

Numerical Methods
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Lecture 39
R-K Methods for solving ODEs

Hello everyone. So in this lecture I am going to introduce another class of methods for solving ordinary differential equation numerically. This particular class or methods is called Runge kutta method. So or in short RK method so in the previous couple of lectures we have seen Euler's method. So in Euler's method in simple Euler's method we were having right to ratio of order of h while the modified Euler's method we were having it of order h square.


And we have seen in Euler's method if you want more accurate solution or a better approximation of the solution what you need to do? You need to reduce the step size that is you have to use smaller steps value of h or if we talked about Taylor method if you want more accurate solution what you need to do? You have to go for higher order terms. Higher order terms means higher order derivatives of a function.


But whether you are decreasing your step size or you are calculating the higher order derivatives in both the cases you need to to more calculation computational complexity will increase.

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Runge-Kutta method

- Although Euler's method is easy to implement, this method is not so efficient in the sense that to get a better approximation, one need a very small step size.
- One way to get a better accuracy is to include the higher order terms in the Taylor expansion in the formula.
- But the higher order terms involve higher derivatives of y .
- The Runge-Kutta methods attempt to obtain greater accuracy and at the same time avoid the need for higher derivatives, by evaluating the function $f(x, y)$ at selected points on each subintervals.

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So in RK methods we attempt to obtain greater accuracy and at the same time avoid the need of calculation of higher derivatives or with a smaller step size. We don't want to reduce the step size. So how we can do it? We will evaluate the function f of x, y .

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Runge-Kutta method

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At some selected points on each subinterval like in simple Euler's method or Taylor method we are calculating at initial point and last point. Here what we will do? We will take some selected points on the subinterval. So consider this so first of all I will explain RK method of order 2 and then I will tell you how can we generalize it to in term in any order.

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Runge Kutta method of order two

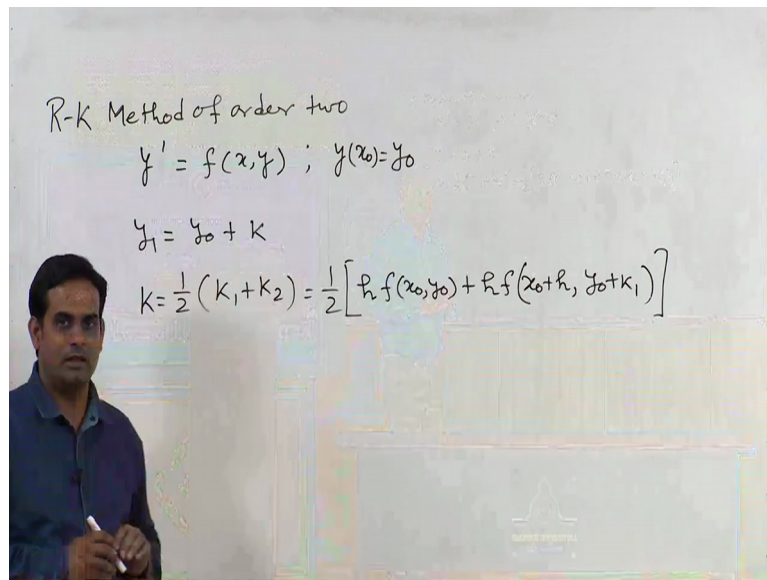
- Consider the initial value problem as

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = f(x, y), \quad y(x_0) = y_0$$
- For solving this problem by using Runge-Kutta method, but first we have to define the modified Euler's method in the form, $y_1 = y_0 + k$ where $k = \frac{1}{2}(k_1 + k_2)$ and values of k_1, k_2 are computed as $k_1 = hf(x_0, y_0)$ and $k_2 = hf(x_0 + h, y_0 + k_1)$.
- This method is called R-K method of order two.



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So consider the initial value problem is $Y' = f(x, Y)$ with initial condition $Y(x_0) = Y_0$. So for solving this problem using the Runge Kutta method of order 2, first we need to define the modified Euler's method in the form $Y_1 = Y_0 + K$ and here K will be half of $K_1 + K_2$ where K_1 is h times $f(x_0, Y_0)$ and K_2 is h times $f(x_0 + h, Y_0 + K_1)$ and this particular method is called RK method of order 2. So basically what we are doing?

