

EEN-E2001 Computational Fluid Dynamics

# Lecture 1: Partial Differential Equations and Finite Difference Method

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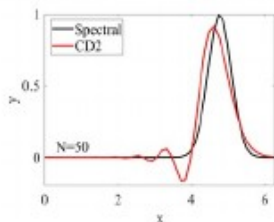
Aalto University, School of Engineering

**Lecture 1:** Linear PDEs and finite difference method

HW1

$$\frac{\partial T}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot T \mathbf{u} = \alpha \nabla^2 T$$

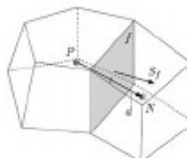
$$\frac{\partial T}{\partial x} \approx \frac{T_{i+1} - T_{i-1}}{2\Delta x}$$



**Lecture 2:** Gauss' theorem and finite volume method

$$\int_{\Omega} \nabla \cdot (T \mathbf{u}) d\Omega = \int_{\partial\Omega} (T \mathbf{u}) \cdot \mathbf{n} dS$$

$$\int_{\partial\Omega} \mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{n} dS \approx \sum_f \mathbf{u}_f \cdot \mathbf{n}_f dS_f$$

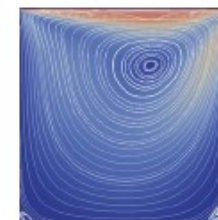


**Lecture 3:** Navier-Stokes equation and pressure

HW2

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{u}}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot \mathbf{u} \mathbf{u} = -\nabla p + \nu \nabla^2 \mathbf{u}$$

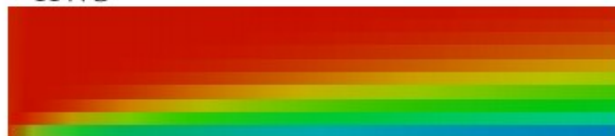
$$-\nabla^2 p = \nabla \cdot \nabla \cdot \mathbf{u} \mathbf{u}$$



**Lecture 4:** OpenFOAM code and structure

HW3

```
fvVectorMatrix UEqn
(
    fvm::ddt(U)
    + fvm::div(phi, U)
    - fvm::laplacian(nu, U)
);
```



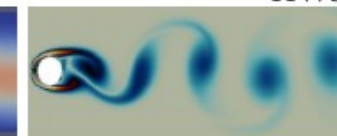
**Lecture 5:** Fluid physical phenomena: (laminar and turbulent flow)

HW4



**Lecture 6:** Matrix equations  $Ax=b$  and final assignment

HW5



CFD simulation and PDE solution includes at least the following aspects covered on the course

- 1) **Physics** identification. System length and timescales.
- 2) **Mathematical equations and physics interpretation** boundary/initial conditions.
- 3) **Objectives, feasibility, and time-constraints.**
- 4) **Numerical method and modeling assumptions.**
- 5) **Geometry and mesh generation.**
- 6) **Computing** i.e. running simulation.
- 7) **Visualization and post-processing.**
- 8) **Validation and verification, reference data.** Reporting, analysis and discussion of the results. Are the results sane?

# Background

# CFD at Aalto/ENG

## Computational fluid dynamics team at Aalto University/ENG, Finland

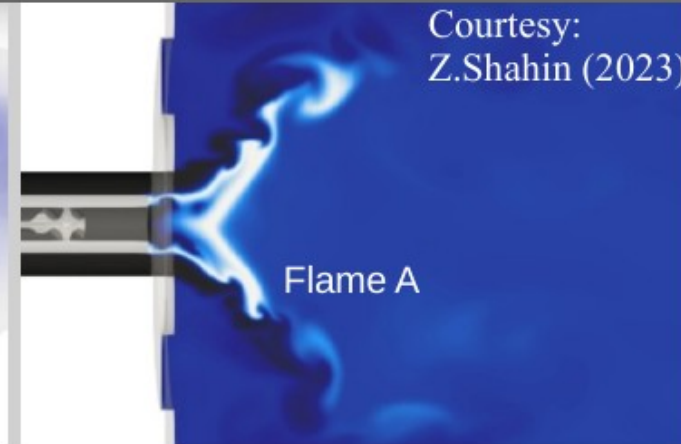
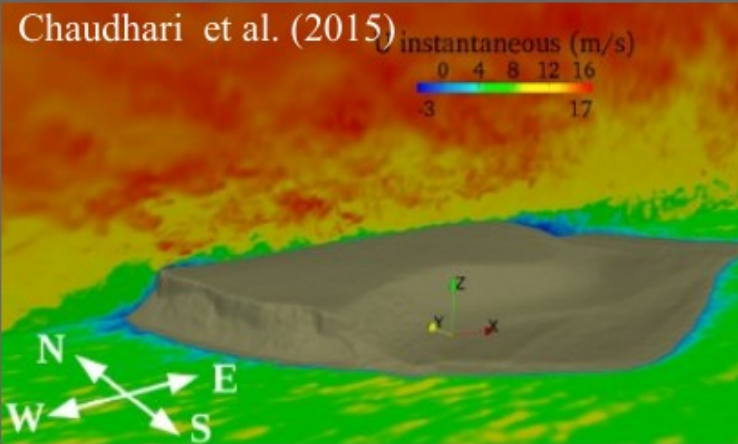
- Prof. V.Vuorinen + Prof. O.Kaario + 20 researchers
- 15 supervised PhD's, 100+ journal papers
- Hydrogen, e-fuels, reactive multiphase flow, heat transfer, gas-/hydrodynamics
- OpenFOAM, StarCCM+, STAR-CD, LES/DNS/RANS/DES, DLBFoam



