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Numerical stability and oscillation of the Runge-Kutta methods for the differential equations with piecewise continuous arguments alternately of retarded and advanced type

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Abstract

This paper is concerned with the numerical properties of Runge-Kutta methods for the alternately of retarded and advanced equation $\dot{x}(t) = ax(t) + a_0x(2[\frac{t+1}{2}])$. The stability region of Runge-Kutta methods is determined. The conditions that the analytic stability region is contained in the numerical stability region are obtained. A necessary and sufficient condition for the oscillation of the numerical solution is given. And it is proved that the Runge-Kutta methods preserve the oscillations of the analytic solutions. Some numerical experiments are illustrated.

Keywords: stability; oscillation; delay differential equation; piecewise continuous arguments

1 Introduction

This paper deals with the numerical solution of the alternately of retarded and advanced equation with piecewise continuous arguments (EPCA)

$$\dot{x}(t) = f\left(x(t), x\left(2\left[\frac{t+1}{2}\right]\right)\right), \quad (1.1)$$

where $[\cdot]$ is the greatest integer function. Differential equations of this form have stimulated considerable interest and have been studied by Cooker and Wiener [1], Jayasree and Deo [2], Wiener and Aftabzadeh [3]. In these equations the argument deviation $T(t) = t - 2[\frac{t+1}{2}]$ is a piecewise linear periodic function with periodic 2. Also, $T(t)$ is negative for $2n - 1 \leq t < 2n$ and positive for $2n \leq t < 2n + 1$. Therefore, (1.1) is of advanced type on $[2n - 1, 2n)$ and of retarded type on $(2n, 2n + 1)$.

EPCA describe hybrid dynamical systems, combine properties of both differential and difference equations and have applications in certain biomedical models in the work of Busenberg and Cooke [4]. For these equations of mixed type, the change of sign in the argument deviation leads not only to interesting periodic properties, but also to complications in the asymptotic and oscillatory behavior of solutions. Oscillatory, stability and

periodic properties of the linear EPCA alternately of retarded and advanced form have been investigated in [1].

There are some papers concerning the stability of numerical solutions of delay differential equations with piecewise continuous arguments, such as [5–7]. Also, there have been results concerning oscillations of delay differential equations and delay difference equations, even including delay differential equations with piecewise continuous arguments [8]. But there is no paper concerned with the stability and oscillation of the numerical solutions of Eq. (1.1).

In this paper, we investigate the numerical properties, including the stability and oscillation, of Runge-Kutta methods of delay differential equations with piecewise continuous arguments.

We consider the following equation:

$$\begin{cases} \dot{x}(t) = ax(t) + a_0x(2[\frac{t+1}{2}]), \\ x(0) = x_0, \end{cases} \tag{1.2}$$

where a, a_0 are constants and $[\cdot]$ is the greatest integer function.

Definition 1.1 [9] A solution of (1.2) on $[0, \infty)$ is a function $x(t)$ that satisfies the conditions:

1. $x(t)$ is continuous on $[0, \infty)$.
2. The derivative $\dot{x}(t)$ exists at each point $t \in [0, \infty)$, with the possible exception of the points $t = 2n - 1$ for $n \in \mathbb{N}$, where one-sided derivatives exist.
3. (1.2) is satisfied on each interval $[2n - 1, 2n + 1)$ for $n \in \mathbb{N}$.

In the following, we use these notations

$$m(t) = e^{at} + (e^{at} - 1)a^{-1}a_0, \quad m_1 = m(1), \quad m_{-1} = m(-1).$$

The following theorems give existence and uniqueness of solutions and provide necessary and sufficient conditions for the asymptotic stability and the oscillation of all solutions of (1.2).

Theorem 1.2 [9] Assume that $a, a_0, x_0 \in \mathbb{R}$. Then the initial value problem (1.2) has on $[0, \infty)$ a unique solution $x(t)$ given by

$$x(t) = m(T(t)) \left(\frac{m_1}{m_{-1}} \right)^{[\frac{t+1}{2}]} x_0,$$

where $T(t) = t - 2[\frac{t+1}{2}]$, $x(0) = x_0$.

Theorem 1.3 [9] The solution $x(t) = 0$ of (1.2) is asymptotically stable ($\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} x(t) = 0$) if and only if any one of the following hypotheses is satisfied:

1. $a < 0, a_0 > -\frac{a(e^{2a}+1)}{(e^a-1)^2}$ or $a_0 < -a$;
2. $a > 0, -\frac{a(e^{2a}+1)}{(e^a-1)^2} < a_0 < -a$;
3. $a = 0, a_0 < 0$.

In the following, we give the definition of oscillation and non-oscillation.

