

Progress Report

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Numerical solution of Laplace equation using unequally spaced intervals

Derivation of central difference formula for first derivative with unequal intervals

Using the Taylor series expansion for a function $f(x)$ while neglecting second and higher order terms, we can write:

$$f_{i+1} = f_i + f'_i(x_{i+1} - x_i) + \dots \quad (1)$$

$$f_{i-1} = f_i - f'_i(x_i - x_{i-1}) + \dots \quad (2)$$

Subtracting equation (2) from (1) gives:

$$f_{i+1} - f_{i-1} \cong f'_i(x_{i+1} - x_{i-1})$$
$$f'_i = \frac{f_{i+1} - f_{i-1}}{x_{i+1} - x_{i-1}} \quad (3)$$

Derivation of central difference formula for second derivative with unequal intervals

Now using the Taylor series expansion for the function $f(x)$ with second order terms but neglecting higher order ones, we have:

$$f_{i+1} = f_i + f'_i(x_{i+1} - x_i) + f''_i \frac{(x_{i+1} - x_i)^2}{2!} + \dots \quad (4)$$

$$f_{i-1} = f_i - f'_i(x_i - x_{i-1}) + f''_i \frac{(x_i - x_{i-1})^2}{2!} - \dots \quad (5)$$

Adding the above equations and rearranging gives:

$$f_i''[(x_{i+1} - x_i)^2 + (x_i - x_{i-1})^2] \cong 2f_{i+1} + 2f_{i-1} - 4f_i - 2f_i'(x_{i+1} - 2x_i + x_{i-1})$$

$$f_i'' = \frac{2(f_{i+1} - 2f_i + f_{i-1})}{(x_{i+1} - x_i)^2 + (x_i - x_{i-1})^2} - \frac{2f_i'(x_{i+1} - 2x_i + x_{i-1})}{(x_{i+1} - x_i)^2 + (x_i - x_{i-1})^2}$$

Substituting (3) in the above equation gives:

$$f_i'' = \frac{2(f_{i+1} - 2f_i + f_{i-1})}{(x_{i+1} - x_i)^2 + (x_i - x_{i-1})^2} - \frac{2(f_{i+1} - f_{i-1})(x_{i+1} - 2x_i + x_{i-1})}{(x_{i+1} - x_{i-1})[(x_{i+1} - x_i)^2 + (x_i - x_{i-1})^2]} \quad (6)$$

Discretization of Laplace equation for unequally spaced intervals

The following Laplace equation was considered:

$$\frac{\partial^2 \phi}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 \phi}{\partial y^2} = 0 \quad (7)$$

For equally spaced intervals, this equation can be discretized as follows:

$$\frac{\phi_{i+1,j} - 2\phi_{i,j} + \phi_{i-1,j}}{(\Delta x)^2} + \frac{\phi_{i,j+1} - 2\phi_{i,j} + \phi_{i,j-1}}{(\Delta y)^2} = 0 \quad (8)$$

For use in numerical solutions, equation (8) can be rearranged as follows:

$$\phi_{i,j} = \left(\frac{\phi_{i+1,j} + \phi_{i-1,j}}{(\Delta x)^2} + \frac{\phi_{i,j+1} + \phi_{i,j-1}}{(\Delta y)^2} \right) \left(\frac{(\Delta x)^2(\Delta y)^2}{2[(\Delta x)^2 + (\Delta y)^2]} \right) \quad (9)$$

However, for unequally spaced intervals, equation (6) must be used to discretize each of the two terms in (7) as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{2(\phi_{i+1,j} - 2\phi_{i,j} + \phi_{i-1,j})}{(x_{i+1} - x_i)^2 + (x_i - x_{i-1})^2} - \frac{2(\phi_{i+1,j} - \phi_{i-1,j})(x_{i+1} - 2x_i + x_{i-1})}{(x_{i+1} - x_{i-1})[(x_{i+1} - x_i)^2 + (x_i - x_{i-1})^2]} + \\ & \frac{2(\phi_{i,j+1} - 2\phi_{i,j} + \phi_{i,j-1})}{(y_{j+1} - y_j)^2 + (y_j - y_{j-1})^2} - \frac{2(\phi_{j+1} - \phi_{j-1})(y_{j+1} - 2y_j + y_{j-1})}{(y_{j+1} - y_{j-1})[(y_{j+1} - y_j)^2 + (y_j - y_{j-1})^2]} \\ & = 0 \end{aligned} \quad (10)$$

