

Mixed and Implicit Schemes

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$$U^{n+1} = U^{n-1} + 2\Delta t(i\omega U^n - \kappa U^{n-1}).$$

We can show that this is stable provided

$$(2\kappa\Delta t + \omega^2\Delta t^2) \leq 1.$$

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$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{V}}{\partial t} + \mathbf{V} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{V} + 2\boldsymbol{\Omega} \times \mathbf{V} + \frac{1}{\rho} \nabla p = \nu \nabla^2 \mathbf{V} + \mathbf{g}.$$

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NWP models also use various filtering processes to limit spatial and temporal noise.

Some of these represent diffusive **physical processes**. Others are just **numerical damping**, to prevent spurious noise.

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In the two-dimensional case, the stability criterion is more stringent: we need to choose a time step that is $\sqrt{2}$ times smaller than that permitted in the one-dimensional case.

Implicit Schemes

For the simple oscillation equation

$$\frac{dU}{dt} = i\omega U$$

the (centered) implicit approximation is

$$\frac{U^{n+1} - U^n}{\Delta t} = i\omega \left(\frac{U^{n+1} + U^n}{2} \right).$$

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This is second-order accurate and unconditionally stable:

$$U^{n+1} = \rho U^n \quad \text{where} \quad \rho = \left(\frac{1 + \frac{1}{2}i\omega\Delta t}{1 - \frac{1}{2}i\omega\Delta t} \right)$$

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Exercise: Verify that ρ is unimodular: $|\rho| = 1$.

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It is common practice today to treat selected linear terms implicitly and the remaining terms explicitly.

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Formally, we separate the terms into two groups.

Thus, the equation

$$\frac{du}{dt} = F(u) = F_1(u) + F_2(u)$$

is discretised by something like

$$\frac{U^{n+1} - U^{n-1}}{2\Delta t} = F_1(U^n) + F_2\left(\frac{U^{n-1} + U^{n+1}}{2}\right)$$

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Schemes of this sort are pivotal in modern NWP models, due to their excellent stability properties.

Distortion of the Phase Speed

We consider the simple 1-D advection equation

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We use centered difference approximations

$$\left(\frac{U_m^{n+1} - U_m^{n-1}}{2\Delta t} \right) + c \left(\frac{U_{m+1}^n - U_{m-1}^n}{2\Delta x} \right) = 0,$$

in both time and space (CTCS). Here $U_m^n = U(m\Delta x, n\Delta t)$.

Again, the CTCS or leapfrog scheme is

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Exercise: Verify this expression for C .

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Thus, the condition for stability of the solution is

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$$Le \equiv \frac{c\Delta t}{\Delta x} \leq 1.$$

This non-dimensional parameter is often called the Courant number, but is denoted here as Le for Lewy, who first discovered this stability criterion.

The above analysis may be repeated for an **implicit discretization (six-point Crank-Nicholson scheme)**:

$$\frac{U_m^{n+1} - U_m^n}{\Delta t} + \frac{c}{2} \left(\frac{U_{m+1}^n - U_{m-1}^n}{2\Delta x} + \frac{U_{m+1}^{n+1} - U_{m-1}^{n+1}}{2\Delta x} \right) = 0.$$

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Then the phase speed C of the numerical solution is

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This equation contains an **inverse tangent term** instead of the **inverse sine** occurring in the leapfrog scheme.

Thus, the numerical phase speed C is always real, so the scheme is ***unconditionally stable***.

It is easily shown that $C \leq c$ and that $C \rightarrow \pi/k\Delta t$ as $c \rightarrow \infty$.
Thus, the implicit scheme slows down the faster waves.

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MATLAB Exercise:

- Write a program to evaluate

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and determine the behaviour of C in the limits
 $c = 0$ and $c \rightarrow \infty$.

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Then the relationships can be written:

- $\frac{C}{c} = \frac{1}{\kappa\mu} \sin^{-1}(\mu \sin \kappa)$ for the explicit scheme.
- $\frac{C}{c} = \frac{1}{\kappa\mu} \tan^{-1}(\frac{1}{2}\mu \sin \kappa)$ for the implicit scheme.

