

# Numerical methods for differential equations

## 1. Ordinary Differential Equations (ODE)

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# 1. Classification of differential equations

## Dynamical systems

The evolution of dynamical systems are governed by *Differential equations*

- Fall of a body:

$$a_z = \frac{d^2 z}{dt^2} = -g$$

- Planetary motion:

$$\vec{a}_i = \sum_{j \neq i} \frac{Gm_j}{r_{ij}^3} (\vec{r}_i - \vec{r}_j)$$

- Heat transfer :

$$\frac{\partial T}{\partial t} - \kappa \frac{\partial^2 T}{\partial x^2} = f(x, t)$$

- Wave Equation etc ....:

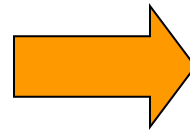
$$\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial t^2} - c^2 \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} = f(x, t)$$

- Etc ...

*Depending on the system, there are always*

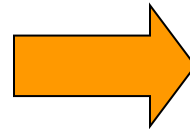
One or more **quantities** must be determined

$$a_z = \frac{d^2 z}{dt^2} = -g$$



X, V, V

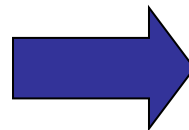
$$\frac{\partial T}{\partial t} - \kappa \frac{\partial^2 T}{\partial x^2} = f(x, t)$$



temperature T

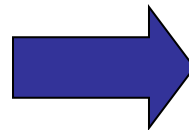
That depend on on one or more **parameters**

$$a_z = \frac{d^2 z}{dt^2} = -g$$



The time t

$$\frac{\partial T}{\partial t} - \kappa \frac{\partial^2 T}{\partial x^2} = f(x, t)$$



Time t, x space

There are always *boundary conditions* (or *initial conditions*)

Falling bodies, planetary motion:  
initial positions and velocities

Heat Transfer:  
boundary condition initial temperature (spatial distribution)

wave equation:

boundary condition (a rope, for example)  
Initial state of the rope

« Solving the problem » consists in

## CALCULATING THE EVOLUTION OF QUANTITIES AS A FUNCTION OF PARAMETERS

For example :

For planets:  $X(t)$  and  $V(t)$  : position and velocity as a function of time

For heat:  $T(x, t)$  : Temperature as a function of space and time

In other words: *solve the differential equation ( "integrate" )*

A problem is well-posed  
if we have

- **A list of quantities that evolve according a list of parameters**
- **A differential equations linking all quantities to all parameters. As many as. diff equations as quantities.**
- **a set of initial, or boundary, conditions**

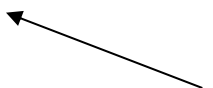
EXAMPLES

## Wave propagation

Parameters: X (position) and T (time)

Quantity: U (x, t): Amplitude at position X and at time t

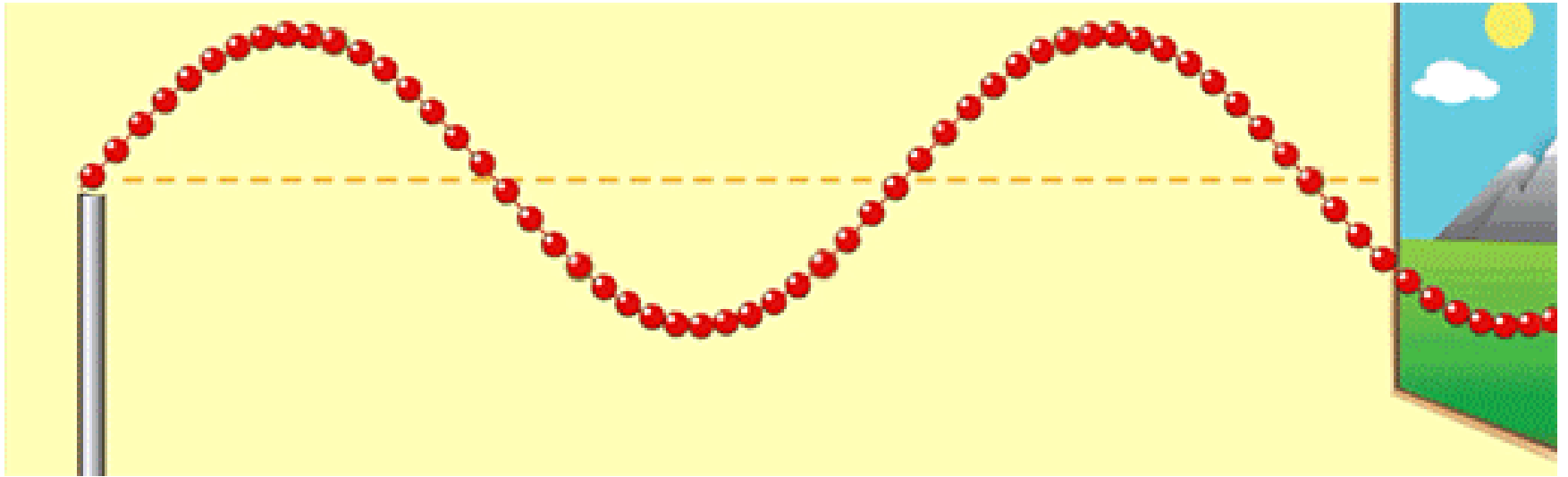
equation: 
$$\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial t^2} - c^2 \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} = f(x, t)$$



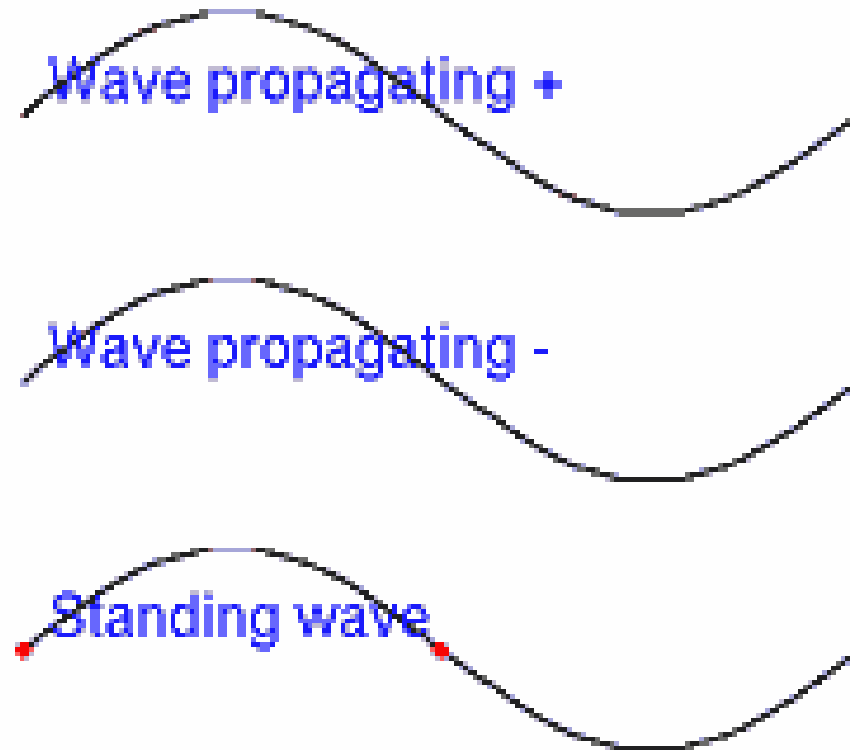
forcing

Initial condition problem Depends of course,  
profile u (x) at t = 0

[http://micromachine.stanford.edu/~hopcroft/Research/resonator\\_images/sin\\_mov1.gif](http://micromachine.stanford.edu/~hopcroft/Research/resonator_images/sin_mov1.gif)







## Planetary motion

Quantities: position and velocity: (X, Y, Z, Vx, Vy, Vz)

Parameter: Time

Differential equations

$$\frac{dx}{dt} = V_x$$

$$\frac{dV_x}{dt} = \sum_{j \neq i} \frac{Gm_j}{r_{ij}^3} (\vec{r}_i - \vec{r}_j)$$

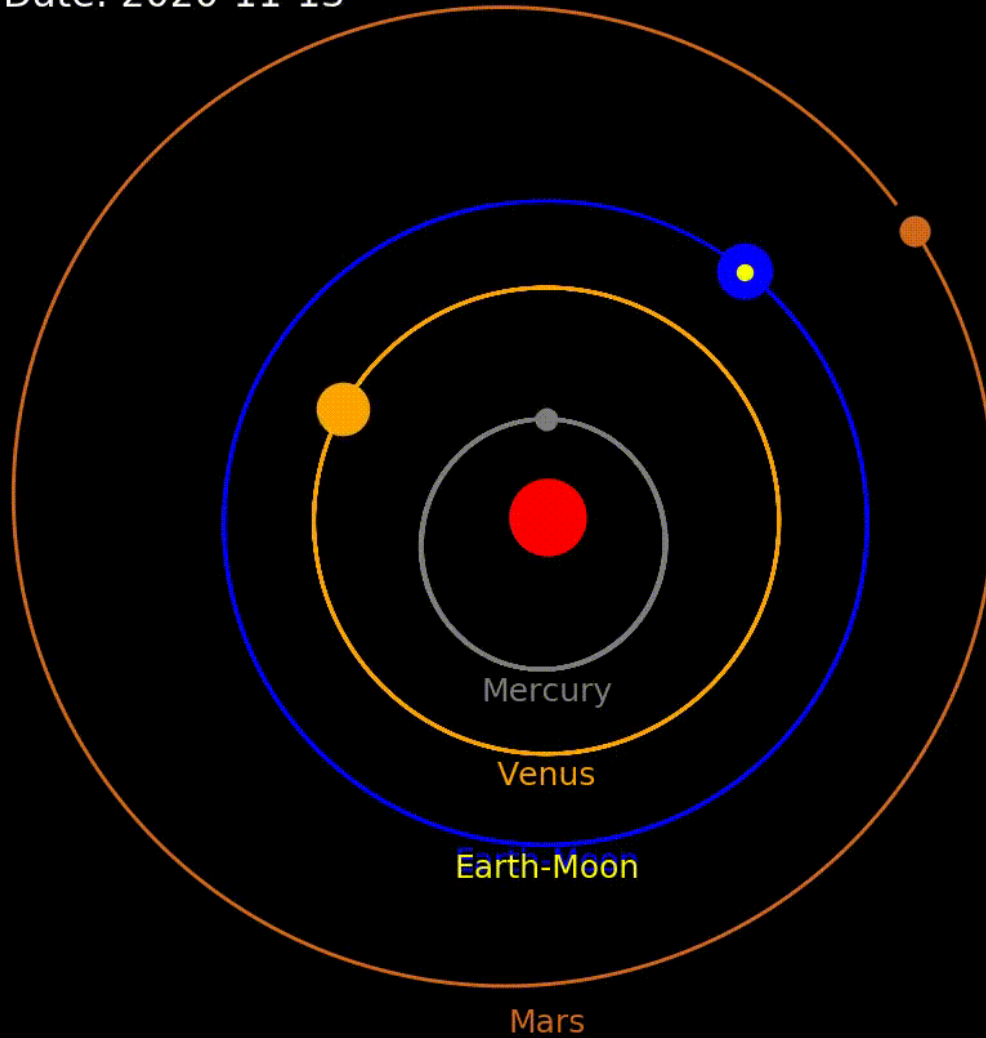
Same pout Y and Z

6 in total

Initial conditions: Initial Position and speed

<https://thumbs.gfycat.com/EnchantingPositiveGermanshepherd-mobile.mp4>

Date: 2020-11-13



Propagation of heat

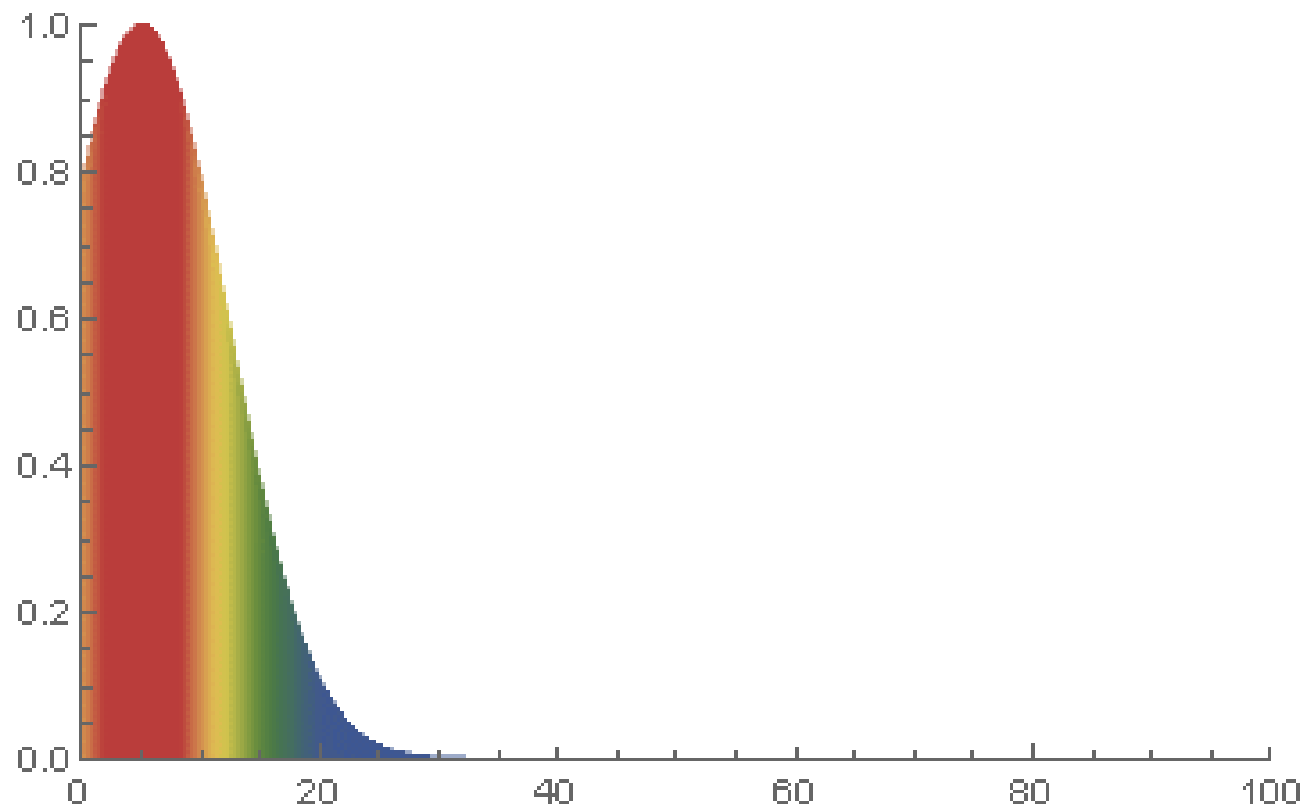
Quantity: temperature T

Parameter: X (space) and t (time)

equation: 
$$\frac{\partial T}{\partial t} - \kappa \frac{\partial^2 T}{\partial x^2} = f(x, t)$$
 ← forcage

Initial condition: Profile T (x) at t = 0

[https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/f/f7/Heat\\_Transfer.gif](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/f/f7/Heat_Transfer.gif)



## RESOLUTION: THE METHODS

All methods are based on the same idea coming from the limits imposed by the computer :

## Discretization of the problem

The parameters are discretized :

example:

If time is a parameter then :

time is written  $\mathbf{t(n) = t_n = N * dt}$  where  $\mathbf{dt}$  is the time step

If space is a parameter then :

Then position :  $\mathbf{x(n)=x_n = n * dx}$  where  $\mathbf{dx}$  will be the space step

So we solve the problem on a **grid** (for the **PARAMETERS**, not the quantities)

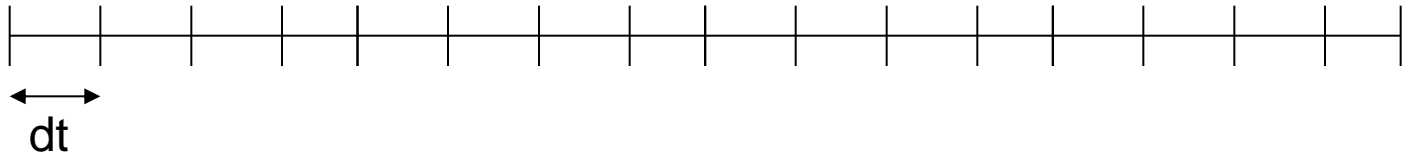
A **time grid**, a **space grid** etc ...

The smaller the step (dt or dx) the closer the numeric solution will be to the exact solution

---

**1D (time, space etc ... 1D)  $t_{\text{not}}Dt = nx$**

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 ....



