Numerical Methods & .m Files

In order to use MATLAB routines for the Euler, Improved Euler and Runge-Kutta Methods, you will need the files **eul.m, rk2.m** and **rk4.m**, respectively. These files are already present on all PUCC machines as standard software. If you are using your own copy of MATLAB you may need to download these files. Here is a link : **http://math.rice.edu/~dfield/**

- You must first create a function file in the same directory (or folder) as your MATLAB. Here is one way. After MATLAB has been opened, pull down the **File** menu and select "**New M-File**". A window will pop up for you to create your function file. For example, to create a function file for the function $f(t,y) = 6t^3 - e^{2y} + \frac{\sqrt{t}}{y}$, type :

  ```
  function W=fcn1(t,y)
  W=6*t^3-exp(2*y)+sqrt(t)/y;
  ```

  (Don't forget the "**;**" at the end.)

- Save this file as a **.m file** with the SAME name as your function. The above example would be saved as "**fcn1.m**". You can check if your function has been saved by typing something like the following at a MATLAB prompt:

  ```
  >>   fcn1(1,3)
  ```

  You should get the value of $f(1,3)$.

- Your initial value problem will have the form : $\begin{cases} y' = f(t,y) \\ y(t_0) = y_0 \end{cases}$. Assuming $f(t,y)$ was saved as the file **fcn1.m**, the syntax for **eul** (as well as **rk2** and **rk4**, just replace **eul**) will be : `eul('fcn1',[t0,tf],y0,h)`

  where t_0 and t_f are the initial and final values of t and `h = step size`.

  (Your version of MATLAB may not utilize brackets. Type **help eul** to find out.) To approximate the actual solution to the IVP at t_f, with given h, using **eul**, just type the following at a MATLAB prompt:

  ```
  >>   [t,y]=eul('fcn1',[t0,tf],y0,h);
  ```

  The approximations $y_0, y_1, y_2, \ldots, y_n$ are stored in the matrix **y**.
  To print them out type : `[t,y]`
  To plot them, type : `plot(t,y)`