I. Application of Multiple Timescale Methods

A. We'll see how to apply this powerful analytical method with a simple example first.

B. Example - Duffing's Equation

1. A simple nonlinear oscillator problem is given by Duffing's Equation $\frac{d^2x}{dt^2} = -x + x^3$

(For more info, see http://mathworld.wolfram.com/DuffingDifferentialEquation.html)

2. To solve this problem, we will assume the system evolves on two, separable timescales: Short t

Long $\tau = \epsilon^2 t$

b. We will treat these as separate variables.

c. Here $\epsilon \ll 1$ is a small dimensionless number, used for bookkeeping.

d. NOTE: $\frac{d}{dt} = \frac{\partial}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial \tau}{\partial t}\frac{\partial}{\partial \tau} = \frac{\partial}{\partial t} + \epsilon^2 \frac{\partial}{\partial \tau}$

$$\frac{d^2}{dt^2} = \frac{\partial^2}{\partial t^2} + 2\epsilon^2 \frac{\partial^2}{\partial t \partial \tau} + \epsilon^4 \frac{\partial^2}{\partial \tau^2}$$

3. ~~As~~ Usual with the simple harmonic oscillator, we'll make the assumption of small amplitude oscillations.

Expand Solution $\longrightarrow$ $x(t,\tau) = \epsilon x_1(t,\tau) + \epsilon^2 x_2(t,\tau) + \epsilon^3 x_3(t,\tau) + \dots$

4. Plug expansion for x and $\frac{d}{dt}$ into original equation:

$$\frac{\partial^2}{\partial t^2}(\epsilon x_1 + \epsilon^2 x_2 + \epsilon^3 x_3) + 2\epsilon^2 \frac{\partial^2}{\partial t \partial \tau}(\epsilon x_1 + \epsilon^2 x_2 + \cancel{\epsilon^3 x_3}) \cancel{+ \epsilon^4 \frac{\partial^2}{\partial \tau^2}(\epsilon x_1 + \epsilon^2 x_2 + \epsilon^3 x_3)}$$

$$= -(\epsilon x_1 + \epsilon^2 x_2 + \epsilon^3 x_3) + (\epsilon^3 x_1^3 + 3\epsilon^4 x_1^2 x_2 + 3\epsilon^5 x_1 x_2^2 + 3\epsilon^5 x_1^2 x_3 + \dots)$$

Lec #4 (Continued)

I. B. (Continued)

5. Find equations at each power of ϵ:

a. $\mathcal{O}(\epsilon)$: $\dfrac{\partial^2 x_1}{\partial t^2} = -x_1$

b. $\mathcal{O}(\epsilon^2)$: $\dfrac{\partial^2 x_2}{\partial t^2} = -x_2$

c. $\mathcal{O}(\epsilon^3)$: $\dfrac{\partial^2 x_3}{\partial t^2} + 2\dfrac{\partial^2 x_1}{\partial t \partial \tau} = -x_3 + x_1^3$

⋮

6. Solve $\mathcal{O}(\epsilon)$ equation:

a. General solution for $x_1(t,\tau)$: $\boxed{x_1(t,\tau) = A(\tau)\cos t + B(\tau)\sin t}$

b. On the short timescale t, $A(\tau)$ and $B(\tau)$ are treated as constants. The higher order equations will allow us to solve for $A(\tau)$, $B(\tau)$

7. $\mathcal{O}(\epsilon^2)$ equation does not tell us anything new.

8. Solve $\mathcal{O}(\epsilon^3)$ equation:

a. We have solved for x_1, so we can substitute in:

NOTE: $\dfrac{\partial^2 x_1}{\partial t \partial \tau} = -\dfrac{\partial A}{\partial \tau}\sin t + \dfrac{\partial B}{\partial \tau}\cos t$

b. Thus: $\dfrac{\partial^2 x_3}{\partial t^2} + x_3 = 2\dfrac{\partial A}{\partial \tau}\sin t - 2\dfrac{\partial B}{\partial \tau}\cos t + A^3\cos^3 t + 3A^2B\cos^2 t\sin t + 3AB^2\cos t\sin^2 t$
$+ B^3\sin^3 t$

c. 1. We assume the x_3 is periodic over one oscillation $[0, 2\pi]$

2. Therefore, we can annihilate x_3 by averaging over an oscillation.

d. TRICK: Multiply the equation by $\sin t$ and integrate $\int_0^{2\pi} dt$

1. LHS: $\displaystyle\int_0^{2\pi} \sin t\left(\frac{\partial^2 x_3}{\partial t^2} + x_3\right)dt$

i. Integrate by parts twice on first term:

$$\int_0^{2\pi} \sin t \frac{\partial^2 x_3}{\partial t^2}\,dt = \cancel{\sin t \frac{\partial x_3}{\partial t}\Big|_0^{2\pi}}^{\,0} - \cancel{\cos t\, x_3\Big|_0^{2\pi}}^{\,0} - \int \sin t\, x_3\, dt$$

by periodicity of x_3

ii. Thus $\displaystyle\int_0^{2\pi} \sin t\,(-x_3 + x_3)\,dt = 0$

E.B.8d. (Continued)

2. RHS: $\frac{2\partial A}{\partial \tau}\int_0^{2\pi}\sin^2 t\,dt = 2\pi\frac{\partial A}{\partial \tau}$

$-2\frac{\partial B}{\partial \tau}\int_0^{2\pi}\sin t\cos t\,dt = -2\frac{\partial B}{\partial \tau}\left[\frac{\sin^2 t}{2}\right]_0^{2\pi} = 0$

$A^3\int_0^{2\pi}\sin t\cos^3 t\,dt = A^3\left[\frac{-\cos^4 t}{4}\right]_0^{2\pi} = 0$

$3A^2B\int_0^{2\pi}\cos^2 t\sin^2 t\,dt = 3A^2B\int_0^{2\pi}(\sin^2 t - \sin^4 t)dt = 3A^2B\left(\pi - \frac{3\pi}{4}\right)$
$= \frac{3\pi}{4}A^2B$

$3AB^2\int_0^{2\pi}\sin^3 t\cos t\,dt = 3AB^2\left[\frac{\sin^4 t}{4}\right]_0^{2\pi} = 0$

$B^3\int_0^{2\pi}\sin^4 t\,dt = \frac{3\pi}{4}B^3$

NOTE: 1. $\int_0^{2\pi}\sin^2 t\,dt = \pi$

2. $\int_0^{2\pi}\sin^4 t\,dt = \frac{3\pi}{4}$

3. Thus RHS $= 2\pi\frac{\partial A}{\partial \tau} + \frac{3\pi}{4}A^2B + \frac{3\pi}{4}B^3$

4. Thus
$$\frac{\partial A}{\partial \tau} = -\frac{3}{8}(A^2B + B^3) = -\frac{3}{8}(A^2+B^2)B$$

e. We can perform the same trick, this time multiplying by $\cos t$ and $\int_0^{2\pi}dt$.

1. Again LHS = 0
2. RHS $= -2\pi\frac{\partial B}{\partial \tau} + \frac{3\pi}{4}A^3 + \frac{3\pi}{4}AB^2$
3. Thus
$$\frac{\partial B}{\partial \tau} = \frac{3}{8}(A^3 + AB^2) = \frac{3}{8}(A^2+B^2)A$$

f. Thus, we have
$$\boxed{\begin{aligned}\frac{\partial A}{\partial \tau} &= -\frac{3}{8}(A^2+B^2)B \\ \frac{\partial B}{\partial \tau} &= \frac{3}{8}(A^2+B^2)A\end{aligned}}$$