

REVIEW

EXACT ODES

- The differential equation $M(x, y) + N(x, y)y' = 0$ is *exact* if there is a function $\psi(x, y)$ such that:

$$\frac{\partial \psi}{\partial x}(x, y) = M(x, y) \quad \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial y}(x, y) = N(x, y).$$

- Solutions to the above exact equation are given *implicitly* by

$$\psi(x, y) = c.$$

- If M and N are continuously differentiable, then the equation being exact is equivalent to having

$$\frac{\partial M}{\partial y} = \frac{\partial N}{\partial x}.$$

- If the equation is not separable, but $\frac{M_y - N_x}{N}$ is dependent *only* on x (doesn't depend on y), then you can find an integrating factor, μ by solving

$$\frac{d\mu}{dx} = \frac{M_y - N_x}{N} \mu$$

NUMERICAL INTEGRATION

- For the differential equation $y' = f(y, t)$, Euler integration can be written iteratively as

$$y_{n+1} = y_n + f(t_n, y_n)(t_{n+1} - t_n).$$

- Usually we take the difference $(t_{n+1} - t_n)$ to be some fixed number, h , which is also referred to as the *step size*.

PRACTICE PROBLEMS¹

1. Consider the differential equation

$$(xy^2 + bx^2y) + (x + y)x^2y' = 0$$

- (a) Find the value(s) of b for which the given equation is exact.

Solution: We solve for $M_y = N_x$, thus

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial y}[xy^2 + bx^2y] = \frac{\partial}{\partial x}[(x + y)x^2].$$

Simplifying, we get $2xy + bx^2 = 3x^2 + 2xy$, so $b = 3$.

- (b) Solve the equation for the value(s) of b you found.

Solution: Let $\psi(x, y)$ be the the function such that $\psi_x = M = xy^2 + 3x^2y$ and $\psi_y = N = x^3 + x^2y$. Integrating the first equation with respect to x while holding y constant, we get

$$\psi(x, y) = \frac{x^2y^2}{2} + x^3y + f(y),$$

for some function $f(y)$. Differentiating this with respect to y and setting it equal to N , we have

$$x^2y + x^3 + f'(y) = x^3 + x^2y$$

so clearly $f'(y) = 0$ and $f(y)$ is just a constant. Thus the solution is implicitly given by

$$\frac{x^2y^2}{2} + x^3y = C.$$

2. Consider the equation

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{dy}{dt} &= \lambda y \\ y(0) &= y_0\end{aligned}$$

- (a) Write down the solution to this equation (by now, you've solved this equation several times).

Solution: $y(t) = y_0e^{\lambda t}$.

- (b) Now, instead of solving it directly, write down three Euler iterates using a step size h .

Solution:

$$\begin{aligned}y_1 &= y_0 + h\lambda y_0 = (1 + h\lambda)y_0, \\ y_2 &= y_1 + h\lambda y_1 = y_1(1 + h\lambda) = (1 + h\lambda)^2y_0, \\ y_3 &= y_2 + h\lambda y_2 = y_2(1 + h\lambda) = (1 + h\lambda)^3y_0.\end{aligned}$$

¹Some of the Problems are taken from https://math.uchicago.edu/~ecartee/2930_sp19/worksheet4.pdf

- (c) Find a formula for the n^{th} Euler iterate, y_n . The formula should only depend on y_0 , λ and n .

Solution: $y_n = (1 + h\lambda)^n y_0$.

- (d) Suppose $y_0 = 1$ and $\lambda = -1$. Are there any values of the step size h that would be totally unacceptable to pick i.e. are there values of h for which the numerical solution behaves very differently from the analytical solution? If so, why?

Solution: For those values of λ and y_0 , we have $y_n = (1 - h)^n$. If $h \geq 1$, we see that y_n could become 0 or even negative for some values of n . This would be completely inconsistent with the analytic solution which always remains positive. The reason we are getting this behaviour is because we chose a step size that is too large and our approximation breaks down.

- (e) Let $y_0 = 1$ and $\lambda = 1$ and suppose we want to compute the solution via Euler's method in an interval $[0, t]$. Let $n = t/h$ and show that y_n converges to the *analytical* solution as $h \rightarrow 0$.

Solution: Letting $n = t/h$,

$$y_n = (1 + h)^{t/h}$$

Then we are interested in taking the limit as $h \rightarrow 0$

$$\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} y_n = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} (1 + h)^{t/h}$$

To figure out this limit, it helps to take the logarithm of both sides,

$$\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \ln(y_n) = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \ln [(1 + h)^{t/h}] = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{t \ln(1 + h)}{h}$$

this can then be evaluated using L'hôpital's rule,

$$\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \ln(y_n) = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{t \frac{1}{1+h}}{1} = t$$

Then since

$$\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \ln(y_n) = t$$

we have

$$\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} y_n = e^t$$

matching our solution from part

3. Consider the differential equation

$$x^2 y^3 + x(1 + y^2) y' = 0.$$

- (a) Show that the equation is not exact.

Solution: For this equation:

$$M(x, y) = x^2 y^3, \quad N(x, y) = x(1 + y^2)$$

To check if it's exact, we calculate

$$\frac{\partial M}{\partial y} = 3x^2y^2$$

and

$$\frac{\partial N}{\partial x} = 1 + y^2$$

$M_y \neq N_x$, so this equation is not exact.

- (b) Show that it can be made exact by multiplying both sides of the equation by the integrating factor $\mu(x, y) = \frac{1}{xy^3}$.

Solution: Multiplying everything by the integrating factor $\mu(x, y) = \frac{1}{xy^3}$,

$$M(x, y) = x$$

$$\frac{\partial M}{\partial y} = 0$$

and

$$N(x, y) = \frac{1}{y^3} + \frac{1}{y}$$

$$\frac{\partial N}{\partial x} = 0$$

Since $M_y = N_x$, the equation

$$x + \left(\frac{1}{y^3} + \frac{1}{y}\right) y' = 0, \quad \text{is exact.}$$

(in fact it is also separable).

- (c) Now that the equation is exact, solve it.

Solution: We want to find a function $\psi(x, y)$ with partial derivatives:

$$\frac{\partial \psi}{\partial x} = x, \quad \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial y} = \frac{1}{y^3} + \frac{1}{y}$$

Integrating the first of those, we get

$$\psi(x, y) = \frac{1}{2}x^2 + f(y)$$

for some function $f(y)$. Integrating the second equation,

$$\psi(x, y) = \frac{-1}{2y^2} + \ln(y) + g(x)$$

Combining these two, we find that the solution is:

$$\psi(x, y) = \frac{1}{2}x^2 + \frac{-1}{2y^2} + \ln(y) = C$$

4. Consider the equation

$$\frac{dy}{dt} = t + 1 \quad y(0) = 1$$

(a) Approximate $y(0.1)$, $y(0.2)$ and $y(0.3)$ using Euler's method with $h = 0.1$.

Solution:

$$y_1 = y_0 + (0 + 1) \times h = 1 + 0.1 = 1.1$$

$$y_2 = y_1 + (0.1 + 1) \times h = 1.1 + (1.1 \times 0.1) = 1.22$$

$$y_3 = y_2 + (0.2 + 1) \times h = 1.22 + (1.3 \times 0.1) = 1.35$$

(b) Solve the equation analytically and compute $y(0.1)$, $y(0.2)$ and $y(0.3)$ using the actual solution. Are you satisfied with the approximation?