

# EXTRAPOLATION METHODS FOR THE NUMERICAL SOLUTION OF NONLINEAR FREDHOLM INTEGRAL EQUATIONS

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**ABSTRACT.** In this paper, we want to exemplify the use of extrapolation methods (namely, Shanks transformations, the recursive algorithms for their implementation, and the freely available corresponding `MATLAB` software) in the solution of nonlinear Fredholm integral equations of the second kind. Extrapolations methods are well known in some domains of numerical analysis and applied mathematics, but, unfortunately, they are not frequently used in other domains. Thus, after presenting the most simple iterative method for the solution of Fredholm equations, we will show how the sequence it produces can be accelerated (under some assumptions) and also how the underlying system of nonlinear equations generated by it can be solved quite efficiently by a restarting method. Numerical examples and comparisons with other methods demonstrate the usefulness of these procedures.

**1. Introduction and motivation.** Extrapolation methods (also called convergence acceleration methods) form a particular chapter of numerical analysis [17, 70]. They have been successfully used in several branches of applied mathematics. However, they do not seem to be well known from researchers working on integral equations. The aim of this paper is to present one of these extrapolation methods which is particularly well adapted to their solution, and render many services in this domain. We will focus on Fredholm integral equations which arise,

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for example, in signal processing, linear modeling, inverse problems, diffraction problems, scattering, conformal mapping, and water waves; see [67].

When a sequence (of numbers, vectors, matrices, tensors, or, more generally, elements of a vector space) is slowly converging, it can be transformed, by a *sequence transformation* into a new sequence which, under some assumptions, converges faster to the same limit. Since such transformations are based on the idea of extrapolation, they are also often named *extrapolation methods*. The most well-known such methods are, in the scalar case, Romberg's method for accelerating the trapezoidal rule for the evaluation of a definite integral and Aitken's  $\Delta^2$  process. Based on Aitken's process, Steffensen's method for solving a nonlinear equation in one unknown is also well established. Some of these methods have been extended to non-scalar sequences, and they have been successfully used in the solution of a number of problems in numerical analysis and applied mathematics [2, 14, 17, 18, 20, 25, 28, 29, 35, 36, 37, 38, 40, 47, 50, 55, 59, 61, 62, 66, 69].

In this paper, we propose a new approach for solving Fredholm equations by using a fixed point acceleration strategy. This kind of strategy is nowadays well known in the literature (and for various fields of application) but seems never to have been applied to the field of Fredholm equations.

Our method simply consists of evaluating the integral by a quadrature rule, then solving iteratively the corresponding system of nonlinear equations obtained by collocation, and finally, in accelerating these iterations by a sequence transformation implemented via a recursive algorithm. We also use a restarting procedure for this nonlinear system. Thus, our procedures are quite simple and easy to implement while many of the techniques encountered elsewhere are more sophisticated and difficult to implement.

It is not our purpose to produce a method able to successfully compete with all those which can be found in the literature. Moreover, it is clear that, since the quadrature rule we use for approximating the integral is simply the trapezoidal rule, more precise quadrature rules will probably lead to better results. We only want to introduce a new, efficient method in the toolbox of researchers working on the numerical solution of linear and nonlinear Fredholm integral equations of the second kind,

and to exemplify the use of extrapolation methods (namely, Shanks transformations and the corresponding recursive algorithms for their implementation) in this solution. We show that Shanks transformations are quite useful in accelerating the convergence of Picard iterations (or, more generally, relaxation methods) and that, coupled with a restarting procedure, they are an interesting way for solving the underlying system of nonlinear equations. The interest of an extrapolation method is that it can be used for accelerating the convergence of a sequence produced by any iterative method used for solving Fredholm equations and, by a restarting procedure, it leads to a simple method for solving fixed point problems. Thus, these methods can also be used for the acceleration of projection methods (Galerkin and collocation) [4]. Among these methods are the minimal polynomial extrapolation (MPE) [23], the modified minimal extrapolation (MMPE) [11, 54], the reduced rank extrapolation (RRE) [27, 48], the vector epsilon algorithm (VEA) [72], the topological epsilon algorithm (TEA) [11], and other extrapolation methods. Moreover, among previously cited extrapolation methods, only the methods given in this paper can easily be recursively implemented. All others, except the VEA and the MMPE, require the solution of a system of linear equations at each step. They have been tested on many numerical examples, and the results they produce are quite comparable. We mention that various generalizations of Padé approximants, some of which are connected to the  $\varepsilon$ -algorithm(s), were also used in the solution of integral equations [31, 32, 64].

Automatic programs for Fredholm integral equations can be found in [3, 6], but only for the linear case. Thus, the interest of this work also lies in the MATLAB software which is freely available and easy to use, while this is not the case for other methods presented in the literature. The MATLAB files *Extrapolation for nonlinear Fredholm integral equations*, producing our numerical results, can be downloaded from the Matlab file exchange site at [www.mathworks.com/matlabcentral/fileexchange/](http://www.mathworks.com/matlabcentral/fileexchange/). They also allow trial of them with other values of the various parameters and make new experiments. Moreover, additional integral equations have been included into the package. For the sequence transformations needed, these programs use the MATLAB toolbox `EPSfun`, which is freely available as `na44` from the `numeralgo` library of `netlib` [21].

Section 2 begins by fixing our notation for the Fredholm integral equation to be solved. In subsection 2.1, we describe the approximation

scheme that will be used for solving it. It simply consists of approximating the integral by a quadrature formula, namely, the trapezoidal rule. The system of nonlinear equations obtained by this approximation scheme is given in subsection 2.2, and the Picard iterative method (or the relaxation method) for its solution is explained in subsection 2.3. In Section 3, we present the sequence transformations that will be used for accelerating the sequence produced by the iterative method and for the solution of the system of nonlinear equations. We also discuss algorithms for their implementation. Section 4 is devoted to numerical examples showing the effectiveness of these procedures and comparisons with other methods.

**2. Fredholm integral equations.** We consider the following nonlinear *Fredholm integral equation of the second kind* with a given kernel  $K$ :

$$(2.1) \quad u(t) = \int_a^b K(t, x, u(x)) dx + f(t), \quad t \in [a, b].$$

This equation is also often said to be a *Urysohn integral equation*. It is assumed that  $K$  is neither singular nor weakly singular.

We assume that  $f, u \in C[a, b]$  and  $K \in C([a, b] \times [a, b] \times \mathbb{R})$ . If  $K$  satisfies a uniform Lipschitz condition

$$\begin{aligned} \|K(t, x, v) - K(t, x, w)\| &\leq L\|v - w\|, \\ \text{for all } t, x \in [a, b], \text{ and } v, w \in C[a, b], \end{aligned}$$

then this integral equation has a unique solution in  $C[a, b]$  if  $L(b-a) < 1$  [7, 74].

This equation will be solved by successive approximations (Picard iterations) starting from an initial approximation  $u^{(0)}(t)$

$$u^{(n+1)}(t) = \int_a^b K(t, x, u^{(n)}(x)) dx + f(t),$$

or, more generally, by the relaxation method

$$(2.2) \quad u^{(n+1)}(t) = u^{(n)}(t) - \alpha \left[ u^{(n)}(t) - \int_a^b K(t, x, u^{(n)}(x)) dx - f(t) \right],$$

where  $\alpha$  is a parameter different from 1 to be adjusted for convergence. As we will see below, these iterations need not converge for application

to our extrapolation schemes. In particular, the classical case  $\alpha = 1$  (Picard iterations) does not always lead to convergence. In some examples, this choice leads to divergence, while, in some others, it rapidly converges, then stagnates, and one cannot see the benefit brought by the  $\varepsilon$ -algorithm. However, the relaxation method (2.2) will do so if the right hand side is a contraction with a Lipschitz constant  $L' = |1 - \alpha| + |\alpha|L(b - a) < 1$ . It is not our purpose here to discuss the choice of  $\alpha$  (see, for example, [12]), and it will be experimentally taken in our numerical examples.

