

① Heat Equation in One dimension:

$$\partial_t u = \alpha^2 \partial_{xx} u, \quad \text{--- ①}$$

$$\text{where, } \alpha^2 = \frac{K}{\rho c},$$

where K is the coefficient of conductivity of the material, ρ is the density and c is the specific heat.

In the sequel, we shall discuss finite difference approximations to ①.

Finite-difference Approximations

We divide the (x, t) plane into smaller rectangles by means of the sets of lines,

$$\begin{cases} x = ih, & i = 0, 1, 2, \dots \\ y = kl, & k = 0, 1, 2, \dots \end{cases}$$

where, $h = \Delta x$, $l = \Delta t$, denoting

$u(ih, kl) = u_i^k$, we have

$$\partial_t u \approx \frac{u_i^{k+1} - u_i^k}{l} \quad \text{--- ②}$$

$$\text{and, } \partial_{xx} u \approx \frac{1}{h^2} (u_{i-1}^k - 2u_i^k + u_{i+1}^k) \quad \text{--- ③}$$

[Recall we have obtained ③ before by Taylor Expansion]

② Hence (1) is replaced by the finite difference analogue,

$$\frac{u_i^{K+1} - u_i^K}{\Delta t} = \alpha^2 \frac{u_{i-1}^K - 2u_i^K + u_{i+1}^K}{h^2},$$

which simplifies to,

$$u_i^{K+1} = \lambda u_{i-1}^K + u_{i+1}^K + (1-2\lambda)u_i^K, \quad \text{--- (4)}$$

where

$$\lambda = \frac{\alpha^2 \Delta t}{h^2}. \quad \text{--- (5)}$$

In (4), u_i^{K+1} is expressed explicitly in terms of u_{i-1}^K , u_{i+1}^K and u_i^K .

Hence it is called the explicit formula for solution of one-dimensional heat equation.

It can be shown that eqn (4) approximates

① only when $0 < \lambda \leq 1/2$, which is called the stability condition for the explicit formulae.

If we set, $\lambda = 1/2$ in (4), we obtain the simple formulae,

$$u_i^{K+1} = \frac{1}{2} (u_{i-1}^K + u_{i+1}^K) \quad \text{--- (6)}$$

③ which is called Bender-Schmidt recurrence formulae. It is clear that ④ and ⑤ have limited applications because of the restriction on the values of λ .

A formulae which does not have any restriction on λ is that due to Crank and Nicolson.

In eqⁿ ④ ~~it replaces~~, if we replace $\partial_{xx} u$ by the average of its finite difference approximations on the K th and $(K+1)$ th time levels, we obtain

$$\partial_{xx} u = \frac{1}{2h^2} \left(u_{i-1}^K - 2u_i^K + u_{i+1}^K + u_{i-1}^{K+1} - 2u_i^{K+1} + u_{i+1}^{K+1} \right).$$

Hence, eqⁿ ① is approximated by,

$$\frac{u_i^{K+1} - u_i^K}{\Delta t} = \frac{\alpha^2}{2h^2} \left(u_{i-1}^K - 2u_i^K + u_{i+1}^K + u_{i-1}^{K+1} - 2u_i^{K+1} + u_{i+1}^{K+1} \right)$$

which simplifies to,

$$\begin{aligned} & -\lambda u_{i-1}^{K+1} + (2 + 2\lambda) u_i^{K+1} - \lambda u_{i+1}^{K+1} - \lambda u_{i-1}^K + (2 - 2\lambda) u_i^K + \lambda u_{i+1}^K \\ & = \lambda u_{i-1}^K + (2 - 2\lambda) u_i^K + \lambda u_{i+1}^K \end{aligned}$$

⑦

④

On the left side of ⑦ we have three unknowns and on the right, all quantities are known.

This is called Crank-Nicolson formula for the one-dimensional heat equation and it is an implicit formula.

It is convergent for all finite values of Δ . If there are N internal mesh points on each time row, then eqn ⑦ gives N simultaneous eqns for the N unknowns. In a similar way, values of u on all time rows can be calculated.

