

# On the numerical structure preservation of nonlinear damped stochastic oscillators

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**Abstract** The paper is focused on analyzing the conservation issues of stochastic  $\theta$ -methods when applied to nonlinear damped stochastic oscillators. In particular, we are interested in reproducing the long-term properties of the continuous problem over its discretization through stochastic  $\theta$ -methods, by preserving the correlation matrix. This evidence is equivalent to accurately maintaining the stationary density of the position and the velocity of a particle driven by a nonlinear deterministic forcing term and an additive noise as stochastic forcing term. The provided analysis relies on a linearization of the nonlinear problem, whose effectiveness is proved theoretically and numerically confirmed.

**Keywords** Stochastic differential equations; stochastic  $\theta$ -methods; nonlinear damped stochastic oscillators; numerical structure-preservation.

**Mathematics Subject Classification (2010)** 65L07 · 60H10 · 60H35.

## 1 Introduction

Long-term preservation of meaningful features is a dominant topic of the numerical analysis of differential problems. In this work, we deal with a second order stochastic differential equation of the form

$$\ddot{x} = f(x) - \eta\dot{x} + \varepsilon\xi(t) \quad (1.1)$$

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where  $\xi(t)$  satisfy  $\mathbb{E}|\xi(t)\xi(t')| = \delta(t-t')$  and  $\eta$  is the damping parameter. The motion of a particle described by (1.1), is characterized by a deterministic force  $f(x)$ , which derives from a potential  $V(x)$ , i.e.,  $f(x) = -V'(x)$ . The random forcing  $\xi(t)$  has amplitude  $\varepsilon$ , satisfying the relation  $\varepsilon^2 = 2\eta KT$ , where  $\eta$  is the amplitude of the damping term and  $T$  is the temperature. Equation (1.1) is equivalent to the following first order system of two equations in the variables  $X_t$  (the position of the particle) and  $V_t$  (its velocity):

$$\begin{cases} dX_t = V_t dt \\ dV_t = -\eta V_t dt + f(X_t) dt + \varepsilon dW_t \end{cases} \quad (1.2)$$

At each time  $t$ , the probability density is associated, given by

$$P(x, v; t) = \frac{d}{dx} \frac{d}{dv} Prob(X_t < x, V_t < v) \quad (1.3)$$

and taking the limit of (1.3), as  $t$  goes to infinity, defines the stationary density  $P_\infty$ . The essential aim of this work is to provide a study of the *attitude* of the one step methods for SDEs to preserve the stationary density. The availability for the stationary density of the analytical expression

$$P_\infty(x, v) = N \exp(-v^2/2KT - V(x)/KT), \quad (1.4)$$

which is independent from  $\eta$  and  $s(x)$ , is a crucial starting point for our analysis. The idea is to apply a general one step method to (1.2) and compare  $P_\infty$  with the obtained discrete counterpart, aiming to derive conditions for their overlapping.

The treatise is fully framed in the context of numerical structure-preservation issues in stochastic differential equations (SDEs), here intended as preservation of asymptotic invariance laws that characterize the exact dynamics. The existing literature on structure-preservation numerics for stochastic oscillators has mostly dealt with linear problems, as in [7, 9, 13, 14, 17, 25, 26]. Recent contributions have also regarded stochastic Hamiltonian problems [5, 6], time-dependent stochastic Schrödinger equation [1, 27], energy-preserving schemes in nonlinear stochastic Hamiltonian problems [12, 15], preservation of mean-square contractivity for nonlinear SDEs [2, 18].

The manuscript is organized as follows: Section 2 recalls basic aspects regarding the long-term properties of (1.1); Section 3 highlights the main idea used in this paper to handle nonlinear problems by suitable linearizations; this idea is applied to the general case of stochastic one-step methods in Section 4 and applied to relevant numerical methods (Euler-Maruyama method, stochastic trapezoidal method, stochastic implicit Euler method) in Sections 5–7; some numerical experiments are given in Sections 8 and 9.

## 2 Related works

In [7], the authors consider the linear case for (1.1), with  $f(x) = -gx$ , with  $g > 0$  and  $s(x) = 1$ , i.e., a second order equation modeling harmonic damped

oscillators with additive noise. They examine how faithfully some standard numerical methods for SDEs reproduce the stationary density, varying the value of the damping. In the linear case, the stationary density becomes

$$P_\infty(x, v) = N \exp(-v^2/2KT - g/2KT) \quad (2.1)$$

The long term statistics of position and velocity are Gaussian and mutually uncorrelated. In particular, for the exact solution such quantities are given by

$$\begin{aligned} \sigma_x^2 &= \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \mathbb{E}|X_t|^2 = \frac{1}{g}KT, \\ \sigma_v^2 &= \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \mathbb{E}|V_t|^2 = KT, \\ \mu &= \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \mathbb{E}|X_t V_t| = 0 \end{aligned} \quad (2.2)$$

and they can be arranged in the *correlation matrix*

$$\Sigma = \begin{pmatrix} \sigma_x^2 & \mu \\ \mu & \sigma_v^2 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Let us denote the numerical update as

$$\begin{pmatrix} X_{n+1} \\ V_{n+1} \end{pmatrix} = R \begin{pmatrix} X_n \\ V_n \end{pmatrix} + \varepsilon r \Delta W_n,$$

with  $\Delta W_n$  is sampled from a Gaussian distribution with mean zero and variance  $\Delta t$ , independently from  $\Delta W_m$  for  $n \neq m$ . By considering the numerical counterparts of (2.2)

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{\sigma}_x^2 &= \lim_{t_n \rightarrow \infty} \mathbb{E}|X_n|^2, \\ \tilde{\sigma}_v^2 &= \lim_{t_n \rightarrow \infty} \mathbb{E}|V_n|^2, \\ \tilde{\mu} &= \lim_{t_n \rightarrow \infty} \mathbb{E}|X_n V_n|, \end{aligned}$$

we get the *numerical* correlation matrix

$$\tilde{\Sigma} = \begin{pmatrix} \tilde{\sigma}_x^2 & \tilde{\mu} \\ \tilde{\mu} & \tilde{\sigma}_v^2 \end{pmatrix}.$$

The authors of [7] proves that  $\tilde{\Sigma}$  must satisfy the constraint

$$R\tilde{\Sigma}R^T = \tilde{\Sigma} - \varepsilon^2 r r^T \Delta t, \quad (2.3)$$

thanks to which it is possible to compute  $\tilde{\sigma}_x^2$ ,  $\tilde{\mu}$  and  $\tilde{\sigma}_v^2$  as functions of the coefficients of the numerical method (2). A similar analysis is carried out in [17] for two step methods.

