

## APPROXIMATE SOLUTIONS FOR THE CARLEMAN EQUATION

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### 1. Introduction

We consider the Carleman equation which is a system of semilinear partial differential equations;

$$(1.1) \quad \begin{aligned} u_t + u_x &= v^2 - u^2 \\ v_t - v_x &= u^2 - v^2 \end{aligned} \quad t > 0, \quad -\infty < x < \infty$$

with initial data

$$(1.2) \quad \begin{aligned} u(0, x) &= \phi(x) \\ v(0, x) &= \psi(x) \end{aligned}$$

The above system has been studied by Carleman to model the spatio-temporal behaviour of the velocity distribution function of a gas whose molecules move parallel to  $x$ -axis with constant speed. In [7], Kolodner showed that for nonnegative initial data  $\phi(x)$  and  $\psi(x)$  in  $C^1(R)$ , there exist nonnegative functions  $u$  and  $v$  in  $C^1(R \times [0, \infty))$  for the problem (1.1) and (1.2) by using fixed point arguments and some properties of the Riccati equation. Thereafter, this problem has been studied by several authors [2, 3, 5, 6, 8].

In this paper, we study the problem (1.1) and (1.2) by a constructive approximation scheme in the idea of [4]. In section 2, we introduce an approximation scheme and construct approximate solutions. In Section 3, we show that the constructed solutions are bounded. In Section 4, we prove that the sequence of approximate solutions satisfies the conditions of Arzela's theorem. Finally, we estimate the error between the exact solution and approximate solutions in Section 5.

### 2. An Approximation Scheme

Let  $\phi(x)$  and  $\psi(x)$  be continuous nonnegative functions from  $R$  to  $R$  with continuous first derivatives. Further, let  $\phi(x)$ ,  $\psi(x)$ ,  $|\phi'(x)|$ ,

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and  $|\phi'(x)|$  be bounded.

We are looking for nonnegative functions  $u(t, x)$  and  $v(t, x)$  in  $C^1([0, \infty) \times R)$  satisfying (1.1) and (1.2).

For any fixed positive number  $T$ , let  $P_m$  be a partition of  $[0, T]$  given by

$$P_m = \{t_0 = 0 < t_1 < t_2 \cdots < t_m = T\}.$$

Let  $\delta_i = t_{i+1} - t_i$ . Then we define the functions  $\phi_i(x)$  and  $\psi_i(x)$  as follows;

$$(2.1) \quad \begin{aligned} \phi_0(x) &= \phi(x), \\ \psi_0(x) &= \phi(x), \\ \phi_{i+1}(x) &= \phi_i(x - \delta_i) + \delta_i [\phi_i^2(x - \delta_i) - \phi_i^2(x - \delta_i)], \\ \psi_{i+1}(x) &= \phi_i(x + \delta_i) + \delta_i [\phi_i^2(x + \delta_i) - \phi_i^2(x + \delta_i)]. \end{aligned}$$

We now consider the following approximating sequences for (1.1) and (1.2).

$$(2.2) \quad \begin{aligned} U_m(t, x) &= \phi_i(x - (t - t_i)) + (t - t_i) [\phi_i^2(x - (t - t_i)) \\ &\quad - \phi_i^2(x - (t - t_i))], \\ V_m(t, x) &= \psi_i(x + (t - t_i)) + (t - t_i) [\phi_i^2(x + (t - t_i)) \\ &\quad - \phi_i^2(x + (t - t_i))] \end{aligned}$$

for  $(t, x) \in [t_i, t_{i+1}] \times R$ .

### 3. Estimates

Let  $P_m$  be a partition of  $[0, T]$ . We take this partition so that  $\delta = \delta_i = t_{i+1} - t_i \leq 1/(2M)$ , where  $M$  is a constant such that

$$0 \leq \phi(x), \quad \phi(x) \leq M.$$

Then we have the following lemma.

