



Nonlinear Oscillations of a Mass Attached to Linear and Nonlinear Springs in Series Using Approximate Solutions

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Abstract

Nonlinear oscillations of a mass with serial linear and nonlinear stiffness on a frictionless surface is considered. Equation of motion of the considered system is obtained. For analysing of the system, relatively new perturbation method that is named Multiple Scales Lindstedt Poincare (MSLP) and classical multiple scales (MS) methods are used. Both approximate solutions are compared with the numerical solutions for weakly and strongly nonlinear systems. For weakly nonlinear systems, both approximate solutions are in excellent agreement with numerical simulations. However, for strong nonlinearities, MS method is not give reliable results while MSLP method can provide acceptable solutions with numerical solutions.

Keywords: Multiple Scales Lindstedt Poincare (MSLP) method, Nonlinear Oscillation, Nonlinear Stiffness, Perturbation Methods.

1. Introduction

To find exact analytical solution of the physical systems is usually impossible for most of the time. For this reason, approximate analytical methods are developed for solving mathematical models corresponding to physical problems. Perturbation methods are used efficiently for finding approximate analytical solutions in many physical problems [1, 2, 3]. Perturbation methods are valid for weakly nonlinear systems due to the assumption of small parameters. To overcome this deficiency, methods, such as linearized perturbation method [4], the Lindstedt-Poincare method with modified frequency expansion [5], the parameter expanding method [6] and homotopy perturbation [7] were developed within time.

A relatively new method which gives valid solutions for both weak and strong nonlinear systems [8-13] has been developed. The method is called Multiple Scales Lindstedt Poincare (MSLP) which is combination of multiple scales and Lindstedt Poincare techniques.

In this work, MSLP method is applied to system of a mass with serial linear and nonlinear stiffness for the first time. Approximate analytical solutions are obtained via MS and MSLP methods. The obtained solutions are compared with numerical integration solutions. It has been found that the

MSLP method provides acceptable solutions for strong nonlinearities, while MS solutions are not suitable for the strong nonlinearities.

Finally, for the case of free vibration of a system of a mass with serial linear and nonlinear stiffness, some works are mentioned [14-17]. Telli and Kopmaz [14] applied Lindstedt Poincare and harmonic balance methods to above mentioned system. Both solutions are compared with numerical results. It is found that numerical and obtained analytical solutions are in very good agreement for weak nonlinearities. Linearized harmonic balance method is applied to the governing equation of motion by Lai and Lim [15]. Although the method has the ability to generate highly accurate frequencies, applications are limited to conservative systems. Conversely, MSLP is employed in a broader range of vibration problems with simpler calculations. Hoseini et al. [16] and Bayat et al. [17] employed homotopy analysis and He's variational approach methods to the same problem respectively. In their method, frequencies, although with acceptable accuracy, are not given in closed functional forms.

2. Material and Methods

2.1. A Nonlinear Oscillation of a Mass Attached to Linear and Nonlinear Springs in Series

In this section, free vibration of a system of mass with serial linear and nonlinear stiffness is examined. First, the equation of motion is produced for the mentioned nonlinear system. Multiple Scales (MS) and Multiple Scale Lindstedt Poincare (MSLP) are applied to solve the nonlinear system.

2.2. Equation of Motion

In Figure 1, a system that includes a mass attached to linear and nonlinear springs in series is shown.

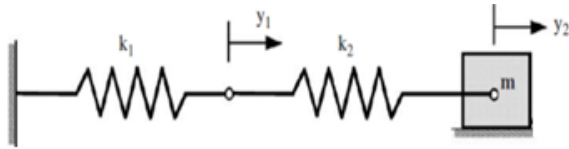


Figure 1. Nonlinear free vibration of a system of mass with serial linear and nonlinear stiffness on a frictionless contact surface.

