# Computing Spectra of Linear Operators Using Finite Differences

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#### Introduction: Spectral Stability

Consider the nonlinear PDE evolution

$$\dot{u} = N(x, u, u_x, u_{xx}, \ldots)$$

Equilibrium solution

$$N(x, U, U_x, U_{xx}, \ldots) = 0$$

Linear stability

perturbation

$$u(x, t) = U(x) + \epsilon v(x, t)$$

#### **Associated Eigenvalue Problem**

Separation of variables

$$v(x,t) = w(x) \mathrm{e}^{\lambda t}$$

Eigenvalue problem  $\mathscr{L}[U(x)] = \frac{\partial N}{\partial U} + \frac{\partial N}{\partial U_x} \partial_x + \frac{\partial N}{\partial U_{xx}} \partial_x^2 + \cdots$ 

$$\mathscr{L}[U(x)]w(x) = \lambda w(x)$$

Linear stability

$$\begin{aligned} & \operatorname{Re}(\lambda) \leq 0 & \text{spectrally stable} \\ & \operatorname{Re}(\lambda) > 0 & \text{spectrally unstable} \end{aligned}$$

#### Finite Differences and Taylor Series

Taylor expand

$$f(t + \Delta t) = f(t) + \Delta t \frac{df(t)}{dt} + \frac{\Delta t^2}{2!} \frac{d^2 f(t)}{dt^2} + \frac{\Delta t^3}{3!} \frac{d^3 f(c_1)}{dt^3}$$
$$f(t - \Delta t) = f(t) - \Delta t \frac{df(t)}{dt} + \frac{\Delta t^2}{2!} \frac{d^2 f(t)}{dt^2} - \frac{\Delta t^3}{3!} \frac{d^3 f(c_2)}{dt^3}$$

Add

$$\frac{approximation}{dt} = \frac{f(t + \Delta t) - f(t - \Delta t)}{2\Delta t} - \frac{\Delta t^2}{6} \frac{d^3 f(c)}{dt^3}$$

slope formula with error

#### Taylor expand again

$$\frac{f(t+\Delta t) - f(t-\Delta t) = 2\Delta t}{f(t+\Delta t) - f(t-\Delta t)} = 2\Delta t \frac{df(t)}{dt} + \frac{2\Delta t^3}{3!} \frac{d^3 f(t)}{dt^3} + \frac{\Delta t^5}{5!} \left(\frac{d^5 f(c1)}{dt^5} + \frac{d^5 f(c2)}{dt^5}\right)$$
$$f(t+2\Delta t) - f(t-2\Delta t) = 4\Delta t \frac{df(t)}{dt} + \frac{16\Delta t^3}{3!} \frac{d^3 f(t)}{dt^3} + \frac{32\Delta t^5}{5!} \left(\frac{d^5 f(c3)}{dt^5} + \frac{d^5 f(c4)}{dt^5}\right)$$

8 x (first) and subtract

$$\begin{array}{ll} \begin{array}{l} \begin{array}{c} \begin{array}{c} \begin{array}{c} \begin{array}{c} \begin{array}{c} \begin{array}{c} \begin{array}{c} \end{array} \\ \end{array} \end{array} \\ \end{array} \\ \hline \\ \frac{df(t)}{dt} \end{array} = \frac{-f(t+2\Delta t)+8f(t+\Delta t)-8f(t-\Delta t)+f(t-2\Delta t)}{12\Delta t} + \frac{\Delta t^4}{30}f^{(5)}(c) \end{array} \end{array}$$

slope formula with improved error

#### **Finite Difference Tables**

**UW Applied Mathematics** 

 $O(\Delta t^2)$  center-difference schemes

$$\begin{split} f'(t) &= [f(t + \Delta t) - f(t - \Delta t)]/2\Delta t \\ f''(t) &= [f(t + \Delta t) - 2f(t) + f(t - \Delta t)]/\Delta t^2 \\ f'''(t) &= [f(t + 2\Delta t) - 2f(t + \Delta t) + 2f(t - \Delta t) - f(t - 2\Delta t)]/2\Delta t^3 \\ f''''(t) &= [f(t + 2\Delta t) - 4f(t + \Delta t) + 6f(t) - 4f(t - \Delta t) + f(t - 2\Delta t)]/\Delta t^4 \end{split}$$

 $O(\Delta t^4)$  center-difference schemes

$$\begin{split} f'(t) &= [-f(t+2\Delta t) + 8f(t+\Delta t) - 8f(t-\Delta t) + f(t-2\Delta t)]/12\Delta t\\ f''(t) &= [-f(t+2\Delta t) + 16f(t+\Delta t) - 30f(t) \\ &\quad + 16f(t-\Delta t) - f(t-2\Delta t)]/12\Delta t^2\\ f'''(t) &= [-f(t+3\Delta t) + 8f(t+2\Delta t) - 13f(t+\Delta t) \\ &\quad + 13f(t-\Delta t) - 8f(t-2\Delta t) + f(t-3\Delta t)]/8\Delta t^3\\ f''''(t) &= [-f(t+3\Delta t) + 12f(t+2\Delta t) - 39f(t+\Delta t) + 56f(t) \\ &\quad - 39f(t-\Delta t) + 12f(t-2\Delta t) - f(t-3\Delta t)]/6\Delta t^4 \end{split}$$

