



# EP547 Computational Methods in QM

## Topic 9

## Ordinary Differential Equations



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Feb 2013

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**MATLAB®**  
*The Language of Technical Computing*

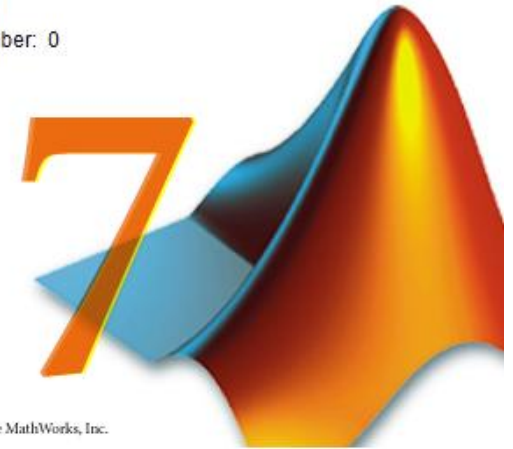
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# Introduction

- The numerical solution of differential equations is a very large subject spanning many types of problems and solutions.
- In this Lecture, we will consider the solutions of first and second order Differential Equations (DE) by using:
  - Euler Methods
  - Runge-Kutta Methods

# Euler Methods

## *Simple Euler Method*

Consider the following first order initial value problem:

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = f(x, y) ; \quad y_0 = y(x_0)$$

Solution can be obtained iteratively as follows:

$$y_{i+1} = y_i + f(x_i, y_i)h \quad i = 0, 1, 2, \dots, n$$

where

$$h = \frac{x_{\max} - x_0}{n} \quad i = 0, 1, 2, \dots$$

and  $n$  is the number of points.

## Example 1

Given an initial value problem:

$$y' = -xy ; \quad y(0) = 2$$

Find the numerical solution via Simple Euler method for the range  $0 \leq x \leq 1$  and  $n = 10$  points.

Compare your results with the analytical solution:

$$y = 2e^{-x^2/2}$$

## Solution 1

```
>> edit SimpleEuler.m
```

```
function SimpleEuler()
    hold on; grid on;
    x0=0;    y0=2;    xm=1;
    n=10; % number of points
    h=(xm-x0)/n;
    x(1)=x0;    y(1)= y0;

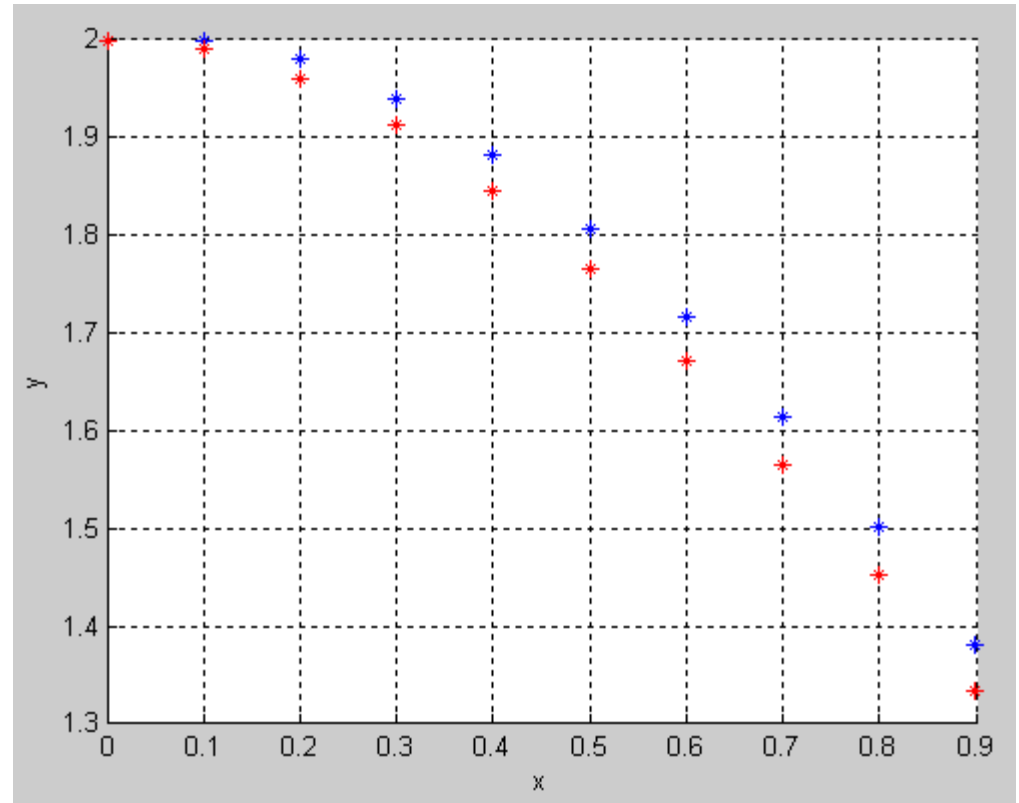
    for i=1:n-1
        y(i+1) = y(i) + f(x(i),y(i))*h;
        x(i+1) = x(i) + h;
        fprintf('%f    %f\n',x(i),y(i));
    end
    plot(x,y,'b*')
    plot(x,2*exp(-0.5*x.^2), 'r*')
    xlabel('x')
    ylabel('y')
end

function z = f(x,y)
    z = -x*y;
end
```

