Dynamics and Cognitive Models

(Due: 04/02/19)

Assignment #6

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Problem 1: Solve the following differential equation.

(1)
$$x' = -x$$
 where $x(0) = 1$

Solution

(1) The given equation can be written as follows:

$$\frac{dx}{dt} = -x$$
$$-\frac{1}{x}dx = dt$$

Integrate both sides.

$$\int -\frac{1}{x}dx = \int dt$$

$$-\ln|x| = t + C$$

$$|x| = Ae^{-t}$$

where C is a constant of integration and A > 0. Since x(0) = 1, A = 1. Therefore,

$$x = e^{-t}$$
 or $x = -e^{-t}$

Problem 2: Estimate x(1) using the Euler method when Δt is 1, 0.1, and 0.01.

Solution

The Euler method estimates x'(1) as

$$\frac{x(1+\Delta t) - x(1)}{\Delta t}$$

Then, if $x = e^{-t}$, x'(1) is approximated as follows for each Δt :

$$x'(1) \approx \begin{cases} \frac{e^{-2} - e^{-1}}{1} = -0.2325, & \text{if } \Delta t = 1\\ \frac{e^{-1.1} - e^{-1}}{0.1} = -0.3501, & \text{if } \Delta t = 0.1\\ \frac{e^{-1.01} - e^{-1}}{0.01} = -0.3660, & \text{if } \Delta t = 0.01 \end{cases}$$

Then, if $x = -e^{-t}$, x'(1) is approximated as follows for each Δt :

$$x'(1) \approx \begin{cases} \frac{-e^{-2} + e^{-1}}{1} = 0.2325, & \text{if } \Delta t = 1\\ \frac{-e^{-1.1} + e^{-1}}{0.1} = 0.3501, & \text{if } \Delta t = 0.1\\ \frac{-e^{-1.01} + e^{-1}}{0.01} = 0.3660, & \text{if } \Delta t = 0.01 \end{cases}$$