



**Problem 1.** Consider the initial value problem  $y' = t + y$  with  $y(0) = 0$ .

1. (5%) Find the exact solution to the initial value problem above.
2. (15%) Show that the numerical method

$$y_{k+1} = y_k + h \left[ t_k + \frac{h}{2} + y_k + \frac{h}{2}(t_k + y_k) \right]$$

is a third order numerical method; that is, show that the global truncation error  $e_k(h)$  satisfies

$$|e_k(h)| \leq Ch^2 \quad \forall 1 \leq k \leq \frac{T}{h}.$$

for some constant  $C > 0$ .

*Solution:*

1. By the method of integrating factors,  $(e^{-t}y)' = te^{-t}$  which implies that

$$e^{-t}y = \int te^{-t} dt = -te^{-t} + \int e^{-t} dt = -(t+1)e^{-t} + C.$$

Therefore,  $y(t) = Ce^t - t - 1$ . Together with the initial condition  $y(0) = 0$ , we find that  $C = 1$ ; thus

$$y(t) = e^t - t - 1.$$

2. By the fact that  $e^h = 1 + h + \frac{h^2}{2} + \frac{e^\theta}{6}h^3$  for some  $\theta \in (0, h)$ , we find that

$$\begin{aligned} \tau_k(h) &= \frac{y(t_k) - y(t_{k-1})}{h} - t_{k-1} - \frac{h}{2} - y(t_{k-1}) - \frac{h}{2}(t_{k-1} + y(t_{k-1})) \\ &= \frac{e^{t_{k-1}}(e^h - 1) - h}{h} - t_{k-1} - \frac{h}{2} - e^{t_{k-1}} + t_{k-1} + 1 - \frac{h}{2}(e^{t_{k-1}} - 1) \\ &= \frac{e^{t_{k-1}}(h + \frac{h^2}{2} + \frac{e^\theta}{6}h^3)}{h} - e^{t_{k-1}} - \frac{h}{2}e^{t_{k-1}} = \frac{e^{t_{k-1}+\theta}}{6}h^2. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, for  $t_k \in [0, T]$ , we have

$$|\tau_k(h)| \leq \frac{e^T}{6}h^2.$$

Moreover, with  $\Phi$  denoting the function

$$\Phi(h, t, y) = t + \frac{h}{2} + y + \frac{h}{2}(t + y),$$

the numerical scheme can be expressed as  $y_{k+1} = y_k + h\Phi(h, t_k, y_k)$  and  $\Phi_y(h, t, y) = 1 + \frac{h}{2}$  which further implies that

$$|\Phi_y(h, t, y)| \leq 1 + \frac{T}{2}.$$

Therefore, Theorem 3.8 in the lecture note implies that  $|e_k(h)| \leq Ch^2$  for some  $C > 0$ .  $\square$



**Problem 2.** Consider the initial value problem  $y' = \cos(t^3 + y)$  with  $y(0) = 0$ .

- (5%) Write the improved Euler's method in the form

$$y_{k+1} = y_k + h\Phi(h, t_k, y_k).$$

In other words, find the function  $\Phi$  such that the iterative scheme above is equivalent to the improved Euler method.

- (15%) Show that the local truncation error  $\tau_k(h)$  satisfies

$$|\tau_k(h)| \leq 9h^2 \quad \forall h \leq \frac{1}{k}.$$

*Proof.* First we compute the derivative of  $y$  as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} y'' &= -\sin(t^3 + y)(3t^2 + y') = -\sin(t^3 + y)(3t^2 + \cos(t^3 + y)), \\ y''' &= -\cos(t^3 + y)(3t^2 + \cos(t^3 + y))^2 - \sin(t^3 + y)[6t - \sin(t^3 + y)(3t^2 + \cos(t^3 + y))]; \end{aligned}$$

thus for  $t \in [0, 1]$ ,  $|y'''(t)| \leq (3 + 1)^2 + (6 + 4) = 26$ .

