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[Website CoSTAR](#)

# The MATLAB Toolbox CoSTAR

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University of Kassel (Germany)



INSTITUTE FOR  
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ENGINEERING  
DYNAMICS

[Website Engineering  
Dynamics Group](#)

## Content

- Overview, Basic Theory and Features
- Flow Chart and Code Structure
- Basic Use and Where To Start
- Outlook, Feedback and Download
- Theoretical Basics / Publications



## Continuation of Solution Torus AppRoximations

### ■ Computation of *stationary* solutions of dynamic systems

(*stationary* solution: solution type persists for infinite time interval)

$$\dot{\mathbf{z}} = \mathbf{f}(t, \mathbf{z}, \mu)$$

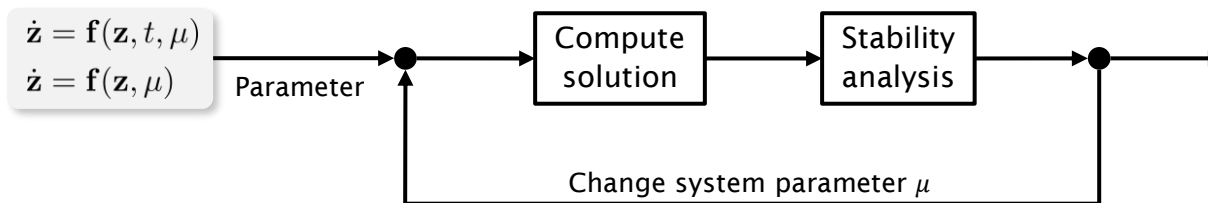
$$\dot{\mathbf{z}} = \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{z}, \mu)$$

- Equilibrium solutions (EQ)
- Periodic solutions (PS)
- Quasi-periodic solutions (QPS) (*2 base frequencies*)

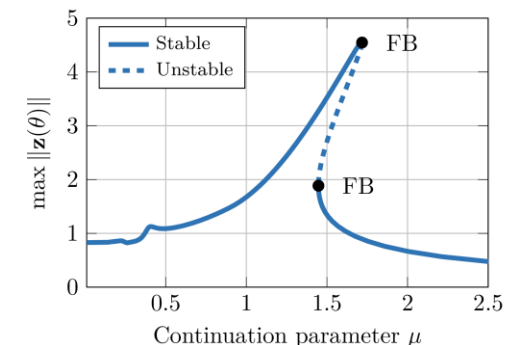
#### ➤ Rotordynamics:

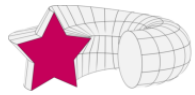
- External forcing (e.g. unbalance) and/or self-excitation (e.g. instabilities)
- Bladed disks (in jet engines)

### ■ *Continuation* of stationary solution branches



Continuation of periodic solutions (DUFFING)





CoSTAR

## Continuation of Solution Torus AppRoximations

### ■ Computation of *stationary* solutions of dynamic systems

(*stationary* solution: solution type persists for infinite time interval)

$$\dot{\mathbf{z}} = \mathbf{f}(t, \mathbf{z}, \mu)$$

$$\dot{\mathbf{z}} = \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{z}, \mu)$$

#### – Equilibrium solutions (EQ)

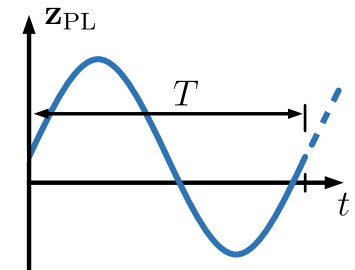
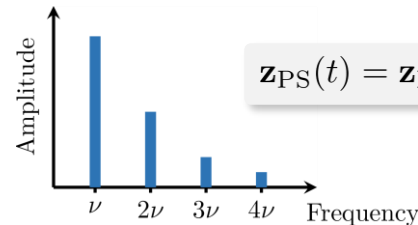
- Zero base frequencies



$$\mathbf{z}_{EQ} = \text{const.}$$

#### – Periodic solutions (PS)

- One *base frequency*  $\nu$
- Higher harmonics  $2\nu, 3\nu, \dots$



#### – Quasi-periodic solutions (QPS)

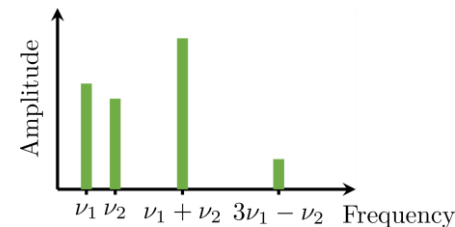
- $p \geq 2$  *incommensurable* (rationally independent) base frequencies

$$\frac{\nu_k}{\nu_j} \in \mathbb{R} \setminus \mathbb{Q} \quad (k \neq j)$$

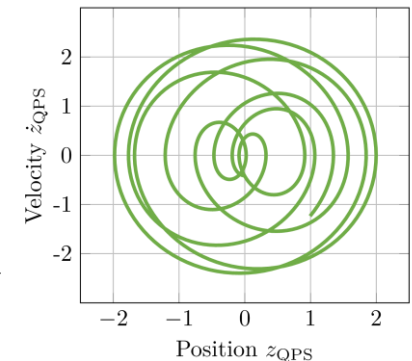
e.g.  $\nu_1 = 1$   
 $\nu_2 = \sqrt{2}$

➡ "T → ∞"

- Linear combinations of base frequencies



Trajectory of quasi-periodic solution



## ■ Quasi-periodic solutions (QPS)

$n$ : state space dimension

– Quasi-periodic function:  $\mathbf{z}_{QP}(t) = \mathbf{Z}(\nu_1 t, \dots, \nu_p t) : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$

➤  $2\pi$ -periodicity:  $\mathbf{Z}(\dots, \nu_k t, \dots) = \mathbf{Z}(\dots, \nu_k t + 2\pi, \dots)$

– Torus function:  $\mathbf{Z}(\boldsymbol{\theta}) = \mathbf{Z}(\theta_1, \dots, \theta_p) : \mathbb{T}^p \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$

➤ Coordinate torus:  $\mathbb{T}^p = (\mathbb{R}/2\pi\mathbb{Z})^p = [0, 2\pi)^p$

