

Introduction - Mathematics for the Life Sciences

Differential Equations

Direction Fields - a qualitative look at solutions

Numerical Solutions of First Order Initial Value Problems

Appendix

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Solving First Order ODEs

Autonomous First Order ODEs - a geometric look

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## TIPS

1. Invest time learning the *language* of Mathematics (with all of its special cases and exceptions and conventions).
2. Review constantly.
3. Do assignments, tutorials, etc. Practise, practise, practise. Read textbook/supplementary notes. Ideally read the textbook/supplementary notes material on a topic *before* the relevant lecture. You will have to do significant work outside of the classroom to master the material.
4. Attend and engage with lectures and tutorials. This represents the most efficient way to learn the material. Come prepared and ask questions if you do not understand something.
5. Speak to me as soon as you feel you may be falling behind.
6. In summary: **KEEP UP**. This will be a very fast-paced class and falling behind is **very unwise**. Mathematics is very hierarchical and you generally progress only by first knowing well what went before.

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### ↔ PRACTICAL INFORMATION ↔

- ▶ Lecturers: **Erwin George** ( $\approx$  weeks 2 - 8) and **Tony Mann** ( $\approx$  week 1 and last 3 weeks)  $\rightsquigarrow$  ([E.George@gre.ac.uk](mailto:E.George@gre.ac.uk) and [A.Mann@gre.ac.uk](mailto:A.Mann@gre.ac.uk)).

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  1. A printable version with parts missing. *You are expected to print this out and read it BEFORE the lecture and to try to do the examples. **Bring this printout with you to the lecture in order to complete the notes.***
  2. A complete printable version will be made available (some time) after lectures.
  3. A complete in-class version which attempts to mimic the way the lecture was delivered in class. I recommend using this version if you miss a lecture to get caught up on that lecture.

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- $\rightsquigarrow$  *This simple introduction will give you the tools to explore other applications of mathematics to life sciences, such as biochemical (including enzyme) kinetics, and I will point some of these out to you as we proceed:*

Suggested Reading List

- ▶ **Mathematics of Life: Unlocking the Secrets of Existence** by Ian Stewart (*Profile*).
- ▶ **Essential Mathematical Biology** by Nicholas Britton (*Springer*)
- ▶ **Mathematical Biology: I. An Introduction** by J.D. Murray (*Springer*)
- ▶ **Mathematical Models in Biology** by Leah Edelstein-Keshet (*SIAM*)
- ▶ **A Primer on Mathematical Models in Biology** by Lee Segel and Leah Edelstein-Keshet (*SIAM*)
- ▶ **Super Cooperators: Evolution, Altruism and Human Behaviour or Why We Need Each Other to Succeed** by Martin Nowak and Roger Highfield (*Canongate*)
- ▶ **When maths doesn't work: what we learn from the Prisoners' Dilemma** by Tony Mann - *Lecture transcript and video available at*  
<http://www.gresham.ac.uk/lectures-andevents/when-mathsdoesnt-work-what-welearn-from-theprisoners-dilemma>;

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- ▶ As always, **NOTATION** and **LANGUAGE** will be very important in what follows; pay close attention to it and ensure that you learn and understand the notation and language used!

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**We will also study systems of ODEs in this course.**

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(Warning - the terminology used in some books can be a bit confusing, referring to this as a “**second** order system” since it contains **two** equations. I prefer the more explicit description “a system of 2 first order equations”).

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- ↪ Usually, the scenario the ODE models has extra pieces of information – called **Initial Conditions** (or *boundary conditions*) – which can be used to determine the constant of integration and hence get a unique (function) solution to the DE, called a **Particular Solution (PS)**. Clearly, the number of *initial conditions* must match the order of the DE (= *the number of constants of integration that “solving” the equation produces*).

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- ▶ **I will often just use the generic terms ODE or system of ODEs to also include the possibility of initial conditions being present - so to include IVPs or systems of IVPs.**

## 3 Types of DEs We'll Learn to Solve Now

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- $\mapsto$  It is important that you learn how to recognise which of the three categories a given differential equation falls into so that you will know exactly how to solve it (or whether you can solve it)!



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→ For example  $\frac{dy}{dx} = f(x) \Rightarrow \int \frac{dy}{dx} dx = \int f(x) dx$  OR  
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*CHECK YOUR ANSWER!!!*

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Substitute this into the general solution to get  $3 = 6 - \frac{5}{2} + C \Rightarrow C = -\frac{1}{2}$  and the particular solution is  $z(y) = 10y + 6e^{-y} - \frac{5}{2}e^{-2y} - \frac{1}{2}$ .



→ **EXAMPLE 3** - *Introductory Modelling (simple mechanics): for this, you need to know that the derivative of displacement/position with respect to time is velocity, and the derivative of velocity with respect to time is acceleration:*

The acceleration of a bus along a straight road is given by  $a(t) = 3t$ . We start observing the bus ( $t = 0$ ) when it is 50 m along the road, and 1 s after we begin observing it, its velocity is 5 m/s. Write this as an ODE with “initial” conditions, and find a particular solution for the *position* of the bus along the road at time  $t$ .

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So

$$x(t) = \frac{1}{2}t^3 + \frac{7}{2}t + 50.$$

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- **NOTE** this method of solution is sometimes referred to as **separation of variables**.

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So, returning to Equation 3, we have  $\frac{du}{dt} = e^u e^{3t} = e^{u+3t}$ , so that our solution *does* satisfy the DE.

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- Note the difficulty of finding an explicit solution in this case.

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↪ To solve the general first order *linear* ODE,  $\frac{dy}{dt} + p(t)y = r(t)$ , we seek to multiply both sides of the equation by an *integrating factor*  $I(t)$  chosen so that the left hand side of the equation becomes, by the **product rule (in reverse)**,  $\frac{d}{dt} [I(t)y]$ . NOTE this would then make it easy to use the **Fundamental Theory of Calculus** to solve for  $y(t)$ .

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► The modified linear first order ODE would then look like

$$I(t) \frac{dy}{dt} + I(t)p(t)y = \frac{d}{dt} [I(t)y] = I(t)r(t) \quad (6)$$

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**Ignoring constants of integration** (we only need *one* function  $I(t)$  to serve as the integrating factor), we solve to get  $\ln [I(t)] = \int p(t) dt \Rightarrow I(t) = e^{\int p(t) dt}$ .

