Local Error Estimates for Moderately Smooth ODEs and DAEs

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Abstract

We discuss an error estimation procedure for the local errors of low order methods applied to solve initial value problems in ordinary differential equations (ODEs) and index 1 differential-algebraic equations (DAEs). The proposed error estimation strategy is based on the principle of Defect Correction. Here, we present how this idea can be adapted for the estimation of local errors in case when the problem data is only moderately smooth. Moreover, we illustrate the performance of the mesh adaptation based on the error estimation developed in this paper.

1 Introduction

We consider initial value problems for ODEs of the form

$$x'(t) = f(t, x(t)), \ t \in \mathcal{J}, \quad x(t_0) = x_0, \tag{1.1}$$

where $\mathcal{J} = [t_0, t_{end}]$, $x \colon \mathcal{J} \to \mathbb{R}^n$, $f \colon \mathcal{J} \times \mathbb{R}^n \to \mathbb{R}^n$, and assume that (1.1) has a unique solution $x = x(\cdot; t_0, x_0)$.

In this paper we are interested in the design of error estimates for the local errors arising during the numerical integration of classical ODEs and DAEs. The results developed here shall also provide the necessary techniques for a further development in context of small noise stochastic differential equations (SDEs).

Our main concern is to deal with only moderate smoothness of the problem data and of the solution of (1.1). We are especially motivated by applications in electrical circuit simulation, where the models often contain data with poor smoothness. In a consecutive paper dealing with stochastic differential equations, we will focus our attention on the case of small noise where the dominant part of the local error still exhibits deterministic behavior.

Our ideas originate from the well-known principle of Defect Correction which can be utilized to estimate local and global errors of discretization schemes in the context of both, initial and boundary value problems in ODEs. Defect correction also constitutes the acceleration technique called Iterated Defect Correction (IDeC). For the reader's convenience, we now give a brief overview of this technique, referring to the literature for further details.

1.1 Iterated Defect Correction

Since its introduction in the 1970's, cf. [12], [27], [28], the idea of IDeC has been successfully applied to various classes of differential equations. The method is carried out in the following way: Compute a simple, basic approximation and form its defect w.r.t. the given ODE via a piecewise interpolant. This defect is used to define an auxiliary, neighboring problem whose exact solution is known. Solving the neighboring problem with the basic discretization scheme yields a global error estimate. This can be used to construct an improved approximation, and the procedure can be iterated. The fixed point of such an iterative process corresponds to a certain collocating solution. Let

$$\Gamma := \{t_0 < t_1 < \ldots < t_i < \cdots < t_N = t_{end}\} \tag{1.2}$$

be a partition of the interval $\mathcal{J}$. We denote the length of the subinterval $[t_{i-1}, t_i]$ by $h_i = t_i - t_{i-1}$, $i = 1, \ldots, N$. Let $\mathbf{h}$ be the maximal step-size of Γ, $\mathbf{h} := \max_{1 \le i \le N} h_i$.

For the IVP (1.1) the IDeC procedure can be realized as follows: An approximate solution $x_\Gamma^{[0]} = (x_0^{[0]}, x_1^{[0]}, \ldots, x_i^{[0]}, \ldots, x_N^{[0]})$ is obtained by some discretization method on the grid Γ. For simplicity assume that $x_\Gamma^{[0]}$ has been computed by the backward Euler scheme (BEUL),

$$\frac{x_i - x_{i-1}}{h_i} = f(t_i, x_i), \quad i = 1, \ldots, N. \tag{1.3}$$

Using the polynomial $p^{[0]}(t)$ of degree $\le N$ which interpolates the values of $x_\Gamma^{[0]}$, $p^{[0]}(t_i) = x_i$, $i = 0, \ldots, N$, we construct an auxiliary neighboring problem

$$x'(t) = f(t, x(t)) + d^{[0]}(t), \quad x(t_0) = x_0, \tag{1.4}$$

where $d^{[0]}(t)$ denotes the defect w.r.t. (1.1),

$$d^{[0]}(t) := \frac{d}{dt} p^{[0]}(t) - f(t, p^{[0]}(t)). \tag{1.5}$$

We now solve (1.4) using the same numerical method as before to obtain an approximation $p_\Gamma^{[0]}$ for the exact solution $p^{[0]}(t)$ of (1.4). Note that for (1.4) we know the global error given by $p_\Gamma^{[0]} - R_\Gamma p^{[0]}$, where R_Γ denotes the restriction operator $[t_0, t_{\text{end}}] \to \Gamma$. Assuming $x_\Gamma^{[0]}$ to be a good approximation for $R_\Gamma x$ and therefore $p_\Gamma^{[0]}$ to be a good approximation for $x(t)$, we may expect $d^{[0]}(t)$ to be small and the problems (1.1) and (1.4) to be closely related. Consequently, the global error for the neighboring problem (1.4) should provide a good estimate for the unknown error of the original problem (1.1). The approximation

2

$p_\Gamma^{[0]} - R_\Gamma p^{[0]}$ of the global error of the original problem can now be used to improve the numerical solution of (1.1),

$$x_\Gamma^{[1]} := x_\Gamma^{[0]} - (p_\Gamma^{[0]} - R_\Gamma p^{[0]}). \tag{1.6}$$

The values $x_\Gamma^{[1]}$ are used to define a new interpolating polynomial $p^{[1]}(t)$ by requiring $p^{[1]}(t_i) = x_i^{[1]}$ and $p^{[1]}(t)$ defines a new neighboring problem analogous to (1.4). This procedure can be continued iteratively in an obvious manner. In practice one does not use one interpolating polynomial for the whole interval $[t_0, t_{\text{end}}]$. Instead, piecewise functions composed of polynomials of (moderate) degree m are used to specify the neighboring problem. For sufficiently smooth data functions $f(t, x)$ it can be shown that the approximations $x_\Gamma^{[\nu]}$ satisfy

$$x_i^{[\nu]} - x(t_i) = O(\mathbf{h}^{\nu+1}), \quad \nu = 0, \ldots, m - 1. \tag{1.7}$$

One of the most attractive features of the IDeC procedure is, that its fixed point is a certain superconvergent collocation solution of (1.1). In [6] and [7] a variety of modifications to this algorithm has been discussed. Some of these have been proposed only recently, and together they form a family of iterative techniques, each with its particular advantages.

Clearly, in each step of the classical IDeC procedure, we obtain not only an improved approximation $x_\Gamma^{[\nu]}$ for the exact solution values $R_\Gamma x$, but also an asymptotically correct estimate $p_\Gamma^{[\nu-1]} - R_\Gamma p^{[\nu-1]}$ for the global error of the basic method $x_\Gamma^{[0]} - R_\Gamma x$:

$$\begin{aligned}
&(p_i^{[\nu]} - p^{[\nu]}(t_i)) - (x_i^{[0]} - x(t_i)) = \\
&\underbrace{(p_i^{[\nu]} - p^{[\nu]}(t_i)) - (x_i^{[0]} - x_i^{[\nu+1]})}_{=0} - (x_i^{[\nu+1]} - x(t_i)) = O(\mathbf{h}^{\nu+1}), \quad \nu = 0, \ldots, m - 1.
\end{aligned}$$

Similarly, in each step of the iteration the difference $x_\Gamma^{[\nu]} - x_\Gamma^{[\nu+1]}$ can serve to estimate the global error $x_\Gamma^{[\nu]} - R_\Gamma x$ of the current approximation $x_\Gamma^{[\nu]}$,

$$(x_i^{[\nu]} - x_i^{[\nu+1]}) - \underbrace{(x_i^{[\nu]} - x(t_i))}_{=O(\mathbf{h}^{\nu+1})} = -(x_i^{[\nu+1]} - x(t_i)) = O(\mathbf{h}^{\nu+2}), \quad \nu = 0, \ldots, m - 1.$$

The DeC principle can also be used to estimate the global error of higher order schemes. It was originally proposed by Zadunaisky in order to estimate the global error of Runge-Kutta schemes. In this original version discussed in [9], [28], the error estimate for the high-order method is obtained by applying the given scheme twice, to the analytical problem (1.1) first, and to a properly defined neighboring problem next. In [12] and [27], this procedure was modified in order to reduce the amount of computational work. Here, the high-order method is carried out only to solve the original problem. Additionally, a computationally cheap low-order method is used twice to solve the original and the neighboring problem. We refer to [4] and [5] for further variants of the above error estimation strategies.

1.2   Estimate for the local truncation error in the IDeC context

In [10] and [11] another variant of the IDeC procedure based on the estimation of the local truncation error was introduced. Let us again consider problem (1.1) and its numerical solution x_Γ obtained by the backward Euler scheme (1.3). If we knew the exact values of the local truncation error per unit step,

$$l_i^{us} := \frac{x(t_i) - x(t_{i-1})}{h_i} - f(t_i, x(t_i)), \quad i = 1, \ldots, N, \tag{1.8}$$

and if we solved the perturbed BEUL scheme

$$\frac{y_i - y_{i-1}}{h_i} = f(t_i, y_i) + l_i^{us}, \quad i = 1, \ldots, N, \tag{1.9}$$

then we would recover the correct values of the solution, $y_i = x(t_i)$, $i = 1, \ldots, N$. In practice we need to estimate the values of l_i^{us}. For this purpose consider m adjacent points to t_i, say $t_{i-m}, t_{i-m+1}, \ldots, t_{i-1}$, and define a polynomial $q_i(t)$[1] of degree $\leq m$ by requiring $q_i(t_i) = x_i$, $i = i-m, \ldots, i$. Using this polynomial we now construct an auxiliary problem,

$$x_i'(t) = f(t, x_i(t)) + d_i^{us}(t), \quad t \in [t_{i-m}, t_i], \quad x_i(t_0) = q_i(t_0), \tag{1.10}$$

where

$$d_i^{us}(t) := q_i'(t) - f(t, q_i(t)), \quad i = 1, \ldots, N. \tag{1.11}$$

We again can expect that $q_i(t)$ is a good approximation for $x(t)$ in the interval $[t_{i-m}, t_i]$. Outside of $[t_{i-m}, t_i]$ the polynomial $q_i(t)$ may differ significantly from $x(t)$. Therefore, we could view (1.10) as a *local* neighboring problem for (1.1). Since $q_i(t)$ is the exact solution of (1.10), we know the associated local truncation error at t_i,

$$\begin{aligned}
\ell_i^{us} &:= \frac{q_i(t_i) - q_i(t_{i-1})}{h_i} - f(t_i, q_i(t_i)) - q_i'(t_i) + f(t_i, q_i(t_i)) \\
&= \frac{x_i - x_{i-1}}{h_i} - q_i'(t_i), \quad i = 1, \ldots, N,
\end{aligned} \tag{1.12}$$

and thus we can use ℓ_i^{us} to estimate l_i^{us} in (1.9). Obviously, this process can be iteratively continued. However, in this paper, we are not interested in applying the related acceleration procedure, but in using the above idea to reliably estimate local errors of numerical methods for IVPs and consequently, to provide a basis for a step adaptation strategy.

