# Scientific Computing (Phys 2109/Ast 3100H) II. Numerical Tools for Physical Scientists

#### SciNet HPC Consortium University of Toronto

Lecture 2: Integration, ODE solvers, Molecular Dynamics

January 2012



# Lessons from HW from lecture 1

#### Floating point sums

Forward sum	=	1
Backward sum	=	1.25
Pairwise sum	=	2
Pairwise sum (sorted)	=	2
Forward sum error	=	1
Backward sum error	=	0.75
Pairwise sum (unsorted) error	=	0
Pairwise sum (sorted) error	=	0

- Doing the summation forward just results in 1; at the first step, 1 + 1.e-8 = 1 + (something less than machine epsilon) = 1, and all 1e8 following steps then play out the same way.
- Even doing the sum backwards doesn't help; as soon as you add up enough 1e-8's to sum up to (1.e-8/machine epsilon), which is about 1/4, the following 1.e-8s don't contribute sum, then you get the final 1.

# Lessons from HW from lecture 1

 dx/dy histograms seems reasonable, although the variance in the LCG case seems somewhat less than expected.





## Distribution of angles



- Consecutive numbers out of the LCG are very strongly correlated, leading to just a handful of final angles picked out
- Moral of story don't make up your own RNG. Even if simple statistics look reasonable, could get bitten.

# Lecture 2 of Part II







$$\begin{array}{rl} \hline & \text{Molecular Dynamics Simulations} \\ \hline & m_i \ddot{r_i} = f_i(\{r\}, \{\dot{r_j}\}, t) \\ + \text{ initial conditions} \end{array}$$

# Numerical Integration



# Numerical Integration

$$\mathcal{I} = \int_{\mathcal{D}} f(x) \; d^d x$$



Large variety of methods, depending on d, f(x) and x

For **d** = **1**:

$$\mathcal{I} = \int_a^b f(x) \, dx$$

- 1. Regular grid
- 2. Gaussian Quadrature

Small d:

1. Regular grid

2. Recursive Quadrature Large d:

1. Monte Carlo



# Numerical Integration in d = 1

### Regularly spaced grid method #1

On small interval [a, a + h], interpolate using values at a few points.

Interpolating polynomial of degree 0 using mid-point:

$$\int_{a}^{a+h} f(x) \, dx \approx h \, f\left(a + \frac{h}{2}\right)$$

Linear interpolation based on end-points: Trapezoidal rule

$$\int_a^{a+h} f(x) \, dx \approx \frac{h}{2} \left[ f(a) + f(a+h) \right]$$

► Compose trapezoidal rule n× on sub-intervals [kh, (k + 1)h] (k = 0,..., n - 1; h = (b - a)/n): Extended trapezoidal rule  $\int_{a}^{b} f(x) dx \approx h \left[ \frac{f(a) + f(b)}{2} + \sum_{k=1}^{n-1} f(a + kh) \right] + \mathcal{O}\left( \frac{1}{n^{2}} \right)$ 

## Numerical Integration in d = 1

### Regularly spaced grid method #2

Interpolating function of degree 2 on [a, a + h] using end-points and mid-point: Simpsons' rule

$$\int_{a}^{a+2h} f(x) dx \approx \left[ \frac{2}{3} f(a) + \frac{4}{3} f(a + \frac{h}{2}) + \frac{2}{3} f(a + h) \right]$$

 Compose n times on full interval: Extended Simpsons' rule

$$\int_{a}^{b} f(x) dx \approx h \Big[ \frac{1}{3} f(a) + \frac{4}{3} f(a+h) + \frac{2}{3} f(a+2h) + \frac{4}{3} f(a+3h) \\ + \frac{2}{3} f(a+4h) + \dots + \frac{1}{3} f(b) \Big] + \mathcal{O} \left( \frac{1}{n^4} \right)$$

## Numerical Integration in $\mathbf{d} = \mathbf{1}$

### Method using unevenly spaced grid: Gaussian quadrature

- Based on orthogonal polynomials on the interval.
   E.g. Legendre, Chebyshev, Hermite, Jacobi polynomials
- Compute and  $f_i = f(x_i)$  then

$$\int_a^b f(x)\,dx\approx \sum_{i=1}^n v_i f_i$$

with choice of  $\textbf{x}_i$  and  $\textbf{v}_i$  based on zeroes of polynomial of degree n and of integrals of orthogonal polynomials.

