

Unisolvence of Kansa collocation for elliptic equations by polyharmonic splines with random fictitious centers

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Abstract

We make a further step in the unisolvence open problem for unsymmetric Kansa collocation, proving almost sure nonsingularity of Kansa matrices with polyharmonic splines and random fictitious centers, for second-order elliptic equations with mixed boundary conditions. We also show some numerical tests, where the fictitious centers are local random perturbations of predetermined collocation points.

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1. Introduction

Strong form meshless collocation by Radial Basis Functions, named after the pioneering work of E.J. Kansa in the late 80's [13, 14], has been widely used in numerical modelling of scientific and engineering problems for almost 40 years; cf., with no pretence of exhaustivity, [1, 3, 4, 5, 10, 19] and the references therein. Despite the manifest success of Kansa method and several studies devoted to its theoretical and computational features, for example on unisolvence in the overtesting framework via least squares (cf. e.g. [6, 11, 16, 18, 19]), the basic problem of invertibility of unsymmetric square collocation matrices remains still substantially open. It is indeed well known since the fundamental paper by Hon and Schaback [11] that there exist singular collocation designs (though they are extremely “rare”), but finding sufficient conditions that ensure invertibility is a challenging topic. This theoretical lack was clearly recognized in the popular textbook [10], and still only quite partially fixed.

To be precise, some specific results have been recently obtained for random collocation, in the standard (but quite difficult) situation where RBF centers and collocation points coincide, namely in the particular case of the Poisson equation with Dirichlet boundary conditions, cf. [2, 8]. Nevertheless, while the assumptions in [2] (which treats the popular MultiQuadratics) are weak, in particular the boundary has no specific property besides those required for well-posedness of the differential problem, in [8], dealing with Thin-Plate Splines (TPS) with no polynomial addition, the boundary is assumed to possess an analytic parametrization. All these restrictions make the quoted results not completely satisfactory, even in the framework of random collocation.

In this paper, expanding the proving technique presented in [7], we focus on almost sure unisolvence of *random meshless collocation* by polyharmonic splines, trying to work with more generality on *second-order elliptic equations* and *mixed Dirichlet-Neumann boundary conditions*. The main idea that allows the generalization is to work with distinct center and collocation points, in particular the collocation points will be fixed and the centers randomly chosen. While the use of a sort of “fictitious” centers is not new in the literature on the Kansa method (essentially in the least squares framework), cf. e.g. [4, 5, 21], the novelty here is that we deal with square collocation matrices. Moreover, the centers are independent but not

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necessarily identically distributed random variables, in particular we can take the centers as local random perturbations of predetermined collocation points. On the other hand, in the implementation we can exploit an appealing computational feature of polyharmonic splines, that of being *scale independent*, cf. e.g. [10].

The main theoretical result is proved in Section 2, while in Section 3 we present some numerical tests to show the applicability of this kind of Kansa collocation, which is theoretically unisolvent in a probabilistic sense.

2. Second-order elliptic equations with mixed boundary conditions

In this paper, we consider second-order elliptic equations with variable coefficients and mixed boundary conditions

$$\begin{cases} \mathcal{L}u(P) = \sum_{i,j=1}^d c_{ij}(P) \partial_{x_i x_j}^2 u(P) + \langle \nabla u(P), \vec{b}(P) \rangle + \rho(P)u(P) = f(P), & P \in \Omega, \\ \mathcal{B}u(P) = \chi_{\Gamma_1}(P)u(P) + \chi_{\Gamma_2}(P)\partial_\nu u(P) = g(P), & P \in \partial\Omega, \end{cases} \quad (1)$$

where $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^d$ is a bounded domain (connected open set), $P = (x_1, \dots, x_d)$, and the differential operator is *elliptic*, i.e.

$$\sum_{i,j} c_{ij}(P) \xi_i \xi_j \neq 0, \quad \forall P \in \Omega, \quad \forall \xi \in \mathbb{R}^d \setminus \{0\}. \quad (2)$$

Moreover, $\nabla = (\partial_{x_1}, \dots, \partial_{x_d})$ denotes the gradient and $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$ the inner product in \mathbb{R}^d , \vec{b} is a vector field, $\partial_\nu = \langle \nabla, \vec{\nu} \rangle$ is the normal derivative at a boundary point, and χ denotes the characteristic function. The boundary is indeed splitted in two disjoint portions, namely $\partial\Omega = \Gamma_1 \cup \Gamma_2$. If $\Gamma_2 = \emptyset$ or $\Gamma_1 = \emptyset$ we recover purely Dirichlet or purely Neumann conditions, respectively.

