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**Numerical Methods for**  
**Differential Equations in Physics**

**Time stepping:**

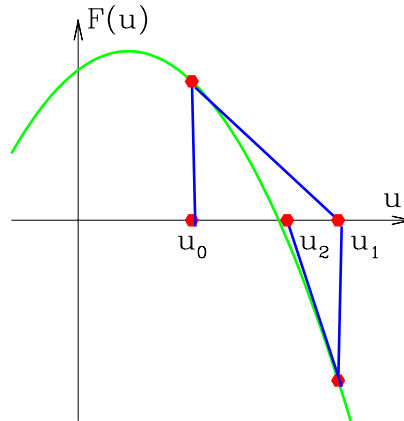
$$\partial_t U = LU + N(U)$$

**Steady state solving:**

$$0 = LU + N(U)$$

$$0 = F(U)$$

**Newton's method**



$$0 = F(U - u) \approx F(U) - DF(U)u$$

$$\begin{cases} DF(U)u = F(U) \\ U \leftarrow U - u \end{cases}$$

## Newton's Method converges quadratically

$$U_{n+1} = U_n - \frac{F(U_n)}{F'(U_n)}$$

$$F(\bar{U}) = 0 = F(U_n) + F'(U_n)(\bar{U} - U_n) + \frac{1}{2}F''(U_n)(\bar{U} - U_n)^2 + \dots$$

$$0 = \frac{F(U_n)}{F'(U_n)} + \frac{F'(U_n)}{F'(U_n)}(\bar{U} - U_n) + \frac{1}{2}\frac{F''(U_n)}{F'(U_n)}(\bar{U} - U_n)^2 + \dots$$

$$0 = \frac{F(U_n)}{F'(U_n)} + (\bar{U} - U_n) + \frac{1}{2}\frac{F''(U_n)}{F'(U_n)}(\bar{U} - U_n)^2 + \dots$$

$$0 = -U_{n+1} + \bar{U} + \frac{1}{2}\frac{F''(U_n)}{F'(U_n)}(\bar{U} - U_n)^2 + \dots$$

$$U_{n+1} - \bar{U} = \frac{1}{2}\frac{F''(U_n)}{F'(U_n)}(\bar{U} - U_n)^2 + \dots$$

$$\epsilon_{n+1} = \frac{1}{2}\frac{F''(U_n)}{F'(U_n)}\epsilon^2 + \dots$$

**Typical sequence:**  $\epsilon = 10^{-1}, 10^{-2}, 10^{-4}, 10^{-8}, 10^{-16}$

**Much faster than timestepping:**

$$U(t) = \bar{U} + ce^{-\lambda t}$$

$$U(t_n) - \bar{U} = ce^{-\lambda t_n}$$

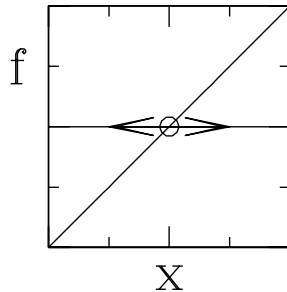
$$U(t_{n+1}) - \bar{U} = ce^{-\lambda(t_n + \Delta t)} = e^{-\lambda \Delta t}(U(t_n) - \bar{U})$$

**Linear convergence:**  $\epsilon_{n+1} \sim c\epsilon_n$ .

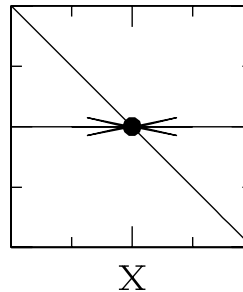
**In addition to converging faster than timestepping,  
Newton's method can converge to unstable states.**

# Fixed points and linear stability. $\dot{x} = f(x)$

unstable



stable



$$0 = f(\bar{x})$$

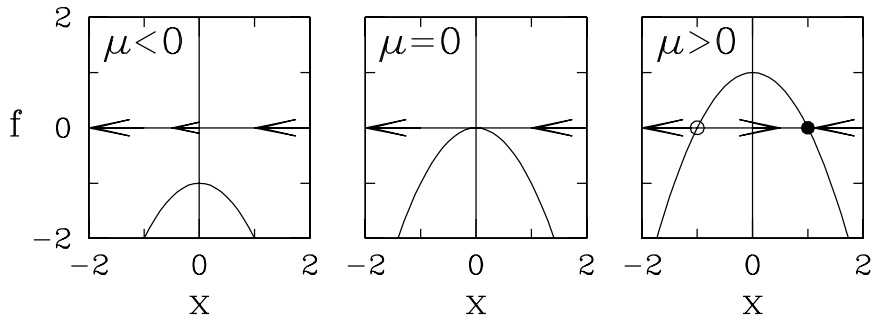
Fixed point  $\bar{x}$

$$\frac{d}{dt}(\bar{x} + \epsilon(t)) = f(\bar{x} + \epsilon) \quad \text{Linear stability of } \bar{x}$$