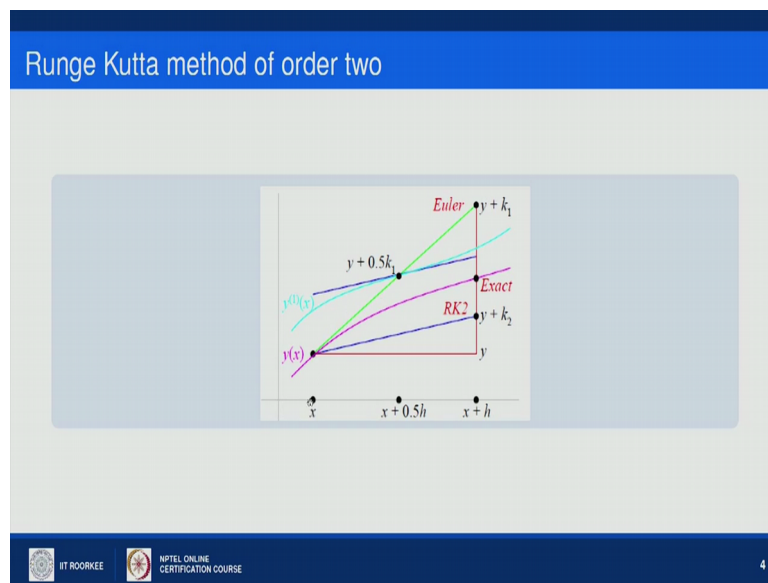
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So RK method of order 2 can be given as suppose I am having initial value problem is $Y' = f(x, Y)$ with an initial condition $Y(x_0) = Y_0$. So Y_1 can be obtained as $Y_0 + K$. Where K will be half of $K_1 + K_2$ and this half of K_1 will be h times $f(x_0, Y_0)$ and K_2 will be h times $f(x_0 + h, Y_0 + K_1)$. So what we need to do first of all we need to calculate K_1 .

Then we need to calculate K_2 . We need to take the average of K_1 and K_2 that will be my K and Y can Y_0 can be updated as $Y_1 = Y_0 + K$. So this is the overall algorithm for Runge Kutta method of order 2. Now graphically this method can be seen like this.

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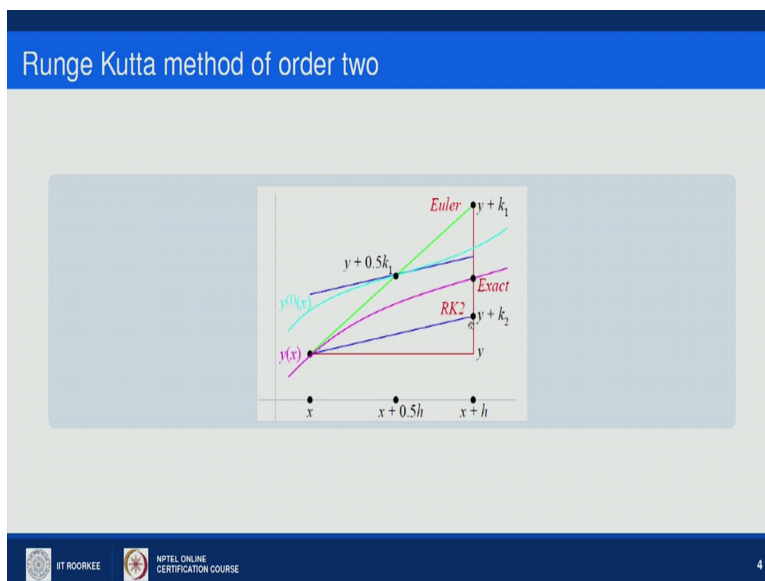


I am having initial point X at this point I am having the value of the function Y of X given by this particular point. I am having and this is my function this pink colour curve as X function. I am taking the slope at this particular point X which is given by this green line and I want to find out the value of the function Y at X plus H . So what will happen? I will take the midpoint of the slope that is somewhere X plus point $5H$.

