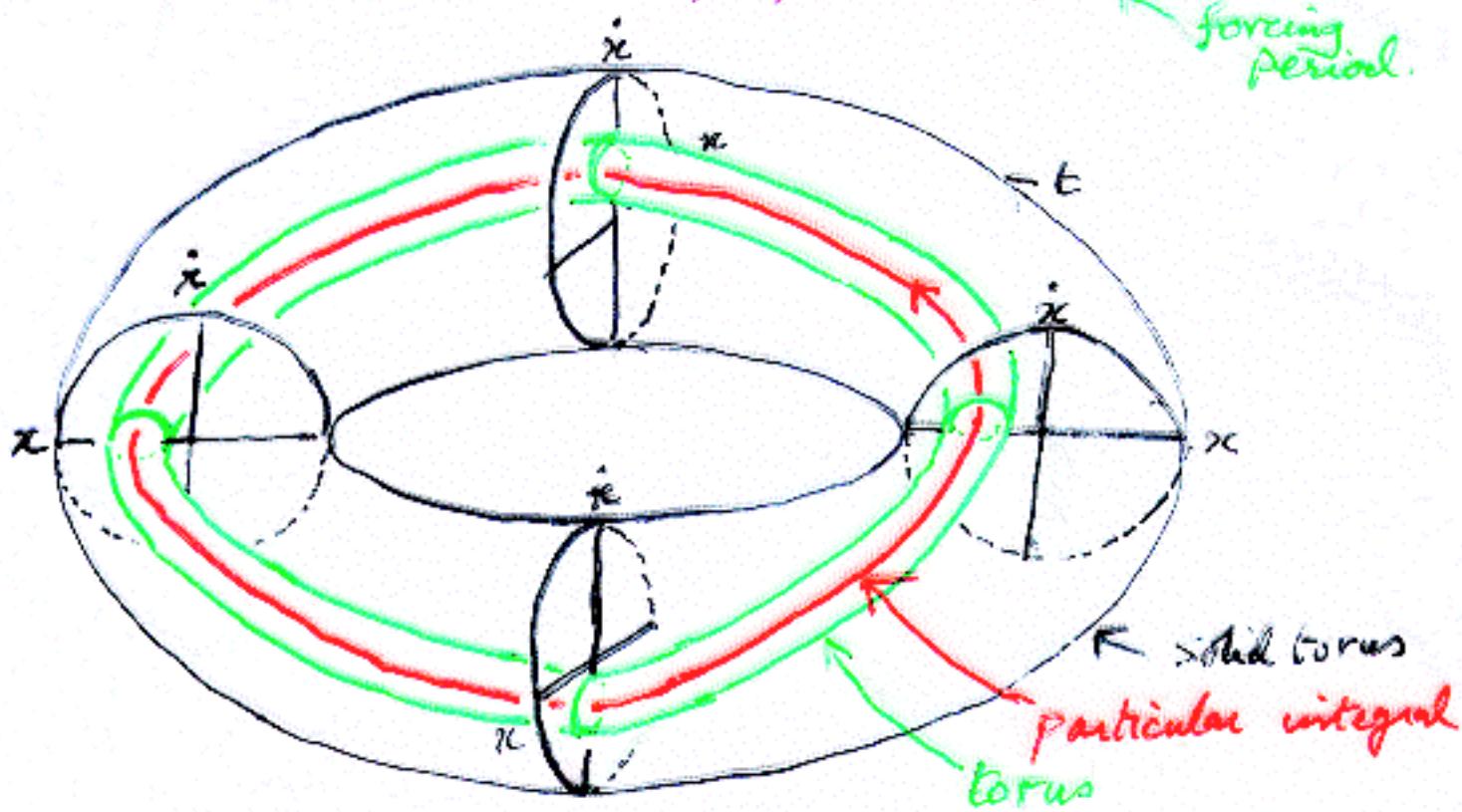
- General Solution =  $\frac{F}{2\omega} \cos(\Omega t - \pi) + B \cos(t - \phi)$

$\uparrow$   
PI (particular integral)

$\uparrow$   
Homogeneous solution

### ③ FORCED OSCILLATOR (cont.) $\ddot{x} + \omega^2 = \varepsilon F \cos \Omega t$ .

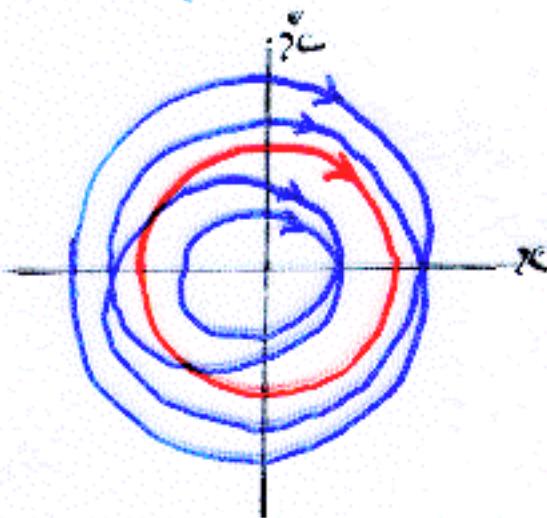
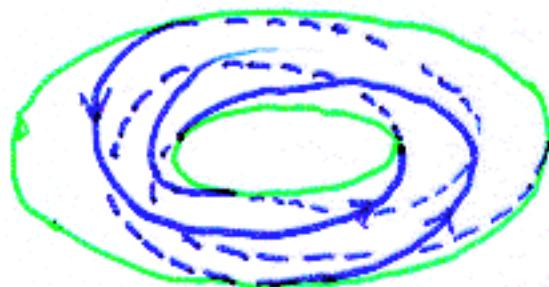
- Phase-space = solid torus  $\mathbb{R}^2 \times S^1$ , with coords  $x, \dot{x}$ ,  $t \bmod \frac{2\pi}{\Omega}$



The particular integral goes once round the solid torus.

The phase-space is foliated by tori enclosing the PI.

Each torus is foliated by cycles/spirals according as to whether  $\Omega$  is rational/irrational.



