



Parallel iteration of symmetric Runge-Kutta methods for  
nonstiff initial value problems

Nguyen huu Cong

Department of Numerical Mathematics

**Report NM-R9320 November 1993**

CWI is the National Research Institute for Mathematics and Computer Science. CWI is part of the Stichting Mathematisch Centrum (SMC), the Dutch foundation for promotion of mathematics and computer science and their applications.

SMC is sponsored by the Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research (NWO). CWI is a member of ERCIM, the European Research Consortium for Informatics and Mathematics.

Copyright © Stichting Mathematisch Centrum  
P.O. Box 94079, 1090 GB Amsterdam (NL)  
Kruislaan 413, 1098 SJ Amsterdam (NL)  
Telephone +31 20 592 9333  
Telefax +31 20 592 4199

# Parallel Iteration of Symmetric Runge-Kutta Methods for Nonstiff Initial Value Problems

Nguyen huu Cong

CWI

P. O. Box 94079, 1090 GB Amsterdam, The Netherlands

&

Faculty of Mathematics, Mechanics and Informatics

University of Hanoi, Thuong Dinh, Dong Da, Hanoi, Vietnam

## Abstract

This paper discusses parallel iteration schemes for collocation-based, symmetric Runge-Kutta (SRK) methods for solving nonstiff initial-value problems. Our main result is the derivation of four A-stable SRK corrector methods of orders 4, 6, 8, and 10 that optimize the rate of convergence when iterated by means of the highly parallel fixed point iteration process. The resulting PISRK method (parallel iterated SRK method) shows considerably increased efficiency when compared with fixed point iteration process applied to Gauss-Legendre correctors.

AMS Subject Classification (1991): 65M12, 65M20

CR Subject Classification: G.1.7

Keywords and Phrases: Runge-Kutta methods, predictor-corrector methods, parallelism.

Note: These investigations were supported by the University of Amsterdam who provided the author with a research grant for spending a total of two years at CWI in Amsterdam.

## 1. Introduction

In the literature, a number of parallel numerical methods have been proposed to solve the initial-value problem (IVP) for the system of nonstiff first-order ordinary differential equations (ODEs)

$$(1.1) \quad \frac{dy(t)}{dt} = f(y(t)).$$

Most of them are based on the highly parallel fixed point iteration (or predictor-corrector iteration) using a Runge-Kutta (RK) corrector already available in the literature (e.g. the Gauss-Legendre methods (cf. [6], [8], [10])). These correctors possess a high-order of accuracy and excellent stability properties for generating parallel methods. In the present paper, we propose a new class of symmetric RK methods of collocation type, to be called SRK methods, in which the abscissas are chosen such that the RK matrix has a minimized spectral radius. This property leads to improved rate of convergence when applying the parallel iteration scheme. Like the conventional Gauss-Legendre methods, the resulting SRK methods are A-stable (cf. Subsection 3.3). However, the particular location of the abscissas decreases the order of accuracy of the SRK methods when compared with the Gauss-Legendre methods. To be more precise, in general, an  $s$ -stage SRK method is of order  $p = s$  or  $p = s+1$  depending on whether  $s$  is even or odd, whereas an  $s$ -stage Gauss-Legendre method has order  $p = 2s$ . On a sequential computer, this would be a serious sacrifice, because for a given order  $p$ , the increased number of stages of the SRK correctors increases the computational work per iteration considerably. But on parallel computers, the *sequential* computational work is independent of the number of stages.

The parallel iterated SRK methods (PISRK methods) developed in this paper have the same predictor-corrector nature as the parallel iterated RK methods (PIRK methods) proposed in [6] and the block PIRK methods (BPIRK methods) of [5]. The predictor formula is based on extrapolation of preceding stage and step point values (cf. Subsection 3.1). Stability investigations reveal that the PISRK methods have sufficiently large stability regions for nonstiff problems (see Subsection 3.3). In Section 4, we compare the efficiency of PISRK methods with that of the PIRK and the BPIRK methods by means of a number of numerical experiments. These comparisons show that for a given order

Report NM-R9320

ISSN 0169-0388

CWI

P.O. Box 94079, 1090 GB Amsterdam, The Netherlands

of accuracy, the efficiency of the PISRK methods is much higher than the efficiency of the PIRK methods and comparable with or superior to that of the BPIRK methods. If we take into account that PISRK methods need much less processors for their implementation than needed by the BPIRK methods, we conclude that the PISRK methods are more attractive than the BPIRK methods.

## 2. Symmetric RK methods

In this section, we construct various symmetric RK methods that will serve as correctors for the parallel iteration scheme. For simplicity of notation, we assume that the equation (1.1) is an autonomous, scalar equation. However, all considerations below can be straightforwardly extended to a system of ODEs, and therefore, also to nonautonomous equations. For autonomous, scalar equations, the general  $s$ -stage RK method then assumes the form

$$(2.1) \quad \mathbf{Y}_n = \mathbf{e}y_n + h\mathbf{A}f(\mathbf{Y}_n), \quad y_{n+1} = y_n + h\mathbf{b}^T f(\mathbf{Y}_n),$$

where  $\mathbf{A}$  is an  $s$ -by- $s$  matrix,  $\mathbf{b}$  and  $\mathbf{e}$  are  $s$ -dimensional vectors,  $\mathbf{e}$  is the vector with unit entries, and  $\mathbf{Y}_n$  is the stage vector corresponding to the  $n$ -th step. Furthermore, we use the convention that for any given vector  $\mathbf{v} = (v_j)$ ,  $f(\mathbf{v})$  denotes the vector with entries  $f(v_j)$ . From now on, we assume that the RK method (2.1) is a collocation method based on symmetrically distributed, distinct collocation points (that is, the vector  $\mathbf{c} = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{e}$  is such that the abscissas  $t_n + c_i h$  are symmetric with respect to  $t_n + h/2$ ). These RK methods will be referred to as *SRK methods*. They form a special family of the class of symmetric RK methods (cf. [4] p. 217).

