



ΠΑΝΕΠΙΣΤΗΜΙΟ
ΠΑΤΡΩΝ
UNIVERSITY OF PATRAS

Robotic Systems II

Lecture 1: Dynamics, Discretization and Integrators

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University of Patras

Template made by Panagiotis Papagiannopoulos



■ Lectures:

- 10 Lectures
- 1 Recitation Lecture
- 1-2 Seminars
- 10 Lab Exercises

■ Examination:

- 4 Homeworks (**40% of total grade**)
- Oral Exam (**60% of total grade**)

■ Office Hours:

- **Tue & Thu (09:00-11:00)**
- 24/7 by email (costashatz@upatras.gr, subject: *ECE_RSII_AM*)

■ Material and Announcements



Laboratory of Automation & Robotics

What is this course about?

We could name the course “**Applied Optimal Control**”:

- Optimization
- Control of Linear Systems (LQR)
- Model-Predictive Control
- Linearization of Non-Linear Systems
- Trajectory Optimization (Direct Collocation)
- Optimal Control on Manifolds
- Differential Dynamic Programming
- Locomotion, Contacts, Complex Robots
- **We focus on implementation/robotics applications. You are required to write code!** Not a theory course!

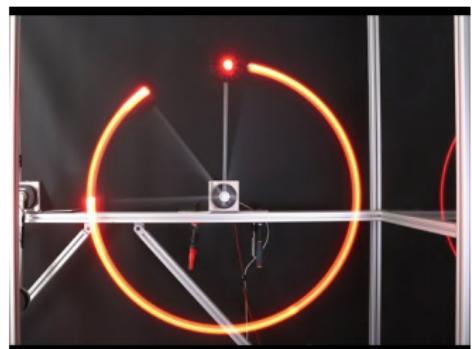
- **3-hour lectures:**

- A lot of theory! Hints for personal reading!
- Live code examples + analyses!
- Ask questions please!

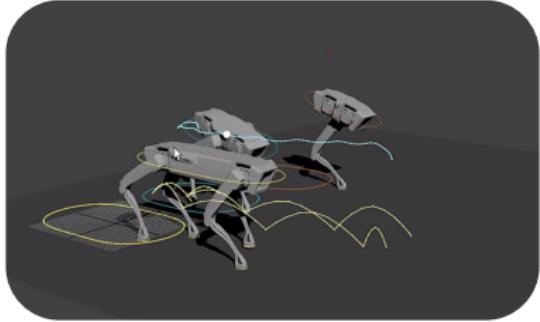
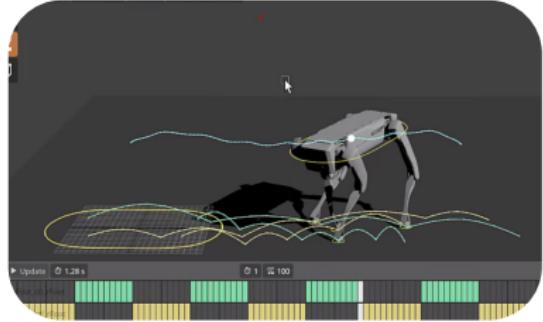
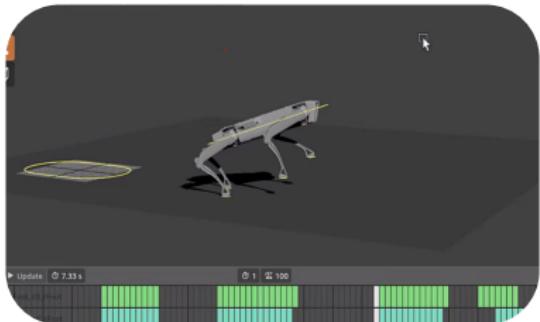
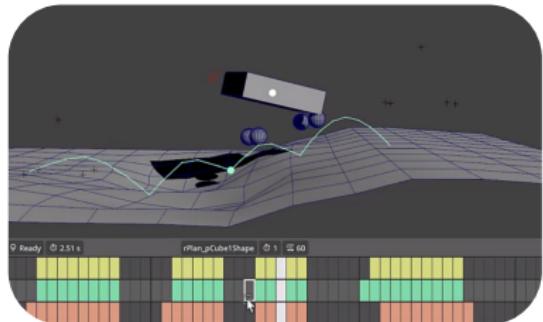
- **2-hour lab exercises:**

- Do not count for final grade! **You need to participate in 60%!**
- Small code examples that you need to fill
- You need to deliver code even if it doesn't run
- Ask questions, experiment!

Why study optimal control?



What will you be able to achieve?



