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## STABILITY CONDITION FOR DIFFERENCE SCHEMES FOR PARABOLIC SYSTEMS\*

WEIWEI SUN<sup>†</sup> AND GUANGWEI YUAN<sup>‡</sup>

**Abstract.** Recently, Goldberg studied in [M. Goldberg, *SIAM J. Numer. Anal.*, 35 (1998), pp. 478–493, M. Goldberg, *SIAM J. Numer. Anal.*, 35 (1998), pp. 1995–2003] stability conditions of a well-known family of difference schemes for the following multidimensional parabolic system of second order:

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{u}(\mathbf{x}, t)}{\partial t} = \sum_{1 \leq p \leq q \leq s} A_{pq} \frac{\partial^2 \mathbf{u}(\mathbf{x}, t)}{\partial x_p \partial x_q} + \sum_{1 \leq p \leq s} B_p \frac{\partial \mathbf{u}(\mathbf{x}, t)}{\partial x_p} + C \mathbf{u}(\mathbf{x}, t).$$

Here we present a modified stability condition for the above problem, and prove that this condition is optimal in some sense.

**AMS subject classifications.** 65M06, 65M12

**Key words.** parabolic systems, difference schemes, stability

**PII.** S0036142998348182

**1. Introduction.** Consider the initial value problem for the parabolic systems of second order of the form

$$(1.1a) \quad \frac{\partial \mathbf{u}(\mathbf{x}, t)}{\partial t} = \sum_{1 \leq p \leq q \leq s} A_{pq} \frac{\partial^2 \mathbf{u}(\mathbf{x}, t)}{\partial x_p \partial x_q} + \sum_{1 \leq p \leq s} B_p \frac{\partial \mathbf{u}(\mathbf{x}, t)}{\partial x_p} + C \mathbf{u}(\mathbf{x}, t),$$

$$(1.1b) \quad \mathbf{u}(\mathbf{x}, 0) = \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}), \quad \mathbf{x} = (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_s) \in \mathbb{R}^s, \quad 0 \leq t \leq T,$$

where  $A_{pq}$ ,  $B_p$ , and  $C$  are constant  $m \times m$  matrices,  $A_{pq}$  being Hermitian,  $\mathbf{u}(\mathbf{x}, t) = (u_1(\mathbf{x}, t), \dots, u_m(\mathbf{x}, t))'$  (prime denoting the transpose) is the unknown  $m$ -vector. Here and below we adopt the same notations and symbols as those in [2, 3].

We assume that (1.1) is well posed in the sense of Petrowski (see [7]), i.e., there exists a constant  $\delta > 0$  such that

$$(1.2) \quad \sum_{1 \leq p \leq q \leq s} \sigma_p \sigma_q A_{pq} \geq \delta \sum_{1 \leq p \leq s} \sigma_p^2 I \quad \text{for all real } \sigma_1, \dots, \sigma_s,$$

where  $I$  is the identity matrix. Define the spectral radius of a matrix  $A$  as

$$\rho(A) = \max\{|\lambda| : \lambda \text{ is eigenvalue of } A\}.$$

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Let  $\Delta x_p > 0$ ,  $p = 1, \dots, s$ , and  $\Delta t > 0$  be the space and time stepsizes, respectively. Denote  $\lambda_p = \frac{\Delta t}{\Delta x_p^2}$ ,  $p = 1, \dots, s$ ,  $\mathbf{u}_k^n = \mathbf{u}(k_1 \Delta x_1, \dots, k_s \Delta x_s, n \Delta t)$ ,  $\mathbf{k} = (k_1, \dots, k_s)$ , and  $E_p$  the translations

$$E_p \mathbf{u}_k^n = \mathbf{u}(k_1 \Delta x_1, \dots, k_{p-1} \Delta x_{p-1}, (k_p + 1) \Delta x_p, k_{p+1} \Delta x_{p+1}, \dots, k_s \Delta x_s), \quad p = 1, \dots, s.$$