LEMMA 1. *The functions  $U_m$  and  $V_m$  are nonnegative and bounded by  $M$ .*

*Proof.* Suppose  $\phi_i$  and  $\psi_i$  are nonnegative and bounded by  $M$ . Then inductively, we get

$$\begin{aligned} M - U_m(t, x) &= M - \phi_i(x - (t - t_i)) + (t - t_i) [M^2 - \phi_i^2(x - (t - t_i))] \\ &\quad - (t - t_i) [M^2 - \phi_i^2(x - (t - t_i))] \\ &\geq [M - \phi_i(x - (t - t_i))] [1 - (t - t_i)(M + \phi_i(x - (t - t_i)))] \\ &\geq [M - \phi_i(x - (t - t_i))] [1 - 2M(t - t_i)] \\ &\geq 0 \end{aligned}$$

for  $(t, x) \in [t_i, t_{i+1}] \times R$ . Hence  $U_m(t, x) \leq M$ .

And we have the following inequality;

$$\begin{aligned}
 U_m(t, x) &\geq \phi_i(x - (t - t_i)) - (t - t_i)\phi_i^2(x - (t - t_i)) \\
 &= \phi_i(x - (t - t_i)) [1 - (t - t_i)\phi_i(x - (t - t_i))] \\
 &\geq 0,
 \end{aligned}$$

for  $t \in [t_i, t_{i+1}]$ . This shows that  $U_m(t, x)$  is nonnegative.

Similarly we can show that  $V_m(t, x)$  is nonnegative and bounded by  $M$ .

We now show that  $U_m(t, x)$  and  $V_m(t, x)$  increase as  $\phi(x)$  and  $\psi(x)$  increase.

LEMMA 2. Let  $\phi(x) \leq \bar{\phi}(x)$  and  $\psi(x) \leq \bar{\psi}(x)$ . Let  $U_m(t, x)$ ,  $\bar{U}_m(t, x)$ ,  $V_m(t, x)$  and  $\bar{V}_m(t, x)$  be the corresponding approximate solutions of (1.1) to  $\phi(x)$ ,  $\bar{\phi}(x)$ ,  $\psi(x)$ , and  $\bar{\psi}(x)$ , respectively. Then

$$U_m(t, x) \leq \bar{U}_m(t, x) \text{ and } V_m(t, x) \leq \bar{V}_m(t, x).$$

*Proof.* If we assume that  $\phi_i(x) \leq \bar{\phi}_i(x)$  and  $\psi_i(x) \leq \bar{\psi}_i(x)$ , then from (2.2), we have the following inequalities.

$$\begin{aligned}
 \bar{U}_m(t, x) - U_m(t, x) &\geq [\bar{\phi}_i(x - (t - t_i)) - \phi_i(x - (t - t_i))] \times \\
 &\quad [1 - (t - t_i) \{ \bar{\phi}_i(x - (t - t_i)) + \phi_i(x - (t - t_i)) \}] \\
 &\geq [\bar{\phi}_i(x - (t - t_i)) - \phi_i(x - (t - t_i))] [1 - 2M(t - t_i)] \\
 &\geq 0
 \end{aligned}$$

for  $(t, x) \in [t_i, t_{i+1}] \times R$ .

Similarly, we have  $\bar{V}_m(t, x) \geq V_m(t, x)$ .

If we assume that there is a nonnegative constant  $M_0$  such that

$$|\phi'(x)|, |\psi''(x)| \leq M_0,$$

then we have the following lemma

LEMMA 3. There exists a positive number  $M^*$  such that

$$|\phi_i'(x)|, |\psi_i'(x)| \leq M^*$$

for  $i=0, 1, \dots, m$ .

*Proof.* Let  $M_i = \sup \{ |\phi_i'(x)|, |\psi_i'(x)| : x \in R \}$  Then since

$$\begin{aligned}
 \phi_{i+1}'(x) &= \phi_i'(x - \delta_i) + \delta_i [2\psi_i(x - \delta_i)\phi_i'(x - \delta_i) \\
 &\quad - 2\phi_i(x - \delta_i)\psi_i'(x - \delta_i)],
 \end{aligned}$$

we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 |\phi_{i+1}'(x)| &\leq M_i + 4\delta_i M M_i \\
 &= (1 + 4M\delta_i) M_i \\
 &\leq \prod_{j=0}^i (1 + 4M\delta_j) M_0
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} &\leq \left(1 + 4M \frac{T}{m}\right) M_0 \\ &\leq \exp(4MT) M_0 \end{aligned}$$

If we take  $M^* = \exp(4MT) M_0$ , then  $M^*$  is the required one.

Similarly, we can show that  $|\phi_{i+1}'(x)| \leq M^*$ . Thus we complete the proof.

