

ME-GY 6923 Simulation Tools for Robotics

LECTURE 3

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NYU TANDON SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING

Numerical Methods, Algorithms, and Error Analysis / MATLAB - Part 2

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- Last Lecture

MATLAB – Numerical Methods, Algorithms, Solvers, and Error Analysis

- Finite Difference Methods
 - Forward/Backward
 - 2-Step/Multi-step
 - Accuracy derivation for these methods

- This lecture

We will look into some numerical methods, algorithms, and solvers (for solving differential equations)

- Next lecture

We will begin our formal discussion of modeling using Simulink

Example of Initial Value Problem (IVP): Lotka-Volterra equation (predator-prey)

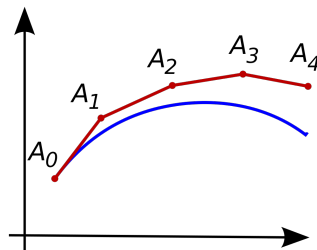
- In MATLAB, type “openExample('matlab/lotkademo')”

$$\begin{cases} R' = R - \alpha FR \\ F' = \beta RF - F \end{cases}$$

- $F(t)$ is the number of foxes (predator) at time t
- $R(t)$ is the number of rabbits (prey) at time t
- R' is the rate of growth of the rabbit population
 - R' increases with R but decreases with F (more foxes to eat the rabbits)
- F' is the rate of growth of the fox population
 - F' decreases F (food becomes scarce) but increases with R

No analytical solution exists – problem must be solved numerically

- Simplest algorithm (a.k.a forward Euler Method)
- We will look at a case where $n = 1$ (first order):
 $\dot{x} = f(x(t))$ $n = 1 \rightarrow$ one 1st order ODE (Needs 1 initial condition)
- Method valid for case $n > 1$:
 $n > 1 \rightarrow n^{\text{th}}$ order ODE is converted into a system of n 1st order ODEs. Needs n initial conditions
- **Assumptions:** uniform h and x has as many continuous derivatives as needed in order to analyze the accuracy of the methods using Taylor's theorem



See details [here](#)

- One-step method: the one-step forward finite difference is used to approximate the time derivative of the solution at each node

One-step forward difference

$$\dot{x}(t_k) = f(x(t_k)) \approx \frac{x(t_{k+1}) - x(t_k)}{h} \rightarrow f(x_k) = \frac{x_{k+1} - x_k}{h}$$

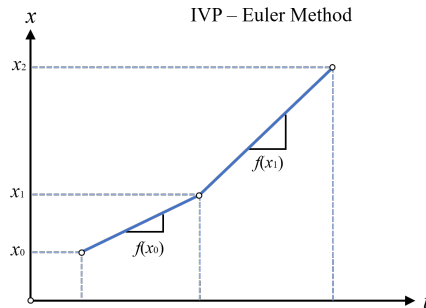
- Starting from IC $x_0 = x(t_0)$, the approximate solution at each time step is given by the iterative formula: $x_{k+1} = x_k + hf(x_k)$
- Evaluating this iterative formula step by step, for all $k = 0, \dots, N$ ($N + 1 =$ number of total mesh points), we find the numerical solution to the ODE \rightarrow Using the numerical method, the ODE is transformed into a set of algebraic equations

Qualitative Analysis:

Steps 1 – 4 describe the Euler Method algorithm:

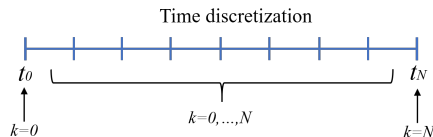
- 1 Initial conditions: $x(t_0) = x_0$
- 2 From the D.E.: $\dot{x} = f(x_0)$
 - This gives the slope at the initial time t_0 and it is assumed constant for the entire h
- 3 From the previous step, the approximate solution at the next time-step $x_1 = x_0 + f(x_0)h$ may be found
- 4 From x_1 , find $f(x_1)$, which is the new slope, from the D.E. and keep moving forward, one step at a time

