



# Comparison between standard and non-standard finite difference methods for solving first and second order ordinary differential equations

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## Abstract

In this paper, we solve some first and second order ordinary differential equations by the standard and non-standard finite difference methods and compare results of these methods. Illustrative examples have been provided, and the results of two methods compared with the exact solutions.

**Keywords:** Non-Standard Finite Difference Schemes.

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## 1. Introduction

Ronald Mickens began developing numerical schemes using nonstandard finite difference (NSFD) schemes for solving physical problems. The fundamental of this method is centered on two rules [11]:

i) The discrete first-order derivative must take a more general form than that used in standard discretization, i.e.

$$\frac{dy}{dx} \rightarrow \frac{y_{k+1} - \psi(h)y_k}{\phi(h)} \tag{1}$$

Where  $\psi(h)$  and  $\phi(h)$  are known, respectively, as the numerator and denominator functions, having the properties

$$\psi(h) = 1 + O(h), \quad \phi(h) = h + O(h^2), \tag{2}$$

Where  $h = \Delta x$ ,  $x \rightarrow x_k = hk$  and  $y(x) \rightarrow y_k$ .

The second-order derivative discrete in the following form

$$\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} \rightarrow \frac{y_{k+1} - 2y_k + y_{k-1}}{\phi(h)}. \tag{3}$$

Where

$$\phi(h) = h^2 + O(h^4). \tag{4}$$

ii) Both linear and nonlinear terms involving the dependent variable may require "nonlocal" discretization; for example

$$y = 2y - y \rightarrow 2y_k - y_{k+1}$$

$$y^2 = yy \rightarrow y_k y_{k+1} \tag{5}$$

$$y^3 = \frac{(y + y)}{2} y^2 \rightarrow \frac{(y_{k+1} + y_{k-1})}{2} y_k^2$$

The full details about these procedures are given in [11-16]. The nonstandard finite difference scheme has developed as an alternative method for solving a wide range of problems whose mathematical models involve algebraic, differential, biological models and chaotic systems [1], [2] and [4-10].

In this work, we compare non-standard finite difference (NSFD) and standard finite difference (FD) schemes for solving ordinary differential equations. Some famous equations such as Dynamic, Logistic, Lane-Emden and Airy equations have been provided. Solution of Airy equation which is a special case of Storm-Liouville equation [3] can't be displayed based upon primary functions. We use the series solutions' method to find the power series solution for this second-order linear differential equation and compare NSFD and FD methods with the power series solution.

## 2. Numerical examples

In this section, we apply NSFD and FD methods to obtain numerical solutions for first and second order ordinary differential equations.

### 2.1. First order ODE

Example 1: Consider the following first order ODE

$$y' = y \sin(x), \quad y(0) = 1, \quad y'(0) = 0. \tag{6}$$

The exact solution of (6) is

$$y(x) = \frac{\exp(-\cos(x))}{\cosh(1) - \sinh(1)}. \tag{7}$$

Standard method:

$$\frac{y_{k+1} - y_k}{h} = y_k \sin(x_k), \tag{8}$$

Therefore

$$y_{k+1} = (1 + h \sin(x_k)) y_k. \tag{9}$$

Non-standard method:

$$\frac{y_{k+1} - \psi(h)y_k}{\phi(h)} = y_k \sin(x_k), \tag{10}$$

Where  $\psi(h)$  and  $\phi(h)$  have the properties (2). In this example, we choose the numerator and denominator functions as follows:

$$\psi(h) = 1, \quad \phi(h) = e^h - 1, \tag{11}$$

Therefore, we have.

$$y_{k+1} = (1 + (e^h - 1)\sin(x_k))y_k. \tag{12}$$

In figure 1 the results of equations (9) and (12) are compared with the exact solution (8) with  $h = 0.2$  and  $h = 0.05$ .

