



Section 8.3: Runge-Kutta methods

Taylor series methods can give highly accurate results but they are a nuisance because they require us to take derivatives of $f(x, t)$. Each time problem (ODE) changes we have to recalculate the derivatives.

It is preferable to use a scheme that does not require the upfront work.

IVP:

$$\begin{cases} x' = f(x, t) \\ x(t_0) = x_0 \end{cases}$$

Starting from the Taylor series for

$$x(t+h) = x(t) + hx'(t) + \frac{h^2}{2!} x''(t) + \frac{h^3}{3!} x'''(t) + \dots$$

So,

$$x'(t) = f(x, t)$$

$$x''(t) = \frac{\partial f}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \frac{dx}{dt} = f_t + f f_x$$

↑
chain rule

Substitute these expressions into TS gives

$$x(t+h) = x + hf + \frac{1}{2}h^2(f_t + f f_x) + \mathcal{O}(h^3) =$$

$$\textcircled{1} \quad = x + \frac{1}{2}hf + \frac{1}{2}h(f + hf_t + hf f_x) + \mathcal{O}(h^3).$$

But the multidimensional TS for $f(t+h, x+h f)$ yields

Euler
approximation
to soln. at new time

$$f(t+h, x+h f) = f(t, x) + h f_t + h f f_{2x} + \mathcal{O}(h^2)$$

So we can rewrite ① as

$$x(t+h) = x + \frac{1}{2} h f + \frac{1}{2} h f(t+h, x+h f) + \mathcal{O}(h^3).$$

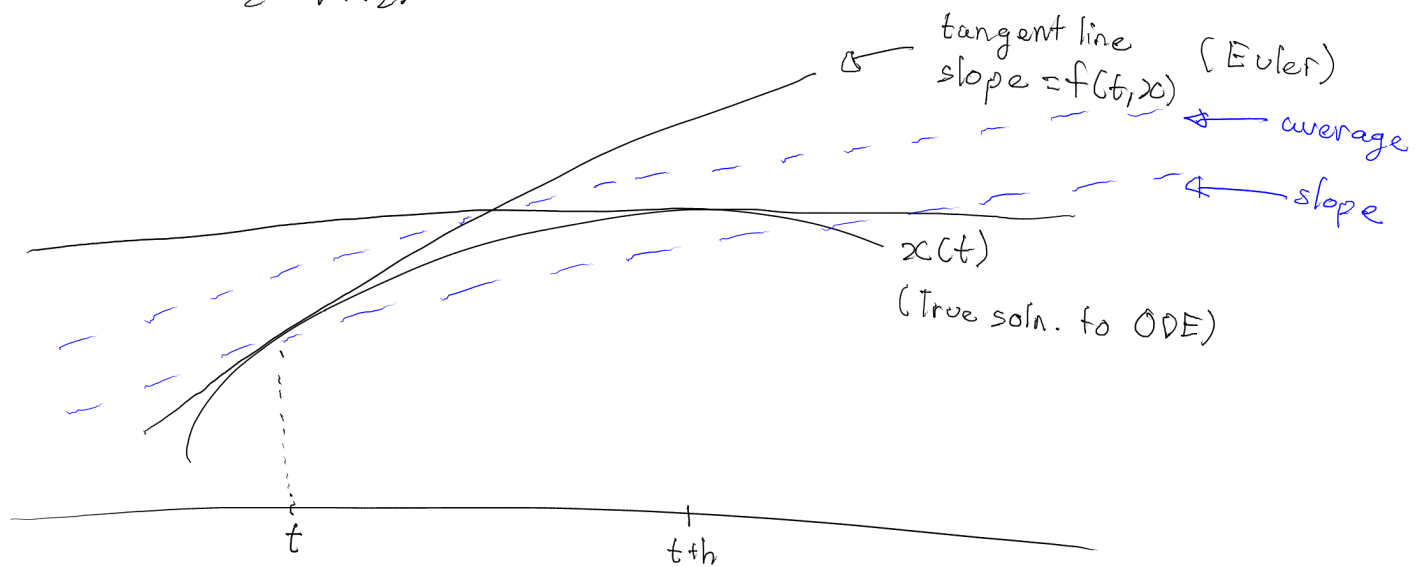
We can rewrite this as

$$x(t+h) = x(t) + \frac{1}{2} (f_1 + f_2)$$

where $f_1 = h f(t, x)$ and $f_2 = h f(t+h, x+f_1)$. }

This is a 2nd order Runge-Kutta method.

