
Mass & Spring Systems & The Wave Equation

ECE 461/661 Controls Systems

Jake Glower - Lecture #15

Please visit [Bison Academy](#) for corresponding
lecture notes, homework sets, and solutions

Mass & Spring Systems

Each mass has two energy states: Differential equation is of order $2N$

- Kinetic Energy
- Potential Energy

Strategy: (Electrical engineering approach to mass / spring systems)

- Replace the mass, spring, and friction terms with their Laplace admittance,
 - Redraw the system as an electric circuit, and
 - Write the voltage node equations.
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LaPlace Admittances

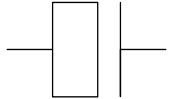

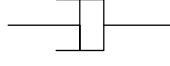
- Force = Current
- Position = Voltage

Mechanical World

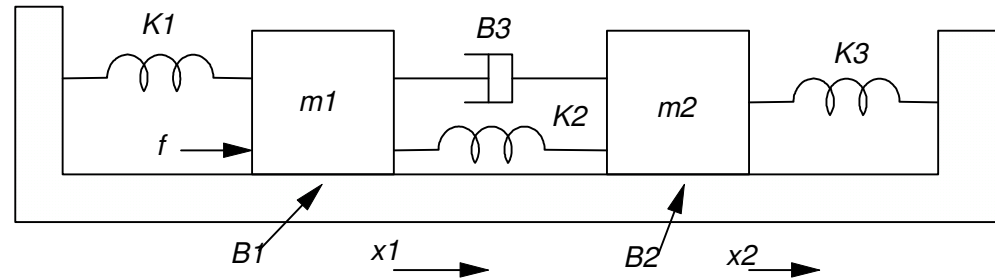
Force = Mass * Acceleration

Electrical World

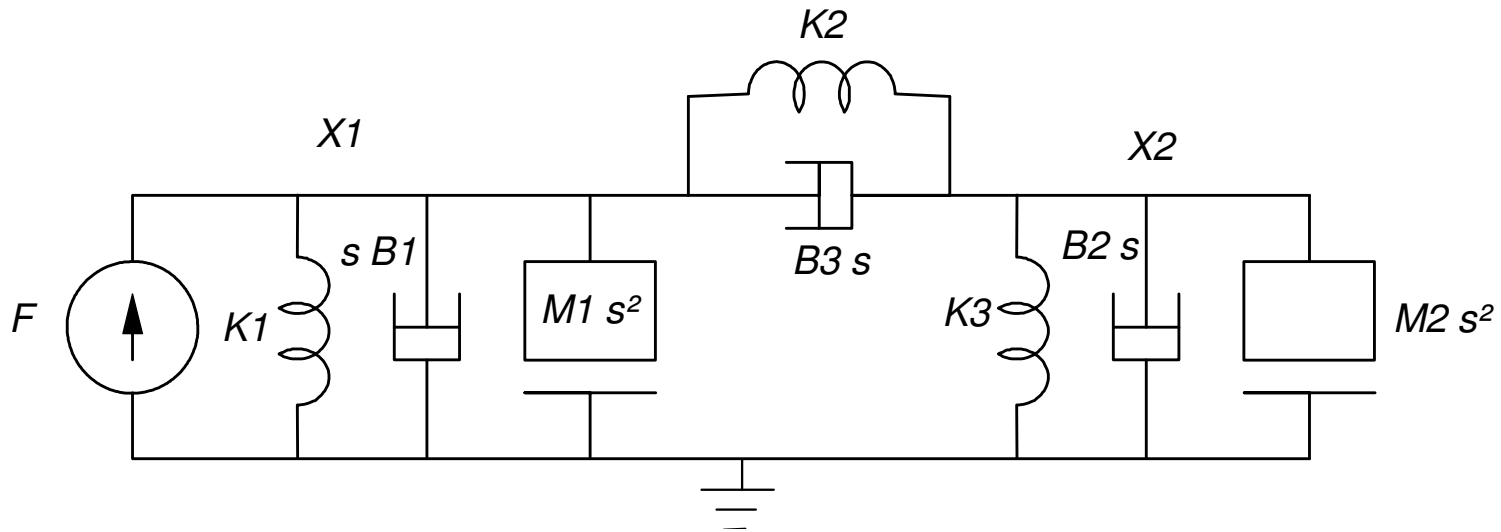
Current = Admittance * Voltage

	Symbol	F = ...	LaPlace Admittance
Mass		$f = m x''$	$s^2 m$
Spring		$f = k x$	k
Friction		$f = B x'$ $f = f_v x'$	sB $s f_v$