Wind power efficiency in landscapes

Healthy indoor air/vertical farming

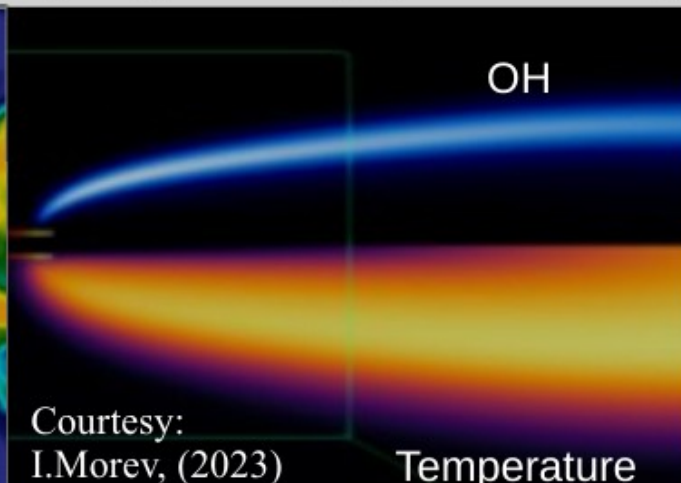
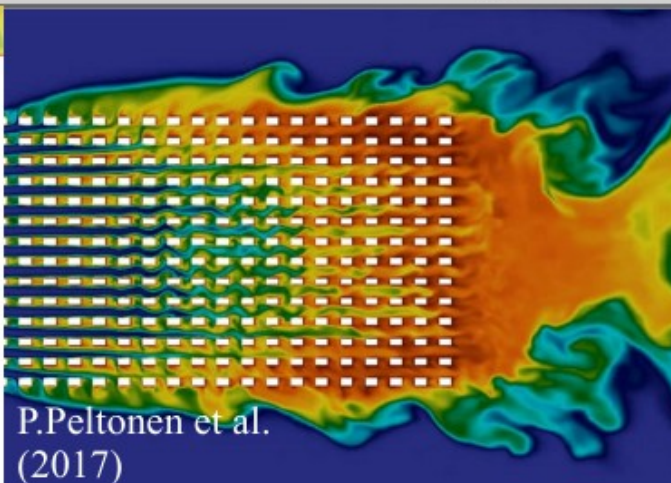
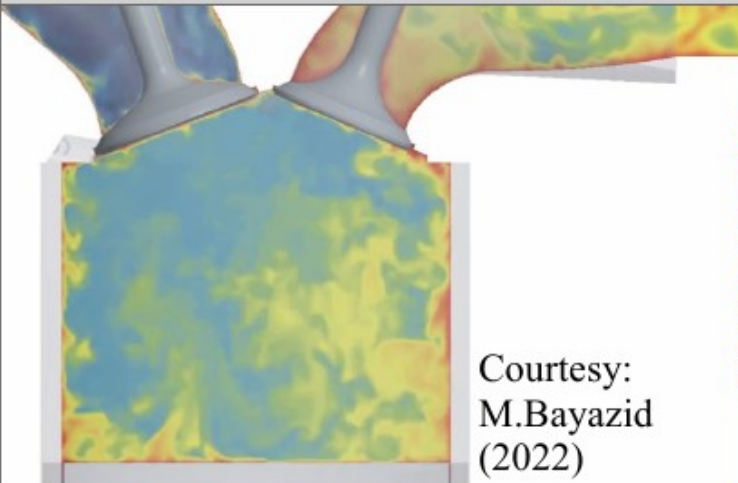
Energy conversion to H2/burners



