



# Solving ODEs in Python

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(From MATLAB slides by James Osborne)



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# Aim and contents

- Aim: Learn techniques for the solution of systems of *Ordinary Differential Equations*
- Contents:
  - Analytical methods for simple ODEs
  - Reducing the order of ODEs
  - Numerical methods for first order ODEs
    - Half-day exercise
  - Python for solving initial value problems
  - Python for solving boundary value problems



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# First order ODEs?

- ODE - Ordinary Differential Equation,
  - With respect to one variable, t or x etc.
- Order of ODE - order of the highest derivative
- First order ODE: 
$$\frac{dy}{dx} = f(x, y), y(0) = a.$$
- Simple problems – solve analytically
  - Separable solutions, integrating factors
- Highly non-linear problems or unknown integral, then solve numerically
  - Forward Euler method, Runge-Kutta method...
  - In-built `scipy` (or other) solvers



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# Analytical methods



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# Analytical techniques



$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{f(x)}{g(y)}, \text{ Separable solutions}$$

$$\frac{dy}{dx} + f(x)y = g(x), \text{ Integrating factor}$$

$$a \frac{d^2y}{dx^2} + b \frac{dy}{dx} + cy = 0, \text{ Auxiliary equation}$$



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# Numerical approaches



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# Numerical differentiation



Aim to calculate  $\frac{dy}{dx}$  numerically.

Backward difference

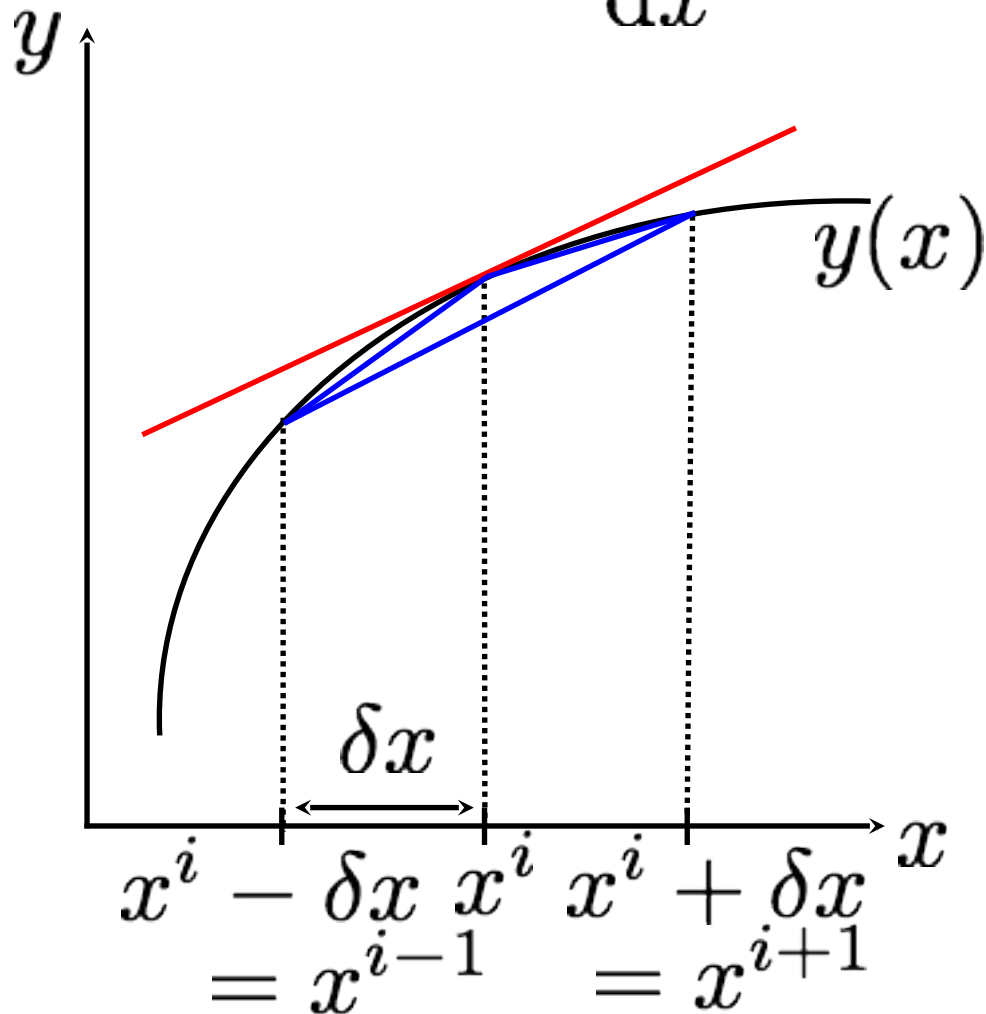
$$\frac{dy}{dx} \approx \frac{y(x^i) - y(x^{i-1})}{\delta x},$$