Example: Use the Bender-Schmidt formulae to solve the heat conduction problem:

$$\partial_t u = \frac{1}{2} \partial_{xx} u$$

with the conditions $u(x, 0) = 4x - x^2$
and $u(0, t) = u(4, t) = 0$.

Setting, $h = 1$, we see that $\Delta = 1$ when $\alpha = 1/2$.

Let us now compute the following initial values,

$$\begin{aligned} u(0, 0) &= 0, & u(1, 0) &= 3, \\ u(2, 0) &= 4, & u(3, 0) &= 3, \\ \text{and } u(4, 0) &= 0. \end{aligned}$$

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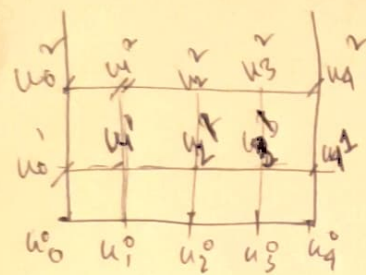
1-D wave equation problem

Further,

$$u(0,t) = u(4,t) = 0.$$

For $l=1$ (i.e. unit time)

For $l=1$, Bender-Schmidt formula gives,



$$u_1^1 = \frac{1}{2}(0 + 4) = 2, \quad (= \frac{1}{2}(u_0^0 + u_2^0))$$

$$u_2^1 = \frac{1}{2}(3 + 3) = 3, \quad (= \frac{1}{2}(u_1^0 + u_3^0))$$

$$u_3^1 = \frac{1}{2}(4 + 0) = 2, \quad (= \frac{1}{2}(u_2^0 + u_4^0))$$

Similarly, for $l=2$, we obtain,

$$u_1^2 = \frac{1}{2}(u_0^1 + u_2^1) = \frac{1}{2}(0 + 3) = 1.5$$

$$u_2^2 = \frac{1}{2}(2 + 2) = 2,$$

$$u_3^2 = \frac{1}{2}(3 + 0) = 1.5.$$

Continuing in this way, we obtain,

$$u_1^3 = 1, \quad u_2^3 = 1.5, \quad u_3^3 = 1,$$

$$u_1^4 = 0.75, \quad u_2^4 = 1, \quad u_3^4 = 0.75,$$

$$u_1^5 = 0.5, \quad u_2^5 = 0.75, \quad u_3^5 = 0.5,$$

and so on.

Example Solve the heat equation problem

$$\partial_t u = \partial_{xx} u \quad \text{--- (8)}$$

subject to the conditions $u(x, 0) = \sin \pi x$, $0 \leq x \leq 1$, and $u(0, t) = u(1, t) = 0$. Use Bender-Schmidt's and Crank-Nicolson to compute the value of $u(0.6, 0.04)$ and compare the results with the exact value.

Exact value:

We know solⁿ of

$$\begin{cases} \partial_t u = \partial_{xx} u & \text{in } (0, l) \times (0, \infty) \\ u(0, t) = 0 = u(l, t) & \text{for } t > 0 \\ u(x, 0) = f(x) & 0 < x < l \end{cases}$$

is given as, (recall Problem set II)

$$u(x, t) = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \beta_k \sin\left(\frac{k\pi x}{l}\right) e^{-\alpha^2 \pi^2 k^2 t / l^2} \quad \text{--- (*)}$$

$$\text{with } \beta_k = \frac{2}{l} \int_0^l f(x) \sin \frac{k\pi x}{l} dx$$

$$\text{Here } u(x, 0) = \sin \pi x = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \beta_k \sin\left(\frac{k\pi x}{l}\right)$$

$$(\text{a}) \quad k = 1$$

and further for $k > 1$, verify that $\beta_k = 0$ and hence exact solution of (8) is

$$u(x, t) = e^{-\pi^2 t} \sin \pi x,$$

so the exact value of $u(0.6, 0.04)$ is 0.6408.