We stress that we do not necessarily need to evaluate the defect in a way described in (1.11). In fact, it turns out that a modified defect definition will be more suitable in the case of very moderate smoothness in x. All we need is the property that ℓ_i^{us} is an asymptotically correct error estimate for l_i^{us},

$$\ell_i^{us} = l_i^{us} + O(h_i^2), \quad i = 1, \ldots, N. \tag{1.13}$$

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[1] We denote this polynomial by q_i and not by p_i, as in the previous section, in order to underline that it is a local approximation for $x(t), t \in [t_{i-m}, t_i]$.

This requirement is motivated by the fact that for the backward Euler scheme both, ℓ_i^{us} and l_i^{us} are $O(h_i)$. Depending on the choice of d_i^{us} condition (1.13) holds under different smoothness requirements on x. It has been shown in [3] in context of equidistant grids that $x \in C^5[t_0, t_{end}]$ is sufficient for d_i^{us} specified via (1.11) to guarantee that (1.13) is satisfied.

The following form of d_i^{us} suits both, less smooth solutions of (1.1) and arbitrary grids, see [4]:

$$d_i^{us} := \frac{q_i(t_i) - q_i(t_{i-1})}{h_i} - \frac{1}{2}\big(f(t_{i-1}, q_i(t_{i-1})) + f(t_i, q_i(t_i))\big)$$

$$= \frac{x_i - x_{i-1}}{h_i} - \frac{1}{2}\big(f(t_{i-1}, x_{i-1}) + f(t_i, x_i)\big) = \frac{1}{2}\big(f(t_i, x_i) - f(t_{i-1}, x_{i-1})\big). \quad (1.14)$$

For $x \in C^2[t_0, t_{end}]$ we have

$$\ell_i^{us} = \frac{x_i - x_{i-1}}{h_i} - f(t_i, x_i) - \frac{x_i - x_{i-1}}{h_i} + \frac{1}{2}\big(f(t_{i-1}, x_{i-1}) + f(t_i, x_i)\big)$$

$$= \frac{1}{2}\big(f(t_{i-1}, x_{i-1}) - f(t_i, x_i)\big). \quad (1.15)$$

Recall that

$$l_i^{us} := \frac{x(t_i) - x(t_{i-1})}{h_i} - f(t_i, x(t_i)) = -\frac{1}{2}h_i x''(t_i) + o(h_i), \quad (1.16)$$

and thus

$$\ell_i^{us} - l_i^{us} = \frac{h_i}{2}\left(x''(t_i) - \frac{1}{h_i}\big(\underbrace{f(t_i, x_i) - f(t_{i-1}, x_{i-1})}_{:=\Delta f_i}\big)\right) + o(h_i) \quad (1.17)$$

with

$$\Delta f_i = \big(\underbrace{f(t_i, x_i) - f(t_i, x(t_i))}_{=J_i(x_i - x(t_i))}\big) - \big(\underbrace{f(t_{i-1}, x_{i-1}) - f(t_{i-1}, x(t_{i-1}))}_{=J_{i-1}(x_{i-1} - x(t_{i-1}))}\big)$$

$$- \;(f(t_{i-1}, x(t_{i-1})) - f(t_i, x(t_i))),$$

where $J_i = \int_0^1 f_x(t_i, sx_i + (1-s)x(t_i))\,ds$, $J_{i-1} = \int_0^1 f_x(t_{i-1}, sx_{i-1} + (1-s)x(t_{i-1}))\,ds$. Here, we assume that the right-hand side f is continuously differentiable with respect to x. From

$$x_i - x(t_i) = x_{i-1} - x(t_{i-1}) + h_i f(t_i, x_i) - h_i x'(t_{i-1}) + O(h_i^2)$$

$$= x_{i-1} - x(t_{i-1}) + h_i f(t_i, x_i) - h_i f(t_i, x(t_i)) + h_i f(t_i, x(t_i))$$

$$- h_i(x'(t_i) + O(h_i)) + O(h_i^2) = x_{i-1} - x(t_{i-1}) + O(h_i^2)$$

we have

$$\Delta f_i = J_i(x_i - x(t_i)) - J_{i-1}(x_{i-1} - x(t_{i-1})) - (x'(t_{i-1}) - x'(t_i))$$

$$= J_i(x_{i-1} - x(t_{i-1}) + O(h_i^2)) - J_{i-1}(x_{i-1} - x(t_{i-1})) + h_i x''(t_i) + o(h_i)$$

$$= h_i x''(t_i) + \underbrace{(J_i - J_{i-1})(x_{i-1} - x(t_{i-1}))}_{=O(h_i^2)} + o(h_i),$$

and consequently,

$$\ell_i^{us} - l_i^{us} = \frac{h_i}{2}\left(x''(t_i) - \frac{1}{h_i}\big(h_i x''(t_i) + o(h_i)\big)\right) + o(h_i) = o(h_i).$$

Using similar arguments one could show that for $x \in C^3[t_0, t_{end}]$,

$$\ell_i^{us} - l_i^{us} = O(h_i^2)$$

holds.

Here, a remark is in order. In the above calculations we have taken advantage of the fact that in (1.17), x'' is approximated by differences of f-values. Note that the weighted sum of f-values in (1.14) can be related to a certain quadrature rule, cf. [5]. The defect evaluation in (1.14) can also be regarded as a substitution of the solution obtained from the numerical scheme of order $m - 1 = 1$ into another scheme of higher order, in this case of order $m = 2$. This idea is widely used in the design of error estimation procedures based on residual control. Its generalization in context of multi-step schemes will be discussed in the next section.

For the defect definition (1.11) we would have obtained

$$\ell_i^{us} - l_i^{us} = \frac{h_i}{2}\left(x''(t_i) - q_i''(t_i)\right) + O(h_i^2), \quad i = 1, \dots, N, \tag{1.18}$$

which means that in this case x'' would be approximated by q_i'', where q_i is a polynomial interpolating the values of x_Γ. The different defect definitions (1.11) and (1.14) result in canceling of $f(t_i, q_i(t_i))$ terms in (1.12) and $(x_i - x_{i-1})/h_i$ terms in (1.15), respectively.

2 Estimates of the local error via defect evaluation

2.1 Linear multi-step schemes

Consider a linear multi-step scheme for the ODE (1.1) carried out on the grid Γ,

$$\sum_{j=0}^{k} \alpha_{j,i} x_{i-j} = h_i \sum_{j=0}^{k} \beta_{j,i} f(t_{i-j}, x_{i-j}), \quad i = k, \dots N, \tag{2.1}$$

with given initial values $x_0, x_1, \dots, x_{k-1} \in \mathbb{R}^n$. Assume, for simplicity of notation, that $\alpha_{0,i} = 1$. The local truncation error[2] l_i of the scheme (2.1) is given by

$$l_i := \sum_{j=0}^{k} \alpha_{j,i} x(t_{i-j}) - h_i \sum_{j=0}^{k} \beta_{j,i} f(t_{i-j}, x(t_{i-j})), \quad i = k, \dots N. \tag{2.2}$$

The linear multi-step method (2.1) is called consistent of order $p > 0$ if $|l_i| = O(\mathbf{h}^{p+1})$, where $|\cdot|$ denotes a vector norm in $\mathbb{R}^n$.

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[2]It is defined by substituting the values of the exact solution into the scheme. Note that now the scaling of the numerical scheme is different from (1.3). The local truncation error, l_i, is related to the local truncation error per unit step, l_i^{us}, by $l_i = h_i l_i^{us}$.

We identify (2.1) with a given solver routine providing an approximation for the solution of (1.1). Our aim is to design an error estimate for the local truncation error of this approximation which does not need more smoothness to work than the approximation procedure itself. For this purpose we use an auxiliary scheme,

$$\sum_{j=0}^{\bar{k}} \bar{\alpha}_{j,i} \bar{x}_{i-j} = h_i \sum_{j=0}^{\bar{k}} \bar{\beta}_{j,i} f(t_{i-j}, \bar{x}_{i-j}), \quad i = \bar{k}, \ldots N, \tag{2.3}$$

with given values $x_0, \bar{x}_1, \ldots, \bar{x}_{\bar{k}-1} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ and $\bar{\alpha}_{0,i} = 1$. As before, the local truncation error of (2.3) is given as

$$\bar{l}_i := \sum_{j=0}^{\bar{k}} \bar{\alpha}_{j,i} x(t_{i-j}) - h_i \sum_{j=0}^{\bar{k}} \bar{\beta}_{j,i} f(t_{i-j}, x(t_{i-j})), \tag{2.4}$$

and the scheme (2.3) is of order $\bar{p}$ if $|\bar{l}_i| = O(\mathbf{h}^{\bar{p}+1})$ holds. In this section, we are particularly interested in the case $p = \bar{p}$.

We first discuss the properties of the defect, defined by

$$d_i := \sum_{j=0}^{\bar{k}} \bar{\alpha}_{j,i} x_{i-j} - h_i \sum_{j=0}^{\bar{k}} \bar{\beta}_{j,i} f(t_{i-j}, x_{i-j}), \quad i = k, \ldots N, \tag{2.5}$$

obtained by substituting the approximations x_i computed from (2.1) into the scheme (2.3). Let us assume that the starting values for the schemes (2.1) and (2.3) are exact, and denote the solutions computed after the first step by $x_i^\star$ and $\bar{x}_i^\star$ respectively,

$$x_i^\star = -\sum_{j=1}^{k} \alpha_{j,i} x(t_{i-j}) + h_i \beta_{0,i} f(t_i, x_i^\star) + h_i \sum_{j=1}^{k} \beta_{j,i} f(t_{i-j}, x(t_{i-j})), \tag{2.6}$$

$$\bar{x}_i^\star = -\sum_{j=1}^{\bar{k}} \bar{\alpha}_{j,i} x(t_{i-j}) + h_i \bar{\beta}_{0,i} f(t_i, \bar{x}_i^\star) + h_i \sum_{j=1}^{\bar{k}} \bar{\beta}_{j,i} f(t_{i-j}, x(t_{i-j})), \tag{2.7}$$

for $i = k, \ldots N$. For explicit schemes ($\beta_{0,i} = 0$ and $\bar{\beta}_{0,i} = 0$) we immediately have

$$l_i = x(t_i) - x_i^\star \quad \text{and} \quad \bar{l}_i = x(t_i) - \bar{x}_i^\star,$$

but in general,

$$l_i = x(t_i) - x_i^\star - h_i \beta_{0,i} \big(f(t_i, x(t_i)) - f(t_i, x_i^\star) \big) = \big(I - h_i \beta_{0,i} J_i \big)(x(t_i) - x_i^\star), \tag{2.8}$$

and

$$\bar{l}_i = x(t_i) - \bar{x}_i^\star - h_i \bar{\beta}_{0,i} \big(f(t_i, x(t_i)) - f(t_i, \bar{x}_i^\star) \big) = \big(I - h_i \bar{\beta}_{0,i} \bar{J}_i \big)(x(t_i) - \bar{x}_i^\star). \tag{2.9}$$

Here, $J_i = \int_0^1 f_x'(t_i, sx(t_i) + (1-s)x_i^\star) \, ds$, $\bar{J}_i = \int_0^1 f_x'(t_i, sx(t_i) + (1-s)\bar{x}_i^\star) \, ds$, and f is supposed to be differentiable with respect to x. The properties of the defect d_i from (2.5) are formulated in the following lemma.

