

# Detour: Butcher Tableaux

- We have seen several different solvers already.
- There are “zillions” more out there.
- How to categorize and make sense of all of them?
- Many look like this:

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

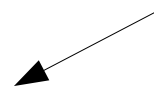
$$k_2 = hf(t_n + c_2h, y_n + a_{21}k_1)$$

$$k_3 = hf(t_n + c_3h, y_n + a_{31}k_1 + a_{32}k_2)$$

$$\vdots$$

$$y_{n+1} = y_n + (b_1k_1 + b_2k_2 + b_3k_3 + \cdots)$$

Recall how we defined  
Runge-Kutta 4



From: Numerically Solving Ordinary Differential Equations,  
Brorson (linked on Canvas)

# Butcher Tableaux

- A Butcher tableau is a table which organizes all the coefficients into a standard format

$$\begin{aligned} k_1 &= hf(t_n, y_n) \\ k_2 &= hf(t_n + c_2h, y_n + a_{21}k_1) \\ k_3 &= hf(t_n + c_3h, y_n + a_{31}k_1 + a_{32}k_2) \\ &\vdots \\ y_{n+1} &= y_n + (b_1k_1 + b_2k_2 + b_3k_3 + \dots) \end{aligned}$$

$c_1$	$a_{11}$	$a_{12}$	$a_{13}$	$\dots$
$c_2$	$a_{21}$	$a_{22}$	$a_{23}$	$\dots$
$c_3$	$a_{31}$	$a_{32}$	$a_{33}$	$\dots$
$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\ddots$
	$b_1$	$b_2$	$b_3$	$\dots$

- There is no deep math here – Butcher tableaux are just a way to try to make sense of all the different ODE solvers out there.

# Butcher tableau examples

- From my book

0	0	0
1	1	0
<hr/>		
	1/2	1/2

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

$$k_2 = hf(t_n + h, y_n + k_1)$$

$$y_{n+1} = y_n + k_1/2 + k_2/2$$

Table 4.2: Heun's method

0	0	0	0	0
1/2	1/2	0	0	0
1/2	0	1/2	0	0
1	0	0	1	0
<hr/>				
	1/6	1/3	1/3	1/6

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

$$k_2 = hf(t_n + h/2, y_n + k_1/2)$$

$$k_3 = hf(t_n + h/2, y_n + k_2/2)$$

$$k_4 = hf(t_n + h, y_n + k_3)$$

$$y_{n+1} = y_n + (k_1 + 2k_2 + 2k_3 + k_4)/6$$

Table 4.4: Fourth-order Runge-Kutta

# Next: Adaptive integrators

- Problem: Stiff systems
  - ODE may have regions requiring tiny time steps for accuracy or stability.
  - Other regions might not need tiny time steps.
  - Fixed time step  $h$  means you waste lots of time stepping through regions not needing tiny time steps just because of some short region requiring tiny time steps.

# Consider the Logistic Equation

- Simple population model
  - $y$  = population of rabbits in a field.
  - $Y_{\max}$  is “carrying capacity” of the field.  
(Limited due to finite supply of e.g. lettuce or carrots.)

$$\frac{d y}{d t} = \left( 1 - \frac{y}{Y_{\max}} \right) y$$

- For small  $y$ , growth is exponential.
- For  $y$  approaching  $Y_{\max}$ , growth saturates.

# Forward Euler solution

- Original ODE

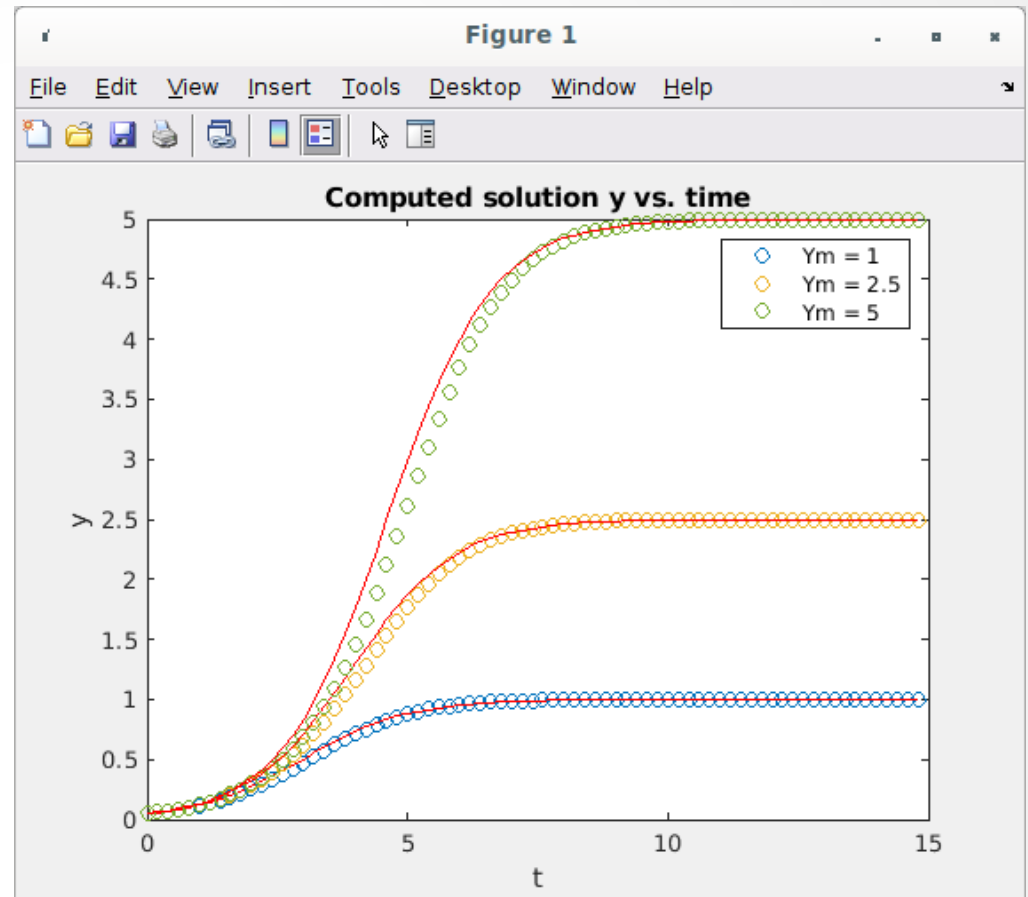
$$\frac{dy}{dt} = \left(1 - \frac{y}{Y_{max}}\right) y$$

- Forward Euler discretization

$$y_{n+1} = y_n + h \left(1 - \frac{y_n}{Y_{max}}\right) y_n$$

- Solution has two regimes:

- Fast initial growth.
- Slow change after saturation.



Simple example of stiff system

# Adaptive time stepping

- Use small  $h$  when solution is changing rapidly.
- Use large  $h$  when solution is changing slowly.
- But how to distinguish the two cases?
  - Note that you can't just rely on monitoring your solution since you don't know if the slow vs. fast change is an artifact of your stepsize  $h$ .
- Maybe use smaller step size when computed solution deviates from true solution.
  - But how do I know what is the true solution?
- Idea: Use an Oracle!



# Oracle

- Priestess at many temples in ancient Greece.
- You can ask a question, she will tell you the true answer.
- In software testing, an oracle is a program which tells you if your answer is right or not.



Wikipedia. Painting by John William Waterhouse



# Idea for adaptive time stepping

- Have two tols:  $\text{tol1} \gg \text{tol2}$ .
- Take forward Euler step. 
$$y_{n+1} = y_n + h \left( 1 - \frac{y_n}{Y_{\max}} \right)$$
- Ask oracle what is error of  $y_{n+1}$  compared to true.
- If error  $> \text{tol1}$ : reduce step size  $h \rightarrow h/2$  and try again.
- If error  $< \text{tol2}$  then increase step size  $h \rightarrow 2h$ , accept new point  $y_{n+1}$  and keep going
- Otherwise, just accept new point  $y_{n+1}$  and keep going.
- But what about the oracle?

# Oracle – use a different solver

- Tols:  $\text{tol1}=0.01$        $\text{tol2}=0.0002$

- Take forward Euler step.

$$f_n = f(t_n, y_n) \quad y_{n+1}^e = y_n + h f_n$$

- Take e.g. Heun's method step

$$f_{n+1} = f(t_n + h, y_{n+1}^e) \quad y_{n+1}^h = y_n + \frac{h}{2}(f_n + f_{n+1})$$

- Is  $|y_{n+1}^e - y_{n+1}^h| > \text{tol1}$  ?

- Yes: reduce step size  $h \rightarrow h/2$  and try again.

- Is  $|y_{n+1}^e - y_{n+1}^h| < \text{tol2}$  ?

- Yes: Keep  $y_{n+1}^e$ , increase step size  $h \rightarrow 2h$  and keep going.

