

# ESTIMATION OF INITIAL CONDITIONS AND INVERSE PROBLEM SOLUTION FOR A DRYING SYSTEM IN A POROUS MEDIUM

**Diego A. Murio**

*Department of Mathematical Sciences, University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, OH 45221-0025, USA  
mmurio@cinci.rr.com*

## ABSTRACT

A numerical marching scheme is introduced for the recovery of the solutions, gradient distributions and initial conditions in a one dimensional Luikov's drying system in a porous medium with space dependent coefficients. In this problem, only Cauchy noisy data at the active boundary is given and no information about the amount and/or character of the noise in the data is assumed. The error analysis for the algorithm is discussed and numerical examples of interest are presented.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Thermal drying involves the vaporization of moisture within a product by heat and the evaporation of moisture from the medium and has important applications in many different fields, including food and environmental engineering. A theoretical model for simultaneous heat and mass transfer was developed by Luikov [2].

In [1], the authors discuss a Luikov system of the form:

$$\begin{pmatrix} u_t \\ v_t \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \alpha & \beta \\ \gamma & \eta \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} u_{xx} \\ v_{xx} \end{pmatrix}, \quad 0 < x < 1, \quad t > 0,$$

with boundary conditions

$$\begin{aligned} u_x(0, t) &= -Q, \\ v_x(0, t) &= -PnQ, \\ u_x(1, t) &= -Bi_q u(1, t) + (1 - Eo)KoLu \\ &\quad \times Bi_m(v(1, t) - 1) + Bi_q V(t), \\ v_x(1, t) &= Bi_m(1 - v(1, t)) - Pn u_x(1, t), \end{aligned}$$

where  $V(t)$  is a transient function associated with the dry air flow, and initial conditions

$$\begin{aligned} u(x, 0) &= u_0, \\ v(x, 0) &= v_0. \end{aligned}$$

The constant coefficients  $\alpha, \beta, \gamma$  and  $\eta$  are defined as

$$\begin{aligned} \alpha &= 1 + E_o K_o Lu Pn, \\ \beta &= -E_o K_o Lu, \\ \gamma &= -Lu Pn, \\ \eta &= Lu. \end{aligned}$$

The terms  $Lu = \frac{a_m}{a}$ ,  $Pn$ ,  $K_o$ ,  $Bi_q$ ,  $Bi_m$ , and refer to the Luikov number, Possnov number, Kossovich number, heat Biot, mass Biot, and heat flux flux respectively. The coefficients  $a$  and  $a_m$  represent the thermal diffusivity and the moisture diffusivity of the porous medium. Deterministic, stochastic, and hybrid solutions were introduced in [3] and [6] for estimation of parameters in the above problem.

In this paper we consider nonhomogeneous thermal and moisture diffusivities of the porous medium so that the Luikov number and all the coefficients,  $\alpha, \beta, \gamma$ , and  $\eta$  of the model, are space dependent functions. We will introduce a stable numerical marching scheme based on discrete mollification for the recovery of  $u(x, t)$ ,  $v(x, t)$ ,  $u_x(x, t)$ ,  $v_x(x, t)$ ,  $u(x, 0)$  and  $v(x, 0)$  throughout the domain  $[0, 1] \times [0, 1]$  in the  $(x, t)$  plane satisfying

$$\begin{pmatrix} u_t \\ v_t \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \alpha(x) & \beta(x) \\ \gamma(x) & \eta(x) \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} u_{xx} \\ v_{xx} \end{pmatrix}, \quad (*)$$

$$0 < x < 1, \quad 0 < t < 1,$$

with boundary conditions

$$\begin{aligned} u(0, t) &= g_1(t), \\ v(0, t) &= g_2(t), \\ u_x(0, t) &= g_3(t), \\ v_x(0, t) &= g_4(t). \end{aligned}$$

Note that the functions  $g_1, g_2, g_3$  and  $g_4$  are only known approximately.

