Daniele Boffi

Elliptic PDE's

Finite elements

CCM, Part II

Daniele Boffi

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Complexity and its Interdisciplinary Applications

Elliptic PDE's

One dimensional model problem $(\Omega =]a, b[)$

$$\begin{cases} -u''(x) = f(x) & \text{in } \Omega \\ u(a) = u(b) = 0 \end{cases}$$

Boundary value problem (other boundary conditions possible)

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$$\begin{cases} -\Delta u = f & \text{in } \Omega \\ u = 0 & \text{on } \partial \Omega \end{cases}$$

Theorem: well-posedness (existence, uniqueness, stability)

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Elliptic PDE's

Finite differences Finite elements

Finite differences

Summary: easy to design (approximate derivatives with difference quotients), easy to implement, very hard extension to general domains and boundary conditions

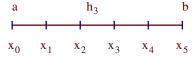
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Here
$$N = 5$$
, $x_0 = a$, $x_i = a + \sum_{j=1}^{i} h_j$, $i = 1, ..., N$

Finite differences

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Denoting $u_i = u(x_i)$, $u'_i = u'(x_i)$, first finite difference is

$$u_i' \simeq \frac{u_{i+1} - u_{i-1}}{h_i + h_{i+1}}$$
 second order accurate in h (consistent)

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Elliptic PDE's

Finite differences

Finite differences (cont'ed)

Approximation of second derivative

$$u_i'' \simeq \frac{u_{i+1/2}' - u_{i-1/2}'}{\frac{h_i + h_{i+1}}{2}}$$

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Finite differences

Finite differences (cont'ed)

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$$u_i'' \simeq \frac{u_{i+1/2}' - u_{i-1/2}'}{\frac{h_i + h_{i+1}}{2}} \simeq \frac{\frac{u_{i+1} - u_i}{h_{i+1}} - \frac{u_i - u_{i-1}}{h_i}}{\frac{h_i + h_{i+1}}{2}}$$

Finite differences (cont'ed)

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If $h_i = h$ (constant mesh size), simpler expression

$$u_i'' \simeq \frac{u_{i-1} - 2u_i + u_{i+1}}{h^2}$$
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Finite differences (cont'ed)

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Our approximate equation at x_i reads

$$\frac{-u_{i-1}+2u_i-u_{i+1}}{h^2}=f_i, \qquad i=1,\ldots,N-1$$

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Elliptic PDE's

Finite differences (cont'ed)

Putting things together we are led to the linear system

$$\begin{cases} u_0 = 0 \\ \dots \\ \frac{-u_{i-1} + 2u_i - u_{i+1}}{h^2} = f_i \\ \dots \\ u_N = 0 \end{cases}$$

Finite differences (cont'ed)

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$$AU = F$$
 $A = [tridiag(-1, 2, -1)]/h^2$

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Weak formulations

Need for more general formulations.

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Let's consider space $V = H_0^1(a,b)$ consisting of continuous functions on [a,b], piecewise differentiable with bounded derivative, and vanishing at endpoints.

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Generalization to 2D requires Lebesgue integral and Hilbert spaces

$$H^1(\Omega) = \{ v \in L^2(\Omega) \text{ s.t. } \operatorname{grad} v \in L^2(\Omega) \}$$

where

$$L^2(\Omega) = \left\{ v: \Omega o \mathbb{R} \; ext{integrable s.t.} \; \int_\Omega v^2 < \infty
ight\}$$

Take our model equation, multiply by a generic $v \in V$ (test function), and integrate over (a, b)

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 $a:V imes V o \mathbb{R}$, $F\in V^*$

$$a(u, v) = \int_a^b u'(x)v'(x) dx, \quad F(v) = \int_a^b f(x)v(x) dx$$

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Finite differences
Finite elements

Weak formulations (cont'ed)

Lax-Milgram Lemma

Find
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- 1 V Hilbert space
- 2 a bilinear, continuous, F linear, continuous
- **3** a coercive, that is there exists $\alpha > 0$ s.t.

