An Efficient Method for Solving Multipoint Equation Boundary Value Problems

Ampon Dhamacharoen and Kanittha Chompuvised

Abstract—In this work, we solve multipoint boundary value problems where the boundary value conditions are equations using the Newton-Broyden Shooting method (NBSM). The proposed method is tested upon several problems from the literature and the results are compared with the available exact solution. The experiments are given to illustrate the efficiency and implementation of the method.

Keywords—Boundary value problem; Multipoint equation boundary value problems, Shooting Method, Newton-Broyden method.

I. INTRODUCTION

BOUNDARY value problems of ordinary differential equations appear in a large domain of sciences and many practically important problems lead to Multipoint Boundary Value Problems (MBVP’s). They are used to describe a large number of physical, biological and chemical phenomena. The works of Prescott [10] and Timoshenko [16] on elasticity, the monographs by Mansfield [5] and the work of Dulácska [4] on the effects of soil settlement are rich sources of such applications.

Let us consider the boundary value problem:

Differential equation:

\[ f(Y'(t), t) = 0 \]  \hspace{1cm} (1a)

Boundary value condition:

\[ g(Y(t_0), Y'(t_1), \ldots, Y'(t_k)) = 0 \]  \hspace{1cm} (1b)

where \( t \in \mathbb{R} \), \( Y(t) = (y^{(n)}(t), y^{(n-1)}(t), \ldots, y(t)) \in \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}^n \), \( f \in \mathbb{R}^n \), \( y(t) \in \mathbb{R}^m \), and \( g \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times m} \). If \( k = 0 \) the problems become the initial value problem. The problems are called a two-point boundary value problem if \( k = 1 \), and a multipoint boundary value problem if \( k > 1 \). Under certain conditions on the differential equations and the boundary conditions, systems (1a), (1b) have solutions (or a unique solution). The proof of existence, and uniqueness, for some boundary value problems is possible [6,20,21], but for the majority of problems, providing proof is difficult, and so for this reason they remain unproved. Also, solving the problems by analytical methods are rare since most of the problems encountered were difficult, with complicate differential equations or complicate boundary conditions. On the contrary, various numerical methods were developed to approximately solve the problems. Several techniques, such as shooting method [15,19], Adomian decomposition method (ADM) [2,12], differential transform method (DTM) [18], variational iteration method (VIM) [9], successive iteration [13], splines [17], homotopy perturbation method (HPM) [8,11], homotopy analysis method (HAM) [14] have been used to handle these types of problems.

In this paper, we concentrate on method of solving the multipoint boundary value problem where the boundary conditions are equations, which we shall call the multipoint equation boundary value problem. We adapted a method which was success in finding the approximate solution of two-point BVPs (see [22]). The method makes use of the shooting method, but has also adapted the technique of updating the initial values. Several examples are given to illustrate the efficiency and implementation of the method.

II. THE NEWTON AND BROYDEN SHOOTING METHOD

The process of shooting method is as follows: Firstly, guess the initial value \( z = Y(t_0) \) and solve the differential equation (1a) with this initial value to get \( Y(t_j), j = 1, 2, \ldots, m \); check whether the condition (1b) is satisfied; if not, adjust the initial z and repeat until the condition (1b) is met. More precisely, for the \( k+1 \)-point boundary value problems:

Differential equation: \[ f(Y(t), t) = 0 \]  \hspace{1cm} (2a)

Boundary value condition:

\[ g(Y(t_0), Y'(t_1), \ldots, Y'(t_k)) = 0 \]  \hspace{1cm} (2b)

Let \( z = Y(t_0) \) and \( F(z) = g(z, Y(t_1), \ldots, Y(t_k)) \), where \( Y(t) \) and \( Y'(t_j) \), \( j = 1, 2, \ldots, k \), are considered to be functions of \( z \) implicitly through the equation (2a). The equation (2b) can be written in the form

\[ F(z) = 0 \]  \hspace{1cm} (3)

