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APPROXIMATE SOLUTION OF A CAUCHY PROBLEM  
BY MEANS OF THE COMPUTER

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In this paper, we intend to give a method for the approximate solution of the following CAUCHY problem :

$$(1) \quad \begin{cases} y'' + py' + qy = 0 \\ y(a) = y_0, \quad y'(a) = y'_0 \end{cases}$$

where  $p, q \in C [a, b]$

The idea consists in attaching to problem (1) several CAUCHY problems, in which the differential equations are with constant coefficients.

We consider a partition of the interval  $[a, b]$  with the knots :

$$x_0 = a, \quad x_1 = a + h, \quad \dots, \quad x_n = a + nh = b$$

On the interval  $[x_0, x_1]$  we formulate the problem :

$$\begin{cases} y'' + p\left(\frac{x_0 + x_1}{2}\right)y' + q\left(\frac{x_0 + x_1}{2}\right)y = 0 \\ y(a) = y_0, \quad y'(a) = y'_0 \end{cases}$$

This problem has a unique solution which can be written effectively. We denote this solution by  $y_{n_1}$ .

In the interval  $[x_1, x_2]$ , we consider the following CAUCHY problem :

$$\begin{cases} y'' + p\left(\frac{x_1 + x_2}{2}\right)y' + q\left(\frac{x_1 + x_2}{2}\right)y = 0 \\ y(x_1) = y_{n_1}(x_1), \quad y'(x_1) = y'_{n_1}(x_1) \end{cases}$$

The solution of this problem exists, is unique and it can be written effectively. We denote it by  $y_{n_1}$ .

We proceed in the same way for the intervals  $[x_2, x_3], \dots, [x_{n-1}, x_n]$  and we get the corresponding functions  $y_{n_2}, \dots, y_{n_n}$ .

We denote with  $y_n$  the function defined on the interval  $[a, b]$  having the property that its restriction on the interval  $[x_{k-1}, x_k]$  is equal to  $y_{n_k}$ ,  $k = 1, 2, \dots, n$ .

The function  $y_n$  is an approximate solution of problem (1).

In what follows, we intend to estimate the error which occurs in this method of approximation.

For simplicity we make the following notations

$$L = \max \{1 + \|p\|, \|q\|\}$$

$$P_k = p \left( \frac{x_k + x_{k-1}}{2} \right)$$

$$Q_k = q \left( \frac{x_k + x_{k-1}}{2} \right)$$

$P$  and  $Q$  are step functions defined on the interval  $[a, b]$  with respect to the partition given by means of the numbers  $P_k$  and respectively  $Q_k$ .

Using the estimation given in ([1], p. 86), for each partition of the interval, we get the estimation.

$$|y(x) - y_{n_1}(x)| + |y'(x) - y'_{n_1}(x)| \leq \varepsilon \cdot h \cdot e^{Lh}$$

$$|y(x) - y_{n_2}(x)| + |y'(x) - y'_{n_2}(x)| \leq \varepsilon \cdot h \cdot e^{Lh}(1 + e^{Lh})$$

$$|y(x) - y_{n_n}(x)| + |y'(x) - y'_{n_n}(x)| \leq \varepsilon \cdot h \cdot e^{Lh}(1 + e^{Lh}) + \dots + e^{(n-1)Lh}$$

where

$$\varepsilon = \max \{\|p - P_k\|_{C[a,b]}, \|q - Q_k\|_{C[a,b]}\} \cdot \|y\|_{C^1[a,b]}$$

From the above estimation it results that

$$\|y - y_n\|_{C^1[a,b]} \leq \varepsilon \cdot h \cdot e^{Lh} \frac{1 - e^{nhL}}{1 - e^{hL}}.$$

We notice that the error tends to zero when  $h$  tends to zero.

### Example

We consider the CAUCHY problem

$$\begin{cases} y'' - xy = 0 \\ y(-1) = 1 \\ y'(-1) = 0 \end{cases}$$

and we construct an approximate solution corresponding to the knots  $-1; -0,5; 0; 0,5; 1$ .

The computation algorithm of the approximate solution is described in the programming language FORTRAN. Next, we give this program and the corresponding approximate solution which was obtained using the computer FELIX C-256.