Example: Mass Spring System



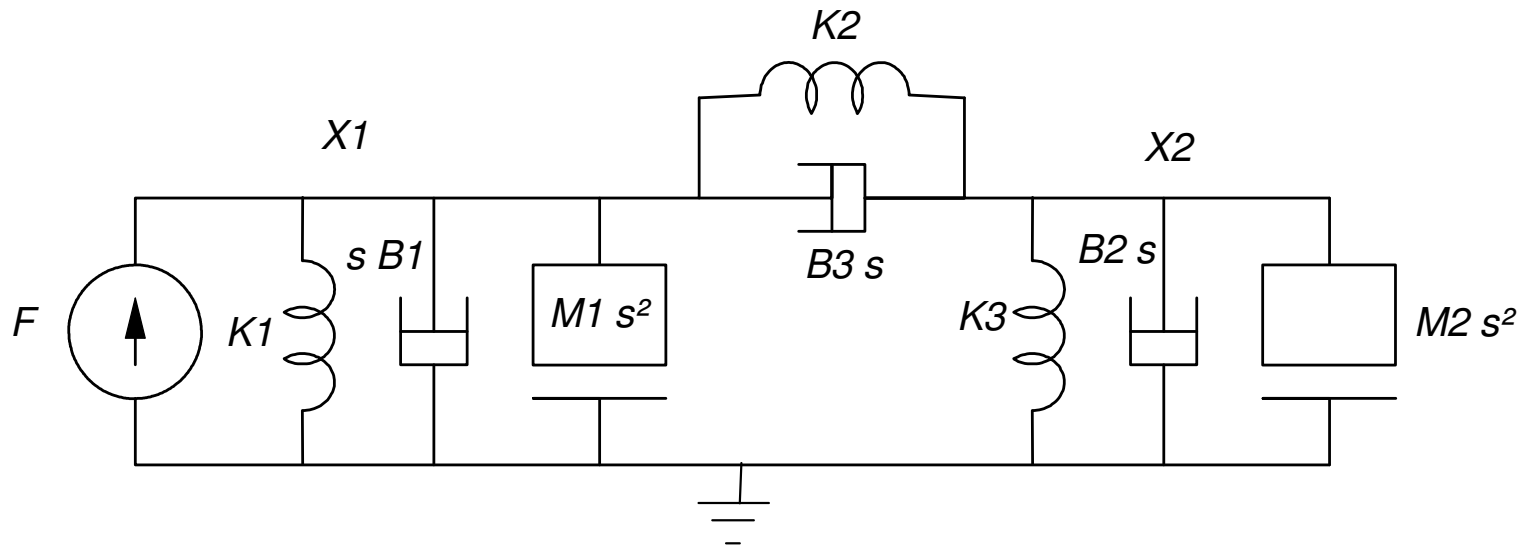
Step 1: Draw the circuit equivalent:



Step 2: Write the voltage node equations

$$(K_1 + B_1s + M_1s^2 + K_2 + B_3s)X_1 - (K_2 + B_3s)X_2 = F$$

$$(M_2s^2 + B_2s + K_3 + K_2 + B_3s)X_2 - (K_2 + B_3s)X_1 = 0$$



Step 3: Solve

- hint: use State-Space

Solve for the highest derivative:

$$M_1 s^2 X_1 = -(K_1 + K_2 + B_1 s + B_3 s) X_1 + (K_2 + B_3 s) X_2 + F$$

$$M_2 s^2 X_2 = -(B_2 s + K_3 + K_2 + B_3 s) X_2 + (K_2 + B_3 s) X_1$$

Place in matrix form

$$s \begin{bmatrix} X_1 \\ X_2 \\ \dots \\ sX_1 \\ sX_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & \vdots & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \vdots & 0 & 1 \\ \dots & \dots & \vdots & \dots & \dots \\ \left(\frac{-(K_1+K_2)}{M_1}\right) & \left(\frac{K_2}{M_1}\right) & \vdots & \left(\frac{-(B_1+B_3)}{M_1}\right) & \left(\frac{B_3}{M_1}\right) \\ \left(\frac{K_2}{M_2}\right) & \left(\frac{-(K_2+K_3)}{M_2}\right) & \vdots & \left(\frac{B_3}{M_2}\right) & \left(\frac{-(B_2+B_3)}{M_2}\right) \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} X_1 \\ X_2 \\ \dots \\ sX_1 \\ sX_2 \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ \dots \\ \left(\frac{1}{M_1}\right) \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} F$$

