

DEGREE OF MASTER OF SCIENCE  
MATHEMATICAL MODELLING AND SCIENTIFIC COMPUTING

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**B1 Numerical Linear Algebra and Numerical Solution  
of Differential Equations**

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HILARY TERM 2016  
FRIDAY, 15 JANUARY 2016, 9.30am to 11.30am

*Candidates should submit answers to a maximum of four questions that include an answer to at least one question in each section.*

*Please start the answer to each question on a new page.  
All questions will carry equal marks.*

**Do not turn this page until you are told that you may do so**

## Section A: Numerical Solution of Differential Equations

1. The function  $u(t)$ ,  $t \geq 0$ , with  $u(0) = u_0$ , is determined for  $t > 0$  by

$$u' = f(t, u),$$

where  $f$  is a uniformly continuous function of the second argument satisfying a Lipschitz condition

$$|f(t, u_1) - f(t, u_2)| \leq L|u_1 - u_2|, \quad \forall u_1, u_2 \in \mathbb{R} \text{ and } t > 0.$$

A discrete solution is calculated at times  $t_n = n\Delta t$ ,  $n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$ , where  $\Delta t > 0$  is a fixed time step. Let  $u_n = u(t_n)$  and  $f_n = f(t_n, u_n)$ . An approximate solution for  $u$  at these times, denoted  $U_n$ , is determined for  $n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$ , by Ralston's method:

$$\begin{aligned} k_1 &= f(t_n, U_n), \\ k_2 &= f\left(t_n + \frac{2}{3}\Delta t, U_n + \frac{2}{3}\Delta t k_1\right), \\ U_{n+1} &= U_n + \frac{1}{4}\Delta t(k_1 + 3k_2). \end{aligned}$$

- (a) [10 marks] Show that the scheme is consistent and that the truncation error is second order in  $\Delta t$ .
- (b) [9 marks] Prove that the error,  $e_n = u_n - U_n$ , tends to zero as  $\Delta t \rightarrow 0$ .
- (c) [6 marks] Determine an estimate for the maximum error at  $t = 1$  using uniform time steps  $\Delta t \leq 1$ , when

$$f(t, u) = \tan^{-1}u.$$

2. The function  $u(t)$ ,  $t \geq 0$  with  $u(0) = u_0$ , is determined for  $t > 0$  by

$$u' = f(u),$$

where  $f$  is a uniformly differentiable function of  $u$ .

A linear multistep method for numerical approximation of this equation at the points  $t_n = n\Delta t$ ,  $n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$ , with  $\Delta t > 0$  is defined by

$$\begin{aligned} U_0 &= u_0, \\ U_1 &= U_0 + \Delta t f(U_0), \\ U_{n+1} &= U_n + \frac{\Delta t}{12}(5F_{n+1} + 8F_n - F_{n-1}), \quad n = 1, 2, \dots, \end{aligned}$$

where  $F_n = f(U_n)$ ,  $n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$ . Denote  $u_n = u(t_n)$  and  $f_n = f(u_n)$ .

(a) [3 marks] Show that this method is zero stable and explain the significance of this condition.

(b) [6 marks] Define a truncation error by

$$T_n = \frac{u_{n+1} - u_n}{\Delta t} - \frac{1}{12}(5f_{n+1} + 8f_n - f_{n-1}).$$

Show that this method is third order in  $\Delta t$  as  $\Delta t \rightarrow 0$ .

(c) [10 marks] Using the function  $f(u) = \lambda u$ , and a characteristic polynomial, denoted  $\pi(z; \overline{\Delta t})$ , which you should define, describe what is meant by an interval of absolute stability. By considering values of  $\overline{\Delta t} = \lambda \Delta t$  near  $\overline{\Delta t} = 0$  and  $\overline{\Delta t} = -6$ , or values of  $\frac{dz}{d\overline{\Delta t}}$ , where  $z$  is a root of the characteristic polynomial, show that this method cannot be absolutely stable when  $\overline{\Delta t}$  is small and positive or  $\overline{\Delta t}$  is a little less than  $-6$ .

(d) [6 marks] The implicit method is replaced by a semi-implicit method:

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{U}_{n+1} &= U_n + \Delta t f(U_n), \\ U_{n+1} &= U_n + \frac{\Delta t}{12}(5f(\hat{U}_{n+1}) + 8F_n - F_{n-1}). \end{aligned}$$

Explain with reasons whether the interval of absolute stability has increased or decreased in extent compared to that for the fully implicit scheme.

