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ON THE POSSIBILITY OF CALCULATION OF ZERO POINTS  
OF SOLUTIONS OF DIFFERENTIAL EQUATIONS  
OF THE SECOND ORDER

VIKTOR PIRČ

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This paper deals with possibilities of calculating zero points of the differential equations

$$(1) \quad y'' + f(x)g(y) = p'(x)$$

$$(2) \quad Y'' + F(x)g(Y) = p'(x).$$

The solutions of these equations may be expressed as

$$(3) \quad y(x) = y(x_0) + y'(x_0)(x - x_0) + \int_{x_0}^x [p(t) - p(x_0)] dt - \\ - \int_{x_0}^x (x - t) f(t) g[y(t)] dt$$

and

$$(4) \quad Y(x) = Y(x_0) + Y'(x_0)(x - x_0) + \int_{x_0}^x [p(t) - p(x_0)] dt - \\ - \int_{x_0}^x (x - t) F(t) g[Y(t)] dt,$$

respectively. Comparison theorems for  $y(x)$  and  $Y(x)$  can be used for approximate calculation of zero points of  $y(x)$ .

We shall assume that  $f(x)$ ,  $F(x)$  and  $p'(x)$  are continuous on  $I_x = \langle a; b \rangle$  where  $-\infty < a < b < +\infty$  and that  $g(y)$  is continuous on  $I_y = \langle A; B \rangle$  where  $-\infty < A < B < +\infty$ ; the intervals mentioned are such that  $\forall x \in \langle x_0; b \rangle : y(x) \in \langle A; B \rangle$ .

We shall further assume that the solutions of (1) and (2) exist and are unique on  $\langle x_0; b \rangle$  for some  $x_0 \in I_x$ .

**Theorem 1.** Suppose that  $y(x)$  is a solution of (1) and  $Y(x)$  a solution of (2),  $y(x_0) \geq Y(x_0)$ ,  $y'(x_0) \geq Y'(x_0)$ , and that

$$(5) \quad f(x_0) \frac{dg(y)}{dy} < 0 \quad \forall y \in I_y,$$

$$(6) \quad [F(x) - f(x)] g(y) > 0 \quad \forall (x, y) \in R = I_x \times I_y,$$

$$(7) \quad f(x) \neq 0, \quad F(x) \neq 0 \quad \forall x \in I_x.$$

Then  $\forall x \in (x_0; b) : y(x) > Y(x) \wedge y'(x) > Y'(x) \wedge y''(x) > Y''(x)$ .

Proof. Let  $h(x) = y(x) - Y(x)$ . By hypothesis

$$h''(x_0) = F(x_0) g[Y(x_0)] - f(x_0) g[y(x_0)] > 0.$$

Thus there exists a right neighborhood  $0_{x_0}$  of  $x_0$  such that  $\forall x \in 0_{x_0} : h(x) > 0$ . The proof now will be indirect: Suppose that  $\exists \bar{x} \in (x_0; b) : h(\bar{x}) = 0$  but  $\forall x \in (x_0; \bar{x}) : h(x) > 0$ . Using (3) and (4), we obtain

$$0 = h(x_0) + h'(x_0)(x - x_0) + \int_{x_0}^x (\bar{x} - t) \{F(t) g[Y(t)] - f(t) g[y(t)]\} dt.$$

By hypothesis the right hand side of this equation is positive which yields a contradiction. This means that there exists no  $\bar{x} \in (x_0; b)$  with the above property and therefore  $\forall x \in (x_0; b) : h(x) > 0$ . By hypothesis

$$F(x) g[Y(x)] - f(x) g[y(x)] > 0 \quad \text{if } y(x) > Y(x), \quad \text{i.e.}$$

$$\forall x \in (x_0; b) : y'(x) > Y'(x) \wedge y''(x) > Y''(x).$$

**Corollary.** Let  $\min_{\langle x_0; b \rangle} f(x) = m$ ,  $\max_{\langle x_0; b \rangle} f(x) = M$ . Let  $y_m(x)$  and  $y_M(x)$  be the solutions of (1) for  $f(x) \equiv m$  and  $f(x) \equiv M$ , respectively. If  $\forall y \in I_y : g(y) < 0 \wedge y_m(x_0) \leq y(x_0) \leq y_M(x_0) \wedge y'_m(x_0) \leq y'(x_0) \leq y'_M(x_0)$  then  $\forall x \in (x_0; b) : y_m(x) < y(x) < y_M(x)$ . If  $\forall y \in I_y : g(y) > 0 \wedge y_M(x_0) \leq y(x_0) \leq y_m(x_0) \wedge y'_M(x_0) \leq y'(x_0) \leq y'_m(x_0)$  then  $\forall x \in (x_0; b) : y_M(x) < y(x) < y_m(x)$ .

Let  $u(x)$  be the solution of (1) with the initial conditions  $u(x_0) = u_0 > y(x_0)$ ,  $u'(x_0) = y'(x_0)$ ; then the following theorem holds.

**Theorem 2.** If  $\forall (x, y) \in R = I_x \times I_y : f(x) dg(y)/dy < 0$  then  $\forall x \in \langle x_0; b \rangle : y(x) < u(x)$ .

Proof. Owing to (3) and to the initial conditions,  $y(x) - u(x) = y(x_0) - u(x_0) + \int_{x_0}^x (x - t) \{g[u(t)] - g[y(t)]\} f(t) dt$ . Since  $u(x_0) > y(x_0)$  there exists a right neighborhood  $0_{x_0}$  of  $x_0$  such that  $\forall x \in 0_{x_0} : y(x) < u(x)$ . Let  $\bar{x} \in \langle x_0; b \rangle$  be a point such that  $y(\bar{x}) = u(\bar{x}) \wedge \forall x \in \langle x_0; \bar{x} \rangle : y(x) \neq u(x)$ .

