

Plan for Today

Discuss 2.4-2.5

Learning Goals:

1. Be able to carry out a few steps of the Euler method and the improved Euler method by hand.
2. Be able to carry out more using a computer algebra system.
3. How can we obtain a more accurate approximation when using Euler's method?

Reminders-Announcements

1. Read the textbook!
2. Quiz 1.5 (ungraded) available at 9.30 am today
3. Quiz 2 (graded) this Thursday
4. Review on Wednesday. Go over the worksheet and prepare questions.

## § 2.4-2.5 Euler's Method, Improved Euler's Method

Algorithms for solving 1st order ODEs approximately.

Why we need them: can't solve most ODEs explicitly.

Ex:  $\frac{dx}{dt} = e^{-t^2} \Rightarrow x(t) = \int e^{-t^2} dt + C$  can't write "nicely"

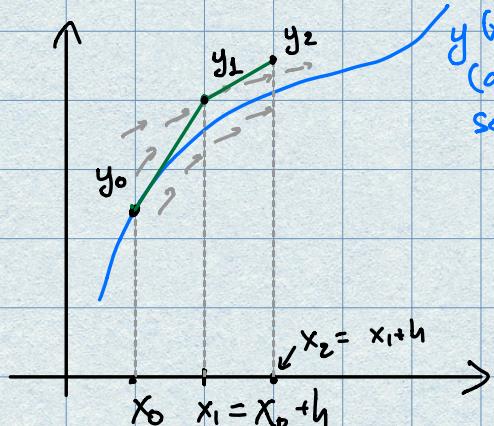
### Euler's Method

Trying to approximate: sols of  $\begin{cases} \frac{dy}{dx} = f(x, y) \\ y(x_0) = y_0 \end{cases}$

on an interval.

Idea:  $y(x+h) \sim y(x) + h \frac{dy}{dx} \Big|_x = y(x) + h f(x, y)$

from ODE.



Set  $x_1 = x_0 + h$ ,  
h a fixed small step size.

Set

$$y_1 = y_0 + h f(x_0, y_0)$$

Next: set  $x_2 = x_1 + h$

$$y_2 = y_1 + h f(x_1, y_1)$$

More generally:

fix step size  $h$ .

Set  $x_{n+1} = x_n + h$

$$y_{n+1} = y_n + h f(x_n, y_n) \leftarrow y_i \text{ approximate true values } y(x_i)$$

$$\begin{cases} \frac{dy}{dx} = x+y \\ y(0) = 1 \end{cases}$$

Take  $h = 0.5$

$$x_0 = 0$$

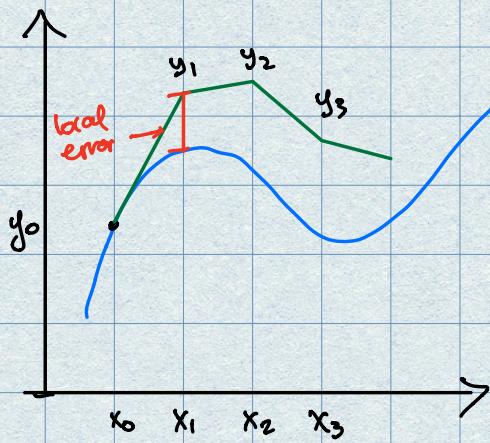
$$y_0 = 1$$

$$x_1 = x_0 + h = 0 + 0.5 = 0.5$$

$$\begin{aligned} y_1 &= y_0 + h (x_0 + y_0) \Big|_{(x_0, y_0)} \\ &= 1 + 0.5 (1 + 0) \\ &= 1.5 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} y_2 &= y_1 + h (x_1 + y_1) \\ &= 1.5 + 0.5 (1.5 + 0.5) \end{aligned}$$

Note: There is an error in the approximation.



