



## Section 8.2: Taylor series methods

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

Example:

$$\begin{cases} y'(x) = 2x \\ y(0) = 0 \end{cases}$$

True solution:  $y(x) = x^2$

Euler solution:  $y_n(x) = x_n x_{n-1}$

Local truncation error  $t_n$  (or  $x_n$ ) to  $t_{n+1}$  (or  $x_{n+1}$ ) is  $\mathcal{O}(h^2)$ . Global error is  $\mathcal{O}(h)$ .

	$x$	approx. sol. from Euler $y_h(x)$	True sol. $y(x)$	Error $y(x) - y_h(x)$
$h=0.2$	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	0.4	0.37631	0.34483	-0.03148
	0.8	0.54228	0.487870	-0.054418
	1.2	0.52709	0.49180	-0.00471
	1.6	0.46623	0.44944	-0.01679
$h=0.1$	0.0		"	
	0.4	0.36085		-0.1603
	0.8	0.51371		-0.0250
	1.2	0.50961		-0.01781
	1.6	0.45871		-0.00928
$h=0.05$	0.0		"	
	0.4	0.35287		-0.00804
	0.8	0.50049		-0.01268
	1.2	0.50073		-0.00892
	1.6	0.45425		-0.00481

(Different ODE)

In fact, we can generalize the global error result as general.

Theorem: Let  $y_n$  be the approximate solution to the IVP

$$\begin{cases} y'(x) = f(x, y) \\ y(x_0) = y_0 \end{cases}$$

gotten from Euler's method. If the exact solution  $y(x)$  has a continuous 2nd derivative on an interval around the initial point and if

$$\left| \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} \right| \leq L$$

and

$$|y''(x)| < C$$

are satisfied for  $L$  and  $C$ , then the error

$$e_n = y(x_n) - y_n$$

of Euler's method at point  $x_n$  is

$$|e_n| \leq \frac{hC}{2L} (e^{(x_n - x_0)L} - 1). \quad (\text{Upper bound on global error})$$

In other words, the error is  $\mathcal{O}(h)$ .

The proof uses difference equation theory.

Example: Look at IVP

$$\begin{cases} y'(x) = y, & x \in (0, 1] \\ y(0) = 1 \end{cases}$$

$$f(x, y) = y, \quad \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} = 1, \quad \text{so } L = 1.$$

$$\frac{dy}{y} = dx$$

$$\ln y = x + C$$

$$y = Ce^x.$$

$$y(0) = 1 \Rightarrow 1 = Ce^0 \Rightarrow C = 1.$$

True solution:  $y(x) = e^x$ .

$$y''(x) = e^x \text{ and so}$$

$$|y''(x)| \leq e \text{ on } [0, 1].$$

$$C \leq e.$$

So

$$|e_n| \leq \frac{hC}{2L} (e^{(x_n - x_0)L} - 1)$$

$$|e_n| \leq \frac{he}{2 \cdot 1} (e^{(1-0)(1)} - 1)$$

$$|e_n| \leq \frac{he}{2} (e - 1) < 2.4h.$$

If  $h = 0.1$  then

$$|error| \leq 0.24.$$

Question: How good is this error bound?

Answer: Euler gives

$$y_{n+1} = y_n + hf(x_n, y_n)$$

$$y_{n+1} = y_n + hy_n$$

$$y_{n+1} = y_n(1+h).$$

(difference equation)

Difference equation:

Differential equations move forward via an infinite number of infinitesimal steps.

Difference equations move forward in a finite number of finite steps.

Example: Suppose you invest \$1000 for 5 years at 6% interest.

If it is computed once a year, then

$$P_{k+1} = 1.06P_k.$$

This is a difference equation with a time step of 1 year. After 5 years,

$$\begin{aligned} P_5 &= (1.06P_4) = (1.06)(1.06P_3) = \dots = (1.06)^5 P_0 = \\ &= (1.06)^5 P_0 = \$1338. \end{aligned}$$

If we reduce the time step to one month,  
the new difference equation is

$$P_{k+1} = \left(1 + \frac{0.06}{12}\right) P_k.$$

Thus after 5 years,

$$P_{60} = \left(1 + \frac{0.06}{12}\right)^{60} P_0 = \left(1 + \frac{0.06}{12}\right)^{60} (1000) = \\ = \$1349.$$

Next step is compounding interest daily ... and then continuously compounding.

When you compound the interest more and more often,  
we switch to a differential equation

$$P_{k+1} = (1 + 0.06 \Delta t) P_k \Rightarrow$$

$$\frac{P_{k+1} - P_k}{\Delta t} = 0.06 P_k \Rightarrow$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{dP}{dt} = 0.06 P.$$

Solution:  $p(t) = P_0 e^{0.06t}.$

After 5 years, we get

$$P(5) = 1000 \cdot e^{0.06(5)} \approx \$1349.87.$$

Some difference equations do not correspond to differential equations at all.

