Introduction

During my journey from Paris on a TGV train, I was intrigued as to how and why the train was able to brake silently. Through research, I was able to determine that this was because of magnetic damping/braking. I became interested in exploring whether a larger exposed area would have a stronger effect as opposed to a smaller area.

Magnetic damping is a form of drag that occurs when an electrical conductor travels past a magnetic field. This process concerning a pendulum with a copper bob will see the bob's motion become dampened as it exits and enters the magnetic field produced by two magnets. This document strives to compose and propose the correlation between the area of a copper oscillator how that affects the rate of change of amplitudes of the oscillations. Thus, one arrives at the following research question:

How does varying the area of a copper oscillator affect the rate of change of amplitude due to magnetic damping?

Theory

Lenz's Law states that the induced current always flows in the direction that opposes the change in magnetic flux.

The said motion induces an eddy current in the conductor as a magnetic field is present. As per Lenz's law the movement of electrons in the conductor instantly produce an opposing magnetic field which results in the damping of the oscillation ultimately 'slowing' down the metal bob.

When the metal plate is completely inside the field thus at rest, there is no eddy current. When the plate leaves the field on the right, it causes an eddy current in the clockwise direction that, again, experiences a force to the left, further slowing the bobs motion.¹ This produces a exponentially damped harmonic which can be expressed with the following equation:

$$x(t) = Ae^{-bt}cos(\omega't + \emptyset)$$
 [1]²

Where:

x is the displacement t is the time of release A is the amplitude ω' is the angular frequency of damped simple harmonic motion. b is the damping coefficient \emptyset is the Angular frequency

¹ https://courses.lumenlearn"Eddy Currents and Magnetic Damping | Physics." Lumenlearning.Com, 2020,

courses.lumenlearning.com/physics/chapter/23-4-eddy-currents-and-magnetic-damping/. Accessed 6 Mar. 2020 ² "Toppr." Toppr-Guides, 27 Feb. 2018, www.toppr.com/guides/physics/oscillations/damped-simple-harmonic-motion/.

Accessed 6 Mar. 2020.

This equation and information attained can then be applied in order to evaluate the following factors:

The logarithmic decrement is defined as the natural log of the ratio of the amplitudes of any two successive peaks: (The logarithmic decrement represents the rate at which the amplitude of a damped harmonic decreases.³)

$$\varphi = ln\left(\frac{A_i}{A_{i+1}}\right)$$
[2]⁴

Where: A_i is a peak amplitude A_{i+1} is the following peak amplitude

The damping ratio is then found from the logarithmic decrement by: (The damping ratio is a measure that expresses the decay of oscillations)

$$\zeta = \frac{\varphi}{\sqrt{(2\pi)^2 + \varphi^2}}$$
[3]⁵

Where:

 φ is the logarithmic decrement ζ is the damping ratio.

The experiment consists of 8 different oscillator areas (and one control with no copper plate) that will be oscillating on a pivot. The displacement of the oscillator will be recorded using a camera. Then, video analysis will be used to extract data, that will be processed to find the peak amplitudes which are integral to the aforementioned equations.

Background info relevant to the following actions Design of Experiment

The design below is the front and side view of the setup that was created for this investigation. How this apparatus is used and controlled is discussed in later sections.





The variables for the experiment can be seen in the table below: Table 1: Variables for explanation

Independent variable	Area of the copper oscillator
How was it measured?	With a ruler. Limit of reading?
Dependent variable	Rate of change of amplitude
How was it measured?	Video analysis. and then what?

 Table 2: Control Variables

	Controlled	Why significant?	How is it controlled
	variable	winy significant:	practically?
	The starting angle	To have a controlled experiment, the	To ensure that the oscillation
	of the pendulum is	angle from which the oscillator will	starts at a 90° angle, a small
eV	perpendicular in	start oscillating is significant as the	marking is drawn. The
detailed and	every run.	initial position of the marked point	markings are made to match
rigorous		would be different in each run	before the oscillator is
procedure to		therefore hindering the integrity of	released. The angle was
ensure		the data collected. The initial	checked using a spirit level.
quality data		deflection will also be my first data	As seen in Figure 2.
		point. (16 cm)	
	Height used for the	Since I would be changing area, I	Engravings were made on
	oscillator of plate.	made sure that the height stayed the	the sheet of metal; this was
		same each time and I would only be	done to make the area
		cutting the width of 1.5 cm each time	cutting method more
		starting from the maximum width of	comfortable. It was made
		20 cm. The controlled height was	sure that the height stays
		5.2 cm.	uniform.

