

# COMPUTATIONAL PHYSICS

LAB ASSIGNMENT No : 1

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BSC. PHYSICS AIDED

ROLL NO. 78

LAB TEAM: 5

## SIMULATION OF SIMPLE AND DAMPED

### PENDULUM USING RK2 METHOD

Aim :-

To simulate the motion of a damped pendulum using the second-order Runge-Kutta (RK2) method, analyze the phase space behavior under varying conditions and validate the simulation by confirming that zero damping reproduces the behavior of simple pendulum.

Theory :-

- A simple pendulum is a system consisting of a mass (bob) suspended from a fixed point by a string length when it releases it swings under the influence of gravity.
- In the damped pendulum, an additional resistive force like air resistance, fluid drag, friction opposes the motion.
- The motion of damped pendulum is governed by the following 2nd order differential equation :

$$\frac{d^2\theta}{dt^2} + b \frac{d\theta}{dt} + \frac{g}{L} \sin(\theta) = 0$$

where  $\theta(t)$  = angular displacement

$\frac{d\theta}{dt} = \omega(t)$  = angular velocity

$\frac{d^2\theta}{dt^2}$  = angular acceleration

$b$  = damping coefficient

$g$  = acceleration due to gravity

$L$  = length of pendulum

The RK2 method, also known as midpoint method.

1) Compute intermediate value ( $k_1$ )

$$k_{10} = \omega_n, \quad k_{1w} = -b\omega_n - \frac{g}{L} \sin(\theta_n)$$

2) Estimate values at midpoint

$$\theta_{mid} = \theta_n + \frac{dt}{2} \cdot k_{10}$$

3) Compute values at midpoint ( $k_2$ )

$$k_{20} = \omega_{mid}, \quad k_{2w} = -b\omega_{mid} - \frac{g}{L} \sin(\theta_{mid})$$

4) Update value

$$\theta[i+1] = \theta[i] + dt \cdot k_{20}, \quad \omega[i+1] = \omega[i] + dt \cdot k_{2w}$$

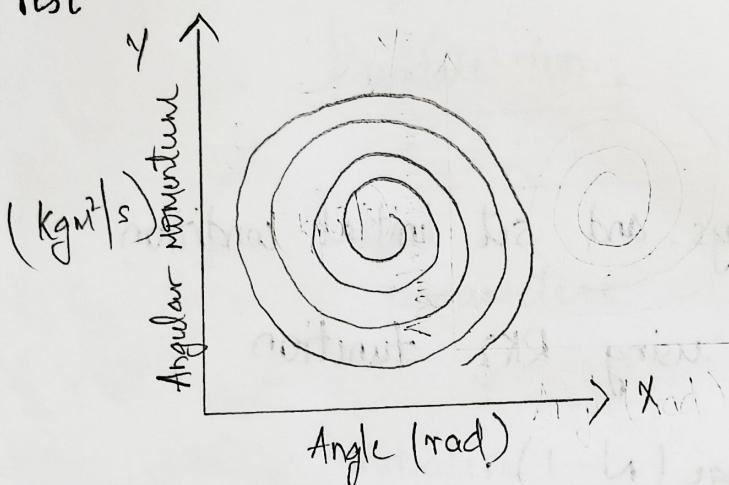
$$\text{time}[i+1] = \text{time}[i] + dt$$

Phase space representation :-

X-axis :- Angle( $\theta$ ) in radians

Y-axis :- Angular momentum ( $L$ ) in  $\text{kgm}^2/\text{s}$ .

The spiral portion indicates that the pendulum is losing energy over time due to damping and eventually comes to rest.



$$\text{Angular momentum } (L) = ML^2\omega$$

where  $M$  = Mass of bob

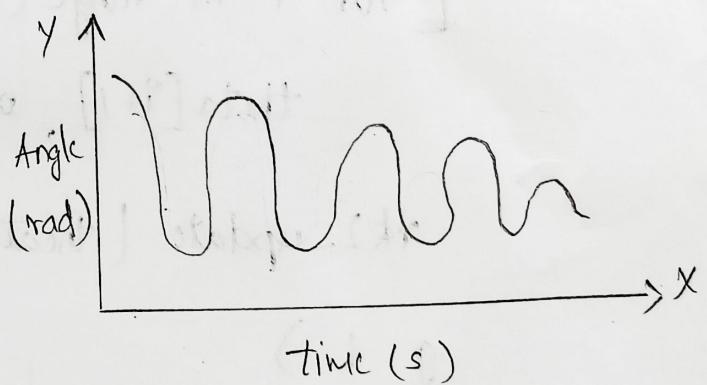
$L$  = length of pendulum

$\omega$  = angular velocity

Pendulum motion :-

X axis :- Time in seconds

Y axis :- Angle in radian



This shows how pendulum's angle changes over time.

Algorithm :-

Step 1 :- Import required

(numpy, matplotlib)

Step 2 :- Define RK2 update formula.

