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A hybrid method with phase-lag and derivatives equal to zero for the numerical integration of the Schrödinger equation

A. Konguetsof

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Abstract A family of hybrid methods with algebraic order eight is proposed, with phase-lag and its first four derivatives eliminated. We investigate the behavior of the new algorithm and the property of the local truncation error and a comparison with other methods leads to conclusions and remarks about its accuracy and stability. The newly created method, as well as another Numerov-type methods, are applied to the resonance problem of the radial Schrödinger equation. The eigenenergies approximations, which are obtained prove the superiority of the new two-step method.

Keywords Multistep methods · Explicit methods · Hybrid methods · Phase-lag · Phase-fitted · Schrödinger equation

Abbreviation

LTE Local Truncation Error

1 Numerical methods for second order differential equations

Mathematical modelling with second order differential equations represents oscillatory problems and appears in many scientific fields, such as physics, chemistry, engineering, quantum mechanics, biology, economics etc.

A. Konguetsof (🖂)

1 Dimokritou Street, 67100 Xanthi, Greece e-mail: aurka0@yahoo.com

A. Konguetsof

Department of Science, School of Technological Applications, Technological Education Institute of Kavala, 65404 Kavala, Greece

The general second order initial value problem

$$\frac{d^2\psi(x)}{dx^2} = u(x,\psi(x)), \quad \psi(x_0) = \psi_0, \quad \psi'(x_0) = \psi'_0 \tag{1}$$

has a periodic solution. According to our knowledge of the frequency of the above problem, the method chosen for its numerical solution will vary. In most cases the value of the frequency is not stable throughout the interval of the integration. The attempt made with this work, is to construct a method in order to deal with this kind of situation.

The last decades we encounter a lot of methods in numerical analysis for problems of the form (1) and the main categories of those methods are listed below.

- Runge–Kutta and Runge–Kutta–Nyström methods with constant coefficients (See [1–3]).
- Exponentially and trigonometrically fitted Runge–Kutta and Runge–Kutta– Nyström methods (See [4–11])
- Phase-fitted Runge–Kutta and Runge–Kutta–Nyström methods and Runge–Kutta and Runge–Kutta–Nyström methods with minimal phase-lag and dissipation (See [12–33]).
- Multistep methods with constant coefficients (See [34–40]).
- Multistep methods with vanished phase-lag and its derivatives (See [41–45])
- Exponentially and trigonometrically fitted multistep methods (See [46–80]).
- Hybrid(predictor-corrector) methods (See [81–88]).
- Exponentially and trigonometrically fitted hybrid methods (See [89–96]).
- Phase-fitted and minimal phase-lag hybrid methods (See [97–107]).
- Differential schemes as multilayer symplectic integrators (See [108–122])
- Symplectic methods (See [123–125]).
- Review papers (See [126–127]).
- The Bessel and Neumann fitted methods (See [128–129]).
- Non-linear schemes (See [132–133]).
- Conferences with related subject (See [134–139]).
- Other methods on the numerical solution of the Schrödinger equation (See [130, 131] and [140, 141]).
- Boundary value problems (See [142–147]).
- Stability of numerical methods for differential equations (See [148–150]).
- Special methods (See [151–160]).
- Mathematical software (See [161–167]).

The derivation of an eighth algebraic order set of explicit Numerov-type methods is explained and its main properties are studied. The free parameters of the methods have been calculated based on the frequency of the problem. The following paragraphs contain the relative theory, the development and the analysis of the family of methods and its numerical application.

- Necessary theoretical background is given in the second part.
- Description of each stage for the derivation of the new method appears in the third part.

- Comparison of the new method with other methods in accordance to their local truncation error and their stability is made and remarks and theorems are given in the fourth part.
- In the fifth part we have the presentation of the resonance problem of the radial Schrödinger equation and the application of the newly obtained methodology.
- In the sixth and final part we gather our observations and conclusions.

2 Theoretical background

A linear multistep method ([168]) with the general form

$$\sum_{i=0}^{j} \gamma_{i}^{\psi} \psi_{n+i} = h^{2} \sum_{i=0}^{j} \gamma_{i}^{u} u_{n+i}$$
(2)

which has characteristic polynomials

$$p_1(\zeta) = \sum_{i=0}^{j} \gamma_i^{\psi} \psi_{n+i}, \quad p_2(\zeta) = \sum_{i=0}^{j} \gamma_i^{u} u_{n+i}, \quad \zeta \in \mathbb{C}$$
(3)

is said to have order method q and error constant c_{q+2} , if for a test equation

$$\sum_{i=0}^{j} \gamma_i^{\psi} z(x+ih) = h^2 \sum_{i=0}^{j} \gamma_i^{u} z''(x+ih) + c_{q+2} h^{q+2} z^{(q+2)}(x) + O(h^{q+3})$$
(4)

The method (2) is called *symmetric*, when

$$\gamma_i^{\psi} = \gamma_{j-i}^{\psi}, \quad \gamma_i^u = \gamma_{j-i}^u, \quad i = 0, 1, \dots, j$$
 (5)

with $\gamma_0^{\psi} = \gamma_j^{\psi} \neq 0$ a necessary condition.

A numerical method of *n* steps will be considered over the intervals $[t_0, t_1], \ldots, [t_i, t_{i+1}], \ldots, [t_{n-1}, t_n], i = 0, \ldots, (n-1)$ all of which have equal step length *h* for the initial value problem (1).

In order to study second order problems of this form, based on [34] we use the scalar test equation

$$\frac{d^2\psi(t)}{dt^2} = -\omega^2\psi(t) \tag{6}$$

Application of a symmetric 2m-step method to the above equation, gives us the following difference equation

$$U_m(H) \psi(t_0 + mh) + \dots + U_1(H) \psi(t_0 + h) + U_0(H) \psi(t_0) + U_1(H) \psi(t_0 - h) + \dots + U_m(H) \psi(t_0 - mh) = 0,$$
(7)

where U_j , j = 0(1)m are polynomials of $H = \omega h$.