### 3 Main idea

The general case of a nonlinear deterministic  $f(x)$  in (1.1) is particularly challenging. The impossibility, in the most general case, to find a formal expression of  $\sigma_x^2$  makes meaningless any attempt of preservation analysis. Let us consider a point  $x_0$  in which  $f$  is defined and continuously differentiable, we consider a local linear ansatz

$$f(x) \approx x_0 + f'(x_0)(x - x_0). \quad (3.1)$$

Without loss of generality, we can take  $x_0 = 0$ , so that (3.1) becomes

$$f(x) \approx f'(0)x. \quad (3.2)$$

Under the conservative hypothesis on  $f$ , i.e.,  $V(x) = -\int f(x)dx$ , the **disadvantage** of choosing to locally linearize  $f$  correspond to a local quadratic approximation of the potential  $V$ , since

$$V(x) = -\int f(x)dx \approx -\int f'(0)x dx \approx x^2 \frac{f'(0)}{2}.$$

This allows to think **of** a Gaussian-like behaviour of the stationary density, and, consequently, **to** suppose that

$$\sigma_x^2 \approx -\frac{KT}{f'(0)}. \quad (3.3)$$

Clearly, we must suppose that  $f'(0)$  (more **generally**  $f'(x_0)$ ) **is** strictly positive, so that (3.3) makes sense. According to this assumption, we are able to construct the correlation matrix  $\Sigma$ . Given a one step method for SDEs, in the general form

$$y_{n+1} = y_n + \alpha \Delta t f(y_n) + \beta \Delta t f(y_{n+1}) + \gamma \Delta W_n, \quad (3.4)$$

properly exploiting (2.3), we construct the formal discrete correlation matrix  $\tilde{\Sigma}(\alpha, \beta, \Delta t)$ . We aim to provide conditions involving  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  for which the limit for  $\Delta t$ , which goes to zero, the distance

$$\left\| \tilde{\Sigma}(\alpha, \beta, \Delta t) - \Sigma \right\|_F,$$

**approaches** zero, for all the values of the damping. This is a reasonable consistency request for a method to be a possible candidate to preserve  $\Sigma$ .

#### 4 The general case

The numerical update of (3.4) applied to the system (1.2), is given by

$$\begin{cases} X_{n+1} = X_n + \alpha \Delta t V_n + \beta \Delta t V_{n+1}, \\ V_{n+1} = \alpha \Delta t f'(0) X_n + (1 - \alpha \Delta t \eta) V_n - \beta \Delta t \eta V_{n+1} + \beta \Delta t f'(0) X_{n+1} + \varepsilon \Delta W_n. \end{cases}$$

Setting  $\xi = \beta \Delta t$ ,  $\varphi = \alpha \Delta t$  and

$$I = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -\xi \\ -\xi f'(0) & 1 - \xi \eta \end{pmatrix}, \quad E = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & \varphi \\ \varphi f'(0) & 1 - \varphi \eta \end{pmatrix},$$

we are able to recast the method as (2) taking

$$R = I^{-1}E = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{\eta \xi + 1 + f'(0) \xi \varphi}{-f'(0) \xi^2 + \eta \xi + 1} & \frac{\varphi (\eta \xi + 1) - \xi (\eta \varphi - 1)}{-f'(0) \xi^2 + \eta \xi + 1} \\ \frac{f'(0) \xi + f'(0) \varphi}{-f'(0) \xi^2 + \eta \xi + 1} & \frac{f'(0) \xi \varphi - \eta \varphi - 1}{-f'(0) \xi^2 + \eta \xi + 1} \end{pmatrix}$$

and  $r = (0 \ 1)^\top$ . Via relation (2.3), we compute  $\tilde{\sigma}_x^2$ ,  $\tilde{\mu}$  and  $\tilde{\sigma}_v^2$ . They can be expressed as a rational function in the variable  $\Delta t$  as follows: the long-term mean-square of the position is given by

$$\tilde{\sigma}_x^2 = \frac{q_2 \Delta t^2 + q_1 \Delta t + q_0}{p_3 \Delta t^3 + p_2 \Delta t^2 + p_1 \Delta t + p_0}, \quad (4.1)$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} q_2 &= -f'(0) \alpha^2 \varepsilon^2 - f'(0) \beta^2 \varepsilon^2, \\ q_1 &= \beta \eta \varepsilon^2 - \alpha \eta \varepsilon^2, \\ q_0 &= 2 \varepsilon^2, \\ p_3 &= \alpha^4 f'(0)^3 - 2 \alpha^3 \beta f'(0)^3 + 2 \alpha \beta^3 f'(0)^3 - \beta^4 f'(0)^3, \\ p_2 &= 3 \eta \alpha^3 f'(0)^2 - 3 \eta \alpha^2 \beta f'(0)^2 - 3 \eta \alpha \beta^2 f'(0)^2 + 3 \eta \beta^3 f'(0)^2, \\ p_1 &= \alpha^2 \eta^2 f'(0) - 4 \alpha^2 f'(0)^2 - 2 \beta^2 \eta^2 f'(0) + 4 \beta^2 f'(0)^2, \\ p_0 &= -4 \alpha \eta f'(0) - 4 \beta \eta f'(0). \end{aligned}$$

The long-term expected product of position and velocity assumes the form

$$\tilde{\mu} = \frac{a_3 \Delta t^3 + a_2 \Delta t^2 + a_1 \Delta t}{b_3 \Delta t^3 + b_2 \Delta t^2 + b_1 \Delta t + b_0}, \quad (4.2)$$

with

$$\begin{aligned}
a_3 &= \alpha^2 \beta f'(0) \varepsilon^2 - \alpha \beta^2 f'(0) \varepsilon^2 \\
a_2 &= -2 \alpha \beta \eta \varepsilon^2 \\
a_1 &= \alpha \varepsilon^2 - \beta \varepsilon^2 \\
b_3 &= \alpha^4 f'(0)^2 - 2 \alpha^3 \beta f'(0)^2 + 2 \alpha \beta^3 f'(0)^2 - \beta^4 f'(0)^2 \\
b_2 &= 3 \eta f'(0) \alpha^3 - 3 \eta f'(0) \alpha^2 \beta - 3 \eta f'(0) \alpha \beta^2 + 3 \eta f'(0) \beta^3 \\
b_1 &= 2 \alpha^2 \eta^2 - 4 f'(0) \alpha^2 - 2 \beta^2 \eta^2 + 4 f'(0) \beta^2 \\
b_0 &= -4 \eta (\alpha + \beta).
\end{aligned}$$