$$a(v, v) \ge \alpha ||v||_V^2, \quad \forall v \in V$$

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$$||u||_V \le \frac{1}{\alpha} ||F||_{V^*}$$
 Stability estimate

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Finite differences
Finite elements

Weak formulations (cont'ed)

In our case hypotheses of LM Lemma OK (Poincaré inequality)

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Finite difference Finite elements

Weak formulations (cont'ed)

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Remark

If f is smooth enough, the unique solution to weak formulation solves the original equation as well (strong solution)

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More general situation

$$\begin{cases} -\operatorname{div}(\varepsilon \operatorname{grad} u) + \vec{\beta} \cdot \operatorname{grad} u + \sigma u = f & \text{in } \Omega \\ u = 0 & \text{on } \partial \Omega \end{cases}$$

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$$a(u, v) = \int_{\Omega} \varepsilon \operatorname{grad} u \cdot \operatorname{grad} v \, d\mathbf{x} + \int_{\Omega} v \vec{\beta} \cdot \operatorname{grad} u \, d\mathbf{x} + \int_{\Omega} \sigma u v \, d\mathbf{x}$$

In general problem in weak form, when *a* is symmetric, is equivalent to the following variational problem:

Find $u \in V$ such that

$$J(u) = \min_{v \in V} J(v), \quad J(v) = \frac{1}{2}a(v, v) - F(v)$$

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In the one dimensional model problem, we have

$$J(v) = \frac{1}{2} \int_{a}^{b} (v'(x))^{2} dx - \int_{a}^{b} f(x)v(x) dx$$

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Finite difference
Finite elements

Finite elements (Galerkin method)

Consider a finite dimensional subspace $V_h \subset V$ (h refers to a mesh parameter).

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Finite difference Finite elements

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Suppose that
$$V_h = \operatorname{span}\{\varphi_1, \dots, \varphi_N(h)\}$$
, so $u_h = \sum_{j=1}^N u_j \varphi_j$

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, so $u_h = \sum_{j=1}^N u_j \varphi_j$

Problem can be written: find $\mathbf{u} = \{u_j\}$ s.t. for any i

$$a\Big(\sum_{i=1}^N u_j\varphi_j,\varphi_i\Big)=F(\varphi_i)$$

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Elliptic PDE's
Finite differences
Finite elements

Galerkin method (cont'ed)

Bilinearity of a gives

$$\sum_{j=1}^{N} u_j a(\varphi_j, \varphi_i) = F(\varphi_i), \quad i = 1, \dots, N$$

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$$\sum_{j=1}^{N} u_j \mathsf{a}(arphi_j, arphi_i) = \mathsf{F}(arphi_i), \quad i = 1, \dots, N$$

Let's denote by A the *stiffness* matrix $A_{ij} = a(\varphi_j, \varphi_i)$ and by b the *load* vector $b_i = F(\varphi_i)$. Then we have the matrix form of discrete problem

$$A\mathbf{u} = b$$

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$$A\mathbf{u} = b$$

a symmetric and coercive implies A symmetric positive definite

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Galerkin method (cont'ed)

Existence and uniqueness (Lax-Milgram)

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Finite difference
Finite elements

Galerkin method (cont'ed)

Existence and uniqueness (Lax-Milgram)

 ${\sf Convergence} = {\sf Consistency} + {\sf Stability}$

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Existence and uniqueness (Lax-Milgram)

$${\sf Convergence} = {\sf Consistency} + {\sf Stability}$$

Stability:

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Strong consistency

$$a(u-u_h,v_h)=0 \quad \forall v_h \in V_h$$

Error estimate (Céa's Lemma)

$$\|\alpha\|u - u_h\|_V^2 \le a(u - u_h, u - u_h) = a(u - u_h, u - v_h)$$

 $\le M\|u - u_h\|_V\|u - v_h\|_V$

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$$\|u-u_h\|_V \leq \frac{M}{\alpha} \inf_{v \in V_h} \|u-v_h\|_V$$

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Error bounded by best approximation Need for good choice of V_h !

