

# Chapter 7: Ordinary Differential Equations

Given  $\frac{dy}{dx} = f(x, y)$ , find  $y(x)$ .

## 1 Analytical Method

Given  $\frac{dy}{dx} + ky = f(x)$  and initial condition  $(x_0, y_0)$

- Step 1: Find a particular solution,  $y_p$ 
  - If  $f(x) = x$ , then  $y_p = Ax + B$ .
  - If  $f(x) = x^2$ , then  $y_p = Ax^2 + Bx + C$
  - If  $f(x) = \sin \omega x$  or  $\cos \omega x$ , then  $y_p = A \sin \omega x + B \cos \omega x$ .
  - If  $f(x) = e^{rx}$ ,  $r \neq -k$ , then  $y_p = Ae^{rx}$ .
  - If  $f(x) = e^{-kx}$ , then  $y_p = Axe^{-kx}$ .
- Step 2: Find the general solution of the homogeneous differential equation  $\frac{dy}{dx} + ky = 0$   
 $\frac{dy}{ky} = -dx, \rightarrow \int \frac{dy}{ky} = \int -dx, \rightarrow \ln y = -kx + ck \rightarrow y = e^{-kx} e^{ck}$ , or  
 $y_h = Ce^{-kx}$
- Find constant  $C$  using initial condition  $(x_0, y_0)$

## 2 Euler's Method

Basic idea of iterative methods: given  $(x_i, y_i)$ ,  $x_{i+1} = x_i + h$ ,  $y_{i+1} = y_i + \phi h$ , where  $\phi$  is estimated function slope.

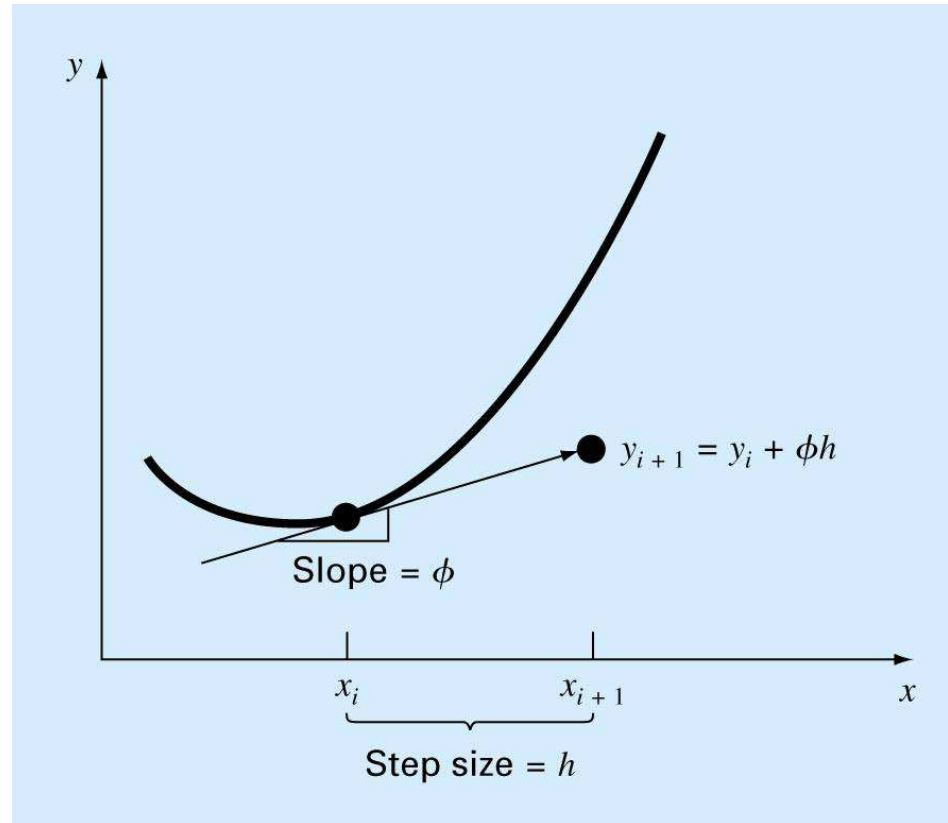


Figure 1: Illustration of iterative methods

In Euler's method, the first derivative is used to estimate the function slope, i.e.,  $\phi = f(x_i, y_i)$ , and  $y_{i+1} = y_i + f(x_i, y_i) \cdot h$ .

## Using Taylor series to analyze local truncation error

If  $y(x)$  is continuous and its derivatives are continuous too, its Taylor series can be represented as

$$y_{i+1} = y_i + y'_i h + \frac{y''_i}{2!} h^2 + \cdots + \frac{y_i^{(n)}}{n!} h^n + R_n$$

where  $h = x_{i+1} - x_i$  and  $R_n$  is the remainder term given by

$$R_n = \frac{y^{(n+1)}(\alpha)}{(n+1)!} h^{n+1} = O(h^{n+1})$$

and  $\alpha$  is a value between  $x_i$  and  $x_{i+1}$ . Since  $y' = \frac{dy}{dx} = f(x, y)$ , we have  $y'_i = f(x_i, y_i)$ ,  $y''_i = f'(x_i, y_i)$ ,  $\dots$ , and  $y_i^{(n)} = f^{(n-1)}(x_i, y_i)$ . Then

$$y_{i+1} = y_i + f(x_i, y_i)h + \frac{1}{2}f'(x_i, y_i)h^2 + \cdots + \frac{1}{n!}f^{(n-1)}(x_i, y_i) + O(h^{n+1})$$