- Let  $f(t, y) = \cos(t^3 + y)$ . The improved Euler's method is the numerical scheme given by

$$\begin{aligned} y_{k+1} &= y_k + \frac{h}{2} [f(t_k, y_k) + f(t_k + h, y_k + hf(t_k, y_k))] \\ &= y_k + \frac{h}{2} [\cos(t_k^3 + y_k) + \cos((t_k + h)^3 + y_k + h \cos(t_k^3 + y_k))] \\ &= y_k + \frac{h}{2} [\cos(t_k^3 + y_k) + \cos(t_k^3 + y_k + 3h^2t_k + 3ht_k^2 + h^3 + h \cos(t_k^3 + y_k))]; \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{thus } \Phi(h, t, y) = \frac{1}{2} [\cos(t^3 + y) + \cos(t^3 + y + 3h^2t + 3ht^2 + h^3 + h \cos(t^3 + y))].$$

- By the Taylor theorem,

$$\begin{aligned} y(t_k) &= y(t_{k-1}) + hy'(t_{k-1}) + \frac{h^2}{2}y''(t_{k-1}) + \frac{h^3}{6}y'''(\xi_{k-1}) \\ &= y(t_{k-1}) + h \cos(t_{k-1}^3 + y(t_{k-1})) + \frac{h^2}{2} [-3t_{k-1}^2 \sin(t_{k-1}^3 + y(t_{k-1})) \\ &\quad - \sin(t_{k-1}^3 + y(t_{k-1})) \cos(t_{k-1}^3 + y(t_{k-1}))] + \frac{h^3}{6}y'''(\xi_{k-1}) \end{aligned}$$

for some  $\xi_{k-1}$  in between  $t_{k-1}$  and  $t_k$ . Moreover, by the Taylor theorem,

$$\cos x = \cos a - \sin a(x - a) - \frac{\cos a}{2}(x - a)^2 + \frac{\sin b}{2}(x - a)^3$$

for some  $b$  in between  $x$  and  $a$ ; thus

$$\begin{aligned} y_k &= y_{k-1} + h\Phi(h, t_{k-1}, y_{k-1}) \\ &= y_{k-1} + \frac{h}{2} [2 \cos(t_{k-1}^3 + y_{k-1}) - \sin(t_{k-1}^3 + y_{k-1})(3t_{k-1}^2h + 3t_{k-1}h^2 + h^3 + h \cos(t_{k-1}^3 + y_{k-1})) \\ &\quad - \frac{1}{2} \cos \eta_{k-1} (3t_{k-1}^2h + 3t_{k-1}h^2 + h^3 + h \cos(t_{k-1}^3 + y_{k-1}))^2] \end{aligned}$$

for some  $\eta_{k-1}$  in between  $t_{k-1}^3 + y_{k-1}$  and  $(t_{k-1} + h)^3 + y_{k-1} + h \cos(t_{k-1}^3 + y_{k-1})$ . Therefore, in the time interval  $[0, 1]$  the local truncation error  $\tau_k(h)$  satisfies

$$\begin{aligned} |\tau_k(h)| &\leq \frac{1}{h} \left[ \frac{h}{2} |\sin(t_{k-1}^3 + y_{k-1})| |3t_{k-1}h^2 + h^3| \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \frac{h^3}{4} |\cos \eta_{k-1}| |3t_{k-1}^2 + 3t_{k-1}h + h^2 + \cos(t_{k-1}^3 + y_{k-1})|^2 + \frac{h^3}{6} |y'''(\xi_{k-1})| \right] \\ &\leq h^2 \left[ \frac{4}{2} + \frac{1}{4}(3 + 3 + 1 + 1) + \frac{26}{6} \right] = h^3 \left( 4 + \frac{13}{3} \right) = \frac{25}{3} h^3 \end{aligned}$$

which further implies that  $|\tau_k(h)| \leq 9h^2$ . □

**Problem 3.** (15%) Let  $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}$  be constants. Use the variation of parameter to find the general solution to the equation

$$y'' - 2\alpha y' + \alpha^2 y = te^{\alpha t}.$$

*Solution:* First we find a fundamental set of the corresponding homogeneous equation. Since the characteristic equation (of the corresponding homogeneous equation) is  $\lambda^2 - 2\alpha\lambda + \alpha^2 = 0$  has double root  $\lambda = \alpha$ , a fundamental set  $\{\varphi_1, \varphi_2\}$  of the corresponding homogeneous equation is given by

$$\varphi_1(t) = e^{\alpha t} \quad \text{and} \quad \varphi_2(t) = te^{\alpha t}.$$

