

Preliminary Exam

August 20, 2002

Do **FOUR** of the following six problems **ONLY**! Show all relevant work!

1. Consider the boundary value problem

$$\begin{aligned} u''(x) + a(x)u'(x) + b(x)u(x) &= f(x) \quad , \quad 0 < x < 1 \\ u(0) &= \alpha \\ u(1) &= \beta \end{aligned}$$

- (a) Use a centered finite difference approximation for the derivatives to write down a system of N finite difference equations corresponding to the problem. Explicitly write the matrix and vectors.

Solution:

$$\begin{aligned} u(x_j - h) - 2u(x_j) + u(x_j + h) + a(x_j)\frac{h}{2}[u(x_j + h) - u(x_j - h)] + h^2b(x_j)u(x_j) &= h^2f(x_j) \, , \\ x_j &= j/(N+1), \quad j = 1, 2, \dots, N \, , \\ h &= 1/(N+1) \end{aligned}$$

$$u(x_j - h) \left[1 - a(x_j)\frac{h}{2} \right] + u(x_j) [-2 + h^2b(x_j)] + u(x_j + h) \left[1 + a(x_j)\frac{h}{2} \right] = h^2f(x_j) \, ,$$

$$\mathbf{A} = \begin{bmatrix} -2 + h^2b(x_1) & 1 + a(x_1)\frac{h}{2} & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 1 - a(x_2)\frac{h}{2} & -2 + h^2b(x_2) & 1 + a(x_2)\frac{h}{2} & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & 1 - a(x_3)\frac{h}{2} & -2 + h^2b(x_3) & 1 + a(x_3)\frac{h}{2} & 0 & \vdots \\ \vdots & 0 & 1 - a(x_j)\frac{h}{2} & -2 + h^2b(x_j) & 1 + a(x_j)\frac{h}{2} & 0 \\ 0 & \dots & 0 & 1 - a(x_{N-1})\frac{h}{2} & -2 + h^2b(x_{N-1}) & 1 + a(x_{N-1})\frac{h}{2} \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 & 1 - a(x_N)\frac{h}{2} & -2 + h^2b(x_N) \end{bmatrix} \, ,$$

$$\vec{u} = \begin{bmatrix} u_1 \\ u_2 \\ \vdots \\ u_{N-1} \\ u_N \end{bmatrix} \, , \quad \vec{r} = \begin{bmatrix} h^2f(x_1) - (1 - a(x_1)\frac{h}{2})\alpha \\ h^2f(x_2) \\ \vdots \\ h^2f(x_{N-1}) \\ h^2f(x_N) - (1 + a(x_N)\frac{h}{2})\beta \end{bmatrix} \, , \quad \mathbf{A} \vec{u} = \vec{r} \, .$$

(b) In a special case, we are led to the matrix

$$\mathbf{A} = \begin{bmatrix} -2 & 1 & 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 1 & -2 & 1 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & -2 & 1 & 0 & \vdots \\ \vdots & 0 & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots & 0 \\ 0 & \cdots & 0 & 1 & -2 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 & 1 & -2 \end{bmatrix}$$

- i. What does the fact that A is symmetric tell you about the eigenvalues of A ?

Solution: All eigenvalues to a symmetric matrix are real.

- ii. Locate the interval in which the eigenvalues of A lie using Gerschgorin's theorem.

Solution:

The Gerschgorin's circles are all centered at -2. All have radius 2 except two which have radius 1. We know that

$$-4 \leq \lambda_i \leq 0$$

- iii. Determine whether A is singular or not.