Using Euler's method,

$$y_{i+1} = y_i + f(x_i, y_i)h$$

Therefore, the true local truncation error in using Euler's method is

$$E_t = \frac{1}{2}f'(x_i, y_i)h^2 + \cdots + \frac{1}{n!}f^{(n-1)}(x_i, y_i) + O(h^{n+1})$$

When  $h$  is sufficiently small, the higher order terms can be neglected, and the approx-

imated local truncation error is

$$E_a = \frac{1}{2} f'(x_i, y_i) h^2$$

- Local absolute truncation error,  $E_a$ , is proportional to  $h^2$  and  $f'(x_i, y_i)$ .
- Taylor series only provides the local truncation error.
- Global truncation error using Euler's method is proportional to the step size,  $O(h)$ .
- The truncation error can be reduced by decreasing the step size.
- Euler's method provides error free prediction if the function  $y(x)$  is linear.

**Example:** Integrate the equation  $\frac{dy}{dx} = -2x^3 + 12x^2 - 20x + 8.5$  from  $x = 0$  to  $x = 1$  (1) using analytical method, and (2) using Euler's method with a step size of 0.5 and 0.25. The initial condition at  $x = 0$  is  $y = 1$ .

**Solution:**

$$f(x, y) = -2x^3 + 12x^2 - 20x + 8.5, x_0 = 0, \text{ and } y_0 = 1.$$

Using analytical method: The exact solution to the equation  $\frac{dy}{dx} = -2x^3 + 12x^2 - 20x + 8.5$  is

$$y = \int (-2x^3 + 12x^2 - 20x + 8.5) dx = -\frac{1}{2}x^4 + 4x^3 - 10x^2 + 8.5x + C$$

where  $C$  is a constant. Using the initial condition  $y = 1$  when  $x = 0$ , then  $1 = C$ . Thus,

$$y = -\frac{1}{2}x^4 + 4x^3 - 10x^2 + 8.5x + 1$$

When  $x = 0.5$ , the true function value is

$$y(0.5) = -\frac{1}{2} \times 0.5^4 + 4 \times 0.5^3 - 10 \times 0.5^2 + 8.5 \times 0.5 + 1 = 3.21875$$

and when  $x = 1$ , the true function value is

$$y(1) = -\frac{1}{2} \times 1^4 + 4 \times 1^3 - 10 \times 1^2 + 8.5 \times 1 + 1 = 3$$

Using Euler's method with  $h = 0.5$ :

$$x_1 = x_0 + h = 0.5, \text{ and } y_1 = y_0 + f(x_0, y_0)h = 1 + f(0, 1) \times 0.5 = 1 + 8.5 \times 0.5 = 5.25.$$

The percent relative error is

$$\epsilon_t = \left| \frac{\text{true value} - \text{approximate}}{\text{true value}} \right| \times 100\% = [(3.21875 - 5.25) / 3.21875] \times 100\% = 63.1\%$$

$$x_2 = x_1 + h = 0.5 + 0.5 = 1, \text{ and } y_2 = y_1 + f(x_1, y_1)h = 5.25 + f(0.5, 5.25) \times 0.5 = 5.875.$$

The percent relative error is  $\epsilon_t = [(3 - 5.875) / 3] \times 100\% = 95.8\%$ .

Using Euler's method with  $h = 0.25$ :

$$x_1 = x_0 + h = 0.25, \text{ and } y_1 = y_0 + f(x_0, y_0)h = 1 + f(0, 1) \times 0.25 = 1 + 8.5 \times 0.25 = 3.1250.$$

$$x_2 = x_1 + h = 0.25 + 0.25 = 0.5, \text{ and } y_2 = y_1 + f(x_1, y_1)h = 3.1250 + f(0.25, 3.1250) \times 0.25 = 3.1250 + 4.2188 \times 0.25 = 4.1797$$

The percent relative error is

$$\epsilon_t = \left| \frac{\text{true value} - \text{approximate}}{\text{true value}} \right| \times 100\% = \left[ \frac{3.21875 - 4.1797}{3.21875} \times 100\% \right] = 29.85\%$$

$$x_3 = x_2 + h = 0.5 + 0.25 = 0.75, \text{ and } y_3 = y_2 + f(x_2, y_2)h = 4.1797 + f(0.5, 4.1797) \times 0.25 = 4.4922.$$

$$x_4 = x_3 + h = 0.75 + 0.25 = 1, \text{ and } y_4 = y_3 + f(x_3, y_3)h = 4.4922 + f(0.75, 4.4922) \times 0.25 = 4.3438.$$

The percent relative error is  $\epsilon_t = [(3 - 4.3438)/3] \times 100\% = 44.79\%$ .

Reducing step size can reduce the estimation error. Another approach to reducing the estimation error is to use higher order Taylor series.

