



Euler's Method is a process of estimating what the general shape of a solution to a given differential equation looks like.

When sketching the solution to a given differential equation in its slope field, you

- 1) Choose a starting point
- 2) Go in the direction that the slope field indicates at the starting point for a short distance ending up at a new location.
- 3) At this new location, go in the direction that the slope field indicates for a short distance, ending up at a new location
- 4) Repeat this iterative process.

Euler's Method is a numerical method that describes what you do by hand sketching a solution passing through the starting point in the slope field. In order to start Euler's Method, you need three things

- I. A **starting coordinate** (x_0, y_0)
- II. The **equation of the differential equation** $\frac{dy}{dx} = \dots$
- III. A **step size** – how far in the x -direction you will move each time between points.

$$(x_0, y_0) \rightarrow (x + \Delta x, y_0 + \Delta y)$$

$$\rightarrow \left(x + \Delta x, y_0 + \frac{\Delta y}{\cancel{\Delta x}} \cdot \cancel{\Delta x} \right)$$

$$\rightarrow \left(x + \Delta x, y_0 + \frac{dy}{dx} \cdot \Delta x \right)$$

$$\rightarrow \left(x + \Delta x, y_0 + \left[\frac{dy}{dx} \text{ at } (x_0, y_0) \right] \cdot \Delta x \right)$$

$$\rightarrow (x_1, y_1)$$

$$(x_0, y_0) \rightarrow (x_0 + (\text{step size}), y_0 + (\text{derivative})(\text{step size}))$$

No calculator: Let $y = f(x)$ be the solution to the differential equation $\frac{dy}{dx} = x + y$ with the initial condition $f(1) = 2$. What is the approximation for $f(2)$ if Euler's method is used, starting at $x = 1$ with a step size of 0.5?

- (a) 3 (b) 5 (c) 6 (d) 10 (e) 12

$$(1, 2) \rightarrow (1 + (\text{step size}), 2 + (\text{derivative})(\text{step size}))$$

$$\rightarrow \left(1 + 0.5, 2 + \left(\frac{dy}{dx} \text{ at } (1, 2) \right) (0.5) \right)$$

$$\rightarrow (1.5, 2 + (1 + 2)(0.5))$$

$$\rightarrow (1.5, 3.5)$$

✓

$$(1.5, 3.5) \rightarrow (1.5 + (\text{step size}), 3.5 + (\text{derivative})(\text{step size}))$$

$$\rightarrow \left(1.5 + 0.5, 3.5 + \left(\frac{dy}{dx} \text{ at } (1.5, 3.5) \right) (0.5) \right)$$

$$\rightarrow (2, 3.5 + (1.5 + 3.5)(0.5))$$

$$\rightarrow (2, 6)$$

Use Euler's Method with step size 0.1 to estimate $y(0.2)$, where $y(x)$ is the solution of the initial value problem $\frac{dy}{dx} = y + xy$ where $y(0) = 1$.

$$(0, 1) \rightarrow \left(0 + \text{step size}, y(0) + \left[\frac{dy}{dx} \text{ at } (0, 1) \right] \cdot (\text{step size}) \right)$$

$$\approx (0.1, 1 + [1 + 0 \cdot 1] \cdot 0.1)$$

$$\approx (0.1, 1.1)$$

✓

$$(0.1, 1.1) \rightarrow \left(0.1 + \text{step size}, y(0.1) + \left[\frac{dy}{dx} \text{ at } (0.1, 1.1) \right] \cdot (\text{step size}) \right)$$

$$\approx (0.1 + 0.1, 1.1 + [1.1 + (0.1)(1.1)] \cdot 0.1)$$

$$\approx (0.2, 1.1 + [1.1 + (0.1)(1.1)] \cdot 0.1)$$

$$\approx (0.2, 1.221)$$

Use Euler's Method with step size 0.2 to estimate $y(0.4)$ where $y(x)$ is the solution of the initial-value problem $\frac{dy}{dx} = xy - x^2$ where $y(0) = 1$.

$$\begin{aligned}(0,1) &\rightarrow \left(x(0) + \text{step size}, y(0) + \left[\frac{dy}{dx} \text{ at } (0,1) \right] \cdot (\text{step size}) \right) \\ &\approx (0 + 0.2, 1 + [(0)(1) - (0)^2] \cdot 0.2) \\ &\approx (0.2, 1) \\ &\swarrow\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}(0.2,1) &\rightarrow \left(0.2 + \text{step size}, y(0.2) + \left[\frac{dy}{dx} \text{ at } (0.2,1) \right] \cdot (\text{step size}) \right) \\ &\approx (0.2 + 0.2, 1 + [(0.2)(1) - (0.2)^2] \cdot 0.2) \\ &\approx (0.4, 1.032)\end{aligned}$$

$$y(0.4) \approx 1.032$$