

DOI: 10.17516/1997-1397-2020-13-6-781-791

УДК 519.6

## Accuracy of Symmetric Multi-Step Methods for the Numerical Modelling of Satellite Motion

**Evgenia D. Karepova\***

Institute of computational modeling of SB RAS  
Krasnoyarsk, Russian Federation

**Iliya R. Adaev†**

Institute of computational modeling of SB RAS  
Krasnoyarsk, Russian Federation  
Siberian Federal University  
Krasnoyarsk, Russian Federation

**Yury V. Shan'ko‡**

Institute of computational modeling of SB RAS  
Krasnoyarsk, Russian Federation

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Received 10.08.2020, received in revised form 08.09.2020, accepted 07.10.2020

**Abstract.** Stability of high-order linear multistep Störmer-Cowell and symmetric methods are discussed in detail in this paper. Efficient algorithms for obtaining intervals of absolute stability and periodicity are given for these methods. To demonstrate the accuracy of numerical integration of the orbit over an interval about one year two model problems are considered. First problem is the 3D Kepler problem. Second one is a specially designed 3D model problem that has the exact solution and simulates the Earth-Moon-satellite system.

**Keywords:** linear multistep method, symmetric method, Störmer-Cowell method, PECE scheme, orbit.

**Citation:** E.D. Karepova, I.R. Adaev, Y.V. Shan'ko, Accuracy of the Symmetric Multi-Step Methods for the Numerical Modelling of Satellite Motion, J. Sib. Fed. Univ. Math. Phys., 2020, 13(6), 781–791. DOI: 10.17516/1997-1397-2020-13-6-781-791.

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## Introduction

Accuracy of the numerical integration of a satellite motion still remains one of the top problems associated with Global Navigation Satellite Systems. A review of the approaches used by Analysis centres of International GNSS Service [1] shows that the basic techniques of the numerical integration of a satellite orbit are the Adams-Bashforth/Moulton PECE-algorithms, the nonlinear Everhart's procedure [2] and collocation methods [3,4]. However, a linear multi-step symmetric methods shows considerable promise [5] for near-circular orbits that are typical for navigation satellites.

The theory of multi-step methods, including the Adams family which are traditional for the numerical integration of the motion of celestial objects, are widely discussed in many textbooks

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\*e.d.karepova@icm.krasn.ru <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-6515-2932>

†adaev@icm.krasn.ru <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-5670-3747>

‡shy70@mail.ru <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-2796-4363>

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on numerical methods [6, 7, 9–12]. The Störmer-Cowell methods were developed and successfully used since the early 20th century. However, in 2016 an interesting result concerning instability for small step size of some Störmer-Cowell methods was presented by Nørsett and Asheim [13]. The general theory of the symmetric multi-step methods was developed by Lambert and Watson [14]. The symmetric methods of high order were discussed in relation to the numerical integration of planetary orbits over a long period of time.

The orbital motion is described by the system of second order ordinary differential equations (ODE). It is generally agreed that is better to solve numerically the second order ODE rather than equivalent system of two first order equations [6, 15]. We also confirm this in our numerical experiments.

In this paper, we discuss the accuracy and stability of high-order explicit symmetric multi-step methods and their advantage over the Störmer-Cowell methods with/without "predict – evaluate – correct evaluate" (PECE) mode. We propose an efficient way to calculate intervals of absolute stability and periodicity for any linear multi-step method.

To study stability and periodicity we used the general-purpose computer algebra system REDUCE over the complex field with an accuracy of 40 significant digits. Numerical algorithms were implemented in C++ using the library `quadmth` for quadruple precision calculations.

## 1. Linear multistep methods

On the discrete point set  $\{t_n : t_n = t_0 + nh, h > 0, n = 0, 1, \dots\}$ , we consider the  $k$ -step linear multistep method

$$\sum_{j=0}^k \alpha_j x_{n+j} = h^2 \sum_{j=0}^k \beta_j f_{n+j}, \quad k \geq 2, \tag{1}$$

for the numerical solution of the special second-order initial value problem

$$x'' = f(t, x), \quad x(t_0) = x_0, \quad x'(t_0) = \hat{x}. \tag{2}$$

Here  $x_n$  is the approximation of the exact solution  $x(t_n) \in \mathbb{R}$  and  $f_n = f(t_n, x_n)$ . Method (1) is characterized by polynomials  $\rho(\xi)$  and  $\sigma(\xi)$ , where

$$\rho(\xi) = \sum_{j=0}^k \alpha_j \xi^j, \quad \sigma(\xi) = \sum_{j=0}^k \beta_j \xi^j, \quad \xi \in \mathbb{C}.$$

We suppose that  $\rho$  and  $\sigma$  have no common factors,  $\alpha_k = 1$ ,  $|\alpha_0| + |\beta_0| \neq 0$ , and  $\sum_{j=0}^k |\beta_j| \neq 0$ .

