
ECE 2C, notes set 10: Second-Order System Examples

Mark Rodwell

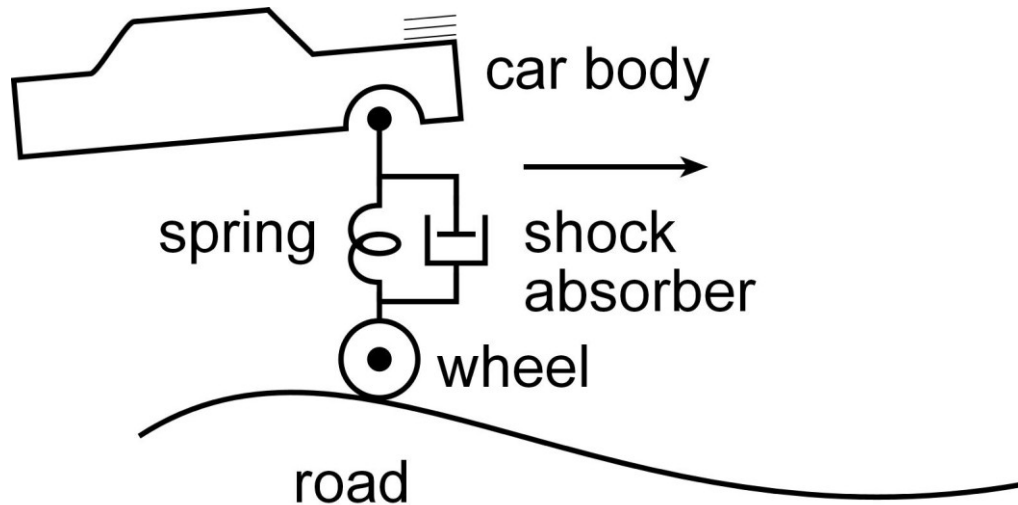
University of California, Santa Barbara

Goals of this note set

Practice analysis of 2nd - order systems.

Understand resonance and damping.

Car Suspension: 2nd-order system



Car drives over rough road.

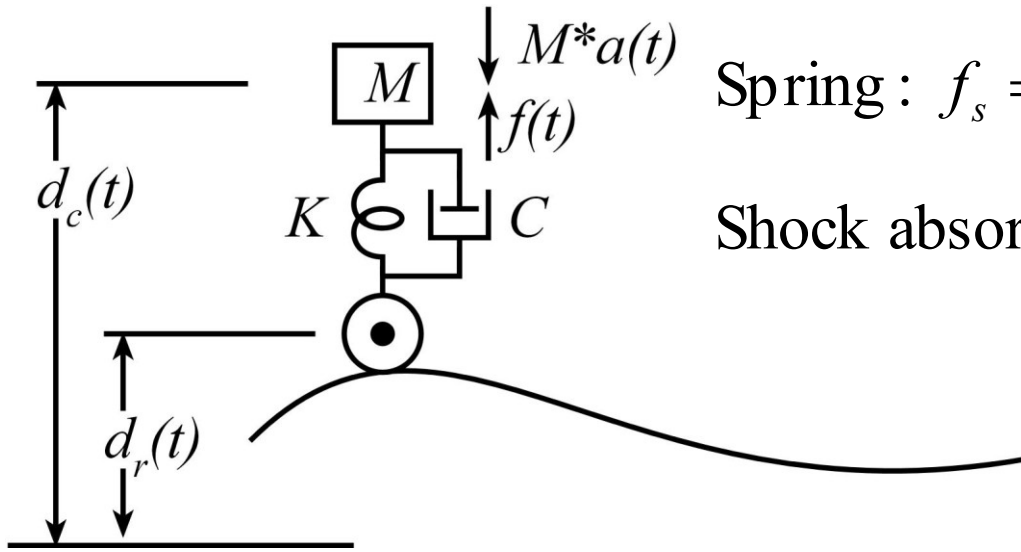
Goals :

car body follow slow up - down variations of road → handling

car body not follow fast up - down variations → comfort.

