

$$u_t + a u_x = 0, a \in \mathbb{R}$$

or using 1-sided differences

$$(D) \text{ 1st order upwind scheme}$$

$$u_j^{n+1} = u_j^n - \Delta t \left(u_j^n - u_{j-1}^n \right)$$


(since $a > 0$)

Each scheme has a local truncation error defined as before e.g. for 1st order upwind

$$\tau_j^n = \frac{u(x_j, t+\Delta t) - u(x_j, t)}{\Delta t} + a \frac{u(x_j, t) - u(x_{j-1}, t)}{\Delta x}$$

$$\stackrel{\text{Taylor series}}{=} u_t + \frac{1}{2} \Delta t u_{tt} + O(\Delta t^2) + a \left(u_x - \frac{1}{2} \Delta x u_{xx} + O(\Delta x^2) \right)$$

$$= u_t + a u_x + O(\Delta t) + O(\Delta x) + O(h)$$

since $\tau_j^n \rightarrow 0$ as $h, \Delta t \rightarrow 0$

so 1st order accurate in space and time

(Note u_t, u_{tt}, u_x etc all evaluated at (x_j, t^n))

For consistency we require $\tau_j^n \rightarrow 0$ as $h, \Delta t \rightarrow 0$ similarly to before

Scheme (A) is 2nd order accurate in space and time

(B) is 2nd order accurate in space, 1st order accurate in time

(C) is 1st order accurate in space and in time

To derive a more accurate 2 level scheme we Taylor series and the PDE

$$u(jh, (n+1)\Delta t) = u + \Delta t u_t + \frac{\Delta t^2}{2} u_{tt} + \frac{\Delta t^3}{6} u_{ttt} + O(\Delta t^4)$$

where u, u_t etc evaluated at $(jh, n\Delta t)$.

$$\text{But } u_t = -a u_x \Rightarrow u_{tt} = -a u_{xt} = -a u_{tx}$$

$$= -a (u_t)_x = a^2 u_{xx}$$

$$\text{so } u(jh, (n+1)\Delta t) = u - a \Delta t u_x + \frac{a^2 \Delta t^2}{2} u_{xx} + O(\Delta t^3)$$

and approximating with 2nd order spatial finite differences leads to the Lax-Wendroff scheme

$$u_j^{n+1} = u_j^n - \frac{\Delta t}{2} \Delta \left(u_j^n - u_{j-1}^n \right) + \frac{\Delta t^2}{2} \Delta \left(u_{j+1}^n - 2u_j^n + u_{j-1}^n \right)$$

$$\text{which has } \tau_j^n = \frac{1}{6} \left(\Delta t^3 u_{ttt} - a \Delta t^2 u_{xxx} \right)$$

so 2nd order accurate in space and time.

Writing U^n for the vector of approximations u_j^n at time $t^n = n\Delta t$. All of these 2 level schemes can be expressed as

$$U_j^{n+1} = \mathcal{F}_k(U^n; j)$$

e.g. For Lax-Friedrichs we have

$$\mathcal{F}_k(U^n; j) = \frac{1}{2} (u_{j+1}^n + u_{j-1}^n) - \frac{\Delta t}{2} \frac{a k}{h} (u_{j+1}^n - u_{j-1}^n)$$

A key aspect for all such schemes is stability

Definition a scheme $u_j^{n+1} = \mathcal{F}_k(u^n; j)$

is stable if for each T , $\exists$ a constant C and $K > 0$ such that

$$\|(\mathcal{F}_k)^n\| \leq C \text{ for all } n k \in T, k < K$$

This is certainly satisfied if $\|\mathcal{F}_k\| \leq 1$ since $\|(\mathcal{F}_k)^n\| \leq \|\mathcal{F}_k\|^n \leq 1$ all n, k

but more generally some growth is allowed

e.g. if $\|\mathcal{F}_k\| \leq 1 + \alpha k$, some $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}^+$

$$\|(\mathcal{F}_k)^n\| \leq (1 + \alpha k)^n \leq e^{\alpha k n} \leq e^{\alpha T} \text{ all } k$$

with $n k \leq T$

For example: Stability of Lax-Friedrichs

for $u_t + a u_x = 0$: here $\mathcal{F}_k$ is linear so $U_j^{n+1} = \mathcal{F}_k U^n$:

$$\text{i.e. } U_j^{n+1} = \frac{1}{2} (u_{j+1}^n + u_{j-1}^n) - \frac{\alpha k}{2} (u_{j+1}^n - u_{j-1}^n)$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} \left(1 - \frac{\alpha k}{h} \right) u_{j+1}^n + \frac{1}{2} \left(1 + \frac{\alpha k}{h} \right) u_{j-1}^n$$

and so using

$$\|U^{n+1}\| = h \sum_j |U_j^{n+1}| \leq \frac{h}{2} \sum_j \left[\left(1 - \frac{\alpha k}{h} \right) |u_{j+1}^n| + \left(1 + \frac{\alpha k}{h} \right) |u_{j-1}^n| \right]$$

minimises $\int_a^b |U^{n+1}| dx$

$$\leq \frac{h}{2} \left[\left(1 - \frac{\alpha k}{h} \right) \sum_j |u_{j+1}^n| + \left(1 + \frac{\alpha k}{h} \right) \sum_j |u_{j-1}^n| \right]$$

$$\text{provided } 1 - \frac{\alpha k}{h} \geq 0, 1 + \frac{\alpha k}{h} \geq 0$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} \left[\left(1 - \frac{\alpha k}{h} \right) \|U^n\| + \left(1 + \frac{\alpha k}{h} \right) \|U^n\| \right]$$

$$= \|U^n\|$$

Thus $\|U^{n+1}\| \leq \|U^n\|$ when $|\frac{\alpha k}{h}| \leq 1$

i.e. $\|\mathcal{F}_k\| \leq 1$ for the Lax-Friedrichs

scheme provided $|\frac{\alpha k}{h}| \leq 1$