Blow-up in a Chemotaxis Model Using a Moving Mesh Method

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Abstract

In this dissertation we look at a system of partial differential equations (PDEs) used to model chemotaxis. This model is called the Keller-Segel model. The solution to this model exhibits interesting properties. In particular the solution becomes infinite in a finite time, T. Firstly we look at a simpler equation, the Fishers equation, to see if blow-up exists. The aim of this project is to look at numerical methods that will capture the solution as it blows up. We see in the paper by Budd et al, [

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Declaration

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Chapter 1

Introduction

1.1 What is Chemotaxis?

Chemotaxis describes the movement of single or multicellular organisms when they move up or down a chemical gradient. The suffix ‘taxis' is Greek for ‘arrange, turning', [1]. This movement allows the organism to explore its extracellular environment. Organisms move randomly, away from repellents and towards attractants. Questions have arisen on how organisms can detect small changes in their extracellular environment. Usually the organism will undergo a random walk, consisting of smooth swimming and brief direction changes (tumbles). By increasing the attractant, the tumbling is suppressed, which leads to a biased random walk. The organism will then accumulate in areas of high attractant concentration. This type of movement is referred to as runs. A combination of tumbles and runs allows the organism to explore and respond to changes in its extracellular environment, as explained in [9]

There is much interest in the study of chemotaxis for many reasons. Chemotaxis is important in multicellular organisms, as it is critical in certain phases of development e.g. during fertilisation, as the sperm moves towards the egg, from [4] and explained further in [10]. Chemotaxis may also underpin the pigmentation patterning in snakes and fish. Whilst modelling certain phases of tumour growth, chemotaxis has been incorporated into these models, explained further in [10].

1.2 Keller-Segel Model

The modelling of chemotaxis “has developed into a large and diverse discipline”[4]. One model which is widely used is the “Keller-Segel model of chemotaxis” see [4] and explained further in [12

- $k_4(u;v)$ and $k_5(u;v)$ describes the production and degradation of the chemical substrate

- D is the diffusion coefficient of the attractant

There has been a large amount of work on the conditions which form either finite-time blow-up or have globally existing solutions. This has resulted in the model which is referred to as the `*minimal model*', where it is assumed that the functions k_j have linear form (see [4], for further information). We shall be concerned with this minimal model due to its finite-time blow-up property.

The minimal model (which is non-dimensional) is

$$\begin{aligned} u_t &= r^2u \qquad r:(u\, r\, v) \\ v_t &= r^2v + u \quad v \end{aligned} \tag{1.1}$$

where

- r 2 = fr : jrj Rg, the region is suggested to be [0,1]

- $u($r$;t)$ is the evolution of cell density

- $v($r$;t)$ is the chemical substrate

- chemotactic coefficient, whose suggested value is = 8

- Neumann boundary conditions are enforced for u and v on @

see[1].

We restrict our attention to radially symmetric versions of (1.1).

1.3 Initial Conditions

Following Budd et al [1], we take Gaussian functions for our initial data. They will be of the form

$$u(r;0) = 1000e^{-500r^2}$$

$$v(r;0) = 10e^{-500r^2}$$

over the domain [0,1], with data taken from [1].

Numerical models have been developed so that model predictions can be compared with experimental data. We wish to develop a numerical method to successfully capture the blow-up of the solution to the Keller-Segel model.

We begin by studying the existence of blow-up for a simpler equation, the nonlinear Fisher's equation in the next two chapters, before using the same technique to study Chemotaxis.

Chapter 2

Blow-up and the Fisher equation

We begin our study on blow-up in chemotaxis by considering the Fisher's equation, on a fixed 1D cartesian mesh.

2.1 Fisher's Equation

Fisher's equation is a diffusion equation with an added source term, i.e.

$$u_t = u_{xx} + u^p; \qquad (p > 1) \tag{2.1}$$

Equation (2.1) represents the temperature of a reacting or combusting medium. This equation is of particular interest since its solution is simpler than the Keller-Segel model and also becomes infnite in a finite time, i.e. blow-up exists. Usually a problem that exhibits blow-up will become infinite at a single blow-up point. The blow-up point x^*, is described in [2] and occurs at a finite blow up time, T, where $T < \infty$, so as $t \to T$

$$u(x^*, t) \to \infty \qquad \text{and} \qquad u(x, t) \to u(x, T) < \infty,$$

2.3 Explicit Method

To study the blow-up behaviour of Fisher's equation we will firstly approximate the solution on a *fixed* mesh, using a standard explicit and implicit scheme. We first look at an explicit method on a fixed mesh, to obtain a solution.

By using the method of finite differences we can discretise (2.1) in space and time to obtain;

$$\frac{(u_j^{n+1} - u_j^n)}{\Delta t} = \frac{(u_{j+1}^n - 2u_j^n + u_{j-1}^n)}{\Delta x^2} + (u_j^n)^2$$

$$\Rightarrow \; u_j^{n+1} = u_j^n + \frac{\Delta t}{\Delta x^2}\left[u_{j+1}^n - 2u_j^n + u_{j-1}^n\right] + \Delta t(u_j^n)^2$$

Note that $\frac{\Delta t}{\Delta x^2}$ is restricted for reasons of numerical stability. From this we obtain the solution shown in Figure (2.1).

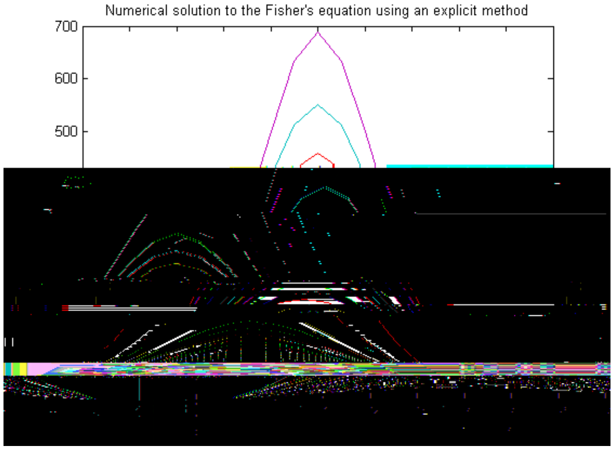

Figure 2.1: Solution to the Fisher's equation using an explicit method, where $\Delta t = 0.0005$, $nt = 165$ and $\Delta x = 0.05$

Although the solution is not very refined due to the small number of nodes along the x-axis, we can begin to see the blow-up at $x^* = 0.5$. With the explicit method we need to take a small Δt and many timesteps, to see the solution blow-up.

Clearly, as blow-up continues the fixed mesh will not be able to resolve the peak, since the width of the peak may become less than the distance between the nodes.