➤  $2\pi$ -periodicity:  $\mathbf{Z}(\dots, \theta_k, \dots) = \mathbf{Z}(\dots, \theta_k + 2\pi, \dots)$

– Torus:  $\mathcal{T}_p = \{\mathbf{Z}(\boldsymbol{\theta}) \mid \boldsymbol{\theta} \in \mathbb{T}^p\} \subset \mathbb{R}^n$

➤ Filled *densely* by quasi-periodic trajectory  $\mathbf{z}_{QP}(t)$  for  $t \rightarrow \infty$   
(every point on the torus is reached directly or arbitrarily close by  $\mathbf{z}_{QP}(t)$ )

➤ Carrier of QPS  $\mathbf{z}_{QPS}(t)$  and thus invariant manifold

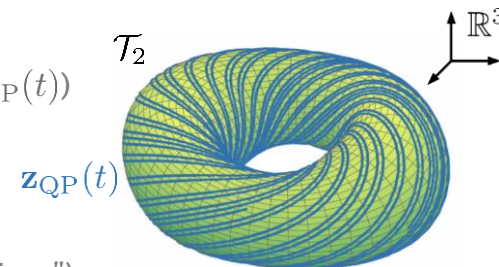
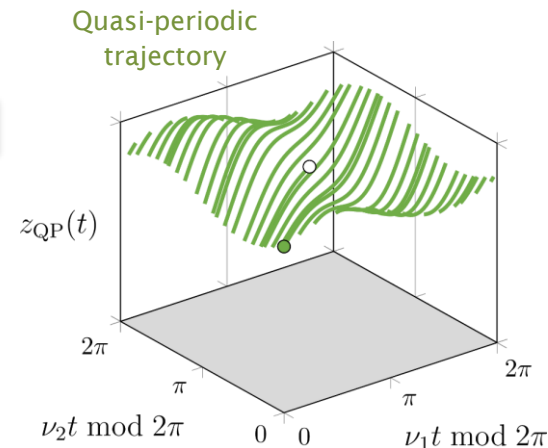
➡ Compute torus  $\mathcal{T}_p$  instead of trajectory of  $\mathbf{z}_{QPS}(t)$

➤ Parametrisation using torus coordinates:  $\boldsymbol{\theta}(t) = \boldsymbol{\nu} t \bmod 2\pi$  (“hyper-time”)

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{\mathbf{z}} &= \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{z}, t) \\ \dot{\mathbf{z}} &= \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{z}) \end{aligned} \quad \xrightarrow{\mathbf{z}(\boldsymbol{\theta}(t))} \quad \sum_{k=1}^p \frac{\partial \mathbf{Z}(\boldsymbol{\theta})}{\partial \theta_k} \nu_k = \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{Z}(\boldsymbol{\theta}), \tilde{\boldsymbol{\theta}})$$

(Hyper-time) Invariance equation

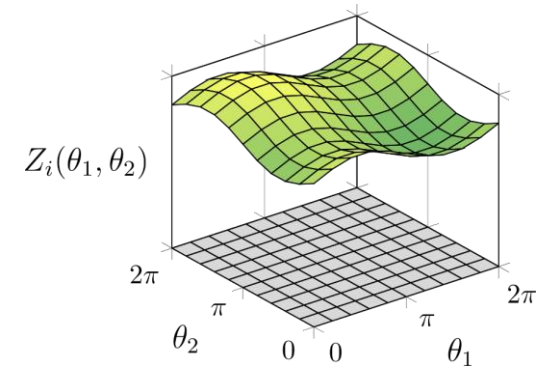
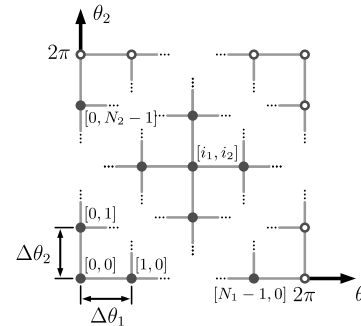
- $p = 0$ : equilibrium solutions
- $p = 1$ : periodic solutions
- $p = 2$ : quasi-periodic solutions (2 base frequencies)



## ■ Approximation methods for (quasi-)periodic solutions in CoSTAR

### – Finite Difference Method (FDM)

- *Local* discretisation (mesh)
- Approximation of derivatives by weighted sum of torus function values at the nodes



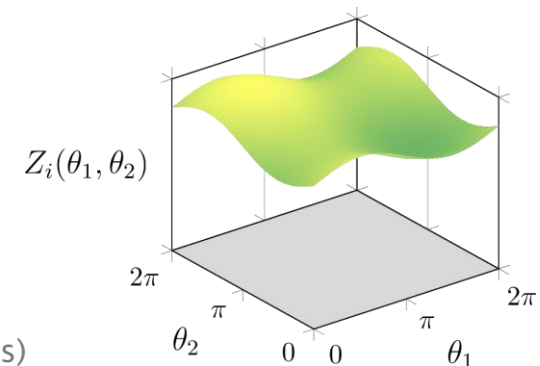
### – FOURIER-GALERKIN Method (FGM) (*“harmonic balance”*)

- *Global* ansatz functions:  
Truncated (multi-dimensional) FOURIER series

$$\mathbf{H}^T \boldsymbol{\theta} = H_1 \theta_1 + H_2 \theta_2$$

$$\mathbf{Z}(\boldsymbol{\theta}) \approx \mathbf{C}_0 + \sum_{\|\mathbf{H}\| \leq N} \left( \mathbf{C}_\mathbf{H} \cos(\mathbf{H}^T \boldsymbol{\theta}) + \mathbf{S}_\mathbf{H} \sin(\mathbf{H}^T \boldsymbol{\theta}) \right)$$

- GALERKIN-projection of residual on ansatz functions
- Error control available (adapting number of higher harmonics)

