App.E: Programming of differential equations

Hans Petter Langtangen 1,2

Simula Research Laboratory ¹

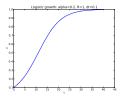
University of Oslo, Dept. of Informatics ²

Oct 21, 2014

How to solve any ordinary scalar differential equation

$$u'(t) = \alpha u(t)(1 - R^{-1}u(t))$$

 $u(0) = U_0$



Examples on scalar differential equations (ODEs)

Terminolog

- Scalar ODE: a single ODE, one unknown function
- Vector ODE or systems of ODEs: several ODEs, several unknown functions

Examples:

$$u'= lpha u$$
 exponential growth $u'=lpha u\left(1-rac{u}{R}
ight)$ logistic growth $u'+b|u|u=g$ falling body in fluid

We shall write an ODE in a generic form: u' = f(u, t)

- Our methods and software should be applicable to any ODE
- Therefore we need an abstract notation for an arbitrary ODE

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

The three ODEs on the last slide correspond to

$$\begin{split} f(u,t) &= \alpha u, \quad \text{exponential growth} \\ f(u,t) &= \alpha u \left(1 - \frac{u}{R}\right), \quad \text{logistic growth} \\ f(u,t) &= -b|u|u + g, \quad \text{body in fluid} \end{split}$$

Our task: write functions and classes that take f as input and produce u as output

What is the f(u, t)?

Problen

Given an ODE,

$$\sqrt{u}u' - \alpha(t)u^{3/2}(1 - \frac{u}{R(t)}) = 0,$$

what is the f(u, t)?

Solution

The target form is u'=f(u,t), so we need to isolate u' on the left-hand side:

$$u' = \underbrace{\alpha(t)u(1 - \frac{u}{R(t)})}_{f(u,t)}$$

Such abstract f functions are widely used in mathematics

We can make generic software for:

- Numerical differentiation: f'(x)
- Numerical integration: $\int_a^b f(x)dx$
- Numerical solution of algebraic equations: f(x) = 0

Applications:

- $\int_{-1}^{1} (x^2 \tanh^{-1} x (1+x^2)^{-1}) dx$ $f(x) = x^2 \tanh^{-1} x (1+x^2)^{-1}, \ a = -1, \ b = 1$
- Solve $x^4 \sin x = \tan x$: $f(x) = x^4 \sin x \tan x$

We use finite difference approximations to derivatives to turn an ODE into a difference equation

u'=f(u,t)

Assume we have computed u at discrete time points t_0, t_1, \ldots, t_k . At t_k we have the ODE

$$u'(t_k) = f(u(t_k), t_k)$$

Approximate $u'(t_k)$ by a forward finite difference,

$$u'(t_k) pprox rac{u(t_{k+1}) - u(t_k)}{\Delta t}$$

Insert in the ODE at $t = t_k$:

$$\frac{u(t_{k+1})-u(t_k)}{\Delta t}=f(u(t_k),t_k)$$

Terms with $u(t_k)$ are known, and this is an algebraic (difference) equation for $u(t_{k+1})$

The Forward Euler (or Euler's) method

Solving with respect to $u(t_{k+1})$

$$u(t_{k+1}) = u(t_k) + \Delta t f(u(t_k), t_k)$$

This is a very simple formula that we can use repeatedly for $u(t_1)$, $u(t_2)$, $u(t_3)$ and so forth.

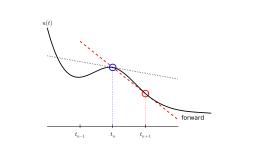
Difference equation notation:

Let u_k denote the numerical approximation to the exact solution u(t) at $t = t_k$

$$u_{k+1} = u_k + \Delta t f(u_k, t_k)$$

This is an ordinary difference equation we can solve!

Illustration of the forward finite difference



Let's apply the method!

Problem: The world's simplest ODE

$$u'=u, \quad t\in (0,T]$$

Solve for u at $t=t_k=k\Delta t,\ k=0,1,2,\ldots,t_n,\ t_0=0,\ t_n=T$

Forward Euler method:

$$u_{k+1} = u_k + \Delta t f(u_k, t_k)$$

Solution by hand:

What is
$$f$$
? $f(u, t) = u$

$$u_{k+1} = u_k + \Delta t f(u_k, t_k) = u_k + \Delta t u_k = (1 + \Delta t) u_k$$

First step:

$$u_1 = (1 + \Delta t)u_0$$

but what is u_0 ?

