

4.5.2 Second order RK (RK2) methods

- We formulate EXRK2 (i.e., explicit RK with  $s = 2$ ).

The scheme can be written as

~ quad weights

$$y_{n+1} = y_n + \Delta t (b_1 k_1 + b_2 k_2)$$

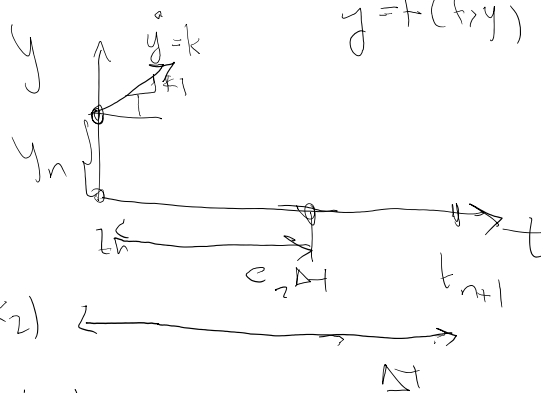
$$y_{n+1} = y_n + \Delta t (\text{average slope})$$

intermediate slopes

explicit stage

$$k_1 = f(t_n, y_n)$$

$$k_2 = f(t_n + c_2 \Delta t, y_n + \Delta t a_{21} k_1)$$



If it was implicit:

$$k_1 = f(t_n + c_1 \Delta t, y_n + \Delta t a_{11} k_1 + \Delta t a_{12} k_2)$$

$$k_2 = f(t_n + c_2 \Delta t, y_n + \Delta t a_{21} k_1 + \Delta t a_{22} k_2)$$

$k_1$  &  $k_2$  should be solved through a system of potentially nonlinear eqns

$$y_{n+1} = y_n + \Delta t (b_1 k_1 + b_2 k_2) \quad \text{where} \quad (264a)$$

$$k_1 = f(t_n, y_n) \quad (264b)$$

$$k_2 = f(t_n + c_2 \Delta t, y_n + \Delta t a_{21} k_1) \quad (264c)$$

Unknowns are  $b_1, b_2, c_2, a_{21}$

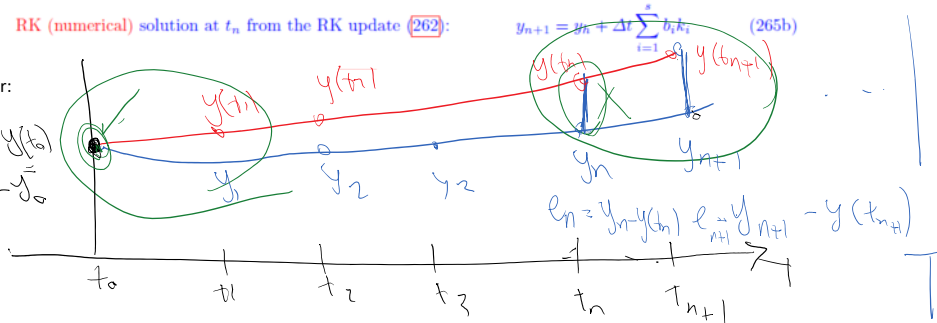
- As usual we adopt the following notation,

$y(t_n)$  Exact solution at  $t_n$  from the ODE (261):  $\frac{dy}{dt} = f(t, y)$  (265a)

$y_n$  RK (numerical) solution at  $t_n$  from the RK update (262):  $y_{n+1} = y_n + \Delta t \sum_{i=1}^s b_i k_i$  (265b)

Truncation error:

exact  $\leftarrow y(t_0)$   
numerical  $\leftarrow y_0$



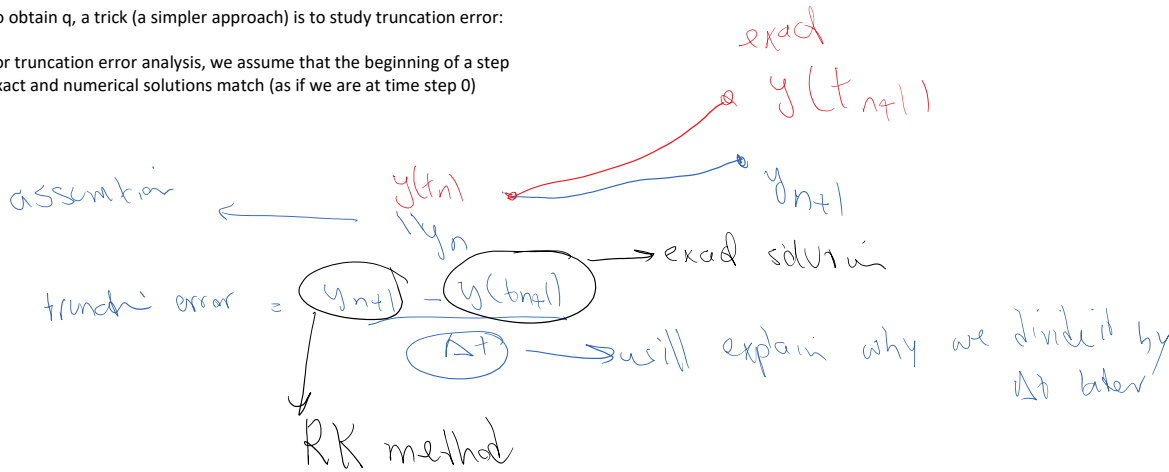
error( $t=T$ ) =  $\Delta t^q$  Goal  $e_n(t=T) = ?$

error(t) = Δt^q      Goal q=?      exact solution at t=1 = r

b  
final time

To obtain q, a trick (a simpler approach) is to study truncation error:

For truncation error analysis, we assume that the beginning of a step exact and numerical solutions match (as if we are at time step 0)



$y(t_{n+1}) = y(t_n) + \dots + \Delta t$       Taylor's expansion

The purpose of the analysis in the following is,

- Let  $y_n = y(t_n)$  (266a)
- Update exact solution to  $t_{n+1}$  ( $y(t_{n+1})$ ) using (261a). (266b)
- Update numerical solution to  $t_{n+1}$  ( $y_{n+1}$ ) using (262). (266c)
- Evaluate to what order  $\Delta t^q$  exact and numerical solutions can match by adjusting RK model parameters. (266d)

First, we evaluate the Taylor expansion of the exact solution from  $t_n$  to  $t_{n+1}$ .

$$y(t_{n+1}) = y(t_n) + \Delta t \frac{dy}{dt}(t_n) + \frac{1}{2} \Delta t^2 \frac{d^2y}{dt^2}(t_n) + \dots + \frac{1}{q!} \Delta t^q \frac{d^{(q)}y}{dt^{(q)}}(t_n) + \mathcal{O}(\Delta t^{q+1}) \quad (267)$$

$\dot{y}(t,y) = f(t,y)$  given ?

$$\frac{d^2y}{dt^2} = \frac{d}{dt}(\dot{y}) = \frac{d}{dt}(f(t,y)) = \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial t} f\right) \left(\frac{dt}{dt}\right) + \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} \left(\frac{dy}{dt}\right) = f_t + f_y \dot{y}$$

Continue this to get  $\ddot{y}, \dots$

$\frac{dy}{dt}(t_n) := f$  is a shorthand for  $f$  at  $(t_n, y(t_n))$  that is  $f = f(t_n, y(t_n))$  (the dependence on  $t_n$  is not displayed) (268b)

$\frac{d^2y}{dt^2}(t_n) = \frac{df}{dt}(t_n) = \left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial t} \frac{dt}{dt} + \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} \frac{dy}{dt}\right)(t_n)$  (from (268a))  $\Rightarrow$

$\frac{d^2y}{dt^2}(t_n) := f_t + f_y f$  note  $\frac{dy}{dt}(t_n) = f$  from (268a) and shorthand notations  $f_t := \frac{\partial f}{\partial t}(t_n, y(t_n)), f_y := \frac{\partial f}{\partial y}(t_n, y(t_n))$  (268c)

$\frac{d^3y}{dt^3}(t_n) := f_{tt} + f_t f_y + 2f f_{ty} + f f_y^2 + f^2 f_{yy}$ , (obtained in a similar fashion by the use of chain rule) (268d)

By plugging (268b), (268c), and (268d) in (267) we obtain,

expansion of the exact soln

$$y(t_{n+1}) = y(t_n) + \Delta t f + \frac{1}{2} \Delta t^2 (f_t + f_y f) + \frac{1}{6} \Delta t^3 (f_{tt} + f_t f_y + 2f f_{ty} + f f_y^2 + f^2 f_{yy}) + \mathcal{O}(\Delta t^4) \quad (269)$$