$$Y = X_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} X_1 \\ X_2 \\ sX_1 \\ sX_2 \end{bmatrix} + [0]F$$

Note that

- You have $2N$ states, where N is the number of masses. Each mass has two energy states (kinetic and potential energy) giving your $2N$ state variables.
- The first N rows are $[0 : I]$ where I is the identity matrix. This tells MATLAB that the states are position and velocity.
- The last N rows are where the dynamics come into play.

Also also, you can have real or complex poles for mass-spring systems - unlike the heat equation which always has real poles.

Finding the Transfer Function to X2

Assume $M = 1\text{kg}$, $B = 2\text{ Ns/m}$, $K = 10\text{ N/m}$

$$s \begin{bmatrix} X_1 \\ X_2 \\ sX_1 \\ sX_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ -20 & 10 & -4 & 2 \\ 10 & -20 & 2 & -4 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} X_1 \\ X_2 \\ sX_1 \\ sX_2 \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} F$$

$$A = [0, 0, 1, 0 ; 0, 0, 0, 1 ; -20, 10, -4, 2 ; 10, -20, 2, -4];$$

$$B = [0; 0; 1; 0];$$

$$C = [0, 1, 0, 0];$$

$$D = 0;$$

$$G = ss(A, B, C, D)$$

$$\text{zpk}(G)$$

$$2 (s+5)$$

$$(s^2 + 2s + 10) (s^2 + 6s + 30)$$

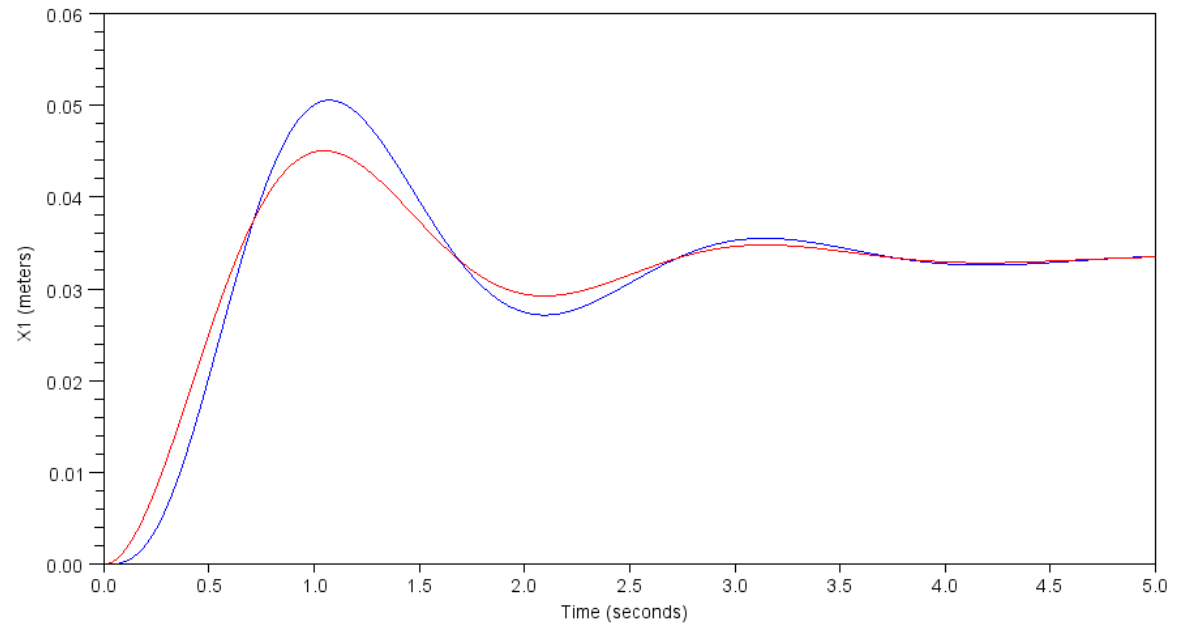
2nd-Order Approximation

- Dominant pole: $s = -1 \pm j3$
- DC gain = 0.03333

```
DC = evalfr(G, 0)
    0.0333333
```