(7)

(a) Bender-Schmidt formulae.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Let, } h &= 0.2, \text{ Then, } u = \lambda h^2 \\ &= \frac{1}{2} (0.04) \\ &= 0.02. \end{aligned}$$

The initial values of u are.

$$u_0^0 = 0, \quad u_1^0 = \sin(\pi \cdot 0.2) = 0.5878,$$

$$u_2^0 = \sin(\pi \cdot 0.4) = 0.9510,$$

$$u_3^0 = \sin(\pi \cdot 0.6) = 0.9510,$$

$$u_4^0 = \sin(\pi \cdot 0.8) = 0.5878$$

$$u_5^0 = \sin(\pi) = 0.$$

The Bender-Schmidt formulae gives,

$$u_1^1 = \frac{1}{2} (0 + 0.9510) = 0.4755$$

$$u_2^1 = \frac{1}{2} (0.5878 + 0.9510) = 0.7694,$$

$$u_3^1 = \frac{1}{2} (0.9510 + 0.5878) = 0.7694,$$

$$u_4^1 = \frac{1}{2} (0.9510 + 0) = 0.4755$$

Similarly calculate,

$$u_1^2 = \frac{1}{2} (0.7694) = 0.3847$$

$$u_2^2 = 0.62245, \quad u_3^2 = 0.62245$$

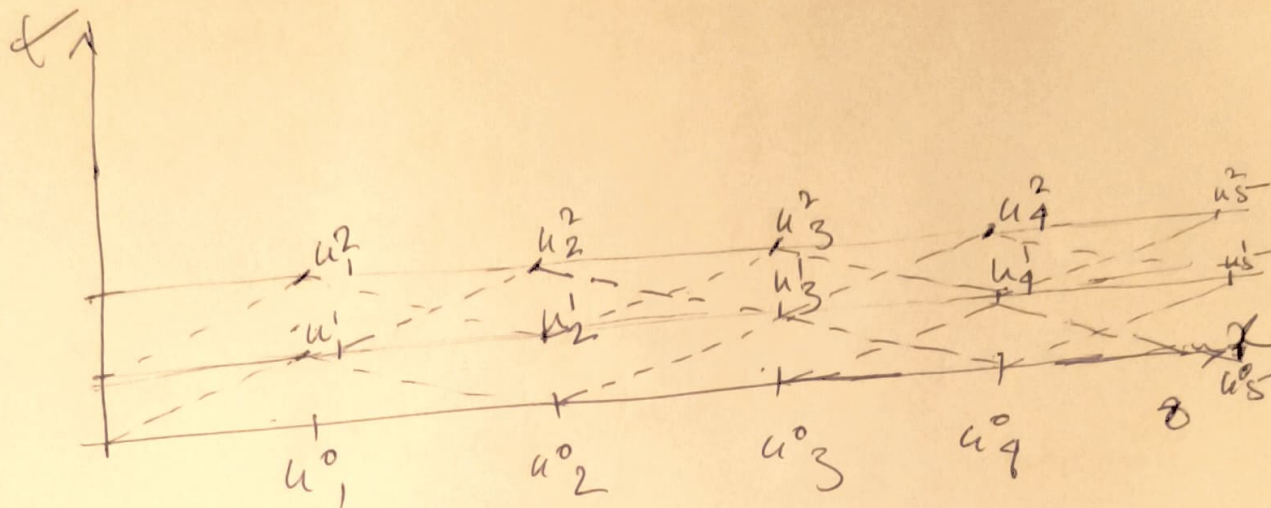
$$u_4^2 = 0.3847.$$

⑧

Therefore,

$$u(0.6, 0.04) = u_3^2 = 0.6224,$$

the error in which is 0.0184.



Crank-Nicolson formula

Let $h = 0.2$ and $\Delta t = 0.04$

(i) $\lambda = 1$.