Forward difference

$$\frac{dy}{dx} \approx \frac{y(x^{i+1}) - y(x^i)}{\delta x},$$

Central difference

$$\frac{dy}{dx} \approx \frac{y(x^{i+1}) - y(x^{i-1})}{2\delta x}.$$



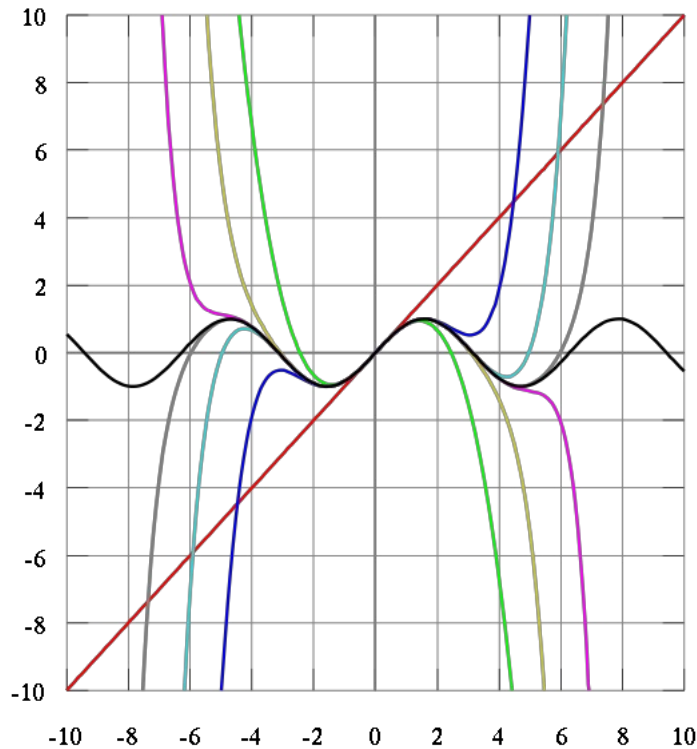


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# Taylor expansion



$$f(x) = f(a) + (x - a)f'(a) + \frac{(x - a)^2 f''(a)}{2!} + \frac{(x - a)^3 f'''(a)}{3!} + \dots$$



$\sin(x)$

Use this to  
prove the finite  
difference  
formulas

From Wikipedia





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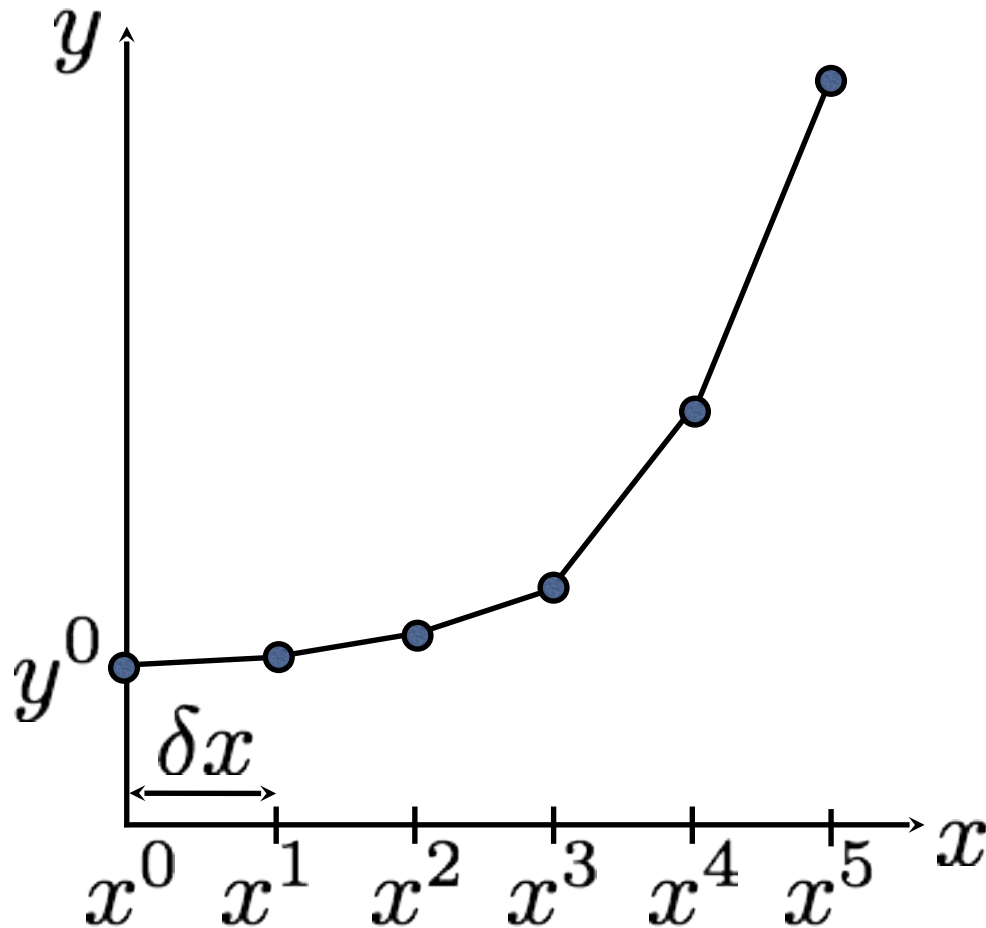


