

Project 5, FYS4150

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December 7, 2012

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1 About the problem

In this project we will look at the transportation of neurotransmitter molecules across the so called synaptic cleft separating a brain cell and a target cell. After an “action-potential” is recieved (in the axon terminal) vesicles inside the axon terminal merge with the presynaptic membrane, releasing the neurotransmitter molecules into the synaptic cleft. A vesicle is a kind of “bubble” inside a cell. Here we are talking about vesicles containing neurotransmitter molecules located in the axon (or nerve fibers) of a brain cell. The molecules then diffuse across the synaptic cleft, and are picked up by receptors on the target cell (or the postsynaptic side of the synaptic cleft if you want). We want to modell this particular event using a continuum modell, and the mathematical expression is the diffusion equation.

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} = D \nabla^2 u$$

Where D is a diffusion coefficient. An illustrative figure of the problem can be found in figure (1).

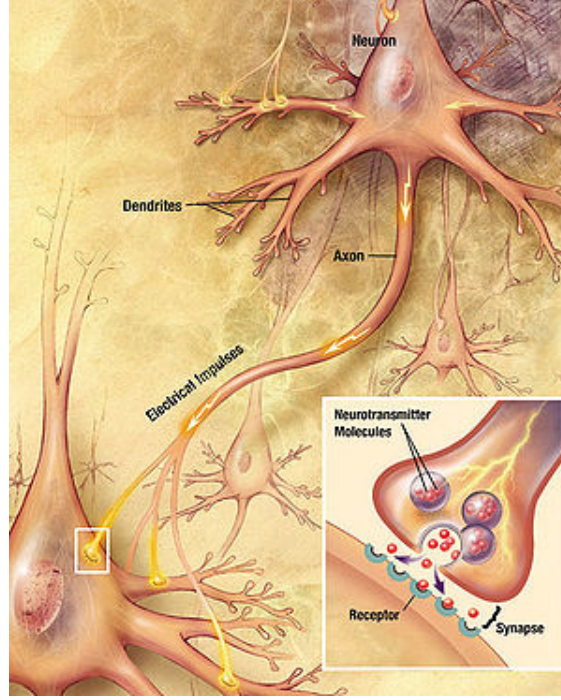


Figure 1: Illustration of communication between two brain cells and a close-up of the synaptic cleft separating the axon (presynaptic side) and the target cell (postsynaptic side). (From wikipedia search Chemical synapse)

We will assume that the synaptic cleft is of roughly equal width, and that the area of the synaptic cleft is large compared to its width. The concentration of neurotransmitters therefore only vary in one direction, from presynaptic to postsynaptic side. The diffusion equation then reduces to

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} = D \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2}$$

which we can rescale to be dimensionless by introducing $x = \alpha \tilde{x}$

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} = D \frac{\partial^2 u}{\alpha^2 \partial \tilde{x}^2}$$

and define $\alpha^2 = D$; $\tilde{x} = x$ giving us the diffusion equation in its simplest form.

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} = \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2}$$

We will say that at some time $t = 0$ the “action potential” is recieved, and the vesicles merge with the presynaptic membrane meaning that the initial distribution of neurotransmitters is $u(x, 0) = \delta(x)$, that is 1 at $x = 0$ and 0 everywhere else. Furthermore we say that the neurotransmitters which reach the postsynaptic membrane (or the receptors) are removed from the synaptic cleft (and our system). This means that at the far side ($x = d$) $u(d, t) = 0$. We are now ready to solve the equation, see sections 2 and 3.

We will also extend the diffusion equation to two spatial dimensions, also using dimensionless variables. The

boundary and initial conditions of the two dimensional equation are quite different from the one dimensional case. We use $x, y \in [0, 1]$,

$$u(x, y, 0) = (1 - y)e^x$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} u(0, y, t) &= (1 - y)e^t \\ u(1, y, t) &= (1 - y)e^{1+t} \\ u(x, 0, t) &= e^{x+t} \\ u(x, 1, t) &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

1.1 Notation

For finite differences I will use the notation

$$u(t_n, x_i, y_j) = u_{i,j}^n$$

where $t_n = t_0 + n \cdot \Delta t$, $x_i = x_0 + i \cdot \Delta x$ and $y_j = y_0 + j \cdot \Delta y$. Thus it is important not to confuse u^n (u to the power of n) with $u_{i,j}^n$ (u evaluated at timestep n and position i, j). I will at some points use the matrix B to simplify writing. B is defined to be

$$B = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & -1 & 0 & \dots & 0 & 0 \\ -1 & 2 & -1 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots & & 0 \\ 0 & \dots & & 0 & -1 & 2 & -1 \\ 0 & \dots & & & 0 & -1 & 2 \end{pmatrix}$$

2 The algorithm

We will solve the 1+1 dimensional diffusion equation by three different finite difference schemes in this project. Using the standard approximation of the second derivative in space, we use successively more elaborate approximations to the time derivative.

2.1 Forward Euler

Starting off with the Forward Euler (FE) approximation we get the following scheme

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{u_i^{n+1} - u_i^n}{\Delta t} &= \frac{u_{i+1}^n - 2u_i^n + u_{i-1}^n}{\Delta x^2} \\ u_i^{n+1} &= \frac{\Delta t}{\Delta x^2} (u_{i+1}^n - 2u_i^n + u_{i-1}^n) + u_i^n \end{aligned} \quad (1)$$

So to solve the equation all we have to do is loop over the two variables and we are done.

```
for n = 0, 1, ..., N
  for i = 0, 1, ..., N_x
    u_new[i] = dt/dx2*(u_prev[i+1]-2*u_prev[i] + u_prev[i-1]) + u_prev[i];
  u_prev = u_new;
end;
```

A discussion of stability and the error in this scheme can be found in the “Stability and precision” section.

2.2 Backward Euler

The Backward Euler (BE) approximation gives us a slightly more elaborate scheme seeing at it is an implicit one. The discretization gives

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{u_i^n - u_i^{n-1}}{\Delta t} &= \frac{u_{i+1}^n - 2u_i^n + u_{i-1}^n}{\Delta x^2} \\ u_i^n - \frac{\Delta t}{\Delta x^2} (u_{i+1}^n - 2u_i^n + u_{i-1}^n) &= u_i^{n-1} \\ u_i^n \left(1 + 2\frac{\Delta t}{\Delta x^2}\right) - u_{i-1}^n \frac{\Delta t}{\Delta x^2} - u_{i+1}^n \frac{\Delta t}{\Delta x^2} &= u_i^{n-1} \end{aligned}$$

If we insert for a few steps we see that this takes the form of

$$\begin{pmatrix} \left(1 + 2\frac{\Delta t}{\Delta x^2}\right) & -\frac{\Delta t}{\Delta x^2} & 0 & \dots & 0 & 0 \\ -\frac{\Delta t}{\Delta x^2} & \left(1 + 2\frac{\Delta t}{\Delta x^2}\right) & -\frac{\Delta t}{\Delta x^2} & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots & 0 & \dots \\ 0 & \dots & 0 & -\frac{\Delta t}{\Delta x^2} & \left(1 + 2\frac{\Delta t}{\Delta x^2}\right) & -\frac{\Delta t}{\Delta x^2} \\ 0 & \dots & 0 & -\frac{\Delta t}{\Delta x^2} & \left(1 + 2\frac{\Delta t}{\Delta x^2}\right) & -\frac{\Delta t}{\Delta x^2} \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{u}^n = \mathbf{u}^{n-1} \quad (2)$$

$$\mathbf{A}\mathbf{u}^n = \mathbf{u}^{n-1}$$

So for each timestep we need to multiply the inverse of \mathbf{A} with a vector \mathbf{u}^{n-1} containing the solution at the previous timestep. Looking a bit closer at equation (2) we realize two things. First of all, the matrix \mathbf{A} doesn't change at all throughout the computation so we can get away with invertig it once. Second, and perhaps more important, we allready have a very efficient solver for this kind of problem from project 1.