The collocation principle ensures that the SRK method is of at least order  $p = s$ . The order can be increased by satisfying the orthogonality relation (cf., e.g. [4] p. 207)

$$(2.2) \quad \int_0^1 \prod_{i=1}^s (x - c_i) x^{j-1} dx = 0.$$

It is easily verified that this condition is automatically satisfied for  $j = 1$  if  $s$  is odd. Thus, we have the result:

**Theorem 2.1.** *An  $s$ -stage SRK method is of order  $p = s$  if  $s$  is even and of order  $p = s + 1$  if  $s$  is odd. []*

This leads us to restrict our considerations to SRK methods with an odd number of stages.

In Section 3, it will turn out that it is convenient to iterate  $A$ -stable SRK correctors. Therefore, we now briefly discuss the  $A$ -stability of SRK methods. It is well known that RK methods are  $A$ -stable if the stability function is analytic in the left-half plane  $C^- := \{z \in C: \operatorname{Re}(z) < 0\}$  (i.e., if the eigenvalues of the matrix  $\mathbf{A}$  lie in the right-half plane  $C^+ := \{z \in C: \operatorname{Re}(z) > 0\}$ ) and if it is bounded by 1 on the imaginary axis. Since SRK methods possess stability functions of modulus 1 along the imaginary axis, we have the result:

**Theorem 2.2.** *An  $s$ -stage SRK method is  $A$ -stable if  $\mathbf{A}$  has its eigenvalues in the right-half plane. []*

## 3. Parallel-iterated SRK methods

Starting with the RK method (2.1), we consider the following fixed-point iteration scheme

$$(3.1b) \quad \mathbf{Y}_n^{(j)} = \mathbf{e}y_n + h\mathbf{A}f(\mathbf{Y}_n^{(j-1)}), \quad j = 1, \dots, m,$$

$$(3.1c) \quad y_{n+1} = y_n + h\mathbf{b}^T f(\mathbf{Y}_n^{(m)}).$$

By using information from the preceding step, that is, the values of  $y_n$  and the stage vector  $\mathbf{Y}_{n-1}^{(m)}$ , we may define a predictor formula of the form

$$(3.1a) \quad \mathbf{Y}_n^{(0)} = \mathbf{V}\mathbf{Y}_{n-1}^{(m)} + \mathbf{w}y_n,$$

where  $\mathbf{V}$  is an  $s$ -by- $s$  matrix and  $\mathbf{w}$  is an  $s$ -dimensional vector, both determined by order conditions (see Subsection 3.1). Notice that the  $s$  components of the vectors  $f(\mathbf{Y}_n^{(j)})$  can be computed in parallel, provided that  $s$  processors are available. Hence, the computational time needed for one iteration of (3.1b) is equivalent to the time required to evaluate one right-hand side function  $f$  on a sequential computer. Thus, in (3.1) the number of sequential evaluations of  $f$  per step of length  $h$  equals  $m+1$ .

Regarding the prediction formula (3.1a) as the predictor method and (2.1) as the corrector method, (3.1) may be considered as a conventional predictor-corrector (PC) method (in P(EC)<sup>m</sup>E mode). This parallel PC method (3.1) is of the same nature as the PIRK methods (parallel iterated RK methods) considered in [6], and only differs by its predictor (3.1a) and the underlying SRK corrector. In analogy with the PIRK methods, the method (3.1) will be called a *PISRK method* (parallel iterated SRK method).

### 3.1. Order conditions for the predictor method

The order conditions for the predictor formula (3.1a) can be derived straightforwardly using Taylor expansions. We obtain an order  $s$  predictor if

$$(3.2) \quad \frac{1}{j!} [(\mathbf{c} + \mathbf{e})^j - (\mathbf{V}, \mathbf{w}) \mathbf{a}^j] = \mathbf{0}, \quad \mathbf{a} := (\mathbf{c}^T, 1)^T, \quad j = 0, 1, \dots, s.$$

These conditions determine the matrix  $(\mathbf{V}, \mathbf{w})$ . In order to express  $(\mathbf{V}, \mathbf{w})$  explicitly in terms of  $\mathbf{c}$ , we define the  $s$ -by- $(s+1)$  and  $(s+1)$ -by- $(s+1)$  matrices  $\mathbf{P}$  and  $\mathbf{Q}$

$$(3.3a) \quad \mathbf{P} = (\mathbf{e}, (\mathbf{c} + \mathbf{e}), (\mathbf{c} + \mathbf{e})^2, \dots, (\mathbf{c} + \mathbf{e})^s), \quad \mathbf{Q} = (\mathbf{e}^*, \mathbf{a}, \mathbf{a}^2, \dots, \mathbf{a}^s),$$

