

# Dynamics

Intro from Foundation



**PHYS 246 class 2**

<https://jnoronhahostler.github.io/IntroductionToComputationalPhysics/intro.html>

# Announcements/notes

```
from google.colab import drive
drive.mount('/content/drive')
!cp /content/drive/MyDrive/Colab\ Notebooks/Dynamics.ipynb ./
!jupyter nbconvert --to HTML "Dynamics.ipynb"
```

- First assignment is due tonight on gradescope
- Check new PDF and .ipynb guide on the website  
(if you already submitted and the PDF and .ipynb are clear and legible, you are ok)
- Note that there is not much partial credit. Grade will be based on number of correct entries. A few correct things are better than a lot of incorrect things.
- You WILL be graded on good coding practices!
- Related to above, make sure that the first part of your assignment is correct before moving on -- the end depends on the beginning.

# Emails

- Make sure Phys 246 is in the title
- Always add\* Surkhab and Maxwell
- Nights/weekends I most likely won't be able to respond
- Grading changes on assignments will be always discussed amongst the 3 of us

\* Exceptions: letter of rec requests, research requests, or personal issues that may affect grades

# Dynamics

## How do objects move?

- Let's start with something easy like a “point-like particle”.
- We will need the particle's **initial conditions**



- Equations to describe the particles movement in time
- A numerical method to solve these initial conditions+equations

# Newtonian equations of motion

How do we solve them numerically?

$$x(t) = x_0 + \frac{1}{2} [v(t) + v_0] t$$

$$v(t) = v_0 + at$$

$$F = ma \rightarrow a = \frac{F}{m}$$

# Getting the position over time

$$x(t_0) = 0, \quad v(t_0) = 55 \text{ m/s} \quad t_{i+1} = t_i + \Delta t$$

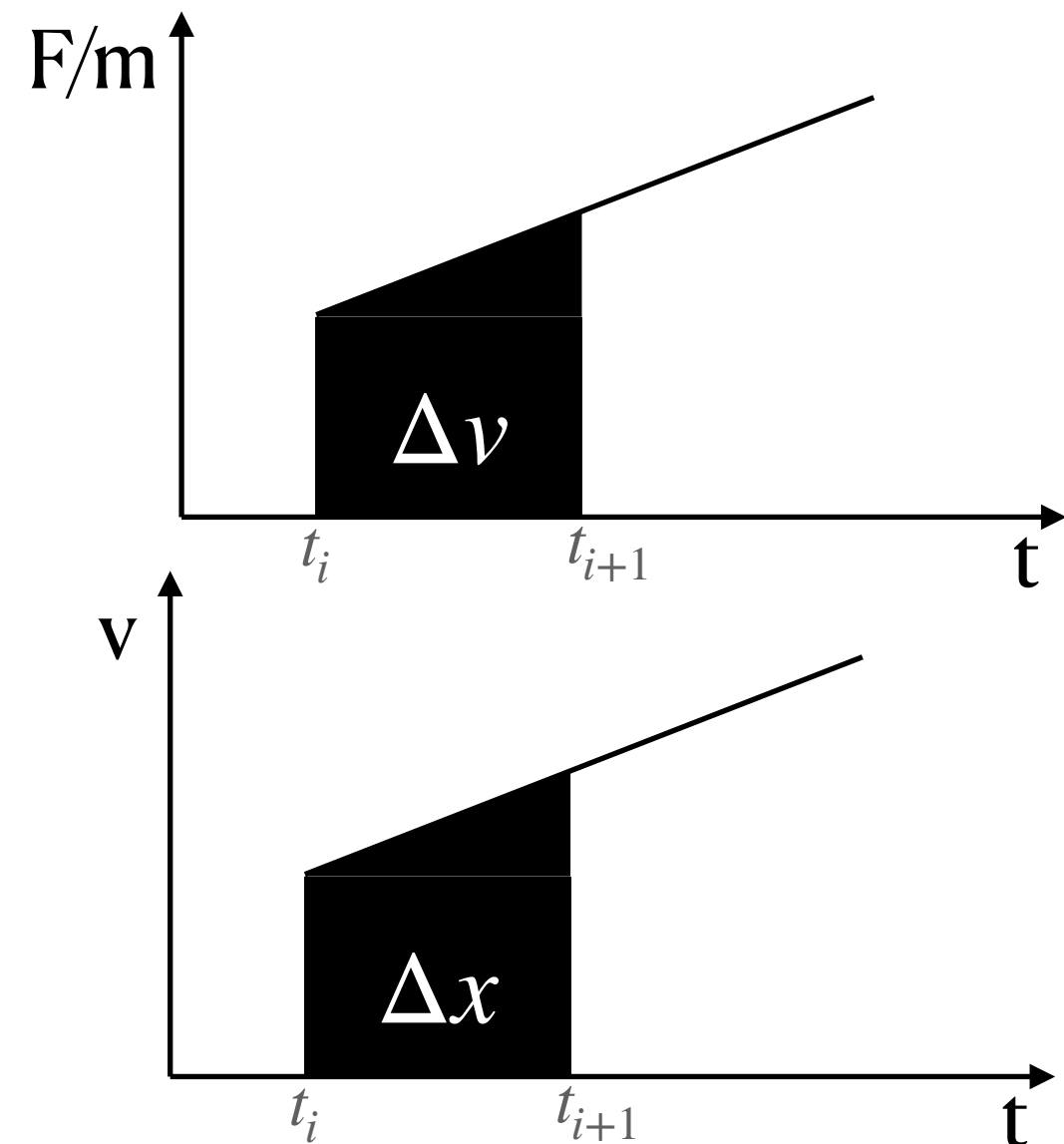
The diagram illustrates the numerical update formula for position. The central equation is  $x(t_{i+1}) \sim x(t_i) + v(t_i)\Delta t$ . Annotations include: a red arrow labeled "Slope @  $t_i$ " pointing to  $v(t_i)$ ; a red arrow labeled "Next step" pointing to  $x(t_{i+1})$ ; a red arrow labeled "Current step" pointing to  $x(t_i)$ ; and a red arrow labeled "Step size" pointing to  $\Delta t$ .

