



Partial Differential Equations



Numerical Methods for PDEs





Some Distinguishing Features of PDEs

- Interaction of scales.
 - e.g., often cannot let $\Delta x \longrightarrow 0$ unless $\Delta t \longrightarrow 0$ fast enough.
- Size of the systems.
 - Time-dependent: solve $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b} \ N_{step} \gg 1$ times.
 - Multiple space dimensions, d > 1: $A \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$
 - $-n = N^d$, N := number of points in *each* direction.
 - System bandwidth is $O(N^{d-1}) \gg 1$.
 - Systems are typically *sparse*.
 - Iterative solvers important, particularly for d > 2.

Partial Differential Equations Characteristics Classification

Partial Differential Equations

- Partial differential equations (PDEs) involve partial derivatives with respect to more than one independent variable
- Independent variables typically include one or more space dimensions and possibly time dimension as well
- More dimensions complicate problem formulation: we can have pure initial value problem, pure boundary value problem, or mixture of both
- Equation and boundary data may be defined over irregular domain



Partial Differential Equations Characteristics Classification

Partial Differential Equations, continued

- For simplicity, we will deal only with single PDEs (as opposed to systems of several PDEs) with only two independent variables, either
 - two space variables, denoted by x and y, or
 - one space variable denoted by x and one time variable denoted by t
- Partial derivatives with respect to independent variables are denoted by subscripts, for example

•
$$u_t = \partial u / \partial t$$

•
$$u_{xy} = \partial^2 u / \partial x \partial y$$

Partial Differential Equations **Characteristics** Classification

Classification of PDEs

- Order of PDE is order of highest-order partial derivative appearing in equation
- For example, advection equation is first order $u_t = -c u_x$



- Important second-order PDEs include
 - Heat equation: $u_t = u_{xx}$
 - Wave equation: $u_{tt} = u_{xx}$
 - Laplace equation: $u_{xx} + u_{yy} = 0$



Partial Differential Equations Characteristics Classification

Classification of PDEs, continued

• Second-order linear PDEs of general form

 $au_{xx} + bu_{xy} + cu_{yy} + du_x + eu_y + fu + g = 0$

are classified by value of *discriminant* $b^2 - 4ac$

- $b^2 4ac > 0$: hyperbolic (e.g., wave equation)
- $b^2 4ac = 0$: *parabolic* (e.g., heat equation)
- $b^2 4ac < 0$: *elliptic* (e.g., Laplace equation)

Partial Differential Equations Characteristics Classification

Classification of PDEs, continued

Classification of more general PDEs is not so clean and simple, but roughly speaking

- Hyperbolic PDEs describe time-dependent, conservative physical processes, such as convection, that are not evolving toward steady state
- Parabolic PDEs describe time-dependent, dissipative physical processes, such as diffusion, that are evolving toward steady state
- *Elliptic* PDEs describe processes that have already reached steady state, and hence are time-independent



Time-Dependent Problems Time-Independent Problems

Time-Dependent Problems

 Time-dependent PDEs usually involve both initial values and boundary values





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 Time-dependent PDEs usually involve both initial values and boundary values



Partial Differential Equations Characteristics Classification

Example: Advection Equation

• Advection equation

$$u_t = -c \, u_x$$

where \boldsymbol{c} is nonzero constant

Unique solution is determined by initial condition

$$u(0, x) = u_0(x), \qquad -\infty < x < \infty$$

where u_0 is given function defined on \mathbb{R}

- We seek solution u(t, x) for $t \ge 0$ and all $x \in \mathbb{R}$
- From chain rule, solution is given by $u(t, x) = u_0(x ct)$
- Solution is initial function u₀ shifted by ct to right if c > 0, or to left if c < 0

Partial Differential Equations Characteristics Classification

Example, continued



Typical solution of advection equation, with initial function "advected" (shifted) over time < interactive example >

Partial Differential Equations Characteristics Classification

Characteristics

- Characteristics for PDE are level curves of solution
- For advection equation $u_t = -c u_x$, characteristics are straight lines of slope 1/c



 Characteristics determine where boundary conditions can or must be imposed for problem to be well-posed



Matlab Demo: Convection

```
c=1; Tf = 4; % Final time
x0 = -5; xn = 5;
dx = .01; x=x0:dx:xn; x=x'; n=length(x);
a = -1; b=0; c=1; e = ones(n,1);
C = spdiags([a*e b*e c*e], -1:1, n, n); C = C/(2*dx);
C(n,n) = -C(n,n-1); C(1,1) = C(1,2);  % To drain energy at bdry
CFL = 0.50; dt = CFL*dx/abs(c); nsteps = Tf/dt;
u=exp(-x.*x/.04); hold off; plot(x,u,'k-'); hold on;
f=0*u; f1=0*u;
io=floor(nsteps/20); kk=0; t=0;
for k=1:nsteps; t=t+dt;
    if k=1; c0=1; c1=0; c2=0;
                                                 end;
    if k=2; c0=3/2; c1=-1/2; c2=0;
                                                 end;
    if k==3; c0=23/12; c1=-16/12; c2=5/12;
                                                end;
    f2=f1; f1=f; f= -C*u;
    rhs = c0*f + c1*f1 + c2*f2;
    u = u+dt*rhs;
    if mod(k,io)==0; plot(x,u,'r-'); pause(.2); end;
end;
```

Matlab Demo: Convection



Time Stepping for Advection Equation: $\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} = -c \frac{\partial u}{\partial x}$

- Unlike the diffusion equation, which smears out the initial condition (with high wavenumber components decaying particularly fast), the advection equation simply moves things around, with no decay.
- This property is evidenced by the spatial operator having purely (or close to purely) imaginary eigenvalues.
- Preserving high-wavenumber content (in space) for all time makes this problem particularly challenging.
 - There is always some spatial discretization error.
 - Its effects accumulate over time (with no decay of the error).
 - For sufficiently large final time T any fixed grid (i.e., fixed n) simulation for general problems will eventually have too much error.
 - Long time-integrations, therefore, typically require relatively fine meshes and/or high-order spatial discretizations.

CFL, Eigenvalues, and Stability: Fourier Analysis

• Consider: $u_t = -cu_x$, u(0) = u(1) (periodic BCs)

• Centered difference formula in space:

$$\frac{du_{j}}{dt} = -\frac{c}{2\Delta x}(u_{j+1} - u_{j-1}) = C \underline{u}|_{j}$$

$$C = -\frac{1}{2\Delta x} \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & -1 \\ -1 & 0 & 1 & \\ & -1 & \ddots & \ddots & \\ & & \ddots & \ddots & 1 \\ & & & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$Periodic Matrix$$

Periodic Domain



- Allows us to run for long times without having to have a very long domain.
- Allows us to analyze the properties of our spatial discretization.