If  $\beta_k = 0$  the method is explicit, otherwise it is implicit. For method (1) to be *consistent*, it is necessary and sufficient that  $\rho(1) = \rho'(1) = 0$  and  $\rho''(1) = 2\sigma(1)$ . Method (1) has the order  $p$  if for all sufficiently smooth test functions  $z(t)$

$$\sum_{j=0}^k \alpha_j z(t + jh) - h^2 \sum_{j=0}^k \beta_j z''(t + jh) = C_{p+2} h^{p+2} z^{(p+2)}(t) + \mathcal{O}(h^{p+3}).$$

We assume that if the Cauchy problem (2) is solved with the use of method (1) the accuracy of first starting values  $x_n$ ,  $n = 0, \dots, k - 1$  is at least not less than the order of the method.

All Störmer-Cowell methods have  $\rho(\xi) = \xi^k - 2\xi^{k-1} + \xi^{k-2}$ . Method (1) is *symmetric* if  $\alpha_j = \alpha_{k-j}$ ,  $\beta_j = \beta_{k-j}$ ,  $j = 0, \dots, k$ . A symmetric method has only even order [7]. We study

higher order methods, namely, from 6th to 12th order Störmer-Cowell methods and even order symmetric methods. Coefficients  $\alpha_j$  and  $\beta_j$  for these methods are presented in [13] and [5, 14], respectively.

These methods are consistent and zero-stable. Hence they are convergent [6, 14] and polynomial  $\rho$  has the root of multiplicity two at  $+1$ . Let us denote the roots of  $\rho$  by  $\xi_s$ ,  $s = 1, \dots, k$ , where  $\xi_1 = \xi_2 = 1$  are the *principal* roots and the remaining  $k - 2$  roots are *spurious*. All spurious roots of any Störmer-Cowell method are zero.

We demonstrate main differences between symmetric and Störmer-Cowell methods by the example of the harmonic oscillator equation

$$x'' = -\lambda^2 x, \quad x(t_0) = x_0, \quad x'(t_0) = \hat{x}, \quad \lambda \in \mathbb{R} \quad (3)$$

That has general solution  $x(t) = A \cos \lambda t + B \sin \lambda t$  with period  $T = 2\pi/\lambda$ .

Using method (1) to solve (3), we obtain the difference equation

$$\sum_{j=0}^k (\alpha_j + H^2 \beta_j) x_{n+j} = 0 \quad (4)$$

with general solution

$$x_n = D_1 r_1^n + D_2 r_2^n + \sum_{s=3}^k D_s r_s^n. \quad (5)$$

Here  $H = \lambda h$ ,  $D_s \in \mathbb{C}$  are constant. Let us assume that all the roots  $r_s$ ,  $s=1, \dots, k$  of the stability polynomial

$$\pi(r; H^2) = \rho(r) + H^2 \sigma^2(r) \quad (6)$$

are distinct. Since the roots of the polynomial are continuous functions of its coefficients,  $r_s$  are perturbation of  $\xi_s$  when  $H^2 > 0$ . Thus, the numerical solution of (3)  $x_n$  may be represented by the sum of the component  $(x_n)_P = D_1 r_1^n + D_2 r_2^n$  associated with the perturbation of the principal roots and  $(x_n)_S$  that arises from perturbation of spurious roots.

*Absolute stability of the Störmer and Cowell methods.* Root-locus curves for some Störmer and Cowell methods are shown in Fig. 1 (a-i). They are constructed by the "boundary locus" method [12] which gives a general shape of the boundary  $|r| = |\exp(i\varphi)| = 1$  of the open stability region in the complex plane  $H^2$ . The stability region is always at the left of the curve when we move along the curve as  $\varphi$  increases from 0 to  $2\pi$ . For example, there is no stability region for the 10th order Störmer's method (Fig. 1 c). Moreover, the stability region near the interval of absolute stability is shown in more detail in Figs. 1 (b, f, h) for methods that are used in our numerical experiments. Let us note that in the general case  $\lambda \in \mathbb{C}$  the stability region is determined, while for the harmonic oscillator we obtain the stability interval on the real axis.

In order to determine the stability interval more accurately the Routh-Hurwitz criterion [16] can be used. In this case, a transformation of the region  $|r| \leq 1$  into the region  $\operatorname{Re}(z) \leq 0$  is required. There are the Schur-Cohn [12] and the Jury [17-19] criteria that test the strong stability of  $\pi(r; H^2)$  directly. The Schur-Cohn and the Jury criteria are convenient for program implementation and they are easily tested for a given  $H^2$ .

According to the Jury criterion, the problem of determining the set of all values of  $H^2$  that all roots of  $\pi(r; H^2)$  are inside of the unit circle, is reduced to solving the system of  $k$  inequalities, where  $k$  is the degree of  $\pi(r; H^2)$ . The left-hand side of each inequality is the ratio of polynomials in  $H^2$  and the right-hand side is zero. The polynomial coefficients are obtained

Table 1. Stability intervals of  $H^2$  for Störmer’s and Cowell methods and the interval of periodicity of  $H^2$  for symmetric methods

