

University of Ottawa  
Faculty of Engineering



uOttawa  
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Université d'Ottawa  
Faculté de génie

Department of  
Civil Engineering

Département de  
Génie Civil

CVG 2181

## Numerical Methods in Civil Engineering

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**Final Exam**

**April 27th, 2010**

Time: **3 Hours**

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OPEN BOOK. Non-programmable calculators are permitted.

If you do not understand a question, clearly state an assumption and proceed.

In all problems, use **four digits** after the decimal point.

Answer all questions. Mark distribution is provided on the exam.

At the end of the exam, when time is up:

- Stop working and turn your exam upside down.
- Remain silent.
- **Do not move or speak until all exams have been picked up.**

**Questions (20 points) Briefly** answer the following questions:

**Q1(3)** What is the difference between implicit and explicit methods? Which one is more stable and which one is faster? How can you prevent instability of explicit schemes?

**Answer:** In implicit methods, the unknowns are on both sides of the equation and usually a system of equations should be solved. In explicit methods, the unknowns can be found directly. Implicit methods are more stable and explicit methods are faster. One should use a small step size in explicit methods for stability.

**Q2(2)** Use the first order forward difference method for the time derivative and an implicit second order centered scheme for the space derivative to discretize this equation:

$$\frac{\partial T}{\partial t} = \alpha \frac{\partial^2 T}{\partial x^2}$$

**Answer:**

$$\frac{T_i^{t+\Delta t} - T_i^t}{\Delta t} = \alpha \left( \frac{T_{i+1}^t - 2T_i^t + T_{i-1}^t}{\Delta x^2} \right)$$

**Q3(2)** What is the main difference between one-step and multi-step methods? Is the fifth order Runge-Kutta method a one-step method or a multi-step method?

**Answer:** The multistep methods use the results of previous steps to find the new value while in single step methods, initial values only at one time are used. RK5 is a single step method.

**Q4(2)** What is the purpose of using modifiers in solving ODEs?

**Answer:** They improve accuracy and stability.

**Q5(2)** What is the slope used in the Heun method? How can you improve it?

**Answer:** An average of the slope at points  $i$  and  $i+1$ . It can be improved by multiple iterations on the corrector step.

**Q6(2)** What are the two approaches for estimation of error in adaptive methods?

**Answer:** Reducing the step size and increasing the order of accuracy.

**Q7(2)** You are going to use the fourth order Adams Molton method. (a) How many steps do you need to calculate with a one-step method before you can start Adams-Molton method? (b) What numerical method do you recommend for those initial steps? Why?

**Answer:** You must generate three points. RK4 is recommended to keep the order of accuracy equal to four.

**Q8(2)** Which of the following statements is wrong?

- (a) Iterative methods lead to less round-off errors and need less storage.
- (b) The result of the Newton method for non-linear systems may depend on initial conditions.
- (c) A singular matrix can be consistent.
- (d) It is not necessary to sort the data in ascending order for the Newton's polynomial.
- (e) All statements are true.

**Answer: (e)**

**Q9(2)** For what polynomials the 1/3 Simpson method leads to an exact solution? How much will the error decrease if you divide the grid size by 2?

**Answer:** It is exact for polynomials of degree up to 3. The global error is of order 4, so the error is approximately reduced by  $2^4=16$ .

**Q10(1)** How can you solve the following non-linear problem using Excel?

$$f_1(x,y)=0$$

$$f_2(x,y)=0$$

**Answer:** Using solver, you can minimize  $f_1^2+f_2^2$

**P1 (20 points)**

The following data is available

x	f(x)
0	1
1	3
3	5
4	4

You are going to estimate the value of the function at  $x=2$  using **cubic splines**. The boundary conditions are as following

- The second derivative at the beginning of the first segment is equal to zero.
- The second derivative at the end of the last segment is equal to the second derivative at the beginning of that segment.

