TECHNICAL NOTES AND SHORT PAPERS

Tests of Parlett's ALGOL Eigenvalue Procedure Eig 3

By George E. Forsythe

The ALGOL eigenvalue procedure Eig 3 in Section 14 of Parlett [1] was transcribed into Extended Algol [2] for the Burroughs B 5000 and used to obtain the eigenvalues of several matrices.

The procedures were altered as follows:

1. Formal changes were made to conform to the Burroughs character set for ALGOL. For example,
   a. All lower case letters were changed to capitals.
   b. As a result, the label L in procedure Triangle was changed to LL, to avoid conflict with the integer l.
   c. V was changed to OR.
2. Two minor changes were made to conform to syntactic differences between B 5000 ALGOL and true ALGOL:
   a. Each label was declared in the head of its innermost block.
   b. The heading of procedure Evaluate was deleted. The body was labeled Hy, and this block was substituted for Parlett's procedure statement labeled Hy.
   c. The procedure mod was deleted, and the expression mod (j - 1, 3) was replaced by (J - 1) MOD 3, valid in B 5000 ALGOL.
3. To complete the program ALGOL bodies were written for the procedures comsqrt and scale.
4. In the absence of an overflow procedure, overflow was changed to a local Boolean variable in the body of procedure Laguerre, but set permanently to false.
5. Two irrelevant types of change were made in certain expressions:
   a. In some places a factor like y² was changed to y X y.
   b. Some inequalities of form a > b were reversed to read b < a.
6. The texts of some comments were changed.

In the absence of overflow none of these changes should affect the program at all. Separate run-time indications assured us that we did not have overflow.

The B 5000 procedure EIG 3 was used to obtain the eigenvalues of matrices A and B in Section 14 of Parlett [1]. All computed eigenvalues were correct to within 2 × 10⁻⁷. The compiling time from a card-deck input was approximately 43 seconds, including a test program. The running time was approximately 8 seconds for each matrix, excluding output time.

James Varah of Stanford University used EIG 3 to obtain the eigenvalues of 100 matrices of order 10 generated in a certain random manner. For each matrix,
the trace was compared with the sum of the computed eigenvalues, and found to
differ by only a few units in the last place.

A copy of the B 5000 program and its output have been deposited in the UMT
file.

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Differential Approximation Applied to the
Solution of Convolution Equations

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1. Introduction. In the course of constructing some mathematical models of
physiological processes connected with cancer chemotherapy [1], we have encoun-
tered functional equations containing convolution terms. Equations of this type
are unpleasant computationally because of the storage, and thus time, requirements
for solution. In some cases, these storage requirements could exceed present capabili-
ties and thus seriously impede numerical solution.

We wish to present a new approach to this problem using the technique of
differential approximation. To illustrate the method, we shall consider the equation

\[ u(t) = f(t) + \int_0^t e^{-|t-s|} u(s) \, ds. \]  

2. Polynomial Approximation and Extensions. A classical problem, which owes
its inception to a control process associated with the Watt steam engine (see [2]),
is that of obtaining a polynomial which deviates the least from a given function,
where the deviation is measured by an assigned norm.

If we recognize that a polynomial \( p_n(t) = a_0 + a_1 t + \cdots + a_n t^n \) is a solution of
the linear differential equation

\[ \frac{d^{n+1} u}{dt^{n+1}} = 0, \]
then we see immediately that this problem is a particular case of the more general
problem of finding an equation

\[ \frac{d^{n+1} u}{dt^{n+1}} + a_1(t) \frac{d^n u}{dt^n} + \cdots + a_n(t) u = 0, \]

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