

PhD Qualifying Exam in Numerical Analysis

Fall 2014

1. (20%) Let  $\mathbf{A} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$  be a symmetric and positive definite matrix and  $\mathbf{b} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ .
  - (a) Solving the linear system  $\mathbf{Ax} = \mathbf{b}$  is equivalent to minimizing a quadratic functional  $\Phi : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ . Please define the functional  $\Phi$  and then prove the equivalence.
  - (b) Use the quadratic functional  $\Phi$  in (a) to derive the gradient method with optimal step size for solving  $\mathbf{Ax} = \mathbf{b}$ .
2. (20%) Let  $f$  be a given real-valued function in  $C^{n+1}[a, b]$ . Let  $x_0, x_1, \dots, x_n$  be  $n + 1$  distinct real numbers in the interval  $[a, b]$  and  $y_0 = f(x_0), y_1 = f(x_1), \dots, y_n = f(x_n)$ .

- (a) Prove that there exists a unique polynomial  $\Pi_n$  of degree at most  $n$  such that

$$\Pi_n(x_i) = y_i \quad \text{for } i = 0, 1, \dots, n.$$

- (b) Prove that for each  $x$  in  $[a, b]$  there corresponds a point  $\xi_x$  in  $(a, b)$  such that

$$f(x) - \Pi_n(x) = \frac{1}{(n+1)!} f^{(n+1)}(\xi_x) \prod_{i=0}^n (x - x_i).$$

3. (20%) Let  $f$  be sufficiently smooth and satisfy the Lipschitz condition such that there exists a unique solution  $y(t)$  for  $t_0 \leq t \leq t_0 + T$  of the following initial value problem (IVP):

$$\begin{cases} y'(t) = f(t, y(t)) & \text{for } t_0 < t < t_0 + T, \\ y(t_0) = y_0 \in \mathbb{R}. \end{cases}$$

Consider the  $(p + 1)$ -step method for approximating the IVP:

$$u_{n+1} = \sum_{j=0}^p a_j u_{n-j} + h \sum_{j=0}^p b_j f_{n-j} + hb_{-1} f_{n+1}, \quad n = p, p + 1, \dots,$$

where  $p \geq 0$ ,  $u_j$  is the approximation to  $y(t_j)$  and  $f_j$  denotes the value  $f(t_j, u_j)$ .

- (a) Please explain the following terminologies for the multistep method: convergence, zero-stability, consistence condition, and root condition. What are the relationship among the above concepts?
- (b) Consider the explicit 2-step method,

$$u_{n+1} = 3u_n - 2u_{n-1} + \frac{h}{2} (f_n - 3f_{n-1}), \quad n \geq 1.$$

Is the method suitable for solving the IVP? Why?

4. (20%) Let  $\Omega \subseteq \mathbb{R}^2$  be an open bounded domain with a smooth boundary  $\partial\Omega$  and  $f \in L^2(\Omega)$ . Consider the following boundary value problem (BVP) for the reaction-convection-diffusion equation:

$$\begin{cases} -\varepsilon\Delta u + \mathbf{a} \cdot \nabla u + u = f & \text{in } \Omega, \\ u = 0 & \text{on } \partial\Omega, \end{cases}$$

where  $\varepsilon > 0$  is the viscosity coefficient and  $\mathbf{a} = (a_1, a_2)^\top$  is the constant velocity vector.

- Derive the weak formulation of the BVP in a suitable Sobolev space.
- Let  $V$  be a real Hilbert space with scalar product  $(\cdot, \cdot)_V$  and associated norm  $\|\cdot\|_V$ . Let  $B : V \times V \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  be a bilinear form and  $L : V \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  be a linear form. State the Lax-Milgram lemma.
- Use (b) to prove that the weak problem in (a) has a unique solution.
- Prove that the continuous piecewise linear finite element solution  $u_h$  of the BVP satisfies the following error estimate provided  $u \in H^2(\Omega)$ :

$$\|u - u_h\|_{H^1(\Omega)} \leq Ch^1 \|u\|_{H^2(\Omega)}.$$

5. (20%) Let us consider the following scalar hyperbolic problem:

$$\begin{cases} u_t + au_x = 0, & x \in \mathbb{R}, t > 0, \\ u(x, 0) = u_0(x), & x \in \mathbb{R}, \end{cases}$$

where  $a > 0$  is a constant. Let  $\Delta t$  be the time step and  $\Delta x$  the spatial grid size.

- Derive the Lax-Friedrichs method directly for solving the above scalar hyperbolic problem, and then show that the method looks like a discretization of following advection-diffusion equation using the forward difference in time and centered difference in space:

$$u_t + au_x = \nu u_{xx},$$

where  $\nu := (\Delta x)^2 / 2\Delta t$ .

- What is the Courant-Friedrichs-Lewy (CFL) condition for the Lax-Friedrichs method? Show that the Lax-Friedrichs method is stable under the CFL condition in the discrete norm  $\|\cdot\|_{\Delta,1}$  given by

$$\|\mathbf{v}\|_{\Delta,1} := \Delta x \sum_{j=-\infty}^{\infty} |v_j|.$$