- Structurally unstable ( $\therefore$  useless)

## ④ FORCED DAMPED OSCILLATOR $\ddot{x} + \varepsilon k \dot{x} + x = \varepsilon F \cos \Omega t$

- PI (particular integral)  $x = A \cos(\Omega t - \varphi)$  where  $\varepsilon$  small  $> 0$   
 $R, F > 0$   
 $\Omega = 1 + \varepsilon \omega$   
 $\therefore \Omega^2 = 1 + 2\varepsilon\omega + \varepsilon^2\omega^2$

Let  $\theta = \Omega t - \varphi$ .  $\therefore x = A \cos \theta$   
 $\therefore \dot{x} = \dot{\theta} A \sin \theta$   
 $\ddot{x} = -\Omega^2 A \cos \theta$

Subst. in the equation:

$$-\Omega^2 A \cos \theta - \varepsilon k \Omega A \sin \theta + A \cos \theta = \varepsilon F (\cos \theta \cos \varphi - \sin \theta \sin \varphi)$$

Compare coeffs of  $\{ \sin \theta : -\varepsilon k \Omega A = -\varepsilon F \sin \varphi$   
 $\cos \theta : -\Omega^2 A + A = \varepsilon F \cos \varphi$

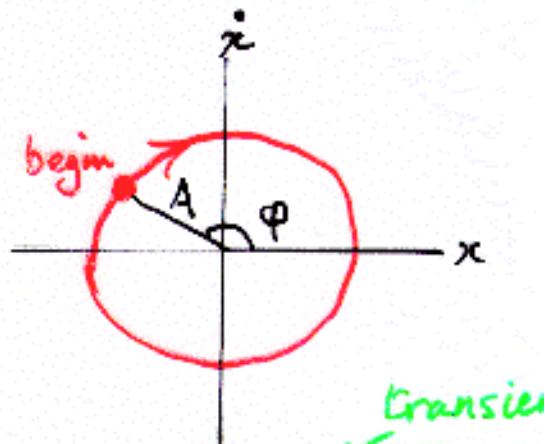
$$\therefore F \sin \varphi = k \Omega A = kA + O(\varepsilon)$$

$$F \cos \varphi = \frac{1 - \Omega^2}{\varepsilon} A = -2\omega A + O(\varepsilon)$$

$$\therefore F^2 = k^2 A^2 + 4\omega^2 A^2 + O(\varepsilon)$$

$$\therefore \text{amplitude } A = \frac{F}{\sqrt{k^2 + 4\omega^2}} + O(\varepsilon)$$

$$\text{phase } \dot{\theta} - \varphi = -\frac{2\omega}{k} + O(\varepsilon)$$



- General solution  $x = \frac{F}{\sqrt{k^2 + 4\omega^2}} \cos(\Omega t - \varphi) + B e^{-\frac{\varepsilon k t}{2}} \cos(4t - \varphi')$

PI (particular integral)

$\frac{-\varepsilon k t}{2}$   
homogeneous  
solution

- Phase-space  $= R^2 \times S^1 =$  solid torus.  
 PI is an attractor: all other orbits spiral towards it.

- Structurally stable ( $\therefore$  useful).

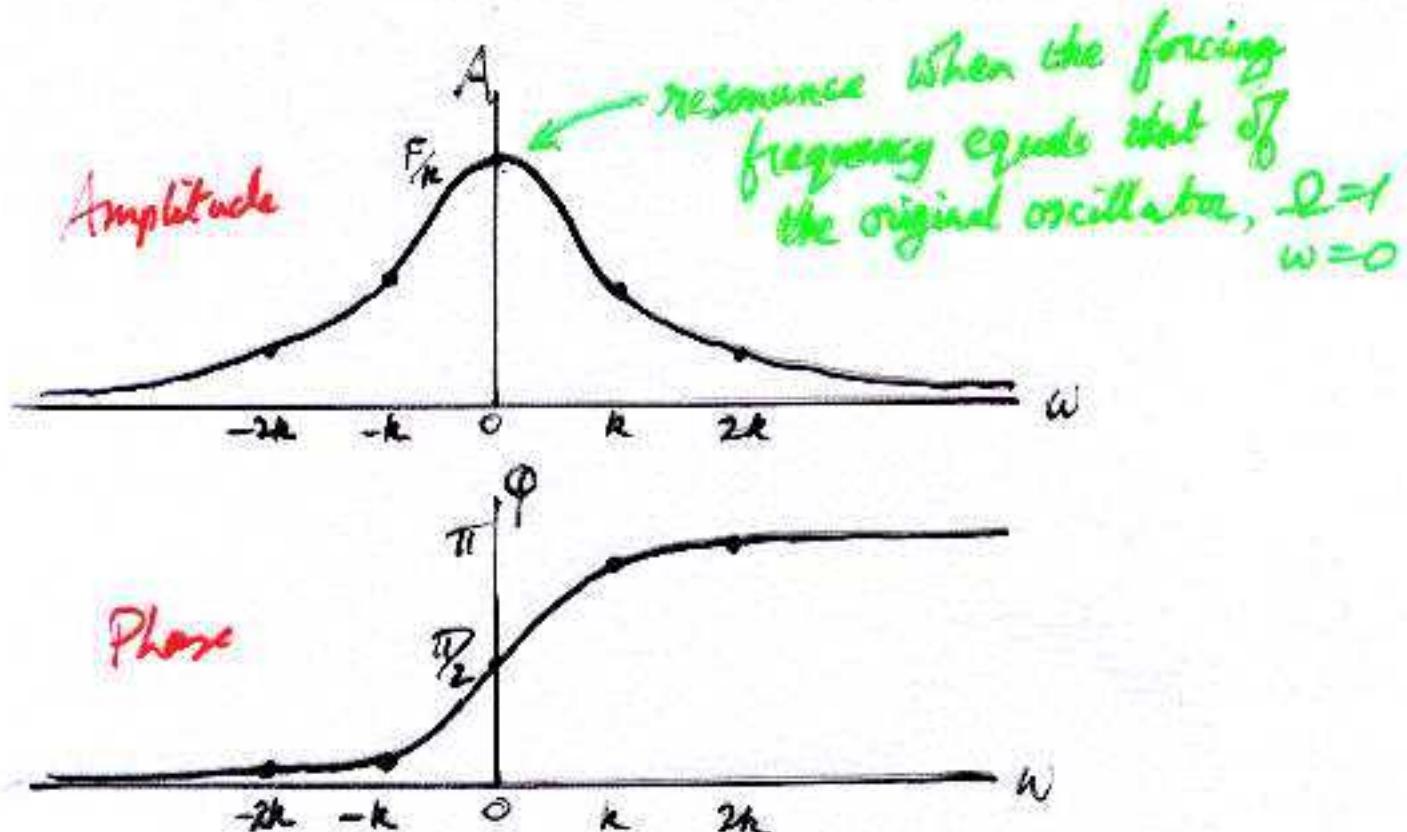
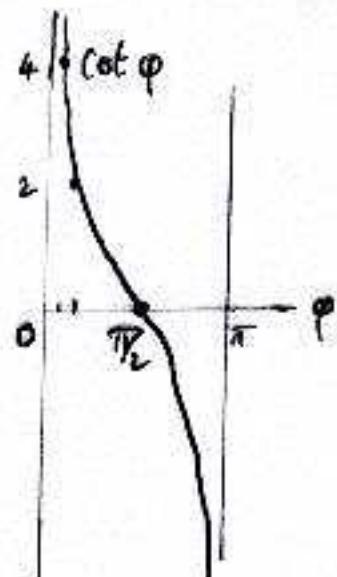
(4) FORCED DAMPED OSCILLATOR (continued)