The parameter  $\alpha$  can also be modified at each iteration and replaced by  $\alpha_n$ . Such an iterative method is due to Mann [45], and convergence results occur under various assumptions. In particular, let  $T$  be a mapping from a nonempty, convex subset of a real Banach space into itself, then the Mann iterations  $v_{n+1} = (1 - \alpha_n)v_n + \alpha_n T(v_n)$  converge to a fixed point of

$$T : v \longmapsto T(v)$$

if the sequence  $(\alpha_n)$  converges to zero and if the series  $\sum \alpha_n$  diverges (see, for example, [30, page 83] and [49]). Dynamic relaxation is another procedure for finding a good value for this parameter (see [2, 40]) as well as Richardson acceleration [13, Chapter 7]. Another technique consists of accelerated refinement [26]. Many other fixed point methods, such as those described in [12, 15, 40, 42, 46, 51, 57], can be considered as dynamic relaxation procedures.

Similarly, *Fredholm integral equations of the first kind* are written as

$$f(t) = \int_a^b K(t, x, u(x)) dx,$$

and they can be solved correspondingly by the iterations

$$u^{(n+1)}(t) = u^{(n)}(t) + \alpha \left[ f(t) - \int_a^b K(t, x, u^{(n)}(x)) dx \right].$$

The aim of this paper is to show that some extrapolation methods can be quite useful either in accelerating the convergence of the relaxation method (2.2) or, more directly, for solving the system of nonlinear equations obtained from (2.1) after discretization (see below).

**2.1. The approximation.** For solving a Fredholm integral equation, a standard way (see [52, pages 18ff.]) is to approximate the integral contained in it by a quadrature formula

$$(2.3) \quad \int_a^b K(t, x, u(x)) dx \simeq \sum_{j=0}^p w_j^{(p)} K(t, x_j^{(p)}, u(x_j^{(p)})),$$

where  $x_0^{(p)}, \dots, x_p^{(p)}$  are  $p+1$  points in  $[a, b]$ , and where the upper index  $p$  denotes the dependence on the number of points chosen. Remember that the weights  $w_j^{(p)}$  are strictly positive and sum up to  $b - a$ . Thus, (2.1) is approximated by

$$(2.4) \quad u_p(t) = \sum_{j=0}^p w_j^{(p)} K(t, x_j^{(p)}, u_p(x_j^{(p)})) + f(t).$$

Such a method is called a *quadrature method* or a *Nyström method*.

**2.2. The system of nonlinear equations.** We will now approximate the solution  $u_p$  by collocation at the points  $t_i^{(p)} = x_i^{(p)}$  for  $i = 0, \dots, p$ . For a fixed value of  $p$ , we set, for simplicity,  $t_i = x_i = t_i^{(p)} = x_i^{(p)}$ ,  $f_i = f(t_i)$ ,  $w_i^{(p)} = w_i$ , and we determine approximations  $u_i$  of  $u_p(t_i)$ ,  $i = 0, \dots, p$ , as the solution of the system of  $p+1$  nonlinear equations

$$(2.5) \quad u_i = \sum_{j=0}^p w_j K(t_i, t_j, u_j) + f_i, \quad i = 0, \dots, p.$$

The function

$$y(t) = \sum_{j=0}^p w_j K(t, t_j, u_j) + f(t)$$

interpolates the discrete solution  $u_p(t)$  at the points  $t_i$ ,  $i = 0, \dots, p$ . This formula is known as the *Nyström interpolation formula*. Its error is governed by the one of the numerical integration method used for (2.3), see [4].

**2.3. The iterative scheme.** The solution of the system of nonlinear equations (2.5) can be obtained by Newton, quasi-Newton, or Broyden methods. However, such methods are expensive to implement [4].

Thus, for solving the nonlinear system, we use the fixed point iterative scheme (Picard iterations), for  $n = 0, 1, \dots$ , until convergence

$$(2.6) \quad u_i^{(n+1)} = \sum_{j=0}^p w_j K(t_i, t_j, u_j^{(n)}) + f_i, \quad i = 0, \dots, p,$$

or, more generally, according to (2.2), the relaxation scheme

$$(2.7) \quad u_i^{(n+1)} = u_i^{(n)} - \alpha \left\{ u_i^{(n)} - \sum_{j=0}^p w_j K(t_i, t_j, u_j^{(n)}) - f_i \right\}, \quad i = 0, \dots, p,$$

where  $\alpha$  is a parameter to adjust for convergence, and  $u_i^{(0)}$ ,  $i = 0, \dots, p$ , is the initial approximation of the solution at the points  $t_i$ .

A similar iterative scheme can be used for Fredholm equations of the first kind.

Thus, we have two nested approximation methods: the exact solution  $u$ , evaluated at the points  $t_i$ , that is,  $\mathbf{u} = (u(t_0), \dots, u(t_p))^T$  is first approximated through (2.4) by  $\mathbf{u}_p = (u_p(t_0), \dots, u_p(t_p))^T$  for a fixed value of  $p$ , where  $u_p(t_i)$  approximates  $u(t_i)$ , which is itself approximated by the iterates  $\mathbf{u}^{(n)} = (u_0^{(n)}, \dots, u_p^{(n)})^T$ , where  $u_i^{(n)}$  is the approximation of  $u_p(t_i)$  obtained at the  $n$ th iteration of the iterative method (2.6) or (2.7) for the solution of the nonlinear system.

The following holds, for  $i = 0, \dots, p$ :

$$\begin{aligned} u_i^{(n+1)} - u_p(t_i) &= (1 - \alpha)(u_i^{(n)} - u_p(t_i)) \\ &\quad + \alpha \sum_{j=0}^p w_j [K(t_i, t_j, u_j^{(n)}) - K(t_i, t_j, u_p(t_j))]. \end{aligned}$$

The iterative method described above is quite elementary and cheap and it may not converge, or its convergence could be quite slow. However, the sequence of vectors  $(\mathbf{u}^{(n)})$  can be directly accelerated by a suitable method or the nonlinear system can be solved by the generalized Steffensen method (a quasi-Newton method based on an acceleration procedure) [9, 10, 21].

**3. Shanks transformations and the  $\varepsilon$ -algorithms.** In this section, we will not return to the history of Shanks transformation [58] for

scalar sequences and to the  $\varepsilon$ -algorithm for its recursive implementation [71]. We will only discuss the case of sequences of elements of a vector space  $E$ . Of course, there exist many methods for accelerating the convergence of scalar sequences, and it is often quite difficult to know, a priori, which one will give the best results. However, as stated in [33], the  $\varepsilon$ -algorithm (of Wynn [71]) is arguably the best all-purpose method for accelerating the convergence. This remark is based on the fact that this algorithm gives the exact limit of sequences which behave as a combination of exponentials (a case frequently encountered in practice), and on the numerical experiments performed for many years with various acceleration methods. The scalar  $\varepsilon$ -algorithm was extended to vector sequences by Wynn [72] and, later, to sequences in a general vector space by Brezinski [11], as will be explained below. Reviews on these methods can be found in [17, 70, 60, 69] and, more recently, in [22].

Let  $(\mathbf{S}_n)$  be a sequence of elements of a vector space  $E$  on  $\mathbb{R}$  or  $\mathbb{C}$ . We assume that, for all  $n$ , this sequence satisfies the homogeneous linear difference equation of order  $k$

$$(3.1) \quad a_0(\mathbf{S}_n - \mathbf{S}) + \cdots + a_k(\mathbf{S}_{n+k} - \mathbf{S}) = \mathbf{0} \in E,$$

where  $\mathbf{S} \in E$  and the  $a_i$ 's are scalar coefficients with  $a_0 a_k \neq 0$ ,  $a_0 + \cdots + a_k \neq 0$  (otherwise,  $\mathbf{S}$  is not uniquely determined by this relation). If the sequence  $(\mathbf{S}_n)$  converges,  $\mathbf{S}$  is its *limit*; otherwise, it is called its *antilimit*. It does not restrict the generality to assume that the  $a_i$ 's sum up to 1. This is the *normalization condition* that we will consider.

