

# Numerical Simulation Methods in Geophysics, Part 3: Time-stepping

1. MGPY+MGIN, 3. MDRS+MGEX-CMG

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# Recap

- Poisson's equation, solved with FD in 1D
- boundary conditions determine shift (Dirichlet) and flow (Neumann)
- no sources: linear potential (constant flow)
- sources: positive curvature (max), continuous: parabola
- slope changes with conductivity ( $\alpha$  contrasts act like source)

# Parabolic PDEs

- describe diffusion problems (of potential fields)
- second spatial and first temporal derivative, e.g. in 1D

$$\frac{\partial T}{\partial t} - a \frac{\partial^2 T}{\partial z^2} = \nabla \cdot \mathbf{q}_s$$

# Time-stepping with FD

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} - a \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial z^2} = 0$$

Finite-difference approximation ( $^n$  means time step  $n$ )

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t}^n \approx \frac{u^{n+1} - u^n}{\Delta t} = a \frac{\partial^2 u^n}{\partial z^2}$$

# Explicit (forward) Euler method

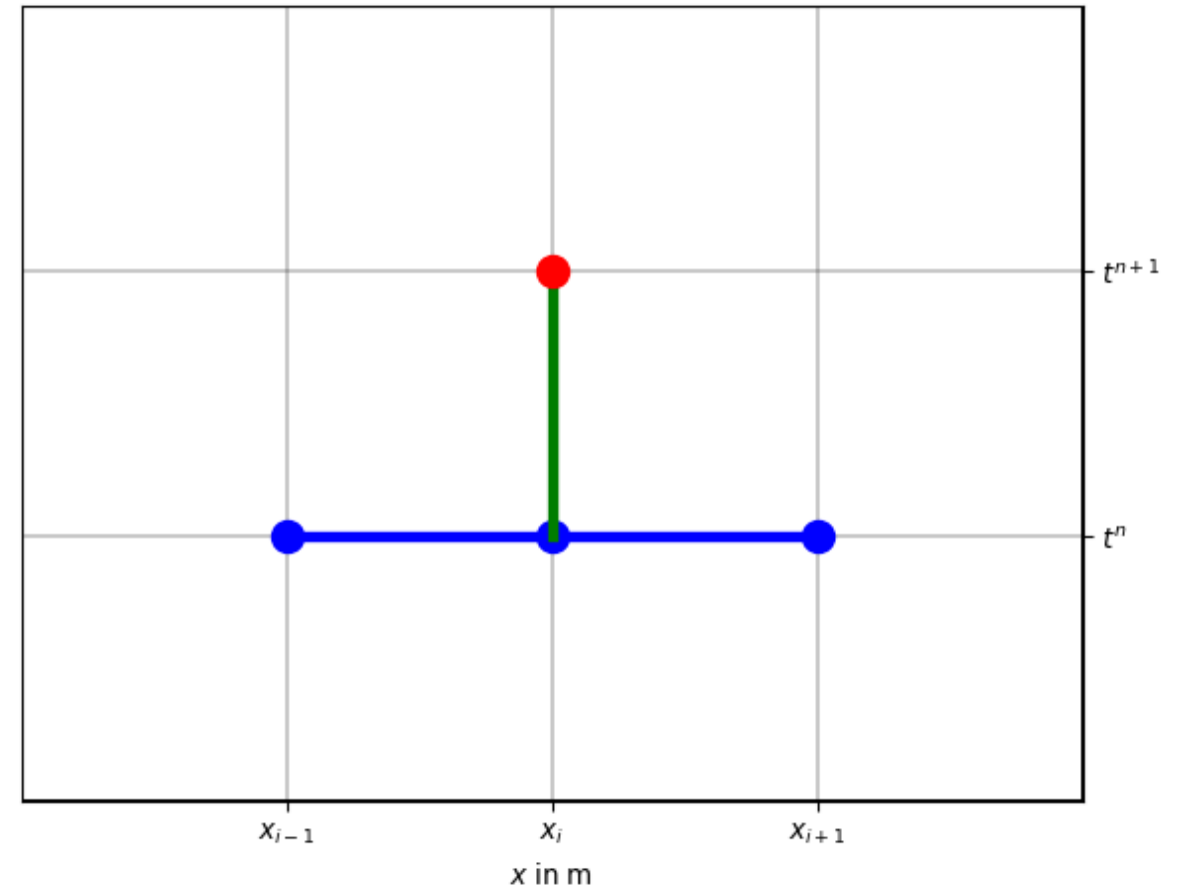
Start  $T^0$  with initial condition

Update field by

$$u^{n+1} = u^n + a \frac{\partial^2 u^n}{\partial z^2} \cdot \Delta t$$

E.g. by using the matrix  $\mathbf{A}$ :

$$\mathbf{u}^{n+1} = \mathbf{u}^n - \Delta t \mathbf{A} \mathbf{u}^n = (\mathbf{I} - \Delta t \mathbf{A}) \mathbf{u}^n$$

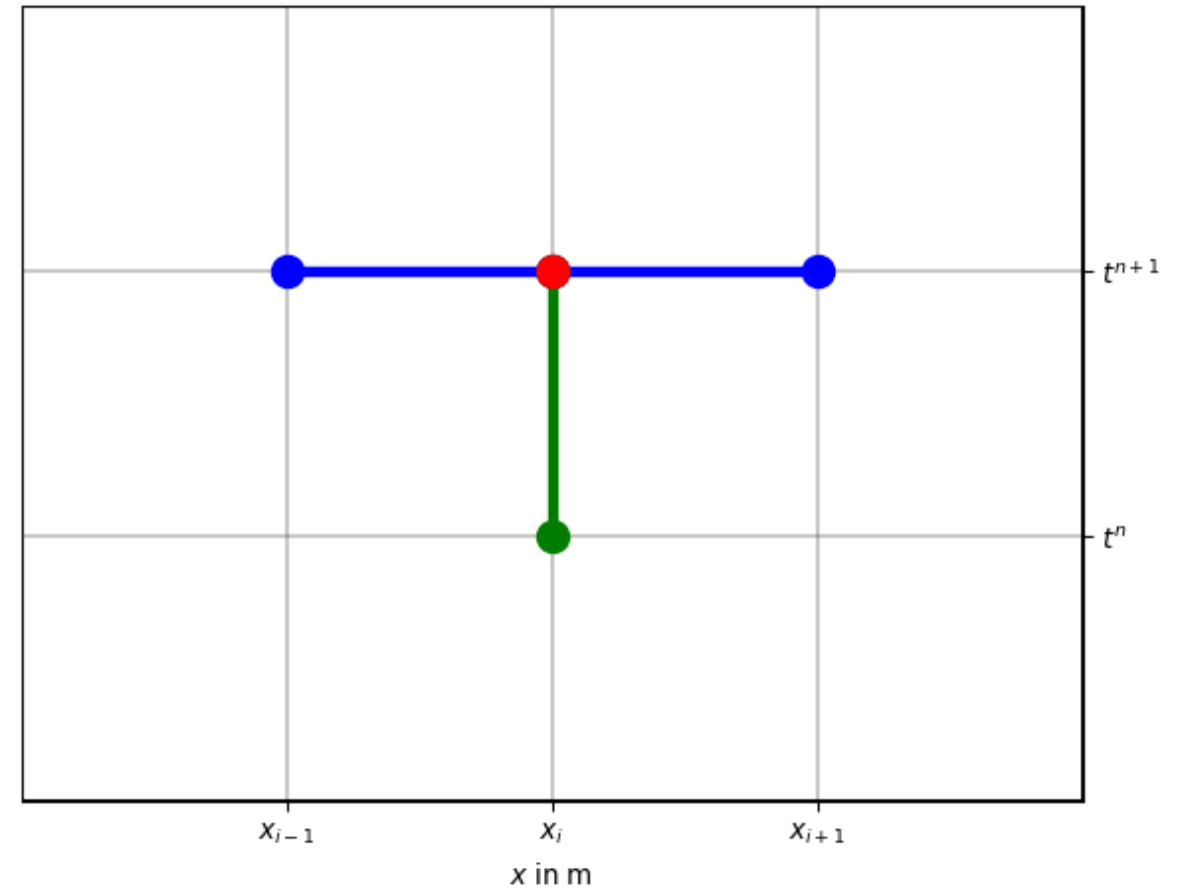


# Implicit (backward) Euler method

$$\frac{\partial u^{n+1}}{\partial t} \approx \frac{u^{n+1} - u^n}{\Delta t} = a \frac{\partial^2 u^{n+1}}{\partial z^2}$$