neighboring points determine accuracy

#### Forward and Backward Differences

 $O(\Delta t^2)$  forward- and backward-difference schemes

$$\begin{aligned} f'(t) &= [-3f(t) + 4f(t + \Delta t) - f(t + 2\Delta t)]/2\Delta t \\ f'(t) &= [3f(t) - 4f(t - \Delta t) + f(t - 2\Delta t)]/2\Delta t \\ f''(t) &= [2f(t) - 5f(t + \Delta t) + 4f(t + 2\Delta t) - f(t + 3\Delta t)]/\Delta t^3 \\ f''(t) &= [2f(t) - 5f(t - \Delta t) + 4f(t - 2\Delta t) - f(t - 3\Delta t)]/\Delta t^3 \end{aligned}$$

Required for incorporating boundary conditions



#### Numerical Round-Off

Consider the error in approximating the first derivative

$$\frac{dy}{dt} = \frac{-f(t+2\Delta t) + 8f(t+\Delta t) - 8f(t-\Delta t) + f(t-2\Delta t)}{12\Delta t} + E(y(t),\Delta t)$$
The error includes round-off and truncation
$$\frac{round-off}{E} = \frac{-e(t+2\Delta t) + 8e(t+\Delta t) - 8e(t-\Delta t) + e(t-2\Delta t)}{12\Delta t} + \frac{\Delta t^4}{30} \frac{d^5y(c)}{dt^5}$$
Assume round-off  $|e(t+\Delta t)| \le e_r$  and  $M = \max\{|y''''(c)|\}$ 

$$|E| = \frac{3e_r}{2\Delta t} + \frac{\Delta t^4 M}{30} \quad \text{minimum at} \quad \Delta t = \left(\frac{45e_r}{4M}\right)^{1/5}$$

 $\sim$  round-off error dominates below  $\Delta t pprox 10^{-3}$ 

#### **Boundary Conditions:** Pinned u(0) = u(l) = 0



tri-diagonal matrix structure

## Boundary Conditions: Periodic u(0) = u(l)



tri-diagonal matrix structure with corners

# **Boundary Conditions:** No Flux $\frac{\partial u(0)}{\partial x} = \frac{\partial u(l)}{\partial x} = 0$

no flux condition

> no longer symmetry matrix

## **General Boundaries**

General (Sturm-Liouville) boundary conditions

$$\alpha_1 u(0) + \beta_1 \frac{\partial u(0)}{\partial x} = \gamma_1$$
$$\alpha_2 u(l) + \beta_2 \frac{\partial u(l)}{\partial x} = \gamma_2$$

Difficult to incorporate into matrix structure

- shooting methods
- relaxation methods

> no longer symmetry matrix

# Algorithm

- choose domain length and discretization size
- construct linear operator
- implement boundary conditions
- use eigenvalue/eigenvector solver: O(N<sup>3</sup>) (or shooting/relaxation methods)
- construct eigenfunctions



#### **Example: Mathieu Equation**

**Classic Example** 

$$y'' + (a - 2q\cos(2x))y = 0 \iff -y'' + 2q\cos(2x)y = ay$$

Operator  $-\partial_x^2 + 2q\cos(2x)$  is self-adjoint (real spectrum)

$$-\frac{1}{\Delta x^2} \begin{bmatrix} -2 & 1 & 0 & \cdots & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & -2 & 1 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots & \\ \vdots & & & & \vdots \\ & & & & & 0 \\ \vdots & & & & & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & \cdots & 0 & 1 & -2 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & \cdots & 0 & 1 & -2 \end{bmatrix} + 2q \begin{bmatrix} \cos(2x_0) & 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \cos(2x_1) & 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots & & \\ \vdots & & & & & \vdots \\ 0 & & & & & & 0 \\ \vdots & & & & & & 0 \\ 0 & & & & & & 0 & \cos(2x_{n-1}) & 0 \\ 0 & & & & & & 0 & \cos(2x_n) \end{bmatrix}$$

#### **Spectrum for Mathieu Equation**



#### **Computing the Ground State**

#### Convergence study and CPU time (q=2)

	Accuracy: $10^{-3}$		Accuracy: 10 <sup>-6</sup>		Accuracy: $10^{-9}$	Accuracy: 10 <sup>-9</sup>		
	Matrix size	CPU time	Matrix size	CPU time	Matrix size	CPU time		
FDM2 FDM4	239 52	0.43 sec 0.01 sec	8000 293	1 hour 0.77 sec	N/A 1630	2.5 min		

beyond Matlab7's ability

What about band-gap structure

• increase domain length

• Floquet theory

#### Calculating the Bands: Domain Length



#### Calculating the Bands: Floquet Theory

Make use of Floquet (Bloch) theory

$$y(x+L) = e^{i\mu L}y(x)$$

with Floquet (characteristic) exponents  $\ \mu \in [0, 2\pi/L)$ 

- keep fixed domain
- discretize  $\mu_k = 2(k-1)/P, \ k = 1, ..., D$
- solve D O(N<sup>3</sup>) equations