Credits: Ragdoll Dynamics (Imbalance Ltd)



Continuous Dynamics:

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

$\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n$: “State space”

$\mathbf{u} \in \mathbb{R}^m$: “Control/Input space”

f : “Dynamics Function”

In robotics we usually have:

$$\mathbf{x} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{q} \\ \mathbf{v} \end{bmatrix}$$

\mathbf{q} : “Configuration”

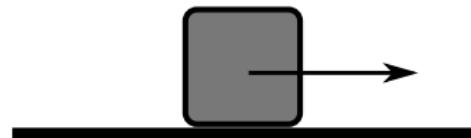
\mathbf{v} : “Velocity”

Double Integrator Example

Double Integrator:

$$\mathbf{x} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{q} \\ \dot{\mathbf{q}} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\mathbf{u} = K\ddot{\mathbf{q}}$$



where

$$\mathbf{q} = [x] \in \mathbb{R}$$

$$\dot{\mathbf{q}} = [v] = [\dot{x}] \in \mathbb{R}$$

$$\mathbf{u} = [K\ddot{x}] \in \mathbb{R}$$

Dynamics:

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

$$= \begin{bmatrix} \dot{\mathbf{q}} \\ \frac{\mathbf{u}}{K} \end{bmatrix}$$

Pendulum Example

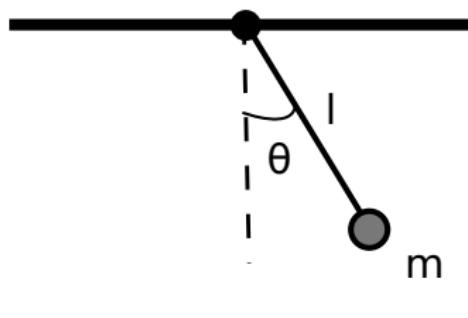
Pendulum:

$$\mathbf{x} = \begin{bmatrix} \theta \\ \dot{\theta} \end{bmatrix}$$

\mathbf{u} = “actuator torque” $\in \mathbb{R}$

Dynamics:

$$\begin{aligned}\dot{\mathbf{x}} &= f(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u}) = \begin{bmatrix} \dot{\theta} \\ \ddot{\theta} \end{bmatrix} \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} \dot{\theta} \\ -\frac{g}{l} \sin \theta + \frac{1}{ml^2} \mathbf{u} - b\dot{\theta} \end{bmatrix}\end{aligned}$$



where g is the gravity, m the point mass, b is a damping coefficient, and l the length of the pole.

Control Affine Systems:

$$\dot{\mathbf{x}} = \underbrace{f_o(\mathbf{x})}_{\text{"drift"}} + \underbrace{\mathbf{B}(\mathbf{x})}_{\text{"input Jacobian"}} \mathbf{u}$$

Many systems can be written like this!

- Double Integrator:

$$f_o(\mathbf{x}) = \begin{bmatrix} \dot{\mathbf{q}} \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \mathbf{B}(\mathbf{x}) = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ \frac{1}{K} \end{bmatrix}$$

- Pendulum:

$$f_o(\mathbf{x}) = \begin{bmatrix} \dot{\theta} \\ \frac{-g}{l} \sin \theta - b \dot{\theta} \end{bmatrix}, \mathbf{B}(\mathbf{x}) = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ \frac{1}{ml^2} \end{bmatrix}$$

Manipulator Equation Recap

Manipulator Equation Reminder:

$$\underbrace{\mathbf{M}(\mathbf{q})}_{\text{"Mass Matrix"}} \dot{\mathbf{v}} + \underbrace{\mathbf{C}(\mathbf{q}, \mathbf{v})}_{\text{"Coriolis/Gravity Forces"}} = \mathbf{B}(\mathbf{q}) \underbrace{\mathbf{u}}_{\text{"Usually } \boldsymbol{\tau} \text{"}} + \underbrace{\mathbf{F}_{\text{ext}}}_{\text{"External forces"}}$$

Velocity Kinematics:

$$\dot{\mathbf{q}} = \mathbf{G}(\mathbf{q})\mathbf{v}$$

and thus,

$$\dot{\mathbf{x}} = \left[\begin{array}{c} \mathbf{G}(\mathbf{q})\mathbf{v} \\ \mathbf{M}^{-1}(\mathbf{q}) \left(\mathbf{B}(\mathbf{q})\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{F}_{\text{ext}} - \mathbf{C}(\mathbf{q}, \mathbf{v}) \right) \end{array} \right]$$

Double Integrator:

$$\boldsymbol{M}(\boldsymbol{q}) = \boldsymbol{K}, \boldsymbol{C}(\boldsymbol{q}, \boldsymbol{v}) = \boldsymbol{0}, \boldsymbol{B}(\boldsymbol{q}) = \boldsymbol{I}, \boldsymbol{G}(\boldsymbol{q}) = \boldsymbol{I}$$

Pendulum:

$$\boldsymbol{M}(\boldsymbol{q}) = ml^2, \boldsymbol{C}(\boldsymbol{q}, \boldsymbol{v}) = mglsin\theta + bml^2\dot{\theta}, \boldsymbol{B}(\boldsymbol{q}) = \boldsymbol{I}, \boldsymbol{G}(\boldsymbol{q}) = \boldsymbol{I}$$

This is basically a re-write of Euler-Langrange equations of Kinematic and Potential Energy.

- **Point(s) where the system will remain at rest (i.e. not moving):** $\dot{x} = f(x, u) = 0$.
- **Algebraically:** roots of the dynamics function.
- **Uncontrolled double integrator:**

$$\dot{x} = \begin{bmatrix} \dot{q} \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$
$$\dot{q} = 0$$

whe(n/r)ever we have zero velocity!

