

Accepted Manuscript

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PII: S0010-4655(15)00344-6

DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.cpc.2015.09.006>

Reference: COMPHY 5756

To appear in: *Computer Physics Communications*

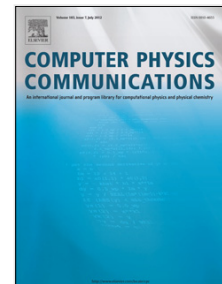
Received date: 30 October 2014

Revised date: 20 April 2015

Accepted date: 4 September 2015

Please cite this article as: H.Q. Kafri, S.A. Khuri, Bratu's problem: A novel approach using fixed-point iterations and Green's functions, *Computer Physics Communications* (2015), <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.cpc.2015.09.006>

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Bratu's Problem: a Novel Approach using Fixed-Point Iterations and Green's Functions

H.Q. Kafri * S.A. Khuri †

Abstract

In this article, the one-dimensional non-linear Bratu's boundary value problem is solved via a novel approach that combines Green's function and fixed point iterative schemes, such as Picard's and Krasnoselskii-Mann's. The convergence of the introduced iterative algorithm is proved using the contraction principle. The method is supported by considering a number of numerical examples that correspond to different cases of eigenvalues. The procedure underlying the strategy reduces calculations and provides highly accurate results in comparison with the exact solution and/or numerical solutions provided in the literature. The current method overcomes the difficulty of treating the problem for eigenvalues near and at the critical value, such as $\lambda = 3$ and $\lambda = 3.51$, and handles them reliably and very efficiently.

1 Introduction

In this paper, we introduce an iterative algorithm to solve the one-dimensional Bratu's nonlinear boundary value problem given by

$$-u''(t) = \lambda e^{u(t)}, \quad (1.1)$$

subject to the boundary conditions

$$u(0) = 0, \quad \& \quad u(1) = 0, \quad (1.2)$$

where $\lambda > 0$.

The exact solution of (1.1)-(1.2) is given by [5]:

$$u(t) = -2 \ln \left[\frac{\cosh(0.5(t - 0.5)\theta)}{\cosh(\theta/4)} \right], \quad (1.3)$$

provided that θ is the solution of $\theta = \sqrt{2\lambda} \cosh(\theta/4)$. The parameter λ characterizes the number of possible solutions for the Bratu problem which has a critical turning point λ_c numerically approximated by 3.513830719. For this point, the problem has a unique solution whereas there exists two solutions for $\lambda < \lambda_c$ and no solution for $\lambda > \lambda_c$.

The proposed approach is based on embedding an integral operator, which

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