

and the initial condition

```
>init:=y(0)=0.5;
```

The names `deq` and `init` are chosen by the user. The command to solve the initial-value problems is

```
>deqsol:=dsolve({deq,init},y(t));
```

The response is

$$\text{deqsol} := y(t) = 1 + t^2 + 2t - \frac{1}{2}e^t$$

To use the solution to obtain  $y(1.5)$ , we enter

```
>q:=rhs(deqsol); evalf(subs(t=1.5,q));
```

with the result 4.009155465.

The function `rhs` is used to assign the solution of the initial-value problem to the function  $q$ , which we then evaluate at  $t = 1.5$ . The function `dsolve` can fail if an explicit solution to the initial-value problem cannot be found. For example, the command

```
>deqsol2:=dsolve({D(y)(t)=1+t*sin(t*y(t)),y(0)=0},y(t));
```

does not succeed because an explicit solution cannot be found. In this case a numerical method must be used.

## EXERCISE SET 5.1

1. Use Theorem 5.4 to show that each of the following initial-value problems has a unique solution, and find the solution.
  - a.  $y' = y \cos t$ ,  $0 \leq t \leq 1$ ,  $y(0) = 1$ .
  - b.  $y' = \frac{2}{t}y + t^2 e^t$ ,  $1 \leq t \leq 2$ ,  $y(1) = 0$ .
  - c.  $y' = -\frac{2}{t}y + t^2 e^t$ ,  $1 \leq t \leq 2$ ,  $y(1) = \sqrt{2}e$ .
  - d.  $y' = \frac{4t^3 y}{1+t^4}$ ,  $0 \leq t \leq 1$ ,  $y(0) = 1$ .
2. For each choice of  $f(t, y)$  given in parts (a)–(d):
  - i. Does  $f$  satisfy a Lipschitz condition on  $D = \{(t, y) \mid 0 \leq t \leq 1, -\infty < y < \infty\}$ ?
  - ii. Can Theorem 5.6 be used to show that the initial-value problem

$$y' = f(t, y), \quad 0 \leq t \leq 1, \quad y(0) = 1,$$

is well-posed?

- |                          |                                   |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| a. $f(t, y) = t^2 y + 1$ | b. $f(t, y) = ty$                 |
| c. $f(t, y) = 1 - y$     | d. $f(t, y) = -ty + \frac{4t}{y}$ |

where  $\delta_i$  denotes the roundoff error associated with  $u_i$ . Using methods similar to those in the proof of Theorem 5.9, we can produce an error bound for the finite-digit approximations to  $y_i$  given by Euler's method.

**Theorem 5.10**

Let  $y(t)$  denote the unique solution to the initial-value problem

$$y' = f(t, y), \quad a \leq t \leq b, \quad y(a) = \alpha \quad (5.12)$$

and  $u_0, u_1, \dots, u_N$  be the approximations obtained using (5.11). If  $|\delta_i| < \delta$  for each  $i = 0, 1, \dots, N$  and the hypotheses of Theorem 5.9 hold for (5.12), then

$$|y(t_i) - u_i| \leq \frac{1}{L} \left( \frac{hM}{2} + \frac{\delta}{h} \right) [e^{L(t_i-a)} - 1] + |\delta_0| e^{L(t_i-a)}, \quad (5.13)$$

for each  $i = 0, 1, \dots, N$ . ■

The error bound (5.13) is no longer linear in  $h$ . In fact, since

$$\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \left( \frac{hM}{2} + \frac{\delta}{h} \right) = \infty,$$

the error would be expected to become large for sufficiently small values of  $h$ . Calculus can be used to determine a lower bound for the step size  $h$ . Letting  $E(h) = (hM/2) + (\delta/h)$  implies that  $E'(h) = (M/2) - (\delta/h^2)$ .

If  $h < \sqrt{2\delta/M}$ , then  $E'(h) < 0$  and  $E(h)$  is decreasing.

If  $h > \sqrt{2\delta/M}$ , then  $E'(h) > 0$  and  $E(h)$  is increasing.

The minimal value of  $E(h)$  occurs when

$$h = \sqrt{\frac{2\delta}{M}}. \quad (5.14)$$

Decreasing  $h$  beyond this value tends to increase the total error in the approximation. Normally, however, the value of  $\delta$  is sufficiently small that this lower bound for  $h$  does not affect the operation of Euler's method.

