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The two-dimensional wave equation

Consider the standard two-dimensional linear wave equation including damping,

$$\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial t^2} + b \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} = \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left(q(x, y) \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} \right) + \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \left(q(x, y) \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} \right) + f(x, y, t), \quad (1)$$

imposed to the boundary condition $\frac{\partial u}{\partial n} = 0$ in a rectangular spatial domain $[0, L_x] \times [0, L_y]$ with the initial conditions u(x, y, 0) = I(x, y) and $u_t(x, y, 0) = V(x, y)$.

Now, let the temporal domain [0,T] be represented by a finite number of mesh points $\{t^n\}_{n=0}^N$, where

$$t^0 = 0 < t^1 < t^2 < \dots < t^{N-1} < tN = T.$$

Similarly, the spatial domains $[0, L_x]$ and $[0, L_y]$ are replaced by $\{x_i\}_{i=0}^{N_x}$ and $\{y_j\}_{j=0}^{N_y}$, respectively, where

$$0 = x_0 < x_1 < x_2 < \dots < x_{N_x - 1} < x_{N_x} = L_x,$$

$$0 = y_0 < y_1 < y_2 < \dots < y_{N_y - 1} < y_{N_y} = L_y.$$

For uniformly distributed mesh points, the constant mesh spacings Δt , Δx , and Δy may be introduced, such that

$$t^{n} = n\Delta t,$$
 $n = 0, ..., N,$
 $x_{i} = i\Delta x,$ $i = 0, ..., N_{x},$
 $y_{j} = j\Delta y,$ $j = 0, ..., N_{y}.$

The solution u(x, y, t) is sought at the mesh points, that is $u(x_i, y_j, t^n)$ for $i = 0, ..., N_x$, $j = 0, ..., N_y$, and n = 0, ..., N. The numerical approximation at the mesh point (x_i, y_j, t^n) is denoted as $u_{i,j}^n$. For a numerical solution by the finite difference method, the condition that (1) holds for all points in the domain $(0, L_x) \times (0, L_y) \times (0, T]$ is therefore reduces to the requirement that the PDE is fulfilled at the mesh points.

By means of centered differences, the first- and second-order derivative with respect to time can be expressed as

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t}u(x_i, y_j, t^n) \approx \frac{u_{i,j}^{n+1} - u_{i,j}^{n-1}}{2\Delta t} = [D_{2t}u]_{i,j}^n,$$

and

$$\frac{\partial^2}{\partial t^2} u(x_i, y_j, t^n) \approx \frac{u_{i,j}^{n+1} - 2u_{i,j}^n + u_{i,j}^{n-1}}{\Delta t^2} = \left[D_t D_t u \right]_{i,j}^n,$$

respectively. Furthermore, the principal idea when discretizing a variable coefficient is to first discretize the outer derivative by means of the centered derivative, and thereafter similarly discretize the inner derivative. Defining $\phi_x = q(x,y)\frac{\partial u}{\partial x}, \ \phi_y = q(x,y)\frac{\partial u}{\partial y}$, and following through with the abovementioned description,

$$\left[\frac{\partial \phi_x}{\partial x}\right]_{i,j}^n \approx \frac{(\phi_x)_{i+\frac{1}{2},j}^n - (\phi_x)_{i-\frac{1}{2},j}^n}{\Delta x} = [D_x \phi_x]_{i,j}^n.$$

The contributions from the inner derivative are thus

$$(\phi_x)_{i+\frac{1}{2},j}^n = q_{i+\frac{1}{2},j} \left[\frac{\partial u}{\partial x} \right]_{i+\frac{1}{2},j}^n \approx q_{i+\frac{1}{2},j} \frac{u_{i+1,j}^n - u_{i,j}^n}{\Delta x} = [qD_x u]_{i+\frac{1}{2},j}^n,$$

and

$$(\phi_x)_{i-\frac{1}{2},j}^n = q_{i-\frac{1}{2},j} \left[\frac{\partial u}{\partial x} \right]_{i-\frac{1}{2},j}^n \approx q_{i-\frac{1}{2},j} \frac{u_{i,j}^n - u_{i-1,j}^n}{\Delta x} = [qD_x u]_{i-\frac{1}{2},j}^n.$$

