

Numerical Simulations

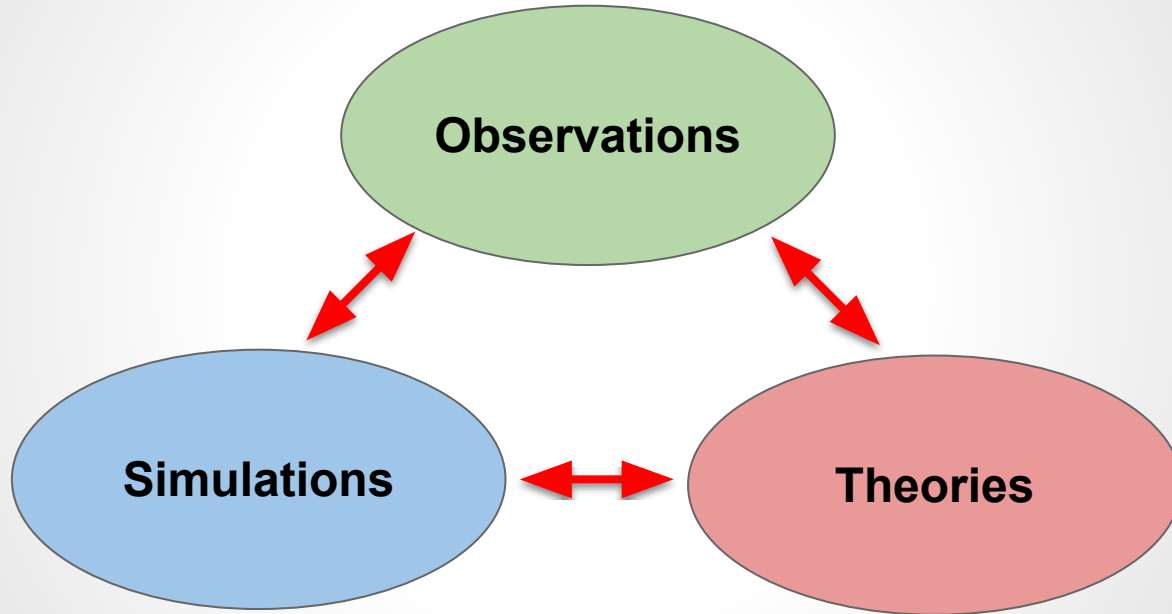
NCTS-TCA Summer Student Program
Mini-Workshop 2021

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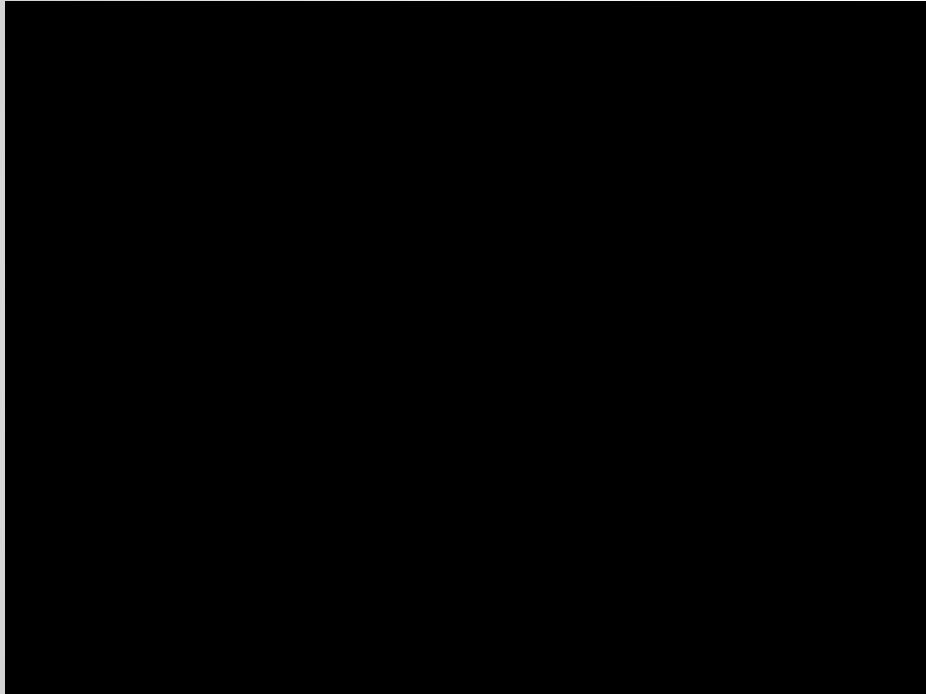
Outline

- Introduction
- (Magneto-)Hydrodynamics
- Self-gravity
- Particles

Why Simulations?



Example: Simulating Cosmic Gas

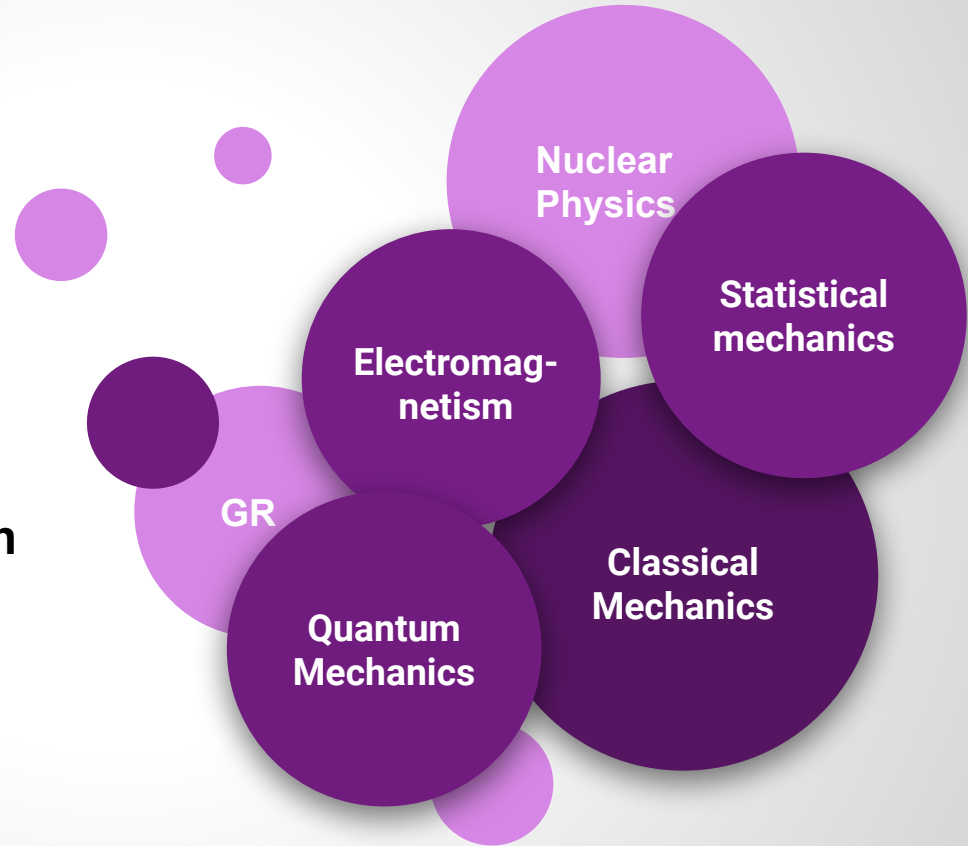


- **Illustris TNG**
(<https://www.tng-project.org>)
- **Cosmological magnetohydrodynamic simulations of galaxy formation**
- **Dark matter and gas**
- **Radiative cooling and heating, chemical enrichment**
- **Star formation and feedback**
- **Black hole formation and feedback**
- **Magnetic field**

Credit: TNG Collaboration

Key Physics

- **Hydrodynamics**
- **Magnetic field**
- **Self-gravity**
- **Dark matter**
- **Chemistry**
- **Radiation transfer**
 - **Cooling, ionization, etc**
- **Star formation and evolution**
- **Cosmic rays**
- **Dust**
- **Feedback**
 - **Supernovae explosion**
 - **Stellar wind**
 - **SMBH/AGN jets**

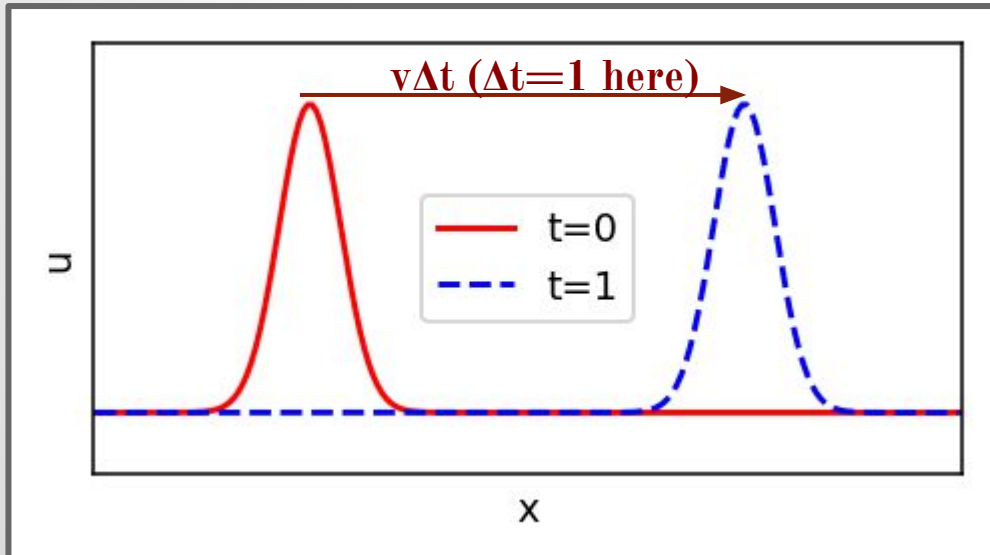


Key Techniques

- **Numerical algorithms**
- **Parallel computing**
 - CPU/GPU parallelization
- **Data analysis and visualization**
- **Code co-development**
- **Debugging**
- **Data sharing**

