

Solving Differential Equations with different methods Capacitor Equation and Simple Harmonic Oscillator

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1 Solving RC Circuit Differential Equation

Analytical Solution

In a circuit with a capacitor, we got the following formula:

$$V_0 - \frac{q}{C} = IR$$
$$\frac{dq}{dt} = \frac{V_0}{R} - \frac{q}{RC}$$

we define

$$q_0 = CV$$

therefore:

$$q(t) = q_0(1 - e^{-\frac{t}{RC}})$$

Numerical Methods

For solving the differential equation we use the Euler Method and another idea resulting in unstable results. In this method we use the following relation:

$$y_{n+1} = y_n(\text{timestep})F(x_n)$$

where F is the derivative of y with respect to time. Initial values are considered for charging a capacitor. Therefore $q_0 = 0$ and R and C are also considered to be 1. The results for time step= 0.1 is shown below.

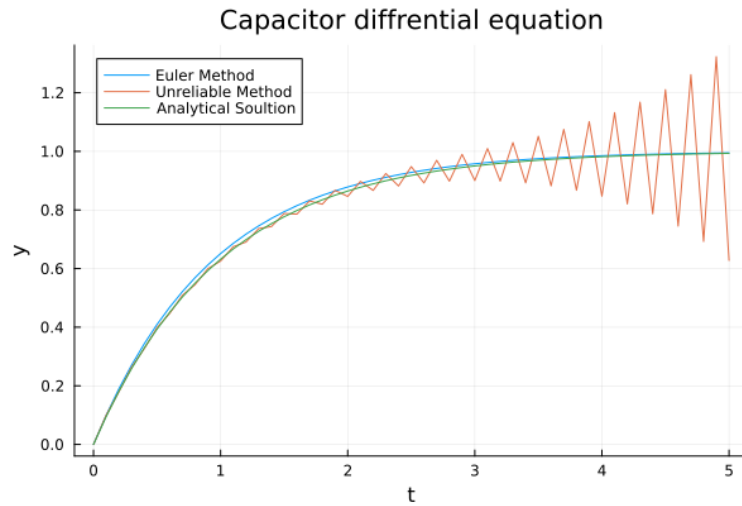


Figure 1: Comparing Euler and the unstable method.

The error of the Euler Method is also calculated using the mean least squares. The error increases with larger time steps:

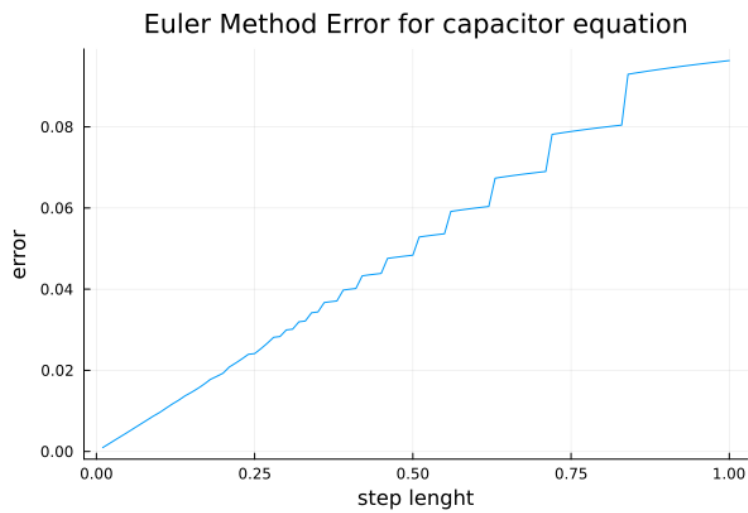


Figure 2: Euler Method error

2 Simple Harmonic Oscillator

For the simple harmonic Oscillator we have:

$$\ddot{x} = -\omega x$$

Assuming the initial state to be starting from $\dot{x}(0) = 0$:

$$\dot{x} = x_0 \sin(\omega t)$$

$$x = x_0 \cos(\omega t)$$

Solutions

For solving this differential equation The Euler, Euler-Cromers, LeapFrog, Verlet, Velocity Verlet and Beeman is used with 0.1 times step. The results are as follows:

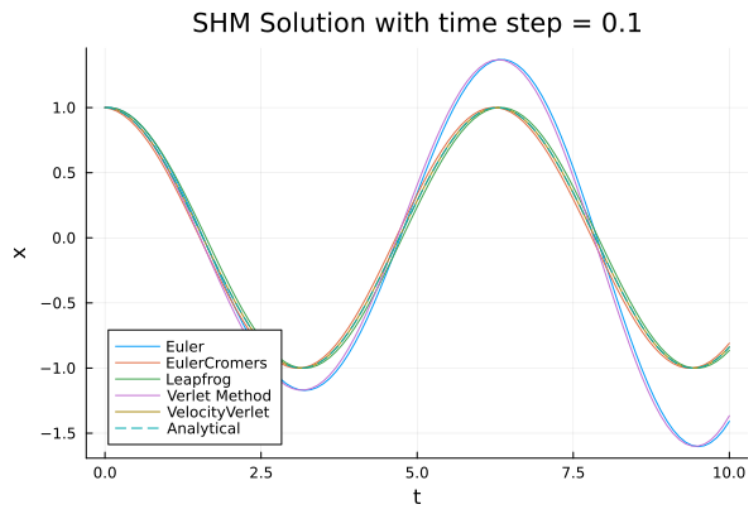


Figure 3: Simple Harmonic oscillator solved with different methods

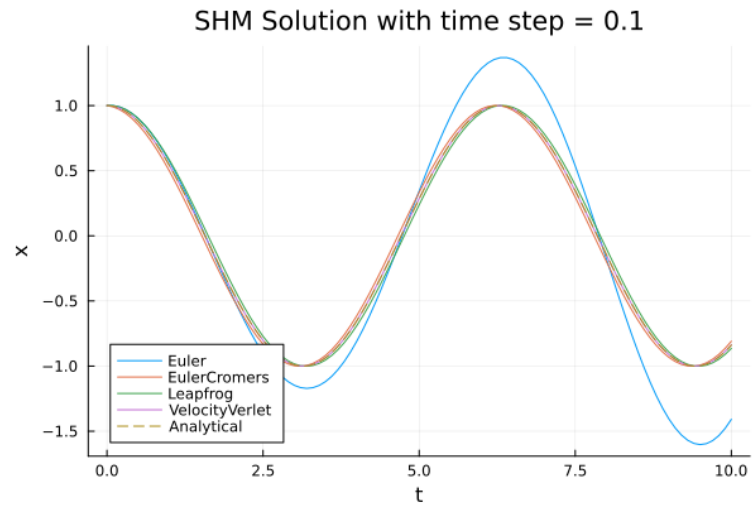


Figure 4: Simple Harmonic oscillator solved with different methods

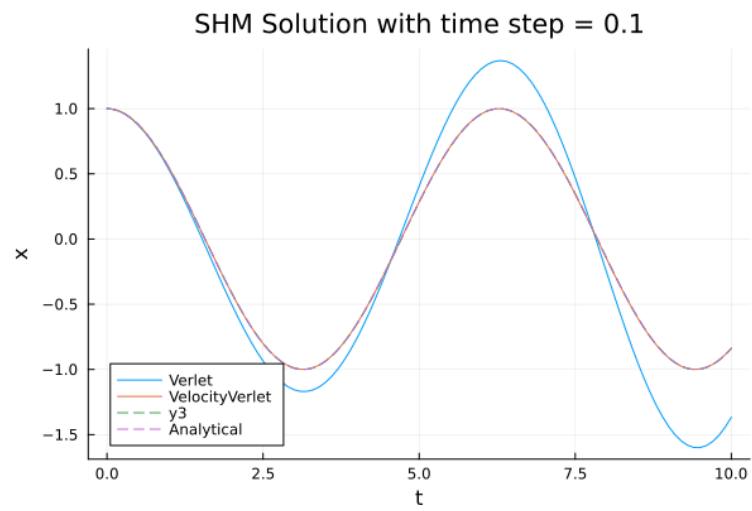


Figure 5: Comparing verlet and velocity verlet

Phase Space

Velocity Verlet seems to be the most accurate method, While Leapfrog and Euler-Cromers look almost similar in terms of accuracy. Beeman seems to be the least accurate.

The verlet method is unstable in this case, while Velocity Verlet is the best in terms of energy conservation.

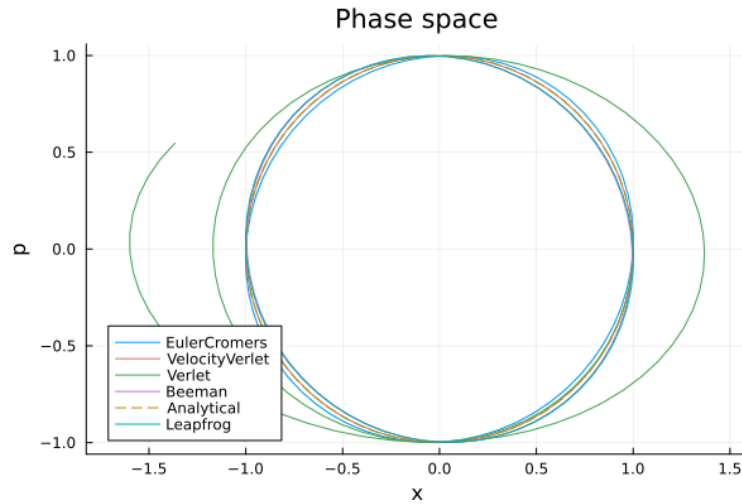


Figure 6: Phase space and different methods