■ Uncontrolled Pendulum:

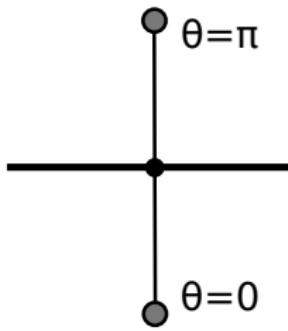
$$\dot{\mathbf{x}} = \begin{bmatrix} \dot{\theta} \\ \frac{-g}{l} \sin\theta - b\dot{\theta} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

■ Uncontrolled Pendulum:

$$\dot{\mathbf{x}} = \begin{bmatrix} \dot{\theta} \\ \frac{-g}{l} \sin \theta - b\dot{\theta} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

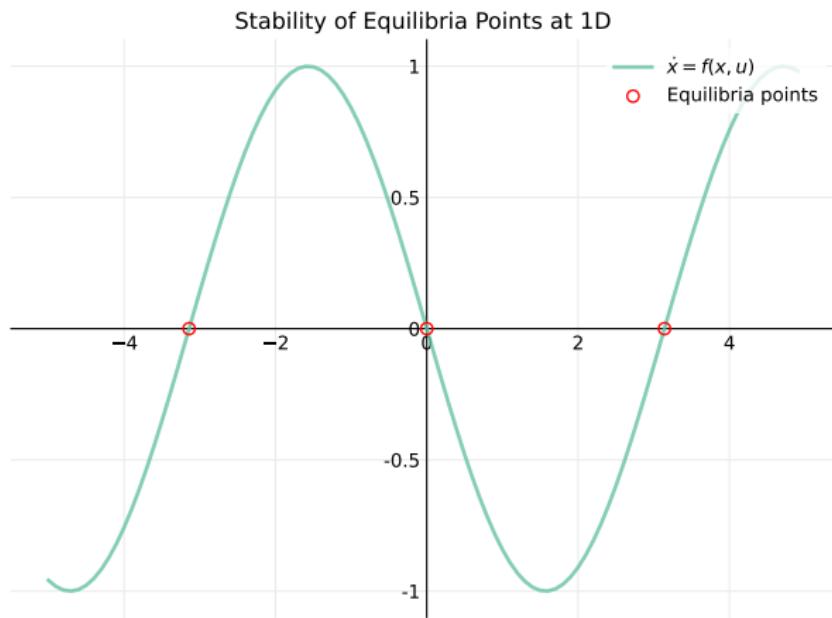
$$\dot{\theta} = 0$$

$$\theta = 0, \pm\pi$$

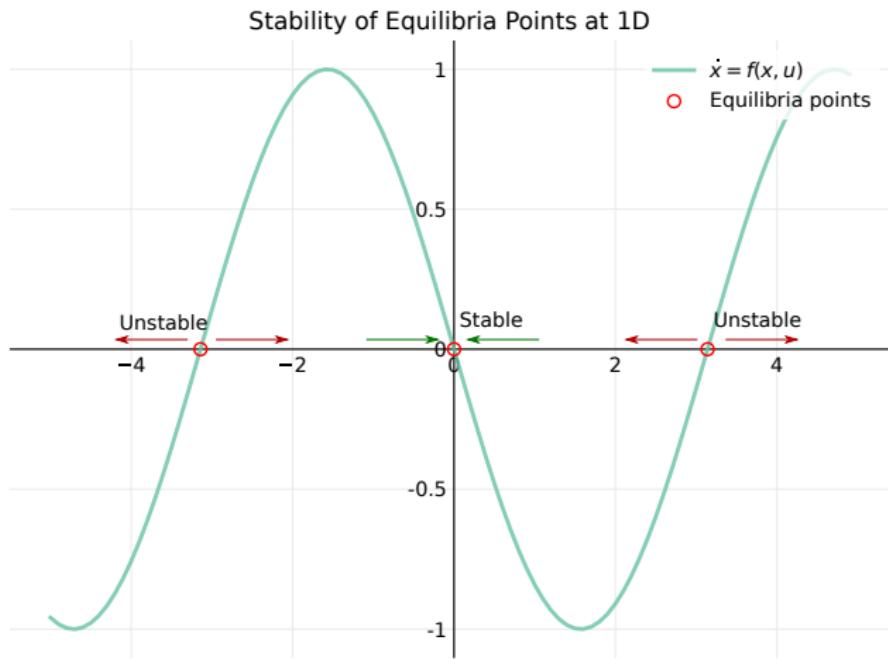


Stability of Equilibria Points

Informal Definition: Do we stay “close” to the equilibrium point under perturbations?



Stability of Equilibria Points (2)



Stability of Equilibria Points (3)

- In 1-D: $\frac{df}{dx} < 0 \rightarrow \text{"Stable"}, \frac{df}{dx} > 0 \rightarrow \text{"Unstable"}$
- In N-D: $\frac{df}{dx}$ is a Jacobian matrix:
 - We do an eigenvalue decomposition,
 - if **all** real-parts of the eigenvalues are negative,
 $\text{Re}[\text{eig}(\frac{df}{dx})] < 0$, then "Stable",
 - if **any** real-part of the eigenvalues is positive, $\text{Re}[\text{eig}(\frac{df}{dx})] > 0$, then "Unstable".

