



# 4<sup>th</sup>-order Runge Kutta and the Dormand-Prince Methods

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# Outline

This topic discusses advanced numerical solutions to initial value problems:

- Weighted averages and integration techniques
- Runge-Kutta methods
- 4<sup>th</sup>-order Runge Kutta
- Adaptive methods
- The Dormand-Prince method
  - The Matlab ode45 function

# Outcomes Based Learning Objectives

By the end of this laboratory, you will:

- Understand the 4<sup>th</sup>-order Runge-Kutta method
- Comprehend why adaptive methods are required to reduce the error but also reduce the effort
- Understand the algorithm for the Dormand-Prince method

# Weighted Averages

The average of five numbers  $x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4$ , and  $x_5$  is:

$$\bar{x} = \frac{x_1 + x_2 + x_3 + x_4 + x_5}{5} = \frac{1}{5}x_1 + \frac{1}{5}x_2 + \frac{1}{5}x_3 + \frac{1}{5}x_4 + \frac{1}{5}x_5$$

Suppose these were project grades and the last two projects had twice the weight of the other projects

- We can calculate the following *weighted average*:

$$\frac{1}{7}x_1 + \frac{1}{7}x_2 + \frac{1}{7}x_3 + \frac{2}{7}x_4 + \frac{2}{7}x_5$$



# Weighted Averages

In fact, any combination scalars of  $a_1$ ,  $a_2$ ,  $a_3$ ,  $a_4$ , and  $a_5$  such that

$$a_1 + a_2 + a_3 + a_4 + a_5 = 1$$

allows us to calculate the weighted average

$$a_1 x_1 + a_2 x_2 + a_3 x_3 + a_4 x_4 + a_5 x_5$$

It is also possible to have negative weights:

$$\frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{3} - \frac{1}{3} = 1$$

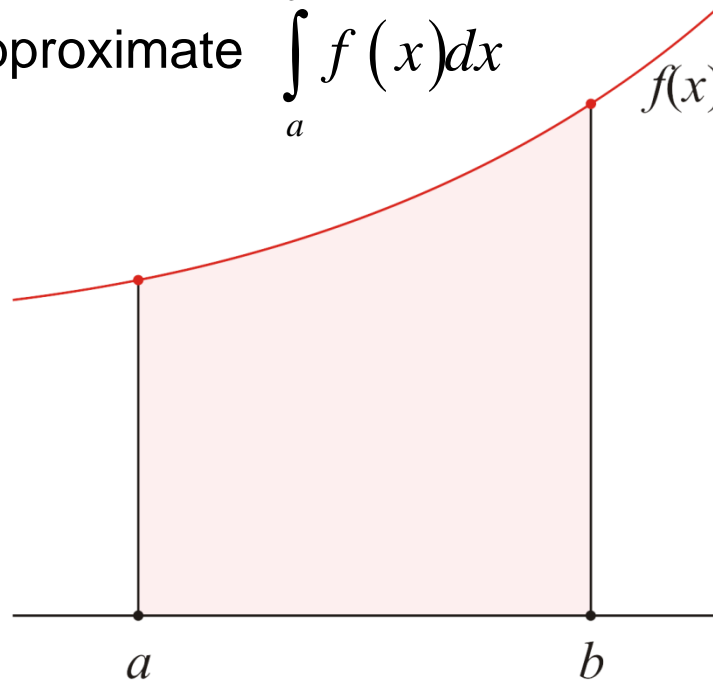
$$\frac{1}{3} x_1 + \frac{1}{3} x_2 + \frac{1}{3} x_3 + \frac{1}{3} x_4 - \frac{1}{3} x_5$$

Richardson extrapolation weights:  $\frac{4}{3} - \frac{1}{3} = 1$ ,  $\frac{16}{15} - \frac{1}{15} = 1$

# Integration

We will motivate this next idea by looking at approximating integrals

- We wish to approximate  $\int_a^b f(x)dx$

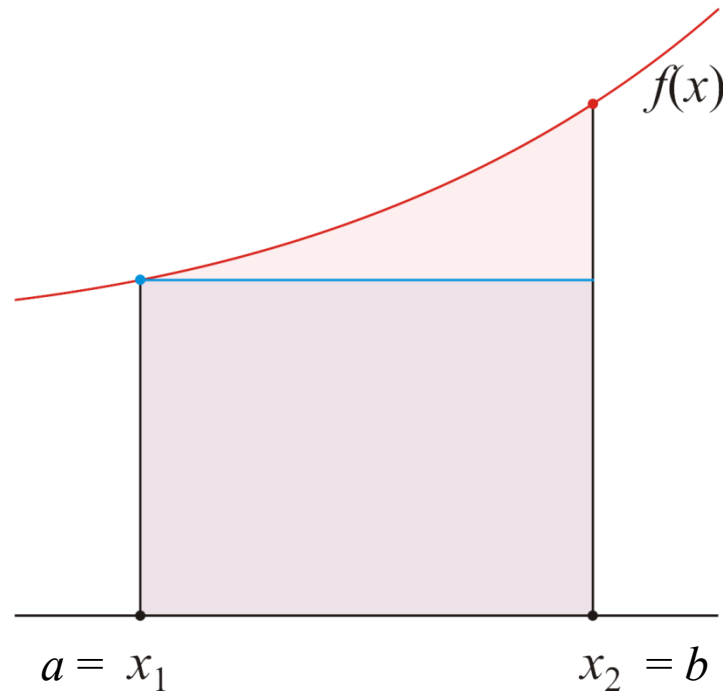


# Integration

In first year, you would have seen the approximation:

- Approximate the integral by calculating the area of the square

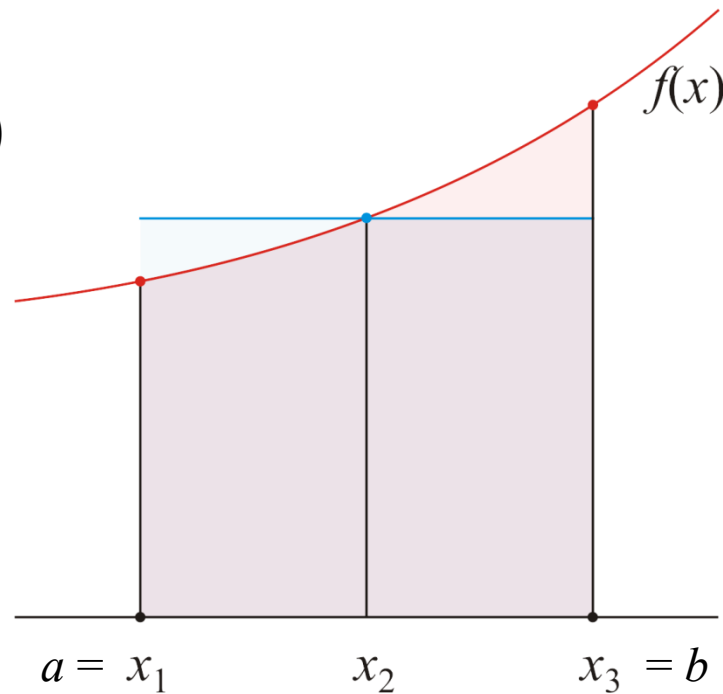
$$\int_a^b f(x) dx \approx f(x_1)(x_2 - x_1)$$



# Integration

Alternatively, you could use the mid-point:

$$\int_a^b f(x) dx \approx f(x_2)(x_3 - x_1)$$



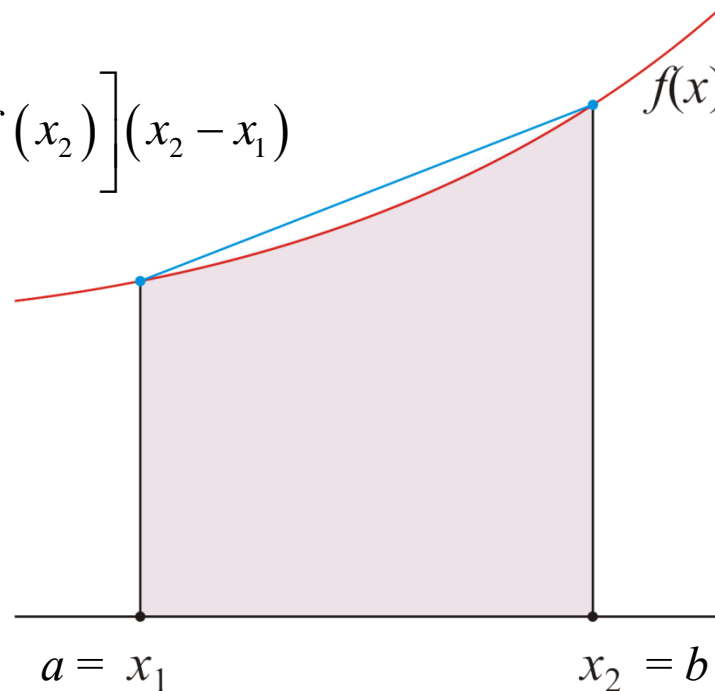


# Integration

Or, take a weighted average of the two end points

- This weighted average calculates the area of the trapezoid

$$\int_a^b f(x) dx \approx \left[ \frac{1}{2} f(x_1) + \frac{1}{2} f(x_2) \right] (x_2 - x_1)$$



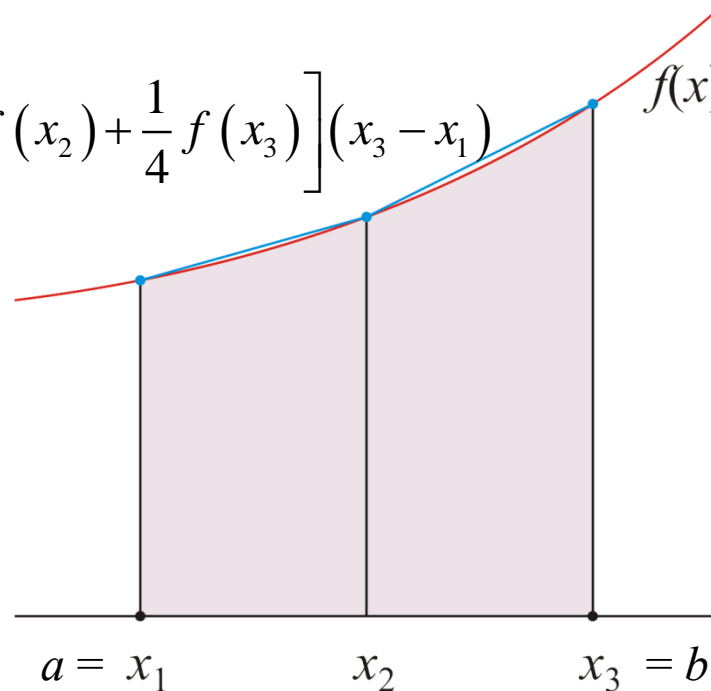
The *trapezoidal* rule

# Integration

We could take a weighted average of three points

- This calculates the area of two trapezoids

$$\int_a^b f(x) dx \approx \left[ \frac{1}{4} f(x_1) + \frac{1}{2} f(x_2) + \frac{1}{4} f(x_3) \right] (x_3 - x_1)$$



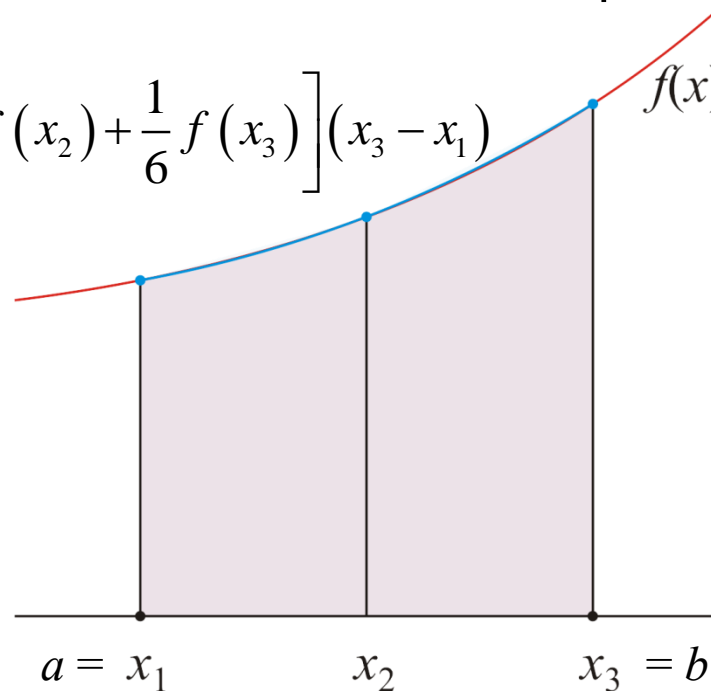
The *composite*  
trapezoidal rule

# Integration

A better approximation is to give more weight to the mid point

- This calculates the area under the interpolating quadratic function

$$\int_a^b f(x) dx \approx \left[ \frac{1}{6} f(x_1) + \frac{2}{3} f(x_2) + \frac{1}{6} f(x_3) \right] (x_3 - x_1)$$



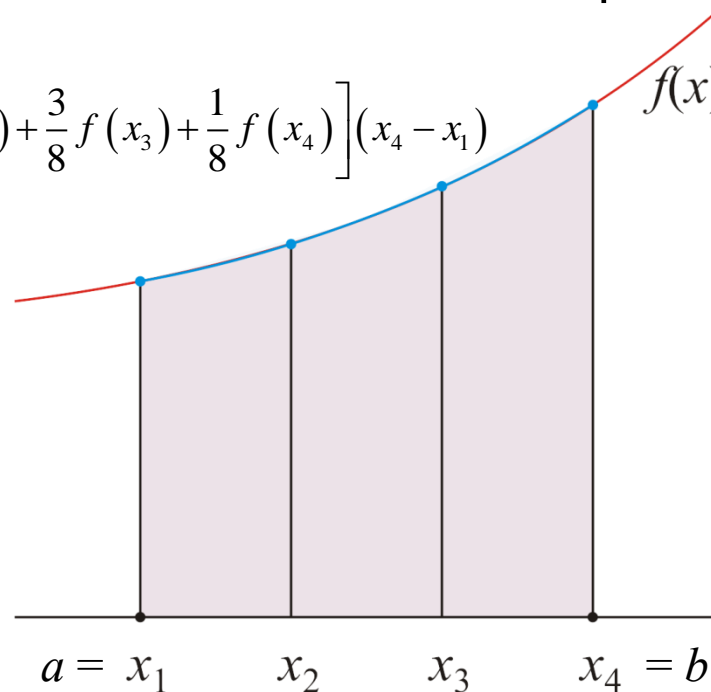
*Simpson's rule*

# Integration

We can increase the number of points and use other weights

- This calculates the area under the interpolating quadratic function

$$\int_a^b f(x) dx \approx \left[ \frac{1}{8} f(x_1) + \frac{3}{8} f(x_2) + \frac{3}{8} f(x_3) + \frac{1}{8} f(x_4) \right] (x_4 - x_1)$$