If 1D (1 single parameter, eg time)

The resolution consist in calculating a Serie :

$$U_{n+1} = S(U_n, t_n)$$

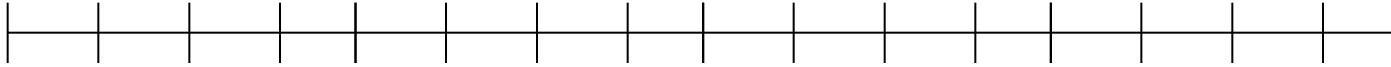
That means : Solution at next step = S(solution at previous step)

The big question is: WHAT IS F ?? S is « the solver »



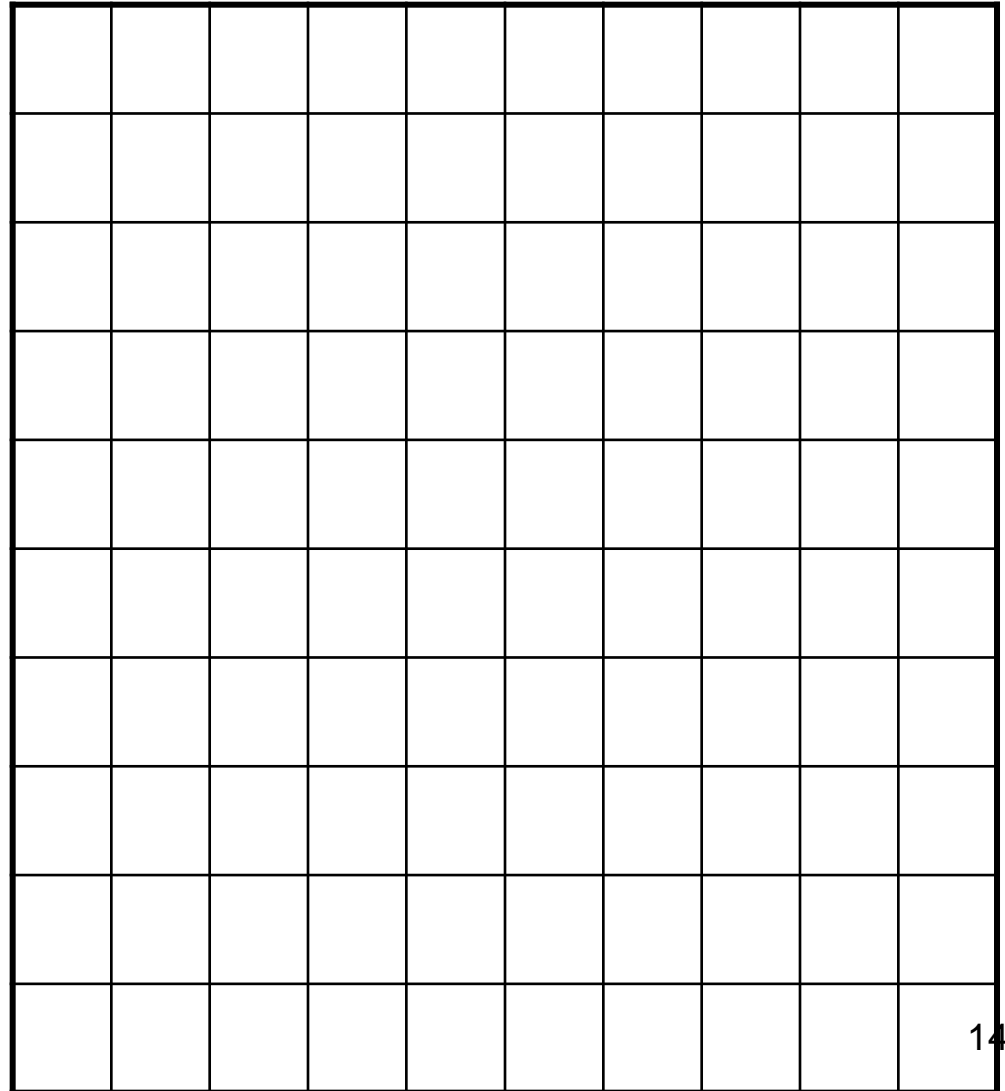
0 1 2 3 4 5 6 ....

Time Grid



dt

Space Grid



In 2D or more

ex:

$$\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial t^2} - c^2 \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} = f(x, t)$$

In fact we make a 3D grid  
(2D space + time 1D)

$U_{i,j,k} = S$  (neighboring cells)

For now

we are only interested by Ordinary Differential Equations:

ODE

Differential equations that depend only on ONE parameter !

(only one parameter at the denominator of the derivative)

**Example ODEs:**

$$a_z = \frac{d^2 z}{dt^2} = -g$$

**Why ? Because only  
One parameter (t or z)**

$$\frac{dP}{dz} = -\rho g$$

**BUT**

**These are NOT ODEs (they are PDE in fact):**

$$\frac{\partial T}{\partial t} - \kappa \frac{\partial^2 T}{\partial x^2} = f(x, t)$$

$$\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial t^2} - c^2 \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} = f(x, t)$$

**Why ? Because  
> 1 parameter (2 in fact)**

For ODE we write the following

$$\mathbf{U}_{n+1} = \mathbf{S}(\mathbf{U}_n, t_n)$$

So the differential equation is solved step by step  
from a starting point (= boundary condition) where  
System state is known at  $t = 0$

The function  $\mathbf{S}$  is called « solver ».

It is an approximation of the real derivative,  $f$ , according  
to equation :

$$\frac{dU}{dt} = f(U, t)$$

The whole problem is to find a function  $\mathbf{F}$  :

- \* accurate
- fast
- robust.

The accuracy of the solution depends on the size of the time  
step . Rapidity depends and the number of calculation per step<sup>16</sup>

## **2. Example of numerical resolution**

# 1 Movement of a spring: A simple ODE

Quantities  $X$  and  $V_x$

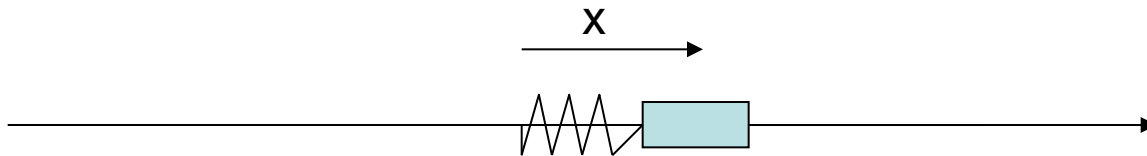
Parameter:  $t$

Equations:  $f = ma = -kx \Rightarrow$

$$\frac{dV_x}{dt} = \frac{-kx}{m}$$

$k$ : coefficient. Spring stiffness

$m$ : mass



Do we need something more ?

YES! because we lack the X evolution equation:

$$\frac{dV_x}{dt} = \frac{-kx}{m}$$

In the above equation, x appears on the RHS but its evolution is not given.  
So we need an additional equation for x

**So the full set of  
Equations is :**

$$\frac{dx}{dt} = V$$

$$\frac{dV}{dt} = \frac{-kx}{m}$$

A  $n^{\text{th}}$  order ODE ( $n=2$  for newtonian mechanics) can be always be transformed into a system of  $n$  first order equations !!

**Then:**

**Quantities** X and Vx

**Initial conditions** : X (t = 0) = 10 m

V (t = 0) = 0. m / s

**Parameter** t

**Equations :**

k: coefficient. stiffness

m: mass

$$\frac{dx}{dt} = V$$

$$\frac{dVx}{dt} = \frac{-kx}{m}$$

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**ANALYTICAL SOLUTION:**

**\* demonstrate**

$$x(t) = A \cos(\omega t + \varphi)$$

$$v(t) = -A \omega \sin(\omega t + \varphi)$$

$$\omega = \text{sqrt}(k / m), A = X0$$



**We now solve the SAME problem  
But numerically integrating the equation.**

**We need an algorithm to calculate the evolution  
Of the solution with small time increments  $dt$ .**

**We will discover the "problems" of numerical integration**


Take a grid for the parameter  $t$  with  $dt = 0.01$  seconds

$$X_{n+1} = S(X_n, V_n, T_n)$$

$$V_{n+1} = S(V_n, V_n, T_n), \text{ where } t_n = N * dt$$

$S$  is the « solver ». We will apply here the method of Euler (we'll see)

### ALGORITHM

1. Initialize  $X_0$  and  $V_0$
  2. Initialize  $dt$
  3. Calculate  $X_{n+1} = F(X_n, V_n, T_n)$   
and  $V_{n+1} = F(V_n, t_n)$
  4. Increment time  $T = T + dt$
  5. Go 3.
- 

## 2. Construction of a solver: basic methods

An ordinary differential equation can always be written as a set of differential equations of the first order

The diagram illustrates the components of an ordinary differential equation (ODE) and their roles in a solver. The central equation is  $\frac{d(x, y, z, u, w....)}{dt} = f(t, x, y, z, u, w....)$ . Arrows indicate the following mappings:

- The word "quantities" has two arrows: one pointing down to the numerator  $d(x, y, z, u, w....)$  and another pointing down and to the right to the function  $f(t, x, y, z, u, w....)$ .
- The label "Parameter (single)" has two arrows: one pointing up and to the right to the denominator  $dt$ , and another pointing up and to the right to the function  $f(t, x, y, z, u, w....)$ .

quantities

$$\frac{d(x, y, z, u, w....)}{dt} = f(t, x, y, z, u, w....)$$

Parameter (single)

## Vector Writing

$$\frac{d}{dt} \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \\ u \\ \dots \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} f_x(t, x, y, z, u, \dots) \\ f_y(t, x, y, z, u, \dots) \\ f_z(t, x, y, z, u, \dots) \\ f_u(t, x, y, z, u, \dots) \\ \dots \end{pmatrix}$$

Example: the spring (calculate \*)

$$\frac{d}{dt} \begin{pmatrix} x \\ v \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} v \\ -kx / m \end{pmatrix}$$

Note: Here the derivative does not explicitly depend on time  $t$ , because the force does not depend explicitly time

$$F_x = V \text{ and } F_v = -Kx / m$$

## Vector Writing

$$\frac{d}{dt} \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \\ u \\ \dots \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} f_x(t, x, y, z, u, \dots) \\ f_y(t, x, y, z, u, \dots) \\ f_z(t, x, y, z, u, \dots) \\ f_u(t, x, y, z, u, \dots) \\ \dots \end{pmatrix}$$

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Note: Here the derivative does not explicitly depend on time  $t$ , because the force does not depend explicitly time

$$F_x = V \text{ and } F_v = -Kx / m$$

**Real equation:**

$$\frac{d}{dt} \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \\ u \\ \dots \end{pmatrix} = \underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} f_x(t, x, y, z, u, \dots) \\ f_y(t, x, y, z, u, \dots) \\ f_z(t, x, y, z, u, \dots) \\ f_u(t, x, y, z, u, \dots) \\ \dots \end{pmatrix}}_{\text{function } f}$$

**Numerical approximation**

$X_{n+1} = X$  at time  $t_{n+1}$

where  $t_{n+1} = (N + 1) \times dt$

$$\begin{pmatrix} x_{n+1} \\ y_{n+1} \\ z_{n+1} \\ u_{n+1} \\ \dots \end{pmatrix} = \underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} F_x(t_n, x_n, y_n, z_n, u_n, \dots) \\ F_y(t_n, x_n, y_n, z_n, u_n, \dots) \\ F_z(t_n, x_n, y_n, z_n, u_n, \dots) \\ F_u(t_n, x_n, y_n, z_n, u_n, \dots) \\ \dots \end{pmatrix}}_{\text{function } F}$$

**f is the derivative, F is the solver**

## The Euler Method

The basic tool for building **F(MAIN PARAMETER)** is the **Taylor expansion**:

$$X(t + dt) = X(t) + dt \cdot f(x, t) + \frac{dt^2}{2!} f'(x, t) + \frac{dt^3}{3!} f''(x, t) + \dots$$

$$f = \frac{\partial X}{\partial t}$$

In practice we only know **f**. The goal of any solver is to estimate the best possible développement of **X** knowing only **f**...

It's possible !

Using the development of Taylor :

$$X_{n+1} = X(t + dt)$$

$$X(t + dt) \approx X(t) + dt \frac{dX}{dt} + \frac{dt^2}{2} \frac{d^2 X}{dt^2} + \dots$$

**Ignored terms**

Function, Equa. diff system

Inspired by this development, the function F will be:

Where F is a numerical approximation the derivative !!

$$X_{n+1} = S(X_n) = X_n + dt * F(t, X_n)$$



How to build S:

The simplest case is the Euler Method:

**Euler Method :**  $\frac{dX}{dt} = f(x, t)$

**For Euler we just set  $F(x, t) = f(x, t)$**

The function S (x, t) is then:  $X_{n+1} = S(X_n) = X_n + F(x, t) dt$

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Example: Spring Case with Euler

$$\begin{pmatrix} x_{n+1} \\ v_{n+1} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} x_n + dt \, v \\ v_n + dt \, \frac{-kx}{m} \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} x_{n+1} \\ v_{n+1} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} x_n + dt \, v \\ v_n + dt \, \frac{-kx}{m} \end{pmatrix}$$

The Euler scheme is the simplest possible.

It is a 1-order solver (as between  $t$  and  $t + dt$  the ERROR is  $o(dt^1)$ )

It's a quick scheme because there is only ONE call to the derivative  $f$

In practice: never used

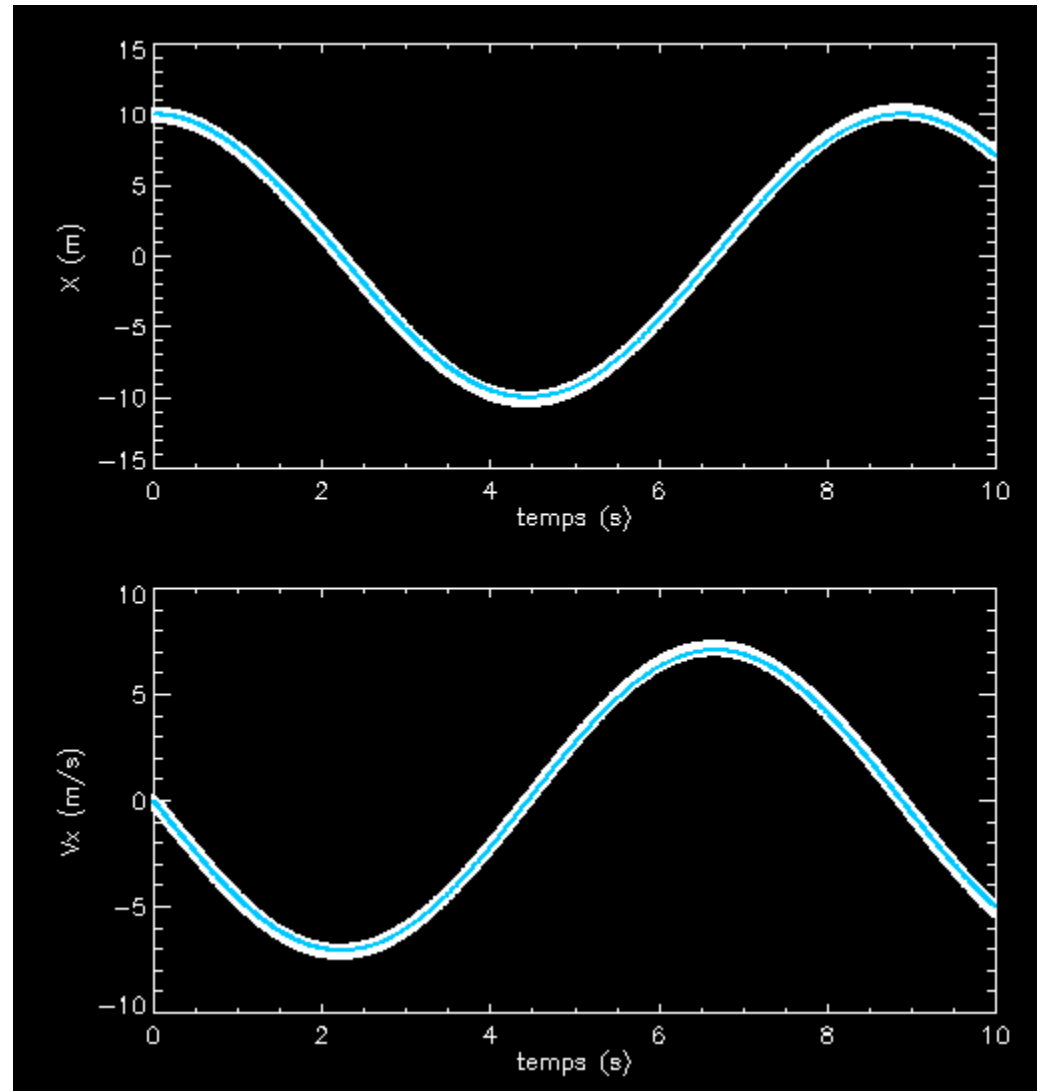
But we can do much better!

# numerical solution: spring solved by Euler

$dt = 0.01$  s

N t XV

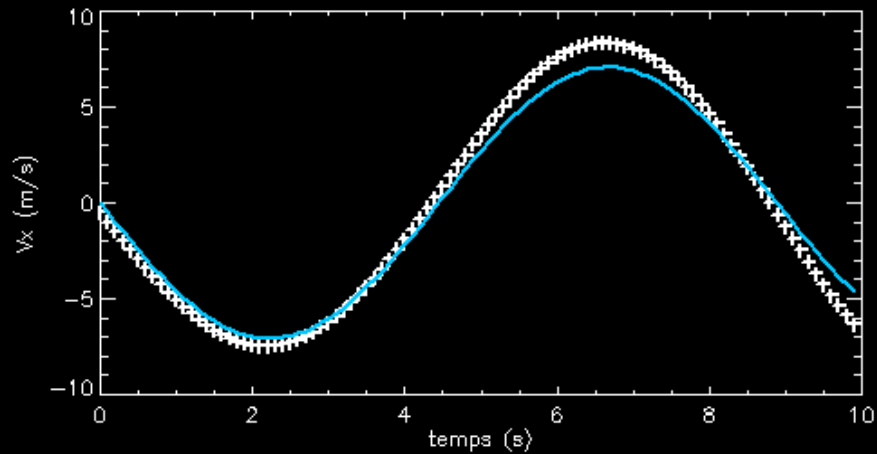
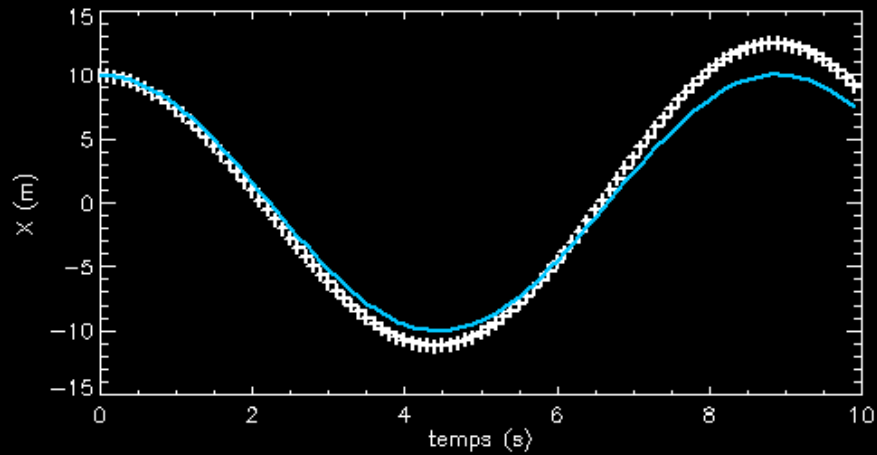
```
0.000000 0.000000 0.000000 10.0000
1.000000 0.010000 10.0000 -0.050000
2.000000 0.020000 9.99950 -0.100000
3.000000 0.030000 9.99850 -0.149998
4.000000 0.040000 9.99700 -0.199990
5.000000 0.050000 9.99500 -0.249975
6.000000 0.060000 9.99250 -0.299950
7.000000 0.070000 9.98950 -0.349912
8.000000 0.080000 9.98600 -0.399860
9.000000 0.090000 9.98200 -0.449790
10.0000 0.100000 9.97751 -0.499700
11.0000 0.110000 9.97251 -0.549588
12.0000 0.120000 9.96701 -0.599450
13.0000 0.130000 9.96102 -0.649285
14.0000 0.140000 9.95452 -0.699090
15.0000 0.150000 9.94753 -0.748863
16.0000 0.160000 9.94005 -0.798601
17.0000 0.170000 9.93206 -0.848301
18.0000 0.180000 9.92358 -0.897961
19.0000 0.190000 9.91460 -0.947579
20.0000 0.200000 9.90512 -0.997152
21.0000 0.210000 9.89515 -1.04668
22.0000 0.220000 9.88468 -1.09615
23.0000 0.230000 9.87372 -1.14558
24.0000 0.240000 9.86227 -1.19495
25.0000 0.250000 9.85032 -1.24426
26.0000 0.260000 9.83787 -1.29351
27.0000 0.270000 9.82494 -1.34270
28.0000 0.280000 9.81151 -1.39182
29.0000 0.290000 9.79760 -1.44088
etc ..
```