Order	5	6	7	8
Störmer	$\left(\frac{360}{323}; \frac{60}{49}\right)$	unstable	$(0; 0.3820447\dots)$	$\left(0; \frac{27}{128}\right)$
Cowell	$\left(0; \frac{60}{11}\right)$	$\left(0; \frac{60}{13}\right)$	$\left(\frac{87280}{308407}; \frac{189}{52}\right)$	$\left(\frac{4221504}{1824647}; \frac{189}{71}\right)$
Order	9	10	11	12
Störmer	unstable	unstable	$\left(0; \frac{51975}{1686934}\right)$	$\left(0; \frac{9450}{595163}\right)$
Cowell	$(0; 0.3597184\dots)$	$(0; 1.0218233\dots)$	$\left(0.1898631; \frac{20790}{28687}\right)$	unstable
Order	6	8	10	12
Symmetric	$(0; 0.8021734\dots)$	$(0; 0.5157665\dots)$	$(0; 0.1724269\dots)$	$(0; 0.0456343\dots)$

from the coefficients of  $\pi(r; H^2)$ . Even for small  $k$  the system of the inequalities can be analysed analytically only in some cases. For high order methods this task becomes computationally intensive. For example, when the Jury criterion is applied to the 8th order Störmer method the maximum degree of the polynomial equals to 12, and for the 8th order Cowell method it equals to 117!

We propose the following effective method to determine the boundaries of the stability interval of method (1). We have to define all  $H^2$  for which the polynomial  $\pi(r; H^2)$  has a root that belongs to the unit circle. Consider the roots  $r^* = \exp(i\varphi)$  and  $\bar{r}^* = \exp(-i\varphi)$  of (6),  $0 < \varphi < \pi$ . Let us represent  $\pi(r; H^2)$  in the form:

$$\pi(r; H^2) = S(r; H^2)(r^2 - 2r \cos \varphi + 1) + R(r; H^2)$$

where  $S(r; H^2)$  is a polynomial of the order  $(k - 2)$  in  $r$  with real coefficients,  $R(r; H^2) = a_0(H^2, \cos \varphi) + a_1(H^2, \cos \varphi)r$ ,  $a_0, a_1 \in \mathbb{R}$ . Since  $r^*$  and  $\bar{r}^*$  are the roots of both polynomials  $\pi(r; H^2)$  and  $r^2 - 2r \cos \varphi + 1$ ,  $R(r; H^2) = 0$ . Therefore  $a_0(H^2, \cos \varphi) = 0$  and  $a_1(H^2, \cos \varphi) = 0$ . Consider solutions  $(H_*^2, \varphi_*)$  of the last two equations, where  $-1 < \cos \varphi_* < 1$ . In addition, the case  $\varphi = 0$  gives  $H_*^2 = 0$  and the case  $\varphi = \pi$  immediately gives  $H_*^2 = -\sigma(-1)/\rho(-1)$ . Choose all  $H_*^2 \in \mathbb{R}^+$  only, and they divide  $\mathbb{R}^+$  into disjoint intervals. We test polynomial (6) using the Jury criterion for strong stability for some value of  $\hat{H}^2$  belonging to each interval. The interval in  $\mathbb{R}^+$  for which  $\pi(r; \hat{H}^2)$  is strongly stable corresponds to the interval of absolute stability of method (1).

Tab. 1 presents the absolute stability intervals for the Störmer and Cowell methods of orders from 5 to 12. The results show that not all methods are stable at small  $H^2$ . For example, the Cowell method of order 8 has a very short stability interval separated from zero. The presented results are the same as those from [13], with the exception of the 7th order Störmer method for which one more root was found. It is close to but it does not agree with that found in [13]. This reduces the stability interval. In addition, rational boundaries of the stability intervals can be found with our approach find if they exist.

*Interval of periodicity of symmetric methods.* If  $\hat{\xi}$  is a root of a symmetric polynomial then  $1/\hat{\xi}$  is also its root. Then for symmetric method (1) there is no such  $H^2$  that all roots of the stability polynomial  $\pi(r; H^2)$  are in the unit circle. Therefore, any symmetric method is

absolutely unstable. On the other hand, symmetric methods can have another useful property, namely, they can have a non-vanishing interval of periodicity [14].

According to [14] method (1) has non-vanishing interval of periodicity  $(0; H_0^2)$  if for all  $H^2 \in (0; H_0^2)$  the roots  $r_s$  of the stability polynomial  $\pi(r; H^2)$  satisfy relations

$$r_1 = \exp(i\theta(H)), \quad r_2 = \exp(-i\theta(H)), \quad |r_s| = 1, \quad s = 3, \dots, k, \quad \theta(H) \in \mathbb{R}$$

and if the order of (1) is  $p$  then  $\theta(H) = H + \mathcal{O}(h^{p+1}) \in \mathbb{R}$ .

If method (1) has non-vanishing interval of periodicity then it is symmetric. The opposite is not true, but if polynomial  $\rho$  of symmetric method (1) has all roots in the unit circle and there are no other double roots except the principal ones then the method has a non-vanishing interval of periodicity. In this case, since the roots of the polynomial continuously depend on parameter  $H^2$ , all roots of  $\pi(r; H^2)$  remain in the unit circle when  $H^2$  changes from 0 to some  $H_0^2$ . Then the principal component  $(x_n)_P$  of the numerical solution is periodic with a period close to  $2\pi/\lambda$  (the period of the analytical solution of (3)), and  $(x_n)_P$  dominates over  $(x_n)_S$  which is also periodic.