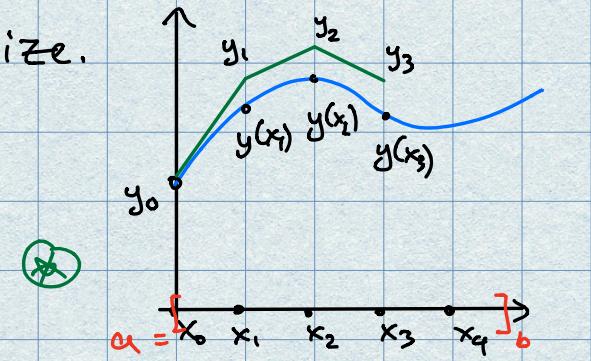
Error introduced at every step!  
local errors build up,  
"cumulative error"

Goal: control the errors.

Main way: shrink step size.

Thus: Given IVP

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



Suppose 1  $\star$  has unique soln  $y(x)$  on  $[a, b]$ ,  $a = x_0$   
2.  $\frac{d^2y}{dx^2}$  cont. on  $[a, b]$  doesn't depend on h

Then there is a constant  $C$  → doesn't depend on h so that:

$$x_1, \dots, x_n \in [a, b] \quad (x_j = x_0 + jh)$$

$y_1, \dots, y_n$  approx. of  $y(x_1), \dots, y(x_n)$  coming  
from Euler's method

Then  $|y_k - y(x_k)| \leq Ch \quad k = 0, 1, \dots, n$

So: if assumptions of the theorem are satisfied, we  
can choose  $h$  small enough to make the error  
as small as we please.

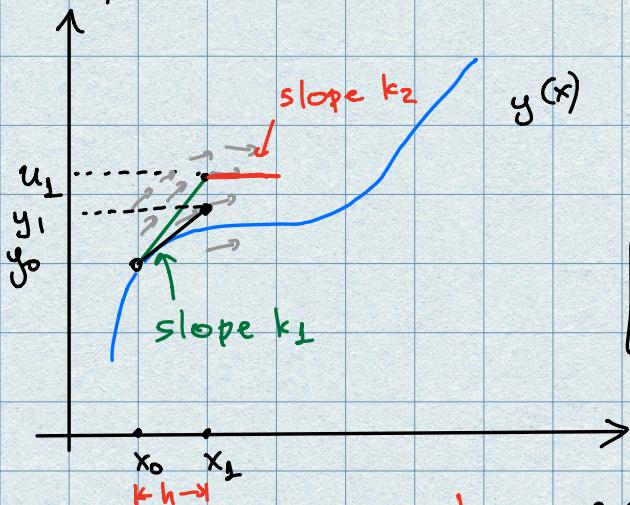
Sup. want error  $< 0.1$

thus says there is const which depends on ODE  
might be large say  $C=1000$

If we make  $h < \frac{1}{10000}$  then  $|y_k - y(x_k)| < \frac{1}{10}$

Mention: smaller step size means more  
iterations → more computational time.

## Improved Euler Method



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

fix step size  $h$ .

$$\begin{aligned} x_1 &= x_0 + h \\ u_1 &= y_0 + h f(x_0, y_0) \leftarrow \text{predictor} \\ &= y_0 + h k_1 \end{aligned}$$

$k_2 = f(x_1, u_1) \rightarrow$  slope of the graph of the sol'n passing through  $(x_1, u_1)$

Go back: set

$$y_1 = y_0 + h \underbrace{\frac{k_1 + k_2}{2}}_{\substack{\text{average of slope at } (x_0, y_0) \\ \& \text{slope predicted by Euler's method at } (x_1, u_1)}} \leftarrow \text{corrector}$$

More generally:

$h \rightarrow$  step size

$$\begin{aligned} x_{n+1} &= x_n + h \\ u_{n+1} &= y_n + h f(x_n, y_n) \quad (\text{as in Euler}) \end{aligned}$$

$$y_{n+1} = y_n + h \frac{f(x_n, y_n) + f(x_{n+1}, u_{n+1})}{2}$$

Error:  $|y(x_n) - y_n| \leq Ch^2$  (under assumptions)

If  $C = 1000$ , want error  $< 0.1$ , suffices to take

$$h = \frac{1}{100}$$