

# Partial differential equations

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# Today's outline

- Introduction
- Installation diffusion equation
  - Discretization
  - Solving the diffusion equation
  - Non-linear source terms
- Convection
  - Discretization
  - Central difference scheme
  - Upwind scheme
- Conclusions
  - Other methods
  - Summary
- Introduction
- Curve fitting
- Regression
- Fitting numerical models
- Optimization
- Linear programming

# Overview

## Main question

How to solve parabolic PDEs like:

$$\frac{\partial c}{\partial t} = D \frac{\partial^2 c}{\partial x^2} - u \frac{\partial c}{\partial x} + R$$

with

$$\begin{aligned}
 t = 0; 0 \leq x \leq \ell &\Rightarrow c = c_0 \\
 t > 0; x = 0 &\Rightarrow -D \frac{\partial c}{\partial x} + uc = u_{\text{in}} c_{\text{in}} \\
 t > 0; x = \ell &\Rightarrow \frac{\partial c}{\partial x} = 0
 \end{aligned}$$

accurately and efficiently?

# What is a PDE?

## Partial differential equation

An equation containing a function and their derivatives to multiple independent variables.

## Order of PDE

The highest derivative appearing in the PDE

General second order PDE:

$$A \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x^2} + B \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x \partial y} + C \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial y^2} + D \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} + E \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} + Ff = G$$

- Linear equation: Coefficients  $A, B, \dots, G$  do not depend on  $x$  and  $y$ .
- Non-linear equation: Coefficients  $A, B, \dots, G$  are a function of  $x$  and  $y$ .

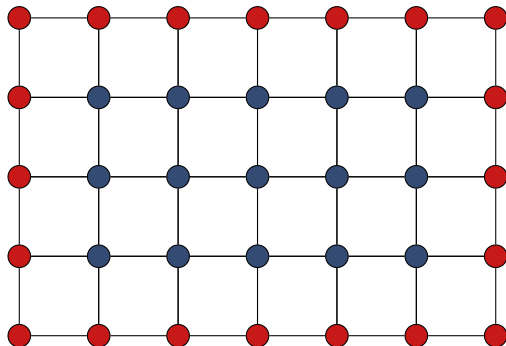


# Importance of classification

Different PDE types require different solution techniques because of the difference in range of influence:

- *Characteristics*  
Curves in  $xy$ -domain along with signal propagation takes place
- *Domain of dependence of point  $P$*   
points in  $xy$ -domain which influence the value of  $f$  in point  $P$
- *Range of influence of point  $P$*   
points in  $xy$ -domain which are influenced by the value of  $f$  in point  $P$

## Example elliptic PDE (boundary value problems: BVP)



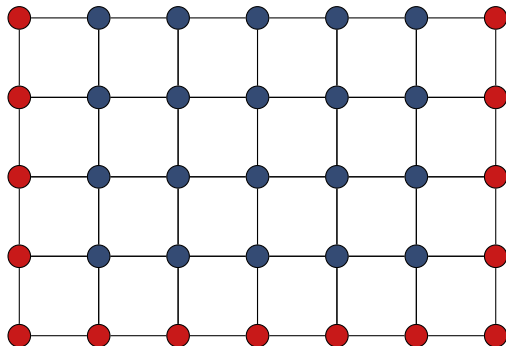
- Grid point at which dependent variable has to be computed
- Grid point at which boundary condition is specified

Typical example: Poisson equation

$$\frac{\partial^2 T}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 T}{\partial y^2} = f(x, y)$$

Efficiency (memory requirements, CPU time) of the numerical method is of crucial importance.

## Example parabolic PDE (initial value problem: IVP)



- Grid point at which dependent variable has to be computed
- Grid point at which boundary condition is specified

Typical example: Poisson equation

$$\frac{\partial c}{\partial t} + u \frac{\partial c}{\partial x} = \mathcal{D} \frac{\partial^2 c}{\partial x^2} + R$$

Stability (in numerical sense) of the numerical method is of crucial importance.



