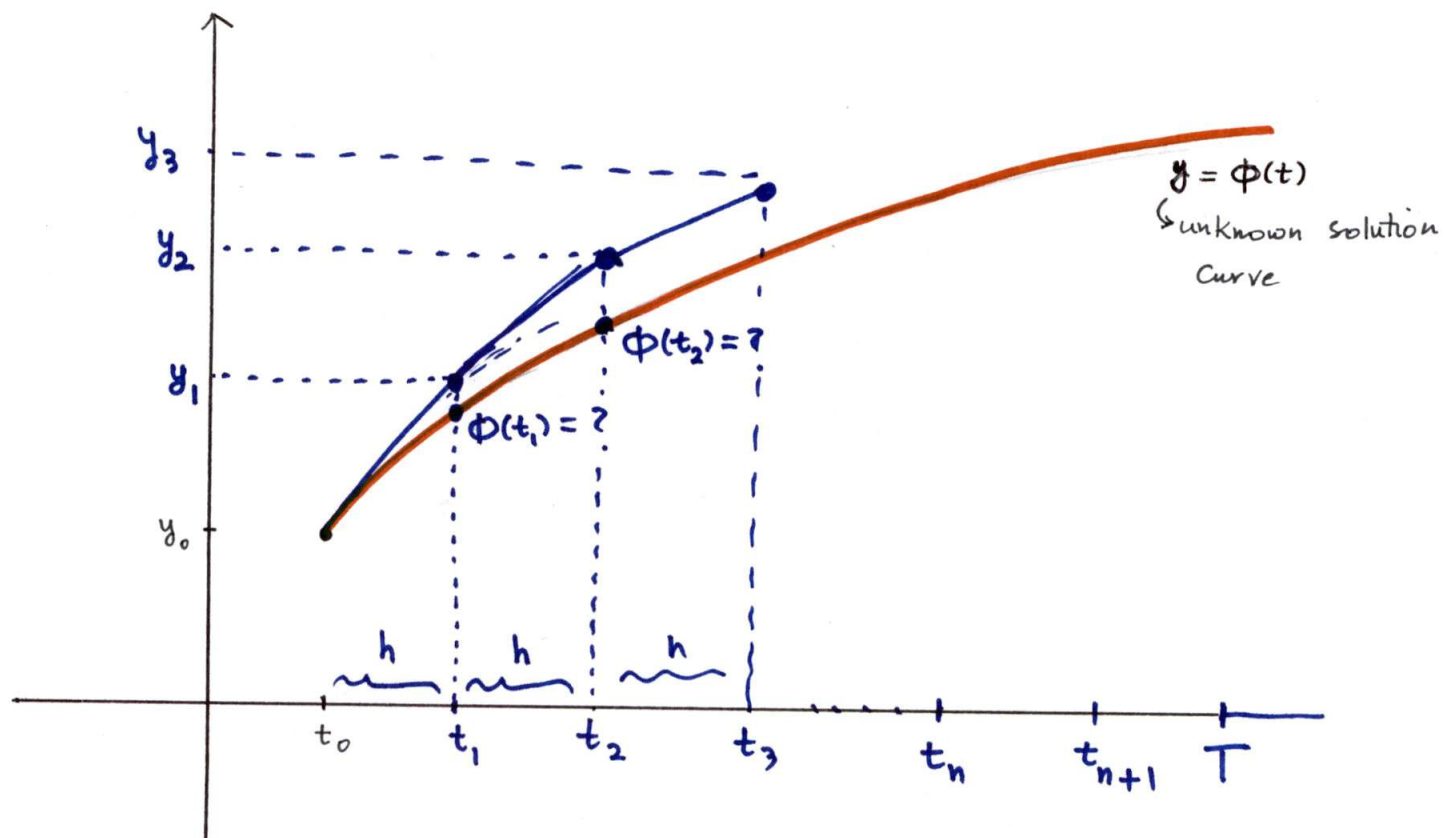


Euler's Method (Numerical Approximation of the Solution)

$$\text{IVP : } \begin{cases} \frac{dy}{dt} = f(t, y(t)) \\ y(t_0) = y_0 \end{cases}$$

Let $y = \phi(t)$ be a solution (it is NOT known), by Euler's method we approximate $\phi(t)$ at different values of t .



h = step size, $t_1 = t_0 + h$, $t_2 = t_0 + 2h$, ..., $t_n = t_0 + nh$

of steps = # of subintervals : $N = \frac{T - t_0}{h}$

Procedure

→ Start at (t_0, y_0) and find the tangent line at t_0 :