Simpson's  $3/8$  rule

# Initial-value Problems

We will use the same weighted average idea to find better approximations of an initial-value problem

In the last laboratory, we saw

- Euler's method
- Heun's method

In this laboratory, we will see:

- The 4<sup>th</sup>-order Runge Kutta method
- The Dormand-Prince method

Both use weighted averages

# Initial-value Problems

Recall that given a 1<sup>st</sup>-order ordinary-differential equation and an initial condition

$$y^{(1)}(t) = f(t, y(t))$$

Then, given an initial condition

$$y(t_0) = y_0$$

we would like to approximate a solution

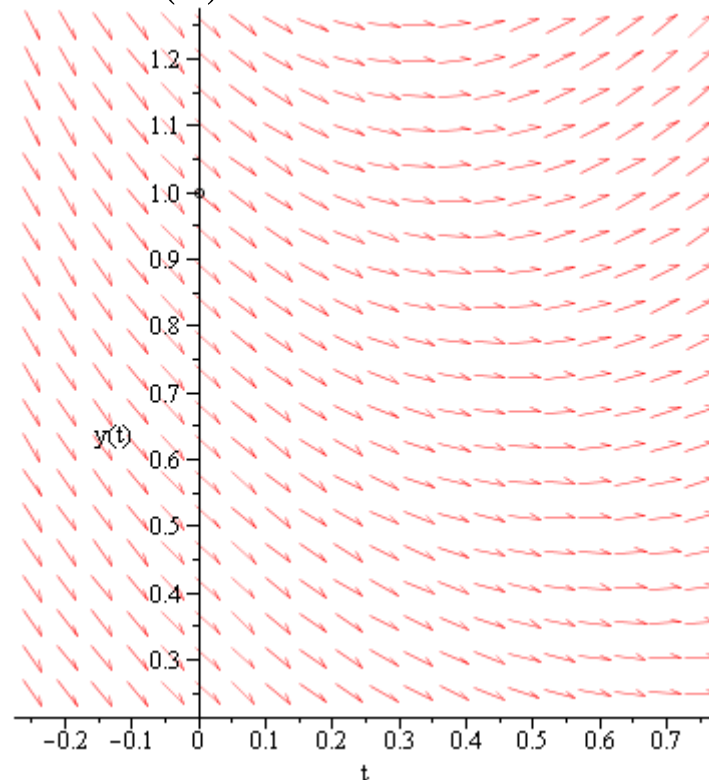


# Initial-value Problems

For example, consider

$$y^{(1)}(t) = y(t)(2-t)t + t - 1$$

$$y(0) = 1$$

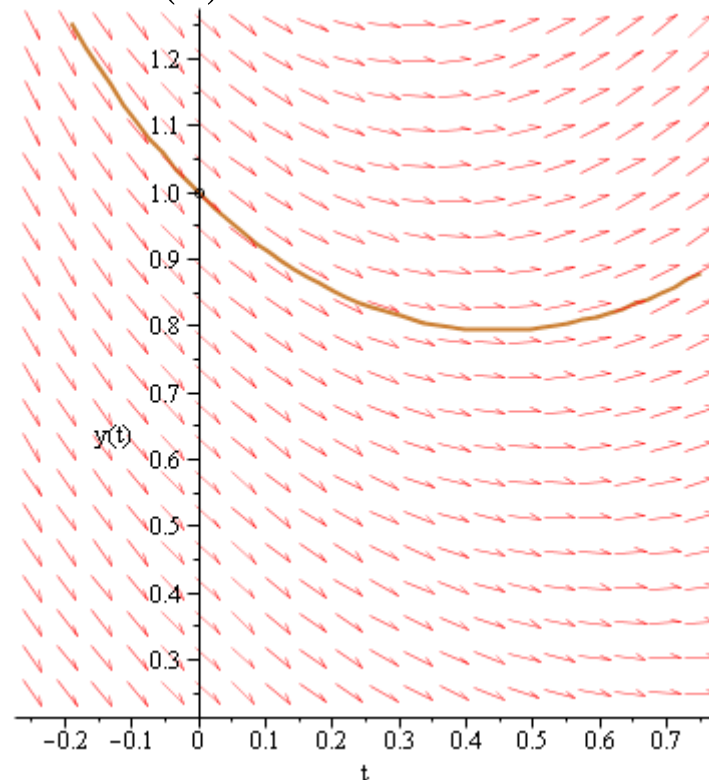


# Initial-value Problems

For example, consider

$$y^{(1)}(t) = y(t)(2-t)t + t - 1$$

$$y(0) = 1$$



# Euler's Method

Euler's method approximates the slope by taking one sample:  $K_1 = f(t_k, y_k)$

This slope is then used to approximate the next point:

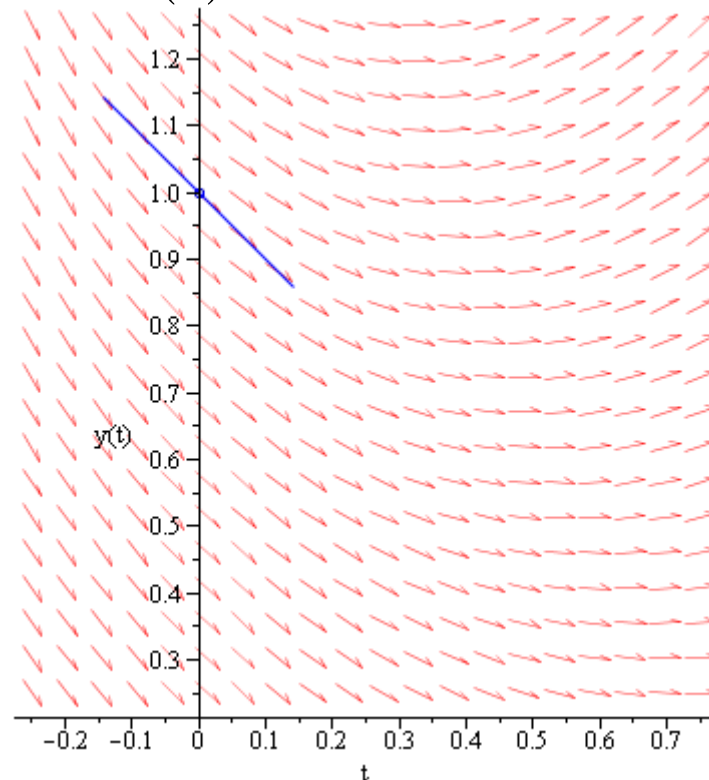
$$y_{k+1} = y_k + hK_1$$

# Euler's Method

In our example, if  $h = 0.5$ , we would calculate this slope

$$y^{(1)}(t) = y(t)(2-t)t + t - 1$$

$$y(0) = 1$$



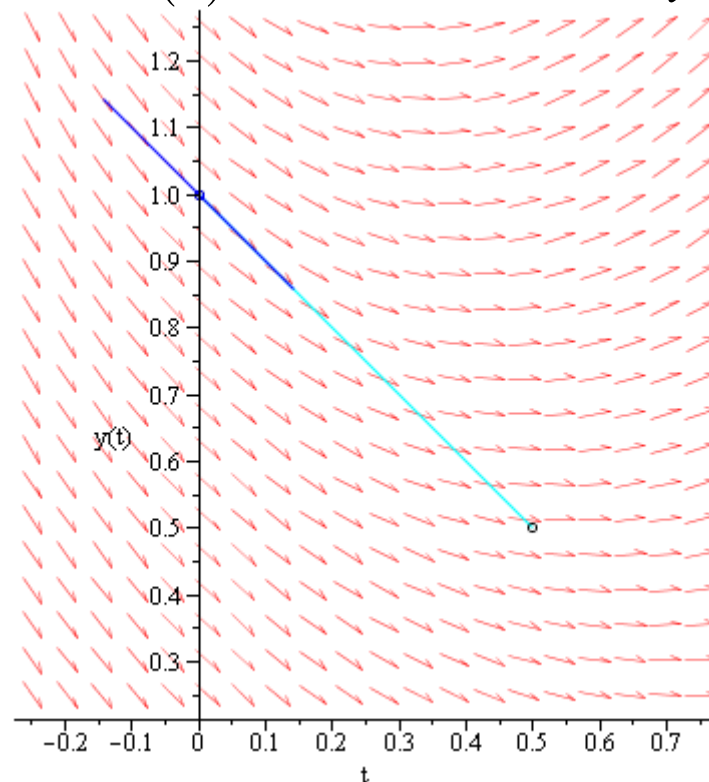
# Euler's Method

We follow this slope a distance  $h = 0.5$  out:

$$y^{(1)}(t) = y(t)(2-t)t + t - 1$$

$$y(0) = 1$$

$$y(0.5) \approx y_1 = y_0 + 0.5 \cdot (-1) \\ = 1 - 0.5 = 0.5$$

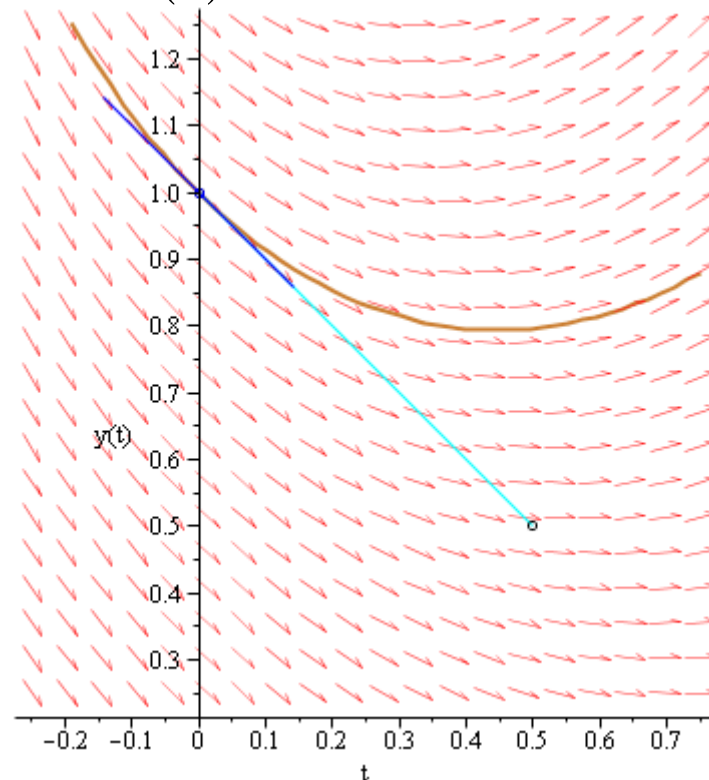


# Euler's Method

The approximation is not great if  $h$  is too large:

$$y^{(1)}(t) = y(t)(2-t)t + t - 1$$

$$y(0) = 1$$





# Heun's Method

Heun's method approximates the slope by taking two samples:

$$K_1 = f(t_k, y_k)$$

$$K_2 = f(t_k + h, y_k + hK_1)$$

The average of the two slopes is used to approximate the next point:

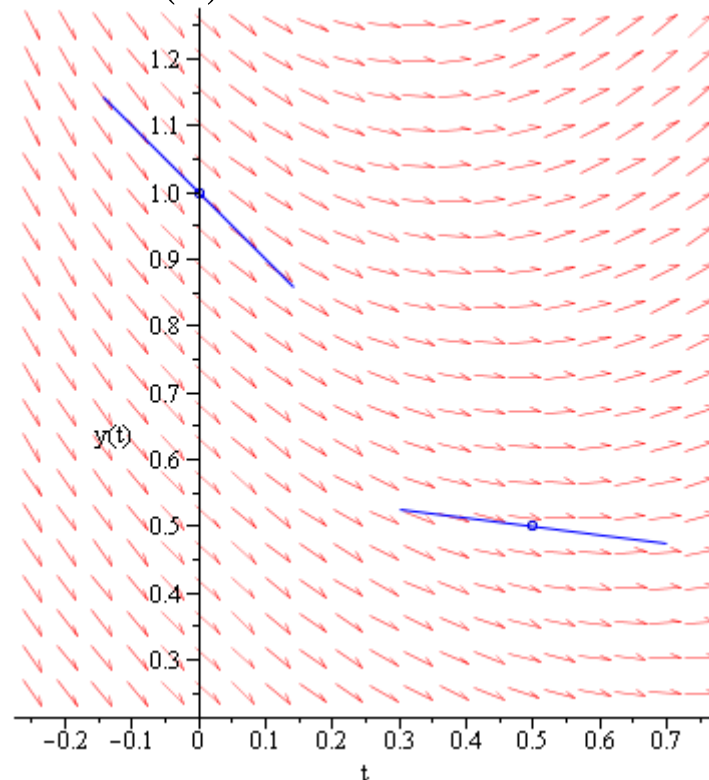
$$y_{k+1} = y_k + h \frac{K_1 + K_2}{2}$$

# Heun's Method

For Heun's method, we calculate a second slope:

$$y^{(1)}(t) = y(t)(2-t)t + t - 1$$

$$y(0) = 1$$



$$K_1 = -1$$

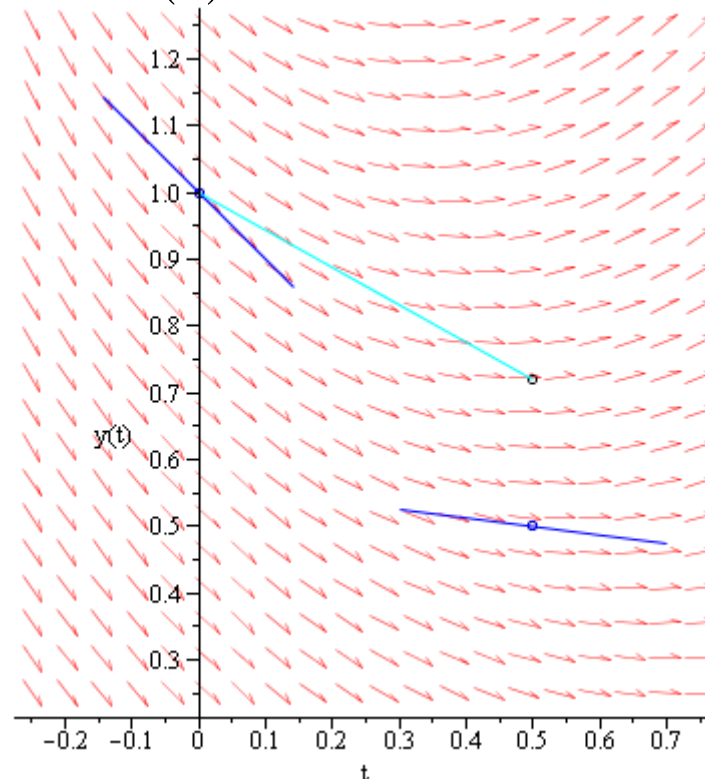
$$\begin{aligned} K_2 &= f(0.5, 0.5) \\ &= 0.5 \cdot 1.5 \cdot 0.5 + 0.5 - 1 \\ &= -0.125 \end{aligned}$$

