SBVP 1.0 - A MATLAB SOLVER FOR SINGULAR BOUNDARY VALUE PROBLEMS

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ANUM PREPRINT No. 02/02



Institute for Applied Mathematics and Numerical Analysis

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The package SBVP 1.0 is freely available from

http://www.math.tuwien.ac.at/~ewa/

Für den Inhalt verantwortlich:

Dr. Winfried Auzinger, Dipl.-Ing. Günter Kneisl, Dr. Othmar Koch und Dr. Ewa Weinmüller, Wien.

Verlag:

Institut für Angewandte und Numerische Mathematik, Technische Universität Wien.

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1 Introduction

1.1 Problem setting

The SBVP-package contains functions for solving boundary value problems for systems of nonlinear ODEs of the first order,

$$\mathbf{y}'(t) = \mathbf{f}(t, \mathbf{y}(t)), \quad t \in (a, b),$$

 $\mathbf{R}(\mathbf{y}(a), \mathbf{y}(b)) = \mathbf{0}.$

The right-hand side of the differential equation may contain a singularity of the first kind, that is

$$\mathbf{f}(t, \mathbf{y}(t)) = \frac{1}{(t-a)} M(t) \cdot \mathbf{y}(t) + \mathbf{g}(t, \mathbf{y}(t)),$$

where M is a matrix which depends continuously on t and \mathbf{g} is a smooth vector-valued function.

1.2 Solution approach

We decided to use collocation for the numerical solution of the underlying boundary value problems. A collocation solution is a piecewise polynomial function which satisfies the given ODE at a finite number of nodes (collocation points). This approach shows advantageous convergence properties compared to other direct higher order methods (see [7], [10]), which may be affected by order reductions and become inefficient in the presence of a singularity, see for example [8].

Furthermore, we decided to control the global error instead of monitoring the local error because of the unsmoothness of the latter near the singular point and order reductions it suffers from, cf. [5].

The mesh selection strategy is based on equidistribution of the global error. A detailed description of the error estimation and mesh selection algorithm is given in [4] and [3]. Further numerical aspects of the procedure are discussed in [1] and [2].

2 The package

2.1 Installation

Create a directory for the SBVP-package and unzip SBVP.zip into this directory. Then add it to the MATLAB search path. This is done by inserting the line

```
addpath('The full path of the directory you created');
```

into the Matlab startup-file startup.m. You can locate this file by typing

```
>> which startup
```

at the Matlab command line.

If no startup-file exists, you should create one in

```
...\Matlab\toolbox\local (Windows systems)
```

or

```
your Matlab directory, e.g. /home/username/matlab (Multiuser systems)
```

Now add search paths for the subdirectories OutputFunctions and Demo, too. When you call

```
>> startup
```

from within the Matlab environment or restart¹ Matlab, all SBVP functions will be available.

2.2 Files in this package

The solver package consists of the files

sbvp.m	driver routine (adaptive mesh selection)		
sbvpcol.m	collocation solver		
sbvperr.m	error estimation routine		
sbvpset.m	tool for setting solution options		
sbvpplot.m	output routine		
sbvpphas2.m	output routine		
sbvpphas3.m	output routine		
	bvpfile that demonstrates how to		
demofile1.m	define BVPs		
demofile2.m	use parameters		
demofile3.m	set options		
demofile4.m	define multidimensional problems		
demofile5.m	set zerofinder options		
demofile6.m	use output functions		

¹On multiuser systems, you should start MATLAB from your MATLAB directory to ensure that the startup-file is executed.

2.3 Solver syntax

From the MATLAB command line or any MATLAB program, sbvp is called by

```
[tau,y,tcol,ycol,err_norm] = ...
sbvp(bvpfile[,tau0,y0,bvpopt,param1,param2,...])
```

The input arguments are:

- bypfile is the function handle or name of an m-file that defines the right-hand side of the differential equation, the boundary conditions and the associated Jacobians. sbvp automatically detects whether the BVP is linear. The bypfile syntax is discussed in detail in §2.4.
- tau0 is a strictly monotonous sequence that defines the integration interval and the initial mesh. tau0 should be a row vector. If tau0 is empty or not specified, sbvp evaluates

to obtain it. If tau0 consists of the beginning and end of the integration interval only (tau0 = [a b]), sbvp automatically selects a suitable initial mesh on that integration interval.

