# Galerkin RBF for Integro-Differential Equations 

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## Original Research Article

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#### Abstract

Two methods based on the Galerkin method with Radial basis Functions (RBF) as bases are applied to solve integro-differential equations (IDEs). In the first approach, direct Galerkin RBF method, the unknown function of the IDE is approximated by RBFs and then the derivatives of it are replaced by the derivatives of RBFs. In the second one, indirect Galerkin RBF method, the derivative of the unknown function is approximated by RBFs and then lower order derivatives and unknown function itself are computed by integrating of RBFs. Therefore the Galerkin method is applied to compute these coefficients. Double integrals that appeared in the process, can be reduced to single integrals by using a formula of iterated integrals. In complicated cases, single integrals approximated by Legendre-Gauss-Lobatto quadrature. Illustrative examples are included to demonstrate the validity and applicability of the presented techniques. A comparison of applying these methods shows the efficiency and high accuracy of the indirect Galerkin RBF method rather than direct Galerkin RBF method.


Keywords: Integro-differential equations (IDEs); Radial Basis Functions (RBF); Galerkin method; Legendre-Gauss-Lobatto quadrature; iterated integrals.

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## 1 Introduction

Integral and integro-differential equations arise from various applications, like physics, engineering, biology, medicine, economics, potential theory and many others (See $[1,2,3]$ and references therein). In recent years, a lot of attention has been devoted to the study of integro-differential equations (IDEs) such as sine-cosine wavelets [4], Bessel functions [5] Homotopy Analysis Method [6], Homotopy Perturbation Method [7], Adomian Decomposition Method [8, 9], Variational iteration method [10, 11], differential transform method [12], Compact Finite Difference Method [13], and Galerkin method [14, 15].

The aim of this paper is to approximate the solution of integro-differential equations of the second kind, in the following general form

$$
\begin{align*}
y^{\prime}(x) & =f(x)+\int_{a}^{b} K(x, t) y(t) d t, & a \leq x \leq b,  \tag{1.1}\\
y(a) & =\alpha_{0}, & \tag{1.2}
\end{align*}
$$

where $y(x)$ is an unknown real function defined on the closed interval $[a, b]$, and $f(x)$ is an analytic known function. Moreover the kernel $K(x, t)$ is defined on the interval $a \leq x, t \leq b$.

Since 1990, radial basis function method [16] is used as a well-known family of meshless methods to approximate the solutions of various types of linear and nonlinear functional equations such as Partial Differential Equations (PDEs), Ordinary Differential Equations (ODEs), Integral Equations (IEs), and Integro-Differential Equation (IDEs) [16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22]. The most of these methods are used radial functions as bases for collocation method. Meshless Galerkin methods using radial basis functions were first introduced by H . Wendland [23] and then a few researchers used the method for solving PDEs [24, 25, 26]. In recent years, there are some applications of Galerkin method [27, 14, 15].

In this paper, RBFs are used in the Galerkin method as basis functions in an indirect approach. Indirect Galerkin method approximates the derivative of unknown function of the equation by a finite linear combination of basis functions.

This paper is organized as follows. In Section 2, the Radial Basis Functions are introduced. Section 3, reviews the Legendre-Gauss-Lobatto integration method. Section 4, as the main part, presents the solution of integro-differential equations by direct and indirect Galerkin RBF methods. Numerical examples are presented in Section 5. A conclusion is drawn in the Section 6.

## 2 Radial Basis Functions

Approximation of a function $u: \mathbb{R}^{d} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ by RBF can be presented as the following [28]

$$
\begin{equation*}
s_{N}(\mathbf{x}):=\sum_{i=0}^{N} \lambda_{i} \phi\left(\left\|\mathbf{x}-\mathbf{x}_{i}\right\|\right), \quad \mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^{d} \tag{2.1}
\end{equation*}
$$

Where $\phi:[0, \infty) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is a fixed univariate function, the coefficients $\left(\lambda_{i}\right)_{i=0}^{N}$ are real numbers, $\left(\mathbf{x}_{i}\right)_{i=0}^{N}$ is a set of interpolation points in $\mathbb{R}^{d}$, and $\|\cdot\|$ is the Euclidean norm.