where  $\mathbf{e}^*$  is the  $(s+1)$ -dimensional vector with unit entries. Condition (3.2) can be written in the form  $\mathbf{P} - (\mathbf{V}, \mathbf{w})\mathbf{Q} = \mathbf{O}$ , where  $\mathbf{O}$  is  $s$ -by- $(s+1)$  matrix with zero entries. Since the abscissas  $c_j$  are assumed to be distinct, we can write

$$(3.3b) \quad (\mathbf{V}, \mathbf{w}) = \mathbf{P}\mathbf{Q}^{-1}.$$

If (3.3) is satisfied, then the iteration errors associated with the stage vector and step point value satisfy the order relations

$$\mathbf{Y}_n - \mathbf{Y}_n^{(m)} = \mathcal{O}(h^{m+s+1}), \quad u_{n+1} - y_{n+1} = h \mathbf{b}^T [f(\mathbf{Y}_n) - f(\mathbf{Y}_n^{(m)})] = \mathcal{O}(h^{m+s+2}),$$

where  $u_{n+1}$  denotes the corrector solution at the step point  $t_{n+1}$ . The local truncation error of PISRK methods can be written as the sum of the truncation error of the SRK corrector and the iteration error of the PISRK method:

$$y(t_{n+1}) - y_{n+1} = (y(t_{n+1}) - u_{n+1}) + (u_{n+1} - y_{n+1}) = \mathcal{O}(h^{p+1}) + \mathcal{O}(h^{m+s+2}) = \mathcal{O}(h^{p^*+1}),$$

where  $p$  is the order of the SRK corrector,  $p^* = \min(p, m+s+1)$ . Thus, we have:

**Theorem 3.1.** *If the generating SRK corrector method (2.1) is of order  $p$  and if  $(\mathbf{V}, \mathbf{w})$  is defined by (3.3), then on  $s$ -processor computers the PISRK method (3.1) represents an explicit method of order  $p^* = \min(p, m+s+1)$  requiring  $m+1$  sequential right-hand side evaluations per step.  $\square$*

### 3.2. Construction of SRK corrector methods

In this subsection we concentrate on SRK methods with an odd number of implicit stages ( $s = 3, 5, 7, 9$ ) and we will construct SRK correctors such that the corresponding PISRK methods have maximized rates of convergence. The rate of convergence of PISRK methods is defined by using the model test equation  $y' = \lambda y$ , where  $\lambda$  runs through the eigenvalues of the Jacobian matrix  $\partial f / \partial \mathbf{y}$  (cf. [5], [9]). For this equation, we obtain the iteration error equation

$$\mathbf{Y}_n^{(j)} - \mathbf{Y}_n = z\mathbf{A} [\mathbf{Y}_n^{(j-1)} - \mathbf{Y}_n], \quad z := \lambda h, \quad j = 1, \dots, m.$$

Hence, with respect to the model test equation, the rate of convergence is determined by the spectral radius  $\rho(\mathbf{A})$  of the matrix  $\mathbf{A}$ . We shall call  $\rho(\mathbf{A})$  the *convergence factor* of the PISRK method. By requiring that  $\rho(z\mathbf{A}) < 1$ , we are led to the convergence condition

$$(3.4) \quad |z| < \frac{1}{\rho(\mathbf{A})} \quad \text{or} \quad h \leq \frac{1}{\rho(\mathbf{A}) \rho(\partial f / \partial \mathbf{y})}.$$

We exploit the freedom in the choice of the collocation vector  $\mathbf{c}$  for SRK correctors for minimizing the convergence factor  $\rho(\mathbf{A})$ , or equivalently, for maximizing the convergence region  $\{z: \rho(z\mathbf{A}) < 1\}$ . By a numerical search, we found the collocation vectors and the corresponding convergence factors as listed in Table 3.1 (the

specification of the parameters of the associated SRK corrector methods can be found in the Appendix). Table 3.1 also lists the convergence factors for the Gauss-Legendre based PIRK methods (we note that PIRK and BPIRK methods have identical convergence factors). From these figures, we see that the convergence factors of the PISRK methods are substantially smaller than those of the PIRK methods of the same order.

**Table 3.1.** SRK collocation points and convergence factors of PISRK and (B)PIRK methods

Order	c <sub>1</sub>	c <sub>2</sub>	c <sub>3</sub>	c <sub>4</sub>	Convergence factors	
					PISRK	(B)PIRK
p = 4	0.10300662				0.198	0.289
p = 6	0.04101173	0.21235714			0.123	0.215
p = 8	0.02180707	0.11383597	0.27544350		0.089	0.165
p = 10	0.01348800	0.07067122	0.17189713	0.31496835	0.070	0.137

### 3.3. Stability of PISRK methods

A numerical computation of the spectrum of the matrix A defining the SRK methods derived above shows that all the eigenvalues are lying in the right-half plane. Therefore, in view of Theorem 2.2, these SRK methods are A-stable. Evidently, when iterating until convergence, the stability region of the PISRK method is given by the intersection of its convergence region  $\{z: |z| < 1 / \rho(A)\}$  and the stability region of the corrector. Hence, by virtue of the A-stability, we achieve that by maximizing the region of convergence, we have in fact maximized the region of stability. However, in actual computation, we often do not iterate until convergence, so that it is of interest to determine the stability regions as a function of m.

