

Package **bvpSolve**, solving boundary value problems in R

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Abstract

R package **bvpSolve** (Soetaert, Cash, and Mazzia 2009a) is designed for the numerical solution of boundary value problems (BVP) for ordinary differential equations (ODE).

It comprises:

- function **bvpshoot** which implements the shooting method. This method makes use of the initial value problem solvers from packages **deSolve** (Soetaert, Petzoldt, and Setzer 2009b) and the root-finding solver from package **rootSolve** (Soetaert 2009).
- function **bvptwp**, 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

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

The default input to the solvers is very simple, requiring specification of only one function, that calculates the derivatives.

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.

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

1. Introduction

1.1. Boundary value problems

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

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

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 .

In the current implementation, 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).

1.2. package **bvpSolve**

bvpSolve can only solve sets of *first-order* ODEs. Thus, higher-order ODEs need to be rewritten as a set of first-order ODEs.

For instance:

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

can be rewritten as:

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{dy}{dx} &= z \\ \frac{dz}{dx} &= f(x, y, z)\end{aligned}$$

where y and z are now the two dependent variables.

Two 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](#)).

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

1.3. Simple and more complex input

When using **bvptwp**, the problem can be specified in several ways.

- By default, the partial derivatives of the differential equations and of the boundary conditions are approximated using *finite differences* by the solver. 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. However, some problems cannot be specified this way. It is also the slowest method.

- The `bvptwp` 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`, 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 a 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 continue 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 "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 "bvptwp: a set of 35 test Problems", which can be accessed as `vignette("bvptwp")` or is available from the package's site on CRAN: <http://cran.r-project.org/package=bvptwp/>

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):

$$\begin{aligned}\xi y'' + xy' - y &= -(1 + \xi\pi^2) \cos(\pi x) - \pi x \sin(\pi x) \\ y(-1) &= -1 \\ y(1) &= 1\end{aligned}$$

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

$$\begin{aligned}y_1' &= y_2 \\ y_2' &= 1/\xi \cdot (-xy_2 + y_1 - (1 + \xi\pi^2) \cos(\pi x) - \pi x \sin(\pi x))\end{aligned}$$

with boundary conditions

$$\begin{aligned}y_1(-1) &= -1 \\ y_1(1) &= 1\end{aligned}$$

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)))
+   )
+ }
```

and solved, using the two methods, as ¹:

```
> 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)
+ ))
```

| user | system | elapsed |
|------|--------|---------|
| 0.05 | 0.00 | 0.12 |

```
> print(system.time(
+ sol2 <- bvptwp(yini=c(-1,NA),yend=c(1,NA),x=x,func=fun, guess=0)
+ ))
```

| user | system | elapsed |
|-------|--------|---------|
| 0.190 | 0.000 | 0.191 |

¹the system time, in seconds is printed

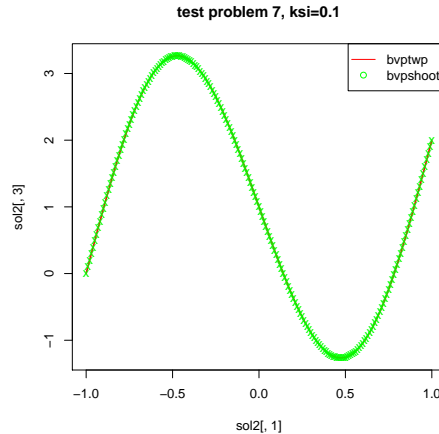


Figure 1: Solution of the simple BVP, for $\text{ksi}=0.1$ - see text for R -code

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.

The shooting method is often faster than the MIRK method. However, there are particular problems where `bvpsshoot` does not lead to a solution, whereas `bvptwp` does (see below).

The plot shows that the two methods give the same solution:

```
> plot(sol2[,1],sol2[,3],type="l",main="test problem 7, ksi=0.1",
+       lwd=2,col="red")
> points(sol1[,1],sol1[,3],col="green",pch="x")
> legend("topright",c("bvptwp", "bvpsshoot"),
+       lty=c(1,NA,NA), pch=c(NA,1,3),col=c("red", "green") )
```

For very small values of the parameter ξ , `bvpsshoot` 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 MIRK method, 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]))
+ ))
```

```
user  system elapsed
0.570   0.000   0.572
```