Definition 1.4 A nontrivial solution of (1.2) is said to be oscillatory if there exists a sequence $\{t_k\}_{k=1}^\infty$ such that $t_k \rightarrow \infty$ as $k \rightarrow \infty$ and $x(t_k)x(t_{k-1}) \leq 0$. Otherwise, it is called non-oscillatory. We say (1.2) is oscillatory if all nontrivial solutions of (1.2) are oscillatory. We say (1.2) is non-oscillatory if all nontrivial solutions of (1.2) are non-oscillatory.

Consider the difference equation

$$a_{n+k} + p_1 a_{n+k-1} + \dots + p_k a_n = 0, \quad n = 0, 1, 2, \dots, \tag{1.3}$$

where $k = 1, 2, \dots, p_i \in \mathbb{R}, i = 1, 2, \dots, k$, and its associated characteristic equation is

$$\lambda^k + p_1 \lambda^{k-1} + \dots + p_{k-1} \lambda + p_k = 0. \tag{1.4}$$

Definition 1.5 A nontrivial solution $\{a_n\}$ of (1.3) is said to be oscillatory if there exists a sequence $\{n_k\}$ such that $n_k \rightarrow \infty$ as $k \rightarrow \infty$ and $a_{n_k} a_{n_k-1} \leq 0$. Otherwise, it is called non-oscillatory. Equation (1.3) is said to be oscillatory if all nontrivial solutions of Eq. (1.3) are oscillatory. Equation (1.3) is called non-oscillatory if all nontrivial solutions of Eq. (1.3) are non-oscillatory.

Theorem 1.6 [10] *Eq. (1.3) is oscillatory if and only if the characteristic equation (1.4) has no positive roots.*

Theorem 1.7 [9] *A necessary and sufficient condition for all solutions of Eq. (1.2) to be oscillatory is either $a_0 < -\frac{ae^a}{e^a-1}$ or $a_0 > \frac{a}{e^a-1}$.*

2 Runge-Kutta methods

In this section we consider the adaptation of the Runge-Kutta methods (A, b, c) . Let $h = \frac{1}{m}$ be a given step-size with an integer $m \geq 1$, and let the grid-points t_n be defined by $t_n = nh$ ($n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$).

For the Runge-Kutta methods, we always assume that $b_1 + b_2 + \dots + b_v = 1$ and $0 \leq c_1 \leq c_2 \leq \dots \leq c_v \leq 1$.

The adaptation of the Runge-Kutta methods to (1.2) leads to a numerical process of the following type:

$$\begin{cases} x_{n+1} = x_n + h \sum_{i=1}^v b_i (a y_i^{(n)} + a_0 z_i^{(n)}), \\ y_i^{(n)} = x_n + h \sum_{j=1}^v a_{ij} (a y_j^{(n)} + a_0 z_j^{(n)}), \end{cases} \tag{2.1}$$

where the matrix $A = (a_{ij})_{v \times v}$, vectors $b = (b_1, b_2, \dots, b_v)^T$, $c = (c_1, c_2, \dots, c_v)^T$, and x_n is an approximation to $x(t)$ at t_n ($n = 1, 2, 3, \dots$). $y_i^{(n)}$ and $z_i^{(n)}$ are approximations to $x(t_n + c_i h)$ and $x(2[\frac{t_n + c_i h}{2}])$ respectively. Let $n = 2km + l, l = -m, -m + 1, \dots, m - 1$ for $k \geq 1, l = 0, 1, \dots, m - 1$ for $k = 0$. Then $z_i^{(2km+l)}$ can be defined as x_{2km} according to Definition 1.1 ($i = 1, \dots, v$).

Let $Y^{(n)} = (y_1^{(n)}, y_2^{(n)}, \dots, y_v^{(n)})^T$. Then (2.1) reduces to

$$\begin{cases} x_{2km+l+1} = x_{2km+l} + hab^T Y^{2km+l} + ha_0 x_{2km}, \\ Y^{2km+l} = x_{2km+l} e + haAY^{2km+l} + ha_0 A e x_{2km}, \end{cases} \tag{2.2}$$

where $e = (1, 1, \dots, 1)^T$. Hence we have

$$x_{2km+l+1} = R(x)x_{2km+l} + \frac{a_0}{a}(R(x) - 1)x_{2km}, \tag{2.3}$$

where $x = ha$, $R(x) = 1 + xb^T(I - xA)^{-1}e$ is the stability function of the method.

We can obtain from (2.3)

$$x_{2km+l} = \left(R^l(x) + \frac{a_0}{a}(R^l(x) - 1) \right) x_{2km}, \tag{2.4}$$

$$x_{2(k+1)m} = \frac{R^m(x) + \frac{a_0}{a}(R^m(x) - 1)}{R^{-m}(x) + \frac{a_0}{a}(R^{-m}(x) - 1)} x_{2km}, \tag{2.5}$$

$$x_{2(k+1)m} = \frac{1 + a_0}{1 - a_0} x_{2km}, \quad a = 0. \tag{2.6}$$

3 Stability and oscillation of the Runge-Kutta methods

In this section we discuss stability and oscillation of the Runge-Kutta methods.