- (1) Find the cubic polynomial needed to calculate the value of the function at  $x=2$ .
- (2) Evaluate the value of the function at  $x=2$ .

$$h_0 = 1$$

$$h_1 = 2$$

$$h_2 = 1$$

$$2(h_0 + h_1) = 6$$

$$2(h_1 + h_2) = 6$$

$$S = \begin{bmatrix} h_0 & 2(h_0 + h_1) & h_1 & 0 \\ 0 & h_1 & 2(h_1 + h_2) & h_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 6 & 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 & 6 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$f[x_0, x_1] = (3-1)/(1-0) = 2$$

$$f[x_1, x_2] = (5-3)/(3-1) = 1$$

$$f[x_2, x_3] = (4-5)/(4-3) = -1$$

$$RHS = 6 \begin{bmatrix} f[x_1, x_2] - f[x_0, x_1] \\ f[x_2, x_3] - f[x_1, x_2] \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -6 \\ -12 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\Rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 6 & 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 & 6 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} S_0 \\ S_1 \\ S_2 \\ S_3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -6 \\ -12 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\Rightarrow \begin{cases} S_0 + 6S_1 + 2S_2 = -6 \\ 2S_1 + 6S_2 + S_3 = -12 \end{cases}$$

and

$$S_0 = 0$$

$$S_3 = S_2$$

Thus

$$\begin{cases} 6S_1 + 2S_2 = -6 \\ 2S_1 + 7S_2 = -12 \end{cases}$$

$$\Rightarrow S_1 = -0.4737 \text{ and } S_2 = -1.5790$$

Coefficients :

$$a_1 = \frac{S_2 - S_1}{6h_1} = \frac{-1.5789 - (-0.4737)}{6 \times 2} = -0.0921$$

$$b_1 = \frac{S_1}{2} = -0.2369$$

$$c_1 = \frac{y_2 - y_1}{h_1} - \frac{2h_1S_1 + h_1S_2}{6} = 1.8421$$

$$d_1 = y_1 = 3$$

Thus

$$g_1(x) = -0.0921(x-1)^3 - 0.2369(x-1)^2 + 1.8421(x-1) + 3$$

$$\Rightarrow g_1(2) = 4.5131$$

**P2 (15 points)**

Consider the following ODE

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = 3y - 15x + 5 \quad , \quad y(0) = 1$$

- (a) Use the First order Euler method to calculate the value of  $y$  at  $x=0.3$  using a step size  $\Delta x=0.1$
- (b) Then use the Fourth order Adams method with two iterations on the corrector step to calculate the value of  $y$  at  $x=0.4$ .

$$h = 0.1$$

$$y_0 = 1$$

$$x_0 = 0$$

$$f_0 = 3y_0 - 15x_0 + 5 = 3 \times 1 - 15 \times 0 + 5 = 8$$

*Step 1*

$$y_1 = y_0 + h \times f_0 = 1 + 0.1 \times 8 = 1.8$$

$$x_1 = 0.1$$

**Step 2:**

$$f_1 = 3y_1 - 15x_1 + 5 = 8.9$$

$$y_2 = y_1 + h \times f_1 = 2.69$$

$$x_2 = 0.2$$

**Step 3:**

$$f_2 = 3y_2 - 15x_2 + 5 = 10.07$$

$$y_3 = y_2 + h \times f_2 = 3.697$$

$$x_3 = 0.3$$

**Step 4:**

**Predictor:**

$$y_{i+1}^0 = y_i^m + h \left( \frac{55}{24} f_i^m - \frac{59}{24} f_{i-1}^m + \frac{37}{24} f_{i-2}^m - \frac{9}{24} f_{i-3}^m \right)$$

$$y_4^0 = y_3 + h\left(\frac{55}{24}f_3 - \frac{59}{24}f_2 + \frac{37}{24}f_1 - \frac{9}{24}f_0\right)$$

$$\Rightarrow y_4^0 = 3.697 + \frac{0.1}{24}(55 \times 11.591 - 59 \times 10.07 + 37 \times 8.9 - 9 \times 8) = 4.9498$$

