Modified Euler Method

$$w_0 = \alpha,$$

$$w_{i+1} = w_i + \frac{h}{2}[f(t_i, w_i) + f(t_{i+1}, w_i + hf(t_i, w_i))], \quad \text{for} \quad i = 0, 1, \ldots, N-1.$$

Example Use the Modified Euler method with $N = 10$, $h = 0.2$, $t_i = 0.2i$, and $w_0 = 0.5$ to approximate the solution to our usual example,

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

Solution

$$\text{Modified Euler method:} \quad w_{i+1} = 1.22w_i - 0.0088i^2 - 0.008i + 0.216,$$

for each $i = 0, 1, \ldots, 9$.

$$\text{Modified Euler method:} \quad w_1 = 1.22(0.5) - 0.0088(0)^2 - 0.008(0) + 0.216 = 0.826,$$

Modified Euler method: $w_2 = 1.22(0.826) - 0.0088(0.2)^2 - 0.008(0.2) + 0.216$

$$= 1.20692,$$

Table

t_i	$y(t_i)$	Modified Euler Method	Error
0.0	0.5000000	0.5000000	0
0.2	0.8292986	0.8260000	0.0032986
0.4	1.2140877	1.2069200	0.0071677
0.6	1.6489406	1.6372424	0.0116982
0.8	2.1272295	2.1102357	0.0169938
1.0	2.6408591	2.6176876	0.0231715
1.2	3.1799415	3.1495789	0.0303627
1.4	3.7324000	3.6936862	0.0387138
1.6	4.2834838	4.2350972	0.0483866
1.8	4.8151763	4.7556185	0.0595577
2.0	5.3054720	5.2330546	0.0724173

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 $i = 0, 1, \ldots, N-1$. 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 $f(t, y)$.

Example 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.

Table

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