

# Higher Order Equations

## 1 Higher Order Equations

- first order differential systems
- Euler's method on a system
- the pendulum

## 2 Linear Systems

- solution trajectories
- spectral decomposition

## 3 Computer Simulations

- a predator-prey model
- application of the modified Euler method

MCS 471 Lecture 29  
Numerical Analysis  
Jan Verschelde, 28 October 2022

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# higher order differential equations

The format for an  $n$ -th order differential equation is

$$y^{(n)} + a_{n-1}y^{(n-1)} + \dots + a_1y^{(1)} + a_0y^{(0)} = f(x, y),$$

where

- $y^{(0)} = y = y(x)$ ,
- $y^{(i)} = \frac{d^i y}{dx^i}$ , and
- $a_{n-1}, \dots, a_1, a_0$  are constants, independent of  $x$  and  $y$ ,
- $f$  is a function of  $x$  and  $y$ .

## an example of a second order equation

Consider:

$$y^{(2)} + y^{(0)} = 0,$$

where  $y^{(0)} = y = y(x)$  and  $y^{(2)} = \frac{d^2 y}{dx^2}$ .

A solution is  $y(x) = c_1 \cos(x) + c_2 \sin(x)$ , for constants  $c_1, c_2$ .

Let us verify:

$$y^{(0)} = c_1 \cos(x) + c_2 \sin(x),$$

$$y^{(1)} = -c_1 \sin(x) + c_2 \cos(x),$$

$$y^{(2)} = -c_1 \cos(x) - c_2 \sin(x).$$

Indeed,  $y^{(2)} + y^{(0)} = 0$ .

## a general third order differential equation

Consider a differential equation of order three:

$$y^{(3)} + a_2y^{(2)} + a_1y^{(1)} + a_0y^{(0)} = f(x, y).$$

We simplify the notation:

$$y^{(3)} + a_2y_3 + a_1y_2 + a_0y_1 = f(x, y),$$

with auxiliary variables  $y_1 = y^{(0)}$ ,  $y_2 = y^{(1)}$ , and  $y_3 = y^{(2)}$ .

Observe that  $y_3 = y^{(2)}$  implies  $y_3' = y^{(3)}$ .

we obtain a first order differential equation:

$$\begin{aligned}y_3' + a_2y_3 + a_1y_2 + a_0y_1 &= f(x, y), \\y_3' &= f(x, y) - a_2y_3 - a_1y_2 - a_0y_1.\end{aligned}$$

## from third order to first order

One *third* order differential equation

$$y^{(3)} + a_2y^{(2)} + a_1y^{(1)} + a_0y^{(0)} = f(x, y)$$

becomes a system of three *first* order differential equations:

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} y_3' = f(x, y) - a_2y_3 - a_1y_2 - a_0y_1 \\ y_2' = y_3, \quad \text{as } y_3 = \frac{d^2y}{dx^2} \\ y_1' = y_2, \quad \text{as } y_2 = \frac{dy}{dx} \end{array} \right.$$

## rewrite the system in matrix-vector notation

$y^{(3)} + a_2y^{(2)} + a_1y^{(1)} + a_0y^{(0)} = f$  is equivalent to

$$\begin{cases} y_3' &= f - a_2y_3 - a_1y_2 - a_0y_1 \\ y_2' &= y_3 \\ y_1' &= y_2 \end{cases}$$

We align the variables explicitly:

$$\begin{cases} y_1' &= & & & y_2 \\ y_2' &= & & & y_3 \\ y_3' &= & -a_0y_1 & -a_1y_2 & -a_2y_3 & +f \end{cases}$$

In matrix-vector notation:

$$\begin{bmatrix} y_1' \\ y_2' \\ y_3' \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \\ -a_0 & -a_1 & -a_2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} y_1 \\ y_2 \\ y_3 \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ f \end{bmatrix}$$

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# Euler's method

To solve  $y' = f(x, y(x))$ ,  $y(x_0) = y_0$ , we discretize, for  $h > 0$ :

$$\begin{array}{c} | \quad \quad | \quad \quad | \\ \hline x_0 \quad x_0 + h \quad x_0 + 2h \end{array} \quad \begin{cases} x_n = x_0 + nh, \\ y_n \approx y(x_n). \end{cases}$$