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- ▶ The obvious thing to do is to apply the product rule to differentiating  $I(t)y$  and hope that by matching terms/comparing with the left hand side of the modified linear first order ODE, Equation (6), we can figure out what  $I(t)$  should be. So  $\frac{d}{dt} [I(t)y] = \frac{dI}{dt}y + I \frac{dy}{dt}$  by the product rule. Comparing that to the left hand side of Equation (6),  $I(t) \frac{dy}{dt} + I(t)p(t)y$ , we conclude that  $I(t)p(t)$  **must**  $= \frac{dI}{dt}$ .
  - ▶ That last equation can be viewed as a *separable* ODE:  $\frac{dI}{dt} = Ip(t) \Rightarrow$

$$\frac{1}{I} dI = p(t) dt \Rightarrow \int \frac{1}{I} dI = \int p(t) dt.$$

**Ignoring constants of integration** (we only need *one* function  $I(t)$  to serve as the integrating factor), we solve to get  $\ln [I(t)] = \int p(t) dt \Rightarrow I(t) = e^{\int p(t) dt}$ .

- ▶ Hence, the integrating factor to choose when solving  $\frac{dy}{dt} + p(t)y = r(t)$  is **always**

$$I(t) = e^{\int p(t) dt}. \quad (7)$$

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- Instead of focussing on the above formula, I recommend remembering the *process* of multiplying the equation by an integrating factor to get the product rule in reverse, then using the **Fundamental Theorem of Calculus** to solve the resulting modified ODE.

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## EXAMPLE 7

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- Can you think of a first order ODE which could be considered both *linear* and *separable*? See **Tutorial 2** for some more cases of ODEs which fall into more than one of the three categories we have considered.

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- Are the ODEs from EXAMPLE 1  $\frac{d^3y}{dx^3} - \sin(x) = 4x^3$ , EXAMPLE 2  $e^y \left( 5 - \frac{dz}{dy} \right) = 6 - 10 \cosh y$ , and EXAMPLE 3  $x''(t) = 3t$  linear or nonlinear?

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↪ If  $f$  and  $\frac{\partial f}{\partial y}$  are *continuous* in some rectangle  $\alpha < t < \beta$ ,  $\gamma < y < \delta$  containing the point  $(t_0, y_0)$ , then in some interval  $t_0 - h < t < t_0 + h$  contained in  $\alpha < t < \beta$  there exists a unique solution to the above IVP.



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- ↪ A proof of this is quite advanced and is omitted. A simplified version can be found in section 2.8 of Elementary Differential Equations by *Boyce and DiPrima* and more thorough proofs and discussions of existence and uniqueness of solutions can be found in books such as Ordinary Differential Equations by *Birkhoff and Rota* (for example, in sections 10-12 of chapter 1).

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- In the case of linear first order IVPs  $y' + p(t)y = r(t)$ ,  $y(t_0) = y_0$ , the above theorem becomes: If  $p$  and  $g$  are continuous on an open interval containing the point  $t = t_0$ , then there exists a unique solution to the IVP on that same open interval containing  $t_0$ .

Autonomous First Order ODEs - a geometric look at solution trends

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- ▶ This is often the case, for example, with population models where we sometimes just want to see the long term trend - *i.e.*, what happens to the population as time  $\rightarrow \infty$ , or see if there are certain threshold population values on either side of which the population evolution is very different.
  - ▶ **KEY DEFINITION**: If a *first order* ODE can be written in the form  $\frac{dy}{dt} = f(y)$ , so that the right-hand-side is a function of the dependent variable  $y$  only, then the ODE is called **autonomous**. Otherwise, it is called **non-autonomous** (or just *not autonomous*).

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However we will often be interested in qualitatively studying the trends in their solution *without actually solving them*.

- $\Rightarrow$  In an autonomous ODE  $\frac{dy}{dt} = f(y)$ , if  $f(y)$  is differentiable (*hence continuous*) then any **root(s)** of  $f(y)$  is/are called **equilibrium point(s)** or **critical point(s)** of the ODE.

→ If  $y = y_0$  is an **equilibrium point** of  $\frac{dy}{dt} = f(y)$ , so

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then  $y(t) = y_0$  is a solution to the same ODE with the special initial condition  $y(t_0) = y_0$ . Thus  $y_0$  is also called an **equilibrium solution** of the ODE.

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→ **KEY DEFINITION** For autonomous ODE

$$\frac{dy}{dt} = f(y),$$

the (constant) solutions to  $f(y) = 0$  are called **equilibrium points**, **critical points**, or **equilibrium solutions** to the ODE.

Thus if  $f(y_0) = 0$  then  $y(t) = y_0$  is an equilibrium solution of the ODE  $\frac{dy}{dt} = f(y)$ .

- ▶ On a graph of solutions  $y$  versus  $t$  of the ODE  $\frac{dy}{dt} = f(y)$  where we are only interested in solutions over the interval  $t \geq t_0$ , the graphs of the equilibrium solutions would be **horizontal lines** which would separate the plane (for  $t \geq t_0$ ) into regions where the general behaviour as  $t \rightarrow \infty$  of other solutions would be the same.

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## 4-2 | Page

**Example:**

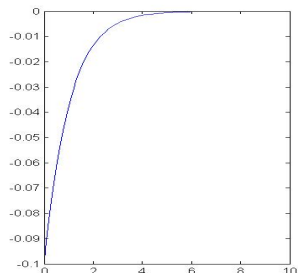
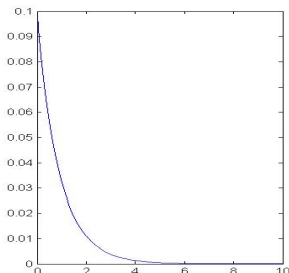
$$\frac{dy}{dt} = \frac{y}{y-1}, \quad y \neq 1$$

clearly  $y_0 = 0$  is an equilibrium point. It is not difficult to solve this equation and the solution is

$$y(t) - \ln y(t) = t + C$$

but we cannot write  $y(t)$  as an explicit function of  $t$ . Despite this we know *from the equation* that there is a constant zero solution for a zero starting value.