Now there are only two parameters, κ and μ .

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Now there are only two parameters, κ and μ .

You should plot curves of C/c as functions of μ for a selection of values of κ , say for $\kappa \in \{0, \frac{\pi}{10}, \frac{2\pi}{10}, \dots, \pi\}$, with μ varying from zero to, say, 10.

Exercise.

Consider the four-point Crank-Nicholson scheme

$$\frac{1}{2} \left[\frac{U_m^{n+1} - U_m^n}{\Delta t} + \frac{U_{m+1}^{n+1} - U_{m+1}^n}{\Delta t} \right] + \frac{c}{2} \left[\frac{U_{m+1}^{n+1} - U_m^{n+1}}{\Delta x} + \frac{U_{m+1}^n - U_m^n}{\Delta x} \right] = 0$$

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Show that the computational phase speed is given by

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Implicit Time Schemes

In implicit schemes the advection or diffusion terms are written in terms of the **new time level variables**.

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

$$\begin{aligned} \text{FDE: } & \frac{1}{2} \left[\left(\frac{U_m^{n+1} - U_m^n}{\Delta t} \right) + \left(\frac{U_{m+1}^{n+1} - U_{m+1}^n}{\Delta t} \right) \right] \\ & + c \left[\alpha \left(\frac{U_{m+1}^n - U_m^n}{\Delta x} \right) + (1 - \alpha) \left(\frac{U_{m+1}^{n+1} - U_m^{n+1}}{\Delta x} \right) \right] = 0 \end{aligned}$$

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For $\alpha = \frac{1}{2}$, this is the **four-point Crank-Nicholson scheme**.

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$$\text{FDE: } \frac{1}{2} \left[\left(\frac{U_m^{n+1} - U_m^n}{\Delta t} \right) + \left(\frac{U_{m+1}^{n+1} - U_{m+1}^n}{\Delta t} \right) \right] + c \left[\alpha \left(\frac{U_{m+1}^n - U_m^n}{\Delta x} \right) + (1 - \alpha) \left(\frac{U_{m+1}^{n+1} - U_m^{n+1}}{\Delta x} \right) \right] = 0$$

For $\alpha = \frac{1}{2}$, this is the **four-point Crank-Nicholson scheme**.

The factor α determines the weight of the “old” time values compared with the “new” time values in the FDE.

Using the von Neumann method, we substitute

$$U_m^n = A\rho^n e^{im\kappa} = Ae^{i(m\kappa - n\theta)}$$

into the FDE (where $\kappa = k\Delta x$ and $\theta = \omega\Delta t$).

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We multiply by $e^{-i\kappa/2}$ and obtain the amplification factor

$$\rho = \frac{\cos \frac{\kappa}{2} - i2\mu\alpha \sin \frac{\kappa}{2}}{\cos \frac{\kappa}{2} + i2\mu(1 - \alpha) \sin \frac{\kappa}{2}} = \frac{1 - i2\mu\alpha \tan \frac{\kappa}{2}}{1 + i2\mu(1 - \alpha) \tan \frac{\kappa}{2}}$$

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This implies $\rho \leq 1$ if $\alpha \leq 0.5$, i.e., if the new values are given at least as much weight as the old values.