Thus the characteristic polynomial obtained is:

$$P(r, H) = U_m r^m + \dots + U_1 r + U_0 + U_1 r^{-1} + \dots + U_m r^{-m}$$
(8)

Theorem 1 [83] *The phase-lag order* q_{Φ} *and phase-lag constant* c_{Φ} *of a symmetric* 2*m-step method with characteristic equation*

$$P(r,H) = 0 \tag{9}$$

are given by the formula

$$\frac{U_0(H) + 2\sum_{j=1}^m \cos(jH)U_j(H)}{2\sum_{j=1}^m j^2 U_j(H)} = -c_{\Phi} H^{q_{\Phi}+2} + O(H^{q_{\Phi}+4})$$
(10)

3 Phase-fitted family of methods

We will study a four-layer method, which is given in the general form:

$$\overline{\psi}_{n+1} = 2\psi_n - \psi_{n-1} + h^2 \psi_n''
\overline{\psi}_n = \psi_n - a_0 h^2 \left(\overline{\psi}_{n+1}'' - 2\psi_n'' + \psi_{n-1}''\right)
\overline{\overline{\psi}}_n = \psi_n - a_1 h^2 \left(\overline{\psi}_{n+1}'' - 2\overline{\psi}_n'' + \psi_{n-1}''\right)
\psi_{n+1} + c_1 \psi_n + \psi_{n-1} = h^2 \left[b_0 \left(\overline{\psi}_{n+1}'' + \psi_{n-1}''\right) + b_1 \overline{\overline{\psi}}_n''' \right]$$
(11)

The new method is Numerov-type and has five free parameters a_0 , a_1 , c_0 , b_0 and b_1 . Our aim is to find these coefficients based on the requirement that the phase-lag and its first four derivatives are annihilated.

The stability polynomial is obtained, when we apply the above family of methods to the scalar test equation (6) and $H = \omega h$

$$S(\zeta) = \zeta^2 + C_p(H)\zeta + 1 \tag{12}$$

where *h* is the step length and $C_p(H) = \frac{B_p(H)}{A_p(H)}$ with

$$A_p(H) = 1$$

$$B_p(H) = c_1 + (2 b_0 + b_1) H^2 - b_0 H^4 - b_1 a_0 H^6 + 2 b_1 a_0 a_1 H^8$$

As the phase-lag $\Phi(H)$ and its first derivatives should be equal to zero, we obtain the following system of equations:

$$\Phi(H) = \Phi'(H) = \Phi''(H) = \Phi^{(3)}(H) = \Phi^{(4)}(H) = 0$$
(13)

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The phase-lag formula is acquired from (10) with m = 1.

$$\Phi(H) = \cos(H) + \frac{1}{2}c_1 + \left(b_0 + \frac{1}{2}b_1\right)H^2 - \frac{1}{2}b_0H^4$$
$$-\frac{1}{2}b_1a_1H^6 + b_1a_1a_0H^8$$
(14)

The expressions of the derivatives from first to fourth order of the phase-lag are

$$\Phi'(H) = -\sin(H) + (2b_0 + b_1)H - 2b_0H^3 - 3b_1a_1H^5 + 8b_1a_1a_0H^7$$
(15)

$$\Phi''(H) = -\cos(H) + b_1 + 2b_0 - 6b_0 H^2 - 15b_1 a_1 H^4 + 56b_1 a_1 a_0 H^6$$
(16)

$$\Phi^{(3)}(H) = -\sin(H) - 12 \,b_0 \,H - 60 \,b_1 \,a_1 \,H^3 + 336 \,b_1 \,a_1 \,a_0 \,H^3 \tag{17}$$

$$\Phi^{(4)}(H) = -\cos(H) - 12b_0 - 180b_1a_1H^2 + 1680b_1a_1a_0H^4$$
(18)

Substituting the above formulae and solving system (13), we obtain the free parameters of the new Numerov-type method.

$$a_{0} = \frac{1}{8} \frac{\sin(H) (15 - 6H^{2}) + \cos(H) (-15H + H^{3})}{\sin(H) (21H^{2} - 8H^{4}) + \cos(H) (-21H^{3} + H^{5})}$$
(19)
$$a_{1} = \frac{\sin(H) (-21 + 8H^{2}) + \cos(H) (21H - H^{3})}{\sin(H) (-105H^{2} + 135H^{4} - 12H^{6}) + \cos(H) (105H^{3} - 60H^{5} + H^{7})}$$
(20)

$$c_1 = \cos(H) \left(-2 + \frac{29}{64} H^2 - \frac{1}{192} H^4 \right) + \sin(H) \left(-\frac{93}{64} H + \frac{7}{96} H^3 \right)$$
(21)

$$b_0 = \frac{\sin(H)\left(35 - 10H^2\right) + \cos(H)\left(-35H + H^3\right)}{32H^3} \tag{22}$$

$$b_1 = \frac{\sin(H)\left(-105 + 135H^2 - 12H^4\right) + \cos(H)\left(105H - 60H^3 + H^5\right)}{48\,H^3} \quad (23)$$

and their Taylor series expansions

$$a_{0} = \frac{1}{112} - \frac{1}{2016} H^{2} + \frac{1}{34496} H^{4} - \frac{11}{6604416} H^{6} + \frac{113}{1173553920} H^{8} - \frac{19013}{3423491495424} H^{10} + \frac{257611}{803513592161280} H^{12} - \frac{345841}{18692263565015040} H^{14} + \frac{4029945911}{3773855860195146485760} H^{16} + \cdots$$

$$a_{1} = \frac{1}{112} - \frac{1}{2016} H^{2} + \frac{1}{34496} H^{4} - \frac{11}{6604416} H^{6} + \frac{113}{1173553920} H^{8} - \frac{19013}{3423491495424} H^{10}$$
(24)

