M4401 Differential Equations Tutorial 1: Picard's Iteration and IVP Solutions

Prepared by: Motaung Mandla>Motaung Mandla

National University of Lesotho

September 4, 2025

Department of Mathematics and Computer Science M4401 – Ordinary Differential Equations

PROBLEM 1: USE PICARD'S ITERATION TO SOLVE IVPS

We apply Picard's iteration method:

$$y_0(x) = y_0, \quad y_{n+1}(x) = y_0 + \int_{x_0}^x f(t, y_n(t)) dt.$$

Solution 1. (a)
$$\frac{dy}{dx} = x + y - 1$$
, $y(0) = 1$
Let $y_0(x) = 1$.

$$y_1(x) = 1 + \int_0^x (t+1-1) dt = 1 + \int_0^x t dt = 1 + \frac{x^2}{2}$$

$$y_2(x) = 1 + \int_0^x \left(t + \left(1 + \frac{t^2}{2} \right) - 1 \right) dt = 1 + \int_0^x \left(t + \frac{t^2}{2} \right) dt = 1 + \frac{x^2}{2} + \frac{x^3}{6}$$

$$y_3(x) = 1 + \int_0^x \left(t + \left(1 + \frac{t^2}{2} + \frac{t^3}{6} \right) - 1 \right) dt = 1 + \int_0^x \left(t + \frac{t^2}{2} + \frac{t^3}{6} \right) dt$$

$$= 1 + \frac{x^2}{2} + \frac{x^3}{6} + \frac{x^4}{24}$$

Pattern: $y_n(x) = 1 + \frac{x^2}{2!} + \frac{x^3}{3!} + \dots + \frac{x^{n+1}}{(n+1)!}$. As $n \to \infty$, this tends to:

$$y(x) = 1 + (e^x - 1 - x) = e^x - x$$

So the exact solution is $y(x) = e^x - x$.

(b)
$$\frac{dy}{dx} = y - x, \quad y(0) = 2$$
$$y_0(x) = 2$$

$$y_1(x) = 2 + \int_0^x (2 - t) dt = 2 + \left[2t - \frac{t^2}{2} \right]_0^x = 2 + 2x - \frac{x^2}{2}$$

$$y_2(x) = 2 + \int_0^x \left(\left(2 + 2t - \frac{t^2}{2} \right) - t \right) dt = 2 + \int_0^x \left(2 + t - \frac{t^2}{2} \right) dt$$

$$= 2 + \left[2t + \frac{t^2}{2} - \frac{t^3}{6} \right]_0^x = 2 + 2x + \frac{x^2}{2} - \frac{x^3}{6}$$

$$y_3(x) = 2 + \int_0^x \left(y_2(t) - t \right) dt = 2 + \int_0^x \left(2 + 2t + \frac{t^2}{2} - \frac{t^3}{6} - t \right) dt$$

$$= 2 + \int_0^x \left(2 + t + \frac{t^2}{2} - \frac{t^3}{6} \right) dt = 2 + 2x + \frac{x^2}{2} + \frac{x^3}{6} - \frac{x^4}{24}$$

Pattern suggests $y(x) = x + 1 + e^x$. Check: y(0) = 1 + 1 = 2. Try $y = x + 1 + e^x$. Then: $y' = 1 + e^x$, and $y - x = 1 + e^x + x - x = 1 + e^x$. Yes! So $y(x) = x + 1 + e^x$.

(c)
$$\frac{dy}{dx} = 2(1+y), \quad y(0) = 0$$

 $y_0(x) = 0$

$$y_1(x) = 0 + \int_0^x 2(1+0) dt = 2x$$

$$y_2(x) = 0 + \int_0^x 2(1+2t) dt = 2 \int_0^x (1+2t) dt = 2 \left[t + t^2\right]_0^x = 2x + 2x^2$$

$$y_3(x) = 0 + \int_0^x 2(1+2t+2t^2) dt = 2 \int_0^x (1+2t+2t^2) dt = 2 \left[t + t^2 + \frac{2t^3}{3}\right]_0^x = 2x + 2x^2 + \frac{4x^3}{3}$$

Pattern: coefficients resemble $e^{2x} - 1$. Recall $e^{2x} = 1 + 2x + \frac{(2x)^2}{2!} + \frac{(2x)^3}{3!} + \cdots = 1 + 2x + 2x^2 + \frac{4x^3}{3} + \cdots$

So $y_n(x) \to e^{2x} - 1$. Check: y(0) = 0, $y' = 2e^{2x}$, $2(1+y) = 2(1+e^{2x}-1) = 2e^{2x}$. Good.

$$So\left[y(x) = e^{2x} - 1\right].$$

(d)
$$\frac{dy}{dx} = 2x - y, \quad y(0) = 1$$
$$y_0(x) = 1$$

$$y_1(x) = 1 + \int_0^x (2t - 1) dt = 1 + \left[t^2 - t\right]_0^x = 1 + x^2 - x$$

$$y_2(x) = 1 + \int_0^x \left(2t - (1 + t^2 - t)\right) dt = 1 + \int_0^x \left(-t^2 + 3t - 1\right) dt$$

$$= 1 + \left[-\frac{t^3}{3} + \frac{3t^2}{2} - t\right]_0^x = 1 - \frac{x^3}{3} + \frac{3x^2}{2} - x$$

$$y_3(x) = 1 + \int_0^x \left(2t - y_2(t)\right) dt = 1 + \int_0^x \left(3t - 1 + \frac{t^3}{3} - \frac{3t^2}{2}\right) dt$$

$$= 1 + \left[\frac{3t^2}{2} - t + \frac{t^4}{12} - \frac{t^3}{2}\right]_0^x = 1 + \frac{3x^2}{2} - x + \frac{x^4}{12} - \frac{x^3}{2}$$

Solving via integrating factor: y' + y = 2x, IF: e^x , so

$$(e^x y)' = 2xe^x \Rightarrow e^x y = 2(xe^x - e^x) + C \Rightarrow y = 2x - 2 + Ce^{-x}$$

 $y(0) = 1 \Rightarrow -2 + C = 1 \Rightarrow C = 3.$ So $y(x) = 2x - 2 + 3e^{-x}$.