Solution:

Several solutions are possible. For example,

1. A sharp version of Gerschgorin's theorem tells that if an eigenvalue is at the edge of the Gerschgorin set it must lie on the edge of **all** the circles. In our case, two of the circles do not reach the origin.
2. Consider

$$[-2], \begin{bmatrix} -2 & 1 \\ 1 & -2 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} -2 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & -2 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & -2 \end{bmatrix}, etc.$$

The determinants are $D_1 = -2, D_2 = 3, D_3 = -4$. By expansion along row & column

$$\begin{aligned} D_n &= -2D_{n-1} - D_{n-2} \\ D_n &= (-1)^n(n+1) \neq 0 \end{aligned}$$

3. Straightforward Gaussian elimination gives $A = L \cdot U$ with

$$\mathbf{L} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & & & & \\ -1/2 & 1 & & & \\ & -2/3 & 1 & & \\ & & -3/4 & 1 & \\ & & & \ddots & \ddots \end{bmatrix}, \mathbf{U} = \begin{bmatrix} -2 & 1 & & & \\ & -3/2 & 1 & & \\ & & -4/3 & 1 & \\ & & & -5/4 & 1 \\ & & & & \ddots & \ddots \end{bmatrix}$$

Given the sequences in the diagonals there will never occur a zero diagonal element.

4. A is negative definite since

$$x^t A x = -2x_1^2 + 2x_1x_2 - 2x_2^2 + 2x_2x_3 - \cdots + 2x_{n-1}x_n - 2x_n^2$$

or

$$x^t A x = -x_1^2 - (x_1 - x_2)^2 - \cdots - (x_{n-1} - x_n)^2 - x_n^2.$$

5. Suppose $Ax = 0$. If we can show that $x = 0$, then A is non-singular. Say $x_1 > 0$, then

$$x_2 = 2x_1 > x_1$$

$$x_3 = 2x_2 - x_1 > x_2$$

.....

$$x_n = 2x_{n-1} - x_{n-2} > x_{n-1}$$

and we have a conflict with the last line, telling that $x_{n-1} = 2x_n$. Hence $x_1 = 0$, which implies $x_2 = \cdots = x_n = 0$.

2. (a) Suppose R^N is equipped with a norm $\| \cdot \|$ and let A be a $N \times N$ non-singular matrix. Define the condition number of A for solving a linear system of equations and the one for determining eigenvalues.

Solution:

For linear systems

$$\text{cond } A = \| A^{-1} \| \| A \|$$

For the eigenvalue problem, let P be a matrix such that $P^{-1}AP$ is diagonal (if this is possible then $P = \text{eigenvectors}(A)$). Then,

$$\text{cond } A = \| P^{-1} \| \| P \|$$

- (b) Show that if u is the solution of $Au = b$ and $u + \delta u$ solves $A(u + \delta u) = b + \delta b$, then

$$\frac{\|\delta u\|}{\|u\|} \leq \text{cond}(A) \frac{\|\delta b\|}{\|b\|}$$

Also, show that if we perturb the coefficient matrix A , instead of b , then

$$\frac{\|\delta u\|}{\|u + \delta u\|} \leq \text{cond}(A) \frac{\|\delta A\|}{\|A\|}$$

Solution:

$$\begin{aligned} \delta u &= A^{-1} \delta b \\ \|\delta u\| &= \|A^{-1} \delta b\| \leq \|A^{-1}\| \|\delta b\| \end{aligned} \quad (0.1)$$

$$\begin{aligned} Au &= b \\ \|b\| &= \|Au\| \leq \|A\| \|u\| \end{aligned} \quad (0.2)$$

Multiply 0.1 and 0.2

$$\begin{aligned} \|\delta u\| \|b\| &\leq \|A^{-1}\| \|A\| \|\delta b\| \|u\| \\ \frac{\|\delta u\|}{\|u\|} &\leq \text{cond } A \frac{\|\delta b\|}{\|b\|} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} (A + \delta A)(u + \delta u) &= b \\ A(u + \delta u) + \delta A(u + \delta u) &= b \end{aligned}$$

Subtract $Au = b$ and we get

$$\begin{aligned} A\delta u &= -\delta A(u + \delta u) \\ \delta u &= -A^{-1} \delta A(u + \delta u) \end{aligned}$$

Hence,

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\|\delta u\|}{\|u + \delta u\|} &\leq \|A^{-1} \delta A\| \leq \|A^{-1}\| \|\delta A\| = \frac{\|A\| \|A^{-1}\| \|\delta A\|}{\|A\|} \\ \frac{\|\delta u\|}{\|u + \delta u\|} &\leq \text{cond}(A) \frac{\|\delta A\|}{\|A\|} \end{aligned}$$

