

# *Solving the Heat Equation in Python!*

By Melvyn Ian Drag



# *Learning Objectives for Tonight:*

After this tutorial you will :

- Know what the heat equation is.
- Know a way solve the Heat Equation in Python
- Have a better familiarity with several impressive Python libraries.
- Be able to generate animations of your solutions.



# Why Python?

“ Whereas a mathematical idea is a timeless thing, few things are more ephemeral than computer hardware and software. ”

-Tristan Needham





# How to Get All This Stuff?

Download either:

Anaconda

-Or-

Enthought Canopy





# The Discretization of the Heat Equation

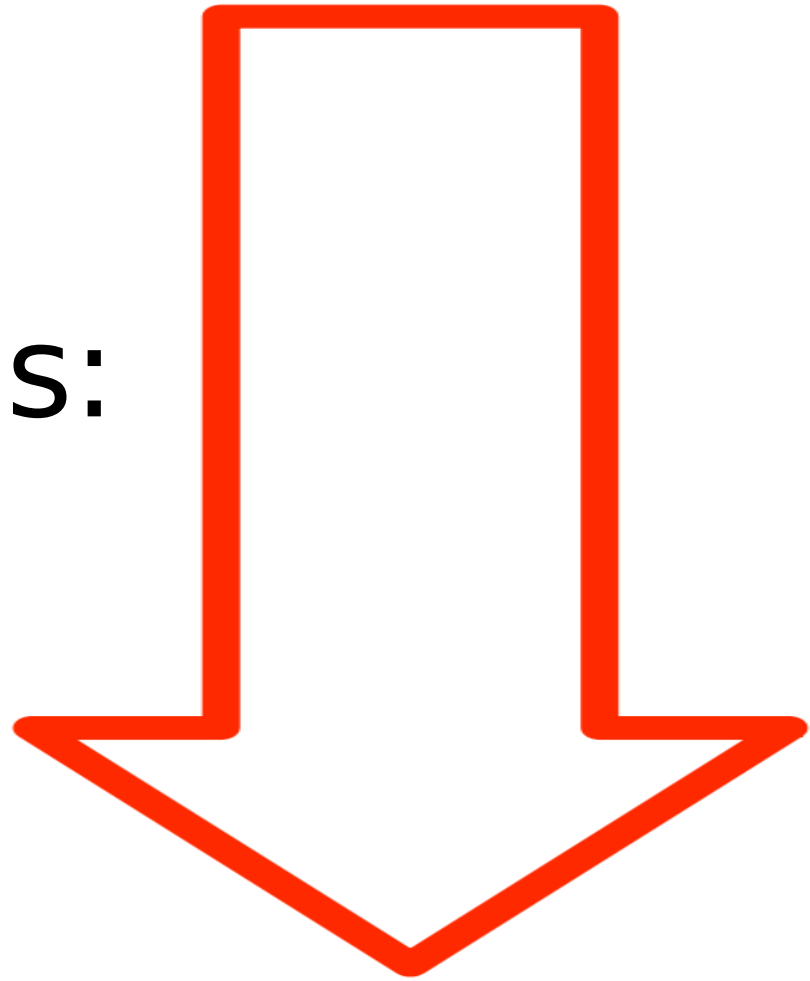
$$u_t = u_{xx}$$

$$\frac{u(x, t + \Delta t) - u(x, t)}{\Delta t} = \frac{u(x + \Delta x, t) - 2u(x, t) + u(x - \Delta x, t)}{\Delta x^2}$$

$$u(x, t + \Delta t) = u(x, t) + \frac{\Delta t}{\Delta x^2} (u(x + \Delta x, t) - 2u(x, t) + u(x - \Delta x, t))$$

$$u_{i,j+1} = u_{i,j} + r(u_{i+1,j} - 2u_{i,j} + u_{i-1,j})$$

Remember this:

