

## Research Article

# Analytical and Numerical Study to a Forced Van der Pol Oscillator

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In this paper we show the way to apply some analytical and numerical techniques in order to solve the forced Van der Pol oscillator. We illustrate the obtained results with examples. A comparison with Runge–Kutta numerical method is made in order to see the accuracy of the approximated analytical solution.

## 1. Introduction

We consider the following forced Van der Pol oscillator:

$$\begin{aligned}x - \varepsilon(1 - x^2)\dot{x} + \alpha x &= F \cos(\Omega t), \\x(0) &= x_0, \\x'(0) &= \dot{x}_0,\end{aligned}\tag{1}$$

In the case when  $\alpha = 1$  and  $\beta = F = 0$  we obtain the well known Van der Pol oscillator [1].

$$\begin{aligned}x - \varepsilon(1 - x^2)\dot{x} + x &= 0, \\x(0) &= x_0, \\x'(0) &= \dot{x}_0.\end{aligned}\tag{2}$$

Oscillator (2) may be solved using perturbation methods as described.

## 2. The Lindstedt–Poincaré Method

Let us consider the i.v.p.

$$\begin{aligned}x - \varepsilon(1 - x^2)\dot{x} + \omega_0^2 x &= 0, \\x(0) &= 2, \\x'(0) &= 0.\end{aligned}\tag{3}$$

The Lindstedt–Poincaré method assumes the solution in the ansatz form

$$\begin{aligned}x(t) &= y_0(\omega t) + \varepsilon y_1(\omega t) + \varepsilon^2 y_2(\omega t) \\&+ \varepsilon^3 y_3(\omega t) + \varepsilon^4 y_4(\omega t) + \dots,\end{aligned}\tag{4}$$

where

$$\omega^2 = \omega_0^2 + \varepsilon \omega_1 + \varepsilon^2 \omega_2 + \varepsilon^3 \omega_3 + \varepsilon^4 \omega_4 + \dots.\tag{5}$$

Using this method gives the following solution up to  $\varepsilon^4$ :

$$\begin{aligned}
x(t) = & 2 \cos(\omega t) + \left[ \frac{3}{4\omega_0} \sin(\omega t) - \frac{1}{4\omega_0} \sin(3\omega t) \right] \varepsilon + \left[ \frac{5}{96\omega_0^2} \cos(3\omega t) - \frac{5}{96\omega_0^2} \cos(5\omega t) \right] \varepsilon^2 \\
& + \left[ -\frac{7}{256\omega_0^3} \sin(\omega t) + \frac{21}{256\omega_0^3} \sin(3\omega t) - \frac{35}{576\omega_0^3} \sin(5\omega t) + \frac{7}{576\omega_0^3} \sin(7\omega t) \right] \varepsilon^3 + \\
& \left[ -\frac{6301}{276480\omega_0^4} \cos(3\omega t) + \frac{1085}{27648\omega_0^4} \cos(5\omega t) - \frac{2149}{110592\omega_0^4} \cos(7\omega t) + \frac{61}{20480\omega_0^4} \cos(9\omega t) \right] \varepsilon^4,
\end{aligned} \tag{6}$$

$$\text{where } \omega = \omega_0^2 - \frac{1}{8}\varepsilon^2 + \frac{23}{1536\omega_0^2}\varepsilon^4.$$

This solution is periodic with period  $T = 2\pi/\omega$ .

### 3. He's Homotopy Perturbation Method

The homotopy perturbation method has been shown to solve a large class of nonlinear differential problems effectively, easily, and accurately; generally one iteration is enough for engineering applications with acceptable accuracy, making

the method accessible to nonmathematicians. However, in this method secularity terms appear. We perform iterations until such terms appear. We construct the following homotopy [2].

$$\ddot{x} + \omega_0^2 x - p\varepsilon(1-x^2)\dot{x} + \alpha p(1-p)x = 0, \tag{7}$$

where

$$\begin{aligned}
x(t) = & x_0(\omega t) + px_1(\omega t) + p^2 x_2(\omega t) + p^3 x_3(\omega t) + p^4 x_4(\omega t) + \dots, \\
\omega^2 = & \omega_0^2 + p\omega_1 + p^2 \omega_2 + p^3 \omega_3 + p^4 \omega_4 + \dots.
\end{aligned} \tag{8}$$