# Boundary conditions

- Dirichlet or fixed condition: prescribed value of  $f$  at boundary

$$f = f_0 \quad f_0 \text{ is a known function}$$

- Neumann condition: prescribed value of derivative of  $f$  at boundary

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial n} = q \quad q \text{ is a known function}$$

- Mixed or Robin condition: relation between  $f$  and  $\frac{\partial f}{\partial n}$  at boundary

$$a \frac{\partial f}{\partial n} + bf = c \quad a, b \text{ and } c \text{ are known functions}$$

# Numerical solution method

Finite differences (method of lines, MOL):

- ① Discretize spatial domain in discrete grid points
- ② Find suitable approximation for the spatial derivatives
- ③ Substitute approximations in PDE, which gives a system of ODE's, one for every grid points
- ④ Advance in time with a suitable ODE solver

Alternative methods: collocation, Galerkin or Finite Element methods

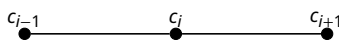
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# Instationary diffusion equation (Fick's second law)

$$\frac{\partial c}{\partial t} = D \frac{\partial^2 c}{\partial x^2}, \quad \text{with} \quad \begin{aligned} t = 0; 0 \leq x \leq \ell &\Rightarrow c = c_0 \\ t > 0; x = 0 &\Rightarrow c = c_L \\ t > 0; x = \ell &\Rightarrow c = c_R \end{aligned}$$

Second derivative  $\frac{\partial^2 c}{\partial x^2}$



$$c_{i+1} = c_i + \left. \frac{\partial c}{\partial x} \right|_i \Delta x + \frac{1}{2} \left. \frac{\partial^2 c}{\partial x^2} \right|_i \Delta x^2 + \frac{1}{6} \left. \frac{\partial^3 c}{\partial x^3} \right|_i \Delta x^3 + \dots$$

$$c_{i-1} = c_i - \left. \frac{\partial c}{\partial x} \right|_i \Delta x + \frac{1}{2} \left. \frac{\partial^2 c}{\partial x^2} \right|_i \Delta x^2 - \frac{1}{6} \left. \frac{\partial^3 c}{\partial x^3} \right|_i \Delta x^3 + \dots$$

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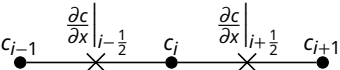

$$c_{i+1} + c_{i-1} = 2c_i + \left. \frac{\partial^2 c}{\partial x^2} \right|_i \Delta x^2 + \mathcal{O}(\Delta x^4)$$

$$\Rightarrow \left. \frac{\partial^2 c}{\partial x^2} \right|_i = \frac{c_{i+1} - 2c_i + c_{i-1}}{\Delta x^2} + \mathcal{O}(\Delta x^2)$$

Due to symmetric discretization: second order (central discretization).

# Instationary diffusion equation (Fick's second law)

An alternative discretization:

$$\frac{\partial^2 c}{\partial x^2} \Big|_i = \frac{\frac{\partial c}{\partial x} \Big|_{i+\frac{1}{2}} - \frac{\partial c}{\partial x} \Big|_{i-\frac{1}{2}}}{\Delta x} + \mathcal{O}(\Delta x^2)$$


$$= \frac{\frac{c_{i+1} - c_i}{\Delta x} - \frac{c_i - c_{i-1}}{\Delta x}}{\Delta x} = \frac{c_{i+1} - 2c_i + c_{i-1}}{\Delta x^2}$$

This is convenient for the derivation of  $\frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left( D \frac{\partial c}{\partial x} \right)$ :

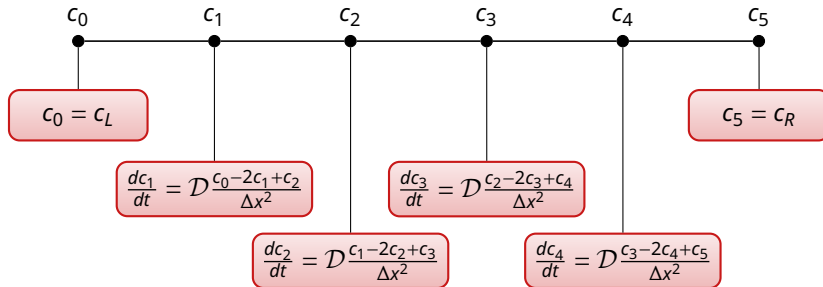
$$\frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left( D \frac{\partial c}{\partial x} \right) = \frac{D_{i+\frac{1}{2}} \frac{\partial c}{\partial x} \Big|_{i+\frac{1}{2}} - D_{i-\frac{1}{2}} \frac{\partial c}{\partial x} \Big|_{i-\frac{1}{2}}}{\Delta x} = \frac{D_{i+\frac{1}{2}} \frac{c_{i+1} - c_i}{\Delta x} - D_{i-\frac{1}{2}} \frac{c_i - c_{i-1}}{\Delta x}}{\Delta x}$$