Experimental precautions	Why significant?	How is it controlled practically?
The camera is the same distance from the pendulum between takes.	Since the use of a camera has the effect of a parallax error. To maintain consistency, the arrangement and location of the camera must be the same throughout.	I set down a meter stick and made sure that the camera 'stand' was 0.73m away from the oscillating body using post-it notes to ensure the location of the phone holder is the same.
The magnets do not move location or angle.	In order to have a fair experiment the separation between the magnets and the copper oscillator must be the same, so that the magnetic field will be uniform throughout all runs of the experiment. I made a mark of their location, so it would be very easy for me to check if the location stayed consistent.	Using a set square, I was able to mark where the wood frame should be located. Also, the magnet holding slits are screwed down into the wooden platform to ensure the uniform separation between the two magnets.
The same frame rate will be used for each run.	If the frame rate differs in the videos, then the integrity of the results will not be upheld. As when the data is being collected through video analysis, the time intervals for each frame would be different.	The video is taken every time at 240 FPS, then it is refactored using <i>ffmpeg</i> into 120FPS for acceleration of the data collection process.
Same location for the clips that hold the copper plate.	The same height of the copper oscillator should be exposed to the magnetic field. To experience the same force/damping.	A line is drawn onto the sheet of copper to ensure that the ends of the pegs have the same alignment for each run/area.

 Table 2: Experimental precautions

Area selection: The results had to vary enough to state and evaluate whether a correlation is present between area and magnetic damping. This meant that the area that was used could not be too large as then the results would not vary. Therefore, many trail runs were conducted to determine the fit range of areas. I found that areas that exceeded 100cm² would not oscillate at all. The wooden base did not allow for plates that exceeded 80cm².

Tracking point location: The tracking point location was selected, as the magnets would hide the point if it were to be placed at the bottom of the oscillator.

Table 3: Oscillator area table

Area of oscillators			
Height ±0.05 (cm)	Width ±0.05 (cm)	Area (cm²)	ΔArea (cm ²)
5.2	12.0	62.4	0.9
5.2	10.5	54.6	0.8
5.2	9.00	46.8	0.7
5.2	7.50	39.0	0.6
5.2	6.00	31.2	0.6
5.2	4.50	23.4	0.5
5.2	3.00	15.6	0.4
5.2	1.50	7.80	0.3

The table above is of the areas of the oscillators that are used for the experiment. The height is controlled at 5.2 ± 0.05 cm.

The uncertainty for area was found using the following equation:

$$\Delta Area = \frac{((H + 0.05) \times (W + 0.05)) - ((H - 0.05) \times (W - 0.05))}{2}$$
data processing
[4]

Data Collection:

C: Correct

First, due to the time constraints, the frame rate of the video had to be changed. Therefore, each one of the videos was refactored from 240FPS to 120FPS. This was done using a free command-based video and audio manipulating library called ffmpeg⁶. This process was done using the following command:

```
ffmpeg -i 'input file path' -filter:v "setpts=PTS/2" 'output file path' <sup>3</sup>
```

The videos were then analysed using the free program *Tracker* ⁷. For each video, I set the axis (0,0) at where the **tracking point** was at rest. This is because to graph the oscillation, the displacement in *x* is needed. Then the boundaries of the video were set, where the starting frame would be the frame that the body began to oscillate. Then the video had to be calibrated to counteract the parallax that was caused by the camera. This was done with the inbuilt filter called '*perspective*'. Then to allow the program to understand distances that are represented in the video, the '*calibration tape*' tool was used to set the calibrate distances within the video. And the scale was set from the pivot point to the tracking point and was measured as **16cm**.

A: New software learnt

⁶ "Ffmpeg Documentation." Ffmpeg.Org, 2020, ffmpeg.org/ffmpeg.html. Accessed 11 Feb. 2020.

⁷ "Tracker Video Analysis and Modeling Tool for Physics Education." Physlets.Org, 2019, physlets.org/tracker/. Accessed 14 Feb. 2020.



