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A Modified Degenerate Kernel Method for the System of Fredholm Integral Equations of the Second Kind

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Abstract. In this paper, the system of Fredholm integral equations of the second kind is investigated by using a modified degenerate kernel method (MDKM). To construct a MDKM the source function is approximated by the same way of producing degenerate kernel. The interpolation is used to make the needed approximations. Lagrange polynomials are adopted for the interpolation. The equivalency of proposed method and Lagrange-collocation method is shown. The error and convergence analysis of the algorithm are given strictly. The efficiency of the approach will be shown by applying the procedure on some prototype examples.

Keywords: A system of Fredholm integral equations of the second kind, Degenerate kernel method, A modified degenerate kernel method, Lagrange interpolation method, Lagrange-collocation method.

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1. Introduction

The solutions of integral equations have a major role in the fields of science and engineering. A physical event can be modeled by the differential equation (ODE/PDE), an integral equation (IE) or an integro-differential equation

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(IDE) or a system of these [10]. In this study, we consider the system of Fredholm integral equations of the second kind of the form [14]

$$u_i(x) = f_i(x) + \sum_{j=1}^{r_i} \lambda_{ij} \int_a^b K_{ij}(x,t,u(t))\mathrm{d}t, \quad i = 1,2,...,m, \tag{1.1}$$

where $x \in [a,b]$, λ_{ij} is a parameter, $f_i(x)$ is the source (or data) function, K_{ij} is the kernel function, $u(t) = (u_1(t),...,u_m(t))$ and $u_i(x)$, $i = 1,2,...,m$, are the unknown functions that will be determined. For the linear case, it is assumed that $K_{ij}(x,t,u(t)) = \sum_{r=1}^{m} \gamma_{ijr} k_{ijr}(x,t)u_r(t)$. We rewrite Eq. (1.1) in the matrix form as follows

$$u(x) = f(x) + \int_a^b K(x,t,u(t))\mathrm{d}t, \tag{1.2}$$

where

$$f(x) = (f_1(x),...,f_m(x))^T,$$

$$K(x,t,u(t)) = (k_1,...,k_m)^T,$$

$$k_i = \sum_{j=1}^{r_i} \lambda_{ij} K_{ij}(x,t,u(t)), i = 1,2,...,m.$$

There are several analytical and numerical methods for solving integral equations, such as homotopy methods [4, 14, 6], an iterative method [3], a matrix based method [5] and differential transform method [15].
In this paper, a review of degenerate kernel is given. Then we introduce a modified of degenerate kernel method by approximating source function using the same way of producing degenerate kernel. We use the Lagrange interpolation method to obtain the needed approximations and we show that for this case the modified degenerate kernel method is equivalent to the Lagrange-collocation method. The error and convergence analysis of the modified degenerate kernel method are given strictly.

2. The Degenerate Kernel Method

The degenerate kernel method (DKM) is a well-known classical method for solving Fredholm integral equations of the second kind, and it is one of the easiest numerical methods to define and analyze [1, page 23]. This method for a given degenerate kernel is called direct computation method (DCM) [11] and [16, page 141].
We work in the space $X = C[a,b]$ with $\|\cdot\|_\infty$. We define the the integral operator $\mathcal{K}$ of (1.2) as follows

$$\mathcal{K}[u(x)] = \int_a^b K(x,t,u(t))\mathrm{d}t. \tag{2.1}$$

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For the linear case, the integral operator denoted by (2.1) reduces as follows

$$\mathcal{K}u(x) = \int_a^b K(x,t)u(t)\mathrm{d}t. \tag{2.2}$$

The integral operator $\mathcal{K}$ is assumed to be a compact operator on X into X. The kernel function K is approximated as follows

$$K_n(x,t,u(t)) = \sum_{i=1}^{n} \phi_i(x)\psi_i(t,u(t)), \tag{2.3}$$

such that the associated integral operators $\mathcal{K}_n$ satisfy

$$\lim_{n\to+\infty} \|\mathcal{K} - \mathcal{K}_n\| = 0. \tag{2.4}$$

Generally, we prefer this convergence to be rapid to obtain rapid convergence of u_n, to u where u_n is the solution of the approximating equation $u_n - \mathcal{K}_n[u_n] = f$. For this purpose, for linear case, we first outline a theorem as already given in [1, page 24, Theorem 2.1.1]. Then, we extend the mentioned theorem for the nonlinear case.