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

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

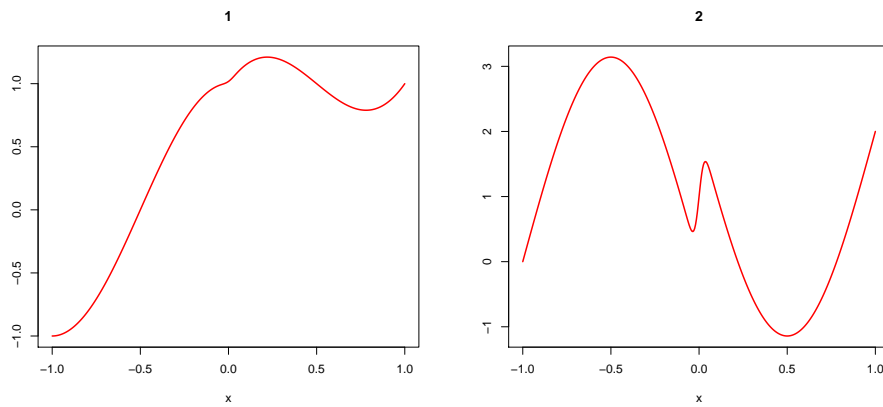


Figure 2: Solution of the simple BVP, for $\text{ksi}=0.0001$ - see text for R -code. Note that this problem cannot be solved with `bvpshoot`

3. A more complex BVP example

Here the test problem referred to as "swirling flow III" is solved ([Ascher et al. 1995](#)).

The original problem definition is:

$$\begin{aligned} g'' &= (gf' - fg')/\xi \\ f'''' &= (-ff''' - gg')/\xi \end{aligned}$$

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

$$\begin{aligned} g(0) &= -1, f(0) = 0, f'(0) = 0 \\ g(1) &= 1, f(1) = 0, f'(1) = 0 \end{aligned}$$

This is rewritten as a set of 1st order ODEs as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} y_1' &= y_2 \\ y_2' &= (y_1 * y_4 - y_3 * y_2)/\xi \\ y_3' &= y_4 \\ y_4' &= y_5 \\ y_5' &= y_6 \\ y_6' &= (-y_3 y_6 - y_1 y_2)/\xi \end{aligned}$$

Its implementation in R is:

```
> fsub <- function (t,Y,pars) {
+   return(list(c(f1 = Y[2],
+                 f2 = (Y[1]*Y[4] - Y[3]*Y[2])/eps,
+                 f3 = Y[4],
+                 f4 = Y[5],
+                 f5 = Y[6],
+                 f6 = (-Y[3]*Y[6] - Y[1]*Y[2])/eps)))
+ }
> eps <- 0.001
> x <- seq(0,1,len=100)
```

This model cannot be solved with the shooting method. However, it can be solved using `bvptwp`:

```
> print(system.time(
+   Soltwp <- bvptwp(x=x,func=fsub,guess= c(2,0,0),
+     yini=c(y1=-1,y2=NA,y3=0,y4=0,y5=NA,y6=NA),
+     yend=c(1,NA,0,0,NA,NA))
+ ))
```

```
      user  system elapsed
2.020    0.000    2.025
```

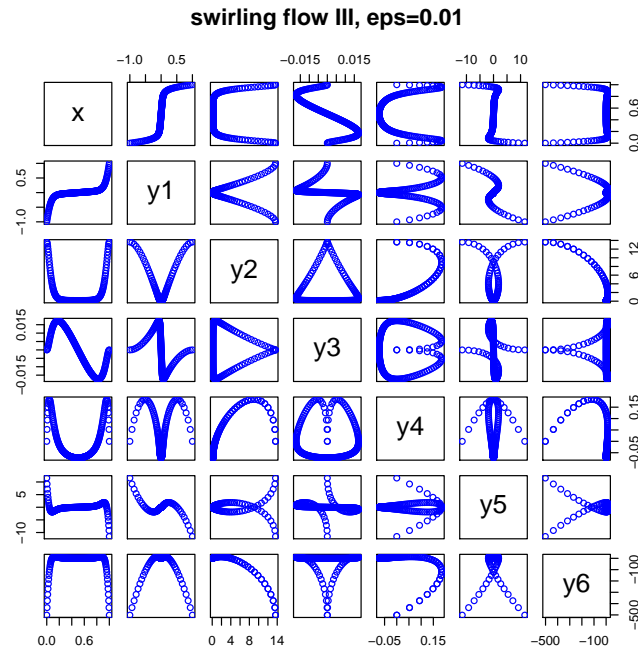


Figure 3: pairs plot of the swirling flow III problem - see text for R -code. Note that this problem cannot be solved with `bvpshoot`