Euler's method:  $y_{n+1} = y_n + hf(x_n, y_n)$ ,  $n = 0, 1, \dots$

In three dimensions,  $\mathbf{f} = (f_1, f_2, f_3)$ ,  $\mathbf{y}_{n+1} = \mathbf{y}_n + h\mathbf{f}(x, \mathbf{y}_n)$ :

$$\begin{bmatrix} y_{n+1,1} \\ y_{n+1,2} \\ y_{n+1,3} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} y_{n,1} \\ y_{n,2} \\ y_{n,3} \end{bmatrix} + h \begin{bmatrix} f_1(x_n, y_{n,1}, y_{n,2}, y_{n,3}) \\ f_2(x_n, y_{n,1}, y_{n,2}, y_{n,3}) \\ f_3(x_n, y_{n,1}, y_{n,2}, y_{n,3}) \end{bmatrix}, \quad n = 0, 1, \dots$$

starting at  $x_0$ ,  $y_{0,1} = y_1(x_0)$ ,  $y_{0,2} = y_2(x_0)$ ,  $y_{0,3} = y_3(x_0)$ .

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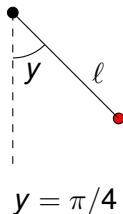
- a predator-prey model
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# the pendulum

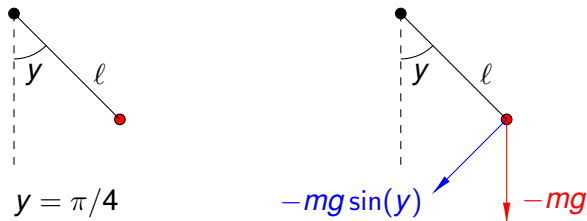
Consider a pendulum swinging under gravity.

- The length of the pendulum is a constant  $\ell$ .
- $m$  is the mass of the pendulum.
- The gravitational constant is  $g$ .

The variable  $y(t)$  is the angle the pendulum makes with respect to its resting position  $y = 0$ . The initial velocity is  $y'(0)$ .



# an initial value problem



Newton's second law of motion  $F = ma$  leads to

$$m\ell \frac{d^2 y}{dt^2} = -mg \sin(y).$$

For the initial value problem, we give an initial angle and initial velocity.

## a system of two first order equations

The mass  $m$  does not matter, we divide by  $\ell > 0$ :

$$m\ell \frac{d^2 y}{dt^2} = -mg \sin(y) \quad \Rightarrow \quad \frac{d^2 y}{dt^2} = -\frac{g}{\ell} \sin(y).$$

Set  $y_1 = y$  and let  $y_2 = \frac{dy}{dt} = y' = y_1'$ , so the first equation is

$$y_1' = y_2.$$

Use  $y_2' = \frac{d^2 y}{dt^2}$  for the second equation:

$$y_2' = -\frac{g}{\ell} \sin(y) = -\frac{g}{\ell} \sin(y_1).$$

# applying Euler's method

Apply Euler's method to

$$\begin{aligned}y_1' &= y_2, \\y_2' &= -\frac{g}{\ell} \sin(y_1).\end{aligned}$$

For  $h > 0$ ,  $t_n = 0 + nh$ , we compute

$$\begin{aligned}y_{n+1,1} &= y_{n,1} + h y_{n,2} \\y_{n+1,2} &= y_{n,2} + h \left( -\frac{g}{\ell} \sin(y_{n,1}) \right), \quad n = 0, 1, \dots\end{aligned}$$

starting at  $y_1 = \pi/4$  (initial angle),  $y_2 = 0$  (initial velocity).

In the numerical experiments, we use  $\ell = 1$  and  $g = 9.807$ .