Rearranging the above equation for use in numerical solutions:

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{2(\phi_{i+1,j} + \phi_{i-1,j})}{(x_{i+1} - x_i)^2 + (x_i - x_{i-1})^2} - \frac{2(\phi_{i+1,j} - \phi_{i-1,j})(x_{i+1} - 2x_i + x_{i-1})}{(x_{i+1} - x_{i-1})[(x_{i+1} - x_i)^2 + (x_i - x_{i-1})^2]} \\ & + \frac{2(\phi_{i,j+1} + \phi_{i,j-1})}{(y_{j+1} - y_j)^2 + (y_j - y_{j-1})^2} - \frac{2(\phi_{j+1} - \phi_{j-1})(y_{j+1} - 2y_j + y_{j-1})}{(y_{j+1} - y_{j-1})[(y_{j+1} - y_j)^2 + (y_j - y_{j-1})^2]} \\ & = \frac{4\phi_{i,j}}{(x_{i+1} - x_i)^2 + (x_i - x_{i-1})^2} + \frac{4\phi_{i,j}}{(y_{j+1} - y_j)^2 + (y_j - y_{j-1})^2} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
\phi_{i,j} = & \left[\frac{2(\phi_{i+1,j} + \phi_{i-1,j})}{(x_{i+1} - x_i)^2 + (x_i - x_{i-1})^2} - \frac{2(\phi_{i+1,j} - \phi_{i-1,j})(x_{i+1} - 2x_i + x_{i-1})}{(x_{i+1} - x_{i-1})[(x_{i+1} - x_i)^2 + (x_i - x_{i-1})^2]} + \right. \\
& \left. \frac{2(\phi_{i,j+1} + \phi_{i,j-1})}{(y_{j+1} - y_j)^2 + (y_j - y_{j-1})^2} - \frac{2(\phi_{i,j+1} - \phi_{i,j-1})(y_{j+1} - 2y_j + y_{j-1})}{(y_{j+1} - y_{j-1})[(y_{j+1} - y_j)^2 + (y_j - y_{j-1})^2]} \right] \\
& \times \frac{1}{4} \left[\frac{1}{(x_{i+1} - x_i)^2 + (x_i - x_{i-1})^2} + \frac{1}{(y_{j+1} - y_j)^2 + (y_j - y_{j-1})^2} \right]^{-1} \\
\phi_{i,j} = & \left[\frac{2(\phi_{i+1,j} + \phi_{i-1,j})}{(x_{i+1} - x_i)^2 + (x_i - x_{i-1})^2} - \frac{2(\phi_{i+1,j} - \phi_{i-1,j})(x_{i+1} - 2x_i + x_{i-1})}{(x_{i+1} - x_{i-1})[(x_{i+1} - x_i)^2 + (x_i - x_{i-1})^2]} + \right. \\
& \left. \frac{2(\phi_{i,j+1} + \phi_{i,j-1})}{(y_{j+1} - y_j)^2 + (y_j - y_{j-1})^2} - \frac{2(\phi_{i,j+1} - \phi_{i,j-1})(y_{j+1} - 2y_j + y_{j-1})}{(y_{j+1} - y_{j-1})[(y_{j+1} - y_j)^2 + (y_j - y_{j-1})^2]} \right] \\
& \times \frac{1}{4} \left[\frac{[(x_{i+1} - x_i)^2 + (x_i - x_{i-1})^2][(y_{j+1} - y_j)^2 + (y_j - y_{j-1})^2]}{(x_{i+1} - x_i)^2 + (x_i - x_{i-1})^2 + (y_{j+1} - y_j)^2 + (y_j - y_{j-1})^2} \right] \quad (11)
\end{aligned}$$

For the case of equally spaced intervals when

$$\begin{aligned}
(x_{i+1} - x_i) &= (x_i - x_{i-1}) = 0, \\
(y_{j+1} - y_j) &= (y_j - y_{j-1}) = 0, \\
(x_{i+1} - 2x_i + x_{i-1}) &= 0 \text{ and} \\
(y_{j+1} - 2y_j + y_{j-1}) &= 0,
\end{aligned}$$

then equation (11) reduces to equation (9).

