

# Hyperbolic problems

These are problems modelling transport phenomena and exhibiting conservation properties.

Note: stark contrast to the diffusion properties we saw for parabolic problems.

[ Some slides with typical equations  
and a few applications. ]

Our model problems will be

- the advection equation:  $u_t + au_x = 0$
- the wave equation:  $u_{tt} = c^2 u_{xx}$
- nonlinear conservation laws:  $u_t + (f(u))_x = 0$ .

## The advection equation

$$u_t + au_x = 0 \quad , \quad a \in \mathbb{R}$$

Trivial problem, we know the solution:

If  $u(0, x) = g(x)$  , some function  $g$  ,

then

$$u(t, x) = g(x - at)$$

solves the eq.

Proof:  $u_t(t, x) = g'(x - at) \cdot (-a)$

$$u_x(t, x) = g'(x - at) \cdot 1 \quad \square$$

Like linear test eq. , good test case for our methods.

Note: solution constant along  $x - at = C$  .

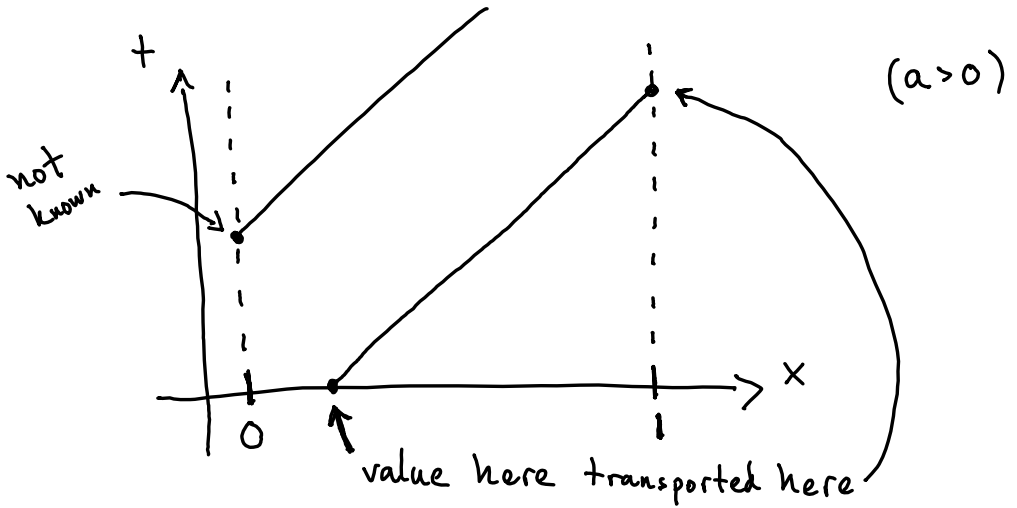
Def. A curve  $(t(s), x(s))$ ,  $s \in [0, \infty)$ , is called a characteristic if  $u(t(s), x(s))$  is constant  $\forall s$ .

For the advection eq., the characteristics are the straight lines  $x - at = C$ .

We typically illustrate this by a 2D-plot of the characteristics, rather than a 3D-plot of the solution:



Note that this creates a boundary value issue when working on a finite spatial domain:



$\Rightarrow$  cannot specify BC at  $x=1$

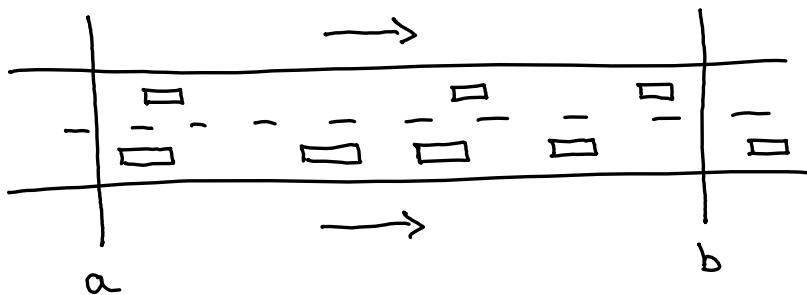
because the values there are already determined by  $u(0,x)$  and the equation.

But we must specify a BC at  $x=0$ .

$\therefore$  Only one BC and IC for the adv. eq.  
rather than two BC and IC for the parabolic problems.

If  $a < 0$  we have transport in the opposite direction and need a BC at  $x=1$  but cannot have one at  $x=0$ .

### Application: traffic flow



Let  $N(t) = \# \{ \text{cars in } [a, b] \text{ at time } t \}$

If  $u(t, x)$  is the car density, we have

$$N(t) = \int_a^b u(t, x) dx.$$

Assume all cars move at constant speed  $v$  (for now).

Then  $v \cdot u(t, a)$  cars are entering  $[a, b]$  at time  $t$  and  $v \cdot u(t, b)$  are leaving, so  $\dot{N} = v u(t, a) - v u(t, b)$

Note that

$$\dot{N}(t) = v \cdot u(t, a) - v \cdot u(t, b) = - \int_a^b v \cdot u_x(t, x) dx$$

But we also have

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{N} &= \frac{d}{dt} \int_a^b u(t, x) dx = \int_a^b \frac{d}{dt} u(t, x) dx \\ &= \int_a^b u_t(t, x) dx \end{aligned}$$

$$\Rightarrow \int_a^b u_t + v \cdot u_x dx = 0$$

$$[a, b] \text{ arbitrary} \Rightarrow u_t + v u_x = 0$$

Conservation law property: No cars suddenly disappear or are created.

Let's make it non-trivial by assuming

a non-constant speed  $v(u)$ , i.e. the speed when there are many cars is different to when there are few. Typically  $v(u) \searrow 0$  as  $u \nearrow$ .