- Else: Keep  $y_{n+1}^e$  and keep going.

```

while (tn < Tend)

    fprintf('step n = %d, tn = %f, y = %f, h = %e ... ', n, tn, y(1,n), h)

    % First compute trial steps
    s1 = f(tn, y(:,n));           % Slope at current location.
    yfe = y(:,n) + h*s1;          % Forward Euler step.
    s2 = f(tn, yfe);              % Slope at new t
    yh = y(:,n) + h*(s1+s2)/2;    % Heun step.

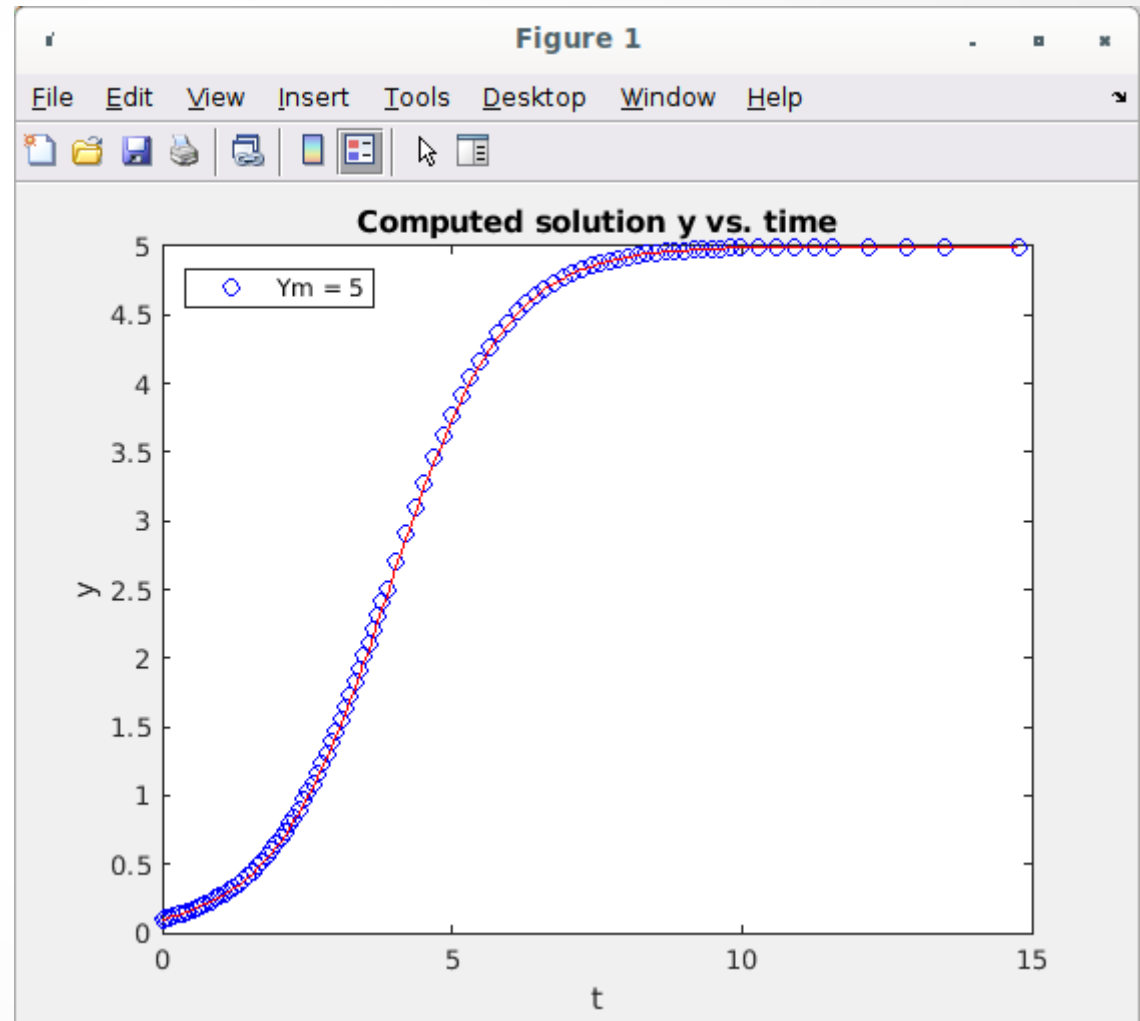
    % Now compare trials steps
    diff = norm(yfe-yh);
    fprintf('diff = %e ... ', diff)
    if (diff>tol1)
        % Too much error - shrink step and try again.
        fprintf('Shrink h\n')
        h = h/2;
        continue
    elseif (diff<tol2)
        % Error nice and small -- grow step for next time.
        h = h*2;
        fprintf('Grow h\n')
    else
        % Error neither large nor small -- keep this step.
        fprintf('Keep h\n')
    end

    % If we get here the computation was good. Store the results.
    n = n+1;
    y(:,n) = yh;
    t(:,n) = tn;
    tn = tn+h;
end

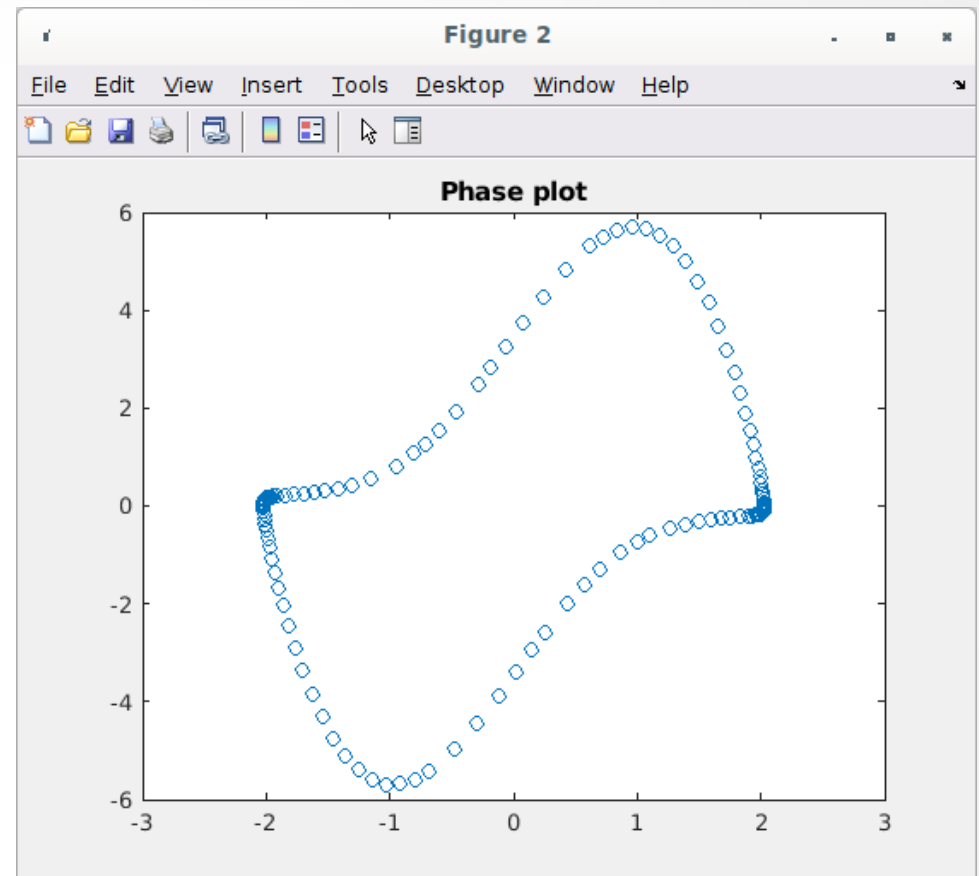
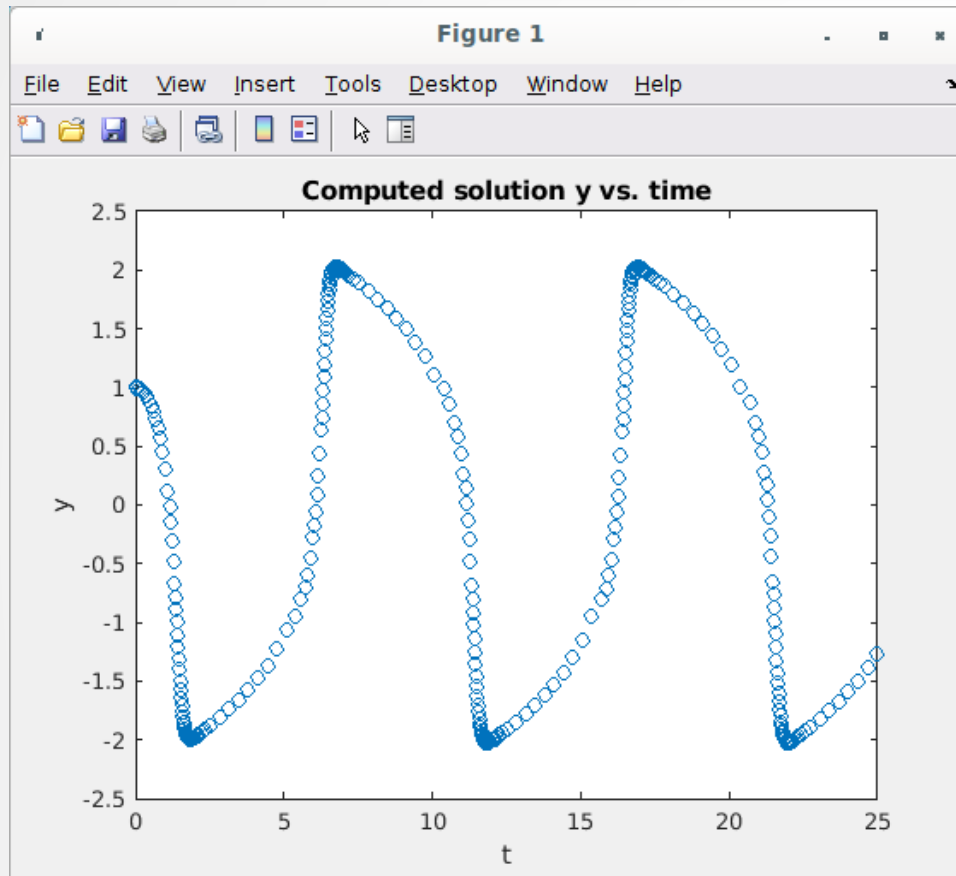
```

# Adaptive time stepping the logistic eq.

- Note timestep  $h$  varies in time.
- Stepsize bunched up at turning points.
- When  $y$  doesn't vary much in time, the stepsize grows.



# Adaptive time stepping the Vanderpol osc.



- Note timestep  $h$  varies in time.
- Stepsize bunched up at turning points.

# Waste of computation?

- Problem: My naive implementation does twice as many computations as needed.
- However, Matlab's ode45 uses Dormand-Prince DP5(4)7M – one 4<sup>th</sup> order and one 5<sup>th</sup> order.

4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>  
order  
computations  
share most  
coefficients

Compare  
results from  
these two  
computations  
as oracle.

0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1/5	1/5	0	0	0	0	0	0
3/10	3/40	9/40	0	0	0	0	0
4/5	44/45	-56/15	32/9	0	0	0	0
8/9	19372/6561	-25360/2187	64448/6561	-212/729	0	0	0
1	9017/3168	-355/33	46732/5247	49/176	-5103/18656	0	0
1	35/384	0	500/1113	125/192	-2187/6784	11/84	0
<hr/>							
	35/384	0	500/1113	125/192	-2187/6784	11/84	0
	5179/57600	0	7571/16695	393/640	-92097/339200	187/2100	1/40

Table 5.1: Butcher tableau for the Dormand-Prince 4/5 solver used in Matlab's ode45(). The two rows below the horizontal line correspond to the two corrector steps which are compared against each other.

