The background of the slide features a complex visualization of magnetic field lines. These lines are represented by numerous purple curves that flow from the top and bottom edges towards the center, where they form concentric loops. Small purple arrows are placed along these lines to indicate the direction of the field. In the lower-left quadrant, there are two additional lines: a wavy orange line and a straighter green line, both with small 'x' marks at their ends, possibly representing particle trajectories or specific field configurations.

How physics simulations work: simulating particles in electric and magnetic fields

Nikolaj Roager Christensen

Student Colloquium in Physics and Astronomy, Aarhus University

March 2021

Numerical integration of ordinary differential equations: motion of charged particles in electromagnetic fields

Introduction

Theory and physical background 10 min

Euler's Method and the 4th order Runge-Kutta Method 15 min

- Euler's Method

- Higher order Runge-Kutta methods

- Demonstration, particles in a solenoid

Embedded algorithms, and adaptive step size 15 min

- Dormand Prince 5 (4) method

- Demonstration: magnetic dipole

Conclusion

Introduction, what and why

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- ▶ Simulations are not experiments!

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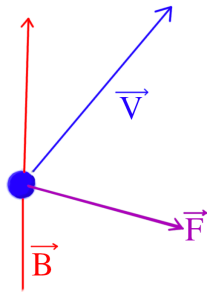
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- ▶ Only 1 particle! so pre-programmed depending on the setup.
- ▶ Could use potentials $\phi(\vec{r}, t)$ $\vec{A}(\vec{r}, t)$ and Hamiltonian, or Lagrangian.
- ▶ Other systems would have other differential equations.

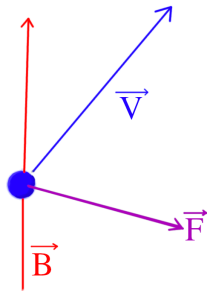
Known results, cyclotron motion \vec{B} fields



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$$dW_{\vec{B}} = \vec{F}_B \cdot d\vec{r} \propto (\vec{v} \times \vec{B}) \cdot \vec{v} = 0.$$



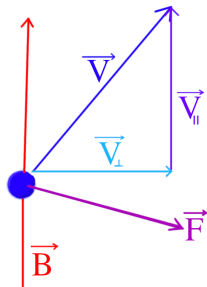
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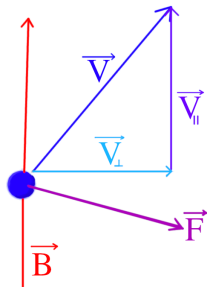
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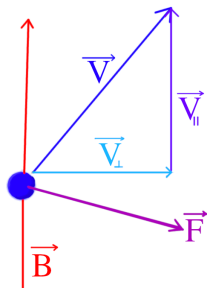
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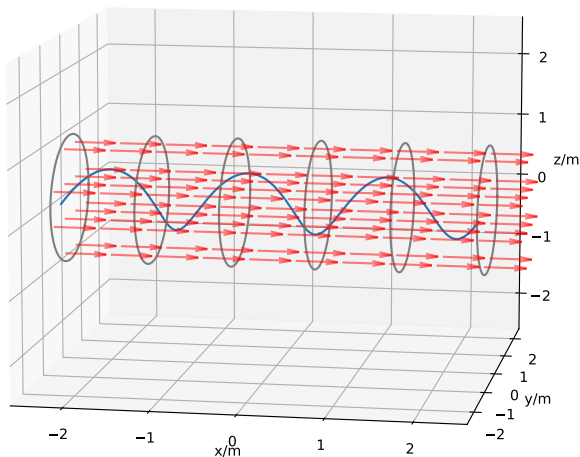
$$|\vec{F}_B| = |q(\vec{v} \times \vec{B})| = |qv_{\perp}B|.$$

- Same as Centripetal force:
Cyclotron motion
- Cyclotron radius and
frequency:

$$R = \frac{v_{\perp} m}{|q|B} \quad \omega_c = \frac{|q|B}{m}.$$



What we expect to see

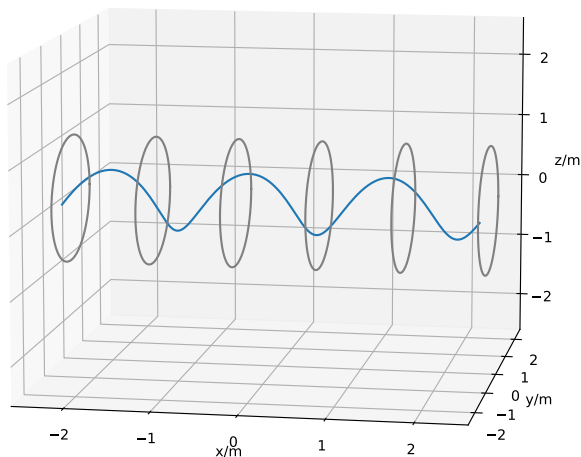


“Cyclotron motion”

Solenoid with $N = 1000$ turns per m , $I = 5$ A, $r = 1$ m, $|\vec{B}| \approx 6$ mT.