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$$+\frac{257611}{803513592161280}H^{12} - \frac{345841}{18692263565015040}H^{14} + \frac{4029945911}{18692263565015040}H^{16} + \dots$$
(25)

$$c_{1} = -2 + \frac{1}{1814400} H^{10} - \frac{1}{47900160} H^{12} + \frac{1}{2905943040} H^{14} - \frac{1}{298896998400} H^{16} + \frac{1}{45731240755200} H^{18} + \cdots$$

$$b_{0} = \frac{1}{12} - \frac{1}{181440} H^{6} + \frac{1}{5322240} H^{8} - \frac{1}{345945600} H^{10} + \frac{1}{37362124800} H^{12} - \frac{1}{5928123801600} H^{14} + \frac{1}{1287249739776000} H^{16} - \frac{1}{364935301226496000} H^{18} + \cdots$$

$$b_{1} = \frac{5}{6} + \frac{1}{90720} H^{6} - \frac{5}{1596672} H^{8} + \frac{1}{9434880} H^{10} - \frac{31}{18681062400} H^{12} + \frac{139}{8892185702400} H^{14} - \frac{193}{1930874609664000} H^{16} + \frac{1}{2146678242508800} H^{18} + \cdots$$

$$(28)$$

In order to find the local truncation error of the new method, we substitute the Taylor polynomials of ψ_{n+1} , ψ_{n-1} , ψ_{n+1}'' and ψ_{n-1}'' , as well as the Taylor polynomials of a_0 , a_1 , c_0 , b_0 and b_1 , into (11):

$$LTE = \frac{h^{10}}{1814400} \left(\psi_n^{(10)} + 5\omega^2 \,\psi_n^{(8)} + 10\omega^4 \,\psi_n^{(6)} + 10\omega^6 \,\psi_n^{(4)} + 5\omega^8 \,\psi_n^{(2)} + 10\omega^{10} \,\psi_n \right)$$
(29)

Theorem 2 The family of explicit two-step methods given by (11) with coefficients determined in (19)–(23) has algebraic order eight and phase-lag and its first four derivatives equal to zero (Fig. 1).

4 Local truncation error—Stability

4.1 Error—Theory and analysis

In order to find the local truncation error we consider the general form

$$\frac{d^2\psi(x)}{dx^2} = \varphi(x)\,\psi(x) \tag{30}$$



Fig. 1 Behavior of the coefficients of the new method given by (19)–(23) for several values of H

We will apply the newly obtained method (11) and another well known methods to the radial Schrödinger equation

$$\frac{d^2 y(x)}{dx^2} = \left[\frac{l^2}{x^2} + \frac{l}{x^2} + V(x) - k^2\right] y(x), \quad y(0) = 0$$
(31)

and a second one boundary condition depending on physical considerations.

We substitute the function $\varphi(x)$ [47],

$$\varphi(x) = V(x) - V_c + G = g(x) + G$$
 (32)

where V(x) is the potential, V_c is the constant approximation of the potential and $G = v^2 = V_c - E$, with *E* denoting the energy.

Afterwards, we differentiate the function $\psi(x)$ and obtain the polynomials of *G* equal to $\psi_n^{(i)}$, i = 2, 4, 6, ...

The expression of the local truncation error contains the following derivatives.

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d^2\psi_n}{dx^2} &= (V(x) - V_c + G)\,\psi(x) \\ \frac{d^4\psi_n}{dx^4} &= \left(\frac{d^2}{dx^2}\,V(x)\right)\,\psi(x) + 2\,\left(\frac{d}{dx}\,V(x)\right)\,\left(\frac{d}{dx}\,\psi(x)\right) \\ &\quad + (V(x) - V_c + G)\,\left(\frac{d^2}{dx^2}\,\psi(x)\right) \\ \frac{d^6\psi_n}{dx^6} &= \left(\frac{d^4}{dx^4}\,V(x)\right)\,\psi(x) + 4\,\left(\frac{d^3}{dx^3}\,V(x)\right)\,\left(\frac{d}{dx}\,\psi(x)\right) \\ &\quad + 3\,\left(\frac{d^2}{dx^2}\,V(x)\right)\,\left(\frac{d^2}{dx^2}\,\psi(x)\right) + 4\,\left(\frac{d}{dx}\,V(x)\right)^2\,\psi(x) \\ &\quad + 6\,(V(x) - V_c + G)\,\left(\frac{d}{dx}\,\psi(x)\right)\,\left(\frac{d}{dx}\,V(x)\right) \\ &\quad + 4\,(U(x) - V_c + G)\,\psi(x)\,\left(\frac{d^2}{dx^2}\,\psi(x)\right) \\ &\quad + (V(x) - V_c + G)^2\,\left(\frac{d^2}{dx^2}\,\psi(x)\right)\dots\end{aligned}$$

We will compare the following methods:

- Numerov's Method (Φ_0)
- The Method developed by Konguetsof in [105] (Φ_1)
- The Method developed by Konguetsof in [106] (Φ_2)
- The Classical Method of the Family (Φ_3)
- The New Developed Method (Φ_4)

The expressions of the local truncation error are mentioned in Appendix. Depending on the value of E, we distinguish two cases:

- **Case 1** When the energy *E* is found close to the potential, i.e. $V_c \approx E \Leftrightarrow G \approx 0$, we ignore the terms of the polynomial, which depend on the parameter *G*. In this case the accuracy of the methods does not differ very much. This is explained by the fact that the remaining terms are the same as those of the new family of methods.
- Case 2 When $G \ll 0$ or $G \gg 0$, we obtain a large absolute value of G. So, we have the following asymptotic expansions of Eqs. (54–58).