Unequal grid coordinates

A 100×100 grid was selected with the following functions for the x and y axes:

$$f(x) = \frac{L}{2} \left[1 + \sin \left(\pi \left(\frac{i}{n_x} - \frac{1}{2} \right) \right) \right] \quad (12)$$

$$f(y) = W \sin \left(\frac{\pi}{2} \times \frac{j}{n_y} \right) \quad (13)$$

The resulting grid and the graphs of its functions are shown in the figure below.

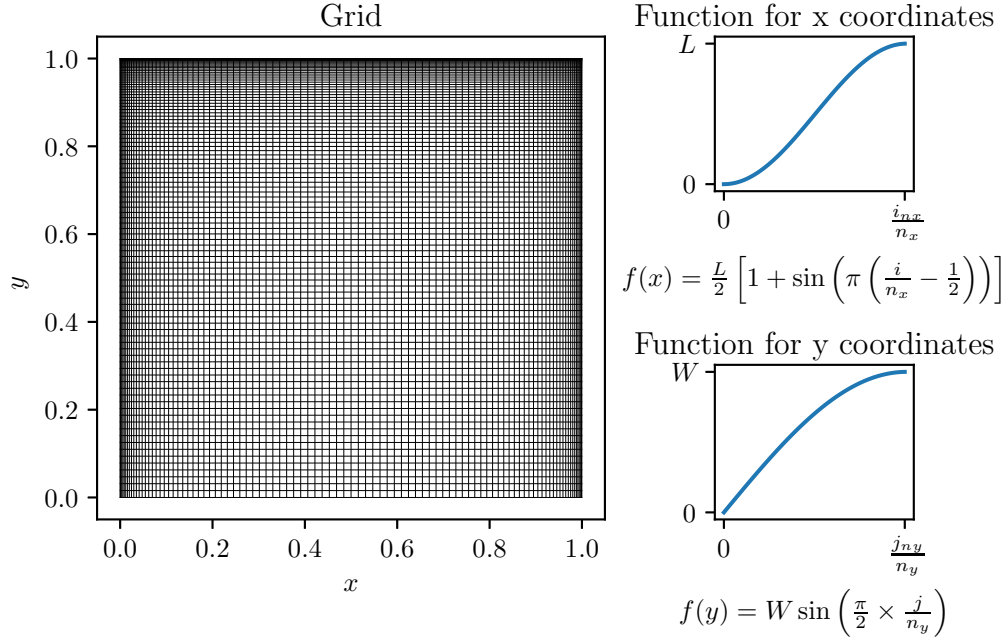


Figure 1: The selected grid with the chosen x and y functions and their graphs

SOR Method

For equal grid intervals, Successive Over-Relaxation (SOR) method applied to Laplace equation was as follows:

$$\phi_{i,j}^{m+1} = (1 - \omega)\phi_{i,j}^m + \omega \left(\frac{\phi_{i+1,j}^m + \phi_{i-1,j}^{m+1}}{(\Delta x)^2} + \frac{\phi_{i,j+1}^m + \phi_{i,j-1}^{m+1}}{(\Delta y)^2} \right) \left(\frac{(\Delta x)^2(\Delta y)^2}{2(\Delta x^2)(\Delta y^2)} \right) \quad (14)$$

For unequal grid intervals, SOR method can be applied to Laplace equation using equation (11) as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} \phi_{i,j}^{m+1} = & (1 - \omega)\phi_{i,j}^m + \omega \times \\ & \left[\frac{2(\phi_{i+1,j}^m + \phi_{i-1,j}^{m+1})}{(x_{i+1} - x_i)^2 + (x_i - x_{i-1})^2} - \frac{2(\phi_{i+1,j}^m - \phi_{i-1,j}^{m+1})(x_{i+1} - 2x_i + x_{i-1})}{(x_{i+1} - x_{i-1})[(x_{i+1} - x_i)^2 + (x_i - x_{i-1})^2]} + \right. \\ & \left. \frac{2(\phi_{i,j+1}^m + \phi_{i,j-1}^{m+1})}{(y_{j+1} - y_j)^2 + (y_j - y_{j-1})^2} - \frac{2(\phi_{i,j+1}^m - \phi_{i,j-1}^{m+1})(y_{j+1} - 2y_j + y_{j-1})}{(y_{j+1} - y_{j-1})[(y_{j+1} - y_j)^2 + (y_j - y_{j-1})^2]} \right] \\ & \times \frac{1}{4} \left[\frac{[(x_{i+1} - x_i)^2 + (x_i - x_{i-1})^2][(y_{j+1} - y_j)^2 + (y_j - y_{j-1})^2]}{(x_{i+1} - x_i)^2 + (x_i - x_{i-1})^2 + (y_{j+1} - y_j)^2 + (y_j - y_{j-1})^2} \right] \quad (15) \end{aligned}$$