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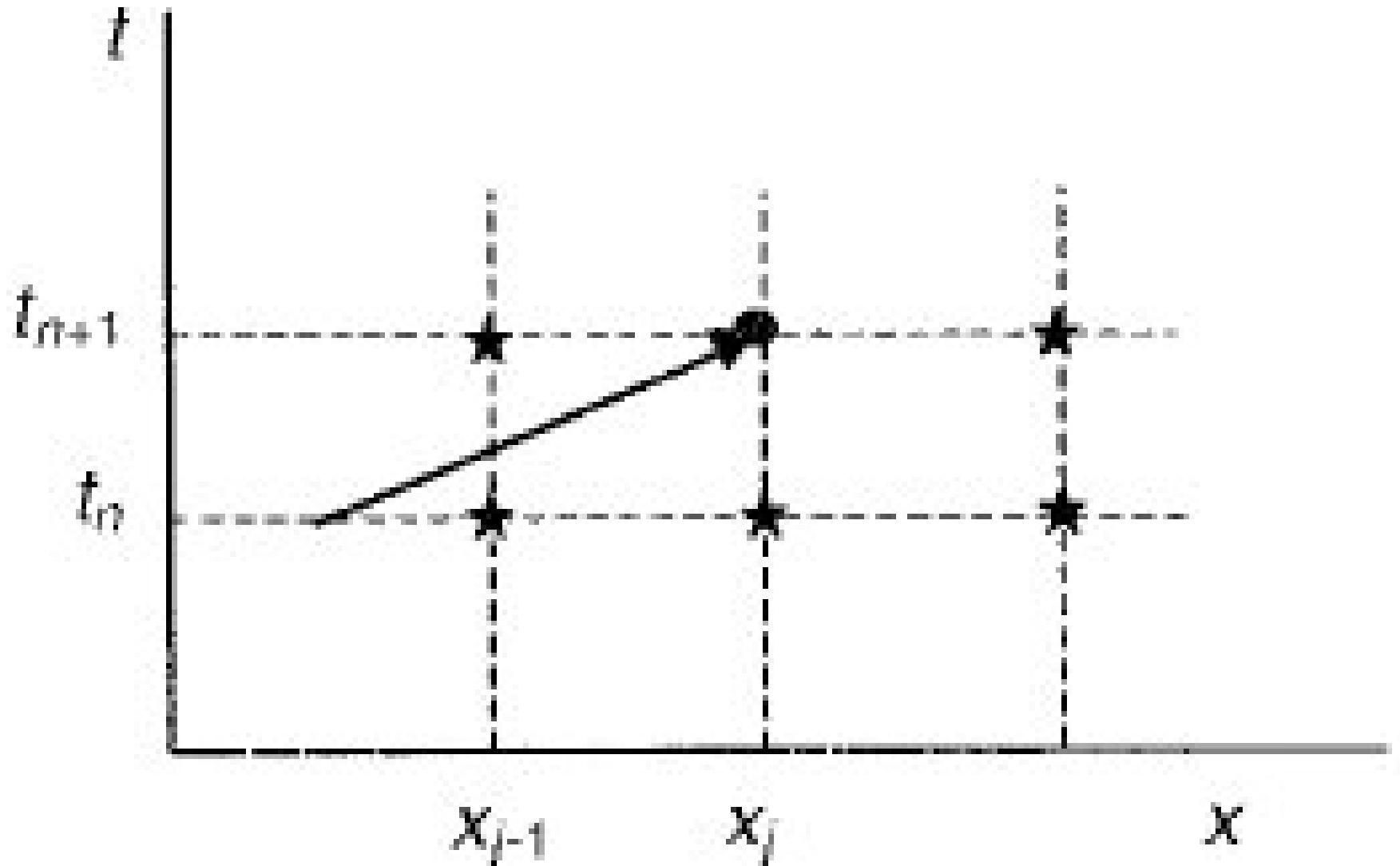
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This property is useful for solving problems such as spuriously growing mountain waves in semi-Lagrangian schemes.



Schematic of an implicit scheme. Note that with the implicit scheme there is no extrapolation.

Summary I

If we consider a marching equation

$$\frac{dU}{dt} = F(U)$$

explicit methods such as the forward scheme

$$\frac{U^{n+1} - U^n}{\Delta t} = F(U^n)$$

or the leapfrog scheme

$$\frac{U^{n+1} - U^{n-1}}{2\Delta t} = F(U^n)$$

are either

- Conditionally stable, or
- Absolutely unstable.

Summary II

A **fully implicit scheme**

$$\frac{U^{n+1} - U^n}{\Delta t} = F(U^{n+1})$$

and a **centered implicit scheme**

$$\frac{U^{n+1} - U^n}{\Delta t} = F\left(\frac{U^n + U^{n+1}}{2}\right)$$

are **absolutely stable**.

