

# Using GEMPACK Runge-Kutta solution methods with the GTAP model

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# Introduction

Runge-Kutta solution methods added to GEMPACK  
(release 12.2, Dec 2024)

Many good properties:

- Faster convergence than other available methods (Euler, Midpoint, Gragg)
- Computationally cheaper than Richardson extrapolation
- Improved automatic accuracy (adaptive step size for RK)
- Error estimates given for some of the RK methods (HAR file format)
- Better diagnostics for simulation problems

# Introduction

Implementation of the Runge-Kutta in GEMPACK  
by  
Florian Schiffmann  
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The Runge-Kutta methods in GEMPACK are now thoroughly tested – used and refined in-house in CoPS for more than 2 years before release in GEMPACK 12.2 (December 2024).

# The CGE problem as Initial Value Problem

$$\begin{pmatrix} F_1(\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{Y}) \\ F_2(\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{Y}) \\ \vdots \\ F_m(\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{Y}) \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

The CGE problem in Levels  
System of nonlinear Equations

$\mathbf{X}$  = vector of exogenous

$\mathbf{Y}$  = vector of endogenous

We can construct an initial solution  $(X^0, Y^0)$  and shocks  $X$   
Perform a trivial linearization of the shocks:

$$\mathbf{X} = \mathbf{X}_0 + t\Delta\mathbf{X}$$

# The CGE problem as IVP (II)

Derive F with respect to t (using chain rule):

$$\frac{dF}{dt} = \frac{\partial F}{\partial X} \frac{\partial X}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial F}{\partial Y} \frac{\partial Y}{\partial t} = 0$$

Using the shock vector we know:

$$\frac{\partial X}{\partial t} = \Delta X$$

From equation system and closure:

$$\frac{\partial F}{\partial X} = J_F(X) = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{\partial F_1}{\partial X_1} & \frac{\partial F_1}{\partial X_2} & \cdots & \frac{\partial F_1}{\partial X_n} \\ \frac{\partial F_2}{\partial X_1} & \frac{\partial F_2}{\partial X_2} & \cdots & \frac{\partial F_2}{\partial X_n} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ \frac{\partial F_n}{\partial X_1} & \frac{\partial F_n}{\partial X_2} & \cdots & \frac{\partial F_n}{\partial X_n} \end{pmatrix} \quad \frac{\partial F}{\partial Y} = J_F(Y) = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{\partial F_1}{\partial Y_1} & \frac{\partial F_1}{\partial Y_2} & \cdots & \frac{\partial F_1}{\partial Y_m} \\ \frac{\partial F_2}{\partial Y_1} & \frac{\partial F_2}{\partial Y_2} & \cdots & \frac{\partial F_2}{\partial Y_m} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ \frac{\partial F_n}{\partial Y_1} & \frac{\partial F_n}{\partial Y_2} & \cdots & \frac{\partial F_n}{\partial Y_m} \end{pmatrix}$$

# The CGE problem as IVP (III)

Rewrite derivative:

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{F}}{\partial t} = \mathbf{J}_{\mathbf{F}}(\mathbf{Y}) \frac{\partial \mathbf{Y}}{\partial t} + \mathbf{J}_{\mathbf{F}}(\mathbf{X}) \Delta \mathbf{X} = 0$$

Rearrange we have ODE for solution as:

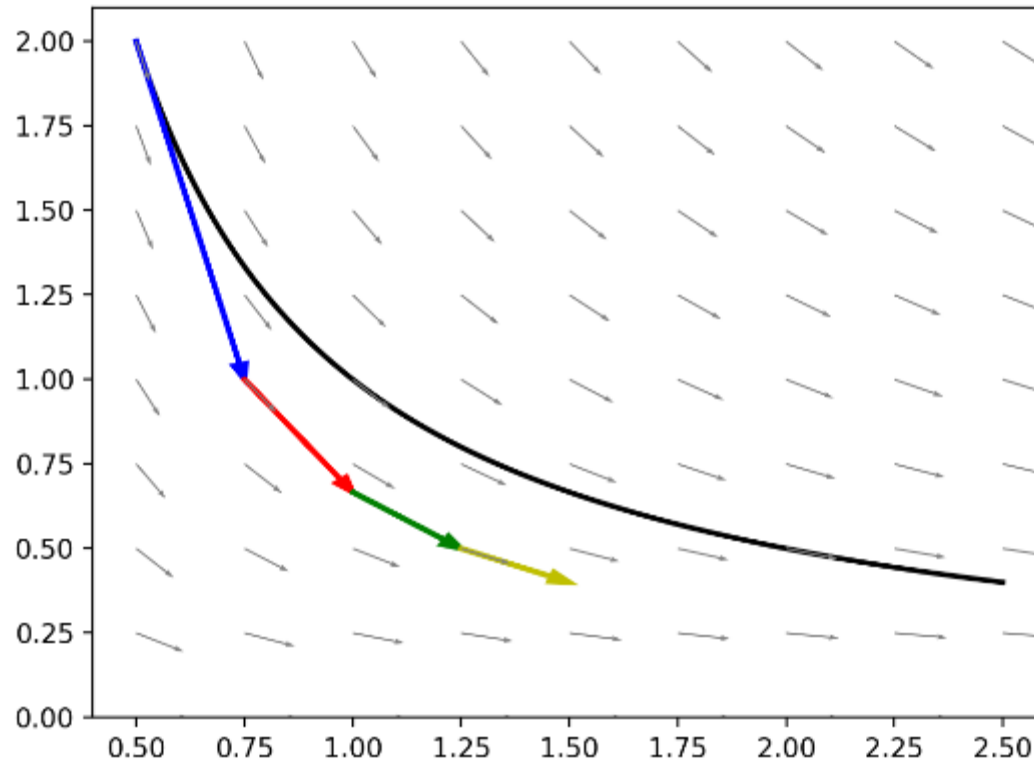
$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{Y}}{\partial t} = \underbrace{\mathbf{J}_{\mathbf{F}}(\mathbf{Y})^{-1}}_{\text{LHS matrix}} \underbrace{\mathbf{J}_{\mathbf{F}}(\mathbf{X}) \Delta \mathbf{X}}_{\text{RHS vector}}$$