Stability of Equilibria Points - Pendulum Example

Let's see first for $\theta = \pi$:

$$f(\mathbf{x}) = \dot{\mathbf{x}} = \begin{bmatrix} \dot{\theta} \\ \frac{-g}{l} \sin \theta - b\dot{\theta} \end{bmatrix}$$

Stability of Equilibria Points - Pendulum Example

Let's see first for $\theta = \pi$:

$$f(\mathbf{x}) = \dot{\mathbf{x}} = \begin{bmatrix} \dot{\theta} \\ \frac{-g}{l} \sin \theta - b\dot{\theta} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\frac{df}{d\mathbf{x}} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ \frac{-g}{l} \cos \theta & -b \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\frac{df}{d\mathbf{x}}|_{\theta=\pi} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ \frac{g}{l} & -b \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\text{eig}\left(\frac{df}{d\mathbf{x}}\right) = -\frac{b}{2} \pm \sqrt{\frac{0.25b^2l + g}{l}}$$

Stability of Equilibria Points - Pendulum Example

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Unstable if $\sqrt{\frac{0.25b^2l + g}{l}} > \frac{b}{2}$ (true for realistic cases $g = 9.81$, $l \leq 1$, $b \leq 0.5$)

Stability of Equilibria Points - Pendulum Example (2)

Now let's see for $\theta = 0$:

$$f(\mathbf{x}) = \dot{\mathbf{x}} = \begin{bmatrix} \dot{\theta} \\ \frac{-g}{l} \sin \theta - b\dot{\theta} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\frac{df}{d\mathbf{x}} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ \frac{-g}{l} \cos \theta & -b \end{bmatrix}$$

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Stability of Equilibria Points - Pendulum Example (2)

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$$\frac{df}{d\mathbf{x}}|_{\theta=0} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ \frac{-g}{l} & -b \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\text{eig}\left(\frac{df}{d\mathbf{x}}\right) = -\frac{b}{2} \pm \sqrt{\frac{0.25b^2l - g}{l}}$$

$\text{eig}\left(\frac{df}{d\mathbf{x}}\right) = -\frac{b}{2} \pm i\sqrt{\frac{0.25b^2l - g}{l}}$ for realistic cases ($g = 9.81$, $l \leq 1$, $b \leq 0.5$)
and thus the equilibrium is **Stable!!**

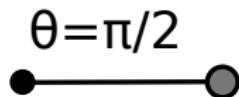
First Control Problem!

Alright! Let's "see" some action! How can we "move" the equilibrium to another point? Let's try $\theta = \frac{\pi}{2}$.

$$\theta = \pi/2$$


First Control Problem!

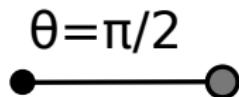
Alright! Let's "see" some action! How can we "move" the equilibrium to another point? Let's try $\theta = \frac{\pi}{2}$.



$$\dot{\mathbf{x}} = \begin{bmatrix} \dot{\theta} \\ \frac{-g}{l} \sin\left(\frac{\pi}{2}\right) + \frac{1}{ml^2} \mathbf{u} - b\dot{\theta} \end{bmatrix} = \mathbf{0}$$

First Control Problem!

Alright! Let's "see" some action! How can we "move" the equilibrium to another point? Let's try $\theta = \frac{\pi}{2}$.



$$\dot{x} = \begin{bmatrix} \dot{\theta} \\ \frac{-g}{l} \sin\left(\frac{\pi}{2}\right) + \frac{1}{ml^2} u - b\dot{\theta} \end{bmatrix} = \mathbf{0}$$

Thus,

$$\frac{1}{ml^2} u = \frac{g}{l} \sin\left(\frac{\pi}{2}\right) \Rightarrow u = mgl$$

■ Why do we care about discretization?

- We can't "solve" $\dot{\mathbf{x}} = f(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u})$ in the general case,
- Computers cannot handle continuous t in representing $\mathbf{x}(t)$,
- Sometimes discrete time dynamics can describe better the situation (e.g. contact-based dynamics).

■ How?

■ Why do we care about discretization?