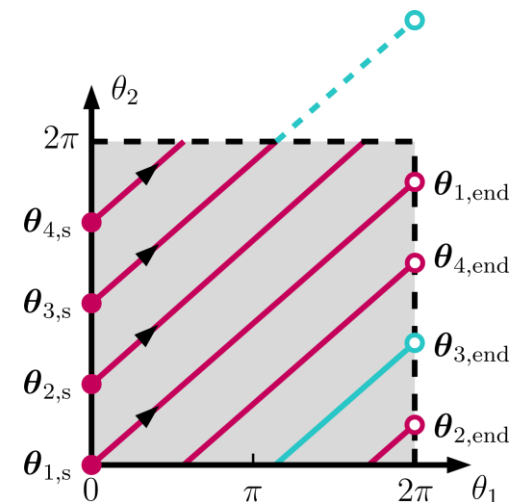
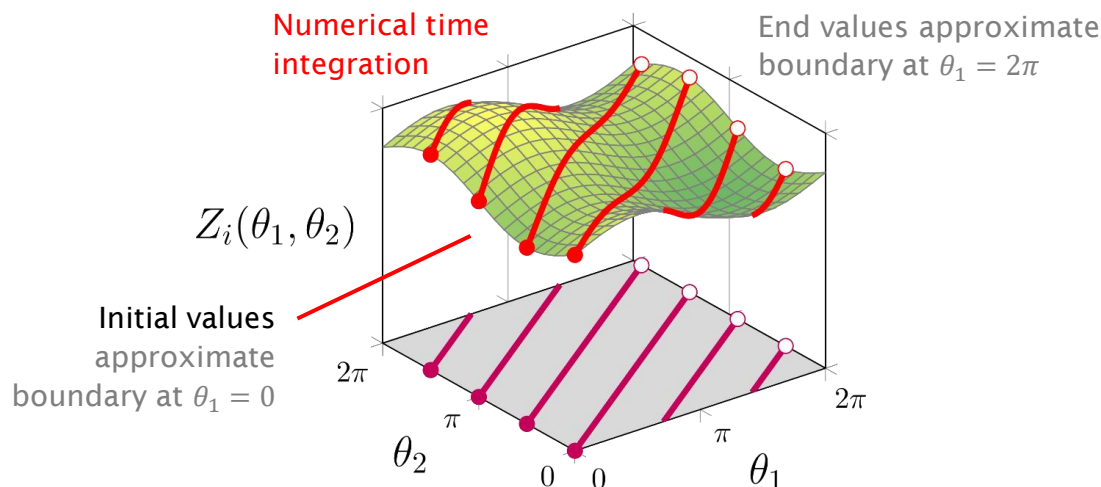
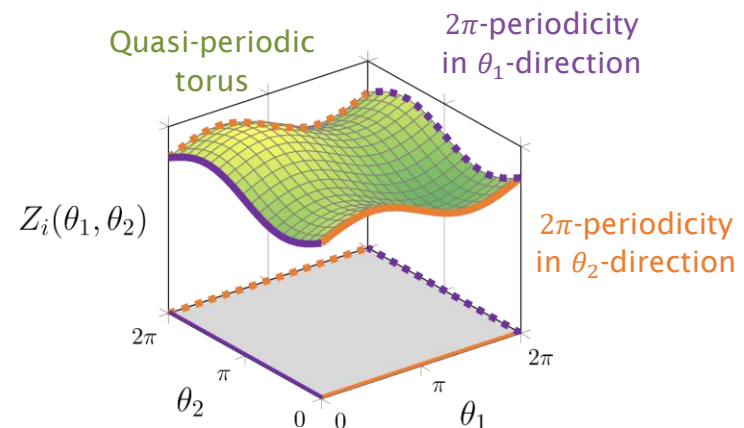


### – (Multiple) Shooting method (SHM)

## ■ Approximation methods for (quasi-)periodic solutions in CoSTAR

### – (Multiple) Shooting Method (SHM)

- **PS:** Multiple Shooting Method
- **QPS:** Single Shooting Method
  - Utilise periodic boundaries & numerical time integration
  - Numerical time integration for  $t \in [0, t_{\text{end}}]$ ,  $t_{\text{end}} = 2\pi/\nu_1$  produces *characteristics*
  - Solver for non-linear equations: Find initial values so that boundaries in  $\theta_1$ -direction are periodic

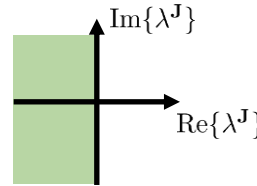


## ■ Stability computation of solutions in CoSTAR

➤ LYAPUNOV stability:  $\|\mathbf{z}(t) - \mathbf{z}_R(t)\| = \|\Delta\mathbf{z}(t)\| < \varepsilon, \quad \varepsilon > 0$

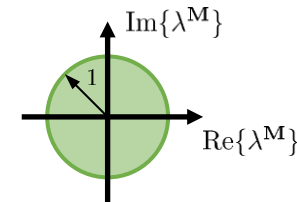
### – Equilibrium solutions

- Eigenvalue theory (eigenvalues  $\lambda^J$  of JACOBIAN  $\mathbf{J}_f$ )



### – Periodic solutions

- FLOQUET theory (eigenvalues  $\lambda^M$  of monodromy matrix)
- Monodromy matrix can be extracted from **SHM**



### – Quasi-periodic solutions

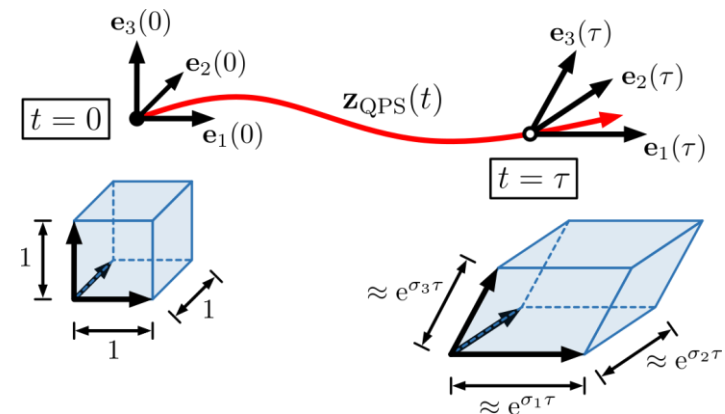
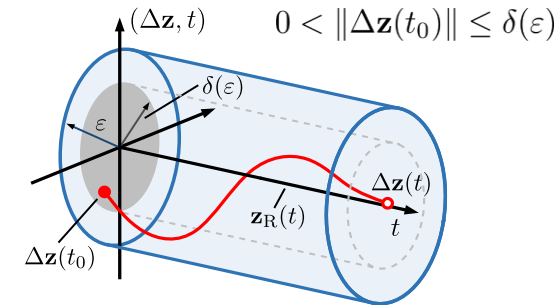
- Spectrum of 1<sup>st</sup> order LYAPUNOV exponents  
 $\sigma_1 \geq \sigma_2 \geq \dots \geq \sigma_n$

$$\sigma_i = \limsup_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{t} \ln \|\Delta\mathbf{z}(t)\| = \limsup_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{t} \ln \|\psi(t, 0)\mathbf{e}_i(0)\|$$