By providing initial solution (database) can be solved as IVP

# Illustration of Euler

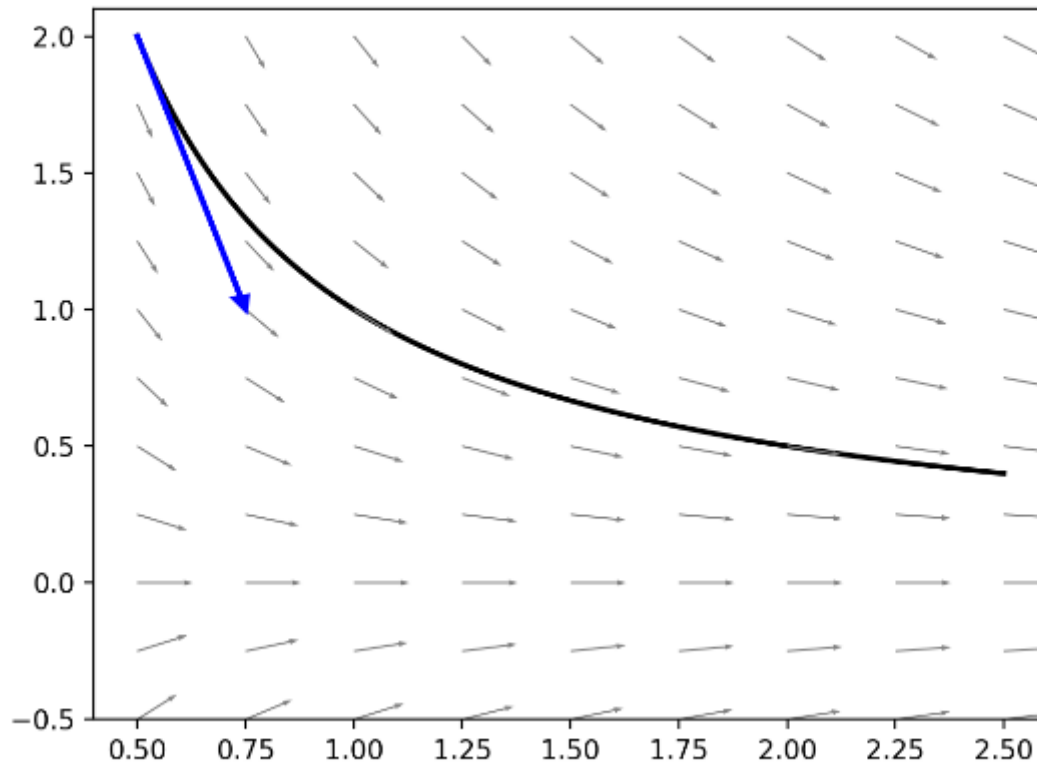
Integrate:

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = -\frac{y}{x}$$



# RK4 (poking around)

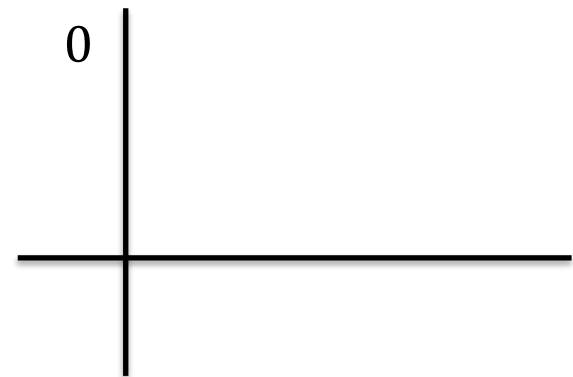
Integrate:  $\frac{dy}{dx} = -\frac{y}{x}$



$$x_0 = 0.5$$

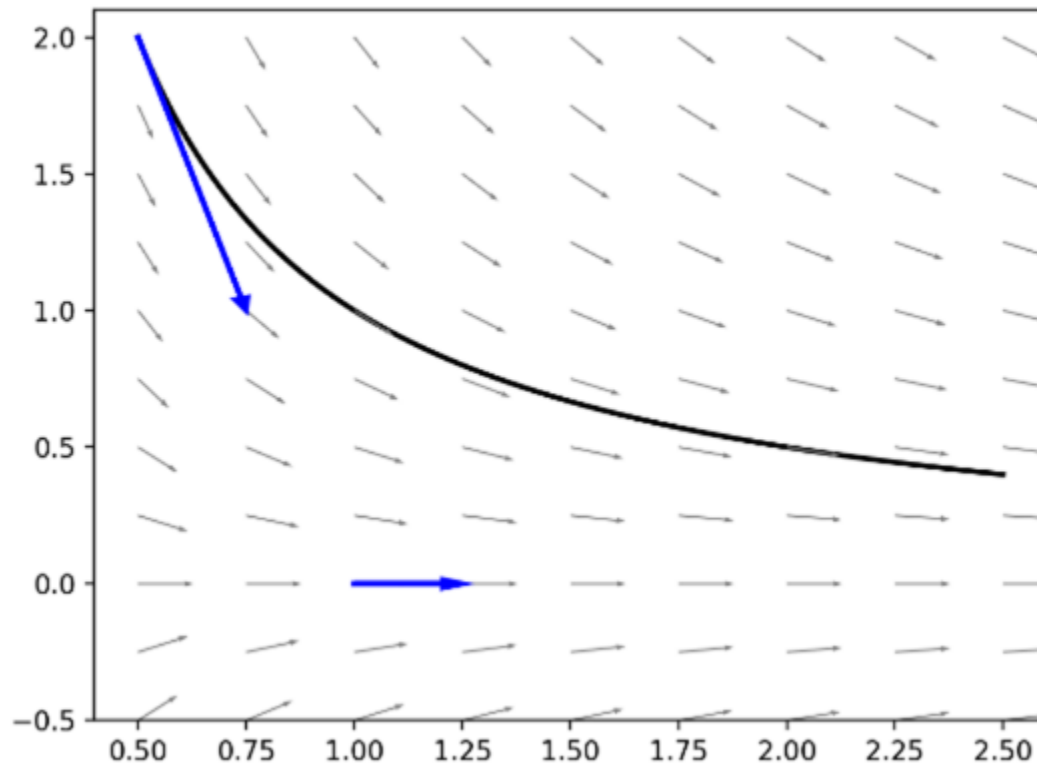
$$y_0 = 2.0$$

$$g_1 = -\frac{y_0}{x_0}$$



# RK4 (poking around)

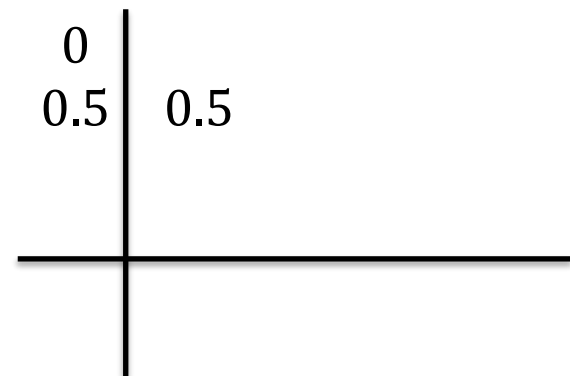
Integrate:  $\frac{dy}{dx} = -\frac{y}{x}$



