

# Lecture 8

## Scientific Computing: Symbolic Math, Parallel Computing, ODEs/PDEs

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**CME 292**

Advanced MATLAB for Scientific Computing  
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- 1 Symbolic Math Toolbox
  - Symbolic Computations
  - Mathematics
  - Code generation
- 2 Parallel Computing Toolbox
- 3 Ordinary Differential Equations
- 4 Partial Differential Equations
  - Overview
  - Mesh Generation in MATLAB
  - PDE Toolbox
- 5 Conclusion



# Outline

- 1 Symbolic Math Toolbox
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# Overview

- Symbolic computations in MATLAB
  - Symbolic variables, expressions, functions
- Mathematics
  - Equation solving, formula simplification, calculus, linear algebra
- Graphics
- Code generation (C, Fortran, Latex)



## Symbolic variables, expressions, functions

- Create variables, expressions, functions with `sym`, `syms` commands

```
>> % Symbolic variables
>> syms x, y, z
>> % Symbolic expression
>> phi1 = sym('(1+sqrt(5))/2')
>> phi2 = sym('(1-sqrt(5))/2')
>> phi1*phi2
ans =
-(5^(1/2)/2 - 1/2)*(5^(1/2)/2 + 1/2)
>> simplify(phi1*phi2)
ans =
-1
>> % Symbolic function
>> syms f(u,v)
```



## Symbolic matrices

- Symbolic matrices can be constructed from symbolic variables

```
>> syms a b c d
>> A = [a^2, b, c; d*b, c-a, sqrt(b)]
A =
[ a^2,      b,      c]
[ b*d, c - a, b^(1/2)]
>> b = [a;b;c];
>> A*b
ans =
          a^3 + b^2 + c^2
b^(1/2)*c - b*(a - c) + a*b*d
```



## Arithmetic, Relational, and Logical Operations

- Symbolic arithmetic operations
  - `ceil`, `cong`, `cumprod`, `cumsum`, `fix`, `floor`, `frac`, `imag`, `minus`,  
`mod`, `plus`, `quorem`, `real`, `round`
- Symbolic relational operations
  - `eq`, `ge`, `gt`, `le`, `lt`, `ne`, `isequaln`
- Symbolic logical operations
  - `and`, `not`, `or`, `xor`, `all`, `any`, `isequaln`, `isfinite`, `isinf`, `isnan`,  
`logical`

<http://www.mathworks.com/help/symbolic/operators.html>



# Equation Solving

Command	Description
<code>finverse</code>	Functional inverse
<code>linsolve</code>	Solve linear system of equations
<code>poles</code>	Poles of expression/function
<code>solve</code>	Equation/System of equations solver
<code>dsolve</code>	ODE solver





# Formula Manipulation and Simplification

Command	Description
<code>simplify</code>	Algebraic simplification
<code>simplifyFraction</code>	Symbolic simplification of fractions
<code>subexpr</code>	Rewrite symbolic expression in terms of common subexpression
<code>subs</code>	Symbolic substitution



# Calculus

Command	Description
diff	Differentiate symbolic
int	Definite and indefinite integrals
rsums	Riemann sums
curl	Curl of vector field
divergence	Divergence of vector field
gradient	Gradient vector of scalar function
hessian	Hessian matrix of scalar function
jacobian	Jacobian matrix
laplacian	Laplacian of scalar function



# Calculus

Command	Description
potential	Potential of vector field
vectorPotential	Vector potential of vector field
taylor	Taylor series expansion
limit	Compute limit of symbolic expression
fourier	Fourier transform
ifourier	Inverse Fourier transform
ilaplace	Inverse Laplace transform
iztrans	Inverse Z-transform
laplace	Laplace transform
ztrans	Z-transform



# Linear Algebra

- Most matrix operations available for numeric arrays also available for symbolic matrices
  - `cat`, `horzcat`, `vertcat`, `diag`, `reshape`, `size`, `sort`, `tril`, `triu`, `numel`

Command	Description
<code>adjoint</code>	Adjoint of symbolic square matrix
<code>expm</code>	Matrix exponential
<code>sqrtn</code>	Matrix square root
<code>cond</code>	Condition number of symbolic matrix
<code>det</code>	Compute determinant of symbolic matrix
<code>norm</code>	Norm of matrix or vector
<code>colspace</code>	Column space of matrix



