# Package bypSolve, solving boundary value problems in R

Karline Soetaert

The Netherlands

Jeff Cash

Francesca Mazzia

CEME

Department of mathematics Netherlands Institute of Ecology Imperial College London U.K.

Dipartimento di Matematica Universita' di Bari Italy

#### Abstract

package bypSolve (Soetaert, Cash, and Mazzia 2010a), in the open-source software R, (R Development Core Team 2010) is designed for the numerical solution of boundary value problems (BVP) for ordinary differential equations (ODE).

It comprizes:

- function bypshoot which implements the shooting method. This method makes use of the initial value problem solvers from packages deSolve (Soetaert, Petzoldt, and Setzer 2010b) and the root-finding solver from package **rootSolve** (Soetaert 2009).
- function byptwp, the mono-implicit Runge-Kutta (MIRK) method with deferred corrections, using conditioning in the mesh selection, based on FORTRAN code TWPBVPC (Cash and Wright 1991; Cash and Mazzia 2005), for solving two-point boundary value problems
- function bypcol, the collocation method based on FORTRAN codes COLNEW (Bader and Ascher 1987), and COLSYS (Ascher, Christiansen, and Russell 1979) for solving Multi-point boundary value problems of mixed order

The R functions have an interface which is similar to the interface of the initial value problem solvers in package deSolve

The default input to the solvers is very simple, requiring specification of only one function, that calculates the derivatives, while the boundary conditions are represented as simple vectors.

However, in order to speed-up the simulations, and to increase the number of problems that can be solved, it is also possible to specify the boundary conditions by means of a function and provide analytical solutions for the derivative and boundary gradients.

This is one of two vignette of package rootSolve.

Keywords: ordinary differential equations, boundary value problems, shooting method, monoimplicit Runge-Kutta, R.

#### 1. Introduction

#### 1.1. The Boundary Value Problem Solvers

bvpSolve numerically solves boundary value problems (BVP) of ordinary differential equations (ODE), which for one (second-order) ODE can be written as:

$$\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} = f(x, y, \frac{dy}{dx})$$
$$a \le x \le b$$
$$g_1(y)|_a = 0$$
$$g_2(y)|_b = 0$$

where y is the dependent, x the independent variable, function f is the differential equation, and  $g_1(y)|_a$  and  $g_2(y)|_b$  the boundary conditions at the end points a and b.

#### 1.2. Package bypSolve

Three BVP solvers are included in **bvpSolve**:

- bvpshoot, implementing the shooting method. This method combines solutions of initial value problems (IVP) with solutions of nonlinear algebraic equations; it makes use of solvers from packages deSolve and rootSolve.
- bvptwp, a mono-implicit Runge-Kutta (MIRK) method with deferred corrections, and using conditioning in the mesh selection, based on FORTRAN code TWPBVPC (Cash and Wright 1991; Cash and Mazzia 2005).
- bvpcol, a collocation method based on FORTRAN codes COLNEW (Bader and Ascher 1987), and COLSYS (Ascher *et al.* 1979) for solving Multi-point boundary value problems of mixed order.

An S3 method for plotting is included. This will plot all variables in separate figures.

All functions can solve higher-order ODEs without writing them as a set of first-order ODEs, but this makes the interface a bit more difficult.

Only bypcol is more efficient if the higher-order input is used.

For functions bypshoot and byptwp it is slightly more efficient to write them as first-order ODEs.

For instance:

$$\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} = f(x, y, \frac{dy}{dx})$$

can be rewritten as:

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = z$$

$$\frac{dz}{dx} = f(x, y, z)$$

where y and z are now the two dependent variables.

In bvptwp and bvpshoot, the boundary conditions must be defined at the end of the interval over which the ODE is specified (i.e. at a and/or b). In contrast, bvpcol can also have the boundary conditions specified at intermediate points.

#### 1.3. Simple and More Complex Input

When using byptwp and bypcol, the problem can be specified in several ways.

- By default, the partial derivatives of the differential equations and of the boundary conditions are approximated by the solver using *finite differences*. Then, the user need not be concerned with supplying functions that calculate the analytical partial derivatives. This makes the definition of the problem very simple: only one function, estimating the derivatives needs to be provided, while the boundary conditions are specified as vectors. However, some problems cannot be specified this way. It is also the slowest method.
- The bvptwp and bvpcol function is much more efficient if analytical partial derivatives of the differential equations and of boundary conditions are given.
- Even more simulation time will be gained if the problem is specified in *compiled code* (FORTRAN, C). In this case, R is used to trigger the solver bvptwp or bvpcol, and for post-processing (graphics), while solving the BVP itself entirely takes place in compiled code.

#### 1.4. Examples in This Vignette

In this package vignette it is shown how to formulate and solve BVPs. We use well-known test cases as examples.

- We start with a simple example, comprising one second-order ODE (test problem 7 from the website of Jeff Cash (http://www.ma.ic.ac.uk/~jcash/BVP\_software/readme.php)
- This is followed by a more complex example, which consists of 6 first-order ODEs, the "swirling flow III" problem (Ascher, Mattheij, and Russell 1995). This example is used to demonstrate how to continuate a solution, i.e. use the solution for one problem as initial guess for solving another, more complex problem.
- How to implement more complex initial conditions is then exemplified by means of problem "musn" (Ascher et al. 1995).
- Next, solving for the fourth eigenvalue of "Mathieu's equation" (Shampine, Kierzenka, and Reichelt 2000), illustrates how to solve a BVP including an unknown parameter.
- The "nerve impulse" model (Seydel 1988), is an example including periodic boundary conditions.
- The "fluid injection" problem (Ascher *et al.* 1995), is a set of higher-order ODEs, which is best solved using bvpcol.
- A simple multipoint examplis is solved using bypcol.
- The "elastica" problem (Jeff Cash's website) is used to demonstrate how to specify the analytic jacobians, and how to implement problems in FORTRAN or C.

• Finally, a standard linear testcase (Shampine *et al.* 2000) which has a steep boundary layer is implemented in FORTRAN, and run with several values of a model parameter.

More examples of boundary value problems can be found in the packages **examples** subdirectory.

The dynload subdirectory includes models specified in compiled code.

See also document "bvpSolve: a set of 35 test Problems", which can be accessed as vignette("bvpTests") or is available from the package's site on CRAN: http://cran.r-project.org/package=bvpSolve/

## 2. A Simple BVP Example

Here is a simple BVP ODE (which is problem 7 from the test problems available from http://www.ma.ic.ac.uk/~jcash/BVP\_software/readme.php):

$$\xi y'' + xy' - y = -(1 + \xi \pi^2) \cos(\pi x) - \pi x \sin(\pi x)$$
  
$$y(-1) = -1$$
  
$$y(1) = 1$$

The second-order ODE is expanded as two first-order ODEs as:

$$y'_1 = y_2$$
  
 $y'_2 = 1/\xi \cdot (-xy_2 + y_1 - (1 + \xi \pi^2)\cos(\pi x) - \pi x\sin(\pi x))$ 

with boundary conditions

$$y_1(-1) = -1$$
  
 $y_1(1) = 1$ 

This is implemented as:

```
fun<- function(x,y,pars) {
  list(c(y[2],
     1/ks * (-x*y[2]+y[1]-(1+ks*pi*pi)*cos(pi*x)-pi*x*sin(pi*x)))
    )
}</pre>
```

and solved, using the three methods, as <sup>1</sup>:

```
ks <- 0.1
x < -seq(-1, 1, by = 0.01)
print(system.time(
 sol1 <- bvpshoot(yini = c(-1, NA), yend = c(1, NA),
                   x = x, func = fun, guess = 0)
 ))
       system elapsed
  user
  0.07
          0.00
                  0.07
print(system.time(
 sol2 <- bvptwp(yini = c(-1, NA), yend = c(1, NA), x = x, func = fun)
 ))
        system elapsed
  user
                  0.24
  0.24
          0.00
```