Numerov's Method

$$LTE_{\Phi_0} = h^6 \left(\frac{1}{240} \,\psi(x) \, G^3 + \cdots \right) \tag{33}$$

The Method developed by Konguets of [105]

$$LTE_{\Phi_1} = h^6 \left(\frac{1}{90} \left(\frac{d^2}{dx^2} g(x) \right) \psi(x) G + \cdots \right)$$
(34)

The Method developed by Konguets of [106]

$$LTE_{\Phi_2} = h^8 \left[\left(\frac{1}{1680} \left(\frac{d^4}{dx^4} g(x) \right) \psi(x) + \frac{1}{2520} \left(\frac{d^3}{dx^3} g(x) \right) \left(\frac{d}{dx} \psi(x) \right) + \frac{1}{1260} g(x) \psi(x) \left(\frac{d^2}{dx^2} g(x) \right) + \frac{1}{1680} \left(\frac{d}{dx} g(x) \right)^2 \psi(x) \right) G + \cdots \right]$$
(35)

The Classical Method of the Family

$$LTE_{\Phi_3} = h^{10} \left[\frac{1}{1814400} \,\psi(x) \, G^5 + \cdots \right]$$
(36)

The New Method

$$LTE_{\Phi_4} = h^{10} \left[\left(\frac{1}{113400} \left(\frac{d^4}{dx^4} g(x) \right) \psi(x) \right) G^2 + \cdots \right]$$
(37)

Comparing the expressions (33-37) we come to the following conclusion.

Theorem 3 – Numerov's Method has algebraic order four and the error increases as the third power of G.

- The method developed by Konguetsof in [105] has algebraic order four and the error increases as the first power of G.

- The method developed by Konguetsof in [106] has algebraic order six and the error increases as the first power of G.
- The new method developed in this paper has algebraic order eight and the error increases as the second power of G.

Thus, the newly obtained family of methods is the most accurate one for the numerical solution of the time independent radial Schrödinger equation, especially for large values of $|G| \gg 0$.

4.2 Stability-theory and Analysis

Application of the family of methods (11) to the scalar test equation

$$\psi'' = -\tau^2 \,\psi(x), \quad \tau \neq \omega \tag{38}$$

leads to the difference equation

$$\psi_{n+1} + C_p(H,s)\,\psi_n + \psi_{n-1} = 0 \tag{39}$$

where $s = \tau h$, h the step length and

$$C_p(H) = c_1 + (2b_0 + b_1) s^2 - b_0 s^4 - b_1 a_0 s^6 + 2b_1 a_0 a_1 s^8$$
(40)

The characteristic equation arising from (39) is

$$s^2 + C_p(H, s)s + 1 = 0 (41)$$

Definition 1 (*see* [34]) A symmetric 2*m*-step method with the characteristic equation given by (41) is considered to have an *interval of periodicity* $(0, \omega_0^2)$ if, for all $\omega \in (0, \omega_0^2)$, the roots z_i , i = 1, 2 satisfy

$$z_{1,2} = e^{\pm i \phi(\tau h)}, \quad |z_i| \le 1, \quad i = 3, 4..., 2m$$
 (42)

where $\phi(\tau h)$ is a real function.

Definition 2 (see [34]) A method is called P-stable if its interval of periodicity is equal to $(0, \infty)$.

Theorem 4 (see [97]) A symmetric two-step method with the characteristic equation given by (41) is considered to have a nonzero interval of periodicity $(0, s_0^2)$ if, for all $s \in (0, s_0^2)$ the following relations hold

$$Q_1(H, s) Q_2(H, s) < 0, \ H = \omega h, \ s = \tau h$$
 (43)

$$Q_1(H,s) Q_2(H,s) = C_p^2(H,s) - 4,$$
 (44)

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Fig. 2 v - H plane of the new method of the family of method developed in this paper

Definition 3 A method is called singularly almost P-stable if its interval of periodicity is equal to $(0, \infty) - S^1$ only when the frequency of the phase fitting is the same as the frequency of the scalar test equation, i.e. H = s.

The obtained stability polynomials for the newly developed methods are given as follows:

$$Q_1(H,s) = 2 + c_1 + (2b_0 + b_1) s^2 - b_0 s^4 - b_1 a_0 s^6 + 2b_1 a_0 a_1 s^8,$$

$$Q_2(H,s) = -2 + c_1 + (2b_0 + b_1) s^2 - b_0 s^4 - b_1 a_0 s^6 + 2b_1 a_0 a_1 s^8$$
(45)

In Fig. 2, the $\tau - H$ plane is shown for the new family of methods constructed in this paper (Sect. 3).

A method is found to be P-stable, when the whole surface of the $\tau - H$ plane is covered. We note that the new method, which is explicit, does not have the property of P-stability, but from the diagram (Fig. 2) we observe that it is almost P-stable.

Remark 1 We use the results of the observation of the surroundings of the first diagonal of the $\tau - H$ plane, since it is known that, for the numerical solution of the Schrödinger equation, the frequencies of the exponential fitting and of the scalar test equation are equal.

¹ where S is a set of distinct points.

5 Application of the new method—comparison with other methods

In this section we will present the results of the application of some numerical methods to the radial Schrödinger equation. More specifically we will use Eq. (31). We present here some terminology:

- Effective potential is called the function $M(x) = l^2/x^2 + l/x^2 + V(x)$, with $\lim_{x\to\infty} M(x) = 0$.
- We call *energy* the real number k^2 .
- Angular momentum is expressed by the integer *l*.
- The potential is the known function V.

