

# Stability analysis of the FTCS scheme

FTCS = forward in time,  
centered in space

Von Neumann stability analysis: for linear differential equations with constant coefficients

Diffusion equation

$$\frac{\partial T}{\partial t} = \kappa \cdot \frac{\partial^2 T}{\partial x^2}$$

Ansatz:

$$\epsilon_j^n = N_j^n - T_j^n = \sum_{m=-M}^M \overset{\substack{\text{Index} \\ \downarrow}}{A}^n \cdot \overset{\substack{\text{Power} \\ \downarrow}}{e^{ikj\Delta x}}$$

If  $|A| > 1$  the solution is unstable

$T$ : Temperature (analytical solution)

$t$ : Time

$x$ : Spatial coordinate

$\kappa$ : Diffusion coefficient

$\epsilon$ : Error

$N$ : Temperature (numerical solution)

$n$ : Time index

$j$ : Space index

$i$ : Imaginary unit

$k$ : Wave number ( $k = \pi m/L$ )

$L$ : Length of the model domain

$M$ : Maximum wave number ( $M = L/\Delta x$ )

$\Delta x$ : Grid spacing

# Stability analysis of the FTCS scheme

Finite differences:

$$\epsilon_j^{n+1} = \epsilon_j^n + \frac{\Delta t \cdot \kappa}{\Delta x^2} \cdot (\epsilon_{j+1}^n - 2\epsilon_j^n + \epsilon_{j-1}^n)$$

Insert ansatz:

$$A^{n+1} e^{ikj\Delta x} = A^n e^{ikj\Delta x} + \frac{\Delta t \cdot \kappa}{\Delta x^2} \cdot (A^n e^{ik(j+1)\Delta x} - 2A^n e^{ikj\Delta x} + A^n e^{ik(j-1)\Delta x})$$

Divide by  $A^n e^{ikj\Delta x}$  :

$$2 \cos(\gamma) = e^{i\gamma} + e^{-i\gamma}$$

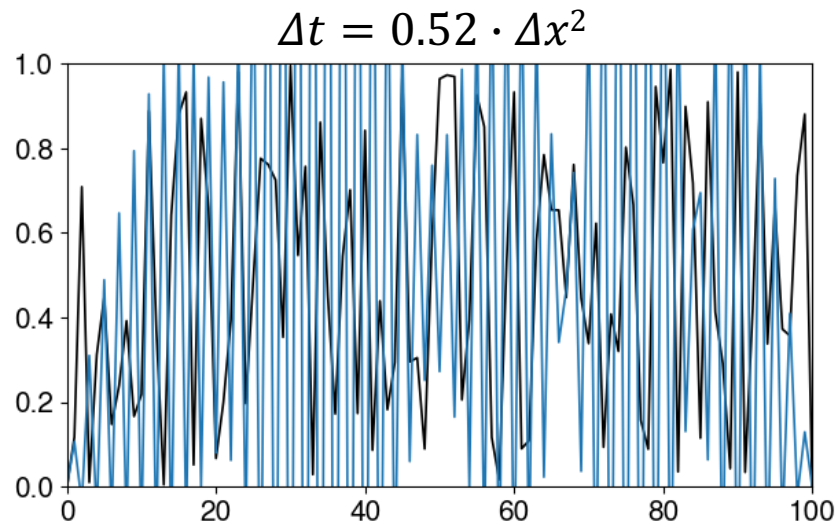
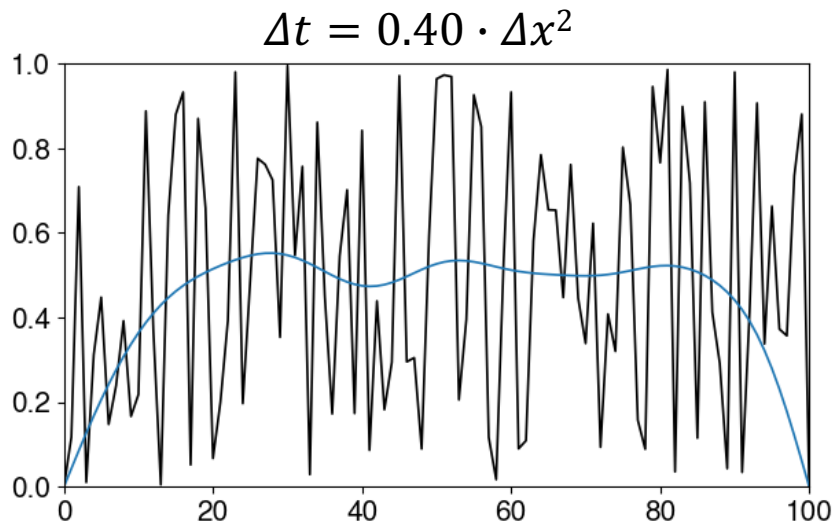
Most dangerous  
when  $\cos(k\Delta x) = -1$