This problem is an inverse Cauchy problem involving a parabolic system. The implementation of these algorithms do not require any information about the amount and/or characteristics of the noise in the data since the mollification parameters are chosen automatically at each step using the Generalized Cross Validation (GCV) method. For general references to the GCV method see [7].

The paper is organized as follows: discrete mollification and numerical differentiation results are summarized in Section 2. In Section 3, the numerical space marching algorithm is specified. Stability and error estimates are also presented in this section. Section 4 contains numerical examples of interest.

## 2. MOLLIFICATION

A detailed description of the regularization procedure of Mollification and its applications can be found in [4].

### 2.1 Discrete Mollification

Let  $I = [0, 1]$  and  $K = \{x_i : i = 1, 2, \dots, N\} \subset I$  satisfying  $0 \leq x_1 < x_2 < \dots < x_N \leq 1$ . Set  $s_0 = 0$ ,  $s_N = 1$ , and  $s_i = \frac{1}{2}(x_{i+1} + x_i)$  for  $i = 1, 2, \dots, N - 1$ . Suppose that  $G = \{g_i\}_{i=1}^N$  is a discrete function defined on  $K$ , then the  $\delta$  mollification of  $G$  is defined as a convolution with the Gaussian kernel

$$\rho_\delta(t) = \begin{cases} A_p \delta^{-1} \exp\left(-\frac{t^2}{\delta^2}\right), & t \in I_\delta, \\ 0, & t \notin I_\delta, \end{cases}$$

where  $I_\delta = [-p\delta, p\delta]$ ,  $\delta > 0$ ,  $p > 0$ , and  $A_p = \left(\int_{-p}^p \exp(-s^2) ds\right)^{-1}$ . That is, for every  $x \in I_\delta$ ,  $J_\delta G(x) = \sum_{i=1}^N \left(\int_{s_{i-1}}^{s_i} \rho_\delta(x-s) ds\right) g_i$ .

### 2.2 Numerical Differentiation

The centered finite difference operator,  $\mathbf{D}_0 f(x) = \frac{f(x+\Delta x) - f(x-\Delta x)}{2\Delta x}$ , is defined on  $\tilde{I}_\delta = [p\delta + \Delta x, 1 - p\delta - \Delta x]$ .

Let  $G^\epsilon = \{g_i + \epsilon_i : |\epsilon_i| \leq \epsilon, i = 1, 2, \dots, N\}$  be a perturbed discrete version of a function  $g$ , where  $\epsilon$  is the maximum noise level. The following lemma, establishes the numerical convergence of centered difference discrete mollified differentiation for a fixed  $\delta$ .

#### Lemma 2.1

*If  $g$  is uniformly Lipschitz on  $I$  and the discrete functions  $G$  and  $G^\epsilon$  satisfy  $\|G - G^\epsilon\|_{\infty, K} \leq \epsilon$ , then there exist constants  $C$ , independent of  $\delta$ , and  $C_\delta$ , such that*

$$\|\mathbf{D}_0(J_\delta G^\epsilon) - \frac{\partial}{\partial x} J_\delta g\|_{\infty, \tilde{I}_\delta} \leq C(\epsilon + \Delta x).$$

We define the discrete mollified centered difference  $\mathbf{D}_0^\delta(G) = \mathbf{D}_0(J_\delta G)|_{\tilde{I}_\delta \cap K}$ , by restricting  $\mathbf{D}_0(J_\delta G)$  to the grid points of  $\tilde{I}_\delta \cap K$ . The next theorem establishes a useful upper bound for the operator  $\mathbf{D}_0^\delta$ .

#### Theorem 2.2

*There exists a constant  $C$ , independent of  $\delta$ , such that*

$$\|\mathbf{D}_0^\delta G\|_{\infty, K \cap \tilde{I}_\delta} \leq \frac{C}{\delta} \|G\|_{\infty, K}.$$

For the proof of these statements see [4].