Lemma 2.1 *Let $f(t,x)$ be continuous and continuously differentiable with respect to x. Let the step-size $\mathbf{h}$ be sufficiently small to guarantee that the matrix $(I - h_i\beta_{0,i}J_i)$ is nonsingular. Then the defect $d_i^\star$ defined*[3]*by*

$$d_i^\star := x_i^\star + \sum_{j=1}^{\bar{k}} \bar{\alpha}_{j,i}x(t_{i-j}) - h_i\bar{\beta}_{0,i}f(t_i, x_i^\star) - h_i\sum_{j=1}^{\bar{k}}\bar{\beta}_{j,i}f(t_{i-j}, x(t_{i-j})), \qquad (2.10)$$

satisfies

$$d_i^\star = \bar{l}_i - l_i + h_i(\bar{\beta}_{0,i} - \beta_{0,i})J_i(I - h_i\beta_{0,i}J_i)^{-1}l_i. \qquad (2.11)$$

Proof: Using the definitions (2.10), (2.4) and the relation (2.8) we obtain

$$\begin{aligned}
d_i^\star &= x_i^\star - h_i\bar{\beta}_{0,i}f(t_i, x_i^\star) + \sum_{j=1}^{\bar{k}}\bar{\alpha}_{j,i}x(t_{i-j}) - h_i\sum_{j=1}^{\bar{k}}\bar{\beta}_{j,i}f(t_{i-j}, x(t_{i-j})) \\
&= x_i^\star - h_i\bar{\beta}_{0,i}f(t_i, x_i^\star) + \bar{l}_i - x(t_i) + h_i\bar{\beta}_{0,i}f(t_i, x(t_i)) \\
&= x_i^\star - x(t_i) - h_i\bar{\beta}_{0,i}\big(f(t_i, x_i^\star) - f(t_i, x(t_i))\big) + \bar{l}_i \\
&= \big(I - h_i\bar{\beta}_{0,i}J_i\big)\big(x_i^\star - x(t_i)\big) + \bar{l}_i \\
&= -\big(I - h_i\bar{\beta}_{0,i}J_i\big)\big(I - h_i\beta_{0,i}J_i\big)^{-1}l_i + \bar{l}_i \\
&= \bar{l}_i - l_i + h_i\big(\bar{\beta}_{0,i} - \beta_{0,i}\big)J_i\big(I - h_i\beta_{0,i}J_i\big)^{-1}l_i\,.
\end{aligned}$$

$\qquad\square$

Corollary 2.2 *Let the suppositions of Lemma 2.1 be satisfied. Moreover, let the schemes (2.1) and (2.3) be consistent of order p and $\bar{p}$, respectively. For the case $p = \bar{p}$, we additionally assume that*

$$l_i = c_i\,x^{(p+1)}(t_i)\,h_i^{p+1} + o(h_i^{p+1}), \quad \bar{l}_i = \bar{c}_i\,x^{(p+1)}(t_i)\,h_i^{p+1} + o(h_i^{p+1}), \qquad (2.12)$$

with constants $c_i \neq \bar{c}_i$, which depend only on the ratios of step-sizes.
Then we have

(i) $\quad \bar{l}_i = d_i^\star + O(h_i^{\bar{p}+2})$, *if* $\quad p > \bar{p}$,

(ii) $\quad l_i = -d_i^\star + O(h_i^{p+2})$, *if* $\quad p < \bar{p}$,

(iii) $\quad l_i = \dfrac{c_i}{\bar{c}_i - c_i}d_i^\star + o(h_i^{p+1}), \quad \bar{l}_i = \dfrac{\bar{c}_i}{\bar{c}_i - c_i}d_i^\star + o(h_i^{p+1})$, *if* $\quad p = \bar{p}$.

Proof: Equation(2.11) immediately implies the properties (i), (ii), and (iii). $\qquad\square$

Corollary 2.2 offers two options for designing an estimate ℓ_i for the local truncation error l_i of (2.1): According to (ii) we may choose a higher order scheme (2.3) to evaluate d_i given by (2.5) and set $\ell_i := -d_i$. We then have $\ell_i - l_i = -(d_i - d_i^\star) + O(h_i^{p+2})$.

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[3]$d_i^\star$ is obtained by substituting $x_i^\star$ from (2.6) into (2.3)

According to (iii) we may choose a scheme (2.3) with the same order $\bar{p} = p$ to evaluate d_i and set $\ell_i := \dfrac{c_i}{\bar{c}_i - c_i} d_i$. We then have $\ell_i - l_i = \dfrac{c_i}{\bar{c}_i - c_i}(d_i - d_i^\star) + o(h_i^{p+1})$.

In both cases ℓ_i can be considered as an asymptotically correct estimate for l_i only if $d_i - d_i^\star = o(h_i^{p+1})$, i.e., if $|d_i - d_i^\star|$ is asymptotically smaller than the local truncation error itself.

In Section 1.2 the defect structured as a weighted sum of f-values, see (1.14), proved advantageous in the case when the solution x is only moderately smooth. To obtain this structure for the defect (2.5) we choose an auxiliary scheme (2.3) with the same left-hand side as (2.1), i.e., $\bar{\alpha}_{j,i} = \alpha_{j,i}$, $j = 0, \ldots, k_{max}$, $\bar{\alpha}_{j,i} = 0$, $j = k_{max}+1, \ldots, \bar{k}$, where k_{max} is the maximal index j with $\alpha_{j,i} \neq 0$ in (2.1). Obviously this yields

$$d_i = \sum_{j=0}^{k} \alpha_{j,i} x_{i-j} - h_i \sum_{j=0}^{\bar{k}} \bar{\beta}_{j,i} f(t_{i-j}, x_{i-j}) = h_i \sum_{j=0}^{\max(k,\bar{k})} (\beta_{j,i} - \bar{\beta}_{j,i}) f(t_{i-j}, x_{i-j}) \, . \quad (2.13)$$

The structure of d_i displayed in (2.13) is crucial for the property that the difference $|d_i - d_i^\star|$ is asymptotically smaller than the local truncation error itself, because it provides an additional factor h_i. For the local exact solution $x(t; t_{i-k}, x_{i-k})$ in $d_i^\star$, it follows that $|d_i - d_i^\star| = O(h_i^{p+2})$. The freedom to choose the auxiliary scheme (2.3) now reduces to determine the coefficients $\bar{\beta}_{j,i}, j = 0, \ldots, \bar{k}$, which additionally have to fulfill consistency conditions to ensure that the scheme (2.3) has at least the order of convergence p. In Sections 2.2 and 2.3 we illustrate how this principle can be realized in the context of first and second order schemes. In Section 2.4 we generalize this technique to specially structured DAEs.

What we would like to control in praxis are the local errors $(x(t_i) - x_i^\star) = \left(I - h_i \beta_{0,i} J_i\right)^{-1} l_i$, see (2.8). As long as the problem is not stiff, the values of $h_i J_i$ are small compared to the identity matrix I. In this case l_i itself is a good approximation to $(x(t_i) - x_i^\star)$. However, for stiff problems the values of $h_i J_i$ can become considerably large and therefore l_i should be scaled by $\left(I - h_i \beta_{0,i} J_i\right)^{-1}$ or by an approximation to this matrix. Since $\left(I - h_i \beta_{0,i} J_i\right)$ is the Jacobian of the discrete scheme (2.1) this matrix (or its good approximation) and its factorization are usually available.

2.2 First order schemes

For the first order methods we assume the analytical solution x to be in $C^2[t_0, t_{end}]$. Here we deal only with one-step schemes which simplifies matters, since the coefficients and the error constant are not step dependent. We first consider the forward Euler scheme.

Example 2.3 We identify the forward Euler scheme (FEUL) with (2.1). The related local truncation error satisfies

$$l_i = l_i^{FEUL} = x(t_i) - x(t_{i-1}) - h_i x'(t_{i-1}) = \frac{h_i^2}{2} x''(t_i) + o(h_i^2).$$

Thus, the forward Euler scheme has the order of consistency $p = 1$ with the error constant $c = c_{FEUL} = \frac{1}{2}$. Choosing the auxiliary scheme as a linear one-step scheme with the same left-hand side as the forward Euler scheme results in

$$\bar{x}_i - \bar{x}_{i-1} = h_i\big(\bar{\beta}_0 f(t_i, \bar{x}_i) + \bar{\beta}_1 f(t_{i-1}, \bar{x}_{i-1})\big),$$

where the coefficients $\bar{\beta}_0$, $\bar{\beta}_1$ have to fulfill the consistency condition $\bar{\beta}_0 + \bar{\beta}_1 = 1$ to ensure that this scheme is at least consistent with order 1. Thus we arrive at the one-parameter family of consistent linear one-step schemes with $\bar{\beta}_0 = \theta$, $\bar{\beta}_1 = (1 - \theta)$ and the local truncation error of the form

$$\bar{l}_i = l_i^\theta = x(t_i) - x(t_{i-1}) - h_i\big(\theta x'(t_i) + (1-\theta)x'(t_{i-1})\big) = \left(\frac{1}{2} - \theta\right) h_i^2 x''(t_i) + o(h_i^2).$$

For $\theta \neq \frac{1}{2}$ the order is 1 and the error constant reads $\bar{c} = c^\theta = (\frac{1}{2} - \theta)$. The defect $d_i = d_i^\theta$ from (2.5) is given by

$$
\begin{aligned}
d_i^\theta &= x_i^{FEUL} - x_{i-1} - h_i\big(\theta f(t_i, x_i^{FEUL}) + (1-\theta)f(t_{i-1}, x_{i-1})\big) \\
&= -h_i\theta\big(f(t_i, x_i^{FEUL}) - f(t_{i-1}, x_{i-1})\big),
\end{aligned}
\tag{2.14}
$$

and the error estimate ℓ_i^θ, the scaled defect, is

$$\ell_i^\theta = \frac{c}{c^\theta - c}d_i^\theta = \frac{\frac{1}{2}}{-\theta}d_i^\theta = \frac{1}{2}h_i\big(f(t_i, x_i^{FEUL}) - f(t_{i-1}, x_{i-1})\big).$$

While d_i^θ depends on the parameter θ, the error estimate $\ell_i = \ell_i^\theta$ does not. The same error estimate could be obtained for $\theta = \frac{1}{2}$ which corresponds to the trapezoidal rule of order 2 related to (ii) in Corollary 2.2.

