

1. Consider the initial value problem: find  $y(t)$  such that

$$y' = y^2 t, \quad y(0) = 1.$$

Take a step size  $h = 0.1$  and verify that the *forward Euler* approximation to  $y(0.1)$  is  $y_1 = 1.0$  and that the approximations to subsequent points are  $y_2 = 1.01$ ,  $y_3 = 1.0304$  and  $y_4 = 1.0623$ . Compare these estimates with the exact values  $y(0.1)$ ,  $y(0.2)$ ,  $y(0.3)$  and  $y(0.4)$  obtained by solving the ODE algebraically.

2. By taking a step size of  $h = 0.5$ , compute the *forward Euler* approximation of  $z(5)$ , where  $z(t)$  satisfies the initial value problem:

$$z' = \frac{1}{50(1+t)} z, \quad z(0) = 1.$$

3. Consider the initial value problem: find  $y(t)$  such that

$$y' = \pi \sqrt{1 - y^2}, \quad y(0) = 0.$$

Take a step size  $h = 0.1$  and show that computing the *forward Euler* approximation to  $y(1)$  is problematic.

4. Consider the initial value problem: find  $y(x)$  such that

$$y' = \frac{1}{2} e^{x-y}, \quad y(0) = 0.$$

Compute the *forward Euler* approximation of  $y(1)$  using (i) a single step of size  $h = 1$ , (ii) two steps each of size  $h = 0.5$ , (iii) four steps each of size  $h = 0.25$ , and (iv) ten steps each of size  $h = 0.1$ . Compare your estimates with the exact value.

5. By taking a step size of  $h = 0.5$ , compute the *modified Euler* approximation of  $z(2)$ , where  $z(t)$  satisfies the initial value problem:

$$z' = \frac{1}{50(1+t)} z, \quad z(0) = 1.$$

6. Consider the initial value problem: find  $y(x)$  such that

$$y' = 17 - 12x - 3y, \quad y(0) = 9.$$

Using four steps of size  $h = 0.25$ , estimate  $y(1)$  using (i) the *forward Euler* method, (ii) the *modified Euler* method. Compare your estimates with the exact value.

7. *Heun's method* for approximating the solution of an initial value problem is given by

$$K_1 = f(x_n, y_n), \quad K_2 = f(x_n + h, y_n + hK_1)$$

$$y_{n+1} = y_n + \frac{h}{2}(K_1 + K_2).$$

Carry out two steps of the method (with step size  $h = 0.5$ ) to compute an estimate of the solution  $y(x)$  of the problem

$$y' = y - x, \quad y(0) = 20.$$

8. Consider the initial value problem: find  $y(t)$  such that

$$y' = 1 + \ln y, \quad y(0) = 1.$$

Carry out a step of the 4th-order *Runge-Kutta* method (with step size  $h = 0.1$ ) and verify that  $K_1 = 1$ ,  $K_2 = 1.048790$ ,  $K_3 = 1.051111$  and  $K_4 = 1.099946$  so that the approximation to  $y(0.1)$  is given by  $y_1 = 1.104996$ .

For the next step of the method, show that  $K_1 = 1.099842$ ,  $K_2 = 1.148410$ ,  $K_3 = 1.150501$  and  $K_4 = 1.198888$  so that  $y_2 = 1.219938$ . Continue for one more step and verify that  $y_3 = 1.344702$ .

9. Consider fluid draining out of a tank according to the equation  $y' = -k\sqrt{y}$  with  $k = 0.1$  and  $y = 20$  at  $t = 0$ . Use the 4th-order *Runge-Kutta* method with step size  $h = 10$  to estimate the values of  $y(t)$  (the height, in metres, of fluid in the tank) for  $t = 10, 20$  and  $30$  measured in seconds.
10. Consider the initial value problem: find  $y(x)$  such that

$$y' = -2xy^2 \quad y(0) = 1.$$

Carry out two steps of each of the following methods for solving the equation. (i) forward Euler with  $h = 1$  (ii) forward Euler with  $h = 0.5$  (iii) modified Euler with  $h = 1$  (iv) modified Euler with  $h = 0.5$  (v) Runge-Kutta with  $h = 1$  (vi) Runge-Kutta with  $h = 0.5$ . Compare your results with the exact solution.

11. Express the following high-order equations as systems of first-order equations.

(a)  $\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} + 12y = 0; \quad y(0) = 1, \quad \frac{dy}{dx}(0) = 0.$

(b)  $\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} + 2\frac{dy}{dx} - 4y = x; \quad y(0) = 0, \quad \frac{dy}{dx}(0) = 0.$

(c)  $\frac{d^3y}{dx^3} - \frac{dy}{dx} + y = x^3, \quad y(0) = 1, \quad \frac{dy}{dx}(0) = 0, \quad \frac{d^2y}{dx^2}(0) = 0.$

(d)  $\frac{d^2p}{dt^2} = \frac{1}{(p+t)} \frac{dp}{dt}; \quad p(0) = 1, \quad \frac{dp}{dt}(0) = 2.$

(e) the coupled system

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{d^2y}{dt^2} - 2\frac{dz}{dt} &= y + z; & y(t_0) &= y_0, & \frac{dy}{dt}(t_0) &= v_A, \\ \frac{d^2z}{dt^2} + 2\frac{dy}{dt} &= y - z; & z(t_0) &= z_0, & \frac{dz}{dt}(t_0) &= v_B.\end{aligned}$$

12. Consider the coupled initial value problem

$$\frac{dx}{dt} = -3y, \quad \frac{dy}{dt} = 3x, \quad x(0) = 1, \quad y(0) = 0.$$

Approximate the solution of this system using the Runge–Kutta method with step size  $h = 0.1$ . Show that at the first step, the  $K$  values are  $(0, 3)$ ,  $(-0.45, 3)$ ,  $(-0.45, 2.9325)$ ,  $(-0.87975, 2.865)$  giving new values  $x_1$  and  $y_1$  of 0.955338 and 0.2955. Show that the second step gives values  $x_2$  and  $y_2$  of 0.825349 and 0.564604. Compare these results with the exact values given by  $x = \cos 3t$ ,  $y = \sin 3t$ .