We need an expansion of the numerical solution in terms of  $\Delta t$

$u_{n+1} = u_n + \Delta t (b_0 k_0 + b_1 k_1)$        $k_1 = f(t_n, y_n) = f$

We need an expansion of the numerical solution in terms of  $\Delta t$

$$\begin{aligned}
 y_{n+1} &= y_n + \Delta t (b_1 k_1 + b_2 k_2) & k_1 &= f(t_n, y_n) = f \\
 &= y_n + \Delta t \left( b_1 f_{y_1} + b_2 f(t_n + c_2 \Delta t, y_n + a_{21} k_1 \Delta t) \right) & k_2 &= f(t_n + c_2 \Delta t, y_n + a_{21} k_1 \Delta t) \\
 &= y_n + \Delta t \left\{ b_1 k_1 + b_2 \left[ f(t_n, y_n) + \frac{\partial f}{\partial t} (c_2 \Delta t) + \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} (t_n, y_n) (a_{21} k_1 \Delta t) \right. \right. \\
 &\quad \left. \left. + \frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial t^2} (t_n, y_n) (c_2 \Delta t)^2 + \dots \right] \right\}
 \end{aligned}$$

Taylor's expansion of this

$$\begin{aligned}
 y_{n+1} &= y_n + \Delta t (b_1 k_1 + b_2 k_2) \\
 &= y_n + \Delta t (b_1 k_1 + b_2 \{ f(t_n + c_2 \Delta t, y_n + a_{21} \Delta t k_1) \}) \\
 &= y_n + \Delta t \left( b_1 k_1 + b_2 \left\{ f + [(\Delta t c_2) f_t + (\Delta t a_{21} k_1) f_y] + \left[ \frac{1}{2} (\Delta t c_2)^2 f_{tt} + \frac{1}{2} (\Delta t a_{21} k_1)^2 f_{yy} + (\Delta t c_2) (\Delta t a_{21} k_1) f_{ty} \right] \right\} \right) \\
 &= y_n + \Delta t \{ b_1 k_1 + b_2 f \} + \Delta t^2 b_2 \{ c_2 f_t + a_{21} k_1 f_y \} + \Delta t^3 b_2 \left\{ \frac{1}{2} c_2^2 f_{tt} + \frac{1}{2} (a_{21} k_1)^2 f_{yy} + c_2 a_{21} k_1 f_{ty} \right\} + \mathcal{O}(\Delta t^4)
 \end{aligned}$$

• Noting that  $k_1 = f$  by (264b), we have the final expression for  $y_{n+1}$ ,

$$y_{n+1} = y_n + \Delta t \{ b_1 + b_2 \} f + \Delta t^2 b_2 \{ c_2 f_t + a_{21} f_y \} + \Delta t^3 b_2 \left\{ \frac{1}{2} c_2^2 f_{tt} + \frac{1}{2} (a_{21} k_1)^2 f_{yy} + c_2 a_{21} k_1 f_{ty} \right\} + \mathcal{O}(\Delta t^4) \quad (270)$$

numerical  
sol  
exact  
assume  
numerical equal

$$y(t_{n+1}) = y(t_n) + \Delta t f + \frac{1}{2} \Delta t^2 (f_t + f_y f) + \frac{1}{6} \Delta t^3 (f_{tt} + f_t f_y + 2f f_{ty} + f_y^2 + f^2 f_{yy}) + \mathcal{O}(\Delta t^4) \quad (269)$$

$b_1 + b_2 = 1$   $\Delta t$  term

$b_2 c_2 = \frac{1}{2}$

$b_2 a_{21} = \frac{1}{2}$

3 eqns  
4 unknowns

$$\Delta t^3 b_2 (c_2 f_t + a_{21} f_y) = \frac{1}{2} \Delta t^3 (f_t + f_y f)$$

• Still we have only three equations in (271c) and four unknowns.

• We let  $c_2$  to be a free parameter and obtain families of EXRK2 methods:

for  $c_2 \neq 0$

$$c_2 \neq 0 \quad (272a)$$

$$b_1 = 1 - \frac{1}{2c_2} \quad (272b)$$

$$b_2 = \frac{1}{2c_2} \quad (272c)$$

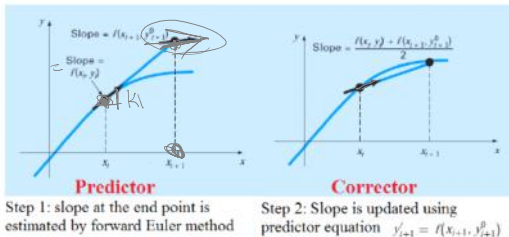
In equation (273) we present some of the well-known members of RK2 methods by assigning different values of  $c_2$ .