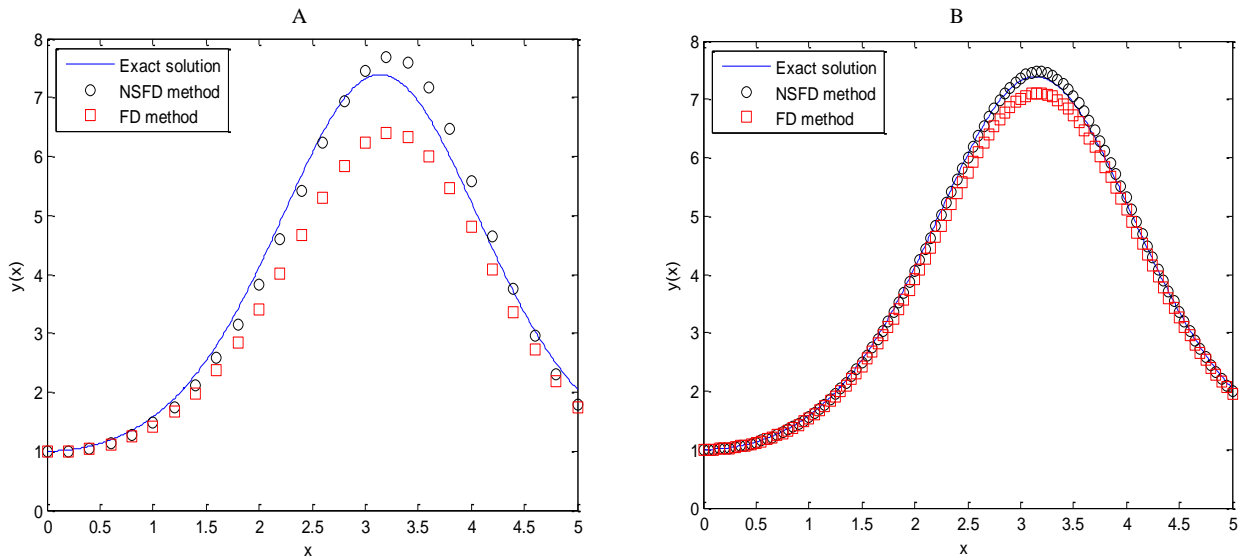


Fig. 1: Numerical Solutions of NSFD and FD Methods for Solving Equation (6) with  $h = 0.2$  (A) and  $h = 0.05$  (B).

Example: 2

Consider the following first order ODE

$$y' = y + x, \quad y(0) = 0, \quad y'(0) = 0. \tag{13}$$

The exact solution of (13) is

$$y = e^x - x - 1. \tag{14}$$

We have the following FD and NSFD schemes respectively for solving (13)

$$y_{k+1} = hx_k + (1 + h)y_k, \tag{15}$$

$$y_{k+1} = (e^h - 1)x_k + (1 + (e^h - 1))y_k. \tag{16}$$

In figure 2 the results of equations (15) and (16) are compared with the exact solution (14) with  $h = 0.1$ .

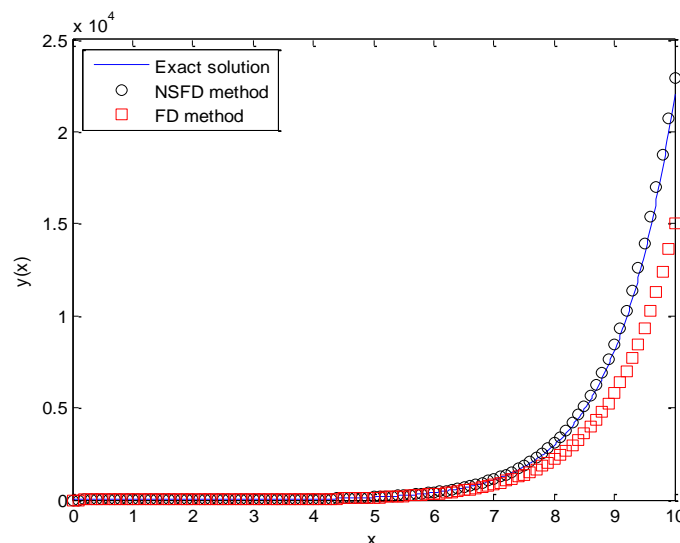


Fig. 2: Numerical Solutions of NSFD and FD Methods for Solving Equation (13) with  $h = 0.1$ .

