

A Novel Numerical Approach for Fredholm Integro-Differential Equations

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Abstract—We examine the numerical solution of a second-order linear Fredholm integro-differential equation (FIDE) by a finite difference method. The discretization of the problem is obtained by a finite difference method on a uniform mesh. We construct the method using the integral identity method with basis functions and dealing with the integral terms by interpolating quadrature rules with remainder terms. We further employ the factorization method to establish the algorithm. We demonstrate the error estimates and the convergence of the method. The numerical results are enclosed to verify the order of accuracy.

Keywords: FIDE, difference scheme, error estimates

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1. INTRODUCTION

Integro-differential equations (IDEs) are one of the essential tools having applications in many science fields, such as physics, engineering, biology, chemistry [9, 11]. IDEs are classified with respect to the range of their integral terms. Namely, Fredholm integro-differential equations (FIDEs) have a finite range in the integral term while Volterra integro-differential equations (VIDEs) have an integral term with a bound in terms of a variable.

In this paper, our main focus is to construct a new accurate numerical scheme to obtain the numerical solution of the following boundary value problem with a type of second order Fredholm integro-differential equation

$$Lu := u''(t) + a(t)u'(t) + \lambda \int_0^T K(t,s)u(s)ds = f(t), \quad t \in I = (0,T), \quad (1.1)$$

$$u(0) = A, \quad u(T) = B, \quad (1.2)$$

where $a(t) \geq \alpha > 0$, $f(t)$, $K(t,s)$ are sufficiently smooth functions in $t \in \bar{I}$ and in $(t,s) \in \bar{I} \times \bar{I}$.

Various analytical and numerical methods have been developed to obtain exact and approximate solutions of FIDEs. In addition the classical analytical methods such as the direct computation method and the series solution method for FIDEs, one can find many other novel well-developed numerical methods for FIDEs in the literature. For instance, the variational iteration method [11], the Adomian decomposition method [12] and B-spline collocation method [13], Galerkin method [5], Taylor polynomial method [1], the generalized minimal residual method [3], the method of moments based on B-spline wavelet method [8] are some of the recently studied methods for the approximate solutions of FIDEs. It is also known that fitted difference schemes are efficient to maintain accurate numerical results for IDEs. In [7], the author constructed a uniform convergent difference scheme on a graded mesh to achieve the numerical solution of a non-linear VIDE with a boundary layer. A non-linear first order singularly perturbed VIDE with a delay is handled by a finite difference scheme in [12]. In [4], it is also shown that finite dif-

ference schemes are reliable tools to treat non-linear VIDEs. Recently, a finite difference scheme is constructed to solve a boundary value problem of a second order singularly perturbed FIDE in [6].

To the best of our knowledge, a difference scheme we presented in this paper has not been performed on FIDEs in the literature yet. In this paper, we essentially establish a convergent finite difference method for the given problem in (1.1)–(1.2) on a uniform mesh. The remaining sections of this work is presented in the following organization. In Section 2, a priori estimations of the continuous problem (1.1)–(1.2) are provided. In Section 3, a finite difference scheme is derived using the integral identity method with basis functions and dealing with the integral terms by interpolating quadrature formulas including residues. In Section 4, after we calculate the error estimates we conclude that the proposed scheme is convergent. The scheme is implemented and tested on a couple of numerical examples in Section 5.

Throughout this paper, for any continuous function $g(t)$ defined on $[0, T]$ we will consider the norms

$$\|g\|_{\infty} = \max_{t \in [0, T]} |g(t)|, \|g\|_1 = \int_0^T |g(t)| dt \text{ and we take } \bar{K} = \max_{t \in \bar{I}} \int_0^T |K(t, s)| ds.$$

2. A PRIORI ESTIMATES

In this section, we present the estimates on the exact solution to the problem (1.1)–(1.2) which describe the asymptotic behavior of the solution and will be considered in the background calculations of the derivation of the numerical scheme.

Lemma 2.1. *Let $a, f \in C(\bar{I})$, $K \in C^1(\bar{I} \times \bar{I})$ and $a(t) \geq \alpha > 0$. Then, the solution u to the problem (1.1)–(1.2) holds the estimates*

$$\|u\| \leq C_0, \quad (2.1)$$

$$\text{and where } C_0 = \frac{|A| + |B| + \alpha^{-1} \|f\|_1}{1 - \alpha^{-1} \bar{K} T} \text{ and}$$

$$|u'(t)| \leq C_1, \quad t \in \bar{I}, \quad (2.2)$$

where $C_1 = Ce^{-\alpha t} + \alpha^{-1} [\|f\|_{\infty} + |\lambda| C_0 \bar{K}] (1 - e^{\alpha t})$.