# Linear Algebra

Command	Description
null	Form basis for null space of matrix
rank	Compute rank of symbolic matrix
rref	Compute reduced row echelon form
eig	Symbolic eigenvalue decomposition
jordan	Jordan form of symbolic matrix



# Linear Algebra

Command	Description
<code>chol</code>	Symbolic Cholesky decomposition
<code>lu</code>	Symbolic LU decomposition
<code>qr</code>	Symbolic QR decomposition
<code>svd</code>	Symbolic singular value decomposition
<code>inv</code>	Compute symbolic matrix inverse
<code>linsolve</code>	Solve linear system of equations



# Assumptions

Command	Description
<code>assume</code>	Set assumption on symbolic object
<code>assumeAlso</code>	Add assumption on symbolic object
<code>assumptions</code>	Show assumptions set on symbolic variable



# Polynomials

Command	Description
charpoly	Characteristic polynomial of matrix
coeffs	Coefficients of polynomial
minpoly	Minimal polynomial of matrix
poly2sm	Symbolic polynomial from coefficients
sym2poly	Symbolic polynomial to numeric





# Mathematical Functions

Command	Description
log, log10, log2	Logarithmic functions
sin, cos tan, etc	Trigonometric functions
sinh, cosh tanh, etc	Hyperbolic functions

- Complex numbers and operations also available in Symbolic toolbox
- Special functions
  - Dirac, Haviside, Gamma, Zeta, Airy, Bessel, Error, Hypergeometric, Whittaker functions
  - Elliptic integrals of first, second, third kinds



## Precision Control

Command	Description
<code>digits</code>	Variable-precision accuracy
<code>double</code>	Convert symbolic expression to MATLAB double
<code>vpa</code>	Variable precision arithmetic



# Functions

Command	Description
<code>ccode</code>	C code representation of symbolic expression
<code>fortran</code>	Fortran representation of symbolic expression
<code>latex</code>	L <sup>A</sup> T <sub>E</sub> X representation of symbolic expression
<code>matlabFunction</code>	Convert symbolic expression to function handle or file
<code>texlabel</code>	TeX representation of symbolic expression



## Exercise: Method of Manufactured Solutions

- The *method of manufactured solutions* is a general method for constructing problems with *exact, known* solutions, usually for the purpose of verifying a code.
- Consider the structural equilibrium equations

$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{P} + \rho_0 \mathbf{b} = 0$$

$$\mathbf{P} = \mathbf{S} \cdot \mathbf{F}^T$$

$$\mathbf{S} = \lambda \text{tr}(\mathbf{E}) \mathbf{I} + 2\mu \mathbf{E}$$

$$\mathbf{E} = \frac{1}{2} (\mathbf{F}^T \mathbf{F} - \mathbf{I})$$

$$\mathbf{F} = \mathbf{I} + \frac{\partial \mathbf{u}}{\partial \mathbf{X}}$$



## Exercise: Method of Manufactured Solutions

- For the displacement field,  $\mathbf{u}(\mathbf{X}) = [\mathbf{X}_1 \mathbf{X}_2 \mathbf{X}_3, \mathbf{X}_1^2 + \mathbf{X}_2^2, \sin(\mathbf{X}_3)]^T$ , compute the corresponding forcing term
- Generate code in MATLAB, C, and Fortran to compute the forcing term from above



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# Programming Parallel Applications

*Level of control*

**Minimal**

**Some**

**Extensive**

*Required effort*

**None**

**Straightforward**

**Involved**



# Programming Parallel Applications

## *Level of control*

**Minimal**

**Some**

**Extensive**



## *Parallel Options*

**Support built into  
Toolboxes**

**High-Level  
Programming Constructs:  
(e.g. parfor, batch, distributed)**

**Low-Level  
Programming Constructs:  
(e.g. Jobs/Tasks, MPI-based)**





## Parallel support built into toolboxes

- Parallel Computations available with commands `fmincon`, `fminattain`, `fminimax`
  - Start MATLAB pool of workers
  - Set `UseParallel` option to `'always'`

```
>> matlabpool open 2  
>> options = optimset('UseParallel','always');  
>> x = fmincon( .., options);
```