• y0 is an initial approximation of the solution and should be a $d \times (N+1)$ matrix, where d is the dimension of the system to be solved and N+1 is
the number of mesh points in the initial mesh tau0. If y0 is empty or not
specified, sbvp evaluates

to obtain it and uses the default initial approximation (identically zero) if that fails. For linear problems, no initial approximation is necessary.

• bypopt is a parameter struct that determines the choice of collocation points, collocation basis, the tolerances for the zerofinder, etc. bypopt should be generated by sbypset, which is discussed in §2.5. If bypopt is empty or not specified, sbyp evaluates

to obtain it and uses the default options if that fails.

• param1, param2 are parameters of the boundary value problem that are passed on to bvpfile (see the header of BVPFilePattern in §2.4 and demofile2 at page 14).

The output arguments are:

• tau is the final mesh generated by sbvp.

- y is the final solution approximation on the mesh tau.
- tcol is the final collocation grid. The collocation grid contains mesh points and collocation points and is thus finer than tau.
- ycol is the final solution approximation on the collocation grid tcol.
- err_norm is the norm of the last error estimate given on tcol.

2.4 The bypfile

A bypfile is a Matlab m-file that defines the boundary value problem to be solved. The generic bypfile reads

```
function out=BVPFilePattern(flag,t,y,ya,yb,param1,param2,...)
switch flag
case 'f'
              % right-hand side of the differential equation
 out=<insert f(t,y) here>;
case 'df/dy' % Jacobian of f
 out=<insert df/dy(t,y) here>;
             % boundary conditions
case 'R'
 out=<R(ya,yb)>;
case 'dR/dya' % Jacobian of the boundary conditions w.r.t. ya
 out=<dR/dya(ya,yb)>;
case 'dR/dyb' % Jacobian of the boundary conditions w.r.t. yb
 out=<dR/dyb(ya,yb)>;
out=<initial mesh>;
case 'y0'
           % (optional)
 out=<initial approximation y0(t)>
case 'bvpopt' % (optional)
 out=<solution options for the BVP>
otherwise
 error('unknown flag');
end
```

To specify a boundary value problem, one should simply provide explicit expressions for the terms enclosed by <...>.

If the underlying boundary value problem is linear, the bvpfile can (but need not) be coded such that it returns the inhomogeneities of the differential equation and the boundary conditions only. Note that in order to keep the syntax consistent with R(ya,yb)=dR/dya*ya+dR/dyb*yb-beta=0, -beta has to be specified in the latter case.

2.5 Solution options

All options that concern the solution process should be collected in the options structure bypopt using the command

```
bvpopt = sbvpset([property,value,property,value,...]);
```

Any unspecified properties have default values. It is sufficient to type only the leading characters that uniquely identify the property. Case is ignored for property names. bypopt is then passed to sbyp as an argument.

Additionally,

alters an existing options structure oldopt and

combines an existing options structure oldopt with a new options structure newopt. Any new properties overwrite corresponding old properties. sbvpset with no input arguments displays all property names and their possible values.