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>the system time, in seconds is printed

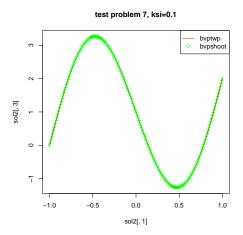


Figure 1: Solution of the simple BVP, for ksi=0.1 - see text for R -code

```
print(system.time(
  sol3 <- bvpcol(yini = c(-1, NA), yend = c(1, NA), x = x, func = fun)
))

user system elapsed
0.07 0.00 0.08</pre>
```

Note how the boundary conditions at the start (yini) and at the end (yend) of the integration interval are specified, where NA is used for boundary conditions that are not known.

A reasonable guess of the unknown initial condition is also inputted for the shooting method. The shooting method is often faster than the other methods. However, there are particular problems where bypshoot does not give a solution, whereas byptwp or bypcol do (see below).

The plot shows that the methods give the same solution:

For very small values of the parameter  $\xi$ , bypshoot cannot solve the problem anymore, due to the presence of a zone of rapid change near x=0.

However, it can still be solved with the other methods, provided that good initial guesses are provided:

```
 ks <- 0.0005 \\ print(system.time( sol3 <- bvptwp(yini = c(-1, NA), yend = c(1, NA), x = seq(-1, 1, by = 0.01), \\ func = fun, xguess = sol2[,1], yguess = t(sol2[,-1])) \\ ))
```

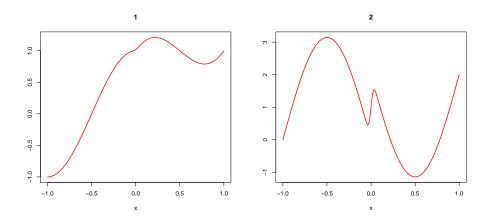


Figure 2: Solution of the simple BVP, for ksi=0.0001 - see text for R -code. Note that this problem cannot be solved with bvpshoot

When using bvpcol, the simulation can also be continuated by simply passing the previous solution (as generated by bvpcol to the solver:

Here we produce the output with the S3 plot method, which depicts both dependent variables:

```
plot(sol3, type = "1", lwd = 2, col = "red")
```

## 3. A More Complex BVP Example

Now the test problem referred to as "swirling flow III" is solved (Ascher *et al.* 1995). The original problem definition is:

$$g'' = (gf' - fg')/\xi$$
  
 $f'''' = (-ff''' - gg')/\xi$ 

on the interval [0,1] and subject to boundary conditions:

$$g(0) = -1, f(0) = 0, f'(0) = 0$$
  
 $g(1) = 1, f(1) = 0, f'(1) = 0$ 

### 3.1. Solving the Problem as a Set of 1st Order Equations

First the second and fourth order equations are rewritten as a set of  $1_{st}$  order ODEs as follows:

$$y'_{1} = y_{2}$$

$$y'_{2} = (y_{1} * y_{4} - y_{3} * y_{2})/\xi$$

$$y'_{3} = y_{4}$$

$$y'_{4} = y_{5}$$

$$y'_{5} = y_{6}$$

$$y'_{6} = (-y_{3}y_{6} - y_{1}y_{2})/\xi$$

Its implementation in R is:

This model cannot be solved with the shooting method. However, it can be solved using byptwp and bypcol:

where the reported system time is in seconds

The diagnostics of the output solved with bvptwp shows that the problem is quite stiff (high values of the conditioning parameters).

Both solvers require almost the same amount of steps:

```
diagnostics(Soltwp)
```

## -----

solved with bvptwp

Integration was successful.

```
1 The return code
                                              : 0
2 The number of function evaluations
                                              : 28208
3 The number of jacobian evaluations
                                              : 3179
4 The number of steps
                                              : 16
5 The number of boundary evaluations
                                              : 84
6 The number of boundary jacobian evaluations : 66
7 The number of mesh resets
8 The maximal number of mesh points
                                             : 1000
9 The actual number of mesh points
                                             : 199
10 The size of the real work array
                                             : 351360
11 The size of the integer work array
                                              : 15012
```

# conditioning pars

\_\_\_\_\_

1 kappa1 : 12601.33 2 gamma1 : 818.5373 3 sigma : 36.80858 4 kappa : 13175.79 5 kappa2 : 574.4597

```
diagnostics(Solcol)
```

solved with bypcol

Integration was successful.

```
1 The return code
                                                     : 1
 2 The number of function evaluations
                                                    : 29821
 3 The number of jacobian evaluations
                                                    : 2980
 4 The number of steps
                                                    : 61
 5 The number of boundary evaluations
                                                    : 294
 6 The number of boundary jacobian evaluations
                                                   : 120
 7 The actual number of mesh points
                                                     : 300
 8 The number of collocation points per subinterval : 4
 9 The number of equations
                                                     : 6
10 The number of components (variables)
                                                     : 6
11 The order of each equation
                                                    : 1
12 The order of each equation
                                                     : 1
13 The order of each equation
                                                    : 1
14 The order of each equation
                                                     : 1
15 The order of each equation
                                                    : 1
16 The order of each equation
                                                     : 1
```

A pairs plot produces a pretty picture.

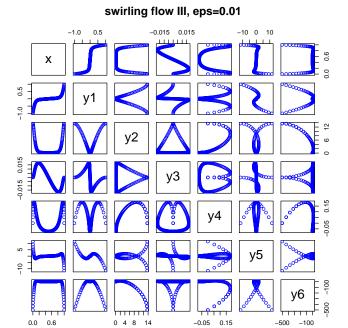
```
pairs(Soltwp, main = "swirling flow III, eps=0.01", col = "blue")
```

Using the same input as above, the problem cannot be solved with too small values of eps (but see next section):

Error in bvptwp(x = x, func = fsub, yini = c(y1 = -1, : The Expected No. Of mesh points Exceeds Storage Specifications.

## 3.2. Solving the Problem in Higher Order Form

All functions can also solve the same problem without rewriting it in  $1^{st}$  order form. However, only for function bypcol will this lead to a significant improvement of performance. Thus, the derivative function becomes:



# Figure 3: pairs plot of the swirling flow III problem - see text for R -code. Note that this problem cannot be solved with bvpshoot

To solve the model in this form, we need to specify the order of each equation. The first equation is of order 2, the second of order 4.