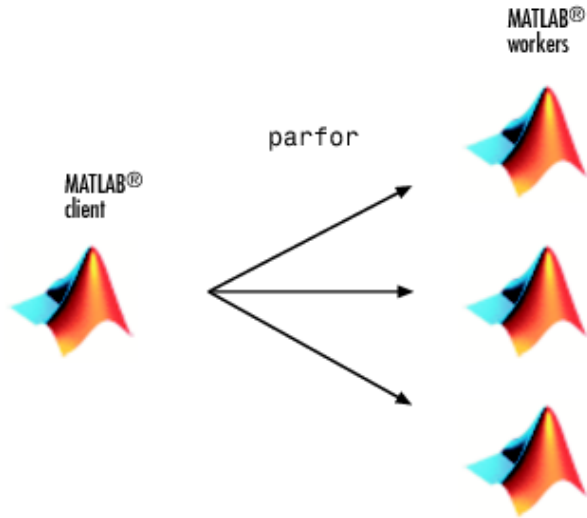


## parfor

- MATLAB's `parfor` opens a parallel pool of MATLAB sessions (*workers*) for executing loop iterations in parallel
- Requires loop to be embarrassingly parallel
  - Iterations must be *task* and *order independent*
  - Parameter sweeps, Monte Carlo



parfor



## The Mechanics of parfor Loops

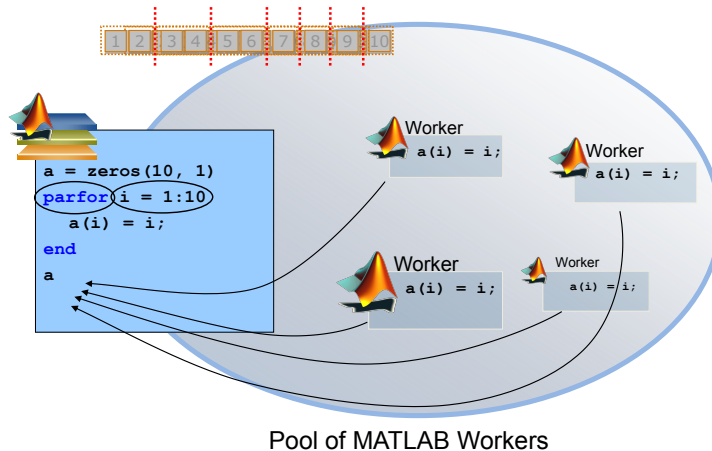


Figure : Courtesy of slides by Jamie Winter, Sarah Wait Zaranek (MathWorks)



## Constraints on `parfor` body

- There are constraints on the body of a `parfor` loop to enable MATLAB to automate the parallelization
  - Cannot introduce variables (`eval`, `load`, `global`, ...)
  - Cannot contain `break` or `return` statements
  - Cannot contain another `parfor` (nested `parfor` loops not allowed)



## Parallel variable types

Classification	Description
Loop	Loop index
Sliced	Arrays whose segments operated on by different iterations
Broadcast	Variable defined outside loop (not changed inside)
Reduction	Accumulates value across iterations
Temporary	Variable created inside loop (not available outside)

<http://www.mathworks.com/help/distcomp/advanced-topics.html>



## Parallel variable types

```
a = 0;  
c = pi;  
z = 0;  
r = rand(1,10);  
parfor i = 1:10  
    a = i;      ← loop variable  
    z = z+i;    ← sliced input variable  
    b(i) = r(i); ← broadcast variable  
    if i <= c  
        d = 2*a;  
    end  
end
```

temporary variable → a = i;  
reduction variable → z = z+i;  
sliced output variable → b(i) = r(i);

<http://www.mathworks.com/help/distcomp/advanced-topics.html>



# Demo

`parallel_demo.m`





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## Introduction

- A system of *Ordinary Differential Equations* (ODEs) can be written in the form

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{y}}{\partial t}(t) = \mathbf{F}(t, \mathbf{y})$$
$$\mathbf{y}(0) = \mathbf{y}_0$$

- The concept of *stiffness*
  - An ODE problem is stiff if the solution being sought is varying slowly, but there are nearby solutions that vary rapidly, so a numerical method must take small steps to obtain satisfactory results.
  - Numerical schemes applied to stiff problems have very restrictive time steps for stability



# Numerical Solution of ODEs

- Various types/flavor of ODE solvers
  - Multi- vs single-stage
  - Multi- vs single-step
    - Number of time steps used approximate time derivative
  - Implicit vs. Explicit
    - Trade-off between ease of advancing a *single step* versus number of steps required
    - Implicit schemes usually require solving a system of equations
  - Serial vs. Parallel