After some algebra one finds that

$$\begin{aligned}
x(t) = & \sqrt{4-c_0^2} \sin(\tau) + c_0 \cos(\tau) + \frac{\varepsilon \sin(3\tau) \left( -3\sqrt{4-c_0^2} c_0^2 \varepsilon + 3\sqrt{4-c_0^2} \varepsilon - 8c_0^3 \omega_0 + 24c_0 \omega_0 \right)}{64\omega_0^2} \\
& + \frac{\varepsilon \cos(3\tau) \left( -3c_0^3 \varepsilon + 9c_0 \varepsilon + 8\sqrt{4-c_0^2} c_0^2 \omega_0 - 8\sqrt{4-c_0^2} \omega_0 \right)}{64\omega_0^2} + \\
& \frac{5\sqrt{4-c_0^2} (c_0^4 - 3c_0^2 + 1) \varepsilon^2 \sin(5\tau)}{192\omega_0^2} - \frac{5c_0 (c_0^4 - 5c_0^2 + 5) \varepsilon^2 \cos(5\tau)}{192\omega_0^2}.
\end{aligned} \tag{9}$$

Here,

$$\tau = \left( c_1 + \sqrt{\omega_0^2 - \frac{\varepsilon^2}{8}} \right) t \alpha = 0,$$

$$\omega_1 = 0,$$

$$\omega_2 = \frac{\varepsilon^2}{8}.$$

The constants  $c_0$  and  $c_1$  are determined from nthe initial conditions.

#### 4. The Krylov–Bogoliubov–Mitropolsky Method (KBM)

The Krylov–Bogoliubov–Mitropolsky method (KBM) [2], [3] is a technique to give approximate analytical solution to the weakly nonlinear second-order equation

$$\frac{d^2u}{dt^2} + \omega_0^2 u = \varepsilon f\left(u, \frac{du}{dt}\right). \quad (10)$$

When  $\varepsilon = 0$  the solution of (10) may be expressed as

$$u = a \cos(\omega_0 t + \theta). \quad (11)$$

where  $a$  and  $\theta$  are constants. For the case when  $\varepsilon > 0$  is small, Krylov and Bogoliubov (1947) assumed that the solution is still given by (11) but with time-varying  $a$  and  $\theta$ , and subject to the condition

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{du}{dt} &= -a\omega_0 \sin \phi, \\ \phi &= \omega_0 t + \theta. \end{aligned} \quad (12)$$

In the general case, the solution is assumed in the ansatz form

$$u = a \cos \psi + \sum_{n=1}^N \varepsilon^n u_n(a, \psi) + O(\varepsilon^{N+1}). \quad (13)$$

where each  $u_n$  is a periodic function of  $\psi$  with a period  $2\pi$ , and  $a$  and  $\psi$  are assumed to vary with time according to

$$\frac{da}{dt} = \sum_{n=1}^N \varepsilon^n A_n(a) + O(\varepsilon^{N+1}), \quad (14)$$

$$\frac{d\psi}{dt} = \omega_0 + \sum_{n=1}^N \varepsilon^n \psi_n(a) + O(\varepsilon^{N+1}).$$

In order to uniquely determine  $A_n$  and  $\psi_n$ , we require that no  $u_n$  contains  $\cos \psi$ . Let  $N = 3$ . Then,