We recall that polyharmonic splines correspond to the radial functions

$$\phi(r) = r^k \log(r), \quad 4 \leq k \in 2\mathbb{N}$$

(TPS, Thin-Plate Splines, order $m = k/2 + 1$) and

$$\phi(r) = r^k, \quad 2 < k \in \mathbb{N}, \quad k \text{ odd}$$

(RP, Radial Powers, order $m = \lceil k/2 \rceil$), cf. e.g. [10]. The restriction on the exponents in the present context guarantees the existence of second derivatives.

In the sequel, we shall use the following notation:

$$\phi_A(P) = \phi(\|P - A\|) \quad (3)$$

where $A = (a_1, \dots, a_d)$ is the RBF center and $\|\cdot\|$ the Euclidean norm; notice that, for both TPS and RP, $\phi_A(P)$ is a *real analytic function* of P for fixed A (and of A for fixed P) in \mathbb{R}^d up to $P = A$, due to analyticity of the univariate functions $\log(\cdot)$ and $\sqrt{\cdot}$ in \mathbb{R}^+ .

Observe that taking derivatives with respect to the P variable

$$\partial_{x_i x_j}^2 \phi_A(P) = \delta_{ij} \frac{\phi'(r)}{r} + \frac{(x_i - a_i)(x_j - a_j)}{r^2} \left(\phi''(r) - \frac{\phi'(r)}{r} \right), \quad (4)$$

$$\nabla \phi_A(P) = (P - A) \phi'(r)/r, \quad \partial_\nu \phi_A(P) = \langle P - A, \vec{\nu}(P) \rangle \phi'(r)/r,$$

where $r = \|P - A\|$. Notice that in the TPS case

$$\phi'(r)/r = r^{k-2}(k \log(r) + 1), \quad \phi''(r) - \phi'(r)/r = r^{k-2}(k(k-2) \log(r) + 2k - 2),$$

whereas in the RP case

$$\phi'(r)/r = kr^{k-2}, \quad \phi''(r) - \phi'(r)/r = k(k-2)r^{k-2}.$$

The Kansa collocation matrix can be written as

$$K_N = \begin{pmatrix} \mathcal{L}\phi_{A_j}(P_i) \\ \mathcal{B}\phi_{A_j}(Q_k) \end{pmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times N},$$

where $1 \leq i \leq N_I$, $1 \leq k \leq N_B$, $1 \leq j \leq N = N_I + N_B$, A_1, \dots, A_N are the centers, $\{P_1, \dots, P_{N_I}\}$ distinct internal collocation points, and $\{Q_1, \dots, Q_{N_B}\}$ distinct boundary collocation points.

We state now the main result.

Theorem 2.1. *Let K_N be the polyharmonic spline Kansa collocation matrix defined above for the second-order elliptic equation (1) with mixed boundary conditions on $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^d$, $d \geq 2$, where $\{P_h\} \subset \Omega$ and $\{Q_k\} \subset \partial\Omega$ are any two fixed sets of distinct collocation points, and $\{A_i\}$ is a sequence of independent random points with possibly distinct probability densities $\sigma_i \in L_+^1(\mathbb{R}^d)$.*

Then for every $N = N_I + N_B$ with $N_I \geq 0$, $N_B \geq 1$, the matrix K_N is almost surely nonsingular.

