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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. ANALYTICAL SOLUTION CALCULATION .....	3
1.1 Particular Solution ( $x_p$ ) .....	3
1.2 Homogeneous Solution ( $x_h(t)$ ) .....	3
1.3 General Solution .....	4
1.5. Solving for <b>C1</b> and <b>C2</b> .....	4
1.6. Final Analytical Solution .....	5
2. NUMERICAL INTEGRATION METHODS .....	6
2.1 Definition of State Variables .....	6
2.2 Expressing the Second Derivative ( $\ddot{x}$ ) .....	6
2.3. Final First-Order System .....	6
3. APPENDIX .....	8
4. RESULTS .....	12
4.1 Comparison table .....	12
4.2 Graphic comparison .....	13
5. DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION .....	15
5.1 Accuracy Comparison .....	15
5.2 Stability Analysis .....	16
5.3. Conclusion .....	16

## 1. ANALYTICAL SOLUTION CALCULATION

The given ODE is a **second-order linear ODE with constant coefficients**:

$$a \ddot{x} + b \dot{x} + c x = d$$

With the provided coefficients:

$$-4.42 \ddot{x} + 9.25 \dot{x} - 2.03 x = 9.65$$

and the chosen initial conditions:

$$x(0) = 1.0, \quad \dot{x}(0) = 0.0$$

The total analytical solution  $x(t)$  is the sum of the **homogeneous solution**  $x_h(t)$  and the **particular solution**  $x_p$ :

$$x(t) = x_h(t) + x_p$$

### 1.1 Particular Solution ( $x_p$ )

Since the forcing term  $d$  is a constant ( $d = 9.65$ ) and  $c \neq 0$ , we assume the particular solution is also constant,  $x_p = A$ .

Substituting into the ODE ( $\ddot{x}_p = 0, \dot{x}_p = 0$ ) gives:

$$c A = d \Rightarrow A = \frac{d}{c}$$

$$x_p = \frac{9.65}{-2.03} \approx -4.7537$$

Thus, the particular solution is:

$$x_p = -4.7537$$

### 1.2 Homogeneous Solution ( $x_h(t)$ )

The homogeneous equation is:

$$-4.42 \ddot{x} + 9.25 \dot{x} - 2.03 x = 0$$

The corresponding characteristic equation is:

$$ar^2 + br + c = 0 \Rightarrow -4.42r^2 + 9.25r - 2.03 = 0$$

Solving for the roots  $r$  using the quadratic formula:

$$r = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}$$

Compute the discriminant:

$$\Delta = 9.25^2 - 4(-4.42)(-2.03) = 85.5625 - 35.8904 = 49.6721$$

The roots are real and distinct:

$$r_1 = \frac{-9.25 + \sqrt{49.6721}}{2(-4.42)} = 0.2491, \quad r_2 = \frac{-9.25 - \sqrt{49.6721}}{2(-4.42)} = 1.8448$$

Hence, the homogeneous solution is:

$$x_h(t) = C_1 e^{0.2491t} + C_2 e^{1.8448t}$$

### 1.3 General Solution

$$x(t) = C_1 e^{0.2491t} + C_2 e^{1.8448t} - 4.7537$$

### 1.4. Applying Initial Conditions

Given the initial conditions  $x(0) = 1.0$  and  $\dot{x}(0) = 0.0$ :

**Condition 1:**

$$x(0) = C_1 + C_2 - 4.7537 = 1.0$$

$$C_1 + C_2 = 5.7537 \text{ (Equation A)}$$

**Condition 2:**

Differentiate  $x(t)$  to find  $\dot{x}(t)$ :

$$\dot{x}(t) = 0.2491 C_1 e^{0.2491t} + 1.8448 C_2 e^{1.8448t}$$

At  $t = 0$ :

$$0.2491 C_1 + 1.8448 C_2 = 0.0 \text{ (Equation B)}$$

### 1.5. Solving for $C_1$ and $C_2$

From (A):  $C_1 = 5.7537 - C_2$ .