Applying (3.1) to the model test equation, we obtain

$$(3.5a) \quad \begin{aligned} \mathbf{Y}_n^{(m)} &= \mathbf{e}y_n + z\mathbf{A}\mathbf{Y}_n^{(m-1)} = (\mathbf{I} + z\mathbf{A} + (z\mathbf{A})^2 + \dots + (z\mathbf{A})^{m-1})\mathbf{e}y_n + (z\mathbf{A})^m\mathbf{Y}_n^{(0)} \\ &= (z\mathbf{A})^m\mathbf{V}\mathbf{Y}_{n-1}^{(m)} + (\mathbf{I} - z\mathbf{A})^{-1}(\mathbf{I} - (z\mathbf{A})^m)\mathbf{e} + (z\mathbf{A})^m\mathbf{w}y_n \end{aligned}$$

$$(3.5b) \quad \begin{aligned} y_{n+1} &= y_n + z\mathbf{b}^T\mathbf{Y}_n^{(m)} \\ &= z\mathbf{b}^T(z\mathbf{A})^m\mathbf{V}\mathbf{Y}_{n-1}^{(m)} + (1 + z\mathbf{b}^T((z\mathbf{A})^m\mathbf{w} + (\mathbf{I} - z\mathbf{A})^{-1}(\mathbf{I} - (z\mathbf{A})^m)\mathbf{e}))y_n. \end{aligned}$$

From (3.5) we obtain the recursion

$$(3.6) \quad \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{Y}_n^{(m)} \\ y_{n+1} \end{pmatrix} = \mathbf{M}_m(z) \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{Y}_{n-1}^{(m)} \\ y_n \end{pmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{M}_m(z) = \begin{pmatrix} (z\mathbf{A})^m\mathbf{V} & (z\mathbf{A})^m\mathbf{w} + (\mathbf{I} - z\mathbf{A})^{-1}(\mathbf{I} - (z\mathbf{A})^m)\mathbf{e} \\ z\mathbf{b}^T(z\mathbf{A})^m\mathbf{V} & 1 + z\mathbf{b}^T((z\mathbf{A})^m\mathbf{w} + (\mathbf{I} - z\mathbf{A})^{-1}(\mathbf{I} - (z\mathbf{A})^m)\mathbf{e}) \end{pmatrix}$$

Similar to the stability considerations of block PIRK methods (cf. [5]), the (s+1)-by-(s+1) matrix  $\mathbf{M}_m(z)$  will be called the *amplification matrix*, and its spectral radius  $\rho(\mathbf{M}_m(z))$  the stability function. Notice that  $\rho(\mathbf{M}_m(z))$  converges to the stability function of the corrector method as  $m \rightarrow \infty$ , if z satisfies the convergence condition (3.4).

Using the familiar definition of the real and imaginary stability boundaries  $\beta_{re}(m)$  and  $\beta_{im}(m)$ , we computed the stability pairs  $(\beta_{re}(m), \beta_{im}(m))$  as listed in Table 3.2. We observe that for small m, the stability of PISRK methods is rather poor, but for  $m \geq p/2$  (say), the stability boundaries are sufficiently large for nonstiff problems. Hence, already for relatively small numbers of iterations, the PISRK method is expected to perform stably.

**Table 3.2.** Stability pairs  $(\beta_{re}(m), \beta_{im}(m))$  for various PISRK methods

Order	m = 1	m = 2	m = 3	m = 4	m = 5
p = 4	(0.04, 0.05)	<b>(0.43, 0.40)</b>	(0.96, 0.53)	(1.52, 0.42)	(2.13, 0.42)
p = 6	(0.00, 0.00)	(0.10, 0.10)	<b>(0.39, 0.40)</b>	(0.80, 0.82)	(1.25, 1.28)
p = 8	(0.00, 0.00)	(0.02, 0.02)	(0.15, 0.16)	<b>(0.42, 0.42)</b>	(0.77, 0.78)
p = 10	(0.00, 0.00)	(0.00, 0.00)	(0.06, 0.06)	(0.21, 0.21)	<b>(0.46, 0.46)</b>

#### 4. Numerical experiments

In this section we report numerical results obtained by the PISRK, the PIRK and the BPIRK methods. The experiments were performed on a 28-digits arithmetic computer. The absolute error obtained at the end of integration interval is presented in the form  $10^{-d}$  ( $d$  may be interpreted as the number of correct decimal digits (NCD)). We only compared methods of the *same order*, so that the accuracies are more or less comparable.

In order to see the efficiency of the PISRK, PIRK and BPIRK methods, we applied a dynamical strategy for determining the number of iterations in the successive steps. The stopping criterion is defined by

$$(4.1) \quad \| Y_n^{(m)} - Y_n^{(m-1)} \|_{\infty} \leq \text{TOL} = C h^p,$$

where  $C$  is a problem- and method-dependent parameter,  $p$  is order of the corrector. Notice that by this criterion the iteration error has the same order in  $h$  as the underlying corrector. Furthermore, in the tables of results,  $N_{\text{seq}}$  denotes the total number of sequential right hand side evaluations,  $N_{\text{steps}}$  denotes the total number of integration steps,  $k$  denotes number of processors needed for implementation. In the first integration step, we used the trivial predictor formula  $Y_1^{(0)} = y_n e$ .

