
Overview of Cycles and Long-term Variability in the Heliosphere

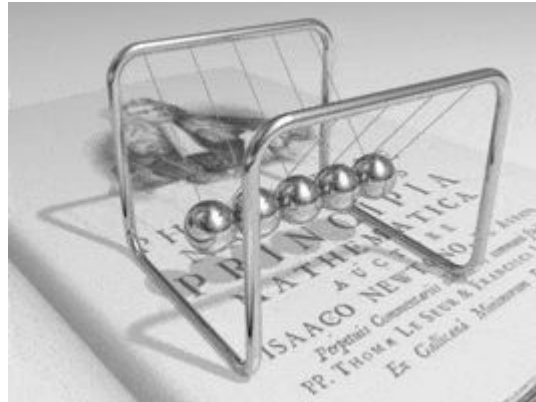
— Nick Gross and Dana Longcope —

Goals:

- Categorize general types of long term variability in physics
- Preview some of the topics covered in the summer school
- Discuss how to categorize some of these topics

Categories of Long Term Variability

- Orbits and Revolutions
- Oscillations
- Long Term Losses
- No Transient Events
 - Claps
 - Bangs
 - Explosions



Cycles

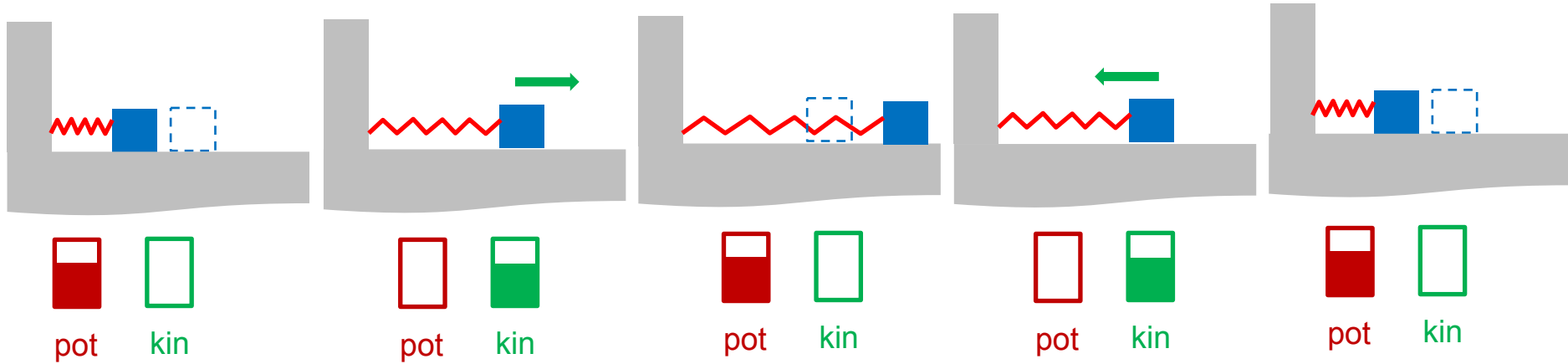


Oscillations

- Simple oscillator
- Oscillations @ multiple frequencies
- Forced



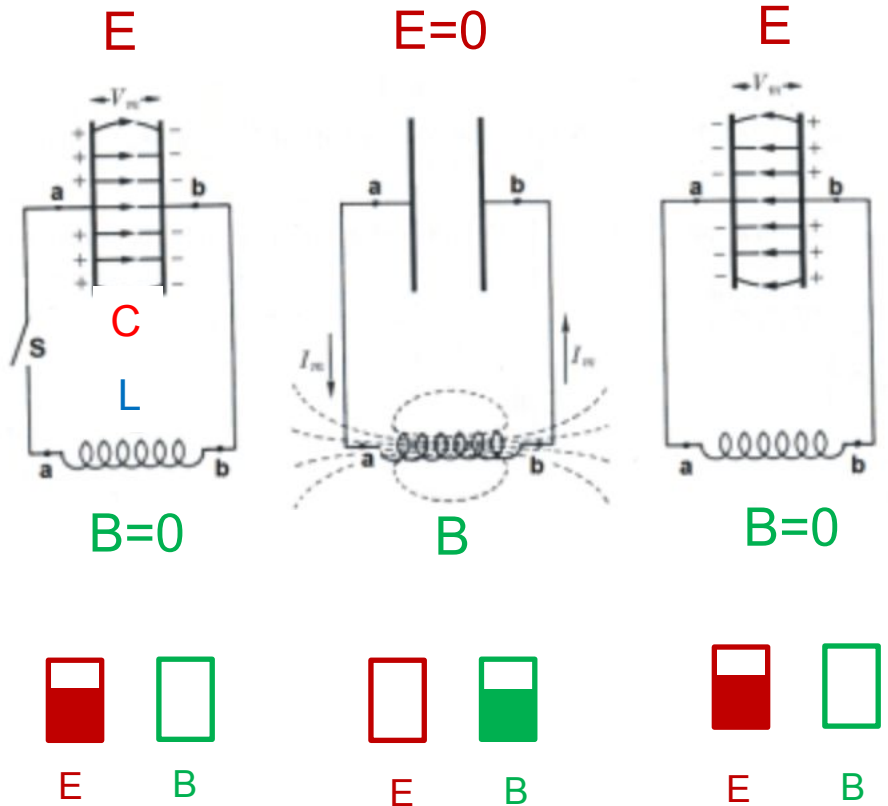
Simple oscillation: **spring** and **mass**



