

Analysis and Numerics of Partial Differential Equations.

Mathias Sawall

Institut für Mathematik, Universität Rostock

Summer 2026

Lectures:

- Mon 9.00-11.00, room 17
- Thu 9.00-11.00, room 17 (until 30.04.) resp. Ex 04 (from 07.05.)
- slides under
<https://www.numerik.mathematik.uni-rostock.de/sawall/>

Tutorials:

- by Tomass Andersons
- Thu 13.00 - 15.00, room 17

Contact:

- mathias.sawall@uni-rostock.de
- room 431, Ulmenstraße 69, Haus 3

Exam:

- final examination of 120 min
- allowed are 10 leaves DIN-A4, hand written on both sides and a pocket calculator

Exercises:

- available under
<https://www.numerik.mathematik.uni-rostock.de/sawall/>
- e. g. print them and think about them at home for your own
- the tasks are discussed in the tutorials

Web:

- <https://www.numerik.mathematik.uni-rostock.de/sawall/>
- Tutorials, slides, and more

1. Introduction
2. Solution of first order partial differential equations
3. Solution of second order partial differential equation
4. High performance methods

1. Introduction
2. Solution of first order partial differential equations
3. Solution of second order partial differential equation
4. High performance methods

1. Introduction

1.1 What is a PDE?

1.2 Classifications

1.3 Finite differences and numerical differentiation

1.4 Boundary value problem for second order ODE

1.5 Discretization

What is a PDE?

Some applications:

1. one dimensional diffusion of a dye in water, $u(x, t)$ denotes the density, Fick's law for mass transport by diffusion results in the one dimensional diffusion equation or also called heat equation

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t}u(x, t) = \alpha \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2}u(x, t)$$

2. density of cars $n(x, t)$ on a road with heavy traffic moving in one direction, with v being the speed of the cars results in the transport equation

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t}n(x, t) + v \frac{\partial}{\partial x}n(x, t) = 0$$

What is a PDE?

Some applications:

3. a chain consisting of n elements, each with mass m connected by springs, for all single masses we get the discrete equations

$$m\ddot{u}_i = F_{i+1} - F_i = \beta(u_{i+1} - u_i - u_i + u_{i-1}), \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, n,$$

increasing n while decreasing β and m , results in the 1D wave equation

$$\frac{\partial^2}{\partial t^2}u(x, t) = c \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2}u(x, t),$$

4. the telegraph equation, where an infinitesimal piece of telegraph wire is modeled as an electrical circuit and has the form

$$u_{xx}(x, t) = LCu_{tt}(x, t) + (LG + RC)u_t(x, t) + RG u(x, t),$$

with the material properties resistance R , capacitance C and inductance L ,

What is a PDE?

Some applications:

5. consider a crowd of n^2 accommodating people ordered in a square, each person has an opinion, given by the scalar p_{ij} , communication only with the immediate neighbours, assumption that everyone tries to minimize any conflict with the neighbours, willing to take an opinion that is the average of their opinions

$$p_{ij} = 0.25(p_{i-1,j} + p_{i+1,j} + p_{i,j-1} + p_{i,j+1})$$

information from the outside defines the boundary condition, for $n \rightarrow \infty$ this model goes over into the Laplace equation

$$p_{xx} + p_{yy} = 0$$

From Mattheij, Rienstra, ten Thije Boonkkamp, K.: Partial Differential Equations, 2005.

What is a PDE?

Several PDEs:

1. one-dimensional linear transport equation

$$u_t = -au_x$$

with the general solution $u(x, t) = u_0(x - at)$

2. one-dimensional nonlinear transport equation

$$u_t = f(u)u_x$$

3. Poisson-equation

$$\Delta u := \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x_1^2} + \dots + \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x_n^2} = f(x_1, \dots, x_n)$$

What is a PDE?

Several PDEs:

4. Laplace-equation

$$\Delta u = 0$$

5. Burger's equation

$$u_t + uu_x = \varepsilon u_{xx}$$

and for $\varepsilon = 0$ the inviscid Burgers' equation

6. heat equation

$$u_t = k\Delta u$$

7. wave equation

$$u_{tt} = c^2 \Delta u$$

Partial derivative

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial x} = u_x$$

Gradient for $u : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$

$$\nabla u = \left(\frac{\partial u}{\partial x_1}, \dots, \frac{\partial u}{\partial x_n} \right)^T$$

Divergence of the vector field $w : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$

$$\nabla \cdot w = \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{\partial w_i}{\partial x_i}$$

Laplacian operator for $u : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$

$$\Delta u = \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x_i^2}$$

Boundary of a domain Ω is denoted by $\partial\Omega$

What is a PDE?

Definition 1.1

A partial differential equation (PDE) is an equation involving a function $u : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ with $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ of several variables (x_1, \dots, x_n) and its partial derivatives

$$F \left(x_1, \dots, x_n, u, \frac{\partial u}{\partial x_1}, \dots, \frac{\partial u}{\partial x_n}, \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x_1 \partial x_2}, \dots \right) = 0.$$

Remarks:

- in general a PDE itself has no unique solution
- e. g. the solution of the transport equation $u_t = au_x$ is $u(x, t) = u_0(x - at)$ with $u_0 \in C^1(\mathbb{R})$

Definition 1.2

1. For Dirichlet boundary conditions the function is defined on the boundary as

$$u(x) = g(x) \text{ for } x \in \partial\Omega.$$

2. In Neumann-boundary conditions holds

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial \vec{n}}(x) = 0 \text{ for } x \in \partial\Omega$$

with \vec{n} being the derivative in the direction of the outer unit normal at $\partial\Omega$ (short normal derivative).

3. For time-dependent PDEs next to boundary conditions we need mixed initial boundary conditions as

$$u(x, 0) = u_0(x) \text{ for } x \in \Omega, \quad (\text{for the heat equation}),$$

$$u_t(x, 0) = v_0(x) \text{ for } x \in \Omega, \quad (\text{for the wave equation}).$$

1. Introduction

1.1 What is a PDE?

1.2 Classifications

1.3 Finite differences and numerical differentiation

1.4 Boundary value problem for second order ODE

1.5 Discretization

Cauchy-problems with PDEs can have:

- no solution or
- a unique solution or
- (infinite) many solution

Definition 1.3 (Hadamard's well-posedness condition)

A partial differential equation with boundary or initial and boundary conditions is called well-posed if

- (a) *there exists a unique solution*
- (b) *this solution depends continuously on the data*

Otherwise the problem is called ill-posed.

We classify PDEs by:

- the dimension n of the independent variable for

$$u : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$$

- the dimension m of the dependent variable (scalar or system)

$$u : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$$

- the order, this is the number of highest derivative
- linearity or not (semi-, quasi-linear, strong nonlinear)
- if the PDE is linear by constancy of coefficients
- its type (hyperbolic, parabolic, elliptic, mixed, changing)
- the applied boundary conditions (Dirichlet, Neumann, mixed, free)

Analytical approaches:

- look for and provide general solutions and formulas
- make strong assumptions about the conditions and for the techniques
- work for PDEs and Cauchy-problems
- optionally specification of parameters and functions by initial conditions
- important issues are existence and uniqueness of the solution

Numerical methods:

- seek approximations to concrete solution
- work only for Cauchy-problems
- visualization and animation of the solution
- important issues are accuracy of the approach and stability of the scheme

1. Introduction

1.1 What is a PDE?

1.2 Classifications

1.3 Finite differences and numerical differentiation

1.4 Boundary value problem for second order ODE

1.5 Discretization

Definition 1.4

The approximations

$$D^+f(x) = \frac{f(x+h) - f(x)}{h}, \quad D^-f(x) = \frac{f(x) - f(x-h)}{h}, \quad D^0f(x) = \frac{f(x+h) - f(x-h)}{2h}$$

for $f'(x)$ are called forward-, backward- and central difference.

