

# AN APPLICATION OF THE THEORY OF FINITE STRAIN

by H. L. LANGRISH

*Department of Applied Mathematics, University of Cambridge*

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The theory of finite strain problems has been developed on the basis of the assumption that the components of strain are not necessarily small. In this paper the two components have been taken to be of the order of unity. The results are the extension of the theory of the simple pendulum to large strains. Many of the results have been found to be new. The object of the paper is to apply the theory to the problem of the vertical oscillation of a string, to illustrate, among the applications of oscillation theory, the conditions that the limits of perfect elasticity are reached at the string's maximum elongation throughout. As is well known, the oscillation in such cases is not necessarily independent of the initial strain.

Consider the fixed end of a light elastic string whose other end is attached to a mass of  $m$  at the string's end, and the masses in its equilibrium position is  $l_0$ . Some writers use the initial length as the unstretched length of the string in the Hooke's Law, but this is incorrect when the stretch is small, but not when it is of the order of unity. Again, the generalized Hooke's Law is usually written in terms of initial stretch, but this is incorrect when the stretch is of the order of unity. The terms  $l_0$  and stretch are connected by means of

$$l = l_0 \left[ 1 + \frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{\lambda}{l_0} \right)^2 \right] \quad (1)$$

where  $l$  is the stretched length  
 $l_0$  is the unstretched length

and  $\lambda$  is the stretch.

It is assumed that  $\lambda < 1$ , when  $\lambda$  and higher powers of  $\lambda$  can be

If  $x$  is measured downwards from the fixed point, the equation of motion is

$$\frac{m d^2x}{dt^2} = mg - \frac{1}{2} E \left(1 - \frac{l^2}{x^2}\right). \quad (2)$$

Putting  $y = x/l$ , we have on integration

$$\frac{1}{2} ml \left(\frac{dy}{dt}\right)^2 = (mg - \frac{1}{2} E) y - \frac{1}{2} \frac{E}{y} + C, \quad (3)$$

$C$  being a constant of integration.

Now the velocity of the particle vanishes at two points in its line of motion. Let these be given by  $y = \alpha$  and  $y = \beta$  ( $\alpha > \beta$ ). We can re-write (3) as

$$\frac{1}{2} ml \left(\frac{dy}{dt}\right)^2 = (\frac{1}{2} E - mg) \frac{(\alpha - y)(y - \beta)}{y}, \quad (4)$$

where 
$$\alpha \beta = \frac{E}{E - 2mg}. \quad (5)$$

$\Gamma = mg = \frac{1}{2} E$  gives infinite elongation, and hence corresponds to the yield point. Therefore,  $mg < \frac{1}{2} E$ .

From (4) we see that  $t$  and  $y$  are connected by means of the elliptic integral of the second kind, viz.,

$$t = \sqrt{\frac{ml}{E - 2mg}} \int_y^\alpha \frac{y dy}{\sqrt{y(\alpha - y)(y - \beta)}} \quad (6)$$

Putting  $y = \alpha (1 - k^2 \sin^2 \phi)$ , where  $k^2 \alpha = (\alpha - \beta)$ , we get

$$\begin{aligned} t &= 2 \sqrt{\alpha} \cdot \sqrt{\frac{ml}{E - 2mg}} \int_0^\phi \sqrt{1 - k^2 \sin^2 \phi} d\phi \\ &= 2 \sqrt{\alpha} \cdot \sqrt{\frac{ml}{E - 2mg}} E(k, \phi). \end{aligned} \quad (7)$$

But 
$$mg = \frac{1}{2} E \left[1 - \frac{1}{(1 + L/l)^2}\right],$$

or

$$\sqrt{\frac{E}{E - 2mg}} = 1 + \frac{L}{l}, \quad (8.1)$$

so that 
$$\alpha \beta = \left(1 + \frac{L}{l}\right)^2. \quad (8.2)$$

Putting 
$$k^2 = 1 - \frac{\beta}{\alpha} = \sin^2 \theta,$$

we get,

$$\alpha = \left(1 + \frac{L}{l}\right) \sec \theta = \frac{l'}{l} \sec \theta, \quad (8.3)$$

and 
$$\begin{aligned} \text{Amplitude} &= l (\alpha - \beta) = l \left( 1 + \frac{L}{l} \right) \sin \theta \tan \theta \\ &= l' \sin \theta \tan \theta, \end{aligned} \tag{8.4}$$

where  $l'$  is the stretched length in the position of equilibrium.

We can now rewrite (7) as

$$t = 2 \sqrt{\frac{ml}{E}} \left( \frac{l'}{l} \right)^{\frac{3}{2}} \sqrt{\sec \theta} E(k, \phi). \tag{9}$$

The period of a complete oscillation is, therefore, given by

$$T = 4 \sqrt{\frac{ml}{E}} \left( \frac{l'}{l} \right)^{\frac{3}{2}} \sqrt{\sec \theta} E_0, \tag{10}$$

$E_0$  being the complete elliptic integral of the second kind.

If Hooke's Law is adopted, the period is known to be

$$T_0 = 2\pi \sqrt{\frac{ml}{E}}. \tag{11}$$

Hence,

$$\frac{T}{T_0} = \frac{2}{\pi} E_0 \left( \frac{l'}{l} \right)^{\frac{3}{2}} \sqrt{\sec \theta}. \tag{12}$$

As the amplitude increases with both  $\theta$  and  $l'$ , the ratio  $(T/T_0)$  increases with the amplitude.

The variation of  $(2/\pi) E_0 \sqrt{\sec \theta}$  and  $\sin \theta \tan \theta$  with respect to  $\theta$  is given in the following table :

TABLE

$\theta$	0°	10°	20°	30°	40°	50°	60°	70°	80°	90°
$(2/\pi) E_0 \sqrt{\sec \theta}$	1	1.000	1.001	1.004	1.014	1.037	1.090	1.217	1.589	$\infty$
$\sin \theta \tan \theta$	0	0.031	0.124	0.289	0.539	0.913	1.500	2.582	5.585	$\infty$

It is clear from the table that the period does not vary very much with the amplitude for small values of  $\theta$ . But this variation cannot be neglected when  $\theta$  exceeds 40°.

For a given value of  $\theta$  we see from (12) that

$$(T/T_0)^2 \propto l'^3,$$

which shews that the variation of  $(T/T_0)$  with  $l'$  follows the law of the semi-cubical parabola.