Proof. We begin the proof by establishing the estimate (2.1). We first rewrite (1.1)–(1.2) as the following

$$u''(t) + a(t)u'(t) + F(t) = 0, \quad (2.3)$$

$$u(0) = A, \quad u(T) = B, \quad (2.4)$$

where $F(t) = -f(t) + \lambda \int_0^T K(t, s)u(s)ds$. Solving (2.3)–(2.4) we obtain

$$u'(t) = u'(0)e^{-\int_0^t a(v)dv} - \int_0^t F(\xi)e^{-\int_{\xi}^t a(v)dv} d\xi. \quad (2.5)$$

Integrating (2.5) over $(0, t)$ provides

$$\begin{aligned} u(t) &= A + \int_0^t u'(0)e^{-\int_0^{\tau} a(v)dv} d\tau - \int_0^t d\tau \int_0^{\tau} F(\xi)e^{-\int_{\xi}^{\tau} a(v)dv} d\xi \\ &= A + \int_0^t u'(0)e^{-\int_0^{\tau} a(v)dv} d\tau - \int_0^t d\xi F(\xi) \int_{\xi}^t e^{-\int_{\xi}^{\tau} a(v)dv} d\tau. \end{aligned} \quad (2.6)$$

Since $u(T) = B$ and from (2.6),

$$u'(0) = \frac{B - A + \int_0^T d\xi F(\xi) \int_{\xi}^T e^{-\int_{\xi}^{\tau} a(v)dv} d\tau}{\int_0^T e^{-\int_0^{\tau} a(v)dv} d\tau}. \quad (2.7)$$

Inserting (2.7) into (2.6) we obtain

$$u(t) = A + \left(B - A + \int_0^T d\xi F(\xi) \int_{\xi}^T e^{-\int_{\xi}^{\tau} a(v)dv} d\tau \right) \frac{\int_0^t e^{-\int_0^{\tau} a(v)dv} d\tau}{\int_0^T e^{-\int_0^{\tau} a(v)dv} d\tau} - \int_0^t d\xi F(\xi) \int_{\xi}^t e^{-\int_{\xi}^{\tau} a(v)dv} d\tau. \tag{2.8}$$

Here, using the Green's function

$$G(t, \xi) = \int_{\xi}^T e^{-\int_{\xi}^{\tau} a(v)dv} d\tau \frac{\int_0^t e^{-\int_0^{\tau} a(v)dv} d\tau}{\int_0^T e^{-\int_0^{\tau} a(v)dv} d\tau} - T_0(t - \xi) \int_{\xi}^t e^{-\int_{\xi}^{\tau} a(v)dv} d\tau \tag{2.9}$$

$$(T_0(\lambda) = 1, \quad \lambda \geq 0; \quad T_0(\lambda) = 0, \quad \lambda < 0),$$

we rewrite (2.8) as the following

$$u(t) = A \left(1 - \frac{\int_0^t e^{-\int_0^{\tau} a(v)dv} d\tau}{\int_0^T e^{-\int_0^{\tau} a(v)dv} d\tau} \right) + B \frac{\int_0^t e^{-\int_0^{\tau} a(v)dv} d\tau}{\int_0^T e^{-\int_0^{\tau} a(v)dv} d\tau} + \int_0^T G(t, \xi) F(\xi) d\xi. \tag{2.10}$$

As an alternative to this formulation of Green's function, a Green's function formula for the operator

$$\mathcal{L}u := -u''(t) - a(t)u(t), \quad 0 < t < T,$$

$$u(0) = 0, \quad u(T) = 0,$$

is given by

$$G(t, \xi) = \frac{1}{\omega(\xi)} \begin{cases} \varphi_1(\xi)\varphi_2(t), & 0 \leq \xi \leq t \leq T, \\ \varphi_1(t)\varphi_2(\xi), & 0 \leq t \leq \xi \leq T, \end{cases} \tag{2.11}$$

where $\omega(\xi) = \frac{\phi(\xi)}{Q(T)}$, $Q(t) = \int_0^t \phi(s)ds$ and $\phi(s) = e^{-\int_0^s a(v)dv}$ and $\varphi_1(t)$ and $\varphi_2(t)$ are respectively the solutions to