For  $0 \leq \theta \leq 1$ , we introduce the difference schemes

$$(1.3) \quad \mathbf{v}_k^{n+1} - \theta Q \mathbf{v}_k^{n+1} = \mathbf{v}_k^n + (1 - \theta) Q \mathbf{v}_k^n,$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} Q \mathbf{v}_k^n &= \sum_{1 \leq p \leq s} \lambda_p A_{pp} (E_p - 2I + E_p^{-1}) \mathbf{v}_k^n \\ &+ \sum_{1 \leq p < q \leq s} \frac{1}{4} \sqrt{\lambda_p \lambda_q} A_{pq} (E_p - E_p^{-1})(E_q - E_q^{-1}) \mathbf{v}_k^n \\ &+ \sum_{1 \leq p \leq s} \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{\lambda_p \Delta t} (E_p - E_p^{-1}) \mathbf{v}_k^n + \Delta t C \mathbf{v}_k^n. \end{aligned}$$

Following [6] and [7] we call the difference schemes in (1.3)  $L_2$  stable if and only if there exist constants  $\tau > 0$ ,  $\kappa > 0$ , such that

$$\|G(\Delta t, \boldsymbol{\xi})^n\|_2 \leq \kappa \quad \text{for all } \Delta t \leq \tau, \quad n \Delta t \leq T, \quad \boldsymbol{\xi} \in \mathbb{R}^s,$$

where  $G(\Delta t, \boldsymbol{\xi})$  is the amplification matrix of the difference schemes in (1.3), and  $\|\cdot\|_2$  is the spectral norm on the algebra of complex  $m \times m$  matrices  $\mathbf{C}^{m \times m}$ , i.e.,

$$\|M\|_2 = \max \left\{ (y^* M^* M y)^{\frac{1}{2}} : y \in \mathbf{C}^m, y^* y = 1 \right\}, \quad M \in \mathbf{C}^{m \times m}$$

(\* denoting the conjugate transpose).

The system in (1.1) is called strongly well posed in the sense of Petrowski if the conditions (1.2) and

$$(1.4) \quad \sum_{1 \leq p \leq s} \sigma_p^2 A_{pp} - \sum_{1 \leq p < q \leq s} \sigma_p \sigma_q A_{pq} \geq \delta \sum_{1 \leq p \leq s} \sigma_p^2 I \quad \text{for all real } \sigma_1, \dots, \sigma_s$$

for some  $\delta > 0$  are satisfied [2, 3]. In [2] Goldberg has studied stability conditions of (1.3) for the initial value problem of (1.1). He proved that the scheme (1.3) is stable unconditionally for  $\frac{1}{2} \leq \theta \leq 1$ , and when the system (1.1) is strongly well posed in the sense of Petrowski, this scheme is stable conditionally for  $0 \leq \theta < \frac{1}{2}$ . Later, in [3], Goldberg presented a stability condition for the problem with only Petrowski condition (1.2). The main theorem in [3] is given below.

**THEOREM 1.1** (see [3]). *Let  $0 \leq \theta < \frac{1}{2}$  and (1.2) hold. Then the schemes in (1.3) are  $L_2$  stable if*

$$(1.5) \quad \sum_{1 \leq p \leq s} \lambda_p \rho(A_{pp}) \leq \frac{1}{2\Omega(1 - 2\theta)},$$

where  $\Omega = \Omega(s) = s$  for  $s$  odd, and  $\Omega = \Omega(s) = s - 1$  for  $s$  even.

Our main result is the following. The proof is along the lines of Goldberg’s argument in [3].

**THEOREM 1.2.** *Let  $0 \leq \theta < \frac{1}{2}$  and  $s \geq 3$ . Assume (1.2) holds. Then the schemes in (1.3) are  $L_2$  stable if*

$$(1.6) \quad \sum_{1 \leq p \leq s} \lambda_p \rho(A_{pp}) \leq \frac{1}{2\omega(1 - 2\theta)},$$

where  $\omega = \omega(s) = \frac{s^2}{4(s-1)}$ .