The approach to determine the value of  $H_0$  is proposed [14]. Some polynomial is constructed from  $\pi(r; H^2)$  by special transformation of variable  $r$  [14]. The value of  $H_0^2$  is determined from the condition that all roots of the polynomial are real, distinct and non-negative. This corresponds to the condition that the absolute values of all roots of  $\pi(r; H^2)$  are equal to 1 for  $H^2 \in (0; H_0^2)$ .

We propose an alternative method based on determining of  $H_0^2$  in such a way that multiple root arises for  $\pi(r; H_0^2)$ . Let symmetric method (1) has a non-vanishing interval of periodicity  $(0; H_0^2)$ . Then for  $H \in (0; H_0^2)$  all roots of  $\pi(r; H^2)$  are distinct and lie on the unit circle. Moreover, each root that does not lie on the real axis has the conjugate root as the root of a polynomial with real coefficients (Fig. 2 a). If  $H^2 > H_0^2$  then there exists  $\xi^* = r^*(\cos \theta^* + i \sin \theta^*)$  root of  $\pi(r; H^2)$ , where  $r^* > 1$ . Therefore  $1/\xi^* = (\cos \theta^* - i \sin \theta^*)/r^*$  and its conjugate  $\bar{\xi}^* = r^*(\cos \theta^* - i \sin \theta^*)$ ,  $1/\bar{\xi}^* = (\cos \theta^* + i \sin \theta^*)/r^*$  are also the roots of  $\pi(r; H^2)$ . Because  $r^*$  is continuously depends on parameter  $H$  there exists  $H = H^*$  for which  $r^* = 1$ , that is,  $\xi^*$  is root of multiplicity 2. Therefore,  $H^*$  coincides with the right-hand boundary of the interval of periodicity  $H_0$ . Thus,  $H_0$  can be found as the minimum positive real root of the discriminant of the stability polynomial of a symmetric method. In Fig. 2, the behaviour of the roots of the stability polynomial for the 8th order symmetric method is shown when  $H$  approaches  $H_0$  and when  $H$  is greater than  $H_0$ . Table 1 shows the interval of periodicity for the symmetric methods considered here.

The Störmer methods have a non-vanishing absolute stability interval but do not have an interval of periodicity. Alternatively, symmetric methods are absolutely unstable but they have a non-vanishing interval of periodicity. These differences are shown in Fig. 3 for the following simple numerical example.  
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Let us consider problem (3) with the initial conditions  $x(0) = 1$  and  $x'(0) = 0$ . Then the exact solution is  $x(t) = \cos(\lambda t)$ . Equation (3) has two the first integrals

$$E := \lambda^2(x(t))^2 + (x'(t))^2 = \text{const}, \quad \theta := \lambda t + \arctan \frac{x'(t)}{\lambda x(t)} = \text{const}$$

Although the velocity  $x'(t) = v(t)$  is not directly defined by (3), it can be determined by equation (3) through introduction of unknown function  $v$  with the initial data  $v(0) = 0$ ,  $v'(0) = x''(0) = -\lambda^2$ .

The error of the first integral  $\Delta E = E^h - E$  for (3) is shown in Fig. 3 (a) and (b) for  $\lambda = 1$ . equation (3) is integrated with the 8th order symmetric method and Störmer method,