$$x_1 = x_0 + 0.5h$$

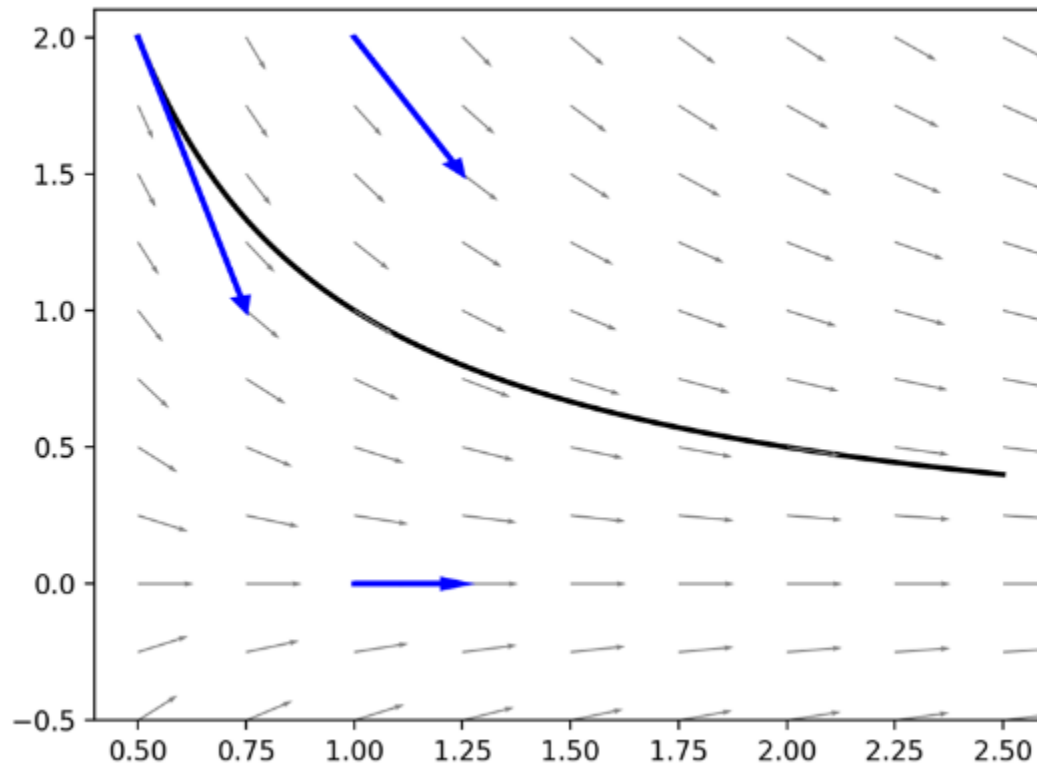
$$y_1 = y_0 + 0.5g_1$$

$$g_2 = -\frac{y_1}{x_1}$$



# RK4 (poking around)

Integrate:  $\frac{dy}{dx} = -\frac{y}{x}$



$$x_2 = x_0 + 0.5h$$

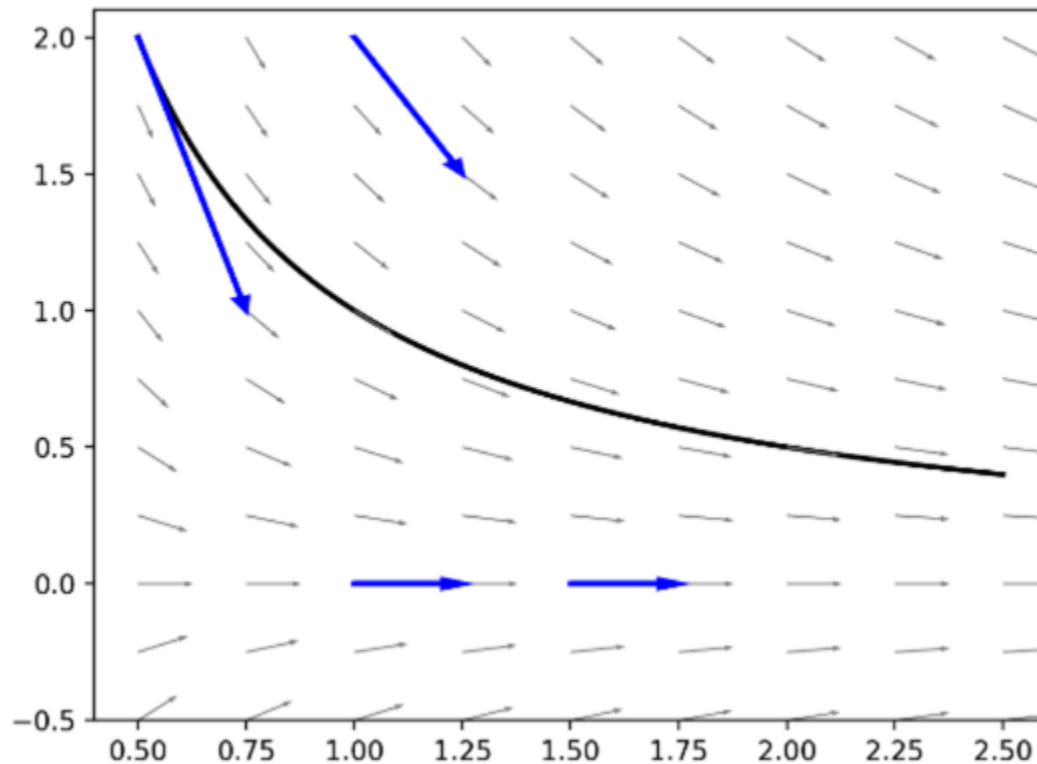
$$y_2 = y_0 + 0.5g_2$$

$$g_3 = -\frac{y_2}{x_2}$$

|     |     |     |
|-----|-----|-----|
| 0   |     |     |
| 0.5 | 0.5 |     |
| 0.5 | 0   | 0.5 |

