

Before we start with the actual proof of convergence we need a small result about piece-wise linear interpolations. Remember, in the Semi Lagrangian scheme we have to evaluate $\tilde{v}(t, x)$, the velocity approximation, at x_D , which is not a grid-point. This requires to interpolate this value from values at grid points. The proof below requires the interpolation to fulfill the following:

$$|f(x) - g(y)| \leq \max_{x_i} |f(x_i) - g(x_i)| \quad (1)$$

where $f(x), g(y)$ are interpolations of the function f, g at x, y and the maximum is taken over all grid points. In order to realize such an interpolation one could use the following construction. Assume $\{x_0, x_1, \dots, x_n\}$ are grid points which span the smallest convex set containing x . Then there are unique real numbers $t_i \geq 0$ with $\sum_{i=0}^n t_i = 1$ and $x = \sum_i t_i x_i$. We interpolate a function f , which values are known at grid points, by

$$f(x) := \sum_i t_i f(x_i)$$

If g is another function we compute

$$\begin{aligned} |f(x) - g(x)| &= \left| \sum_i t_i f(x_i) - \sum_i t_i g(x_i) \right| = \left| \sum_i t_i (f(x_i) - g(x_i)) \right| \\ &\leq \left| \sum_i t_i \right| \max_i |f(x_i) - g(x_i)| = \max_i |f(x_i) - g(x_i)| \end{aligned}$$

Having that we come to the actual proof of convergence. We assume that F fulfills a Lipschitz-condition with constant $L > 0$ in all variables. Also, since F is continuous and our spatial region is bounded, we may assume F to be bounded by some $M > 0$. If \tilde{v} is the solution obtained by iterating the scheme and v is the true solution, we show

$$\tilde{v}(t, x) \rightarrow v(t, x)$$

for all grid points x and t when $\Delta t \rightarrow 0$ and $\sup_x |\tilde{v}(0, x) - v(0, x)| \rightarrow 0$. The later expresses Δx to be chosen smaller and

smaller. By the mean-value theorem applied on v we have for some $\tau \in [0, 1]$

$$\begin{aligned} v(t^{k+1}, x_A) &= v(t^k, x_D) + \Delta t v'(t^k + \tau \Delta t, x_D) = \\ &v(t^k, x_D) + \Delta t F(t^k + \tau \Delta t, x_D, v(t^k, x_D)) \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

Note, x_D is the true departure point for the volume at x_A . By mean-value theorem applied on x it fulfills

$$\begin{aligned} x_D &= x_A + \eta \Delta t x'(t^k + \eta \Delta t) \\ &x_A + \eta \Delta t v(t^k + \eta \Delta t, x_D) \end{aligned} \quad (3)$$

for some $\eta \in [-1, 0]$. Remember, the departure point from the iteration fulfills

$$\tilde{x}_D = \tilde{x}_A + \tilde{v}(t^k, \tilde{x}_D)$$

So we have, since $\tilde{x}_A = x_A$,

$$\begin{aligned} |x_D - \tilde{x}_D| &= |\tilde{v}(t^k, \tilde{x}_D) - \eta \Delta t v(t^k + \eta \Delta t, x_D)| \\ &\leq |\tilde{v}(t^k, \tilde{x}_D) - v(t^k, x_D)| + \sigma |\eta| \Delta t |v'(t_k + \sigma \eta \Delta t, x_D)| \\ &= |\tilde{v}(t^k, \tilde{x}_D) - v(t^k, x_D)| + \sigma |\eta| \Delta t |F(t_k + \sigma \eta \Delta t, x_D, v(t_k, x_D))| \end{aligned} \quad (4)$$

where again we applied the mean-value theorem with suitable $\sigma \in [0, 1]$ such that

$$v(t^k + \eta \Delta t) = v(t^k) + \eta \Delta t v'(t^k + \sigma \eta \Delta t)$$

Next we subtract $v(t^{k+1}, x_A)$ from $\tilde{v}(t^{k+1}, x_A)$, which gives

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{v}(t^{k+1}, x_A) - v(t^{k+1}, x_A) &= \tilde{v}(t^k, \tilde{x}_D) - v(t^k, x_D) + \\ &\Delta t F(t^k, \tilde{x}_D, \tilde{v}(t^k, \tilde{x}_D)) - \Delta t F(t^k + \tau \Delta t, x_D, v(t^k, x_D)) \end{aligned}$$