Whereas both ways of solving the system produce almost the same output (but not quite), the second way is significantly faster. It indeed solves the problem in less steps:

```
max(abs(Solcol2-Solcol))
```

#### [1] 2.654951e-08

diagnostics(Solcol2)

solved with bvpcol

Integration was successful.

```
1 The return code
                                                     : 1
2 The number of function evaluations
                                                     : 17201
3 The number of jacobian evaluations
                                                     : 1725
4 The number of steps
                                                     : 35
5 The number of boundary evaluations
                                                     : 174
6 The number of boundary jacobian evaluations
                                                    : 72
7 The actual number of mesh points
                                                     : 160
8 The number of collocation points per subinterval : 5
                                                     : 2
9 The number of equations
10 The number of components (variables)
                                                     : 6
11 The order of each equation
                                                     : 2
12 The order of each equation
                                                     : 4
```

This is not case when we use bvptwp, where the higher-order specification is usually a bit slower than the first-order model:

Here the output for the first-order and higher-order specification is exactly the same:

```
max(abs(Soltwp2- Soltwp))
```

[1] 0

This problem is much too difficult to be solved with bvpshoot

## 4. Solving a Boundary Value Problem using Continuation

The previous -swirl- problem can be solved for small values of eps if the previous solution (Soltwp) with eps = 0.001, is used as an initial guess for smaller value of eps, e.g. 0.0001. When using byptwp, we pass the previous output values in xguess and xguess

```
eps <- 0.0001
xguess <- Soltwp[,1]</pre>
yguess \leftarrow t(Soltwp[,2:7])
print(system.time(
   Sol2 <- bvptwp(x = x, func = fsub, xguess = xguess, yguess = yguess,
           yini = c(y1 = -1, y2 = NA, y3 = 0, y4 = 0, y5 = NA, y6 = NA),
           yend = c(1,
                                    NA,
                                              0,
                                                      0,
                                                               NA,
 ))
  user system elapsed
  9.66
          0.00
                   9.86
```

Continuation using bypcol can also be done in the same way, but it is more efficient to pass the entire previous solution produced by bypcol in xguess.

We use the S3 plot method to plot all dependent variables at once: These plots are to be compared with the first column of the "pairs" plot (figure 3).

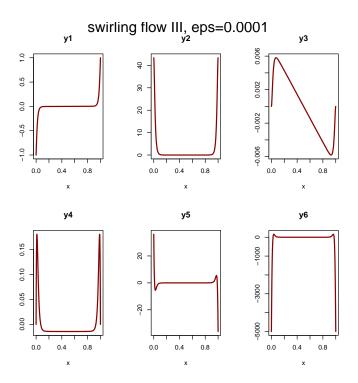


Figure 4: Solution of the swirling flow III problem with small eps, using continuation - see text for  ${\sf R}$  -code.

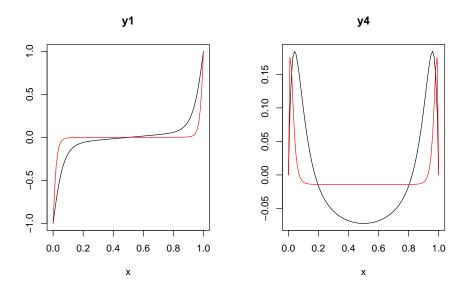


Figure 5: Plotting multiple scenario's at once - see text for R -code.

# 5. Plotting bypSolve objects

It is possible to plot several outputs of the same model at once, and to add observed conditions.

```
plot (Solcol, Sol2b, which = c("y1","y4"), lty = 1)
```

It is also relatively simple to add observed data. If not specified, then only the variables, in common between the output and data will be plotted:

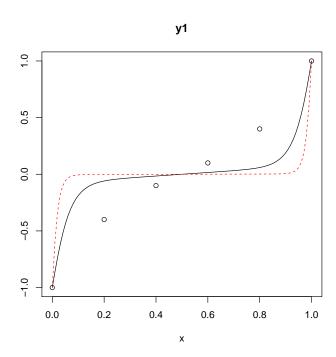


Figure 6: Plotting multiple scenario's with observed data - see text for  ${\sf R}$  -code.

## 6. More Complex Initial or End Conditions

Problem musn was described in (Ascher et al. 1995).

The problem is:

$$u' = 0.5u(w - u)/v$$

$$v' = -0.5(w - u)$$

$$w' = (0.9 - 1000(w - y) - 0.5w(w - u))/z$$

$$z' = 0.5(w - u)$$

$$y' = -100(y - w)$$

on the interval [0,1] and subject to boundary conditions:

$$u(0) = v(0) = w(0) = 1$$
  
 $z(0) = -10$   
 $w(1) = y(1)$ 

Note the last boundary condition which expresses w as a function of y. Implementation of the ODE function is simple:

```
musn <- function(x,Y,pars) {
    with (as.list(Y), {
        du <- 0.5 * u * (w - u) /v
        dv <- -0.5 * (w - u)
        dw <- (0.9 - 1000 * (w - y) - 0.5 * w * (w - u)) /z
        dz <- 0.5 * (w - u)
        dy <- -100 * (y - w)
        return(list(c(du, dv, dw, dz, dy)))
    })
}</pre>
```

This model is solved differently whether bypshoot or byptwp is used.

#### 6.1. Solving Problem musn with bypshoot

It is easiest to solve the musn model with bvpshoot:

There are 4 boundary values specified at the start of the interval; a value for y is lacking (and set to NA):

```
init <-c(u = 1, v = 1, w = 1, z = -10, y = NA)
```

The boundary condition at the end of the integration interval (1) specifies the value of w as a function of y.

Because of that, yend cannot be simply inputted as a vector. It is rather implemented as a function that has as input the values at the end of the integration interval (Y), the values at the start (yini) and the parameters, and that returns the residual function (w-y):

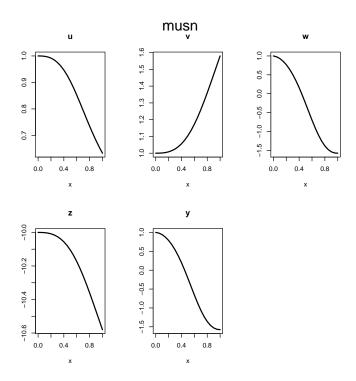


Figure 7: Solution of the musn model, using bvpshoot - see text for R -code.

```
yend <- function (Y, yini, pars) with (as.list(Y), w-y)</pre>
```

Note that the specification of the boundaries for bvptwp are rather different (next section). The solution, using bvpshoot is obtained by: <sup>2</sup>

## 6.2. Solving Problem musn with byptwp or bypcol

Here the boundary function bound must be specified:

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>Note that there are at least two solutions to this problem, the second solution can simply be found by setting guess equal to 0.9.

```
bound <- function(i,y,pars) {</pre>
    with (as.list(y), {
      if (i ==1) return (u-1)
      if (i ==2) return (v-1)
      if (i ==3) return (w-1)
      if (i ==4) return (z+10)
      if (i ==5) return (w-y)
   })
  }
Moreover, this problem can only be solved if good initial conditions are given:
 xguess \leftarrow seq(0, 1, len = 5)
 yguess <- matrix(ncol = 5, (rep(c(1, 1, 1, -10, 0.91), times = 5)))
 rownames(yguess) <- c("u", "v", "w", "z", "y")
 xguess
[1] 0.00 0.25 0.50 0.75 1.00
 yguess
    [,1]
            [,2]
                   [,3]
                           [, 4]
                                   [,5]
    1.00
           1.00
                   1.00
                           1.00
                                   1.00
u
                                   1.00
    1.00
            1.00
                   1.00
                           1.00
                                   1.00
    1.00
           1.00
                   1.00
                           1.00
z -10.00 -10.00 -10.00 -10.00 -10.00
```

Note that the rows of yguess have been given a name, such that this name can be used in the derivative and boundary function.