CFL, Eigenvalues, and Stability: Fourier Analysis

• Consider: $u_t = -cu_x$, u(0) = u(1) (periodic BCs)

• Centered difference formula in space:

$$\frac{du_j}{dt} = -\frac{c}{2\Delta x} \left(u_{j+1} - u_{j-1} \right) = C \underline{u}|_j$$

- Eigenvector: $u_j = e^{i2\pi kx_j}$.
- Eigenvalue:

$$C \underline{u}|_{j} = -\frac{c}{2\Delta x} \left(e^{i2\pi k\Delta x} - e^{-i2\pi k\Delta x} \right) e^{i2\pi kx_{j}}$$
$$= -\frac{2ic}{2\Delta x} \frac{\left(e^{i2\pi k\Delta x} - e^{-i2\pi k\Delta x} \right)}{2i} u_{j}$$
$$= \lambda_{k} u_{j}$$
$$\lambda_{k} = \frac{-ic}{\Delta x} \sin(2\pi k\Delta x)$$

CFL, Eigenvalues, and Stability: Fourier Analysis

• Eigenvalue:

$$C \underline{u}|_{j} = -\frac{c}{2\Delta x} \left(e^{i2\pi k\Delta x} - e^{-i2\pi k\Delta x} \right) e^{i2\pi kx_{j}}$$
$$= -\frac{2ic}{2\Delta x} \frac{\left(e^{i2\pi k\Delta x} - e^{-i2\pi k\Delta x} \right)}{2i} u_{j}$$
$$= \lambda_{k} u_{j}$$
$$\lambda_{k} = -\frac{ic}{\Delta x} \sin(2\pi k\Delta x)$$

• Eigenvalues are purely imaginary, max modulus is

$$\max_{k} |\lambda_k| = \frac{|c|}{\Delta x}$$

• For constant c and Δx , we define the CFL for the advection equation as

Courant Number

$$CFL = \frac{\Delta t|c|}{\Delta x}.$$

Courant Number, Eigenvalues, and Stability: Fourier Analysis

• For constant c and Δx , we define the CFL for the advection equation as

$$CFL = \frac{\Delta t|c|}{\Delta x}.$$

- CFL=1 would correspond to a timestep size where a particle moving at speed c would move one grid spacing in a single timestep.
- For centered finite differences in space, CFL=1 also corresponds $\lambda \Delta t = 1$.
- From our IVP stability analysis, we know that we need $|\lambda \Delta t| < .7236$ for AB3 and < 2.828 for RK4.
- This would correspond to CFL < .7236 and 2.828, respectively.

CFL, Eigenvalues, and Stability: Fourier Analysis

□ MATLAB EXAMPLE: conv_ab3.m

Advection

- For advection, no decay in physical solution.
- Solution is *persistent*.
- Numerical method is either dispersive, dissipative, or both.
- If $C = -C^T$, discrete operator is skew-symmetric (imaginary eigenvalues) and numerical method has no decay (due to spatial error, at least).
- But it *will* be dispersive.
- We come back to dissipative shortly.

- Long time-integration \longrightarrow accumulation of error.
- Second-order, $O(\Delta x^2)$, accuracy is *not* sufficient.
- Modulo boundary conditions (or with periodicity), we can easily extend our 2nd-order centered-difference formula to $O(\Delta x^4)$ through Richardson extrapolation.
- Let

$$C_h \mathbf{u}|_j := \frac{c}{2\Delta x} \left[u_{j+1} - u_{j-1} \right]$$

and

$$C_{2h}\mathbf{u}|_{j} := \frac{c}{4\Delta x} [u_{j+2} - u_{j-2}]$$

for j = 1, ..., n (with wrap for periodic ends).

• Instead of

$$\frac{d\mathbf{u}}{dt} = -C_h \mathbf{u}$$

now use

$$\frac{d\mathbf{u}}{dt} = -\left[\frac{4}{3}C_h\mathbf{u} - \frac{1}{3}C_{2h}\mathbf{u}\right].$$

• For AB3, say,

$$\mathbf{u}^{k+1} = \mathbf{u}^{k} + \Delta t \left(\frac{23}{12} \mathbf{f}^{k} - \frac{16}{12} \mathbf{f}^{k-1} + \frac{5}{12} \mathbf{f}^{k-2} \right)$$
$$\mathbf{f}^{k} = -\left[\frac{4}{3} C_{h} \mathbf{u}^{k} - \frac{1}{3} C_{2h} \mathbf{u}^{k} \right].$$

conv_ab3_cd4.m

- Don't re-evaluate \mathbf{f}^{k-1} or \mathbf{f}^{k-2} .
- Just re-use the previously computed values.

Numerical Dissipation

Numerical Dissipation

- So far, we've consider only central difference formulas.
- Upwind discretizations offer more stability, through the introduction of numerical dissipation.
- You must be very careful about the wind direction!

Alternative Discretizations for Advection



• First-order upwinding:

$$\frac{du_j}{dt} = -\frac{c}{\Delta x} (u_j - u_{j-1}) \quad \text{if } c > 0,$$

$$\frac{du_j}{dt} = -\frac{c}{\Delta x} (u_{j+1} - u_j) \quad \text{if } c < 0.$$

- Questions:
 - What is the order of accuracy?
 - Do we preserve skew-symmetry?
 - Do we have stability?
 - Under which conditions?

• Consider c > 0. With some rearranging, we find:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{du_j}{dt} &= -\frac{c}{\Delta x} \left(u_j - u_{j-1} \right) \\ &= -\frac{c}{2\Delta x} \left(2u_j - 2u_{j-1} \right) \\ &= -\frac{c}{2\Delta x} \left(u_{j+1} - u_{j+1} + 2u_j - 2u_{j-1} \right) \\ &= -\frac{c}{2\Delta x} \left((u_{j+1} - u_{j-1}) + \left(-u_{j+1} + 2u_j - u_{j-1} \right) \right) \\ &= -c \frac{u_{j+1} - u_{j-1}}{2\Delta x} + \frac{c\Delta x}{2} \frac{-u_{j+1} + 2u_j - u_{j-1}}{\Delta x^2} \\ &= -C\mathbf{u} - \nu_h A\mathbf{u}. \end{aligned}$$

• Here, $\nu_h = \frac{c\Delta x}{2}$ is the numerical diffusivity and the term

 $-\nu_h A \mathbf{u}$

represents numerical dissipation.

- $\nu_h = \frac{c\Delta x}{2} \longrightarrow 0$ as $\Delta x \longrightarrow 0$ (but only linearly in Δx).
- This method is thus first-order, $O(\Delta x)$, accurate in space and *dissipative*.

conv_ab3_b.m demo



conv_ab3_b.m demo

• Eigenvalues.

