

SPLINE APPROXIMATIONS FOR SYSTEM OF  
ORDINARY DIFFERENTIAL EQUATIONS, III

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The purpose of this paper is to present a method for approximating the solution of the system of non-linear ordinary differential equations  $y' = f_1(x, y, z)$ ,  $z' = f_2(x, y, z)$  with  $y(x_0) = y_0$  and  $z(x_0) = z_0$ . We use spline functions, which are not necessarily polynomial splines, for finding the approximate solution. It is a one-step method of  $O(h^{q+r+1})$  in  $y^{(q)}(x)$  and  $z^{(q)}(x)$ ,  $q = 0(1)r+1$  where  $0 < \alpha \leq 1$ , assuming that  $f_1, f_2 \in C^r[a, b]$ ,  $r \in I^+$ .

**Description of the method.** Consider the system of ordinary differential equations

$$(1) \quad y' = f_1(x, y, z), \quad y(x_0) = y_0,$$

$$(2) \quad z' = f_2(x, y, z), \quad z(x_0) = z_0,$$

where  $f_1, f_2 \in C^r([0, 1] \times R^2)$ .

Let  $\Delta$  be the partition

$$\Delta : 0 = x_0 < x_1 < \dots < x_k < x_{k+1} < \dots < x_n = 1$$

where  $x_{k+1} - x_k = h < 1$  and  $k = 0(1)n - 1$ .

Let  $L_1$  and  $L_2$  be the Lipschitz constants satisfied by the functions  $f_1^{(q)}$  and  $f_2^{(q)}$  respectively, i.e.,

$$(3) \quad |f_1^{(q)}(x, y_1, z_1) - f_1^{(q)}(x, y_2, z_2)| \leq L_1\{|y_1 - y_2| + |z_1 - z_2|\},$$

$$(4) \quad |f_2^{(q)}(x, y_1, z_1) - f_2^{(q)}(x, y_2, z_2)| \leq L_2\{|y_1 - y_2| + |z_1 - z_2|\}$$

for all  $(x, y_1, z_1)$  and  $(x, y_2, z_2)$  in the domain of definition of  $f_1$  and  $f_2$  and all  $q = 0(1)r$ .

It should be noted that we use the Lipschitz conditions on  $f_1$  and  $f_2$  to guarantee the existence of a unique solution to problem (1)–(2).

The functions  $f_1^{(q)}$  and  $f_2^{(q)}$ ,  $q = 0(1)r$  are functions of  $x, y$  and  $z$  only and they are given from the following Algorithm :

Let  $f_1^{(0)} = f_1(x, y, z)$ ,

and  $f_2^{(0)} = f_2(x, y, z)$ .

Then, for all  $q = 0(1)r$ ,

$$y^{(q+1)} = \frac{d^q f_1}{dx^q} = f_1^{(q)} = \frac{\partial f_1^{(q-1)}}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial f_1^{(q-1)}}{\partial y} f_1 + \frac{\partial f_1^{(q-1)}}{\partial z} f_2$$

and

$$z^{(a+1)} = \frac{d^a f_2}{dx^a} = f_2^{(a)} = \frac{\partial f_2^{(a-1)}}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial f_2^{(a-1)}}{\partial y} f_1 + \frac{\partial f_2^{(a-1)}}{\partial z} f_2.$$

Then, we define the spline functions approximating the solution  $y(x)$  and  $z(x)$  by  $S_\Delta(x)$  and  $\bar{S}_\Delta(x)$ , where

$$(5) \quad S_\Delta(x) = S_k(x), \quad x_k \leq x \leq x_{k+1}, \quad k = 0(1)n - 1$$

and

$$(6) \quad \bar{S}_\Delta(x) = \bar{S}_k(x), \quad x_k \leq x \leq x_{k+1}, \quad k = 0(1)n - 1.$$