Proof. For the induction base, let us take $N = 1$, that is $N_I = 0$, $N_B = 1$. Then, either $\det(K_1) = \phi_{A_1}(Q_1)$ when $Q_1 \in \Gamma_1$, or $\det(K_1) = \partial_\nu \phi_{A_1}(Q_1)$ when $Q_1 \in \Gamma_2$. In the first case $\phi_{A_1}(Q_1) = 0$ with RP iff $A_1 = Q_1$, an event which clearly has probability zero. With TPS we have also to consider that A_1 falls on the hypersphere $\|Q_1 - A\| = 1$ due to the logarithmic factor, again an event with probability zero. In the second case, $\partial_\nu \phi_{A_1}(Q_1) = 0$ in the RP instance iff $A_1 = Q_1$, an event which clearly has probability zero, or $Q_1 - A_1$ is orthogonal to $\vec{\nu}(Q_1)$, that is A_1 falls in the tangent space to the boundary point Q_1 . Also this event has probability zero, since a tangent space is a null set in \mathbb{R}^d . In the TPS instance we have also to take into account the case $k \log(\|Q_1 - A_1\|) = -1$, i.e. that A_1 falls on the hypersphere $\|Q_1 - A\| = \exp(-1/k)$, again an event with probability zero.

For the inductive step, in case an internal collocation point is added we consider the auxiliary matrix with an added central row and last column (as a function of the new random center A)

$$K_I(A) = \begin{pmatrix} \mathcal{L}\phi_{A_j}(P_i) & \mathcal{L}\phi_A(P_i) \\ \mathcal{L}\phi_{A_j}(P_{N_I+1}) & \mathcal{L}\phi_A(P_{N_I+1}) \\ \mathcal{B}\phi_{A_j}(Q_k) & \mathcal{B}\phi_A(Q_k) \end{pmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^{(N+1) \times (N+1)}$$

such that $K_{N+1} = K_I(A_{N+1})$, while in case a boundary collocation point is added we consider the matrix with an added last row and column

$$K_B(A) = \begin{pmatrix} \mathcal{L}\phi_{A_j}(P_i) & \mathcal{L}\phi_A(P_i) \\ \mathcal{B}\phi_{A_j}(Q_k) & \mathcal{B}\phi_A(Q_k) \\ \mathcal{B}\phi_{A_j}(Q_{N_B+1}) & \mathcal{B}\phi_A(Q_{N_B+1}) \end{pmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^{(N+1) \times (N+1)}$$

such that $K_{N+1} = K_B(A_{N+1})$. Now developing the determinants by the last column we get

$$F(A) = \det(K_I(A)) = \sum_{j=1}^{N_I} \alpha_j \mathcal{L}\phi_A(P_j) + \alpha_{N_I+1} \mathcal{L}\phi_A(P_{N_I+1}) + \sum_{k=1}^{N_B} \beta_k \mathcal{B}\phi_A(Q_k),$$

and

$$G(A) = \det(K_B(A)) = \sum_{j=1}^{N_I} \alpha_j \mathcal{L}\phi_A(P_j) + \sum_{k=1}^{N_B} \beta_k \mathcal{B}\phi_A(Q_k) + \beta_{N_B+1} \mathcal{B}\phi_A(Q_{N_B+1}),$$

where α_h, β_k are the corresponding minors with the appropriate sign. Since $|\alpha_{N_I+1}| = |\beta_{N_B+1}| = |\det(K_N)|$ is almost surely nonzero by inductive hypothesis, in both cases the determinants $F(A)$ and $G(A)$ as functions

of A are almost surely not identically zero in \mathbb{R}^d , because the functions $\{\mathcal{L}\phi_A(P_h), \mathcal{B}\phi_A(Q_k)\}$, $1 \leq h \leq N_I$, $1 \leq k \leq N_B$, are linearly independent in \mathbb{R}^d (as functions of A). To prove linear independence, first we show that $\mathcal{L}\phi_A(P_h)$ is analytic in \mathbb{R}^d up to the point $A = P_h$ where it has a singularity of some partial derivative, for both RP and TPS. Indeed, by (3)-(4), we have that $\mathcal{L}\phi_A(P_h) = \mathcal{L}_A^\ominus \phi_A(P_h)$ where

$$\mathcal{L}_A^\ominus \phi_A(P_h) = \sum_{i,j=1}^d c_{ij}(P_h) \partial_{a_i a_j}^2 \phi_A(P_h) - \sum_{j=1}^d b_j(P_h) \partial_{a_j} \phi_A(P_h) + \rho(P_h) \phi_A(P_h)$$