$$\dot{\epsilon} = f(\bar{x}) + f'(\bar{x})\epsilon + \frac{1}{2}f''(\bar{x})\epsilon^2 + \dots \approx f'(\bar{x})\epsilon$$

$$\epsilon(t) = e^{tf'(\bar{x})}\epsilon(0) \begin{cases} \text{increases if } f'(\bar{x}) > 0 \\ \text{decreases if } f'(\bar{x}) < 0 \end{cases}$$

## Saddle-node Bifurcations



$$\dot{x} = f(x) = \mu - x^2$$

**Fixed points:**

$$\bar{x}_{\pm} = \pm\sqrt{\mu} \quad \text{for } \mu > 0$$

**Stability:**

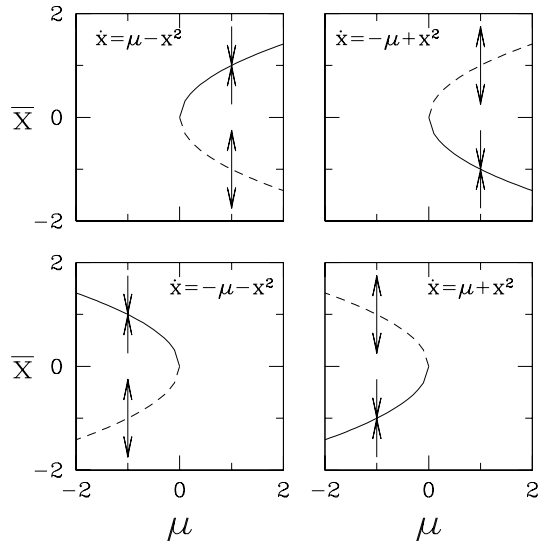
$$f'(\bar{x}_{\pm}) = -2\bar{x}_{\pm} = -2(\pm\sqrt{\mu}) = \mp 2\sqrt{\mu}$$

$$f'(\bar{x}_{+}) = f'(\sqrt{\mu}) = -2\sqrt{\mu} < 0 \implies \bar{x}_{+} \text{ stable}$$

$$f'(\bar{x}_{-}) = f'(-\sqrt{\mu}) = 2\sqrt{\mu} > 0 \implies \bar{x}_{-} \text{ unstable}$$

$$f(x, \mu) = c_{00} + c_{10}x + c_{01}\mu + c_{20}x^2 + \dots \quad \text{general quadratic polynomial}$$

$$= \pm \tilde{\mu} \pm \tilde{x}^2 \quad \text{four cases, depending on signs of } c\text{'s}$$



**Newton's method finds steady states independently of their stability**  
**Where might saddle-node bifurcations occur?**

## Swift-Hohenberg equation

$$\partial_t u = \mu u - (q_c^2 + \Delta)^2 u - u^3$$

Derived by J. Swift and P.C. Hohenberg (Phys. Rev. A 15, 319 (1977)) to describe pattern formation in convection

For  $u \ll 1$ ,

$$\partial_t u = \mu u - (q_c^2 + \Delta)^2 u$$

$$u \sim \exp(ikx + \sigma t)$$

$$\sigma u = \mu u - (q_c^2 - k^2)^2 u \implies \sigma = \mu, k = q_c$$

Add **quadratic term** to obtain **hexagons**

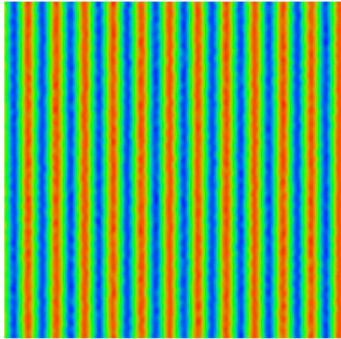
$$\partial_t u = \mu u - (q_c^2 + \Delta)^2 u + g_1 u^2 - u^3$$

