

ABSTRACT

In applied mathematics and engineering sciences, partial differential equations play a very important role especially for solving the physical problems. Elliptic partial differential equations are typically used to characterize steady-state boundary value problems. One of the elliptic partial differential equations which describe such a kind of characteristic in a two-dimensional environment is Laplace's equation. In this thesis, different finite difference methods are introduced and used to approximate the solutions of the model problem by programming in MATLAB. With the help of different plots, comparisons of tables, and discussion, the most efficient finite difference method is found. The thesis is summarized as follows:

Chapter one contains an introduction of the work, basic concepts, and terminology related to the study and classification of partial differential equations. Techniques to solve partial differential equations are also given briefly. Chapter two is related to a literature review. This chapter provides the details of elliptic partial differential equations, types of boundary conditions, and related derivations. Details of iterative methods with relaxation parameters and convergence criteria are also the part of this chapter. Different algorithms for iterative methods, resulting tables, and graphs are presented in chapter three. Comparisons of iterative methods are the part of chapter four. We conclude this study with some comments in chapter five.