0.91

We specify that there are 4 left boundary conditions (leftbc).

0.91

0.91

0.91

0.91

```
print(system.time(
 Sol <- bvptwp(yini = NULL, x = x, func = musn, bound = bound,
               xguess = xguess, yguess = yguess, leftbc = 4,
               atol = 1e-10)
 ))
  user
        system elapsed
  1.24
          0.00
                  1.24
print(system.time(
 Sol2 <- bypcol(yini = NULL, x = x, func = musn, bound = bound,
               xguess = xguess, yguess = yguess, leftbc = 4,
               atol = 1e-10
 ))
  user
        system elapsed
  0.97
          0.00
                  0.97
```

## 7. A BVP Problem Including an Unknown Parameter

In the next BVP problem (Shampine *et al.* 2000), the fourth eigenvalue of the Mathieus equation (parameter  $\lambda$ ) is computed. The equation is

$$\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} + (\lambda - 10\cos(2x)) \cdot y = 0$$

defined on  $[0,\pi]$ , and with boundary conditions  $\frac{dy}{dx}(0) = 0$  and  $\frac{dy}{dx}(\pi) = 0$  and y(0) = 1Here all the initial values (at x=0) are prescribed, in addition to one condition at the end of the interval. If  $\lambda$  would be known the problem would be overdetermined.

The  $2^{nd}$  order differential equation is first rewritten as two  $1^{st}$ -order equations:

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = y_2$$

$$\frac{dy_2}{dx} = -(\lambda - 10\cos(2x)) \cdot y$$

and the function that estimates these derivatives is written (mathieu).

```
mathieu <- function(x,y,lambda)
list(c(y[2],
-(lambda - 10 * cos(2 * x)) * y[1]))
```

## 7.1. Solving For an Unknown Parameter Using bypshoot

This problem is most easily solved using bvpshoot; an initial guess of the extra parameter to be solved is simply passed via argument extra.

```
init \leftarrow c(1, 0)

sol \leftarrow bvpshoot(yini = init, yend = c(NA, 0), x = seq(0, pi, by = 0.01),

func = mathieu, extra = 15)
```

The result is plotted:

```
plot(sol[,1:2])
mtext(outer = TRUE, side = 3, line = -1.5, cex = 1.5, "mathieu")
```

The value of lambda can be printed:

```
attr(sol, "roots") # root gives the value of "lambda" (17.10683)
```

```
root f.root iter
2 17.10683 2.347269e-12 6
```

#### 7.2. Solving For an Unknown Parameter Using byptwp or bypcol

To use bvptwp or bvpcol, we treat the unknown parameter as an extra variable, whose derivative = 0 (it is a parameter, and by definition does not change over the integration

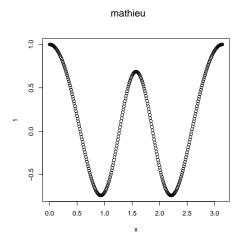


Figure 8: Solution of the BVP ODE problem including an unknown parameter, see text for R-code

interval). This is, the equations are:

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = y_2$$

$$\frac{dy_2}{dx} = -(\lambda - 10\cos(2x)) \cdot y$$

$$\frac{d\lambda}{dx} = 0$$

for dependent variables y, y\_2 and  $\lambda$ 

The model definition in R becomes:

```
mathieu2 <- function(x,y,p)

list(c(y[2], -(y[3] - 10 * cos(2 * x)) * y[1], 0))
```

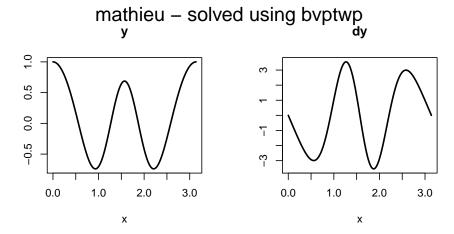
Note the third derivative, and the parameter lambda from previous chapter which is now y[3], the third variable.

The initial condition, yini and final condition, yend now also provides a value, NA, for the parameter (y3) that is unknown. We also provide initial guesses for the x- and y-values (xguess, yguess).

Sol <- bvptwp (yini = 
$$c(y = 1, dy = 0, lambda = NA)$$
), yend =  $c(NA, 0, NA)$ ,  $x = seq(0, pi, by = 0.01)$ , func = mathieu2, xguess =  $c(0, pi)$ , yguess = matrix(nrow = 3, data = rep(15, 6))

The y-value, its derivative, and lambda, are plotted

 $<sup>\</sup>overline{^3}$ This problem is not solved if the initial guess for the y-values is 0; yet any value different from 0 works



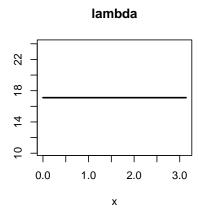


Figure 9: Solution of the BVP ODE problem including an unknown parameter, and using method byptwp - see text for R-code

## 8. A Boundary Value Problem with Periodic Boundary Conditions

A BVP with cyclic boundary conditions is the nerve impulse model, a problem described in (Seydel 1988). The equations are:

$$y_1' = 3T(y_1 + y_2 - 1/3y_1^3 - 1.3)$$
  
$$y_2' = -T(y_1 - 0.7 + 0.8y_2)/3$$

defined on the interval [0,1] and subject to boundary conditions:

$$y_1(0) = y_1(1)$$
  
$$y_2(0) = y_2(1)$$
  
$$1 = -T(y_1(0) - 0.7 + 0.8 * y_2(0))/3$$

### 8.1. Cyclic Boundary Conditions Solved Using bypshoot

The problem is first solved using bvpshoot:

The derivative function (where T is the parameter) is:

```
nerve <- function (t,y,T)

list(c( 3 * T * (y[1] + y[2] - 1/3 * (y[1]^3) - 1.3),

(-1/3) * T * (y[1] - 0.7 + 0.8 * y[2]) ))
```

and the residual function, at the end of the interval is:

```
res<- function (Y,yini,T)

c(Y[1] - yini[1],

Y[2] - yini[2],

T*(-1/3) * (yini[1] - 0.7 + 0.8 * yini[2]) - 1)
```

There are no initial conditions (yini); to solve this model, a reasonable guess of the missing initial conditions is necessary; the initial guess for the unknown parameter, T, is set to  $2\pi$  (extra):

```
yini \leftarrow c(y1 = NA, y2 = NA)

sol \leftarrow bvpshoot(yini = yini, x = seq(0, 1, by = 0.01),

func = nerve, guess = c(0.5, 0.5), yend = res, extra = 2 * pi)
```

T is estimated to be 10.710809; the root has been found in 11 iterations:

attributes(sol)\$root

```
root f.root iter
1 -1.183453 -3.315126e-13 11
2 2.004203 -1.469935e-13 11
3 10.710809 -5.329071e-15 11
```

## 8.2. Cyclic Boundary Conditions Solved using byptwp or bypcol

Function byptwp accepts only problems with separated boundary conditions, however, it is possible to use it also for solving boundary value problems with periodic boundary conditions.