A discussion of stability and the error in this scheme can be found in the "Stability and precision" section.

2.3 Crank Nicolson

Finally, we can use the Crank Nicolson approximation of the time derivative which is a special case of the so called theta -rule with $\theta = 0.5$.

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{u_i^n - u_i^{n-1}}{\Delta t} &= \frac{1}{2\Delta x^2} (u_{i+1}^n - 2u_i^n + u_{i-1}^n) + \frac{1}{2\Delta x^2} (u_{i+1}^{n-1} - 2u_i^{n-1} + u_{i-1}^{n-1}) \\ u_i^n - \frac{\Delta t}{2\Delta x^2} (u_{i+1}^n - 2u_i^n + u_{i-1}^n) &= u_i^{n-1} + \frac{\Delta t}{2\Delta x^2} (u_{i+1}^{n-1} - 2u_i^{n-1} + u_{i-1}^{n-1}) \\ u_i^n (2 + 2C) - Cu_{i+1}^n - Cu_{i-1}^n &= u_i^{n-1} (2 - 2C) + Cu_{i+1}^{n-1} + Cu_{i-1}^{n-1} \end{aligned}$$

where $C = \frac{\Delta t}{\Delta x^2}$. This can also be expressed as a linear algebra problem

$$(2\mathbf{I} + C\mathbf{B})\mathbf{u}^n = (2\mathbf{I} - C\mathbf{B})\mathbf{u}^{n-1} \quad (3)$$

Again we observe that we will need to invert a matrix, but this time we will also need to do a matrix-vector multiplication.

$$\begin{aligned} (2\mathbf{I} + C\mathbf{B})\mathbf{u}^n &= (2\mathbf{I} - C\mathbf{B})\mathbf{u}^{n-1} = \tilde{\mathbf{u}}^{n-1} \\ \mathbf{u}^n &= (2\mathbf{I} + C\mathbf{B})^{-1} \tilde{\mathbf{u}}^{n-1} \end{aligned}$$

This is the same problem as we had in the BE case, only with a modified right-hand side

2.4 2+1 dimensional diffusion equation

The Jacobi algorithm for solving linear systems is an iterative scheme very well suited for solving the Poisson and Laplace equations in 2 or 3 dimensions. If we breiefly look at the discretization of the Laplace equation in 2D (4) we see that there is no obvious way to solve for a new point since we do not know 3 out of 5 points needed to calculate a new one. The solution is then (since there is no initial condition either) to start out with an educated guess, and use the scheeme (5) point by point on the entire grid several times until the solution (hopefully) converges.

$$\begin{aligned} \nabla^2 u(x, y) &= 0 \\ \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial y^2} &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

$$\frac{u_{i+1,j} - 2u_{i,j} + u_{i-1,j}}{\Delta x^2} + \frac{u_{i,j+1} - 2u_{i,j} + u_{i,j-1}}{\Delta y^2} = 0 \quad (4)$$

$$u_{i,j} = \frac{1}{4} (u_{i-1,j} + u_{i+1,j} + u_{i,j-1} + u_{i,j+1}) \quad (5)$$

Where we have assumed that $\Delta x = \Delta y$. Seeing as we have a time dependence, we also have an initial condition on our system. Therefore we allready know all values at previous timesteps (since the sceme is recursive), and

we do not have to start with a guess of what the solution might look like. In stead, but still with the mentality of the Jacobi algorithm of using the previous value to get the new one, we can simply derive an explicit scheme by inserting our approximate derivatives. For example if we approximate the time derivative using the FE method we get

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

$$u_{i,j}^{n+1} = \frac{\Delta t}{\Delta x^2} (u_{i+1,j}^n - 2u_{i,j}^n + u_{i-1,j}^n) + \frac{\Delta t}{\Delta y^2} (u_{i,j+1}^n - 2u_{i,j}^n + u_{i,j-1}^n) + u_{i,j}^n$$

This is the same scheme as in 1 only with one more dimension. As we will see in the “stability and precision” section the centered difference or “Leap Frog” scheme has a better truncation error with respect to time than the FE scheme, and this will therefore (most likely) yield better results. The Leap Frog scheme is

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

$$u_{i,j}^{n+1} = \frac{\Delta t}{2\Delta x^2} (u_{i+1,j}^n - 2u_{i,j}^n + u_{i-1,j}^n) + \frac{\Delta t}{2\Delta y^2} (u_{i,j+1}^n - 2u_{i,j}^n + u_{i,j-1}^n) + u_{i,j}^{n-1}$$

We could also make an explicit scheme by the mentality in the Gauss-Seidel algorithm. That is to use some of the new values to get a new value. In one dimension this is known as the Euler-Cromer method and is known to be quite good for its simplicity. If we look closer at the FE or Leap Frog scheme we notice that we already know the values $u_{i-1,j}^{n+1}$ and $u_{i,j-1}^{n+1}$. Using these values might give us better accuracy (at least compared to the FE case)

3 Analytic solution

As a comparison we can find the analytic solution to this problem as follows.

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} = D \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2}, \quad u(x, 0) = u(d, t) = 0 \quad (6)$$

$$x \in [0, d], \quad D = d = u(0, t) = 1 \quad (7)$$

We see right away that the boundary $x = 0$ could give us some problems, so we start off with a small trick

$$u(x, t) = v(x, t) = u(x, t) - u_s(x)$$

where the $u_s = 1 - x$ term is the steady-state solution to equation 6. This trick leaves us with new boundary conditions on $u(x, t)$

$$v(0, t) = u(0, t) - u_s(0, t) = 1, \quad u_s(0, t) = 1 \implies u(0, t) = 0$$

which makes the whole procedure much simpler. We now assume that $u(x, t)$ can be separated into factors

$$u(x, t) = F(x)G(t) \implies \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} = \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} \rightarrow F(x) \frac{\partial G}{\partial t} = G(t) \frac{\partial^2 F}{\partial x^2}$$

$$\frac{1}{G(t)} \frac{\partial G}{\partial t} = -k^2 = \frac{1}{F(x)} \frac{\partial^2 F}{\partial x^2}$$

We start with the simplest of the equations which is the time dependence

$$\frac{1}{G(t)} \frac{\partial G}{\partial t} = -k^2$$

$$G(t) = Ce^{-k^2 t}$$

and leave it like this for now. The x-dependent equation is somewhat more complicated

$$\frac{1}{F(x)} \frac{\partial^2 F}{\partial x^2} = -k^2$$

$$F(x) = A \sin(kx) + B \cos(kx)$$

$$F(0) = A \sin(0) + B \cos(0) = 0 \implies B = 0$$

$$F(d) = A \sin(kd) = 0 \implies k = \frac{m\pi}{d} = \pi m, \quad A = A_m$$

we now combine all the equations to determine $v(x, t)$

$$v(x, t) = 1 - x + \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} B_m e^{-(m\pi)^2 t} \sin(m\pi x)$$

$$v(x, 0) = 1 - x + \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} B_m \sin(m\pi x)$$

$$\Rightarrow \int_0^1 \sin(m\pi x) \sin(n\pi x) dx = \delta_{mn} = \int_0^1 (x - 1) \sin(m\pi x) dx = -\frac{2}{m\pi} = B_m$$

This gives us the full analytical solution

$$v(x, t) = 1 - x - \frac{2}{\pi} \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{m} e^{-(m\pi)^2 t} \sin(m\pi x) \quad (8)$$

which satisfies all initial and boundary conditions.

4 Results/Verification

From section 3 we have the analytic solution to our problem, and we can use this to verify our numerical schemes. Now we know from section 5 that both the FE and the BE schemes have errors going like $\mathcal{O}(\Delta t)$, and that the FE scheme has a stability criterion of $\Delta t \leq \frac{\Delta x^2}{2}$. From experience I know that using exactly this criterion can be bad, so we will use half of this and we will use the same for all the schemes so that we can easily compare results. In the analytic solution we have an infinite sum, which we of course have to cut at some point. Looking at our solution (8) we see that $t = 0$ will have the slowest convergence because there will be no additional dampening term in the exponential term. From figure (2) we see that there is very little change in after 25 terms. It will then be very safe to terminate the sum after some 100-200 terms to make sure no “invisible” roundoffs are made.