The method developed in this paper belongs to the category of methods with frequency dependent coefficients. For this category of methods we should know the parameter ω in order to be able to apply the above methods. It is obvious from (31) that this parameter can be defined by the following equation

$$\omega = \sqrt{|g(x)|} = \sqrt{|V(x) - E|}$$
(46)

where V(x) is the potential and E is the energy.

5.1 Woods-Saxon potential

For the numerical solution of (31) we need the potential function V(x). For the purposes of this paper we use, as potential V(x), the well known Woods-Saxon potential (see [169]) given by

$$V(x) = \frac{u_0}{1+z} - \frac{u_0 z}{a \left(1+z\right)^2}$$
(47)

with $z = \exp[(x - X_0)/a]$, $u_0 = -50$, a = 0.6, and $X_0 = 7.0$.

In Fig. 3, we present the behavior of the Woods-Saxon potential.

In some cases, the definition of the parameter ω is given based on some critical points, which are defined from the study of the function of the potential and is independent from the variant *x*) (see [35]).

For this paper we choose ω as follows (see [35] for details):

$$\omega = \begin{cases} \sqrt{-50 + E}, & \text{for } 0 \le x \le 6.5 - 2h \\ \sqrt{-37.5 + E}, & \text{for } x = 6.5 - h \\ \sqrt{-25 + E}, & \text{for } x = 6.5 \\ \sqrt{-12.5 + E}, & \text{for } x = 6.5 + h \\ \sqrt{E}, & \text{for } 6.5 + 2h \le x \le 15 \end{cases}$$
(48)

5.2 Resonance problem of the one-dimensional Schrödinger equation

In this section we will approximate the solution of the radial Schrödinger equation (31) using as potential the Woods–Saxon potential (47) presented above.



Fig. 3 The Woods-Saxon potential

The numerical solution is based on the approximation of the infinite true interval of integration by a finite one. For the specific example this finite interval is equal to [0, 15]. We will investigate a wide range of energies $E \in [1, 1000]$.

Since the potential vanishes faster than the quantity $l(l+1)/x^2$ for positive energies $E = k^2$, the radial Schrödinger equation can be simplified to the following form

$$y''(x) + y(x)\left(k^2 - \frac{l(l+1)}{x^2}\right) = 0, \quad x > X$$
(49)

The linearly independent solutions of Eq. (49) are $kxj_l(kx)$ and $kxn_l(kx)$, where $j_l(kx)$ and $n_l(kx)$ are the spherical Bessel and Neumann functions respectively.

Based on the above it is easy to see that the asymptotic form of Eq. (31) in the case of $x \to \infty$ can be written as

$$y(x) \simeq Akx j_l(kx) - Bkx n_l(kx)$$

$$\simeq AC \left[\sin\left(kx - \frac{l\pi}{2}\right) + \tan(\delta_l \cos\left(kx - \frac{l\pi}{2}\right) \right]$$
(50)

where δ_l is the phase shift that may be calculated from the formula

$$\tan(\delta_l) = \frac{y(x_2)S(x_1) - y(x_1)S(x_2)}{y(x_1)C(x_1) - y(x_2)C(x_2)}$$
(51)

for x_1 and x_2 distinct points in the asymptotic region (we choose x_1 as the right hand end point of the interval of integration and $x_2 = x_1 - h$) with $S(x) = kxj_l(kx)$ and $C(x) = -kxn_l(kx)$. The problem we have to solve now is an initial value one. Since our method is a two-step method, we need the approximation of y_1 using a one-step method. The value of y_0 is determined using the initial condition. Based on formula (51) and using the above defined values y_0 and y_1 we can compute the phase shift δ_l at the point x_1 of the asymptotic region.

We will solve the resonance problem. This can be defined by determining the phaseshift δ_l or by finding those E, for $1 \le E \le 1000$, at which $\delta_l = \frac{\pi}{2}$. In the this case we will solve the second of the above problems, which is called *the resonance problem*, when the positive eigenenergies lie under the potential barrier.

For this problem, the boundary conditions are given by the following formulae

$$y(0) = 0, y(x) = \cos\left(\sqrt{Ex}\right)$$
 for large x. (52)

The approximate positive eigenenergies of the Woods-Saxon resonance problem are calculated with the following numerical methods.

- Numerov's method (Method I)
- The two-step method developed by Raptis and Allison [46] (Method II)
- The two-step method developed by Ixaru and Rizea [35] (Method III)
- The Method developed by Konguetsof in [105] (Method IV)
- The two-step method developed by Raptis [49] (Method V)
- The two-step Numerov-Type Method with phase-lag and its first, second and third derivatives equal to zero, which was developed by Konguetsof in [106] (Method VI)
- The new two-step Numerov-Type Method with phase-lag and its first, second, third and fourth derivatives equal to zero obtained in Sect. 3 (Method VII)

for several step sizes $h = 0.3 \times 2^{-n}$.

We compare the obtained approximations of the eigenenergies E with the real values E. In Figs. 4, 5 and 6, the maximum absolute error log_{10} (ER), is shown, where ER is given by

$$ER = |\tilde{E} - E| \tag{53}$$

of the eigenenergies E_1 , E_2 , E_3 for several values of n.

6 Final remarks and conclusions

In the present paper, a hybrid two-step method of eighth algebraic order is developed with phase-lag and its first, second, third and fourth derivatives equal to zero. The new method is applied to the resonance problem of the radial Schrödinger equation.

The following conclusions are extracted based on the results presented above:

 The two-step method developed by Raptis and Allison [46] (Method II) is more efficient than Numerov's Method (Method I) but less efficient than the other two methods.