$$\mathcal{L}\varphi_1 = 0, \quad \varphi_1(0) = 0, \quad \varphi_1(T) = 1,$$

$$\mathcal{L}\varphi_2 = 0, \quad \varphi_2(0) = 1, \quad \varphi_2(T) = 0.$$

Formula (2.11) implies that $G(t, \xi) \geq 0$ and in accordance with (2.9) we have

$$\max_{t, \xi \in I} G(t, \xi) = \max_{t, \xi \in I} \left(\int_{\xi}^T e^{-\int_{\xi}^{\tau} a(v)dv} d\tau \frac{\int_0^t e^{-\int_0^{\tau} a(v)dv} d\tau}{\int_0^T e^{-\int_0^{\tau} a(v)dv} d\tau} - T_0(t - \xi) \int_{\xi}^t e^{-\int_{\xi}^{\tau} a(v)dv} d\tau \right) \tag{2.12}$$

$$\leq \max_{t, \xi \in I} \left(\int_{\xi}^T e^{-\int_{\xi}^{\tau} a(v)dv} d\tau \frac{\int_0^t e^{-\int_0^{\tau} a(v)dv} d\tau}{\int_0^T e^{-\int_0^{\tau} a(v)dv} d\tau} \right) \leq \alpha^{-1}(1 - e^{-\alpha(T-\xi)}).$$

From (2.12), we conclude that $G(t, \xi) \leq \alpha^{-1}$ and utilizing this in (2.10) we find

$$|u(t)| \leq |A| + |B| + \max_{t, \xi \in T} |G(t, \xi)| \int_0^T |F(\xi)| d\xi \leq |A| + |B| + \alpha^{-1} \int_0^T |F(\xi)| d\xi. \quad (2.13)$$

Here, we obtain the following bound for $F(t)$

$$|F(t)| \leq |f(t)| + |\lambda| \int_0^T |K(t, s)| |u(s)| ds \leq |f(t)| + |\lambda| \bar{K} \|u\|_\infty,$$

and inserting this bound into (2.13) we have

$$\begin{aligned} |u(t)| &\leq |A| + |B| + \max_{t, \xi \in T} |G(t, \xi)| \int_0^T |F(\xi)| d\xi \leq |A| + |B| + \alpha^{-1} \int_0^T |F(\xi)| d\xi \\ &\leq |A| + |B| + \alpha^{-1} \|f\|_1 + \alpha^{-1} \bar{K} \|u\|_\infty T, \end{aligned} \quad (2.14)$$

which provides the desired result in (2.1). To prove (2.2), it suffices to establish a bound for $u'(0)$ given in (2.7) and insert that bound in the formula of $u'(t)$ provided in (2.5). Since

$$\int_0^T e^{-\int_0^\tau a(v)dv} d\tau \geq \int_0^T e^{-\|a\|_\infty \tau} d\tau \quad (2.15)$$

$$= \frac{1}{\|a\|_\infty} (1 - e^{-\|a\|_\infty T}) \equiv C_2, \quad (2.16)$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} \int_0^T d\xi |F(\xi)| \int_\xi^T e^{-\int_\xi^\tau a(v)dv} d\tau &\leq \int_0^T d\xi |F(\xi)| \int_\xi^T e^{-\alpha(\tau-\xi)} d\tau \leq \int_0^T (\alpha^{-1} (1 - e^{-\alpha(T-\xi)})) |F(\xi)| d\xi \\ &\leq \alpha^{-1} \int_0^T |F(\xi)| d\xi \leq \alpha^{-1} \|f\|_1 + \alpha^{-1} \bar{K} \|u\|_\infty T \equiv C_3, \end{aligned} \quad (2.17)$$

and from (2.7) it follows that

$$|u'(0)| \leq \frac{|A| + |B| + \int_0^T d\xi |F(\xi)| \int_\xi^T e^{-\int_\xi^\tau a(v)dv} d\tau}{\int_0^T e^{-\int_0^\tau a(v)dv} d\tau} \leq C_2^{-1} (|A| + |B| + C_3) \equiv C_4. \quad (2.18)$$

Hence, we have

$$\begin{aligned} |u'(t)| &\leq C_4 e^{-\int_0^t a(v)dv} + \int_0^t |F(\xi)| e^{-\int_\xi^t a(v)dv} d\xi \leq C_4 e^{-\alpha t} + \int_0^t \left[|f(\xi)| + |\lambda| C_0 \int_0^T |K(\xi, s)| ds \right] e^{-\alpha(t-\xi)} d\xi \\ &\leq C_4 e^{-\alpha t} + \alpha^{-1} [\|f\|_\infty + |\lambda| C_0 \bar{K}] (1 - e^{\alpha t}), \end{aligned} \quad (2.19)$$

which yields the result in (2.2).

