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# Finite Element Analysis of Solids and Fluids

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# Time-dependent problems

## Introduction

In this section,

- we develop the finite element models of one-dimensional **time-dependent** problems and
- describe time approximation schemes to convert ordinary differential equations in time to algebraic equations.

We consider finite element models of the time-dependent version of the differential equations studied previously. These include

- The second-order (in space) parabolic equations  
(i.e, first time derivative)
- The second-order hyperbolic equations  
(i.e, second time derivative)
- The fourth-order hyperbolic equations  
arising in connection with the bending of beams

# Time-dependent problems

Finite element models of time-dependent problems can be developed in two alternative ways:

- (a) **coupled formulation** in which the time  $t$  is treated as an additional coordinate along with the spatial coordinate  $x$
- (b) **decoupled formulation** where time and spatial variations are assumed to be separable

Thus, the approximation in the two formulations takes the form

$$u(x, t) \approx u_h^e(x, t) = \sum_{j=1}^n \hat{u}_j^e \hat{\psi}_j^e(x, t) \quad (\text{coupled formulation})$$

$$u(x, t) \approx u_h^e(x, t) = \sum_{j=1}^n u_j^e(t) \psi_j^e(x) \quad (\text{decoupled formulation})$$

- $\hat{\psi}_j^e(x, t)$  are time-space (**two-dimensional**) interpolation functions
- $\hat{u}_j^e$  are the nodal values that are independent of  $x$  and  $t$ ,
- $\psi_j^e(x)$  are the usual one-dimensional interpolation functions in spatial coordinate  $x$  only
- $u_j^e(t)$  are functions of time  $t$  only

# Time-dependent problems

Space-time coupled finite element formulations are not common, and they have not been adequately studied. In this section, we consider the space-time **decoupled formulation** only

The space-time decoupled finite element formulation of time-dependent problems involves **2 steps** :

## 1. Spatial approximation,

- The solution  $u$  of the equation under consideration is approximate by decoupled form, and the spatial finite element model of the equation is developed using the procedures of static or steady-state problems while carrying all time-dependent terms in the formulation.
- This step results in a set of ordinary differential equations (i.e, a semidiscrete system of equations) in time for the nodal variables  $u_j^e(t)$  of the element. Decoupled Eq. represents the spatial approximation of  $u$  for any time  $t$
- When the solution is separable into functions of time only and space only,  $u(x, t) = T(t)X(x)$ , the approximation is clearly justified

# Time-dependent problems

- Even when the solution is not separable, decoupled Eq. can represent a good approximation of the actual solution provided a sufficiently small time step is used

## 2. Temporal approximation

- The system of ordinary differential equations are further approximated in time, often using **finite difference formulae** for the time derivatives
- This step allows conversion of the system of ordinary differential equations into a set of algebraic equations among  $u$  at time  $t_{s+1} = (s + 1)\Delta t$ , where  $\Delta t$  is the time increment and  $s$  is a nonnegative integer

# Time-dependent problems

All time approximation schemes seek to find  $u_j$  at time  $t_s + 1$  using the values of  $u_j$  from previous times :

compute  $\{u\}_{s+1}$  using  $\{u\}_s, \{u\}_{s-1}, \dots$

Thus, at the end of the two-stage approximation, we have a continuous spatial solution at discrete intervals of time