- Well-defined procedure to find {x<sub>i</sub>} and {v<sub>i</sub>} (see e.g. Numerical Recipes).
- Error roughly the same as Simpsons' rule but as if  $n \rightarrow 2n$ .



# Numerical Integration in $\mathbf{d} = \mathbf{1}$

## Specifiying accuracy

We may know the order of the error term, but not the accuracy. Good numerical integration routines increases **n** until some specified accuracy is achieved.

- Easier with fixed grid because old points get reused.
- But in standard Gaussian quadrature, the {x<sub>i</sub>} for n and for n + 1 have no points in common.
- Gauss-Kronrod methods allow reuse, but require specific sequences of n (e.g. 10, 21, 43, 87).



# Numerical Integration in $\mathbf{d} = \mathbf{1}$

### **Adaptive schemes**

If a function is not smooth or behaves differently throughout the domains, divide and apply the above techniques to subdomains.

### Weight functions

$$\mathcal{I} = \int_a^b w(x) f(x) \, dx$$

There are ways to include weight  $\mathbf{w}$  in the scheme.

- ► If **w** is standard, this can be done by changing the polynomials
- ▶ If **w** has singularities, this may remove numerical difficulties.

Don't code these yourself! Schemes like this, as well as Gaussian quadratures, are implemented in libraries such as the gsl.



## Numerical Integration in d > 1 but small.

### Why multidimensional integration is hard:

- Requires  $\mathcal{O}(n^d)$  points if its 1d counterpart requires **n**.
- A function can be peaked, and peak can easily be missed.
- The domain itself can be complicated.





Numerical Integration in d > 1 but small.

### So what should you do?

- If you can reduce the d by exploiting symmetry or doing part of the integral analytically, do it!
- If you know the function to integrate is smooth and its domain is fairly simple, you could do repeated 1d integrals (fixed-grid or Gaussian quadrature)
- Otherwise, you'll have to consider Monte Carlo.



# Monte Carlo Integration

Use random numbers to pick points at which to evaluate integrand.

Similar to the rejection/acceptance scheme of the previous lecture.

- Convergence always as  $1/\sqrt{n}$ , regardless of **d**.
- Simple and flexible.
- Can generalize to focus on important parts.



### Importance Sampling

$$\mathcal{I} = \int_{V} f(x) \, \mathrm{d} x$$

Suppose f(x) is non-zero only in specific x regions.

- Want to place more points in region where integrand is large.
- Define function **w(x)** that tells which regions are significant.
  - Require w(x) > 0 for any point x in volume where  $f \neq 0$ .
  - Re-express integral as:

$$\mathcal{I} = \int_{V} \frac{f(x)}{w(x)} w(x) \, dx$$

• Draw a set of **n** points  $\{x_1, \ldots, x_n\}$  weighted by w(x), then

$$\bar{I}\approx\frac{1}{n}\sum_{i=1}^{n}\frac{f(x_{i})}{w(x_{i})}$$

• Converges to right answer for  $\mathbf{n} \to \infty$  as  $1/\sqrt{\mathbf{n}}$ .



## How does this improve the rate of convergence?

• The statistical uncertainty is related to the variance  $\sigma_{I}^{2}$  of  $\bar{I}$ :

$$\sigma_{\bar{I}}^2 = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i}^{n} \left< \Delta I_i \Delta I_i \right> \qquad \text{where} \qquad \Delta I_i = \frac{f(x_i)}{w(x_i)} - \bar{I}$$

(assuming  $\Delta I_i$  are statistically independent).

- Vastly different values of f(x<sub>i</sub>)/w(x<sub>i</sub>) lead to large uncertainty.
- If  $\alpha w(x_i) = f(x_i)$ , then  $f(x_i)/w(x_i) = \alpha$  and

$$\left\langle rac{\mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x_i})}{\mathbf{w}(\mathbf{x_i})} \right
angle = \mathbf{I} = lpha \qquad \left\langle \left( rac{\mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x_i})}{\mathbf{w}(\mathbf{x_i})} 
ight)^2 \right
angle = lpha^2,$$

and  $\sigma_{\bar{l}}^2 = 0$ .

