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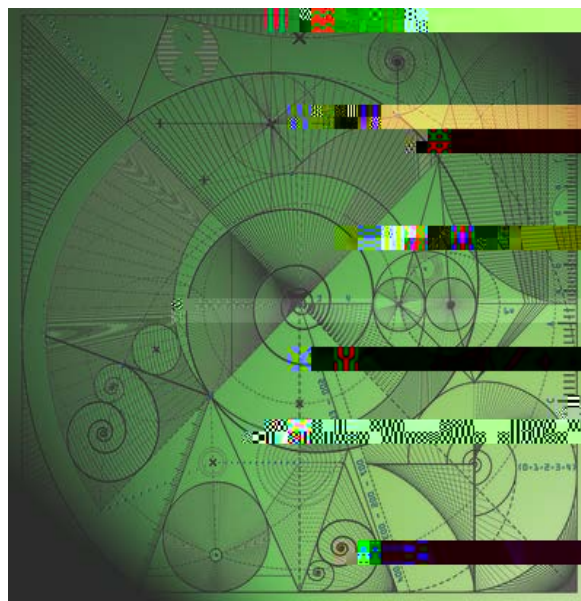
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Non-tangling moving mesh methods for PDE problems in one and two dimensions II: problems with prescribed boundary fluxes

by

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Non-tangling moving-mesh methods for PDE problems in one and two dimensions II: problems with prescribed boundary fluxes

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Abstract

Non-tangling moving-mesh algorithms based on local conservation for scalar PDE problems with prescribed boundary fluxes are derived in one and two dimensions, in the latter case on a linear simplex. Mesh tangling is prevented for any time step by applying an explicit sign-preserving exponential time-stepping scheme to intervals in 1-D or edges/areas in 2-D. The nodes are found in a separate step respecting the integrity of the mesh.

1 Introduction

Moving-mesh methods for the approximate solutions of time-dependent partial differential equations (PDEs) are potentially more powerful than fixed mesh methods, capable of providing high resolution locally, sustaining scale invariance and propagating self-similarity [12, 8].

In the velocity-based conservation method of [1, 4, 16] a velocity field is determined from a local Eulerian conservation law which is used to deform the domain, finding the moved solution by local Lagrangian conservation. Applications can be found in [1, 2, 3, 4, 14, 17, 15, 16, 9, 5, 6, 10, 7, 18]. The method inherits the scale-invariance of the PDE problem, handles flux-driven moving boundary conditions, whether external or internal, in a natural way without the need for interpolation, and is capable of propagating self-similar scaling solutions at the nodes.

Numerically, the default time-stepping scheme has been explicit Euler. However, it is a requirement of the conservation method that the solution remains positive and the mesh untangled, which in many cases demands a very small time-step, therefore limiting the practicality of the method.

In this paper a variant of the method is described which ensures a positive solution on an untangled mesh for any time step. This is achieved by applying a sign-preserving exponential time stepping scheme to intervals in 1-D and to edges or areas of a simplex in 2-D, with the nodal positions found a separate step.

The paper is organised as follows. In section 2 the relative conservation method is reviewed in one dimension, a semi-discrete scheme analysed, and a fully discrete version described that uses an explicit exponential time-stepping scheme on interval lengths, leading to sign-preserving solutions on ordered meshes for any time step and culminating in the algorithms given in section 2.4.3.

In section 3 the two-dimensional conservation method is reviewed and the features described in 1-D generalised to 2-D on a simplex of triangles by applying the sign-preserving exponential time-stepping scheme to either edge-lengths or triangle-areas. The nodes are found by an averaging procedure which retains the integrity of the simplex and solutions on the moved mesh obtained from relative Lagrangian conservation. The algorithms are given in section 3.3.5.

Conclusions are drawn in section 4.

2 The relative conservation method in 1-D

Suppose that the function $u(x; t)$ satisfies the generic PDE

$$u_t =$$

where v

2. The Lagrangian conservation form (6) transforms to

$$\frac{1}{(\cdot)} \mathbf{u}(\cdot; \cdot) \mathbf{j} \mathbf{x} \mathbf{j} = \mathbf{u}(\cdot); \text{independent of} \quad (14)$$

for all $\cdot$, where $\mathbf{u}(\cdot; \cdot) = \mathbf{u}(\mathbf{x}(\cdot; \cdot); \cdot)$ and $\mathbf{x}$ is the Jacobian of $\mathbf{x}$ with respect to $\cdot$. The sign of $\mathbf{x}$ is determined by (12).