Energy conversion to H2/engines

Heat transfer and energy

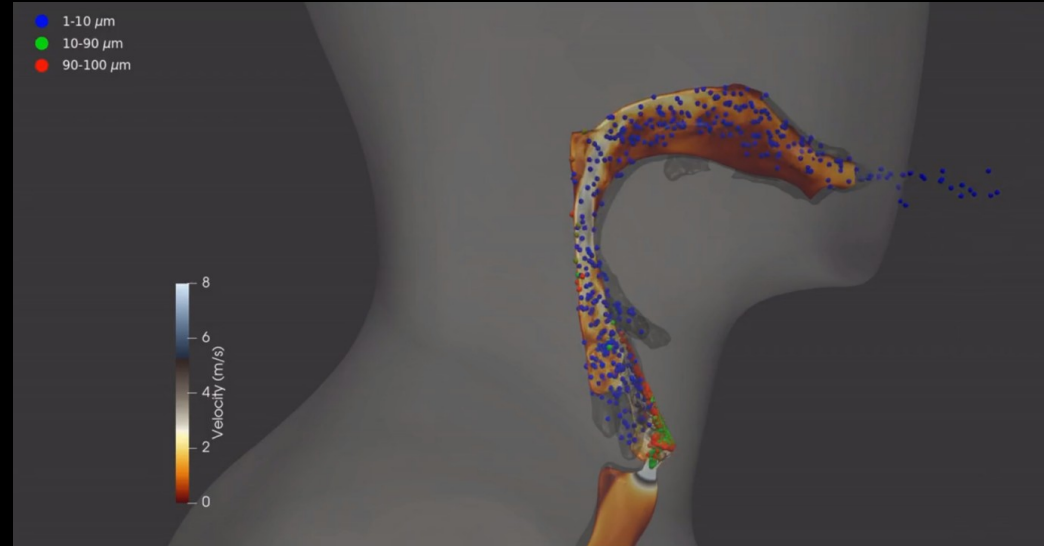
Hydrogen flame physics/chemistry



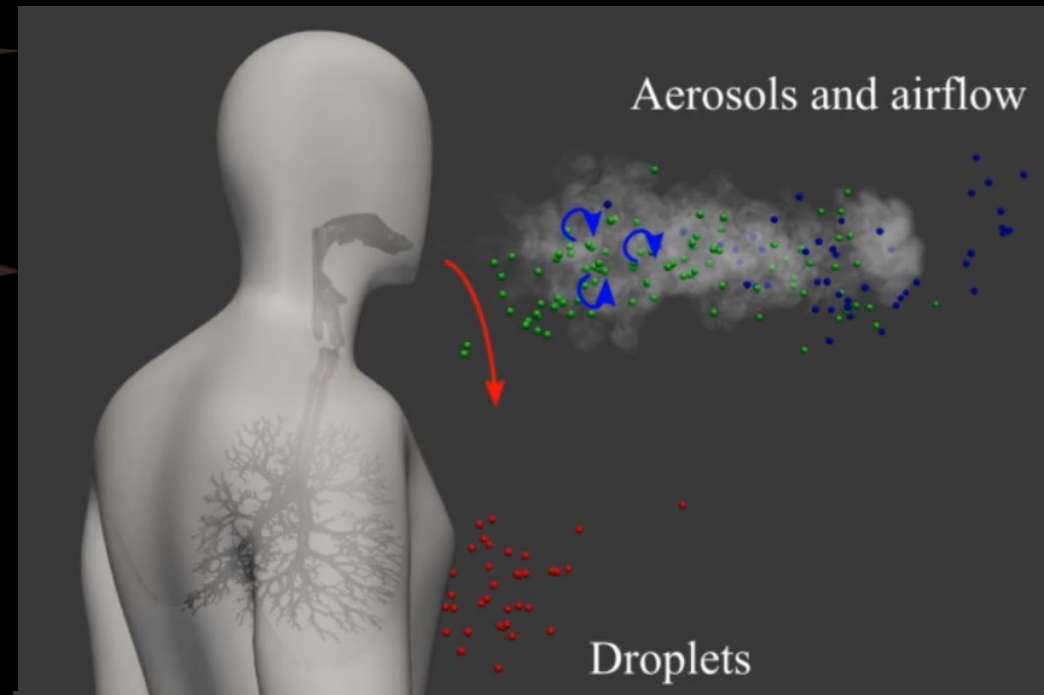
# COVID-19: a rather unexpected, new context to CFD



Simulation by:  
M.Auvinen & A.Hellsten/FMI



Courtesy: E.Laurila  
(submitted)



Courtesy: M.Korhonen

# **Partial differential equations**

# Convection and diffusion as transport mechanisms

In fluid dynamics, we are interested in understanding how different variables – e.g. velocity/concentration/temperature - change in space ( $x,y,z$ ) and time ( $t$ ). Unknown functions below could be typically velocity and concentration fields. Transport mechanisms: convection (velocity) and diffusion (molecular)

$$c = c(x, y, z, t)$$

$$\vec{u} = \vec{u}(x, y, z, t)$$



Ordinary differential equations (ODEs) describe commonly time dependency of physical system.  
No space coordinate dependency.

ODE for  $y=y(t)=?$  (e.g. radioactivity decay/Newton's cooling law)