• For our *periodic* boundary conditions, the eigenvectors are

$$u_j = e^{i2\pi kx_j} \quad (i := \sqrt{-1}).$$

• With $\theta := 2\pi k \Delta x$, we have:

$$C\mathbf{u} = \frac{c}{2\Delta x} \cdot 2i \left[\frac{e^{i\theta} - e^{-i\theta}}{2i}\right] e^{i2\pi kx_j}$$
$$= \frac{ic}{\Delta x} \sin(2\pi k\Delta x) e^{i2\pi kx_j}.$$
$$\nu_h A\mathbf{u} = \frac{\nu_h}{\Delta x^2} \left[2 - 2\cos(2\pi k\Delta x)\right] e^{i2\pi kx_j}$$
$$\lambda(J) = -\frac{ic}{\Delta x} \sin(2\pi k\Delta x) - \frac{\nu_h}{\Delta x^2} \left(2 - 2\cos(2\pi k\Delta x)\right).$$

• Eigenvalues.

• For our *periodic* boundary conditions, the eigenvectors are

$$u_j = e^{i2\pi k x_j}$$
 $(i := \sqrt{-1}).$

• With $\theta := 2\pi k \Delta x$, we have:

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$$= \frac{ic}{\Delta x} \sin(2\pi k\Delta x) e^{i2\pi kx_j}.$$
$$\nu_h A\mathbf{u} = \frac{\nu_h}{\Delta x^2} \left[2 - 2\cos(2\pi k\Delta x)\right] e^{i2\pi kx_j}$$
$$\lambda(J) = \underbrace{-\frac{ic}{\Delta x} \sin(2\pi k\Delta x)}_{\in \mathcal{I}m} - \underbrace{\frac{\nu_h}{\Delta x^2} \left(2 - 2\cos(2\pi k\Delta x)\right)}_{<0, \in \mathbb{R}}.$$

• Thus, the eigenvalues are complex and in the left (stable) half of the complex plane.

- Q: What happens if c < 0 ??
- Now, $\nu_h < 0$ and

$$\lambda(J) = \underbrace{-\frac{ic}{\Delta x} \sin(2\pi k \Delta x)}_{\in \mathcal{I}m} - \underbrace{\frac{\nu_h}{\Delta x^2} (2 - 2\cos(2\pi k \Delta x))}_{>0, \in \mathbb{R}}.$$

- Here, we will have very rapid instability.
- We must in this case use the one-sided derivative

$$\frac{du_j}{dt} = -\frac{c}{\Delta x} \left(u_{j+1} - u_j \right) \quad \text{if } c < 0. \tag{1}$$

• Consider the logic of this statement.

- Suppose we use Euler forward, with c = 1 > 0 and $\Delta t = \Delta x$.
- Then, the update step is

$$\frac{\mathbf{u}^{n+1} - \mathbf{u}^n}{\Delta t} = J\mathbf{u}^n, \text{ or }$$
(2)

$$\frac{u_{j}^{n+1} - u_{j}^{n}}{\Delta t} = -c \frac{u_{j}^{n} - u_{j-1}^{n}}{\Delta x}, \qquad (3)$$

implying

$$u_{j}^{n+1} = u_{j}^{n} - \frac{c\Delta t}{\Delta x} \left(u_{j}^{n} - u_{j-1}^{n} \right).$$
(4)

• If our CFL = 1, then

$$u_j^{n+1} = u_{j-1}^n, (5)$$

which corresponds to a perfect shift of data from the left.

- Being in Illinois, we take our prediction of tomorrow's weather, u_j^{n+1} , from today's weather in Iowa, u_{j-1}^n .
- Not from Indiana (u_{j+1}^n) .

Time Dependent Problems

• We'll consider two examples: diffusion (heat equation) and advection.



Heat Equation:

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} = \nu \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2}, \qquad \nu > 0$$

- For the heat equation, the solution evolves in the direction of local curvature.
 - If the solution is locally concave down, u decreases there.
 - If the solution is concave up, u increases.


Example Solutions (eigenfunctions): $u_t = \nu u_{xx}$, u(0) = u(1) = 0

$$u(x,t) = \hat{u}(t)\sin \pi x$$

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} = \frac{d\hat{u}}{dt}\sin \pi x = -\nu\pi^2 \hat{u}\sin \pi x$$

$$\frac{d\hat{u}}{dt} = -\nu\pi^2 \hat{u}$$

$$\hat{u} = e^{-\nu\pi^2 t} \hat{u}(0)$$

$$u(x,t) = \hat{u}(t)\sin 10\pi x$$

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} = \frac{d\hat{u}}{dt}\sin \pi x = -\nu 100\pi^2 \hat{u}\sin \pi x$$

$$\frac{d\hat{u}}{dt} = -\nu 100\pi^2 \hat{u}$$

$$\hat{u} = e^{-\nu 100\pi^2 t} \hat{u}(0)$$

$$\longrightarrow Very rapid decay.$$



Solution of Partial Differential Equations

• Unsteady Heat Equation:

 $u_t = \nu u_{xx} + q(x,t), \qquad u(x=0,t) = u(x=L,t) = 0, \qquad u(x,t=0) = u^0(x).$

- Discretize in space:
 - Finite difference
 - Weighted residual technique (FEM, Galerkin + high-order polynomials, etc.)



$$\frac{du_i}{dt} = -\nu \left(A\mathbf{u}\right)_i + q_i, \quad i = 1, \dots, n$$

• In ODE form:

$$\frac{d\mathbf{u}}{dt} = -\nu A\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{q}, \quad \mathbf{u}(t=0) = u^0.$$

• Here, $\Delta x = 1/(n+1)$ and A is the SPD tridiagonal matrix

$$A = \frac{1}{\Delta x^2} \begin{pmatrix} 2 & -1 & & \\ -1 & 2 & -1 & & \\ & -1 & \ddots & \ddots & \\ & & \ddots & \ddots & -1 \\ & & & -1 & 2 \end{pmatrix}$$

• Eigenvalues:

$$\lambda(A) = \frac{2}{\Delta x^2} \left(1 - \cos(k\pi\Delta x)\right) \in \left(\pi^2 (1 + O(\Delta x^2)), 4(n+1)^2\right)$$
$$\in \left(\pi^2 (1 + O(\Delta x^2)), \frac{4}{\Delta x^2}\right).$$

•

• Can view this semi-discrete form as a system of ODEs:

$$\frac{d\mathbf{u}}{dt} = \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{u}) := -\nu A\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{q}(\mathbf{x}, t).$$

• Jacobian
$$\frac{df_i}{du_j} = -\nu a_{ij} \quad J = -\nu A.$$

- Stability is determined by the eigenvalues of J and by the choice of timestepper.
- Some possible explicit timesteppers

EF:
$$\mathbf{u}^{k+1} = \mathbf{u}^k + \Delta t \, \mathbf{f}^k$$

AB3: $\mathbf{u}^{k+1} = \mathbf{u}^k + \Delta t \left(\frac{23}{12} \mathbf{f}^k - \frac{16}{12} \mathbf{f}^{k-1} + \frac{5}{12} \mathbf{f}^{k-2}\right)$

• Stable, as long as $\lambda(J)\Delta t$ in the stability region.