3. DERIVATION OF THE DIFFERENCE SCHEME

In this section, we develop a finite difference scheme for the problem (1.1)–(1.2). Before we proceed to the derivation process of the finite difference scheme we provide the necessary notation we use throughout the paper. Let ω_N be a uniform mesh on $(0, T)$ defined as

$$\omega_N = \left\{ 0 < t_1 < \dots < t_{N-1} < T, h = t_i - t_{i-1} = \frac{T}{N} \right\},$$

and $\bar{\omega}_N = \omega_N \cup \{t_0 = 0, t_N = T\}$. For any mesh function $v(x)$ defined on $\bar{\omega}_N$, let

$$v_i = v(t_i), \quad v_{t,i} = \frac{v_{i+1} - v_i}{h}, \quad v_{\bar{t},i} = \frac{v_i - v_{i-1}}{h}, \quad v_{\bar{i},i} = \frac{v_{t,i} + v_{\bar{t},i}}{2}, \quad v_{\bar{\bar{i}},i} = \frac{v_{t,i} - v_{\bar{t},i}}{h},$$

and

$$\|v\|_\infty = \|v\|_{\infty, \bar{\omega}_N} := \max_{0 \leq i \leq N} |v_i|, \quad \|v\|_{1, \omega_N} := h \sum_{i=1}^{N-1} |v_i|.$$

In order to discretize the problem (1.1)–(1.2), we use the following integral identity

$$h^{-1} \int_{t_{i-1}}^{t_{i+1}} Lu(t)\varphi_i(t)dt = h^{-1} \int_{t_{i-1}}^{t_{i+1}} f(t)\varphi_i(t)dt, \tag{3.1}$$

with the basis functions

$$\varphi_i(t) = \begin{cases} \varphi_i^{(1)}(t) = \frac{e^{a_i(t-t_{i-1})} - 1}{e^{a_i h} - 1}, & t_{i-1} < t < t_i, \\ \varphi_i^{(2)}(t) = \frac{1 - e^{-a_i(t_{i+1}-t)}}{1 - e^{-a_i h}}, & t_i < t < t_{i+1}, \\ 0, & t \notin (t_{i-1}, t_{i+1}). \end{cases} \tag{3.2}$$

We note that the functions $\varphi_i^{(1)}$ and $\varphi_i^{(2)}$ are respectively the solutions to the problems

$$\begin{aligned} \varphi''(t) - a_i \varphi'(t) &= 0, & t_{i-1} < t < t_i, & \quad \varphi(t_{i-1}) = 0, \quad \varphi(t_i) = 1, \\ \varphi''(t) - a_i \varphi'(t) &= 0, & t_{i-1} < t < t_i, & \quad \varphi(t_i) = 1, \quad \varphi(t_{i+1}) = 0 \end{aligned}$$

and it is obvious that

$$h^{-1} \int_{t_{i-1}}^{t_{i+1}} \varphi_i(t)dt = 1. \tag{3.3}$$

To achieve the finite difference scheme from the integral identity given in (3.1), we proceed by dealing with the first two terms on the left hand side of the equality. Rearranging these two terms and applying the appropriate interpolating quadrature rules provided in [2] we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} h^{-1} \int_{t_{i-1}}^{t_{i+1}} [u''(t) + a(t)u'(t)]\varphi_i(t)dt &= h^{-1} \int_{t_{i-1}}^{t_{i+1}} [u''(t) + a_i u'(t)]\varphi_i(t)dt + R_i^{(1)} \\ &= -h^{-1} \int_{t_{i-1}}^{t_{i+1}} u'(t)\varphi_i'(t) + a_i h^{-1} \int_{t_{i-1}}^{t_{i+1}} \varphi_i(t)u'(t)dt + R_i^{(1)} \\ &= u_{\bar{\bar{i}},i} + a_i(\chi_i^{(1)}u_{\bar{t},i} + \chi_i^{(2)}u_{t,i}) + R_i^{(1)}, \end{aligned} \tag{3.4}$$

where

$$R_i^{(1)} = h^{-1} \int_{t_{i-1}}^{t_{i+1}} [a(t) - a_i]\varphi_i(t)u'(t)dt, \tag{3.5}$$

where

$$\chi_i^{(1)} = h^{-1} \int_{t_{i-1}}^{t_i} \varphi_i^{(1)}(t)dt = \frac{1}{ha_i} - \frac{1}{e^{a_i h} - 1},$$

and

$$\chi_i^{(2)} = h^{-1} \int_{t_i}^{t_{i+1}} \varphi_i^{(2)}(t)dt = \frac{1}{1 - e^{-a_i h}} - \frac{1}{ha_i}.$$

