

## 5. Energetically Constant Finite Difference Schemes

### 5.1 Nonlinear Stability

Inverted nonlinear equation may become unstable even if the linear stability inversion is not violated. After some time, "variance" (or noise) will appear on small scales, will grow slowly and eventually grow exponentially. In a linear problem, no Fourier modes can interact with the other. One expects the modes to interact when nonlinearity is included → creation of variance. Since a uniform grid can only have wave numbers  $k \in [0, \frac{2\pi}{2\Delta x}]$  if any nonlinear interaction creates variance in scales  $k > \frac{2\pi}{2\Delta x}$ , the grid cannot resolve this energy and it will be folded into some other wavenumbers (accumulation of small scales energy). The feedback through aliasing explains how nonlinear instability can develop if energy is gradually gathered. In numerical models, it is therefore important to damp out the small space scales to control nonlinear instabilities. This is done by getting rid of the accumulation of energy in the small scales with an explicit viscosity (Leap-Boharmonic) or with a dissipation finite difference method.

### 5.2 Energy Method

So far we have investigated the numerical stability of linear equations primarily by using the Fourier method. In the presence of non-linear terms, to reduce the presence of non-linear terms, the so-called "energy method" is a powerful tool. This method may or may not have anything to do with physical forms of energy. It provides a sufficient condition for stability and is applicable to nonlinear equations.

If the true solution is known to be bounded, then the finite-difference solution should also be examined for boundaries. In other words, are quantities that are conserved by the differential equations conserved by the FD equations?

#### a) Burger Equation

Let's first consider the simple case of the Burger equation ( $\frac{\partial \mu}{\partial t} = \mu \frac{\partial \mu}{\partial x}$ )

$$1) \frac{\partial \mu}{\partial t} = -\mu \frac{\partial \mu}{\partial x}$$

$$2) \frac{\partial (\frac{\mu^2}{2})}{\partial t} = -\mu^2 \frac{\partial \mu}{\partial x} = -\frac{1}{3} \frac{\partial \mu^3}{\partial x}$$

Integration with respect to x gives:

$$\int_0^L \frac{\partial (\frac{\mu^2}{2})}{\partial t} dx = -\frac{1}{3} (\mu_L^3 - \mu_0^3)$$

which implies conservation of the kinetic energy if  $U_0 = U_L = 0$  (zero flux at the boundaries)

If the interval  $[0, L]$  is discretized in N regards to  $\Delta x$ , then the RMS of (3) can be rewritten as :

$$-\frac{1}{3} [(U_1^2 - U_0^3) + (U_2^3 - U_1^3) + \dots [U_L^3 - U_{n-1}^3]]$$

The integral is approximated by a sum with all neighbors canceling. Lets now examine several finite difference approximations.

\*centered in space

$$\frac{\partial \mu_j}{\partial t} = -\mu_f \frac{(\mu_{fH} - U_{f-1})}{2\Delta x}$$

Multiplying by  $\mu_f$  and forming the sum (integral)

$$\int_0^L \frac{\partial \mu^2}{\partial t} dx = -\frac{1}{2} \sum_{f=1}^{n-1} (\mu_f^2 \mu_{f+1} - U_j^2 U_{j-1}) \leftarrow \text{This does not cancel and the}$$

scheme does not conserve energy.

Flex difference form

$$\frac{\partial \mu_j}{\partial t} = -\frac{\partial \mu_j^2}{\partial x} = -\frac{(\mu_{f+1}^2 - U_{f-1}^2)}{4\Delta x}$$

$$\int_0^L \frac{\partial \mu^2}{\partial t} dx = -\frac{1}{4} \sum_{f=1}^{n-1} (\mu_{f+1}^2 U_f - U_{f-1}^2 \mu_f) \leftarrow \text{does not cancel}$$

Conserving scheme

$$\frac{\partial \mu_j}{\partial t} = -\frac{(\mu_{f+1} + U_f + U_{f-1})(\mu_{f+1} - U_{f-1})}{6\Delta x}$$

$$\int_0^L \frac{\partial \mu^2}{\partial t} dx = -\frac{1}{6} \sum_{f=1}^{n-1} (U_f^2 \mu_{f+1} + U_f U_{f-1}^2) - (U_{f-1}^2 U_f + U_{f-1} U_f^2)$$

which cancel.