To solve (3) numerically, the Newton method has the scheme:

\[ z_{i+1} = z_i - [F'(z_i)]^{-1}F(z_i), \quad i = 1, 2, 3, \ldots \]  \hspace{1cm} (4)
where \( F(z) \) is the Jacobian matrix of the function \( F \). The method is called Newton Shooting Method if (3) is solved using the Newton scheme (4). The most difficult task in this problem is to find the value \( F(z) \) in each iteration, since the function \( F \) has implicit form, and its value is derived from solving the differential equations (1a). Let \( S(t, z) = Y(t) \), we have \( F(z) = g(z, S(t_1, z), \ldots, S(t_k, z)) \). Therefore:

\[
F(z) = \prod \left( \frac{\partial g}{\partial z} \right) \quad \text{(5)}
\]

where \( \frac{\partial g}{\partial z} \) and \( \frac{\partial S}{\partial z} \), \( j = 1, 2, \ldots, k \), are Jacobian matrices with appropriate sizes. The values \( \frac{\partial g}{\partial z} \) and \( \frac{\partial S}{\partial z} \) will be obtained directly from (2b). The value \( \frac{\partial S}{\partial z} \) can be computed by:

\[
\frac{\partial S}{\partial z} = \left. \frac{\partial S}{\partial z} \right|_{t=t_j}
\]

From (1a) differentiating both sides with respect to \( z \) gives:

\[
\left. \frac{\partial F}{\partial z} \right|_{Y(t), s} \frac{\partial S}{\partial z} = \mathbf{0}
\]

Let \( p(t) = \frac{\partial S}{\partial z} \), then \( \frac{\partial S}{\partial z} \) can be obtained from solving the system of linear differential equations:

\[
\left[ \frac{\partial F}{\partial z} \right|_{Y(t), s} p(t) = \mathbf{0}
\]

for \( p(t) \) and then set \( \frac{\partial S}{\partial z} = p(t) \), \( j = 1, 2, \ldots, n \).

Note that computing the value of \( F(z) \) in each iteration requires so much work, therefore, any method which could be utilized to avoid this work, and which also works satisfactorily well, would be preferred.

To avoid the difficult calculation of \( F(z) \), the Broyden scheme

\[
z_{i+1} = z_i - D_i^{-1} F(z_i), \quad i = 1, 2, 3, \ldots
\]

can be used to replace (3), that is, replacing \( F(z) \) with a non-singular matrix \( D_i \). With the appropriate initial \( z_0 \) and \( D_0 \), and with the Broyden updating

\[
D_{i+1} = D_i + ab^T
\]

where

\[
a = \frac{1}{b^T b} F(z_{i+1}), \quad \text{and} \quad b = z_{i+1} - z_i, \quad \text{the scheme (7)}
\]

will produce the sequence that hopefully converges to the solutions.

In solving the system of ordinary equations, the Broyden method performs well, provided that a good initial point \( z \) and \( D \) were chosen. In case of convergence, the Broyden method has q-super linearly order of convergence [7]. So, compared to the Newton method, which has quadratic convergence, but involves a large amount of computation, the Broyden method may sometimes be preferable. Unfortunately, it is sometimes difficult to come up with a good initial guess, and thus the solutions cannot be found. For the boundary value problems with simple two-point boundary conditions, experiments have showed that the Broyden works well most of the time, even for non-linear differential equations [3]. If the boundary conditions are equations, the Broyden still works well if the differential equations are linear. However, many times, it can not reach a satisfactory solution if the differential equations are non-linear.