The long-term mean-square of the velocity is given by

$$\tilde{\sigma}_v^2 = \frac{u_4 \Delta t^4 + u_3 \Delta t^3 + u_2 \Delta t^2 + u_1 \Delta t + u_0}{v_3 \Delta t^3 + v_2 \Delta t^2 + v_1 \Delta t + v_0} \quad (4.3)$$

with

$$\begin{aligned}
u_4 &= -\alpha^2 \beta^2 f'(0)^2 \varepsilon^2 + 2 \alpha \beta^3 f'(0)^2 \varepsilon^2 - \beta^4 f'(0)^2 \varepsilon^2, \\
u_3 &= 3 \beta^3 \eta f'(0) \varepsilon^2 - 3 \alpha \beta^2 \eta f'(0) \varepsilon^2, \\
u_2 &= -2 \beta^2 \eta^2 \varepsilon^2 + 4 f'(0) \beta^2 \varepsilon^2 - 2 \alpha f'(0) \beta \varepsilon^2, \\
u_1 &= -4 \beta \eta \varepsilon^2, \\
u_0 &= -2 \varepsilon^2, \\
v_3 &= \alpha^4 f'(0)^2 - 2 \alpha^3 \beta f'(0)^2 + 2 \alpha \beta^3 f'(0)^2 - \beta^4 f'(0)^2, \\
v_2 &= 3 \eta f'(0) \alpha^3 - 3 \eta f'(0) \alpha^2 \beta - 3 \eta f'(0) \alpha \beta^2 + 3 \eta f'(0) \beta^3, \\
v_1 &= 2 \alpha^2 \eta^2 - 4 f'(0) \alpha^2 - 2 \beta^2 \eta^2 + 4 f'(0) \beta^2, \\
v_0 &= -4 \eta (\alpha + \beta).
\end{aligned}$$

Letting  $\Delta t$  go to zero, the limit correlation matrix is given by

$$\begin{pmatrix} -\frac{KT}{(\alpha + \beta) f'(0)} & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{KT}{\alpha + \beta} \end{pmatrix}. \quad (4.4)$$

Clearly, the condition to hold preservation is given by  $\alpha + \beta = 1$ . Such a condition makes the family of  $\theta$  methods suitable for studying the conservation of the correlation matrix.

In [7], the authors study the correlation matrix of some numerical methods and show that the Implicit Midpoint Rule is the unique Runge-Kutta method able to perfectly preserve the exact correlation matrix of the linear case. For the linearized problem, we proceed in terms of determining conditions on the parameters of the problem (1.2), for which the distance  $\|\Sigma - \tilde{\Sigma}\|_F$  remains of the order of magnitude of the chosen  $\Delta t$ , when a selected method does not

guarantee a perfect preservation of  $\Sigma$ . More precisely, if we impose a condition such as

$$|\sigma_x^2 - \tilde{\sigma}_x^2| \leq k_x \Delta t, \quad |\sigma_v^2 - \tilde{\sigma}_v^2| \leq k_v \Delta t, \quad |\mu - \tilde{\mu}| \leq k_\mu \Delta t, \quad (4.5)$$

with  $k_x$ ,  $k_v$  and  $k_\mu$  constant, then

$$\|\Sigma - \tilde{\Sigma}\|_F < \kappa \Delta t, \quad (4.6)$$

where  $\kappa = \sqrt{k_x^2 + k_v^2 + 2k_\mu^2}$ .  $k_x$ ,  $k_v$ ,  $k_\mu$  and, consequently,  $\kappa$  should be chosen in a way to not exceed the order of magnitude of  $\Delta t$  for the distance. We make our analysis considering homogeneous bounds, i.e.  $k_x = k_v = k_\mu = k$ . With such choice we impose an homogeneous threshold to the error on each element of the matrix.

A study of the type (4.5) for a selected methods is, in general, quite difficult because of the dependence by several parameters, we proceed to simplify such a study in the most reasonable way possible, providing bounds for the step-size and for the damping parameter, in order to satisfy constraints such as (4.5).

*Remark 1* Let us consider a generic explicit one-step method

$$y_{n+1} = y_n + \alpha \Delta t f(y_n) + \Delta W_n, \quad (4.7)$$

which applied to the system (1.2), assuming the ansatz (3.2), reads as

$$\begin{cases} X_{n+1} = X_n + \alpha \Delta t V_n, \\ V_{n+1} = \alpha \Delta t f'(0) X_n + (1 - \alpha \Delta t \eta) V_n + \varepsilon \Delta W_n. \end{cases}$$

Following the notation (2) of [7], we have

$$R = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & \alpha \Delta t \\ \alpha \Delta t f'(0) & 1 - \alpha \Delta t \eta \end{pmatrix}, \quad \text{and} \quad r = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

Via relation (2.3), we compute

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{\sigma}_x^2 &= -(\zeta \alpha f'(0))^{-1} \varepsilon^2 (f'(0) \Delta t^2 \alpha^2 + \eta \Delta t \alpha - 2), \\ \tilde{\mu} &= \zeta^{-1} \Delta t \varepsilon^2, \\ \tilde{\sigma}_v^2 &= -2(\zeta \alpha)^{-1} \varepsilon^2, \end{aligned}$$

with

$$\zeta = \Delta t^3 \alpha^3 f'(0)^2 + 3 \Delta t^2 \alpha^2 \eta f'(0) + 2 \Delta t \alpha \eta^2 - 4 \Delta t \alpha f'(0) - 4 \eta.$$

Letting  $\Delta t$  go to zero, the limit correlation matrix is given by

$$\begin{pmatrix} -\frac{KT}{\alpha f'(0)} & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{KT}{\alpha} \end{pmatrix}. \quad (4.8)$$

## 5 Euler-Maruyama method

We study the particular case of [the](#) Euler method, whose numerical correlation matrix, similarly to [7], is given by

$$\tilde{\Sigma}_E = \frac{KT}{1 + \frac{f'(0)}{\eta} \Delta t} \left( 2 - \eta \Delta t - \frac{1}{2} f'(0) \Delta t^2 \right)^{-1} \begin{pmatrix} -\frac{1}{f'(0)} (2 - \eta \Delta t - f'(0) \Delta t^2) - \Delta t & & \\ & -\Delta t & \\ & & 2 \end{pmatrix}.$$

We start ensuring the positivity of  $\tilde{\sigma}_x^2$  and  $\tilde{\sigma}_v^2$ . Since

$$\tilde{\sigma}_x^2 = -\frac{KT}{f'(0) \left( 1 + \frac{f'(0)}{\eta} \Delta t \right)} \left( 2 - \eta \Delta t - \frac{1}{2} f'(0) \Delta t^2 \right)^{-1} (2 - \eta \Delta t - f'(0) \Delta t^2)$$

and

$$\tilde{\sigma}_v^2 = -\frac{2KT}{1 + \frac{1}{f'(0)} \frac{f'(0)}{\eta} \Delta t} \left( 2 - \eta \Delta t - \frac{1}{2} f'(0) \Delta t^2 \right)^{-1},$$

we get positivity imposing

$$\frac{KT}{1 + \frac{f'(0)}{\eta} \Delta t} > 0, \quad (5.1)$$

$$2 - \eta \Delta t - \frac{1}{2} f'(0) \Delta t^2 > 0, \quad (5.2)$$

$$2 - \eta \Delta t - f'(0) \Delta t^2 > 0. \quad (5.3)$$

Notice that condition 5.2 implies 5.3.

