

Diffusion Equation II

Again, we want to address the diffusion equation

$$\partial_t f = \nabla \cdot \kappa \nabla f$$

as discussed before.

- a) Consider the one-dimensional setup with a diffusion coefficient that depends on position, i.e., $\kappa(x)$ and modify the forward Euler implementation accordingly. Use a conservative discretization based on the flux density $\vec{q} = -\kappa \nabla f$ at “staggered” positions $x_{j+1/2}$. Do the results match your “physical” expectations?
- b) You find a python implementation of the backward Euler method for the case of constant κ in `heatBackward.py`. Improve its accuracy to $\mathcal{O}(\Delta t^2)$ by using the trapezoidal rule for integration. Can you estimate and verify the stability property for this case? Can you implement Dirichlet type boundary conditions?
- c) Generalize the implicit method from b) to $\kappa(x)$ as in a): What does the discretization matrix look like?