



# Fractional-Step Methods: Theory and Practice

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August 8–11, 2023

# Orientation



Saskatchewan

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Saskatchewan

Easy to draw, hard to spell.

# Acknowledgements

- Other guilty parties



S. Wei

- Support from



Environment and  
Climate Change Canada



# Outline

- 1 Fractional-Step Methods
- 2 FSRK Representation and Linear Stability Analysis
- 3 Method Design and Examples
- 4 Conclusions and Future Work

# What?

Consider the initial-value problem

$$\frac{d\mathbf{y}}{dt} = \mathbf{f}(t, \mathbf{y}) := \sum_{i=1}^N \mathbf{f}^{[i]}(t, \mathbf{y}), \quad \mathbf{y}(0) = \mathbf{y}_0.$$

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One step of Godunov / Lie–Trotter splitting (first-order accurate) is

$$\text{Step } \Delta t: \quad \frac{d\mathbf{y}^{[1]}}{dt} = \mathbf{f}^{[1]}(t, \mathbf{y}^{[1]}), \quad \mathbf{y}_n^{[1]} = \mathbf{y}_n.$$

$$\text{Step } \Delta t: \quad \frac{d\mathbf{y}^{[2]}}{dt} = \mathbf{f}^{[2]}(t, \mathbf{y}^{[2]}), \quad \mathbf{y}_n^{[2]} = \mathbf{y}_{n+1}^{[1]}.$$

$$\text{Set:} \quad \mathbf{y}_{n+1} = \mathbf{y}_{n+1}^{[2]}.$$



# Bubble Diagram

Godunov / Lie–Trotter

# Why?

- feasibility
- efficiency

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Caveat emptor!

# How?

- linear / non-linear
- physics
- stiff / non-stiff (includes geometry)
- scale
- exact flow
- co-simulation

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# Fractional steps

Define  $\psi_{\Delta t}^{(j)}$  recursively by

$$\psi_{\Delta t}^{(0)} = \text{Id},$$

$$\psi_{\Delta t}^{(j)} = \phi_{\alpha_j^{[M]} \Delta t}^{[M]} \circ \cdots \circ \phi_{\alpha_j^{[1]} \Delta t}^{[1]} \circ \psi_{\Delta t}^{(j-1)}, \quad j = 1, 2, \dots, s.$$

Then

$$\psi_{\Delta t}^{(s)} \approx \phi_{\Delta t}.$$

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Then

$$\psi_{\Delta t}^{(s)} \approx \phi_{\Delta t}.$$

## Practical matters

Order conditions on  $\alpha_j^{[1]}, \alpha_j^{[2]}, \dots, \alpha_j^{[M]}, j = 1, 2, \dots, s$ , so that

$$\|\phi_{\Delta t} - \psi_{\Delta t}^{(s)}\| = \mathcal{O}((\Delta t)^{p+1}).$$

Typically, we must approximate  $\phi_t^{[i]}$  numerically to  $\mathcal{O}((\Delta t)^p)$ ; e.g.,

- $p = 1$ : forward Euler for  $\phi_{\Delta t}^{[1]}$ , forward Euler for  $\phi_{\Delta t}^{[2]}$ ,
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# Classical low-order splittings

- Original Strang–Marchuk (second order):

$j$	$\alpha_j^{[1]}$	$\alpha_j^{[2]}$
1	$\frac{1}{2}$	1
2	$\frac{1}{2}$	0

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2	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\{[2], [1]\}$



# Classical high-order splitting

Third order: Ruth

$j$	$\alpha_j^{[1]}$	$\alpha_j^{[2]}$
1	$\frac{7}{24}$	$\frac{2}{3}$
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Is this a deal breaker?

Use (G)ARK theory to understand.