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Elliptic PDE's
Finite differences
Finite elements

Galerkin method (cont'ed)

Moreover, when a is symmetric, we have the variational property

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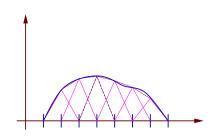
Since $V_h \subset V$, in particular, we have

$$J(u) \leq J(u_h)$$

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Finite elements



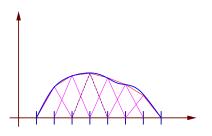
Finite elements

One dimensional p/w linear approximation. Shape (or basis) functions: hat functions.

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Finite difference Finite elements

Finite elements



One dimensional p/w linear approximation. Shape (or basis) functions: hat functions.

A finite element is defined by:

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Finite difference Finite elements

Finite elements

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Elliptic PDE's Finite difference

Finite differences Finite elements

Finite elements

One dimensional p/w linear approximation. Shape (or basis) functions: hat functions.

A finite element is defined by:

- 1 a domain (interval, triangle, tetrahedron,...),
- 2 a finite dimensional (polynomial) space,
- 3 a set of degrees of freedom.

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Elliptic PDE's
Finite difference
Finite elements

Finite elements (cont'ed)

One dimensional finite elements

1 domain: interval

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Finite difference
Finite elements

Finite elements (cont'ed)

One dimensional finite elements

1 domain: interval

2 space: \mathcal{P}_p

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Finite difference Finite elements

Finite elements (cont'ed)

One dimensional finite elements

1 domain: interval

2 space: \mathcal{P}_p

3 d.o.f.'s: depend on polynomial order

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Finite difference Finite elements

Finite elements (cont'ed)

One dimensional finite elements

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linear element: endpoints (2) quadratic element: endpoints + midpoint (3)

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One dimensional finite elements

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linear element: endpoints (2) quadratic element: endpoints + midpoint (3)

. . .

Set $\{a_j\}_{j=1}^N$ of degrees of freedom is *unisolvent*, that is, given N numbers $\alpha_1, \ldots, \alpha_N$, there exists a unique polynomial φ in \mathcal{P}_p s. t.

$$\varphi(a_j) = \alpha_j, \quad j = 1, \dots, N$$

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Finite elements (cont'ed)

Approximation properties of one dimensional finite elements

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Elliptic PDE's
Finite differences
Finite elements

Finite elements (cont'ed)

Approximation properties of one dimensional finite elements

$$\inf_{v_h \in V_h} \|u - v_h\|_{H^k} \le Ch^{p+1-k} |u|_{H^{p+1}} \quad k = 0, 1$$

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Remark on hp FEM

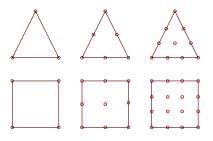
- Refine in h where solution is singular
- Refine in *p* where solution is regular

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Finite elements (cont'ed)

Generalization to more space dimensions Example of unisolvent degrees of freedom





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Finite differences
Finite elements

Finite elements (cont'ed)

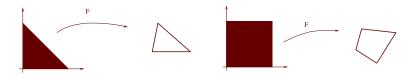
How to construct stiffness matrix and load vector

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Finite differences
Finite elements

Finite elements (cont'ed)

How to construct stiffness matrix and load vector In general one considers reference elements and mappings to actual elements

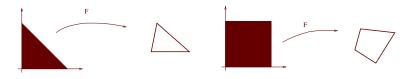


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Finite difference

Finite elements (cont'ed)

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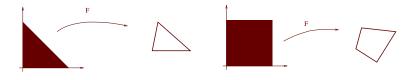
Notation: \hat{K} reference element; K actual element

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Finite difference Finite elements

Finite elements (cont'ed)

How to construct stiffness matrix and load vector In general one considers reference elements and mappings to actual elements



Notation: \hat{K} reference element; K actual element $\hat{\varphi}_1, \dots \hat{\varphi}_N$ reference shape functions; $\varphi_1, \dots \varphi_N$ actual shape functions