For, $\lambda = 1$, Crank-Nicolson formula becomes,

$$-u_{i-1}^{k+1} + 4u_i^{k+1} - u_{i+1}^{k+1} = u_{i-1}^k + u_{i+1}^k \quad \text{--- (8)}$$

Putting, $k=0$ in (i), we obtain,

$$-u_{i-1}^1 + 4u_i^1 - u_{i+1}^1 = u_{i-1}^0 + u_{i+1}^0 \quad \text{--- (9)}$$

① Corresponding to $i=1, 2, 3$, and 4 we obtain the four equations,

$$4u'_1 - u'_2 = 0.9510,$$

$$-u'_1 + 4u'_2 - u'_3 = 1.5388,$$

$$-u'_2 + 4u'_3 - u'_4 = 1.5388,$$

$$-u'_3 + 4u'_4 = 0.9510.$$

By symmetry, we have,

$$u'_1 = u'_4 \text{ and } u'_2 = u'_3$$

Solving the above system, we obtain,

$$u'_2 = u'_3 = 0.6460.$$

Hence, $u(0.6, 0.09) \approx 0.6460$,
the error in which is 0.0052 .

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Iterative methods for the solution of heat equation

Recall that in Crank-Nicolson method, the PDE,

$$\partial_t u = \partial_{xx} u$$

is replaced by the finite-difference equation,

$$(1+\lambda) u_{i,j+1} = u_{ij} + \frac{1}{2} \lambda (u_{i+1,j+1} + u_{i+1,j} + u_{i-1,j} - 2u_{ij}) \quad (10)$$

Here simply the notation u_i^k is replaced by u_{ij}

where, $\lambda = \frac{\kappa}{h^2}$.

In eqⁿ (10), the unknowns are u_{ij+1} , $u_{i+1,j+1}$ and $u_{i+1,j}$ and all others are known since they were already computed at the j th step. Hence dropping the j 's and setting,

$$C_i = u_{ij} + \frac{1}{2} \lambda (u_{i-1,j} - 2u_{ij} + u_{i+1,j}) \quad (11)$$

Eqⁿ (10) can be written as,

$$u_i = \frac{\lambda}{2(1+\lambda)} (u_{i-1} + u_{i+1}) + \frac{C_i}{2\lambda} \quad (12)$$

⑪ From eqⁿ (12), we obtain the iteration formula,

$$u_i^{n+1} = \frac{\lambda}{2(1+\lambda)} \left[u_{i-1}^n + u_{i+1}^n \right] + \frac{C_i}{1+\lambda},$$

(13)

which expresses the $(n+1)$ th iterate in terms of the n th iterate only, and is known as Jacobi's formulae.

It can be seen from eqⁿ (13) that at time of computing u_i^{n+1} , the latest value of u_{i-1} , namely u_{i-1}^{n+1} is already available. Hence the convergence of Jacobi's iteration formulae can be improved by replacing u_{i-1}^n in formulae given in (13) by its latest value available, namely by u_{i-1}^{n+1} . Accordingly, we obtain the formulae,

$$u_i^{n+1} = \frac{\lambda}{2(1+\lambda)} \left[u_{i-1}^{n+1} + u_{i+1}^n \right] + \frac{C_i}{1+\lambda}$$

(14)

which is called the Gauss-Seidel iteration formulae. It can be shown that (14) converges for all finite values of λ and that it converges twice as fast as Jacobi's scheme.

(12)

Eqⁿ (14) can be written as

$$u_i^{n+1} = u_i^n + \left\{ u_i^n \right\}$$

$$u_i^{n+1} = u_i^n + \left\{ \frac{\lambda}{2(1+\lambda)} [u_{i-1}^{n+1} + u_{i+1}^n] + \frac{c_i}{1+\lambda} - u_i^n \right\}.$$

(15)

from which it is clear that the expression within the curly brackets is the difference between the n th and $(n+1)$ th iterates.

Motivated by (15) we introduce the following iterative formulae.

$$u_i^{n+1} = u_i^n + \omega \left\{ \frac{\lambda}{2(1+\lambda)} [u_{i-1}^{n+1} + u_{i+1}^n] + \frac{c_i}{1+\lambda} - u_i^n \right\}$$

(16)

which is called the successive over-relaxation (or SOR) method. ω is called the relaxation factor and it lies, generally between 1 and 2.