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{du}{dt} &= -a\omega_0 \sin(\psi) + (\omega_0 u_{1,\psi} - a\psi_1 \sin(\psi) + A_1 \cos(\psi))\varepsilon + (A_1 u_{1,a} + \omega_0 u_{2,\psi} + \psi_1 u_{1,\psi} - a\psi_2 \sin(\psi) + A_2 \cos(\psi))\varepsilon^2 \\ &+ (A_2 u_{1,a} + A_1 u_{2,a} + \omega_0 u_{3,\psi} + \psi_2 u_{1,\psi} + \psi_1 u_{2,\psi} - a\psi_3 \sin(\psi) + A_3 \cos(\psi))\varepsilon^3 + \dots, \end{aligned} \quad (15)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d^2u}{dt^2} &= -a\omega_0^2 \cos(\psi) + (\omega_0^2 u_{1,\psi\psi} - 2a\psi_1 \omega_0 \cos(\psi) - 2A_1 \omega_0 \sin(\psi))\varepsilon + \\ &(2A_1 \omega_0 u_{1,a\psi} + 2\psi_1 \omega_0 u_{1,\psi\psi} + \omega_0^2 u_{2,\psi\psi} + \sin(\psi)(-aA_1 \dot{\psi}_1 - 2A_1 \psi_1 - 2A_2 \omega_0)t + n \cos q(\psi)h(A_1 \dot{A}_1 - a(2\psi_2 \omega_0 + \psi_1^2)))\varepsilon^2 \\ &+ \left( \begin{aligned} &\dot{A}_1 A_1 u_{1,a} + A_1^2 u_{1,aa} + 2A_1 \psi_1 u_{1,a\psi} + 2A_1 \omega_0 u_{2,a\psi} + 2A_2 \omega_0 u_{1,a\psi} + \\ &A_1 \dot{\psi}_1 u_{1,\psi} + 2\psi_2 \omega_0 u_{1,\psi\psi} + 2\psi_1 \omega_0 u_{2,\psi\psi} + \psi_1^2 u_{1,\psi\psi} + \omega_0^2 u_{3,\psi\psi} + \\ &\sin(\psi)(-aA_2 \dot{\psi}_1 - aA_1 \dot{\psi}_2 - 2A_2 \psi_1 - 2A_1 \psi_2 - 2A_3 \omega_0) + \\ &\cos(\psi)(-2a\psi_3 \omega_0 - 2a\psi_1 \psi_2 + A_2 \dot{A}_1 + A_1 \dot{A}_2) \end{aligned} \right) \varepsilon^3 + \dots. \end{aligned} \quad (16)$$

Here,

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{\psi}_1 &= \psi_1'(t), \\ u_{2,\psi} &= \frac{\partial u_2}{\partial \psi}, \\ u_{2,\psi\psi} &= \frac{\partial^2 u_2}{\partial \psi^2}, \\ u_{1,a\psi} &= \frac{\partial^2 u_1}{\partial \psi \partial a}, \\ &\text{etc.} \end{aligned} \quad (17)$$

Following is the solution obtained using KBM to accuracy  $O(\varepsilon^3)$  [2]:

$$\begin{aligned} x &= x(t) \\ &= a \cos(\psi) - \frac{1}{32} a^3 \sin(3\psi)\varepsilon \\ &- \left( \frac{(a^2 + 8)a^3}{1024} \cos(3\psi) + \frac{5a^5}{3072} \cos(5\psi) \right) \varepsilon^2, \end{aligned} \quad (18)$$

where  $a = a(t)$  and  $\psi = \psi(t)$  obey the odds

$$\begin{aligned} a'(t) &= \frac{\varepsilon}{2}a(t) - \frac{\varepsilon}{8}a^3(t), \\ \psi'(t) &= 1 - \frac{\varepsilon^2}{8} - \frac{\varepsilon^2 a(t)^4}{256} + \frac{\varepsilon^2 a(t)^2}{32}, \end{aligned} \quad (19)$$

so that

$$\begin{aligned} a\left(t = \frac{2e^{\varepsilon t/2}}{\sqrt{e^{8c_1} + e^{\varepsilon t}}}\right), \\ \psi(t) = \frac{1}{16}\left(\frac{e^{8c_1}\varepsilon}{e^{8c_1} + e^{\varepsilon t}} + \varepsilon \log(e^{8c_1} + e^{\varepsilon t}) - 2(\varepsilon^2 - 8)t\right) + c_2. \end{aligned} \quad (20)$$

The constants  $c_1$  and  $c_2$  are determined from the initial conditions  $x(0) = x_0$  and  $x'(0) = \dot{x}_0$ . For an illustration, see Figure 1 and Figure 2.

4.1. A More Accurate Analytical Solution. Let

$$\begin{aligned} u - \varepsilon(1 - u^2)\dot{u} + \omega_0^2 u &= 0, \\ u(0) &= u_0, \\ u'(0) &= \dot{u}_0. \end{aligned} \quad (21)$$

In view of the KBM, we assume the ansatz form

$$u = a \cos \psi + \sum_{n=1}^3 \varepsilon^n u_n(a, \psi) + O(\varepsilon^4). \quad (22)$$

Hence,

$$\frac{da}{dt} = \sum_{n=1}^3 \varepsilon^n A_n(a) + O(\varepsilon^4), \quad (23)$$

$$\frac{d\psi}{dt} = \omega_0 + \sum_{n=1}^3 \varepsilon^n \psi_n(a) + O(\varepsilon^4).$$