Name	$c_2$	RK parameters	RK update
Heun (Improved Euler)	1	$  \begin{bmatrix} b_1 \\ b_2 \\ c_2 \\ a_{21} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{2} \\ \frac{1}{2} \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}  $	$  \begin{cases} y_{n+1} = y_n + \frac{1}{2} \Delta t (k_1 + k_2) \\ k_1 = f(t_n, y_n) \\ k_2 = f(t_n + \Delta t, y_n + \Delta t k_1) \end{cases}  $

$$y_{n+1} = \left( \frac{k_1 + k_2}{2} \right) \Delta t \quad (273a)$$

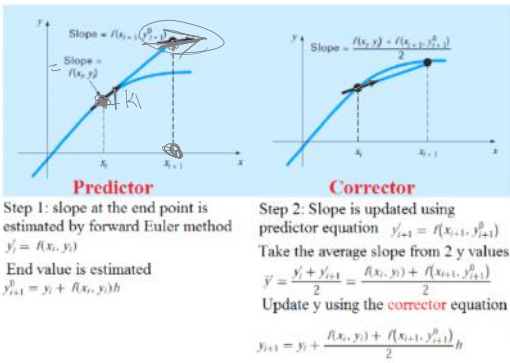
forward  
Euler

$x = t$



$x=t$

Luher



Midpoint (Modified Euler)

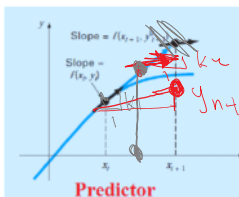
$\frac{1}{2}$

$$\begin{bmatrix} b_1 \\ b_2 \\ c_2 \\ a_{21} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ \frac{1}{2} \\ \frac{1}{2} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{cases} y_{n+1} = y_n + \Delta t k_2 \\ k_1 = f(t_n, y_n) \\ k_2 = f(t_n + \frac{1}{2}\Delta t, y_n + \frac{1}{2}\Delta t k_1) \end{cases} \quad (273b)$$

$y_n + \Delta t k_1$   
 $\downarrow$   
 $k_2$

go to the midpoint with Forward Euler slope



Does it look like trapezoidal rule (when we wrote the difference equation for mid step)?

$$\begin{aligned} t_n & \quad t_{n+1} \\ & \quad t_{n+\frac{1}{2}} \\ y_{n+\frac{1}{2}} & = \frac{y_n + y_{n+1}}{2} \\ y_{n+\frac{1}{2}} & = f(t_n + \frac{\Delta t}{2}, y_{n+\frac{1}{2}}) \end{aligned}$$

Trapezoidal rule

$$\frac{y_{n+1} - y_n}{\Delta t} = f\left(t_n + \frac{\Delta t}{2}, \frac{y_n + y_{n+1}}{2}\right)$$

Implicit scheme (as stability limit) & requires implicit nonlinear solve for  $y_{n+1}$

explicit & has stability limit

$$\begin{cases} y_{n+1} = y_n + \Delta t k_2 \\ k_1 = f(t_n, y_n) \\ k_2 = f(t_n + \frac{3}{4}\Delta t, y_n + \frac{3}{4}\Delta t k_1) \end{cases} \quad (273b)$$

Ralston

$\frac{3}{4}$

$$\begin{bmatrix} b_1 \\ b_2 \\ c_2 \\ a_{21} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{3} \\ \frac{2}{3} \\ \frac{3}{4} \\ \frac{3}{4} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{cases} y_{n+1} = y_n + \Delta t \left(\frac{1}{3}k_1 + \frac{2}{3}k_2\right) \\ k_1 = f(t_n, y_n) \\ k_2 = f\left(t_n + \frac{3}{4}\Delta t, y_n + \frac{3}{4}\Delta t k_1\right) \end{cases} \quad (273c)$$

- Ralston [Ralston, 1962; Ralston and Rabinowitz, 1978] determined that choosing  $c_2 = \frac{2}{3}$  ( $c_2 = \frac{3}{4}$ ) provides a minimum bound on the truncation error for the second-order RK algorithms.

