
Subject: Re: Solving system of ODEs backwards in time?

Posted by [Markus Schmassmann](#) on Wed, 02 Aug 2017 14:58:32 GMT

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On 07/30/2017 08:37 PM, Barry Lesht wrote:

> I have a system of ODEs describing how a system with N state
> variables (C) evolves in time. The basic equation set is $dC/dt = (W$
> $+ A \cdot C) / V$ in which C is the state variable vector at time i, V
> is a vector of constants, W is a known vector (a function of t), and
> A is a known matrix (similarly time variable). Given an initial
> condition C[0], I've been using LSODE to solve for the successive
> time steps, updating the initial condition and values of W and A
> along the way. This has worked well.
>
> Now I'd like to reverse the problem. That is, if I know the value of
> the state vector at time i, and the values of W and A at time i-1,
> I'd like to compute the value of the state vector at time i-1. In
> essence, I want to know what the initial condition had to be to
> arrive at the current state of the system given known V, W and A.
>
> Frankly, it's been many, many years since I took an ODE class and I
> wasn't very adept then. I'd greatly appreciate any advice on how to
> approach this problem.

; example inputs

n=10

tt=100

w=randomu(seed,n,tt-1,/double)

a=randomu(seed,n,n,tt-1,/double)

v=randomu(seed,n,/double)*100

c0=randomu(seed,n,/double)

; run it forward

ca=dblarr(n,tt)

ca[:,0]=c0

for i=0,tt-2 do ca[:,i+1]=ca[:,i]+(w[:,i]+a[:,*,i]*ca[:,i])/v

; run it back

cb=dblarr(n,tt)

cb[:,tt-1]=ca[:,0]

diag_v=dblarr(n,n)

diag_v[lindgen(n),lindgen(n)]=v

for i=tt-2,0,-1 do cb[:,i]=invert(diag_v+a[:,*,i+1])*(cb[:,i+1]*v-w[:,i])

; compare results

print, ca[:,0]

print, cb[:,0]

however, if `diag_v+A+a[:,*,i]` can't be inverted you get nonsense as result.

So check it by running the inversion forward again

I hope this helps, Markus
