

Polynomial Invariants

We consider two classes of problems with polynomial invariants of degree higher than two:

1. linear problems
2. isospectral flows

The Determinant as an invariant

$$\dot{Y} = A(Y)Y, \quad Y(0) = Y_0 \quad (1.1)$$

where Y and $A(Y)$ are $n \times n$ matrices.

Definition: trace $A = \sum_{i=1}^n a_{ii}$

Definition: A non constant function $I(Y)$ is called a first invariant if $I'(Y)A(Y)Y = 0$ for all Y

\Rightarrow every solution $Y(t)$ satisfies $I(Y(t)) = I(Y_0) = \text{const.}$

Lemma 1.1 If $\text{trace } A(Y) = 0$ for all $Y \Rightarrow g(Y) := \mathbf{det}Y$ is an invariant.

Proof : $g(Y) = \mathbf{det}Y$. We show that $g'(Y)(AY) = \text{trace}A \cdot \mathbf{det}Y$. Hence the determinant is an invariant if $\text{trace}A(Y) = 0$ for all Y .

$\mathbf{det}Y$ represents the volume of the parallelepiped:
Conservation of the invariant \Rightarrow volume preservation.

$\det Y$: a polynomial invariant of degree n

Question: Can Runge-Kutta methods conserve this invariant for $n \geq 3$?

Let's see...

Theorem 1.3 For $n \geq 3$, no Runge-Kutta method can conserve all polynomial invariants of degree n .

A negative result!

Isospectral Flows

$$\dot{L} = [B(L), L], \quad L(0) = L_0 \quad (1.2)$$

L_0 : a symmetric matrix, $B(L)$: skew-symmetric,
 $[B, L] = BL - LB$: commutator of B and L .

Lemma 1.4 L_0 symmetric, $B(L)$ skew-symmetric for all L
 $\Rightarrow L(t)$ symmetric, $\lambda(t) = \mathbf{const.}$

Proof – scetch : We define the function $U(t)$ by
 $\dot{U} = B(L(t))U, \quad U(0) = I. \quad (1.3)$

In the characteristic polynomial

$$\mathbf{det} (L - \lambda I) = \sum_{i=0}^n a_i \lambda^i$$

the coefficients a_i also are **independent** of t .

Coefficients as: $a_0 = \mathbf{det} L$,

$a_{n-1} = \pm \mathbf{trace} L$ are polynomial invariants.

Because of Theorem 1.3

\Rightarrow **no hope** that Runge-Kutta methods can conserve invariants automatically for $n \geq 3$.

Isospectral Methods

$$\dot{L} = [B(L), L], \quad L(0) = L_0:$$

solve $\dot{U} = B(UL_0U^{-1})U, \quad U(0) = I$ up to time t

$$\Rightarrow \tilde{L}(t) = \tilde{U}(t)L_0\tilde{U}(t)^{-1},$$

$B(L)$ skew-symmetric for all L , then U^TU is a quadratic invariant of $\dot{U} = B(L)U, U(0) = I$ and the methods of Sect. IV.2 (i.e. Gauss) will produce an orthogonal \tilde{U} .

$$\Rightarrow \text{spec}(\tilde{L}(t)) = \text{spec}(L_0) \quad \text{and} \quad \tilde{L}(t)^T = \tilde{L}(t) \quad \text{for all } t.$$

\implies isospectral methods **conserve** polynomial invariants.

Example: Toda Lattice ($n = 3$) $\dot{L} = [B, L]$

$$B(t) = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & b_1(t) & -b_3(t) \\ -b_1(t) & 0 & b_2(t) \\ b_3(t) & -b_2(t) & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$L(t) = \begin{pmatrix} a_1(t) & b_1(t) & b_3(t) \\ b_1(t) & a_2(t) & b_2(t) \\ b_3(t) & b_2(t) & a_3(t) \end{pmatrix}$$

$$a_1(0) = \frac{3}{4}, \quad a_2(0) = -\frac{1}{2}, \quad a_3(0) = -\frac{1}{4}$$

$$b_1(0) = \frac{1}{2} e^{-\frac{1}{2}}, \quad b_2(0) = \frac{1}{2} e^{\frac{3}{2}}, \quad b_3(0) = \frac{1}{2} e^{-1}$$

study $\lambda_1(t), \lambda_2(t), \lambda_3(t)$

2 Methods:

A) RK: ODE 45 (Matlab)
on $\dot{L} = [B, L], L(0) = L_0$

B) impl. midpoint on $\dot{U} = B(UL_0U^{-1})U, U(0) = I$
then $L(t) = U(t)L_0U^{-1}(t)$