Eq. (2.1) can be written as follows

$$
\begin{equation*}
s_{N}(\mathbf{x}):=\sum_{i=0}^{N} \lambda_{i} \phi_{i}(\mathbf{x})=\boldsymbol{\Phi}^{T}(\mathbf{x}) \boldsymbol{\Lambda} \tag{2.2}
\end{equation*}
$$

where

$$
\begin{aligned}
\phi_{i}(\mathbf{x}) & =\phi\left(\left\|\mathbf{x}-\mathbf{x}_{i}\right\|\right), \\
\boldsymbol{\Phi}(\mathbf{x}) & =\left[\phi_{0}(\mathbf{x}), \phi_{1}(\mathbf{x}), \ldots, \phi_{N}(\mathbf{x})\right]^{T}, \\
\boldsymbol{\Lambda} & =\left[\lambda_{0}, \lambda_{1}, \ldots, \lambda_{N}\right]^{T} .
\end{aligned}
$$

Consider $N+1$ distinct support points $\left(\mathbf{x}_{j}, u\left(\mathbf{x}_{j}\right)\right), j=0,1, \ldots, N$. One can use interpolation conditions to find $\lambda_{i} \mathrm{~S}$ by solving the following linear system

$$
\mathbf{A} \mathbf{\Lambda}=\mathbf{u}
$$

in which

$$
\mathbf{A}=\left[\phi\left(\left\|\mathbf{x}_{j}-\mathbf{x}_{i}\right\|\right)\right]_{i, j=0}^{N}
$$

and $\mathbf{u}=\left[u\left(\mathbf{x}_{0}\right), u\left(\mathbf{x}_{1}\right), \ldots, u\left(\mathbf{x}_{N}\right)\right]^{T}$.
Some well-known RBFs are listed in Table 1, where the Euclidian distance $r$ is real and non-negative, and $c$ is a positive scalar, called the shape parameter. Some of RBFs are unconditionally positive

Table 1: Some well-known RBFs

| Name of the RBF | Definition |
| :--- | :--- |
| Gaussian | $\phi(r)=e^{-(c r)^{2}}$ |
| Inverse Quadric | $\phi(r)=\frac{1}{r^{2}+c^{2}}$ |
| Hardy Multiquadric | $\phi(r)=\sqrt{r^{2}+c^{2}}$ |
| Inverse Multiquadric | $\phi(r)=\frac{1}{\sqrt{r^{2}+c^{2}}}$ |
| Cubic | $\phi(r)=r^{3}$ |
| Thin Plate Spline | $\phi(r)=r^{2} \log (r)$ |
| Hyperbolic Secant | $\phi(r)=\operatorname{sech}\left(\frac{r}{c}\right)$ |

definite (e.g. Gaussian or Inverse Multiquadrics) to guarantee that the resulting system is solvable, and some of them are conditionally positive definite. Although, some of RBFs are conditionally positive definite functions, polynomials are augmented to Eq. (2.1) to guarantee that the outcome interpolation matrix is invertible. Such an approximation can be expressed as follows

$$
\begin{equation*}
s(\mathbf{x})=\sum_{i=0}^{N} \lambda_{i} \phi\left(\left\|\mathbf{x}-\mathbf{x}_{i}\right\|\right)+\sum_{i=1}^{l} \lambda_{N+i} p_{i}(\mathbf{x}), \quad \mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^{d} . \tag{2.3}
\end{equation*}
$$

where $p_{i}(\mathbf{x}), i=1, \ldots, l$, are polynomials on $\mathbb{R}^{d}$ of degree at most $m$, and $l=\binom{m-1}{d}$. Here $l$ is the dimension of the linear space $\Pi_{m-1}^{d}$ of polynomials of total degree less than or equal to $m-1$, of $d$ variables.