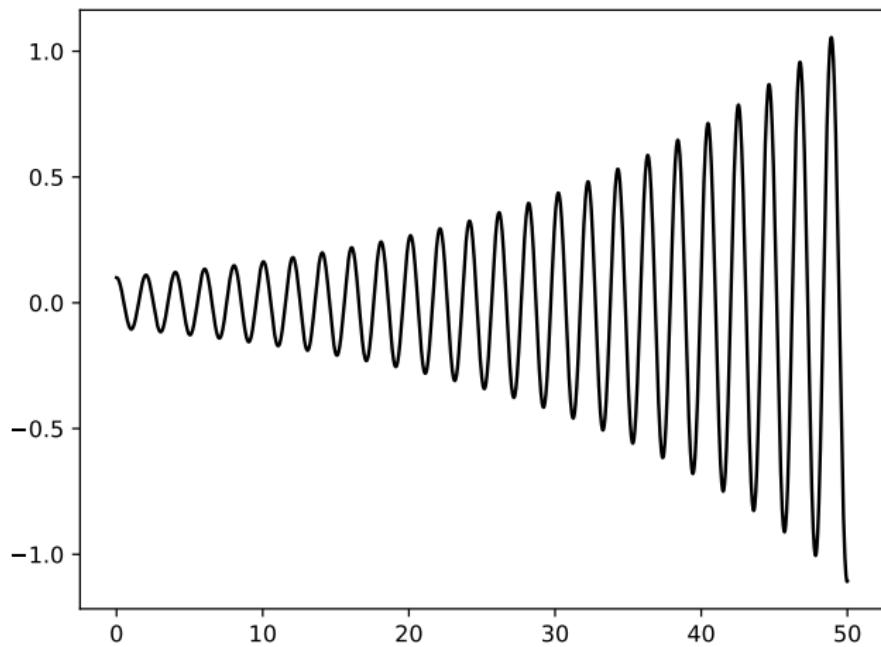
- We can't "solve" $\dot{\mathbf{x}} = f(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u})$ in the general case,
- Computers cannot handle continuous t in representing $\mathbf{x}(t)$,
- Sometimes discrete time dynamics can describe better the situation (e.g. contact-based dynamics).

■ How?

- $\mathbf{x}_{k+1} = f_{\text{discrete}}(\mathbf{x}_k, \mathbf{u}_k)$

- **Euler Integration:** $\mathbf{x}_{k+1} = \mathbf{x}_k + \underbrace{\underbrace{f(\mathbf{x}_k, \mathbf{u}_k)}_{\text{"Continuous Dynamics"}}}_{f_{\text{discrete}}(\mathbf{x}_k, \mathbf{u}_k)} \underbrace{dt}_{\text{"Timestep"}}$

Discretization - Pendulum Code/Simulation



Runge Kutta 4th Order (RK4)

- Do not use Euler Integration!
- What else?
 - Runge Kutta 4th Order (RK4):

$$\mathbf{f}_1 = f(\mathbf{x}_k, \mathbf{u}_k)$$

$$\mathbf{f}_2 = f\left(\mathbf{x}_k + \mathbf{f}_1 \frac{dt}{2}, \mathbf{u}_k\right)$$

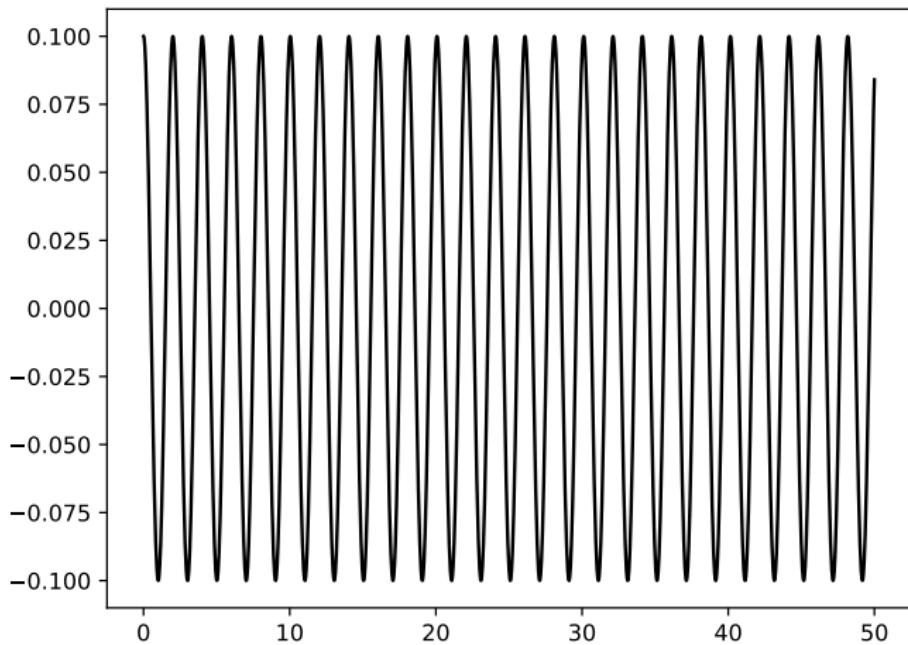
$$\mathbf{f}_3 = f\left(\mathbf{x}_k + \mathbf{f}_2 \frac{dt}{2}, \mathbf{u}_k\right)$$

$$\mathbf{f}_4 = f(\mathbf{x}_k + \mathbf{f}_3 dt, \mathbf{u}_k)$$

$$\mathbf{x}_{k+1} = \mathbf{x}_k + \frac{dt}{6} \left(\mathbf{f}_1 + 2\mathbf{f}_2 + 2\mathbf{f}_3 + \mathbf{f}_4 \right)$$