What happens for this case if we start off with a **nearby** non-zero value e.g. 0.1 or  $-0.1$ ? The solution simply moves to the equilibrium value i.e. this value is in some sense stable.



⇒ In the definitions which follow, when the statement *solutions which start out near to  $y_0$*  (where  $y(t) = y_0$  is an equilibrium solutions of  $\frac{dy}{dt} = f(y)$ ), means *solutions  $y(t)$  of  $\frac{dy}{dt} = f(y)$  for which  $y(t_0) = y_0 \pm \epsilon$ , where  $\epsilon$  is small enough so that we do not cross over another equilibrium solution.* In other words, *solutions which start out within one of the regions determined by the horizontal lines given by all of the equilibrium solutions of  $\frac{dy}{dt} = f(y)$ .* Note such solutions are themselves NOT constant.

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- ▶ **semistable** if some solutions  $y(t)$  which start out near to  $y_0$  move closer to  $y_0$  and some move away from  $y_0$  as  $t \rightarrow \infty$ . In general, solutions that start out below  $y_0$  will move away from  $y_0$  AND solutions that start out above  $y_0$  will move towards  $y_0$  OR vice versa.

The basic rules for classifying an equilibrium solution  $y_0$  of  $\frac{dy}{dt} = f(y)$  as *stable*, *unstable*, or *semistable* can be easily figured out using basic calculus and the aid of two related graphs to figure out how solutions starting out close to that equilibrium point behave:

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⇒ In the upcoming few slides, the images are, without loss of generality, for an equilibrium point of  $y_0 = 2$ .

- ▶ The key to understanding the behaviour of solutions close to a critical/stationary/equilibrium point,  $y = y_0$ , is *to look at the gradient of the RHS at that equilibrium point - i.e.*

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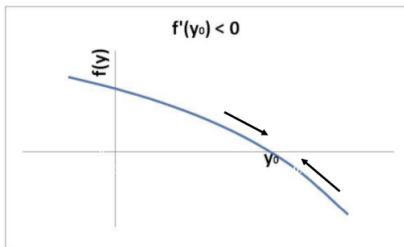
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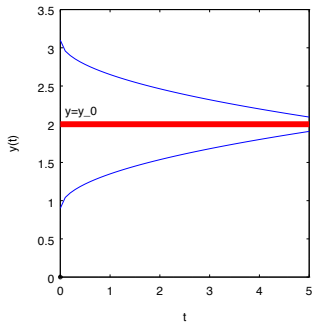
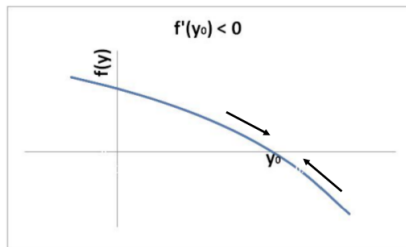
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- ▶ Understanding the points above is key to easily classifying the *equilibrium points* of an autonomous ODE as **stable**, **unstable**, or **semi-stable**, so make a special effort to understand the geometry and calculus behind the next few slides.

$$f'(y_0) < 0$$

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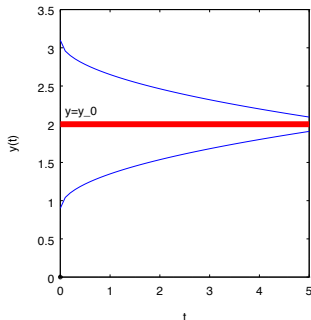
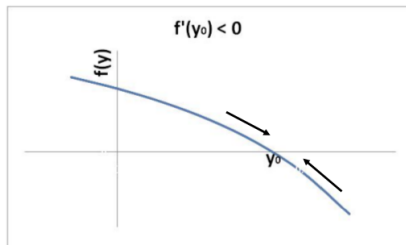


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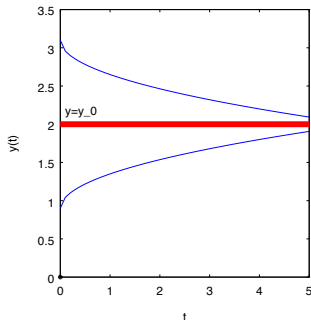
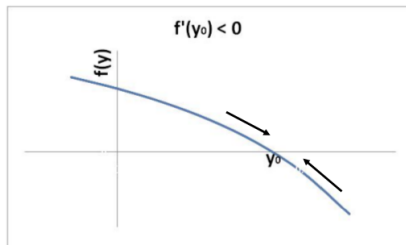


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$f(y)$  is *decreasing* through 0 at  $y = y_0$ , therefore

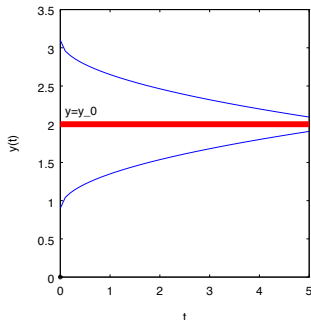
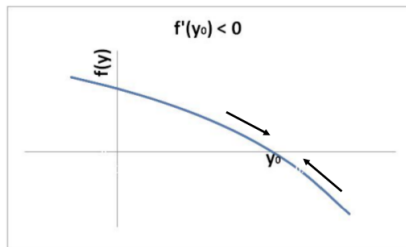
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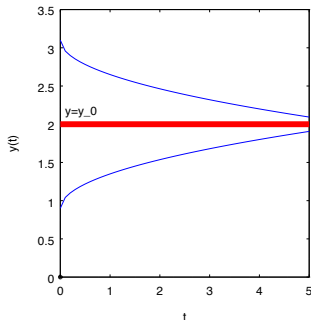
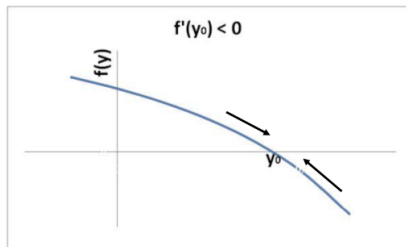
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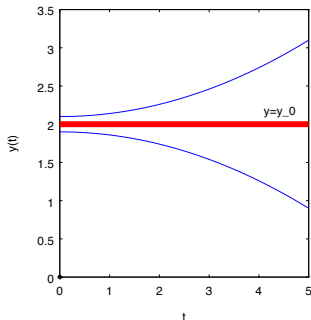
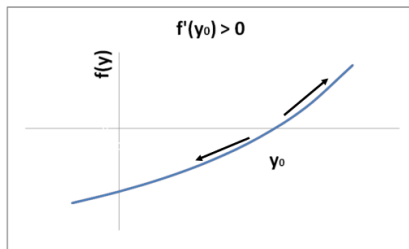
# HENCE