Both  $S_\Delta(x)$  and  $\bar{S}_\Delta(x)$  are given from the following :

$$(7) \quad S_k(x) = S_{k-1}(x_k) + \int_{x_k}^x f_1[t, S_{k-1}(x_k) + \sum_{j=0}^r \frac{(t-x_k)^{j+1}}{(j+1)!} f_1^{(j)}\{x_k, S_{k-1}(x_k), \bar{S}_{k-1}(x_k)\}, \bar{S}_{k-1}(x_k) + \sum_{j=0}^r \frac{(t-x_k)^{j+1}}{(j+1)!} f_2^{(j)}\{x_k, S_{k-1}(x_k), \bar{S}_{k-1}(x_k)\}] dt \dots$$

and

$$(8) \quad \bar{S}_k(x) = \bar{S}_{k-1}(x_k) + \int_{x_k}^x f_2[t, S_{k-1}(x_k) + \sum_{j=0}^r \frac{(t-x_k)^{j+1}}{(j+1)!} f_1^{(j)}\{x_k, S_{k-1}(x_k), \bar{S}_{k-1}(x_k)\}, \bar{S}_{k-1}(x_k) + \sum_{j=0}^r \frac{(t-x_k)^{j+1}}{(j+1)!} f_2^{(j)}\{x_k, \bar{S}_{k-1}(x_k), S_{k-1}(x_k)\}] dt \dots$$

where  $k = 0(1)n - 1$  and  $S_{-1}(x_0) = y_0, \bar{S}_{-1}(x_0) = z_0$ .  
By construction, it is clear that  $S_\Delta(x)$  and  $\bar{S}_\Delta(x) \in C[0, 1]$ .

**Convergence.** We are going to discuss the convergence of these spline approximants.

For all  $x \in [x_k, x_{k+1}]$ ,  $k = 0(1)n - 1$  the exact solutions of (1) and (2) can be written — by means of Taylor's expansions — in the forms :

$$(9) \quad y(x) = y_k + \int_{x_k}^x f_1 \left[ t, \sum_{j=0}^{r+1} \frac{(t-x_k)^j}{j!} y_k^{(j)}, \sum_{j=0}^{r+1} \frac{(t-x_k)^j}{j!} z_k^{(j)} \right] dt$$

and

$$(10) \quad z(x) = z_k + \int_{x_k}^x f_2 \left[ t, \sum_{j=0}^{r+1} \frac{(t-x_k)^j}{j!} y_k^{(j)}, \sum_{j=0}^{r+1} \frac{(t-x_k)^j}{j!} z_k^{(j)} \right] dt,$$

where  $y_k^{(r+1)} = y^{(r+1)}(\xi_k), z_k^{(r+1)} = z^{(r+1)}(\eta_k), \xi_k, \eta_k \in (x_k, x_{k+1})$  and  $k = 0(1)n - 1$ .

First, we estimate  $|y(x) - S_0(x)|$ , where  $x_0 \leq x \leq x_1$ .

Using both (7) and (9) for  $k = 0$  and the Lipschitz condition (3), we get :

$$(11) \quad |y(x) - S_0(x)| \leq L_1 \int_{x_0}^x \left[ |y^{(r+1)}(\xi_0) - y_0^{(r+1)}| + |z^{(r+1)}(\eta_0) - z_0^{(r+1)}| \right] \cdot \frac{|t-x_0|^{r+1}}{(r+1)!} dt$$

$$\leq L_1 \frac{h^{r+2}}{(r+2)!} \{ \omega(y^{(r+1)}, h) + \omega(z^{(r+1)}, h) \} \\ \leq \frac{2L_1}{(r+2)!} h^{r+2} \omega(h) = O(h^{\alpha+r+2})$$

where  $\omega(y^{(r+1)}, h)$  and  $\omega(z^{(r+1)}, h)$  are the moduli of continuity of the functions  $y^{(r+1)}$  and  $z^{(r+1)}$  respectively, and

$$(12) \quad \omega(h) = \max \{ \omega(y^{(r+1)}, h), \omega(z^{(r+1)}, h) \}.$$

Also, we estimate  $|y'(x) - S'_0(x)|$ .

