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In[596]:= ClearAll[m, x, γ, k, t, homogeneous, value1, value2, f3response, ν]
(*simple damped undriven harmonic oscillator*)
homogeneous = m x''[t] + γ x'[t] + k x[t] == 0

Out[597]= k x[t] + γ x'[t] + m x''[t] == 0

In[598]:= (*ansatz*)
x[t_] := x0 E^ν t

(*solving for ν and plotting ν as a function of γ*)
homogeneous

f3response = Solve[homogeneous, ν]
value1 = ν /. f3response[[1]]
value2 = ν /. f3response[[2]]
f1[γ_] = Arg[value1]
f2[γ_] = value1
(*Plot[{f1[γ], f2[γ]}, {γ, 5}]*)

(*using the ansatz...*)
e^t ν k x0 + e^t ν γ ν x0 + e^t ν m ν^2 x0 == 0

(*...solving for ν*)
{ν → -γ - √[-4 k m + γ^2] / (2 m), ν → -γ + √[-4 k m + γ^2] / (2 m)}
√[-4 k m + γ^2]

(*if γ > Sqrt[4km]: the real part of ν will make the system return to x ==
0 without oscillation see detail on understanding complex...*)
(*if γ < Sqrt[4km]: the imaginary part of ν will make the system return to x ==
0 with oscillation see detail on understanding complex...*)

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In[410]:= (*understanding complex and real in v *)
v = -.1 + I 1 (*v as a complex number*)
p = 0 (*phase shift*)
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Plot[Re[E^v (t+p)], {t, 0, 50}]
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Out[410]= -0.1 + 1. i
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Out[411]= 0
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