### 3. THE IDENTIFICATION PROBLEM

The problem consists on the identification of the vapor diffusion,  $u(x, t)$ , initial vapor distribution,  $u(x, 0)$ , vapor flux  $u_x(x, t)$ , moisture diffusion  $v(x, t)$ , initial moisture distribution,  $v(x, 0)$  and moisture flux,  $v_x(x, t)$ , for all  $(x, t)$  throughout the domain  $[0, 1] \times [0, 1]$  satisfying system (\*).

The available data  $g_1^\epsilon, g_2^\epsilon, g_3^\epsilon$ , and  $g_4^\epsilon$  are discrete noisy functions with maximum noise level  $\epsilon$ . We define  $A(x) = \begin{pmatrix} \alpha(x) & \beta(x) \\ \gamma(x) & \eta(x) \end{pmatrix}$  and assume that  $|\det(A(x))| \geq d > 0$  for all  $x \in [0, 1]$ .

We begin by stabilizing the problem using mollification. In this regularization process, a  $\delta$ -mollification is performed on each of the available data functions,  $g_1^\epsilon, g_2^\epsilon, g_3^\epsilon$ , and  $g_4^\epsilon$ . Note that  $\delta$ -mollifications of  $g_1^\epsilon, g_2^\epsilon, g_3^\epsilon$ , and  $g_4^\epsilon$  are taken with respect to  $t$  using  $\delta_u^0, \delta_v^0, \delta_{ux}^0$  and  $\delta_{vx}^0$  respectively.

The numerical marching scheme, together with the mollification method, is described next with  $\tilde{u}(x, t)$  and  $\tilde{v}(x, t)$  denoting the regularized functions.

#### 3.1 Numerical Marching Scheme

Let  $N_x$  and  $N_t$  be positive integers,  $\Delta x = h = \frac{1}{N_x}$ ,  $\Delta t = k = \frac{1}{N_t}$ ,  $x_i = ih$ ,  $i = 0, 1, \dots, N_x$ , and  $t_n = nk$ ,  $n = 0, 1, \dots, N_t$ .

We introduce the following discrete functions

$R_u^{i,n}$  : discrete approximation to  $\tilde{u}(ih, nk)$ ,

$R_v^{i,n}$  : discrete approximation to  $\tilde{v}(ih, nk)$ ,

$Q_u^{i,n}$  : discrete approximation to  $\tilde{u}_x(ih, nk)$ ,

$Q_v^{i,n}$  : discrete approximation to  $\tilde{v}_x(ih, nk)$ ,

$W_u^{i,n}$  : discrete approximation to  $\tilde{u}_t(ih, nk)$ ,

$W_v^{i,n}$  : discrete approximation to  $\tilde{v}_t(ih, nk)$ ,

$S_u^{i,n}$  : discrete approximation to  $\tilde{u}_{xt}(ih, nk)$ ,

$S_v^{i,n}$  : discrete approximation to  $\tilde{v}_{xt}(ih, nk)$ .

The space marching algorithm is defined as follows:

1. Select  $\delta_u^0, \delta_v^0, \delta_{ux}^0$ , and  $\delta_{vx}^0$ .
2. Perform mollification of  $g_1^\epsilon, g_2^\epsilon$ , and  $g_4^\epsilon$ .

Set:

$$\circ R_u^{0,n} = J_{\delta_u^0} g_1^\epsilon(nk),$$

$$R_v^{0,n} = J_{\delta_v^0} g_2^\epsilon(nk).$$

$$\circ Q_u^{0,n} = J_{\delta_{ux}^0} g_3^\epsilon(nk),$$

$$Q_v^{0,n} = J_{\delta_{vx}^0} g_4^\epsilon(nk).$$

3. Perform mollified differentiation in time of  $J_{\delta_u^0} g_1^\epsilon(nk), J_{\delta_v^0} g_2^\epsilon(nk), J_{\delta_{ux}^0} g_3^\epsilon(nk), J_{\delta_{vx}^0} g_4^\epsilon(nk)$ .