By IVP $m_{\tan} = \frac{dy}{dt} \Big|_{(t_0, y_0)} = f(t_0, y_0)$

$$\Rightarrow y = y_0 + f(t_0, y_0)(t - t_0)$$

Continue for a short interval $(t_0, t_1) \rightsquigarrow y_1 = y_0 + f(t_0, y_0) \overbrace{(t_1 - t_0)}^h$
and evaluate the tangent line at $t_1 \rightsquigarrow$

Actual Tangent line at t_1 will be: $m_{\text{tan}} = \left. \frac{dy}{dt} \right|_{(t_1, \phi(t_1))} = f(t_1, \phi(t_1))$

$$y = \phi(t_1) + f(t_1, \phi(t_1))(t - t_1) \rightarrow \text{This is tangent to } \phi(t) \text{ at } (t_1, \phi(t_1))$$

$\Phi(t_1)$ is the actual value which is NOT known so take

$$\Phi(t_i) \approx y_i$$

then

Succession of
tangent line
approximations
and each y_n
lies on the
approximated
tangent line.

$y = y_1 + f(t_1, y_1)(t - t_1) \rightarrow$ This is the tangent line
 (evaluate at t_1) $\underbrace{t - t_1}_h$ to some nearby curve
 $y_2 = y_1 + f(t_1, y_1) \underbrace{(t_2 - t_1)}_h$ at (t_1, y_1)

$$y_3 = y_2 + f(t_2, y_2) h$$

$$y_{n+1} = y_n + f(t_n, y_n)h$$

→ Euler's formula
h: step size
on (t_0, T)

$$N: \# \text{ of steps} \Rightarrow N = \frac{T - t_0}{h}$$

Example: Consider IVP

$$\begin{cases} \frac{dy}{dt} = \boxed{3 - 2t - 0.5y} \\ y(0) = 1 \end{cases} \quad f(t, y)$$

Use Euler's method to estimate $y(\frac{1}{2})$ with 5 steps.

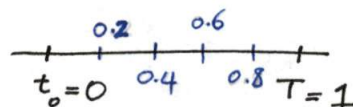
$$\boxed{n=0} \rightsquigarrow (0, 1) = (t_0, y_0)$$

$$y_1 = y_0 + f(t_0, y_0)h$$

$$\Rightarrow y_1 = 1 + (3 - 0.5)0.2 = 1.5$$

5 steps : $N = 5$
interval $(0, 1)$

$$\Rightarrow \text{step size } h = \frac{1}{5} = 0.2$$



$$\boxed{n=1} \rightsquigarrow (0.2, 1.5) = (t_1, y_1)$$

$$y_2 = y_1 + f(t_1, y_1)h$$

$$= 1.5 + (3 - 2(0.2) - 0.5(1.5))0.2 = 1.87$$

$$\Rightarrow y_2 = 1.87$$

$$\boxed{n=2} \rightsquigarrow (0.4, 1.87)$$

$$y_3 = 1.87 + (3 - 2(0.4) - 0.5(1.87))0.2$$

$$\boxed{n=3} \rightsquigarrow (0.6, y_3)$$

$$y_4 = \dots$$

$$\boxed{n=4} \rightsquigarrow (0.8, y_4)$$

$$y_5 = \dots$$

$$\boxed{n=5} \rightsquigarrow (1, y_5)$$

$$y_6 = y(1) = 2.32363$$

*Solve IVP analytically
 $\hookrightarrow$ linear 1st order

$$y = \phi(t) = 14 - 4t - 13e^{-\frac{t}{2}}$$

$$\text{Exact value } \phi(1) = 2.1151$$

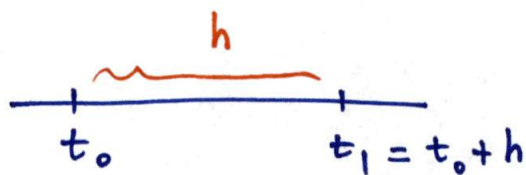
Error of approximation:

$$|\phi(1) - y(1)| = 0.20853$$

$\nwarrow$
quite big error

Error Analysis in Euler's method :

Error in one step going from t_0 to t_1



Actual value at t_1 : $\phi(t_1)$

Approximate value at t_1 : $y_1 = y_0 + f(t_0, y_0)h$

Assume ϕ is a nice function (twice differentiable) so that it has a valid Taylor expansion around t_0 .