White: Digita : numerical solution  
blue: Analytical true solution

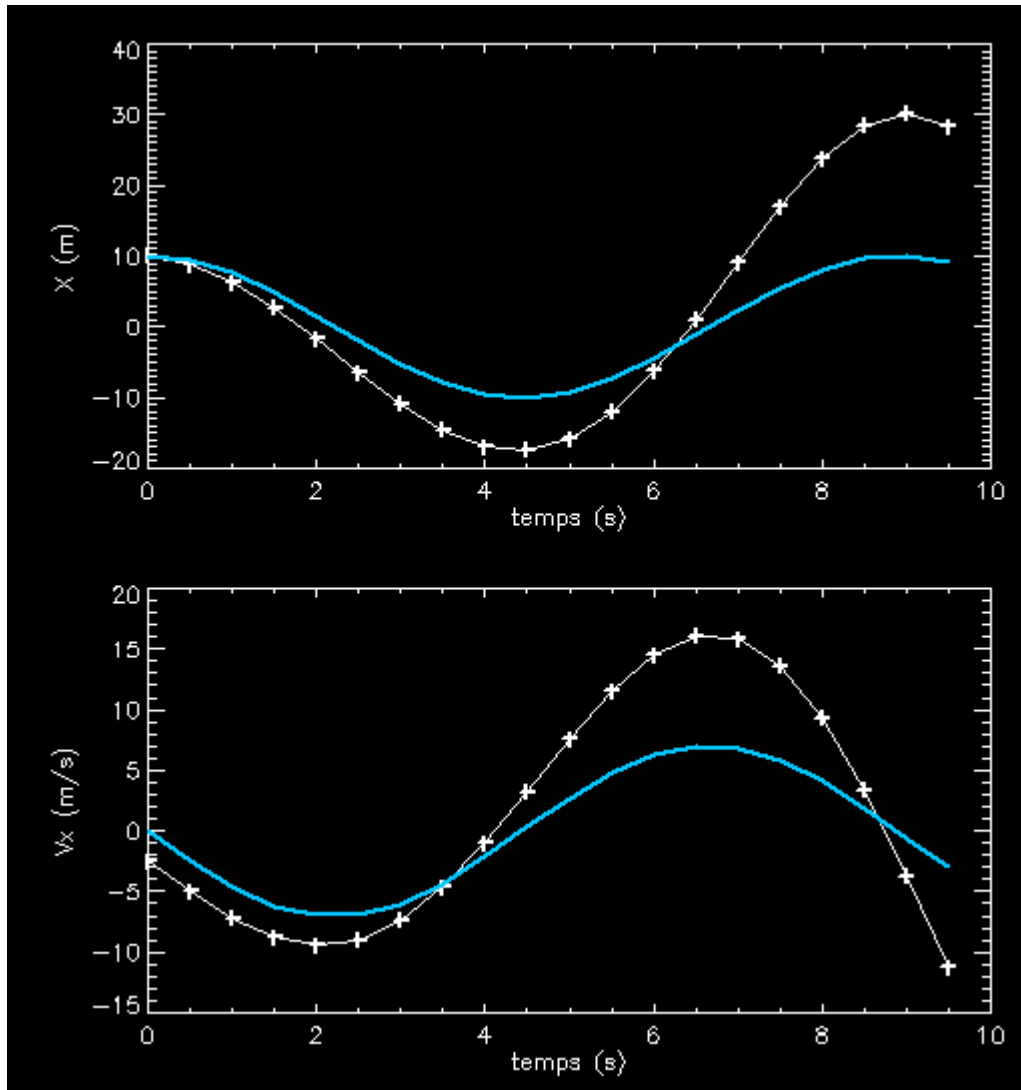
## But the numerical solution depends of the time-step

$dt = 0.1$  s



The bigger  $dt$ , the larger the error

$dt = 0.5$  s



FOR ANY SOLVER:

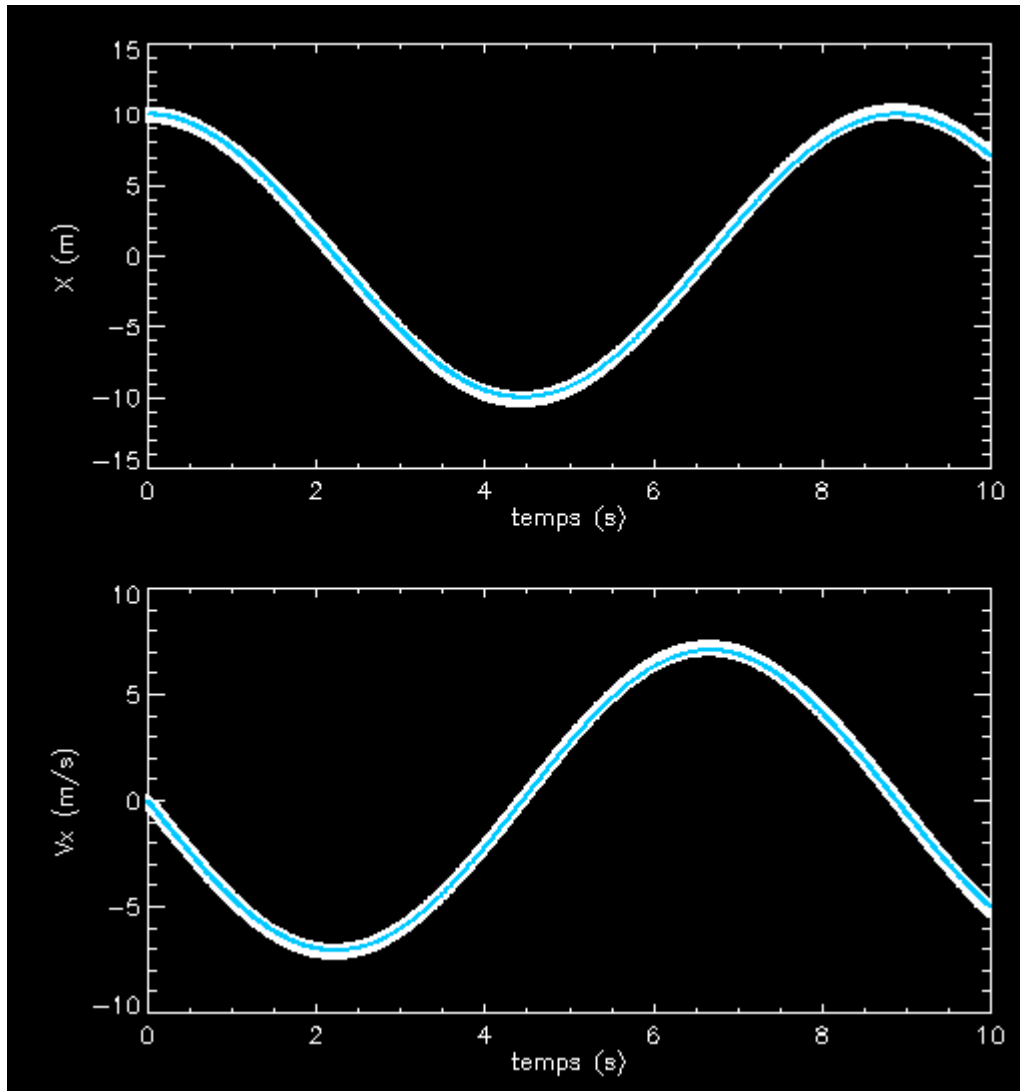
Any numerical solution  
is only approximate

The accuracy depends on the  
time-step of integration

For larger  $dt$ : computing is faster  
BUT is less accurate

And vice versa ...

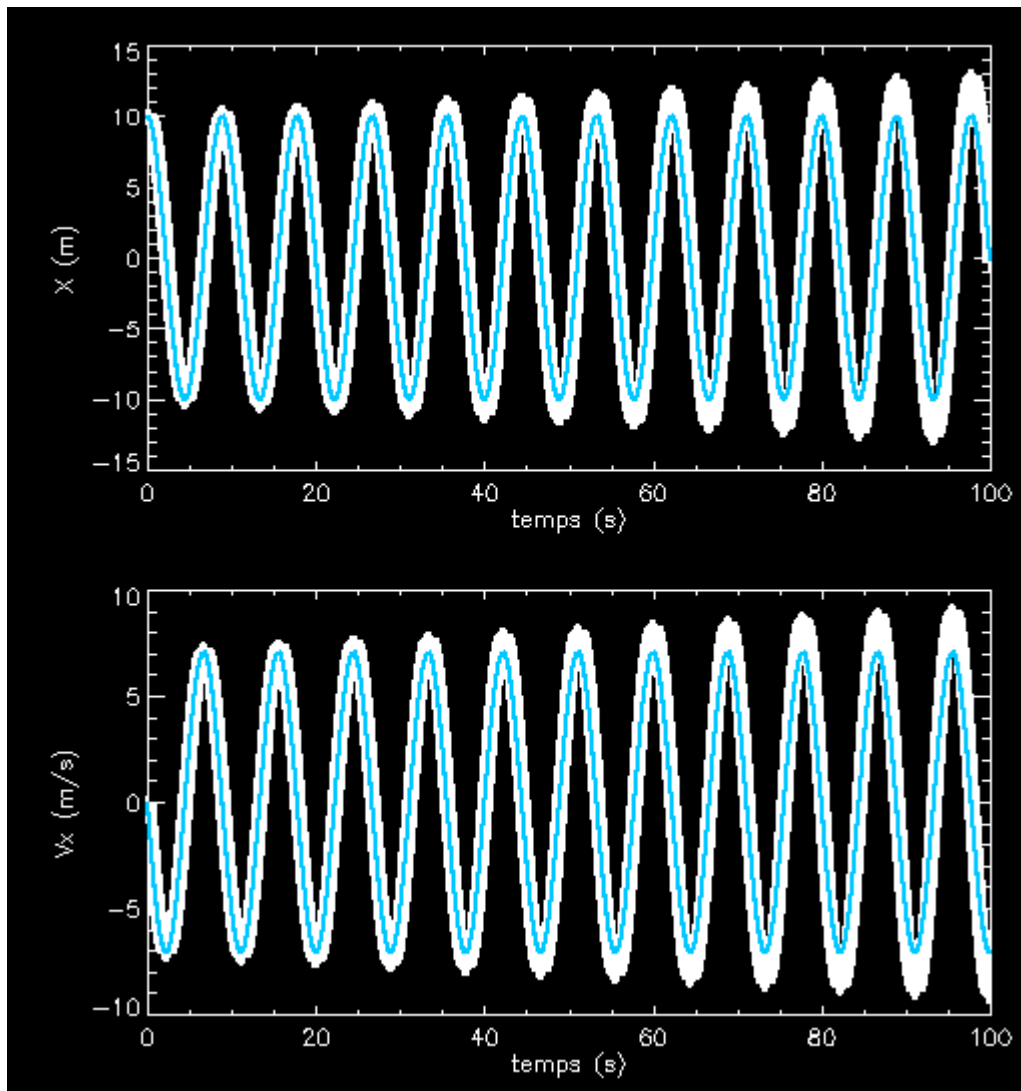
The accuracy decreases as the number of stages of calculations:



$\Delta t = 0.01$  s

1000 calculation steps

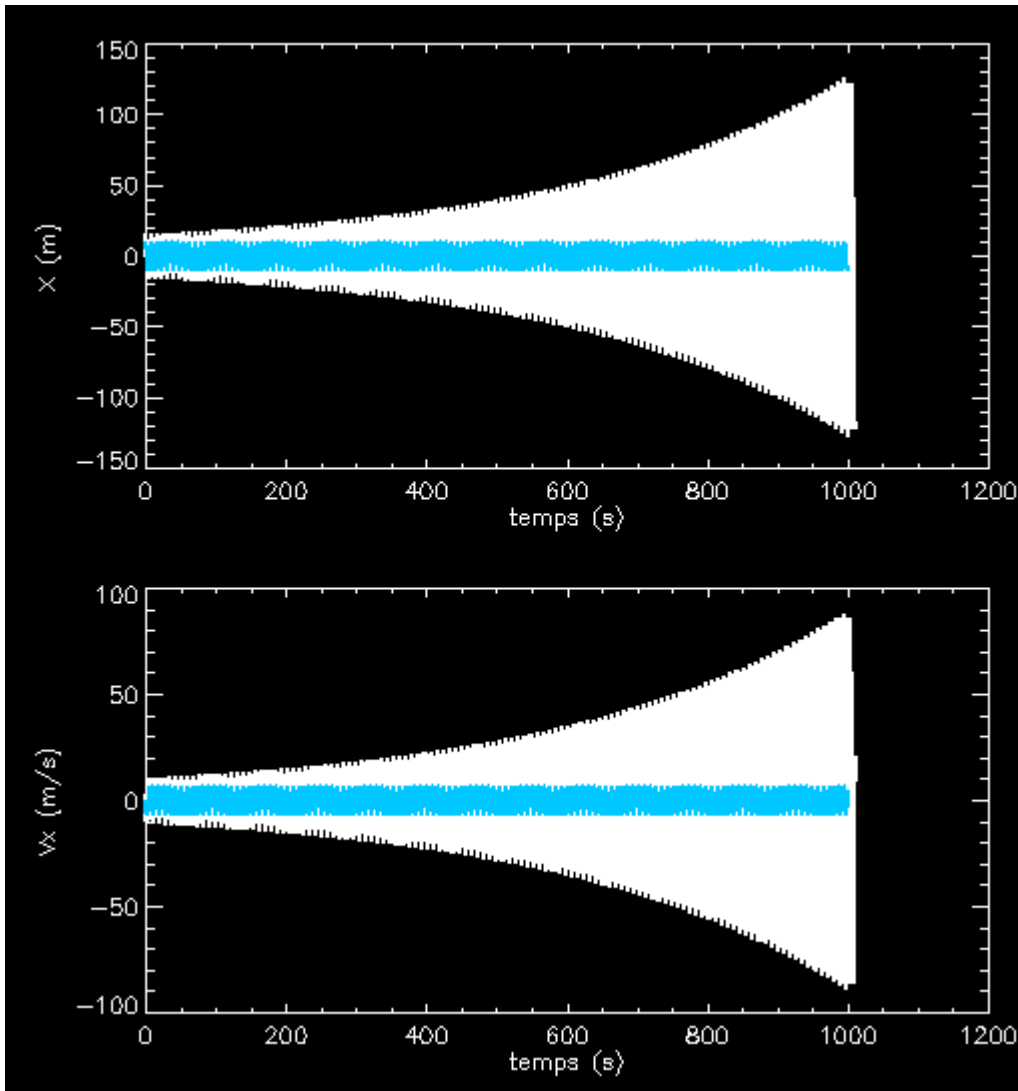
Looks good !



$\Delta t = 0.01$  s

10000 steps

still good !



$\Delta t = 0.01$ s

100000 steps

not good !

