

## One-Step Piecewise Polynomial Multiple Collocation Methods for Initial Value Problems

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**Abstract.** New methods are proposed for the numerical solution of systems of first-order differential equations. On each subinterval of a given mesh of size  $h$ , a polynomial of degree  $l$  is constructed, its parameters being determined by a multiple collocation technique. The resulting piecewise polynomial approximation is of order  $O(h^{l+1})$  at the mesh points and between them. In addition, the  $j$ th derivatives of the approximation on each subinterval provide approximations of order  $O(h^{l+1-j})$ ,  $j = 1, \dots, l$ . Some of the methods proposed are shown to be  $A$ -stable or even strongly  $A$ -stable.

**1. Introduction.** Recently, “semidiscrete” Galerkin techniques have received considerable attention for the approximate solution of evolution equations. See, for example, [25], [10], [24], [12]. When the space variables have been integrated out, one typically has to solve a system of nonlinear differential equations. Since the space basis functions are usually taken of the finite element type, i.e. they are piecewise polynomials with local support, a more comprehensive treatment would be achieved by approximating the time behavior also by piecewise polynomials, in order to get a fully piecewise polynomial approximation.

In this paper, we develop new one-step methods for systems of nonlinear first-order ordinary differential equations. Our basic idea is to find local  $l$ th degree polynomial approximations on each subinterval of a given mesh, the free parameters being determined by a multiple collocation technique based on the two-point Taylor interpolation formula. The resulting approximations are piecewise-continuous and, when combined with “semidiscrete” Galerkin methods, they provide fully piecewise-continuous approximations to initial-boundary value problems. Earlier uses of piecewise polynomials for systems of ODE’s may be found in [21], [22], [29], [16], [7], [17], [18], [6], [1], [2]. Finite elements in space and time have been proposed in [23], [3], [30], [31], [5], [20], [27].

In Section 2, we introduce our multiple collocation techniques. Section 3 is devoted to the derivation of order of convergence results. Section 4 examines the stability properties of the proposed schemes while Section 5 exhibits some numerical results. Preliminary results have been reported in [13] and [14]. In our presentation, we shall follow [17], [18] because of the similarity in the methods. The novelty in our schemes is that, instead of collocating at distinct abscissas in each subinterval as in

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[17], [18], we allow the collocation points to coalesce at both ends of the subinterval, providing multiple collocation at the meshpoints. After this work was completed, a manuscript by J. Descloux and N. Nassif, in which similar methods are developed independently, has been brought to our attention (N. Nassif, personal communication, 1975).

**2. Piecewise Polynomial Multiple Collocation Methods.** Let us consider the solution of the following nonlinear first-order differential equation

$$(1) \quad Y'(t) = f(Y(t), t), \quad t \in [t_0, t_N],$$

subject to the initial condition

$$(2) \quad Y(0) = Y_0.$$

Although a single equation is considered, the methods and theorems which will be presented carry over to systems of first-order equations. We assume that  $f(Y, t)$  is of class  $C^k$ ,  $k \geq 0$ , over  $R \times [t_0, t_N]$  so that the exact solution  $Y(t) \in C^{k+1}[t_0, t_N]$ . Moreover  $f$  and some of its derivatives (as we shall see later) are supposed to satisfy a Lipschitz condition over the same domain.

For the sake of simplicity, let  $\Pi: t_i = ih$ ,  $i = 0, \dots, N$ , be a uniform mesh of meshsize  $h$ , although a variable mesh  $\Pi$  could have been considered without affecting our arguments. Then, over each subinterval of  $\Pi$ , we may approximate  $Y(t)$  by a polynomial  $Y_{p,q}(t)$  of degree  $l$  ( $l \geq 0$ )

$$(3) \quad Y(t) \simeq Y_{p,q}(t), \quad t \in [t_i, t_{i+1}], \quad i = 0, \dots, N-1,$$