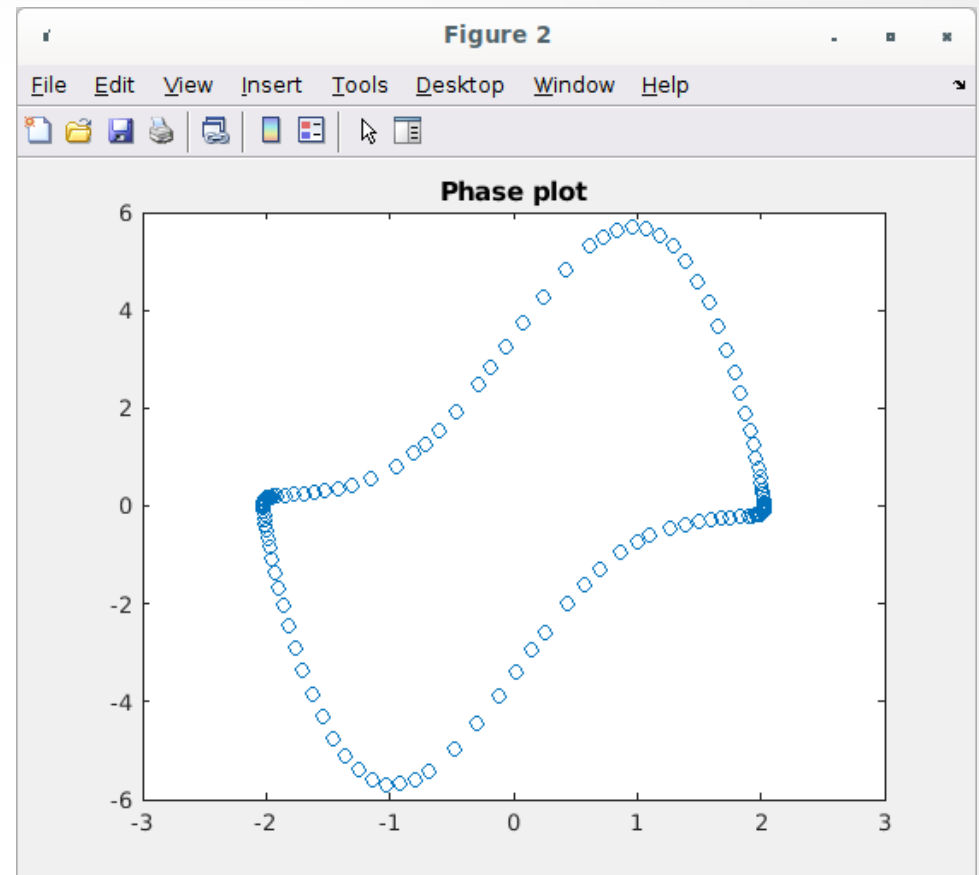
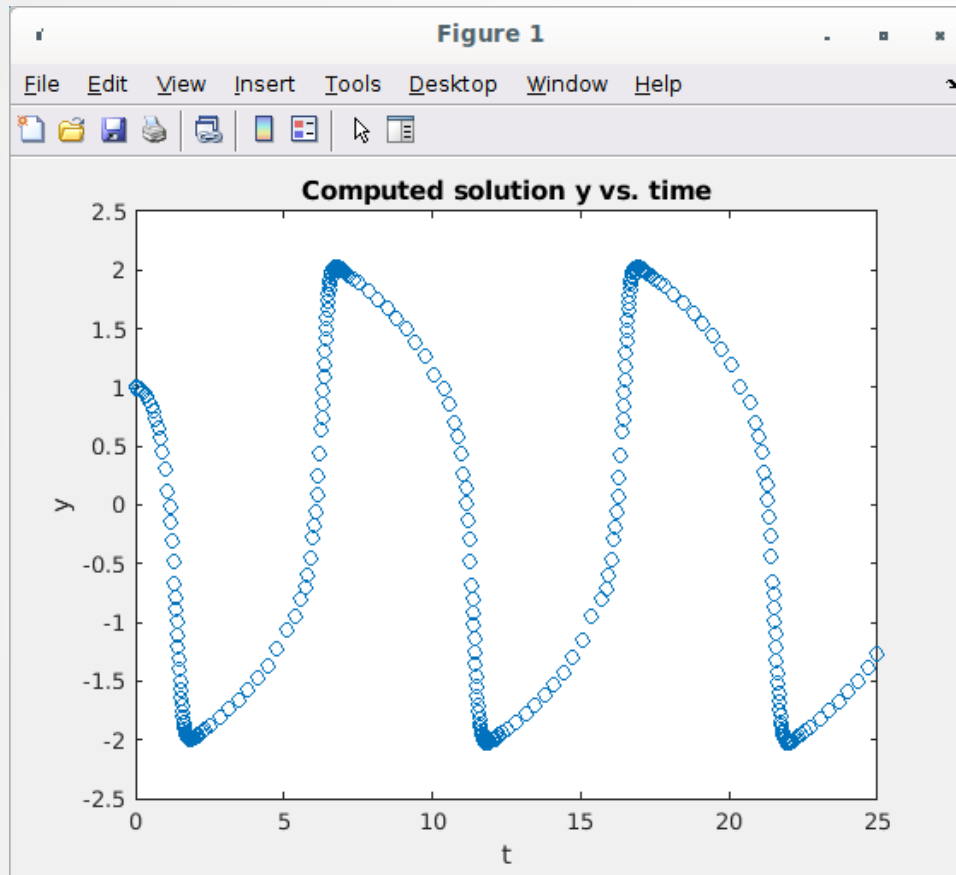


# Peek into ode45

- dbtype – print out source code

```
200
201 % Initialize method parameters.
202 pow = 1/5;
203 A = [1/5, 3/10, 4/5, 8/9, 1, 1]; % Still used by restarting criteria
204 % B = [
205 %     1/5      3/40    44/45   19372/6561    9017/3168    35/384
206 %     0        9/40   -56/15  -25360/2187  -355/33      0
207 %     0        0      32/9   64448/6561   46732/5247   500/1113
208 %     0        0      0      -212/729    49/176      125/192
209 %     0        0      0      0          -5103/18656 -2187/6784
210 %     0        0      0      0          0          11/84
211 %     0        0      0      0          0          0
212 %     ];
213 % E = [71/57600; 0; -71/16695; 71/1920; -17253/339200; 22/525; -1/40];
214
```

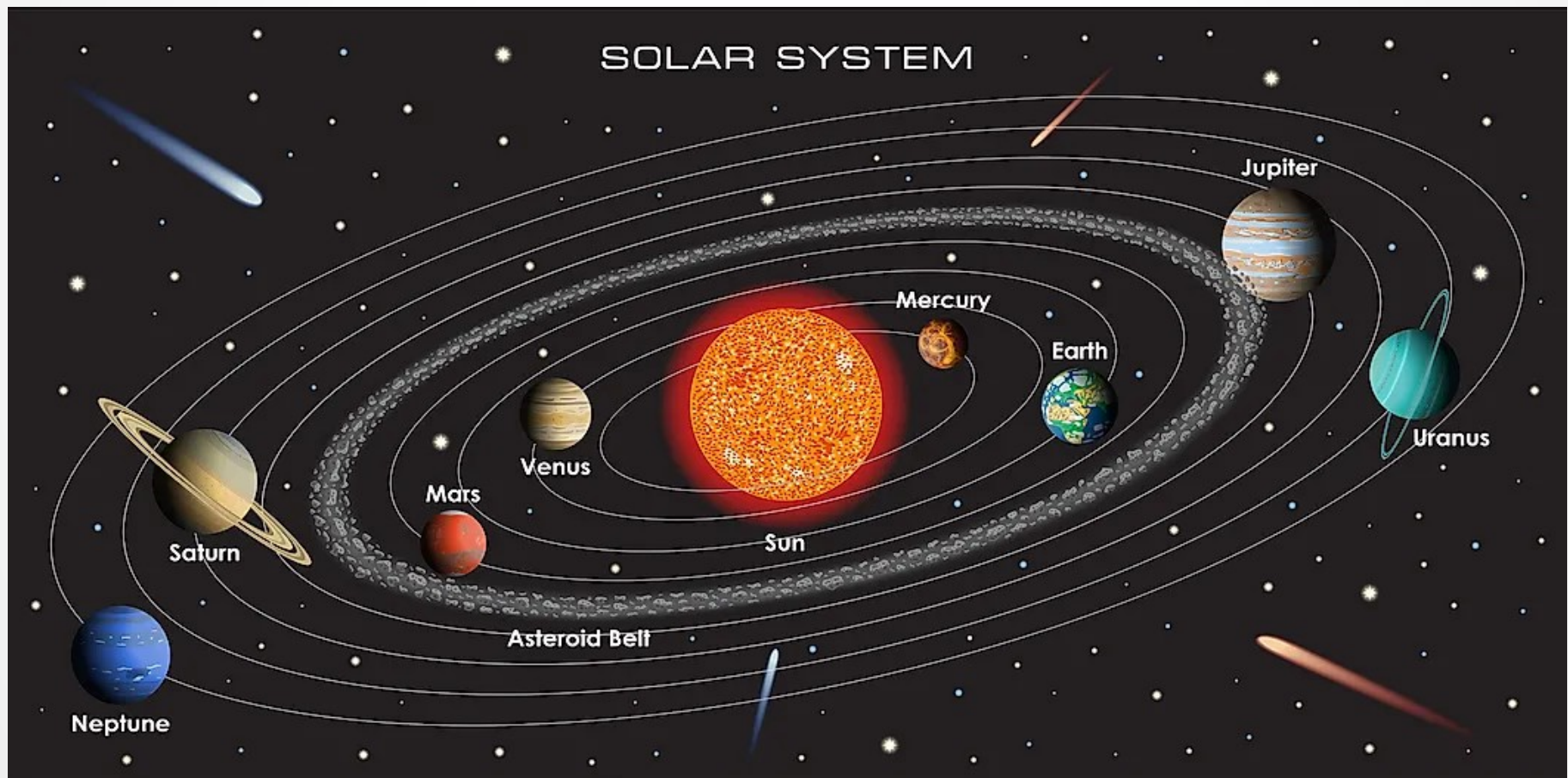
# Vanderpol osc. is a stiff system



- This ODE requires tiny steps in portions of its orbit.
- Larger steps are OK in other portions of the orbit.
- This is the definition of a stiff system.
- Use adaptive solvers for stiff systems.

Look at help strings for  
ode45, ode23, ode15s,  
etc.