Same reasoning,  $\dot{N} = \int u_t$ , but

$$\dot{N} = (v(u)u)|_{x=a} - (v(u)u)|_{x=b}$$

$$= - \int_a^b \frac{\partial}{\partial x} (v(u)u) dx$$

$$= - \int_a^b v'(u)u_x u + v(u)u_x \quad (\text{chain rule})$$

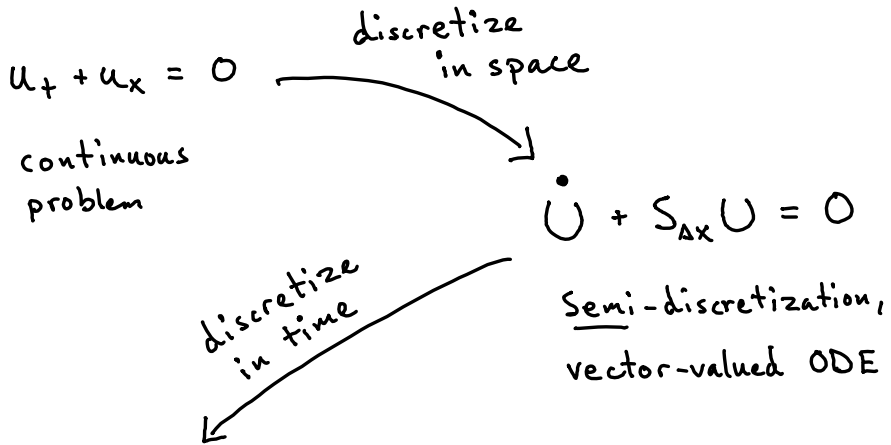
$$\Rightarrow u_t + (v'(u)u + v(u))u_x = 0$$

Nonlinear, solution values transported at different speeds.

Can model phenomena such as traffic jams etc..

# Method of lines

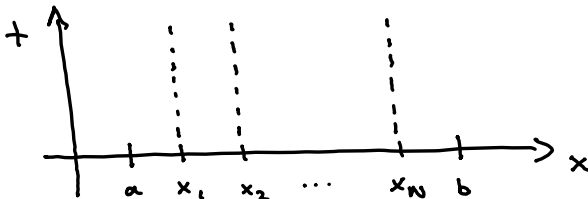
Standard approach: (with two specific choices of spatial and temporal discretizations)



$$U^{n+1} + \Delta t S_{\Delta x} U^n = U^n$$

Full discretization,  
algebraic system

"Method of lines", because  $U_j(t)$  approximates  $u(t, x_j)$  along the line  $(t, x_j)$ .





Can use different spatial discretizations  
and different temporal discretizations.

Adv. eg.  $u_t + u_x = 0$ , space discr.

Grid  $x_j = j\Delta x$ ,  $j=1, \dots, N$

Approx.  $U(t) \in \mathbb{R}^N$ ,  $U_j(t) \approx u(t, x_j)$

Approx.  $u_t(t, x_j) \approx \dot{U}_j(t)$

Approx.  $u_x(t, x_j)$ ?

• Backward diff. : 
$$\frac{U_j(t) - U_{j-1}(t)}{\Delta x}$$

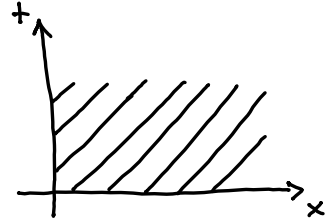
• Forward diff. : 
$$\frac{U_{j+1}(t) - U_j(t)}{\Delta x}$$

• Central diff. : 
$$\frac{U_{j+1}(t) - U_{j-1}(t)}{2\Delta x}$$

• Fancy higher-order diff. : 
$$\frac{\frac{1}{4}U_{j+1} + \frac{5}{6}U_j - \frac{3}{2}U_{j-1} + \frac{1}{2}U_{j-2} - \frac{1}{12}U_{j-3}}{\Delta x}(t)$$

Which to choose?

With  $u_t + u_x = 0$ , information flows to the right.



$\Rightarrow$  spatial discretization  
must use information from the left!

With  $u_t - u_x = 0$ , it must use  
information from the right.

Def. (informal) A method which looks in  
the appropriate direction is called an upwind method.  
One that looks in the wrong direction is called  
a downwind method. (Inspired by sailing terminology.)

For  $u_t + u_x = 0$ , flow to the right:

• Backward diff.:  $\frac{U_j - U_{j-1}}{\Delta x}$   $\boxed{\text{upwind}}$  ☺

$\swarrow$  right       $\nwarrow$  left

• Forward diff.:  $\frac{U_{j+1} - U_j}{\Delta x}$  downwind ☹

• Symmetric diff.:  $\frac{U_{j+1} - U_{j-1}}{2\Delta x}$  neither ☹

$\swarrow$  right       $\nwarrow$  left

• Fancy higher-order diff.:  $\frac{\frac{1}{4}U_{j+1} + \frac{5}{6}U_j - \frac{3}{2}U_{j-1} + \frac{1}{2}U_{j-2} - \frac{1}{12}U_{j-3}}{\Delta x}$

$\nearrow$   
more left than right: upwind ☺

For  $u_t - u_x = 0$  everything is inverted  
and the bwd diff. is downwind!

Important: Upwind is necessary for stability.

A downwind method will never work

## General semidiscretization (SD)

$$u_x(t, x_j) \approx \frac{1}{\Delta x} \sum_{k=-l}^m a_k U_{j+k}(t)$$

Determine coefficients  $a_k$  by desired order:

Def. The SD method is consistent of order  $p$

if 
$$\frac{1}{\Delta x} \sum_{k=-l}^m a_k u(t, x + k\Delta x) = u_x(t, x) + \mathcal{O}(\Delta x^p)$$

In practice: expand in Taylor series, match terms

Can state/do this in a fancy way using forward shift operators, see lseries.

A full discretization where the spatial discr. is of order  $p_1$  and the temporal discr. is of order  $p_2$  is sometimes said to be of order  $p = \min(p_1, p_2)$ .

But it is typically more useful to specify the separate orders  $(p_1, p_2)$ .