Since

$$u_{\bar{t},i} = u_{t,i} - \frac{h}{2} u_{\bar{t},i}, \quad u_{t,i} = u_{t,i} + \frac{h}{2} u_{\bar{t},i},$$

we have the relation

$$u_{\bar{t},i} + a_i(\chi_i^{(1)} u_{\bar{t},i} + \chi_i^{(2)} u_{t,i}) = \theta_i u_{\bar{t},i} + a_i u_{t,i}, \quad (3.6)$$

where

$$\theta_i = 1 + a_i h(\chi_i^{(2)} - \chi_i^{(1)}) = \gamma_i \coth \gamma_i, \quad \gamma_i = \frac{a_i h}{2}. \quad (3.7)$$

Hence, inserting (3.6) in (3.8) provides

$$h^{-1} \int_{t_{i-1}}^{t_{i+1}} [u''(t) + a(t)u'(t)]\varphi_i(t)dt = \theta_i u_{\bar{t},i} + a_i u_{t,i} + R_i^{(1)}. \quad (3.8)$$

Furthermore, for the integral term in (3.1) we first utilize the appropriate interpolating quadrature rules provided in [2] and then apply the right side triangle rule which yield

$$h^{-1} \lambda \int_{t_{i-1}}^{t_{i+1}} \varphi_i(t) dt \int_0^T K(t,s)u(s)ds = \lambda \int_0^T K(t_i,s)u(s)ds + R_i^{(2)} = \lambda h \sum_{j=1}^N K_{ij}u_j + R_i^{(2)} + R_i^{(3)}, \quad (3.9)$$

where

$$R_i^{(2)} = h^{-1} \lambda \int_{t_{i-1}}^{t_{i+1}} \varphi_i(t) dt \int_{t_{i-1}}^{t_{i+1}} \left[T_0(t-\xi) - \frac{1}{2} h^{-1}(t-t_{i-1}) \right] \left(\int_0^T \frac{\partial}{\partial \xi} K(\xi,s)u(s)ds \right) d\xi, \quad (3.10)$$

and

$$R_i^{(3)} = -\lambda \sum_{j=1}^N \int_{t_{j-1}}^{t_j} (\xi - t_{j-1}) \frac{\partial}{\partial \xi} (K(t_i, \xi)u(\xi)) d\xi. \quad (3.11)$$

Separately, by rearranging the right hand side of (3.1), we attain

$$h^{-1} \int_{t_{i-1}}^{t_{i+1}} f(t)\varphi_i(t)dt = f_i + R_i^{(4)}, \quad (3.12)$$

where

$$R_i^{(4)} = h^{-1} \int_{t_{i-1}}^{t_{i+1}} [f(t) - f(t_i)]\varphi_i(t)dt. \quad (3.13)$$

Inserting the equations (3.8), (3.9) and (3.12) in (3.1) provides the difference relation

$$\ell u_i := \theta_i u_{\bar{t},i} + a_i u_{t,i} + \lambda h \sum_{j=1}^N K_{ij}u_j = f_i + R_i, \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, N, \quad (3.14)$$

where

$$R_i = R_i^{(4)} - R_i^{(1)} - R_i^{(2)} - R_i^{(3)}. \quad (3.15)$$

Once we disregard the error term R_i in (3.14), this leads to the difference scheme for (1.1)–(1.2)

$$\ell y_i := \theta_i y_{\bar{t},i} + a_i y_{t,i} + \lambda h \sum_{j=1}^N K_{ij}y_j = f_i, \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, N-1, \quad (3.16)$$

$$y_0 = A, \quad y_N = B, \quad (3.17)$$

where θ_i is defined in (3.7).

