

7 Simple harmonic motion, period, and frequency – Part 1

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Vocabulary 词汇

Write each word three times. 把每个单词抄写三遍。

English	中文	Write it 3 times (English)
Simple harmonic motion	简谐运动	_____
oscillation	振动	_____
restoring force	回复力	_____
period	周期	_____
frequency	频率	_____

Recall

You have watched things swing and bounce back and forth:

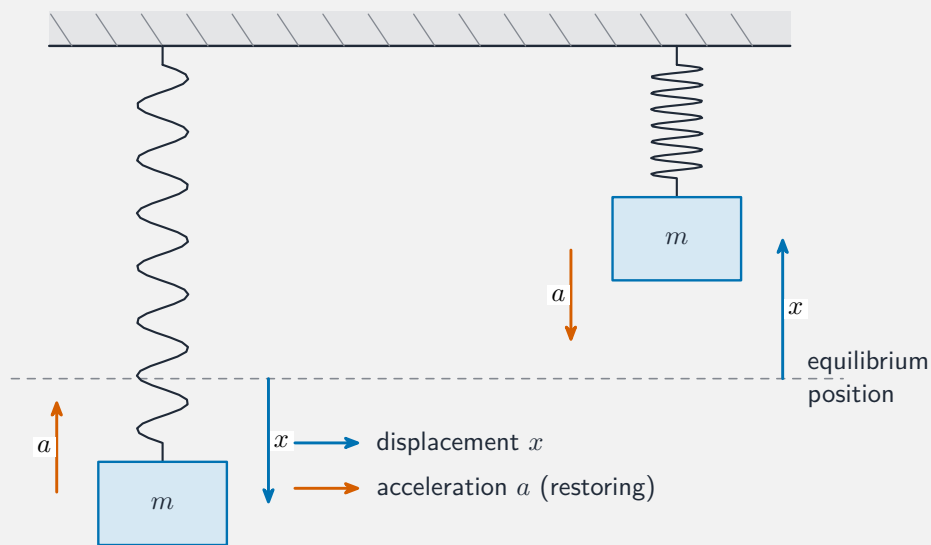
- A pendulum swings side to side; a mass on a spring bounces up and down.
- The motion repeats over and over, each cycle taking about the same time.
- A stiffer spring bounces faster; a longer pendulum swings slower.

This sheet gives the repeating motion a name –simple harmonic motion –and simple formulas. Each idea has a worked example.

New ideas

■ 1 Simple harmonic motion

Simple harmonic motion 简谐运动 (SHM) is a back-and-forth **oscillation** 振动 caused by a **restoring force** 回复力 that always pulls the object back toward the middle, and grows with the distance from the middle ($F = -kx$).



A mass on a spring, and a pendulum swinging through **small** angles, are the standard examples.

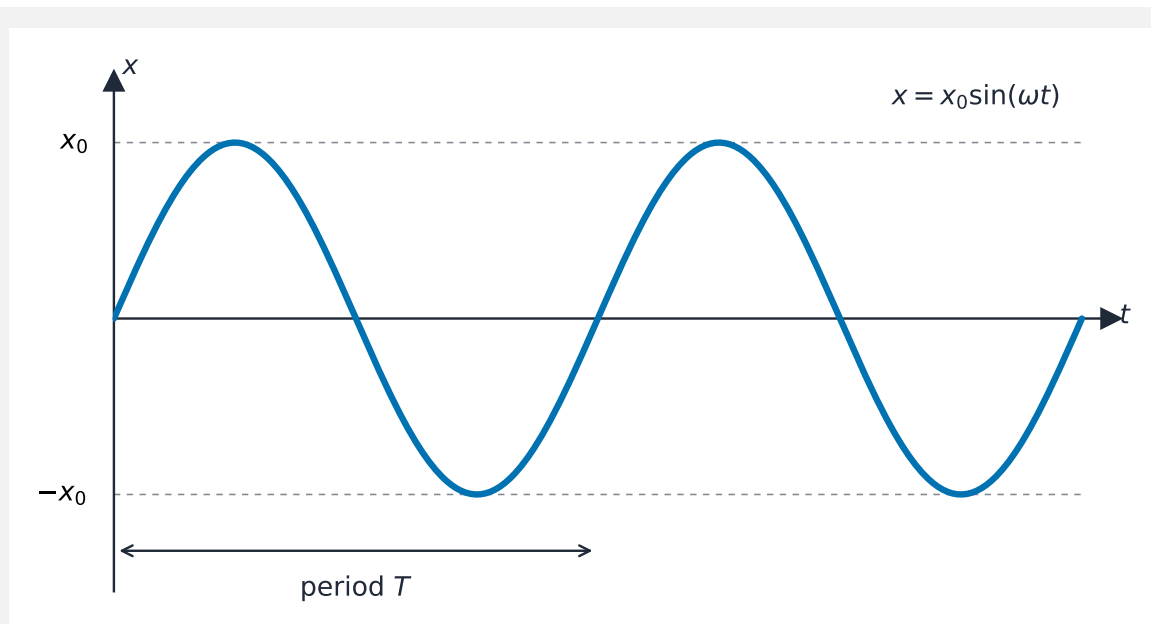
■ 2 Period and frequency

- The **period** 周期 T is the time for one full cycle.
- The **frequency** 频率 $f = \frac{1}{T}$ is the number of cycles per second (in hertz, Hz).

■ 3 The period formulas

For SHM the period depends only on the system, **not** on how big the swing is:

$$T_{\text{spring}} = 2\pi\sqrt{\frac{m}{k}}, \quad T_{\text{pendulum}} = 2\pi\sqrt{\frac{L}{g}}.$$



Worked example. A 0.25 kg mass hangs on a spring of stiffness $k = 100 \text{ N/m}$:

$$T = 2\pi\sqrt{\frac{m}{k}} = 2\pi\sqrt{\frac{0.25}{100}} = 0.31 \text{ s}, \quad f = \frac{1}{T} = 3.2 \text{ Hz}.$$

Watch out: the period does **not** depend on the amplitude –a wide swing and a narrow swing take the same time. That is exactly what makes a pendulum a good clock.

Practice

Try these in order. The methods are all above.

2.1 A pendulum completes one full swing (there and back) in 2.0 s. State its period and find its frequency. [2]

2.2 Name the two conditions a force must meet to cause simple harmonic motion. [2]

2.3 A 0.40 kg mass sits on a spring of stiffness $k = 160 \text{ N/m}$. Find the period of its

oscillation.

[3]

2.4 State what happens to a spring's period if the mass is increased.

[1]

2.5 A pendulum has period 1.0 s. A student makes the swing wider (larger amplitude). State the effect on the period, and explain.

[2]