$$x_4 = 0.4$$

$$f_4^0 = 3y_4^0 - 15x_4 + 5 = 13.8494$$

Corrector, first iteration:

$$y_4^1 = y_3 + h\left(\frac{9}{24}f_4^0 + \frac{19}{24}f_3 - \frac{5}{24}f_2 + \frac{1}{24}f_1\right)$$

$$\Rightarrow y_4^1 = 3.697 + \frac{0.1}{24}(9 \times 13.8494 + 19 \times 11.591 - 5 \times 10.07 + 8.9) = 4.9613$$

$$f_4^1 = 3y_4^1 - 15x_4 + 5 = 13.8838$$

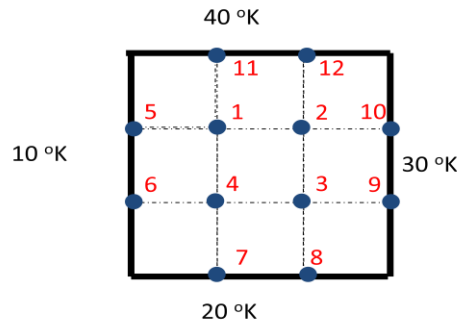
Corrector, second iteration:

$$y_4^2 = y_3 + h\left(\frac{9}{24}f_4^1 + \frac{19}{24}f_3 - \frac{5}{24}f_2 + \frac{1}{24}f_1\right)$$

$$\Rightarrow y_4^2 = 3.697 + \frac{0.1}{24}(9 \times 13.8839 + 19 \times 11.591 - 5 \times 10.07 + 8.9) = 4.9626$$

**P3 (15 points)**

Consider a 3m x 3m concrete slab, with an initial temperature of 5 °C. The temperature at the



Using the unsteady heat conduction equation

$$\frac{\partial T}{\partial t} = \alpha \left( \frac{\partial^2 T}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 T}{\partial y^2} \right)$$

with  $\Delta t=0.1$  and  $\alpha=0.5$ ,

(a) Find the temperature at points 1, 2, 3 and 4 at time  $t=0.1$

(b) Then find the temperature at point 1 at time  $t=0.2$ .

Use the first order forward difference method for the time derivative and an explicit second order centered scheme for the space derivative.

$$T_1^0 = T_2^0 = T_3^0 = T_4^0 = 5$$

$$\frac{T_1^{t+\Delta t} - T_1^t}{\Delta t} = \alpha \left( \frac{T_2^t - 2T_1^t + T_5^t}{\Delta x^2} + \frac{T_{11}^t - 2T_1^t + T_4^t}{\Delta y^2} \right)$$

Therefore

$$T_1^{t+\Delta t} = T_1^t + \alpha \Delta t \left( \frac{T_2^t - 2T_1^t + T_5^t}{\Delta x^2} + \frac{T_{11}^t - 2T_1^t + T_4^t}{\Delta y^2} \right)$$

$$\Rightarrow T_1^{0.1} = T_1^0 + \alpha \Delta t \left( \frac{T_2^0 - 2T_1^0 + T_5^0}{\Delta x^2} + \frac{T_{11}^0 - 2T_1^0 + T_4^0}{\Delta y^2} \right)$$

$$\Rightarrow T_1^{0.1} = 5 + 0.5 \times 0.1 \left( \frac{5 - 2 \times 5 + 10}{1^2} + \frac{40 - 2 \times 5 + 5}{1^2} \right) = 7$$

Similarly

$$T_2^{t+\Delta t} = T_2^t + \alpha \Delta t \left( \frac{T_{10}^t - 2T_2^t + T_1^t}{\Delta x^2} + \frac{T_{12}^t - 2T_2^t + T_3^t}{\Delta y^2} \right)$$

$$T_3^{t+\Delta t} = T_3^t + \alpha \Delta t \left( \frac{T_9^t - 2T_3^t + T_4^t}{\Delta x^2} + \frac{T_2^t - 2T_3^t + T_8^t}{\Delta y^2} \right)$$

$$T_4^{t+\Delta t} = T_4^t + \alpha \Delta t \left( \frac{T_3^t - 2T_4^t + T_6^t}{\Delta x^2} + \frac{T_1^t - 2T_4^t + T_7^t}{\Delta y^2} \right)$$