2.4 Implicit Method

Since Δt is rather restricted in Section (2.3) we now use an implicit method on a fixed mesh to solve the equation. This is done by discretising the second order derivative u_{xx} at the forward time. This leads to

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{(u_j^{n+1} - u_j^n)}{\Delta t} &= \frac{(u_{j+1}^{n+1} - 2u_j^{n+1} + u_{j-1}^{n+1})}{\Delta x^2} + (u_j^n)^2 \\ &\Rightarrow \quad u_j^{n+1} - \frac{\Delta t}{\Delta x^2}\left[u_{j+1}^{n+1} - 2u_j^{n+1} + u_{j-1}^{n+1}\right] = u_j^n + \Delta t(u_j^n)^2 \end{aligned}$$

which leads to a tridiagonal matrix which can be solved for u_j^{n+1}

$$A\underline{u}_j^{n+1} = \underline{u}_j^n + \Delta t(\underline{u}_j^n)^2$$

where

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 1+\frac{2\Delta t}{\Delta x^2} & -\frac{\Delta t}{\Delta x^2} & 0 & & & 0 \\ -\frac{\Delta t}{\Delta x^2} & 1+\frac{2\Delta t}{\Delta x^2} & -\frac{\Delta t}{\Delta x^2} & 0 & & 0 \\ \ddots & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots \\ \ddots & \ddots & -\frac{\Delta t}{\Delta x^2} & 1+\frac{2\Delta t}{\Delta x^2} & -\frac{\Delta t}{\Delta x^2} & \ddots \\ \ddots & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots \\ 0 & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots & -\frac{\Delta t}{\Delta x^2} & 1+\frac{2\Delta t}{\Delta x^2} \end{pmatrix}$$

This method is more stable. We obtain the solution shown in Figure (2.2), with larger values of t.

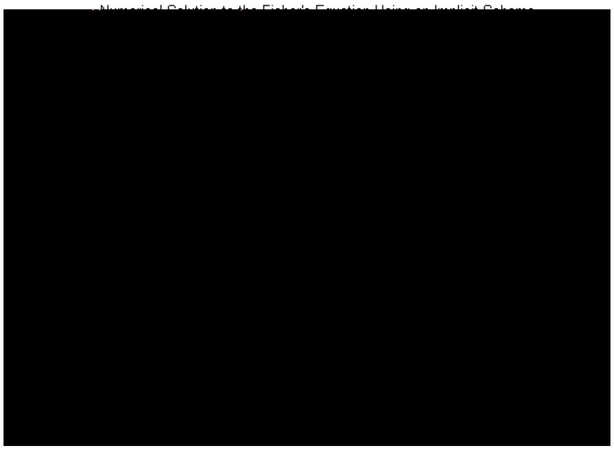

Figure 2.2: Solution to the Fisher's equation using an implicit method, where $t = 0{:}1$, $nt = 5$ and $x = 0{:}025$

Once again we can observe the solution blow-up at the point $x^* = 0{:}5$. Since the implicit method is more stable than the explicit one, we can take bigger t and fewer timesteps. This makes it less computationally expensive. Even so, the peak will eventually not be resolved with a fixed mesh.

Chapter 3

Method of Conservation for Fisher's Equation

Previously in Sections (2.3) and (2.4) we have seen how a fixed mesh can be used to investigate the solution to (2.1). From Figure (2.1) and Figure (2.2), as $t \to T$ we can see a single spike forming around $x^* = 0.5$. The spike is increasing in height and decreasing in width. The width of the spike will become smaller and smaller as $t \to T$. This means that on a fixed mesh the width of the spike will eventually be smaller than the size of the mesh. In this case the numerical method will not be able to resolve the blow-up, which is why it is essential to use an adaptive method. In this way nodes can be moved in towards the spike, which can resolve the blow-up solution more accurately.

For blow-up problems it is natural to use an adaptive mesh procedure, where mesh points are clustered close to to the region where blow-up occurs, to be able to resolve the solution. Various adaptive procedures have previously been used, including:

(1) h-refinement- this is on a static mesh. The mesh is refined by adding

nodes to the area where the singularity occurs. This becomes computationally expensive as the blow-up develops, and its width decreases.

(2) p-refinement- this is also static. It uses higher order polynomials to get an accurate representation of the solution. It is more accurate in each cell than h-refinement. However, a polynomial will not be able to model blow-up if it falls between nodes.

(3) r-refinement- this is a moving mesh method where a fixed number of nodes are moved into the region where the singularity occurs. The advantage of this type of refinement is that it can keep track of the singularity all the way up to blow-up time. This refinement is not expensive to compute, but the solution away from the blow-up can be poorly tracked as there are fewer nodes in these regions.

To track the solution as it blows up, we will use a moving mesh, aiming to conserve the relative or fractional area under the curve, as time goes on.

We will use a velocity based method to move the individual nodes at each timestep, which will track the solution as it blows up. We obtain the velocities by conserving the mass of each element under the solution curve, for each timestep.

3.1 Generating Velocities

By dividing the x domain $[0,1]$ into N regions $(x_{j-1}(t), x_j(t)), j = 1, 2, \ldots, N$, we can obtain the areas in these regions underneath the solution curve by

$$\int_{x_{j-1}(t)}^{x_j(t)} u(x,t)dx = \text{area}_j \tag{3.1}$$

3.3 Recovering new values of u

Since from (3.4) we can deduce that

$$\frac{1}{(t)}\int^{x_{j+1}(_{\mathrm{j}}} \quad \Big) \quad \Big(\quad \Big) \qquad\qquad \Big) \quad \Big)$$

Chapter 4

Results for Fisher's Equation

To investigate the behaviour of the Fisher's equation using a moving mesh method, we look at various combinations of Δt_0 and Δx. We use a variable timestep for reasons of numerical stability. We will have Δt varying as $t \to T$. We take,

$$\Delta t = \frac{\Delta t_0}{T - t}$$

however, the downfall with this is that we need an estimation of T. In this case we will use $T \approx 0.082372$ from [2].

