

Mathematical Finance MSc Dissertation MTH775P, 2018/19

# Accelerated Grids

Optimizing Solvers for Financial Partial  
Differential Equations

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A thesis presented for the degree of  
Master in Sciences in *Mathematical Finance*

School of Mathematical Sciences  
and *School of Economics and Finance*  
Queen Mary University of London

# Declaration of original work

This declaration is made on August 16, 2019.

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This work is dedicated to my family.

# Acknowledgements

Here you thank people that have helped you in the journey.

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# Abstract

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# Preface

Here you write a summary of the work. A paragraph on the motivation, previous work, then maybe a brief chapter by chapter summary.

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Queen Mary University of London  
12<sup>th</sup> August 2019

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# Chapter 1

## Introduction

In Ancient Greece, Thales was scorned for his poverty. Later that year, Thales utilized his skills in astrology to forecast an increase in olive yields. Using his limited capital, he rented oil presses in winter. Months later, over the oil making season, many people rushed to the presses because of the high yields that Thales predicted. As he rented the presses over the winter, he forced the terms he pleased. Thales showed it was easy for philosophers to be rich if they chose it and practically used the first financial derivative product [\[1\]](#).

In the modern world, financial derivatives are contracts between two or more parties. The value of the contract depends on one or several underlying assets. Commonly the assets are currencies, equities, bonds, interest rates, market indices or commodities. The vanilla call option gives the right but not the obligation to buy the underlying asset at the expiry date at a previously agreed strike price. Essentially, Thales bought call options for oil presses. If the olive yields didn't come as Thales expected he didn't have the obligation to use the olive presses. On the other hand, the vanilla put option gives the right but not the obligation to sell the underlying asset at the expiry date at a previously agreed strike price. Practical applications of the options include hedging or speculating the future asset price. Hence, accurately pricing the

options is crucial for an efficient and mature financial market.

Merton and Scholes received the 1997 Nobel Prize in Economic Science for this work [14].

## 1.1 Motivation of the Project

Derivative pricing in the real world is a computationally intensive task. The existing numerical methods for partial differential equations are all constrained by the computational complexity. Being fast when evaluating new information is critical for the operations of hedge funds and investment banks. Therefore optimizing the existing numerical methods with hardware and software that can be installed on a trading floor is crucial. Goal of the project is to provide efficient methods for pricing options.

Purpose of this project to optimize numerical solutions of parabolic PDEs by testing high performance computing techniques and comparing compilers/os/32bit/64bit. The idea of this project is to study how to take advantage of this parallelism and explore how much faster we can make these calculations.

## 1.2 Literature Review

Baklacak paperlar ekle.

## 1.3 Contents of the Thesis

Included in your Introduction section should be a clear summary of what you have achieved in the project work presented, such as any new results, generalisations, corollaries, examples, new connections, or computer investigations. The thesis is organized as follows. Chapter 2 presents an introduction to financial derivatives, Black-Scholes model and finite difference models.

Chapter 3 extends the 2d and gives examples of two dimensional heat equation. Chapter 4 develops the numerical methods and techniques considered to solve the PDE-based models for the option pricing problems. In the same chapter, finite difference method with improved algorithms to solve a large tridiagonal systems is discussed. Chapter 5 shows the numerical results of our numerical methods with several examples of. Chapter 6 concludes the thesis.

# Chapter 2

## Pricing Financial Derivatives

### 2.1 The Risk Neutral Approach

The Black-Scholes framework is a theoretical valuation formula for options. It reveals the relationship between the prices of the options and the underlying assets. Since almost all corporate liabilities can be viewed as combinations of options, the formula is applicable to common stocks and corporate bonds [2]. The Black-Scholes model makes the following assumptions:

- There does not exist any arbitrage opportunity in the financial market. The traders cant make instantaneous profit without any risk.
- The underlying asset value follows a geometric Brownian Motion  $dS = \mu Sdt + \sigma SdB$  where  $\mu$  denotes the average rate of growth of the underlying assets,  $\sigma$  denotes the volatility of the asset price and B is a Brownian Motion.
- The market is frictionless. This means there are no transaction fees, the interest rates for borrowing and lending money from and to the bank are the same, every party in market has immediate information and all entities are available at anytime and in any size.

### 2.1.1 Black-Scholes Partial Differential Equation

The original model is used to price the vanilla option, which is the simplest type of option. The dividends can be included in the Black-Scholes formula. Presence of dividends can be included in the Black-Scholes formula. Since it doesn't effect the performance, for the sake of simplicity we will assume there are no dividends paid. Under the assumptions of Black-Scholes framework, the call or put option price satisfies the parabolic partial differential equation.

$$\frac{\partial V}{\partial t} = rS \frac{\partial V}{\partial S} + \frac{1}{2} \sigma^2 S^2 \frac{\partial^2 V}{\partial S^2} - rV \quad (2.1)$$

Framework shows the price  $V(t, S)$  of a European option driven by one underlying asset that satisfies the PDE where  $r, \sigma, t, S$  respectively denotes the risk-free interest rate, volatility, time and the underlying price. It is assumed that  $r$  and  $\sigma$  are constants. In more complicated models such as stochastic volatility models they can be a function. We will consider the PDE and conditions for the call options. In order to price a vanilla call option the PDE needs to satisfy the following boundary and initial conditions.

$$C(0, t) = 0, \quad C(S_{\max}, t) = S_{\max} - Ke^{-r(T-t)}, \quad 0 \leq t \leq T \quad (2.2)$$

$$C(S, T) = \max(S - K, 0), \quad 0 \leq S \leq S_{\max} \quad (2.3)$$

### 2.1.2 Derivation of the Black-Scholes Equation

Black-Scholes model takes advantage of the properties of the geometric Brownian motion and Itô's lemma.

#### Definition 2.1.1. Brownian Motion

Brownian motion (also known as Wiener Process) was discovered by botanist Robert Brown as he observed a chaotic motion of particles suspended in water [20]. A Brownian motion,  $B(t)$ , is a continuous-time stochastic process with

the following properties:

- $B(0) = 0$ .
- $B(t)$  is a continuous function of  $t$ .
- For  $0 \leq s < t$  the increment  $B(t) - B(s)$  has normal distribution  $\mathcal{N}(0, t - s)$ .
- For  $t_0 \leq t_1 \leq \dots \leq t_n$  the increments  $B(t_k) - B(t_{k-1})$  where  $k = 1, \dots, n$  are independent random variables.

Brownian motion is the basic building block in stochastic calculus and geometric Brownian motion is used to model the stock prices in Black-Scholes model.