$$= \frac{D_{i+\frac{1}{2}} c_{i+1} - \left( D_{i+\frac{1}{2}} + D_{i-\frac{1}{2}} \right) c_i + D_{i-\frac{1}{2}} c_{i-1}}{(\Delta x)^2}$$



$$\frac{dc_i}{dt} = \mathcal{D} \frac{c_{i-1} - 2c_i + c_{i+1}}{\Delta x^2} \quad \text{for } i = 0, \dots, N$$

1. 2. 3. 4. 5.



# Instationary diffusion equation: boundary conditions

Two options:

- 1 Keep boundary conditions as additional equations:

$$c_0 = c_L, \frac{dc_1}{dt} = \mathcal{D} \frac{c_0 - 2c_1 + c_2}{\Delta x^2}, \frac{dc_2}{dt} = \mathcal{D} \frac{c_1 - 2c_2 + c_3}{\Delta x^2},$$

$$\frac{dc_3}{dt} = \mathcal{D} \frac{c_2 - 2c_3 + c_4}{\Delta x^2}, \frac{dc_4}{dt} = \mathcal{D} \frac{c_3 - 2c_4 + c_5}{\Delta x^2}, c_5 = c_R$$

- 2 Substitute boundary conditions to reduce number of equations:

$$\frac{dc_1}{dt} = \mathcal{D} \frac{c_L - 2c_1 + c_2}{\Delta x^2}, \frac{dc_2}{dt} = \mathcal{D} \frac{c_1 - 2c_2 + c_3}{\Delta x^2},$$

$$\frac{dc_3}{dt} = \mathcal{D} \frac{c_2 - 2c_3 + c_4}{\Delta x^2}, \frac{dc_4}{dt} = \mathcal{D} \frac{c_3 - 2c_4 + c_R}{\Delta x^2}$$





# Instationary diffusion equation: temporal discretization

$$\frac{dc_i}{dt} = \mathcal{D} \frac{c_{i-1} - 2c_i + c_{i+1}}{\Delta x^2}$$

Time discretization: backward Euler (implicit)

$$\frac{c_i^{n+1} - c_i^n}{\Delta t} = \mathcal{D} \frac{c_{i-1}^{n+1} - 2c_i^{n+1} + c_{i+1}^{n+1}}{\Delta x^2}$$

$$\Rightarrow -\text{Fo} c_{i-1}^{n+1} + (1 + 2\text{Fo}) c_i^{n+1} - \text{Fo} c_{i+1}^{n+1} = c_i^n \quad \text{with } \text{Fo} = \frac{\mathcal{D} \Delta t}{\Delta x^2}$$

Requires the solution of a system of linear equations, but no stability constraints!

Note: extension to higher order schemes (with time step adaptation) straightforward. Often second or third order optimal, because for each Euler-like step in the additional order an often large system needs to be solved (not treated in this course).

## Solving the instationary diffusion equation: example

Solve the diffusion problem using explicit discretization:

$$\frac{\partial c_i}{\partial t} = \mathcal{D} \frac{\partial^2 c}{\partial x^2} \quad \text{with} \quad \begin{aligned} 0 \leq x \leq \delta, \delta &= 5 \cdot 10^{-3} \text{ m} \\ \delta/\Delta x &= 100 \text{ grid cells} \\ \mathcal{D} &= 1 \cdot 10^{-8} \text{ m}^2 \text{ s}^{-1} \\ t_{\text{end}} &= 5000 \text{ s} \\ c_L &= 1 \text{ mol m}^{-3} \quad c_R = 0 \text{ mol m}^{-3} \end{aligned}$$

$$c_i^{n+1} = \text{Fo} c_{i-1}^n + (1 - 2\text{Fo}) c_i^n + \text{Fo} c_{i+1}^n \quad \text{with} \quad \text{Fo} = \frac{\mathcal{D} \Delta t}{\Delta x^2}$$