Obviously, if the coefficients  $a_i$  are known,  $\mathbf{S} = a_0 \mathbf{S}_n + \cdots + a_k \mathbf{S}_{n+k}$  for all  $n$ . If they are unknown, they must be computed. For that purpose, we transform the equation (3.1) in  $E$  into  $k$  scalar relations. Let  $\mathbf{y}$  be an element of  $E^*$ , the algebraic dual space of  $E$ , that is, the space of linear functionals on  $E$ . We denote by  $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$  the duality product between  $E^*$  and  $E$ .

Writing (3.1) for the indices  $n+1$  and  $n$ , subtracting, and applying  $\mathbf{y}$ , we obtain, for all  $n$ ,

$$a_0 \langle \mathbf{y}, \Delta \mathbf{S}_n \rangle + \cdots + a_k \langle \mathbf{y}, \Delta \mathbf{S}_{n+k} \rangle = 0 \in \mathbb{C} \text{ or } \mathbb{R},$$

where  $\Delta$  is the usual forward difference operator defined by  $\Delta \mathbf{S}_n = \mathbf{S}_{n+1} - \mathbf{S}_n$ .

Solving the system of linear equations

$$(3.2) \quad \begin{cases} a_0 + \cdots + a_k = 1 \\ a_0 \langle \mathbf{y}, \Delta \mathbf{S}_{n+i} \rangle + \cdots + a_k \langle \mathbf{y}, \Delta \mathbf{S}_{n+k+i} \rangle = 0, \quad i = 0, \dots, k-1 \end{cases}$$

gives the coefficients  $a_i$  and thus we can compute  $\mathbf{S}$ .

If the sequence  $(\mathbf{S}_n)$  does not satisfy the relation (3.1), we still assume that it holds (this kind of assumption is the basis for constructing any convergence acceleration or extrapolation method [17]). Then, the preceding system for the  $a_i$ 's can still be solved, but its solution now depends on  $k$  and  $n$ , and the linear combination giving  $\mathbf{S}$  can still be computed. Thus, we set

$$(3.3) \quad \widehat{e}_k(\mathbf{S}_n) = a_0 \mathbf{S}_n + \cdots + a_k \mathbf{S}_{n+k},$$

which, for a fixed value of  $k$ , defines the sequence transformation

$$(\mathbf{S}_n) \mapsto (\widehat{e}_k(\mathbf{S}_n)).$$

This transformation is called the *topological Shanks transformation* (since, in speaking about convergence,  $E$  must be a topological vector space). By construction, if  $(\mathbf{S}_n)$  satisfies (3.1), then, for all  $n$ ,  $\widehat{e}_k(\mathbf{S}_n) = \mathbf{S}$ . This set of sequences is called the *kernel* of the topological Shanks transformation. It includes sequences which behave as a sum of exponential functions, a common feature to many iterative procedures, which explains its efficiency in a number of cases [16].

From (3.2) and (3.3), the following holds:

$$(3.4) \quad \widehat{e}_k(\mathbf{S}_n) = \frac{\begin{vmatrix} \mathbf{S}_n & \cdots & \mathbf{S}_{n+k} \\ \langle \mathbf{y}, \Delta \mathbf{S}_n \rangle & \cdots & \langle \mathbf{y}, \Delta \mathbf{S}_{n+k} \rangle \\ \vdots & & \vdots \\ \langle \mathbf{y}, \Delta \mathbf{S}_{n+k-1} \rangle & \cdots & \langle \mathbf{y}, \Delta \mathbf{S}_{n+2k-1} \rangle \end{vmatrix}}{\begin{vmatrix} 1 & \cdots & 1 \\ \langle \mathbf{y}, \Delta \mathbf{S}_n \rangle & \cdots & \langle \mathbf{y}, \Delta \mathbf{S}_{n+k} \rangle \\ \vdots & & \vdots \\ \langle \mathbf{y}, \Delta \mathbf{S}_{n+k-1} \rangle & \cdots & \langle \mathbf{y}, \Delta \mathbf{S}_{n+2k-1} \rangle \end{vmatrix}}.$$

This is the *first topological Shanks transformation*. The determinant in the numerator denotes the linear combination of  $\mathbf{S}_n, \dots, \mathbf{S}_{n+k}$ , obtained by developing it with respect to its first row by the classical rule for

expanding a determinant. Replacing this first row by  $\mathbf{S}_{n+k}, \dots, \mathbf{S}_{n+2k}$  leads to the *second topological Shanks transformation*, defined by

$$\tilde{e}_k(\mathbf{S}_n) = a_0 \mathbf{S}_{n+k} + \dots + a_k \mathbf{S}_{n+2k},$$

where the coefficients  $a_i$  are the same as for the first transformation. This could lead to a better result since the linear combination uses elements of the sequence  $(\mathbf{S}_n)$  with higher indices, which are usually closer to the limit  $\mathbf{S}$ . As we will see below, its recursive implementation is also easier and cheaper.

These transformations were introduced in [11]. They can be implemented by recursive algorithms (the *topological  $\varepsilon$ -algorithms*, TEAs, in short). The rules of these algorithms were recently greatly simplified, thus leading to the *simplified topological  $\varepsilon$ -algorithms*, STEAs, in short [19]. There is now only one rule instead of two, the functional  $\mathbf{y}$  no longer must be used in the rule of the algorithm but only in its initialization, the necessary storage has been much reduced and the numerical stability can be partly controlled. These new algorithms also allow for the proofs of some theoretical results on the convergence and the acceleration of the transformation [19]. The corresponding software and applications to the acceleration of vector and matrix sequences, the solution of systems of nonlinear vector and matrix equations, and the computation of matrix functions were given in [21]. It is these algorithms and this software contained in `EPSfun` that we used to produce the numerical examples of Section 4. Let us now present them.

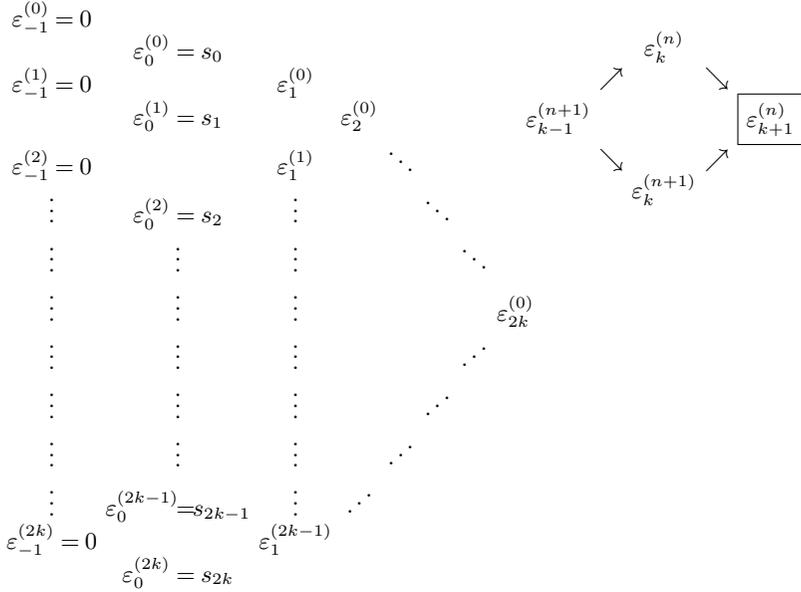
We first have to begin by the scalar  $\varepsilon$ -algorithm of Wynn [71]. We consider the real or complex sequence  $(s_n)$  (note the lowercase letters instead of the capital ones). This algorithm consists in the rule

$$\varepsilon_{k+1}^{(n)} = \varepsilon_{k-1}^{(n+1)} + 1/(\varepsilon_k^{(n+1)} - \varepsilon_k^{(n)}), \quad k, n = 0, 1, \dots,$$

with  $\varepsilon_{-1}^{(n)} = 0$  and  $\varepsilon_0^{(n)} = s_n$  for  $n = 0, 1, \dots$ . This algorithm implements the scalar Shanks transformation of the sequence  $(s_n)$ , which is given by the same ratio of determinants as in (3.4) (but, now, denoted by  $e_k(s_n)$ ) where  $s_i$  replaces  $\mathbf{S}_i$  and  $\Delta s_i$  replaces  $\langle \mathbf{y}, \Delta \mathbf{S}_i \rangle$ , and we obtain  $\varepsilon_{2k}^{(n)} = e_k(s_n)$ .