# Numerical Solutions of ODEs and Conservative Systems



# Energy

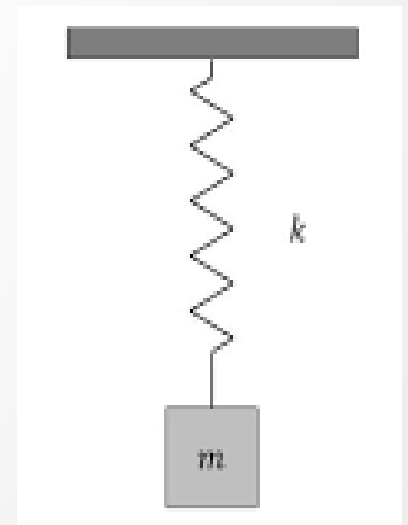
- Many important systems described by ODEs have an “energy functional”.
- Examples:

- Free mass:

$$m \frac{d^2 x}{dt^2} = 0 \quad \Rightarrow \quad E = \frac{1}{2} m \left( \frac{dx}{dt} \right)^2$$

- Harmonic oscillator

$$\frac{d^2 x}{dt^2} = -\omega^2 x \quad \Rightarrow \quad E = \frac{1}{2} \omega^2 x^2 + \frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{dx}{dt} \right)^2$$



# Math aside: functional

- Functional: Mapping from a function (space)  $f(x)$  to a scalar (scalars).

$$L[f(t)] = \int_0^{\infty} dt f(t) e^{-t}$$

- Examples:

- Definite integral

- Norm of function

- Energy

$$N[f(t)] = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dt (f(t))^2$$

$$E = H(p(t), x(t))$$

- Different from function, which maps a number (or set of numbers) to a number.

- Examples:

- $f(x)$

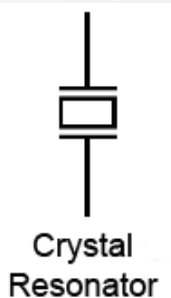
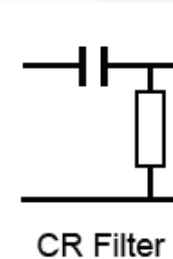
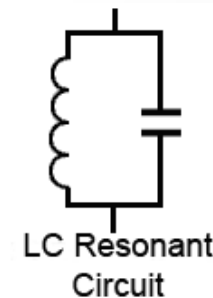
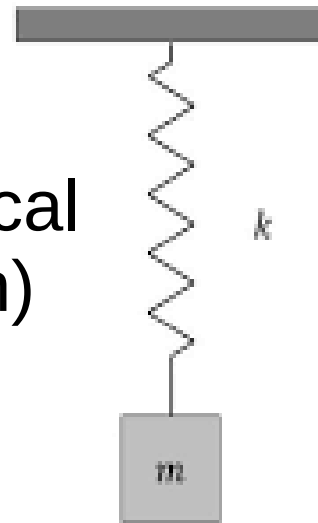
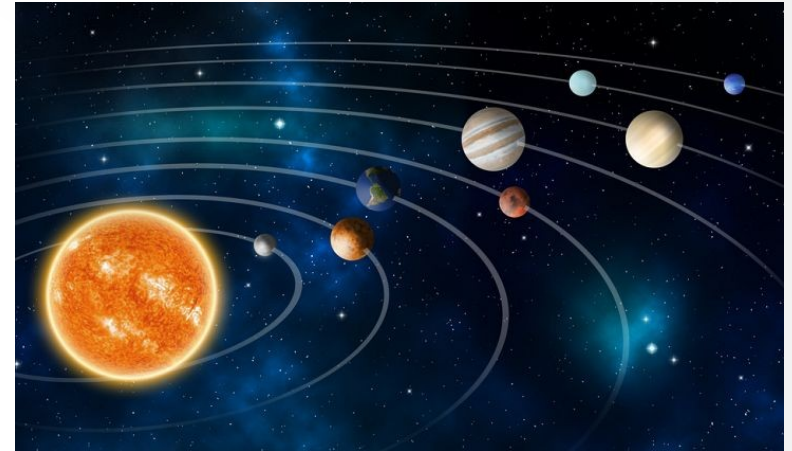
- Indefinite integral

$$f(x, y, \dots): R^N \rightarrow R$$

$$g(x) = \int_0^x dt f(t) e^{-t}$$

# Conservative systems

- Conservative system --> one in which its energy is constant in time (conserved).
  - Many important applications
- Examples:
  - Planetary motion.
  - Lots of simple mechanical systems (approximation)
  - Electronic oscillators (approximation)





# Example: Harmonic oscillator

- Equation of motion:  $\frac{d^2 x}{d t^2} = -\omega^2 x$

- Energy  $E = \frac{1}{2} \omega^2 x^2 + \frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{d x}{d t} \right)^2$

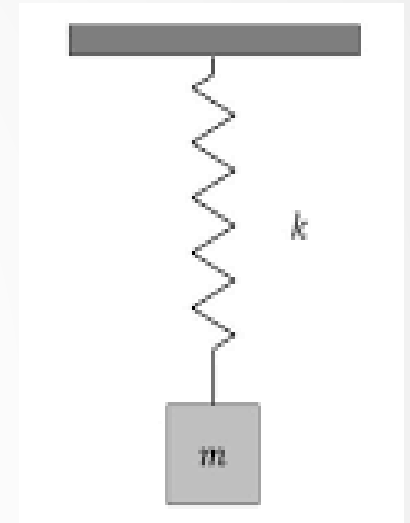
- Energy change with time

$$\frac{d E}{d t} = \omega^2 x \frac{d x}{d t} + \left( \frac{d x}{d t} \right) \left( \frac{d^2 x}{d t^2} \right)$$

$$= \omega^2 x \frac{d x}{d t} - \omega^2 x \left( \frac{d x}{d t} \right)$$

$$= 0$$

Energy doesn't change = constant  
= conserved.



Mass on  
a spring

# Forward Euler for Harmonic Oscillator

- Continuous system

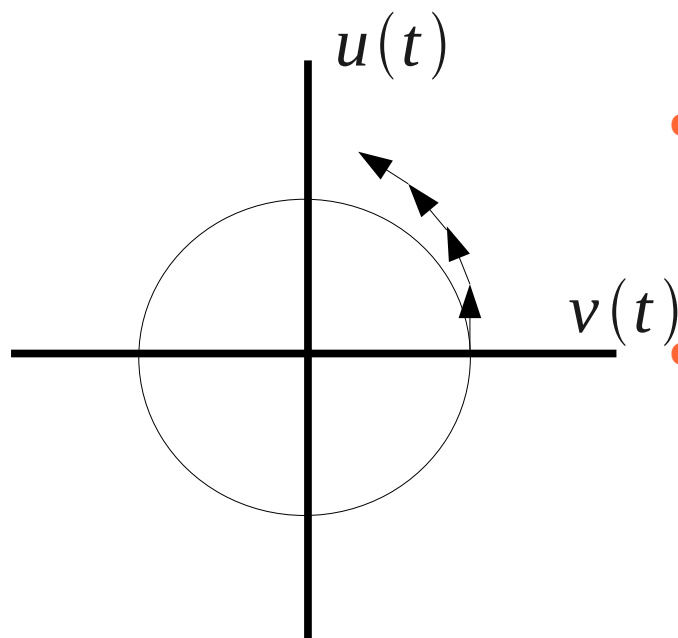
$$\frac{du}{dt} = v$$

$$\frac{dv}{dt} = -\omega^2 u$$

- Discretized fwd Euler

$$u_{n+1} = u_n + \Delta t v_n$$

$$v_{n+1} = v_n - \omega^2 \Delta t u_n$$



- Forward Euler solution spirals outward from true solution.
- Energy is not conserved by fwd Euler solution.

# Compute energy at each fwd Euler step

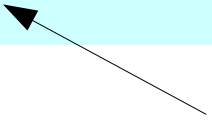
```
% Allocate energy vector  
e = zeros(1, N);
```

**Top level fcn**

```
% Initial cond  
y(:,1) = [0; 1]; % row 1 = pos, row 2 = veloc  
e(1) = (omega*omega*y(1,1)*y(1,1) + y(2,1)*y(2,1))/2;
```

```
% Take steps. Compute energy at each step  
for i=1:N-1
```

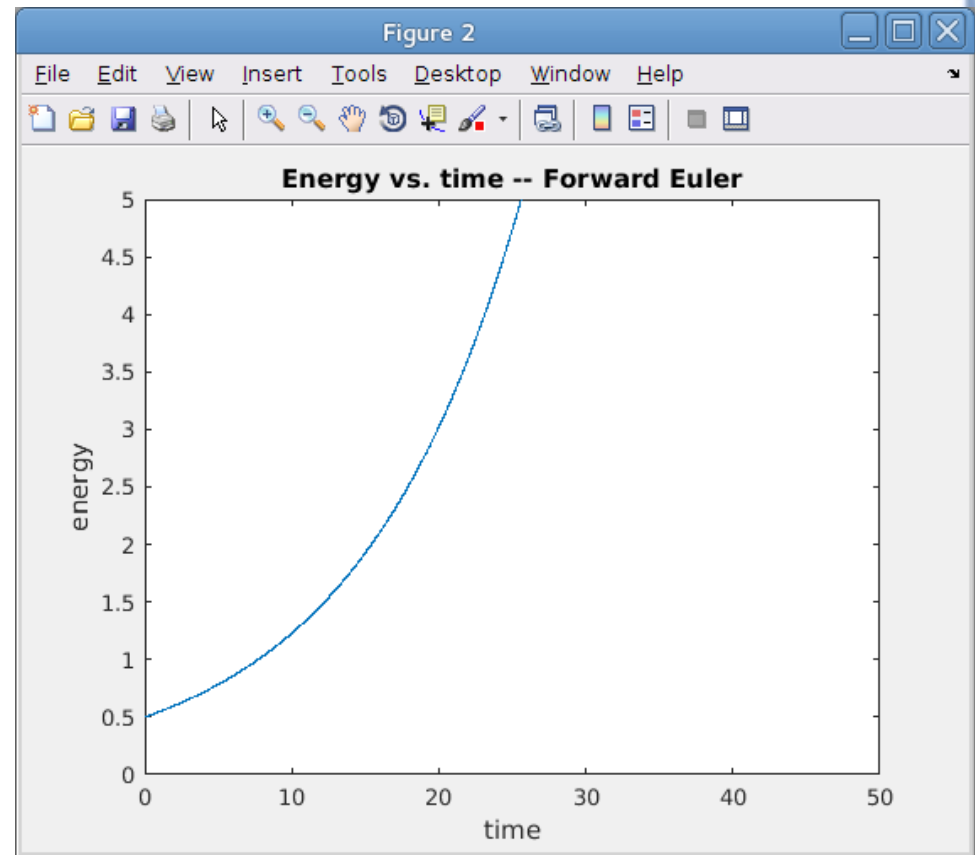
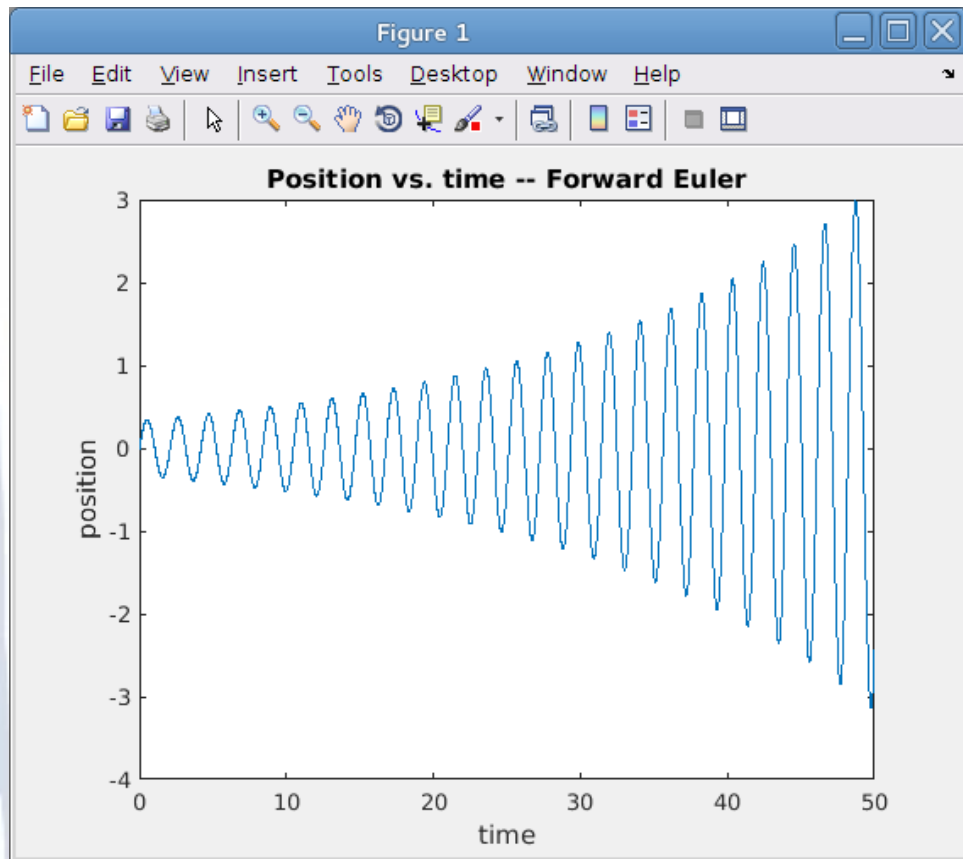
```
    y(:,i+1) = forward_euler_step(y(:,i), t(i), deltat);  
    e(i+1) = (omega*omega*y(1,i+1)*y(1,i+1) + y(2,i+1)*y(2,i+1))/2;  
end
```


