

TB-1.2: Suppose the masses m_1, m_2, m_3, m_4 are located at positions x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4 in a line and connected by springs with spring constants k_{12}, k_{23}, k_{34} whose natural lengths of extension are l_{12}, l_{23}, l_{34} . Let f_1, f_2, f_3, f_4 denote the rightward forces on the masses, e.g. $f_1 = k_{12}((x_2 - x_1) - l_{12})$.

- Write the (4×4) matrix equation relating the column vectors \vec{f} and \vec{x} . Let K denote the matrix in this equation.
- What are the units of the entries of K in the physics sense, e.g. mass \times time, distance/mass, etc... There are at least two (natural) forms of the answer, you only have to provide one.
- What are the units of $\det(K)$, again in the physics sense?
- Suppose K is given numerical values based on the units meters, kilograms and seconds. Now the system is rewritten with a matrix K' based on centimeters, grams, and seconds. What is the relationship of K' to K ? What is the relationship of $\det(K')$ to $\det(K)$?

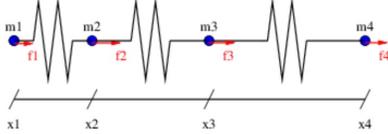


Figure: Left-to-right: Four masses connected by three springs --- $m_1, s_{12}, m_2, s_{23}, m_3, s_{34}, m_4$. Right-pulling forces f_1, f_2, f_3, f_4 are indicated on the masses. The locations x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4 of the masses are indicated.

$$f_1 = k_{12}((x_2 - x_1) - l_{12})$$

$$= -k_{12}x_1 + k_{12}x_2 - k_{12}l_{12}$$

$$f_2 = -k_{12}((x_2 - x_1) - l_{12}) + k_{23}((x_3 - x_2) - l_{23})$$

$$= k_{12}x_1 + (-k_{12} - k_{23})x_2 + k_{23}x_3 + k_{12}l_{12} - k_{23}l_{23}$$

$$f_3 = -k_{23}((x_3 - x_2) - l_{23}) + k_{34}((x_4 - x_3) - l_{34})$$

$$= k_{23}x_2 + (-k_{23} - k_{34})x_3 + k_{34}x_4 + k_{23}l_{23} - k_{34}l_{34}$$

$$f_4 = -k_{34}((x_4 - x_3) - l_{34})$$

$$= k_{34}x_3 - k_{34}x_4 + k_{34}l_{34}$$

$$c = \begin{bmatrix} -k_{12}l_{12} \\ k_{12}l_{12} - k_{23}l_{23} \\ k_{23}l_{23} - k_{34}l_{34} \\ k_{34}l_{34} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$K = \begin{bmatrix} -k_{12} & k_{12} & 0 & 0 \\ k_{12} & (-k_{12} - k_{23}) & k_{23} & 0 \\ 0 & k_{23} & (-k_{23} - k_{34}) & k_{34} \\ 0 & 0 & k_{34} & -k_{34} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\vec{f} = \begin{bmatrix} f_1 \\ f_2 \\ f_3 \\ f_4 \end{bmatrix} \quad \vec{x} = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \\ x_4 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\Rightarrow \vec{f} = K\vec{x} + c$$

$$(b) \quad K = \frac{\vec{f} - c}{\vec{x}} = \frac{\text{Force}}{\text{Distance}} = \frac{N}{m} = \frac{kg \cdot m/s^2}{m} \Rightarrow [K_{ij}] = kg/s^2$$

$$(c) \quad \det(K) = ([K_{ij}])^4 = (kg/s^2)^4 = kg^4/s^8$$

$$(d) \quad K(m, kg, s) \Rightarrow K'(cm, g, s)$$

$$K = kg/s \Rightarrow K' = g/s$$

$$1m = 100cm$$

$$1kg = 1000g$$

$$K' = \frac{1000g}{1kg} \cdot K \Rightarrow K' = 1000K \rightarrow \det(K') = (1000)^4 \det(K)$$

$$\Rightarrow \det(K') = 10^{12} \det(K)$$