Making use of (15) and (16), we will have

$$\ddot{u} - \varepsilon(1 - u^2)\dot{u} + \omega_0^2 u = H_1 \varepsilon + H_2 \varepsilon^2 + H_3 \varepsilon^3 + O(\varepsilon^4), \quad (24)$$

where

$$H_1 = \frac{1}{4}\left(4\omega_0^2 u_{1,\psi\psi} + 4u_1 \omega_0^2\right) + \frac{1}{4}\sin(\psi)\left(-\omega_0 a^3 + 4\omega_0 a - 8A_1 \omega_0\right) - \frac{1}{4}a^3 \omega_0 \sin(3\psi) - 2a\psi_1 \omega_0 \cos(\psi), \quad (25)$$

$$\begin{aligned} H_2 &= \frac{1}{4}\left(2a^2 \omega_0 u_{1,\psi} + 8A_1 \omega_0 u_{1,a\psi} + 8\psi_1 \omega_0 u_{1,\psi\psi} - 4\omega_0 u_{1,\psi} + 4\omega_0^2 u_{2,\psi\psi} + 4u_2 \omega_0^2\right) + \frac{1}{2}a^2 \omega_0 \cos(2\psi)u_{1,\psi} \\ &\quad + \frac{1}{4}\sin(\psi)\left(a^3(-\psi_1) - 4aA_1 \dot{\psi}_1 + 4a\psi_1 - 8A_1 \psi_1 - 8A_2 \omega_0\right) - \\ &\quad \frac{1}{4}a^3 \psi_1 \sin(3\psi) + \frac{1}{4}\cos(\psi)\left(3a^2 A_1 - 8a\psi_2 \omega_0 - 4a\psi_1^2 - 4A_1 + 4A_1 \dot{A}_1\right) + \frac{1}{4}a^2 A_1 \cos(3\psi) - a^2 u_1 \omega_0 \sin(2\psi), \end{aligned} \quad (26)$$

$$\begin{aligned} H_3 &= \cos(\psi)\left(2au_1 \omega_0 u_{1,\psi} + \frac{3a^2 A_2}{4} - 2a\psi_3 \omega_0 - 2a\psi_1 \psi_2 - A_2 + A_2 \dot{A}_1 + A_1 \dot{A}_2\right) \\ &\quad + \cos(2\psi)\left(\frac{1}{2}a^2 A_1 u_{1,a} + \frac{1}{2}a^2 \omega_0 u_{2,\psi} + \frac{1}{2}a^2 \psi_1 u_{1,\psi} + aA_1 u_1\right) + \frac{1}{2}a^2 A_1 u_{1,a} + \frac{1}{2}a^2 \omega_0 u_{2,\psi} + \frac{1}{2}a^2 \psi_1 u_{1,\psi} - A_1 u_{1,a} \\ &\quad + A_1 \dot{A}_1 u_{1,a} + A_1^2 u_{1,aa} + 2A_1 \psi_1 u_{1,a\psi} + 2A_2 \omega_0 u_{1,a\psi} + 2A_1 \omega_0 u_{2,a\psi} + A_1 \dot{\psi}_1 u_{1,\psi} + 2\psi_2 \omega_0 u_{1,\psi\psi} + \\ &\quad 2\psi_1 \omega_0 u_{2,\psi\psi} + \psi_1^2 u_{1,\psi\psi} - \omega_0 u_{2,\psi} - \psi_1 u_{1,\psi} + \omega_0^2 u_{3,\psi\psi} + \sin(\psi) \\ &\quad \left(-\frac{1}{4}a^3 \psi_2 - aA_2 \dot{\psi}_1 - aA_1 \dot{\psi}_2 - au_1^2 \omega_0 + a\psi_2 - 2A_2 \psi_1 - 2A_1 \psi_2 - 2A_3 \omega_0\right) \\ &\quad - \frac{1}{4}a^3 \psi_2 \sin(3\psi) + \frac{1}{4}a^2 A_2 \cos(3\psi) + \sin(2\psi)\left(a^2(-u_1)\psi_1 - a^2 u_2 \omega_0\right) + aA_1 u_1 + u_3 \omega_0^2. \end{aligned} \quad (27)$$