# FSRK Representation

## Theorem 1

*An  $N$ -split FSRK method can be written as an extended Butcher tableau of the form*

$$\begin{array}{c|cccc}
 \mathbf{c}^{[1]} & \mathbf{c}^{[2]} & \dots & \mathbf{c}^{[M]} & \mathbf{A}^{[1]} & \mathbf{A}^{[2]} & \dots & \mathbf{A}^{[M]} \\
 \hline
 & & & & \mathbf{b}^{[1]} & \mathbf{b}^{[2]} & \dots & \mathbf{b}^{[M]}
 \end{array}$$





# FSRK Representation Example

Godunov / Lie–Trotter with tableau

# Linear Stability Analysis

## Theorem 2

Consider the linear test equation  $\frac{dy}{dt} = \sum_{\ell=1}^N \lambda^{[\ell]} y$ . The stability function of the FSRK method is given by

$$R(z^{[1]}, z^{[2]}, \dots, z^{[N]}) = \prod_{k=1}^s \prod_{\ell=1}^N R_k^{[\ell]}(\alpha_k^{[\ell]} z^{[\ell]}),$$

where  $z^{[\ell]} = \Delta t \lambda^{[\ell]}$  and  $R_k^{[\ell]}(z^{[\ell]})$  is the stability function of the Runge–Kutta method at stage  $k$  applied to operator  $\ell$ .

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# Brusselator

The Brusselator problem:

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{\partial T}{\partial t} &= D_1 \frac{\partial^2 T}{\partial x^2} + \alpha - (\beta + 1)T + T^2 C, \\ \frac{\partial C}{\partial t} &= D_2 \frac{\partial^2 C}{\partial x^2} + \beta T - T^2 C,\end{aligned}$$

where  $T$  and  $C$  are concentrations of different chemical species.

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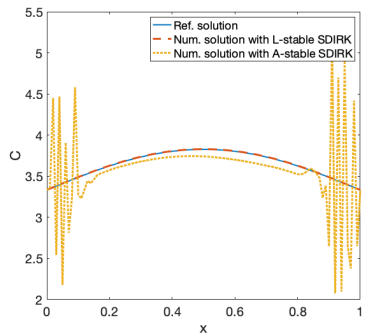
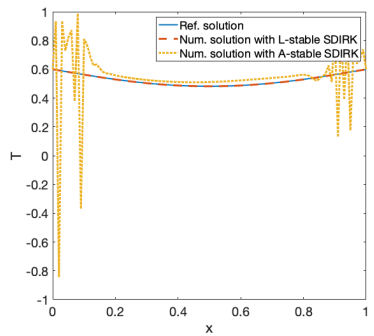
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Numerical PDE people “know” that integrating the diffusion operator with an L-stable method can “better” control high-wavenumber instability than with an A-stable method.

# Brusselator





# Brusselator

$$R_{\text{Heun}}(z) = 1 + z + \frac{z^2}{2}, \quad R_{\text{SDIRK}(2,2)}(z) = \frac{1 + z(1 - 2\gamma)}{(1 - \gamma z)^2}$$

$$R_{\text{FSRK}}(z) = R_{\text{Heun}}(1z_R) R_{\text{SDIRK}(2,2)}^2\left(\frac{1}{2}z_D\right)$$

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Let  $z_D = \frac{1}{r} z_R$ . Then

$$\lim_{|z| \rightarrow \infty} |R_{\text{FSRK}}(z)| = \frac{2r^2(1 - 2\gamma)^2}{\gamma^4}$$

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L-stable + ERK can be A-stable