Collocation method is used to determinate the coefficients $\left(\lambda_{0}, \lambda_{1}, \ldots, \lambda_{N}\right)$ and $\left(\lambda_{N+1}, \lambda_{N+2}, \ldots, \lambda_{N+l}\right)$. This will produce $N+1$ equations at $N+1$ points. $l$ additional equations is usually written in the following form

$$
\begin{equation*}
\sum_{i=0}^{N} \lambda_{i} p_{j}\left(\mathbf{x}_{i}\right)=0, \quad j=1, \ldots, l . \tag{2.4}
\end{equation*}
$$

## 3 Legendre-Gauss-Lobatto Quadrature

Let $L_{N}$ be the well-known Legendre polynomial of order $N$, on the interval $[-1,1]$. Then the Legendre-Gauss-Lobatto nodes are

$$
\begin{gather*}
\left(1-x_{j}^{2}\right) L_{N}^{\prime}\left(x_{j}\right)=0, \\
-1=x_{0}<x_{1}<\ldots<x_{N}=1, \tag{3.1}
\end{gather*}
$$

where $x_{m}, 1 \leq m \leq N-1$ are the zeros of $L_{N}^{\prime}$, where $L_{N}^{\prime}$ is the derivative of $L_{N}$ with respect to $x \in[-1,1]$. No explicit formula for the nodes (3.1) is known, and so they are computed numerically using sub-routines $[29,30,31]$. Now we approximate the integral of $f$ on $[-1,1]$ as

$$
\begin{equation*}
\int_{-1}^{1} f(x) d x=\sum_{i=0}^{N} w_{j} f\left(x_{j}\right), \tag{3.2}
\end{equation*}
$$

where $x_{j}$ in Eq. (3.1) are Legendre-Gauss-Lobatto nodes and $w_{j}$ are the weights given in [32]

$$
\begin{equation*}
w_{j}=\frac{2}{N(N+1)} \frac{1}{\left(L_{N}\left(x_{j}\right)\right)^{2}}, \quad j=0,1, \ldots, N \tag{3.3}
\end{equation*}
$$

Note that the integration in Eq. (3.2) is exact whenever $f(x)$ is a polynomial of degree $\leq 2 N+1$.

## 4 Galerkin RBF Method

For implementing the Galerkin method, our functions belong to a complete normed linear vector space, with the following inner product

$$
<f, g>:=\int_{a}^{b} f(x) g(x) d x
$$

and the following norm

$$
\|f\|=\left(\int_{a}^{b} f^{2}(x) d x\right)^{\frac{1}{2}}
$$

### 4.1 Galerkin RBF Method

In the direct method, the solution of Eq. (1.1) approximated by a finite linear combination of radial basis functions, as follows

$$
\begin{equation*}
y(x)=\sum_{i=0}^{N} \lambda_{i} \phi_{i}(x)+\sum_{i=1}^{m-1} \lambda_{N+i} p_{i}(x) \tag{4.1}
\end{equation*}
$$

where

$$
\phi_{i}(x)=\phi\left(\left\|x-x_{i}\right\|\right),
$$

$x_{i}, i=0,1, \ldots, N$, are centers, and $p_{i}(\mathbf{x}), i=1, \ldots, m-1$, are polynomials on $\mathbb{R}$ of degree at most $m-1$. By defining $\phi_{N+i}(x)=p_{i}(x)$, for $i=1, \ldots, m-1$, we can write Eq. (4.1) in the following form

$$
\begin{equation*}
y(x)=\boldsymbol{\Phi}^{T}(x) \boldsymbol{\Lambda}, \tag{4.2}
\end{equation*}
$$

where

$$
\boldsymbol{\Phi}^{T}(x)=\left[\phi_{0}(x), \phi_{1}(x), \ldots, \phi_{N+m-1}(x)\right],
$$

and

$$
\boldsymbol{\Lambda}=\left[\lambda_{0}, \lambda_{1}, \ldots, \lambda_{N+m-1}\right]^{T}
$$

is an unknown vector.

By differentiating from Eq. (4.1), we obtain

$$
\begin{equation*}
y^{\prime}(x)=\mathcal{D} \boldsymbol{\Phi}^{T}(x) \boldsymbol{\Lambda} \tag{4.3}
\end{equation*}
$$

where

$$
\mathcal{D} \boldsymbol{\Phi}^{T}(x)=\left[\phi_{0}^{\prime}(x), \phi_{1}^{\prime}(x), \ldots, \phi_{N+m-1}^{\prime}(x)\right]
$$

Substituting Eqs. (4.1) and (4.3) in Eq. (1.1), leads to

$$
\begin{equation*}
\mathcal{D} \boldsymbol{\Phi}^{T}(x) \boldsymbol{\Lambda}=f(x)+\int_{a}^{b} K(x, t) \boldsymbol{\Phi}^{T}(x) \boldsymbol{\Lambda} d t \tag{4.4}
\end{equation*}
$$