## Fourth-Order Explicit Runge-Kutta (ERK4)

- Multi-stage, single-step, explicit, serial ODE solver
- Consider the discretization of the time domain into  $N + 1$  intervals  $[t_0, t_1, \dots, t_N]$
- At step  $n$ ,  $\mathbf{y}_n$  is known and  $\mathbf{y}_{n+1}$  is sought

$$\begin{aligned}
 \mathbf{k}_1 &= \mathbf{F}(t_n, \mathbf{y}_n) \\
 \mathbf{k}_2 &= \mathbf{F}(t_n + 0.5\Delta t, \mathbf{y}_n + 0.5\Delta t\mathbf{k}_1) \\
 \mathbf{k}_3 &= \mathbf{F}(t_n + 0.5\Delta t, \mathbf{y}_n + 0.5\Delta t\mathbf{k}_2) \\
 \mathbf{k}_4 &= \mathbf{F}(t_n + \Delta t, \mathbf{y}_n + \Delta t\mathbf{k}_3) \\
 \mathbf{y}_{n+1} &= \mathbf{y}_n + \frac{\Delta t}{6} (\mathbf{k}_1 + 2\mathbf{k}_2 + 2\mathbf{k}_3 + \mathbf{k}_4)
 \end{aligned} \tag{1}$$

- Fourth-order accuracy: error =  $\mathcal{O}(\Delta t^4)$

Requires 4 evaluations of  $\mathbf{F}$  to advance single step; does not require solving linear or nonlinear equations



## Backward Euler

- Single-stage, single-step, implicit, serial ODE solver
- Consider the discretization of the time domain into  $N + 1$  intervals  $[t_0, t_1, \dots, t_N]$
- At step  $n$ ,  $\mathbf{y}_n$  is known and  $\mathbf{y}_{n+1}$  is sought

$$\mathbf{y}_{n+1} = \mathbf{y}_n + \mathbf{F}(t_{n+1}, \mathbf{y}_{n+1}) \quad (2)$$

- First-order accuracy: error =  $\mathcal{O}(\Delta t)$
- A-stable

Requires solving the (nonlinear) system of equations in (2)



## MATLAB ODE Solvers

- `[TOUT, YOUT] = ode_solver(ODEFUN, TSPAN, Y0)`
  - Integrates the system of differential equations  $y' = f(t, y)$  from time  $T0$  to  $TFINAL$  with initial conditions  $Y0$
  - `TSPAN = [T0 TFINAL]`
  - `ODEFUN` is a function handle
    - For a scalar  $T$  and a vector  $Y$ , `ODEFUN(T, Y)` must return a column vector corresponding to  $f(t, y)$
  - Each row in the solution array `YOUT` corresponds to a time returned in the column vector `TOUT`
  - To obtain solutions at specific times  $T0, T1, \dots, TFINAL$  (all increasing or all decreasing), use `TSPAN = [T0 T1 .. TFINAL]`



## MATLAB ODE Solvers

Command	Type	Accuracy
ode45	Nonstiff	Medium
ode23	Nonstiff	Low
ode113	Nonstiff	Low - High
ode15s	Stiff	Low - Medium
ode23s	Stiff	Low
ode23t	Moderately stiff	Low
ode23tb	Stiff	Low

<http://www.mathworks.com/help/matlab/ref/ode45.html>



## Assignment

Use `ode45` and `ode23s` to solve the simplified combustion model

$$y'(t) = y^2(1 - y), \quad 0 \leq t \leq 2/\epsilon, \quad y(0) = \epsilon$$

- Try  $\epsilon = 10^{-4}, 10^{-3}, 10^{-2}, 10^{-1}, 1$
- How many time steps were required for `ode45` for each epsilon? How many for `ode23s`?
  - `length(TOUT)` using the notation from earlier
- For  $\epsilon = 10^{-4}$ , plot  $y(t)$





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## Motivation

- Partial Differential Equations are ubiquitous in science and engineering
  - Fluid Mechanics
    - Euler equations, Navier-Stokes equations
  - Solid Mechanics
    - Structural dynamics
  - Electrodynamics
    - Maxwell equations
  - Quantum Mechanics
    - Schrödinger equation
- Analytical solutions over arbitrary domains mostly unavailable
- In some cases, existence and uniqueness not guaranteed