Proton with $E_{kin} = 1$ MeV/ c^2 ($|v| \approx 3.195 \times 10^5$ m/s)

What we expect to see

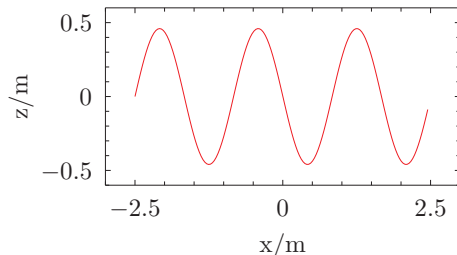


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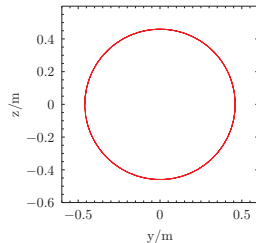
$$R \approx 0.5 \text{ m} \sin(\theta) \quad T = \frac{2\pi}{\omega_c} \approx 10 \mu\text{s}$$

What we expect to see

Analytical: proton in a solenoid, side/front-view



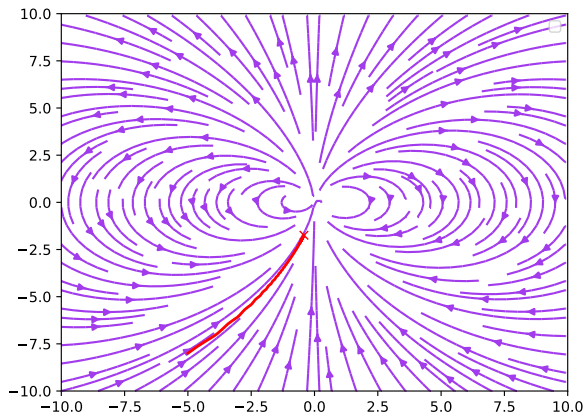
Analytical: proton in a solenoid, speed



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$$R \approx 0.5 \text{ m} \sin(\theta) \quad T = \frac{2\pi}{\omega_c} \approx 10 \mu\text{s}$$

What we expect to see



(Actually from my simulation)

Ordinary differential equation's.

- Sources: Zeigler et al. Theory of Modeling and Simulation (Third edition) chapter 3
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$$\ddot{\vec{r}}(t) = \frac{q}{m}(\dot{\vec{r}}(t) \times \vec{B}(\vec{r}, t) + \vec{E}(\vec{r}, t)).$$

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$$\mathbf{X} = \begin{pmatrix} \vec{r} \\ \dot{\vec{r}} \end{pmatrix} \quad f_{ode}(\mathbf{X}, t) = \begin{pmatrix} \dot{\vec{r}} \\ \frac{q}{m}(\dot{\vec{r}} \times \vec{B}(\vec{r}, t) + \vec{E}(\vec{r}, t)) \end{pmatrix}.$$