Using both (7) and (9) for  $k = 0$  and making use of (3), we get :

$$(13) \quad |y'(x) - S'_0(x)| \leq L_1 \{ |y^{(r+1)}(\xi_0) - y_0^{(r+1)}| + |z^{(r+1)}(\eta_0) - z_0^{(r+1)}| \} \cdot \frac{|x-x_0|^{r+1}}{(r+1)!} \leq \frac{2L_1}{(r+1)!} h^{r+1} \omega(h) = O(h^{\alpha+r+1})$$

To estimate  $|y''(x) - S''_0(x)|$  we use both (7) and (9) setting  $k = 0$  and the Lipschitz condition (3), so that we get :

$$(14) \quad |y''(x) - S''_0(x)| \leq \frac{2L_1}{(r+1)!} h^{r+1} \omega(h) = O(h^{\alpha+r+1})$$

Moreover, it can be easily shown, for  $q = 3(1)r + 1$ , that :

$$(15) \quad |y^{(q)}(x) - S_0^{(q)}(x)| \leq \frac{2E_1}{(r+1)!} h^{r+1} \omega(h) = O(h^{\alpha+r+1})$$

In a similar manner, using both (8) and (10) for  $k = 0$  and the Lipschitz condition (4), it can be shown, for  $x_0 \leq x \leq x_1$ , that :

$$(16) \quad |z(x) - \bar{S}_0(x)| \leq \frac{2L_2}{(r+2)!} h^{r+2} \omega(h) = O(h^{\alpha+r+2}),$$

and

$$(17) \quad |z^{(i)}(x) - \bar{S}_0^{(i)}(x)| \leq \frac{2L_2}{(r+1)!} h^{r+1} \omega(h) = O(h^{\alpha+r+1}),$$

where  $i = 1(1)r + 1$ .

In what follows we deal with the general subinterval  $I_k = [x_k, x_{k+1}]$ ,  $k = 1(1)n - 1$ .

Using (7), (9) and the Lipschitz condition (3), we get:

$$(18) \quad |y(x) - S_k(x)| \leq |y_k - S_{k-1}(x_k)| + L_1 \int_{x_k}^x [|y_k - S_{k-1}(x_k)| + \\ + \sum_{j=0}^{r-1} \frac{|t - x_k|^{j+1}}{(j+1)!} |y_k^{(j+1)} - f_1^{(j)}\{x_k, S_{k-1}(x_k), \\ \bar{S}_{k-1}(x_k)\}| + \frac{|t - x_k|^{r+1}}{(r+1)!} |y^{(r+1)}(\xi_k) - f_1^{(r)}\{x_k, S_{k-1}(x_k), \bar{S}_{k-1}(x_k)\}| + \\ + |z_k - \bar{S}_{k-1}(x_k)| + \sum_{j=0}^{r-1} \frac{|t - x_k|^{j+1}}{(j+1)!} |z_k^{(j+1)} - f_2^{(j)}\{x_k, S_{k-1}(x_k), \bar{S}_{k-1}(x_k)\}| + \\ + \frac{|t - x_k|^{r+1}}{(r+1)!} |z^{(r+1)}(\eta_k) - f_2^{(r)}\{x_k, S_{k-1}(x_k), \bar{S}_{k-1}(x_k)\}|] dt$$

Not, let

$$U_1 = |y_k^{(j+1)} - f_1^{(j)}\{x_k, S_{k-1}(x_k), \bar{S}_{k-1}(x_k)\}|. \quad (19)$$

Then, using the Lipschitz condition (3), we get:

$$(19) \quad U_1 \leq |f_1^{(j)}(x_k, y_k, z_k) - f_1^{(j)}\{x_k, S_{k-1}(x_k), \bar{S}_{k-1}(x_k)\}| \\ \leq L_1[|y_k - S_{k-1}(x_k)| + |z_k - \bar{S}_{k-1}(x_k)|]. \quad (20)$$