2.2 An initial value problem

Substitution of $\mathbf{u}(\cdot; \cdot)$ from (14) into (12) yields an ODE system for $\mathbf{x}$ and $(\cdot)$. Given initial conditions on $\mathbf{x}$ and $\mathbf{u}$ at $\cdot = 0$ (and hence $\mathbf{u}(\cdot)$ together with (5), equations (12) and (14) then constitute an initial value problem for the two unknowns $\mathbf{x}$ and $(\cdot)$ possessing a unique solution under the conditions of Picard's Theorem.

From equation (12),

$$\frac{\partial \log \mathbf{x}}{\partial \cdot} = \frac{\mathbf{v}}{\mathbf{x}} = v_x \quad (15)$$

since $\mathbf{v} = \mathbf{x} v_x$. Integrating (15) from 0 to $\cdot$, equation (15) has the formal solution

$$\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{x}^0 \exp \int_0^\cdot v_x d\cdot \quad (16)$$

where $\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{x}^0$ at $\cdot = 0$. The solution $\mathbf{u}(\cdot; \cdot)$ on the moved domain is then generated from (14) by

$$\frac{1}{(\cdot)} \mathbf{u}(\cdot; \cdot) \mathbf{j} \mathbf{x} \mathbf{j} = \mathbf{u}(\cdot) = \frac{1}{(\cdot^0)} \mathbf{u}^0(\cdot) \mathbf{j} \mathbf{x}^0 \mathbf{j} \quad (17)$$

where $\mathbf{u}(\cdot)$ is independent of $\cdot$ (therefore defined by the initial data), ensuring conservation of mass. The sign of $\mathbf{x}$ is determined

leaves the problem invariant [11], it is straightforward to verify that the solution of the initial value problem maintains the same scale invariance.

Self-similar scaling solutions are found by seeking an ansatz of the form

$$x(\eta) = \eta^\alpha; \quad u(\eta) = \eta^\beta f(\eta); \quad (\eta) = \eta^{\alpha+\beta} \quad (19)$$

where $f(\eta)$ satisfies an ODE derived from (1) and α, β is constant.

From (19),

$$u(\eta) = \frac{du}{d\eta} = \eta^{\beta-1}$$

so that $u = \eta^{\beta-1}$, leading to $v_x = u = \eta^{\beta-1}$; independent of η .

Hence, from (16) and (17),

$$x = x_0 \exp \int_0^\eta (v_x) d\eta \quad \frac{x(\eta)}{x_0} = \frac{x(\eta)}{x_0}$$

$$u(\eta) = \frac{u(\eta)}{x_0} f(\eta)$$

the method can break down for a required time step. In this paper we use a modified time-stepping scheme, the sign-preserving exponential scheme applied to mesh intervals, which preserves the monotonicity of $\phi^n(\cdot)$ and avoids node overtaking for any time step.

Approximating the integrand in (16) by its value at x^n , an explicit first-order-accurate exponential scheme for ϕ^n is

$$\phi^{n+1} = \phi^n \exp \left((v_x)^n g^n \right) \quad (20)$$

The moving coordinate $\phi^{n+1}(\cdot)$ is obtained at time step $n+1$ using (13) in the form

$$\phi(\cdot^{n+1}) = \int_0^{\cdot^{n+1}} \phi_0 d\phi^0 \quad (21)$$

where ϕ^0 is an anchor point necessary for uniqueness. From (20) the time evolution of ϕ is completely characterised by $(v_x)^n$.

Note that the scheme (20) preserves the sign of ϕ over a time step irrespective of ϕ or $(v_x)^n$.

The scheme (20) may also be obtained by applying the first-order-accurate explicit Euler scheme to (15), i.e.

$$\log \phi^{n+1} = \log \phi^n + (v_x)^n g^n \quad (22)$$

The total mass ϕ^{n+1} is found from the corresponding explicit exponential scheme

$$\phi^{n+1} = \phi^n \exp \left(-\frac{\phi^n}{\phi^n} g^n \right); \quad (23)$$

preserving its sign.