3.1 Numerical stability

Definition 3.1 The Runge-Kutta method is called asymptotically stable at (a, a_0) if there exists a constant M such that x_n defined by (2.1) tends to zero as $n \rightarrow \infty$ for all $h = \frac{1}{m}$ ($m > M$) and any given x_0 .

Definition 3.2 The set of all points (a, a_0) at which the Runge-Kutta method is asymptotically stable is called an asymptotic stability region denoted by S .

For any given Runge-Kutta method, $R(x) = \frac{P(x)}{Q(x)}$, where $P(x)$ and $Q(x)$ are polynomials. $R(x)$ is a continuous function at the neighborhood of zero, and $R(0) = R'(0) = 1$. So there are $\delta_1 < 0 < \delta_2$ such that

$$\begin{cases} 1 < R(x) < \infty & \text{for } 0 < x < \delta_2, \\ 0 < R(x) < 1 & \text{for } \delta_1 < x < 0, \end{cases} \tag{3.1}$$

which implies

$$0 < \frac{R(x) - 1}{x} < \infty \quad \text{for } \delta_1 < x < \delta_2. \tag{3.2}$$

Remark 3.3 It is known from [11] that $R(x)$ is an increasing function in $[-1, 1]$, and $1 < R(x) < \infty$ for $0 < x \leq 1$, $0 < R(x) < 1$ for $-1 \leq x < 0$. Hence we can take $\delta_1 = -1$, $\delta_2 = 1$ for simplicity.

In the following, we always suppose $h < \frac{1}{|a|}$.

It is easy to see from (2.4) and (2.5) that $x_n \rightarrow 0$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$ if and only if $x_{2km} \rightarrow 0$ as $k \rightarrow \infty$. Hence we have the following theorem.

Theorem 3.4 *The Runge-Kutta method is asymptotically stable if any one of the following hypotheses is satisfied:*

(i) $-\frac{a(R^{2m}(x)+1)}{(R^m(x)-1)^2} < a_0 < -a, a > 0;$

- (ii) $-\frac{a(R^{2m}(x)+1)}{(R^m(x)-1)^2} < a_0$ or $a_0 < -a, a < 0$;
- (iii) $a_0 < 0, a = 0$.

Proof In view of (2.5), the Runge-Kutta method is asymptotically stable if and only if

$$-1 < \frac{(a + a_0)R^{2m}(x) - a_0R^m(x)}{(a + a_0) - a_0R^m(x)} < 1, \quad a \neq 0, \tag{3.3}$$

$$a_0 < 0, \quad a = 0.$$

If $(a + a_0) - a_0R^m(x) > 0$, then (3.3) reduces to

$$a_0 > -\frac{a(R^{2m}(x) + 1)}{(R^m(x) - 1)^2} \quad \text{and} \quad (a + a_0)R^{2m}(x) < a + a_0,$$

which is equivalent to

$$a_0 > -\frac{a(R^{2m}(x) + 1)}{(R^m(x) - 1)^2}, \quad a \leq 0, \tag{3.4}$$

$$-\frac{a(R^{2m}(x) + 1)}{(R^m(x) - 1)^2} < a_0 < -a, \quad a > 0.$$

If $a + a_0 - a_0R^m(x) < 0$, then (3.3) reduces to

$$a_0 < -\frac{a(R^{2m}(x) + 1)}{(R^m(x) - 1)^2} \quad \text{and} \quad (a + a_0)R^{2m}(x) > a + a_0,$$

which is equivalent to

$$a_0 < -a, \quad a < 0. \tag{3.5}$$

By virtue of (3.4) and (3.5), the theorem is proved. □

3.2 Numerical oscillations

Theorem 3.5 *The following statements are equivalent:*

1. $\{x_n\}$ is oscillatory;
2. $\{x_{2km}\}$ is oscillatory;
3. $a_0 < \frac{-aR^m(x)}{R^m(x)-1}$, or $a_0 > \frac{a}{R^m(x)-1}$.

Proof $\{x_{2km}\}$ is not oscillatory if and only if

$$\frac{R^m(x) + \frac{a_0}{a}(R^m(x) - 1)}{R^{-m}(x) + \frac{a_0}{a}(R^{-m}(x) - 1)} > 0,$$

i.e.,

$$\frac{-aR^m(x)}{R^m(x) - 1} < a_0 < \frac{a}{R^m(x) - 1}.$$

Hence for any $l = 1, 2, \dots, m - 1$

$$\frac{-aR^l(x)}{R^l(x) - 1} < \frac{-aR^m(x)}{R^m(x) - 1} < a_0 < \frac{a}{R^m(x) - 1} < \frac{a}{R^l(x) - 1},$$

which is equivalent to

$$R^l(x) + \frac{a_0}{a}(R^l(x) - 1) > 0,$$

$$R^{-l}(x) + \frac{a_0}{a}(R^{-l}(x) - 1) > 0.$$

We obtain from (2.4) that $\{x_n\}$ is not oscillatory.