is a *constant coefficient elliptic operator* (acting on the A variables; notice that the direction of the vector \vec{b} has been inverted). Now, if $f_h(A) = \mathcal{L}\phi_A(P_h)$ were analytic at $A = P_h$ it would be analytic in a neighborhood of P_h , where $\phi_A(P_h)$ would solve the elliptic equation (in the A variables) $\mathcal{L}_A^\ominus \phi_A(P_h) = f_h(A)$. By a famous result in the theory of elliptic equations with analytic coefficients and data (cf. e.g. [12, Thm.7.5.1]), then $\phi_A(P_h)$ would be analytic in such a neighborhood and thus at $A = P_h$, which is a contradiction.

On the other hand, $\mathcal{B}\phi_A(Q_k)$ is either $\phi_A(Q_k)$ for $Q_k \in \Gamma_1$ or alternatively $\partial_\nu \phi_A(Q_k)$ for $Q_k \in \Gamma_2$, and thus is analytic everywhere up to $A = Q_k$. To prove this fact for $\partial_\nu \phi_A(Q_k)$, take simply its restriction to the line through the point $Q_k = (q_1, \dots, q_d)$ parallel to the a_1 axis, namely $a_s = q_s$, $s = 2, \dots, d$. Then $\partial_\nu \phi_A(Q_k) = \nu_1(Q_k)(q_1 - a_1)\phi'(r)/r$, from which we obtain $\partial_\nu \phi_A(Q_k) = \nu_1(Q_k)(q_1 - a_1)|q_1 - a_1|^{k-2}(k \log(|q_1 - a_1|) + 1)$ for TPS and $\partial_\nu \phi_A(Q_k) = \nu_1(Q_k)(q_1 - a_1)|q_1 - a_1|^{k-2}$ for RP. Both have clearly a singularity of the $(k-1)$ -th derivative in the a_1 variable at $a_1 = q_1$.

Consequently, if $\{\mathcal{L}\phi_A(P_h), \mathcal{B}\phi_A(Q_k)\}$ were dependent (as functions of A), one of them with singularity say in C (where C is one of the collocation points) could be written as linear combination of the others. But such linear combination would be analytic at $A = C$, since the collocation points $\{P_h\}$ and $\{Q_k\}$ are all distinct, thus all the other functions are analytic at C and a linear combination of analytic functions at a point is analytic at such point. So this is a contradiction.

Now, both F and G are analytic in the open connected set $U = \mathbb{R}^d \setminus (\{P_h\} \cup \{Q_k\})$, and are almost surely not identically zero there, otherwise by continuity they would be zero in the whole \mathbb{R}^d . By a basic theorem in the theory of analytic functions (cf. [17] for an elementary proof), their zero sets in U have then null Lebesgue measure and thus null measure with respect to any probability measure with integrable density in \mathbb{R}^d . Since the collocation set is finite and hence trivially it is a null set, the zero sets of F and G in \mathbb{R}^d , say $Z(F)$ and $Z(G)$, also have (almost surely) null measure. Concerning the probability of the corresponding events and taking for example F (the conclusion is the same for G), we can write that

$$\text{prob}\{\det(K_{N+1}) = 0\} = \text{prob}\{F(A_{N+1}) = 0\} = \text{prob}\{F \equiv 0\} + \text{prob}\{F \not\equiv 0 \ \& \ A_{N+1} \in Z(F)\} = 0 + 0 = 0,$$

and the inductive step is completed. \square

Remark 2.1. *One could ask whether the roles of collocation points and centers could be interchanged, namely considering fixed centers and random collocation points. In such a case, however, we would not readily get the same result. In fact, in order to resort to the theorem on zero sets of analytic functions when we locate randomly the boundary collocation points, we would first restrict to boundaries having an analytic parametrization. And, in addition, we should define a suitable notion of randomness on the boundary itself, which has a different dimension. This quite restrictive approach was indeed that used in [8] for the standard case $X = Y$, on domains of \mathbb{R}^2 whose boundary is an analytic parametric curve. Instead, letting the collocation points fixed even on the boundary, we can work with general boundaries (and boundary conditions) in any dimension, simply by locating randomly the centers, possibly as local perturbations of the collocation points as we discuss below in the numerical section.*