## a Julia function

```
"""
```

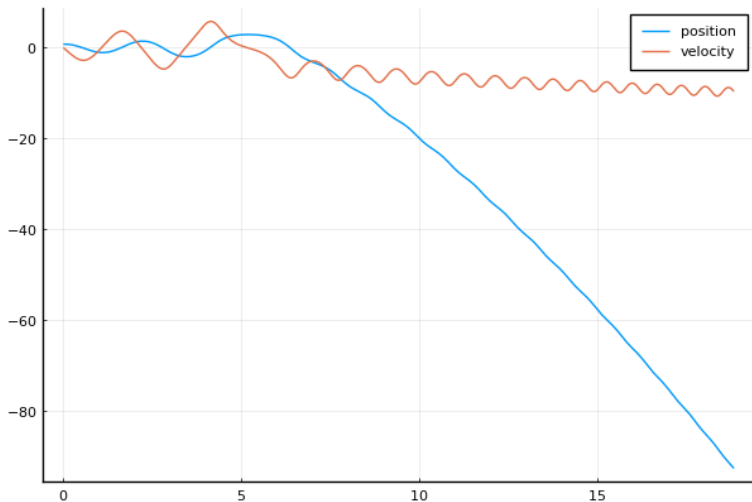
```
    eulerpend(p::Int,n::Int)
```

applies Euler's method with  $n \cdot p$  evaluations  
on the interval  $[0, p \cdot 2 \cdot \pi]$  on the pendulum problem.

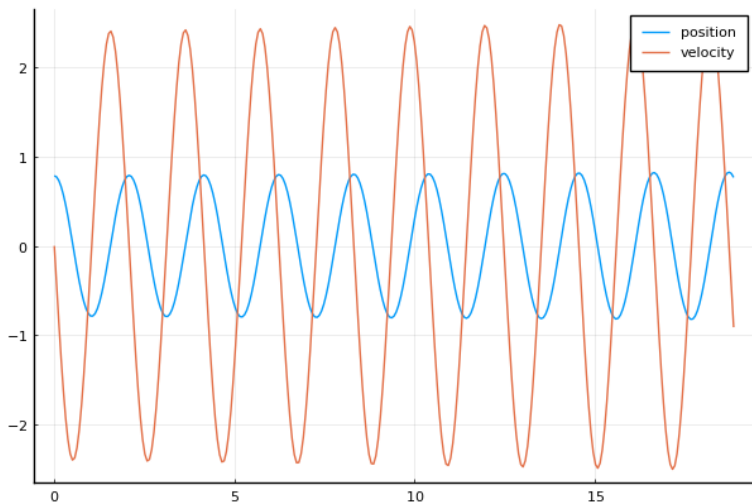
```
"""
```

```
function eulerpend(p::Int,n::Int)
    h = 2*p*pi/n
    (rt, ry1, ry2) = (zeros(n+1), zeros(n+1), zeros(n+1))
    y1 = pi/4
    y2 = 0
    (rt[1], ry1[1], ry2[1]) = (0, y1, y2)
    for i=1:n
        t = i*h
        (y1, y2) = (y1 + h*y2, y2 + h*(-9.807*sin(y1)))
        (rt[i+1], ry1[i+1], ry2[i+1]) = (t, y1, y2)
    end
    return (rt, ry1, ry2)
end
```

# plotting angles and velocities for $(p, n) = (3, 100)$



# the modified Euler method for $(p, n) = (3, 100)$



# applying the modified Euler method

Apply the modified Euler's method to

$$\begin{aligned}y_1' &= y_2, \\y_2' &= -\frac{g}{\ell} \sin(y_1).\end{aligned}$$

For  $h > 0$ ,  $t_n = 0 + nh$ , we compute

$$\bar{y}_{n+1,1} = y_{n,1} + h y_{n,2}$$

$$\bar{y}_{n+1,2} = y_{n,2} + h \left( -\frac{g}{\ell} \sin(y_{n,1}) \right)$$

$$y_{n+1,1} = y_{n,1} + \frac{h}{2} \left( y_{n,2} + \bar{y}_{n+1,2} \right)$$

$$y_{n+1,2} = y_{n,2} + \frac{h}{2} \left( -\frac{g}{\ell} \sin(y_{n,1}) - \frac{g}{\ell} \sin(\bar{y}_{n+1,1}) \right), \quad n = 0, 1, \dots$$

starting at  $y_1 = \pi/4$  (initial angle),  $y_2 = 0$  (initial velocity).