Generally desire all f(x<sub>i</sub>)/w(x<sub>i</sub>) to be roughly the same for all sampled points x<sub>i</sub> to mimimize σ<sup>2</sup><sub>i</sub>.



# **ODE** solvers



Ordinary Differential Equations (ODEs)

$$\sum_{n} a_{n}(x, y) \frac{d^{n}y}{dx^{n}} = f(x, y)$$
  
Example  
$$\frac{d^{2}y}{dx^{2}} = -y$$

- Ordinary  $\rightarrow x$  is one dimensional (often time).
- Boundary conditions: much like PDEs: next lecture
- ► Initial conditions: **y**,  $\frac{dy}{dx}$ , ..., at **x** = **x**<sub>0</sub>

► Define 
$$y_0 = y$$
;  $y_1 = \frac{dy}{dx}$ , ...,  $\rightarrow$  set of first order ODEs  
Example:  
$$\frac{dy_0}{dx} = y_1$$
$$\frac{dy_1}{dx} = -y_0$$



х

## Numerical approaches

Start from the general form:

$$\frac{dy_i}{dx} = f(x, \{y_j\})$$

- All approaches will evaluate f at discrete points  $x_0, x_1, \ldots$
- Initial conditions: specify  $y_i(x_0)$  and  $\frac{dy_i}{dx}(x_0)$ .
- ► Consecutive points may have a fixed step size h = x<sub>k+1</sub> x<sub>k</sub> or may be adaptive.
- $\{y_j(x_{i+1})\}$  may be implicitly dependent on f at that value.



## Stiff ODEs

- A stiff ODE is one that is hard to solve, i.e. requiring a very small stepsize h or leading to instabilities in some algoritms.
- Usually due to wide variation of time scales in the ODEs.
- Not all methods equally suited for stiff ODEs



# ODE solver algorithms: Euler To solve:

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}\mathbf{y}}{\mathrm{d}\mathbf{x}} = \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y})$$

Simple approximation:

$$y_{n+1}\approx y_n+hf(x_n,y_n) \qquad \text{``forward Euler''}$$

Rational:

$$y(x_n + h) = y(x_n) + h \frac{dy}{dx}(x_n) + \mathcal{O}(h^2)$$

So:

$$y(x_n + h) = y(x_n) + hf(x_n, y_n) + \mathcal{O}(h^2)$$

- $\mathcal{O}(h^2)$  is the local error.
- For given interval  $[x_1, x_2]$ , there are  $n = (x_2 x_1)/h$  steps
- Global error:  $\mathbf{n} \times \mathcal{O}(\mathbf{h}^2) = \mathcal{O}(\mathbf{h})$
- Not very accurate, nor very stable (next): don't use.



Stability

Example: solve harmonic oscillator numerically:

$$\frac{dy^{(1)}}{dx} = y^{(2)}$$
$$\frac{dy^{(2)}}{dx} = -y^{(1)}$$

Use Euler  $(y_{n+1}\approx y_n+hf(x_n,y_n))$  gives

$$\left(\begin{array}{c} y_{n+1}^{(1)} \\ y_{n+1}^{(2)} \end{array}\right) = \left(\begin{array}{cc} 1 & h \\ -h & 1 \end{array}\right) \left(\begin{array}{c} y_n^{(1)} \\ y_n^{(2)} \end{array}\right)$$

 $\begin{array}{l} \mbox{Stability governed by eigenvalues $\lambda_{\pm} = 1 \pm ih$ of that matrix.} \\ |\lambda_{\pm}| = \sqrt{1 + h^2} > 1 \quad \Rightarrow \mbox{Unstable for any $h$!} \end{array}$ 



ODE solver algorithms: implicit mid-point Euler

To solve:

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}y}{\mathrm{d}x} = f(x, y)$$

Symmetric simple approximation:

$$\mathsf{y}_{\mathsf{n}+1} pprox \mathsf{y}_\mathsf{n} + \mathsf{hf}(\mathsf{x}_\mathsf{n}, (\mathsf{y}_\mathsf{n} + \mathsf{y}_{\mathsf{n}+1})/2)$$
 "mid-point Euler"

This is an implicit formula, i.e., has to be solved for  $y_{n+1}$ .