The full discr. with  $U_j^n \approx u(t_n, x_j)$  will have the form

$$\underbrace{\frac{1}{\Delta t} \sum_i b_i U_j^{n+1-i}}_{\text{time, } u_t} + \underbrace{\frac{1}{\Delta x} \sum_k a_k U_{j+k}^n}_{\text{space, } u_x} = 0$$

$\Rightarrow$  CFL condition for explicit methods will be of the form

$$\boxed{\frac{\Delta t}{\Delta x} \leq C}$$

Note: not problematic!  
 $\Delta t \sim \Delta x$  is fine

(For  $u_t = u_{xx}$  we get a  $\frac{1}{\Delta x^2}$  from  $u_{xx}$  and therefore instead have  $\frac{\Delta t}{\Delta x^2} \leq C$ .)

## Classic methods for $u_t + au_x = 0$

Approx.  $U_j^n \approx u(t_n, x_j)$ . Every approx. below at  $(t_n, x_j)$ .

Use  $\mu = \frac{\Delta t}{\Delta x}$ .

- Upwind Euler = explicit Euler + bwd diff.  
 $u_t \approx \frac{U_j^{n+1} - U_j^n}{\Delta t}$        $u_x \approx \frac{U_j^n - U_{j-1}^n}{\Delta x}$

$$\rightarrow U_j^{n+1} = (1 - a\mu) U_j^n + a\mu U_{j-1}^n$$

- Explicit Euler + fwd diff. = downwind scheme

Don't use!

- Central difference scheme: explicit Euler  
+ symmetric diff.

$$U_j^{n+1} = U_j^n + \frac{a\mu}{2} (U_{j-1}^n - U_{j+1}^n)$$

Seems like a good idea, but is always unstable.

Don't use!

(proof later)

- Lax - Friedrichs : small modification to central diff. scheme

$$U_j^{n+1} = \underbrace{\frac{U_{j-1}^n + U_{j+1}^n}{2}}_{\text{instead of } U_j^n} + \frac{a\mu}{2} (U_{j-1}^n - U_{j+1}^n)$$


Convergent, order (1, 2).

- Lax - Wendroff : order 2 in both time and space

$$U_j^{n+1} = \frac{a\mu}{2} (1+a\mu) U_{j-1}^n + (1-a^2\mu^2) U_j^n - \frac{a\mu}{2} (1-a\mu) U_{j+1}^n$$

Auto-upwinding:  $a\mu = \frac{1}{2} \Rightarrow U_j^{n+1} = \frac{3}{8} U_{j-1}^n + \frac{3}{4} U_j^n - \frac{1}{8} U_{j+1}^n$

$a\mu = -\frac{1}{2} \Rightarrow U_j^{n+1} = -\frac{1}{8} U_{j-1}^n + \frac{3}{4} U_j^n + \frac{3}{8} U_{j+1}^n$



Weights change depending on flow direction,  
always upwind.

Let's derive the Lax-Wendroff scheme, by expanding in Taylor series.

(In the time parameter, since we know how to discretize the spatial derivatives.)

We have

$$u(t + \Delta t, x) = \underbrace{u + \Delta t u_t + \frac{\Delta t^2}{2} u_{tt}}_{\text{everything evaluated at } (t, x)} + O(\Delta t^3)$$

If our method exactly reproduces these three terms when we insert the exact solution, the temporal error is of order 2.

To ensure that, we use the equation

$u_t + au_x = 0$  to replace the temporal derivatives with spatial derivatives. These we can approximate using central differences in space, which are exact except for an error  $O(\Delta x^2)$  that does not depend on  $\Delta t$ .

→



Since  $u_t + au_x = 0$  we get  $u_t = -au_x$

Then

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &= \frac{\partial}{\partial t} (u_t + au_x) = u_{tt} + au_{xt} \\ &= u_{tt} + au_{tx} \\ &= u_{tt} + a \frac{\partial}{\partial x} (u_t) \\ &= u_{tt} + a \frac{\partial}{\partial x} (-au_x) \\ &= u_{tt} - a^2 u_{xx} \end{aligned}$$

$$\Rightarrow u_{tt} = a^2 u_{xx}$$

$$\therefore u(t+\Delta t, x) = u - a\Delta t u_x + \frac{a^2 \Delta t^2}{2} u_{xx} + O(\Delta t^3)$$

Now approx.  $u_x$  and  $u_{xx}$  with central difference quotients (2nd-order)

$$u_x \approx \frac{U_{j+1}^n - U_{j-1}^n}{2\Delta x}, \quad u_{xx} \approx \frac{U_{j-1}^n - 2U_j^n + U_{j+1}^n}{\Delta x^2}$$

$$\Rightarrow U_j^{n+1} = \frac{a\mu}{2} \left( 1 + a\mu \right) U_{j-1}^n + \left( 1 - a^2\mu^2 \right) U_j^n - \frac{a\mu}{2} \left( 1 - a\mu \right) U_{j+1}^n$$

If we insert the exact solution, i.e. replace  $U_j^n$  by  $u(t_n, x_j)$  etc., we then get

$$u(t_n + \Delta t, x_j) = u + \Delta t u_t + \frac{\Delta t^2}{2} u_{tt} + \mathcal{O}(\Delta t^3) + \mathcal{O}(\Delta x^2)$$

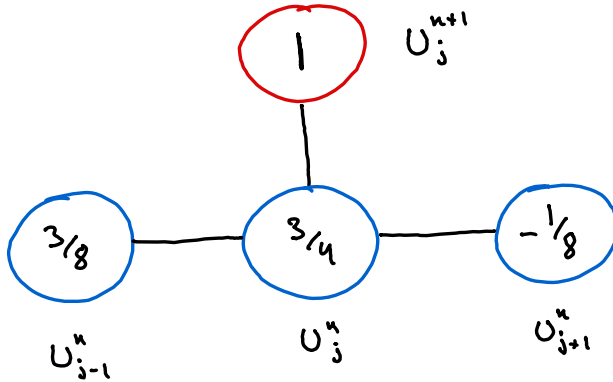
$\nearrow$  order 2 in time       $\uparrow$  order 2 in space

where  $u$ ,  $u_t$  and  $u_{tt}$  are all evaluated at  $(t_n, x_j)$ .