This is done by considering the boundary conditions as "parameters", and using the strategy of defining these parameters as extra variables, with derivatives = 0, similar as in previous section.

The augmented derivative function is, with variable 3 the unknown parameter T, variables 4 and 5 the initial conditions of  $y_1$ , and  $y_2$  respectively, is:

The required boundary function, with the first 3 boundary conditions at the left boundary is:

```
bound <- function(i,y,p) {
  if (i == 1) return ( y[3]*(-1/3) * (y[1] - 0.7 + 0.8 * y[2]) - 1 )
  if (i == 2) return ( y[1] - y[4] )
  if (i == 3) return ( y[2] - y[5] )  # left bnd
  if (i == 4) return ( y[1] - y[4] )  # right bnd
  if (i == 5) return ( y[2] - y[5] )
}</pre>
```

boundary condition 2 sets the left boundary of  $y_1$  equal to parameter  $y_4$ , boundary condition 4 does the same for the right boundary of  $y_1$ .

Solving this also requires good initial conditions to find a solution:

```
xguess = seq(0, 1, by = 0.1)
yguess = matrix(nrow = 5, ncol = length(xguess), data = 5.)
yguess[1,] \leftarrow sin(2 * pi * xguess)
yguess[2,] \leftarrow cos(2 * pi * xguess)
rownames(yguess) \leftarrow c("y1", "y2", "T", "y1ini", "y2ini")
```

We need to specify that there are three left boundary conditions (leftbc)

```
Sol <- bvptwp(func = nerve3, bound = bound, x = seq(0, 1, by = 0.01), ynames = c("y", "dy", "T", "yi", "yj"), leftbc = 3, xguess = xguess, yguess = yguess)
```

The first row of Sol shows the initial conditions:

```
Sol[1,]
```

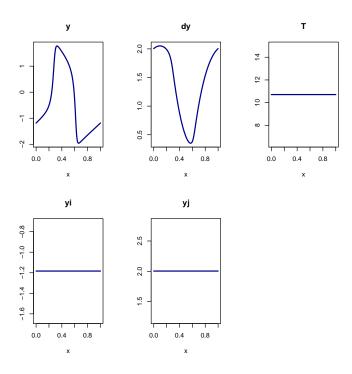


Figure 10: Solution of the nerve impulse problem, comprising two state variables and 3 parameters - see text for R-code

x y dy T yi yj
0.000000 -1.183453 2.004203 10.710808 -1.183453 2.004203
plot(Sol, type = "l", lwd = 2, col = "darkblue")

## 9. A Set of Higher-Order BVPs

Here the "fluid injection problem" is solved (Ascher *et al.* 1995). The original problem definition is:

$$f''' - R[(f')^{2} - f * f''] + RA = 0$$
$$h'' + R * f * h' + 1 = 0$$
$$O'' + P * f * O' = 0$$

on the interval [0,1], and where A is an unknown constant.

The boundary conditions are:

$$f(0) = 0, f'(0) = 0, h(0) = 0, O(0) = 0$$
  
 $f(1) = 1, f'(1) = 0, h(1) = 0, O(1) = 1$ 

We first solve this equation as a set of 1st order ODEs, which is implemented and solved in R as:

```
fluid<-function(t, y, pars, R) {</pre>
       <- 0.7*R
  with (as.list(y),
   df = f1
                                    #f'
   df1= f2
                                   #f''
   df2 = R * (f1^2 - f*f2) - A
                                   #f'''
   dh = h1
   dh1 = -R * f * h1 - 1
   d0 = 01
   d01 = -P * f * 01
   dA = 0
                               # the constant to be estimated
   return(list(c(df, df1, df2, dh, dh1, d0, d01, dA)))
  })
 }
       \leftarrow seq(0, 1, by = 0.01)
times
       \leftarrow c(f = 0, f1 = 0, f2 = NA, h = 0, h1 = NA, 0 = 0, 01 = NA, A = NA)
                                       0,
yend
       <-c(1,
                          0,
                                  NA,
                                                   NA,
                                                            1,
                                                                     NA,
                                                                              NA)
print (system.time(
 Solcol1 <- bvpcol(func=fluid, x=times, parms=NULL, R=10000,
                   yini = yini, yend=yend)
 ))
        system elapsed
  user
  4.11
          0.00
                   4.11
```

where the reported system time is in seconds. For increasing values of R, the problem becomes more and more difficult to solve.

The implementation as a set of higher-order ODEs is as follows:

```
fluidHigh <- function(t, y, pars, R) {</pre>
        <-0.7 * R
   with (as.list(y),
                      {
                                        #f'''
    d3f = R * (f1^2 - f * f2) - A
    d2h = -R * f * h1 - 1
    d20 = -P * f * 01
    dA = 0
    return(list(c(d3f, d2h, d20, dA)))
   })
  }
 times <- seq(0, 1, by = 0.01)
        \leftarrow c(f = 0, f1 = 0, f2 = NA, h = 0, h1 = NA, 0 = 0, 01 = NA, A = NA)
        <- c(1,
                        0,
                                  NA, O,
                                                           1,
                                                                   NA,
yend
                                                  NA ,
                                                                            NA)
print (system.time(
  Solcol2 <- bypcol(func = fluidHigh, x = times, parms = NULL, R = 10000,
                    order = c(3, 2, 2, 1), yini = yini, yend=yend)
  ))
         system elapsed
   user
   2.10
           0.00
Note that we have specified the order of each equation (3,2,2,1) in fluidHigh.
The output is the same as the other specification:
head(Solcol1, n = 3)
                                        f2
                                                                   h1
                    f
                             f1
                                                       h
[1,] 0.00 0.000000000 0.000000 244.549165 0.0000000000 0.030029302
[2,] 0.01 0.008423256 1.361821 53.204941 0.0002321423 0.014032413
[3,] 0.02 0.023462587 1.567566
                                  3.822699 0.0002802765 -0.001566255
                     01
[1,] 0.0000000 62.30644 24932.52
[2,] 0.5894266 50.15712 24932.52
[3,] 0.9206130 16.61383 24932.52
head(Solcol2, n = 3)
                             f1
                                        f2
[1,] 0.00 0.000000000 0.000000 244.549165 0.0000000000 0.030029301
```

```
[3,] 0.9206130 16.61383 24932.52

plot(Solcol1, main="Fluid injection problem", which = "f1", type = "l", lwd = 2)
```

01

[3,] 0.02 0.023462587 1.567566

[1,] 0.0000000 62.30644 24932.52 [2,] 0.5894266 50.15712 24932.52

0

[2,] 0.01 0.008423256 1.361821 53.204941 0.0002321423 0.014032413

3.822699 0.0002802765 -0.001566255

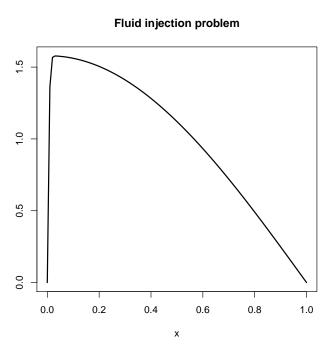


Figure 11: The fluid injection problem, a set of higher-order ODEs - see text for  ${\sf R}$  -code.

## 10. A Multipoint Problem

Function byptwp can only solve problems whose boundary conditions are located at the start and/or end of the integration interval.