Theorem 2.1. *Assume* $1 - \mathcal{K} : X \xrightarrow[\text{into}]{1-1} X$, *with* X *a Banach space and* $\mathcal{K}$ *bounded. Further, assume* $\mathcal{K}_n$ *is a sequence of bounded linear operators with* (2.4). *Then*

1. *Then the operators* $(1-\mathcal{K}_n)^{-1}$ *exist from* X *onto* X *for all sufficiently large* n, *say* $n \geq N$, *and*

$$\left\|(1-\mathcal{K}_n)^{-1}\right\| \leqslant \frac{\left\|(1-\mathcal{K})^{-1}\right\|}{1 - \left\|(1-\mathcal{K})^{-1}\right\| \|\mathcal{K} - \mathcal{K}_n\|}, n \geqslant N.$$

2. *For the equations* $u - \mathcal{K}[u] = f$ *and* $u_n - \mathcal{K}_n[u_n] = f$, $n \geq N$, *we have*

$$\|u - u_n\| \leq \left\|(1-\mathcal{K}_n)^{-1}\right\| \|\mathcal{K}u - \mathcal{K}_n u\| \tag{2.5}$$

Proof. Refer to [1] by setting $\lambda = 1$. □

Remark 2.2. In using piecewise polynomial interpolation with polynomials of degree $P > 0$, it is straightforward to show that the error $\|u-u_n\|_\infty$ is $O(h^{P+1})$ provided $K(x,t)$ and $u(x)$ are sufficiently differentiable [1, page 41].

Now, we extend Theorem 2.1 for the nonlinear case.

Theorem 2.3. *Assume* $\mathcal{K}$ *is bounded. Further, assume* $\mathcal{K}_n$ *is a sequence of bounded operators with* (2.4) *and* $\mathcal{K}$ *satisfies uniform Lipschitz condition*

$$\|\mathcal{K}[u] - \mathcal{K}[u_n]\|_\infty \leq L_{\mathcal{K}} \|u - u_n\|_\infty, \tag{2.6}$$

where $L_{\mathcal{K}} \geq 0$ *and* $1 - L_{\mathcal{K}} > 0$. *Thus, for the equations* $u - \mathcal{K}[u] = f$ *and* $u_n - \mathcal{K}_n[u_n] = f$, *we have*

$$\|u - u_n\|_\infty \leqslant \frac{\tilde{\mathcal{K}}_n}{1 - L_{\mathcal{K}}}, \tag{2.7}$$

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where $\tilde{\mathcal{K}}_n = \|\mathcal{K}[u_n] - \mathcal{K}_n[u_n]\|_\infty$.

Proof. We have

$$u - u_n = \mathcal{K}[u] - \mathcal{K}[u_n] + \mathcal{K}[u_n] - \mathcal{K}_n[u_n],$$

therefore

$$\|u - u_n\|_\infty \leq L_{\mathcal{K}}\|u - u_n\|_\infty + \tilde{\mathcal{K}}_n,$$

this ends the proof. □

Remark 2.4. From (2.4) and (2.7), we find that if $\|\mathcal{K} - \mathcal{K}_n\|$ converges rapidly to zero, then the same is true of $\|u - u_n\|_\infty$.

2.1. **Solution of DKM.** DKM transforms a Fredholm integral equation of the second kind to a system of algebraic equations. To handle Eq. (1.2), by using DKM, we can express the procedure as follows

1. Substituting (2.3) into (1.2) gives

$$u_n(x;\boldsymbol{\alpha}) = f(x) + \sum_{i=1}^{n} \alpha_i \phi_i(x), \tag{2.8}$$

where

$$\alpha_i = \int_a^b \psi_i(t, u(t))\mathrm{d}t, i = 1, ..., n, \tag{2.9}$$

and $\boldsymbol{\alpha} = (\alpha_1, ..., \alpha_n)$.

2. Replacing Eq. (2.8) into (2.9) leads to the following algebraic system

$$\alpha_i = \int_a^b \psi_i \left(t, f(t) + \sum_{j=1}^{n} \alpha_j \phi_j(t) \right) \mathrm{d}t, i = 1, ..., n. \tag{2.10}$$

3. Solving Eq. (2.10) provides values of α_i, $i = 1, ..., n$, for substituting them into the Eq. (2.8) to obtain solution of Eq. (1.2).