Firstly we fix Δx and choose a Δt_0

Table 4.1: Changing t_0, nr and nt for the Fisher's Equation

nx	t_0	nt	T
11	$1.71\ \ 10^{-5}$	200	0.0774
11	$8.55\ \ 10^{-6}$	399	0.0797
11	$4.275\ \ 10^{-6}$	796	0.0806
11	$2.1375\ \ 10^{-6}$	1591	0.0836
21	$1\ \ 10^{-5}$	341	0.0786
21	$4.9\ \ 10^{-6}$	694	0.0793
21	$2.45\ \ 10^{-6}$	1387	0.0807
21	$1.225\ \ 10^{-6}$	2773	0.0824
41	$1\ \ 10^{-5}$	342	0.0812
41	$5\ \ 10^{-6}$	682	0.0835
41	$2.5\ \ 10^{-6}$	1361	0.0847
41	$1.24\ \ 10^{-6}$	2740	0.0836

From (4.1) we can see that when $nx = 11$ and we decrease t_0 and increase the number of timesteps nt

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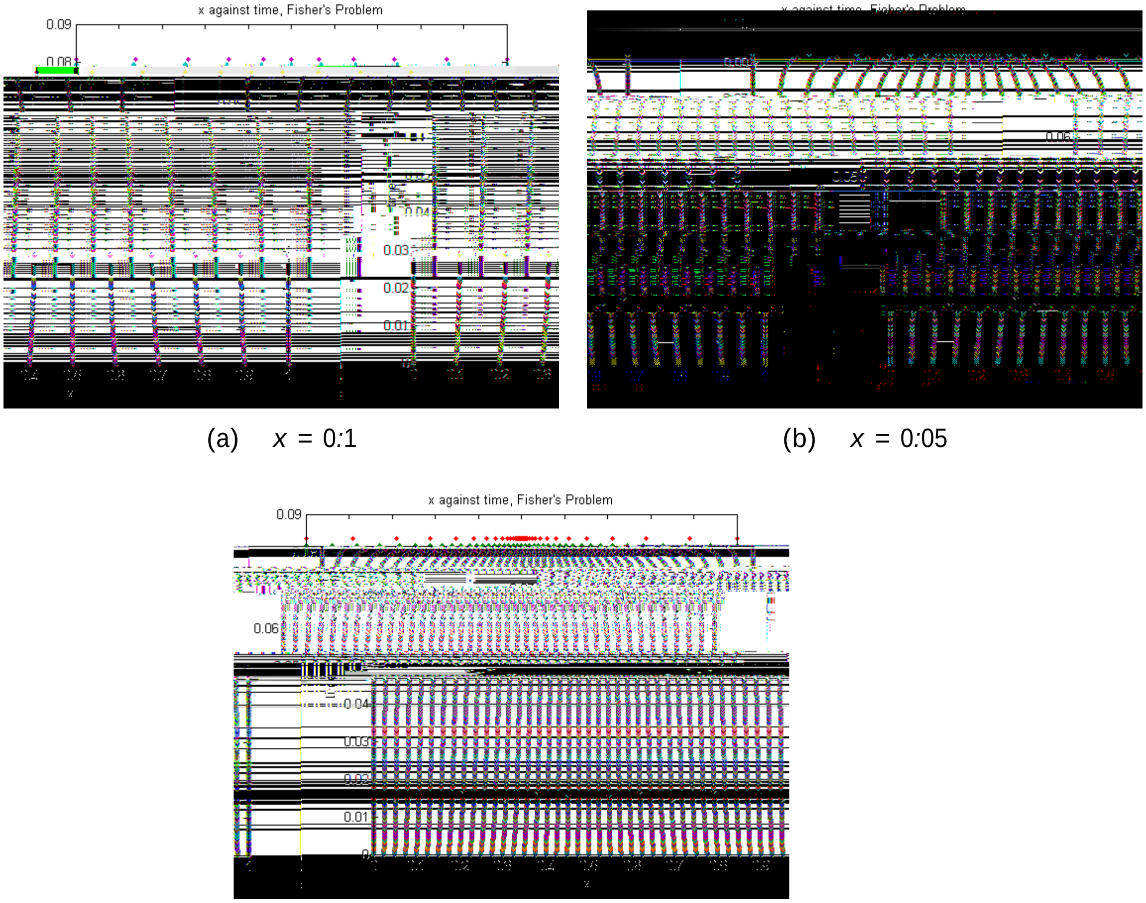


(a) $x = 0.1$ (b) $x = 0.05$

(c) $x = 0.025$

Figure 4.3: Nodes moving in towards the singularity

The images in Figure(4.3) represent the entire domain, $x \in [0,1]$. We can see how the nodes are moving in towards the singularity which occurs at $x^* = 0.5$. In Figure (4.3,c), we can see how the nodes begin to move extremely fast towards $x^* = 0.5$ on the last iteration, just before T approaches 0.082372.

Since we have been able to approach the blow-up time T 0:082372 stated in [2], it would appear that our numerical method is less computationally expensive than the method in [2].

We now turn our attention to investigations carried out on the chemotaxis model.

Chapter 5

A Previous Numerical Investigation of Chemotaxis

We have studied the chemotaxis paper by Budd et al, [1] where they wish to achieve numerical cmputation of the blow-up time. Budd et al, use a method of equidistribution to re-space the nodes. this is achieved by using a moving mesh PDE (MMPDE) and a monitor function.

One of the features of Budd's paper is the scale invariance of the chemotaxis equations, and Budd et al use this idea in relation to the local behaviour of the blow-up.

5.1 Self-Similarity

We first describe the notion of similarity, which will play a part in later theory. For any PDE connecting the variables u,x and t, if we take a scaling of these values,

$$u \to u' = \quad u$$

$$
\begin{aligned}
x \ ! \ x' &= \quad x \\
t \ ! \ t' &= \quad t
\end{aligned}
$$

and if for certain , the PDE is invariant, then it is said to be scale-invariant. The variables $\frac{x}{t}$ and $\frac{u}{t}$ are independent of and are called similarity variables. Also there may be special `self-similar' solutions of the form

$$\frac{u}{t} = f\left(\frac{x}{t}\right)$$

see (5.1).

Figure 5.1: Self-Similarity, from [5]

In [1] it is stated that \In the case of true self-similar blow-up (where the solution is invariant under the scaling laws which apply to the differential equation) we expect to see the simpler power law relation $u(0;t)\ (T \quad t)^{-1}$, $L(t)\ (T \quad t)^{0:5}$". Hence in our case we will take $= \quad 1$ and $= 0:5$.

Budd et al [1], also state that for the one spatial dimension case of a set of the chemotaxis equations with no chemical decay and no chemical diffusion, the blow-up profile can be shown to be self-similar, \with the cell concentration tending to a Dirac-delta function with `height' inversely proportional to the time to blow-up"[1].

However, for the two spatial dimension radial case solutions have only approximate self-similar behaviour, where the solution does not obey the scaling laws of the PDE. For the three spatial dimension radial case the blow-up occurs in a self-similar way, therefore obeying a strict power law.