# the modified Euler method in Julia

```
"""
    eulermodpend(p::Int,n::Int)

applies the modified Euler's method with n*p evaluations
on the interval [0,p*2*pi] on the pendulum problem.
"""
function eulermodpend(p::Int,n::Int)
    h = 2*p*pi/n
    (rt, ry1, ry2) = (zeros(n+1), zeros(n+1), zeros(n+1))
    (y1, y2) = (pi/4, 0)
    (rt[1], ry1[1], ry2[1]) = (0, y1, y2)
    for i=1:n
        t = i*h
        (y1a, y2a) = (y1 + h*y2, y2 + h*(-9.807*sin(y1)))
        (y1b, y2b) = (y1, y2)
        y1 = y1 + (h/2)*(y2a + y2b)
        y2 = y2 + (h/2)*(-9.807*sin(y1a)-9.807*sin(y1b))
        (rt[i+1], ry1[i+1], ry2[i+1]) = (t, y1, y2)
    end
    return (rt, ry1, ry2)
end
```

end

## comparing the errors

```
$ julia eulerpend.jl
```

```
Running Euler's method ...
```

1	0.00	7.853982e-01	0.000000e+00	0.00e+00
101	6.28	5.533318e-01	-6.244064e+00	2.32e-01
201	12.57	-3.787590e+01	-8.959735e+00	3.87e+01
301	18.85	-9.276810e+01	-9.645784e+00	9.36e+01

```
Running the modified Euler method ...
```

1	0.00	7.853982e-01	0.000000e+00	0.00e+00
101	6.28	7.891436e-01	-3.622434e-01	3.75e-03
201	12.57	7.800871e-01	-6.669493e-01	5.31e-03
301	18.85	7.662499e-01	-9.095848e-01	1.91e-02

```
$
```

# the pendulum with damping

The constant  $d > 0$  takes friction into account:

$$\begin{aligned}y_1' &= y_2, \\y_2' &= -\frac{g}{\ell} \sin(y_1) - d y_2.\end{aligned}$$

## Exercise 1:

- 1 Apply the modified Euler method for  $\ell = 1$ ,  $g = 9.807$ ,  $d = 0.1$ , for  $y(0) = \pi/4$ ,  $y'(0) = 0$ , in the interval  $[0, 6\pi]$  with  $n = 500$ .
- 2 Make a plot of the angles and the velocities.
- 3 Verify the correctness and run with higher values of  $n$  if needed.

# the pendulum with damping and forcing

With damping, the pendulum comes to rest.

Adding  $A \sin(t)$ , for  $A > 0$ , keeps the pendulum moving:

$$\begin{aligned}y_1' &= y_2, \\y_2' &= -\frac{g}{\ell} \sin(y_1) - d y_2 + A \sin(t).\end{aligned}$$

## Exercise 2:

- 1 Apply the modified Euler method for  $\ell = 1$ ,  $g = 9.807$ ,  $d = 0.1$ , for  $y(0) = \pi/4$ ,  $y'(0) = 0$ , in the interval  $[0, 6\pi]$  with  $n = 500$ . Use  $A = 10$  for the amplitude of the forcing term.
- 2 Make a plot of the angles and the velocities.
- 3 Verify the correctness and run with higher values of  $n$  if needed.

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## the cardioid

The cardioid is a curve in the plane, defined by

$$x(t) = (1 - \cos(t)) \cos(t), \quad y(t) = (1 - \cos(t)) \sin(t), \quad t \in [0, 2\pi].$$

It is the exact solution to the initial value problem

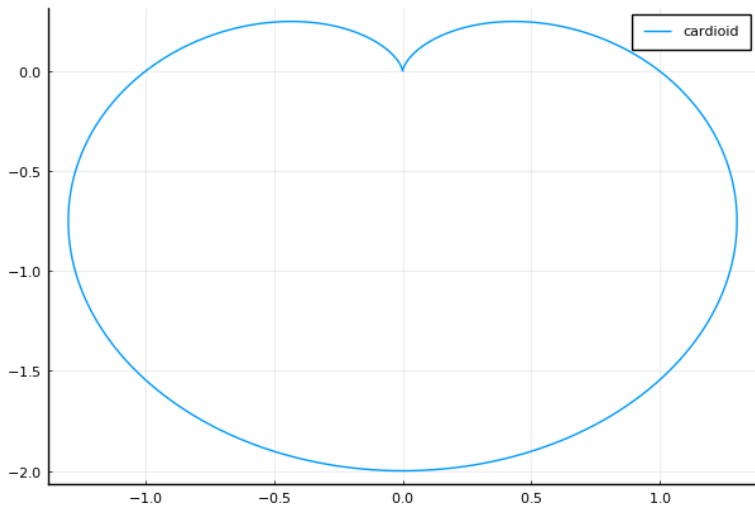
$$\begin{cases} \frac{dx}{dt} = -y + \cos(t) \sin(t) \\ \frac{dy}{dt} = x + \sin^2(t) \end{cases} \quad x(0) = 0, y(0) = 0.$$