• Stability:

•
$$\lambda(J) = -\nu\lambda(A) = -\frac{2\nu}{\Delta x^2} \left(1 - \cos k\pi\Delta x\right).$$

• Worst case is
$$|\lambda(J)| \sim \left|\frac{4\nu}{\Delta x^2}\right|.$$

• For Euler forward (EF), require

$$|\Delta t \lambda(J)| < 2$$

or

$$\Delta t < \frac{2\Delta x^2}{4\nu} = \frac{\Delta x^2}{2\nu},$$

which is a *very severe* timestep restriction.

• Question:

What is the maximum allowable timestep size for AB3 in this case?

Stability Regions, EF, AB2, AB3.



• Question:

What is the maximum allowable timestep size for AB3 in this case?

1 0.8 0.6 0.4 0.2 0 -0.2 -0.4 -0.6 -0.8 -1 LL -2.5 -1.5 -0.5 -2 0.5 -1 0

Stability Regions, EF, AB2, AB3.

- Severity of explicit timestep restriction:
 - Suppose $\nu = 1$ and you want error $\approx 10^{-6}$. $\longrightarrow \Delta x \approx 10^{-3}$. $\longrightarrow \Delta t \approx 10^{-6}$, just for stability.
- This is an example of a stiff system.
- High wavenumbers $(\lambda(A))$ are uninteresting but restrict the timestep size.
- For this reason, the heat equation is most often treated *implicitly*.

• Possible Implicit Approaches:

$$\frac{d\mathbf{u}}{dt} = \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{u}) \begin{cases} \mathbf{EB} \\ \mathbf{Trapezoid} \text{ (aka Crank-Nicolson)} \\ \mathbf{BDF2} \text{ or } \mathbf{BDF3} \end{cases}$$

• Examples:

EB:
$$\mathbf{u}^{k+1} = \mathbf{u}^k + \Delta t \left[-\nu A \mathbf{u}^{k+1} + \mathbf{q}(\mathbf{x}, t^{k+1}) \right]$$

CN:
$$\frac{\mathbf{u}^{k+1} - \mathbf{u}^k}{\Delta t} = +\frac{1}{2} \left(-\nu A \mathbf{u}^{k+1} + \mathbf{q}^{k+1} - \nu A \mathbf{u}^k + \mathbf{q}^k \right)$$

BDF2:
$$\frac{3\mathbf{u}^{k+1} - 4\mathbf{u}^k + \mathbf{u}^{k-1}}{2\Delta t} = -\nu A \mathbf{u}^{k+1} + \mathbf{q}(\mathbf{x}, t^{k+1})$$

• EB Example:

$$\mathbf{u}^{k+1} + \nu \Delta t A \mathbf{u}^{k+1} = \mathbf{u}^{k} + \Delta t \mathbf{q}^{k+1}$$
$$[I + \nu \Delta t A] \mathbf{u}^{k+1} = \mathbf{u}^{k} + \Delta t \mathbf{q}^{k+1}$$
$$H \mathbf{u}^{k+1} = \mathbf{u}^{k} + \Delta t \mathbf{q}^{k+1}.$$

- Here, $H := [I + \nu \Delta t A]$ is SPD, tridiagonal, and strongly diagonally dominant. (In all number of space dimensions.)
- $H\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{f}$ is easier to solve than $A\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{f}$.
- Jacobi- (diagonal-) preconditioned conjugate gradient iteration is often the best choice of solver, particularly in higher space dimensions.
- Note that all the implicit solvers end up with the form $H\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{f}$ and generally have the *same* costs for the linear heat equation considered here.
- Note that CN (aka trapezoid method) is *not* L-stable and will have potential difficulties noted in our discussion of IVPs.

- Discretization Based on Weighted Residual Technique in Space
- Coming back to the heat equation (with BCs/ICs),

$$u_t = \nu u_{xx} + q(x,t),$$

• WRT - residual orthogonal to test functions

$$\int v(\nu \, u_{xx} \, + \, q(x,t) \, - \, u_t) \, dx \, = \, 0 \, \forall \, v \, X_0^N.$$

• If
$$u = \sum_{j=1}^{n} u_j(t) \phi_j(x)$$
 and $v = \phi_i(x)$, then

LHS:
$$\int v \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} dx = \left(\sum_{j=1}^{n} \phi_i \phi_j dx\right) u_j(t) = B \frac{d\mathbf{u}}{dt},$$

with the mass matrix B having entries

$$B_{ij} := \int \phi_i(x) \, \phi_j(x) \, dx.$$

• On the right, we have

RHS =
$$\nu \int v \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} dx + \int v q dx$$

= $-\nu \int \frac{\partial v}{\partial x} \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} dx + \int v q dx.$

• Setting $v = \phi_i$ and $u = \sum_j \phi_j u_j(t)$,

RHS =
$$-\nu \sum_{j=1}^{n} \left(\int \frac{d\phi_i}{dx} \frac{d\phi_i}{dx} dx \right) u_j(t) + \int \phi_i q \, dx$$

$$= -\nu A \mathbf{u} + \mathbf{b}, \qquad \begin{cases} a_{ij} := \int \frac{d\phi_i}{dx} \frac{d\phi_i}{dx} dx \\ b_i := \int \phi_i q \, dx \end{cases}.$$

• In summary, the WRT formulation is, Find $u(x,t) \in X_0^N$ such that,

$$\int v \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} dx = -\nu \int \frac{\partial v}{\partial x} \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} dx + \int v q dx \quad \forall v \in X_0^N,$$

which leads to the ODE

$$B\frac{d\mathbf{u}}{dt} = -\nu A\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{b}$$
, plus initial condition $\mathbf{u}(t=0) = \mathbf{u}^0$.

• In standard form,

$$\frac{d\mathbf{u}}{dt} = -\nu B^{-1} A \mathbf{u} + B^{-1} \mathbf{b},$$

- Stability is thus governed by $\lambda(J) = -\nu\lambda(B^{-1}A)$, not just $-\nu\lambda(A)$.
- Presence of B in front of $\frac{d\mathbf{u}}{dt}$ must not be ignored.
- Choice of timestepper motivated by same concerns as for finite-differences:

 $- |\lambda(J)| \sim O(\Delta x^2)$

- Implicit timestepping generally preferred
- SPD systems
- Jacobi (diagonal) preconditioned conjugate gradient iteration is generally the solver of choice.

Time Stepping for Diffusion Equation:

• Recall, with boundary conditions u(0) = u(1) = 0, the finite difference operator

$$A\mathbf{u} = -\frac{\nu}{h^2} \left[u_{j+1} - u_j - u_{j-1} \right]$$

with h := 1/(n+1) has eigenvalues in the interval [0, M] with

$$M = \max_{k} \lambda_{k} = \max_{k} \frac{2\nu}{h^{2}} \left[1 - \cos k\pi h\right] \sim \frac{4}{h^{2}} \nu$$

• Our ODE is $\mathbf{u}_t = -A\mathbf{u}$, so we are concerned with $-\lambda_k$.