$$\left(\frac{1}{2}\right) \left[ \omega^2 y^2 + \left(\frac{dy}{dt}\right)^2 \right]$$

```
function ynp1 = forward_euler_step(yn, t, h)  
    % This function takes a Forward Euler step starting  
    % at position yn. Stepsize is h.  
    ynp1 = yn + h*f(t, yn); % Return should be row vec.  
end
```

**Subfcn**

# Forward Euler for Harmonic Osc



- Stinks

```
% Set up time axis of problem  
Tend = 50;  
deltat = .01;
```

# Energy non-conservation bad for many important systems

- What about ode45?

```
% Set up time axis of problem
Tend = 50;
deltat = .01;

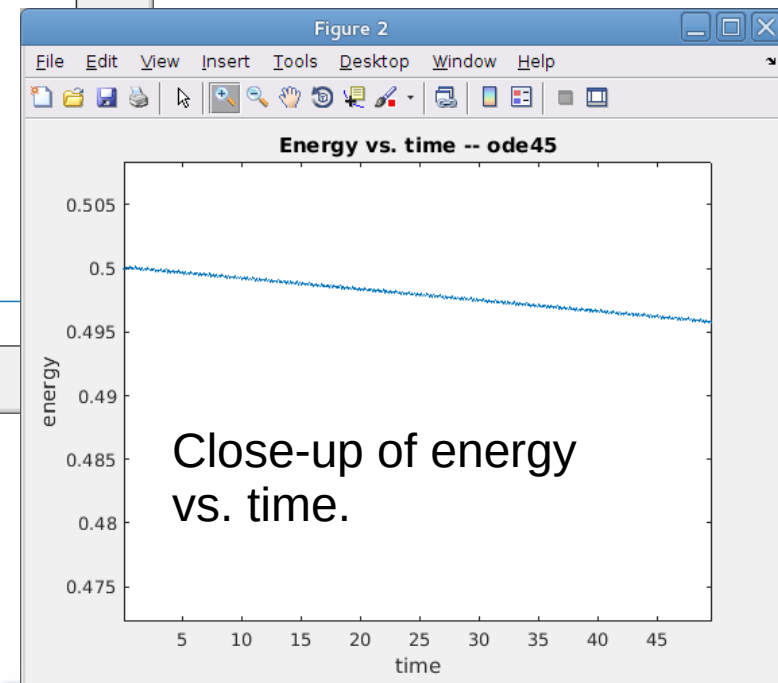
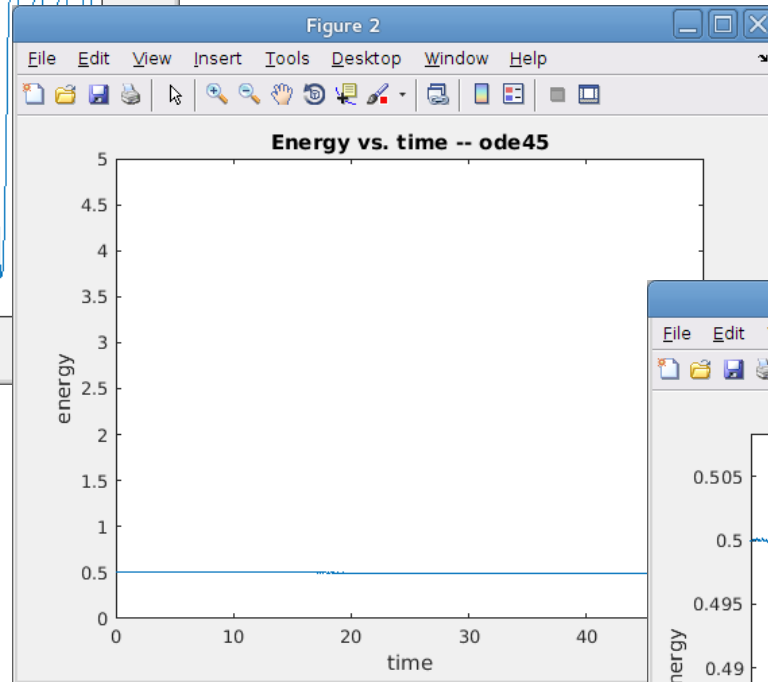
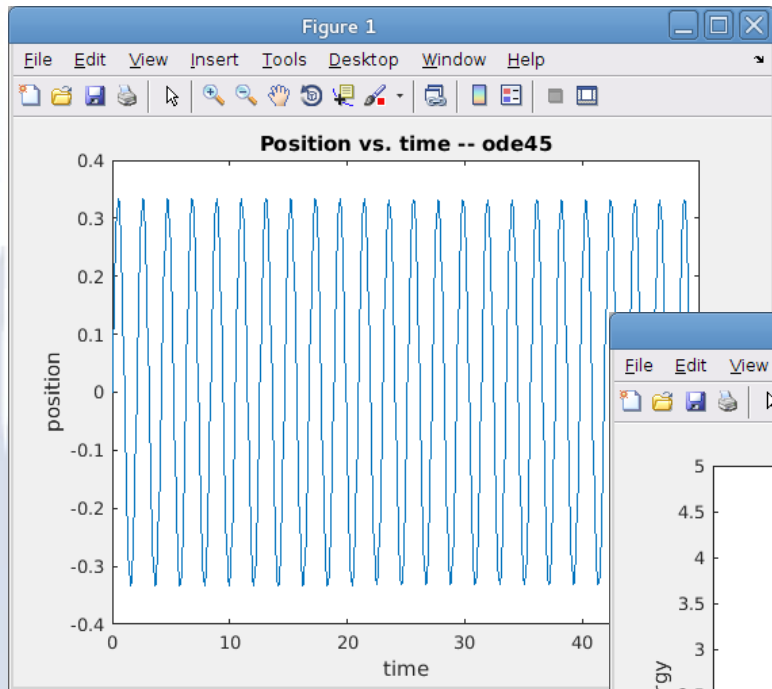
% Initial cond
y0 = [0, 1]; % col 1 = pos, col 2 = veloc

% Solve system using ode45
[t, y] = ode45(@f, [0, Tend], y0);

% Allocate energy vector
N = length(t);
e = zeros(N, 1);

% Compute energy at each step
for i=1:N
    e(i) = (omega*omega*y(i,1)*y(i,1) + y(i,2)*y(i,2))/2;
end
```

# ode45 for Harmonic Osc



- Ode45 is much better, but still non-conservative.



# Symplectic integrators

- ODE solvers especially designed to handle conservative systems.
  - Semi-implicit (symplectic) Euler (1<sup>st</sup> order)
  - Verlet's method (2<sup>nd</sup> order)
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> orders
- Area of recent development (1980s – 1990s)
- Semi-implicit Euler (2 dimensional):

$$\frac{dv}{dt} = g(u, t)$$

Note  
special  
form!

$$\frac{du}{dt} = f(v, t)$$

$$v_{n+1} = v_n + h g(u_n, t_n)$$

Note  $v_{n+1}$

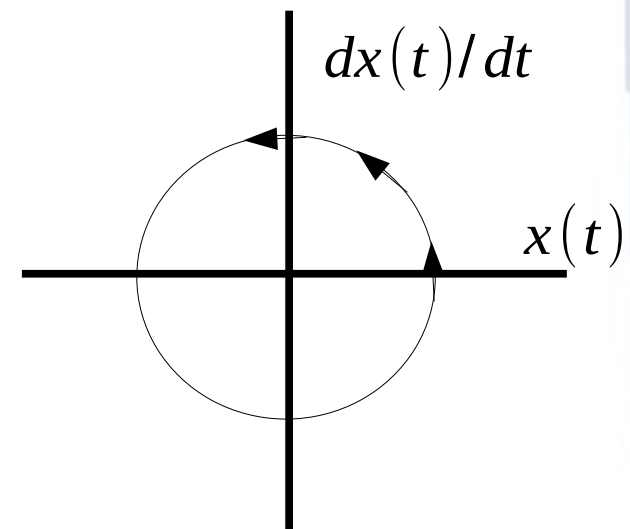
$$u_{n+1} = u_n + h f(v_{n+1}, t_n)$$

# Symplectic?

- Symplectic = having to do with the phase space of a Hamiltonian system.
- Hamiltonian system = a dynamic system in which energy is conserved.

$$E = \frac{1}{2} \omega^2 x^2 + \frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{dx}{dt} \right)^2$$

Harmonic oscillator



- Phase space = plot the state of the system as a point in  $x, v$  (position & velocity) coordinates.
- Symplectic integrator = energy conserving.