Example: 3

Consider the following general nonlinear first order dynamic equation with the initial condition

$$y' = y(1 - y^n), \quad y(0) = 0.5. \tag{17}$$

Where  $n$  is a positive integer, when  $n = 1$  equation (17) becomes a logistic differential equation.

$$y' = y(1 - y), \quad y(0) = 0.5. \tag{18}$$

The exact solution of (18) is.

$$y(x) = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-x}}. \tag{19}$$

We use the following NSFD scheme for solving (18).

$$\frac{y_{k+1} - y_k}{(e^h - 1)} = y_k(1 - y_{k+1}). \tag{20}$$

In figure 3, the results of the non-standard scheme (20) is compared with the following standard scheme.

$$\frac{y_{k+1} - y_k}{h} = y_k(1 - y_k). \tag{21}$$

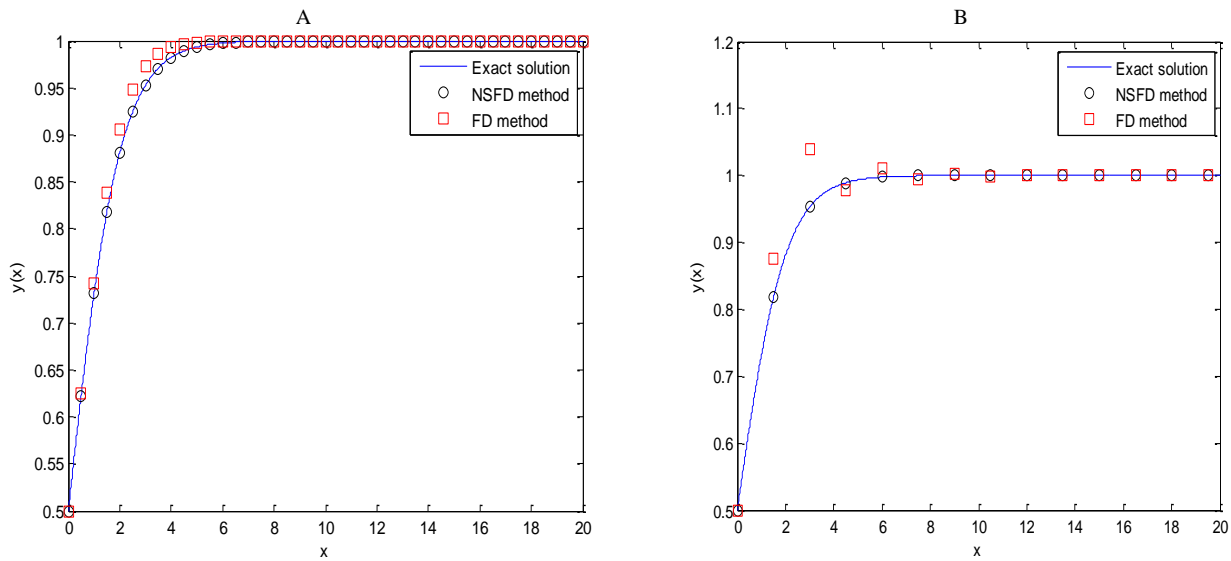


Fig. 3: Numerical Solutions of NSFD and FD Methods for Solving Equation (18) with  $h = 0.5$  (A) and  $h = 1.5$  (B).

In general, we have the following non-standard discretization equation for the equation (17)

$$\frac{y_{k+1} - y_k}{\left(\frac{1 - e^{-nh}}{n}\right)} = y_k(1 - y_{k+1}y_k^{n-1}). \tag{22}$$

For  $n = 2$  we have the following scheme

$$\frac{y_{k+1} - y_k}{\left(\frac{1 - e^{-2h}}{2}\right)} = y_k(1 - y_{k+1}y_k). \tag{23}$$

The exact solution of equation (18) for  $n = 2$  is

$$y(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1+3e^{-2x}}}. \tag{24}$$

In figure 4 we compared the standard and non-standard finite difference methods with the exact solution of equation (17) for  $n = 2, h = 0.2, 1$ .

