

a matching variable such as t in eq ①, it is conventional in CFD to denote the running index for this matching variable by n & to display this index as a superscript in a finite difference quotient.

Let us replace time derivative with a forward difference as given below.

$$\left(\frac{\partial T}{\partial t}\right)_i^n = \frac{T_i^{n+1} - T_i^n}{\Delta t} - \left(\frac{\partial^2 T}{\partial t^2}\right)_i^n \frac{\Delta t}{2} + \dots \rightarrow \textcircled{2}$$

Also let us replace the x -derivative with a central difference patterned as below.

$$\left(\frac{\partial^2 T}{\partial x^2}\right)_i^n = \frac{T_{i+1}^n - 2T_i^n + T_{i-1}^n}{(\Delta x)^2} - \left(\frac{\partial^4 T}{\partial x^4}\right)_i^n \frac{(\Delta x)^2}{12} \rightarrow \textcircled{3}$$

Eq ① can be re-written as

$$\frac{\partial T}{\partial t} - \alpha \frac{\partial^2 T}{\partial x^2} = 0 \rightarrow \textcircled{4}$$

Substituting eq ② & eq ③ into eq ④

$$\underbrace{\frac{\partial T}{\partial t} - \alpha \frac{\partial^2 T}{\partial x^2}}_{\text{Partial Differentiation eqs}} = 0 = \left[\frac{T_i^{n+1} - T_i^n}{\Delta t} - \alpha \frac{(T_{i+1}^n - 2T_i^n + T_{i-1}^n)}{(\Delta x)^2} \right]$$

Difference equations.

$$+ \left[-\left(\frac{\partial^2 T}{\partial t^2}\right)_i^n \frac{\Delta t}{2} + \alpha \left(\frac{\partial^4 T}{\partial x^4}\right)_i^n \frac{(\Delta x)^2}{12} + \dots \right] \rightarrow \textcircled{5}$$

Truncation error

$$\frac{T_i^{n+1} - T_i^n}{\Delta t} = \alpha \frac{(T_{i+1}^n - 2T_i^n + T_{i-1}^n)}{(\Delta x)^2} \rightarrow \textcircled{6}$$

In eq. (5), the L.H.S is original P.D., first two terms on RHS are finite difference representation. & next 3rd & 4th terms in flower bracket are truncation terms.

Eq. 6 is difference eq^o which represents original P.D expressed by eq. (1), since each of finite difference quotients used have their own error (truncation), the final form of the equation (difference) has its own truncation error synthesised from error of each finite difference. Truncation error for Finite difference is $O[(\Delta t), (\Delta x)^2]$.

Difference eq^o is an algebraic eq. which when written at all grid points in a domain sketched in fig 4-3 yields a simultaneous system of algebraic eqs, which upon solving numerically yields dependent variable at each grid points.

The only hope numerical results are similar in comparison to analytical solution is by having values of $\Delta x \rightarrow 0, \Delta t \rightarrow 0$ as they approach zero, difference eqs approach to original differential eqs.

The numerical soln is approx representation of analytical soln from PD's if difference eqs are consistent numerical algorithms used to solve finite difference are stable & B.C's are handled properly.