where the reported system time is in seconds

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):

```
> eps <- 1e-9
> Soltwp2 <- NA
> Soltwp2 <- try(bvptwp(x=x, func=fsub, guess= c(2,0,0),
+               yini=c(y1=-1,y2=NA,y3=0,y4=0,y5=NA,y6=NA),
+               yend=c(1,NA,0,0,NA,NA)),
+               silent = TRUE)
> cat(Soltwp2)
```

```
Error in bvptwp(x = x, func = fsub, guess = c(2, 0, 0), yini = c(y1 = -1, :
The Expected No. Of mesh points Exceeds Storage Specifications.
```


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`:

```
> eps <- 0.0001
> xguess <- Soltwp[,1]
> yguess <- t(Soltwp[,2:7])

> print(system.time(
+   Sol2 <- bvptwp(x=x,func=fsub,guess= c(2,0,0),
+   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,NA))
+ ))

      user  system elapsed
6.230    0.000    6.244
```

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).

```
> plot(Sol2, col="darkred", type="l", lwd=2)
> mtext(outer=TRUE, side=3, line=-1.5, cex=1.5,
+   "swirling flow III, eps=0.0001")
```

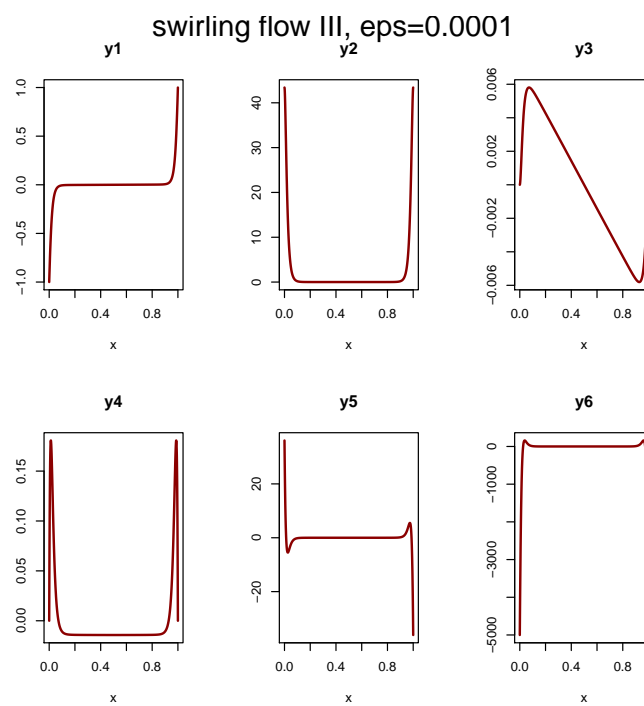


Figure 4: Solution of the swirling flow III problem with small eps , using continuation - see text for R -code.

5. More complex initial or end conditions

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

The problem is:

$$\begin{aligned} u' &= 0.5u(w-u)/v \\ v' &= -0.5(w-u) \\ w' &= (0.9 - 1000(w-y) - 0.5w(w-u))/z \\ z' &= 0.5(w-u) \\ y' &= -100(y-w) \end{aligned}$$

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

$$\begin{aligned} u(0) = v(0) = w(0) &= 1 \\ z(0) &= -10 \\ w(1) &= y(1) \end{aligned}$$