$$\frac{1}{\Delta t} u^{n+1} - a \frac{\partial^2 u^{n+1}}{\partial z^2} = \frac{1}{\Delta t} u^n$$

$$(\mathbf{I} + \Delta t \mathbf{A}) \mathbf{u}^{n+1} = \mathbf{u}^n$$



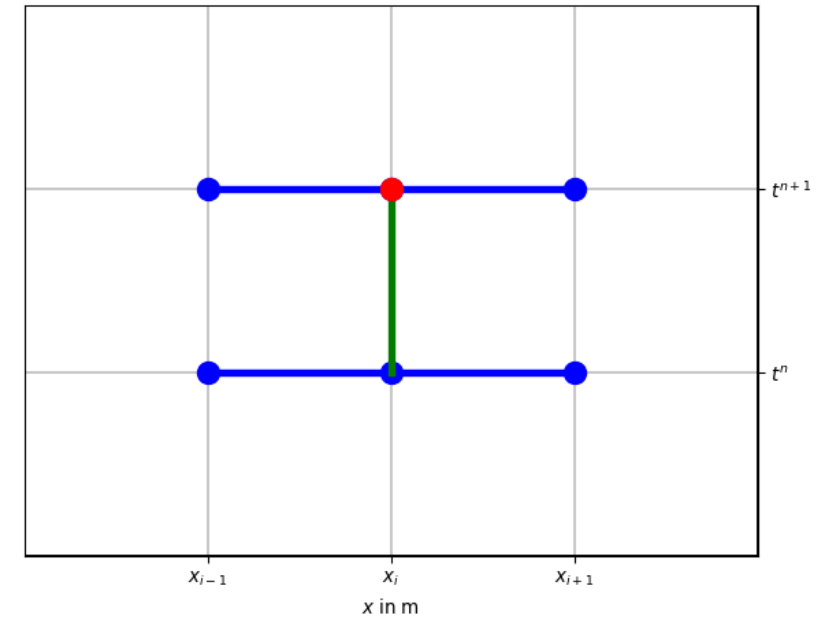
Solving an equation system

# Mixed (Crank-Nicholson) method

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t}^{n+1/2} \approx \frac{u^{n+1} - u^n}{\Delta t} = \frac{1}{2}a \frac{\partial^2 u^n}{\partial z^2} + \frac{1}{2}a \frac{\partial^2 u^{n+1}}{\partial z^2}$$

$$\frac{2}{\Delta t}u^{n+1} - a \frac{\partial^2 u^{n+1}}{\partial z^2} = \frac{2}{\Delta t}u^n + a \frac{\partial^2 u^n}{\partial z^2}$$

$$(2\mathbf{I} + \Delta t\mathbf{A})\mathbf{u}^{n+1} = (2\mathbf{I} - \Delta t\mathbf{A})\mathbf{u}^n$$



# Dive into time-stepping

Consider *Newtonian cooling* (a 0D toy problem)

$$\frac{\partial T}{\partial t} = -\frac{T}{\tau} \approx \frac{dT}{dt}$$

with solution

$$T(t) = T_0 \exp(-t/\tau)$$



# Explicit and Implicit Euler methods

## Explicit

$$T_{i+1} = T_i - \frac{dt}{\tau} T_i = T_i \left(1 - \frac{dt}{\tau}\right) = T_0 \left(1 - \frac{dt}{\tau}\right)^{i+1}$$

