

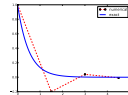
On Schemes for Exponential Decay

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Goal

The primary goal of this demo talk is to demonstrate how to write talks with **DocOnce** and get them rendered in numerous HTML formats.

Layout

This version utilizes beamer slides with the theme `red_plain`.

Problem setting and methods



We aim to solve the (almost) simplest possible differential equation problem

$$u'(t) = -au(t) \quad (1)$$

$$u(0) = I \quad (2)$$

Here,

- ▶ $t \in (0, T]$
- ▶ a , I , and T are prescribed parameters
- ▶ $u(t)$ is the unknown function
- ▶ The ODE (??) has the initial condition (??)



The ODE problem is solved by a finite difference scheme

- ▶ Mesh in time: $0 = t_0 < t_1 < \dots < t_N = T$
- ▶ Assume constant $\Delta t = t_n - t_{n-1}$
- ▶ u^n : numerical approx to the exact solution at t_n

The θ rule,

$$u^{n+1} = \frac{1 - (1 - \theta)a\Delta t}{1 + \theta a\Delta t} u^n, \quad n = 0, 1, \dots, N-1$$

contains the **Forward Euler** ($\theta = 0$), the **Backward Euler** ($\theta = 1$), and the **Crank-Nicolson** ($\theta = 0.5$) schemes.

The Forward Euler scheme explained

<http://youtube.com/PtJrPEIHJw>

Implementation

Implementation in a Python function:

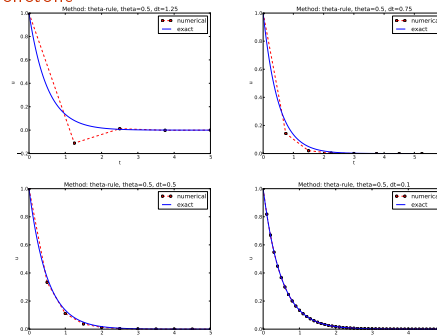
```
def solver(I, a, T, dt, theta):
    """Solve u' = a*u, u(0)=I, for t in (0, T]; step: dt."""
    dt = float(dt) # avoid integer division
    N = int(round(T/dt)) # no of time intervals
    T = N*dt # adjust T to fit time step dt
    u = zeros(N+1) # array of u[n] values
    t = linspace(0, T, N+1) # time mesh

    u[0] = I # assign initial condition
    for n in range(0, N): # n=0,1,...,N-1
        u[n+1] = (1 - (1-theta)*a*dt)/(1 + theta*dt*a)*u[n]
    return u, t
```

Results



The Crank-Nicolson method shows oscillatory behavior for not sufficiently small time steps, while the solution should be monotone



The artifacts can be explained by some theory

Exact solution of the scheme:

$$u^n = A^n, \quad A = \frac{1 - (1 - \theta)a\Delta t}{1 + \theta a\Delta t}.$$

Key results:

- Stability: $|A| < 1$
- No oscillations: $A > 0$
- Always for Backward Euler ($\theta = 1$)
- $\Delta t < 1/a$ for Forward Euler ($\theta = 0$)
- $\Delta t < 2/a$ for Crank-Nicolson ($\theta = 1/2$)

Concluding remarks:

Only the Backward Euler scheme is guaranteed to always give qualitatively correct results.