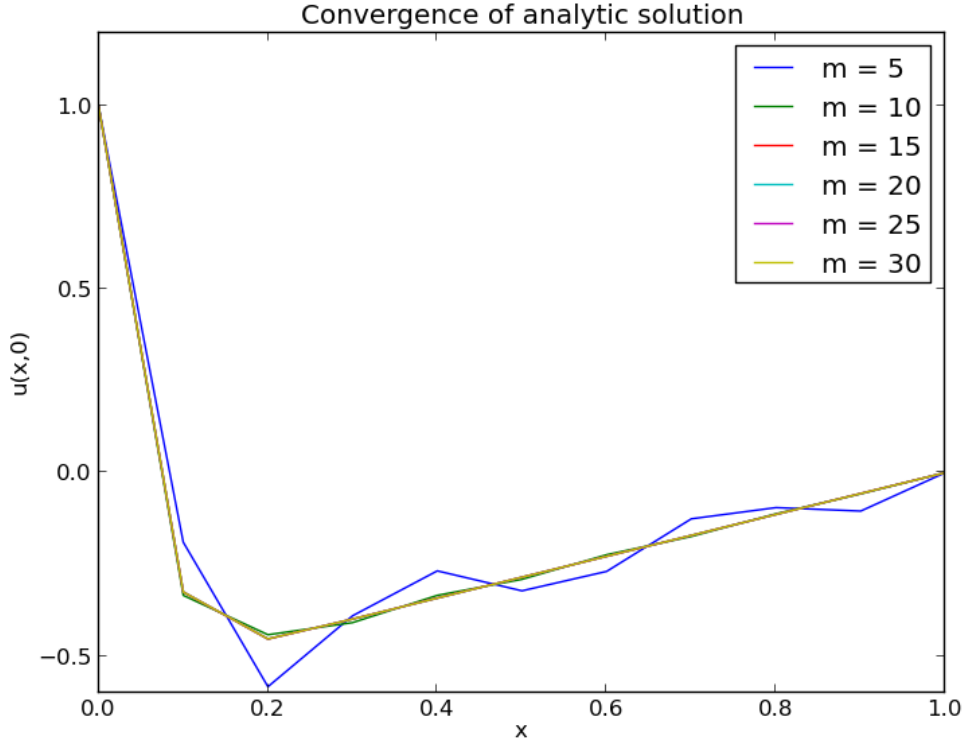


Figure 2: Plot of the analytic solution at $t = 0$ while adding more terms.

The errors we get from the different schemes have been visualized in figures (3) and (4). As mentioned the error should go like $\mathcal{O}(\Delta t)$.

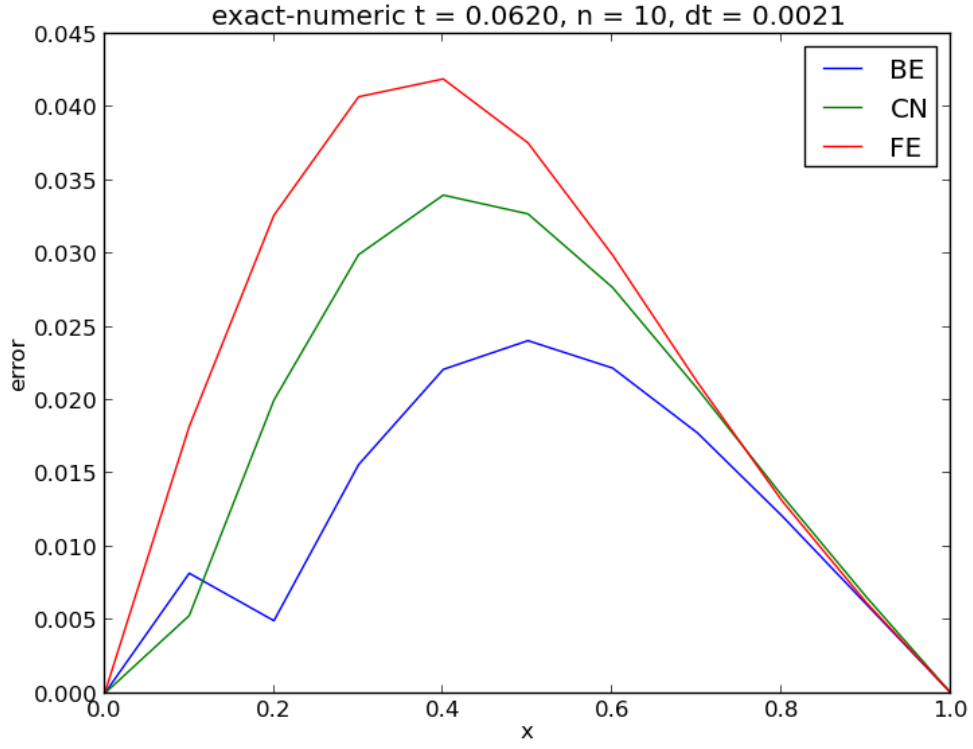


Figure 3: The absolute error for $\Delta x = 1/10$.

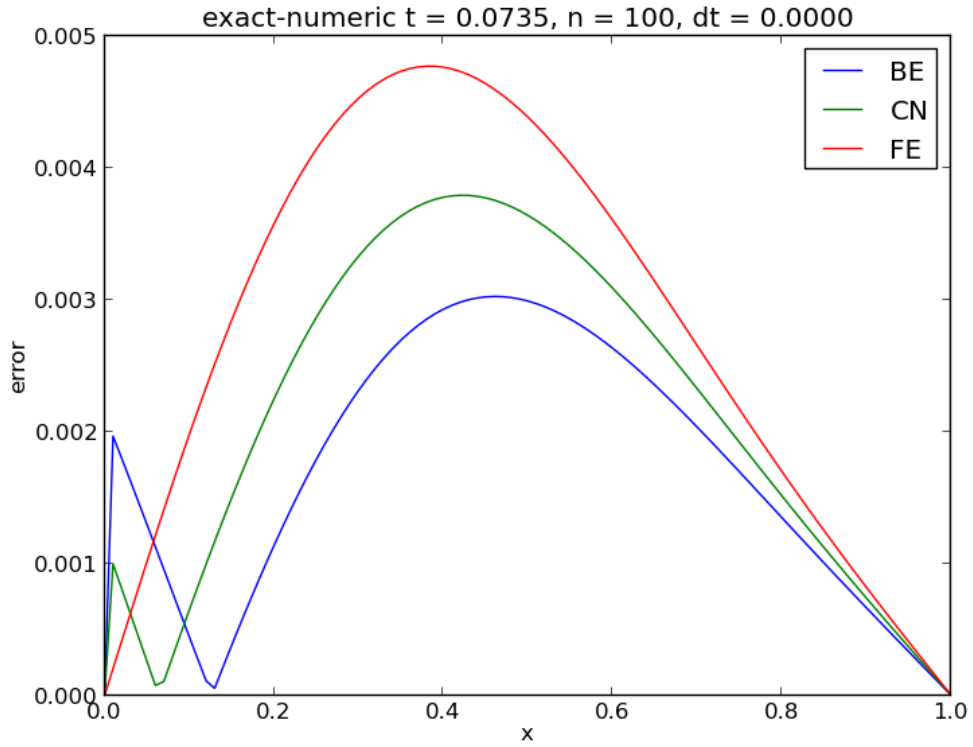


Figure 4: The absolute error for $\Delta x = 1/100$.

We notice that contrary to the results of the truncation error the BE scheme gives the best results. As another verification we could let the simulation run until the steady state is reached. Since the steady state is a

first order polynomial, this should be represented to machine precision, which means that the error should go to 0 as the number of time-steps gets large. However, as is also expected in a diffusion equation, the convergence is very slow after the simulation has run for a while. we can see the results of this experiment in figures (5) and (6).