Available options are

'RelTol'	Relative error tolerance [nonnegative scalar {1e-3}]. The estimated error $\varepsilon(t)$ on the final mesh satisfies $\max_t (\ \varepsilon(t)\ /(\mathbf{AbsTol} + \ \mathbf{y}(t)\ \cdot \mathbf{RelTol})) < 1.$	
'AbsTol'	Absolute error tolerance [positive scalar {1e-6}].	
'MaxMeshPts'	Maximum number of mesh points [integer {10000}].	
'IntMaxMinRatio'	Upper limit to the quotient of the length of the longest and shortest subinterval in the final mesh [positive scalar {10}].	
'CheckJac'	Compare user supplied Jacobians to finite-difference approximations [$\{0\} \mid 1$].	
'fVectorized'	Vectorized f -evaluation [{0} 1]. Set this property if the bypfile is coded such that bypfile('f',[t1 t2],[y1 y2]) returns [f(t1,y1) f(t2,y2)].	
'JacVectorized'	Vectorized Jacobian-evaluation [{0} 1]. Set this property if the bvpfile is coded such that bvpfile('df/dy',[t1 t2],[y1 y2]) returns [f'(t1,y1) f'(t2,y2)], or alternatively a three-dimensional array J where J(:,:,i) contains f'(ti,yi).	
'Basis'	Basis of collocation polynomials [{RungeKutta} Lagrange Legendre Monomial].	
'ColPts'	Distribution of collocation points [{equidistant} gauss numerical vector containing $0 < \rho_1 < \cdots < \rho_p < 1$)].	

	T		
'DegreeSelect'	Selection mode of basis polynomial degree [{auto} manual].		
'Degree'	Highest degree of basis polynomials [integer {4}]. The collocation degree is set to the value of this property if the value of 'DegreeSelect' is 'manual'. Otherwise, the collocation degree is automatically determined from the tolerances.		
'Display'	Displays information about the mesh adaptation process $[0 \mid \{1\}].$		
'ZfMethod'	Defines the method for solving nonlinear problems [{Newton} FSolve]. 'Newton' forces the use of damped Newton iteration while 'FSolve' uses the zerofinder provided by MATLAB.		
'ZfOpt'	Parameter struct used by the zerofinding routines [struct]. This struct holds tolerances, termination conditions, etc. and should be generated by optimset (see §2.6).		
'OutputFcn'	Function handle or name of output function (OF) [handle/string]. OFs are used to display intermediate results of the mesh adaptation process. At the beginning of this process, the solver calls outputfcn(tcol0,ycol0,p,'init') to initialize the OF. tcol0 represents the initial collocation grid, ycol0 is the initial approximation on tcol0 and p is the collocation degree. After each mesh adaptation step with collocation grid tcol and approximation vector ycol, the solver calls stop = outputfcn(tcol,ycol,p,''). If stop equals 1 or some termination condition of the mesh adaptation routine is met, the iteration is stopped and the solver calls outputfcn(tcol,ycol,p,'done'). Predefined OFs are sbvpplot, sbvpphas2 and sbvpphas3 (see §2.7).		
'OutputSel'	Output selection indices [vector of integers]. This vector of indices specifies which components of the approximation vector y are passed to the OF. 'OutputSel' defaults to all components.		
'OutputTrace'	Flag that forces stepwise proceeding of the output function [0 {1}]. If 'OutputTrace' is set to 1, sbvp pauses after each mesh adaptation step and continues if a key is hit. If no output function is defined, 'OutputTrace' is ignored.		

2.6 Zerofinder options

Options for the Matlab zerofinder \mathtt{fsolve}^2 can be set using the $\mathtt{optimset}$ command

```
my_fsolveopt = optimset([property,value,property,value,...]);
```

Since it is possible to switch between fsolve and the Newton zerofinder (cf. 'ZfMethod' on page 7), options for the Newton zerofinder are set in the same way. Defining options for any zerofinder is thus achieved by

```
my_zfopt = optimset([property,value,property,value,...]);
```

and my_zfopt is used to define the BVP options

Available options for the Newton zerofinder and fsolve are

'Display'	Level of display [{final} iter off]. If 'Display' is set to 'final', the zerofinder reports how the iteration has been terminated. 'iter' will display such quantities as the number of function evaluations, the value of the residual $\mathbf{F}(\mathbf{x})$ and the stepsize λ of each iteration step. 'off' will display no output at all.	
'MaxIter'	Maximum number of iterations allowed [integer {20}].	
'MaxFunEvals'	Maximum number of function evaluations allowed [integer {50}].	
$'$ Tol \mathbf{X}'	Termination tolerance on \mathbf{x} [positive scalar {1e-12}].	
'TolFun'	Termination tolerance on the function value $\mathbf{F}(\mathbf{x})$ [nonnegative scalar $\{0\}$].	