- $\sigma_k > 0$  indicates unstable behaviour
- Efficient computation possible if **SHM** is used

### – (Q)PS approximated by **FDM** and **FGM**:

- “Reshoot” the solution (compute again using **SHM**)
- Initial values for shooting algorithm from **FDM** or **FGM** solution

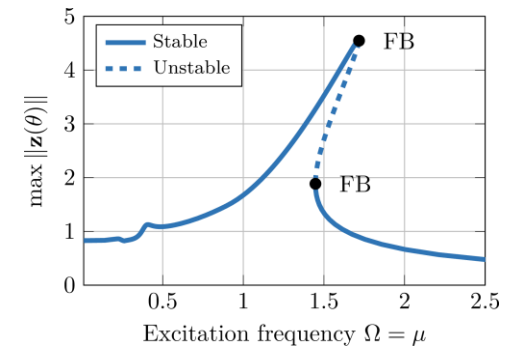


## Continuation of solution branches

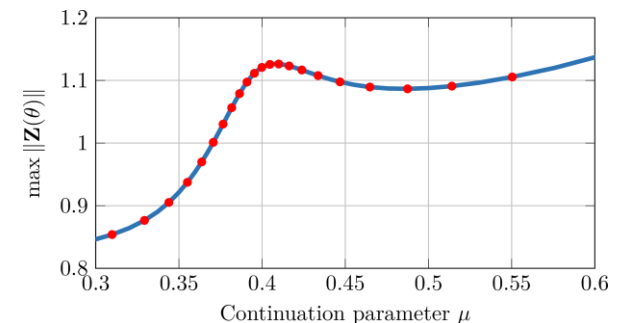
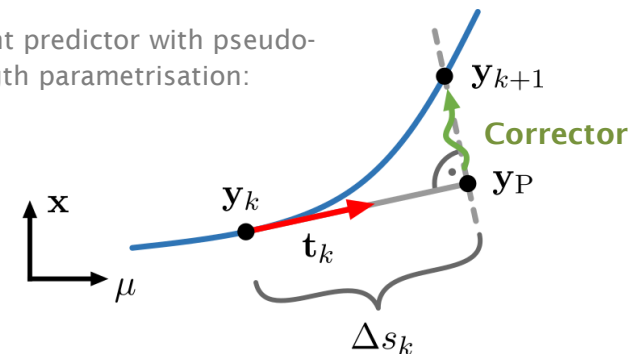
- Solutions for varying system parameter  $\mu$ 
  - Trace solution curve in higher dimensional space
- *Predictor-corrector algorithm* in  CoSTAR
  - Predictor: Predicting new solution
    - Tangent
    - Polynomials of order 1, 2 and 3
  - Parametrisation (*subspace constraint*)
    - Natural
    - Arclength and pseudo-arclength
    - 1 norm (*taxicab / Manhattan distance*)
  - Corrector
    - Solver for non-linear equation systems calculates new solution
- Step control in  CoSTAR
  - Adapt step length  $\Delta s_k$  to ensure convergence and to reduce overall computation time
  - Various algorithms based on geometrical information and solver iterations

$$\dot{\mathbf{z}} = \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{z}, t, \mu)$$

$$\dot{\mathbf{z}} = \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{z}, \mu)$$



Tangent predictor with pseudo-arclength parametrisation:





All features can be used as required

## ■ Stability computation of solutions

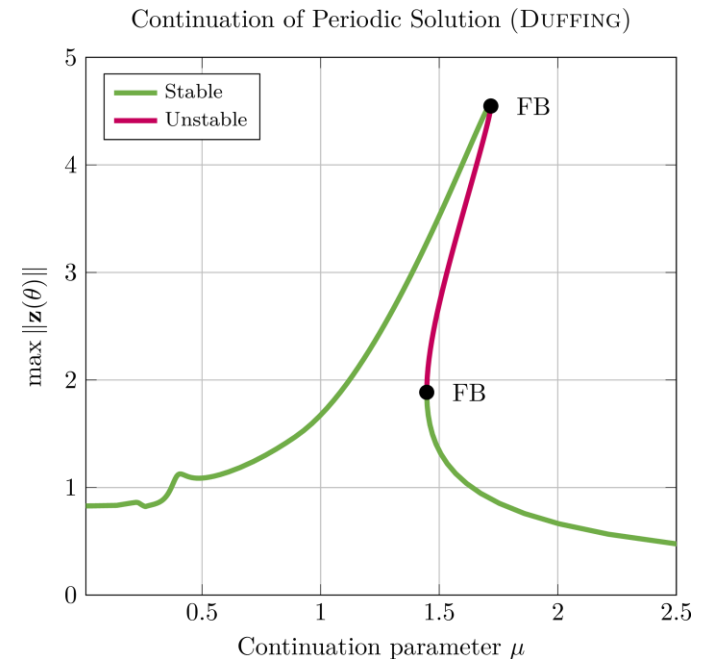
- Equilibrium solutions
- Periodic solutions
  - SHM (monodromy matrix is extracted from here)
  - FDM & FGM (*reshooted* for monodromy matrix)
- Quasi-periodic solutions
  - SHM (LYAPUNOV exponents are extracted from here)
  - FDM & FGM (*reshooted* for LYAPUNOV exponents)

## ■ Detection of bifurcation points

- Fold / Pitchfork / Transcritical (FB)
- Period Doubling (PDB)
- HOPF (HB)
- NEIMARK-SACKER (NSB)