Moreover, $\{x_{2km}\}$ is oscillatory if and only if

$$\frac{R^m(x) + \frac{a_0}{a}(R^m(x) - 1)}{R^{-m}(x) + \frac{a_0}{a}(R^{-m}(x) - 1)} < 0,$$

which is equivalent to

$$a_0 < \frac{-aR^m(x)}{R^m(x) - 1}, \quad \text{or} \quad a_0 > \frac{a}{R^m(x) - 1}. \quad \square$$

4 Preservation of stability and oscillations

In this section, we investigate the conditions under which the analytic stability region is contained in the numerical stability region and the conditions under which the numerical solution and the analytic solution are oscillatory simultaneously. We also study the stability and oscillation of the Runge-Kutta method with the stability function which is given by the (r, s) -Padé approximation to e^z .

In order to do this, the following lemmas and corollaries will be useful to determine conditions.

Lemma 4.1 [12, 13] *The (r, s) -Padé approximation to e^z is given by*

$$R(z) = \frac{P_r(z)}{Q_s(z)}, \tag{4.1}$$

where

$$P_r(z) = 1 + \frac{r}{r+s}z + \frac{r(r-1)}{(r+s)(r+s-1)}\frac{z^2}{2!} + \dots + \frac{r!s!}{(r+s)!} \frac{z^r}{r!},$$

$$Q_s(z) = 1 - \frac{r}{r+s}z + \frac{s(s-1)}{(r+s)(r+s-1)}\frac{z^2}{2!} - \dots + (-1)^s \frac{s!r!}{(r+s)!} \frac{z^s}{s!},$$

with error

$$e^z - R(z) = (-1)^s \frac{s!r!}{(r+s)!(r+s+1)!} z^{r+s+1} + O(z^{r+s+2}). \tag{4.2}$$

It is the unique rational approximation to e^z of order $r + s$, such that the degree of a numerator and a denominator are r and s respectively.

Lemma 4.2 [12, 13] *If $R(z)$ is the (r, s) -Padé approximation to e^z , then*

- (i) *there are s bounded star sectors in the right-half plane, each containing a pole of $R(z)$;*
- (ii) *there are r bounded white sectors in the left-half plane, each containing a zero of $R(z)$;*
- (iii) *all sectors are symmetric with respect to the real axis.*

Corollary 4.3 [5, 7] *Suppose $R(z)$ is the (r, s) -Padé approximation to e^z . Then*

1. $x > 0$
 $R(x) < e^x$ for all $x > 0$ if and only if s is even.
 $R(x) > e^x$ for all $0 < x < \xi$ if and only if s is odd.
2. $x < 0$
 $R(x) > e^x$ for all $x < 0$ if and only if r is even.
 $R(x) < e^x$ for all $\eta < x < 0$ if and only if r is odd.

Where $\xi > 1$ is a real zero of $Q_s(z)$ and $\eta < -1$ is a real zero of $P_r(z)$.

4.1 Preservation of stability

We introduce the set H consisting of all pairs $(a, a_0) \in \mathbb{R}^2$ at which the Runge-Kutta method is asymptotically stable. In the following we investigate the conditions which lead to $H \subseteq S$. For convenience, we divide the region H into three parts

$$\begin{aligned}
 H_0 &= \{(a, a_0) \in H : a = 0\}, \\
 H_1 &= \{(a, a_0) \in H \setminus H_0 : a < 0\}, \\
 H_2 &= \{(a, a_0) \in H \setminus H_0 : a > 0\},
 \end{aligned}$$

and in the similar way we denote

$$\begin{aligned}
 S_0 &= \{(a, a_0) \in S : a = 0\}, \\
 S_1 &= \{(a, a_0) \in S \setminus S_0 : a < 0\}, \\
 S_2 &= \{(a, a_0) \in S \setminus S_0 : a > 0\}.
 \end{aligned}$$

It is easy to see that $H = H_0 \cup H_1 \cup H_2$, $S = S_0 \cup S_1 \cup S_2$ and

$$H_i \cap H_j = \emptyset, \quad S_i \cap S_j = \emptyset, \quad H_i \cap S_j = \emptyset, \quad i \neq j, i, j = 0, 1, 2.$$

Therefore, we can conclude that $H \subseteq S$ is equivalent to $H_i \subseteq S_i$, $i = 0, 1, 2$.