Substitute into (B):

$$0.2491(5.7537 - C_2) + 1.8448C_2 = 0.0$$

$$1.4332 - 0.2491C_2 + 1.8448C_2 = 0$$

$$1.5957C_2 = -1.4332 \Rightarrow C_2 = -0.8981$$

$$C_1 = 5.7537 - (-0.8981) = 6.6518$$

## 1.6. Final Analytical Solution

$$x(t) = 6.6518 e^{0.2491t} - 0.8981 e^{1.8448t} - 4.7537$$

## 2. NUMERICAL INTEGRATION METHODS

The given second-order linear ordinary differential equation (ODE) is:

$$-4.42 \ddot{x} + 9.25 \dot{x} - 2.03 x = 9.65$$

To solve this ODE using numerical integration methods (Euler and Runge–Kutta), it must first be converted into an equivalent system of **first-order** ODEs — the standard **state-space form**.

### 2.1 Definition of State Variables

We define the state vector  $\mathbf{Y}(t)$  using the primary variable  $x(t)$  and its first derivative  $\dot{x}(t)$ :

$$y_1 = x$$

$$y_2 = \dot{x}$$

This immediately gives the first equation of the system:

$$\dot{y}_1 = y_2$$

### 2.2 Expressing the Second Derivative ( $\ddot{x}$ )

From the original ODE, solve for the second derivative  $\ddot{x}$ :

$$-4.42 \ddot{x} = 9.65 - 9.25 \dot{x} + 2.03 x$$

$$\ddot{x} = \frac{2.03}{4.42} x - \frac{9.25}{4.42} \dot{x} - \frac{9.65}{4.42}$$

### 2.3. Final First-Order System

By substituting the state variables  $y_1 = x$  and  $y_2 = \dot{x}$ , we obtain:

$$\dot{y}_1 = y_2$$

$$\dot{y}_2 = \frac{2.03 y_1 - 9.25 y_2 - 9.65}{4.42}$$

or, in vector form:

$$\dot{\mathbf{Y}} = \begin{pmatrix} \dot{y}_1 \\ \dot{y}_2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} y_2 \\ \frac{2.03 y_1 - 9.25 y_2 - 9.65}{4.42} \end{pmatrix}$$

This represents the **state-space system**:

$$\dot{\mathbf{Y}} = f(t, \mathbf{Y})$$

which can be directly implemented in **Python** and passed to numerical integration functions (Forward Euler, Backward Euler, and RK4) in the **integrators.ipynb** file.

### 3. APPENDIX

Below is the code implemented in python to calculate  $\mathbf{x}(t)$  in both analytical and numerical integration methods for comparison:

```
import numpy as np
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt

def my_ode_dynamics(x):
    """
    Dynamics for  $a\ddot{x} + b\dot{x} + c x = d$ 
     $-4.42\ddot{x} + 9.25\dot{x} - 2.03x = 9.65$ 
    State vector  $x = [x, \dot{x}]$ 
    """
    a = -4.42
    b = 9.25
    c = -2.03
    d = 9.65

    y1 = x[0] # x
    y2 = x[1] # x_dot

    y1_dot = y2 # x_dot
    y2_dot = (d - b * y2 - c * y1) / a # x''

    return np.array([y1_dot, y2_dot])

def forward_euler(fun, x0, Tf, h):
    """
    Explicit Euler integration method
    """
    t = np.arange(0, Tf + h, h)
    x_hist = np.zeros((len(x0), len(t)))
    x_hist[:, 0] = x0

    for k in range(len(t) - 1):
        x_hist[:, k + 1] = x_hist[:, k] + h * fun(x_hist[:, k])

    return x_hist, t

def backward_euler(fun, x0, Tf, h, tol=1e-8, max_iter=100):
    """
    Implicit Euler integration method using fixed-point iteration
    """
    t = np.arange(0, Tf + h, h)
    x_hist = np.zeros((len(x0), len(t)))
    x_hist[:, 0] = x0

    for k in range(len(t) - 1):
```



```

        x_hist[:, k + 1] = x_hist[:, k] # Initial guess

        for i in range(max_iter):
            x_next = x_hist[:, k] + h * fun(x_hist[:, k + 1])
            error = np.linalg.norm(x_next - x_hist[:, k + 1])
            x_hist[:, k + 1] = x_next

            if error < tol:
                break

        return x_hist, t

def runge_kutta4(fun, x0, Tf, h):
    """
    4th order Runge-Kutta integration method
    """
    t = np.arange(0, Tf + h, h)
    x_hist = np.zeros((len(x0), len(t)))
    x_hist[:, 0] = x0

    for k in range(len(t) - 1):
        k1 = fun(x_hist[:, k])
        k2 = fun(x_hist[:, k] + 0.5 * h * k1)
        k3 = fun(x_hist[:, k] + 0.5 * h * k2)
        k4 = fun(x_hist[:, k] + h * k3)

        x_hist[:, k + 1] = x_hist[:, k] + (h / 6.0) * (k1 + 2*k2 + 2*k3 + k4)

    return x_hist, t

# ANALYTICAL SOLUTION
def analytical_solution(t):
    """
     $x(t) = C_1 e^{r_1 t} + C_2 e^{r_2 t} + x_p$ 
     $C_1=6.6518, C_2=-0.8981$  (for  $x(0)=1, x'(0)=0$ )
    """
    r1 = 0.2491
    r2 = 1.8448
    C1 = 6.6518
    C2 = -0.8981
    xp = -4.7537
    return C1 * np.exp(r1 * t) + C2 * np.exp(r2 * t) + xp

# PRINT COMPARISON TABLE
def print_comparison_results(t_values, t_full, x_an, x_fe, x_be, x_rk4):
    # Setup tables
    data_values = []
    data_errors = []