Forcing frequency  $\Omega = 1 + \varepsilon\omega$ .

Take  $\omega$  as a parameter.

$$\text{Amplitude } A = \frac{F}{\sqrt{k^2 + 4\omega^2}}, \quad \text{Phase } \cot \varphi = -\frac{2\omega}{k}$$

$\omega$	$A$	$\cot \varphi$	$\varphi$
$\infty$	0	$-\infty$	$\pi$
$2k$	$F/k\sqrt{17}$	-4	$\frac{13}{4}\pi$
$k$	$F/k\sqrt{5}$	-2	$\frac{6}{5}\pi$
0	$F/k$	0	$\frac{\pi}{2}$
$-k$	$F/k\sqrt{5}$	2	$\frac{\pi}{4}$
$-2k$	$F/k\sqrt{17}$	4	$\frac{11}{4}\pi$
$-\infty$	0	$\infty$	0



## (5) DUFFING'S EQUATION

$$\ddot{x} + \epsilon k\dot{x} + x + \epsilon \alpha x^3 = \epsilon F \cos \Omega t$$

where  $\epsilon$  small  $> 0$

- PI (particular integral).

$$\text{Let } \theta = \Omega t - \varphi \quad \therefore \Omega t = \theta + \varphi.$$

$$\text{Put } x = A \cos \theta + \epsilon B \cos 3\theta \quad \text{small harmonic}$$

$$\therefore \dot{x} = -\Omega A \sin \theta - 3\Omega \epsilon B \sin 3\theta$$

$$\ddot{x} = -\Omega^2 A \cos \theta - 9\Omega^2 \epsilon B \cos 3\theta$$

$$k, F > 0$$

$$\alpha \gtrless 0$$

$$\Omega = 1 + \epsilon \omega, \omega \gtrless 0$$

$$\Omega^2 = 1 + 2\epsilon \omega + \epsilon^2 \omega^2$$

$$\cos 3\theta = \frac{1}{4} \cos^3 \theta - \frac{3}{4} \cos \theta$$

$$\therefore \cos^3 \theta = \frac{1}{4} \cos 3\theta + \frac{3}{4} \cos \theta$$

ignore  $\epsilon^2$ .

$$\therefore \ddot{x} + x = (-\Omega^2 + 1)A \cos \theta + (-9\Omega^2 + 1)\epsilon B \cos 3\theta = -2\epsilon \omega A \cos \theta - 8\epsilon B \cos 3\theta$$

$$\epsilon k \dot{x} = -\epsilon k A \sin \theta$$

$$\epsilon \alpha x^3 = \epsilon \alpha A^3 \cos^3 \theta = \epsilon \alpha A^3 \left( \frac{1}{4} \cos 3\theta + \frac{3}{4} \cos \theta \right)$$

$$\epsilon F \cos \Omega t = \epsilon F (\cos \theta \cos \varphi - \sin \theta \sin \varphi)$$

Subst. in the equation:

$$-2\epsilon \omega A \cos \theta - 8\epsilon B \cos 3\theta - \epsilon k A \sin \theta + \epsilon \alpha A^3 \left( \frac{1}{4} \cos 3\theta + \frac{3}{4} \cos \theta \right) = \epsilon F (\cos \theta \cos \varphi - \sin \theta \sin \varphi)$$

Compare coeffs of  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \cos \theta : -2\omega A + \frac{3}{4} \alpha A^3 = F \cos \varphi \\ \sin \theta : -kA = -F \sin \varphi \end{array} \right.$

$$\cos 3\theta : -8B + \frac{\alpha A^3}{4} = 0 \quad \therefore B = \frac{\alpha A^3}{32}$$

$$\therefore F \sin \varphi = kA$$

$$F \cos \varphi = A \left( \frac{3}{4} \alpha A^2 - 2\omega \right)$$

↑  
amplitude of  
small harmonic  
FORGET

Duffing Amplitude relation  $F^2 = k^2 A^2 + A^2 \left( \frac{3}{4} \alpha A^2 - 2\omega \right)^2$

Duffing Phase relation  $\cot \varphi = \frac{\frac{3}{4} \alpha A^2 - 2\omega}{k}$

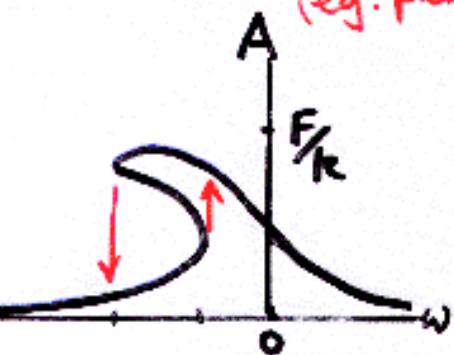
Take  $\omega$  as a parameter.