The system written in matrix format:

$$\begin{bmatrix} x' \\ y' \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} \cos(t) \sin(t) \\ \sin^2(t) \end{bmatrix}$$

This is an example of a *linear system*.

# the cardioid



# apply the modified Euler method

## Exercise 3:

Apply the modified Euler method to

$$\begin{cases} \frac{dx}{dt} = -y + \cos(t) \sin(t) \\ \frac{dy}{dt} = x + \sin^2(t) \end{cases} \quad x(0) = 0, y(0) = 0,$$

for  $t \in [0, 2\pi]$ .

Set  $h$  to be small enough so the plot of the computed points agrees with the plot of the exact solution.

## another plane curve

**Exercise 4:** Consider the system

$$\begin{cases} \frac{dx}{dt} = -y + 3 \cos(3t) \cos(t) \\ \frac{dy}{dt} = x + 3 \cos(3t) \sin(t) \end{cases} \quad x(0) = 0, y(0) = 0.$$

- 1 Verify that  $x(t) = \sin(3t) \cos(t)$ ,  $y(t) = \sin(3t) \sin(t)$  is the exact solution.
- 2 Apply the modified Euler method to compute the solution curve, for  $t \in [0, 2\pi]$ .

Set  $h$  to be small enough so the plot of the computed points agrees with the plot of the exact solution.

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# linear systems

The  $n$ -th order differential equation

$$y^{(n)} + a_{n-1}y^{(n-1)} + \dots + a_2y^{(2)} + a_1y^{(1)} + a_0y^{(0)} = f$$

is equivalent to

$$\begin{bmatrix} y_1' \\ y_2' \\ y_3' \\ \vdots \\ y_n' \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & \dots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \ddots & 1 \\ -a_0 & -a_1 & -a_2 & \dots & -a_{n-1} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} y_1 \\ y_2 \\ y_3 \\ \vdots \\ y_n \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ \vdots \\ f \end{bmatrix}.$$

In short notation:  $\mathbf{y}' = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{y} + \mathbf{b}$  is a *linear system*.

## solving a linear system

The linear system  $\mathbf{y}' = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{y} + \mathbf{b}$  is solved in two stages:

- 1 Find a solution  $\mathbf{y}_h$  to the homogeneous system, with  $\mathbf{b} = 0$ .
- 2 Compute a particular solution  $\mathbf{y}_p$ , for a  $\mathbf{b} \neq 0$ .

The first-order equation

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = y, \quad y(0) = y_0$$

has the exact solution  $y(x) = y_0 e^x$ .

For the homogeneous linear system  $\mathbf{y}' = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{y}$ ,  $\mathbf{y}(0) = \mathbf{y}_0$  is solved by

$$\mathbf{y}(x) = e^{\mathbf{A}x} \mathbf{y}(0), \quad e^{\mathbf{A}x} = \mathbf{I} + \mathbf{A}x + \frac{(\mathbf{A}x)^2}{2!} + \frac{(\mathbf{A}x)^3}{3!} + \dots$$

## a spectral decomposition

A spectral decomposition of an  $n$ -by- $n$  matrix  $A$  consists of

- 1  $n$  eigenvalues  $\lambda_k$  (all *assumed* to be distinct), and
- 2  $n$  corresponding eigenvectors  $\mathbf{v}_k$ ,  $k = 1, 2, \dots, n$ .

with  $A\mathbf{v}_k = \lambda_k\mathbf{v}_k$ ,  $k = 1, 2, \dots, n$ .

