# AN ACCURATE LEGENDRE COLLOCATION SCHEME FOR COUPLED HYPERBOLIC EQUATIONS WITH VARIABLE COEFFICIENTS

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The study of numerical solutions of nonlinear coupled hyperbolic partial differential equations (PDEs) with variable coefficients subject to initial-boundary conditions continues to be a major research area with widespread applications in modern physics and technology. One of the most important advantages of collocation method is the possibility of dealing with nonlinear partial differential equations (NPDEs) as well as PDEs with variable coefficients. A numerical solution based on a Legendre collocation method is extended to solve nonlinear coupled hyperbolic PDEs with variable coefficients. This approach, which is based on Legendre polynomials and Gauss-Lobatto quadrature integration, reduces the solving of nonlinear coupled hyperbolic PDEs with variable coefficients to a system of nonlinear ordinary differential equations that is far easier to solve. The obtained results show that the proposed numerical algorithm is efficient and very accurate.

*Key words*: Nonlinear coupled hyperbolic partial differential equations; Nonlinear phenomena; Collocation method; Gauss-Lobatto quadrature.

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### 1. INTRODUCTION

For several decades, analytical and numerical methods have been developed to obtain more accurate solutions of differential and integral equations [1]-[17]. The spectral method [18–22] is one of the family of weighted residual numerical methods for solving various problems, including variable coefficient and nonlinear differential equations [23, 24], integral equations [25, 26], fractional orders differential equations

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[27–29] and function approximation and variational problems [30]. The collocation method [31–34] can be classified as a special type of spectral methods. In the last few years, the collocation method has been introduced as a powerful approximation method for numerical solutions of all kinds of initial boundary-value problems.

Coupled hyperbolic systems have a wide ange of applications in physics [35– 39], such as microwave processes, electromagnetism, electrodynamics, acoustics, thermo elasticity, electrical engineering, fluid dynamics, polymer science, reactiondiffusion, and population dynamics. Analytical study of variable coefficient mixed hyperbolic partial differential problems is discussed in [40]. Other numerical methods based on numerical integration techniques [41] are used to numerically solve different types of hyperbolic partial differential problems. In [42, 43], finite difference schemes are considered to numerically solve hyperbolic equations. Cubic B-spline collocation method on the uniform mesh points was used in [44] to numerically solve the nonlinear one-dimensional Klein-Gordon equation. There are also numerous results on studying the solitary and periodic wave solutions for several types of hyperbolic Klein-Gordon equations (see, for instance, Refs. [45–47]).

There are no results on Legendre-Gauss-Lobatto collocation (L-GL-C) method for solving nonlinear coupled hyperbolic PDEs with variable coefficients subject to initial boundary conditions. Therefore, the objective of this work is to present this method to numerically solve some nonlinear coupled hyperbolic PDEs with variable coefficients. By using collocation method, exponential convergence for the spatial variables can be achieved for approximating the solution of some PDEs. The computerized mathematical algorithm is the main key to apply this method for solving the problem. Two illustrative problems with various kinds of exact solutions such as triangular and soliton solutions are presented for demonstrating the high accuracy of this numerical scheme.

A brief outline of this paper is as follows. We present some properties of Legendre polynomials in the next section. In Section 3, we propose an efficient algorithm to solve coupled nonlinear hyperbolic PDEs with initial-boundary conditions. In Section 4, the proposed method is applied to two different test problems to show the accuracy of our method. In the last section, we present our conclusions.