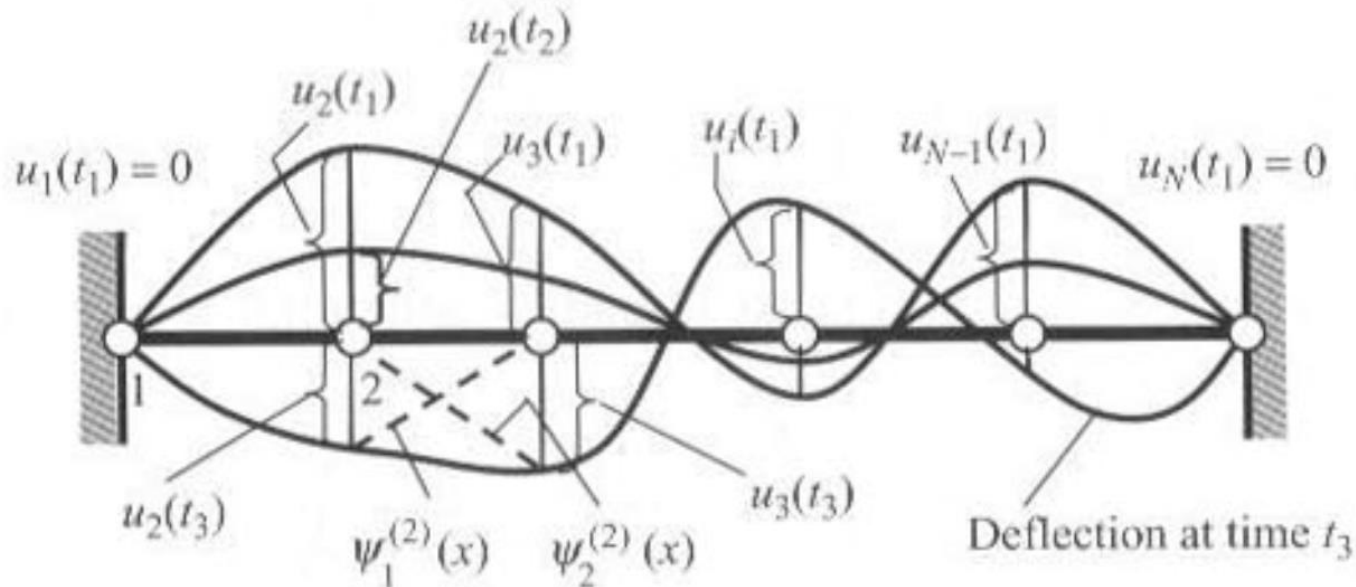
$$u(x, t_s) \approx u_h^e(x, t_s) = \sum_{j=1}^n u_j^e(t_s) \psi_j^e(t_s) \quad (s = 0, 1, \dots)$$

Note: the approximate solution has the same form as that in the separation-of variables technique used to solve **boundary value** and **initial value** problems

# Time-dependent problems

$$u(x, t_s) \approx u_h^e(x, t_s) = \sum_{j=1}^n u_j^e(t_s) \psi_j^e(x) \quad (s = 0, 1, \dots)$$

**Note:** By taking nodal values to be functions of time, we see that the spatial points in an element take on different values for different times



# Time-dependent problems

We study the details of the two steps by considering a model differential equation that contains both

- second-and fourth-order **spatial** derivatives
- first-and second-order **time** derivatives

$$-\frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left( a \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} \right) + \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} \left( b \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} \right) + c_0 u + c_1 \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} + c_2 \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial t^2} = f(x, t)$$

The above equation is subject to appropriate boundary and initial conditions. The boundary conditions are of the form

$$\text{specify } u(x, t) \text{ or } -a \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left( b \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} \right)$$

$$\text{specify } \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} \text{ or } b \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2}$$

at  $x = 0, L$ , and the initial conditions involve specifying

$$c_2 u(x, 0) \text{ and } c_2 \dot{u}(x, 0) + c_1 u(x, 0) \quad \dot{u} \equiv \partial u / \partial t$$



# Time-dependent problems

$$-\frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left( a \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} \right) + \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} \left( b \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} \right) + c_0 u + c_1 \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} + c_2 \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial t^2} = f(x, t)$$

Above equation describes following physical problems

a. Heat transfer and fluid flow:

$$c_2 = 0 \text{ and } b = 0$$

b. Transverse motion of a cable:

$$a = T, c_0 = 0, b = 0, c_1 = \rho, c_2 = 0$$

c. The longitudinal motion of a rod:

$$a = EA, b = 0; \text{ if damping is not considered, } c_1 = 0, c_2 = \rho A$$

d. The transverse motion of an Euler-Bernoulli beam:

$$a = 0, b = EI, c_0 = k, c_1 = 0, c_2 = \rho A$$

# Time-dependent problems

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## Semidiscrete Finite Element Models