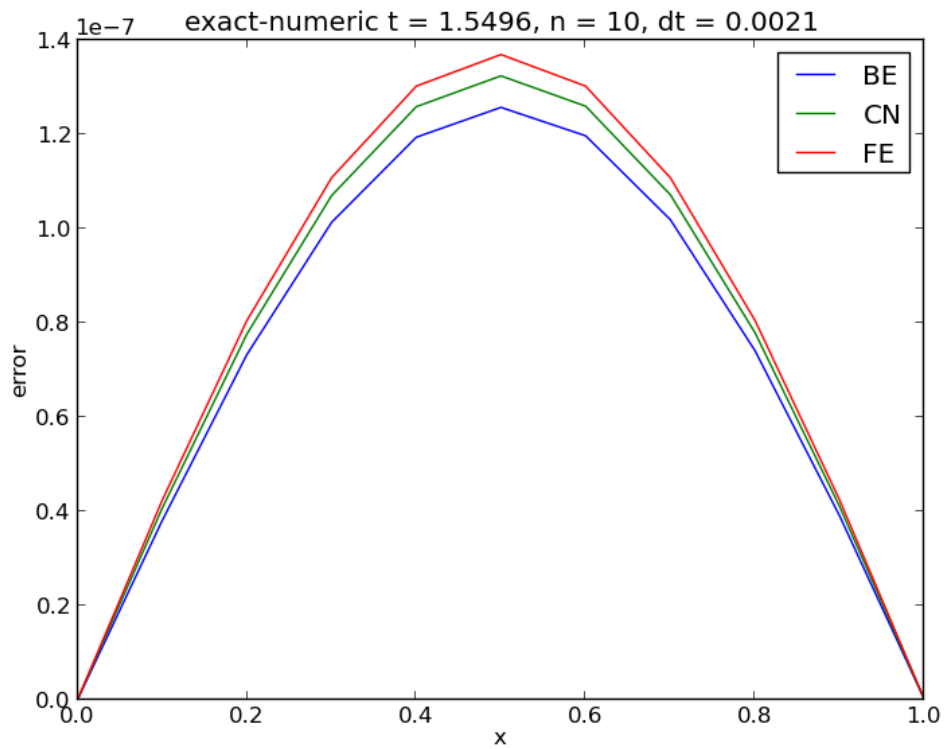


Figure 5: The absolute error for $\Delta x = 1/100$.

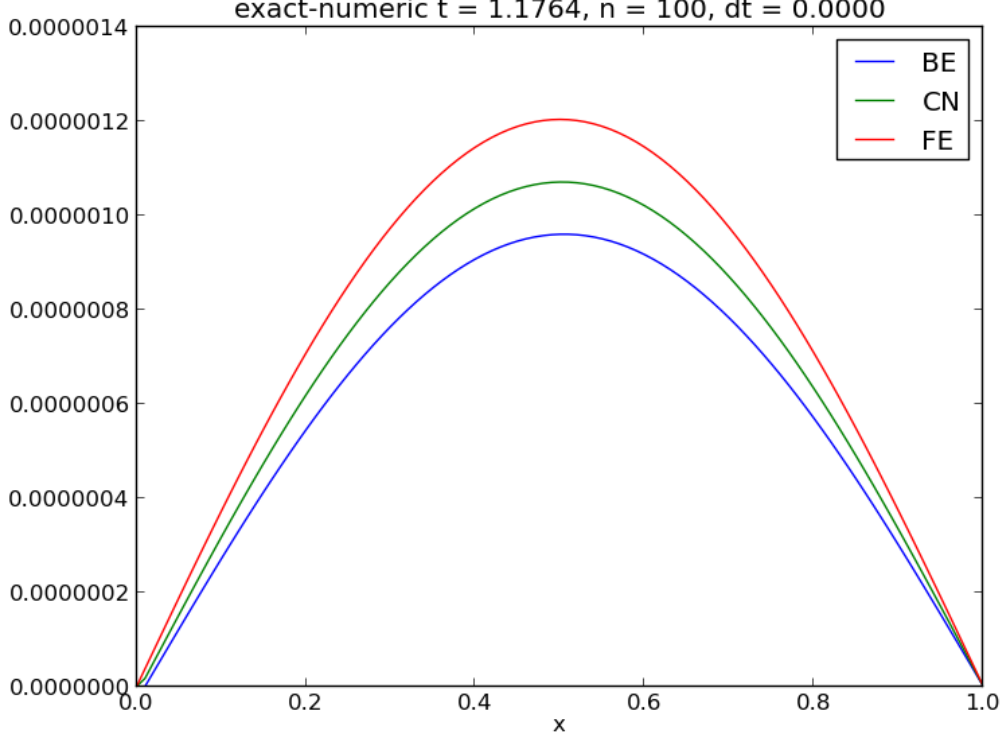


Figure 6: The absolute error for $\Delta x = 1/100$.

For the two-dimensional case we also have an analytic solution which we can compare our results with. We will use the absolute error in this verification as well, and make a plot over the entire area as before. The results can be found in figure (SOMTHIN).

5 Stability and precision

To get a feeling of how good the numerical schemes are we will analyze their errors and stability criterions individually.

5.1 Forward Euler

Let us first look at the truncation error of this scheme. If we do a Taylor expansion of $u(x + \Delta x, t)$, $u(x - \Delta x, t)$ and $u(x, t + \Delta t)$, assuming $\Delta x, \Delta t \rightarrow 0$ we get the following

$$\begin{aligned} u(x + \Delta x, t) &= u(x, t) + \frac{\partial u(x, t)}{\partial x} \Delta x + \frac{\partial^2 u(x, t)}{2\partial x^2} \Delta x^2 + \mathcal{O}(\Delta x^3) \\ u(x - \Delta x, t) &= u(x, t) - \frac{\partial u(x, t)}{\partial x} \Delta x + \frac{\partial^2 u(x, t)}{2\partial x^2} \Delta x^2 + \mathcal{O}(\Delta x^3) \\ u(x, t + \Delta t) &= u(x, t) + \frac{\partial u(x, t)}{\partial t} \Delta t + \mathcal{O}(\Delta t^2) \end{aligned}$$

These are the local errors, meaning that our complete scheme gives the error of

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{u^{n+1} - u^n}{\Delta t} &\approx \frac{\partial u(x, t)}{\partial t} + \mathcal{O}(\Delta t) \\ \frac{u_{i+1} - 2u_i + u_{i-1}}{\Delta x^2} &\approx \frac{\partial^2 u(x, t)}{\partial x^2} + \mathcal{O}(\Delta x^2) \end{aligned}$$

Let us also look at the stability of the scheme, but by in slightly different way than what has been done in the rest of the course. Let us assume that the solution of the diffusion equation takes the form

$$u(x, t) = A^n e^{ikq\Delta x} \quad (9)$$

Where A^n is a damping factor which is time dependent. If we insert this expression 9 into the scheme 1 we get

$$\begin{aligned} A^n e^{ikq\Delta x} (A - 1) &= C A^n e^{ikq\Delta x} (e^{i(q+1)k\Delta x} - 2e^{iqk\Delta x} + e^{i(q-1)k\Delta x}) \\ A - 1 &= C (e^{ik\Delta x} - 2 + e^{-ik\Delta x}) \\ A &= 1 - 4C (\cos(k\Delta x) - 1) = 1 - 4C \sin^2(k\Delta x/2) \end{aligned}$$

Note that x_i has been replaced by x_q . This means that the final solution is on the form

$$u_q^n = (1 - 4C \sin^2(k\Delta x/2))^n e^{ikq\Delta x}$$

It is obvious that we need $-1 \leq A \leq 1$ to avoid divergence. $A \leq 1 \implies C \geq 0$ is not of to much interest, however if we insert for

$$\begin{aligned} -1 \leq A &\implies 1 - 4C \sin^2(k\Delta x/2) \geq -1 \\ C &\leq \frac{1}{2 \sin^2(k\Delta x/2)} \end{aligned}$$

and $\max(\sin^2(k\Delta x/2)) = 1$ we are left with

$$C = \frac{\Delta t}{\Delta x^2} \leq \frac{1}{2} \quad (10)$$

5.2 Backward Euler

The truncation error of the BE scheme is very similar to the FE case. In fact it is obvious that the spacial part is identical, so we only need to redo the time dependence.