Note! Have only proved consistency, not stability. There will be a CFL condition  $|a\mu| \leq C$ , but unlike e.g. the central diff. scheme, Lax-Wendroff is well-behaved.

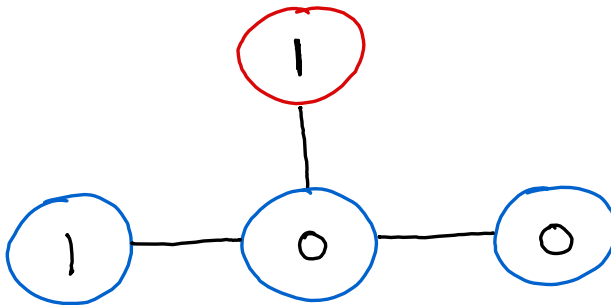
## Lax-Wendroff computational stencil

At  $a\mu = \frac{1}{2}$ :



Note asymmetric coefficients due to auto-upwinding.

At  $a\mu = 1$ :



Value  $U_{j-1}^n$  transported unchanged to  $U_j^{n+1}$ .

Exactly matches what exact solution does along characteristic. At this speed  $a\mu = 1$ , L-W is exact.

## Periodic boundary conditions

Boundaries always cause issues, and for hyperbolic problems it's usually worse than for parabolic problems (like how  $u_t + u_x = 0$  and  $u_t - u_x = 0$  require different setups).

One way to avoid this: consider problem on  $\mathbb{R}$

- nice in theory, no boundaries!
- problematic in practice
  - physical phenomena usually limited in size
  - infinite grid?

Another way: consider problem on torus

- also nice in theory
- periodicity matches typical physical behaviour

Def. Periodic boundary conditions on  $x \in [0, 1]$

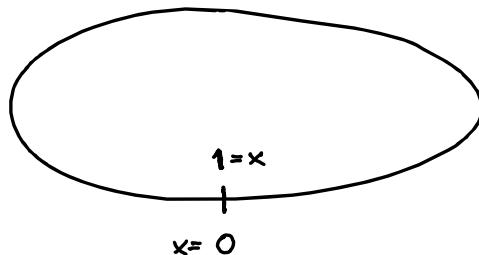
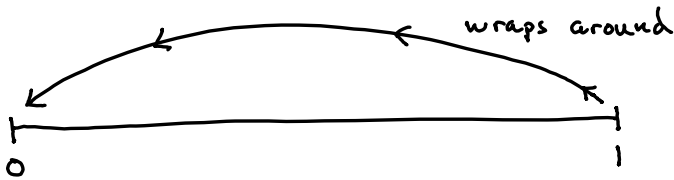
means that  $u(t, 0) = u(t, 1)$  and also

$$u^{(k)}(t, 0) = u^{(k)}(t, 1), \quad k = 1, 2, \dots \quad \left( u^{(k)} = \frac{\partial^k}{\partial t^k} u \right)$$

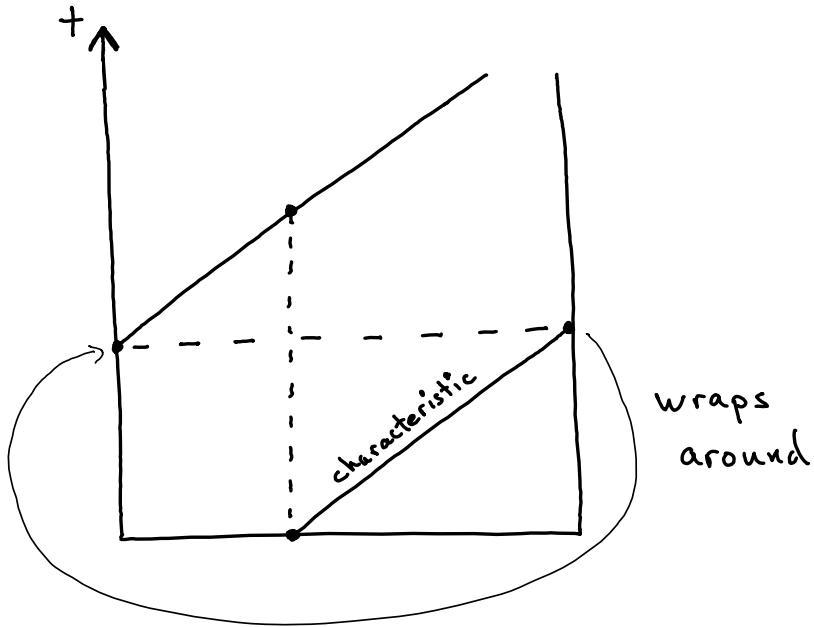
Usually, we only write out the  $u(t, 0) = u(t, 1)$  part.

This essentially means that there is no real boundary. The point  $x=1$  is the same as the point  $x=0$ , and the intervals

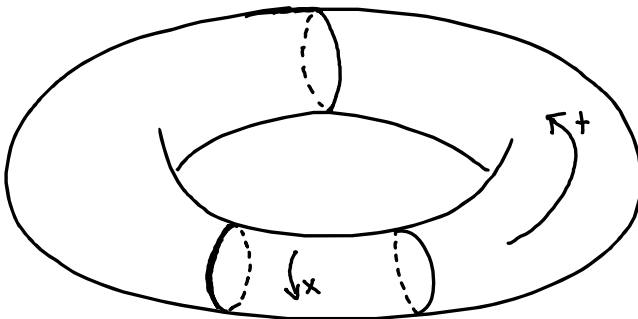
$[1, 2], [2, 3], \dots$  are the same as  $[0, 1]$ .