Note: Because the Euler Method is based on the one-step forward infinite difference method, it is also called a one-step method (whose error is $O(h)$)



$$\text{D.E.: } \dot{x}(t) = f(x(t)), n = 1$$

- Consider: $\mathbf{x}_E = [x_0, x_1, x_2, \dots, x_N]$, where x_0 is known and x_1, x_2, \dots, x_N are N algebraic equations
- With: $x_{k+1} = x_k + f(x_k)h$, where $h = t_{k+1} - t_k$ can be evaluated for $k = 0, \dots, N - 1$ (N times)

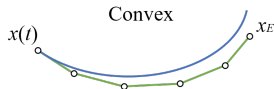


The time interval is initially discretized
in $N + 1$ nodes or N intervals

What can we say about the solution \mathbf{x}_E ?

- It is approximated, and
- It is either larger or smaller than the solution $\mathbf{x}(t)$ (which is not known)

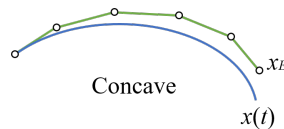
For intervals of $x(t)$ that are concave and convex:



it may be qualitatively said that:

$$x_E < x(t)$$

if in that interval, $x(t)$ convex



$$x_E > x(t)$$

if in that interval, $x(t)$ concave

IVP with Euler Method and qualitative argument about accuracy

For: $x' = f(t, x)$

$$x' = t^2 - x^2$$

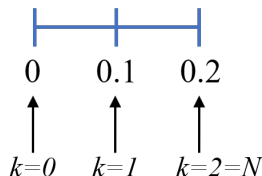
with the initial condition: $x(0) = x_0 = 1$

$$x_{k+1} = x_k + hf(t_k, x_k)$$

evaluate for $k = 0, 1, 2$:

- $k = 0$ $x_1 = x_0 + hf(0, x_0) = 1 + 0.1 \cdot (0^2 - 1^2) = 1 - 0.1 \cdot 1 = 0.9$
- $k = 1$ $x_2 = x_1 + hf(t_1, x_1) = 0.9 + 0.1 \cdot (0.1^2 - 0.9^2) = 0.9 - 0.08 = 0.82$
- $k = 2$ $x_3 = x_2 + hf(t_2, x_2) = 0.82 + 0.1 \cdot (0.2^2 - 0.82^2) = 0.82 - 0.0632 = 0.757$

3-nodes ($h = 0.1$)



NODE	t	x	f	hf
0	0	1	-1	-0.01
1	0.1	0.9	-0.8	-0.08
2	0.2	0.82	-0.632	-0.0632

$$x_E = \begin{bmatrix} 0.9 \\ 0.82 \\ 0.757 \end{bmatrix}$$

- Curvature: $x'' = 2t - 2xx'$
- At $t = 0$, $x_0 = 1$, $x'_0 = f_0 = -1$ and $x''_0 = -2 \cdot 1 \cdot (-1) = 2 > 0$, so convex
- At $t = 1$, $x_1 = 0.9$, $x'_1 = f_1 = -0.8$ and $x''_1 = 0.2 - 2 \cdot 0.9 \cdot (-0.8) = 1.64 > 0$, so still convex

For: $y' = f(t, y)$

$$y' = y$$

with the initial condition: $y(0) = y_0 = 1$

$$y_{k+1} = y_k + hf(y_k)$$

we want to approximate $y(4)$:

- $k = 0$ $y_1 = y_0 + hf(y_0) = 1 + 1 \cdot 1 = 2$
- $k = 1$ $y_2 = y_1 + hf(y_1) = 2 + 1 \cdot 2 = 4$
- $k = 2$ $y_3 = y_2 + hf(y_2) = 4 + 1 \cdot 4 = 8$
- $k = 3$ $y_4 = y_3 + hf(y_3) = 8 + 1 \cdot 8 = 16$

The solution to the differential equation is: $y(t) = e^t$, so $y(4) = e^4 \approx 54.598$, while the Euler Method approximation result is 16. This is due to the very large step size