So midpoint of the interval at this I will find out the point at the slope line. So this will this particular point will be the Y plus point $5K_1$. Now at this particular point that is X plus point $5H$ and Y plus point $5K_1$ I will be having another solution curve given by this particular curve that is $Y_1 X$. Now slope of this $Y_1 X$ at this particular point X plus point $5H$ will give me the value of function Y at X plus H that is Y plus K_2 .

And that will be the half of the Euler's step. You can see here this is the difference in Euler's step and this is particularly Y plus K_2 that is Runge kutta method of order 2.

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Runge Kutta method

In general, a R-K method of order m can be written as follows:

$$k_1 = hf(x_0, y_0)$$

$$k_2 = hf(x_0 + \alpha_1 h, y_0 + \beta_{11} k_1)$$

$$k_3 = hf(x_0 + \alpha_2 h, y_0 + \beta_{21} k_1 + \beta_{22} k_2)$$

$$k_4 = hf(x_0 + \alpha_3 h, y_0 + \beta_{31} k_1 + \beta_{32} k_2 + \beta_{33} k_3)$$

...

$$k_m = hf(x_0 + \alpha_{m-1} h, y_0 + \beta_{m-1,1} k_1 + \beta_{m-1,2} k_2 + \dots + \beta_{m-1,m-1} k_{m-1})$$

$$k = \omega_1 k_1 + \omega_2 k_2 + \dots + \omega_m k_m, \quad y_1 = y_0 + k.$$

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So in general RK method of order M can be written as follows like in order 2 we are having 2 terms K_1 and K_2 . Like that in order M we need to calculate K_1, K_2 up to K_M and where K_1 is given just like as in order 1 method. K_2 will be just like at order 2 method. K_3 will be H time X_0 plus $\alpha_2 H$ plus Y_0 plus $\beta_{21} K_1$ plus $\beta_{22} K_2$. Similarly K_4 can be given by this particular expression and K_M will be finally will this one.

Where K will be the weighted some of K_1, K_2 up to K_M that is $\omega_1 K_1$ plus $\omega_2 K_2$ plus up to $\omega_M K_M$ where $\omega_1, \omega_2, \omega_M$ are weights that is between 0 to 1. And finally once we will be having this K , I can write Y_1 equals to Y_0 plus K .

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Runge Kutta method

The parameters α , β and weights ω are chosen to satisfy certain conditions. They are determined by expanding various functions in $y_1 = y_0 + k$, about (x_0, y_0) and comparing powers of h in the expansion of $y(x_0 + h)$. We illustrate the method for $m = 2$.



Second order R-K Method:

Let

$$k_1 = hf(x_0, y_0)$$

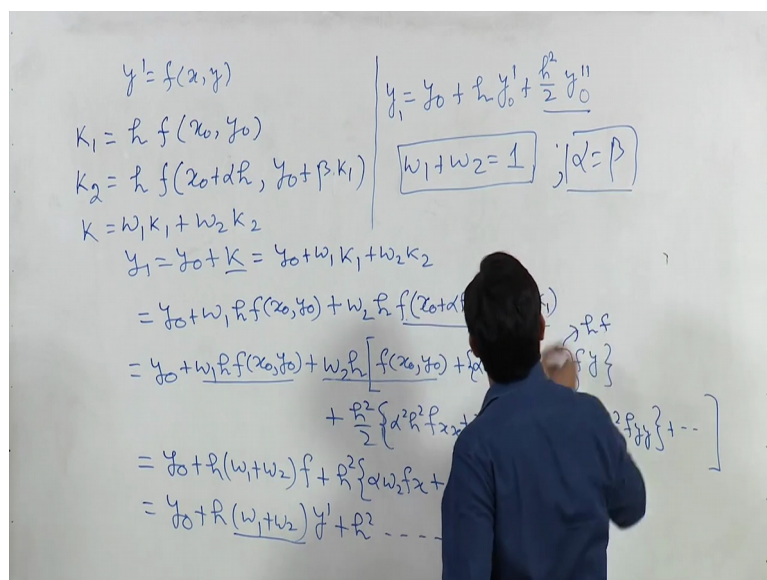
$$k_2 = hf(x_0 + \alpha h, y_0 + \beta k_1)$$

$$k = \omega_1 k_1 + \omega_2 k_2$$



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The parameters alpha, beta and weights w are chosen to satisfy certain conditions. They are determined by expanding various functions in Y_1 equals to Y_0 plus k about X nought Y nought and comparing powers of H in the expansion of Y X_0 plus H . That can be seen means in case of order 2. I will derive it we are getting this particular alpha, beta and w for a RK method of order 2.