Using the fact that  $S_\Delta(x) \in C[0, 1]$ ,  $\bar{S}_\Delta(x) \in C[0, 1]$  and the notations:

$$(20) \quad e(x) = |y(x) - S_k(x)| \\ e_k(x) = |y_k - S_k(x_k)| \\ \bar{e}(x) = |z(x) - \bar{S}_k(x)|, \\ \bar{e}_k(x) = |z_k - \bar{S}_k(x_k)| \quad (21)$$

then, (19) becomes

$$(21) \quad U_1 \leq L_1(e_k + \bar{e}_k).$$

Similarly, if we let

$$V_1 = |y^{(r+1)}(\xi_k) - f_1^{(r)}\{x_k, S_{k-1}(x_k), \bar{S}_{k-1}(x_k)\}|.$$

Then,

$$(22) \quad V_1 \leq |y^{(r+1)}(\xi_k) - y_k^{r+1}| + |f_1^{(r)}(x_k, y_k, z_k) - \\ - f_1^{(r)}\{x_k, S_{k-1}(x_k), \bar{S}_{k-1}(x_k)\}| \leq \omega(y^{(r+1)}, h) + L_1(e_k + \bar{e}_k)$$

Thus, using the same procedure, it can be easily shown that:

$$(23) \quad U_2 \equiv |z_k^{(j+1)} - f_2^{(j)}\{x_k, S_{k-1}(x_k), \bar{S}_{k-1}(x_k)\}| \leq L_2(e_k + \bar{e}_k),$$

and

$$(24) \quad V_2 \equiv |z^{(r+1)}(\eta_k) - f_2^{(r)}\{x_k, S_{k-1}(x_k), \bar{S}_{k-1}(x_k)\}| \leq \omega(z^{(r+1)}, h) + \\ + L_2(e_k + \bar{e}_k)$$

Using (18-24), we easily get:

$$(25) \quad e(x) \equiv |y(x) - S_k(x)| \leq e_k + L_1 \left[ h e_k + L_1(e_k + \bar{e}_k) \sum_{j=0}^{r-1} \frac{h^{j+2}}{(j+2)!} + \right. \\ \left. + \frac{h^{r+2}}{(r+2)!} \{\omega(y^{(r+1)}, h) + L_1(e_k + \bar{e}_k)\} + h \bar{e}_k + \right. \\ \left. + L_2(e_k + \bar{e}_k) \sum_{j=0}^{r-1} \frac{h^{j+2}}{(j+2)!} + \frac{h^{r+2}}{(r+2)!} \{\omega(z^{(r+1)}, h) + L_2(e_k + \bar{e}_k)\} \right]$$

Noting that

$$\sum_{j=0}^{r-1} \frac{h^{j+1}}{(j+2)!} \leq e^h - 1 < e - 1$$

then, we can easily get:

$$(26) \quad e(x) \leq (1 + c_0 h) e_k + c_0 h \bar{e}_k + 2L_1 \frac{h^{r+2}}{(r+2)!} \omega(h)$$

where  $c_0 = L_1 + L_1^2(e - 1) + \frac{L_1^2}{(r+2)!} + L_1 L_2(e - 1) + \frac{L_1 L_2}{(r+2)!}$ , is a constant independent of  $h$ .

Similarly, using (8), (10) and the Lipschitz condition (4), we can see that:

$$(27) \quad \bar{e}(x) \leq c_1 h e_k + (1 + c_1 h) \bar{e}_k + 2L_2 \frac{h^{r+2}}{(r+2)!} \omega(h)$$

where  $c_1 = L_2 + L_2^2(e - 1) + \frac{L_2^2}{(r+2)!} + L_1 L_2(e - 1) + \frac{L_1 L_2}{(r+2)!}$ , is a constant independent of  $h$ .

To complete the proof of the convergence, we use the matrix inequality which is given in the following definition.

*Definition.* Let  $A = [a_{ij}]$ ,  $B = [b_{ij}]$  be two matrices of the same order; then we say that  $A \leq B$  iff

(i) both  $a_{ij}$  and  $b_{ij}$  are non-negative.

(ii)  $a_{ij} \leq b_{ij} \quad \forall i, j$ .