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Example:

$$\partial_t u = \partial_{xx} u.$$

subject to the initial condition,

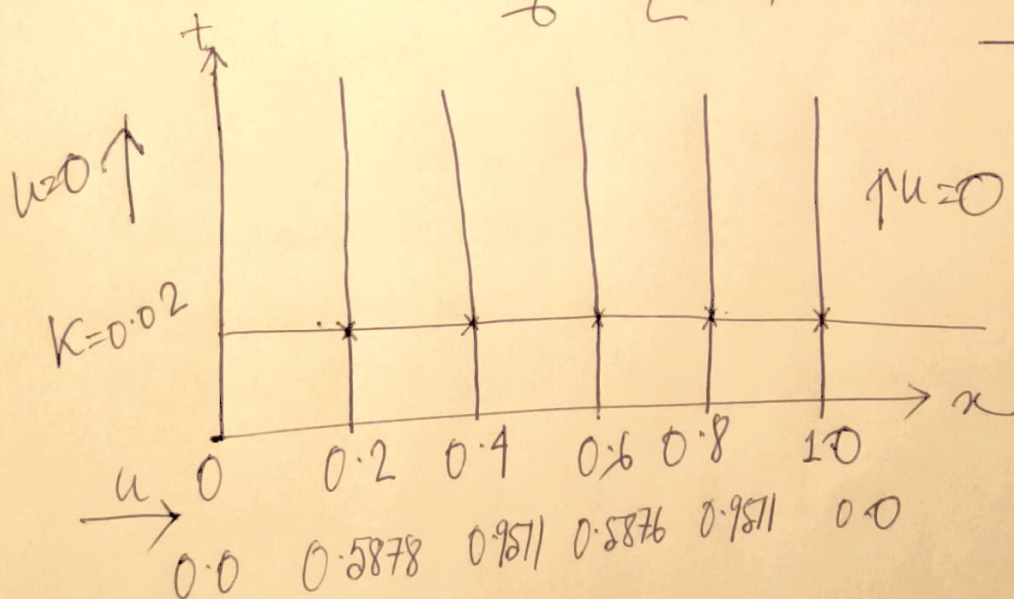
$$u = \sin \pi x \text{ at } t=0 \text{ for } 0 \leq x \leq 1$$

and $u=0$ at $x=0$ and $x=1$, for $t>0$
by the Gauss-Seidel method.

We choose $h=0.2$ and $K=0.02$ so that

$$\lambda = \frac{K}{h^2} = \frac{1}{2}. \quad \text{Eqn (14) therefore becomes,}$$

$$u_i^{n+1} = \frac{1}{6} \left[u_{i-1}^{n+1} + u_{i+1}^n \right] + \frac{2}{3} u_i^n$$



Wave Equation

The wave equation is defined by the boundary value problem,

$$\partial_t u = c^2 \partial_{xx} u \quad \text{--- (17)}$$

with the boundary conditions,

$$\left. \begin{aligned} u(x, 0) &= f(x) \\ \partial_t u(x, 0) &= \phi(x) \\ u(0, t) &= \psi_1(t) \\ u(1, t) &= \psi_2(t) \end{aligned} \right\} \quad \text{--- (18)}$$

for, $0 \leq t \leq T$.

This equation is of hyperbolic type and models the transverse vibration of a stretched string. As earlier, we use the following difference approximations for the derivatives,

$$\partial_{xx} u = \frac{1}{h^2} \left(u_{i-1}^k - 2u_i^k + u_{i+1}^k \right) + O(h^2) \quad \text{--- (19)}$$

$$\text{and } \partial_t u = \frac{1}{\tau^2} \left(u_i^{k-1} - 2u_i^k + u_i^{k+1} \right) + O(\tau^2) \quad \text{--- (20)}$$

where, $x = ih$, $t = k\tau$
and $u(x, t) = u(ih, k\tau) = u_i^k$.