avoid resonant / bouncing behavior : both

Car Suspension: Model



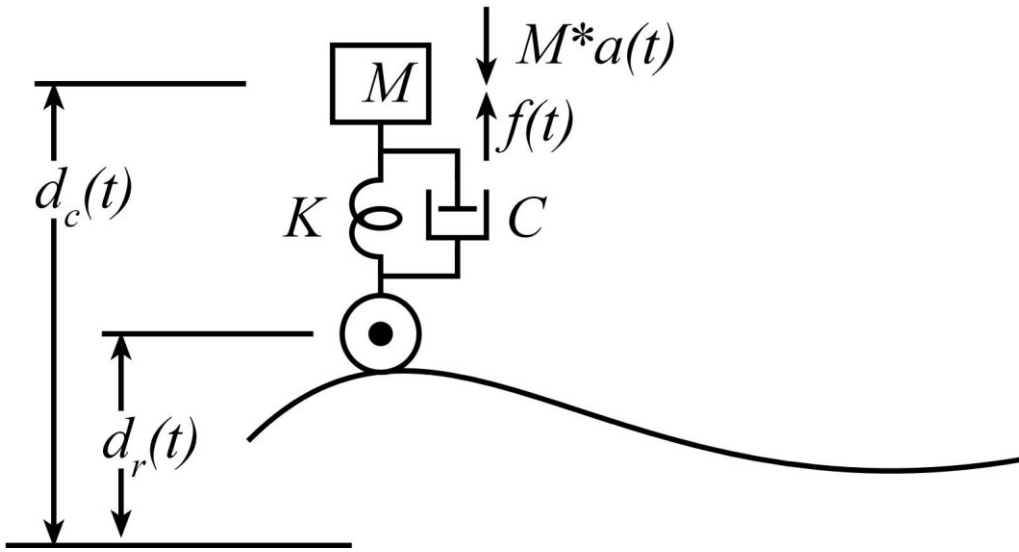
Spring: $f_s = -K(d_c(t) - d_r(t))$

Shock absorber: $f_a = -C \left(\frac{\partial d_c(t)}{\partial t} - \frac{\partial d_r(t)}{\partial t} \right)$

Newtons' Law: $f(t) = ma(t) = m \frac{\partial^2 d_c(t)}{\partial t^2}$

$$m \frac{\partial^2 d_c(t)}{\partial t^2} = -K(d_c(t) - d_r(t)) - C \left(\frac{\partial d_c(t)}{\partial t} - \frac{\partial d_r(t)}{\partial t} \right)$$

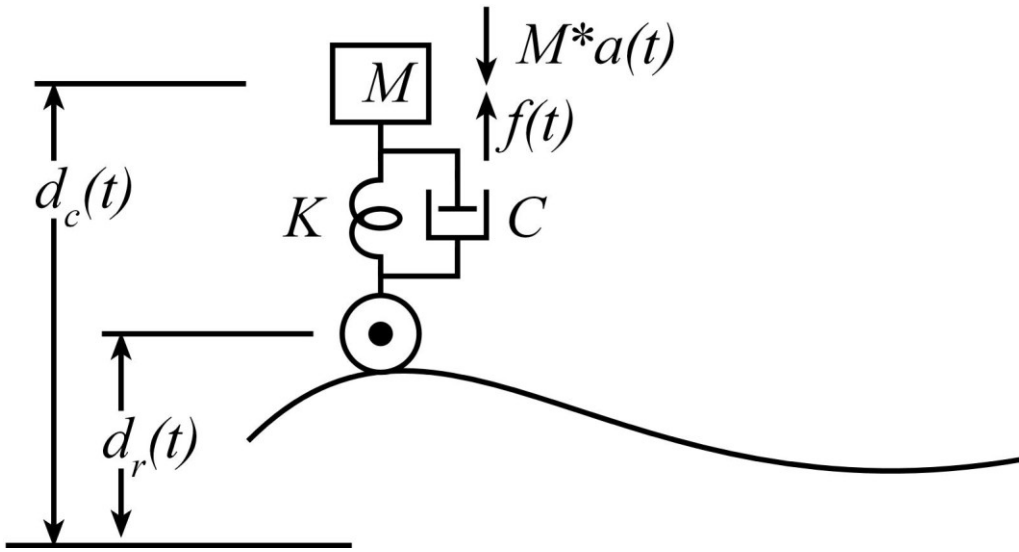
Car Suspension: Differential Equation



$$m \frac{\partial^2 d_c(t)}{\partial t^2} = -K(d_c(t) - d_r(t)) - C \left(\frac{\partial d_c(t)}{\partial t} - \frac{\partial d_r(t)}{\partial t} \right)$$

$$Kd_c(t) + C \frac{\partial d_c(t)}{\partial t} + m \frac{\partial^2 d_c(t)}{\partial t^2} = Kd_r(t) + C \frac{\partial d_r(t)}{\partial t}$$