$$\frac{dy}{dt} = -\lambda y(t)$$

Initial condition

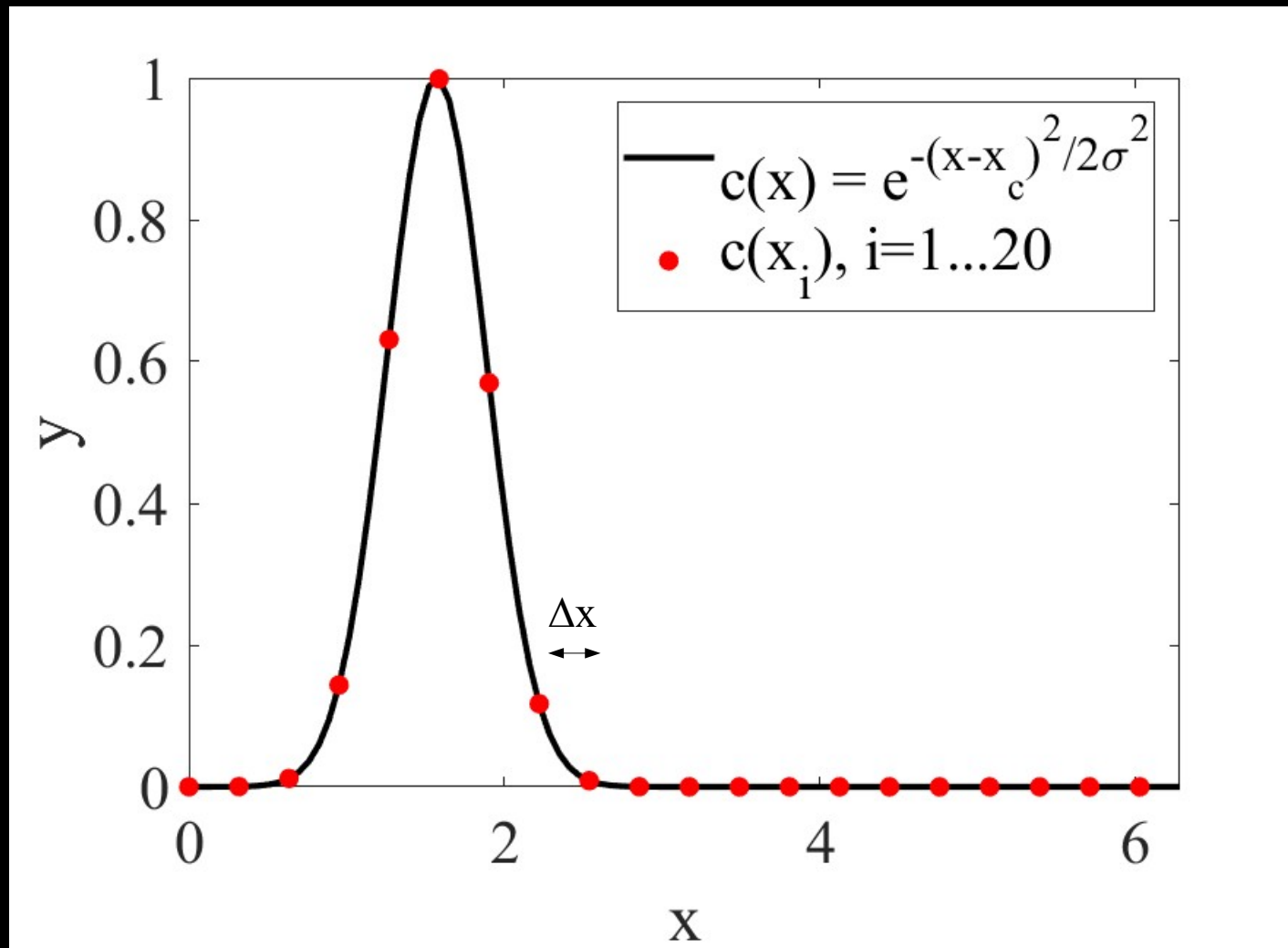
$$y(t=0) = y_0$$

Analytical solution

$$y(t) = y_0 e^{-\lambda t}$$



First of all, to resolve space-dependent functions, we need enough many grid points i.e. high enough resolution.



Partial differential equations (PDEs) describe space-time dependency of a physical system.

Convection-diffusion (CD) eqn is the key PDE of fluid dynamics.  
CD-eqn is a general conservation law (mass, momentum, energy,..)

Transported function  $c=c(x,y,z,t)$

For example:

- virus concentration
- molecular concentration
- velocity component

Diffusivity [ $m^2/s$ ]

Convection  
term

$$\frac{\partial c}{\partial t} + \vec{u} \cdot \nabla c = \alpha \nabla^2 c$$

Diffusion  
term

Velocity [ $m/s$ ]

Smoke cloud moving in air can be accurately modeled by solving Navier-Stokes equation and CD-eqn for smoke concentration

$$\vec{u} = \vec{u}(x, y, z, t)$$
$$c = c(x, y, z, t)$$
$$\frac{\partial c}{\partial t} + \vec{u} \cdot \nabla c = \alpha \nabla^2 c$$



For a PDE problem to be well posed, it is necessary to have boundary and initial conditions.

E.g. convection-diffusion equation (1d)

$$\frac{\partial c}{\partial t} + u \frac{\partial c}{\partial x} = \alpha \frac{\partial^2 c}{\partial x^2}$$

Initial condition

$$c(x, t=0) = c_o(x)$$

Boundary conditions. **For example:** fixed values,

$$c(x=0) = c_1 \quad c(x=L) = c_2$$

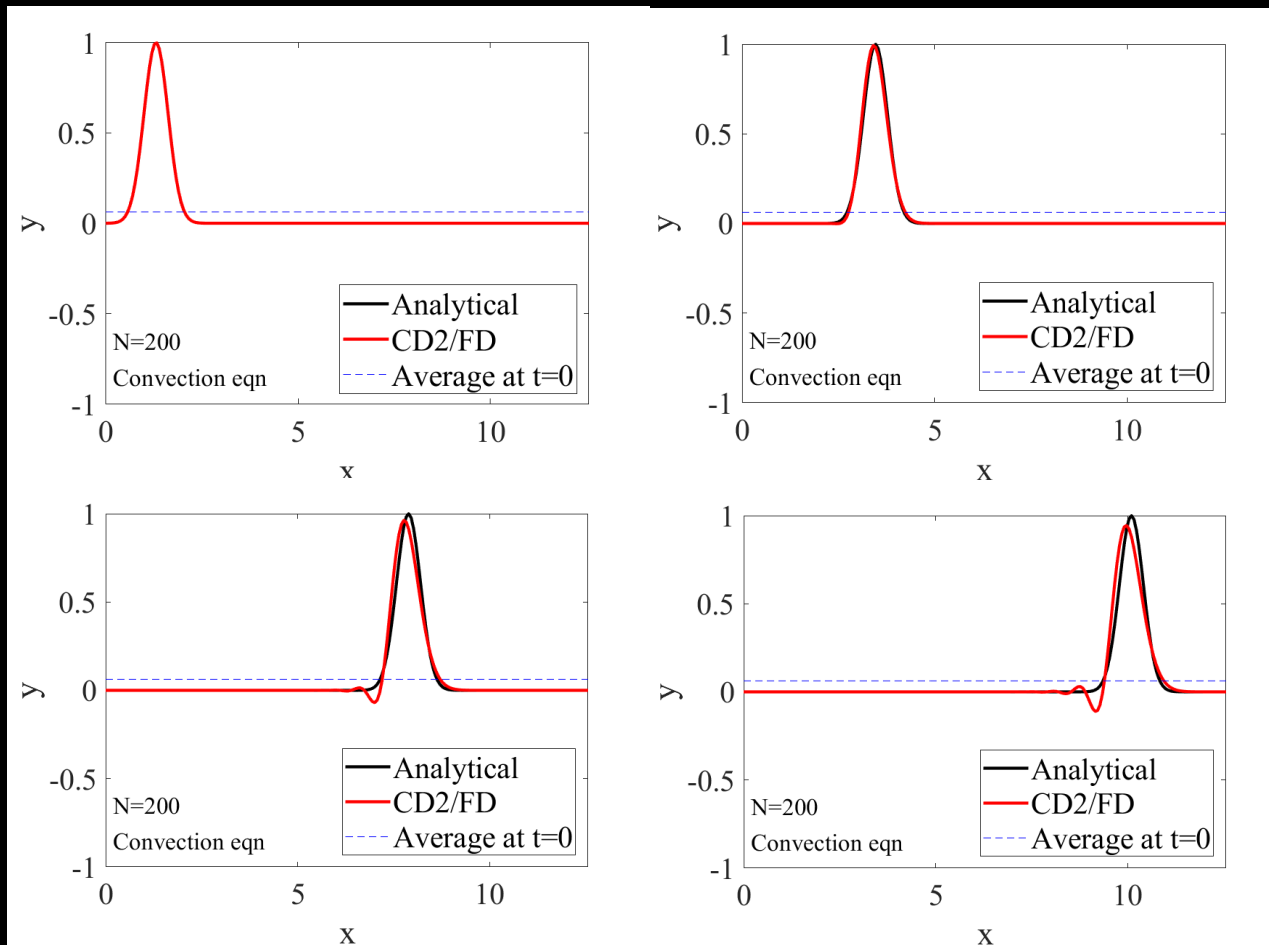
# Convection equation (1d)