Equation (14) is time-independent and ensures that

$$\frac{1}{\phi^{n+1}} \phi^{n+1}(\cdot) j \phi^{n+1} = \frac{1}{\phi^n} \phi^n(\cdot) j \phi^n \quad (24)$$

yielding ϕ^{n+1} . The sign of ϕ^{n+1} is determined by the sign of ϕ^n in (20).

Once $(v_x)^n$ has been found from (10), equation (20) (with (21)) determines $\phi^{n+1}(\cdot)$, equation (23) yields ϕ^{n+1} and equation (24) gives $\phi^{n+1}(\cdot)$.

It is straightforward to verify that the scale invariance (18) is inherited from the PDE problem by the semi-discrete schemes (20) and (24). However, the argument in section 2.2.1 for the propagation of self-similar solutions no longer holds over a time step, since ϕ_x is no longer proportional to $\frac{1}{\phi}$. Self-similar solutions are therefore propagated over a time step only to order Δt .

We now state the semi-discrete-in-time algorithm.

2.3.1 A semi-discrete-in-time algorithm

Algorithm 1

At time t^n , given $x^n(\cdot)$ and $u^n(\cdot)$, the semi-discrete algorithm is as follows.

At each time step

Algorithm 1

obtain $v^n(x)$ from (10) and hence $(\psi_x)^n$

calculate ρ from (5) and hence ρ^{n+1} from (23)

determine x^{n+1} from (20) and hence $x^{n+1}(\cdot)$ from (21)

deduce u^{n+1} from (24)

The algorithm is sign-preserving in x^n , u^n and ρ over a time step irrespective of Δt or the accuracy of v_x^n . It is conservative (as seen) by integration of (24) over the domain, inherits scale-invariance from the PDE problem, and propagates self-similar solutions over a time step to order Δt .

We now extend the algorithm to spatial approximation.

2.4 Spatial approximation

Suppose that at time level n the domain $(a^n; b^n)$ is discretised using mesh points

$$a^n = x_0^n < x_1^n < \dots < x_N^n = b^n$$

with corresponding nodal solutions u_i^n ($i = 0, \dots, N$) and mesh

Approximate relative masses b_k (kept constant over the time step) are found in each interval between points x_i^n and x_{i-1}^n from the trapezium rule

$$b_k = \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{1}{x_i^n} + \frac{1}{x_{i-1}^n} \right)$$

When applied in successive intervals away from an anchor point x_0 (needed for uniqueness), equation (28) yields all the x_i^{n+1} exactly. Since the signs of the x_k are preserved the x_i remain ordered in a time step.

Another way of calculating the nodes x_i from the intervals x_k with the same outcome as the recursive step (28) (one that we shall later generalise to 2-D) is to solve the set of equations

$$\frac{x_{i+1} - x_i}{x_{i+1} - x_{i-1}} = \frac{x_i - x_{i-1}}{x_i - x_{i-2}} \quad (29)$$

for all interior i (both sides equal to unity). Boundary conditions for (29) are either Neumann, imposed by setting the left or right hand side of (29) equal to unity, or Dirichlet, using node locations calculated from known boundary velocities. Equation (29) can be rewritten as the barycentric interpolant

$$x_i = \frac{(x_{i-1} - x_{i-2})^{-1} x_{i-1} + (x_{i+1} - x_{i+2})^{-1} x_{i+1}}{(x_{i-1} - x_{i-2})^{-1} + (x_{i+1} - x_{i+2})^{-1}} \quad (30)$$

for all interior i , its solution ensuring continuity when one of the x_{i-1} is vanishingly small. The averaged position x_i in (30) always lies between the midpoints of adjacent intervals so there can be no node overtaking.

