

# Verified Numerics to Solve Differential Equations

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# Our toy problem

Verified  
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Formalization

Conclusion

Let  $\nu = 2.5$  and  $\varphi = 0.5$ . There is an analytic solution  $f$  for the initial value problem

$$f'(t) = f(t)(1 - f(t))$$

$$f(0) = \varphi$$

on  $(-\nu, \nu)$ ,



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on  $(-\nu, \nu)$ , such that  $\forall t \in [-\nu, \nu]$ ,

$$\left| f(t) - \sum y_n \left( \frac{t}{\nu} \right)^n \right| \leq 0.0143$$



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where

$$y = \begin{pmatrix} 0.5 \\ 0.625 \\ 0 \\ -0.32552083 \\ 0 \\ 0.20345052 \\ 0 \\ -0.12867034 \\ 0 \\ 0.08147019 \\ 0 \\ -0.05159082 \\ 0 \\ 0.03267021 \\ 0 \\ -0.02068865 \\ 0 \\ 0.01310124 \\ 0 \\ -0.00829646 \\ 0 \\ 0.00525379 \end{pmatrix}$$



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- Discretize the problem by picking a basis



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- Discretize the problem by picking a basis
- Reformulate as a zero-finding problem



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- Compute an approximate solution to this problem



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- Discretize the problem by picking a basis
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- Approximate to a finite problem
- Compute an approximate solution to this problem
- Verify inequalities to go back to the infinite problem



# Pick a basis

- For this problem, we want an analytic solution with some radius of convergence  $\geq \nu = 2.5$

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- Rescale  $g(t) := f(\nu t)$

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- Discretize to  $\ell_{\mathbb{N}}^1$ , so

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- IVP becomes

$$\begin{aligned}x_0 &= \varphi \\x_{n+1} &= \frac{\nu}{n+1} (x_n - (x * x)_n)\end{aligned}$$



# Zero finding

- Defining  $\Lambda : \ell^1 \rightarrow \ell^1$  by

$$(\Lambda x)_n := \begin{cases} 0 & n = 0 \\ \frac{1}{n} x_{n-1} & n \geq 1 \end{cases}$$

we can rewrite the problem as

$$x = \varphi + \nu \Lambda(x - x * x)$$



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we can rewrite the problem as

$$x = \varphi + \nu \Lambda(x - x * x)$$

- Then defining  $F : \ell^1 \rightarrow \ell^1$  by

$$F(x) = x - \varphi - \nu \Lambda(x - x * x)$$

our goal becomes to find  $x$  such that  $F(x) = 0$ .



# Newton-Kantorovich

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## Theorem

Let  $\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{Y}$  be Banach spaces, with  $\tilde{x} \in \mathcal{X}$  and  $F : \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathcal{Y}$  a  $C^1$  map. Let  $A : \mathcal{Y} \rightarrow \mathcal{X}$  be injective linear. Let  $0 < r \leq R$  and  $Y, Z_1, Z_2$  be reals such that

$$\begin{aligned}\|AF(\tilde{x})\| &\leq Y, \\ \|I - ADF(\tilde{x})\| &\leq Z_1 \\ \|A(DF(x) - DF(\tilde{x}))\| &\leq Z_2 \quad \forall x \in B_R(\tilde{x}) \\ Y + Z_1 r + \frac{1}{2} Z_2 r^2 &\leq r \\ Z_1 + Z_2 r &< 1.\end{aligned}$$

Then there is a unique  $x \in B_r(\tilde{x})$  such that  $F(x) = 0$ .



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Then there is a unique  $x \in B_r(\tilde{x})$  such that  $F(x) = 0$ .

Sketch proof: write  $T = I - AF$ .



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- Took a Taylor basis for “analytic on  $[-2.5, 2.5]$ ” so we’re now in  $\ell_1$



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- Switched to a root-finding problem
- Need to verify the inequalities
- Moved from a continuous analytic problem to a discrete (but still infinite) computation
  
- Challenges in practice: finding the right basis (eg for BVP or periodic problem, could take Fourier basis), validating the inequalities



# Finitizing

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- Can find first  $N$  coordinates of  $\tilde{x}$  numerically (e.g. Newton iteration)



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- Use the values of  $Y, Z_1, Z_2$  to deduce the best  $r$
- Problem solved!



# In practice

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- Solving ODEs, PDEs, DDEs with discrete methods is an active field, and similar techniques have been used to solve a number of long-standing open problems



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- Our example is just a toy expository problem (it can be done analytically!)
- But the same ideas work for harder problems
- Hard parts are: picking  $\mathcal{X}$  and  $F$  (choice of function space and norm is crucial, many  $F$  can work); finding  $A$



# ODE solver

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- We're *not* using a 'standard' ODE solver (like Runge-Kutta) and validating the numerics of that



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- Half of the informal proof there was classical analysis (numerical methods fail)



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# Overall

- Formalizing all the previous pieces, we have the original theorem

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- We compute  $r, y_n, A, Y, Z_1, Z_2$  'offline' (in Julia) and paste in the values

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# Tail bounds

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- The notes we followed didn't give details of the tail bound proof for  $Z_1$



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- So we increased  $N$  as well, and then a solution is recovered



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- But this increased  $Z_1$ , and meant that no  $r$  satisfied the inequalities
- So we increased  $N$  as well, and then a solution is recovered
- These calculations are very fiddly informally!



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- Our first version took hours to compile, the current version takes 2 minutes



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- I think it's doable in under a second, and I think I know how to get there
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- Avoiding grind made some things faster (it spent loads of time in pointless typeclass search)



# Efficiency example

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- If you write an explicit vector using  $![1, 2, 3]$  notation (i.e.  $\text{Fin } N \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ ), then evaluating its entries takes *exponential* time in the entry



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- (demo)



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Three things to profile:

- Elaborator: Use `set_option trace.profiler true` (with trace nodes) or `set_option profiler true`



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- Kernel: Use `set_option trace.profiler true` to get a number, and `set_option diagnostics true` to get some understanding (neither of these are perfect)



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- Compiled code: Use a C profiler like `samply record lake build`



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- Lean 4 is very fast at calculations on natural numbers, so if you can reduce to that, it's very fast



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- But the kernel is not optimised (so that it can be small and trusted)
- So you need to help it along the way (demo, if time)



# Usability

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- We'd like this to be a framework for proofs in this area to be cleanly verified



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- The *entire* example is under 400 lines (demo)
- But the API is still in flux; more examples should help settle it



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- But the API is still in flux; more examples should help settle it
- Want built-in support for other bases and other spaces (e.g. Sobolev spaces)



# Usability

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- We'd like this to be a framework for proofs in this area to be cleanly verified
- The *entire* example is under 400 lines (demo)
- But the API is still in flux; more examples should help settle it
- Want built-in support for other bases and other spaces (e.g. Sobolev spaces)
- Want to support other techniques, not just Newton-Kantorovich



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- Optimise it further



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- Numeric calculations can lead to rigorous outputs



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- Discrete computations can solve continuous problems
- Rigorous numerics for differential equations are now more rigorous
- Efficiency and usability can be subtle
- This is just the beginning: it will get faster, it will get more ergonomic, and we will solve harder problems



Thank you for your attention!