

Introduction to Computational Physics – Exercise 9

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The Lorenz Attractor

The Lorenz attractor problem is given by the following coupled set of differential equations:

$$\dot{x} = -\sigma(x - y) \quad (1)$$

$$\dot{y} = rx - y - xz \quad (2)$$

$$\dot{z} = xy - bz \quad (3)$$

As discussed in the lecture, the fixed points are $(0 \ 0 \ 0)$ for all r , and (for $r > 1$) the points $C_{\pm} = (\pm a_0 \ \pm a_0 \ r - 1)$ with $a_0 = \sqrt{b(r - 1)}$. For the entire exercise, please use $\sigma = 10$ and $b = 8/3$. The value of r can be experimented with. When you create numerical solutions you can make plots in 2-D projection (e.g. in the (x, y) - or (x, z) -plane). You can also try a full 3-D plot.

Task: Solve numerically, using `rk4`, the above coupled set of equations for the values $r = 0.5, 1.17, 1.3456, 25.0$ and 29.0 . Choose the initial conditions near one of the fixed points: C_{\pm} for $r > 1$ and $(0, 0, 0)$ for $r < 1$. Explain the behavior, as much as possible, with the stability properties of the fixed points.

To solve the problem numerically we can use the Runge-Kutta Algorithm to approximate the functions x , y and z . It is important to note that $x(t)$, $y(t)$ and $z(t)$ are time dependant. We will start by importing the packages that we will need for this exercise:

```
1 import numpy as np
2 import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
3 from mpl_toolkits import mplot3d
```

The `numpy` package allows us to work with arrays while the `matplotlib.pyplot` and `mplot3d` packages will allow us to plot our data in a 3 dimensional graph.

The next step is to define our parameters.

```
1 #Initial Values
2 sig = 10
3 b = 8/3
4 r = np.array([0.5, 1.17, 1.3456, 25.0, 29.0])
5 a0 = np.sqrt(b*(r.astype('complex')-1))
```

When defining the parameter $a_0 = \sqrt{b(r - 1)}$ we have to set the type of r to `complex` to avoid getting a `nan` value in the case that $r < 1$.

The differential equations are defined in the following manner:

```
1 #Lorenz System
2 def dx(x,y,z,sig):
3     return -sig*(x-y)
4 def dy(x,y,z,r):
5     return r*x-y-x*z
6 def dz(x,y,z,b):
7     return x*y-b*z
```

All the differential equations in our lorenz system are dependant of the functions `x`, `y` and `z` and a variable σ , r or b . That means that we have to rewrite our `rk4` algorithm in such a way that we will iterate over `x`, `y` and `z` instead of iterating over `y` and `t` (or rather `x`). The `rk4_step` function looks as follows:

```

1 def rk4_step(x0, y0, z0, f1, f2, f3, h, f1_args = {}, f2_args = {}, f3_args = {}):
2     ''' Simple python implementation for one RK4 step.
3     Inputs:
4         x_0      - M x 1 numpy array specifying all variables of the first ODE at
5             the current time step
6         y_0      - M x 1 numpy array specifying all variables of the second ODE at
7             the current time step
8         z_0      - M x 1 numpy array specifying all variables of the third ODE at
9             the current time step
10        f       - function that calculates the derivates of all variables of the ODE
11        h       - step size
12        f1_args - Dictionary of additional arguments to be passed to the function f1
13        f2_args - Dictionary of additional arguments to be passed to the function f2
14        f3_args - Dictionary of additional arguments to be passed to the function f3
15     Output:
16         x1 - M x 1 numpy array of variables of the first ODE at time step x0 + h
17         y1 - M x 1 numpy array of variables of the second ODE at time step x0 + h
18         z1 - M x 1 numpy array of variables of the third ODE at time step x0 + h
19         t1 - time step t0+h
20     ,,
21     k1 = h * f1(x0, y0, z0, **f1_args)
22     l1 = h * f2(x0, y0, z0, **f2_args)
23     m1 = h * f3(x0, y0, z0, **f3_args)
24
25     k2 = h * f1(x0 + k1/2., y0 + k1/2., z0 + k1/2., **f1_args)
26     l2 = h * f2(x0 + l1/2., y0 + l1/2., z0 + l1/2., **f2_args)
27     m2 = h * f3(x0 + m1/2., y0 + m1/2., z0 + m1/2., **f3_args)
28
29     k3 = h * f1(x0 + k2/2., y0 + k2/2., z0 + k2/2., **f1_args)
30     l3 = h * f2(x0 + l2/2., y0 + l2/2., z0 + l2/2., **f2_args)
31     m3 = h * f3(x0 + m2/2., y0 + m2/2., z0 + m2/2., **f3_args)
32
33     k4 = h * f1(x0 + k3/2., y0 + k3/2., z0 + k3/2., **f1_args)
34     l4 = h * f2(x0 + l3/2., y0 + l3/2., z0 + l3/2., **f2_args)
35     m4 = h * f3(x0 + m3/2., y0 + m3/2., z0 + m3/2., **f3_args)
36
37     x1 = x0 + 1./6.*(k1 + 2.*k2 + 2.*k3 + k4)
38     y1 = y0 + 1./6.*(l1 + 2.*l2 + 2.*l3 + l4)
39     z1 = z0 + 1./6.*(m1 + 2.*m2 + 2.*m3 + m4)
40
41     return(x1, y1, z1)