3. The function  $u(x, t)$ , defined for  $0 \leq x \leq 1$  and  $t \geq 0$ , satisfies

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} = \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2},$$

with initial data  $u(x, 0) = u_0(x)$  and boundary data  $u(0, t) = u(1, t) = 0$ .

For some integer  $M > 0$ ,  $h = 1/M$ , the partial differential equation is discretised on a uniform mesh  $x_r = rh$ ,  $r = 0, 1, 2, \dots, M$  and  $t_n = n\Delta t$ ,  $n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$ . Denote  $U_r^n$  as an approximation for  $u_r^n = u(x_r, t_n)$  and

$$\|U^n\|_{l_\infty} = \max_{r \in [1, \dots, M-1]} |U_r^n|, \quad \|U^n\|_{l_2} = \left( \sum_{r=1}^{M-1} (U_r^n)^2 \right)^{1/2}.$$

Let  $\mu = \Delta t/h^2$ .

(a) [8 marks] For  $0 \leq \theta \leq 1$ ,  $r = 1, \dots, M-1$ , the equation is discretised by a  $\theta$ -method:

$$U_r^{n+1} = U_r^n + \theta\mu(U_{r+1}^{n+1} - 2U_r^{n+1} + U_{r-1}^{n+1}) + (1-\theta)\mu(U_{r+1}^n - 2U_r^n + U_{r-1}^n).$$

Use a maximum principle, which you should state but not prove, to show that provided  $2\mu(1-\theta) \leq 1$ , then

$$\|U^{n+1}\|_{l_\infty} \leq \|U^0\|_{l_\infty}, \quad n = 1, 2, \dots$$

(b) [8 marks] The method in (a) is replaced by a predictor-corrector method, for  $r = 1, \dots, M-1$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{U}_r^{n+1} &= U_r^n + \mu(U_{r+1}^n - 2U_r^n + U_{r-1}^n), \\ U_r^{n+1} &= U_r^n + \mu(\hat{U}_{r+1}^{n+1} - 2\hat{U}_r^{n+1} + \hat{U}_{r-1}^{n+1}). \end{aligned}$$

Show that provided  $\mu \leq 1/4$ ,

$$\|U^{n+1}\|_{l_\infty} \leq \|U^0\|_{l_\infty}, \quad n = 1, 2, \dots$$

(c) [9 marks] A third discretisation is given for  $r = 1, \dots, M-1$ , by

$$U_{r+1}^{n+1} + 4U_r^{n+1} + U_{r-1}^{n+1} = U_{r+1}^n + 4U_r^n + U_{r-1}^n + 6\mu(U_{r+1}^n - 2U_r^n + U_{r-1}^n).$$

Formulate this discrete representation as a matrix problem. Using the vectors  $\mathbf{z}^p = (z_r^p)$  with  $z_r^p = \sin pr\pi h$ ,  $p, r = 1, \dots, M-1$ , or otherwise, show that for this method

$$\|U^n\|_{l_2} \leq \|U^0\|_{l_2}, \quad n = 1, 2, \dots,$$

provided  $\mu \leq 1/3$ .

4. The functions  $u(x, t)$ ,  $v(x, t)$ , defined for  $x \in \mathbb{R}$  and  $t \geq 0$ , satisfy, for real  $\alpha$ ,  $\beta$  and  $t > 0$ , the evolutionary equations

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} = \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} - \alpha^2 u - \beta^2 v, \quad (1)$$

$$\frac{\partial v}{\partial t} = \frac{\partial^2 v}{\partial x^2}, \quad (2)$$

with initial data  $u(x, 0) = u_0(x) \geq 0$ ,  $v(x, 0) = v_0(x) \geq 0$  where  $|u_0| \rightarrow 0$ ,  $|v_0| \rightarrow 0$  as  $|x| \rightarrow \infty$ . The continuous system is discretised on a uniform mesh  $x_r = rh$ ,  $r = 0, \pm 1, \pm 2, \dots$ , and  $t_n = n\Delta t$ ,  $n = 1, 2, \dots$  with  $h > 0$  and  $\Delta t > 0$  such that  $U_r^n$ ,  $V_r^n$  are approximations for  $u_r^n = u(x_r, t_n)$  and  $v_r^n = v(x_r, t_n)$  respectively.

Define the  $l_2$ -norm of data  $\{U_r\}$  by  $\|U^n\|_{l_2} = (h \sum_{r=-\infty}^{\infty} |U_r|^2)^{1/2}$ , and semi-discrete Fourier transform,  $\hat{U}(k)$  by  $\hat{U}(k) = h \sum_{r=-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-ikrh} U_r$ .