Remark 2.5. In [1, page 26, Theorem 2.1.2], under some assumptions, it was shown that the linear form of the algebraic system (2.10) is nonsingular.

3. The Modified Degenerate Kernel Method

The modified degenerate kernel method (MDKM) is obtained by approximating source function using the same way of producing degenerate kernel denoted by Eq. (2.3) [11]. Then we write

$$f_n(x) = \sum_{i=1}^{n} \beta_i \phi_i(x), \tag{3.1}$$

where β_i, $i = 1, 2, ..., n$, are known. Therefore Eqs. (2.8) and (2.10) become as follows

$$u_n(x;\boldsymbol{\alpha}) = \sum_{i=1}^{n} (\alpha_i + \beta_i)\phi_i(x), \tag{3.2}$$

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and

$$\alpha_i = \int_a^b \psi_i \left(t, \sum_{j=1}^{n} (\alpha_j + \beta_j)\phi_j(t) \right) \mathrm{d}t, i = 1, ..., n, \tag{3.3}$$

respectively. In this case, we have the approximate equation $u_n - \mathcal{K}_n[u_n] = f_n$.

Remark 3.1. The nonlinear algebraic systems denoted by Eqs. (2.10) and (3.3) are nontrivial systems to solve, and usually some variant of Newton's method is used to find an approximating of solution. A major difficulty is that the integrals in them will need to be numerically evaluated. Also, the role of initial guesses in Newton's method is very important, for more details refer to [11].

Remark 3.2. In Lagrange interpolation, for collocation nodes x_r, $r = 1, 2, ...n$, we assume that $\phi_i(x_r) = \delta_{ir}$. On the other hand, from Eqs. (2.3) and (3.1) we find $\psi_i(t, u(t)) = K(x_i, t, u(t))$ and $\beta_i = f(x_i)$ respectively.

Remark 3.3. In what follows, we show that when the Lagrange interpolation method is used for the needed approximations, MKDM is equivalent to the Lagrange-collocation method. In Lagrange interpolation method, we choose $\phi_i(x) = l_i(x)$, $i = 1, 2, ..., n$, where $l_i(x)$ are Lagrange polynomials at collocation nodes x_i, $i = 1, 2, ..., n$. From Eq. (3.2) we have $u(x_r) \approx u_n(x_r; \boldsymbol{\alpha}) = \alpha_r + f(x_r)$, $r = 1, ..., n$. Therefore, Eq. (3.3) is equivalent to the following algebraic system

$$u_i = f_i + \int_a^b K \left(x_i, t, \sum_{j=1}^{n} u_j l_j(t) \right) \mathrm{d}t, i = 1, ..., n. \tag{3.4}$$

where $u_i = u(x_i)$ and $f_i = f(x_i)$, $i = 1, ..., n$. By solving Eq. (3.4) the values of u_i, $i = 1, ..., n$, is provided approximately such as $\tilde{u}_i$, $i = 1, ..., n$. Thus, the n-order Lagrange interpolation approximation of solution is fund as $\tilde{u}_n(x) = \sum_{j=1}^{n} \tilde{u}_j l_j(x)$. It is clear that Eq. (3.4) is equivalent to $r_n(x_i) = 0$, $i = 1, ..., n$, where $r_n(x)$ is residual in the approximation when using $u(x) \approx \tilde{u}_n(x)$. For more details on relationship of degenerate kernel and projection methods, on Fredholm integral equations of the second kind, refer to [12]

Remark 3.4. According to the Remark 3.3, the presented algorithm can give an exact solution of Eq. (1.2) when this equation has an exact solution in the form of a polynomial.

3.1. **Error and convergence analysis of MDKM.** There are two major approaches to the error analysis of equation $u - \mathcal{K}[u] = f$: (1) Linearize the problem and apply the Banach fixed point theorem, (2) Apply the theory associated with the rotation of a completely continuous vector field [2, page 542]. Here, we modify the second part of the Theorem 2.1.