Theorem 4.4 *Suppose that the stability function $R(x)$ of the Runge-Kutta method is given by the (r, s) -Padé approximation to e^x . Then $H_1 \subseteq S_1$ if and only if r is odd and $H_2 \subseteq S_2$ if and only if s is even.*

Proof In view of Theorem 1.3 and Theorem 3.4, we have that $H \subseteq S$ if and only if

$$-\frac{a(R^{2m}(x) + 1)}{(R^m(x) - 1)^2} \leq -\frac{a(e^{2a} + 1)}{(e^a - 1)^2},$$

which is equivalent to

$$R(x) \leq e^x$$

since $f(x) = \frac{x^2+1}{(x-1)^2}$ is increasing in $[0, 1)$ and decreasing in $(1, \infty)$.

According to Corollary 4.3, the proof is complete. □

Theorem 4.5 *For all Runge-Kutta methods, we have $H_0 = S_0$.*

Corollary 4.6 *For the A-stable higher order Runge-Kutta methods, it is easy to see from Theorem 4.4 that*

1. *For the ν -stage Radau IA and IIA methods, $H \subseteq S$ if and only if ν is even;*
2. *For the ν -stage Lobatto IIIA and IIIB methods, $H_1 \subseteq S_1$ if and only if ν is even and $H_2 \subseteq S_2$ if and only if ν is odd;*
3. *For the ν -stage Gauss-Legendre and Lobatto IIIC methods, $H_1 \subseteq S_1$ if and only if ν is odd and $H_2 \subseteq S_2$ if and only if ν is even.*

It is known that all ν -stage explicit Runge-Kutta methods with $p = \nu = 1, 2, 3, 4$ possess the stability function (see [12])

$$R(x) = 1 + x + \frac{x^2}{2!} + \dots + \frac{x^p}{p!},$$

which is the $(\nu, 0)$ -Padé approximation to e^x .

Theorem 4.7 *For the ν -stage explicit Runge-Kutta methods with $p = \nu = 1, 2, 3, 4$, $H \subseteq S$ if and only if ν is odd.*

4.2 Preservation of oscillations

Definition 4.8 We call that the Runge-Kutta methods preserve oscillations of Eq. (1.2) if (1.2) oscillates, which implies that there is an h_0 such that (2.4) oscillates for $h < h_0$.

Owing to Theorem 1.7 and Theorem 3.5, the Runge-Kutta method preserves the oscillation of (1.2) if and only if

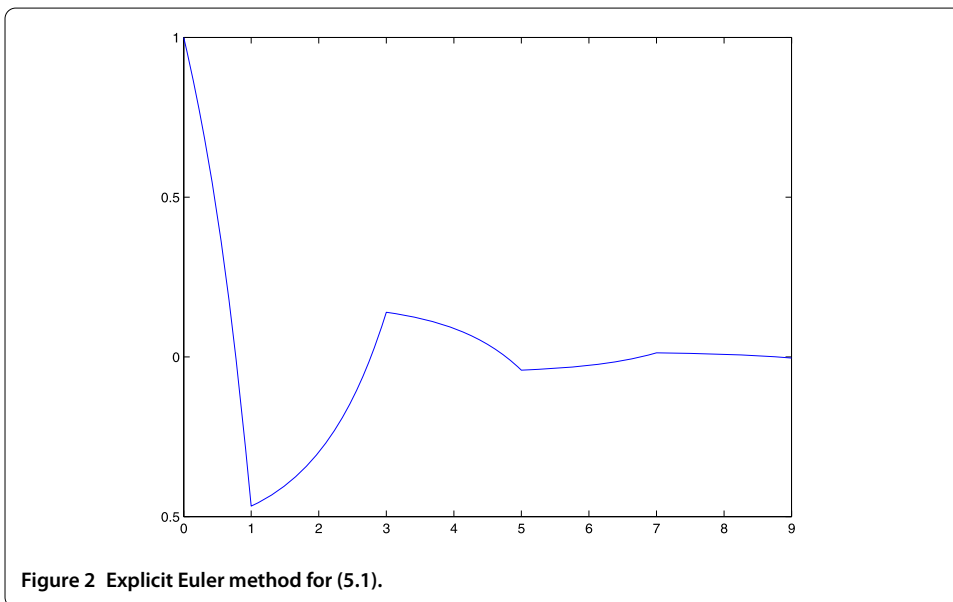
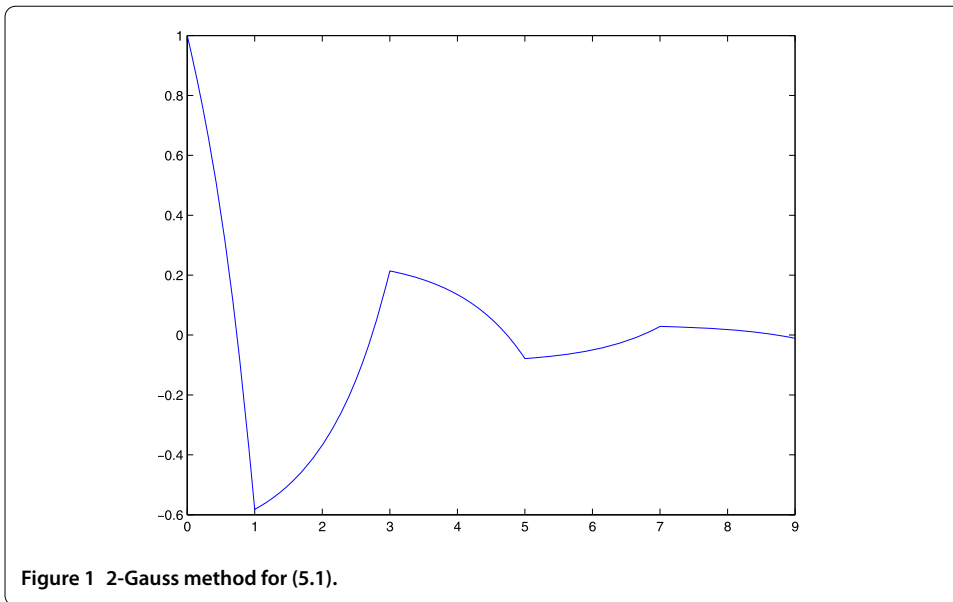
$$\frac{-ae^a}{e^a - 1} \leq \frac{-aR^m(x)}{R^m(x) - 1} \quad \text{or} \quad \frac{a}{e^a - 1} > \frac{a}{R^m(x) - 1}. \tag{4.3}$$

