

Euler's Method to Approximate the Solution to a Differential Equation

Name: Answer Key

1) Let $y = f(x)$ be the particular solution to the differential equation $y' = x + y$ with initial condition $f(0) = 1$. Use Euler's Method to approximate $f(1)$ using 5 equal step sizes. $\Delta x = .2$

x	0	.2	.4	.6	.8	1
y	1	1.2	1.48	1.856	2.3472	2.97664

$$f(1) \approx 2.97664$$

$$y_1 = y_0 + .2(0 + 1)$$

$$y_1 = 1 + .2(1)$$

$$y_1 = 1.2$$

$$y_2 = y_1 + .2(.2 + 1.2)$$

$$y_2 = 1.2 + .2(1.4)$$

$$y_2 = 1.48$$

$$y_3 = y_2 + .2(.4 + 1.48)$$

$$y_3 = 1.48 + .2(1.88)$$

$$y_3 = 1.856$$

$$y_4 = y_3 + .2(.6 + 1.856)$$

$$y_4 = 1.856 + .2(2.456)$$

$$y_4 = 2.3472$$

$$y_5 = y_4 + .2(.8 + 2.3472)$$

$$y_5 = 2.3472 + .2(3.1472)$$

$$y_5 = 2.97664$$

2) Given $\frac{dy}{dx} = 3x - 2y$ and $y(1) = 3$, approximate $y(0)$ using Euler's Method with 4 equal step sizes.

$$\Delta x = -.25$$

x	1	.75	.5	.25	0
y	3	3.75	5.0625	7.21875	10.640625

$$y(0) \approx 10.640625$$

$$y_1 = y_0 - .25(3(1) - 2(3))$$

$$y_1 = 3 - .25(-3)$$

$$y_1 = 3.75$$

$$y_2 = y_1 - .25(3(.75) - 2(3.75))$$

$$y_2 = 3.75 - .25(-5.25)$$

$$y_2 = 5.0625$$

$$y_3 = y_2 - .25(3(.5) - 2(5.0625))$$

$$y_3 = 5.0625 - .25(-8.625)$$

$$y_3 = 7.21875$$

$$y_4 = y_3 - .25(3(.25) - 2(7.21875))$$

$$y_4 = 7.21875 - .25(-13.6875)$$

$$y_4 = 10.640625$$

3) Use Euler's Method with 4 equal step sizes to approximate the value of $y(4)$ given $y(2) = -2$ and $\frac{dy}{dx} = y$.

$$\Delta x = .5$$

x	2	2.5	3	3.5	4
y	-2	-3	-4.5	-6.75	-10.125

$$y(4) \approx -10.125$$

$$y_1 = y_0 + .5(-2)$$

$$y_1 = -2 - 1$$

$$y_1 = -3$$

$$y_2 = y_1 + .5(-3)$$

$$y_2 = -3 - 1.5$$

$$y_2 = -4.5$$

$$y_3 = y_2 + .5(-4.5)$$

$$y_3 = -4.5 - 2.25$$

$$y_3 = -6.75$$

$$y_4 = y_3 + .5(-6.75)$$

$$y_4 = -6.75 - 3.375$$

$$y_4 = -10.125$$

4) Given the differential equation $\frac{dy}{dx} = 0.5x(3 - y)$ and initial condition $y(1) = 2$. Use separation of variables to determine the value of $y(0)$. Next, use Euler's Method with 2 equal step sizes to approximate $y(0)$.

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = .5x(3-y)$$

$$\int \frac{1}{3-y} dy = \int \frac{1}{2} x dx$$

$$u = 3-y$$

$$du = -dy$$

$$-du = dy$$

$$-\int \frac{1}{u} du = \frac{1}{4} x^2 + C$$

$$-\ln|3-y| = \frac{1}{4} x^2 + C$$

$$\text{at } (1, 2)$$

$$-\ln|3-2| = \frac{1}{4} (1)^2 + C$$

$$0 = \frac{1}{4} + C$$

$$-\frac{1}{4} = C$$

$$-\ln|3-y| = \frac{1}{4} x^2 - \frac{1}{4}$$

$$\ln|3-y| = -\frac{1}{4} x^2 + \frac{1}{4}$$

$$e^{\ln|3-y|} = e^{-\frac{1}{4} x^2 + \frac{1}{4}}$$

$$3-y = e^{-\frac{1}{4} x^2 + \frac{1}{4}}$$

$$y = 3 - e^{-\frac{1}{4} x^2 + \frac{1}{4}}$$

$$y(0) = 3 - e^{-\frac{1}{4}(0)^2 + \frac{1}{4}}$$

$$y(0) \approx 1.716$$

$$\Delta x = -.5$$

x	1	.5	0
y	2	1.75	1.59375

$$y_1 = y_0 - .5(.5(1)(3-2))$$

$$y_1 = 2 - .5(.5)$$

$$y_1 = 1.75$$

$$y_2 = y_1 - .5(.5(.5)(3-1.75))$$

$$y_2 = 1.75 - .5(.3125)$$

$$y_2 = 1.59375$$

$$y(0) \approx 1.59375$$