LEMMA 4. Given  $r > 0$ , if there exists a modulus of continuity  $\omega$  such that  $|\phi(x) - \phi(y)|, |\phi'(x) - \phi'(y)| \leq \omega(|x - y|)$  for  $|x|, |y| \leq r^* = r + T$ , then

$$|U_m(t, x) - U_m(t, y)|, |V_m(t, x) - V_m(t, y)| \leq K\omega(|x - y|)$$

for  $0 < t \leq T, |x|, |y| \leq r$ , where  $K$  is a constant independent of  $m$ .

*Proof.* We consider the case when  $t_0 < t < t_1$  and  $|x|, |y| \leq r^* - \delta_0$ . From (2.2), we get

$$\begin{aligned} |U_m(t, x) - U_m(t, y)| &\leq |\phi_0(x - (t - t_0)) - \phi_0(y - (t - t_0))| \\ &\quad \times [1 + (t - t_0) |\phi_0(x - (t - t_0)) + \phi_0(y - (t - t_0))|] \\ &\quad + (t - t_0) |\phi_0(x - (t - t_0)) - \phi_0(y - (t - t_0))| \\ &\quad \times |\phi_0(x - (t - t_0)) + \phi_0(y - (t - t_0))| \\ &\leq \omega(|x - y|) (1 + 2\delta_0 M) + 2\delta_0 M \omega(|x - y|) \\ &= (1 + 4M\delta_0) \omega(|x - y|) \end{aligned}$$

for  $|x - (t - t_0)|, |y - (t - t_0)| \leq r^* - \delta + (t - t_0) \leq r^*$

In general, if  $t_i < t \leq t_{i+1}$  and  $|x|, |y| \leq r^* - (\delta_0 + \dots + \delta_i)$ ,  $i = 0, 1, \dots, m - 1$ , then

$$\begin{aligned} |U_m(t, x) - U_m(t, y)| &\leq \prod_{j=0}^i (1 + 4M\delta_j) \omega(|x - y|) \\ &\leq \left(1 + \frac{4M}{m} T\right)^m \omega(|x - y|) \\ &\leq \exp(4MT) \omega(|x - y|). \end{aligned}$$

Similarly, we can show that  $|V_m(t, x) - V_m(t, y)| \leq \exp(4MT) \times \omega(|x - y|)$ .

Hence by taking  $K = \exp(4MT)$  we complete the proof.

LEMMA 5. For any  $A > 0$ , there exists a modulus of continuity function  $\Omega$  such that

$$|\phi_i'(x) - \phi_i'(y)|, |\phi_i'(x) - \phi_i'(y)| \leq \Omega(|x - y|)$$

for  $|x|, |y| \leq A$ .

*Proof.* Since  $\phi(x)$  and  $\phi(x)$  have bounded continuous first derivat-

ives, there exists a modulus of continuity function, say  $\mathcal{Q}_0$ , such that

$$|\phi_0'(x) - \phi_0'(y)|, |\psi_0'(x) - \psi_0'(y)| \leq \mathcal{Q}_0(|x-y|)$$

for  $|x|, |y| \leq A^* = A + T$ . Inductively we assume that

$$|\phi_i'(x) - \phi_i'(y)|, |\psi_i'(x) - \psi_i'(y)| \leq \mathcal{Q}_i(|x-y|).$$

From (2.1), by taking derivatives with respect to  $x$ , we get

$$\begin{aligned} \phi_{i+1}'(x) - \phi_{i+1}'(y) = & \phi_i'(x - \delta_i) - \phi_i'(y - \delta_i) + 2\delta_i \phi_i(x - \delta_i) \times \\ & [\phi_i'(x - \delta_i) - \phi_i'(y - \delta_i)] \\ & + 2\delta_i \phi_i'(y - \delta_i) [\phi_i(x - \delta_i) - \phi_i(y - \delta_i)] \\ & - 2\delta_i \phi_i(x - \delta_i) [\phi_i'(x - \delta_i) - \phi_i'(y - \delta_i)] \\ & - 2\delta_i \phi_i(y - \delta_i) [\phi_i(x - \delta_i) - \phi_i(y - \delta_i)]. \end{aligned}$$