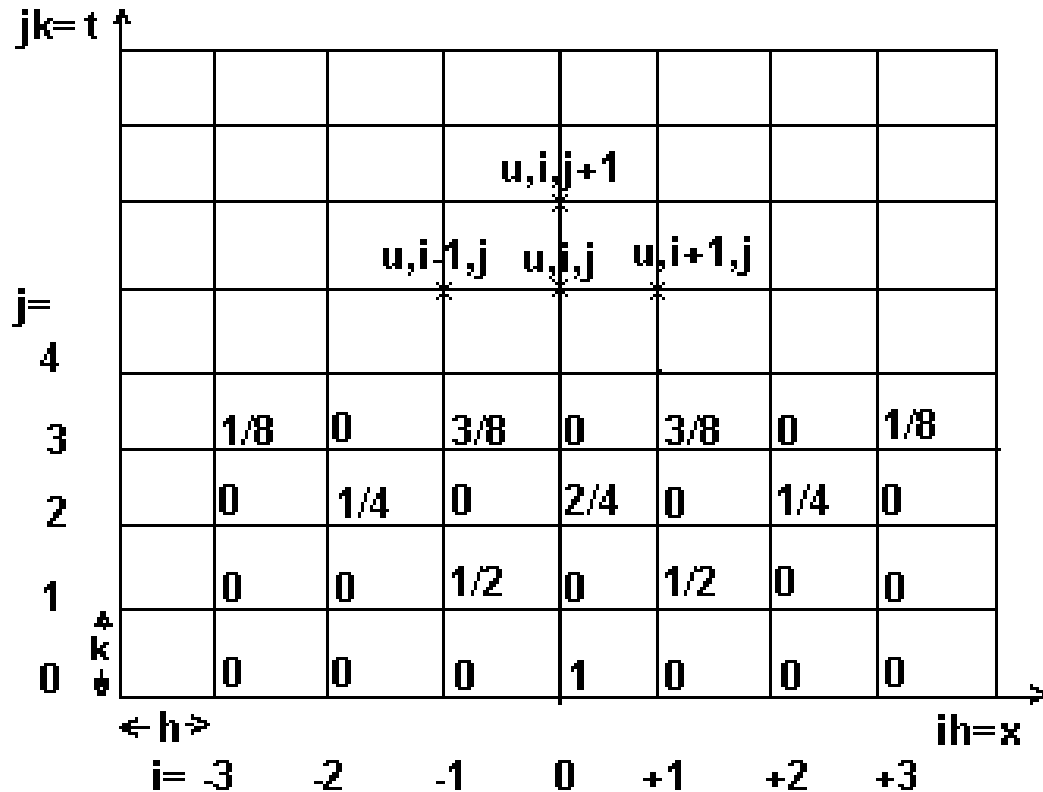


$$u_{i,j+1} = u_{i,j} + r(u_{i+1,j} - 2u_{i,j} + u_{i-1,j})$$



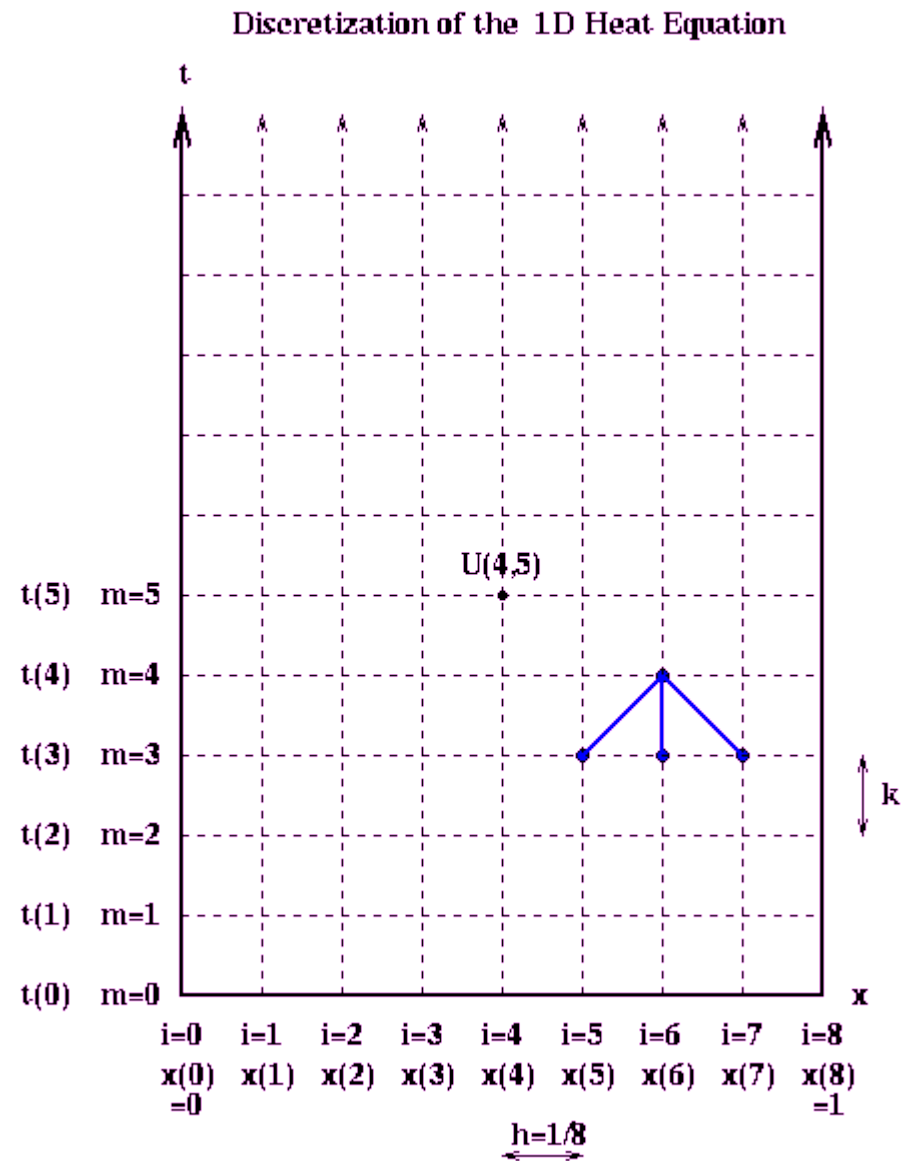
# The Mesh

**Let's study this for a minute:**



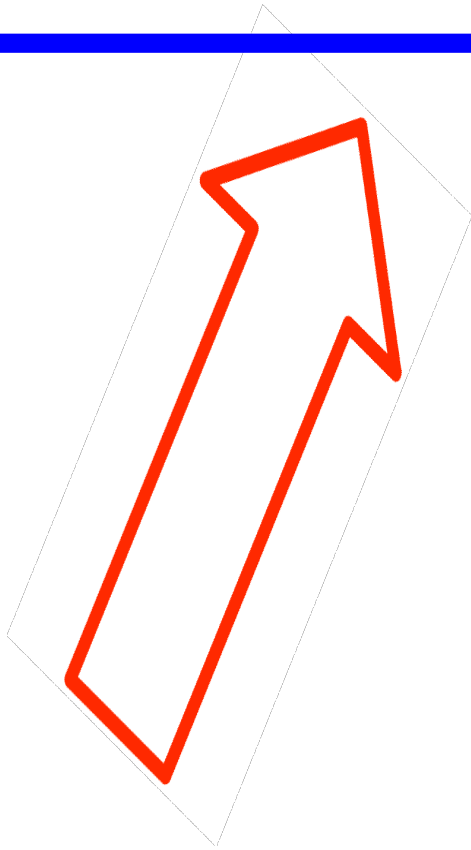
**We can ignore the fractions in the image.  
I took this image from [voting.ukscientists.com/diffus](http://voting.ukscientists.com/diffus),  
and they needed the fractions for something else.**

# A Look at a Mesh From a UC Berkeley Lecture



# Repetition is the mother of all learning:

$$u_{i,j+1} = u_{i,j} + r(u_{i+1,j} - 2u_{i,j} + u_{i-1,j})$$



# Boundary Conditions



Or we could mix these conditions . . .