The ODE to solve

```
auto ODE = [...](const state_type Data, state_type &
    dDatadt, const double t){
    //Extract position and velocity from data
    vec pos = vec(Data[0],Data[1],Data[2]);
    vec V = vec(Data[3],Data[4],Data[5]);
    //Lorentz+Newtons 2nd law
    vec F = Charge*(Fields.get_Efield(pos,t)+
        cross(V,Fields.get_Bfield(pos,t)));
    vec dVdt = F*Inv_mass;
    //Save derivative of data
    dDatadt[0]=V.x;dDatadt[1]=V.y;dDatadt[2]=V.z;
    dDatadt[3]=dVdt.x;Datadt[4]=dVdt.y;dDatadt[5]=
    dVdt.z;
};
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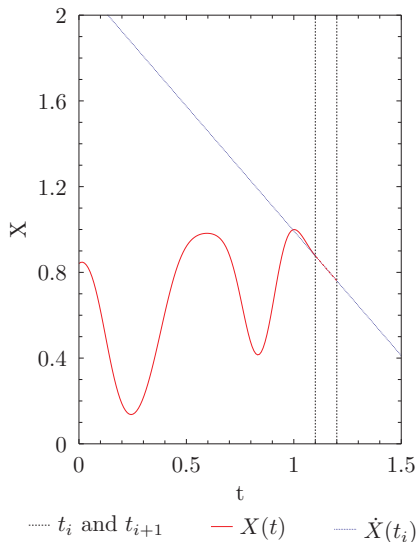
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Solving differential equations

- We know only $\mathbf{X}(t_0)$ and t_0 and f_{ode} .

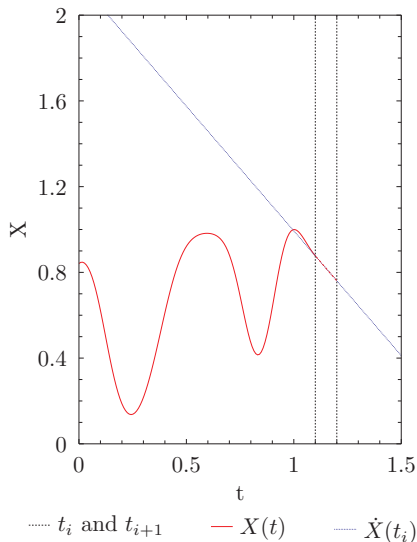
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- We know only $\mathbf{X}(t_0)$ and t_0 and f_{ode} .
- Can we find $\mathbf{X}(t_0 + h)$ for $h > 0$?

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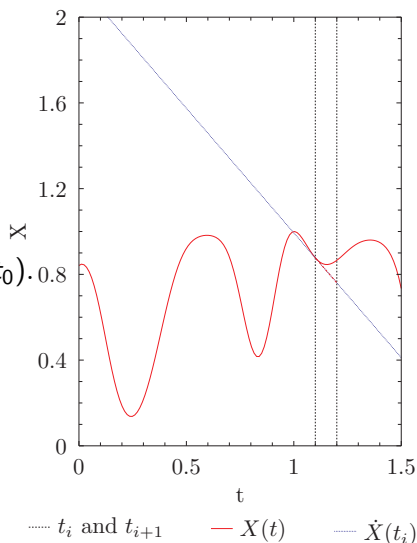


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- ▶ We know only $\mathbf{X}(t_0)$ and t_0 and f_{ode} .
- ▶ Can we find $\mathbf{X}(t_0 + h)$ for $h > 0$?
- ▶ Euler's Method:

$$\mathbf{X}(t_0 + h) = \mathbf{X}(t_0) + hf_{ode}(\mathbf{X}(t_0), t_0).$$

- ▶ Multiple steps
 $t_0, t_1 = t_0 + h, \dots t_i, \dots$
- ▶ Bernard P. Zeigler et al.
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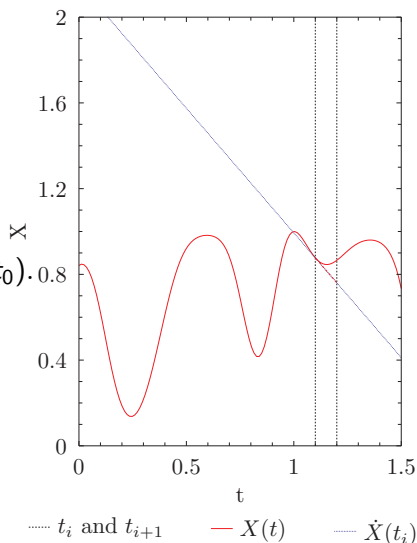


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- ▶ Argument suggests we need $\dot{f}_{ode}, \ddot{f}_{ode}, \dots$, we don't!

The Runge Kutta steppers

- In general:

$$\mathbf{X}(t_{i+1}) - \mathbf{X}(t_i) = \int_{t_i}^{t_{i+1}} \dot{\mathbf{X}}(t) dt.$$

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- Guess $\tau_1 = t_i$ use $f_{ode}(\mathbf{X}(t_i), t_i)$ to approximate $\mathbf{X}(\tau_2)$ to approximate $\mathbf{X}(\tau_3)$ etc.
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Runge Kutta methods

- More commonly written:

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$$\mathbf{K}_1 = f_{ode}(\mathbf{X}(t_i), t_i)$$

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- ▶ Want exact for p 'th order polynomial.
- ▶ Taylor series analogy: Local error h^{p+1} , global h^p .
- ▶ Martha L. Abell, James P. Braselton, Differential Equations with Mathematica (Fourth Edition), 2016:

The General explicit Runge Kutta method

- Expressed in Butcher tableau:

$c_1 = 0$			
c_2	a_{21}		
c_3	a_{31}	a_{32}	
c_n	a_{n1}	a_{n2}	\dots
<hr/>			
	b_1	b_2	\dots

Higher order methods

- 2nd order (Heun's method):

$$\mathbf{X}(t_{i+1}) - \mathbf{X}(t_i) = \frac{h}{2}(\mathbf{k}_1 + \mathbf{k}_2)$$

$$\mathbf{k}_1 = f_{ode}(\mathbf{X}(t_i), t_i)$$

$$\mathbf{k}_2 = f_{ode}(\mathbf{X}(t_i) + h\mathbf{k}_1, t_i + h).$$

Higher order methods

- 4th order, often simply called the Runge Kutta method:

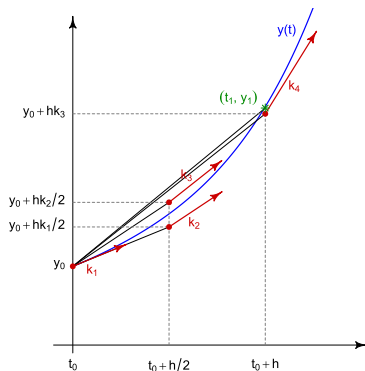
$$\mathbf{X}(t_{i+1}) - \mathbf{X}(t_i) = \frac{h}{6}(\mathbf{k}_1 + 2\mathbf{k}_2 + 2\mathbf{k}_3 + \mathbf{k}_4)$$

$$\mathbf{k}_1 = f_{ode}(\mathbf{X}(t_i), t_i)$$

$$\mathbf{k}_2 = f_{ode}\left(\mathbf{X}(t_i) + \frac{h}{2}\mathbf{k}_1, t_i + \frac{h}{2}\right)$$

$$\mathbf{k}_3 = f_{ode}\left(\mathbf{X}(t_i) + \frac{h}{2}\mathbf{k}_2, t_i + \frac{h}{2}\right)$$

$$\mathbf{k}_4 = f_{ode}(\mathbf{X}(t_i) + h\mathbf{k}_3, t_i + h)$$



Wikipedia-user HilberTraum,
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Euler Implementations

```
state_type Data = Data0;
state_type dDatadt;
size_t time_res = T/timestep;
for (size_t i = 1; i < time_res; ++i)
{
    double t=i*dt;
    ODE(Data,dDatadt,t);
    //Euler time evolution
    Data+=timestep*dDatadt;

    save_step( Data , i*timestep );
};
```

RK4 Implementations (1/2)

```
state_type Data = Data0;
state_type temp=Data0;
state_type K1,K2,K3,K4;
size_t time_res = T/timestep;
for (size_t i = 1; i < time_res; ++i)
{
    double t=i*timestep;

    //substep 1
    ODE(Data,K1,t);

    //substep 2
    temp=Data+timestep*K1/2;
    ODE(temp,K2,t+timestep/2);
```

RK4 Implementations (2/2)