We can look at this in MATLAB and try different step sizes h

- Recall: **truncation error** comes from the finite difference approximation used in the current method. Recall: It is the amount by which the true solution fails to satisfy the current difference equation
- For: $x' = f(t, x)$
- By expanding the true solution with the Taylor's theorem:

$$\begin{aligned}x(t_{k+1}) &= x(t_k) + h\dot{x}(t_k) + \frac{h^2}{2}\ddot{x}(\xi_k) \\&= x(t_k) + hf(t_k, x(t_k)) + \frac{h^2}{2}\ddot{x}(\xi_k) \text{ with } \xi \in [t_k, t_{k+1}]\end{aligned}$$

which can be rewritten as: $\frac{x(t_{k+1}) - x(t_k)}{h} = f(t_k, x(t_k)) + \frac{h}{2}\ddot{x}(\xi_k)$

- Compare with the finite difference used in Euler's method: $\frac{x_{k+1} - x_k}{h} = f(t_k, x(t_k))$
- Local truncation error** is $+\frac{h^2}{2}\ddot{x}(\xi_k) \rightarrow$ Euler's method is order $O(h^2)$ (as expected \rightarrow Forward Difference-based)

- The Euler algorithm is **first order accurate**. However, reducing the step size h comes at a price:
 - Increase the number of computation (mesh) points N
 - Increase cumulative error, due to roundoff:

$$\frac{x_{k+1}(1 + \delta_1) - x_k(1 + \delta_2)}{h} = \frac{x_{k+1} - x_k}{h} + \frac{x_{k+1}\delta_1 - x_k\delta_2}{h}$$

with $|\delta_i| < \varepsilon_m$, an upper bound for roundoff can be found:

$$\frac{x_{k+1}\delta_1 - x_k\delta_2}{h} \leq \frac{|x_{k+1}||\delta_1| + |x_k||\delta_2|}{h} \leq \frac{|x_{k+1}|\varepsilon_m + |x_k|\varepsilon_m}{h} \leq \frac{\varepsilon_m(|x_{k+1}| + |x_k|)}{h} \propto \frac{\varepsilon_m}{h}$$

- As we saw before, the best trade off is when both errors are comparable: truncation \sim roundoff
 $\rightarrow h \approx \frac{\varepsilon_m}{h} \rightarrow h \approx \sqrt{\varepsilon_m}$ (for Euler Method)

- Local truncation error $O(h^2)$: the error that is contributed at each step (it's relative to one step of the Euler algorithm)
- Global truncation error: for the entire solution we evaluate N steps (when we have $N + 1$ nodes) \rightarrow global error $= N \times O(h^2) \rightarrow$ accumulated error $\rightarrow = O(h)$
- A method is called **consistent** if its local truncation error approaches 0 as $h \rightarrow 0$ (impractical)
- Euler Method is **convergent** (for a well-posed problem), because it can be shown that As $h \rightarrow 0$, the max difference between x_E and $x(t) \rightarrow 0$, for any mesh point in the fixed interval of t (we won't show this)

In dynamical system simulation, the following precautions should be taken:

- Select a **suitable step size**: not too large nor too small
- The **Forward Euler** method is the simplest to implement but can become unstable and lead to inaccuracy
- **Improved algorithms** have been developed: Runge-Kutta, Adams, etc. These have higher order accuracy
- Because finding a suitable step size is very difficult in general, many ODE solvers support a **variable step size method**: when the error estimate^(*) is large, smaller step size should be chosen, while when the error estimate is small, larger step size should be selected.