### 2. LEGENDRE POLYNOMIALS

Some basic properties of Legendre polynomials have been recalled in this section. The Legendre polynomials  $L_k(x)$  (k = 0, 1...,) satisfy the following Rodrigues formula

$$L_k(x) = \frac{(-1)^k}{2^k k!} D^k((1-x^2)^k), \tag{1}$$

we recall also that  $L_k(x)$  is a polynomial of degree k and therefore  $L_k^{(q)}(x)$  (the q-th derivative of  $L_k(x)$ ) is given by

$$L_k^{(q)}(x) = \sum_{i=0(k+i=even)}^{k-q} C_q(k,i) L_i(x),$$
(2)

where

$$C_q(k,i) = \frac{2^{q-1}(2i+1)\Gamma[\frac{q+k-i}{2}]\Gamma[\frac{q+k+i+1}{2}]}{\Gamma[q]\Gamma[\frac{2-q+k-i}{2}]\Gamma[\frac{3-q+k+i}{2}]}$$

The Legendre polynomials satisfy the following relations

$$L_0(x) = 1$$
,  $L_1(x) = x$ ,  $L_{k+2}(x) = \frac{2k+3}{k+2}xL_{k+1}(x) - \frac{k+1}{k+2}L_k(x)$ 

and the orthogonality relation

$$(L_k(x), L_l(x))_w = \int_{-1}^{1} L_k(x) L_l(x) w(x) = h_k \delta_{lk}.$$
(3)

where w(x) = 1,  $h_k = \frac{2}{2k+1}$ . The Legendre-Gauss-Lobatto quadrature has been used to evaluate the previous integrals accurately. For any  $\phi \in S_{2N-1}[-1,1]$ , we have that

$$\int_{-1}^{1} \phi(x) dx = \sum_{j=0}^{N} \varpi_{N,j} \phi(x_{N,j}).$$
(4)

We introduce the following discrete inner product

$$(u,v)_w = \sum_{j=0}^N u(x_{N,j}) v(x_{N,j}) \,\varpi_{N,j},\tag{5}$$

where  $x_{N,j}$   $(0 \le j \le N)$  and  $\varpi_{N,j}$   $(0 \le j \le N)$  are used as the nodes and the corresponding Christoffel numbers in the interval [-1, 1], respectively.

# 3. THE PROBLEM AND THE NUMERICAL ALGORITHM

In this section, we approximate the solution of coupled nonlinear hyperbolictype equations with variable coefficients for space variable by using the Legendre collocation method. In what follows, we propose an efficient numerical algorithm to solve the coupled nonlinear hyperbolic-type equations in the following form:

$$D_{t}^{2}u(y,t) = \gamma u(y,t)v(y,t)(D_{y}u(y,t) + D_{t}u(y,t) + D_{y}v(y,t) + D_{t}v(y,t)) + g_{1}(y,t)D_{y}^{2}u(y,t) + g_{2}(y,t), D_{t}^{2}v(y,t) = \delta u(y,t)v(y,t)(D_{y}u(y,t) + D_{t}u(y,t) + D_{y}v(y,t) + D_{t}v(y,t)) + g_{3}(y,t)D_{y}^{2}v(y,t) + g_{4}(y,t), \quad (y,t) \in [A,B] \times [0,T],$$
(6)

related to the initial conditions

$$u(y,0) = f_1(y), \quad v(y,0) = f_2(y), D_t u(y,0) = f_3(y), \quad D_t v(y,0) = f_4(y), \quad y \in [A,B],$$
(7)

and the boundary conditions

$$u(A,t) = k_1(t), \quad u(B,t) = k_2(t), v(A,t) = k_3(t), \quad v(B,t) = k_4(t), \quad t \in [0,T].$$
(8)

We start with the transformations  $x = \frac{2}{B-A}y + \frac{A+B}{A-B}$ , w(x,t) = u(y,t), z(x,t) = v(y,t). The problem (6)-(8) will be a new one in the spatial variable  $x \in [-1,1]$ . This transformation enables us to ease the using of the Legendre collocation method on [-1,1],

$$D_{t}^{2}w(x,t) = \gamma w(x,t)z(x,t) \left( \frac{2(D_{x}w(x,t) + D_{x}z(x,t))}{B-A} + D_{t}w(x,t) + D_{t}z(x,t) \right) \\ + \frac{4g_{5}(x,t)D_{x}^{2}w(x,t)}{(B-A)^{2}} + g_{6}(x,t), \\ D_{t}^{2}z(x,t) = \delta w(x,t)z(x,t) \left( \frac{2(D_{x}w(x,t) + D_{x}z(x,t))}{B-A} + D_{t}w(x,t) + D_{t}z(x,t) \right) \\ + \frac{4g_{7}(x,t)D_{x}^{2}z(x,t)}{(B-A)^{2}} + g_{8}(x,t), \quad (x,t) \in [-1,1] \times [0,T],$$
(9)

