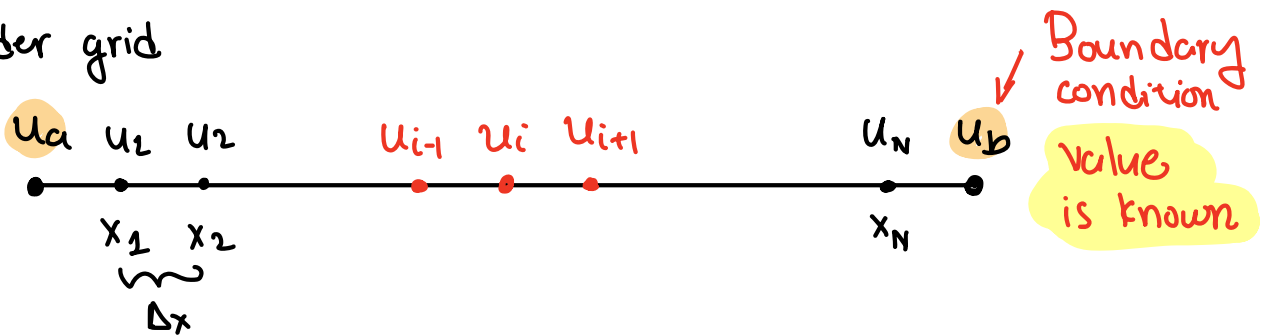


# Finite Difference Matrix Operators

Lomax 3.3.2

Consider grid



Approximation for second derivative at  $x_i$ :

$$\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} \Big|_i \equiv \delta_{xx} u_i = \frac{u_{i-1} - 2u_i + u_{i+1}}{\Delta x^2} + O(\Delta x^2)$$

This is a point difference operator

Point difference operators are not useful for CFD

We need an operator that will take entire grid function and its boundary conditions and result in a derivative approximation, not necessarily at the nodal points ( $x_i$ ) of the grid function

we have:  $\underbrace{\frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} \text{ approximation}}_{\text{all points}} = \text{Difference operator} \left( \underbrace{\text{grid fun}}_{\text{entire grid function}} \right)$

Let's write this in detail:

$$\delta_{xx} u_1 = \frac{1}{\Delta x^2} (u_a - 2u_1 + u_2)$$

$$\delta_{xx} u_2 = \frac{1}{\Delta x^2} (u_1 - 2u_2 + u_3)$$

$$\delta_{xx} u_3 = \frac{1}{\Delta x^2} (u_2 - 2u_3 + u_4)$$

$$\delta_{xx} u_4 = \frac{1}{\Delta x^2} (u_3 - 2u_4 + u_5)$$

$\vdots$

$$\delta_{xx} u_N = \frac{1}{\Delta x^2} (u_{N-1} - 2u_N + u_b)$$

That's a lot of equations... also there is a pattern...  
we will rearrange...

$$\begin{bmatrix} \delta_{xx} u_1 \\ \delta_{xx} u_2 \\ \delta_{xx} u_3 \\ \delta_{xx} u_4 \\ \vdots \\ \delta_{xx} u_N \end{bmatrix} = \frac{1}{\Delta x^2} \begin{bmatrix} -2 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & -2 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & -2 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -2 & 1 \\ & & & \ddots & \\ & & & 1 & -2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} u_1 \\ u_2 \\ u_3 \\ u_4 \\ \vdots \\ u_N \end{bmatrix} + \frac{1}{\Delta x^2} \begin{bmatrix} u_a \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ \vdots \\ u_b \end{bmatrix}$$

$\uparrow$  Banded matrix  
 Notation:  $B(1, -2, 1; N)$

$\uparrow$  vector

$\uparrow$  BCs go here

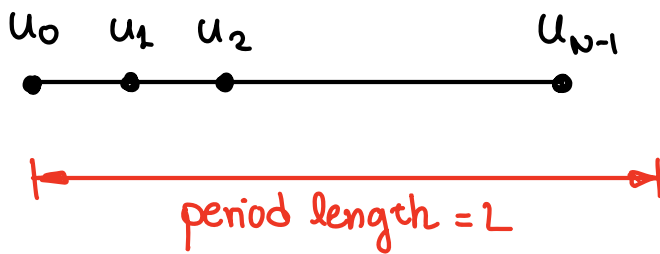
$$\delta_{xx} \vec{u} = A \vec{u} + \vec{b}$$

$\uparrow$  Matrix Difference operator ( $N \times N$  matrix)

Matrix A is the discrete second derivative  
using our chosen approximation

**Do NOT** form the matrix and do NOT do  
a matrix-vector multiplication to estimate  $\delta_x \vec{u}$   
Matrix for notation and analysis **ONLY**