**Lemma 2.1.2.** *Itô's Lemma Let  $B(t)$  be a Brownian motion and  $X(t)$  be an Ito process which satisfies the stochastic differential equation:*

$$dX(t) = \mu(X(t), t)dt + \sigma(X(t), t)dB(t) \quad (2.4)$$

*If  $f(x, t) \in C^2(\mathbb{R}^2, \mathbb{R})$  then  $f(X(t), t)$  is also an Ito drift-diffusion process, with its differential given by:*

$$d(f(X(t), t)) = \frac{\partial f}{\partial t}(X(t), t)dt + f'(X(t), t)dX + \frac{1}{2}f''(X(t), t)dX(t)^2 \quad (2.5)$$

*With  $dX(t)^2$  given by:  $dt^2 = 0$ ,  $dt dB(t) = 0$  and  $dB(t)^2 = dt$ .*

**Theorem 2.1.3.** *Assume that the asset price  $S$  follows a geometric Brownian motion. Under the assumptions of Black-Scholes framework, the call or put option price  $V(t, S)$  satisfies the parabolic partial differential equation*

$$\frac{\partial V}{\partial t} = rS \frac{\partial V}{\partial S} + \frac{1}{2}\sigma^2 S^2 \frac{\partial^2 V}{\partial S^2} - rV \quad (2.6)$$

*Proof.* Suppose an investor sets up a self-financing portfolio,  $X(t)$ , comprising one option and an  $\Delta$  amount of the underlying asset. Therefore, value of the portfolio at time  $t$  is  $X(t) = V(t) + \Delta S(t)$ . Since the self-financing trading strategy has no capital influx or consumption, the value of portfolio change can be written as

$$dX = dV + \Delta dS \quad (2.7)$$

Applying the Itô's Lemma to the option price  $V(t, S)$

$$dV = \frac{\partial V}{\partial t} dt + \frac{\partial V}{\partial S}(S, t) dS + \frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial^2 V}{\partial S^2}(S, t) dS^2 \quad (2.8)$$

Since the Black-Scholes model assumes that the stock price under the "market probability measure" follows a gBM.

$$dS = \mu S dt + \sigma S dW \quad (2.9)$$

Putting (1.4) and (1.6) together yields

$$dV = \left( \frac{\partial V}{\partial t} + \mu S \frac{\partial V}{\partial S} + \frac{1}{2} \sigma^2 S^2 \frac{\partial^2 V}{\partial S^2} + \Delta \mu S \right) dt + \left( \sigma S \frac{\partial V}{\partial S} + \Delta \sigma S \right) dW \quad (2.10)$$

The fact that portfolio is risk-free implies that the second term involving the Brownian Motion,  $dW$ , must be zero. This technique is known as delta-hedging, otherwise, we would have an arbitrage opportunity. Thus,  $\Delta = -\frac{\partial V}{\partial S}$ . Hence, the growth rate of the portfolio must be the risk free rate which can be summarized as  $dX = rX dt$ . Substituting  $\Delta$  and  $dX$  yields

$$\frac{\partial V}{\partial t} + \frac{1}{2} \sigma^2 S^2 \frac{\partial^2 V}{\partial S^2} = r(V - S \frac{\partial V}{\partial S}) \quad (2.11)$$

Rearranging the equation to get famous Black-Scholes equation:

$$\frac{\partial V}{\partial t} = rS \frac{\partial V}{\partial S} + \frac{1}{2} \sigma^2 S^2 \frac{\partial^2 V}{\partial S^2} - rV \quad (2.12)$$

□

**Definition 2.1.4.** The resulting partial differential equation can be solved analytically using the following boundary conditions and initial conditions for call options.

$$\frac{\partial C}{\partial t} = rS \frac{\partial C}{\partial S} + \frac{1}{2} \sigma^2 S^2 \frac{\partial^2 C}{\partial S^2} - rC \quad (2.13)$$

$$C(0, t) = 0, \quad C(S_{\max}, t) = S_{\max} - Ke^{-r(T-t)}, \quad 0 \leq t \leq T \quad (2.14)$$

$$C(S, T) = \max(S - K, 0), \quad 0 \leq S \leq S_{\max} \quad (2.15)$$

Solving the equations, the formulae [25] for European call is

$$C = S\Phi(d_1) - Ke^{-r(T-t)}\Phi(d_2) \quad (2.16)$$

$$d_1 = \frac{\log(S/K) + (r + \sigma^2/2)(T - t)}{\sigma\sqrt{T - t}} \quad (2.17)$$

$$d_2 = d_1 - \sigma\sqrt{T - t} \quad (2.18)$$

**Remark 2.1.5.** Untradable Assets

Modern financial engineering created derivatives using untradable assets as an underlying such as multi asset derivatives like equity baskets, weather derivatives and non-deliverable forwards. Non-deliverable forwards are for offshore investors that want to trade non-convertible currencies such as Brazilian Real, South Korean Won. The Black-Scholes model is still used in these cases [11] [3] but not entirely applicable to assets that cannot be hedged.

## 2.2 Solving Partial Differential Equations

Since the foundation of the world humanity tried to understand and model the nature. Differential equations serves this purpose by enabling us to de-



scribe natural phenomena for instance, heat, sound and fluid flow. Differential equations can be classified in to two categories. Ordinary differential equations serve to model a movement space or plane, an example would be the trajectory of a projectile launched from a cannon follows a curve determined by an ordinary differential equation that is derived from Newton's second law. On the other hand, partial differential equations modelles a function, a typical example is the heat distribution. This distinction usually makes PDEs much harder to solve than ordinary differential equations.

General form of 2nd order PDEs of two independent variables is

$$au_{xx} + bu_{xy} + cu_{yy} + du_x + eu_y + fu + g = 0$$

If the equation satisfies the condition  $b^2 - 4ac = 0$  it is considered a parabolic partial differential equation. Generally, financial partial differential equations can be classified as parabolic partial differential equations. Generally, partial differential equations are too complicated to work out an analytical solution. Thus, we need to achieve a numerical solution to the problem. Numerical partial differential equations includes components in the areas of applications, mathematics and computers. The most common framework is finite difference method which tries to find approximate solutions to the problem at a discrete set of points, normally on a rectangular grid of points. Instead we try to find approximate solutions of the problem at a discrete set of points in the  $(x, t)$  plane, normally a rectangular grid of points. It is simple to construct and analyse but can compromise performance because of increased computational complexity when there are high dimensions.

Multidimensional finite differences (such as ADI schemes) are only practical up to 3 dimensions, higher dimension are too demanding in terms of computer memory and computing time.

For higher order problems Monte Carlo is usually the method of choice. Using low discrepancy quasi random suites (e.g. Sobol) along with the Brownian bridge technique leads to reasonable computing times. See for instance

Jaeckel's book "monte carlo methods in finance".