Analytical solution: shape maintained and function travels/shifts at velocity  $u$

CD2/FD (central difference, 2<sup>nd</sup> order, finite difference): **numerical dispersion** is additionally noted at later times

E.g. concentration cloud moves due to wind.

$$\frac{\partial c}{\partial t} + u \frac{\partial c}{\partial x} = 0$$

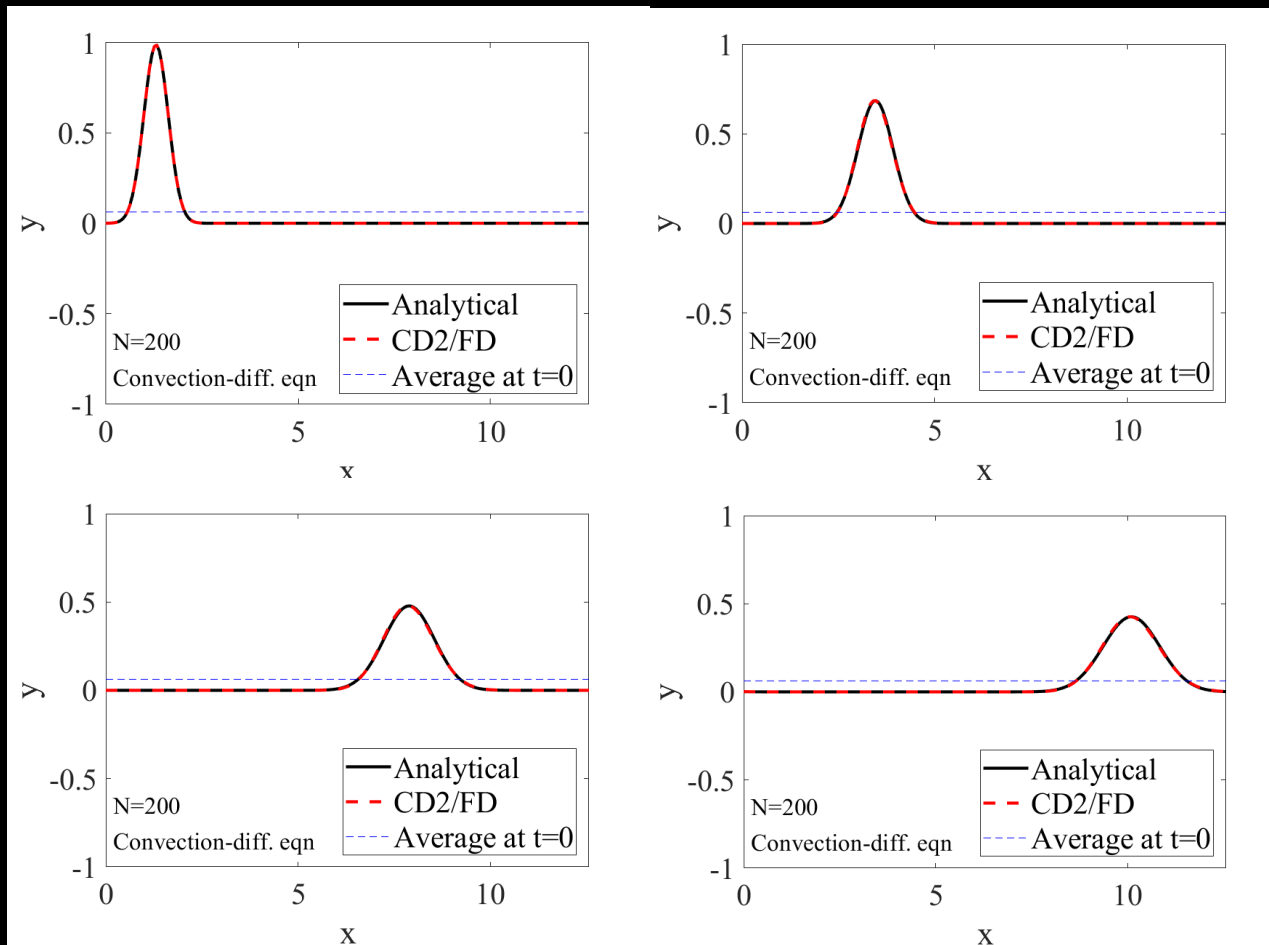


# Convection-diffusion equation (1d)

Solutions travel at velocity  $u$  while amplitude decreases

$$\frac{\partial c}{\partial t} + u \frac{\partial c}{\partial x} = \alpha \frac{\partial^2 c}{\partial x^2}$$

$c$ =e.g. temperature,  
concentration  
 $\alpha$ =diffusivity [ $\text{m}^2/\text{s}$ ]