*Remark 1.1.* Obviously,  $\frac{\Omega(3)}{\omega(3)} = \frac{8}{3}$ ,  $\frac{\Omega(4)}{\omega(4)} = \frac{9}{4}$ ,  $\frac{\Omega(6)}{\omega(6)} = \frac{25}{9}$ ,  $\frac{\Omega(s)}{\omega(s)} > 3$  for  $s = 5, 7$  and all  $s \geq 8$ , and  $\lim_{s \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\Omega(s)}{\omega(s)} = 4$ . The condition (1.6) is less restrictive than the one in (1.5). In section 3 we shall give an example to show the condition (1.6) is optimal in some sense.

**2. Proof of Theorem 1.2.** First we prove the following lemma.

**LEMMA 2.1.** *Let  $s \geq 3$  and the condition (1.2) hold. Then there holds*

$$(2.1) \quad C_1 \sum_{1 \leq p \leq s} \sigma_p^2 A_{pp} - \sum_{1 \leq p < q \leq s} \sigma_p \sigma_q A_{pq} \geq (s - 1)\delta \sum_{1 \leq p \leq s} \sigma_p^2 I \text{ for all real } \sigma_1, \dots, \sigma_s,$$

where  $C_1 = s - 1$ .

*Remark 2.1.* The estimate of  $C_1 = s - 1$  in Lemma 2.1 is optimal. That is, for any  $\varepsilon > 0$ , (2.1) is not true for  $C_1 = s - 1 - \varepsilon$ , which can be shown by an example in section 3.

*Proof of Lemma 2.1.* For any fixed  $p$  and  $q$  satisfying  $1 \leq p < q \leq s$ , by letting all the remaining  $\sigma_p$  vanish, we get

$$(2.2) \quad \sigma_p^2 A_{pp} + \sigma_p \sigma_q A_{pq} + \sigma_q^2 A_{qq} \geq \delta(\sigma_p^2 + \sigma_q^2)I \text{ for all real } \sigma_p, \sigma_q.$$

Altering the sign of the  $\sigma_p$  in the above inequality (2.2) will lead to

$$(2.3) \quad \sigma_p^2 A_{pp} - \sigma_p \sigma_q A_{pq} + \sigma_q^2 A_{qq} \geq \delta(\sigma_p^2 + \sigma_q^2)I \text{ for all real } \sigma_p, \sigma_q.$$

Summing up the inequality (2.3) over  $1 \leq p < q \leq s$  gives (2.1) immediately. The proof of Lemma 2.1 is completed.  $\square$

The amplification matrix of the difference schemes in (1.3) are of the form

$$G(\Delta t, \xi) = H_1(\Delta t, \xi)^{-1} H_0(\Delta t, \xi), \quad \xi = (\xi_1, \dots, \xi_s) \in \mathbb{R}^s,$$

where  $H_0(\Delta t, \xi)$  and  $H_1(\Delta t, \xi)$  are the  $m \times m$  complex matrices defined by

$$H_0(\Delta t, \xi) = I + (1 - \theta)H(\Delta t, \xi), \quad H_1(\Delta t, \xi) = I - \theta H(\Delta t, \xi),$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} H(\Delta t, \xi) &= \sum_{1 \leq p \leq s} 2\lambda_p (\cos \xi_p - 1) A_{pp} - \sum_{1 \leq p < q \leq s} \sqrt{\lambda_p \lambda_q} \sin \xi_p \sin \xi_q A_{pq} \\ &+ i \sum_{1 \leq p \leq s} \sqrt{\lambda_p} \Delta t \sin \xi_p B_p + \Delta t C \equiv J + iK + \Delta t C, \end{aligned}$$

$$J \equiv J(\boldsymbol{\xi}) = \sum_{1 \leq p \leq s} 2\lambda_p(\cos \xi_p - 1)A_{pp} - \sum_{1 \leq p < q \leq s} \sqrt{\lambda_p \lambda_q} \sin \xi_p \sin \xi_q A_{pq},$$

$$K \equiv K(\Delta t, \boldsymbol{\xi}) = \sum_{1 \leq p \leq s} \sqrt{\lambda_p \Delta t} \sin \xi_p B_p.$$