Exchange potential (spring) and kinetic (mass) energy

Simple oscillation: Capacitor and Inductor

Exchange electric
(capacitor) and
magnetic (inductor)
energy



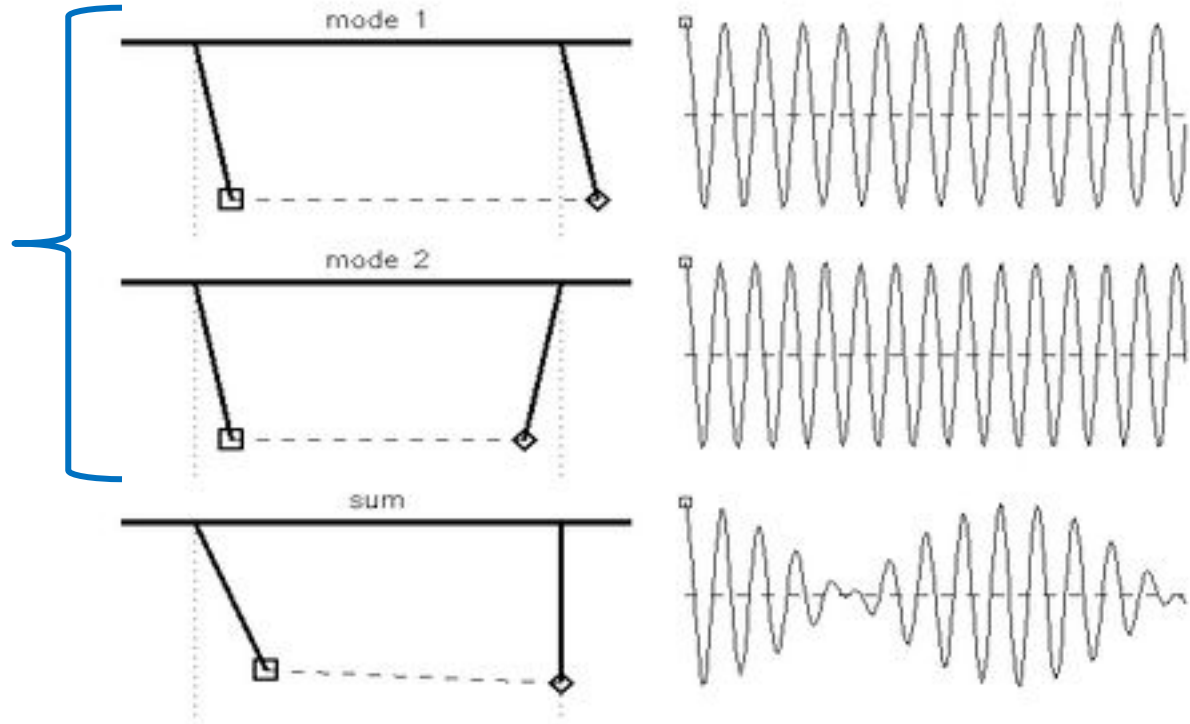
Multiple (i.e. 2) simple oscillations

2 degrees of freedom □

- 2 normal modes
- each mode = simple oscillator
- different frequencies