An ODE needs an initial condition: $u(0) = U_0$

Any ODE u' = f(u, t) must have an initial condition $u(0) = U_0$, with known U_0 , otherwise we cannot start the method!

In mathematics: $u(0) = U_0$ must be specified to get a unique

Example:

$$u' = u$$

Solution: $u = Ce^t$ for any constant C. Say $u(0) = U_0$: $u = U_0e^t$.

We continue solution by hand

Say
$$U_0 = 2$$
:

$$u_1 = (1 + \Delta t)u_0 = (1 + \Delta t)U_0 = (1 + \Delta t)2$$

$$u_2 = (1 + \Delta t)u_1 = (1 + \Delta t)(1 + \Delta t)^2 = 2(1 + \Delta t)^2$$

$$u_3 = (1 + \Delta t)u_2 = (1 + \Delta t)^2(1 + \Delta t)^2 = 2(1 + \Delta t)^3$$

$$u_4 = (1 + \Delta t)u_3 = (1 + \Delta t)^2(1 + \Delta t)^3 = 2(1 + \Delta t)^4$$

$$u_5 = (1 + \Delta t)u_4 = (1 + \Delta t)2(1 + \Delta t)^4 = 2(1 + \Delta t)^5$$

$$u_k = 2(1 + \Delta t)^k$$

Actually, we found a formula for $u_k!$ No need to program...

How accurate is our numerical method? $\bullet \text{ Exact solution: } u(t) = 2e^t, \ u(t_k) = 2e^{k\Delta t} = 2(e^{\Delta t})^k \\ \bullet \text{ Numerical solution: } u_k = 2(1+\Delta t)^k \\ \text{When going from } t_k \text{ to } t_{k+1}, \text{ the solution is amplified by a factor: } \\ \bullet \text{ Exact: } u(t_{k+1}) = e^{\Delta t} u(t_k) \\ \bullet \text{ Numerical: } u_{k+1} = (1+\Delta t)u_k \\ \text{Using Taylor series for } e^x \text{ we see that} \\ \\ e^{\Delta t} - (1+\Delta t) = 1+\Delta t + \frac{\Delta t^2}{2} + \text{frac}\Delta t^3 6 + \cdots - (1+\Delta t) = \text{frac}\Delta t^3 6 + \mathcal{O}(\Delta t) \\ \text{This error approaches } 0 \text{ as } \Delta t \to 0.$

```
What about the general case u'=f(u,t)?

Given any U_0:
u_1=u_0+\Delta t f(u_0,t_0)
u_2=u_1+\Delta t f(u_1,t_1)
u_3=u_2+\Delta t f(u_2,t_2)
u_4=u_3+\Delta t f(u_3,t_3)
\vdots

No general formula in this case...

Rule of thumb:
When hand calculations get boring, let's program!
```

```
We start with a specialized program for u'=u, u(0)=U_0

Algorithm:

Given \Delta t (dt) and n

• Create arrays t and u of length n+1

• Set initial condition: u[0]=U_0, t[0]=0

• For k=0,1,2,\ldots,n-1:

• t[k+1]=t[k]+dt

• u[k+1]=(1+dt)*u[k]
```

```
Program:

import numpy as np
import sys

dt = float(sys.argv[1])
U0 = 1
T = 4
n = int(T/dt)

t = np.zeros(n+1)
u = np.zeros(n+1)
t[0] = 0
u[0] = 0
u[0] = 0
t[k+1] = t[k] + dt
u[k+1] = (1 + dt) + u[k]

# plot u against t
```

```
The algorithm for the general ODE u'=f(u,t)

Algorithm:
Given \Delta t (dt) and n

• Create arrays t and u of length n+1

• Create array u to hold u_k and

• Set initial condition: u[0] = U_0, t[0]=0

• For k=0,1,2,\ldots,n-1:

• u[k+1] = u[k] + dt*f(u[k], t[k]) (the only change!)

• t[k+1] = t[k] + dt
```