Function bvpcol (and also bvpshoot) can also solve problems where the extra conditions are somewhere within the integration interval.

Consider the following problem:

$$y_1' = (y_2 - 1)/2$$
  
 $y_2' = (y_1y_2 - x)/\mu$ 

defined in the interval [0,1] and with extra conditions:

$$y_1(1) = 0$$
  
 $y_2(0.5) = 1$ 

As the second condition is specified within the integration interval, this is a multipoint problem.

Mulipoint problems can only be specified in R using a boundary function bound; as the boundary for  $y_2$  is specified before  $y_1$ , it is treated first in the boundary function (because posbound has to be sorted).

We check the boundary values:

sol[sol[,1] %in% c(0.5,1),]

```
x 1 2
[1,] 0.5 3.388950e-01 1.000000
[2,] 1.0 -3.733721e-18 -2.658449

plot(sol)
```

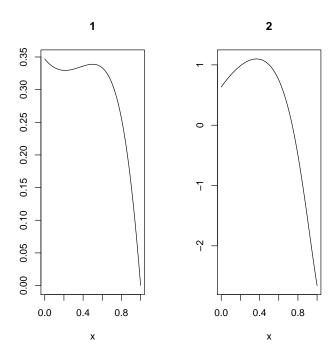


Figure 12: Solution of a multipoint problem - see text for R-code  $\,$ 

## 11. Specifying the Analytic Jacobians

By default, the Jacobians of the derivative function and of the boundary conditions, are estimated numerically. It is however possible - and faster - to provide the analytical solution of the Jacobian.

As an example, the elastica problem is implemented (http://www.ma.ic.ac.uk/~jcash/ BVP\_software).

The original system reads:

$$\frac{dx}{ds} = \cos(\phi) \tag{1}$$

$$\frac{dy}{ds} = \sin(\phi) \tag{2}$$

$$\frac{dy}{ds} = \sin(\phi) \tag{2}$$

$$\frac{d\phi}{ds} = \kappa \tag{3}$$

$$\frac{d\kappa}{ds} = F\cos(\phi) \tag{4}$$

$$\frac{d\kappa}{ds} = F\cos(\phi) \tag{4}$$

$$\frac{dF}{ds} = 0 \tag{5}$$

where F is an (unknown) constant, and with the following boundary conditions:

$$x(0) = 0$$
  
 $y(0) = 0$   
 $\kappa(0) = 0$   
 $y(0.5) = 0$   
 $\phi(0.5) = -\pi/2$ 

First implementation uses the default specification:

```
Elastica <- function (x, y, pars) {</pre>
   list(c(cos(y[3]),
           sin(y[3]),
           y[4],
           y[5] * cos(y[3]),
           0))
Sol <- bvptwp(func = Elastica,
               yini = c(x = 0, y = 0, p = NA, k = 0, F = NA),
               yend = c(x = NA, y = 0, p = -pi/2, k = NA, F = NA),
               x = seq(0, 0.5, len = 16))
plot(Sol)
```

Now several extra functions are defined, specifying

1. the analytic Jacobian for the derivative function (jacfunc)

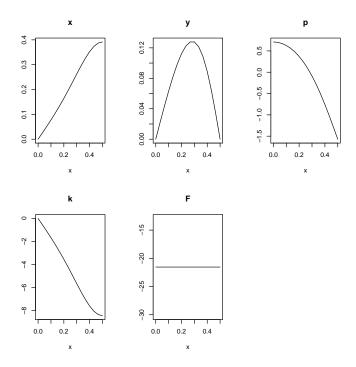


Figure 13: Solution of the elastica problem - see text for R-code

- 2. the boundary function (bound). Here i is the boundary condition "number". The conditions at the left are enumerated first, then the ones at the right. For instance, i = 1 specifies the boundary for y(0) = 0, or  $BC_1 = y[1] 0$ ; the fifth boundary condition is y[3] = -pi/2 or  $BC_3 = y[3] + \pi/2$
- 3. the analytic Jacobian for the boundary function (jacbound)

This is done in the R -code below:

```
jacfunc <- function (x, y, pars) {
        Jac <- matrix(nrow = 5, ncol = 5, data = 0)
        Jac[3,4] <- 1.0
        Jac[4,4] <- 1.0
        Jac[1,3] <- -sin(y[3])
        Jac[2,3] <- cos(y[3])
        Jac[4,3] <- -y[5] * sin(y[3])
        Jac[4,5] <- Jac[2,3]
        Jac
}

bound <- function (i, y, pars) {
        if (i <= 2) return(y[i])
        else if (i == 3) return(y[4])
        else if (i == 4) return(y[2])</pre>
```

```
else if (i == 5) return(y[3] + pi/2)
}

jacbound <- function(i, y, pars) {
    JJ <- rep(0, 5)
        if (i <= 2) JJ[i] =1.0
    else if (i == 3) JJ[4] =1.0
    else if (i == 4) JJ[2] =1.0
    else if (i == 5) JJ[3] =1.0
    JJ
}</pre>
```

If this input is used, the number of left boundary conditions (leftbc), and either the number of state variables (ncomp), or their names (ynames) needs to be specified.

```
Sol4 <- bvptwp(leftbc = 3, ynames = c("x", "y", "p", "k", "F"),

func = Elastica, jacfunc = jacfunc,

bound = bound, jacbound = jacbound,

x = seq(0, 0.5, len=16))
```

Solving the model this way is about 3 times faster than the default.

## 12. Implementing a BVP Problem in Compiled Code

Even more computing time is saved by specifying the problem in lower-level languages such as FORTRAN or C, or  $C^{++}$ , which are compiled into a dynamically linked library (DLL) and loaded into R .

This is similar as the differential equations from package **deSolve** (Soetaert et al. 2010b).

Its vignette ("compiledCode") can be consulted for more information. (http://cran.r-project.org/package=deSolve/)

In order to create compiled models (.DLL = dynamic link libraries on Windows or .so = shared objects on other systems) you must have a recent version of the GNU compiler suite installed, which is quite standard for Linux.

Windows users find all the required tools on http://www.murdoch-sutherland.com/Rtools/. Getting DLLs produced by other compilers to communicate with R is much more complicated and therefore not recommended. More details can be found on http://cran.r-project.org/doc/manuals/R-admin.html.

The call to the derivative, boundary and Jacobian functions is more complex for compiled code compared to R -code, because it has to comply with the interface needed by the integrator source codes.