## Implicit

$$\frac{T_{i+1} - T_i}{dt} = -\frac{T_{i+1}}{\tau}$$

$$T_{i+1} = T_i \frac{1}{1 + dt/\tau}$$

# Mixed (Crank-Nicholson) method

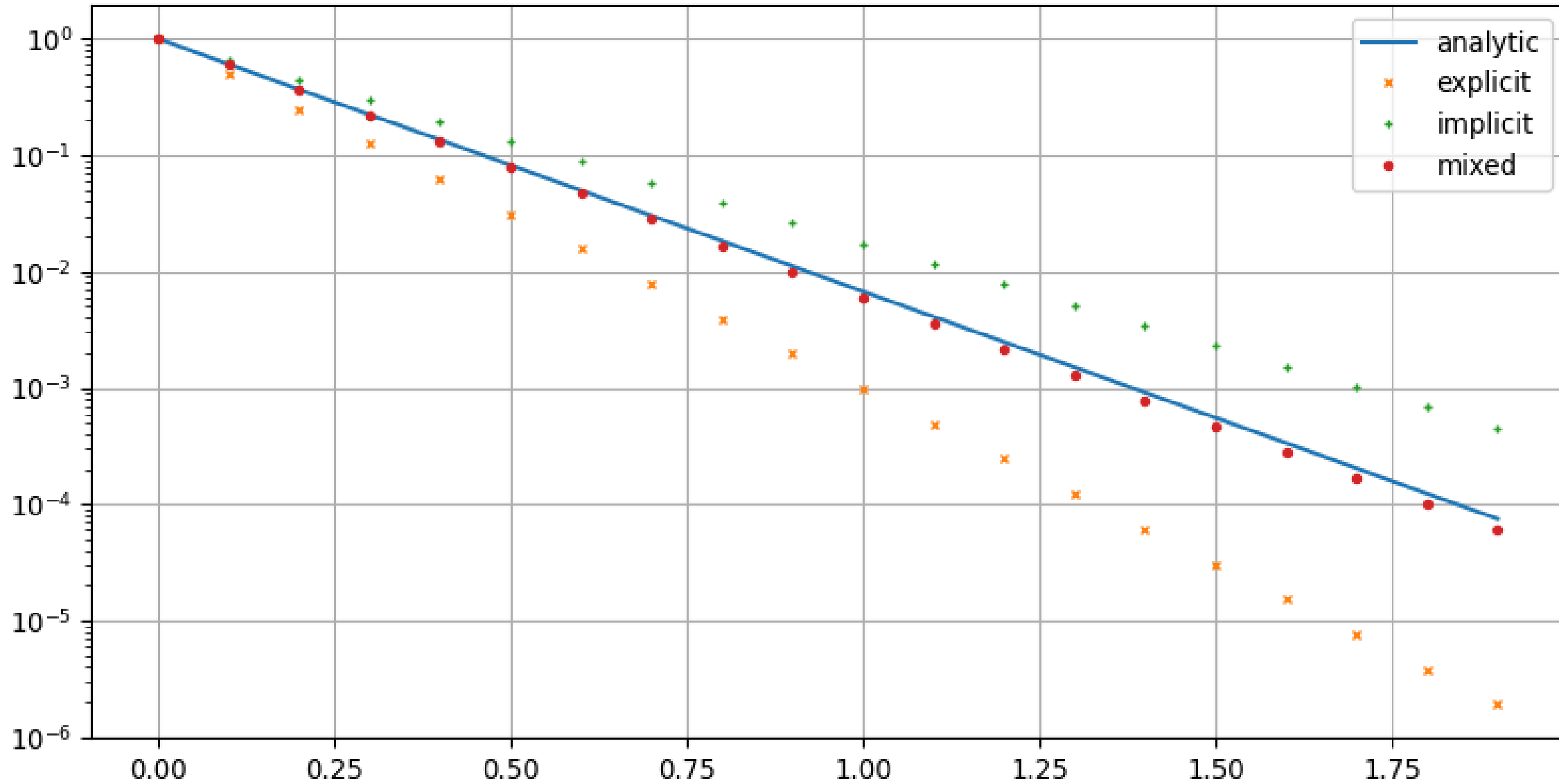
$$\frac{T_{i+1} - T_i}{dt} = -\frac{T_{i+1} + T_i}{2\tau}$$