In matrix format  $AV = V\Lambda$  or  $A = V\Lambda V^{-1}$ , with

$$\Lambda = \begin{bmatrix} \lambda_1 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda_2 & \cdots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & \lambda_n \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad V = [ \mathbf{v}_1 \quad \mathbf{v}_2 \quad \cdots \quad \mathbf{v}_n ].$$

We apply  $A = V\Lambda V^{-1}$  to compute powers of  $A$ :

$$A^2 = (V\Lambda V^{-1})(V\Lambda V^{-1}) = V\Lambda^2 V^{-1}.$$

For any  $k$ , we have  $A^k = V\Lambda^k V^{-1}$ .

## a general solution

For a homogeneous linear system  $\mathbf{y}' = A\mathbf{y}$  with initial condition  $\mathbf{y}(0) = \mathbf{y}_0$ , has the general solution  $\mathbf{y}(x) = e^{Ax}\mathbf{y}_0$ .

We use  $A = V\Lambda V^{-1}$  to rewrite  $\mathbf{y}(x) = e^{Ax}\mathbf{y}_0$  as

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{y}(x) &= Ve^{\Lambda x}V^{-1}\mathbf{y}_0 \\ V^{-1}\mathbf{y}(x) &= e^{\Lambda x}V^{-1}\mathbf{y}_0 \\ \mathbf{z}(x) &= e^{\Lambda x}\mathbf{z}_0\end{aligned}$$

A general solution is a linear combination of eigenvectors:

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{y}(x) &= V\mathbf{z}(x) \\ \mathbf{y}(x) &= c_1e^{\lambda_1x}\mathbf{v}_1 + c_2e^{\lambda_2x}\mathbf{v}_2 + \cdots + c_n e^{\lambda_nx}\mathbf{v}_n\end{aligned}$$

The *complex* eigenvalues determine whether the solution is periodic, diverging, or decaying.

# the linear system of the cardioid

## Exercise 5:

Consider the linear system for the cardioid:

$$\begin{bmatrix} x' \\ y' \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} \cos(t) \sin(t) \\ \sin^2(t) \end{bmatrix}$$

- 1 Use the eigenvalues and eigenvectors to write the general solution for the homogeneous part of this problem.
- 2 Does the general form show that the solution is periodic? Justify your answer.

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## rabbits and foxes

The growth of the rabbit population  $r(t)$  is modeled via

$$\frac{dr(t)}{dt} = ar(t), \quad a > 0, \quad a \text{ is the growth rate.}$$

The decay of the foxes population  $f(t)$  is modeled via

$$\frac{df(t)}{dt} = cf(t), \quad c < 0, \quad c \text{ is the decay rate.}$$

About the growth and decay rates:

- without predators, the rabbit population grows exponentially;
- without prey, the fox population decays exponentially.

## two nonlinear ordinary differential equations

A model for the evolution of the two population sizes over time  $t$  is a system of two nonlinear ordinary differential equations:

$$\begin{cases} \frac{dr(t)}{dt} = ar(t) + br(t)f(t), & a > 0, b < 0, \\ \frac{df(t)}{dt} = cf(t) + dr(t)f(t), & c < 0, d > 0. \end{cases}$$

The product term  $r(t)f(t)$  corrects the exponential growth and decay:

- $b < 0$  as a rabbit-fox encounter is negative for the rabbit,
- $d > 0$  as a rabbit-fox encounter is positive for the fox.

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## application of the modified Euler method

To apply the modified Euler method, we use a standard notation. Let  $y_1(t) = r(t)$  and  $y_2(t) = f(t)$ . Then the system is

$$\begin{aligned}y_1' &= F_1(t, y_1, y_2), & F_1 &= ay_1 + by_1y_2, \\y_2' &= F_2(t, y_1, y_2), & F_2 &= cy_2 + dy_1y_2.\end{aligned}$$

For  $t_n = nh$ ,  $h > 0$ , we compute  $y_{n,1} \approx y_1(t_n)$ ,  $y_{n,2} \approx y_2(t_n)$ .