Advection of a Scalar

- **Governing eq.**
$$\frac{\partial u(x, t)}{\partial t} = -v \frac{\partial u(x, t)}{\partial x}$$
 - **Scalar u is simply transported with a velocity v**
 - **Assuming v is constant**
 - **u is conserved $\rightarrow \int u(x, t) dx = \text{constant}$**



Finite Difference Approximation

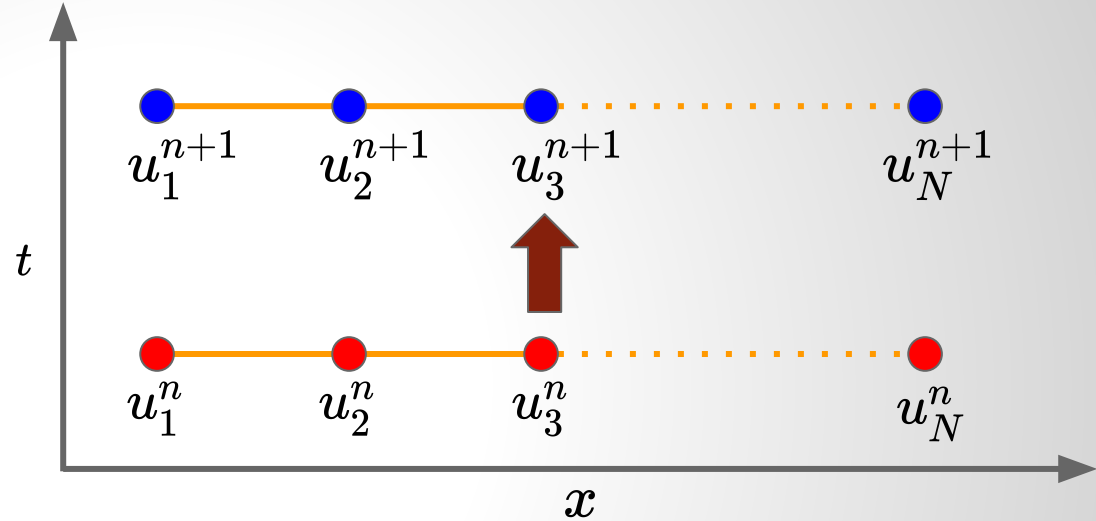
- Discretize space and time

$$u(x, t) \Rightarrow u_j^n$$
$$x_j = x_0 + j\Delta x$$
$$t_n = t_0 + n\Delta t$$

- Given u_j^n , solve u_j^{n+1}
- Taylor expansion

$$f(\alpha + \Delta\alpha) = f(\alpha) + f'(\alpha)\Delta\alpha + \frac{1}{2!}f''(\alpha)\Delta\alpha^2 + \frac{1}{3!}f'''(\alpha)\Delta\alpha^3 + \dots$$

- Use it to approximate partial derivatives by discrete u_j^n
- That's what differentiates different numerical schemes
 - May NOT be as trivial as you think!



Forward-Time Central-Space Scheme

- Advection eq.
$$\frac{\partial u(x, t)}{\partial t} = -v \frac{\partial u(x, t)}{\partial x}$$

- FTCS scheme:

$$\frac{\partial u(x_j, t_n)}{\partial t} \rightarrow \frac{u_j^{n+1} - u_j^n}{\Delta t} + \underbrace{O(\Delta t)}_{\text{forward-time}}$$

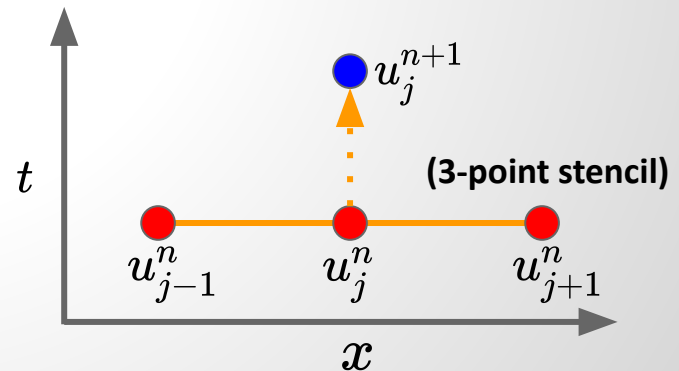
$$\frac{\partial u(x_j, t_n)}{\partial x} \rightarrow \frac{u_{j+1}^n - u_{j-1}^n}{2\Delta x} + \underbrace{O(\Delta x^2)}_{\text{central-space}}$$

errors

$$u_j^{n+1} = u_j^n - \frac{v\Delta t}{2\Delta x} (u_{j+1}^n - u_{j-1}^n)$$

LHS: $t=n+1$

RHS: $t=n$

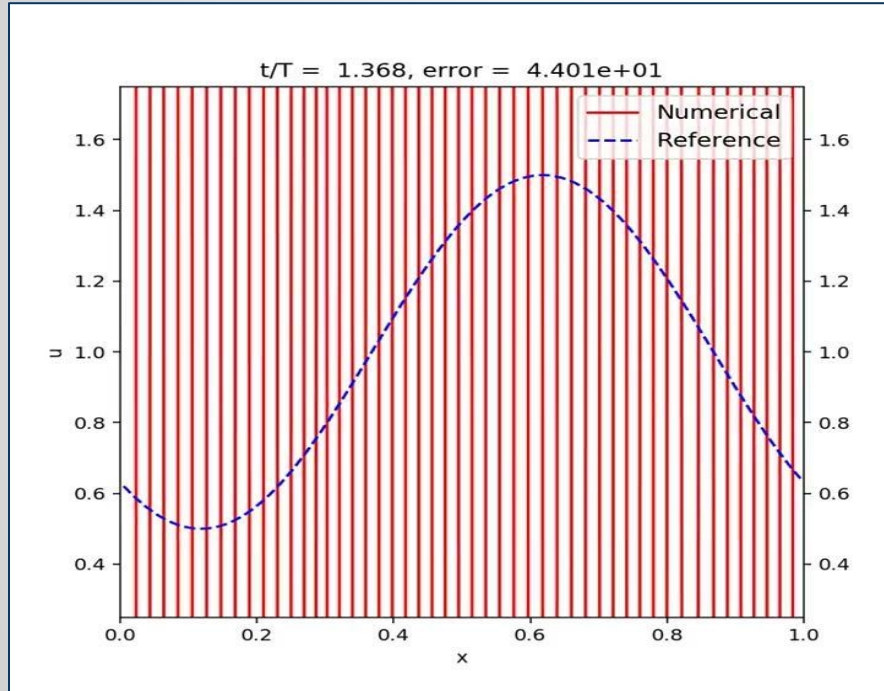


Forward-Time Central-Space Scheme

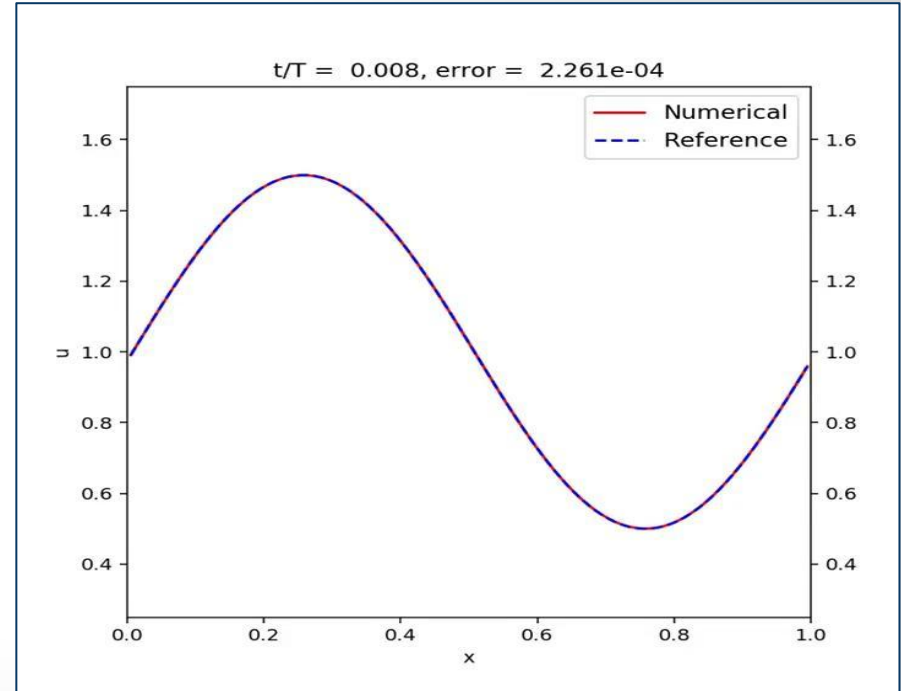
- **Explicit scheme**
 - u_j^{n+1} of each j can be computed explicitly from values at $t = t_n$
 - u_j^{n+1} of different j can be computed independently (and thus *in parallel*)
 - In comparison, **implicit** schemes solve coupled equations of u_j^{n+1} with multiple j simultaneously
 - For example, check the Crank–Nicolson method
- FTCS scheme is very simple. But, it is **UNSTABLE** in general for hyperbolic equations!
 - It can be demonstrated using the von Neumann stability analysis
 - See the next demo

Demo: Advection

FTCS → **unconditionally unstable**



Lax → **conditionally stable**



Complete source code:

- FTCS vs Lax: <https://gist.github.com/hyschive/1efd5f8f0b7eb2e6b7c92d2919f6beb7>

Lessons Learned from FTCS

- Numerical errors are dominated by **amplitude** errors
 - Both **phase** and **dispersion** errors are negligible
- Amplitude errors **increase** with time
 - Low-k (long-wavelength) errors dominate first
 - High-k (short-wavelength) errors appear later but grow faster
 - Amplitude increases instead of decreases → sign of instability
 - Smaller Δt → errors decrease, but still unstable!
- Is mass conserved?