Example: Fibonacci sequence: 0, 1, 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 13

Difference equation:  $F_{k+2} = F_{k+1} + F_k$

Question: How can we find the 1000<sup>th</sup> Fibonacci number other than starting with  $F_0 = 0$  and  $F_1 = 1$ .

$$F_{k+2} = F_{k+1} + F_k$$

Lets write this as

$$u_k = \begin{bmatrix} F_{k+1} \\ F_k \end{bmatrix}, \text{ so}$$

$$\begin{aligned} F_{k+2} &= F_{k+1} + F_k \\ F_{k+1} &= F_{k+1} \end{aligned}$$

$\Updownarrow$

$$u_{k+1} = A u_k \Rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} F_{k+2} \\ F_{k+1} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} F_{k+1} \\ F_k \end{bmatrix}$$

Then,

$$u_{k+1} = A u_k$$

is easy to solve.

$$u_1 = A u_0$$

$$u_2 = A u_1 = A(A u_0) = A^2 u_0$$

$\vdots$

$$u_{k+1} = A^{k+1} u_0.$$

The real issue is finding an effecient way to calculate powers of  $A$ . In fact, we don't compute powers of  $A$ .

Theory: If  $A$  can be diagonalized (e.g.  $A$  is real symmetric) then

$$A = S \Lambda S^{-1}$$

with column of  $A$  eigenvectors of  $A$  and  $\Lambda$  a diagonal matrix whose diagonal entries are the diagonals of  $A$ .

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Then } u_k &= (S \Lambda S^{-1}) (S \Lambda S^{-1}) \dots (S \Lambda S^{-1}) u_0 \\ u_k &= A^k u_0 = S \Lambda^k S^{-1} u_0. \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{So, } u_k = [x_1 \dots x_n] \begin{bmatrix} \lambda_1^k & & \\ & \ddots & \\ & & \lambda_n^k \end{bmatrix} \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} c_1 \\ \vdots \\ c_n \end{bmatrix}}_{S^{-1} u_0}$$

$$u_k = c_1 \lambda_1^k x_1 + c_2 \lambda_2^k x_2 + \dots + c_n \lambda_n^k x_n.$$

Back to Fibonacci differential equation example:

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

$$\det(A - \lambda I) = \det \begin{bmatrix} 1-\lambda & 1 \\ 1 & 0-\lambda \end{bmatrix} = 0$$

$$(1-\lambda)(-\lambda) - 1 = 0$$

$$\lambda^2 - \lambda - 1 = 0$$

$$\lambda = \frac{1 \pm \sqrt{1 - 4(-1)(1)}}{2} = \frac{1 \pm \sqrt{5}}{2}.$$

Finding eigenvectors we get solution  $F_k$ .

Difference equations show up in Markov processes, finance, etc.

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Back to Euler method example:

$$y_{n+1} = y_n(1+h)$$

$$(u_{k+1} = Au_k = A^{k+1}u_0)$$

$$y_n = (1+h)^n y_0.$$

For  $h=0.1$ ,  $n=10$  we get

$$y_{10} = (1+0.1)^{10} (1) = (1.1)^{10} \approx 2.5937.$$

Then,

$$y_{\text{exact}} - y_{10} \approx e - 2.5937 = 2.71828 - 2.5937 = 0.12458.$$

Predicted error was 0.24.

(True error is smaller than upper bound).



We can try to improve the accuracy of the solution by using higher-order Taylor series methods.

Example:

$$\begin{cases} xy' = x - y \\ y(2) = 2 \end{cases} \iff \begin{cases} y' = \frac{x-y}{x} \\ y(2) = 2 \end{cases} \iff \begin{cases} y' = 1 - \frac{y}{x} \\ y(2) = 2 \end{cases}.$$

Taylor series expansion about  $x_0 = 2$  is

$$y(x) = y(2) + (x-2)y'(2) + \frac{(x-2)^2}{2} y''(2) + \frac{(x-2)^3}{3!} y'''(2) + \dots$$

We need derivatives of the RHS of DE.

We have the 1<sup>st</sup> derivative

$$y' = 1 - \frac{y}{x}.$$

$$y'(x) = 1 - yx^{-1}$$

$$\begin{aligned} y''(x) &= -y'x^{-1} + yx^{-2}y' = -\frac{y'}{x} + \frac{y}{x^2} = \\ &= -\frac{1-yx^{-1}}{x} + \frac{y}{x^2}. \end{aligned}$$

$$y'''(x) = -\frac{y''}{x} + \frac{y'}{x^2} + \frac{y'}{x^2} - \frac{2y}{x^3}.$$

So TS method of order 2 here is

$$y(x) = y_0 + (x-2)y'_0 + \frac{1}{2}(x-2)^2 y''_0, \text{ or}$$

$$y(x) = 2 + (x-2)\left[1 - \frac{2}{2}\right] + (x-2)^2\left[0 + \frac{2}{2^2}\right]$$

$$y(x) = 2 + \frac{1}{4}(x-2)^2.$$

This scheme stops before the  $h^3$  term, so  
the local truncation error is  $\mathcal{O}(h^3)$ .  
Global error  $\mathcal{O}(h^2)$ .