The semidiscrete formulation involves approximation of the spatial variation of the dependent variable. The formulation follows essentially the same steps as described in previous

- The **first step** involves the construction of the weak form of the equation over a typical element
- In the **second step**, we develop the finite element model by seeking approximation of the decoupled form

# Time-dependent problems

$$-\frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left( a \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} \right) + \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} \left( b \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} \right) + c_0 u + c_1 \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} + c_2 \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial t^2} = f(x, t)$$



$$\begin{aligned} 0 &= \int_{x_a}^{x_b} w \left[ -\frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left( a \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} \right) + \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} \left( b \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} \right) + c_0 u + c_1 \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} + c_2 \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial t^2} - f \right] dx \\ &= \int_{x_a}^{x_b} \left[ \frac{\partial w}{\partial x} a \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial^2 w}{\partial x^2} b \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} + c_0 w u + c_1 w \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} + c_2 w \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial t^2} - w f \right] dx \\ &\quad + \left[ w \left[ \left( -a \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} \right) + \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left( b \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} \right) \right] + \frac{\partial w}{\partial x} \left( -b \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} \right) \right]_{x_a}^{x_b} \\ &= \int_{x_a}^{x_b} \left[ a \frac{\partial w}{\partial x} \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + b \frac{\partial^2 w}{\partial x^2} \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} + c_0 w u + c_1 w \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} + c_2 w \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial t^2} - w f \right] dx \\ &\quad - \hat{Q}_1 w(x_a) - \hat{Q}_3 w(x_b) - \hat{Q}_2 \left( -\frac{\partial w}{\partial x} \right) \Big|_{x_a} - \hat{Q}_4 \left( -\frac{\partial w}{\partial x} \right) \Big|_{x_b} \end{aligned}$$

# Time-dependent problems

$$\hat{Q}_1 = \left[ -a \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left( b \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} \right) \right]_{x_a}, \hat{Q}_2 = \left[ b \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} \right]_{x_a}$$
$$\hat{Q}_3 = - \left[ -a \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left( b \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} \right) \right]_{x_b}, \hat{Q}_4 = - \left[ b \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} \right]_{x_b}$$

Next, we assume that  $u$  is interpolated by an expression of the decoupled form:

$$u(x, t) \approx u_h^e(x, t) = \sum_{j=1}^n u_j^e(t) \psi_j^e(x) \text{ (decoupled formulation)}$$

This equation implies that, at any arbitrarily fixed time  $t > 0$ , the function  $u$  can be approximated by a linear combination of the  $\psi_j^e$  and  $u_j^e(t)$ , with  $u_j^e(t)$  being the value of  $u$  at time  $t$  at the  $j$ th node of the element  $\Omega_{\text{e}}$ . In other words, the time and spatial variations of  $u$  are **separable**.

# Time-dependent problems

- This assumption is not valid, in general, because it may not be possible to write the solution  $u(x, t)$  as the product of a function of time only and a function of space only
- However, with sufficiently small time steps, it is possible to obtain accurate solutions to even those problems for which the solution is not separable in time and space
- The finite element solution that we obtain at the end of the analysis is continuous in space but not in time

We only obtain the finite element solution in the form

$$u(x, t_s) = \sum_{j=1}^n u_j^e(t_s) \psi_j^e(x) = \sum_{j=1}^n (u_j^s)^e \psi_j^e(x) \quad (s = 0, 1, \dots)$$

Where  $(u_j^s)^e$  is the value of  $u(x, t)$  at time  $t = t_s$  and node  $j$  of the element  $\Omega_{eae}$