- (c) Suppose $N = 2$ and $\|\cdot\|$ is the Euclidean (l_2) norm. Use this information to find the corresponding condition number for the matrix

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 3 \\ -2 & 1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Solution:

$\text{cond}_2 A$ is the ratio of the largest singular value of A to the smallest singular value of A . This is the ratio of the square root of the largest eigenvalue of $A^T A$ to the square root of the smallest eigenvalue of $A^T A$.

$$A^T A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -2 \\ 3 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 3 \\ -2 & 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 5 & 1 \\ 1 & 10 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{aligned} (5 - \lambda)(10 - \lambda) - 1 &= 0 \\ \lambda^2 - 15\lambda + 49 &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

so that

$$\lambda_1 = (15 + \sqrt{29})/2,$$

$$\lambda_2 = (15 - \sqrt{29})/2.$$

Thus, we have

$$\text{cond}_2 A = \sqrt{\frac{15 + \sqrt{29}}{15 - \sqrt{29}}} = \frac{15 + \sqrt{29}}{14}$$

3. (a) Write down the formula for Newton's iteration in the case of finding a root to the scalar equation $f(x) = 0$ and, also, in the case of a *system* of nonlinear equations.

Solution: Scalar: $x_{n+1} = x_n - \frac{f(x_n)}{f'(x_n)}$.

System: $\mathbf{x}_{n+1} = \mathbf{x}_n - F^{-1}(\mathbf{x})f(\mathbf{x}_n)$, where $F(\mathbf{x})$ is the Jacobian matrix.

In more detail, to solve

$$\begin{cases} f(x, y, \dots, z) = 0 \\ g(x, y, \dots, z) = 0 \\ \vdots \\ h(x, y, \dots, z) = 0 \end{cases}$$

we iterate

$$\begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} & \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} & \cdots & \frac{\partial f}{\partial z} \\ \frac{\partial g}{\partial x} & \frac{\partial g}{\partial y} & \cdots & \frac{\partial g}{\partial z} \\ \vdots & & & \vdots \\ \frac{\partial h}{\partial x} & \frac{\partial h}{\partial y} & \cdots & \frac{\partial h}{\partial z} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \Delta x \\ \Delta y \\ \vdots \\ \Delta z \end{bmatrix} = - \begin{bmatrix} f \\ g \\ \vdots \\ h \end{bmatrix},$$

where the matrix and the RHS are evaluated at the location of the last iterate. We obtain the next iterate through $x_{n+1} - x_n = \Delta x$, $y_{n+1} - y_n = \Delta y$, \dots , $z_{n+1} - z_n = \Delta z$.

- (b) Write down the formula for the secant method for a scalar equation.

Solution:

$$x_{n+1} = x_n - f(x_n) \frac{x_n - x_{n-1}}{f(x_n) - f(x_{n-1})}$$

- (c) Show that the secant error, to leading order, decays like

$$\varepsilon_{n+1} = \varepsilon_n \cdot \varepsilon_{n-1} \frac{f''(\alpha)}{2 f'(\alpha)},$$

where α is the root, and $\varepsilon_n = x_n - \alpha$.

Solution:

The idea is to Taylor expand around the root, and then simplify. For brevity of notation, call the last iterates x_2 , x_1 , x_0 . Without loosing generality, we can assume $\alpha = 0$. Then

$$\begin{aligned} x_2 &= x_1 - \frac{f(x_1)(x_1 - x_0)}{f(x_1) - f(x_0)} \\ &= x_1 - \frac{(f(0) + x_1 f'(0) + \frac{x_1^2}{2} f''(0) + \dots)(x_1 - x_0)}{(f(0) + x_1 f'(0) + \frac{x_1^2}{2} f''(0) + \dots) - (f(0) + x_0 f'(0) + \frac{x_0^2}{2} f''(0) + \dots)} \end{aligned}$$