## ■ Error Control

- FGM: (PS & QPS) Automatic adaption of number of higher harmonics based on residual



## All features can be used as required

### Continuation: Predictor-corrector algorithm

#### Predictors

- Tangent
- Polynomials of order 1, 2 and 3

#### Parametrisations

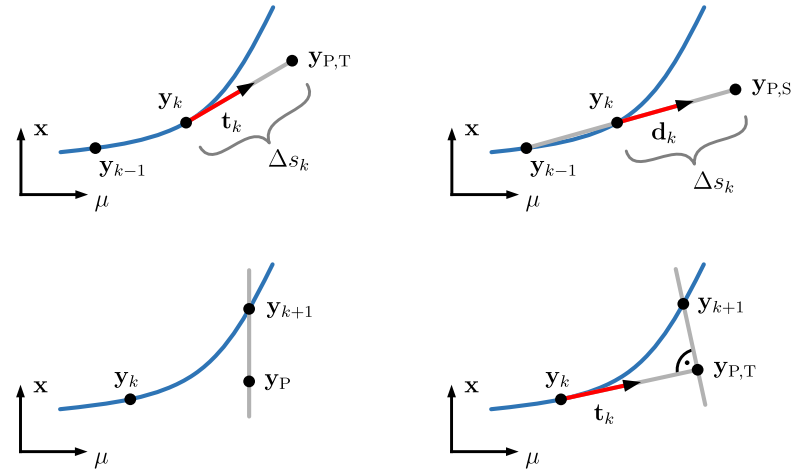
- Natural
- Arclength and pseudo-arclength
- 1 norm (*taxicab / Manhattan distance*)

#### Step control

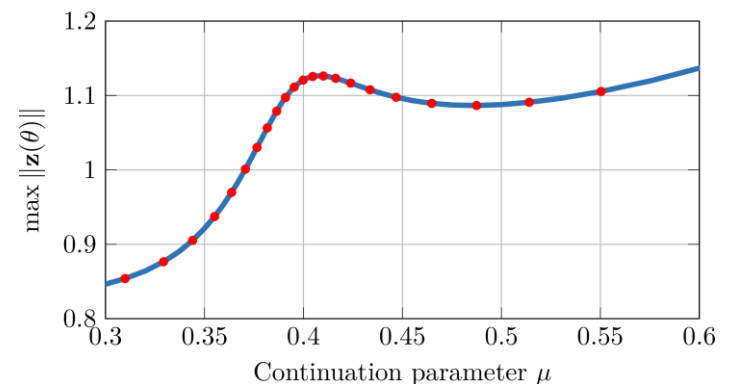
- Various algorithms based on geometrical information and solver iterations

#### Live plot

- Creating continuation plot during computation



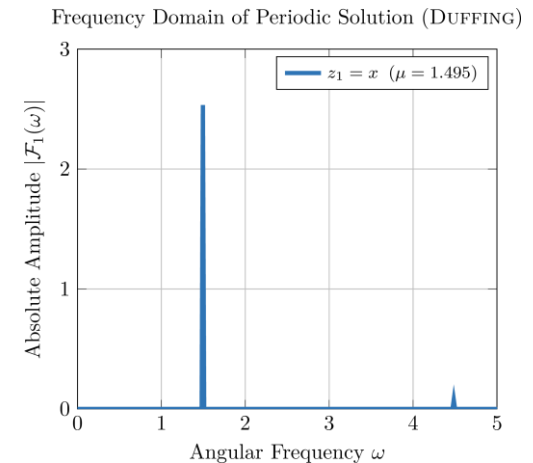
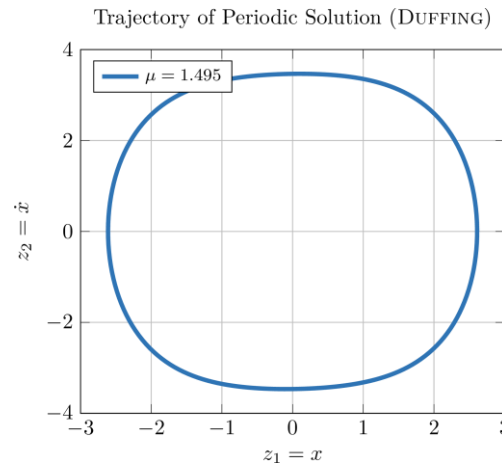
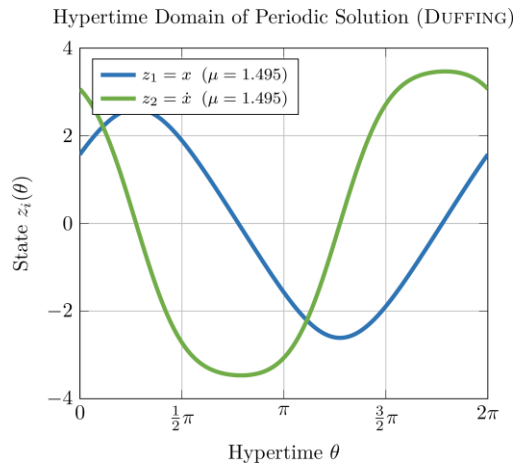
Continuation of Periodic Solution (DUFFING)



All features can be used as required

## ■ Postprocessing methods

- contplot
  - Creates continuation / bifurcation diagrams (plots solution branches with respect to  $\mu$ )
- solplot
  - Plots individual solutions in different *solution spaces*  
(Available *solution spaces*: time, hypertime, trajectory and frequency domain)



- solget
  - Returns solution data in different solution spaces



- **Gatekeeper** *cannot be bypassed*
  - Checks the input (the defined options) from the user
  - Reports errors in case of illogical or invalid input
  
- **Help**
  - costarhelp function
    - Quick help in the command window
    - Overview of the available options with a short description
    - Type **costarhelp.costar** in the command window to start
  
  - Examples
    - Short MATLAB scripts
    - Sample code showing usage of a certain **CoSTAR** module
  