# Euler method

Want to  
solve

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = f(x, y),$$

such  
that  $y(0) = a.$



$$x^0 = 0,$$

$$x^i = x^{i-1} + \delta x$$

$$y^0 = a,$$

$$y^i \approx y(x^i),$$

$$\frac{y^{i+1} - y^i}{\delta x} = f(x, y).$$



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# Forward vs Backward Euler



$$\frac{y^{i+1} - y^i}{\delta x} = f(x^i, y^i),$$

Forward Euler method  
“Explicit”

$$y^{i+1} = y^i + \delta x f(x^i, y^i),$$

$$\frac{y^{i+1} - y^i}{\delta x} = f(x^{i+1}, y^{i+1}),$$

Backward Euler method  
“Implicit”

$$y^{i+1} - \delta x f(x^{i+1}, y^{i+1}) = y^i,$$

Forward - conditionally stable  
Backward - unconditionally stable



# Euler method for systems of ODEs



Can extend this to systems of ODEs

$$\left. \begin{aligned} \frac{dy_1}{dx} &= f_1(x, y_1, y_2, y_3), \\ \frac{dy_2}{dx} &= f_2(x, y_1, y_2, y_3), \\ \frac{dy_3}{dx} &= f_3(x, y_1, y_2, y_3), \end{aligned} \right\} \frac{d\mathbf{y}}{dx} = \mathbf{f}(x, \mathbf{y}),$$

$$\mathbf{y}^i = (y_1^i, y_2^i, y_3^i), \quad \frac{d\mathbf{y}}{dx} \approx \frac{\mathbf{y}^{i+1} - \mathbf{y}^i}{\delta x}.$$



# Higher order ODEs

$$a(x) \frac{d^2 y}{dx^2} + b(x) \frac{dy}{dx} + c(x)y = f(x),$$

Reduce to a system of first order ODEs

$$\left. \begin{aligned} \frac{dy}{dx} &= z, \\ \frac{dz}{dx} &= \frac{f(x) - b(x)z - c(x)y}{a(x)}, \end{aligned} \right\} \begin{array}{l} \text{System of} \\ \text{first order} \\ \text{ODEs} \end{array}$$



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# Improving on Euler



- Use error analysis to improve placement of nodes (adaptivity)
- Higher order methods:
  - Runge-Kutta;
  - Dormand-Prince;
  - Adams-Bashforth;
  - Adams-Moulton
- See Suli and Mayers “An Introduction to Numerical Analysis” for more details



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# Pause for “Plan”



- Write your own solver
  - **Morning exercise**
- Use Python to solve systems of ODEs
  - Afternoon...



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# Using Python



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# Python and ODEs: IVPs



- Initial value problems
  - Using `odeint` or `ode`
  - `odeint` is easy to set up
  - `ode` is more configurable
  - Based on Runge-Kutta schemes
- Two examples:
  - Single ODE; and
  - Coupled system of ODEs



