

**Catalog Description:** Numerical solution of partial differential equations. Numerical solution of boundary value problems and initial-value problems using finite difference and other methods. Analysis of stability, accuracy, and implementations of methods.

**Course Objectives:** After completing this course, students will be able to

1. Derive and implement finite difference stencils to numerically approximate solutions of elliptic, parabolic, and hyperbolic partial differential equations in one and two dimensions.
2. Compute numerical solution approximations and compare with exact (known) solutions.
3. Compute convergence rates and computationally analyze the error of numerical approximation methods.

### Learning Outcomes and Performance Criteria

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the terminology relevant to numerical solutions of partial differential equations.

Core Criteria:

- (a) Define and explain the difference between ordinary and partial differential equations.
  - (b) Show how to classify a partial differential equation as parabolic, elliptic, or hyperbolic and explain what these terms mean and how these classifications affect the solutions of such equations.
  - (c) Define at least one (physical) example of each of the three classes of partial differential equations in one, two, and three dimensions.
  - (d) Explain and give at least one example of the terms: Initial-value problem, Boundary value problem, Neumann and Dirichlet boundary conditions for both ordinary and partial differential equations.
  - (e) Characterize the propagation of numerically induced error. Identify "numerical diffusion" and "numerical dispersion", for instance numerical smoothing of a non-smooth waveform.
  - (f) Derive, explain, and demonstrate failure to account for the CFL (Courant-Friedrichs-Lewy) condition in both one and two dimensions.
2. Use Taylor series to create numerical routines (stencils) to approximate the solutions of partial differential equations in one dimension.

Core Criteria:

- (a) Derive and implement finite difference stencil to approximate the solution to a one-dimensional, initial-value, boundary-value, heat equation over a given spatial domain for a given time interval with the following methods:
  - Forward-time centered-space (explicit).
  - Backward-time centered-space (implicit).
  - The Crank-Nicolson method.

- (b) Derive and implement the method of (explicit) centered finite differences to create a series of snapshots of the solution of the following vibrating string problem:  $u_{tt} = c^2 u_{xx}$  for  $0 \leq x \leq a$ , with  $t \in [0; T]$ . The boundary and initial conditions are  $u(x;0) = f(x)$ ;  $u_t(x;0) = F(x)$ ;  $u(0;t) = u(a;t) = 0$ .

Additional Criteria:

- (a) Derive and implement the method of finite volumes to create a series of snapshots of the solution of the following vibrating string problem:  $u_{tt} = c^2 u_{xx}$  for  $0 \leq x \leq a$ , with  $t \in [0; T]$ . The boundary and initial conditions are  $u(x;0) = f(x)$ ;  $u_t(x;0) = F(x)$ ;  $u(0;t) = u(a;t) = 0$ . Compare with solutions generated via finite differences.
- (b) Assorted applications using one-dimensional finite elements or spectral methods.
3. Use Taylor series to create numerical routines (stencils) to approximate the solutions of partial differential equations in two dimensions.  
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0, for all  $x$  and  $y$  on the (rectangular) boundary. Compare with solutions generated via finite difference methods.

- (c) Assorted applications using two-dimensional finite elements or spectral methods.
- (d) Assorted examples with adaptive mesh refinement.

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