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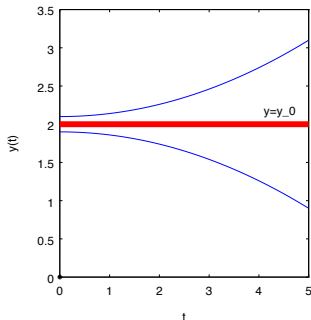
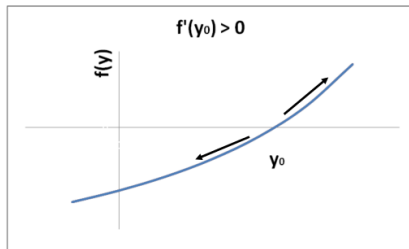
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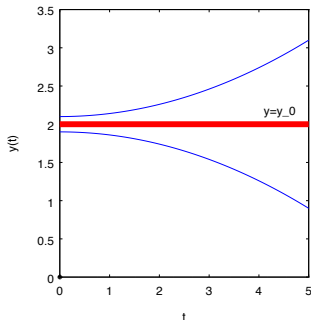
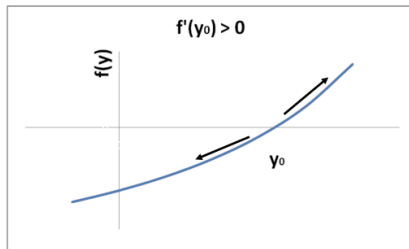
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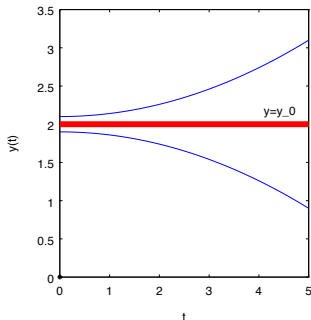
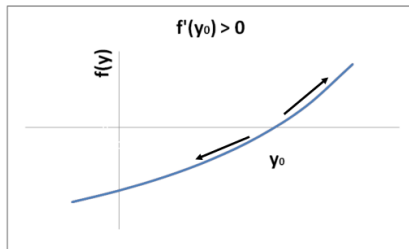


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# HENCE

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$y_0$  is an **UNSTABLE** equilibrium point

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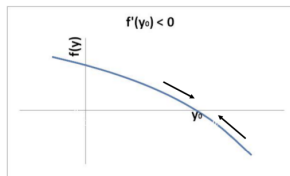
↪ This is an ambiguous case and requires a careful inspection of the ODE - in particular, of the **SIGN (+ve or -ve)** of  $f(y) = \frac{dy}{dt}$  immediately to the left and right of  $y = y_0$ .

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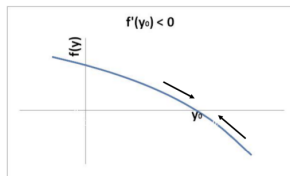
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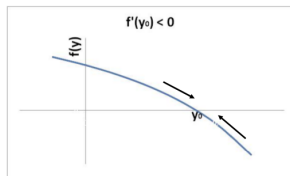


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► E.g.  $y_0 = 0$  and  $f(y) = -2y^5$ .

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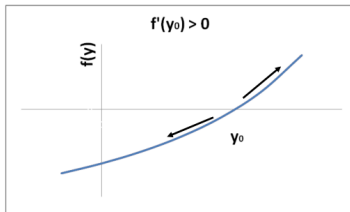
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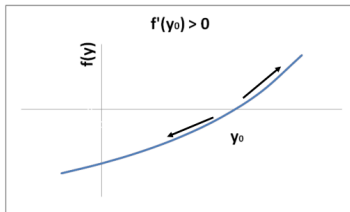
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2. If  $f(y)$  is **negative** to the left of  $y_0$  and **positive** to the right of  $y_0$ , then  $y_0$  is an **UNSTABLE** equilibrium point.

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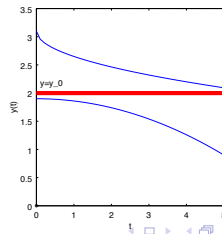
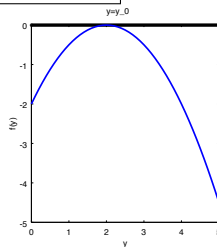
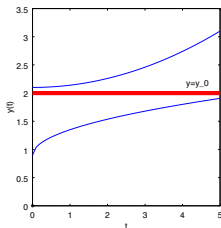
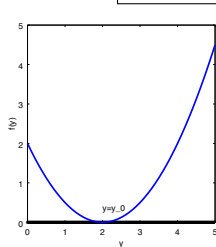


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► E.g.  $y_0 = 0$  and  $f(y) = y^3$ .

$$f'(y_0) = 0 \rightsquigarrow \text{case 3}$$

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$f'(y_0) = 0$  and  $f(y)$  is **negative** to the left AND right of  $y_0$  OR  $f(y)$  is **positive** to the left AND right of  $y_0$ , then

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In this case, starting values of  $y$  on *one side* of the equilibrium point,  $y_0$ , will approach  $y_0$  as  $t \rightarrow \infty$  (**stable**), and starting values of  $y$  on the *other side* of  $y_0$  will move away from  $y_0$  as  $t \rightarrow \infty$  (**unstable**).

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In this case, starting values of  $y$  on *one side* of the equilibrium point,  $y_0$ , will approach  $y_0$  as  $t \rightarrow \infty$  (**stable**), and starting values of  $y$  on the *other side* of  $y_0$  will move away from  $y_0$  as  $t \rightarrow \infty$  (**unstable**).