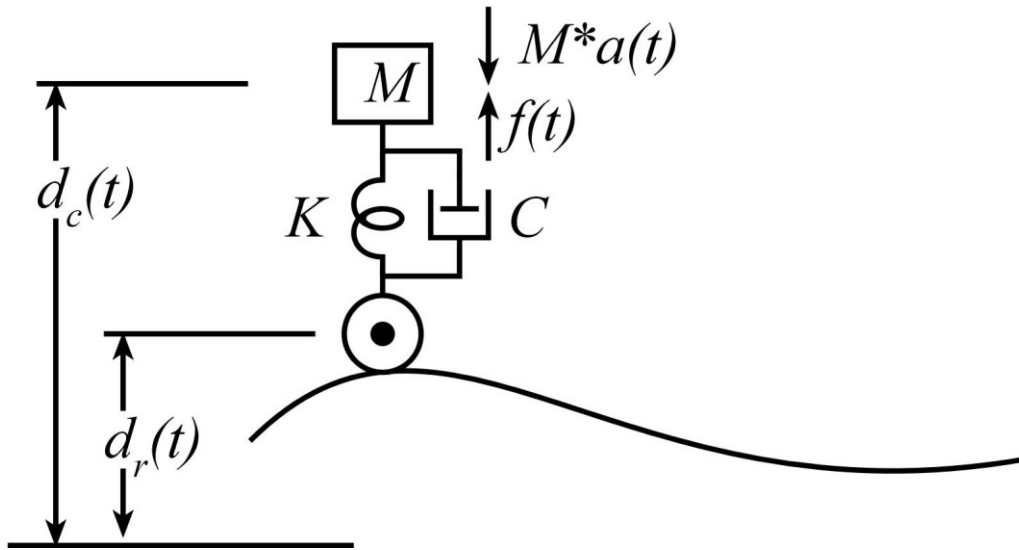
Car Suspension: LaPlace Domain



$$KD_c(s) + sCD_c(s) + s^2mD_c(s) = KD_r(s) + s^2CD_r(s)$$

$$\frac{D_c(s)}{D_r(s)} = H(s) = \frac{K + sC}{K + sC + s^2m} = \frac{1 + sC/K}{1 + sC/K + s^2m/K}$$

Car Suspension: Transfer Function, Standard Form



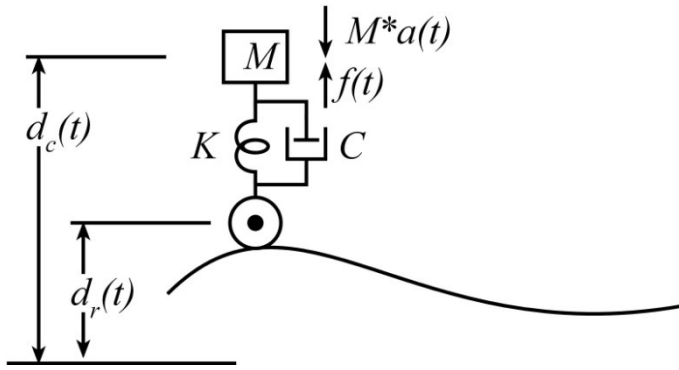
$$H(s) = \frac{1 + sC/K}{1 + sC/K + s^2m/K} = \frac{1 + s(2\zeta / \omega_n)}{1 + s(2\zeta / \omega_n) + s^2 / \omega_n^2}$$

natural resonant frequency = $\omega_n = \sqrt{K/m}$

$$\frac{2\zeta}{\omega_n} = \frac{C}{K} \rightarrow 2\zeta \sqrt{\frac{m}{K}} = \frac{C}{K} \rightarrow \zeta = \frac{1}{2} \frac{C}{K} \sqrt{\frac{K}{m}} = \frac{1}{2} \frac{C}{\sqrt{mK}}$$

damping factor = $\zeta = \frac{1}{2} \frac{C}{\sqrt{mK}}$

Car Suspension: Transfer Function



$$H(s) = \frac{1 + s(2\zeta / \omega_n)}{1 + s(2\zeta / \omega_n) + s^2 / \omega_n^2}$$

natural resonant frequency = $\omega_n = \sqrt{K / m}$

$$\text{damping factor} = \zeta = \frac{1}{2} \frac{C}{\sqrt{mK}}$$

Shock absorbers damp the mechanical resonance; prevent vibration.