$$y_{n+1} = y_n + \Delta t \{b_1 + b_2\} f + \Delta t^2 b_2 \{c_2 f_t + a_{21} f_{fy}\} + \Delta t^3 \left\{ \frac{1}{2} c_2^2 f_{tt} + \frac{1}{2} (a_{21} f)^2 f_{yy} + c_2 a_{21} f f_{ty} \right\} + O(\Delta t^4) \quad (270)$$

$$y(t_{n+1}) = y(t_n) + \Delta t f + \frac{1}{2} \Delta t^2 (f_t + f_y f) + \frac{1}{6} \Delta t^3 (f_{tt} + f_t f_y + 2f f_{ty} + f f_y^2 + f^2 f_{yy}) + O(\Delta t^4) \quad (269)$$

minimized the error between these

ferms

- **Midpoint (Modified Euler)** Uses the  $y_n$  to project the solution to the midpoint of the interval, and from there compute the slope  $k_2$  that would project  $y_n$  to  $y_{n+1}$ . Note that this method is different from trapezoidal rule that is an implicit method and for which the update equation is written for the mid-point of the interval. Mid-point method, is often shown in the shorthand form below,

$$y_{n+1} = y_n + \Delta t f \left( t_n + \frac{1}{2} \Delta t, y_n + \frac{1}{2} \Delta t f(t_n, y_n) \right) \quad \text{Midpoint (Modified Euler)} \quad (274)$$

- **Improved Euler's method** is a Heun's method without iteration (next figure). The update can be expressed as,

$$y_{n+1} = y_n + \frac{1}{2} \Delta t (f(t_n, y_n) + f(t_n + \Delta t, y_n + \Delta t f(t_n, y_n))) \quad \text{Heun (Improved Euler)} \quad (275)$$

- To determine the order of accuracy and better understand the behavior of RK2 methods we define the **local truncation error**

$\tau(t_n)$ , exact  $\rightarrow$  numerical

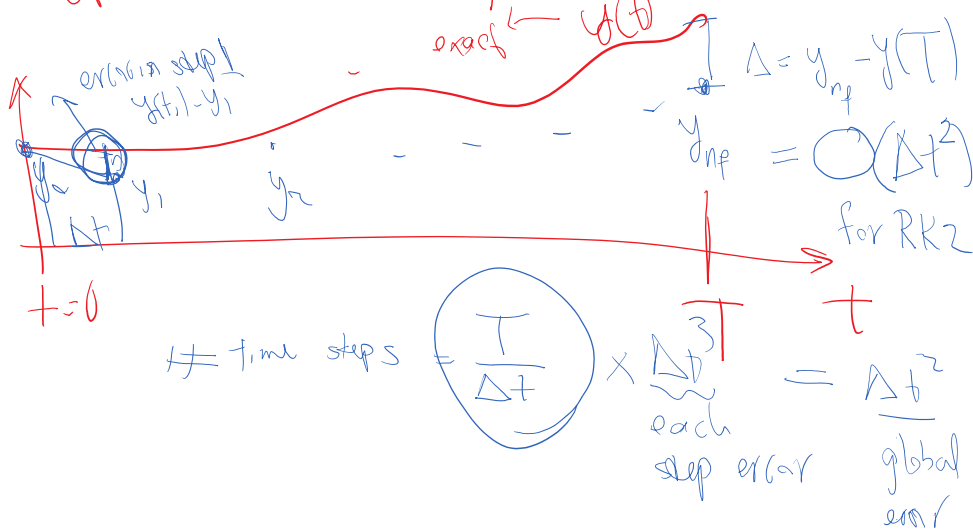
$$\tau(t_n) := \frac{y(t_{n+1}) - y_{n+1}}{\Delta t} \quad (276)$$

leading order term we could not cancel

$$\frac{\Delta t^3 \left[ \frac{1}{6} (f_{tt} + f_t f_y + 2f f_{ty} + f_y^2 + f^2 f_{yy}) \right] - b_2 \left[ \frac{1}{3} c_2^2 f_{tt} + \frac{1}{3} (a_{21} f)^2 f_{yy} + c_2 a_{21} f f_{ty} \right]}{\Delta t} + \mathcal{O}(\Delta t^4)$$

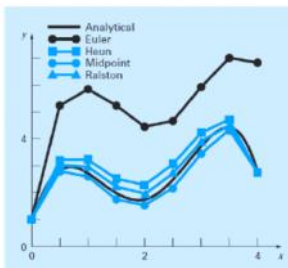
$$= \Delta t^2 \left[ \frac{1}{6} (f_{tt} + f_t f_y + 2f f_{ty} + f_y^2 + f^2 f_{yy}) \right] - \frac{1}{2c_2} \left[ \frac{1}{2} c_2^2 f_{tt} + \frac{1}{2} (c_2 f)^2 f_{yy} + c_2 a_{21} f f_{ty} \right] + \mathcal{O}(\Delta t^3)$$

The order of accuracy of the method is



EXRK2 is as accurate as Trapezoidal method but EXRK2 is explicit and requires linear update equations without solving global systems.