All solutions ends  
by shifting away from the  
solution  
when the number of steps  
calculation increases

=> Accumulation of errors



## How to build a solver?

- Accurate
- Stable
- fast

## Build a better approximation, by considering integration, rather than Taylor Expansion

It is known that *correct*  $X_{n+1}$  is :

$$X_{n+1} = X_n + \int_t^{t+dt} f(t, X(t), \dots) dt = X_n + dt F(t, X_n)$$

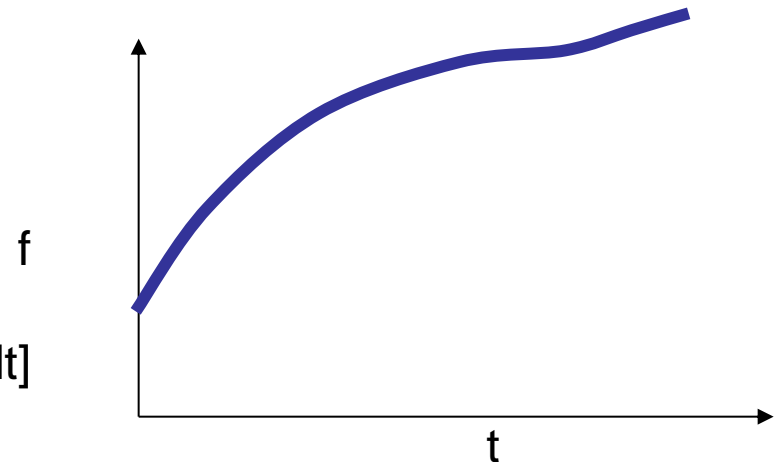
therefore

$$F(t, X_n) = \frac{\int_t^{t+dt} f(t, X(t), \dots) dt}{dt}$$

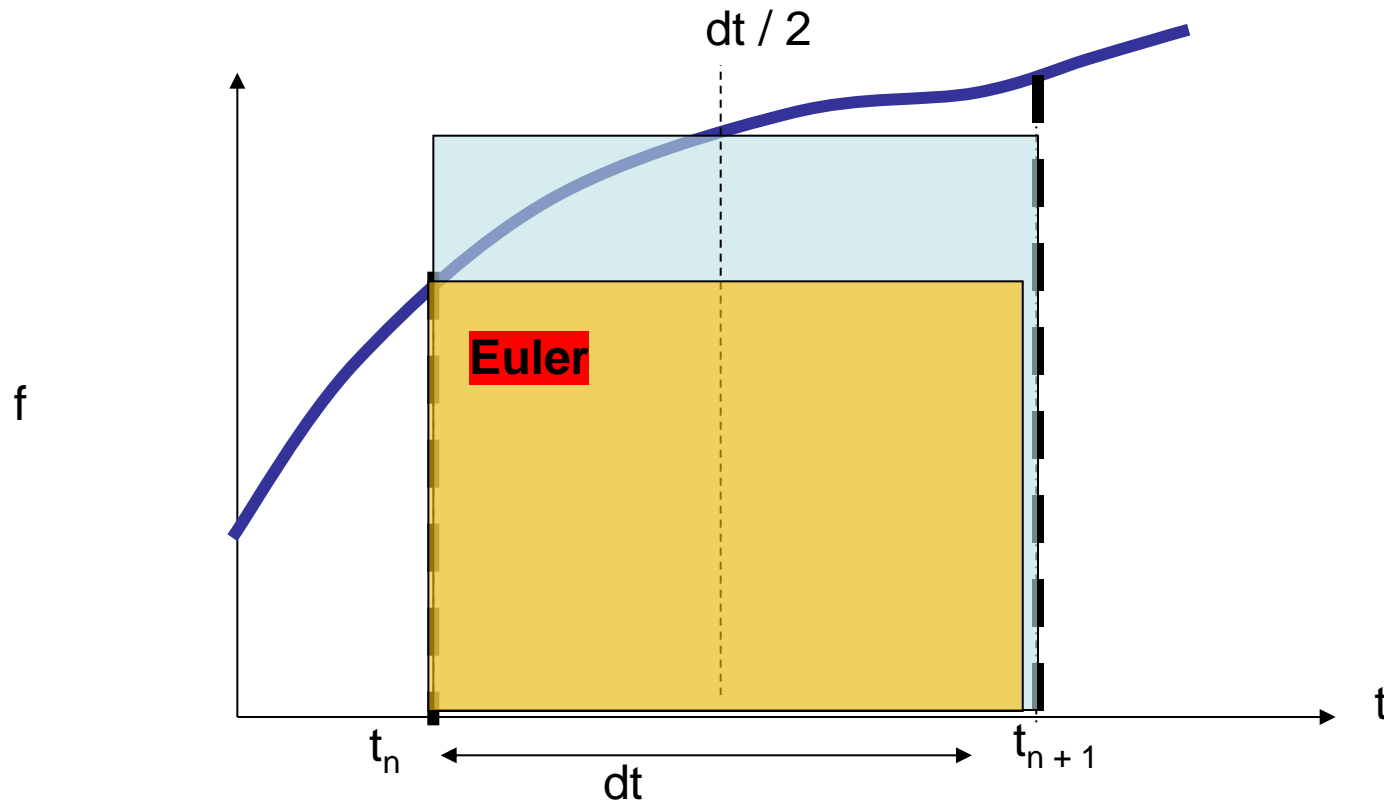
F is the area under the curve divided by dt

Or

F is the mean value of  $f(x, t)$  within interval  $[t, t+dt]$



Idea:  $F$  approximated by the trapezoidal method, midpoint method



$F \sim (\text{blue area}) / dt$

$$\sim \frac{dt * f\left(t + \frac{dt}{2}, X\left(t + \frac{dt}{2}\right)\right)}{dt}$$

## Implementation

$$F(X, t) = f\left(t + \frac{dt}{2}, X\left(t + \frac{dt}{2}\right)\right)$$

How do we know  $X(t + dt/2)$  ?

Use Taylor expansion

$$X(t + dt/2) \sim X(t) + dt/2 * f(t, x)$$

then obtained a new integration scheme: **Modified Euler modified**

$$\begin{aligned} X_{n+1} &= X_n + dt D(X_n, t) \\ &= X_n + dt f\left(t + \frac{dt}{2}, X_n + \frac{dt}{2} f(t, X_n)\right) \end{aligned}$$

## Algorithm

$$k_1 = X_n + \frac{dt}{2} * f(t, X_n)$$

$$X_{n+1} = X_n + dt * f\left(t + \frac{dt}{2}, k_1\right)$$

Modified Euler is a more accurate solver than simple Euler!!

Show that a modified Euler solver is order 2.

Below we only consider time  $t$  dependence

The scheme is:

$$X_{n+1} = X_n + dt \, f\left(t_n + \frac{dt}{2}\right)$$
$$f\left(t_n + \frac{dt}{2}\right) \approx f(t_n) + \frac{dt}{2} f'(t_n) + \frac{dt^2}{8} f''(t_n) + \dots$$

$$X_{n+1} = X_n + dt \, f(t) + \frac{dt^2}{2} f'(t) + \frac{dt^3}{8} f''(t_n) + \dots$$

We therefore get

$$X_{n+1} = X_n + dt f(t) + \frac{dt^2}{2} f'(t) + \frac{dt^3}{8} f''(t_n) + \dots$$

But the real development of  $X$  Taylor<sub>not</sub> is (knowing that  $dX / dt = f$ )

$$X_{n+1} = X_n + dt f(t) + \frac{dt^2}{2} f'(t) + \frac{dt^3}{6} f''(t_n) + \dots$$

The method of modified Euler is accurate up to order 2 (it fails at the 3rd order)

# Difference between 2 steps of "Euler" and 1 step of "Euler Modified"

integrate:  $\frac{du}{dt} = f(u)$

**Euler**

**Euler modified**

**2 steps of length  $dt / 2$**

**1 step of length  $dt$**

$$U_1 = U_0 + \frac{dt}{2} f(U_0)$$

**from 0 to  $dt / 2$**

$$U_2 = U_1 + \frac{dt}{2} f(U_1)$$

$\Leftrightarrow$

$$U_2 = U_0 + \frac{dt}{2} f(U_0) + \frac{dt}{2} f\left(U_0 + \frac{dt}{2} f(U_0)\right)$$

**We restart at  $dt$**

**But take the derivative  
at point  $dt/2$**

$$U_1 = U_0 + dt \cdot f\left(U_0 + \frac{dt}{2} f(U_0)\right)$$

**Step 1 is time  $dt$**

**Step 2 is time  $dt$**

**example:**  $\frac{du}{dt} = -3 \cdot u$  ;  $U(t = 0) = 1$

**Integrate with dt = 0.1**

**Euler**

**2 steps dt / 2**

$$U_1 = U_0 + \frac{dt}{2} f(U_0) = 0.85$$

$$U_2 = U_1 + \frac{dt}{2} f(U_1) = 0.7225$$

**Euler:  $U(t = 0.1) = 0.7225$**

**Modified Euler**

**1 step dt**

$$U_1 = U_0 + dt \cdot f\left(U_0 + \frac{dt}{2} f(U_0)\right)$$

$$U_1 = 0.740818$$

**Euler modified :**

**$U(t = 0.1) = 0.740818$**



In this simple case, we have an analytical solution  
To which we can compare our result

$$\begin{cases} \frac{du}{dt} = -3u \\ U(t=0) = 1 \end{cases} \Rightarrow U(t) = e^{-3t}$$

$$U(t = 0.1) = 0.740818 \quad \text{Real result}$$

$$\text{Euler: } U(t = 0.1) = 0.7225$$

$$\begin{aligned} &\text{Euler modified} \\ &U(t = 0.1) = 0.740818 \end{aligned}$$

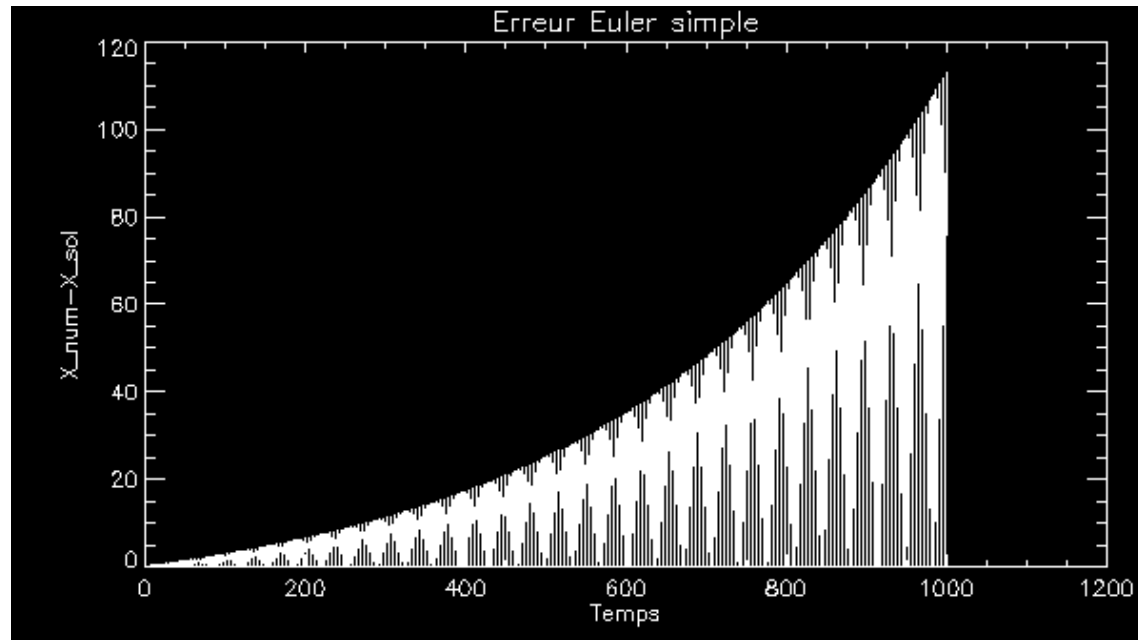
## Example with same timestep

Example of the spring

$\text{Abs}(X_{\text{vrai}} - X_{\text{approx}})$

**Euler :**

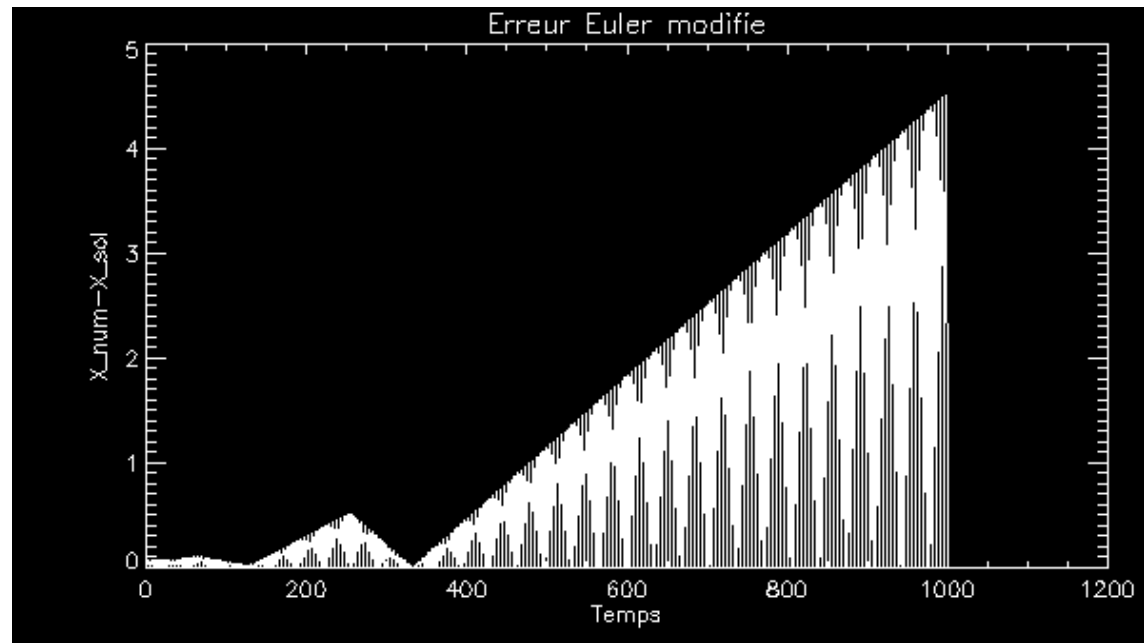
$\text{Dt} = 0.01$



**Euler modified:**

Precision Gain:

**A factor 20 !!**



**Euler and Modified Euler are the two simplest solvers**

**BUT**

**Many other solvers exist for ODE**

## Catalogue of ODE most common solvers.

The order of the solver is in parenthesis

$$\text{explicit Euler (1)} \quad U_{n+1} = U_n + dt \cdot f(t_n, U_n)$$

$$\text{Euler implicit (1)} \quad U_{n+1} = U_n + dt \cdot f(t_{n+1}, U_{n+1})$$

$$\text{Leap Frog (2)} \quad U_{n+1} = U_{n-1} + 2dt \cdot f(t_n, U_n)$$

$$\text{Euler modified (2)} \quad U_{n+1} = U_n + dt \cdot f\left(t_n + \frac{dt}{2}, U_n + \frac{dt}{2} f(t_n, U_n)\right)$$

$$\text{Cranck Nicholson (2)} \quad U_{n+1} = U_n + \frac{dt}{2} \cdot (f(t_n, U_n) + f(t_{n+1}, U_{n+1}))$$

*implicit*

$$\text{Adam Bashfort (2)} \quad U_{n+1} = U_n + dt \cdot \left( \frac{3}{2} f(t_n, U_n) - \frac{1}{2} f(t_{n-1}, U_{n-1}) \right)$$

$$\text{Adam Bashfort (3)} \quad U_{n+1} = U_n + dt \cdot \left( \frac{23}{12} f(t_n, U_n) - \frac{16}{12} f(t_{n-1}, U_{n-1}) + \frac{5}{12} f(t_{n-2}, U_{n-2}) \right)$$

$$\text{Adam Moulton (3)} \quad U_{n+1} = U_n + dt \cdot \left( \frac{5}{12} f(t_{n+1}, U_{n+1}) + \frac{8}{12} f(t_n, U_n) - \frac{1}{12} f(t_{n-1}, U_{n-1}) \right)$$

Runge Kutta (2)

$$\begin{cases} k_1 = dt \cdot f(t_n, U_n) \\ k_2 = dt \cdot f(t_n + dt, U_n + k_1) \\ U_{n+1} = U_n + \frac{1}{2}(k_1 + k_2) \end{cases}$$

K1 = angular term of the straight line in  
1st point

k2 = angular term in the second point

Runge Kutta (4)

$$\begin{cases} k_1 = dt \cdot f(t_n, U_n) \\ k_2 = dt \cdot f(t_n + \frac{dt}{2}, U_n + \frac{k_1}{2}) \\ k_3 = dt \cdot f(t_n + \frac{dt}{2}, U_n + \frac{k_2}{2}) \\ k_4 = dt \cdot f(t_n + dt, U_n + k_3) \\ U_{n+1} = U_n + \frac{1}{6}(k_1 + 2k_2 + 2k_3 + k_4) \end{cases}$$

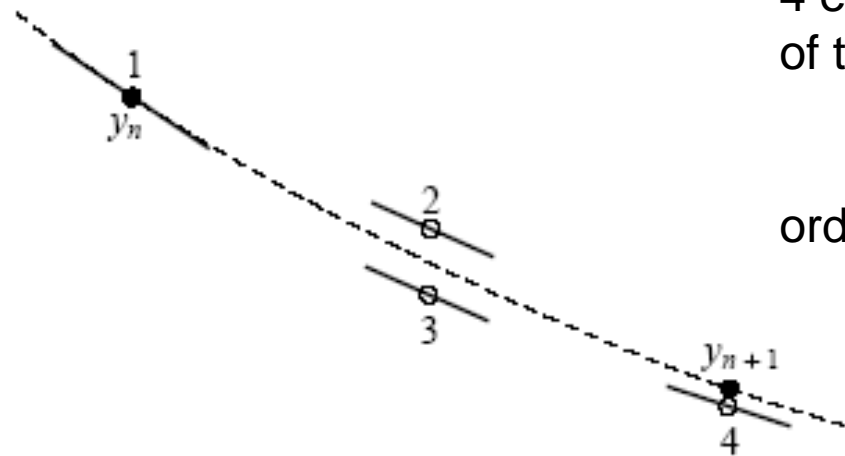
## A "popular" explicit solver: the Runge Kutta 4 (RK4)

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} k_1 = dt \cdot f(t_n, U_n) \\ k_2 = dt \cdot f(t_n + \frac{dt}{2}, U_n + \frac{k_1}{2}) \\ k_3 = dt \cdot f(t_n + \frac{dt}{2}, U_n + \frac{k_2}{2}) \\ k_4 = dt \cdot f(t_n + dt, U_n + k_3) \\ U_{n+1} = U_n + \frac{1}{6}(k_1 + 2k_2 + 2k_3 + k_4) \end{array} \right.$$

Easy to implement, "Relatively" stable ..

Quite "slow" because 4 calls to the derivative.

## Principle



RK4:  
4 evaluations in  
of the time

order 4

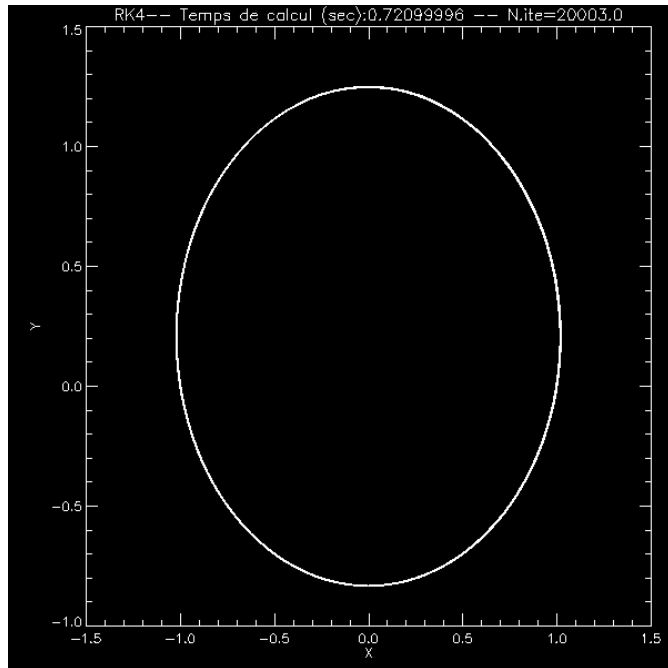
Figure 16.1.3. Fourth-order Runge-Kutta method. In each step the derivative is evaluated four times: once at the initial point, twice at trial midpoints, and once at a trial endpoint. From these derivatives the final function value (shown as a filled dot) is calculated. (See text for details.)