##### 4.1. Fehlberg problem

As a first numerical test, we integrate the often-used Fehlberg problem (cf. [3])

$$(4.2) \quad \begin{aligned} y_1'(t) &= 2 t y_1(t) \log(\max\{y_2(t), 10^{-3}\}), & y_1(0) &= 1, \\ y_2'(t) &= -2 t y_2(t) \log(\max\{y_1(t), 10^{-3}\}), & y_2(0) &= e, \end{aligned} \quad 0 \leq t \leq 5,$$

with exact solution  $y_1(t) = \exp(\sin(t^2))$ ,  $y_2(t) = \exp(\cos(t^2))$ . The results listed in Table 4.1 show that PISRK is always superior to PIRK. In the low accuracy range, the convergence of the PISRK methods in the integration process is slower than that of the BPIRK methods. This may be explained by the fact that the stability region of the PISRK methods is not sufficiently large for low  $m$ -values (see Table 3.2). However, for a given stepsize, the accuracy of the PISRK results turns out to be higher than the accuracy of the BPIRK method, so that the efficiency of PISRK is at least as high as that of BPIRK. Particularly, in the high accuracy range, the superiority of the PISRK methods over the BPIRK methods is evident.

**Table 4.1.** Values of NCD /  $N_{\text{seq}}$  for problem (4.2) obtained by various parallel PC methods

PC methods	$k$	$p$	$N_{\text{steps}}=100$	$N_{\text{steps}}=200$	$N_{\text{steps}}=400$	$N_{\text{steps}}=800$	$N_{\text{steps}}=1600$	$C$
BPIRK	8	4	3.2 / 200	4.3 / 406	5.4 / 844	6.5 / 1758	7.7 / 3759	$10^3$
PISRK	3	4	4.3 / 256	5.2 / 483	6.2 / 930	7.4 / 1820	8.7 / 3661	$10^3$
PIRK	2	4	2.7 / 392	4.0 / 842	5.2 / 1756	6.5 / 3650	7.7 / 7409	$10^3$
BPIRK	18	6	5.4 / 250	7.1 / 533	8.9 / 1150	10.7 / 2505	12.5 / 5317	$10^3$
PISRK	5	6	5.9 / 348	8.6 / 637	10.2 / 1194	12.2 / 2272	14.0 / 4398	$10^3$
PIRK	3	6	5.2 / 601	7.0 / 1245	8.9 / 2542	10.7 / 5199	12.5 / 10488	$10^3$
BPIRK	32	8	8.2 / 293	10.3 / 662	12.7 / 1432	15.0 / 2985	17.5 / 6233	$10^3$
PISRK	7	8	8.7 / 439	11.9 / 780	14.6 / 1439	17.3 / 2706	19.6 / 5116	$10^3$
PIRK	4	8	7.8 / 774	10.2 / 1603	12.6 / 3297	15.1 / 6674	17.5 / 13468	$10^3$
BPIRK	50	10	9.9 / 357	12.9 / 787	15.9 / 1710	18.9 / 3658	22.0 / 7540	$10^3$
PISRK	9	10	12.2 / 513	13.1 / 913	18.8 / 1654	21.7 / 3086	23.1 / 5919	$10^3$
PIRK	5	10	9.9 / 942	12.9 / 1947	15.9 / 3973	18.9 / 8134	22.0 / 16407	$10^3$

## 4.2. Orbit equation

Our second example is a well-known test problem in the RK-literature, viz. the orbit equation (cf. [7])

$$\begin{aligned}
 (4.3) \quad & y'_1(t) = y_3(t), & y_1(0) &= 1 - \varepsilon, \\
 & y'_2(t) = y_4(t), & y_2(0) &= 0, \\
 & y'_3(t) = \frac{-y_1(t)}{(y_1^2(t) + y_2^2(t))^{3/2}}, & y_3(0) &= 0, & 0 \leq t \leq 20, \\
 & y'_4(t) = \frac{-y_2(t)}{(y_1^2(t) + y_2^2(t))^{3/2}}, & y_4(0) &= \sqrt{\frac{1 + \varepsilon}{1 - \varepsilon}}, & \varepsilon = \frac{3}{10}.
 \end{aligned}$$

The performance of the methods is shown by the results given in Table 4.2. Again PISRK is superior to PIRK, but now, the BPIRK methods are slightly more efficient than PISRK in the low accuracy range. However, in the range of high accuracy, the PISRK methods are again superior to the BPIRK methods.

**Table 4.2.** Values of  $NCD / N_{seq}$  for problem (4.2) obtained by various parallel PC methods

PC methods	k	p	$N_{steps}=100$	$N_{steps}=200$	$N_{steps}=400$	$N_{steps}=800$	$N_{steps}=1600$	C
BPIRK	8	4	3.0 / 203	4.6 / 404	5.0 / 880	6.1 / 1861	7.3 / 3924	$10^0$
PISRK	3	4	2.7 / 270	5.0 / 499	5.8 / 958	7.7 / 1880	8.9 / 3739	$10^0$
PIRK	2	4	3.1 / 441	3.7 / 905	4.9 / 1947	6.1 / 4000	7.3 / 8000	$10^0$
BPIRK	18	6	4.8 / 237	6.8 / 511	8.7 / 1106	10.4 / 2516	12.2 / 5185	$10^{-1}$
PISRK	5	6	5.3 / 373	7.9 / 659	10.0 / 1172	12.6 / 2221	14.0 / 4363	$10^{-1}$
PIRK	3	6	5.0 / 643	7.2 / 1302	8.9 / 2637	10.5 / 5499	12.3 / 11200	$10^{-1}$
BPIRK	32	8	7.2 / 276	9.7 / 632	12.2 / 1382	14.7 / 2956	17.2 / 6277	$10^{-2}$
PISRK	7	8	7.9 / 458	10.9 / 808	14.0 / 1436	16.6 / 2695	19.0 / 5063	$10^{-2}$
PIRK	4	8	7.6 / 837	10.4 / 1686	12.8 / 3397	15.0 / 6845	17.3 / 13827	$10^{-2}$
BPIRK	50	10	9.5 / 265	12.8 / 637	16.0 / 1469	19.0 / 3187	22.1 / 6957	$10^{-2}$
PISRK	9	10	9.8 / 538	14.1 / 930	17.0 / 1651	19.6 / 2990	23.9 / 5625	$10^{-2}$
PIRK	5	10	9.3 / 926	12.8 / 1926	16.3 / 3927	19.2 / 8226	22.2 / 16532	$10^{-2}$