# Symplectic integrators

- ODE solvers especially designed to handle conservative systems.
  - Semi-implicit (symplectic) Euler (1<sup>st</sup> order)
  - Verlet's method (2<sup>nd</sup> order)
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> orders
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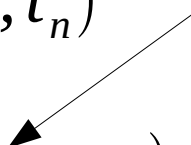
$$\frac{dv}{dt} = g(u, t)$$

Note  
special  
form!

$$\frac{du}{dt} = f(v, t)$$

$$v_{n+1} = v_n + h g(u_n, t_n)$$

Note  $v_{n+1}$

$$u_{n+1} = u_n + h f(v_{n+1}, t_n)$$


# Harmonic Oscillator using Symplectic Euler

$$\frac{du}{dt} = v$$

$$\frac{dv}{dt} = -\omega^2 u$$

$$v_{n+1} = v_n - \omega^2 h u_n$$

Note  $v_{n+1}$

$$u_{n+1} = u_n + h v_{n+1}$$

```
function ynp1 = semi_implicit_euler_step(yn, t, h)
% This function takes a semi-implicit Euler step starting
% at position yn. Stepsize is h.
global omega

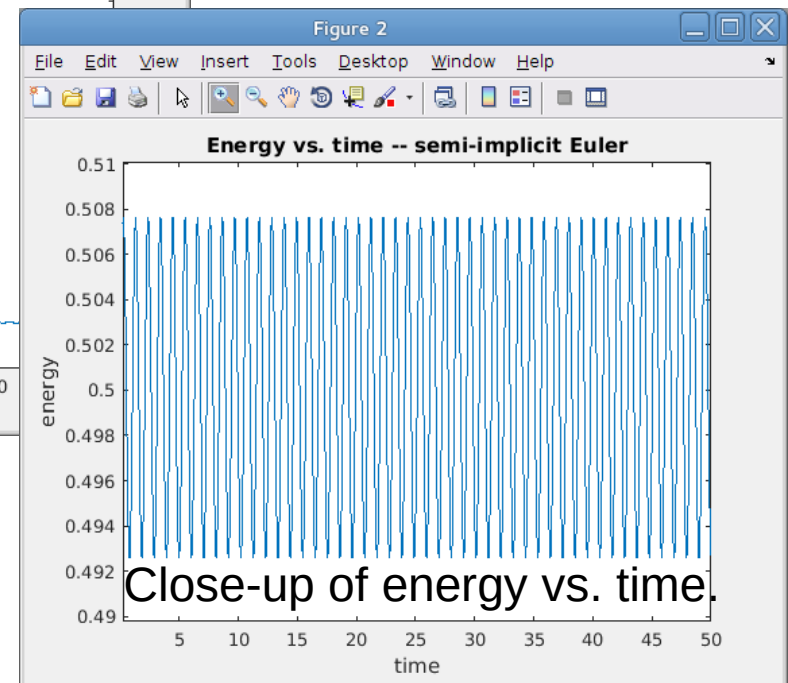
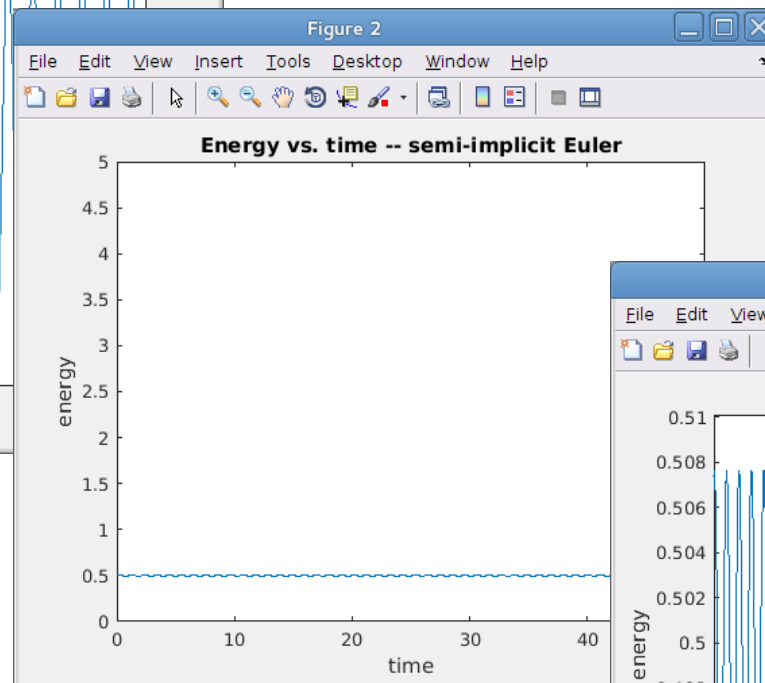
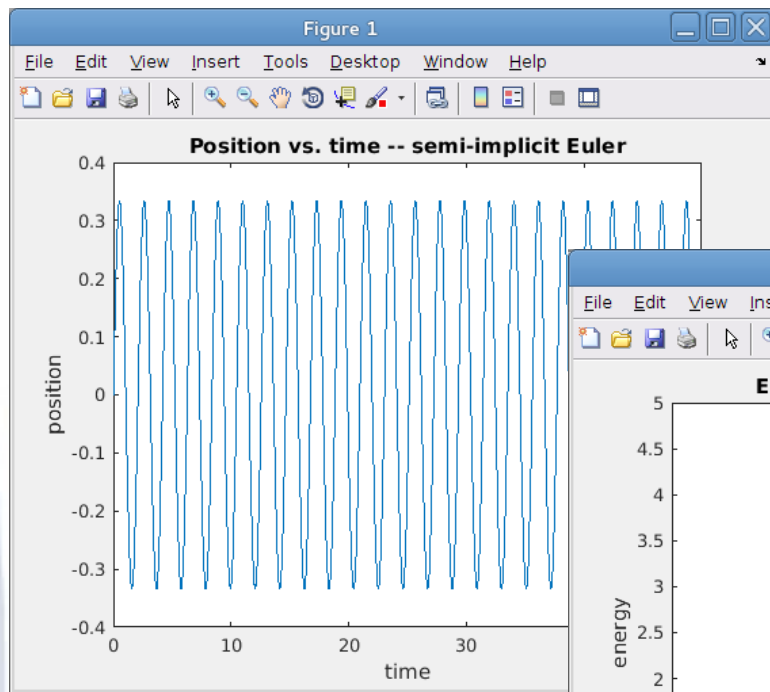
% row 1 = pos, row 2 = veloc.
un = yn(1);
vn = yn(2);

vnp1 = vn - h*omega*omega*un;
unp1 = un + h*vnp1;

ynp1 = [unp1, vnp1]; % Return should be row vec.

end
```

# Symplectic Euler for Harmonic Osc



- Symplectic Euler oscillates a little bit, but doesn't lose energy.

# Why does this work?

- Symplectic Euler

$$v_{n+1} = v_n - \omega^2 h u_n \quad (1)$$

$$u_{n+1} = u_n + h v_{n+1} \quad (2)$$

- Insert (1) into (2)

$$v_{n+1} = v_n - \omega^2 h u_n$$

$$u_{n+1} = u_n + h(v_n - h \omega^2 u_n)$$

- Rearranging

$$v_{n+1} = v_n - h \omega^2 u_n$$

$$u_{n+1} = h v_n + (1 - h^2 \omega^2) u_n$$

- Matrix form

$$\begin{pmatrix} v_{n+1} \\ u_{n+1} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -h \omega^2 \\ h & (1 - h^2 \omega^2) \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} v_n \\ u_n \end{pmatrix}$$



- Assume solution

$$\begin{pmatrix} v_n \\ u_n \end{pmatrix} = e_n \begin{pmatrix} i \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} e^{-i\omega t_n}$$

- Insert into matrix

$$e_{n+1} \begin{pmatrix} i \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} e^{-i\omega t_{n+1}} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -h\omega^2 \\ h & (1-h^2\omega^2) \end{pmatrix} e_n \begin{pmatrix} i \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} e^{-i\omega t_n}$$

- Rearrange

$$\frac{e_{n+1}}{e_n} e^{-i\omega h} \begin{pmatrix} i \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -h\omega^2 \\ h & (1-h^2\omega^2) \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} i \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

Recall  $h = t_{n+1} - t_n$

- Define growth factor

$$g_n = \frac{e_{n+1}}{e_n} e^{-i\omega h}$$

- Eigenvalue problem – solve for  $g$

$$g_n \begin{pmatrix} i \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -h\omega^2 \\ h & (1-h^2\omega^2) \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} i \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

- Condition for solution

$$\det \begin{pmatrix} 1-g_n & -h\omega^2 \\ h & (1-h^2\omega^2)-g_n \end{pmatrix} = 0$$

- Characteristic equation  $g_n^2 + (h^2\omega^2 - 2)g_n + 1 = 0$

- Solution for  $g$   $g_n = \frac{1}{2} \left( 2 + (\sqrt{h^2\omega^2 - 4})h\omega - h^2\omega^2 \right)$

- Not very illuminating, but we can plot it...