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

And so the complete scheme gives an error of

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{u^n - u^{n-1}}{\Delta t} &\approx \frac{\partial u(x, t)}{\partial t} + \mathcal{O}(\Delta t) \\ \frac{u_{i+1} - 2u_i + u_{i-1}}{\Delta x^2} &\approx \frac{\partial^2 u(x, t)}{\partial x^2} + \mathcal{O}(\Delta x^2) \end{aligned}$$

We can investigate the stability of the BE scheme in the same way as we did for the FE scheme. Assume again that we have a general solution on the form 9. Insert it in 2 as follows

$$\begin{aligned} A^n e^{ikq\Delta x} (1 - A^{-1}) &= C A^n (e^{ik(q+1)\Delta x} - 2e^{ikq\Delta x} + e^{ik(q-1)\Delta x}) \\ A^{-1} &= 1 - 4C \sin^2(k\Delta x/2) \\ A &= \frac{1}{1 - 4C \sin^2(k\Delta x/2)} \end{aligned}$$

giving us the general term

$$u_q^n = \left(\frac{1}{1 - 4C \sin^2(k\Delta x/2)} \right)^n e^{ikq\Delta x}$$

but now we have that $0 \leq A \leq 1$.

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{1 - 4C \sin^2(k\Delta x/2)} &\leq 1 \\ 1 &\leq 1 - 4C \sin^2(k\Delta x/2) \implies C \geq 0 \end{aligned}$$

The other limitation ($A \geq 0$) gives us nothing and thus the scheme is stable for all values of Δt and Δx .

5.3 Crank Nicolson

The truncation error of the CN scheme is slightly more intricate to calculate because we need to Taylor expand around $t' = t + \Delta t/2$

$$\begin{aligned}
u(x + \Delta x, t + \Delta t) &= u(x, t') + \frac{\partial u(x, t')}{\partial x} \Delta x + \frac{\partial u(x, t')}{\partial t} \Delta t/2 + \frac{\partial^2 u(x, t')}{2\partial x^2} \Delta x^2 + \frac{\partial^2 u(x, t')}{2\partial t^2} \Delta t^2/4 \\
&\quad + \frac{\partial^2 u(x, t')}{\partial x \partial t} \Delta x \Delta t/2 + \mathcal{O}(\Delta x^3) \\
u(x - \Delta x, t + \Delta t) &= u(x, t') - \frac{\partial u(x, t')}{\partial x} \Delta x + \frac{\partial u(x, t')}{\partial t} \Delta t/2 + \frac{\partial^2 u(x, t')}{2\partial x^2} \Delta x^2 + \frac{\partial^2 u(x, t')}{2\partial t^2} \Delta t^2/4 \\
&\quad - \frac{\partial^2 u(x, t')}{\partial x \partial t} \Delta x \Delta t/2 + \mathcal{O}(\Delta x^3) \\
u(x + \Delta x, t) &= u(x, t') + \frac{\partial u(x, t')}{\partial x} \Delta x - \frac{\partial u(x, t')}{\partial t} \Delta t/2 + \frac{\partial^2 u(x, t')}{2\partial x^2} \Delta x^2 + \frac{\partial^2 u(x, t')}{2\partial t^2} \Delta t^2/4 \\
&\quad - \frac{\partial^2 u(x, t')}{\partial x \partial t} \Delta x \Delta t/2 + \mathcal{O}(\Delta x^3) \\
u(x - \Delta x, t) &= u(x, t') - \frac{\partial u(x, t')}{\partial x} \Delta x - \frac{\partial u(x, t')}{\partial t} \Delta t/2 + \frac{\partial^2 u(x, t')}{2\partial x^2} \Delta x^2 + \frac{\partial^2 u(x, t')}{2\partial t^2} \Delta t^2/4 \\
&\quad + \frac{\partial^2 u(x, t')}{\partial x \partial t} \Delta x \Delta t/2 + \mathcal{O}(\Delta x^3) \\
u(x, t + \Delta t) &= u(x, t') + \frac{\partial u(x, t')}{\partial t} \Delta t/2 + \frac{\partial^2 u(x, t')}{2\partial t^2} \Delta t^2/4 + \mathcal{O}(\Delta t^3) \\
u(x, t) &= u(x, t') - \frac{\partial u(x, t')}{\partial t} \Delta t/2 + \frac{\partial^2 u(x, t')}{2\partial t^2} \Delta t^2/4 + \mathcal{O}(\Delta t^3)
\end{aligned}$$

Which means that the error of the whole scheme scales like

$$\begin{aligned}
\frac{\partial u(x, t')}{\partial t} &\approx \frac{\partial u(x, t')}{\partial t} + \mathcal{O}(\Delta t^2) \\
\frac{\partial^2 u(x, t')}{\partial x^2} &\approx \frac{\partial^2 u(x, t')}{\partial x^2} + \mathcal{O}(\Delta x^2)
\end{aligned}$$

We can check the stability of the CN scheme in the same way that we checked it for FE and BE schemes by assuming the same solution 9 as we did for the FE and BE case, and insert it in the CN scheme.

$$\begin{aligned}
A^n e^{ikq\Delta x} (1 - A^{-1}) &= A^n \frac{C}{2} (e^{i(q+1)k\Delta x} - 2e^{iqk\Delta x} + e^{i(q-1)k\Delta x}) + A^{n-1} \frac{C}{2} (e^{i(q+1)k\Delta x} - 2e^{iqk\Delta x} + e^{i(q-1)k\Delta x}) \\
(1 - A^{-1}) &= \frac{C}{2} (-4\sin^2(k\Delta x/2) - 4A^{-1}\sin^2(k\Delta x/2)) \\
1 + 2C\sin^2(k\Delta x/2) &= A^{-1}(1 - 2C\sin^2(k\Delta x/2)) \\
A &= \frac{1 - 2C\sin^2(k\Delta x/2)}{1 + 2C\sin^2(k\Delta x/2)}
\end{aligned}$$

And the limitations are $-1 \leq A \leq 1$

$$\begin{aligned}
\frac{1 - 2C\sin^2(k\Delta x/2)}{1 + 2C\sin^2(k\Delta x/2)} &\leq 1 \\
1 - 2C\sin^2(k\Delta x/2) &\leq 1 + 2C\sin^2(k\Delta x/2) \\
&\implies C \geq 0
\end{aligned}$$

The other limitation ($A \geq -1$) gives us nothing and thus the CN scheme is stable for all choices of Δt and Δx .

5.4 Schemes for diffusion in multiple dimensions

We can try the same approach to investigate the stability of the schemes in multiple dimensions. We start out with a general solution on the form

$$A^n e^{ik(p\Delta x + q\Delta y)}$$

and insert it in the respective schemes.

$$\begin{aligned}
A^n e^{ik(p\Delta x + q\Delta y)} (A - 1) &= C A^n e^{ikq\Delta y} (e^{ik(q+1)\Delta x} - 2e^{ikq\Delta x} + e^{ik(q-1)\Delta x}) + \\
&\quad C A^n e^{ikp\Delta x} (e^{ik(p+1)\Delta y} - 2e^{ikp\Delta y} + e^{ik(p-1)\Delta y}) \\
(A - 1) &= -4C\sin^2(k\Delta x/2) - 4C\sin^2(k\Delta y/2)
\end{aligned}$$

Plugging in for A we see that the limitations on A are $-1 \leq A \leq 1$. We will also insert the maximum value for the sine terms.

$$\begin{aligned} -8C + 1 &\geq -1 \\ 8C &\leq 2 \implies C \leq \frac{1}{4} \end{aligned}$$