Lax Scheme

- $$u_j^{n+1} = \frac{1}{2}(u_{j+1}^n + u_{j-1}^n) - \frac{v\Delta t}{2\Delta x}(u_{j+1}^n - u_{j-1}^n)$$

- Stability criterion:** $\Delta t \leq \Delta x/v$
 - Courant-Friedrichs-Lewy (CFL) condition
 - CFL number: $v\Delta t/\Delta x$

- But why?**

- For a time-step Δt , the max distance information can propagate is $v\Delta t$
- But our finite difference scheme only collects data from Δx
- If $v\Delta t > \Delta x$, the correct update requires information more distant than the finite difference scheme knows

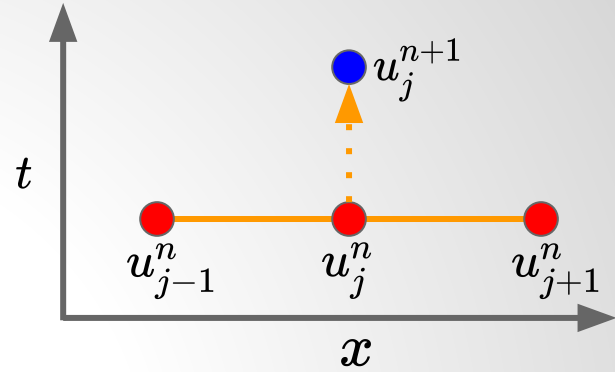
- Numerical dissipation: the Lax scheme can be rewritten as**

$$u_j^{n+1} = u_j^n - \frac{v\Delta t}{2\Delta x}(u_{j+1}^n - u_{j-1}^n) + \frac{1}{2}(u_{j+1}^n - 2u_j^n + u_{j-1}^n)$$

original FTCS scheme

numerical dissipation

$$\frac{(\Delta x)^2}{2\Delta t} \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2}$$



Lax-Wendroff Scheme

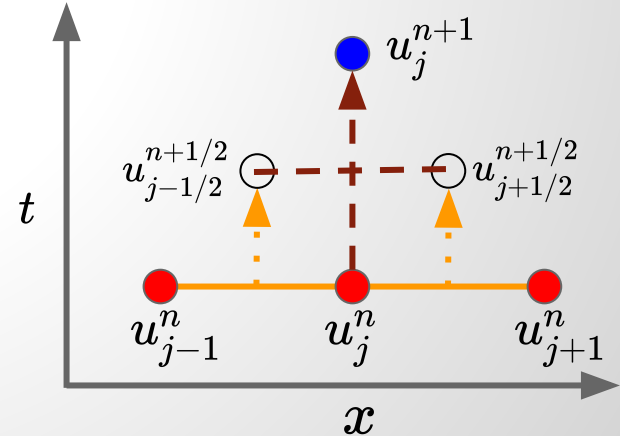
- Two-step approaches

- Step 1: evaluate $u_{j+1/2}^{n+1/2}$ defined at the half time-step $n+1/2$ and the cell interface $j+1/2$ with the Lax scheme

$$u_{j+1/2}^{n+1/2} = \frac{1}{2}(u_{j+1}^n + u_j^n) - \frac{v\Delta t}{2\Delta x}(u_{j+1}^n - u_j^n)$$

- Step 2: use $u_{j+1/2}^{n+1/2}$ to evaluate the half-step fluxes for the full-step update

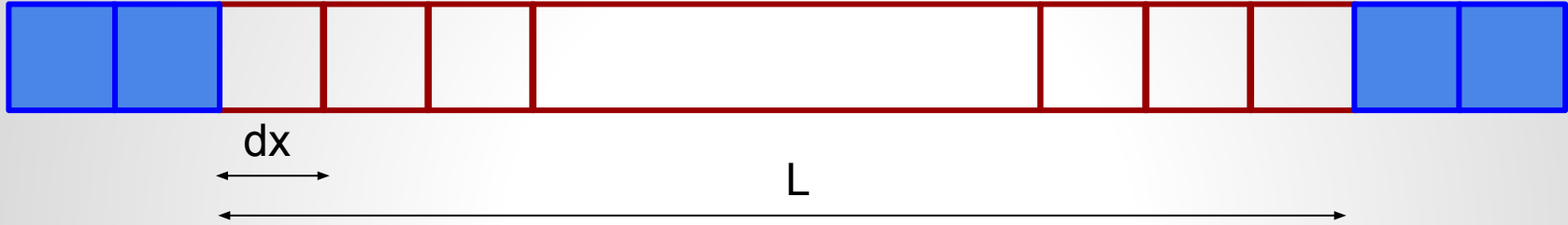
$$u_j^{n+1} = u_j^n - \frac{v\Delta t}{\Delta x}(u_{j+1/2}^{n+1/2} - u_{j-1/2}^{n+1/2})$$



Ghost Zones/Grids/Cells

Ghost Zones

Ghost Zones



- **Ghost zones are used for setting the boundary conditions**
 - Physical boundaries (e.g., periodic, outflow, inflow)
 - Numerical boundaries between different parallel processes
- **Number of ghost zones depends on the stencil size**
 - Lax-Friedrichs: 1
 - Higher-order schemes in general require more ghost zones
 - Affect parallel scalability

Hydrodynamics: Governing Equations

- Euler eqs.
$$\frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (\rho \mathbf{v}) = 0$$
 ← mass conservation
- $$\frac{\partial(\rho \mathbf{v})}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (\rho \mathbf{v} \mathbf{v} + P \mathbf{I}) = 0$$
 ← momentum conservation
- $$\frac{\partial E}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot [(E + P) \mathbf{v}] = 0$$
 ← energy conservation

- ρ : mass density, v : velocity, P : pressure, E : total energy density, I : identity matrix

$$E = e + \frac{1}{2} \rho v^2, \text{ where } e \text{ is the internal energy density}$$

- 6 variables, 5 equations → need equation of state to compute P
 - For example, ideal gas: $e = \frac{P}{\gamma - 1}$, where γ is the ratio of specific heat

Flux-Conservative Form in 1D

- Euler eqs. in a compact flux-conservative form:

$$\frac{\partial U}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial \mathbf{F}_x}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial \mathbf{F}_y}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial \mathbf{F}_z}{\partial z} = 0$$

- F_x, F_y, F_z are the fluxes along different directions

$$\mathbf{F}_x = \begin{bmatrix} \rho v_x \\ \rho v_x^2 + P \\ \rho v_x v_y \\ \rho v_x v_z \\ (E + P)v_x \end{bmatrix} \quad \mathbf{F}_y = \begin{bmatrix} \rho v_y \\ \rho v_y v_x \\ \rho v_y^2 + P \\ \rho v_y v_z \\ (E + P)v_y \end{bmatrix} \quad \mathbf{F}_z = \begin{bmatrix} \rho v_z \\ \rho v_z v_x \\ \rho v_z v_y \\ \rho v_z^2 + P \\ (E + P)v_z \end{bmatrix}$$

Finite-Volume Scheme

- Divergence theorem: $\int_V \frac{\partial U}{\partial t} dV = - \int_V (\nabla \cdot \mathbf{F}) dV = - \oint_S (\mathbf{F} \cdot \mathbf{n}) dS$
- Integrate over the cell volume $\Delta x \Delta y \Delta z$ and time interval $\Delta t = t^{n+1} - t^n$

$$U_{i,j,k}^n \equiv \frac{1}{\Delta x \Delta y \Delta z} \int_{z_{k-1/2}}^{z_{k+1/2}} \int_{y_{j-1/2}}^{y_{j+1/2}} \int_{x_{i-1/2}}^{x_{i+1/2}} U(x, y, z, t^n) dx dy dz$$

$$\mathbf{F}_{x,i-1/2,j,k}^{n+1/2} \equiv \frac{1}{\Delta y \Delta z \Delta t} \int_{t^n}^{t^{n+1}} \int_{z_{k-1/2}}^{z_{k+1/2}} \int_{y_{j-1/2}}^{y_{j+1/2}} F(x_{i-1/2}, y, z, t) dy dz dt$$

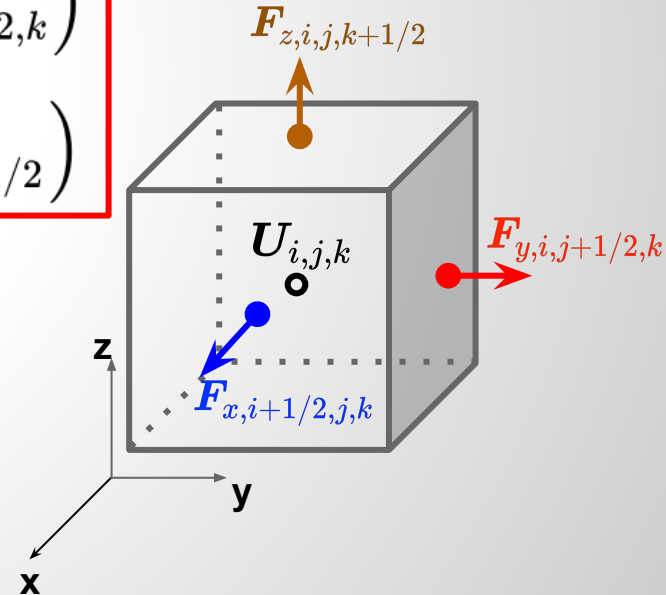
similar for $\mathbf{F}_{y,i,j-1/2,k}^{n+1/2}$ and $\mathbf{F}_{z,i,j,k-1/2}^{n+1/2}$