So

$$X_2 \approx \left(\frac{0.3333}{(s+1 \pm j3)} \right) F$$



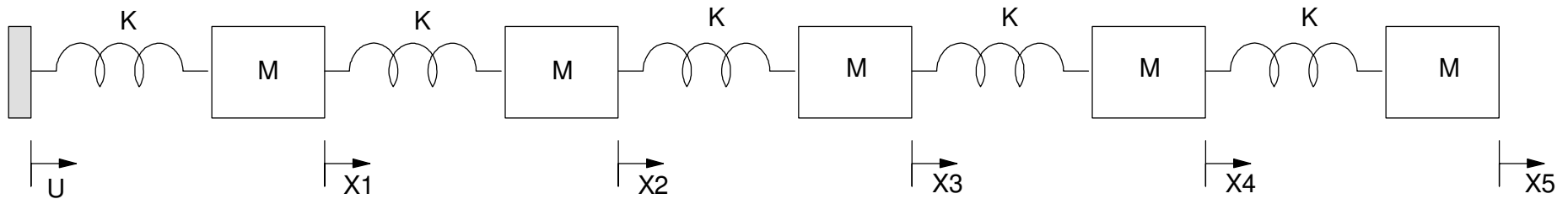
Wave Equation: (fun stuff)

N masses connected by springs:

- Coupled 2nd-order differential equations

$$\frac{d^2 x_i}{dt^2} = f(x_{i-1}, x_i, x_{i+1})$$

- "Wave Equation"



Cascaded Mass-Spring Systems creates the Wave equation

Dynamics:

Node #2

$$Ms^2x_2 = Kx_1 - 2Kx_2 + Kx_3$$

$$s^2x_2 = \left(\frac{K}{M}\right)x_1 - \left(\frac{2K}{M}\right)x_2 + \left(\frac{K}{M}\right)x_3$$

Other nodes are similar

With 30 nodes, you get a 60th order differential equation

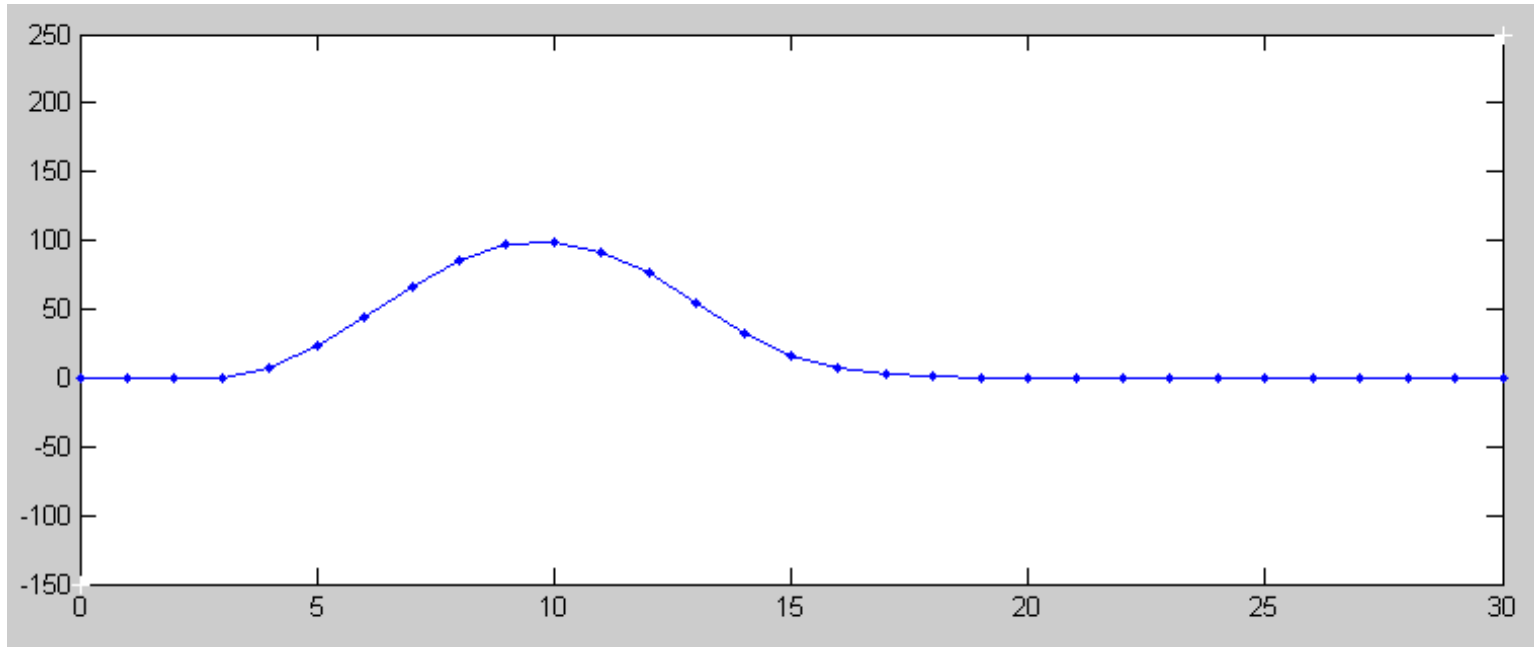
- Each node has two energy states
 - Potential Energy
 - Kinetic Energy