```
//substep 3
```

```
temp=Data+timestep*K2/2;  
ODE(temp,K3,t+timestep/2);
```

```
//substep 4
```

```
temp=Data+timestep*K3;  
ODE(temp,K4,t+timestep);
```

```
//Read data
```

```
Data+=timestep*(K1+2.0*K2+2.0*K3+K4)/6.0;  
save_step( Data , i*timestep );}
```

Does it work

- ▶ Test, same proton in a solenoid use $\theta = 60^\circ$ reference, had:

$$R \approx 0.5 \text{ m} \sin(\theta) \approx 0.45 \text{ m} \quad T = \frac{2\pi}{\omega_c} \approx 10 \mu\text{s}.$$

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- ▶ Compare Analytic, Euler, Runge-Kutta 4.

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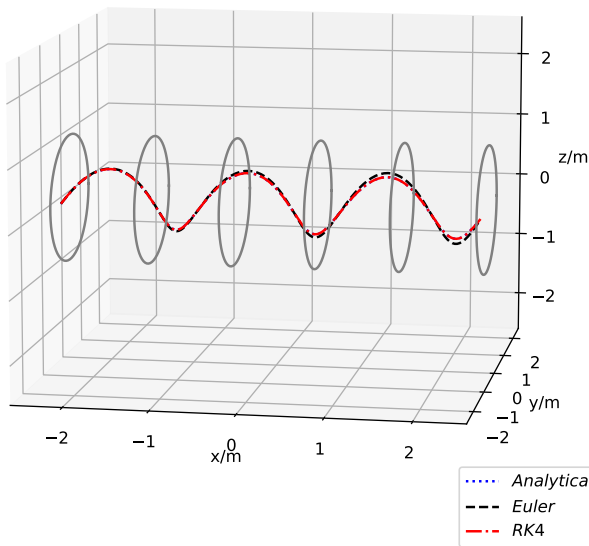
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At a glance, 3D view

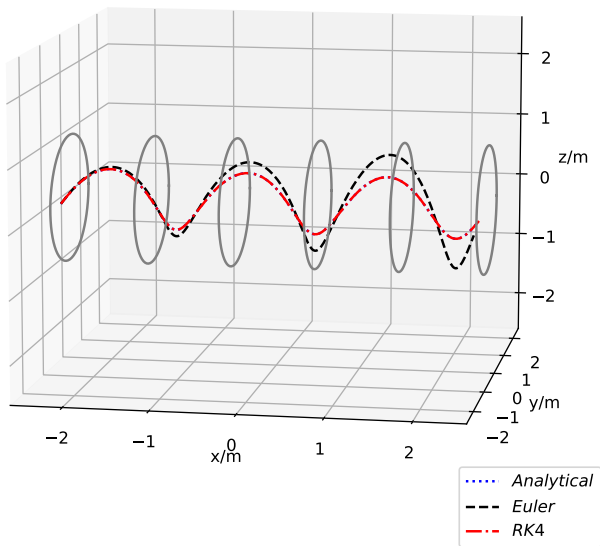
$$h = t_{i+1} - t_i = 0.01 \mu\text{s}$$



3129 steps

At a glance, 3D view

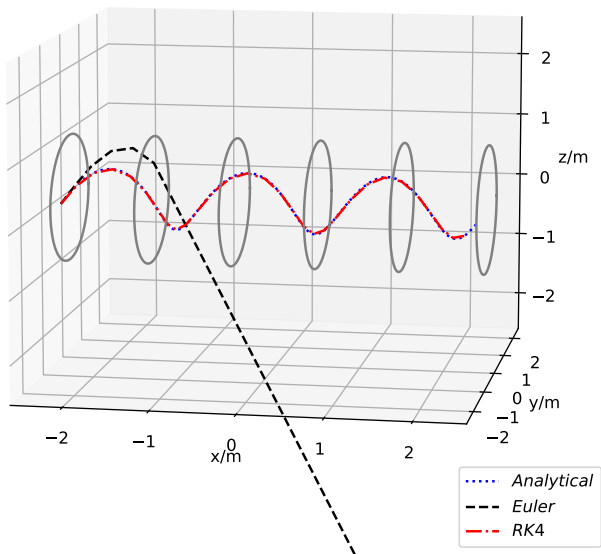
$$h = t_{i+1} - t_i = 0.1 \mu\text{s}$$



312 steps

At a glance, 3D view

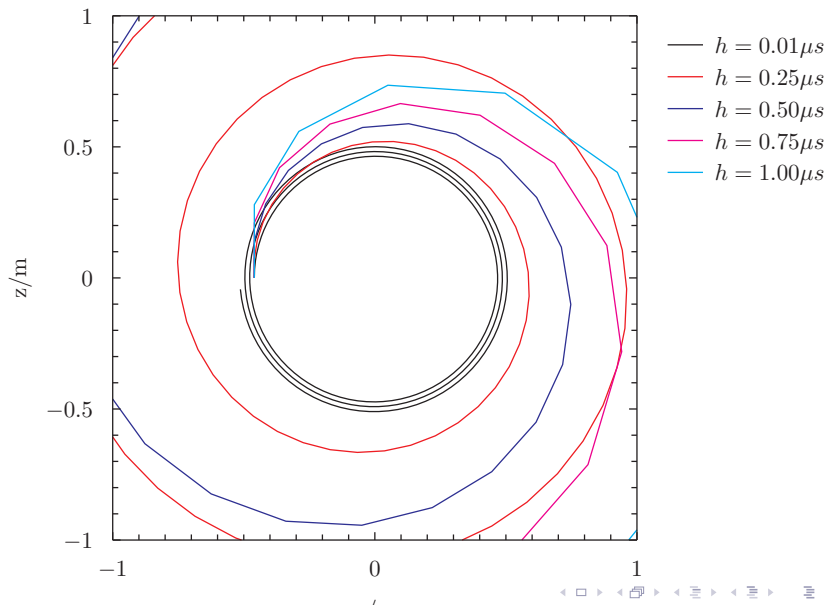
$$h = t_{i+1} - t_i = 1.0 \mu\text{s}$$



31 steps.

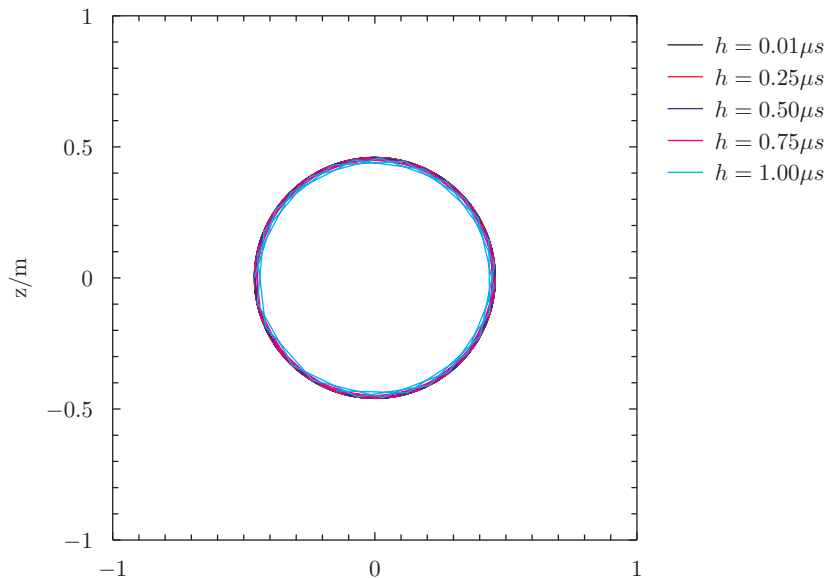
At a glance, front view, no border

Euler method, front-view

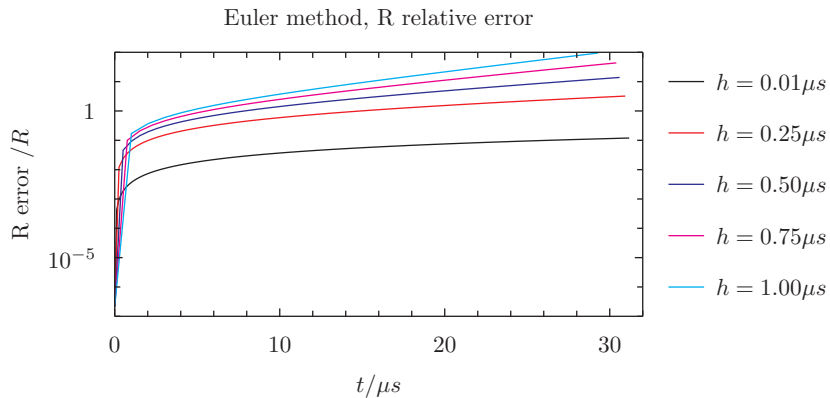


At a glance, front view, no border

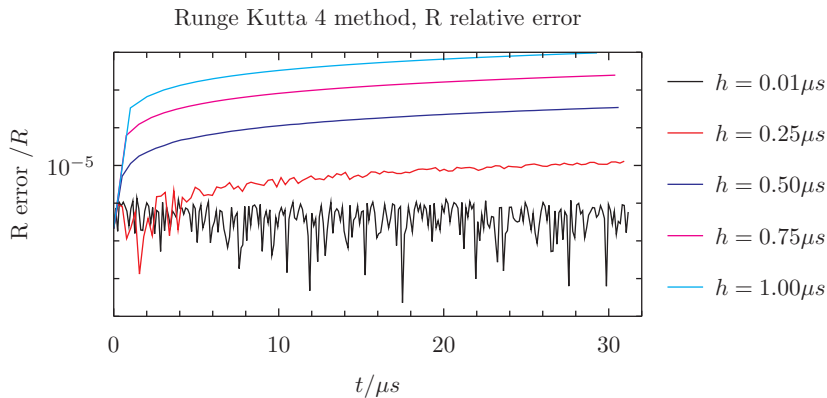
RK4, front-view