Theorem 1.5 (Approximation orders)

For the finite differences holds

$$f'(x) - D^+f(x) = \mathcal{O}(h), \quad (\text{order } 1)$$

$$f'(x) - D^-f(x) = \mathcal{O}(h), \quad (\text{order } 1)$$

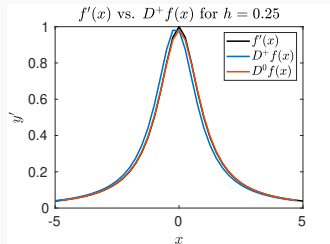
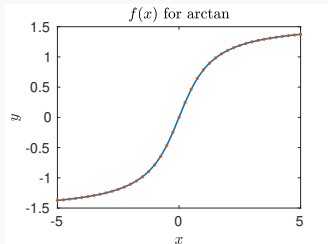
$$f'(x) - D^0f(x) = \mathcal{O}(h^2). \quad (\text{order } 2)$$

Thus, forward and backward differences are first order approximations to $f'(x)$ and the central difference is an approximation of second order.

Example

Approximation of $f'(x_0)$ for $f(x) = \arctan(x)$ and $x_0 = 0.5$ for different h

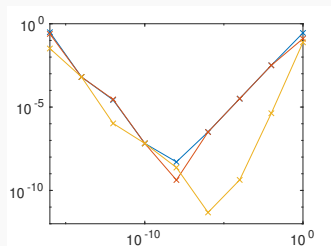
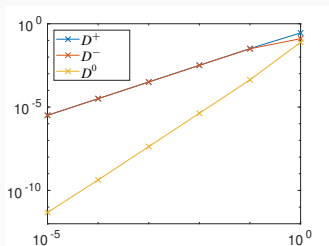
| h | $ D^+f(x_0) - f'(x_0) $ | $ D^-f(x_0) - f'(x_0) $ | $ D^0f(x_0) - f'(x_0) $ |
|-----------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| 0.1 | $3.2 \cdot 10^{-2}$ | $3.1 \cdot 10^{-2}$ | $4.3 \cdot 10^{-4}$ |
| 0.01 | $3.2 \cdot 10^{-3}$ | $3.2 \cdot 10^{-3}$ | $4.3 \cdot 10^{-6}$ |
| 10^{-5} | $3.2 \cdot 10^{-6}$ | $3.2 \cdot 10^{-6}$ | $4.8 \cdot 10^{-12}$ |



Example (Continuation)

But we cannot reduce h arbitrarily, as

| h | $ D^+f(x_0) - f'(x_0) $ | $ D^-f(x_0) - f'(x_0) $ | $ D^0f(x_0) - f'(x_0) $ |
|------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| 10^{-12} | $2.7 \cdot 10^{-5}$ | $2.9 \cdot 10^{-5}$ | $1.0 \cdot 10^{-6}$ |
| 10^{-14} | $6.4 \cdot 10^{-4}$ | $6.4 \cdot 10^{-4}$ | $6.4 \cdot 10^{-4}$ |



Problem: Catastrophic cancellation for $f(x_0 + h) - f(x_0 - h)$.

Definition 1.6

The approximation

$$D^{(2)}f(x) = \frac{f(x-h) - 2f(x) + f(x+h)}{h^2}$$

for $f''(x)$ is called central difference of second order.

The error of the central difference of second order is in $\mathcal{O}(h^2)$, so $D^{(2)}f$ is an approximation of second order.

Numerical differentiation in \mathbb{R}^n :

- let $u : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$
- we need all in all n finite differences

$$\frac{u(x + (0, \dots, 0, h, 0, \dots, 0)^T) - u(x)}{h} \approx \frac{\partial u}{\partial x_i}(x), \quad i = 1, \dots, n$$

Finite difference of second order:

- for $h_x = h_y = h$ holds

$$u_{xx}(x, y) \approx \frac{u(x - h, y) - 2u(x, y) + u(x + h, y)}{h^2},$$

$$u_{yy}(x, y) \approx \frac{u(x, y - h) - 2u(x, y) + u(x, y + h)}{h^2},$$

$$u_{xy}(x, y) \approx \frac{u(x + h, y + h) - u(x + h, y - h) - u(x - h, y + h) + u(x - h, y - h)}{4h^2}$$

- different stencils for $h_x \neq h_y$

Definition 1.7

The 5-point stencil to approximate Δu for $u(x, y)$ is

$$\begin{aligned}\Delta u &= u_{xx} + u_{yy} \\ &\approx \frac{u(x+h, y) + u(x-h, y) + u(x, y+h) + u(x, y-h) - 4u(x, y)}{h^2}.\end{aligned}$$

$$L_h^{(5)} = \frac{1}{h^2} \begin{bmatrix} & -1 & & \\ -1 & 4 & -1 & \\ & -1 & & \end{bmatrix}$$

Difference stencil for u_{xy}

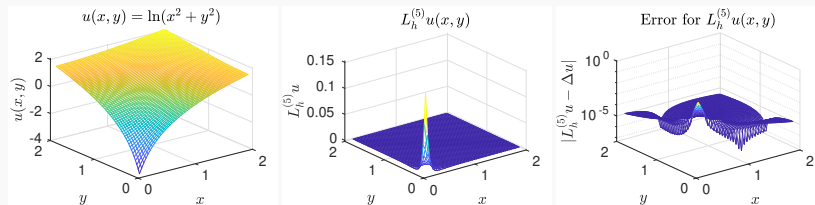
$$\frac{1}{4h^2} \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & -1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Example

Consider the harmonic function

$$u(x, y) = \ln(x^2 + y^2)$$

on $\Omega = [0.1, 2]^2$. Using $h = 0.01$ we get (once again $\Delta u = 0$)

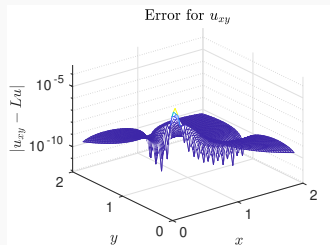
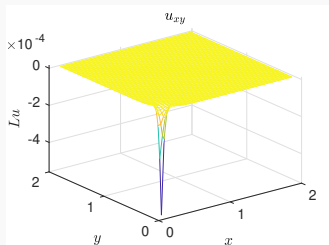


Example

Consider once again

$$u(x, y) = \ln(x^2 + y^2)$$

on $\Omega = [0.1, 2]^2$. The error for the approximation of u_{xy} and $h = 0.01$ are



1. Introduction

1.1 What is a PDE?

1.2 Classifications

1.3 Finite differences and numerical differentiation

1.4 Boundary value problem for second order ODE

1.5 Discretization

Scalar linear boundary value problem of second order (with $\lambda \geq 0$):

$$\begin{aligned} -y''(x) + \lambda y(x) &= f(x_i), & a \leq x \leq b, \\ y(a) &= \alpha, & y(b) = \beta \end{aligned}$$