$$x(t_{i+1}) \sim x(t_i) + v(t_i)\Delta t$$

What should we use here? How do we do this numerically?

What is  $v(t)$ ?

# 1D Dynamics by numerical integration



Suppose we know the position and velocity at some time  $t_i$ , and want to know these quantities at a future time  $t_{i+1}$

Newton says:  $F = m \frac{dv}{dt}$

$$\text{So } v(t_{i+1}) - v(t_i) = \int_{t_i}^{t_{i+1}} \frac{F}{m} dt$$

If we can compute this integral we know what the velocity will be. Similar for position.

# Euler integration

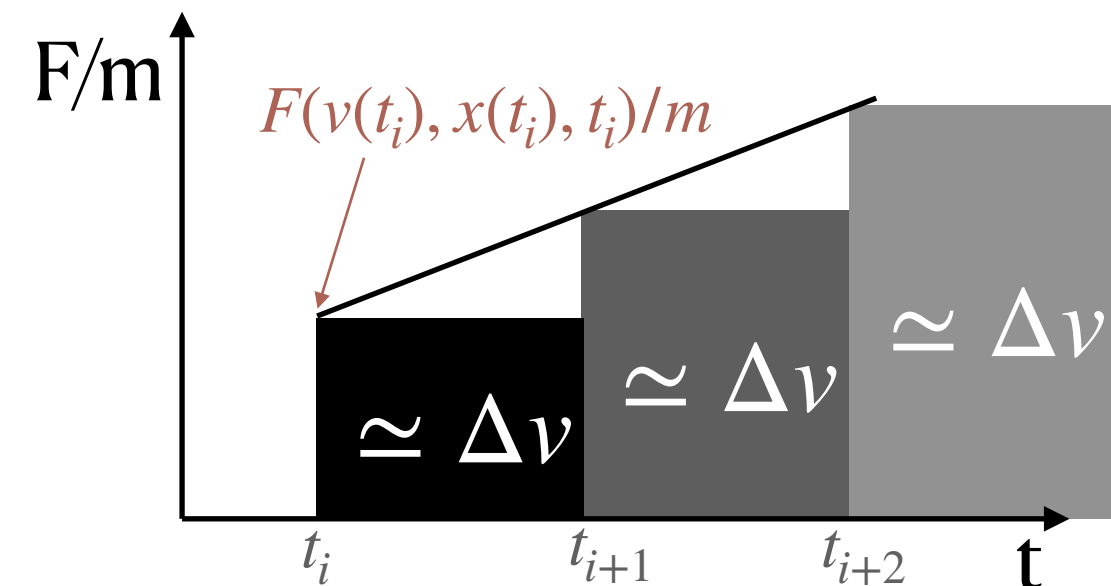
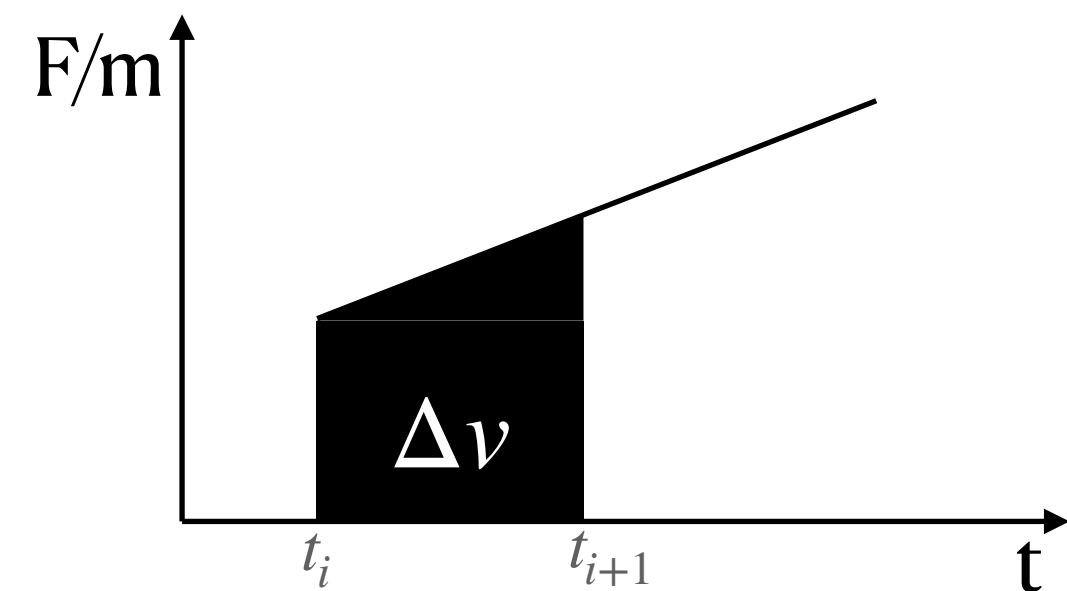
We know the position and velocity at some time  $t_i$ , and want to know these quantities at a future time  $t_{i+1}$

If we can compute  $F(v, x, t)$ , then we can approximate this integral.

Error is proportional to  $\Delta t$ :

$$F = F(t_i) + \frac{dF(t_i)}{dt} \Delta t + \frac{1}{2} \frac{d^2 F(t_i)}{dt^2} (\Delta t)^2 + \dots$$

We're assuming a non-relativistic system, let  $m = \text{const}$



$$\Delta t = t_{i+1} - t_i$$



# Euler algorithm

Start with  $x(t_0)$ ,  $v(t_0)$  (may be vectors)