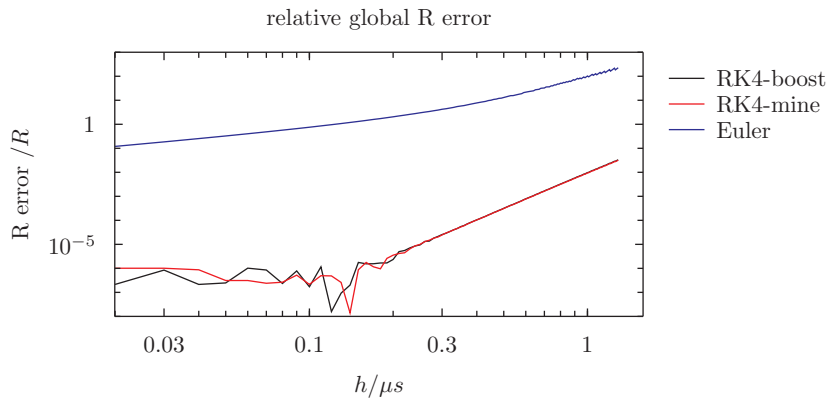
Constant radius?



Constant radius?



Error as function of h



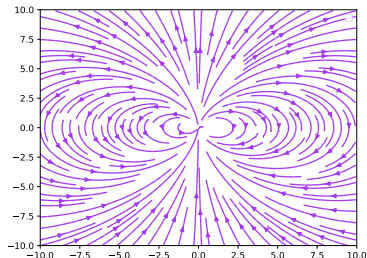
What is not to like?

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- ▶ Usually don't know error.
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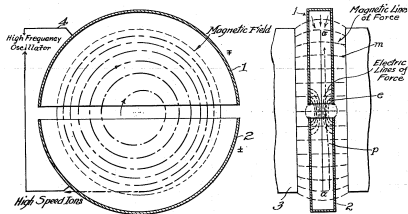
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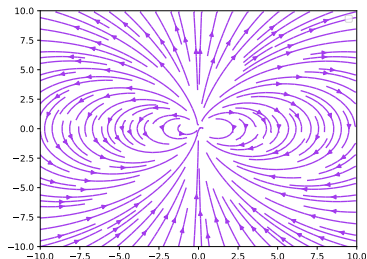
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Ernest O. Lawrence, 1934, U.S. Patent 1,948,384; image in Public Domain.

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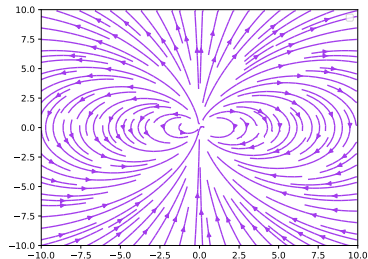
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- ▶ Let the computer pick h for error.



Example, magnetic dipole

- True dipole:

$$\vec{B} = \frac{\mu_0}{4\pi r^3} \left[3\hat{r}(\vec{m} \cdot \hat{r}) - \vec{m} \right].$$

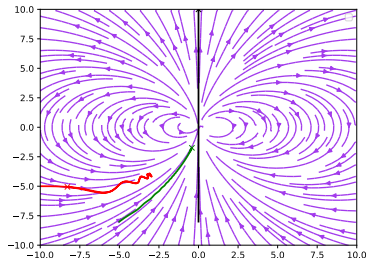


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Arbitrarily set

$$\frac{\mu_0}{4\pi} |\vec{m}| = 0.155 \text{ T/m}^3.$$

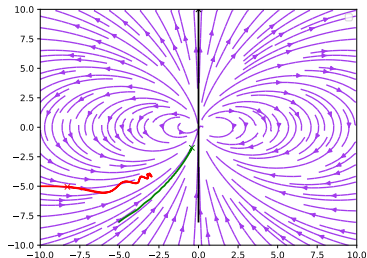
Protons with speed around
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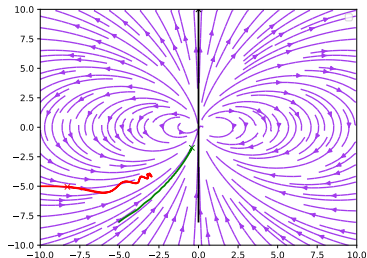
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Embedded Runge-Kutta algorithms

