gives the values in Table 5.7. Note the decreased error throughout the range over the Midpoint and Modified Euler approximations. □

Table 5.7

t_i	$y(t_i)$	Heun's Method	Error
0.0	0.5000000	0.5000000	0
0.2	0.8292986	0.8292444	0.0000542
0.4	1.2140877	1.2139750	0.0001127
0.6	1.6489406	1.6487659	0.0001747
0.8	2.1272295	2.1269905	0.0002390
1.0	2.6408591	2.6405555	0.0003035
1.2	3.1799415	3.1795763	0.0003653
1.4	3.7324000	3.7319803	0.0004197
1.6	4.2834838	4.2830230	0.0004608
1.8	4.8151763	4.8146966	0.0004797
2.0	5.3054720	5.3050072	0.0004648

Runge-Kutta methods of order three are not generally used. The most common Runge-Kutta method in use is of order four in difference-equation form, is given by the following.

Runge-Kutta Order Four

$$
\begin{aligned}
w_0 &= \alpha,\\
k_1 &= hf(t_i, w_i),\\
k_2 &= hf\left(t_i + \frac{h}{2}, w_i + \frac{1}{2}k_1\right),\\
k_3 &= hf\left(t_i + \frac{h}{2}, w_i + \frac{1}{2}k_2\right),\\
k_4 &= hf(t_{i+1}, w_i + k_3),\\
w_{i+1} &= w_i + \frac{1}{6}(k_1 + 2k_2 + 2k_3 + k_4),
\end{aligned}
$$

for each $i = 0, 1, \dots, N-1$. This method has local truncation error $O(h^4)$, provided the solution $y(t)$ has five continuous derivatives. We introduce the notation k_1, k_2, k_3, k_4 into the method is to eliminate the need for successive nesting in the second variable of $f(t, y)$. Exercise 32 shows how complicated this nesting becomes.

Algorithm 5.2 implements the Runge-Kutta method of order four.

ALGORITHM 5.2

Runge-Kutta (Order Four)

To approximate the solution of the initial-value problem

$$y' = f(t, y), \quad a \le t \le b, \quad y(a) = \alpha,$$

at $(N + 1)$ equally spaced numbers in the interval $[a, b]$:

INPUT endpoints a, b; integer N; initial condition α.

OUTPUT approximation w to y at the $(N + 1)$ values of t.

Step 1 Set $h = (b - a)/N$;
$t = a$;
$w = \alpha$;
OUTPUT (t, w).

Step 2 For $i = 1, 2, \ldots, N$ do Steps 3–5.

Step 3 Set $K_1 = hf(t, w)$;
$K_2 = hf(t + h/2, w + K_1/2)$;
$K_3 = hf(t + h/2, w + K_2/2)$;
$K_4 = hf(t + h, w + K_3)$.

Step 4 Set $w = w + (K_1 + 2K_2 + 2K_3 + K_4)/6$; (*Compute* w_i.)
$t = a + ih$. (*Compute* t_i.)

Step 5 OUTPUT (t, w).

Step 6 STOP. ■

Example 3 Use the Runge-Kutta method of order four with $h = 0.2$, $N = 10$, and $t_i = 0.2i$ to obtain approximations to the solution of the initial-value problem

$$y' = y - t^2 + 1, \quad 0 \le t \le 2, \quad y(0) = 0.5.$$

Solution The approximation to $y(0.2)$ is obtained by

$$w_0 = 0.5$$

$$k_1 = 0.2f(0, 0.5) = 0.2(1.5) = 0.3$$

$$k_2 = 0.2f(0.1, 0.65) = 0.328$$

$$k_3 = 0.2f(0.1, 0.664) = 0.3308$$

$$k_4 = 0.2f(0.2, 0.8308) = 0.35816$$

$$w_1 = 0.5 + \frac{1}{6}(0.3 + 2(0.328) + 2(0.3308) + 0.35816) = 0.8292933.$$

The remaining results and their errors are listed in Table 5.8. ■

Table 5.8

t_i	Exact $y_i = y(t_i)$	Runge-Kutta Order Four w_i	Error $\lvert y_i - w_i \rvert$
0.0	0.5000000	0.5000000	0
0.2	0.8292986	0.8292933	0.0000053
0.4	1.2140877	1.2140762	0.0000114
0.6	1.6489406	1.6489220	0.0000186
0.8	2.1272295	2.1272027	0.0000269
1.0	2.6408591	2.6408227	0.0000364
1.2	3.1799415	3.1798942	0.0000474
1.4	3.7324000	3.7323401	0.0000599
1.6	4.2834838	4.2834095	0.0000743
1.8	4.8151763	4.8150857	0.0000906
2.0	5.3054720	5.3053630	0.0001089

To obtain Runge-Kutta order 4 method results with *InitialValueProblem* use the option *method* = *rungekutta*, *submethod* = *rk4*. The results produced from the following call for out standard example problem agree with those in Table 5.6.