Equating to zero the coefficients of  $\cos(\psi)$  and  $\sin(\psi)$  in (25) gives

$$\begin{aligned} A_1 &= \frac{1}{8}(4a - a^3), \\ \psi_1 &= 0. \end{aligned} \quad (28)$$

From the condition  $H_1 = 0$ , we get the second order linear ode

$$\frac{1}{4}\left(4\omega_0^2 u_{1,\psi\psi} + 4u_1 \omega_0^2\right) - \frac{1}{4}a^3 \omega_0 \sin(3\psi) = 0. \quad (29)$$

The general solution to the ode (29) reads

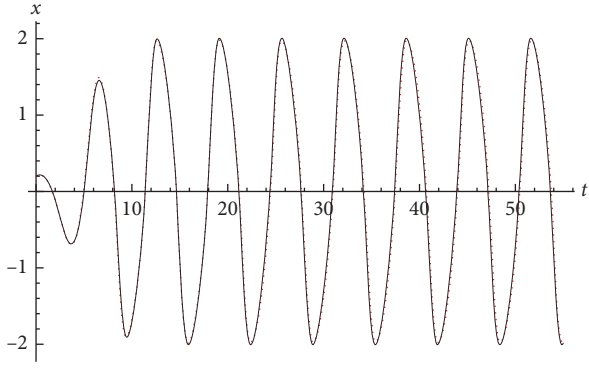


FIGURE 1: The Vander Pol oscillator for  $\varepsilon = 0.75$ .

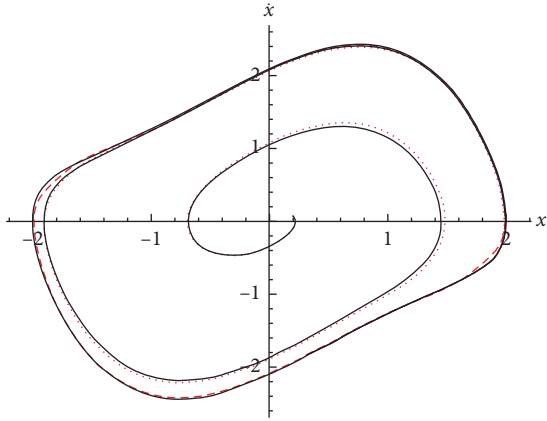


FIGURE 2: The Vander Pol oscillator for  $\varepsilon = 0.75$ .

$$u_1(a, \psi) = \frac{32c_1\omega_0^2}{32\omega_0^2} \cos(\psi) + \frac{(32c_2\omega_0^2 - 2a^3\omega_0)}{32\omega_0^2} \sin(\psi) - \frac{a^3}{32\omega_0} \sin(3\psi). \quad (30)$$

Define

$$\begin{aligned} c_1 &= 0, \\ c_2 &= \frac{1}{16\omega_0} a^3. \end{aligned} \quad (31)$$

Then,

$$u_1 = u_1(a, \psi) = -\frac{1}{32\omega_0} a^3 \sin(3\psi). \quad (32)$$

Replacing the expressions (31) and (32) into (26), we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} H_2 &= \frac{128\omega_0^4 u_2(a, \psi) + 128\omega_0^4 u_0^{(0,2)}(a, \psi) - 5a^5 \omega_0^2}{128\omega_0^2} \cos(5\psi) \\ &\quad - \frac{256A_2 \omega_0^3}{128\omega_0^2} \sin(\psi) - \frac{1}{32} a^3 (a^2 + 2) \cos(3\psi) \\ &\quad + \left( \frac{3}{16} a^3 - \frac{1}{4} a - \frac{5}{128} a^5 - 2a\omega_0 \psi_2 \right) \cos(\psi), \end{aligned} \quad (33)$$

Equating to zero the coefficients of  $\sin(\psi)$  and  $\sin(\psi)$  in (33), we get

$$\begin{aligned} A_2 &= 0, \\ \psi_2 &= -\frac{1}{256\omega_0} (5a^4 - 24a^2 + 32). \end{aligned} \quad (34)$$

From the condition  $H_2 = 0$  we obtain the following linear second order ode

$$\begin{aligned} \omega_0^2 (u_2(a, \psi) + u_2^{(0,2)}(a, \psi)) - \frac{5a^5 \omega_0^2}{128\omega_0^2} \cos(5\psi) - \frac{1}{32} a^3 (a^2 + 2) \cos(3\psi) &= 0. \end{aligned} \quad (35)$$