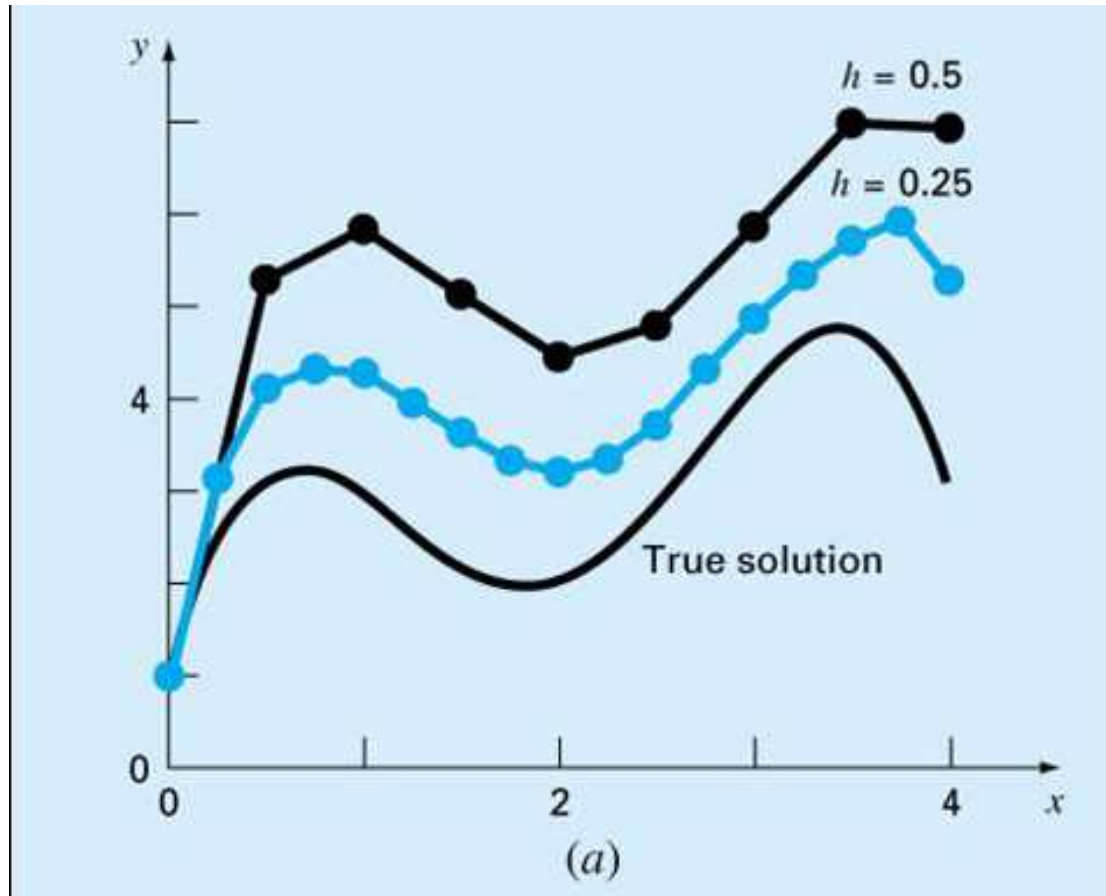


Figure 2: Euler's method for  $\frac{dy}{dx} = -2x^3 + 12x^2 - 20x + 8.5$

### 3 Higher-order Taylor Series Methods

Using the second-order Taylor series,

$$y_{i+1} = y_i + y_i' h + \frac{y_i''}{2!} h^2 = y_i + f(x_i, y_i) h + \frac{1}{2} f'(x_i, y_i) h^2$$

where  $f'(x, y)$  is found using the chain-rule as

$$f'(x, y) = \frac{\partial f(x, y)}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial f(x, y)}{\partial y} \frac{dy}{dx}$$

Using this method, the approximate local truncation error is

$$E_a = \frac{1}{3!} f''(x_i, y_i) h^3 = \frac{1}{6} f''(x_i, y_i) h^3$$

where

$$f''(x, y) = \frac{\partial f'(x, y)}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial f'(x, y)}{\partial y} \frac{dy}{dx}$$

$f'(x, y)$  and  $f''(x, y)$  may be difficult to evaluate for complicated functions.



## 4 Runge-Kutta Methods

Runge-Kutta (RK) methods can achieve the accuracy of higher order Taylor series but avoid evaluating the higher order derivatives. The general form of RK methods is

$$y_{i+1} = y_i + \phi(x_i, y_i, h)h$$

where  $\phi(x_i, y_i, h)$  is called an increment function and is written in general form as

$$\phi = a_1k_1 + a_2k_2 + \cdots + a_nk_n$$

where

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

$$k_2 = f(x_i + p_1h, y_i + q_{11}k_1h)$$

$$k_3 = f(x_i + p_2h, y_i + q_{21}k_1h + q_{22}k_2h)$$

...

$$k_n = f(x_i + p_{n-1}h, y_i + q_{n-1,1}k_1h + q_{n-1,2}k_2h + \cdots + q_{n-1,n-1}k_{n-1}h)$$

Various types of RK methods can be devised by employing different numbers of terms in  $\phi$  and different values of the parameters  $a$ 's  $p$ 's and  $q$ 's. For lower order versions of RK methods, the number of terms used is same as the order of the approach.

### First-order RK methods

When  $n = 1$ , letting  $a_1 = 1$ , we have  $\phi(x_i, y_i, h) = a_1k_1 = k_1$ . Then

$$y_{i+1} = y_i + f(x_i, y_i)h$$

is Euler's method. That is, Euler's method is the first-order RK method.

### Second-order RK methods

The second-order RK methods use

$$y_{i+1} = y_i + (a_1k_1 + a_2k_2)h$$

where

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

$$k_2 = f(x_i + p_1h, y_i + q_{11}k_1h)$$

How to find constants  $a_1$ ,  $a_2$ ,  $p_1$  and  $q_{11}$ ?