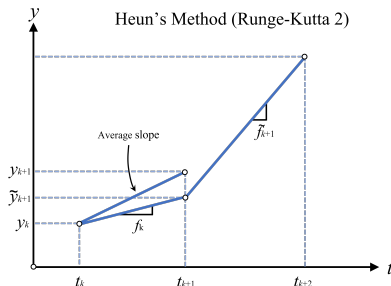
(*) Error estimate: Matlab solvers have a way of estimating local error (local = at every time step)

Multi-step method: Heun's method (Improved Euler's Method or Runge Kutta 2nd order)

- Graphical procedure: $y' = f(y(t))$
- Method: $y_{k+1} = y_k + h \left(\frac{f_k + \tilde{f}_{k+1}}{2} \right)$ - Eq. (i)
- where \tilde{f}_{k+1} is evaluated using the standard Euler Method:

$$\tilde{f}_{k+1} = f(y_{k+1}, \tilde{y}_{k+1})$$

with $\tilde{y}_{k+1} = y_k + h f_k$ (standard Euler and intermediate step only to eliminate \tilde{f}_{k+1})

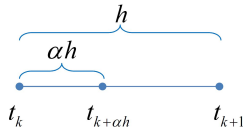


- It may be apparent that this is $O(h^2)$, since even though Eq. (i) looks like a 1-step method, this method is more similar to a 2-step method, given that there is an intermediate step
- By a similar reasoning, it is possible to further improve the order of accuracy as long as a new algorithm is delivered, that involves additional intermediate steps (which improve the estimate of the slope), leading to the fourth-order Runge-Kutta algorithm

Classic 4th order Runge-Kutta :

$$\tilde{y}_{k+\alpha} = y_k + \alpha h f(t_k, x_k)$$

$$y_{k+1} = y_k + \beta h f(t_k, x_k) + \gamma h f(t_k + \alpha h, \tilde{y}_{k+1})$$

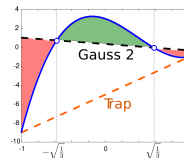
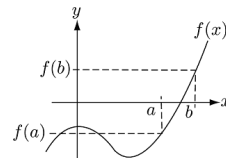
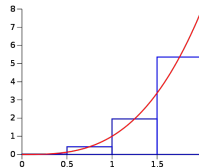


- Parameters α, β, γ must be chosen to match Taylor expansion of real solution with the finite difference iterative rule
- Doing so will yield: $y_{k+1} = y_k + h \frac{K_1 + 2K_2 + 2K_3 + K_4}{6}$ where:

$$\begin{aligned} K_1 &= f(t_k, y_k) & K_3 &= f(t_k + \frac{h}{2}, y_k + h \frac{K_2}{2}) \\ K_2 &= f(t_k + \frac{h}{2}, y_k + h \frac{K_1}{2}) & K_4 &= f(t_k + h, y_k + h K_3) \end{aligned} \quad \text{using the } O(h^4) \text{ method}$$

Other methods include:

- Midpoint Rule
- Adams-Bashforth/Adams-Moulton
- Quadrature



Main commands and general rules of thumbs:

- ode45 is based on an explicit Runge-Kutta formula (4,5). It is a one-step solver, i.e., in computing $x(t_{k+1})$, it needs only the solution at the immediately preceding time point, $x(t_k)$. In general, is the best function to apply as a *first try* for most problems
- ode23 is an implementation of an explicit Runge-Kutta (2,3). It may be more efficient than ode45 at crude tolerances and with moderate stiffness
- ode113 is a variable order Adams-Bashforth-Moulton PECE solver. It may be more efficient than ode45 at stringent tolerances and when the ODE file function is particularly expensive to evaluate. ode113 is a *multistep* solver – it normally needs the solutions at several preceding time points to compute the current solution

The aforementioned algorithms are intended to solve non-stiff systems. If they appear to be unduly slow, try using:

- `ode15s` is a variable order solver based on the numerical differentiation formulas (NDFs) or backward differentiation formulas (BDFs, also known as Gear's method)
- Try `ode15s` when `ode45` fails, or is very inefficient, and you suspect that the problem is stiff, or when solving a differential-algebraic problem

Resources:

https://www.mathworks.com/help/matlab/ordinary-differential-equations.html?s_tid=srchtitle