# Time-dependent problems

Substituting  $w = \psi_j^e(x)$  (to obtain the  $i$ th equation of the system) and substitute decoupled approximation into weak form, we obtain

$$u(x, t) \approx u_h^e(x, t) = \sum_{j=1}^n u_j^e(t) \psi_j^e(x) \quad (\text{decoupled formulation})$$



$$0 = \int_{x_a}^{x_b} \left[ a \frac{\partial w}{\partial x} \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + b \frac{\partial^2 w}{\partial x^2} \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} + c_0 w u + c_1 w \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} + c_2 w \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial t^2} - w f \right] dx$$
$$- \hat{Q}_1 w(x_a) - \hat{Q}_3 w(x_b) - \hat{Q}_2 \left( -\frac{\partial w}{\partial x} \right) \Big|_{x_a} - \hat{Q}_4 \left( -\frac{\partial w}{\partial x} \right) \Big|_{x_b}$$

# Time-dependent problems

$$\begin{aligned}
 0 = \int_{x_a}^{x_b} & \left[ a \frac{d\psi_i}{dx} \left( \sum_{j=1}^n u_j \frac{d\psi_j}{dx} \right) + b \frac{d^2\psi_i}{dx^2} \left( \sum_{j=1}^n u_j \frac{d^2\psi_j}{dx^2} \right) + c_0 \psi_i \left( \sum_{j=1}^n u_j \psi_j \right) \right. \\
 & \left. + c_1 \psi_i \left( \sum_{j=1}^n \frac{du_j}{dt} \psi_j \right) + c_2 \psi_i \left( \sum_{j=1}^n \frac{d^2u_j}{dt^2} \psi_j \right) - \psi_i f \right] dx \\
 & - \hat{Q}_1 \psi_i(x_a) - \hat{Q}_3 \psi_i(x_b) - \hat{Q}_2 \left( -\frac{d\psi_j}{dx} \right) \Big|_{x_a} - \hat{Q}_4 \left( -\frac{d\psi_j}{dx} \right) \Big|_{x_b} \\
 & = \sum_{i=1}^n \left[ (K_{ij}^1 + K_{ij}^2) u_j + M_{ij}^1 \frac{du_j}{dt} + M_{ij}^2 \frac{d^2u_j}{dt^2} \right] - F_i
 \end{aligned}$$

In matrix form, we have

$$[K]\{u\} + [M^1]\{\dot{u}\} + [M^2]\{\ddot{u}\} = \{F\}$$

# Time-dependent problems

$$[K]\{u\} + [M^1]\{\dot{u}\} + [M^2]\{\ddot{u}\} = \{F\} \quad (\text{a})$$

where

$$[K] = [K^1] + [K^2] + [M^0]$$

$$M_{ij}^0 = \int_{x_a}^{x_b} c_0 \psi_i \psi_j dx, M_{ij}^1 = \int_{x_a}^{x_b} c_1 \psi_i \psi_j dx$$

$$M_{ij}^2 = \int_{x_a}^{x_b} c_2 \psi_i \psi_j dx, K_{ij}^1 = \int_{x_a}^{x_b} a \frac{d\psi_i}{dx} \frac{d\psi_j}{dx} dx$$

$$K_{ij}^2 = \int_{x_a}^{x_b} b \frac{d^2\psi_i}{dx^2} \frac{d^2\psi_j}{dx^2} dx, F_i = \int_{x_a}^{x_b} \psi_i f dx + \hat{Q}_i$$

Equation (a) is a **hyperbolic** equation, and it contains the **parabolic** equation as a special case (set  $[M] = [0]$ ). The time approximation of (a) for these two cases will be considered separately



# Time-dependent problems

## Parabolic Equations-Time Approximation

The time approximation is discussed with the help of a single first-order differential equation

- Suppose that we wish to determine  $u(t)$  for  $t > 0$  such that  $u(t)$  satisfies

$$a \frac{du}{dt} + bu = f(t), \quad 0 < t < T \text{ and } u(0) = u_0$$

where  $a \neq 0$ ,  $b$ , and  $u_0$  are constants, and  $f$  is a function of time  $t$ .