# Making a Matrix Equation



## Now Making a Matrix Equation

$$u_{i,j+1} = u_{i,j} + r(u_{i+1,j} - 2u_{i,j} + u_{i-1,j})$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} -2 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & -2 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & -2 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -2 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & -2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} u_{1,j} \\ u_{2,j} \\ u_{3,j} \\ u_{4,j} \\ u_{5,j} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -2u_{1,j} + u_{2,j} \\ u_{1,j} - 2u_{2,j} + u_{3,j} \\ u_{2,j} - 2u_{3,j} + u_{4,j} \\ u_{3,j} - 2u_{4,j} + u_{5,j} \\ u_{4,j} - 2u_{5,j} \end{bmatrix}$$

If we add just a little more seasoning to the above equation, everything will work out just right.

*Finally, the*





**Let's Now Look at  
Some Code  
Together.**



**Note to self:**  
**Start with constBC code**

**Then Show Animation Gif**

**Then**  
**“Object oriented” matplotlib**  
**Show FuncAnimation**

- interval
- repeat
- global parameters for update
- adding the current time to the Animation
- Mention the anatomy of matplotlib tutorial online
- mention the matplotlib website and the gallery
- Mention jakevdp blog

**Lambda functions**

**Then:**

**How to make diagonal arrays and matrices.**

**How to import from other files in your directory. Various  
import options.**



# Should I use Arrays or Matrices ?

## Short answer

Use arrays.

They are the standard vector/matrix/tensor type of numpy. Many numpy function return arrays, not matrices.

There is a clear distinction between element-wise operations and linear algebra operations.

You can have standard vectors or row/column vectors if you like.

The only disadvantage of using the array type is that you will have to use dot instead of \* to multiply (reduce) two tensors (scalar product, matrix vector multiplication etc.).

THEY DON'T MENTION THAT THERE ARE NO SPARSE ARRAYS! This is also a legitimate reason to use matrices.



**Note to self:  
Demo how to setup a sparse matrix.  
Then demo the times compared to  
The 2D array**

***Lets Get Our Hands Dirty:***





## Your Task:

**0. Import library(ies) for our sparse matrices.**

**1. Change the 2D array “T” in our code to a Sparse Matrix.**

**2. Change the boundary conditions from constant to variable.**

**Here's how:**

**Change our domain to  $(-\pi/2, \pi/2)$ .  
Use the exact solution to define the value of  $u$  at the endpoints at each time step.**

**3. To make sure you understand how the animation function works, create a separate animation of the real solution at each time step. It should look exactly like the numerical solution!**

*A+ excellent!*

# The Heat Equation in 2D



# The 2D Discretization

$$u_t(x, y, t) = u_{xx}(x, y, t) + u_{yy}(x, y, t)$$

$$\frac{u_{i,j,k+1} - u_{i,j,k}}{\Delta t} =$$

$$\frac{u_{i+1,j,k} - 2u_{i,j,k} + u_{i-1,j,k}}{\Delta x^2} + \frac{u_{i,j+1,k} - 2u_{i,j,k} + u_{i,j-1,k}}{\Delta y^2}$$