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Handwritten derivation on a whiteboard:

$$y' = f(x, y)$$

$$k_1 = hf(x_0, y_0)$$

$$k_2 = hf(x_0 + \alpha h, y_0 + \beta k_1)$$

$$k = \omega_1 k_1 + \omega_2 k_2$$

$$y_1 = y_0 + k = y_0 + \omega_1 k_1 + \omega_2 k_2$$

$$= y_0 + \omega_1 hf(x_0, y_0) + \omega_2 hf(x_0 + \alpha h, y_0 + \beta k_1)$$

$$= y_0 + \omega_1 hf(x_0, y_0) + \omega_2 h \left[f(x_0, y_0) + \alpha h f_x(x_0, y_0) + \beta h f_y(x_0, y_0) + \frac{h^2}{2} \{ \alpha^2 f_{xx} + 2\alpha\beta f_{xy} + \beta^2 f_{yy} \} + \dots \right]$$

$$= y_0 + h(\omega_1 + \omega_2) f + h^2 \{ \omega_2 \alpha f_x + \omega_2 \beta f_y + \frac{\omega_2}{2} \{ \alpha^2 f_{xx} + 2\alpha\beta f_{xy} + \beta^2 f_{yy} \} \} + \dots$$

$$= y_0 + h(\omega_1 + \omega_2) f + h^2 \dots$$

Conditions boxed in the derivation:

$$\omega_1 + \omega_2 = 1, \quad \alpha = \beta$$

So basically in RK method of order 2 I will be having K_1 as $H F X$ nought Y nought. K_2 will be H time $F X$ nought plus $\alpha H Y$ nought plus βK_1 and then I am having $\omega_1 K_1$ plus $\omega_2 K_2$. This is equals to K and finally Y_1 will be Y nought

plus K . So this is the general scheme for RK method of order 2. So Y_1 is Y_0 plus K that I can write Y_0 plus $\omega_1 K_1$ plus $\omega_2 K_2$.

So Y_0 plus ω_1 the value of K_1 I can substitute from here. H time $F(X_n, Y_n)$ plus ω_2 the value of K_2 I can substitute from here. $H F(X_n, Y_n) + \alpha H Y_n' + \beta K$. Or this can be written as $Y_n' + \omega_1 H F(X_n, Y_n) + \omega_2$ plus let us explain this term by the Taylor series expansion about X_n, Y_n .

So this will be $\omega_2 H$ into $F(X_n, Y_n) + \alpha H F(X_n, Y_n) + \beta K$. That is the first order term so $F(X_n, Y_n)$ at X_n, Y_n $F(Y_n)$ at X_n, Y_n plus I will be having the second order term that is will be H^2 by 2 into $\alpha^2 H^2$ the second order derivative of F with respect to X that is the partial derivative plus 2 $\alpha H \beta K F_{YY}$ sorry it will be K_1 . Because K we have taken here.

So K_1 and then K_1 plus $\beta^2 K_1^2 F_{YY}$ plus higher order term. So this this can be expanded like this. Finally we can collect the coefficient Y_0 plus H time ω_1 plus ω_2 . So I have taken this into F so please note that now I am writing $F(X_n, Y_n)$ as F plus so I have taken this terms then I will be having this particular term H^2 .

So H into $H H^2 \alpha$ into ω_2 into F_X plus as you can note down this K_1 can be written as from the this formula the H of F . So this term will be $\beta H F_{FY}$. So H^2 I have take out. So it will be β into $\omega_2 F$ into F_Y plus higher order term. This will be Y_0 plus $H \omega_1$ plus ω_2 as you know for the initial value problem Y' will be F of XY so this F I can replace with Y' plus H^2 terms.