Since the stability of difference schemes is insensitive to the perturbations of order  $O(\Delta t)$  (see [5] and [6, sect. 3.9]), we can let the zero order coefficient matrix  $C$  in (1.1a) be 0, and then reducing  $G(\Delta t, \boldsymbol{\xi})$  to

$$G = G(\Delta t, \boldsymbol{\xi}) = H_1(\Delta t, \boldsymbol{\xi})^{-1} H_0(\Delta t, \boldsymbol{\xi}),$$

where

$$H_0 = H_0(\Delta t, \boldsymbol{\xi}) = I + (1 - \theta)[J(\boldsymbol{\xi}) + iK(\Delta t, \boldsymbol{\xi})],$$

$$H_1 = H_1(\Delta t, \boldsymbol{\xi}) = I - \theta[J(\boldsymbol{\xi}) + iK(\Delta t, \boldsymbol{\xi})].$$

In [2] the following matrix inequalities have been proved:

$$(2.4) \quad J(\boldsymbol{\xi}) \leq 0, \quad P(\boldsymbol{\xi}) = I - \theta J(\boldsymbol{\xi}) \geq I.$$

For any  $\boldsymbol{\xi} \in \mathbb{R}^s$ , define the inner product on  $\mathbf{C}^m$

$$(\mathbf{y}, \mathbf{z})_\xi \equiv \mathbf{z}^* P \mathbf{y}, \quad \mathbf{y}, \mathbf{z} \in \mathbf{C}^m,$$

and the numerical radius associated with  $(\mathbf{y}, \mathbf{z})_\xi$

$$r_\xi(M) \equiv \max\{|(M\mathbf{y}, \mathbf{y})_\xi| : \mathbf{y} \in \mathbf{C}^m, (\mathbf{y}, \mathbf{y})_\xi = 1\}, \quad M \in \mathbf{C}^{m \times m}.$$

This constitutes a  $\xi$ -weighted norm on  $\mathbf{C}^{m \times m}$  (see [4] or [2, 3]) which is important in our proof.

Obviously there holds  $PH_1^{-1}H_0 = R + iKS$ , where  $R = I + (1 - \theta)J$ ,  $S = (1 - \theta)I + \theta[I - \theta J - i\theta K]^{-1}[I + (1 - \theta)(J + iK)]$ . It follows that

$$(2.5) \quad r_\xi(G) \equiv r_\xi(G(\Delta t, \boldsymbol{\xi})) \leq \max_{\mathbf{y} \neq 0} \frac{|\mathbf{y}^* R \mathbf{y}| + |\mathbf{y}^* K S \mathbf{y}|}{\mathbf{y}^* P \mathbf{y}}.$$

Now we have the following lemma.

LEMMA 2.2. *Assume that the conditions of Theorem 1.2 hold. Then there exist constants  $\gamma \geq 0$ ,  $\tau > 0$ , such that*

$$r_\xi(G(\Delta t, \boldsymbol{\xi})) \leq 1 + \gamma \Delta t \quad \text{for all } \Delta t \leq \gamma, \quad n \Delta t \leq T, \quad \boldsymbol{\xi} \in \mathbb{R}^s.$$

*Proof.* It is proved in [2] that there is a constant  $\tau > 0$  such that  $G(\Delta t, \boldsymbol{\xi})$  exists for all  $\boldsymbol{\xi} \in \mathbb{R}^s$  and  $\Delta t \leq \tau$ . Note that  $R$  is Hermitian, so  $\mathbf{y}^* R \mathbf{y}$  is real for all  $\mathbf{y} \in \mathbf{C}^m$ . According to (2.5) it is sufficient to show that there exists a constant  $\gamma \geq 0$  such that

$$(2.6) \quad \mathbf{y}^*(\pm R - P)\mathbf{y} + |\mathbf{y}^* K S \mathbf{y}| \leq \gamma \Delta t \mathbf{y}^* P \mathbf{y}, \quad \mathbf{y} \in \mathbf{C}^m, \quad 0 < \Delta t \leq \tau, \quad \boldsymbol{\xi} \in \mathbb{R}^s.$$

