

# Math 5301 – Numerical Analysis– Spring 2025

w/Professor Du

Paul Carmody  
Homework #4 – March 26, 2025

**Assignment:** Consider 1D Poisson Equation  $-\Delta u = \sin(\pi x)$ , over the region  $(0, \pi/2)$  with boundary conditions  $u(0) = 0$  and  $u(\pi/2) = 1$ . Using central difference scheme and a mesh of 128, obtain a linear system of  $Au = f$  for the problem, then solve the system using the following methods until a relative residual of  $10^{-4}$  is reached. For all methods below, plot the analytical solution, the numerical solution and the error distribution. Use zero vectors as your initial guess.

- (a) Jacobis's Method. Plot the rate of convergence and compare it with analysis.
- (b) Steepest Descent Method. Compare the rate of convergence with that obtained in (a).

## Analytical and Numerical Solutions to Poisson's Equation

### Introduction:

We will begin by describing the equation and providing an analytical solution. Then solve this equation using Jacobi's Method and the Steepest Descent Method. Comparisons will be made as to accuracy and rate of convergence.

### Poisson's Equation and an Analytical Solution:

As described in the assignment we will focus our attention on this Poisson equation and initial conditions.

$$\begin{aligned} -\Delta u &= \sin(\pi x) \\ u(0) &= 0 \text{ and } u(\pi/2) = 1. \end{aligned}$$

When we solve this problem analytically we get

$$\begin{aligned} u'(x) &= \int -\sin(\pi x) dx \\ &= \frac{1}{\pi} \cos(\pi x) + C \\ u(x) &= \int \left( \frac{1}{\pi} \cos(\pi x) + C \right) dx \\ &= \frac{1}{\pi^2} \sin(\pi x) + Cx + D \\ u(0) = 0 &= \frac{1}{\pi^2} \sin(\pi \cdot 0) + C \cdot 0 + D \\ D &= 0 \\ u(\pi/2) = 1 &= \frac{1}{\pi^2} \sin(\pi^2/2) + C(\pi/2) \\ C &= \frac{2 \left( 1 - \frac{1}{\pi^2} \right) \sin(\pi^2/2)}{\pi^2} = \frac{2 \left( 1 - \frac{1}{9.869604064} \right) 0.086022097}{9.869604064} = 1.998233797 \approx 2 \\ u(x) &\approx \frac{1}{\pi^2} \sin(\pi x) + 2x \end{aligned}$$

### Centered Different Scheme

We will attempt to approximate the curve of the solution at particular points  $u_i$  by calculating a slope at a point by using the preceding point  $u_{i-1}$  and succeeding point  $u_{i+1}$ .

$$\frac{u_{i+1} - 2u_i + u_{i-1}}{h^2} \approx -\sin(\pi x)$$

where  $h = (\pi/2)/129 = \pi/258$  (we use  $N + 1$  as we start with the left boundary 0). This can be reduced to

$$-u_{i+1} + 2u_i - u_{i-1} = h^2 \sin(\pi x).$$

This expands to a linear function over the a matrix  $A$  and vector  $u = \{u_i\}$  reflecting the left hand side and the value to our function on the right with  $f = \{f_i\}$ ,  $f_i = \sin(\pi x_i)$  or

$$Au = h^2 f$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 2 & -1 & 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ -1 & 2 & -1 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 2 & -1 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 & 2 & \cdots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \cdots & 2 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} u_1 \\ u_2 \\ u_3 \\ u_4 \\ \vdots \\ u_i \end{pmatrix} = h^2 \begin{pmatrix} f_1 \\ f_2 \\ f_3 \\ f_4 \\ \vdots \\ f_i \end{pmatrix}$$

$$u = h^2 A^{-1} f$$

remembering the boundary conditions. Since  $A$  is tri-diagonal we can use several methods and compare the cost and efficiency. The MatLab code for the Central Difference Method is

```

1  clc; clear; close all;
2
3  h_values = [0.1, 0.01, 0.001];
4
5  figure; hold on;
6
7  function [x, dsc] = centered_difference_scheme(mesh)
8
9      h = 1/mesh;
10     x = 0:h:pi/2;
11     N = length(x) - 2;
12
13     % Construct finite difference matrix A
14     A = (1/h^2) * (diag(-2*ones(N,1)) + diag(ones(N-1,1),1) + diag(ones(N-1,1),-1));
15     b = sin(pi*x(2:end-1));
16
17     % Solve the linear system A*u = b
18     u = A \ reshape(b, [], 1);
19
20     % Include boundary values u(0) = 0, u(pi/2) = 1
21     dsc = [0; u; 1];
22
23 end
24
25 [x, u_full] = centered_difference_scheme(128);
26 %analytic = (-1/pi^2)*sin(pi*x);
27 analytic = (-1/pi^2)*sin(pi*x)+2*x;
28 % Plot the solution
29 plot(x, u_full, '-b', 'DisplayName', sprintf('h = %.3f', 1/128))
30 plot(x, analytic, '-r', 'DisplayName', 'analytic')
31 xlabel('x');
32 ylabel('u(x)');
33 title('Poisons Equation on [0,pi/2]: Solution using 128');
34 legend;
```