Given $(v_x)_k^n$, equation (25) yields $(x_i)^{n+1}$, equation (23) gives x_i^{n+1} , and equations 28) or (30) lead to x_i^{n+1} . The moved solution $(u_i)^{n+1}$ is given either by equation (26) (with

2.4.3 Fully discrete 1-D algorithm

Algorithm 2

At each time step n , given x_i^n and u_i^n ,

obtain a discrete velocity v_i^n from a numerical approximation of (10) and deduce $(v_x)_k = (v)_k = (x)_k$

calculate ρ from (5) and hence ρ^{n+1} from equation (23)

and $(x_k)^{n+1}$ from (25) and hence x_i^{n+1} from (28)

determine $(u_k)^{n+1}$ from (26), then

(a) for problems in which u is given at one boundary only, assign u_k^{n+1} to u_i^{n+1} , working away from the boundary w2way ary condi1

2.5 1-D summary

Analytically, the method is sign-preserving in u_i and ϕ (therefore monotonicity-preserving in ϕ) for arbitrary v . It is conservative, inherits scale invariance, and propagates self-similar solutions exactly in time.

In the semi-discrete-in-time case the algorithm of section 2.3.1 is explicit, first-order-in-time, and sign-preserving in u_i , ϕ , and ϕ over a time step for arbitrary Δt and v . It is conservative, inherits scale-invariance, and propagates self-similar solutions over a time step to order Δt .

In the fully-discrete case the algorithm of section 2.4.3 is explicit, first-order-in-time, non-tangling in ϕ_i and sign-preserving in u_i over a time step for arbitrary Δt and v_x . The algorithm is conservative in the sense of (31) or (32), propagates a self-similar scaling solution to order Δt . The algorithm is conservative in a particular sense, inherits the scale invariance of the problem and propagates a self-similar scaling solution to order Δt . The algorithm is conservative in a particular sense, inherits the scale invariance of the problem and propagates a self-similar scaling solution to order Δt .

Computations confirm the predictions of the theory.

As with any time-stepping scheme, temporal accuracy is undermined for large Δt . However, even if Δt is large and v_i inaccurate, in a time step the u_i keeps the same sign and the ϕ_i remain ordered.

2.6 Oscillations

Although $(\phi)_k$ remains positive it is not necessarily monotonic and approximation errors may lead to spurious oscillations in ϕ_x (see (22)). By smoothing v_x we introduce extra numerical diffusion to counteract the oscillations at the expense of spatial accuracy.

The introduction of a Laplacian smoother,

$$\frac{1}{4} f(v_x)_{k+1} + 2(v_x)_k + (v_x)_{k-1} g$$

to $(v_x)_k$ suppresses sawtooth oscillations in $(\phi_x)_k$ and is equivalent to adding second order numerical diffusion. More than one application of the smoother may be required to render v_x monotonic and suppress the oscillations.

The positivity of the moved solution and the ordering of the mesh are unaffected by the smoothing.

3 The relative conservation method in 2-D

Suppose that the function $u(x; t)$ is a solution of the generic PDE

$$u_t = Lu; \quad (33)$$

in a moving domain $R(t)$, where L is a purely spatial operator, with given ux boundary conditions.

Define the total mass to be

$$M(t) = \int_{R(t)} u(x; t) dx \quad (34)$$

and introduce the relative density function

$$\bar{u}(x; t) = \frac{u(x; t)}{M(t)}$$

satisfying

$$\int_{R(t)} \bar{u}(x; t) dx = 1 \quad (35)$$

from (34). By the Reynolds Transport Theorem the rate of change of the total mass $M(t)$ is

$$\frac{dM}{dt} = \frac{d}{dt} \int_{R(t)} u(x; t) dx = \int_{R(t)} u_t dx + \int_{\partial R(t)} u \frac{dR}{dt} \cdot n dS \quad (36)$$

where $v(x; t)$ is the Eulerian velocity, in which ρ is given by (36) and $\rho(t)$ by its integral. Then, from equations (33), (38) and (34), the velocity satisfies the time-independent PDE

$$\operatorname{div}(\rho v) = -\frac{\rho}{\rho(t)} + L u$$

in $R(t)$.

For uniqueness put $v = \nabla \phi$, where $\phi(x; t)$ is a velocity potential satisfying the Poisson equation

$$\operatorname{div}(\rho \nabla \phi) = -\frac{\rho}{\rho(t)} + L u \quad (39)$$

For positive u equation (39) has a unique solution for $\phi(x; t)$ (and hence $v(x; t)$) under suitable Dirichlet or Neumann boundary conditions on $\partial R(t)$.