Hence, for  $i=0, 1, \dots, m-1$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} |\phi_{i+1}'(x) - \phi_{i+1}'(y)| \leq & (1 - 2\delta_i \phi_i(x - \delta_i)) |\phi_i'(x - \delta_i) - \phi_i'(y - \delta_i)| \\ & + 2\delta_i |\phi_i(x - \delta_i)| |\phi_i'(x - \delta_i) - \phi_i'(y - \delta_i)| \\ & + 2\delta_i |\phi_i'(y - \delta_i)| |\phi_i(x - \delta_i) - \phi_i(y - \delta_i)| \\ & + 2\delta_i |\phi_i'(y - \delta_i)| |\phi_i(x - \delta_i) - \phi_i(y - \delta_i)| \\ \leq & (1 - 2\delta_i \phi_i(x - \delta_i)) \mathcal{Q}_i(|x-y|) + 2\delta_i M \mathcal{Q}_i(|x-y|) \\ & + 2\delta_i M^* \exp(4MT) \omega(|x-y|) \\ & + 2\delta_i M^* \exp(4MT) \omega(|x-y|) \\ \leq & (1 + 2\delta_i M) \mathcal{Q}_i(|x-y|) \\ & + 4\delta_i M^* \exp(4MT) \omega(|x-y|) \\ \leq & \prod_{j=0}^i (1 + 2\delta_j M) \mathcal{Q}_0(|x-y|) \\ & + 4M^* \exp(4MT) \omega(|x-y|) \\ & \times [\delta_i + \delta_{i-1} (1 + 2\delta_{i-1} M) + \dots + \prod_{j=0}^i (1 + 2\delta_j M) \delta_0] \\ \leq & \prod_{j=0}^i (1 + 2\delta_j M) \mathcal{Q}_0(|x-y|) \\ & + 4M^* \exp(4MT) \omega(|x-y|) \\ & \times \left[ \frac{T}{m} + \frac{T}{m} \left( 1 + 2 \frac{T}{m} M \right) + \dots + \frac{T}{m} \prod_{j=0}^i \left( 1 + 2 \frac{T}{m} M \right) \right] \\ \leq & \exp(2MT) \mathcal{Q}_0(|x-y|) \\ & + 2 \frac{M^*}{M} \exp(6MT) \omega(|x-y|) \end{aligned}$$

The same result can be obtained for  $|\psi_i'(x) - \psi_i'(y)|$ .

Therefore, by taking  $\mathcal{Q}(|x-y|) = \exp(2MT) \mathcal{Q}_0(|x-y|)$

$$+ 2 \frac{M^*}{M} \exp(6MT) \omega(|x-y|)$$

we complete the proof.

LEMMA 6. For any  $B > 0$ , there exists a function  $\omega^* : (0, \infty) \rightarrow R$  with  $\lim_{\xi \rightarrow 0} \omega^*(\xi) = 0$  such that

$$|\phi_{i+h}'(x) - \phi_i'(x)|, |\psi_{i+h}'(x) - \psi_i'(x)| \leq \omega^*(\Delta_{i,i+h})$$

for  $1 \leq i \leq m, h \geq 1$ , and  $|x| \leq B$ , where  $\Delta_{i,i+h} = \delta_i + \delta_{i+1} + \dots + \delta_{i+h-1}$ .

*Proof.* Since  $\phi_{i+1}'(x) = \phi'(x - \delta_i) + 2\delta_i[\phi_i(x - \delta_i)\psi_i'(x - \delta_i) - \phi_i(x - \delta_i)\psi_i'(x - \delta_i)]$ ,

we obtain the following inequalities.

$$\begin{aligned} |\phi_{i+h}'(x) - \phi_i'(x - \delta_i)| &\leq 2\delta_i(|\phi_i(x - \delta_i)\psi_i'(x - \delta_i)| \\ &\quad + |\phi_i(x - \delta_i)\psi_i'(x - \delta_i)|) \\ &\leq 4MM^*\delta_i \end{aligned}$$

Inductively we obtain

$$|\phi_{i+h}'(x) - \phi_i'(x - \Delta_{i,i+h})| \leq 4MM^*\Delta_{i,i+h}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} |\phi_{i+h}'(x) - \phi_i'(x)| &\leq |\phi_{i+h}'(x) - \phi_i'(x - \Delta_{i,i+h})| \\ &\quad + |\phi_i'(x - \Delta_{i,i+h}) - \phi_i'(x)| \\ &\leq 4MM^*\Delta_{i,i+h} + \Omega(\Delta_{i,i+h}). \end{aligned}$$

We can obtain the same inequality for  $|\psi_{i+h}'(x) - \psi_i'(x)|$ . Thus, by taking  $\omega^*(\xi) = 4MM^*\xi + \Omega(\xi)$ , we complete the proof.