Which lead to

$$T_2^{0.1} = 5 + 0.5 \times 0.1(30 - 2 \times 5 + 5 + 40 - 2 \times 5 + 5) = 8$$

$$T_3^{0.1} = 5 + 0.5 \times 0.1(30 - 2 \times 5 + 5 + 5 - 2 \times 5 + 20) = 7$$

$$T_4^{0.1} = 5 + 0.5 \times 0.1(5 - 2 \times 5 + 10 + 5 - 2 \times 5 + 20) = 6$$

and

$$T_1^{0.2} = T_1^{0.1} + \alpha \Delta t \left( \frac{T_2^{0.1} - 2T_1^{0.1} + T_5^{0.1}}{\Delta x^2} + \frac{T_{11}^{0.1} - 2T_1^{0.1} + T_4^{0.1}}{\Delta y^2} \right)$$

$$\Rightarrow T_1^{0.2} = 7 + 0.5 \times 0.1(8 - 2 \times 7 + 10 + 40 - 2 \times 7 + 6) = 8.8$$

#### **P4 (15 points)**

We want to calculate

$$I = \int_{-1}^1 \int_{-1}^1 \frac{1}{2+xy} dy dx$$

by the two-point Gauss quadrature, using the fact that  $I = \int_{-1}^1 f(x) dx$  where  $f(x) = \int_{-1}^1 \frac{1}{2+xy} dy$ .

a) Calculate  $f\left(-\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}\right)$  and  $f\left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}\right)$  (9 points)

b) Calculate  $I$  (6 points)

Note:  $\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} \approx 0.5774$

**Solution:**

$$c_1 = c_2 = 1$$

$$t_1 = -\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}; t_2 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}$$

a)

$$f\left(-\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}\right) = \int_{y=-1}^1 \frac{1}{2 + \left(-\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}\right)y} = \frac{1}{2 + \left(-\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}\right)\left(-\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}\right)} + \frac{1}{2 + \left(-\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}\right)\left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}\right)} = 1.0285$$

$$f\left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}\right) = \int_{y=-1}^1 \frac{1}{2 + \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}\right)y} = \frac{1}{2 + \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}\right)\left(-\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}\right)} + \frac{1}{2 + \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}\right)\left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}\right)} = 1.0285$$

b)

$$I = \int_{-1}^1 f(x) dx = f\left(-\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}\right) + f\left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}\right) = 2.0571$$

### **P5 (15 points)**

Calculate two  $O(h^6)$  estimates of the derivative of  $f(x) = \frac{x}{1+x^2}$  at  $x=0$  using a)  $O(h^2)$  central difference and Richardson extrapolation and b)  $O(h^4)$  central difference and Richardson extrapolation. Begin with  $h=0.4$ .

### **Solution:**

a) **Second Order Central difference :**

$$f'(x) = \frac{f(x+h) - f(x-h)}{2h}$$

1-  $O(h^2)$

$$h = 0.4$$

$$f'(0) = \frac{f(0.4) - f(-0.4)}{2(0.4)} = 0.8620$$

$$h = 0.2$$

$$f'(0) = \frac{f(0.2) - f(-0.2)}{2(0.2)} = 0.9615$$

$$h = 0.1$$

$$f'(0) = \frac{f(0.1) - f(-0.1)}{2(0.1)} = 0.9900$$

2-  $O(h^4)$

$$h = 0.4 / h = 0.2$$

$$f'(0) = \frac{4}{3}(0.9615) - \frac{1}{3}(0.8620) = 0.9946$$

$$h = 0.2 / h = 0.1$$

$$f'(0) = \frac{4}{3}(0.9900) - \frac{1}{3}(0.9615) = 0.9996$$

3-  $O(h^6)$

$$f'(0) = \frac{16}{15}(0.9996) - \frac{1}{15}(0.9946) = 0.9999$$

J	1	2	3	
H	0.4	0.2	0.1	
	0.86206897	0.96153846	0.99009901	k=1 O(h2)
		0.99469496	0.99961919	k=2 O(h4)
			0.99994747	k=3 O(h6)