The above inequality with the “+” symbol has been proved in [2]. It remains to prove

$$(2.7) \quad -\mathbf{y}^*(R + P)\mathbf{y} + |\mathbf{y}^* K S \mathbf{y}| \leq \gamma \Delta t \mathbf{y}^* P \mathbf{y}, \quad \mathbf{y} \in \mathbf{C}^m, \quad 0 < \Delta t \leq \tau, \quad \boldsymbol{\xi} \in \mathbb{R}^s.$$

Note that, by letting  $\sigma_p = \sqrt{\lambda_p} \sin \xi_p$  in Lemma 2.1,

$$\begin{aligned}
 R + P &= 2I + (1 - 2\theta) \left( \sum_{1 \leq p \leq s} 2\lambda_p (\cos \xi_p - 1) A_{pp} - \sum_{1 \leq p < q \leq s} \sqrt{\lambda_p \lambda_q} \sin \xi_p \sin \xi_q A_{pq} \right) \\
 &\geq 2I + (1 - 2\theta) \left( \sum_{1 \leq p \leq s} 2\lambda_p (\cos \xi_p - 1) A_{pp} - (s - 1) \sum_{1 \leq p \leq s} \lambda_p \sin^2 \xi_p A_{pp} \right. \\
 &\quad \left. + (s - 1)\delta \sum_{1 \leq p \leq s} \lambda_p \sin^2 \xi_p I \right) \\
 &\geq 2I + (1 - 2\theta) \left( -\frac{s^2}{s - 1} \sum_{1 \leq p \leq s} \lambda_p A_{pp} + (s - 1)\delta \sum_{1 \leq p \leq s} \lambda_p \sin^2 \xi_p I \right),
 \end{aligned}$$

where we have used the inequality (2.1) and the fact, for all real  $\xi_p$ ,

$$2(\cos \xi_p - 1) - (s - 1) \sin^2 \xi_p = (s - 1) \left( \cos \xi_p + \frac{1}{s - 1} \right)^2 - \frac{s^2}{s - 1} \geq -\frac{s^2}{s - 1}.$$

Then, for all  $\mathbf{y} \in \mathbf{C}^m$  with  $\mathbf{y}^* \mathbf{y} = 1$ ,

$$\begin{aligned}
 &-\mathbf{y}^*(R + P)\mathbf{y} + |\mathbf{y}^* K S \mathbf{y}| \\
 &\leq -2 + (1 - 2\theta) \left( \frac{s^2}{s - 1} \sum_{1 \leq p \leq s} \lambda_p \mathbf{y}^* A_{pp} \mathbf{y} - (s - 1)\delta \sum_{1 \leq p \leq s} \lambda_p \sin^2 \xi_p \right) \\
 &\quad + \sum_{1 \leq p \leq s} \sqrt{\lambda_p \Delta t} |\sin \xi_p| \cdot |\mathbf{y}^* B_p S \mathbf{y}| \\
 &\leq -2 + (1 - 2\theta) \left( \frac{s^2}{s - 1} \sum_{1 \leq p \leq s} \lambda_p r(A_{pp}) - (s - 1)\delta \sum_{1 \leq p \leq s} \lambda_p \sin^2 \xi_p \right) \\
 (2.8) \quad &+ \sum_{1 \leq p \leq s} \sqrt{\lambda_p \Delta t} |\sin \xi_p| \cdot |r(B_p S)|,
 \end{aligned}$$

where  $r(M) \equiv \max\{|\mathbf{y}^* M \mathbf{y}| : \mathbf{y} \in \mathbf{C}^m, \mathbf{y}^* \mathbf{y} = 1\}$ . Since  $A_{pp}$  is normal, there holds  $r(A_{pp}) = \rho(A_{pp})$ .