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## EXERCISE SET 5.2

- Use Euler's method to approximate the solutions for each of the following initial-value problems.
  - $y' = te^{3t} - 2y$ ,  $0 \leq t \leq 1$ ,  $y(0) = 0$ , with  $h = 0.5$
  - $y' = 1 + (t - y)^2$ ,  $2 \leq t \leq 3$ ,  $y(2) = 1$ , with  $h = 0.5$
  - $y' = 1 + y/t$ ,  $1 \leq t \leq 2$ ,  $y(1) = 2$ , with  $h = 0.25$
  - $y' = \cos 2t + \sin 3t$ ,  $0 \leq t \leq 1$ ,  $y(0) = 1$ , with  $h = 0.25$
- The actual solutions to the initial-value problems in Exercise 1 are given here. Compare the actual error at each step to the error bound.

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{a. } y(t) = \frac{1}{5}te^{3t} - \frac{1}{25}e^{3t} + \frac{1}{25}e^{-2t} & \text{b. } y(t) = t + \frac{1}{1-t} \\ \text{c. } y(t) = t \ln t + 2t & \text{d. } y(t) = \frac{1}{2} \sin 2t - \frac{1}{3} \cos 3t + \frac{4}{3} \end{array}$$

3. Use Euler's method to approximate the solutions for each of the following initial-value problems.

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{a. } y' = y/t - (y/t)^2, & 1 \leq t \leq 2, \quad y(1) = 1, \text{ with } h = 0.1 \\ \text{b. } y' = 1 + y/t + (y/t)^2, & 1 \leq t \leq 3, \quad y(1) = 0, \text{ with } h = 0.2 \\ \text{c. } y' = -(y+1)(y+3), & 0 \leq t \leq 2, \quad y(0) = -2, \text{ with } h = 0.2 \\ \text{d. } y' = -5y + 5t^2 + 2t, & 0 \leq t \leq 1, \quad y(0) = \frac{1}{3}, \text{ with } h = 0.1 \end{array}$$

4. The actual solutions to the initial-value problems in Exercise 3 are given here. Compute the actual error in the approximations of Exercise 3.

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{a. } y(t) = \frac{t}{1 + \ln t} & \text{b. } y(t) = t \tan(\ln t) \\ \text{c. } y(t) = -3 + \frac{2}{1 + e^{-2t}} & \text{d. } y(t) = t^2 + \frac{1}{3}e^{-5t} \end{array}$$

5. Given the initial-value problem

$$y' = \frac{2}{t}y + t^2e^t, \quad 1 \leq t \leq 2, \quad y(1) = 0,$$

with exact solution  $y(t) = t^2(e^t - e)$ :

- a. Use Euler's method with  $h = 0.1$  to approximate the solution, and compare it with the actual values of  $y$ .  
 b. Use the answers generated in part (a) and linear interpolation to approximate the following values of  $y$ , and compare them to the actual values.

$$\begin{array}{lll} \text{i. } y(1.04) & \text{ii. } y(1.55) & \text{iii. } y(1.97) \end{array}$$

- c. Compute the value of  $h$  necessary for  $|y(t_i) - w_i| \leq 0.1$ , using Eq. (5.10).

6. Given the initial-value problem

$$y' = \frac{1}{t^2} - \frac{y}{t} - y^2, \quad 1 \leq t \leq 2, \quad y(1) = -1,$$

with exact solution  $y(t) = -1/t$ :

- a. Use Euler's method with  $h = 0.05$  to approximate the solution, and compare it with the actual values of  $y$ .  
 b. Use the answers generated in part (a) and linear interpolation to approximate the following values of  $y$ , and compare them to the actual values.

$$\begin{array}{lll} \text{i. } y(1.052) & \text{ii. } y(1.555) & \text{iii. } y(1.978) \end{array}$$

- c. Compute the value of  $h$  necessary for  $|y(t_i) - w_i| \leq 0.05$  using eq. (5.10).

7. Given the initial-value problem

$$y' = -y + t + 1, \quad 0 \leq t \leq 5, \quad y(0) = 1,$$

with exact solution  $y(t) = e^{-t} + t$ :

- a. Approximate  $y(5)$  using Euler's method with  $h = 0.2$ ,  $h = 0.1$ , and  $h = 0.05$ .  
 b. Determine the optimal value of  $h$  to use in computing  $y(5)$ , assuming  $\delta = 10^{-6}$  and that Eq. (5.14) is valid.