The general solution to the ode (35) is given by

$$\begin{aligned} u_2 &= u_2(a, \psi) \\ &= -\frac{5a^5 \omega_0^2}{3072\omega_0^4} \cos(5\psi) + c_4 \sin(\psi) - \frac{1}{256} \frac{a^3}{\omega_0^2} (a^2 + 2) \cos(3\psi) - \frac{1}{128\omega_0^2} (a^5 + 2a^3 - 128c_3 \omega_0^2) \cos(\psi). \end{aligned} \quad (36)$$

Define

$$c_3 = \frac{1}{128} \frac{a^3}{\omega_0^2} (a^2 + 2), \quad (37)$$

$$c_4 = 0.$$

Then,

$$\begin{aligned} u_2 &= u_2(a, \psi) \\ &= -\frac{5a^5 \omega_0^2}{3072\omega_0^4} \cos(5\psi) - \frac{1}{256} \frac{a^3}{\omega_0^2} (a^2 + 2) \cos(3\psi). \end{aligned} \quad (38)$$

Finally, we must have  $H_3 = 0$ . Proceeding in a similar manner as before, we get

$$A_3 = -\frac{1}{8192\omega_0^2}(25a^7 - 184a^5 + 320a^3),$$

$$\psi_3 = 0. \quad (39)$$

$$u_3 = \frac{28a^7 \sin(7\psi) - 6(71a^2 + 280)a^5 \sin(\psi) + 5(3a^2 + 56)a^5 \sin(5\psi) - 9(29a^4 - 168a^2 + 64)a^3 \sin(3\psi)}{294912\omega_0^3}.$$

We thus have that

$$u = a \cos(\psi) - \frac{a^3 \sin(3\psi)}{32\omega_0} \varepsilon - \left( \frac{5a^5 \cos(5\psi)}{3072\omega_0^2} + \frac{(a^2 + 8)a^3 \cos(3\psi)}{1024\omega_0^2} \right) \varepsilon^2 + \left( \frac{7a^7}{73728\omega_0^3} \sin(7\psi) + \frac{5(3a^2 + 56)a^5}{294912\omega_0^3} \sin(5\psi) - \frac{(29a^4 - 168a^2 + 64)a^3}{32768\omega_0^3} \sin(3\psi) \right) \varepsilon^3 + O(\varepsilon^4). \quad (40)$$

Also, from (23),

$$a'(t) = \frac{1}{2} \varepsilon a(t) - \left( \frac{5\varepsilon^3}{128\omega_0^2} + \frac{\varepsilon}{8} \right) a(t)^3 + \frac{23\varepsilon^3}{1024\omega_0^2} a(t)^5 - \frac{25\varepsilon^3}{8192\omega_0^2} a(t)^7, \quad (41)$$

Ode (41) is hard to solve in closed form. We use the approximation

$$\frac{a\varepsilon}{2} - \left( \frac{5\varepsilon^3}{128\omega_0^2} + \frac{\varepsilon}{8} \right) a^3 + \frac{23\varepsilon^3}{1024\omega_0^2} a^5 - \frac{25\varepsilon^3}{8192\omega_0^2} a^7 \approx ra + sa^3 \text{ for } |a| \leq M,$$

where,

$$r = \frac{\varepsilon}{2} + \frac{\varepsilon^3(25M^2 - 184)M^4}{65536\omega_0^2}, \quad (42)$$

$$s = -\frac{\varepsilon}{8} - \frac{\varepsilon^3(175M^4 - 1472M^2 + 2560)}{65536\omega_0^2}.$$

Solving the ode

$$\frac{da}{dt} = ra + sa^3, \quad (43)$$

one gets

$$a = a(t)$$

$$= \pm \frac{a_0 \sqrt{r} e^{rt}}{\sqrt{r + a_0^2 s} \sqrt{1 - a_0^2 s e^{2rt} / a_0^2 s + r}}. \quad (44)$$

The expression for  $\psi = \psi(t)$  is obtained from the ode  $\psi'(t) = \omega_0 - \varepsilon^2/8\omega_0 + \varepsilon^2/32\omega_0 a(t)^2 - \varepsilon^2/256\omega_0 a(t)^4$ :

$$\psi(t) = \frac{1}{512s^2\omega_0} \left( \left( r - 64s^2t - (r + 8s) \log \left( 1 - \frac{a_0^2 s}{r} (e^{2rt} - 1) \right) \right) \varepsilon^2 - \frac{\varepsilon^2 r (a_0^2 s + r)}{r - a_0^2 s (e^{2rt} - 1)} + s (a_0^2 \varepsilon^2 + 512s\omega_0 (\omega_0 t + \psi_0)) \right). \quad (45)$$