# RK4 (poking around)

Integrate:  $\frac{dy}{dx} = -\frac{y}{x}$



$$x_3 = x_0 + h$$

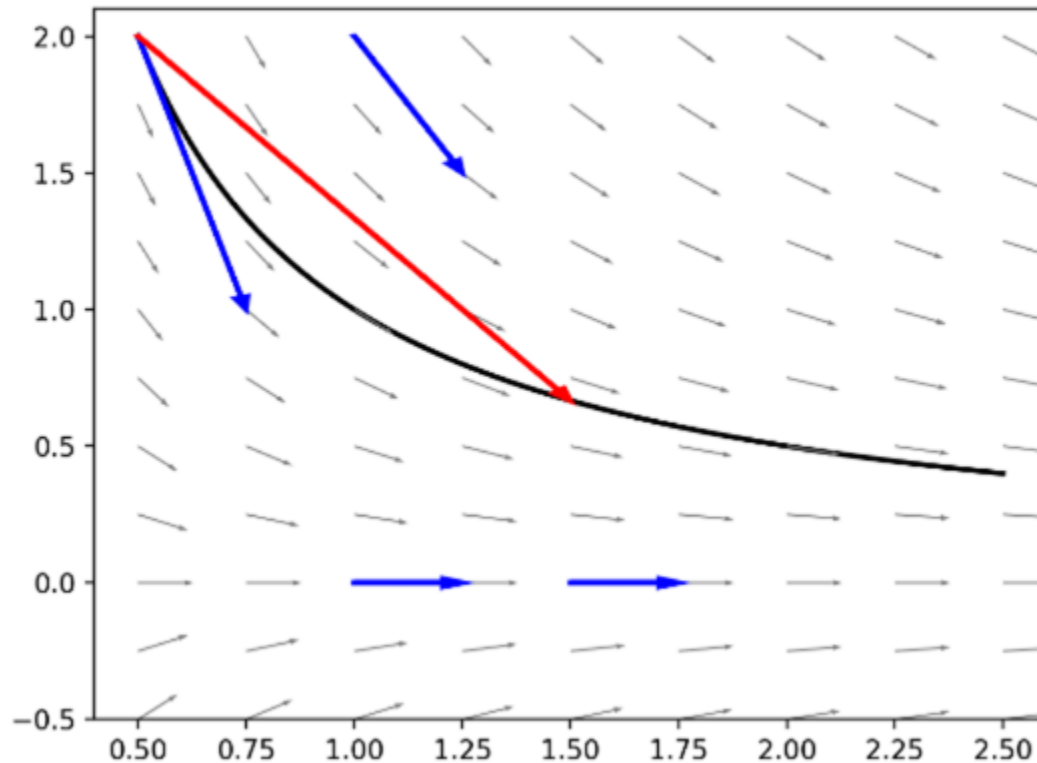
$$y_3 = y_0 + g_3$$

$$g_4 = -\frac{y_3}{x_3}$$

|     |     |     |   |
|-----|-----|-----|---|
| 0   |     |     |   |
| 0.5 | 0.5 |     |   |
| 0.5 | 0   | 0.5 |   |
| 1   | 0   | 0   | 1 |

# RK4 (using gathered information)

Integrate:  $\frac{dy}{dx} = -\frac{y}{x}$



$$x = x_0 + h$$

$$g = \frac{1}{6}g_1 + \frac{2}{6}g_2 + \frac{2}{6}g_3 + \frac{1}{6}g_4$$

$$y = y_0 + g$$

|     |               |               |               |               |
|-----|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| 0   |               |               |               |               |
| 0.5 | 0.5           |               |               |               |
| 0.5 | 0             | 0.5           |               |               |
| 1   | 0             | 0             | 1             |               |
|     | $\frac{1}{6}$ | $\frac{2}{6}$ | $\frac{2}{6}$ | $\frac{1}{6}$ |

# Order of integrator

Local integration error as Taylor series of step size  $h$

$$\Delta = \sum_{r=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{r!} C_r h^r = C_1 h + \frac{1}{2} C_2 h^2 + \frac{1}{6} C_3 h^3 + \dots$$

$n^{\text{th}}$  order integrator has  $C_1$  to  $C_n = 0$

Truncating Taylor series at  $r=n+1$

$$\Delta \sim h^{n+1}$$

Euler    1<sup>st</sup> order, local error  $\sim h^2$ , multistep error  $\sim h$

RK4    4<sup>th</sup> order, local error  $\sim h^5$ , multistep error  $\sim h^4$