(e)
$$\frac{dy}{dx} = 2x(1-y), \quad y(0) = 2$$

 $y_0(x) = 2$

$$y_1(x) = 2 + \int_0^x 2t(1-2) dt = 2 - \int_0^x 2t dt = 2 - x^2$$

$$y_2(x) = 2 + \int_0^x 2t(1-(2-t^2)) dt = 2 + \int_0^x 2t(-1+t^2) dt = 2 - x^2 + \frac{x^4}{2}$$

$$y_3(x) = 2 + \int_0^x 2t \left(1 - \left(2 - t^2 + \frac{t^4}{2}\right)\right) dt = 2 - x^2 + \frac{x^4}{2} - \frac{x^6}{6}$$

Try $y = 1 + e^{-x^2}$. Then $y' = -2xe^{-x^2}$, $2x(1 - y) = 2x(-e^{-x^2}) = -2xe^{-x^2}$. Yes! y(0) = 1 + 1 = 2. So $y(x) = 1 + e^{-x^2}$.

(f)
$$\frac{dy}{dx} = xy + 1, \quad y(0) = 0$$
$$y_0(x) = 0$$

$$y_1(x) = \int_0^x 1 \, dt = x$$

$$y_2(x) = \int_0^x (t^2 + 1) \, dt = x + \frac{x^3}{3}$$

$$y_3(x) = \int_0^x \left(t^2 + \frac{t^4}{3} + 1 \right) dt = x + \frac{x^3}{3} + \frac{x^5}{15}$$

Linear ODE:
$$y' - xy = 1$$
. IF: $e^{-x^2/2}$. Then:

$$\frac{d}{dx}(ye^{-x^2/2}) = e^{-x^2/2} \Rightarrow y = e^{x^2/2} \int_0^x e^{-t^2/2} dt$$

So
$$y(x) = e^{x^2/2} \int_0^x e^{-t^2/2} dt$$
.

PROBLEM 2: VERIFY SOLUTIONS USING ELEMENTARY METHODS

Solution 2. We verify each solution from Problem 1 using standard ODE techniques.

(a)
$$y' - y = x - 1$$
. IF: e^{-x} . Then:

$$(ye^{-x})' = (x-1)e^{-x} \Rightarrow y = e^x \int (x-1)e^{-x}dx = e^x(-xe^{-x} + C) = -x + Ce^x$$

$$y(0) = 1 \Rightarrow C = 1$$
. $y = e^x - x$. Verified.

(b)
$$y' - y = -x$$
. IF: e^{-x} . Then:

$$(ye^{-x})' = -xe^{-x} \Rightarrow y = e^x(xe^{-x} + e^{-x} + C) = x + 1 + Ce^x$$

$$y(0) = 2 \Rightarrow C = 1$$
. $y = x + 1 + e^x$. Verified.

(c) Separable:
$$\frac{dy}{1+y} = 2dx \Rightarrow \ln|1+y| = 2x + C \Rightarrow y = e^{2x} - 1$$
. Verified.

(d)
$$y' + y = 2x$$
. IF: e^x . Then:

$$(ye^x)' = 2xe^x \Rightarrow y = 2x - 2 + 3e^{-x}$$
. Verified.

(e)
$$\frac{dy}{1-y} = 2xdx \Rightarrow -\ln|1-y| = x^2 + C \Rightarrow y = 1 + e^{-x^2}$$
. Verified.

(f)
$$y' - xy = 1$$
. IF: $e^{-x^2/2}$. Then:

$$ye^{-x^2/2} = \int_0^x e^{-t^2/2} dt \Rightarrow y = e^{x^2/2} \int_0^x e^{-t^2/2} dt$$
. Verified.

PROBLEM 3: THREE PICARD'S ITERATIONS

Solution 3. (a)
$$\frac{dy}{dx} = x + y^2$$
, $y(0) = 0$
 $y_0(x) = 0$

$$y_1(x) = \frac{x^2}{2}$$

$$y_2(x) = \frac{x^2}{2} + \frac{x^5}{20}$$

$$y_3(x) = \frac{x^2}{2} + \frac{x^5}{20} + \frac{x^8}{160} + \frac{x^{11}}{4400}$$

(b)
$$\frac{dy}{dx} = 2 - \frac{y}{x}$$
, $y(1) = 2$
 $y_0(x) = 2$

$$y_1(x) = 2x - 2 \ln x$$

$$y_2(x) = 2 + (\ln x)^2$$

$$y_3(x) = 2x - 2 \ln x - \frac{(\ln x)^3}{3}$$

(c)
$$\frac{dy}{dx} = 1 - xy, \quad y(0) = 0$$
$$y_0(x) = 0$$

$$y_1(x) = x$$

 $y_2(x) = x - \frac{x^3}{3}$
 $y_3(x) = x - \frac{x^3}{3} + \frac{x^5}{15}$

 $\label{lem:continuous} Prepared \ for \ the \ Department \ of \ Mathematics \ and \ Computer \ Science, \ National \ University \ of \ Lesotho.$ $Contact: \ your.email@nul.ls$