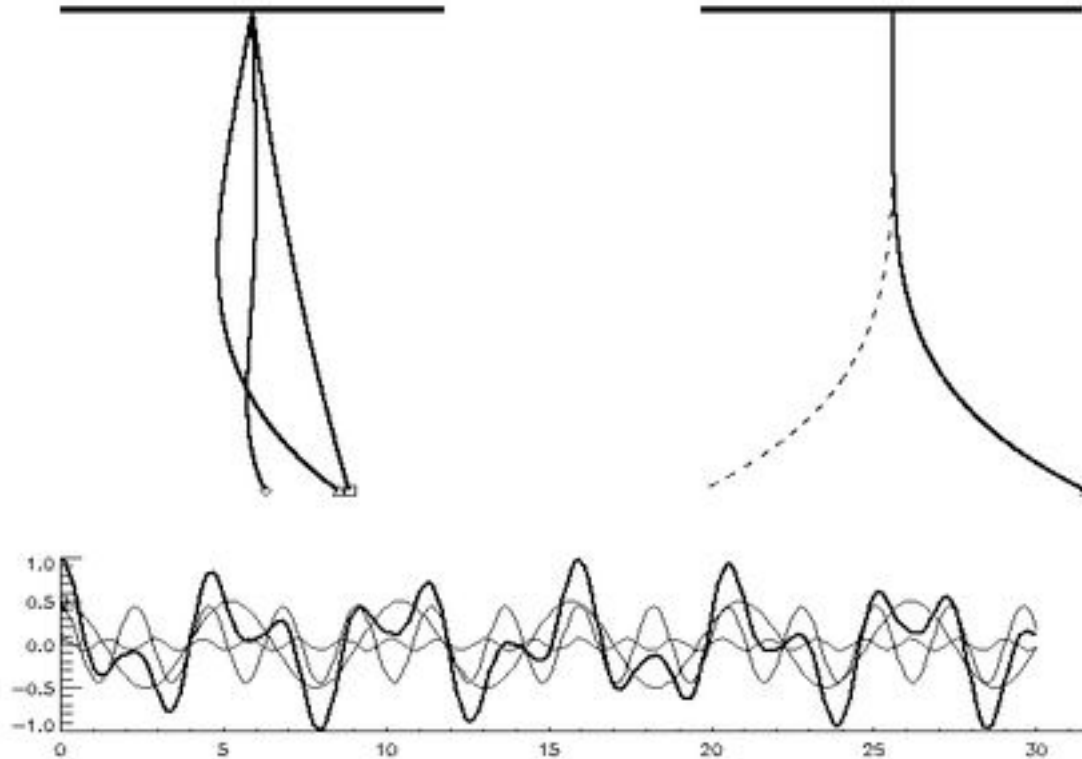
Superposition of 2 modes □ NOT simple oscillation

- “beating”

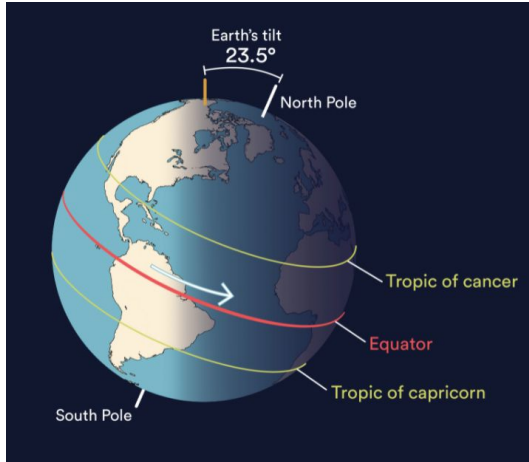


**More modes :
more complex
behavior**

Q: How many
degrees of
freedom does a
string have?

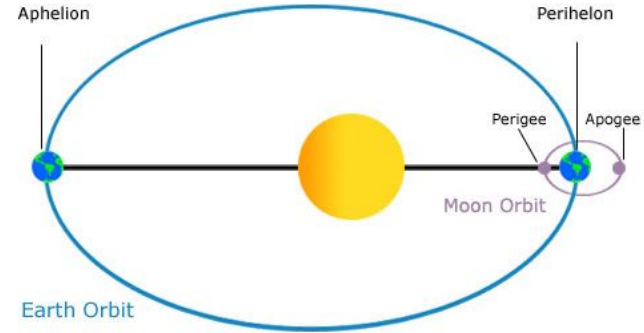


Steady angular motion □ periodicity



Rotation (revolution):