Good integrators try minimizing higher order  $C$

# Explicit Runge-Kutta methods

RK2: 2<sup>nd</sup> order, 2 stages

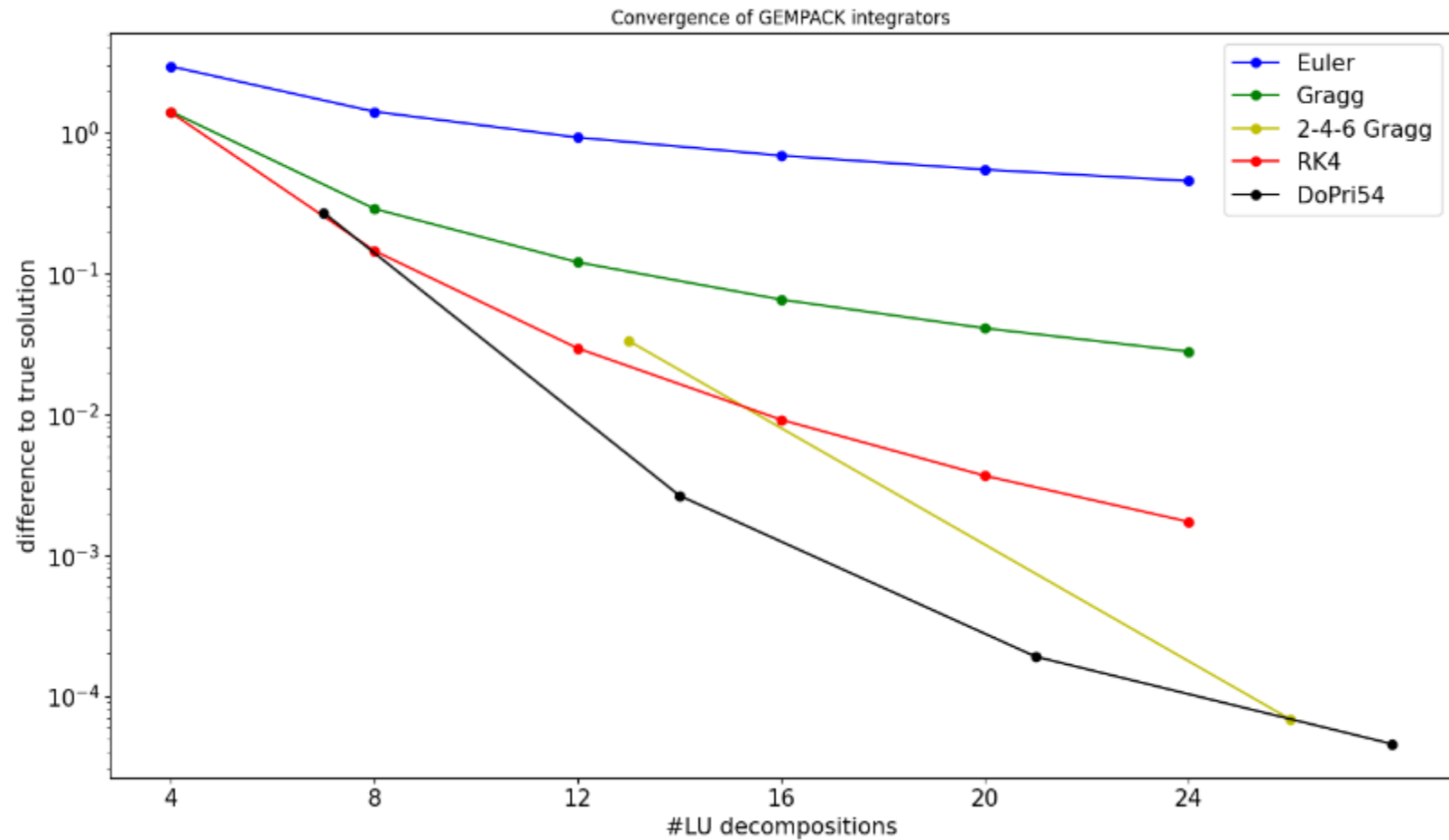
RK4: 4<sup>th</sup> order, 4 stages

How fast converging

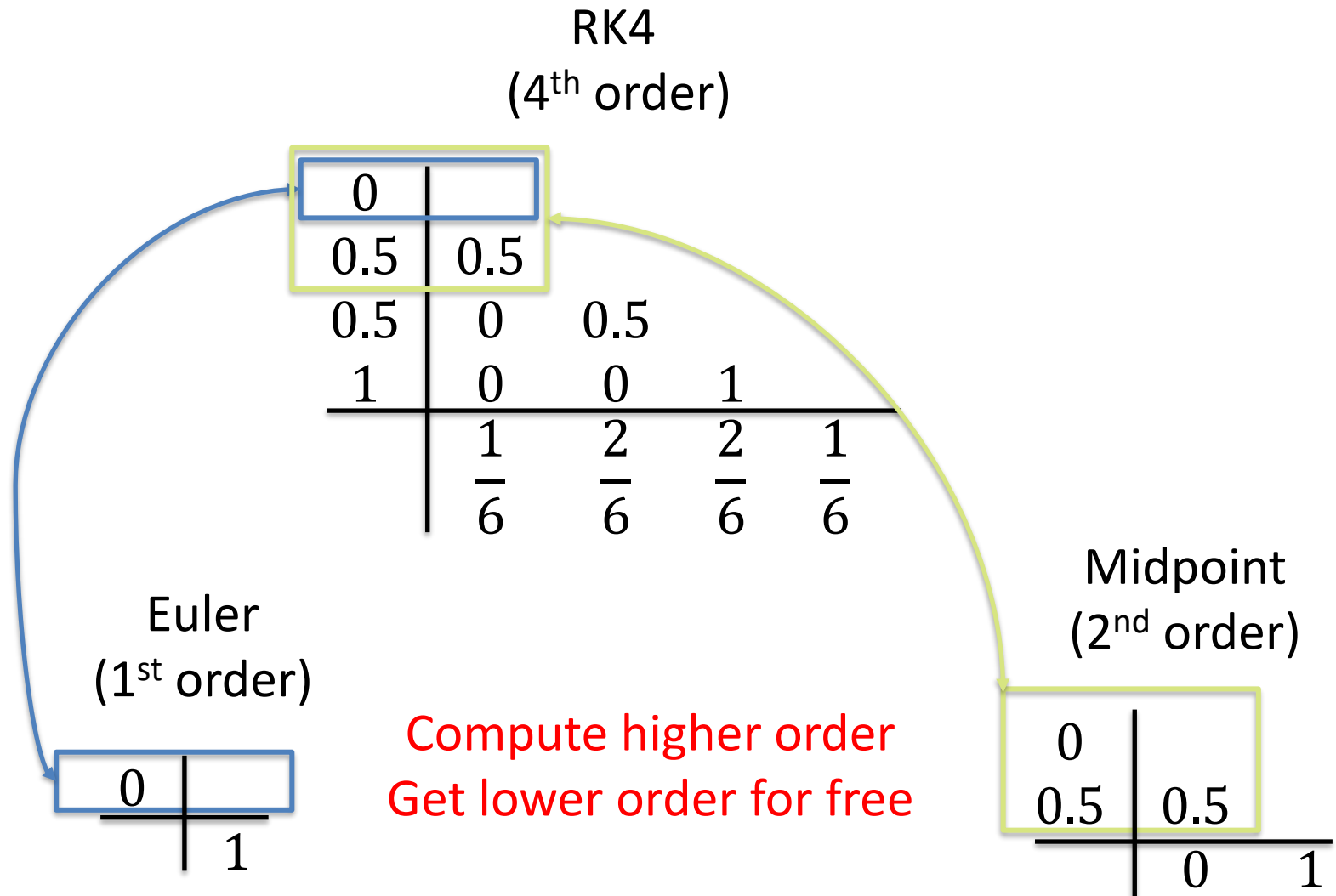
The diagram illustrates the trade-off between convergence speed and computational work for explicit Runge-Kutta methods. Two boxes at the bottom, 'How fast converging' and 'How much work', have blue arrows pointing from them to the text 'RK2: 2<sup>nd</sup> order, 2 stages' and 'RK4: 4<sup>th</sup> order, 4 stages' respectively. This indicates that RK2 is faster converging but requires less work than RK4, which is more accurate (higher order) but requires more stages and thus more work.