We can estimate this by using the triangle inequality and 'extending by zeros':

$$\begin{aligned} |\tilde{v}(t^{k+1}, x_A) - v(t^{k+1}, x_A)| &\leq |\tilde{v}(t^k, \tilde{x}_D) - v(t^k, x_D)| + \\ &|\Delta t F(t^k, \tilde{x}_D, \tilde{v}(t^k, \tilde{x}_D)) - \Delta t F(t^k + \tau \Delta t, \tilde{x}_D, \tilde{v}(t^k, \tilde{x}_D))| \\ &+ |\Delta t F(t^k + \tau \Delta t, \tilde{x}_D, \tilde{v}(t^k, \tilde{x}_D)) - \Delta t F(t^k + \tau \Delta t, x_D, \tilde{v}(t^k, \tilde{x}_D))| \\ &+ |\Delta t F(t^k + \tau \Delta t, x_D, \tilde{v}(t^k, \tilde{x}_D)) - \Delta t F(t^k + \tau \Delta t, x_D, v(t^k, x_D))| \end{aligned}$$

Using the Lipschitz-condition of F yields

$$|\tilde{v}(t^{k+1}, x_A) - v(t^{k+1}, x_A)| \leq |\tilde{v}(t^k, x_D) - v(t^k, x_D)| + (\Delta t)^2 \tau L \\ + \Delta t \tau L |\tilde{x}_D - x_D| + \Delta t L |\tilde{v}(t^k, \tilde{x}_D) - v(t^k, x_D)|$$

Using (4) gives

$$|\tilde{v}(t^{k+1}, x_A) - v(t^{k+1}, x_A)| \leq |\tilde{v}(t^k, x_D) - v(t^k, x_D)| + (\Delta t)^2 \tau L \\ + \Delta t \tau L |\tilde{v}(t^k, \tilde{x}_D) - v(t^k, x_D)| \\ + \tau \sigma |\eta| (\Delta t)^2 L |F(t_k + \sigma \eta \Delta t, x_D, v(t_k, x_D))| + \\ \Delta t |\tilde{v}(t^k, \tilde{x}_D) - v(t^k, x_D)|$$

Next we define for any n

$$e_n := \max_x |\tilde{v}(t^n, x) - v(t^n, x)|$$

where the maximum is taken over all grid-points. Using this and the bound of F in above estimate gives

$$|\tilde{v}(t^{k+1}, x_A) - v(t^{k+1}, x_A)| \leq e_k + (\Delta t)^2 \tau L + \Delta t \tau L \\ e_k + \tau \sigma |\eta| (\Delta t)^2 L M + \Delta t e_k$$

Note, how we have used (1) since x_D is not a grid point. Since x_A was chosen arbitrarily and the r.h.s does not depend on any grid-point, we obtain by taking the maximum over all grid-points

$$e_{k+1} \leq e_k + (\Delta t)^2 \tau L + \Delta t \tau L e_k + \tau \sigma |\eta| (\Delta t)^2 L M + \Delta t e_k$$

The remaining part is a very standard argument used in convergence proofs for ODE's. We arrived at an estimate of the form

$$e_{k+1} \leq (1 + \alpha \Delta t) e_k + \beta (\Delta t)^2$$

The r.h.s can be transformed into

$$(1 + \alpha \Delta t) \left(\frac{\beta \Delta t}{\alpha} + e_k \right) - \frac{\beta \Delta t}{\alpha}$$

So we obtain

$$e_{k+1} + \frac{\beta\Delta t}{\alpha} \leq (1 + \alpha\Delta t) \left(\frac{\beta\Delta t}{\alpha} + e_k \right)$$

and by estimating $1 + \alpha\Delta t \leq \exp(\alpha\Delta t)$

$$e_{k+1} + \frac{\beta\Delta t}{\alpha} \leq \exp(\alpha\Delta t) \left(\frac{\beta\Delta t}{\alpha} + e_k \right)$$

We further can apply this later estimate recursively on its r.h.s to get

$$e_{k+1} + \frac{\beta\Delta t}{\alpha} \leq \exp((k+1)\alpha\Delta t) \left(\frac{\beta\Delta t}{\alpha} + e_0 \right)$$

By using $(k+1)\Delta t \leq T$, this finally yields

$$e_{k+1} \leq \exp(T\alpha) \left(\frac{\beta\Delta t}{\alpha} + e_0 \right) - \frac{\beta\Delta t}{\alpha}$$

This shows, for any $n > 0$, $e_n \rightarrow 0$ when $\Delta t \rightarrow 0$ and $e_0 \rightarrow 0$. Note, the convergence of e_0 to 0, by definition of e_0 , depends on the spacial resolution Δx . Altogether this shows, \tilde{v} approaches the true v when $\Delta t, \Delta x$ approach 0.