These  $\varepsilon_k^{(n)}$ 's are displayed in a two-dimensional array, called the  $\varepsilon$ -array, and the rule of the algorithm relates the quantities located at the summits of a rhombus as shown in Table 1.

TABLE 1. The  $\varepsilon$ -array (left) and the rhombus rule (right).



For a vector sequence  $(\mathbf{S}_n)$ , the first topological Shanks transformation can be implemented by the following recursive algorithm, called the *first simplified topological  $\varepsilon$ -algorithm* (STEA1):

$$\widehat{\varepsilon}_{2k+2}^{(n)} = \widehat{\varepsilon}_{2k}^{(n+1)} + \frac{\varepsilon_{2k+2}^{(n)} - \varepsilon_{2k}^{(n+1)}}{\varepsilon_{2k}^{(n+1)} - \varepsilon_{2k}^{(n)}} (\widehat{\varepsilon}_{2k}^{(n+1)} - \widehat{\varepsilon}_{2k}^{(n)}), \quad k, n = 0, 1, \dots,$$

$$\widehat{\varepsilon}_0^{(n)} = \mathbf{S}_n, \quad n = 0, 1, \dots,$$

where the  $\varepsilon_k^{(n)}$ 's are obtained by applying Wynn's scalar  $\varepsilon$ -algorithm to the sequence  $(s_n = \langle \mathbf{y}, \mathbf{S}_n \rangle)$ , and we obtain  $\widehat{\varepsilon}_{2k}^{(n)} = \widehat{e}_k(\mathbf{S}_n)$  as given by (3.4).

The second topological Shanks transformation is implemented by the *second simplified topological  $\varepsilon$ -algorithm* (STEA2) with the same initializations as for the first:

$$\widetilde{\varepsilon}_{2k+2}^{(n)} = \widetilde{\varepsilon}_{2k}^{(n+1)} + \frac{\varepsilon_{2k+2}^{(n)} - \varepsilon_{2k}^{(n+1)}}{\varepsilon_{2k}^{(n+2)} - \varepsilon_{2k}^{(n+1)}} (\widetilde{\varepsilon}_{2k}^{(n+2)} - \widetilde{\varepsilon}_{2k}^{(n+1)}),$$

where the  $\varepsilon_k^{(n)}$ 's are the same as for the STEA1, and we get  $\widehat{\varepsilon}_{2k}^{(n)} = \widetilde{\varepsilon}_k(\mathbf{S}_n)$ , but, for the second topological Shanks transformation, that is, after replacing the first row of the numerator of (3.4) by  $\mathbf{S}_{n+k}, \dots, \mathbf{S}_{n+2k}$ .

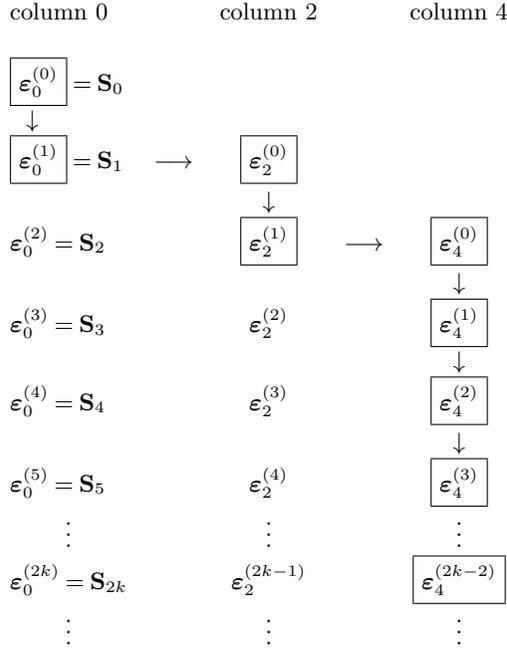
The initializations of both algorithms are  $\widehat{\varepsilon}_0^{(n)} = \widetilde{\varepsilon}_0^{(n)} = \mathbf{S}_n$ ,  $n = 0, 1, \dots$ . Let us mention that, due to the strategy used for its implementation (which was originally described by Wynn for his scalar  $\varepsilon$ -algorithm [73]) the STEA2 is much cheaper in terms of storage than the STEA1. Moreover, other equivalent formulæ exist for both the algorithms. Numerical tests showed that the results are almost equivalent and, thus, here we indicate only one of them. For details, see [19, 21].

There are two different ways of using these algorithms. The simplest is to use the STEA1 or the STEA2 for accelerating a sequence  $(\mathbf{S}_n)$  of vectors or matrices or tensors or, more generally, elements of a vector space  $E$ . It is named the *acceleration method* and denoted AM below. Usually, the user fixes the maximal even column  $2k$  to reach in the  $\varepsilon$ -array. In order to reach the first term of the column  $2k$ ,  $2k + 1$  terms are needed, that is,  $2k$  evaluations of the system. Then, one more evaluation leads to the next term of this column. In this manner, the algorithm furnishes the staircase along the main descending diagonal until the column  $2k$  has been reached. This is shown in Table 2 where  $\varepsilon$  stands for  $\widehat{\varepsilon}$  or  $\widetilde{\varepsilon}$ .

The second manner in which to use the algorithms is a restarted version of them for the solution of a system of linear or nonlinear equations  $\mathbf{S} = F(\mathbf{S})$ , where  $F : \mathbb{R}^m \mapsto \mathbb{R}^m$ . Beginning from a given  $\mathbf{x}_0$ , we fix  $2k$ , we set  $\mathbf{S}_0 = \mathbf{x}_0$ , we compute  $\mathbf{S}_{i+1} = F(\mathbf{S}_i)$  for  $i = 0, \dots, 2k - 1$  (the *basic iterations*), we apply the STEA1 or the STEA2 to these vectors or matrices, and we set  $\mathbf{x}_1 = \widehat{\varepsilon}_{2k}^{(0)}$  or  $\mathbf{x}_1 = \widetilde{\varepsilon}_{2k}^{(0)}$ . The whole process (denoted a *cycle*) is then restarted with  $\mathbf{S}_0 = \mathbf{x}_1$ . It is called the *restarted method*, denoted RM.

When, as a particular case, we take  $k = m$  (the dimension of the system) it was proven that the sequence  $(\mathbf{x}_n)$  quadratically converges to the fixed point  $\mathbf{S}$  of  $F$  under some assumptions [41]. This last method can be considered as a generalization to higher dimensions of Steffensen's method for  $m = 1$  [63]. This is why it has been called the *generalized Steffensen method*, denoted by GSM. Quadratic convergence still occurs if  $k$  is the degree of the minimal polynomial of  $F'$  for the vector  $\mathbf{S}_0 - \mathbf{S}$ . This type of convergence has also been observed for

TABLE 2. Values obtained with a maximal column  $2k = 4$  fixed.



much smaller values of  $k$ . We notice that each term of the sequence  $(\mathbf{x}_n)$  needs  $2k$  evaluations of the system of equations. Note that, in our case, the system of nonlinear equations to be solved is given by (2.7), and, thus,  $m = p + 1$ .

The RM and the GSM can be extended to the case where

$$F : \mathbb{R}^{m \times s} \mapsto \mathbb{R}^{m \times s},$$

but the quadratic character of the convergence has yet to be studied.

The concept of the *mesh independence principle* is of interest in our context. It states that, under reasonable assumptions on the numerical integration scheme, the iterates produced by a quasi-Newton method for solving (2.4) and (2.5) (which is the case of the RM as explained in [22]) asymptotically behave the same. Therefore, the cost in the number of iterates necessary to achieve a given precision is essentially the same for both systems [1, 39, 50, 68].

