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**STABILITY OF THE SUCKER ROD'S  
PERIODIC SOLUTION**

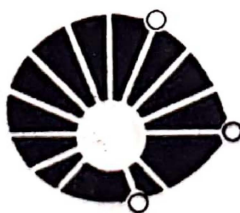
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**ABSTRACT** – We study the stability properties of the sucker rod pumping systems. We show the existence of a global attractor. Using results of nonautonomous differential equations, dynamical systems and  $\alpha$ -contractions, we prove under very natural assumptions on the external  $\sigma$ -periodic force, that the attractor is exactly a periodic orbit.

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B I B L I O T E C A

# STABILITY OF THE SUCKER ROD'S PERIODIC SOLUTION

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## Abstract

We study the stability properties of the sucker rod pumping systems. We show the existence of a global attractor. Using results of nonautonomous differential equations, dynamical systems and  $\alpha$ -contractions, we prove under very natural assumptions on the external  $\sigma$ -periodic force, that the attractor is exactly a periodic orbit.

Key words: Periodic Solution, Bounded Dissipative,  $\alpha$ -contraction, Attractor.

## 1 Introduction

In [2] we proved the existence of a strong periodic solution for a mathematical model of sucker rod pumping systems given by:

$$\begin{aligned} u_{tt} - u_{xx} + cu_t &= \hat{f}(t, x); & 0 < x < \ell, & t > 0, \\ u(t, 0) &= \mu(t), \\ u_x(t, \ell) &= m [1 - H(u_t(t, \ell))]. \end{aligned} \tag{1.1}$$

Here  $u(t, x)$  denotes the displacement at time  $t > 0$  of a material point at position  $x \in [0, \ell]$  at reference configuration;  $\ell$  is the length of the rods;  $c$  is a positive constant that embodies the dissipation mechanisms;  $\hat{f}(t, x)$  are external  $\sigma$ -periodic forces, like gravity forces, acting on the body of the rods;  $\mu(t)$  are the  $\sigma$ -periodic motion imparted by the engine on the top of the rods;  $m$  is a positive constant associated to the weight of the column of fluid that acts on the rods when the walking valve closes;  $H(\cdot)$  is the Heaviside function, that is  $H(x) = 1$  if  $x > 0$  and  $H(x) = 0$  if  $x < 0$ .

The systems can be made homogeneous at the end  $x = 0$ , through a convenient changing of variable, the action of  $\mu(t)$  can be incorporated to the external force  $\hat{f}(t, x)$ , and system the will became

$$\begin{aligned} u_{tt} - u_{xx} + cu_t &= f(t, x); \quad 0 < x < \ell, \quad t > 0, \\ u(t, 0) &= 0, \\ u_x(t, \ell) &= m [1 - H(u_t(t, \ell))]. \end{aligned} \quad (1.2)$$

The mechanism will work imparted by the  $\sigma$ -periodic force  $f(t, x)$ . We observe that, if the amplitude and frequency of  $f$  are small, the system can not work, that is, the down end,  $x = \ell$  can be stopped,  $u_t(t, \ell) \equiv 0$ . It will be assumed, that is not the case, we will suppose

*H)  $f(t, x)$  is such that, for strong solutions,  $u_t(t, \ell)$  assume positive and negative values.*

therefore, in this way, at least for the strong solutions, we have  $u_x(t, \ell)$  assuming the maximum value  $m$ , and the minimum value  $0$ .

In this paper we will analyze the stability properties of the periodic solution of the system (1.2). The point of view adopted here is the same of Hale [6], Sell [3] and Ceron and Lopes [1] for nonautonomous equations and dissipative processes.

We will work with the same abstract formulation used in [2], that is:

$$\dot{w} + Aw = (0, f) \quad (1.3)$$

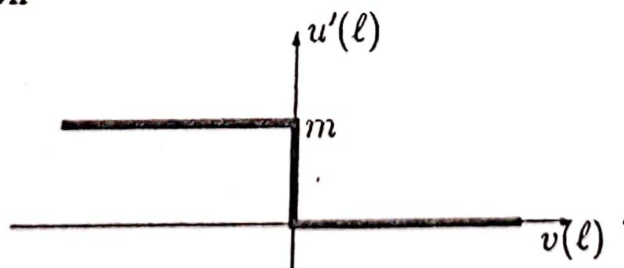
where  $A : \mathcal{D}(A) \subset \mathcal{H} \rightarrow \mathcal{H}$  is the operator given by

