

# Initial value problems

## • Recap :

• Trying to solve problem of the form  $\frac{dy}{dt} = f(t, y)$

- $y(t)$  is unknown
- Know initial value,  $y(t_0)$
- $f(t, y)$  is known

• Often we have multiple such first-order eqs. we need to solve simultaneously (coupled eqs.) (Proj. 2)

## • Last time :

### • Forward Euler

- Local error  $O(h^2)$ , global error  $O(h)$
- One eval. of  $f$  per step

### • Predictor - Corrector

- Local error  $O(h^3)$ , global error  $O(h^2)$
- Two evals. of  $f$  pr step.

### • Runge-Kutta 4th order

- Local error  $O(h^5)$ , global error  $O(h^4)$
- Four evals of  $f$  pr step

## • Today:

• Proof of error in Pred. - Corr.

• Leapfrog

• Verlet

# Predictor-Corrector method

- Simple improvement to Euler
- Also a single-step method (only requires knowing  $y_i$ )

## Algorithm

1) Predict:  $y_{i+1}^* = y_i + h f_i$

$\hookrightarrow f_{i+1}^* = f(t_{i+1}, y_{i+1}^*)$

2) Correct:  $y_{i+1} = y_i + h \frac{f_{i+1}^* + f_i}{2}$

Alt. notation:

$$k_1 \equiv h f_i = h f(t_i, y_i)$$

$$k_2 \equiv h f_{i+1}^* = h f(t_{i+1}, y_{i+1}^*)$$

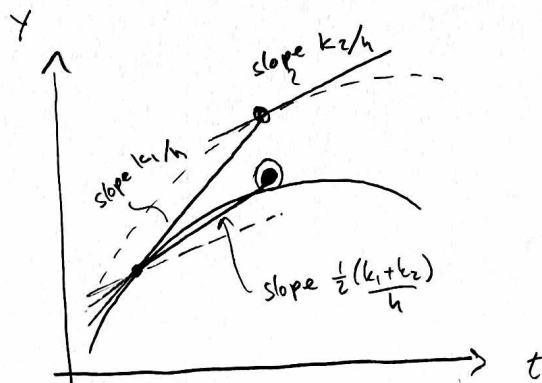
$$\Rightarrow y_{i+1} = y_i + \frac{1}{2}(k_1 + k_2)$$

- Euler uses gradient at a single point ( $f_i$ ) to predict next point.

- Could improve by using average gradient between the two points  $t_i$  and  $t_{i+1}$

- We want  $y_{i+1} = y_i + h \left( \frac{f_i + f_{i+1}}{2} \right)$

but we don't know  $f_{i+1}$ . But we can predict it using a simple forward Euler step.



(Predictor - Corrector cont.)

- Local error (trunc.) is  $\mathcal{O}(h^3) \Rightarrow$  Global error  $\mathcal{O}(h^2)$
- One order better than FE, but also req. one extra evaluation of  $f$  (at  $f(t_{i+1}, y_{i+1}^*)$ )

Proof:

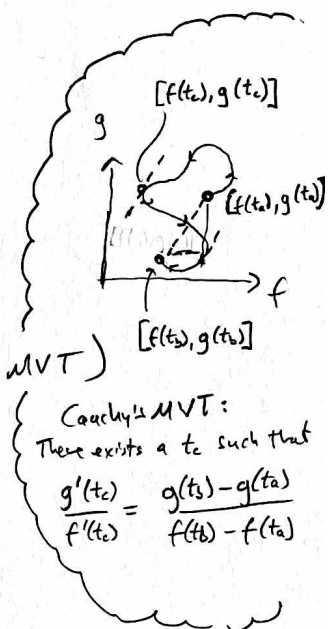
$$Y(t+h) = Y(t) + h Y'(t) + \frac{1}{2} h^2 Y''(t) + \overset{\text{Remainder}}{R_2(t)}$$

$\uparrow \mathcal{O}(h^3)$

- Know from Mean Value Theorem (Cauchy's MVT, a.k.a. Extended MVT) that there exist a  $\xi \in (t, t+h)$  such that

$$Y(t+h) = Y(t) + h Y'(t) + \frac{1}{2} h^2 Y''(t) + \frac{1}{3!} h^3 Y'''(\xi)$$

$\uparrow$   
exact!