With $\alpha = 0$, $\varepsilon_2 = x_2$, $\varepsilon_1 = x_1$, $\varepsilon_0 = x_0$. Since f and its derivatives are all evaluated at zero, we omit to repeat that. Furthermore, $f(0) = 0$. We have

$$\begin{aligned} \varepsilon_2 &= \varepsilon_1 - \frac{(\varepsilon_1 f' + \frac{\varepsilon_1^2}{2} f'' + \dots)(\varepsilon_1 - \varepsilon_0)}{(\varepsilon_1 - \varepsilon_0) f' + \frac{1}{2}(\varepsilon_1^2 - \varepsilon_0^2) f'' + \dots} \\ &= \varepsilon_1 - \varepsilon_1 \frac{f' + \frac{\varepsilon_1}{2} f'' + \dots}{f' + \frac{1}{2}(\varepsilon_1 + \varepsilon_0) f'' + \dots} \\ &= \varepsilon_1 - \varepsilon_1 \frac{1 + \frac{\varepsilon_1}{2} f''/f' + \dots}{1 + \frac{1}{2}(\varepsilon_1 + \varepsilon_0) f''/f' + \dots} \\ &= \varepsilon_1 - \varepsilon_1 (1 + \frac{\varepsilon_1}{2} f''/f' + \dots) (1 - \frac{1}{2}(\varepsilon_1 + \varepsilon_0) f''/f' + \dots) \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \varepsilon_0 \varepsilon_1 \frac{f''}{f'} + \dots \end{aligned}$$

- (d) The formula above can be shown to imply that the error converges approximately like

$$\varepsilon_{n+1} = c \cdot \varepsilon_n^d.$$

Determine c and d .

(No detailed rigor is required for parts (c) and (d); plausible arguments suffice, as long as they convincingly arrive at the required forms).

Solution:

With the assumption,

$$\varepsilon_n \approx c \cdot \varepsilon_{n-1}^d,$$

$$\varepsilon_{n+1} \approx c \cdot \varepsilon_n^d \approx c^{d+1} \cdot \varepsilon_{n-1}^{d^2},$$

and we get

$$c^{d+1} \cdot \varepsilon_{n-1}^{d^2} \approx c \cdot \varepsilon_{n-1}^d \cdot \varepsilon_{n-1} \cdot \frac{f''(\alpha)}{2 f'(\alpha)},$$

which simplifies to

$$c^{d+1} \cdot \varepsilon_{n-1}^{d^2} \approx c \cdot \varepsilon_{n-1}^{d+1} \cdot \frac{f''(\alpha)}{2 f'(\alpha)},$$

i.e., $d^2 = d + 1$ or $d = (1 + \sqrt{5})/2$ (need to choose positive root), and

$$c = \left[\frac{f''(\alpha)}{2 f'(\alpha)} \right]^{1/((1+\sqrt{5})/2)} = \left[\frac{f''(\alpha)}{2 f'(\alpha)} \right]^{(\sqrt{5}-1)/2}$$

4. A *cubic* B-spline, with node points at the integers, takes the values $\{0, \frac{1}{6}, \frac{2}{3}, \frac{1}{6}, 0\}$ at five adjacent nodes, i.e. its support extends over four subintervals.

- (a) Define what is meant by a B-spline (of arbitrary order).

Solution:

The B-spline is the spline (not everywhere zero) with the narrowest possible support (i.e. non-zero over the shortest interval).

- (b) Determine the node values and number of subintervals for a *quadratic* spline (recalling that the standard normalization is that $\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} B(x) dx = 1$).

Solution:

Let the nodes be at $x = 0, 1, 2, \dots$. A quadratic spline has continuous function value and first derivative at the nodes, but can jump in the second derivative. The most general form it can take is therefore

$$\begin{aligned} [0, 1] & \alpha x^2 \\ [1, 2] & \alpha x^2 + \beta(x-1)^2 \\ [2, 3] & \alpha x^2 + \beta(x-1)^2 + \gamma(x-2)^2 \\ & \dots \end{aligned}$$

