

2. Symmetric integration

Motivation: Conservative systems are "symmetric" wrt the transformation $t \leftrightarrow -t$.

Notation: Consider $\begin{cases} y' = f(y) \\ y(0) = y_0 \end{cases}$

Then we call the map $\varphi_t: \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^d$ the flow of the ODE if

$$\varphi_t(y_0) = y(t).$$

$$\text{In general, } \varphi_t(y(s)) = y(t+s).$$

Observe that φ_t forms a group wrt its argument t and the operation of composition:

$$\begin{aligned} \varphi_t \circ \varphi_s &= \varphi_{t+s} & \varphi_{-t} \circ \varphi_t &= \varphi_0 = \text{Id} \\ \varphi_0 &= \text{Id} & \Rightarrow \varphi_{-t} &= (\varphi_t)^{-1}. \end{aligned}$$

Defn. (S -reversible)

Let $s: \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^d$ be a linear and invertible map.

Then $y' = f(y)$ is s -reversible if

$$s(f(y)) = -f(s(y)) \quad (s \circ f = -f \circ s) \quad \forall y \in \mathbb{R}^d.$$

Example: Consider a second order ODE $q'' = F(q)$ and rewrite it as:

$$\begin{cases} p' = F(q) \\ q' = p \end{cases}$$

Then the ODE is s -reversible with

$$s(p, q) = (-p, q) \quad (\text{Exercise})$$

Rem.: $y' = f(y)$ is \mathcal{S} -reversible \Leftrightarrow

$$\frac{d}{dt} \mathcal{S}(y(t)) = -f(\mathcal{S}(y(t))).$$

Indeed, $\frac{d}{dt} \mathcal{S}(y(t)) \stackrel{\downarrow \text{ linear transformation}}{=} \mathcal{S}(y'(t)) = \mathcal{S}(-f(y(t)))$
 $\stackrel{\uparrow \mathcal{S}\text{-reversible}}{=} -f(\mathcal{S}(y(t))).$

Lemma: For \mathcal{S} -reversible problems, the flow φ_t satisfies:

$$\mathcal{S} \circ \varphi_t = \varphi_{-t} \circ \mathcal{S} = \varphi_t^{-1} \circ \mathcal{S}.$$

Proof: We have

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dt} \varphi_t(y_0) &= \frac{d}{dt} y(t) = f(y(t)) = f(\varphi_t(y_0)) \\ \Rightarrow \frac{d}{dt} \varphi_t &= f \circ \varphi_t. \end{aligned}$$

Moreover,

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dt} \varphi_{-t}(y_0) &= \frac{d}{dt} y(-t) = -f(y(-t)) = -f(\varphi_{-t}(y_0)) \\ \Rightarrow \frac{d}{dt} \varphi_{-t} &= -f \circ \varphi_{-t}. \end{aligned}$$

Now let $v(t) = \mathcal{S} \circ \varphi_t(y_0)$, $u(t) = \varphi_{-t} \circ \mathcal{S}(y_0)$

Observe that $v(0) = u(0) = \mathcal{S}(y_0)$.

Moreover,

$$\begin{aligned} v'(t) &= \mathcal{S} \circ \frac{d}{dt} \varphi_t(y_0) = \mathcal{S} \circ f \circ \varphi_t(y_0) \\ &= -f \circ \underbrace{\mathcal{S} \circ \varphi_t(y_0)}_{v(t)} = -f \circ v(t) \end{aligned}$$

$$u'(t) = \frac{d}{dt} \varphi_{-t} \circ \mathcal{S}(y_0) = -f \circ \underbrace{\varphi_{-t} \circ \mathcal{S}(y_0)}_{=u(t)} = -f \circ u(t)$$

$\Rightarrow v(t)$ and $u(t)$ satisfy the same ODE

$$v'(t) = -f(u(t)) \quad (\text{resp. } v)$$

with the same initial condition $v(0) = u(0) = g(y_0)$.