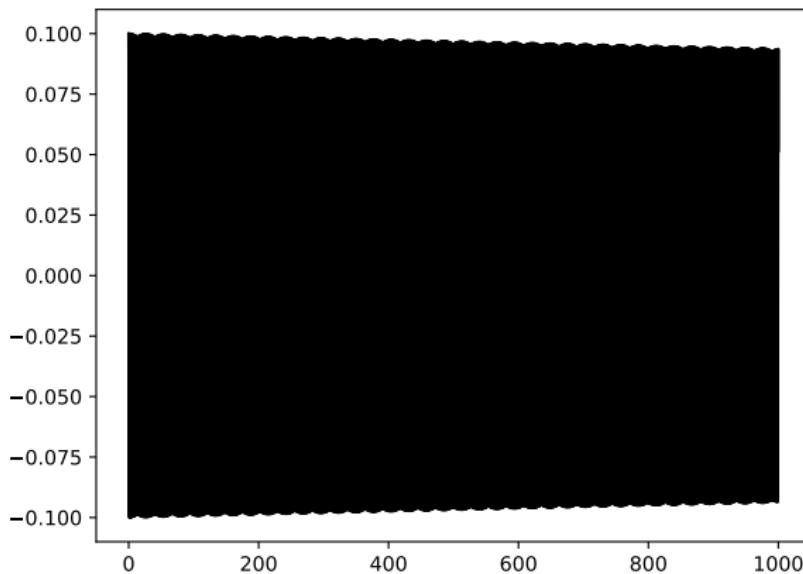
- RK4 basically fits a cubic polynomial.

RK4 - Pendulum Code/Simulation



RK4 - Pendulum Code/Simulation (2)

The simulation is damped!



Semi-Implicit Euler Integration

- RK4 is nice, but not perfect!
- What else?
 - Semi-Implicit Euler Integration:

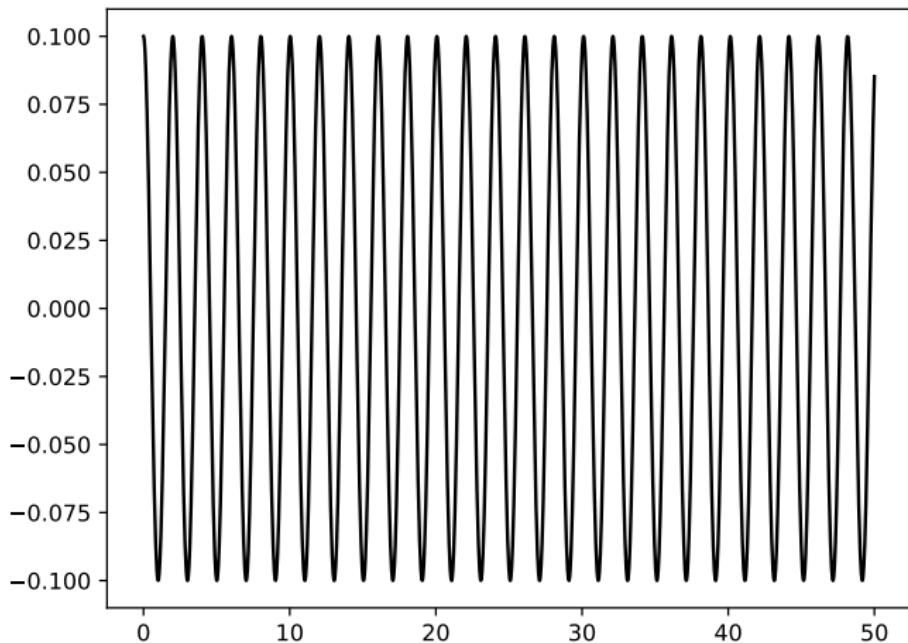
$$\begin{bmatrix} \dot{\mathbf{q}}_k \\ \dot{\mathbf{v}}_k \end{bmatrix} = f(\mathbf{x}_k, \mathbf{u}_k)$$

$$\mathbf{v}_{k+1} = \mathbf{v}_k + \dot{\mathbf{v}}_k dt$$

$$\mathbf{q}_{k+1} = \mathbf{q}_k + \mathbf{v}_{k+1} dt$$

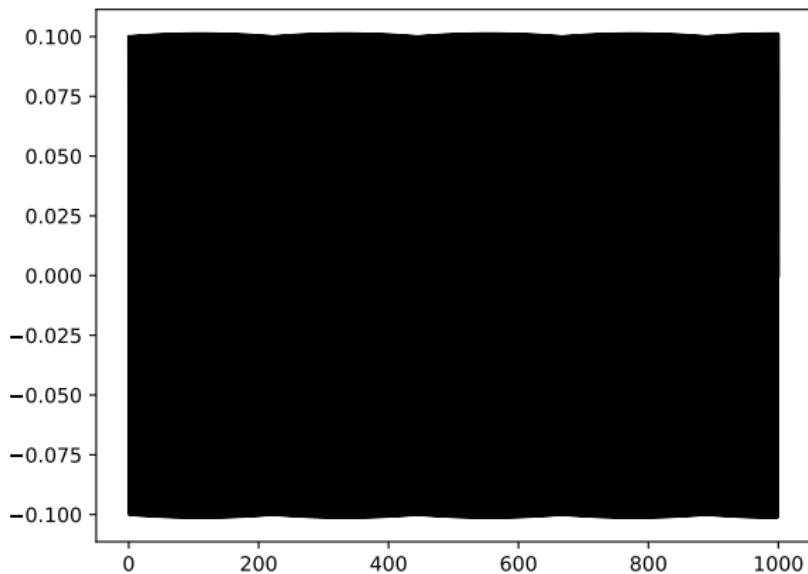
- We basically update first the velocity of the system, and then use the $k + 1$ velocity to update the position part.