The question is how soon we can get back to identically zero. We can readily see that can be achieved for

$$\begin{aligned} \alpha x^2 + \beta(x-1)^2 + \gamma(x-2)^2 + \delta(x-3)^2 &= \\ = x^2(\alpha + \beta + \gamma + \delta) + x(-2\beta - 4\gamma - 6\delta) + 1(\beta + 4\gamma + 9\delta) \end{aligned}$$

if we choose for ex. $\alpha = 1, \beta = -3, \gamma = 3, \delta = -1$ (or any multiple of this). To achieve normalization: With the choice above, $\int_0^3 \dots dx = \int_0^3 x^2 dx - 3 \int_1^3 (x-1)^2 dx + 3 \int_2^3 (x-2)^2 dx = 2$. So we should use $\alpha = \frac{1}{2}, \beta = -\frac{3}{2}, \gamma = \frac{3}{2}, \delta = -\frac{1}{2}$, giving the B-spline with node values $\{0, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}, 0\}$ (i.e. extending over 3 subintervals).

- (c) To be uniquely determined, a *cubic* spline needs two extra conditions beyond the function values at the nodes. Determine how many (if any) extra conditions a *quadratic* spline requires.

Solution:

Say we have n nodes, i.e. $n-1$ intervals. Then: Unknowns: 3 in each of $n-1$ intervals, i.e. total $3n-3$. Equations: n node values, and also two connection conditions at each of the $n-2$ interior nodes, total $3n-4$. Therefore, we need one extra condition.

- (d) With cardinal data (one at one node point, say at the origin, and zero at the others), a *cubic* spline on the infinite interval will be oscillatory and decay as we move away from the center. Show that the rate of decay is approximately $c \cdot (2 - \sqrt{3})^k \approx c \cdot 0.27^k$ where k is the distance (number of nodes) away from the origin.

Hint: Given that the B-spline node values are $\{0, \frac{1}{6}, \frac{2}{3}, \frac{1}{6}, 0\}$, the data values y_k and B-spline expansion coefficients b_k become related by $\frac{1}{6}b_{k+1} + \frac{2}{3}b_k + \frac{1}{6}b_{k-1} = y_k$.

Solution:

Away from the center, $y_k = 0$, so the b_k will satisfy a 3-term recursion relation with characteristic equation $\frac{1}{6}r^2 + \frac{2}{3}r + \frac{1}{6} = 0$, i.e. $r_{1,2} = -2 \pm \sqrt{3}$. Given that the oscillations decay for increasing distance from the center, the growing component must be absent, and the decay (in magnitude) therefore of the form $c \cdot (2 - \sqrt{3})^k$.

5. Consider the backward differentiation formula,

$$y_{n+2} - \frac{4}{3}y_{n+1} + \frac{1}{3}y_n = \frac{2}{3}h f(t_{n+2}, y_{n+2}).$$

(a) Determine the order of this method.

Solution: There are several equivalent ways to demonstrate the order.

Here is a way using generating polynomials,

$$\rho(w) = w^2 - \frac{4}{3}w + \frac{1}{3},$$

and

$$\sigma(w) = \frac{2}{3}w^2.$$

By verifying that

$$\rho(w) - \sigma(w) \log w = O(|w - 1|^3), \quad w \rightarrow 1,$$

we conclude that the method is of order 2.

(b) Define what is meant by a region of absolute stability, and provide an equation which describes this region in the case of the method above.

Solution:

We apply the scheme to the test problem,

$$y' = \lambda y.$$

Setting $\xi = \lambda h$ gives

$$y_{n+2} - \frac{4}{3}y_{n+1} + \frac{1}{3}y_n = \frac{2}{3}\xi y_{n+2},$$

with characteristic equation

$$r^2 - \frac{4}{3}r + \frac{1}{3} = \frac{2}{3}\xi r^2.$$

The region of absolute stability is the domain in the complex ξ -plane for points of which the sequence y_n remains bounded as $n \rightarrow \infty$. Equivalently, we can require that for such points the roots of the characteristic equation of the method are less or equal to 1. If a root is equal to 1, then it must be simple.

Here both roots, r_1 and r_2 , of the quadratic equation above have to be less or equal to 1.