5.2 Moving mesh PDE

Budd et al use a remeshing method. The mesh points are re-allocated by solving a moving mesh PDE (MMPDE), which is based on the ideas in [7]. Spatial mesh movement is done based upon equidistribution of a monitor function. The monitor function is chosen so that it is suitable for the nu-

5.3 Choosing a suitable Monitor Function

According to [1], when choosing a suitable monitor function, several elements need to be taken into consideration. When updating the mesh points close to blow-up time, T, it is essential the nodes do not move too fast, otherwise the resulting system of equations is very stiff. The nodes must not move too slowly, otherwise the blow-up will not be tracked. They should evolve at the same rate as the underlying solution. In order to evolve the mesh points at the correct time-scale a compromise between the above points need to be made. It is stated in the paper that the monitor function needs to satisfy

$$M(u) \; / \; (T \quad t)^{-1}$$

asymptotically, which for the chemotaxis problem can be achieved by using a monitor function of the form

$$M(u) = u$$

For the 2D Chemotaxis case Budd et al in [1] use

$$M(u) = u^{\frac{1}{2}}$$

and for the 3D case

$$M(u) = u$$

5.4 Blow-up Time

Budd et al [1] investigate the Keller-Segel model with initial conditions stated in Chapter 1. It is shown that the solution becomes singular when T $5{:}15 \quad 10^{-5}$. Figure (5.2) is taken from [1] and based on [6]. It shows the general form of the solution u in the chemotaxis problem as it blows up.

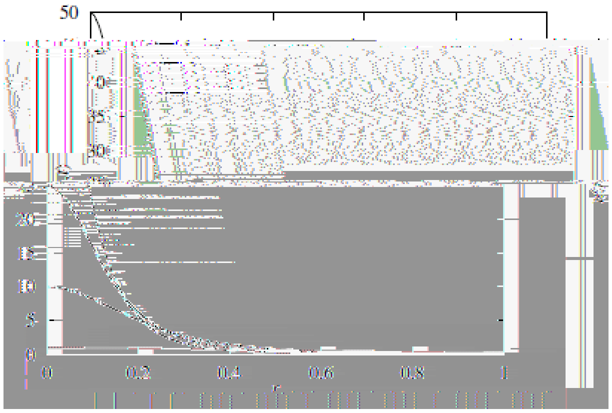


Figure 5.2: The behaviour of u in the core region for varying , from [1]

Although Budd et al use the method of equidistribution in [1], for the chemotaxis problem, we will use a velocity based method as mentioned in Chapter 3. The mass of each element under the solution curve will be conserved.

Chapter 6

Method of conservation for the Chemotaxis Model

For the chemotaxis equations, we will be looking only at the 2D and 3D radial cases.

6.1 Chemotaxis 2D

For the 2D case the radially symmetric Keller-Segel system of equations (1.1) in cylindrical polar co-ordinates becomes

$$\begin{aligned} u_t &= \frac{1}{r}\frac{\partial}{\partial r}\left(r\frac{\partial u}{\partial r}\right) - \frac{1}{r}\frac{\partial}{\partial r}\left(ru\frac{\partial v}{\partial r}\right) \\ v_t &= \frac{1}{r}\frac{\partial}{\partial r}\left(r\frac{\partial v}{\partial r}\right) + u - v \end{aligned}$$

in (0,R). As in [1] the initial conditions are taken to be

$$u(r,0) = 1000e^{-500r^2}$$

$$v(r;0) = 10e^{-500r^2}$$

We note from [1] that

$$\int_0^R urdr = \text{constant} \tag{6.1}$$

From (6.1

Summing for all i

The singularity occurs close to $r = 0$, when moving the nodes we want them to approach this area, so that the singularity can be refined. Therefore the nodes will be moving in from the right boundary into $r = 0$. This means that we require the velocity of the nodes to be negative. So we want

$$s(0) < 0$$

so we have

$$\begin{aligned} s(0) &= 1000r\left[1 \quad 10 \; e^{-500r^2}\right] < 0 \\ \Rightarrow 1 &< 10 \; e^{-500r^2} \end{aligned}$$

since $= 8$ we have

$$e^{-500r^2} > \frac{1}{80}$$

If we take $r \in [0, 0.08]$, this inequality is satisfied.

6.1.3 Recovering New r,u and v Values

Now that we know the velocity of the nodes we can calculate their new position. The change in r

integrals)

$$\int_{r_{j-1}}^{r_{j+1}} urdr$$

is constant in time, equal to its initial value which means

$$\int_{r_{j-1}(t)}^{r_{j+1}(t)} u(t)r(t)dr = \int_{r_{j-1}(0)}^{r_{j+1}(0)} u(0)r(0)$$

so by a mid-point rule

$$\begin{aligned} r_j(t)\left[r_{j+1}(t) - r_{j-1}(t)\right]u_j(t) &= r_j(0)\left[r_{j+1}(0) - r_{j-1}(0)\right]u_j(0) \\ \Rightarrow\ u_j(t) &= \frac{r_j(0)\left[r_{j+1}(0) - r_{j-1}(0)\right]u_j(0)}{r_j(t)\left[r_{j+1}(t) - r_{j-1}(t)\right]} \end{aligned}$$

We can also calculate the new values of v. We have that

$$v_t = \frac{1}{r}\frac{\partial}{\partial r}\left(r\frac{\partial v}{\partial r}\right) + u - v$$

in cylindrical polar co-ordinates, but on the moving mesh the new values of v will have an extra term added due to the movement of the mesh, by the chain rule. The modified equation is

$$\frac{dv}{dt} = \frac{1}{r}\left(rv_r\right)_r + u - v + sv_r \tag{6.2}$$

$$= v_{rr} + \frac{1}{r}v_r + u - v + sv_r \tag{6.3}$$

where $\frac{dv}{dt}$ is the rate of change of v in the moving frame, which can be discretised in space and time to give

$$\frac{v_j^{n+1} - v_j^n}{\Delta t} = (v_{j-1}^n \quad r$$

$$) \quad v_j^{n+1} = v_j^n + \quad t \left[\frac{(v_{j-1}^n \quad 2v_j^n + v_{j+1}^n)}{r^2} + \left(\frac{1}{r} + s_j^n \right) \left(\frac{v_{j+1}^n \quad v_{j-1}^n}{2 \quad r} \right) + u_j^n \quad v_j^n \right] \tag{6.4}$$

We can use (6.4

$$
\begin{aligned}
&= \int_{r_{i-1}}^{r_i} r^2 u_t dr + \left[r^2 us\right]_{r_{i-1}}^{r_i} \qquad (6.9)\\
&= \int_{r_{i-1}}^{r_i} \left[\frac{1}{r^2}\frac{\partial}{\partial r}\left(r^2\frac{\partial u}{\partial r}\right) - \frac{1}{r^2}\frac{\partial}{\partial r}\left(r^2 u\frac{\partial v}{\partial r}\right)\right] r^2 dr + \left[r^2 us\right]_{r_{i-1}}^{r_i}\\
&= \left[r^2\frac{\partial u}{\partial r} - r^2 u\frac{\partial v}{\partial r} + r^2 us\right]_{r_{i-1}}^{r_i}
\end{aligned}
$$

Summing fo]776 Tf 5.J/F21 11.9552 Tf 11.76.r

6.2.2 Recovering New r,u and v Values

Now that we know the velocity of the nodes we can calculate their new position. The change in r