The term $\frac{1}{2} (f_1 + f_2)$:



$$\text{slope} = f(t+h, x(t) + h f(t, x))$$

$$\downarrow$$

$$\frac{\Delta x}{\Delta t}$$

$$x + \Delta x$$

This is a generalization of the trapezoid rule.

Idea at this point is there are **choices** for 2nd order Runge-Kutta schemes.

General scheme tries to reduce error as much as possible.

$$x(t+h) = x + \underbrace{\omega_1 h f}_{\text{old slope}} + \underbrace{\omega_2 h f(t + \alpha h, x + \beta h f)}_{\text{slope at unknown soln. new point}} + \mathcal{O}(h^3).$$

Using a TS for $f(t + \alpha h, x + \beta h f)$, we have

$$\textcircled{2} \quad x(t+h) = x(t) + \omega_1 h f + \omega_2 h [f + \alpha h f_t + \beta h f f_x] + \mathcal{O}(h^3).$$

Subtracting equations $\textcircled{1}$ and $\textcircled{2}$ gives

$$\textcircled{2} - \textcircled{1} \Leftrightarrow (\text{true}) - (\text{approximate})$$

$$\text{Truncation error} = (1 - \omega_1 - \omega_2) h f + \left(\frac{1}{2} - \omega_2 \alpha\right) h^2 f_t + \left(\frac{1}{2} - \omega_2 \beta\right) h^2 f f_x + \mathcal{O}(h^3).$$

So we would like

$$\begin{cases} 1 - \omega_1 - \omega_2 = 0 \\ \frac{1}{2} - \omega_2 \alpha = 0 \\ \frac{1}{2} - \omega_2 \beta = 0 \end{cases} \Rightarrow \begin{cases} \omega_1 + \omega_2 = 1 \\ \omega_2 \alpha = \frac{1}{2} \\ \omega_2 \beta = \frac{1}{2} \end{cases} \Rightarrow$$

\Rightarrow truncation error is $\mathcal{O}(h^3)$.

Note that the system has many solutions.

$\textcircled{1}$ choice is $\omega_1 = \omega_2 = \frac{1}{2}$ and $\alpha = \beta = 1$.
This is **Huen's method**.

$\textcircled{2}$ choice is $\omega_1 = 0$, $\omega_2 = 2$, and $\alpha = \beta = \frac{1}{2}$.
This is **Modified Euler**.

So choice ② gives

$$\begin{cases} x(t+h) = x(t) + f_2 \\ f_1 = hf(t, x) \\ f_2 = hf(t + \frac{1}{2}h, x + \frac{1}{2}f_1) \end{cases}.$$

Higher order RK methods (e.g. fourth-order) can be derived similarly. The idea is to reproduce terms in TS up to and including h^4 terms. Error is $\mathcal{O}(h^5)$.

Example: $x(t+h) = x(t) + \frac{1}{6}(f_1 + 2f_2 + 2f_3 + f_4)$

where

$$f_1 = hf(t, x),$$

$$f_2 = hf(t + \frac{1}{2}h, x + \frac{1}{2}f_1),$$

$$f_3 = hf(t + \frac{1}{2}h, x + \frac{1}{2}f_2), \text{ and}$$

$$f_4 = hf(t+h, x+f_3).$$

This is a generalization of Simpson's rule.

(To see this, consider $f(t, x) = f(t)$, i.e. f depends only on x).

Example: Consider solving

$$\begin{cases} y'(x) = \frac{1}{1+x^2} - 2y^2 \\ y(0) \end{cases}$$

True solution: $y(x) = \frac{x}{1+x^2}$.