Segmentation:

$$a = x_0 < x_1 < \dots < x_N < x_{N+1} = b, \quad x_j = a + jh, \quad h = \frac{b - a}{m + 1}$$

Boundary points:

$$(x_0, \alpha), \quad (x_{N+1}, \beta)$$

Inner knots:

x_1, \dots, x_N , to these knots we compute approximations $Y_i \approx y(x_i)$

Finite difference:

$$-y''(x_i) \approx \frac{-Y_{i-1} + 2Y_i - Y_{i+1}}{h^2}$$

Equations:

$$i = 1 : \quad \frac{-\alpha + 2Y_1 - Y_2}{h^2} + \lambda Y_1 = f(x_1)$$

$$2 \leq i \leq N - 1 : \quad \frac{-Y_{i-1} + 2Y_i - Y_{i+1}}{h^2} + \lambda Y_i = f(x_i)$$

$$i = N : \quad \frac{-Y_{N-1} + 2Y_N - \beta}{h^2} + \lambda Y_N = f(x_N)$$

1. Introduction

1.1 What is a PDE?

1.2 Classifications

1.3 Finite differences and numerical differentiation

1.4 Boundary value problem for second order ODE

1.5 Discretization

For a time dependent function

Grid for $u(x, t)$ with $x \in \Omega = [a, b]$ and $t \in [0, t_E]$:

$$x_i = a + ih, \quad i = 0, \dots, n, \quad h = \frac{b - a}{n}$$

$$t_j = jk, \quad j = 0, \dots, m, \quad k = \frac{t_E}{m}$$

Approximations:

$$U_{i,j} \approx u(x_i, t_j), \quad i = 0, \dots, n, \quad j = 0, \dots, m$$

Without a time dependency

Grid for $u(x, y)$ with $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^2$:

$$x_i = x_a + ih_x, \quad i = 0, \dots, n, \quad h_x = \frac{x_b - x_a}{n}$$

$$y_j = y_a + jh_y, \quad j = 0, \dots, m, \quad h_y = \frac{y_b - y_a}{m}$$

Approximations

$$U_{i,j} \approx u(x_i, y_j), \quad i = 0, \dots, n, \quad j = 0, \dots, m$$

Strict mathematical notation:

$$\Omega_h = \Omega \cap (h\mathbb{Z} \times h\mathbb{Z}), \quad \Gamma_h = \partial\Omega_h, \quad \bar{\Omega}_h = \Omega_h \cup \Gamma_h$$

For Dirichlet boundary conditions holds

$$U(x) = u(x), \quad \text{for } (x) \in \Gamma_h$$

$$U(x) \approx u(x), \quad \text{for } (x) \in \Omega_h$$

Definition 1.8

For a second order PDE

$$Lu(x) = q(x), \quad \text{for } x \in \Omega$$

we call D_h the discretized operator if $D_h U$ is a discretization for Lu .

Remark 1

1. With D_h being the discretized operator, e. g. $L_h^{(5)}$ for Δu , holds for the PDE $Lu = q$ that

$$D_h U(x) = q(x) \quad \text{for } (x) \in \Omega_h.$$

2. In general, the exact solution does not satisfy the discretized PDE, thus

$$LU(x) = q(x) + e(x, h).$$

1. Introduction
- 2. Solution of first order partial differential equations**
3. Solution of second order partial differential equation
4. High performance methods

Quasilinear first order partial differential equations

Quasilinear first order PDE:

- for $z : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ it has the form

$$\sum_{k=1}^n P_k(x, z) \frac{\partial z}{\partial x_k} = R(x, z)$$

with $P_k : \mathbb{R}^{n+1} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ for $k = 1, \dots, n$ as well as $R : \mathbb{R}^{n+1} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$

- for $n = 2$ we use x, y instead of x_1, x_2 and $P(x, y, z), Q(x, y, z)$
- then the PDE has the form

$$P(x, y, z)z_x + Q(x, y, z)z_y = R(x, y, z)$$

- the coefficients may depend also on the unknown function $z(x, y)$ next to x and y

2. Solution of first order partial differential equations

2.1 Homogeneous linear PDE in two variables

2.2 Integral curves and surfaces for 3-dimensional vector fields

2.3 Calculation of integral curves

2.4 Solution of homogeneous linear PDE in three dimensions

2.5 Initial value problems for first order PDEs in 2D

2.6 Upwind scheme

2.7 Lax-Friedrich scheme

2.8 Lax-Wendroff scheme

2.9 Convergence of the methods

Consider the homogeneous linear PDE (most simple case)

$$P(x, y)z_x + Q(x, y)z_y = 0. \quad (1)$$

Theorem 2.1

Let $u(x, y)$ be the solution of

$$\frac{dx}{P(x, y)} = \frac{dy}{Q(x, y)}. \quad (2)$$

If we write the solution as $u(x, y) = C$ (this is the so called characteristic curve) with an arbitrary constant $C \in \mathbb{R}$, then the set of solutions of (1) consists of all functions

$$z = f(u(x, y))$$

with an arbitrary differentiable function $f : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$.

Example

For the PDE

$$az_x + bz_y = 0$$

with constants $a, b \in \mathbb{R}$ we get

$$\frac{dx}{a} = \frac{dy}{b} \Leftrightarrow \int b \, dx = \int a \, dy \Leftrightarrow bx + C = ay$$

and thus $ay - bx = C$. The solution of the PDE reads

$$z(x, y) = f(ay - bx)$$

with an arbitrary function $f : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$. The function f is determined by an optional initial condition.

Example

Consider the initial value problem

$$\sqrt{1-x^2}z_x + z_y = 0, \quad z(0, y) = y.$$

We get

$$\frac{dx}{\sqrt{1-x^2}} = \frac{dy}{1} \Leftrightarrow \arcsin(x) = y + C$$

and it holds

$$u(x, y) = C = \arcsin(x) - y$$

$$z(x, y) = f(u(x, y)) = f(\arcsin(x) - y).$$

The initial condition results in

$$f(\arcsin(0) - y) = y$$

$$f(-y) = y$$

$$z(x, y) = y - \arcsin(x).$$

Remark 2 (Isolines)

Let the function $f : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ with $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ be differentiable. In all points $x \in \Omega$ of the domain, where $\nabla f(x)$ does not vanish, the set

$$\{y \in \Omega : f(y) = f(x)\}$$

is locally a curve orthogonal to $\nabla f(x)$.