The following options affect fsolve only and are ignored by the Newton zerofinder. They are discussed briefly in the Matlab HelpDesk and in detail in the User Guide to the Optimization Toolbox.

'DerivativeCheck'	'Jacobian'	'LineSearchType'
'Diagnostics'	'JacobianPattern'	'MaxPCGIter'
'DiffMaxChange'	'LargeScale'	'TolPCG $'$
'DiffMinChange'	${}^{\prime}$ Levenberg Marquardt ${}^{\prime}$	'TypicalX'

²fsolve is included in the Optimization Toolbox.

2.7 Output functions

An output function (OF) is a MATLAB m-file that is used to monitor the mesh adaptation process. If an OF is specified, it will be passed the result of each adaptation step. The predefined OFs sbvpplot, sbvpphas2 and sbvpphas3 all display the solution approximation on the current mesh in order to illustrate the adaptation process graphically. sbvpplot simply draws the solution components versus t, sbvpphas2 and sbvpphas3 plot 2- and 3-dimensional phase portraits, respectively. Figure 1 shows three subsequent solution approximations of the boundary value problem defined in demofile6 displayed by the OFs sbvpplot (left) and sbvpphas2 (right).

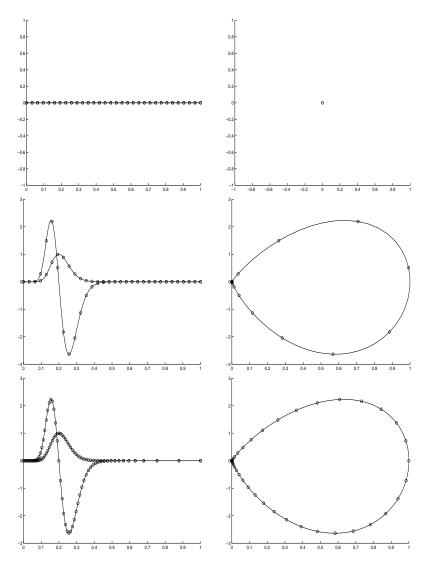


Figure 1: Initial guess and two subsequent solution approximations displayed by sbvpplot (left) and sbvpphas2 (right)

2.8 Examples

We solve the 2-dimensional nonlinear BVP

$$x' = y,$$

 $y' = -\sin(x),$
 $x(0) = 1,$
 $y(0) + y(2) = 0,$

that is defined in demofile5. The simplest bypfile for this task is given by

```
function out=my_bvpfile(flag,t,y,ya,yb)
switch flag
case 'f'
               % right-hand side of the differential equation
   out = [y(2) ; -\sin(y(1))];
case 'df/dy' % Jacobian of f
   out = [0 1; -\cos(y(1)) 0];
case 'R'
               % boundary conditions
   out=[ya(1)-1 ; ya(2) + yb(2)];
case 'dR/dya' % Jacobian of the boundary conditions w.r.t. ya
   out=[1 0;0 1];
case 'dR/dyb' % Jacobian of the boundary conditions w.r.t. yb
   out=[0 0;0 1];
case 'tau'
               % initial mesh (integration interval only)
   out=[0 2];
otherwise
   error('unknown flag');
end
```

We will now illustrate how this specification can be modified step by step in order to improve the solution process. To accelerate the computations, we first vectorize the \mathbf{f} - and \mathbf{f}' -evaluation by replacing the corresponding entries by

We inform sbvp about the now vectorized bvpfile by adding the case

```
case 'bvpopt' % solution options
  out = sbvpset('fVectorized',1,'JacVectorized',1);
```