#### 4. Convergence of Approximate Solutions

Let  $\{U_m\}$  and  $\{V_m\}$  be approximate solutions for (1.1) and (1.2) corresponding to a partition  $P_m$ . We will show that the approximate solutions  $\{U_m\}$  and  $\{V_m\}$  converge to solutions  $u$  and  $v$ , respectively. First we state the Arzela's theorem due to [1].

**THEOREM (Arzela).** Let  $\{f_n\}$  be a sequence of real-valued functions defined on a compact subset  $K$  of a separable metric space such that

- (a) The sequence  $\{f_n\}$  is uniformly bounded on  $K$
- (b) Given any  $\varepsilon > 0$ , there exists  $N > 0, \delta > 0$  such that whenever  $n > N, |x_1 - x_2| < \delta, x_1, x_2 \in K$ , then  $|f_n(x_1) - f_n(x_2)| < \varepsilon$ .

Then there exists a subsequence  $\{f_{n_k}\}$  of  $\{f_n\}$  which converges uniformly to a continuous function  $f$  defined on  $K$ .

Applying the Arzela's theorem to  $\{U_m\}$  and  $\{V_m\}$ , we can now find subsequences  $\{U_m\}$  and  $\{V_m\}$  which converge uniformly on bounded subset of  $[0, T] \times R$ .

LEMMA 7. *The sequences  $\{U_m(t, x)\}$  and  $\{V_m(t, x)\}$  satisfy the conditions of Arzela's theorem.*

*Proof.* The condition (a) is satisfied by Lemma 1. We now show that the condition (b) is satisfied. We only consider the sequence  $\{U_m(t, x)\}$  since the other one is quite similar. Denote a partition  $P_m$  as  $P_m = \{t_0^m = 0 < t_1^m < \dots < t_m^m = T\}$ .

For  $t, t^* \in [t_i^m, t_{i+1}^m]$  and  $x, x^* \in R$ , we clearly have

$$|U_m(t, x) - U_m(t^*, x^*)| \leq N(|t - t^*| + |x - x^*|)$$

from the Lipschitz nature of  $\phi_i(x)$ .

If  $t, t^* \in [0, T]$  do not belong to the same strip, say  $t_{i-1}^m < t \leq t_i^m \leq t_j^m < t^* \leq t_{j+1}^m$ , then we have the following inequalities;

$$\begin{aligned} |U_m(t, x) - U_m(t^*, x^*)| &\leq |U_m(t, x) - U_m(t_i^m, x)| \\ &\quad + \sum_{s=i}^{j-1} |U_m(t_{s+1}, x) - U_m(t_s, x)| \\ &\quad + |U_m(t_j^m, x) - U_m(t^*, x^*)| \\ &\leq N|t - t_i^m| + N \sum_{s=i}^{j-1} |t_{s+1}^m - t_s^m| \\ &\quad + N|x - x^*| + N|t_j^m - t^*| \\ &\leq N(|t - t^*| + |x - x^*|) \end{aligned}$$

Hence the sequence  $U_m(t, x)$  satisfies the conditions of Arzela's theorem.

We now define functions  $\frac{\partial U_m(t, x)}{\partial x}$  as follows;

$$(4.1) \quad \frac{\partial U_m(t, x)}{\partial x} = \begin{cases} \phi_i'(x - (t - t_i^m)) + 2(t - t_i^m) [\phi_i(x - (t - t_i^m)) \times \\ \phi_i'(x - (t - t_i^m)) - \phi_i(x - (t - t_i^m)) \phi_i'(x - \\ (t - t_i^m))], & t_i^m < t \leq t_{i+1}^m, \\ \phi_i'(x), & t = t_i^m. \end{cases}$$

The functions  $\frac{\partial V_m(t, x)}{\partial x}$  can be defined similarly. Then we have the following lemma.