Hence, $u(t) = v(-t) \quad \forall t \geq 0$.

$$\Rightarrow g \circ \varphi_t = \varphi_{-t} \circ g.$$

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In general:

Defn: (φ -reversible map)

A map $\varphi: \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^d$ is φ -reversible if

$$g \circ \varphi = \varphi^{-1} \circ g.$$

Hence, φ_t is a φ -reversible map, if $y' = f(y)$ is φ -reversible.

How about numerical methods?

Defn: (numerical flow)

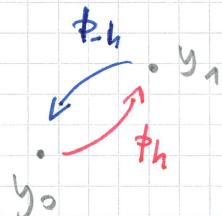
The map $\varphi_h: \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^d$ s.t. $y_1 = \varphi_h(y_0)$

is called numerical flow of a one-step method.

Defn: (symmetric numerical method)

A one-step method is symmetric if

$$\varphi_h \circ \varphi_{-h} = \text{Id}.$$



Connection symmetric \rightsquigarrow \mathcal{S} -reversible:

Theorem:

Suppose for a \mathcal{S} -reversible ODE that it holds

$$\mathcal{S} \circ \phi_h = \phi_{-h} \circ \mathcal{S} \quad (*)$$

for a one-step method ϕ_h .

Then ϕ_h is \mathcal{S} -reversible $\Leftrightarrow \phi_h$ is symmetric.

Proof: From (*) we just need to verify that

$$\phi_{-h} \circ \mathcal{S} = \phi_h^{-1} \circ \mathcal{S}.$$

Since \mathcal{S} is invertible (by defn.), apply \mathcal{S}^{-1} to the right:

$$\phi_{-h} = \phi_h^{-1}.$$

This is satisfied by symmetric methods. The result follows. #

Lemma: Condition (*) (see above) is satisfied by all RK methods.

For PRK methods, (*) is satisfied if

$$\mathcal{S}(y, z) = (\mathcal{S}_1(y), \mathcal{S}_2(z)).$$

Proof: Exercise.

How do we know whether a Runge-Kutta method is symmetric or not?

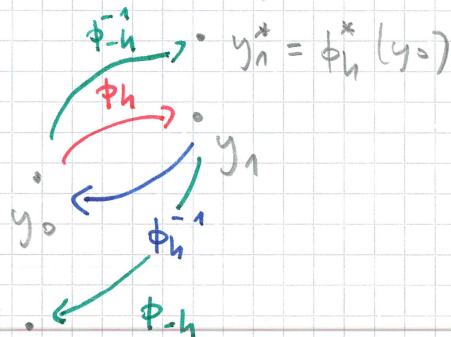
\Rightarrow We need the adjoint!

Defn.: (adjoint method)

The adjoint of a one-step method ϕ_h is the one-step method corresponding to

$$\phi_h^* = \phi_{-h}^{-1}$$

Rem: A method is symmetric $\Leftrightarrow \phi_h^* = \phi_h$



Properties of the adjoint:

$$(i) (\phi_h^*)^* = \phi_h$$

$$(ii) (\phi_h \circ \psi_h)^* = \psi_h^* \circ \phi_h^*$$

(follows from the defn
of the adjoint)

Example:

$$(y_0, y_1) \leftrightarrow (y_1^*, y_0)$$

$$h \leftrightarrow -h$$

Rule to compute the adjoint

① Explicit Euler: $y_1 = y_0 + h f(y_0) = \phi_h(y_0)$

We look for $\phi_h^* = \phi_{-h}^{-1}$

$$y_1^* = \phi_h^*(y_0) = \phi_{-h}^{-1}(y_0) \xrightarrow{\text{apply } \phi_{-h}} y_0 = \phi_{-h}(y_1^*) = y_1^* - h f(y_1^*)$$

$$\Rightarrow y_1^* = y_0 + h f(y_1^*)$$

\Rightarrow Implicit Euler is the adjoint of explicit Euler.