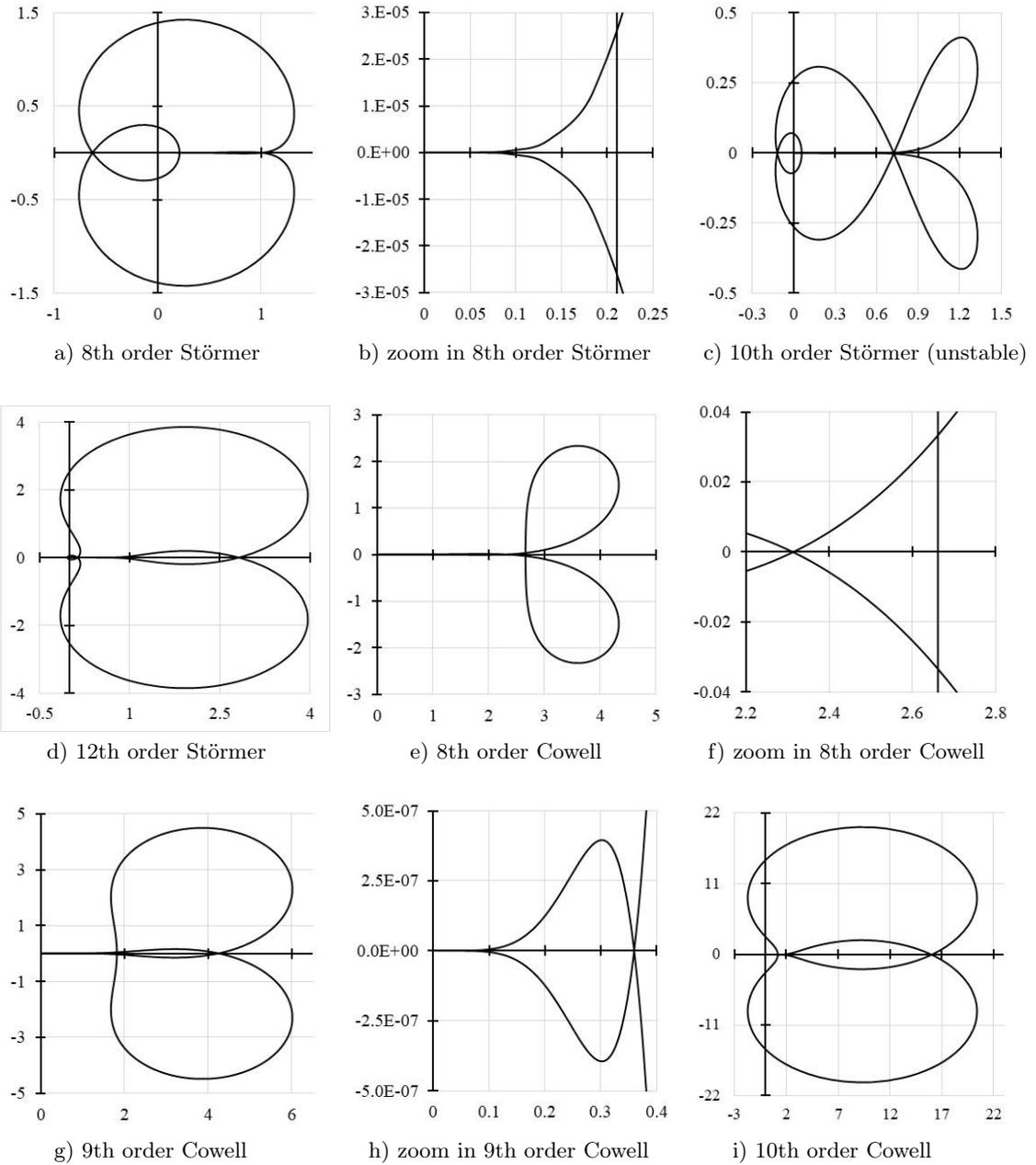


Fig. 1. The root-locus curves and the stability regions for some Störmer and Cowell methods in the complex plane represented by  $H^2$

respectively. The error of the first integral  $\Delta\theta = \theta^h - \theta$  is demonstrated in Fig. 3 (c) for both methods. Here  $E, \theta$  are exact values of the first integrals (they equal to 1 and 0, respectively) and  $E^h, \theta^h$  are numerical values of the first integrals. The step-size  $h = \pi/128$  belongs to the interval of periodicity of symmetric method and to absolute stability interval of the Störmer method.

The symmetric method gives a periodic solution, therefore  $E^h$  is a periodic function with

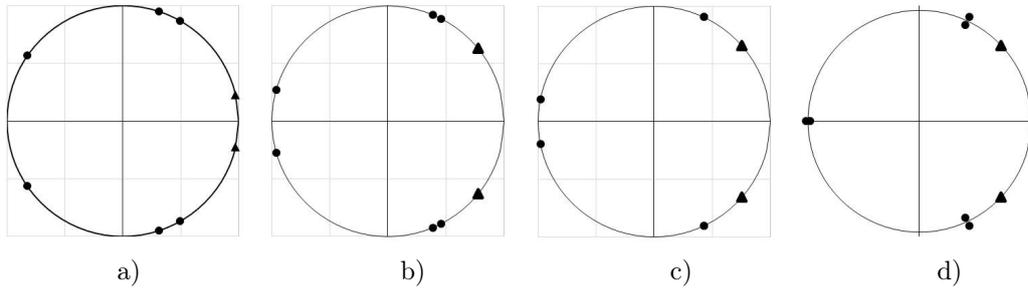


Fig. 2. The roots of stability polynomial  $\pi(r; H^2)$  for the 8th order symmetric method (1) in the complex plane;  $r$  is shown for  $H^2 = H_0^2/10$  (a),  $H^2 = 9H_0^2/10$  (b),  $H^2 = H_0^2$  (c),  $H^2 = 11H_0^2/10$  (d). The roots  $r_1$  and  $r_2$  that correspond to the perturbed principal roots  $\xi_1 = \xi_2 = 1$  are marked with black triangle marker