```

```

for t in t_values:
    # find the closest index in t_full
    index = np.argmin(np.abs(t_full - t))

    val_an = x_an[index]
    val_fe = x_fe[0, index]
    val_be = x_be[0, index]
    val_rk4 = x_rk4[0, index]

    # Compute the absolute error
    error_fe = np.abs(val_fe - val_an)
    error_be = np.abs(val_be - val_an)
    error_rk4 = np.abs(val_rk4 - val_an)

    # Save data
    data_values.append((t, val_an, val_fe, val_be, val_rk4))
    data_errors.append((t, error_fe, error_be, error_rk4))

# Values comparison
print("\n" + "="*80)
print("Values Comparison X(T)")
print("="*80)
print(f"{'Time (t)':<15}{'Analytical':<15}{'Forward Euler':<15}{'Backward Euler':<15}{'Runge-Kutta 4':<20}")
print("-"*80)
for t, an, fe, be, rk4 in data_values:
    print(f"t:<15.2f}{an:<15.4f}{fe:<15.4f}{be:<15.4f}{rk4:<20.4f}")
print("="*80)

# Error comparison
print("\n" + "="*80)
print("Absolute Error Comparison |X_NUM - X_AN|")
print("="*80)
print(f"{'Time (t)':<15}{'Error FE':<15}{'Error BE':<15}{'Error RK4':<15}")
print("-"*80)
for t, err_fe, err_be, err_rk4 in data_errors:
    print(f"t:<15.2f){err_fe:<15.2e}{err_be:<15.2e}{err_rk4:<15.2e}")
print("="*80)

# SET UP AND RUN SIMULATIONS
x0_ode = np.array([1.0, 0.0]) # [x(0), x'(0)]
Tf = 3.0 # Simulation time
h = 0.01 # Time step

# Run the integrators
x_fe, t_full = forward_euler(my_ode_dynamics, x0_ode, Tf, h)

```

```

x_be, t_full = backward_euler(my_ode_dynamics, x0_ode, Tf, h)
x_rk4, t_full = runge_kutta4(my_ode_dynamics, x0_ode, Tf, h)

# Compute the analytical solution at the time points
x_an = analytical_solution(t_full)

# Time points for comparison
t_comparison = [0.0, 0.5, 1.0, 1.5, 2.0, 2.5, 3.0]

# PRINT COMPARISON TABLE
print_comparison_results(t_comparison, t_full, x_an, x_fe, x_be, x_rk4)

# PLOT COMPARISON
plt.figure(figsize=(10, 6))

plt.plot(t_full, x_an, 'k-', label='Analytical Solution', linewidth=3,
alpha=0.7)
plt.plot(t_full, x_fe[0, :], 'r--', label='Forward Euler')
plt.plot(t_full, x_be[0, :], 'b-.', label='Backward Euler')
plt.plot(t_full, x_rk4[0, :], 'g:', label='Runge-Kutta 4')

plt.xlabel('Time (t)')
plt.ylabel('Position x(t)')
plt.title(f'Comparison of ODE Integrators (h={h})')
plt.legend()
plt.grid(True)
plt.show()