Finite-Volume Scheme

- Euler eqs. can be casted into the following form:

$$\begin{aligned} U_{i,j,k}^{n+1} = U_{i,j,k}^n & - \frac{\Delta t}{\Delta x} \left(F_{x,i+1/2,j,k}^{n+1/2} - F_{x,i-1/2,j,k}^{n+1/2} \right) \\ & - \frac{\Delta t}{\Delta y} \left(F_{y,i,j+1/2,k}^{n+1/2} - F_{y,i,j-1/2,k}^{n+1/2} \right) \\ & - \frac{\Delta t}{\Delta z} \left(F_{z,i,j,k+1/2}^{n+1/2} - F_{z,i,j,k-1/2}^{n+1/2} \right) \end{aligned}$$

- Note that this form is **EXACT!**
 - No approximation has been made
- $U_{i,j,k}^n$: volume-averaged values
- $F_{x,i-1/2,j,k}^{n+1/2}$: time- and area-averaged values



Finite-Volume Scheme

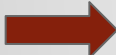
- The major task is to compute $F_{x,i-1/2,j,k}^{n+1/2}$ etc
- Conservative quantities $U_{i,j,k}^n$ (i.e., mass, momentum, energy) are guaranteed to conserve to the machine precision!
- It doesn't mean no numerical errors. It means that numerical errors won't contaminate conservation laws.

Lax-Friedrichs Scheme for Hydro

- Lax-Friedrichs scheme can be rewritten into a flux-conservative form

$$u_j^{n+1} = u_j^n - \frac{v\Delta t}{2\Delta x}(u_{j+1}^n - u_{j-1}^n) + \frac{1}{2}(u_{j+1}^n - 2u_j^n + u_{j-1}^n)$$

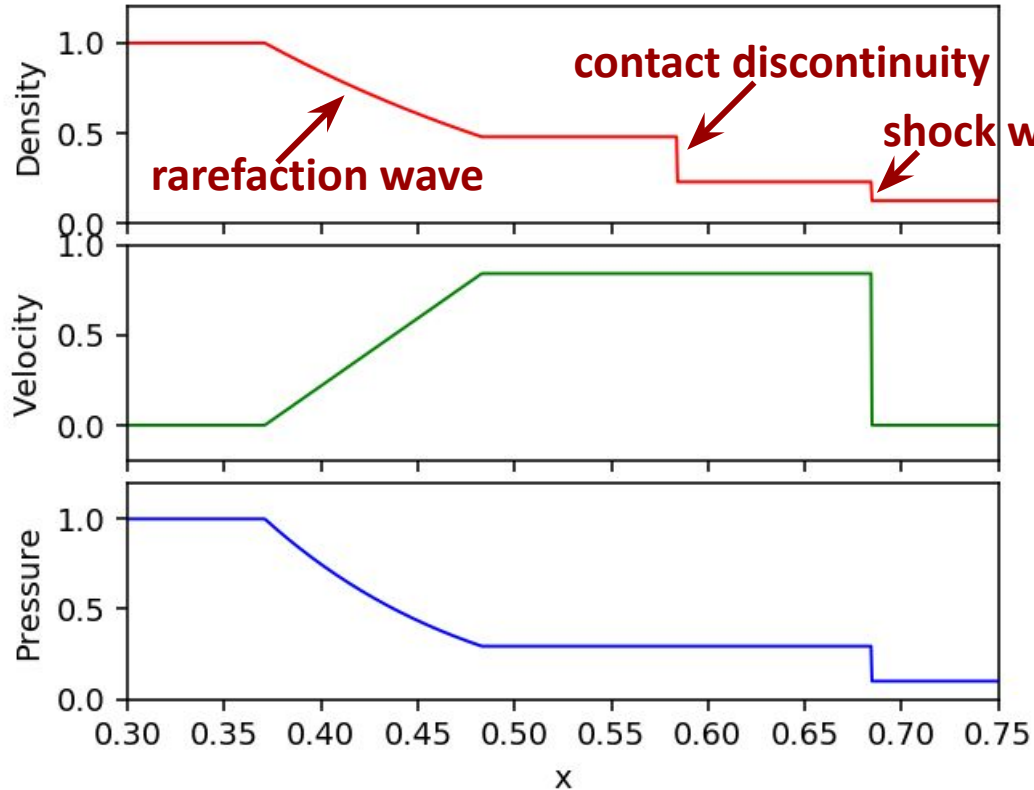
$$u_j^{n+1} = u_j^n - \frac{\Delta t}{\Delta x}(\tilde{F}_{j+1/2}^n - \tilde{F}_{j-1/2}^n)$$


$$\begin{aligned}\tilde{F}_{j-1/2}^n &\equiv \frac{1}{2} \left[(vu_j^n + vu_{j-1}^n) - \frac{\Delta x}{\Delta t}(u_j^n - u_{j-1}^n) \right] \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \left[(F(u_j^n) + F(u_{j-1}^n)) - \frac{\Delta x}{\Delta t}(u_j^n - u_{j-1}^n) \right]\end{aligned}$$

- Hydro: simply evaluate F_j with hydrodynamics fluxes

- Courant condition: $\Delta t \leq \frac{\Delta x}{|v_x| + C_s}$ ← sound speed

Sod Shock Tube Problem



Initial condition

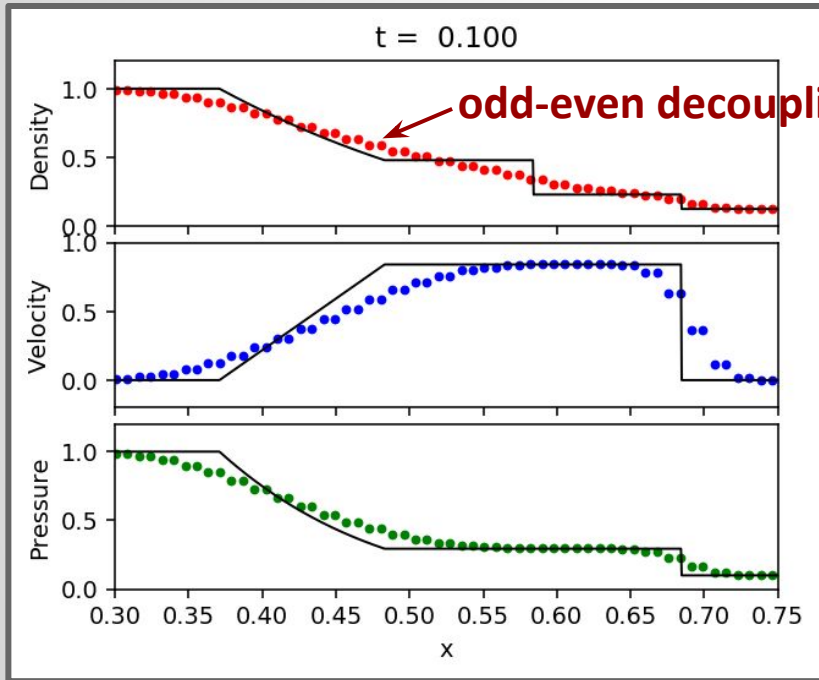
Left state

Right state

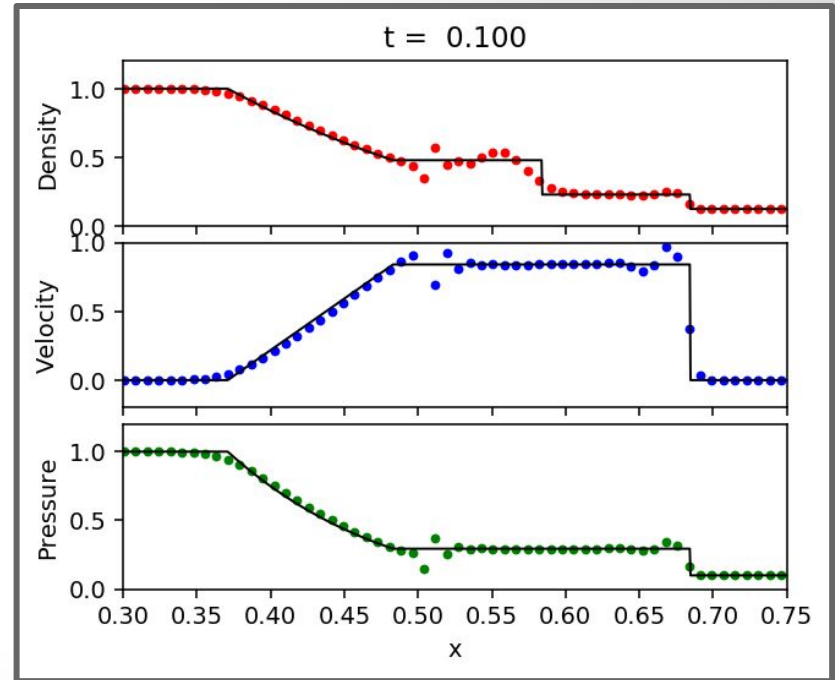
$$\begin{bmatrix} \rho_L \\ v_L \\ P_L \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1.0 \\ 0.0 \\ 0.125 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \begin{bmatrix} \rho_R \\ v_R \\ P_R \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0.125 \\ 0.0 \\ 0.1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Test on Sod Shock Tube Problem

