

**Explicit expressions for matrix elements for the formal solution
using the Feautrier solver**

The discretized system reads

$$-A_d j_{d-1} + B_d j_d - C_d j_{d+1} = R_d \quad (1)$$

where d is the depth index, $d = 1, \dots, D$, j is the symmetrized (Feautrier) intensity, $j(\mu) = [I(\mu) + I(-\mu)]/2$.

The ‘‘Formal solution’’ means that the source function, S , is fully known; there is no explicit coupling of frequencies and angles, so we solve for each frequency-angle point separately. The expression for the matrix elements are as follows:

i) for interior points, $d = 2, \dots, D - 1$

$$A_d = \frac{\mu^2}{\Delta\tau_{d-1/2}\Delta\tau_d}, \quad C_d = \frac{\mu^2}{\Delta\tau_{d+1/2}\Delta\tau_d}, \quad B_d = 1 + A_d + C_d, \quad (2)$$

$$R_d = S_d, \quad (3)$$

where

$$\Delta\tau_{d+1/2} = \tau_{d+1} - \tau_d \quad \Delta\tau_{d-1/2} = \tau_d - \tau_{d-1} \quad \Delta\tau_d = (\tau_{d+1/2} + \tau_{d-1/2})/2 \quad (4)$$

ii) At the upper boundary, $A_1 = 0$, and assuming no incident radiation from the outside

$$B_1 = 1 + \frac{2\mu}{\Delta\tau_{3/2}} + \frac{2\mu^2}{\Delta\tau_{3/2}^2}, \quad C_1 = \frac{2\mu^2}{\Delta\tau_{3/2}^2}, \quad (5)$$

$$R_1 = S_1, \quad (6)$$

iii) At the lower boundary, $C_D = 0$, and

$$B_D = 1 + \frac{2\mu}{\Delta\tau_{D-1/2}} + \frac{2\mu^2}{\Delta\tau_{D-1/2}^2}, \quad A_D = \frac{2\mu^2}{\Delta\tau_{D-1/2}^2}, \quad (7)$$

$$R_D = S_D - \frac{2\mu}{\Delta\tau_{D-1/2}} I_D^+, \quad (8)$$

where I_D^+ is the outgoing intensity at the lower boundary which, in the diffusion approximation, is given by

$$I_D^+ = S_D + \mu \left(\frac{dS}{d\tau} \right)_D = S_D + \mu \frac{S_D - S_{D-1}}{\Delta\tau_{D-1/2}}. \quad (9)$$

The solution is still given by Eqs. (12.62) - (12.66), where A_d, B_d, C_d are real numbers, not matrices.