Example (Harmonic oscillator)

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & -\frac{h}{2} \\ \frac{h}{2} & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} y_{n+1}^{[1]} \\ y_{n+1}^{[2]} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & \frac{h}{2} \\ -\frac{h}{2} & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} y_n^{[1]} \\ y_n^{[2]} \end{bmatrix} \Rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} y_{n+1}^{[1]} \\ y_{n+1}^{[2]} \end{bmatrix} = \mathsf{M} \begin{bmatrix} y_n^{[1]} \\ y_n^{[2]} \end{bmatrix}$$
  
Eigenvalues  $\mathsf{M}$  are  $\lambda_{\pm} = \frac{(1 \pm ih/2)^2}{1 + h^2/4}$  so  $|\lambda_{\pm}| = 1 \Rightarrow$  Stable for all  $\mathsf{h}$ 

Implicit methods often more stable and allow larger step size h.



### ODE solver algorithms: Predictor-Corrector

- 1. Computation of new point
- 2. Correction using that new point
- Gear P.C.: keep previous values of y to do higher order Taylor series (predictor), then use f in last point to correct.
   Can suffer from catestrophic cancellation at very low h.
- Runge-Kutta: Refines by using mid-points.
   Workhorse even behind fancier solvers.

$$k_{1} = hf(x, y)$$

$$k_{2} = hf(x + h/2, y + k_{1}/2)$$
4th order version:  

$$k_{3} = hf(x + h/2, y + k_{2}/2)$$

$$k_{4} = hf(x + h, y + k_{3})$$

$$y' = y + \frac{k_{1}}{6} + \frac{k_{2}}{3} + \frac{k_{3}}{3} + \frac{k_{4}}{6}$$

## Further ODE solver techniques

#### **Adaptive methods**

As with the integration, rather than taking a fixed  $\mathbf{h}$ , vary  $\mathbf{h}$  such that the solution has a certain accuracy.

Don't code this yourself! Adaptive schemes are implemented in libraries such as the gsl.

#### Geometric, symplectic and variants

Respects hamiltonian form, better energy conservation. Will discuss in the context of MD.



# Molecular Dynamics



# Molecular Dynamics Simulations

 $\boldsymbol{\mathsf{N}}$  interacting particles

```
\begin{array}{ll} m_i \ddot{r}_i \; = \; f_i(\{r\},\{\dot{r}_j\},t) \\ + \; \mbox{initial conditions} \end{array}
```



What makes this different from other ODEs?

- Hamiltonian dynamics
- Very expensive evaluation of f if N is large

For both, we will only touch upon some aspects.

Note that **N**-body simulation fall within this class as well; the numerics does not case whether the particles are molecules or stars.



# Hamiltonian dynamics

- Molecular Dynamics aims to compute equilibrium, dynamical and transport properties of classical many body systems.
- Many classical systems have Newtonian equations of motion:

$$\dot{r} = \frac{1}{m}p \qquad \qquad \dot{p} = F = -\frac{dU}{dr},$$

or  $\dot{x} = Lx$ , with  $LA = \{A, H\}$ , where x = (r, p).

- Energy  $H = \frac{|\mathbf{p}|^2}{2m} + U(\mathbf{r})$  is conserved under the dynamics.
- Potential energy is typically a sum of pair potentials:

$$\mathsf{U}(\mathsf{r}) = \sum_{(\mathsf{i},\mathsf{j})} \varphi(\mathsf{r}_{\mathsf{ij}}) = \sum_{\mathsf{i}=1}^{\mathsf{N}} \sum_{\mathsf{j}=1}^{\mathsf{i}-1} \varphi(\mathsf{r}_{\mathsf{ij}}),$$

which entails the following expression for the forces  $\mathbf{F}$ :

$$F_{i} = -\sum_{j \neq i} \frac{d}{dr_{i}} \varphi(r_{ij}) = \sum_{j \neq i} \underbrace{\varphi'(r_{ij}) \frac{r_{j} - r_{i}}{r_{ij}}}_{F_{ij}}$$