We see that the other limit only gives us $C \geq 0$ which really is not that exciting. For the leap frog method we get

$$\begin{aligned} A^n e^{ik(p\Delta x + q\Delta y)} (A - A^{-1}) &= 2CA^n e^{ikq\Delta y} (e^{ik(q+1)\Delta x} - 2e^{ikq\Delta x} + e^{ik(q-1)\Delta x}) + \\ 2CA^n e^{ikp\Delta x} (e^{ik(p+1)\Delta y} - 2e^{ikp\Delta y} + e^{ik(p-1)\Delta y}) \\ (A - A^{-1}) &= -8C(\sin^2(k\Delta x/2) + \sin^2(k\Delta y/2)) \end{aligned}$$

To avoid some unnecessarily nasty expressions we will from here on look at the “worst case” where $\sin^2(k\Delta x/2) = \sin^2(k\Delta y/2) = 1$

$$\begin{aligned} A^2 - 16CA - 1 &= 0 \\ A &= \frac{1}{2}(-16C \pm \sqrt{16^2C^2 + 4}) = -8C \pm \sqrt{64C^2 + 1} \end{aligned}$$

That is A will be a linear combination of the two roots $A_1 = -8C - \sqrt{64C^2 + 1}$ and $A_2 = -8C + \sqrt{64C^2 + 1}$. We notice that A_1 is a negative root which will cause the solution to oscillate.

$$A^n = \alpha_1 A_1^n + \alpha_2 A_2^n$$

we can determine the coefficients α_1 and α_2 from the initial condition $u(x, y, 0) = I$

$$A^0 = \alpha_1 + \alpha_2 = I \implies \alpha_1 = I - \alpha_2$$

HER TROR JEG DET ER NOE FEIL..

6 Solving by Finite Element Methods

The normal approach to solving partial differential equations (especially in more than one dimension) in industry is to discretize using a finite difference scheme in time, and a finite element method in space. The finite element method is quite a lot more complex both in its discretization and in its implementation, which is why we will use the FEniCS software pack to solve the equation using finite elements. The reason one would typically use finite elements for PDEs is that it easily generalizes to complex geometries with dynamic choice of resolution, and that one can choose freely how accurate the approximation should be.

Consider this a very short and superficial explanation of the finite element method. We will stick to 1 dimension. The basic idea is to map our approximation of the solution on a function space of some piecewise continuous functions. That is, we divide the unit square, on which our equation is defined, into some number of elements. Notice that an element typically takes the form of a triangle, and that the elements can vary in size (for simplicity we will use elements of equal size). A triangle in one dimension is simply an interval, defined by two points. These points are called nodes. We now use the nodes to define linear functions on each element, and demand that each linear function is exactly 1 on one node and 0 on the other. We can of course use any function we want which fulfills this criterion, but the standard functions to use are some orthogonal polynomial, specifically the Lagrange polynomials (of some degree depending on the number of nodes per element). So far we have our equation and we have a function space $V = \text{span}\{\phi_i\}$ where ϕ_i is the Lagrange polynomial at element number i. We discretize the equation in time (u_{xx} denotes the double derivative of u wrt x).

$$\begin{aligned} u^{n+1} - u^n - \Delta t u_{xx}^n &= 0 \\ R &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

we now want to approximate R on V, minimizing the error. There are a few ways to do this, and again we will use a quite general one, the Galerkin method. To minimize the error we take the inner product $(R, V) = 0 \forall \phi_i \in V$ which leads to the following integrals

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{\Omega} u^{n+1} \phi_i d\Omega - \int_{\Omega} u^n \phi_i d\Omega - \Delta t \int_{\Omega} u_{xx}^n \phi_i d\Omega &= 0 \\ \int_{\Omega} \sum_{j=1}^N (\phi_j \phi_i) u^{n+1} d\Omega - \int_{\Omega} \sum_{j=1}^N (\phi_j \phi_i) u^n d\Omega - \Delta t \int_{\Omega} \sum_{j=1}^N (\phi_j'' \phi_i) u^n d\Omega &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

where we have used the approximation of u on V $u \simeq \sum_{j=1}^N \phi_j u$. We notice that taking a double derivative of ϕ_j leaves us with 0, so we try integrating it by parts

$$-\Delta t \int_{\Omega} \sum_{j=1}^N (\phi_j'' \phi_i) u^n d\Omega = \Delta t ([\phi_j' \phi_i u]_{\partial\Omega} - \int_{\Omega} \sum_{j=1}^N \phi_j' \phi_i' u^n d\Omega)$$

which is a boundary term and a new integral. This is actually sufficient for FEniCS to work with. The rest of the computation is simply assembly of a linear system from the integrals, and solving the linear system.

7 Final comments

Even though the analysis in section 5 suggests that the Crank Nicolson scheme is supposed to have a better error than the other two, the results from our verification tells us that the Backward Euler scheme is better. It is also easier to implement, and it demands less FLOPS than the CN scheme because there is no need to make a new vector at each timestep. The Crank Nicolson scheme is also known to have some problems with oscillating solutions, even though we do not see any of these here. This is probably due to the restrictions put on Δt from the Forward Euler scheme which we have used for all schemes.

We notice from figures (3) and (4) that the error is not quite of the order we had expected. The expected value is that the error goes like $\mathcal{O}(\Delta t)$ and we have $\Delta t \propto \Delta x^2$, so we should have an error of 10^{-2} for $\Delta x = 0.1$ and 10^{-4} for $\Delta x = 0.01$. We almost have this error, but not quite. This is telling me that there either is something wrong somewhere in my program, or there is an error done at some point while making the exact solution. Having looked over both of these possibilities quite a few times, I have unfortunately yet to find this error. My preliminary explanation is that the error still is proportional to Δt , the proportionality-constant just happens to be 10.

The section on finite element methods is ment only as a short glance onward from this project into more complex problems which are still on the same form as this one.

Source code can be found in the appendix.

8 Appendices

A Source code

C++ files

```
/*
 * File:    diffusion.cpp
 * Author:  candidate 55
 *
 * Created on 28. november 2012, 09:58
 */

#include "diffusion.h"
/*
#include <armadillo>
#include <iostream>

using namespace std;
using namespace arma;
*/
#define PI 3.14159

int main(int argc, char** argv){
    //-----Common variables-----
    //int N = atoi(argv[1]);
    ofstream outfile;
    int tofile = atoi(argv[1]);
    int spacing = atoi(argv[2]);
```

```

int FE1D = atoi(argv[3]);
int BE1D = atoi(argv[4]);
int CN1D = atoi(argv[5]);
int FE2D = atoi(argv[6]);
int LeapFrog = atoi(argv[7]);
int nx = atoi(argv[8]);
int n_t = atoi(argv[9]);

//cout<<"FE1D = "<<FE1D<<" BE1D = "<<BE1D<<" CN1D = "<<CN1D<<" FE2D = "<<FE2D<<" LF =

vec u_new = zeros<vec>(nx+1);
vec u_prev = u_new;
double dx = 1.0/(nx+1);
double dt = dx*dx/4.0;          //Stability criterion dt <= dx*dx/2
double dtdx2 = dt/(dx*dx);
mat U = zeros<mat>(nx+1,nx+1);
mat U_p = U;
mat U_pp = U;
//nx = u_new.n_elem;
if (FE1D){
#####
//-----Forward Euler scheme-----##
#####
    if(dtdx2>0.5){dtdx2 = 0.5;} //make sure the stability criterion is fulfilled
    u_prev = linspace<vec>(-1.0,0.0,nx+1);
    cout<<"alpha = "<<dtdx2<<endl;
    for(int n = 0;n <= n_t; n++){
        for(int i = 1; i < nx; i++){
            u_new(i) = dtdx2*(u_prev(i+1)-2*u_prev(i) + u_prev(i-1)) + u_prev(i);
        }
        u_new(0) = 0; u_new(nx) = 0;
        u_prev = u_new;
        /*write to file for plotting*/
        if(tofile && (n%spacing)==0){output(&outfile , u_prev , n, 0 , nx); cout<<n<<endl;}
    }
    cout<<"Explicit scheme finished. "<<endl;
}
if (BE1D){
#####
//-----Backward Euler scheme-----##
#####
    //dtdx2 = 1/(dx*dx*200);
    u_prev = linspace<vec>(-1.0,0.0,nx+1);
    double a = -dtdx2;
    double c = a;
    double b = 1+2*dtdx2;
    //u_prev.zeros(); u_new.zeros();
    //u_prev(0)=u_new(0) = 1;
    u_new = u_prev;
    for(int n = 0;n<=n_t;n++){
        tridiag(a,b,c, u_new, u_prev , nx);
        u_new(0)=u_new(nx) = 0;
        u_prev = u_new;
        /*Write to file for plotting*/
        if(tofile && (n%spacing)==0){output(&outfile , u_prev , n, 1 , nx);}
    }
    cout<<"Backward Euler scheme finished"<<endl;
}
}
if (CN1D){