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- ▶ Adjust step size to keep the error(s) small (Implementations differ!).

Dormand, J. R.; Prince, P. J. (1980), "A family of embedded Runge-Kutta formulae", Journal of Computational and Applied Mathematics

(1)

Runge-Kutta Dormand Prince 5 (4)

- ode45 in Matlab, `scipy.solve_ivp` in Python ,
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- ▶ 7 \mathbf{k}_j 's (actually 6 by clever re-usage).
Dormand, J. R.; Prince, P. J. (1980), "A family of embedded Runge-Kutta formulae", Journal of Computational and Applied Mathematics

Butcher Tableau of Dormand Prince (5) 4

c_i	a_{ij}	...						
0								
$\frac{1}{5}$	$\frac{1}{5}$							
$\frac{3}{10}$	$\frac{3}{40}$	$\frac{9}{40}$						
$\frac{4}{5}$	$\frac{40}{45}$	$-\frac{56}{15}$	$-\frac{32}{9}$					
$\frac{8}{9}$	$\frac{19372}{6561}$	$-\frac{25360}{2187}$	$\frac{64448}{6561}$	$-\frac{212}{729}$				
1	$\frac{9017}{3168}$	$-\frac{355}{33}$	$\frac{46732}{5247}$	$\frac{49}{176}$	$-\frac{5103}{18656}$			
1	$\frac{35}{384}$	0	$\frac{500}{1113}$	$\frac{125}{192}$	$-\frac{2187}{6784}$	$\frac{11}{84}$		
$/b^{(5)}$	$\frac{35}{384}$	0	$\frac{500}{1113}$	$\frac{125}{192}$	$-\frac{2187}{6784}$	$\frac{11}{84}$	0	
$/b^{(4)}$	$\frac{5179}{57600}$	0	$\frac{7571}{16695}$		$\frac{393}{640}$	$-\frac{92097}{339200}$	$\frac{187}{2100}$	$\frac{1}{40}$

Runge-Kutta Dormand Prince 5 (4)