Consider a complicated system:

The motion of a planet around the Sun:

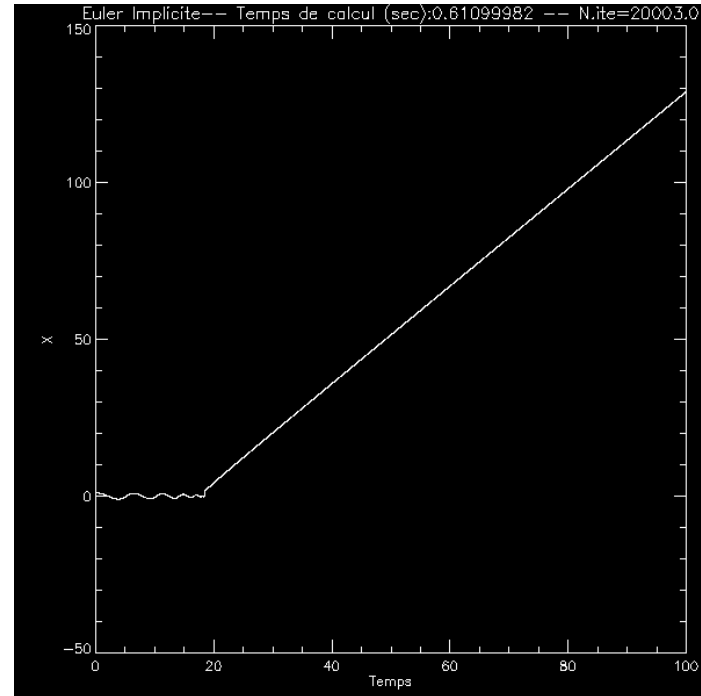
$$\mathbf{A} = -GM \mathbf{u} / r^2$$

$\Delta t = 0.1$ , Dynamic Time =  $2\pi$



**RK4**

Everything goes well priori

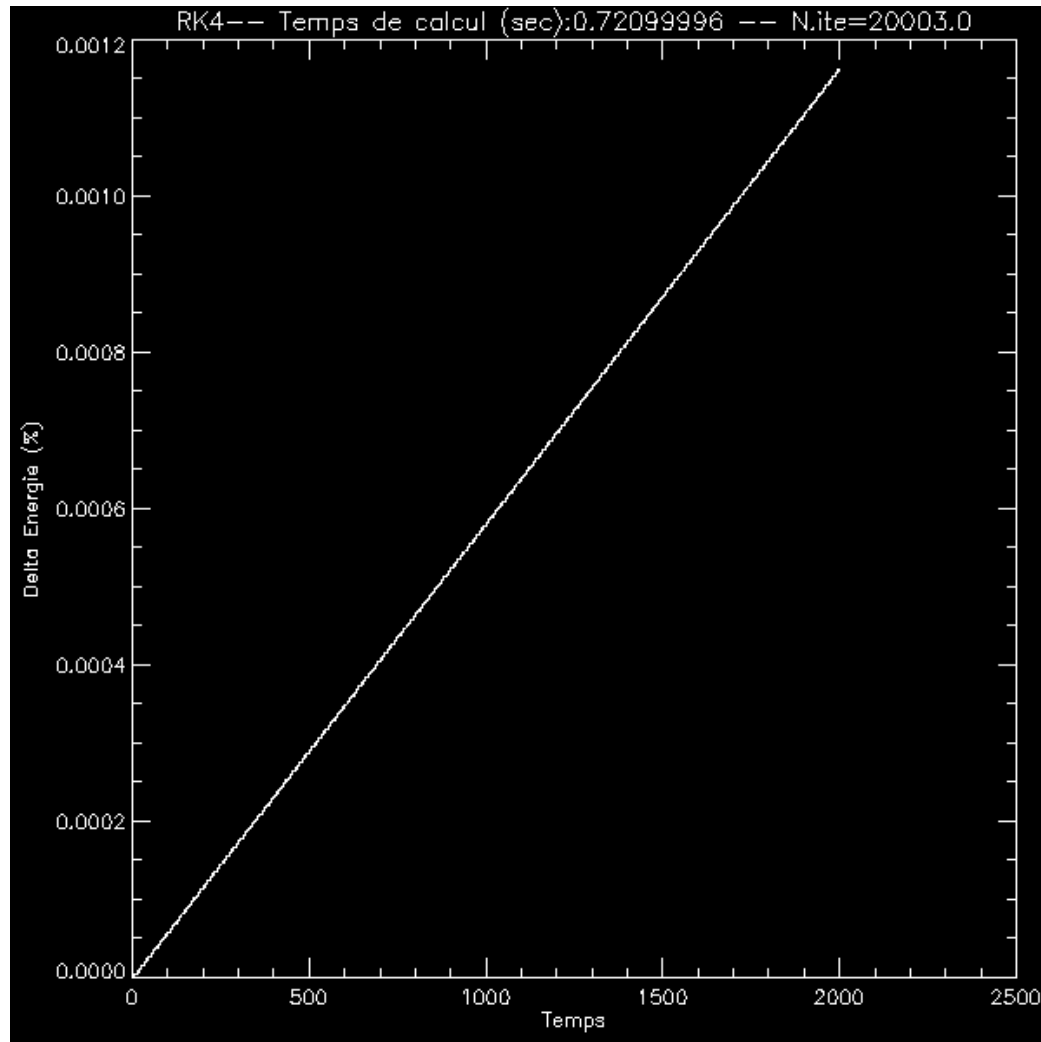


**Implicit Euler**



## A simple control parameter: Energy

The total energy should be kept:  $E = 1/2 mV^2 - Gm / r$



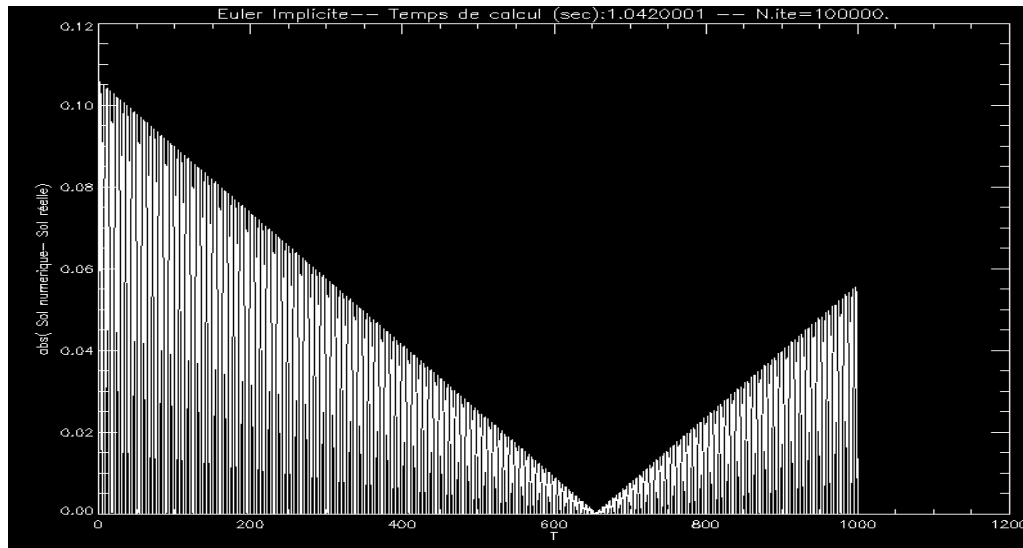
$dt = 0.1$

1 orbit =  $2\pi$

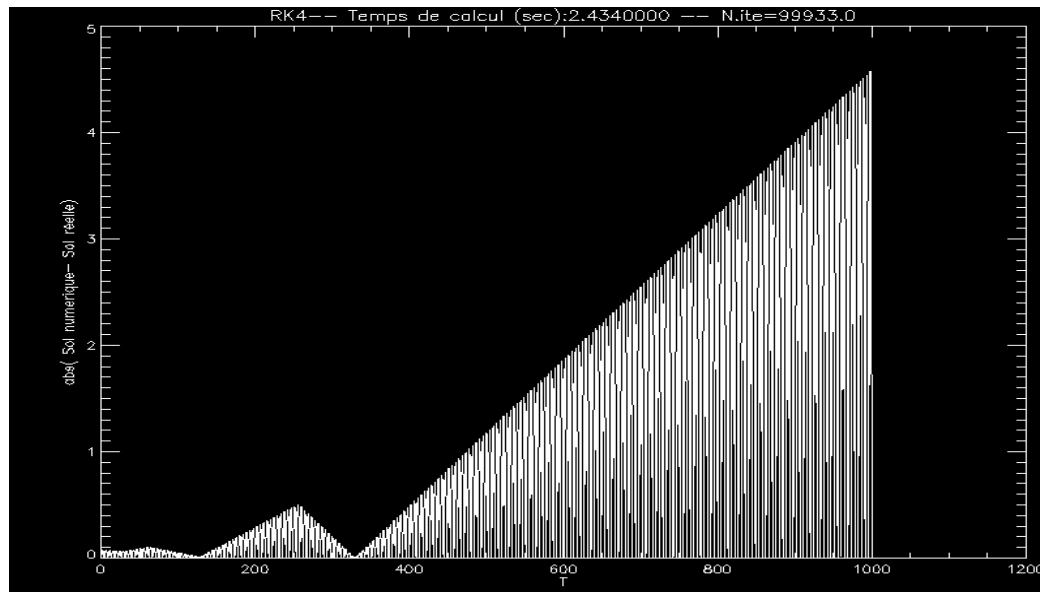
Energy artificially  
increased from 0.12%  
in 250 orbits  
(250 dynamic time)

⇒ We believe the result will  
Beyond 250000 orbits  
(1000 times) because  
 $\Delta E \sim E$  after this time

**Is The Runge Kutta more accurate than Euler implicit?  
In principle yes, but not always !!! example: spring**



**Implicit Euler**



**RK4**

**The RK4 is worse**

**⇒ In fact the implicit equation  
is better suited to for the spring**

**⇒ Fewer calls to the derivative**

**⇒ less rounding errors**

# IMPLICIT SOLVERS

The schemes we have seen are called **explicit solvers** :

$$\text{Euler: } X_{n+1} = X_n + dt f(t_n, X_n)$$

$$\text{Euler modified: } X_{n+1} = X_n + dt f(t + dt / 2, f(X_n + dt / 2))$$

because  $X_{n+1}$  **only DEPENDS** on the previous indices (n, n-1, etc ..).  
It is calculated directly.

ANOTHER family of solvers are the

« **implicit solvers** » :

Example: Cranck Nicolson

$$X_{n+1} = X_n + \frac{dt}{2} [f(t_n, X_n) + f(t_{n+1}, X_{n+1})]$$

$X_{n+1}$  depends on  $X_{n+1}$  and  $X_n$

It is necessary to solve a nonlinear equation to determine  $X_{n+1}$ .

Not straightforward ! => implicit scheme.

**Implicit solvers are often less accurate**

**""""""""""are more complicated to use and modify**

**BUT**

**They are more stable than the explicit solvers: they diverge less quickly.**

**In other words: less accurate in the short term, more accurate on then long-term**

## Parctical example EULER implicit

Schemes:  $U_{n+1} = U_n + dt \cdot f(t_{n+1}, U_{n+1})$

equation to  
resolve:  $\frac{d}{dt} \begin{pmatrix} x \\ v \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} v \\ -kx/m \end{pmatrix}$

Writing the implicit algorithm:

$$\begin{cases} x_{n+1} = x_n + dt v_{n+1} \\ v_{n+1} = v_n + dt \frac{-kx_{n+1}}{m} \end{cases}$$

**This is solved by substitution**

$$\begin{cases} x_{n+1} = x_n + dt v_{n+1} \\ v_{n+1} = v_n + dt \frac{-kx_{n+1}}{m} \end{cases} \Rightarrow$$

$$\begin{cases} x_{n+1} = x_n + dt \left( v_n + dt \frac{-kx_{n+1}}{m} \right) \\ v_{n+1} = v_n + dt \frac{-k}{m} (x_n + dt v_{n+1}) \end{cases} \Rightarrow$$

$$\begin{cases} x_{n+1} = (x_n + dt v_n) \cdot \frac{1}{\alpha} \\ v_{n+1} = \left( v_n + dt \frac{-kx_n}{m} \right) \cdot \frac{1}{\alpha} \end{cases} \Rightarrow \boxed{\phantom{000}} \alpha = 1 + \frac{kdt^2}{m}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} x_{n+1} \\ v_{n+1} \end{pmatrix} = \frac{1}{\alpha} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & dt \\ \frac{-kdt}{m} & 1 \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} x_n \\ v_n \end{pmatrix}$$

# Stability of a solver

For a given solver, it is important to **quantify its stability**,  
in other words its conditions of divergence

**What is the "stability"?**

**- MOST solvers go away from the real solution.**

⇒ **The question is: what is the "sensitivity" of the computational schemes?**  
**How fast does it diverge ?**

**or**

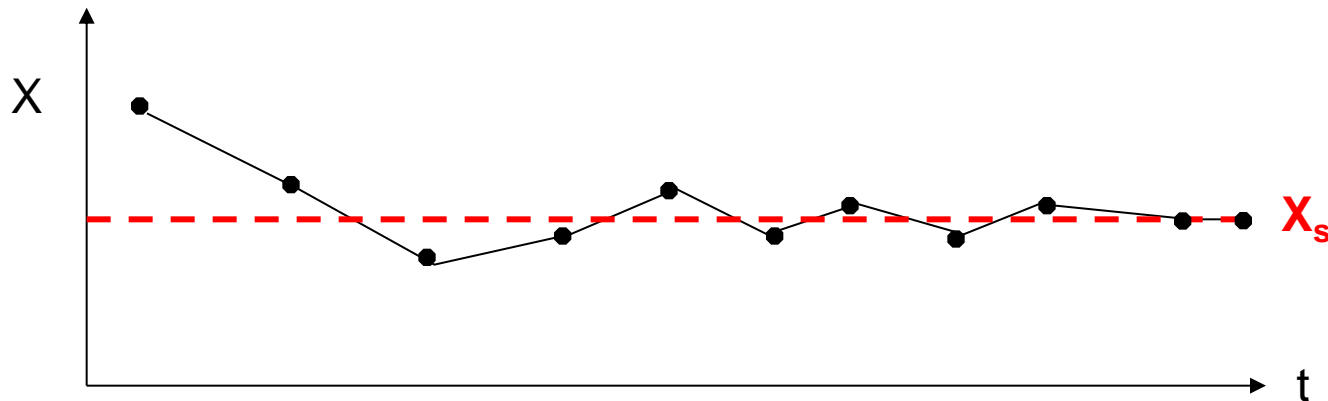
**How fast are small errors amplified by the scheme ?**

Let's consider this scheme :  $X_{n+1} = X_n + dt F(t_n, X_n)$

To quantify the **stability**, we  $\Rightarrow$  implicit scheme.

assume that  $X$  is **adjacent to a stationary point**  $X_s$

We quantify the the rate at which the scheme *goes away from* the solution.





**EXAMPLE** spring using Euler explicit method (Intrinsically linear method) :

$$\begin{cases} x_{n+1} = x_n + dt \, v_n \\ v_{n+1} = v_n + dt \, \frac{-kx_n}{m} \end{cases} \Rightarrow$$

**We use matrix notation  
for systems of ODEs**

$$\begin{pmatrix} x_{n+1} \\ v_{n+1} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & dt \\ \frac{-kdt}{m} & 1 \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} x_n \\ v_n \end{pmatrix} \Rightarrow$$

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & dt \\ \frac{-kdt}{m} & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\mathbf{X}_{n+1} = \mathbf{A} \mathbf{X}_n$$

Let  $\mathbf{e}_{n+1} = \mathbf{X}_{n+1} - \mathbf{X}_n$  the error in the solution. We assume  $e_n \ll X_n$

*Will the numerical scheme will amplify or damp the error ?*

$$X_{n+1} = F(X_n) = (1 + dt \cdot f)X_n = AX_n$$

$$e_{n+1} = X_{n+1} - X_n \quad \Rightarrow$$

$$e_{n+1} = AX_n - AX_{n-1} \quad \Rightarrow$$

$$e_{n+1} = A(X_n - X_{n-1}) \quad \Rightarrow$$

$$e_{n+1} = Ae_n$$

$$1 + dt \cdot f$$

**A** Is the amplification matrix

**Stability conditions? Looking at the eigenvalues of A**

**Matrix notation.** Example with a system with three variables: X, Y and Z. Let  $ex$ ,  $ey$  and  $ez$  errors in X, Y and Z

$$\begin{pmatrix} ex_{n+1} \\ ey_{n+1} \\ ez_{n+1} \end{pmatrix} = A \begin{pmatrix} ex_n \\ ey_n \\ ez_n \end{pmatrix} \Rightarrow$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} ex_{n+1} \\ ey_{n+1} \\ ez_{n+1} \end{pmatrix} = M^{-1} D M \begin{pmatrix} ex_n \\ ey_n \\ ez_n \end{pmatrix} \Rightarrow$$

$$M \underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} ex_{n+1} \\ ey_{n+1} \\ ez_{n+1} \end{pmatrix}} = D M \underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} ex_n \\ ey_n \\ ez_n \end{pmatrix}}$$

If A is diagonalizable  
 $A = M^{-1} D M$ ,  
 where M is the transition matrix  
 and the diagonal matrix D containing  
 eigen values

Vectors in the eigen base A

In the eigen base

$$\begin{pmatrix} ex'_{n+1} \\ ey'_{n+1} \\ ez'_{n+1} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} v_1 & & 0 \\ & v_2 & \\ 0 & & v_3 \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} ex'_n \\ ey'_n \\ ez'_n \end{pmatrix} \Rightarrow$$
$$\begin{pmatrix} ex'_{n+1} \\ ey'_{n+1} \\ ez'_{n+1} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} v_1 \cdot ex'_n \\ v_2 \cdot ey'_n \\ v_3 \cdot ez'_n \end{pmatrix}$$

So for STABILITY ( $\Leftrightarrow$  no amplification of error)

all the eigenvalues of the amplification matrix A must be  $<1$  in absolute value.