We mention here that the choice of  $\mathbf{y}$  is a difficult and unsolved problem in the general case. The experience acquired after many numerical experiments has shown us that the most appropriate choices seem to be either  $\mathbf{y} = (1, \dots, 1)^T$  or a random  $\mathbf{y}$  [20, 21]. However, for some special classes of sequences, theoretical results have been obtained [19].

**4. Examples.** We will now give examples of the use of the STEA1 and the STEA2 for accelerating the iterations (2.7) or solving the system of nonlinear equations (2.5) arising from our method for computing an approximate solution of Fredholm integral equations of the second kind.

For our examples, we remind the reader that we used the trapezoidal rule (see, for example, [49]). We set  $h = (b - a)/p$ ,  $x_j^{(p)} = a + jh$  for  $j = 0, \dots, p$ , and we have

$$\int_a^b K(t, x, u(x)) dx \simeq \frac{h}{2} \left[ K(t, x_0^{(p)}, u(x_0^{(p)})) + 2 \sum_{j=1}^{p-1} K(t, x_j^{(p)}, u(x_j^{(p)})) + K(t, x_p^{(p)}, u(x_p^{(p)})) \right].$$

Thus, the system of  $p + 1$  nonlinear equations to be solved becomes

$$u_i = \frac{h}{2} \left[ K(t_i, t_0, u_0) + 2 \sum_{j=1}^{p-1} K(t_i, t_j, u_j) + K(t_i, t_p, u_p) \right] + f_i,$$

for  $i = 0, \dots, p$ , and we solved it by the iterative procedure

$$u_i^{(n+1)} = u_i^{(n)} - \alpha \left\{ u_i^{(n)} - \frac{h}{2} \left[ K(t_i, t_0, u_0^{(n)}) + 2 \sum_{j=1}^{p-1} K(t_i, t_j, u_j^{(n)}) + K(t_i, t_p, u_p^{(n)}) \right] - f_i \right\},$$

$$i = 0, \dots, p.$$

These iterations can be written as

$$\mathbf{u}^{(n+1)} = F(\mathbf{u}^{(n)}).$$

The value of the parameter  $\alpha$  is not the same for all examples. It was chosen to obtain convergence of the iterations.

All examples begin from  $u_i^{(0)} = 1$  for  $i = 0, \dots, p$ . The STEA1 and the STEA2 will be applied to the sequence of vectors  $\mathbf{S}_n = \mathbf{u}^{(n)} = (u_0^{(n)}, \dots, u_p^{(n)})^T$ , and the scalar  $\varepsilon$ -algorithm to the sequence of scalars  $s_n = (\mathbf{y}, \mathbf{u}^{(n)})$ , where  $(\cdot, \cdot)$  is the usual scalar product. In our examples, two possible choices are made for the vector  $\mathbf{y}$ : it is randomly chosen in  $[-1, 1]$  (a choice which can lead to quite different results), or it is set to  $\mathbf{y} = (1, \dots, 1)^T$ . Due to the homogeneity property of the scalar  $\varepsilon$ -algorithm, this second choice is equivalent to applying it to the sequence  $(s_n)$  whose terms are the mean values of the components of the vectors  $\mathbf{S}_n$ . In the examples, we will show the results obtained by the acceleration method (AM), and those that came from the restarted method (RM) and the generalized Steffensen method (GSM), that is, when the RM is applied with  $k = p + 1$ . Sometimes, the value of  $k$  is not the same for the AM and for the RM. The reason is that one cycle of the RM needs  $2k$  basic iterations; thus, the number of iterations is equal to  $2k$  times the number of cycles, while the AM needs  $2k$  basic iterations to reach the first term of the column  $2k$  and one additional iteration for each new term in that column. Thus, the comparison between the AM and the RM for reaching a given precision must take into account the total number of evaluations of  $F$ .

In some examples, we plot the infinity norm of the error while, in others, it is the infinity norm of the difference, called the *residual* between a result and  $F$  applied to it. The advantage of using the residual is to allow us to check the convergence to the solution of the discretized fixed point problem, which is not the exact solution of the integral equation, without knowing it. In the case of the AM we show the errors or the residuals of the basic iterations and of those extrapolated. For the RM, we show the errors or the residuals at the points  $\mathbf{x}_n$  (indicated by a special character) and, in between, the errors or the residuals of the basic iterations. The fact that, in some cases, the residuals are much smaller than the errors means that the system of equations (obtained after discretization by the quadrature rule) has been well solved (the fixed point of  $F$  has been reached) but, due to the residual in the quadrature formula, its solution is not close to the exact solution of the integral equation.

As a stopping criterion for the use of the STEA1 or the STEA2 in the AM, we use the following inequalities on the residuals:

$$\|\tilde{\varepsilon}_{2k}^{(n+1)} - F(\tilde{\varepsilon}_{2k}^{(n+1)})\| > M \|\tilde{\varepsilon}_{2k}^{(n)} - F(\tilde{\varepsilon}_{2k}^{(n)})\|$$

or

$$\|\widehat{\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}}_{2k}^{(n+1)} - F(\widehat{\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}}_{2k}^{(n+1)})\| > M\|\widehat{\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}}_{2k}^{(n)} - F(\widehat{\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}}_{2k}^{(n)})\|,$$

or

$$\|\widetilde{\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}}_{2k}^{(n)} - F(\widetilde{\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}}_{2k}^{(n)})\| \leq \tau \quad \text{or} \quad \|\widehat{\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}}_{2k}^{(n)} - F(\widehat{\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}}_{2k}^{(n)})\| \leq \tau,$$

where  $M$  and  $\tau$  are chosen by the user, and  $F$  is as defined above. Let us comment on these tests. When convergence occurs with an accuracy close to machine precision, oscillations arise due to instability, and there is no advantage to continue the iterations. This is the role of the first two lines of inequalities. A large value of  $M$  (for example,  $M = 20$ ) will allow oscillations in the results, while the iterates will be stopped with a small one (for example,  $M = 2$ ). The two last tests are related to the convergence. A large value of  $\tau$  (for example,  $10^{-4}$ ) will stop the iterations too early, while a much smaller value will never stop the iterations (no convergence reached). For the RM, the stopping criterion we used is the number of cycles. Obviously, it can easily be replaced by a test on the residual of the fixed point iterates.

In the figures, the norm (in log scale) is that of infinity, but the choice of the Euclidean norm can be made in the software. In the legends, `eps` denotes the values obtained by the corresponding STEA algorithm, and `sol` is  $\mathbf{u}$ , the exact solution. For the AM,  $\mathbf{u}^{(n)}$  is designated by `u`, while, for the RM, it is designated by `u_ori`. In the RM, the `u`'s denote the basic iterates  $\mathbf{u}^{(n)}$  obtained after restarting from the last extrapolated value.

The precision of the results cannot go beyond the error of quadrature rule used, that is, for the trapezoidal rule,  $\|\mathbf{u}^{(n)} - \mathbf{u}\|_\infty = (b-a)\widetilde{M}h^2/12$  where  $\widetilde{M} = \max_{t \in [a,b]} |K_x''(t, x, u(x))|$ , see [4, 5]. Obviously, using a more precise quadrature formula, such as a Gaussian one, will produce better results. When full precision is achieved, stagnation occurs, and the algorithm can stop due to a division by a number smaller than our tolerance.

The examples are taken from the literature on the topic, and, for each of them, we indicate the corresponding reference(s). The results were obtained with `MATLAB` R2010b. Differences can be observed with other versions of `MATLAB` and/or other processors. More examples are given in the software provided with this paper.