- Step size correction (Dormand Prince):

$$h_{new} = 0.9h_{old} \left[\frac{\delta}{||E||} \right]^{\frac{1}{p+1}}$$

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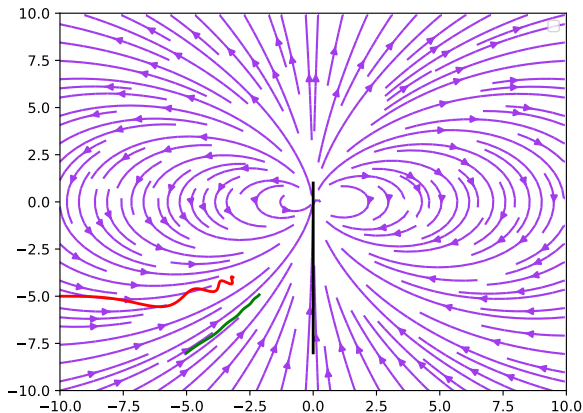
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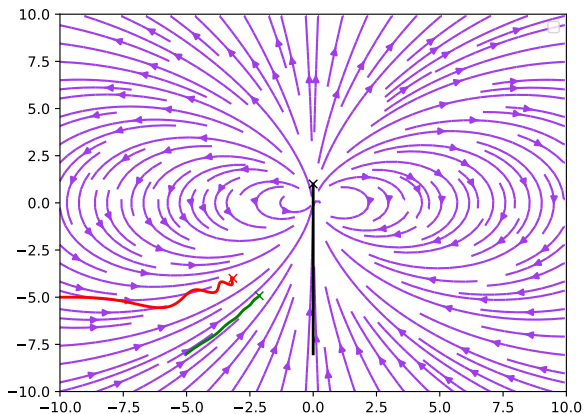
- Scale by step size $\frac{h_{old}}{T}$, "Fail safe" $\sqrt{\dots}$.
Dormand, J. R.; Prince, P. J. (1980), "A family of embedded Runge-Kutta formulae", Journal of Computational and Applied Mathematics

Does it work?



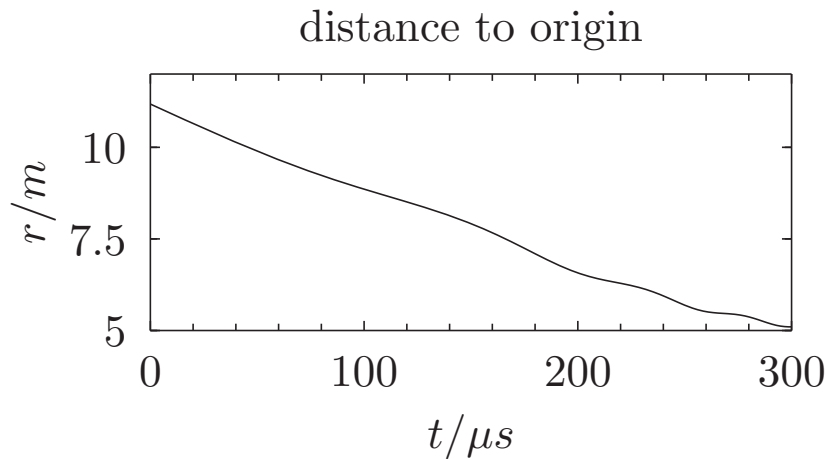
My version relative and absolute error 10^{-6} . 94 steps (+ 14 rejected).

Does it work?



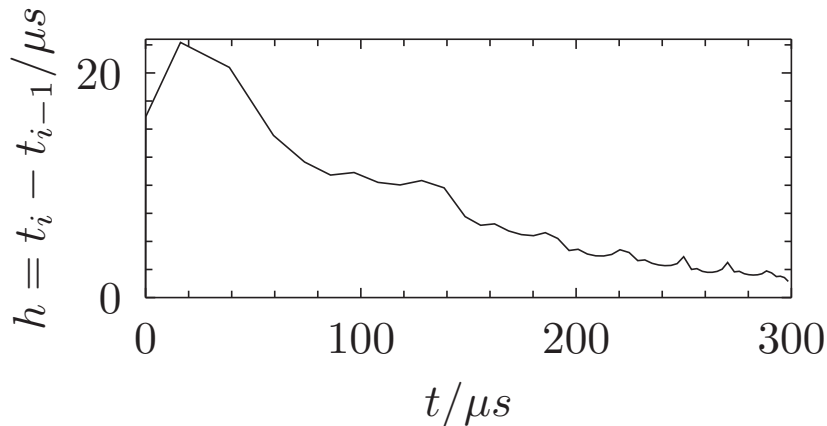
Odeint library relative and absolute error 10^{-7} . 92 steps.

Does it work?



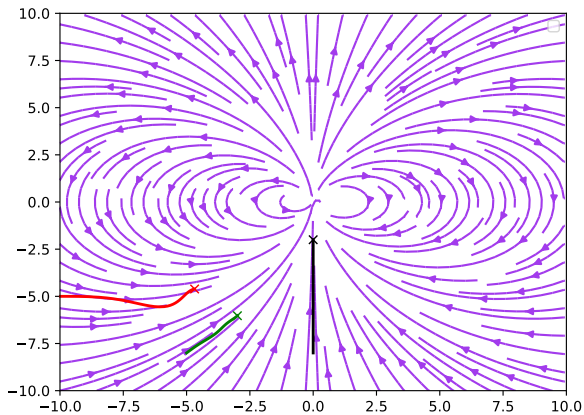
Does it work?

Adaptive timesteps



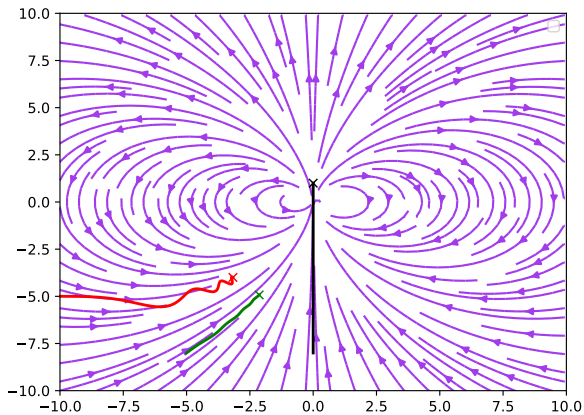
My version, adaptive step size.

Another curious result



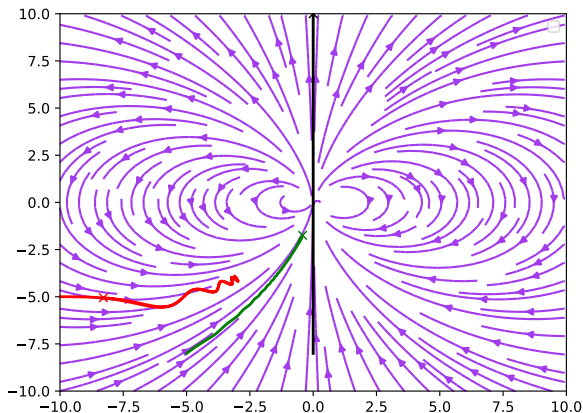
$T = 0.2 \text{ ms}$

Another curious result



$T = 0.3 \text{ ms}$

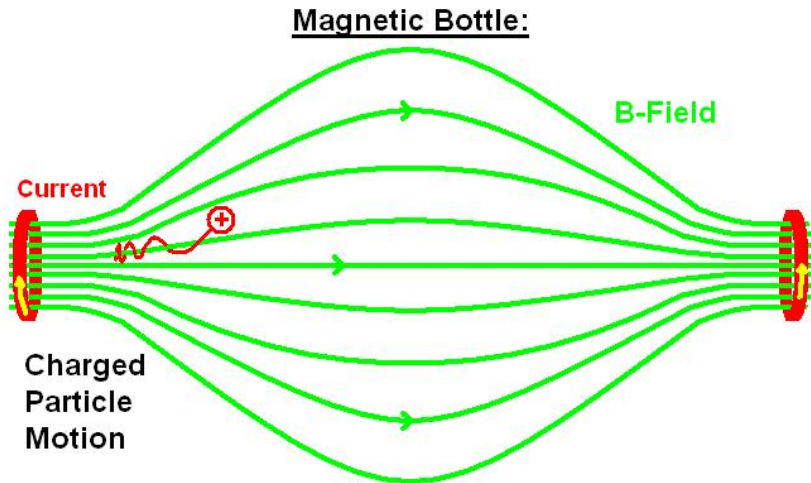
Another curious result



$$T = 0.6 \text{ ms}$$

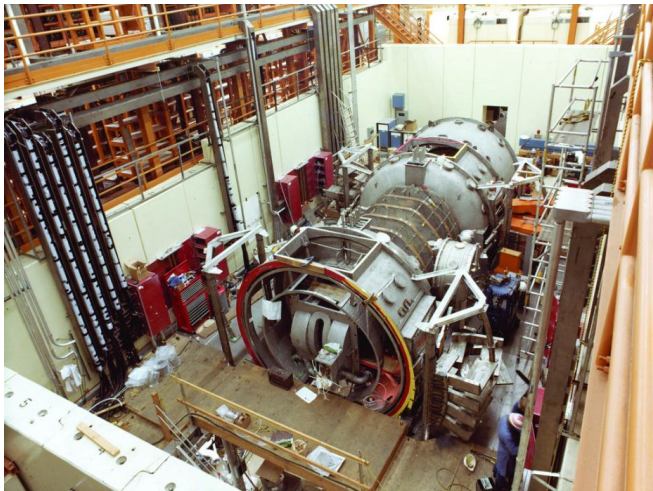
Magnetic “mirror” or “bottle”.

Another curious result



Wikipedia user WikiHelper2134 , Public Domain.

Another curious result