The stiffness coefficients of the springs are k_1 and k_2 respectively. The nonlinear spring includes cubic nonlinearities. The relationship between the force and the deflection of the nonlinear spring is as follows.

$$F_2 = k_2 x = k_3 x + \lambda x^3 = k_3 x + \varepsilon k_3 x^3 \quad (1)$$

where

$$\varepsilon = \frac{\lambda}{k_3} \quad (2)$$

in which λ is coefficient of nonlinear portion of second spring force and k_3 is coefficient of linear portion of this nonlinear spring force. The cubic nonlinear characteristic determines that hardening/softening behaviour. If $\varepsilon > 0$, the spring shows a hardening behaviour. Likewise, it is indicated that softening spring for the case $\varepsilon < 0$. Parameter ε is employed as a perturbation in this system.

The displacements between the connection point of the spring and mass are defined by y_1 and y_2 . In Figure 1, the displacements of the springs are expressed by y_1 and $(y_2 - y_1)$ respectively. In this case, the displacement of mass m will be $y_1 + (y_2 - y_1) = y_2$. The equation of motion of the single-degree-of-freedom system will be found with Lagrangian (L). First, the system's potential and kinetic energy will be written as follows respectively.

$$V = \frac{1}{2} k_1 y_1^2 + \frac{1}{2} k_2 (y_2 - y_1)^2 \quad (3)$$

$$T = \frac{1}{2} m \dot{y}_2^2 \quad (4)$$

Lagrange's equation is written to obtain the equation of motion of the system.

$$\frac{d}{dt} \left(\frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{q}_i} \right) - \frac{\partial L}{\partial q_i} = Q_i, \quad i=1,2 \quad (5)$$

where q_i and Q_i express respectively general coordinates of system and the sum of the forces acting on these coordinates. Because it is a conservative system which will be solved, Equation (5) must be equal to zero [18].

$$\frac{d}{dt} \left(\frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{y}_i} \right) - \frac{\partial L}{\partial y_i} = 0 \quad (6)$$

The quantity $T - V$ is called the Lagrangian L .

$$L = T - V \quad (7)$$

Substituting into Equation (6) and the following equations are obtained.

$$k_1 y_1 - k_2 (y_2 - y_1) = 0 \quad (8)$$

$$m \ddot{y}_2 + k_2 (y_2 - y_1) = 0 \quad (9)$$

From Equation(8), the relation between y_1 with y_2 are obtained as follows.

$$y_1 = \frac{k_2}{k_1 + k_2} y_2 \quad (10)$$

Equation (10) is written instead in Equation(9).

$$m \ddot{y}_2 + \frac{k_1 k_2}{k_1 + k_2} y_2 = 0 \quad (11)$$

where the dots denote the derivation with respect to time. Equation of motion is obtained as follows

$$m \ddot{y}_2 + k_{eq} y_2 = 0 \quad (12)$$

where $k_{eq} = \left(\frac{k_1 k_2}{k_1 + k_2} \right)$ is equivalent stiffness of the springs.

The nonlinear spring force in Equation (1) is substituted into Equations (8) and (9) and equation of motion is obtained as follows

$$k_1 y_1 - k_2 (y_2 - y_1) - \varepsilon k_3 (y_2 - y_1)^3 = 0 \quad (13)$$

$$m \ddot{y}_2 + k_2 (y_2 - y_1) + \varepsilon k_3 (y_2 - y_1)^3 = 0 \quad (14)$$

The new variables v and u are defined as follows.

$$y_1 = v,$$

$$y_2 - y_1 = u \quad (15)$$

Inserting the new variables into Equations (13) and(14) one has

$$k_1 v - k_3 u - \varepsilon k_3 u^3 = 0 \quad (16)$$

$$m(\ddot{u} + \ddot{v}) + k_3 u + \varepsilon k_3 u^3 = 0 \quad (17)$$

Solving Eq. (16) for v yields

$$v = \xi u + \xi \varepsilon u^3 \quad (18)$$

where

$$\xi = \frac{k_3}{k_1} \quad (19)$$

Equation (18) is derivated twice with respect to time and substituted into Equation(17). One finds

$$m\ddot{u}(1 + \xi + 3\varepsilon\xi u^2) + 6\varepsilon\xi m u \dot{u}^2 + k_3 u + \varepsilon k_3 u^3 = 0 \quad (20)$$