Using Taylor series:

$$\begin{aligned} y_{i+1} &= y_i + y_i' h + \frac{1}{2} y_i'' h^2 \quad (\text{ignore higher order terms}) \\ &= y_i + f(x_i, y_i) h + \frac{1}{2} f'(x_i, y_i) h^2 \\ &= y_i + f(x_i, y_i) h + \frac{1}{2} \left[ \frac{\partial f(x_i, y_i)}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial f(x_i, y_i)}{\partial y} y_i' \right] h^2 \\ &= y_i + f(x_i, y_i) h + \frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial f(x_i, y_i)}{\partial x} h^2 + \frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial f(x_i, y_i)}{\partial y} y_i' h^2 \end{aligned} \quad (1)$$

Using 2nd-order RK method,

$$\begin{aligned} y_{i+1} &= y_i + a_1 k_1 h + a_2 k_2 h \\ &= y_i + a_1 f(x_i, y_i) h + a_2 k_2 h \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

where  $k_2$  can be expanded in Taylor series as

$$\begin{aligned} k_2 &= f(x_i + p_1 h, y_i + q_{11} k_1 h) = f(x_i, y_i) + \frac{\partial f(x_i, y_i)}{\partial x} p_1 h + \frac{\partial f(x_i, y_i)}{\partial y} q_{11} k_1 h \\ &\quad \text{(ignore higher order terms)} \\ &= f(x_i, y_i) + \frac{\partial f(x_i, y_i)}{\partial x} p_1 h + \frac{\partial f(x_i, y_i)}{\partial y} q_{11} f(x_i, y_i) h \end{aligned} \quad (3)$$

Substituting  $k_2$  in (2) by (3), we have

$$\begin{aligned} y_{i+1} &= y_i + a_1 f(x_i, y_i) h + a_2 f(x_i, y_i) h + a_2 \frac{\partial f(x_i, y_i)}{\partial x} p_1 h^2 + a_2 \frac{\partial f(x_i, y_i)}{\partial y} q_{11} f(x_i, y_i) h^2 \\ &= y_i + (a_1 + a_2) f(x_i, y_i) h + a_2 \frac{\partial f(x_i, y_i)}{\partial x} p_1 h^2 + a_2 \frac{\partial f(x_i, y_i)}{\partial y} q_{11} f(x_i, y_i) h^2 \end{aligned} \quad (4)$$

Comparing the like terms in (4) and (1), we have

$$\begin{aligned} a_1 + a_2 &= 1 \\ a_2 p_1 &= \frac{1}{2} \\ a_2 q_{11} &= \frac{1}{2} \end{aligned}$$

There are three simultaneous equations containing four unknown constants. Therefore, there are infinite sets of constants that satisfy the equations. By assuming a value for one of the constants, we can determine the other three.

*Heun method:*  $a_1 = \frac{1}{2}$ ,  $a_2 = \frac{1}{2}$ , and  $p_1 = q_{11} = 1$ . Then

$$y_{i+1} = y_i + (a_1 k_1 + a_2 k_2)h = y_i + \frac{1}{2}(k_1 + k_2)h$$

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

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

Predictor:  $y_{i+1}^0 = y_i + f(x_i, y_i)h$

Corrector:  $y_{i+1} = y_i + \frac{f(x_i, y_i) + f(x_{i+1}, y_{i+1}^0)}{2}h$

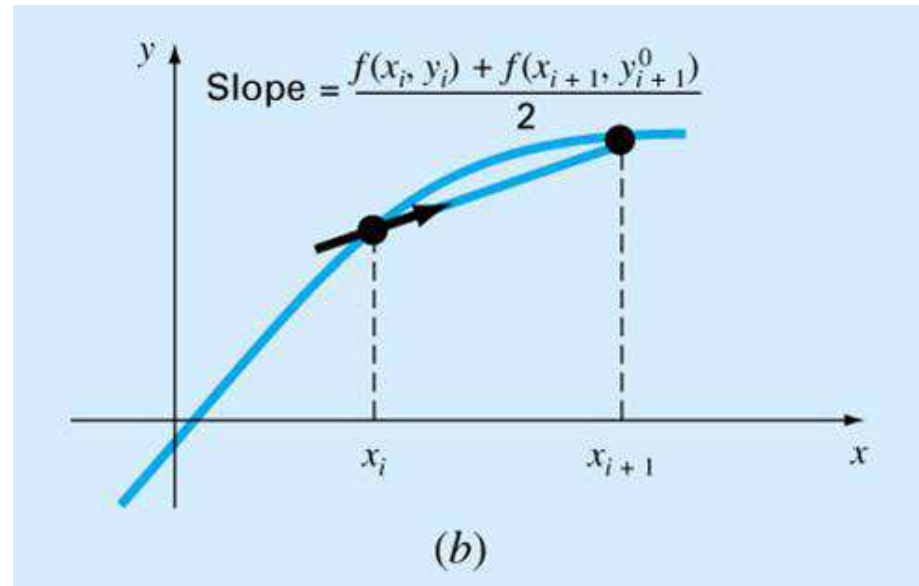
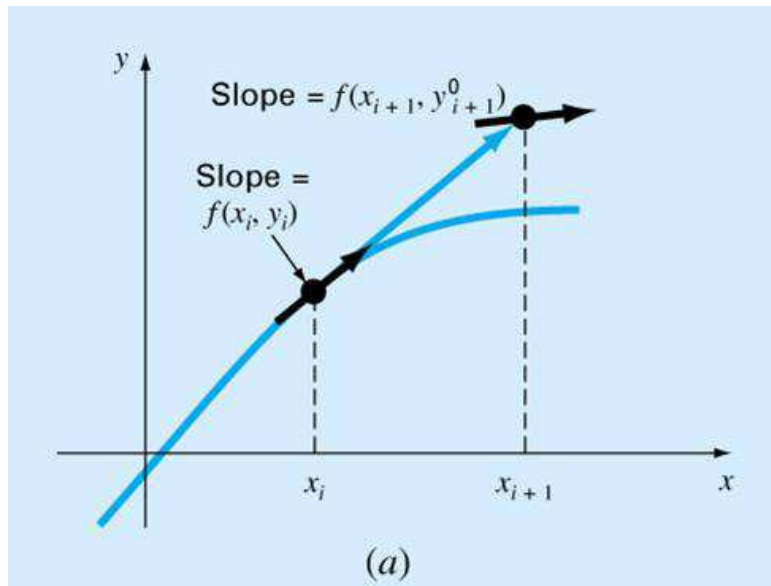