Hamiltonian dynamics as disguished importance sampling

If the system is ergodic then time average equals the microcanonical average:

$$\lim_{t_{\text{final}}\to\infty}\frac{1}{t_{\text{final}}}\int_{0}^{t_{\text{final}}}dt \ \mathsf{A}(\mathsf{x}(\mathsf{t}))=\frac{\int \mathsf{d}\mathsf{x} \ \mathsf{A}(\mathsf{x}) \ \delta(\mathsf{E}-\mathsf{H}(\mathsf{x}))}{\int \mathsf{d}\mathsf{x} \ \delta(\mathsf{E}-\mathsf{H}(\mathsf{x}))}.$$

- ► For large N, microcanonical and canonical averages are equal for many quantities A.
- Need long times t<sub>final</sub>!



# Boundary conditions

- When simulating finite systems, a wall potential would give finite size effects and destroy translation invariance.
- More benign: Periodic Boundary Conditions
- All particles in box have coordinates between -L/2 and L/2.
- A particle exiting simulation box is put back at the other end.



- The box with thick red boundaries is our simulation box.
- Other boxes are copies, or "periodic images"
- The other squares contain particles with shifted positions
- "Flat torus"

### Force calculations

A common pair potential is the Lennard-Jones potential

$$arphi(\mathbf{r}) = 4\varepsilon \left[ \left( rac{\sigma}{\mathbf{r}} 
ight)^{12} - \left( rac{\sigma}{\mathbf{r}} 
ight)^{\mathbf{6}} 
ight],$$

- $\sigma$  is a measure of the range of the potential.
- ε is its strength.
- The potential is positive for small **r**: repulsion.
- ► The potential is negative for large **r**: attraction.
- The potential goes to zero for large **r**: short-range.
- The potential has a minimum of  $-\varepsilon$  at  $2^{1/6}\sigma$ .
- Computing all forces in an N-body system requires the computation of N(N - 1)/2 forces F<sub>ij</sub>
- Force Computation often the most demanding part of MD.
- Avoid infinite sums: modify the potential such that it becomes zero beyond a certain *cut-off* distance r<sub>c</sub>:

$$arphi'(\mathbf{r}) = egin{cases} arphi(\mathbf{r}) - arphi(\mathbf{r_c}) & ext{if } \mathbf{r} < \mathbf{r_c} \ \mathbf{0} & ext{if } \mathbf{r} \ge \mathbf{r_c} \end{cases}$$



 To also avoid discontinuities in derivatives, one can use a schemes such as

$$\varphi''(\mathbf{r}) = \alpha(\mathbf{r})\varphi(\mathbf{r}) \tag{1}$$

where

$$\alpha(\mathbf{r}) = \begin{cases} 1 & \mathbf{r} < \mathbf{r}_{c}' \\ \frac{(\mathbf{r}_{c} - \mathbf{r})^{2}(\mathbf{r}_{c} - 3\mathbf{r}_{c}' + 2\mathbf{r})}{(\mathbf{r}_{c} - \mathbf{r}_{c}')^{3}} & \mathbf{r}_{c}' \le \mathbf{r} \le \mathbf{r}_{c} \\ 0 & \mathbf{r} > \mathbf{r}_{c} \end{cases}$$
(2)

Cutoff Lennard-Jones potentials, 
$$\epsilon=\sigma=1$$
,  $r_c = 2.5$ ,  $r'_c = 2$ 





# Streamlining the force evaluation

### **Cell divisions**

- Divide the simulation box into cells larger than the cutoff  $r_c$ .
- Make a list of all particles in each cell.
- In the sum over pairs in the force computation, only sum pairs of particles in the same cell or in adjacent cells.

### Neighbour lists (also called Verlet lists)

- Make a list of pairs of particles that are closer than  $\mathbf{r_c} + \delta \mathbf{r}$ .
- Sum over the list of pairs to compute the forces.
- The neighbour list are to be used in subsequent force calculations as long as the list is still valid.
- Invalidation criterion: a particle has moved more than  $\delta r/2$ .
- Therefore, before a new force computation, check if any particle has moved more than δr/2 since the last list-building. If so, rebuild the Verlet list, otherwise use the old one.