*Remark 2* In principle, even imposing

$$\begin{cases} \frac{KT}{1 + \frac{f'(0)}{\eta} \Delta t} < 0, \\ 2 - \eta \Delta t - \frac{1}{2} f'(0) \Delta t^2 < 0, \\ 2 - \eta \Delta t - f'(0) \Delta t^2 > 0, \end{cases} \quad (5.4)$$

we would have guaranteed the positivity of both  $\tilde{\sigma}_x^2$  and  $\tilde{\sigma}_v^2$ . We do not consider this possibility, since we would have had instability, as said in [7].

Since (5.2) implies (5.3), then we must study

$$\frac{KT}{1 + \frac{f'(0)}{\eta} \Delta t} > 0, \quad (5.5)$$

$$2 - \eta \Delta t - \frac{1}{2} f'(0) \Delta t^2 > 0. \quad (5.6)$$



If we solve with respect to  $\eta$ , we get the condition

$$-f'(0)\Delta t < \eta < \frac{2}{\Delta t} - \frac{1}{2}f'(0)\Delta t, \quad (5.7)$$

which holds by verifying the inequality

$$-f'(0)\Delta t < \frac{2}{\Delta t} - \frac{1}{2}f'(0)\Delta t. \quad (5.8)$$

From (5.8), we get a limitation on the step-size

$$\Delta t < \frac{2}{\sqrt{-f'(0)}}. \quad (5.9)$$

A very advantageous situation occurs whenever  $f'(0)$  is small in modulus. Since we expect  $KT \left(1 + \frac{f'(0)}{\eta}\Delta t\right)^{-1}$  close to  $KT$ , if  $\eta > (-f'(0))/k$ , then  $\frac{f'(0)}{\eta}\Delta t$  does not exceed the order of magnitude of  $\Delta t$ . Instead when  $\eta < k$ , the term  $\eta\Delta t$  in  $2 - \eta\Delta t - \frac{1}{2}f'(0)\Delta t^2$  holds of the same order of  $\Delta t$ . We suppose to choose the step size in a way that the quantity  $-f'(0)\Delta t$  does not exceed the order of magnitude of  $\Delta t$ , so that we can consider it negligible. Therefore we can say that

$$\tilde{\sigma}_x^2 \approx -\frac{KT}{f'(0)},$$

which is exactly the value of  $\sigma_x^2$ . By detecting the terms involving  $-f'(0)\Delta t$  in  $\tilde{\sigma}_v^2$  we get

$$\tilde{\sigma}_v^2 \approx \frac{2KT}{2 - \eta\Delta t},$$

so that  $|\sigma_v^2 - \tilde{\sigma}_v^2| < k\Delta t$  if and only if

$$\eta \lesssim \frac{2k}{KT + k\Delta t}.$$

Finally

$$\tilde{\mu} \approx -\frac{KT\eta\Delta t}{2 - \eta\Delta t},$$

therefore, imposing

$$|\tilde{\mu}| < k\Delta t,$$

we get again  $\eta < \frac{2k}{KT + k\Delta t}$ .

*Remark 3* With the hypothesis on the negligible term, the limitation on  $\eta$  to ensure the positivity of  $\tilde{\sigma}_x^2$  and  $\tilde{\sigma}_v^2$  is

$$2 - \eta\Delta t > 0 \iff \eta < \frac{2}{\Delta t}.$$

The limitation found for bounding the error among the entries of the correlation matrices is tighter since

$$\frac{2k}{KT + k\Delta t} < \frac{2}{\Delta t} \iff \frac{KT}{\Delta t(KT + k\Delta t)} > 0$$

which is satisfied for all  $KT > 0$ .

We conclude defining the critical value for  $\eta$  for the Euler-Maruyama method as

$$\eta_c = \frac{2k}{KT + k\Delta t}. \quad (5.10)$$

## 6 Trapezoidal Rule

In this section we dedicate a special attention to the theta method with  $\theta = \frac{1}{2}$ , i.e., the implicit trapezoidal rule. The motivation arises studying the general form of the correlation matrix and trying to understand the best value of  $\theta \in [0, 1]$ , corresponding to which, we get a correlation matrix as close as possible to (2). We start considering the expression of  $\tilde{\mu}$  (4.2) for a generic theta method, aiming to have the variables  $X_n$  and  $V_n$  closer to be uncorrelated as possible.  $\tilde{\mu}$  is expressed in (4.2) as a ratio of polynomials in the variable  $\Delta t$ , with coefficients depending by theta. In order to get a satisfactory integration, in general  $\Delta t$  is chosen of small amplitude, hence, we may think that the terms of greater amplitude in the numerator of (4.2) are the those involving the powers of  $\Delta t$  with exponent one. We find the value of  $\theta$  which annihilates the coefficients of such term, i.e.,

$$a_1 = (\alpha - \beta)\varepsilon^2 = (1 - 2\theta)\varepsilon^2 = 0 \iff \theta = \frac{1}{2}. \quad (6.1)$$

Then we observe that  $\tilde{\mu}$  reduces to

$$\tilde{\mu} = \frac{\Delta t^2 \eta KT}{4}$$

and we have

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{\sigma}_x^2 &= -\frac{KT}{f'(0)} \left( 1 - \frac{f'(0)\Delta t^2}{4} \right), \\ \tilde{\sigma}_v^2 &= \frac{KT}{4} (\Delta t^2 \eta^2 - f'(0)\Delta t^2 + 4\Delta t \eta + 4). \end{aligned}$$

Therefore,  $\tilde{\mu} < k\Delta t$  if and only if

$$\eta < \frac{4k}{KT\Delta t}$$

. The distance between  $\tilde{\sigma}_x^2$  and  $\sigma_x^2$  is independent by  $\eta$ , since

$$\begin{aligned} |\tilde{\sigma}_x^2 - \sigma_x^2| &= \left| \frac{KT}{-f'(0)} \left( 1 - \frac{f'(0)\Delta t^2}{4} \right) - \frac{KT}{-f'(0)} \right| \\ &= \frac{KT}{-f'(0)} \left| 1 - \frac{f'(0)\Delta t^2}{4} - 1 \right| \\ &= \frac{KT\Delta t^2}{4}, \end{aligned}$$

so the condition  $|\tilde{\sigma}_x^2 - \sigma_x^2| < k\Delta t$  is satisfied whenever  $KT < \frac{4k}{\Delta t}$ . Finally we consider