# Heun's Method

Take the average, and follow this average slope out:

$$y^{(1)}(t) = y(t)(2-t)t + t - 1$$

$$y(0) = 1$$



$$\frac{K_1 + K_1}{2} = \frac{-1 + (-0.125)}{2}$$

$$= -0.5625$$

$$y(0.5) \approx$$

$$y_1 = 1 + 0.5 \cdot (-0.5625)$$

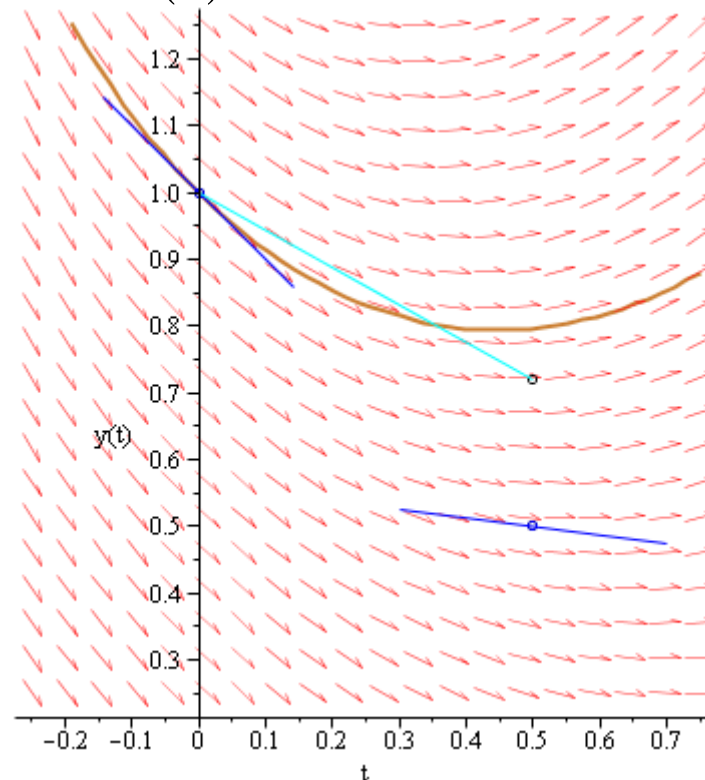
$$= 0.71875$$

# Heun's Method

The approximation is better than Euler's method

$$y^{(1)}(t) = y(t)(2-t)t + t - 1$$

$$y(0) = 1$$



$$\begin{aligned} \frac{K_1 + K_2}{2} &= \frac{-1 + (-0.125)}{2} \\ &= -0.5625 \end{aligned}$$

# Mid-point Method

One idea we did not look at was the midpoint method:

- Use Euler's method to find in the slope in the middle with  $h/2$ :

$$K_1 = f(t_k, y_k)$$

$$K_2 = f\left(t_k + \left(\frac{1}{2}h\right), y_k + \left(\frac{1}{2}h\right)(K_1)\right)$$

This second slope is then used to approximate the next point:

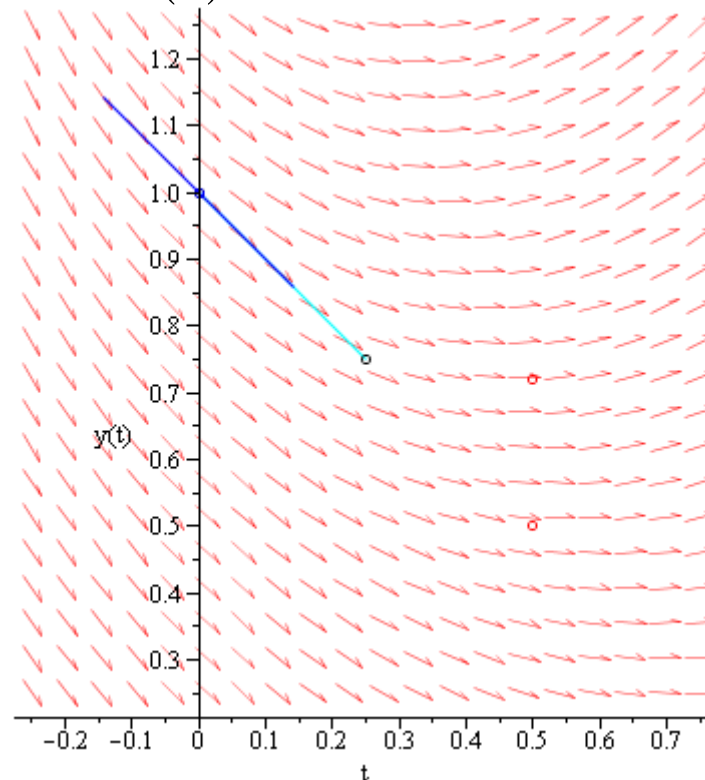
$$y_{k+1} = y_k + hK_2$$

# Mid-point Method

Use Euler's method to find a point going out  $h/2$ :

$$y^{(1)}(t) = y(t)(2-t)t + t - 1$$

$$y(0) = 1$$



$$K_1 = f(0, 1)$$

$$\begin{aligned} K_2 &= f(0.25, 1 + 0.25(-1)) \\ &= f(0.25, 0.75) \\ &= -0.421875 \end{aligned}$$



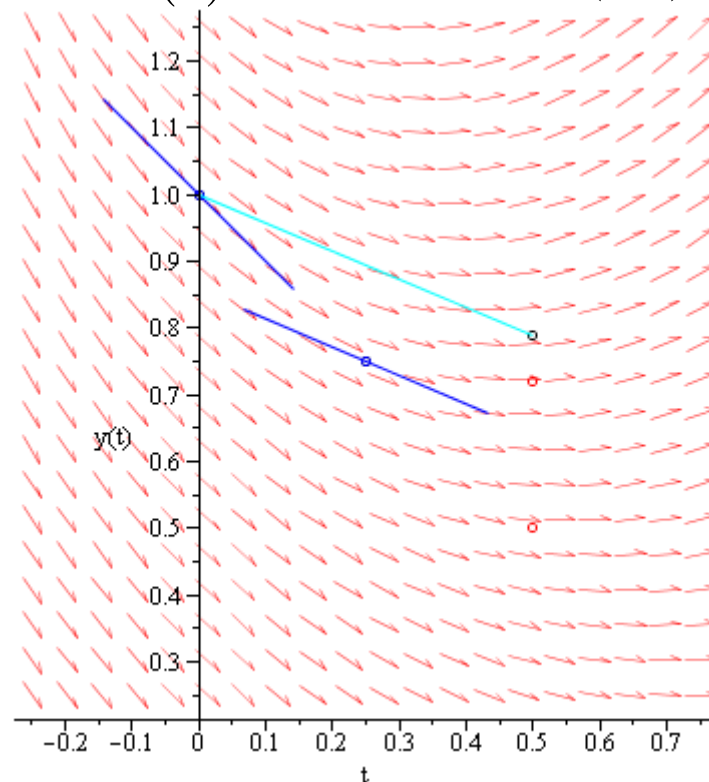
# Mid-point Method

Calculate the slope and use this to approximate  $y(0.5)$ :

$$y^{(1)}(t) = y(t)(2-t)t + t - 1$$

$$y(0) = 1$$

$$y(0.5) \approx y_1 = 1 + 0.5 \cdot (-0.421875) = 0.7890625$$

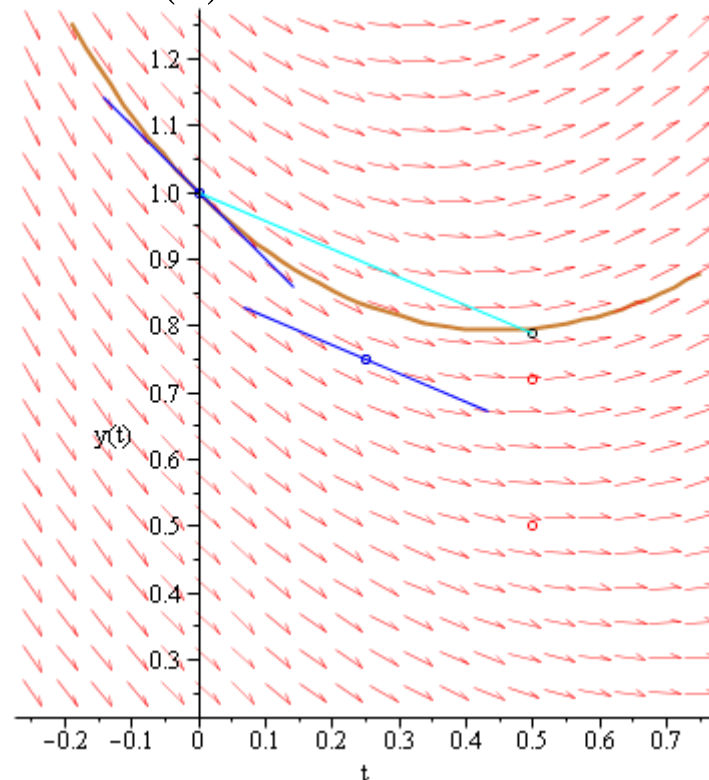


# Mid-point Method

The approximation is better than Heun's

$$y^{(1)}(t) = y(t)(2-t)t + t - 1$$

$$y(0) = 1$$



# 4<sup>th</sup>-order Runge-Kutta Method

The 4<sup>th</sup>-order Runge Kutta method is similar; again, starting at the midpoint  $t_k + h/2$ :

$$K_1 = f(t_k, y_k)$$

$$K_2 = f\left(t_k + \frac{1}{2}h, y_k + \frac{1}{2}h \cdot K_1\right)$$

# 4<sup>th</sup>-order Runge-Kutta Method

However, we then sample the mid-point again:

$$K_1 = f(t_k, y_k)$$

$$K_2 = f\left(t_k + \frac{1}{2}h, y_k + \frac{1}{2}h \cdot K_1\right)$$

$$K_3 = f\left(t_k + \frac{1}{2}h, y_k + \frac{1}{2}h \cdot K_2\right)$$

# 4<sup>th</sup>-order Runge-Kutta Method

We use this 3<sup>rd</sup> slope to find a point at  $t_k + h$ :

$$K_1 = f(t_k, y_k)$$

$$K_2 = f\left(t_k + \frac{1}{2}h, y_k + \frac{1}{2}h \cdot K_1\right)$$

$$K_3 = f\left(t_k + \frac{1}{2}h, y_k + \frac{1}{2}h \cdot K_2\right)$$

$$K_4 = f(t_k + h, y_k + h \cdot K_3)$$

# 4<sup>th</sup>-order Runge-Kutta Method

We then use a weighted average of these four slopes

$$K_1 = f(t_k, y_k)$$

$$K_2 = f\left(t_k + \frac{1}{2}h, y_k + \frac{1}{2}h \cdot K_1\right)$$

$$K_3 = f\left(t_k + \frac{1}{2}h, y_k + \frac{1}{2}h \cdot K_2\right)$$

$$K_4 = f(t_k + h, y_k + h \cdot K_3)$$

and approximate  $y_{k+1} = y_k + h\left(\frac{1}{6}K_1 + \frac{1}{3}K_2 + \frac{1}{3}K_3 + \frac{1}{6}K_4\right)$

Compare with Heun's method:

$$K_1 = f(t_k, y_k)$$

$$K_2 = f(t_k + h, y_k + hK_1) \quad y_{k+1} = y_k + h\left(\frac{1}{2}K_1 + \frac{1}{2}K_2\right)$$