Suspension : low - pass characteristics :

Slow variation : car follows it.

fast variation : suspension kills it.

Expensive cars today : Add microprocessor - controlled motor to system.

→ electronic control of damping and resonance.

Car Suspension: Root Locus (underdamped)

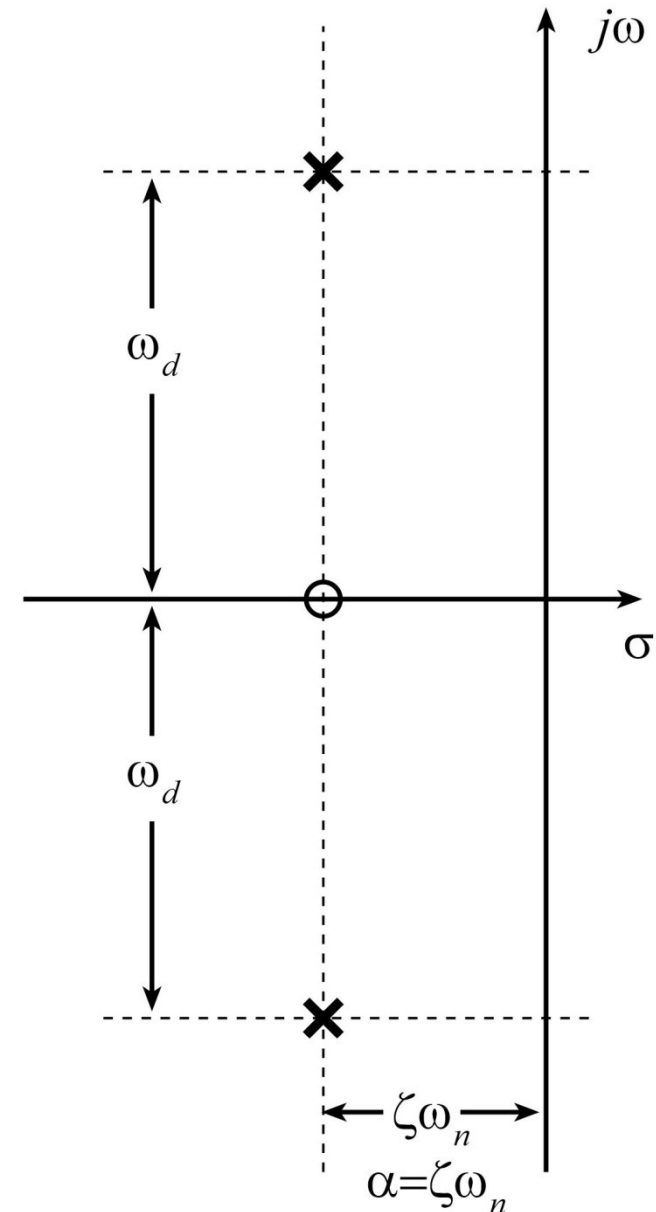
$$H(s) = \frac{1 + s(2\zeta / \omega_n)}{1 + s(2\zeta / \omega_n) + s^2 / \omega_n^2}$$

natural resonant frequency = $\omega_n = \sqrt{K / m}$

damping factor = $\zeta = \frac{1}{2} \frac{C}{\sqrt{mK}}$

Note the zero (!).