Let  $V = \text{MAX} [\text{abs}(v_1), \text{abs}(v_2), \text{abs}(v_3)]$ . V depends of the time dt

- If  $V < 1$   $dt < dt_{\text{max}}$  then the scheme is *conditionally stable*
- if  $V_i < 1$  for all dt, then the scheme is *unconditionally stable*
- if  $V_i > 1$  for all dt, then the schema is *unconditionally unstable*

## Example with the spring + Euler method

$$\begin{cases} x_{n+1} = x_n + dt \, v_n \\ v_{n+1} = v_n + dt \, \frac{-kx_n}{m} \end{cases} \Rightarrow$$

Form:  $X_{n+1} = AX_n$

$$\begin{pmatrix} x_{n+1} \\ v_{n+1} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & dt \\ \frac{-kdt}{m} & 1 \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} x_n \\ v_n \end{pmatrix} \Rightarrow$$

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & dt \\ \frac{-kdt}{m} & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & dt \\ \frac{-kdt}{m} & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

Amplification matrix A

$\lambda$  Eigen values : solution of characteristic polynomial

$$\lambda^2 - \text{trace}(A) \times \lambda + \text{determinant} = 0 \Rightarrow$$

$$\lambda^2 - 2\lambda + \left(1 + \frac{kdt^2}{m}\right) = 0 \Rightarrow$$

$$\Delta = 4 - 4\left(1 + \frac{kdt^2}{m}\right) = \frac{-4kdt}{m} \Rightarrow$$

$$\lambda = \frac{2 \pm i\sqrt{\frac{4kdt^2}{m}}}{2} = 1 \pm idt\sqrt{\frac{k}{m}}$$

The two eigenvalues are always smaller than (in norm):  $\sqrt{1 + \left(dt\sqrt{\frac{k}{m}}\right)^2} > 1$

So Euler scheme, applied to spring equation is *unconditionally unstable* ( $dt > 0$ )

## Example with the spring + implicit Euler method

$$\begin{cases} x_{n+1} = x_n + dt v_{n+1} \\ v_{n+1} = v_n + dt \frac{-kx_{n+1}}{m} \end{cases} \Rightarrow$$

Substitution

$$\begin{cases} x_{n+1} = x_n + dt \left( v_n + dt \frac{-kx_{n+1}}{m} \right) \\ v_{n+1} = v_n + dt \frac{-k}{m} (x_n + dt v_{n+1}) \end{cases} \Rightarrow$$

$$\begin{cases} x_{n+1} = (x_n + dt v_n) \cdot \frac{1}{\alpha} \\ v_{n+1} = \left( v_n + dt \frac{-kx_n}{m} \right) \cdot \frac{1}{\alpha} \end{cases} \Rightarrow \quad \text{où } \alpha = 1 + \frac{kdt^2}{m}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} x_{n+1} \\ v_{n+1} \end{pmatrix} = \frac{1}{\alpha} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & dt \\ -kdt & 1 \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} x_n \\ v_n \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\frac{1}{\alpha} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & dt \\ -kdt & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

Matrix amplification

Form:  $X_{n+1} = AX_n$

$$\begin{cases} x_{n+1} = x_n + dt v_{n+1} \\ v_{n+1} = v_n + dt \frac{-kx_{n+1}}{m} \end{cases} \Rightarrow$$

$$\begin{cases} x_{n+1} = x_n + dt \left( v_n + dt \frac{-kx_{n+1}}{m} \right) \\ v_{n+1} = v_n + dt \frac{-k}{m} (x_n + dt v_{n+1}) \end{cases} \Rightarrow$$

$$\begin{cases} x_{n+1} = (x_n + dt v_n) \cdot \frac{1}{\alpha} \\ v_{n+1} = \left( v_n + dt \frac{-kx_n}{m} \right) \cdot \frac{1}{\alpha} \end{cases} \Rightarrow \text{où } \alpha = 1 + \frac{kdt^2}{m}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} x_{n+1} \\ v_{n+1} \end{pmatrix} = \frac{1}{\alpha} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & dt \\ \frac{-kdt}{m} & 1 \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} x_n \\ v_n \end{pmatrix}$$

Calculating the amplification A matrix  
(A such that  $X_{n+1} = AX_n$ )



The eigen values are:

$$\frac{1}{\alpha} \left( 1 \pm dt \sqrt{\frac{k}{m}} \right) = \frac{1 \pm idt \sqrt{\frac{k}{m}}}{1 + \frac{kdt^2}{m}}$$

$$= \frac{1 \pm idt \sqrt{\frac{k}{m}}}{\left( 1 + idt \sqrt{\frac{k}{m}} \right) \left( 1 - idt \sqrt{\frac{k}{m}} \right)} \quad \text{(Where we use identity : } a^2 + b^2 = (a + ib)(a - ib))$$

$$= \frac{1}{\left( 1 + dt^2 \frac{k}{m} \right)^{1/2}}$$

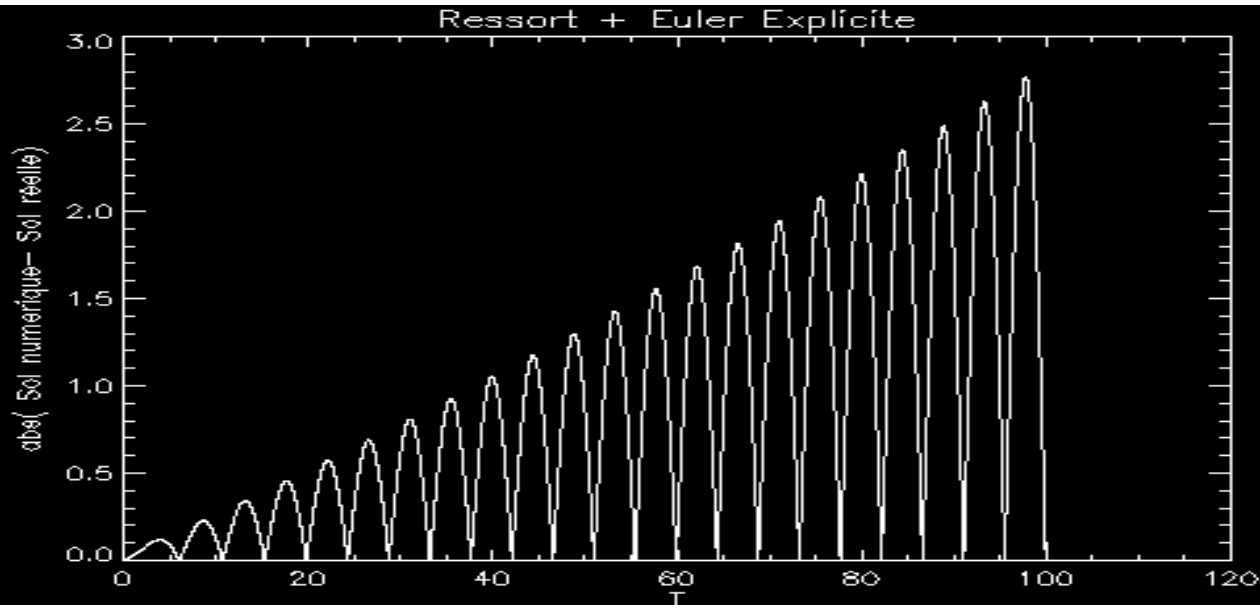
**Eigen values norm are:**

$$\frac{1}{\left( 1 + dt^2 \frac{k}{m} \right)^{1/2}}$$

They are always  $< 1$

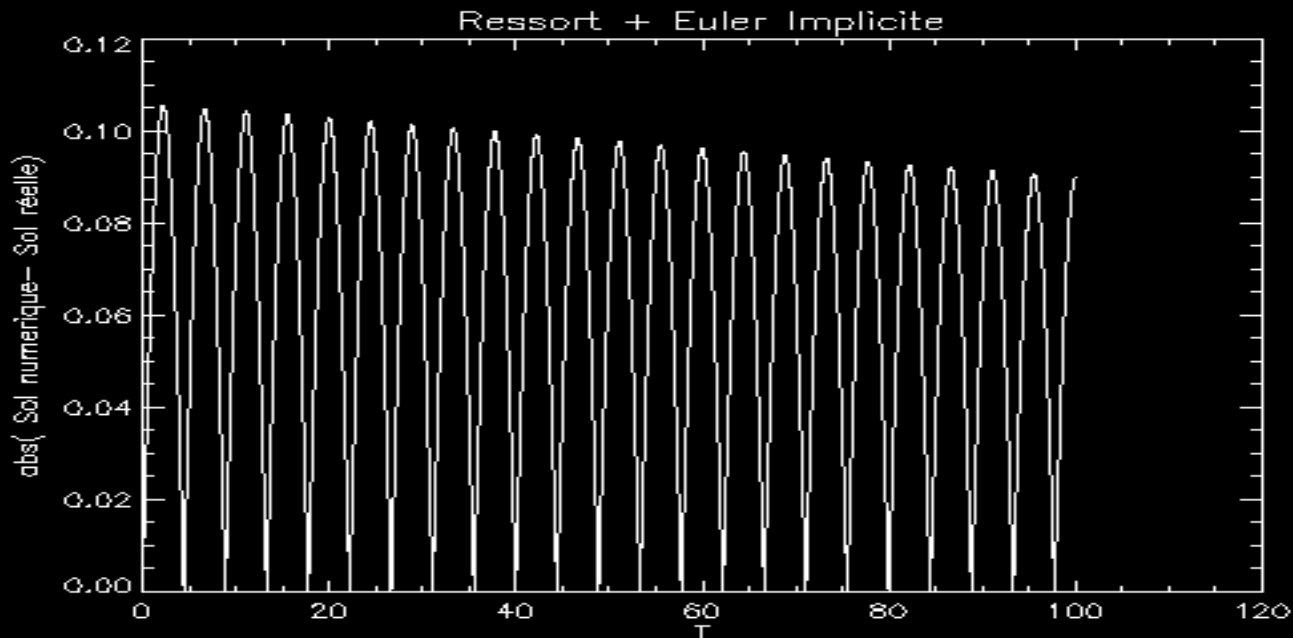
With the problem of the spring, Euler Implicit scheme : *unconditionally stable*

## Compare Euler Explicit vs Implicit: Spring Case

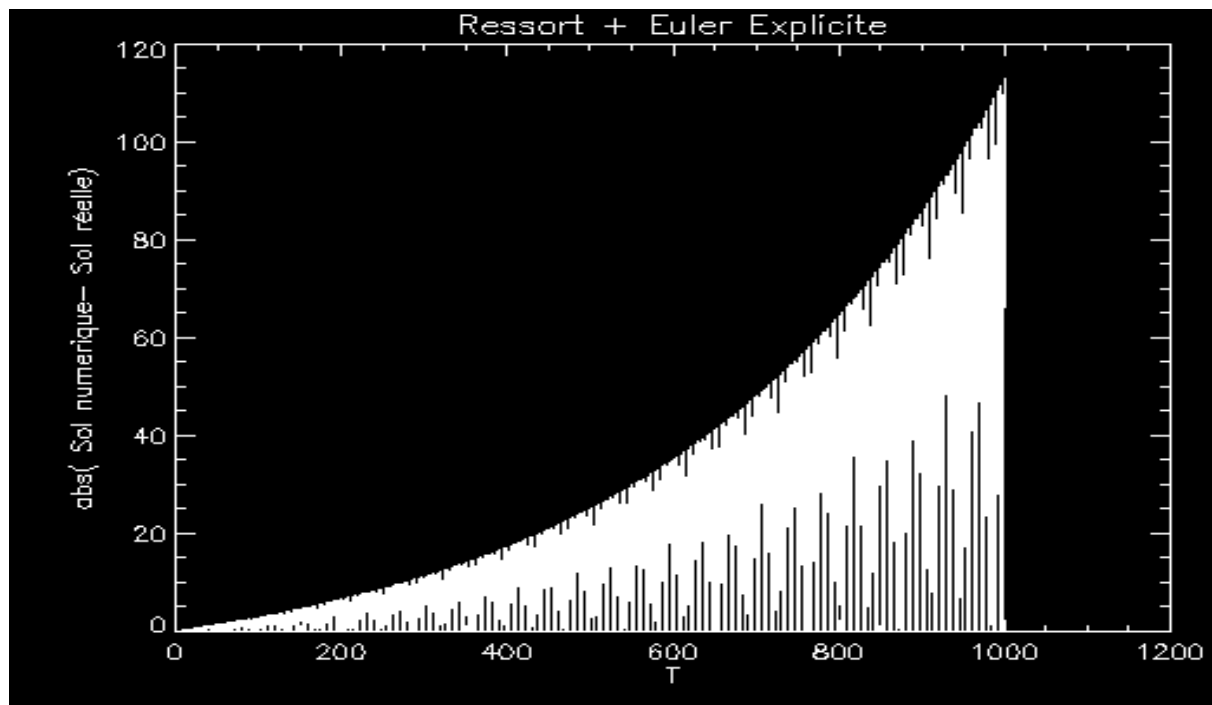


error Explicit

$\Delta t = 0.01$   
10000 iterations

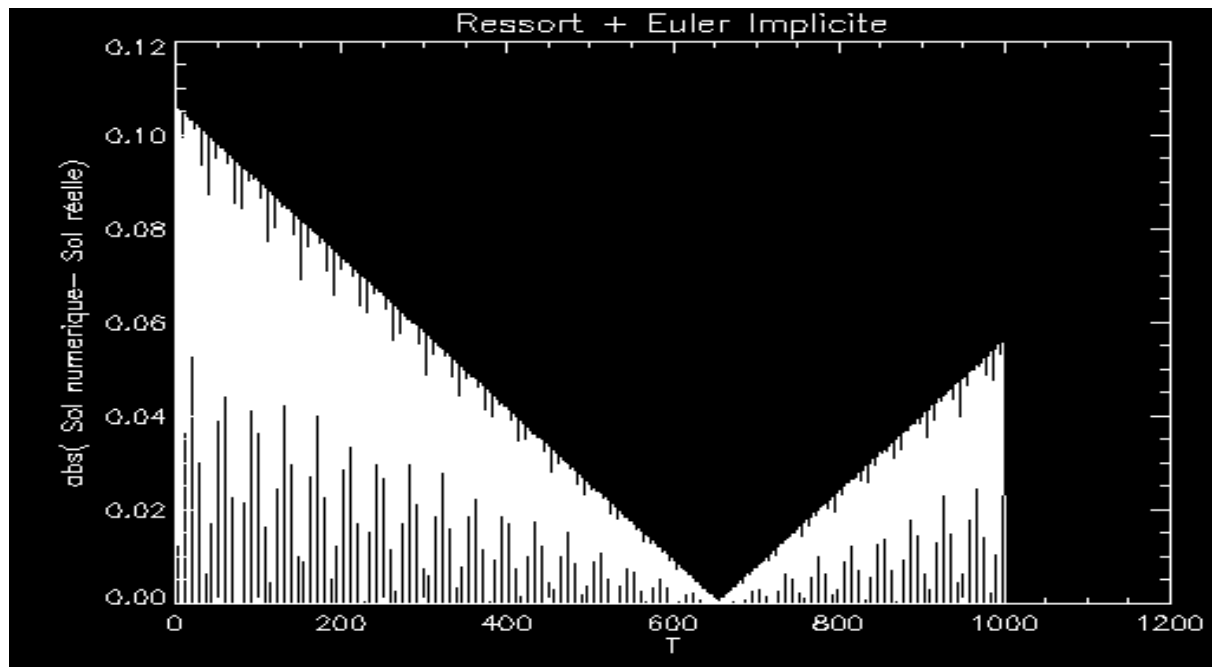


Implicit error



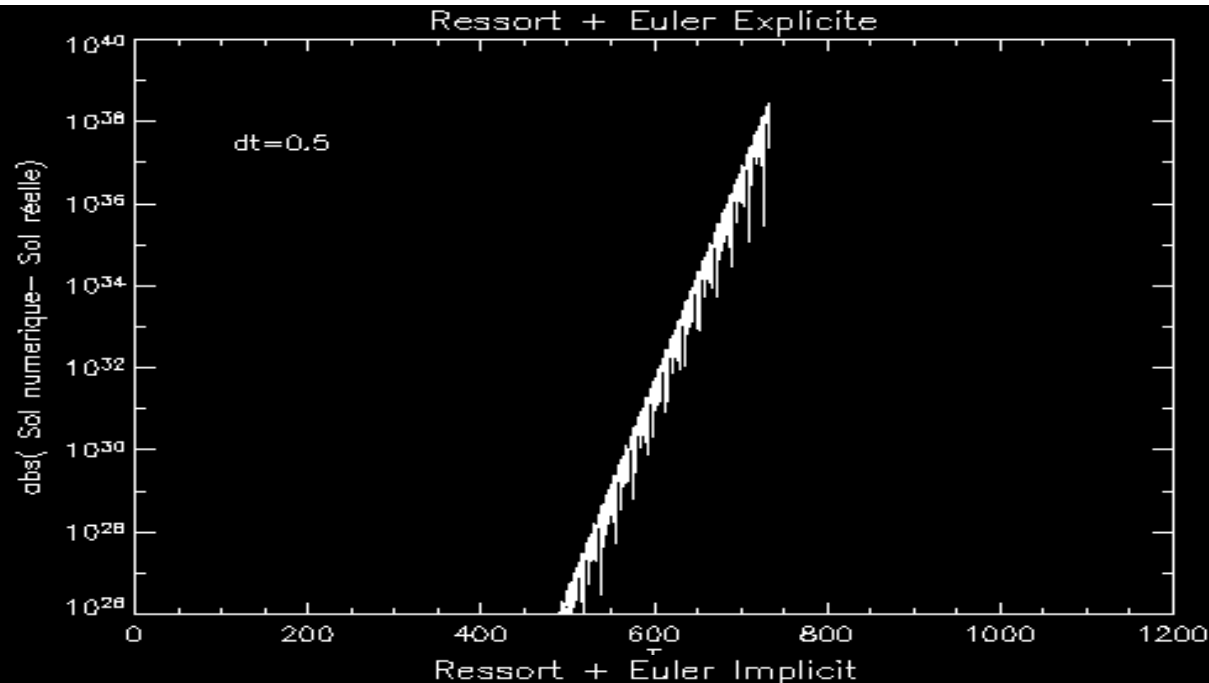
error Explicit

$\Delta t = 0.01$   
100000 iterations



Implicit error

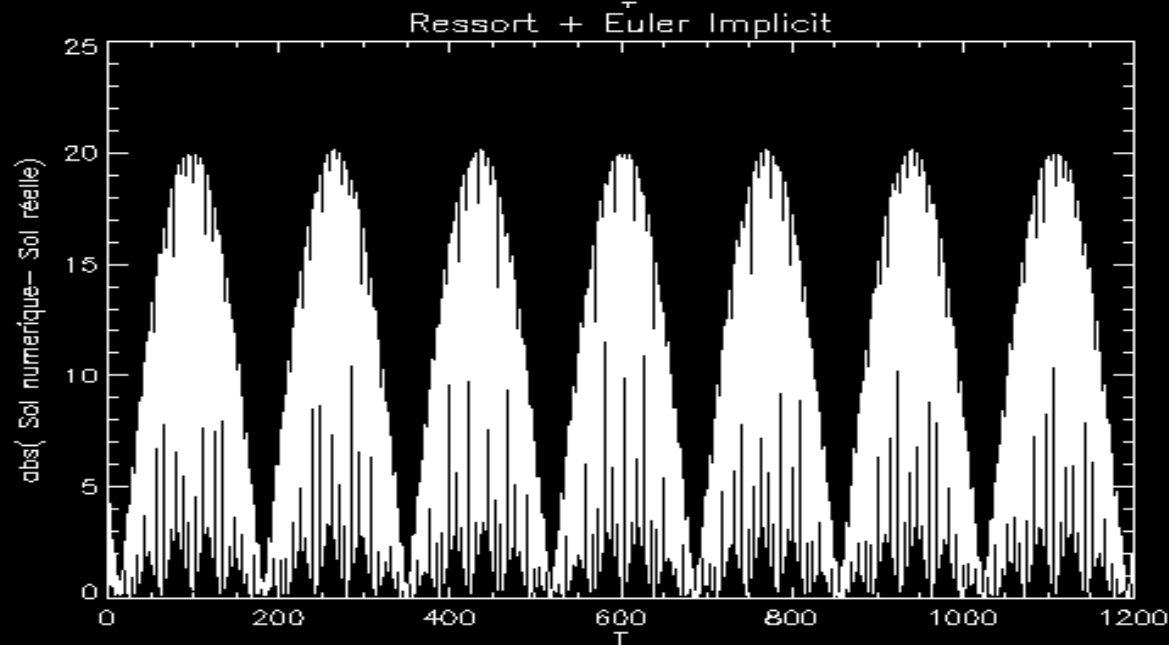
Large time step:  $dt = 0.5$  (instead of 0.01)



### Error for Explicit Euler

.... The solution diverges...