Then for the tracking procedure another inbuilt feature was used to cut down on the vigorous process of hand tracking. This feature is called '*Auto tracker*' and as the name suggests this a process where the software itself uses an image matching algorithm to scrub and track a selected point. This was based on the concept of the user setting a template for a point, and the software would find and plot a point that matches set template and then increments the frames until the last point is plotted. As shown in Figure 4.



Figure 4, Auto-tracking feature

This process was continued for all nine of the areas, and the following table is a snippet of the output.

Table 4: Raw data sample table

area cm²	
time(s)	x(m) ±0.005
0.00E+00	1.60E-01
8.33E-03	1.60E-01
1.67E-02	1.60E-01

You should have stated that the raw data is in the appendix.

The graph below is the displacement placed against time for each one of the areas, the damping in relation to the area used is clear as seen the varying time it takes for the systems to become at rest.



The graph below the same visual as below however the two data sets shown are of the undamped system and the smallest area, where the no matter how small still makes a significant difference in the damping.



Data Processing:

Due to the inherent implications of magnetic damping, the data attained will be used to evaluate the aforementioned concepts that were discussed in the Theory section.

As suggested by the formula for **Logarithmic Decrement** (φ), in order to evaluate the damping, the ratio of two successive peaks must be attained. This was done using *MagicPlot*⁸ software, due to its ease of use and simple extraction of selected data points.



Figure 7, Magic plot

These peaks were then noted down with their corresponding times which are needed for further analysis.

Table 4: Sample processed data table (15.6 cm^2) :

Time(s)	Distance in x of peak(m) ±0.005	Ratio	∆Ratio	Logarithmic decrement	ΔLogarithmic decrement	Damping factor	∆Damping Factor
0.00	0.160	1.14	0.02	0.134	0.019	0.0300	0.0000
0.89	0.140	1.30	0.02	0.260	0.036	0.0583	0.0002
1.74	0.108	1.29	0.03	0.251	0.040	0.0565	0.0002
2.57	0.084	1.66	0.05	0.509	0.108	0.114	0.001
3.37	0.051	2.79	0.21	1.03	0.361	0.225	0.007
4.16	0.018	3.62	0.96	1.29	0.658	0.278	0.015
5.02	0.005						
				consistent s.f.			

COnsistent d.p.

- The Time and coordinate of peaks were imported from *MagicPlot*.
- The ratio was then attained by dividing one peak coordinate by its successor.
- The relative uncertainty for the ratio was attained as such:

$$\Delta Ratio = \frac{\left(\frac{x_1 + \Delta x_1}{x_2 - \Delta x_2}\right) - \left(\frac{x_1 - \Delta x_1}{x_2 + \Delta x_2}\right)}{2} \quad \text{correct error processing}$$
[5]

Where:

 x_1 is the set peak, x_2 is the following peak, and the equation represents the smallest minus the largest difference.

• The uncertainty for the Logarithmic Decrement was attained as such:

$$\Delta \varphi = \frac{\ln\left(\frac{\mathbf{x}_1 + \Delta \mathbf{x}_1}{\mathbf{x}_2 - \Delta \mathbf{x}_2}\right) - \ln\left(\frac{\mathbf{x}_1 - \Delta \mathbf{x}_1}{\mathbf{x}_2 + \Delta \mathbf{x}_2}\right)}{2}$$
[6]

• The uncertainty for the damping factor was attained as such:

$$\Delta \zeta = \zeta \left(\frac{2\Delta \varphi}{\varphi}\right)$$
[7]

There is a variety of error calulations, all relevant to the techniques used.

The remainder of the processed data can be found in the appendix.

Analysis

The principal effect of damping is to reduce the amplitude of an oscillation, not to change its frequency. So, the graph of the amplitude of a normal damped oscillation would look like the following:



(a) A metallic pendulum oscillates inside and outside the magnetic field region generated by a permanent magnet. (b) The oscillation amplitude decays exponentially with time as described by Eq.