Since the Wronskian of  $\varphi_1$  and  $\varphi_2$  is  $W[\varphi_1, \varphi_2](t) = \begin{vmatrix} e^{\alpha t} & te^{\alpha t} \\ \alpha e^{\alpha t} & e^{\alpha t} + \alpha te^{\alpha t} \end{vmatrix} = e^{2\alpha t}$ , using the method of variation of parameters (or formula (4.25) in the lecture note) we find that a particular solution to the non-homogeneous equation is given by

$$y_p(t) = -e^{\alpha t} \int_0^t \frac{se^{\alpha s} se^{\alpha s}}{e^{2\alpha s}} ds + te^{-\alpha t} \int_0^t \frac{se^{\alpha s} e^{\alpha s}}{e^{2\alpha s}} ds = -\frac{t^3}{3}e^{\alpha t} + \frac{t^3}{2}e^{\alpha t} = \frac{t^3}{6}e^{\alpha t}.$$

Therefore, the general solution to the origin non-homogeneous equation is given by

$$y(t) = C_1 e^{\alpha t} + C_2 t e^{\alpha t} + \frac{t^3}{6} e^{\alpha t}.$$

**Problem 4.** (10%) Find the Wronskian (which is unique up to a constant multiple) of two solutions on  $(-\frac{\pi}{2}, \frac{\pi}{2})$  to

$$(\cos t)y'' + (\sin t)y' - ty = 0.$$

*Solution:* Let  $\{\varphi_1, \varphi_2\}$  be a collection of two solutions of the ODE, and  $W(t) \equiv \begin{vmatrix} \varphi_1(t) & \varphi_2(t) \\ \varphi_1'(t) & \varphi_2'(t) \end{vmatrix}$  be the Wronskian of  $\varphi_1$  and  $\varphi_2$ . Then the Abel theorem implies that

$$W'(t) + \frac{\sin t}{\cos t}W(t) = 0 \quad \forall t \in \left(-\frac{\pi}{2}, \frac{\pi}{2}\right).$$

Using the separation of variables, we have

$$\frac{dW}{W} = -\tan t dt;$$

thus  $\log |W(t)| = -\log |\sec t| + C = \log |\cos t| + C$  which further implies that

$$W(t) = C \cos t$$

for some constant  $C$ .

**Problem 5.** (20%) Given a solution  $\varphi_1(t) = t^2$  to the equation

$$t^2 y'' - 3ty' + 4y = 0, \quad t > 0,$$

find the solution to the initial value problem

$$t^2 y'' - 3ty' + 4y = t^2 \log t, \quad y(1) = y'(1) = 0,$$

where  $\log t = \ln t = \log_e t$ .

*Solution:* First we rewrite the initial value problem as

$$y'' - \frac{3}{t}y' + \frac{4}{t^2}y = \log t, \quad y(1) = y'(1) = 0.$$

Using formula (4.20) in the lecture note, we find that a (particular) solution of the non-homogeneous equation

$$y'' - \frac{3}{t}y' + \frac{4}{t^2}y = \log t$$

can be expressed by

$$y(t) = t^2 \int \frac{\int t^2 e^{-3 \log t} \log t dt}{t^4 e^{-3 \log t}} dt = t^2 \left[ \int \frac{1}{t} \left( \int \frac{\log t}{t} dt \right) dt \right].$$

Since  $\int \frac{\log t}{t} dt = \frac{1}{2}(\log t)^2 + C$  and  $\int \frac{(\log t)^2}{t} dt = \frac{1}{3}(\log t)^3 + D$ , we find that

$$\int \frac{1}{t} \left( \int \frac{\log t}{t} dt \right) dt = \int \frac{1}{t} \left( \frac{1}{2}(\log t)^2 + C \right) dt = C \log t + \frac{1}{6}(\log t)^3 + \frac{D}{2};$$

thus the general solution to the non-homogeneous equation is

$$y(t) = C_1 t^2 \log t + C_2 t^2 + \frac{t^2}{6}(\log t)^3.$$

To validate the initial condition,  $C_1$  and  $C_2$  must satisfy

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &= y(1) = C_2, \\ 0 &= y'(1) = C_1 + 2C_2; \end{aligned}$$

thus  $C_1 = C_2 = 0$ . Therefore, the solution to the original initial value problem is  $y(t) = \frac{t^2}{6}(\log t)^3$ .  $\square$

**Problem 6.** Solve the differential equation

$$\frac{\sin^2(2x)}{4}y''(x) + \sin(2x)\cos^2 x y'(x) - 2y(x) = 0, \quad 0 < x < \frac{\pi}{2} \quad (\star)$$

following the steps below:

- (1) (10%) Let  $t = \tan x$  and  $z(t) = y(\arctan t)$ . Find the corresponding differential equation that  $z$  satisfies (the function  $\arctan$  is identical to  $\tan^{-1}$ ).
- (2) (10%) Find the general solution to the equation for  $z$ , and then use it to find a solution to  $(\star)$ .

