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## CONSERVATIVE DIFFERENCE SCHEMES FOR SINGULARLY PERTURBED PARABOLIC EQUATIONS <sup>1</sup>

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A Dirichlet problem is considered on a vertical strip for a singularly perturbed parabolic reactiondiffusion equation. The spatial derivatives in the differential equation, having *divergent form*, are multiplied by the perturbation parameter  $\varepsilon^2$ , where  $\varepsilon$  takes arbitrary values in the open-closed interval (0, 1]. The parabolic boundary layer appears in a neighbourhood of the strip boundary as  $\varepsilon \to 0$ .

Using the *integro-interpolational method*, a *conservative* finite difference *scheme* is constructed on piecewise-uniform meshes condensing in a neighbourhood of the boundary layer. The solution of the difference scheme and its normalized derivatives in  $x_1$  and  $x_2$  converge  $\varepsilon$ -uniformly at the rate  $\mathcal{O}(N^{-2} \ln N + N_0^{-1})$ . Here  $N = \min(N_1, N_2)$ ,  $N_1 + 1$  and  $N_0$  are the number of nodes in  $x_1$  and t, respectively,  $N_2 + 1$  is the maximal number of nodes in  $x_2$  per unit length.

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