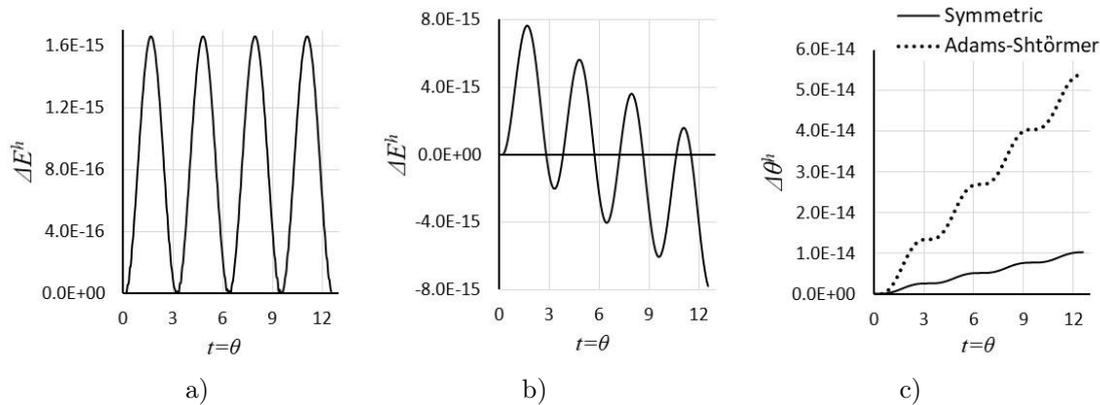


Fig. 3. The errors of the first integrals for the equation of harmonic oscillator for the symmetric (a,c) and Störmer (b,c) methods with step-size  $h/T = 256$ ,  $t$  in radians.

constant amplitude. One can see in Fig. 3 (a) that the energy of the system does not increase with time. Since all roots of  $\pi(r; H^2)$  for the Störmer method are less than 1, the energy of the numerical solution decreases (Fig. 3 (b)). Since the period of the numerical solution does not coincide with the theoretical one, the numerical solution is either ahead of or lagging behind the exact solution. For the symmetric method  $|\Delta\theta|$  grows slower than for the Störmer method (Fig. 3 (c)).

## 2. Numerical experiments

Let us consider two three-dimensional model problems that have exact solutions. By “exact solution” is meant a solution that can be obtained by integrating Kepler’s equation.

*Model problem 1* is the three-dimensional Kepler problem

$$\mathbf{x}''(t) = -\mu \frac{\mathbf{x}}{|\mathbf{x}|^3} \tag{7}$$

where  $\mu$  is the standard gravitational parameter,  $\mathbf{x} = (x_1, x_2, x_3)$  is the radius-vector of the satellite and  $|\mathbf{x}|$  is the Euclidean norm of  $\mathbf{x}$ .

*Model problem 2* is specially constructed from the restricted three-body problem (Earth–Moon–Earth’s satellite of negligible mass). In this problem, the force acting from the Moon on the satellite is compensated by an additional force which depends only on time and it is independent of the position of the satellite on the orbit. This force affects the movement of the satellite in such a way that the exact solution of the problem describes the movement of the satellite around the Earth in the absence of the Moon.

Let us consider the equation of motion for a satellite of negligible mass in an inertial reference frame centred at the Earth-Moon barycentre

$$\mathbf{x}''(t) = -\mu_E \frac{\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_E}{|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_E|^3} - \mu_M \frac{\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_M}{|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_M|^3} + \mathbf{f}(t). \tag{8}$$

Here  $\mathbf{x} = (x_1, x_2, x_3)$ ,  $\mathbf{x}_E = ((x_E)_1, (x_E)_2, (x_E)_3)$  and  $\mathbf{x}_M = ((x_M)_1, (x_M)_2, (x_M)_3)$  are positions of the satellite, the Earth and the Moon, respectively;  $\mu_E=3.986004419E+14 \text{ m}^3/\text{s}^2$  and  $\mu_M=4.9048696E+12 \text{ m}^3/\text{s}^2$  are the standard gravitational parameters of the Earth and the Moon;  $\mathbf{f}(t) = (f_1(t), f_2(t), f_3(t))$  is an additional force. The coordinates of the Earth and the Moon are determined by two-body problem. Let  $\mathbf{x}_{ES}$  be the exact solution of the Kepler problem (7) for the system Earth-satellite. Then  $\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{x}_{ES} + \mathbf{x}_E$  and

$$\mathbf{f}(t) = \mu_M \frac{\mathbf{x}_{ES} + \mathbf{x}_E - \mathbf{x}_M}{|\mathbf{x}_{ES} + \mathbf{x}_E - \mathbf{x}_M|^3} - \mu_M \frac{\mathbf{x}_E - \mathbf{x}_M}{|\mathbf{x}_E - \mathbf{x}_M|^3}. \tag{9}$$

Thus, model problem (8)–(9) has the exact solution, and the errors of the numerical solution are calculated directly. Since the Jacobian of the problem coincides with the Jacobian of the restricted three-body problem the stability properties of the numerical methods for these problems coincide.

The following initial orbital parameters are adopted in numerical experiments. For the Moon they are  $a_M = 3.94748E + 08 \text{ m}$ ,  $\varepsilon_M = 0.042200$ ,  $\omega_M = 22^\circ 8''$ ,  $\Omega_M = 4^\circ 40''$ ,  $i_M = 18^\circ 31''$ ,  $(M_0)_M = 340^\circ 13''$ . For satellite they are  $a_{Sat} = 2.5500000004E+07 \text{ m}$ ,  $\varepsilon_{Sat} = 0.00068$ ,  $\omega_{Sat} = 135.0000214^\circ$ ,  $\Omega_{Sat} = 120^\circ$ ,  $i_{Sat} = 64.9^\circ$ ,  $(M_0)_{Sat} = 32.6650111^\circ$ ,  $T_{Sat} = 11\text{h}15'44''$ .

