



**UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA**

**DIAGONALLY IMPLICIT RUNGE-KUTTA METHODS FOR SOLVING  
LINEAR ORDINARY DIFFERENTIAL EQUATIONS**

**NUR IZZATI BINTI CHE JAWIAS**

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LINEAR ORDINARY DIFFERENTIAL EQUATIONS**

By

**NUR IZZATI BINTI CHE JAWIAS**

**Thesis Submitted to the School of Graduate Studies, Universiti Putra  
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Science**

**July 2009**



Abstract of thesis presented to the Senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia in  
fulfilment of the requirement for the degree of Master of Science

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**July 2009**

**Chairman : Fudziah Binti Ismail, PhD**

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This thesis deals with the derivation of diagonally implicit Runge-Kutta (DIRK) methods which are specially designed for the integration of linear ordinary differential equations (LODEs). The restriction to LODEs with constant coefficients reduces the number of order equations which the coefficients of Runge-Kutta (RK) methods must satisfy. This freedom is used to construct new methods which are more efficient compared to the conventional RK methods.

Having achieved a particular order of accuracy, the best strategy for practical purposes would be to choose the coefficients of the RK methods such that the error norm is minimized. The free parameters chosen are obtained from the



minimized error norm. This resulted in methods which are almost one order higher than the actual order. In this thesis we construct a fourth order DIRK method without taking into account the error norm. We also construct fourth and fifth order DIRK methods using the minimized error norm.

The stability aspects of the methods are investigated by finding the stability polynomials of the methods, which are then solved to obtain the stability regions using MATHEMATICA package. The methods are found to have bigger regions of stability compared to the explicit Runge-Kutta (ERK) methods of the same type (designed for the integration of LODEs). Later, we built codes using C++ programming based on the methods. Sets of test problems on linear ordinary differential equations are used to validate the methods and numerical results show that the new methods produce smaller global error compared to ERK methods. From the stability regions and numerical results obtained, we can conclude that the new DIRK methods are more stable and more accurate compared to the explicit one. Higher order methods also gives better result compared to lower order methods.



Abstrak tesis yang dikemukakan kepada Senat Universiti Putra Malaysia sebagai memenuhi keperluan untuk ijazah Master Sains

**KAEDAH RUNGE-KUTTA PEPENJURU TERSIRAT UNTUK  
MENYELESAIKAN PERSAMAAN PEMBEZAAN PERINGKAT BIASA  
YANG LINEAR**

Oleh

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Tesis ini membincang tentang penerbitan kaedah Runge-Kutta pepenjuru tersirat yang diterbitkan khas untuk menyelesaikan persamaan perbezaan peringkat biasa (PPB) yang linear. Pembatasan kepada PPB yang linear sahaja dengan pekali-pekali tetap mengurangkan jumlah persamaan peringkat yang perlu dipenuhi oleh kaedah Runge-Kutta (RK). Kelonggaran ini digunakan untuk menerbitkan kaedah baru yang lebih efisien berbanding kaedah RK yang biasa.

Dengan mencapai peringkat kejituan yang khusus, strategi terbaik untuk tujuan praktikal adalah pemilihan pekali-pekali bagi kaedah RK contohnya dengan meminimumkan ralat norma. Parameter bebas dipilih hasil daripada kaedah



meminimumkan ralat norma ini. Ini menghasilkan kaedah yang hampir mempunyai satu peringkat lebih tinggi daripada peringkat yang sebenarnya. Dalam tesis ini, kami telah menerbitkan kaedah RK pepenjuru tersirat peringkat keempat tanpa mengambil kira ralat normanya. Kami juga telah menerbitkan kaedah RK pepenjuru tersirat peringkat keempat dan kelima dengan meminimumkan ralat normanya terlebih dahulu.