# Numerical Solution of PDEs

- Classes of PDEs
  - Elliptic
  - Parabolic
  - Hyperbolic
- Numerical Methods for solving PDEs
  - Finite Difference (FD)
  - Finite Element (FE)
  - Finite Volume (FV)
  - Spectral (Fourier, Chebyshev)
  - Discontinuous Galerkin (DG)



# Numerical Solution of PDEs

The (major) steps required to compute the numerical solution of to a system of Partial Differential Equations are

- Derive discretization of governing equations
  - Semi-discretization
  - Space-time discretization
  - Boundary conditions
- Construct spatial mesh (or space-time mesh)
  - Structured vs. Unstructured
    - Codes can be written to leverage structured mesh
    - Unstructured meshes more general
  - Requirements on mesh heavily depend on application of interest and code used
- If semi-discretized, define temporal mesh
- Implement and solve
- Postprocess



## Example: Semi-Discretization

Consider the *viscous* Burger's equation

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} + u \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} = \epsilon \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} \quad (3)$$

for  $x \in [0, 1]$ , with the initial condition  $u(x, 0) = 1$  and boundary condition  $u(0, t) = 5$ .

Spatial discretization of (3) yields a system of ODEs of the form

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{U}}{\partial t} = \mathbf{F}(\mathbf{U}(t), t), \quad (4)$$

this is known as *semi-discretization* or the *method of lines*.



## Example: Mesh

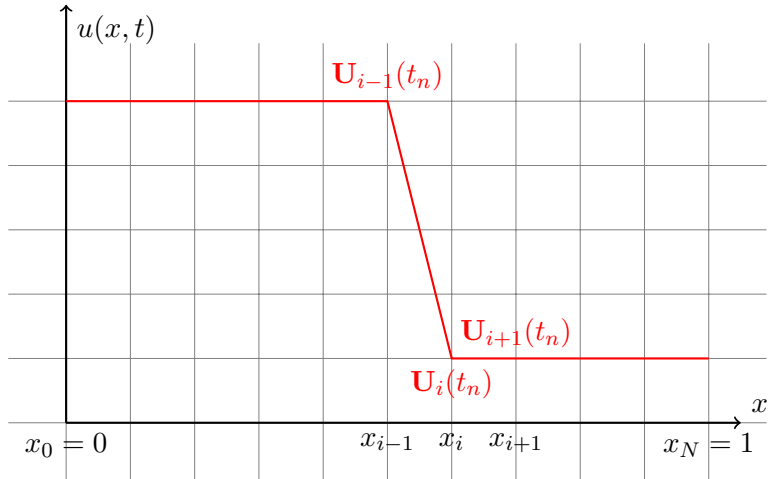


Figure : Discretized domain and solution for (3)



## Example: Finite Difference Method

- We approximate the first-order derivative with a *backward* difference on the previous grid to obtain

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial x}(x_i, t) \approx \frac{u(x_i, t) - u(x_{i-1}, t)}{\Delta x} \quad (5)$$

for  $i = 1, \dots, N$  where  $\Delta x_i = x_i - x_{i-1} = \Delta x$  as the grid is assumed uniform.

- The standard central second-order approximation to the diffusive term is applied

$$\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2}(x_i, t) \approx \frac{u(x_{i+1}, t) - 2u(x_i, t) + u(x_{i-1}, t))}{\Delta x^2} \quad (6)$$

for  $i = 1, \dots, N - 1$



## Example: Finite Difference Method

- At the last equation, a first-order, leftward bias of the second-order derivative is applied

$$\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2}(x_i, t) \approx \frac{u(x_N, t) - 2u(x_{N-1}, t) + u(x_{N-2}, t)}{\Delta x^2}. \quad (7)$$

- The boundary condition is applied as

$$u(x_0, t) = u(0, t) \quad (8)$$

in (5) and (7).





# Mesh Generation

In 1D, mesh generation is trivial. Difficulties arise in 2D and higher.