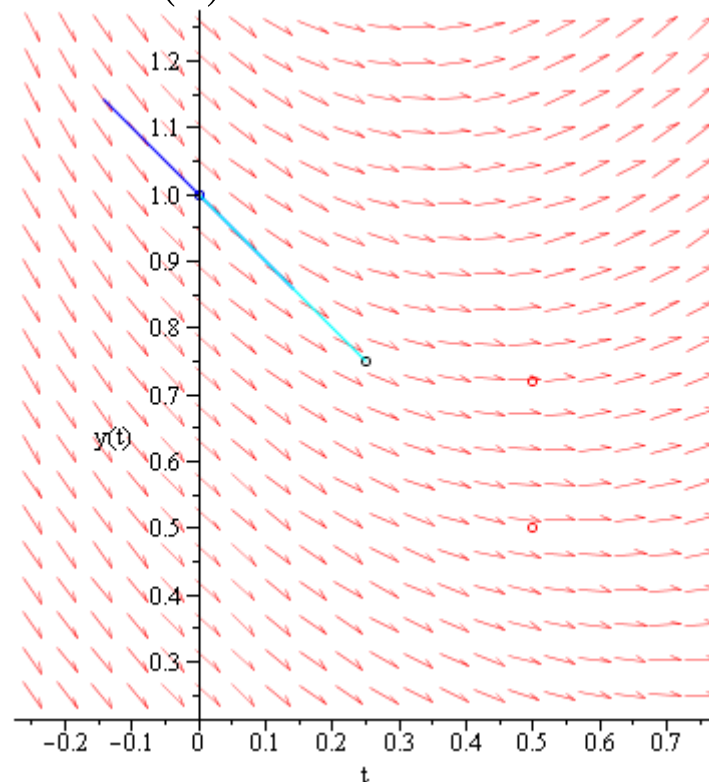


# 4<sup>th</sup>-order Runge-Kutta Method

Follow the slope to the mid-point

$$y^{(1)}(t) = y(t)(2-t)t + t - 1$$

$$y(0) = 1$$

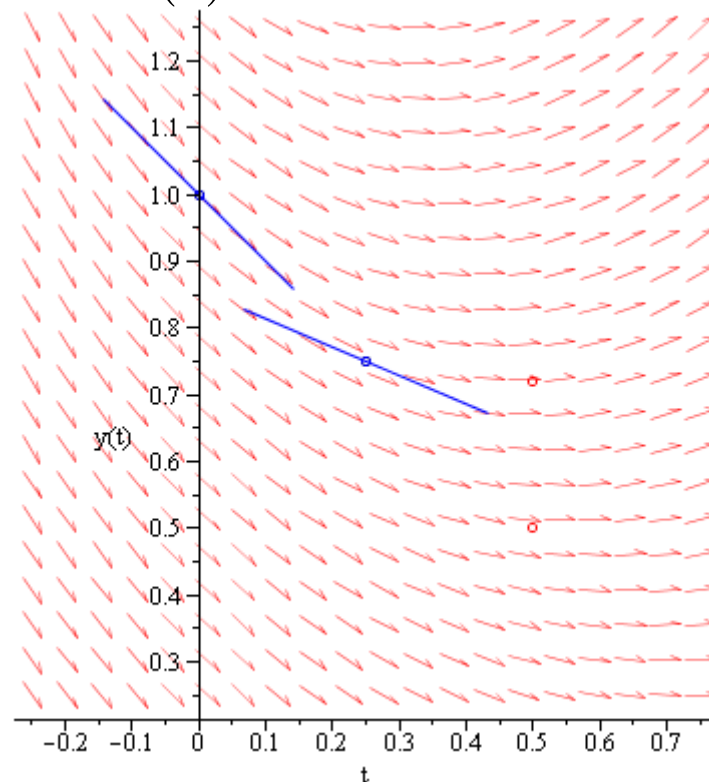


# 4<sup>th</sup>-order Runge-Kutta Method

Determine this slope,  $K_2$ :

$$y^{(1)}(t) = y(t)(2-t)t + t - 1$$

$$y(0) = 1$$

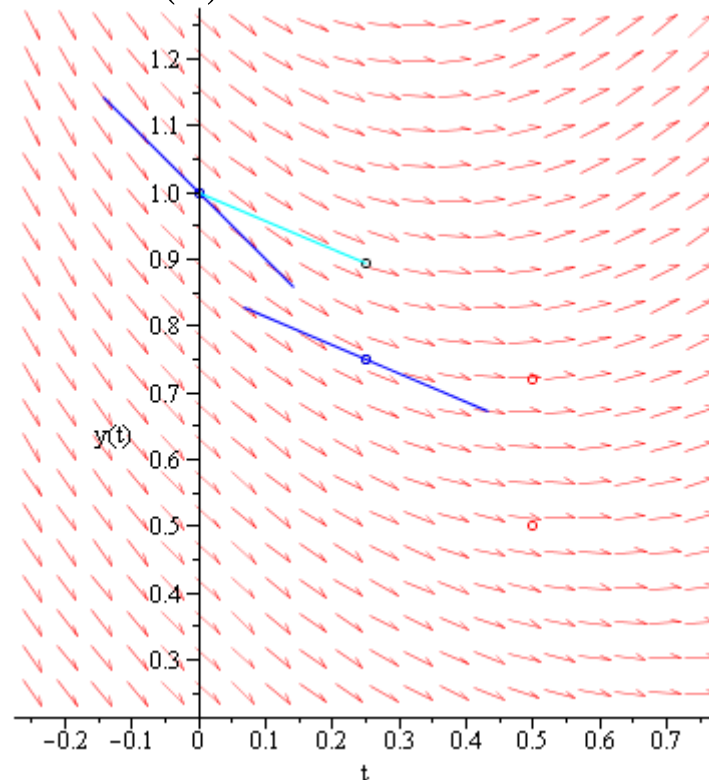


# 4<sup>th</sup>-order Runge-Kutta Method

Follow the slope  $K_2$  out a distance  $h/2$ :

$$y^{(1)}(t) = y(t)(2-t)t + t - 1$$

$$y(0) = 1$$

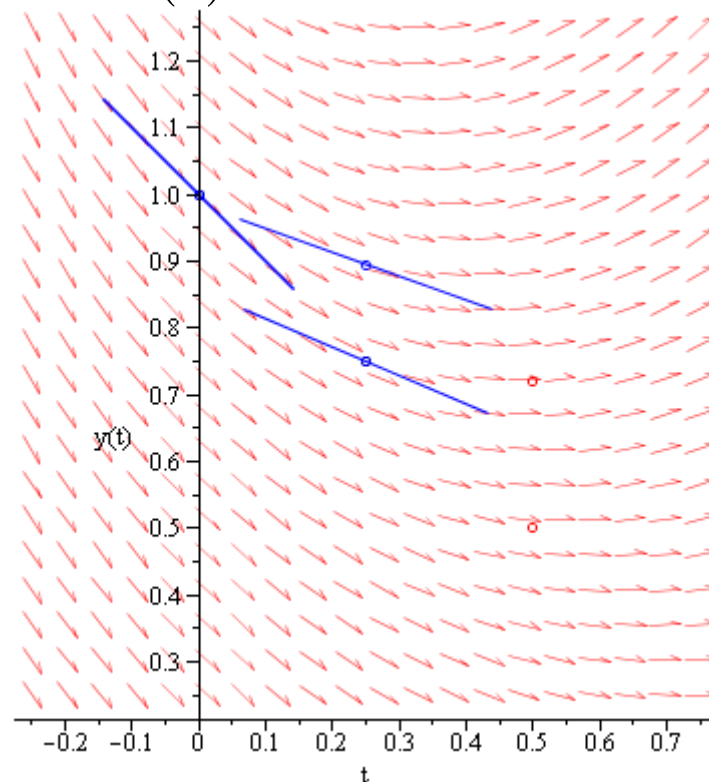


# 4<sup>th</sup>-order Runge-Kutta Method

Determine this slope,  $K_3$ :

$$y^{(1)}(t) = y(t)(2-t)t + t - 1$$

$$y(0) = 1$$

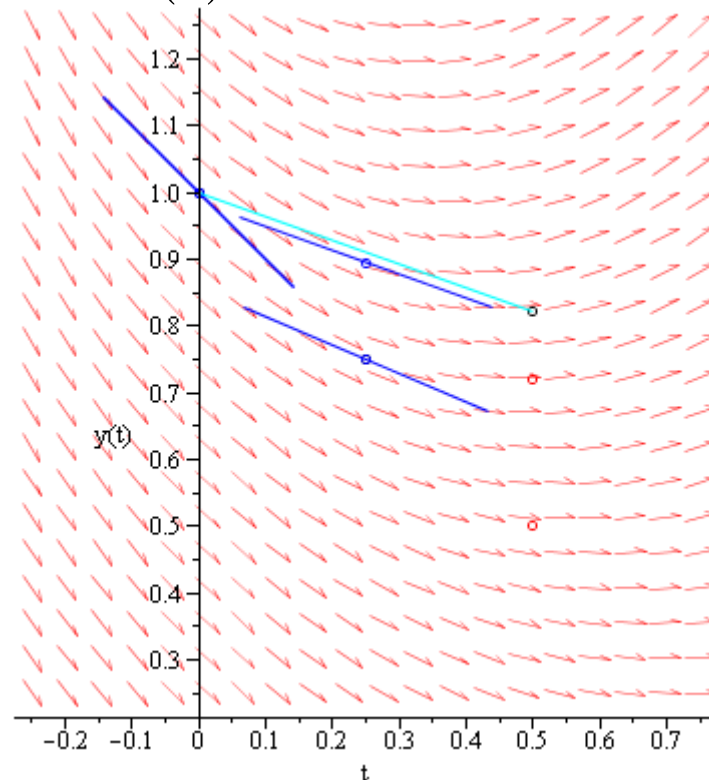


# 4<sup>th</sup>-order Runge-Kutta Method

Follow the slope  $K_3$  out a distance  $h$ :

$$y^{(1)}(t) = y(t)(2-t)t + t - 1$$

$$y(0) = 1$$

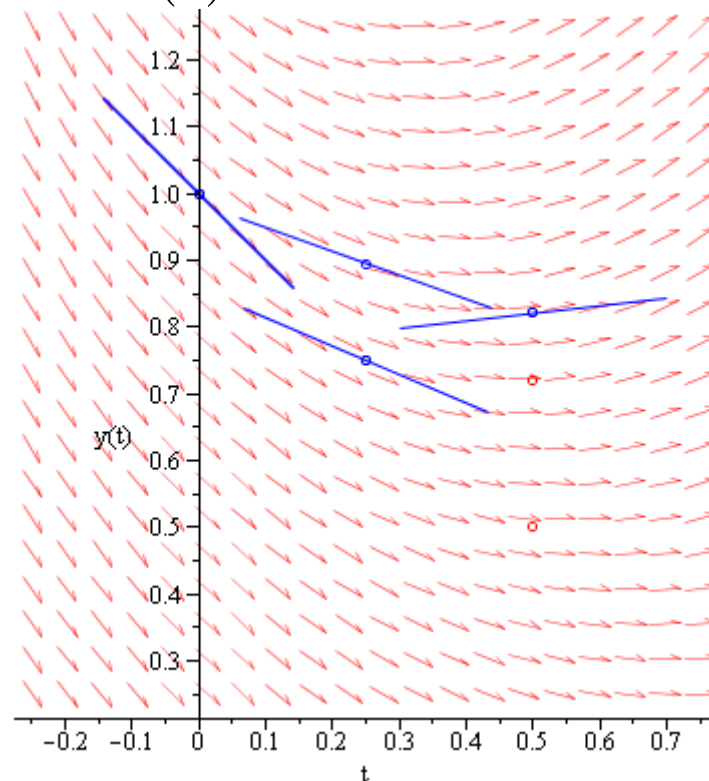


# 4<sup>th</sup>-order Runge-Kutta Method

Determine this slope,  $K_4$ :

$$y^{(1)}(t) = y(t)(2-t)t + t - 1$$

$$y(0) = 1$$

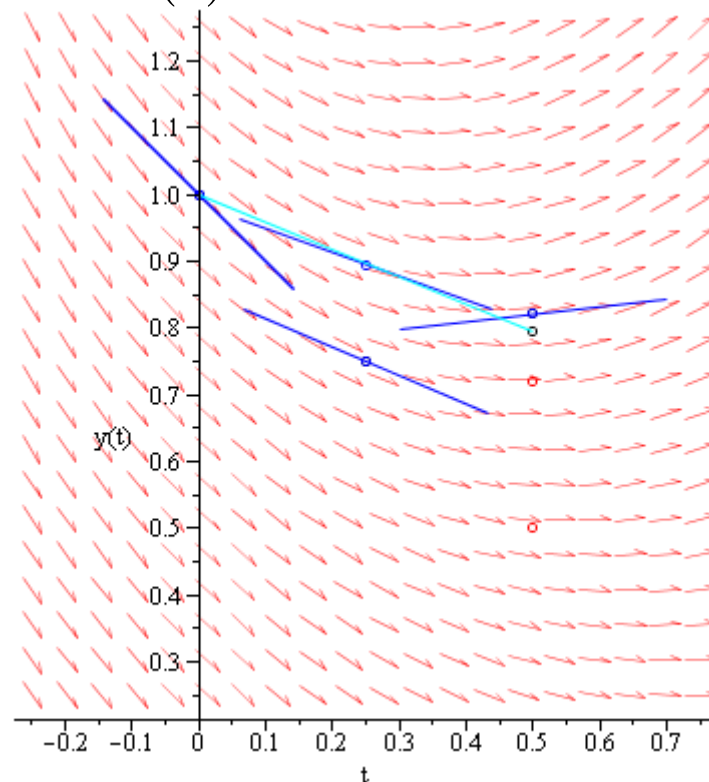


# 4<sup>th</sup>-order Runge-Kutta Method

Take a weighted average of the four slopes:

$$y^{(1)}(t) = y(t)(2-t)t + t - 1$$

$$y(0) = 1$$

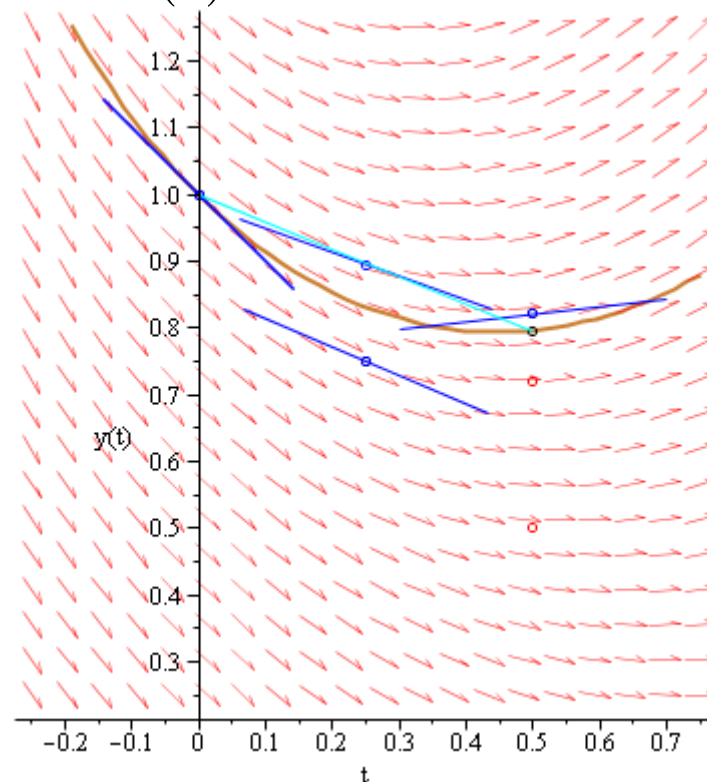


# 4<sup>th</sup>-order Runge-Kutta Method

The approximation looks pretty good:

$$y^{(1)}(t) = y(t)(2-t)t + t - 1$$

$$y(0) = 1$$





# 4<sup>th</sup>-order Runge-Kutta Method

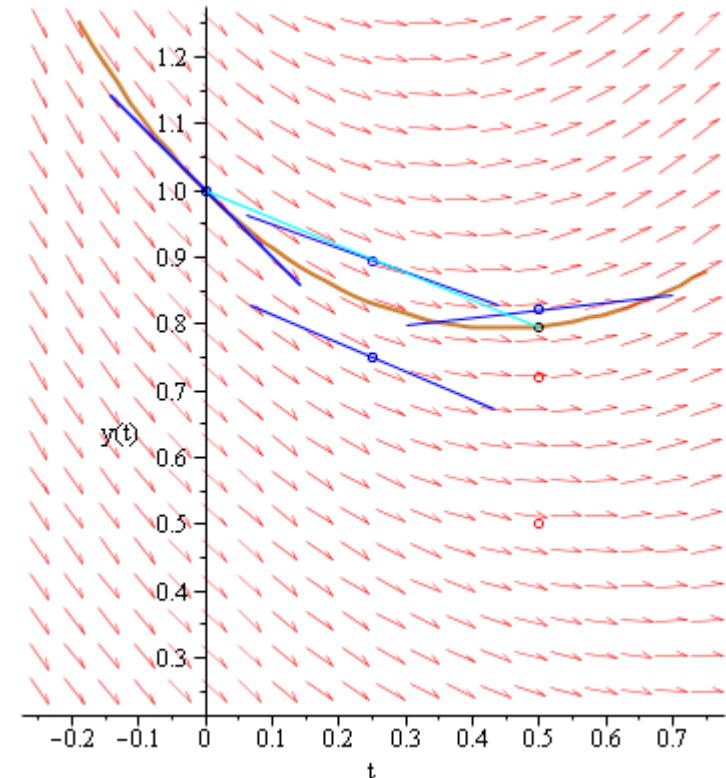
Let's compare the approximations:

$$y^{(1)}(t) = y(t)(2-t)t + t - 1$$

$$y(0) = 1$$

$$y(0.5) = 0.7963901345956429\dots$$

Euler:	0.5
Heun:	0.71875
Mid-point:	0.7890625
4 <sup>th</sup> -order R-K:	0.79620615641666...