subject to a new set of initial and boundary conditions

$$w(x,0) = f_5(x), \quad D_t w(x,0) = f_7(x), z(x,0) = f_6(x), \quad D_t z(x,0) = f_8(x), \quad x \in [-1,1],$$
(10)

$$w(-1,t) = k_1(t), \quad w(1,t) = k_2(t),$$
  

$$z(-1,t) = k_3(t), \quad z(1,t) = k_4(t), \quad t \in [0,T].$$
(11)

Now, we are interested in using the L-GL-C method to transform the previous coupled PDEs into a system of ODEs. In order to do this, we approximate the spatial variable using L-GL-C method at some nodal points. The node points are the set of E.H. Doha et al.

points in a specified domain where the dependent variable values are approximated. We take the roots of the Legendre orthogonal polynomials referred to as Legendre collocation points, which gives particularly accurate solutions for the spectral methods. Now, we outline the main steps of the L-GL-C method for solving a hyperbolic problem. Let us expand the dependent variable in a Legendre series,

$$w(x,t) = \sum_{j=0}^{N} a_j(t) L_j(x), \qquad z(x,t) = \sum_{j=0}^{N} b_j(t) L_j(x), \tag{12}$$

and in virtue of equations (3)-(5), we evaluate  $a_j(t)$  and  $b_j(t)$  by

$$a_j(t) = \frac{1}{h_j} \int_{-1}^{1} w(x,t) L_j(x) dx, \quad b_j(t) = \frac{1}{h_j} \int_{-1}^{1} z(x,t) L_j(x) dx.$$
(13)

For any positive integer N,  $S_N[-1,1]$  stands for the set of polynomials of degree at most N. Thanks to (4), the coefficients  $a_j(t)$  in terms of the solution at the collocation points can be approximated by

$$a_{j}(t) = \frac{1}{h_{j}} \sum_{i=0}^{N} L_{j}(x_{N,i}) \varpi_{N,i} w(x_{N,i},t), \quad b_{j}(t) = \frac{1}{h_{j}} \sum_{i=0}^{N} L_{j}(x_{N,i}) \varpi_{N,i} z(x_{N,i},t).$$
(14)

Due to (14), the approximate solution can be written as

$$w(x,t) = \sum_{i=0}^{N} \left( \sum_{j=0}^{N} \frac{1}{h_j} L_j(x_{N,i}) L_j(x) \varpi_{N,i} \right) w(x_{N,i},t),$$

$$z(x,t) = \sum_{i=0}^{N} \left( \sum_{j=0}^{N} \frac{1}{h_j} L_j(x_{N,i}) L_j(x) \varpi_{N,i} \right) z(x_{N,i},t).$$
(15)

Furthermore, if we differentiate (15) once, and evaluate it at the first N + 1 Legendre Gauss-Lobatto collocation points, it is easy to compute the first spatial partial derivative of the numerical solution in terms of the values at these collocation points as

$$D_x w(x_{N,n},t) = \sum_{i=0}^N A_{ni} w(x_{N,i},t), \quad D_x z(x_{N,n},t) = \sum_{i=0}^N A_{ni} z(x_{N,i},t), \quad (16)$$

where

$$A_{ni} = \sum_{j=0}^{N} \frac{1}{h_j} L_j(x_{N,i}) (L_j(x))' \varpi_{N,i},$$
(17)

Proceeding as in the previous step, one can obtain the second spatial partial derivative as

$$D_x^2 w(x_{N,n},t) = \sum_{i=0}^N B_{ni} w(x_{N,i},t), \quad D_x^2 z(x_{N,n},t) = \sum_{i=0}^N B_{ni} z(x_{N,i},t), \quad (18)$$

where

$$B_{ni} = \sum_{j=0}^{N} \frac{1}{h_j} L_j(x_{N,i}) (L_j(x))^{''} \varpi_{N,i}.$$
(19)