Floquet theory modifies matrix corners

$$D_{2}^{(4,h)} = \frac{1}{12h^{2}} \begin{pmatrix} -30 & 16 & -1 & 0 & \cdots & \cdots & 0 & -e^{-i\theta} & 16e^{-i\theta} \\ 16 & -30 & 16 & -1 & 0 & \cdots & \cdots & 0 & -e^{-i\theta} \\ -1 & 16 & -30 & 16 & -1 & 0 & \cdots & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 16 & -30 & 16 & -1 & 0 & \cdots & \cdots & \cdots \\ & & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots \\ \cdots & \cdots & 0 & -1 & 16 & -30 & 16 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & \cdots & \cdots & 0 & -1 & 16 & -30 & 16 & -1 \\ -e^{i\theta} & 0 & \cdots & \cdots & 0 & -1 & 16 & -30 & 16 \\ 16e^{i\theta} & -e^{i\theta} & 0 & \cdots & \cdots & 0 & -1 & 16 & -30 \end{pmatrix}$$

with Floquet slices  $\, heta\in[0,2\pi)$ 

#### Floquet Theory vs. Domain Length

Compare methods for computing band (q=2)

band density

$$\delta_B = rac{\max\limits_{a_k,a_{k+1}\in\sigma_B}(a_{k+1}-a_k)}{|\sigma_B|}$$

	$\delta_2 = 0.25$		$\delta_2{=}0.023$	5	$\delta_2 = 0.0025$				
	D	CPU time	D	CPU time	D	CPU time			
FDM4 matrix size=1172 FDM4, $D > 1$	4 matrix size=1172       1       9 min         4, $D > 1$ 4       8 sec		N/A 32	- 1 min	N/A	10 min			
				beyond Matlab7's ability					

## **Example: Periodic NLS**

Consider the system

$$\begin{pmatrix} 0 & L_{-}(k) \\ -L_{+}(k) & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} U \\ V \end{pmatrix} = \lambda \begin{pmatrix} U \\ V \end{pmatrix}$$

with

$$L_{-}(k)u = -u'' + (2k^{2}\operatorname{sn}^{2}(x,k) - k^{2})u$$
$$\underline{L}_{+}(k)v = -v'' + (6k^{2}\operatorname{sn}^{2}(x,k) - 4 - k^{2})v$$
and Jacobi sine function sn(x,k)



#### Spectrum of Periodic NLS



#### Importance of Floquet Slicing



#### Accuracy and Convergence



#### **Example: 2D Mathieu Equation**

Consider

$$-\frac{1}{2}(\psi_{xx} + \psi_{yy}) + f(x, y)\psi = \lambda\psi$$

with

$$f(x, y) = A\sin^2 x \sin^2 y$$

Operation Count: O((N<sup>2</sup>)<sup>3</sup>)=O(N<sup>6</sup>)

#### Laplacian in 2D

Consider  $abla^2\psi = rac{\partial^2\psi}{\partial x^2} + rac{\partial^2\psi}{\partial y^2}$ 

Discretize:

$$\frac{\psi(x+\Delta x,y,t)-2\psi(x,y,t)+\psi(x-\Delta x,y,t)}{\Delta x^2} \\ + \frac{\psi(x,y+\Delta y,t)-2\psi(x,y,t)+\psi(x,y-\Delta y,t)}{\Delta y^2}$$

Let  $\psi_{mn} = \psi(x_m, y_n)$ 

$$-4\psi_{mn} + \psi_{(m-1)n} + \psi_{(m+1)n} + \psi_{m(n-1)} + \psi_{m(n+1)}$$

must stack 2D data: periodic boundaries add structure

#### Laplacian in 2D



## Laplacian in 2D

-4	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
1	-4	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
0	1	-4	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
1	0	1	-4	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
1	0	0	0	-4	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	1	0	0	1	-4	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	1	0	0	1	-4	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	1	1	0	1	-4	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	-4	1	0	1	1	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	-4	1	0	0	1	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	-4	1	0	0	1	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	-4	0	0	0	1
1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	-4	1	0	1
0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	-4	1	0
0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	-4	1
0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	-4

#### nx=ny=4

I=eye(n); % idendity matrix of size nXn
B=kron(I,A)+kron(A,I); % 2-D differentiation matrix

Matlab easily builds 2D Laplacian

#### **Band Gap Structure**





First three band-gap structures



#### **2D Dominant Eigenfunctions**





#### First three eigenfunctions for $\mu_x = \mu_y = 0$

## **2D** Eigenfunctions





First three eigenfunctions for  $\mu_x = \mu_y = 1/4$ 

#### **Summary and Conclusions**

- simple, simple, simple
- boundary conditions at edge of matrices
- eigenvalue solvers make use of sparse structure
- Floquet theory for resolution of bands
- costly/impractical for 2D-3D problems