- (c) Show that the whole negative real axis is in the region of absolute stability. Extra credit is given for a proof that the method is A-stable.

Solution:

If ξ is real and $\xi \leq 0$, then by explicitly writing the roots of the characteristic equation one can observe that they are less than 1.

To show A-stability, note that the edge of the stability domain gets traced out if we put $r = e^{i\theta}$ and solve for ξ . We have

$$\xi = \frac{3}{2} \frac{r^2 - \frac{4}{3}r + \frac{1}{3}}{r^2} = \frac{3}{2} - 2e^{-i\theta} + \frac{1}{2}e^{-2i\theta} = \left[\frac{3}{2} - 2\cos\theta + \frac{1}{2}\cos 2\theta\right] + i\left[2\sin\theta - \frac{1}{2}\sin 2\theta\right],$$

or

$$\xi = (1 - \cos\theta)^2 + i\sin\theta(2 - \cos\theta).$$

Since $(1 - \cos\theta)^2 \geq 0$, the whole left half-plane is in the stability domain.

6. (a) Determine the order of Störmer's method,

$$y_{n+2} - 2y_{n+1} + y_n = h^2 f(t_{n+1}, y_{n+1}), \quad n \geq 0,$$

for solving the second order system of ODE's

$$y'' = f(t, y), \quad t \geq 0,$$

with the initial conditions $y(0) = y_0$ and $y'(0) = y'_0$.

Solution:

Let $Y_n = y(t_n)$, $n \geq 0$, be the exact solution at time t_n . We have (using first several terms of Taylor expansion):

$$Y_{n+2} - 2Y_{n+1} + Y_n - h^2 f(t_{n+1}, Y_{n+1}) = [Y_{n+1} + hY'_{n+1} + h^2 Y''_{n+1}/2 + h^3 Y'''_{n+1}/6 + O(h^4)] -$$

$$2Y_{n+1} + [Y_{n+1} - hY'_{n+1} + h^2 Y''_{n+1}/2 - h^3 Y'''_{n+1}/6 + O(h^4)] - h^2 Y''_{n+1} = O(h^4),$$

which implies the order 2.

- (b) Using the second order central differences in space and Störmer's method in time, construct a scheme to solve the wave equation,

$$u_{tt} = u_{xx}.$$

Solution:

We have

$$u_l^{n+2} - 2u_l^{n+1} + u_l^n = \left(\frac{\Delta t}{\Delta x}\right)^2 (u_{l-1}^{n+1} - 2u_l^{n+1} + u_{l+1}^{n+1}), \quad n \geq 0,$$

where index l indicates spatial discretization.

(c) Determine the condition for its stability.

Solution:

Set $\mu = \frac{\Delta t}{\Delta x}$ and move to the Fourier domain with respect to the spatial variables, to obtain

$$\hat{u}^{n+2} - 2(1 - 2\mu^2 \sin^2 \frac{1}{2}\theta)\hat{u}^{n+1} + \hat{u}^n = 0, \quad \theta \in [0, 2\pi].$$

The method is stable if and only if the roots of

$$r^2 - 2(1 - 2\mu^2 \sin^2 \frac{1}{2}\theta)r + 1 = 0$$

are inside or on the boundary of the unit disk for all θ . If the roots are on the boundary, then they have to be simple.

Since $r_1 r_2 = 1$, and $|r_1|, |r_2| \leq 1$, for the method to be stable the roots must be on the boundary of the unit disk, $r_1 = e^{i\phi}$ and $r_2 = e^{-i\phi}$, for some $\phi \neq 0$. If $\phi = 0$, then $r_1 = r_2$ and the root is not simple.

Substituting $r = e^{i\phi}$, we obtain equation for ϕ ,

$$\cos \phi = 1 - 2\mu^2 \sin^2 \frac{1}{2}\theta.$$

If $0 < \mu \leq 1$, then it is easy to see that $-1 \leq 1 - 2\mu^2 \sin^2 \frac{1}{2}\theta < 1$ for all θ and, thus, there exists $\phi \neq 0$ so that $r_1 \neq r_2$, $|r_1| = |r_2| = 1$.