

Computational Physics - Project 1

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1 Introduction to Project 1

In physics, we often have to deal with differential equations of second order, which can be generally written in the form

$$\frac{d^2 y}{dx^2} + k^2(x)y = f(x) \quad , \quad (1)$$

where we call f the inhomogeneous term and $k^2(x)$ is a real function. A special case of these cases is Poisson's equation, which reads in the one-dimensional, spherical case

$$\frac{1}{r^2} \frac{d}{dr} \left(r^2 \frac{d\Phi}{dr} \right) = -4\pi\rho(r) \quad . \quad (2)$$

Doing some substitutions, we can write this in the following, more general form:

$$-u''(x) = f(x) \quad (3)$$

In this project, we try to solve eq.(3) with the boundary conditions $u(0) = u(1) = 0$. Therefore, we have to discretize f and u . We approximate $u(x)$ as v_i , using a grid of n gridpoints $x_i = i \cdot h$. Thus, $h = 1/(n+1)$ is our steplength. We will also write $f_i = f(x_i) = f(hi)$.

Approximating the second derivative of u , we get

$$-\frac{v_{i+1} + v_{i-1} - 2v_i}{h^2} = f_i \quad (4)$$

Our goal is to solve this equation (4). Therefore, we will rewrite it as a set of linear equations in matrix form.

1.1 Rewriting the equation in matrix-form

Eq (4) can be written as a set of linear equations in matrix form. Therefore, we have to do the following steps:

$$\begin{aligned} -\frac{v_{i+1} + v_{i-1} - 2v_i}{h^2} &= f_i \\ -(v_{i+1} + v_{i-1} - 2v_i) &= h^2 \cdot f_i \end{aligned} \quad (5)$$

$$(6)$$

Assuming we have an $n \times n$ -matrix \mathbf{A} of the following form

$$\mathbf{A} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & -1 & 0 & \dots & \dots & 0 \\ -1 & 2 & -1 & 0 & \dots & \dots \\ 0 & -1 & 2 & -1 & 0 & \dots \\ \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots \\ 0 & \dots & \dots & -1 & 2 & -1 \\ 0 & \dots & \dots & 0 & -1 & 2 \end{pmatrix} \quad , \quad (7)$$

then we can rewrite this matrix in index notation as

$$a_{ij} = \begin{cases} 2 & \text{if } i = j \\ -1 & \text{if } |i - j| = 1 \\ 0 & \text{else} \end{cases} \quad . \quad (8)$$

Using this, we can also rewrite the multiplication $\mathbf{w} = \mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{v}$ with an n -dimensional vector \mathbf{v} in the following way:

$$w_i \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \sum_{j=1}^n a_{ij} \cdot v_j \stackrel{(8)}{=} -v_{i-1} + 2v_i - v_{i+1} \quad (9)$$

By using this result and substituting $h^2 \cdot f_i \rightarrow \bar{b}$ in eq (5), we get to the following equation:

$$\mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{v} = \bar{\mathbf{b}} \quad (10)$$

with matrix \mathbf{A} as given above. This is a set of linear equations that we are going to solve with our program. In this example, we will assume that $f(x)$ is given by $f(x) = 100e^{-10x}$. Thus, the analytical solution of eq (3) is given by $u(x) = 1 - (1 - e^{-10})x - e^{-10x}$. We will later compare our numerical results to this solution.

2 Different algorithm to solve this set of linear equations

In this chapter, We want to solve the given set of linear equations first by solving it with a self-programmed algorithm. Furthermore, we want to compare the produced numerical solution to the exact solution and calculate the maximum relative error for a given number of Gridpoints. In order to know, whether our algorithm is best to solve this set of linear equations, we want to compare this algorithm with LU-decomposition and Gaussian algorithm with respect to the floating point operations and the calculation time.