$$A(u, v) = (-v, -u'' + cv), \quad (1.4)$$

on the domain:

$$\mathcal{D}(A) = \{(u, v) \in H^2(0, \ell) \cap H_{1,0} \times H_{1,0} : (v(\ell), u'(\ell)) \in \Gamma\}; \quad (1.5)$$

where  $\Gamma$  is the graph



$w = (u, v) \in \mathcal{H} = H_{1,0} \times L^2(0, \ell)$ ,  $H_{1,0} = \{u \in H^1(0, \ell) : u(0) = 0\}$ , and

$$\|w\|^2 = \|(u, v)\|^2 = |u'|_{L^2}^2 + |v|_{L^2}^2$$



## 2 The Abstract Theory

Let  $X$  be a complete metric space,  $\mathbb{R}^+ = [0, \infty)$ . A family of mappings  $S(t) : X \rightarrow X$ ,  $t \geq 0$ , is said to be a dynamical systems (or a  $C^0$ -semigroup) if:

1.  $S(0) = I$ ,
2.  $S(t+s) = S(t)S(s)$ ,
3.  $S(t)x$  is continuous in  $t$ ,  $x$ .

**Definition 2.1** For any  $x \in X$ , the orbit  $\gamma(x)$  through  $x$  is defined as  $\gamma(x) = \{S(t)x, t \geq 0\}$ , the  $\omega$ -limit set  $\omega(x)$  of  $x$  is defined as

$$\omega(x) = \bigcap_{s \geq 0} \left( \overline{\bigcup_{t \geq s} S(t)x} \right),$$

and, a set  $B \subset X$  is said to attract a set  $C$  (under  $S(t)$ ) if  $d(S(t)C, B) \rightarrow 0$  as  $t \rightarrow \infty$ .

**Definition 2.2** Let  $\alpha$  be the Kuratowski measure of noncompactness, that is,

$$\alpha(B) = \inf \{d : B \text{ has a finite cover by sets of diameter } \leq d\}$$

The semigroup  $S(t)$ ,  $t \geq 0$ , is said to be a  $\alpha$ -contraction if there is a continuous function  $k : \mathbb{R}^+ \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^+$  such that  $k(t) \rightarrow 0$  as  $t \rightarrow \infty$ , and, for each  $t > 0$  and each bounded set  $B \subset X$  we have  $\{S(s)B, 0 \leq s \leq t\}$  bounded and  $\alpha(S(t)B) \leq k(t)\alpha(B)$

**Definition 2.3** A pseudo-metric  $\rho$  is said to be precompact if any bounded sequence (with respect to the distance of  $X$ ) has a subsequence which is Cauchy with respect to  $\rho$ .

**Theorem 2.1** If for each  $t > 0$ ,  $S(t)$  satisfies

$$d(S(t)x, S(t)y) \leq k(t)d(x, y) + \rho_t(x, y),$$

where  $k(t) \geq 0$  and  $\rho_t$  is a precompact pseudo-metric, then

$$\alpha(S(t)B) \leq k(t)\alpha(B)$$

for any bounded set  $B$ .

The proof of the theorem can be found in [1].

**Theorem 2.2** *If  $S(t)$ , is a  $\alpha$ -contraction and  $B$  is a nonempty set in  $X$  such that  $\gamma(B)$  is bounded, then  $\omega(B)$  is nonempty, compact, invariant, and  $\omega(B)$  attracts  $B$ . If, in addition,  $B$  is connected, then  $\omega(B)$  is connected. In particular, if, for some  $x \in X$ ,  $\gamma(x)$  is bounded, then  $\gamma(x)$  is compact and  $\omega(x)$  is nonempty, compact, connected, and invariant.*

The proof can be found in [6].

### 3 Application to Sucker Rod Pumping Systems

We proved in [2] that the operator given in (1.4), (1.5) is maximal monotone, so, if  $f \in BV_{loc}(0, \infty; L^2(0, \ell))$  we can apply the results of this theory (see, [4]), to obtain, for every initial condition  $w_0 = (u_0, v_0) \in \mathcal{H}$ , a unique (mild) solution  $w(t) = (u(t), v(t))$ ,  $t \geq 0$ , of (1.3) such that  $w(0) = w_0$  and, moreover, if  $w_0 \in \mathcal{D}(A)$  then,  $w(t) \in \mathcal{D}(A)$ ,  $t \geq 0$ ,  $w(t)$  has a right derivative that satisfies  $\frac{d^+ w}{dt} = f(t+0) - Aw(t)$ .