### DUFFING AMPLITUDE RELATION

$$F^2 = k^2 A^2 + A^2 \left( \frac{3}{4} \alpha A^2 - 2\omega \right)^2$$

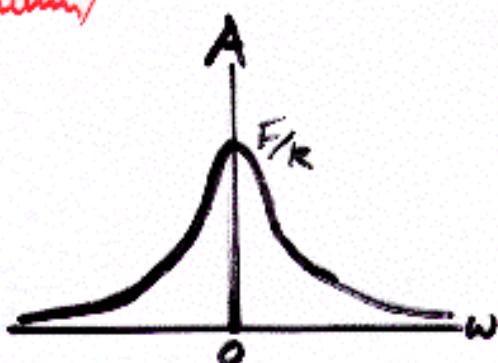
Nonlinear case,  $\alpha < 0$

**Soft spring**  
(e.g. pendulum)



Linear Case

$\alpha = 0$



Maximum amplitude given by  $dA/d\omega = 0$ .

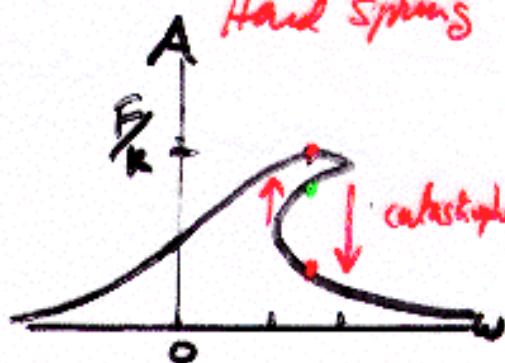
$$-4\omega^2 \left( \frac{3}{4} \alpha A^2 - 2\omega \right) = 0$$

$$\therefore A = \frac{F}{\sqrt{\alpha}}$$

$$\therefore \omega_0 = \frac{3}{8} \frac{F^2}{k^2}$$

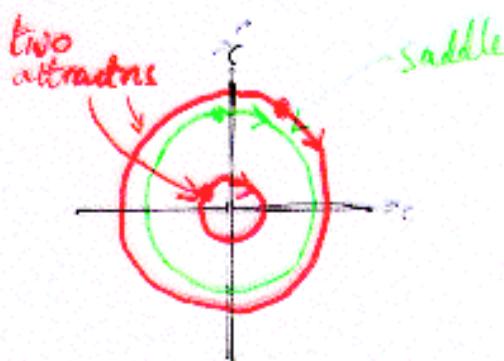
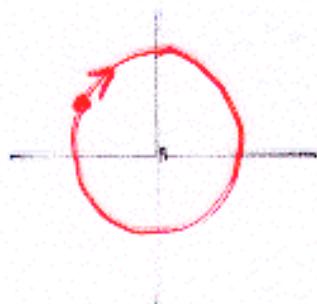
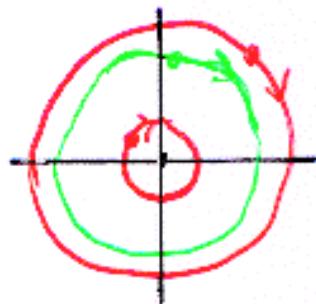
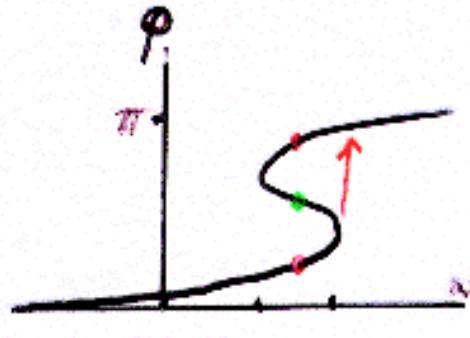
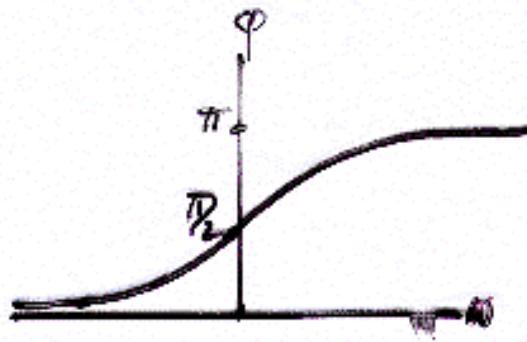
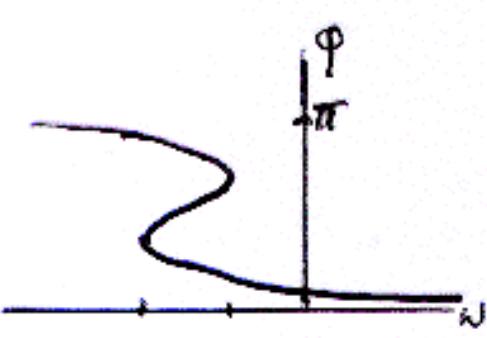
Nonlinear case,  $\alpha > 0$