*Solution:*

- (1) Let  $t = \tan x$  and  $z(t) = y(\tan^{-1} t)$ . Then

$$z'(t) = y'(\tan^{-1} t) \frac{1}{1+t^2} \quad \text{and} \quad z''(t) = y''(\tan^{-1} t) \frac{1}{(1+t^2)^2} + y'(\tan^{-1} t) \frac{-2t}{(1+t^2)^2}.$$

Therefore,

$$y'(\tan^{-1} t) = (1+t^2)z'(t) \quad \text{and} \quad y''(\tan^{-1} t) = (1+t^2)^2 z''(t) + 2t(1+t^2)z'(t).$$

Letting  $x = \tan^{-1} t$  in the ODE we find that

$$\frac{t^2}{(1+t^2)^2} y''(\tan^{-1} t) + \frac{2t}{(1+t^2)^2} y'(\tan^{-1} t) - 2y(\tan^{-1} t) = 0;$$

thus

$$t^2 z''(t) + 2t z'(t) - 2z(t) = 0.$$

- (2) Let  $r$  satisfy  $r(r-1) + 2r - 2 = 0$ . Then  $r^2 + r - 2 = 0$  which implies  $r = -2$  and  $r = 1$ . Therefore, the general solution of  $(\star)$  is

$$z(t) = C_1 t^{-2} + C_2 t.$$

Therefore,

$$y(x) = z(\tan x) = C_1 \cot^2 x + C_2 \tan x.$$

**Problem 7.** (15%) Let  $f : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  be a continuous function. Show that the boundary value problem

$$y'' + 2y' + 2y = f(t), \quad y(0) = 0, \quad y(\pi) = 0 \quad (**)$$

has a solution if and only if  $\int_0^\pi e^t f(t) \sin t \, dt = 0$ .

*Proof.* First we note that the solution to the corresponding homogeneous equation

$$y'' + 2y' + 2y = 0$$

is  $y(t) = C_1 e^{-t} \cos t + C_2 e^{-t} \sin t$  since  $-1 \pm i$  are the roots of the characteristic equation  $\lambda^2 + 2\lambda + 2 = 0$ .

Let  $\varphi_1(t) = e^{-t} \cos t$  and  $\varphi_2(t) = e^{-t} \sin t$ . Then the Wronskian of  $\varphi_1$  and  $\varphi_2$  is

$$W[\varphi_1, \varphi_2](t) = \begin{vmatrix} e^{-t} \cos t & e^{-t} \sin t \\ -e^{-t} \cos t - e^{-t} \sin t & -e^{-t} \sin t + e^{-t} \cos t \end{vmatrix} = \begin{vmatrix} e^{-t} \cos t & e^{-t} \sin t \\ -e^{-t} \sin t & e^{-t} \cos t \end{vmatrix} = e^{-2t}.$$

Using the method of variation of parameters (or formula (4.25) in the lecture note), we find that a particular solution can be written as

$$y_p(t) = -e^{-t} \cos t \int_0^t \frac{f(s)e^{-s} \sin s}{e^{-2s}} \, ds + e^{-t} \sin t \int_0^t \frac{f(s)e^{-s} \cos s}{e^{-2s}} \, ds;$$

thus the general solution to the non-homogeneous ODE

$$y'' + 2y' + 2y = f(t)$$

is given by

$$\begin{aligned} y(t) &= C_1 e^{-t} \cos t + C_2 e^{-t} \sin t + y_p(t) \\ &= C_1 e^{-t} \cos t + C_2 e^{-t} \sin t - e^{-t} \cos t \int_0^t f(s)e^s \sin s \, ds + e^{-t} \sin t \int_0^t f(s)e^s \cos s \, ds. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, the boundary value problem (\*\*) has a solution if and only if

$$0 = y(0) = C_1$$

and

$$0 = y(\pi) = -C_1 e^{-\pi} + e^{-\pi} \int_0^\pi f(s)e^s \sin s \, ds.$$

Therefore, the boundary value problem (\*\*) has a solution if and only if

$$\int_0^\pi f(s)e^s \sin s \, ds = 0 \quad (***)$$

and the solution, provided that (\*\*\*) holds, is given by

$$y(t) = C_2 e^{-t} \sin t - e^{-t} \cos t \int_0^t f(s)e^s \sin s \, ds + e^{-t} \sin t \int_0^t f(s)e^s \cos s \, ds. \quad \square$$