# Solution 1

```
>> SimpleEuler
```

0.000000	2.000000
0.100000	2.000000
0.200000	1.980000
0.300000	1.940400
0.400000	1.882188
0.500000	1.806900
0.600000	1.716555
0.700000	1.613562
0.800000	1.500613



# Runge-Kutta Methods

## Second Order

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = f(x, y) ; \quad y_0 = y(x_0)$$

$$k_1 = f(x_i, y_i)$$

$$k_2 = f(x_i + h, y_i + k_1 h)$$

$$y_{i+1} = y_i + \frac{h}{2}(k_1 + k_2)$$



# Runge-Kutta Methods

## Forth Order

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = f(x, y) ; \quad y_0 = y(x_0)$$

$$k_1 = f(x_i, y_i)$$

$$k_2 = f\left(x_i + \frac{h}{2}, y_i + \frac{k_1 h}{2}\right)$$

$$k_3 = f\left(x_i + \frac{h}{2}, y_i + \frac{k_2 h}{2}\right)$$

$$k_4 = f\left(x_i + h, y_i + k_3 h\right)$$

$$y_{i+1} = y_i + \frac{h}{6}(k_1 + 2k_2 + 2k_3 + k_4)$$

# Comparison

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = f(x, y) ; \quad y_0 = y(x_0)$$

Method	Order of error at each iteration
Simple-Euler	$h$
RK2	$h^3$
RK4	$h^5$

# Second Order DEs

A 2nd order DE can be written as two first order DEs:

$$y'' = \frac{d^2 y}{dx^2} = f(x, y) ; \quad y_0 = y(x_0), \quad y'_0 = y'(x_0)$$

Iterative solutions via **Simple-Euler** method are:

$\frac{du}{dx} = f(x, y)$	$\frac{dy}{dx} = u$
$u_{i+1} = u_i + f(x_i, y_i)h$	$y_{i+1} = y_i + u_i h$

Iterative solutions via **Euler-Cromer** method are:

$\frac{du}{dx} = f(x, y)$	$\frac{dy}{dx} = u$
$u_{i+1} = u_i + f(x_i, y_i)h$	$y_{i+1} = y_i + u_{i+1} h$

## Example 2

Consider a body in free-fall ( $g = 9.8 \text{ m/s}^2$ )

$$y'' = \frac{d^2 y}{dt^2} = -g \quad ; \quad y(0) = 25 \text{ m} \quad y'(0) = v = 0$$