$$\begin{aligned} |\tilde{\sigma}_v^2 - \sigma_v^2| &= \left| \frac{KT}{4} (\Delta t^2 \eta^2 - f'(0)\Delta t^2 + 4\Delta t\eta + 4) - KT \right| \\ &= \frac{KT}{4} (\Delta t^2 \eta^2 - f'(0)\Delta t^2 + 4\Delta t\eta), \end{aligned}$$

so that

$$|\tilde{\sigma}_v^2 - \sigma_v^2| < k\Delta t$$

is equivalent to

$$\Delta t\eta^2 + 4\eta - f'(0)\Delta t - \frac{4}{KT}k < 0. \quad (6.2)$$

We compute the quantity

$$\frac{\Delta}{4} = 4 + f'(0)\Delta t^2 + \frac{4k\Delta t}{KT},$$

in which the unique negative addend is  $f'(0)\Delta t^2$ . However, it is supposedly to be small since it involves the factor  $\Delta t^2$ . Therefore we have two real roots for the equation associated to (6.2), which are given by

$$\begin{aligned} \eta_1 &= -\frac{1}{\Delta t} \left( 2 - \sqrt{4 + f'(0)\Delta t^2 + \frac{4k\Delta t}{KT}} \right), \\ \eta_2 &= -\frac{1}{\Delta t} \left( 2 + \sqrt{4 + f'(0)\Delta t^2 + \frac{4k\Delta t}{KT}} \right). \end{aligned}$$

Since

$$\sqrt{4 + f'(0)\Delta t^2 + \frac{4k\Delta t}{KT}} > 2,$$

$\eta_2$  is negative so that (6.2) is satisfied for

$$0 < \eta < \eta_1.$$

We can conclude that (4.5) is satisfied when

$$0 < \eta < \min \left\{ \eta_1, \frac{4k}{KT\Delta t} \right\}.$$

We can define the critical value for the Trepezoidal method as

$$\eta_c = \min \left\{ \eta_1, \frac{4k}{KT\Delta t} \right\}. \quad (6.3)$$

## 7 Implicit Euler

The entries of the correlation matrix obtained via Implicit Euler method ( $\theta = 1$ ) are

$$\tilde{\sigma}_x^2 = -2KT\eta(-f'(0)\Delta t^2 + \eta\Delta t + 2)(f'(0)\tau)^{-1}, \quad (7.1)$$

$$\tilde{\mu} = 2\Delta t\tau^{-1}\eta KT, \quad (7.2)$$

$$\tilde{\sigma}_v^2 = 2KT\eta(\Delta t + 2\tau^{-1}), \quad (7.3)$$

with

$$\tau = \Delta t^3 f'(0)^2 - 3\Delta t^2 \eta f'(0) + 2\Delta t \eta^2 - 4\Delta t f'(0) + 4\eta.$$

We suppose that the term  $-f'(0)\Delta t^2$  is negligible for the chosen  $\Delta t$ , then we truncate the terms involving it so that

$$\tilde{\sigma}_x^2 \approx -\frac{2KT\eta\Delta t(\eta\Delta t + 2)}{f'(0)(2\Delta t^2\eta^2 + 4\Delta t\eta)} = -\frac{KT}{f'(0)},$$

which is the exact value of  $\sigma_x^2$ . With the same considerations, we get

$$\tilde{\mu} \approx \frac{2\Delta t^2 \eta KT}{2\Delta t^2 \eta^2 + 4\eta\Delta t} = \frac{KT\Delta t}{\Delta t\eta + 2},$$

therefore

$$\tilde{\mu} < k\Delta t \iff \eta > \frac{KT - 2k}{k\Delta t}.$$

As we can see in [7], the values of  $KT < 2k$  (for reasonable  $k$ ), therefore the condition is verified for all  $\eta > 0$ .

Finally, we consider the value of  $|\tilde{\sigma}_v^2 - \sigma_v^2|$ , given by

$$|\tau^{-1}\Delta t KT(2\eta\tau - 3\Delta t\eta f'(0) - 2\eta^2 - \Delta t^2 f'(0)^2 + 4f'(0))|.$$

We truncate the terms involving powers of  $\Delta t$  until the second, except the term  $4\Delta t^2\eta^3$  in the numerator, which is not, in general, negligible. We approximate the term  $4\Delta t^2\eta^3$  by  $4\Delta t^2\eta^2$ , in order to be able to solve the inequality to find

our bounds. The presence of  $\Delta t^2$  should limit the effect of such a substitution. Therefore,

$$|\tilde{\sigma}_v^2 - \sigma_v^2| \approx \left| \frac{\Delta t K T (4 \Delta t \eta^3 + 6 \eta^2 + 4 f'(0))}{2 \Delta t \eta^2 + 4 \eta - 4 \Delta t f'(0)} \right| = \frac{\Delta t K T |(2 \Delta t + 3) \eta^2 + 2 f'(0)|}{\Delta t \eta^2 + 2 \eta - 2 \Delta t f'(0)}.$$

For  $0 < \eta < \sqrt{\frac{-2 f'(0)}{2 \Delta t + 3}}$ , we study

$$-\frac{\Delta t K T ((2 \Delta t + 3) \eta^2 + 2 f'(0))}{\Delta t \eta^2 + 2 \eta - 2 \Delta t f'(0)} < k \Delta t. \quad (7.4)$$

otherwise

$$\frac{\Delta t K T ((2 \Delta t + 3) \eta^2 + 2 f'(0))}{\Delta t \eta^2 + 2 \eta - 2 \Delta t f'(0)} < k \Delta t, \quad (7.5)$$

Since the denominator in (7.5) is positive, (7.5) is equivalent to

$$(2 K T \Delta t + 3 K T - k \Delta t) \eta^2 - 2 k \Delta t \eta + 2 K T f'(0) + 2 k \Delta t f'(0) < 0,$$

we have that the quantity

$$\frac{\Delta}{4} = (-2 K T + k) 2 f'(0) k \Delta t^2 - (K T + k) 4 f'(0) K T \Delta t + 4 k^2 - 6 K T^2 f'(0)$$

is generally positive since the only negative term is proportional to  $\Delta t^2$ . The roots of the equation associated to (7.5) are

$$\eta_1 = \frac{k \Delta t - \sqrt{\Delta/4}}{\Delta t (2 K T \Delta t + 3 K T - k \Delta t)}, \quad \eta_2 = \frac{k \Delta t + \sqrt{\Delta/4}}{\Delta t (2 K T \Delta t + 3 K T - k \Delta t)}$$

but  $\eta_1$  is negative, therefore (7.5) is satisfied for

$$\eta > \max \left\{ \eta_2, \sqrt{\frac{-2 f'(0)}{2 \Delta t + 3}} \right\}$$

When  $0 < \eta < \sqrt{\frac{-2 f'(0)}{2 \Delta t + 3}}$ , (6.2) is equivalent to

$$(2 K T \Delta t + 3 K T + k \Delta t) \eta^2 + 2 k \eta + 2 K T f'(0) - 2 k \Delta t f'(0) > 0.$$