Include  $q_c$  and  $q'_c = 1$  to obtain **quasipatterns**

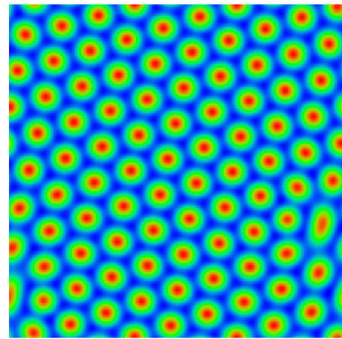
$$\partial_t u = \mu u - (q_c^2 + \Delta)^2 (1 + \Delta)^2 u + g_1 u^2 - u^3$$



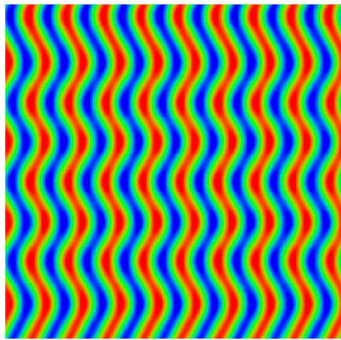
## 2D Patterns produced by Swift-Hohenberg equation



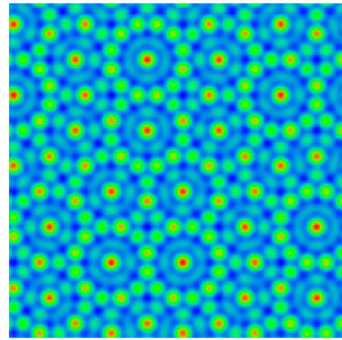
**Stripes**



**Hexagons**



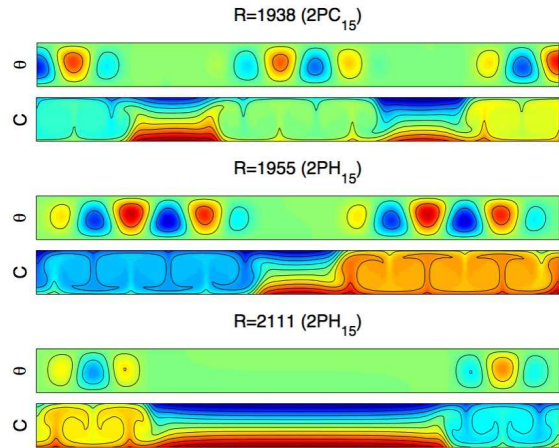
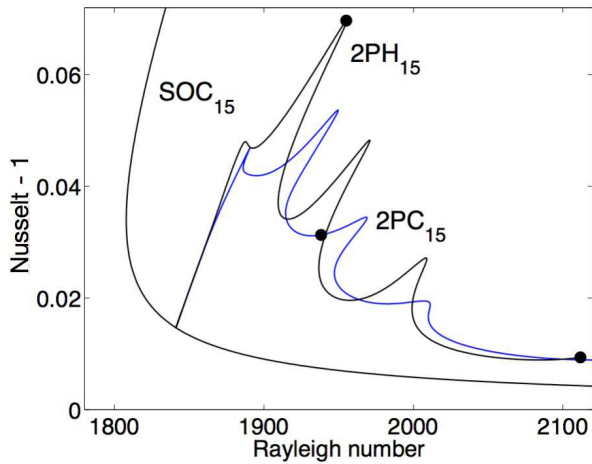
**Zigzag instability**