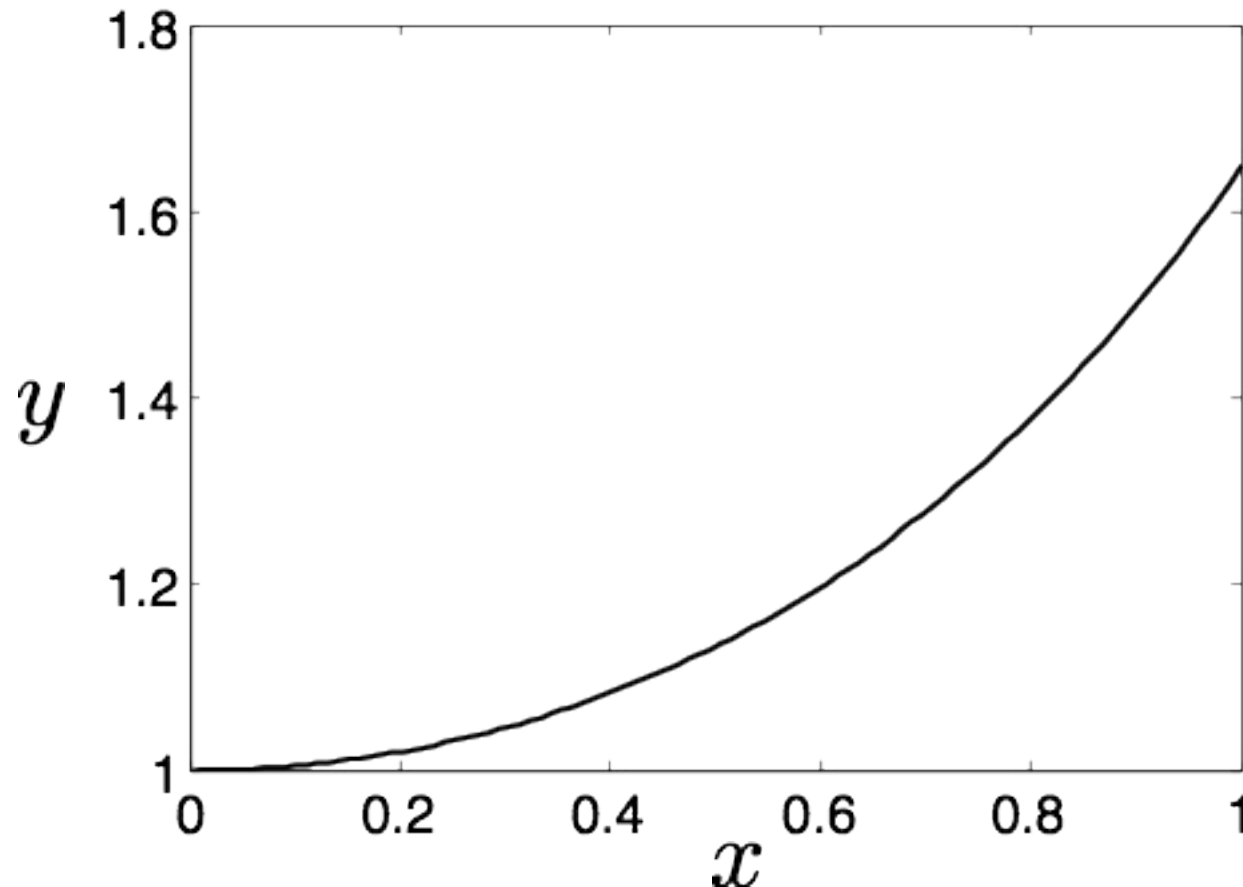


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# Example problem

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = xy, \quad y(0) = 1, \quad \longrightarrow \quad y(x) = e^{\frac{x^2}{2}}.$$





# odeint versus ode

```
# Function to solve dydx=x*y
```

```
def dydx1(y, x):
```

```
    # dydx=x*y
```

```
    return x*y
```

```
y0 = 1
```

```
xs = np.linspace(0, 1, 100)
```

```
ys = odeint(dydx1, y0, xs)
```

```
plt.plot(xs, ys)
```

```
plt.xlabel('x');
```

```
plt.ylabel('y')
```

```
plt.show()
```

```
# Function to solve dydx=x*y
```

```
def dydx2(x, y):
```

```
    # dydx=x*y
```

```
    return x*y
```

```
y0 = 1; x = 0
```

```
solver = ode(dydx2)
```

```
solver.set_initial_value(y0, x)
```

```
xs = [x]; ys = [y0]
```

```
while x<1:
```

```
    x += 0.01
```

```
    y=solver.integrate(x)
```

```
    ys.append(y[0])
```

```
    xs.append(x)
```

```
plt.plot(xs, ys)
```