After algebraic manipulations, Equation (20) yields

$$\ddot{u}(1 + 3\varepsilon\alpha u^2) + 6\varepsilon\alpha \xi u \dot{u}^2 + \omega_0^2 u + \varepsilon \omega_0^2 u^3 = 0 \quad (21)$$

where

$$\alpha = \frac{\xi}{\xi + 1}, \quad \omega_0^2 = \frac{k_3}{m(1 + \xi)} \quad (22)$$

and ω_0 is natural frequency of the system.

2.3. Multiple Scales (MS) method

Slow and fast time scales are

$$T_0 = t, \quad T_1 = \varepsilon t, \quad T_2 = \varepsilon^2 t \quad (23)$$

Using

$$\frac{d}{d\tau} = D_0 + \varepsilon D_1 + \varepsilon^2 D_2 + \dots,$$

$$\frac{d^2}{d\tau^2} = D_0^2 + 2\varepsilon D_0 D_1 + \varepsilon^2 (D_1^2 + 2\varepsilon D_0 D_2) + \dots \quad (24)$$

Substituting the expansions

$$u = u_0(T_0, T_1, T_2) + \varepsilon u_1(T_0, T_1, T_2) + \varepsilon^2 u_2(T_0, T_1, T_2) + \dots \quad (25)$$

The equations are separated for each order

$$O(1): D_0^2 u_0 + \omega_0^2 u_0 = 0 \quad (26)$$

$$u_0(0) = a_0, \quad D_0 u_0(0) = 0$$

$$O(\varepsilon): D_0^2 u_1 + \omega_0^2 u_1 = -2D_0 D_1 u_0 - 3\alpha u_0^2 D_0^2 u_0 - 6\alpha u_0 (D_0 u_0)^2 - \omega_0^2 u_0^3 \quad (27)$$

$$u_1(0) = 0, \quad (D_0 u_1 + D_1 u_0)(0) = 0$$

$$O(\varepsilon^2): D_0^2 u_2 + \omega_0^2 u_2 = -2D_0 D_1 u_1 - (D_1^2 + 2D_0 D_2) u_0 - 3\alpha [2u_0 u_1 D_0^2 u_0 + u_0^2 (D_0^2 u_1 + 2D_0 D_1 u_0)] - 6\alpha [u_1 (D_0 u_0)^2 + 2u_0 D_0 u_0 (D_0 u_1 + D_1 u_0)] - 3\omega_0^2 u_0^2 u_1 \quad (28)$$

The solution of first order is

$$u_0 = A(T_1, T_2) e^{i\omega_0 T_0} + cc \quad (29)$$

where

$$A = \frac{1}{2} a e^{i\beta} \quad (30)$$

In terms of real amplitude and phase, the first order solution is

$$u_0 = a(T_1, T_2) \cos(\omega_0 T_0 + \beta(T_1, T_2)) \quad (31)$$

Initial conditions are applied for first order, one has

$$a(0) = a_0, \quad \beta(0) = 0 \quad (32)$$

The secularities are eliminated in the right side of Equation (27)

$$-2i\omega_0 D_1 A + \omega_0^2 (3\alpha - 3) A^2 \bar{A} = 0 \quad (33)$$

Substituting the polar form, real and imaginary parts are separated

$$a = a(T_2) \quad (34)$$

$$\beta = -\frac{(3\alpha - 3)}{8} \omega_0 a^2 T_1 + \beta_0(T_2) \quad (35)$$

The solution at order ε is

$$u_1 = B e^{i\omega_0 T_0} + \frac{(1 - 9\alpha)}{8} A^3 e^{3i\omega_0 T_0} + cc \quad (36)$$

where

$$B = \frac{1}{2} b e^{i\gamma} \quad (37)$$

This solution is rewritten for real amplitudes and phases

$$u_1 = b \cos(\omega_0 T_0 + \gamma) + \frac{(1 - 9\alpha)}{32} a^3 \cos(3\omega_0 T_0 + 3\beta) \quad (38)$$