The latter scheme is attractive because it is centered in time, and it can be written with centered space differences, which makes it **second order in space and in time**.

As these schemes have only two time levels, they have **no computational mode**.

Break here

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Two forms of the Crank-Nicholson scheme for the advection scheme are commonly used:

- The four-point C-N scheme:

$$\frac{1}{2} \left[\frac{U_m^{n+1} - U_m^n}{\Delta t} + \frac{U_{m+1}^{n+1} - U_{m+1}^n}{\Delta t} \right] + \frac{c}{2} \left[\frac{U_{m+1}^{n+1} - U_m^{n+1}}{\Delta x} + \frac{U_{m+1}^n - U_m^n}{\Delta x} \right] = 0$$

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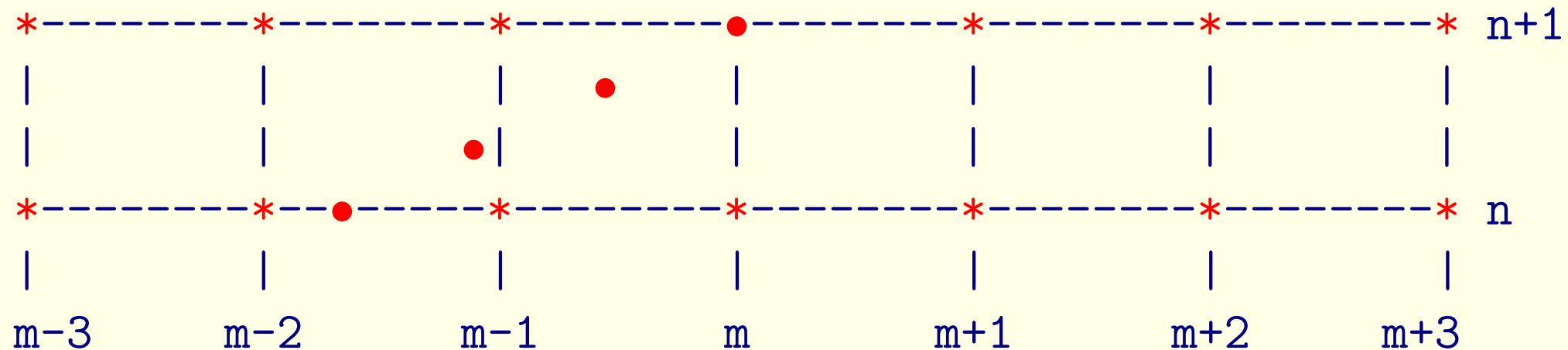
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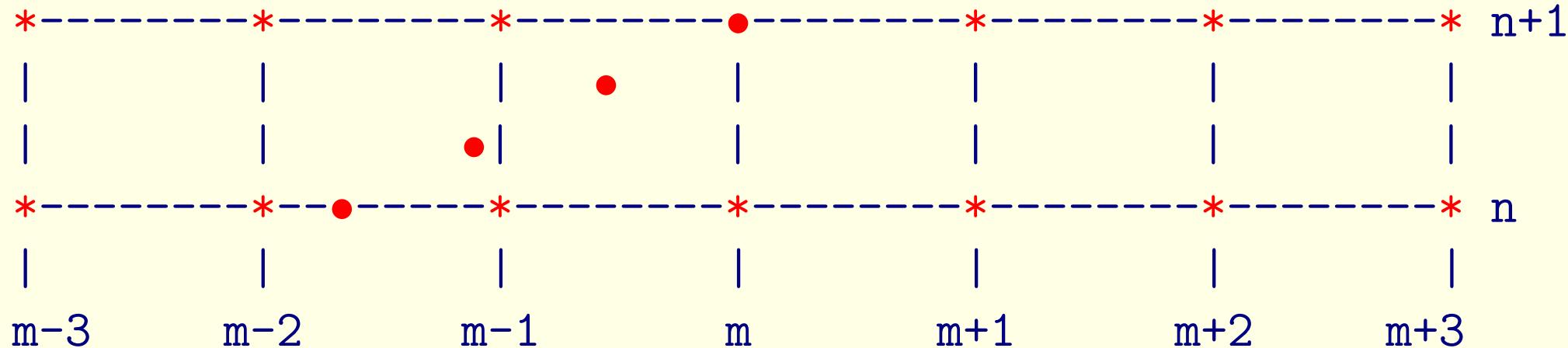
- The six-point C-N scheme:

$$\frac{U_m^{n+1} - U_m^n}{\Delta t} + \frac{c}{2} \left[\frac{U_{m+1}^{n+1} - U_{m-1}^{n+1}}{2\Delta x} + \frac{U_{m+1}^n - U_{m-1}^n}{2\Delta x} \right] = 0$$

Domain of Dependence of Implicit Scheme



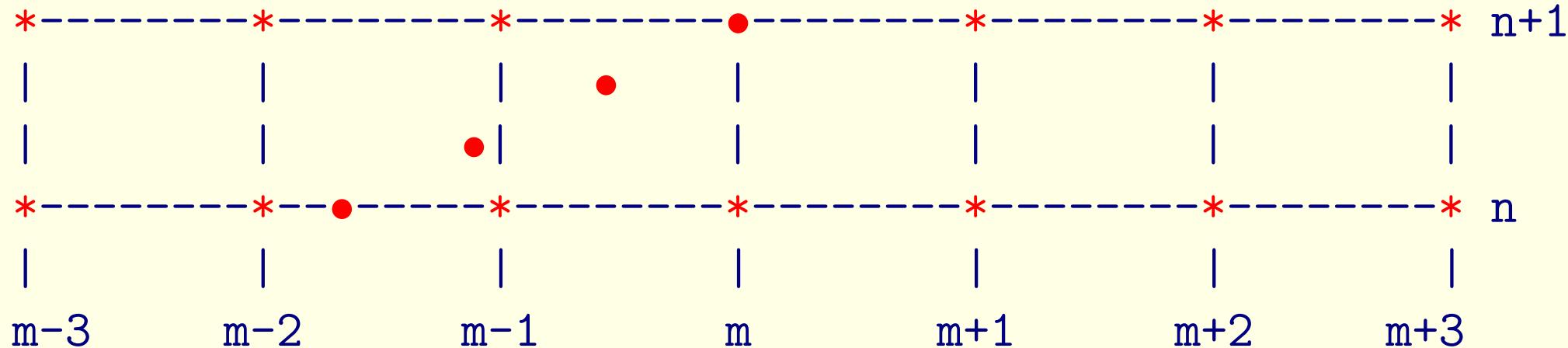
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The value at the point $m\Delta x$ at time $(n + 1)\Delta t$ depends on all the points denoted by red asterisks (*).

Thus, the computational domain of dependence surrounds the physical domain of dependence.

This is a **necessary condition for a stable scheme**.

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These so-called ADI (alternating direction implicit) schemes allow large time steps without a large additional computational cost.

Example of a Linear System.

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We can write this in matrix form (with $\mu = c\Delta t/4\Delta x$)

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & +\mu & 0 & \dots & -\mu \\ -\mu & 1 & +\mu & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & -\mu & 1 & \dots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ +\mu & 0 & 0 & \dots & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} U_0^{n+1} \\ U_1^{n+1} \\ U_2^{n+1} \\ \vdots \\ U_{M-1}^{n+1} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -\mu & 0 & \dots & +\mu \\ +\mu & 1 & -\mu & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & +\mu & 1 & \dots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ -\mu & 0 & 0 & \dots & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} U_0^n \\ U_1^n \\ U_2^n \\ \vdots \\ U_{M-1}^n \end{bmatrix}$$

where $x_M = M\Delta x$ and $U_M^n = U_0^n$ for all n .

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The **non-periodic problem**, with U_0^n and U_M^n given, results in a slightly different matrix, also tri-diagonal.

If the non-linear terms are treated implicitly, **we must solve a nonlinear algebraic system** every time step.

This is normally *impractical*.

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Exercise: See Notes and Exercises, Kalnay, pp. 87–88.

Conclusion of §3.2.4