Theorem 4.9 *Suppose that the stability function $R(x)$ is given by the (r, s) -Padé approximation to e^x , then the Runge-Kutta method preserves the oscillation of (1.2) if and only if*

$$R(x) \geq e^x \quad \text{for } a > 0$$

and

$$R(x) \leq e^x \quad \text{for } a < 0.$$

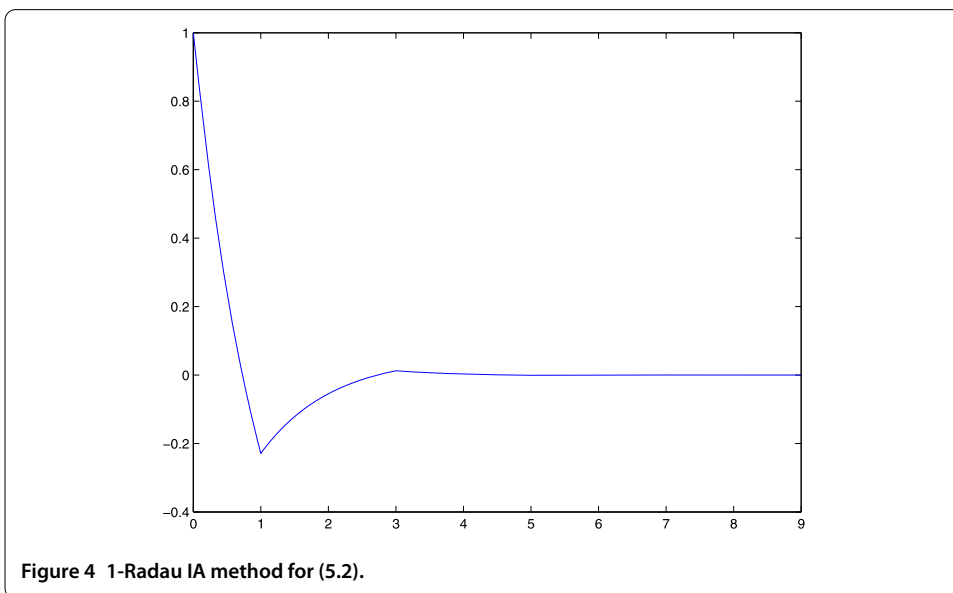
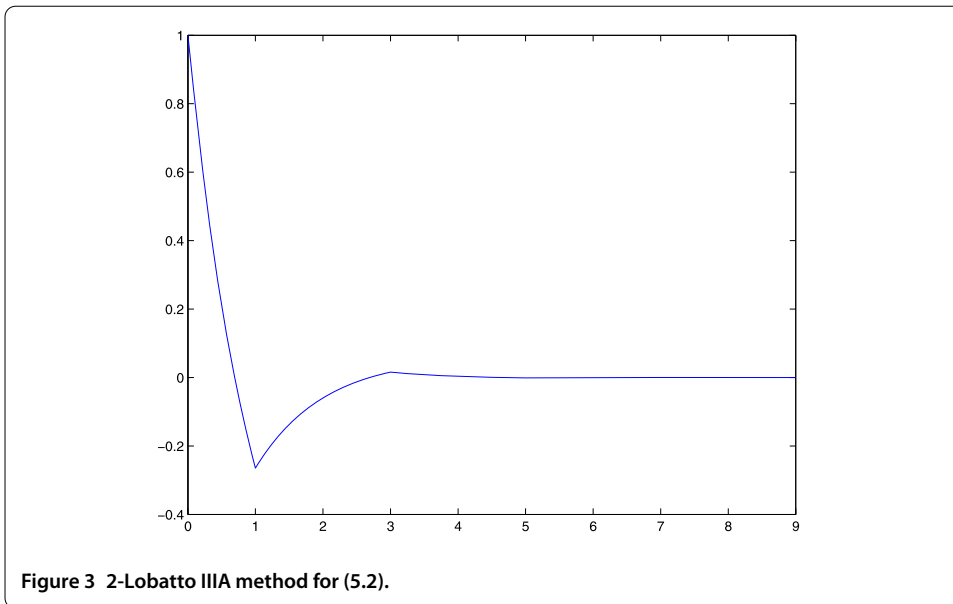