Lax-Friedrichs → **too diffusive**



Lax-Wendroff → **unphysical oscillations**

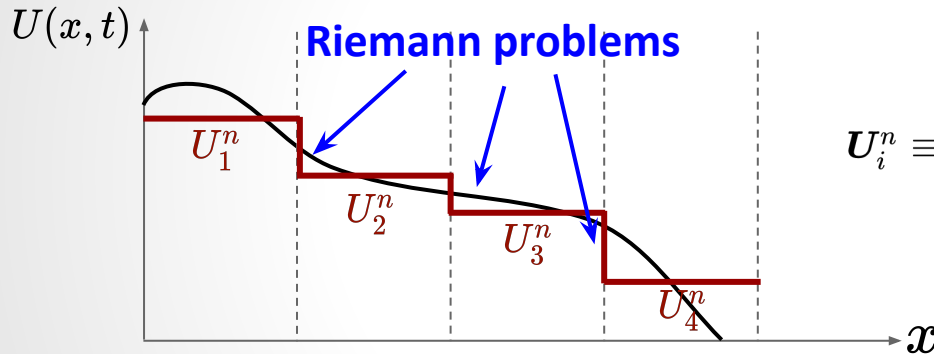


- Motivate high-resolution shock-capturing schemes

High-Resolution Shock-Capturing Methods

- Godunov method

- Approximate data with a piecewise constant distribution (in practice, higher-order approximations like piecewise linear/parabolic are adopted)



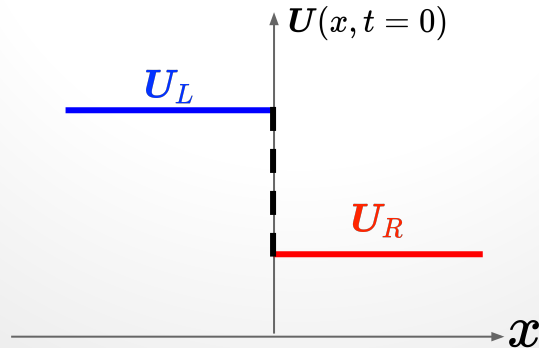
$$U_i^n \equiv \frac{1}{\Delta x} \int_{x_{i-1/2}}^{x_{i+1/2}} U(x, t^n) dx$$

- Solve the local Riemann problems
 - Piecewise constant data with a single discontinuity
 - Apply either exact or approximate solutions
- Update data by averaging the Riemann problem solution over each cell
 - Equivalently, we can solve the intercell fluxes

Riemann Problem in 1D Hydro

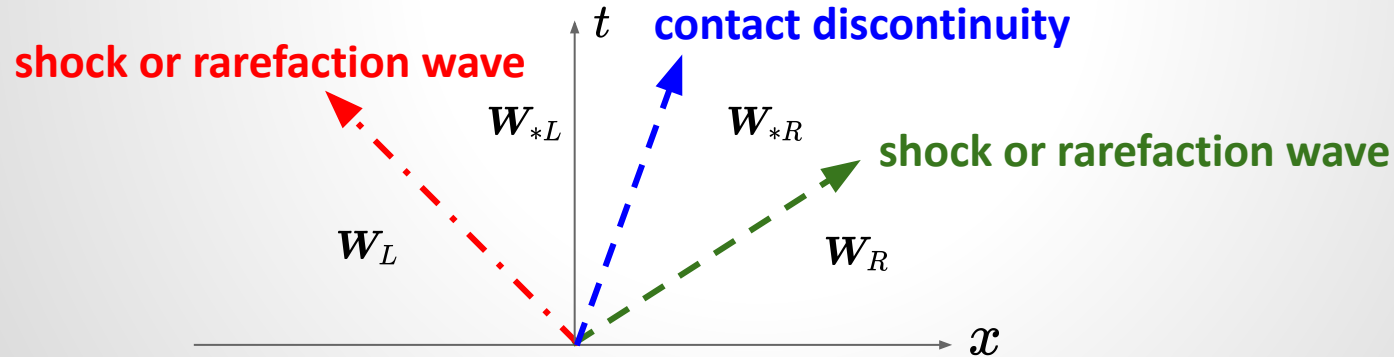
- Euler eqs. in 1D: $\frac{\partial U}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial F_x(U)}{\partial x} = 0$, $U = \begin{bmatrix} \rho \\ \rho v_x \\ E \end{bmatrix}$, $F_x = \begin{bmatrix} \rho v_x \\ \rho v_x^2 + P \\ (E + P)v_x \end{bmatrix}$

- Riemann problem: $U(x, t = 0) = \begin{cases} U_L = \begin{bmatrix} \rho_L \\ \rho_L v_{xL} \\ E_L \end{bmatrix}, & x \leq 0 \\ U_R = \begin{bmatrix} \rho_R \\ \rho_R v_{xR} \\ E_R \end{bmatrix}, & x > 0 \end{cases}$ left state
right state



Riemann Problem in 1D Hydro

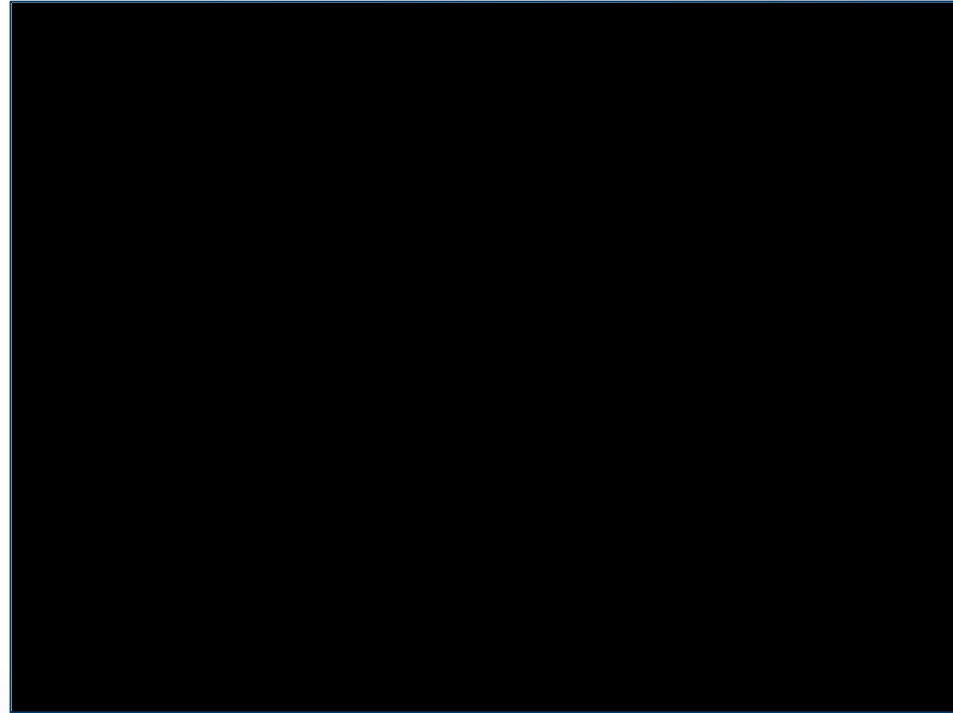
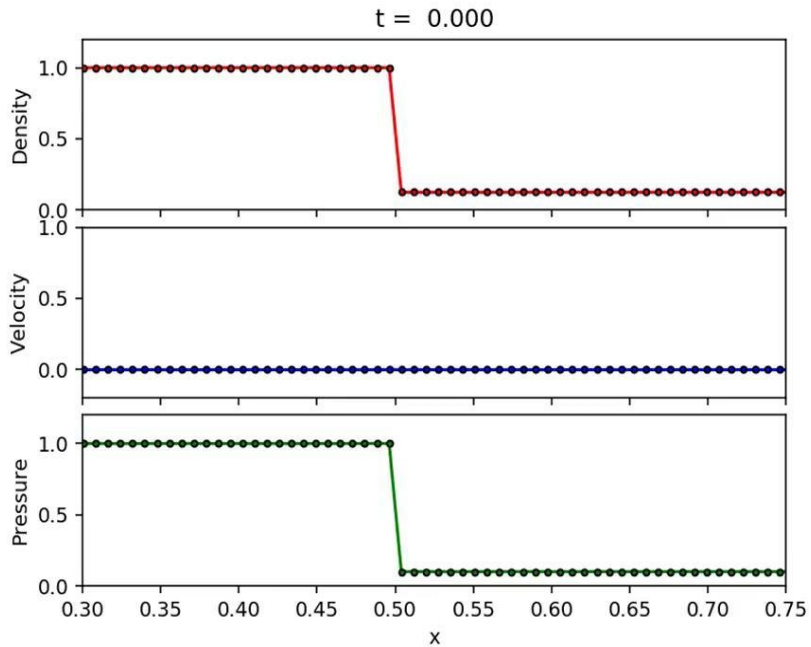
- **Exact solution of the Riemann problem involves three waves**
 - Contact discontinuity
 - Shock wave
 - Rarefaction wave
- **Decompose the entire domain into four regions** W_L, W_{*L}, W_{*R}, W_R