```

## 4. RESULTS

### 4.1 Comparison table

```
=====
Values Comparison X(T)
=====
```

Time (t)	Analytical	Forward Euler	Backward Euler	Runge-Kutta 4
0.00	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000
0.50	0.5214	0.5394	0.5033	0.5216
1.00	-1.9024	-1.8078	-1.9957	-1.8998
1.50	-9.3808	-9.0168	-9.7363	-9.3674
2.00	-29.7564	-28.5251	-30.9538	-29.7037
2.50	-82.7799	-78.8978	-86.5548	-82.5976
3.00	-218.1588	-206.4415	-229.5775	-217.5721

```
=====
```

Table 1: Comparison of  $x(t)$  Values (step size  $h=0.01$ )

```
=====
Absolute Error Comparison |X_NUM - X_AN|
=====
```

Time (t)	Error FE	Error BE	Error RK4
0.00	8.88e-16	8.88e-16	8.88e-16
0.50	1.80e-02	1.81e-02	2.51e-04
1.00	9.46e-02	9.33e-02	2.65e-03
1.50	3.64e-01	3.55e-01	1.34e-02
2.00	1.23e+00	1.20e+00	5.26e-02
2.50	3.88e+00	3.77e+00	1.82e-01
3.00	1.17e+01	1.14e+01	5.87e-01

```
=====
```

Table 2: Comparison of Absolute Error (step size  $h=0.01$ )

## 4.2 Graphic comparison

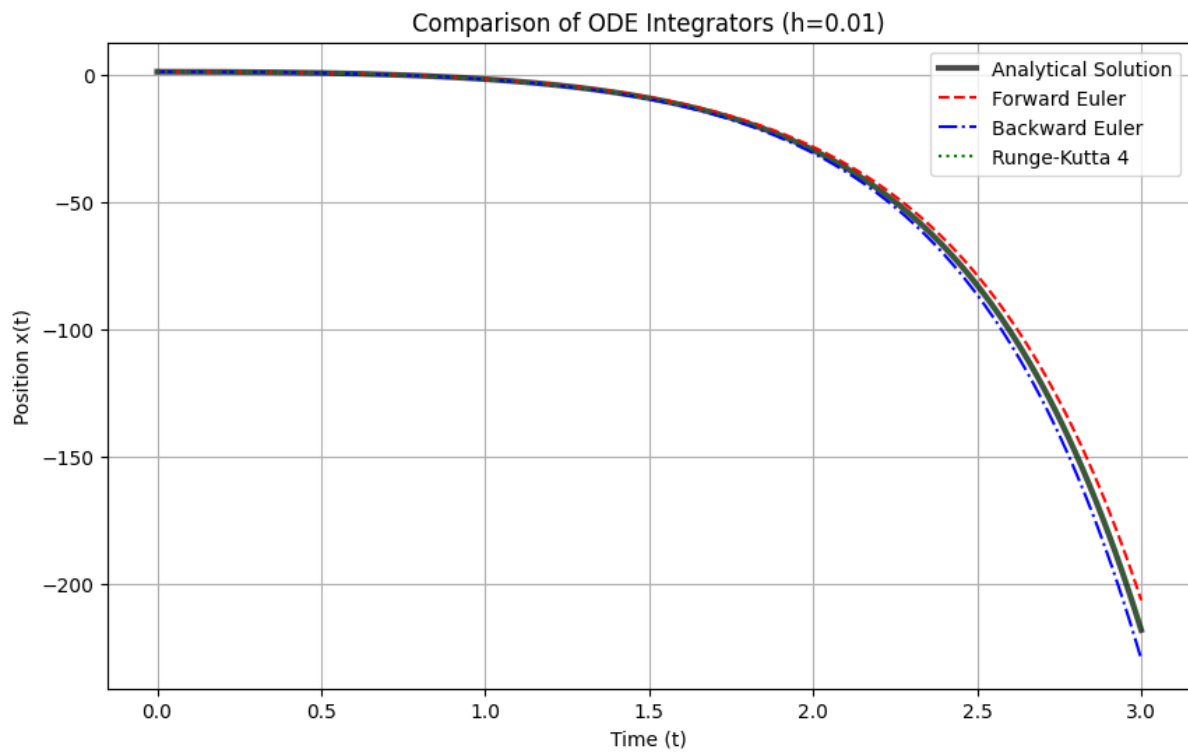


Figure 1: Comparison of ODE Integrators (step size  $h=0.01$ )