This scheme is too simple for more complex systems.

b) Two-dimensional nonlinear advection\* equation

$$\boxed{\frac{\partial \alpha}{\partial t} = -\vec{v} \cdot \nabla \alpha = -\mu \frac{\partial \alpha}{\partial x} - v \frac{\partial \alpha}{\partial y}}$$

\*  $\alpha$  is a scalar which may depend on  $\mu, v$

(4) can be rewritten as:

$$(5) \quad \boxed{\frac{\partial \alpha}{\partial t} = -\nabla \cdot (\alpha \vec{v}) + \alpha \nabla \cdot \vec{v}}$$

For non divergent flow, the area average  $\bar{\alpha}$  remains constant provided the spatial integration is done over a closed domain  $e$ . Under the same circumstances, any power of  $\alpha$  is also conserved and in particular  $\bar{\alpha}^2$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \left( \frac{\alpha^2}{2} \right) &= \alpha (-\nabla \cdot (\alpha \vec{v}) + \alpha \nabla \cdot \vec{v}) \\ &= -\nabla \cdot (\alpha^2 \vec{v}) + \vec{v} \cdot \nabla \frac{\alpha^2}{2} + \alpha \nabla \cdot \vec{v} \\ &= -\nabla \cdot (\alpha^2 \vec{v}) + \nabla \cdot \left( \frac{\alpha^2}{2} \vec{v} \right) - \frac{\alpha^2}{2} \nabla \cdot \vec{v} + \alpha^2 \nabla \cdot \vec{v} \end{aligned}$$

$$(6) = -\nabla \cdot \left( \frac{\alpha^2}{2} \vec{v} \right) + \frac{\alpha^2}{2} \nabla \cdot \vec{v} \leftarrow = 0$$

We then are trying to achieve the same with the finite-difference expression of (5)

Definition:

$$\delta_x a = \frac{a(x + \frac{\Delta x}{2}) - a(x - \frac{\Delta x}{2})}{\Delta x}$$

$$\bar{a}^x = \frac{a(x + \frac{\Delta x}{2}) + a(x - \frac{\Delta x}{2})}{2}$$

$$\delta_x(\bar{a}^x) = (\overline{\delta_x a})^x \text{ commulative*}$$

$$\bar{a}^x \delta_x b = \delta_x(ab) - \bar{b}^x \delta_x a$$

$$a \delta_x b = \delta_x(\bar{a}^x b) - \bar{b} \delta_x a$$

$$\rightarrow \bar{a}^x \delta_x a = \delta_x \frac{a^2}{2}$$

$$\rightarrow a \delta_x \bar{a}^x = \delta_x \frac{a^2}{2}$$

where  $\bar{a}^{2x} = a(x + \frac{\Delta x}{2}) \cdot a(x - \frac{\Delta x}{2})$

$$\bar{a} \bar{b} = \bar{a}^x + \bar{b}^x + \left( \frac{\Delta x}{2} \delta_x a \right) \left( \frac{\Delta x}{2} \delta_x b \right)$$

$$\bar{a}^x \bar{b}^x = \bar{a} \bar{b} + \delta_x \left( \frac{\Delta x^2}{4} b \delta_x a \right)$$

The following finite difference operator can be shown as "quadratic-conservative," i.w. that it leads to a FD conservation equation analog to (6)  $\mu, v, \alpha$  are defined at the same grid functions.

$$(7) \quad \boxed{\nabla \cdot (\alpha \vec{v}) = \delta_x(\bar{\alpha}^x \bar{\mu}^x) + \delta_y(\bar{\alpha}^y \bar{v}^y)}$$