As the boundary value problem is nonlinear, we need a zerofinding routine to compute the numerical solution. The options for the zerofinding routine can be adjusted as follows. We extend the previous bypfile by adding

```
case 'bvpopt' % solution options
  my_zfopt = optimset('Display','iter','TolX',1e-13);
  out = sbvpset('fVectorized',1,'JacVectorized',1,'ZfOpt',my_zfopt);
```

Moreover, we can provide an initial approximation of the solution, e.g.

```
case 'y0' % initial approximation
  out=ones(2,length(t));
```

Note that the variable ${\tt t}$ contains the initial mesh chosen by ${\tt sbvp}.$

Combining all these modifications, we obtain the bvpfile

```
function out=my_bvpfile(flag,t,y,ya,yb)
switch flag
case 'f'
               % right-hand side of the differential equation (vectorized)
   out=[y(2,:); -\sin(y(1,:))];
case 'df/dy' % Jacobian of f (vectorized)
   out=zeros(2,2,length(t));  % allocate memory
   for i=1:length(t)
     out(:,:,i)=[0 1; -cos(y(1,i)) 0];
   end
case 'R'
               % boundary conditions
   out=[ya(1)-1 ; ya(2) + yb(2)];
case 'dR/dya' % Jacobian of the boundary conditions w.r.t. ya
   out=[1 0;0 1];
case 'dR/dyb' % Jacobian of the boundary conditions w.r.t. yb
   out=[0 0;0 1];
case 'tau'
              % initial mesh (integration interval only)
   out=[0 2];
case 'y0'
               % initial approximation
   out=ones(2,length(t));
case 'bvpopt' % solution options
   my_zfopt = optimset('Display', 'iter', 'TolX', 1e-13);
        out = sbvpset('fVectorized',1,'JacVectorized',1,'ZfOpt',my_zfopt);
otherwise
   error('unknown flag');
```

From the MATLAB command line, the problem is then solved by

```
>> [tau,y] = sbvp(@my_bvpfile);
```

However, even though tau0, y0 and bvpopt are specified in the bvpfile, any of these quantities may be passed as a command line argument. Command line arguments override the corresponding definitions in the bvpfile. Arguments that should still be obtained from the bvpfile or chosen as the defaults, can be omitted or indicated by '', respectively. Thus, to define an initial mesh from the command line, use

In order to force sbvp to use a collocation degree equal to 6, yet keep all the options defined in the bvpfile, proceed in this way:

Additional examples of bvpfiles included as demo-files in the SBVP-package can be found on the following pages.

```
function out=demofile1(flag,t,y,ya,yb)
\% DEMOFILE1 demonstrates the usage of SBVP
% We try to solve the linear BVP
%
   y'=y, y(0)+y(2)=1+exp(2)
%
% Solution syntax:
%
   [tau,y] = sbvp(@demofile1);
   plot(tau,y,'.-');
                                   % plot solution
switch flag
case 'f'
              % right-hand side of the differential equation
  out=y;
case 'df/dy'
             % Jacobian of f
  out=1;
case 'R'
              out=ya+yb-(1+exp(2));
case 'dR/dya' % Jacobian of the boundary condition w.r.t. ya
case 'dR/dyb' % Jacobian of the boundary condition w.r.t. yb
  out=1;
              \% initial mesh (= beginning and end of the integration interval)
case 'tau'
  out=[0 2];
otherwise
   error('unknown flag');
end
```

```
function out=demofile2(flag,t,y,ya,yb,lambda)
\% DEMOFILE2 demonstrates the usage of SBVP
% We try to solve the linear BVP
%
   y'=lambda * y , y(0)+y(2)=4
% using a parameter lambda, that is passed as last argument.
%
% Solution syntax:
%
   my_lambda = 3;
%
     [tau,y] = sbvp(@demofile2,'',',',my_lambda);
%
                          % determine mesh such that tolerances are satisfied
%
                          \% starting with the initial mesh defined in DEMOFILE2
switch flag
case 'f'
              % right-hand side of the differential equation
   out=lambda * y;
case 'df/dy' % Jacobian of f
  out=lambda;
              % boundary condition
case 'R'
   out=ya+yb-4;
case 'dR/dya' % Jacobian of the boundary condition w.r.t. ya
  out=1;
case 'dR/dyb' % Jacobian of the boundary condition w.r.t. yb
  out=1;
              % (initial) mesh
case 'tau'
  out=linspace(0,2,51);
otherwise
  error('unknown flag');
end
```

```
function out=demofile3(flag,t,y,ya,yb)
\% DEMOFILE3 demonstrates the usage of SBVP
% We try to solve the linear BVP
%
    y'=y, y(0)+y(2)=1+exp(2)
% using the Runge-Kutta basis of degree 6 on Gaussian
\% collocation points. Note the BVPOPT-case.
%
% Solution syntax:
%
     [tau,y] = sbvp(@demofile3);
switch flag
case 'f'
               \% right-hand side of the differential equation
   out=y;
case 'df/dy'
              % Jacobian of f
   out=1;
case 'R'
               % boundary condition
   out=ya+yb-(1+exp(2));
case 'dR/dya' % Jacobian of the boundary condition w.r.t. ya
   out=1;
case 'dR/dyb' % Jacobian of the boundary condition w.r.t. yb
   out=1;
               % mesh
case 'tau'
   out=[0 2];
case 'bvpopt' % solution options
   out=sbvpset('ColPts','Gauss','Basis','RungeKutta','DegreeSelect','Manual','Degree',6);
otherwise
   error('unknown flag');
end
```

```
function out=demofile4(flag,t,y,ya,yb)
\% DEMOFILE4 demonstrates the usage of SBVP
\% \, We try to solve the 2-dimensional linear BVP \,
   x' = y
%
%
   y' = -x
% x(0) = 1
y(0)+y(2)=0
%
% using vectorized f-evaluation.
%
% Solution syntax:
    [tau,y] = sbvp(@demofile4);
switch flag
case 'f'
% out=[y(2); -y(1)]
                      would be the non-vectorized version
out=[0 1;-1 0];
case 'R'
              % boundary conditions
   out=[ya(1)-1 ; ya(2) + yb(2)];
case 'dR/dya' % Jacobian of the boundary conditions w.r.t. ya
  out=[1 0;0 1];
case 'dR/dyb' % Jacobian of the boundary conditions w.r.t. yb
  out=[0 0;0 1];
case 'tau'
            % mesh
  out=[0 2];
case 'bvpopt' % solution options
  out=sbvpset('fvectorized',1);
otherwise
   error('unknown flag');
end
```

```
function out=demofile5(flag,t,y,ya,yb)
% DEMOFILE5 demonstrates the usage of SBVP
\% We try to solve the 2-dimensional nonlinear BVP
%
    x' = y
%
    y' = -\sin(x),
% x(0)
          = 1
y(0)+y(2)=0
%
% using vectorized f- and f'-evaluation.
% We check the user-supplied Jacobians using the
% 'CheckJac' option, and we display information
% about the zerofinding process using the 'Display'
% option. Furthermore we define tolerances for
% the zerofinder and an upper limit to the number
% of function evaluations (discretization residual
\% function F(x)). Note that we also provide an
% initial approximation for the solution.
% Solution syntax:
     [tau,y] = sbvp(@demofile5);
switch flag
case 'f'
               % right-hand side of the differential equation (vectorized)
   out=[y(2,:); -sin(y(1,:))];
case 'df/dy' % Jacobian of f (vectorized)
   out=zeros(2,2,length(t)); % allocate memory
   for i=1:length(t)
      out(:,:,i)=[0 \ 1; \ -cos(y(1,i)) \ 0]; \ \% \ out(:,:,i) = df/dy(ti,yi)
   end
case 'R'
               % boundary conditions
   out=[ya(1)-1 ; ya(2) + yb(2)];
case 'dR/dya' % Jacobian of the boundary conditions w.r.t. ya
   out=[1 0;0 1];
case 'dR/dyb' % Jacobian of the boundary conditions w.r.t. yb
   out=[0 0;0 1];
case 'tau'
               % mesh
   out=[0 2];
               % initial approximation
case 'y0'
   out=ones(2,length(t));
case 'bvpopt' % solution options
   my_zfopt = optimset('Display','iter','TolX',1e-13,'MaxFunEvals',10);
   out=sbvpset('fVectorized',1,'JacVectorized',1,'CheckJac',1,'ZfOpt',my_zfopt);
otherwise
   error('unknown flag');
end
```