How much work

# Convergence



# Embedded methods



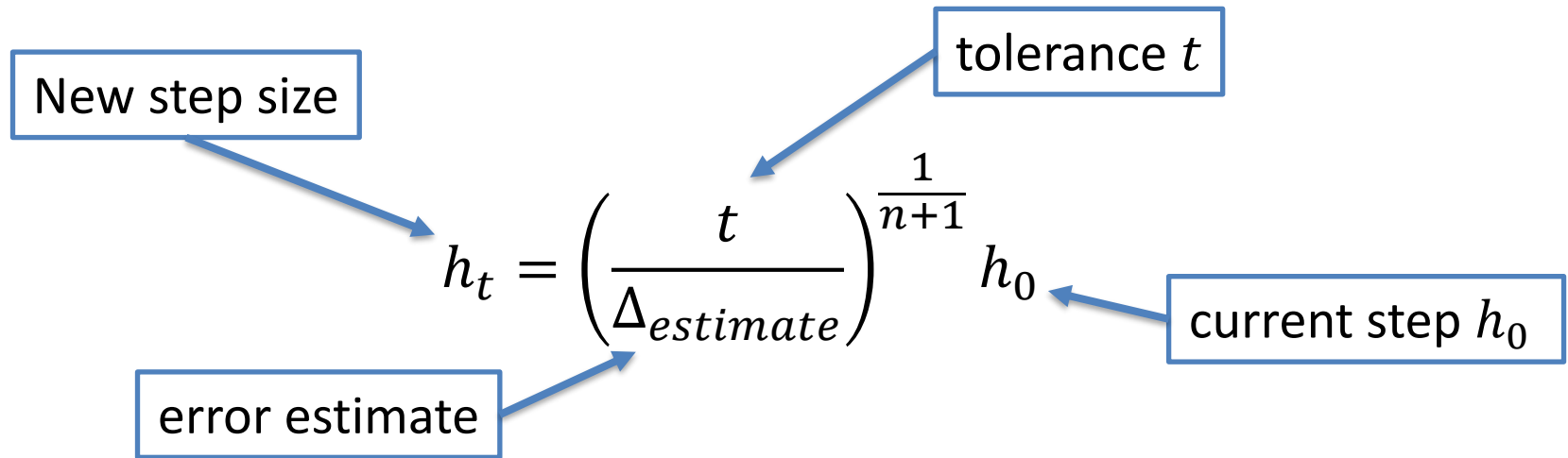
# Embedded Runge-Kutta methods

Construction of useful embedded methods might require additional trial point.

I.e., increased computational cost for error estimate

|                   |                                                                 |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| Bogacki-Shampine: | 3 <sup>rd</sup> order, 2 <sup>nd</sup> order embedded, 4 stages |
| Dormand-Prince:   | 5 <sup>th</sup> order, 4 <sup>th</sup> order embedded, 7 stages |

# How to adjust steps



$\Delta_{estimate} < t$  (within  $t$ )

- Perform step
- Assume error for next step similar to current
- Increase step size

$\Delta_{estimate} > t$  (exceeds  $t$ )

- Discard step
- Use current error to compute new step size
- Redo step with reduced step size

# Other reasons for redoing steps

## **Assertion failure / Range check error**

Assertions and Range checks indicate Values leaving valid range

If values are not valid, results for this stage will be inconsistent or lead to arithmetic errors.

In both cases step size adjustment and step re-computation is inevitable at the last stage (with mispredicted adjustment)

## **Percent changes below -100%**

To avoid unnecessary work and avoid bad adjustments GEMPACK stops current step and immediately recomputes with half the step size.

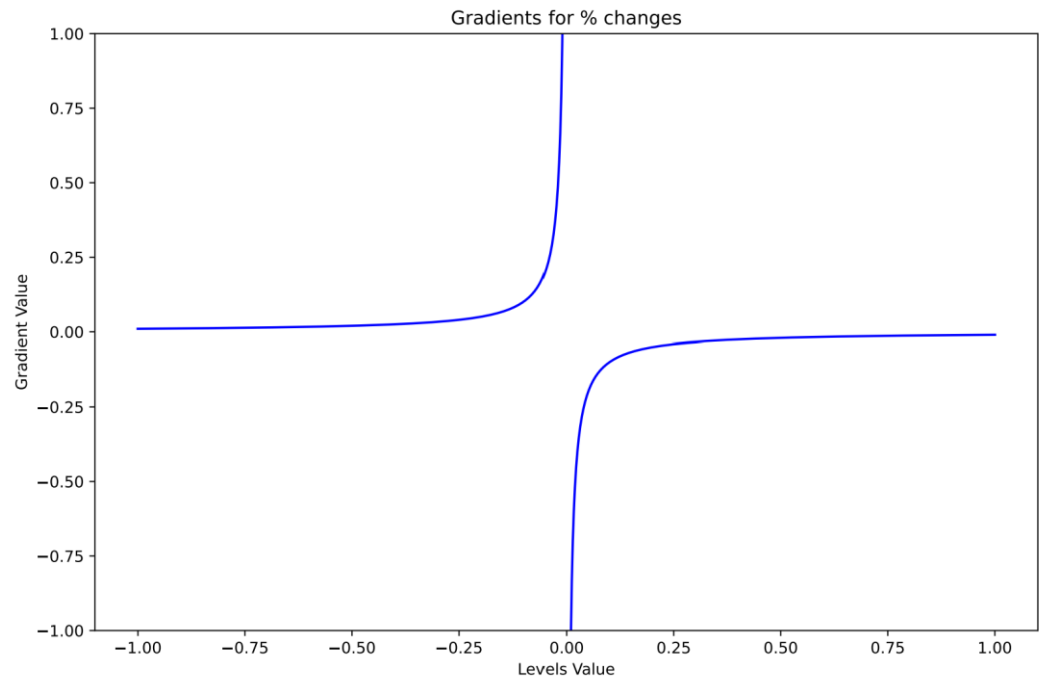
# No more getting past -100% !!!