- With Euler Forward, we require $|\lambda \Delta t| < 2$ for stability,
 - $-\longrightarrow \Delta t < \frac{h^2}{2} \nu$

- no matter how smooth the initial condition.

- This intrinsic *stiffness* motivates the use of implicit methods for the heat equation (BDF2 is a good one).
- matlab example: heat1d.m

heat1d_ef.m and heat1d_eb.m and heat1d_cn.m

Steady State Problems

□ Heat equation evolves to a steady state:

 $u_t = \nu u_{xx} + q(x)$ [+ BCs and IC]

□ After waiting long enough, $u(x,t=\infty)$ satisfies:

$$-\nu u_{xx} = q(x) [+BCs]$$

□ In 2D, we have:

 $-\nu (u_{xx} + u_{yy}) = q(x) [+ BCs]$

Example: Poisson Equation in 2D



• Ex 1: If
$$f(x, y) = \sin \pi x \sin \pi y$$
,

$$u(x,y) = \frac{1}{2\pi^2} \sin \pi x \, \sin \pi y$$

• Ex 2: If f(x, y) = 1,

$$u(x,y) = \sum_{k,l \text{ odd}}^{\infty,\infty} \frac{16}{\pi^4 k l (k^2 + l^2)} \sin k\pi x \, \sin l\pi y.$$

- Q: How large must k and l be for "exact" solution to be correct to ϵ_M ? - Spectral collocation would yield $u = u_{\text{exact}} \pm \epsilon_M$ by $N \approx 15$.

Numerical Solution: Finite Differences



"5-point finite-difference stencil"

- Here, the unknowns are $\mathbf{u} = [u_{11}, u_{21}, \ldots, u_{n_x, n_y}]^T$.
- This particular (so-called natural or lexicographical) ordering gives rise to a banded system matrix for **u**.
- As in the 1D case, the error is $O(\Delta x^2) + O(\Delta y^2) = O(h^2)$ if we take $\Delta x = \Delta y =: h$.
- Assuming for simplicity that $N = n_x = n_y$, we have $n = N^2$ unknowns.

• For $i, j \in [1, ..., N]^2$, the governing finite difference equations are

$$-\left(\frac{u_{i+1,j}-2u_{i,j}+u_{i-1,j}}{\Delta x^2}+\frac{u_{i,j+1}-2u_{i,j}+u_{i,j-1}}{\Delta y^2}\right) = f_{ij}.$$

• Assuming a *lexicographical ordering* in which the *i*- (x-) index advances fastest, the system matrix has the form



- The system matrix A is
 - *sparse*, with 5 nonzeros per row (good)
 - and has a bandwith N (bad).
- The difficulty is that solving $A\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{f}$ using Gaussian elimination results in significant fill— each of the factors L and U have $N^3 = n^{3/2}$ nonzeros.
- Worse, for 3D problems with N^3 unknowns, $\mathbf{u} = [u_{111}, u_{211}, \dots, u_{n_x, n_y, n_z}]^T$, A is
 - sparse, with 7 nonzeros per row (good)
 - and has a bandwith N^2 (awful).
- In 3D, LU decomposition yields $N^5 = n^{5/3}$ nonzeros in L and U.
- The situation can be rescued in 2D with a reordering of the unknowns (e.g., via nesteddissection) to yield $O(n \log n)$ nonzeros in L and U.
- In 3D, nested-dissection yields $O(n^{3/2})$ nonzeros in the factors. Direct solution is not scalable for more than two space dimensions.
- The following Matlab examples illustrate the issue of fill:
 - fd_poisson_2d.m
 - fd_poisson_3d.m

spy(A) spy(L) 0.9 20 0.8 0.7 30 0.6 0.5 40 0.4 0.3 50 50 0.2 0.1 60 70 0.6 80 0.4 40 20 40 60 70 0.2 nz = 369 nz = 737 0 0





- As expected, the error scales like $h^2 \sim 1/N^2$ in both 2D and 3D.
- The resepctive storage costs (and work per rhs) are $\sim N^3$ and N^5 .
- Alternative orderings are asymptotically better, but the constants tend to be large.

Matrix-Fill for 2D Poisson, symamd Ordering

spy(L)







- We see for N = 80 (n = 6400) a 5× reduction in number of nonzeros by reording with matlab's symamd function.
- The requirements for indirect addressing to access elements of the complacty-stored matrix further adds to overhead.
- Gains tend to be realized only for very large N and are even less beneficial in 3D.
- Despite this, it's still a reasonable idea to reorder in matlab because it's available and easy to use.

Iterative Solvers

- The curse of dimensionality for d > 2 resulted in a move towards iterative (rather than direct-, LU-based) linear solvers once computers became fast enough to tackle 3D problems in the mid-80s.
- With iterative solvers, factorization

$$A\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{f} \implies \mathbf{u} = A^{-1}\mathbf{f} = U^{-1}L^{-1}\mathbf{f}$$

is replaced by, say,

$$\mathbf{u}_{k+1} = \mathbf{u}_k + M^{-1} \left(\mathbf{f} - A \mathbf{u}_k \right),$$

which only requires matrix-vector products.

• With $\mathbf{e}_k := \mathbf{u} - \mathbf{u}_k$, we have

 $\mathbf{e}_{k+1} = (I - M^{-1}A)\mathbf{e}_k,$ (as we've seen before).

- This is known as Richardson iteration.
- For the particular case M = D = diag(A), it is Jacobi iteration.
- We can derive Jacobi iteration (and multigrid by looking at a *parabolic* PDE, known as the (unsteady) heat equation. (The Poisson equation is sometimes referred to as the steady-state heat equation.)

- The intrinsic advantage of iterative solvers is that there is no *fill* associated with matrix factorization.
- Often one does not even construct the matrix. Rather, we simply evaluate the residual $\mathbf{r}_k := \mathbf{f} A\mathbf{u}_k$ and set $\mathbf{u}_{k+1} = \mathbf{u}_k + M^{-1}\mathbf{r}_k$.
- For a sparse matrix A, the operation count is O(n) per iteration.
- Assuming the preconditioner cost is also sparse, the overall cost is $O(n k_{\text{max}})$, where k_{max} is the number of iterations required to reach a desired tolerance.
- The choice of iteration (Richardson, conjugate gradient, GMRES) can greatly influence k_{max} .
- Even more significant is the choice of M.
- Usually, one seeks an M such that the cost of solving $M\mathbf{z} = \mathbf{r}$ is O(n) and that $k_{\max} = O(1)$. That is, the iteration count is bounded, independent of n.
- The overall algorithm is therefore O(n), which is optimal.