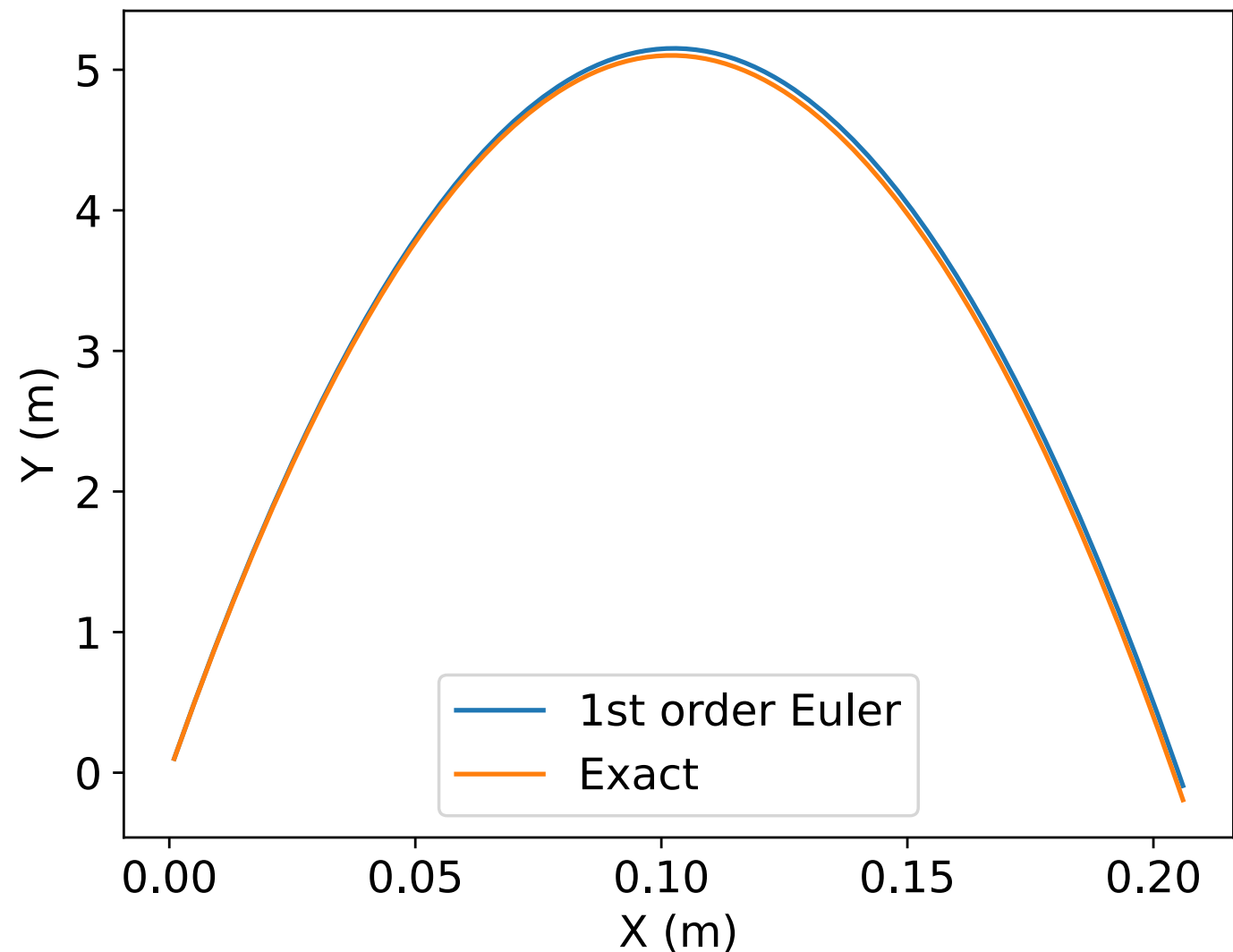
First find velocity

$$v(t_{i+1}) = v(t_i) + \frac{F(v(t_i), x(t_i), t_i)}{m} \Delta t$$

Then position

$$x(t_{i+1}) = x(t_i) + v(t_i) \Delta t$$

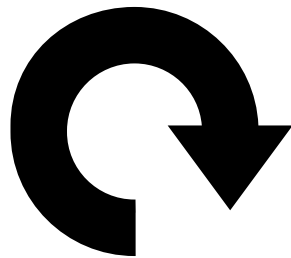
Iterate until you go for long enough..



# How do we practically implement iteration?

loops, arrays, lists - oh my!

## Loops



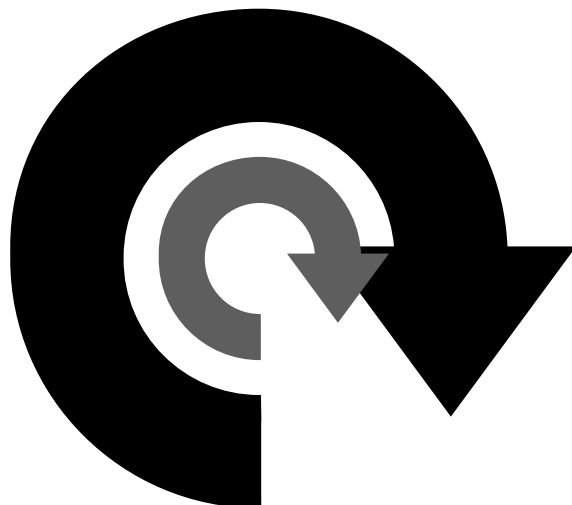
for, while

## Arrays

```
Mydata = [3,"four",5,6.78492]
```

*Different data type, slower,  
more memory*

## Nested loops



## Numpy lists

```
Import numpy as np  
list1 = np.array([3,4,5,6])
```

*Typical single data type, faster, less  
memory, element-wise operations*

# Notes on Python: lists, dictionaries, and numpy arrays

## Python lists: [a,b,c]

- a,b, c can be anything
- "+" means append
- Built-in to python

## Python dictionaries: [a:x,b:y,c:z]

- look up tables
- a,b,c have to be immutable (strings, numbers, tuples)
- x,y,z can be anything
- No '+' operator