Demo: Sod Shock Tube

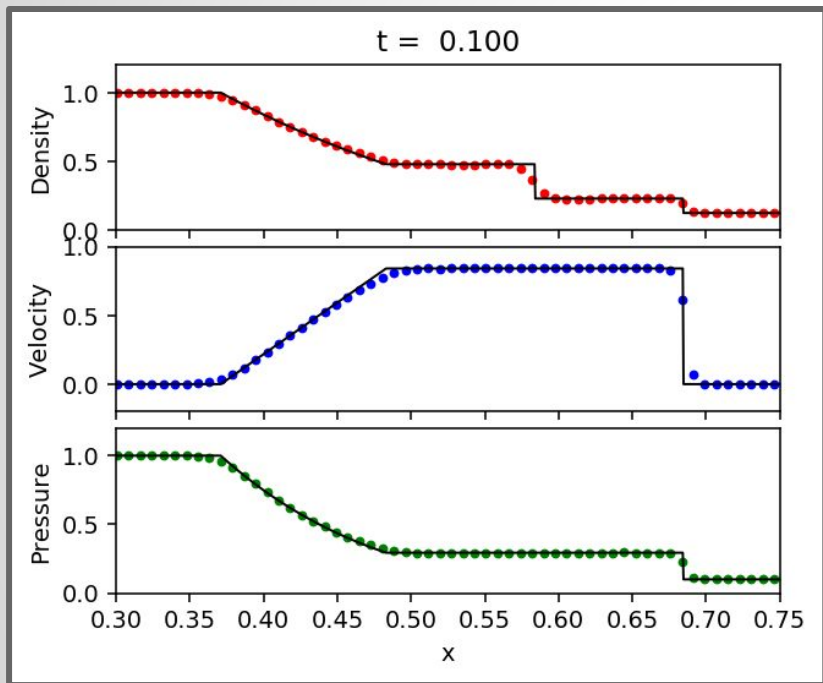
MUSCL-Hancock

Lax-Wendroff

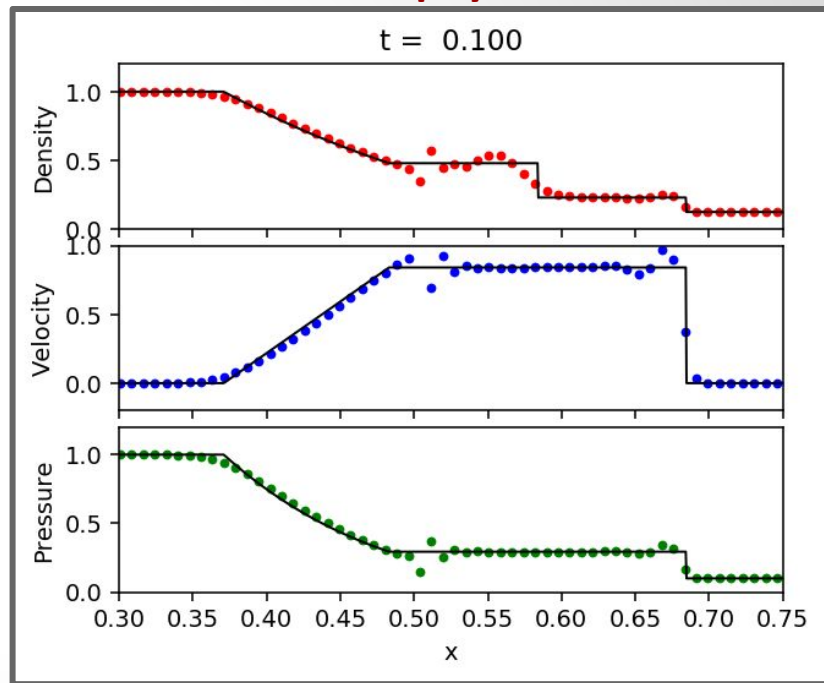


Demo: Sod Shock Tube

MUSCL-Hancock → **much better!**



Lax-Wendroff → **unphysical oscillations...**



Complete source codes:

- MUSCL-Hancock: <https://gist.github.com/hyschive/0e3472c48df1e7eb0b2018a59bc2c111>
- Lax-Wendroff: <https://gist.github.com/hyschive/46bab6434f1b9b9aee23aeaeb71b90b6>

Magnetohydrodynamics (MHD)

- Ideal MHD:
 - $$\frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (\rho \mathbf{v}) = 0 \quad \leftarrow \text{mass conservation}$$
 - $$\frac{\partial(\rho \mathbf{v})}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (\rho \mathbf{v} \mathbf{v} - \mathbf{B} \mathbf{B} + P^* \mathbf{I}) = 0 \quad \leftarrow \text{momentum conservation}$$
 - $$\frac{\partial E}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot [(E + P^*) \mathbf{v} - \mathbf{B}(\mathbf{B} \cdot \mathbf{v})] = 0 \quad \leftarrow \text{energy conservation}$$
 - $$\frac{\partial \mathbf{B}}{\partial t} - \nabla \times (\mathbf{v} \times \mathbf{B}) = 0 \quad \leftarrow \text{induction eq. + ideal Ohm's law}$$
- $E = e + \frac{1}{2} \rho v^2 + \frac{B^2}{2}, \quad P^* = P + \frac{B^2}{2}$
- 9 variables to be solved by the 8 equations above + equation of state
- Divergence-free constraint on the magnetic field: $\nabla \cdot \mathbf{B} = 0$

Flux-conservative Form for MHD

- $$\frac{\partial U}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial F_x}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial F_y}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial F_z}{\partial z} = 0,$$

$$U = \begin{bmatrix} \rho \\ \rho v_x \\ \rho v_y \\ \rho v_z \\ E \\ B_x \\ B_y \\ B_z \end{bmatrix}, \quad F_x = \begin{bmatrix} \rho v_x \\ \rho v_x^2 + P^* - B_x^2 \\ \rho v_x v_y - B_x B_y \\ \rho v_x v_z - B_x B_z \\ (E + P^*)v_x - B_x (\mathbf{B} \cdot \mathbf{v}) \\ 0 \\ v_x B_y - v_y B_x \\ v_x B_z - v_z B_x \end{bmatrix}, \text{ similarly for } F_y, F_z$$

- Fluid conserved variables can be updated similarly using the finite-volume scheme for pure hydro**
- Key question: how to ensure the divergence-free constraint when updating the magnetic field?**

Constrained Transport (CT) Method

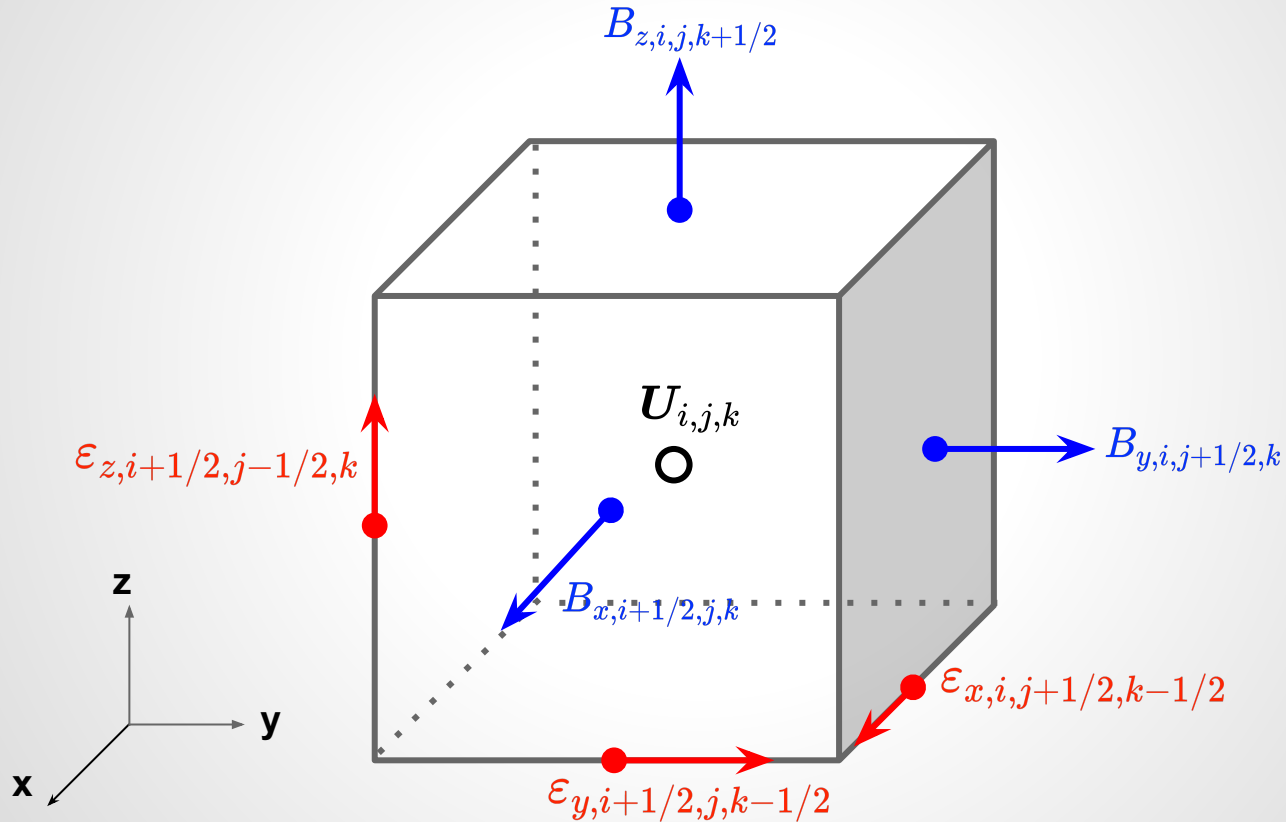
- **Stokes' theorem:**
$$\int_A \frac{\partial \mathbf{B}}{\partial t} \cdot d\mathbf{A} = \int_A [\nabla \times (\mathbf{v} \times \mathbf{B})] \cdot d\mathbf{A} = \oint_{\partial A} \mathbf{v} \times \mathbf{B} \cdot d\mathbf{l}$$
 - **Electromotive force (EMF):** $\boldsymbol{\varepsilon} = -\mathbf{v} \times \mathbf{B}$
- **Integrate over cell area (e.g., $\Delta y \Delta z$) and time interval $\Delta t = t^{n+1} - t^n$**

$$B_{x,i-1/2,j,k}^n \equiv \frac{1}{\Delta y \Delta z} \int_{z_{k-1/2}}^{z_{k+1/2}} \int_{y_{j-1/2}}^{y_{j+1/2}} B_x(x_{i-1/2}, y, z, t^n) dy dz$$
$$\varepsilon_{y,i-1/2,j,k-1/2}^{n+1/2} \equiv \frac{1}{\Delta y \Delta t} \int_{t^n}^{t^{n+1}} \int_{y_{j-1/2}}^{y_{j+1/2}} \varepsilon_y(x_{i-1/2}, y, z_{k-1/2}, t) dy dt$$
$$\varepsilon_{z,i-1/2,j-1/2,k}^{n+1/2} \equiv \frac{1}{\Delta z \Delta t} \int_{t^n}^{t^{n+1}} \int_{z_{k-1/2}}^{z_{k+1/2}} \varepsilon_z(x_{i-1/2}, y_{j-1/2}, z, t) dz dt$$