2.1 self-programmed algorithm

As we have shown in the previous capture, you can rewrite the set of linear equations as product of a matrix and a vector:

$$\mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{v} = \tilde{\mathbf{b}} \quad (11)$$

In this case, the matrix A is a tridiagonal matrix. This means, that it is possible to interpret this matrix as 3 vectors because all other components of the matrix are zero and will stay zero. This gives us the advantage that we don't have to deal with 2-dimensional Arrays and we can dump the number of floating operations (compared to LU-decomposition/Gaussian-algorithm)

The programmed algorithm will work in the following way. First, we want to reach a upper diagonal matrix by vector-additions/subtractions. Second, We want to bring the matrix to a diagonal form and at last, we scale the solution vector. The first two steps also effect the solutionvector (in our case `btilde[]`). We programmed following source-code (extract):

extract of the used algorithm((12 floating operations):

```
//first
for (int i=0; i<n+1; i++){
    b[i+1]=b[i+1]-c[i]*(a[i+1]/b[i]);
    btilde[i+1]+=(a[i+1]/b[i])*btilde[i];
}
//second
for (int i=n; i>0; i--){
    btilde[i-1]+=-btilde[i]*(c[i-1]/b[i]);
}
//normalization
for (int i=0; i<n+1; i++){
    btilde[i]=btilde[i]/b[i];
}
```

As you can see, we use at the moment 12n floating point operations for the mainalgorithm. If we look closer at the algorithm, we will see that you can simplify a lot by skipping unnecessary arithmetic operations. We managed to get to 6 Floating point operations:

```
//first
for (int i=0; i<n+1; i++){
    b[i+1]=b[i+1]-1/b[i];
    btilde[i+1]=btilde[i+1]+btilde[i]/b[i];
}
//second and normalization
for (int i=n; i>0; i--){
    btilde[i-1]=(btilde[i-1]+btilde[i])/b[i];
}
```

2.2 Gaussian elimination

2.3 LU-decomposition

3 Results and discussion of the self-programmed algorithm

We solved the linear set of equation with a different number of Gridpoints. This means, that we discretise the used functions and approximated them with n Gridpoints. If you take a closer look at the given solutions produced with our algorithm, you will notice that the numerical approximation seems to converge to the exact solution. (for $n=10 \dots 10^5$) In the figure 1, you can see the numerical solution for 10 Gridpoints. The numerical approximation doesn't fit very well

with the exact solution, however the boundary conditions seem to be fulfilled. We run our program with different number of Gridpoints. The figure with 100 Gridpoints you can find in figure 2, the figure with 1000 Gridpoints you can find in 3 and the figure with 10^5 Gridpoints you can find in figure 4.

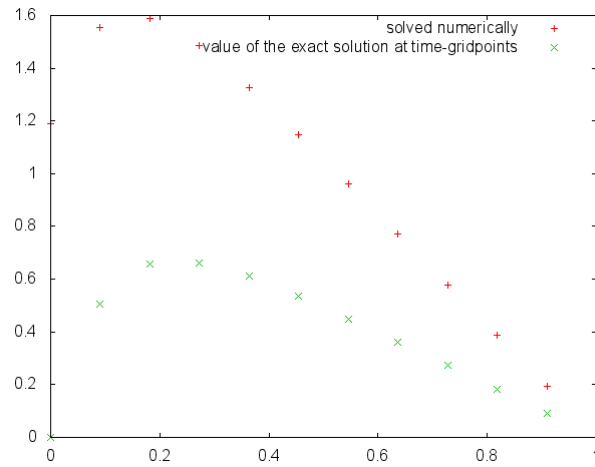


Figure 1: Plot of the exact solution and the numerical solution for 10 Gridpoints

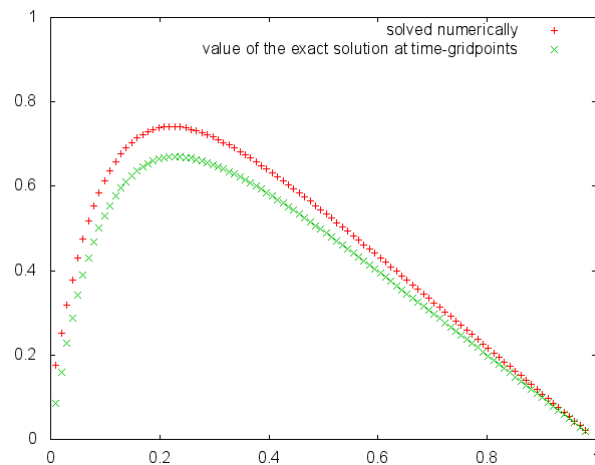


Figure 2: Plot of the exact solution and the numerical solution for 100 Gridpoints