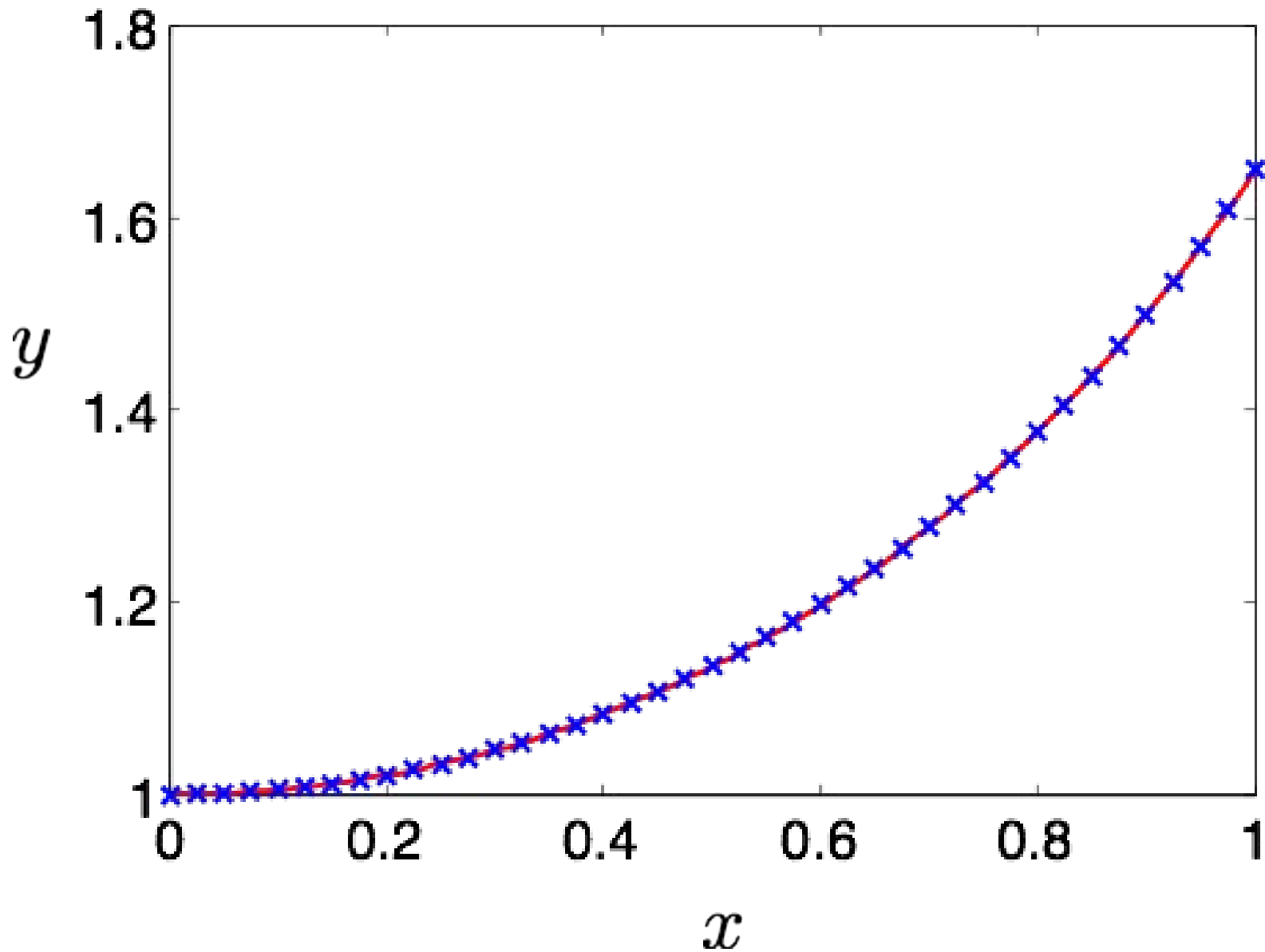
```
plt.xlabel('x'); plt.ylabel('y')
```

```
plt.show()
```



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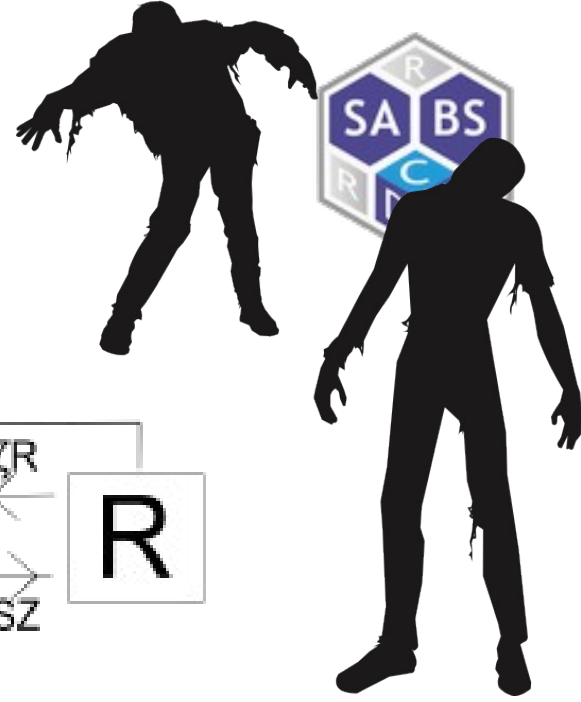
# Results



