

4 Runge-Kutta Method of order 4 (RK4)

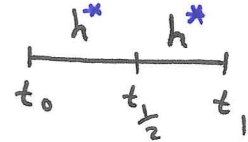
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• Given an IVP: $\dot{y} = f(t, y)$, $y(t_0) = y_0$

$$\int_{t_0}^{t_1} \dot{y}(t) dt = \int_{t_0}^{t_1} f(t, y) dt \quad \dots *$$

• Apply Simpson's Rule $\int_{t_0}^{t_1} f(t) dt \approx \frac{h^*}{3} (f_0 + 4f_{\frac{1}{2}} + f_1)$

with $h^* = \frac{h}{2} \Rightarrow *$ becomes



$$\S \dots y(t_1) - y(t_0) = \frac{h}{6} [f(t_0, y_0) + 4f(t_{\frac{1}{2}}, y_{\frac{1}{2}}) + f(t_1, y_1)]$$

where $t_{\frac{1}{2}}$ is the midpoint of the interval,

• Take $f_1 = f(t_0, y_0)$,

$f_4 = f(t_1, y_1)$,

$\frac{f_2 + f_3}{2} \approx f(t_{\frac{1}{2}}, y_{\frac{1}{2}})$ "average of f_2 and f_3 "

and substitute them in $\S \Rightarrow$

$$y_1 = y_0 + \frac{h}{6} [f_1 + 2(f_2 + f_3) + f_4]$$

In general: $y_{k+1} = y_k + \frac{h}{6} [f_1 + 2f_2 + 2f_3 + f_4]$ where

$$f_1 = f(t_k, y_k)$$

$$f_2 = f(t_k + \frac{h}{2}, y_k + \frac{h}{2} f_1)$$

$$f_3 = f(t_k + \frac{h}{2}, y_k + \frac{h}{2} f_2)$$

$$f_4 = f(t_k + h, y_k + h f_3)$$

$k = 0, 1, 2, \dots, n-1$

Exp Given the IVP: $\dot{y} = \frac{t-y}{2}$, $y(0) = 1$

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Estimate $y(0.25)$ using RK4 with step size $h = \frac{1}{4}$ and use 4 chopping digits

• $t_0 = 0$, $y_0 = 1$, $h = 0.25$ and



$$f(t, y) = \frac{t-y}{2}$$

• $f_1 = f(t_0, y_0) = f(0, 1) = \frac{0-1}{2} = -0.5$

• $f_2 = f\left(t_0 + \frac{h}{2}, y_0 + \frac{h}{2} f_1\right) = f\left(0 + \frac{0.25}{2}, 1 + \frac{0.25}{2}(-0.5)\right)$
 $= f(0.125, 0.9375) = \frac{0.125 - 0.9375}{2} = -0.4062$

• $f_3 = f\left(t_0 + \frac{h}{2}, y_0 + \frac{h}{2} f_2\right) = f(0.125, 1 + 0.125(-0.4062))$
 $= f(0.125, 0.9492) = \frac{0.125 - 0.9492}{2} = -0.4121$

• $f_4 = f(t_0 + h, y_0 + h f_3) = f(0 + 0.25, 1 + 0.25(-0.4121))$
 $= f(0.25, 0.897) = \frac{0.25 - 0.897}{2} = -0.3235$

• Hence, $y_1 = y_0 + \frac{h}{6} [f_1 + 2f_2 + 2f_3 + f_4]$

$$= 1 + \frac{0.25}{6} [-0.5 - 2(0.4062) - 2(0.4121) - 0.3235]$$

$$= 1 + 0.04166 [-0.5 - 0.8124 - 0.8242 - 0.3235]$$

$$= 1 - 0.1024$$

$$= 0.8976$$