  - Tutorials
    - MATLAB (live) scripts
    - There is one tutorial for each example (identical code)
    - Comprehensive explanations of a certain **CoSTAR** module

```
>> costarhelp.costar

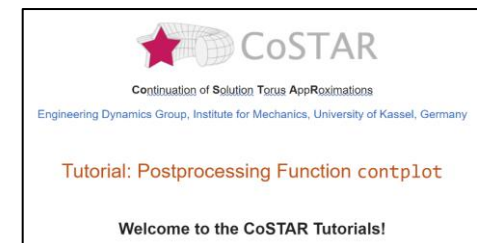
----- CoSTAR Help -----

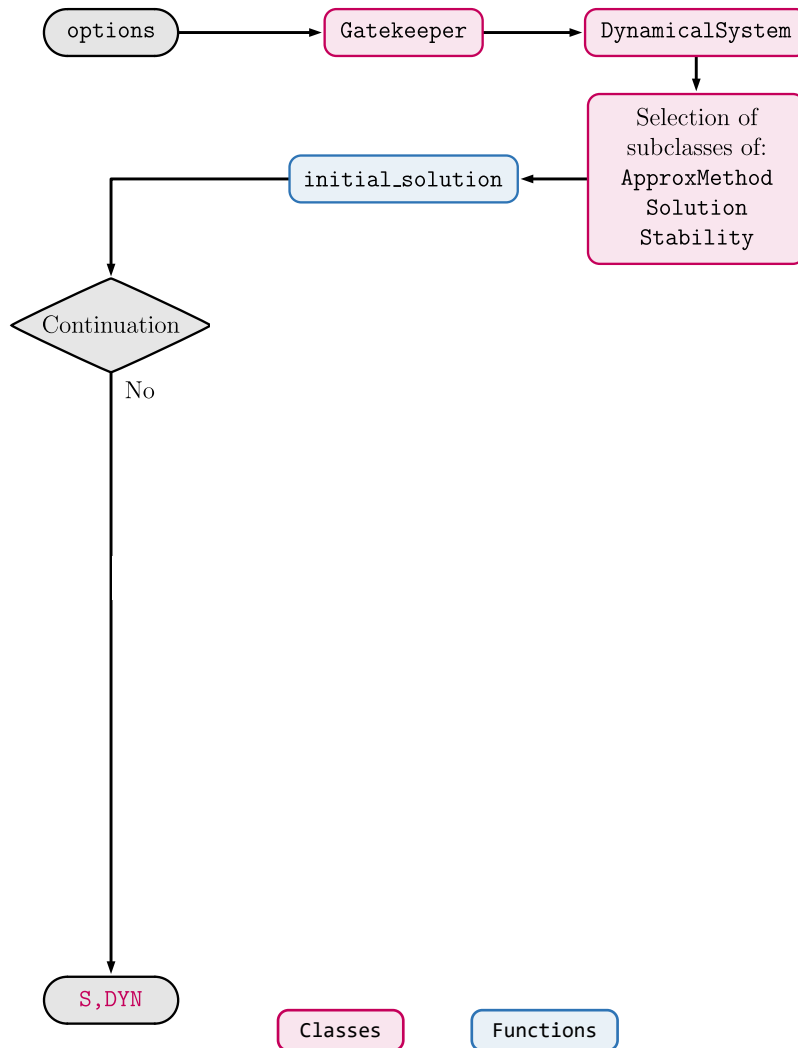
CoSTAR is a Matlab path continuation toolbox written by the
Engineering Dynamics Group of the University of Kassel, Germany.

CoSTAR enables you to compute single stationary solutions or
to continue a branch of equilibria, periodic or quasi-periodic
solutions with different numerical techniques, whilst tracking
the solution stability and identify occurring bifurcations.
```

```
%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%
%                               CoSTAR                               %
% Continuation of Solution Torus AppRoximations                     %
%                                                                    %
% Example:                                                            %
% Postprocessing                                                       %
% - contplot -                                                         %
%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%

Welcome to the CoSTAR Examples!
```





## 1. options

- Structure array
- Contains user-defined options for computation

## 2. Gatekeeper

- Checks options

## 3. DynamicalSystem

- Stores all options in object **DYN**
- Can be used to restart the computation

## 4. Selection of subclasses

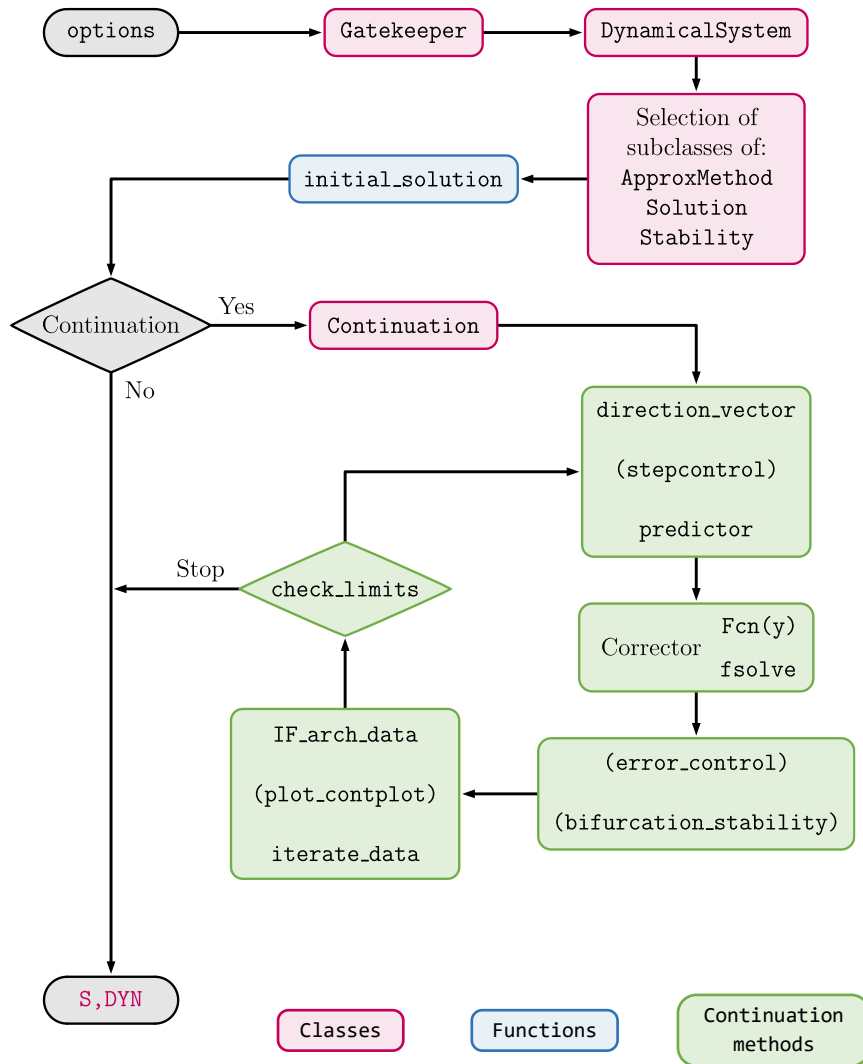
- **ApproxMethod**
  - Applies approximation method
- **Solution**
  - Stores solution data in object **S**
- **Stability**
  - Used for stability computation