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)))
+   })
+ }
```

This model is solved differently whether `bvpshoot` or `bvptwp` is used.

5.1. solving `musn` with `bvpshoot`

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`):

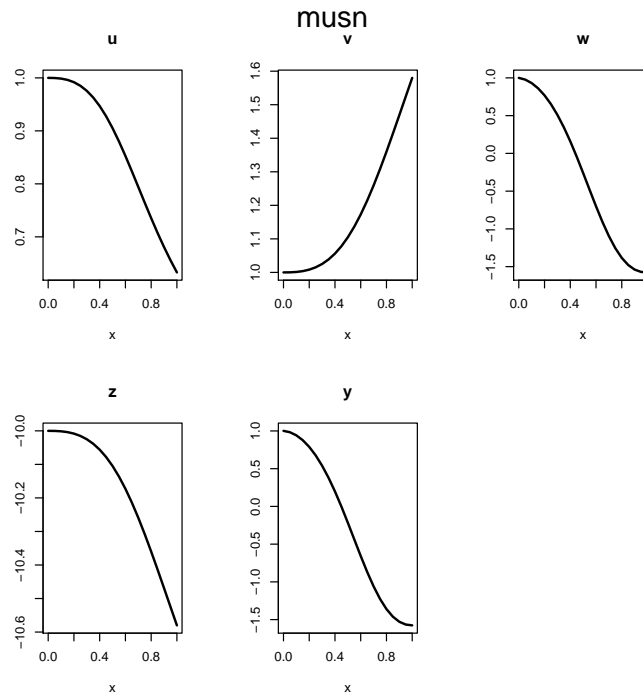


Figure 5: Solution of the musn model, using `bvpshoot` - see text for R -code.

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

Note that the specification of the boundaries for `bvptwp` are rather different (next section).

The solution, using `bvpshoot` is obtained by: ²

```
> print(system.time(
+ sol <-bvpshoot(yini= init, x=seq(0,1,by=0.05),func=musn,
+               yend=yend,guess=1,atol=1e-10,rtol=0)
+ ))
```

```
      user  system elapsed
0.440    0.000    0.438
```

and plotted as:

```
> plot(sol,type="l", lwd=2)
> mtext(outer=TRUE, side=3, line=-1.5, cex=1.5, "musn")
```

5.2. solving musn with `bvptwp`

Here the boundary function `bound` must be specified:

²Note 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) {
+   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 <- seq(0, 1, len=5)
> yguess <- matrix(ncol = 5, (rep(c(1,1,1,-10,0.91),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] |
|---|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| u | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 |
| v | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 |
| w | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 |
| z | -10.00 | -10.00 | -10.00 | -10.00 | -10.00 |
| y | 0.91 | 0.91 | 0.91 | 0.91 | 0.91 |

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

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

```
> print(system.time(
+ Sol <- bvptwp(yini= NULL, x=x, func=musn, bound=bound,
+               xguess=xguess, yguess=yguess, leftbc = 4,
+               guess=1, atol=1e-10)
+ ))
```

| user | system | elapsed |
|-------|--------|---------|
| 1.040 | 0.000 | 1.056 |

6. a BVP problem including an unknown parameter

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

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

defined on $[0, \pi]$, and with boundary conditions $\frac{dy}{dt}(0) = 0$ and $\frac{dy}{dt}(\pi) = 0$ and $y(0) = 1$

Here all the initial values (at $t=0$) are prescribed, in addition to one condition at the end of the interval. If λ would be known the problem would be overdetermined.

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

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{dy}{dt} &= y_2 \\ \frac{dy_2}{dt} &= -(\lambda - 10 \cos(2t)) \cdot y \end{aligned}$$

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]))
```

6.1. Solving for an unknown parameter using `bvpshoot`

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 <- c(1,0)
> sol <- bvpshoot(yini=init,yend=c(NA,0),x=seq(0,pi,by=0.01),
+               func=mathieu, guess=NULL, 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 -5.205281e-13    6
```

6.2. Solving for an unknown parameter using `bvptwp`

To use `bvptwp`, 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 interval). This is,

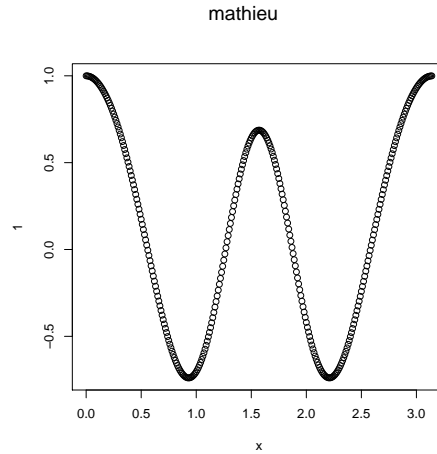


Figure 6: Solution of the BVP ODE problem including an unknown parameter, see text for R-code

the equations are:

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{dy}{dt} &= y_2 \\ \frac{dy_2}{dt} &= -(\lambda - 10 \cos(2t)) \cdot y \\ \frac{d\lambda}{dt} &= 0\end{aligned}$$

for dependent variables y , y_2 and λ

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`).³