3. Numerical results

In this section, we implement unsymmetric Kansa collocation method for solving the linear second-order elliptic PDE (1) on $\Omega = (0, 1)^2$, with both TPS and RP RBF. In all the test problems, we fix the set of collocation points $Y = \{Y_j\}_{j=1, \dots, N}$ corresponding to a uniform discretization tensorial grid of the square, in

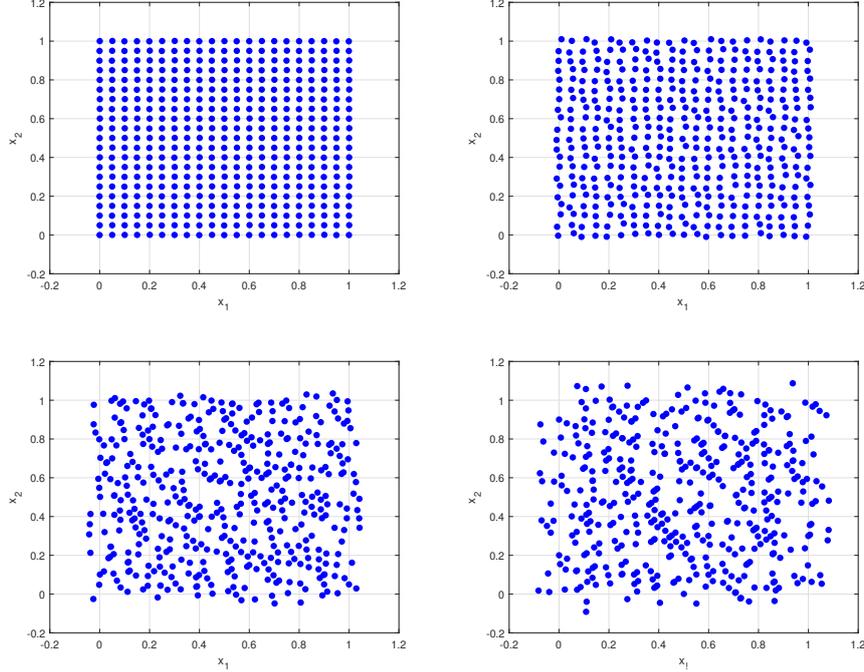


Figure 1: Random fictitious centers distribution for $\delta = 0.001$ (top-left), $\delta = 0.01$ (top-right), $\delta = 0.05$ (bottom-left), $\delta = 0.1$ (bottom-right), with 441 collocation grid points.

lexicographic order. Using a MATLAB notation, the random fictitious centers $X = Y + (2 * \text{rand}(N, 1) - 1) * \delta$ are obtained by local random perturbation of the collocation points via additive uniformly distributed random points in $(-\delta, \delta)^2$; see Fig. 1. The accuracy is measured by the average of root mean square error $\text{RMSE} = \sqrt{\sum_j (u_j - \tilde{u}_j)^2 / N}$, obtained by m random centers arrays $\{X_l\}$, $l = 1, \dots, m$, where u_j and \tilde{u}_j are the exact and approximate solutions at the collocation node Y_j , respectively. In the sequel, we consider $m = 100$ trials.

3.1. Test problem 1

As first test problem, we consider equation (1) with $\mathcal{L} = \Delta$ (Poisson equation), over the unit square $\Omega = (0, 1)^2$, with purely Dirichlet boundary conditions that is $\Gamma_1 = \partial\Omega$ and $\Gamma_2 = \emptyset$, where f and g are defined by forcing the analytical solution to be $u(x_1, x_2) = \sin(2\pi x_1) + \cos(2\pi x_2)$.

In Tables 1 and 2 we report the average RMSE (Root Mean Square Errors) of Kansa method with TPS and RP with a couple of exponents, and different values of the neighborhood radius δ (observe that $\delta = 0$ corresponds to classical collocation with $X = Y$, that is of centers coinciding with the collocation points). An example of distribution of errors around the average RMSE is illustrated in Fig. 2.