Feynman-Kac theorem [12], establishes a link between parabolic partial differential equations and stochastic processes by writing the solution as a conditional expectation. Thanks to the theorem, Monte Carlo method is also utilized to find the numerical solutions to the partial differential equations. Monte Carlo method is preferred when the dimensions are too high !!Glassermann MC book rough calculation of error MC vs PDE grids(1-2 pages)!!

The finite difference method has become a very popular for approximating the Black Scholes equation. This equation is an example of a convection-diffusion equation. Heat equation is the most basic convection-diffusion equation, we will be using it as a benchmark to test the methods.

### 2.2.1 Heat Equation

The heat equation is fundamental to financial engineering. Heat equation is a component in the Black-Schole equation and Black-Scholes equation can be transformed to the heat equation by changing variables [26]. Thus understanding of heat equation helps in our appreciation of BlackScholes. In the experiments the following initial and boundary conditions for the heat equation will be used.

$$u_t(x, t) = u_{xx}(x, t) \quad (2.19)$$

$$u(0, t) = u(x_{\max}, t) = 0, \quad 0 \leq t \leq T \quad (2.20)$$

$$u(x, 0) = \sin(\pi x), \quad 0 \leq x \leq x_{\max} \quad (2.21)$$

#### **Definition 2.2.1.** Analytical Solution of Heat Equation

Certain kinds of partial differential equations allows us to find an analytical solution with the help of the Separation of Variables technique.

$$u(x, t) = X(x)T(t) \quad (2.22)$$

$$u_{xx}(x, t) = X''(x)T(t) \quad (2.23)$$

$$u_t(x, t) = X(t)T'(t) \quad (2.24)$$

Using the partial derivatives the equation  $u_t = u_{xx}$  becomes

$$\frac{T'(t)}{T(t)} = \frac{X''(x)}{X(x)} \quad (2.25)$$

Right hand side only depends on  $x$  and the left hand side depends only on  $t$ . Therefore, the equation is valid only when each side is equal to a constant, which we set to  $\lambda$ . Rearranging terms gives us the following equations:

$$\frac{T'(t)}{T(t)} = \frac{X''(x)}{X(x)} = \lambda \quad (2.26)$$

$$X''(x) = \lambda X(x), \quad T'(t) = \lambda T(t) \quad (2.27)$$

$$X(0) = X(1) = 0 \quad (2.28)$$

Solving for  $X(x)$  is an example case of Sturm-Liouville problem [13]. However the  $\lambda < 0$  and  $\lambda = 0$  cases result in trivial solutions, thus they are discarded. Solving for  $\lambda > 0$  yields

$$X(x) = c_1 \sin(kx) + c_2 \cos(kx) \quad (2.29)$$

The boundary conditions leads to  $c_2 = 0, c_1 \sin(k) = 0 \rightarrow k = 0, \pi, 2\pi, \dots, n\pi$  where  $n$  is an integer.

Solving for  $T(t)$  gives the solution

$$T(t) = c_3 \exp(-n^2 \pi^2 t) \quad (2.30)$$

$$u(x, t) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} b_n \exp(-n^2 \pi^2 t) \sin(n\pi x) \quad (2.31)$$

where we have set  $b_n = c_1 c_3$ . The initial condition gives

$$u(x, 0) = \sin(\pi x) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} b_n \sin(n\pi x) \quad (2.32)$$

which is a Fourier sine series. Thus, the coefficient  $b_n$  is chosen such that

$$b_n = 2 \int_0^1 \sin(\pi x) \sin(n\pi x) dx = \frac{2 \sin(\pi n)}{\pi - \pi n^2} \quad (2.33)$$

Combining the solutions

$$u_n(x, t) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{2 \sin(\pi n)}{\pi - \pi n^2} \exp(-n^2 \pi^2 t) \sin(n\pi x) = \exp(-\pi t) \sin(\pi x) \quad (2.34)$$

### 2.2.2 Two Dimensional Heat Equation

The natural extension of our study of the one-dimensional problem would now be to investigate partial differential equations with more than one space-like dimension. When more than one space dimensions are involved, we have to deal with equations such as two dimensional heat equation or multi-asset black-scholes equation. We will consider the following PDE and conditions for the purposes of research.

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} = \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial y^2} \quad (2.35)$$

Initial and boundary condition

$$u(x, y, 0) = 1, \quad 0 \leq x \leq x_{\max}, \quad 0 \leq y \leq y_{\max} \quad (2.36)$$

$$u(x, 0, t) = u(x, y_{\max}, t) = 0, \quad 0 \leq t \leq T \quad (2.37)$$

$$u(x, 0, t) = u(x, 1, t) = 0, \quad 0 \leq t \leq T \quad (2.38)$$

**Definition 2.2.2.** Analytical Solution of Two Dimensional Heat Equation  
Similarly, applying separation of variables method to the equation

$$u(x, t) = X(x)Y(y)T(t) \quad (2.39)$$

$$X''(x) - BX(x) = 0 \quad (2.40)$$

$$Y''(y) - C(y) = 0 \quad (2.41)$$

$$T'(t) - (B + C)T(t) = 0 \quad (2.42)$$

$$X(0) = X(1) = 0, \quad Y(0) = Y(1) = 0 \quad (2.43)$$

We have solved for  $X(x)$  and  $Y(y)$  in Analytical Solution of Heat Equation:

$$X_n(x) = \sin(n\pi x), \quad B = n\pi Y_m(x) = \sin(m\pi y), \quad C = m\pi \quad (2.44)$$

Solving for  $T(t)$  gives the solution

$$T(t) = \exp(-\pi\sqrt{m^2 + n^2}t) \quad (2.45)$$

$$u(x, y, t) = \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} A_{mn} \sin(n\pi x) \sin(m\pi y) \exp(-\pi\sqrt{m^2 + n^2}t) \quad (2.46)$$

The initial condition gives

$$u(x, y, 0) = 1 = \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} A_{mn} \sin(n\pi x) \sin(m\pi y) \quad (2.47)$$

which is a double Fourier sine series. Thus, the coefficient  $A_{mn}$  is chosen such that

$$A_{mn} = 4 \int_0^1 \int_0^1 \sin(\pi n x) \sin(\pi m y) dx dy = \frac{4(\cos(\pi n) - 1)(\cos(\pi m) - 1)}{\pi^2 mn} \quad (2.48)$$

Combining the solutions

$$u_{mn}(x, y, t) = \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{4(\cos(\pi n) - 1)(\cos(\pi m) - 1)}{\pi^2 mn} \sin(n\pi x) \sin(m\pi y) \exp(-\pi \sqrt{m^2 + n^2} t) = 0 \quad (2.49)$$

## 2.3 Finite Difference Methods

### 2.3.1 Discretization

Essentially, solving a PDE is the problem of finding a function which depends on values at infinitely many points. Naturally, the finite difference methods first step is to make the problem discrete that we are able to solve [23]. As a result, we need to discretise the space dimensions and time dimension. The discretization procedure begins by replacing the domain  $[0, x_{max}] \times [0, T]$  by a set of mesh points. In order to get a  $n \times m$  equally spaced mesh points the step sizes are calculated as  $\Delta t = \frac{T}{m}$ ,  $\Delta x = \frac{x_{max}}{n}$ .