# Plot growth factor

$$g_n = \frac{1}{2} \left( 2 + (\sqrt{h^2 \omega^2 - 4}) h \omega - h^2 \omega^2 \right)$$

```
>> g = @(x) (2 + x.*sqrt(x.*x-4) - x.*x)/2
```

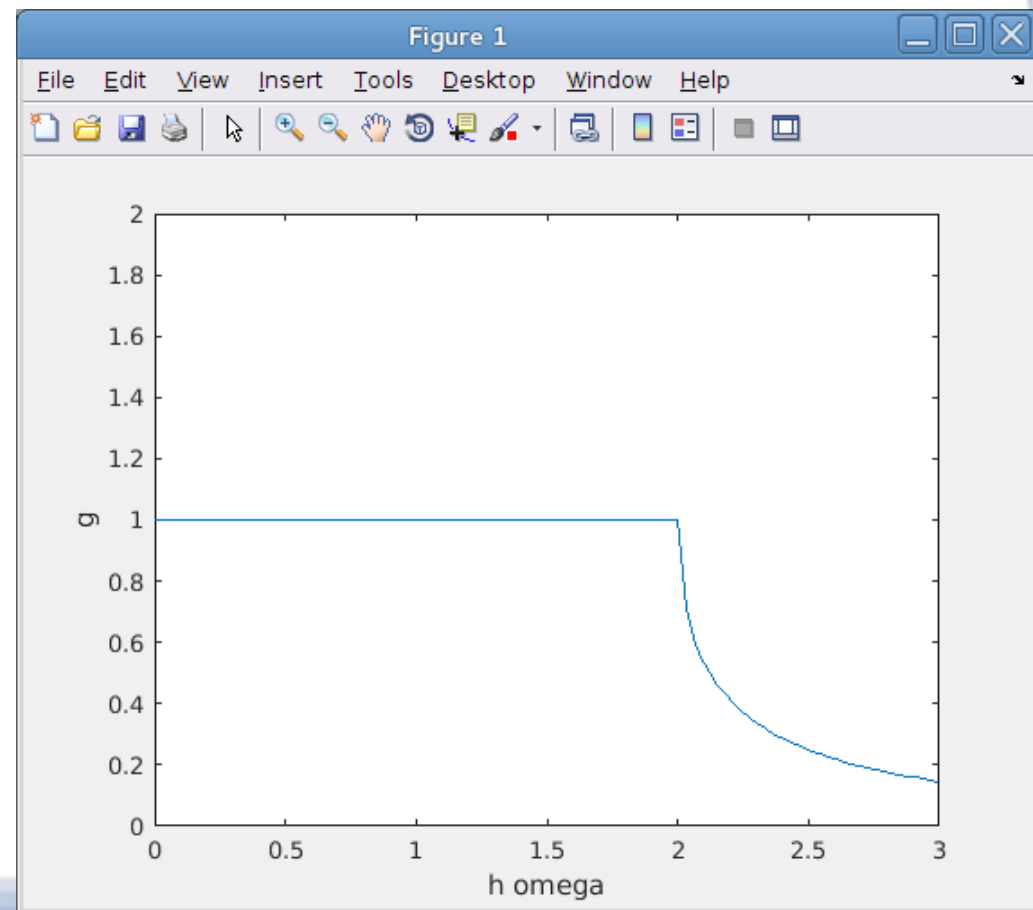
```
>> close all; plot(x, abs(g(x))); hold on; axis([0 3 0 2]);  
xlabel('h omega'); ylabel('g')
```

- Growth factor is complex for small values of  $h\omega$ .

- Phase can vary.

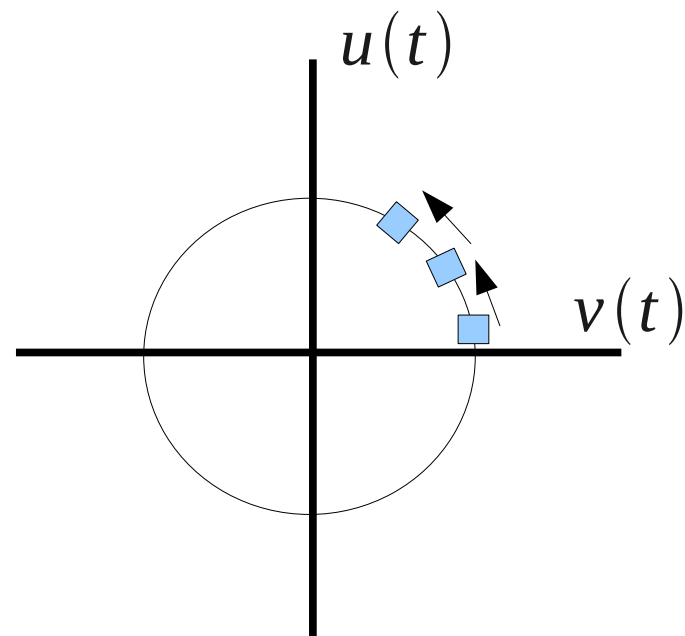
- Magnitude is 1 for small values of  $h\omega$ .

- No exponential growth



# What happens in phase space?

- Phase space: plot  $u = x$  vs.  $v = dx/dt$
- Liouville's theorem: For Hamiltonian (conservative) systems, volumes in phase space are conserved as the system evolves
- Size of volumes should not change as time increases and system evolves.



# Test forward Euler

```
% Initial conds  
y1 = [-.02; .98];  
y2 = [-.02; 1.02];  
y3 = [.02; 1.02];  
y4 = [.02; .98];
```

Draw a box at  
starting point

```
% Plot initial point  
u = [y1(1), y2(1), y3(1), y4(1), y1(1)];  
v = [y1(2), y2(2), y3(2), y4(2), y1(2)];  
plot(u, v)  
hold on  
xlabel('u')  
ylabel('v')  
title('Phase space -- Forward Euler')  
pause()
```

```
% Take 10 steps, then plot.
```

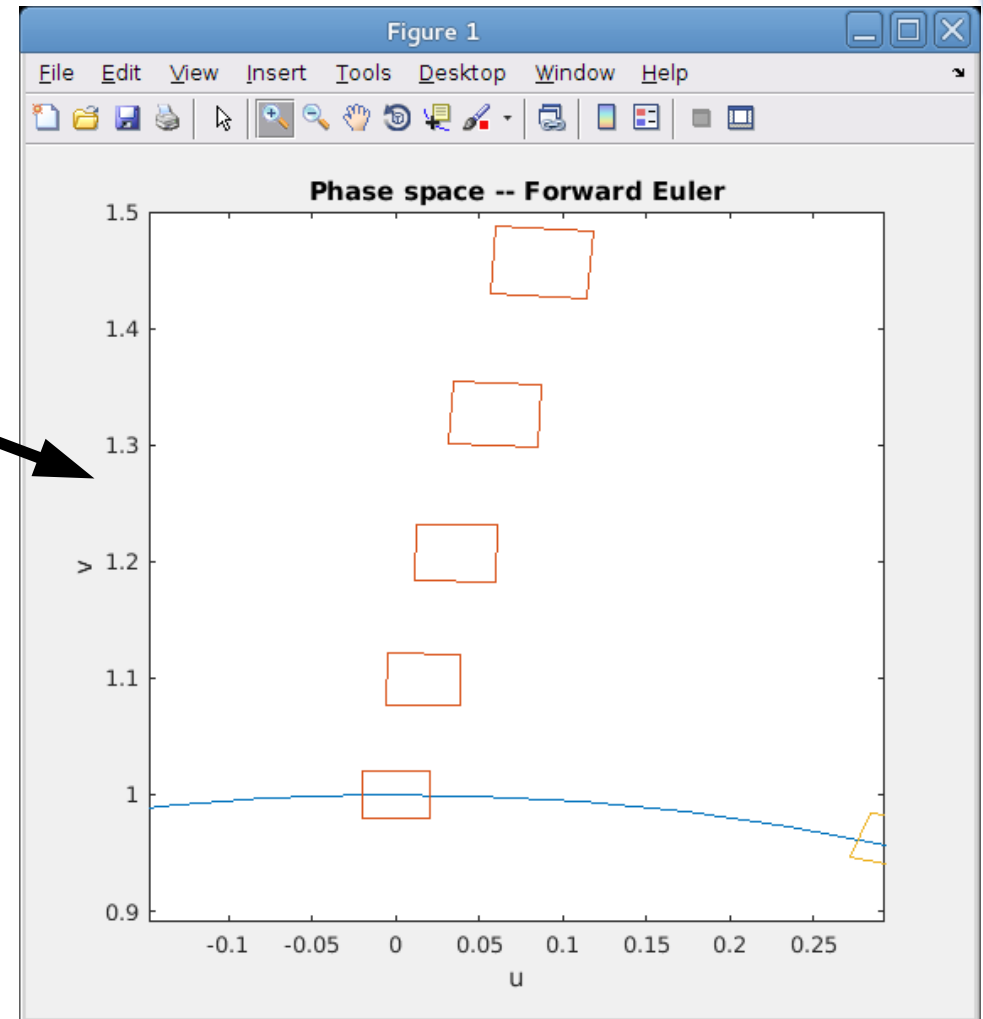
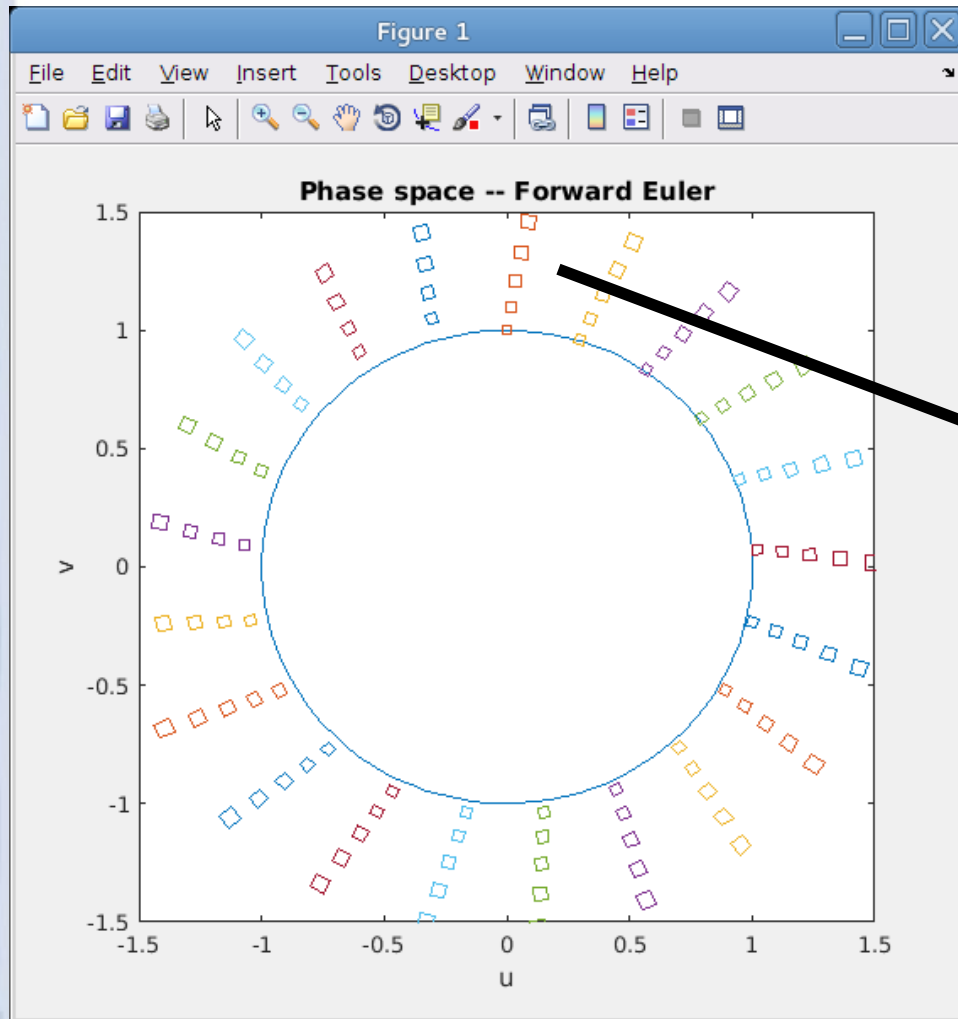
```
t = 0;  
while (t<Tend)  
    for i = 1:10  
        y1 = forward_euler_step(y1, t, deltat);  
        y2 = forward_euler_step(y2, t, deltat);  
        y3 = forward_euler_step(y3, t, deltat);  
        y4 = forward_euler_step(y4, t, deltat);  
        t = t+deltat;  
    end
```