### III. The Newton-Broyden Method

Now, let’s consider the function of the form

\[
F(u(x), x) = 0
\]

The Newton scheme of this problem is

\[
x_{i+1} = x_i - [F'(u(x_i), x_i)]^{-1} F(u(x_i), x_i), \quad i = 0, 1, 2, \ldots
\]

where

\[
F'(u(x_i), x_i) = F_u(u(x_i), x_i) u'(x_i) + F_x(u(x_i), x_i)
\]

Replace \( u'(x_i) \) by \( D_i \), gives

\[
x_{i+1} = x_i - [F'_u(u(x_i), x_i)] D_i + F_x(u(x_i), x_i)\]

with updating:

\[
D_{i+1} = D_i + \frac{1}{b^T b} (u(x_{i+1}) - u(x_i) - D_i b) b^T
\]

where

\[
b = x_{i+1} - x_i
\]

This method retains the good part of Newton method, and replaces the difficult part of Newton's by Broyden's. With a good initial guess for \( x_0 \) and \( D_0 \), the Newton-Broyden scheme (10) will produce the sequence that converges to a solution of (8), with q-super linearly order of convergence [1].

Consider the function of the form:

\[
F(u_1(x), u_2(x), \ldots, u_k(x), x) = 0
\]

where \( x, u_j(x) \in R^m, j = 1, 2, \ldots, k \). The derivative is:

\[
F'(u_1(x), u_2(x), \ldots, u_k(x), x) = \sum_{j=1}^k F_{u_j} u_j(x) + F_x(x)
\]

The Newton scheme of this problem is

\[
x_{i+1} = x_i - \sum_{j=1}^k F_{u_j}(u(x_i), x_i) D_{ji} + F_x(u(x_i), x_i)\]

Replace \( u'_j(x_i) \) by \( D_{ji} \), gives

\[
x_{i+1} = x_i - \sum_{j=1}^k F_{u_j}(u(x_i), x_i) D_{ji} + F_x(u(x_i), x_i)
\]

with updating:
\[
D_{ji+1} = D_{ji} + \frac{1}{b_i} (u_j(x_{i+1}) - u_j(x_i)) - D_{ji} b_j b_i^T \tag{15}
\]
where \( b = x_{i+1} - x_i \).

Consider the equation (5) in the form of (13), the derivatives take the forms:

\[
(F_{u1}(u(x_1), x_1), F_{u2}(u(x_1), x_1), \ldots, F_{uk}(u(x_1), x_1)) = \frac{\partial g}{\partial S},
\]

\[
u_j'(x_i) = \frac{\partial S_j}{\partial z}, \quad j = 1, 2, \ldots, k, \text{ and } F_0(u(x_1), x_1) = \frac{\partial g}{\partial z}.
\]

In using the scheme (14), the matrix \( \frac{\partial S_j}{\partial z} \) at the \( i \)-th iteration was replaced by \( D_{ji} \), and the Broyden updating technique was used to obtain \( D_{ji+1} \). The full process (which should be called the Newton-Broyden Shooting method (NBSM)) will be as follows:

1. Let \( Y(t_0) = z_0 \) and a matrix \( D_{j0} \) (same size of \( \frac{\partial S_j}{\partial z} \)) be given. Solve the differential equation (2a) with the initial values \( z_0 \) to obtain \( Y(t_j) \), \( i = 1, 2, \ldots, k \). Compute \( F = F(z) = g(Y(t_1), Y(t_2), \ldots, Y(t_k), z) \). Let \( u_{ji} = Y(t_j) \), \( j = 1, 2, \ldots, k \).

2. For \( i = 0, 1, 2, \ldots \) do the following:

   \[
   \text{Compute } \frac{\partial g}{\partial z}, \quad \frac{\partial S}{\partial z}j, j = 1, 2, \ldots, k, \text{ and } \frac{\partial S}{\partial z}\text{.}
   \]

   \[
   H = \frac{\partial g}{\partial z} + \sum_{j=1}^{k} \frac{\partial g}{\partial S_j} D_{ji}
   \]

   Solve the system of linear equations \( Hb = -F \) for \( b \).

   Let \( z_{j+1} = z_j + b \).

