

We expect a "steady periodic" solution, that also has a Fourier series

$$x_{sp}(t) = \frac{A_0}{2} + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left( A_n \cos \frac{n\pi t}{L} + B_n \sin \frac{n\pi t}{L} \right)$$

Now the Fourier coefficients of  $x_{sp}(t)$  play the role of "undetermined coefficients".

Plug this undetermined series into  $m\ddot{x} + kx$

$$\frac{kA_0}{2} + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left[ k - m \left( \frac{n\pi}{L} \right)^2 \right] A_n \cos \frac{n\pi t}{L} + \left[ k - m \left( \frac{n\pi}{L} \right)^2 \right] B_n \sin \frac{n\pi t}{L}$$

want this equals  $F(t)$ , so we need

$$\frac{kA_0}{2} = \frac{a_0}{2}$$

$$A_0 = \frac{a_0}{k}$$

$$\left[ k - m \left( \frac{n\pi}{L} \right)^2 \right] A_n = a_n$$

$$A_n = \frac{a_n}{\left[ k - m \left( \frac{n\pi}{L} \right)^2 \right]}$$

$$\left[ k - m \left( \frac{n\pi}{L} \right)^2 \right] B_n = b_n$$

$$B_n = \frac{b_n}{\left[ k - m \left( \frac{n\pi}{L} \right)^2 \right]}$$

This works as long as none of the denominators

$k - m \left( \frac{n\pi}{L} \right)^2$  equals zero. Otherwise, resonance occurs.