4. CONVERGENCE ANALYSIS OF THE METHOD

We provide the necessary error estimates and convergence results of the proposed scheme given in (3.16)–(3.17). The error function of the scheme, $z_i = y_i - u_i$, $0 \leq i \leq N$, is the solution of

$$\ell z_i := \theta_i z_{\bar{i},i} + a_i z_{i,i} + \lambda h \sum_{j=1}^N K_{ij} z_j = R_i, \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, N - 1, \tag{4.1}$$

$$z_0 = A, \quad z_N = B. \tag{4.2}$$

Lemma 4.1. *Suppose that $a, f \in C^1(\bar{I})$, $K \in C^1(\bar{I} \times \bar{I})$ and $a(t) \geq \alpha > 0$. Then, the error R_i holds the following estimate*

$$\|R\|_{1,\omega_N} \leq Ch. \tag{4.3}$$

Proof. To establish the estimate (4.3), we handle each $R_i^{(k)}$, for $k = 1, 2, 3, 4$ respectively. Applying the Mean Value Theorem to function $a(t)$ in (3.5) we obtain

$$|R_i^{(1)}| = C \int_{t_{i-1}}^{t_{i+1}} |\varphi_i(t)| |u'(t)| dt. \tag{4.4}$$

It is easy to see that $0 < \varphi_i(t) \leq 1$ by its definition given in (3.2) and taking this and (2.2) into account in (4.4) it follows that

$$\|R^{(1)}\|_{1,\omega_N} \leq Ch \sum_{i=1}^{N-1} \int_{t_{i-1}}^{t_{i+1}} |u'(t)| dt \leq Ch \int_0^T |u'(t)| dt \leq Ch. \tag{4.5}$$

We have an upper bound for $R_i^{(2)}$ given in (3.10) as the following

$$|R_i^{(2)}| \leq h^{-1} |\lambda| \int_{t_{i-1}}^{t_{i+1}} \varphi_i(t) dt \int_{t_{i-1}}^{t_{i+1}} \left(\int_0^T \left| \frac{\partial}{\partial \xi} K(\xi, s) \right| |u(s)| ds \right) d\xi.$$

Then, from (3.3) we have

$$|R_i^{(2)}| \leq |\lambda| \int_{t_{i-1}}^{t_{i+1}} \left(\int_0^T \left| \frac{\partial}{\partial \xi} K(\xi, s) \right| |u(s)| ds \right) d\xi,$$

and since $|u| \leq C_0$ and $\left| \frac{\partial}{\partial \xi} K(\xi, s) \right| \leq C$ it follows that

$$\|R^{(2)}\|_{1,\omega_N} \leq h |\lambda| \sum_{i=1}^{N-1} \int_{t_{i-1}}^{t_{i+1}} \left(\int_0^T \left| \frac{\partial}{\partial \xi} K(\xi, s) \right| |u(s)| ds \right) d\xi \leq C_3 h \sum_{i=1}^{N-1} (t_{i+1} - t_{i-1}) = 2C_3 h^2 (N - 1) \leq Ch. \tag{4.6}$$

For the third remainder term $R_i^{(3)}$ defined in (3.11), we first get the following bound

$$\begin{aligned} |R_i^{(3)}| &\leq |\lambda| \sum_{j=1}^N \int_{t_{j-1}}^{t_j} (\xi - t_{j-1}) \left| \frac{\partial}{\partial \xi} (K(t_i, \xi) u(\xi)) \right| d\xi \leq |\lambda| h \int_0^T \left| \frac{\partial}{\partial \xi} (K(t_i, \xi) u(\xi)) \right| d\xi \\ &\leq |\lambda| h \int_0^T \left[\left| \frac{\partial}{\partial \xi} K(t_i, \xi) \right| |u(\xi)| + |K(t_i, \xi)| |u'(\xi)| \right] d\xi. \end{aligned}$$

Here, utilizing the bounds $|u| \leq C_0$, $\left| \frac{d}{d\xi} K(\xi, s) \right| \leq C$ and (2.2) we get

$$\|R^{(3)}\|_{1,\omega_N} \leq Ch. \tag{4.7}$$

For the last remainder term $R_i^{(4)}$ defined in (3.13), we apply the Mean Value Theorem to function $f(t)$ and get

$$|R^{(4)}| \leq C \int_{t_{i-1}}^{t_{i+1}} |\varphi_i(t)| dt$$

which follows

$$\|R^{(4)}\|_{1, \omega_N} \leq Ch. \tag{4.8}$$

As a result, considering (4.5)–(4.8) in (3.15) we get the desired result given in (4.3).