   Solve the differential equation (2a) with the new initial values \( z_{j+1} \), to obtain \( Y(t_j) \), \( j = 1, 2, \ldots, k \). Compute \( u_{ji+1} = Y(t_j) \) and

   \[
   F = F(z_{i+1}) = g(Y(t_1), Y(t_2), \ldots, Y(t_k), z_{i+1}).
   \]

   Compute \( b_i b_j \) and \( a_j = \frac{1}{b_i} (u_{ji+1} - u_{ji} - D_{ji} b_j) \), and update \( D_{ji} \) by \( D_{ji+1} = D_{ji} + a_j b_i b_j \).

3. Stop the iteration if \( |F| < \varepsilon \), or \( |b| < \varepsilon \), a given small number.

In the algorithm, the matrix \( \frac{\partial S_j}{\partial z} \) was replaced by \( D_{ji} \), so that skipping the step which involves solving the system of linear differential equations can save a large amount of work, in terms of the number of computation and implementation.

The success of the method for solving boundary value problems generally depends on two phases, which are namely the method of solving the initial value problems, and the method of solving systems of equations. In this proposed method, the first part use the standard technique of solving the initial value problems, such as the Taylor's method or the Runge-Kutta's method; the second part use the new technique for solving the system of non-linear equations derived by A. Dhamacharoen [1].

IV. EXPERIMENTS

Various systems of boundary value problems, with ordinary differential equations and multi-point equation boundary values conditions, have been solved using the scheme in section III. The problems are as follow:

**Problem 1:** We consider the following third-order linear ordinary differential equation:

\[
x'' = tx + (t^2 - 2t^2 - 5t + 3)e^t
\]

with the following boundary conditions:

\[
x'(0.5) - x'(0.5) - 2x'(0) + x(0) = 2e - 2e^{0.5}
\]

\[
x'(0)x(1) + x'(0.5)x'(0) + 4x'(0) - x' = 0
\]

\[
x'(0)x(0.5) - x'(0.5) + x(1)x(0) - x'(0)x'(0.5) = 0
\]

The exact solution of this problem is \( x(t) = (1 - t^2)e^t \).

Define the vectors \( x = (x(0), x'(0), x''(0)) \); \( u_0(x) = (x(0), x'(0), x''(0)) \) and \( u_1(x) = (x(0), x'(0), x''(0)) \), the function \( F(u(x) , u_0(x), x) \) is the vector in the boundary condition. The value of \( u \) can be obtained by solving the differential equation with the initial value \( x \), so that the function \( F \) is well defined. The Jacobian \( u(x) \) could be computed by solving the system of linear differential equations. However, use the approximating matrix \( D \) instead.

**Problem 2:** We consider the following third-order nonlinear ordinary differential equation:

\[
x'' = e^x - x^2
\]

with the following boundary conditions:

\[
x(0) + 2x(0.5)^2 + 2x(0) + x(0) = 1 - e^{0.5}
\]

\[
x'(0) - x'(0)x'(0.5) + x(0) - x'(0) + x'(0) = 1 + e
\]

\[
x'(0)x(1) - x'(1) + x'(0.5) + x(0) - x'(0) - x'(0.5) = 0
\]

The exact solution of this problem is \( x(t) = e^t \).

**Problem 3:** We consider the following fourth-order nonlinear ordinary differential equation:

\[
x'''' + xx'' - 4t^2 - 24 = 0
\]

with the following boundary conditions:

\[
x''''(0) + x''(0)x'(0.25) + x'(0) - x'(1) + x''(1) - 4x'(0.25) = -3
\]

\[
2x(0) + x'(0)x'(0.25) - x'(1) + x'(1) + x'(0.5)x'(0.25) - 16x(0.25) + x(0.5) = 6
\]

\[
x'(0) + x''(0) + x''(1) - 2x'(0.5) + 2x'(0.5) - x'(0.5) = -5
\]

\[
x'(0) + x''(0)x'(0.25) - x'(0.25) + x(0.5) - 2x'(0.25) = 6
\]

The exact solution of this problem is \( x(t) = t^4 \).

