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function [qT,qr] = advect_FEMsolve(x,c,dt,q0,q1)

%      dq/dt + c(x)*dq/dx = 0, 0<x<1, 0<t
%      q(x(1:nx),0) = q0(x),
%      q(0,t) = q1(t)

nt = length(q1)-1; % Number of timesteps to take
nx = length(x) - 1; % Number of unknowns
dx = diff(x)'; % Turns dx into a column vector,

% We set up the FEM in matrix notation for simplicity:
%
%      I*(q(:,n+1)-q(:,n))/dt + 0.5*J*(q(:,n+1)+q(:,n))= r10 (j=1)
%                                          0      (j>1)
%
% Here I(j,n)=<phij(x),phin(x)>, J(j,n) = <phij(x),c*dphin(x)/dx>
% where j,n = 1,...,N. The right hand side comes from left BC:
% r10 = -I(1,0)*(q0(n+1)-q0(n))/dt - 0.5*J(1,0)*(q0(n+1)+q0(n));

Ijjm1 = dx/6;
Ijjp1 = [Ijjm1(2:nx); 0]; % Last entry handles right bdry j=nx,
Ijj = 2*(Ijjm1 + Ijjp1);
I = (spdiags([Ijjp1 Ijj Ijjm1],[-1:1,nx,nx]))'; % Specify diags of I
% to start on row 1.

cjm1 = c(1:nx); % Note c(j+1) corresponds to index j
cj = c(2:nx+1);
cjp1 = [c(3:nx+1) NaN];

Jjjm1 = -(cjm1/6 + cj/3)';
Jjjp1 = (cj/3 + cjp1/6)'; % Note J_nx,nx+1 is not used
Jjjp1(nx) = 0; % Takes care of right boundary
Jjj = -(Jjjm1 + Jjjp1);
e = ones(nx,1);
J = (spdiags([Jjjp1 Jjj Jjjm1],[-1:1,nx,nx]))'; % ...as for I

M = I/dt + 0.5*J;

I10 = Ijjm1(1);
J10 = Jjjm1(1);

% Timestepping loop

q = q0; % Initial condition

for np1 = 1:nt
    tnp1 = np1*dt;
    rhs = (I/dt - 0.5*J)*q;
    r10 = -I10*(q1(np1+1)-q1(np1))/dt -
0.5*J10*(q1(np1)+q1(np1+1)); % left BC
    rhs(1) = rhs(1)+ r10;

    q = M\rhs; % Update q to new time level
    qr(np1+1) = q(nx); % Store q at right boundary
end

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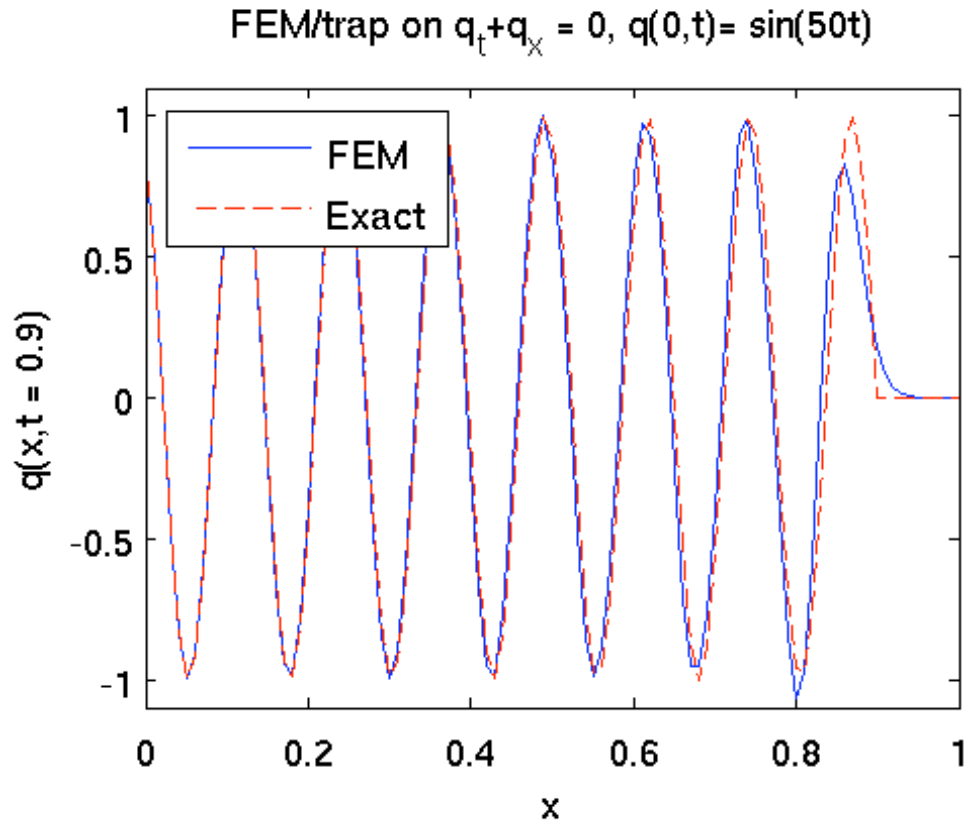
% advect_FEM.m: Driver for advect_FEM_solve for
%       $q(x,0) = 0, q(0,t) = \sin(50*t)$ .
% on uniform grid with  $dx = 1/nx$ . Solution plotted at  $T=0.9$ .