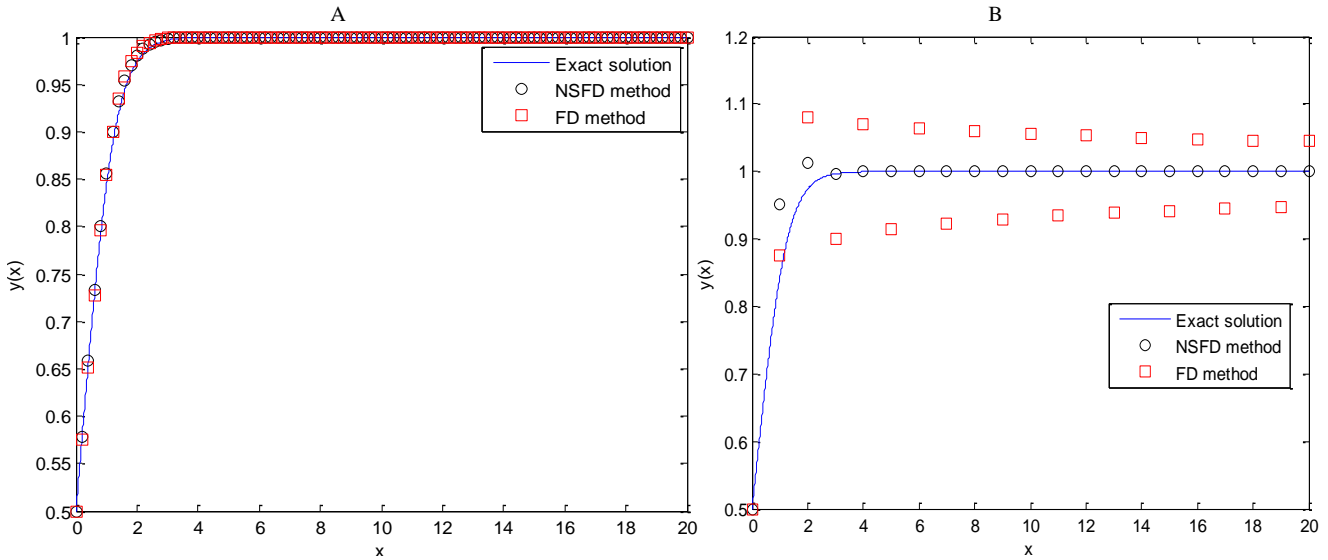


Fig. 4: Numerical Solutions of NSFD and FD Methods with  $h = 0.2$  (A) and  $h = 1$  (B) for Solving Equation (17) with  $n = 2$ .

### 2.2. Second order ODE

Example: 4

Consider the following second order ODE

$$y''(x) + \frac{m}{x} y'(x) + f(x, y(x)) = g(x), \quad m \geq 2, \tag{25}$$

With the following initial conditions,

$$y(0) = A, \quad y'(0) = B. \tag{26}$$

Equation (25) is called Lane-Emden equation. This equation describes the temperature variation of a spherical gas cloud under the mutual attraction of its molecules and subject to the laws of classical thermodynamics. The polytropic theory of stars essentially follows out of thermodynamic considerations that deal with the issue of energy transport, through the transfer of material between different levels of the star. This equation is one of the basic equations in the theory of stellar structure and has been focused in many studies.

In equation (25) for  $m = 2, f(x, y(x)) = 1$  and  $g(x) = 0$  with the following initial conditions we have.

$$y'' + \frac{2}{x} y' + 1 = 0, \quad 0 < x \leq 1, \quad y(0) = 1, \quad y'(0) = 0. \tag{27}$$

For solving (28) we construct the following NSFD scheme.

$$\frac{y_{k+1} - 2y_k + y_{k-1}}{4 \sin^2\left(\frac{h}{2}\right)} + \frac{2}{x_k} \left( \frac{y_{k+1} - y_k}{e^h - 1} \right) + 1 = 0. \tag{28}$$

After some manipulation we have

$$y_{k+1} = \frac{\left(2x_k(e^h - 1) + 8\sin^2\left(\frac{h}{2}\right)\right)y_k - (x_k(e^h - 1))y_{k-1} - 4x_k(e^h - 1)\sin^2\left(\frac{h}{2}\right)}{x_k(e^h - 1) + 8\sin^2\left(\frac{h}{2}\right)}. \tag{29}$$

In this example the denominator functions for first and second order derivative are respectively,

$$\phi(h) = e^h - 1, \varphi(h) = 4\sin^2\left(\frac{h}{2}\right). \tag{30}$$

Note that  $\phi(h)$  and  $\varphi(h)$  satisfied relations (2) and (4). The numerator function is  $\psi(h) = 1$ . In figure 5, the result of scheme (29) is compared with the following standard scheme.