# Negative coefficients

Consider solving the linear equation

$$\frac{dy}{dt} = \lambda^{[1]}y + \lambda^{[2]}y.$$

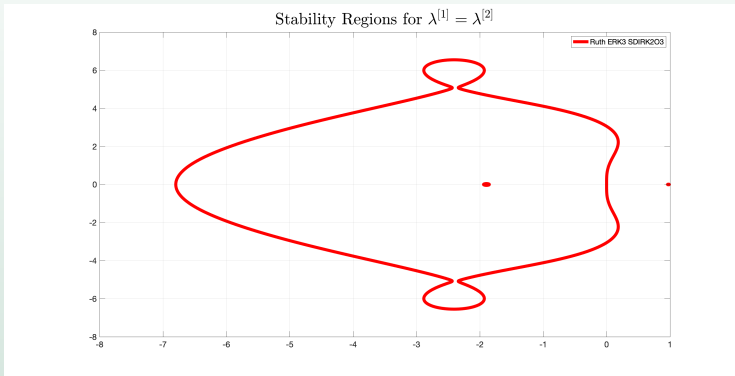
For simplicity, let  $\lambda^{[1]} = \lambda^{[2]}$ .

## Negative coefficients

Use Ruth's method with Kutta ERK3 for operator 1 and A-stable SDIRK(2,3) for operator 2:

$$R(z) = R_{\text{ERK3}}\left(\frac{7}{24}z\right) R_{\text{ERK3}}\left(\frac{3}{4}z\right) R_{\text{ERK3}}\left(-\frac{1}{24}z\right) \\ R_{\text{SDIRK}(2,3)}\left(\frac{2}{3}z\right) R_{\text{SDIRK}(2,3)}\left(-\frac{2}{3}z\right) R_{\text{SDIRK}(2,3)}(1z)$$

## Negative coefficients



There's a hole in my stability region (for  $z \approx -1.9$ ).

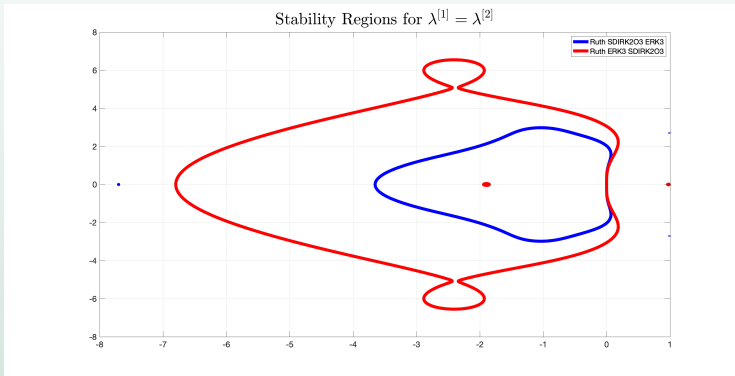


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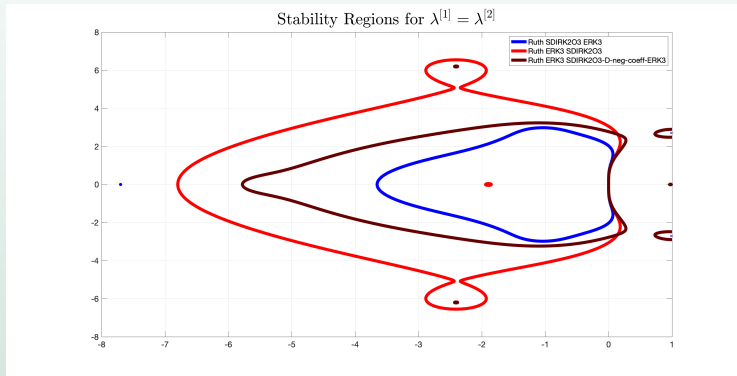
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## Negative coefficients



No more hole in my stability region ( $z \approx -7.7$ ).

# Negative coefficients



Explicit method for unstable integration.