30-Node Model

- $K/M = 50$
- Friction to ground = 0.01
- Snap V_0

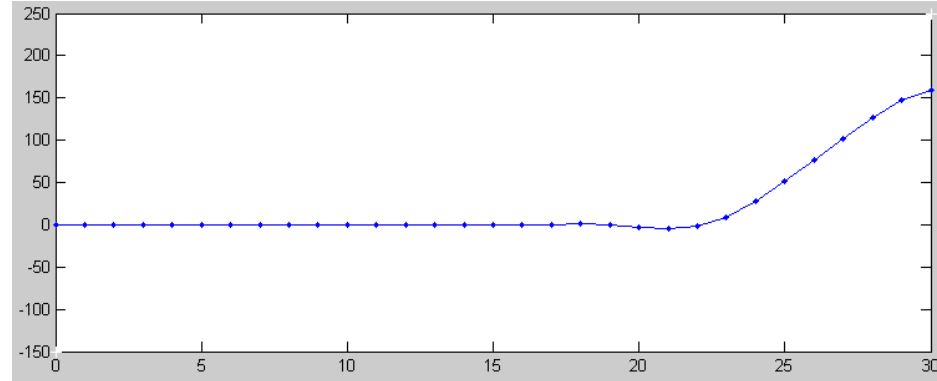
Produces a traveling wave



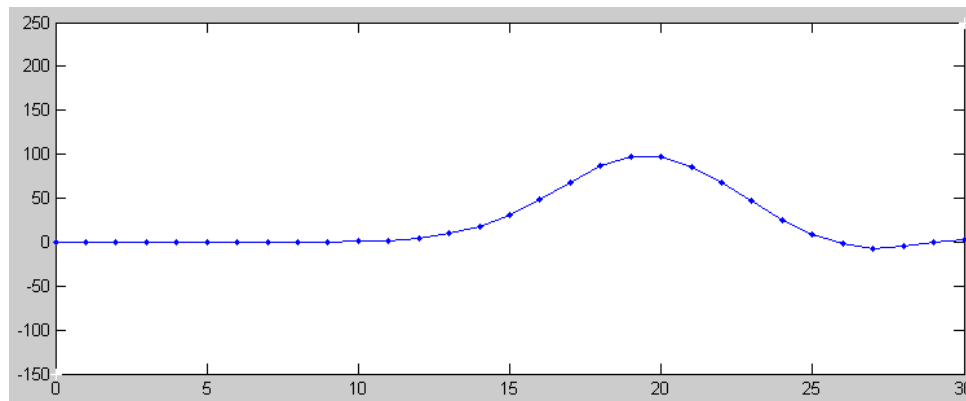
$t = 2$ seconds. Wave traveling to the right