Semi-Implicit Euler - Pendulum Code/Simulation



Semi-Implicit Euler - Pendulum Code/Simulation (2)

Undamped simulation! Semi-Implicit Euler preserves energy!



So far we have been discussing explicit integrators. Implicit integrators are defined as:

$$f_{\text{discrete}}(\mathbf{x}_{k+1}, \mathbf{x}_k, \mathbf{u}_k) = \mathbf{0}$$

We solve this as a root-finding problem. We know \mathbf{x}_k , \mathbf{u}_k and we need to solve for \mathbf{x}_{k+1} .

Simplest form is “Backward Euler”:

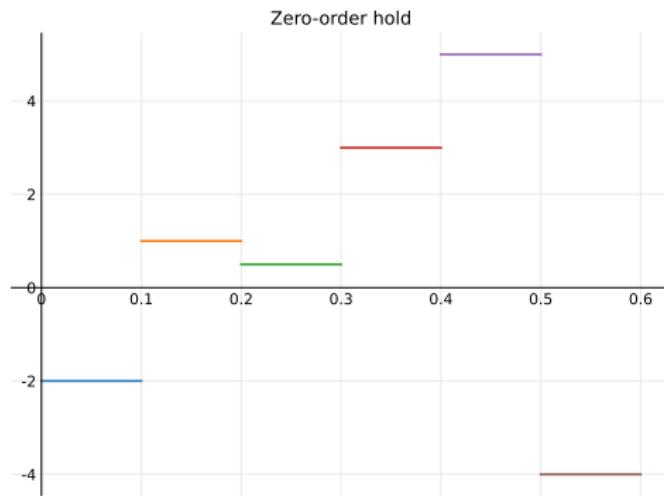
$$f_{\text{discrete}}(\mathbf{x}_{k+1}, \mathbf{x}_k, \mathbf{u}_k) = \mathbf{x}_{k+1} - \mathbf{x}_k - f(\mathbf{x}_{k+1}, \mathbf{u}_k)dt = \mathbf{0}$$

- **Do not use Forward Euler!**
- RK4 is the “industry standard”, but comes with damped behavior (unrealistic)
- Implicit methods are more accurate, but require optimization!
- Semi-Implicit Euler is a middle ground (not always good enough!)
- Be careful! Test! Test! Test!

Discretization of Controls

How can we discretize the control inputs?

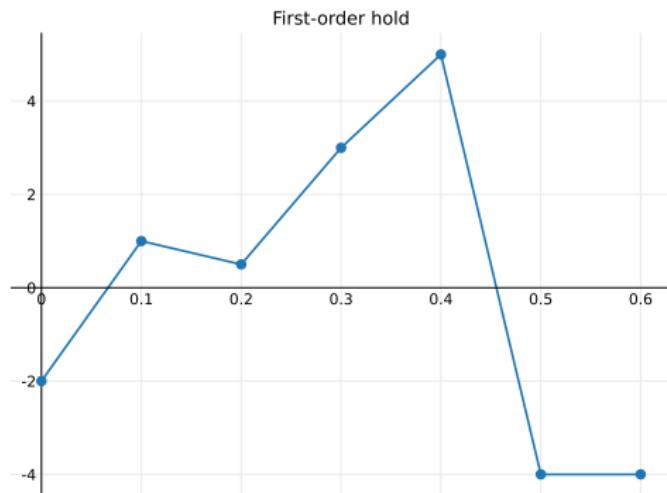
- “Zero-order hold”



Discretization of Controls (2)

How can we discretize the control inputs?

- “First-order hold”



- Higher order polynomials/Splines!

Time Varying Linear Systems:

$$\dot{x} = \mathbf{A}(t)x + \mathbf{B}(t)\mathbf{u}$$

Time Invariant Linear Systems:

$$\dot{x} = \mathbf{Ax} + \mathbf{Bu}$$

Also:

$$\dot{x} = \mathbf{Ax} + \mathbf{Bu} + \mathbf{d}$$

They are VERY important for controlling robotic systems and control in general!

Integration of Linear Systems

- All integrators that we have seen above work for any $f(\cdot, \cdot)$,
- **Can we do better if we know the system is linear?**

Integration of Linear Systems

- All integrators that we have seen above work for any $f(\cdot, \cdot)$,
- **Can we do better if we know the system is linear?**

Let's start with the easiest case (1D):

$$\dot{x} = \frac{dx}{dt} = \alpha x$$
$$\int \frac{1}{x} dx = \int \alpha dt$$

$$\ln x = \alpha t + C$$

$$x = e^{\alpha t} x_0$$

What happens in higher dimensions?

$$\dot{\mathbf{x}} = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}$$

$$\mathbf{x} = e^{\mathbf{A}t} \mathbf{x}_0$$

$e^{\mathbf{A}t}$ is the matrix exponential.