For  $u_t + u_x = 0$  the situation will look like

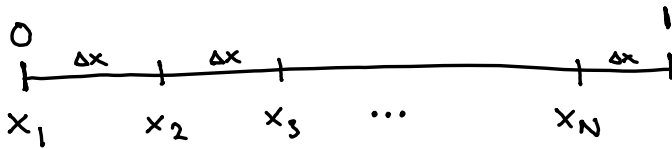


Note how periodicity in space  $\Rightarrow$  periodicity in time. We are on a torus:



The way to discretize this properly is with

$$\begin{cases} x_k = (k-1)\Delta x \\ \Delta x = \frac{1}{N} \end{cases}.$$



I.e. we have a computational point at  $x=0$ , because we don't know the value there, but no point at  $x=1$  since we do know that the solution there is the same as at  $x=0$ .

When we need  $U_{N+1}(t) \approx u(t, x_{N+1}) = u(t, 1)$   
we replace it by  $U_1(t) \approx u(t, x_1) = u(t, 0)$ .

Similarly,  $U_0(t)$  is replaced by  $U_N(t)$ .

On matrix-vector form with

$$U^n = [U_1^n, U_2^n, \dots, U_N^n]^T,$$

Lax-Wendroff becomes

$$U^{n+1} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 - a^2 \mu^2 & \frac{a\mu}{2}(a\mu - 1) & & \frac{a\mu}{2}(a\mu + 1) \\ \frac{a\mu}{2}(a\mu + 1) & 1 - a^2 \mu^2 & \frac{a\mu}{2}(a\mu - 1) & \\ & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots \\ \frac{a\mu}{2}(a\mu - 1) & & \frac{a\mu}{2}(a\mu + 1) & 1 - a^2 \mu^2 \end{bmatrix} U^n,$$

$U_0^n \rightarrow U_N^n$

$U_1^n \leftarrow U_{N+1}^n$

i.e. also the rows of the matrix wrap around!

Periodic BC always lead to such circulant matrices. (Note: not "circular" matrices.)



## Stability with periodic BC

We can write the scheme as

$$U^{n+1} = A(a\mu) U^n$$

and we have stability if  $\|A(a\mu)\| \leq 1$ .

With periodic BC,  $A(a\mu)$  is normal (Not hard, but the proof does not fit in the margin)

and therefore  $\|A(a\mu)\|^2 = \max_k |\lambda_k[A(a\mu)]|$

where  $\lambda_k[A(a\mu)]$  is the  $k$ th eigenvalue of  $A(a\mu)$ .

Before we tackle the general case and compute eigenvalues, let's consider  $a\mu = 1$ . Then

$$A(1) = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & & & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & & \\ & \ddots & \ddots & \\ 0 & & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad \left( \text{so } U_j^{n+1} = U_{j-1}^n \right)$$

This is a permutation matrix;  $A(1)U$  has the same components as  $U$  but in a different order.

$$\text{Thus } \|A(1)U\|_2 = \|U\|_2,$$

$$\text{so } \|A(1)\|_2 = \sup_{U \neq 0} \frac{\|A(1)U\|}{\|U\|} = 1.$$

$\therefore$  Lax-Wendroff is stable at  $\mu=1$ .

With some more work, we could show

$$\text{that } \lambda_k[A(1)] = e^{\frac{2\pi i k}{N}}, \quad k=1, \dots, N,$$

but in this simple case we don't need them.

Note that this means that

$$\|U^{n+1}\|_2 = \|U^n\|_2$$

i.e. the norm of the approximation is conserved.

This is true for the exact solution too,  
since

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{d}{dt} \|u(t, \cdot)\|_2^2 &= \frac{d}{dt} \langle u(t, \cdot), u(t, \cdot) \rangle \\ &= \langle u_t, u \rangle + \langle u, u_t \rangle \\ &= 2 \langle u, u_t \rangle \\ &\stackrel{u_t + au_x = 0}{=} -2a \langle u, u_x \rangle.\end{aligned}$$

Recall that  $\langle u, v \rangle = \int u(x)v(x) dx$   
and integration by parts

$$\begin{aligned}\langle u, v_x \rangle &= -\langle u_x, v \rangle + \underbrace{u(1)v(1) - u(0)v(0)}_{=0 \text{ if periodic BC}}\end{aligned}$$

$$\Rightarrow \langle u, u_x \rangle = -\langle u_x, u \rangle = -\langle u, u_x \rangle.$$

↑  
int. by parts
↑  
just interchange terms in the integral

If  $z = -z$  then  $z = 0$ , so  $\langle u, u_x \rangle = 0$

$$\therefore \frac{d}{dt} \|u(t, \cdot)\|^2 = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad \|u(t, \cdot)\| = \text{constant}.$$

Conservation law!

## The general case

Def. A circulant matrix  $C \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times N}$  has the form

$$C = \begin{bmatrix} x_0 & x_1 & \dots & x_{N-1} \\ x_{N-1} & x_0 & \dots & x_{N-2} \\ \vdots & & & \\ x_1 & x_2 & \dots & x_0 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Theorem The eigenvalues of  $C$  are

$$\lambda_k[C] = \sum_{j=0}^{N-1} x_j e^{\frac{2jk\pi i}{N}}, \quad k=1, \dots, N.$$

We use this on  $U^{n+1} = A(a_\mu)U^n$  as follows:

- Identify the non-zero  $x_j$ , typically only 3.
- Simplify  $\lambda_k[A(a_\mu)]$  using trigonometry.
- Identify condition on  $a_\mu$  such that  $|\lambda_k[A(a_\mu)]| \leq 1$ .
- For those  $a_\mu$ ,  $\|A(a_\mu)\| \leq 1$  and we have stability.