1 Predict with Euler's method:

$$\begin{aligned}\bar{y}_{n+1,1} &= y_{n,1} + hF_1(t_n, y_{n,1}, y_{n,2}), \\ \bar{y}_{n+1,2} &= y_{n,2} + hF_2(t_n, y_{n,1}, y_{n,2}).\end{aligned}$$

2 Correct the predicted values:

$$\begin{aligned}y_{n+1,1} &= y_{n,1} + (h/2)(F_1(t_n, y_{n,1}, y_{n,2}) + F_1(t_n, \bar{y}_{n+1,1}, \bar{y}_{n+1,2})), \\ y_{n+1,2} &= y_{n,2} + (h/2)(F_2(t_n, y_{n,1}, y_{n,2}) + F_2(t_n, \bar{y}_{n+1,1}, \bar{y}_{n+1,2})).\end{aligned}$$

## running the simulation

We need to specify numerical values for the simulation.

1 Values of the four parameters in the system:

$a = 1.1$ , growth rate of the prey

$b = -0.5$ , correction to prey from encounter with predator

$c = -0.75$ , decay rate of the predator

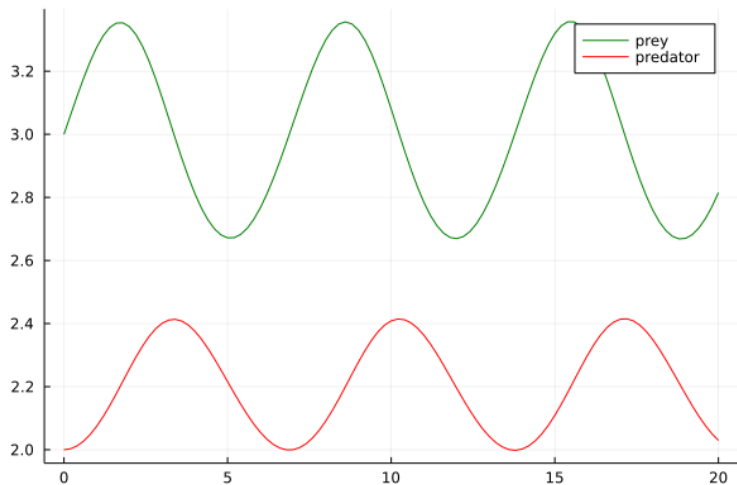
$d = 0.25$ , correction to predator from encounter with prey

2 The initial values for the populations:  $y_1(0) = 3$ ,  $y_2(0) = 2$ .

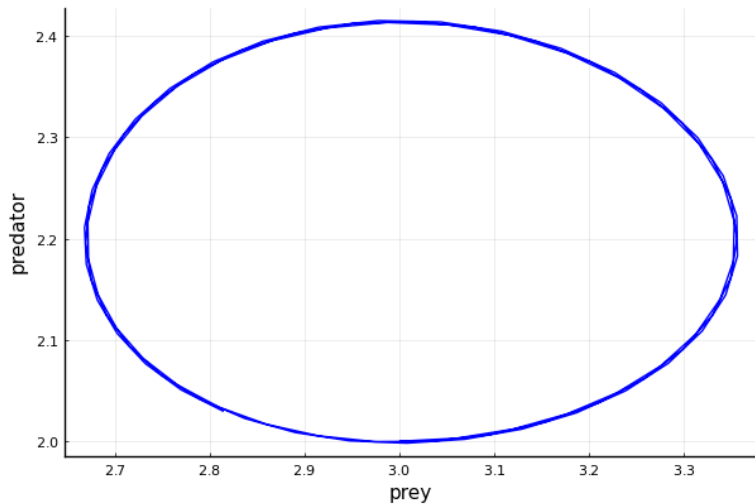
3 The time interval and the number of steps:  $T = 100$ ,  $n = 20$ .

See the posted Julia program and Jupyter notebook.

## plots of the population sizes



# the phase portrait



# two questions on the simulation

## Exercise 6:

For the predator-prey simulation use the posted Jupyter notebook to answer the following two questions:

- 1 Determine experimentally the period of the simulation?

The period is when the phase portrait completes one cycle.

- 2 What is the critical value for the step size  $h$ ?

The critical value is the optimal value:

- ▶ we do the smallest number of steps,
- ▶ and still obtain correct results.