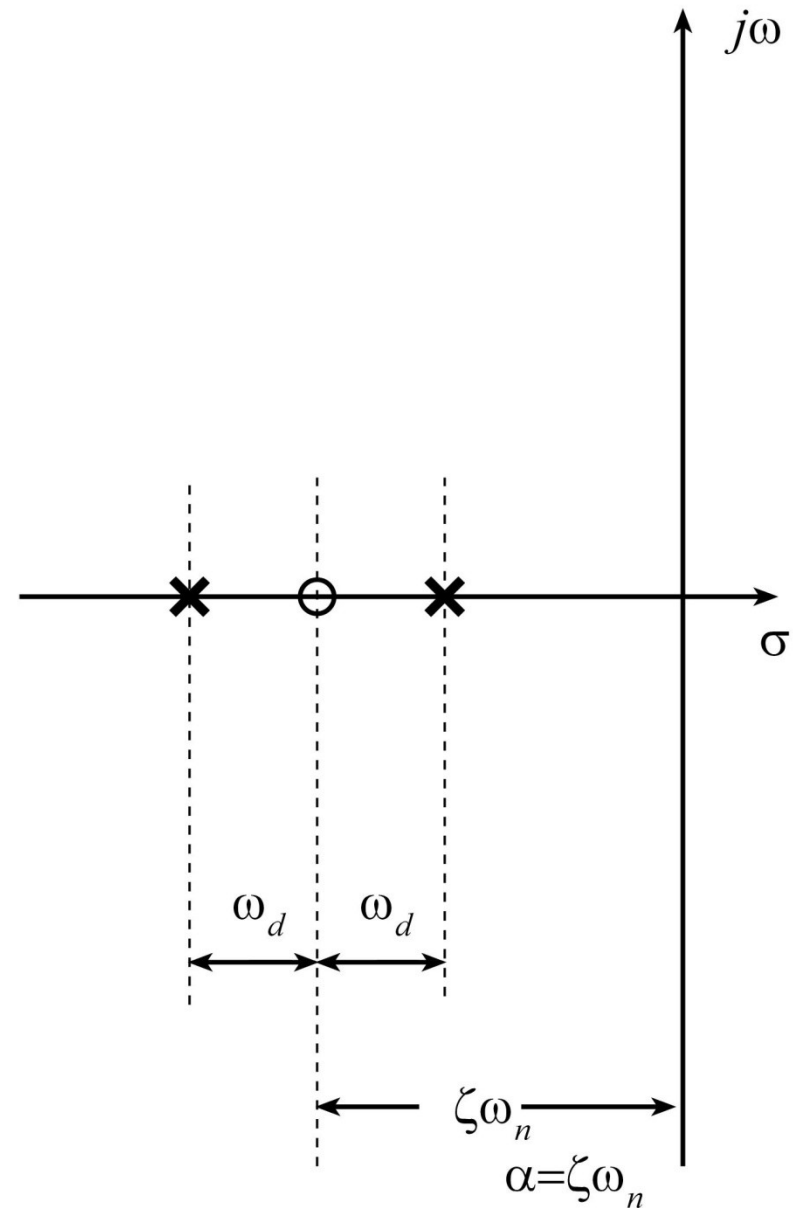
Plot is for $\zeta < 1$



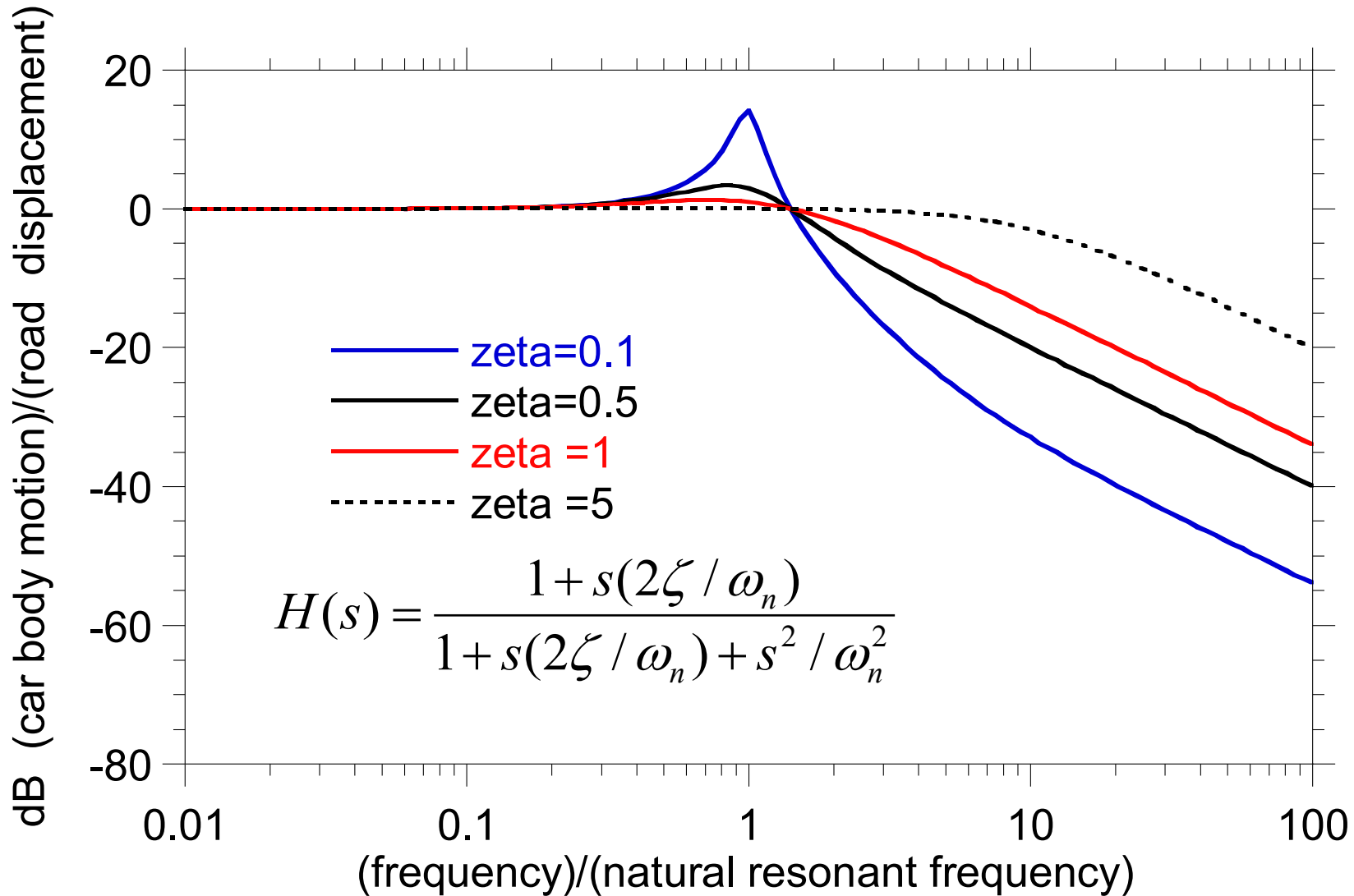
Car Suspension: Root Locus (overdamped)

Plot is for $\zeta > 1$

Note again the zero.

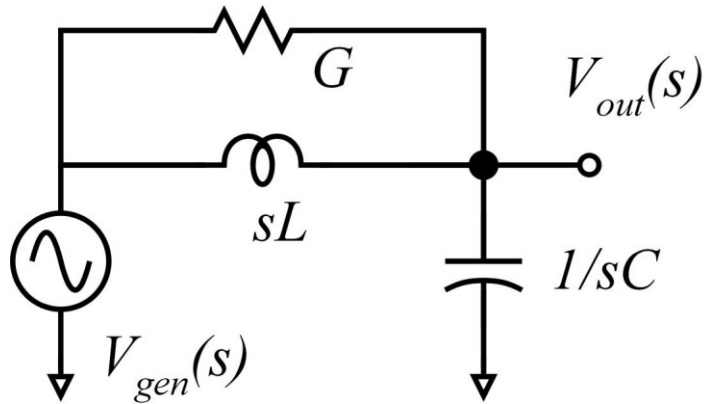


Car Suspension: Transfer Function Magnitude



Strong resonant peak if the shock absorbers are weak