The next problem is the linear singular boundary value problem

$$z'(t) = \frac{1}{t} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ \mu^2 + \alpha^2 t^2 & 0 \end{pmatrix} z(t) + \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ ct^{k-1} e^{-\alpha t} (k^2 - \mu^2 - \alpha t (1 + 2k)) \end{pmatrix}$$
$$\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} z(0) + \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} z(1) = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ ce^{-\alpha} \end{pmatrix},$$

where the parameters are $\mu = 1$, $\alpha = 80$ and k = 16, and $c = \left(\frac{\alpha}{k}\right)^k e^k$.

```
function out=demofile6(flag,t,y,ya,yb)
% DEMOFILE6 demonstrates the usage of SBVP
  We try to solve a 2-dimensional linear singular BVP
  at a very high accuracy level (small RelTol and AbsTol).
  The approximation of the solution after each mesh adaptation
  step is displayed by the output function SBVPLOT.
  Try SBVPPHAS2 as well.
  Solution syntax:
     [tau,y] = sbvp(@demofile6);
% some parameters
mu=1;
p1=0.2;
p2=0.05;
k=(p1/p2)^2;
                % k=16
alpha=p1/(p2^2); % alpha=80
c=((alpha/k)^k)*exp(k);
mu2 = mu^2;
alpha2 = alpha^2;
switch flag
case 'f'
               % right-hand side of the diff. eq. (inhomogeneity only, vectorized)
   out=[zeros(1,length(t)); c*t.^(k-1).*exp(-alpha*t).*(k^2-mu2-alpha*t*(1+2*k))];
case 'df/dy' % Jacobian of f (vectorized differently than in DEMOFILE5)
   out=zeros(2,length(t)); % allocate memory
   for i=1:length(t)
      out(:,[2*i-1 \ 2*i]) = 1/t(i) * [0 1; mu2+alpha2*t(i)^2 0];
case 'R'
               % boundary conditions (negative inhomogeneity only)
   out=-[0; c*exp(-alpha)];
case 'dR/dya' % Jacobian of the boundary conditions w.r.t. ya
   out=[0 1; 0 0];
case 'dR/dyb' % Jacobian of the boundary conditions w.r.t. yb
   out=[0 0; 1 0];
case 'tau'
               % mesh
   out=[0 1];
case 'bypopt' % solution options
   out=sbvpset('RelTol',1e-9,'AbsTol',1e-9,'JacVectorized',1,'fVectorized',1,...
               'IntMaxMinRatio',20,'OutputFcn',@sbvpplot);
otherwise
   error('unknown flag');
end
```

2.9 Hints for Troubleshooting

If you encounter troubles solving your own problems, here is a checklist you might want to follow.

- Check if the problem was formulated correctly, i.e. whether the bvpfile returns correct outputs.
- If you do not find any errors, solve the problem with 'CheckJac' set to 1 (cf. §2.5). The analytic derivatives you supplied will be compared with a finite difference approximation of these derivatives.
- Furthermore, if the problem is nonlinear, you might get a better understanding of what is going wrong if you set the zerofinder Display to 'iter' (cf. §2.6). This provides some information about the zerofinding process.
- Try to find a better initial approximation.
- Try the alternative zerofinder (cf. §2.5).
- Check if your problem is well-posed, i.e. if there exists a solution of the analytic problem, that is (locally) unique and depends *continuously* on the problem parameters. See [6] for a discussion of necessary and sufficient conditions for the well-posedness in the singular case.

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