For large systems, turns  $N^2$  into  $N_{\rm \cdot}$ 



Desirable qualities for a molecular dynamics integrator

- Accuracy
- Efficiency
- Stability
- Respect physical laws:
  - Time reversal symmetry
  - Conservation of energy
  - Conservation of linear momentum
  - Conservation of angular momentum
  - Conservation of phase space volume

The most efficient algorithm is then the one that allows the largest possible time step for a given level of accuracy, *while maintaining stability and preserving conservation laws*.



## Symplectic integrators

#### Momentum Verlet Scheme (first version)

$$r_{n+1} = r_n + \frac{p_n}{m}h + \frac{F_n}{2m}h^2$$
$$p_{n+1} = p_n + \frac{F_{n+1} + F_n}{2}h$$

The momentum rule appears to pose a problem since  $F_{n+1}$  is required. But to compute  $F_{n+1}$ , we need only  $r_{n+1}$ , which is computed in the integration step as well. Equivalent to position Verlet scheme.



# Symplectic integrators

### Momentum Verlet Scheme (second version)

The extra storage step can be avoided by introducing the half step momenta as intermediates:

$$p_{n+1/2} = p_n + \frac{1}{2}F_nh$$

$$r_{n+1} = r_n + \frac{p_{n+1/2}}{m}h$$

$$p_{n+1} = p_{n+1/2} + \frac{1}{2}F_{n+1}h$$

Also nice and symmetric:

- 1. Half momentum step
- 2. Full position step
- 3. Half momentum step

First step the same as the last (with updated F).



Symplectic integrators from Hamiltonian splitting methods

- For sampling, one wants a long trajectory (formally  $t_f \rightarrow \infty$ ).
- It is therefore important that an integration algorithm be stable.
- The momentum Verlet scheme, on the other hand, is much more stable than, say, the Euler scheme.
- To see why, one should re-derive the momentum Verlet scheme from a completely different starting point, using a so-called *Hamiltonian splitting method* (also known as *Geometric integration*).



Symplectic integrators from Hamiltonian splitting methods

Very, very briefly:

- Any Hamiltonian **H** has an associated Liouvillean  $L = \{H, .\}$ .
- The Liouvillean generates a flow on phase space:
   U(t) = exp Lt.
- Split up Hamiltonian in K parts,  $H_1 \dots H_K$ .
- Gives **K** flows:  $U_1 \dots U_K$ .
- Baker-Campbell-Hausdorff formula gives approximate factorization, e.g.
  - $\mathsf{H}=\mathsf{H}_1+\mathsf{H}_2\Rightarrow\mathsf{U}(\mathsf{h})\approx\mathsf{U}_1(\mathsf{h}/2)\mathsf{U}_2(\mathsf{h})\mathsf{U}_1(\mathsf{h}/2)$
- Symmetric form reduced order and preserves time reversibility.
- This is momentum Verlet!
- Further using BCH, one can derive a shadow Hamiltonian.
- $\blacktriangleright$   $\Rightarrow$  simulated system retains all hamiltonian properties.



# Homework



Homework 1

Compute numerically:

$$\int_0^3 f(x)\,dx$$

with

$$f(x) = \ln(x) \sin(x) e^{-x},$$

using three different methods:

- 1. Extended Simpsons' rule
- 2. Gauss-Legendre quadrature
- 3. Monte Carlo sampling

Compare the convergence of these methods by increasing number of function evaluations.

Hint: what is f(0)?



### Homework 2

Using an adaptive 4th order Runge-Kutta approach, with a relative accuracy of 1e-4, compute the solution for t = [0, 100] of the following set of coupled ODE(Lorenz oscillator)

$$\frac{dx}{dt} = \sigma(y - x)$$
$$\frac{dy}{dt} = (\rho - z)x - y$$
$$\frac{dz}{dt} = xy - \beta z$$

with  $\sigma=10,\beta=8/3,\rho=28$  , and with initial conditions

$$x(0) = 10$$
  
 $y(0) = 20$   
 $z(0) = 30$ 

Plot the result. *Hint: study the GSL documentation.* 