<https://www.mathworks.com/help/matlab/math/choose-an-ode-solver.html>

<https://blogs.mathworks.com/cleve/2014/05/26/ordinary-differential-equation-solvers-ode23-and->

The main syntax of the command:

Syntax

```
[t,x]=ode45(Fun,tspan,x0,options,additional parameters);
```

- The format is consistent for all MATLAB “ode” solvers (e.g. ode23, ode45, etc.)
- Options can be accessed with the `odeget()` and `odeset()` commands
- **Fun**: must contain the descriptive function/functions
- Differential equation can be described in one of the following way:
 - Anonymous functions:
 $y = @(t,x,\text{additional parameters})$ The function content
 - M-functions:
function $x_1 = \text{Fun}(t,x,\text{additional parameters})$

options	parameter description
RelTol	relative error tolerance, with a default value of 0.001, i.e., the relative error is 0.1% in some applications, smaller values should be used.
AbsTol	absolute error tolerance, with a default value of 10^{-6} .
MaxStep	maximum allowed step size.
Mass	mass matrix in differential algebraic equations
Jacobian	Jacobian matrix $\partial f / \partial x$ function name; if the Jacobian matrix is known, the speed of computation is increased.

```
>> f=odeget; f.RelTol=1e-8;
```

<http://www.mathworks.com/help/matlab/ref/odeset.html>

<http://www.mathworks.com/matlabcentral/answers/26743-absolute-and-relative-tolerance-definitions>

- The solution of certain systems changes very rapidly over certain time intervals, while it changes slowly in other parts
- Solution to these systems require a variable step size method
- If stiffness is relevant, requires particular ode solvers (ode45 won't work)
- In case of ODE of order > 1 , we have stiff systems when the solutions of each state variable have very different range and behavior. Some variables change very fast and other change very slowly

Quantitative error analysis:

- The solution's convergence can be observed qualitatively by looking at plots obtained with different values of h (e.g. see the Euler 2 MATLAB example)
- There are several quantitative analyses that can be done:
 - 1: Compare error vector of numerical vs. analytical solution (if any)
 - 2: Compare the error vector of various numerical solutions, obtained with different methods/tolerances

Error vector of numerical vs. analytical:

- Assume the analytical solution is known, e.g.:

$$y(t) = \frac{1}{2} + e^t \left(-\frac{3}{20} \sin(t) + \frac{1}{2} \cos(t) + \frac{3}{20} t \cos(t) + \frac{1}{4} t \sin(t) \right)$$

- Implement in MATLAB
- Evaluate the function at the same mesh points t_k obtained from the numerical solution $[\mathbf{t}, \mathbf{y}_{\text{num}}]$ with dimension $[N \times 1]$. This means, substitute variable t with vector
- Calculate the 2-norm of error vector $\mathbf{e} = \mathbf{y}(t_k) - \mathbf{y}_{\text{num}}$, with $k = 1, \dots, N$

$$\| \mathbf{e} \| = \sqrt{e_1^2 + e_2^2 + \dots + e_N^2}$$

- Convert the differential equation of other forms to the standard form

$$\dot{\mathbf{x}} = \mathbf{f}(t, \mathbf{x})$$

- Converting a single high-order ODE

$$y^{(n)} = f\left(t, y, \dot{y}, \dots, y^{(n-1)}\right)$$

- A set of state variables can be selected as:

$$x_1 = y, x_2 = \dot{y}, \dots, x_n = y^{(n-1)}$$

The original high-order ODE can be converted to the following standard form:

$$\begin{cases} \dot{x}_1 = x_2 \\ \dot{x}_2 = x_3 \\ \vdots \\ \dot{x}_n = f(t, x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) \end{cases}$$

$$\begin{cases} x_1(0) = y(0) \\ x_2(0) = \dot{y}(0) \\ \vdots \\ x_n(0) = y^{(n-1)}(0) \end{cases}$$

The ODE set:

$$\begin{cases} x^{(m)} = f(t, x, \dot{x}, \dots, x^{(m-1)}, y, \dots, y^{(n-1)}) \\ y^{(n)} = g(t, x, \dot{x}, \dots, x^{(m-1)}, y, \dots, y^{(n-1)}) \end{cases}$$