### Concluding remarks

This paper shows the performance of a special class of symmetric Runge-Kutta methods when they are used as corrector methods for generating parallel PC methods for nonstiff problems. By two examples, we have shown that for a given order  $p$  the resulting PISRK method is by far superior to the PIRK method (about a factor from 2 to 5). However, the number of necessary processors is a factor  $2 - 2/p$  larger. This modest increase of processors seems to be a low price for the substantially increased efficiency. The PISRK method is roughly competitive with BPIRK in the low accuracy range, but clearly more efficient in the high accuracy range. But here, it is the PISRK method that needs less processors. In fact, the number of processors needed by BPIRK is a factor  $p^2 / (2p - 2)$  larger.

### Acknowledgement

The author is grateful to Prof. Dr. P.J. van der Houwen and Dr. B.P. Sommeijer for their help during the preparation of this note.



## References

- [1] **Butcher, J. C. (1987):** *The Numerical Analysis of Ordinary Differential Equations, Runge-Kutta and General Linear Methods*, John Wiley & Sons, Chichester - New York - Brisbane - Toronto - Singapore.
- [2] **Dekker, K. and Verwer, J.G. (1984):** *Stability of Runge-Kutta Methods for Stiff Nonlinear Differential Equations*, Noth-Holland, Amsterdam - New York - Oxford.
- [3] **Fehlberg, E. (1969):** *Classical fifth-, sixth- and eighth-order Runge-Kutta formulas with stepsize control*, NASA Technical Report 287, 1968; extract published in *Computing* 4, 93-106.
- [4] **Hairer, E., Nørsett, S.P. & Wanner, G. (1987):** *Solving Ordinary Differential Equations I, Nonstiff Problems*, Springer-Verlag, Berlin.
- [5] **Houwen, P.J. van der & Nguyen huu Cong (1993):** *Parallel block predictor-corrector methods of Runge-Kutta type*, *Appl. Numer. Math.* 13, 109-123.
- [6] **Houwen, P.J. van der & Sommeijer, B.P. (1990):** *Parallel iteration of high-order Runge-Kutta methods with stepsize control*, *J. Comp. Appl. Math.* 29, 111-127.
- [7] **Hull, T.E., Enright, W.H., Fellen, B.M. & Sedgwick, A.E. (1972):** *Comparing numerical methods for ordinary differential equations*, *SIAM J. Numer. Anal.* 9, 603-637.
- [8] **Lie, I. (1987):** *Some aspects of parallel Runge-Kutta methods*, Report No. 3/87, Division Numerical Mathematics, University of Trondheim, Norway.
- [9] **Nguyen huu Cong (1993):** *Note on the performance of direct and indirect Runge-Kutta-Nyström methods*, *J. Comp. Appl. Math.* 45, 347-355.
- [10] **Nørsett, S.P. & Simonsen, H.H. (1989):** *Aspects of parallel Runge-Kutta methods*, in: A. Bellen, C.W. Gear and E. Russo (Eds.): *Numerical Methods for Ordinary Differential Equations*, Proceedings L'Aquila 1987, LNM 1386, Springer-Verlag, Berlin.

## Appendix

Here we give the parameters (c, A, b) in 24 decimals of the A-stable SRK methods of fourth-order, sixth-order, eighth-order and tenth-order based on optimal collocation vectors defined in Subsection 3.2. These parameters were computed on a 28-digits arithmetic computer.