These intermediate results combined yield that

$$\left[\frac{\partial}{\partial x}\left(q(x,y)\frac{\partial u}{\partial x}\right)\right]_{i,j}^n \approx \frac{1}{\Delta x^2}\left(q_{i+\frac{1}{2},j}(u_{i+1,j}^n - u_{i,j}^n) - q_{i-\frac{1}{2},j}(u_{i,j}^n - u_{i-1,j}^n)\right) = [D_x q D_x u]_{i,j}^n.$$

Similar reasoning may be applied to ϕ_y , such that

$$\left[\frac{\partial}{\partial y}\left(q(x,y)\frac{\partial u}{\partial y}\right)\right]_{i,i}^{n} \approx \frac{1}{\Delta y^{2}}\left(q_{i,j+\frac{1}{2}}(u_{i,j+1}^{n}-u_{i,j}^{n})-q_{i,j-\frac{1}{2}}(u_{i,j}^{n}-u_{i,j-1}^{n})\right) = \left[D_{y}qD_{y}u\right]_{i,j}^{n}.$$

Hence, a discretization of (1) in terms of centered differences reads

$$[D_t D_t u + b D_{2t} u = c^2 (D_x D_x u + D_y D_y u) + f]_{i,j}^n.$$

Written out in full detail, this is equivalent to

$$\begin{split} & \frac{u_{i,j}^{n+1} - 2u_{i,j}^n + u_{i,j}^{n-1}}{\Delta t^2} + b \frac{u_{i,j}^{n+1} - u_{i,j}^{n-1}}{2\Delta t} \\ & = \frac{1}{\Delta x^2} \left(q_{i+\frac{1}{2},j} (u_{i+1,j}^n - u_{i,j}^n) - q_{i-\frac{1}{2},j} (u_{i,j}^n - u_{i-1,j}^n) \right) \\ & + \frac{1}{\Delta y^2} \left(q_{i,j+\frac{1}{2}} (u_{i,j+1}^n - u_{i,j}^n) - q_{i,j-\frac{1}{2}} (u_{i,j}^n - u_{i,j-1}^n) \right) + f_{i,j}^n. \end{split}$$

Due to the arithmetic mean, values for q may be determined even though the function might be discrete, that is

$$\begin{split} q_{i+\frac{1}{2},j} &= \frac{q_{i,j} + q_{i+1,j}}{2}, \\ q_{i-\frac{1}{2},j} &= \frac{q_{i,j} + q_{i-1,j}}{2}, \\ q_{i,j+\frac{1}{2}} &= \frac{q_{i,j} + q_{i,j+1}}{2}, \\ q_{i,j-\frac{1}{2}} &= \frac{q_{i,j} + q_{i,j-1}}{2}. \end{split}$$

Finally, solving for the unknown $u_{i,j}^{n+1}$ result in the scheme

$$u_{i,j}^{n+1} = (1 + \frac{b}{2}\Delta t)^{-1} \left[2u_{i,j}^n - (1 - \frac{b}{2}\Delta t)u_{i,j}^{n-1} + \Delta t^2 f_{i,j}^n + \frac{\Delta t^2}{\Delta x^2} \left(q_{i+\frac{1}{2},j}(u_{i+1,j}^n - u_{i,j}^n) - q_{i-\frac{1}{2},j}(u_{i,j}^n - u_{i-1,j}^n) \right) + \frac{\Delta t^2}{\Delta y^2} \left(q_{i,j+\frac{1}{2}}(u_{i,j+1}^n - u_{i,j}^n) - q_{i,j-\frac{1}{2}}(u_{i,j}^n - u_{i,j-1}^n) \right) \right].$$
 (2)

Due to the imposed Neumann condition on the boundary,

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial n} = \mathbf{n} \cdot \nabla u = n_x \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + n_y \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} = 0.$$

On the edge x=0 the normal vector pointing out of the spatial domain is $-\hat{i}=(-1,0)$, so consequently $\frac{\partial u}{\partial n}=-\frac{\partial u}{\partial x}$. Discretizing this for $\{y_j\}_{j=0}^{N_y}$ and $\{t^n\}_{n=0}^N$ provide the relation

$$-\frac{u_{1,j}^n - u_{-1,j}^n}{2\Delta x} = 0 \implies u_{-1,j}^n = u_{1,j}^n.$$