Illustration of Heun's method (a) predictor (b) corrector

The midpoint method  $a_1 = 0$ ,  $a_2 = 1$ , and  $p_1 = q_{11} = \frac{1}{2}$ . Then

$$y_{i+1} = y_i + k_2 h$$

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

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

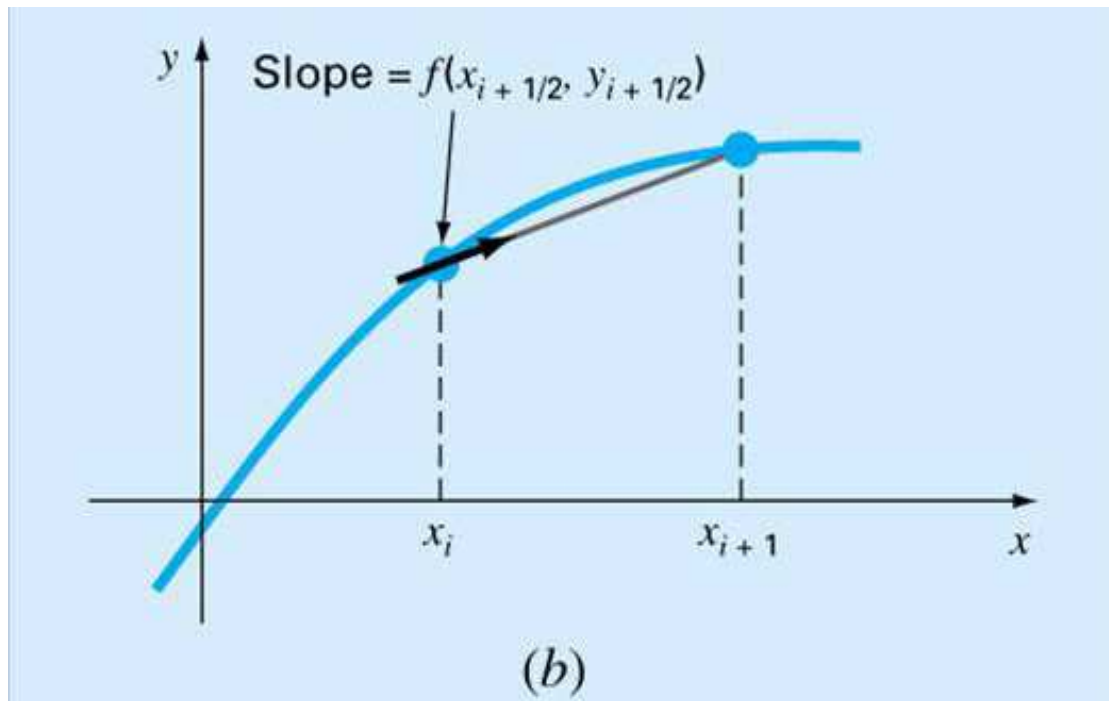


Figure 3: Illustration of the midpoint method

## Fourth-order Runge-Kutta methods

Fourth-order RK methods have the form

$$y_{i+1} = y_i + (a_1 k_1 + a_2 k_2 + a_3 k_3 + a_4 k_4) h$$

Similar to the second-order RK methods, there are an infinite number of versions of fourth-order RK methods. The most commonly used form is

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

where

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

$$k_2 = f\left(x_i + \frac{1}{2}h, y_i + \frac{1}{2}k_1h\right)$$

$$k_3 = f\left(x_i + \frac{1}{2}h, y_i + \frac{1}{2}k_2h\right)$$

$$k_4 = f(x_i + h, y_i + k_3h)$$

**Example:** Use the classical fourth-order RK method to integrate

$$f(x, y) = -2x^3 + 12x^2 - 20x + 8.5$$

using a step size of  $h = 0.5$  and an initial condition of  $y = 1$  at  $x = 0$ .