**Table A.1.** Parameters (c, A, b) of the tenth-order A-stable SRK method

c(1)= 1.348800000000000000000000E-02	a(6,5)= 2.060605156641646284217599E-01
c(2)= 7.067122000000000000000000E-02	a(7,5)= 1.906148907104036815113188E-01
c(3)= 1.718971300000000000000000E-01	a(8,5)= 1.966760339646022725290489E-01
c(4)= 3.149683500000000000000000E-01	a(9,5)= 1.937234847332158277880012E-01
c(5)= 5.000000000000000000000000E-01	a(1,6)= -7.613884904309616161391170E-04
c(6)= 6.850316500000000000000000E-01	a(2,6)= 1.455585464424977511483241E-03
c(7)= 8.281028700000000000000000E-01	a(3,6)= -2.829679073923829314984336E-03
c(8)= 9.293287800000000000000000E-01	a(4,6)= 6.527482223584249345204987E-03
c(9)= 9.865120000000000000000000E-01	a(5,6)= -2.020968393425451959268970E-02
a(1,1)= 1.692339033818321939497441E-02	a(6,6)= 9.283398909999342078994777E-02
a(2,1)= 3.798817356241748118932512E-02	a(7,6)= 1.761527809710818891665653E-01
a(3,1)= 3.234123973504638506520096E-02	a(8,6)= 1.636136285848254835312337E-01
a(4,1)= 3.664998191129603776826191E-02	a(9,6)= 1.688133347629998469382372E-01
a(5,1)= 3.226567141936681430506374E-02	a(1,7)= 6.145364402375350074702177E-04
a(6,1)= 3.523575889482434401551513E-02	a(2,7)= -1.158000184289819250496616E-03
a(7,1)= 3.392814865782345884856517E-02	a(3,7)= 2.180757064971311531147709E-03
a(8,1)= 3.458681211188532716328230E-02	a(4,7)= -4.708742515945848177560006E-03
a(9,1)= 3.423041653974535666415322E-02	a(5,7)= 1.230323686032092493968186E-02
a(1,2)= -5.372877186948610979204383E-03	a(6,7)= -1.866218398652611603015933E-02
a(2,2)= 3.793042239933952621207395E-02	a(7,7)= 6.392841226590788116206071E-02
a(3,2)= 8.914068188432960705279154E-02	a(8,7)= 1.284128785328563965125563E-01
a(4,2)= 7.214823522603643827668426E-02	a(9,7)= 1.177870200405002445190596E-01
a(5,2)= 8.715813156018074904545487E-02	a(1,8)= -3.852536787604063243432038E-04
a(6,2)= 7.753888002071564087429668E-02	a(2,8)= 7.205432980968136470424388E-04
a(7,2)= 8.166998985340760450441485E-02	a(3,8)= -1.335485659387064072338948E-03
a(8,2)= 7.961396089592372678503346E-02	a(4,8)= 2.795624173304899557779179E-03
a(9,2)= 8.071975787278094675641915E-02	a(5,8)= -6.823627366160208613379033E-03
a(1,3)= 3.020067075960687974496051E-03	a(6,8)= 8.186268967984102155391581E-03
a(2,3)= -7.605791416395464019000707E-03	a(7,8)= -8.806177690309066620715686E-03
a(3,3)= 5.687867485055305133149481E-02	a(8,8)= 4.240408179468101422000194E-02
a(4,3)= 1.394692711029870485237149E-01	a(9,8)= 8.570738138096915141128027E-02
a(5,3)= 1.085038502561400075538737E-01	a(1,9)= 1.244523600872283856237516E-04
a(6,3)= 1.255158296324067806711156E-01	a(2,9)= -2.319432120527421135052508E-04
a(7,3)= 1.186263300514896209624078E-01	a(3,9)= 4.267202420091262012117974E-04
a(8,3)= 1.219650873007507517440521E-01	a(4,9)= -8.808899949917589657381521E-04
a(9,3)= 1.201925506762233974860856E-01	a(5,9)= 2.089197480465770744713244E-03
a(1,4)= -1.668147821514945772414703E-03	a(6,9)= -2.295113011463452718484930E-03
a(2,4)= 3.531558356659417634588727E-03	a(7,9)= 2.013629164786199984576012E-03
a(3,4)= -9.007594029596988000742774E-03	a(8,9)= -3.633304662584896139548151E-03
a(4,4)= 7.431119784149148037587473E-02	a(9,9)= 1.743147856164936565480256E-02
a(5,4)= 1.873548708757394207585122E-01	b(1)= 3.435486889983258504977696E-02
a(6,4)= 1.606177047179006518206175E-01	b(2)= 8.033450419402054043207608E-02
a(7,4)= 1.699748660154087304808069E-01	b(3)= 1.208070871164609324935554E-01
a(8,4)= 1.656896014770599236543393E-01	b(4)= 1.671451869414849011658226E-01
a(9,4)= 1.679065754319158627819615E-01	b(5)= 1.947167056964020817175380E-01
a(1,5)= 9.932209631862539295369726E-04	b(6)= 1.671451869414849011658226E-01
a(2,5)= -1.959328268200190811510921E-03	b(7)= 1.208070871164609324935554E-01
a(3,5)= 4.101814985998400206219221E-03	b(8)= 8.033450419402054043207608E-02
a(4,5)= -1.134380996776254670422189E-02	b(9)= 3.435486889983258504977696E-02
a(5,5)= 9.735835284820104085876903E-02	