Lemma 4.2. *Suppose that the error function z_i solves the problem in (4.1)–(4.2). Then, the error function z_i holds the following estimate*

$$\|z\|_{\infty, \omega_N} \leq \|R\|_{1, \omega_N}. \tag{4.9}$$

Proof. In [10], it is provided that the discrete Green’s function $G(t_i, \eta_k)$ for the difference operator

$$\ell^h z_i := \theta_i z_{i,i} + a_i z_{i,i}, \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, N - 1, \quad z_0 = 0, \quad z_N = 0$$

is the solution to the problem

$$\ell^h G(t_i, \eta_k) = \frac{\delta_{ik}}{h}, \quad i, k = 1, 2, \dots, N - 1, \quad y_0 = 0, \quad y_N = 0$$

for fixed $k = 1, 2, \dots, N - 1$ where δ_{ik} is the Kronecker delta. Rewriting the problem (4.1)–(4.2) and by the Green’s function, the solution to the problem (4.1)–(4.2) is obtained as

$$z_i = \sum_{k=1}^{N-1} h G(t_i, \eta_k) \left(\lambda h \sum_{j=1}^N K_{kj} z_j - R_k \right), \quad t_i \in \omega_N. \tag{4.10}$$

It is also known that the Green’s function $G(t_i, \eta_k)$ is bounded, namely, $0 \leq G(t_i, \eta_k) \leq c\alpha^{-1}$. Taking this into account with (4.10) we have

$$\begin{aligned} \|z\|_{\omega_N, \infty} &\leq c\alpha^{-1} \left(|\lambda| \|z\|_{\omega_N, \infty} \sum_{k=1}^{N-1} h^2 \sum_{j=1}^N |K_{kj}| + \|R\|_1 \right) \leq c\alpha^{-1} \left(\tilde{K} |\lambda| \|z\|_{\omega_N, \infty} \sum_{k=1}^{N-1} h + \|R\|_1 \right) \\ &\leq c\alpha^{-1} \left(\tilde{K} |\lambda| T \|z\|_{\omega_N, \infty} + \|R\|_1 \right), \end{aligned}$$

where $\tilde{K} = \max_{0 \leq i \leq N} h \sum_{j=1}^N |K_{ij}|$ and this leads to the desired result given in (4.9).

Theorem 4.3. *Suppose that $a, f \in C^1(\bar{I})$, $K \in C^1(\bar{I} \times \bar{I})$, u is the solution of (1.1)–(1.2) and y is the solution of (3.16)–(3.17). Then, y satisfies the following estimate*

$$\|y - u\|_{\infty, \bar{\omega}_N} \leq Ch.$$

Proof. This statement follows from Lemma 4.1 and Lemma 4.2.

5. ALGORITHM AND NUMERICAL RESULTS

The numerical results on a couple of problems are demonstrated to support the analysis we made in the previous sections. Since the scheme given in (3.16)–(3.17) is a boundary value problem with a difference equation consisting of three points, we employ the factorization method as introduced in (3.16) and iteration simultaneously. For this purpose, we rearrange the difference scheme in (3.16) in the following form

$$A_i y_{i-1} - C_i y_i + B_i y_{i+1} = -F_i, \quad i = 1, \dots, N - 1, \tag{5.1}$$

$$y_0 = A, \quad y_N = B, \tag{5.2}$$

Table 1. Error terms e^N , e^{2N} and convergence order r for Example 1

| Mesh | e^N | e^{2N} | r |
|-----------|-------------------------|-------------------------|--------|
| $N = 32$ | 5.9998×10^{-2} | 3.0624×10^{-2} | 0.9702 |
| $N = 64$ | 3.0624×10^{-2} | 1.5473×10^{-2} | 0.9850 |
| $N = 128$ | 1.5473×10^{-2} | 7.7769×10^{-3} | 0.9924 |
| $N = 256$ | 7.7769×10^{-3} | 3.8987×10^{-3} | 0.9962 |
| $N = 512$ | 3.8987×10^{-3} | 1.9519×10^{-3} | 0.9981 |

where

$$A_i = \lambda h K(x_i, x_{i-1}) + \frac{\theta_i}{h^2} - \frac{a_i}{2h},$$

$$B_i = \lambda h K(x_i, x_{i+1}) + \frac{\theta_i}{h^2} + \frac{a_i}{2h},$$

$$C_i = \frac{2\theta_i}{h^2} - \lambda h K(x_i, x_i),$$

and

$$F_i = \lambda h \sum_{j=0}^{i-2} K(x_i, x_j) y_j^{(n-1)} + \lambda h \sum_{j=i+2}^n K(x_i, x_j) y_j^{(n-1)} - f_i.$$

Then, the solution to (5.1)–(5.2) is determined by the algorithm

$$y_i = \alpha_{i+1} y_{i+1} + \beta_{i+1}, \quad i = N - 1, \dots, 0,$$

where

$$\alpha_{i+1} = \frac{B_i}{C_i - \alpha_i A_i}, \quad \alpha_1 = 0, \quad i = 1, \dots, N - 1,$$

$$\beta_{i+1} = \frac{A_i \beta_i + F_i}{C_i - \alpha_i A_i}, \quad \beta_1 = A, \quad i = 1, \dots, N - 1.$$