In order to replace our PDE, we need to utilize finite difference approximations for the partial derivatives. Notationally, we will define  $u_i^n$  to be a function defined at the point  $(i\Delta x, n\Delta t)$ .

- Forward difference:  $\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} = \frac{u_i^{n+1} - u_i^n}{\Delta t} + \mathcal{O}(\Delta t)$

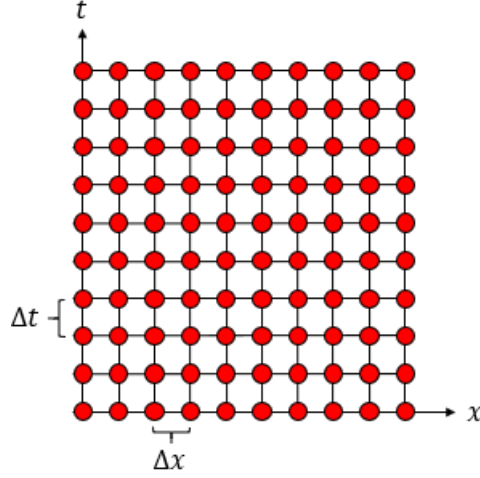


Figure 2.1: 10 x 10 grid.

- Central difference:  $\frac{\partial u}{\partial x} = \frac{u_{i+1}^n - u_{i-1}^n}{\Delta x} + \mathcal{O}(\Delta x)$
- Backwards difference:  $\frac{\partial u}{\partial x} = \frac{u_i^n - u_{i-1}^n}{\Delta x} + \mathcal{O}(\Delta x)$
- Second order central difference:  $\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} = \frac{u_{i+1}^n - 2u_i^n + u_{i-1}^n}{(\Delta x)^2} + \mathcal{O}(\Delta x^2)$

We now have a grid that approximates our domain. Aiming to obtain a unique solution using numerical methods, we need initial and boundary conditions. Final step is applying the values given by such conditions.

### 2.3.2 Explicit Method

Explicit method generalises the parabolic partial differential equation by applying the forward difference to the time derivative and the centred second difference (FTCS scheme).

$$a(t, x)u_{xx} + b(t, x)u_x + c(t, x)u_t + d(t, x)u = 0 \quad (2.50)$$

We will be applying the finite differences to the equation 2.50 for the

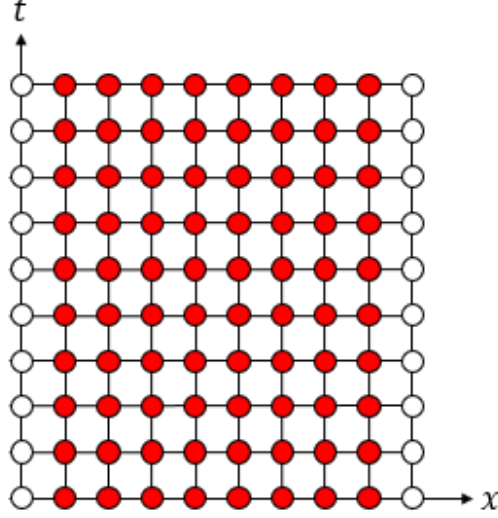


Figure 2.2: Boundary conditions.

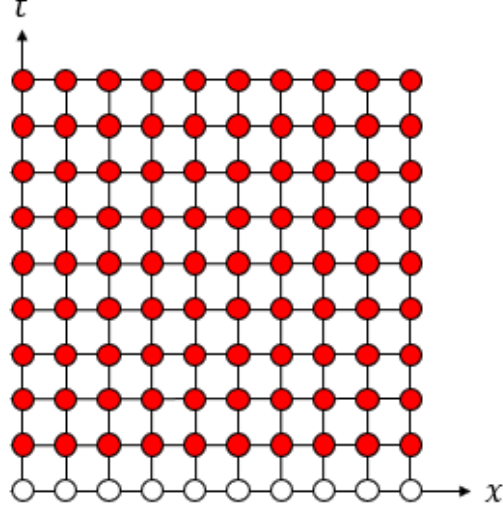


Figure 2.3: Initial condition.

purposes of simplicity since heat equation and Black-Scholes equation can be generalized in the form for certain choices of coefficients.

$$a(t, x) \frac{u_{i+1}^n - 2u_i^n + u_{i-1}^n}{(\Delta x)^2} + b(t, x) \frac{u_{i+1}^n - u_{i-1}^n}{\Delta x} + c(t, x) \frac{u_i^{n+1} - u_i^n}{\Delta t} + d(t, x) u_i^n = 0 \quad (2.51)$$

Applying the forward time and centred space differences where  $r = \frac{\Delta t}{\Delta x^2}$ .

$$u_i^{n+1} = u_{i+1}^n \left( \frac{-ra(t, x)}{\Delta xc(t, x)} - \frac{a(t, x)}{c(t, x)} \right) + u_i^n \left( 1 + \frac{2ra(t, x)}{c(t, x)} - \frac{\Delta td(t, x)}{c(t, x)} \right) + u_{i-1}^n \left( \frac{-ra(t, x)}{c(t, x)} + \frac{rb(t, x)}{\Delta xc(t, x)} \right) \quad (2.52)$$

We will replace the coefficients of  $u_{i+1}^n, u_i^n, u_{i-1}^n$  terms with  $\gamma, \alpha, \beta$  respectively. If we rearrange the formula, it can be summarised as

$$u_j^{n+1} = \gamma u_{j+1}^n + \beta u_j^n + \alpha u_{j-1}^n \quad (2.53)$$



The formula expresses one unknown nodal value directly in terms of known nodal values [7]. In the case of heat equation the coefficients  $\gamma, \alpha, \beta$  become

$$\alpha = r \quad \beta = 1 - 2r \quad \gamma = r \quad (2.54)$$

Replacing the coefficients with black scholes partial differential equation coefficients, the coefficients  $\gamma, \alpha, \beta$  yields

$$\alpha = \frac{\sigma^2 j^2 \Delta t}{2} - \frac{r j \Delta t}{2} \quad \beta = 1 - \sigma^2 j^2 \Delta t - r \Delta t \quad \gamma = \frac{\sigma^2 j^2 \Delta t}{2} + \frac{r j \Delta t}{2} \quad (2.55)$$

Solving heat equation and Black-Scholes differs only in one aspect. Black-Scholes is solved backwards in time where heat equation is solved forwards in time.