Step 3 :- Input simulation parameters

$$( g = 9.8 \text{ m/s}^2 )$$

$$L = 0.1 \text{ m}$$

$$b = 0.2 \text{ kg/s}$$

$$\theta_0 = np \cdot \pi/4$$

$$\omega_0 = 0.0$$

$$dt = 0.01 \text{ s}$$

$$T = 10 \text{ s}$$

$$N = \text{int}(T/dt)$$

Step 4 :- Initialize arrays and set initial condition

Step 5 :- Run simulation using RK2 function

[ for  $i$  in range( $N-1$ ):

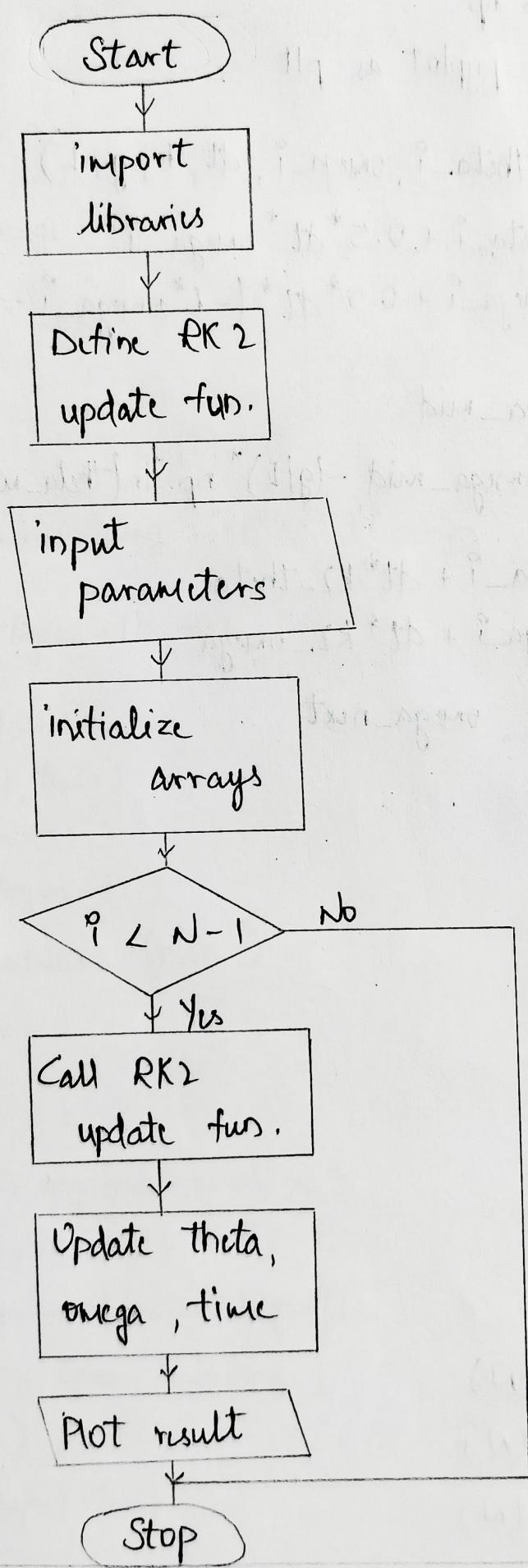
$\theta[i+1], \omega[i+1] :$

        rk2\_update(  $\theta[i], \omega[i], dt, b,$   
 $g, L$  )

$time[i+1] : time[i] + dt$  ]

Step 6 :- Plot the results.

Flowchart :-



Code :-

import numpy as np

import matplotlib.pyplot as plt

def rk2\_update(theta\_i, omega\_i, dt, b, g, L):

$$\theta_{\text{mid}} = \theta_i + 0.5 * dt * \omega_i$$

$$\omega_{\text{mid}} = \omega_i + 0.5 * dt * (-b * \omega_i - (g/L) * \sin(\theta_i))$$

$$k2_{\theta} = \omega_{\text{mid}}$$

$$k2_{\omega} = -b * \omega_{\text{mid}} - (g/L) * \sin(\theta_{\text{mid}})$$

$$\theta_{\text{next}} = \theta_i + dt * k2_{\theta}$$

$$\omega_{\text{next}} = \omega_i + dt * k2_{\omega}$$

return theta\_next, omega\_next

$$g = 9.81$$

$$L = 1.0$$

$$b = 0.2$$

$$\theta_0 = \pi/4$$

$$\omega_0 = 0.0$$

$$dt = 0.01$$

$$T = 10$$

$$N = \text{int}(T/dt)$$

$$\theta = \text{np.zeros}(N)$$

$$\omega = \text{np.zeros}(N)$$

$$\text{time} = \text{np.zeros}(N)$$

for i

$$\theta[0] = \theta_0$$

$$\omega[0] = \omega_0$$

$$time[0] = 0.0$$

for i in range(N-1):

$$\theta[i+1], \omega[i+1] = rk2\_update[\theta[i], \omega[i], dt, b, g, L]$$

$$time[i+1] = time[i] + dt$$

$$\text{angular\_momentum} = m * L^{**2} * \omega$$

plt.figure(figsize=(12, 5))

plt.subplot(1, 2, 1)

plt.plot(time, theta)

plt.xlabel('Time(s)')

plt.ylabel('Angle(rad)')

plt.title('Pendulum Motion')

plt.grid(True)

plt.subplot(1, 2, 2)

plt.plot(theta, angular\_momentum)

plt.xlabel('Angle (rad)')

plt.ylabel('Angular Momentum (kgm^2/s)')

plt.title('Phase Space Trajectory')

plt.grid(True)

plt.tight\_layout()

plt.show()

Result :-

- The pendulum undergoes damped oscillation motion, where the amplitude of oscillation decreases over time due to damping force.
- Angle v/s time graph:-  
The plot. y angle( $\theta$ ) v/s time ( $t$ ) shows a pattern with gradually decreasing peaks. This confirming energy loss over time due to damping.
- Phase space ( $\theta$  v/s  $L$ ) graph :-  
The graph forms a spiral curve which inward towards the origin. This indicates the system is losing K.E and P.E and settling at equilibrium point.  
 $(\theta = 0, \omega = 0)$
- The simulation successfully demonstrates the damped pendulum behavior and shows the utility of the RK2 method.