Using 4th order Runge-Kutta, we have ($h=0.25, 2h=0.5$)

x	$y_h(x)$	$y^{\text{true}} - y_h$	$y^{\text{true}} - y_{2h}$	ratio
2.0	0.39995699	$4.35e^{-5}$	$1.0e^{-3}$	24
4.0	0.23529159	$2.5e^{-6}$	$7.0e^{-5}$	28
6.0	0.16216179	$3.7e^{-7}$	$1.2e^{-5}$	32
8.0	0.12307683	$9.2e^{-8}$	$3.4e^{-6}$	36
10.0	0.0900987	$3.1e^{-8}$	$1.3e^{-6}$	41

In fact, method has a local truncation error of $\mathcal{O}(h^5)$ and global error of $\mathcal{O}(h^4)$. So theoretically, ratio is 16. We do better, but if you decrease h , ratio is closer to 16.

Theorem: If the Runge-Kutta method has a truncation error that is $\mathcal{O}(h^{m+1})$ then global rate of convergence is $\mathcal{O}(h^m)$.

Note: These schemes are highly accurate but the price you pay is a lot of function evaluations.

Section 8.4: Multistep methods

Recall one of the derivations of Euler's method.

Integrate

$$y'(t) = f(t, y(t))$$

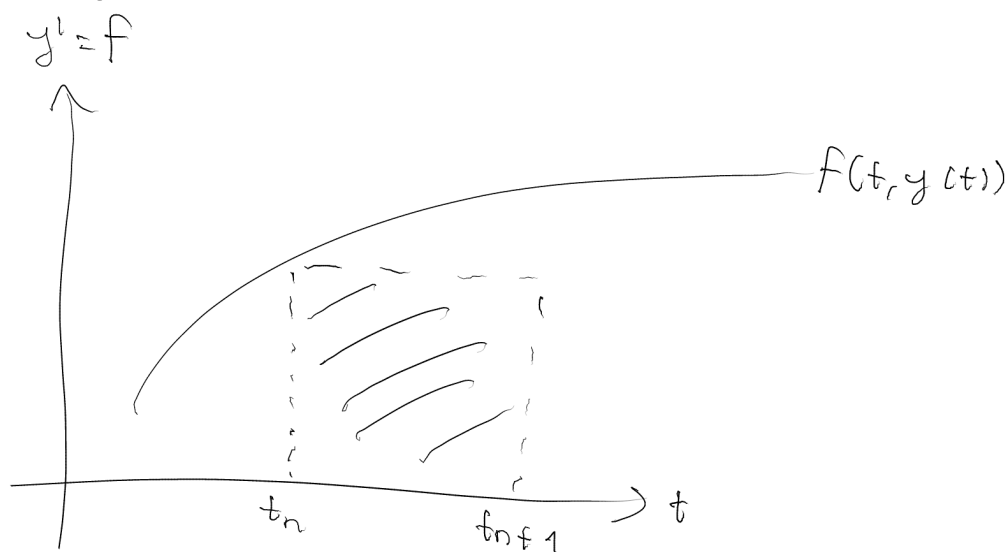
from t_n to t_{n+1} .

$$\int_{t_n}^{t_{n+1}} y'(t) dt = \int_{t_n}^{t_{n+1}} f(t, y(t)) dt.$$

FTC gives

$$\text{LHS} = y(t_{n+1}) - y(t_n).$$

RHS can be approximated by different numerical integration schemes. Euler used left-hand rectangle rule.



$$y(t_{n+1}) - y(t_n) = \underbrace{(t_{n+1} - t_n)}_{\text{width}} \underbrace{f(t_n, y(t_n))}_{\text{height of rectangle}}$$

$$y(t_{n+1}) = y(t_n) + h f(t_n, y(t_n)).$$

This idea can be generalized to give other methods.

Example: (Midpoint method)

$$\int_{t_n}^{t_{n+1}} y'(t) dt = \int_{t_n}^{t_{n+1}} f(t, y(t)) dt$$

↗ If we apply the midpoint method directly to RHS, we need to evaluate f at a non-node point $(t_{n+\frac{1}{2}})$.

$$\int_{t_{n-1}}^{t_{n+1}} y'(t) dt = \int_{t_{n-1}}^{t_{n+1}} f(t, y) dt$$

$$y(t_{n+1}) - y(t_{n-1}) = (t_{n+1} - t_{n-1}) f(t_n, y_n)$$

Node point ↙

$$y(t_{n+1}) = y(t_{n-1}) + 2hf(t_n, y_n).$$

} Multistep method

Question: What do you notice?

Answer: It determines soln. of ODE at new point t_{n+1} from 2 previous node points.