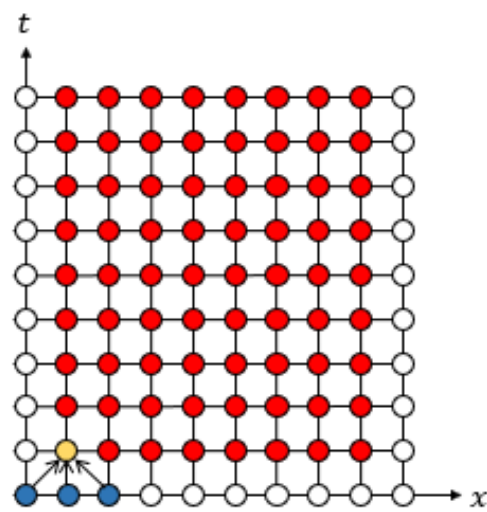


Figure 2.4: Computational stencil of heat equation.

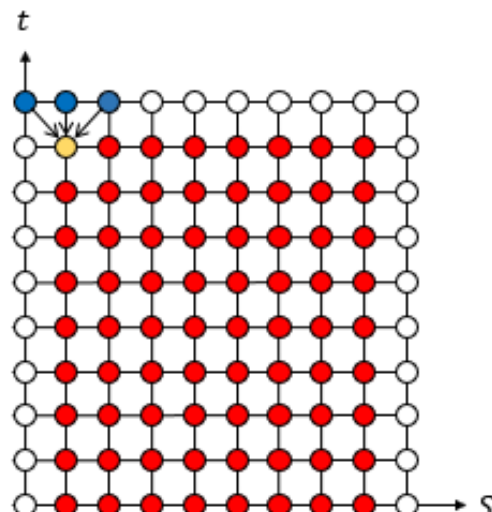


Figure 2.5: Computational stencil of Black-Scholes.

### 2.3.3 Crank-Nicholson Method

The explicit method is computationally cheap however this brings a serious drawback, for explicit method to attain reasonable accuracy the step size must be kept small [21]. Thankfully, the Crank-Nicolson finite difference scheme was introduced by John Crank and Phyllis Nicolson [4]. Considering numerous articles and publications in the financial engineering literature use Crank-Nicolson as the de-facto scheme for time discretisation, the method has become one of the most popular finite difference schemes for approximating the solution of the Black - Scholes equation and its generalisations [22].

If we apply backwards time difference instead of forward time difference that Explicit method used and a central space approximation in space again, we get the BTCS scheme. Applying the finite differences to the equation 2.50

$$\frac{u_i^{n+1} - u_i^n}{\Delta t} = a(t, x) \frac{u_{i+1}^n - 2u_i^n + u_{i-1}^n}{(\Delta x)^2} + b(t, x) \frac{u_i^n - u_i^{n-1}}{\Delta t} + c(t, x)u_i^n + d(t, x) \quad (2.56)$$

In contrast to the FTCS scheme, we now have three unknowns in this equation, the three values of  $u$  at the higher time level. Crank-Nicolson method takes a weighted average of the FTCS and BTCS schemes. Therefore the approximations become

- $u(t, x) \approx \frac{1}{2}(u_i^{n+1} + u_i^n)$
- $\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} \approx \frac{u_i^{n+1} - u_i^n}{\Delta t}$
- $\frac{\partial u}{\partial x} \approx \frac{u_{i+1}^n - u_{i-1}^n + u_{i+1}^{n+1} - u_{i-1}^{n+1}}{4\Delta x}$
- $\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} \approx \frac{u_{i+1}^n - 2u_i^n + u_{i-1}^n + u_{i+1}^{n+1} - 2u_i^{n+1} + u_{i-1}^{n+1}}{2(\Delta x)^2}$

Applying the new finite differences to the parabolic partial differential

equation

$$\begin{aligned} (-A - B)u_{i+1}^{n+1} + (1 + 2A - C)u_i^{n+1} + (-A + B)u_{i-1}^{n+1} = \\ = (A + B)u_{i+1}^n + (1 - 2A + C)u_i^n + (A - B)u_{i-1}^n + D \end{aligned} \quad (2.57)$$

$$A = a(t, x) \frac{\Delta t}{\Delta x^2}, B = b(t, x) \frac{\Delta t}{4\Delta x}, C = c(t, x) \frac{\Delta t}{2}, D = d(t, x) \Delta t$$

Note that in contrast to the FTCS scheme, we now have three unknowns in this equation, the three values of  $u$  at the higher time level. The left hand side groups the unknowns and the right hand side groups knowns. The system of equations can be represented by a tridiagonal matrix system. This system of equations can be solved by various algorithms such as Gauss elimination or Thomas algorithm.

### 2.3.4 Rannacher Trick

??

### 2.3.5 Alternating Direction Implicit Method

The alternating direction implicit (ADI) method is one of the most common techniques to numerically solve two dimensional parabolic PDEs. ADI schemes give us advantages of implicit finite difference method and computationally only requires to solve tridiagonal matrices. The scheme was first proposed by Peaceman and Rachford in 1955 for oil reservoir modelling [18]. Basically the methods to split the spatial dimensions and solve a 2D problem as two consecutive 1D problems. It is possible to use ADI in more than 3 dimensions which produces the same number of consecutive 1D problems [5].

In order to develop a more compact notation, we introduce the finite

difference operator notation  $\delta^2$ .

$$\delta x^2 u_{i,j}^n = \frac{u_{i+1,j}^n - 2u_{i,j}^n + u_{i-1,j}^n}{\Delta x^2} \quad (2.58)$$

Explicit approximation of the derivatives can be written as

$$\frac{u_{i,j}^{n+1} + u_{i,j}^n}{\Delta t} = \delta x^2 u_{i,j}^n + \delta y^2 u_{i,j}^n \quad (2.59)$$

Implicit approximation of the derivatives can be written as

$$\frac{u_{i,j}^{n+1} + u_{i,j}^n}{\Delta t} = \delta x^2 u_{i,j}^{n+1} + \delta y^2 u_{i,j}^{n+1} \quad (2.60)$$

Dividing each time step in half we introduce a temporary intermediate unknown  $u_{i,j}^{n+1/2}$ . Firstly, the two dimensional heat equation is approximating implicitly x and explicitly over y. The total work involved in one time step amounts to solving  $N_{steps} - 1$  tridiagonal systems [16].

$$\frac{u_{i,j}^{n+1/2} + u_{i,j}^n}{0.5\Delta t} = \frac{\delta x^2 u_{i,j}^{n+1/2}}{\Delta x^2} + \frac{\delta y^2 u_{i,j}^n}{\Delta y^2} \quad (2.61)$$