We compare the accuracy of the orbit integration by the Störmer method and symmetric methods. Additionally, the results for the Bashforth method are shown in the case when problems (7) and (8) are represented in the form of six first-order ODEs. To improve the accuracy of the Adams methods the predictor-corrector scheme is also used in the form  $P(EC)^3E$ , where the right-hand side (E) and the corrector (C) are evaluated three times at each step. Since the absolute stability intervals of the 8th order Störmer and Cowell methods do not coincide, calculations were carried out for the case when the orders of the predictor and corrector coincide, and they are equal to 8 ( $P_8(EC_8)^3E$ ), and for the case of the 9th order corrector ( $P_8(EC_9)^3E$ ).

For each Model problem, we are interested in the maximum deviation of the calculated satellite position from the exact one after integration for about a year. Let us denote the numerical and exact solutions at the moment  $t_n$  by  $\mathbf{x}_n^h$  and  $\mathbf{x}_{ex}(t_n)$ , respectively,  $n = k, \dots, K$ ,  $t_K = 779T_{sat}$ ,  $T_{sat}$  is a period of satellite. The following notations for errors are used

$$\Delta_n^h = \mathbf{x}_n^h - \mathbf{x}_{ex}(t_n), \quad \Delta_i^h = \max_{n=k, \dots, K} |(\Delta_n^h)_i|, \quad \rho^h = \max_{n=k, \dots, K} |\Delta_n^h|.$$

In addition, we consider the decomposition of the error vector  $\Delta_n^h$  in terms of the basis vectors associated with the exact ellipse. They are  $\mathbf{r}_0(t_n) = \mathbf{x}_{ex}(t_n)/|\mathbf{x}_{ex}(t_n)|$ ,  $\tau_0(t_n) = \mathbf{v}_{ex}(t_n)/|\mathbf{v}_{ex}(t_n)|$  and  $\mathbf{n}_0 = \mathbf{r}_0(t_n) \times \tau_0(t_n)$ . Then we have

$$\delta_r^h = \max_{n=k, \dots, K} |\mathbf{r}_0(t_n) \cdot \Delta_n^h|, \quad \delta_\tau^h = \max_{n=k, \dots, K} |\tau_0(t_n) \cdot \Delta_n^h|, \quad \delta_n^h = \max_{n=k, \dots, K} |\mathbf{n}_0(t_n) \cdot \Delta_n^h|.$$

Results of calculations with fixed step-size  $h = T_{sat}/512$  for the Model problems 1 and 2 In Tabs are presented in 2, 3, respectively. One can see that the direct solving of the second order ODE is more efficient. Explicit symmetric methods give more accurate results even in comparison with the explicit-implicit PECE algorithms. In Model problem 1 the Störmer-Cowell PECE algorithm offers slight advantage over other algorithms only in the error along the radius. However, symmetric method offers advantage over other algorithms in calculating positions of the satellite. The symmetric algorithm symmetric method offers advantage over other algorithms in the case of Model problem 2.

Table 2. Accuracy of the orbit integration ( $h = T_{sat}/512$ ). Model problem 1

	Bashforth	Bashforth-	Störmer	Störmer-	Störmer-	symmetric
		Moulton $P_8(EC_8)^3E$		Cowell $P_8(EC_8)^3E$	Cowell $P_8(EC_9)^3E$	
$\Delta_1^h, m$	7.43E-03	1.77E-04	7.06E-04	2.04E-05	8.45E-06	1.61E-06
$\Delta_2^h, m$	1.07E-02	2.55E-04	1.01E-03	2.93E-05	1.21E-05	2.20E-06
$\Delta_3^h, m$	1.08E-02	2.59E-04	1.03E-03	2.98E-05	1.23E-05	2.27E-06
$\rho^h, m$	1.20E-02	2.86E-04	1.14E-03	3.29E-05	1.36E-05	2.60E-06
$\delta_r^h, m$	4.98E-06	1.06E-07	3.82E-07	1.73E-08	1.30E-08	1.42E-07
$\delta_\tau^h, m$	1.20E-02	2.86E-04	1.14E-03	3.29E-05	1.36E-05	2.60E-06
$\delta_n^h, m$	1.77E-24	1.74E-24	1.40E-22	7.03E-23	1.17E-22	5.07E-23

Table 3. Accuracy of the orbit integration ( $h = T_{sat}/512$ ). Model problem 2

	Bashforth	Bashforth-	Störmer	Störmer-	Störmer-	symmetric
		Moulton $P_8(EC_8)^3E$		Cowell $P_8(EC_8)^3E$	Cowell $P_8(EC_9)^3E$	
$\Delta_1^h, m$	1.36E-01	3.23E-03	1.27E-02	3.62E-04	1.56E-04	8.89E-05
$\Delta_2^h, m$	1.95E-01	4.64E-03	1.82E-02	5.20E-04	2.23E-04	1.28E-04
$\Delta_3^h, m$	1.97E-01	4.70E-03	1.84E-02	5.27E-04	2.26E-04	1.29E-04
$\rho^h, m$	2.19E-01	5.22E-03	2.05E-02	5.85E-04	2.51E-04	1.43E-04
$\delta_r^h, m$	3.44E-04	8.14E-06	3.20E-05	9.05E-07	4.02E-07	3.70E-07
$\delta_\tau^h, m$	2.19E-01	5.22E-03	2.05E-02	5.85E-04	2.51E-04	1.43E-04
$\delta_n^h, m$	7.55E-04	1.80E-05	9.56E-06	2.73E-07	1.17E-07	6.77E-08