## Numpy arrays

- a,b, c must all be the same type
- "+" means element-wise add
- From the numpy library
- Can be quite fast

Similar to a structure in c++

# Force model

Need to compute  $F(\mathbf{v}, \mathbf{x}, t)$

Gravity plus air resistance:

$$F(\mathbf{v}, \mathbf{x}, t) = -b\mathbf{v} - mg\hat{\mathbf{y}}$$

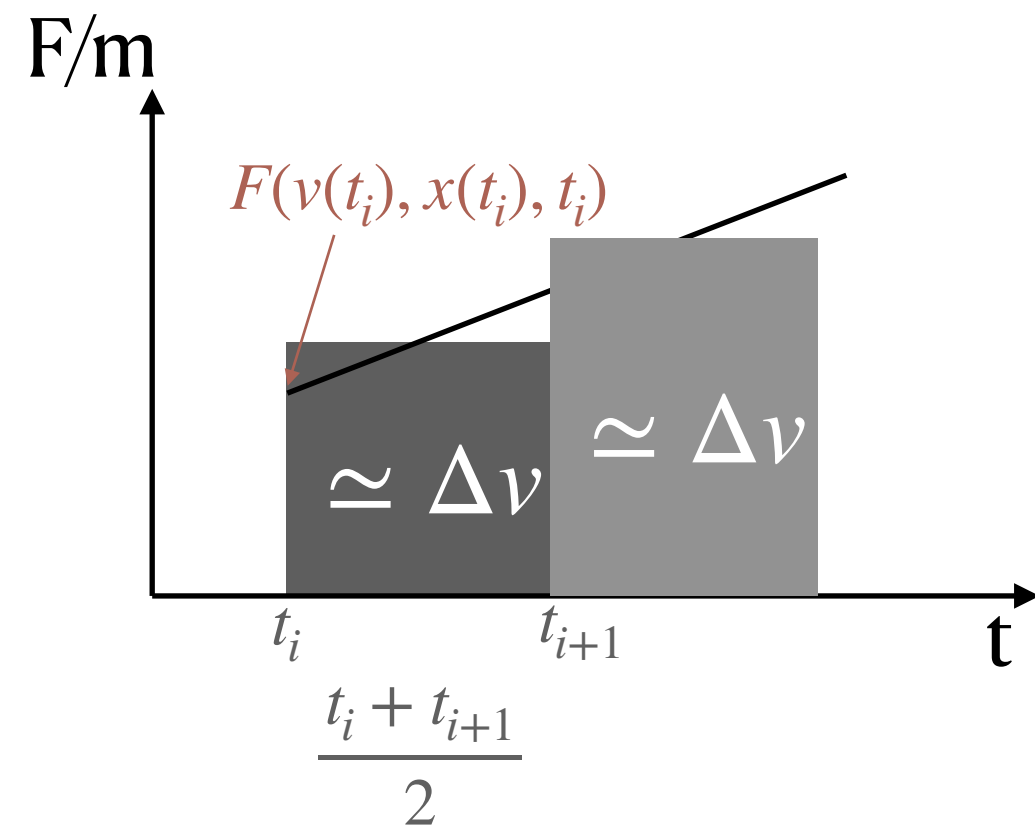
This is why computational approaches are so useful--you can throw any force model at the simulator and it basically is the same effort.



# Testing your code: discussion

How can we be confident that our math and implementation are correct?

# Midpoint method (refined Euler)



We know the position and velocity at some time  $t_i$ , and want to know these quantities at a future time  $t_{i+1}$

If we can compute  $F(v, x, t)$ , then we can approximate this integral.