Rearranging the set of equations yields a tridiagonal system which is solved for the temporary intermediate unknown  $u_{i,j}^{n+1/2}$ .

$$-r_x * u_{i+1,j}^{n+1/2} + (1 + 2r_x)u_{i,j}^{n+1/2} - r_x u_{i,j}^{n+1/2} = r_y u_{i,j+1}^n + (1 + 2r_y)u_{i,j}^n + r_y u_{i,j-1}^n \quad (2.62)$$

In order to calculate the solution  $u_{i,j}^{n+1}$  by approximating explicitly x and implicitly over y.

$$\frac{u_{i,j}^{n+1} + u_{i,j}^{n+1/2}}{0.5\Delta t} = \frac{\delta x^2 u_{i,j}^{n+1/2}}{\Delta x^2} + \frac{\delta y^2 u_{i,j}^{n+1}}{\Delta y^2} \quad (2.63)$$

Rearranging the set of equations yields a tridiagonal system which can be

solved using gaussian elimination, thomas algorithm etc.

$$-r_y u_{i,j+1}^{n+1} + (1 + 2r_y) u_{i,j}^{n+1} - r_y u_{i,j-1}^{n+1} = r_x * u_{i+1,j}^{n+1/2} + (1 + 2r_x) u_{i,j}^{n+1/2} + r_x u_{i-1,j}^{n+1/2} \quad (2.64)$$

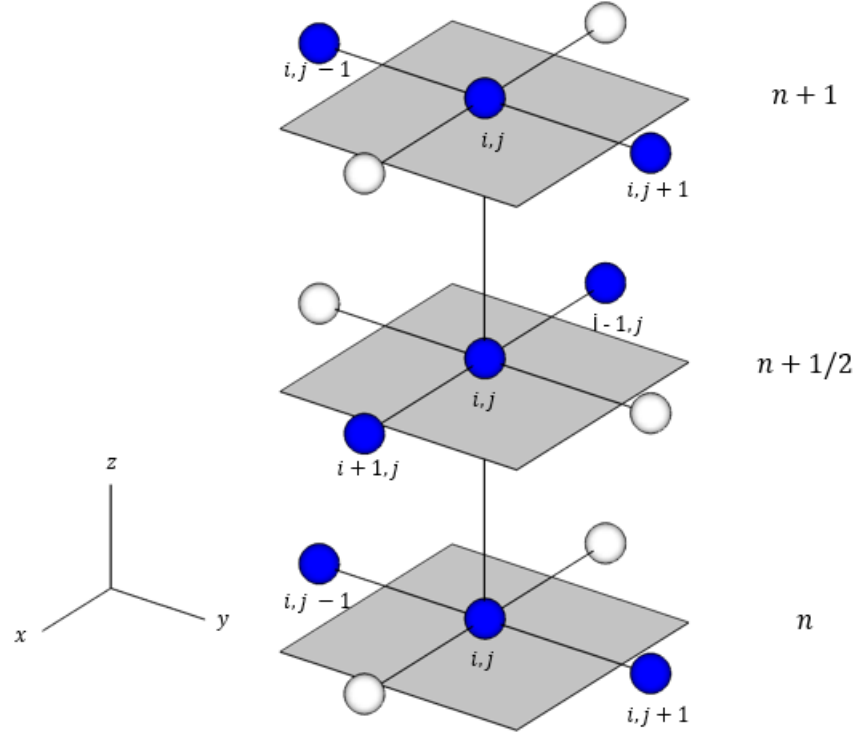


Figure 2.6: Computational stencil of alternating direction implicit method

# Chapter 3

## Optimizing Solvers

Numerical analysis and computer simulations will be undertaken to put theory and observation together to gain insight into the workings of numerical solutions of partial differential equations. First step was deriving toy examples that can be calculated by hand and Excel. Following the verifications, porting the toy examples in C++ and utilize high performance computing principles.

This section documents the performance of attempted optimizations. Experiments are conducted at W307 computer laboratory, Queen Mary University of London. Each computer has Windows 10 Enterprise 64 bit, 16 GB of RAM, Intel Core i7-6700 CPU with 4 cores clocked at 3.40 GHz. The source code is written in C++ and compiled with Microsoft Visual Studio Enterprise 2017, Version 15.3.3 in the release mode. External tools utilized in the tests include Intel Compiler, version 18.0.3 and Intel Math Kernel Library, version X .

### 3.1 Timing the Code

Measuring execution time intervals accurately is an important aspect to compare the efficiency and speed of different environments and implementations.

### 3.1.1 Windows Application Programming Interface

Windows Application Programming Interface (API) is the lowest level of interaction between applications and the windows operating system. Thus every program is built upon the API. Mostly, the interaction is hidden, the runtime and support libraries manage it in the background [19]. The APIs can be used in the C++ environment. Runtime can be calculated by "QueryPerformanceCounter" or "QueryPerformanceFrequency" functions. Respectively, the functions retrieve a high resolution time stamp and the frequency of the performance counter.

### 3.1.2 Chrono Library

Using the Windows API for just timing the code is slightly excessive given the amount of work it takes. Luckily, Chrono library was introduced part of the C++11s standard library. Timers and clocks might differ on distinct systems, thus Chrono library is designed to work effortlessly with date and time. The "high resolution clock" provides the smallest possible tick period and with the now method, returns a value corresponding to the calls point in time. Once the start and end time of the code is recorded, the `duration::count` method is used to get the elapsed time.

## 3.2 Optimization Experiments

Main optimization techniques that can be implemented are parallelizing tridiagonal solvers, Visual Studio optimization switches, different compilers and different solution platforms.

### 3.2.1 Tridiagonal Solvers

Implementing Crank Nicolson and Alternating Direction Implicit methods requires to solve tridiagonal systems which is the most computationally in-

tensive part of the program. Therefore, choosing efficient tridiagonal solvers is crucial for the speed of the solver. In this experiment three different algorithms will be tested.

### Thomas Algorithm

Thomas Algorithm is the most commonly used method for solving tridiagonal system of equations. The method is used to solve a tridiagonal matrix system invented by Llewellyn Thomas [24]. The algorithm is a simplified version of the gaussian elimination.