Figure 8 : SHM damping decay

8

This means that a graph of all my peaks should too follow a pattern of an exponential curve, this however is not the case. As when all the peaks are graphed for each area, they follow a linear pattern as shown in Figure 9 rather than one of exponential decay shown in Figure 8. This is due to the inherent systematic error that was prominent throughout the data collection process which will be commented and explained further in the evaluation section. This is a model based on statistical patterns of the data, but the explanation would require a very complex mathematics since the magnetic field of the magnets is not uniform. (A systematic error that is explored in the Evaluation).



⁸ P. Onorato, and Anna De Ambrosis. "Magnetic Damping: Integrating Experimental and Theoretical Analysis." ResearchGate, 21 Dec. 2011, Accessed 5 Feb. 2020.

This inherent issue with my experiment is that it does not allow me to evaluate the pattern using a conventional method, which was outlined in the theory section. This is due to the general linearity of my data, which instantaneously dismisses the processed data in Table 4, as the methods discussed apply to systems that stop oscillating exponentially. This meant that I had to find a way to explore the relationship in an unconventional method. Also, due to the nature of the data, It is impossible to evaluate the Q (Quality) factor, as the data does not meet the necesary requirements. Engineers use the Q factor to evaluate the dimensionless parameter that describes how underdamped an oscillator is, which can also be applied to magnetic damping.

Nice. Data does not follow theoretical pattern, so there is a new method to quantify the damping.

The gradients for each of these are attained inorder to evaluate how each area affected the oscillation. I attained the error by establishing error bars then attaining the maximum, minimum and average gradients as shown by Figure 10 which is an example of a 64.2cm² area.

This process was repeated for each one of the areas, as it will be needed for later evaluation of the errors in search of assessing the relationship between area and damping.(See appendix)



The graidnets attained are shown by table 5:

Figure 10, Amplitude graphing example for which area is it?

	Area (cm ²)	Grad / BEST (ms ⁻¹)	Grad / MIN (ms ⁻¹)	Grad / MAX (ms ⁻¹)	∆Grad (ms ⁻¹)
0	0.00	-0.008955	-0.007862	-0.009743	0.00094
1	7.80	-0.01672	-0.01560	-0.01788	0.00114
2	15.6	-0.03463	-0.03145	-0.03782	0.00319
3	23.4	-0.04646	-0.04402	-0.04965	0.00282
4	31.2	-0.04867	-0.04577	-0.0514	0.00282
5	39.0	-0.05399	-0.05584	-0.05706	0.00061
6	46.8	-0.05871	-0.05188	-0.05534	0.00173
7	54.6	-0.08609	-0.07955	-0.09283	0.00664
8	64.2	-0.08702	-0.07608	-0.09825	0.01109

Again, another error analysis, this time for the graidents.

The Δ Gradient was attained using the following equation:

$$\Delta Grad = \frac{Grad_{MAX} - Grad_{MIN}}{2}$$
[8]

This table allows us to then graph the different gradient with their accompanying error bars, As shown in figure 11. While we are not able to fit any one regression, the relationship is shown by the data points. We are able to see the relationship that the area has on the time it takes for an oscillating system to stop due to magnetic damping. Gradient is put against Area. It can be seen that with the larger areas the steeper the gradient is (As signified by the decreasing values). This means that the larger the area of the copper oscillator is, the faster it will come to a halt.



Conclusion:

This internal assessment has successfully underlined and explored how the area of a copper oscillator affects the rate of damping experienced by an oscillating pendulum. It can be concluded that with a higher area that is exposed to a magnetic field, the stronger the damping effect will be. The applied magnetic field and the copper sheet produce eddy SOme explanation currents that are a force that opposes the motion of the bob. This is due to the internal resistance of the conductor, the said eddy currents will dissipate into heat, causing a removal of energy from the system. This dissipation of energy allows the magnet and conductor to form a damper that may be used to suppress the oscillation ⁹.

As with the larger area, more eddy currents can be induced across, meaning a larger force is created. Some of the damping is due to the friction of the pully. The experiment has a lot of sources of uncertainty.

D: To gain full marks, more interpretations of the last graph are expected.

The experiment, however, was not perfect and therefore it did not yield data that follow the Logarithmic decrement requirements and thus yielding results that could not be used and evaluated using a standard method. This motivated me to propose an alternative and unique method to present and evaluate the relationship. The corresponding gradients of the

⁹ Sodano, Henry, et al. Improved Eddy Current Damping Model for Transverse Vibrations. , Accessed 5 Feb. 2020.

amplitudes were graphed against area to determine whether a relationship exists. The graph suggested that with the larger the area, more energy was dissipated, which brought the system to a stop oscillating at a quicker pace. Thus, enforcing the presence of a relationship.