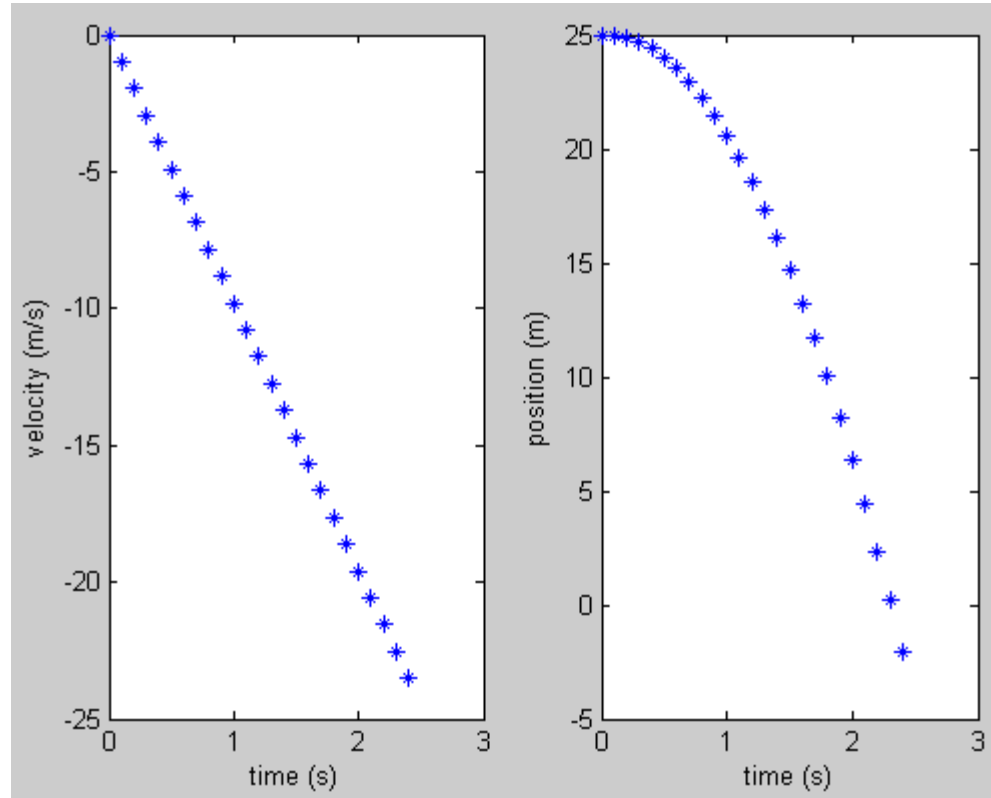
Find the numerical solution via Simple Euler method for the range  $0 \leq y \leq 25 \text{ m}$  and  $dt = 0.1 \text{ s}$ .

## Solution 2

```
>> edit FreeFall.m
```

```
function FreeFall()  
    t(1)=0; u(1)=0; y(1)=25;  
    i = 1; dt= 0.1;  
    while y>0  
        u(i+1) = u(i) - 9.8*dt;  
        y(i+1) = y(i) + u(i)*dt;  
        t(i+1) = t(i) + dt;  
        fprintf('%f %f %f\n',t(i), u(i), y(i));  
        i = i+1;  
    end  
    subplot(1,2,1);  
        plot(t,u,'b*')  
        xlabel('time (s)')  
        ylabel('velocity (m/s)')  
    subplot(1,2,2);  
        plot(t,y,'b*')  
        xlabel('time (s)')  
        ylabel('position (m)')  
end
```

# Solution 2



### Example 3

Simple Pendulum:

$$\frac{d^2\theta}{dt^2} = -\frac{g}{L}\theta ; \theta(0) = 0.2$$

Find the numerical solution via Simple Euler and Euler-Cromer methods for  $dt = 0.04$  s,  $L=1$  m and  $n = 250$  points.