13. Consider the coupled initial value problem

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{dx}{dt} &= \frac{1}{3}y, & x(0) &= 1; \\ \frac{dy}{dt} &= 6x^3, & y(0) &= -3.\end{aligned}$$

Compute an approximation to the solution vector  $(x, y)$  at the final time  $t = 0.5$  using the Runge–Kutta method with step size  $h = 0.1$ .\* Then repeat the calculation for  $h = 0.05$ . Compare the numerical results with the exact values given by  $x = 1/(t + 1)$ ,  $y = -3/(t + 1)^2$ .

14. Consider the second-order initial value problem

$$\frac{d^2y}{dt^2} + y + \epsilon y^3 = 0; \quad y(0) = 1, \quad \frac{dy}{dt}(0) = 0$$

with the value  $\epsilon = 0.1$ . (This is an example of a *Duffing oscillator*.) Compute three steps of Runge–Kutta with a step size  $h = 0.1$ .\*

15. A sphere floating in water (in the absence of friction and with its centre  $y$  above the water level) experiences a force due to gravity of  $-\frac{4}{3}\pi r^3 \rho g$  and a force due to buoyancy of  $\frac{1}{3}\rho_{water}\pi(2r^3 + y(y^2 - 3r^2))g$ . It's motion is determined by the ODE

$$\frac{d^2y}{dt^2} = -g + g\frac{\rho_{water}}{4\rho} \left[ 2 + \frac{y^3}{r^3} - 3\frac{y}{r} \right]$$

A 0.4 metre radius sphere with density 0.7 of that of water is initially at rest with its centre 25 cm below the level of the water. You may assume that  $g = 10 \text{ ms}^{-2}$ .

---

\*An efficient way of doing this is to modify the function `rhsf.m` that is associated with Computational Exercise III.

- (a) Express the equation of motion as a system of two first-order equations and state the appropriate initial conditions.
- (b) Take a step size of  $h = 0.1$  and compute two steps of Runge–Kutta to estimate the position of the centre of the sphere when  $t = 0.1$  and when  $t = 0.2$ .

16. Compute a centered difference approximation to the BVP

$$x^2 \frac{d^2 y}{dx^2} + 4x \frac{dy}{dx} + 4y = x^3, \quad x \in (1, 2); \quad y(1) = 1, \quad y(2) = 6,$$

using a grid of size  $h = 0.25$ . Compare your result with the exact solution values  $y(1.25) = 4.771$ ,  $y(1.5) = 5.9834$ ,  $y(1.75) = 6.1867$ .

17. Compute a centered difference approximation to the BVP

$$\frac{d^2 y}{dx^2} + \frac{\pi^2}{4} y = \epsilon y^3, \quad x \in (0, 1); \quad y(0) = 1, \quad y(1) = 0,$$

for the value  $\epsilon = 0.1$ , using a grid of size  $h = 0.5$ . Compare your computed result with the exact solution at the interior grid point.

18. An iron bar is kept at temperatures  $T_0$  and  $T_1$  at its two ends. The radiation of heat at point  $x$  is proportional its temperature  $-AT(x)$  and this effect is balanced by thermal diffusion, that is,  $-\kappa \frac{d^2 T}{dx^2}$ . Thus, when the temperature  $T(x)$  has reached equilibrium, it satisfies the BVP

$$-\kappa \frac{d^2 T}{dx^2} = -AT, \quad x \in (0, 1); \quad T(0) = T_0, \quad T(1) = T_1.$$

Write down a centered difference approximation to  $T(x)$  for values of  $x$  of 0.25, 0.5 and 0.75 and solve the resulting linear system in the case where  $A = 1$ ,  $\kappa = 1$ ,  $T_0 = 1$  and  $T_1 = 2$ .

19. Imagine two metal bars, one with ends maintained at temperature  $T = 600$  and the other with a temperature maintained at  $T = 400$ . As well as thermal diffusion and general radiation, there is heat transferred from one bar to the other. The bars thus satisfy a coupled system of ODEs

$$\begin{aligned} -0.01 \frac{d^2 T_1}{dx^2} + 0.01 T_1 + 0.005 (T_1 - T_2) &= 0, \\ -0.01 \frac{d^2 T_2}{dx^2} + 0.01 T_2 + 0.005 (T_2 - T_1) &= 0, \end{aligned}$$

subject to  $T_1(0) = T_1(1) = 600$  and  $T_2(0) = T_2(1) = 400$ .

Take a grid with points  $x_0 = 0$ ,  $x_1 = 0.25$ ,  $x_2 = 0.5$ ,  $x_3 = 0.75$  and  $x_4 = 1$  and compute a centered difference approximation to  $T_1$  and  $T_2$ .