- The exact solution of the problem consists of two parts: the **homogeneous** and **particular** solutions. The homogeneous solution is

$$u^h(t) = Ae^{-kt}, k = \frac{b}{a}$$

The particular solution is

$$u^p(t) = \frac{1}{a} e^{-kt} \left( \int_0^t e^{k\tau} f(\tau) \right) d\tau$$

# Time-dependent problems

The complete solution is given by

$$u(t) = e^{-kt} \left( A + \frac{1}{a} \int_0^t e^{k\tau} f(\tau) d\tau \right)$$

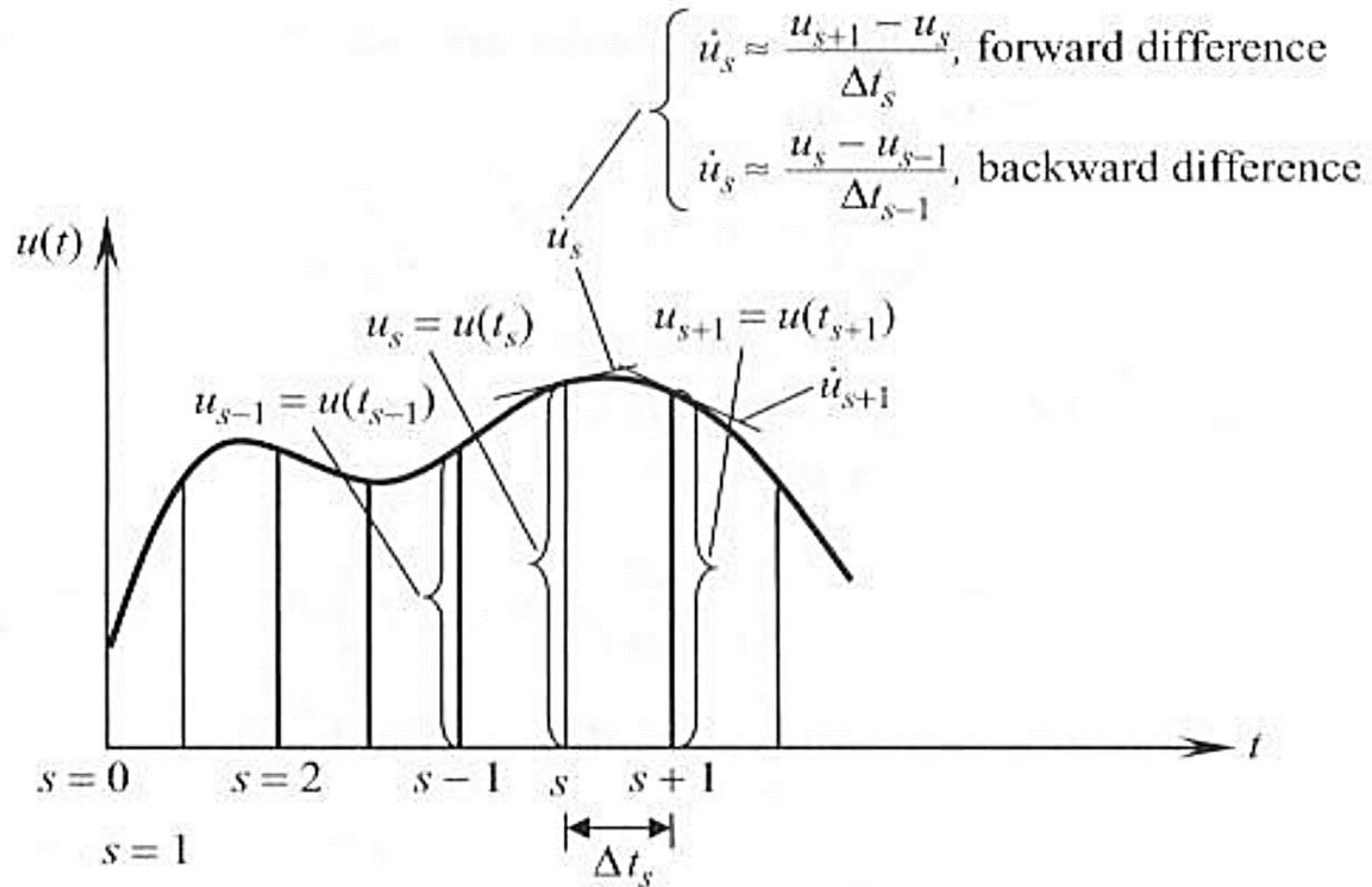
- In the **finite difference solution** of parabolic Eq., we replace the derivatives with their finite difference approximation
- The most commonly used scheme is the a family of approximation in which a weighted average of the time derivatives at two consecutive time steps is approximated by **linear interpolation** of the values of the variable at the two steps (as in Fig. next)

$$(1 - \alpha) \dot{u}_s + \alpha \dot{u}_{s+1} = \frac{u_{s+1} - u_s}{\Delta t_{s+1}} \text{ for } 0 \leq \alpha \leq 1$$