- ① Initialise variables
- ② Compute time step so that  $\text{Fo} \leq \frac{1}{2} \Rightarrow \Delta t = 0.125 \text{ s}$ !
- ③ Compute 40000 time steps times 100 grid nodes!
- ④ Store solution

# Solving the instationary diffusion equation: example

Initialise the variables and matrices:

```

1 import numpy as np
2
3 Nx = 100 # Nx grid points
4 Nt = 40000 # Nt time steps
5 D = 1e-8 # m/s
6 c_L = 1.0; c_R = 0 # mol/m3
7 t_end = 5000.0 # s
8 x_end = 5e-3 # m
9
10 # Time step and grid size
11 dt = t_end / Nt
12 dx = x_end / Nx
13
14 # Fourier number
15 Fo = D * dt / dx / dx
16
17 # Initial matrices for solutions (Nx times Nt)
18 c = np.zeros((Nt + 1, Nx + 1)) # All concentrations are zero
19 c[:, 0] = c_L # Concentration at the left side
20 c[:, Nx] = c_R # Concentration at the right side
21
22 # Grid node and time step positions
23 x = np.linspace(0, x_end, Nx + 1)

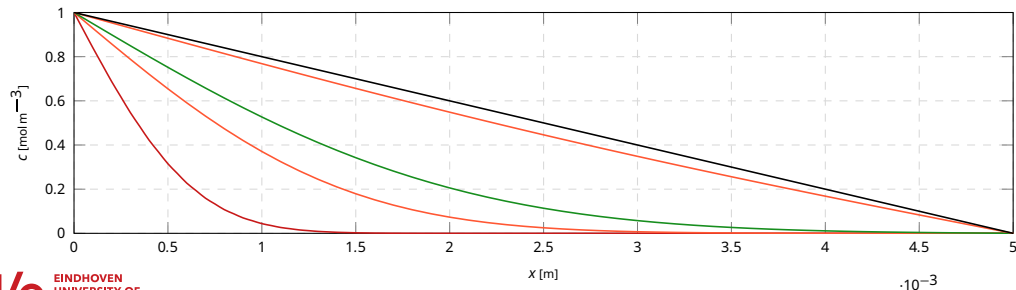
```

# Solving the instationary diffusion equation: example

Compute the solution (nested time-and-grid loop):

- Create a time-loop
- Create a loop over *internal* grid points
- Update each node using  $c_i^{n+1} = \text{Fo}c_{i-1}^n + (1 - 2\text{Fo})c_i^n + \text{Fo}c_{i+1}^n$
- Plot the solution for selected time steps

Plotting the solution at  $t = \{12.5, 62.5, 125, 625, 5000\}$  s.



# Solving the instationary diffusion equation: example

A double-loop can impose serious computation times if the number of grid points increases:

```
1 for n in range(Nt - 1): # time loop
2     for i in range(1, Nx): # Nested loop for grid nodes
3         c[n+1, i] = Fo * c[n, i-1] + (1 - 2*Fo) * c[n, i] + Fo * c[n, i+1]
```

Remedy: vectorization. Construct a 3-point stencil Laplacian matrix first, then use the matrix product to evolve the simulation:

```
1 from scipy.sparse import diags
2
3 # Construct sparse matrix
4 e = np.ones(Nx-1)
5 md = np.concatenate([[1], (1 - 2 * Fo) * e, [1]])
6 ld = np.concatenate([Fo * e, [0]])
7 ud = np.concatenate([[0], Fo * e])
8 A = diags([ld, md, ud], offsets=[-1, 0, 1])
9
10 # Time evolution
11 for n in range(Nt - 1): # time loop
12     c[n+1, :] = A.dot(c[n, :])
```