Singularity in gradients at -100%

Failure for higher order integrators

Adaptive step size automatically  
rescales step

Non adaptive terminates with error



# Using from CMF

Methods without error estimate (non adaptive)

```
Method = RungeKutta;  
RK flavor = RK2 | RK4;  
Steps = n;
```

Methods with error estimate (adaptive)

```
Method = RungeKutta;  
RK flavor = BoSha32 | DoPri54;  
Steps = n;  
Adaptive step size = yes | no;  
epsTolerance = 0.1;
```

# Using Rundynam

rundynam - GDYNFS\_2D BASB-BRRR-PRDP [2011-2111] C:\SUPPORT\BADEQ

File Zip Tasks View Options Run Preferences Help

Introduction | Model/Data | **Sim overview** | Closure/Shocks | Results | Other files

Start from data for period (4 digits) : 2011 ☐ Use Quarters ☐ Use Months Help

No. of periods for base case (1-3 digits) : 100

Lengths of Periods in years : Period 1 is 1 year

Simulation Sim names (3 Chars)

Base Case [B] BAS

Base Rerun [R] BRR

Policy [P] PRD

Working Directory Change C:\SUPPORT\BA

Mapping File for Results Change Edit

Solution Method **Change** Runge-Kutta (D)

Alt. Solution Method **Change** Runge-Kutta (D)

Number of threads 0 not configured

**Run Base** **Rerun Base** **Run Policy** **Run All** Help

Choose Solution Method

Method

☐ Johansen ☐ Gragg ☒ Runge-Kutta

☐ Euler ☐ Midpoint

Runge-Kutta flavour

☐ RK2 ☐ BoSha32

☐ RK4 ☒ DoPri54

Number of solutions & Steps per solution

☒ 1 solution 1

☐ 2 solutions

☐ 3 solutions

☒ Adaptive Step Size

Adaptive step size options

Error metric tolerance 0.1 (0.0001 to 1.0)

Max cons. retries 3 (must be > 0)

Retry adj. factor 0.25 (0.1 to 0.9999)

OK Cancel Help

# Error metric

Using relative error

$$E^{rel} = \frac{\Delta}{V_{res}}$$

Avoids problem of different scale as values are normalized

Problem  $V_{res}$  close to zero produces large relative errors

$$E^{GP} = \frac{\Delta}{\max(1, V_{res})}$$

GEMPACK error metric uses relative error for  $V_{res} > 1$   
and absolute error for  $V_{res} < 1$

Adaptive step size based on error metric

# Investigate .acc file

error.acc in C:\Users\c5107552\Documents

| File | Contents | Export | History      | Search  | Programs | Help  |                                                       |
|------|----------|--------|--------------|---------|----------|-------|-------------------------------------------------------|
|      | Header   | Type   | Dimension    | Coeff   | Total    | Max ▼ | Name                                                  |
| 2    | 0001     | RE     | COM*SRC*IND  | x1      | 3.12     | 0.113 | Cumulative Error Metric Estimate for variable x1      |
| 156  | 0155     | RE     | IND          | finv3   | 0.118    | 0.106 | Cumulative Error Metric Estimate for variable finv3   |
| 85   | 0084     | RE     | COM          | x0imp   | 0.149    | 0.102 | Cumulative Error Metric Estimate for variable x0imp   |
| 84   | 0083     | RE*    | COM*SRC*DEST | delSale | 0.209    | 0.066 | Cumulative Error Metric Estimate for variable delSale |
| 5    | 0004     | RE     | COM          | x4      | 0.086    | 0.062 | Cumulative Error Metric Estimate for variable x4      |
| 12   | 0011     | RE     | COM*MAR      | x4mar   | 0.342    | 0.062 | Cumulative Error Metric Estimate for variable x4mar   |
| 190  | 0189     | RE     | COM*REG      | regx4   | 0.685    | 0.062 | Cumulative Error Metric Estimate for variable regx4   |
| 52   | 0051     | RE     | COM*IND      | q1      | 1.39     | 0.056 | Cumulative Error Metric Estimate for variable q1      |
| 3    | 0002     | RE     | COM*SRC*IND  | x2      | 2.53     | 0.053 | Cumulative Error Metric Estimate for variable x2      |
| 18   | 0017     | RE     | IND*OCC      | x1lab   | 0.460    | 0.040 | Cumulative Error Metric Estimate for variable x1lab   |
| 33   | 0032     | RE     | IND          | x1lab_o | 0.057    | 0.040 | Cumulative Error Metric Estimate for variable x1lab_o |

ErrorMetric is absolute value.

Use Viewhar sorting on Max on title page

Check for badly converged components`

| x1                   | 1 dom | 2 imp |
|----------------------|-------|-------|
| 1 BroadAcre          | 0.001 | 0.080 |
| 2 OtherAgric         | 0.003 | 0.019 |
| 3 ForestFish         | 0.000 | 0.009 |
| 4 Mining             | 0.003 | 0.021 |
| 5 MeatDairy          | 0.022 | 0.014 |
| 6 OthFoodProds       | 0.001 | 0.006 |
| 7 DrinksSmokes       | 0.003 | 0.024 |
| 8 Textiles           | 0.000 | 0.016 |
| 9 ClothingFtw        | 0.002 | 0.007 |
| 10 WoodProds         | 0.000 | 0.009 |
| <b>11 PaperPrint</b> | 0.001 | 0.110 |
| 12 Petrol_CoalIP     | 0.001 | 0.018 |

# Reasons for low accuracy

## Large shocks

- Model produces highly nonlinear response
- Sizable error for most variables in .acc file
- Reduce Tolerance

## Model error

- Bug in Equations or updates
- Sizable error for all components in few connected variables
- Inspect equations/updates relating to these variable

## Database error

- Imbalance in database (not a valid initial state)
- Sizable error for few components in few connected variables
- Check database consistency

# Investigate .log file

Embedded RK methods print worst component and accuracy

```
~2941,2,4: RK | Variable accuracy "face" number for this simulation is 4 (out of 10).
~2942,2,4: RK |
~2943,2,4: RK | worst error estimate of 0.12000 has been found at
~2944,2,4: RK | x0dom("LNG")
```