Another series of calculations were carried out to determine the step at which the maximum deviation of the numerical solution from the exact one does not exceed 2 mm for a year. The results of calculations are presented in Tabs. 4, 5. The first row marked “rhp” shows the number of evaluations of the right-hand side that were required to achieve the accuracy. In the last column, the results are presented for the symmetric method with the step it takes the Störmer-Cowell PECE algorithm to achieve the specified accuracy. The advantage of the symmetric method is obvious, especially for Model problem 2. In addition, the symmetric methods have the lowest number of right-hand side evaluations in comparison with other methods considered.

*This work was supported by the Krasnoyarsk Mathematical Center and financed by the Ministry of Science and Higher Education of the Russian Federation in the framework of the establishment and development of regional Centers for Mathematics Research and Education (Agreement no. 075-02-2020-1631).*

Table 4. Accuracy of the orbit integration ( $h = T_{sat}/den$ ). Model problem 1

	Bashforth-	Bashforth-	Störmer	Störmer-	Störmer-	symmetric	symmetric
	Bashforth	Moulton		Cowell	Cowell		
	$P_8(EC_8)^3E$			$P_8(EC_8)^3E$			
rhp	486876	1286888	377037	1012680	922316	174497	253176
den	625	413	484	325	296	224	325
h, sec	64.8	98.1	83.7	125	137	181	125
$H^2$	1.01E-04	2.31E-04	1.69E-04	3.74E-04	4.51E-04	7.87E-04	3.74E-04
$\rho^h$ , m	1.99E-03	1.98E-03	1.89E-03	1.98E-03	1.89E-03	1.91E-03	9.80E-05
$\delta_r^h$ , m	6.56E-07	7.51E-07	6.86E-07	7.64E-07	1.81E-06	1.07E-04	5.41E-06
$\delta_r^h$ , m	1.99E-03	1.98E-03	1.89E-03	1.98E-03	1.89E-03	1.91E-03	9.80E-05
$\delta_n^h$ , m	1.22E-24	1.12E-24	1.02E-22	4.49E-23	5.65E-23	2.41E-23	5.57E-23

Table 5. Accuracy of the orbit integration ( $h = T_{sat}/den$ ). Model problem 2

	Bashforth-	Bashforth-	Störmer	Störmer-	Störmer-	symmetric	symmetric
	Bashforth	Moulton		Cowell	Cowell		
	$P_8(EC_8)^3E$			$P_8(EC_9)^3E$			
rhp	671499	1779216	519594	1402180	1274424	289789	350551
den	862	571	667	450	409	372	450
h, sec	47.0	71.0	60.8	90.1	99.1	109	90.1
$H^2$	5.31E-05	1.21E-04	8.87E-05	1.95E-04	2.36E-04	2.85E-04	1.95E-04
$\rho^h$ , m	2.00E-03	1.95E-03	1.87E-03	1.88E-03	1.89E-03	1.84E-03	4.02E-04
$\delta_r^h$ , m	3.10E-06	3.03E-06	2.91E-06	2.92E-06	3.03E-06	4.75E-06	1.04E-06
$\delta_r^h$ , m	2.00E-03	1.95E-03	1.87E-03	1.88E-03	1.89E-03	1.84E-03	4.02E-04
$\delta_n^h$ , m	6.89E-06	6.72E-06	8.75E-07	8.78E-07	8.86E-07	8.69E-07	1.90E-07

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## Точность симметричных многошаговых методов численного моделирования движения спутника

**Евгения Д. Карепова**

Институт вычислительного моделирования СО РАН  
Красноярск, Российская Федерация

**Илья Р. Адаев**

Сибирский федеральный университет  
Красноярск, Российская Федерация

Институт вычислительного моделирования СО РАН  
Красноярск, Российская Федерация

**Юрий В. Шанько**

Институт вычислительного моделирования СО РАН  
Красноярск, Российская Федерация

**Аннотация.** В статье мы подробно обсуждаем устойчивость линейных многошаговых симметричных методов высокого порядка в задаче гармонического осциллятора. Приведены эффективные алгоритмы вычисления интервалов абсолютной устойчивости и периодичности. Численные эксперименты демонстрируют точность вычисления орбиты на интервале около одного года для трехмерной задачи Кеплера и для специально разработанной трехмерной тестовой задачи, которая моделирует систему Земля-Луна-спутник и имеет точное решение.

**Ключевые слова:** линейные многошаговые методы, симметричный метод, методы Адамса-Штермера-Коиэлла, РЕСЕ схема, орбита.