

## Parabolic P.D.E

Parabolic P.D.E arising in scientific and engineering problems are often of the form

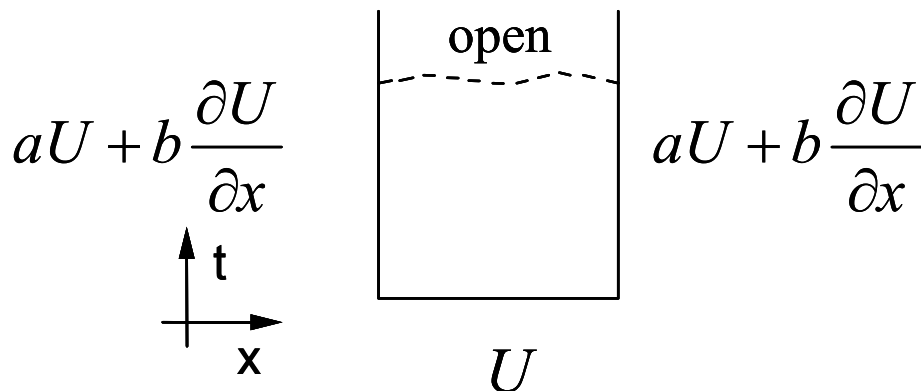
$$U_t = L(U)$$

where  $L(U)$  is a 2<sup>nd</sup> order elliptic partial differential operator which may be linear or nonlinear.

### Applications

Diffusions in an isotropic medium; heat conduction in an isotropic medium; fluid flow through porous media; boundary layer flow over a flat plate; persistence of solar prominences wake growth behind a submerged object.

$$U_t = \nabla \cdot D \nabla U$$



The solution of a Parabolic PDE propagates from the Initial Conditions and is constrained by the Boundary Conditions

Continuum ; P.D.E. ; Distributed System

$$\frac{\partial U}{\partial t} = L(U)$$

Numerically:

1.) discretize spatial domain creating a Lumped System

$U(x,t) \rightarrow U_i(t)$	This stage is useful for applying B.C. and conservation
$L(U) \rightarrow L_i(U_i)$	

2.) time: create discrete system

a.) F.D. in time

$$\frac{U_i(t + \Delta t) - U_i(t)}{\Delta t} = L_i(U_i)^*$$

← Evaluated at some point on interval  
 $t \rightarrow t + \Delta t$

There are alternate views of same thing

b.)  $\int dt$

$$U_i(t + \Delta t) - U_i(t) = \Delta t \overline{L_i(U_i)}$$

Ex.