In the proposed L-GL-C method the residual of (9) is set to zero at N-1 of Legendre-Gauss-Lobatto points, moreover, the boundary conditions (11) will be enforced at the two collocation points -1 and 1. Therefore, the approximation of (9)-(11) is

$$\begin{split} \ddot{\mathbf{w}}_{n}(t) &= \frac{4g_{5}(x_{N,n},t)g_{6}(x_{N,n},t)\sum_{i=0}^{N}B_{ni}w_{i}(t)}{(B-A)^{2}} - \gamma w_{n}(t)z_{n}(t)(\dot{\mathbf{w}}_{n}(t) + \dot{\mathbf{z}}_{n}(t))} \\ &+ \frac{2\gamma w_{n}(t)z_{n}(t)\Big(\sum_{i=0}^{N}A_{ni}(w_{i}(t) + z_{i}(t))\Big)}{B-A} \\ \ddot{\mathbf{z}}_{n}(t) &= \frac{4g_{7}(x_{N,n},t)g_{8}(x_{N,n},t)\sum_{i=0}^{N}B_{ni}z_{i}(t)}{(B-A)^{2}} - \delta w_{n}(t)z_{n}(t)(\dot{\mathbf{w}}_{n}(t) + \dot{\mathbf{z}}_{n}(t))} \\ &+ \frac{2\delta w_{n}(t)z_{n}(t)\Big(\sum_{i=0}^{N}A_{ni}(w_{i}(t) + z_{i}(t))\Big)}{B-A}, \quad n = 1, \cdots, N-1, \end{split}$$

$$(20)$$

where  $w_k(t) = w(x_{N,k},t)$ ,  $z_k(t) = z(x_{N,k},t)$ ,  $k = 1, \dots, N-1$ . This approach provides a (2N-2) system of second order ODEs in the expansion coefficients  $a_j(t)$ ,

 $b_j(t),$ 

$$\begin{split} \ddot{\mathbf{w}}_{n}(t) &= \frac{4g_{5}(x_{N,n},t)g_{6}(x_{N,n},t)\sum_{i=0}^{N}B_{ni}w_{i}(t)}{(B-A)^{2}} - \gamma w_{n}(t)z_{n}(t)(\dot{\mathbf{w}}_{n}(t) + \dot{z}_{n}(t)) \\ &+ \frac{2\gamma w_{n}(t)z_{n}(t)\Big(\sum_{i=0}^{N}A_{ni}(w_{i}(t) + z_{i}(t))\Big)}{B-A} \\ \ddot{\mathbf{z}}_{n}(t) &= \frac{4g_{7}(x_{N,n},t)g_{8}(x_{N,n},t)\sum_{i=0}^{N}B_{ni}z_{i}(t)}{(B-A)^{2}} - \delta w_{n}(t)z_{n}(t)(\dot{\mathbf{w}}_{n}(t) + \dot{z}_{n}(t)) \\ &+ \frac{2\delta w_{n}(t)z_{n}(t)\Big(\sum_{i=0}^{N}A_{ni}(w_{i}(t) + z_{i}(t))\Big)}{B-A}, \end{split}$$
(21)

with the following initial conditions  $w_n(0) = f_5(x_{N,n})$ ,  $\dot{w}_n(0) = f_7(x_{N,n})$ ,  $z_n(0) = f_6(x_{N,n})$ , and  $\dot{z}_n(0) = f_8(x_{N,n})$ . Otherwise, we can write the previous system as:

$$\begin{pmatrix} \ddot{w}_{1}(t) \\ \ddot{w}_{2}(t) \\ \cdots \\ \vdots \\ \ddot{w}_{N-1}(t) \\ \ddot{z}_{1}(t) \\ \ddot{z}_{2}(t) \\ \cdots \\ \vdots \\ \ddot{z}_{N-1}(t) \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} F_{1}(t,w(t),z(t),\dot{w}(t),\dot{z}(t)) \\ F_{2}(t,w(t),z(t),\dot{w}(t),\dot{z}(t)) \\ \cdots \\ F_{N-1}(t,w(t),z(t)) \\ G_{1}(t,w(t),z(t),\dot{w}(t),\dot{z}(t)) \\ G_{2}(t,w(t),z(t),\dot{w}(t),\dot{z}(t)) \\ \cdots \\ G_{N-1}(t,w(t),z(t)) \end{pmatrix}$$
(22)

with

$$\begin{pmatrix} w_{1}(0) \\ w_{2}(0) \\ \cdots \\ \dots \\ w_{N-1}(0) \\ z_{1}(0) \\ z_{2}(0) \\ \cdots \\ \dots \\ z_{N-1}(0) \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} f_{5}(x_{N,1}) \\ f_{5}(x_{N,2}) \\ \cdots \\ f_{5}(x_{N,N-1}) \\ f_{6}(x_{N,1}) \\ f_{6}(x_{N,2}) \\ \cdots \\ f_{6}(x_{N,N-1}) \end{pmatrix}; \begin{pmatrix} \dot{w}_{1}(0) \\ \dot{w}_{2}(0) \\ \cdots \\ \dot{w}_{N-1}(0) \\ \dot{z}_{1}(0) \\ \dot{z}_{2}(0) \\ \cdots \\ \vdots \\ f_{6}(x_{N,2}) \\ \cdots \\ \dot{z}_{N-1}(0) \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} f_{7}(x_{N,1}) \\ f_{7}(x_{N,2}) \\ \cdots \\ f_{7}(x_{N,N-1}) \\ f_{8}(x_{N,1}) \\ f_{8}(x_{N,2}) \\ \cdots \\ \vdots \\ f_{8}(x_{N,N-1}) \end{pmatrix},$$
(23)

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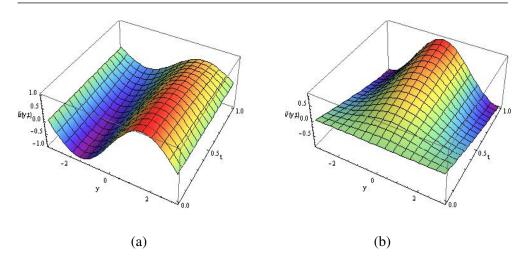


Fig. 1 – (a) The space-time graph of the approximate solution  $\tilde{u}$  of problem (25) at N = 12; (b) The space-time graph of the approximate solution  $\tilde{v}$  of problem (25) at N = 12.

where

$$F_{n}(t,w(t),z(t)) = \frac{4g_{5}(x_{N,n},t)g_{6}(x_{N,n},t)\sum_{i=0}^{N}B_{ni}w_{i}(t)}{(B-A)^{2}} - \gamma w_{n}(t)z_{n}(t)(\dot{w}_{n}(t) + \dot{z}_{n}(t)) + \frac{2\gamma w_{n}(t)z_{n}(t)\left(\sum_{i=0}^{N}A_{ni}(w_{i}(t) + z_{i}(t))\right)}{B-A},$$

$$G_{n}(t,w(t),z(t)) = \frac{4g_{7}(x_{N,n},t)g_{8}(x_{N,n},t)\sum_{i=0}^{N}B_{ni}z_{i}(t)}{(B-A)^{2}} - \delta w_{n}(t)z_{n}(t)(\dot{w}_{n}(t) + \dot{z}_{n}(t)) + \frac{2\delta w_{n}(t)z_{n}(t)\left(\sum_{i=0}^{N}A_{ni}(w_{i}(t) + z_{i}(t))\right)}{B-A}.$$
(24)

The system of second order (22)-(23) can be solved by using diagonally-implicit Runge-Kutta-Nyström (DIRKN) method.

# 4. TEST PROBLEMS

We test the numerical accuracy of the proposed method by introducing two test problems with different types of exact solutions.

