

chapter 7 : time-dependent differential equations

ordinary differential equations

Let  $x(t)$  be the position of a particle moving on the  $x$ -axis at time  $t$ .

1st order ODE

$\frac{dx}{dt} = f(x)$  : velocity is a function of position

$x(0)$  : initial position

The problem is to find the position  $x(t)$  for  $t > 0$ .

ex

1.  $\frac{dx}{dt} = x$  ,  $x(0) = 1 \Rightarrow x(t) = e^t$

2.  $\frac{dx}{dt} = x^2$  ,  $x(0) = 1 \Rightarrow x(t) = \frac{1}{1-t}$

3.  $\frac{dx}{dt} = \sin x$  ,  $x(0) = 1 \Rightarrow x(t) = ?$

The simplest numerical method is Euler's method.

choose  $\Delta t$  : time step

define  $w_n$  : numerical solution at time  $t_n = n\Delta t$

$$\frac{w_{n+1} - w_n}{\Delta t} = f(w_n) \Rightarrow w_{n+1} = w_n + \Delta t f(w_n)$$

given  $w_0$ , compute  $w_1, w_2, \dots$

questions : accuracy , stability , efficiency

2nd order ODE

$\frac{d^2x}{dt^2} = f(x)$  : acceleration is a function of position (Newton's equation)

$x(0)$  ,  $x'(0)$  : initial position , velocity

$$\frac{w_{n+1} - 2w_n + w_{n-1}}{(\Delta t)^2} = f(w_n) \Rightarrow w_{n+1} = 2w_n - w_{n-1} + (\Delta t)^2 f(w_n)$$

given  $w_0$  and  $w_1$ , compute  $w_2, w_3, \dots$

partial differential equations

ex : heat equation

$u(x, t)$  : temperature of a metal rod at position  $x$  and time  $t$

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} = \kappa \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} \quad , \quad \kappa : \text{coefficient of thermal expansion}$$

initial condition :  $u(x, 0) = f(x)$  , boundary conditions :  $u(0, t) = u(1, t) = 0$

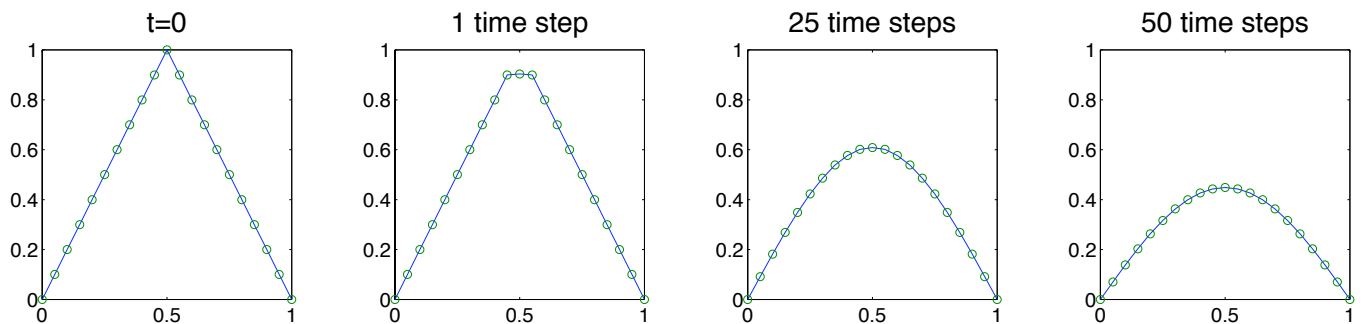
The simplest numerical method is a finite-difference scheme.

choose  $\Delta x$  : space step ,  $\Delta t$  : time step

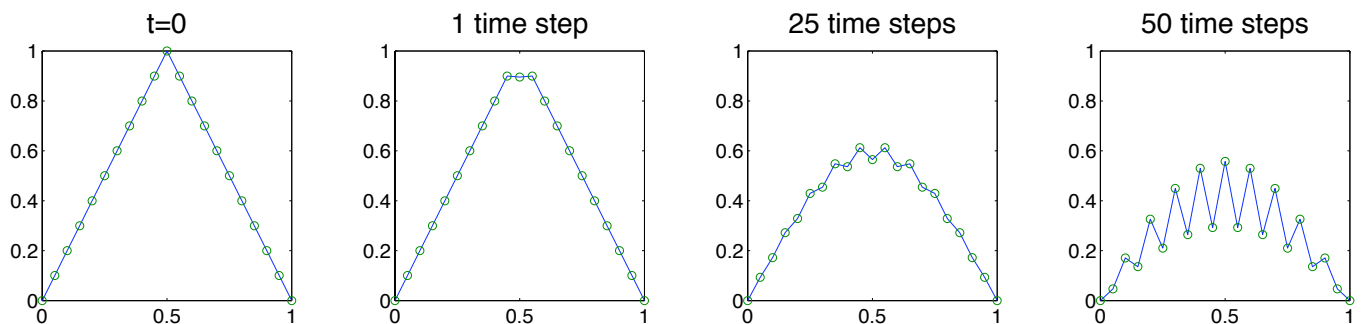
define  $w_j^n$  : numerical solution at position  $x_j = j\Delta x$  and time  $t_n = n\Delta t$