$u_s$ , denotes the value of  $u(t)$  at time  
 $\Delta t_s = t_s - t_{s-1}$  is the sth time step

$$t = t_s = \sum_{i=1}^s \Delta t_i$$

# Time-dependent problems



# Time-dependent problems

If the total time  $[0, T]$  is divided into equal time steps, then  $t_s = s\Delta t$ , and

$$(1 - \alpha)\dot{u}_s + \alpha\dot{u}_{s+1} = \frac{u_{s+1} - u_s}{\Delta t_{s+1}} \text{ for } 0 \leq \alpha \leq 1 \quad (\text{a})$$



$$\begin{aligned} u_{s+1} &= u_s + \Delta t \dot{u}_{s+\alpha} \\ \dot{u}_{s+\alpha} &= (1 - \alpha)\dot{u}_s + \alpha\dot{u}_{s+1} \text{ for } 0 \leq \alpha \leq 1 \end{aligned} \quad (\text{b})$$

When  $\alpha = 0$ , Eq.(a) gives

$$\dot{u}_s = \frac{u_{s+1} - u_s}{\Delta t_{s+1}}$$

This is the **slope** of the function  $u(t)$  at time  $t = t_s$  based on the values of the function at time  $t_s$  and  $t_s + 1$

- Since the value of the function from a step in front is used, it is termed a **forward difference** approximation

# Time-dependent problems

$$(1 - \alpha)\dot{u}_s + \alpha\dot{u}_{s+1} = \frac{u_{s+1} - u_s}{\Delta t_{s+1}} \text{ for } 0 \leq \alpha \leq 1 \quad (\mathbf{a})$$

When  $\alpha = 1$ , we obtain

$$\dot{u}_{s+1} = \frac{u_{s+1} - u_s}{\Delta t_{s+1}} \rightarrow \dot{u}_s = \frac{u_s - u_{s-1}}{\Delta t_s}$$

which is termed, for obvious reason, the **backward difference** approximation

# Time-dependent problems

Recall the parabolic Eq.:

$$a \frac{du}{dt} + bu = f(t), 0 < t < T \text{ and } u(0) = u_0$$

Note that it is valid for all times  $0 < t < T$ . In particular, it is valid at times  $t = t_s$ , and  $t = t_s + 1$ . Hence,

$$\dot{u}_s = \frac{1}{a}(f_s - bu_s), \dot{u}_{s+1} = \frac{1}{a}(f_{s+1} - bu_{s+1})$$

Substituting the above expressions into finite difference approximation (a):

$$(1 - \alpha)\dot{u}_s + \alpha\dot{u}_{s+1} = \frac{u_{s+1} - u_s}{\Delta t_{s+1}} \text{ for } 0 \leq \alpha \leq 1 \quad (\text{a})$$



$$(1 - \alpha)(f_s - bu_s) + \alpha(f_{s+1} - bu_{s+1}) = a \frac{u_{s+1} - u_s}{\Delta t_{s+1}}$$

Solving for  $u_s + 1$ , we obtain

# Time-dependent problems

$$[a + \alpha\Delta t_{s+1}b]u_{s+1} = [a - (1 - \alpha)\Delta t_{s+1}b] u_s + \Delta t_{s+1}[\alpha f_{s+1} + (1 - \alpha)f_s]$$



$$u_{s+1} = \frac{a - (1 - \alpha)\Delta t_{s+1}b}{a + \alpha\Delta t_{s+1}b} u_s + \Delta t_{s+1} \frac{[\alpha f_{s+1} + (1 - \alpha)f_s]}{a + \alpha\Delta t_{s+1}b}$$