# Solving the diffusion equation implicitly

Linear system  $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$  from  $-\text{Foc}_{i-1}^{n+1} + (1 + 2\text{Fo})c_i^{n+1} - \text{Foc}_{i+1}^{n+1} = c_i^n$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ -\text{Fo} & (1 + 2\text{Fo}) & -\text{Fo} & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & -\text{Fo} & (1 + 2\text{Fo}) & -\text{Fo} & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -\text{Fo} & (1 + 2\text{Fo}) & \dots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots & 1 \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} c_0^{n+1} \\ c_1^{n+1} \\ c_2^{n+1} \\ c_3^{n+1} \\ \vdots \\ c_m^{n+1} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} c_0^n \\ c_1^n \\ c_2^n \\ c_3^n \\ \vdots \\ c_m^n \end{pmatrix}$$

$$1 \times c_0^{n+1} = c_0^n \text{ (boundary condition)}$$

$$-\text{Foc}_0^{n+1} + (1 + 2\text{Fo})c_1^{n+1} - \text{Foc}_2^{n+1} = c_1^n$$

$$-\text{Foc}_1^{n+1} + (1 + 2\text{Fo})c_2^{n+1} - \text{Foc}_3^{n+1} = c_2^n$$

$$-\text{Foc}_2^{n+1} + (1 + 2\text{Fo})c_3^{n+1} - \text{Foc}_4^{n+1} = c_3^n$$

$$1 \times c_m^{n+1} = c_m^n \text{ (boundary condition)}$$

# Solving the diffusion equation implicitly in Python

To solve the linear system, we need to define matrix  $A$ . It is clear that storing many zeros is not efficient in terms of memory. We use a *sparse matrix* format. Two alternative ways to set up the matrix:

Set individual elements of the matrix:

- Loop over the internal cells
- Set the coefficients in matrix  $A$  (main diagonal + elements left/right to it)
- Then set the coefficients for the boundary cells

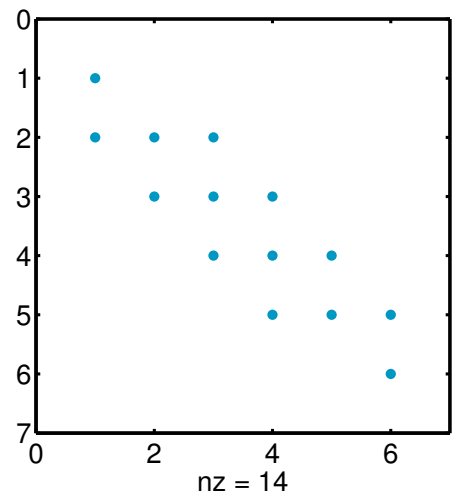
Set matrix using bands:

- Consider the matrix structure (previous slide) and create vectors containing the values in each band
- Recall the `sp.sparse.diags` function to set entire bands to a sparse matrix



# Solving the diffusion equation implicitly in Python

The command `plt.spy(A)` shows a figure with the non-zero positions.



# Solving the diffusion equation implicitly in Python

The concentration matrix is initialised and the boundary conditions are set as follows:

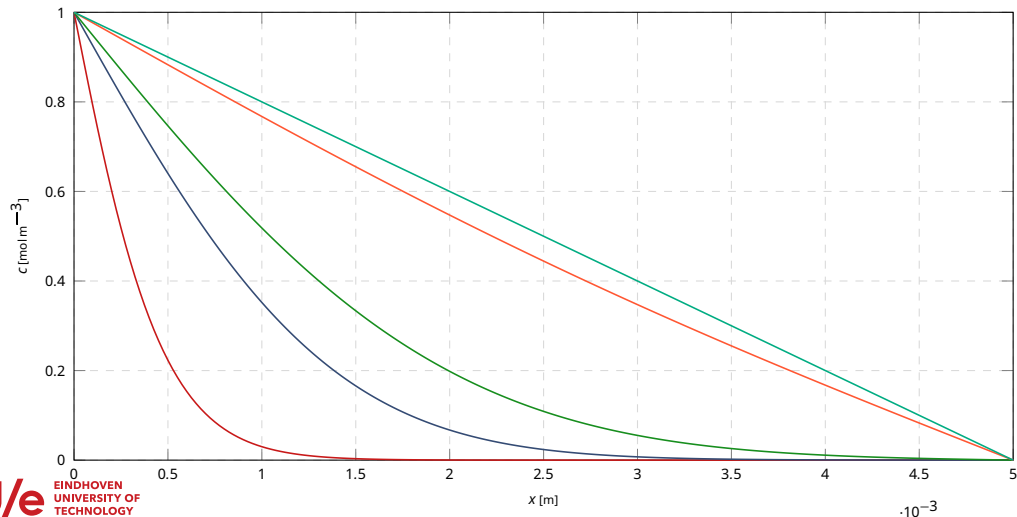
```
1 # Initial matrices for solutions (Nx times Nt)
2 c = np.zeros((Nt+1, Nx+1)) # All concentrations are zero
3 c[:, 0] = c_L # Concentration at left side
4 c[:, Nx] = c_R # Concentration at right side
```