Select the state variables:

$$\begin{cases} x_1 = x \\ \vdots \\ x_m = x^{(m-1)} \\ x_{m+1} = y \\ \vdots \\ x_{m+n} = y^{(n-1)} \end{cases}$$

$$\begin{cases} \dot{x}_1 = x_2 \\ \vdots \\ \dot{x}_m = f(t, x_1, x_2, \dots, x_{m+n}) \\ \dot{x}_{m+1} = x_{m+2} \\ \vdots \\ \dot{x}_{m+n} = g(t, x_1, x_2, \dots, x_{m+n}) \end{cases}$$

- In certain differential equations, some of the state variables satisfy certain algebraic constraints

$$\mathbf{M}(t, \mathbf{x})\dot{\mathbf{x}} = \mathbf{f}(t, \mathbf{x})$$

- Mass Matrix in general non-singular
- Set the Mass options. Mass = M

Example (see Exercise 4-4, below):

$$\begin{cases} \dot{x}_1 = -0.2x_1 + x_2x_3 + 0.3x_1x_2 \\ \dot{x}_2 = 2x_1x_2 - 5x_2x_3 - 2x_2^2 \\ x_1 + x_2 + x_3 - 1 = 0 \end{cases}$$

with some initial conditions

M-function vs. Anonymous function:

Mathematical functions can be described in MATLAB in one of the following ways:

M-function vs. Anonymous function (Example 1)

$$\dot{y}_1 = y_2 y_3 \quad \dot{y}_2 = -y_1 y_3 \quad \dot{y}_3 = -0.51 y_1 y_2$$

with initial values $y_1 = 0, y_2 = 1, y_3 = 1$, and total time duration $t = [0, 12]$

Write a script “Exercise3_1.m”*:

- Follows Example 1 in MATLAB ode45 documentation
- Use ODE 45
- Set tolerance
- Validate results
- Plot step size

* Reminder: Matlab will not run a file that contains a “-” in the filename, so use a “_” instead

Van der Pol:

Van der Pol second order non linear differential equations:

$$\ddot{y} + \mu(y^2 - 1)\dot{y} + y = 0$$

Convert to standard form:

$$\mathbf{x} = [x_1, x_2] = [y, \dot{y}] \rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} \dot{x}_1 \\ \dot{x}_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} x_2 \\ -\mu(x_1^2 - 1)x_2 - x_1 \end{bmatrix}$$

with initial values $\mathbf{x}_0 = [-0.2, -0.7]$ and total time duration 20s

Write a script “Exercise3_2.m”:

- Use ode45, with parameter μ
- Try different implementation of ODE descriptive function (anonymous and M-function)
- Visualize time responses and solution in the state space
- Stiff problem \rightarrow see when ode45 fails

Apollo satellite:

Satisfies the following ODE:

$$\begin{cases} \ddot{x} = 2\dot{y} + x - \frac{\mu^*(x+\mu)}{r_1^3} - \frac{\mu(x-\mu^*)}{r_2^3} \\ \ddot{y} = -2\dot{x} + y - \frac{\mu^*y}{r_1^3} - \frac{\mu y}{r_2^3} \end{cases}$$

$$\mu = 1/82.45 \quad \mu^* = 1 - \mu$$

$$r_1 = \sqrt{(x_1 + \mu)^2 + x_3^2} \quad r_2 = \sqrt{(x_1 + \mu^*)^2 + x_3^2}$$

$$x(0) = 1.2, \quad \dot{x}(0) = 0, \quad y(0) = 0, \quad \dot{y}(0) = -1.04935751$$

Select the state variables: $x_1 = x$, $x_2 = \dot{x}$, $x_3 = y$, $x_4 = \dot{y}$

