5–10 July 2004, Antalya, Turkey — Dynamical Systems and Applications, Proceedings, pp. 642–647

# Solving an Integro-Differential Equation by Legendre Polynomial and Block-Pulse Functions

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#### Abstract

In this paper, hybrid Legendre Block-Pulse functions are developed to find an approximate solution for an integro-differential equation. Hybrid Legendre Block-Pulse functions are developed by combining Block-Pulse functions on [0, 1] and Legendre polynomials. By using this method integro-differential equations reduce to a system of linear equations.

**Key words:** Block-Pulse functions, Volterra and Fredholm integral equation, Integro-differential equation.

# 1 Introduction

In this paper, we will use a simple basis for solving an integro-differential equation. This basis is a combination of Block-Pulse functions on [0, 1], and Legendre polynomials, that is called the hybrid Legendre Block-Pulse functions.

#### 1.1 Definition

Consider the Legendre polynomials  $p_m(t)$  on the interval [-1, 1]:

$$p_0(t) = 1, \ p_1(t) = t, \dots,$$

$$p_{m+1}(t) = \frac{2m+1}{m+1} + p_m(t) - \frac{m}{m+1} p_{m-1}(t), m = 1, 2, \dots$$
(1.1)

The set  $\{p_m(t); m = 0, 1, ...\}$  in the Hilbert space  $L^2[-1, 1]$  is a complete orthogonal set on [1, 2].

#### 1.2 Lemma

Let  $x(t) \in H^k(-1,1)$  (a Sobolev space) and let  $x_j(t) = \sum_{i=0}^j a_i L_i(t)$  be the best approximation polynomial of x(t) in the  $L^2$ -norm, then

$$\|x(t) - x_j(t)\|_{L^2[-1,1]} \le c_0 j^{-k} \|x(t)\|_{H^k(-1,1)}$$

where  $c_0$  is a positive constant, which depends on the selected norm and is independent of x(t), j (see [3]).

#### 1.3 Definition

A set of Block-Pulse functions  $b_i(\lambda)$ , i = 1, 2, ..., m, on the interval [0, 1) are defined as follows:

$$b_i(\lambda) = \begin{cases} 1, & \frac{i-1}{m} \le \lambda < \frac{i}{m}; \\ 0, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$
(1.2)

The Block-Pulse functions on [0, 1) are disjoint, that is, for i = 1, 2, ..., m, they satisfy an orthogonality property on [0, 1).

#### 1.4 Definition

For m = 0, 1, 2, ..., M - 1 and n = 1, 2, ..., N the hybrid Legendre Block-Pulse functions are defined as:

$$b(n,m,t) = \begin{cases} P_m(2Nt - 2n + 1), & \frac{n-1}{N} \le t < \frac{n}{N}; \\ 0, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$
(1.3)

#### 1.5 The operational matrix

If

$$B(t) = [b(1,0,t), b(1,1,t), \dots, b(1,M-1,t), b(2,0,t), \dots, b(N,M-1,t)]^T$$

is a vector function of hybrid Legendre Block-Pulse functions on [0, 1), the integration of the vector B(t) can be obtained as:

$$\int_0^1 B(t') \, dt' \simeq PB(t) \tag{1.4}$$

where P is an  $MN \times MN$  matrix, that is called the operation matrix for hybrid Legendre Block-Pulse functions. Then the operation matrix P has the following form [4, 5]

$$P = \begin{pmatrix} E & H & \dots & H \\ 0 & E & \dots & H \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & E \end{pmatrix}$$
(1.5)

where H is an  $M \times M$  matrix and is defined as follows:

$$H = \frac{1}{N} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 \end{pmatrix};$$
(1.6)

also E is an  $M \times M$  matrix on the interval  $[0, \frac{1}{n})$  and is defined as follows [5, 6]:

$$E = \frac{1}{2N} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ -\frac{1}{3} & 0 & \frac{1}{3} & 0 & \dots & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -\frac{1}{5} & 0 & -\frac{1}{5} & \dots & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ & & & & & \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots & -\frac{1}{2M-3} & 0 & \frac{1}{2M-3} \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 & -\frac{1}{2M-1} & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$
(1.7)