### Jacobi's Iteration Method

Since  $A$  is a tri-diagonal matrix it can be divided into three separate matrices that add up. Let  $D$  be zero everywhere except the diagonal where it will hold the values of  $A_{ii}$  (namely all 2s). Let  $L$  be the same except that it will hold values of the diagonal lower  $A_{i-1,i}$  (all -1) and let  $U$  be the same except that it will hold the values of the diagonal above  $A_{i,i+1}$  (also all -1). Then, applying this iteratively we get

$$u_i^{[k+1]} = \frac{1}{2}(u_{i-1}^{[k]} + u_{i+1}^{[k]} - h^2 f_i)$$

Here is the MatLab code used to generate the graphs that follow:

```

1  clc; clear; close all;
2
3  figure; hold on;
4
```

```

5 function x = jacobi_method(A, b, h, tol, max_iter)
6     % Solves  $Ax = b$  using Jacobi's iterative method
7     % Inputs:
8     %   A          – Coefficient matrix (NxN)
9     %   b          – Right-hand side vector (Nx1)
10    %   tol         – Convergence tolerance
11    %   max_iter    – Maximum number of iterations
12    % Output:
13    %   x – Solution vector (Nx1)
14
15    N = length(b);           % Number of equations
16    x = b;%zeros(N, 1);      % Initial guess (zero vector)
17    x_old = x;               % Store previous iteration
18    h2=h^2;
19    i=2:N;
20
21    for k=1:max_iter
22        for i=2:N-1
23            x(i) = 1/2*( x_old(i-1) + x_old(i+1) - h2*b(i) );
24        end
25
26        % Check for convergence
27    %   if norm(x - x_old, 2) < tol
28        if norm(x - x_old, Inf) < tol
29            fprintf('Converged in %d iterations.\n', k);
30            return;
31        end
32        x_old = x; % Update solution
33    end
34
35    fprintf('Max iterations reached without convergence.\n');
36 end
37 % Define problem parameters
38 N = 128;                   % Number of internal grid points
39 h = (pi/2) / (N+1);       % Grid spacing
40 x = linspace(h, pi/2-h, N)'; % Grid points
41 f = h^2* sin(pi * x);     % Right-hand side vector
42
43 % Construct tridiagonal matrix A
44 A = 2 * eye(N) - diag(ones(N-1,1),1) - diag(ones(N-1,1),-1);
45
46 % Modify last element of f to include boundary condition  $u(\pi/2) = 1$ 
47 f(1) = 0; f(N) = 1;
48
49 % Solve using Jacobi method
50 tol = 1e-4; % Convergence tolerance
51 max_iter = 100000; % Maximum iterations
52
53 u = jacobi_method(A, f, h, tol, max_iter);
54
55 grid on;
56 tiledlayout(2,1);
57 tile1=nexttile;
58 hold(tile1, 'on');
59 %Analytic plot
60 analytic = 1/pi^2*sin(pi*x)+2/pi*(1-1/pi^2)*x;
61 %analytic = 1/pi^2*sin(pi*x)+2*x;
62 plot(tile1, x, analytic, '-r', 'DisplayName', 'Analytic');
63 legend;
64 % Plot solution
65 plot(tile1, x, u, 'b.-', 'DisplayName', 'u(x)');
66 xlabel('x'); ylabel('u(x)');
67 title('Solution of Poisson Equation using Jacobi Method');
68 legend;

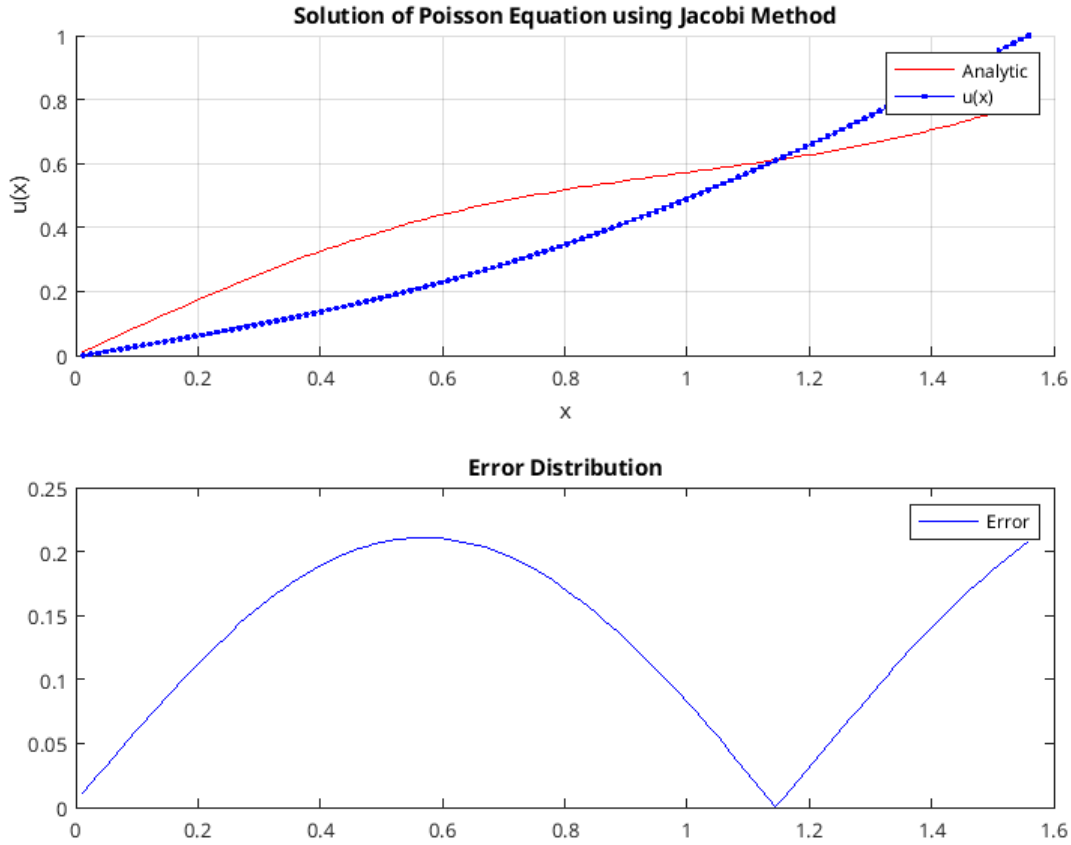
```

```

69 grid on;
70
71 diff = abs(analytic-u);
72 tile2=nexttile;
73 plot(tile2,x,diff,'b-', 'DisplayName', 'Error');
74 title('Error Distribution');
75 legend;