#### 12.1. The Elastica Problem in FORTRAN

Below is an implementation of the elastica model in FORTRAN: (slightly modified from http://www.ma.ic.ac.uk/~jcash/BVP\_software):

```
c The differential system:
      SUBROUTINE fsub(NCOMP, X, Z, F, RPAR, IPAR)
      IMPLICIT NONE
      INTEGER NCOMP, IPAR , I
      DOUBLE PRECISION F, Z, RPAR, X
      DIMENSION Z(*),F(*)
      DIMENSION RPAR(*), IPAR(*)
      F(1)=cos(Z(3))
      F(2)=\sin(Z(3))
      F(3)=Z(4)
      F(4)=Z(5)*cos(Z(3))
      F(5) = 0
      RETURN
      END
c The analytic Jacobian for the F-function:
      SUBROUTINE dfsub(NCOMP,X,Z,DF,RPAR,IPAR)
      IMPLICIT NONE
      INTEGER NCOMP, IPAR, I, J
      DOUBLE PRECISION X, Z, DF, RPAR
```

```
DIMENSION Z(*),DF(NCOMP,*)
     DIMENSION RPAR(*), IPAR(*)
     CHARACTER (len=50) str
     DO I=1,5
        DO J=1,5
            DF(I,J)=0.D0
         END DO
     END DO
     DF(1,3) = -\sin(Z(3))
     DF(2,3) = cos(Z(3))
     DF(3,4)=1.0D0
     DF(4,3)=-Z(5)*sin(Z(3))
     DF(4,4)=1.0D0
     DF(4,5) = cos(Z(3))
     RETURN
     END
c The boundary conditions:
     SUBROUTINE gsub(I,NCOMP,Z,G,RPAR,IPAR)
      IMPLICIT NONE
      INTEGER I, NCOMP, IPAR
     DOUBLE PRECISION Z, RPAR, G
      DIMENSION Z(*)
     DIMENSION RPAR(*), IPAR(*)
     IF (I.EQ.1) G=Z(1)
      IF (I.EQ.2) G=Z(2)
      IF (I.EQ.3) G=Z(4)
      IF (I.EQ.4) G=Z(2)
      IF (I.EQ.5) G=Z(3)+1.5707963267948966192313216916397514D0
      RETURN
      END
c The analytic Jacobian for the boundaries:
      SUBROUTINE dgsub(I,NCOMP,Z,DG,RPAR,IPAR)
      IMPLICIT NONE
      INTEGER I, NCOMP, IPAR
     DOUBLE PRECISION Z, DG, RPAR
     DIMENSION Z(*),DG(*)
     DIMENSION RPAR(*), IPAR(*)
     DG(1)=0.D0
```

```
DG(2) = 0.D0
      DG(3) = 0.D0
      DG(4) = 0.D0
      DG(5) = 0.D0
С
      dG1/dZ1
      IF (I.EQ.1) DG(1)=1.D0
С
      dG2/dZ2
      IF (I.EQ.2) DG(2)=1.D0
C
      dG3/dZ4
      IF (I.EQ.3) DG(4)=1.D0
С
      dG4/dZ2
      IF (I.EQ.4) DG(2)=1.D0
C
      dG5/dZ3
      IF (I.EQ.5) DG(3)=1.D0
      RETURN
      END
```

#### 12.2. The Elastica Problem in C

```
The same model, implemented in C is:
```

```
#include <math.h>
// The differential system:
  void fsub(int *n, double *x, double *z, double *f,
        double * RPAR, int * IPAR) {
      f[0] = cos(z[2]);
      f[1]=\sin(z[2]);
      f[2]=z[3]
      f[3]=z[4]*cos(z[2]);
      f[4]=0;
  }
// The analytic Jacobian for the F-function:
  void dfsub(int * n, double *x, double *z, double * df,
      double *RPAR, int *IPAR) {
      int j;
      for (j = 0; j < *n * *n; j++) df[j] = 0;
      df[*n *2] = -sin(z[2]);
```

```
df[*n *2 +1] = cos(z[2]);
      df[*n *3 +2] = 1.0;
      df[*n *2 +3] = -z[4]*sin(z[2]);
      df[*n *3 +3] = 1.0;
      df[*n *4 +3] = cos(z[2]);
  }
// The boundary conditions:
  void gsub(int *i, int *n, double *z, double *g,
      double *RPAR, int *IPAR) {
      if (*i==1) *g=z[0];
      else if (*i==2) *g=z[1];
      else if (*i==3) *g=z[3];
      else if (*i==4) *g=z[1];
      else if (*i==5) *g=z[2]+1.5707963267948966192313216916397514;
  }
// The analytic Jacobian for the G-function:
  void dgsub(int *i, int *n, double *z, double *dg,
      double *RPAR, int *IPAR) {
      int j;
      for (j = 0; j < *n; j++) dg[j] = 0;
      if (*i == 1) dg[0] = 1.;
      else if (*i == 2) dg[1] = 1.;
      else if (*i == 3) dg[3] = 1.;
      else if (*i == 4) dg[1] = 1.;
      else if (*i == 5) dg[2] = 1.;
```

#### 12.3. Solving the Elastica Problem Specified in Compiled Code

In what follows, it is assumed that the codes are saved in a file called elastica.f, and elastica.c and that these files are in the working directory of R . (if not, use setwd()) Before the functions can be executed, the FORTRAN or C- code has to be compiled This can simply be done in R:

```
system("R CMD SHLIB elastica.f")
system("R CMD SHLIB elasticaC.c")
```

```
system("gfortran -shared -o elastica.dll elastica.f")
system("gcc -shared -o elasticaC.dll elasticaC.c")
```

This will create a file called elastica.dll and elasticaC.dll respectively (on windows).

After loading the DLL, the model can be run, after which the DLL is unloaded. For the FORTRAN version, this is done as follows (the C code is similar, except for the name of the DLL):

Note that the number of components (equations) needs to be explicitly inputted (ncomp).

This model is about 8-10 times faster than the pure R implementation from previous section.

The solver recognizes that the model is specified as a DLL due to the fact that arguments func, jacfunc, bound and jacbound are not regular R -functions but character strings.

Thus, the solver will check whether these functions are loaded in the DLL with name "elastica.dll". Note that the name of the DLL should be specified without extension.

This DLL should contain all the compiled function or subroutine definitions needed.

Also, if func is specified in compiled code, then jacfunc, bound and jacbound should also be specified in a compiled language. It is not allowed to mix R-functions and compiled functions.

## 13. Passing Parameters and External Data to Compiled Code

When using compiled code, it is possible to

- pass parameters from R to the compiled functions
- pass forcing functions from R to compiled functions. These are then updated to the correct value of the independent variable (x) at each step.

The implementation of this is similar as in package **deSolve**. How to do it has been extensively explained in deSolve's vignette, which can be consulted for details.

See http://cran.r-project.org/package=deSolve.

Here we implement a simple linear boundary value problem, which is a standard test problem for BVP code ((Scott and Watts 1977)). The model has a boundary layer at x=0.

The differential equation depends on a parameter **a** and **p**:

$$y'' + \frac{-apy}{(p+x^2)^2} = 0$$

and is solved on [-0.1, +0.1] with boundary conditions:

$$y(-0.1) = -0.1\sqrt{p + 0.01}$$
$$y(+0.1) = 0.1\sqrt{p + 0.01}$$

where a = 3 and p is taken small.

This differential equation is written as a system of two first-order ODEs.