- Use  $Y'(t) = f(t)$ :

$$Y(t+h) = Y(t) + h f(t) + \frac{1}{2} h^2 f'(t) + \frac{1}{3!} h^3 f''(\xi)$$

- Replace  $f'(t)$  with a forward diff. + remainder (MVT again...)

$$f'(t) = \frac{f(t+h) - f(t)}{h} - \frac{1}{2} h f''(\eta)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \Rightarrow Y(t+h) &= Y(t) + h f(t) + \frac{1}{2} h^2 \left[ \frac{f(t+h) - f(t)}{h} - \frac{1}{2} h f''(\eta) \right] + \frac{1}{3!} h^3 f''(\xi) \\ &= Y(t) + h f(t) + \frac{1}{2} h [f(t+h) - f(t)] - \frac{1}{4} h^3 f''(\eta) + \frac{1}{3!} h^3 f''(\xi) \end{aligned}$$

$\underbrace{\quad}_{\mathcal{O}(h^3)}$

$$Y(t+h) = Y(t) + h \frac{f(t+h) - f(t)}{2} + \mathcal{O}(h^3)$$

$$Y_{i+1} = Y_i + h \frac{f_{i+1} - f_i}{2} + \mathcal{O}(h^3)$$

- So, the local (trunc.) error is  $\mathcal{O}(h^3)$ , giving a global error  $\mathcal{O}(h^2)$

# Leapfrog (multi-step) method

$$\frac{dy}{dt} = f(t, y)$$

$$y'_i = f_i$$

- Recall approximations for first derivatives

- $y'(t) = \frac{y(t+h) - y(t)}{h} + O(h)$  Forward difference

- $y'(t) = \frac{y(t) - y(t-h)}{h} + O(h)$  Backward difference

- $y'(t) = \frac{y(t+h) - y(t-h)}{2h} + O(h^2)$  Central difference

- Leapfrog idea: Use the central difference scheme combined with previously computed  $y$  values

- Discretized differential eq.

$$y'_i = \frac{y_{i+1} - y_{i-1}}{2h} + O(h^2) = f_i$$

$$\Rightarrow y_{i+1} = y_{i-1} + 2hf_i + O(h^3)$$

- Algorithm:

$$y_{i+1} = y_{i-1} + 2hf_i$$

(At this point we have the values  $y_0, y_1, \dots, y_{i-1}, y_i$ )

- Local error  $O(h^3)$ , global error  $O(h^2)$

(same as P-C)

- Not "self-starting", since it needs both  $y_0$  and  $y_1$  to compute  $y_2$ .

- Solution: start with a simple FE step, or similar.

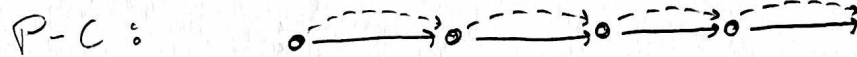
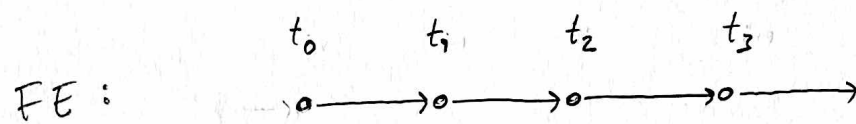
- Only requires one evaluation of  $f(t, y)$  per step.