The quantity

$$\frac{\Delta}{4} = (2 K T + k) 2 f'(0) k \Delta t^2 + (k - K T) 4 f'(0) K T \Delta t + 4 k^2 - 6 K T^2 f'(0)$$

may be assumed positive. In fact, the negative terms are negligible, since they involves the factor  $\Delta t^2$  and  $\Delta t$ , and the dominant term is positive. The real roots of the equation associated to (7.4) are

$$\eta_1 = \frac{-k\Delta t - \sqrt{\Delta/4}}{\Delta t(2KT\Delta t + 3KT - k\Delta t)}, \quad \eta_2 = \frac{-k\Delta t + \sqrt{\Delta/4}}{\Delta t(2KT\Delta t + 3KT - k\Delta t)}$$

Finally, since  $\eta_1$  is negative, (7.4) is satisfied for

$$0 < \eta < \min \left\{ \eta_2, \sqrt{\frac{-2f'(0)}{2\Delta t + 3}} \right\}.$$

We define the critical values for  $\eta$  in the Implicit Euler case

$$\eta_1 = \max \left\{ \eta_2, \sqrt{\frac{-f'(0)}{2\Delta t + 3}} \right\}, \quad \eta_2 = \min \left\{ \eta_2, \sqrt{\frac{-f'(0)}{2\Delta t + 3}} \right\}. \quad (7.6)$$

## 8 Numerical experiments: scalar case

We now present the numerical evidence arising from selected nonlinear scalar problems and systems of equations. In our numerical experiments, we set all the constants  $k_x$ ,  $k_v$  and  $k_\mu$  equal to 5, which certainly ensures  $\kappa < 10$ .

We first consider the equation of the damped pendulum

$$\begin{cases} dX_t = V_t dt, \\ dV_t = -\eta V_t dt - \omega \sin(X_t) dt + \varepsilon dW_t, \end{cases} \quad (8.1)$$

in this case  $f(x) = -\omega \sin(x)$ , with  $\omega > 0$ , therefore  $f'(0) = -\omega$ . Setting  $KT = 1$  and  $\Delta t = 0.01$ , we plot the function  $d(\eta) = \|\Sigma(\eta) - \tilde{\Sigma}(\eta)\|_F$  for the Euler-Maruyama method in Figure 1, for  $\omega = 1$  (left side) and  $\omega = 10$  (right side). When  $\omega = 1$ , the assumption made in Section 5 of choosing  $\Delta t$  such that  $f'(0)\Delta t$  is negligible is satisfied. Coherently with the theoretical considerations in Section 5,  $d(\eta)$  remains under the threshold  $5\Delta t$  for  $\eta < \eta_c$ , where the critical value  $\eta_c = 9.5238$  is computed according to (5.10). As we expect by construction of our analysis,  $\eta_c$  is a severe limitation since the error  $d(\eta)$  does not exceed the order of magnitude of  $\Delta t$  (i.e., it is less than  $10\Delta t$ ) for values  $\eta \lesssim 16$ . For  $\omega = 10$ , it is clear that the limitation analysis does not work anymore.

Figures 2 and 3 are dedicated to describe the study of the Trapezoidal Rule. We can observe that  $d(\eta)$  increases almost linearly and it crosses the value  $5\Delta t$  in the corresponding critical value  $\eta_c$  given by (6.3). In Figure 3, we aim to show that passing by  $\omega$  to  $\omega = 100$ , the behaviours of the corresponding  $d(\eta)$  and the corresponding critical values of  $\eta_c$  are very close, although  $\Delta t$  remains unchanged. This is a deep difference between Euler-Maruyama and Trapezoidal method. Notice that, for any method considered,  $d(\eta)$  is always

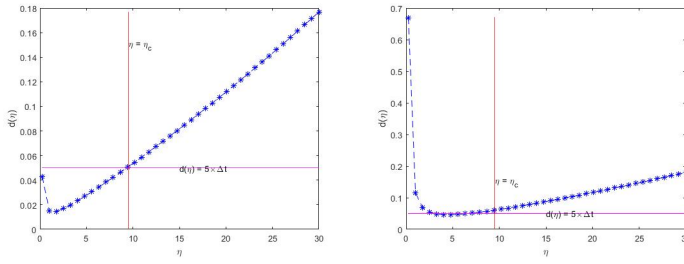


Fig. 1: The figures show the behaviour of the function  $d(\eta)$  of the Euler-Maruyama method. In the figure on the left, we suppose  $\omega = 1$  and set  $\Delta t = 10^{-2}$  and  $KT = 1$ . In the figure on the right, we suppose  $\omega = 10$ .

proportional to the constant  $KT$ ; this means that small values of  $KT$  are advantageous. By the left Figure 2, we highlight dependence of  $d(\eta)$  of the Trapezoidal Rule from the value of  $KT$ ; in fact, setting  $KT = 1$  we get  $\eta_c \approx 44.95$ , while instead for  $KT = 0.1$ ,  $\eta_c \approx 4.495$ , from the same values of  $\Delta t$  and  $\omega$ . In the right Figure 3, we plot  $d_x(\eta)$ , which accordingly to the theoretical analysis of Section 6, is perfectly preserved for all the values of the damping. In other words, the main term in  $d(\eta)$  is the error on  $\tilde{\sigma}_v^2$ , i.e.,  $d_v(\eta) = |\sigma_v^2 - \tilde{\sigma}_v^2|$ . The same situation occurs for the Implicit Euler method, so that we directly plot  $d_v(\eta)$  in Figure 4 and 5.

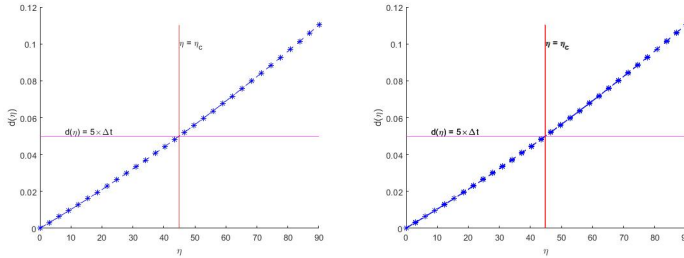


Fig. 2: The figures show the behaviour of the function  $d(\eta)$ , for the Trapezoidal Rule. In both cases we set  $KT = 0.1$  and  $\Delta t = 0.01$ . In the figure on the right  $\omega = 1$  and  $\eta_c \approx 44.95$ . In the figure on the left  $\omega = 100$  and  $\eta_c \approx 44.74$ .