- We observe that the **RK2 scheme is second order accurate in time.**
- One thing that is clear from (277) is that we could not annihilate the  $\mathcal{O}(\Delta t^2)$  term in  $\tau(t_n)$  due to the lack of number of parameters for RK2 scheme, even though there was one free unknown value.
- This is often the case with RK schemes, that not parameters of an  $s$ -stage RK scheme are used in annihilating factors of  $\Delta t^s$  and for the ones that we can annihilate we often end up with more unknowns than equations. That, is why there may be variants of RK methods for a given stage number  $s$ .

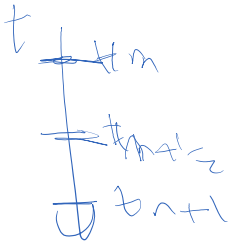


**TABLE 25.3** Comparison of true and approximate values of the integral of  $y' = -2x^2 + 12x^2 - 20x + 8.5$ , with the initial condition that  $y = 1$  at  $x = 0$ . The approximate values were computed using three versions of second-order RK methods with a step size of 0.5.

x	y <sub>true</sub>	Heun		Midpoint		Second-Order Ralston RK	
		y	l <sub>r,l</sub> (%)	y	l <sub>r,l</sub> (%)	y	l <sub>r,l</sub> (%)
0.0	1.00000	1.00000	0	1.00000	0	1.00000	0
0.5	3.21875	3.43750	6.8	3.109375	3.4	3.27344	1.8
1.0	3.00000	3.37500	12.5	2.81250	6.3	3.101563	3.4
1.5	2.21875	2.68750	21.1	1.984375	10.6	2.347656	5.8
2.0	2.00000	2.50000	25.0	1.75	12.5	2.140625	7.0
2.5	2.71875	3.18750	17.2	2.484375	8.6	2.855469	5.0
3.0	4.00000	4.37500	9.4	3.81250	4.7	4.117188	2.9
3.5	4.71875	4.93750	4.6	4.609375	2.3	4.800781	1.7
4.0	3.00000	3.00000	0	3	0	3.031250	1.0

### 4.5.3 Fourth order RK (RK4) method

- Perhaps the most popular RK method, is the **4-stage (s = 4) fourth order accurate RK4 method** below



$$y_{n+1} = y_n + \frac{1}{6} \Delta t (k_1 + 2k_2 + 2k_3 + k_4) \quad \text{where} \quad (278a)$$

$$\left. \begin{aligned} k_1 &= f(t_n, y_n) \\ k_2 &= f\left(t_n + \frac{1}{2} \Delta t, y_n + \frac{1}{2} \Delta t k_1\right) \\ k_3 &= f\left(t_n + \frac{1}{2} \Delta t, y_n + \frac{1}{2} \Delta t k_2\right) \\ k_4 &= f(t_n + \Delta t, y_n + \Delta t k_3) \end{aligned} \right\} \quad (278b)$$

RK4 is a very popular explicit time marching scheme.

RKDG (RK + discontinuous Galerkin), Cockburn, Shu .... Often RK4 is used

if  $y = f(t)$  not depend on  $y$

$$y_{n+1} = \int_{t_n}^{t_{n+1}} y \, dt = \int_{t_n}^{t_{n+1}} f(t) \, dt = y_n + \frac{f(t_n)}{6} + \frac{4f(t_{n+1/2})}{6} + \frac{f(t_{n+1})}{6}$$

$k_1 = f(t_n)$   
 $k_2 = f(t_n + \frac{\Delta t}{2})$   
 $k_3 = f(t_n + \Delta t/2)$   
 $k_4 = f(t_n + \Delta t)$

Simpson's rule (from Newton Cote's family)

- When derivative is not a function of  $y$ , i.e., when  $f(t, y) = f(t)$  the solution to the ODE, is simply the integration of a scalar function.

- In such case, RK4 reduces to the Simpson rule for integration of an interval; cf. (168):

$$\text{Quadrature} \left( \int_0^L f(x) \, dx \right) = \frac{L}{6} f(0) + \frac{4L}{6} f(L/2) + \frac{L}{6} f(L)$$

0				
$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$			
$\frac{1}{2}$	0	$\frac{1}{2}$		
1	0	0	1	
	$\frac{1}{6}$	$\frac{2}{6}$	$\frac{2}{6}$	$\frac{1}{6}$

where

 $k_1 = f(x_i, y_i)$   
 $k_2 = f\left(x_i + \frac{1}{2}h, y_i + \frac{1}{2}k_1h\right)$   
 $k_3 = f\left(x_i + \frac{1}{2}h, y_i + \frac{1}{2}k_2h\right)$   
 $k_4 = f(x_i + h, y_i + k_3h)$ 

[Chapra and Canale, 2010]

### 4.5.4 Butcher effect and higher order RK methods

- From these two results (RK2, RK4) one may be tempted to conclude that the order of accuracy is the same as number of stages  $s$ , which is not correct in general.