Constrained Transport (CT) Method

- $$B_{x,i-1/2,j,k}^{n+1} = B_{x,i-1/2,j,k}^n - \frac{\Delta t}{\Delta y} \left(\epsilon_{z,i-1/2,j+1/2,k}^{n+1/2} - \epsilon_{z,i-1/2,j-1/2,k}^{n+1/2} \right) + \frac{\Delta t}{\Delta z} \left(\epsilon_{y,i-1/2,j,k+1/2}^{n+1/2} - \epsilon_{y,i-1/2,j,k-1/2}^{n+1/2} \right)$$
- This form is again exact → similar to the finite-volume formulation
- $B_{x,i-1/2,j,k}^n$: area-averaged magnetic field
- $\epsilon_{z,i-1/2,j\pm 1/2,k}^{n+1/2}$, $\epsilon_{y,i-1/2,j,k\pm 1/2}^{n+1/2}$: time- and line-averaged EMF
- Similar expressions can be derived for $B_{y,i,j-1/2,k}^{n+1}$ & $B_{z,i,j,k-1/2}^{n+1}$
- Area-averaged magnetic field are located at the cell faces instead of centers → staggered grid

Staggered Grid in CT



Divergence Free in CT

- Finite-volume representation of the divergence-free constraint:

$$\frac{1}{\Delta x \Delta y \Delta z} \int_{V_{i,j,k}} (\nabla \cdot \mathbf{B}^n) dV = 0$$

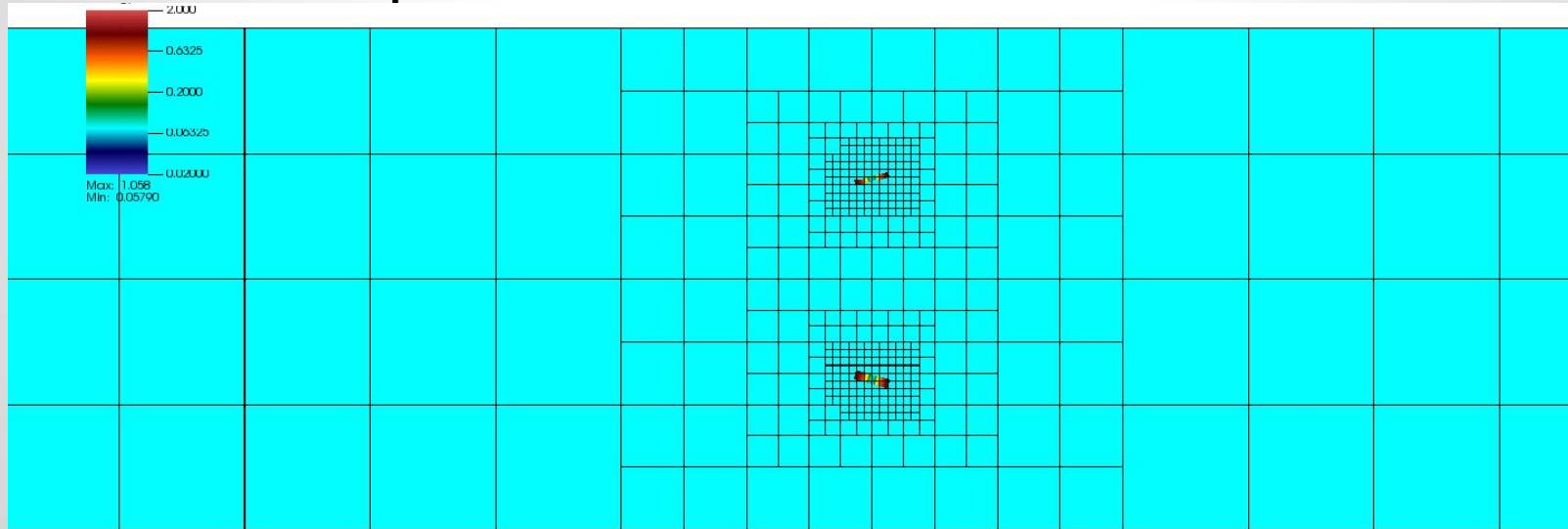
$$\rightarrow (\nabla \cdot \mathbf{B}^n)_{i,j,k} = \frac{B_{x,i+1/2,j,k}^n - B_{x,i-1/2,j,k}^n}{\Delta x} + \frac{B_{y,i,j+1/2,k}^n - B_{y,i,j-1/2,k}^n}{\Delta y} + \frac{B_{z,i,j,k+1/2}^n - B_{z,i,j,k-1/2}^n}{\Delta z} = 0$$

exact form

- CT update guarantees $\nabla \cdot \mathbf{B}^{n+1} = \nabla \cdot \mathbf{B}^n$
 - Divergence-free constraint is preserved to the machine precision
 - But it must be satisfied in the initial condition
 - The exact way to compute EMF varies from scheme to scheme

Adaptive Mesh Refinement (AMR)

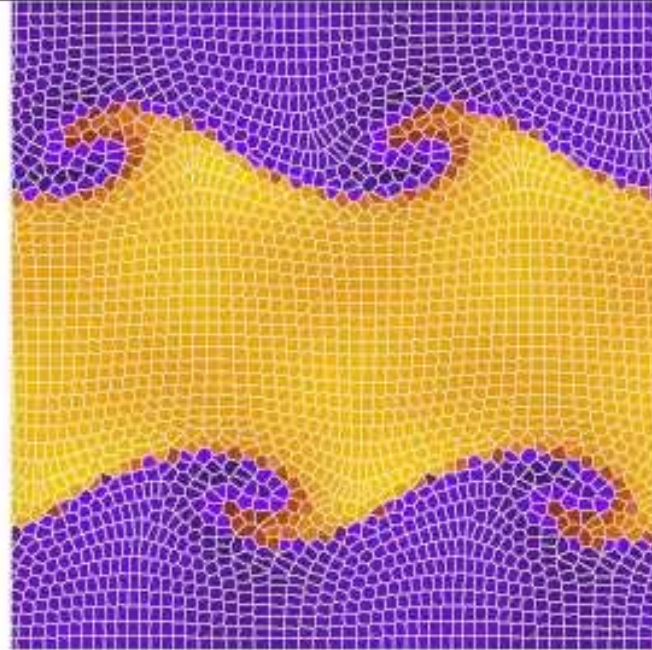
- Astrophysical simulations require a large dynamic range
 - $10^4 - 10^9$ spatial scales
 - Uniform-resolution simulations become impractical
- AMR: allow resolution to adjust locally and automatically
 - Problem-specific refinement criteria



Colliding active galactic nucleus jets using the GAMER code (Sandor, Schive, et al. 2017, ApJ)

Moving Mesh

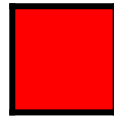
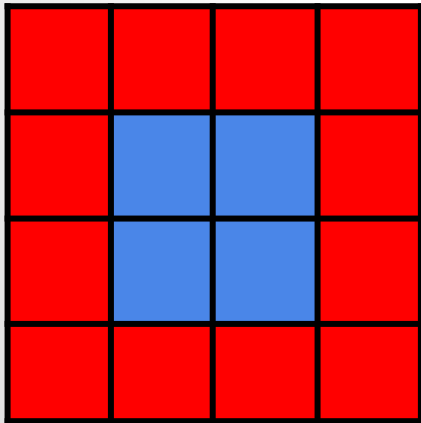
- Lagrangian instead of Eulerian coordinates
- Galilean invariant
- Unstructured mesh
- Finite-volume scheme



Kelvin-Helmholtz instability simulated with the Arepo code

Self-gravity

- Poisson equation: $\nabla^2 \phi(\mathbf{r}) = \rho(\mathbf{r})$
 - ρ : mass density, Φ : gravitational potential, assuming $4\pi G=1$
- Task: given ρ in V and Φ at ∂V , where V is the computational domain of interest and ∂V is the boundary \rightarrow solve Φ in V



Given Φ



Given ρ , solve Φ

Self-gravity: Relaxation Methods

- $\nabla^2 \phi = \rho \rightarrow \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial t} = \nabla^2 \phi - \rho$ ← Diffusion eq. with source $-\rho$
 - Let the system relax until equilibrium is established $\frac{\partial \phi}{\partial t} = 0 \rightarrow \nabla^2 \phi = \rho$
 - 2D discrete form using a FTCS scheme (assuming $\Delta x = \Delta y = \Delta$):

$$\frac{\phi_{i,j}^{n+1} - \phi_{i,j}^n}{\Delta t} = \frac{1}{\Delta^2} \left(\phi_{i+1,j}^n + \phi_{i-1,j}^n + \phi_{i,j+1}^n + \phi_{i,j-1}^n - 4\phi_{i,j}^n \right) - \rho_{i,j}$$

- CFL stability: $\Delta t \leq \Delta^2/4 \rightarrow$ let $\Delta t = \Delta^2/4$

$$\phi_{i,j}^{n+1} = \frac{1}{4} \left(\phi_{i+1,j}^n + \phi_{i-1,j}^n + \phi_{i,j+1}^n + \phi_{i,j-1}^n - \Delta^2 \rho_{i,j} \right)$$

→ Iterate until relaxed (convergence)

Jacobi's method

Self-gravity: Discrete Fourier Transform

- **Poisson eq. in 1D:** $\frac{\partial^2 \phi}{\partial x^2} = \rho$
- **Fourier transform:** $\partial/\partial x \rightarrow ik, \phi(x) \rightarrow \Phi(k), \rho(x) \rightarrow D(k)$

$$\Phi(k) = -\frac{D(k)}{k^2} \rightarrow \phi(x) = FT^{-1}(\Phi(k))$$

- **Assuming periodic boundary conditions above**
- **For isolated (vacuum) boundary conditions, it requires convolution of $\rho(r)$ (with zero padding) and the Green's function r^{-1}**

Particles: What Do They Represent?