- E.g.  $y_0 = 4$  and  $f(y) = (y - 4)^2$ . Here,  $f(y) = \frac{dy}{dt} > 0$  on both sides of the equilibrium point, hence  $y(t)$  is **increasing** on both sides of the equilibrium point. So for  $y < y_0$ , the solutions  $y(t)$  approach the equilibrium point (**stable**), and for  $y > y_0$  the solutions  $y(t)$  move away from the equilibrium point **unstable**, hence  $y_0$  is an **SEMI-STABLE** equilibrium point.

- **EXAMPLE 8** (*From a MATH1106 Tutorial*) Find all equilibrium points of the following differential equations, and use calculus to classify each equilibrium point as stable, unstable, or semi-stable:

(a)  $\frac{dy}{dt} = (y^2 - 4)(y^2 - 25)(y + 2).$

(b)  $\frac{dy}{dt} = e^{3y}.$

(c)  $\frac{dy}{dt} = e^{3y} - e.$

(d)  $\frac{dy}{dt} = (y - 4)^3 \ln(y^2 + 1).$

(a) Answer: Setting  $\frac{dy}{dt} = 0$  and solving for  $y$  we get

$$(y^2 - 4)(y^2 - 25)(y + 2) = 0 \quad \text{or} \quad (y - 2)(y + 2)^2(y - 5)(y + 5) = 0$$

so that the equilibrium points are  $y = -5, -2, 2, 5$ .

(a) Answer: Setting  $\frac{dy}{dt} = 0$  and solving for  $y$  we get

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Next, by the product rule,

$$\frac{df}{dy} = f'(y) = 2y(y^2 - 25)(y + 2) + 2y(y^2 - 4)(y + 2) + (y^2 - 4)(y^2 - 25).$$

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$$f'(-5) = 630 > 0 \quad \Rightarrow$$

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so that the equilibrium points are  $y = -5, -2, 2, 5$ .

Next, by the product rule,

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$$f'(-5) = 630 > 0 \quad \Rightarrow \quad -5 \text{ is an UNSTABLE equilibrium point.}$$

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For example, for  $y = -3$  we get  $f(-3) = 80 > 0$  AND for  $y = 0$  we get

$f(0) = 200 > 0$  so that  $\frac{dy}{dt} = f(y)$  is the same sign on both sides of the equilibrium point  $y = -2$ , hence  $y = -2$  is a SEMISTABLE equilibrium point.

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Next,  $\frac{df}{dy} = 3e^{3y} \Rightarrow f' \left( \frac{1}{3} \right) = 3e > 0$ , therefore  $y = \frac{1}{3}$  is an UNSTABLE equilibrium point.



- (d) Answer: Setting  $\frac{dy}{dt} = 0$  and solving for  $y$  we get  $(y - 4)^3 \ln(y^2 + 1) = 0$ . One obvious solution is  $y = 4$ , but we could also have  $\ln(y^2 + 1) = 0$  if  $y^2 + 1 = 1 \Rightarrow y = 0$ .  
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For the equilibrium point  $y = 0$ , we take two points on either side of  $y = 0$  (but not beyond  $y = 4$ , the other equilibrium point) and find the sign of  $f(y)$  evaluated at those points. For example,

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### Classifying Equilibrium Solutions via LINEARISATION (*Taylor series again!*)

- ↪ An alternative way to arrive at earlier conclusions concerning classifying an equilibrium solution,  $y_0$ , of  $\frac{dy}{dt} = f(y)$  by looking at  $f'(y_0)$ , is to consider a **Taylor series** expansion about  $y_0$  of a *nearby solution*  $y(t) = y_0 + \eta(t)$ , where  $\eta(t)$  represents a small perturbation of the equilibrium solution  $y(t) = y_0$ .

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- So, taking the last equation in the sequence and using Taylor's theorem, provided  $\eta(t)$  is smooth enough we have that

$$\frac{d\eta}{dt} = f(y_0 + \eta(t)) = f(y_0) + f'(y_0)\eta(t) + f''(y_0)\frac{\eta(t)^2}{2!} + \text{Higher Order Terms}$$



↪ Given that  $f(y_0) = 0$  and if  $\eta(t)$  is small enough for us to ignore all nonlinear higher order terms and truncate the Taylor series after the linear term (*hence the word “linearisation”*), then we see that (approximately)  $\eta(t)$  satisfies the linear and separable ODE

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- From this solution, it is clear that for the nearby solution  $y(t) = y_0 + \eta(t) = y_0 + e^{f'(y_0)t}$  to equilibrium solution  $y(t) = y_0$ , if  $f'(y_0) < 0$  then  $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} y(t) = y_0$  hence the equilibrium solution  $y(t) = y_0$  is **STABLE**, whereas if  $f'(y_0) > 0$  then  $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} y(t) = \infty$  hence the equilibrium solution  $y(t) = y_0$  is **UNSTABLE**.

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- ▶ **NOTE** we also see that if  $f'(y_0) = 0$  then the nonlinear terms in the Taylor series expansion determine the stability properties of equilibrium solution  $y(t) = y_0$ .

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- A direction field for a DE gives a good idea of how the graphs of solutions to the DE look. *In other words, it gives a good qualitative idea of the behaviour of solutions to the DE.*

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<http://www.math.psu.edu/cao/DFD/Dir.html>

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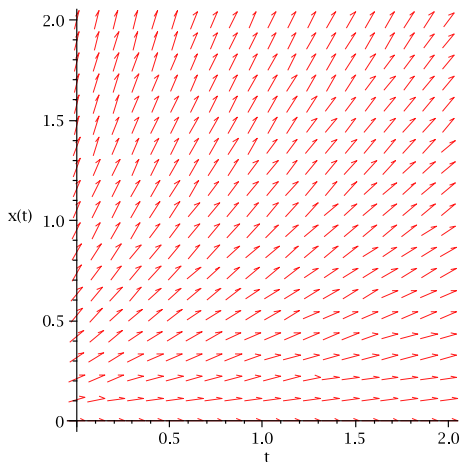
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$$\frac{dx}{dt} = \frac{2x}{1+t}, \quad t = 0 \dots 2, x = 0 \dots 2$$