## Solution 3

```
>> edit pendulum1.m
```

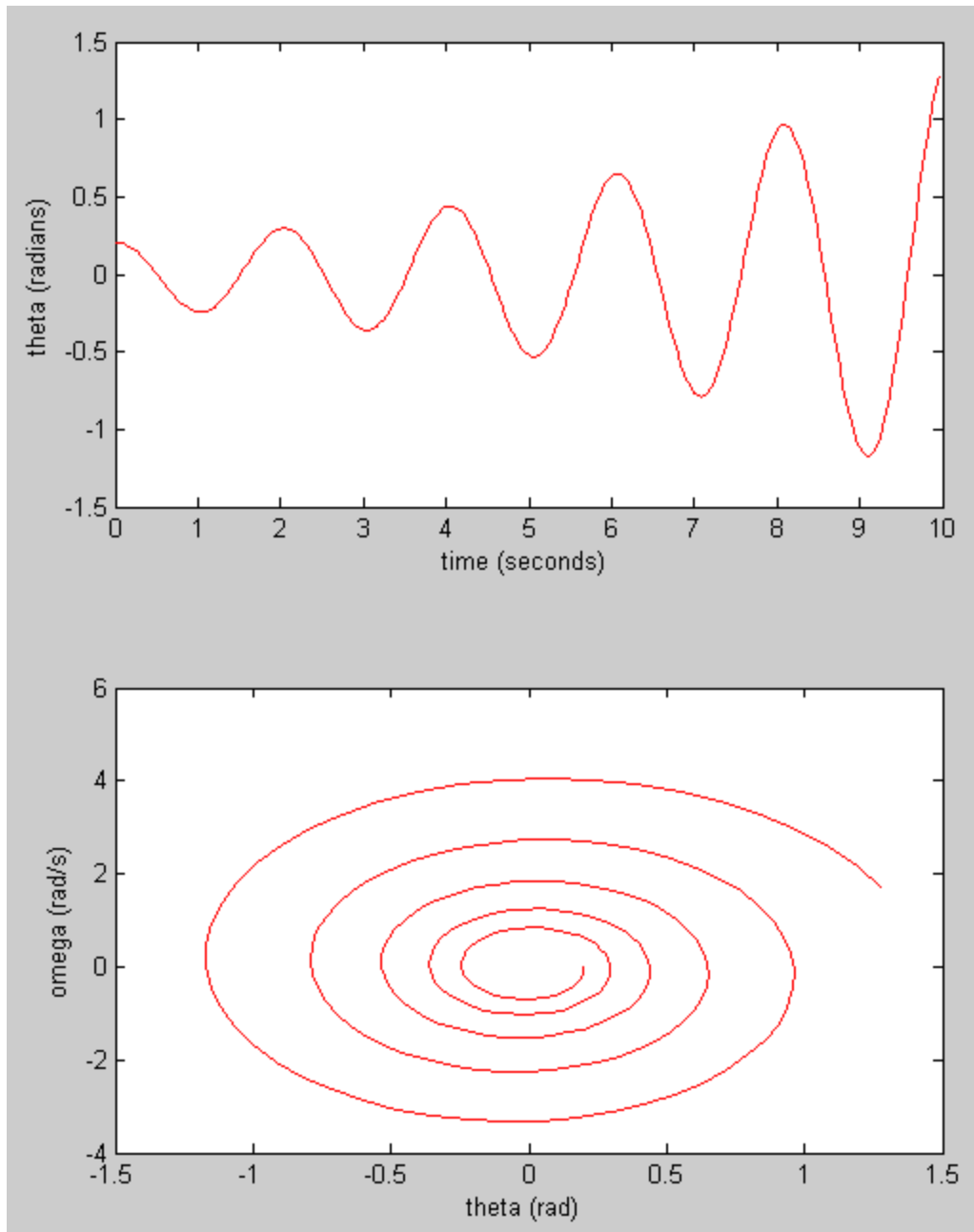
```
L = 1;          % length of the pendulum in meters
g = 9.8;        % acceleration due to gravity
n = 250;        % Discretize time into 250 intervals
dt = 0.04;      % time step in seconds
omega = zeros(n,1);
theta = zeros(n,1);
t       = zeros(n,1);
theta(1) = 0.2;

for i = 1:n-1
    omega(i+1) = omega(i) - (g/L)*theta(i)*dt;
    theta(i+1) = theta(i) + omega(i)*dt;
    t(i+1) = t(i) + dt;
end

plot(t,theta,'r' );
xlabel('time (seconds) ');
ylabel('theta (radians)');
```