What happens in higher dimensions?

$$\dot{\mathbf{x}} = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}$$

$$\mathbf{x} = e^{\mathbf{A}t} \mathbf{x}_0$$

$e^{\mathbf{A}t}$ is the matrix exponential. We can write (why?):

$$\mathbf{x}_{k+1} = e^{\mathbf{A}dt} \mathbf{x}_k$$

We have analytically discretized a linear system! No need for explicit/implicit integrators!

We usually call $\mathbf{A}_d = e^{\mathbf{A}dt}$ a state transition matrix: $\mathbf{x}_{k+1} = \mathbf{A}_d \mathbf{x}_k$.

$$\dot{\mathbf{x}} = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}$$

is stable if all $\text{Re}[\text{eig}(\mathbf{A})] < 0$.

What about the discretized version?

Stability of Linear Systems

$$\dot{\mathbf{x}} = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}$$

is stable if all $\text{Re}[\text{eig}(\mathbf{A})] < 0$.

What about the discretized version?

$$\mathbf{x}_{k+1} = e^{\mathbf{A}dt} \mathbf{x}_k = \mathbf{A}_d \mathbf{x}_k$$

is stable if all $|\text{eig}(\mathbf{A})| < 1$.

Stability of Non-Linear Discrete Systems?

How can we use the above to infer if my discretized system is stable?

Stability of Non-Linear Discrete Systems?

How can we use the above to infer if my discretized system is stable? For the general case, we have:

$$\mathbf{x}_{k+1} = f_{\text{discrete}}(\mathbf{x}_k)$$

How can we make this linear to study its stability?

Stability of Non-Linear Discrete Systems?

How can we use the above to infer if my discretized system is stable? For the general case, we have:

$$\mathbf{x}_{k+1} = f_{\text{discrete}}(\mathbf{x}_k)$$

How can we make this linear to study its stability? We can, but only around an equilibrium point \mathbf{x}_0 :

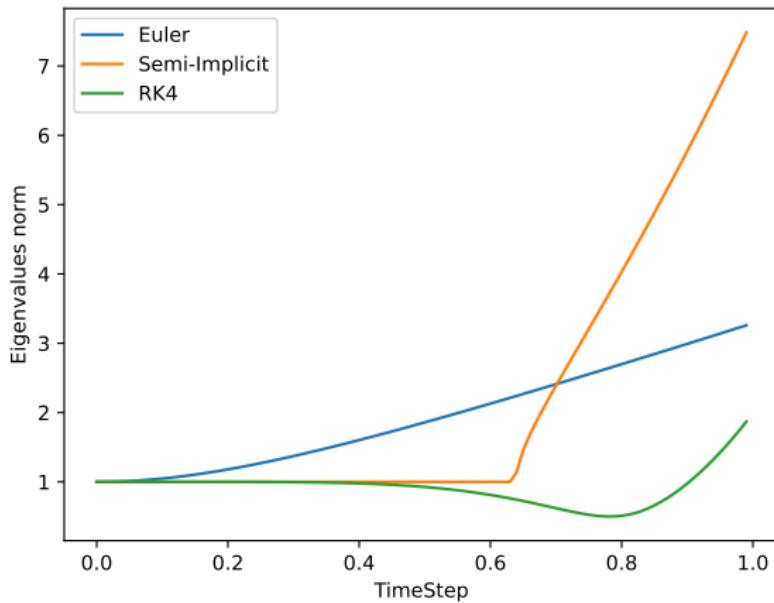
$$\mathbf{x}_{k+1} = \underbrace{\frac{\partial f_{\text{discrete}}}{\partial \mathbf{x}} \Big|_{\mathbf{x}_0}}_{\mathbf{A}_{d\mathbf{x}_0}} \mathbf{x}_k$$

So now we have:

$$\mathbf{x}_{k+1} = \mathbf{A}_{d\mathbf{x}_0} \mathbf{x}_k$$

and we can do the linear case analysis here.

Stability of Integrators: Pendulum - Code Example



How can we integrate the following system?

$$\dot{x} = Ax + Bu$$

How can we integrate the following system?

$$\dot{\mathbf{x}} = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{B}\mathbf{u}$$

- We assume zero order hold and thus $\dot{\mathbf{u}} = \mathbf{0}$,

$$\begin{bmatrix} \dot{\mathbf{x}} \\ \dot{\mathbf{u}} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{A} & \mathbf{B} \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{x} \\ \mathbf{u} \end{bmatrix}$$

- So now we can write:

$$\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{x}_{k+1} \\ \mathbf{u}_{k+1} \end{bmatrix} = e^{\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{A} & \mathbf{B} \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} \end{bmatrix} dt} \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{x}_k \\ \mathbf{u}_k \end{bmatrix}$$

We write:

$$\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{A}_d & \mathbf{B}_d \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{I} \end{bmatrix} = e^{\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{A} & \mathbf{B} \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} \end{bmatrix} dt}$$

And thus:

$$\mathbf{x}_{k+1} = \mathbf{A}_d \mathbf{x}_k + \mathbf{B}_d \mathbf{u}_k$$

Thank you

- Any Questions?

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