$$\phi(t) = \phi(t_0) + \phi'(t_0)(t - t_0) + \frac{\phi''(t_0)}{2}(t - t_0)^2 + \dots$$

take $t = t_1 = t_0 + h$

$$\phi(t_1) = \phi(t_0) + \phi'(t_0)h + \frac{\phi''(t_0)}{2}(h^2) + \dots$$

$$\phi(t_1) = \underbrace{y_0 + f(t_0, y_0)h}_{y_1} + \frac{\phi''(t_0)}{2}h^2 + \dots$$

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} \frac{dy}{dt} = f(t, y(t)) \\ \hookrightarrow \phi'(t_0) = f(t_0, y_0) \end{array} \right\}$$

$$\underbrace{\phi(t_1) - y_1}_{\text{error in one step}} = h^2 (\text{some stuff})$$

error in
one step

Conclusion :

local
truncation
error

error in
one step

$$e_n \propto h^2$$

* local error is
proportional to h^2 .

This means

Start with $h \rightsquigarrow e_n$

Change h to $\frac{h}{2} \rightsquigarrow e_n$ reduces $\frac{1}{4}$ of its original value

$$\begin{array}{c} e_n \\ \downarrow \\ \frac{1}{4} e_n \end{array}$$

Global truncation error :

go from t_0 to T



$$N : \# \text{ of steps} \rightsquigarrow N = \frac{T - t_0}{h}$$

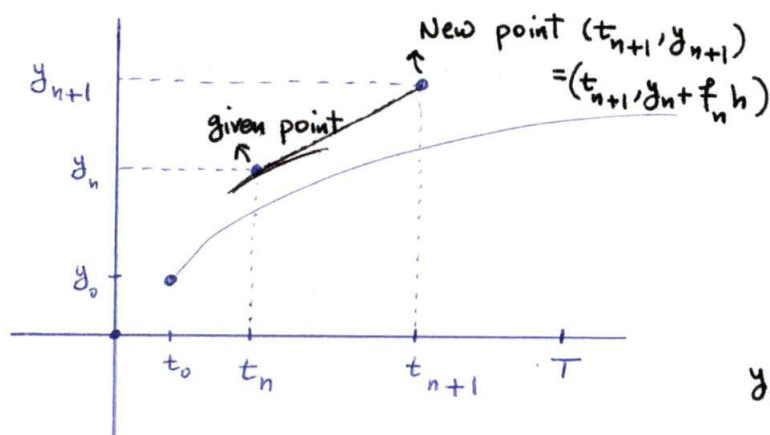
Global error $E_n = \text{local error in 1 step} \times \# \text{ of steps}$

$$= h^2 \times (\text{some stuff}) \times \frac{T - t_0}{h}$$

$$= h \times (\text{some other stuff})$$

$E_n \propto h$ $\rightarrow$ Euler's method is a 1st order method.
b/c global error is proportional to the 1st power of the step size