**Solution:**  $i = 0, x_0 = 0, y_0 = 1$ .

$$k_1 = f(x_0, y_0) = f(0, 1) = 8.5$$

$$k_2 = f\left(x_0 + \frac{h}{2}, y_0 + \frac{1}{2}k_1h\right) = f(0.25, 3.125) = 4.21875$$

$$k_3 = f\left(x_0 + \frac{1}{2}h, y_0 + \frac{1}{2}k_2h\right) = f(0.25, 1 + \frac{1}{2} \times 4.21875 \times 0.5) = f(0.25, 2.0547) = 4.21875$$

$$k_4 = f(x_0 + h, y_0 + k_3h) = f(0.25, 1 + 4.21875 \times 0.5) = 1.25$$

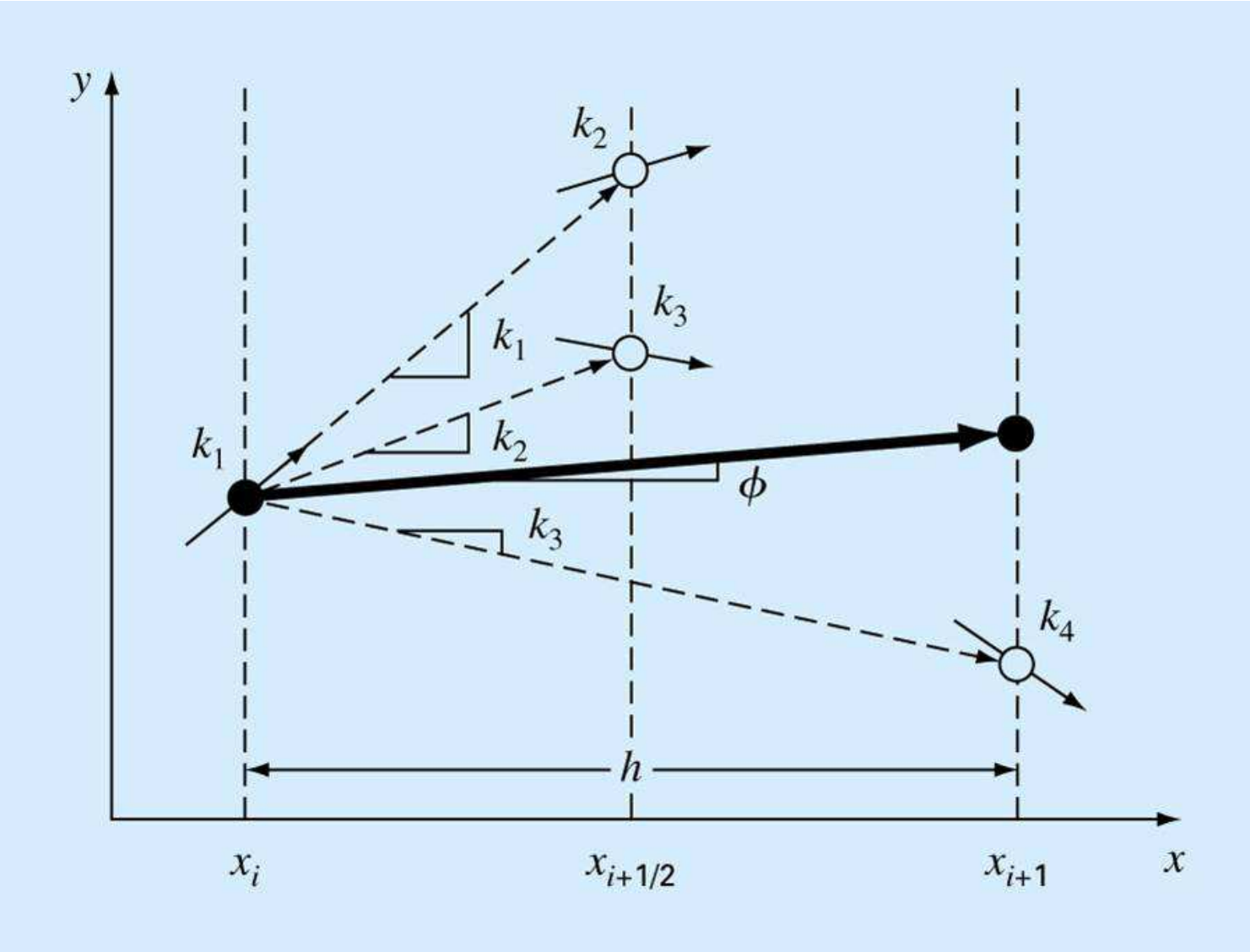


Figure 4: Illustration of slope estimates in the 4th order RK method

$$x_1 = x_0 + h = 0.5,$$

$$y_1 = y_0 + \frac{1}{6}(k_1 + 2k_2 + 2k_3 + k_4)h = 1 + \frac{1}{6}(8.5 + 2 \times 4.21875 + 3 \times 4.21875 + 1.25) \times 0.5 = 3.21875$$

This is exactly same as the true value ( $y(0.5) = 3.21875$ , see the previous example).

Because  $y(x)$  is a fourth-order polynomial, the fourth-order RK methods give exact solution.

**Example:** Given  $\frac{dy}{dx} = 4e^{0.8x} - 0.5y$ , and  $y(0) = 2$ , (1) find  $y(0.5)$  using analytical method, and (2) find  $y(0.5)$  using the classical 4-th order RK method with step size  $h = 0.5$ .