100000 iterations



### Implicit Euler Error

The error does not diverge  
... but the result is  
still wrong

The implicit solver is somewhat less accurate at the beginning of integration

BUT

In the long term, it does not diverge like crazy, even though the solution might be wrong..

THEREFORE

**When stability is important, it is interesting to use an implicit solver**

## What solver choose?

⇒ Trade-off between the computation time, desired accuracy and stability

### **low-order (1,2) explicit**

Fast, very unstable, very precise on short term

### **low-order (1,2) implicit**

Moderately fast, very stable, may be more accurate on long term, than on short term

### **high order (3.4 +) Explicit**

Slow, steady, accurate enough for most application (but not always...)

### **high order (3,4, +) Implicit**

Very slow, very stable, very accurate BUT ... almost never used.

# What time step to choose?

**General rule:  $\Delta t \ll$  all dynamical timescales of the system**

It is necessary to **always** thoroughly test the time step !  
by controlling certain parameters.

(Typical example: use energy, angular momentum, any quantity that should be preserved, like integrals of motions)

example:

For the spring, the characteristic time is the oscillation period,

$$T = \frac{2\pi}{\omega} = 2\pi \sqrt{\frac{m}{k}}$$

So we should take  $dt \ll T$

In our example:  $m = 1$ ,  $k = 1 \Rightarrow T = 6.28$  seconds.

With  $dt = 0.01$  s OK

With  $dt = 0.5$ s PB !! (See above figures)



# What to do when there are many different timescales in a problem?

« STIFF problems »

=> We are constrained by the smallest time-scale....

## Example: The Solar System:

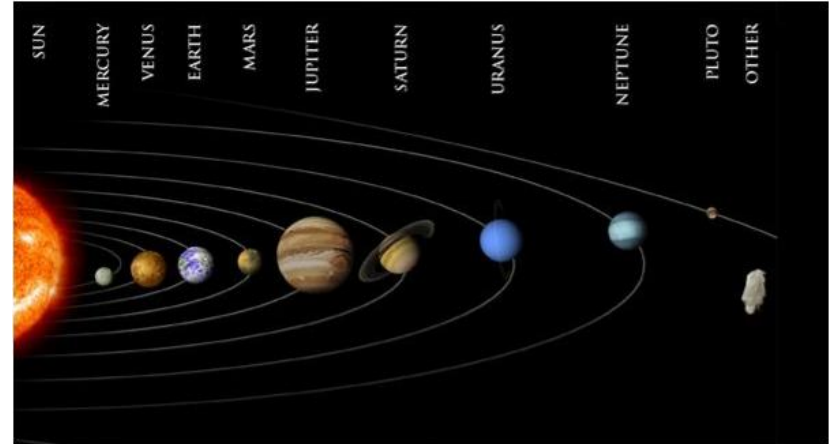
Orbital Period

Mercury: 88 days

Earth: 1 year

Jupiter: 12 years

Pluto: 248 years



ALL the planets interact (coupling)

In this system, it has a factor of 1000 between the shortest time dynamic and the longest ...

What to choose for  $dt$  ??

We have no choice:  $dt \ll 88$  weeks ...

**Conclusion** The majority of computing time just serves to integrate Mercury

## A bad idea :



Integrate planet motion with different time step for each planet

⇒ The result will invariably be false because different variables  
the systems will not be SYNCHRONIZED !!

For example:

Mercury  $dt$ ,  $2dt$ ,  $3dt$ ,  $4dt$ ,  $5dt$ ,  $6dt$ ,  $7dt$ ,  $8dt$ ,  $9dt$ ,  $10dt$

Earth  $2dt$ ,  $4dt$ ,  $6dt$ ,  $8dt$ ,  $10dt$

Jupiter  $3dt$ ,  $6dt$ ,  $9dt$

Pluto:  $5dt$ ,  $10dt$

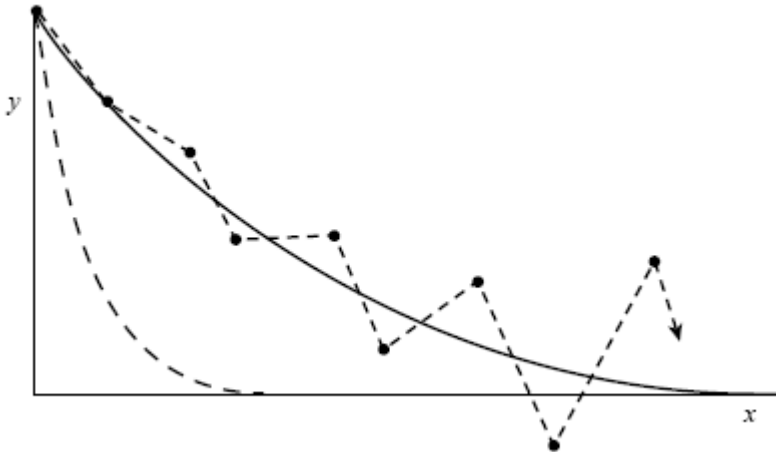
PB: For Mercury we need to know ALL the position  
planets to each value of  $dt$  ...

## Another example: A system with two variables

$$\begin{cases} u' = 998u + 1998v \\ v' = -999u - 1999v \end{cases} \quad \longrightarrow \quad \begin{cases} u = 2e^{-t} - e^{-1000t} \\ v = -e^{-t} + e^{-1000t} \end{cases}$$

With  $U(0) = 1, V(0) = 0$

**Two time scales: 1 and 1/1000**



An explicit method will oscillate between both exp., even after the most Quick is  $\sim 0$ .

Solution: Implicit Method  
Whose stability range is infinite.  
But no precise ...

## CONCLUSION FOR stiff problem

Some methods exist, rather subtle, but do not use a independent timestep for each variable ...

⇒ Often this is wrong

In a system where ALL the variables are coupled together to others,  $dt \ll$  smallest dynamical timescale

To avoid excessive instabilities use an IMPLICIT SOLVER solver ... needs some efforts..

# Towards adaptive methods:

## The adaptive RK: managing error control

Idea: how to control  $dt$  to be on that one error is not too large

**Several methods exist**, A method for adaptive time is complex to implement, but often faster and more accurate. WELL requires knowing the physical system

### Difficulty

**As we do not know *a priori* the exact solution, it is difficult to estimate the error.**

A common method is to realize that if the calculation is wrong, or very approximated, The solution found by the solver should depend very strongly of the  $dt$  value.

Why ? By that:  $\lim (F(X_n)) = \text{Solution}$ , when  $dt \rightarrow 0$

So when one is far from the solution (contrapositive)  $F$  highly dependent on no 81 time.

**Idea** : Compare different assessments of the solver, is not based on time, or according to the Order of the solver.

We must introduce a precision parameter,  $\Delta_0$  **The desired accuracy**

**1<sup>era</sup> technical** : Make 2 evaluations result, taking  $dt$  and  $DT / 2$ .  
(Double computation time). If both results are equal roughly  $\Delta_0$   
So the solution is acceptable, otherwise it must reduce the time step.

Simple method but very costly in time :

### **How many derivative evaluations**

4 for time step  $dt$

8 for 2 time step using  $dt / 2$ , but the first to  $dt / 2$  is the same as that at  $dt$   
so 11 in total.

To compare with 8 evaluations (one advances  $dt / 2$ )

So an increase in the computation time of  $11/8 \sim 1.4$   
40% slower

2<sup>nd</sup> method: More elegant and faster cheaper better : Adaptive Runge Kutta 5  
Fehlberg method for Runge Kutta

Fehlberg studied RK5. It requires 6 calls to the derivative

The RK5 is as follows

$$k_1 = hf(x_n, y_n)$$

$$k_2 = hf(x_n + a_2h, y_n + b_{21}k_1)$$

...

$$k_6 = hf(x_n + a_6h, y_n + b_{61}k_1 + \dots + b_{65}k_5)$$

$$y_{n+1} = y_n + c_1k_1 + c_2k_2 + c_3k_3 + c_4k_4 + c_5k_5 + c_6k_6 + O(h^6)$$

**The result is accurate to order 5**

**But Fehlberg shows that other combination coefficients gives a result with 4th order accuracy (with different coefficients, but same evaluations of derivative)**

**5th order**

$$y_{n+1} = y_n + c_1 k_1 + c_2 k_2 + c_3 k_3 + c_4 k_4 + c_5 k_5 + c_6 k_6 + O(h^6)$$

**4th order**

$$y_{n+1}^* = y_n + c_1^* k_1 + c_2^* k_2 + c_3^* k_3 + c_4^* k_4 + c_5^* k_5 + c_6^* k_6 + O(h^5)$$

**SO: In calculating the same quantities  $k_1$  to  $k_6$ , we can have two different assessments of the result:**

**$Y_{\text{not}}$  to about 5**

**$Y_{\text{not}}^*$  to order 4**

**$\Rightarrow \text{ABS}(Y_{\text{not}}^* - Y_{\text{not}})$  Is an estimate of the error in the order of 5**



## Coefficients table for RK5

Cash-Karp Parameters for Embedded Runge-Kutta Method								
$i$	$a_i$	$b_{ij}$					$c_i$	$c_i^*$
1							$\frac{37}{378}$	$\frac{2825}{27648}$
2	$\frac{1}{5}$	$\frac{1}{5}$					0	0
3	$\frac{3}{10}$	$\frac{3}{40}$	$\frac{9}{40}$				$\frac{250}{621}$	$\frac{18575}{48384}$
4	$\frac{3}{5}$	$\frac{3}{10}$	$-\frac{9}{10}$	$\frac{6}{5}$			$\frac{125}{594}$	$\frac{13525}{55296}$
5	1	$-\frac{11}{54}$	$\frac{5}{2}$	$-\frac{70}{27}$	$\frac{35}{27}$		0	$\frac{277}{14336}$
6	$\frac{7}{8}$	$\frac{1631}{55296}$	$\frac{175}{512}$	$\frac{575}{13824}$	$\frac{44275}{110592}$	$\frac{253}{4096}$	$\frac{512}{1771}$	$\frac{1}{4}$
$j =$		1	2	3	4	5		

**5<sup>th</sup> order    4<sup>th</sup> order**

We can use an array of coefficients also for the RK4

## RK4

$$f_0 = f(x_i, y_i)$$

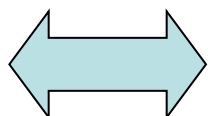
$$f_1 = f(x_i + \alpha_1 h, y_i + h\beta_{10}f_0)$$

$$\dots \quad \dots$$

$$f_k = f(x_i + \alpha_k h, y_i + h(\beta_{k0}f_0 + \beta_{k1}f_1 + \dots + \beta_{k,k-1}f_{k-1}))$$

$$y_{i+1} = y_i + h(c_0f_0 + c_1f_1 + \dots + c_kf_k)$$

$i$	$\alpha_i$	$\beta_{ij}$	$c_i$
0	.		$\frac{1}{6}$
1	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{3}$
2	$\frac{1}{2}$	0 $\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{3}$
3	1	0 0 1	$\frac{1}{6}$



$$f_0 = f(x_i, y_i),$$

$$f_1 = f(x_i + \frac{h}{2}, y_i + \frac{h}{2}f_0),$$

$$f_2 = f(x_i + \frac{h}{2}, y_i + \frac{h}{2}f_1),$$

$$f_3 = f(x_i + h, y_i + hf_2)$$

$$y_{i+1} = y_i + \frac{h}{6}(f_0 + 2f_1 + 2f_2 + f_3).$$

**Suppose we have two different estimates of the result,**

$X_n$  and  $X_n^*$

The error  $\Delta \sim \|X_n^* - X_{\text{not}}\| \propto dt^5$

We seek the new timestep so that  $\Delta_0 / \Delta = \text{Precision required}$

So we have  $(dt' / dt)^5 = \Delta_0 / \Delta$   $dt' = \text{new time step}$

$$\Rightarrow dt'/dt = (\Delta_0 / \Delta)^{1/5}$$

This serves two purposes:

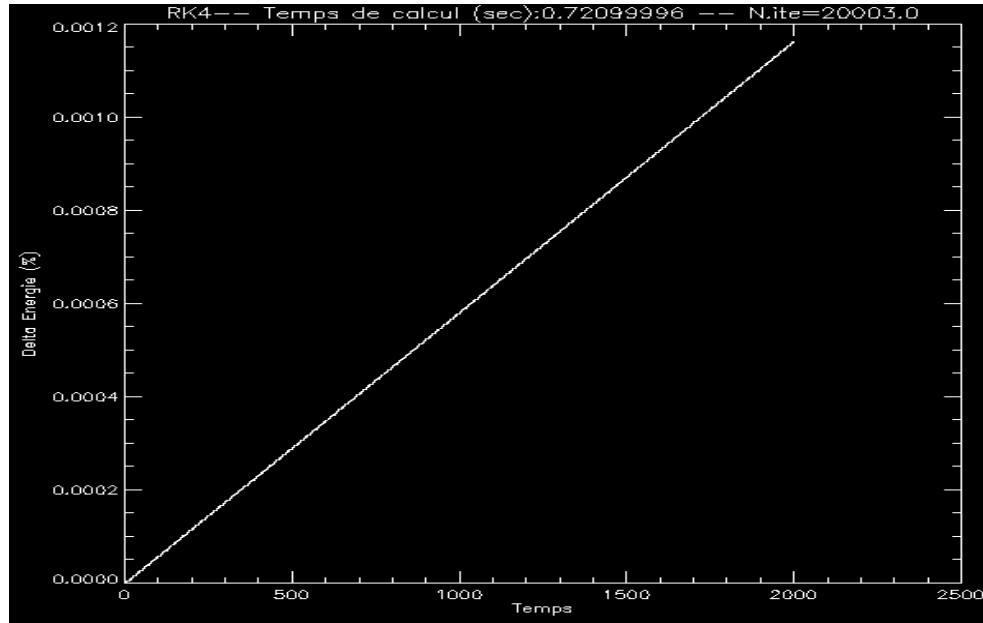
- 1- If the error is too large time step decreases
- 2- If the error is too small time step increases  $\Rightarrow$  saves time!