In view of this definition, and if we use the matrix notations

$$E(x) = (e(x) \quad \bar{e}(x))^T$$

$$E_k = (e_k \quad \bar{e}_k)^T, \quad k = 0(1)n - 1$$

we can write the estimations (26) and (27) in the form :

$$E_{k+1} \leq \begin{pmatrix} 1 + c_0 h & c_0 h \\ c_1 h & 1 + c_1 h \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} e_k \\ \bar{e}_k \end{pmatrix} + 2 \frac{h^{r+2}}{(r+2)!} \omega(h) \begin{pmatrix} L_1 \\ L_2 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Thus,

$$(28) \quad E_{k+1} \leq (I + hA)E_k + \frac{2h^{r+2}}{(r+2)!} \omega(h) B,$$

where  $A = \begin{pmatrix} c_0 & c_0 \\ c_1 & c_1 \end{pmatrix}$ ,  $B = \begin{pmatrix} L_1 \\ L_2 \end{pmatrix}$  and  $I$  is the identity matrix of order 2.

Now, we give the following definition of the matrix norm :

Let  $T = [t_{ij}]$  be an  $m \times n$  matrix ; then we define :

$$\|T\| = \max_{i,j} |t_{ij}|.$$

Using this definition, we get :

$$(29) \quad \|E_k\| = \max (e_k, \bar{e}_k), \quad k = 0(1)n - 1.$$

Since (28) is valid for all  $x[x_k, x_{k+1}]$ ,  $k=0(1)n-1$ , then the following inequalities hold true :

$$\|E(x)\| \leq (1 + h\|A\|) \|E_k\| + \frac{2h^{r+2}}{(r+2)!} \omega(h) \|B\|$$

$$(1 + h\|A\|) \|E_k\| \leq (1 + h\|A\|)^2 \|E_{k-1}\| + \frac{2h^{r+2}}{(r+2)!} \omega(h) (1 + h\|A\|) \|B\|$$

$$(1 + h\|A\|)^2 \|E_{k-1}\| \leq (1 + h\|A\|)^3 \|E_{k-2}\| + \frac{2h^{r+2}}{(r+2)!} \omega(h) (1 + h\|A\|)^2 \|B\|$$

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$$(1 + h\|A\|)^k \|E_1\| \leq (1 + h\|A\|)^{k+1} \|E_0\| + \frac{2h^{r+2}}{(r+2)!} \omega(h) (1 + h\|A\|)^k \|B\|$$

Adding L.H.S. and R.H.S. in these inequalities, and noting that  $\|E_0\| = 0$ , we get :

$$(30) \quad \|E(x)\| \leq c_2 h^{r+1} \omega(h),$$

where  $c_2 = \frac{2\|B\| e_{\|A\|}}{(r+2)! \|A\|}$  is a constant independent of  $h$ .

By definition (29), it follows that :

$$(31) \quad e(x) \leq c_2 h^{r+1} \omega(h) = O(h^{\alpha+r+1}),$$

and

$$(32) \quad \bar{e}(x) \leq c_2 h^{r+1} \omega(h) = O(h^{\alpha+r+1}).$$

We now estimate  $|y'(x) - S'_k(x)|$ . Thus, using (7), (9) and the Lipschitz conditions (3-4), we get :

$$(33) \quad e'(x) = |y'(x) - S'_k(x)| \leq c_3(e_k + \bar{e}_k) + 2L_1 \frac{h^{r+1}}{(r+1)!} \omega(h)$$

where  $c_3 = L_1 + L_1^2(e-1) + \frac{L_1^2}{(r+1)!} + L_1 L_2(e-1) + \frac{L_1 L_2}{(r+1)!}$  is a constant independent of  $h$ .

On using inequalities (31) and (32) into inequality (33), we easily get :

$$(34) \quad e'(x) \leq c_4 h^{r+1} \omega(h) = O(h^{\alpha+r+1})$$

where  $c_4 = 2c_2 c_3 + \frac{2L_1}{(r+1)!}$  is a constant independent of  $h$ .

In a similar manner, we estimate  $|z'(x) - \bar{S}'_k(x)|$ .