**Solution:**

**Analytical method:**

$$(1) \frac{dy}{dx} + 0.5y = 4e^{0.8x}$$

$$y_p = Ae^{0.8x}, \frac{dy_p}{dx} = 0.8Ae^{0.8x}, \text{ then}$$

$$A \times 0.8e^{0.8x} + 0.5Ae^{0.8x} = 4e^{0.8x}, A = \frac{40}{13}$$

$$y_p = \frac{40}{13}e^{0.8x}.$$

$$(2) \frac{dy_h}{dx} + 0.5y_h = 0, \text{ then } \frac{dy_h}{dx} = -0.5y_h, \frac{dy_h}{0.5y_h} = -dx, \text{ or } \int \frac{dy_h}{0.5y_h} = - \int dx. \text{ Then}$$

$$\frac{1}{0.5} \ln y_h = -x + C', \ln y_h = -0.5x + C'', \text{ and}$$

$$y_h = e^{-0.5x + C''} = Ce^{-0.5x}.$$

$$(3) y = h_h + y_p = Ce^{-0.5x} + \frac{40}{13}e^{0.8x}, \text{ with } (x_0, y_0) = (0, 2), 2 = C + \frac{40}{13}, C = -\frac{14}{13}, \text{ and}$$



$$y = -\frac{14}{13}e^{-0.5x} + \frac{40}{13}e^{0.8x}$$

$$(4) \text{ When } x = 0.5, y = -\frac{14}{13}e^{-0.25} + \frac{40}{13}e^{0.4} = 3.7515$$

**Classical 4-th order RK method:**

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = 4e^{0.8x} - 0.5y, f(x, y) = 4e^{0.8x} - 0.5y, \text{ then}$$

$$k_1 = f(x_0, y_0) = f(0, 2) = 4e^0 - 0.5 \times 2 = 3$$

$$k_2 = f(x_0 + \frac{h}{2}, y_0 + \frac{1}{2}k_1h) = f(0.25, 2 + \frac{1}{2} \times 3 \times 0.5) = f(0.25, 2.75) = 4 \times e^{0.8 \times 0.25} - 0.5 \times 2.75 = 3.5106$$

$$k_3 = f(x_0 + \frac{h}{2}, y_0 + \frac{1}{2}k_2h) = f(0.25, 2 + \frac{1}{2} \times 3.5106 \times 0.5) = f(0.25, 2.8777) = 3.4468$$

$$k_4 = f(x_0 + h, y_0 + k_3h) = f(0.5, 2 + 3.4468 \times 0.5) = f(0.5, 3.7234) = 4.1056$$

$$x_1 = x_0 + h = 0.5, y_1 = y_0 + \frac{1}{6}(k_1 + 2k_2 + 2k_3 + k_4)h = 2 + \frac{1}{6}(3 + 2 \times 3.5106 + 2 \times 3.4468 + 4.1056) \times 0.5 = 3.75167$$

$$\epsilon_t = 3.97 \times 10^{-5}.$$

***n*-th order RK methods**

- Accurate to *n*-th order polynomial
- Equivalent to *n*-th order Taylor series
- Does not require to evaluate derivatives

## 5 Systems of ODEs

For a system of simultaneous ODEs like

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{dy_1}{dx} &= f_1(x, y_1, y_2, \dots, y_n) \\ \frac{dy_2}{dx} &= f_2(x, y_1, y_2, \dots, y_n) \\ &\vdots \\ \frac{dy_n}{dx} &= f_n(x, y_1, y_2, \dots, y_n)\end{aligned}$$

The solution of such a system requires that  $n$  initial conditions be known at the starting value of  $x$ , i.e., when  $x = x_0$ , the corresponding values of  $y_i$ , for all  $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$  are all known.

All the numerical methods we have discussed for single equations can be extended to solve a system of ODEs.

**Example:** Using Euler's method to solve the following set of ODEs:

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{dy_1}{dx} &= -0.5y_1 \\ \frac{dy_2}{dx} &= 4 - 0.3y_2 - 0.1y_1\end{aligned}$$

assuming that  $x = 0$ ,  $y_1 = 4$ , and  $y_2 = 6$ . Integrate to  $x = 2$  with a step size of 0.5.

**Solution:**

$$y_{i+1,1} = y_{i,1} + f_1(x_i, y_{i,1}, y_{i,2})$$

$$y_{i+1,2} = y_{i,2} + f_2(x_i, y_{i,1}, y_{i,2})$$

where  $f_1(x, y_1, y_2) = -0.5y_1$ , and  $f_2(x, y_1, y_2) = 4 - 0.3y_2 - 0.1y_1$ .

When  $i = 0$ ,  $x_1 = x_0 + h = 0.5$ ,

$$y_{1,1} = y_{0,1} + f_1(x_0, y_{0,1}, y_{0,2})h = 4 + f_1(0, 4, 6) = 4 - 0.5 \times 4 \times 0.5 = 3$$

$$y_{1,2} = y_{0,2} + f_2(x_0, y_{0,1}, y_{0,2})h = 6 + f_2(0, 4, 6) = 6 + (4 - 0.3 \times 6 - 0.1 \times 4) \times 0.5 = 6.9$$

When  $i = 1$ ,  $x_2 = x_1 + h = 1$

$$y_{2,1} = y_{1,1} + f_1(x_1, y_{1,1}, y_{1,2})h = 3 + f_1(0.5, 3, 6.9) = 2.25$$

$$y_{2,2} = y_{1,2} + f_2(x_1, y_{1,1}, y_{1,2})h = 6.9 + f_2(0.5, 3, 6.9) = 7.715$$