Geometric considerations:

- let the coefficients $P(x, y)$ and $Q(x, y)$ be the components of the vector field

$$\vec{v}(x, y) = \begin{pmatrix} P(x, y) \\ Q(x, y) \end{pmatrix}$$

- for the PDE holds $P(x, y)z_x + Q(x, y)z_y = (\vec{v}, \nabla z)_2 = 0$
- so the gradient of z is orthogonal to the vector $\vec{v}(x, y)$
- next to \vec{v} also the isolines to a given constant of $z(x, y)$ are orthogonal to $\nabla z(x, y)$
- the curves $z(x, y) = C$ are tangent to the vector field $\vec{v}(x, y)$ for all (x, y)

Example

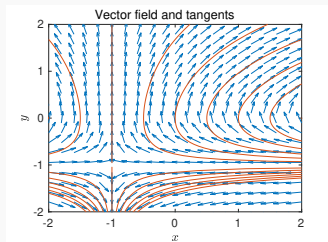
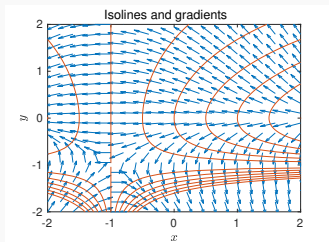
The PDE $(x + 1)yz_x + (y + 1)z_y = 0$ has the vector field

$$\vec{v} = \begin{pmatrix} (x + 1)y \\ y + 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

The tangents are

$$\ln(x + 1) + \ln(y + 1) - y = C$$

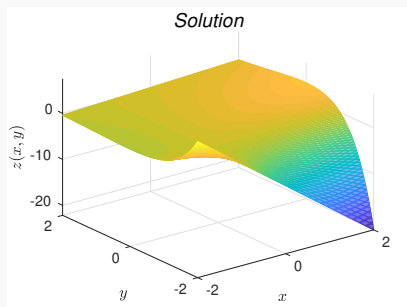
and the solution reads $z(x, y) = f(\ln(x + 1) + \ln(y + 1) - y)$ with an arbitrary $f \in C(\mathbb{R})$.



Example (Continuation)

If we claim the initial condition $z(x, 0) = x + 1$, then we get the unique solution

$$z(x, y) = (x + 1)(y + 1)e^{-y}.$$

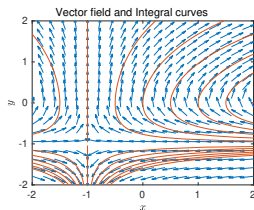


Definition 2.2

Let $\vec{v} : \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$ be a vector field with
 $\vec{v}(x, y) = (P(x, y), Q(x, y))^T$. A curve C which is the solution of

$$\frac{dx}{P(x, y)} = \frac{dy}{Q(x, y)}$$

is called an integral curve or characteristic curve of the PDE (1) if C is tangent to \vec{v} at every point of C .



2. Solution of first order partial differential equations

2.1 Homogeneous linear PDE in two variables

2.2 Integral curves and surfaces for 3-dimensional vector fields

2.3 Calculation of integral curves

2.4 Solution of homogeneous linear PDE in three dimensions

2.5 Initial value problems for first order PDEs in 2D

2.6 Upwind scheme

2.7 Lax-Friedrich scheme

2.8 Lax-Wendroff scheme

2.9 Convergence of the methods

Integral curves and surfaces for 3-dimensional vector fields:

- consider now the 3-dimensional vector field

$$\vec{v}(x, y, z) = \begin{pmatrix} P(x, y, z) \\ Q(x, y, z) \\ R(x, y, z) \end{pmatrix}$$

- integral curves of \vec{v} are the key to solve inhomogeneous quasi-linear in 2D as well as homogeneous quasi-linear first order PDEs in 3D
- in 3D, there are two independent orthogonal directions.

Definition 2.3

A curve or a surface is called an integral curve or an integral surface to a given vector field \vec{v} , if it is a tangent to it at every point.

Remark 3

If we find two independent integral surfaces to a given \vec{v} , their intersection will be an integral curve of \vec{v} . If we succeed to define integral surfaces in implicit form $u_1(x, y, z) = C_1$ and $u_2(x, y, z) = C_2$, the general solution to the PDE

$$\vec{v} \cdot \nabla u = 0$$

can be represented in the form

$$F(u_1(x, y, z), u_2(x, y, z)) = 0$$

with a differentiable function F .

Solution of the linear inhomogeneous PDE in two variables:

1. computation of two functionally independent integral curves $C_1 = u_1(x, y, z)$ and $C_2 = u_2(x, y, z)$ for the vector field,
2. representation of one integral curve by the other as $u_2(x, y, z) = f(u_1(x, y, z))$ and isolation of z .

Solution of the linear homogenous PDE in three variables:

1. computation of two functionally independent integral curves $C_1 = u_1(x, y, z)$ and $C_2 = u_2(x, y, z)$ for the vector field,
2. the solution u has the form $u(x, y, z) = f(u_1(x, y, z), u_2(x, y, z))$.

Theorem 2.4

The function $z = z(x, y)$ is a solution of the PDE

$$P(x, y, z)z_x + Q(x, y, z)z_y = R(x, y, z) \quad (3)$$

if and only if the surface $z = z(x, y)$ is an integral surface of the vector field $\vec{v} = (P, Q, R)$.

Example

Consider the initial value problem

$$2xyz_x + (y^2 + 1)z_y = 4xy^3, \quad z(x, 0) = x + 1.$$

The vector field is

$$\vec{v}(x, y, z) = \begin{pmatrix} 2xy \\ y^2 + 1 \\ 4xy^3 \end{pmatrix}$$

and results in the equations

$$\frac{dx}{2xy} = \frac{dy}{y^2 + 1} = \frac{dz}{4xy^3}.$$

Example (Continuation)

We take the first equation (find the integral curves of the 2D vector field by separating the variables x and y) and get

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{dx}{x} &= \frac{2y}{y^2 + 1} dy \quad \Leftrightarrow \quad \ln(x) = \ln |y^2 + 1| + C \\ &\Leftrightarrow \quad x = \underbrace{\exp(C)}_{\tilde{c}} |y^2 + 1| \\ &\Leftrightarrow \quad \tilde{C} = \frac{x}{y^2 + 1}.\end{aligned}$$

For the second integral surface (geometrically we integrate z along the characteristics) we use

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{dy}{y^2 + 1} &= \frac{dz}{4xy^3} \quad \Leftrightarrow \quad dz = \frac{4xy^3}{y^2 + 1} dy \quad \Leftrightarrow \quad dz = 4\tilde{C}y^3 dy \\ &\Leftrightarrow \quad z = \tilde{C}y^4 + C \quad \Leftrightarrow \quad z = \frac{xy^4}{y^2 + 1} + C.\end{aligned}$$

Example (Continuation)

The integral curves are

$$u_1(x, y, z) = \frac{x}{y^2 + 1}, \quad u_2(x, y, z) = z - \frac{xy^4}{y^2 + 1}.$$

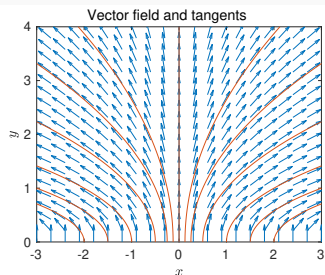
Finally, we have to combine both results and represent u_2 by u_1 and use the initial condition to determine f

$$\begin{aligned} u_2(x, y, z) = f(u_1(x, y, z)) &\Leftrightarrow z - \frac{xy^4}{y^2 + 1} = f\left(\frac{x}{y^2 + 1}\right) \\ &\Leftrightarrow z = \frac{xy^4}{y^2 + 1} + f\left(\frac{x}{y^2 + 1}\right) \\ x + 1 = z(x, 0) &\Leftrightarrow x + 1 = f(x) \quad \Rightarrow \quad f(v) = v + 1 \end{aligned}$$

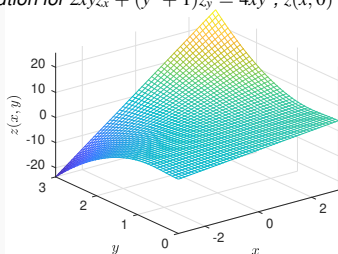
and the final solution reads

$$z = \frac{x}{y^2 + 1} + 1 + \frac{xy^4}{y^2 + 1}.$$

Example (Continuation)



Solution for $2xy z_x + (y^2 + 1) z_y = 4xy^3$, $z(x, 0) = x + 1$



Theorem 2.5

The function $u(x, y, z)$ is a solution of the PDE

$$P(x, y, z)u_x + Q(x, y, z)u_y + R(x, y, z)u_z = 0 \quad (4)$$

if and only if the surface $u(x, y, z) = c$ is an integral surface of the vector field $\vec{v} = (P, Q, R)^T$.