Implementation of the general algorithm for u'=f(u,t)General function: def ForwardEuler(f, U0, T, n): ""Solve u'=f(u,t), u(0)=00, with n steps until t=T.""" import numpy as np t = np.zeros(n'1) u = np.zeros(n'1) # u[k] is the solution at time t[k]u[0] = U0 t[0] = 0 dt = T/float(n) for k in range(n): t[k+1] = t[k] + dt u[k+1] = u[k] + dt*f(u[k], t[k]) return u, t Magic: This simple function can solve any ODE (!)


```
The code for a class for solving ODEs (part 1)

import numpy as np

class ForwardEuler_v1:
    def __init__(self, f, dt):
        self.f, self.dt = f, dt

def set_initial_condition(self, U0):
        self.U0 = float(U0)
```

```
class ForwardEuler_v1:

def solve(self, T):
    """Compute solution for 0 <= t <= T."""
    n = int(round(T/self.dt))  # no of intervals
    self.u = np.zeros(nt))
    self.t = np.zeros(nt)
    self.ulo = float(o)

for k in range(self.n):
    self.k = k
    self.t[k+l] = self.t[k] + self.dt
    self.u[k+l] = self.advance()
    return self.u, self.t

def advance(self):
    """Idvance the solution one time step."""
    # Create local variables to get rid of "self." in
    # the numerical formula
    u, dt, f, k, t = self.u, self.dt, self.f, self.k, self.t
    uner = u[k] + dt*f(u[k], t[k])
    return unew
```

Idea: drop dt in the constructor. # Let the user provide all time points (in solve). class ForwardEuler: def __init__(self, f): # test that f is a function if not callable(f): raise TypeError('f is %s, not a function' % type(f)) self.f = f def set_initial_condition(self, U0): self.U0 = float(U0) def solve(self, time_points):

Alternative class code for solving ODEs (part 2) class ForwardEuler: def solve(self, time_points): """Compute u for t values in time_points list.""" self.t - np.asarray(time_points) self.u = np.zeros(len(time_points)) self.u[O] = self.UO for k in range(len(self.t)-1): self.k = k self.u[k+1] = self.advance() return self.u, self.t def advance(self): """Advance the solution one time step.""" u, f, k, t = self.u, self.f, self.k, self.t dt = t[k+1] - t[k] unev = u[k] + dt*f(u[k], t[k]) return unev

Verifying the class implementation; mathematics

Mathematical problem:

Important result: the numerical method (and most others) will exactly reproduce u if it is linear in t (!):

$$u(t) = at + b = 0.2 t + 3$$

$$h(t) = u(t)$$

$$u'(t) = 0.2 + (u - h(t))^4, \quad u(0) = 3, \quad t \in [0, 3]$$

This u should be reproduced to machine precision for "any" Δt (not too large).

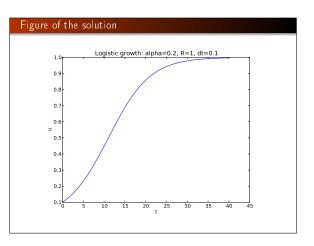
Code: def test_ForwardEuler_against_linear_solution(): def f(u, t): return 0.2 + (u - h(t)) **4 def h(t): return 0.2*t + 3 solver = ForwardEuler(f) solver.set_initial_condition(U0-3) dt = 0.4; T = 3; n = int(round(float(T)/dt)) time_points = np.linepace(0, T, n+1) u, t = solver_solve(time_points) u_exact = h(t) diff = np.abs(u_exact - u).max() tol = 1E-14 success = diff < tol assert success</pre>

```
Using a class to hold the right-hand side f(u,t)

Mathematical problem:
u'(t) = \alpha u(t) \left(1 - \frac{u(t)}{R}\right), \quad u(0) = U_0, \quad t \in [0,40]

Class for right-hand side f(u,t):
\text{class Logistic:} \quad \text{def \__init}\_(\text{self, alpha, R, U0}): \\ \quad \text{self.alpha, self.R, self.U0} = \text{alpha, float(R), U0}
\text{def \__call}\_(\text{self, u, t}): \quad \text{if } f(u,t) \\ \quad \text{return self.alpha*u*}(1 - u/\text{self.R})

Main program:
\text{problem} = \text{Logistic}(0.2, 1, 0.1) \\ \quad \text{time_points} = \text{np.linspace}(0, 40, 401) \\ \quad \text{method} = \text{ForwardEuler(problem)} \\ \quad \text{method set_initial_condition(problem.U0)} \\ \quad \text{u, t} = \text{method.solve(time\_points)}
```