$$A = 1 + \frac{\Delta t \cdot \kappa}{\Delta x^2} \cdot (e^{ik\Delta x} - 2 + e^{-ik\Delta x}) \quad \downarrow \quad = 1 + \frac{2 \cdot \Delta t \cdot \kappa}{\Delta x^2} \cdot (\cos(k\Delta x) - 1)$$

# Stability analysis of the FTCS scheme

Condition for stability:  $\left| 1 + \frac{2 \cdot \Delta t \cdot \kappa}{\Delta x^2} \cdot (-2) \right| \leq 1$

$$\rightarrow \frac{\Delta t \cdot \kappa}{\Delta x^2} \leq \frac{1}{2}$$



## Two-dimensional heat diffusion equation

$$\frac{\partial T}{\partial t} = \kappa \cdot \left( \frac{\partial^2 T}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 T}{\partial y^2} \right) = \kappa \cdot \nabla^2 T$$

T: Temperature

t: Time

x,y: Spatial coordinates

$\kappa$ : Diffusion coefficient

Finite differences

$$\begin{aligned} \nabla^2 T_{i,j}^n &\approx \frac{T_{i+1,j}^n - 2T_{i,j}^n + T_{i-1,j}^n}{\Delta x^2} + \frac{T_{i,j+1}^n - 2T_{i,j}^n + T_{i,j-1}^n}{\Delta y^2} & n = 1 \dots n_t, i = 1 \dots n_x, j = 1 \dots n_y \\ &= \frac{T_{i-1,j}^n + T_{i+1,j}^n + T_{i,j+1}^n + T_{i,j-1}^n - 4T_{i,j}^n}{h^2} & \text{if } \Delta x = \Delta y = h \end{aligned}$$

$$\frac{T_{i,j}^{n+1} - T_{i,j}^n}{\Delta t} = \kappa \cdot \nabla^2 T_{i,j}^n \quad \rightarrow \quad T_{i,j}^{n+1} = T_{i,j}^n + \Delta t \cdot \kappa \cdot \nabla^2 T_{i,j}^n$$

## Exercise 4

Rewrite your Fortran program from Exercise 3, Task 3 such that it solves the two-dimensional heat diffusion equation:

$$\frac{\partial T}{\partial t} = \kappa \cdot \left( \frac{\partial^2 T}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 T}{\partial y^2} \right) = \kappa \cdot \nabla^2 T$$

1. Read in the control parameters from a namelist:

- Number of grid points in x and y direction **nx**, **ny**
- Diffusion coefficient **kappa** (start with **kappa=1**)
- Simulation time **total\_time** (start with **total\_time=0.1**)
- Time step constant **a**

The program should also run without a complete namelist → default values!

## Exercise 4

### 2. Initialize the variables.

- Temperature field: 2D array of size  $(nx, ny)$  with random numbers (`random`) or delta function (`spike`)
- Grid spacing  $h = 1. / (ny - 1.)$
- Time step  $dt = a * h ** 2 / kappa$
- Number of time steps  $nsteps = total\_time / dt$

## Exercise 4

3. Write a loop that executes **nsteps** time steps.

- Calculate the second derivative with a 2D version of your subroutine from Exercise 2:

$$\nabla^2 T_{i,j}^n = \frac{T_{i-1,j}^n + T_{i+1,j}^n + T_{i,j+1}^n + T_{i,j-1}^n - 4T_{i,j}^n}{h^2}$$

- Integrate forward in time:

$$T_{i,j}^{n+1} = T_{i,j}^n + \Delta t \cdot \kappa \cdot \nabla^2 T_{i,j}^n$$

- Use the boundary conditions **T=0** (at the beginning as well as after each time step).
- Write the temperature field at the first and last time step into a text file using the **OPEN ( )** and **WRITE ( )** statements.