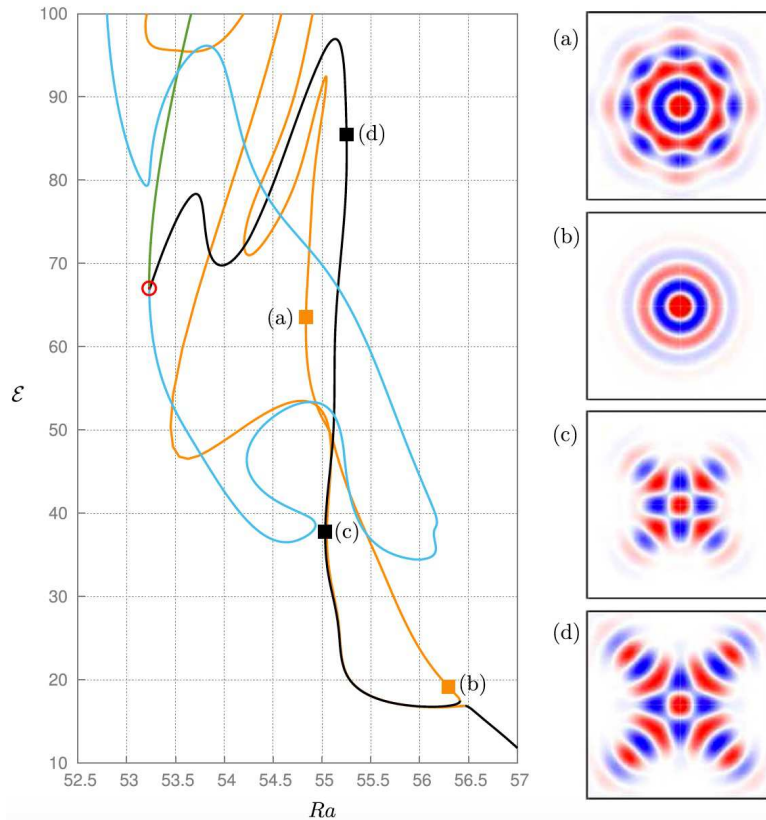
**Quasicrystals**



# Thermosolutal Convection: Patterns with 1D snaking



# Thermosolutal Convection: Patterns with 2D snaking



## Newton's method: example

**Swift-Hohenberg equation:**

$$\partial_t U = F(U) = \mu U - (q_c^2 + \Delta)^2 U - U^3$$

**Equation for steady state:**

$$0 = F(U) = \mu U - (q_c^2 + \Delta)^2 U - U^3$$

**Loop: calculate and compare with  $\epsilon$ :**

$$\|F(U)\| \equiv \|\mu U - (q_c^2 + \Delta)^2 U - U^3\| < \epsilon ?$$

**If  $\|F(U)\| \not\ll \epsilon$ , then  $U$  not solution, so try  $U - u$ :**

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &= \mu(U - u) - (q_c^2 + \Delta)^2 (U - u) - (U - u)^3 \\ &= \mu U - (q_c^2 + \Delta)^2 U - U^3 - \left( \mu u - (q_c^2 + \Delta)^2 u - 3U^2 u - 3U u^2 - u^3 \right) \end{aligned}$$

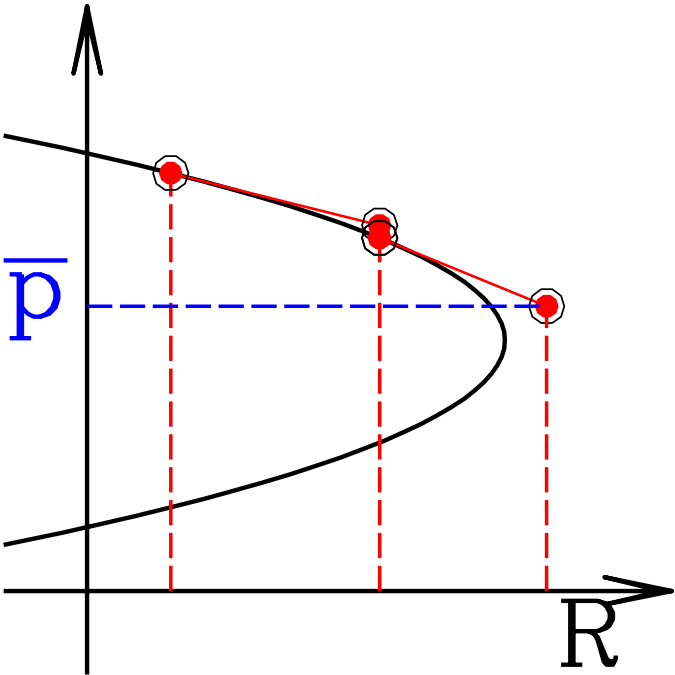
**Newton step: truncate at first order in  $u$  and solve for  $u(x)$ :**

$$\mu u - (q_c^2 + \Delta)^2 u - 3U^2 u = \mu U - (q_c^2 + \Delta)^2 U - U^3$$

**Then replace and try again:**

$$U \leftarrow U - u$$

# Continuation: going around saddle-nodes



## Goal:

$$0 = RN(U) + LU$$

$$0 = p(U, R) - \bar{p} \text{ where } \left\{ \begin{array}{l} U_i \text{ some component} \\ R \end{array} \right\}$$