The system equations can be written as

$$\begin{bmatrix} b_1 & c_1 & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ a_2 & b_2 & c_2 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & a_3 & b_3 & c_3 & 0 & 0 \\ \cdot & \cdot & & & \cdot & \\ \cdot & \cdot & & & \cdot & \\ \cdot & \cdot & & & c_{k-1} & \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & a_k & b_k \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} f_1 \\ f_2 \\ f_3 \\ \cdot \\ \cdot \\ \cdot \\ f_k \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} d_1 \\ d_2 \\ d_3 \\ \cdot \\ \cdot \\ \cdot \\ d_k \end{bmatrix}$$

The method begins by forming coefficients  $c_i^*$  and  $d_i^*$  in place of  $a_i$ ,  $b_i$  and  $c_i$  as follows:

$$c_i^* = \begin{cases} \frac{c_1}{b_1} & ; i = 1 \\ \frac{c_i}{b_i - c_{i-1}^* a_i} & ; i = 2, 3, \dots, k-1 \end{cases}$$

$$d_i^* = \begin{cases} \frac{d_1}{b_1} & ; i = 1 \\ \frac{d_i - d_{i-1}^* a_i}{b_i - c_{i-1}^* a_i} & ; i = 2, 3, \dots, k-1 \end{cases}$$



With these new coefficients, the matrix equation can be rewritten as:

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & c_1^* & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & c_2^* & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & c_3^* & 0 & 0 \\ \cdot & \cdot & & & & \cdot \\ \cdot & \cdot & & & & \cdot \\ \cdot & \cdot & & & c_{k-1}^* & \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} f_1 \\ f_2 \\ f_3 \\ \cdot \\ \cdot \\ \cdot \\ f_k \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} d_1^* \\ d_2^* \\ d_3^* \\ \cdot \\ \cdot \\ \cdot \\ d_k^* \end{bmatrix}$$

The algorithm for the solution of these equations is now straightforward and works 'in reverse':

$$f_k = d_k^*, \quad f_i = d_i^* - c_i^* x_{i+1}, \quad i = k-1, k-2, \dots, 2, 1$$

### Intel Math Kernel Library

Intel Math Kernel Library implements routines for solving systems of linear equations from the standard LAPACK library. Variety of atrix types are supported by the routines. Specifically gtsv function is utilized from the package. Using Gaussian elimination with partial pivoting, gtsv computes the solution to the system of linear equations with a tridiagonal coefficient matrix [10].

### Cyclic Reduction

Cyclic reduction was proposed by R. W. Hockney in the 1960s for solving the resulting linear systems from the discretization of the Poisson equation [9].

### 3.2.2 32 bit and 64 bit

The CPU accesses data from RAM using the register that stores memory addresses. 32 bit and 64 bit refers to the amount of data the system can access. so a 32-bit system can address a maximum of 4 GB (4,294,967,296 bytes) of RAM where a 64-bit register can theoretically reference 18,446,744,073,709,551,616 bytes, or 17,179,869,184 GB (16 exabytes) of memory. Since 32 bit does not have access to more than 4 GB, if the system has more than 4 GB of RAM, it will be inaccessible by the CPU, thus A 64 bit system will be needed. The memory increase of 64 bit systems means it is capable of very fast processing of numerical quantities.

One disadvantage of the 64 bit systems is more requirement of memory because addresses are 64 bits (8 bytes) wide instead of 32 bits (4 bytes) wide. Due to the increased size of pointers and data structures, 64-bit programs will occupy more memory than an 32-bit version.

### 3.2.3 Visual Studio Optimization Switches

Visual Studio Optimization Switches, also known as /O options controls various optimizations to be chosen according to the needs of the project [15].

- /O1: generates minimum size code.
- /O2: optimizes for maximum speed.
- /Ob: controls inline function expansion.
- /Od: disables optimizations.
- /Og: enables global optimizations.
- /Oi: generates intrinsic functions for appropriate function calls.
- /Os: favors optimizations for size over optimizations for speed.

- /Ot: favors optimizations for speed over optimizations for size.
- /Ox: selects several of the optimizations with an emphasis on speed. It is a strict subset of the /O2 optimizations.
- /Oy: suppresses the creation of frame pointers on the call stack for quicker function calls.

Since the aim of this project is to be as fast as possible, the default case(/Ot) will be tested against /O2.

### 3.2.4 OpenMP

Threading High performance computing techniques that can be implemented for multithreading with Open Multi-Processing(OpenMP) and compiler intrinsics. OpenMP is used for parallelism within a (multi-core) node

## 3.3 Comparison of methods

### 3.3.1 Optimal Grid Size

Previously defined analytical solutions (2.1.4, 2.2.1, 2.2.2) are utilised to calculate errors for the solutions using different grid sizes, the grid with the lowest error is used for further tests. Figure X and X demonstrates the error compared to the grid sizes. The optimal grid size for heat equation and Black-Scholes equation is 50 by 50.

After choosing the optimal grid size the resulting grids can be visualized as

After choosing the optimal grid size the resulting grids can be visualized as

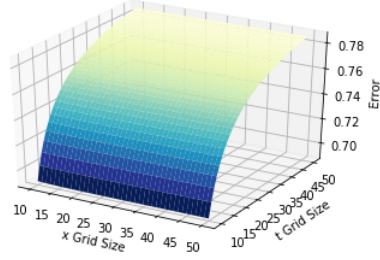


Figure 3.1: Error of grid sizes.

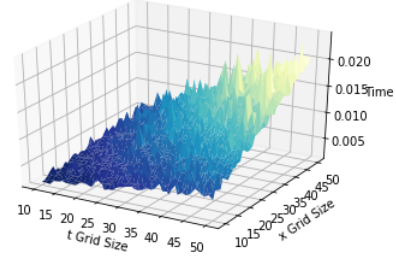


Figure 3.2: Timing grid sizes.

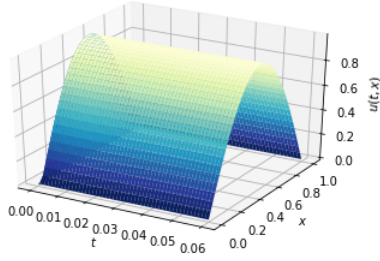


Figure 3.3: Explicit method.

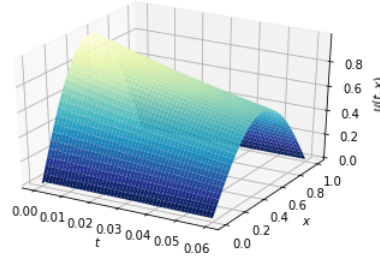


Figure 3.4: Crank nicolson method.

Parameter	Value
Strike Price	1.0
Volatility	20 %
Risk Free Rate	5 %
Time to Expiry	2.0
Maximum Share Price	2.0

Table 3.1: Black-Scholes model testing parameters.

### 3.3.2 Base Case

Timing the base case for thomas algorithm, intel solver and cyclic reduction. The timings are mean of 1000 trials and each trial adds a random number

Parameter	Value
$T$	0.075
$x_{max}$	1.0

Table 3.2: One dimensional heat equation testing parameters.

Parameter	Value
$T$	0.075
$x_{max}$	1.0
$y_{max}$	1.0

Table 3.3: Two dimensional heat equation testing parameters.