**Table A.2.** Parameters (c, A, b) of the eighth-order A-stable SRK method

---

c(1)=	2.180707000000000000000000E-02	a(5,4)=	2.534156303388047008057301E-01
c(2)=	1.138359700000000000000000E-01	a(6,4)=	2.336369206187036866241858E-01
c(3)=	2.754435000000000000000000E-01	a(7,4)=	2.413872250560710385132096E-01
c(4)=	5.000000000000000000000000E-01	a(1,5)=	1.614460532672800388263331E-03
c(5)=	7.245565000000000000000000E-01	a(2,5)=	-3.340307576834258574403198E-03
c(6)=	8.861640300000000000000000E-01	a(3,5)=	7.642167699631220861305891E-03
c(7)=	9.781929300000000000000000E-01	a(4,5)=	-2.293749353875077669783486E-02
a(1,1)=	2.719458528468348999690676E-02	a(5,5)=	1.087348453886036074618567E-01
a(2,1)=	6.161543561627850473846273E-02	a(6,5)=	2.093162870899763088656143E-01
a(3,1)=	5.182898598373283644258651E-02	a(7,5)=	1.937438551538189039470789E-01
a(4,1)=	5.952886243749456466176979E-02	a(1,6)=	-9.984651019086125542668728E-04
a(5,1)=	5.482318765609052066528260E-02	a(2,6)=	2.017530296563288016744008E-03
a(6,1)=	5.685349873400264637965646E-02	a(3,6)=	-4.354332010802489357944740E-03
a(7,1)=	5.587407464549377420287575E-02	a(4,6)=	1.112437754312734493436542E-02
a(1,2)=	-8.220167794071282102636274E-03	a(5,6)=	-1.781890974843156671625709E-02
a(2,2)=	6.012820617266778675375580E-02	a(6,6)=	6.613141385583058658201157E-02
a(3,2)=	1.440785297769299400520244E-01	a(7,6)=	1.344797878225696554384036E-01
a(4,2)=	1.151352424853710284014019E-01	a(1,7)=	3.263879592763871712550772E-04
a(5,2)=	1.306139520393008626937121E-01	a(2,7)=	-6.530361292324850055256341E-04
a(6,2)=	1.242420897319350853190233E-01	a(3,7)=	1.377274948679640708848226E-03
a(7,2)=	1.272580851304069858900342E-01	a(4,7)=	-3.328399832724403287638962E-03
a(1,3)=	4.314630250406867072358188E-03	a(5,7)=	4.371476621037324931544310E-03
a(2,3)=	-1.125780168575053784617727E-02	a(6,7)=	-5.414973011508343364331909E-03
a(3,3)=	8.932364001562216355758034E-02	a(7,7)=	2.900587732008667137722406E-02
a(4,3)=	2.209959789429765477172719E-01	b(1)=	5.620046260477016137413083E-02
a(5,3)=	1.904163177045945501581312E-01	b(2)=	1.262596200284983733357673E-01
a(6,3)=	2.013987929810600295938402E-01	b(3)=	1.980584854042257710194370E-01
a(7,3)=	1.964440248715529706311737E-01	b(4)=	2.389628639250113885413294E-01
a(1,4)=	-2.424361131059649971880218E-03	b(5)=	1.980584854042257710194370E-01
a(2,4)=	5.325943306307701917143556E-03	b(6)=	1.262596200284983733357673E-01
a(3,4)=	-1.445276641379331226440070E-02	b(7)=	5.620046260477016137413083E-02
a(4,4)=	1.194814319625056942706647E-01		

---

**Table A.3.** Parameters (c, A, b) of the sixth-order A-stable SRK method

---

c(1)=	4.101173000000000000000000E-02	a(4,3)=	3.338892381471199371555268E-01
c(2)=	2.123571400000000000000000E-01	a(5,3)=	3.073572867872378233677589E-01
c(3)=	5.000000000000000000000000E-01	a(1,4)=	-3.634699735687252294284819E-03
c(4)=	7.876428600000000000000000E-01	a(2,4)=	8.729198032229634013008123E-03
c(5)=	9.589882700000000000000000E-01	a(3,4)=	-2.609277131592790832764362E-02
a(1,1)=	5.059861543330464384350888E-02	a(4,4)=	1.294141079708754450773549E-01
a(2,1)=	1.164192043680639872881541E-01	a(5,4)=	2.529678133778671375522684E-01
a(3,1)=	9.697562207499493294173674E-02	a(1,5)=	1.168925695371620087472194E-03
a(4,1)=	1.066777234120923925248380E-01	a(2,5)=	-2.691905054414188351611500E-03
a(5,1)=	1.028168926623065840857543E-01	a(3,5)=	7.010196282683271231489804E-03
a(1,2)=	-1.414343886533949518205260E-02	a(4,5)=	-1.243338601038578311492761E-02
a(2,2)=	1.094102665416521972928608E-01	a(5,5)=	5.338720292437356032971765E-02
a(3,2)=	2.649171458284555506978594E-01	b(1)=	1.039858183576782041732265E-01
a(4,2)=	2.300951764802980083572076E-01	b(2)=	2.388243745125276423702158E-01
a(5,2)=	2.424590742482148946645006E-01	b(3)=	3.143796142595883069131152E-01
a(1,3)=	7.022327472350483545356338E-03	b(4)=	2.388243745125276423702158E-01
a(2,3)=	-1.950962388753163024241162E-02	b(5)=	1.039858183576782041732265E-01
a(3,3)=	1.571898071297941534565576E-01		

---

**Table A.4.** Parameters (c, A, b) of the fourth-order A-stable SRK method

---

c(1)= 1.030066200000000000000000E-01	a(3,2)= 5.002861308402924572096411E-01
c(2)= 5.000000000000000000000000E-01	a(1,3)= 7.837487223477618892753973E-03
c(3)= 8.969933800000000000000000E-01	a(2,3)= -2.524529444318904777391269E-02
	a(3,3)= 1.401686138901442855594206E-01
a(1,1)= 1.242075086028965905642715E-01	b(1)= 2.643761224930408761236921E-01
a(2,1)= 2.896214169362299238976048E-01	b(2)= 4.712477550139182477526156E-01
a(3,1)= 2.565386352695632572309381E-01	b(3)= 2.643761224930408761236921E-01
a(1,2)= -2.903837582637420945702549E-02	
a(2,2)= 2.356238775069591238763078E-01	

---