uniquely and completely determined by  $(l+1)$  parameters which are its value and its successive derivatives up to order  $(p-1)$  at  $t = t_i$  (if  $p > 0$ ) and up to order  $(q-1)$  at  $t = t_{i+1}$  (if  $q > 0$ ), with  $p+q = l+1$ ,  $p, q \geq 0$ . Actually, we have

$$(4) \quad Y_{p,q}(t) = (t-t_i)^p \sum_{r=0}^{q-1} \frac{B_r(t-t_{i+1})^r}{r!} + (t-t_{i+1})^q \sum_{s=0}^{p-1} \frac{A_s(t-t_i)^s}{s!},$$

with

$$(5) \quad A_s = \frac{d^s}{dt^s} \left[ \frac{Y_{p,q}(t)}{(t-t_{i+1})^q} \right]_{t=t_i},$$

and

$$(6) \quad B_r = \frac{d^r}{dt^r} \left[ \frac{Y_{p,q}(t)}{(t-t_i)^p} \right]_{t=t_{i+1}}.$$

Equation (4) is a trivial extension of the two-point Taylor formula [8, p. 37]. The parameters  $A_s$  and  $B_r$  given by Eqs. (5) and (6) are linear combinations of the successive derivatives of  $Y_{p,q}(t)$  at  $t = t_i$  and  $t_{i+1}$ . These derivatives may be eliminated at

both ends of the interval by multiple collocation using the original Eq. (1), namely

$$(7) \quad Y_{p,q}^{(s)}(t_i) = f^{(s-1)}(Y_{p,q}(t_i), t_i), \quad s = 1, \dots, p-1 \quad (\text{with } p \geq 2),$$

and

$$(8) \quad Y_{p,q}^{(r)}(t_{i+1}) = f^{(r-1)}(Y_{p,q}(t_{i+1}), t_{i+1}), \quad r = 1, \dots, q-1 \quad (\text{with } q \geq 2).$$

This is only possible if  $f$  is smooth enough, i.e. if  $k \geq \max(p, q) - 2$ . This condition might seem somewhat restrictive: actually, it is sufficient that it be satisfied in a piecewise sense and in particular over each subinterval of  $\pi$ , which is much less restrictive.

As a consequence of the collocation conditions (7) and (8), there remain at most two parameters in the expression (4) of  $Y_{p,q}(t)$ , namely  $Y_{i+1} \equiv Y_{p,q}(t_{i+1})$  and (eventually)  $Y_{p,q}(t_i)$ : indeed, for reasons that will be explained later, we shall usually restrict ourselves to the cases  $q = p$ ,  $q = p + 1$  or  $q = p + 2$  so that  $Y_{p,q}(t_i)$  will appear explicitly in the expression of  $Y_{p,q}(t)$  except for  $l = 0, p = 0, q = 1$  and  $l = 1, p = 0, q = 2$ . If  $Y_{p,q}(t_i)$  appears explicitly, its value  $Y_i$  is known either from the initial condition ( $i = 0$ ) or from integration over the previous interval  $[t_{i-1}, t_i]$ ,  $i = 1, \dots, N-1$ , while  $Y_{i+1}$  is obtained by integration of Eq. (1) over  $[t_i, t_{i+1}]$ :

$$(9) \quad Y_{i+1} = Y_i + \int_{t_i}^{t_{i+1}} dt f(Y_{p,q}(t), t), \quad i = 0, \dots, N-1,$$

where  $Y_{p,q}(t) = Y_{p,q}(Y_i, Y_{i+1}, t)$ .