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0	0	0	0	0	0
0.5	1	$2/3$	$1/2$	$2/5$	$1/3$
1	2	$4/3$	1	$4/5$	$2/3$
1.5	3	2	$3/2$	$6/5$	1
2	4	$8/3$	2	$8/5$	$4/3$

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1.5	3	2	$3/2$	$6/5$	1
2	4	$8/3$	2	$8/5$	$4/3$

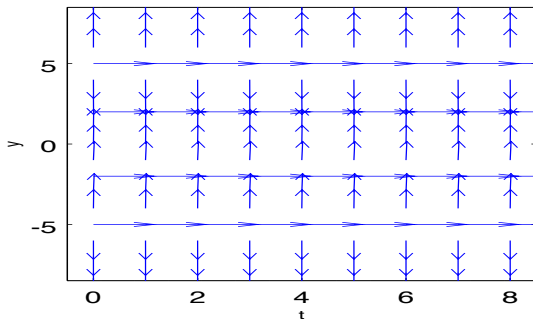


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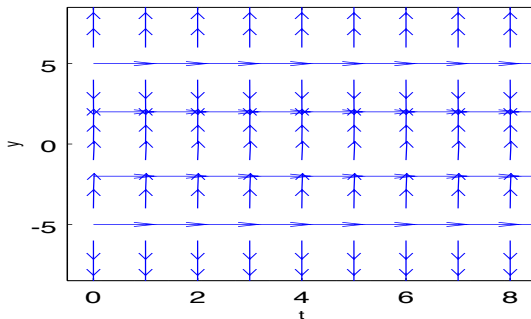


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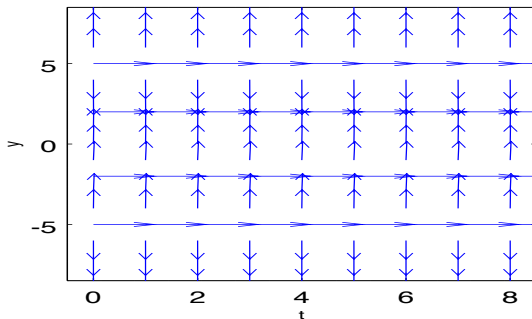


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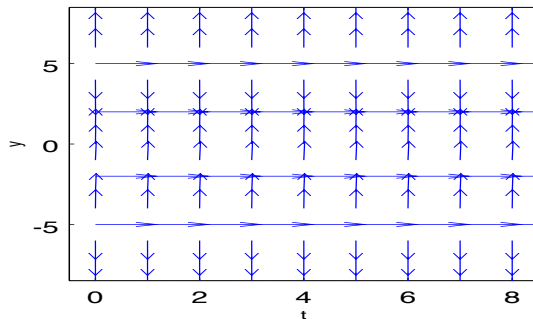
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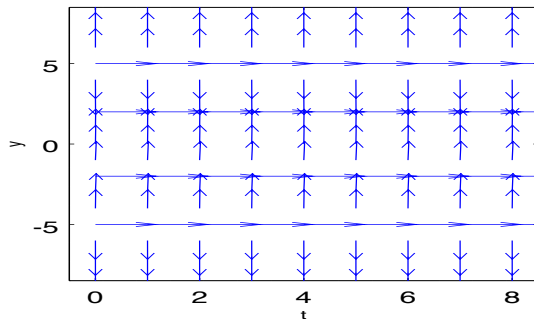


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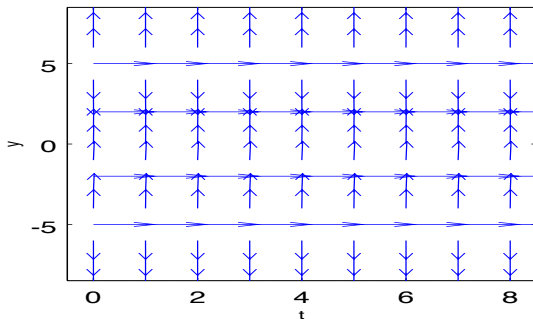
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↪ Optionally and preferably, you can also use MATLAB to draw direction fields, using the `quiver()` function.

- ▶ For more on this see **Tutorial 2**.



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↪ These numerical methods will be helpful as tools to investigate numerical solutions to IVPs and systems of IVPs which are difficult or impossible to solve analytically.



## INTRODUCTION

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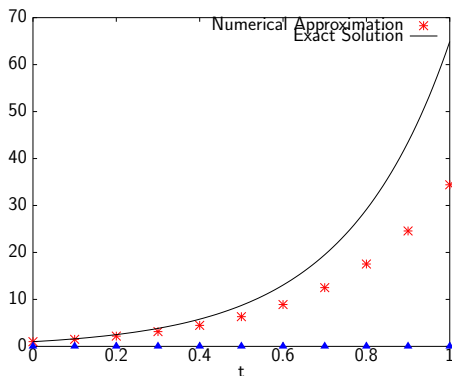
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Here the unknown function  $y(t)$  is approximated at only 11 points,

$t_0 = 0, t_1 = 0.1, t_2 = 0.2, \dots, t_{10} = 1$  (indicated by the  $\blacktriangle$  symbols on the  $t$ -axis), and the approximate value of the function at each  $t_i$  is indicated by the  $*$  symbols.

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↪ Since a numerical method gives only an *approximation* to the true solution function  $y(t)$  at certain  $t$  values, we use a different notation to refer to this approximate solution:

$$Y_i \text{ or } y_i \approx y(t_i) \quad \text{for } i = 0, 1, 2, \dots, N.$$



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- ▶ *For example, a loop that runs from 0 to N in the notes would have to run from 1 to N + 1 in MATLAB.*
- However, to make life easier, I will endeavour to always give the main formula for a numerical method in the standard form with the **0 to N indexing**, **THEN** in MATLAB form with **1 to N+1 indexing** (and vector notation).

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- See Tutorial 2 for programs corresponding to Euler's method, Heun's Method, and the fourth order Runge-Kutta method.
- ▶ The method is derived from truncating a Taylor series expansion of the (unknown) solution function  $y(t)$ .