Inner product of two sides of Eq. (4.4) by $\phi_{j}(x), j=0,1, \ldots, N+m-1$, generates a system of linear equations for the unknowns $\lambda_{i}, i=0, \ldots, N+m-1$.

$$
\begin{equation*}
<\phi_{j}(x), \mathcal{D}\left(\boldsymbol{\Phi}^{T}(x)\right)>\boldsymbol{\Lambda}=<\phi_{j}(x), f(x)>+<\phi_{j}(x), \int_{a}^{b} K(x, t)\left(\boldsymbol{\Phi}^{T}(t)\right) d t>\boldsymbol{\Lambda} \tag{4.5}
\end{equation*}
$$

where $j=0,1, \ldots, N+m-1$. By using the Legendre-Gauss-Lobatto quadrature, we can approximate the integrals appeared in Eq. (4.5).

One can substitute initial condition

$$
\boldsymbol{\Phi}^{T}(a) \boldsymbol{\Lambda}=\alpha_{0}
$$

for an equation in the foregoing linear system.

### 4.2 Indirect Galerkin RBF Method

In order to apply indirect Galerkin RBF (IGRBF) method, let's approximate $y^{\prime}(x)$ in terms of radial basis functions $\phi_{i}(x), i=0, \ldots, N$ and polynomials $p_{i}(x)=: \phi_{N+i}(x), i=1, \ldots, m-1$ as follows

$$
\begin{align*}
y^{\prime}(x) & =\sum_{i=0}^{N} \lambda_{i} \phi_{i}(x)+\sum_{i=1}^{m-1} \lambda_{N+i} p_{i}(x) \\
& =\boldsymbol{\Phi}^{T}(x) \boldsymbol{\Lambda} \tag{4.6}
\end{align*}
$$

Integrating of the Eq. (4.6) yields an expression for the original function:

$$
\begin{aligned}
\int_{a}^{x} y^{\prime}(t) d t & =y(x)-y(a) \\
& =\sum_{i=0}^{N+m-1} \lambda_{i} \int_{a}^{x} \phi_{i}(t) d t=\mathcal{I} \boldsymbol{\Phi}^{T}(x) \boldsymbol{\Lambda}
\end{aligned}
$$

or

$$
\begin{equation*}
y(x)=\mathcal{I} \boldsymbol{\Phi}^{T}(x) \boldsymbol{\Lambda}+y(a) \tag{4.7}
\end{equation*}
$$

where $y(a)$ is known from the initial condition and

$$
\mathcal{I} \boldsymbol{\Phi}^{T}(x)=\left[\int_{a}^{x} \phi_{0}(t) d t, \int_{a}^{x} \phi_{1}(t) d t, \ldots, \int_{a}^{x} \phi_{N+m-1}(t) d t\right]
$$

Substituting from Eqs. (4.6) and (4.7) in Eq. (1.1), leads to

$$
\boldsymbol{\Phi}^{T}(x) \boldsymbol{\Lambda}=f(x)+\int_{a}^{b} K(x, t) \mathcal{I} \boldsymbol{\Phi}^{T}(t) \boldsymbol{\Lambda} d t
$$

or

$$
\begin{equation*}
\left(\boldsymbol{\Phi}^{T}(x)-\int_{a}^{b} K(x, t) \mathcal{I} \boldsymbol{\Phi}^{T}(t) d t\right) \boldsymbol{\Lambda}=f(x) . \tag{4.8}
\end{equation*}
$$

Inner product of two sides of Eq. (4.8) by $\phi_{j}(x), j=0,1, \ldots, N+m-1$, generates a system of linear equations for the unknowns $\lambda_{i}, i=0, \ldots, N+m-1$

$$
\begin{equation*}
<\phi_{j},\left(\boldsymbol{\Phi}^{T}(x)-\int_{a}^{b} K(x, t) \mathcal{I} \boldsymbol{\Phi}^{T}(t) d t\right)>\boldsymbol{\Lambda}=<\phi_{j}, f(x)>. \tag{4.9}
\end{equation*}
$$

Now numerical quadratures can be applied. Finally approximate solution of Eq. (1.1), is given by (4.7).

The convergency of radial basis function interpolation has been discussed by Buhmann [33, 28] and other researchers [34, 35, 36]. Also the error analysis of the IGRBF method are discussed in [26, 23].