Inserting this condition into the scheme provide a modified scheme for the boundary points at x = 0, that is

$$u_{0,j}^{n+1} = (1 + \frac{b}{2}\Delta t)^{-1} \left[2u_{0,j}^n - (1 - \frac{b}{2}\Delta t)u_{0,j}^{n-1} + \Delta t^2 f_{0,j}^n + \frac{\Delta t^2}{\Delta x^2} \left(q_{\frac{1}{2},j}(u_{1,j}^n - u_{0,j}^n) - q_{-\frac{1}{2},j}(u_{0,j}^n - u_{1,j}^n) \right) + \frac{\Delta t^2}{\Delta y^2} \left(q_{0,j+\frac{1}{2}}(u_{0,j+1}^n - u_{0,j}^n) - q_{0,j-\frac{1}{2}}(u_{0,j}^n - u_{0,j-1}^n) \right) \right].$$
(3)

On the edge $x=L_x$ the normal vector pointing out of the spatial domain is $\hat{i}=(1,0)$, so consequently $\frac{\partial u}{\partial n}=\frac{\partial u}{\partial x}$. Discretizing this for $\{y_j\}_{j=0}^{N_y}$ and $\{t^n\}_{n=0}^N$ provide the relation

$$\frac{u_{N_x+1,j}^n - u_{N_x-1,j}^n}{2\Delta x} = 0 \implies u_{N_x+1,j}^n = u_{N_x-1,j}^n.$$

Inserting this condition into the scheme provide a modified scheme for the boundary points at $x = L_x$, that is

$$u_{N_{x},j}^{n+1} = \left(1 + \frac{b}{2}\Delta t\right)^{-1} \left[2u_{N_{x},j}^{n} - \left(1 - \frac{b}{2}\Delta t\right)u_{N_{x},j}^{n-1} + \Delta t^{2} f_{N_{x},j}^{n} + \frac{\Delta t^{2}}{\Delta x^{2}} \left(q_{N_{x} + \frac{1}{2},j} (u_{N_{x}-1,j}^{n} - u_{N_{x},j}^{n}) - q_{N_{x} - \frac{1}{2},j} (u_{N_{x},j}^{n} - u_{N_{x}-1,j}^{n}) \right) \right] + \frac{\Delta t^{2}}{\Delta y^{2}} \left(q_{N_{x},j + \frac{1}{2}} (u_{N_{x},j+1}^{n} - u_{N_{x},j}^{n}) - q_{N_{x},j - \frac{1}{2}} (u_{N_{x},j}^{n} - u_{N_{x},j-1}^{n}) \right) \right].$$

On the edge y=0 the normal vector pointing out of the spatial domain is $-\hat{j}=(0,-1)$, so consequently $\frac{\partial u}{\partial n}=-\frac{\partial u}{\partial y}$. Discretizing this for $\{x_i\}_{i=0}^{N_x}$ and $\{t^n\}_{n=0}^{N}$ provide the relation

$$-\frac{u_{i,1}^n - u_{i,-1}^n}{2\Delta y} = 0 \implies u_{i,-1}^n = u_{i,1}^n.$$

Inserting this condition into the scheme provide a modified scheme for the boundary points at y = 0, that is

$$\begin{split} u_{i,0}^{n+1} &= (1 + \frac{b}{2}\Delta t)^{-1} \left[2u_{i,0}^n - (1 - \frac{b}{2}\Delta t)u_{i,0}^{n-1} + \Delta t^2 f_{i,0}^n \right. \\ &+ \frac{\Delta t^2}{\Delta x^2} \left(q_{i+\frac{1}{2},0} (u_{i+1,0}^n - u_{i,0}^n) - q_{i-\frac{1}{2},0} (u_{i,0}^n - u_{i-1,0}^n) \right) \\ &+ \frac{\Delta t^2}{\Delta y^2} \left(q_{i,\frac{1}{2}} (u_{i,1}^n - u_{i,0}^n) - q_{i,-\frac{1}{2}} (u_{i,0}^n - u_{i,1}^n) \right) \right]. \end{split} \tag{5}$$

