

## Assignment #4

**Due Friday, 21 February 2025, at the start of class**

Please read sections 2.12–2.18 and 3.1–3.7 from the textbook.<sup>1</sup> You don't need to read 2.19–2.21, as there will be no homework or exam questions on that material. (However, it is cool stuff, especially spectral methods!)

**Problem P15.** *Nonlinear pendulum.* Write a program to solve the BVP for the nonlinear pendulum as discussed in the text, i.e. problem (2.77), using the Newton iteration strategy outlined in subsection 2.16.1. Reproduce Figures 2.4(b) and 2.5, for which  $T = 2\pi$  and  $\alpha = \beta = 0.7$ .

**Problem P16.** *A boundary layer.* Recall the ODE BVPs from **P12** on Assignment #3:

$$u''(x) + p(x)u'(x) + q(x)u(x) = f(x), \quad u(a) = \alpha, \quad u(b) = \beta.$$

**(a)** Consider the case  $a = 0, b = 1, \alpha = 1, \beta = 0, p(x) = -30, q(x) = 0$ , and  $f(x) = 0$ . Confirm that the exact solution to this problem is

$$u(x) = 1 - \frac{1 - e^{30x}}{1 - e^{30}}.$$

**(b)** Solve the problem in part **(a)** numerically using centered finite differences,  $h = 1/(m+1)$  equal spacing, and  $m = 3, 5, 10, 20, 50, 200, 1000$  interior points. Put all these numerical solutions, and also the exact solution from **(a)**, on one figure. Make sure to apply decent labeling to your figure, using `legend` or similar. (There is no need to start from scratch on this code! Modify an existing, working code. Mention/cite what you started from.)

**(c)** You should observe that the solutions for small values of  $m$  are poor, but that the high  $m$  solutions basically agree with the exact solution. Why do you think that small  $m$  values are qualitatively problematic here, though they are not for the problem solved in section 2.4? Write a couple of paragraphs about the situation, exploiting section 2.17 and/or wikipedia pages. (Hint. Observe that the exact solution in part **(a)** mostly does not “feel” one of the boundary conditions. Also consider the  $p = +30$  case, with other data the same; address how the exact solution works in that case. What is the exact solution to the reduced equation  $pu' = 0$  and what boundary conditions does it need?)

**Problem P17.** (Poisson equation on the unit square.)

**(a)** Based on the ideas in sections 3.1–3.3, namely centered finite differences, write a MATLAB/etc. code that solves Poisson equation (3.5) on the unit square  $0 \leq x \leq 1, 0 \leq y \leq 1$ , with zero Dirichlet boundary conditions. Allow the user to set the function

<sup>1</sup>R. J. LeVeque, *Finite Difference Methods for Ordinary and Partial Diff. Eqns.*, SIAM Press 2007

$f(x, y)$ . For simplicity, and notational consistency with the book and my solutions, please use equally-spaced grids, with  $\Delta x = \Delta y = h = 1/(m + 1)$ , where  $m$  is the number of interior grid points in each direction. You may, as usual, use MATLAB's backslash, or equivalent, to solve the linear system. Feel free to start from an existing code, but identify the source.

**(b)** Use MATLAB's `spy`, or similar, to show the sparsity pattern of the matrix  $A^h$  for  $m = 5$ . Also confirm, in that  $m = 5$  case, that the matrix has the form shown by equation (3.12).

**(c)** Find an appropriate nonzero exact solution that allows you to verify that the code converges at the theoretically-expected rate in the 2-norm. That is, show that  $\|E^h\|_2 \rightarrow 0$ , as  $h \rightarrow 0$ , at the rate  $O(h^2)$ .