Earth □ period = 24 hr
day/night cycle



Orbit:

Earth/Sun □ period = 365 d

Seasons (combined with tilt of rotation axis)

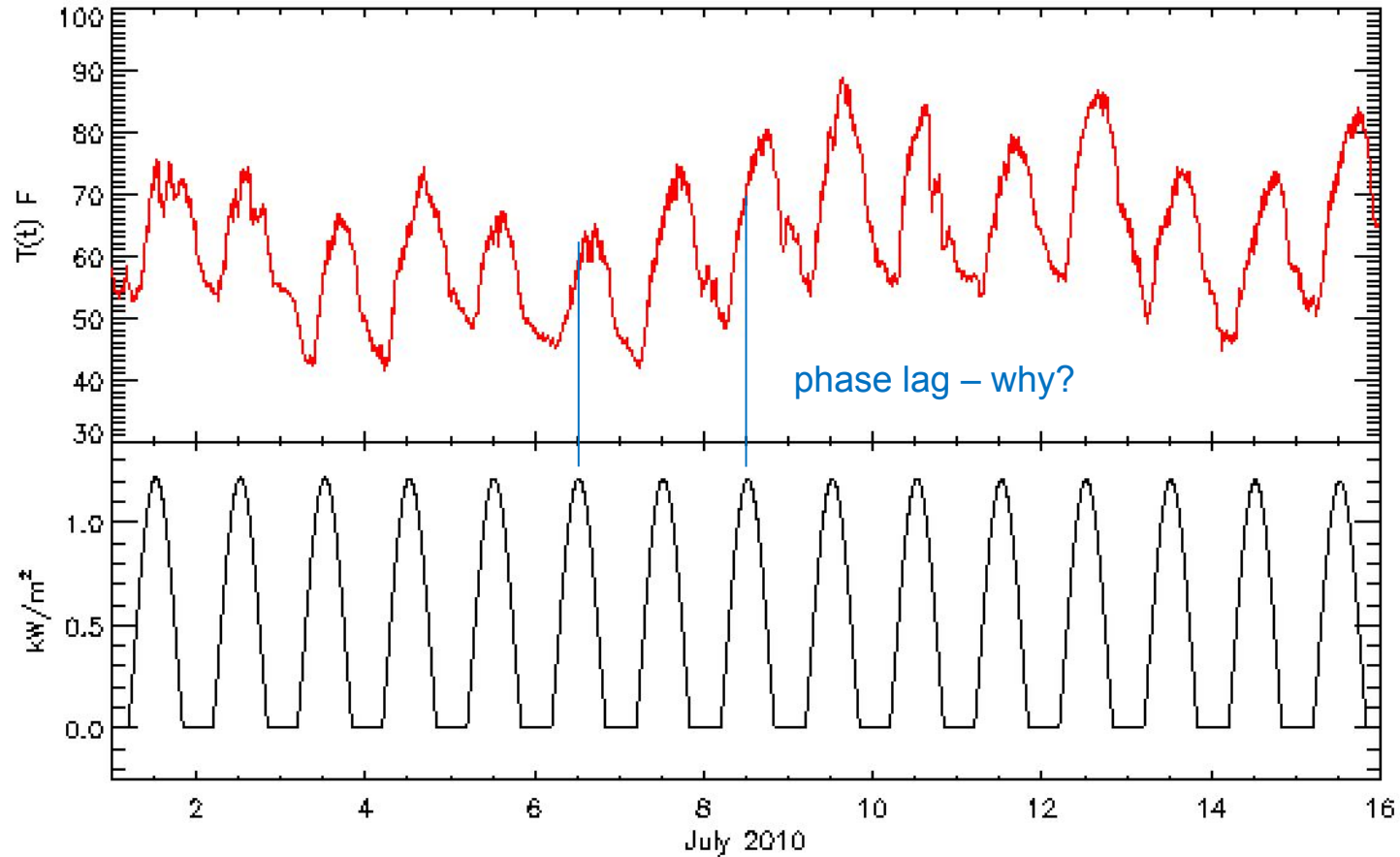
Earth/moon □ period = 29 d

Phases of moon

Driven oscillation: the temperature

Response:
Temperature in
Bozeman, MT

Driving: sunlight on
ground in Bozeman,
MT (a.k.a. insolation)
– result of Earth's
rotation



Driven oscillation: the temperature

Q: why is there driving @ 8-hour period in July?