Now the simple Taylor series expansion of Y can be given as Y_0 plus H time Y' plus H^2 upon 2 Y'' . Compare the various powers of H from here ω_1 plus ω_2 will become 1. This is the first expression I am getting by comparing the power one of H and then from the second what I am getting? α equals to β .

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Second Order Runge Kutta(R-K) method

Comparing powers of h and h^2 we get, $\omega_1 + \omega_2 = 1$ and $\omega_2\alpha = 1/2, \omega_2\beta = 1/2$
This implies that $\alpha = \beta$.
We can assign an arbitrary value to any one of the parameters, say $\alpha = a$. Then we get $\beta = a, \omega_2 = 1/2a$ and $\omega_1 = 1 - 1/2a$.

- Giving different values to a ($a \geq 1/2$) since $0 \leq \omega_1, \omega_2 \leq 1$ such that $\omega_1 + \omega_2 = 1$ } various R-K formula may be constructed.

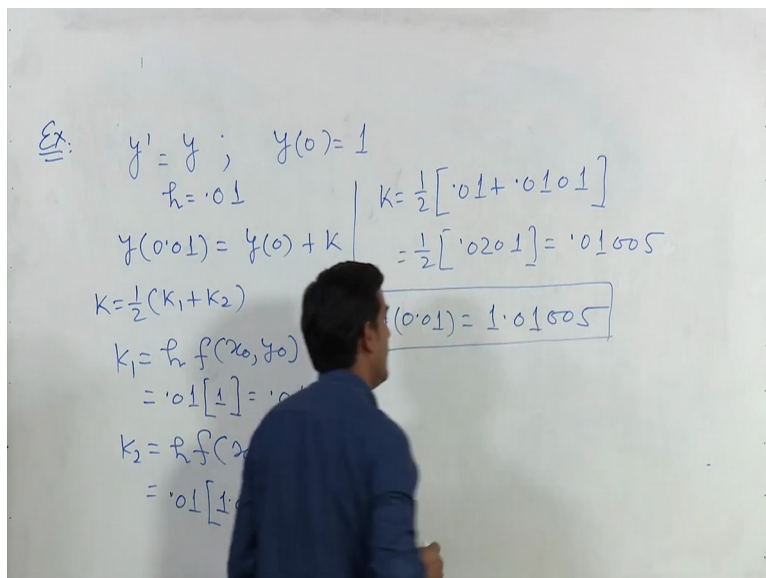
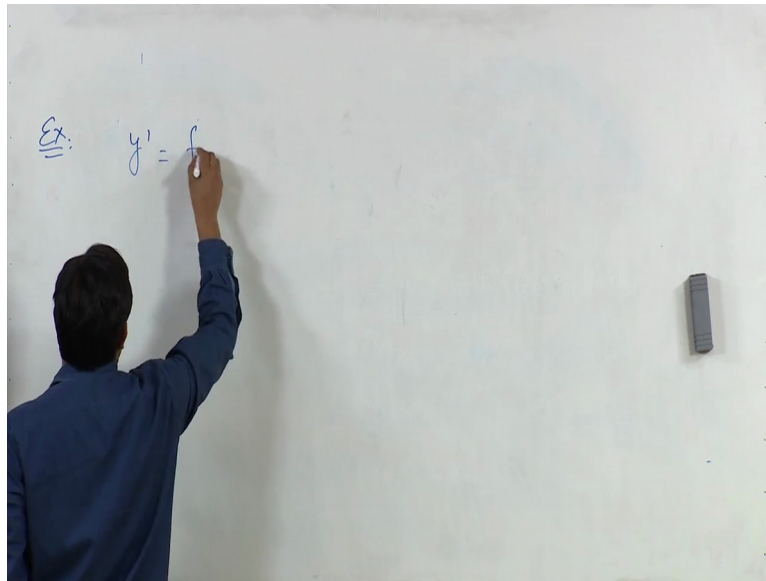
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Hence I am getting if I choose alpha equal to A, I can get beta equals to A. Because alpha equals to beta and omega 2 will become 1 upon 2A and omega1 will become 1 minus 1 upon 2A. So giving different values to A in general we choose A greater than half or equals to half such that we can generalize the various RK methods of order 2.