```
> 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(nr=3,rep(15,6)) )
```

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

³This problem is not solved if the initial guess for the y-values is 0; yet any value different from 0 works

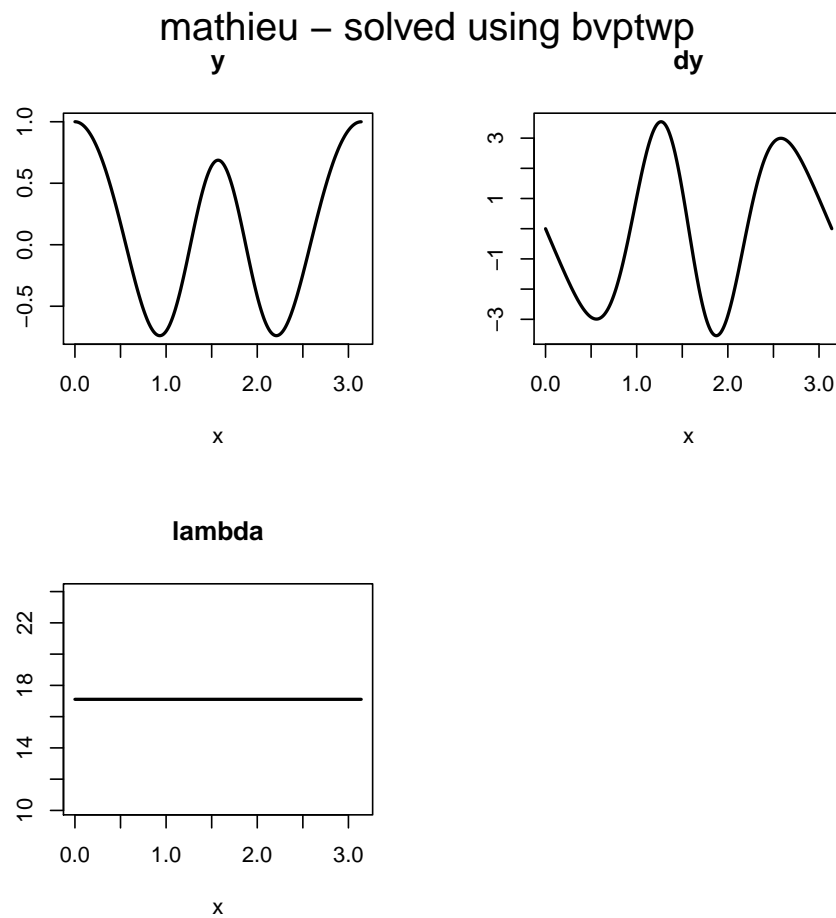


Figure 7: Solution of the BVP ODE problem including an unknown parameter, and using method `bvptwp` - see text for R-code

```
> plot(Sol, type = "l", lwd=2)
> mtext(outer=TRUE, side=3, line=-1.5, cex=1.5, "mathieu - solved using bvptwp")
```


7. 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:

$$\begin{aligned}y_1' &= 3T(y_1 + y_2 - 1/3y_1^3 - 1.3) \\ y_2' &= -T(y_1 - 0.7 + 0.8y_2)/3\end{aligned}$$

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

$$\begin{aligned}y_1(0) &= y_1(1) \\ y_2(0) &= y_2(1) \\ 1 &= -T(y_1(0) - 0.7 + 0.8 * y_2(0))/3\end{aligned}$$

7.1. Cyclic boundary conditions solved using bvpshoot

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 is set to 2π (`extra`):

```
> yini <- c(y1=NA,y2=NA)
> sol  <- 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 | -6.426113e-10 | 11 |
| 2 | 2.004203 | -3.779043e-09 | 11 |
| 3 | 10.710809 | -4.951595e-14 | 11 |

7.2. Cyclic boundary conditions solved using bvptwp

Function **bvptwp** 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:

```
> nerve3 <- function (t,y,p)
+   list(c( 3*y[3]*(y[1] + y[2] - 1/3*(y[1]^3) - 1.3),
+         (-1/3)*y[3]*(y[1] - 0.7 + 0.8*y[2]) ,
+         0,
+         0,
+         0)
+   )
```

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] )
+ }
```

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(nr=5,nc=length(xguess),5.)
> yguess[1,] <- sin(2*pi*xguess)
> yguess[2,] <- cos(2*pi*xguess)
> rownames(yguess) <- c("y1", "y2", "T", "y1ini", "y2ini")

> Sol <- bvptwp(func=nerve3, bound=bound, x=seq(0,1,by=0.01),
+   guess = c(y=0.5, dy=0.5, T=2*pi, yi=0.5, yj=0.5),
+   leftbc=3, xguess=xguess, yguess=yguess)
```