Thus, above Eq. can be used repeatedly to march in time and obtain the solution at times  $t = t_s + 1, t_s + 2, \dots, t_N$ , Ntime is the number of time steps required to reach the final  $T$

At the very beginning, i. e.  $s = 0$ , the solution  $u$  is calculated using the initial value  $u_0$ :

$$u_1 = \frac{a - (1 - \alpha)\Delta t_1b}{a + \alpha\Delta t_1b} u_0 + \Delta t_1 \frac{[\alpha f_1 + (1 - \alpha)f_0]}{a + \alpha\Delta t_1b}$$

# Time-dependent problems

We may also develop a time approximation scheme **using the finite element method**

- To this end, we consider the same parabolic problem

$$a \frac{du}{dt} + bu = f(t), 0 < t < T \text{ and } u(0) = u_0$$

- We wish to determine  $u_{s+1}$  in terms of  $u_s$

The weighted-integral form of the parabolic over the time interval  $(t_s, t_{s+1})$  is

$$0 = \int_{t_s}^{t_{s+1}} v(t) \left( a \frac{du}{dt} + bu - f \right) dt$$

where  $u$  is the weight function. Assuming a solution of the form

$$u(t) \approx \sum_{j=1}^n u_j \psi_j(t)$$

where  $\psi_j(t)$  are interpolation functions of order  $(n - 1)$ . The Galerkin finite element model is obtained by substituting the above approximation for  $u$  and  $v = \psi_i$ . We obtain



# Time-dependent problems

$$[A]\{u\} = \{F\}$$

$$A_{ij} = \int_{t_s}^{t_{s+1}} \psi_i(t) \left( a \frac{d\psi_j}{dt} + b\psi_j \right) dt, F_i = \int_{t_s}^{t_{s+1}} \psi_i(t) f(t) dt$$

- Equation is valid with the time interval  $(t_s, t_{s+1})$ , and it represents a relationship between the values  $u_1, u_2, \dots, u_n$ , which are the values of  $u$  at times  $t_s, t_s + \Delta t/(n-1), t_s + 2\Delta t/(n-1), \dots, t_{s+1}$ , respectively

This would yield a multistep approximation scheme

To obtain a single-step approximation scheme, i.e., write  $u_{s+1}$  in terms of  $u_s$  only, we assume linear approximation (i.e.  $n = 2$ )

$$u(t) = u_s \psi_1(t) + u_{s+1} \psi_2(t)$$

$$\psi_1(t) = \frac{t_{s+1} - t_s}{\Delta t} \text{ and } \psi_2(t) = \frac{t - t_s}{\Delta t}$$

For this choice of approximation, the Matrix form can be written as

# Time-dependent problems

$$\left( \frac{a}{2} \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 1 \\ -1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} + \frac{b\Delta t}{6} \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ 1 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \right) \begin{Bmatrix} u_s \\ u_{s+1} \end{Bmatrix} = \frac{\Delta t}{6} \begin{Bmatrix} f_s \\ 2f_{s+1} \end{Bmatrix}$$

Assuming that  $u_s$  is known, we solve for  $u_{s+1}$  from the second equation

$$\left( a + \frac{2b\Delta t}{3} \right) u_{s+1} = \left( a - \frac{b\Delta t}{3} \right) u_s + \Delta t \left( \frac{f_s}{3} + \frac{2f_{s+1}}{3} \right)$$

Recall, using Finite difference method, we get

$$[a + \alpha\Delta t_{s+1}b]u_{s+1} = [a - (1 - \alpha)\Delta t_{s+1}b] u_s + \Delta t_{s+1}[\alpha f_{s+1} + (1 - \alpha)f_s]$$

By comparison,  
we find that the **Galerkin scheme is a special case of the finite difference family of approximation, with  $\alpha = 2/3$**