For example the classical method of order 2 can be get can be obtained just by taking alpha equals to beta equals to 1. So here A is taken as 1. So omega1 will become half omega2 will become half and a corresponding this equation will become $X_{n+1} = X_n + H Y_n + K_1$ which is the standard Runge Kutta method of order 2. So let us take again an example and solve it using method Runge Kutta method of order 2.

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So I am taking y' equals to f of xy . So here let us take f of x, y as y . So my differential equation is dy by dx equals to y together with initial condition as y_0 equals to 1. So let us take h equals to point 1 or let us find out more smaller value h equal to 0 point 1. So y at 0 point 01 is given as y at 0 plus K . Where K is half of K_1 plus K_2 . So K is half of K_1 plus K_2 .

So let us calculate K_1 for this particular example. So K_1 will be h times f of x nought y nought. So h is point 01 into f of x nought y nought will be y nought which is 1. Similarly I can calculate K_2 . K_2 will be h time f of x nought plus y nought sorry h time f of x nought plus h y nought plus K_1 . So it will be point 01 into so this will become y nought plus K_1 , y nought is 1, K_1 is point 01.

So 1 point sorry yeah 1 point 01 so it will become point 0101. Now K will become half of point 01 plus point 0101. This is half of point 0201 and it will be point 01050 hence Y at 0 point 01 can be given as 1 point 01005.

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Second Order Runge Kutta(R-K) method

Example

We have

x	y	k ₁	k ₂
0.000000	1.000000	0.010000	0.010100
0.010000	1.010050	0.010000	0.010100
0.020000	1.020201	0.010100	0.010202
0.030000	1.030454	0.010202	0.010304
0.040000	1.040810	0.010305	0.010408

Hence, exact solution is $y(0.04) = 1.0408$

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And so value from this table at X equals to point 02 Y will come out 1 point 020201 at point 03 Y will come out 1 point 0305454 at point 04 it will be 1 point 040810.

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Second Order Runge Kutta(R-K) method

Example

Consider the initial value problem

$$y' = y; \quad y(0) = 1$$

Use R-K method of order two to obtain the value of $y(0.04)$ with $h = 0.01$.
Here, $f(x, y) = y$ and $y_0 = y(0) = 1$. Therefore $k_1 = \dots$

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The exact solution of this particular differential equation is Y equals to E rest to power X that can be obtained separating the variables of Y index in different size.

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Second Order Runge Kutta(R-K) method

Example
We have

x	y	k ₁	k ₂
0.000000	1.000000	0.010000	0.010100
0.010000	1.010050	0.010000	0.010100
0.020000	1.020201	0.010100	0.010202
0.030000	1.030454	0.010202	0.010304
0.040000	1.040810	0.010305	0.010408

Hence, exact solution is $y(0.04) = 1.0408$

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And integrating and exact solution at Y of Y at X equals to point 04 is given by 1 point 0408 which is same as we are getting using the Runge kutta method of order 2 for this particular example.

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Second Order Runge Kutta(R-K) method

Error analysis
The truncation error will be obtained as

$$R = y(x_1) - y_1 = -\frac{h^3}{12}[f_{xx} + 2ff_{xy} + f^2f_{yy} - 2(f_x + f_yf)f_y] + \dots = \mathcal{O}(h^3)$$

The local discretization error of this method is of order h^3 whereas the Euler's method is of order h^2 . We can therefore expect to be able to use a larger step size in this method. The price we pay for this is that we must evaluate the function $f(x, y)$ twice for each step.

- This method is also known as Euler-Cauchy method.
- Third order R-K methods can also be constructed by considering k_1, k_2, k_3 and pursuing the same analysis as above.

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Then if we talk about error in this particular method RK method of order 2 then the truncation error will be obtained as R equals to Y X1 minus Y1 and that will be the term which we have left out for third order of H cube. So hence error will be accuracy will be order of H cube so local discretization error of this method is of order H cube whereas the Euler's and quadratic Taylor methods were having order of H square.

So there therefore we can expect to be able to use a larger step size in this method when compare to the Taylor Euler's method. The price we pay for this is what we must evaluate the function $F(X, Y)$ twice that is 1 for K_1 another 1 for K_2 . This method is also known as Euler quasi method. Third order RK method can also be constructed by taking K_1, K_2, K_3 and carrying out the same analysis as we have done for order 2. Here we are talking the RK method of order 4.