$$\frac{y_{k+1} - 2y_k + y_{k-1}}{h^2} + \frac{2}{x_k} \left(\frac{y_{k+1} - y_k}{h}\right) + 1 = 0. \tag{31}$$

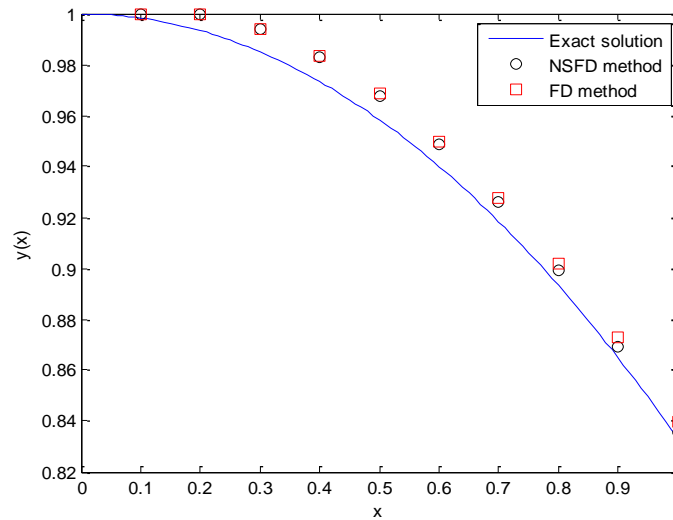


Fig. 5: Numerical Solutions of NSFD and FD Methods for Solving Equation (27) with  $h = 0.1$ .

Example: 5

Consider the following Lane-Emden type equation.

$$y'' + \frac{8}{x}y' + xy = x^5 - x^4 + 44x^2 - 30x, 0 < x \leq 1, y(0) = 0, y'(0) = 0. \tag{32}$$

The exact solution of (32) is

$$y = x^4 - x^3. \tag{33}$$

For solving (32) we have

$$\frac{y_{k+1} - 2y_k + y_{k-1}}{\varphi(h)} + \frac{2}{x_k} \left(\frac{y_{k+1} - y_k}{\phi(h)}\right) + x_k \left(\frac{y_{k+1} + y_{k-1}}{2}\right) = x_k^5 - x_k^4 + 44x_k^2 - 30x_k, \tag{34}$$

Therefore

$$y_{k+1} = \frac{(2x_k\phi + 8\varphi)y_k - \left(\frac{1}{2}\phi\varphi x_k^2 + x_k\phi\right)y_{k-1} + \phi\varphi(x_k^6 - x_k^5 + 44x_k^3 - 30x_k^2)}{\frac{1}{2}\phi\varphi x_k^2 + x_k\phi + 8\varphi}. \tag{35}$$

In this case, we choose  $\phi(h)$  and  $\varphi(h)$  as follow:

$$\phi(h) = e^h - 1, \varphi(h) = 4 \sin^2\left(\frac{h}{2}\right). \tag{36}$$

In figure 6, the result of scheme (35) is compared with the following standard scheme.

$$\frac{y_{k+1} - 2y_k + y_{k-1}}{h^2} + \frac{2}{x_k} \left( \frac{y_{k+1} - y_k}{h} \right) + x_k y_k = x_k^5 - x_k^4 + 44x_k^2 - 30x_k. \tag{37}$$

Therefore

$$y_{k+1} = \frac{(2x_k + 8h - h^2 x_k^2)y_k - x_k y_{k-1} + h^2 x_k^2 (-x_k^4 + x_k^3 - 44x_k + 30)}{x_k + 8h}. \tag{38}$$