Set:

$$\circ W_u^{0,n} = \mathbf{D}_t(J_{\delta_u^0} g_1^\epsilon(nk)) \text{ and}$$

$$W_v^{0,n} = \mathbf{D}_t(J_{\delta_v^0} g_2^\epsilon(nk)).$$

$$\circ S_u^{0,n} = \mathbf{D}_t(J_{\delta_{ux}^0} g_3^\epsilon(nk)) \text{ and}$$

$$S_v^{0,n} = \mathbf{D}_t(J_{\delta_{vx}^0} g_4^\epsilon(nk)).$$

The numerical marching scheme in space is defined in step 4.

4. Initialize  $i = 0$ . Do while  $i \leq N_x - 1$ .

$$(a) R_u^{i+1,n} = R_u^{i,n} + h Q_u^{i,n} \text{ and}$$

$$R_v^{i+1,n} = R_v^{i,n} + h Q_v^{i,n}.$$

$$(b) Q_u^{i+1,n} = Q_u^{i,n} + \frac{h}{\det(A(ih))} \times (-\gamma(ih)W_u^{i,n} + \alpha(ih)W_v^{i,n}).$$

$$(c) Q_v^{i+1,n} = Q_v^{i,n} + \frac{h}{\det(A(ih))} \times (-\gamma(ih)W_u^{i,n} + \alpha(ih)W_v^{i,n})$$

$$(d) \text{ Select } \delta_u^{i+1}, \delta_v^{i+1}, \delta_{ux}^{i+1}, \delta_{vx}^{i+1}.$$

- (e) Perform mollified differentiation in time of  $R_u^{i+1,n}, R_v^{i+1,n}, Q_u^{i+1,n}, Q_v^{i+1,n}$ .

Set :

$$\circ W_u^{i+1,n} = \mathbf{D}_t(J_{\delta_u^{i+1}} R_u^{i+1,n}) \text{ and}$$

$$W_v^{i+1,n} = \mathbf{D}_t(J_{\delta_v^{i+1}} R_v^{i+1,n}).$$

$$\circ S_u^{i+1,n} = \mathbf{D}_t(J_{\delta_{ux}^{i+1}} Q_u^{i+1,n}) \text{ and}$$

$$S_v^{i+1,n} = \mathbf{D}_t(J_{\delta_{vx}^{i+1}} Q_v^{i+1,n}).$$

- (f) Set  $i = i + 1$ .

**Remark:** The discrete approximations  $\tilde{u}(x, 0)$  and  $\tilde{v}(x, 0)$  are given by  $R_u^{i,0}$  and  $R_v^{i,0}$ , respectively.

For a proof of the statements in the next two subsections see [1].

### 3.2 Stability Analysis

Denote  $|Y^i| = \max_n |Y^{i,n}|$  and  $\|Y\|_\infty = \max_i |Y^i|$ . Theorem 2.1 and Theorem 2.2 establish stability and formal convergence, respectively, of the marching scheme presented above.

#### Theorem 3.1

There exists a constant  $C_0$  such that

$$\max\{|R_u^L|, |R_v^L|, |Q_u^L|, |Q_v^L|\} \leq \exp(C_0) \max\{|R_u^0|, |R_v^0|, |Q_u^0|, |Q_v^0|\}.$$

### 3.3 Error Estimates

Denoting the error between the calculated discrete functions  $R_u^{i,n}, Q_u^{i,n}$  and the restriction to the grid of the mollified exact functions  $\tilde{u}(ih, nk), \tilde{u}_x(ih, nk)$  by  $\Delta R_u^{i,n} = R_u^{i,n} - \tilde{u}(ih, nk)$  and  $\Delta Q_u^{i,n} = Q_u^{i,n} - \tilde{u}_x(ih, nk)$ , proceeding similarly with the discrete functions related to  $v(x, t)$ , we define  $\Delta_i = \max\{|\Delta R_u^i|, |\Delta R_v^i|, |\Delta Q_u^i|, |\Delta Q_v^i|\}$ .