On the edge $y=L_y$ the normal vector pointing out of the spatial domain is $\hat{j}=(0,1)$, so consequently $\frac{\partial u}{\partial n}=\frac{\partial u}{\partial y}$. Discretizing this for $\{x_i\}_{i=0}^{N_x}$ and $\{t^n\}_{n=0}^{N}$ provide the relation

$$\frac{u_{i,N_y+1}^n - u_{i,N_y-1}^n}{2\Delta y} = 0 \implies u_{i,N_y+1}^n = u_{i,N_y-1}^n.$$

Inserting this condition into the scheme provide a modified scheme for the boundary points at $y = L_y$, that is

$$u_{i,N_y}^{n+1} = \left(1 + \frac{b}{2}\Delta t\right)^{-1} \left[2u_{i,N_y}^n - \left(1 - \frac{b}{2}\Delta t\right)u_{i,N_y}^{n-1} + \Delta t^2 f_{i,N_y}^n + \frac{\Delta t^2}{\Delta x^2} \left(q_{i+\frac{1}{2},N_y} (u_{i+1,N_y}^n - u_{i,N_y}^n) - q_{i-\frac{1}{2},N_y} (u_{i,N_y}^n - u_{i-1,N_y}^n) \right) \right]$$

$$+ \frac{\Delta t^2}{\Delta y^2} \left(q_{i,N_y+\frac{1}{2}} (u_{i,N_y-1}^n - u_{i,N_y}^n) - q_{i,N_y-\frac{1}{2}} (u_{i,N_y}^n - u_{i,N_y-1}^n) \right) .$$
(6)

The initial conditions are u(x, y, 0) = I(x, y) and $u_t(x, y, 0) = V(x, y)$. This implies that

$$u_{i,j}^0 = I(x_i, y_j),$$
 (7)

and

$$\frac{u_{i,j}^1 - u_{i,j}^{-1}}{2\Delta t} = V(x_i, y_j),$$

for all $i = 1, ..., N_x - 1$ and $j = 1, ..., N_y - 1$. Now, evaluating the scheme at t_1 one may eliminate the contribution from the point outside the mesh, that is

$$\begin{split} u^1_{i,j} &= (1 + \frac{b}{2} \Delta t)^{-1} \bigg[2 u^0_{i,j} - (1 - \frac{b}{2} \Delta t) u^{-1}_{i,j} + \Delta t^2 f^0_{i,j} \\ &+ \frac{\Delta t^2}{\Delta x^2} \left(q_{i + \frac{1}{2},j} (u^0_{i + \frac{1}{2},j} - u^0_{i,j}) - q_{i - \frac{1}{2},j} (u^0_{i,j} - u^0_{i - \frac{1}{2},j}) \right) \\ &+ \frac{\Delta t^2}{\Delta y^2} \left(q_{i,j + \frac{1}{2}} (u^0_{i,j + \frac{1}{2}} - u^0_{i,j}) - q_{i,j - \frac{1}{2}} (u^0_{i,j} - u^0_{i,j - \frac{1}{2}}) \right) \bigg]. \end{split}$$

Inserting the initial Neumann condition $u_{i,j}^{-1}=u_{i,j}^1-2\Delta t V_{i,j}$ provides the

necessary second initial condition

$$u_{i,j}^{1} = I_{i,j} + \Delta t (1 - \frac{b}{2} \Delta t) V_{i,j} + \Delta t^{2} f_{i,j}^{0}$$

$$+ \frac{1}{2} \left[\frac{\Delta t^{2}}{\Delta x^{2}} \left(q_{i+\frac{1}{2},j} (u_{i+\frac{1}{2},j}^{0} - u_{i,j}^{0}) - q_{i-\frac{1}{2},j} (u_{i,j}^{0} - u_{i-\frac{1}{2},j}^{0}) \right) + \frac{\Delta t^{2}}{\Delta y^{2}} \left(q_{i,j+\frac{1}{2}} (u_{i,j+\frac{1}{2}}^{0} - u_{i,j}^{0}) - q_{i,j-\frac{1}{2}} (u_{i,j}^{0} - u_{i,j-\frac{1}{2}}^{0}) \right) \right].$$
(8)