## 5. initial\_solution

- Computes the first (*initial*) solution

In case of no continuation:

## 6. Return **S** and **DYN**



## 6. Continuation loop

6.1. direction\_vector

6.2. (stepcontrol) (can be skipped)

6.3. predictor

- Computes direction vector, new step width and predictor point

6.4. Corrector

- fsolve solving  $Fcn(y) = 0$

6.5. (error\_control) (can be skipped)

6.6. (bifurcation\_stability) (can be skipped)

- Performs error control and computes stability as well as bifurcation point

6.7. IF\_arch\_data

6.8. (plot\_contplot) (can be skipped)

6.9. iterate\_data

- Stores data, updates live plot and performs iterations for next loop

6.10. check\_limits

- Checks exit conditions

When exit condition is met:

7. Return **S** and **DYN**

- 📁 Classes ➤ All classes and associated methods
- 📁 Functions ➤ Functions not belonging to any class
- 📁 RHS ➤ Functions defining right-hand side of  $\dot{\mathbf{z}} = \mathbf{f}(t, \mathbf{z}, \mu)$  or  $\dot{\mathbf{z}} = \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{z}, \mu)$
- 📁 test ➤ Scripts to test the code
- 📁 Tutorials ➤ Tutorial & example scripts
- 📁 Version\_Log ➤ Version log files documenting code development
- 📄 costar ➤ Main **CoSTAR** function (to be called by the user)



## Classes

All classes and associated methods

- **@Continuation** ➤ Class and methods to perform the continuation
- **@costarhelp** ➤ Class and methods for the **costarhelp** feature
- **@DynamicalSystem** ➤ Class for storing the **options** structure
- **@Gatekeeper** ➤ Class and methods for the **Gatekeeper** feature
- **ApproxMethod\_SC** ➤ Classes and methods to construct the residuum function
  - **@AM\_EQ**
  - **@AM\_PS\_FDM**
  - **@AM\_PS\_FGM**
  - **@AM\_PS\_SHM**
  - **@AM\_QPS\_FDM**
  - **@AM\_QPS\_FGM**
  - **@AM\_QPS\_SHM**
  - **@ApproxMethod** ➤ Superclass
- **Solution\_SC**
- **Stability\_SC**



➤ Subclasses and methods

➤ Superclass







## Classes

All classes and associated methods

- **@Continuation** ➤ Class and methods to perform the continuation
- **@costarhelp** ➤ Class and methods for the **costarhelp** feature
- **@DynamicalSystem** ➤ Class for storing the **options** structure
- **@Gatekeeper** ➤ Class and methods for the **Gatekeeper** feature
- **ApproxMethod\_SC** ➤ Classes and methods to construct the residuum function
- **Solution\_SC** ➤ Classes and methods to save computed data
  - **@SOL\_EQ**
  - ...
  - **@Solution**
- **Stability\_SC** ➤ Classes and methods to compute stability
  - **@ST\_EQ** ➤ Subclass and methods for equilibrium solutions
  - **@ST\_PS\_SHM** ➤ Subclass and methods for periodic shooting method
  - **@ST\_QPS\_SHM** ➤ Subclass and methods for quasi-periodic shooting method
  - **@Stability** ➤ Superclass and methods





## costar

```
function [S,DYN] = costar(options)
```

### %% Gatekeeper

```
GC = Gatekeeper();  
options = GC.m_gatekeeper(options);  
clear GC;
```

### %% Dynamical System class

```
DYN = DynamicalSystem(options);
```

### %% Approximation Method class

```
AM = ApproxMethod.s_method_selection(DYN);
```

### %% Solution class

```
S = Solution.s_solution_selection(DYN,AM);
```

### %% Stability class

```
ST = Stability.s_stability_selection(DYN,AM);
```

### %% Calculate initial solution

```
[S,AM,DYN] = initial_solution(DYN,S,AM,ST);
```

### %% Continuation

```
if strcmpi(DYN.cont,'on')  
    CON = Continuation(options.opt_cont);  
    S = CON.m_continuation(DYN,S,AM,ST);  
end
```

- **Input:** options structure
- **Output:** Solution object S, DynamicalSystem object DYN
- **Gatekeeper** checks all input options
- **Save** all options in DynamicalSystem object DYN
- **Create** ApproxMethod object AM  
(methods construct the residuum function)
- **Create** Solution object S  
(stores all solution data)
- **Create** Stability object ST  
(methods compute the stability of a solution)
- **Compute** the initial (first) solution
- **Create** Continuation object CON
- **Do** the continuation

## 1. Define important parameters and functions (not necessarily needed, but it helps to keep the overview)

```
%% 1. Define important parameters and functions (not necessarily needed, but it helps to keep the overview)
D = 0.05;      kappa = 0.3;      g = 1;          % Parameters needed for the Duffing differential equation
mu_limit = [0.01, 2.5];          % Limits of the continuation
eta0 = mu_limit(1);              % Value of continuation parameter at start of continuation
param = {kappa, D, eta0, g};     % Parameter array
active_parameter = 3;            % Location of continuation parameter within the array
IC = [1; 0];                    % Initial condition (point in state space) for fsolve

% Functions
non_auto_freq = @(mu) mu;        % Non-autonomous excitation frequency
Fcn = @(t,z,param) duffing_ap(t,z,param); % Right-hand side of  $dz/d\tau = f(\tau, z, \kappa, D, \eta, g)$ 
```