It is important to note that the value of $f(t_i, x_i^{FEUL})$ necessary for the computation of ℓ_i will be used in the next step of the integration procedure which means that we do not face any additional evaluation of the right-hand side f.

Example 2.4 We now identify the backward Euler scheme with (2.1). Here the error constant is $c = c_{BEUL} = -\frac{1}{2}$. For the auxiliary scheme (2.3) we have exactly the same choices as in the previous example. Again, this results in an error estimate ℓ_i independent of the free parameter θ. The most simple way to derive this error estimate is to set $\theta = 0$ which means that (2.3) is the forward Euler scheme with the error constant $\bar{c} = c_{FEUL} = \frac{1}{2}$. Now, the defect d_i from (2.5) is given by

$$d_i^{FEUL} = x_i^{BEUL} - x_{i-1} - h_i f(t_{i-1}, x_{i-1}) = h_i\big(f(t_i, x_i^{BEUL}) - f(t_{i-1}, x_{i-1})\big)$$

and the resulting error estimate is

$$\ell_i = \frac{c}{c^{FEUL} - c}d_i^{FEUL} = -\frac{1}{2}d_i^{FEUL} = -\frac{1}{2}h_i\big(f(t_i, x_i^{BEUL}) - f(t_{i-1}, x_{i-1})\big).$$

As in example 2.3, the computation of ℓ_i does not cost any additional evaluations of the right-hand side f.

2.3 Second order schemes

For the second order methods we assume the analytical solution x to be in $C^3[t_0, t_{end}]$. Here we deal with two-step schemes of order 2 and the trapezoidal rule. In case of two-step schemes we have to cope with coefficients and error constants that depend on the ratio of the step-sizes $\kappa_i = h_i/h_{i-1}$. We first consider the two-step backward differentiation formula (BDF2).

Example 2.5 We identify the BDF2

$$x_i - \frac{(\kappa_i + 1)^2}{2\kappa_i + 1}x_{i-1} + \frac{\kappa_i^2}{2\kappa_i + 1}x_{i-2} = h_i\frac{\kappa_i + 1}{2\kappa_i + 1}f(t_i, x_i) \tag{2.15}$$

with (2.1). Its local truncation error satisfies

$$l_i^{BDF2} = c_i^{BDF2}h_i^3 x'''(t_i) + o(h_i^3), \qquad c_i^{BDF2} = -\frac{(\kappa_i + 1)^2}{6\kappa_i(2\kappa_i + 1)}.$$

Thus, the BDF2 has the order of consistency $p = 2$ with the error constant $c_i = c_i^{BDF2}$. We choose the auxiliary scheme (2.3) as a linear two-step scheme with the same left-hand side as (2.15) and parameters $\bar{\beta}_{0,i}$, $\bar{\beta}_{1,i}$, $\bar{\beta}_{2,i}$ that have to fulfill the conditions for consistency of order 2. As in Example 2.3 we obtain a one-parameter family of linear multi-step schemes. The resulting error estimate ℓ_i has the same form for all schemes. We specify the free parameter in such a way that the error constant of the resulting scheme satisfies

$$\bar{c}_i - c_i^{BDF2} = 1$$

and obtain the following coefficients $\bar{\beta}$:

$$\bar{\beta}_{0,i} = -\frac{2\kappa_i}{\kappa_i + 1} + \frac{\kappa_i + 1}{2\kappa_i + 1}, \quad \bar{\beta}_{1,i} = 2\kappa_i \quad \text{and} \quad \bar{\beta}_{2,i} = -\frac{2\kappa_i^2}{\kappa_i + 1}.$$

Now the defect d_i and the error estimate ℓ_i are given by

$$d_i = h_i \cdot \left(\frac{2\kappa_i}{\kappa_i + 1}f(t_i, x_i^{BDF2}) - 2\kappa_i f(t_{i-1}, x_{i-1}) + \frac{2\kappa_i^2}{\kappa_i + 1}f(t_{i-2}, x_{i-2})\right), \quad (2.16)$$

$$\ell_i = c_i^{BDF2}d_i.$$

Remark 2.6 Note that d_i in (2.16) coincides with $h_i^3 q_f''(t)$, where $q_f(t)$ is the quadratic polynomial that interpolates the values of $f(t_i, x_i^{BDF2})$, $f(t_{i-1}, x_{i-1})$, $f(t_{i-2}, x_{i-2})$. This is due to the fact, that $d_i^\star$ has to approximate the term

$$h_i^3 x^{(3)}(t_i) = h_i^3 \frac{d^2}{dt^2}f(x(t), t)(t_i)$$

with an accuracy of $o(h_i^3)$ by using only the three corresponding values of f. Since this situation does not change for other second order schemes, the form of the resulting estimate d_i for $h_i^3 x^{(3)}(t_i)$ does not change either.

Example 2.7 We identify the implicit trapezoidal rule (ITR)

$$x_i - x_{i-1} = h_i \cdot \frac{1}{2}\big(f(t_i, x_i) + f(t_{i-1}, x_{i-1})\big)$$

with (2.1). Its local truncation error l_i^{ITR} and error constant c^{ITR} satisfy

$$l_i^{ITR} = -\frac{1}{12}h_i^3 x'''(t_i) + o(h_i^3), \qquad c^{ITR} = -\frac{1}{12}.$$

We look for an auxiliary two-step scheme in the form $\bar{x}_i - \bar{x}_{i-1} = h_i \sum_{j=0}^{2} \bar{\beta}_{j,i} f(t_{i-j}, \bar{x}_{i-j})$, where the coefficients $\bar{\beta}_{0,i}$, $\bar{\beta}_{1,i}$, $\bar{\beta}_{2,i}$ have again to satisfy the conditions for consistency of order 2. We specify the remaining free parameter such that $\bar{c} - c^{ITR} = 1$, i.e., $\bar{c} = \frac{11}{12}$. This results in

$$\bar{\beta}_{0,i} = \frac{1}{2} - \frac{2\kappa_i}{\kappa_i + 1}, \quad \bar{\beta}_{1,i} = 2\kappa_i + \frac{1}{2} \quad \text{and} \quad \bar{\beta}_{2,i} = -\frac{2\kappa_i^2}{\kappa_i + 1},$$

and provides the defect d_i and the error estimate ℓ_i of the form

$$
\begin{aligned}
d_i &= h_i \cdot \left(\frac{2\kappa_i}{\kappa_i + 1} f(t_i, x_i^{ITR}) - 2\kappa_i f(t_{i-1}, x_{i-1}) + \frac{2\kappa_i^2}{\kappa_i + 1} f(t_{i-2}, x_{i-2}) \right), \qquad (2.17) \\
\ell_i &= c^{ITR} d_i.
\end{aligned}
$$

Example 2.8 Finally, we identify (2.1) with the explicit two-step Adams Bashforth (AB2) scheme,

$$x_i - x_{i-1} = h_i \cdot \left((\frac{\kappa_i}{2} + 1)f(t_{i-1}, x_{i-1}) - \frac{1}{2}\kappa_i f(t_{i-2}, x_{i-2}) \right).$$

Its local truncation error and error constant satisfy

$$l_i^{AB2} = (\frac{1}{4\kappa_i} + \frac{1}{6})h_i^3 x'''(t_i) + o(h_i^3), \qquad c_i^{AB2} = \frac{1}{4\kappa_i} + \frac{1}{6}.$$

Note that the left-hand side of the two-step Adams Bashforth scheme coincides with that of the trapezoidal rule in Example 2.7. Thus the auxiliary scheme has the same form. Now, the coefficients become

$$\bar{\beta}_{0,i} = -\frac{2\kappa_i}{\kappa_i + 1}, \quad \bar{\beta}_{1,i} = \frac{5}{2}\kappa_i + 1 \quad \text{and} \quad \bar{\beta}_{2,i} = -\frac{2\kappa_i^2}{\kappa_i + 1} - \frac{1}{2}\kappa_i.$$

Finally,

$$
\begin{aligned}
d_i &= h_i \cdot \left(\frac{2\kappa_i}{\kappa_i + 1} f(t_i, x_i^{AB2}) - 2\kappa_i f(t_{i-1}, x_{i-1}) + \frac{2\kappa_i^2}{\kappa_i + 1} f(t_{i-2}, x_{i-2}) \right), \qquad (2.18) \\
\ell_i &= c_i^{AB2} d_i. \qquad\qquad\qquad\qquad\qquad\qquad\qquad\qquad\qquad\qquad\qquad\quad (2.19)
\end{aligned}
$$

Remark 2.9 Throughout this paper we are interested in providing an asymptotically correct estimate for the local truncation error l_i of the scheme (2.1). The error estimates discussed so far rely on the assumption that the leading term in

$$l_i = c_i \, h_i^{p+1} \, x^{(p+1)}(t_i) + o(h_i^{p+1})$$

does not vanish and therefore the asymptotic behavior of l_i does not change. Unfortunately, at least in case of oscillatory solutions, there always exist time points $\hat{t}$ where the derivative $x^{(p+1)}(\hat{t})$ vanishes[4]. In the vicinity of such points our error estimates will tend to underestimate the true size of the error, often leading to incorrect step-size prediction and step rejections afterwards.