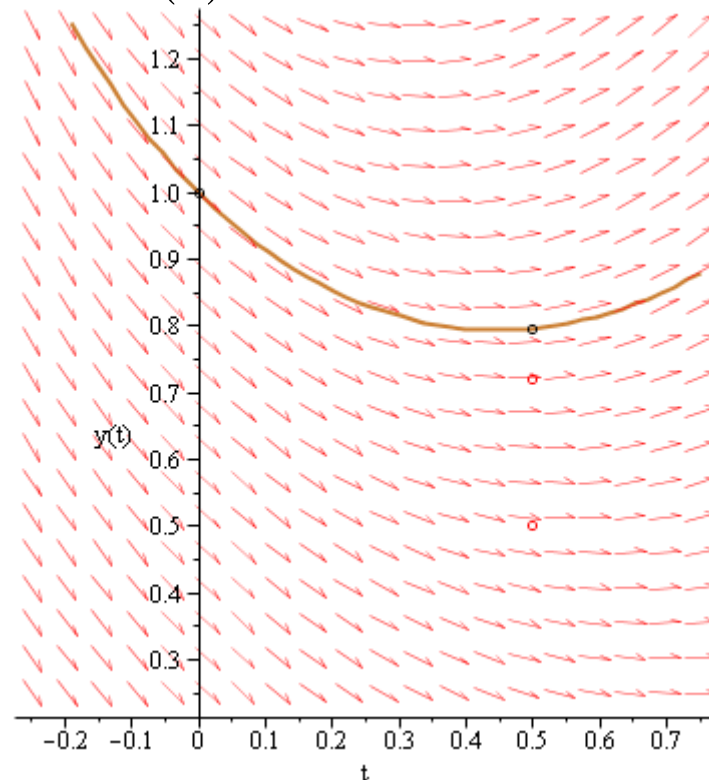


# 4<sup>th</sup>-order Runge-Kutta Method

Remember, however, this took four function evaluations

$$y^{(1)}(t) = y(t)(2-t)t + t - 1$$

$$y(0) = 1$$

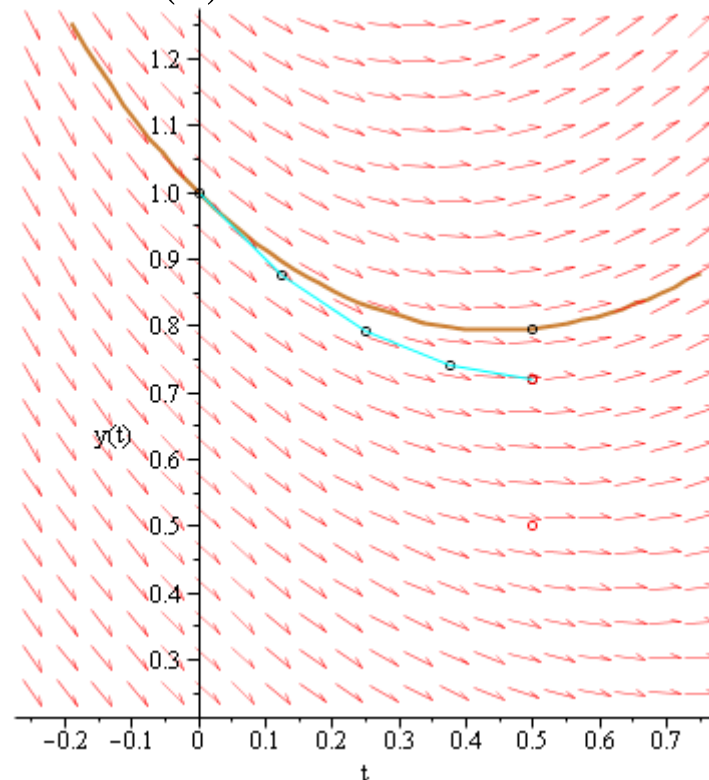


# 4<sup>th</sup>-order Runge-Kutta Method

Four steps of Euler's method is about as good as Heun's

$$y^{(1)}(t) = y(t)(2-t)t + t - 1$$

$$y(0) = 1$$

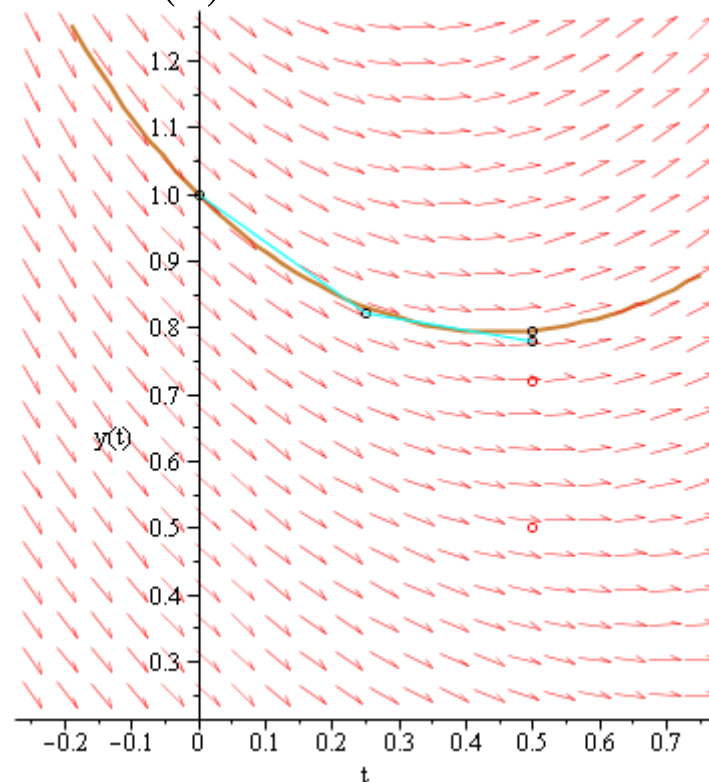


# 4<sup>th</sup>-order Runge-Kutta Method

Even two steps of Heun's method isn't as accurate

$$y^{(1)}(t) = y(t)(2-t)t + t - 1$$

$$y(0) = 1$$



# 4<sup>th</sup>-order Runge-Kutta Method

As an example,

```
>> format long
>> [t2a, y2a] = rk4( @f2a, [0, 1], 0, 2 )
t2a =
    0    1
y2a =
    0    0.265706380208333
>> [t2a, y2a] = rk4( @f2a, [0, 1], 0, 3 )
t2a =
    0    0.500000000000000    1.000000000000000
y2a =
    0    0.227653163407674    0.251787629335613
>> [t2a, y2a] = rk4( @f2a, [0, 1], 0, 4 )
t2a =
    0    0.333333333333333    0.666666666666667    1.000000000000000
y2a =
    0    0.190364751129471    0.243328110416578    0.250335465183716
```

# 4<sup>th</sup>-order Runge-Kutta Method

This is easily enough implemented in Matlab:

$$K_1 = f(t_k, y_k)$$

$$K_2 = f\left(t_k + \frac{1}{2}h, y_k + \frac{1}{2}h \cdot K_1\right)$$

$$K_3 = f\left(t_k + \frac{1}{2}h, y_k + \frac{1}{2}h \cdot K_2\right)$$

$$K_4 = f(t_k + h, y_k + h \cdot K_3)$$

$$y_{k+1} = y_k + h\left(\frac{1}{6}K_1 + \frac{1}{3}K_2 + \frac{1}{3}K_3 + \frac{1}{6}K_4\right)$$

```
for k = 1:(n - 1)
    % Find the four slopes K1, K2, K3, K4

    % Given y(k), find y(k + 1) by adding
    % h times the weighted average
end
```

# Runge-Kutta Methods

Carl Runge and Martin Kutta observed that, given the first slope

$$K_1 = f(t_k, y_k)$$

we can approximate a second slope:

$$K_2 = f(t_k + c_2 h, y_k + c_2 h K_1)$$

where usually  $0 < c_2 \leq 1$ , although we will allow  $c_2 > 1$

# Runge-Kutta Methods

Given these two slopes, we can approximate a third:

$$K_3 = f\left(t_k + c_3 h, y_k + c_3 h(a_{3,1}K_1 + a_{3,2}K_2)\right)$$

where  $a_{3,1} + a_{3,2} = 1$  defines a weighted average

At this point, we could take a weighted average of  $K_1$ ,  $K_2$  and  $K_3$  to approximate the next point:

$$y_{k+1} = y_k + h(b_1K_1 + b_2K_2 + b_3K_3)$$

where  $b_1 + b_2 + b_3 = 1$



# Runge-Kutta Methods

The values of these coefficients for 4<sup>th</sup>-order R-K are:

$$K_1 = f(t_k, y_k)$$

$$K_2 = f\left(t_k + \frac{1}{2}h, y_k + \frac{1}{2}h \cdot K_1\right)$$

$$K_3 = f\left(t_k + \frac{1}{2}h, y_k + \frac{1}{2}h \cdot K_2\right)$$

$$K_4 = f(t_k + h, y_k + h \cdot K_3)$$

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}';$$

$$c = [0 \quad 1/2 \quad 1/2 \quad 1]';$$

$$b = [1/6 \quad 1/3 \quad 1/3 \quad 1/6];$$

$$y_{k+1} = y_k + h\left(\frac{1}{6}K_1 + \frac{1}{3}K_2 + \frac{1}{3}K_3 + \frac{1}{6}K_4\right)$$

<b>c</b>	<b>A</b>
	<b>b</b>

0				
$\frac{1}{2}$	1			
$\frac{1}{2}$	0	1		
1	0	0	1	
	$\frac{1}{6}$	$\frac{1}{3}$	$\frac{1}{3}$	$\frac{1}{6}$

# Runge-Kutta Methods

Using these vectors, we simply access them...

```
A = [0 0 0 0
      1 0 0 0
      0 1 0 0
      0 0 1 0]';
c = [0 1/2 1/2 1]';
b = [1/6 1/3 1/3 1/6]';
```

```
t0 = t_rng(1);
tf = t_rng(2);
h = (tf - t0)/(n - 1);
t_out = linspace( t0, tf, n );
y_out = zeros( 1, n );
y_out(1) = y0;
k_n = 4;
```

```
for k = 1:(n - 1)
    K = zeros( 1, k_n );
```

$$K_1 = f(t_k, y_k)$$

$$K_2 = f\left(t_k + \frac{1}{2}h, y_k + \frac{1}{2}h \cdot K_1\right)$$

$$K_3 = f\left(t_k + \frac{1}{2}h, y_k + \frac{1}{2}h \cdot K_2\right)$$

$$K_4 = f(t_k + h, y_k + h \cdot K_3)$$

```
    for m = 1:k_n
        K(m) = f( t_out(k) + h*c(m), ...
                  y_out(k) + h*c(m)*K*A(:,m) );
```

```
    end
```

```
    y_out(k + 1) = y_out(k) + h*K*b;
```

```
end
```

$$y_{k+1} = y_k + h\left(\frac{1}{6}K_1 + \frac{1}{3}K_2 + \frac{1}{3}K_3 + \frac{1}{6}K_4\right)$$

# Butcher Tableau

These tables are referred to as *Butcher tableaus*:

For Heun's method:

0		
1	1	
<hr/>		
	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$

For the 4<sup>th</sup>-order Runge-Kutta method:

0				
$\frac{1}{2}$	1			
$\frac{1}{2}$	0	1		
1	0	0	1	
<hr/>				
	$\frac{1}{6}$	$\frac{1}{3}$	$\frac{1}{3}$	$\frac{1}{6}$

# Butcher Tableau

Some Butcher tableaus multiply out the scalars:

0				
$\frac{1}{2}$	1			
$\frac{1}{2}$	0	1		
1	0	0	1	
<hr/>				
	$\frac{1}{6}$	$\frac{1}{3}$	$\frac{1}{3}$	$\frac{1}{6}$

0				
$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$			
$\frac{1}{2}$	0	$\frac{1}{2}$		
1	0	0	1	
<hr/>				
	$\frac{1}{6}$	$\frac{1}{3}$	$\frac{1}{3}$	$\frac{1}{6}$

# Comparison

Let's approximate the solutions to last weeks IVPs:

- The initial-value problem

$$y^{(1)}(t) = (y(t) - 1)^2 (t - 1)^2$$

$$y(0) = 0$$

has the solution

$$y(t) = \frac{t^3 - 3t^2 + 3t}{t^3 - 3t^2 + 3t + 3}$$

```
function [dy] = f2a(t, y)
    dy = (y - 1).^2 .* (t - 1).^2;
end
```

```
function [y] = y2a( t )
    y = (t.^3 - 3*t.^2 + 3*t)./(t.^3 - 3*t.^2 + 3*t + 3);
end
```

# Comparison

Being fair, let's keep the number of function evaluations the same:

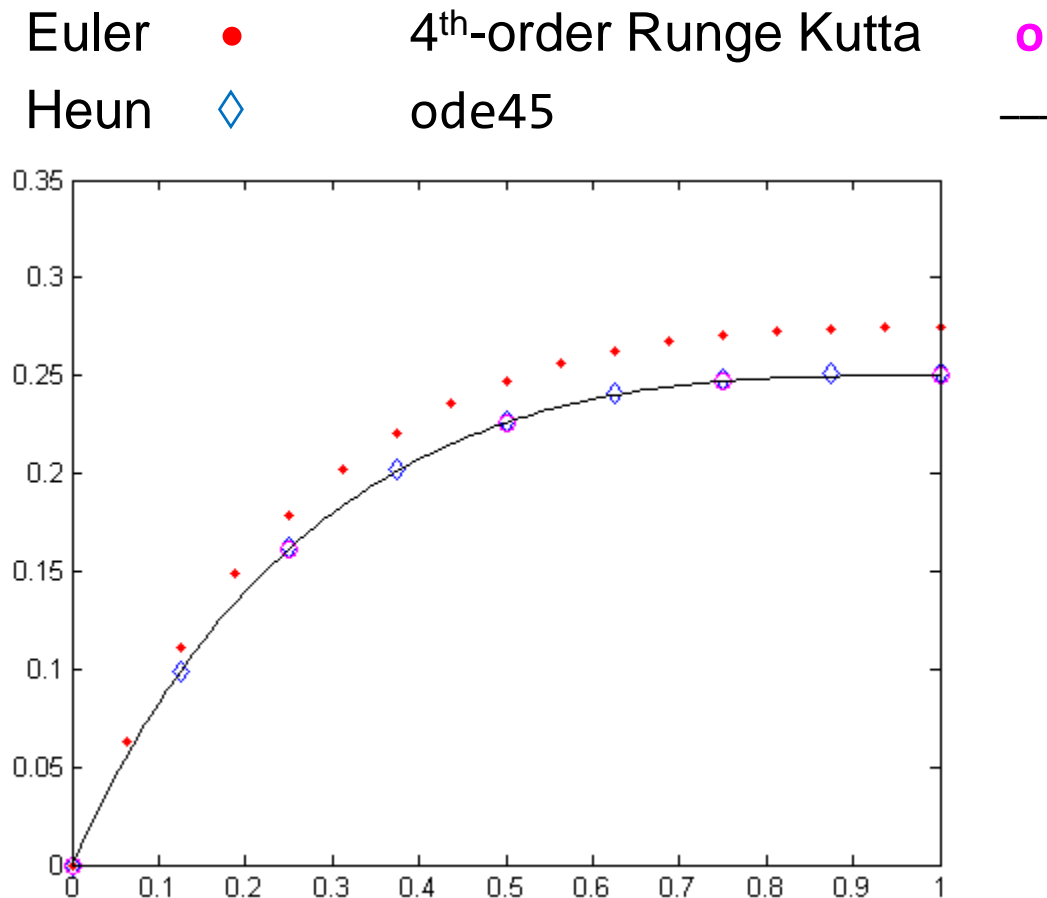
- Euler:  $n = 17$
- Heun:  $n = 9$
- 4<sup>th</sup>-order Runge Kutta  $n = 5$

```
n = 4;
[t2e, y2e] = euler( @f2a, [0, 1], 0, 4*n+1 );
[t2h, y2h] = heun( @f2a, [0, 1], 0, 2*n+1 );
[t2r, y2r] = rk4( @f2a, [0, 1], 0, n+1 );
t2s = linspace( 0, 1, 101 );
```

```
plot( t2e, y2e, 'r.' )
hold on
plot( t2h, y2h, 'd' )
plot( t2r, y2r, 'mo' )
plot( t2s, y2a( t2s ), 'k' )
```

# Comparison

With this IVP, it is difficult to tell which is better at such a scale:



# Comparison

Instead, let's plot the logarithm base 10 of the absolute errors for a greater number of points:

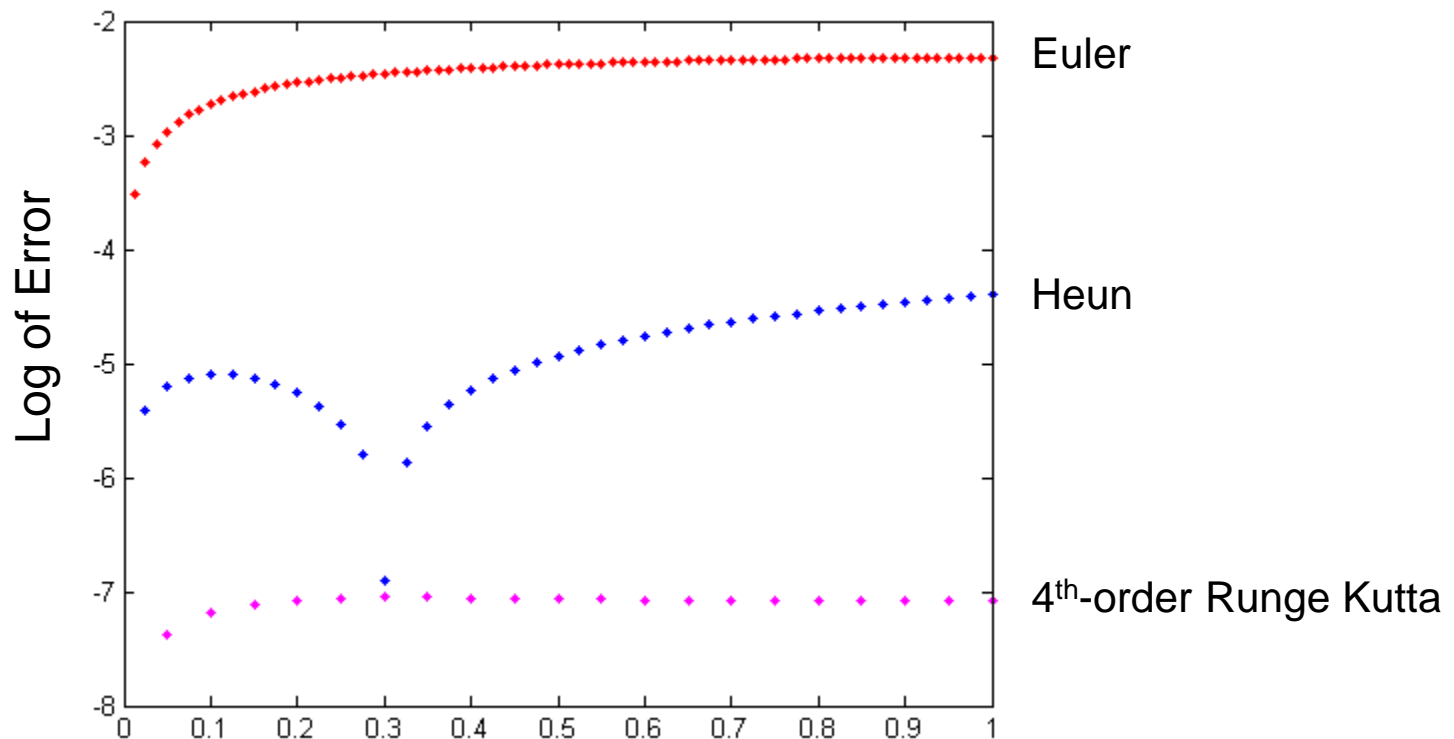
```
n = 20;  
[t2e, y2e] = euler( @f2a, [0, 1], 0, 4*n+1 );  
[t2h, y2h] = heun( @f2a, [0, 1], 0, 2*n+1 );  
[t2r, y2r] = rk4( @f2a, [0, 1], 0, n+1 );  
t2s = linspace( 0, 1, 101 );  
  
plot( t2e, log10(abs(y2e - y2a( t2e ))), '.r' )  
hold on  
plot( t2h, log10(abs(y2h - y2a( t2h ))), '.b' )  
plot( t2r, log10(abs(y2r - y2a( t2r ))), '.m' )
```



# Comparison

Comparing the errors:

- The error for Euler's method is around  $10^{-2}$
- Heun's method has an error around  $10^{-5}$
- The 4<sup>th</sup>-order Runge-Kutta method has an error around  $10^{-7}$



# 4<sup>th</sup>-order Runge Kutta

The other initial value problem we looked at was:

$$y^{(1)}(t) = -t \cdot y(t) + y(t) + t - \cos(y(t))$$

$$y(0) = 1$$

There is no analytic solution, so we had to use ode45:

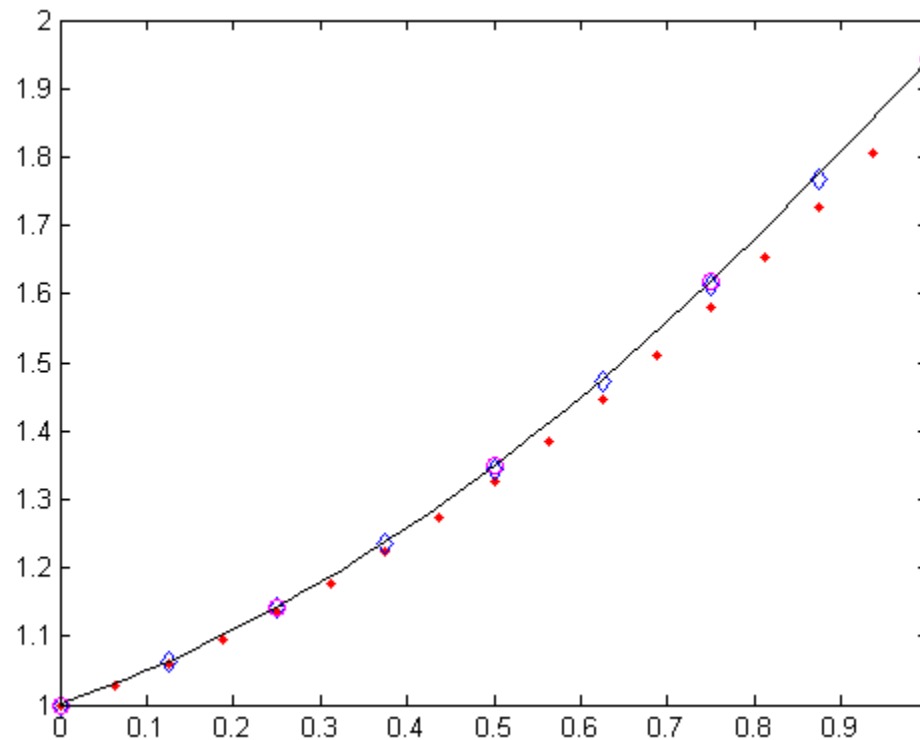
```
n = 4;
[t2e, y2e] = euler( @f2b, [0, 1], 1, 4*n+1 );
[t2h, y2h] = heun( @f2b, [0, 1], 1, 2*n+1 );
[t2r, y2r] = rk4( @f2b, [0, 1], 1, n+1 );
[t2o, y2o] = ode45( @f2b, [0, 1], 1 );

plot( t2e, y2e, 'r.' )
hold on
plot( t2h, y2h, 'bd' )
plot( t2r, y2r, 'mo' )
plot( t2o, y2o, 'k' )
```

# Comparison

With this IVP, it is difficult to tell which is better at such a scale:

Euler     ●     4<sup>th</sup>-order Runge Kutta     ○  
 Heun     ◇     ode45     —



# Comparison

Instead, let's again look at the logarithms of the absolute errors:

```
n = 20;
[t2e, y2e] = euler( @f2b, [0, 1], 1, 4*n+1 );
[t2h, y2h] = heun( @f2b, [0, 1], 1, 2*n+1 );
[t2r, y2r] = rk4( @f2b, [0, 1], 1, n+1 );
options = odeset( 'RelTol', 1e-13, 'AbsTol', 1e-13 );
[t2o, y2o] = ode45( @f2b, [0, 1], 1, options );

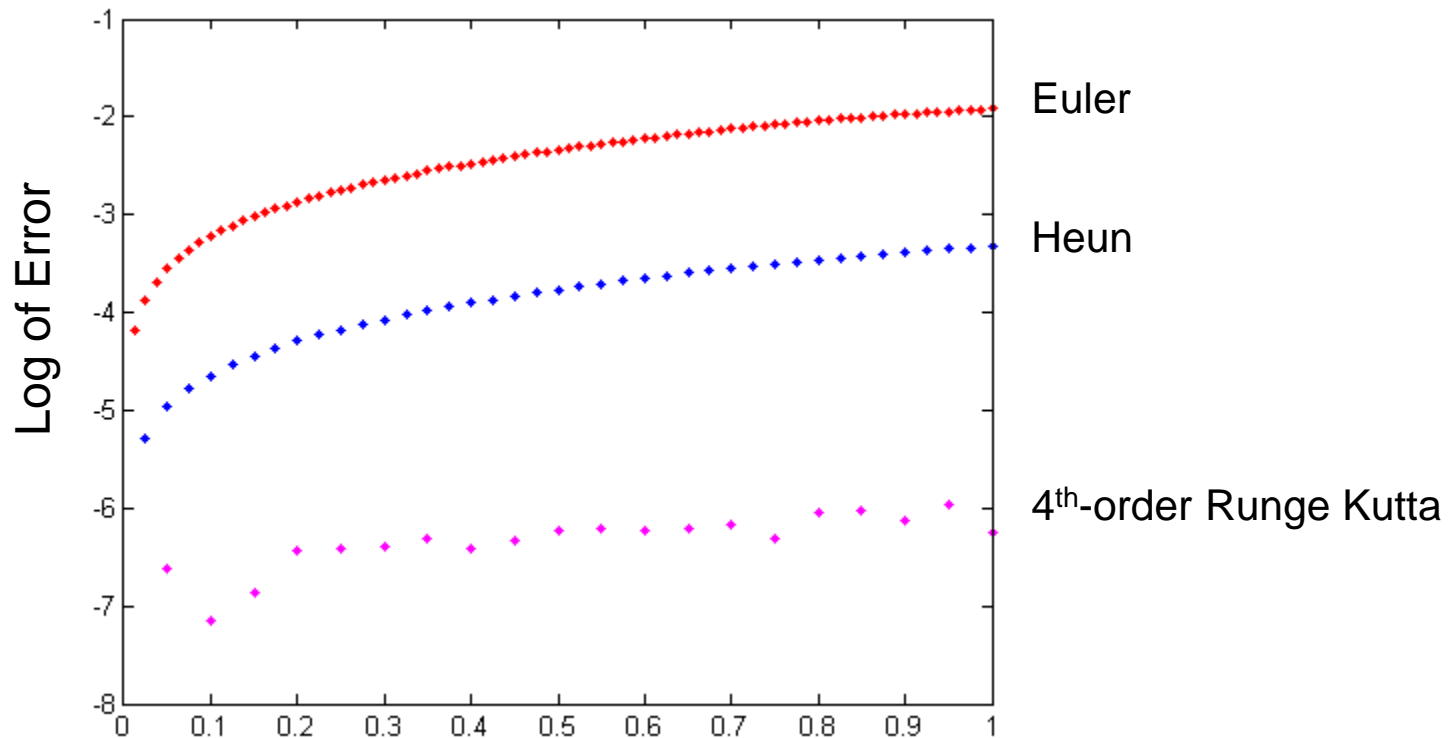
plot( t2e, log10(abs(y2e - interp1( t2o, y2o, t2e ))), '.r' )
hold on
plot( t2h, log10(abs(y2h - interp1( t2o, y2o, t2h ))), '.b' )
plot( t2r, log10(abs(y2r - interp1( t2o, y2o, t2r ))), '.m' )
```