#### Theorem 3.2

There exists a constant  $C_0$  such that

$$\Delta_L \leq \exp(C_0)(\Delta_0 + \epsilon + k).$$

## 4. NUMERICAL IMPLEMENTATION

In this section the numerical results of an example of interest is presented. To obtain the required data functions  $u(0, t)$  and  $v(0, t)$  for the inverse problem, it is necessary first to solve the direct problem. We set the following dimensionless values for the parameters in Luikov's model:

$$\begin{aligned} Lu &= 0.8(1 + x), \\ Pn &= 0.32, \end{aligned}$$

$$Ko = 65,$$

$$Eo = 0.02,$$

$$Bi_q = 1.7,$$

$$Bi_m = 3.0,$$

$$Q = 2.5.$$

Thus, the system of partial differential equations becomes

$$\begin{pmatrix} u_t \\ v_t \end{pmatrix} = [(1+x) \begin{pmatrix} 0.7488 & -1.04 \\ -0.256 & 0.8 \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}] \begin{pmatrix} u_{xx} \\ v_{xx} \end{pmatrix},$$

$$0 < x < 1, \quad 0 < t \leq 1,$$

with boundary conditions

$$u_x(0, t) = -2.5,$$

$$v_x(0, t) = -0.8,$$

$$u_x(1, t) = -1.7 \quad u(1, t) +$$

$$152.88(1+x)(v(1, t) - 1)$$

$$+ 1.7V(t),$$

$$v_x(1, t) = 3(1 - v(1, t)) - 0.32 \quad u_x(1, t),$$

and initial conditions

$$u(x, 0) = 2.5 \quad x(xg(0) - 1),$$

$$v(x, 0) = 1.5 + 0.8 \quad x(x - 1).$$

The functions

$$\begin{aligned} V(t) &= (u(1, 0) + \frac{v_x(1, 0)(1 - E_0)K_o Lu}{Bi_q}) \\ &\quad \times (-9 + 10e^{t^2}) \end{aligned}$$

and  $g(t) = 3.1 - t$ , are chosen to satisfy the required compatibility conditions at  $t = 0$  to avoid potential space located patches in the solution for positive times that will render the solution of the inverse problem impossible. See [5].

The numerical solution of the direct problem is computed by the method of lines and the discrete perturbed data functions for the inverse problem are generated by adding random errors to the "exact" computed solutions of the direct

problem  $g_1 = u(0, t)$  and  $g_2 = v(0, t)$  as well as the exact flux functions  $g_3 = u_x(0, t) = -2.5$  and  $g_4 = v_x(0, t) = -0.8$ . That is,  $g_i^\epsilon = g_i + \epsilon_i$  where the  $\epsilon_i$ 's are Gaussian random variables with  $|\epsilon_i| \leq \epsilon$ ,  $i = 1, 2, 3, 4$ .

The relative weighted  $l^2$  error for  $u$  is calculated as

$$\frac{[\frac{1}{(M+1)} \sum_{i=0}^M |R_u^i - u(ih)|^2]^{\frac{1}{2}}}{[\frac{1}{(M+1)} \sum_{i=0}^M |u(ih)|^2]^{\frac{1}{2}}}.$$

The relative  $l^2$  errors for  $u_0$ ,  $u_x$ ,  $v_0$ ,  $v$  and  $v_x$  are computed in a similar fashion.