In order to remedy this situation we assume more smoothness and take the next higher derivative into consideration. Let us assume that $x \in C^{p+2}[t_0, t_{end}]$ and that we have the following representation of the local truncation error of a pth order method (2.1):

$$l_i \;=\; c_i^{[p+1]} h_i^{p+1} x^{(p+1)}(t_i) + c_i^{[p+2]} h_i^{p+2} x^{(p+2)}(t_i) + o(h_i^{p+2})$$

Subsequently, we choose the auxiliary scheme (2.3) in such a way that $\bar{c}_i^{[p+1]} - c_i^{[p+1]} = 1$ holds. From Lemma 2.1 we conclude

$$
\begin{aligned}
d_i^\star \;&=\; \bar{l}_i - l_i + O(h_i \, l_i) \\
&=\; h_i^{p+1} x^{(p+1)}(t_i) + \underbrace{\left(\bar{c}_i^{[p+2]} - c_i^{[p+2]} \right)}_{\gamma_i} h_i^{p+2} x^{(p+2)}(t_i) + O(h_i \, l_i) + o(h_i^{p+2}),
\end{aligned}
$$

$$
d_{i-1}^\star \;=\; \frac{h_i^{p+1}}{\kappa_i^{p+1}} x^{(p+1)}(t_{i-1}) + \left(\bar{c}_{i-1}^{[p+2]} - c_{i-1}^{[p+2]} \right) \frac{h_i^{p+2}}{\kappa_i^{p+2}} x^{(p+2)}(t_{i-1}) + O(h_i \, l_{i-1}) + o(h_i^{p+2}),
$$

and therefore

$$
\begin{aligned}
d_i^\star - \kappa_i^{p+1} d_{i-1}^\star \;=\;\; & h_i^{p+1} \big(x^{(p+1)}(t_i) - x^{(p+1)}(t_{i-1}) \big) \\
& + h_i^{p+2} \Big(\gamma_i x^{(p+2)}(t_i) - \frac{\gamma_{i-1}}{\kappa_i} x^{(p+2)}(t_{i-1}) \Big) + O(h_i \, l_i) + o(h_i^{p+2}),
\end{aligned}
$$

or equivalently

$$
\begin{aligned}
\frac{d_i^\star - \kappa_i^{p+1} d_{i-1}^\star}{h_i^{p+2}} \;=\;\; & \frac{\big(x^{(p+1)}(t_i) - x^{(p+1)}(t_{i-1}) \big)}{h_i} \\
& + \Big(\gamma_i x^{(p+2)}(t_i) - \frac{\gamma_{i-1}}{\kappa_i} x^{(p+2)}(t_{i-1}) \Big) + O(l_i/h_i^{p+1}) + o(1).
\end{aligned}
\tag{2.20}
$$

It is clear that $d_i^\star/h_i^{p+1}$ approximates $x^{(p+1)}(t_i)$ with order of accuracy $O(h_i)$. On the other hand the term $(d_i^\star - \kappa_i^{p+1} d_{i-1}^\star)/h_i^{p+2}$ is a reasonable approximation for $x^{(p+2)}(t_i)$ only under certain conditions. First of all l_i has to behave at least as $o(h_i^{p+1})$ which is true when the derivative $x^{(p+1)}(t_i)$ is nearly zero. Secondly, the term $\big(\gamma_i x^{(p+2)}(t_i) - \frac{\gamma_{i-1}}{\kappa_i} x^{(p+2)}(t_{i-1}) \big)$ has to be appropriately small. This is guaranteed in case when the last p steps have been

---

[4]For example the third derivative vanishes at points where the curvature of the solution becomes extremal.

executed with constant step-size.

Motivated by the above arguments we propose to extent the error estimate ℓ_i to ℓ_i^{ext} by a heuristic term that only comes into play in the vicinity of time points $\hat{t}$ where componentwise (for $\nu = 1, \ldots, n$) $x_\nu^{(p+1)}(\hat{t}) = 0$,

$$
\ell_{i,\nu}^{ext} := \begin{cases} c_i^{[p+1]}d_{i,\nu} \ \text{if} \ \ c_i^{[p+1]}d_{i,\nu} > c_i^{[p+2]}(d_{i,\nu} - \kappa_i^{p+1}d_{i-1,\nu}), \\ c_i^{[p+1]}d_{i,\nu} + c_i^{[p+2]}(d_{i,\nu} - \kappa_i^{p+1}\,d_{i-1,\nu}) \ \text{else.} \end{cases} \tag{2.21}
$$

Even if the term $(d_i - \kappa_i^{p+1}d_{i-1})$ arising in (2.21) does not approximate the value of $h_i^{[p+2]}x^{(p+2)}(t_i)$, it prevents the error estimate from almost vanishing and consequently, it stops the overgrowth of the predicted step-size. The above extension has been implemented in our code and it proved to work very dependably in practice.

2.4   Index 1 DAEs

In this section we discuss how the ideas of the previous sections can be applied to DAEs of the form

$$
Ax'(t) - f(t, x(t)) = 0, \ \ t \in \mathcal{J}, \tag{2.22}
$$

where A is a constant singular $n \times n$ matrix. Due to the singularity of the matrix A, the system (2.22) involves constraints. The solution components lying in ker A, we call them the algebraic components, are never subject to differentiation and the inherent dynamics of the system live only in a lower dimensional subspace. DAEs are usually classified by their index. The literature on DAEs contains a number of different definitions of this term pointing to different properties of the considered DAEs. Fortunately, they widely coincide in characterizing the special type of DAEs (2.22) to be of index 1. We assume here that the DAE (2.22) has index 1 in the sense that the constraints are locally solvable for the algebraic variables. Then the DAE (2.22) involves a coupling of a nonlinear equation solving task and an integration task.

To be more precise we will distinguish the differential and algebraic solution components as well as the constraints by means of projectors[5]

$$
Q \ \text{onto} \ \ker A, \quad P := I - Q \ \text{along} \ \ker A, \quad R \ \text{along} \ \text{im} \ A.
$$

We split the solution into differential and algebraic components,

$$
x = Px + Qx =: u + v, \ x \in \mathbb{R}^n, \ u \in \text{im} \ P, \ v \in \text{im} \ Q \, .
$$

In a correct formulation of the problem the differential operator should be applied only to the components Px. This is realized by writing $A(Px)'$ instead of Ax' and searching for

---

[5]Any matrix Q is a projector iff $Q^2 = Q$. It projects onto its image and along its kernel.

solutions in the space of functions $C^1_{\ker A} := \{x \in C(\mathcal{J}, \mathbb{R}^n) : Px \in C^1(\mathcal{J}, \mathbb{R}^n)\}$, which is independent of the special choice of the projector P (see e.g. [13]). In this setting, we deal with a DAE with properly stated leading term in the sense of [18], where the matrices A and P are well-matched.

By applying the projectors $(I-R)$ and R, we split the original system (2.22) into a set of differential equations and constraints:

$$A(Px)'(t) - (I-R)f(t, x(t)) = 0 \tag{2.23}$$
$$Rf(t, x(t)) = 0. \tag{2.24}$$

Due to the index-1 assumption one can *theoretically* solve the constraints (2.24) for the algebraic components $Qx = v$,

$$Rf(t, u + v) = 0, \ Av = 0 \iff v = \hat{v}(t, u),$$

and insert v into the system (2.23). Finally, the system is scaled by a reflexive generalized inverse A^- with $AA^- = I - R$, $A^- A = P$, or equivalently, by some non-singular matrix H with $HA = P$. This yields a so-called *inherent regular ODE* for the differential components u,

$$u' - A^- f(t, u + \hat{v}(t, u)) = 0. \tag{2.25}$$

It can be shown that $\mathrm{im}\, P$ is an invariant subspace of (2.25), and that (2.25) together with $x(t) = u(t) + \hat{v}(t, u(t))$, is equivalent to (2.22). In contrast to this analytical decoupling, numerical schemes for DAEs should be directly applicable to the original problem (2.22). We refer to the monographs [2, 8, 13, 15, 17] or to the review papers [20, 21, 22] for a detailed analysis of DAEs and their numerics.

2.4.1 Linear multi-step schemes

The straightforward generalization of linear multi-step schemes (2.1) to DAEs (2.22) results in

$$A \sum_{j=0}^{k} \alpha_{j,i} x_{i-j} - h_i \sum_{j=0}^{k} \beta_{j,i} f(t_{i-j}, x_{i-j}) = 0, \quad i = k, \dots N. \tag{2.26}$$

The above equations contain the following constraints

$$\sum_{j=0}^{k} \beta_{j,i} Rf(t_{i-j}, x_{i-j}) = 0, \quad i = k, \dots N, \tag{2.27}$$

that result by applying projector R. They represent a recursion in $Rf(t_i, x_i)$, $i = k, \dots N$. For consistent initial values (i.e. $Rf(t_i, x_i) = 0$, $i = 0, \dots k - 1$) and implicit methods , i.e. $\beta_{0,i} \neq 0$, it follows immediately that $Rf(t_i, x_i) = 0$, $i = k, \dots N$. This means that the exactly computed iterates x_i satisfy the constraints $Rf(t_i, x_i) = 0$. However, already small perturbations in the initial values or in the right-hand sides of (2.27) would cause

a disastrous error amplification if the recursion (2.27) was not stable. The stability of (2.27) is therefore necessary for a well-posed discretized problem. Forcing the iterates to satisfy the constraints is the key issue that guarantees that a *theoretical* decoupling of the discrete scheme (2.29) leads to the same result as the corresponding discretization of the inherent regular ODE (2.25),

$$\sum_{j=0}^{k} \alpha_{j,i} u_{i-j} - h_i \sum_{j=0}^{k} \beta_{j,i} A^- f(t_{i-j}, u_{i-j} + \hat{v}(t_{i-j}, u_{i-j})) = 0, \quad i = k, \dots N. \quad (2.28)$$

One of the best known methods for the integration of DAEs is the BDF, which, applied to the DAE (2.22), takes the form

$$A \sum_{j=0}^{k} \alpha_{j,i} x_{i-j} - h_i \beta_{0,i} f(t_i, x_i) = 0, \quad i = k, \dots N. \quad (2.29)$$

This scheme involves the constraint $Rf(t_i, x_i) = 0$ that replaces recursion (2.27). It guarantees consistent iterates x_i even if the initial values were inconsistent.

Other linear multi-step schemes may need to be realized in a modified way to guarantee a numerically stable formulation. To this aim, more structural information has to be exploited. One option is to use different discretizations of the differential and constraint part of the DAE (2.22). For the case of explicitly given constraints, i.e. $A = \begin{pmatrix} A_1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$ and $f = \begin{pmatrix} f_1 \\ f_2 \end{pmatrix}$, where A_1 has the full row rank, this can be done via

$$A_1 \sum_{j=0}^{k} \alpha_{j,i} x_{i-j} - h_i \sum_{j=0}^{k} \beta_{j,i} f_1(t_{i-j}, x_{i-j}) \;\; = \;\; 0 \,,$$
$$f_2(t_i, x_i) \;\; = \;\; 0 \,.$$

For general DAEs (2.22) a related stable scheme can be formulated using R,

$$A \sum_{j=0}^{k} \alpha_{j,i} x_{i-j} - h_i \sum_{j=0}^{k} \beta_{j,i} (I - R) f(t_{i-j}, x_{i-j}) + R f(t_i, x_i) = 0. \quad (2.30)$$

Note, that the solution of (2.30) also satisfies (2.26).