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## DERIVATION

► **DERIVATION** Euler's method is easy to derive from a Taylor series expansion of the solution in which the quadratic and higher order terms are ignored. Assuming that the solution function  $y(t)$  of the standard first order IVP is  $C^2$  on  $[t_0, T]$  (i.e.,  $y(t)$ ,  $y'(t)$  and  $y''(t)$  are continuous on  $[t_0, T]$ ), then

$$\begin{aligned} y(t+h) &= y(t) + hf'(t) + \frac{1}{2}f''(t)h^2 + O(h^3) \\ &= y(t) + hf(t, y) + \frac{1}{2}f''(t)h^2 + O(h^3) \end{aligned}$$

→ In particular, Euler's method follows from the above derivation easily by letting  $t = t_i = t_0 + ih$  so that

$$y(t_i + h) = y(t_{i+1}) = y(t_i) + hf(t_i, y(t_i)) + \frac{1}{2}y''(t_i^*)h^2,$$

“Euler’s Method”      Local Truncation Error (LTE)

where  $t_i^* \in [t_i, t_i + h] \forall i = 0, 1, 2, \dots, N - 1$  by **Taylor's theorem**.

→ For  $i = 0$ , the above method,  $y_1 \approx y_0 + hf(t_0, y_0)$  is Euler's method. For subsequent timesteps, since in general  $y_{i+1} \neq y(t_{i+1})$ , Euler's method is obtained by replacing  $y(t_{i+1})$  and  $y(t_i)$  in the above equation by their Euler's method approximations,  $y_{i+1}$  and  $y_i$ .

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## Heun's Method (*or The Improved Euler Method*)

↪ **DERIVATION** The idea here is to start with Euler's method

$$y_{i+1} = y_i + hf(t_i, y_i)$$

and *TRY* to replace the  $f(t_i, y_i)$  by the **AVERAGE** of  $f$  evaluated at  $(t_i, y_i)$  and  $(t_{i+1}, y_{i+1})$ .

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You do not know  $y_{i+1}$  - that's what you are trying to compute - so putting it into the argument of the function  $f$  is “tricky”.

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The Heun's method approach is to use the **Euler approximation** to  $y_{i+1}$  in the argument of  $f(t_{i+1}, y_{i+1})$ :

$$f(t_{i+1}, y_{i+1}) \text{ is approximated by } f(t_{i+1}, y_i + hf(t_i, y_i)).$$

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### Heun's Method

ONE-STEP	TWO-STEP
$y_0 = y(t_0)$ THEN  $y_{i+1} = y_i + \frac{h}{2} [f(t_i, y_i) + f(t_{i+1}, y_i + hf(t_i, y_i))]$  for $i = 0, 1, 2, \dots, N-1$ .	$y_0 = y(t_0)$ THEN  $\tilde{y}_{i+1} = y_i + hf(t_i, y_i)$ AND  $y_{i+1} = y_i + \frac{h}{2} [f(t_i, y_i) + f(t_{i+1}, \tilde{y}_{i+1})]$  for $i = 0, 1, 2, \dots, N-1$



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↪ In MATLAB syntax this would be:

**Heun's Method (MATLAB version)**

ONE-STEP	TWO-STEP
$t = t_0 : h : T$ , AND $y(1) = y(t(1)) = y_0$ THEN	
$y(i+1) =$ $y(i) + \frac{h}{2} [f(t(i), y(i)) + f(t(i+1), y(i) + hf(t(i), y(i))))]$	$ytemp = y(i) + hf(t(i), y(i))$ AND $y(i+1) = y(i) + \frac{h}{2} [f(t(i), y(i)) + f(t(i+1), ytemp)]$
for $i = 1, 2, \dots, N$	

## The Fourth-Order Runge-Kutta Method (RK4)

$$k_1 = hf(t_n, y_n)$$

$$k_2 = hf(t_n + \frac{1}{2}h, y_n + \frac{1}{2}k_1)$$

$$k_3 = hf(t_n + \frac{1}{2}h, y_n + \frac{1}{2}k_2)$$

$$k_4 = hf(t_n + h, y_n + k_3)$$

$$y_{n+1} = y_n + \frac{1}{6}k_1 + \frac{1}{3}k_2 + \frac{1}{3}k_3 + \frac{1}{6}k_4$$

**EXAMPLE 10**: Solving  $\frac{dy}{dt} = -\frac{1}{2t}y$ ,  $t \in [1, 2]$ ,  $y(1) = 12$  using  $N = 5$  subintervals  
(so  $h = 0.2$ )  $\rightsquigarrow$  EXACT SOLUTION,  $y(t) = 12t^{-1/2}$ .

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i	TIME	$Y_i$ (EULER)	$y(t_i)$ (EXACT)	ERROR
0	1.000000	12.000000	12.000000	0.0000000000
1	1.200000	10.800000	10.954451	0.1544511501
2	1.400000	9.900000	10.141851	0.2418510567
3	1.600000	9.192857	9.486833	0.2939758376
4	1.800000	8.618304	8.944272	0.3259683386
5	2.000000	8.139509	8.485281	0.3457724457

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3	1.600000	9.479190	9.486833	0.0076427302
4	1.800000	8.936112	8.944272	0.0081602678
5	2.000000	8.476895	8.485281	0.0083865803

i	TIME	$Y_i$ (RK4)	$y(t_i)$ (EXACT)	ERROR
0	1.000000	12.000000	12.000000	0.0000000000
1	1.200000	10.954442	10.954451	0.0000090013
2	1.400000	10.141839	10.141851	0.0000119113
3	1.600000	9.486820	9.486833	0.0000127666
4	1.800000	8.944259	8.944272	0.0000128513
5	2.000000	8.485269	8.485281	0.0000126333

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Compare the errors at the final time with the errors in the following slides where the same problem is done with  $N = 10 \Rightarrow h = 0.1$ .

Reminder: solving  $\frac{dy}{dt} = -\frac{1}{2t}y$ ,  $t \in [1, 2]$ ,  $y(1) = 12$  using  $N = 10$  subintervals (so  $h = 0.1$ )  $\rightsquigarrow$  EXACT SOLUTION,  $y(t) = 12t^{-1/2}$ .