## 5 Numerical Examples

In this section, two examples are provided to illustrate the efficiency of this approach. For the sake of comparing purposes, we use the norm two of errors, and centers, $x_{i}$ are roots of Legendre polynomial of degree $N$.

### 5.1 Example

Let us consider the following first order Volterra IDE

$$
\begin{equation*}
y^{\prime}=1-2 x \sin (x)+\int_{0}^{x} y(t) d t, \quad y(0)=0, \quad 0 \leq x \leq 1 . \tag{5.1}
\end{equation*}
$$

with the exact solution $y(x)=x \cos (x)$.

Errors of the numerical solutions of Eq. (5.1) by Galerkin RBF (GRBF) and indirect Galerkin RBF (IGRBF) for $N=10,15,20$, and three different RBFs, Gaussian (GA), Multiquadric (MQ), and Inverse Multiquadric (IMQ), are shown in Table 2

Table 2: Errors for Example 1

|  | GA |  | MQ |  | IMQ |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| N | GRBF | IGRBF | GRBF | IGRBF | GRBF | IGRBF |
| 10 | $2.8852 \mathrm{e}-07$ | $4.1743 \mathrm{e}-08$ | $3.2830 \mathrm{e}-07$ | $3.4020 \mathrm{e}-08$ | $8.0619 \mathrm{e}-07$ | $8.9479 \mathrm{e}-08$ |
| 15 | $2.6959 \mathrm{e}-07$ | $1.9768 \mathrm{e}-07$ | $1.9996 \mathrm{e}-06$ | $8.0225 \mathrm{e}-07$ | $3.6005 \mathrm{e}-07$ | $6.0615 \mathrm{e}-08$ |
| 20 | $9.0134 \mathrm{e}-07$ | $3.0391 \mathrm{e}-07$ | $4.7677 \mathrm{e}-07$ | $1.0683 \mathrm{e}-07$ | $1.1740 \mathrm{e}-06$ | $2.5984 \mathrm{e}-07$ |

### 5.2 Example

Consider the following IDE

$$
\begin{equation*}
y^{\prime}(x)=(1+x) \cos (x)-\sin (x)+\int_{0}^{x} t y(t) d t, y(0)=0, \quad 0 \leq x \leq 1 \tag{5.2}
\end{equation*}
$$

The exact solution is $y(x)=\sin (x)$.
Errors of the numerical solutions of Eq. (5.2) by GRBF and IGRBF for $N=10,15,20$, and three different RBFs, Gaussian (GA), Multiquadric (MQ), and Inverse Multiquadric (IMQ), are shown in Table 3.

Table 3: Errors for Example 2

|  | GA |  | MQ |  | IMQ |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| N | GRBF | IGRBF | GRBF | IGRBF | GRBF | IGRBF |
| 10 | $2.4904 \mathrm{e}-07$ | $1.2027 \mathrm{e}-08$ | $8.2300 \mathrm{e}-08$ | $1.3740 \mathrm{e}-08$ | $3.4477 \mathrm{e}-07$ | $2.7402 \mathrm{e}-08$ |
| 15 | $1.6148 \mathrm{e}-07$ | $9.7282 \mathrm{e}-07$ | $1.9535 \mathrm{e}-07$ | $9.2351 \mathrm{e}-08$ | $2.2556 \mathrm{e}-07$ | $3.0249 \mathrm{e}-08$ |
| 20 | $5.6848 \mathrm{e}-06$ | $3.4122 \mathrm{e}-07$ | $2.3654 \mathrm{e}-07$ | $3.9182 \mathrm{e}-08$ | $3.2451 \mathrm{e}-07$ | $3.1201 \mathrm{e}-08$ |

## 6 Conclusion

Two new approaches based on Galerkin and RBF method are considered for solving integrodifferential equations. The first one, used RBFs as base functions for Galerkin method by approximating the unknown function of Eq. (1.1). In the second one, indirect Galerkin RBF method, Galerkin method used RBFs as base functions by approximating the derivative of the unknown function in Eq. (1.1). Two numerical examples are presented to demonstrate that these methods are very effective and useful for finding approximate solutions of integro-differential equations. The results show that IGRBF method is more effective than GRBF method.

## Competing Interests

The authors declare that no competing interests exist.

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