Then

$$0 = y(x_0) - u(x_0) + \int_{x_0}^{\bar{x}} (\bar{x} - t) f(t) \{g[u(t)] - g[y(t)]\} dt$$

and the right hand side of this equation is always negative owing to the assumptions made; this again yields a contradiction and thus proves that  $\forall x \in \langle x_0; b \rangle : y(x) < u(x)$ .

If  $y_\xi(x)$  is a solution of (1) for  $f(x) \equiv f(\xi)$  satisfying the conditions  $y_\xi(\xi) = 0$ ,  $y'(x_0) = y'_\xi(x_0)$  and  $y(x)$  is as stated in Theorem 1, then we have

**Theorem 3.** Suppose that the functions  $f(x)$ ,  $g(y)$  satisfy the hypotheses of Theorem 1; suppose moreover that

$$[y_\xi(x_0) - y(x_0)] f'(x_0) \frac{dg(y)}{dy} < 0 \text{ for } y = y_0 \text{ and that } \forall x \in \langle x_0; \xi \rangle : f'(x) \neq 0.$$

$$\text{Then } \forall x \in (x_0; \xi) : [y(x_0) - y_\xi(x_0)] [y(x) - y_\xi(x)] > 0.$$

*Proof.* We shall show that the theorem holds if  $\forall x \in \langle x_0; b \rangle : f(x) > 0 \wedge f'(x_0) > 0$ ,  $y_\xi(x_0) > y(x_0)$  and  $g(y)$  is negative and decreasing. Let  $Y(x)$  be a solution of (2) for  $F(x) \equiv f(\xi)$  satisfying the conditions  $Y(x_0) = y(x_0)$ ,  $Y'(x_0) = y'(x_0)$ . By Theorem 1  $\forall x \in (x_0; \xi) : y(x) < Y(x)$  and therefore by Theorem 2  $\forall x \in (x_0; \xi) : y_\xi(x) > Y(x) > y(x)$ . In the other cases the proof is analogous.

The results obtained so far may be used for approximate calculation of zero points of solutions of (1).

*Example.* Calculate the zero point  $\bar{x}$  of the solution  $y(x)$  of the equation

$$(8) \quad y'' + e^{-2x}(1 - y) = 0$$

with the initial conditions  $y(0) = 1$ ,  $y'(0) = -1$ .

The auxiliary equation will be

$$(9) \quad Y'' + K_i^2(1 - Y) = 0$$

and

$$(10) \quad Y_i(x) = 0.5K_i^{-1}(e^{-K_ix} - e^{K_ix}) + 1$$

is its solution under the initial conditions  $Y(0) = 1$ ,  $Y'(0) = -1$ . If  $x_{i+1}$  is a zero of (10) then

$$(11) \quad x_{i+1} = K_i^{-1} \ln(K_i + \sqrt{(K_i^2 + 1)})$$

or

$$(12) \quad x_{i+1} = \int_0^1 \frac{dy}{\sqrt{(1 + K_i^2(y - 1)^2)}}.$$

To obtain an estimate of the interval  $(a_1; b_1) \subset \langle x_0; b \rangle$  containing  $\bar{x}$  we can use Theorem 1. As  $f(x) = e^{-2x} \leq M = 1$  for  $x > 0$ ,  $y_M(x) = 0.5(e^{-x} - e^x) + 1$  is the solution of (9) for  $K_i = 1$ . For the zero point  $x_M$  of  $y_M(x)$  we have  $x_M > 0.87$ . Furthermore,  $f(x) = e^{-2x} > 0$  for every  $x \in \langle 0; \infty \rangle$ .  $y_m(x) = 1 - x$  is a solution of (9) for  $K_i = 0$  and  $x_m = 1$  is its zero point. Therefore  $\bar{x} \in (0.87; 1)$  by Theorem 1. Using the Romberg integration method, a computer calculated  $x_1 = 0.978714$ ,  $x_2 = 0.977842$ ,  $x_3 = 0.977805$  for  $x_0 = b_1 = 1$ . A similar result is obtained much more easily from (11). By Theorem 1,  $\bar{x} < 0.977805$ .

Let  $y_\xi(x)$  be the solution of (9) for  $K_i = e^{-\xi}$  with the conditions  $y_\xi(\xi) = 0$ ,  $y'_\xi(0) = -1$  for  $\xi = 0.97780$ . Calculation shows that  $y_\xi(0) = 0.999994 < 1$  and by Theorem 3  $\forall x \in (0; \xi) : y_\xi(x) < y(x)$ . Thus we can see that  $\exists \bar{x} \in (0.97780; 0.977805) : y(\bar{x}) = 0$ .

Súhrn

## O MOŽNOSTI VÝPOČTU NULOVÝCH BODOV RIEŠENÍ DIFERENCIÁLNYCH ROVNÍC DRUHÉHO RÁDU

VIKTOR PIRČ

Práca sa zaoberá možnosťou výpočtu nulových bodov riešení diferenciálnych rovníc druhého rádu typu  $y'' + f(x)g(y) = p'(x)$ . Pomocou porovnávacích viet medzi riešeniami dvoch diferenciálnych rovníc druhého rádu je na príklade uvedený postup výpočtu nulového bodu.

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