### Example

We wish to approximately identify the functions  $u(x, t)$ ,  $v(x, t)$ ,  $u(x, 0)$ ,  $v(x, 0)$ ,  $u_x(x, t)$ , and  $v_x(x, t)$  satisfying

$$\begin{pmatrix} u_t \\ v_t \end{pmatrix} = [(1+x) \begin{pmatrix} 0.7488 & -1.04 \\ -0.256 & 0.8 \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}] \begin{pmatrix} u_{xx} \\ v_{xx} \end{pmatrix},$$

$$0 < x < 1, \quad 0 < t \leq 1,$$

and the boundary conditions

$$u(0, t) = g_1^\epsilon(t),$$

$$v(0, t) = g_2^\epsilon(t),$$

$$u_x(0, t) = g_3^\epsilon(t),$$

$$v_x(0, t) = g_4^\epsilon(t).$$

Relative  $l^2$  errors for  $u$  and  $v$  are reported in Table 1 as a function of  $\epsilon$  and as a function of  $\Delta t$  in Table 2. Both these results and those shown in Figures 1 through 6 emphasize the stability and consistency of the marching scheme. For Table 1 and Figures 1 through 6,  $N_x = 100$  and  $N_t = 128$ . In Table 2 and Figures 1 through 6,  $\epsilon = 0.01$ .

### Acknowledgement

This work was partially supported by a C. Taft fellowship.

$\epsilon$	$u(x, t)$	$v(x, t)$
0.001	0.00745	0.04766
0.005	0.00792	0.04435
0.01	0.00953	0.12241

**Table 1**

$\Delta t$	$u(x, t)$	$v(x, t)$
1/64	0.00959	0.12421
1/128	0.00953	0.12241
1/256	0.00452	0.01227

**Table 2**

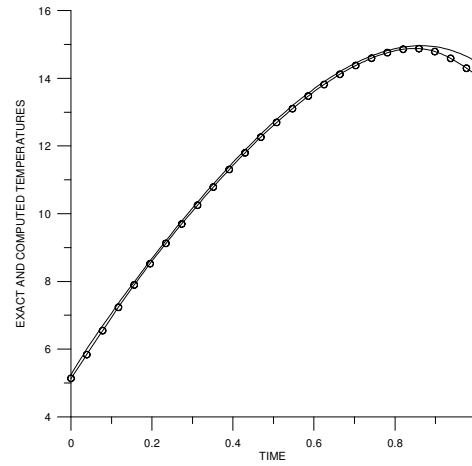


Fig. 1. Exact and computed temperatures at  $x = 1$

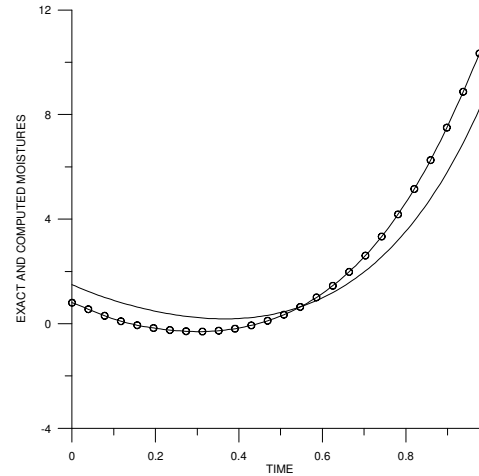


Fig. 2. Exact and computed moistures at  $x = 1$

## 5. REFERENCES

1. Coles, C. and Murio, D. A., Parameter Estimation for a Drying System in a Porous

Medium, to appear in *Computers and Mathematics with Applications*, 2006.

2. Ekechukwu, O. V., Review of solar-energy drying systems I: an overview of drying principles and theory, *Energy Conversion and Management*, Vol. 40, 1999, pp. 593-613.

3. Lugon Jader Jr., and Silva Neto, Antonio J., Deterministic, Stochastic and Hybrid Solutions for Inverse Problems in Simultaneous Heat and Mass Transfer in Porous Media, *Proceedings of the 13th Annual Inverse Problems in Engineering Seminar*, edited by D. A. Murio, Cincinnati, Ohio, 2004, pp. 99-106.

4. Murio, D. A., Mollification and Space

Marching, Chapter 4 (pp. 219-326), *Inverse Engineering Handbook*, edited by K. Woodbury, CRC Press, Boca Raton, Florida, 2002.

5. Ni, Wei-Ming, Diffusion, Cross-Diffusion, and Their Spike-Layer Steady States, *Notice of the AMS*, Vol. 45, No. 1, 1998, pp. 9-18.