Fig. 4 Error Errmax for several values of n for the eigenvalue $E_1 = 163.215341$. The nonexistence of a value of Errmax indicates that for this value of n, Errmax is positive



Fig. 5 Error Errmax for several values of n for the eigenvalue $E_2 = 341.495874$. The nonexistence of a value of Errmax indicates that for this value of n, Errmax is positive

 The two-step method developed by Ixaru and Rizea [35] (Method III) is more efficient than Numerov's Method (Method I) and the method developed by Raptis and Allison (Method II) but less efficient than the new obtained method.



Fig. 6 Error Errmax for several values of n for the eigenvalue $E_3 = 989.701916$. The nonexistence of a value of Errmax indicates that for this value of n, Errmax is positive

- The method developed by Konguetsof in [105] (Method IV) is more efficient than Numerov's Method (Method I) and the method developed by Raptis and Allison (Method II), but less efficient than the newly obtained method and generally less efficient than the two-step method developed by Raptis [49] (Method V)
- The two-step Numerov-Type method developed by Konguetsof in [106] (Method VI) with phase-lag and its first, second and third derivatives equal to zero (Method VI) is the most efficient of all the previous methods.
- Finally the newly developed two-step Numerov-Type method with its first, second, third and fourth derivatives equal to zero (Method VII) is the most efficient of all the other methods.

From the above we conclude that the vanishing of the phase-lag and its derivatives produces very efficient methods. So, we must prefer to use the free parameters of a method in order to vanish the phase-lag and/or its derivatives in order to produce computationally very accurate methods.

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Appendix

The Numerov's method

$$LT E_{\Phi_0} = h^6 \left[\frac{1}{240} \psi(x) G^3 + \frac{1}{80} g(x) \psi(x) G^2 + \left(\frac{1}{40} \left(\frac{d}{dx} g(x) \right) \left(\frac{d}{dx} \psi(x) \right) + \frac{7}{240} \left(\frac{d^2}{dx^2} g(x) \right) \psi(x) + \frac{1}{80} g(x)^2 \psi(x) \right) G + \frac{1}{240} \left(\frac{d^4}{dx^4} g(x) \right) \psi(x) + \frac{1}{60} \left(\frac{d^3}{dx^3} g(x) \right) \left(\frac{d}{dx} \psi(x) \right) + \frac{7}{240} g(x) \psi(x) \left(\frac{d^2}{dx^2} g(x) \right) + \frac{1}{240} g(x)^3 \psi(x) + \frac{1}{60} \left(\frac{d}{dx} g(x) \right)^2 \psi(x) + \frac{1}{40} g(x) \left(\frac{d}{dx} \psi(x) \right) \left(\frac{d}{dx} g(x) \right) \right]$$
(54)

The method developed by Konguetsof in [105]

$$LTE_{\Phi_1} = h^6 \left[\frac{1}{90} \left(\frac{d^2}{dx^2} g(x) \right) \psi(x) G + \frac{7}{360} g(x) \psi(x) \left(\frac{d^2}{dx^2} g(x) \right) \right. \\ \left. + \frac{1}{360} g(x)^3 \psi(x) + \frac{1}{360} \left(\frac{d^4}{dx^4} g(x) \right) \psi(x) \right. \\ \left. + \frac{1}{90} \left(\frac{d^3}{dx^3} g(x) \right) \left(\frac{d}{dx} \psi(x) \right) \right. \\ \left. + \frac{1}{90} \left(\frac{d}{dx} g(x) \right)^2 \psi(x) + \frac{1}{60} g(x) \left(\frac{d}{dx} \psi(x) \right) \left(\frac{d}{dx} g(x) \right) \right]$$
(55)

The method developed by Konguetsof in [106]

$$LTE_{\Phi_2} = h^8 \left[\left(\frac{1}{1680} \left(\frac{d^4}{dx^4} g(x) \right) \psi(x) + \frac{1}{2520} \left(\frac{d^3}{dx^3} g(x) \right) \left(\frac{d}{dx} \psi(x) \right) \right. \\ \left. + \frac{1}{1260} g(x) \psi(x) \left(\frac{d^2}{dx^2} g(x) \right) + \frac{1}{1680} \left(\frac{d}{dx} g(x) \right)^2 \psi(x) \right) G$$

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$$+\frac{1}{20160} \left(\frac{d^{6}}{dx^{6}} g(x)\right) \psi(x) + \frac{1}{3360} \left(\frac{d^{5}}{dx^{5}} g(x)\right) \left(\frac{d}{dx} \psi(x)\right) \\ +\frac{1}{1260} g(x) \psi(x) \left(\frac{d^{4}}{dx^{4}} g(x)\right) + \frac{1}{1344} \left(\frac{d^{2}}{dx^{2}} g(x)\right)^{2} \psi(x) \\ +\frac{13}{10080} \left(\frac{d}{dx} g(x)\right) \psi(x) \left(\frac{d^{3}}{dx^{3}} g(x)\right) + \frac{1}{840} g(x) \left(\frac{d}{dx} \psi(x)\right) \\ \times \left(\frac{d^{3}}{dx^{3}} g(x)\right) + \frac{1}{1680} g(x)^{2} \left(\frac{d}{dx} \psi(x)\right) \left(\frac{d}{dx} g(x)\right) \\ +\frac{1}{420} \left(\frac{d}{dx} g(x)\right) \left(\frac{d}{dx} \psi(x)\right) \\ \times \left(\frac{d^{2}}{dx^{2}} g(x)\right) + \frac{11}{10080} g(x)^{2} \psi(x) \left(\frac{d^{2}}{dx^{2}} g(x)\right) \\ +\frac{1}{720} g(x) \psi(x) \left(\frac{d}{dx} g(x)\right)^{2} + \frac{1}{20160} g(x)^{4} \psi(x) \right]$$
(56)