3.1 A reference space

Introduce a Lagrangian moving coordinate $\mathbf{x}(\mathbf{X}; t)$, where $\mathbf{X}$ is a fixed reference coordinate and $t = t$, such that

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{x}}{\partial t} = \mathbf{v}(\mathbf{x}; t) = \mathbf{v}(\mathbf{x}(\mathbf{X}; t); t) \quad (40)$$

Equation (40) cannot be differentiated in the same way as in (12) in 1-D since (11) is unidirectional, but we can obtain a multidimensional equivalent of (14).

The local Lagrangian conservation law (37) is expressed in terms of $\mathbf{x}$ and $\mathbf{X}$ as

$$\frac{1}{\rho(t)} \rho(\mathbf{x}(\mathbf{X}; t)) J(\mathbf{x}(\mathbf{X}; t)) = \rho(\mathbf{X}); \text{ independent of } t \quad (41)$$

where $J(\mathbf{x}(\mathbf{X}; t))$ is the Jacobian of the transformation generated by (40), thus generalising (14). Given a function $\phi(\mathbf{x}; t)$ at any time t , equation (41) leads to a Monge-Ampere equation for a function $\phi(\mathbf{X}; t)$, using a different potential function [13].

In spite of the difficulties with generalisation of (40) and (41), if we specify

3.2 Spatial approximation in 2-D

Let the time variable be discretised as $t = n \Delta t$, $n = 0; 1; 2; \dots$, where Δt is the time step, and define

$$\mathbf{x}_i^n = \mathbf{x}(\mathbf{x}_i; t^n); \quad \mathbf{u}_i^n = \mathbf{u}(\mathbf{x}_i; t^n); \quad \mathbf{v}_i^n = \mathbf{v}(\mathbf{x}_i; t^n)$$

In the conservation-based scheme of [1, 4, 16] the moving coordinate $\mathbf{x}_i$ is advanced in time from equation (40) using the first-order-accurate explicit Euler scheme. Although the nodes are moved in the correct direction to first order in time there is then no control over mesh tangling or positivity of the solution and the scheme may break down for required time steps. Instead, in this paper we use the explicit sign-preserving exponential scheme of section 2 which is sign-preserving and prevents node tangling in 1-D for any time step. There are two ways of doing this on a 2-D simplex, either through edge lengths or triangle areas.

3.3 Spatial discretisation on a 2-D simplex

Consider a 2-D simplex consisting of non-overlapping triangles of area $A_k(\mathbf{x})$, ($k = 1; \dots; K$) and moving nodes $\mathbf{x}_i(\mathbf{x})$ with corresponding moved solution values $u_i(\mathbf{x})$, ($i = 1; \dots; N$).

We begin by deriving a finite volume approximation to the velocity potential $\phi_i(\mathbf{x})$ at the nodes of the simplex from (39) in the case where $Lu = r\phi + g$ where r is a flux function and g is a source term.

3.3.1 Approximating the velocity potential

Assuming that Lu takes the form $r\phi + g$ where r is a flux function and g is a source term, in a finite volume approach by integrating (39) over the boundary of a patch of triangles $\mathcal{V}_i$ surrounding node i ,

$$\oint_{\partial \mathcal{V}_i} r(\mathbf{u}(\mathbf{x})) \cdot \mathbf{n}(\mathbf{x}) d\mathbf{x} = \int_{\mathcal{V}_i} g + \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \phi d\mathbf{x} \quad (42)$$

Using the divergence theorem equation (42) can be approximated by

$$\sum_{e_{ij}} \left(\mathbf{u}_m \cdot \frac{(\mathbf{x}_j - \mathbf{x}_i)}{s_{ij}} \right) f_n = \int_{\mathcal{V}_i} g + \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \phi d\mathbf{x} \quad (43)$$

3.3.4 Moving the nodes

In order to combat mesh tangling, instead of moving the nodes by the nodal velocities (46) directly, we update local edge lengths or triangle areas using their rates of change, enabling implementation of the sign-preserving properties of the explicit exponential time-stepping scheme seen in section 2.