The first row of **Sol** shows the initial conditions:

```
> Sol[1,]

      x      y1      y2      T      y1ini      y2ini
0.000000 -1.183453  2.004203 10.710808 -1.183453  2.004203

> plot(Sol, type="l", lwd=2, col="darkblue")
```

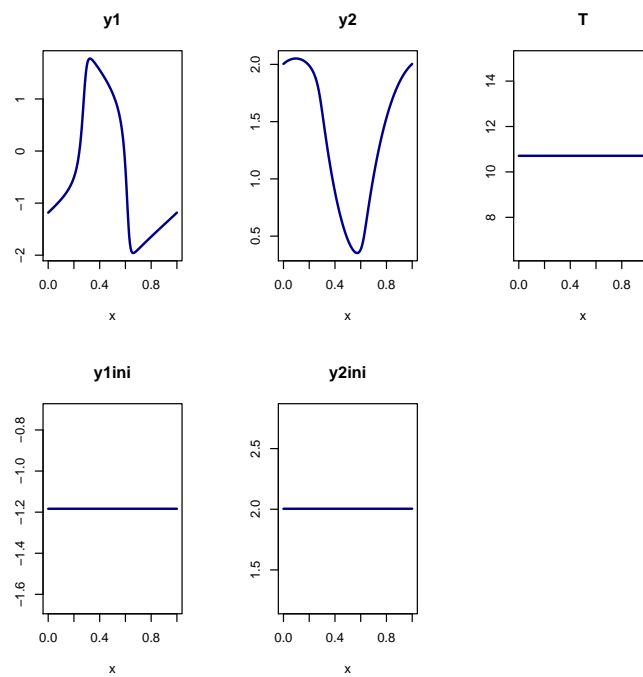


Figure 8: Solution of the nerve impulse problem, comprising two state variables and 3 parameters - see text for R-code

8. 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).

First implementation uses the default specification:

```
> Elastica <- function (x, y, pars) {
+
+   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),
+               guess=c(0,0) )
> plot(Sol)
```

Now several extra functions are defined, specifying

1. the analytic Jacobian for the derivative function (`jacfunc`)
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, 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
+ }
```

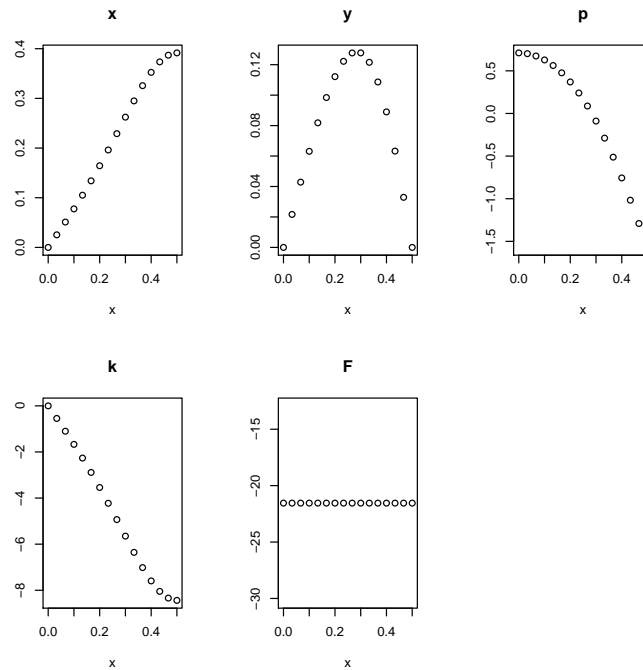


Figure 9: Solution of the elastica problem - see text for R-code

```
> 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])
+   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
+ }
```

If this input is used, the number of left boundary conditions `leftbc` needs to be specified.