Defining  $T_f(t)w_0 = w(t) = (u(t), v(t))$ ,  $t \geq 0$ ,  $w_0 \in \mathcal{H}$  where  $w(\cdot)$  is the solution of (1.3) such that  $w(0) = w_0$ , we have that  $T_f(t)w_0$  is continuous in  $t$  and  $w_0$  [4, Theorem 3.16, pg 102], or more specifically, if  $w_n \rightarrow w_0$  then  $T_f(t)w_n \rightarrow T_f(t)w_0$  uniformly for  $t$  in compact interval of  $\mathbb{R}^+$ . For simplicity we will denote  $T_f(t)$  by  $T(t)$ .

**Theorem 3.1** *If  $f \in BV_{loc}(0, \infty; L^2(0, \ell)) \cap L^\infty(0, \infty; L^2(0, \ell))$ , then the solutions of (1.3), corresponding to initial values in a bounded set go exponentially to a bounded set, in particular, the problem (1.3) is bounded dissipative and orbits of bounded sets are bounded.*

The proof is given in [2, remark on pg. 10].

**Theorem 3.2** *If  $W(w)$  is given by*

$$W(w) = W(u, v) = \int_0^\ell \left[ \frac{1}{2}(u')^2 + \frac{1}{2}v^2 + 2\beta uv \right] dx, \quad \beta = \frac{2c}{8 + c^2\ell^2},$$

then,

$$i) \quad \frac{1}{4}(|u'|^2 + |v|^2) \leq W(u, v) \leq \frac{3}{4}(|u'|^2 + |v|^2),$$

and, moreover, there exists a constant  $\lambda > 0$ , such that

$$ii) \quad W(T(t)w_1 - T(t)w_2) \leq e^{-\lambda t} W(w_1 - w_2) + \rho_t(w_1, w_2)$$

where  $\rho_t$  is a precompact pseudo-metric, for every  $t > 0$ .



*Proof:* The proof of first item i) can be found in [2]. For the the second one, if  $w_1, w_2 \in \mathcal{D}(A)$ , we can use the same kind of computation of [2, theorem 3.1] to obtain

$$W(T(t)w_1 - T(t)w_2) \leq e^{-\lambda t} W(w_1 - w_2) + 4\beta m \int_0^t |u_1(s, \ell) - u_2(s, \ell)| ds.$$

where  $u_i(s, \cdot)$  is the first component of  $T(s)w_i$ .

Since  $\mathcal{D}(A)$  is dense in  $\mathcal{H}$ , we can conclude that this inequality remains true for every  $w_1, w_2 \in \mathcal{H}$ .

Setting, for  $t > 0$ .

$$\rho_t(w_1, w_2) = 4\beta m \int_0^t |u_1(s, \ell) - u_2(s, \ell)| ds.$$

we have that  $\rho_t$  is a precompact pseudo-metric. Indeed, if  $\{w_{0,n}\}$  is a bounded sequence in  $H$ , then from theorem 3.1 we have for the corresponding solutions that  $\|u_n\|_{L^2(0,t;H^1(0,\ell))}$  and  $\|\dot{u}_n\|_{L^2(0,t;L^2(0,\ell))}$  are bounded, and since the inclusion  $H^1(0, \ell) \hookrightarrow C[0, \ell]$  is compact the Aubin–Lions lemma (Lions [7], theorem 5.1, p. 58) implies that  $\{u_n\}$  is relatively compact in  $L^2(0, t; C[0, \ell])$ . Therefore, there is a Cauchy subsequence, that we keep denoting by  $\{u_n\}$ , in  $L^2(0, t; C[0, \ell])$ . Therefore, since

$$\begin{aligned} \rho_t(w_n, w_m) &= 4\beta m \int_0^t |u_n(s, \ell) - u_m(s, \ell)| ds. \\ &\leq 4\beta m \int_0^t |u_n(s) - u_m(s)|_{L^\infty} ds \leq 4\beta m t^{1/2} \left( \int_0^t |u_n(s) - u_m(s)|_{L^\infty}^2 ds \right)^{1/2} \\ &= 4\beta m t^{1/2} \|u_n - u_m\|_{L^2(0,t;C[0,\ell])}. \end{aligned}$$

we have  $\rho_t$  is a compact pseudo-metric, and the theorem is proved.