Further, $\partial_t u(x, t)$ is approximated by,

$$\partial_t u(x, t) = \frac{u_i^{K+1} - u_i^{K-1}}{2\ell} + O(\ell^2) \quad (21)$$

Substituting from eq's (19) and (20) in (17), we obtain,

$$\frac{1}{\ell^2} (u_i^{K-1} - 2u_i^K + u_i^{K+1}) = \frac{c^2}{h^2} (u_{i-1}^K - 2u_i^K + u_{i+1}^K)$$

Setting, $\alpha = \frac{c\ell}{h}$ in the above and rearranging the terms, we have

$$u_i^{K+1} = -u_i^{K-1} + \alpha^2 (u_{i-1}^K + u_{i+1}^K) + 2(1 - \alpha^2)u_i^K \quad (22)$$

Eqⁿ (22) shows that the function values at the K th and $(K-1)$ th time levels are required to determine those at the $(K+1)$ th time level. Such difference schemes are called three level difference schemes compared to the two level schemes derived in the parabolic case.

Formula (22) holds good if $\alpha < 1$, which is the condition for stability.

Example

Solve the eqⁿ $\partial_t^2 u = \partial_{xx} u$ subject to the following conditions

$$u(0,t) = 0, u(1,t) = 0, t > 0,$$

and $\partial_t u(x,0) = 0, u(x,0) = \sin^3(\pi x),$
 $0 < x \leq 1.$

This problem has an exact solution given by,

$$u(x,t) = \frac{3}{4} \sin \pi x \cos \pi t - \frac{1}{4} \sin 3\pi x \sin 3\pi t.$$

Let $h = 0.25$ and $N = 0.2.$

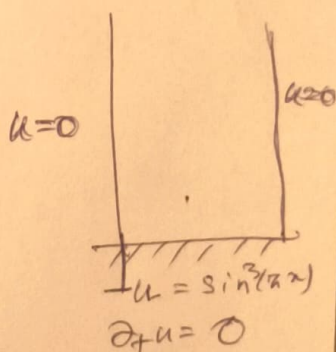
Then, $\alpha = 0.8 < 1.$

The given conditions are,

$$u_0^K = 0, u_4^K = 0$$

$$u_i^0 = \sin^3(\pi i h).$$

$$i = 1, 2, 3, 4$$



Also by divided difference,

$$\frac{\partial u(x,0)}{\partial t} = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow u_i^1 - u_i^{-1} = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow u_i^{-1} = u_i^1.$$

$$\begin{array}{c} u_i^1 \\ \vdots \\ u_i^{-1} \end{array}$$

With $\alpha = 0.8$, the explicit formula becomes,

$$u_i^{K+1} = -u_i^{K-1} + 0.64(u_{i-1}^K + u_{i+1}^K) + 2(0.36)u_i^K.$$

Setting, $K=0$, the above gives:

$$u_i^1 = -u_i^{-1} + 0.64(u_{i-1}^0 + u_{i+1}^0) + 0.72u_i^0$$

$$\Rightarrow u_i^1 = 0.32(u_{i-1}^0 + u_{i+1}^0) + 0.36u_i^0$$

$$\text{since, } u_i^{-1} = u_i^1.$$

Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned} u_1^1 &= 0.32(u_0^0 + u_2^0) + 0.36u_1^0 \\ &= 0.32(0 + 1) + 0.36u_1^0 \end{aligned}$$

$$\left[\text{Since, } u_2^0 = \sin^3(\pi \cdot \frac{1}{2}) = 1 \right]$$

$$\begin{aligned} &= 0.32(\\ &= 0.32 + 0.36(\underbrace{0.3537}_{\sin^3(\frac{\pi}{4})}) \end{aligned}$$

$$= 0.4473 \quad (\text{error} = 0.0365)$$

$$\text{Similarly, } u_2^1 = 0.5867 \quad (\text{error} = 0.0571)$$

$$\text{and } u_3^1 = 0.4473 \quad (\text{error} = 0.0365)$$

The computations can be continued for, $K=1, 2, \dots$