Improved Euler Method

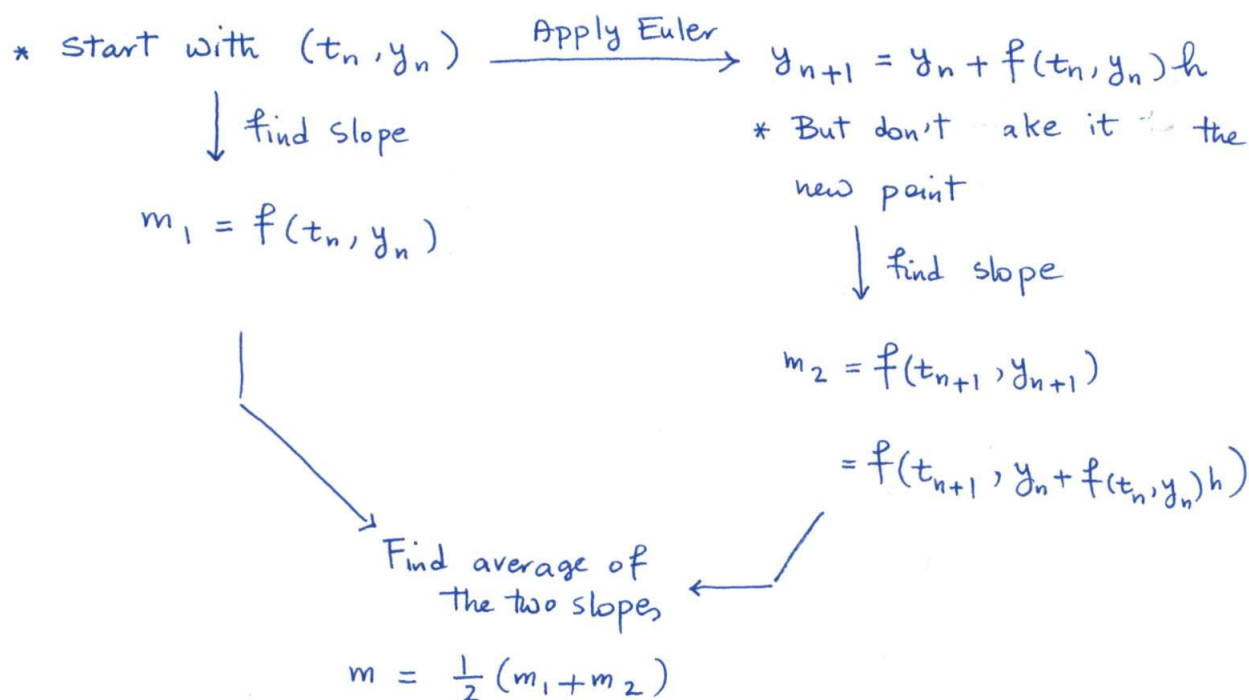


* In Euler: at each step (t_n, y_n) is known, we find the point (t_{n+1}, y_{n+1}) to be a point on the tangent line to some imaginary nearby curve at (t_n, y_n) :

$$y_{n+1} = y_n + f(t_n, y_n)h$$

$$= y_n + f_n h$$

But in Improved Euler:



Take the new point to be:

$$y_{n+1} = y_n + \frac{1}{2}(m_1 + m_2)h$$

⇒

$$y_{n+1} = y_n + \frac{h}{2} \left(f(t_n, y_n) + f(t_{n+1}, y_n + f(t_n, y_n)h) \right)$$

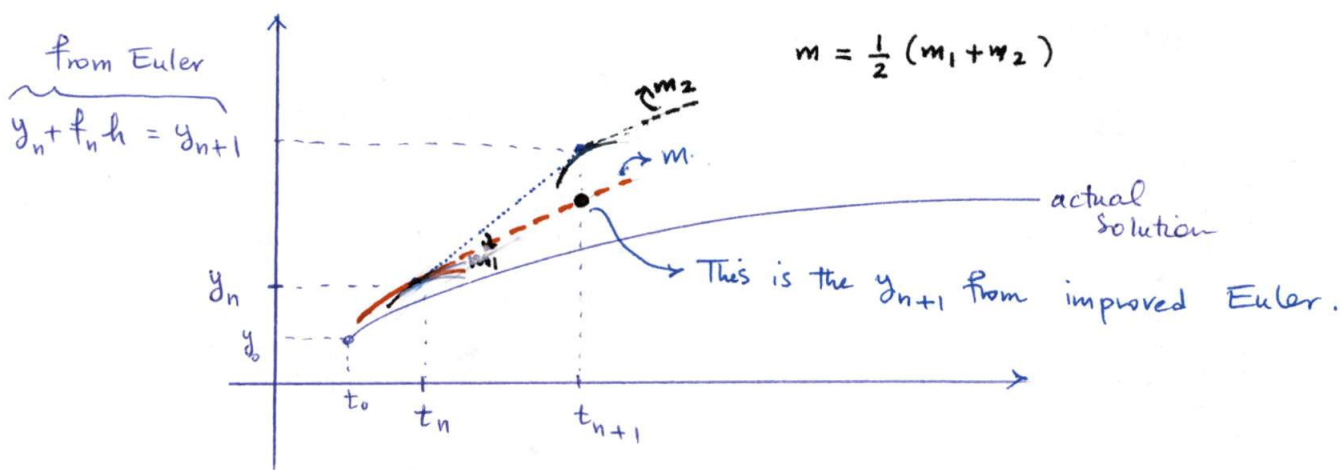
↓

Improved Euler formula.

Geometrically consider $m_1 = f(t_n, y_n)$ to be the slope of tangent line to some nearby (near actual solution) curve at (t_n, y_n) and

consider $m_2 = f(t_{n+1}, y_{n+1})$ to be the slope of tangent line to some nearby curve at (t_{n+1}, y_{n+1}) where y_{n+1} has been obtained from Euler's method.