$$\frac{\partial U}{\partial t} = D \frac{\partial^2 U}{\partial x^2}$$

$$\frac{\partial U}{\partial t} = \frac{D}{h^2} \delta_x^2 U_i$$

The  $k$  in  $\delta_x^2 U_i^k$  implies explicit

$$U_i^{k+1} - U_i^k = \frac{D\Delta t}{h^2} \delta_x^2 U_i^k$$

Distributed

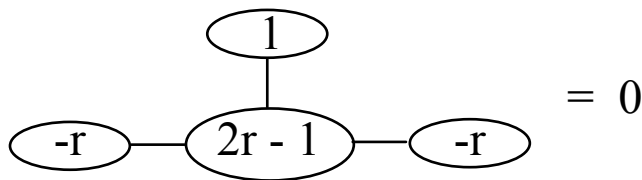
Lumped

Discrete

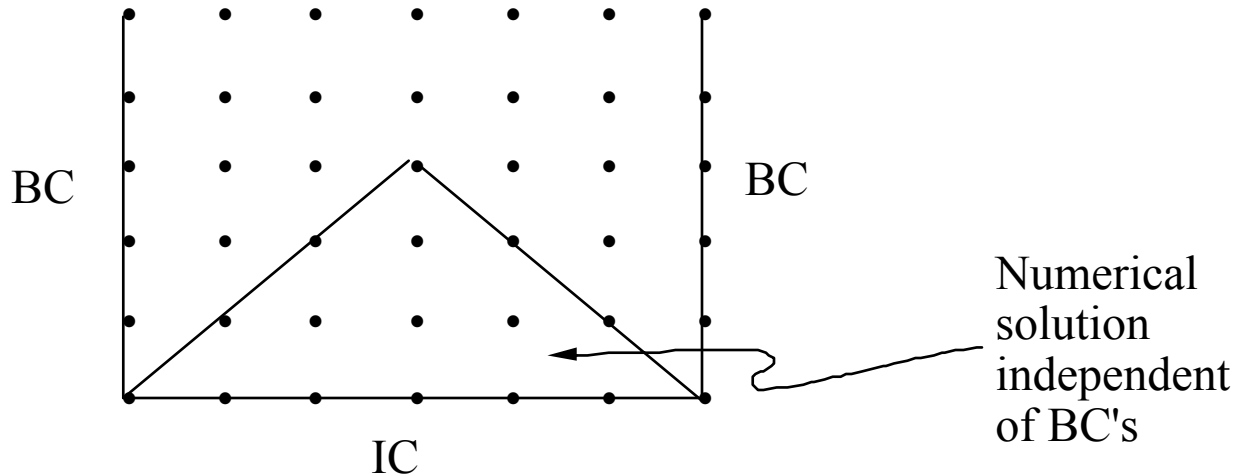
Molecule for this example:

$$\text{let } \frac{D\Delta t}{h^2} \equiv r$$

$$U_i^{k+1} - U_i^k = rU_{i-1}^k - 2rU_i^k + rU_{i+1}^k$$



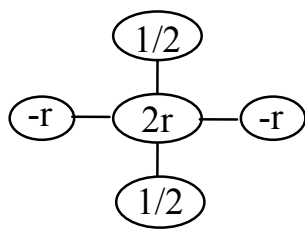
- “Explicit”
- Pointwise propagate
- $O(k + h^2)$
- Forward Diff. in  $t$
- Euler  $\int dt$
- Conditional Stability



Expect a critical value of  $k (= \Delta t)$  which must not be exceeded

All pointwise propagation schemes (explicit schemes) have this property: solution runs ahead of itself. (Appropriate for Hyperbolic)

FD in t  $\int dt$



"Leapfrog" ; "Richardson"

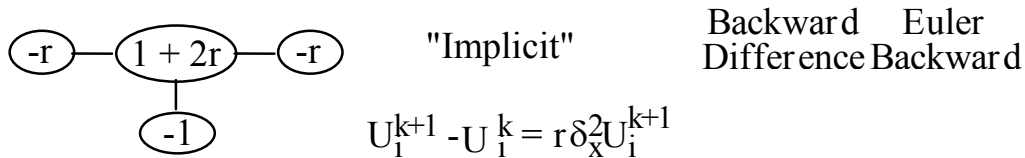
Centered Difference Midpoint

$$\frac{U_i^{k+1} - U_i^{k-1}}{2} = r \delta_x^2 U_i^k$$

$$0 h^2 + k^2$$

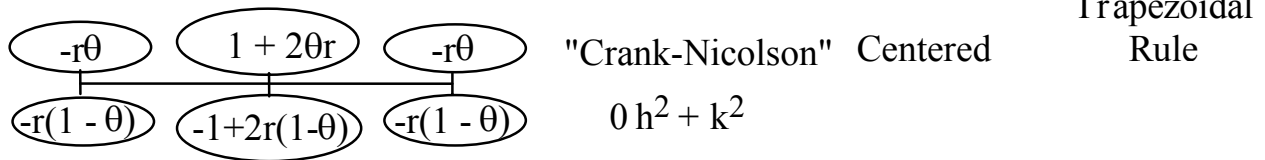
Unconditionally Unstable !

