

# Nonlinear Dynamics: Mathematical and Computational Approaches

## 5.6 Flows III: Unit test » Take unit 5 test

---

### Instructions 1

You may use any course materials, websites, books, computer programs, calculators, etc. for this test. Just don't ask another person for answers or share your answers with other people. Be aware that simply typing the question text into google is unlikely to get you direct right answer; you're going to have to read what you find there in order to extract that answer, and the course videos are probably a faster way than that.

"Experts" notes clarify situations that haven't been covered in this course, but that may introduce subtleties into the exam answers. Do not rely on them unless you understand the terms and issues in those notes.

**If you have questions about this test, please email us at [nonlinear@complexityexplorer.org](mailto:nonlinear@complexityexplorer.org) rather than posting on the forum.**

---

### Question 2

Why is it useful to transform an nth-order ODE into n 1st-order ODEs?

- A. It's the only way to know how many state variables are involved.
  - B. To see if it's linear.
  - C. Because that's the form in which ODE solvers want them.
  - D. Because it's fun.
- 

### Question 3

If you transformed this ODE into a set of 1st-order ODEs, how many "helper variables" would you need?

$$x''' + x' - 3 \sin x = 0$$

- A. None.
  - B. This transformation isn't possible for this ODE.
  - C. One
  - D. Two
  - E. Three
- 

### Question 4

What is the state vector of the simple harmonic oscillator (SHO)?

- $[x, v]$
- $[x, v]^T$
- $[\theta, \omega]$

---

**Question 5**

The SHO equations are below:

$$x' = v$$

$$v' = -x$$

If  $x=1$  and  $v=1$ , what are  $x'$  and  $v'$ ?

- $x'=1$  and  $v'=0$
  - $x'=-1$  and  $v'=1$
  - $x'=1$  and  $v'=-1$
  - None of the above
- 

**Question 6**

Refer to to the SHO equations in question 4.

If  $x=0$  and  $v=1$ , what are  $x'$  and  $v'$ ?

- $x'=0$  and  $v'=1$
  - $x'=1$  and  $v'=0$
  - $x'=0$  and  $v'=0$
  - None of the above
- 

**Question 7**

The state-space point  $x=0, v=0$  is a fixed point of the SHO dynamics.

- True
  - False
- 

**Question 8**

The state-space point  $x=1, v=0$  is a fixed point of the SHO dynamics.

- True
  - False
- 

**Question 9**

Difference equations and differential equations can both involve multiple state variables.

- True
  - False
- 

**Question 10**

Difference equations and differential equations both involve derivatives.

- True
- False

---

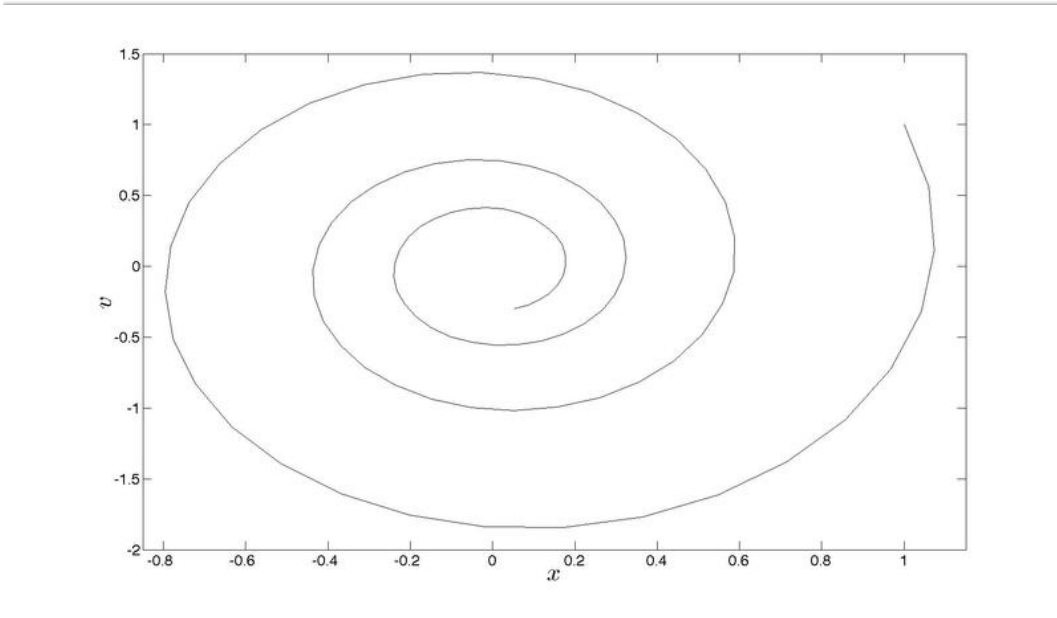
**Question 11**

A difference equation gives you the next state of the system, whereas a differential equation gives you the direction in which the state evolves.

- True
  - False
- 

**Question 12**

This picture shows a trajectory of the undamped SHO system, starting from  $[1,1]$  with a step size of 0.1. Which solver was used to generate the trajectory?



- forward (explicit) Euler
  - backward (implicit) Euler
- 

**Question 13**

What will happen to the solutions generated by forward and backward Euler methods as you change the time step? (Experts: neglect the floating-point arithmetic when you're answering this question.)

- Solutions produced by both methods will improve (i.e., get more accurate) as you decrease the time step.
  - Solutions produced by both methods will improve (i.e., get more accurate) as you increase the time step.
  - There will be no change in accuracy in either method as you decrease the time step.
- 

**Question 14**

Comparing the amount of work—the number of operations—done by a computer that is running the forward Euler algorithm to generate a second-long trajectory of the SHO system using two different time steps: 0.1 and 0.2 seconds. (Experts: only consider main loop iterations, and neglect all floating-point effects.)

- Both trajectories will require about the same amount of computational effort.
- The trajectory with the longer time step will require about twice as much work.
- The trajectory with the shorter time step will require about twice as much work.
- The trajectory with the shorter time step will require more than twice as much work.
- The trajectory with the longer time step will require more than twice as much work.

---

**Question 15**

Use your forward Euler solver from HW 5.4 on the SHO equations with  $k=2$ ,  $m=1$ , and  $\beta=0$ , from the initial condition  $x(t=0)=-1$ ,  $v(t=0)=-2$ , timestep of 0.05, to compute the values of  $x$  and  $v$  at  $t=0.5$ . [Note: this is problem 1 on HW 5.4 with a different  $m$  and a different timestep that we use the symbols "h" and "delta t" interchangeably to mean "timestep."]

◦  $x(t = 0.5) \approx -1.528$ ,  $v(t = 0.5) \approx 0.625$

◦  $x(t = 0.5) \approx -1.7209$ ,  $v(t = 0.5) \approx -0.6198$

◦  $x(t = 0.5) \approx -1.7621$ ,  $v(t = 0.5) \approx -0.6439$