

Runge-Kutta Methods

Remember general form for single-step explicit numerical methods:

$$X_{k+1} = X_k + h$$

$$X_{k+1} = Y_k + (\text{slope}) \cdot h$$

2nd Order Runge-Kutta : Uses 2 points to compute slope.

3rd " " " : " 3 points " " "

4th " " " : " 4 points " " "

and so on.

Sometimes called the classical Runge-Kutta method.

Higher Order \rightarrow Higher accuracy
but requires extra function
evaluations.

(RK)
2nd Order Runge-Kutta Method

Assume:
 $\frac{dy}{dx} = f(x, y)$

$$y_{k+1} = y_k + \underbrace{(C_1 \cdot K_1 + C_2 \cdot K_2)}_{\text{"Slope"}} \cdot h$$

Where $K_1 = f(x_k, y_k)$

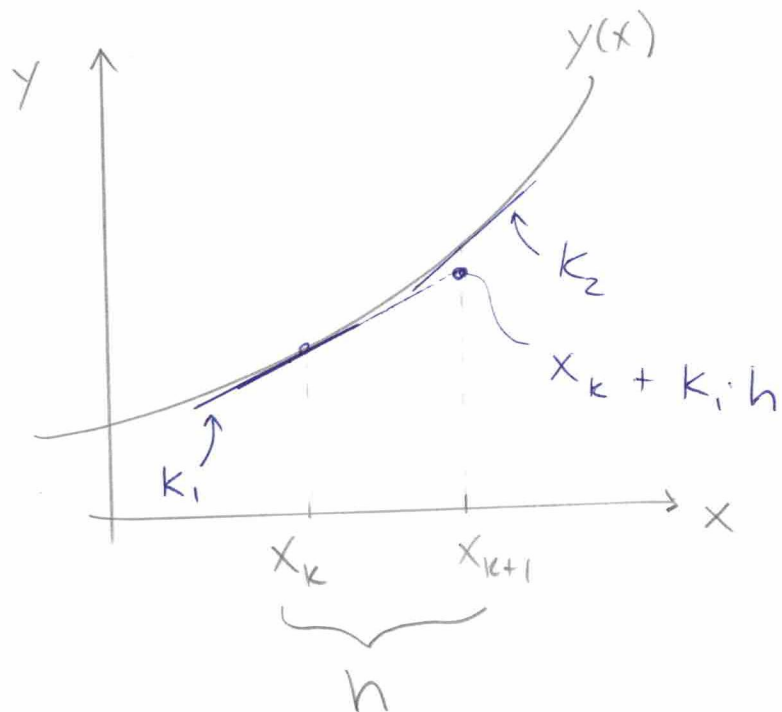
$$K_2 = f(x_k + a_2 \cdot h, y_k + b_{21} \cdot K_1 \cdot h)$$

Pick C_1, C_2, a_2, b_{21} .

If $C_1 = C_2 = \frac{1}{2}$ and $a_2 = b_{21} = 1$, then

2nd Order RK matches Modified Euler method.

$$y_{k+1} = y_k + \frac{1}{2} \left(f(x_k, y_k) + \dots \right. \\ \left. f(x_k + h, y_k + K_1 \cdot h) \right) \cdot h$$



To compute k_2 , we approximate the exact " y_{k+1} " w/ " $y_k + h \cdot k_1$ "

4th Order Runge-Kutta

"Slope"

(Book
eqns 10.86
10.87)

$$y_{k+1} = y_k + \frac{1}{6} (k_1 + 2k_2 + 2k_3 + k_4) h$$

where $k_1 = f(x_k, y_k)$

$$k_2 = f\left(x_k + \frac{1}{2}h, y_k + \frac{1}{2}k_1 h\right)$$

$$k_3 = f\left(x_k + \frac{1}{2}h, y_k + \frac{1}{2}k_2 h\right)$$

$$k_4 = f(x_k + h, y_k + k_3 h)$$