The right hand side vector (**b**) can now be set during the time-loop:

```
1 from scipy.sparse.linalg import spsolve
2
3 for n in range(Nt-1): # time loop
4     b = c[n, :] # Set right hand side
5     solX = spsolve(A, b) # Solve linear system
6     c[n+1, :] = solX # Store solution each time step
```

# Solving the diffusion equation implicitly in Matlab

Plotting the solution at  $t = \{12.5, 62.5, 125, 625, 5000\}$  s.



## About explicit vs. implicit solutions

- Explicit solution:
  - Easy to implement
  - Very small time steps required.
  - This problem took about 0.5 s.
- Implicit solution:
  - Harder to implement, needs sparse matrix solver
  - No stability constraint
  - This problem took about 0.05 s
- The difference will become much larger for systems with e.g. more grid nodes!

## Extension with non-linear source terms

$$\frac{\partial c}{\partial t} = \mathcal{D} \frac{\partial^2 c}{\partial x^2} + R(c) \quad \text{with} \quad \begin{aligned} t = 0; 0 \leq x \leq \ell &\Rightarrow c = c_0 \\ t > 0; x = 0 &\Rightarrow c = c_L \\ t > 0; x = \ell &\Rightarrow c = c_R \end{aligned}$$

- Forward Euler (explicit): simply add to right-hand side

$$\frac{c_i^{n+1} - c_i^n}{\Delta t} = \mathcal{D} \frac{c_{i-1}^n - 2c_i^n + c_{i+1}^n}{\Delta x^2} + R(c_i^n)$$

$$\Rightarrow c_i^{n+1} = \text{Fo} c_{i-1}^n + (1 - 2\text{Fo}) c_i^n + \text{Fo} c_{i+1}^n + R_i^n \Delta t$$

- Backward Euler (implicit): linearization required

$$R(c_i^{n+1}) = R(c_i^n) + \left. \frac{dR}{dc} \right|_i^n (c_i^{n+1} - c_i^n)$$

$$\frac{c_i^{n+1} - c_i^n}{\Delta t} = \mathcal{D} \frac{c_{i-1}^{n+1} - 2c_i^{n+1} + c_{i+1}^{n+1}}{\Delta x^2} + R(c_i^{n+1})$$

$$\Rightarrow -\text{Fo} c_{i-1}^{n+1} + (1 + 2\text{Fo} - \left. \frac{dR}{dc} \right|_i^n \Delta t) c_i^{n+1} - \text{Fo} c_{i+1}^{n+1} = c_i^n + \left( R_i^n - \left. \frac{dR}{dc} \right|_i^n c_i^n \right) \Delta t$$

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## Extension with convection terms

$$\frac{\partial c}{\partial t} = D \frac{\partial^2 c}{\partial x^2} - u \frac{\partial c}{\partial x} + R$$

Discretization of first derivative  $\frac{dc}{dx}$ ,  
looks simple but is numerical headache!

Central discretization:

$$\frac{dc}{dx} = \frac{c_{i+1} - c_{i-1}}{2\Delta x}$$

⇒ simple and easy, too bad it doesn't work: yields unstable solutions if convection dominated.