Electrical-Mechanical Analog (Analogy)

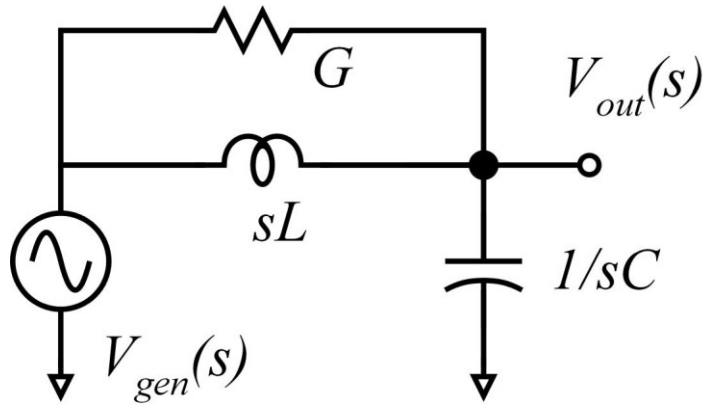


Write $\sum \text{currents} = 0$ at node V_{out} :

$$(1/sL + G)(V_{out} - V_{in}) + sCV_{out} = 0$$

$$H(s) = \frac{V_{out}(s)}{V_{in}(s)} = \frac{1/sL + G}{1/sL + G + sC} = \frac{1 + sLG}{1 + sLG + sLC}$$