## Newton step:

$(U, R)$  not solution, so try  $(U - u, R - r)$

$$0 = (R - r)N(U - u) + L(U - u)$$

$$= RN(U) + LU - RN_U u - rN(U) - Lu + O(r, u)^2$$

$$0 = p(U - u, R - r) - \bar{p} = \left\{ \begin{array}{l} U_i - \bar{p} - u_i \\ R - \bar{p} - r \end{array} \right\}$$

$$\underbrace{\left[ \begin{array}{c|c} RN_U + L & N(U) \\ \hline 0 \ 0 \ \dots \ 0 \ 1 \ 0 \ \dots \ 0 & 1 \end{array} \right]}_{or} \begin{bmatrix} u \\ r \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} RN(U) + LU \\ \left\{ \begin{array}{l} U_i - \bar{p} \\ R - \bar{p} \end{array} \right\} \end{bmatrix}$$

If  $p(U, R) = R$  (i.e. set Reynolds number),  
then set  $R = \bar{p}$ ,  $r = 0$  and get previous case:

$$[RN_U + L] [u] = [RN(U) + LU]$$

If  $p(U, R) = U_i$ , then must solve extended system for  $(u, r)$ .

$$\left[ \begin{array}{c|c} (RN_u + L) & N(U) \\ \hline 0 \ 0 \ \dots \ 0 \ 1 \ 0 \ \dots \ 0 & 0 \end{array} \right] \begin{bmatrix} u \\ r \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} (RN(U) + LU) \\ U_i - \bar{p} \end{bmatrix}$$

Set  $u_i = U_i - \bar{p}$   
 Calculate  $(RN_U + L)u$   
 Add  $N(U)r$



It may be sufficient to extrapolate quadratically.

Far from saddle-node bifurcation,  $U$  is considered to be a function of  $R$ . To get an initial guess for  $U$  at a new  $R$ , extrapolate.

**Zeroth order extrapolation:**

$$U(R^{(2)})_{\text{initial guess}} = U(R^{(1)})$$

**Linear extrapolation:**

$$U(R^{(2)})_{\text{initial guess}} = U(R^{(1)}) + (U(R^{(1)}) - U(R^{(0)})) \frac{R^{(2)} - R^{(1)}}{R^{(1)} - R^{(0)}}$$

**Quadratic extrapolation:**

Fit quadratic polynomials through  $U(R^{(0)})$ ,  $U(R^{(1)})$ ,  $U(R^{(2)})$  as functions of  $R$  and evaluate polynomial at new value  $R^{(3)}$ .

Close to saddle-node bifurcation, choose distinguished value  $U_i$  and consider  $U_j$ ,  $j \neq i$  and  $R$  to be quadratic functions of  $U_i$ .

Set new value of  $U_i$ , and evaluate new estimate of  $U_j$  and  $R$ . Now,  $\Delta R$  can change sign and can go around saddle-node.

## Reaction-Diffusion Equations

$$\partial_t u_i = \underbrace{f_i(u_1, u_2, \dots)}_{\text{reaction}} + \underbrace{D_i \Delta u_i}_{\text{diffusion}}$$

**Reactions  $f_i$  couple different species  $u_i$  at same location**

**Diffusivity  $D_i$  couples same species  $u_i$  at different locations**

Describe oscillating chemical reactions, such as famous Belousov-Zhabotinskii reaction, discovered by two Soviet scientists in 1950s-1960s.

Also describe phenomena in

- biology (population biology, epidemiology, neurosciences)
- social sciences (economics, demography)
- physics

## Two species

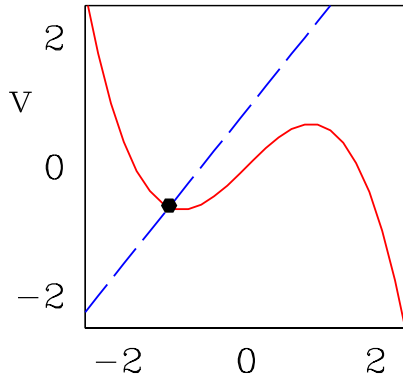
$$\partial_t u = f(u, v) + D_u \Delta u$$