**b) Fourth order central difference**

$$f'(x) = \frac{-f(x+2h) + 8f(x+h) - 8f(x-h) + f(x-2h)}{12h}$$

1-  $O(h^4)$

$$h = 0.4$$

$$f'(0) = \frac{-f(0.8) + 8f(0.4) - 8f(-0.4) + f(-0.8)}{12(0.4)} = 0.9461$$

$$h = 0.2$$

$$f'(0) = \frac{-f(0.4) + 8f(0.2) - 8f(-0.2) + f(-0.4)}{12(0.2)} = 0.9946$$

$O(h^6)$

$$f'(0) = \frac{16}{15}(0.9946) - \frac{1}{15}(0.9461) = 0.9979$$

J	1	2		
H	0.4	0.2		
	0.94617325	0.99469496	k=2	$O(h^4)$
		0.99792974	k=3	$O(h^6)$

### Bonus (10 points)

Solve problem 4 using composite trapezoidal rule ( $h=0.5$ ) instead of the three-points Gaussian quadrature.

$$h = 0.5; n = 4$$

$$I = \int_{-1}^1 f(x) dx = \frac{2}{8} (f(-1) + 2f(-0.5) + 2f(0) + 2f(0.5) + f(1))$$

$$f(-1) = \int_{-1}^1 \frac{1}{2+(-1)y} = \frac{1}{4} \left( \frac{1}{2+(-1)(-1)} + 2 \frac{1}{2+(-1)(-0.5)} + 2 \frac{1}{2+(-1)(0)} + 2 \frac{1}{2+(-1)(0.5)} + \frac{1}{2+(-1)(1)} \right) = 1.1666$$

$$f(-0.5) = \int_{-1}^1 \frac{1}{2+(-0.5)y} = \frac{1}{4} \left( \frac{1}{2+(-0.5)(-1)} + 2 \frac{1}{2+(-0.5)(-0.5)} + 2 \frac{1}{2+(-0.5)(0)} + 2 \frac{1}{2+(-0.5)(0.5)} + \frac{1}{2+(-0.5)(1)} \right) = 1.1665$$

$$f(0) = \int_{-1}^1 \frac{1}{2+(0)y} = \frac{1}{4} \left( \frac{1}{2+(0)(-1)} + 2 \frac{1}{2+(0)(-0.5)} + 2 \frac{1}{2+(0)(0)} + 2 \frac{1}{2+(0)(0.5)} + \frac{1}{2+(0)(1)} \right) = 1$$

$$f(0.5) = \int_{-1}^1 \frac{1}{2+(0.5)y} = \frac{1}{4} \left( \frac{1}{2+(0.5)(-1)} + 2 \frac{1}{2+(0.5)(-0.5)} + 2 \frac{1}{2+(0.5)(0)} + 2 \frac{1}{2+(0.5)(0.5)} + \frac{1}{2+(0.5)(1)} \right) = 0.8888$$

$$f(1) = \int_{-1}^1 \frac{1}{2+(1)y} = \frac{1}{4} \left( \frac{1}{2+(1)(-1)} + 2 \frac{1}{2+(1)(-0.5)} + 2 \frac{1}{2+(1)(0)} + 2 \frac{1}{2+(1)(0.5)} + \frac{1}{2+(1)(1)} \right) = 0.8181$$

finally :

$$I = \frac{1}{4} (1.1666 + 2(1.1655) + 2(1) + 2(0.8888) + 0.8181) = 2.0114$$

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