**Hard spring**



### DUFFING PHASE RELATION

$$\cot \varphi = \frac{\frac{3}{4} \alpha A^2 - 2\omega}{k}$$





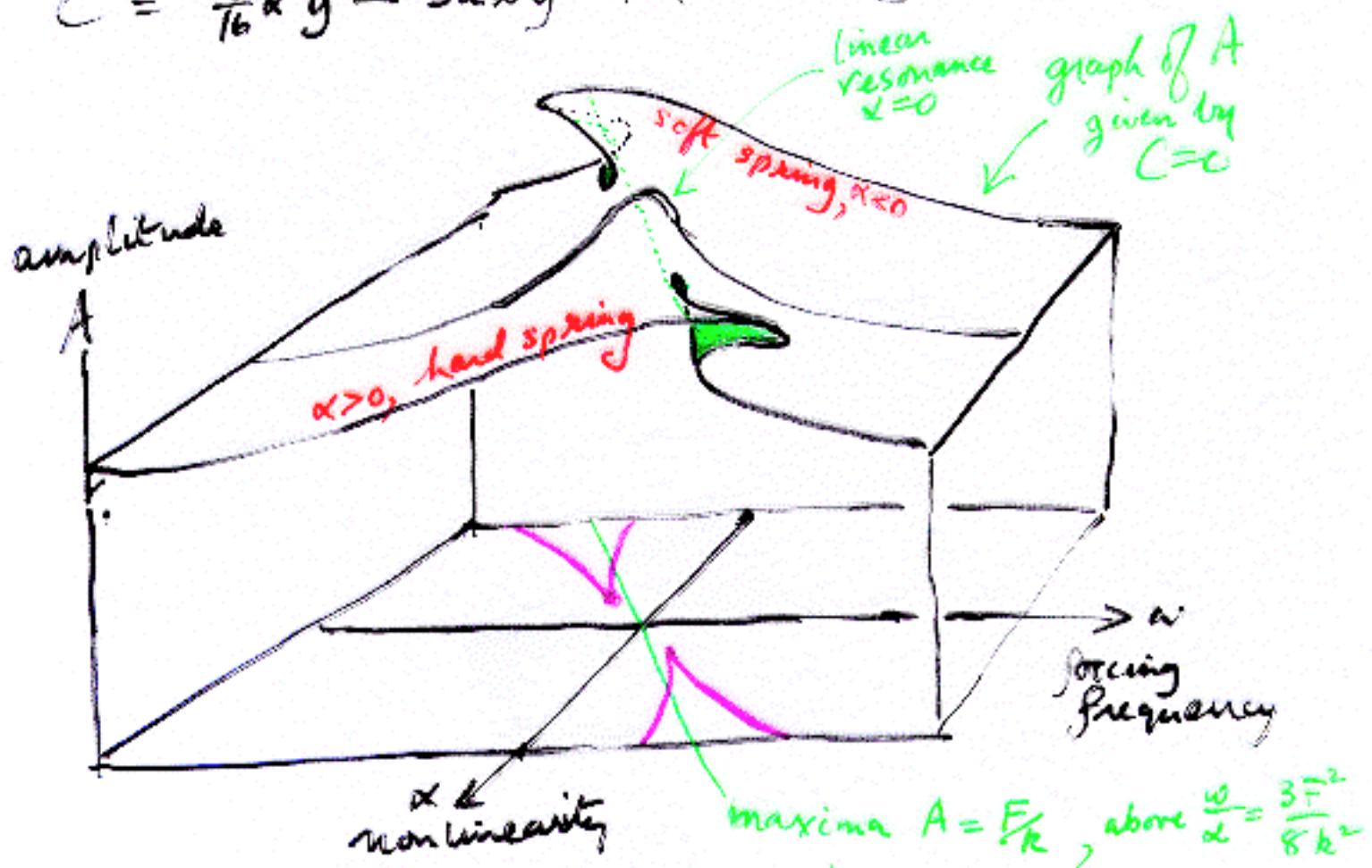
⋮  
↓



# GRAPH OF AMPLITUDE A OVER PARAMETERS $\{\omega$ FORCING FREQUENCY $\&$ NONLINEARITY

Putting  $A^2 = y$ , we can write the Duffing amplitude relation as a cubic in  $y$ :

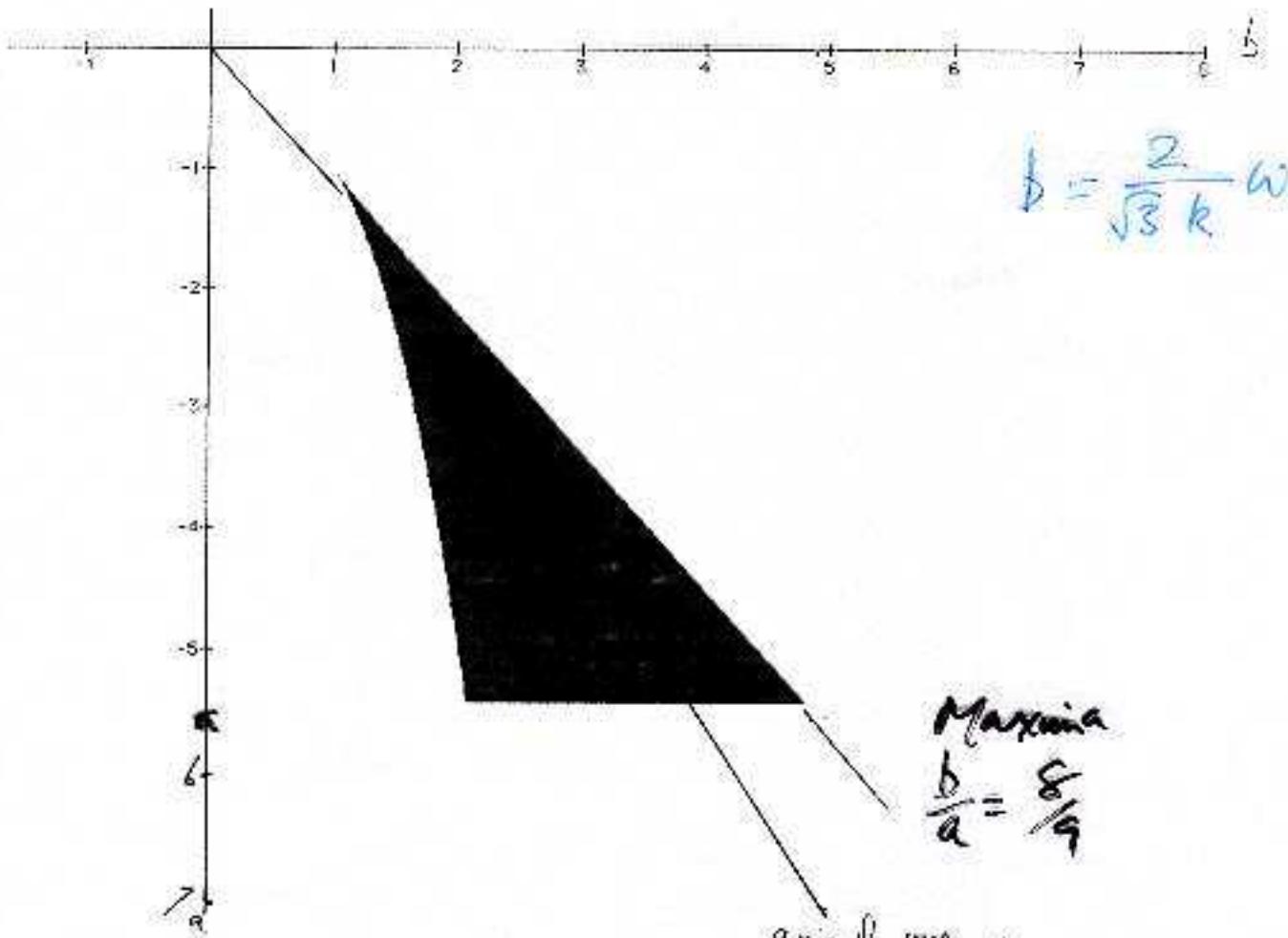
$$C = \frac{9}{16} \alpha^2 y^3 - 3\alpha \omega y^2 + (k^2 + 4\omega^2)y - F^2 = 0.$$



