

CS 450: Numerical Analysis¹

Boundary Value Problems for Ordinary Differential Equations

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¹ *These slides have been drafted by Edgar Solomonik as lecture templates and supplementary material for the book “Scientific Computing: An Introductory Survey” by Michael T. Heath ([slides](#)).*

Boundary Conditions

- ▶ Often we seek to solve a differential equation that satisfies conditions on its values and derivatives on parts of the domain boundary.

- ▶ Consider a first order ODE $\mathbf{y}'(t) = \mathbf{f}(t, \mathbf{y})$ with *linear boundary conditions* on domain $t \in [a, b]$:

$$\mathbf{B}_a \mathbf{y}(a) + \mathbf{B}_b \mathbf{y}(b) = \mathbf{c}$$

Existence of Solutions for Linear ODE BVPs

- ▶ The solutions of linear ODE BVP $\mathbf{y}'(t) = \mathbf{A}(t)\mathbf{y}(t) + \mathbf{b}(t)$ are linear combinations of solutions to linear homogeneous ODE IVPs $\mathbf{y}'(t) = \mathbf{A}(t)\mathbf{y}(t)$:
- ▶ Solution $\mathbf{u}(t)$ (and $\mathbf{y}(t)$) exists if $\mathbf{Q} = \mathbf{B}_a\mathbf{Y}(a) + \mathbf{B}_b\mathbf{Y}(b)$ is invertible:

Green's Function Form of Solution for Linear ODE BVPs

- For any given $b(t)$ and c , the solution to the BVP can be written in the form:

$$y(t) = \Phi(t)c + \int_a^b G(t,s)b(s)ds$$

$\Phi(t) = Y(t)Q^{-1}$ is the *fundamental matrix* and the *Green's function* is

$$G(t,s) = Y(t)Q^{-1}I(s)Y^{-1}(s), \quad I(s) = \begin{cases} B_a Y(a) & : s < t \\ -B_b Y(b) & : s \geq t \end{cases}$$

Conditioning of Linear ODE BVPs

- ▶ For any given $\mathbf{b}(t)$ and \mathbf{c} , the solution to the BVP can be written in the form:

$$\mathbf{y}(t) = \mathbf{\Phi}(t)\mathbf{c} + \int_a^b \mathbf{G}(t,s)\mathbf{b}(s)ds$$

- ▶ The absolute condition number of the BVP is $\kappa = \max\{\|\mathbf{\Phi}\|_\infty, \|\mathbf{G}\|_\infty\}$:

Shooting Method for ODE BVPs

- ▶ For linear ODEs, we construct solutions from IVP solutions in $Y(t)$, which suggests the *shooting method* for solving BVPs by reduction to IVPs:

- ▶ *Multiple shooting* employs the shooting method over subdomains:

Finite Difference Methods

- ▶ Rather than solve a sequence of IVPs that satisfy the ODEs until they (approximately) satisfy boundary conditions, we can refine an approximation that satisfies the boundary conditions, until it satisfies the ODE:
- ▶ Convergence to solution is obtained with decreasing step size h so long as the method is consistent and stable:

Finite Difference Methods

- ▶ Lets derive the finite difference method for the ODE BVP defined by

$$u'' + 7(1 + t^2)u = 0$$

with boundary conditions $u(-1) = 3$ and $u(1) = -3$, using a centered difference approximation for u'' on t_1, \dots, t_n , $t_{i+1} - t_i = h$.

Collocation Methods

- Collocation methods approximate y by representing it in a basis

$y'(t) = f(t, y) \Rightarrow$ simplify $f(t, y) \approx f(t)_n$ ← basis

$$y(t) \approx \underline{v(t, x)} = \sum_{i=1}^n x_i \phi_i(t).$$

satisfy the ODE at a set of collocation points: ← unknown coefficients

$t_i \in [a, b]$ $v(t_i, x) = f(t_i, v(t_i, x))$

$$\sum_{j=1}^n x_j \boxed{e_j(t_i)} = \boxed{f(t_i)} \quad A x = b$$

A_{ji} b_i

t_1, \dots, t_n ← boundary B.C.s

- Choices of basis functions give different families of methods:

- spectral (polynomials)
 - localized (hat functions, B-splines)
- e_0, e_1, e_2

Solving BVPs by Optimization

- To improve robustness, define and minimize a residual error over the whole domain rather than at collocation points.

$$r(t, x) = v'(t, x) - f(t) = \left[\sum_{i=1}^n x_i e_i'(t) \right] - \underline{f(t)}$$

$$\min_x \int_a^b \frac{1}{2} \langle r(t, x), r(t, x) \rangle dt$$

\uparrow
 coeff $F(x)$

- The first-order optimality conditions of the optimization problem are a system of linear equations $Ax = b$:

$$0 = \frac{\partial F}{\partial x_i} = \int_a^b \langle r(t, x), \frac{\partial r}{\partial x_i}(t, x) \rangle dt$$

$\xrightarrow{\text{red arrow}} e_i'(t)$
 $\xrightarrow{\text{green arrow}} e_i(t)$

$$Ax = b$$

$$= \left[\sum_{i=1}^n x_i \underbrace{\int_a^b e_j'(t) e_i'(t) dt}_{A_{ji}} \right] - \underbrace{\int_a^b f(t) e_i(t) dt}_{b_i}$$

Weighted Residual

- *Weighted residual methods* work by ensuring the residual is orthogonal with respect to a given set of weight functions:

ϕ_1, \dots, ϕ_n e.g. orthogonal

$$\int_a^b r(t, x) \phi_i(t) dt = 0 \quad \forall i \Rightarrow 0 = \sum_{j=1}^n x_j \underbrace{\int_a^b \phi_j'(t) \phi_i(t) dt}_{\int_a^b f(t) \phi_i(t) dt}$$

↑ test functions

- The Galerkin method is a weighted residual method where $w_i = \phi_i$.