We can observe that for the smallest values of δ the errors have the same size of those corresponding to classical collocation with $X = Y$ (which can be considered a limit case), whose unsolvence is however not covered by the present theory, that on the contrary ensures almost sure unsolvence for any $\delta > 0$. For larger values of δ , e.g. $\delta = 0.1$, the errors are not satisfactory, which could be ascribable to the fact that by increasing δ we have a decrease of the separation distance $q = \min_{i,j} \|Y_i - Y_j\|_2$ (of random centers) and at the same time an increase of the fill distance $h = \max_i \min_j \|X_i - Y_j\|_2$ (of random centers with respect to collocation points), with a combined effect on conditioning of the collocation matrix and accuracy; see Figure 1 and Table 3 for an example.

Table 1: Average of RMSE with TPS and different values of δ ; test problem 1.

N	TPS $k = 4$				TPS $k = 6$			
	$\delta = 0.1$	$\delta = 0.01$	$\delta = 0.001$	$\delta = 0$	$\delta = 0.1$	$\delta = 0.01$	$\delta = 0.001$	$\delta = 0$
121	7.0e-01	9.8e-03	8.2e-03	8.2e-03	4.4e-02	5.6e-03	4.6e-03	4.6e-03
441	7.0e-01	1.4e-03	1.3e-03	1.3e-03	1.6e-02	3.7e-04	3.4e-04	3.4e-04
961	7.6e+00	4.2e-04	4.0e-04	4.0e-04	8.7e-03	8.3e-05	7.3e-05	7.3e-05
1681	1.2e+01	1.9e-04	1.8e-04	1.8e-04	4.6e-03	2.6e-05	2.4e-05	2.4e-05

Table 2: Average of RMSE with RP and different values of δ ; test problem 1.

N	RP $k = 3$				RP $k = 5$			
	$\delta = 0.1$	$\delta = 0.01$	$\delta = 0.001$	$\delta = 0$	$\delta = 0.1$	$\delta = 0.01$	$\delta = 0.001$	$\delta = 0$
121	1.0e+00	1.7e-02	1.5e-02	1.5e-02	4.1e-01	5.8e-03	4.8e-03	4.8e-03
441	1.2e+01	3.1e-03	3.2e-03	3.2e-03	7.5e-02	6.1e-04	5.5e-04	5.5e-04
961	1.2e+01	1.2e-03	1.2e-03	1.2e-04	1.7e-01	1.7e-04	1.5e-04	1.5e-04
1681	1.8e+01	5.5e-04	6.1e-04	6.2e-04	5.1e-02	6.8e-05	5.7e-05	5.7e-05

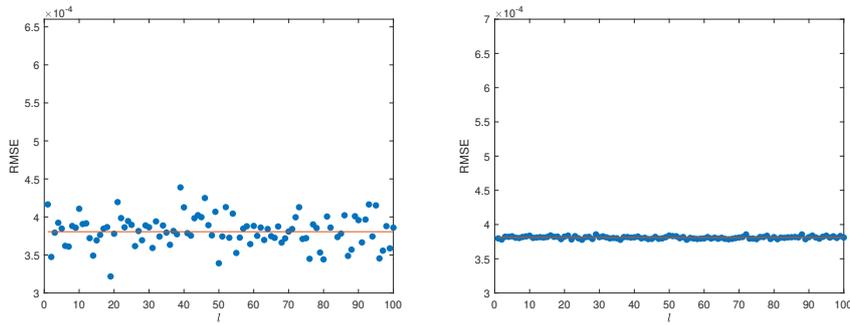


Figure 2: Plot of RMSE with 441 equispaced collocation points and random centers arrays X_l , $l = 1, \dots, 100$, for TPS ($k = 6$) with $\delta = 0.01$ (left) and $\delta = 0.001$ (right); average RMSE in red, test problem 1.

Table 3: Average of fill distance h (of random centers w.r.t. collocation points), separation distance q (of random centers) and condition number of the RP collocation matrix with $k = 5$, for different values of δ ; test problem 1 with 441 collocation points.