To obtain a computational form of (9), it is necessary to perform a numerical quadrature, unless the integral may be evaluated analytically. In general, we shall use an  $n$ -point quadrature formula of the form:

$$(10) \quad \int_{t_i}^{t_{i+1}} f(Y_{p,q}(t), t) dt \cong h \sum_{j=1}^n w_j f(Y_{p,q}(\tau_{ij}), \tau_{ij}) + O(h^{m+2}),$$

$$(11) \quad \tau_{ij} = t_i + \theta_j h, \quad j = 1, \dots, n,$$

where  $w_j$  and  $\theta_j$  are weights and abscissae for  $[0, 1]$ . No matter what quadrature formula we choose, it should be accurate enough, i.e. in general  $k \geq m \geq l$ . As a result, (9) becomes a nonlinear equation in the only unknown  $Y_{i+1}$ :

$$(12) \quad Y_{i+1} = Y_i + h \sum_{j=1}^n w_j f(Y_{p,q}(\tau_{ij}), \tau_{ij}),$$

since  $Y_{p,q}(\tau_{ij})$  is a function of  $Y_i$  and  $Y_{i+1}$  only. (12) defines thus a class of discrete one-step integration methods depending on which quadrature formula is used.

The existence of a unique solution to (12) is guaranteed for  $h$  sufficiently small by the following argument. First of all,

$$(13) \quad \begin{aligned} |Y_{i+1} - Y_{i+1}^*| &= h \left| \sum_{j=1}^n w_j (f(Y_{p,q}(\tau_{ij}), \tau_{ij}) - f(Y_{p,q}^*(\tau_{ij}), \tau_{ij})) \right| \\ &\leq hL \sum_{j=1}^n |w_j| |Y_{p,q}(\tau_{ij}) - Y_{p,q}^*(\tau_{ij})|, \end{aligned}$$

where  $L$  is the Lipschitz constant for  $f$  over  $R \times [t_0, t_N]$ .

Let us rewrite (4) as

$$(14) \quad Y_{p,q}(t) = \sum_{r=0}^{q-1} P_{p,q}^r(t) Y_{p,q}^{(r)}(t_{i+1}) + \sum_{s=0}^{p-1} Q_{p,q}^s(t) Y_{p,q}^{(s)}(t_i),$$

where  $P_{p,q}^r(t)$  and  $Q_{p,q}^s(t) \in P_I$ . Similarly,

$$Y_{p,q}^*(t) = \sum_{r=0}^{q-1} P_{p,q}^r(t) Y_{p,q}^{*(r)}(t_{i+1}) + \sum_{s=0}^{p-1} Q_{p,q}^s(t) Y_{p,q}^{(s)}(t_i),$$

so that

$$Y_{p,q}(t) - Y_{p,q}^*(t) = \sum_{r=0}^{q-1} P_{p,q}^r(t) (Y_{p,q}^{(r)}(t_{i+1}) - Y_{p,q}^{*(r)}(t_{i+1})),$$

and

$$(15) \quad \begin{aligned} |Y_{p,q}(\tau_{ij}) - Y_{p,q}^*(\tau_{ij})| &\leq \sum_{r=0}^{q-1} |P_{p,q}^r(\tau_{ij})| |Y_{p,q}^{(r)}(t_{i+1}) - Y_{p,q}^{*(r)}(t_{i+1})| \\ &\leq \left( P_0 + \sum_{r=1}^{q-1} P_r L_r \right) |Y_{i+1} - Y_{i+1}^*|, \end{aligned}$$

with

$$(16) \quad P_r = \max_{t \in [t_i, t_{i+1}]} |P_{p,q}^r(t)|, \quad r = 0, \dots, q-1,$$

while  $L_r$  is the Lipschitz constant (supposed to exist) for  $f^{(r-1)}$  over  $R \times [t_0, t_N]$  with in particular  $L_1 \equiv L$ . Using (15), (13) becomes

$$|Y_{i+1} - Y_{i+1}^*| \leq hL \left( \sum_{j=1}^n |w_j| \right) \left( P_0 + \sum_{r=1}^{q-1} P_r L_r \right) |Y_{i+1} - Y_{i+1}^*|,$$

so that the right side of (12) appears to be a contraction mapping on  $R$  when

$$h < h_0 \left\{ L \left( \sum_{j=1}^n |w_j| \right) \left( P_0 + \sum_{r=1}^{q-1} P_r L_r \right) \right\}^{-1}.$$

A successive substitution iteration would consequently converge to the unique solution of (12). However, we should mention that for practical purposes a Newton-Raphson type technique would be much more efficient in presence of large Lipschitz constants, i.e. for stiff equations.