## 2. Define the options structure (it comprises all information that CoSTAR needs)

```
%% 2. Define the options structure (it comprises all information that CoSTAR needs)
options.system = costaropts('order',1,'dim',2,'rhs',Fcn,'param',param,'info','continuation of Duffing equation'); % Properties of the system
options.opt_sol = costaropts('sol_type','periodic','approx_method','shooting','cont','on','stability','on', ... % Properties of the solution
                             'non_auto_freq',non_auto_freq,'act_param',active_parameter); % Properties of the solution
options.opt_init = costaropts('ic',IC); % Property for initial solution
options.opt_approx_method = costaropts('solver','ode45'); % Properties of approximation method
options.opt_cont = costaropts('mu_limit',mu_limit); % Properties for continuation
```

## 3. Call CoSTAR (and do the continuation)

```
%% 3. Call CoSTAR and do the continuation
[S,DYN] = costar(options); % CoSTAR is called by costar(options)
```

## 4. Individual postprocessing

```
%% 4. Individual postprocessing
% ...
```

## ■ If you are new to CoSTAR or certain modules

### – Tutorials

- Comprehensive explanations of a certain **CoSTAR** module
- Currently available:

Start with one of these if you have not used CoSTAR yet

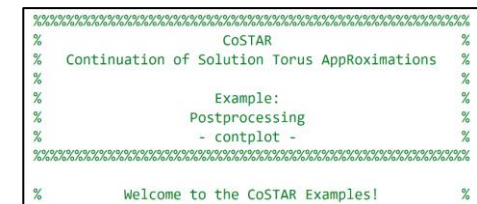
- ✓ Equilibrium solutions (Tutorial\_EQ)
- ✓ Periodic and quasi-periodic solutions approximated by FDM, FGM and SHM (Tutorial\_PS\_FDM, Tutorial\_PS\_FGM, ..., Tutorial\_QPS\_SHM)
- ✓ Postprocessing methods contplot, solplot and solget (Tutorial\_Postprocessing\_contplot, ...)



## ■ If you already used CoSTAR

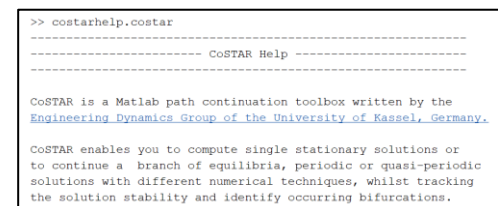
### – Examples

- Sample code showing usage of a certain **CoSTAR** module
- Good rescue point to restart working with **CoSTAR**
- There is one example for each tutorial (examples are labelled Example\_[...])



### – costarhelp feature

- Overview of the available options with a short description
- Quick help in the command window while using **CoSTAR**
- Type **costarhelp.costar** in the command window to start



**Note:** The following list may be incomplete and only lists ideas for future improvements to the toolbox. There is no guarantee for actual implementation.

## ■ Approximation methods

- Multiple Shooting Method for quasi-periodic solutions

## ■ Features

### – Stability computation

- PS: Directly from solution data when using FDM or FGM without JACOBIAN of SHM

### – Error control

- Finite Difference Method (PS & QPS)
- Handle different exit flags from `fsolve` when computing new solution with updated discretization

### – Step control

- Algorithm(s) based on convergence of solver (when self-written solver is available)

### – Postprocessing

- FGM & SHM (QPS hypertime plots): [1x2] array for options structure field 'resolution'

### – Tutorials & Examples

- Update default-script tutorials to live scripts
- Tutorials and examples for continuation options, step control and stability computation

**Note:** The following list may be incomplete and only lists ideas for future improvements to the toolbox. There is no guarantee for actual implementation.

- **Initial value** (for the solver to compute the initial solution)
  - Standardise the parameters, which create an initial value, for all approximation methods
  - Use of a solution of a different approximation method as initial value
  - Homotopy methods
- **Continuation**
  - Predictor: Polynomials of order  $> 3$
  - Additionally compute the solution at specified (desired)  $\mu$ -values
- **Computational effort**
  - Make parallel computing available to enhance performance
- **Solver**
  - Self-written solver to remove the need of MATLAB's Optimization Toolbox
- **Dynamic System**
  - Computation of non-hyperbolic manifolds (solutions of Hamiltonian systems)

## ■ Download

- CoSTAR is available for free as [GitHub repository](#)
- CoSTAR is licenced under the *Apache 2.0* licence



## ■ Report of bugs

- Please create a GitHub issue, labelled as bug, if you experience a new bug
- If a GitHub issue already exists for your bug, no action is required

## ■ Suggestions for improvement, wishes and ideas for future releases

- Please create a GitHub issue for any wishes, improvements and ideas for future releases and label it accordingly



[Website CoSTAR](#)



[Website Engineering Dynamics Group](#)



## Theoretical basics can be found in following publications:

- FIEDLER, R., HETZLER, H. & BÄUERLE, S.  
Efficient numerical calculation of LYAPUNOV-exponents and stability assessment for quasi-periodic motions in nonlinear systems.  
*Nonlinear Dyn* **112**, 8299–8327 (2024). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11071-024-09497-9>
- HETZLER, H. & BÄUERLE, S.  
Stationary solutions in applied dynamics: A unified framework for the numerical calculation and stability assessment of periodic and quasi-periodic solutions based on invariant manifolds.  
*GAMM-Mitteilungen* **46** (2023), e202300006. <https://doi.org/10.1002/gamm.202300006>
- BÄUERLE, S., SEIFERT, A., KAPPAUF, J. & HETZLER, H.  
A continuation framework for quasi-periodic solution branches based on different torus discretization strategies.  
*Proceedings of ISMA Conference, Leuven, Belgien, 12.-14. September 2022.*
- BÄUERLE, S., FIEDLER, R. and HETZLER, H.  
An engineering perspective on the numerics of quasi-periodic oscillations.  
*Nonlinear Dyn* **108** (2022), no. 4, 3927–3950. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11071-022-07407-5>