From (1.6) it follows that

$$(2.9) \quad (1 - 2\theta) \frac{s^2}{s - 1} \sum_{1 \leq p \leq s} \lambda_p \rho(A_{pp}) \leq 2.$$

Moreover, using  $|ab| \leq |a|^2 + \frac{|b|^2}{4}$ , we get

$$(2.10) \quad \sqrt{\lambda_p \Delta t} |\sin \xi_p| \cdot |r(B_p S)| \leq (1 - 2\theta)(s - 1)\delta \lambda_p \sin^2 \xi_p + \frac{r^2(B_p S)}{4(1 - 2\theta)(s - 1)\delta} \Delta t.$$

Combining (2.8)–(2.10) gives

$$(2.11) \quad -\mathbf{y}^*(R + P)\mathbf{y} + |\mathbf{y}^* K S \mathbf{y}| \leq \gamma \Delta t,$$

where

$$\gamma = \frac{1}{4(1 - 2\theta)(s - 1)\delta} \sup_{\substack{0 < \Delta t \leq \tau \\ \boldsymbol{\xi} \in \mathbb{R}^s}} \sum_{1 \leq p \leq s} r^2(B_p S) < \infty.$$

Since  $P \geq I$ , (2.7) follows from (2.11) immediately. Lemma 2.2 is proved.  $\square$

Finally we turn to the proof of Theorem 1.2.

*Proof of Theorem 1.2.* As in the proof of Theorem 1.2 in [3], there is a constant  $\mu$  such that the following inequality holds:

$$\begin{aligned} \|G(\Delta t, \boldsymbol{\xi})\|_2 &\leq \mu r_{\boldsymbol{\xi}}(G(\Delta t, \boldsymbol{\xi})^n) \leq \mu r_{\boldsymbol{\xi}}^n(G(\Delta t, \boldsymbol{\xi})) \\ &\leq \mu(1 + \gamma \Delta t)^n \leq \mu e^{\gamma n \Delta t} \leq \mu e^{\gamma T}, \end{aligned}$$

for all  $\Delta t \leq \tau, n\Delta t \leq T, \boldsymbol{\xi} \in \mathbb{R}^s$ , where  $\tau$  and  $\gamma$  are the constants in Lemma 2.2. Then (1.4) is true for  $\kappa = \mu e^{\gamma T}$ , and Theorem 1.1 is proved.  $\square$

**3. An example.** In this section we show the inequality (2.1) and the stability condition (1.6) are optimal by considering the following example.

Let  $m = 1$  and

$$A_{pp} = 1, \quad p = 1, \dots, s; \quad A_{pq} = 2 \left( 1 - \frac{\varepsilon}{(s - 1)^2} \right), \quad 1 \leq p < q \leq s, \quad 0 < \varepsilon \leq 1,$$

$$B_p = 0, \quad 1 \leq p \leq s, \quad C = 0.$$

Denote

$$(3.1) \quad b_{pp} = 1, \quad p = 1, \dots, s; \quad b_{pq} = 1 - \frac{\varepsilon}{(s - 1)^2}, \quad 1 \leq p \leq s, \quad 1 \leq q \leq s, \quad p \neq q.$$

Then the matrix  $B = (b_{pq})_{s \times s}$  is a circulant symmetric matrix, whose minimum of the eigenvalues is  $\frac{\varepsilon}{(s - 1)^2}$  and maximum  $s - \frac{\varepsilon}{s - 1}$  (see [1]). Then there holds the following inequality:

$$(3.2) \quad \frac{\varepsilon}{(s - 1)^2} \sum_{1 \leq p \leq s} \sigma_p^2 \leq \sum_{1 \leq p, q \leq s} \sigma_p \sigma_q b_{pq} \leq \left( s - \frac{\varepsilon}{s - 1} \right) \sum_{1 \leq p \leq s} \sigma_p^2 \quad \text{for all real } \sigma_1, \dots, \sigma_s$$



and the two inequalities above become the equalities when  $(\sigma_1, \dots, \sigma_s)$  is the eigenvectors corresponding to the eigenvalues  $s - \frac{\varepsilon}{s-1}$  and  $\frac{\varepsilon}{(s-1)^2}$ , respectively. From (3.2) it follows that