# FSRK method anatomy

- Require:**  $\{\mathbf{F}^{[k]}\}, \{\alpha_j^{[k]}\}, \{\Phi_j^{[k]}\}, \{\mathcal{O}_j\}, t_n, t_{n+1}, \mathbf{U}_n.$
- 1:  $\tilde{\mathbf{U}}_0 = \mathbf{U}_n; \Delta t_n = t_{n+1} - t_n; t^{[k]} = t_n$  for  $k = 1, 2, \dots, N$
  - 2: **for**  $j = 1$  to  $n_s$  **do**
  - 3:     **for**  $k \in \mathcal{O}_j$  **do**
  - 4:          $(k, \alpha) = (k_j, \alpha_j^{[k]})$
  - 5:         Solve  $\{\dot{\tilde{\mathbf{U}}}\}^{[k]} = \mathbf{F}^{[k]}(t, \{\tilde{\mathbf{U}}\}^{[k]})$ ,  $\{\tilde{\mathbf{U}}(t^{[k]})\} = \tilde{\mathbf{U}}_0^{[k]}$ ,  
 $t \in [t^{[k]}, t^{[k]} + \alpha \Delta t_n]$ , using  $\Phi_j^{[k]}$
  - 6:          $t^{[k]} = t^{[k]} + \alpha \Delta t_n$
  - 7:          $\{\tilde{\mathbf{U}}_0\}^{[k]} = \{\tilde{\mathbf{U}}\}^{[k]}(t^{[k]})$
  - 8:     **end for**
  - 9: **end for**
  - 10: **Return**  $\mathbf{U}_{n+1} = \tilde{\mathbf{U}}_0$

# FSRK method design principles

- match desirable characteristics of sub-integrator to operator
- minimize unstable sub-integration / maximize method stability
- maximize accuracy
- minimize computational expense

## Niederer benchmark: problem

Monodomain model, 3D, TTP cell model

PDE:

$$\chi C_m \frac{\partial v}{\partial t} = \nabla \cdot \left( \frac{\lambda}{1 + \lambda} \sigma_i \nabla v \right) - \chi \left( I_{\text{ion}}(\mathbf{s}, v) + I_{\text{stim}}(t, \mathbf{x}) \right)$$

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{s}}{\partial t} = \mathbf{g}(\mathbf{s}, v)$$

Discretized and split:

$$\begin{bmatrix} \dot{\mathbf{V}} \\ \dot{\mathbf{S}} \end{bmatrix} = \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{C_m \chi} \sigma^{-1} \mathbf{D} \mathbf{V} \\ \mathbf{0} \end{bmatrix}}_{\mathbf{F}^{[1]}} + \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} -\frac{1}{C_m} (\mathbf{I}_{\text{ion}}(\mathbf{S}, \mathbf{V}) + \mathbf{I}_{\text{stim}}(t)) \\ \mathbf{G}(\mathbf{S}, \mathbf{V}) \end{bmatrix}}_{\mathbf{F}^{[2]}}$$

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# Niederer benchmark: ingredients

OS methods:

- Ruth (6 sub-integrations)
- main method from Emb 3/2 AKS (6 sub-integrations, palindromic, optimized LEM)
- OS(4,3)[7] (7 sub-integrations, optimized LEM)

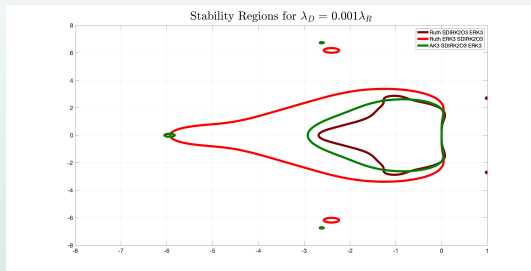
Sub-integrators:

- reaction: explicit Kutta method (3 stages)
- diffusion: SDIRK (2 stages, A-stable)