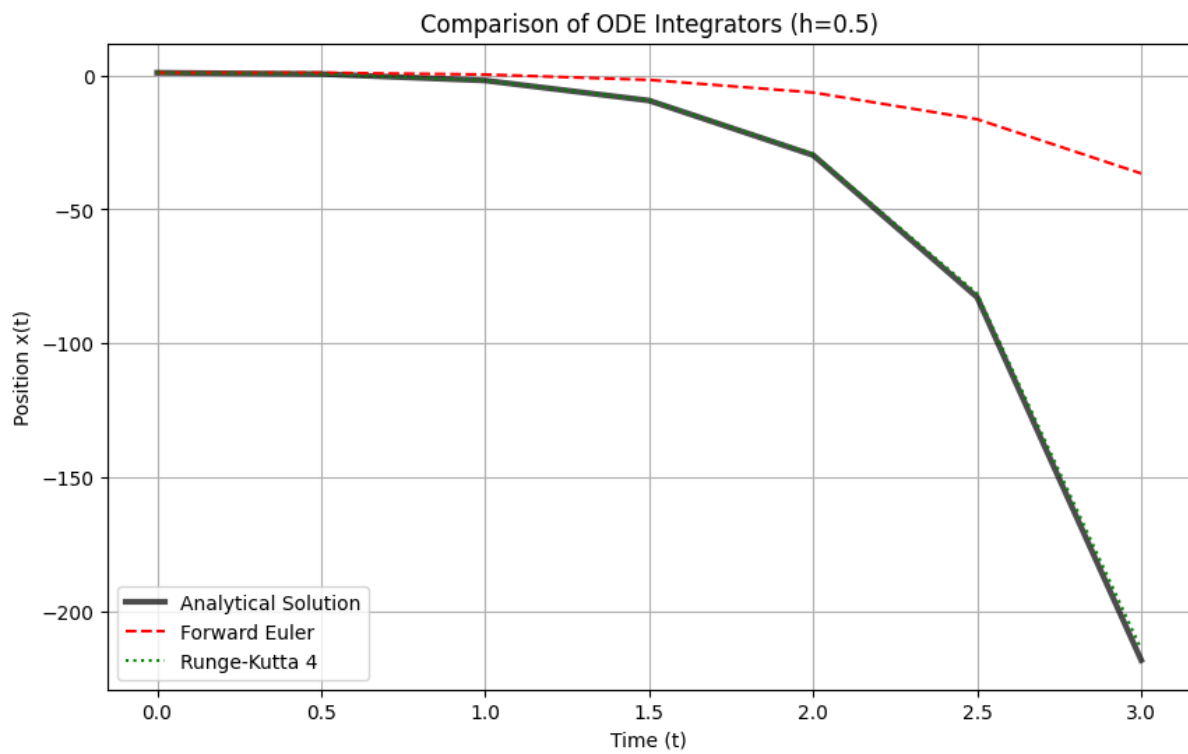


Figure 2: Comparison of ODE Integrators (step size  $h=0.5$ )