Relation between 2D and 3D:

- solving both PDEs from (3) and (4) using the vector field $\vec{v}(x, y, z) = (P, Q, R)^T$
- integral surfaces in the explicit form $z = z(x, y)$ for (3)
- general form $u(x, y, z) = C$ for (4)

2. Solution of first order partial differential equations

2.1 Homogeneous linear PDE in two variables

2.2 Integral curves and surfaces for 3-dimensional vector fields

2.3 Calculation of integral curves

2.4 Solution of homogeneous linear PDE in three dimensions

2.5 Initial value problems for first order PDEs in 2D

2.6 Upwind scheme

2.7 Lax-Friedrich scheme

2.8 Lax-Wendroff scheme

2.9 Convergence of the methods

Theorem 2.6

If C is an integral curve for the vector field \vec{v} , then there exists a parametric form

$$x = x(t), \quad y = y(t), \quad z = z(t), \quad \text{for } t \in I \subset \mathbb{R}$$

with $x(t)$, $y(t)$ and $z(t)$ being the solutions of the ODEs

$$\dot{x} = \frac{dx}{dt} = P(x, y, z), \quad \dot{y} = \frac{dy}{dt} = Q(x, y, z), \quad \dot{z} = \frac{dz}{dt} = R(x, y, z).$$

Procedure:

- solve all three ODEs to compute the parametric form of vector-field
- infinitely many parametric forms of the integral curves exist.

Example

Consider the vector field $\vec{v} = (y, -x, 0)^T$. The associated ODEs are

$$\dot{x} = y, \quad \dot{y} = -x, \quad \dot{z} = 0.$$

We combine the first two equations and get

$$\begin{aligned}\ddot{x} = \dot{y} = -x &\Rightarrow x = C_1 \sin(t) + C_2 \cos(t), \\ y = \dot{x} &= C_1 \cos(t) - C_2 \sin(t).\end{aligned}$$

Further, the equation $\dot{z} = 0$ results in $z = C_3$ and the parametric form is

$$\begin{aligned}x(t) &= C_1 \sin(t) + C_2 \cos(t), \\ y(t) &= C_1 \cos(t) - C_2 \sin(t), \\ z(t) &= C_3.\end{aligned}$$

As these are circles in the z -plane the integral curves in parametric form are

$$x^2 + y^2 = \tilde{C}_1, \quad z = C_3.$$

Solve two of the equations

$$\frac{dx}{dP(x, y, z)} = \frac{dy}{dQ(x, y, z)} = \frac{dz}{dR(x, y, z)} = dt$$

Special case:

- $P = P(x, y)$ and $Q = Q(x, y)$ are independent of z
- then the PDE is a semilinear and we start with

$$\frac{dx}{P(x, y)} = \frac{dy}{Q(x, y)}$$

- under some circumstances we can get representations

$$u_1(x, y) = C_1, \quad u_2(x, y, z) = C_2$$

of the integral curves with arbitrary constants $C_1, C_2 \in \mathbb{R}$.

Example

Consider the vector field $\vec{v} = (x, y, xy(z^2 + 1)/z)^T$. The equations are

$$\frac{dx}{x} = \frac{dy}{y} = \frac{dz}{xy(z^2 + 1)/z}$$

and the first one results in

$$\frac{dx}{x} = \frac{dy}{y} \Rightarrow \ln|x| + C = \ln|y| \Rightarrow y = C_1x, \text{ resp. } \frac{y}{x} = C_1.$$

Using this we get for the next one

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{dx}{x} = \frac{dz}{xy(z^2 + 1)/z} = \frac{dz}{C_1x^2(z^2 + 1)/z} &\Leftrightarrow 2C_1x \, dx = \frac{2z}{z^2 + 1} \, dz \\ &\Leftrightarrow C_1x^2 = \ln|z^2 + 1| + C_2 \end{aligned}$$

and the integral curves are

$$u_1(x, y, z) = \frac{y}{x}, \quad u_2(x, y, z) = xy - \ln|z^2 + 1|.$$

2. Solution of first order partial differential equations

- 2.1 Homogeneous linear PDE in two variables
- 2.2 Integral curves and surfaces for 3-dimensional vector fields
- 2.3 Calculation of integral curves
- 2.4 Solution of homogeneous linear PDE in three dimensions**
- 2.5 Initial value problems for first order PDEs in 2D
- 2.6 Upwind scheme
- 2.7 Lax-Friedrich scheme
- 2.8 Lax-Wendroff scheme
- 2.9 Convergence of the methods

Consider the PDE

$$P(x, y, z)u_x + Q(x, y, z)u_y + R(x, y, z)u_z = 0. \quad (5)$$

Theorem 2.7

1. Let

$$u_1(x, y, z) = C_1, \quad u_2(x, y, z) = C_2$$

define the set of integral curves of the vector field $\vec{v}(x, y, z) = (P, Q, R)^T$.

Then $u_1(x, y, z)$ and $u_2(x, y, z)$ solve the PDE from (5).

2. Let $u_1(x, y, z)$ and $u_2(x, y, z)$ be two arbitrary solutions of (5) and let $f(u_1, u_2)$ be an arbitrary differentiable function $f : \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$. Then

$$u(x, y, z) = f(u_1(x, y, z), u_2(x, y, z))$$

is also a solution of (5).

Theorem 2.8

If $u_1(x, y, z)$ and $u_2(x, y, z)$ solve $P(x, y, z)u_x + Q(x, y, z)u_y + R(x, y, z)u_z = 0$ and

$$(\nabla u_1 \times \nabla u_2)(x_0, y_0, z_0) \neq 0,$$

then

1. $u_1(x, y, z) = C_1$ and $u_2(x, y, z) = C_2$ define the set of all integral curves of the vector field \vec{v} at (x_0, y_0, z_0) .
2. for any other solution $u(x, y, z)$ there exists a function $f : \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ such that

$$u(x, y, z) = f(u_1(x, y, z), u_2(x, y, z))$$

in a neighbourhood U around (x_0, y_0, z_0) .