Example 1. Let

$$\begin{aligned} u_0 &= u(0) \\ u'(0) &= \dot{u}_0 \\ \varepsilon &= 0.75, \\ \omega_0 &= 1. \end{aligned} \quad (46)$$

The i.v.p to be solved reads

$$\begin{aligned} u - 0.75(1 - u^2)\dot{u} + u &= 0, \\ u(0) &= -0.104, \\ u'(0) &= -0.25. \end{aligned} \quad (47)$$

From (43),

$$\begin{aligned} r &= 0.366348, \\ s &= -0.0903511. \end{aligned} \quad (48)$$

We have

$$\begin{aligned} a(t) &= \frac{0.251949e^{0.366348t}}{\sqrt{1 + 0.0156555e^{0.732697t}}} \\ \psi(t) &= 0.239256 \left( -0.0903511(0.0351563 - 46.2598(t + 2)) \right. \\ &\quad - \frac{0.07433}{0.00564694(e^{0.732697t} - 1) + 0.366348} + -0.522453t \\ &\quad \left. - 0.5625(0.356461(-\log(0.00564694(e^{0.732697t} - 1) \right. \\ &\quad \left. + 0.366348) - 1.00417) + 0.366348) \right). \end{aligned} \quad (49)$$

See Figure 3.

### 5. Analytical Solution to a Forced Van der Pol Oscillator

Let us consider the i v p.

$$\ddot{x} - \varepsilon(1 - x^2)\dot{x} + \omega_0^2 x = F \cos(\Omega t). \quad (50)$$

given that

$$\begin{aligned} x(0) &= x_0, \\ x'(0) &= \dot{x}_0. \end{aligned} \quad (51)$$

We will assume the ansatz

$$x(t) = u(t) + C \cos(\Omega t) + D \sin(\Omega t). \quad (52)$$

Here, the function  $u = u(t)$  is the solution to the i v p

$$\begin{aligned} u - \varepsilon(1 - u^2)\dot{u} + \omega_0^2 u &= 0, \\ u(0) &= u_0 = x_0 - C, \end{aligned} \quad (53)$$

$$u'(0) = \dot{u}_0 = \dot{x}_0 - D\Omega.$$

We now will determine suitable values for the constants  $C$  and  $D$ . We have

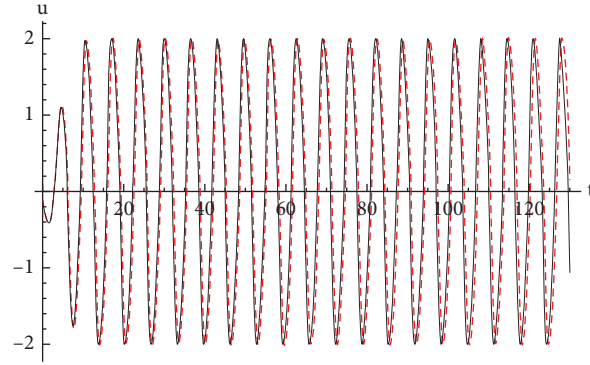


FIGURE 3: Comparison between analytical and numerical solution.

$$\begin{aligned}
 x - \varepsilon(1 - x^2)\dot{x} + \omega_0^2 x - F \cos(\Omega t) &= \omega_0^2 u(t) - \varepsilon \sin(2\Omega t)(C^2 \Omega u(t) - C D \dot{u}_0 - D^2 \Omega u(t)) + \\
 &\frac{1}{2} \varepsilon \cos(2\Omega t)(C^2 \dot{u}_0 + 4C D \Omega u(t) - D^2 \dot{u}_0) + \frac{1}{2} \varepsilon \dot{u}_0(C^2 + D^2) - \frac{1}{4} \cos(\Omega t) \\
 &\cdot (-4\varepsilon u(t)^2(D\Omega) - 8C\varepsilon \dot{u}_0 u(t) - C^2 D \varepsilon \Omega - 4C\omega_0^2 + 4C\Omega^2 - D^3 \varepsilon \Omega + 4 D \varepsilon \Omega + 4F) - \\
 &\frac{1}{4} \varepsilon \sin(3\Omega t)(C^3 \Omega - 3CD^2 \Omega) + \frac{1}{4} \varepsilon \cos(3\Omega t)(3C^2 D \Omega - 3\beta CD^2 - D^3 \Omega) - \frac{1}{4} \sin(\Omega t) \\
 &\cdot (4C\Omega \varepsilon u(t)^2 - 8 D \varepsilon \dot{u}_0 u(t) + C^3 \varepsilon \Omega - 3\beta C^2 D \varepsilon + CD^2 \varepsilon \Omega - 4 D \omega_0^2 + 4 D \Omega^2 - 4C\varepsilon \Omega).
 \end{aligned} \tag{54}$$