Iterative Solvers - Linear Elliptic Problems

• PDEs give rise to large sparse linear systems of the form

$$A\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{f}.$$

Here, we'll take A to be the (SPD) matrix arising from finite differences applied to the Poisson equation

$$-\left(\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial y^2}\right) = f(x, y) \qquad x, y \in [0, 1]^2, \qquad u = 0 \text{ on } \partial\Omega$$
$$-\left(\frac{\delta^2 u}{\delta x^2} + \frac{\delta^2 u}{\delta y^2}\right)_{ij} \approx f|_{ij},$$

• Assuming uniform spacing in x and y we have

$$\frac{\delta^2 u}{\delta x^2} := \frac{u_{i+1,j} - 2u_{ij} + u_{i-1,j}}{h^2} \quad \text{and} \quad \frac{\delta^2 u}{\delta y^2} := \frac{u_{i,j+1} - 2u_{ij} + u_{i,j-1}}{h^2}$$

• Our finite difference formula is thus,

$$\frac{1}{h^2} \left(u_{i+1,j} + u_{i-1,j} - 4u_{ij} + u_{i,j+1} + u_{i,j-1} \right) = f_{ij}.$$

• Rearranging, we can solve for u_{ij} :

$$\frac{4}{h^2}u_{ij} = f_{ij} + \frac{1}{h^2}(u_{i+1,j} + u_{i-1,j} + u_{i,j+1} + u_{i,j-1})$$
$$u_{ij} = \frac{h^2}{4}f_{ij} + \frac{1}{4}(u_{i+1,j} + u_{i-1,j} + u_{i,j+1} + u_{i,j-1})$$

• Jacobi iteration uses the preceding expression as a fixed-point iteration:

$$u_{ij}^{k+1} = \frac{h^2}{4} f_{ij} + \frac{1}{4} \left(u_{i+1,j}^k + u_{i-1,j}^k + u_{i,j+1}^k + u_{i,j-1}^k \right)$$

 $= \frac{h^2}{4} f_{ij}$ + average of current neighbor values

• Note that this is analogous to

$$u_{ij}^{k+1} = u_{ij}^{k} + \frac{h^2}{4} \left[f_{ij} + \frac{1}{h^2} \left(u_{i+1,j}^{k} + u_{i-1,j}^{k} - 4u_{ij}^{k} + u_{i,j+1}^{k} + u_{i,j-1}^{k} \right) \right]$$

$$\mathbf{u}_{k+1} = \mathbf{u}_k + \Delta t \left(\mathbf{f} - A \mathbf{u}_k \right), \quad \Delta t := \frac{h^2}{4},$$

which is Euler forward applied to

$$\frac{d\mathbf{u}}{dt} = -A\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{f}$$

• We note that we have stability if $|\lambda \Delta t| < 2$



• Recall that the eigenvalues for the 1D diffusion operator are

$$\lambda_j = \frac{2}{h^2} \left(1 - \cos j\pi \Delta x \right) < \frac{4}{h^2}$$

• In 2D, we pick up contributions from both $\frac{\delta^2 u}{\delta x^2}$ and $\frac{\delta^2 u}{\delta y^2}$, so

$$\max|\lambda| < \frac{8}{h^2}$$

and we have stability since

$$\max|\lambda\Delta t| < \frac{8}{h^2}\frac{h^2}{4} = 2$$

• So, Jacobi iteration is equivalent to solving $A\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{f}$ by time marching $\frac{d\mathbf{u}}{dt} = -A\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{f}$ using EF with maximum allowable timestep size,

$$\Delta t = \frac{h^2}{4}$$

Jacobi Iteration in Matrix Form

• Our unsteady heat equation has the matrix form

$$\mathbf{u}_{k+1} = \mathbf{u}_k + \Delta t \left(\mathbf{f} - A \mathbf{u}_k \right)$$

• For variable diagonal entries, Richardson iteration is

$$\mathbf{u}_{k+1} = \mathbf{u}_k + \sigma M^{-1} \left(\mathbf{f} - A \mathbf{u}_k \right)$$

- If $\sigma = 1$ and $M = D^{-1} = \text{diag}(A)$ $[d_{ii} = 1/a_{ii}, d_{ij} = 0, i \neq j]$, we have standard Jacobi iteration.
- If $\sigma < 1$ we have *damped Jacobi*.
- *M* is generally known as a smoother or a preconditioner, depending on context.

Rate of Convergence for Jacobi Iteration

- Let $\mathbf{e}_k := \mathbf{u} \mathbf{u}_k$.
- Since $A\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{f}$, we have

$$\mathbf{u}_{k+1} = \mathbf{u}_k + \Delta t \left(A \mathbf{u} - A \mathbf{u}_k \right)$$

$$-\mathbf{u} = -\mathbf{u}$$

$$-\mathbf{e}_{k+1} = -\mathbf{e}_k - \sigma \Delta t A \mathbf{e}_k$$

$$-\mathbf{e}_{k+1} = -\left(I - \sigma \Delta t A\right) \mathbf{e}_k$$

$$\mathbf{e}_k = \left(I - \sigma \Delta t A\right)^k \mathbf{e}_0$$

$$= \left(I - \sigma \Delta t A\right)^k \mathbf{u} \quad \text{if } \mathbf{u}_0 = 0.$$

• If $\sigma < 1$, then the high wavenumber error components will decay because $\lambda \Delta t$ will be well within the stability region for EF.

- The low-wavenumber components of the solution (and error) evolve like $e^{-\lambda\sigma\Delta tk}$, because these will be well-resolved in time by Euler forward.
- Thus, we can anticipate

$$||\mathbf{e}_k|| \approx ||\mathbf{u}||e^{-\lambda_{\min}\sigma\Delta tk}$$

with $\lambda_{\min} \approx 2\pi^2$ (for 2D).

• If $\sigma \approx 1$, we have

$$||\mathbf{e}_k|| \approx ||\mathbf{u}||e^{-2\pi^2(h^2/4)k} \leq \text{tol}$$

• Example, find the number of iterations when $tol=10^{-12}$.

$$e^{-(\pi^2 h^2/4)k} \approx 10^{-12}$$

 $-(\pi^2 h^2/4)k \approx \ln 10^{-12} \approx 24 \ (27.6...)$
 $k \approx \frac{28 \cdot 2}{\pi^2 h^2} \approx 6N^2$

Here, N=*number of points in each direction.*

Recap

- Low-wavenumber components decay at a fixed rate: $e^{-\lambda_{\min}\Delta tk}$.
- Stability mandates $\Delta t < h^2/4 = 1/4(N+1)^{-2}$.
- Number of steps scales like N^2 .
- Note, if $\sigma = 1$, then *highest* and *lowest* wavenumber components decay at *same* rate.
- If $\frac{1}{2} < \sigma < 1$, high wavenumber components of error decay very fast. We say that damped Jacobi iteration is a *smoother*.

