Normal Modes

Normal mode coordinates have a very simple time dependence

$$x_{I}(t) = A_{I} e^{i\omega_{I}t} \qquad x_{II}(t) = A_{II} e^{i\omega_{II}t}$$

If we express the coordinate x_1 and x_2 in terms of the normal coordinates, we can easily get their time dependence

$$x_1 = \alpha x_I + \beta x_{II}$$

$$x_1(t) = \alpha x_I(t) + \beta x_{II}(t)$$

$$x_1(t) = \alpha e^{i\omega_I t} + \beta e^{i\omega_{II} t}$$