From (8), (10) and using the Lipschitz conditions (3-4), we get :

$$(35) \quad \bar{e}'(x) = |z'(x) - \bar{S}'_k(x)| \leq c_5(e_k + \bar{e}_k) + 2L_2 \frac{h^{r+1}}{(r+1)!} \omega(h)$$

where  $c_5 = L_2 + L_1 L_2(e-1) + \frac{L_1 L_2}{(r+1)!} + L_2^2(e-1) + \frac{L_2^2}{(r+1)!}$  is a constant independent of  $h$ .

Using inequalities (31) and (32), inequality (35) becomes :

$$(36) \quad \bar{e}'(x) \leq c_6 h^{r+1} \omega(h) = O(h^{\alpha+r+1})$$

where  $c_6 = 2c_2 c_5 + \frac{2L_2}{(r+1)!}$  is a constant independent of  $h$ .

Using (3), (4), (31), (32), (34) and (36) we easily get for all  $i = 2(1)r+1$ .

$$(37) \quad |y^{(i)}(x) - S_k^{(i)}(x)| \leq c^* h^{r+1} \omega(h) = O(h^{\alpha+r+1})$$

and

$$(38) \quad |z^{(i)}(x) - \bar{S}_k^{(i)}(x)| \leq \bar{c}^* h^{r+1} \omega(h) = O(h^{\alpha+r+1})$$

where  $c^*$  and  $\bar{c}^*$  are constants independent of  $h$ .

Thus, we have proved the following

**THEOREM.** Let  $S_\Delta(x)$  and  $\bar{S}_\Delta(x)$  be the approximate solutions to problem (1)-(2) given by equations (7-8), and let  $f_1, f_2 \in C^r([x_0, x_n] \times R^2)$ .

Then, for all  $x \in [x_0, x_1]$  we have :

$$|y(x) - S_0(x)| \leq \frac{2L_1}{(r+2)!} h^{r+2} \omega(h),$$

$$|y^{(j)}(x) - S_0^{(j)}(x)| \leq \frac{2L_1}{(r+1)!} h^{r+1} \omega(h), \quad j = 1(1)r \times 1$$

$$|z(x) - \bar{S}_0(x)| \leq \frac{2L_2}{(r+2)!} h^{r+2} \omega(h)$$

and

$$|z^{(j)}(x) - \bar{S}_0^{(j)}(x)| \leq \frac{2L_2}{(r+1)!} h^{r+1}\omega(h), \quad j = 1(1)r+1$$

and for all  $x \in [x_k, x_{k+1}]$ ,  $k = 1(1)n-1$  we have:

$$|y^{(j)}(x) - S_k^{(j)}(x)| \leq Ch^{r+1}\omega(h), \quad j = 0(1)r+1$$

and

$$|z^{(j)}(x) - \bar{S}_k^{(j)}(x)| \leq Kh^{r+1}\omega(h), \quad j = 0(1)r+1,$$

where  $C$  and  $K$  are constants independent of  $h$ .

**Numerical example.** Consider the following system of differential equations:

$$\begin{aligned} y' &= y + z - x - x^2 - e^{2x}, \\ z' &= 2y + 2z - 2e^x - 2x^2 - 2, \quad y(0) = 1, \quad z(0) = 2. \end{aligned}$$

The method is tested using this example in the interval  $[0,1]$  with step size  $h = 0.1$  where  $r = 0$  and  $1$ .

The analytical solution is:

$$y(x) = e^x + x,$$

$$z(x) = e^{2x} + x^2 + 1.$$

The results tabulated below are evaluated at the point  $0.25$ .

	Analytical value	Numerical value	Absolute error
$y$	1.534025417	$r=0$	1.530346203
		$r=1$	1.533906117
$z$	2.711221271	$r=0$	2.70386284
		$r=1$	2.710982672
$y'$	2.284025417	$r=0$	2.261907185
		$r=1$	2.283397416
$z'$	3.797442543	$r=0$	3.753206079
		$r=1$	3.796186541
$y''$	1.284025155	$r=1$	1.282951722
$z''$	8.594884559	$r=1$	8.59273769

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Received 15.IX.1985

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