Perfect ex. of intuition gone astray



Unconditionally Stable

for  $(\theta = .5)$



$$U_i^{k+1} - U_i^k = r \theta \delta_x^2 U_i^{k+1} + r(1-\theta) \delta_x^2 U_i^k$$

$\theta \geq .5$  Unconditional Stability  
 $\theta < .5$  Conditional

BC's - as in elliptic problem.

ex. at  $i = 0$  :  $-D \frac{\partial U}{\partial x} = q_0$  Type II or III

$$\frac{U_{-1} - U_1}{2h} = \frac{q_0}{D}$$

Plus PDE template :  $\frac{\partial U}{\partial t} = D \frac{\partial^2 U}{\partial x^2}$

$$\frac{dU_0}{dt} = \frac{D}{h^2}(U_{-1} - 2U_0 + U_1)$$

$$= \frac{2hq_0}{D} + U_1$$

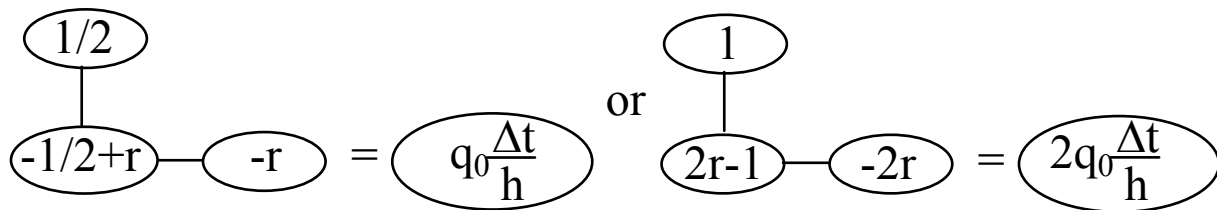
Combine :

$$\frac{dU_0}{dt} = \frac{D}{h^2}\left(2U_1 - 2U_0 + \frac{2hq_0}{D}\right)$$

$$\frac{h}{2} \frac{dU_0}{dt} = D \frac{(U_1 - U_0)}{h} + q_0 \quad (\text{Compare with previous lecture})$$

$$\sigma \sim - \frac{dU}{dt}$$

Explicit (Euler) Molecule at node 0 :



Note  $q_0$  evaluated at level 1 here.

### 3 Classic Definitions

a.) Convergence :  $U_i^k \rightarrow U(x_i, t^k)$  as  $h, k \rightarrow 0$  independently

b.) Consistency :  $L_i \rightarrow L$  as  $h, k \rightarrow 0$  independently  
(includes time part, too)

Weaker than Convergence ; easier to show

Essentially : FD molecule  $\rightarrow$  PDE

c.) Stability :  $U_i^n$  bounded for bounded BC's, IC's, forcing.

For linear problems : Homogeneous response  
to IC's  $\rightarrow 0$  at large  $t$ .

Rule of thumb : (b) + (c)  $\rightarrow$  (a)

## Discrete System Convergence on an Euler Explicit Scheme

$$\frac{\partial U}{\partial t} = D \frac{\partial^2 U}{\partial x^2} \quad \frac{dU}{dt} = \frac{D}{h^2} \delta_x^2 U_i \quad U_i^{k+1} - U_i^k = \frac{D\Delta t}{h^2} \delta_x^2 U_i^k$$

Distributed

Lumped

Discrete

where  $r = \frac{D\Delta t}{h^2}$

$$U_i^{k+1} = U_i^k + r\delta_x^2 U_i^k$$

$$U_i^{k+1} = U_i^k + rU_{i-1}^k - 2rU_i^k + rU_{i+1}^k$$

$$U_i^{k+1} = rU_{i-1}^k (1 - 2r)U_i^k + rU_{i+1}^k$$

This is an explicit formulation for marching ahead in time.

How accurate is this approximation ?

- Use a Maximum principle analysis

Analytic soln. to  $\frac{\partial U}{\partial t} = D \frac{\partial^2 U}{\partial x^2}$  is U

$$U_i^{k+1} = rU_{i-1}^k + (1 - 2r)U_i^k + rU_{i+1}^k + O(\Delta t + h^2)$$

$\uparrow$  FD expression  
 multi. by k

Subtract :  $E_i^k = U_i^k - U_{Anal}$

$$E_i^{k+1} = rE_{i-1}^k + (1-2r)E_i^k + rE_{i+1}^k \pm O(k+h^2)k$$

Parabolic IC's  $E_i^0 = 0$

& for  $r < \frac{1}{2}$   $1 - 2r > 0$   $|1 - 2r| = 1 - 2r$

Then

$$|E_i^{k+1}| \leq |r||E_{i-1}^k| + |(1-2r)||E_i^k| + |r||E_{i+1}^k| \pm |O(k+h^2)k|$$

$$\text{for } r < 1/2: |r| + |(1-2r)| + |r| = 1$$

$$\|E^{k+1}\| \leq \|E^k\| \pm A(k+h^2)k$$

where "A" is an upper bound on the error.