Reminder: solving  $\frac{dy}{dt} = -\frac{1}{2t}y$ ,  $t \in [1, 2]$ ,  $y(1) = 12$  using  $N = 10$  subintervals (so  $h = 0.1$ )  $\rightsquigarrow$  EXACT SOLUTION,  $y(t) = 12t^{-1/2}$ .

i	TIME	$Y_i$ (EULER)	$y(t_i)$ (EXACT)	ERROR
0	1.000000	12.000000	12.000000	0.0000000000
1	1.100000	11.400000	11.441551	0.0415510709
2	1.200000	10.881818	10.954451	0.0726329683
3	1.300000	10.428409	10.524696	0.0962871408
4	1.400000	10.027316	10.141851	0.1145346232
5	1.500000	9.669198	9.797959	0.1287609816
6	1.600000	9.346891	9.486833	0.1399415906
7	1.700000	9.054801	9.203580	0.1487788322
8	1.800000	8.788483	8.944272	0.1557885535
9	1.900000	8.544359	8.705715	0.1613561825
10	2.000000	8.319507	8.485281	0.1657741033

Reminder: solving  $\frac{dy}{dt} = -\frac{1}{2t}y$ ,  $t \in [1, 2]$ ,  $y(1) = 12$  using  $N = 10$  subintervals (so  $h = 0.1$ )  $\rightsquigarrow$  EXACT SOLUTION,  $y(t) = 12t^{-1/2}$ .



Reminder: solving  $\frac{dy}{dt} = -\frac{1}{2t}y$ ,  $t \in [1, 2]$ ,  $y(1) = 12$  using  $N = 10$  subintervals (so  $h = 0.1$ )  $\rightsquigarrow$  EXACT SOLUTION,  $y(t) = 12t^{-1/2}$ .

i	TIME	$Y_i$ (HEUN)	$y(t_i)$ (EXACT)	ERROR
0	1.000000	12.000000	12.000000	0.0000000000
1	1.100000	11.440909	11.441551	0.0006419800
2	1.200000	10.953370	10.954451	0.0010807989
3	1.300000	10.523310	10.524696	0.0013860946
4	1.400000	10.140250	10.141851	0.0016009727
5	1.500000	9.796206	9.797959	0.0017530864
6	1.600000	9.484972	9.486833	0.0018607202
7	1.700000	9.201644	9.203580	0.0019362809
8	1.800000	8.942284	8.944272	0.0019883768
9	1.900000	8.703692	8.705715	0.0020230975
10	2.000000	8.483237	8.485281	0.0020448245

Reminder: solving  $\frac{dy}{dt} = -\frac{1}{2t}y$ ,  $t \in [1, 2]$ ,  $y(1) = 12$  using  $N = 10$  subintervals (so  $h = 0.1$ )  $\rightsquigarrow$  EXACT SOLUTION,  $y(t) = 12t^{-1/2}$ .

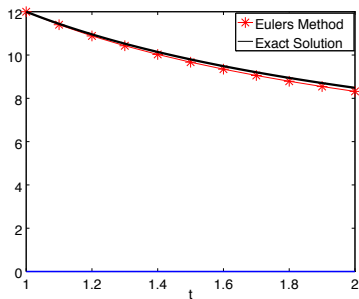
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i	TIME	$Y_i$ (RK4)	$y(t_i)$ (EXACT)	ERROR
0	1.000000	12.000000	12.000000	0.0000000000
1	1.100000	11.441551	11.441551	0.0000003598
2	1.200000	10.954451	10.954451	0.0000005624
3	1.300000	10.524696	10.524696	0.0000006781
4	1.400000	10.141850	10.141851	0.0000007436
5	1.500000	9.797958	9.797959	0.0000007792
6	1.600000	9.486832	9.486833	0.0000007967
7	1.700000	9.203579	9.203580	0.0000008028
8	1.800000	8.944271	8.944272	0.0000008018
9	1.900000	8.705714	8.705715	0.0000007963
10	2.000000	8.485281	8.485281	0.0000007881

Reminder: solving  $\frac{dy}{dt} = -\frac{1}{2t}y$ ,  $t \in [1, 2]$ ,  $y(1) = 12$  using  $N = 10$  subintervals (so  $h = 0.1$ )  $\rightsquigarrow$  EXACT SOLUTION,  $y(t) = 12t^{-1/2}$ .

Reminder: solving  $\frac{dy}{dt} = -\frac{1}{2t}y$ ,  $t \in [1, 2]$ ,  $y(1) = 12$  using  $N = 10$  subintervals (so  $h = 0.1$ )  $\rightsquigarrow$  EXACT SOLUTION,  $y(t) = 12t^{-1/2}$ .

- Only an Euler's method plot is shown below since the other methods are sufficiently accurate for their graphs to be indistinguishable from the exact solution graph.



- ▶ Note how with Euler's method (*Error  $O(h)$* ) halving of the step size causes the error in the final step to reduce by about one half, with Heun's method (*Error  $O(h^2)$* ) the reduction in error is by about one quarter, and with the 4th order Runge-Kutta method (*Error  $O(h^4)$* ) the reduction in error is by about one sixteenth.

Students familiar with big O notation should know why.

## HOMEWORK:

- ▶ Review the material in this lecture and do Tutorial 2. Come to class with questions about any aspect of this review which you find particularly difficult.
- ▶ See Tutorial 1 for a quick introduction to Matlab. Since it will be used as a tool in this course, it is useful to have some familiarity with it.
- ▶ Have good calculus and linear algebra books nearby.

## APPENDIX - Vocabulary/Notation

- Becoming familiar with the relevant vocabulary and notation is crucial to developing proficiency in mathematics and its applications. Test yourself to see if you have a good understanding of the following, all mentioned/defined earlier in this lecture (and in no particular order):
- ▶ Initial value problem.
  - ▶ Ordinary differential equation.
  - ▶ Equilibrium solution.
  - ▶ Separable ODE.
  - ▶ Stable, unstable, semistable equilibrium solution.
  - ▶ Partial differential equation.
  - ▶ First order ODE.
  - ▶ Direction field.
  - ▶ Critical point.
  - ▶ Autonomous first order ODE.
  - ▶ Separation of variables.
  - ▶ Linear first order ODE.
  - ▶ Equilibrium point.
  - ▶ Nonlinear ODE.