```
> Sol4 <- bvptwp(leftbc = 3,
+   func=Elastica, jacfunc = jacfunc,
+   bound = bound, jacbound = jacbound,
+   x = seq(0,0.5,len=16),
+   guess=c(0,0) )
```

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

9. 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.* 2009b).

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.

9.1. 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.DO
  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.DO

```



```

        DG(2)=0.D0
        DG(3)=0.D0
        DG(4)=0.D0
        DG(5)=0.D0

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

        RETURN
        END

```

9.2. 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 dfsb(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.;
}

```

9.3. 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 `elasticaC.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")

```

or

```
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):

```
dyn.load("elastica.dll")

outF <- bvptwp(ncomp=5,
              x = seq(0,0.5,len=16), leftbc = 3,
              func="fsub", jacfunc="dfsub", bound="gsub", jacbound="dgsub",
              dllname="elastica")

dyn.unload("elastica.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.

10. 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:

$$\begin{aligned} y(-0.1) &= -0.1\sqrt{p+0.01} \\ y(+0.1) &= 0.1\sqrt{p+0.01} \end{aligned}$$

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:

```
> fun <- function(t,y,pars)
+   list(c( y[2],
+         - a*p*y[1]/(p+t*t)^2
+       ))
```

with parameter values:

```
> p <- 1e-5
> a <- 3
```

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, guess = 1)

> plot(sol,type="l")
```

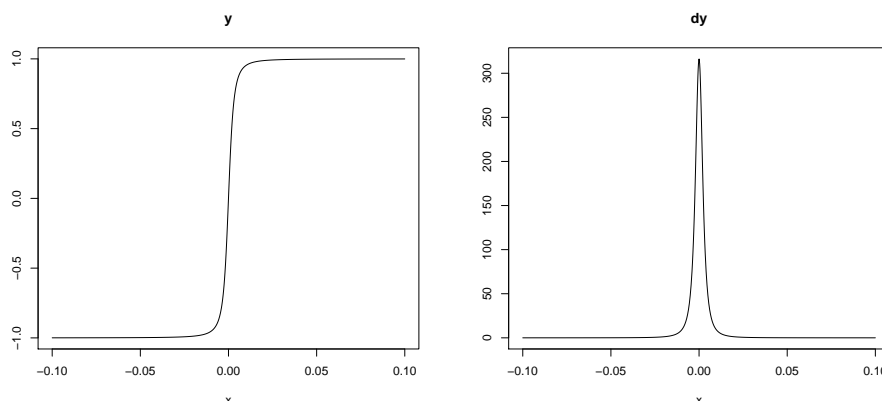


Figure 10: Solution of the linear boundary problem - see text for R-code

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 `bvptwp` via argument `initfunc`.

```
c FORTRAN implementation of the boundary problem
c Initialiser for parameter common block
  SUBROUTINE initbnd(bvpparms)
    EXTERNAL bvpparms
```

```
    DOUBLE PRECISION parms(2)
    COMMON / pars / parms
```

```
    CALL bvpparms(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, guess=1,
+     func="funbnd", jacfunc="dfbnd", bound="gbnd", jacbound="dgbnd",
+     allpoints=FALSE,dllname="bvpSolve")
+   Out <- cbind(Out, outFor[,2])
+ }
```

It takes less than 0.06 seconds to do this.

Results are plotted, using R -function `matplot`:

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

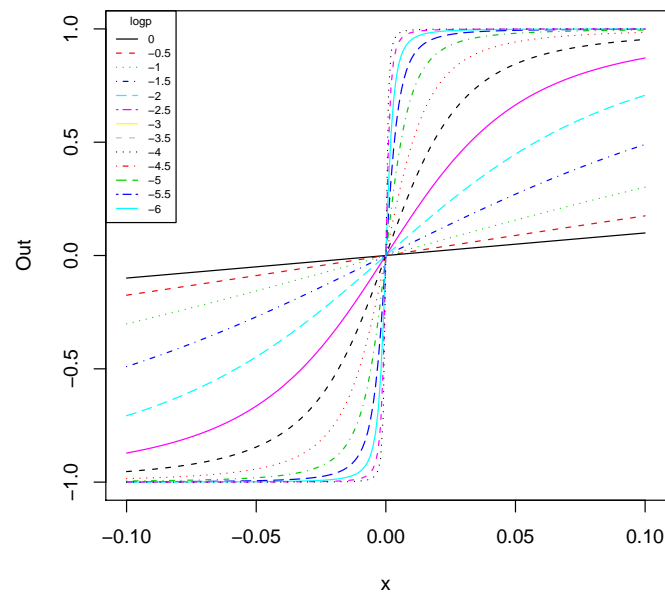


Figure 11: Multiple solutions of the linear problem - see text for R-code

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