Aspek kestabilan untuk setiap kaedah diselidik dengan mencari polinomial kestabilan dan menyelesaikannya untuk mendapatkan rantau kestabilan dengan menggunakan pakej MATHEMATICA. Kaedah yang baru diterbitkan ini didapati mempunyai rantau kestabilan yang lebih besar berbanding kaedah RK tak tersirat dalam jenis yang sama (digunakan untuk menyelesaikan PPB yang linear). Kemudian, kod-kod berasaskan kaedah ini dibina menggunakan pengaturcaraan C++. Beberapa set masalah persamaan pembezaan biasa yang linear digunakan untuk menentusahkan kaedah-kaedah dan keputusan berangka menunjukkan kaedah baru ini menghasilkan ralat global yang lebih kecil berbanding kaedah RK tak tersirat. Daripada rantau kestabilan dan keputusan berangka yang diperolehi tersebut, kita dapat membuat kesimpulan bahawa kaedah RK pepenjuru tersirat yang baru ini lebih stabil dan lebih jitu berbanding kaedah RK tak tersirat. Kaedah peringkat lebih tinggi juga memberikan keputusan yang lebih baik berbanding kaedah peringkat rendah.

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I certify that a Thesis Examination Committee has met on 6 July 2009 to conduct the final examination of Nur Izzati Binti Che Jawias on her thesis entitled “Diagonally Implicit Runge-Kutta Methods for Solving Linear Ordinary Differential Equations” in accordance with the Universities and University Colleges Act 1971 and the Constitution of the Universiti Putra Malaysia [P.U.(A) 106] 15 March 1998. The Committee recommends that the student be awarded the Master of Science.

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## **DECLARATION**

I declare that the thesis is my original work except for quotations and citations which have been duly acknowledged. I also declare that it has not been previously, and is not concurrently, submitted for any other degree at Universiti Putra Malaysia or at any other institution.

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**NUR IZZATI BINTI CHE JAWIAS**

Date: 23 July 2009



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## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

DIRK	: Diagonally Implicit Runge-Kutta
DIRK4	: Fourth Order Four-Stage Diagonally Implicit Runge-Kutta
DIRKM4	: Fourth Order Four-Stage Diagonally Implicit Runge-Kutta With Minimized Error Norm
DIRKM5	: Fifth Order Five-Stage Diagonally Implicit Runge-Kutta With Minimized Error Norm
ERK	: Explicit Runge-Kutta
ERK4	: Fourth Order Four-Stage Explicit Runge-Kutta
ERK5	: Fifth Order Five-Stage Explicit Runge-Kutta
IRK	: Implicit Runge-Kutta
IVP	: Initial Value Problem
LODE	: Linear Ordinary Differential Equation
LODEs	: Linear Ordinary Differential Equations
ODE	: Ordinary Differential Equation
ODEs	: Ordinary Differential Equations
PDE	: Partial Differential Equation
PDEs	: Partial Differential Equations
RK	: Runge-Kutta
SDIRK	: Singly Diagonally Implicit Runge-Kutta
SDIRK44	: Fourth Order Four-Stage Singly Diagonally Implicit Runge-Kutta
SDIRK45	: Fourth Order Five-Stage Singly Diagonally Implicit Runge-Kutta



## CHAPTER 1

### INTRODUCTION AND OBJECTIVES

#### 1.1 Introduction

Many problems of science and engineering are reduced to quantifiable form through the process of mathematical modeling. The equations arising often are expressed in terms of the unknown quantities and their derivatives. Such equations are called differential equations. The solutions of these equations have exercised the ingenuity of great mathematicians since the time of Newton, resulting in many powerful analytical techniques available to the modern scientist. However, prior to the development of sophisticated computing machinery, only a small fraction of the differential equations of applied mathematics were accurately solved. Although a model equations based on established physical laws may be constructed, analytical tools frequently are inadequate for its solutions. Such a restriction makes impossible any long term predictions which might be sought. In order to achieve any solution it was necessary to simplify the differential equations, thus compromising the validity of the mathematical modeling which had been applied.

Differential equation is an equation involving an unknown function and one or more of its derivatives. Differential equations can be classified either as ordinary or as partial. An ordinary differential equation (ODE) is a differential equation in



which the function in question is a function of only one variable. A partial differential equation (PDE) is a differential equation in which the function of interest depends on two or more variables. Differential equations also are classified by their order. The order of a differential equation is simply the order of the highest order derivative explicitly appearing in the equation.