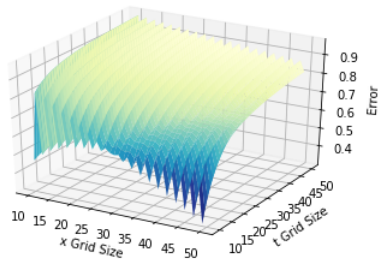


Figure 3.5: Error of grid sizes.

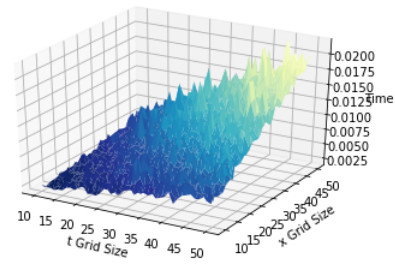


Figure 3.6: Timing grid sizes.

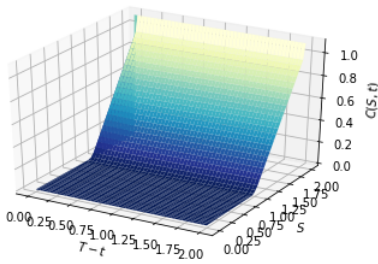


Figure 3.7: Explicit method.

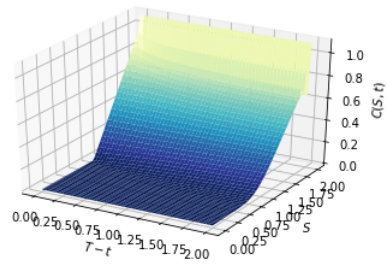


Figure 3.8: Crank nicolson method.

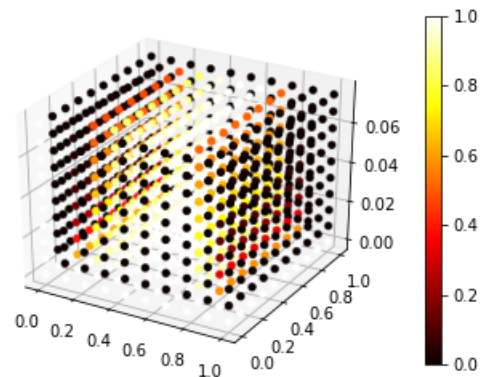


Figure 3.9: Solution of two dimensional heat equation using ADI.

$0 < \epsilon < 10^{-7}$  to the step size to avoid compiler optimizations.

Environment	Explicit Method	Crank Nicolson
Visual Studio Compiler x86	0.02496743	0.02590181
Visual Studio Compiler x64	0.02105383	0.02216256
Intel Compiler x86	0.02563324	0.02633357
Intel Compiler x64	0.02210323	0.02298945

Table 3.4: Solving Black-Scholes with Thomas Algorithm base case.

Environment	Explicit Method	Crank Nicolson
Visual Studio Compiler x86		
Visual Studio Compiler x64		
Intel Compiler x86		
Intel Compiler x64	0.02171834	0.02286124

Table 3.5: Solving Black-Scholes with Intel Solver base case.

Testing	Explicit Method	Crank Nicolson	ADI
Visual Studio Compiler x86	0.02502006	0.02536817	0.07766176
Visual Studio Compiler x64	0.02185875	0.02211793	0.06512516
Intel Compiler x86	0.02685609	0.02694334	0.08277156
Intel Compiler x64	0.0225934	0.0226115	0.06614703

Table 3.6: Solving heat equation with Thomas Algorithm base case.

Testing	Explicit Method	Crank Nicolson	ADI
Visual Studio Compiler x86			
Visual Studio Compiler x64			
Intel Compiler x86			
Intel Compiler x64	0.02239165	0.02195975	0.06337759

Table 3.7: Solving heat equation with Intel Solver base case.

### 3.3.3 Visual Studio Optimizations

The optimization switch for enabling most speed optimizations /Ox will be utilized in this section.

Environment	Explicit Method	Crank Nicolson
Visual Studio Compiler x86		
Visual Studio Compiler x64		
Intel Compiler x86		
Intel Compiler x64		

Table 3.8: Solving Black-Scholes with Thomas Algorithm using Visual Studio optimizations.

Environment	Explicit Method	Crank Nicolson
Visual Studio Compiler x86		
Visual Studio Compiler x64		
Intel Compiler x86		
Intel Compiler x64		

Table 3.9: Solving Black-Scholes with Intel Solver using Visual Studio optimizations.

Testing	Explicit Method	Crank Nicolson	ADI
Visual Studio Compiler x86			
Visual Studio Compiler x64			
Intel Compiler x86			
Intel Compiler x64			

Table 3.10: Solving heat equation with Thomas Algorithm using Visual Studio optimizations.

Testing	Explicit Method	Crank Nicolson	ADI
Visual Studio Compiler x86			
Visual Studio Compiler x64			
Intel Compiler x86			
Intel Compiler x64			

Table 3.11: Solving heat equation with Intel Solver using Visual Studio optimizations.

Environment	Cyclic Reduction
Visual Studio Compiler x86	0
Visual Studio Compiler x64	0
Intel Compiler x86	0
Intel Compiler x64	0

Table 3.12: Solving Black-Scholes with cyclic reduction.



Environment	Cyclic Reduction
Visual Studio Compiler x86	0
Visual Studio Compiler x64	0
Intel Compiler x86	0
Intel Compiler x64	0

Table 3.13: Solving heat equation with cyclic reduction.

### 3.3.4 Cyclic Reduction with OpenMP

## 3.4 Further Work

AVX and Intrinsics CPUs are pipelining and use of SSE/SIMD registers with Advanced Vector Extensions(AVX 512)GPGPU In the case of General Purpose GPUs, CUDA or Open Computing Language(OpenCL) can be utilized but can be challenging because of the requirement of delicate memory management. [17], cloud functions [8].

# Appendix A

## Usage of chrono class

Should code example be in appendix or stay here?

```
auto start = std::chrono::high_resolution_clock::now();
    Portion of code to be timed
auto finish = std::chrono::high_resolution_clock::now();
std::chrono::duration<double> elapsed = finish - start;
std::cout << "Elapsed time: " << elapsed.count() << " s\n";
```

# Appendix B

## Implementation of the PDE class

Parabolic partial differential equation can be denoted as

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} = a(t, x) \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} + b(t, x) \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + c(t, x) u(t, x) + d(t, x)$$

$a(t, x)$  denotes diffusion coefficient,  $b(t, x)$  convection coefficient,  $c(t, x)$  reaction coefficient,  $d(t, x)$  source coefficient analytic solution, initial conditions boundary conditions

# Appendix C

## Implementation of the FiniteDifferenceMethod class

```
void stepSize();  
void initialConditions();  
void boundaryConditions();  
void innerDomain();  
void timeMarch();
```

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