# Solution 3



## Solution 3

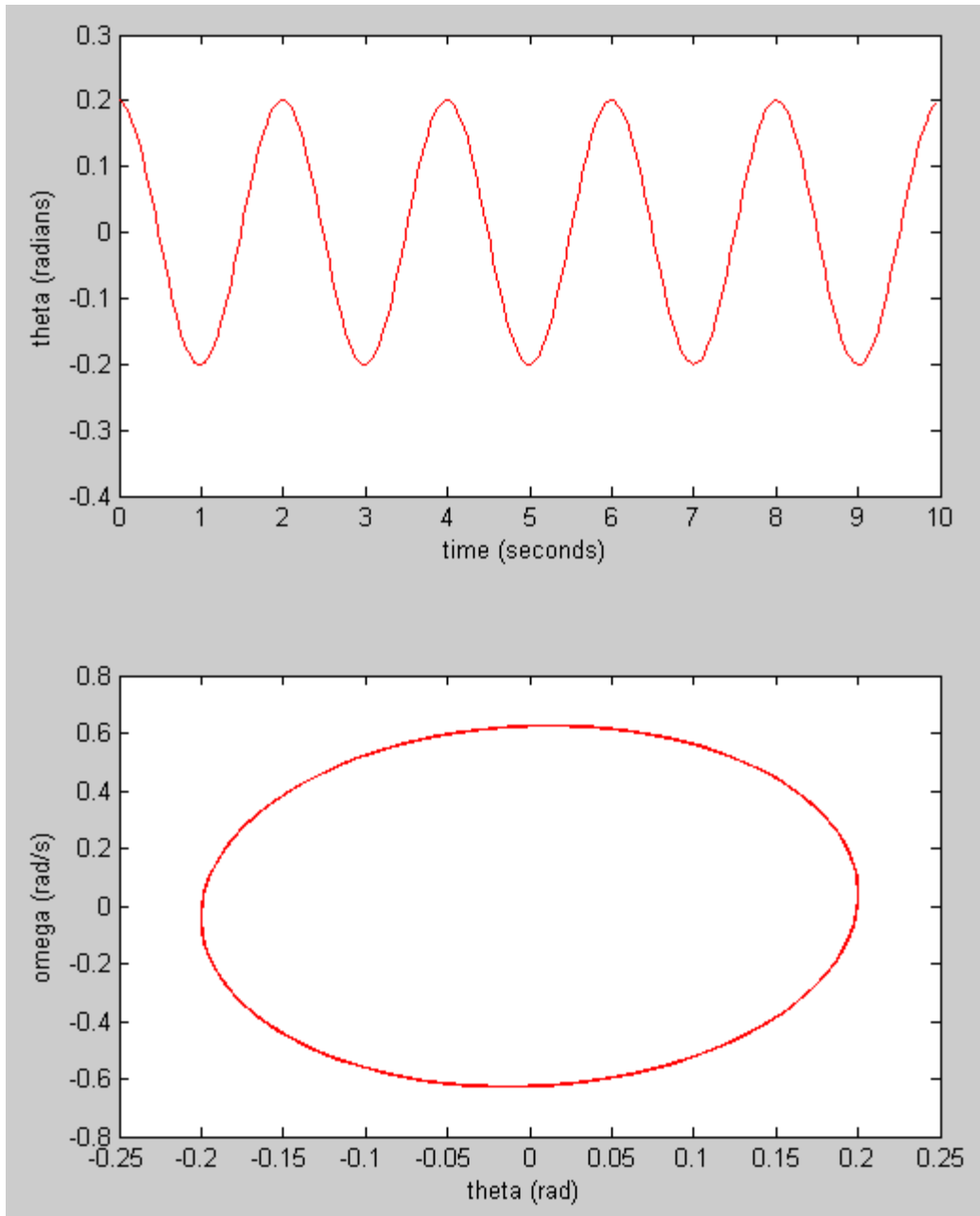
```
>> edit pendulum2.m
```

```
L = 1;          % length of the pendulum in meters
g = 9.8;        % acceleration due to gravity
n = 250;        % Discretize time into 250 intervals
dt = 0.04;      % time step in seconds
omega = zeros(n,1);
theta = zeros(n,1);
t       = zeros(n,1);
theta(1) = 0.2;

for i = 1:n-1
    omega(i+1) = omega(i) - (g/L)*theta(i)*dt;
    theta(i+1) = theta(i) + omega(i+1)*dt;
    t(i+1) = t(i) + dt;
end

plot(t,theta,'r' );
xlabel('time (seconds) ');
ylabel('theta (radians)');
```

# Solution 3



## Example 4

Damped Pendulum:

$$\frac{d^2\theta}{dt^2} = -\frac{g}{L}\theta - q\frac{d\theta}{dt} ; \theta(0) = 0.2$$