Bimodal inside cusps given by  $C = C' = 0$

Cusp points given by  $C = C' = C'' = 0$ :

$$\alpha = \pm \frac{32k^3}{9\sqrt{5}F^2}, \quad \omega = \pm \frac{\sqrt{3}k}{2}, \quad A = \frac{\sqrt{3}F}{2k}$$



$$b = \frac{2}{\sqrt{3}} k \omega$$

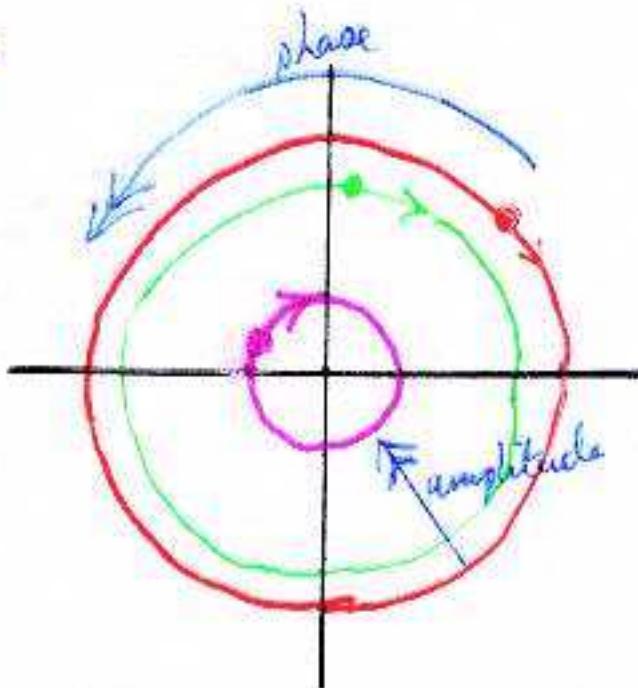
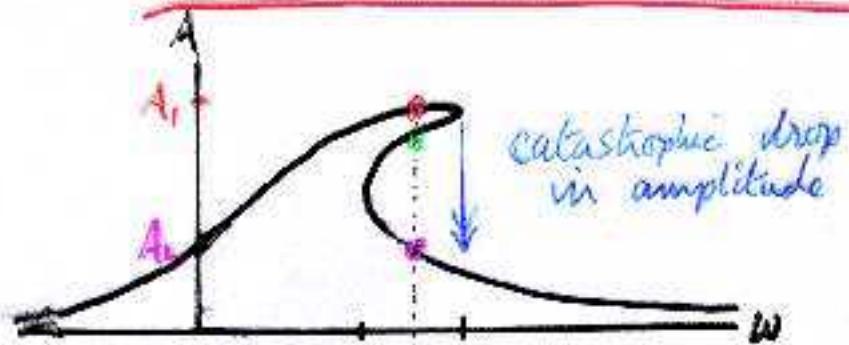
Maxima  
 $\frac{b}{a} = \frac{8}{9}$