$$T_{i+1}(1 + dt/2\tau) = T_i(1 - dt/2\tau)$$

$$T_{i+1} = T_i \frac{1 - dt/2\tau}{1 + dt/2\tau}$$

**Task:** simulate Newtonian cooling using all three methods

# Numerical comparison



# Periodic BC

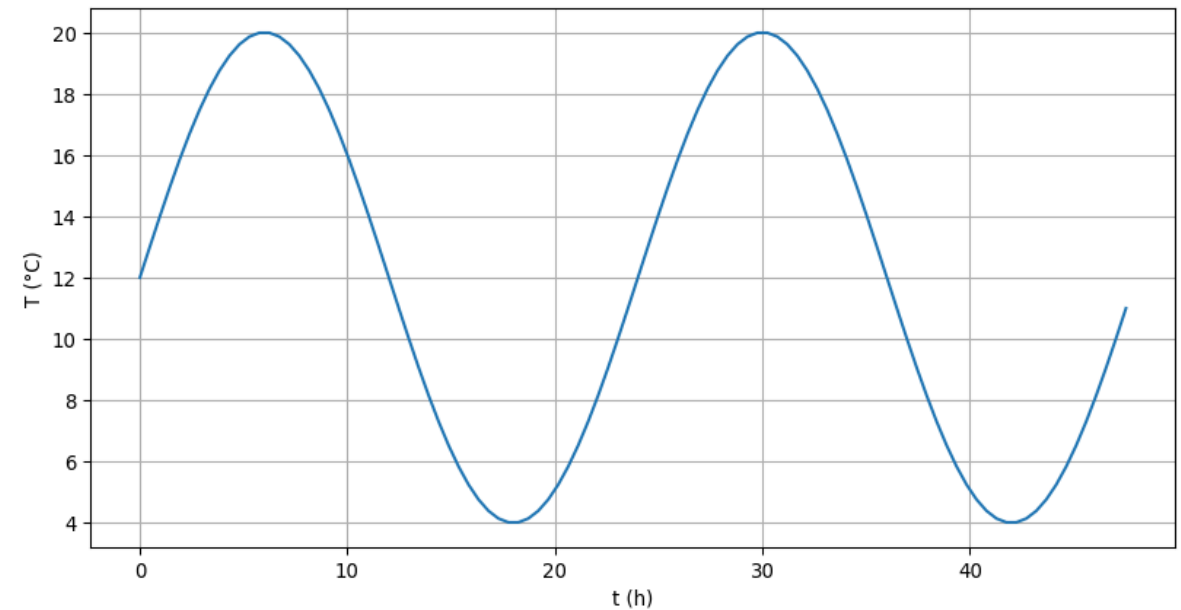
Upper boundary: daily/yearly variation

$$T(z = 0) = T_0 + \Delta T \sin \omega t$$

$T_0$  mean temperature (e.g. 12°C),  
 $\Delta T$  variation, e.g. 8°C

$\omega = 2\pi/\tau$  daily ( $\tau_d=3600*24$ s) or  
yearly ( $\tau_y = 365\tau_d$ ) cycle

```
1 day = 3600 * 24
2 T0, dT = 12, 8
3 t = np.arange(100) / 50 * day
4 T = T0+dT*np.sin(t/day*2*np.pi)
5 plt.plot(t/day*24, T)
6 plt.xlabel("t (h)")
7 plt.ylabel("T (°C)")
8 plt.grid()
```



# Tasks for today

1. Complete the stationary tasks from last exercise
2. Keep using the FD matrix for the time-stepping
3. Start with zero temperature distribution
4. Set upper temperature to higher value (source)
5. Choose  $\Delta t$  and step up in time with explicit method
6. Change  $\Delta t$  and observe solution
7. Repeat last steps with implicit and mixed methods
8. Compare with analytical solution