Edge-length velocities

Consider an edge e of the simplex having a coordinate s measured along the edge, and denote by $(\cdot)$ the difference in the argument along the edge (so that l_e is the length of the edge).

At each end of the edge denote v_e to be the component of the velocity at an end of the edge in the direction of the edge coordinate s , and let Δv_e be the difference between the two v_e 's at the endpoints of the edge.

Then the explicit exponential time-stepping scheme for updating the edge length l_e is

$$(l_e)^{n+1} = (l_e)^n \exp(\Delta v_e l_e g^n); \quad (47)$$

which preserves the sign of the edge length l_e over a time step irrespective of Δv_e or $V_e = \Delta v_e$ (and therefore that of g).

Since all the edge lengths remain of edge v

Boundary nodes

Boundary nodes are treated either as Dirichlet conditions by moving the nodes with the known boundary velocities $\mathbf{v}_i$ of (46), or as Neumann conditions by applying modified forms of (51) or (52), as follows. In the case of edges, the boundary node equation (51) is modified to

$$\sum_{j=1}^{J_b} \frac{\mathbf{x}_m - \mathbf{x}_b}{s_{bj}} = \sum_{j=1}^{J_b} \mathbf{e}_j$$

where J_b is the number of edges emanating from boundary node b and $\mathbf{e}_j$ is the unit vector from $\mathbf{x}_b$ to $\mathbf{x}_m$, while in the case of areas the boundary node

3.4 Finding the moved solution

Having obtained locations of the nodes at timeⁿ⁺¹, the moved solution u^{n+1} at these nodes is found from approximations to the Lagrangian conservation law (41), as follows.

From edges:

An approximate form of the Lagrangian conservation law (6) along an edge is

$$\frac{1}{n+1}(u_m - s_e)^{n+1} = u_e = \frac{1}{n}(u_m - s_e)^n \quad (55)$$

where m is the midpoint of the edge and u_e is time-independent, leading to

$$(u_m)^{n+1} = \frac{n+1}{n} \frac{(u_m - s_e)^n}{(u_m - s_e)^{n+1}} u_m \quad (56)$$

where s_e^{n+1} is given by (50). The moved solution u_i^{n+1} at the node x_i is then the barycentric interpolant

$$u_i^{n+1} = \frac{\sum_{j=1}^{J_i} ((s_j)^{n+1})^{-1} u_m^{n+1}}{\sum_{j=1}^{J_i} ((s_j)^{n+1})^{-1}} \quad (57)$$

of the u_m^{n+1} over those edges containing node x_i

of the u_g^{n+1} over triangles containing node x_i , (cf. (29)), preserving the sign of u_i^{n+1} and ensuring continuity of the u_i^{n+1} when one of the A_k^{n+1} is vanishingly small.

3.5 Fully discrete 2-D algorithms

The 2-D algorithm for the solution of the PDE problem with prescribed ux boundary conditions on a simplex is as follows.

Algorithm 3

At each time step:

1. Determine the velocity potential at the nodes from (43) and the nodal velocities from (44) and (46),
2. advance the edge-lengths or triangle-areas A in time from (47) or (49), preserving their sign, and construct the nodes from (51) or (52),
3. calculate u^{n+1} from (50),
4. evaluate u_e or u_k from the right hand side of (55) or (58) and retrieve the solution on the moved mesh using (56) and (57) or (59) and (60).

Note that, due to the calculation of the nodes, the u_e or u_k , although held constant over a time step, are recalculated at the beginning of each step.

The algorithm is non-tangling in x_i and positivity-preserving in u_i , irrespective of t or the accuracy of r^2 . It is also conservative in the sense that, for edge lengths from (55),

$$\sum_j u_m S_e$$

over all edges is constant over a time step, or for triangle areas, from (58),

$$\sum_k u_g A_k$$

over all areas is constant over a time step.

exhibiting the properties of exact propagation of scaling invariance and self-similarity. We then introduced discretisation in time, superseding the standard explicit Euler scheme by an explicit exponential time stepping scheme that preserves the monotonicity of the mesh and the sign of the solution, as well as keeping scale invariance and propagating self-similarity to first order

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