LEMMA 8. *The sequences  $\left\{ \frac{\partial U_m(t, x)}{\partial x} \right\}$  and  $\left\{ \frac{\partial V_m(t, x)}{\partial x} \right\}$  satisfy the conditions of Arzela's theorem.*

*Proof.* we only consider one, since the other one can be proved similarly. By Lemma 4, the condition (a) is obviously satisfied. We now show that the condition (b) is satisfied.

For  $t, t^* \in [t_i^m, t_{i+1}^m]$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} \left| \frac{\partial U_m(t, x)}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial U_m(t^*, x^*)}{\partial x} \right| &\leq \left| \frac{\partial U_m(t, x)}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial U_m(t^*, t)}{\partial x} \right| \\ &\quad + \left| \frac{\partial U_m(t^*, x)}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial U_m(t^*, x^*)}{\partial x} \right| \\ &\leq Q(|t-t^*| + |x-x^*|). \end{aligned}$$

For  $t_{i-1}^m < t \leq t_i^m \leq t_j^m \leq t^* \leq t_{j+1}^m$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} \left| \frac{\partial U_m(t, x)}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial U_m(t^*, x^*)}{\partial x} \right| &\leq \left| \frac{\partial U_m(t, x)}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial U_m(t^*, x)}{\partial x} \right| \\ &\quad + \left| \frac{\partial U_m(t_i^m, x)}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial U_m(t_j^m, x)}{\partial x} \right| \\ &\quad + \left| \frac{\partial U_m(t_j^m, x)}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial U_m(t^*, x^*)}{\partial x} \right| \\ &\leq Q(|t-t_i^m|) + \omega^*(\Delta_{i,j}) \\ &\quad + Q(|t_j^m-t^*| + |x-x^*|). \end{aligned}$$

This complete the proof.

The above lemma says that there exists a subsequence of  $\{U_m(t, x)\}$  such that  $\left\{ \frac{\partial U_m(t, x)}{\partial x} \right\}$  converges uniformly on  $[-r, r]$  and the limit function  $u(t, x)$  has a continuous partial derivative with respect to  $x$ .

Now we let  $P_m(t, x)$  be defined as follows;

$$\begin{aligned} (4.2) \quad P_m(t, x) &= -\phi_i'(x - (t - t_i^m)) \\ &\quad + [\phi_i^2(x - (t - t_i^m)) - \phi_i^2(x - (t - t_i^m))] \\ &\quad + (t - t_i^m) [-2\phi_i(x - (t - t_i^m))\phi_i'(x - (t - t_i^m))] \\ &\quad + 2\phi_i(x - (t - t_i^m))\phi_i'(x - (t - t_i^m))] \end{aligned}$$

for  $t \in [t_i^m, t_{i+1}^m]$ .

Then by Lemma 1 and Lemma 3,  $P_m(t, x)$  is uniformly bounded.

And from (4.1) we have

$$P_m(t, x) + \frac{\partial U_m(t, x)}{\partial x} = \phi_i^2(x + (t - t_i^m)) - \phi_i^2(x - (t - t_i^m)).$$

Furthermore,

$$\begin{aligned} &P_m(t, x) + \frac{\partial U_m(t, x)}{\partial x} - V_m^2(t, x) + U_m^2(t, x) \\ &= \phi_i^2(x + (t - t_i^m)) - \phi_i^2(x - (t - t_i^m)) \\ &\quad - [\phi_i(x + (t - t_i^m)) + (t - t_i^m) \{\phi_i^2(x + (t - t_i^m)) - \phi_i^2(x + (t - t_i^m))\}]^2 \\ &\quad + [\phi_i(x - (t - t_i^m)) + (t - t_i^m) \{\phi_i^2(x - (t - t_i^m)) - \phi_i^2(x - (t - t_i^m))\}]^2 \\ &\rightarrow 0. \end{aligned}$$

Noting  $|\phi_i(x)|$ ,  $|\phi_i'(x)|$ ,  $|\phi_i(x)|$ , and  $|\phi_i'(x)|$  are uniformly bounded

and  $|t-t| \leq \frac{T}{m}$ , this convergence is uniform. Thus  $P_m(t, x)$  converges

to a continuous function. It follows that the limit functions  $U$  and  $V$  (proceeding similarly) satisfy (1.1) in  $[0, T] \times [-r, r]$ .

