

3. a) $x(t) = (A+Bt)e^{-\gamma t/2}$ with $\gamma = 2\omega_0$

$$\dot{x} = B e^{-\gamma t/2} - \frac{\gamma}{2}(A+Bt)e^{-\gamma t/2}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\ddot{x} &= -\frac{\gamma B}{2}e^{-\gamma t/2} - \frac{\gamma}{2}B e^{-\gamma t/2} + \frac{\gamma^2}{4}(A+Bt)e^{-\gamma t/2} \\ &= -\gamma B e^{-\gamma t/2} + \frac{\gamma^2}{4}(A+Bt)e^{-\gamma t/2}\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}m\ddot{x} + \gamma\dot{x} + \omega_0^2 x &= e^{-\gamma t/2} \left[-\gamma B + \frac{\gamma^2}{4}(A+Bt) + \gamma B - \frac{\gamma^2}{2}(A+Bt) + \omega_0^2(A+Bt) \right] \\ &= e^{-\gamma t/2} (A+Bt) \left(-\frac{\gamma^2}{4} + \omega_0^2 \right) = 0\end{aligned}$$

for critically damped.

b) $x_0 = x(t=0) = A$

$$v_0 = B - \frac{\gamma}{2}x_0 \quad \Rightarrow \quad B = v_0 + \frac{\gamma}{2}x_0 \quad \xrightarrow{B=0} \quad v_0 = -\frac{\gamma}{2}x_0$$

c) From a), b)

$$x(t) = \left(x_0 + \left(v_0 + \frac{\gamma}{2}x_0 \right) t \right) e^{-\gamma t/2}$$

~~user said to find~~

Let's find the minimum of $x(t)$

$$\dot{x}(t) = -\frac{\gamma}{2} \left(x_0 + \left(v_0 + \frac{\gamma}{2}x_0 \right) t \right) e^{-\gamma t/2} + \left(v_0 + \frac{\gamma}{2}x_0 \right) e^{-\gamma t/2} = 0$$

$$t_{\min} = \frac{2v_0/\gamma}{v_0 + \frac{\gamma}{2}x_0} \Rightarrow t \text{ for } x \text{ minimum}$$

$$x_{\min} = \left(x_0 + \frac{2v_0}{\gamma} \right) e^{-\gamma t/2} \quad \text{and we want this expression to be negative}$$

$$\Rightarrow x_0 + \frac{2v_0}{\gamma} < 0$$

$$\boxed{v_0 < -\frac{\gamma x_0}{2}} \Rightarrow \boxed{v_0 < -\omega_0 x_0}$$

This is equivalent to $B < 0$ which is necessary for $x(t_{\min})$ to be actually a minimum and not a maximum.