- PDE Toolbox
  - 2D only
- distmesh
  - Both 2D (triangles) and 3D (tetrahedra)
  - Unstructured
  - Per-Olof Persson



# PDE Toolbox

- Geometry definition (points, curves, surfaces, volumes)
- Mesh generation
- Problem definition
- Solution
- Postprocessing



# PDE Toolbox

- Standard MATLAB distribution
  - pdepe for solving initial boundary-value problems for *parabolic-elliptic* PDEs in 1D
- PDE Toolbox
  - Graphical User Interface
    - pdeapp
    - **Demo**
  - Command Line



## Geometry Definition

- Construct mesh interactively using `pdetool`
  - Unions and intersections of basic shapes
    - Rectangles, ellipses, circles, etc
- Use `pdegeom` to create geometry programmatically
  - Build parametrized, oriented boundary edges
  - Label left and right regions of edges
  - Geometry built from union of regions with similar labels
  - **Demo:** `naca`



# Mesh Generation

Command	Description
<code>initmesh</code>	Create initial triangular mesh
<code>adaptmesh</code>	Adaptive mesh generation and PDE solution
<code>jigglemesh</code>	Jiggle internal points of triangular mesh
<code>reinemesh</code>	Refine triangular mesh
<code>tri2grid</code>	Interpolate from PDE triangular mesh to rectangular grid
<code>pdemesh</code>	Plot PDE triangular mesh
<code>pdetriq</code>	Triangle quality measure

```
>> [p,e,t]=initmesh('naca');  
>> pdemesh(p,e,t), axis equal
```



## Problem Definition: PDE

- Both scalar and vector PDEs available in PDE toolbox
- Here we focus on scalar PDEs

- Elliptic

$$-\nabla \cdot (c\nabla u) + au = f \quad (9)$$

- Parabolic

$$d \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} - \nabla \cdot (c\nabla u) + au = f \quad (10)$$

- Hyperbolic

$$d \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial t^2} - \nabla \cdot (c\nabla u) + au = f \quad (11)$$

- Eigenvalue

$$-\nabla \cdot (c\nabla u) + au = \lambda du \quad (12)$$

- PDE coefficients  $a, c, d, f$  can vary with space and time (can also depend on the solution  $u$  or the edge segment index)



## Problem Definition: Boundary Conditions

- Boundary conditions available for both scalar and vector available in PDE toolbox
- Here we focus on scalar PDEs
  - Dirichlet (essential) boundary conditions

$$hu = r \text{ on } \partial\Omega \quad (13)$$

- Generalized Neumann (natural) boundary conditions

$$\mathbf{n} \cdot (\nabla u) + qu = g \text{ on } \partial\Omega \quad (14)$$

- Boundary coefficients  $h, c, r, q, g$  can vary with space and time (can also depend on the solution  $u$  or the edge segment index)



## Specify Boundary Conditions

Boundary conditions can be specified:

- Graphically using `pdetool`
- Programmatically using `pdebound`
  - `[q, g, h, r] = pdebound(p, e, u, time)`
  - **Demo:** `nacabound`





## Specify PDE Coefficients

PDE coefficients can be specified:

- Graphically using `pdetool`
- Programmatically via constants, strings, functions
  - `u = parabolic(u0,tlist,b,p,e,t,c,a,f,d);`
    - `u0` - initial condition
    - `tlist` - time instances defining desired time steps
    - `b` - function handle to boundary condition
    - `p, e, t` - mesh
    - `c, a, f, d` - PDE coefficients (numeric, string, functions)



## PDE solvers

- Elliptic
  - `[u, res]=pdenonlin(b,p,e,t,c,a,f);`
- Parabolic
  - `u=parabolic(u0,tlist,b,p,e,t,c,a,f,d);`
  - **Demo:** workflow
- Hyperbolic
  - `u=hyperbolic(u0,ut0,tlist,b,p,e,t,c,a,f,d);`
- Systems of Equations



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## What Now?

- Classes (non-exhaustive)
  - Numerical Linear Algebra
    - EE 263, CME 200, CME 302, CME 335
  - Numerical Optimization
    - CME 304, CME 334, CME 338
  - Object-Oriented Programming
    - CS 106B, CS 108
  - ODEs/PDEs
    - CME 102, CME 204, CME 206, CME 303, CME 306
  - Additional Advanced MATLAB classes (none to my knowledge)
    - Interest in taking this class as a full quarter class (3 units)
    - Indicate in evaluations
    - Email Margot Gerritsen ([margot.gerritsen@stanford.edu](mailto:margot.gerritsen@stanford.edu))
- Future MATLAB questions
  - You have my email!



## Teaching Evaluations

- Very important so please complete them
- Detailed comments in evaluations regarding the pros and cons of the course will be *much* appreciated
- Not available until end of Quarter
- If you have something important you wish to convey
  - Make a note of it now so you don't forget in a month
  - Email Margot ([margot.gerritsen@stanford.edu](mailto:margot.gerritsen@stanford.edu))