```

```

#####
//-----Crank Nicolson scheme-----##
#####

//vec uprev = zeros<vec>(nx-1);
//vec unew = uprev;
//dtdx2 = 1/(dx*dx*20);
u_prev = linspace<vec>(-1.0,0.0,nx+1);
double a1 = -dtdx2;
double c1 = a1;
double b1 = 2+2*dtdx2;
double a2 = dtdx2;
double c2 = a2;
double b2 = 2-2*dtdx2;
u_new = u_prev;
for(int n=0; n<=n_t; n++){
    make_uprev(u_prev,u_new,a2,c2,b2,nx);
    u_prev(0)=u_prev(nx)=0;
    tridiag(a1,b1,c1,u_new,u_prev,nx-2);
    u_prev = u_new;
    u_prev(0)=0;u_prev(nx)=0;
    /*Write to file for plotting*/
    if(tofile && (n%spacing)==0){output(&outfile,u_prev,n,2,nx);}
}
cout<<"Crank Nicolson scheme finished"<<endl;
}

#####
//-----2D solvers-----##
//-----Forward Euler-----##
#####
if(FE2D){
    double C = dtdx2;
    if(C >= 0.25)
    { //Insert for stability criterion!
        C = 0.2;
    }
    dt = C*dx*dx;
    initial_condition(U_p,dx,nx);
    for(int t=0; t<n_t; t++){
        for(int i=1; i<nx; i++){
            for(int j=1; j<nx; j++){

                U(i,j) = U_p(i,j) + C*(U_p(i+1,j)-2*U_p(i,j)+U_p(i-1,j)) \
                + C*(U_p(i,j+1)-2*U_p(i,j)+U_p(i,j-1));

            }
        }
        update_boundarys(U,t*dt,dx,nx);
        U_p = U;
        //Write to file for plotting
        if(tofile && (t%spacing)==0){output2D(&outfile,U_p,t,3,nx);}
    }
    cout<<"Forward Euler done!"<<endl;
    //U_p.print(" ");
}
if(LeapFrog){
    double C = dtdx2;
    if (C>(1.0/8.0))
    {
        C = 1.0/10.0;
    }
    dt = C*dx*dx;

```



```

    initial_condition(U_p,dx,nx);
    for(int i=1; i<nx; i++){
        for(int j=1; j<nx; j++){
            U(i,j) = U_p(i,j) + C*(U_p(i+1,j)-2*U_p(i,j)+U_p(i-1,j)) \
                + C*(U_p(i,j+1)-2*U_p(i,j)+U_p(i,j-1));
        }
    }
    update_boundaries(U,dt,dx,nx);
    U_pp = U_p;
    U_p = U;
    for(int t=1; t<n_t; t++){
        for(int i=1; i<(nx-1); i++){
            for(int j=1; j<(nx-1); j++){
                U(i,j) = 2*C*(U_p(i+1,j)-2*U_p(i,j)+U_p(i-1,j)) \
                    + 2*C*(U_p(i,j+1)-2*U_p(i,j)+U_p(i,j-1))+U_pp(i,j-1);
            }
        }
        update_boundaries(U,t*dt,dx,nx);
        U_pp = U_p;
        U_p = U;
        //Write to file for plotting
        if(tofile && (t%spacing)==0){output2D(&outfile,U_p,t,4,nx);}
    }
    cout<<"Leap Frog scheme finished"<<endl;
}
if(0){
#####
//-----Euler Chromer scheme-----##
#####
    double C = dtdx2; //Insert for stability criterion!

    U_p.col(0) = ones<vec>(nx+1);

    for(int t=0; t<n_t; t++){
        for(int i=1; i<nx; i++){
            for(int j=1; j<nx; j++){
                U(i,j) = U_p(i,j) + C*(U_p(i+1,j)-2*U_p(i,j)+U_p(i-1,j)) \
                    + C*(U_p(i,j+1)-2*U_p(i,j)+U_p(i,j-1));
            }
        }
        update_boundaries(U,t*dt,dx,nx);
        U_p = U;
        //Write to file for plotting
        if(tofile && (t%spacing)==0){output2D(&outfile,U_p,t,3,nx);}
    }
    cout<<"Euler Chromer done!"<<endl;
    //U_p.print(" ");
}
return 0;
}

/*
Headerfile for diffusion porject
*/

#include <cstdlib>
#include <omp.h>
#include <armadillo>
#include <cmath>
#include <iostream>
#include <iomanip>

```

```

#include <time.h>
#include <fstream>

/*from lib.h*/
#include <new>
#include <stdio>
#include <stdlib>
#include <cstring>

using namespace std;
using namespace arma;

#ifdef DIFFUSION_H
#define DIFFUSION_H

double timediff(double time1, double time2);
char *make_filename(int n, int scheme);
void tridiag(double a, double b, double c, vec &v, vec &f, int n);
void make_uprev(vec &uprev, vec &u, double a, double c, double b1, int n);
void output(ofstream* outfile, vec &u, int n, int scheme, int N);
void output2D(ofstream* outfile, mat &u, int n, int scheme, int N);
void initial_condition(mat &u, double dx, int n);
void update_boundaries(mat &u, double t, double dx, int n);
#endif /* DIFFUSION_H */

double timediff(double time1, double time2){
    // This function returns the elapsed time in milliseconds
    return ((time2 - time1)*1000)/CLOCKS_PER_SEC;
}
char *make_filename(int n, int scheme){
    //Returns a filename saying something about the particular run.
    char* buffer = new char[60];
    if(scheme == 0){
        sprintf(buffer, "results_FE_%d.txt", n);
    }
    else if(scheme == 1){
        sprintf(buffer, "results_BE_%d.txt", n);
    }
    else if(scheme == 2){
        sprintf(buffer, "results_CN_%d.txt", n);
    }
    else if(scheme == 3){
        sprintf(buffer, "results_FE2D_%d.txt", n);
    }
    else{
        sprintf(buffer, "results_LF2D_%d.txt", n);
    }
    return buffer;
}

void tridiag(double a, double b, double c, vec &v, vec &f, int n){
    vec temp = zeros<vec>(n+1);
    double btemp = b;
    v(0) = f(0)/btemp;
    //v(0) = 1;

    for(int i=1; i<=n; i++){