# Central difference scheme of 1st derivative

Unsteady convection:

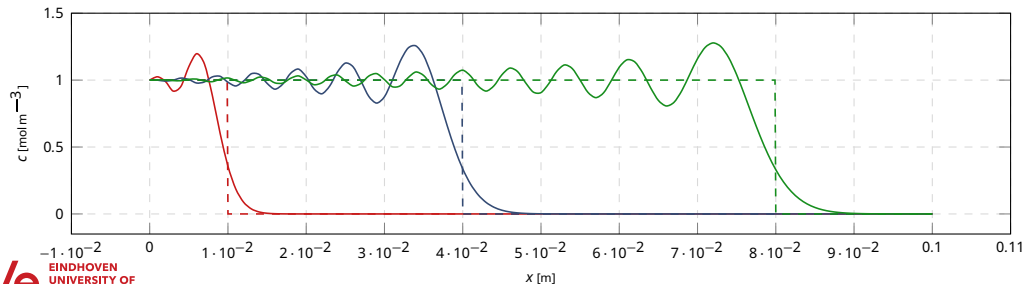
$$\frac{\partial c}{\partial t} = -u \frac{\partial c}{\partial x}$$

Central difference for first derivative:

$$\frac{dc}{dx} = \frac{c_{i+1} - c_{i-1}}{2\Delta x}$$

Forward Euler discretization of temporal and spatial domain:

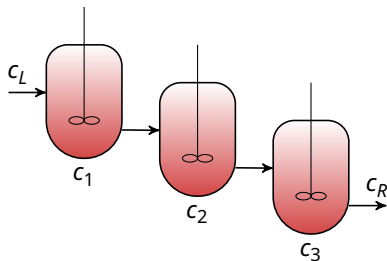
$$\frac{c_i^{n+1} - c_i^n}{\Delta t} = -u \frac{c_{i+1}^n - c_{i-1}^n}{2\Delta x} \Rightarrow c_i^{n+1} = c_i^n - u \frac{c_{i+1}^n - c_{i-1}^n}{2\Delta x} \Delta t$$





## Extension with convection terms

Solution: upwind discretization, like CSTR's in series:



First order upwind:  $-u \frac{dc}{dx} \Big|_i = \begin{cases} -u \frac{c_i - c_{i-1}}{\Delta x} & \text{if } u \geq 0 \\ -u \frac{c_{i+1} - c_i}{\Delta x} & \text{if } u < 0 \end{cases}$  Stable if  $Co = \frac{u \Delta t}{\Delta x} < 1$  (with  $Co$  the

Courant number). However, only 1<sup>st</sup> order accurate (large smearing of concentration fronts). Higher order upwind requires TVD schemes (trick of the trade)...

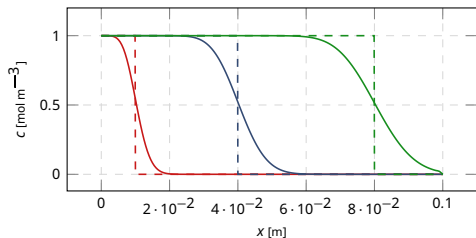
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# Upwind scheme: example

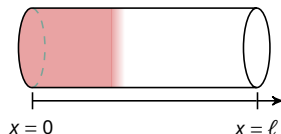
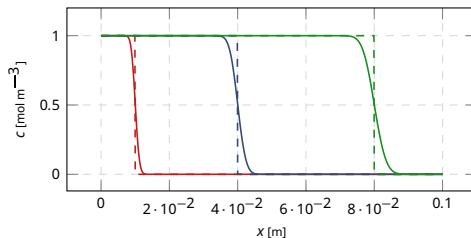
Unsteady convection through a pipe:

$$\frac{\partial c}{\partial t} = -u \frac{\partial c}{\partial x} \quad \text{with} \quad u = 0.1 \text{ ms}^{-1} \Rightarrow c_i^{n+1} = c_i^n - u \frac{c_i - c_{i-1}}{\Delta x} \Delta t$$

Using 100 grid cells



Using 1000 grid cells



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## Extension to systems of PDE's

- Explicit methods: straightforward extension
- Implicit methods: yields block-tridiagonal matrix (note ordering of equations: all variables per grid cell)



## Further extensions for parabolic PDEs

- Higher order temporal discretization (multi-step) with time step adaptation
- Non-uniform grids with automatic grid adaptation
- Higher-order discretization methods, especially higher order TVD (flux delimited) schemes for convective fluxes (e.g. WENO schemes)
- Higher-order finite volume schemes (Riemann solvers)