Numerical methods for ordinary differential equations

Forward Euler method:

$$u_{k+1} = u_k + \Delta t f(u_k, t_k)$$

4th-order Runge-Kutta method:

$$u_{k+1} = u_k + \frac{1}{6} \left(K_1 + 2K_2 + 2K_3 + K_4 \right)$$

$$K_1 = \Delta t f(u_k, t_k)$$

$$K_2 = \Delta t f(u_k + \frac{1}{2}K_1, t_k + \frac{1}{2}\Delta t)$$

$$K_3 = \Delta t f(u_k + \frac{1}{2}K_2, t_k + \frac{1}{2}\Delta t)$$

 ${\cal K}_4 = \Delta t \, f(u_k + {\cal K}3, t_k + \Delta t)$ And lots of other methods! How to program a wide collection of methods? Use object-oriented programming!

A superclass for ODE methods

Common tasks for ODE solvers:

- Store the solution u_k and the corresponding time levels t_k , $k = 0, 1, 2, \dots, n$
- Store the right-hand side function f(u, t)
- Set and store the initial condition
- Run the loop over all time steps

Principles

- Common data and functionality are placed in superclass
 ODESolver
- Isolate the numerical updating formula in a method advance
- Sub classes, e.g., ForwardEuler, just implement the specific numerical formula in advance

class ODESolver: def __init__(self, f): self.f = f def advance(self): """Idvance solution one time step.""" raise NotImplementedError # implement in subclass def set_initial_condition(self, UO): self.UO = float(UO) def solve(self, time_points): self.t = np.saarray(time_points) self.u = np.zeros(len(self, t)) # Assume that self.t[0] corresponds to self.UO self.u[0] = self.UO # Time loop for k in range(n-1): self.k = k self.u[k+i] = self.advance() return self.u, self.t def advance(self): raise NotImplentedError # to be impl. in subclasses

```
Subclass code:

class ForwardEuler(ODESolver):
    def advance(self):
        u, f, k, t = self.u, self.f, self.k, self.t

    dt = t[k+1] - t[k]
    unew = u[k] + dt*f(u[k], t)

    return unew

Application code for u' − u = 0, u(0) = 1, t ∈ [0, 3]. Δt = 0.1:

from ODESolver import ForwardEuler
def testi(u, t):
    return u

method = ForwardEuler(testi)
method.set_initial_condition(UO=1)
u, t = method.solve(time_points=np.linspace(0, 3, 31))
plot(t, u)
```

The implementation of a Runge-Kutta method Subclass code: class RungeKutta4(ODESolver): def advance(self): u, f, k, t = self.u, self.f, self.k, self.t dt = t[k+1] - t[k] dt 2 = dt/2.0 k K1 = dt *f(u[k] + 0.5*K1, t + dt2) K3 = dt *f(u[k] + 0.5*K1, t + dt2) K4 = dt *f(u[k] + 0.5*K2, t + dt2) K4 = dt *f(u[k] + 0.5*K1, t + dt2) unew = u[k] + (1/6.0)*(K1 + 2*K2 + 2*K3 + K4) return unew Application code (same as for ForwardEuler): from ODESolver import RungeKutta4 def testi(u, t): return u method = RungeKutta4(test1) method.set_initial_condition(U0=1) u, t = method.solve(time_points=np.linspace(0, 3, 31)) plot(t, u)

```
The user should be able to check intermediate solutions and terminate the time stepping

• Sometimes a property of the solution determines when to stop the solution process: e.g., when u < 10<sup>-7</sup> ≈ 0.

• Extension: solve(time_points, terminate)

• terminate(u, t, step_no) is called at every time step, is user-defined, and returns True when the time stepping should be terminated

• Last computed solution is u [step_no] at time t [step_no]

def terminate(u, t, step_no):
    eps = 1.00-6
        return abs(u[step_no,0]) < eps # small number
    return abs(u[step_no,0]) < eps # close enough to zero?
```

Systems of differential equations (vector ODE) u' = vv' = -uu(0) = 1v(0) = 0

Example on a system of ODEs (vector ODE)

Two ODEs with two unknowns u(t) and v(t):

$$u'(t) = v(t)$$
$$v'(t) = -u(t)$$

Each unknown must have an initial condition, say

$$u(0) = 0, \quad v(0) = 1$$

In this case, one can derive the exact solution to be

$$u(t) = \sin(t), \quad v(t) = \cos(t)$$

Systems of ODEs appear frequently in physics, biology, finance, ...