**3. Orders of Convergence.** In this section, discrete and continuous error bounds are derived for the methods developed hereinabove. Discrete error bounds are obtained from Henrici's theory of discrete one-step methods [15, Chapter 2]. Continuous error bounds are then obtained from the discrete ones.

First of all, in order for Henrici's theory to apply, we must show that the increment function  $h \times \sum_{j=1}^n w_j f(Y_{p,q}(\tau_{ij}), \tau_{ij})$  is Lipschitz continuous with respect to  $Y_i$  over  $R \times [t_0, t_N]$ . This can be easily done by repeating the argument given at the end of Section 2 with  $Y_i$  instead of  $Y_{i+1}$ .

Then, we may prove

**THEOREM 1.** *Assume that  $f(Y, t)$  is of class  $C^k$ ,  $k \geq l$ , over  $R \times [t_0, t_N]$ , and let the multiple collocation method be defined as in Section 2 for some polynomials  $Y_{p,q}(t)$  of degree  $l$ . Then, there exists a constant  $C$  such that*

$$(17) \quad |Y(t_i) - Y_i| \leq Ch^{l+1}, \quad i = 0, \dots, N.$$

*Proof.* We shall follow the same general method of proof as for Theorems 1 of [17], [18], except that we define the local truncation error differently, thereby correcting a technical error that exists in Hulme's proofs of the order of convergence of his methods, although his conclusions are correct. Indeed, the local truncation error is defined by

$$\tau_i = \int_{t_i}^{t_{i+1}} f(Y(t), t) dt - h \sum_{j=1}^n w_j f(Y_{p,q}(\tau_{ij}), \tau_{ij}),$$

where in the last term  $Y_i = Y(t_i)$ . Thus,

$$\begin{aligned} \tau_i &= \int_{t_i}^{t_{i+1}} f(Y(t), t) dt - \int_{t_i}^{t_{i+1}} f(Y_{p,q}(t), t) dt \\ &\quad + \int_{t_i}^{t_{i+1}} f(Y_{p,q}(t), t) dt - h \sum_{j=1}^n w_j f(Y_{p,q}(\tau_{ij}), \tau_{ij}), \end{aligned}$$

and

$$(18) \quad |\tau_i| \leq \left| \int_{t_i}^{t_{i+1}} (f(Y(t), t) - f(Y_{p,q}(t), t)) dt \right| + O(h^{m+2}),$$

in virtue of (10). Moreover,

$$\begin{aligned} &\left| \int_{t_i}^{t_{i+1}} (f(Y(t), t) - f(Y_{p,q}(t), t)) dt \right| \\ &\leq \int_{t_i}^{t_{i+1}} |f(Y(t), t) - f(Y_{p,q}(t), t)| dt \leq L \int_{t_i}^{t_{i+1}} |Y(t) - Y_{p,q}(t)| dt. \end{aligned}$$

To analyze this term, let us make use of the fact that whenever  $f$  is independent of  $Y$  and  $f \in \mathcal{P}_{l-1}$ , the exact solution  $Y \in \mathcal{P}_l$  and  $Y(t) \equiv Y_{p,q}(t)$  over any interval. This follows because the quadrature (10) is exact for polynomials of degree  $m \geq l$  so that  $Y(t_{i+1}) = Y_{i+1}$  if  $Y(t_i) = Y_i$ . Over each interval  $Y(t)$  and  $Y_{p,q}(t)$  are thus polynomials of degree  $l$  satisfying the same interpolation conditions (7) and (8). By uniqueness, they are consequently equivalent, so that  $L(Y) \equiv Y(t) - Y_{p,q}(t)$  is a linear functional of  $Y$ , equal to zero for all polynomials of degree  $l$ . It is a straightforward application of the Peano kernel theorem [8] that