Using the results of the two previous theorems and the results of [5] and [6] we can state the following result:

**Theorem 3.3** *If  $f \in BV_{loc}(0, \infty; L^2(0, \ell))$  is  $\sigma$ -periodic in  $t$ , the Poincaré map  $w \rightarrow T(\sigma)w$  has a fixed point (and therefore (1.3) a  $\sigma$ -periodic solution) and a global, compact, invariant attractor.*

Given  $f \in BV(0, \sigma; L^2(0, \ell))$ , defined in the interval  $[0, \sigma]$  we will extend  $f$  periodically to  $\mathbb{R}$ , and consider the function space  $\mathcal{F}$ , of all translates of  $f$ ,

$$\mathcal{F} = \{f_\tau : f_\tau(t) = f(\tau + t)\} \subset L^1(0, \sigma; L^2(0, \ell)).$$

Also, we will denote by  $X$  the following metric space:

$$X = \mathcal{H} \times \mathcal{H} \times \mathcal{F}.$$

where the metric considered is the maximum one. Under this conditions we have:

**Lemma 3.1** *The function space  $\mathcal{F} \subset L^1(0, \sigma; L^2(0, \ell))$  is compact*

*Proof:* Given a sequence  $f_{\tau_n}$ , we can suppose, using the fact of  $f$  is  $\sigma$ -periodic, that  $\tau_n \in [0, \sigma]$ , and moreover, that  $\tau_n \rightarrow \tau$  in  $[0, \sigma]$  taking a subsequence if necessary. Setting  $h_n = |\tau_n - \tau|$  and  $V_f(t) = \text{Var}(f : [-\sigma, t])$ , we can change the coordinates and use the  $\sigma$ -periodicity of  $f$  to obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \int_0^\sigma |f_{\tau_n}(t) - f_\tau(t)| dt &= \int_0^\sigma |f(\tau_n + t) - f(\tau + t)| dt \\ &= \int_{-h_n}^{\sigma-h_n} |f(t + h_n) - f(t)| dt \leq \int_{-h_n}^{\sigma-h_n} V_f(t + h_n) - V_f(t) dt \\ &\leq \int_{\sigma-h_n}^\sigma V_f(t) dt \leq h_n V_f(\sigma). \end{aligned}$$

therefore  $f_{\tau_n} \rightarrow f_\tau \in \mathcal{F}$ .

The next lemma is standard.

**Lemma 3.2** *If  $X$  and  $Y$  are Banach spaces, then considering  $X \times Y$  with the maximum norm, we have the following:*

1.  $\text{diam}(B) = \text{diam}(P_X(B) \times P_Y(B))$   
 $= \max\{\text{diam}(P_X(B)), \text{diam}(P_Y(B))\}$
2.  $\alpha(B) = \alpha(P_X(B) \times P_Y(B)) = \max\{\alpha(P_X(B)), \alpha(P_Y(B))\}$

where  $B \subset X \times Y$  is a bounded set and  $P_X$  and  $P_Y$  are the respective projections. Moreover, if  $T_1 : X \rightarrow X$  and  $T_2 : Y \rightarrow Y$  satisfies

$$\alpha(T_1(B_1)) \leq q_1 \alpha(B_1); \quad \alpha(T_2(B_2)) \leq q_2 \alpha(B_2)$$

then,  $T : X \times Y \rightarrow X \times Y$ ;  $T(x, y) = (T_1 x, T_2 y)$ , satisfy

$$\alpha(T(B)) \leq \max\{q_1, q_2\} \alpha(B)$$

where  $B \subset X \times Y$ ,  $B_1 \subset X$  and  $B_2 \subset Y$  are bounded sets.

**Theorem 3.4** *The family of mappings  $S(t) : X \rightarrow X$ ,  $t \geq 0$ , given by*

$$S(t)(w_1, w_2, f) = (T_f(t)w_1, T_f(t)w_2, f_t)$$

*is a dynamical system*

*Proof:*  $X$  is a complete metric space. The Semi-group propriety  $S(t + s) = S(t)S(s)$  follows using the same arguments of Sell [3], and the continuity is a consequence of Brezis [4, theorem 3.16, pg 102].