The range of the critical values of  $\eta$  is essentially translated passing by  $\omega = 1$  to  $\omega = 10$ , Figure 4. In the left Figure 5, we set  $\omega = 100$ , maintaining  $\Delta t = 0.01$ , in order to show that the hypothesis  $\Delta t^2 f'(0)$  negligible (Section 7) must be satisfied, in order to guarantee the validity of our analysis.

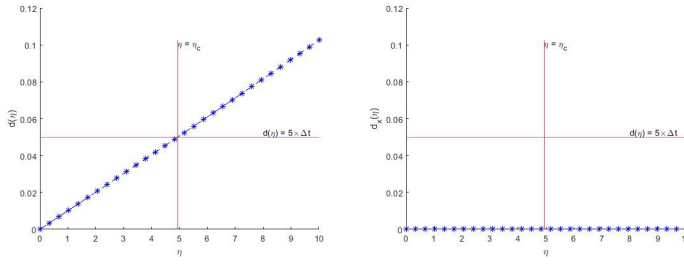


Fig. 3: The figures are referred to the Trapezoidal Rule. We set  $\Delta t = 10^{-2}$  and  $KT = 1$  and  $\omega = 1$ . In the figure on the left, we show the behaviour of  $d(\eta)$ . The critical point is  $\eta_c = 4.95$ . In the figure on the right is represented the function  $d_x(\eta)$ .

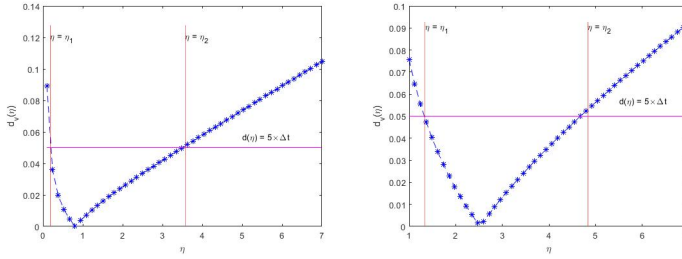


Fig. 4: The figures shows the function  $d_v(\eta)$  of the Implicit Euler method. In the figure on the left, we set  $KT = 1$ ,  $\Delta t = 0.01$ ,  $\omega = 1$ . The critical values for  $\eta$  are  $\eta_1 \approx 0.18$  and  $\eta_2 \approx 3.57$ . In the figure on the right, the values differ just for  $\omega = 10$ . The critical values for  $\eta$  are  $\eta_1 \approx 1.34$  and  $\eta_2 \approx 4.83$ .

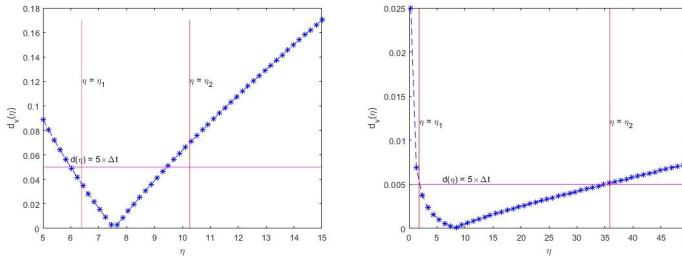


Fig. 5: The figure on the left shows the function  $d_v(\eta)$  of the Implicit Euler method, setting  $KT = 1$ ,  $\Delta t = 0.01$  and  $\omega = 100$ . In the figure on the right, we set  $KT = 0.1$ ,  $\Delta t = 0.001$  and  $\omega = 100$ . The critical values for  $\eta$  are  $\eta_1 = 1.8$  and  $\eta_2 = 35.86$ .

### 8.1 Comparison of the deviations in the correlation matrix

In this section, we aim to compare how the linearized study of (8.1) behaves with respect to the fully implicit approach. For a considered  $\theta$  method, we construct the matrix  $\bar{\Sigma}$ , taking the long term behaviours of the position and velocity and evaluating what happens to their correlation for long times. we compare



$\eta$	$ \bar{\sigma}_x^2 - \tilde{\sigma}_x^2 $	$ \bar{\sigma}_v^2 - \tilde{\sigma}_v^2 $	$ \bar{\mu} - \tilde{\mu} $
0.5	0.0932	0.0977	0.0048
1	0.0909	0.0925	0.0063
2	0.0925	0.0909	0.0080

Table 1: Element-wise comparison among  $\bar{\Sigma}$  and  $\tilde{\Sigma}$  for the Euler-Maruyama method with  $\Delta t = 0.01$ .

$\eta$	$ \bar{\sigma}_x^2 - \tilde{\sigma}_x^2 $	$ \bar{\sigma}_v^2 - \tilde{\sigma}_v^2 $	$ \bar{\mu} - \tilde{\mu} $
0.5	0.0017	0.0463	0.0469
1	0.0078	0.0715	0.0897
2	0.0031	0.0613	0.0636

Table 2: Element-wise comparison among  $\bar{\Sigma}$  and  $\tilde{\Sigma}$  for the Euler-Maruyama method with  $\Delta t = 0.001$ .

$\eta$	$ \bar{\sigma}_x^2 - \tilde{\sigma}_x^2 $	$ \bar{\sigma}_v^2 - \tilde{\sigma}_v^2 $	$ \bar{\mu} - \tilde{\mu} $
0.5	0.0941	0.0921	0.0051
1	0.0950	0.0867	0.0052
2	0.0942	0.0935	0.0050

Table 3: Element-wise comparison among  $\bar{\Sigma}$  and  $\tilde{\Sigma}$  for the Trapezoidal method with  $\Delta t = 0.01$ .

the obtained  $\bar{\Sigma}$  with the corresponding  $\tilde{\Sigma}$  of the linearized approach for different values of  $\eta$ . Clearly we analyse the cases  $\theta = 0, 0.5, 1$  for  $\eta = 0.5, 1, 2$ . We set  $KT = 0.1$  and  $\omega = 1$ . Tables 1, 3 and 5 show the results for Euler-Maruyama, Trapezoidal Rule and Implicit Euler, respectively, for  $\Delta t = 0.01$ . Tables 2, 4 and 6 show the results for Euler-Maruyama, Trapezoidal Rule and Implicit Euler method, respectively, for  $\Delta t = 0.001$ . We can observe that choosing such good values for  $\eta$  (with respect to our linearized analysis) the difference among the long term statistics of  $X$  and  $V$  never exceed the order of magnitude of  $c \times 10^{-2}$  and they are particularly satisfactory in many cases. Clearly the comparison highlights that a reduction of the step-size corresponds to a reduction of the errors  $|\bar{\sigma}_x^2 - \tilde{\sigma}_x^2|$  and  $|\bar{\sigma}_v^2 - \tilde{\sigma}_v^2|$ . Looking at the difference among  $\bar{\mu}$  and  $\tilde{\mu}$  we can not say that  $X$  and  $V$  are perfectly long term uncorrelated, but the correlation is not strong.