Now construct another tangent line at (t_n, y_n) but this time with slope $m = \frac{1}{2}(m_1 + m_2)$, then the approximate value y_{n+1} (different from y_{n+1} above) will be the point on this new constructed tangent line.



* It can be shown that Improved Euler is in fact an improvement to Euler since

local error $e_n \propto h^3$
& global error $E_n \propto h^2 \rightsquigarrow$ Improved Euler is a 2nd order
method.

↓
This is different from Order of ODE.

* Note that this reduction of the error is at the cost of more computation comparing to Euler.

In Improved Euler, we evaluate the function $f(t, y)$ twice, going from t_n to t_{n+1} .

* The most frequent commonly used in real applications is "4th order Runge-Kutta" method, in which

$$e_n \propto h^5 \quad \text{and} \quad E_n \propto h^4.$$

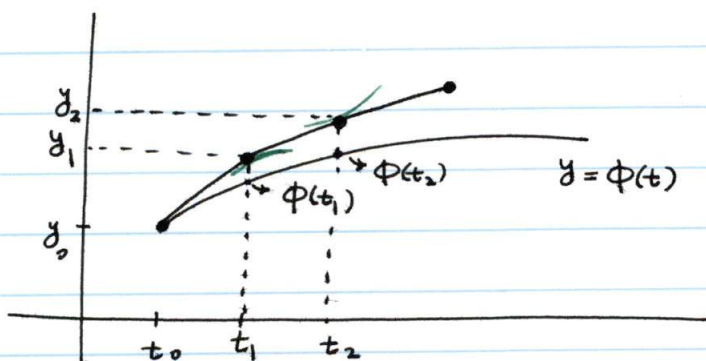
* This method in MATLAB is usually done by `ODE45()`

which implements a variation of Runge-Kutta (variable

time steps to minimize the extra computations of modifying

the time step size.

Notes on Euler :



Actual tangent line at
 $(t_1, \phi(t_1)) :$

$$y = \phi(t_1) + f(t_1, \phi(t_1))(t - t_1)$$

but $\phi(t_1) ?$

$$\text{so } \phi(t_1) \approx y_1$$

$$\Rightarrow y = y_1 + f(t_1, y_1)(t - t_1)$$

$$\Rightarrow y_2 = y_1 + f(t_1, y_1)(t_2 - t_1)$$

At the 2nd step, the tangent line is not tangent to $y = \phi(t)$ but to some near by curve say $y = \phi_1(t)$ that passes through (t_1, y_1)

$\Rightarrow$ Euler's method uses a succession of tangent line approximations to a sequence of different solutions $\phi(t), \phi_1(t), \phi_2(t), \dots$ of the IVP (with different initial values).

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \frac{d\phi_1}{dt} = f(t, \phi_1(t)) \\ \phi(t_1) = y_1 \end{array} \right. \quad \dots \quad \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \frac{d\phi_n}{dt} = f(t, \phi_n(t)) \\ \phi(t_n) = y_n \end{array} \right.$$

* At each step, imagine nearby curves (solutions) starting at (t_n, y_n) and take the tangent line to that curves at (t_n, y_n) and y_{n+1} is the point on this tangent line corresponding to t_{n+1} .

* We get a sequence of points $y_0, y_1, y_2, \dots, y_{n+1}, \dots$ that approximate $\phi(t_0), \phi(t_1), \dots, \phi(t_{n+1})$.

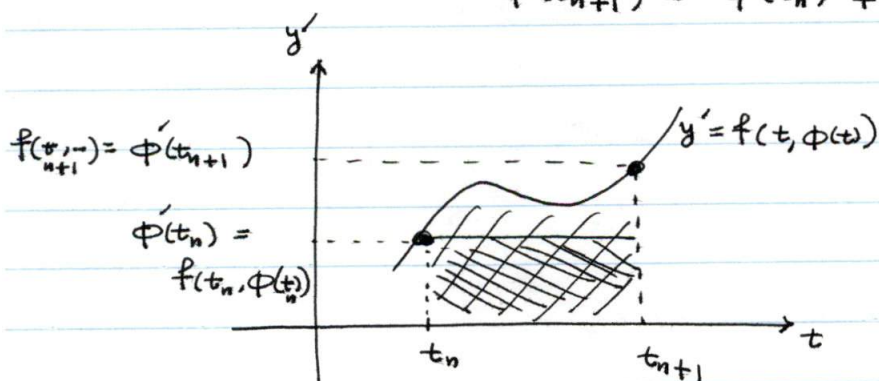
* We get a sequence of line segments (each tangent to a nearby curve around the solution $\phi(t)$) and the piecewise function constructed by these lines is an approximate function for the solution $\phi(t)$.