Apollo satellite:

$$\begin{cases} \dot{x}_1 = x_2 \\ \dot{x}_2 = 2x_4 + x_1 - \mu^*(x_1 + \mu)/r_1^3 - \mu(x_1 - \mu^*)/r_2^3 \\ \dot{x}_3 = x_4 \\ \dot{x}_4 = -2x_2 + x_3 - \mu^*x_3/r_1^3 - \mu x_3/r_2^3 \end{cases}$$

$$\mu = 1/82.45 \quad \mu^* = 1 - \mu$$

$$r_1 = \sqrt{(x_1 + \mu)^2 + x_3^2} \quad r_2 = \sqrt{(x_1 - \mu^*)^2 + x_3^2}$$

```
function dx=apolloeq(t,x)
mu=1/82.45; mu1=1-mu;
r1=sqrt((x(1)+mu)^2+x(3)^2); r2=sqrt((x(1)-mu1)^2+x(3)^2);
dx=[x(2);
    2*x(4)+x(1)-mu1*(x(1)+mu)/r1^3-mu*(x(1)-mu1)/r2^3;
    x(4);
    -2*x(2)+x(3)-mu1*x(3)/r1^3-mu*x(3)/r2^3];
```

DAEs:

$$\begin{cases} \dot{x}_1 = -0.2x_1 + x_2x_3 + 0.3x_1x_2 \\ \dot{x}_2 = 2x_1x_2 - 5x_2x_3 - 2x_2^2 \\ x_1 + x_2 + x_3 - 1 = 0 \end{cases}$$

The standard form of a DAE:

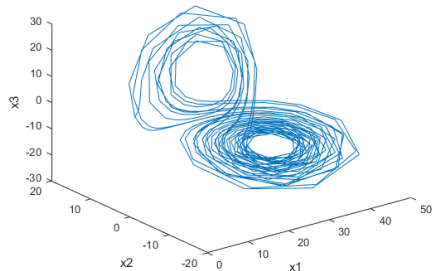
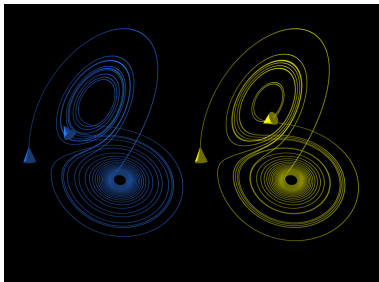
$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \dot{x}_1 \\ \dot{x}_2 \\ \dot{x}_3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -0.2x_1 + x_2x_3 + 0.3x_1x_2 \\ 2x_1x_2 - 5x_2x_3 - 2x_2^2 \\ x_1 + x_2 + x_3 - 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

MATLAB commands

```
>> f=@(t,x)[-0.2*x(1)+x(2)*x(3)+0.3*x(1)*x(2);
          2*x(1)*x(2)-5*x(2)*x(3)-2*x(2)*x(2);
          x(1)+x(2)+x(3)-1];
M=[1,0,0; 0,1,0; 0,0,0]; options=odeset;
options.Mass=M; x0=[0.8; 0.1; 0.1];
[t,x]=ode15s(f,[0,20],x0,options); plot(t,x)
```

Lorenz Attractor:

$$\begin{cases} \dot{x}_1 = 8x_1(t)/3 + x_2(t)x_3(t) \\ \dot{x}_2 = -10x_2(t) + 10x_3(t) \\ \dot{x}_3 = -x_1(t)x_2(t) + 28x_2(t) - x_3(t) \end{cases}$$



Assignment

- Study Examples 3-1 – 3-3 and Exercises 3-1 – 3-5 (no need to submit)
- Complete the Simulink Onramp Course
<https://www.mathworks.com/learn/tutorials/simulink-onramp.html>
- Upload Completion Report Certificate (as a pdf) **and** the Link: Once you have completed the course, select “View/Share Certificate” on the “My Self-Paced Courses” section of the Mathworks website, and post the “shareable link” to your Progress Report to Brightspace (ensure that the link works)

References

- Xue & Chen Chapter 3: 3.4.1 – 3.4.5