The new values of v will have an extra term added due to the movement of the mesh by the chain rule. This is given by

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{dv}{dt} &= \frac{1}{r^2}\left(r^2 v_r\right)_r + u - v + s v_r\\ &= v_{rr} + \frac{2}{r} v_r + u - v + s v_r\end{aligned}$$

which can be discretised in space and time to give

$$\frac{v_j^{n+1} - v_j^n}{\Delta t} = \frac{(v_{j-1}^n - 2v_j^n + v_{j+1}^n)}{\Delta r^2} + \left(\frac{2}{r} + s_j^n\right)\left(\frac{v_{j+1}^n - v_{j-1}^n}{2\Delta r}\right) + u_j^n - v_j^n$$

$$\Rightarrow v_j^{n+1} = v_j^n + \Delta t\left[\frac{(v_{j-1}^n - 2v_j^n + v_{j+1}^n)}{\Delta r^2} + \left(\frac{2}{r} + s_j^n\right)\left(\frac{v_{j+1}^n - v_{j-1}^n}{2\Delta r}\right) + u_j^n - v_j^n\right] \tag{6.10}$$

We can use (6.10) for interior nodes, but on the left and right boundaries (6.10) needs to be modified.

Left boundary, $j = 1$

Since we have Neumann boundary conditions, $v_r = 0$, we introduce a ghost point r_{-1} and apply (6.7) at $r = 0$ with

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{v_1 - v_{-1}}{2\Delta r} &= 0\\ \Rightarrow v_{-1} &= v_1\end{aligned}$$

However, difficulties arise in applying (6.10) at $r = 0$. Instead we use the approximation

$$\frac{1}{r^2}\frac{\partial}{\partial r}\left(r^2\frac{\partial v}{\partial r}\right) = 3\frac{\partial^2 v}{\partial r^2}$$

see [3].

Now we have the following equation at the left hand boundary

$$v_t = 3v_{rr} + u \quad v + sv_r$$

and, after discretisation in time and space we obtain

$$\frac{v_0^{n+1} \quad v_0^n}{t} =$$

Chapter 7

Chemotaxis Results

7.1 Chemotaxis 2D

We considered the 2D chemotaxis problem and looked at how the solution was affected by

- an increase in spatial nodal values, (nr)
- decreasing the timestep, (t)
- increasing the number of timesteps,(nt), as the size of t decreases

7.1.1 Changing t, nr and nt

We looked at the results for $u(r;t)$, $v(r;t)$ and the change in r to see how they were affected by taking different combinations of t, nr and nt.

Table 7.1: Changing t, nr and nt for the 2D chemotaxis problem

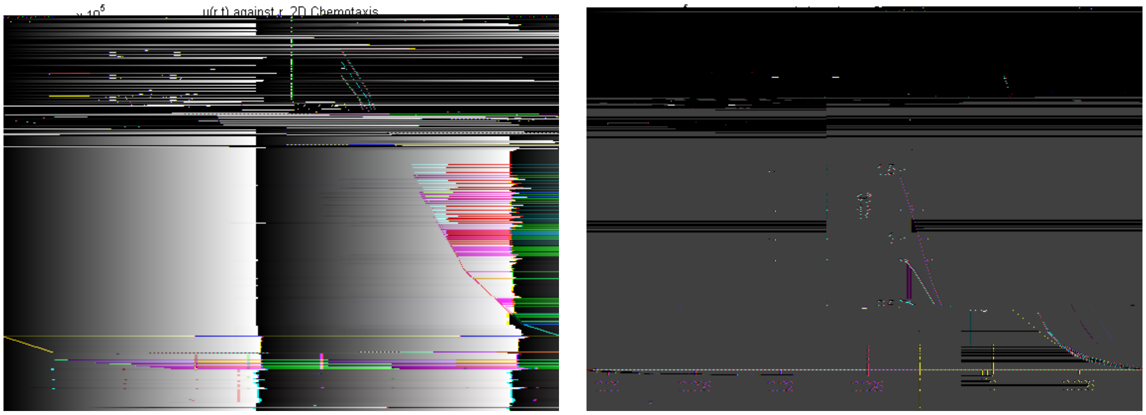
nr	t	nt	T
11	$4\ \ 10^{-7}$	106	$4.24\ \ 10^{-5}$
11	$2\ \ 10^{-7}$	212	$4.24\ \ 10^{-5}$
11	$1\ \ 10^{-7}$	425	$4.25\ \ 10^{-5}$
11	$5\ \ 10^{-8}$	852	$4.26\ \ 10^{-5}$
21	$4\ \ 10^{-7}$	75	$3\ \ 10^{-5}$
21	$2\ \ 10^{-7}$	165	$3.3\ \ 10^{-5}$
21	$1\ \ 10^{-7}$	362	$3.62\ \ 10^{-5}$
21	$5\ \ 10^{-8}$	785	$3.925\ \ 10^{-5}$
41	$4\ \ 10^{-7}$	52	$2.08\ \ 10^{-5}$
41	$2\ \ 10^{-7}$	112	$2.24\ \ 10^{-5}$
41	$1\ \ 10^{-7}$	253	$2.53\ \ 10^{-5}$
41	$5\ \ 10^{-8}$	588	$2.94\ \ 10^{-5}$

From Table (7.1) we can see that by fixing r and decreasing t we can take more timesteps. With this the blow up time increases.

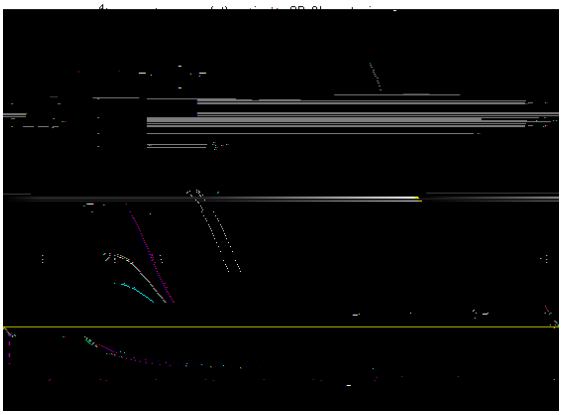
By increasing nr and keeping t we need fewer timesteps for blow-up. However, the blow-up time is decreasing.