$C := InitialValueProblem(deq, y(0) = 0.5, t = 2, method = rungekutta, submethod = rk4, numsteps = 10, output = information, digits = 8)$

Computational Comparisons

The main computational effort in applying the Runge-Kutta methods is the evaluation of f. In the second-order methods, the local truncation error is $O(h^2)$, and the cost is two function evaluations per step. The Runge-Kutta method of order four requires 4 evaluations per step, and the local truncation error is $O(h^4)$. Butcher (see [But] for a summary) has established the relationship between the number of evaluations per step and the order of the local truncation error shown in Table 5.9. This table indicates why the methods of order less than five with smaller step size are used in preference to the higher-order methods using a larger step size.

Table 5.9

Evaluations per step	2	3	4	$5 \le n \le 7$	$8 \le n \le 9$	$10 \le n$
Best possible local truncation error	$O(h^2)$	$O(h^3)$	$O(h^4)$	$O(h^{n-1})$	$O(h^{n-2})$	$O(h^{n-3})$

One measure of comparing the lower-order Runge-Kutta methods is described as follows:

- The Runge-Kutta method of order four requires four evaluations per step, whereas Euler's method requires only one evaluation. Hence if the Runge-Kutta method of order four is to be superior it should give more accurate answers than Euler's method with one-fourth the step size. Similarly, if the Runge-Kutta method of order four is to be superior to the second-order Runge-Kutta methods, which require two evaluations per step, it should give more accuracy with step size h than a second-order method with step size $h/2$.

The following illustrates the superiority of the Runge-Kutta fourth-order method by this measure for the initial-value problem that we have been considering.

Illustration For the problem

$$y' = y - t^2 + 1, \quad 0 \le t \le 2, \quad y(0) = 0.5,$$

Euler's method with $h = 0.025$, the Midpoint method with $h = 0.05$, and the Runge-Kutta fourth-order method with $h = 0.1$ are compared at the common mesh points of these methods 0.1, 0.2, 0.3, 0.4, and 0.5. Each of these techniques requires 20 function evaluations to determine the values listed in Table 5.10 to approximate $y(0.5)$. In this example, the fourth-order method is clearly superior. □

Table 5.10

t_i	Exact	Euler $h = 0.025$	Modified Euler $h = 0.05$	Runge-Kutta Order Four $h = 0.1$
0.0	0.5000000	0.5000000	0.5000000	0.5000000
0.1	0.6574145	0.6554982	0.6573085	0.6574144
0.2	0.8292986	0.8253385	0.8290778	0.8292983
0.3	1.0150706	1.0089334	1.0147254	1.0150701
0.4	1.2140877	1.2056345	1.2136079	1.2140869
0.5	1.4256394	1.4147264	1.4250141	1.4256384

EXERCISE SET 5.4

1. Use the Modified Euler method to approximate the solutions to each of the following initial-value problems, and compare the results to the actual values.

a. $y' = te^{3t} - 2y, \quad 0 \le t \le 1, \quad y(0) = 0,$ with $h = 0.5$; actual solution $y(t) = \frac{1}{5}te^{3t} - \frac{1}{25}e^{3t} + \frac{1}{25}e^{-2t}$.

b. $y' = 1 + (t - y)^2, \quad 2 \le t \le 3, \quad y(2) = 1,$ with $h = 0.5$; actual solution $y(t) = t + \frac{1}{1-t}$.

c. $y' = 1 + y/t, \quad 1 \le t \le 2, \quad y(1) = 2,$ with $h = 0.25$; actual solution $y(t) = t \ln t + 2t$.

d. $y' = \cos 2t + \sin 3t, \quad 0 \le t \le 1, \quad y(0) = 1,$ with $h = 0.25$; actual solution $y(t) = \frac{1}{2}\sin 2t - \frac{1}{3}\cos 3t + \frac{4}{3}$.

2. Use the Modified Euler method to approximate the solutions to each of the following initial-value problems, and compare the results to the actual values.

a. $y' = e^{t-y}, \quad 0 \le t \le 1, \quad y(0) = 1,$ with $h = 0.5$; actual solution $y(t) = \ln(e^t + e - 1)$.

b. $y' = \dfrac{1+t}{1+y}, \quad 1 \le t \le 2, \quad y(1) = 2,$ with $h = 0.5$; actual solution $y(t) = \sqrt{t^2 + 2t + 6} - 1$.

c. $y' = -y + ty^{1/2}, \quad 2 \le t \le 3, \quad y(2) = 2,$ with $h = 0.25$; actual solution $y(t) = \left(t - 2 + \sqrt{2}ee^{-t/2}\right)^2$.

d. $y' = t^{-2}(\sin 2t - 2ty), \quad 1 \le t \le 2, \quad y(1) = 2,$ with $h = 0.25$; actual solution $y(t) = \frac{1}{2}t^{-2}(4 + \cos 2 - \cos 2t)$.