Substituting initial conditions for $O(\varepsilon)$

$$b(0) = -\frac{(1 - 9\alpha)}{32} a_0^3, \quad \gamma(0) = 0 \quad (39)$$

At $O(\varepsilon^2)$, Equations (38) and (31) are inserted into equation (28) and secular terms are eliminated

$$\begin{aligned} & -2i\omega_0 D_1 B - D_1^2 A - 2i\omega_0 D_2 A \\ & + A \bar{A} B (12\alpha \omega_0^2 - 6\omega_0^2) + \frac{3(1 - 9\alpha)}{8} \omega_0^2 \bar{A}^2 A^3 (\alpha - 1) \\ & A^2 \bar{B} (-3\alpha \omega_0^2 - 3\omega_0^2) - 6\alpha i \omega_0 A^2 D_1 \bar{A} - 12\alpha i \omega_0 A \bar{A} D_1 A = 0 \end{aligned} \quad (40)$$

If Equations (30), (32), (37) and (39) are used above, one finally has

$$\begin{aligned} a &= a_0, \quad b = -\frac{(1 - 9\alpha)}{32} a_0^3, \\ \beta &= \gamma = -\frac{(3\alpha - 3)}{8} \omega_0 a^2 T_1 - \frac{(3\alpha - 3)}{256} \omega_0 a_0^4 T_2 \end{aligned} \quad (41)$$

The final solution with original variables is

$$\begin{aligned} u &= a_0 \cos(\omega_0 t + \beta) \\ &+ \frac{\varepsilon(1 - 9\alpha)}{32} a_0^3 [\cos(3\omega_0 t + 3\beta) - \cos(\omega_0 t + \beta)] + O(\varepsilon^2) \end{aligned} \quad (42)$$

2.4. Multiple Scales Lindstedt Poincare (MSLP) method

The time transformation

$$\tau = \omega t \quad (43)$$

is applied to the equation (21).

$$(1 + 3\varepsilon\alpha u^2)\omega^2 u' + 6\varepsilon\alpha\omega^2 uu'^2 + \omega_0^2(u + \varepsilon u^3) = 0 \quad (44)$$

where prime is derivative with respect to new transformed time variable τ . Fast and slow time scales are defined

$$T_0 = \tau = \omega t, \quad T_1 = \varepsilon\tau = \varepsilon\omega t, \quad T_2 = \varepsilon^2\tau = \varepsilon^2\omega t \quad (45)$$

Using

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{d\tau} &= D_0 + \varepsilon D_1 + \varepsilon^2 D_2 + \dots \\ \frac{d^2}{d\tau^2} &= D_0^2 + 2\varepsilon D_0 D_1 + \varepsilon^2 (D_1^2 + 2\varepsilon D_0 D_2) + \dots \end{aligned} \quad (46)$$

and substituting the expansions

$$u = u_0(T_0, T_1, T_2) + \varepsilon u_1(T_0, T_1, T_2) + \varepsilon^2 u_2(T_0, T_1, T_2) + \dots \quad (47)$$

$$\omega_0^2 = \omega^2 - \varepsilon\omega_1 - \varepsilon^2\omega_2 \dots \quad (48)$$

into (44) yields after separation

$$\begin{aligned} O(1): \omega^2 D_0^2 u_0 + \omega^2 u_0 &= 0, \\ u_0(0) = a_0, \quad D_0 u_0(0) &= 0 \end{aligned} \quad (49)$$