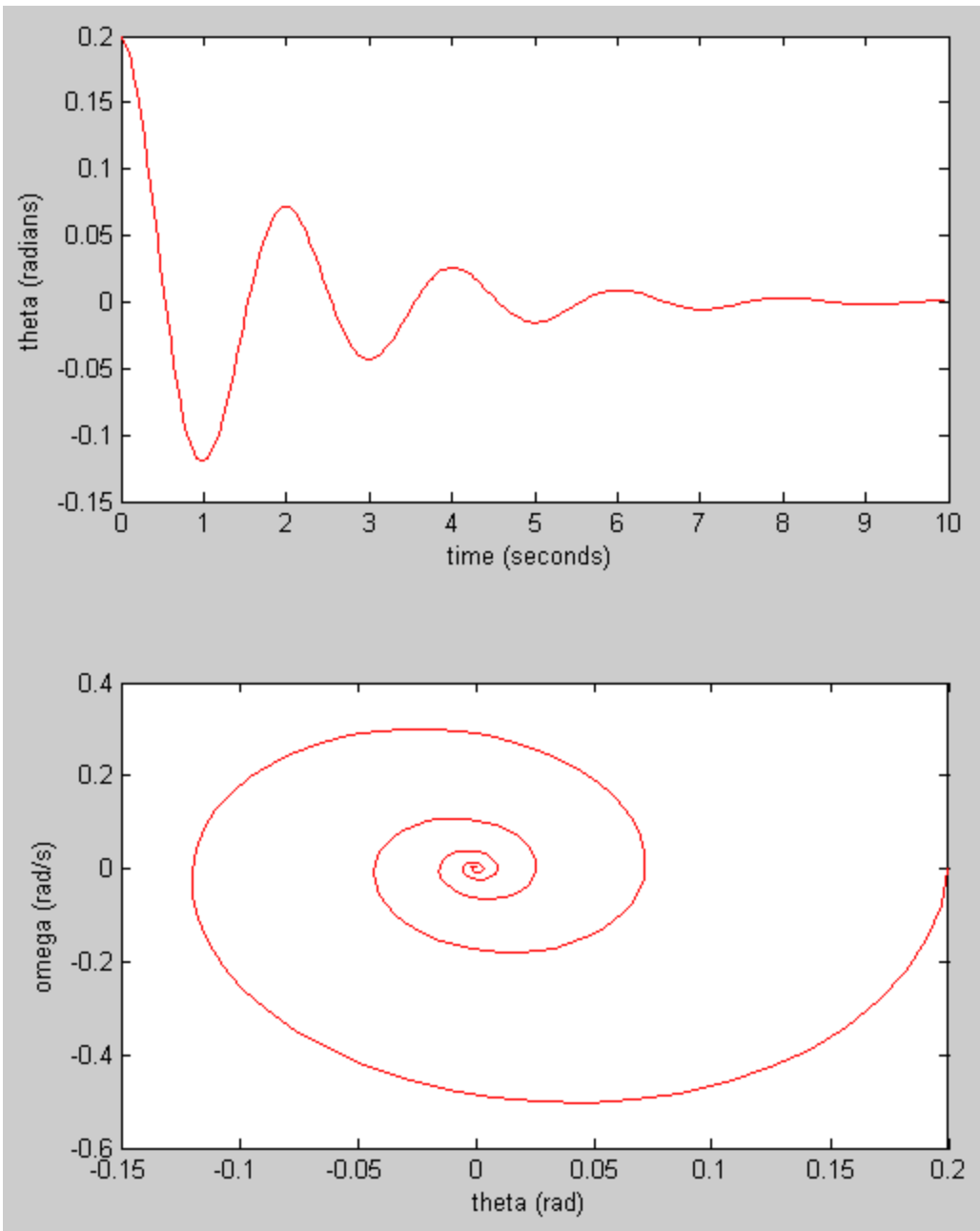
Find the numerical solution via Euler-Cromer method for  $dt = 0.04$  s,  $L=1$  m,  $n = 250$  points and  $q=1$ .

## Solution 4

```
>> edit pendulum3.m
```

```
L = 1;           % length of the pendulum in meters
g = 9.8;        % acceleration due to gravity
n = 250;       % Discretize time into 250 intervals
dt = 0.04;    % time step in seconds
omega = zeros(n,1);
theta = zeros(n,1);
t = zeros(n,1);
theta(1) = 0.2;
for i = 1:n-1
    omega(i+1) = omega(i) - (g/L)*theta(i)*dt - q*omega(i)*dt;
    theta(i+1) = theta(i) + omega(i+1)*dt;
    t(i+1) = t(i) + dt;
end
subplot(2,1,1);
    plot(t,theta,'r' );
    xlabel('time (seconds) ');
    ylabel('theta (radians)');
subplot(2,1,2);
    plot(theta,omega,'r' );
    xlabel('theta (rad) ');
    ylabel('omega (rad/s)');
```

# Solution 4



## Example 5

1D Schrödinger Equation for a particle of mass  $m$  is given by:

$$\frac{d^2\Psi(x)}{dx^2} = \frac{2m}{\hbar^2} (V(x) - E)\Psi(x); \quad \Psi(0) = 0, \Psi'(0) = 1$$

Let  $\hbar = m = 1$ ,  $E = \pi^2/8 = 1.2337$  and  $V(x) = 0$ .