Another possibility is to use the projector P and to consider the scheme, see [13],

$$P\Big(\sum_{j=0}^{k} \alpha_{j,i} x_{i-j} - h_i \sum_{j=0}^{k} \beta_{j,i} y_{i-j} \Big) + Q y_i \;\; = \;\; 0,$$
$$A y_i - f(t_i, x_i) \;\; = \;\; 0. \quad (2.31)$$

For implicit methods this can be equivalently written as

$$A \frac{1}{\beta_{0,i}} \Big(\sum_{j=0}^{k} \frac{1}{h_i} \alpha_{j,i} x_{i-j} - \sum_{j=1}^{k} \beta_{j,i} y_{i-j} \Big) \;\; - \;\; f(t_i, x_i) = 0,$$
$$P \frac{1}{\beta_{0,i}} \Big(\sum_{j=0}^{k} \frac{1}{h_i} \alpha_{j,i} x_{i-j} - \sum_{j=1}^{k} \beta_{j,i} y_{i-j} \Big) \;\; = \;\; y_i \,. \quad (2.32)$$

Again, note that the solution of (2.31) or(2.32) also satisfies (2.26).

The local truncation error l_i, defined as before by substituting the values of the exact solution into the scheme (2.26), is now given by

$$l_i := A \sum_{j=0}^{k} \alpha_{j,i} x(t_{i-j}) - h_i \sum_{j=0}^{k} \beta_{j,i} f(t_{i-j}, x(t_{i-j})), \quad i = k, \ldots N, \tag{2.33}$$

and satisfies the relation

$$l_i = A(x(t_i) - x_i^{\star}) - h_i \beta_{0,i}\big(f(t_i, x(t_i)) - f(t_i, x_i^{\star})\big) = \big(A - h_i \beta_{0,i} J_i\big)(x(t_i) - x_i^{\star}), \tag{2.34}$$

where, as before, $x_i^{\star}$ is the result of a step with exact starting values $x(t_{i-j})$, $j = 1, \ldots, k$, and $J_i = \int_0^1 f_x(t_i, sx_i^{\star} + (1 - s)x(t_i)) \, ds$. Let us emphasize that the constraint part of l_i always vanishes, i.e., $Rl_i = 0$, and that l_i is related to the local truncation error l_i^{inh} of the discretized inherent ODE (2.28) by $l_i^{inh} = A^- l_i$ and $Al_i^{inh} = l_i$. The local truncation error l_i^{inh} of (2.28) is independent of the scaling of the given DAE and can be represented by an asymptotic expansion

$$l_i^{inh} = c_i \, (Px)^{(p+1)}(t_i) \, h_i^{p+1} + o(h_i^{p+1}), \tag{2.35}$$

provided that the applied linear multistep scheme is of order p and that $Px \in C^{p+1}$. The local truncation error l_i defined by (2.33) depends on the scaling of the DAE (2.22). Instead of (2.12) or (2.35) we have

$$l_i = c_i \, (Ax)^{(p+1)}(t_i) \, h_i^{p+1} + o(h_i^{p+1}) = c_i \, A(Px)^{(p+1)}(t_i) \, h_i^{p+1} + o(h_i^{p+1}), \tag{2.36}$$

provided that $Ax \in C^{p+1}$, or equivalently, $Px \in C^{p+1}$. Approximations to l_i^{inh} will estimate the local error in the dynamic solution components $Px(t_i)$, while an approximation to l_i will approximate the local error of $Ax(t_i)$. An approximation to the local error in the complete solution vector $x(t_i)$ can be defined via the identity $x(t_i) - x_i^{\star} = \big(A - h_i \beta_{0,i} J_i\big)^{-1} l_i$. The matrix $\big(A - h_i \beta_{0,i} J_i\big)$ is the Jacobian of (2.26) and it is nonsingular for sufficiently small step-sizes h_i, cf. [13].

As before in context of ODEs, we use a second linear multi-step method with coefficients $\bar{\alpha}_{j,i}$, $\bar{\beta}_{j,i}$, and analyze the defect d_i of the computed iterates with respect to this second scheme.

Lemma 2.10 *Let the DAE (2.22) be of index 1 and let $f(t, x)$ be continuous and continuously differentiable with respect to x. Let the step-size $\mathbf{h}$ be sufficiently small to guarantee that the matrix $\big(A - h_i \beta_{0,i} J_i\big)$ is nonsingular. Then the defect $d_i^{\star}$ defined by*

$$d_i^{\star} := A(x_i^{\star} + \sum_{j=1}^{\bar{k}} \bar{\alpha}_{j,i} x(t_{i-j})) - h_i \bar{\beta}_{0,i} f(t_i, x_i^{\star}) - h_i \sum_{j=1}^{\bar{k}} \bar{\beta}_{j,i} f(t_{i-j}, x(t_{i-j})), \tag{2.37}$$

satisfies

$$d_i^{\star} = \bar{l}_i - l_i - h_i(\bar{\beta}_{0,i} - \beta_{0,i}) J_i \big(A - h_i \beta_{0,i} J_i\big)^{-1} l_i. \tag{2.38}$$

The proof is fully analogous to that of Lemma 2.1 □

Since the DAE (2.22) is of index 1, $(A - \beta h_i J_i)^{-1}(I - R) = \mathcal{O}(1)$ holds and hence an analogue version of Corollary 2.2 applies.

Corollary 2.11 *Let the suppositions of Lemma 2.10 be satisfied. Let the schemes (2.1) and (2.3) be consistent of order p and $\bar{p}$, respectively. For the case $p = \bar{p}$, we additionally assume that*

$$l_i = c_i (Ax)^{(p+1)}(t_i) h_i^{p+1} + o(h_i^{p+1}), \quad \bar{l}_i = \bar{c}_i (Ax)^{(p+1)}(t_i) h_i^{p+1} + o(h_i^{p+1}),$$

with constants $c_i \neq \bar{c}_i$, which depend only on the ratios of step-sizes.
Then we have

(i) $\bar{l}_i = d_i^{\star} + O(h_i^{\bar{p}+2})$, *if* $p > \bar{p}$,

(ii) $l_i = -d_i^{\star} + O(h_i^{p+2})$, *if* $p < \bar{p}$,

(iii) $l_i = \dfrac{c_i}{\bar{c}_i - c_i} d_i^{\star} + o(h_i^{p+1}), \quad \bar{l}_i = \dfrac{\bar{c}_i}{\bar{c}_i - c_i} d_i^{\star} + o(h_i^{p+1}),$ *if* $p = \bar{p}$.

The above corollary enables us to proceed as in the ODE case and use

$$d_i := A\left(\sum_{j=0}^{\bar{k}} \bar{\alpha}_{j,i} x(t_{i-j})\right) - h_i \sum_{j=0}^{\bar{k}} \bar{\beta}_{j,i} f(t_{i-j}, x(t_{i-j})) \tag{2.39}$$

to derive an estimate ℓ_i of the local error l_i of (2.26). Again, we choose an auxiliary scheme with $\bar{\alpha}_{j,i} = \alpha_{j,i}$ and $\bar{c}_i - c_i = 1$. With these settings the representations for the defects d_i and the estimates of the local error ℓ_i remain unchanged.

Recall that ℓ_i approximates the local error in Ax now. Depending on the available information we can monitor different quantities to satisfy accuracy requirements:

i) control $e_i := (A - \beta_{0,i} J_i)^{-1} \ell_i := (A - \beta_{0,i} J_i)^{-1} c_i d_i$ to match a given tolerance for x,

iia) control $e_i := \ell_i := c_i d_i$ to match a given tolerance for Ax, or

iib) control $e_i := A^- \ell_i := A^- c_i d_i$ to match a given tolerance for Px.

3   Step-size Control

Here we give the algorithmic details for a step-size control that is based on the results developed in the previous sections. We exemplify this for the important subclass of second order schemes, in particular for the implicit trapezoidal rule (ITR, $k := 1$) and the two-step backward differentiation formula (BDF2, $k := 2$).

3.1 Initialization

Since the initial value problem itself does not supply enough information to start a multi-step scheme any practical realization of such a scheme needs to address the problem of the necessary initialization. In the literature, see e.g. [8, 25], several more or less heuristic strategies to start the integration have been proposed. The first step always has to be computed by means of a one-step scheme. In the context of a variable step-size, variable order implementation of the BDF2 the first step is carried out using the implicit Euler scheme, where the step-size has to be chosen in such a way that the estimated local error matches the given tolerance.

For the numerical experiments in Section 4 we performed the first step by means of the trapezoidal rule, which is the only linear one-step scheme of order 2, but while estimating its local error we faced a problem: The formula (2.17) providing such estimate requires the knowledge of two preceding values of the right-hand side. However, with the iterate x_1 obtained from the ITR-step with step-size h_1 only one preceding value of the right-hand side is available. Therefore, we used componentwise the estimated local error of the implicit (or explicit) Euler schemes instead,

$$\left| \ell_{1,\nu}^{EUL} \right| = \frac{h_1}{2} |f_\nu(t_1, x_1) - f_\nu(t_0, x_0)|, \quad \nu = 1, \ldots, n,$$

to control the stepsize according to a given tolerance. Since an estimate which is correct for a first order scheme is used in context of a second order method, the first step may become unnecessarily small. Alternatively, one may perform two steps of the ITR with step-sizes h_1 and $h_2 = h_1$ and estimate the local error of the ITR step componentwise by

$$\left| \ell_{2,\nu}^{ITR} \right| = \frac{h_1}{12} |f(t_2, x_2)_\nu - 2f(t_1, x_1)_\nu + f(t_0, x_0)_\nu|, \quad \nu = 1, \ldots, n.$$

Finally, both steps are accepted if this estimate satisfies the tolerance, or else they are rejected and repeated with a smaller step-size predicted from (3.6).

After the first step has been accepted and a step-size for the next step has been fixed the following algorithm can be carried out for any second order one-step or two-step method. The algorithm is described in terms of the DAE problem (2.22), but comprises also the ODE case by setting $A := I$.

3.2 Step-size control algorithm

Let two initial values x_0, x_1 at time points t_0, $t_1 = t_0 + h_1$, an absolute and a relative tolerance $aTol$, $rTol$ and the step-size h_2 be given. Set $i := 2$.

