

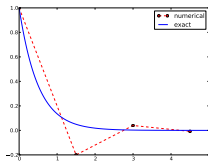
On Schemes for Exponential Decay

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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_shadow`.

Problem setting and methods



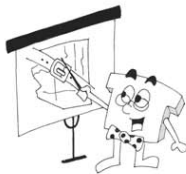
We aim to solve the (almost) simplest possible differential equation problem

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

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

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: $0 = t_0 < t_1 \cdots < t_N = T$
- 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.

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The Forward Euler scheme explained

<http://youtube.com/PtJrPEIHNJw>

Implementation

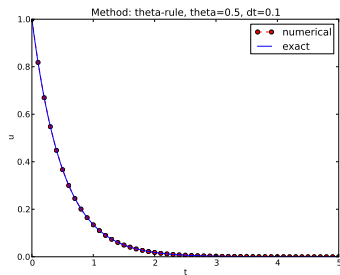
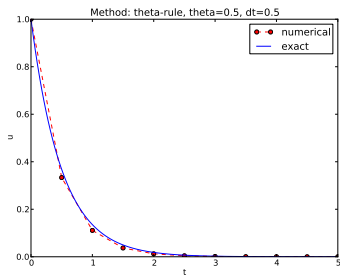
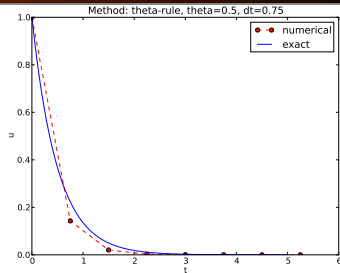
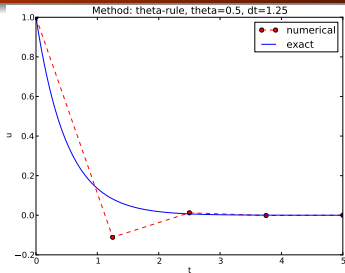
Implementation in a Python function:

```
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.

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