We are now ready to state the main theorem as follows.

**Main Theorem.** For nonnegative bounded continuous functions  $\phi(x)$  and  $\psi(x)$  with bounded continuous first derivatives, there exist nonnegative functions  $u(t, x)$  and  $v(t, x)$  satisfying (1.1). Furthermore,  $u(t, x)$  and  $v(t, x)$  can be obtained as limits of sequences  $U_m(t, x)$  and  $V_m(t, x)$  constructed by (2.1) and (2.2), respectively

### 5. Error Estimates

Let  $u(t, x)$  and  $v(t, x)$  be the exact solutions to (1.1) and (1.2), and  $U_m(t, x)$  and  $V_m(t, x)$  be the approximate solutions corresponding to a partition  $P_m$ . Let  $a_m = u - U_m$  and  $b_m = v - V_m$ . Then we have the following relations.

$$(5.1) \quad \begin{aligned} \frac{\partial a_m}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial a_m}{\partial x} &= v^2 - u^2 - [\phi_i^2(x - (t - t_i^m)) - \phi_i^2(x - (t - t_i^m))], \\ \frac{\partial b_m}{\partial t} - \frac{\partial b_m}{\partial x} &= u^2 - v^2 - [\phi_i^2(x - (t - t_i^m)) - \phi_i^2(x + (t - t_i^m))]. \end{aligned}$$

We let

$$(5.2) \quad \begin{aligned} \phi_i(x - (t - t_i^m)) &= U_m(t, x) + R_i(t, x), \\ \phi_i(x + (t - t_i^m)) &= V_m(t, x) + S_i(t, x). \end{aligned}$$

Then

$$\begin{aligned} |R_i(t, x)| &= |t - t_i^m| |\phi_i^2(x - (t - t_i^m)) - \phi_i^2(x - (t - t_i^m))| \\ &\leq 2M^2 |t - t_i^m| \\ &\leq 2M^2 \|P_m\|, \end{aligned}$$

where  $\|P_m\| = \min \{ |t_{i+1}^m - t_i^m| : i = 0, 1, \dots, m-1 \}$ .

Similarly, we have

$$|S_i(t, x)| \leq 2M^2 \|P_m\|.$$

From (5.1) and (5.2), we have the following system of partial differential equations

$$(5.3) \quad \begin{aligned} \frac{\partial a_m}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial a_m}{\partial x} &= \alpha_{11} a_m + \alpha_{12} b_m + \rho_i, \\ \frac{\partial b_m}{\partial t} - \frac{\partial b_m}{\partial x} &= \alpha_{21} a_m + \alpha_{22} b_m + \rho_i^*, \end{aligned}$$

with

(5.4)  $a_m(0, x) = b_m(0, x) = 0$ ,  
 where

$$\begin{aligned}\alpha_{11} &= -(u + U_m), \\ \alpha_{12} &= v + V_m, \\ \alpha_{21} &= -\alpha_{11}, \\ \alpha_{22} &= -\alpha_{12}, \\ \rho_i &= 2R_i U_m + R_i^2 - 2S_i V_m - S_i^2, \\ \rho_i^* &= -\rho.\end{aligned}$$

We observe that  $|\rho_i|, |\rho_i^*| \leq 8M^2(1 + M\|P_m\|)\|P_m\|$  and  $|\alpha_{i,j}| \leq 2M$ ,  $i, j = 1, 2$ . Let  $a = 2M$  and  $b = 8M^2(1 + M\|P_m\|)\|P_m\|$ . Further, if we let  $E_i = \max\{|a_m(t_i, x)|, |b_m(t_i, x)|\}$ , then  $E_0 = 0$ . Now by an application of Haar's lemma [9] we get

$$|a_m(t, x)|, |b_m(t, x)| \leq E_i \exp(2\delta_i) + \frac{b}{2a} \{\exp(2a\delta_i) - 1\}$$

for  $t \in [t_i^m, t_{i+1}^m]$ . That is,

$$E_{i+1} \leq E_i \exp(2a\delta_i) + \frac{b}{2a} \{\exp(2a\delta_i) - 1\}.$$

This last inequality gives

$$E_{i+1} \leq \frac{b}{2a} \{\exp(2aT) - 1\} \text{ for } i = 0, 1, \dots, m-1.$$

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