Physics 339

Consider a forcing function f(t) that is a single-humped sinusoidal that starts at t = 0 and ends (returns to zero) at t = T and has a total impulse (area) of 1:

$$f(t) = \begin{cases} 0 & t < 0\\ \frac{\pi}{2T} \sin(\pi t/T) & 0 < t < T\\ 0 & t > T \end{cases}$$
(1)

If T is short compared to the free oscillation period (i.e.,  $T \ll 2\pi/\omega_1$ ) the result should be similar to a delta function impulse, i.e., a sudden change in velocity  $\Delta v = 1$ . If T is long compared to the free oscillation period you might expect the oscillator to 'ride out' the force. Following the example from class (which is in greens.m) start with variables not given any numerical value:

w1=Sqrt[w0^2-b^2] begin=Pi/(2 T) Integrate[Sin[Pi tp/T] Exp[-b (t-tp)]Sin[w1(t-tp)],{tp,0,t}]/w1 end=Pi/(2 T) Integrate[Sin[Pi tp/T] Exp[-b (t-tp)]Sin[w1(t-tp)],{tp,0,T}]/w1 x[t\_]=If[t<T,Evaluate[begin],Evaluate[end]]</pre>

**Q:** The online example had terms **begin**, **start**, and **end**. Why are there only two terms in this problem; i.e., explain why the above Mathematica code matches the general formula we proved for a Green's function solution:

$$x(t) = \int_{-\infty}^{t} f(t') G(t, t') dt'$$
(2)

$$= \int_{-\infty}^{t} f(t') \frac{1}{\omega_1} e^{-\beta(t-t')} \sin(\omega_1(t-t')) dt'$$
(3)

For our usual example ( $\omega_0 = 1; \beta = .01$ ) plot solutions x(t) for the cases  $T = 20\pi, 10\pi, 5\pi, 2.5\pi, \pi, \pi/10$ . (It would be nice to put these in a GraphicsGrid to save paper.) For the the case  $T = \pi/10$  also plot x'(t) and confirm that—immediately post-impulse—the velocity is 1 as expected.