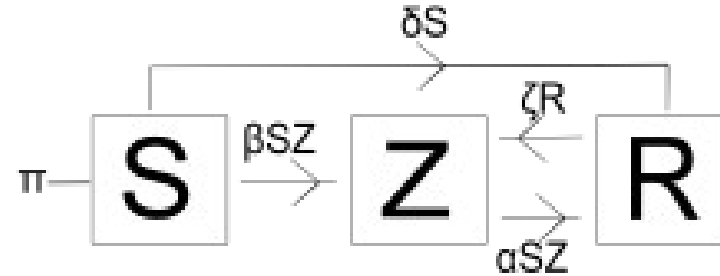


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# Zombie model



- “When zombies Attack!” (Munz et al. 2009) presents model of zombie invasion
- System of 3 ODEs:
  - S - Susceptibles
  - Z - Zombies
  - R - Removed



$$\frac{dS}{dt} = \Pi - \beta SZ - \delta S,$$

$$\frac{dZ}{dt} = \beta SZ + \zeta R - \alpha SZ,$$

$$\frac{dR}{dt} = \delta S + \alpha SZ - \zeta R.$$



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# Zombie code



```
# Function to solve the SZR Zombie ODE system.
```

```
alpha = 0.005; zeta = 0.1; pi = 0
```

```
beta = 0.0095; delta = 0.0001
```

```
def SZR(Y,t):
```

```
    S = Y[0]; Z = Y[1]; R = Y[2]
```

```
    #Susceptible / Zombie / Removed
```

```
    dSdt = pi - beta*S*Z - delta*S
```

```
    dZdt = beta*S*Z + zeta*R - alpha*S*Z
```

```
    dRdt = delta*S + alpha*S*Z - zeta*R
```

```
    return [dSdt, dZdt, dRdt]
```

```
S0=1000; Z0=0; R0=0
```

```
EndTime = 5
```

```
t = np.linspace(0, EndTime, 100)
```

```
Y0 = [S0, Z0, R0]
```

```
Y = odeint(SZR, Y0, t)
```

```
plt.plot(t,Y[:,0], 'b', label='Susceptible')
```

```
plt.plot(t,Y[:,1], 'r', label='Zombie')
```

```
plt.plot(t,Y[:,2], 'g', label='Removed')
```

```
plt.xlabel('Time');plt.ylabel('Population')
```

```
plt.legend();plt.show()
```