Ex. Lax-Wendroff too complicated for blackboard, let's do Lax-Friedrichs:

$$U_l^{n+1} = \frac{U_{l-1}^n + U_{l+1}^n}{2} + \frac{a\mu}{2} (U_{l-1}^n - U_{l+1}^n)$$

i.e.

$$U^{n+1} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & \frac{1}{2} - \frac{a\mu}{2} & & \frac{1}{2} + \frac{a\mu}{2} \\ \frac{1}{2} + \frac{a\mu}{2} & 0 & \frac{1}{2} - \frac{a\mu}{2} & \\ & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots \\ \frac{1}{2} - \frac{a\mu}{2} & & \frac{1}{2} + \frac{a\mu}{2} & 0 \end{bmatrix} U^n$$

$$\Rightarrow \begin{cases} \kappa_1 = \frac{1}{2} - \frac{a\mu}{2} , \\ \kappa_{N-1} = \frac{1}{2} + \frac{a\mu}{2} , \\ \kappa_j = 0 \text{ otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

$$\Rightarrow \lambda_u[A(a\mu)] = \frac{1}{2} \left( (1 - a\mu) e^{\frac{2k\pi i}{N}} + (1 + a\mu) e^{\frac{2k\pi i(N-1)}{N}} \right)$$

Note that  $e^{2k\pi i \frac{N-1}{N}} = e^{2k\pi i} \cdot e^{-\frac{2k\pi i}{N}} = e^{-\frac{2k\pi i}{N}}$ .

$\frac{N-1}{N} \uparrow = 1 - \frac{1}{N}$

→

$$\Rightarrow \lambda_k [A(a\mu)] = \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} (1-a\mu) \left( \cos\left(\frac{2k\pi}{N}\right) + i \sin\left(\frac{2k\pi}{N}\right) \right) \\ + (1+a\mu) \left( \cos\left(\frac{2k\pi}{N}\right) - i \sin\left(\frac{2k\pi}{N}\right) \right) \end{pmatrix}$$

$$= \cos\left(\frac{2k\pi}{N}\right) - a\mu i \sin\left(\frac{2k\pi}{N}\right).$$

So,

$$\begin{aligned} |\lambda_k [A(a\mu)]|^2 &= \cos^2\left(\frac{2k\pi}{N}\right) + (a\mu)^2 \sin^2\left(\frac{2k\pi}{N}\right) \\ &= 1 + ((a\mu)^2 - 1) \sin^2\left(\frac{2k\pi}{N}\right). \end{aligned}$$

Since  $\sin^2\left(\frac{2k\pi}{N}\right) \geq 0$ , the eigenvalues are bounded by 1 iff  $(a\mu)^2 - 1 \leq 0$ .

$\therefore$  the method is stable iff  $|a\mu| \leq 1$ .

Exercise: follow this line of reasoning to show that the central difference scheme is never stable, for any  $a\mu \neq 0$ .

# The wave equation

$$u_{tt} = c^2 u_{xx}, \quad c \in \mathbb{R},$$

$$\text{IC: } \begin{aligned} u(0, x) &= g(x), \\ u_t(0, x) &= h(x) \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{BC: } \begin{aligned} u(t, 0) &= \phi_0(t) \\ u(t, l) &= \phi_l(t) \end{aligned} \quad (\text{for example})$$

Models e.g. vibrating strings.

Can be studied in terms of advection equations:

$$\frac{\partial^2}{\partial t^2} - c^2 \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} = \left( \frac{\partial}{\partial t} - c \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \right) \left( \frac{\partial}{\partial t} + c \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \right)$$

(operator calculus)

so  $u_{tt} = c^2 u_{xx}$  if either  $u_t = cu_x$  or  $u_t = -cu_x$ .

$\Rightarrow$  General solution

$$u(t, x) = g_1(x + ct) + g_2(x - ct),$$

where  $u_t(t, x) = cg_1'(x + ct) - cg_2'(x - ct)$  and the

initial conditions imply that 
$$\begin{cases} g_1(x) + g_2(x) = g(x) \\ cg_1'(x) - cg_2'(x) = h(x) \end{cases}$$

Solve for  $g_1$  and  $g_2$ !

Main point: waves traveling both to the left and to the right.

Discretization:

Can rewrite as 1st-order system

$$z_t + Az_x = 0$$

$$\text{for } A = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & c \\ c & 0 \end{bmatrix} \text{ and } z = \begin{bmatrix} u \\ v \end{bmatrix},$$

where both  $u$  and  $v$  solve the wave eq.

Then apply (vector-valued) advection solver.

However, super-confusing to think about initial conditions, etc., and better, direct, methods are possible.



## Direct semi-discretization of $u_{tt} = c^2 u_{xx}$

$$U_j(t) \approx u(t, x_j)$$

$$\rightarrow \ddot{U}_j(t) = c^2 \underbrace{\frac{U_{j-1}(t) - 2U_j(t) + U_{j+1}(t)}{\Delta x^2}} =: f_j(t, U)$$

order 2 in space, could also use other

$$\text{general discr. } \frac{c^2}{\Delta x^2} \sum_{k=-l}^m a_k U_{j+k}(t)$$

## Full discretization

Write as ODE system

$$\begin{cases} \dot{U}_j(t) = V_j(t) & , \quad U_j(0) = u(0, x_j), \\ \dot{V}_j(t) = f_j(t, U) & , \quad V_j(0) = \dot{u}(0, x_j). \end{cases}$$

Idea:  $f_j$  discr. of  $u_{xx}$  makes 2nd eq. stiff, should use implicit method.

1st eq. has no  $u_{xx}$ , can use explicit method.

This is of course not a proper mathematical argument, but we can use it to create a method and then analyze it properly.

Explicit + implicit Euler

Will not do this here, but it is order 2 in both time and space.  
Stable if  $|c| \frac{\Delta t}{\Delta x} \leq 1$ .

$$\rightarrow \begin{cases} U^{n+1} = U^n + \Delta t V^n \\ V^{n+1} = V^n + \Delta t f(t_{n+1}, U^{n+1}). \end{cases}$$

Because of the split system, the method combination is actually explicit!

$$\begin{aligned} U^{n+2} &= U^{n+1} + \Delta t V^{n+1} \\ &= U^{n+1} + \Delta t \left( V^n + \Delta t f(t_{n+1}, U^{n+1}) \right) \\ &= U^{n+1} + \Delta t \left( \frac{U^{n+1} - U^n}{\Delta t} + \Delta t f(t_{n+1}, U^{n+1}) \right) \end{aligned}$$

The full method is a leapfrog-type scheme often referred to as a Störmer method in this context:

$$U_j^{n+2} - 2U_j^{n+1} + U_j^n = \Delta t^2 c^2 \frac{U_{j-1}^{n+1} - 2U_j^{n+1} + U_{j+1}^{n+1}}{\Delta x^2}.$$

# Nonlinear hyperbolic problems

Are hard problems. There is no general approach.

