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Dynamics of time-modulated, nonlinear phononic lattices

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Abstract: The propagation of acoustic and elastic waves in time-varying, spatially homogeneous media can exhibit different phenomena when compared to traditional spatially varying, temporally homogeneous media. In this talk, the response of a one-dimensional phononic lattice with time-periodic elastic properties will be examined with experimental, numerical and theoretical approaches. For small-amplitude excitation, in agreement with linear theoretical predictions, wave-number band gaps emerge. The underlying instabilities associated to the wave-number band gaps are investigated with Floquet theory and the resulting parametric amplification is observed in both theory and experiments. In contrast to genuinely linear systems, large-amplitude responses are stabilized via the nonlinear nature of the magnetic interactions of the system, and results in a family of nonlinear time-periodic states. The bifurcation structure of the periodic states is studied. It is found the linear theory correctly predicts parameter values from which the time-periodic states bifurcate from the zero state. In the presence of an external drive, the parametric amplification induced by the wave-number band gap can lead to bounded and stable responses that are temporally quasiperiodic.