

# Finite Volume Methods for Hyperbolic Problems

## Fractional Step Methods

- Dimensional splitting (Chapter 19)
- Fractional steps for source terms (Chapter 17)
- Godunov and Strang splitting
- Cross-derivatives in 2D hyperbolic problems
- Upwind splitting of  $ABq_{yx}$  and  $BAq_{xy}$

# Fractional steps for source terms

Conservation law with source term (balance law):

$$q_t(x, t) + f(q(x, t))_x = \psi(q(x, t))$$

$\psi$  could depend on  $(x, t)$  explicitly too.

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Fractional step (time splitting) method:

To advance full solution by  $\Delta t$ , alternate between:

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Source term in Clawpack: Provide `src1.f90` in 1d  
or `src2.f90` in 2d that advances  $Q$  in each cell by time  $\Delta t$ .

Set `clawdata.src_split = 1` (or = 2 for Strang splitting)

# Dimensional Splitting

Hyperbolic system in 2d:  $q_t + Aq_x + Bq_y = 0$

Use Cartesian grid and alternate between:

$$x\text{-sweeps} : q_t + Aq_x = 0$$

$$y\text{-sweeps} : q_t + Bq_y = 0.$$

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Alternative: Unsplit methods.

# Fractional step method for a linear PDE

$$q_t = (\mathcal{A} + \mathcal{B})q \quad \text{dimensional splitting: } \mathcal{A} = A\partial_x, \quad \mathcal{B} = B\partial_y.$$

Then

$$q_{tt} = (\mathcal{A} + \mathcal{B})q_t = (\mathcal{A} + \mathcal{B})^2 q,$$

and so

$$\begin{aligned} q(x, \Delta t) &= q(x, 0) + \Delta t(\mathcal{A} + \mathcal{B})q(x, 0) + \frac{1}{2}\Delta t^2(\mathcal{A} + \mathcal{B})^2 q(x, 0) + \dots \\ &= \left( I + \Delta t(\mathcal{A} + \mathcal{B}) + \frac{1}{2}\Delta t^2(\mathcal{A} + \mathcal{B})^2 + \dots \right) q(x, 0) \end{aligned}$$

**Solution operator:**  $q(x, \Delta t) = e^{\Delta t(\mathcal{A} + \mathcal{B})} q(x, 0).$



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**Solution operator:**  $q(x, \Delta t) = e^{\Delta t(\mathcal{A} + \mathcal{B})} q(x, 0)$ .

With the fractional step method, we instead compute

$$q^*(x, \Delta t) = e^{\Delta t \mathcal{A}} q(x, 0),$$

and then

$$q^{**}(x, \Delta t) = e^{\Delta t \mathcal{B}} q^*(x, \Delta t) = e^{\Delta t \mathcal{B}} e^{\Delta t \mathcal{A}} q(x, 0).$$

# Splitting error

$$q(x, \Delta t) - q^{**}(x, \Delta t) = \left( e^{\Delta t(\mathcal{A}+\mathcal{B})} - e^{\Delta t\mathcal{B}}e^{\Delta t\mathcal{A}} \right) q(x, 0)$$

Combining 2 steps gives:

$$\begin{aligned} q^{**}(x, \Delta t) &= \left( I + \Delta t\mathcal{B} + \frac{1}{2}\Delta t^2\mathcal{B}^2 + \dots \right) \left( I + \Delta t\mathcal{A} + \frac{1}{2}\Delta t^2\mathcal{A}^2 + \dots \right) q(x, 0) \\ &= \left( I + \Delta t(\mathcal{A} + \mathcal{B}) + \frac{1}{2}\Delta t^2(\mathcal{A}^2 + 2\mathcal{B}\mathcal{A} + \mathcal{B}^2) + \dots \right) q(x, 0). \end{aligned}$$

In true solution operator,

$$\begin{aligned} (\mathcal{A} + \mathcal{B})^2 &= (\mathcal{A} + \mathcal{B})(\mathcal{A} + \mathcal{B}) \\ &= \mathcal{A}^2 + \mathcal{A}\mathcal{B} + \mathcal{B}\mathcal{A} + \mathcal{B}^2. \end{aligned}$$

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No splitting error for **constant coefficient** advection:

$$\mathcal{A} = u\partial_x, \quad \mathcal{B} = v\partial_y \quad \mathcal{A}\mathcal{B}q = \mathcal{B}\mathcal{A}q = uvq_{xy}$$

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$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{A}\mathcal{B}q &= u(x, y)\partial_x(v(x, y)\partial_y q) = uvq_{xy} + uv_xq_y, \\ \mathcal{B}\mathcal{A}q &= v(x, y)\partial_y(u(x, y)\partial_x q) = vuq_{xy} + vu_yq_x.\end{aligned}$$

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There is a splitting error for acoustics since  $\mathcal{A}\mathcal{B}q_{xy} \neq \mathcal{B}\mathcal{A}q_{xy}$ .

# Commuting operators

Note that if  $A$  and  $B$  are **simultaneously diagonalizable**,

$$A = R\Lambda R^{-1}, \quad B = RMR^{-1},$$

then

$$AB = R\Lambda MR^{-1} = RM\Lambda R^{-1} = BA$$

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**So matrices arising from isotropic PDEs do not commute.**

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# Strang splitting

Advance the PDE by time step  $\Delta t$  by...

- Time step  $\Delta t/2$  on A-problem,
- Time step  $\Delta t$  on B-problem,
- Time step  $\Delta t/2$  on A-problem.