Error is proportional to  $(\Delta t)^2$ :

$$F = F(t_{mid}) + \frac{dF(t_{mid})}{dt} \Delta t + \frac{1}{2} \frac{d^2 F(t_{mid})}{dt^2} (\Delta t)^2 + \dots$$

# Midpoint method

## In practice

Calculate the halfway time:  $t_{n+1/2} = t_n + \frac{\Delta t}{2}$

Use Taylor series for the midpoint (like the Euler method):

$$x_{n+1/2} \left( t_n + \frac{\Delta t}{2} \right) \sim x(t_n) + \frac{\Delta t}{2} v(t_n, x(t_n))$$

Then, the full step-size is:

$$x(t_{n+1}) = x_n + v \left( t_{n+1/2}, x_{n+1/2} \right) \Delta t$$

# Modular code

## Avoid Hardcoding Woes!

Functions  
passed as  
variables

Hard coded time steps

Constants  
defined up top,  
functions not  
hard coded

```
✓ [3] def v(t):  
      return 55  
  
      def f(x,t):  
          x1=x+v(t)*0.1  
          t1=t+0.1  
          return x1,t1  
  
v(0.4)  
f(1,2)
```

⇒ (6.5, 2.1)

```
[4] vavg=55 #m/s  
    deltat=0.1 #s  
  
#constant velocity  
def v(t):  
    return vavg
```

```
# calculate the position for constant velocity  
def f(x,t):  
    x1=x+v(t)*deltat  
    t1=t+deltat  
    return x1,t1
```

```
f(1,2) # position at time=2.1 sec
```

⇒ (6.5, 2.1)

```
vavgMessi=55 #m/s  
vavgPele=60 #m/s  
deltat=0.1 #s
```

```
#constant velocity function for Messi  
def vMessi(t):  
    return vavgMessi
```

```
#constant velocity function for Pele  
def vPele(t):  
    return vavgPele
```

```
# calculate the position for constant velocity,  
#but the velocity can be a function!  
def f(v,x,t):  
    x1=x+v(t)*deltat  
    t1=t+deltat  
    print("position=",x1)  
    return x1,t1
```

```
f(vMessi,1,2) # position at time=2.1 sec
```

```
f(vPele,1,2) # position at time=2.1 sec
```

```
position= 6.5  
position= 7.0  
(7.0, 2.1)
```



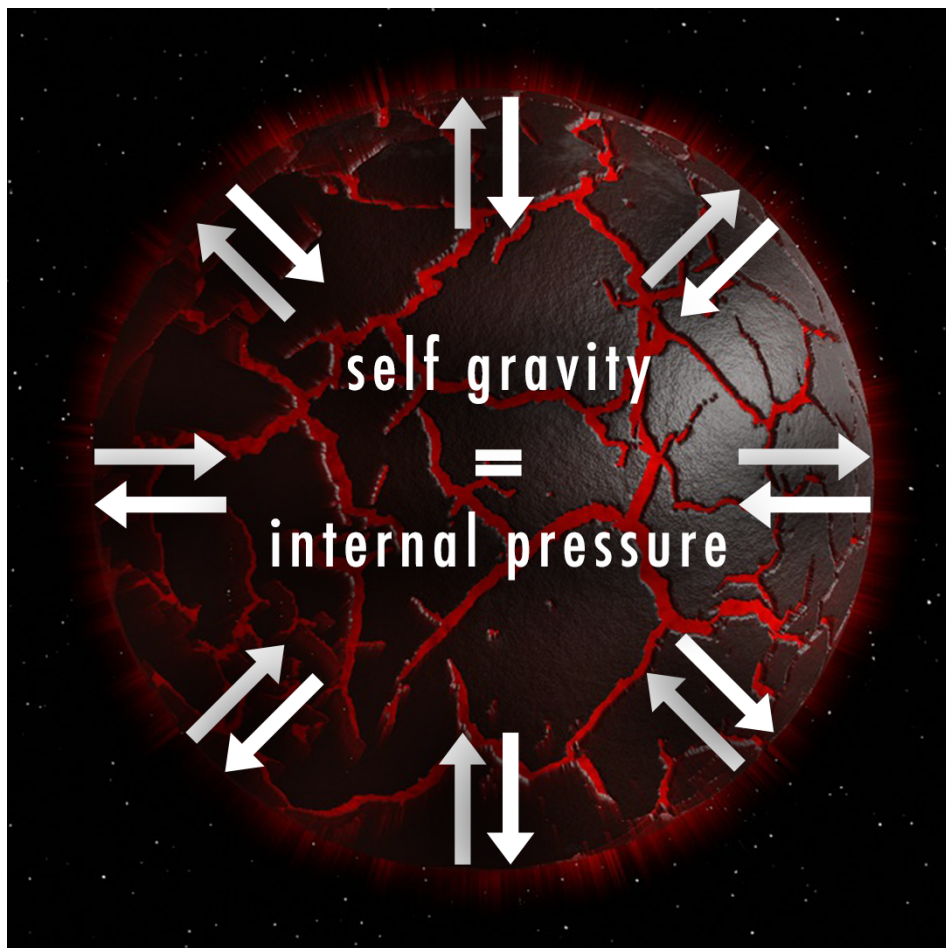
# Quantifying error (log-log plots)

Typically we say that the error is proportional to  $\Delta t^n$ , but that's the 'leading-order' term, only valid for small enough  $\Delta t$ .