Some mathematical problems are very difficult or impossible to solve analytically, therefore numerical methods are the only way to deal with these kinds of problems. Nearly every area of modern industry, science and engineering relies heavily on numerical methods to solve its problems.

## **1.2 Numerical methods**

Since analytical methods are not adequate for finding accurate solutions to most differential equations, numerical methods are required. The ideal objective, in employing a numerical method, is to compute a solution of specified accuracy to the differential equation. Sometimes this is achieved by computing several solutions using a method which has known error characteristics. Rather than a mathematical formula, the numerical method yields a sequence of points close to the solution curve for the problem. Classical techniques sample the solution at equally spaced (in the independent variable) points but modern processes generally yield solutions at intervals depending on the control of truncation error. Of course, it is expected that these processes will be implemented on computers rather than being dependent on hand calculation.

Numerical methods for the solution of ordinary differential equations (ODEs) of initial value type are usually categorized as *single step* or *multistep* processes. The first method used information provided about the solution at a single initial point to yield an approximation to the solution at a new one. In contrast, multistep processes are based on a sequence of previous solution and derivative values. Each of these schemes has its advantages and disadvantages, and many practitioners prefer one or the other technique. Such a preference may arise from the requirements of the problem being solved. The general view is that different types of numerical processes should be matched to the user's objectives.

These is a common tendency for engineers and scientists employing numerical procedures to select an easy looking method on the grounds that it is mathematically consistent, and that raw computing power will deliver the appropriate results. This attitude is somewhat contradictory since the methods usually found in text books were developed many years ago when the most advanced computing machine available was dependent literally on manual power. The assumption that such processes can be efficient in modern circumstances is dangerously flawed and quite often it leads to hopelessly inaccurate solutions. A major aim of the present thesis is to present powerful, up-to-date, numerical methods for differential equations in a form which is accessible to non-specialists.

### 1.3 Runge-Kutta Methods

In numerical analysis, the Runge–Kutta (RK) methods are an important family of implicit and explicit iterative methods for the approximation of solutions of ordinary differential equations. These techniques were developed around 1900 by the German mathematicians C. Runge and M.W. Kutta. The idea of generalizing the Euler method, by allowing for a number of evaluations of the derivative to take place in a step, is generally attributed to Runge (1895).

Further contributions were made by Huen (1900), and by Kutta (1901). The latter completely characterized the set of RK methods of order 4, and proposed the first methods of order 5. Special methods for second-order differential equations were proposed by Nystrom (1925), who also contributed to the development of methods for first-order equations. It was not until the work of Huta (1957) that sixth-order methods were introduced.

Then, Butcher (1963) did the advances in the development and simplification of RK error coefficients. It is very hard to find the error coefficients and local truncation error for higher order. So, Butcher introduced the convenient way to display the coefficients, known as Butcher array using Butcher's order conditions.

Since the advent of digital computers, fresh interest has been focused on RK methods, and a large number of research workers have contributed to recent

extensions to the theory, and to the development of particular methods. Although early studies were devoted entirely in explicit Runge-Kutta (ERK) methods, interest has now moved to include implicit methods, which have become recognized as appropriate for the solution of stiff differential equations.

The general  $s$ -stage RK method for any initial value problems

$$y'(x) = f(y(x)), \quad y(x_0) = y_0, \quad f : \mathbb{R}^N \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^N \quad (1.1)$$

is defined by

$$y_{n+1} = y_n + h \sum_{i=1}^s b_i k_i \quad (1.2)$$

where

$$k_i = f(x_n + c_i h, y_n + h \sum_{j=1}^s a_{ij} k_j), \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, s.$$

We shall always assume that the row-sum condition holds;

$$c_i = \sum_{j=1}^s a_{ij}, \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, s. \quad (1.3)$$

It is convenient to display the coefficients occurring in the general RK form, known as Butcher tableau;

