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In [1]: import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
import numpy as np
import math

# Repetition of example 2 with the fourth order Runge Kutta method implemented.
# Radioactive decay of Thorium Isotope-234
# Here we will solve the differential equation
#  $dQ/dt = -rQ$ ,  $r = 0.02828$  days-1,  $q(0) = 100$  mg.  $t$  is in days
# Example is taken from the book: Elementary Differential Equations and
# Boundary Value Problems by William E. Boyce and Richard D. Prima. page 44.
# The exact solution can be found to be:  $Q(t) = 100 \cdot \exp(-rt)$ 
# Here we compare the Euler method and fourth order Runge Kutta method.
# In this case we simulate for 100 days
# to capture more of the radioactive decay

dt = 25 # days
tstart = 0
tend = 100 # days
r = 0.02828 # days-1

T=[]
Qexact=[]
Qeuler=[]
Qrunge4=[]

# Save the initial condition  $y(0)=1$  in the arrays

t = tstart
qexact = 100 # mg
qeuler = 100 # mg
qrunge = 100 # mg

T.append(t)
Qexact.append(qexact)
Qeuler.append(qeuler)
Qrunge4.append(qrunge)

while (t < tend):
    dt = min(dt, tend-t)

    # Euler method
    qeuler = qeuler + dt * (-r * qeuler)

    # 4th order Runge Kutta method (page 255 in book)

    K0 = dt * (-r * qrunge)
    K1 = dt * (-r * (qrunge + 0.5 * K0))
    K2 = dt * (-r * (qrunge + 0.5 * K1))
    K3 = dt * (-r * (qrunge + K2))

    qrunge = qrunge + 1/6 * (K0 + 2 * K1 + 2 * K2 + K3)

    # update time and exact solution
    t = t + dt
    qexact = 100 * math.exp(-r * t)

    T.append(t)
    Qexact.append(qexact)
    Qeuler.append(qeuler)
    Qrunge4.append(qrunge)

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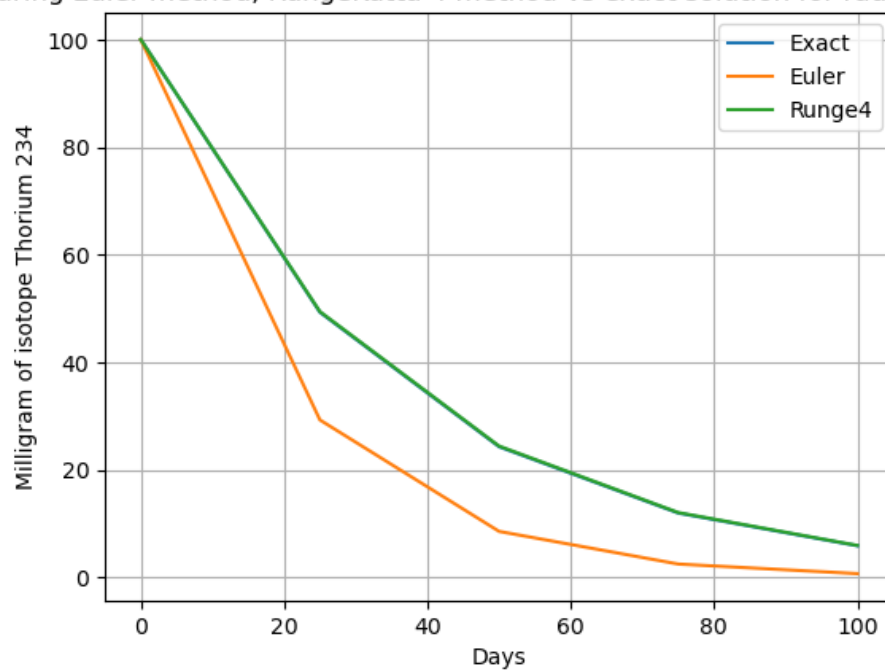
plt.plot(T,Qexact,T,Qeuler,T,Qrunge4)
plt.title('Comparing Euler method, RungeKutta 4 method vs exact solution for radioactive decay')
plt.grid(True)
plt.xlabel('Days')
plt.ylabel('Milligram of isotope Thorium 234')
plt.legend(['Exact', 'Euler', 'Runge4'])
plt.show()

print('-----')

print('Start with dt = 25 days (step size) and then reduce the timestep')
print()
print('What timestep do you recommend for 4th order Runge Kutta method?')
print()
print('What timestep do you recommend for Euler method?')

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Comparing Euler method, RungeKutta 4 method vs exact solution for radioactive decay



Start with dt = 25 days (step size) and then reduce the timestep

What timestep do you recommend for 4th order Runge Kutta method?

What timestep do you recommend for Euler method?

In []:

In []:

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