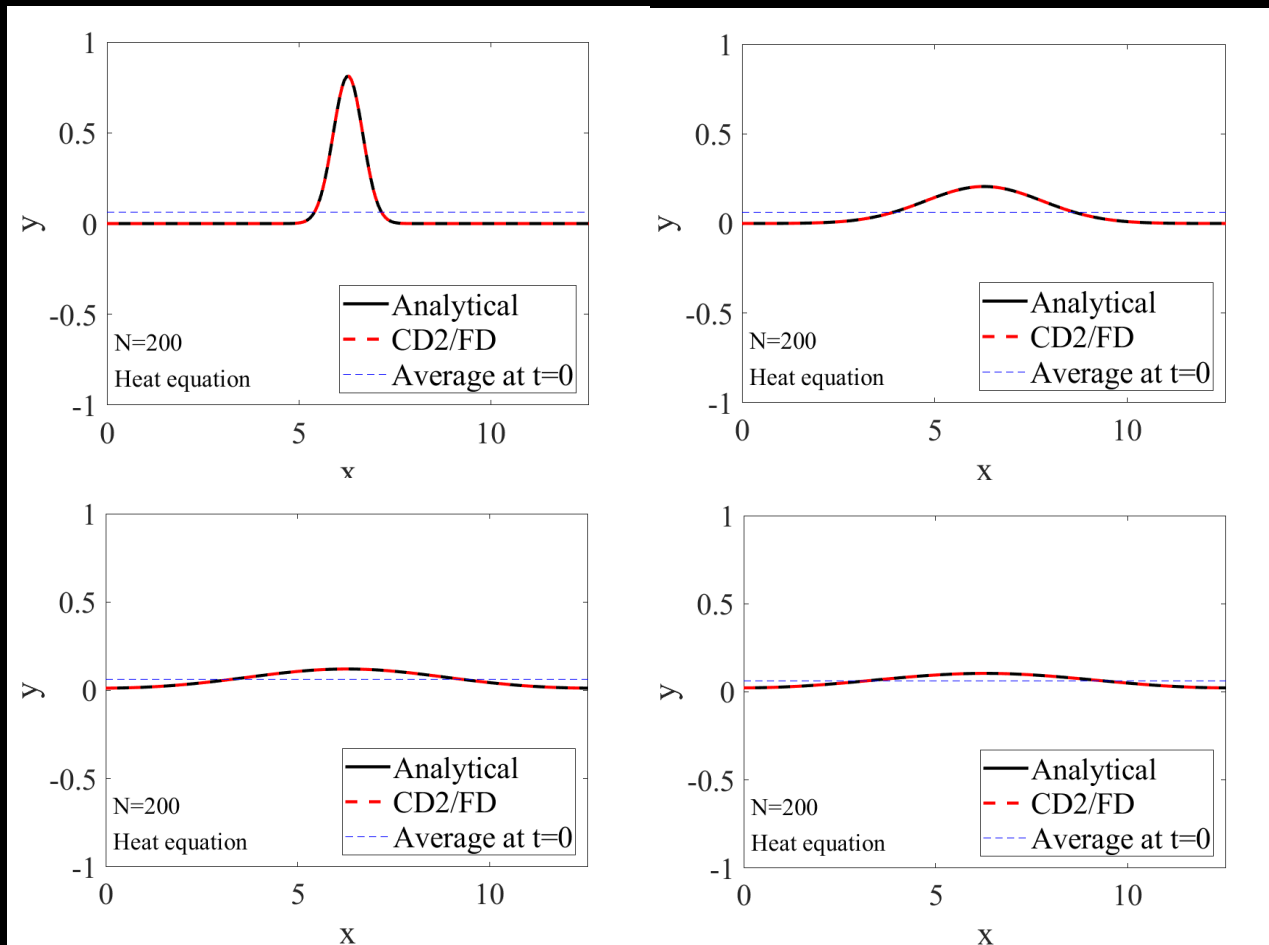


# Diffusion equation i.e. heat equation (1d)

Solution amplitude decreases and the diffusion spreads the function  
E.g. heat conducts from more hot towards cooler parts

$$\frac{\partial c}{\partial t} = \alpha \frac{\partial^2 c}{\partial x^2}$$

c=e.g. temperature, concentration  
 $\alpha$ =diffusivity [ $\text{m}^2/\text{s}$ ]