c = 1; % Uniform advection speed
nx = 100;
mu = 0.5; % Courant number
T = 0.9;
L = 1; % Domain size

dx = L/nx;
dt = mu*dx;
nt = round(T/dt);
t = dt*(0:nt);
x = dx*(0:nx);
q0 = zeros(nx,1); % Zero initial condition (as column vector)
ql = sin(50*t); % Left BC

[q,qr] = advect_FEMsolve(x,c,dt,q0,ql);

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Spatial truncation error analysis for uniform grid spacing Δx

We can evaluate the local truncation error at each nodal point x_j as with a FDA, plugging the exact solution $\psi(x, t)$ into (*), noting $a_j = \psi(x_j, t) \equiv \psi_j(t)$, and Taylor-expanding:

$$\begin{aligned} LTE_j &= \frac{d}{dt} \left(\frac{\psi_{j+1} + 4\psi_j + \psi_{j-1}}{6} \right) + c \left(\frac{\psi_{j+1} - \psi_{j-1}}{2\Delta x} \right) \\ &= \frac{d}{dt} \left(\frac{6\psi_j + 2\frac{\Delta x^2}{2}\psi_{jxx} + 2\frac{\Delta x^4}{24}\psi_{jxxxx} \dots}{6} \right) \\ &\quad + c \left(\frac{2\Delta x \psi_{jx} + 2\frac{\Delta x^3}{6}\psi_{jxxx} + 2\frac{\Delta x^5}{120}\psi_{jxxxxx} \dots}{2\Delta x} \right) \\ &= \left(\psi_j + \frac{\Delta x^2}{6}\psi_{jxx} + \frac{\Delta x^4}{12}\psi_{jxxxx} \dots \right)_t \\ &\quad + c \left(\psi_{jx} + \frac{\Delta x^2}{6}\psi_{jxxx} + \frac{\Delta x^4}{120}\psi_{jxxxxx} \dots \right) = O(\Delta x^4) \end{aligned}$$

$\Rightarrow 4^{\text{th}}$ order spatial accuracy at nodes! (but only Δx^2 between nodes, ^{and hence in L^2 norm} due to linear interpolation inherent in basis functions). Can be interpreted as equivalent to "compact differencing", i.e.

$$\frac{1}{6} \left(\left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \right)_{j-1} + 4 \left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \right)_j + \left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \right)_{j+1} \right) = \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \bigg|_j + O(\Delta x^4),$$

$\left(\frac{f_{j+1} - f_{j-1}}{2\Delta x} \right)$

giving a way to find $\left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \right)_j$ to $O(\Delta x^4)$ accuracy using just standard centered differences using an implicit formula.

Von Neumann analysis of FEM space differencing (uniform Δx)

Look for growth rate σ of Fourier mode $\phi(x, t) = \exp(ikx + \sigma t)$:

$$\begin{aligned} \sigma \left\{ \frac{e^{ik\Delta x} + 4 + e^{-ik\Delta x}}{6} \right\} + c \left\{ \frac{e^{ik\Delta x} - e^{-ik\Delta x}}{2\Delta x} \right\} &= 0 \\ \sigma = -i\omega, \omega = ckF(k\Delta x), \quad F(\kappa) = \frac{3\sin(\kappa)}{\kappa[2 + \cos(\kappa)]} &= 1 - \frac{\kappa^4}{180} + O(\kappa^6). \end{aligned}$$

For a given Δx , $\omega_{\max} = \max_k \omega = \frac{c}{\Delta x} \max_k \kappa F(\kappa) = \frac{c}{\Delta x} 3^{-1/2}$ (max at $\kappa = 2\pi/3$). If FEM is used with a timestepping method with stability limit $\omega_{\max} \Delta t = s_{\max}$ then the CFL-like stability condition is

$$\mu = c\Delta t/\Delta x < 3^{-1/2} s_{\max}$$

(i.e. $3^{-1/2} \approx 0.58$ for leapfrog, $2.82(3^{-1/2}) \approx 1.63$ for RK4., etc.)