The RM has also been compared with Anderson acceleration as well as with the method of Lemaréchal [42], a method of dynamic Aitken-like

relaxation which only requires two evaluations of  $F$  at each iteration. Anderson acceleration [2] is only a fixed point method for the solution of a system of nonlinear equations. It produces its own sequence and cannot be used for accelerating a given sequence, contrarily to the claims made in [24, 55] which were based on a misunderstanding (on this topic, see [22]). Moreover, Anderson acceleration needs the solution, in the least squares sense, of a system of linear equations of increasing dimension at each iteration. For its implementation, we used the MATLAB program written by Walker [65] with the default parameters. The linear systems are solved by a  $QR$  decomposition, but, due to their increasing ill conditioning, a dropping strategy of additional columns on the left must be used to maintain an acceptable conditioning. Without it, the method diverges. In the corresponding figures, the basic iterations of RM have not been plotted, Anderson acceleration is designated by AA and Lemaréchal method by LM. It will be interesting to conduct more such experiments in a systematic way.

**4.1. Example 1.** This example is treated in [56]

$$u(t) = \frac{1}{5} \int_0^1 \cos(\pi t) \sin(\pi x) u^3(x) dx + \sin(\pi t).$$

Its solution is

$$u(x) = \sin(\pi x) + \frac{1}{3}(20 - \sqrt{391}) \cos(\pi x).$$

The authors used a combination of the Simpson method for evaluating the integral and the Newton-Kantorovich method for solving the system of nonlinear equations. They obtained a maximal error of  $7.5 \times 10^{-2}$  after one iteration of the Newton-Kantorovich method,  $4.9 \times 10^{-2}$  after three iterations, and then stagnate.

For the AM, we take  $\alpha = 0.1$ ,  $p = 21$ ,  $2k = 6$ . With 50 iterations, we obtain the results on the left of Figure 1 for  $\mathbf{y} = (1, \dots, 1)^T$ , and those on the right with a random  $\mathbf{y}$ . We see that, in this case, the random  $\mathbf{y}$  leads to much better results. The AM has been compared with the MPE, the MMPE and the RRE in terms of level of accuracy reached with the same number of iterations. The results obtained are quite similar.

For the RM, with  $\alpha = 0.1$ ,  $p = 21$ , and  $2k = 2$ , we get the results of Figure 2. With  $\mathbf{y} = (1, \dots, 1)^T$ , only three cycles of the RM are possible

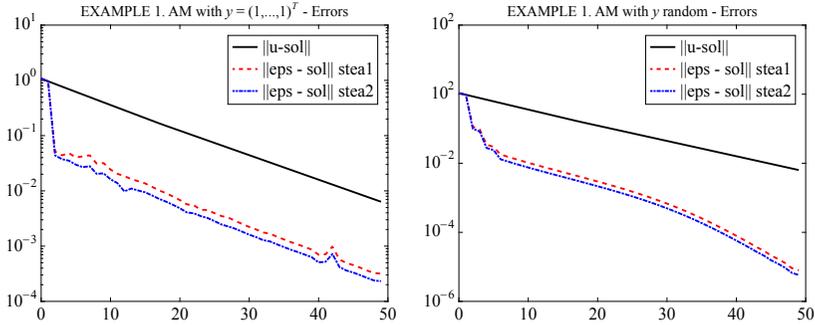


FIGURE 1. Example 1. AM with  $\mathbf{y} = (1, \dots, 1)^T$  (left) and  $\mathbf{y}$  random (right).

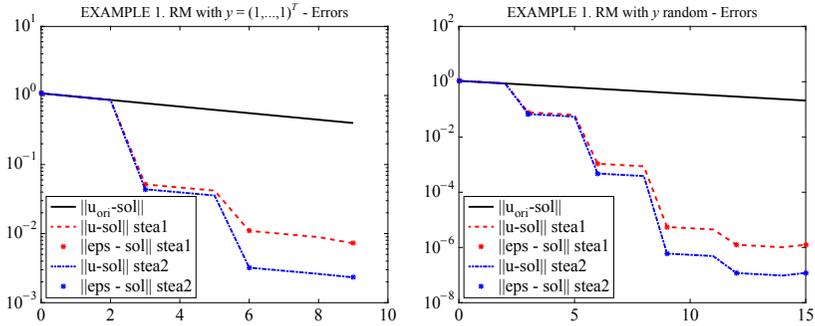


FIGURE 2. Example 1. RM with  $\mathbf{y} = (1, \dots, 1)^T$  (left) and  $\mathbf{y}$  random (right).

due to a division by a value smaller than the tolerance used in our toolbox. This is due to the stagnation of the RM which achieves its full accuracy, thus leading to the difference of two almost equal quantities in a denominator of the scalar  $\varepsilon$ -algorithm.

We compared RM (STEA2) with the other methods, but with  $\alpha = 0.01$  and again with  $2k = 2$ . Each iteration of the RM and Lemaréchal method needs two evaluations of  $F$ . The RM again stagnated around  $10^{-3}$  after two iterations. The method of Lemaréchal reaches a precision of  $10^{-8}$  after five iterations, while Anderson acceleration goes to an error of  $10^{-4}$  at iteration five (see left side of Figure 4). This example was also computed by the HAM in [34].

**4.2. Example 2.** This example was given by Anderson [2]

$$u(t) = \frac{3\sqrt{2}\pi}{16} \int_{-1}^1 \cos(\pi|t-x|/4)u^2(x) dx - \cos(\pi t/4)/4.$$

Its solution is

$$u(x) = \cos(\pi x/4).$$

With  $\alpha = 0.1$ , the basic iterates strongly diverge, and thus, the AM, as noted by Anderson who made use of the vector  $\varepsilon$ -algorithm. The RM, with  $\alpha = 0.001$ ,  $\mathbf{y} = (1, \dots, 1)^T$ ,  $p = 21$  and  $2k = 6$ , gives the results on the left of Figure 3. On the right, we see the exact and the approximate solutions. This example is quite sensitive.

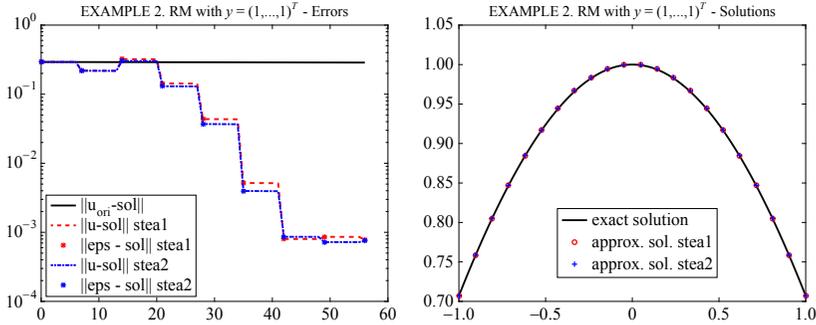


FIGURE 3. Example 2. RM with  $\mathbf{y} = (1, \dots, 1)^T$  (left). Exact and approximate solutions (right).

In Figure 4, Anderson acceleration, the method of Lemaréchal and the RM (STEA2) have been compared (right).

**4.3. Example 3.** An error was corrected in the equation of Example 5.3 considered in [8] (+1 instead of -1)

$$u(t) = - \int_0^1 (x+t)e^{u(x)} dx + et + 1,$$

whose solution is  $u(x) = x$ . The authors discretize the integral by a Newton-Cotes formula and then perform the basic iterative scheme (Picard iterations or the relaxation method). In  $[0, 1]$ , the error is in the interval  $[-5 \times 10^{-3}, 10^{-2}]$ .