1) Solve the system consisting of

$$A \sum_{j=0}^{2} \alpha_{j,i} x_{i-j} = h_i \sum_{j=0}^{2} \beta_{j,i} f(t_{i-j}, x_{i-j}), \tag{3.1}$$

or (2.30) or (2.32) for x_i, where the parameters $\alpha_{j,i}$ and $\beta_{j,i}$ are chosen to provide a second order two-step scheme (including the ITR with $\alpha_{2,i} = \beta_{2,i} = 0$).

19

2) Compute

$$d_i \;=\; h_i \cdot \left(\frac{2\kappa_i}{\kappa_i + 1} f(t_i, x_i) - 2\kappa_i f(t_{i-1}, x_{i-1}) + \frac{2\kappa_i^2}{\kappa_i + 1} f(t_{i-2}, x_{i-2}) \right),$$

and componentwise (for $\nu = 1, \ldots, n$)

$$\ell_{i,\nu}^{ext} \;:=\; \begin{cases} c_i^{[3]} d_{i,\nu} \text{ if } c_i^{[3]} d_{i,\nu} > c_i^{[4]}(d_{i,\nu} - \kappa_i^3 d_{i-1,\nu}), \\ c_i^{[3]} d_{i,\nu} + c_i^{[4]}(d_{i,\nu} - \kappa_i^3 d_{i-1,\nu}) \text{ else.} \end{cases} \tag{3.2}$$

Depending on the problem setting and the available information define

$$\text{a)} \quad e_i := (A - \beta_{0,i} J_i)^{-1} \ell_i^{ext} \text{ and } \hat{x} := x, \tag{3.3}$$
$$\text{b)} \quad e_i := \ell_i^{ext} \text{ and } \hat{x} := Ax, \tag{3.4}$$

or, for DAEs only,

$$\text{c)} \quad e_i := A^- \ell_i^{ext} \text{ and } \hat{x} := Px. \tag{3.5}$$

Compute componentwise (for $\nu = 1, \ldots, n$)

$$Tol_\nu \;:=\; aTol + rTol \cdot |\hat{x}_{i,\nu}|.$$

3) Apply a control strategy predicting the new step-size h_{new} to match the tolerance multiplied by a safety factor fac, say $fac = 0.7$. For example, the elementary control

$$\frac{h_{new}}{h_i} \;:=\; \min_{\nu=1,\ldots,n} \left(\frac{fac \cdot Tol_\nu}{e_{i,\nu}} \right)^{\frac{1}{p+1}}, \tag{3.6}$$

or the proportional integral control PI34 [14]

$$\frac{h_{new}}{h_i} \;:=\; \min_{\nu=1,\ldots,n} \left\{ \left(\frac{fac \cdot Tol_\nu}{e_{i,\nu}} \right)^{\frac{0.3}{p+1}} \left(\frac{e_{i-1,\nu}}{e_{i,\nu}} \right)^{\frac{0.4}{p+1}} \right\}. \tag{3.7}$$

with $p := 2$ (the order of the scheme).

4) If $e_{i,\nu} \leq Tol_\nu$ for all $\nu = 1, \ldots, n$, then accept the step. If $t_i > T$ then stop, else set $i := i + 1$, $h_i := h_{new}$ and go to 1.
If $e_{i,\nu} > Tol_\nu$ for at least one component $\nu \in \{1, \ldots, n\}$, then reject the step and repeat it with the smaller step-size, i.e. set $h_i := h_{new}$ and go to 1.

20

4 Numerical Experiments

The strategies discussed in the previous sections have been implemented for the ITR and the BDF2 and tested extensively on a set of ODEs and DAEs. By means of three model examples we now illustrate how the procedure performed. We start with a simple test problem. Our aim is to compare the results of the above algorithm with those where the extended local error estimate (3.2) was replaced by the simpler formula $\ell_{i,\nu} := c_i^{[3]} d_{i,\nu}$, see Remark 2.9. Next, we consider the so-called "Brusselator", a two dimensional nonlinear system exhibiting periodic solutions. Finally, we present results for a low-dimensional electronic circuit model. In all examples we have chosen the scaling of the local error estimates (3.3). In the first example we have applied only the elementary control (3.6) with $fac = 0.7$, in the other examples we used the control (3.7) with $fac = 0.7$.

Example 4.1 Consider the scalar initial value problem

$$x'(t) = \lambda(x(t) - g(t)) + g'(t), \quad x(0) = g(0), \quad t \in [0, 10], \tag{4.1}$$

where $g(t) = \sin(t)$ and $\lambda = -100$. Its solution g is displayed in Figure 1.
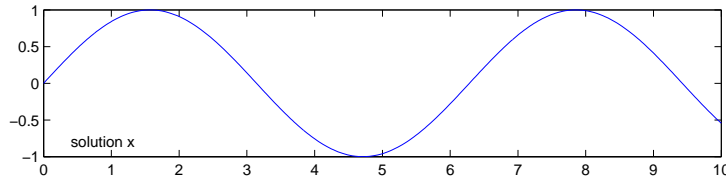
Figure 1: Solution $x(t) = g(t) = \sin(t)$ of (4.1)

Simulation results for the ITR and the BDF2 computed without and with the extension (2.9) are presented in Figure 2 and Figure 3, respectively. In both cases the tolerance parameters were set to $aTol = rTol = 10^{-4}$. The step-sizes are displayed in the upper part of the figures, the accepted step-sizes are connected by a solid line, the rejected ones are indicated by $\times$. In the lower part of the figures the tolerance (dotted line), the local truncation error estimates (solid line), and the true local error $x(t_i) - x_i^*$ (dashed line) are compared. In Figure 2 the related error estimate is set to $(1 - \beta_{0,i}\lambda)^{-1}\ell_i$, and in Figure 3 to $(1 - \beta_{0,i}\lambda)^{-1}\ell_i^{ext}$. In Figure 3, $\times$ in the dotted line for the tolerance indicates the use of the extended formula.
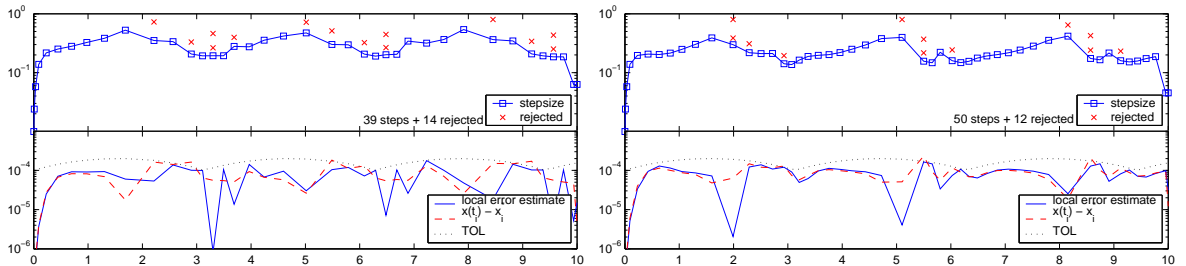

Figure 2: Step-size and local error estimate $(1 - \beta_{0,i}\lambda)^{-1}\ell_i$ for the ITR (left) and the BDF2 (right)
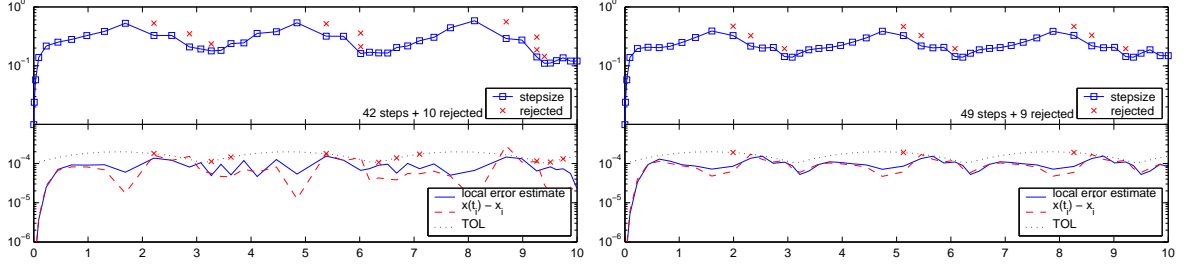
21

Figure 3: Step-size and local error estimate $(1 - \beta_{0,i}\lambda)^{-1}\ell_i^{ext}$ for the ITR (left) and the BDF2 (right)

We observe that the error estimate $(1 - \beta_{0,i}\lambda)^{-1}\ell_i = (1 - \beta_{0,i}\lambda)^{-1}c_i^{[3]}d_i$ decreases significantly when the third derivative of the solution tends to zero at $t = \pi/2 + k\pi, k = 0, 1, \ldots$, cf. Figure 2. At these points the step-size becomes unreasonably small. Consequently, more rejected steps, and even twice rejected steps result for both schemes. The BDF2 method requires generally smaller steps due to its larger error constant. This behavior can also be observed for lower tolerances. By using the extension (3.2) the error estimate can be prevented from vanishing and the predicted step-sizes are well related to the actual size of the local error (Figure 3). The unnecessary step rejections are avoided.

Example 4.2 We now consider a two-dimensional system called Brusselator, cf. [16], a mathematical model for a certain chemical reaction,

$$
\begin{aligned}
x_1'(t) &= 1 + x_1^2(t)x_2(t) - 4x_1(t), \\
x_2'(t) &= 3x_1(t) - x_1^2(t)x_2(t),
\end{aligned}
$$

with initial values $x_1(0) = 1.5$, $x_2(0) = 3$ and $t \in [0, 12]$. The solution components are plotted in Figure 4.
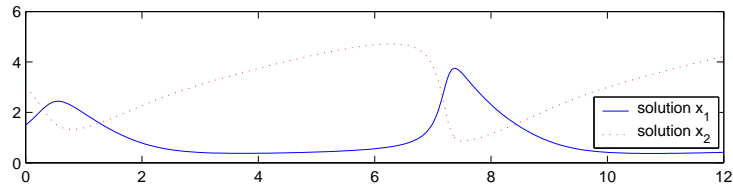

Figure 4: Solution components for the Brusselator

We have executed the above algorithm with three different values for the tolerance, $aTol = rTol = 10^{-2}, 10^{-3}, 10^{-4}$, the local error estimate (3.3) and the control (3.7) for both the ITR and the BDF2. In Figure 5, the step-sizes, the error estimate and the tolerance are presented.