(more efficient than P-C)

- But, requires us to also keep track of previous step  $y_{i-1}$  in order to compute  $y_{i+1}$ . (so not a single-step method)

- Can be generalized to use more previous steps...

o Pictorial comparison of FE, P-C and LFF (Priority)



LFF :



## Leapfrog for coupled equations

- Leapfrog and Verlet algorithms particularly popular for solving Newton's second law when the force does not dep. on velocity

$$\frac{d^2x}{dt^2} = \frac{1}{m} F(t, x) \equiv a(t, x)$$

$\uparrow$  known

- Computationally cheap and very stable — conserve energy (symplectic)
- Example: can simulate planet orbits for long time-periods with orbits drifting

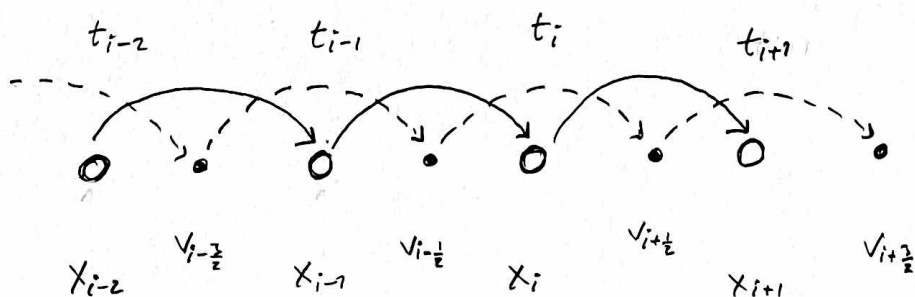
• Now: Leapfrog

- Get two first-order eqs:

$$\frac{dv}{dt} = a(t, x)$$

$$\frac{dx}{dt} = v(x, t)$$

- Will solve these using a Leapfrog pattern with  $x$  and  $v$



- Notation:  $t_{i-\frac{1}{2}} \equiv t_i - \frac{1}{2}h$  such that  $x_{i-\frac{1}{2}} = x(t - \frac{1}{2}h)$   
 $v_{i-\frac{1}{2}} = v(t - \frac{1}{2}h, x(t - \frac{1}{2}h))$   
etc.

x end of lecture

• Algorithm is as follows :

$$\begin{aligned} V_{i+\frac{1}{2}} &= V_{i-\frac{1}{2}} + a_i h \\ X_{i+1} &= X_i + V_{i+\frac{1}{2}} h \end{aligned}$$

→ Uses acceleration at midpoint between  $t_{i-\frac{1}{2}}$  and  $t_{i+\frac{1}{2}}$

→ Uses velocity at midpoint between  $t_i$  and  $t_{i+1}$

• If we need velocity at  $t_{i+1}$ , can compute

$$V_{i+1} = V_{i+\frac{1}{2}} + a_{i+\frac{1}{2}} \frac{h}{2}$$

• Local error  $\mathcal{O}(h^3)$ , global error  $\mathcal{O}(h^2)$

• Derivation of algorithm

• Taylor exp. of  $x(t+h)$  :

$$\begin{aligned} x(t+h) &= x(t) + h x'(t) + \frac{1}{2} h^2 x''(t) + \mathcal{O}(h^3) \\ &= x(t) + h \left[ x'(t) + \frac{1}{2} h x''(t) \right] + \mathcal{O}(h^3) \end{aligned} \quad (1)$$

• Taylor exp of  $x'(t+\frac{1}{2}h)$  (step  $\frac{1}{2}h$ ) :

$$x'(t+\frac{1}{2}h) = \underbrace{x'(t) + \frac{1}{2} h x''(t)} + \mathcal{O}(h^2) \quad (2)$$