# Time-dependent problems

## Parabolic Equations- Stable and Conditionally Stable Schemes

$$u_{s+1} = \frac{a - (1 - \alpha)\Delta t_{s+1}b}{a + \alpha\Delta t_{s+1}b} u_s + \Delta t_{s+1} \frac{[\alpha f_{s+1} + (1 - \alpha)f_s]}{a + \alpha\Delta t_{s+1}b}$$

can be written in the form:

$$u_{s+1} = A(u_s) + F_{s,s+1}, A = \frac{a - (1 - \alpha)\Delta t_{s+1}b}{a + \alpha\Delta t_{s+1}b}$$

$$F_{s,s+1} = \Delta t_{s+1} \frac{[\alpha f_{s+1} + (1 - \alpha)f_s]}{a + \alpha\Delta t_{s+1}b}$$

The operator  $A$  is known as the **amplification operator**. Since  $u_s$  is an approximate solution, the error  $E_s = u_a(t_s) - u_s$  at time  $t_s$  (where  $u_a$  is the exact solution) will influence the solution at  $t_{s+1}$

# Time-dependent problems

$$u_{s+1} = A(u_s) + F_{s,s+1}, A = \frac{a - (1 - \alpha)\Delta t_{s+1}b}{a + \alpha\Delta t_{s+1}b}$$

$$F_{s,s+1} = \Delta t_{s+1} \frac{[\alpha f_{s+1} + (1 - \alpha)f_s]}{a + \alpha\Delta t_{s+1}b}$$

- The error will grow (i.e, Es will be amplified) as we march in time if the magnitude of the operator is greater than 1,  $|A| > 1$
- When the error grows without bound, the computational scheme becomes unstable (i.e, solution  $u_{s+1}$  becomes unbounded with time)
- Therefore, in order for the scheme to be stable, it is necessary that  $|A| \leq 1$  :

$$\left| \frac{a - (1 - \alpha)\Delta t_{s+1}b}{a + \alpha\Delta t_{s+1}b} \right| \leq 1$$

# Time-dependent problems

The above equation places a restriction on the magnitude of the time step for certain values of  $\alpha$

- When the error remains bounded for any time step (i.e., condition is trivially satisfied for any value of  $\Delta t$ , the scheme is **stable**
- If the error remains bounded only when the time step  $\Delta t$  remains below certain value, the scheme is said to be **conditionally stable**

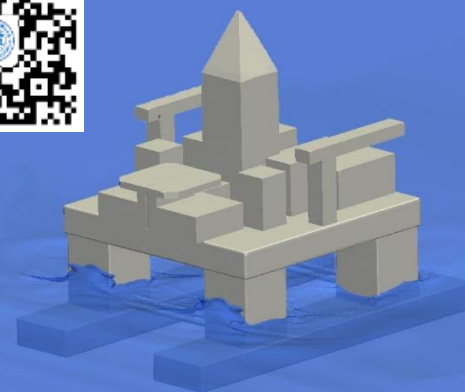
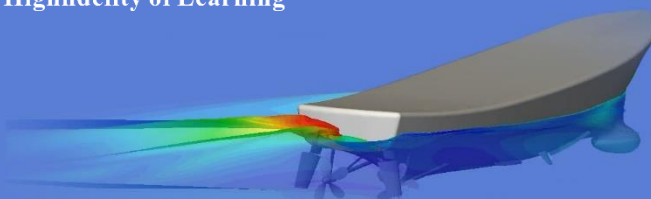
For different values of  $\alpha$ , the time approximation scheme yields a different scheme. The following well-known time-approximation schemes along with their order of accuracy and stability should be noted

$$\alpha = \begin{cases} 0, & \text{The forward difference (or Euler) scheme (conditionally} \\ & \text{stable); order of accuracy}=\mathbf{O}(\Delta t) \\ \frac{1}{2}, & \text{The Crank-Nicolson scheme (stable);}\mathbf{O}(\Delta t)^2 \\ \frac{2}{3}, & \text{The Galerkin method (stable);}\mathbf{O}(\Delta t)^2 \\ 1, & \text{The backward difference scheme (stable);}\mathbf{O}(\Delta t) \end{cases}$$

# 谢谢!

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