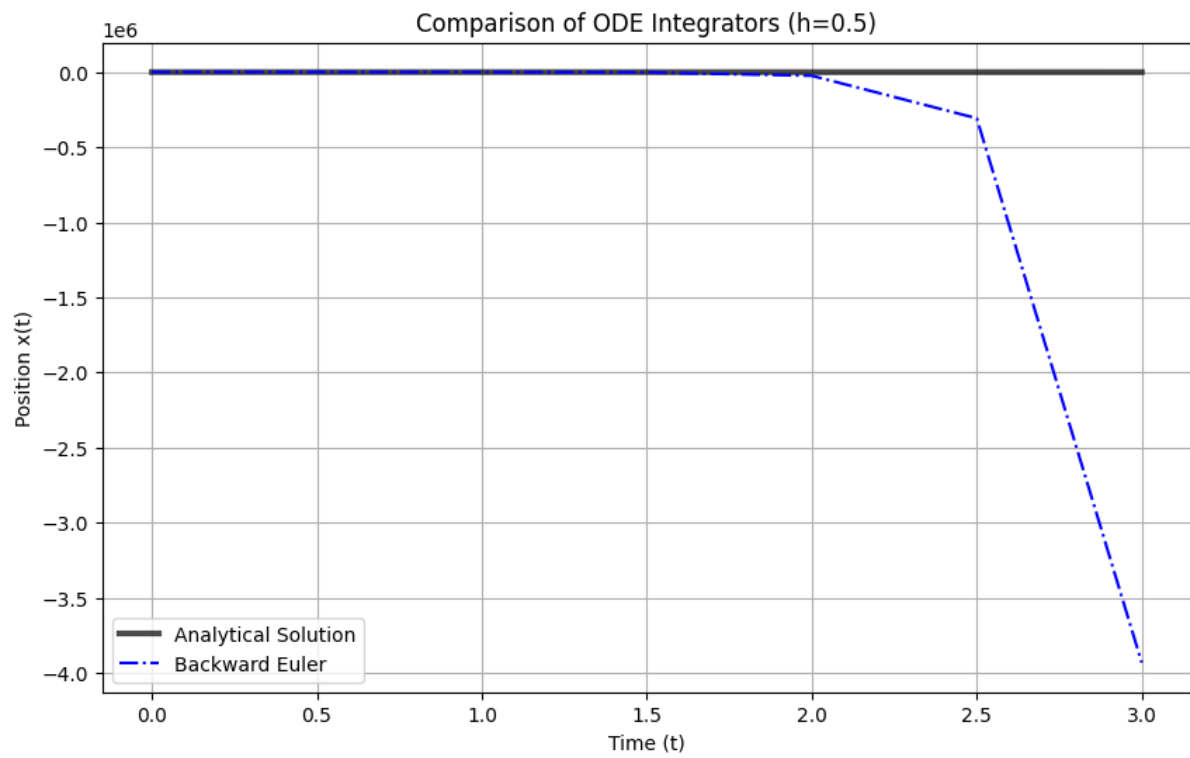


Figure 3: Comparison of ODE Integrators (step size  $h=0.5$ )

## 5. DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

The purpose of this exercise was to compare the accuracy of three numerical integrators—Explicit Euler (FE), Implicit Euler (BE), and Runge-Kutta — against the analytical solution for the unstable second-order ODE

### 5.1 Accuracy Comparison

The computational results clearly demonstrate that the **Runge–Kutta 4 (RK4)** method delivers superior accuracy compared to the tested first-order methods.

- **Runge–Kutta 4:**

The RK4 curve aligns most closely with the analytical solution over the entire simulation interval ( $T_f = 3.0$ ).

At  $t = 3.00$ , the RK4 result ( $\approx -217.57$ ) exhibited the smallest deviation from the analytical value ( $-218.16$ ).

For large step size ( $h = 0.5$ ), RK4 still outperformed all other numerical methods, maintaining high accuracy ( $O(h^4)$ ).

- **Euler Methods:**

Both the Forward Euler (FE) and Backward Euler (BE) methods accumulated noticeably larger errors as time progressed.

In the comparison table, the FE method's absolute error at  $t = 3.00$  reached approximately 11.71, illustrating the limitation of first-order schemes for rapidly growing solutions.

- **Forward Euler (FE):** Tended to **underestimate** the magnitude of the negative position; for example,  $x_{FE} = -206.44$  at  $t = 3.00$ . The FE trajectory consistently appeared **above** the analytical curve.
- **Backward Euler (BE):** Tended to **overestimate** the magnitude of the negative position; for example,  $x_{BE} = -229.58$  at  $t = 3.00$ . The BE trajectory consistently appeared **below** the analytical curve.
- For large step size ( $h = 0.5$ ), FE and BE both suffered catastrophic accuracy loss. Their low-order accuracy ( $O(h)$ ) was insufficient to control the accumulation of error in the exponentially growing system.

## 5.2 Stability Analysis

The given ODE system is **inherently unstable** due to its positive characteristic roots ( $r_1 \approx 0.2491$ ,  $r_2 \approx 1.8448$ ), which cause the solution to grow exponentially over time.

During the test with a small step size ( $h = 0.01$ ) and later a large step size ( $h = 0.5$ ), all three numerical integrators remained **numerically stable** for the simulated duration ( $T_f = 3.0$ ), exhibiting no signs of divergence or numerical “blow-up.”

However, the stability demonstrated by **FE** and **BE** at step size ( $h = 0.5$ ) was misleading, as it was decoupled from practical accuracy. The RK4 method alone proved its **stability and high accuracy** simultaneously.

## 5.3. Conclusion

Based on quantitative error analysis and graphical comparisons, it shows that in comparison between these numerical methods, the 4th-order Runge–Kutta method is clearly the most efficient, offering the highest accuracy and reliable performance across both small and large step sizes in this unstable ODE system.