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Finite elements (cont'ed)

How to map the shape functions

$$F_K : \hat{K} \to K, \quad \vec{x} = F(\hat{\vec{x}})$$

 $\varphi(\vec{x}) = \hat{\varphi}(F^{-1}(\vec{x}))$

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Example of computation of *local* stiffness matrix (one dimensional)

$$A_{ji} = a(\varphi_i, \varphi_j) = \int_a^b \varphi_i'(x) \varphi_j'(x) \, dx = \sum_K \int_K \varphi_i'(x) \varphi_j'(x) \, dx$$

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$$\int_{\mathcal{K}} \varphi_i'(x) \varphi_j'(x) \, dx = \int_{\hat{\mathcal{K}}} \frac{\hat{\varphi}_i'(\hat{x})}{F'(\hat{x})} \frac{\hat{\varphi}_j'(\hat{x})}{F'(\hat{x})} F'(\hat{x}) \, d\hat{x} = \int_{\hat{\mathcal{K}}} \frac{\hat{\varphi}_i'(\hat{x}) \hat{\varphi}_j'(\hat{x})}{F'(\hat{x})} \, d\hat{x}$$

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Finite elements (cont'ed)

$$\int_{\hat{K}} \frac{\hat{\varphi}_i'(\hat{x})\hat{\varphi}_j'(\hat{x})}{F'(\hat{x})} \, d\hat{x}$$

$$\int_{\hat{\kappa}} \frac{\hat{\varphi}_i'(\hat{x})\hat{\varphi}_j'(\hat{x})}{F'(\hat{x})} \, d\hat{x}$$

In general, $F = \alpha + \beta \hat{x}$ is affine so that $F' = \beta$ is constant (and equal to h)

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$$\int_{\hat{K}} \frac{\hat{\varphi}_i'(\hat{x})\hat{\varphi}_j'(\hat{x})}{F'(\hat{x})} dx = \frac{1}{h} \int_{\hat{K}} \hat{\varphi}_i'(\hat{x})\hat{\varphi}_j'(\hat{x}) dx$$

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In general, $F = \alpha + \beta \hat{x}$ is affine so that $F' = \beta$ is constant (and equal to h)

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In more space dimensions, F is affine for most popular elements.

$$\int_{\mathcal{K}} \operatorname{grad} \varphi_i(\vec{x}) \cdot \operatorname{grad} \varphi_j(\vec{x}) \, d\vec{x} = ?$$

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Elliptic PDE's
Finite differences
Finite elements

Finite elements (cont'ed)

General strategy for assembling stiffness matrix and load vector

General strategy for assembling stiffness matrix and load vector

- Loop over elements $ie = 1, \dots, ne$
- Compute local stiffness matrix $A_{ji}^{loc} = a(\varphi_i, \varphi_j)$, $i, j = 1, \ldots, ndof$ and local load vector $F_i^{loc} = F(\varphi_i)$, $i = 1, \ldots, ndof$
- Loop for i, j = 1, ..., ndof and assembly of global matrix

$$A_{iglob,jglob} = A_{iglob,jglob} + A_{ij}^{loc}$$

Account for boundary conditions

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Finite difference Finite elements

Finite elements (cont'ed)

Some remarks on the discrete linear system

 matrix is sparse (sparsity pattern, so called skyline, can be determined a priori)

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Finite difference Finite elements

Finite elements (cont'ed)

Some remarks on the discrete linear system

- matrix is sparse (sparsity pattern, so called skyline, can be determined a priori)
- matrix is SPD (CG can be successfully applied)

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Finite difference

Finite elements (cont'ed)

Some remarks on the discrete linear system

- matrix is sparse (sparsity pattern, so called skyline, can be determined a priori)
- matrix is SPD (CG can be successfully applied)
- conditioning of matrix grows as h goes to zero (need for preconditioning)

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Finite difference Finite elements

Finite elements (cont'ed)

Some remarks on the discrete linear system

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- matrix is SPD (CG can be successfully applied)
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End of part II