We choose the values of  $C$  and  $D$  so that

$$\begin{aligned}
 -C^2 D \varepsilon \Omega - 4C\omega_0^2 + 4C\Omega^2 - D^3 \varepsilon \Omega + 4 D \varepsilon \Omega + 4F &= 0, \\
 C^3 \varepsilon \Omega - 3\beta C^2 D \varepsilon + CD^2 \varepsilon \Omega - 4 D \omega_0^2 + 4 D \Omega^2 - 4C\varepsilon \Omega &= 0.
 \end{aligned} \tag{55}$$

From (55), it follows that

$$\varepsilon^2 F^2 \Omega^2 C^3 + 8\varepsilon^2 F \Omega^2 (\Omega^2 - \omega_0^2) C^2 + 16 (\Omega^2 - \omega_0^2)^2 (\varepsilon^2 \Omega^2 + \Omega^4 - 2\Omega^2 \omega_0^2 + \omega_0^4) C + 16F (\Omega^2 - \omega_0^2)^3 = 0. \tag{56}$$

We choose the least in magnitude real root  $C$  to (56) and the least in magnitude real root  $D$  to (57).

*Example 2.* Let  $0 \leq t \leq T = 130$ ,  $\varepsilon = 0.1$ ,  $\omega_0 = 1$ ,  $F = 1$ ,  $\Omega = 5.2$ ,  $x_0 = 0$  and  $\dot{x}_0 = -0.183$ . Consider the i.v.p.

$$\ddot{x}(t) - 0.1(1 - x(t)^2)\dot{x}(t) + x(t) = \cos(5.2t) \wedge x(0) = 0 \wedge x'(0) = -0.183. \tag{57}$$



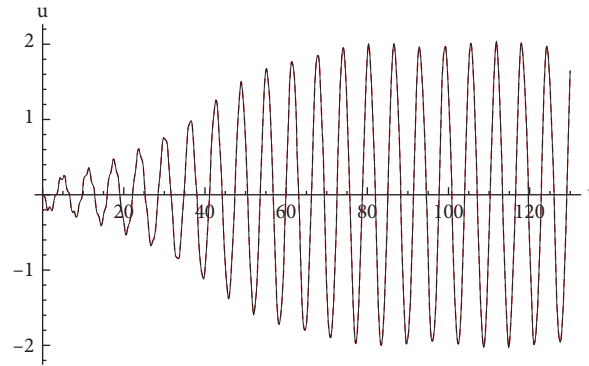


FIGURE 4: Comparison between the approximate analytical solution (dashed curve) and the Runge–Kutta numerical.

Our calculations give

$$\begin{aligned}
 a_0 &= 0.185483, \\
 \psi_0 &= 4.50402, \\
 C &= -0.0383872. \quad D = -0.000766281. \\
 r &= 0.049979, \\
 s &= -0.0124918.
 \end{aligned} \tag{58}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 a(t) &= \frac{0.186053e^{0.049979t}}{\sqrt{1 + 0.00865188e^{0.099958t}}} \\
 \psi(t) &= 0.00625262 \log(0.0495503 + 0.000428704e^{0.099958t}) + 0.99875t + \\
 &= \frac{1}{-1.38308e^{0.099958t} - 159.859} + 4.52869.
 \end{aligned}$$

The [4] expression for  $u = u(t)$  is [5] obtained from (40). In Figure 4, we compare [6] the approximate [7] analytical solution (dashed curve) with the Runge–Kutta numerical solution. The error equals 0.0756086.

**Data Availability**

No data were used to support this paper

**Conflicts of Interest**

The authors declare that they have no conflicts of interest.

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