Proof The proof is completed by (4.3) and noting that $\frac{x}{x-1}$ is decreasing in $[0, 1)$. □

Corollary 4.10

1. The ν -stage Gauss-Legendre and Lobatto IIIC methods preserve the oscillation of Eq. (1.2) if and only if ν is odd.
2. The ν -stage Lobatto IIIA and IIIB methods preserve the oscillation of Eq. (1.2) if and only if ν is even.
3. The ν -stage Radau IA and IIA methods preserve the oscillation of Eq. (1.2) if ν is odd for $a > 0$ and if ν is even for $a < 0$.

Theorem 4.11 The ν -stage explicit Runge-Kutta methods with $p = \nu = 1, 2, 3, 4$ preserve the oscillation of Eq. (1.2) with $a < 0$ if ν is odd.



Remark 4.12 We consider

$$x'(t) = ax(t) + a_0x \left(M \left[\frac{t+N}{M} \right] \right), \tag{4.4}$$

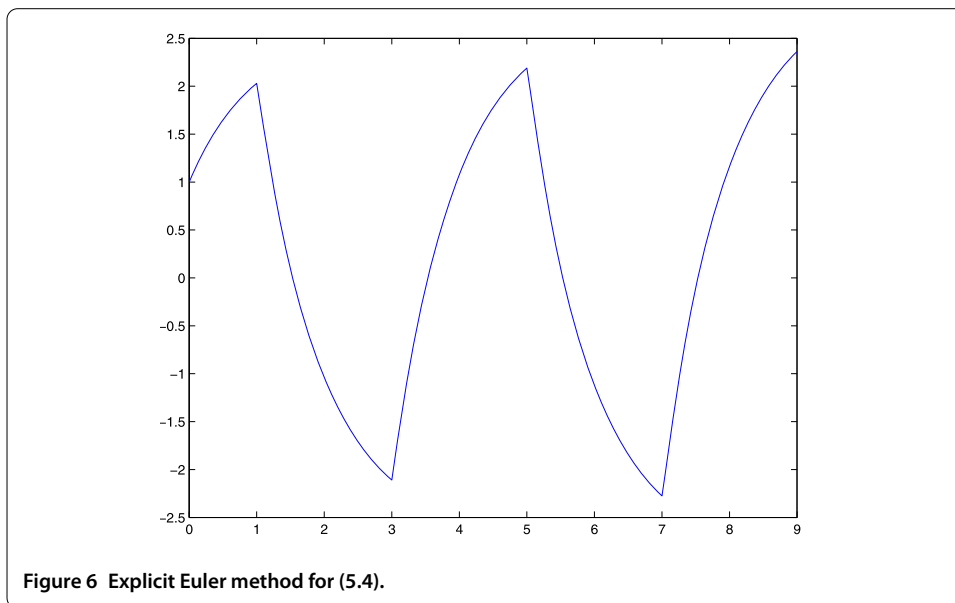
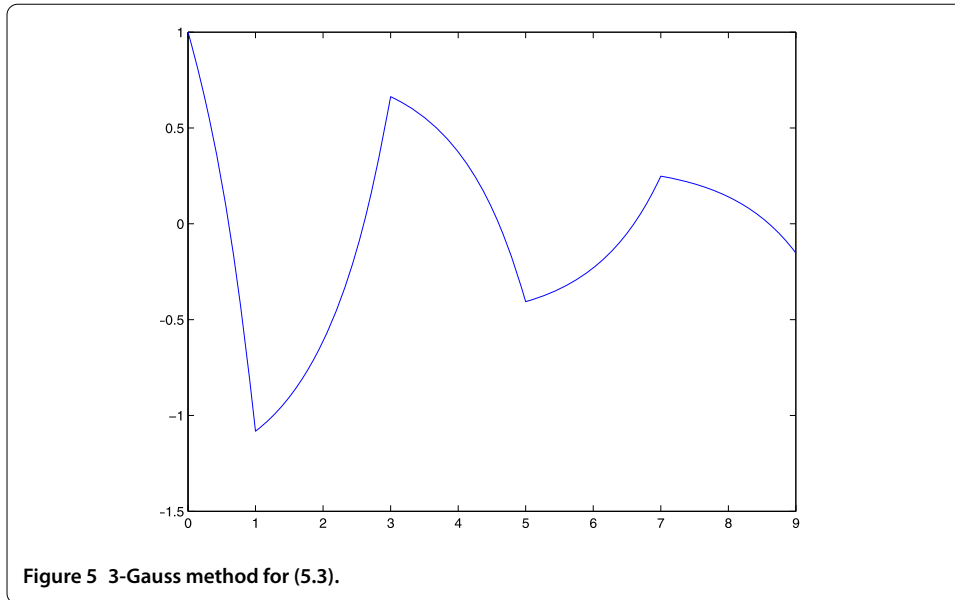
$$x(0) = x_0,$$