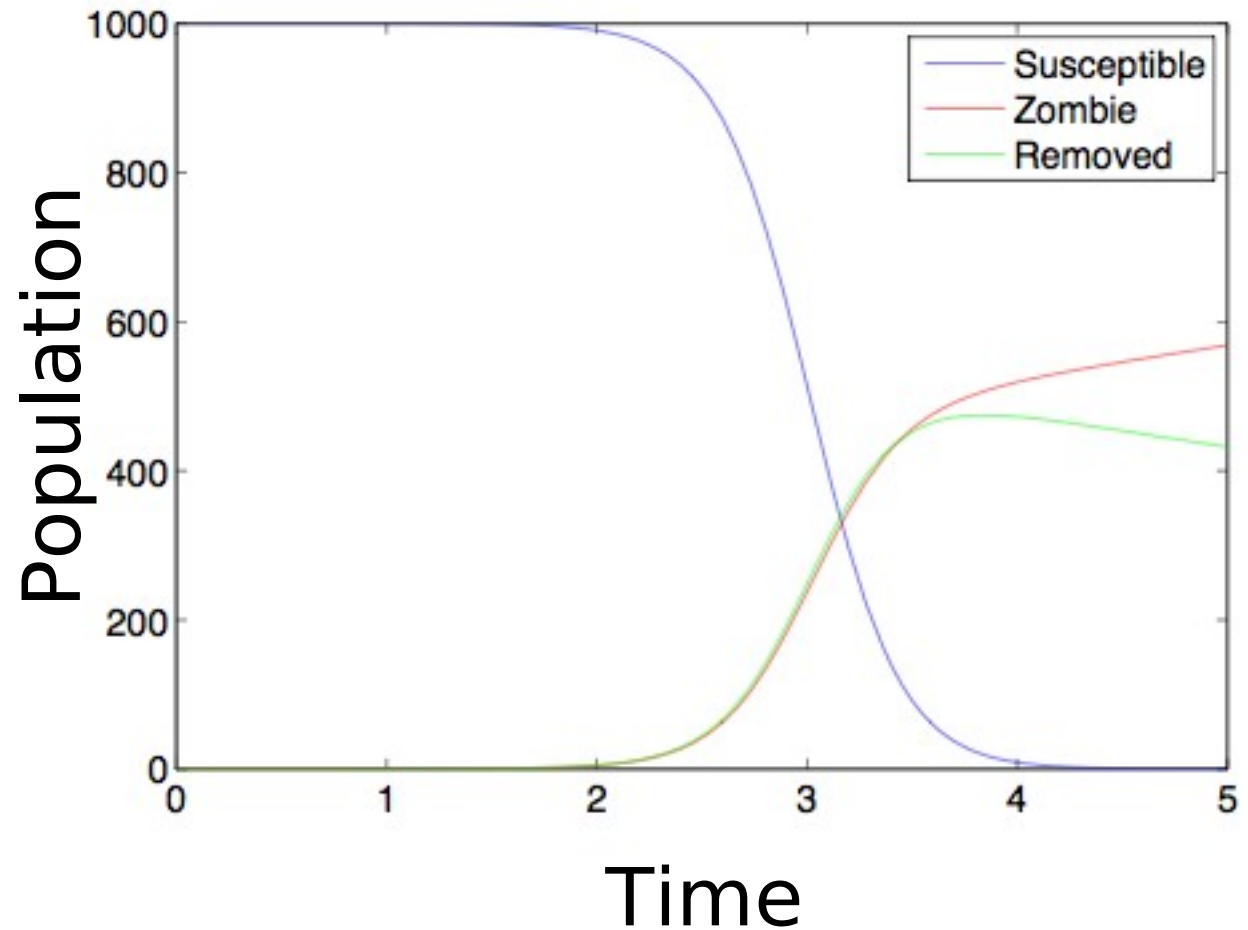


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# Zombie results



$$\begin{aligned} S_0 &= 1000, \\ Z_0 &= 0, \\ R_0 &= 0. \end{aligned}$$



More complicated models in exercises



# Python and ODEs: BVPs



- Boundary value problems
  - The shooting method
- Simple example:

- $$\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} + y = 0, \text{ with } y'(0) = 1, y(\pi) = 0.$$

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} \frac{dy}{dx} = z, \\ \frac{dz}{dx} = -y, \end{array} \right\} \text{First order system}$$

Exact solution  $y = \sin(x)$ .



# Simple BVP code

```
# Solving y'' + y = 0
# y[0] is y, y[1] is y'
# dy[0]/dx = y[1] and dy[1]/dx = -y[0]
def dydx(x, y):
    return np.vstack((y[1], -y[0]))

def bcs(yat0, yatpi):
    # Neumann/Dirichlet y'(x=0)= 1, y(x=pi) = 0
    return (yat0[1]-1, yatpi[0])

x = np.linspace(0, math.pi, 10)
init_y = np.ones((2, x.size))
sol = solve_bvp(dydx, bcs, x, init_y)
plt.plot(sol.x, sol.y[0], 'b+')
xs = np.linspace(0, math.pi, 100)
plt.plot(xs, np.sin(xs), 'r')
plt.xlabel('x'); plt.ylabel('y')
plt.show()
```