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Theorem 3.5. *Under the assumptions of Theorem 2.3, for the equations* $u - \mathcal{K}[u] = f$ *and* $u_n - \mathcal{K}_n[u_n] = f_n$*, we have*

$$\|u - u_n\|_\infty \leqslant \frac{e_n(f) + \tilde{\mathcal{K}}_n}{1 - L_\mathcal{K}}, \tag{3.5}$$

where $e_n(f) = \|f - f_n\|_\infty$, $\tilde{\mathcal{K}}_n = \|\mathcal{K}[u_n] - \mathcal{K}_n[u_n]\|_\infty$.

Proof. We have

$$u - u_n = f - f_n + \mathcal{K}[u] - \mathcal{K}[u_n] + \mathcal{K}[u_n] - \mathcal{K}_n[u_n],$$

therefore

$$\|u - u_n\|_\infty \leq e_n(f) + L_\mathcal{K}\|u - u_n\|_\infty + \tilde{\mathcal{K}}_n,$$

this completes the proof. □

Remark 3.6. From (2.4) and (3.5), we find that if $\|\mathcal{K} - \mathcal{K}_n\|$ and $e_n(f)$ converge rapidly to zero, then the same is true of $\|u - u_n\|_\infty$.

Remark 3.7. As shown in Remark 3.3, MDKM is equivalent to the Lagrange-collocation method, therefore, for the linear case, we can use the following theorem as already given in [1, page 55, Theorem 3.1.1] and [2, page 479, Theorem 12.1.2].

Theorem 3.8. *Let* X *be a Banach space, and let* $\{X_n | n \geq 1\}$ *be a sequence of finite dimensional subspaces, say of dimension* d_n*. Let* $\mathcal{P}_n : X \to X$*, be a bounded projection operator. Assume* $\mathcal{K} : X \to X$ *is bounded and* $1 - \mathcal{K} : X \xrightarrow[\text{into}]{1-1} X$*. Further, assume*

$$\|\mathcal{K} - \mathcal{P}_n\mathcal{K}\| \to 0 \quad \text{as} \quad n \to \infty,$$

Then for all sufficiently large n*, say* $n \geq N$*, the operator* $(1 - \mathcal{P}_n\mathcal{K})^{-1}$ *exists as a bounded operator from* X *to* X*. Moreover, it is uniformly bounded*

$$\sup_{n \geq N} \left\| (1 - \mathcal{P}_n\mathcal{K})^{-1} \right\| < \infty.$$

For the solutions of equations $(1 - \mathcal{K})u = f$ *and* $(1 - \mathcal{P}_n\mathcal{K})u_n = \mathcal{P}_n f$*, we have*

$$u - u_n = (1 - \mathcal{P}_n\mathcal{K})^{-1}(u - \mathcal{P}_n u),$$

and the two-sided error estimate

$$\frac{\|u - \mathcal{P}_n u\|}{\|1 - \mathcal{P}_n\mathcal{K}\|} \leq \|u - u_n\| \leq \left\| (1 - \mathcal{P}_n\mathcal{K})^{-1} \right\| \|u - \mathcal{P}_n u\|.$$

This leads to a conclusion that $\|u - u_n\|$ *converges to zero at exactly the same speed as* $\|u - \mathcal{P}_n u\|$*.*

Proof. Refer to [1, 2] by setting $\lambda = 1$. □

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4. Test Examples

To show the efficiency of the present procedures described in the previous part, we present some examples. For comparison the solution given by MDKM with the exact solution, we report the maximum error which is defined by

$$\|E_{u_i}[a,b]\| = \max_{a\le x\le b} |u_i(x) - u_{i,n}(x)|, \tag{4.1}$$

where $u_{i,n}(x)$ is the n-order approximation of $u_i(x)$ corresponding to the n-order solution given by MDKM.

Example 4.1. Consider the following system of the Fredholm integral equations of the second kind with some non-degenerate kernels

$$\begin{cases} u_1(x) = \frac{3}{4}x - \frac{e^x(x-1)+1}{x^2} + \int_0^1 e^{xt}u_1(t)dt + \int_0^1 xtu_2(t)dt, \\ \\ u_2(x) = \frac{2}{3}x^2 - \frac{2-e^{-x}(x^2+2x+2)}{x^3} + \int_0^1 x^2tu_1(t)dt + \int_0^1 e^{-xt}u_2(t)dt. \end{cases} \tag{4.2}$$