Evaluation:

Experimental issues and suggested improvements:

Inactive damping force:

In an ideal linear damped oscillating system, the damping force is always "active" and is proportional to velocity. That's not the case for this setup because the damping happens when the plate is passing between the magnets at other times, when it is at the end of its swing and far away from the magnets, the only damping is from friction. When the amplitude of the swing gets smaller, the plate spends more of its time close to the magnets so the effective amount of damping increases. Therefore, you would expect the initial rate of damping to be small for the amplitude decreases, and the plate is affected more.

Non-uniformity of magnets:

Another source of nonideality comes from the fact that the magnetic field produced by a real magnet is not uniform, So the damping is strongest near the centre of the magnet where the field is strongest. As shown by figure 12. The larger amount of lines means that in the direct centre between of magnets, would result in a stronger effect.



Figure 12, Magnetic field lines

Further sources of nonideality:

Mechanical friction of the pully caused the oscillator to dissipate energy. Another source of nonideality would be the random error caused by the auto tracking software, as the points would start deviating over time, if it was done manually it could potentially improve accuracy.

Improvements:

A number of improvements can be made to fix the aforementioned errors:

- Conduct trails to find a suitable starting angle to make sure oscillator is always affected by the magnetic field. Such as a smaller angle and a larger field area.
- Rather than use displacement as a way of data collection, the use of the angle could more adhere to the equation for damping.
- As most of the data collection was done using a computer algorithm, errors in plotting may have occurred. Thus, many runs of the data collection/analysis could be done and then the average of the runs would be used.
- To reduce friction, a pully with lubricated bearings would be used.

¹⁰ "Magnetic Field Lines | Brilliant Math & Science Wiki." Brilliant.Org, 2020, brilliant.org/wiki/magnetic-field-lines/. Accessed 6 Mar. 2020.

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Appendix

1 : Amplitude of areas graphed. (in cm²)

0



t(s)

0 (1.539, 0.0834)

0

10





39









62.4

2	:	
0		

T:		D-ti-	A.D1-
Time(s)	Distance in x(m) ±0.005	Ratio	DRatio
0.00	0.160	1.01	0.01
0.80	0.159	1.03	0.01
1.66	0.155	1.03	0.01
2.47	0.150	1.05	0.01
3.25	0.143	1.04	0.01
4.06	0.137	1.05	0.02
4.83	0.130	1.07	0.02
5.60	0.121	1.06	0.02
6.36	0.114	1.07	0.02
7.13	0.107	1.10	0.02
7.91	0.097	1.06	0.02
8.64	0.092	1.09	0.02
9.39	0.084	1.09	0.03
10.10	0.077	1.11	0.03
10.90	0.070	1.11	0.03
11.60	0.063	1.09	0.04
12.40	0.058	1.14	0.04
13.10	0.051	1.16	0.05
13.80	0.043	1.17	0.06
14.60	0.037	1.19	0.07
15.30	0.031	1.24	0.09
16.00	0.025	1.35	0.13
16.70	0.019	1.37	0.18
17.50	0.014	1.70	0.34
18.20	0.008	1.60	0.54
18.90	0.005		

Time(s)	Distance in x(m) ±0.005	Ratio	∆Ratio	Logarithmic decrement	ΔLogarithmic decrement	Damping factor	∆Damping Factor
0.00	0.160	1.02	0.01	0.019	0.013	0.0043	0.0000
0.875	0.157	1.04	0.01	0.039	0.013	0.0088	0.0000
1.76	0.151	1.09	0.02	0.083	0.016	0.0186	0.0000
2.61	. 0.139	1.11	0.02	0.106	0.019	0.0239	0.0000
3.45	0.125	1.15	0.02	0.137	0.023	0.0308	0.0001
4.26	0.109	1.12	0.02	0.109	0.023	0.0246	0.0000
5.07	0.098	1.19	0.03	0.178	0.032	0.0399	0.0001
5.88	0.082	1.26	0.03	0.233	0.044	0.0524	0.0002
6.67	0.065	2.10	0.10	0.744	0.207	0.1651	0.0028
8.23	0.031	1.56	0.13	0.447	0.145	0.1001	0.0012
8.99	0.020	2.65	0.50	0.975	0.442	0.2144	0.0079
9.79	0.007	2.29	1.12	0.830	0.604	0.1836	0.0092
10.5	0.003						