The classical method (method with constant coefficients)

$$\begin{split} LTE_{\Phi_3} &= h^{10} \left[\left(\frac{1}{1814400} \,\psi(x) \right) \, G^5 + \left(\frac{1}{362880} \,g(x)\psi(x) \right) \, G^4 \\ &+ \left(\frac{1}{36288} \, \left(\frac{d^2}{dx^2} g(x) \right) \psi(x) + \frac{1}{90720} \, \left(\frac{d}{dx} g(x) \right) \frac{d}{dx} \psi(x) \\ &+ \frac{1}{181440} \, (g(x))^2 \,\psi(x) \right) \, G^3 \\ &+ \left(\frac{43}{907200} \, \left(\frac{d^4}{dx^4} g(x) \right) \psi(x) + \frac{1}{12096} \, g(x)\psi(x) \frac{d^2}{dx^2} g(x) \\ &+ \frac{1}{30240} \, g(x) \left(\frac{d}{dx} \psi(x) \right) \frac{d}{dx} g(x) + \frac{1}{18144} \, \left(\frac{d}{dx} g(x) \right)^2 \psi(x) \\ &+ \frac{1}{22680} \, \left(\frac{d^3}{dx^3} g(x) \right) \frac{d}{dx} \psi(x) + \frac{1}{181440} \, (g(x))^3 \,\psi(x) \right) \, G^2 \\ &+ \left(\frac{1}{5670} \, \left(\frac{d}{dx} g(x) \right) \left(\frac{d}{dx} \psi(x) \right) \frac{d^2}{dx^2} g(x) + \frac{29}{1814400} \, \left(\frac{d^6}{dx^6} g(x) \right) \psi(x) \\ &+ \frac{43}{453600} \, g(x)\psi(x) \frac{d^4}{dx^4} g(x) + \frac{1}{12096} \, (g(x))^2 \,\psi(x) \frac{d^2}{dx^2} g(x) \\ &+ \frac{211}{1814400} \, \left(\frac{d^2}{dx^2} g(x) \right)^2 \,\psi(x) + \frac{1}{30240} \, (g(x))^2 \left(\frac{d}{dx} \psi(x) \right) \frac{d}{dx} g(x) \end{split}$$

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$$\begin{aligned} &+ \frac{1}{9072} g(x)\psi(x) \left(\frac{d}{dx} g(x)\right)^2 + \frac{169}{907200} \left(\frac{d}{dx} g(x)\right)\psi(x) \frac{d^3}{dx^3} g(x) \\ &+ \frac{31}{907200} \left(\frac{d^5}{dx^5} g(x)\right) \frac{d}{dx} \psi(x) + \frac{1}{11340} g(x) \left(\frac{d}{dx} \psi(x)\right) \frac{d^3}{dx^3} g(x) \\ &+ \frac{1}{362880} (g(x))^4 \psi(x)\right) G + \frac{43}{907200} (g(x))^2 \psi(x) \frac{d^4}{dx^4} g(x) \\ &+ \frac{1}{5670} g(x) \left(\frac{d}{dx} \psi(x)\right) \left(\frac{d^2}{dx^2} g(x)\right) \frac{d}{dx} g(x) \\ &+ \frac{31}{907200} g(x) \left(\frac{d}{dx} \psi(x)\right) \left(\frac{d^2}{dx^2} g(x)\right) \frac{d}{dx} g(x) \\ &+ \frac{31}{907200} g(x) \left(\frac{d}{dx} \psi(x)\right) \frac{d^5}{dx^5} g(x) + \frac{1}{36288} (g(x))^3 \psi(x) \frac{d^2}{dx^2} g(x) \\ &+ \frac{211}{1814400} g(x)\psi(x) \left(\frac{d^2}{dx^2} g(x)\right)^2 + \frac{29}{226800} \left(\frac{d}{dx} g(x)\right)^2 \psi(x) \frac{d^2}{dx^2} g(x) \\ &+ \frac{1}{22680} \left(\frac{d}{dx} g(x)\right)^3 \frac{d}{dx} \psi(x) + \frac{1}{18144} (g(x))^2 \psi(x) \left(\frac{d}{dx} g(x)\right)^2 \\ &+ \frac{29}{1814400} g(x)\psi(x) \frac{d^6}{dx^6} g(x) + \frac{1}{32400} \left(\frac{d^3}{dx^3} g(x)\right)^2 \psi(x) \\ &+ \frac{1}{90720} (g(x))^3 \left(\frac{d}{dx} \psi(x)\right) \frac{d}{dx} g(x) + \frac{1}{1814400} \left(\frac{d^8}{dx^8} g(x)\right) \psi(x) \\ &+ \frac{1}{226800} \left(\frac{d^7}{dx^7} g(x)\right) \frac{d}{dx} \psi(x) + \frac{1}{6480} \left(\frac{d^2}{dx^2} g(x)\right) \left(\frac{d}{dx} \psi(x)\right) \\ &\times \frac{d^3}{dx^3} g(x) + \frac{1}{10080} \left(\frac{d}{dx} g(x)\right) \left(\frac{d}{dx} g(x)\right) \frac{d^4}{dx^4} g(x) \\ &+ \frac{169}{907200} g(x)\psi(x) \left(\frac{d^3}{dx^3} g(x)\right) \frac{d^3}{dx^5} g(x) \\ &+ \frac{1}{226800} \left(\frac{d}{dx} g(x)\right) \psi(x) \frac{d^5}{dx^5} g(x) \\ &+ \frac{1}{22680} \left(\frac{d^2}{dx^2} g(x)\right) \psi(x) \frac{d^4}{dx^4} g(x) \\ &+ \frac{1}{22680} \left(\frac{d^2}{dx^2} g(x)\right) \psi(x) \frac{d^5}{dx^5} g(x) \\ &+ \frac{1}{22680} \left(\frac{d^2}{dx^2} g(x)\right) \psi(x) \frac{d^5}{dx^5} g(x) \\ &+ \frac{1}{22680} \left(\frac{d^2}{dx^2} g(x)\right) \psi(x) \frac{d^5}{d$$