axis of wif

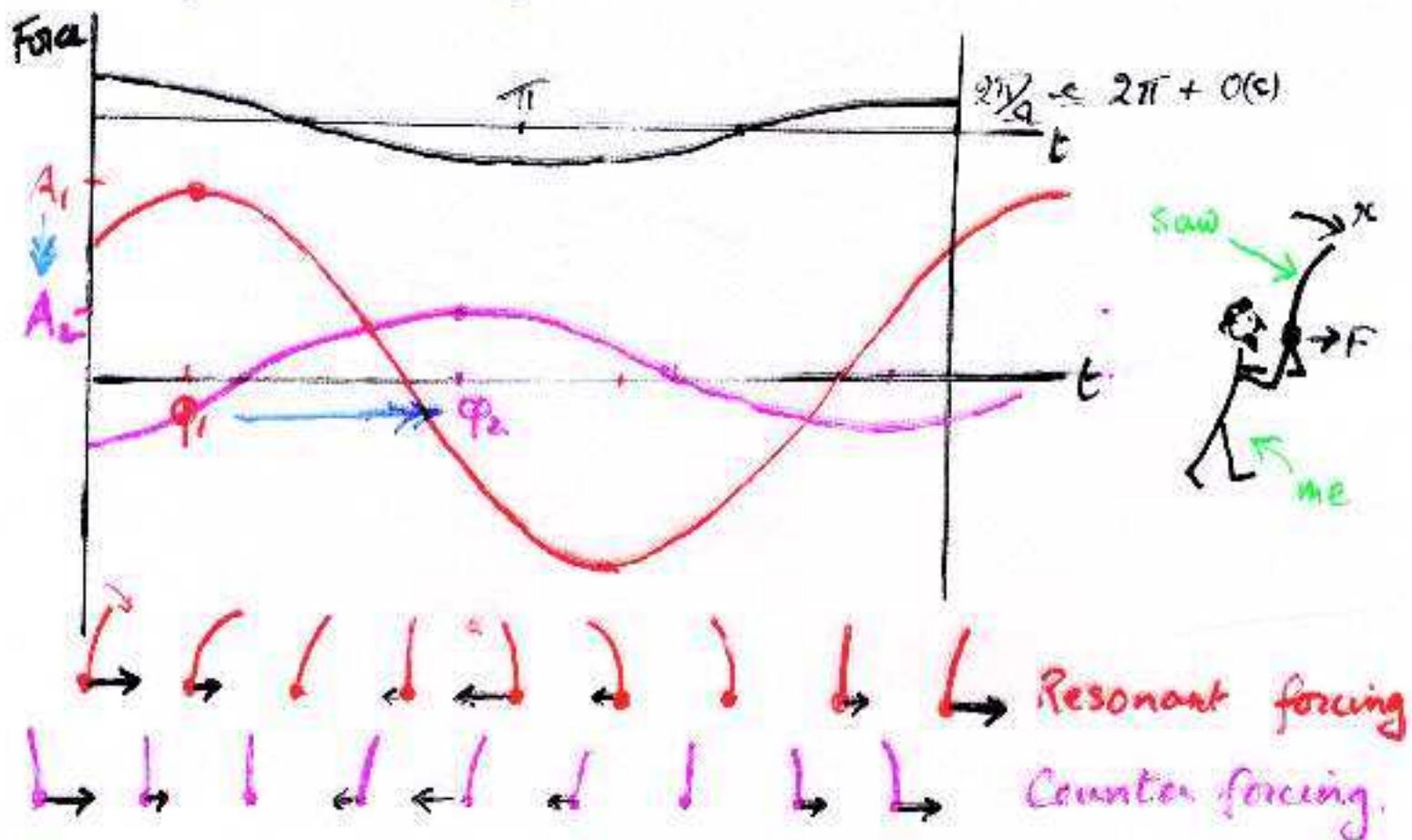
$$\frac{b-1}{a-1} = \frac{2}{3}$$

$$a = \frac{9\sqrt{3} F^2}{32 k^3} \propto$$

# HARD SPRING EXPERIMENT ( $\alpha > 0$ )



Gradually increase forcing frequency



## POSSIBLE APPLICATIONS TO BRAIN MODELLING.

- 1. Sensory inputs
- 2. Memory recall
- 3. Switches of mood
- 4. Anorexia / bulimia
- 5. Manic / depression
- 6. Circadian rhythm & cortisol dysfunction
- 7. Regulation.

## SENSORY INPUTS

Sensory input  
↑ amplitude  
(e.g. ↑ light intensity)

sensory  
mechanism<sup>n</sup>

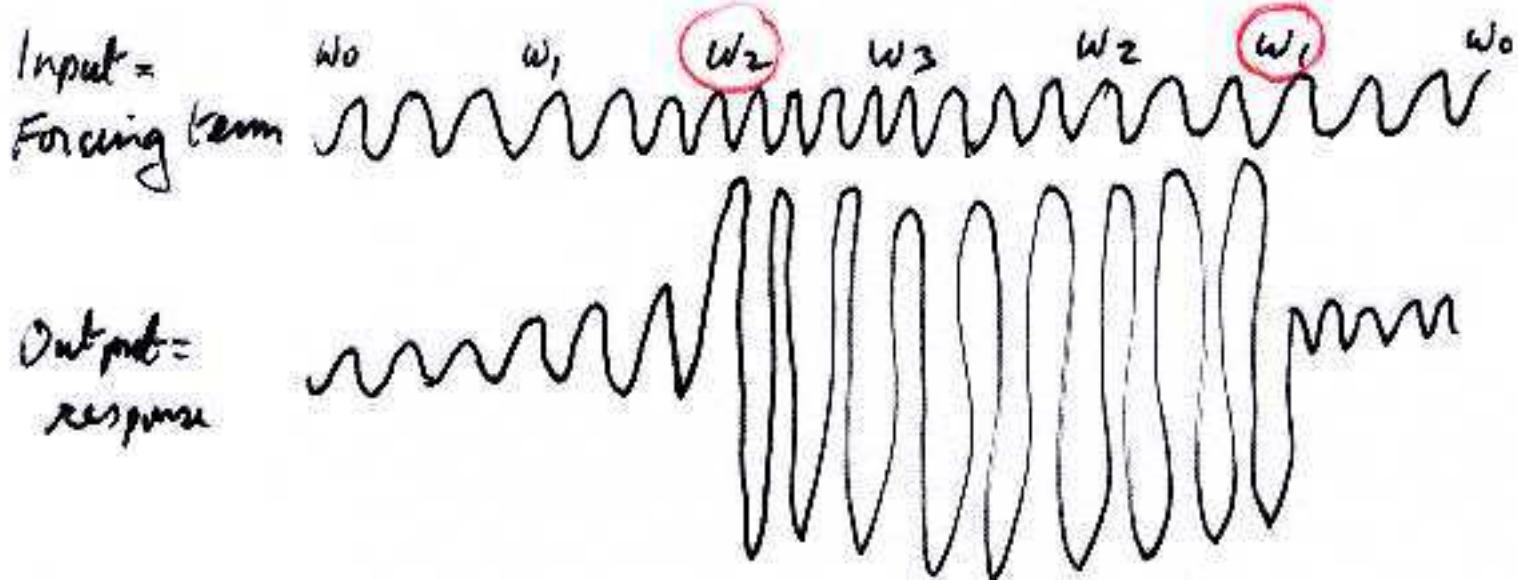
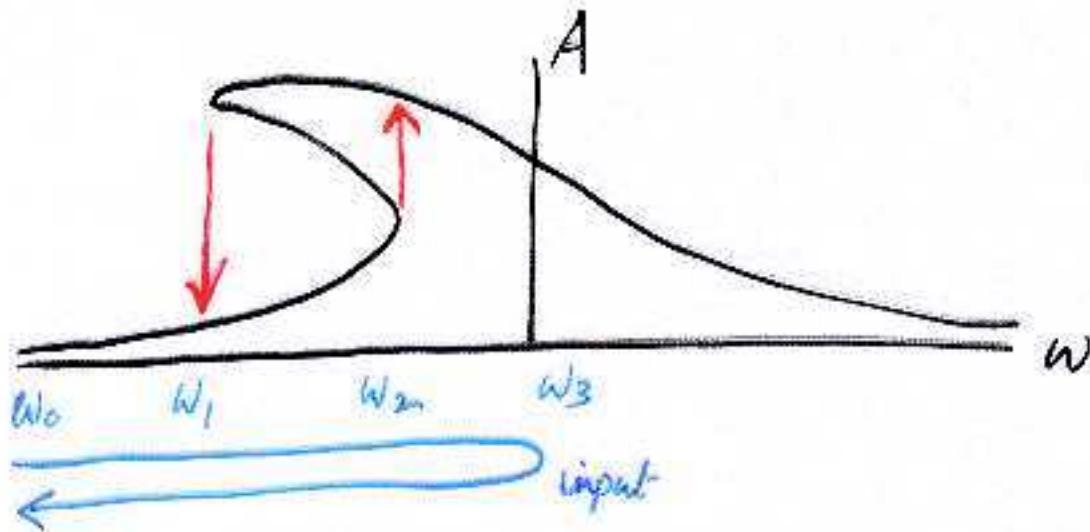