Formally second order if each solution method is.

$$\left( e^{\Delta t(\mathcal{A}+\mathcal{B})} - e^{\frac{1}{2}\Delta t\mathcal{A}} e^{\Delta t\mathcal{B}} e^{\frac{1}{2}\Delta t\mathcal{A}} \right) q(x, 0) = O(\Delta t^3).$$

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$$\left( e^{\Delta t(A+B)} - e^{\frac{1}{2}\Delta t A} e^{\Delta t B} e^{\frac{1}{2}\Delta t A} \right) q(x, 0) = O(\Delta t^3).$$

In practice often little difference from “first order Godunov splitting” since after  $N$  steps,

$$q^N = e^{\frac{1}{2}\Delta t A} e^{\Delta t B} e^{\frac{1}{2}\Delta t A} e^{\frac{1}{2}\Delta t A} e^{\Delta t B} e^{\frac{1}{2}\Delta t A} e^{\frac{1}{2}\Delta t A} e^{\Delta t B} e^{\frac{1}{2}\Delta t A} \dots \\ e^{\frac{1}{2}\Delta t A} e^{\Delta t B} e^{\frac{1}{2}\Delta t A} e^{\frac{1}{2}\Delta t A} e^{\Delta t B} e^{\frac{1}{2}\Delta t A} q^0$$

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## Example of splitting error for source term

Advection-reaction equation:  $q_t + uq_x = -\beta(x)q$

Then

$$\frac{d}{dt}q(X(t), t) = -\beta(X(t))q(X(t), t) \quad (\text{exponential decay})$$

along characteristic  $X(t) = x_0 + ut$ .

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**Splitting:** Take  $\mathcal{A} = -u\partial_x$  and  $\mathcal{B} = -\beta(x)$ .

Then:

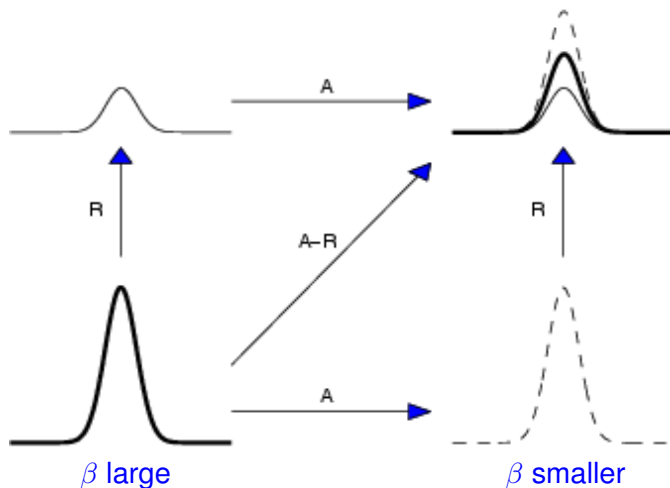
$$\mathcal{A}\mathcal{B}q = u\partial_x(\beta(x)q) = u\beta(x)q_x + u\beta'(x)q$$

$$\mathcal{B}\mathcal{A}q = \beta(x)uq_x$$

Splitting error unless  $\beta(x) = \text{constant}$

# Splitting error in advection-reaction (decay)

$$q_t + uq_x = -\beta(x)q \quad \text{with } \beta(x) \text{ decreasing as } x \text{ increases}$$





## Taylor series in 2d for dimensional splitting

Consider  $q_t + Aq_x + Bq_y = 0$ .

$$q_{tt} = -Aq_{tx} - Bq_{ty} = A^2q_{xx} + ABq_{yx} + BAq_{xy} + B^2q_{yy}$$

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$$\begin{aligned}q(x, y, t + \Delta t) &= q + \Delta t q_t + \frac{1}{2}\Delta t^2 q_{tt} + \dots \\ &= q - \Delta t(Aq_x + Bq_y) \\ &\quad + \frac{1}{2}\Delta t^2 [A^2q_{xx} + ABq_{yx} + BAq_{xy} + B^2q_{yy}] + \dots\end{aligned}$$

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## Dimensional splitting of upwind on $q_t + Aq_x + Bq_y = 0$

$$Q_{ij}^* = Q_{ij}^n - \frac{\Delta t}{\Delta x} [B^+(Q_{ij}^n - Q_{i,j-1}^n) + B^-(Q_{i,j+1}^n - Q_{ij}^n)]$$

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Consider one term, e.g. the one in blue above

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\Delta t}{\Delta x} A^+(Q_{ij}^* - Q_{i-1,j}^*) &= \frac{\Delta t}{\Delta x} A^+ \left[ Q_{ij}^n - \frac{\Delta t}{\Delta x} (B^+(Q_{ij}^n - Q_{i,j-1}^n) + B^-(Q_{i,j+1}^n - Q_{ij}^n)) \right] \\ &\quad - A^+ \left[ Q_{i-1,j}^n - \frac{\Delta t}{\Delta x} (B^+(Q_{i-1,j}^n - Q_{i-1,j-1}^n) + B^-(Q_{i-1,j+1}^n - Q_{i-1,j}^n)) \right] \end{aligned}$$

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Includes, e.g.:

$$\left(\frac{\Delta t}{\Delta x}\right)^2 A^+ B^- (Q_{i,j+1}^n - Q_{ij}^n - Q_{i-1,j+1}^n + Q_{i-1,j}^n) \approx \frac{\Delta t^2 \Delta y}{\Delta x \Delta y} A^+ B^- q_{xy}(x_i, y_j)$$

# Upwind splitting of matrix product

In 1D, the upwind method is

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**Scalar advection:** only one term is nonzero in each product,

$$\text{e.g. } u > 0, v < 0 \implies uv = vu = u^+v^-$$