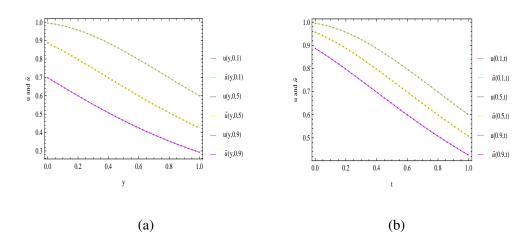


Fig. 2 – (a) The curves of approximate  $\tilde{u}$  and the exact u solutions for different values of t=0.1, 0.5, and 0.9 of problem (32) where N = 12 in the interval [0,1]; (b) The curves of approximate  $\tilde{u}$  and the exact u solutions for different values of y=0.1, 0.5, and 0.9 of problem (32) where N = 12 in the interval [0,1].

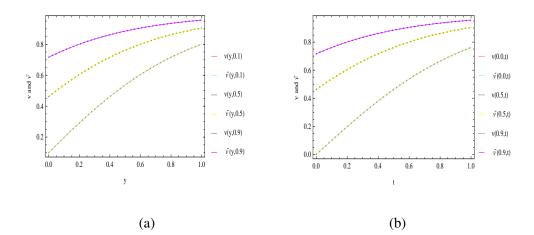


Fig. 3 – (a) The curves of approximate  $\tilde{v}$  and the exact v solutions for different values of t=0.1, 0.5, and 0.9 of problem (32) where N = 12 in the interval [0,1]; (b) The curves of approximate  $\tilde{v}$  and the exact v solutions for different values of y=0.0, 0.5, and 0.9 of problem (32) where N = 12 in the interval [0,1].

## Table 1

N	$MAE_1$	$RMSE_1$	$Ne_1$	$MAE_2$	$RMSE_2$	$Ne_2$
		$2.88 \times 10^{-4}$				
8	$2.02\times 10^{-8}$	$6.37 \times 10^{-9}$	$1.74 \times 10^{-8}$	$7.68\times10^{-8}$	$2.22 \times 10^{-8}$	$6.05  imes 10^{-8}$
12	$1.52\times 10^{-8}$	$2.87\times10^{-9}$	$7.81 \times 10^{-9}$	$1.86\times10^{-8}$	$1.19\times10^{-8}$	$3.24 imes10^{-8}$

## 4.1. TRIANGULAR SOLUTION

As a first example, we consider the coupled nonlinear hyperbolic equations (6) with the following functions

$$g_{1}(y,t) = \left(1 + e^{t}\cos(y)\right), \quad g_{2} = \frac{1}{2}\cos(t)\left(e^{t} - 2\gamma\cos(t+y)\sin(t)\right)\sin(2y),$$
  

$$g_{3}(y,t) = \left(1 + e^{t}\sin(y)\right), \quad g_{4} = \frac{1}{2}\left(e^{t} - 2\delta\cos(t)\cos(t+y)\right)\sin(t)\sin(2y),$$
(25)

subject to

$$k_{1}(t) = \sin(A)\cos(t), \quad k_{2}(t) = \sin(B)\cos(t),$$
  

$$k_{3}(t) = \sin(t)\cos(A), \quad k_{4}(t) = \cos(B)\sin(t),$$
  

$$f_{1}(t) = \sin(y), \quad f_{2}(t) = f_{3}(t) = 0, \quad f_{4}(t) = \cos(y).$$
  
(26)

The exact solutions of this problem are

$$u(y,t) = \sin(y)\cos(t), \quad v(y,t) = \sin(t)\cos(y).$$
 (27)

The absolute errors in the given tables are

$$E(y,t) = |u(y,t) - \widetilde{u}(y,t)|, \qquad (28)$$

where u(y,t) and  $\tilde{u}(y,t)$  are the exact and approximate solutions at the point (y,t), respectively. Moreover, the maximum absolute error is given by

$$M_E = \operatorname{Max} \{ E(y,t) : \forall (y,t) \in [A,B] \times [0,T] \}.$$
(29)