Another way to look at Euler

$y = \phi(t)$ is a solution: $\frac{d\phi}{dt} = f(t, \phi(t))$

integrate over (t_n, t_{n+1}) :

$$\phi(t_{n+1}) = \phi(t_n) + \underbrace{\int_{t_n}^{t_{n+1}} f(t, \phi(t)) dt}_{\text{Area under the curve below}}$$



Replace $\phi(t)$ by $\phi(t_n)$
and $f(t, \phi(t)) \approx f(t_n, \phi(t_n))$

$\Rightarrow$ Area of the rectangle $\underbrace{h}_{h}$

$$\Rightarrow \phi(t_{n+1}) \approx \phi(t_n) + f(t_n, \phi(t_n)) (t_{n+1} - t_n)$$

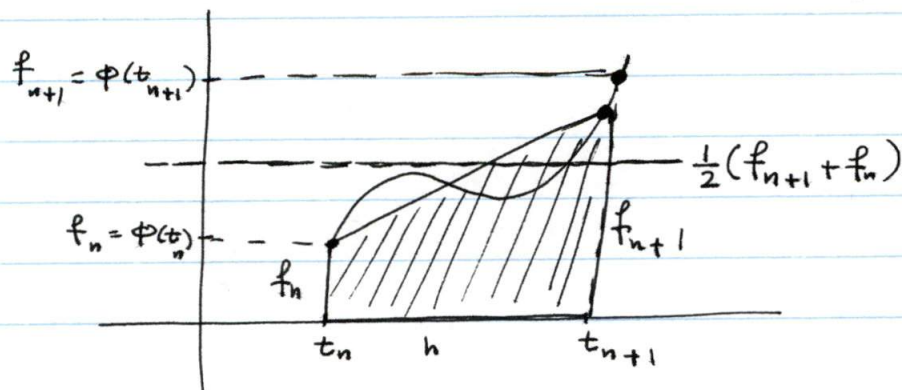
$$\begin{aligned} \phi(t_n) &\approx y_n \\ \Rightarrow y_{n+1} &\approx \phi(t_{n+1}) \approx y_n + f(t_n, y_n) h \end{aligned}$$

$$\phi(t_{n+1}) \approx y_{n+1} = y_n + f(t_n, y_n) h$$

Improved Euler is a more accurate method of approximating the area under the curve:

$$\text{In Euler: } \int_{t_n}^{t_{n+1}} \underbrace{f(t, \phi(t))}_{\approx f(t_n, \phi(t_n))} dt = f(t_n, \phi(t_n)) h \approx f(t_n, y_n) h$$

$$\text{Improved Euler: } f(t, \phi(t)) \approx \frac{1}{2} (f(t_n, \phi(t_n)) + f(t_{n+1}, \phi(t_{n+1})))$$



$$\Rightarrow \int_{t_n}^{t_{n+1}} f(t, \phi(t)) dt$$

$$\approx \frac{1}{2} (f_n + f_{n+1}) \cdot h$$

Area of the trapezoid

then
$$y_{n+1} = y_n + \frac{h}{2} \left(f(t_n, \underbrace{\phi(t_n)}_{\approx y_n}) + f(t_{n+1}, \underbrace{\phi(t_{n+1}))}_{\approx y_{n+1}}) \right)$$

$$\Rightarrow y_{n+1} = y_n + \frac{h}{2} \left(f(t_n, y_n) + f(t_{n+1}, y_{n+1}) \right)$$

↳ Implicit formula because y_{n+1} appears on RHS
might be fairly difficult to solve for y_{n+1}

↳ Use Euler and replace y_{n+1} on RHS by Euler:

$$\boxed{y_{n+1} = y_n + \frac{h}{2} \left(f(t_n, y_n) + f(t_n, y_n + h f(t_n, y_n)) \right)}$$

* if $f(t, y) = f(t)$

$$\begin{aligned} \phi_{n+1} \approx y_{n+1} &= y_n + h \int_{t_n}^{t_{n+1}} \underbrace{f(t)}_{\frac{1}{2}(f(t_n) + f(t_{n+1}))} dt \\ &= y_n + \frac{h}{2} \left(f(t_n) + f(t_{n+1}) \right) \end{aligned}$$

↳ Trapezoid rule for numerical integration.