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Fourth Order Runge Kutta(R-K) method

- In fourth order R-K method, the value of k is computed in four steps, i.e. computing the values of k_1, k_2, k_3, k_4 and finally by taking their weighted average.



In its simple form a fourth order method may be expressed as

$$k_1 = hf(x_0, y_0)$$

$$k_2 = hf(x_0 + \alpha_1 h, y_0 + \beta_1 k_1)$$

$$k_3 = hf(x_0 + \alpha_2 h, y_0 + \beta_2 k_2)$$

$$k_4 = hf(x_0 + \alpha_3 h, y_0 + \beta_3 k_3)$$


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So in its simple form a fourth order RK method may be expressed as so there we will be having four terms K_1, K_2, K_3, K_4 . K_1 is given as H times $F(X, Y)$ at (x_0, y_0) . Then we will make use of this k_1 for calculating K_2 . So K_2 will become H times $F(X, Y)$ at $(x_0 + \alpha_1 h, y_0 + \beta_1 k_1)$. K_3 will be become H times $F(X, Y)$ at $(x_0 + \alpha_2 h, y_0 + \beta_2 k_2)$.

And finally K_4 will be become H times $F(X, Y)$ at $(x_0 + \alpha_3 h, y_0 + \beta_3 k_3)$ where K is $\omega_1 K_1 + \omega_2 K_2 + \omega_3 K_3 + \omega_4 K_4$. And finally Y_1 can be obtained just like in the method of order 2 that is Y at x_1 is $Y_0 + K$.

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Fourth Order Runge Kutta(R-K) method

$$k = \omega_1 k_1 + \omega_2 k_2 + \omega_3 k_3 + \omega_4 k_4$$
$$y_1 = y_0 + k$$

- There are 10 unknowns and procedure for computing their values is same as discussed earlier.
- There will be less number of equations than the unknowns.
- Therefore we have freedom to assign arbitrary values to some of the unknowns.
- It will give rise to various fourth order R-K formulae.

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Basically we are having 10 unknowns and procedure for computing their values is same as we have discussed in order 2 method. However we will be having less number of equations than the unknown therefore we have freedom to assign arbitrary values to some of the unknowns and in this way we will get a class of RK method of order 4.

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Fourth Order Runge Kutta(R-K) method

The most popular among them is the classical method which is given below:

$$k_1 = hf(x_0, y_0)$$
$$k_2 = hf\left(x_0 + \frac{h}{2}, y_0 + \frac{k_1}{2}\right)$$
$$k_3 = hf\left(x_0 + \frac{h}{2}, y_0 + \frac{k_2}{2}\right)$$
$$k_4 = hf(x_0 + h, y_0 + k_3)$$
$$k = \frac{1}{6}(k_1 + 2k_2 + 2k_3 + k_4), \quad y_1 = y_0 + k$$

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The most classical method which we take is something like this. We take α_1 as 1 by 2 β_1 as 1 by 2 then α_2 as 1 by 2 β_2 as 1 by 2 and finally α_3 β_3 as 1 and 1. And we take the weighted average as ω_1 as $\frac{1}{6}$ ω_2 as $\frac{1}{3}$ ω_3 as $\frac{1}{3}$ and ω_4 as $\frac{1}{6}$.

So scheme will become like this. Let us take an example and as we have seen in the method the order 2 method the truncation error is of order H cube. So here order error will become of order H^5 H rest to power 5 one less than the polynomial degree of the polynomial which we are taking.

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Fourth Order Runge Kutta(R-K) method

Error
The error in the classical R-K method is $\mathcal{O}(h^5)$.

Example
Compute y at $x = 0.2, 0.4$ by fourth order Runge Kutta method from the differential equation,

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = y - x, \quad y(0) = 1.5$$

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So compute Y at F equals to point 2 and point 4 by fourth order Runge Kutta method for the differential equation DY by DX equals to Y minus X where Y at X equals to 0 is given by 1 point 5.