```

```

        //forward substitution without vectors
        temp[i] = c/btemp;
        btemp = b -a*temp[i];
        v[i] = (f[i] -a*v[i-1])/btemp;
    }

    for(int i=n-1;i>=0;i--){
        //Backward substitution
        v[i] -= temp[i+1]*v[i+1];
    }
    //v.print("asdf");
    //return v;
}

void make_uprev(vec &uprev, vec &u, double a, double c, double b, int n){
    uprev(0) =b*u(0) +c*u(1);
    for(int i =1;i<n; i++){
        uprev(i) = a*u(i-1) +c*u(i+1) + b*u(i);
    }
    uprev(n) = a*u(n-1)+b*u(n);
}

void output(ofstream* outfile, vec &u, int n, int scheme, int N){
    /*outfile is an ofstream-object letting us open a file
    **u is an armadillo-object containing the solution at time n
    **n is the timestep number
    **scheme is an integer telling what scheme is used to obtain the solution
    **N is the size of the array*/
    outfile->open(make_filename(n,scheme));
    for(int i=0;i<=N;i++){
        *outfile <<u(i)<<setprecision(12)<<endl;
    }
    outfile->close();
}

void output2D(ofstream* outfile, mat &u, int n, int scheme, int N){
    /*outfile is an ofstream-object letting us open a file
    **u is an armadillo-object containing the solution at time n
    **n is the timestep number
    **scheme is an integer telling what scheme is used to obtain the solution
    **N is the size of the array (in one direction)*/
    outfile->open(make_filename(n,scheme));
    for(int i=0;i<=N;i++){
        for(int j=0;j<=N;j++){
            *outfile <<u(i,j)<<setprecision(12)<<" ";
        }
        *outfile <<endl;
    }
    outfile->close();
}

void initial_condition(mat &u, double dx, int n){
    for(int i=0;i<=n;i++){
        for(int j=0;j<=n;j++){
            u(i,j) = (1- j*dx)*exp(i*dx);
        }
    }
}

void update_boundaries(mat &u, double t, double dx, int n){
    for(int i=0; i<=n;i++){

```

```

        for(int j=0; j<=n;j++){
            u(0,j) = (1- j*dx)*exp(t);
            u(n,j) = (1- j*dx)*exp(1+t);
            u(i,0) = exp(i*dx+t);
            u(i,n) = 0;
        }
    }
}

```

Python scripts for plotting

```

import os, argparse, glob, numpy as np
import matplotlib.pyplot as mpl
#from scitools.std import *
from mayavi import mlab
from mayavi.api import OffScreenEngine

```

```

parser = argparse.ArgumentParser()
parser.add_argument("-run", action="store_true", help="run the diffusion.cpp executable file")
parser.add_argument("-compile", action="store_true", help="comple the diffusion project")
parser.add_argument("-tofile", action="store_true", help="write results to file (for plotting)")
parser.add_argument("-spacing", type=int, action="store", dest="spacing", default=10, help="spacing")
parser.add_argument("-removefiles", action="store_true", help="remove the resultfiles")
parser.add_argument("-FE1D", action="store_true", help="Run the Forward Euler discretization")
parser.add_argument("-BE1D", action="store_true", help="Run the Backward Euler discretization")
parser.add_argument("-CN1D", action="store_true", help="Run the Crank Nicolson discretization")
parser.add_argument("-FE2D", action="store_true", help="Run the Forward Euler discretization")
parser.add_argument("-LF2D", action="store_true", help="Run the Leap Frog discretization in 2D")
parser.add_argument("-nx", type=int, action="store", dest="nx", default=10, help="number of x points")
parser.add_argument("-nt", type=int, action="store", dest="nt", default=100, help="number of time steps")
args = parser.parse_args()

```

```

tofile = 1 if args.tofile else 0

```

```

FE1D = 1 if args.FE1D else 0
BE1D = 1 if args.BE1D else 0
CN1D = 1 if args.CN1D else 0
FE2D = 1 if args.FE2D else 0
LF2D = 1 if args.LF2D else 0

```

```

if args.compile:
    os.system('g++ -o willy -O3 diffusion.cpp -larmadillo ')

```

```

if args.run:
    os.system(' ./ willy %d %d %d %d %d %d %d %d %d %d' %(tofile, args.spacing, FE1D, BE1D, CN1D, FE2D, LF2D, nx, nt))

```

```

solvers = [FE1D, BE1D, CN1D, FE2D, LF2D]
names = ['FE*.txt', 'BE*.txt', 'CN*.txt']
i=0
for method in names:
    filenames = 'results_' + names[i]
    i+=1
    for files in sorted(glob.glob(filenames)):
        picname = files.split('.')
        picname[0] += '.png'
        print files
        u = np.loadtxt(files)
        u += np.linspace(1,0,len(u))
        #ax.cla()

```

```

        #ax.imshow(u)
        mpl.plot(u)

        #fig.savefig(picname[1])
        mpl.show()
        if args.removefiles:
            os.remove(files)
    , , ,
names2d =['FE2D*.txt ', 'LF2D*.txt ']
i=0
X,Y = np.meshgrid(np.linspace(0,1,args.nx+1),np.linspace(0,1,args.nx+1))
for method in names2d:
    filenames = 'results_'+names2d[i]
    #fig = mpl.figure(figsize=(5,5))
    #ax = fig.add_subplot(111)
    i+=1
    for files in sorted(glob.glob(filenames)):
        picname = files.split('.')
        picname[0] += '.png'
        u = np.loadtxt(files)
        #mlab.options.offscreen = True
        mlab.mesh(X,Y,u)
        mlab.savefig(picname[0])
        mlab.clf()

        #ax.cla()
        #ax.imshow(u)
        #mpl.plot(u)

        #fig.savefig(picname[1])
        #mpl.show()
        if args.removefiles:
            os.remove(files)
    , , ,
    , , ,
os.system("mencoder 'mf://_tmp*.png' -mf type=png:fps=10 \
        -ovc lavc -lavcopts vcodec=wmv2 -oac copy -o animation.mpg")
    , , ,

import os,numpy as np, matplotlib.pyplot as mpl, glob,sys

try:
    timestep = int(sys.argv[1])
except IndexError:
    print "Bad usage: provide timestep on commandline"
    sys.exit(1)
tofile = 1
FE1D = 1
BE1D = 1
CN1D = 1
FE2D = 0
LF2D = 0
nx = 10
nt = 100
spacing = 5
cmpile = False
run = True

if cmpile:
    os.system('g++ -o willy -O3 diffusion.cpp -larmadillo ')

```

```

if run:
    os.system( './ willy %d %d %d %d %d %d %d %d %d' %(tofile ,spacing ,FE1D,BE1D,CN1D,

x = np.linspace(1,0,nx+1)
axis = np.linspace(0,1,nx+1)
dx = 1./(nx+1)
dt = dx**2/4.0

def solution(t):
    x = np.linspace(0,1,nx+1)
    exact = np.linspace(1,0,nx+1)
    fourier = np.zeros(nx+1)
    for m in xrange(1,250):
        fourier[:] += (1.0/m)*np.exp(-(m*np.pi)*(m*np.pi)*(t+dt))*np.sin(m*np.pi*x)
        ,,,
        if m%5 ==0:
            mpl.plot(np.linspace(0,1,nx+1),fourier)
            ,,,
            #print m,fourier
    fourier *= (2.0/np.pi)
    ,,,
    #mpl.legend(['m = 5 ', 'm = 10 ', 'm = 15 ', 'm = 20 ', 'm = 25 ', 'm = 30 '])
    mpl.title('Convergence of analytic solution ')
    mpl.xlabel('x')
    mpl.ylabel('u(x,0) ')
    mpl.show()
    ,,,
    return exact-fourier

def plot_error(timestep):
    solver = ['FE','BE','CN']
    n = 0
    for results in sorted(glob.glob('results*n%d.txt'%timestep)):
        infile = np.loadtxt(results)
        approx = x+infile
        mpl.plot(axis,abs(solution(timestep*dt)-approx))
        print results
        n +=1
    mpl.title('exact-numeric t = %.4f, n = %d, dt = %.4f'%(timestep*dt,nx,dt))
    mpl.xlabel('x'); mpl.ylabel('error ')
    mpl.legend(['BE','CN','FE'])
    mpl.show()

def plot_normal(timestep):
    solver = ['FE','BE','CN']
    n = 0
    for results in sorted(glob.glob('results*n%d.txt'%timestep)):
        infile = np.loadtxt(results)
        approx = x+infile
        mpl.plot(axis,approx)
        n +=1
    mpl.plot(axis,solution(timestep*dt))
    mpl.xlabel('x'); mpl.ylabel('u(x,t = %.4f)'%(timestep*dt))
    mpl.legend(['BE','CN','FE','exact'])
    mpl.show()

plot_normal(timestep)
plot_error(timestep)
#f = solution(0*dt)

```