where M, N are positive integers and $M = 2N$.

We can obtain the same results about the stability and oscillation as Eq. (1.2), *i.e.*,

- (i) The Runge-Kutta method preserves the asymptotic stability of Eq. (4.4) if $R(x) \leq e^x$.
- (ii) The Runge-Kutta method preserves the oscillation of Eq. (4.4) if

$$R(x) \geq e^x \quad \text{for } a > 0, \quad R(x) \leq e^x \quad \text{for } a < 0.$$



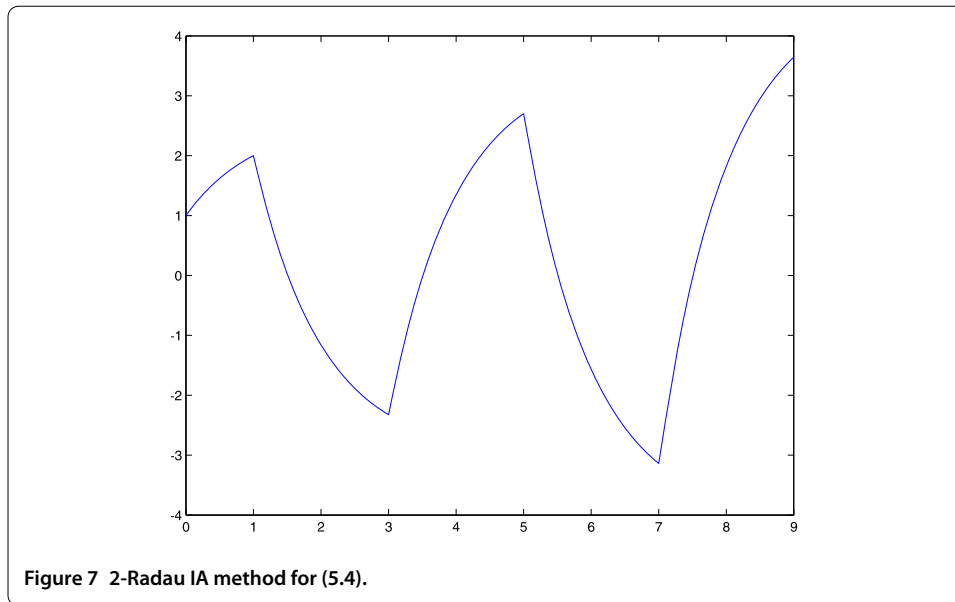
Hence the Corollary 4.6, 4.10 and Theorem 4.7, 4.11 hold.

5 Numerical experiments

In this section, we give some examples to illustrate the conclusions in the paper. To illustrate the stability, we consider the following two problems:

$$\begin{cases} \dot{x}(t) = x(t) - 1.9207x(2[\frac{t+1}{2}]), & t > 0, \\ x(0) = 1, \end{cases} \quad (5.1)$$

$$\begin{cases} \dot{x}(t) = -x(t) - x(2[\frac{t+1}{2}]), & t > 0, \\ x(0) = 1. \end{cases} \quad (5.2)$$



In Figure 1 to Figure 4, we draw the numerical solutions for Eq. (5.1) and Eq. (5.2) respectively. It is easy to see that the numerical solutions are asymptotically stable.

To illustrate the oscillation, we consider the following two problems:

$$\begin{cases} \dot{x}(t) = x(t) - 2.2117x(2[\frac{t+1}{2}]), & t > 0, \\ x(0) = 1, \end{cases} \quad (5.3)$$

$$\begin{cases} \dot{x}(t) = -x(t) + 2.5820x(2[\frac{t+1}{2}]), & t > 0, \\ x(0) = 1. \end{cases} \quad (5.4)$$

In Figure 5 to Figure 7, we draw the numerical solutions for Eq. (5.3) and Eq. (5.4) respectively. It is easy to see that the numerical solutions are oscillatory.

Competing interests

The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

Authors' contributions

The authors have equal contributions to each part of this article. All the authors read and approved the final manuscript.

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