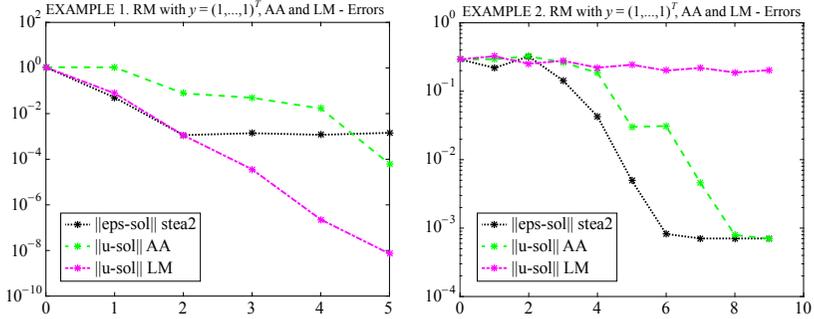
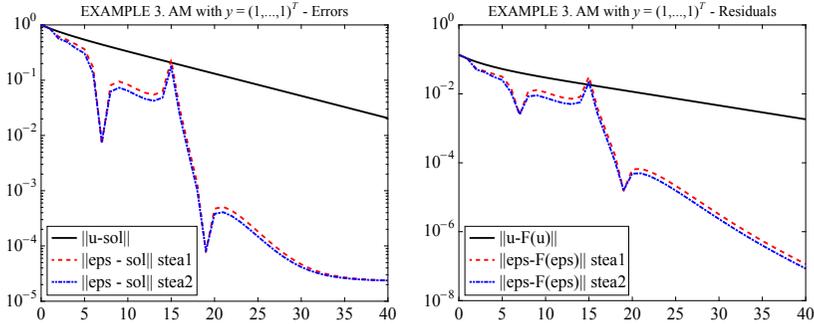


FIGURE 4. Comparison of the methods. Example 1 (left), Example 2 (right).

FIGURE 5. Example 3. AM with  $y = (1, \dots, 1)^T$  errors (left), residuals (right).

With  $\alpha = 0.1$ ,  $p = 100$ ,  $y = (1, \dots, 1)^T$  and  $2k = 6$ , the AM produces the error curves on the left of Figure 5 and the residuals on the right. We asked for 50 iterations but, as can be seen, the iterations stopped at 40 since  $\tau = 10^{-7}$  (and  $M = 20$ ). With the same  $\tau$  and  $M = 2$ , the iterations terminate at 8. With  $p = 10$ , the error after 40 iterations is  $2.3 \times 10^{-3}$ , while it reaches  $2.4 \times 10^{-5}$  when  $p = 100$ , which confirms that the error of the trapezoidal rule behaves as  $\mathcal{O}(h^2)$ . The results obtained by the RM are given in Figure 6. Figures 5 and 6 allow comparison of the errors and the residuals, and they show a quite similar behavior. There is stagnation of the error of the quadrature formula because full accuracy has been obtained. The residuals do not stagnate since the fixed point of  $F$  for the STEAs has not been reached. Between the fourth and the fifth cycle, the residuals decrease from  $2.09 \times 10^{-13}$  to

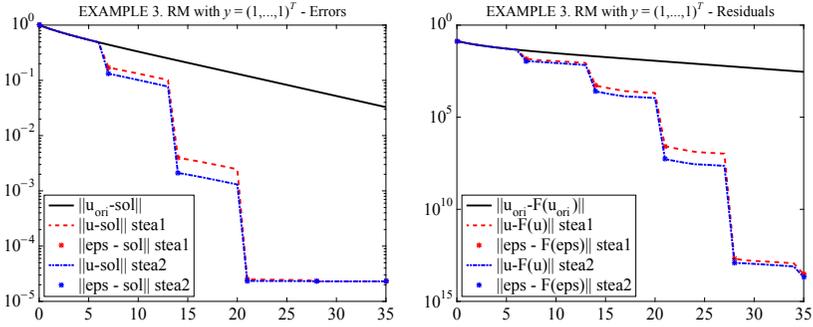


FIGURE 6. Example 3. RM with  $\mathbf{y} = (1, \dots, 1)^T$  errors (left), residuals (right).

$2.95 \times 10^{-14}$ , while the errors stagnate, but around  $10^{-4}$ , which is a quite different level of precision. It not possible to perform an additional cycle because a division by a too small quantity arises. Comparison with another method may be seen in Figure 8 (left).

Table 3 shows the results obtained by the AM for various values of the parameters  $\alpha$ ,  $p$  and  $k$  after 25 iterations and with  $\mathbf{y} = (1, \dots, 1)^T$ . With  $\alpha = 0.2$ ,  $p = 100$ ,  $2k = 6$  and a random vector  $\mathbf{y}$ , the errors are  $2.30 \times 10^{-5}$  for the STEA1 and the STEA2, and the residuals are  $8.22 \times 10^{-8}$  and  $6.39 \times 10^{-9}$ , respectively.

TABLE 3. Example 3. Results with  $\mathbf{y} = (1, \dots, 1)^T$  and various choices of the parameters.

$\alpha$	$p$	$2k$	err STEA1	err STEA2	res STEA1	res STEA2	$\ u - \text{sol}\ $	$\ u - F(u)\ $
0.1	100	4	$8.08 \times 10^{-3}$	$6.83 \times 10^{-3}$	$9.98 \times 10^{-4}$	$7.82 \times 10^{-4}$	$9.08 \times 10^{-2}$	$8.02 \times 10^{-3}$
0.1	100	6	$2.51 \times 10^{-4}$	$2.02 \times 10^{-4}$	$3.08 \times 10^{-5}$	$2.24 \times 10^{-5}$	$9.08 \times 10^{-2}$	$8.02 \times 10^{-4}$
0.2	100	2	$1.13 \times 10^{-4}$	$9.85 \times 10^{-5}$	$1.99 \times 10^{-5}$	$1.48 \times 10^{-5}$	$7.80 \times 10^{-3}$	$1.39 \times 10^{-3}$
0.2	100	4	$2.34 \times 10^{-5}$	$2.33 \times 10^{-5}$	$1.07 \times 10^{-7}$	$6.59 \times 10^{-8}$	$7.80 \times 10^{-3}$	$1.39 \times 10^{-3}$
0.2	100	6	$2.11 \times 10^{-5}$	$2.18 \times 10^{-5}$	$5.43 \times 10^{-7}$	$2.89 \times 10^{-7}$	$7.80 \times 10^{-3}$	$1.39 \times 10^{-3}$
0.2	100	10	$2.30 \times 10^{-5}$	$2.30 \times 10^{-5}$	$1.08 \times 10^{-10}$	$4.07 \times 10^{-11}$	$7.80 \times 10^{-3}$	$1.39 \times 10^{-3}$
0.5	100	6	$2.30 \times 10^{-5}$	$2.30 \times 10^{-5}$	$5.41 \times 10^{-11}$	$6.76 \times 10^{-12}$	$2.22 \times 10^{-5}$	$4.87 \times 10^{-7}$
0.1	10	6	$2.53 \times 10^{-3}$	$2.48 \times 10^{-3}$	$3.14 \times 10^{-5}$	$2.29 \times 10^{-5}$	$8.94 \times 10^{-2}$	$8.07 \times 10^{-3}$
0.2	10	6	$2.30 \times 10^{-3}$	$2.30 \times 10^{-3}$	$3.56 \times 10^{-7}$	$1.89 \times 10^{-7}$	$5.64 \times 10^{-3}$	$1.41 \times 10^{-3}$
0.5	10	6	$2.30 \times 10^{-3}$	$2.30 \times 10^{-3}$	$6.03 \times 10^{-11}$	$7.49 \times 10^{-12}$	$2.30 \times 10^{-3}$	$5.28 \times 10^{-7}$

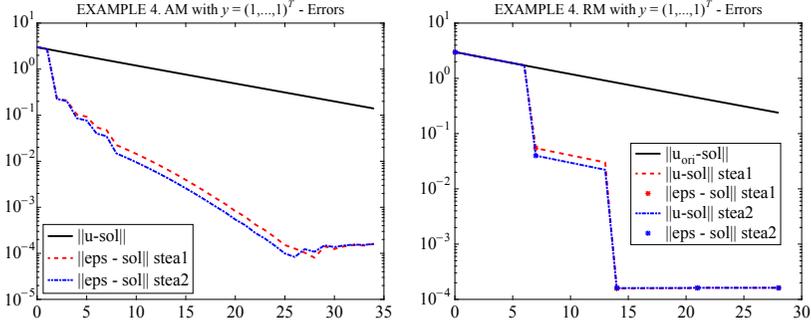


FIGURE 7. Example 4. AM (left) and RM (right) with  $\mathbf{y} = (1, \dots, 1)^T$ .