\Rightarrow Neither Explicit Euler nor Implicit Euler are symmetric!

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likewise, the adjoint of Implicit Euler is Explicit Euler.

(2) Implicit midpoint Rule:

$$y_1 = y_0 + h f\left(\frac{y_0 + y_1}{2}\right)$$

$$\Rightarrow y_0 = y_1^* - h f\left(\frac{y_1^* + y_0}{2}\right)$$

$$\Rightarrow y_1^* = y_0 + h f\left(\frac{y_0 + y_1^*}{2}\right) \Rightarrow \phi_h = \phi_h^*$$

\Rightarrow IMR is symmetric!

In general:

Theorem: The adjoint of a consistent Runge-Kutta method (b_i, a_{ij}) is a Runge-Kutta method with coefficients (b_i^*, a_{ij}^*) given by

(characterisation) $a_{ij}^* = b_{s+1-j} - a_{s+1-i, s+1-j}$ for $i, j = 1, 2, \dots, s$

$$b_i^* = b_{s+1-i}$$

Moreover, if $a_{ij} = b_j - a_{s+1-i, s+1-j}$ for $i, j = 1, 2, \dots, s$ then the method is symmetric.

Proof. Exercises.

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Corollary: Explicit RK methods cannot be symmetric.

Proof: Exercises.

Theorem: Let $(b_i, a_{ij}), (\tilde{b}_i, \tilde{a}_{ij})$ define a PRK method
for $\begin{cases} y' = f(y, z) \\ z' = g(y, z) \end{cases}$

If both methods satisfy (Δ) , then the
PRK method is symmetric.

Rem.: If $y' = f(z), z' = g(y)$, then one can build
PRK that are symmetric and explicit.

Example: Störmer-Verlet for separable
Hamiltonian systems, $H(p, q) = T(p) + V(q)$.

Theorem: The adjoint of a collocation method based on
 c_1, c_2, \dots, c_s is a collocation method based on
 $\tilde{c}_1^*, \tilde{c}_2^*, \dots, \tilde{c}_s^*$ given by

$$\tilde{c}_i^* = 1 - c_{s+1-i} \quad \text{for } i=1, 2, \dots, s.$$

Moreover, if $c_i = 1 - c_{s+1-i}$, then the collocation
method is symmetric.

Proof: $(t_0, y_0) \leftrightarrow (t_1, y_1^*)$ (substitutions)
 $h \leftrightarrow -h$ adjoint rule

$$\begin{cases} y_0 = u(t_0) \\ u'(t_0 + h c_i) = f(u(t_0 + h c_i)) \\ y_1 = u(t_0 + h) \end{cases}$$



$$\begin{cases} y_1^* = u(t_1) \\ u'(t_1 - h c_i) = f(u(t_1 - h c_i)) \\ y_0 = u(t_1 - h) \end{cases} \quad \begin{aligned} t_1 - h c_i &= t_0 + h - h c_i \\ &= t_0 + (1 - c_i) h \end{aligned}$$

$\Rightarrow \begin{cases} y_0 = u(t_0) \\ u'(t_0 + (1 - c_i) h) = f(u(t_0 + (1 - c_i) h)) \\ y_1^* = u(t_0 + h) \end{cases}$

Reordering $1 - c_i$ to be in ascending order

$$\Rightarrow c_i^* = 1 - c_{s+n-i}.$$

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Corollary: Gauss methods are symmetric.

Proof: Recall c_i zeros of $\Phi_G^s(x) = \frac{d^s}{dx^s}(x^s(1-x)^s)$

Denote $q(x) = x^s(1-x)^s \Rightarrow q(1-x) = q(x)$.

$$\Rightarrow \frac{d^s}{dx^s} q(x) = (-1)^s \frac{d^s}{dx^s} q(1-x)$$

Since $\frac{d^s}{dx^s} q(c_i) = \Phi_G^s(c_i) = 0 \Rightarrow \frac{d^s}{dx^s} q(1-c_i) = 0$

$\Rightarrow 1 - c_i$ is a zero

which yields the desired result up to a reordering. #

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What properties does the adjoint have as a stand-alone RK method?