## Exercise 4

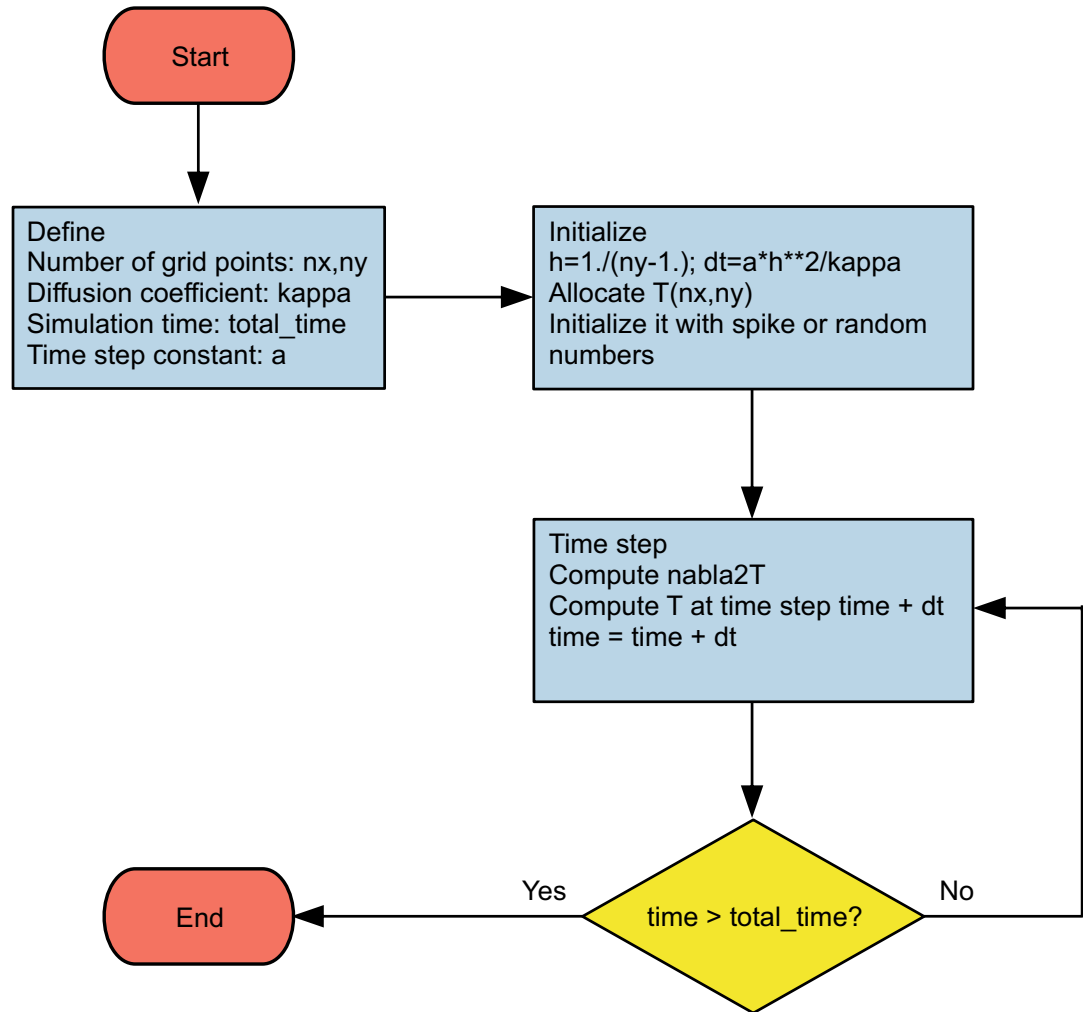
### 4. Run your program and test it.

- Use two different initial conditions for the temperature (**random** and **spike**) and vary the number of grid points.
- Determine the critical value for **a** above which the solution becomes unstable.
- Plot the resulting temperature fields with your favorite plotting tool.
- Optional: If you write out multiple time steps you can create an animated gif as follows:

```
micromamba activate /headless/envs/magic  
convert -delay 20 *.png animation.gif
```



# Flowchart for Exercise 4



## Exercise 4

Deadline:

- Please hand in your solutions (.f90 files and plots of T) no later than Tuesday, **16 April 2024, 23:59**.

Questions?

- Email me ([marina.duetsch@univie.ac.at](mailto:marina.duetsch@univie.ac.at))  
Or pass by my office (UZA II, 2G551).