Tandem Mirror Experiment, The Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, 1978.

Conclusion

- ▶ Simulating particles in electric and magnetic fields.

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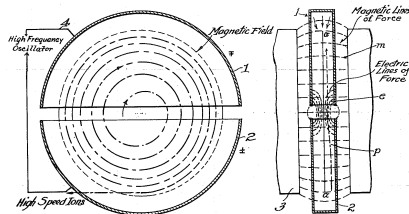
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- ▶ Can easily be generalized to other systems.
- ▶ Limitation, simulations are not experiments.

Example, cyclotron

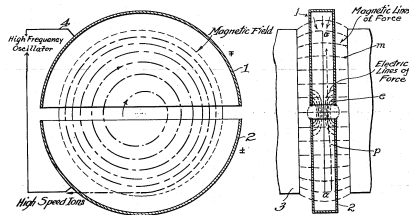
- Electric field accelerates, magnetic contains.



Ernest O. Lawrence, 1934, U.S.
Patent 1,948,384; image in
Public Domain.

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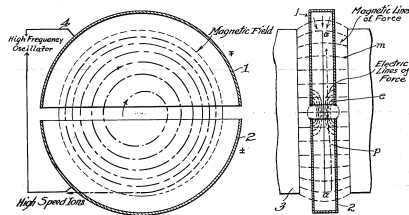
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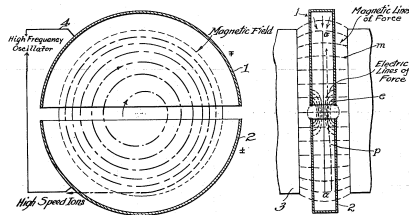


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Example, cyclotron

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- ▶ Uses classical Cyclotron frequency
- ▶ Analytical final speed, in principle path.

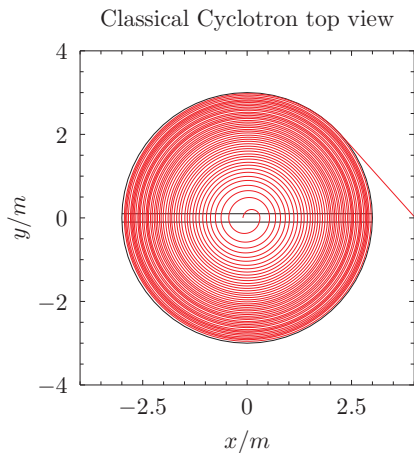
$$\frac{R|q|B}{m} = v_{\perp}$$



Ernest O. Lawrence, 1934, U.S. Patent 1,948,384; image in Public Domain.

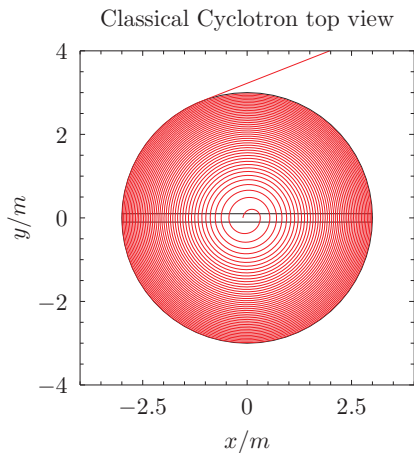
can it be simulated

- ▶ with fixed step size, looks bad 4999 points



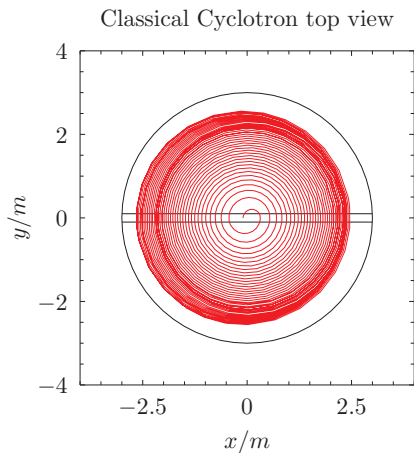
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