Example: 1D Jacobi Iteration

Solution after 1 iteration

Solution after 5 itierations



Error after 5 itierations

Observations:

- Error, \mathbf{e}_k is smooth after just a few iterations:
 - Error components are $\approx \hat{u}_j e^{-j^2 k h^2 \pi^2/4} \sin k \pi x_j$, and components for j > 1 rapidly go to zero.
- Exact solution is $\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{u}_k + \mathbf{e}_k$ (\mathbf{e}_k unknown, but smooth).
- Error satisfies, and can be computed from,

$$A\mathbf{e}_k = \mathbf{r}_k \qquad (:= \mathbf{f} - A\mathbf{u}_k = A\mathbf{u} - A\mathbf{u}_k = A\mathbf{e}_k).$$

- These observations suggest that the *error* can be well approximated on a coarser grid and added back to \mathbf{u}_k to improve the current guess.
- The two steps, *smooth* and *coarse-grid correction* are at the heart of one of the fastest iteration strategies, known as **multigrid**.

Multigrid:

- Solve $A\mathbf{e}_k = \mathbf{r}_k$ approximately on a coarse grid and set $\tilde{\mathbf{u}}_k = \mathbf{u}_k + \tilde{\mathbf{e}}_k$.
- Approximation strategy is similar to least squares. Let

$$\tilde{\mathbf{e}}_k = V \mathbf{e}_c, \quad \text{and}$$

$$AV\mathbf{e}_c \approx \mathbf{r},$$

where V is an $n \times n_c$ matrix with $n_c \approx n/2$.

- \bullet Typically, columns of V interpolate coarse point values to their midpoints.
- Most common approach (for A SPD) is to require \mathbf{e}_c to solve

$$V^{T}[AV\mathbf{e}_{c} - \mathbf{r}] = 0$$

$$\implies \tilde{\mathbf{e}}_{k} = V (V^{T}AV)^{-1} V^{T}\mathbf{r} = V (V^{T}AV)^{-1} V^{T}A\mathbf{e}_{k}$$

• For A SPD, $\tilde{\mathbf{e}}_k$ is the A-orthogonal projection of \mathbf{e}_k onto $\mathcal{R}(V)$.

An example of V for n = 5 and $n_c = 2$ is



```
% Multigrid stuff % n must be odd!
nc = (n-1)/2; V=spalloc(n,nc,n*nc); i=1;
for j=1:nc;
   V(i,j)=1/2; V(i+1,j)=1; V(i+2,j)=1/2; i=i+2;
end;
Ac = V' * A * V;
% A Simple Two-Level MG iteration:
for k=1:5000
                           % Smoothing step
    r = f - A * u;
    u = u + d*r;
                           % Coarse-grid correction
    r = f - A * u;
    rc = V' * r;
    ec = V*(Ac \setminus rc);
    u = u + ec;
                                         poisson_mg.m demo
```

end;

Example: Damped Jacobi (Richardson) Iteration

Solution after 1 iteration










Multigrid Summary – Main Ideas Solution Error 4.5 Error after 5 Solution after 3.5 iterations 5 iterations 2.5 ÷ 2 1.5 0.5 0.2 0.8 0.2 0.4 0.8 0.4 0.6 0.6

- Take a few damped-Jacobi steps (smoothing the *error*), to get \mathbf{u}_k .
- Approximate this *smooth error*, $\mathbf{e}_k := \mathbf{u} \mathbf{u}_k$, on a coarser grid.
- Exact error satisfies

$$A\mathbf{e}_k = A\mathbf{u} - A\mathbf{u}_k = \mathbf{f} - A\mathbf{u} =: \mathbf{r}_k$$

- Let $\mathbf{e}_f := V \mathbf{e}_c$ be the *interpolant* of \mathbf{e}_c , the coarse-grid approximation to \mathbf{e}_k .
- \mathbf{e}_f is *closest element* in $\mathcal{R}(V)$ to \mathbf{e}_k (in the A-norm), given by the **projection**:

$$\mathbf{e}_f = V \left(V^T A V \right)^{-1} V^T A \mathbf{e}_k = V \left(A_c \right)^{-1} V^T \mathbf{r}_k$$

- Update \mathbf{u}_k with the coarse-grid correction: $\mathbf{u}_k \leftarrow \mathbf{u}_k + \mathbf{e}_f$.

• Smooth again and repeat.

Example: Two-Level Multigrid

Solution after 1 iteration



Error after 1 iteration

Solution after 5 itierations



Example: Two-Level Multigrid

0.2

Error

Solution

4.5

Solution after 1 iteration



Error after 1 iteration



Iteration History

Multigrid Comments

- Smoothing can be improved using under-relaxation (*σ* = 2/3 is optimal for 1D case).
 Basically want more of the high-end error spectrum to be damped.
- System in A_c is less expensive to solve, but is typically best solved by repeating the smooth/ coarse-grid correct pair on yet another level down.
- **Can recur until** $n_c \sim 1$, at which point system is easy to solve.
- □ Typical MG complexity is O(n) or O(n log n), with very good constants in higher space dimensions ($N_c = N/2 \rightarrow n_c = n/8$ in 3D).
- □ For high aspect-ratio cells, variable coefficients, etc., smoothing and coarsening strategies require more care, so this continues to be an active research area.

Stability Region for Euler's Method



Growth Factors for Real λ



- □ Each growth factor approximates $e^{\lambda \Delta t}$ for $\lambda \Delta t \rightarrow 0$
- □ For EF, |G| is not bounded by 1
- For Trapezoidal Rule, local (small $\lambda \Delta t$) approximation is O($\lambda \Delta t^2$), but $|G| \rightarrow -1$ as $\lambda \Delta t \rightarrow -\infty$. [Trapezoid method is not *L-stable.*]
- □ BDF2 will give 2nd-order accuracy, stability, and $|G| \rightarrow 0$ as $\lambda \Delta t \rightarrow -\infty$.

More on 2D Systems Matrices for Poisson Equation

$$\begin{aligned}
-\nabla^2 u &= f(x, y), \quad \text{plus BCs} \\
&= -\left(\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial y^2}\right) \\
&= -\left(\frac{\delta^2 u}{\delta x^2} + \frac{\delta^2 u}{\delta y^2}\right) + O(h^2),
\end{aligned} \tag{10}$$

where we have substituted the finite difference approximations, assumed to be about the point $\mathbf{x}_{ij} := (x_i, y_j)$,

$$\frac{\delta^2 u}{\delta x^2} := \frac{u_{i+1,j} - 2u_{i,j} + u_{i-1,j}}{\Delta x^2}
\frac{\delta^2 u}{\delta y^2} := \frac{u_{i,j+1} - 2u_{i,j} + u_{i,j-1}}{\Delta y^2},$$
(11)

with the further assumption of uniform grid spacing, $\Delta x = \Delta y = h$. We'll also consider homogeneous Dirichlet boundary conditions, that is, $u(x,y)|_{\partial\Omega} \equiv 0$. The respective unknowns and data in this case are u_{ij} and f_{ij} , governed by the following system of equations

$$-\left(\frac{u_{i+1,j}-2u_{i,j}+u_{i-1,j}}{\Delta x^2}+\frac{u_{i,j+1}-2u_{i,j}+u_{i,j-1}}{\Delta y^2}\right) = f_{ij},$$
(12)

for $i, j \in [1, ..., N]^2$.