The ODE system that is the final project in the course

Model for spreading of a disease in a population:

$$S' = -\beta SI$$

$$I' = \beta SI - \nu R$$

$$R' = \nu I$$

Initial conditions:

$$S(0) = S_0$$

 $I(0) = I_0$
 $R(0) = 0$

Another example on a system of ODEs (vector ODE)

Second-order ordinary differential equation, for a spring-mass system (from Newton's second law):

$$mu'' + \beta u' + ku = 0$$
, $u(0) = U_0$, $u'(0) = 0$

We can rewrite this as a system of two first-order equations, by introducing two new unknowns

$$u^{(0)}(t) \equiv u(t), \quad u^{(1)}(t) \equiv u'(t)$$

The first-order system is then

$$\frac{d}{dt}u^{(0)}(t) = u^{(1)}(t)$$
$$\frac{d}{dt}u^{(1)}(t) = -m^{-1}\beta u^{(1)} - m^{-1}ku^{(0)}$$

Initial conditions: $u^{(0)}(0) = U_0, u^{(1)}(0) = 0$

Making a flexible toolbox for solving ODEs

- For scalar ODEs we could make one general class hierarchy to solve "all" problems with a range of methods
- Can we easily extend class hierarchy to systems of ODEs?
- The example here can easily be extended to professional code (Odespy)

Vector notation for systems of ODEs: unknowns and equations

General software for any vector/scalar ODE demands a general mathematical notation. We introduce n unknowns

$$u^{(0)}(t), u^{(1)}(t), \ldots, u^{(n-1)}(t)$$

in a system of n ODEs:

$$\frac{d}{dt}u^{(0)}=f^{(0)}(u^{(0)},u^{(1)},\ldots,u^{(n-1)},t)$$

$$\frac{d}{dt}u^{(1)}=f^{(1)}(u^{(0)},u^{(1)},\ldots,u^{(n-1)},t$$

$$=$$
 $(n-1) = f(n-1) \cdot (0) \cdot (1) \cdot (n-1) + \dots$

$$\frac{dt}{dt}u^{(1)} = f^{(1)}(u^{(0)}, u^{(1)}, \dots, u^{(n-1)}, t)
\vdots =
\frac{d}{dt}u^{(n-1)} = f^{(n-1)}(u^{(0)}, u^{(1)}, \dots, u^{(n-1)}, t)$$

Vector notation for systems of ODEs: vectors

We can collect the $u^{(i)}(t)$ functions and right-hand side functions $f^{(i)}$ in vectors:

$$u = (u^{(0)}, u^{(1)}, \dots, u^{(n-1)})$$

$$f = (f^{(0)}, f^{(1)}, \dots, f^{(n-1)})$$

The first-order system can then be written

$$u' = f(u, t), \quad u(0) = U_0$$

where u and f are vectors and U_0 is a vector of initial conditions

The magic of this notation:

Observe that the notation makes a scalar ODE and a system look the same, and we can easily make Python code that can handle both cases within the same lines of code (!)

How to make class ODESolver work for systems of ODEs

- Recall: ODESolver was written for a scalar ODE
- Now we want it to work for a system u' = f, $u(0) = U_0$, where u, f and U_0 are vectors (arrays)
- What are the problems?

Forward Euler applied to a system:

$$\underbrace{u_{k+1}}_{\text{vector}} = \underbrace{u_k}_{\text{vector}} + \Delta t \underbrace{f(u_k, t_k)}_{\text{vector}}$$

In Python code:

```
unew = u[k] + dt*f(u[k], t)
```

- u is a two-dim. array (u[k] is a row)
- f is a function returning an array (all the right-hand sides $f^{(0)},\ldots,f^{(n-1)}$

The adjusted superclass code (part 1)

To make ODESolver work for systems:

- Ensure that f(u,t) returns an array.
- This can be done be a general adjustment in the superclass!
- Inspect U_0 to see if it is a number or list/tuple and make corresponding u 1-dim or 2-dim array

```
class ODESolver:
     def __init__(self, f):
           # Wrap user's f in a new function that always
# converts list/tuple to array (or let array be array)
self f = lambda u, t: np.asarray(f(u, t), float)
     def set_initial_condition(self, U0):
           if isinstance(UO, (float,int)): # scalar ODE
                self.neq = 1
U0 = float(U0)
                                                        # no of equations
           else:
UO = np.asarray(UO)
                                                        # system of ODEs
                                                        # no of equations
           self.neq = U0.size
self.U0 = U0
```

The superclass code (part 2)

```
class ODESolver:
      def solve(self, time_points, terminate=None):
    if terminate is None:
        terminate = lambda u, t, step_no: False
            self.t = np.asarray(time_points)
          # Assume that self.t[0] corresponds to self.U0 self.u[0] = self.U0
           for k in range(n-1):
    self.k = k
    self.u[k+1] = self.advance()
    if terminate(self.u, self.t, self.k+1):
                     break # terminate loop over k
            return self.u[:k+2], self.t[:k+2]
All subclasses from the scalar ODE works for systems as well
```

Example on how to use the general class hierarchy

Spring-mass system formulated as a system of ODEs:

$$mu'' + \beta u' + ku = 0$$
, $u(0)$, $u'(0)$ known

$$u^{(0)} = u, \quad u^{(1)} = u'$$

$$u(t) = (u^{(0)}(t), u^{(1)}(t))$$

$$f(u, t) = (u^{(1)}(t), -m^{-1}\beta u^{(1)} - m^{-1}ku^{(0)})$$

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

Code defining the right-hand side:

```
def myf(u, t):
    # u is array with two components u[0] and u[1]:
    return [u[1],
                  -beta*u[1]/m - k*u[0]/m]
```

Alternative implementation of the f function via a class

```
Better (no global variables)
 class MyF:
    def __init__(self, m, k, beta):
        self.m, self.k, self.beta = m, k, beta
         def __call__(self, u, t):
    m, k, beta = self.m, self.k, self.beta
    return [u[1], -beta*u[1]/m - k*u[0]/m]
```

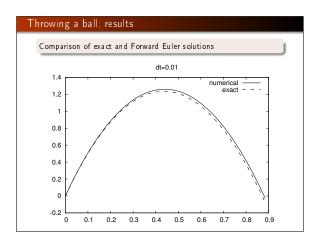
Main program:

```
from ODESolver import ForwardEuler
# initial condition:

U0 = [1.0, 0]

f = MyF(1.0, 1.0, 0.0) # u'' + u = 0 => u(t) = cos(t)
solver = ForwardEuler(f)
solver.set_initial_condition(U0)
T = 4*pi; dt = pi/20; n = int(round(T/dt))
time_points = np.linspace(0, T, n+1)
u, t = solver.solve(time_points)
# u is an array of [u0,u1] arrays, plot all u0 values: u0\_values = u[:,0]
u0_exact = cos(t)
plot(t, u0_values, 'r-', t, u0_exact, 'b-')
```

Newton's 2nd law for a ball's trajectory through air leads to $\frac{dx}{dt} = v_x$ $\frac{dv_x}{dt} = 0$ $\frac{dy}{dt} = v_y$ $\frac{dv_y}{dt} = -g$ Air resistance is neglected but can easily be added! • 4 ODEs with 4 unknowns: • the ball's position x(t), y(t)• the velocity $v_x(t)$, $v_y(t)$



```
Logistic growth model; ODE and code overview

u' = \alpha u (1 - u/R(t)), \quad u(0) = U_0
R is the maximum population size, which can vary with changes in the environment over time

|mplementation | features: \\ \bullet | Class | Problem | holds "all | physics": <math>\alpha, R(t), U_0, T (end time), f(u,t) in ODE

• Class Solver holds "all numerics": \Delta t, solution method; solves the problem and plots the solution
• Solve for t \in [0,T] but terminate when |u-R| < tol
```

```
class Problem:

def __init__(self, alpha, R, U0, T):
    self.alpha, self.R, self.U0, self.T = alpha, R, U0, T

def __call__(self, u, t):
    """Return f(u, t)."""
    return self.alpha*u*(1 - u/self.R(t))

def terminate(self, u, t, step_no):
    """Terminate when u is close to R."""
    tol = self.R*0.01
    return abs(u[step_no] - self.R) < tol

problem = Problem(alpha=0.1, R=500, U0=2, T=130)
```