$$\begin{aligned} O(\varepsilon): \omega^2 D_0^2 u_1 + \omega^2 u_1 &= -2\omega^2 D_0 D_1 u_0 + \omega_1 u_0 \\ -3\omega^2 \alpha u_0^2 D_0^2 u_0 - 6\omega^2 \alpha u_0 (D_0 u_0)^2 - \omega_0^2 u_0^3 \\ u_1(0) = 0, \quad (D_0 u_1 + D_1 u_0)(0) &= 0 \end{aligned} \quad (50)$$

$$\begin{aligned} O(\varepsilon^2): \omega^2 D_0^2 u_2 + \omega^2 u_2 &= -2\omega^2 D_0 D_1 u_1 \\ -\omega^2 (D_1^2 + 2D_0 D_2)(u_0) + \omega_1 u_1 + \omega_2 u_0 \\ -3\omega^2 \alpha [u_0^2 (D_0^2 u_1 + 2D_0 D_1 u_0) + 2u_0 u_1 D_0^2 u_0] \\ -6\omega^2 \alpha [u_1 (D_0 u_0)^2 + 2u_0 D_0 u_0 (D_0 u_1 + D_1 u_0)] - 3\omega_0^2 u_0^2 u_1 \end{aligned} \quad (51)$$

The solution of first order is

$$u_0 = A(T_1, T_2) e^{i T_0} + cc \quad (52)$$

where

$$A = \frac{1}{2} a e^{i\beta} \quad (53)$$

For real amplitude and the phase, the solutions is as follows

$$u_0 = a(T_1, T_2) \cos(T_0 + \beta(T_1, T_2)) \quad (54)$$

Applying the initial conditions

$$a(0) = a_0, \quad \beta(0) = 0 \quad (55)$$

Equation (52) is substituted into equation (50) and secular terms are eliminated

$$-2i\omega^2 D_1 A + A\omega_1 + 3\omega^2 \alpha A^2 \bar{A} - 3\omega_0^2 A^2 \bar{A} = 0 \quad (56)$$

According to the MSLP method, $D_1 A = 0$ is selected firstly and solved. If frequency correction is real number, this choice is acceptable. If ω_1 is complex, this choice is not correct. Because, it isn't suitable for physical solutions. Thus, $D_1 A = 0$ is selected and in this case ω_1 will be a real number.

$$D_1 A = 0 \quad (57)$$

which implies $a = a(T_2)$, $\beta = \beta(T_2)$ and ω_1 is solved.

$$\omega_1 = 3A\bar{A}(\omega_0^2 - \alpha\omega^2) = \frac{3}{4} a^2 (\omega_0^2 - \alpha\omega^2) \quad (58)$$

The solution at order ε is

$$\begin{aligned} u_1 &= B e^{i T_0} + \frac{(\omega_0^2 - 9\omega^2 \alpha)}{8\omega^2} A^3 e^{3i T_0} + cc \\ &= b \cos(T_0 + \gamma) + \frac{(\omega_0^2 - 9\omega^2 \alpha)}{32\omega^2} a^3 \cos(3T_0 + 3\beta) \end{aligned} \quad (59)$$

where

$$B = \frac{1}{2} b e^{i\gamma} \quad (60)$$

The initial conditions is applied for Equation(59), one has

$$b(0) = -\frac{(\omega_0^2 - 9\omega^2 \alpha)}{32\omega^2} a_0^3, \quad \gamma(0) = 0 \quad (61)$$

At the last order, substitution of (52) and (59) into the right hand side of (51) and secularities are eliminated

$$\begin{aligned} -2i\omega^2 D_2 A + A\omega_2 + (-3\omega_0^2 + 3\omega^2 \alpha) A\bar{A} \\ + (-3\omega_0^2 + 3\omega^2 \alpha) A^2 \bar{B} \\ + (\omega_0^2 - 9\omega^2 \alpha) \left(\frac{-3\omega_0^2 + 3\omega^2 \alpha}{8\omega^2} \right) A^3 \bar{A}^2 = 0 \end{aligned} \quad (62)$$