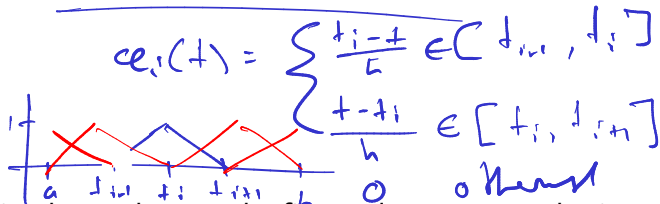
$$0 = \sum_{j=1}^n x_j \int_a^b \phi_j'(t) \phi_i(t) dt - \int_a^b f(t) \phi_i(t) dt$$

difference from optimization method is lack of derivative of weight functions

Second-Order BVPs: Poisson Equation

In practice, BVPs are at least second order and its advantageous to work in the natural set of variables.

- Consider the *Poisson equation* $u'' = f(t)$ with boundary conditions $u(a) = u(b) = 0$ and define a localized basis of hat functions:



- Defining residual equation by analogy to the first order case, we obtain,

$$r(t, x) = \sum_j x_j \varphi_j''(t) - f(t)$$

$$0 = \sum_j x_j \int_a^b \varphi_j''(t) \varphi_i(t) dt - \int_a^b f(t) \varphi_i(t) dt$$

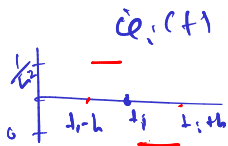
Weak Form and the Finite Element Method

- The finite-element method permits a lesser degree of differentiability of basis functions by casting the ODE in *weak form*:

$$0 = \sum_j x_j \int_a^b \underbrace{e_j''(t) e_i(t)}_{\text{BC}} dt - \int_a^b f(t) e_i(t) dt$$

$$\int_a^b e_j''(t) e_i(t) dt = \underbrace{e_j'(b) e_i(b)}_0 - \underbrace{e_j'(a) e_i(a)}_0 - \int_a^b \underbrace{e_j'(t) e_i'(t)}_{\text{BC}} dt$$

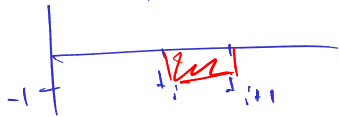
$$0 = - \sum_j x_j \underbrace{\int_a^b e_j'(t) e_i'(t) dt}_{A_{ij}} - \underbrace{\int_a^b f(t) e_i(t) dt}_{b_i}$$



$$[q_i'(t)]^2$$



$$q_i'(t) q_{i+1}'(t)$$



$$A_{i,i} = 2/h$$

$$A_{i+1,i} = -1/h$$

$$A_{x,x} = -b$$

$$b_i = \int_a^b f q_i(t) dt$$

$$b_i = hf$$



$$\frac{1}{h} \begin{bmatrix} 2 & & \\ -1 & \ddots & \\ & \ddots & -1 \end{bmatrix} = - \begin{bmatrix} hf \\ \vdots \\ hf \end{bmatrix}$$

Eigenvalue Problems with ODEs

- ▶ A typical second-order scalar *ODE BVP eigenvalue problem* is

$$u'' = \lambda f(t, u, u'), \quad \text{with boundary conditions } u(a) = 0, u(b) = 0.$$

These can be solved, e.g. for $f(t, u, u') = g(t)u$ by finite differences:

$$u'' = \lambda g(t) u$$

matrix eigenvalue problem

$$\frac{u_{i+1} + 2u_i - u_{i-1}}{h^2} = \lambda g(t_i) u_i \quad \forall i$$

$$\frac{-u_{i-1} + 2u_i - u_{i+1}}{h^2 g(t_i)} = \lambda u_i \quad \Rightarrow \quad A u = \lambda u$$
$$A[i, :] = \left[0 \dots -\frac{1}{h^2 g(t_i)} \quad \frac{2}{h^2 g(t_i)} \quad -\frac{1}{h^2 g(t_i)} \right]$$

Using Generalized Matrix Eigenvalue Problems

- ▶ Generalized matrix eigenvalue problems arise from more sophisticated ODEs,

$$u'' = \lambda(g(t)u + h(t)u'), \quad \text{with boundary conditions } u(a) = 0, u(b) = 0.$$

$$Au = \lambda Bu$$
$$\uparrow$$
$$B^{-1}Au = \lambda u$$

generalized eigenvalue problem
(matrix pencil)