```

```

1 def rk4(x0, y0, z0, f1, f2, f3, h, n, f1_args = {}, f2_args = {}, f3_args = {}):
2     ''' Simple implementation of RK4
3     Inputs:
4         x_0      - M x 1 numpy array specifying all variables of the ODE at
5             the current time step
6         y_0      - M x 1 numpy array specifying all variables of the ODE at
7             the current time step
8         z_0      - M x 1 numpy array specifying all variables of the ODE at
9             the current time step
10        f1      - function that calculates the derivates of all variables of
11            the first ODE
12        f2      - function that calculates the derivates of all variables of
13            the second ODE
14        f3      - function that calculates the derivates of all variables of
15            the third ODE
16        h       - step size
17        n       - number of steps
18        f1_args - Dictionary of additional arguments to be passed to the function f1
19        f2_args - Dictionary of additional arguments to be passed to the function f2
20        f3_args - Dictionary of additional arguments to be passed to the function f3
21     Output:
22         yn - N+1 x M numpy array with the results of the integration for
23             every time step (includes y0)
24         xn - N+1 x 1 numpy array with the time step value (includes start x0)
25     ,,
26     xn = np.zeros(n+1); xn[0] = x0
27     yn = np.zeros(n+1); yn[0] = y0
28     zn = np.zeros(n+1); zn[0] = z0
29
30     for n in np.arange(1,n+1,1):

```

```

31     xn[n], yn[n], zn[n], = rk4_step(x0 = xn[n-1], y0 = yn[n-1], z0 = zn[n-1],
32     f1 = f1, f2 = f2, f3 = f3, h = h,
33     f1_args = f1_args, f2_args = f2_args, f3_args = f3_args)
34     return(xn, yn, zn)

```

The only thing that is left to get the results is to plot our values:

```

1 plt.figure()
2 ax = plt.axes(projection="3d")
3 ax.scatter3D(0,0,0,s=10,color='red')
4 ax.scatter3D(3,3,3,s=10,color='green')
5 for i in range(0,1):
6     if r[i] <= 1:
7         ax.scatter3D(*rk4(x0=1, y0=1, z0=1,
8             f1=dx, f2=dy, f3=dz, h=0.01, n=10000,
9             f1_args={'sig':sig}, f2_args={'r':r[i]}, f3_args={'b':b}), s=1,
10            label='r={}'.format(r[i]))
11    else:
12        ax.scatter3D(*rk4(x0=a0[i]+1, y0=a0[i]+1, z0=r[i],
13            f1=dx, f2=dy, f3=dz, h=0.01, n=1000,
14            f1_args={'sig':sig}, f2_args={'r':r[i]}, f3_args={'b':b}), s=1,
15            label='r={}'.format(r[i]))
16 plt.legend()
17 plt.show()

```

It is important to note here that our initial conditions were set to $x_0, y_0, z_0 = 0, 0, 0$ in the case that $r < 1$. That means that our initial conditons are always real.

Eventhough x, y and z actually represent the amplitude of the fourier transformations, we will be using the analogy of a particle moving through three dimentional space in time.

In the case were $r = 0.5$ we get the following plot: We can see that our imaginary particle begins at its the beginning point $(1,1,1)$ and directly moves towards our fixpoint at $(0,0,0)$ and stays there. If we tweak the initial values such that the initial state is allways near our fixed point we will see the same behaviour. As the distance of the initial conditions from the fixed point start to increase we will see that the graph begins to spiral. As soon as the distance becomes too big we see that the graph will stay in its starting point. If we set the initial point to be in our fixed point, wee will see that the particle doesnt moove as well. If we take a look at the real part of the Eigenvalues we can see that they stay negative. That means that our fixed point is stable.

If we set $r = 1.17$ we get the following plot: Note that our starting position from here on is set around our other fixed point at $(\pm a_0, \pm a_0, r - 1)$. We can observe the same behaviour as in the last plot. All the real parts of the Eigenvallues are negative and therefore wehave get a stable fixed point. If we set $r = 1.3456$ we get the following plot:

If we set $r = 25.0$ we get the following plot:

If we set $r = 29.0$ we get the following plot:

Task: Determine the sequence z_k for $r = 26.5$, where z_k is a local maximum in z on the solution curve after k periods. Plot z_{k+1} as a function of z_k . When sufficient points are there, connect the points. The resulting function $z_{k+1} = f(z_k)$ has an intersection with the diagonal $z_{k+1} = z_k$. It is a fixed point of the function $f(z_k)$. Is the slope m of this function > 1 , < -1 or between -1 and $+1$? Notice: The theory of discrete maps says that there is no periodic solution if $|m| > 1$. So, in such a case we can deduce that this solution of the Lorenz system is not periodic.