$$\partial_t v = g(u, v) + D_v \Delta v$$

## FitzHugh-Nagumo model

$$f(u, v) = u - u^3/3 - v + I$$

$$g(u, v) = 0.08(u + 0.7 - 0.8v)$$



## Spatially homogeneous

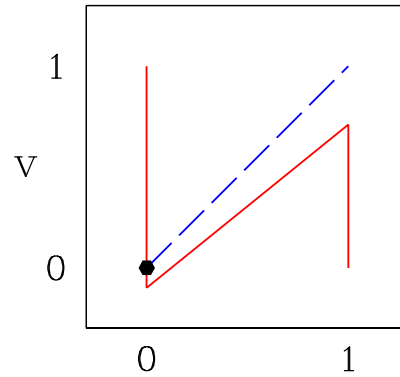
$$\partial_t u = f(u, v)$$

$$\partial_t v = g(u, v)$$

## Barkley model

$$f(u, v) = \frac{1}{\epsilon} u(1 - u) \left( u - \frac{v+b}{a} \right)$$

$$g(u, v) = u - v$$

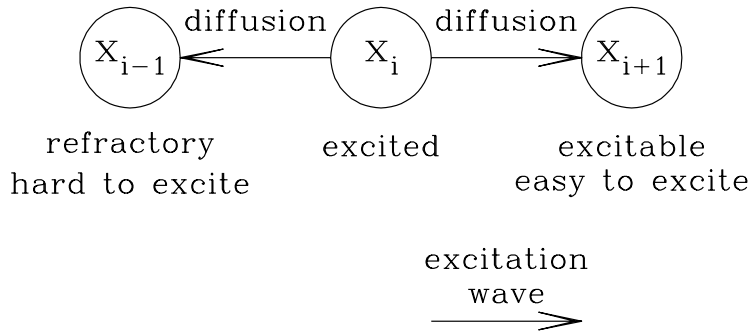


$u$ -nullclines  $f(u, v) = 0$ ,  $v$ -nullclines  $g(u, v) = 0$ ,  $\bullet$  steady states

stable if eigenvalues of  $\begin{pmatrix} f_u & f_v \\ g_u & g_v \end{pmatrix}$  have negative real parts



## Waves in Excitable Medium



**Spatial variation + diffusion + excitability  $\implies$  propagating waves**

**Excitable media in physiology:**

**–neurons**

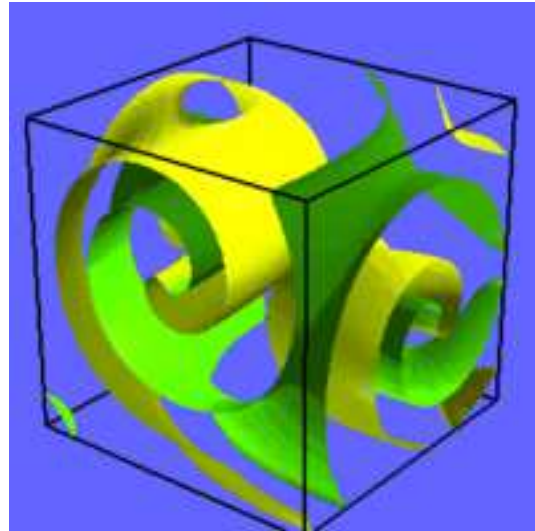
**–cardiac tissue (the heart)**

**Pacemaker periodically emits electrical signals, propagated to rest of heart**

**Simulations from *Barkley model*, Scholarpedia**



**Spiral waves in 2D**



**Spiral waves in 3D**

# TRAVELING WAVES: $U(x - Ct, y, z)$

$$\text{Goal : } \begin{cases} 0 = C\partial_x U + N(U) + LU \\ 0 = p(U) - \bar{p} \end{cases}$$

**Newton step:**

$(U, C)$  not solution, so try  $(U - u, C - c)$

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &= (C - c)\partial_x(U - u) + N(U - u) + L(U - u) \\ &= C\partial_x U + N(U) + LU - C\partial_x u - c\partial_x U - N_U u - Lu \end{aligned}$$

$$0 = p(U - u, R - r) - \bar{p} = \begin{cases} U_i - \bar{p} - u_i \\ R - \bar{p} - r \end{cases}$$

$$\left[ \begin{array}{c|c} C\partial_x + N_U + L & \partial_x U \\ \hline 0 \ 0 \ \dots \ 0 \ 1 \ 0 \ \dots \ 0 & 0 \end{array} \right] \begin{bmatrix} u \\ c \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} C\partial_x U + N(U) + LU \\ U_i - \bar{p} \end{bmatrix}$$

## Navier-Stokes Equations

$$\begin{aligned}\partial_t U &= -(U \cdot \nabla)U - \nabla P + \nu \Delta U \\ &= -(I - \nabla \nabla^{-2} \nabla \cdot)(U \cdot \nabla)U + \nu \Delta U \\ &= N(U) + L U\end{aligned}$$

$$N_U u \equiv -(U \cdot \nabla)u - (u \cdot \nabla)U$$

$$A_U u = N_U u + L u$$

**Must solve**

$$L u + N_U u = L U + N(U)$$