We will only look at some properties/problems with

$$u_t + (f(u))_x = 0,$$

in particular the inviscid Burgers' equation:

$$u_t + \left( \frac{u^2}{2} \right)_x = u_t + uu_x = 0.$$

Note 1: the apostrophe position; Burgers is a surname.

Note 2: "inviscid"  $\Rightarrow$  zero viscosity  
 $\Rightarrow$  fluid flow with very "thin" fluid.

Viscous Burgers':  $u_t + uu_x = \varepsilon u_{xx}$ .

Higher  $\varepsilon \Rightarrow$  higher viscosity  $\Rightarrow$  thicker fluid.

## Inviscid Burgers'

More specifically, consider

$$u_t + u u_x = 0 \quad \text{on } (t, x) \in (0, \infty) \times (-\infty, \infty)$$

(i.e. no boundary) and  $u(0, x) = g(x)$  with  $\|g\|_2 < \infty$ .

If we don't think about the details too much, we can write down the solution implicitly as

$$u(t, x) = g(x - ut),$$

similarly to the advection eq. sol.  $g(x - at)$ ,

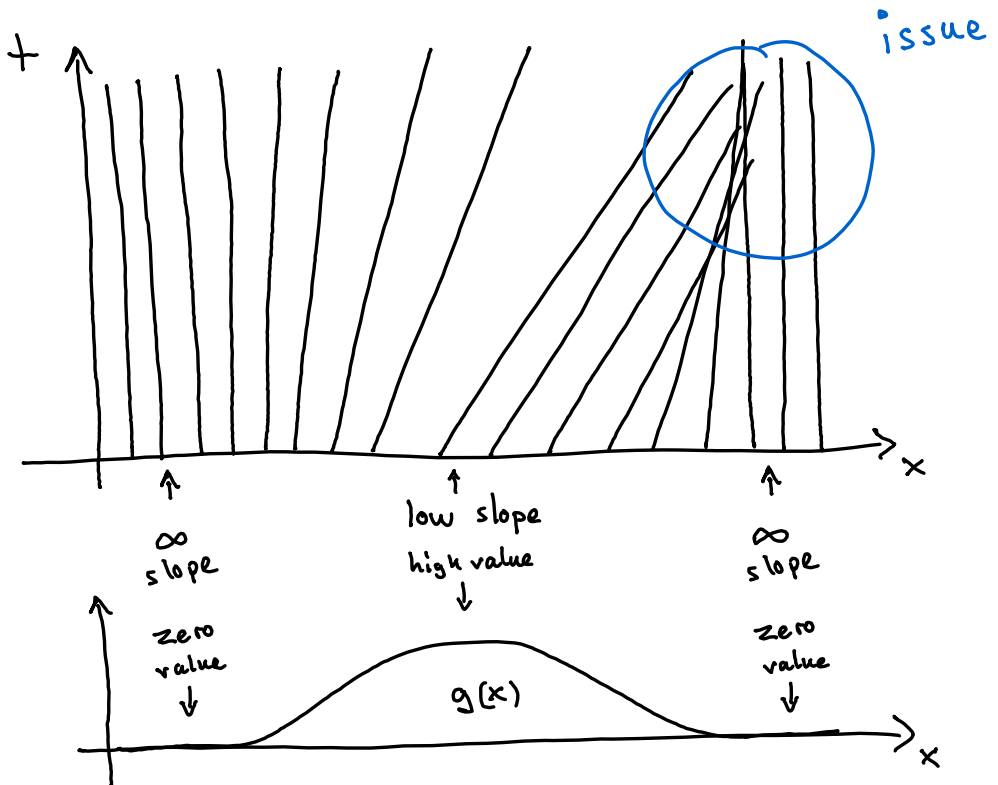
since then " $u_t = -u g'$  and  $u_x = g'$ ".

The details on how to do this formally are included later in these notes, but the main point is that:

The characteristics (where  $u(t,x)$  is constant) are straight lines with slope  $1/u$ :

$$x - ut = C$$

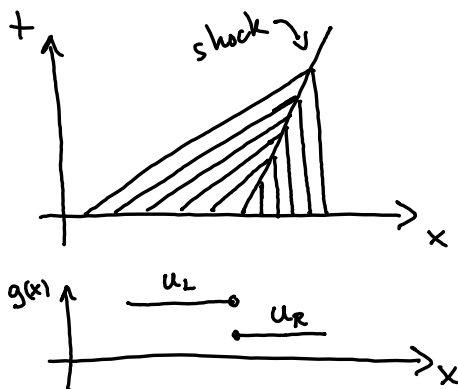
For  $u_t + au_x = 0$ , the characteristics all have the same slope  $1/a$ , but now they depend on  $g(x)$  (the initial condition)



Where the characteristics collide, the solution breaks down, since it cannot take two different values simultaneously.

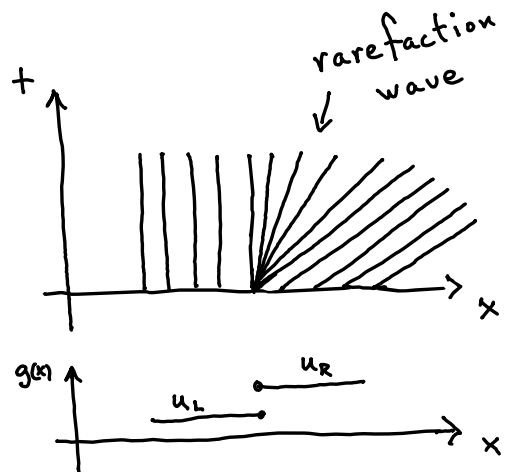
We call this feature a shock, and can define weaker solution concepts where such discontinuous solutions make sense.