• Insert (2) into (1) :

$$x(t+h) = x(t) + h \left[ x'(t+\frac{1}{2}h) + \mathcal{O}(h^2) \right] + \mathcal{O}(h^3)$$

$$x(t+h) = x(t) + h x'(t+\frac{1}{2}h) + \mathcal{O}(h^3)$$

• Discretize  
• Approximate

$$X_{i+1} = X_i + h V_{i+\frac{1}{2}}$$

Needs velocity at midpoint between  $t$  and  $t+h$

◦ Now use the central difference scheme for  $x''(t)$ , with step  $(\frac{1}{2}h)$ , to obtain expression for  $x'(t+\frac{1}{2}h)$  :

$$x''(t) = \frac{x'(t+\frac{1}{2}h) - x'(t-\frac{1}{2}h)}{2(\frac{1}{2}h)} + \mathcal{O}(h^2)$$

$$\Rightarrow \boxed{x'(t+\frac{1}{2}h) = x'(t-\frac{1}{2}h) + h x''(t) + \mathcal{O}(h^2)}$$

Uses acceleration at midpoint between  $t-\frac{1}{2}h$  and  $t+\frac{1}{2}h$

◦ Discretize  
◦ Approx.

$$\boxed{v_{i+\frac{1}{2}} = v_{i-\frac{1}{2}} + h a_i}$$

◦ If we need velocity at same time-step as position :

$$x'(t+h) = x'(t+\frac{1}{2}h) + (\frac{1}{2}h) x''(t+h) + \mathcal{O}(h^2)$$

$$\Rightarrow \boxed{v_{i+1} = v_{i+\frac{1}{2}} + \frac{1}{2}h a_{i+1}}$$



# Verlet algorithm

- Again consider  $\frac{d^2x}{dt^2} = \frac{1}{m}F(x,t) \equiv a(t,x)$  (not dep. on velocity)

which gives rise to  $\frac{dv}{dt} = a(x,t)$   
and  $\frac{dx}{dt} = v(x,t)$ , but now let's  
consider the second-order diff eq.  
directly. Two alt. derivations:

Alt. der 2)

- Recall expr. for second derivative  
 $x''(t) = \frac{x(t+h) - 2x(t) + x(t-h)}{h^2} + \mathcal{O}(h^2)$

- Rearrange for  $x(t+h)$  to get

Alt. der. 1)

- Look at Taylor exp. for  $x(t+h)$  and  $x(t-h)$ :

$$x(t+h) = x(t) + h x'(t) + \frac{1}{2} h^2 x''(t) + \mathcal{O}(h^3)$$

$$x(t-h) = x(t) - h x'(t) + \frac{1}{2} h^2 x''(t) - \mathcal{O}(h^3)$$

- Add the eqs:

$$x(t+h) + x(t-h) = 2x(t) + h^2 x''(t) + \mathcal{O}(h^4)$$

Note!

$$x(t+h) = 2x(t) - x(t-h) + h^2 x''(t) + \mathcal{O}(h^4)$$

- Discretize
- Approx.

$$x_{i+1} = 2x_i - x_{i-1} + h^2 a_i$$

- Local error in position is  $\mathcal{O}(h^4)$

- But global error is  $\mathcal{O}(h^2)$  (Note!)

(cumulative error after  $n$  steps is  $\frac{n(n+1)}{2} \mathcal{O}(h^4)$   
 $= \mathcal{O}(h^2)$ )

- The velocity is not needed/included  
in update formula for  $x_{i+1}$ !

- Can compute it as

$$v_i = \frac{x_{i+1} - x_{i-1}}{2h}$$

with both local and global  
error  $\mathcal{O}(h^2)$

Note:  
Different  
timestep  
 $x_{i+1}$ !

## Velocity Verlet

- Very similar to Leapfrog w/ computation of velocity at same timestep as position
- No view problem as two first-order eqs.:  $\frac{dx}{dt} = v$ ,  $\frac{dv}{dt} = a$
- VV gives exactly same trajectory of  $x_i$  points as original Verlet
- Standard algorithm:

1.  $v_{i+\frac{1}{2}} = v_i + \frac{1}{2} h a_i$
2.  $x_{i+1} = x_i + h v_{i+\frac{1}{2}}$
3. Use  $x_{i+1}$  to obtain  $a_{i+1} = a(t_{i+1}, x_{i+1})$
4.  $v_{i+1} = v_i + h \left( \frac{a_i + a_{i+1}}{2} \right)$