$$\sum_{1 \leq p < q \leq s} \sigma_p \sigma_q A_{pq} \geq \frac{\varepsilon}{(s-1)^2} \sum_{1 \leq p \leq s} \sigma_p^2$$

and

$$\left( s - 1 - \frac{\varepsilon}{s-1} + \varepsilon_1 \right) \sum_{1 \leq p \leq s} \sigma_p^2 A_{pp} - \sum_{1 \leq p < q \leq s} \sigma_p \sigma_q A_{pq} \geq \varepsilon_1 \sum_{1 \leq p \leq s} \sigma_p^2.$$

Since  $\varepsilon$  and  $\varepsilon_1$  can be arbitrary small positive numbers, the inequality (2.1) is optimal.

In this case, the amplification factor is

$$G(\boldsymbol{\xi}) = \frac{1 + (1 - \theta)J(\boldsymbol{\xi})}{1 - \theta J(\boldsymbol{\xi})},$$

where

$$J(\boldsymbol{\xi}) = \sum_{1 \leq p \leq s} 2\lambda_p (\cos \xi_p - 1) A_{pp} - \sum_{1 \leq p < q \leq s} \sqrt{\lambda_p \lambda_q} \sin \xi_p \sin \xi_q A_{pq}.$$

We need to prove that for any  $\bar{\omega}(s) < \omega(s)$  there exist  $\boldsymbol{\xi}$  and  $\lambda_p, p = 1, 2, \dots, s$  satisfying

$$\frac{1}{2\omega(1 - 2\theta)} < \sum_{1 \leq p \leq s} \lambda_p \rho(A_{pp}) < \frac{1}{2\bar{\omega}(1 - 2\theta)}$$

such that  $G(\boldsymbol{\xi}) < -1$ , which means the schemes corresponding to (3.1) are unstable.

Set  $\Delta x_p = \Delta x, \lambda_p = \lambda, \xi_p = \xi_0$ , and  $\boldsymbol{\xi} = (\xi_0, \dots, \xi_0)$  for  $p = 1, \dots, s$ . Then  $\sum_{1 \leq p \leq s} \lambda_p \rho(A_{pp}) = s\lambda$ . We choose  $\lambda$  satisfying

$$(3.3) \quad \frac{1}{2\omega(1 - 2\theta)} < s\lambda < \frac{1}{2\bar{\omega}(1 - 2\theta)}.$$

In fact, there holds  $J(\boldsymbol{\xi}) \leq 0$  for all  $\boldsymbol{\xi}$ . Let  $f(\xi_0) = 2 + (1 - 2\theta)J(\boldsymbol{\xi})$ . Then

$$f(\xi_0) = 2 + 2(1 - 2\theta)\lambda \left( s \cos \xi_0 - s - \frac{s(s-1)}{2} \left( 1 - \frac{\varepsilon}{(s-1)^2} \right) \sin^2 \xi_0 \right) \quad \text{for } \xi_0 \in \mathbb{R}.$$

It is easy to show that

$$(3.4) \quad f(\bar{\xi}_0) = \min_{\xi_0 \in \mathbb{R}} f(\xi_0) = 2 - 4s\lambda(1 - 2\theta)\omega_0(s),$$

where  $\omega_0(s) = \frac{(a(s-1)+1)^2}{4a(s-1)}$  and  $a \equiv 1 - \frac{\varepsilon}{(s-1)^2}$ . Since  $\varepsilon$  can be an arbitrary small positive number,  $\omega_0(s) > \omega(s) > \bar{\omega}(s)$ . By (3.3), we have

$$\frac{1}{2\omega_0(1 - 2\theta)} < s\lambda$$

and by (3.4),  $f(\bar{\xi}_0) < 0$ , i.e.,  $G(\bar{\boldsymbol{\xi}}) < -1$  for some  $\bar{\boldsymbol{\xi}} = (\bar{\xi}_0, \dots, \bar{\xi}_0)$ . The stability condition given in Theorem 1.2 is optimal.

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