7.1.2 Solution of $u(r,t)$

To begin with we are interested in the evolution of the cell density, $u(r,t)$, throughout the time period. Although the numerical calculations were carried out on $r \in [0, 0.08]$, we have only plotted for a smaller region as to see a refined version of the solution. This is shown in Figure(7.1)



(a) $nr = 11$ (b) $nr = 21$



(c) $nr = 41$

Figure 7.1: Blow-up of $u(r,t)$, for a 2D Chemotaxis System

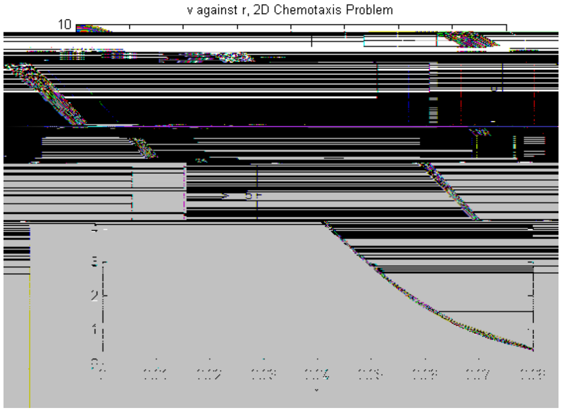
From Figure(7.1) we can see in all figures that as we approach $r = 0$ the solution begins to blow-up. As the size of the timestep t is decreased and the number of timesteps nt is increased, the solution will blow-up more. This is true for all cases in Figure(7.1).

As we increase the number of spatial nodes nr, the overall blow-up becomes less. We can see in Figure(7.1.a) where $nr = 11$ that the solution blows-up to $4 \quad 10^{6}$. In Figure(7.1.b) where $nr = 21$ the solution blows-up to $2{:}5 \quad 10^{4}$.

An advantage of using more nodes is the refinement away from the blow-up. Although the nodes are moving in towards the singularity, when the number of nodes is increased we can obtain more information away from the blow-up, than when the number of spatial nodes is decreased.

7.1.3 Solution of $v(r;t)$

As the cell density $u(r;t)$ blows up over time, we are interested to see what role the the concentration of chemical substrate $v(r;t)$ has in the blow-up of the solution. We look at the solution of $v(r;t)$ when there are 21 nodes.



(a) $t = 2\text{x}10^{-7}$, $nt = 168$

(b) $t = 1\text{x}10^{-7}$, nt

7.1.4 Movement of the Nodes

The main aim of this project is to move the spatial nodes so that any singularities in the solution can be followed and refined. We look at the movement they are in Figure(7.3.c). However, we can see in Figure(7.3.c) that throughout the evolution as the nodes get closer and closer to the singularity, there are fewer nodes away from the blow-up point. This means that if there is any interesting behaviour in this area then it will not necessarily be detected.

7.1.5 A Numerical Self-Similarity Property

For self-similar behaviour Budd et al [1] expects the power law relation to be $L(t)\ (T \quad t)^{0:5}$. Although Budd states that the 2D case is "`not strictly self-similar"'[1], we found that in our results $\frac{r}{t}$ was eventually almost self-similar.

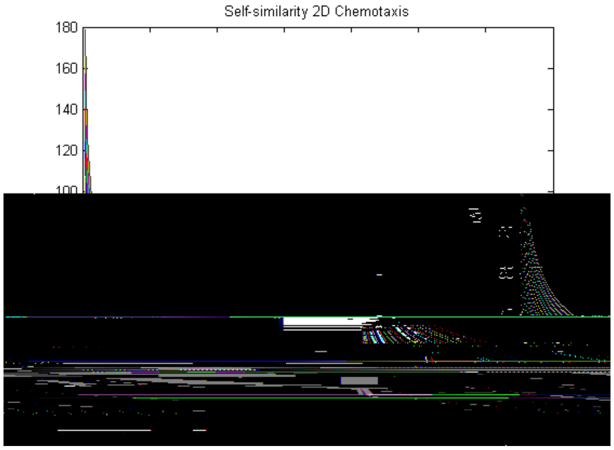


Figure 7.4: Self-similarity of $\frac{r}{t}$ for 2D Chemotaxis, where $t = 2 \quad 10^{-7}$, $nt = 165$ and $nr = 21$

7.2 Chemotaxis 3D

7.2.1 Changing t, nr and nt

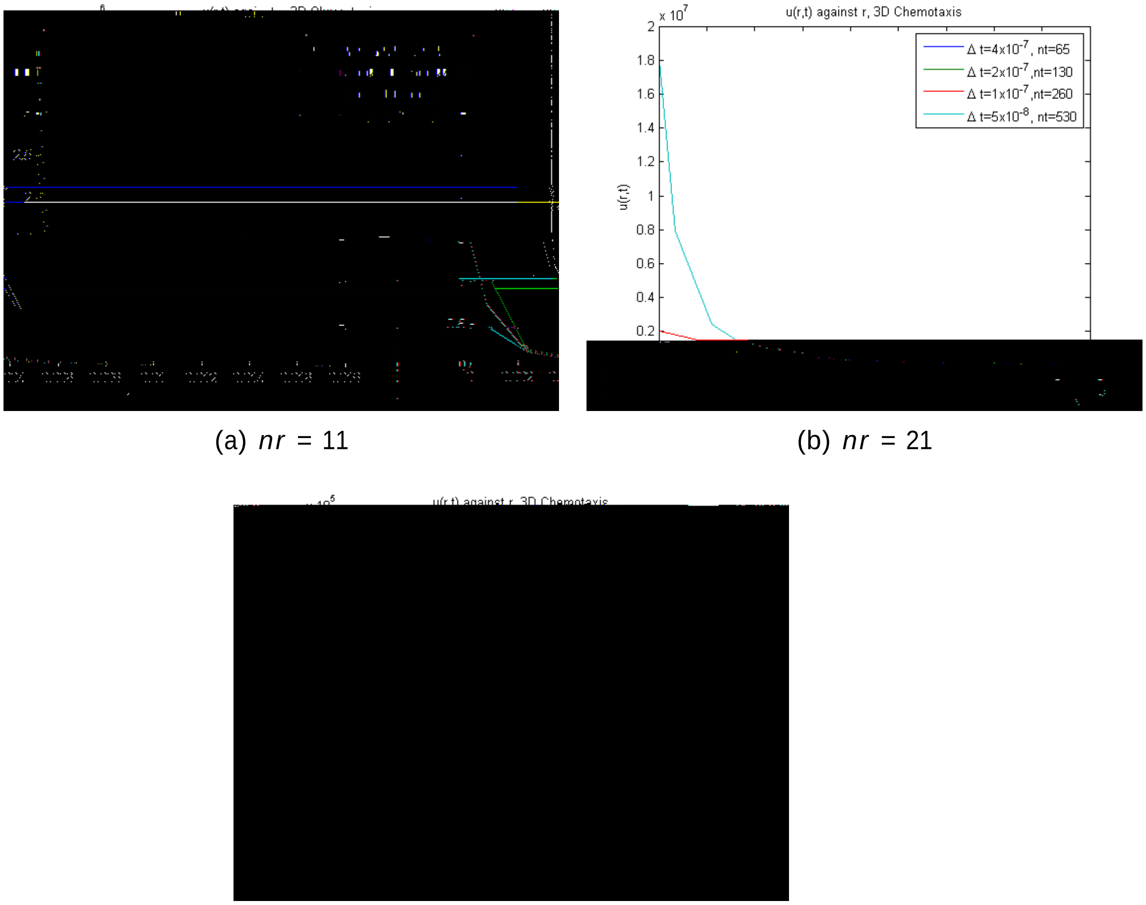
From Table(7.2) we can see that by fixing r and decreasing t we can take more timesteps. With this the blow up time increases. By increasing nr and keeping t we need fewer timesteps for blow-up. However, the blow-up time is decreasing.