## A typical adaptive RK5. scheme

1. Evaluates  $Y_n$  (5th order) and  $Y_n^*$  (4th order)
2. Calculate  $\Delta = \text{Abs}(Y_n - Y_n^*)$  (for example) = the error control parameter
3. Calculate  $dt'$
4. if  $dt > dt'$  : Reject solution. Replace  $dt$  by  $dt'$  and go back to 1  
If  $dt < dt'$  : accept sol.  $Y_n$  is the next  $U_n$ , Replace  $dt$  by  $dt'$ . Go to next step
5. Return to 1 (the next time step)

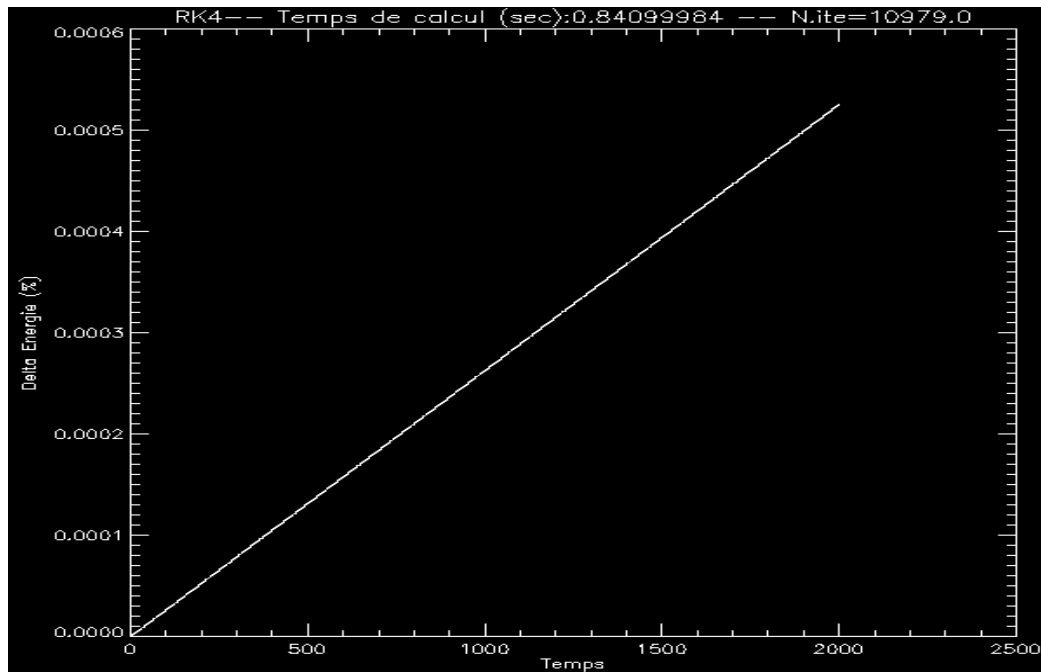
**CAUTION:** If you work with adaptive time step you must have an additional Control parameter (like energy) to make sure the calculation is globally valid

## Example: RK4 Vs. Adaptive RK5. Problem of the planet



**RK4 Energy**

**Dt = 0.2**

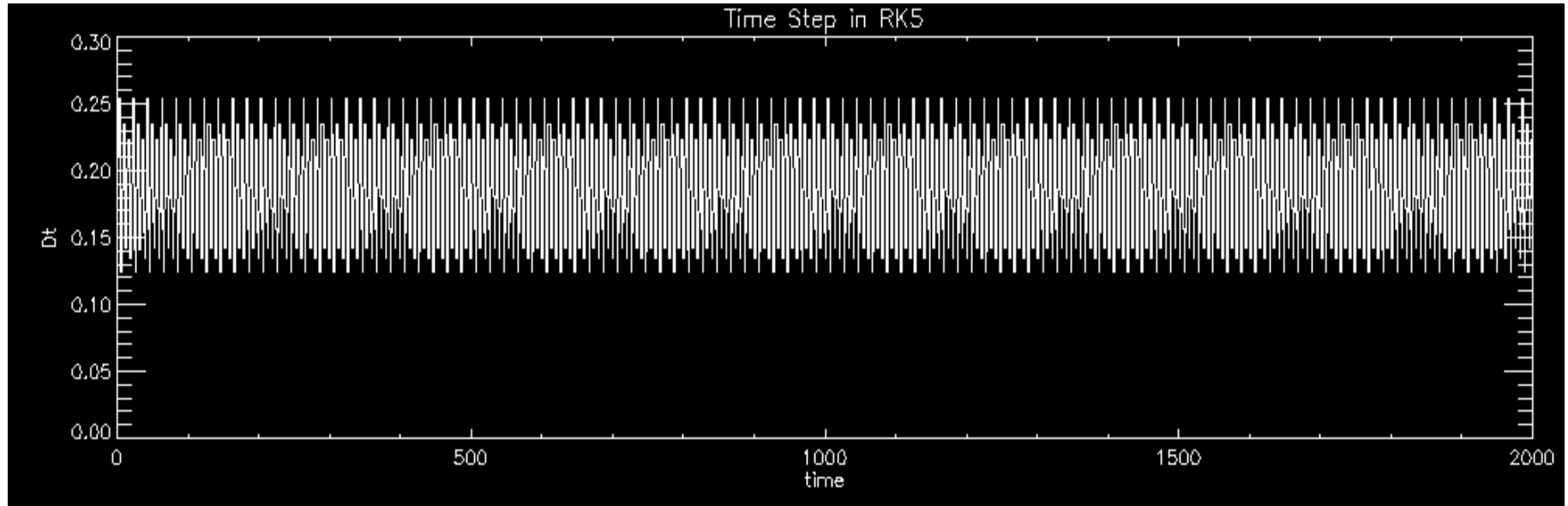


**Adaptive Energy RK5**

**The error on E increases  
2 times slower**

**With comparable computing time**

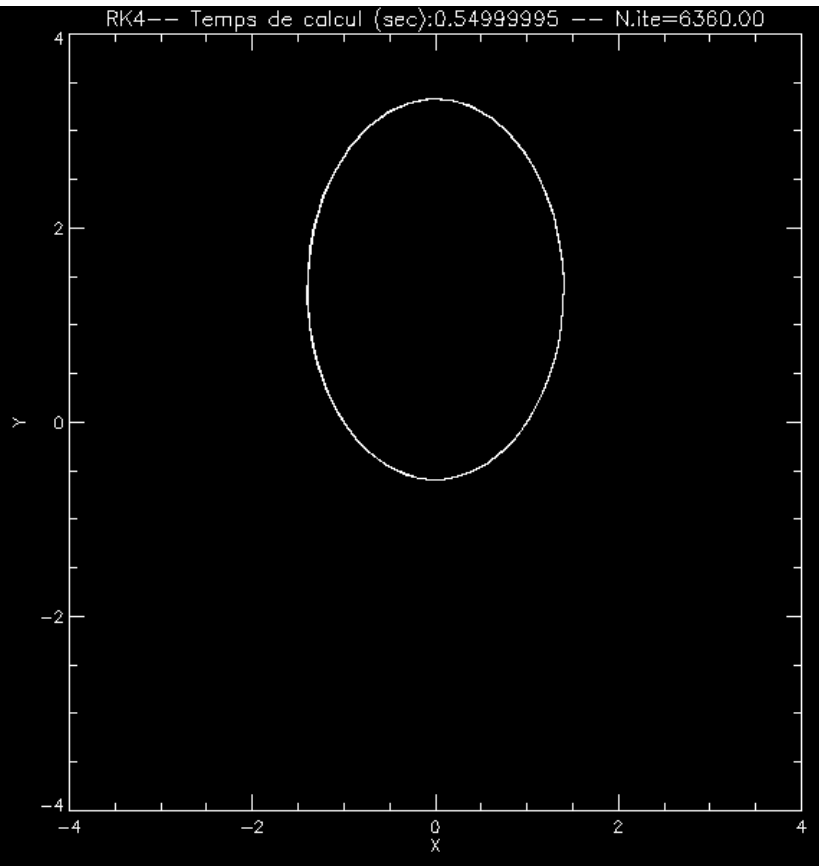
**Here is the time step of the Adaptive RK5**



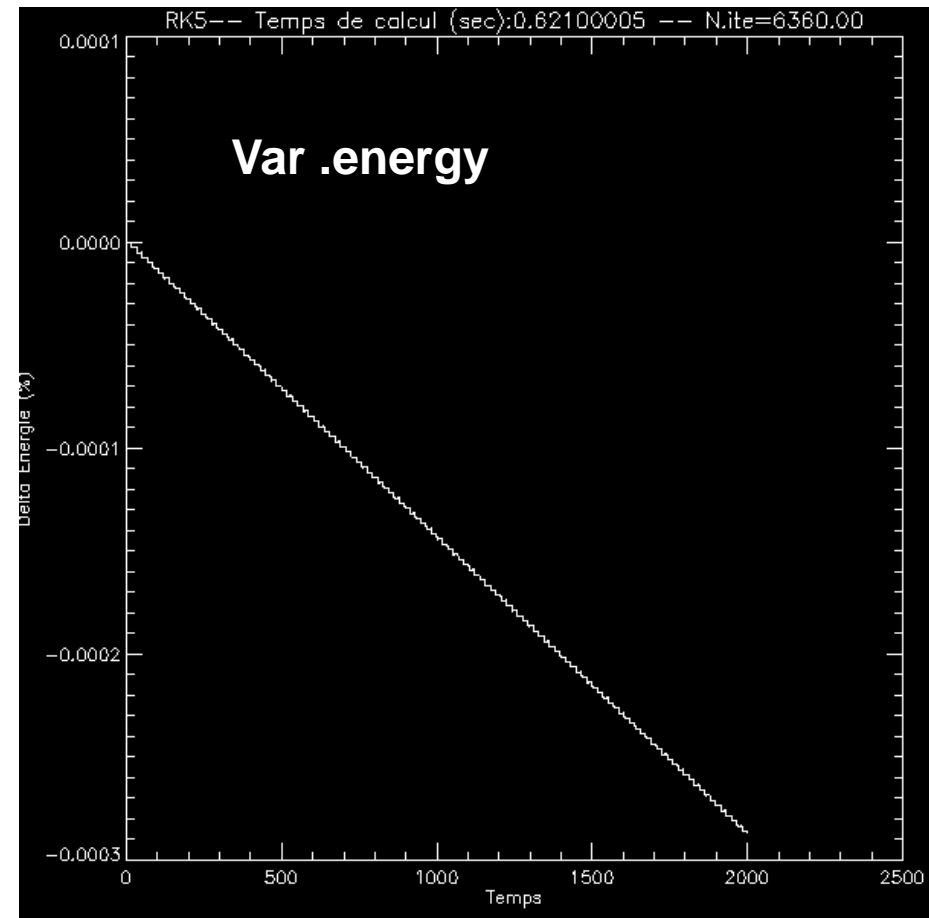
**dt decreases as the planet accelerates (perihelion)**

**dt increases when the planet decelerates (Aphelion)**

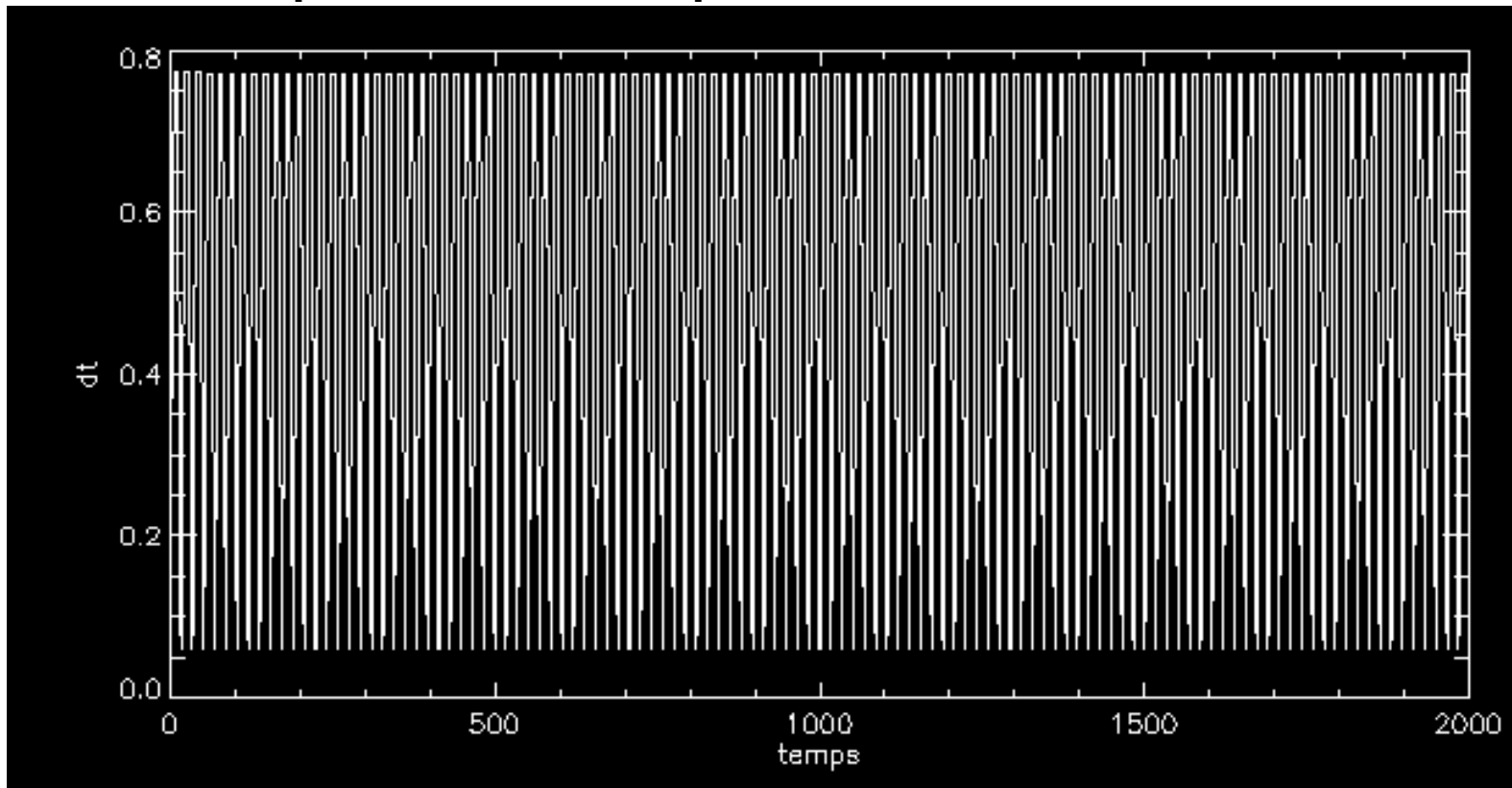
Consider a VERY elongated orbit (difficult to integrate)



adaptive RK5



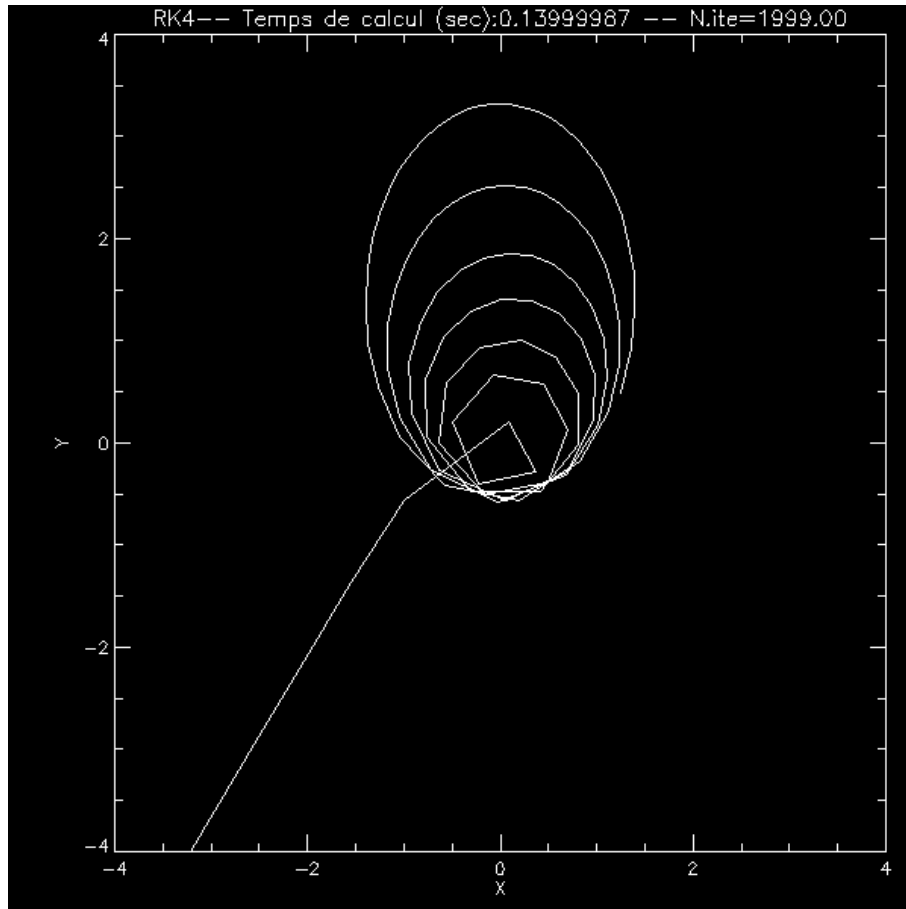
## Evolution of adaptive RK5 time step:



**The time step adapts to the orbit.  
Initial time step: 0.5**

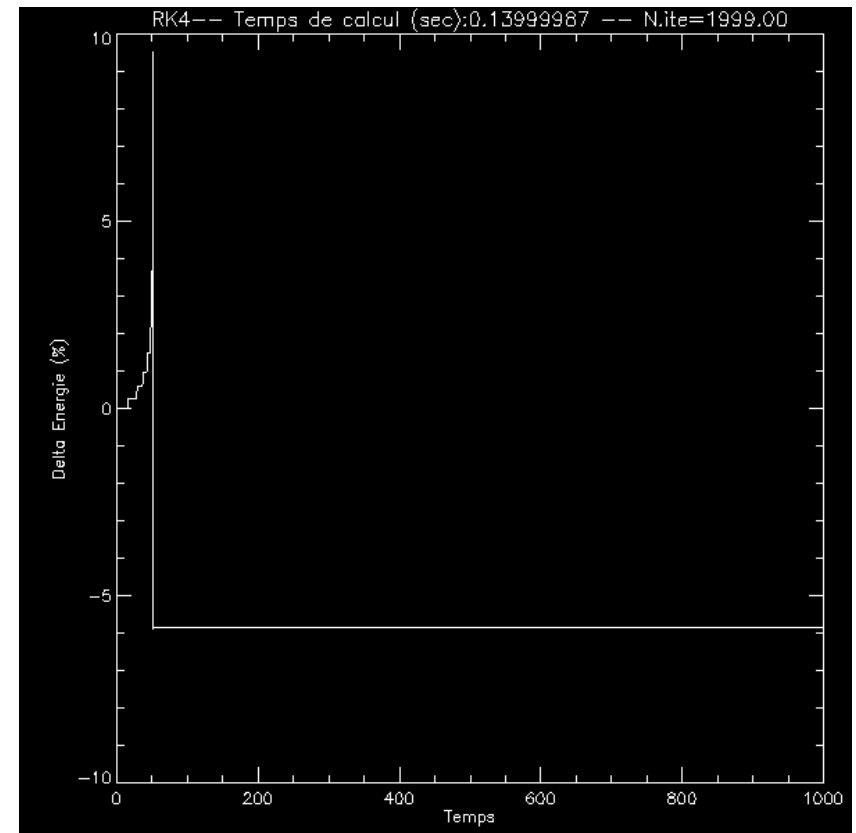


**RK4 DT = 0.5, same initial conditions**



**Hmmm ... ..**

**Energy ....**



# CONCLUSION

1. Choosing the solver depends on the problem  
(Single Issue? Stiff Problem? Etc ...)
2. A high order solver does not mean ALWAYS higher accuracy
3. Sometimes a Implicit solver can simplify your life and increase accuracy

- Do not believe the result of a solver too rapidly !!!
- You must always keep a critical viewpoint in front of a numerical integration
- You must define control parameters

4. Always check what is done  
Compare analytical solutions, control energy if possible

5. Use adaptive time-steps with \* lots \* of precautions