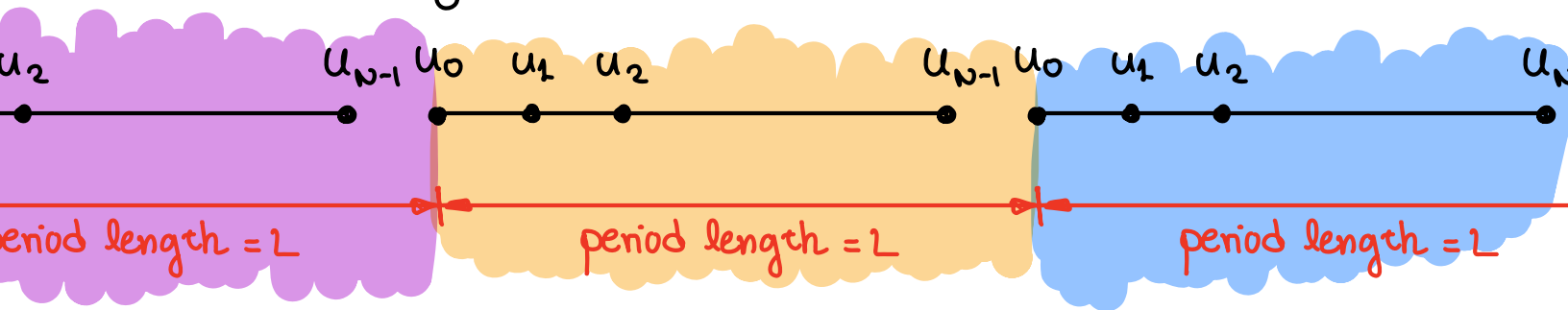
# Discrete Periodicity and Boundary Conditions



$N$  points

Grid Spacing:  $\Delta x = \frac{L}{N}$

Periodic Boundary Condition means pattern repeats like that:



**Spectral Method**: method implicitly uses a periodic boundary condition.

Do not try to impose a boundary condition by doing something special at the boundary

**Finite Differences**: Boundary condition must be imposed

The problem is computing derivatives at the edges of the domain:

e.g.  $\frac{du}{dx} \Big|_0 = \frac{u_1 - u_{-1}}{2\Delta x}$  ← need this

Option 1:

change difference at boundaries:

$$\frac{du}{dx} \Big|_0 = \frac{u_1 - u_{N-1}}{2\Delta x} \quad \text{and} \quad \frac{du}{dx} \Big|_{N-1} = \frac{u_0 - u_{N-2}}{2\Delta x}$$

## Option 2: ghost cells

grow the domain left and right using the periodic pattern

Initial array  $[u_0 \ u_1 \ \dots \ u_{N-1}]$

New array  $[u_{N-1} \ u_0 \ u_1 \ \dots \ u_{N-1} \ u_0]$

↑  
ghost cells

number of ghost cells depends on FD stencil!  
we need enough ghost cells to be able to apply FD scheme

$[u_{N-1} \ u_0 \ u_1 \ \dots \ u_{N-1} \ u_0]$

↑  
now derivative at  $x_0$  is  $\approx \frac{u_{\text{right}} - u_{\text{left}}}{2\Delta x}$

↓  $u_1$       ↓  $u_{N-1}$

Positives of ghost cells: can apply same FD scheme all the way to the boundary

e.g.  $\frac{u_{i+1} - u_{i-1}}{2\Delta x}$

Negatives of ghost cells: must track indexes since first array index is no longer the left boundary

# Circulat Matrices

- Consider:
- a periodic grid with  $N$  points
  - second-order approximation of first derivative

$$\delta_x u = \frac{u_{i+1} - u_{i-1}}{2\Delta x}$$

Difference matrix:  $\frac{1}{2\Delta x}$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 & \dots & 0 & -1 \\ -1 & 0 & 1 & \dots & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 0 & 1 & \dots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 & -1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

Notation:  $A = \frac{1}{2\Delta x} B_p(-1, 0, 1; N)$

↑ periodic

## Important properties:

- $\delta_x u \rightarrow B_p(-1, 0, 1; N) \rightarrow$  Pure imaginary eigenvalues
- $\delta_{xx} u \rightarrow B(1, -2, 1; N) \rightarrow$  Pure real eigenvalues

Analytical expressions in Appendix B of Lomax

General FD approximation:

$$\underbrace{\sum_{j=-r}^s b_j \left. \frac{\partial^m u}{\partial x^m} \right|_{i+j}}_{\substack{r+s+1 \text{ points} \\ \text{Implicit} \\ \text{Hermitian} \\ \text{Padé} \\ \text{Compact}}} - \underbrace{\sum_{j=-p}^q a_j u_{i+j}}_{p+q+1 \text{ points}} = \text{error}$$

$$\text{Stencil width} = \max(s, q) + \max(r, p) + 1$$

Example: Implicit finite difference

$$\left. \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} \right|_{i-1} + 4 \left. \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} \right|_i + \left. \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} \right|_{i+1} - \frac{3}{\Delta x} (u_{i+1} - u_{i-1}) = \frac{\Delta x^4}{120} \frac{\partial^5 u}{\partial x^5} + \dots$$

$$\text{Order} = 4 \quad \text{stencil width} = 3$$

$$\text{Matrix Operator: } \frac{1}{6} B(1, 4, 1) \delta_x \vec{u} = \frac{1}{2\Delta x} B(-1, 0, 1) \vec{u} + \vec{b}$$

$$\delta_x \vec{u} = 6 B(1, 4, 1)^{-1} \left[ \frac{1}{2\Delta x} B(-1, 0, 1) \vec{u} + \vec{b} \right]$$

**Do NOT** compute or form the matrix inverse

- Inverse is a full matrix
- Computing the inverse is VERY expensive
- Use a special linear system solver (much cheaper)