$$L(Y) = \frac{1}{l!} L_t \int_{t_i}^{t_{i+1}} Y^{(l+1)}(x)(t-x)_+^l dx,$$

where

$$(t-x)_+^l \equiv \begin{cases} (t-x)^l, & t \geq x, \\ 0, & t < x, \end{cases}$$

and  $L_t$  means the linear functional  $L$  applied to the expression

$$\int_{t_i}^{t_{i+1}} Y^{(l+1)}(x)(t-x)_+^l dx,$$

considered as a function of  $t$ . As a consequence,

$$(19) \quad \|Y(t) - Y_{p,q}(t)\|_{L^\infty[t_i, t_{i+1}]} \leq C_i h^{l+1},$$

where  $C_i$  is some constant depending on  $\|Y^{(l+1)}\|_{L^\infty[t_i, t_{i+1}]}$ , and

$$\int_{t_i}^{t_{i+1}} |Y(t) - Y_{p,q}(t)| dt$$

is thus of  $O(h^{l+2})$ . From (18) and (19),  $|\tau_i| \leq Ch^{l+2}$ , where we used the fact that  $m \geq l$ . The bound (17) follows immediately from Henrici's Theorem 2.2 [15]. Q.E.D.

Continuous error bounds are given by

**THEOREM 2.** *With the hypotheses of Theorem 1, there exist constants  $C_j$ ,  $j = 0, \dots, l$ , such that*

$$(20) \quad \|Y^{(j)}(t) - Y_{p,q}^{(j)}(t)\|_{L^\infty[t_i, t_{i+1}]} \leq C_j h^{l+1-j}.$$

*Proof.* Using the same two-point Taylor interpolation formula (4) for  $Y(t)$  as for  $Y_{p,q}(t)$ , we have

$$(21) \quad Y(t) = \sum_{r=0}^{q-1} P_{p,q}^r(t) Y^{(r)}(t_{i+1}) + \sum_{s=0}^{p-1} Q_{p,q}^s(t) Y^{(s)}(t_i) + R_l(t), \quad t \in [t_i, t_{i+1}],$$

where  $R_l(t) = O(h^{l+1})$ . Subtracting (14) from (21), we get

$$(22) \quad \begin{aligned} |Y(t) - Y_{p,q}(t)| &\leq \sum_{r=0}^{q-1} |P_{p,q}^r(t)| |Y^{(r)}(t_{i+1}) - Y_{p,q}^{(r)}(t_{i+1})| \\ &\quad + \sum_{s=0}^{p-1} |Q_{p,q}^s(t)| |Y^{(s)}(t_i) - Y_{p,q}^{(s)}(t_i)| + O(h^{l+1}) \\ &\leq \left( P_0 + \sum_{r=1}^{q-1} P_r L_r \right) |Y(t_{i+1}) - Y_{i+1}| \\ &\quad + \left( Q_0 + \sum_{s=0}^{p-1} Q_s L_s \right) |Y(t_i) - Y_i| + O(h^{l+1}), \end{aligned}$$

where  $L_r$  is again the Lipschitz constant for  $f^{(r-1)}$  over  $R \times [t_0, t_N]$ ,  $P_r$  is given by (16) and  $Q_s$  is defined similarly by

$$Q_s = \max_{t \in [t_i, t_{i+1}]} |Q_{p,q}^s(t)|, \quad s = 0, \dots, p-1.$$

The bound (20) for  $j = 0$  is then a direct consequence from (19) and (22). For  $j \neq 0$ , let us differentiate (14) and (21)  $j$  times before subtracting; using  $R_l^{(j)}(t) = O(h^{l+1-j})$ , we get

$$\begin{aligned}
|Y^{(j)}(t) - Y_{p,q}^{(j)}(t)| &\leq \sum_{r=0}^{q-1} |P_{p,q}^{(r)}(t)| |Y^{(r)}(t_{i+1}) - Y_{p,q}^{(r)}(t_{i+1})| \\
&\quad + \sum_{s=0}^{q-1} |Q_{p,q}^{(j)}(t)| |Y^{(s)}(t_i) - Y_{p,q}^{(s)}(t_i)| \\
&\quad + O(h^{l+1-j}), \quad j = 1, \dots, l.
\end{aligned}$$

A similar argument to the one given hereinabove leads directly to the bounds (20) for  $j \neq 0$ . Q.E.D.