**4.4. Example 4.** In reference [43], we found the following equation (Example 1)

$$u(t) = t/20 \int_0^1 xu^2(x) dx + 3 + 0.6625t.$$

Its solution is  $u(x) = x + 3$ . The computation used Haar wavelets. With 16 of them, they obtained an error similar to ours.

We took  $\alpha = 0.1$ ,  $p = 21$  and  $\mathbf{y} = (1, \dots, 1)^T$ . With  $2k = 8$ , the AM gives the results on the left of Figure 7, while the RM with  $2k = 6$  gives the curves on the right. We see that quadratic convergence has been achieved by RM with  $k$  much smaller than  $m$ .

In Figure 8, Anderson acceleration, the method of Lemaréchal and the RM (STEA2) are compared (right).

**4.5. Example 5.** Now, consider

$$u(t) = t^2 \int_0^1 \frac{x^2}{1 + u^2(x)} dx + (1/2 - \ln 2)t^2 + \sqrt{t},$$

whose solution is  $u(x) = \sqrt{x}$  [43] (Example 4). The results obtained are comparable to ours.

The AM with  $\alpha = 0.2$ ,  $p = 31$ ,  $\mathbf{y} = (1, \dots, 1)^T$  and  $2k = 10$  give the results on the left of Figure 9. With  $2k = 4$ , the RM gives the results on the right of this figure.

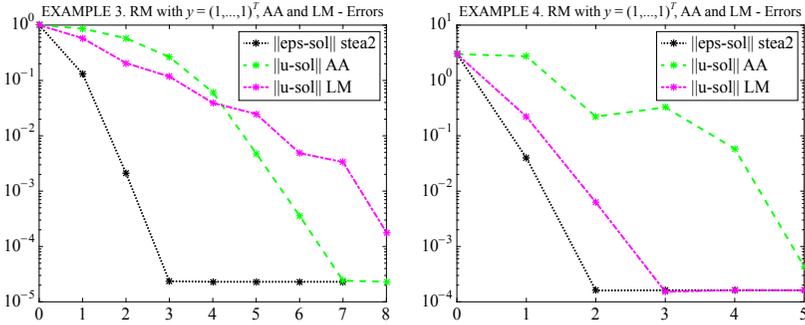


FIGURE 8. Comparison of the methods. Example 3 (left), Example 4 (right).

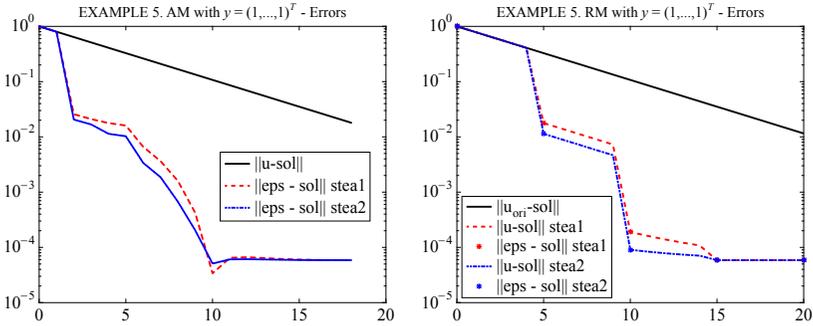


FIGURE 9. Example 5. AM (left) and RM (right) with  $\mathbf{y} = (1, \dots, 1)^T$ .

**4.6. Example 6.** We conclude with an example of a linear Fredholm equation [44] (Example 1)

$$u(t) = \int_0^1 \sin(4\pi t + 2\pi x)u(x) dx + \cos(2\pi t) + \sin(4\pi t)/2,$$

whose solution is  $u(x) = \cos(2\pi x)$ . Take  $\alpha = 0.1$ ,  $p = 3$ ,  $\mathbf{y} = (1, \dots, 1)^T$  and  $\tau = 10^{-9}$ . Thus, there are only four nodes. With  $2k = 8$ , the AM and the RM (which, in this case, is the GSM) gives the results of Figure 10. The theory of Shanks transformations tells us that the exact solution of a system of linear equations is obtained in one iteration when  $2k = 2(p + 1)$ .

In Figure 11, we show the results obtained by Anderson acceleration, the method of Lemaréchal and the RM on Example 5 (left) and on

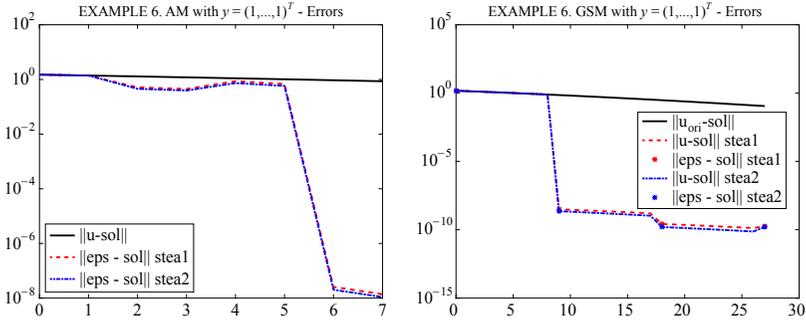


FIGURE 10. Example 6. AM (left) and GSM (right) with  $y = (1, \dots, 1)^T$ .

Example 6 (right). Example 6 was obtained by the STEA1, but now, with  $p = 10$  and  $2k = 2$  instead of  $p = 3$ , and  $2k = 8$ . Thus, the RM is no longer the GSM, and it does not reach the exact solution. The RM and the method of Lemaréchal need two evaluations of  $F$  per iteration. The STEA2 stopped before due to a division by zero.

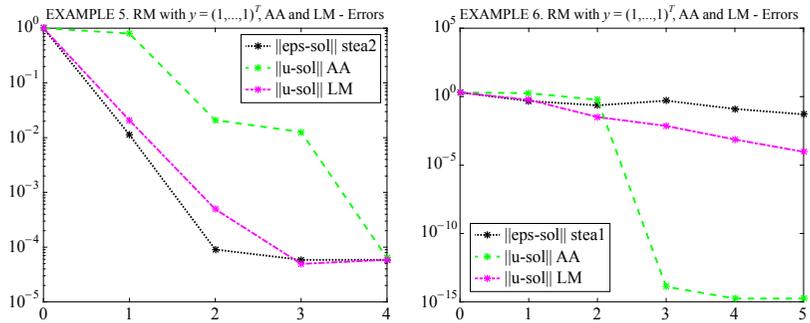


FIGURE 11. Comparison of the methods. Example 5 (left), Example 6 (right).

**5. Conclusions.** The aim of this paper was not to present a new method for solving nonlinear Fredholm equations of the second kind which provides better results than the methods existing in the literature in all situations. We only want to exemplify the fact that the simplified topological epsilon algorithms can accelerate the convergence of the Picard iterations (or, more generally, the relaxation method) for solving

the system of nonlinear equations obtained after discretization of the integral by a quadrature formula (acceleration method), and to show that these iterations can be coupled with our algorithms by a restarting procedure (restarted method). The examples given above show that the RM (and even more the GSM) seems to be more effective than the AM, but we remind the reader that one step of the RM is costly in terms of evaluations of  $F$ , and, thus, the entire process is much more expensive than the AM. It must be noted that, although quadratic convergence of the restarting process has only been proved in the case of the GSM, it also sometimes occurs with the RM. As seen from the examples, the results obtained are quite sensitive to the choice of the parameter  $\alpha$  which, possibly, could be advantageously replaced by a sequence  $(\alpha_n)$  appropriately chosen. They also depend on the choice of  $\mathbf{y}$ , an important unsolved problem. A more precise quadrature formula than the trapezoidal rule could lead to better results. Our methods can also be used for Fredholm equations of the first kind and for Volterra equations. Since our software for the STEA1 and the STEA2 can accelerate matrix sequences and solve matrix equations, it can treat integral equations in two variables (see, for example, [53]).

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