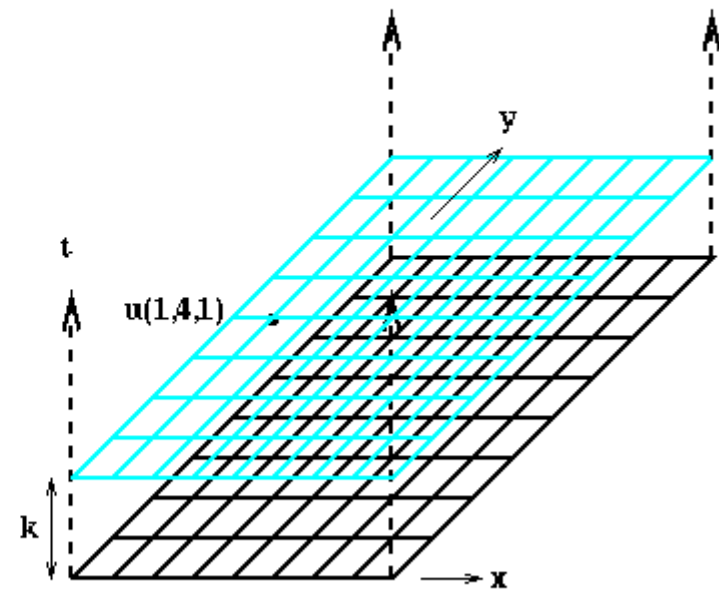
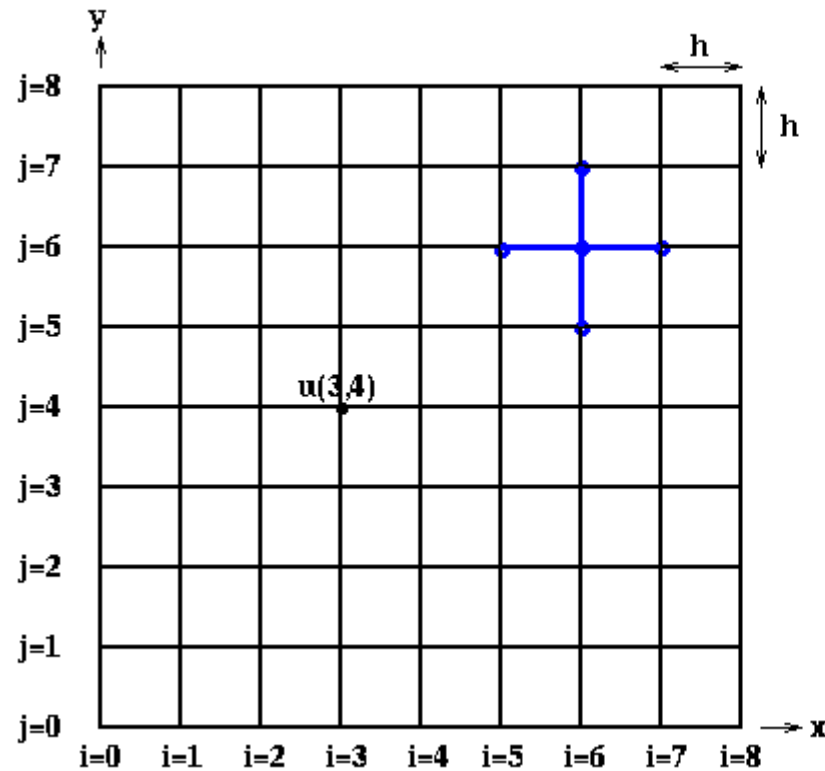
$$u_{i,j,k+1} = u_{i,j,k} + r(u_{i+1,j,k} - 2u_{i,j,k} + u_{i-1,j,k})$$

$$+ r(u_{i,j+1,k} - 2u_{i,j,k} + u_{i,j-1,k})$$

Where we have let  $\Delta x = \Delta y$

## Another Mesh from the UC Berkeley Site

Discretization of the 2D Heat Equation





## Our New Matrix, Graciously Provided By UC Berkeley

### Matrix for Discrete Poisson Problem

The figure shows a 4x4 grid of squares. Each square contains a 3x3 subgrid of numbers. The numbers are 4, -1, and -4. The grid is divided into four 2x2 quadrants by dashed lines. The top-left quadrant contains a 2x2 grid of 3x3 subgrids, each with a 4 in the top-left corner and -1s elsewhere. The top-right quadrant contains a 2x2 grid of 3x3 subgrids, each with a -1 in the top-left corner and -4s elsewhere. The bottom-left quadrant contains a 2x2 grid of 3x3 subgrids, each with a -4 in the top-left corner and -1s elsewhere. The bottom-right quadrant contains a 2x2 grid of 3x3 subgrids, each with a -1 in the top-left corner and 4s elsewhere.

**Let's Now Look at  
Some Code  
Together.**

# Your Task: Implement a Code With Function Boundary Conditions.

Just as in the last project, you have to take a code which works for constant boundary conditions and modify it in such a way that it takes boundary conditions which vary over time.