- (a) [7 marks] The equation (2) is discretised by

$$\frac{V_r^{n+1} - V_r^n}{\Delta t} = \frac{1}{h^2} (V_{r+1}^n - 2V_r^n + V_{r-1}^n).$$

Define practical stability and von Neumann stability for a discrete method in terms of the  $l_2$ -norm and show that this discretisation is practically stable provided  $\Delta t < \frac{1}{2}h^2$ .

- (b) [7 marks] Equation (1) is discretised by

$$\frac{U_r^{n+1} - U_r^n}{\Delta t} = \frac{1}{h^2} (U_{r+1}^n - 2U_r^n + U_{r-1}^n) - \alpha^2 U_r^n - \beta^2 V_r^n.$$

Define

$$\mathbf{W}^n = \begin{pmatrix} \hat{U}^n(k) \\ \hat{V}^n(k) \end{pmatrix}$$

Determine the matrix  $A$  such that  $\mathbf{W}^{n+1} = A\mathbf{W}^n$ .

- (c) [6 marks] Deduce that the solutions of the combined scheme will reduce to zero as  $n \rightarrow \infty$  provided

$$\Delta t \leq \frac{2h^2}{4 + \alpha^2 h^2}.$$

- (d) [5 marks] If the equation (2) was replaced by

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

with real  $D > 0$ , determine the time step restriction that would be required to guarantee that the numerical approximations for  $u$  and  $v$  both decay to zero for a large number of time steps.

You may use without proof Parseval's Identity  $\|U^n\|_{l_2} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \|\hat{U}^n\|_{L_2}$ .

## Section B: Numerical Linear Algebra

5. (a) [8 marks] State the Jacobi algorithm for computing an approximate solution to the square system of equations  $Ax = b$ . State and prove conditions such that the Jacobi algorithm converges to  $A^{-1}b$ . Give an example of a matrix for which the prior conditions given are sharp, in that if they are not satisfied then the Jacobi algorithm need not converge to  $A^{-1}b$ .
- (b) [8 marks] Consider the  $QR$  factorisation of  $A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$  where  $A$  has the properties that:  $m \geq n$ , the columns of  $A$  are linearly independent, and  $A_{ij} = 0$  unless  $j = i$  or  $j = i - 1$ . Which entries of  $Q$  and  $R$  should be exactly zero?
- (c) [9 marks] State an efficient algorithm using Givens rotations for computing the matrix  $R$  in the  $QR$  factorisation of  $A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$  where  $A$  has the properties in part (b) of this question. What is, to leading order, the number of floating point operations used in the stated algorithm? (Consider the evaluation of a trigonometric function to be a single floating point operation and assigning a value to be without cost.)

6. (a) [9 marks] Design and state an algorithm to approximately solve the square linear system of equations  $Ax = b$ , for  $A$  symmetric ( $A = A^*$ ), by updating the estimate  $x^{(k)}$  along the direction  $Ap^{(k)}$  where  $p^{(k)} = b - Ax^{(k)} - \beta_{k-1}p^{(k-1)}$ ,  $\beta_{k-1}$  is selected so that  $Ap^{(k)}$  and  $Ap^{(k-1)}$  are orthogonal, and  $p^{(0)} = b - Ax^{(0)}$  where  $x^{(0)}$  is the initial approximate solution.
- (b) [8 marks] State and describe the GMRES algorithm; specifically discuss: the subspace minimised over, the class of matrices for which the method is designed, and any stability issues.
- (c) [8 marks] The algorithm GMRES requires solving the least squares subproblem

$$\min_y \left\| \|b\|_2 e_1 - \tilde{H}_k y \right\|_2$$

at iteration  $k$  where:  $e_1$  is the vector of all zeros except the first entry which is equal to one,  $b$  is the vector in the equation  $Ax = b$  being approximately solved, and  $\tilde{H}_k \in \mathbb{R}^{k+1,k}$  is in upper-Hessenberg form, in that  $\tilde{H}_k(i, j) = 0$  for  $i > j + 1$ . Assume a  $QR$  factorisation of  $\tilde{H}_k$  has already been computed,  $\tilde{H}_k = \tilde{Q}_k \tilde{R}_k$  where  $\tilde{Q}_k \in \mathbb{R}^{k+1,k+1}$  is unitary and  $\tilde{R}_k = \begin{pmatrix} R_k \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$  where  $R_k$  is upper triangular. State an efficient algorithm for computing the  $QR$  factorisation of  $\tilde{H}_{k+1} = \begin{pmatrix} \tilde{H}_k & h_{k+1} \\ 0 & h_{k+2,k+1} \end{pmatrix}$  and calculate, to leading order, the number of floating point operations required.