The solution is :

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DIMENSION X(20), A(20),B(20)
P(U) = 0
Q(U) = U
READ(105,1)M,X,DY,T,S
1      FORMAT(I2,F10.5)
MM1=M-1
DO 60 K=1,M
60      X(K)=T+(S-T)*(K-1)/MM1
      DO 70 K=1,MM1
70      A(K)=P((X(K)+X(K+1))/2)
      B(K)=Q((X(K)+X(K+1))/2)
      WRITE(108,3)
3      FORMAT(1H1,19X,2O(1H*))
      WRITE(108,4)
4      FORMAT(1H1,19X,2OH*Y''+P(X)Y'+Q(X)Y=O*/20X,
      A 2O(1H*)/20X,1H*,6X,8HY(XO)=YO,8X,1H*/20X,
      B 1H*,6X,10HY'(XO)=Y'0,6X,1H*/20X,20/1H*)
      WRITE(108,5)
5      FORMAT(///,18X,'SE CONSIDERA CAZUL PARTICULAR'/18X,
      A 29(1H*)/25X,14H* Y''-XY=0*/25X,14(1H*)/25X,
      B 11H* Y(-1)=1*/25X,11H*Y'(-1)=0*/25X,14(1H*))
      DO 10 K=1,MM1
      WRITE(108,6) A(K),B(K),K,Y,K,DY
6      FORMAT(1H1,19X,31(1H*)/20X,5H*Y''+,F7.5,4H Y'+,F7.5,4HY=O*/20X
      ,31(1H*)/20X,1H*,8X,3HY(X,I2,2H)=,F10.5,4X,1H*/20X,31(1H*)/20X,
      B 1H*,8X,4HY'(X,I2,2H)=,F10.5,3X,1H*/20X,31(1H*)) 
      D=A(K)*A(K)=4*B(K)
      IF(ABS(D).LT.0.00001) GO TO 30
      IF(D.LT.-0.00001) GO TO 20
      40     DR=SQRT(D)
      R1=(DR-A(K))/2
      R2=-(DR+A(K))/2
      ER1=EXP(R1*X(K))
      ER2=EXP(R2*X(K))
      C1=(DY-Y*ER2)/(DR*ER1)
      C2=(Y*ER1-DY)/(DR*ER2)
      KP1=K+1
      ER3=EXP(R1*X(KP1))
      ER4=EXP(R2*X(KP1))
      Y=C1*ER3+C2*ER4
      DY=R1*C1*ER1+R2*C2*ER4
      WRITE(108,7) C1,R1,C2,R2,KP1,Y
7      FORMAT(1H1,19X,57(1H*)/20X,7H*Y(X)=,F10.5,4HEXP(F7.5,3HX)+,
      A F10.5,3HEXP(F7.5,4HX) */20X,1H*,18X,3HY(X,I2,2H)=,E15.9,
      B 14X,1H*/20X,57(1H*))
      GO TO 10
      30     IF(ABS(A(K)).LT.0.00001.AND.ABS(B(K)).LT.0.00001) GO TO 50
      GO TO 40
      50     C1=DY
      C2=Y-C1*X(k)
      KP1=K+1

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Y=C1*X(KP1)+C2
DY=C1
WRITE(108,8) C1, C2,KP1,Y
8   FORMAT(1H1,19X,33(1H*)/20X,6H*Y(X)=,F1O.5,2HX+,HF10.5,1H*/20X,
A 1H*,3X,3HY(X,12,4H) = ,E15.9,5X,1H*/20X,33(1H*)) 
GO TO 10
20 ALFA=-A(K)/2
BETA=SQRT(-D)/2
SB=SIN(BETA*X(K))
CB=COS(BETA*X(K))
EPA=EXP(ALFA*X(K))
C1=((ALFA*Y-DY)*SB+BETA*Y*CB)/(BETA*EPA)
C2=(BETA*Y*SB-(ALFA*Y-DY)/2*CB)/(BETA*EPA)
KP1=K+1
EPA1=EXP(ALFA*X(KP1))
SB1=SIN(BETA*X(KP1))
CB1=COS(BETA*X(KP1))
Y=EPA1*(C1*CB1+C2*SB1)
DY=EPA1*(C1*(ALFA*CB1-BETA*SB1)+C2*(ALFA*SB1+BETA*CB1))
WRITE(108,9) ALFA,C1,BETA,C2,BETA,KP1,Y
9   FORMAT(1H1,18X,71(1H*)/19X,10H*Y(X)=EXP(F7.5,3HX),E11.6,
A 4HCOS(F7.5,3HX)+,E11.6,4HSIN(F7.5,3HX)) */19X,1H*,23X,
B 3HY(X,I2,4H) = ,E15.9,22X,1H*/19X,71(1H*)) 
CONTINUE
STOP
END

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The solution is:

$$y(x) = \begin{cases} 1.18872 e^{0.86603x} + 0.21031 e^{-0.86603x}, & x \in (-1, -0.5) \\ 0.89855 e^{0.5x} + 0.30796 e^{-0.5x}, & x \in (-0.5, 0) \\ 1.20651 \cos(0.5x) + 0.39183 \sin(0.5x), & x \in (0, 0.5) \\ 1.12945 \cos(0.86603x) + 0.57373 \sin(0.86603x), & x \in (0.5, 1) \end{cases}$$

#### B I B L I O G R A F I E

- [1] P. Pavel, A. I. Rus, *Ecuatii diferențiale și integrale*. Cluj, (1973).
- [2] S. Niculescu, *Initiere în FORTRAN*. Edit. tehnică, București, (1972).

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