As one would expect, the step-size decreases significantly in regions where the solution changes more rapidly. Many step rejections are observed when the step-size has to be significantly reduced. It is not easy to prevent this behavior, because the step size proposed by formula (3.6) is, apart from the safety factor fac, increased after a step has been accepted. A more pessimistic choice of the safety factor fac can help to prevent these step rejections, but enhances the overall number of steps. The ratio of rejected to accepted steps becomes smaller with smaller tolerances.
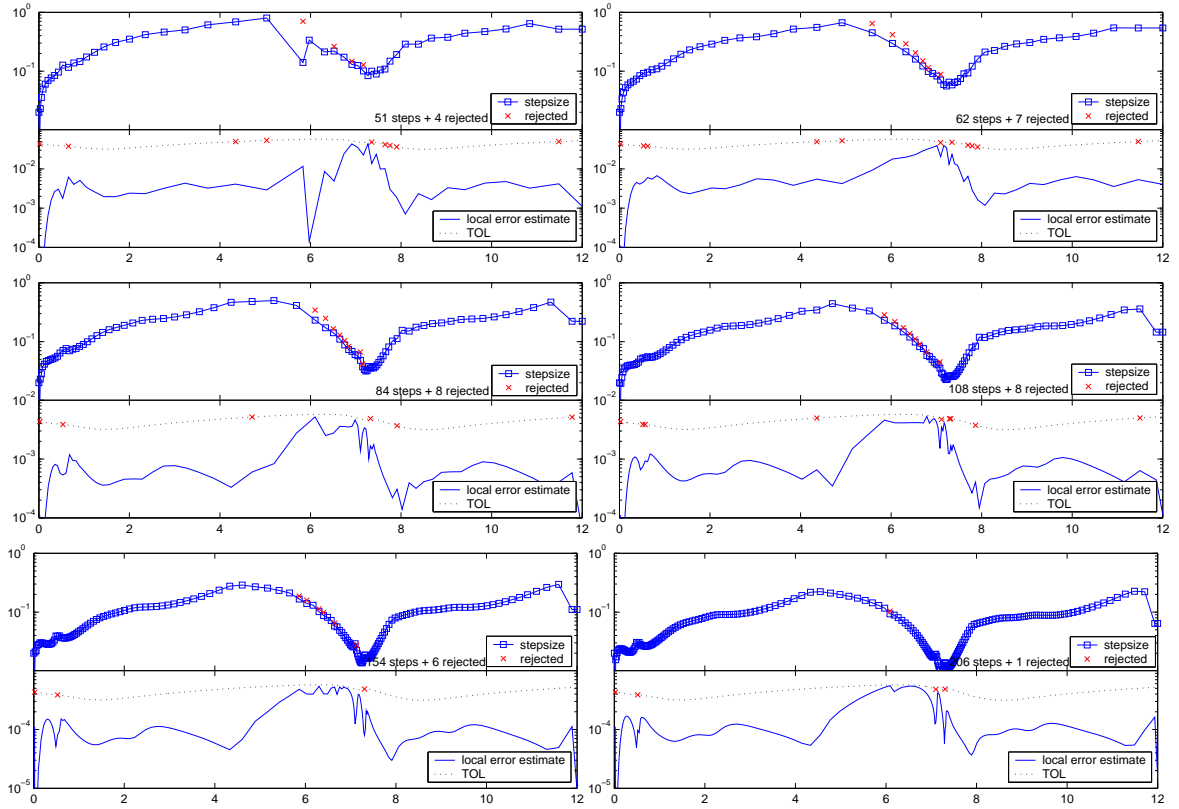
Figure 5: Brusselator: Step-size and local error estimate for the ITR (left) and the BDF2 (right), $rTol = aTol = 10^{-2}$ (top), 10^{-3} (middle) , and 10^{-4} (bottom)
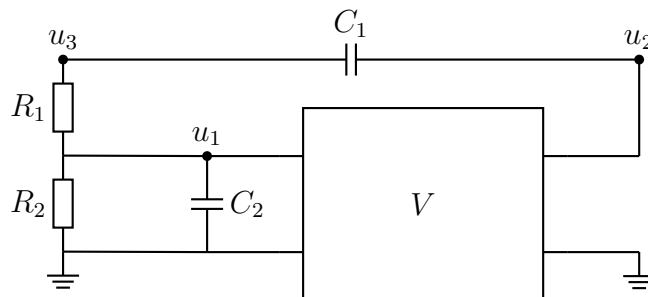

Figure 6: The RC generator circuit

Example 4.3 As an example for a system of DAEs we consider the model of a resistor-capacitor (RC) generator proposed in [29]. It can be used to trigger an electric oscillation by varying the capacities. The equivalent circuit diagram is given in Figure 6. The resonance frequency of the RC generator depends on the amplifier V, the resistances R_i ($i = 1, 2$) and the capacities C_i ($i = 1, 2$). By Kirchhoff's Law we have

$$
\begin{aligned}
C_2 u_1' \quad\quad\quad\quad + (G_1 + G_2)u_1 \quad\quad - G_1 u_3 &= 0, \\
C_1 u_2' - C_1 u_3' \quad\quad\quad + G_1 u_1 \quad\quad - G_1 u_3 &= 0, \\
f(u_1) - u_2 \quad\quad\quad\quad &= 0,
\end{aligned}
\tag{4.2}
$$

where u_1, u_2 and u_3 are the voltages at the corresponding nodes, see Figure 6, $G_i = R_i^{-1}$, $i = 1, 2$, and f is the characteristic of the amplifier V. We set $f(u) = \arctan(5u)$, $C_i = 1$ [F] and $G_i = 1$ [$1/\Omega$], ($i = 1, 2$) and obtain

$$
\underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}}_{:=A} \begin{pmatrix} u_1 \\ u_2 \\ u_3 \end{pmatrix}' - \begin{pmatrix} -(G_1 + G_2)u_1 + G_1 u_3 \\ -G_1 u_1 + G_1 u_3 \\ -\arctan(u_1) + u_2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}.
\tag{4.3}
$$

Therefore

$$
\ker A = \operatorname{span}\left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \right\}, \quad \operatorname{im} A = \operatorname{span}\left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \right\}.
$$

In this example the matrix A is a projector itself. Hence we may choose the projectors as follows: $P = I - Q = A = I - R$. The generalized inverse A^- is given by $A^- := A$. Consistent initial values have to satisfy the constraint $u_2(0) = f(u_1(0))$. The solution for the consistent initial value $u_1(0) = 0.4$, $u_2(0) = f(u_1(0)) = \arctan(0.4)$, $u_3(0) = 0.6$ on the time-interval $\mathcal{J} = [0, 12]$ is given in Figure 7. Simulation results for three different
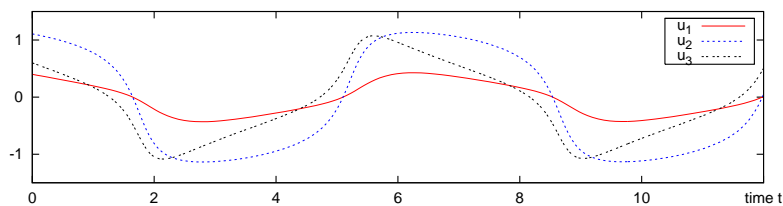

Figure 7: Solution components for the RC generator circuit

values of the tolerance, $aTol = rTol = 10^{-2}, 10^{-3}, 10^{-4}$, the local error estimate (3.3), and the control (3.7) for the ITR and the BDF2 are presented in Figure 8.

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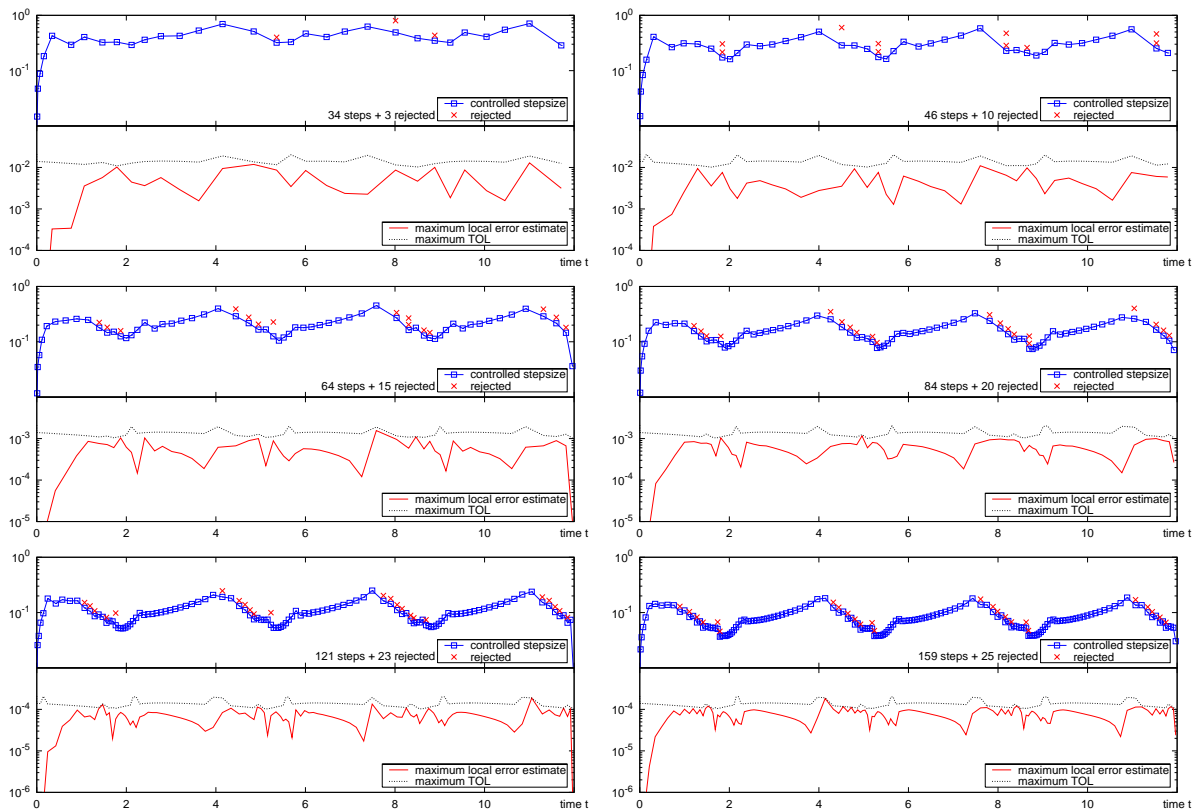
Figure 8: RC generator circuit: Step-size and local error estimate for the ITR (left) and the BDF2 (right), $rTol = aTol = 10^{-2}$ (top), 10^{-3} (middle), and 10^{-4} (bottom)

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