but remember that  $\|E\|^0 = 0$

$$\|E^1\| < A(k+h^2)k \quad \|E^2\| < A(k+h^2)2k$$

at a given point in time,  $\|E^k\| < A(k+h^2)t$

Note that the value of A depends on upper bounds of

$$\frac{\partial^2 U}{\partial t^2} \quad \text{and} \quad \frac{\partial^4 U}{\partial x^4}$$

If as  $t \rightarrow \infty$   $U$  stabilizes the  $\|E^k\| < A(k + h^2)t$   
 will vanish as  $A$  vanishes

What are the leading error terms? Recall Taylor's - Lecture 2

$$\frac{\partial U}{\partial t} = \frac{1}{\Delta t} [U^{k+1} - U^k] - \frac{\Delta t}{2!} \frac{\partial^2 U}{\partial t^2} - \frac{\Delta t^2}{3!} \frac{\partial^3 U}{\partial t^3} - \dots h.o.t.$$

and

$$\frac{\partial^2 U}{\partial x^2} = \left[ \frac{U_{i-1} - 2U_i + U_{i+1}}{h^2} \right] - \frac{h^2}{12} \frac{\partial^4 U}{\partial x^4} \dots h.o.t.$$

$$Akn(k + h^2)$$

$$kn \left[ \frac{\Delta t}{2} \frac{\partial^2 U}{\partial t^2} = \frac{h^2}{12} \frac{\partial^4 U}{\partial x^4} \right]$$

$$n \frac{k}{2} \left[ k \frac{\partial^2 U}{\partial t^2} = \frac{h^2}{6} \frac{\partial^4 U}{\partial x^4} \right]$$

but  $U_t = U_{xx} \therefore U_{tt} = U_{xxt} = U_{txx} = U_{xxxx}$

i.e  $U$  satisfies  $U_{tt} = U_{xxxx}$

$$n \frac{k}{2} \left[ k - \frac{h^2}{6} \right] \frac{\partial^4 U}{\partial x^4} \quad \text{if} \quad k, h \rightarrow 0 \quad \text{s. t.} \quad \frac{k}{h^2} = \frac{1}{6}$$

Then 1<sup>st</sup> leading errors in  $t, \underline{x}$  cancel and letting  $r = \frac{1}{6}$  accelerates convergence & obtains highly accurate solns

$$\|E^k\| < A(k^2 + h^4)t$$

If as  $t \rightarrow \infty$   $U$  stabilizes then

$$\|E^k\| < A(k^2 + h^4)t \quad \text{will vanish rapidly as } A \text{ vanishes}$$

However, if the solution is periodic in time  
(Ex: shallow water modeling of tidal cycles)

$\|E\|^k$  grows as time grows

Solution: transform from temporal to frequency domain or

let  $k$  and  $h$  spacing be adjusted in  $\frac{1}{t}$  and  $\frac{1}{\sqrt{x}}$  step sizes to maintain  $(k^2 + h^2)t$  constant. For long term simulations this is an excessive computational requirement

Recall also our wave Eqn.

$$\nabla^2 U - \frac{\partial^2 U}{\partial t^2} = 0 \quad \text{periodic soln} \Rightarrow \nabla^2 U + \omega^2 U = 0$$

Helmholtz Eqn which requires  $\omega^2 h^2 - 4 > 4$  for d.d.  
 $\Rightarrow h > .45L$

but 1% accuracy soln  $\Rightarrow h < .05L$

(Just reminding you that not all things can be solved transparently via numerical methods. Numerous fundamental obstacles exist in all fields of endeavor.)