Table 7.2: Changing t, nr and nt for the 3D chemotaxis problem

nr	t	nt	T
11	$4\ 10^{-7}$	63	$2.52\ 10^{-5}$
11	$2\ 10^{-7}$	127	$2.54\ 10^{-5}$
11	$1\ 10^{-7}$	255	$2.55\ 10^{-5}$
11	$5\ 10^{-8}$	511	$2.555\ 10^{-5}$
21	$4\ 10^{-7}$	65	$2.6\ 10^{-5}$
21	$2\ 10^{-7}$	130	$2.6\ 10^{-5}$
21	$1\ 10^{-7}$	260	$2.6\ 10^{-5}$
21	$5\ 10^{-8}$	530	$2.65\ 10^{-5}$
41	$4\ 10^{-7}$	47	$1.88\ 10^{-5}$
41	$2\ 10^{-7}$	100	$2\ 10^{-5}$
41	$1\ 10^{-7}$	230	$2.3\ 10^{-5}$
41	$5\ 10^{-8}$	495	$2.47\ 10^{-5}$

7.2.2 Solution of $u(r;t)$

We will again look at the evolution of the cell density, $u(r;t)$, throughout the time period as we approach a blow up solution. In (7.5) we can see the



(a) $nr = 11$

(b) $nr = 21$

(c) $nr = 41$

Figure 7.5: Blow-up of $u(r;t)$, for a 3D Chemotaxis System

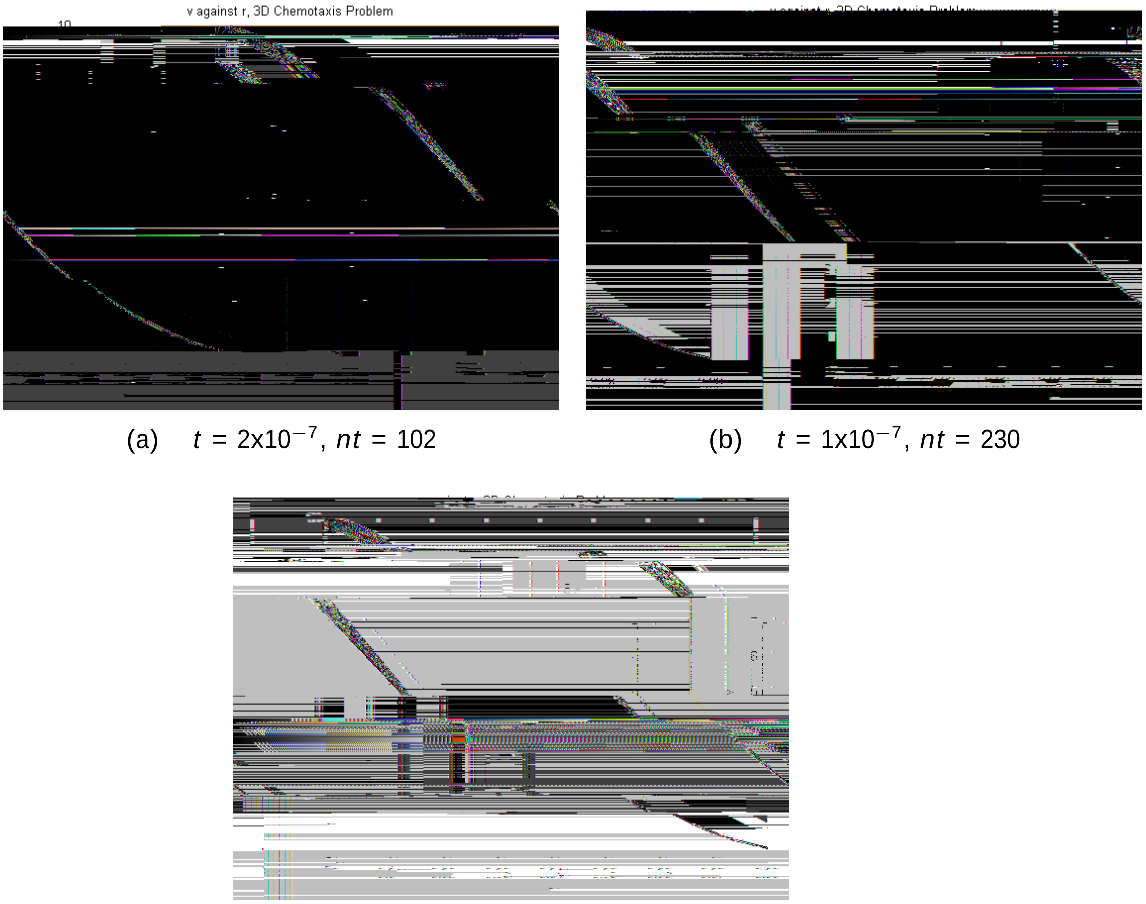
solution blow-up as we approach $r = 0$, as we did in the 2D case. Once again we can observe that the b,8.146 5p 1hp

In the 3D case, it takes fewer timesteps (for the same t in the 2D case), for the solution to blow up, although the solution does not blow-up as much.

By increasing the number of spatial nodes (nr), we see the maximum that $u(r;t)$ reaches is higher in (7.5.b), where nr has increased. However, $u(r;t)$ has a smaller maximum in (7.5.c), where the nx is greater than (7.5a and b)

7.2.3 Solution of $v(r; t)$

We again want to see the effect that the concentration of the chemical substrate $v(r; t)$, has on the cell density $u(r; t)$, as the solution blows up. We look at $v(r; t)$, when we have 41 spacial nodes. We see in Figure(7.6), that