The exact solution is $(u_1(x), u_2(x)) = (x, x^2)$. By choosing three equally-spaced collocation nodes, to make a degenerate approximation of the kernel as well as an approximation of same order to the source functions, and using the MDKM, we find

$$\begin{cases} \alpha_{1,1,1} = \frac{1}{2}, \alpha_{1,2,1} = 4 - 2\sqrt{e}, \alpha_{1,3,1} = 1, \alpha_{1,1,2} = \frac{1}{4}, \\ \\ \alpha_{2,1,1} = \alpha_{2,1,2} = \frac{1}{3}, \alpha_{2,2,2} = 16 - \frac{26}{\sqrt{e}}, \alpha_{2,3,2} = 2 - \frac{5}{e}, \end{cases} \tag{4.3}$$

and

$$\begin{cases} u_1(x;\boldsymbol{\alpha}) = -4x^2\alpha_{1,2,1} + (2x^2-1)\alpha_{1,3,1} + \left(2x^2 - 3x + 1\right)\alpha_{1,1,1} \\ +x\alpha_{1,1,2} + 4x\alpha_{1,2,1} - 8\sqrt{e}x^2 + 13x^2 + 8\sqrt{e}x - \frac{51}{4}x - \frac{1}{2}, \\ \\ u_2(x;\boldsymbol{\alpha}) = x^2\alpha_{2,1,1} - 4(x-1)x\alpha_{2,2,2} + (2x-1)x\alpha_{2,3,2} + x - \frac{1}{3} \\ -\frac{2x^2}{3} + (x-1)(2x-1)\alpha_{2,1,2} + 2\left(\frac{5}{e} - \frac{4}{3}\right)\left(x - \frac{1}{2}\right)x \\ +\frac{2\left(95\sqrt{e}-156\right)(x-1)x}{3\sqrt{e}}. \end{cases} \tag{4.4}$$

Substituting (4.3) in (4.4) gives the exact solution of Eq. (4.2)

$$u_1(x) = x, u_2(x) = x^2.$$

It is important to notice that, in Eq. (4.2), we have $f_1(0) = -\frac{1}{2}$ and $f_2(0) = -\frac{1}{3}$. Also, by choosing three Chebyshev collocation nodes, for needed approximations and using Newton method to obtain numerical solution of the corresponding algebraic system, by increasing the significant digits to 50, MDKM gives the exact solution of Eq. (4.2).

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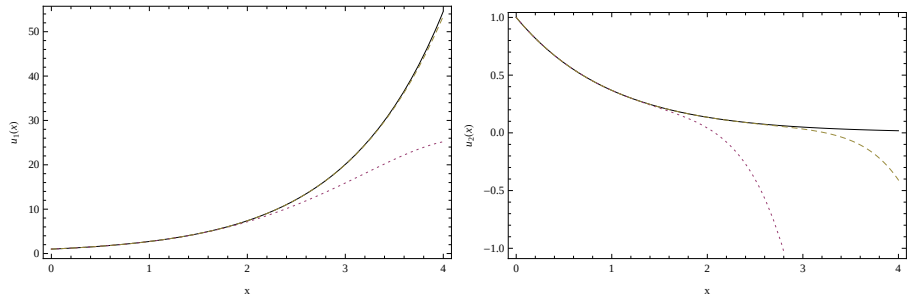


FIGURE 1. Comparison of the exact solution with approximation solutions given by MDKM for Example 4.2. Solid line: exact solution, dashed line: 9th-order and dotted line: 5th-order approximations.

EXAMPLE 4.2. Consider the following system of the Fredholm integral equations of the second kind with some non-degenerate kernels [13, 7]

$$\begin{cases} u_1(x) = 2e^x + \frac{e^{x+1}-1}{x+1} - \int_0^1 e^{x-t}u_1(t)dt - \int_0^1 e^{(x+2)t}u_2(t)dt, \\ u_2(x) = e^x + e^{-x} + \frac{e^{x+1}-1}{x+1} - \int_0^1 e^{xt}u_1(t)dt - \int_0^1 e^{x+t}u_2(t)dt. \end{cases} \tag{4.5}$$

The exact solution is $(u_1(x), u_2(x)) = (e^x, e^{-x})$. Fig. 1 and Table 1 show the results of applying the interpolation with equally-spaced collocation nodes to make the degenerate approximations for the non-degenerate kernels as well as source functions in Eq. (4.5). In this case, the obtained results are related to the numerical solutions of the corresponding algebraic system. This numerical results are obtained by using the Newton method by increasing the significant digits to 50.