3. Use the Modified Euler method to approximate the solutions to each of the following initial-value problems, and compare the results to the actual values.

a. $y' = y/t - (y/t)^2, \quad 1 \le t \le 2, \quad y(1) = 1,$ with $h = 0.1$; actual solution $y(t) = t/(1 + \ln t)$.

b. $y' = 1 + y/t + (y/t)^2, \quad 1 \le t \le 3, \quad y(1) = 0,$ with $h = 0.2$; actual solution $y(t) = t\tan(\ln t)$.

c. $y' = -(y + 1)(y + 3), \quad 0 \le t \le 2, \quad y(0) = -2,$ with $h = 0.2$; actual solution $y(t) = -3 + 2(1 + e^{-2t})^{-1}$.

d. $y' = -5y + 5t^2 + 2t, \quad 0 \le t \le 1, \quad y(0) = \frac{1}{3},$ with $h = 0.1$; actual solution $y(t) = t^2 + \frac{1}{3}e^{-5t}$.

4. Use the Modified Euler method to approximate the solutions to each of the following initial-value problems, and compare the results to the actual values.

a. $y' = \dfrac{2 - 2ty}{t^2 + 1}, \quad 0 \le t \le 1, \quad y(0) = 1,$ with $h = 0.1$; actual solution $y(t) = \dfrac{2t + 1}{t^2 + 1}$.

b. $y' = \dfrac{y^2}{1 + t}, \quad 1 \le t \le 2, \quad y(1) = -(\ln 2)^{-1},$ with $h = 0.1$; actual solution $y(t) = \dfrac{-1}{\ln(t + 1)}$.

c. $y' = (y^2 + y)/t, \quad 1 \le t \le 3, \quad y(1) = -2,$ with $h = 0.2$; actual solution $y(t) = \dfrac{2t}{1 - 2t}$.

d. $y' = -ty + 4t/y, \quad 0 \le t \le 1, \quad y(0) = 1,$ with $h = 0.1$; actual solution $y(t) = \sqrt{4 - 3e^{-t^2}}$.

5. Repeat Exercise 1 using the Midpoint method.

6. Repeat Exercise 2 using the Midpoint method.

7. Repeat Exercise 3 using the Midpoint method.

8. Repeat Exercise 4 using the Midpoint method.

9. Repeat Exercise 1 using Heun's method.

10. Repeat Exercise 2 using Heun's method.

11. Repeat Exercise 3 using Heun's method.

12. Repeat Exercise 4 using Heun's method.

13. Repeat Exercise 1 using the Runge-Kutta method of order four.

14. Repeat Exercise 2 using the Runge-Kutta method of order four.

15. Repeat Exercise 3 using the Runge-Kutta method of order four.

16. Repeat Exercise 4 using the Runge-Kutta method of order four.

17. Use the results of Exercise 3 and linear interpolation to approximate values of $y(t)$, and compare the results to the actual values.

a. $y(1.25)$ and $y(1.93)$ **b.** $y(2.1)$ and $y(2.75)$

c. $y(1.3)$ and $y(1.93)$ **d.** $y(0.54)$ and $y(0.94)$

18. Use the results of Exercise 4 and linear interpolation to approximate values of $y(t)$, and compare the results to the actual values.

a. $y(0.54)$ and $y(0.94)$ **b.** $y(1.25)$ and $y(1.93)$

c. $y(1.3)$ and $y(2.93)$ **d.** $y(0.54)$ and $y(0.94)$

19. Repeat Exercise 17 using the results of Exercise 7.

20. Repeat Exercise 18 using the results of Exercise 8.

21. Repeat Exercise 17 using the results of Exercise 11.

22. Repeat Exercise 18 using the results of Exercise 12.

23. Repeat Exercise 17 using the results of Exercise 15.

24. Repeat Exercise 18 using the results of Exercise 16.

25. Use the results of Exercise 15 and Cubic Hermite interpolation to approximate values of $y(t)$, and compare the approximations to the actual values.

a. $y(1.25)$ and $y(1.93)$ **b.** $y(2.1)$ and $y(2.75)$

c. $y(1.3)$ and $y(1.93)$ **d.** $y(0.54)$ and $y(0.94)$

26. Use the results of Exercise 16 and Cubic Hermite interpolation to approximate values of $y(t)$, and compare the approximations to the actual values.

a. $y(0.54)$ and $y(0.94)$ **b.** $y(1.25)$ and $y(1.93)$

c. $y(1.3)$ and $y(2.93)$ **d.** $y(0.54)$ and $y(0.94)$

27. Show that the Midpoint method and the Modified Euler method give the same approximations to the initial-value problem

$$y' = -y + t + 1, \quad 0 \le t \le 1, \quad y(0) = 1,$$

for any choice of h. Why is this true?

28. Water flows from an inverted conical tank with circular orifice at the rate

$$\frac{dx}{dt} = -0.6\pi r^2 \sqrt{2g}\frac{\sqrt{x}}{A(x)},$$

where r is the radius of the orifice, x is the height of the liquid level from the vertex of the cone, and $A(x)$ is the area of the cross section of the tank x units above the orifice. Suppose $r = 0.1$ ft, $g = 32.1$ ft/s^2, and the tank has an initial water level of 8 ft and initial volume of $512(\pi/3)$ ft^3. Use the Runge-Kutta method of order four to find the following.

a. The water level after 10 min with $h = 20$ s

b. When the tank will be empty, to within 1 min.