

Euler scheme for systems of ODEs

$$(IVP) \begin{cases} \vec{y}' = \vec{F}(t, \vec{y}), & t_0 < t \leq t_{end} \\ \vec{y}(t_0) = \vec{y}_0 \end{cases}$$

Discretize time: $t_n = t_0 + n \cdot \Delta t$, $\Delta t = \frac{t_{end} - t_0}{N_{steps}}$, $\vec{Y}^n \approx \vec{y}(t_n)$

$$\text{Euler: } \begin{cases} \vec{Y}^0 = \vec{y}_0 \\ \vec{Y}^{n+1} = \vec{Y}^n + \Delta t \cdot \vec{F}(t_n, \vec{Y}^n), & n = 0, 1, \dots, N \end{cases}$$

It is a first order scheme: error = $O(\Delta t)$

e.g. for 2 ODEs:
$$\begin{cases} y_1' = F_1(t, y_1, y_2), & y_1(t_0) = y_1^0 \\ y_2' = F_2(t, y_1, y_2), & y_2(t_0) = y_2^0 \end{cases}$$

it is simpler to code each component:

$$\begin{cases} Y_1^0 = y_1^0, & Y_1^{n+1} = Y_1^n + \Delta t \cdot F_1(t_n, Y_1^n, Y_2^n) \\ Y_2^0 = y_2^0, & Y_2^{n+1} = Y_2^n + \Delta t \cdot F_2(t_n, Y_1^n, Y_2^n) \end{cases} \quad n=0, 1, \dots, N$$

Both F_1 and F_2 should be evaluated in a FCN subprogram:

function [F1n, F2n] = FCN(tn, Y1n, Y2n)

F1n = formula for $F_1(t_n, Y1n, Y2n)$;

F2n = " " F_2 ();

end

Note the great advantage of explicit vs implicit schemes.

In implicit scheme would need to solve the coupled system, at each time step, for the components Y_1^{n+1}, Y_2^{n+1} , using some system solver for nonlinear equations!

e.g. Newton-Raphson for systems, or fixed-point iterations (Gauss-Seidel), or more advanced (there are many...).