Table 1. Results for Example 4.2.

nodes	$\|E_{u_1}[0,1]\|$	$\|E_{u_2}[0,1]\|$
3	3.15572×10^{-02}	9.19461×10^{-03}
5	1.03176×10^{-04}	2.67876×10^{-05}
7	2.31895×10^{-07}	6.15433×10^{-08}
9	3.42516×10^{-10}	9.31577×10^{-11}
11	3.51587×10^{-13}	1.00920×10^{-13}
13	2.63874×10^{-16}	7.71218×10^{-17}
15	1.50739×10^{-19}	4.46165×10^{-20}

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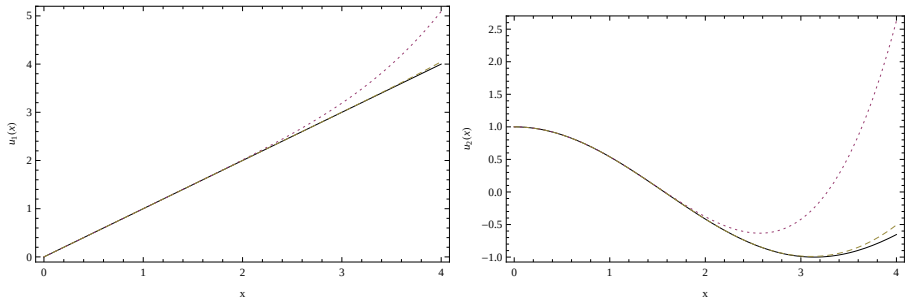


FIGURE 2. Comparison of the exact solution with approximation solutions given by MDKM for Example 4.3. Solid line: exact solution, dashed line: 9th-order and dotted line: 5th-order approximations.

EXAMPLE 4.3. Consider the following system of the Fredholm integral equations of the second kind with some non-degenerate kernels [13, 8, 9]

$$\begin{cases} u_1(x) = x + \frac{1}{3}\cos(x) + \frac{1}{2}x\sin^2(1) - \int_0^1 t\cos(x)u_1(t)dt - \int_0^1 x\sin(t)u_2(t)dt, \\ u_2(x) = f_2(x) - \int_0^1 e^{xt^2}u_1(t)dt - \int_0^1 (x+t)u_2(t)dt. \end{cases} \tag{4.6}$$

where $f_2(x) = \cos(x) + \frac{e^x-1}{2x} + (x+1)\sin(1) + \cos(1) - 1$. The exact solution is $(u_1(x), u_2(x)) = (x, \cos(x))$. Fig. 2 and Table 2 show the results of applying the interpolation with equally-spaced collocation nodes to make the degenerate approximations for the non-degenerate kernels as well as source functions in Eq. (4.6). Similar to the Example 4.2, the obtained results are related to the numerical solutions of the corresponding algebraic system. This numerical results are obtained by using the Newton method by increasing the significant digits to 50. It is important to notice that, in Eq. (4.6), we have $f_2(0) = \frac{1}{2} + \sin(1) + \cos(1)$.

Table 2. Results for Example 3.

nodes	$\|E_{u_1}[0,1]\|$	$\|E_{u_2}[0,1]\|$
3	1.28593×10^{-03}	3.86950×10^{-03}
5	4.33040×10^{-06}	1.49202×10^{-05}
7	9.99420×10^{-09}	3.43136×10^{-09}
9	1.50465×10^{-11}	5.08941×10^{-11}
11	1.60610×10^{-14}	5.22394×10^{-14}
13	1.21916×10^{-17}	3.91615×10^{-17}
15	7.01952×10^{-21}	2.23399×10^{-20}

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5. Conclusion

In this paper, a modified degenerate kernel method (MDKM) was applied to the system of Fredholm integral equations of the second kind. The results show that the MDKM is a promising tool to handle this type of equations. We used the Lagrange polynomials as base functions for needed approximations, and in this case, the MDKM becomes as a collocation method, namely Lagrange-collocation method. The alternative of using Bernstein and Chebyshev polynomials as well as sinc functions are also possible. Finally, extension of the method to higher dimensional can be accommodated. We pointed out that the corresponding analytical and numerical results are obtained using Mathematica.

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