We compare our approximations with the built-in ode45 function with very high relative and absolute tolerances

# Comparison

Again, comparing the errors:

- The error for Euler's method is around  $10^{-2}$
- Heun's method has an error around  $10^{-4}$
- The 4<sup>th</sup>-order Runge-Kutta method has an error around  $10^{-6}$



# The Dormand-Prince Method

With this general implementation of Runge-Kutta methods, we may now go on to the current algorithm used in Matlab today

- The routine `ode45` uses the Dormand-Prince method

# The Dormand-Prince Method

Consider the ODE described by:

$$y^{(1)}(t) = y(t)(2-t)t + t - 1$$

$$y(0) = 1$$

This does not have a closed-form solution

– The best Maple can do is give an answer in terms of an integral:

> `dsolve( {D(y)(t) = y(t)*(2 - t)*t + t - 1, y(0) = 1} );`

$$y(t) = \left( \int_0^t e^{\frac{1}{3}\tau^2(\tau-3)} (\tau-1) d\tau + 1 \right) e^{\frac{1}{3}t^2(3-t)}$$

No antiderivative



# The Dormand-Prince Method

In Matlab, we would implement

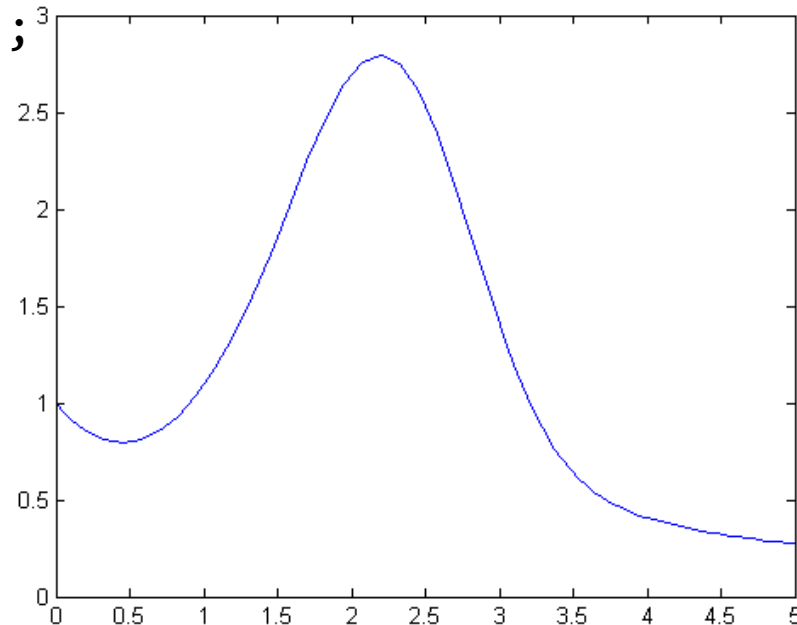
```
function [dy] = f3a( t, y )
    dy = y*(2 - t)*t + t - 1;
end
```

$$y^{(1)}(t) = y(t)(2-t)t + t - 1$$

$$y(0) = 1$$

And then call:

```
>> [t3a, y3a] = ode45( @f3a, [0, 5], 1 );
>> plot( t3a, y3a );
```





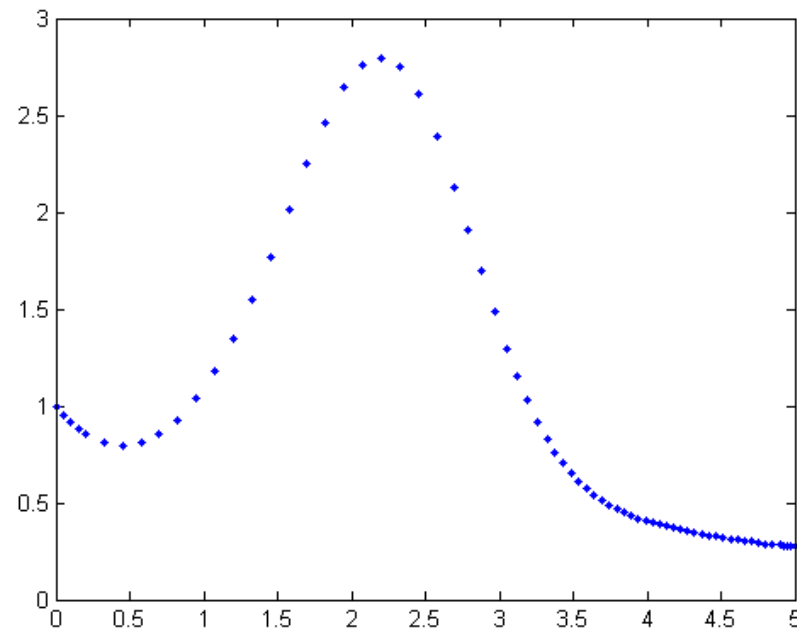
# The Dormand-Prince Method

One interesting observation:

```
>> plot( t3a, y3a, '.' );
```

The points appear to be more tightly packed at the right

- Dormand-Prince is *adaptive*—it attempts to optimize the interval size

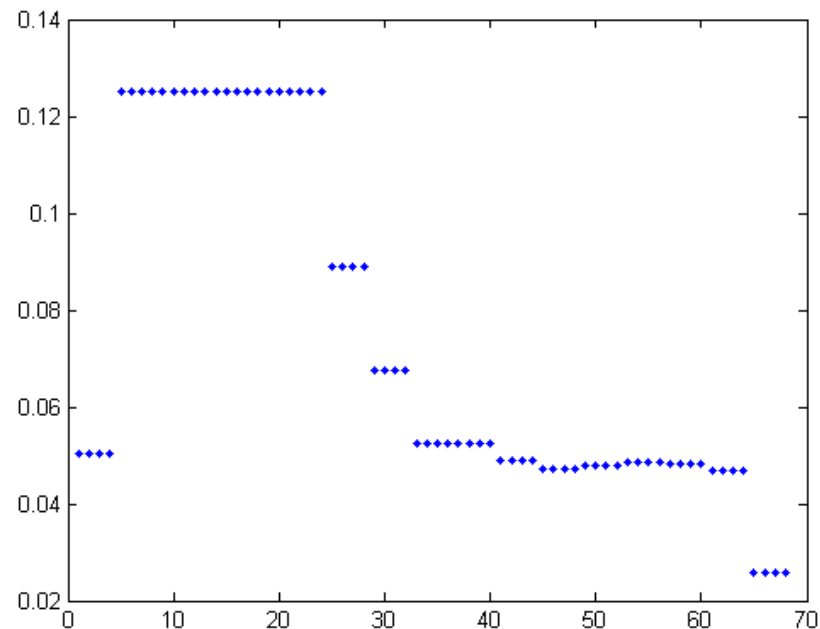


# The Dormand-Prince Method

There are 69 points:

```
>> length( t3a );  
ans = 69
```

```
>> plot( diff( t3a ), '.' );
```



# Adaptive Techniques

How does the algorithm know when to change the size of the interval?

Suppose we have two algorithms, one known to be better than the other:

- For example, Euler's method and Heun's method
- Given a point  $(t_k, y_k)$ , use both methods to approximate the next point:

$$K_1 = f(t_k, y_k)$$

$$K_2 = f(t_k + h, y_k + hK_1)$$

$$y_{\text{tmp}} = y_k + hK_1 \quad \leftarrow \text{Euler's method}$$

$$z_{\text{tmp}} = y_k + h \frac{K_1 + K_2}{2} \quad \leftarrow \text{Heun's method}$$

# Adaptive Techniques

As a very simple example, consider:

$$y^{(1)}(t) = -y(t)$$

$$y(0) = 1$$

Suppose we want to ultimately approximate  $y(0.1)$  so we start with  $h = 0.1$  and we want to ensure that the error is not larger than  $\varepsilon_{\text{abs}} = 0.001$

$$K_1 = f(0, 1) = -1$$

$$K_2 = f(0.1, 1 + 0.1K_1) = -0.9$$

$$y_{\text{tmp}} = 1 + 0.1(-1) = 0.9 \quad \leftarrow \text{Euler's method}$$

$$z_{\text{tmp}} = 1 + 0.1 \frac{(-1) + (-0.9)}{2} = 0.905 \quad \leftarrow \text{Heun's method}$$

# Adaptive Techniques

Thus, we have two approximations:

- One is okay, the other is better

$$y_{\text{tmp}} = 0.9$$

$$z_{\text{tmp}} = 0.905$$

The actual value is  $e^{-0.1} = 0.9048374180\dots$

- The **actual** error of  $y_{\text{tmp}}$  is

$$\left| y_{\text{tmp}} - e^{-0.1} \right| = \left| 0.9 - 0.9048374180 \right| = 0.0048374180$$

- Using  $z_{k+1}$ , our **approximation** of the error is

$$\left| y_{\text{tmp}} - z_{\text{tmp}} \right| = \left| 0.9 - 0.905 \right| = 0.005$$

# Adaptive Techniques

This suggests that we can use  $|y_{\text{tmp}} - z_{\text{tmp}}| = 0.005$  as an approximation of the error of  $y_{\text{tmp}}$

Problem: this error is larger than the error we were willing to tolerate

- In this case, the error should be less than  $\varepsilon_{\text{abs}} = 0.001$

Solution: choose a smaller value of  $h$

- Question: how much smaller?

# Adaptive Techniques

First, we know that the error of Euler's method is  $O(h^2)$ , that is

$$\left| y_{\text{tmp}} - z_{\text{tmp}} \right| = Ch^2 \quad \text{for some value of } C$$

If we scale  $h$  by some factor  $s$ , the error will be  $C(sh)^2$ :

$$C(sh)^2 < \varepsilon_{\text{abs}}$$

# Adaptive Techniques

However, we want final error to be less than  $\varepsilon_{\text{abs}}$

- The contribution of the maximum error at the  $k^{\text{th}}$  step should be proportional to the width of the interval relative to the whole interval

Our modified goal: we want

$$C(sh)^2 < \varepsilon_{\text{abs}} \frac{sh}{t_f - t_0}$$

- Just to be sure, find a value of  $s$  such that

$$C(sh)^2 = \frac{1}{2} \varepsilon_{\text{abs}} \frac{sh}{t_f - t_0} = \frac{\varepsilon_{\text{abs}} sh}{2(t_f - t_0)}$$



# Adaptive Techniques

We now have two equations:

$$\left| y_{\text{tmp}} - z_{\text{tmp}} \right| = Ch^2 \qquad C(sh)^2 = \frac{\varepsilon_{\text{abs}} sh}{2(t_f - t_0)}$$

Expand the second:

$$Cs^2 h^2 = \frac{\varepsilon_{\text{abs}} sh}{2(t_f - t_0)}$$

$$s(Ch^2) = \frac{\varepsilon_{\text{abs}} h}{2(t_f - t_0)}$$

We can now substitute the first equation for  $Ch^2$ :

$$s \left| y_{\text{tmp}} - z_{\text{tmp}} \right| = \frac{\varepsilon_{\text{abs}} h}{2(t_f - t_0)}$$

# Adaptive Techniques

Given the equation

$$s \left| y_{\text{tmp}} - z_{\text{tmp}} \right| = \frac{\varepsilon_{\text{abs}} h}{2(t_f - t_0)}$$

we can solve for  $s$  to get

$$s = \frac{\varepsilon_{\text{abs}} h}{2(t_f - t_0) \left| y_{\text{tmp}} - z_{\text{tmp}} \right|}$$

# Adaptive Techniques

In this particular example:

$$h = 0.1$$

$$\varepsilon_{\text{abs}} = 0.001$$

$$|y_{\text{tmp}} - z_{\text{tmp}}| = 0.005$$

$$[t_0, t_f] = [0, 0.1]$$

and thus we find that

$$s = \frac{\varepsilon_{\text{abs}} h}{2(t_f - t_0)|y_{\text{tmp}} - z_{\text{tmp}}|} = \frac{0.001 \cdot 0.1}{2 \cdot 0.1 \cdot 0.005} = 0.1$$

To get the accuracy we want, we need a smaller value of  $h$

# Adaptive Techniques

Now, using  $h = 0.01$ , we get

$$K_1 = f(0, 1) = -1$$

$$K_2 = f(0.01, 1 + 0.01 \cdot K_1) = -0.99$$

$$y_{\text{tmp}} = 1 + 0.01(-1) = 0.99 \quad \leftarrow \text{Euler's method}$$

$$z_{\text{tmp}} = 1 + 0.01 \frac{(-1) + (-0.99)}{2} = 0.99005 \quad \leftarrow \text{Heun's method}$$

The actual value is  $e^{-0.031} = 0.9900498337\dots$

- The absolute error using Euler's method is  $0.0000498337\dots$  which

is of the same order of  $\frac{\varepsilon_{\text{abs}} h}{2(t_f - t_0)} = 0.00005$

- Use  $y_{\text{tmp}}$  as the approximation  $y_{k+1}$

# Adaptive Techniques

If we repeat this process, we get the output

```
>> t_out =
0 0.0100 0.0200 0.0301 0.0403 0.0506 0.0610 0.0715 0.0822 0.0929 0.1

>> y_out =
1 0.9900 0.9801 0.9702 0.9603 0.9504 0.9405 0.9306 0.9207 0.9108 0.9044

>> format long
>> y_out(end)
0.904837418035960
>> exp( -0.1 )
0.904837418035960
>> abs( y_out(end) - exp( -0.1 ) )
4.599948547183708e-004
```

$$\approx \frac{\varepsilon_{\text{abs}}}{2} = 0.0005$$

# Adaptive Techniques

In general, however, it isn't always a good idea to update

$$h = s * h;$$

as  $s$  could be either very big or very small

It is safer to be a little conservative—do not expect  $h$  to change too much in the short run:

- If  $s \geq 2$ , double the value of  $h$
- If  $1 \leq s < 2$ , leave  $h$  unchanged, and
- If  $s < 1$ , halve  $h$  and try again

# The Dormand-Prince Method

Dormand-Prince calculates seven different slopes:

$$K_1, K_2, K_3, K_4, K_5, K_6, \text{ and } K_7$$

These slopes are then used in two different linear combinations to find two approximations of the next point:

- One is  $O(h^4)$  while the other is  $O(h^5)$
- The coefficients of the 5<sup>th</sup>-order approximate were chosen to minimize its error
- We now use these two approximations to find  $s$ :

$$s = \sqrt[4]{\frac{h\epsilon_{\text{abs}}}{2(t_f - t_0)|y_{\text{tmp}} - z_{\text{tmp}}|}}$$

# The Dormand-Prince Method

The *modified* Butcher tableau of the Dormand-Prince method is:

0							
$\frac{1}{5}$	1						
$\frac{3}{10}$	$\frac{1}{4}$	$\frac{3}{4}$					
$\frac{4}{5}$	$\frac{11}{9}$	$-\frac{14}{3}$	$\frac{40}{9}$				
$\frac{8}{9}$	$\frac{4843}{1458}$	$-\frac{3170}{243}$	$\frac{8056}{729}$	$-\frac{53}{162}$			
1	$\frac{9017}{3168}$	$-\frac{355}{33}$	$\frac{46732}{5247}$	$\frac{49}{176}$	$-\frac{5103}{18656}$		
1	$\frac{35}{384}$	0	$\frac{500}{113}$	$\frac{125}{192}$	$-\frac{2187}{6784}$	$\frac{11}{84}$	
	$\frac{5179}{57600}$	0	$\frac{7571}{16695}$	$\frac{393}{640}$	$-\frac{92097}{339200}$	$\frac{187}{2100}$	$\frac{1}{40}$
	$\frac{35}{384}$	0	$\frac{500}{1113}$	$\frac{125}{192}$	$-\frac{2187}{6784}$	$\frac{11}{84}$	0

$O(h^4)$  approximation

$O(h^5)$  approximation



# The Dormand-Prince Method

Each row sums to 1

0							
$\frac{1}{5}$	$\xrightarrow{1}$						
$\frac{3}{10}$	$\frac{1}{4}$	$\xrightarrow{\frac{3}{4}}$					
$\frac{4}{5}$	$\frac{11}{9}$	$-\frac{14}{3}$	$\xrightarrow{\frac{40}{9}}$				
$\frac{8}{9}$	$\frac{4843}{1458}$	$-\frac{3170}{243}$	$\frac{8056}{729}$	$-\frac{53}{162}$	$\xrightarrow{\quad}$		
1	$\frac{9017}{3168}$	$-\frac{355}{33}$	$\frac{46732}{5247}$	$\frac{49}{176}$	$-\frac{5103}{18656}$	$\xrightarrow{\quad}$	
1	$\frac{35}{384}$	0	$\frac{500}{113}$	$\frac{125}{192}$	$-\frac{2187}{6784}$	$\frac{11}{84}$	$\xrightarrow{\quad}$
	$\frac{5179}{57600}$	0	$\frac{7571}{16695}$	$\frac{393}{640}$	$-\frac{92097}{339200}$	$\frac{187}{2100}$	$\frac{1}{40} \xrightarrow{\quad}$
	$\frac{35}{384}$	0	$\frac{500}{1113}$	$\frac{125}{192}$	$-\frac{2187}{6784}$	$\frac{11}{84}$	0 $\xrightarrow{\quad}$

# The Dormand-Prince Method

Each row sums to 1

- In the literature, for example, the fourth row would be multiplied by 4/5:

0							
$\frac{1}{5}$	1						
$\frac{3}{10}$	$\frac{1}{4}$	$\frac{3}{4}$					
$\frac{4}{5}$	$\frac{11}{9}$	$-\frac{14}{3}$	$\frac{40}{9}$				
$\frac{8}{9}$	$\frac{4843}{1458}$	$-\frac{3170}{243}$	$\frac{8056}{729}$	$-\frac{53}{162}$			
1	$\frac{9017}{3168}$	$-\frac{355}{33}$	$\frac{46732}{5247}$	$\frac{49}{176}$	$-\frac{5103}{18656}$		
1	$\frac{35}{384}$	0	$\frac{500}{113}$	$\frac{125}{192}$	$-\frac{2187}{6784}$	$\frac{11}{84}$	
	$\frac{5179}{57600}$	0	$\frac{7571}{16695}$	$\frac{393}{640}$	$-\frac{92097}{339200}$	$\frac{187}{2100}$	$\frac{1}{40}$
	$\frac{35}{384}$	0	$\frac{500}{1113}$	$\frac{125}{192}$	$-\frac{2187}{6784}$	$\frac{11}{84}$	0

# The Dormand-Prince Method

You can, if you want, use:

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1/4 & 3/4 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 11/9 & -14/3 & 40/9 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 4843/1458 & -3170/243 & 8056/729 & -53/162 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 9017/3168 & -355/33 & 46732/5247 & 49/176 & -5103/18656 & 0 & 0 \\ 35/384 & 0 & 500/1113 & 125/192 & -2187/6784 & 11/84 & 0 \end{bmatrix}';$$

$$by = [5179/57600 \ 0 \ 7571/16695 \ 393/640 \ -92097/339200 \ 187/2100 \ 1/40]';$$

$$bz = [35/384 \ 0 \ 500/1113 \ 125/192 \ -2187/6784 \ 11/84 \ 0]';$$

$$c = [0 \ 1/5 \ 3/10 \ 4/5 \ 8/9 \ 1 \ 1]';$$

# The Dormand-Prince Method

All we need now are different matrices:

```

A = [...]' ;
c = [...]' ;
by = [...]' ;
bz = [...]' ;

// ...

n_K = 7;
K = zeros( 1, n_K );

for m = 1:n_K
    K(m) = f( t_out(k) + h*c(m), ...
              y_out(k) + h*c(m)*K*A(:,m) );
end

y_tmp = y_out(k) + h*K*by;
z_tmp = y_out(k) + h*K*bz;

% Determine s and modify h as appropriate
    
```

# The Dormand-Prince Method

What value of  $h$ ?

- Previously, we specified the interval and the number of points

For Dormand-Prince, we will specify an initial value of  $h$

- ode45 actually determines a good initial value of  $h$

We will not know *apriori* how many steps we will require

- The value of  $h$  could increase or decrease depending on the problem
- We will have to have a different counter tracking where we are in the array

# The Dormand-Prince Method

We will therefore grow the vectors `t_out` and `y_out`:

```
>> t_out = 1
```

```
t_out =
```

```
1
```

```
>> t_out(2) = 1.1
```

```
t_out =
```

```
1.0000    1.1000
```

```
>> t_out(3) = 1.2
```

```
t_out =
```

```
1.0000    1.1000    1.2000
```

```
>> size( t_out )
```

```
ans =
```

```
1    3
```

# The Dormand-Prince Method

Thus, the steps we will take:

```
% Initialize t_out and y_out
% Initialize our location to k = 1
%
% while t_out(k) < tf
%     Use Dormand Prince to find two approximations
%     y_tmp and z_tmp to approximate y(t) at
%     t = t_out(k) + h for the current value of h
%
%     Calculate the scaling factor 's'
%
%     if s >= 2,
%         We use z_tmp to approximate y_out(k + 1)
%         t_out(k + 1) is the previous t-value plus h
%         Increment k and double the value of h for the
%         next iteration.
```

# The Dormand-Prince Method

```
%     else if s >= 1,
%         We use z_tmp to approximate y_out(k + 1)
%         t_out(k + 1) is the previous t-value plus h
%         In this case, h is neither too large or too
%         small, so only increment k
%     else s < 1
%         Divide h by two and try again with the smaller
%         value of h (just go through the loop again
%         without updating t_out, y_out, or k)
%     end
%
%     We must make one final check before we end the loop:
%     if t_out(k) + h > tf, we must reduce the
%     size of h so that t_out(k) + h == tf
% end
```



# Runge-Kutta Methods

As an example,

```
>> format long
>> [t2a_out, y2a_out] = dp45( @f2a, [0, 1], 0, 0.1, 0.001 )
t2a_out =
    0    0.100000000000000    0.300000000000000    0.700000000000000    1.000000000000000
y2a_out =
    0    0.082849238339751    0.179654557289050    0.244899192641371    0.249996176157670

>> [t2a_out, y2a_out] = dp45( @f2a, [0, 1], 0, 0.1, 0.0001 )
t2a_out =
    0    0.100000000000000    0.300000000000000    0.500000000000000    0.900000000000000    1.000000000000000
y2a_out =
    0    0.082849238339751    0.179654557289050    0.225805610339612    0.249811473416968    0.249999020845017
```

$$y^{(1)}(t) = f_{2a}(t, y(t)) = (y(t) - 1)^2 (t - 1)^2$$

$$y(0) = 0$$

$$y_{2a}(t) = \frac{t^3 - 3t^2 + 3t}{t^3 - 3t^2 + 3t + 3}$$

# Runge-Kutta Methods

In the 2<sup>nd</sup> example, the values of  $\mathbf{K}$ ,  $y$ ,  $z$ , and  $s$  at the four steps are

$$t_1 = 0.0$$

$$h = 0.1$$

Approximating  $t_2 = 0.1$

$$y_{\text{tmp}} = 0.082849167706690$$

$$z_{\text{tmp}} = 0.082849238339751$$

$$s = 2.900617713421327$$

$$\mathbf{K}^T = \begin{pmatrix} 1.0000000000000000 \\ 0.9223681600000000 \\ 0.888484042496882 \\ 0.733102686848602 \\ 0.707007263868476 \\ 0.678484594287190 \\ 0.681344070887320 \end{pmatrix}$$

Note:  $y_{2a}(0.1) = 0.082849281565271$

Note: double the value of  $h$  for the next interval...

# Runge-Kutta Methods

In the 2<sup>nd</sup> example, the values of  $\mathbf{K}$ ,  $y$ ,  $z$ , and  $s$  at the four steps are

$$t_2 = 0.1$$

$$h = 0.2$$

Approximating  $t_3 = 0.3$

$$y_{\text{tmp}} = 0.179652821005170$$

$$z_{\text{tmp}} = 0.179654557289050$$

$$s = 1.549154799018235$$

$$\mathbf{K}^T = \begin{pmatrix} 0.681344070887320 \\ 0.585701568035401 \\ 0.547129735146171 \\ 0.379211266617984 \\ 0.350996491857387 \\ 0.323819676610967 \\ 0.329753656234546 \end{pmatrix}$$

Note:  $y_{2a}(0.3) = 0.179655455291222$

# Runge-Kutta Methods

In the 2<sup>nd</sup> example, the values of  $\mathbf{K}$ ,  $y$ ,  $z$ , and  $s$  at the four steps are

$$t_3 = 0.3$$

$$h = 0.2$$

Approximating  $t_4 = 0.5$

$$y_{\text{tmp}} = 0.225805183165541$$

$$z_{\text{tmp}} = 0.225805610339612$$

$$s = 2.199625668274607$$

$$\mathbf{K}^T = \begin{pmatrix} 0.329753656234546 \\ 0.283793257387157 \\ 0.263869405085534 \\ 0.177463478001606 \\ 0.164100516485867 \\ 0.149106549812094 \\ 0.149844238245405 \end{pmatrix}$$

Note:  $y_{2a}(0.5) = 0.225806451612903$

Note: double the value of  $h$  for the next interval...

# Runge-Kutta Methods

In the 2<sup>nd</sup> example, the values of  $\mathbf{K}$ ,  $y$ ,  $z$ , and  $s$  at the four steps are

$$t_4 = 0.5$$

$$h = 0.4$$

Approximating  $t_5 = 0.9$

$$y_{\text{tmp}} = 0.249809684810377$$

$$z_{\text{tmp}} = 0.249811473416968$$

$$s = 1.828642429049916$$

$$\mathbf{K}^T = \begin{pmatrix} 0.149844238245405 \\ 0.102481217539320 \\ 0.083509894743704 \\ 0.018218081633068 \\ 0.011628653029033 \\ 0.005569766971191 \\ 0.005627828254168 \end{pmatrix}$$

Note:  $y_{2a}(0.9) = 0.249812453113278$

Note: but  $0.9 + 0.4 > 1$ , so use  $h = 1 - 0.9 = 0.1$

# Runge-Kutta Methods

In the 2<sup>nd</sup> example, the values of  $\mathbf{K}$ ,  $y$ ,  $z$ , and  $s$  at the four steps are

$$t_5 = 0.9$$

$$h = 0.1$$

Approximating  $t_6 = 1.0$ :

$$y_{\text{tmp}} = 0.249999020696080$$

$$z_{\text{tmp}} = 0.249999020845017$$

$$s = 13.536049392119093$$

$$\mathbf{K}^T = \begin{pmatrix} 0.005627828254168 \\ 0.003600729349110 \\ 0.002756729986632 \\ 0.000225001411005 \\ 0.000069444596853 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

Note:  $y_{2a}(1) = 0.25$

Remember, we artificially reduced  $h$

# The Dormand-Prince Method

You will use the Dormand-Prince function in Labs 5 and 6 and in NE 217

- Dormand-Prince is the algorithm used in the Matlab ODE solver

```
>> help ode45
```

ODE45 Solve non-stiff differential equations, medium order method.

`[TOUT,YOUT] = ODE45(ODEFUN,TSPAN,Y0)` with `TSPAN = [T0 TFINAL]` integrates the system of differential equations  $y' = f(t,y)$  from time `T0` to `TFINAL` with initial conditions `Y0`.

`ODEFUN` is a function handle. For a scalar `T` and a vector `Y`, `ODEFUN(T,Y)` must return a column vector corresponding to  $f(t,y)$ .

Each row in the solution array `YOUT` corresponds to a time returned in the column vector `TOUT`.

# Summary

We have looked at solving initial-value problems with better techniques:

- Weighted averages and integration techniques
- 4<sup>th</sup>-order Runge Kutta
- Adaptive methods
- The Dormand-Prince method



# References

- [1] Glyn James, *Modern Engineering Mathematics*, 4<sup>th</sup> Ed., Prentice Hall, 2007.
- [2] Glyn James, *Advanced Modern Engineering Mathematics*, 4<sup>th</sup> Ed., Prentice Hall, 2011.
- [3] J.R. Dormand and P. J. Prince, "A family of embedded Runge-Kutta formulae," *J. Comp. Appl. Math.*, Vol. 6, 1980, pp. 19-26.