**Example:** Using the classical fourth-order RK method to solve the ODEs from the previous example.

**Solution:**

$$y_{i+1,1} = y_{i,1} + \frac{1}{6}(k_{1,1} + 2k_{1,2} + 2k_{1,3} + k_{1,4})h$$

$$y_{i+1,2} = y_{i,2} + \frac{1}{6}(k_{2,1} + 2k_{2,2} + 2k_{2,3} + k_{2,4})h$$

where

$$\begin{aligned}k_{1,1} &= f_1(x_i, y_{i,1}, y_{i,2}) \\k_{2,1} &= f_1\left(x_i + \frac{1}{2}h, y_{i,1} + \frac{1}{2}k_{1,1}h, y_{i,2} + \frac{1}{2}k_{1,2}h\right) \\k_{3,1} &= f_1\left(x_i + \frac{1}{2}h, y_{i,1} + \frac{1}{2}k_{2,1}h, y_{i,2} + \frac{1}{2}k_{2,2}h\right) \\k_{4,1} &= f_1(x_i + h, y_{i,1} + k_{3,1}h, y_{i,2} + k_{3,2}h)\end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned}k_{1,2} &= f_2(x_i, y_{i,1}, y_{i,2}) \\k_{2,2} &= f_2\left(x_i + \frac{1}{2}h, y_{i,1} + \frac{1}{2}k_{1,1}h, y_{i,2} + \frac{1}{2}k_{1,2}h\right) \\k_{3,2} &= f_2\left(x_i + \frac{1}{2}h, y_{i,1} + \frac{1}{2}k_{2,1}h, y_{i,2} + \frac{1}{2}k_{2,2}h\right) \\k_{4,2} &= f_2(x_i + h, y_{i,1} + k_{3,1}h, y_{i,2} + k_{3,2}h)\end{aligned}$$

## 6 Multistep Methods

All previous methods are one-step methods which utilize information at a single point  $x_i$  to predict a value of the dependent variable  $y_{i+1}$  at a future point  $x_{i+1}$ . The multistep methods are based on the insight that, once the computation has begun, infor-

mation from previous points can be used to estimate the function values at a future point.

### The non-self-starting Heun method

This method a *predictor* and a *corrector* as

$$\text{Predictor: } y_{i+1}^0 = y_{i-1}^m + f(x_i, y_i^m)2h$$

$$\text{Corrector: } y_{i+1}^j = y_i^m + \frac{f(x_i, y_i^m) + f(x_{i+1}, y_{i+1}^{j-1})}{2}h$$

(for  $j = 1, 2, \dots, m$ )

where the corrector is applied iteratively from  $j = 1$  to  $m$  to obtain refined solutions. The approximate percentage relative error is

$$|\epsilon_a| = \left| \frac{y_{i+1}^j - y_{i+1}^{j-1}}{y_{i+1}^j} \right| \times 100\%$$

The iterations are terminated if  $\epsilon_a$  is less than a prespecified error tolerance  $\epsilon_s$ . The method is not self-starting because it involves a previous value of the dependent variable  $y_{i-1}$ .

**Example:** Use the non-self-starting Heun method to integrate

$$y' = 4e^{0.8x} - 0.5y$$

using a step size of  $h = 1.0$  and an initial condition of  $y = 2$  at  $x = 0$ . Additional information is required for the multistep method:  $y = -0.3929953$  at  $x = -1$ .

**Solution:**  $x_{-1} = -1$ ,  $y_{-1} = -0.3929953$ ;  $x_0 = 0$ ,  $y_0 = 2$ .

Step 1:  $x_1 = x_0 + h = 1$ .

The predictor is used to extrapolate linearly from  $x_{-1}$  to  $x_1$ :

$$y_1^0 = y_{-1} + f(x_0, y_0)2h = -0.3929953 + (4e^{0.8 \times 0} - 0.5 \times 2) \times 2 \times 1 = 5.607005$$

The corrector is then used to compute the value. When  $j = 1$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} y_1^1 &= y_0 + \frac{f(x_0, y_0) + f(x_1, y_1^0)}{2}h \\ &= 1 + \frac{4e^{0.8 \times 0} - 0.5 \times 2 + 4e^{0.8 \times 0} - 0.5 \times 5.607005}{2} = 6.549331 \end{aligned}$$

The approximate percentage relative error is

$$\epsilon_a = \left| \frac{y_1^1 - y_1^0}{y_1^1} \right| \times 100\% = 14.39\%$$

When  $j = 2$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} y_2^1 &= y_0 + \frac{f(x_0, y_0) + f(x_1, y_1^1)}{2}h \\ &= 1 + \frac{4e^{0.8 \times 0} - 0.5 \times 2 + 4e^{0.8 \times 0} - 0.5 \times 6.549331}{2} = 6.313749 \end{aligned}$$

The approximate percentage relative error is

$$\epsilon_a = \left| \frac{y_2^1 - y_1^1}{y_1^1} \right| \times 100\% = 3.73\%$$

The iteration can be repeated until  $\epsilon_a$  is below a prespecified value of  $\epsilon_s$ . The iterations converge on a value of 6.360865.

Step 2:  $x_2 = x_1 + h = 2$ .

The predictor is:

$$y_2^0 = y_0 + f(x_1, y_1)2h = 2 + (4e^{0.8 \times 1} - 0.5 \times 6.360865) \times 2 \times 1 = 13.44346$$

The correctors can be calculated similarly as in Step 1.