- The number of unknowns for an  $s$ -stage explicit RK method is  $s - 1$  ( $b$ 's) +  $s$  ( $c$ 's) +  $(s - 1)s/2$  ( $a$ 's) =  $(s^2 + 3s - 2)/2$ .

- The number of equations grow based on what  $f$  terms (and in what manner) appear as factors of  $\Delta t^i$  terms. For example, remember that the third order RK expansion was (269).

$$y(t_{n+1}) = y(t_n) + \Delta t f + \frac{1}{2} \Delta t^2 (f_t + f_y f) + \frac{1}{6} \Delta t^3 (f_{tt} + f_t f_y + 2f f_{ty} + f f_y^2 + f^2 f_{yy}) + \mathcal{O}(\Delta t^4)$$

- Unfortunately, there is no guarantee that an  $s$ -stage RK method will have  $s$  order of accuracy given the different trends the number of equations and unknowns grow and due to the form of the equations.

- For example, if  $S(o)$  is the number of RK stages needed for order  $o$  we have [Butcher, 1964],

$$N(o) = a \quad o \leq 4 \quad (279a)$$

# stages  $\swarrow$  order of accuracy

$N(5) = 6$  need 6 stages for 5th order accuracy (279b)  
 $N(6) = 7$  (279c)

etc..

- This phenomena is known as the **Butcher's effect**.
- Given the additional complexity of higher order RK methods and the Butcher's effect (the need of having higher number of stages than order of accuracy) limits the practical uses of higher order RK methods.

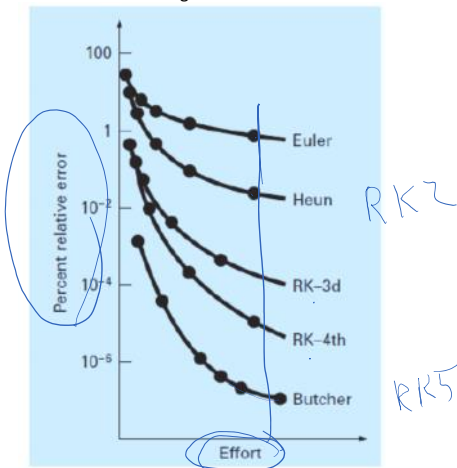
$$y_{i+1} = y_i + \frac{1}{90}(7k_1 + 32k_2 + 12k_3 + 32k_4 + 7k_5)h$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} k_1 &= f(x_i, y_i) \\ k_2 &= f\left(x_i + \frac{1}{4}h, y_i + \frac{1}{4}k_1h\right) \\ k_3 &= f\left(x_i + \frac{1}{4}h, y_i + \frac{1}{8}k_1h + \frac{1}{8}k_2h\right) \\ k_4 &= f\left(x_i + \frac{1}{2}h, y_i - \frac{1}{2}k_2h + k_3h\right) \\ k_5 &= f\left(x_i + \frac{3}{4}h, y_i + \frac{3}{16}k_1h + \frac{9}{16}k_2h\right) \\ k_6 &= f\left(x_i + h, y_i - \frac{3}{7}k_1h + \frac{2}{7}k_2h + \frac{12}{7}k_3h - \frac{12}{7}k_4h + \frac{8}{7}k_5h\right) \end{aligned} \quad (280)$$