Theorem: let Ψ_h be the exact flow of $y' = f(y)$ and Φ_h the numerical flow of a RK method.

If the RK method is of order p , then

$$(*) \quad \Phi_h(y_0) = \Psi_h(y_0) + C(y_0) h^{p+1} + O(h^{p+2})$$

The adjoint Φ_h^* satisfies :

$$\Phi_h^*(y_0) = \Psi_h(y_0) + (-1)^p C(y_0) h^{p+1} + O(h^{p+2}).$$

Proof: (formal)

Observe that $\Psi_{-h}(y_0) = y_0 + O(h)$ (problem with smooth Lipschitz RHC)

$$\Rightarrow \frac{\partial}{\partial y_0} \Psi_{-h}(y_0) = I + O(h)$$

Further, from (*) it follows

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial y_0} \Phi_h(y_0) = I + O(h)$$

The implicit fact then yields:

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial y_0} \Phi_h^*(y_0) = \frac{\partial}{\partial y_0} (\Phi_h^{-1}(y_0)) = I + O(h) \quad (**)$$

If one takes (*) and $h \mapsto -h$, $y_0 \mapsto \Psi_h(y_0)$:

$$\begin{aligned} \Phi_{-h}(\Psi_h(y_0)) &= \Psi_{-h}(\Psi_h(y_0)) + C(\Psi_h(y_0))(-h)^{p+1} + O(h^{p+2}) \\ &= y_0 - (-1)^p C(\Psi_h(y_0)) h^{p+1} + O(h^{p+2}) \end{aligned}$$

Applying $\Phi_{-h}^{-1} = \Phi_h^*$ on both sides:

$$\begin{aligned} \Psi_h(y_0) &= \Phi_h^*(y_0 - (-1)^p C(\Psi_h(y_0)) h^{p+1} + O(h^{p+2})) \\ &= \Phi_h^*(y_0) + \frac{\partial \Phi_h^*}{\partial y_0}(y_0) (-(-1)^p C(\Psi_h(y_0)) h^{p+1} + O(h^{p+2})) + O(h^{p+2}) \end{aligned}$$

Expanding 1st order

Notice formally that since $\psi_h(y_0) = y_0 + O(h)$

$$\Rightarrow C(\psi_h(y_0)) = C(y_0) + O(h)$$

(***)

$$\Rightarrow \psi_h(y_0) = \phi_h^*(y_0) - (-1)^p ((y_0) h^{p+1} + O(h^{p+2})).$$

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Rem: A necessary condition for ϕ_h to be symmetric is therefore,

$$(-1)^p ((y_0)) = C(y_0) \quad (\phi_h^* = \phi_h)$$

\Rightarrow Symmetric methods have even order.

How can one construct symmetric methods?

Lemma: let ϕ_h be a RK method. Then

$$\phi_h^S = \phi_{h/2} \circ \phi_{h/2}^* \quad \text{is symmetric.}$$

Proof: $(\phi_h^S)^* = (\phi_{h/2}^*)^* \circ \phi_{h/2}^* = \phi_{h/2} \circ \phi_{h/2}^* = \phi_h^S$

↑ properties adjoint

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Take-home message: Symmetric methods are

- 1) the go-to for reversible systems, because they
 - a) mimic the "physics" of the problem
 - b) allow long-time good approximation of reversible systems (see Hairer, Lubich, Wanner Chapt. XI)
- 2) often implicit, unless PRK + some structure in the coupled ODE (e.g. separable Hamiltonian).
- 3) theory is based extensively on the adjoint.