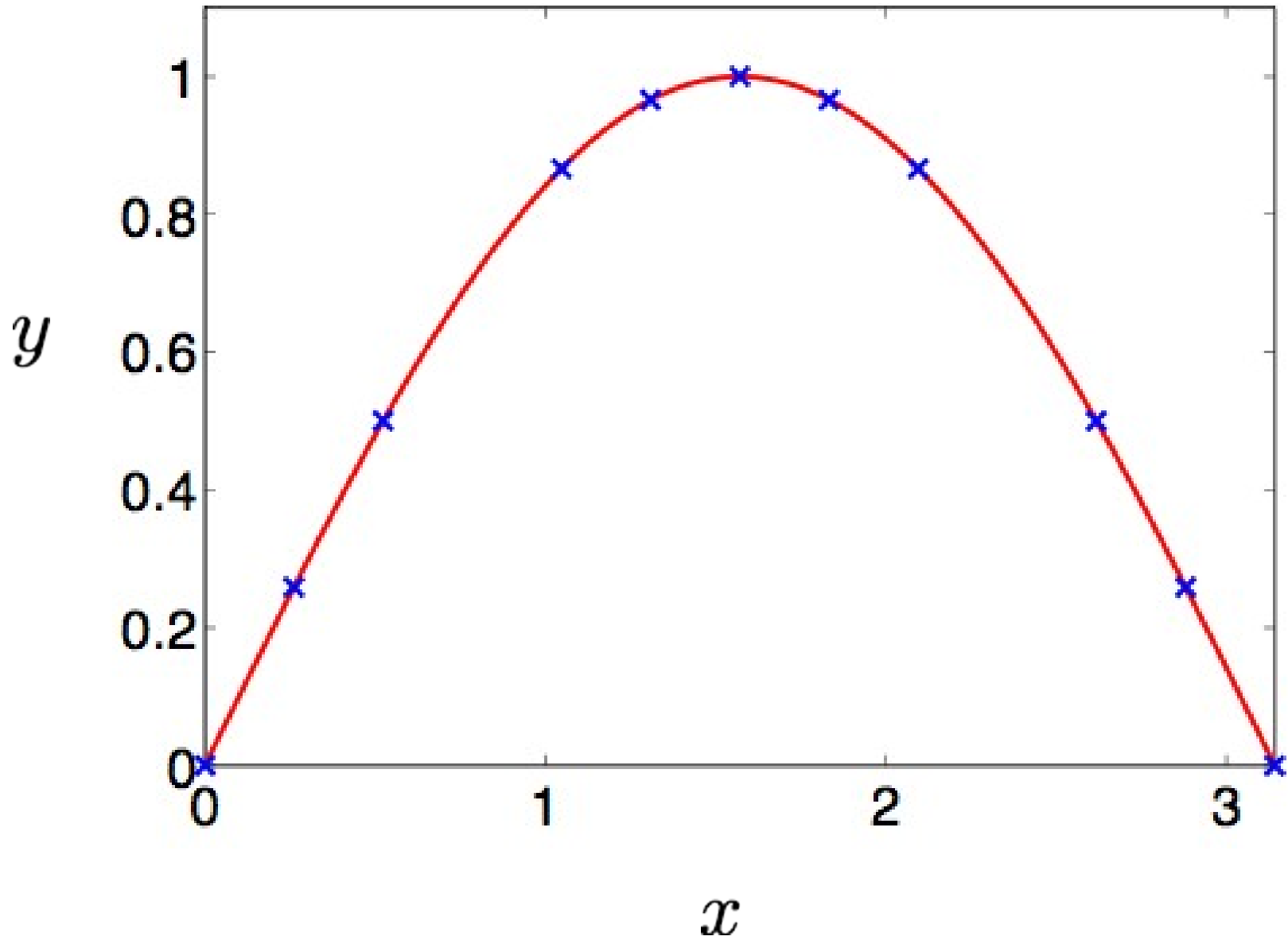




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# Results





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# Overview



- Techniques for solution of simple ODEs
- Reduction of higher order systems to first order
- Numerical differentiation
- Use Python to solve systems of ODEs with
  - initial conditions, and
  - boundary conditions



# Separable solutions



$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{f(x)}{g(y)}, \quad \int g(y)dy = \int f(x)dx + C,$$

Example

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = xy, \quad y(0) = 1,$$

$$y(x) = e^{\frac{x^2}{2}}$$



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# Integrating factors



$$\frac{dy}{dx} + f(x)y = g(x), \quad \phi(x) = e^{\int f(x)dx},$$

Example

$$\frac{dy}{dx} + \frac{y}{x} = 1, \quad x > 0, \quad y(1) = 0,$$

$$\phi(x) = x, \quad y(x) = \frac{x}{2} - \frac{1}{2x}.$$



# Second order ODE with linear coefficients



$$a \frac{d^2 y}{dx^2} + b \frac{dy}{dx} + cy = 0, \quad \text{try } y(x) = Ae^{kx}.$$

$$ak^2 + bk + c = 0, \quad \text{Auxiliary equation}$$

real

$$k = a, b$$

$$y = Ae^{ax} + Be^{bx},$$

A, B from  
ICS/BCS

imaginary

$$k = \pm \beta i$$

$$y = A \sin(\beta x) + B \cos(\beta x),$$

complex

$$k = \alpha \pm \beta i$$

$$y = e^{\alpha x} [A \sin(\beta x) + B \cos(\beta x)].$$