Define the vectors \( x = (x(0), x'(0), x''(0), x'''(0)) \); \( u_0(x) = (x(0), x'(0), x''(0), x'''(0)) \) ;
\[ u_1(x) = (x(0.5), x'(0.5), x''(0.5), x''''(0.5)) \] and
\[ u_2(x) = (x(1), x'(1), x''(1), x'''(1)), \] the function \( F(u_1(x), u_2(x), u_3(x), x) \) is the vector in the boundary condition. The value of \( u \) can be obtained by solving the differential equation with the initial value \( x \), so that the function \( F \) is well defined.

**Problem 4:** We consider the following nonlinear system of second-order ordinary differential equation:

\[
\begin{align*}
\frac{d^2}{dx^2} - ty^2 + x = t^2 - 2t^2 + 6t \\
y^* + tx^* + xy = t^2 - t^4 + 2t^3 + t^2 + t + 2
\end{align*}
\]

with the following boundary conditions:

\[
\begin{align*}
x^2(0)y(0.5) + x'(0)x'(1) + y(1) = -2 \\
x^2(1) + y'(0.5) + y^2(1) - x(0.5)y(0) = 1 \\
4x'(0.5) - y'(0) + 2x(0) + y'(1)x'(1) = 2 \\
2y(0.5) + x'(0.5) - 2x(0.5) + y'(0) + x'(0) + y(1) = 0
\end{align*}
\]

The exact solution of this problem is, \( x(t) = t^3 - t \) and \( y(t) = t^3 - t \).

Define the vectors \( x = (x(0), x'(0), y(0), y'(0)) \); \( u_1(x) = (x(0.5), x'(0.5), y(0.5), y'(0.5)) \) and \( u_2(x) = (x(1), x'(1), y(1), y'(1)) \), the function \( F(u_1(x), u_2(x), u_3(x), x) \) is the vector in the boundary condition. The value of \( u \) can be obtained by solving the differential equation with the initial value \( x \), so that the function \( F \) is well defined.

The above problems were solved using three methods for comparison; the Broyden Shooting Method (BSM), the Newton Shooting Method (NSM) and the Newton-Broyden Shooting Method (NBSM).

The computations for each problem were made by using the same initial guess for all methods. The suitable initial value, \( z \), so that the function \( F \) is well defined.

The results show that the NBSM can compete with NSM. Although the number of iterations of the NBSM to reach the solution is more than that of the NSM, overall the number of operations is less than that of the NSM.

**A. Figures and Tables**

Comparisons of the solution from the NBSM with the exact values are given in table III-VI below. We observed from the table that the values obtained by the NBSM are reasonably close to the exact values, and the NBSM still remain efficient, even for higher order BVP and nonlinear systems of BVP.

**Table I**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Problem</th>
<th>Initial guess ( z_0 )</th>
<th>Solution</th>
<th>BSM</th>
<th>NSM</th>
<th>NBSM</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Problem 1</td>
<td>(2, 0, 0, 0.5)</td>
<td>(0, 1, 0)</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Problem 2</td>
<td>(1, 1, 1, 1.5)</td>
<td>(1, 1, 1)</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>27</td>
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<tr>
<td>Problem 3</td>
<td>(1, -1, -1, 0)</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Problem 4</td>
<td>(1, 1, 1, 0)</td>
<td>(0, -1, 0)</td>
<td>Diverge</td>
<td></td>
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**Table II**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Initial guess ( z_0 )</th>
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<th>NSM</th>
<th>NBSM</th>
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<td>389554</td>
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<tr>
<td>Problem 2</td>
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<td>556434</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Problem 3</td>
<td>(1, -1, -1, 0)</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Problem 4</td>
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**Table III**

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<th>Problem</th>
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<th>Error</th>
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<td>0.3</td>
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<td>1.0</td>
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<td>1.78878E-09</td>
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</table>
The multipoint equation boundary value problem, can be solved using the Newton-Broyden Shooting method. The experiments have shown that the method worked well, as expected, which is to say that the good initial guesses were easily found.

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REFERENCES