The root-mean-square (RMS) and  $N_e$  errors may be given by:

$$RMS = \sqrt{\sum_{i=0}^{N} \frac{(u(x_{N,i}), t_i) - \widetilde{u}(x_{N,i}), t_i)^2}{N+1}},$$
(30)

$$N_e = \sqrt{\frac{\sum_{i=0}^{N} (u(x_{N,i}), t_i) - \widetilde{u}(x_{N,i}), t_i)^2}{\sum_{i=0}^{N} (u(x_{N,i}), t_i)}}.$$
(31)

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$\overline{N}$	$MAE_1$	$RMSE_1$	$Ne_1$	$MAE_2$	$RMSE_2$	$Ne_2$
4	$1.35 \times 10^{-3}$	$4.35 \times 10^{-4}$	$6.13 \times 10^{-4}$	$2.63 \times 10^{-3}$	$1.51 \times 10^{-3}$	$2.15 \times 10^{-3}$
8	$1.61 \times 10^{-6}$	$9.88  imes 10^{-7}$	$1.40\times10^{-6}$	$9.83 imes10^{-7}$	$4.12\times 10^{-7}$	$5.84 imes10^{-7}$
12	$7.44\times10^{-8}$	$3.33\times10^{-8}$	$4.70\times10^{-8}$	$9.30\times10^{-8}$	$3.95 \times 10^{-8}$	$5.59\times10^{-8}$

Maximum absolute, root-mean-square and  $N_e$  errors of (25) are introduced in Table1 using L-GL-C method with three different choices of N, in the interval [0,1]. The approximate solutions  $\tilde{u}$  and  $\tilde{v}$  of problem (25) at N = 12 have been plotted in Figs. 1(a) and 1(b), respectively.

#### 4.2. SOLITON SOLUTION

Second, we consider the coupled nonlinear hyperbolic equation (6) with the following functions

$$g_{1}(y,t) = (1 + e^{t}\cos(y)), \quad g_{3}(y,t) = (1 + e^{t}\sin(y)),$$

$$g_{4} = -2\operatorname{sech}(y+t)^{2} (\operatorname{sech}(y+t) - e^{t}\sin(y) - \tanh(y+t)) \tanh(y+t),$$

$$g_{2} = \operatorname{sech}(y+t)(\operatorname{sech}(y+t) - \tanh(y+t)) \times (-2\operatorname{sech}(y+t) \tanh(y+t) + e^{t}\cos(y)(\operatorname{sech}(y+t) + \tanh(y+t))),$$
(32)

subject to

$$k_{1}(t) = \operatorname{sech}(A+t), \quad k_{2}(t) = \operatorname{sech}(B+t), k_{3}(t) = \tanh(A+t), \quad k_{4}(t) = \tanh(B+t), f_{1}(t) = \operatorname{sech}(y), \quad f_{2}(t) = \tanh(y), f_{3}(t) = -\operatorname{sech}(y) \tanh(y), \quad f_{4}(t) = \operatorname{sech}(y)^{2}.$$
(33)

The exact solutions are

$$u(y,t) = \operatorname{sech}(y+t), \quad v(y,t) = \tanh(y+t).$$
(34)

In Table2, we show the maximum absolute, root-mean-square and  $N_e$  errors of (32) for various choices of N, in the interval [0,1]. We plotted the curves of approximate and exact solutions of  $\tilde{u}$  at different values of y and t in Figs. 2(a) and 2(b), respectively. Moreover, from Figs. 3(a) and 3(b), we see that the curves of the approximate and exact solutions ( $\tilde{v}$  and v) almost coincide for different values of y and t that are listed in their captions.

## 5. CONCLUSION

We have proposed an efficient and accurate numerical algorithm based on Legendre-Gauss-Lobatto spectral method to get high accurate solutions for nonlinear coupled hyperbolic equations. The method is based upon reducing the mentioned problem into a system of second order ODEs in the expansion coefficient of the solution. The use of the Legendre-Gauss-Lobatto points as collocation nodes saves the spectral convergence for the spatial variable in the approximate solution. Numerical examples were also provided to illustrate the effectiveness of the derived numerical algorithm.

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