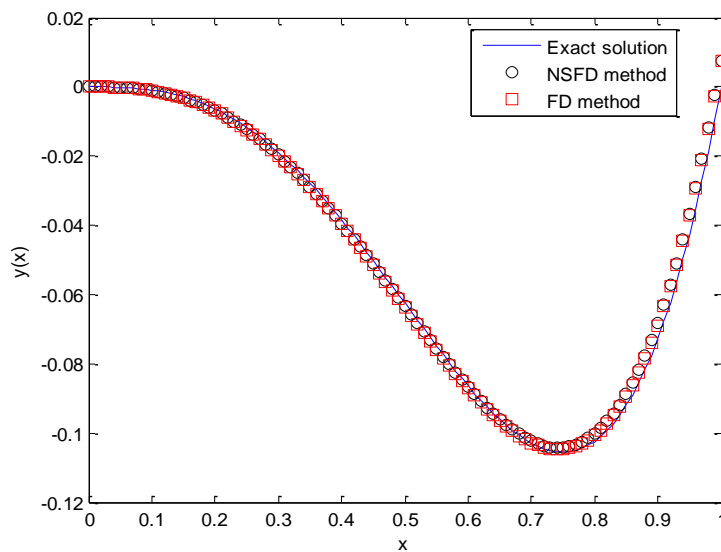


Fig. 6: Numerical Solutions of NSFD and FD Methods for Solving Equation (32) with  $h = 0.01$ .

Example: 6

Consider the following second order ODE

$$y'' - xy = 0, y(0) = 1, y'(0) = 1. \tag{39}$$

This equation is called Airy differential equation. The solution for this equation can't be display based upon in primary functions. We use the series solution's method to find a power series solution for this second-order linear differential equation. The general form of power series is is.

$$y(x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n x^n, \tag{40}$$

Therefore, we have.

$$y''(x) = \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} n(n-1)a_n x^{n-2}, \tag{41}$$

By substituting (40) and (41) in (39), after some algebraic manipulation, we obtain the following power series solution.

$$y(x) = a_0 \left( 1 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{x^{3n}}{(2 \times 3)(5 \times 6) \dots ((3n-1) \times 3n)} \right) + a_1 \left( x + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{x^{3n+1}}{(3 \times 4)(6 \times 7) \dots (3n \times (3n-1))} \right), \tag{42}$$

From the initial conditions, we obtain  $a_0 = a_1 = 1$ . we will compare solutions of FD and NSFD methods with the equation (42). We have the following non-standard scheme for solving equation (39)

$$\frac{y_{k+1} - 2y_k + y_{k-1}}{\varphi(h)} - x_k y_k = 0, \quad (43)$$

Where

$\varphi(h) = 4 \sin^2\left(\frac{h}{2}\right)$  by solving (43) in  $y_{k+1}$  we have.

$$y_{k+1} = (2 + \varphi x_k) y_k - y_{k-1}. \quad (44)$$

A standard scheme for equation (39) is

$$\frac{y_{k+1} - 2y_k + y_{k-1}}{h^2} - x_k y_k = 0. \quad (45)$$

In figure 7 we compared the standard and non-standard finite difference methods for  $h = 0.05$  with the power series solution of equation (39), we supposed that in equation (42),  $n$  changes from 1 to 1000.

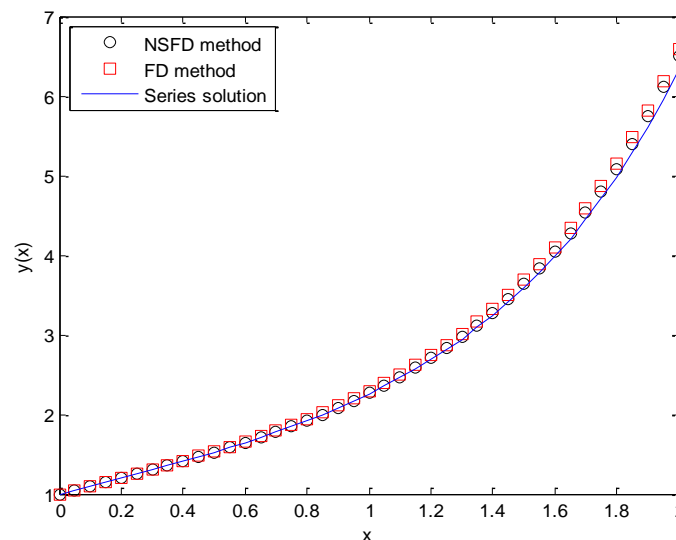


Fig. 7: Numerical Solutions of NSFD and FD Methods for Solving Equation (39) with  $h = 0.05$ .

### 3. Conclusion

In this paper, we have presented the efficiency of non-standard finite difference method in comparison with the standard finite difference method for numerical solution of first and second order ordinary differential equations. From the graphical results, clearly non-standard method is more stable than the standard method and the domain of  $h$  for stability in the non-standard method is larger than those of the standard method. If the denominator functions are chosen in appropriate from the non-standard method produces better results.

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