Time(s)	Distance in x(m) ±0.005	Ratio	∆Ratio	Logarithmic decrement	ΔLogarithmic decrement	Damping factor	∆Damping Factor
0.00	0.160	1.14	0.02	0.134	0.019	0.0300	0.0000
0.89	0.140	1.30	0.02	0.260	0.036	0.0583	0.0002
1.74	0.108	1.29	0.03	0.251	0.040	0.0565	0.0002
2.57	0.084	1.66	0.05	0.509	0.108	0.114	0.001
3.37	0.051	2.79	0.21	1.03	0.361	0.225	0.007
4.16	0.018	3.62	0.96	1.29	0.658	0.278	0.015
5.02	0.005						

23.4

	1			1	1		
Time(s)	Distance in x(m) ±0.005	Ratio	∆Ratio	Logarithmic decrement	ΔLogarithmic decrement	Damping factor	∆Damping Factor
0.00	0.160	1.159	0.016	0.148	0.020	0.033	0.0001
0.858	0.138	1.438	0.025	0.363	0.056	0.081	0.0004
1.72	0.096	1.808	0.053	0.592	0.131	0.132	0.0014
2.54	0.053	5.784	0.748	1.755	0.803	0.367	0.0246
3.35	0.009	1.836	0.591	0.608	0.402	0.135	0.0045
3.63	0.005						

31.2

Time(s)	Distance in x(m) ±0.005	Ratio	∆Ratio	Logarithmic decrement	ΔLogarithmic decrement	Damping factor	∆Damping Factor
0.00	0.160	1.22	0.085	0.200	0.0255	0.0450	0.0001
0.917	0.131	1.45	0.027	0.374	0.0593	0.0839	0.0004
1.77	0.0901	2.57	0.102	0.946	0.286	0.208	0.0050
2.59	0.035	7.00	1.667	1.946	0.992	0.401	0.0332
3.35	0.005						

39

Time(s)	Distance in x(m) ±0.005	Ratio	∆Ratio	Logarithmic decrement	ΔLogarithmic decrement	Damping factor	∆Damping Factor
0.00	0.160	1.24	0.017	0.216	0.0276	0.049	0.0001
0.892	0.129	1.56	0.031	0.444	0.0768	0.099	0.0006
1.74	0.0827	3.52	0.193	1.26	0.461	0.272	0.010
2.56	0.024	4.70	1.188	1.55	0.785	0.329	0.022
3.49	0.005						

46.8

	1						
Time(s)	Distance in x(m) ±0.005	Ratio	∆Ratio	Logarithmic decrement	ΔLogarithmic decrement	Damping factor	∆Damping Factor
0.00	0.160	1.27	0.018	0.239	0.031	0.0537	0.014
0.90	0.126	1.64	0.034	0.496	0.092	0.111	0.041
1.76	0.077	3.95	0.256	1.37	0.534	0.296	0.230
2.58	0.019	3.88	1.017	1.36	0.691	0.292	0.297
3.41	0.005						

Time(s)	Distance in x(m) ±0.005	Ratio	∆Ratio	Logarithmic decrement	ΔLogarithmic decrement	Damping factor	∆Damping Factor
0.00	0.160	1.60	0.0260	0.47	0.08	0.105	0.001
0.88	0.100	6.76	0.527	1.91	0.85	0.395	0.028
1.72	0.015	2.96	0.825	1.09	0.57	0.237	0.011
2.51	0.005						

Time(s)	Distance in x(m) ±0.005	Ratio	∆Ratio	Logarithmic decrement	ΔLogarithmic decrement	Damping factor	∆Damping Factor
0.00	0.160	1.82	0.032	0.598	0.120	0.133	0.001
0.86	0.088	8.30	0.885	2.116	0.991	0.430	0.036
1.75	0.011	2.12	0.650	0.751	0.444	0.167	0.006
2.22	0.005						