Then:

$$\frac{d^2\Psi(x)}{dx^2} = -2E\Psi(x); \quad \Psi(0) = 0, \Psi'(0) = 1$$

Find the numerical solution via Simple Euler method for the range  $0 \leq x \leq 2$  and  $n = 100$  points.

## Solution 5

```
>> edit sch.m
```

```
function sch()
    x(1)= 0; u(1)= 1; y(1)= 0;

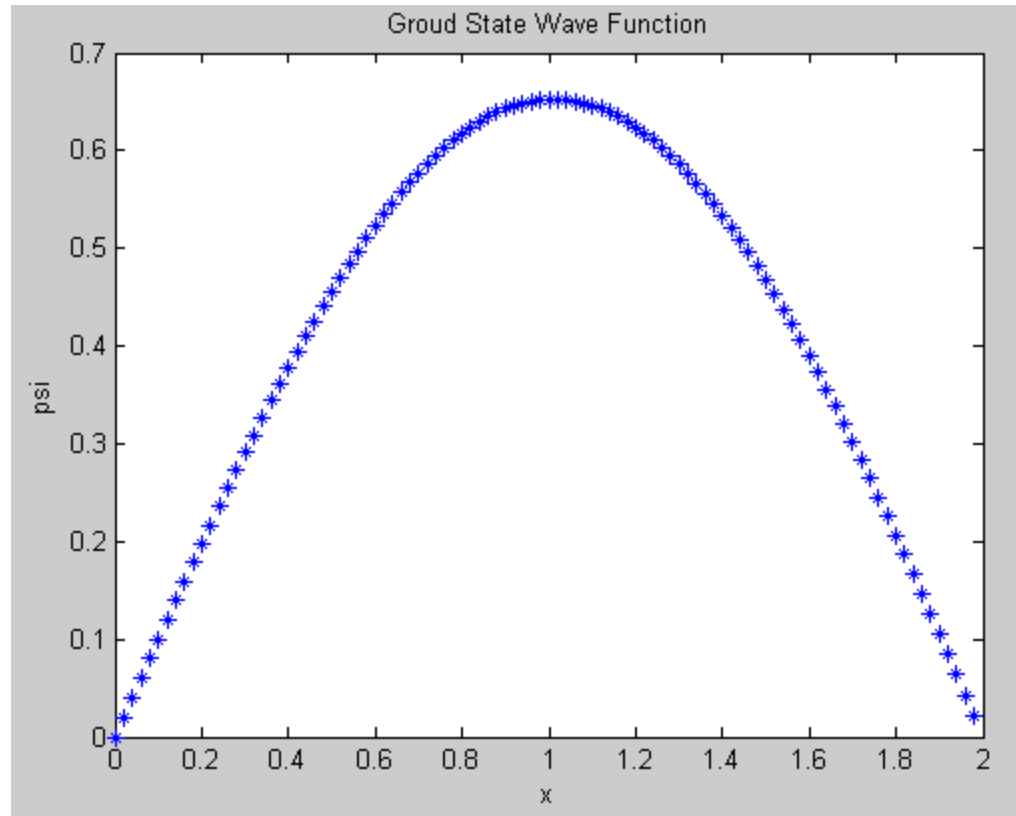
    n=100; E=pi^2/8;
    dx = 2/n;

    for i=1:n-1
        u(i+1) = u(i) - 2*E*y(i)*dx;
        y(i+1) = y(i) + u(i+1)*dx;
        x(i+1) = x(i) + dx;
        fprintf('%f %f %f\n',x(i), u(i), y(i));
    end

    plot(x,y,'b*')
    xlabel('x')
    ylabel('psi')
    title('Groud State Wave Function')
end
```



# Solution 5



## References:

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S.C. Chapra, Mc Graw Hill (2010)
- [2]. <http://www.mathworks.com/products/matlab>
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J. Kiusalaas, Cambridge University Press (2005)
- [4]. Essential MATLAB for Engineers and Scientist, 3rd Ed  
Hahn B., Valentine D.T. (2007)