Electrical-Mechanical Analog (Analogy)



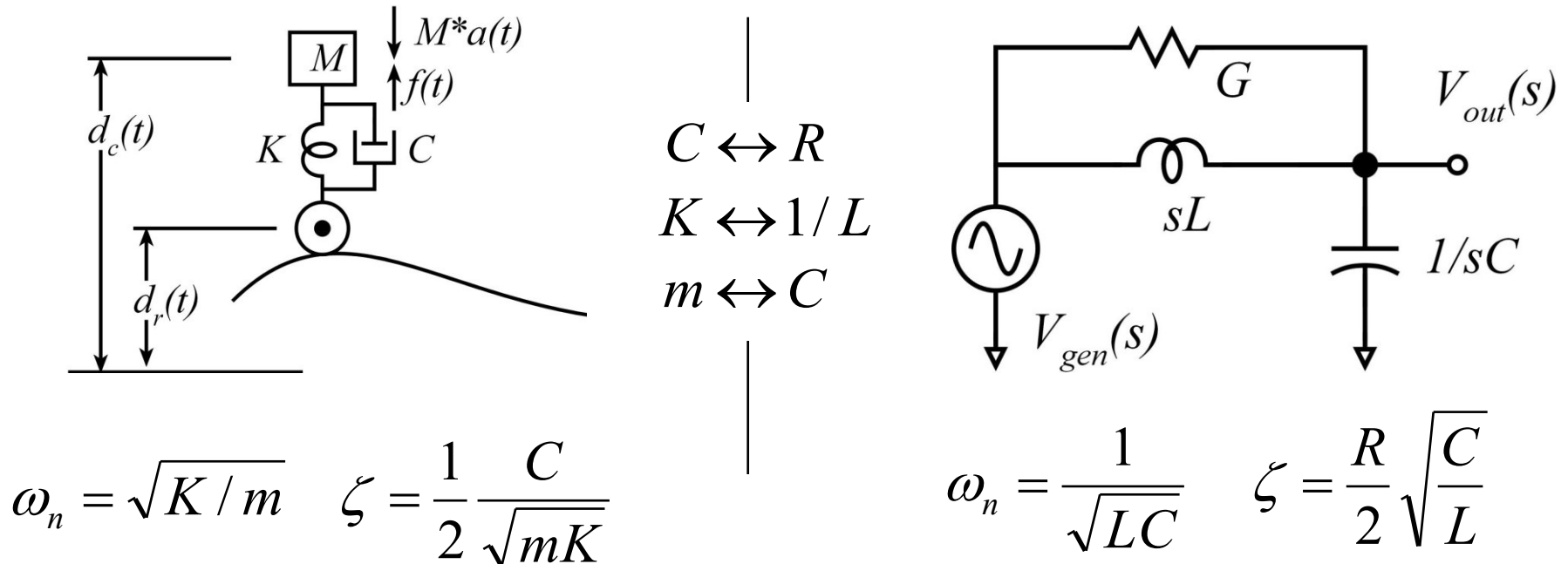
$$H(s) = \frac{1 + sLG}{1 + sLG + sLC} = \frac{1 + s(2\zeta / \omega_n)}{1 + s(2\zeta / \omega_n) + s^2 / \omega_n^2}$$

$$\text{natural resonant frequency} = \omega_n = \frac{1}{\sqrt{LC}}$$

$$\text{damping factor} = \zeta = \frac{R}{2} \sqrt{\frac{C}{L}}$$

Mechanical and Electrical Equivalents

$$H(s) = \frac{1 + s(2\zeta / \omega_n)}{1 + s(2\zeta / \omega_n) + s^2 / \omega_n^2}$$



Equivalent circuits are common in the analysis of electro - mechanical systems (motors, actuators, transducers, speakers)