The new method

$$LTE_{\Phi_4} = h^{10} \left[\left(\frac{1}{113400} \left(\frac{d^4}{dx^4} g(x) \right) \psi(x) \right) G^2 + \left(\frac{1}{30240} g(x) \psi(x) \left(\frac{d}{dx} g(x) \right)^2 \right. \\ \left. + \frac{1}{75600} \left(\frac{d^6}{dx^6} g(x) \right) \psi(x) + \frac{1}{56700} \left(\frac{d^5}{dx^5} g(x) \right) \left(\frac{d}{dx} \psi(x) \right) \right]$$

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$$\begin{aligned} &+\frac{23}{453600} g(x)\psi(x) \left(\frac{d^4}{dx^4}g(x)\right) + \frac{17}{226800} \left(\frac{d^2}{dx^2}g(x)\right)^2 \psi(x) \\ &+\frac{13}{113400}\psi(x) \left(\frac{d}{dx}g(x)\right) \left(\frac{d^3}{dx^3}g(x)\right) \\ &+\frac{1}{45360} g(x) \left(\frac{d}{dx}\psi(x)\right) \left(\frac{d^3}{dx^3}g(x)\right) \\ &+\frac{1}{22680} \left(\frac{d}{dx}\psi(x)\right) \left(\frac{d^2}{dx^2}g(x)\right) \left(\frac{d^2}{dx^2}g(x)\right) \\ &+\frac{1}{22680} \left(\frac{d}{dx}\psi(x)\right) \left(\frac{d^2}{dx^2}g(x)\right) \left(\frac{d^2}{dx^2}g(x)\right) \\ &+\frac{1}{45360} g(x)^2\psi(x) \left(\frac{d^2}{dx^2}g(x)\right) \frac{d^3}{dx^3}g(x) + \frac{1}{1814400} (g(x))^5\psi(x) \\ &+\frac{211}{1814400} g(x)\psi(x) \left(\frac{d^2}{dx^2}g(x)\right)^2 + \frac{1}{18144} (g(x))^2\psi(x) \left(\frac{d}{dx}g(x)\right)^2 \\ &+\frac{31}{907200} g(x) \left(\frac{d}{dx}\psi(x)\right) \frac{d^5}{dx^5}g(x) \\ &+\frac{169}{907200} g(x)\psi(x) \left(\frac{d^3}{dx^3}g(x)\right) \frac{d}{dx}g(x) \\ &+\frac{1}{6480} \left(\frac{d^2}{dx^2}g(x)\right) \left(\frac{d}{dx}\psi(x)\right) \frac{d^3}{dx^3}g(x) \\ &+\frac{1}{36288} (g(x))^3\psi(x) \frac{d^2}{dx^2}g(x) \\ &+\frac{1}{226800} \left(\frac{d^7}{dx^7}g(x)\right) \frac{d}{dx}\psi(x) + \frac{43}{907200} (g(x))^2\psi(x) \frac{d^4}{dx^4}g(x) \\ &+\frac{1}{28350} \left(\frac{d}{dx}g(x)\right)^2\psi(x) \frac{d^2}{dx^2}g(x) + \frac{1}{5670} g(x) \left(\frac{d}{dx}\psi(x)\right) \frac{d}{dx}g(x) \\ &+\frac{29}{226800} \left(\frac{d}{dx}g(x)\right) \frac{d^4}{dx^4}g(x) + \frac{7}{129600} \left(\frac{d^2}{dx^2}g(x)\right)\psi(x) \frac{d^4}{dx^4}g(x) \\ &\times \left(\frac{d}{dx}g(x)\right) \left(\frac{d}{dx}\psi(x)\right) \frac{d^4}{dx^4}g(x) + \frac{1}{1814400} \left(\frac{d^8}{dx^8}g(x)\right)\psi(x) \frac{d^4}{dx^4}g(x) \\ &+\frac{29}{1814400} g(x)\psi(x) \frac{d^6}{dx}g(x) \\ &+\frac{29}{1814400} g(x)\psi(x) \frac{d^6}{dx}g(x) \\ &+\frac{1}{22680} \left(\frac{d}{dx}g(x)\right)^3 \frac{d}{dx}\psi(x) + \frac{1}{1814400} \left(\frac{d^8}{dx^8}g(x)\right)\psi(x) \\ &= \frac{1}{226800} \left(\frac{d}{dx}g(x)\right)^3 \frac{d}{dx}\psi(x) + \frac{1}{1814400} \left(\frac{d^8}{dx^8}g(x)\right)\psi(x) \\ &= \frac{1}{226800} \left(\frac{d}{dx}g(x)\right)^3 \frac{d}{dx}\psi(x) + \frac{1}{1814400} \left(\frac{d^8}{dx^8}g(x)\right)\psi(x) \\ &= \frac{1}{226800} \left(\frac{d}{dx}g(x)\right)^3 \frac{d}{dx}\psi(x) + \frac{1}{1814400} \left(\frac{d^8}{dx^8}g(x)\right)\psi(x) \\ &= \frac{1}{22680} \left(\frac{d}{dx}g(x)\right)^3 \frac{d}{dx}\psi(x) + \frac{1}{1814400} \left(\frac{d^8}{dx^8}g(x)\right)\psi(x) \\ &= \frac{1}{226800} \left(\frac$$

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