• End up with both  $x_{i+1}$  and  $v_{i+1}$

• Global error  $\mathcal{O}(h^2)$

• Can combine step 1. and 2. as

$x_{i+1} = x_i + h v_i + \frac{1}{2} h^2 a_i$

To see equivalence with original Verlet algo., insert  
$$v_i = \frac{x_{i+1} - x_{i-1}}{2h} + \mathcal{O}(h^2)$$

• Assumes that the acceleration  $a_{i+1}$  only depends on  $x_{i+1}$ , not on  $v_{i+1}$ , so that we can do step 3 before step 4.

• This is why we don't use this in Project 3... ( $\vec{F} = q\vec{E} + q\vec{v} \times \vec{B}$ )

{ Mention "magnetic Verlet" }

• Like Leapfrog :

- Good stability
- Conserves energy (symplectic)
- Reversible in time.

# Derivation of velocity Verlet

Notation:  $a(t, x(t)) \equiv a(t)$

- Expression for  $x_{i+1}$  comes directly from Taylor expansion of  $x(t+h)$

$$x(t+h) = x(t) + h x'(t) + \frac{1}{2} h^2 x''(t) + \mathcal{O}(h^3)$$

$$= x(t) + h v(t) + \frac{1}{2} h^2 a(t) + \mathcal{O}(h^3)$$

- Discretize
- Approximate

$$\Rightarrow \boxed{x_{i+1} = x_i + h v_i + \frac{1}{2} h^2 a_i}$$

- To find expression for  $v_{i+1}$  we start from Taylor exp. of  $v(t+h)$

$$v(t+h) = v(t) + h v'(t) + \frac{1}{2} h^2 v''(t) + \mathcal{O}(h^3) \quad (*)$$

- We know  $v'(t) = a(t)$ , but need expression for  $v''(t)$  in terms of known quantities. Use a simple forward difference:

$$v''(t) = \frac{v'(t+h) - v'(t)}{h} + \mathcal{O}(h)$$

- Insert into (\*) to get

$$v(t+h) = v(t) + h v'(t) + \frac{1}{2} h^2 \left[ \frac{v'(t+h) - v'(t)}{h} + \mathcal{O}(h) \right] + \mathcal{O}(h^3)$$

$$v(t+h) = v(t) + \frac{1}{2} h v'(t) + \frac{1}{2} h v'(t+h) + \mathcal{O}(h^3)$$

$$= v(t) + h \left[ \frac{a(t) + a(t+h)}{2} \right] + \mathcal{O}(h^3)$$

- Discretize
- Approximate

$$\Rightarrow \boxed{v_{i+1} = v_i + h \left[ \frac{a_i + a_{i+1}}{2} \right]}$$

Note that  $a_{i+1} = a(t_{i+1}, x_{i+1})$  requires that we compute  $x_{i+1}$  first!

## Stability (Need to match method to problem)

- A method is stable if the amplification factor  $g$  satisfies

$$g \equiv \left| \frac{\Delta_{i+1}}{\Delta_i} \right| \leq 1$$

$$\text{where } \Delta_i = y_{i+1}^{\text{true}} - y_{i+1}^{\text{approx}}$$

(absolute error)

- So  $g > 1$  means that the absolute (and relative) error grows for every step  $\rightarrow$  unstable!

### • Some examples:

- FE and PC are conditionally stable for decaying solutions (requirement on  $h$  being small enough) ( $y' = -\alpha y$ )
- LF is unstable for decaying solutions [see example]
- P-C is unstable for pure oscillating solutions ( $y'' = -\omega^2 y$ )
- FE, P-C, LF, RK4 are all unstable for an exp. growing solution ( $y' = \alpha y$ ) [see example]

- In short: Need to investigate how suitable an algorithm is for the given problem.