Embedded RK methods print summary of adjustments

| SUMMARY OF THE STEPS TAKEN IN ADAPTIVE STEP SIZE MODE |  |                   |                 |        |           |
|-------------------------------------------------------|--|-------------------|-----------------|--------|-----------|
|                                                       |  | % of Sim complete | StepSize (in %) | Status | Reason    |
| ~9077,2,4: RK                                         |  | 0.0000            | 25.0000         | PASS   |           |
| ~9078,2,4: RK                                         |  | 25.0000           | 42.5000         | FAIL   | assertion |
| ~9079,2,4: RK                                         |  | 25.0000           | 21.2500         | PASS   |           |
| ~9080,2,4: RK                                         |  | 46.2500           | 27.3582         | FAIL   | assertion |
| ~9081,2,4: RK                                         |  | 46.2500           | 13.6791         | FAIL   | assertion |
| ~9082,2,4: RK                                         |  | 46.2500           | 6.8395          | PASS   |           |
| ~9083,2,4: RK                                         |  | 53.0895           | 10.1366         | FAIL   | assertion |
| ~9084,2,4: RK                                         |  | 53.0895           | 5.0683          | FAIL   | assertion |
| ~9085,2,4: RK                                         |  | 53.0895           | 2.5341          | PASS   |           |
| ~9086,2,4: RK                                         |  | 55.6237           | 3.1016          | PASS   |           |
| ~9087,2,4: RK                                         |  | 58.7253           | 2.6068          | PASS   |           |
| ~9088,2,4: RK                                         |  | 61.3321           | 4.4315          | PASS   |           |
| ~9089,2,4: RK                                         |  | 65.7636           | 7.5336          | PASS   |           |
| ~9090,2,4: RK                                         |  | 73.2972           | 12.8071         | PASS   |           |
| ~9091,2,4: RK                                         |  | 86.1043           | 13.8957         | PASS   |           |

# Read the log or search for “RK |”

Tracing the RK | convergence info lets us identify the problems

```
~4648,2,4: RK | ACCURACY OK. Changing stepsize 0.25000000 -> 0.42500001
~4649,2,4: RK | 25.000% of the simulation have been completed.
~4871,2,4: RK | A Range check or Assertion failed.
~4872,2,4: RK | Changing stepsize from 0.42500001 -> 0.21250001
~5212,2,4: RK | ACCURACY OK. Changing stepsize 0.21250001 -> 0.27358173
~5213,2,4: RK | 46.250% of the simulation have been completed.
~5435,2,4: RK | A Range check or Assertion failed.
~5436,2,4: RK | Changing stepsize from 0.27358173 -> 0.13679087
~5654,2,4: RK | A Range check or Assertion failed.
~5655,2,4: RK | Changing stepsize from 0.13679087 -> 0.06839543
~5995,2,4: RK | ACCURACY OK. Changing stepsize 0.06839543 -> 0.10136558
~5996,2,4: RK | 53.090% of the simulation have been completed.
~6214,2,4: RK | A Range check or Assertion failed.
~6215,2,4: RK | Changing stepsize from 0.10136558 -> 0.05068279
~6435,2,4: RK | A Range check or Assertion failed.
~6436,2,4: RK | Changing stepsize from 0.05068279 -> 0.02534139
~6778,2,4: RK | ACCURACY OK. Changing stepsize 0.02534139 -> 0.03101602
~6779,2,4: RK | 55.624% of the simulation have been completed.
~7123,2,4: RK | ACCURACY OK. Changing stepsize 0.03101602 -> 0.02606782
~7124,2,4: RK | 2 variables below but close to the threshold were ignored.
~7125,2,4: RK | 58.725% of the simulation have been completed.
~7469,2,4: RK | ACCURACY OK. Changing stepsize 0.02606782 -> 0.04431529
~7470,2,4: RK | 61.332% of the simulation have been completed.
~7812,2,4: RK | ACCURACY OK. Changing stepsize 0.04431529 -> 0.07533600
~7813,2,4: RK | 65.764% of the simulation have been completed.
~8157,2,4: RK | ACCURACY OK. Changing stepsize 0.07533600 -> 0.12807120
~8158,2,4: RK | 73.297% of the simulation have been completed.
~8500,2,4: RK | ACCURACY OK. Changing stepsize 0.12807120 -> 0.13895685
~8501,2,4: RK | 86.104% of the simulation have been completed.
~8845,2,4: RK | ACCURACY OK. Successfully completed Simulation
```

We find in the log file near the failed RK step

```
4857  %% Assertion "No negatives in USE matrix" does not hold
4858  when quantifiers are ("Hogs","imp","INV","SENE").
```

# Read the log or search for “RK |”

RK methods write offending components to log

Adaptive step size will immediately redo step  
with reduced step size to obtain more accurate solution

```
~3959,2,4: RK | The percent change variable
~3960,2,4: RK | xllab("LNG","Manager")
~3961,2,4: RK | xllab("OthNonFeOre","Manager")
~3962,2,4: RK | xllab("MiningSrv","Manager")
~3963,2,4: RK | xllab("ForTourism","Manager")
~3964,2,4: RK | xllab("ForStudent","Manager")
~3965,2,4: RK | xllab("LNG","Professional")
~3966,2,4: RK | xllab("OthNonFeOre","Professional")
~3967,2,4: RK | xllab("MiningSrv","Professional")
~3968,2,4: RK | xllab("ForTourism","Professional")
~3969,2,4: RK | xllab("ForStudent","Professional")
~3970,2,4: RK | and others not reported.
~3971,2,4: RK | went below -100%. For Runge Kutta methods,
~3972,2,4: RK | this means that the solution will not be reliable.
~3973,2,4: RK | Redoing step with reduced step size
~3974,2,4: RK | Preparing coefficients values for redoing step.
~3976,2,4: RK | Changing stepsize from 0.20062359 -> 0.10031180 due to
~3977,2,4: RK | sign change in a percent change variable.
```

# Conclusions

## Things you will immediately appreciate

- RK integrators outperform existing integrators in GEMPACK
- RK avoids numerical instabilities known to exist for Richardson extrapolation
- Adaptive step size more stable, faster and more expressive than automatic accuracy
- Improved log file output to pinpoint problems

## Things that might take a bit longer

- RK unforgiving of model/database errors, e.g.  
‘Tried and trusted’ models might fail with RK where Euler ‘worked’
- Understanding how log and acc file help to find problems and fix them

The new CoPS standard: DoPri54 + adaptive step size

# Next steps

Develop a set of worked examples with a GTAP model addressing common problems.

- GTAP
  - Tuning the solution method for accuracy and solution time
  - Using RK error estimates to identify a coding or data error
- GTAP-RD Using RK with adaptive step sizes and modifying default control parameters where necessary
- GTAP-E Industry output falls by -100%
- GTAP-Power Identifying solution problems related to the energy nest