The implementation in pure R is given first:

with parameter values:

plot(sol, type = "1")

It is solved using bvptwp; note that the initial condition (yini) gives names to the variables; these names are used by the solver to label the output:

sol <- bvptwp(yini = 
$$c(y = -0.1/sqrt(p+0.01), dy = NA)$$
,  
yend =  $c(0.1/sqrt(p+0.01), NA)$ ,  
 $x = seq(-0.1, 0.1, by = 0.001)$ ,  
func = fun)

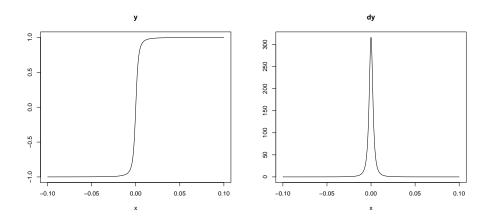


Figure 14: Solution of the linear boundary problem - see text for R-code

Next the FORTRAN implementation is given, which requires writing the boundary and jacobian functions (bound, jacfunc and jacbound)

The two parameters are initialised in a function called initbnd; its name is passed to function byptwp via argument initfunc.

```
c FORTRAN implementation of the boundary problem
c Initialiser for parameter common block
      SUBROUTINE initbnd(bvpparms)
      EXTERNAL bypparms
      DOUBLE PRECISION parms(2)
      COMMON / pars / parms
      CALL bypparms(2, parms)
      END
c derivative function
      SUBROUTINE funbnd(NCOMP,X,Y,F,RPAR,IPAR)
      IMPLICIT NONE
      INTEGER NCOMP, IPAR(*), I
      DOUBLE PRECISION F(2), Y(2), RPAR(*), X
      DOUBLE PRECISION a, p
      COMMON / pars / a, p
        F(1) = Y(2)
        F(2) = -a * p *Y(1)/(p+ x*x)**2
      END
c The analytic Jacobian for the derivative-function:
      SUBROUTINE dfbnd(NCOMP,X,Y,DF,RPAR,IPAR)
```

```
IMPLICIT NONE
      INTEGER NCOMP, IPAR(*), I, J
      DOUBLE PRECISION X, Y(2), DF(2,2), RPAR(*)
      DOUBLE PRECISION a, p
      COMMON / pars / a, p
        DF(1,1)=0.D0
        DF(1,2)=1.D0
        DF(2,1) = -a *p /(p+x*x)**2
        DF(2,2)=0.D0
      END
c The boundary conditions:
      SUBROUTINE gbnd(I,NCOMP,Y,G,RPAR,IPAR)
      IMPLICIT NONE
      INTEGER I, NCOMP, IPAR(*)
      DOUBLE PRECISION Y(2), RPAR(*), G
      DOUBLE PRECISION a, p
      COMMON / pars / a, p
        IF (I.EQ.1) THEN
          G=Y(1) + 0.1 / sqrt(p+0.01)
        ELSE IF (I.EQ.2) THEN
          G=Y(1) - 0.1 / sqrt(p+0.01)
        ENDIF
      END
c The analytic Jacobian for the boundaries:
      SUBROUTINE dgbnd(I,NCOMP,Y,DG,RPAR,IPAR)
      IMPLICIT NONE
      INTEGER I, NCOMP, IPAR(*)
      DOUBLE PRECISION Y(2), DG(2), RPAR(*)
        DG(1)=1.D0
        DG(2)=0.D0
      END
```

Before running the model, the parameters are defined:

```
parms <-c(a = 3, p = 1e-7)
```

and the DLL created and loaded; This model has been made part of package **bvpSolve**, so it is available in DLL bvpSolve.

Assuming that this was not the case, and the code is in a file called "boundary\_for.f", this is how to compile this code and load the DLL (on windows):

```
system("R CMD SHLIB boundary_for.f")
dyn.load("boundary_for.dll")
```

We execute the model several times, for different values of parameter p; we create a sequence of parameter values (pseq), over which the model then iterates (for (pp in pseq)); the resulting y-values  $(2^{nd})$  column) of each iteration are added to matrix Out.

```
Out <- NULL
x <- seq(-0.1, 0.1, by = 0.001)
pseq <- 10^-seq(0, 6, 0.5)
for (pp in pseq) {
   parms[2] <- pp
   outFor <- bvptwp(ncomp = 2, x = x, leftbc = 1,
        initfunc = "initbnd", parms = parms, func = "funbnd",
        jacfunc = "dfbnd", bound = "gbnd", jacbound = "dgbnd",
        allpoints = FALSE, dllname = "bvpSolve")
   Out <- cbind(Out, outFor[,2])
}</pre>
```

It takes less than 0.06 seconds to do this.

Results are plotted, using R -function matplot:

```
matplot(x, Out, type = "1")
legend("topleft", legend = log10(pseq), title = "logp",
  col = 1 : length(pseq), lty = 1 : length(pseq), cex = 0.6)
```

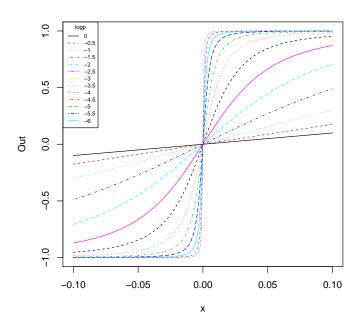


Figure 15: Multiple solutions of the linear problem - see text for R-code

#### References

- Ascher U, Christiansen J, Russell R (1979). "a collocation solver for mixed order systems of boundary value problems." *math. comp.*, **33**, 659–679.
- Ascher U, Mattheij R, Russell R (1995). Numerical Solution of Boundary Value Problems for Ordinary Differential Equations. Philadelphia, PA.
- Bader G, Ascher U (1987). "a new basis implementation for a mixed order boundary value ode solver." siam j. scient. stat. comput., 8, 483–500.
- Cash JR, Mazzia F (2005). "A new mesh selection algorithm, based on conditioning, for two-point boundary value codes." J. Comput. Appl. Math., 184, 362–381.
- Cash JR, Wright MH (1991). "A deferred correction method for nonlinear two-point boundary value problems: implementation and numerical evaluation." SIAM J. Sci. Stat. Comput., 12, 971–989.
- R Development Core Team (2010). R: A Language and Environment for Statistical Computing. R Foundation for Statistical Computing, Vienna, Austria. ISBN 3-900051-07-0, URL http://www.R-project.org.
- Scott M, Watts H (1977). "Computational solution of linear two point boundary value problems via orthonormalization." SIAM J. Numer. Anal., 14, 40–70.
- Seydel R (1988). From equilibrium to Chaos. Elsevier, New York.
- Shampine L, Kierzenka J, Reichelt M (2000). solving boundary value problems for ordinary differential equations in MATLAB with bvp4c.
- Soetaert K (2009). rootSolve: Nonlinear root finding, equilibrium and steady-state analysis of ordinary differential equations. R package version 1.6.
- Soetaert K, Cash J, Mazzia F (2010a). bvpSolve: solvers for boundary value problems of ordinary differential equations. R package version 1.2.
- Soetaert K, Petzoldt T, Setzer RW (2010b). "Solving Differential Equations in R: Package deSolve." *Journal of Statistical Software*, **33**(9), 1–25. ISSN 1548-7660. URL http://www.jstatsoft.org/v33/i09.

#### Affiliation:

Karline Soetaert

Centre for Estuarine and Marine Ecology (CEME)

Netherlands Institute of Ecology (NIOO)

4401 NT Yerseke, Netherlands

E-mail: k.soetaert@nioo.knaw.nl

URL: http://www.nioo.knaw.nl/users/ksoetaert

Jeff Cash Imperial College London South Kensington Campus London SW7 2AZ, U.K.

E-mail: j.cash@imperial.ac.uk

URL: http://www.ma.ic.ac.uk/~jcash

Francesca Mazzia Dipartimento di Matematica Universita' di Bari Via Orabona 4, 70125 BARI

Italy E-mail: mazzia@dm.uniba.it

URL: http://pitagora.dm.uniba.it/~mazzia