Except for the approximations  $p = 0, q = 1$  and  $p = 0, q = 2$  for which  $Y_{p,q}(t_i)$  does not appear explicitly in (4) and is therefore not necessarily equal to  $Y_i$ , the approximation  $Y_{p,q}(t)$  of  $Y(t)$  is continuous over  $[t_0, t_N]$  and we have:

**THEOREM 3.** *With the hypotheses of Theorem 1 and if  $p \geq 1$  there exists a constant  $C$  such that*

$$(23) \quad \|Y(t) - Y_{p,q}(t)\|_{L^\infty[t_0, t_N]} \leq Ch^{l+1}.$$

*Proof.* The bound (23) follows directly from Theorem 2 and the fact that  $Y_{p,q}(t)$  is  $C^0[t_0, t_N]$ . Q.E.D.

**4. Stability Properties.** When applied to the test equation  $Y' = \lambda Y$ , the methods of Section 2 give

$$(24) \quad Y_{i+1} = R_{pq}(h\lambda)Y_i,$$

with  $R_{pq}(h\lambda) = P_p(h\lambda)/Q_q(h\lambda)$ ,  $P_p(\mu)$  and  $Q_q(\mu)$  being polynomials in  $\mu$  of degree  $p$  and  $q$  respectively, with constant coefficients. This follows directly from the observation that the collocation conditions (7) and (8) become

$$Y_{p,q}^{(s)}(t_i) = \lambda^s Y_{p,q}(t_i), \quad s = 1, \dots, p-1 \text{ (with } p \geq 2),$$

and

$$Y_{p,q}^{(r)}(t_{i+1}) = \lambda^r Y_{p,q}(t_{i+1}), \quad r = s, \dots, q-1 \text{ (with } q \geq 2).$$

Since the method is of order  $l+1$ ,

$$R_{pq}(h\lambda) = e^{h\lambda} + O(h^{l+2}).$$

Hence  $R_{pq}(\mu)$  is the  $(q, p)$  entry of the table of Padé approximants to  $e^\mu$ , namely [19]:

$$R_{pq}(\mu) = \left( \sum_{k=0}^p a_k \mu^k \right) / \left( \sum_{l=0}^q b_l \mu^l \right)$$

with

$$a_k = \frac{(p+q-k)! p!}{(p+q)! k! (p-k)!}$$

and

$$b_l = (-1)^l \frac{(p+q-l)! q!}{(p+q)! l! (q-l)!}.$$

Following Dahlquist [9], a method is called *A-stable* if all its solutions tend to zero, as  $i \rightarrow \infty$ , when it is applied with fixed positive  $h$  to the test equation  $Y' = \lambda Y$ , where  $\lambda$  is any complex constant with negative real part. For the one-step methods (24), this implies

$$(25) \quad |R_{pq}(\mu)| \leq 1, \quad \forall \mu \text{ complex with } \operatorname{Re}(\mu) \leq 0.$$