↑ frequency /  
neuronal firing  
in optic nerve

Duffing

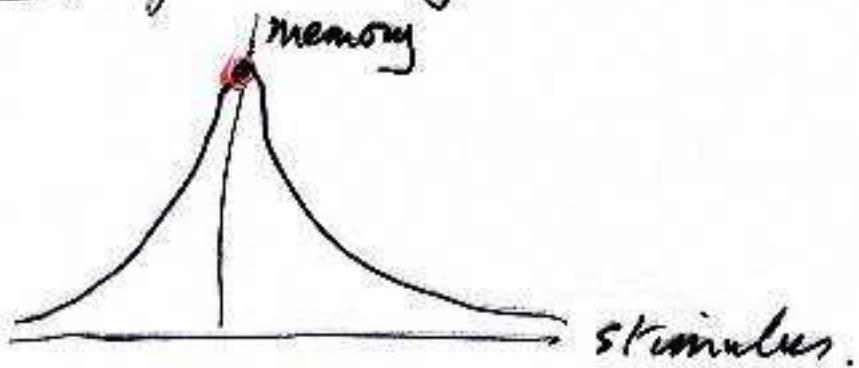
↑ amplitude  
of response  
in optic  
cortex

Use SOFT SPRING model



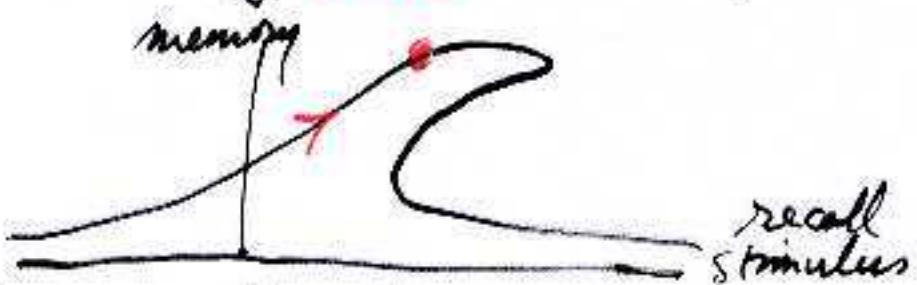
## MEMORY RECALL

- ① Laying down of a memory trace modelled by resonance



- ② Recall of a familiar memory.

If the memory, or closely related thoughts, have been stimulated recently, facilitating the neural networks, thereby making a hard spring, then the memory flows to mind



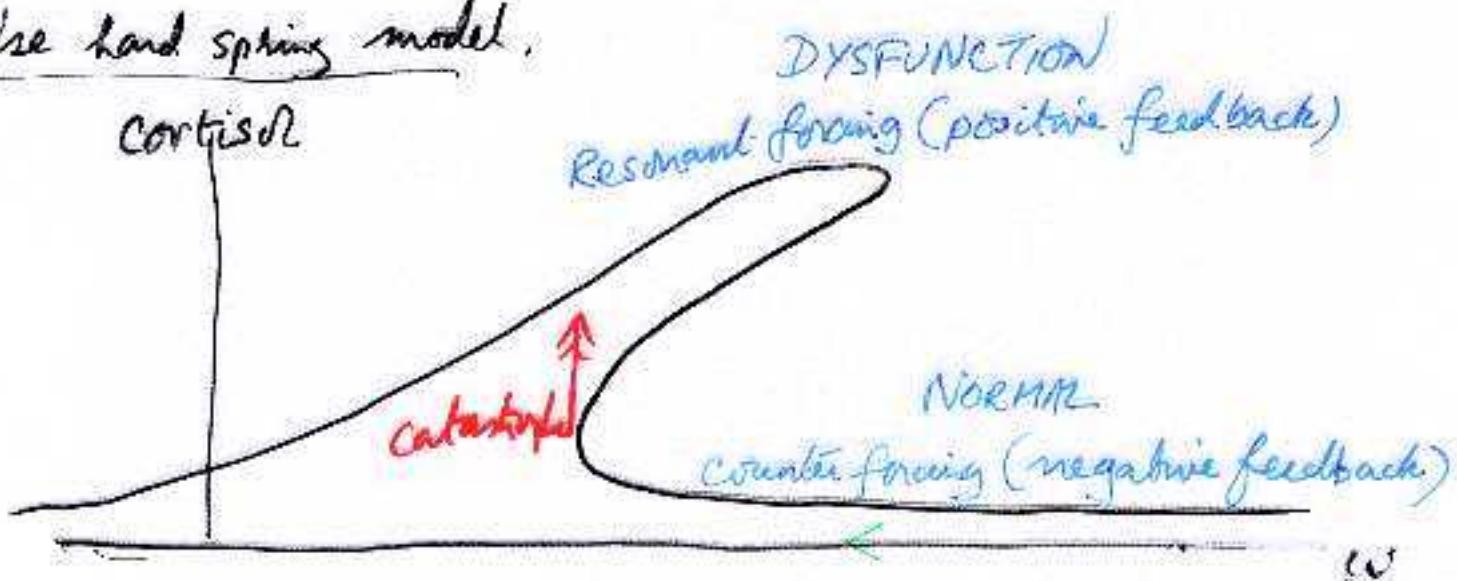
- ③ Recall of an unfamiliar memory

If the memory has lain dormant, decay will inhibit the neural networks, thereby creating a soft spring, & the memory will spring to mind



## CIRCADIAN RHYTHM & CORTISOL DYSFUNCTION

Use hand spring model.



Suppose

- ① There is an increase in the internal circadian rhythm (the body's 24-hour clock)
- ② Then there is a relative decrease in the external circadian rhythm (day & night)
- ③ This can cause a catastrophic switch from counter-forcing (negative feedback) to resonant-forcing (positive feedback) in the production of cortisol.
- ④ This causes exaggerated cortisol levels at night (sleeplessness) & lack of cortisol by day (lethargy), leading to depression. (cf. Cushing's Syndrome) 20