4 Comparison of self-programmed algorithm, Gaussian elimination and LU Decomposition

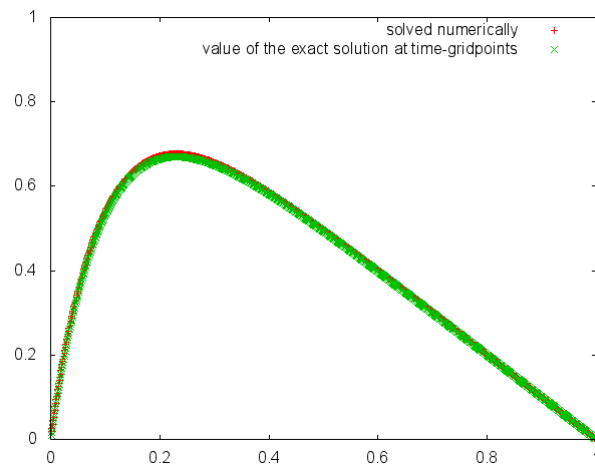


Figure 3: Plot of the exact solution and the numerical solution for 1000 Gridpoints

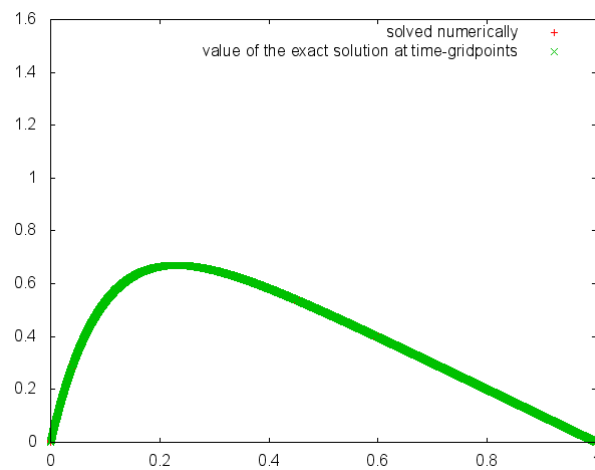


Figure 4: Plot of the exact solution and the numerical solution for 100000 Gridpoints

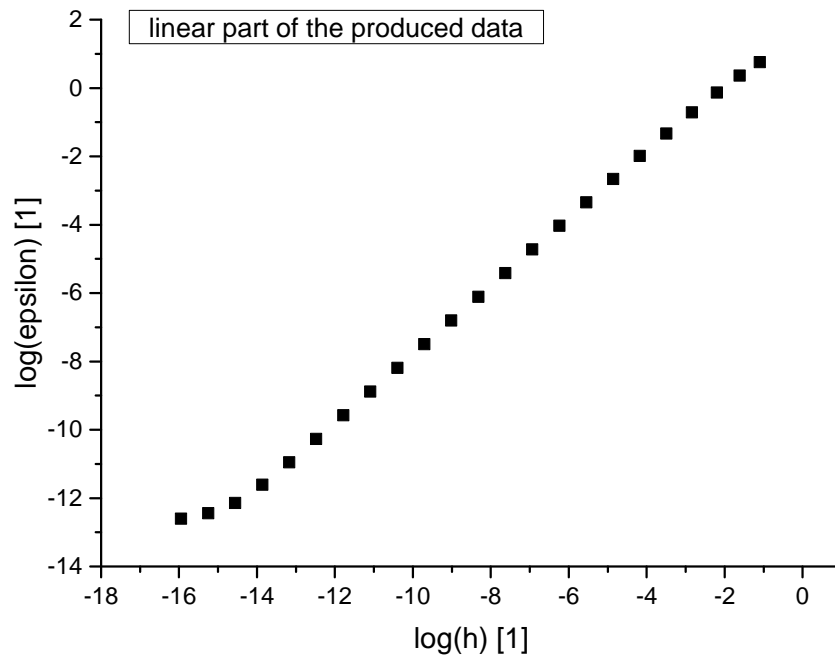


Figure 5: The epsilon is the maximum of the Epsilonerror for given Number of Gridpoints n (and Steplenght h)