$c_1$	$a_{11}$	$a_{12}$	$\dots$	$a_{1s}$
$c_2$	$a_{21}$	$a_{22}$	$\dots$	$a_{2s}$
$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$
	$b_1$	$b_2$	$\dots$	$b_s$

Clearly, an  $s$ -stage RK method is completely specified by its Butcher's tableau;

$$\begin{array}{c|c} c & A \\ \hline & b^T \end{array}$$

and we define the  $s$ -dimensional vectors  $c$  and  $b$  and the  $s \times s$  matrix  $A$  by

$$c = [c_1, c_2, \dots, c_s]^T, \quad b = [b_1, b_2, \dots, b_s]^T, \quad A = [a_{ij}]. \quad (1.4)$$

If in (1.2) we have that  $a_{ij} = 0$  for  $j \geq i, i = 1, 2, \dots, s$ , then each of  $k_i$  is given explicitly in term of previously computed  $k_j, j = 1, 2, \dots, i - 1$ , and the method is then an explicit or classical RK method. If this is not the case then the method is implicit, and in general, it is necessary to solve at each step of the computation an implicit system for  $k_i$ . Summarizing, we have;

Explicit method:

$$a_{ij} = 0, \quad j \geq i, \quad j = 1, 2, \dots, s \quad \Leftrightarrow A \text{ strictly lower triangular.}$$

Semi-implicit method:

$$a_{ij} = 0, \quad j > i, \quad j = 1, 2, \dots, s \quad \Leftrightarrow A \text{ lower triangular.}$$

Implicit method:

$$a_{ij} \neq 0 \text{ for some } j > i \quad \Leftrightarrow A \text{ not lower triangular.}$$

Diagonally implicit method:

$$a_{ij} = \gamma, \quad \text{for } i = j, \quad i, j = 1, 2, \dots, s.$$

A remark that can be made about RK methods is that they constitute a clever and sensible idea. The unique solution of a well-posed initial value problem can be thought of as a single integral curve in  $\mathbb{R}^{N+1}$ ; but, due to truncation and round-off error, any numerical solution is, in effect, going to be affected by the behavior of neighbouring integral curves. RK methods deliberately try to gather information about this family of curves.

#### 1.4 Ordinary Differential Equations

In mathematics, an ODE is a relation that contains functions of only one independent variable, and one or more of its derivatives with respect to that variable. A simple example is Newton's second law of motion, which leads to the differential equation

$$m \frac{d^2 x(t)}{dt^2} = F(x(t)),$$

for the motion of a particle of mass  $m$ . In general, the force  $F$  depends upon the position of the particle  $x(t)$  at time  $t$ , and thus the unknown function  $x(t)$  appears on both sides of the differential equation, as is indicated in the notation  $F(x(t))$ .

ODEs are distinguished from partial differential equations (PDEs), which involve partial derivatives of several variables. ODEs arise in many different contexts including geometry, mechanics, astronomy and population modeling. Many famous mathematicians have studied differential equations and contributed to the



field, including Newton, Leibniz, the Bernoulli family, d'Alembert and Euler. Much study has been devoted to the solution of ODEs. In the case where the equation is linear, it can be solved by analytical methods. Unfortunately, most of the interesting differential equations are non-linear and with a few exceptions, cannot be solved exactly.

### 1.4.1 Definitions

Let  $y$  be an unknown function

$$y : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$$

in  $x$  with  $y^{(n)}$  the  $n^{\text{th}}$  derivative of  $y$ , then an equation of the form

$$F(x, y, y', \dots, y^{(n-1)}) = y^{(n)}$$

is called an ODE of order  $n$ ; for vector valued function,

$$y : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$$

it is called a system of ODEs of dimension  $m$ . When a differential equation of order  $n$  has the form

$$F(x, y, y', y'', \dots, y^{(n)}) = 0$$

it is called an implicit differential equation whereas the form

$$F(x, y, y', y'', \dots, y^{(n-1)}) = y^{(n)}$$

is called an explicit differential equation.