If, moreover,  $|R_{pq}(\mu)| \rightarrow 0$  as  $\operatorname{Re}(\mu) \rightarrow -\infty$ , the one-step method considered is *strongly A-stable*; such a method should be particularly effective for stiff systems of equations since rapidly decaying components of the solution will be represented by rapidly decaying components in the approximate solution for any  $h$ . If (25) is valid only for  $|\arg(-\lambda)| \leq \alpha$ ,  $\alpha \in [0, \pi/2]$ , then the corresponding method is called *A( $\alpha$ )-stable* [28], *A( $\pi/2$ )-stability* being equivalent to *A-stability*. For many space discretized parabolic problems, the eigenvalues of the Jacobian matrix are real negative: in this case, *A(0)-stability* is quite sufficient. In [26], Varga has shown that all the Padé approximants to  $\exp(\mu)$  with  $q \geq p$  give rise to *A(0)-stable* one-step schemes. That the diagonal ( $p = q$ ) Padé approximants to  $\exp(\mu)$  provide *A-stable* schemes was proved by Birkhoff and Varga [4]. Later on, Ehle [11] has shown that the Padé approximants to  $\exp(\mu)$  with  $q = p + 1$  and  $q = p + 2$  lead to strongly *A-stable* schemes. Ehle has exhibited moreover some Padé approximants with  $q = p + 3$  which do not satisfy condition (25) and do not lead therefore to *A-stable* schemes.

All the schemes developed hereinabove are thus *A-stable* for  $q = p, p + 1$  or  $p + 2$ . If  $q = p + 1$  or  $p + 2$ , they are moreover strongly *A-stable* and should therefore be preferred in the case of stiff systems of differential equations. This was shown in a previous work [13] for the nuclear reactor point and space kinetics equations.

**5. Numerical Experiments.** In this section, we give numerical results for some sample problems. First of all, we considered the case of a single equation:

$$(26) \quad Y'(t) = Y - 2t/Y, \quad Y(0) = 1, \quad Y(t) = (2t + 1)^{1/2}, \quad t \in [0, 1],$$

computed with some methods of Section 1, namely the simplest ones for which no derivatives of  $f$  are to be evaluated, i.e.  $p, q \leq 2$ , using moreover a three-point Gauss-Legendre quadrature formula in (12). Table 1 exhibits the *discrete error norms*

$$(27) \quad \|e(t; h)\|' = \max_{0 \leq i \leq N} |e(t_i; h)|$$

for  $h = 1/2^N$ ,  $N = 1, \dots, 6$ , with  $e(t_i; h) = Y(t_i) - Y_i$ , as well as the *computed orders of convergence* (in parentheses)

$$(28) \quad \alpha = \frac{\log[\|e(t; h_1)\|' / \|e(t; h_2)\|']}{\log(h_1/h_2)} \simeq l + 1$$

based on successive meshsizes  $h_1$  and  $h_2$ . The nonlinear equations (12) were solved by successive substitution at each step  $[t_p, t_{i+1}]$  until  $Y_{i+1}$  satisfied a relative error tolerance  $10^{-11}$ .

TABLE I  
*Error norms and orders of convergence for sample problem (26)*

$h$	$p=q=1$	$p=0, q=2$	$p=1, q=2$	$p=q=2$
$2^{-1}$	$3.54 \cdot 10^{-2}$	$4.87 \cdot 10^{-2}$	$4.54 \cdot 10^{-3}$	$8.14 \cdot 10^{-4}$
$2^{-2}$	$8.26 \cdot 10^{-3}$ (2.10)	$1.51 \cdot 10^{-2}$ (1.69)	$6.33 \cdot 10^{-4}$ (2.84)	$5.89 \cdot 10^{-5}$ (3.79)
$2^{-3}$	$2.03 \cdot 10^{-3}$ (2.02)	$3.97 \cdot 10^{-3}$ (1.93)	$8.26 \cdot 10^{-5}$ (2.94)	$3.83 \cdot 10^{-6}$ (3.95)
$2^{-4}$	$5.06 \cdot 10^{-4}$ (2.00)	$1.00 \cdot 10^{-3}$ (1.99)	$1.05 \cdot 10^{-5}$ (2.98)	$2.42 \cdot 10^{-7}$ (3.99)
$2^{-5}$	$1.26 \cdot 10^{-4}$ (2.00)	$2.52 \cdot 10^{-4}$ (1.99)	$1.33 \cdot 10^{-6}$ (2.98)	$1.52 \cdot 10^{-8}$ (4.00)
$2^{-6}$	$3.16 \cdot 10^{-5}$ (2.00)	$6.31 \cdot 10^{-5}$ (2.00)	$1.66 \cdot 10^{-7}$ (3.00)	$9.44 \cdot 10^{-10}$ (4.01)