$$\frac{w_j^{n+1} - w_j^n}{\Delta t} = \kappa \frac{w_{j+1}^n - 2w_j^n + w_{j-1}^n}{(\Delta x)^2} \Rightarrow w_j^{n+1} = w_j^n + \frac{\kappa \Delta t}{(\Delta x)^2} (w_{j+1}^n - 2w_j^n + w_{j-1}^n)$$

case 1 :  $\kappa = 1$  ,  $\Delta x = 0.05$  ,  $\Delta t = 0.0012$



case 2 :  $\kappa = 1$  ,  $\Delta x = 0.05$  ,  $\Delta t = 0.0013$



explanation : the method is stable  $\Leftrightarrow \frac{\kappa \Delta t}{(\Delta x)^2} \leq \frac{1}{2}$

Lax equivalence theorem (Peter Lax)

Given a well-posed initial/boundary value problem and a consistent finite-difference scheme, stability is necessary and sufficient for convergence.

## Fourier analysis

### differential equation

$u(x, t) = e^{\omega t + ikx}$  : Fourier mode ,  $\omega$  : growth rate ,  $k$  : wavenumber

$$\Rightarrow \omega = -k^2 \Rightarrow u(x, t) = e^{-k^2 t + ikx}$$

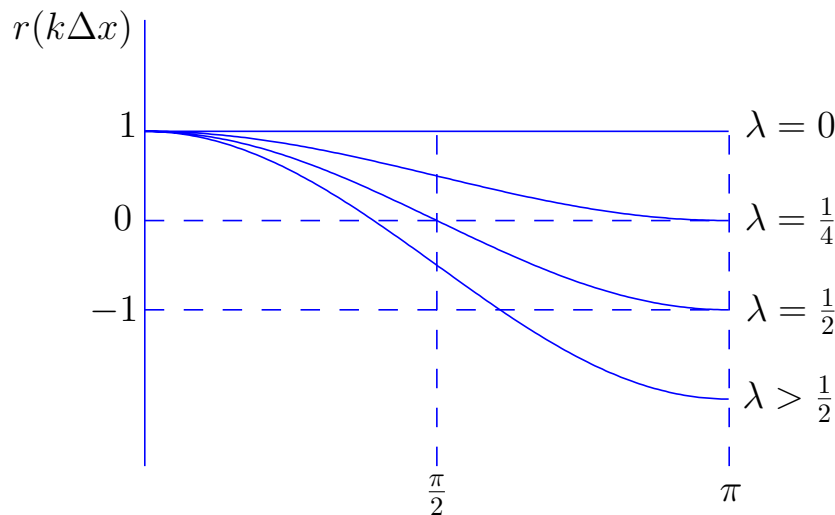
$\Rightarrow$  all modes with  $k \neq 0$  decay monotonically in time

### finite-difference scheme

$w_j^n = r^n e^{ikj\Delta x}$  : discrete Fourier mode ,  $r$  : amplification factor

$$r^{n+1} e^{ikj\Delta x} = r^n e^{ikj\Delta x} + \lambda (r^n e^{ik(j+1)\Delta x} - 2r^n e^{ikj\Delta x} + r^n e^{ik(j-1)\Delta x}) , \quad \lambda = \frac{\kappa \Delta t}{(\Delta x)^2}$$

$$\Rightarrow r = 1 + \lambda (e^{ik\Delta x} - 2 + e^{-ik\Delta x}) = 1 + 2\lambda (\cos k\Delta x - 1) = 1 - 4\lambda \sin^2 \frac{1}{2} k\Delta x$$



### note

$$1. |r(k\Delta x)| \leq 1 \text{ for all } k\Delta x \Leftrightarrow \lambda \leq \frac{1}{2}$$

$$2. |w_j^n| = |r|^n$$

$0 \leq \lambda \leq \frac{1}{4}$  : all modes decay monotonically in time

$\frac{1}{4} \leq \lambda \leq \frac{1}{2}$  :  $\begin{cases} \text{long waves decay monotonically in time} \\ \text{short waves oscillate in sign, amplitude decays} \end{cases}$

$\lambda > \frac{1}{2}$  :  $\begin{cases} \text{long waves decay monotonically in time} \\ \text{intermediate waves oscillate in sign, amplitude decays} \\ \text{short waves oscillate in sign, amplitude grows} \end{cases}$

This is in sharp contrast with the PDE.

ex : wave equation

$u(x, t)$  : displacement of a string at position  $x$  and time  $t$

$$\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial t^2} = c^2 \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2}$$

$c$  : wave speed

$$\frac{w_j^{n+1} - 2w_j^n + w_j^{n-1}}{(\Delta t)^2} = c^2 \frac{w_{j+1}^n - 2w_j^n + w_{j-1}^n}{(\Delta x)^2}$$

$$\Rightarrow w_j^{n+1} = 2w_j^n - w_j^{n-1} + \left(\frac{c\Delta t}{\Delta x}\right)^2 (w_{j+1}^n - 2w_j^n + w_{j-1}^n) \quad , \quad \text{stable} \Leftrightarrow \left|\frac{c\Delta t}{\Delta x}\right| \leq 1$$