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Fourth Order Runge Kutta(R-K) method

Solution
We have $h = 0.2, x_0 = 0, y_0 = 1.5$.

$$k_1 = hf(x_0, y_0) = 0.2(1.5 - 0) = 0.3,$$

$$k_2 = hf(x_0 + h/2, y_0 + k_1/2) = 0.2(1.5 + (0.3/2) - (0 + 0.1)) = 0.310$$

$$k_3 = hf(x_0 + h/2, y_0 + k_2/2) = 0.2(1.5 + (0.310/2) - (0 + 0.1)) = 0.3110$$

$$k_4 = hf(x_0 + \alpha_3 h, y_0 + \beta_3 k_3) = 0.2(1.5 + 0.310 - (0 + 0.2)) = 0.322$$

$$k = \frac{1}{6}(0.3 + 2 \times 0.31 + 2 \times 0.3110 + 0.3222) = \frac{1}{6}(1.8642) = 0.3107$$

$$y_1 = y_0 + k = 1.5 + 0.3107 = 1.8107$$

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So first of all we will take H as point 2 X0 is 0 Y0 is 1 point 5. So K1 will become H times F X nought Y nought so it will be point 2 into 1 point 5 minus 0 so point 3. The K2 will come out as point 310. K3 will come out as point 3110 and finally K4 will be point 322. By taking the weighted average of K1, K2, K3 and K4 I will calculate K and K will be my 1 by 6 point 3 plus 2 times point 31 plus 2 times point 3110 plus point 3222.

And it is coming out as point 3107. So finally Y1 that is the value of Y at X equals to 0 point 2 will be Y nought plus K and it will be 1 point 5 plus point 3107 that is 1 point 8107. Similarly taking the initial values at X1 point 2 and Y1 as point 8107 I will calculate the value of Y at X2 that is point 4 that is basically Y2. So similarly for this I will calculate K1, K2, K3, K4.

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Fourth Order Runge Kutta(R-K) method

Solution
 For $x_2 = 0.4$, Take initial values $x_1 = 0.2$, $y_1 = 1.8107$

$$k_1 = 0.2(1.8107 - 0.2) = 0.2 \times 1.6107 = 0.32214$$



$$k_2 = 0.2(1.8107 + 0.16107 - (0.2 + 0.1)) = 0.2 \times 1.67177 = 0.33425$$

$$k_3 = 0.2(1.8107 + 0.16712 - (0.2 + 0.1)) = 0.2 \times 1.6778 = 0.33556$$

$$k_4 = 0.2(1.8107 + 0.33556 - (0.2 + 0.2)) = 0.2 \times 1.7463 = 0.34926$$

$$k = \frac{1}{6}(0.32214 + 2 \times 0.33425 + 2 \times 0.33556 + 0.34926) = 0.33517$$

$$y_2 = y_1 + k = 1.8107 + 0.33517 = 2.14587 \approx 2.1459.$$

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So these are the this is the value for K1, the value for K2, value for K3, value for K4. Finally weighted average will give the K which will be point 33517. So Y2 will come out finally Y1 plus K and it is 2 point 1459. So in this way I can implement the Runge Kutta method of order 4 which is having the accuracy of order H rest to power 5. I can generalize the method of order 3 also which will be having accuracy of H rest to power 4.

So in this lecture what we have learned? We have learned another class of numerical methods that is Runge Kutta methods and we have done the method of order 2 in detailed for this we have done the derivation, we have done the error analysis, we have also seen the RK method of order 4 in detail. We have taken an example. We have found the value of Y at 2 points that is X equals to point 2 and point 4.

If the value of X at 0 value value of Y at X equals to 0 is given. So all these methods starting from the Euler's then Taylor then RK methods what we are doing? For calculating the value of Y at X equals to X_1 we are using only the value of X at X_0 . So what we are doing? We are taking a single step for finding the value at next point we are using the value of current point.

So all these methods are single step in the next lecture we will see another method which is different from these methods because that particular method will use multi steps. So for a finding the value at of Y at X equals to X_1 it will take the use the value of X at F_0 and at some previous points and based on those points it will fit a polynomial and for the next point it will extrapolate the value of the function for the next point. So thank you very much.