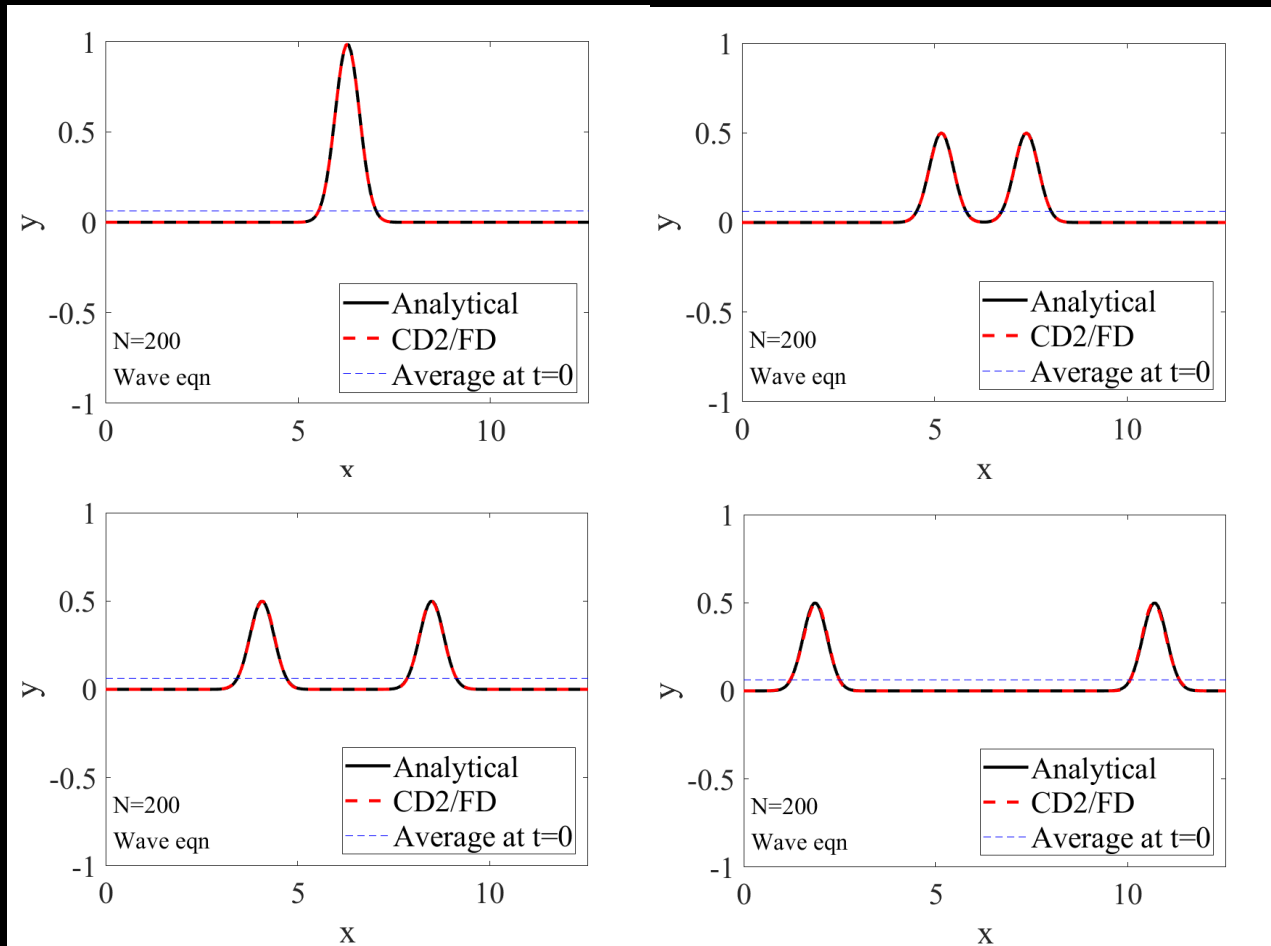


# Wave equation (1d)

Waves start traveling in opposite directions with velocities  $\pm u$   
E.g. sound waves in air

$$\frac{\partial^2 c}{\partial t^2} = u^2 \frac{\partial^2 c}{\partial x^2}$$

$c$ =wave amplitude  
 $u$ =wave speed (e.g. speed of sound)





## Example: solution of the convection equation by pen and paper

A smoke cloud concentration  $c(x,t)$  is transported by wind along the  $x$ -direction. The initial condition  $c(x,t=0) = g(x)$  and the wind velocity  $u > 0$  and  $t = \text{time}$ .

$$\frac{\partial c}{\partial t} + u \frac{\partial c}{\partial x} = 0$$

We observe that the solution is  $c = g(x-ut)$  because if we substitute this expression to the convection eqn above then it fulfills the equation.

**Proof:**

- 1) Define a new variable  $z = x - ut$
- 2) By chain rule of derivation applied on  $c = g(x - ut)$ :

(i)  $c_t = c_z z_t = -uc_z$  and

(ii)  $c_x = c_z z_x = c_z$

3) **Thus:**  $c_t + uc_x = -uc_z + uc_z = 0$

**Conclusion:** the solution has the same shape as the initial condition and it is just “shifting” in positive  $x$ -direction at velocity  $u$  (as we saw earlier).

# **Numerical solution using finite difference method**

# Common space discretization methods needed to solve PDEs

Finite difference:  
Central scheme (CD2)

$$\frac{\partial c}{\partial x} \approx \frac{c_{i+1} - c_{i-1}}{2 \Delta x}$$

Finite volume

$$\frac{\partial c}{\partial x} \approx \frac{\int_{\Delta x} \frac{\partial c}{\partial x} dx}{\Delta x} = \frac{c_{i+1/2} - c_{i-1/2}}{\Delta x}$$

Finite difference:  
Upwind scheme ( $u > 0$ )

$$\frac{\partial c}{\partial x} = \frac{c_i - c_{i-1}}{\Delta x}$$

Finite difference:  
Downwind scheme ( $u < 0$ )

$$\frac{\partial c}{\partial x} = \frac{c_{i+1} - c_i}{\Delta x}$$

# Common time discretization methods needed to solve PDEs

Euler method (1<sup>st</sup> order)

$$\frac{\partial c}{\partial t} \approx \frac{c_i^{n+1} - c_i^n}{\Delta t}$$

Backward difference (2<sup>nd</sup> order)

$$\frac{\partial c}{\partial t} \approx \frac{3c_i^{n+1} - 4c_i^n + c_i^{n-1}}{2\Delta t}$$

# Finite difference solution of convection-diffusion equation (Explicit Euler method + central difference CD2)



$$\frac{\partial c}{\partial t} + u \frac{\partial c}{\partial x} = \alpha \frac{\partial^2 c}{\partial x^2}$$

$$\frac{c_i^{n+1} - c_i^n}{\Delta t} + u \frac{c_{i+1}^n - c_{i-1}^n}{2 \Delta x} = \alpha \frac{c_{i+1}^n - 2c_i^n + c_{i-1}^n}{\Delta x^2}$$

$$c_i^{n+1} = c_i^n - \Delta t u \frac{c_{i+1}^n - c_{i-1}^n}{2 \Delta x} + \alpha \Delta t \frac{c_{i+1}^n - 2c_i^n + c_{i-1}^n}{\Delta x^2}$$

→ Can be solved easily by computer (e.g. Week 1 Matlab class).

# Discretization formulae come from Taylor series

- For example, where does the central difference formula (CD2) come from?