TABLE 2  
*Error norms and orders of convergence for  $Y_1$  of sample problem (29)*

$h$	$p=q=1$	$p=0, q=2$	$p=1, q=2$	$p=q=2$
$2^{-1}$	1.40	$5.54 \cdot 10^{-1}$	$2.03 \cdot 10^{-2}$	$1.78 \cdot 10^{-3}$
$2^{-2}$	$1.20 \cdot 10^{-1}$ (3.54)	$2.21 \cdot 10^{-1}$ (1.32)	$2.29 \cdot 10^{-3}$ (3.15)	$1.10 \cdot 10^{-4}$ (4.02)
$2^{-3}$	$2.70 \cdot 10^{-2}$ (2.15)	$5.78 \cdot 10^{-2}$ (1.94)	$2.61 \cdot 10^{-4}$ (3.13)	$6.83 \cdot 10^{-6}$ (4.01)
$2^{-4}$	$6.59 \cdot 10^{-3}$ (2.03)	$1.40 \cdot 10^{-2}$ (2.05)	$3.10 \cdot 10^{-5}$ (3.00)	$4.26 \cdot 10^{-7}$ (4.00)
$2^{-5}$	$1.64 \cdot 10^{-3}$ (2.01)	$3.39 \cdot 10^{-3}$ (2.04)	$3.78 \cdot 10^{-6}$ (3.03)	$2.66 \cdot 10^{-8}$ (4.00)
$2^{-6}$	$4.09 \cdot 10^{-4}$ (2.00)	$8.33 \cdot 10^{-4}$ (2.02)	$4.66 \cdot 10^{-7}$ (3.02)	$1.67 \cdot 10^{-9}$ (4.00)

TABLE 3  
*Error norms and orders of convergence for  $Y_2$  of sample problem (29)*

$h$	$p=q=1$	$p=0, q=2$	$p=1, q=2$	$p=q=2$
$2^{-1}$	8.09 $10^{-2}$	7.81 $10^{-2}$	2.66 $10^{-3}$	1.76 $10^{-4}$
$2^{-2}$	1.13 $10^{-2}$ (2.84)	2.57 $10^{-2}$ (1.60)	3.00 $10^{-4}$ (3.14)	1.08 $10^{-5}$ (4.03)
$2^{-3}$	2.64 $10^{-3}$ (2.10)	6.06 $10^{-3}$ (2.08)	3.46 $10^{-5}$ (3.11)	6.74 $10^{-7}$ (4.00)
$2^{-4}$	6.49 $10^{-4}$ (2.02)	1.41 $10^{-3}$ (2.10)	4.15 $10^{-6}$ (3.06)	4.20 $10^{-8}$ (4.00)
$2^{-5}$	1.62 $10^{-4}$ (2.00)	3.38 $10^{-4}$ (2.06)	5.08 $10^{-7}$ (3.03)	2.63 $10^{-9}$ (4.00)
$2^{-6}$	4.03 $10^{-5}$ (2.01)	8.26 $10^{-5}$ (2.03)	6.29 $10^{-8}$ (3.01)	1.64 $10^{-10}$ (4.00)

Next, we considered the system:

$$(29) \quad \begin{aligned} Y_1'(t) &= Y_1^2 Y_2, & Y_1(0) &= 1, & Y_1(t) &= \exp(t), \\ Y_2'(t) &= -1/Y_1, & Y_2(0) &= 1, & Y_2(t) &= \exp(-t). \end{aligned}$$

Tables 2 and 3 exhibit the discrete error norms and the computed orders of convergence for  $Y_1$  and  $Y_2$ , respectively.

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