This equation was solved using $\omega = 1.8$ for a 100×100 grid. After 1,114 iterations, the numerical solution stopped changing, according to the following formula:

$$\max(|\phi_{i,j}^{m+1} - \phi_{i,j}^m|) \leq 1 \times 10^{-9} \quad (16)$$

The error between the numerical solution and the exact solution is shown below in the figure.

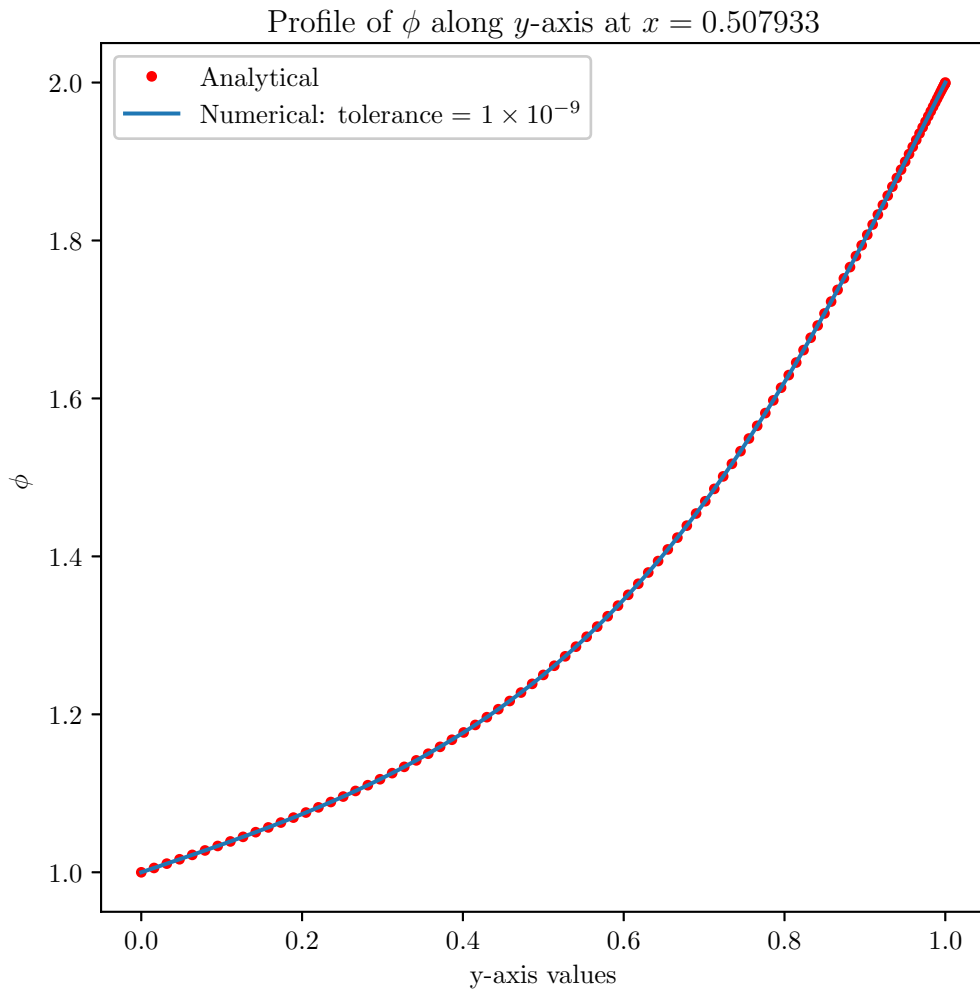


Figure 2: Comparison of numerical solution and exact solution of Laplace equation with unequal grid intervals

Further work in progress

Numerical solution of 2D Navier-Stokes equation

Following is the Navier-Stokes equation:

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial(uu)}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial(uv)}{\partial y} = -\frac{1}{\rho} \frac{\partial P}{\partial x} + \nu \left(\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial y^2} \right) \quad (17)$$

Navier-Stokes equation has to be solved numerically for a 2D problem using SOR method for pressure term and upwind scheme for the convective term.