Solution of homogeneous linear PDE in three dimensions

Procedure to solve a PDE as in (5):

1. compute the integral curves by solving either

$$\frac{dx}{dt} = P(x, y, z), \quad \frac{dy}{dt} = Q(x, y, z), \quad \frac{dz}{dt} = R(x, y, z)$$

for the parametric form or

$$\frac{dx}{P(x, y, z)} = \frac{dy}{Q(x, y, z)} = \frac{dz}{R(x, y, z)}$$

for the Cartesian representation

2. the general solution of the PDE reads

$$u(x, y, z) = f(u_1(x, y, z), u_2(x, y, z))$$

with an arbitrary differentiable function $f : \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$

3. (optionally) determine the function f by the initial data

Example

Consider the PDE

$$2xyu_x + (y^2 + 1)u_y + 4xy^3u_z = 0$$

with the vector field

$$\vec{V}(x, y, z) = (2xy, y^2 + 1, 4xy^3)^T$$

as some examples ago. The integral curves are

$$u_1(x, y, z) = \frac{x}{y^2 + 1}, \quad u_2(x, y, z) = z - \frac{xy^4}{y^2 + 1}$$

and the solution is

$$u(x, y, z) = f\left(\frac{x}{y^2 + 1}, z - \frac{xy^4}{y^2 + 1}\right).$$

Optionally: check whether $u(x, y, z)$ fulfills the PDE with

$$u_x = -\frac{1}{y^2 + 1}f_{u_1} - \frac{y^4}{y^2 + 1}f_{u_2}, \dots$$

2. Solution of first order partial differential equations

- 2.1 Homogeneous linear PDE in two variables
- 2.2 Integral curves and surfaces for 3-dimensional vector fields
- 2.3 Calculation of integral curves
- 2.4 Solution of homogeneous linear PDE in three dimensions
- 2.5 Initial value problems for first order PDEs in 2D**
- 2.6 Upwind scheme
- 2.7 Lax-Friedrich scheme
- 2.8 Lax-Wendroff scheme
- 2.9 Convergence of the methods

Quasilinear PDE in two-dimensional space

$$P(x, y, z) \frac{\partial z}{\partial x} + Q(x, y, z) \frac{\partial z}{\partial y} = R(x, y, z) \quad (6)$$

The solution should contain a curve C defined as

$$x(t) = \phi(t), \quad y(t) = \psi(t), \quad z(t) = \chi(t)$$

Thus it should hold

$$z(\phi(t), \psi(t)) = \chi(t). \quad (7)$$

Example

Consider the initial value problem

$$xz_x + yz_y = z, \quad z(t+1, t) = t^2.$$

We have to solve

$$\frac{dx}{x} = \frac{dy}{y} = \frac{dz}{z}$$

and integration results in

$$u_1 = \frac{y}{x}, \quad u_2 = \frac{z}{x}.$$

We can represent z by u_2 to get the general solution as

$$u_2(x, y, z) = f(u_1(x, y, z)) \quad \Rightarrow \quad z = xf\left(\frac{y}{x}\right).$$

Example (Continuation)

To compute f such that $z(x, y)$ contains the curve C defined by $(\phi(t), \psi(t), \chi(t))$ we use

$$z(t+1, t) = t^2 \quad \Rightarrow \quad t^2 = (t+1)f\left(\frac{t}{t+1}\right).$$

The coordinate transformation $v = t/(t+1)$ and thereby $t = v/(1-v)$ results in

$$f(v) = \frac{v^2}{1-v}.$$

Thus the solution is

$$z(x, y) = xf\left(\frac{y}{x}\right) = \frac{x\left(\frac{y}{x}\right)^2}{1-\frac{y}{x}} = \frac{y^2}{x} \cdot \left(\frac{1}{1-\frac{y}{x}}\right) = \frac{y^2}{x-y}.$$

The next Theorem is about to decide in general whether there exists a solution or not and whether a potential solution is unique or not.

Theorem 2.9

Consider the initial value problem

$$P(x, y, z)z_x + Q(x, y, z)z_y = R(x, y, z), \quad z(\phi(t), \psi(t)) = \chi(t) \quad \text{for } t \in I.$$

with $\phi, \psi, \chi \in \mathcal{C}(\mathbb{R})$ and $(x_0, y_0, z_0) = (\phi(t_0), \psi(t_0), \chi(t_0))$ being a point on the curve C .

1. The IVP has a uniquely determined solution $z(x, y)$ in a neighbourhood of (x_0, y_0) if

$$\frac{\phi'(t_0)}{P(x_0, y_0, z_0)} \neq \frac{\psi'(t_0)}{Q(x_0, y_0, z_0)}.$$

2. The IVP has no solution in a neighbourhood of (x_0, y_0) if

$$\frac{\phi'(t_0)}{P(x_0, y_0, z_0)} = \frac{\psi'(t_0)}{Q(x_0, y_0, z_0)} \neq \frac{\chi'(t_0)}{R(x_0, y_0, z_0)}.$$

3. The IVP has infinitely many solutions in a neighbourhood of (x_0, y_0) if

$$\frac{\phi'(t_0)}{P(x_0, y_0, z_0)} = \frac{\psi'(t_0)}{Q(x_0, y_0, z_0)} = \frac{\chi'(t_0)}{R(x_0, y_0, z_0)}.$$

Example

Consider the PDE $xz_x + yz_y = z$ and the initial condition

(a) $z(t+1, t) = t^2$,

(b) $z(t, t) = t^2$ resp.

(c) $z(t, t) = t$.

For (a) we get

$$\phi'(t) = 1, \quad \psi'(t) = 1, \quad \chi'(t) = 2t$$

as well as

$$\frac{\phi'(t)}{P(x, y, z)} = \frac{1}{t+1}, \quad \frac{\psi'(t)}{Q(x, y, z)} = \frac{1}{t}$$

and thereby this initial condition results in a unique solution, see slides 66 and 67.

Example

Consider the PDE $xz_x + yz_y = z$ and the initial condition

(a) $z(t+1, t) = t^2$,

(b) $z(t, t) = t^2$ resp.

(c) $z(t, t) = t$.

For (b) the fractions are

$$\frac{\phi'(t)}{P(x, y, z)} = \frac{1}{t}, \quad \frac{\psi'(t)}{Q(x, y, z)} = \frac{1}{t}, \quad \frac{\chi'(t)}{R(x, y, z)} = \frac{2t}{t^2} = \frac{2}{t}$$

and there exists no solution.

Example

Consider the PDE $xz_x + yz_y = z$ and the initial condition

(a) $z(t+1, t) = t^2$,

(b) $z(t, t) = t^2$ resp.

(c) $z(t, t) = t$.

For (c) the fractions are

$$\frac{\phi'(t)}{P(x, y, z)} = \frac{\psi'(t)}{Q(x, y, z)} = \frac{\chi'(t)}{R(x, y, z)} = \frac{1}{t}.$$

Thus infinitely many solutions exist.

Example

Consider inviscid Burgers' equation

$$u_t + uu_x = 0, \quad u(x, 0) = v(x)$$

with $x \in \mathbb{R}$ and $t > 0$. The integral curves are

$$C_1 = u, \quad C_2 = x - C_1 t = x - ut.$$

Replace C_2 by C_1 to determine $f(v)$

$$\begin{aligned} C_2 = f(C_1) &\Leftrightarrow u(x, t) = f(x - u(x, t)t) \\ u(x, 0) = v(x) &\Rightarrow f(x) = v(x) \end{aligned}$$

and the solution reads

$$u(x, t) = v(x - u(x, t)t)$$

which is an implicit definition of u .