**Theorem 3.5** *If  $f \in BV(0, \sigma; L^2(0, \ell))$  satisfies H), then the periodic solution of (1.3) is globally asymptotically stable.*

*Proof:* Theorems 3.1, 3.2 and lemmas 3.1, 3.2 imply  $\{S(t) : t \geq 0\}$  is a  $\alpha$ -contraction and orbits of bounded sets are bounded, therefore, from theorem 2.2 we have that  $\gamma(w_1, w_2, f)$  is pre-compact and, the  $\omega$ -limit set,  $\omega(w_1, w_2, f)$ , is nonempty, compact connected and, invariant.

Now we will consider the function  $V : X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  given by  $V(w_1, w_2, f) = \|w_1 - w_2\|^2$ . If  $w_1, w_2 \in \mathcal{D}(A)$ , and  $t \geq 0$ , we have, since the graph  $\Gamma$  is non increasing, that,

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d^+}{dt} V(S(t)(w_1, w_2, f)) &= \frac{d^+}{dt} \|T(t)w_1 - T(t)w_2\|^2 \\ &= - \langle T(t)w_1 - T(t)w_2, AT(t)w_1 - AT(t)w_2 \rangle \\ &\leq -c \int_0^\ell (v_1 - v_2)^2 dx \leq 0 \end{aligned}$$

where  $v_i$  is the second component of  $T(t)w_i$ ,  $i = 1, 2$ .

Then,  $V(S(t)(w_1, w_2, f))$  is non increasing, and a simple argument of density imply that this is also true for  $w_1, w_2 \in \mathcal{H}$ . Therefore,

$$V(S(t)(w_1, w_2, f)) \rightarrow d \geq 0, \quad \text{as } t \rightarrow \infty,$$

and

$$V \equiv d \quad \text{on } \omega(w_1, w_2, f).$$

If  $(\bar{w}_1, \bar{w}_2, \bar{f}) \in \omega(w_1, w_2, f)$  and  $(\bar{u}_i, \bar{v}_i) = T_{\bar{f}}(t)\bar{w}_i$ ,  $i = 1, 2$ , we can approximate  $\bar{w}_1, \bar{w}_2$  by sequences  $w_{1,n}, w_{2,n} \in \mathcal{D}(A)$  and therefore, since  $\omega(w_1, w_2, f)$  is invariant,

$$V_n(t) := V(S(t)(w_{1,n}, w_{2,n}, \bar{f})) \rightarrow V(t) := V(S(t)(\bar{w}_1, \bar{w}_2, \bar{f})) = d,$$

as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ , uniformly for  $t$  in compact intervals.

If  $v_{i,n}$  is the second component of  $T_{\bar{f}}w_{i,n}$  ( $i = 1, 2$ ), we have

$$\frac{d^+}{dt} V_n(t) \leq -c \int_0^\ell (v_{1,n} - v_{2,n})^2 dx$$

that imply

$$V_n(t) - V_n(0) \leq -c \int_0^t \int_0^\ell (v_{1,n} - v_{2,n})^2 dx ds$$

then, as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ , we have

$$0 \leq -c \int_0^t \int_0^\ell (\bar{v}_1 - \bar{v}_2)^2 dx ds \implies \bar{v}_1 = \bar{v}_2.$$

Therefore, setting  $\varphi = \bar{u}_1 - \bar{u}_2$ , we have  $\varphi_t = \bar{v}_1 - \bar{v}_2 = 0$  and then  $\varphi$  is an equilibrium solution of the linear problem:

$$\begin{aligned}u_{tt} - u_{xx} &= 0 \\u(t, 0) &= 0 \\u_t(t, \ell) &= 0\end{aligned}$$

that is  $\varphi(t, x) = kx$ ,  $k$  constant, and

$$\bar{u}_1(t, x) = \bar{u}_2(t, x) + kx$$

therefore

$$(\bar{u}_1)_x(t, \ell) = (\bar{u}_2)_x(t, \ell) + k$$

and then  $k$  must be zero, since the maximum and minimum of  $(\bar{u}_i)_x(t, \ell)$ ,  $i = 1, 2$ , are respectively  $m$  and  $0$ . Therefore  $\bar{w}_1 = \bar{w}_2$  and  $d = 0$ .

In particular for  $w_2$  the initial condition of the strong periodic solution  $\gamma$  of (1.3) and  $w_1$  arbitrary, we have  $V(S(t)(w_1, w_2, f)) \rightarrow 0$ , as  $t \rightarrow \infty$ , that is  $T(t)w_1 \rightarrow \gamma$ , and the theorem is proved. .

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