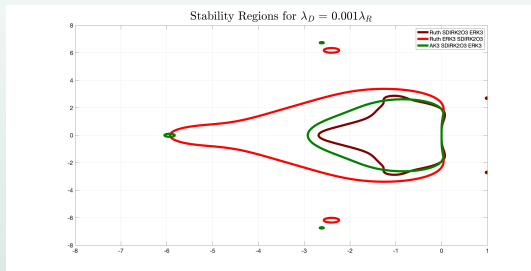
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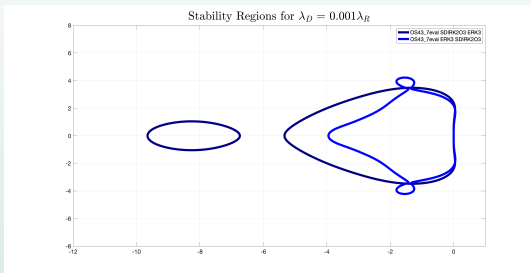
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Method	$\Delta t$	Error (%)	CPU (s)
Ruth DR	0.0028	0.07	10,794
Ruth RD	0.0062	0.039	4,314
AKS3	0.0031	2.3	9,970

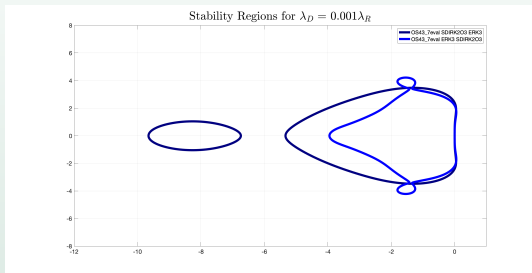
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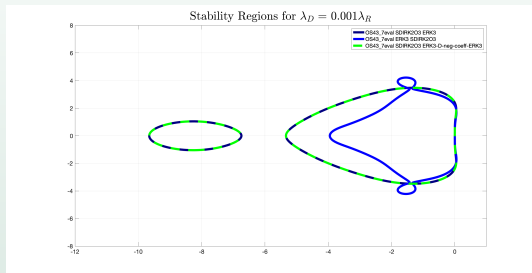
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Method	$\Delta t$	Error (%)	CPU (s)
DR	0.0057	1.50	6,290
RD	0.0041	0.081	8,555

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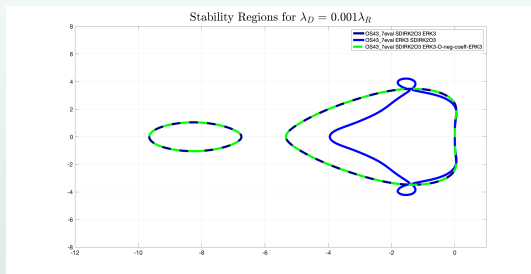
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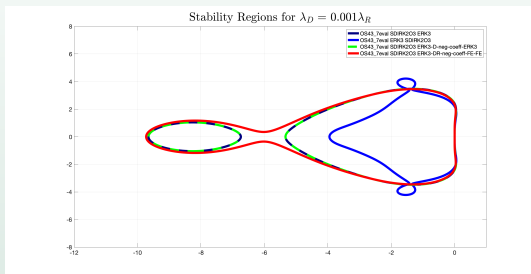
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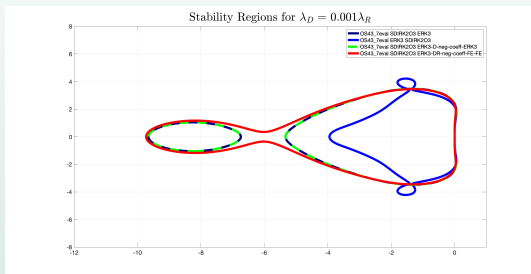
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DR FE <sup>-</sup>	0.01	1.3	2,228



# Niederer benchmark: preliminary observations

Summary of preliminary observations:

- simulations are stability constrained at 5% MRMS error level
- using explicit methods for unstable implicit sub-integration removes poles in linear stability regions
- using low-order integration for unstable sub-integration reduces computation time without loss of accuracy

# Conclusions

- FSRK methods can be represented as (G)ARK methods.
- Linear stability of FSRK methods is the product of individual sub-integrators with modified argument.
- Order of sub-integrations matters for linear stability if  $\alpha^{[\ell]}$  are not permutations of each other.
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Collaborators welcome!

# Future Work

- Applications in hydrology and plasma physics