2. Solution of first order partial differential equations

- 2.1 Homogeneous linear PDE in two variables
- 2.2 Integral curves and surfaces for 3-dimensional vector fields
- 2.3 Calculation of integral curves
- 2.4 Solution of homogeneous linear PDE in three dimensions
- 2.5 Initial value problems for first order PDEs in 2D
- 2.6 Upwind scheme**
- 2.7 Lax-Friedrich scheme
- 2.8 Lax-Wendroff scheme
- 2.9 Convergence of the methods

Consider the PDE

$$u_t = -vu_x$$

Forward difference in time and backward difference in space direction with $U_{i,j} \approx u(x_i, t_j)$ result in

$$\frac{U_{i,j+1} - U_{i,j}}{k} = -v \frac{U_{i-1,j} - U_{i,j}}{h}.$$

Initialization

$$U_{i,0} = u_0(x_i), \quad i = 1, \dots, n,$$

Iteration

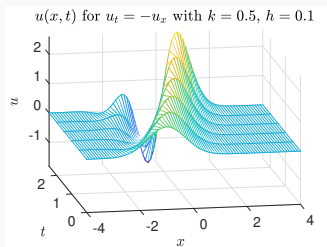
$$U_{i,j+1} = U_{i,j} - v \frac{k}{h} (U_{i-1,j} - U_{i,j}). \quad (8)$$

Example

For

$$u_t = -vu_x, \quad u(x, 0) = u_0(x) = \exp(-(x+1)^2)$$

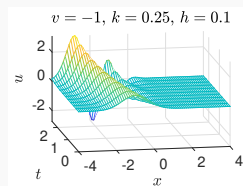
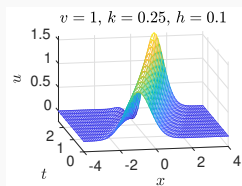
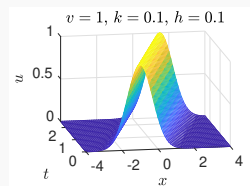
the scheme from above using with $v = 1$, $h = 0.1$ and $k = 0.5$ on $x \in [-5, 5]$ and $t \in [0, 2.5]$ delivers



The scheme does not work at all.

Example

Changing the time step size to $k \in \{0.1, 0.25\}$ deliver the first two results, the last one is for $v = -11$.



Only the results from the left plot is acceptable.

What is the problem?

- analytical solution of the Cauchy problem is

$$u(x, t) = u_0(x - vt), \quad u(x, t) = \exp(-(x - t + 1)^2)$$

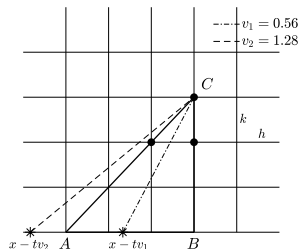
- the solution at a certain point (x, t) depends on the initial data at $(x - vt, 0)$
- numerical domain of dependence for the simple upwind scheme

$$x \in [x - t \frac{h}{k}, x]$$

- numerical domain of dependence must include the dependence from initial data

$$x - vt \in [x - t \frac{h}{k}, x].$$

Stability condition - domain of dependence



Theorem 2.10 (Courant-Friedrich-Levy (CFL) condition)

For $u_t = vu_x$ with $v > 0$ the numerical solution using the simple upwind scheme from (8) is stable if and only if the stability condition

$$c = \frac{vk}{h} \leq 1.$$

holds.

Computation of the accuracy for the PDE

$$u_t - v u_x = f.$$

Finite differences result in

$$\frac{u(x, t+k) - u(x, t)}{k} + \mathcal{O}(k) - v \frac{u(x, t) - u(x-h, t)}{h} + \mathcal{O}(h) = f.$$

The error is in $\mathcal{O}(k+h)$, the upwind scheme is first order consistent in t and x direction.

2. Solution of first order partial differential equations

- 2.1 Homogeneous linear PDE in two variables
- 2.2 Integral curves and surfaces for 3-dimensional vector fields
- 2.3 Calculation of integral curves
- 2.4 Solution of homogeneous linear PDE in three dimensions
- 2.5 Initial value problems for first order PDEs in 2D
- 2.6 Upwind scheme
- 2.7 Lax-Friedrich scheme**
- 2.8 Lax-Wendroff scheme
- 2.9 Convergence of the methods

Definition 2.11

Consider the PDE $u_t + vu_x = 0$. The Lax-Friedrich-scheme reads

$$U_{i,j+1} = \frac{U_{i-1,j} + U_{i+1,j}}{2} - v \frac{k}{2h} (U_{i+1,j} - U_{i-1,j}).$$

Reasonable results for negative as well as for positive speeds v , unless the step size ratio becomes too large.

Remark 4

1. The Lax-Friedrich scheme is stable if the CFL-condition

$$\left| v \frac{k}{h} \right| \leq 1$$

is fulfilled. Thus the condition gives an upper bound on k for known v and h .

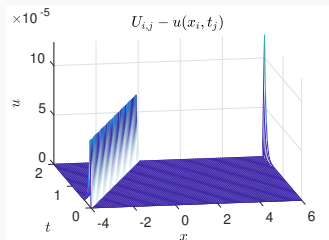
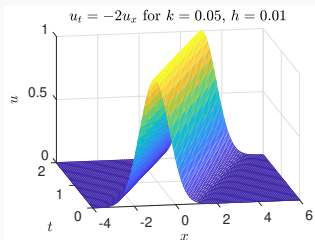
2. The Lax-Friedrich scheme is of order 1 in time direction and order 2 in x -direction.

Example

We apply the scheme to

$$u_t = -2u_x,$$
$$u(x, 0) = u_0(x) = \exp(-(x + 1)^2).$$

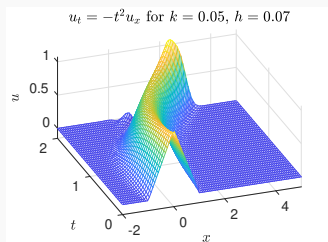
The results are



Example

Consider the transport equation with variable speed $u_t - t^2 u_x = 0$ and $u_0(x) = u(x, 0) = \max(0, 1 - |x|)$.

We use $k = 0.05$ and $h = 0.07$ and compute approximations for $t \in [0, 2]$.



Slight instability at the end, as the step size ration is $k/h = \frac{5}{7}$ but for $t > \sqrt{7/5}$ holds

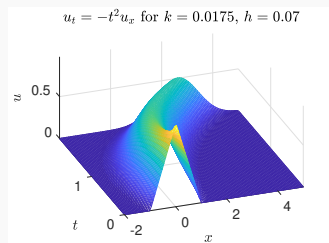
$$\left| v \frac{k}{h} \right| = t^2 \frac{5}{7} > 1$$

Example

For $t \in [0, 2]$ the maximal time step size is

$$h_{\max} = \frac{h}{t_{\text{end}}^2} = 0.0175.$$

Therefore the results are



Implementation of Lax-Friedrich using matrices:

```
1  u0 = @(x) max(0, 1-abs(x));
2
3  h = 0.05;
4  X = -2:h:5;
5
6  k = 0.05;
7  T = 0:k:2;
8
9  v = 1;
10 U(:,1) = u0(X');
11
12 for i=1:length(T)-1
13     du = [0; U(3:end,i)-U(1:end-2,i); 0]/2/h;
14     U(:,i+1) = [0; (U(3:end,i)+U(1:end-2,i))/2; 0]-v*k*du;
15 end
16 mesh(X,T,U')
```