According to the MSLP, $D_2 A = 0$ is selected firstly. This choice is admissible because ω_2 is real for this choice. After algebraic manipulations, equation (62) yields

$$\begin{aligned} a = a_0, \quad b = -\frac{(\omega_0^2 - 9\omega^2 \alpha)}{32\omega^2} a_0^3, \quad \beta = \gamma = 0, \\ \omega_2 = \frac{30\alpha\omega^2\omega_0^2 - 27\alpha^2\omega^4 - 3\omega_0^4}{128\omega^2} a_0^4 \end{aligned} \quad (63)$$

The frequency is

$$\begin{aligned} \omega^2 = \omega_0^2 + \varepsilon \frac{3}{4} a_0^2 (\omega_0^2 - \alpha\omega^2) + \\ \varepsilon^2 \left(\frac{30\alpha\omega^2\omega_0^2 - 27\alpha^2\omega^4 - 3\omega_0^4}{128\omega^2} \right) a_0^4 \end{aligned} \quad (64)$$

Frequency is solved

$$\omega = \sqrt{-\frac{1}{2}z + \frac{1}{2}\sqrt{z^2 - 12\varepsilon^2 \frac{\omega_0^2 a_0^4}{128 + 96\varepsilon a_0^2 \alpha + 27\varepsilon^2 \alpha^2 a_0^4}}} \quad (65)$$

where

$$z = \frac{-128 - 96\varepsilon a_0^2 - 30\varepsilon^2 \alpha a_0^4}{128 + 96\varepsilon a_0^2 \alpha + 27\varepsilon^2 \alpha^2 a_0^4}$$

The final solution is

$$u = a_0 \cos(\omega t) + \varepsilon \frac{(\omega_0^2 - 9\alpha\omega^2)}{32\omega^2} a_0^3 (\cos(3\omega t) - \cos(\omega t)) + O(\varepsilon^2) \quad (66)$$

3. Results and Discussion

In this section, approximate analytical solutions of classical MS method and MSLP method are contrasted with numerical integration solution obtained by integrating directly the nonlinear ordinary differential equation numerically using the Runge–Kutta method, a built-in function in MATHEMATICA.

To verify the results, time histories of the MS and MSLP methods are compared with the numerical simulations.

In all comparisons, $a_0 = 1, m = 1$ and $\xi = 0.1(k_1 = 50, k_3 = 5)$ are selected. In Figure 2, approximate solutions are compared with numerical simulations for weakly nonlinear systems. For this choice $\lambda = 0.5$ is selected first. The Figure illustrates that approximate solutions are in excellent agreement with numerical simulations. In Figures 3 and 4, the effect of cubic nonlinearity is amplified by increasing λ . In Figure 3, separations are observed. MSLP is better aligned with numerical solutions for $\lambda = 5$. Finally, in Figure 4, $\lambda = 25$ is selected. For this strong nonlinear case, While MSLP and numerical solutions have a good agreement, approximate frequency of MS solution is very different from the numerical solution.

To further show the accuracy of present (MSLP) method, a comparison of angular frequencies obtained by different methods is presented in Table 1 for weak and strong nonlinearities. In Table 1, approximate frequency of the present (MSLP) method and the existing results are in excellent agreement with numerical results for weak nonlinearities. Apart from the approximate results obtained by Telli and Kopmaz [14], approximate frequency of MSLP method and existing results have excellent agreement with numerical for strong nonlinear systems.