# 2 Function approximation

A function  $x(t) \in L^2[0,1]$  may be expanded as

$$x(t) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} X(n,m)b(n,m,t),$$
(2.1)

where

$$X(n,m) = \frac{(x(t), b(n, m, t))}{(b(n, m, t), b(n, m, t))}$$
(2.2)

where  $(\cdot, \cdot)$  denotes the inner product. If the infinite series in (2.1) is truncated, then (2.1) can be written as

$$x(t) \simeq X_{NM}(t) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} X(n.m)b(n,m,t) = X^T B(t),$$
 (2.3)

where B(t) is a vector function and X is given by

$$X = [X(1,0), X(1,1), \dots, X(1,M-1), X(2,0), \dots, X(N,M-1)]^T.$$

We can also approximate the function  $k(t,s) \in L^2([0,1] \times [0,1])$  as follows:

$$k(t,s) \simeq k_{NM}(t,s) = B^T(t)kB(s), \qquad (2.4)$$

where k is an  $MN \times MN$  matrix such that

$$k_{ij} = \frac{(B_i(t), (k(t,s), B_j(s)))}{(B_i(t), B_i(t))(B_j(s), B_j(s))}, \quad i, j = 1, 2, \dots, MN.$$
(2.5)

We also define the matrix D as follows:

$$D = \int_0^1 B(t) B^T(t) \, dt.$$
 (2.6)

For the hybrid Legendre Block-Pulse functions, D has the following form:

$$D = \begin{pmatrix} D_1 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & D_2 & \dots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & D_N \end{pmatrix},$$
 (2.7)

where  $D_i$  is defined as follows:

$$D_i = \frac{1}{N} \int T(t) T^T(t) \, dt$$

## 3 Integro-differential equation

Consider the following integro-differential equation:

$$q(t)y'(t) = \int_0^1 k(t,s)y(s) \, ds + r(t)y(t) + x(t),$$
  

$$y(0) = y_0,$$
(3.1)

where  $x, q, r \in L^2[0, 1), k \in L^2([0, 1] \times [0, 1])$  and y is an unknown function [7]. If we approximate x, q, r, y' and k by (2.1)–(2.4) as follows:

$$x(t) \simeq X^T B(t), \ y(t) \simeq Y^T B(t), \ k(t,s) \simeq B^T(t) K B(s)$$

 $\operatorname{then}$ 

$$y(t) = \int_{0}^{t} y'(t') dt' + y(0)$$
  

$$\simeq \int_{0}^{t} Y'^{T} B(t') dt' + Y_{0}^{T} B(t)$$
  

$$\simeq Y^{T} DB(t) + Y_{0}^{T} B(t)$$
  

$$= (Y'^{T} D + Y_{0}^{T}) B(t).$$

With substituting in (3.1) we have

$$Y^T = Y'^T D + Y_0^T \ \Rightarrow \ y(t) \simeq Y^T B(t).$$

# 4 Numerical experiments

**Example 1.** Consider the equation with exact solution  $y(t) = e^t$ :

$$y'(t) = \int -0^1 e^{st} y(s) \, ds + y(t) + \frac{1 - e^{t+1}}{t+1},$$
  
$$y(0) = 1.$$

The solution for y(t) is obtained by the method of Section 3. Results are shown in Table 1.

**Example 2.** Consider the equation with exact solution  $y(t) = \cos(2\pi t)$ :

$$y'(t) = \int_0^1 \sin(4\pi t + 2\pi s)y(s) \, ds + y(t) - \cos(2\pi t) - 2\pi \sin(2\pi t) - \frac{1}{2}\sin(4\pi t),$$
  
$$y(0) = 1.$$

The solution for y(t) is obtained by the method of Section 3. Results are shown in Table 2.

Table 1: Results for Example 1.

Table 2: Results for	or Example 2.
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Ν	М	$\ y - y_{NM}\ _2$
2	3	$6.348 \times 10^{-2}$
4	3	$5.319\times10^{-4}$
8	3	$8.135\times10^{-6}$
16	3	$5.187\times10^{-6}$
32	3	$3.522\times 10^{-7}$
64	3	$2.334\times10^{-8}$

Ν	Μ	$\ y - y_{NM}\ _2$
2	3	$1.274 \times 10^{-1}$
4	3	$1.986 \times 10^{-2}$
8	3	$3.674 \times 10^{-3}$
16	4	$2.598 \times 10^{-4}$
32	4	$9.907 \times 10^{-5}$
64	3	$3.876\times10^{-6}$

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## 5 Conclusion

If we solve the integro-differential equation using orthogonal continuous or piecewise constant functions, the accuracy of the method will be worse. Whereas, using hybrid Legendre and Block-Pulse functions the accuracy of system will improve using suitable M and N because the hybrid Legendre and Block-Pulse functions are orthogonal piecewise continuous functions and have high flexibility.

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