(a) $t = 2\text{x}10^{-7}$, $nt = 102$ (b) $t = 1\text{x}10^{-7}$, $nt = 230$

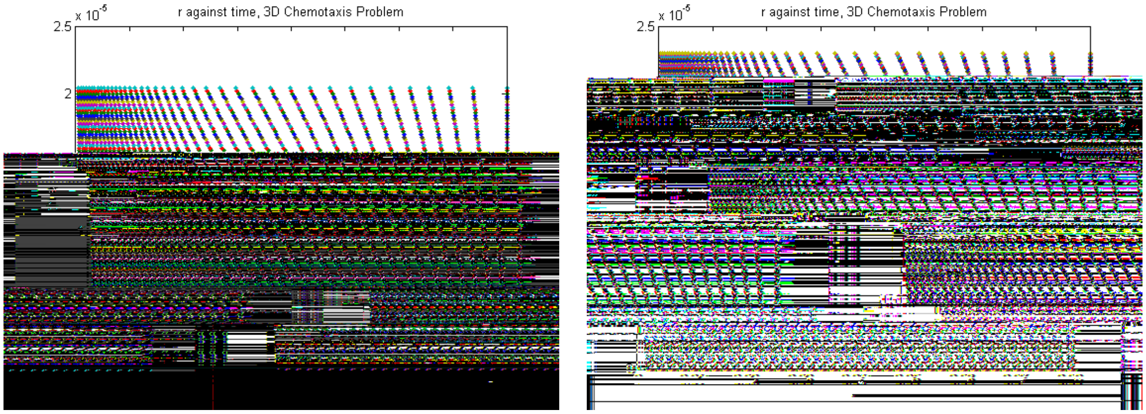
(c) $t = 5\text{x}10^{-8}$, $nt = 479$

Figure 7.6: Solution of $v(r; t)$, when $nr = 41$, for a 3D Chemotaxis System

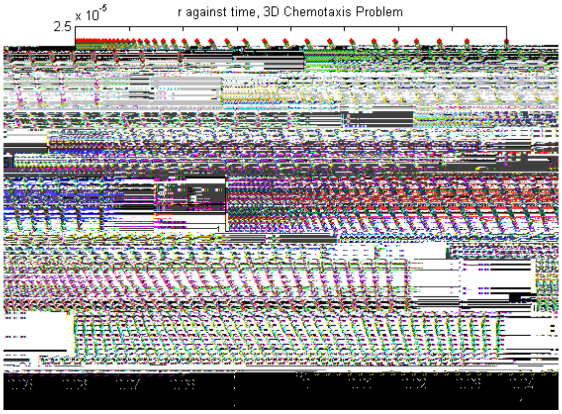
$v(r; t$

7.2.4 Movement of the Nodes

We will look at the nodes moving when $nr = 41$ In Figure(7.7) we can see



(a) $t = 2x10^{-7}$, $nt = 102$ (b) $t = 1x10^{-7}$, $nt = 230$



up, which can not be done as well in Figure(7.3)where there are fewer nodes.

7.2.5 A Numerical Self-Similarity Property

For self-similar behaviour Budd et al [1] expects the power law relation to be $L(t)$ $(T \quad t)^{0:5}$. By using setting $= 0{:}5$, we do eventually see an almost self-similar behaviour for the 3D case

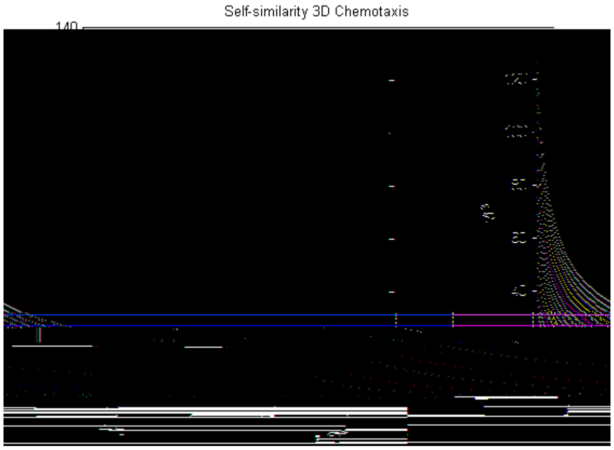


Figure 7.8: Self-similarity of $\frac{r}{t}$ for 3D Chemotaxis, where $t = 2 \quad 10^{-7}$, $nt = 130$ and $nx = 21$.

7.3 Comparison Between 2D and 3D Chemotaxis

The main point to notice from Table(7.1)and(7.2) is that by comparing the solutions where r and t are the same, we see that the 3D case requires fewer timesteps to blow-up. This means that the blow-up time is less in the 3D case.

We would have expected that in both cases, that as nx is increased, the solution $u(r;t)$ would reach a higher value than the previous nx. However, this has not been the case. An explaination for this could be that as we increase nx the rounding error propogates. Or another possible reason is that numerical diffusion is causing the solution to be smeared out. This could explain why the solution in Figure(7.5) begins to increase as nx increases, but then decreases in Figure(7.5.c).

Budd et al [1] expected to see self-similar behaviour for the 3D chemotaxis case, which we are in agreement with. However, we also observe self-similar behaviour in the 2D case, which is not in line with [1].

Chapter 8

Conclusion

8.1 Discussion of the Project

To begin with we used the Fisher's equation to investigate the existence of blow-up. We found that by using a fixed mesh to numerically compute the solution to the Fisher's equation, that blow-up did exist. However, it became apparent that as the solution reached a higher blow-up point, the fixed mesh would not be able to resolve the solution further. From this we discussed the different types of adaptive mesh procedures and decided a moving mesh method would be useful to resolve our solution as it converged. The moving mesh method used would conserve the relative area underneath the solution curve. In turn we could generate nodal velocities. The nodes could then be moved in towards the blow-up point. This method was applied to the Fisher's equation. With this method we were able to approach the blow-up time that Budd et al had stated in [2], which was $T \quad 0:082372$. We believe that our method is computationally less expensive than the method used in [2].

Our main interest in the problem was to numerically compute the solution to a system of PDEs called the Keller-Segel model. This system is used to model chemotaxis. In [1] this system had been investigated using a moving mesh method. The method in this paper used a MMPDE to determine the position of new nodes, using a monitor function to adequately track the solution. To make comparisons with [1] we used the same model and initial data, but we applied the method of conservation to move the mesh, as was previously described for the Fisher's equation.

We found that as we decreased t and increased the number of timesteps the blow-up time increased. However, by increasing nr in many circumstances the value of $u(r; t)$ decreased. There could be many explainations for this, which were discussed in the results chapter. Another explaination for this could have been the Robin bounary conditions we had on the right hand boundary in Chapter(6). Since the solution becomes flat at this boundary we could have used extrapolation to obtain the solution on the boundary. However, it was found that this had no effect on the solution.

8.2 Further Work

To complete this project there are some details which could be investigated in further work. Since we are dealing with a Biological problem it would be interesting to apply realistic numbers to the problem. This way we could make comparisons with experimental data to determine how effective our numerical approach is.

The chemotactic coefficient seems to hold a lot of relevance. It would be an idea to investigate how this coefficient effects the overall result in order to understand its importance.

We saw that as the solution to $u(r; t)$ blew up the solution to $v(r; t)$ remained the same. If we made changes to the initial data we may see a change in how these functions depend on one another.

Some of the solutions were not very smooth. We could use smoothing of the mesh to gain better approximations of the results, and return more meaningful results.

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