```

From this we generate the following graphs.



## Steepest Descent Method

This technique for approximating our solution to the Poisson equation is to make each iteration in the direction of greatest change. That is,

$$\nabla\phi(u_{k-1}) = Au_{k-1} - f \equiv -r_{k-1}$$

where  $\phi : \mathbb{R}^m \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  of the form

$$\phi(u) = \frac{1}{2}u^T Au - u^T f$$

which is a quadratic function in  $u$  and can be mapped with local extrema either as a top, a bowl or a saddle point, all based on the eigenvalues of  $A$  (negative, positive, or neither, respectively). Thus, when  $A$  is SPD we can expect  $r_k$  to progress ever closer towards the extremum.

This is the source code

```

1  clc; clear; close all;
2
3  figure; hold on;
4
5  function u = steepest_descent(A, f, tol, max_iter)
6      % Solves Ax = b using steepest descent method
7      % Inputs:
8      %   A       - Coefficient matrix (NxN)
9      %   b       - Right-hand side vector (Nx1)
10     %   tol      - Convergence tolerance
11     %   max_iter - Maximum number of iterations

```

```

12 % Output:
13 % x – Solution vector (Nx1)
14
15 N = length(f); % Number of equations
16 u = zeros(N, 1); % Initial guess (zero vector)
17 u_old = u;
18
19 for k=1:max_iter
20     r_old = f - A*u_old;
21     if norm(r_old) < tol
22         fprintf('Converged in %d iterations.\n', k);
23         return;
24     end
25     alpha_old = (r_old.' * r_old)/(r_old.' * A * r_old);
26     u = u_old + alpha_old*r_old;
27     u_old = u;
28 end
29
30 fprintf('Max iterations reached without convergence.\n');
31 end
32 % Define problem parameters
33 N = 128; % Number of internal grid points
34 h = (pi/2) / (N+1); % Grid spacing
35 x = linspace(h, pi/2-h, N)'; % Grid points
36 f = h^2* sin(pi * x); % Right-hand side vector
37
38 % Construct tridiagonal matrix A
39 A = 2 * eye(N) - diag(ones(N-1,1),1) - diag(ones(N-1,1),-1);
40
41 % Modify last element of f to include boundary condition u(pi/2) = 1
42 f(1) = 0; f(N) = 1;
43
44 % Solve using steepest descent method
45 tol = 1e-4; % Convergence tolerance
46 max_iter = 100000; % Maximum iterations
47
48 u = steepest_descent(A, f, tol, max_iter);
49
50 grid on;
51 tiledlayout(2,1);
52 tile1=nexttile;
53 hold(tile1, 'on');
54 %Analytic plot
55 analytic = 1/pi^2*sin(pi*x)+2/pi*(1-1/pi^2)*x;
56 %analytic = 1/pi^2*sin(pi*x)+2*x;
57 plot(tile1, x, analytic, '-r', 'DisplayName', 'Analytic');
58 legend;
59 % Plot solution
60 plot(tile1, x, u, 'b.-', 'DisplayName', 'u(x)');
61 xlabel('x'); ylabel('u(x)');
62 title('Solution of Poisson Equation using Steepest Descent Method');
63 legend;
64 grid on;
65
66 diff = abs(analytic-u);
67 tile2=nexttile;
68 plot(tile2, x, diff, 'b-', 'DisplayName', 'Error');
69 title('Error Distribution');
70 legend;

```

From this we generate the following graphs.