Then two typical situations look like



Shock described by

$$x = \frac{u_L + u_R}{2} t$$



For  $u_L t < x < u_R t$ ,

$$u(t, x) = x/t.$$

In Project 3, you will look at viscous Burgers,  $u_t + uu_x = \varepsilon u_{xx}$ , where the diffusion term smooths out the discontinuities. Then our usual solution concept still works, but as  $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$  we get steeper and steeper gradients.

[MATLAB demo of viscous Burgers]

Solving true hyperbolic problems requires highly specialized methods, which we cannot discuss here. See other numerical analysis courses!

We called  $u_t + (f(u))_x = 0$  conservation laws, so as the final topic of the course, let's see some conservation.

First,  $u_t + uu_x = 0$ . We have

$$\frac{d}{dt} \|u(t, \cdot)\|_{L^2}^2 = \frac{d}{dt} \langle u(t, \cdot), u(t, \cdot) \rangle$$

omit  $(t, \cdot)$   
from now  $\rightarrow$

$$= 2 \langle u, u_t \rangle$$

$u_t + uu_x = 0$   
 $\rightarrow$

$$= -2 \langle u, uu_x \rangle.$$

Now

$$\langle u, uu_x \rangle = \int u(t, x) \cdot u(t, x) u_x(t, x) dx$$

omit  $(t, x)$   
from now  $\rightarrow$

$$= \int \underline{u^2} \underline{u_x} dx$$

int. by parts,  
assuming  
suitable BC  $\rightarrow$

$$= - \int (2uu_x) u dx$$

$$= -2 \int u uu_x dx$$

$$= -2 \langle u, uu_x \rangle$$

$$\Rightarrow \langle u, uu_x \rangle = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{d}{dt} \|u(t, \cdot)\|_{L^2}^2 = 0 \quad \Rightarrow \|u(t, \cdot)\|_{L^2} = \text{constant}.$$

Norm of solution ("mass") is conserved!



Same approach works for  $u_t + u^p u_x = 0$   
with integer  $p$ , since

$$\frac{d}{dt} \|u(t, \cdot)\|_{L^2}^2 = 2 \langle u, u_t \rangle = -2 \langle u, u^p u_x \rangle$$

and

$$\langle u, u^p u_x \rangle = \langle u^{p+1}, u_x \rangle$$

int. by  
parts

$$= - \langle (p+1) u^p u_x, u \rangle$$

$$= -(p+1) \langle u, u^p u_x \rangle$$

$$\Rightarrow \langle u, u^p u_x \rangle = 0, \text{ unless } p = -2.$$

But for  $p = -2$  we have

$$\langle u, u^{-2} u_x \rangle = \int \frac{u_x}{u} dx = \int \frac{d}{dx} (\log u) dx$$

if on  $[0, 1]$   
with es.  
per. BC

$$= \log(u(1)) - \log(u(0))$$

$$= 0.$$

Finally, same approach works for

$$u_t + (f(u))_x = 0 \quad \text{too!}$$

$$\frac{d}{dt} \|u(t, \cdot)\|_{L^2}^2 = 2 \langle u, u_t \rangle = -2 \langle u, (f(u))_x \rangle$$

and  $\langle u, (f(u))_x \rangle = - \langle u_x, f(u) \rangle$  assume periodic BC

assume eq. given on  $[0,1]$

$$= - \int_0^1 f(u) u_x \, dx$$

change variables from  $x$  to  $u(x)$

$$= - \int_{u(0)}^{u(1)} f(u(x)) \, du(x)$$

$$= 0, \quad \text{since } u(0) = u(1)$$

$$\therefore \|u(t, \cdot)\|_{L^2} = \text{constant} \quad \forall t \geq 0.$$

That's all for this course!

Extra: characteristics for  $u_t + uu_x = 0$ , properly,

Define  $\xi(t, x)$  by  $x = \xi + g(\xi)t$

for those  $x, t$  where a unique solution exists.

This puts a limit on  $t$ . At e.g. a shock there is no longer a solution.

Then set  $u(t, x) = g(\xi(t, x))$ .

We get

$$\begin{aligned} u(t, x) &= g(x - g(\xi(t, x))t) \\ &= g(x - u(t, x)t) \end{aligned}$$

and

$$u_x(t, x) = g'(\xi(t, x)) \xi_x(t, x),$$

where

$$\xi_x(t, x) = 1 - g'(\xi(t, x)) \xi_x(t, x)t$$

$$\Rightarrow \xi_x(t, x) = \frac{1}{1 + g'(\xi(t, x))t}.$$

→

Further,  $u_t(t, x) = g'(\xi(t, x)) \xi_t(t, x)$ ,

where  $\xi_t(t, x) = -g'(\xi(t, x)) \xi_t(t, x) + -g(\xi(t, x))$

$$\Rightarrow \xi_t(t, x) = \frac{-g(\xi(t, x))}{1 + g'(\xi(t, x))}.$$

Thus,

$$\begin{aligned} u_t + u u_x &= - \frac{g'(\xi(t, x)) g(\xi(t, x))}{1 + g'(\xi(t, x))} \\ &\quad + g(\xi(t, x)) \frac{g'(\xi(t, x))}{1 + g'(\xi(t, x))} \\ &= 0. \end{aligned}$$

The equation  $x = \xi(t, x) + g(\xi(t, x))t$  has

a solution  $\begin{cases} \xi(t, x) = C \\ t = \frac{x - C}{g(C)} \end{cases}$  for any constant  $C$ .

These straight lines  $t = \frac{1}{g(C)}x - \frac{C}{g(C)}$  are the characteristics, along which

$$u(t, x) = g(\xi(t, x)) = g(C) \text{ is constant.}$$