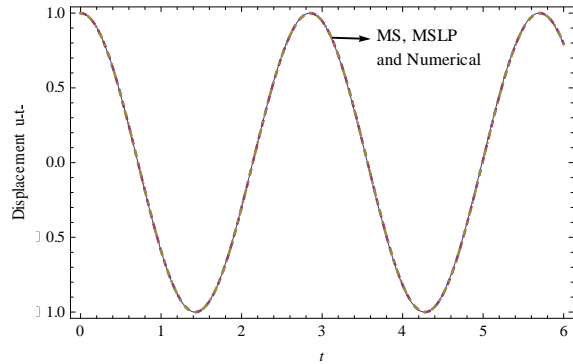


Figure 2. Comparison of approximate solutions and numerical solution for $\lambda = 0.5, \xi = 0.1(k_1 = 50, k_3 = 5)$

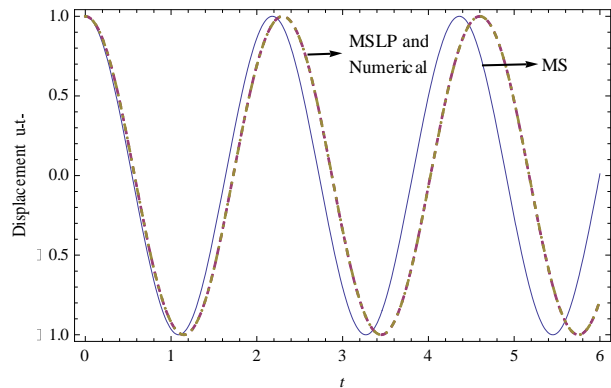


Figure 3. Comparison of approximate solutions and numerical solution for $\lambda = 5, \xi = 0.1(k_1 = 50, k_3 = 5)$

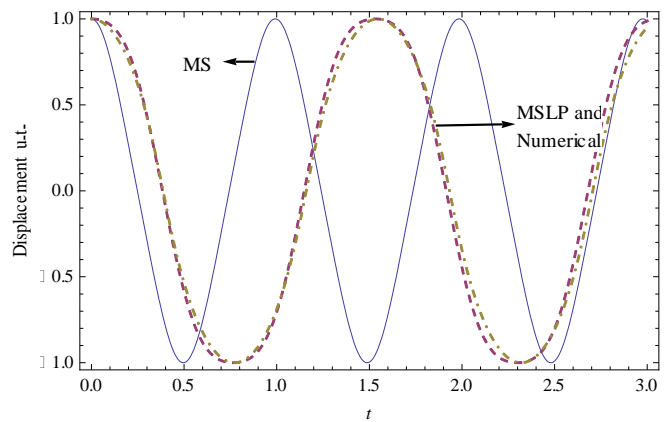


Figure 4. Comparison of approximate solutions and numerical solution for $\lambda = 25, \xi = 0.1(k_1 = 50, k_3 = 5)$

Table 1. Comparison of various approximate angular frequencies with respect to the numerical integration solution

| m | a_0 | ε | k_1 | k_3 | Present (MSLP) method | Telli and Kopmaz [14] | Lai and Lim [15] | Hoseini et al. [16] | Bayat et al. [17] | Numerical [15] |
|-----|-------|---------------|-------|-------|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------------|---------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| 1 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 50 | 5 | 2.220231 | 2.220239 | 2.220231 | 2.220231 | 2.220265 | 2.220231 |
| 1 | 2 | 0.5 | 5 | 50 | 2.201710 | 2.145708 | 2.194560 | 2.195226 | 2.192645 | 2.195284 |
| 10 | 100 | 10 | 5 | 25 | 0.707106 | ** | 0.707106 | 0.707106 | 0.707106 | 0.707106 |
| 10 | 200 | 5 | 5 | 250 | 0.707107 | ** | 0.707107 | 0.707107 | 0.707107 | 0.707107 |

** Invalid numerical solutions in complex values

vibration of a mass with serial linear and nonlinear stiffness on a frictionless surface. The time histories of MS and MSLP methods are compared with numerical solutions. Although the solution of MSLP and numerical are in excellent agreement, MS solution is not valid for strong nonlinear systems. Approximate frequency of MSLP method and previous results are contrasted with numerical solutions. The comparison shows that the results of MSLP is valid on a wide range of system parameters considered. In addition, the MSLP is appropriate not only for conservative systems but also for non-conservative systems.

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4. Conclusions

MS and MSLP method from the combination of MS and Lindstedt Poincare methods are applied to system with free



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