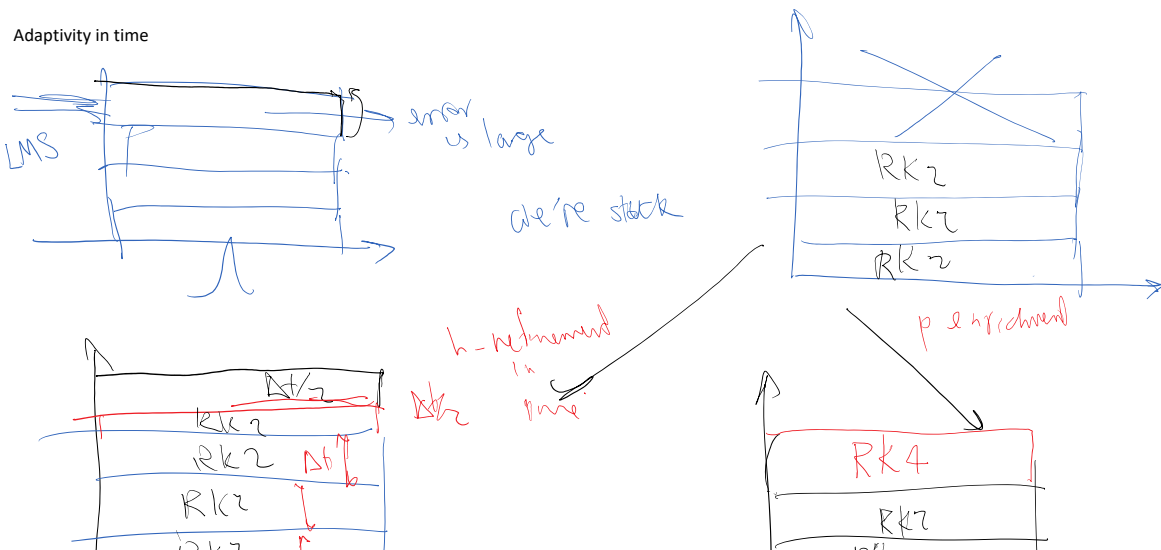
- For the fifth order of accuracy, from (279b) we observe  $s = N(o) = N(5) = 6$  stages are required.
- Butcher's fifth order, six-stage RK update equation is given in (280).

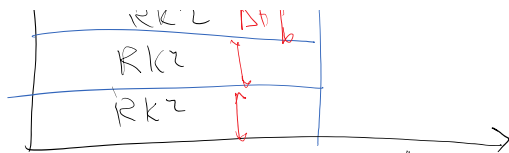
Is it worth it to use higher order method?



for smooth problem  
 often it's worth going  
 to higher order methods  
 as not only they have higher  
 order conv. rate <sup>single are more accurate</sup> but they  
 are more efficient as well

Adaptivity in time





similar flexibility with  
variable time marching  
(Adams-Bashforth)



A prior error estimate

$$\Delta = \underbrace{y(T)}_{\text{don't have exact soln}} - y_{\text{inf}} = O(\Delta t^p)$$

A posteriori error estimate: We create something that replaces the exact solution (often in the form of higher order [p-enrichment] or more accurate solution) and from which we calculate a representative error w.r.t. the exact solution (a posteriori error indicator)

- In either case, we need an **a posteriori error indicator** to know
  - when *p*-enrichment or *h*-refinement (when the error is too large) or *p*-reduction or *h*-coarsening (*h* stands for  $\Delta t$  for the time axis) is needed.
  - which option is more favorable when both *p* and *h* options are available. The answer to this question, however is more difficult and in general depends on the regularity of the underlying problem we are solving. Besides for time stepping methods, similar to RK method discussed above, the *p*-enrichment option is often impractical and we are left with only *h*-refinement option. Thus, often we do not need to choose between *h*- or *p*-adaptivity in time.
- a posteriori error indicators**: are obtained by the solution of the same time step (or in general local element, update, etc.) by **comparing the base solution and a more accurate solution**. The larger the difference between the two solutions, the larger the local error.
- Examples for generating more accurate solutions in time, when time stepping methods are used:
  - Step-halving methods** or more generally schemes that cover the same time interval by two different resolutions of time steps. The one with finer step size, clearly represents the more accurate solution scheme.
  - Different (successive) orders of accuracy**: The same time step is solved with two schemes with successive orders of accuracy. The higher order scheme, clearly models the more accurate solution.
- Another use of **a posteriori error indicators** is the ability to **improve the accuracy of the solution / or even local order of accuracy** by **updating the solution with a factor of the a posteriori error**. The ability to use the error to improve the accuracy of the solution, requires some mathematical analysis of the time stepping method.
- Below, we present some excerpts from [Chapra and Canale, 2010] section 25.5 that discussed both **step-halving** and **different orders of accuracy** approaches for formulating an **a posteriori error indicator**.

Step halving (also called adaptive RK) involves taking each step twice, once as a full step and independently as two half steps. The difference in the two results represents an estimate of the local truncation error. If  $y_1$  designates the single-step prediction and  $y_2$  designates the prediction using the two half steps, the error  $\Delta$  can be represented as

$$\Delta = y_2 - y_1 \quad (25.43)$$

In addition to providing a criterion for step-size control, Eq. (25.43) can also be used to correct the  $y_2$  prediction. For the fourth-order RK version, the correction is

$$y_2 \leftarrow y_2 + \frac{\Delta}{15} \quad (25.44)$$

This estimate is fifth-order accurate.

RK4



more accurate  
replaces  
exact soln