- 1. Planets, stars, supernovae, black holes**
 - a. Each particle represents a single point mass**
- 2. Star clusters**
 - a. Each particle represents a bunch of stars**
- 3. Dark matter**
 - a. Finite sampling of the phase space distribution function**
 - b. Can be either collisionless (CDM) or collisional (SIDM)**
- 4. Gas → Smooth Particle Hydrodynamics (SPH)**
 - a. Lagrangian nature → adaptive resolution**
 - b. Mesh-free**
 - c. Self-gravity can be computed in the same way as other types of particles**
- 5. Tracers**
 - a. Trace the trajectory of gas elements**
- 6. Photons**
 - a. Radiation transfer**

Particle Properties

- 1. Point-mass objects**
 - a. Two-body relaxation may be essential → collisional system**
 - b. Gravity diverges at the center → numerically challenging**
 - c. Binaries**
- 2. Finite-sized objects**
 - a. Star clusters, dark matter**
 - b. Avoid two-body relaxation and binary formation → smooth out gravity in the short range (smoothing/softening length)**
- 3. Particles can be created or destroyed on-the-fly**
- 4. Particle properties may change on-the-fly**
 - a. Mass, age, metallicity, spin, stellar composition, ...**
- 5. Feedback**
 - a. Stellar wind, AGN jets, SN explosion, ...**

Computing Self-gravity

- **Direct N-body:** $a_i = G \sum_{j \neq i} m_j \frac{\mathbf{r}_j - \mathbf{r}_i}{|\mathbf{r}_j - \mathbf{r}_i|^3}$
 - **Computational complexity** $O(N^2)$ → extremely expensive
 - **Mostly used when particles represent point masses where very high accuracy is essential**
- **Particle Mesh (PM)**
 - **Deposit particle mass onto grids** → grid-base Poisson solver → interpolate gravity back to particles
- **Tree / Fast Multipole Method**
 - **Multipole expansion** → Group distant particles into a single large particle (higher-order corrections such as quadrupole can also be included)
- **Hybrid Method: P³M, TreePM**
 - **Long range:** PM
 - **Short range:** direct N-body (P³M) or tree (TreePM)
 - **Be careful about connecting long- and short-range forces**

Orbit Integration

- **Kick operator K : update velocity while fix position**

$$K(\Delta t) \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{r}(t) \\ \mathbf{v}(t) \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{r}(t) \\ \mathbf{v}(t) + \mathbf{a}\Delta t \end{bmatrix}$$

- **Drift operator D : update position while fix velocity**

$$D(\Delta t) \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{r}(t) \\ \mathbf{v}(t) \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{r}(t) + \mathbf{v}(t)\Delta t \\ \mathbf{v}(t) \end{bmatrix}$$

- **KDK scheme: $K(\Delta t/2) D(\Delta t) K(\Delta t/2)$**

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{v}(t + \Delta t/2) &= \mathbf{v}(t) + \mathbf{a}(t)\Delta t/2 \\ \mathbf{x}(t + \Delta t) &= \mathbf{x}(t) + \mathbf{v}(t + \Delta t/2)\Delta t \\ \mathbf{v}(t + \Delta t) &= \mathbf{v}(t + \Delta t/2) + \mathbf{a}(t + \Delta t)\Delta t/2 \end{aligned}$$

Euler's scheme (1st order)

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{x}(t + \Delta t) &= \mathbf{x}(t) + \mathbf{v}(t)\Delta t \\ \mathbf{v}(t + \Delta t) &= \mathbf{v}(t) + \mathbf{a}(t)\Delta t \end{aligned}$$



- **Equivalent to the Leapfrog scheme (2nd order)**
- **Time reversibility**
- **Symplectic nature** → preserve a slightly perturbed Hamiltonian → good for long-term evolution
- **One force evaluation per time-step**

Code Snippets

Euler

```
# calculate a(t)
r      = ( x*x + y*y )**0.5
a_abs = G*M/(r*r)
ax     = -a_abs*x/r
ay     = -a_abs*y/r

# use v(t) and a(t) to update position
# and velocity by dt
x = x + vx*dt
y = y + vy*dt
vx = vx + ax*dt
vy = vy + ay*dt
```

← Be careful about the order of update

DKD

```
# drift: update position by 0.5*dt
x = x + vx*0.5*dt
y = y + vy*0.5*dt

# kick: calculate a(t+0.5*dt) and use that
# to update velocity by dt
r      = ( x*x + y*y )**0.5
a_abs = G*M/(r*r)
ax     = -a_abs*x/r
ay     = -a_abs*y/r
vx     = vx + ax*dt
vy     = vy + ay*dt

# drift: use v(t+dt) to update position
# by another 0.5*dt
x = x + vx*0.5*dt
y = y + vy*0.5*dt
```

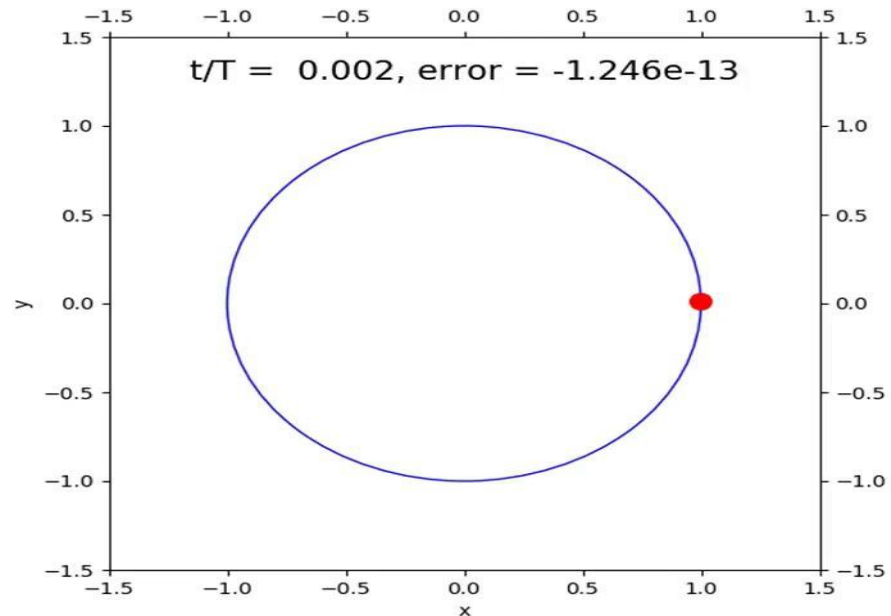
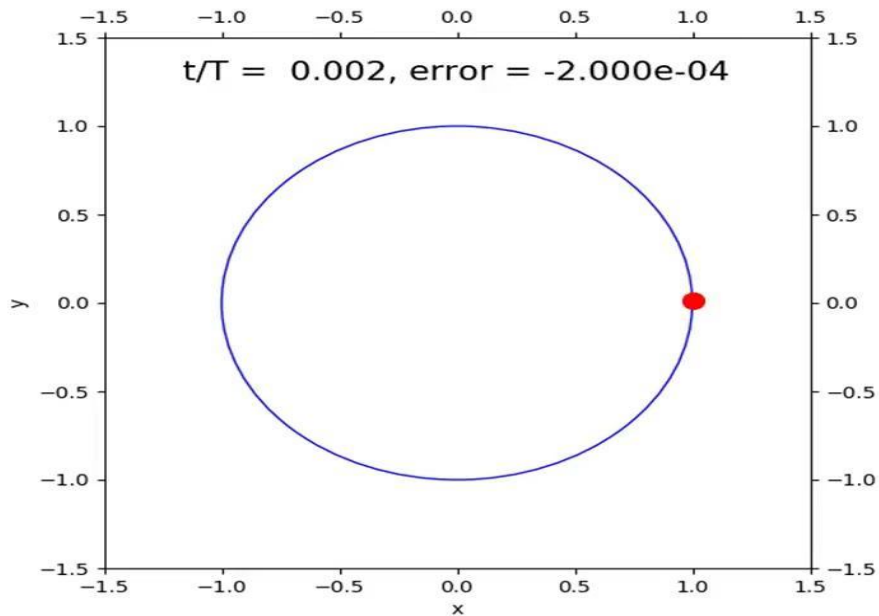
Complete source codes:

- Euler: <https://gist.github.com/hyschive/5db0f4235f7ccabf5567e30a2dacca07>
- DKD: <https://gist.github.com/hyschive/b59143f14ee89d188a06a1ae29c9cfe7>

Demo

Euler

DKD



Questions!