

num211

$$x' = A(t)x + b(t) =: f(t, x)$$

One way to approximate the solution at $t = h$ numerically, is to choose an (appropriate) matrix $A = (a_{ij}) \in \mathbb{R}^{s \times s}$, a parameter vector $c = (c_i) \in \mathbb{R}^s$ ($0 \leq c_i \leq 1$) and a vector $b = (b_i) \in \mathbb{R}^s$. And write down the following system of $s \cdot n$ equations and $s \cdot n$ unknowns:

$$\begin{aligned}x_1 &= x_0 + h(a_{11}f(c_1h, x_1) + \dots + a_{1s}f(c_sh, x_s)) \\&\vdots \\x_s &= x_0 + h(a_{s1}f(c_1h, x_1) + \dots + a_{ss}f(c_sh, x_s))\end{aligned}$$

where $x_i = \begin{pmatrix} x_{i,1} \\ \vdots \\ x_{i,n} \end{pmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^n, i = 1, \dots, s$ have to be determined. After this system is solved, an approximation of the solution $x(t)$ at $t = h$ is given by

$$x_0 + h(b_1f(c_1h, x_1) + \dots + b_sf(c_sh, x_s))$$

Example: $A = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 1/3 & 1/3 \end{pmatrix}, b = \begin{pmatrix} 1/4 \\ 3/4 \end{pmatrix}, c = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 2/3 \end{pmatrix}$