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \approx \frac{f_{i+1} - f_{i-1}}{2 \Delta x}$$

- A function can be expanded in Taylor series around point  $x$

$$f(x + \Delta x) = f(x) + \frac{\partial f(x)}{\partial x} \Delta x + \frac{1}{2!} \frac{\partial^2 f(x)}{\partial x^2} \Delta x^2 + \frac{1}{3!} \frac{\partial^3 f(x)}{\partial x^3} \Delta x^3 + \dots$$

$$f(x - \Delta x) = f(x) - \frac{\partial f(x)}{\partial x} \Delta x + \frac{1}{2!} \frac{\partial^2 f(x)}{\partial x^2} \Delta x^2 - \frac{1}{3!} \frac{\partial^3 f(x)}{\partial x^3} \Delta x^3 + \dots$$

- We would like to find a numerical, discrete approximation for  $f'(x)$  using the values  $f(x_i) = f_i$ ,  $f(x_i + \Delta x) = f_{i+1}$  and  $f(x_i - \Delta x) = f_{i-1}$
- We see directly that:

$$f(x + \Delta x) - f(x - \Delta x) = 2 \frac{\partial f(x)}{\partial x} \Delta x + \frac{2}{3!} \frac{\partial^3 f(x)}{\partial x^3} \Delta x^3 + O(\Delta x^5)$$

$$\frac{f(x + \Delta x) - f(x - \Delta x)}{2 \Delta x} + O(\Delta x^2) \approx \frac{\partial f(x)}{\partial x}, \text{ where } O(\Delta x^2) \text{ is the leading error term.}$$

- The CD2 scheme above is said to be “second order” because the leading order term in the error is a polynomial of degree 2 i.e.  $O(\Delta x^2)$
- Taking more points would allow to construct more accurate higher degree discretization schemes which would pose less numerical dispersion/diffusion.

# Differential operators

# Gradient and divergence

Gradient is a vector operator:

$$\nabla = \vec{i} \frac{\partial}{\partial x} + \vec{j} \frac{\partial}{\partial y} + \vec{k} \frac{\partial}{\partial z}$$

Gradient of a scalar function is a vector:

$$\nabla \phi = \vec{i} \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x} + \vec{j} \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial y} + \vec{k} \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial z}$$

Divergence of a vector is the scalar product of gradient with vector which is a scalar:

$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{u} = \frac{\partial u_1}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial u_2}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial u_3}{\partial z}$$

Divergence of a gradient is the scalar operator i.e. the Laplacian operator:

$$\nabla \cdot \nabla = \Delta = \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2}{\partial y^2} + \frac{\partial^2}{\partial z^2}$$



# In CD-equation, convection and diffusion terms contain divergence

Convection term:

$$\nabla \cdot (\mathbf{u} \phi) = \phi \nabla \cdot \mathbf{u} + \mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla \phi$$

**Note:**  
1<sup>st</sup> derivatives

Diffusion term (const. diffusivity):

$$\nabla \cdot (\nu \nabla \phi) = \nu \nabla \cdot \nabla \phi = \nu \frac{\partial^2 \phi}{\partial x^2} + \nu \frac{\partial^2 \phi}{\partial y^2} + \nu \frac{\partial^2 \phi}{\partial z^2}$$

**Note:**  
2<sup>nd</sup> derivatives

# Tensors

Used short-hand notation for multiplying vectors  $uu$

→ If we define  $u$  as 3 by 1 vector then how can we multiply two vectors?

→ The used short-hand is here understood as matrix product  $uu = uu^T$

→ In the present notation  $uu$  defines a 3 by 3 matrix also called a “tensor”

$$uu = [u_i u_j]_{3 \times 3}$$

Row index

Column index

# Divergence of vector and tensor

Divergence of a vector is a scalar:

$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{u} = \frac{\partial u_1}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial u_2}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial u_3}{\partial z}$$

Divergence of a tensor is a vector:

$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{uu} = \vec{C}$$

**Thus:** we can think that taking divergence reduces the dimensionality of the object.

- divergence of 3 by 3 tensor gives a 3 by 1 vector
- divergence of 3 by 1 vector gives a scalar (think: "1 by 1" matrix)

# Einstein summation convention and index notation

**Einstein summation convention:**  
if index appears twice, sum over the index

**Divergence of vector:**

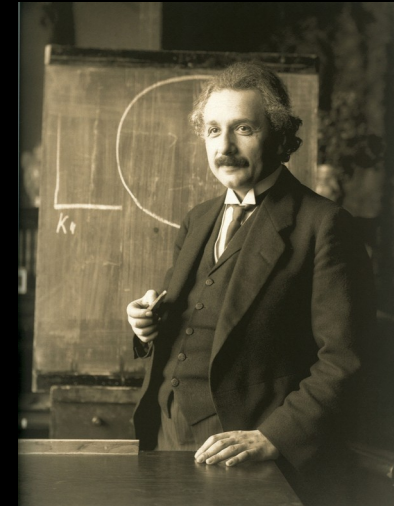
$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{u} = \frac{\partial u_i}{\partial x_i} = \sum_{i=1}^3 \frac{\partial u_i}{\partial x_i}$$

**Divergence of tensor:**

$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{uu} = \frac{\partial u_i u_j}{\partial x_j} = u_j \frac{\partial u_i}{\partial x_j} + u_i \frac{\partial u_j}{\partial x_j}$$

**Divergence of gradient of scalar:**

$$\mathbf{v} \nabla \cdot \nabla u_i = \mathbf{v} \frac{\partial^2 u_i}{\partial x_j^2}$$



In incompressible flows the latter term is zero:

$$u_j \frac{\partial u_i}{\partial x_j} = \mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla u_i$$

$$u_i \frac{\partial u_j}{\partial x_j} = 0$$