	$\delta = 0.1$	$\delta = 0.05$	$\delta = 0.01$	$\delta = 0.005$	$\delta = 0.001$
avg h	7.4e-02	6.2e-02	1.4e-02	7.0e-03	1.4e-03
avg q	2.7e-04	3.7e-04	3.6e-02	4.2e-02	4.8e-02
avg $cond$	9.2e+14	1.1e+14	1.9e+11	5.3e+10	2.5e+10

Table 4: Average of RMSE with TPS and different values of δ ; test problem 2.

N	TPS $k = 4$				TPS $k = 6$			
	$\delta = 0.1$	$\delta = 0.01$	$\delta = 0.001$	$\delta = 0$	$\delta = 0.1$	$\delta = 0.01$	$\delta = 0.001$	$\delta = 0$
121	9.9e-01	1.2e-01	7.9e-02	7.2e-02	1.1e+00	9.2e-02	8.7e-02	7.9e-02
441	1.9e+00	7.1e-02	1.3e-02	1.3e-02	2.5e-01	1.3e-02	1.2e-02	1.1e-02
961	3.3e+00	6.1e-02	5.1e-03	4.9e-03	1.5e-01	6.4e-03	3.6e-03	3.5e-03
1681	5.0e+01	2.4e-02	2.7e-03	2.6e-03	7.6e-02	5.4e-03	1.5e-03	1.5e-03

Table 5: Average of RMSE with RP and different values of δ ; test problem 2.

N	RP $k = 3$				RP $k = 5$			
	$\delta = 0.1$	$\delta = 0.01$	$\delta = 0.001$	$\delta = 0$	$\delta = 0.1$	$\delta = 0.01$	$\delta = 0.001$	$\delta = 0$
121	3.8e+00	8.6e-01	4.5e-01	4.1e-01	5.8e-01	3.7e-02	3.5e-02	3.2e-02
441	1.7e+01	1.6e-01	1.1e-01	1.1e-01	6.5e-01	3.5e-02	9.5e-03	9.1e-03
961	1.8e+01	1.2e-01	5.7e-02	5.5e-02	2.1e-01	6.7e-03	3.9e-03	3.8e-03
1681	3.9e+01	1.1e-01	3.6e-02	3.5e-02	7.0e-01	3.3e-03	2.0e-03	2.0e-03

3.2. Test problem 2

In the next experiment, we consider the convection-diffusion operator $\mathcal{L}u = \Delta u + \langle \nabla u, \vec{b} \rangle$, with $\vec{b} = (1, 1)$, over the unit square $\Omega = (0, 1)^2$, and mixed boundary conditions in (1), given by $\Gamma_1 = \{x_1 = 0, 0 \leq x_2 \leq 1\} \cup \{x_1 = 1, 0 \leq x_2 \leq 1\}$, $\Gamma_2 = \{x_2 = 0, 0 < x_1 < 1\} \cup \{x_2 = 1, 0 < x_1 < 1\}$. Again, f and g are defined by selecting $u(x_1, x_2) = \sin(2\pi x_1) + \cos(2\pi x_2)$.

The numerical results corresponding to the application of the Kansa method with random fictitious centers are reported in Tables 4 and 5, where we can see an error behavior similar to that discussed in Test problem 1. In particular, the smallest values of δ show errors having the same size of those corresponding to classical collocation with $X = Y$. Almost sure unisolvence for any $\delta > 0$ is again ensured by Theorem 1.

4. Conclusions

We have proved almost sure unisolvence of unsymmetric Kansa collocation by polyharmonic splines with fixed collocation points and random fictitious centers. This result contributes to fill a theoretical gap in the framework of Kansa meshless collocation, since determining sufficient unisolvence conditions for square collocation systems by RBF is still a substantially open problem. The fact that the collocation points are fixed and distinct from the centers allows to manage general elliptic operators and boundary conditions, differently from some recent results on random collocation. Since in the present approach the centers can be non identically distributed random variables, they can be chosen as local random perturbations of a set of fixed collocation points. For small perturbations, the numerical tests show an error behavior substantially equivalent to the classical case of centers coinciding with collocation points, where however sufficient conditions for unisolvence are not known.

Challenging problems, that can be object of future research, are the extensions of the present theoretical unisolvence result to infinitely differentiable RBF such as MultiQuadrics and to quasi-random fictitious centers, namely to low-discrepancy sequences such as for example Halton points.

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