6. Pandey, Srivastava, and Mikhailov, Luikov Systems, *International Journal of Heat and Mass Transfer*, Vol. 42, 1999, pp. 2649-2660.

7. Wahba, G., Spline Models for Observational Data, CBMS-NSF regional conferences series in applied mathematics, SIAM, Philadelphia, 1990.

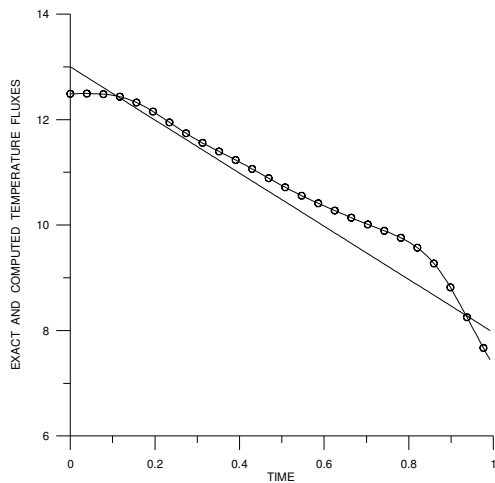


Fig. 3. Exact and computed heat fluxes at  $x = 1$

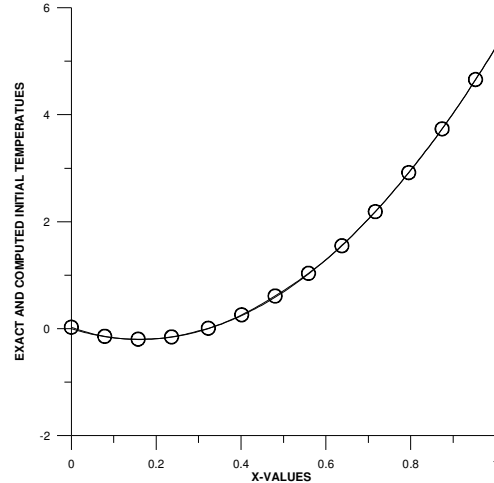


Fig. 5. Exact and computed temperatures at  $t = 0$

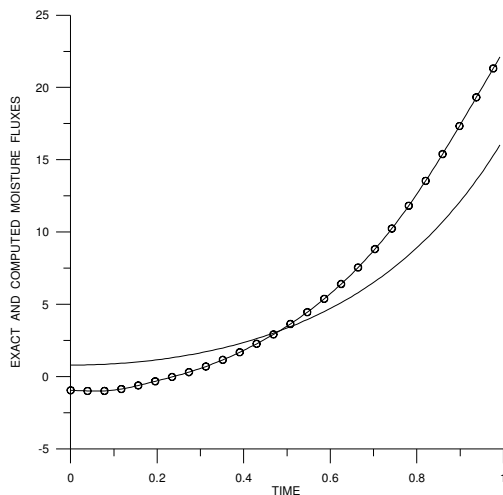


Fig. 4. Exact and computed moisture fluxes at  $x = 1$

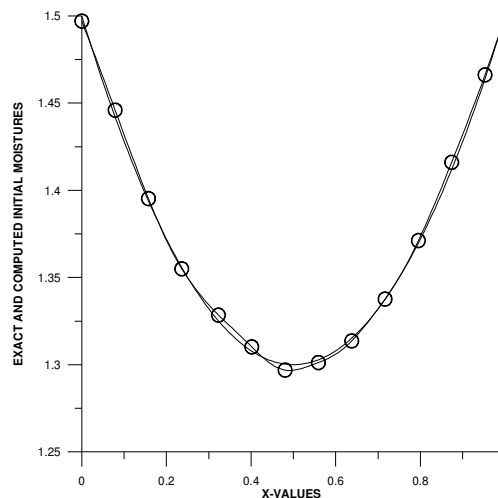


Fig. 6. Exact and computed moistures at  $t = 0$