Reflections:

- Free endpoint causes a + reflection



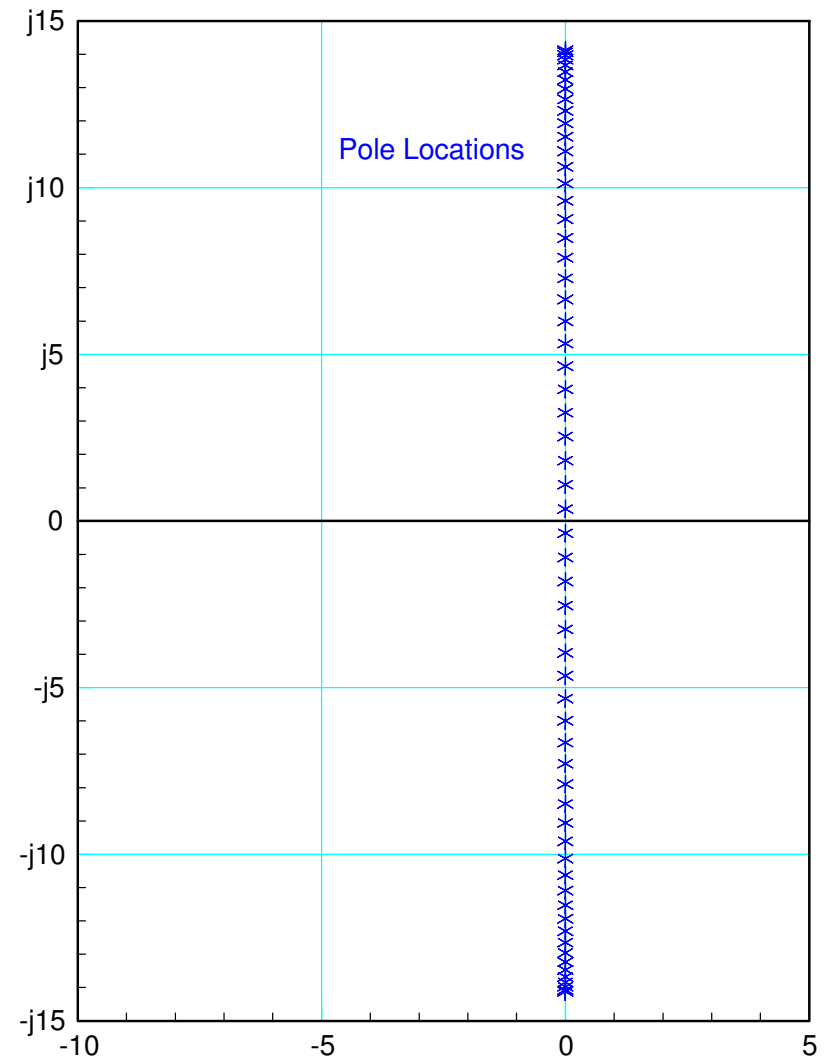
t = 5 seconds. Wave hits the right endpoint



t = 7 seconds. Reflection is now traveling to the left

Really hard system to control

- 60th order system
- All 60 poles are dominant
 - All on the $j\omega$ axis
 - Scattered from $-j14.5$ to $+j14.5$
- 2nd-Order approximations don't work well for this system



Wave.m

```
N = 30;    % number of nodes

V = zeros(N,1);
dV = zeros(N,1);

t = 0;
dt = 0.01;

while(t < 100)

    if (t < 2) V0 = 100 * ( ( sin(0.5*pi*t) )^2 );
        else V0 = 0;
        end

    ddV(1) = 50*V0 - 100*V(1) + 50*V(2) - 0.01*dV(1);

    for i=2:N-1
        ddV(i) = 50*V(i-1) - 100*V(i) + 50*V(i+1) - 0.01*dV(i);
    end

    ddV(N) = 50*V(N-1) - 50*V(N) - 0.01*dV(N);

    for i=1:N
        dV(i) = dV(i) + ddV(i)*dt;
```

```
    V(i) = V(i) + dV(i)*dt;  
    end  
    t = t + dt;  
  
    plot([0:N], [V0;V], '.-');  
    ylim([-100,150]);  
    pause(0.01);  
  
end
```