Assuming a *lexicographical ordering* in which the *i*- (*x*-) index advances fastest, the system takes on the following matrix structure for $\Delta x = \Delta y = h$.

	$ \begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$													``				$\begin{array}{c} u_{11} \\ u_{21} \\ \vdots \\ \vdots \end{array}$		$\begin{array}{ccc} f_{11} \\ f_{21} \\ \vdots \\ \vdots \\ \vdots \\ \end{array}$				
$\frac{1}{h^2}$			·	·	1	4 -1	-1 4 -1	-1	· -1	-1 4 ·.		· ·	•	·	· ·	-1 4 -1	-1 -1 4 \cdot \cdot	·	· · · -1		$ \begin{array}{c} $	=	$ \begin{array}{c} f_{M1} \\ \hline f_{12} \\ f_{22} \\ \vdots \\ \vdots \\ f_{M2} \\ \hline \\ \hline \\ f_{M2} \\ \hline \\ \hline \\ f_{MN} \\ f_{2N} \\ \vdots \\ \hline \\ f_{MN} \\ f \\ \hline \end{array} $	
										A_2	2D										-		<u>J</u>	

Note that A_{2D} can be expressed as the sum of two systems, one associated with A_x coming from $\frac{\delta^2 u}{\delta x^2}$, and one associated with one associated with A_y coming from $\frac{\delta^2 u}{\delta y^2}$. Specifically, we can write

$$A_{2D} = (I_y \otimes A_x) + (A_y \otimes I_x), \tag{13}$$

where we have introduced the Kronecker (or *tensor*) product, \otimes . For two matrices A and B, their Kronecker product $C = A \otimes B$ is defined as the block matrix

$$C := \begin{pmatrix} a_{11}B & a_{12}B & \cdots & \cdots & a_{1n}B \\ a_{21}B & a_{22}B & \cdots & \cdots & a_{2n}B \\ \vdots & \vdots & & \vdots \\ a_{m1}B & a_{m2}B & \cdots & \cdots & a_{mn}B \end{pmatrix}.$$
 (14)

We will soon explore a few properties of this form, but for now simply note that it allows a clean expression of the discretized Poisson operator in 2D. Consider the following splitting of A_{2D} .



+



$$A_{2D} = \begin{pmatrix} A_x & & \\ & A_x & \\ & & \ddots & \\ & & & A_x \end{pmatrix} + \frac{1}{h^2} \begin{pmatrix} 2I_x & -I_x & & \\ & -I_x & 2I_x & \ddots & \\ & & \ddots & \ddots & -I_x \\ & & & -I_x & 2I_x \end{pmatrix}$$
$$= (I_y \otimes A_x) + (A_y \otimes I_x)$$

```
close all; format compact;
% Kronecker Product Demo
%
%
     NOTE: It is important to use SPARSE matrices throughout.
%
%
            Otherwise, your run times will be very long and
%
            you will likely run out of memory!
Lx=2; Ly=1;
nx=15; ny=3; % Number of _interior_ points
dx=Lx/(nx+1); dy=Ly/(ny+1);
% USE help spdiags
e = ones(nx, 1); Ax = spdiags([-e 2*e -e], -1:1, nx, nx)/(dx*dx);
e = ones(ny,1); Ay = spdiags([-e 2*e -e], -1:1, ny, ny)/(dy*dy);
Ix=speye(nx); Iy=speye(ny);
A = kron(Iy,Ax) + kron(Ay,Ix); %%% FINITE DIFFERENCE STIFFNESS MATRIX
% A couple of demo cases without the 1/(dx*dx) scaling.
nd= 5;
e = ones(nd,1); Ad = spdiags([-e 2*e -e], -1:1, nd, nd);
T = kron(Iy, Ad); full(T)
nd= 15;
e = ones(nd,1); Ad = spdiags([-e 2*e -e], -1:1, nd, nd);
T = kron(Iy, Ad); spy(T)
title('I_y \otimes A_x', 'fontsize', 16)
set(gcf, 'PaperUnits', 'normalized');set(gcf, 'PaperPosition', [0 0 1 1])
print -dpdf iyax.pdf
pause; figure
nd= 5;
e = ones(nd,1); Ad = spdiags([-e 2*e -e], -1:1, nd, nd);
T = kron(Ad, Ix); full(T)
nd= 15;
e = ones(nd,1); Ad = spdiags([-e 2*e -e], -1:1, nd, nd);
T = kron(Ad, Ix); spy(T)
title('A_y \otimes I_x', 'fontsize', 16)
set(gcf, 'PaperUnits', 'normalized');set(gcf, 'PaperPosition', [0 0 1 1])
print -dpdf ayix.pdf
```



Note that our finite-difference stiffness matrix in matlab would be written as

$$A = kron(Iy, Ax) + kron(Ay, Ix)$$

where Ax and Ay are formed using the matlab spdiags command (help spdiags), and Iy and Ix are formed using speye.

It is important to use *sparse matrices* in matlab for these higher-dimensional (2D and 3D) problems or you will run out of memory and it will take *very long* to solve these problems.

This problem is known in scientific computing and the curse of dimensionality.

1.4 Poisson Equation in \mathbb{R}^3

We now extend the 1D and 2D concepts to the most important 3D case. The short story is that the 3D stiffness matrix takes the wonderfully symmetric form

$$A_{3D} = (I_z \otimes A_{2D}) + (A_z \otimes I_{2D})$$

$$= (I_z \otimes I_y \otimes A_x) + (I_z \otimes A_y \otimes I_x) + (A_z \otimes I_y \otimes I_x).$$
(15)

and the discrete system is as before $A_{3D}\underline{u} = \underline{f}$. This of course is the form that arises for a finite difference discretization of $-\nabla^2 u = f$ in $\Omega = [0, 1]^3$, u = 0 on $\partial\Omega$, or, more explicitly,

$$-\left(\frac{\delta^2 u}{\delta x^2} + \frac{\delta^2 u}{\delta y^2} + \frac{\delta^2 u}{\delta z^2}\right) = f(x_i, y_j, z_k),\tag{16}$$

with

$$\frac{\delta^2 u}{\delta z^2}\Big|_{ijk} := \frac{u_{ij,k+1} - 2u_{ijk} + u_{ij,k-1}}{\Delta z^2}, \qquad (17)$$

and equivalent expressions for $\frac{\delta^2 u}{\delta x^2}$ and $\frac{\delta^2 u}{\delta y^2}$.