$\eta$	$ \bar{\sigma}_x^2 - \tilde{\sigma}_x^2 $	$ \bar{\sigma}_v^2 - \tilde{\sigma}_v^2 $	$ \bar{\mu} - \tilde{\mu} $
0.5	0.0442	0.0025	0.0427
1	0.0188	0.0348	0.0470
2	0.0241	0.0198	0.0908

Table 4: Element-wise comparison among  $\bar{\Sigma}$  and  $\tilde{\Sigma}$  for the Trapezoidal method with  $\Delta t = 0.001$ .

$\eta$	$ \bar{\sigma}_x^2 - \tilde{\sigma}_x^2 $	$ \bar{\sigma}_v^2 - \tilde{\sigma}_v^2 $	$ \bar{\mu} - \tilde{\mu} $
0.5	0.0971	0.0908	0.0014
1	0.0983	0.0895	0.0983
2	0.0990	0.0940	$9.6748 \times 10^{-4}$

Table 5: Element-wise comparison among  $\bar{\Sigma}$  and  $\tilde{\Sigma}$  for the Implicit Euler method with  $\Delta t = 0.01$ .

$\eta$	$ \bar{\sigma}_x^2 - \tilde{\sigma}_x^2 $	$ \bar{\sigma}_v^2 - \tilde{\sigma}_v^2 $	$ \bar{\mu} - \tilde{\mu} $
0.5	0.0105	0.0083	0.0717
1	0.0074	0.0247	0.0800
2	0.0119	0.0446	0.0556

Table 6: Element-wise comparison among  $\bar{\Sigma}$  and  $\tilde{\Sigma}$  for the Implicit Euler method with  $\Delta t = 0.001$ .

## 9 Numerical experiments: a nonlinear system

We consider the following system

$$\begin{cases} dX = V dt \\ dV = -\eta V dt + f(X) dt + \varepsilon dW \end{cases} \quad (9.2)$$

where  $X = [X_1, X_2]^\top$ ,  $V = [V_1, V_2]^\top$  and  $dW = [dW_1, dW_2]^\top$ . We choose

$$f(X) = \left[ \cos\left(X_1 + \frac{\pi}{2}\right), -\frac{\sin(X_2)}{X_2^2 + 1} \right]^\top.$$

We suppose independence between the particles  $(X_1, V_1)$  and  $(X_2, V_2)$ , coherently with the theory followed in this article. We test the theta methods, with  $\theta = 0, 0.5, 1$ , for values of  $\eta = 0.7, 1.2..$  Tables 7 and 8 show the results for Euler-Maruyama, while Tables 9 and 10 are referred to the Trapezoidal Rule. Finally, the comparisons for the implicit Euler method are exhibited in Tables 11 and 12. In our experiments, we fix  $\Delta t = 0.001$  and  $KT = 0.1$ .

$\eta$	$ \bar{\sigma}_x^2 - \tilde{\sigma}_x^2 $	$ \bar{\sigma}_v^2 - \tilde{\sigma}_v^2 $	$ \bar{\mu} - \tilde{\mu} $
0.7	0.0107	0.0189	0.0806
1.2	0.0074	0.0291	0.0476

Table 7: Element-wise comparison among  $\bar{\Sigma}$  and  $\tilde{\Sigma}$  for the Explicit- Euler, for the variables  $X_1$  and  $V_1$ .

$\eta$	$ \bar{\sigma}_x^2 - \tilde{\sigma}_x^2 $	$ \bar{\sigma}_v^2 - \tilde{\sigma}_v^2 $	$ \bar{\mu} - \tilde{\mu} $
0.7	0.0928	0.0458	0.0544
1.2	0.0355	0.0106	0.0848

Table 8: Element-wise comparison among  $\bar{\Sigma}$  and  $\tilde{\Sigma}$  for the Explicit- Euler, for the variables  $X_2$  and  $V_2$ .

$\eta$	$ \bar{\sigma}_x^2 - \tilde{\sigma}_x^2 $	$ \bar{\sigma}_v^2 - \tilde{\sigma}_v^2 $	$ \bar{\mu} - \tilde{\mu} $
0.7	$8.3160 \times 10^{-4}$	0.0300	0.0627
1.2	0.0612	0.0215	0.0689

Table 9: Element-wise comparison among  $\bar{\Sigma}$  and  $\tilde{\Sigma}$  for the Trapezoidal method, for the variables  $X_1$  and  $V_1$ .

$\eta$	$ \bar{\sigma}_x^2 - \tilde{\sigma}_x^2 $	$ \bar{\sigma}_v^2 - \tilde{\sigma}_v^2 $	$ \bar{\mu} - \tilde{\mu} $
0.7	0.0578	0.0137	0.0694
1.2	0.0971	0.0477	0.0544

Table 10: Element-wise comparison among  $\bar{\Sigma}$  and  $\tilde{\Sigma}$  for the Explicit- Euler, for the variables  $X_2$  and  $V_2$ .

$\eta$	$ \bar{\sigma}_x^2 - \tilde{\sigma}_x^2 $	$ \bar{\sigma}_v^2 - \tilde{\sigma}_v^2 $	$ \bar{\mu} - \tilde{\mu} $
0.7	0.0108	0.0188	0.0803
1.2	0.0167	0.0235	0.0557

Table 11: Element-wise comparison among  $\bar{\Sigma}$  and  $\tilde{\Sigma}$  for the Explicit- Euler, for the variables  $X_1$  and  $V_1$ .

$\eta$	$ \bar{\sigma}_x^2 - \tilde{\sigma}_x^2 $	$ \bar{\sigma}_v^2 - \tilde{\sigma}_v^2 $	$ \bar{\mu} - \tilde{\mu} $
0.7	0.0122	0.0340	0.0460
1.2	0.0946	0.0110	0.0842

Table 12: Element-wise comparison among  $\bar{\Sigma}$  and  $\tilde{\Sigma}$  for the Explicit- Euler, for the variables  $X_2$  and  $V_2$ .

## 10 Conclusions

In this work, the conservation properties of the correlation matrix of the stochastic  $\theta$ -methods for the SDE (1.1) are analyzed. At the best of our knowledge, this is the first attempt to rigorously analyze the properties of stochastic  $\theta$ -methods for the nonlinear oscillator (1.1). In addition, the presented approach also substantially enriches the analysis of the linear case studied in [7]. A particular attention has been devoted to the Euler-Maruyama method, widely used in the discretization of SDEs. Moreover, the study of the trapezoidal and implicit Euler methods is also extremely useful in order to assess the knowledge of their properties. Indeed, these methods show excellent preservation properties, such as the unconditional contractivity of the implicit Euler method, proved in [18], and the mean square  $A$ -stability of the trapezoidal method, analyzed in [22].

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