Example 1. We study the following boundary value problem

$$u''(t) + 2u'(t) + \frac{1}{4} \int_0^{\pi/2} e^{s-t} u(s) ds = \frac{1}{4} (e^{-t} - e^{-(1+t)}), \quad 0 < t < 1, \quad u(0) = 1, \quad u(1) = e^{-2},$$

with an exact solution

$$u(x) = e^{-2x}.$$

We calculate the error by the formula

$$e_\epsilon^N = \|y^N - u\|_\infty,$$

where y^N is the numerical solution for various N values. The order of convergence is calculated by

$$r^N = \frac{\ln(e^N / e^{2N})}{\ln 2}. \tag{5.3}$$

For various values of N , the maximum errors and the convergence rates of the approximate solution are enclosed in Table 1.

Example 2. The second test problem is

$$u'' + 2u' + \frac{1}{4} \int_0^1 \sin(ts) u(s) ds = \sinh^2(t) + t^2 + 4, \quad 0 < t < 1, \quad u(0) = 0, \quad u(1) = 1,$$

Table 2. Error terms e^N , e^{2N} and convergence order r for Example 2

| Mesh | e^N | e^{2N} | r |
|-----------|-------------------------|-------------------------|--------|
| $N = 32$ | 9.6742×10^{-3} | 4.6403×10^{-3} | 1.0599 |
| $N = 64$ | 4.6403×10^{-3} | 2.2694×10^{-3} | 1.0319 |
| $N = 128$ | 2.2694×10^{-3} | 1.1216×10^{-3} | 1.0167 |
| $N = 256$ | 1.1216×10^{-3} | 5.5751×10^{-4} | 1.0085 |
| $N = 512$ | 5.5751×10^{-4} | 2.7792×10^{-4} | 1.0043 |

and the exact solution to this problem is unknown. Hence, the approximate solution y^N is computed and then, the double mesh principle is involved in the computation to estimate the errors and to calculate the convergence. The double mesh principle is taking the error as the difference between the approximate solution on mesh size N and the approximate solution calculated on double mesh $2N$, namely

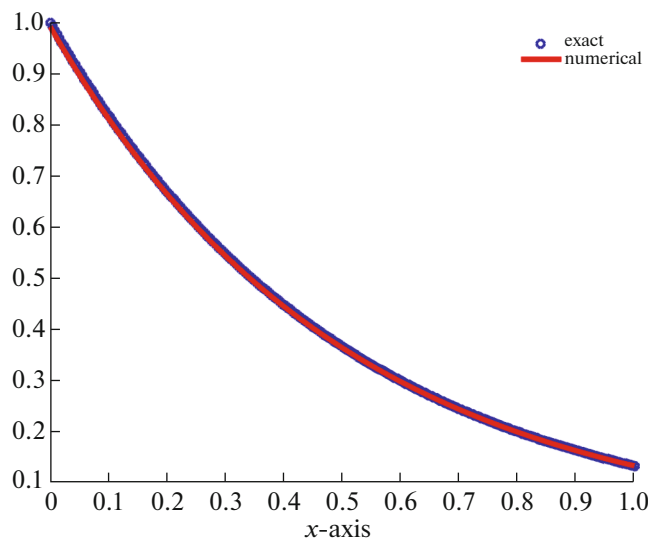
$$e^N = \|y^N - y^{2N}\|_{\infty},$$

where y^N is the numerical solution on mesh N and y^{2N} is the numerical solution on mesh $2N$. Further, the formula of convergence rate given in (5.3) is used for the order of convergence.

The error estimations and the convergence study of the approximate solution for various values of N are provided in Table 2.

6. CONCLUSIONS

In this study, we mainly derived a finite difference scheme to examine a boundary value problem for a linear second-order Fredholm integro-differential equation. After we studied the asymptotic behavior of the exact solution of the problem, we constructed the difference scheme and established the error estimates and the rate of convergence of the scheme. Further, we provided the numerical results in Tables 1, 2 and Fig. 1 which also match the analytical results on the error estimates and convergence order. Hence, it is analytically and practically shown that the difference scheme is a first order convergent numerical method.

**Fig. 1.** The graphs of the exact solution and the computed solution for $N = 256$.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The authors declare that they have no conflicts of interest.

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