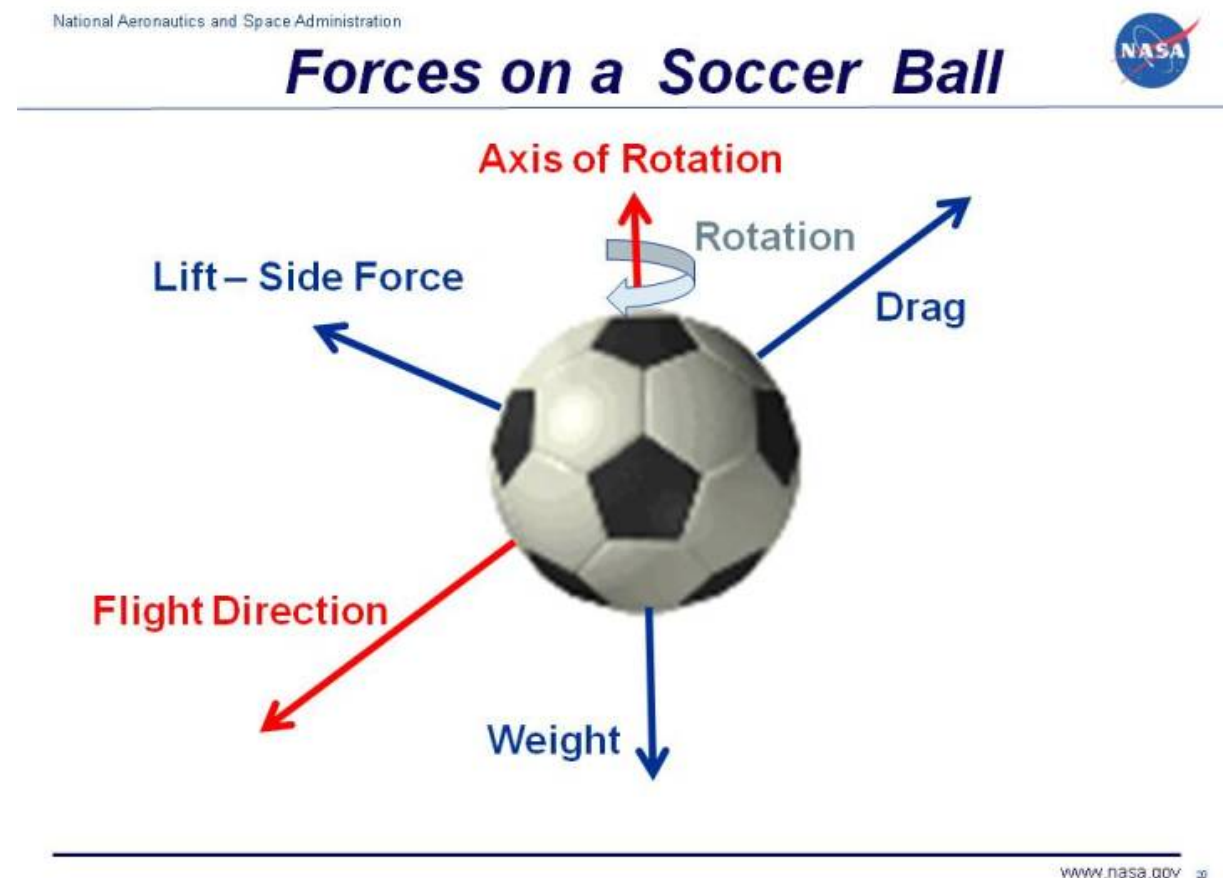
# Where are these methods used?

Numerical integration is everywhere!

Hydrostatic  
equilibrium of stars



Physics of sports



# **Warning!!**

## **2D dynamics**

- Make sure your 2D dynamics code is working!
- You WILL need this for next week's assignment...