2. Solution of first order partial differential equations

- 2.1 Homogeneous linear PDE in two variables
- 2.2 Integral curves and surfaces for 3-dimensional vector fields
- 2.3 Calculation of integral curves
- 2.4 Solution of homogeneous linear PDE in three dimensions
- 2.5 Initial value problems for first order PDEs in 2D
- 2.6 Upwind scheme
- 2.7 Lax-Friedrich scheme
- 2.8 Lax-Wendroff scheme**
- 2.9 Convergence of the methods

Lax-Wendroff scheme:

- scheme of order 2 in time direction
- Taylor expansion

$$u(x, t + k) = u(x, t) + ku_t(x, t) + \frac{k^2}{2}u_{tt}(x, t) + \mathcal{O}(k^3)$$

- using $u_t = -vu_x$ $u_{tx} = -(vu_x)_x$ results in

$$u_{tt} = \frac{\partial}{\partial t}(-vu_x) = -vu_{tx} = v^2u_{xx}$$

Definition 2.12

For constant v the Lax-Wendroff scheme is

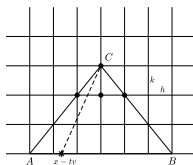
$$U_{i,j+1} = U_{i,j} - v\frac{k}{2h}(U_{i+1,j} - U_{i-1,j}) + \frac{v^2k^2}{2h^2}(U_{i+1,j} - 2U_{i,j} + U_{i-1,j}).$$

Remark 5

1. *Due to the construction the accuracy is in time direction 2 as well as in x -direction. Thus the error is in $\mathcal{O}(h^2 + k^2)$.*
2. *The stability condition remain unchanged. The Lax-Wendroff stencil is stable if*

$$\left| v \frac{k}{h} \right| \leq 1.$$

The geometric basis is the same for Lax-Friedrich as well as for Lax-Wendroff and looks



Implementation:

```
1  u0 = @(x) max(0, 1-abs(x));
2
3  h = 0.05;
4  X = -2:h:5;
5
6  k = 0.05;
7  T = 0:k:2;
8
9  v = 1;
10 U(:,1) = u0(X');
11
12 for i=1:length(T)-1
13     du = [0; U(3:end,i)-U(1:end-2,i); 0]/2/h;
14     ddu = [0; U(1:end-2,i)-2*U(2:end-1,i)+U(3:end,i); 0]/h^2;
15     U(:,i+1) = U(:,i)-v*k*du+v^2*k^2/2*ddu;
16 end
17 mesh(X,T,U')
```

Example

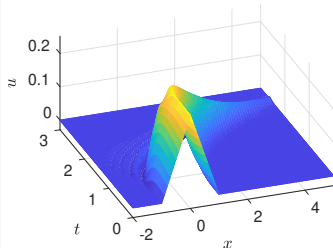
For $x \in [-2, 5]$, $t \in [0, 3]$ consider the inhomogeneous PDE with variable coefficient

$$u_t + t^2 u_x = -xu, \quad u(x, 0) = \max(0, 1 - |x|)/4$$

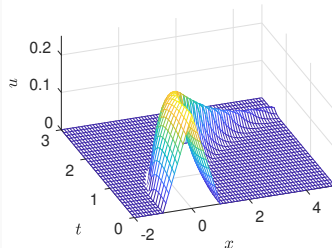
The step sizes are $h = 0.1$ and $k = 0.01$. The analytical solution is

$$u(x, t) = \exp(0.25t^4 - tx) \frac{\max(0, 1 - |\frac{1}{3}t^3 - x|)}{4}.$$

Lax-Wendroff, $k = 0.01$, $h = 0.1$



Exact solution



2. Solution of first order partial differential equations

- 2.1 Homogeneous linear PDE in two variables
- 2.2 Integral curves and surfaces for 3-dimensional vector fields
- 2.3 Calculation of integral curves
- 2.4 Solution of homogeneous linear PDE in three dimensions
- 2.5 Initial value problems for first order PDEs in 2D
- 2.6 Upwind scheme
- 2.7 Lax-Friedrich scheme
- 2.8 Lax-Wendroff scheme
- 2.9 Convergence of the methods

Convergence of the methods

Convergence of numerical methods for ODEs

$$\begin{array}{l} \text{consistency} \\ + \text{ stability} \\ \hline = \text{convergence} \end{array}$$

Ingredients:

- focus on the homogeneous transport equation $u_t + vu_x = 0$
- analysis is done for the natural norm

$$\|u\| = \int_{\mathbb{R}} |u(x)| \, dx$$

- l_1 -norm for the discretized solution on a grid

$$\|U(:,j)\| = h \sum_{i=1}^n |U_{i,j}|.$$

Progress in time direction depending on the step sizes h and k

$$U(:,j+1) = HU(:,j)$$

Definition 2.13

The local truncation error of a scheme is

$$\tau(x, t, k) = \frac{1}{k} (u(x, t + k) - HU(:,j)).$$

A scheme is called consistent, if $\lim_{k \rightarrow 0} \|\tau(x, t, k)\| = 0$.

Definition 2.14

A method is called of order of consistency q , if for all smooth initial functions with compact support there is a constant C such that

$$\|\tau(x, t, k)\| \leq Ck^q$$

for sufficient small k and $t \leq T - k$.

Definition 2.15

A method is called stable, if for all T there exists a constant C_S and an $k_0 > 0$, such that

$$\|H^j\| \leq C_S \quad \text{for all } jk \leq T, k < k_0.$$

Sufficient is

$$\|H\| \leq 1 + \alpha k$$

as this implies

$$\|H^j\| \leq (1 + \alpha k)^j \leq \exp(\alpha k j) \leq \exp(\alpha T).$$

For the analysis of the convergence let $U^{(k)}$ be the numerical solution of the PDE for time step size k and given initial conditions, extended to a piecewise linear function for all $(x, t) \in \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}_+$ and let u be the exact solution. The error E_k is defined as

$$E_k(x, t) = U^{(k)}(x, t) - u(x, t).$$

Definition 2.16

A method is called convergent, if for suitable norm and all proper $u_0(x)$ for each $t > 0$ holds

$$\lim_{k \rightarrow 0} \|E_k(\cdot, t)\| = \lim_{k \rightarrow 0} \int_{\mathbb{R}} |E(x, t)| \, dx = 0.$$

Theorem 2.17 (Lax equivalence theorem)

For a consistent linear method stability is necessary and sufficient for convergence.

Proof: It holds

$$\begin{aligned}\|E_k(\cdot, t_j)\| &\leq \|H\| \|E_k(\cdot, t_{j-1})\| + k \|\tau(\cdot, t_{j-1}, k)\| \\ &\leq \|H^j\| \|E_k(\cdot, 0)\| + k \sum_{l=1}^j \|H^{j-l}\| \|\tau(\cdot, t_l, k)\| \\ &\leq C_S (\|E_k(\cdot, 0)\| + k \sum_{l=1}^j \|H^{j-l}\| \|\tau(\cdot, t_l, k)\|).\end{aligned}$$

Let the scheme be of order $q \geq 1$, then it is consistent and it follows

$$\|E_k(\cdot, t_j)\| \leq C_S (\|E_k(\cdot, 0)\| + TCk^q)$$

The last problem is the initial error. If $\|E_k(\cdot, 0)\| = 0$, then the proof is complete. Otherwise we have to assume that for sufficient small k the step size h can be selected sufficiently small. □