Evolve all four  
corners of box

```
    u = [y1(1), y2(1), y3(1), y4(1), y1(1)];  
    v = [y1(2), y2(2), y3(2), y4(2), y1(2)];  
    plot(u, v)  
end
```

Draw box  
after evolution

# Evolving forward Euler until $t = 30$



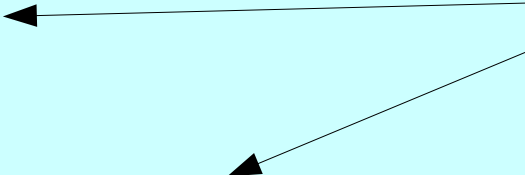
- Phase space volume not constant.

# Test symplectic Euler

```
% Initial conds
```

```
y1 = [-.02; .98];  
y2 = [-.02; 1.02];  
y3 = [.02; 1.02];  
y4 = [.02; .98];
```

Draw a box at  
starting point




```
% Plot initial point
```

```
u = [y1(1), y2(1), y3(1), y4(1), y1(1)];  
v = [y1(2), y2(2), y3(2), y4(2), y1(2)];  
plot(u, v)  
hold on  
xlabel('u')  
ylabel('v')  
title('Phase space -- Forward Euler')  
pause()
```

```
% Take 10 steps, then plot.
```


```
t = 0;  
while (t<Tend)  
    for i = 1:10  
        y1 = semi_implicit_euler_step(y1, t, deltat);  
        y2 = semi_implicit_euler_step(y2, t, deltat);  
        y3 = semi_implicit_euler_step(y3, t, deltat);  
        y4 = semi_implicit_euler_step(y4, t, deltat);  
        t = t+deltat;  
    end
```

Evolve all four  
corners of box



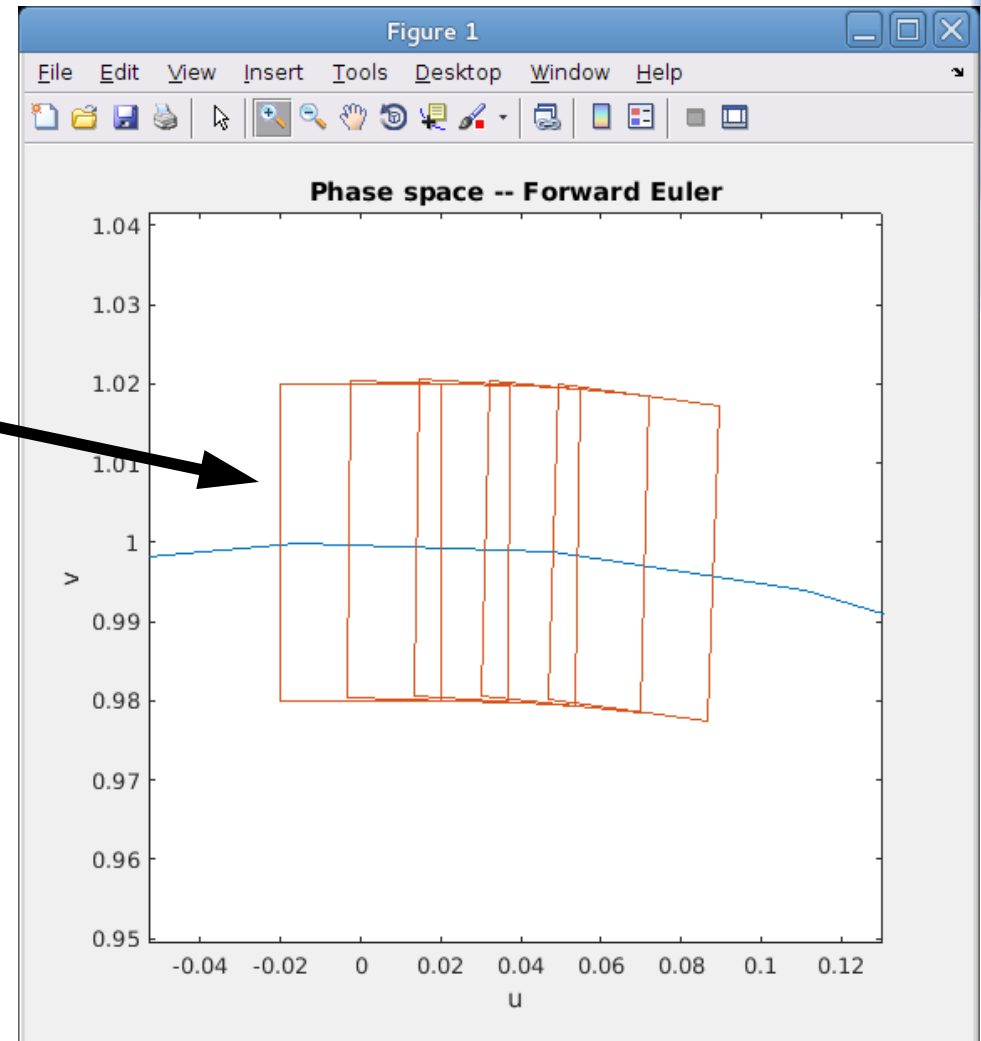
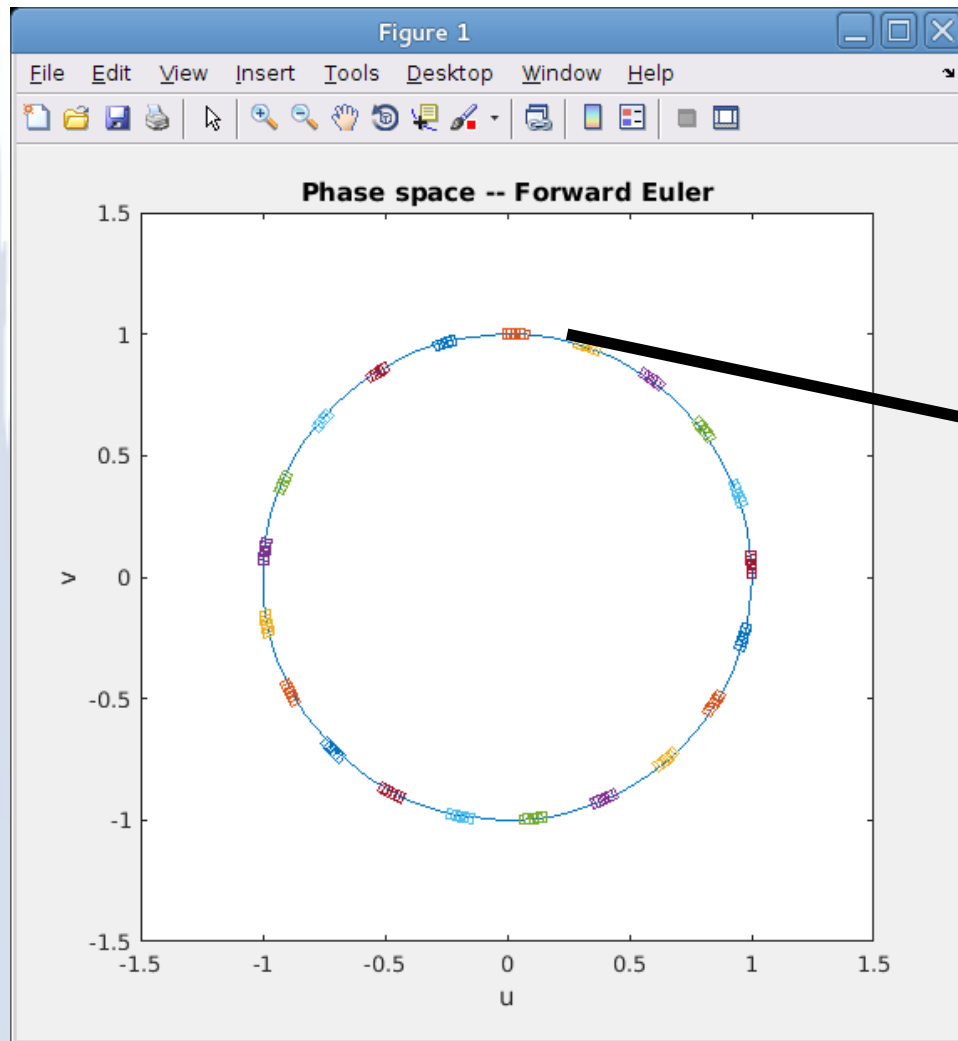
```
    u = [y1(1), y2(1), y3(1), y4(1), y1(1)];  
    v = [y1(2), y2(2), y3(2), y4(2), y1(2)];  
    plot(u, v)  
end
```

Draw box  
after evolution





# Symplectic Euler



- Phase space volume conserved.

# Remarks

- Symplectic integrators are important for conservative systems.
  - Hanging pendulum mini-projects.
- They preserve area in phase space.
  - This is an important property since it matches a fundamental behavior of any Hamiltonian (conservative) system.
- I have demonstrated symplectic Euler, but real simulations use higher-order methods.
  - Look for a library ...

# Topics covered

- Bucher Tableaux
- Adaptive stepping
- ODE45
- Concept of stiff system
- Energy functional.
- Concept of conservative systems.
- Symplectic integrators
  - Symplectic Euler