

Derive a discretized version of the Poisson eq.

$$-\frac{d^2 u}{dx^2} = f(x) \quad (*)$$

Using Taylor expansion ( $x \pm h$ ) and solve it for  $u''(x)$


Taylor expansion:

$$u(x+h) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n!} u^{(n)}(x) h^n \quad (**)$$

$$(**) \Rightarrow u(x+h) = u(x) + \cancel{u'(x)h} + \frac{1}{2} u''(x) h^2 + \frac{1}{6} \cancel{u'''(x)h^3} + O(h^4)$$

$$(**) \Rightarrow u(x-h) = u(x) - \cancel{u'(x)h} + \frac{1}{2} u''(x) h^2 - \frac{1}{6} \cancel{u'''(x)h^3} + O(h^4)$$

$\text{blue arrow: } (-1)^2 = +1$

Addition: 

Giving a three-point evaluation instead of two-point.

This kind of evaluation gives higher accuracy, but at the cost of more operations/evaluations.

$$u(x+h) + u(x-h) = 2u(x) + u''(x)h^2 + O(h^4)$$

$$\Rightarrow u''(x) = \frac{u(x+h) - 2u(x) + u(x-h)}{h^2} + O(h^4)$$

$$= \frac{u(x+h) - 2u(x) + u(x-h)}{h^2} + O(h^2)$$

Disc.

$$u_i'' = \frac{u_{i+1} - 2u_i + u_{i-1}}{h^2} + O(h^2)$$

Approx.

$$v_i'' = \frac{v_{i+1} - 2v_i + v_{i-1}}{h^2} \xrightarrow{(*)} - \left( \frac{v_{i+1} - 2v_i + v_{i-1}}{h^2} \right) = f_i$$

The approximation is to not take the truncation error into consideration