

A Boundary Value Problem

Consider the following elliptic PDE

$$\begin{aligned} -\nabla \cdot (\kappa(\mathbf{x}) \nabla u) &= f(\mathbf{x}) \quad \text{for } \mathbf{x} \in \Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^2, \\ u(\mathbf{x}) &= 0 \quad \text{when } \mathbf{x} \in \partial\Omega. \end{aligned}$$

Weak form?

$$\underbrace{\int_{\Omega} \kappa \nabla u \cdot \nabla v}_{a(u, v)} = \underbrace{\int_{\Omega} f v}_{g(v)}$$

Weak Form: Bilinear Form and RHS Functional

Hence the problem is to find $u \in V$, such that

$$a(u, v) = g(v), \quad \text{for all } v \in V = H_0^1(\Omega)$$



where...

$$\underbrace{\int_{\Omega} \kappa(x) \nabla u \cdot \nabla v}_{a(u, v)} = \underbrace{\int_{\Omega} f v}_{g(v)}$$

Is this symmetric, coercive, and continuous?

symm: \checkmark

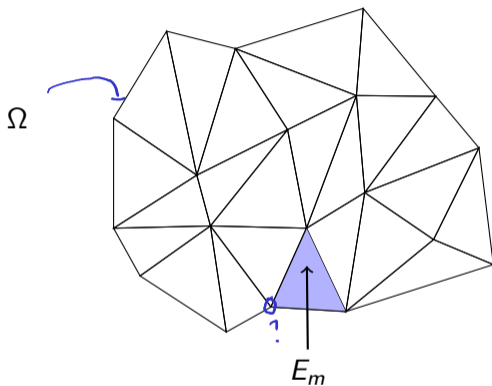
coercivity: $c_1 \|u\|_{H^1}^2 \leq a(u, u) \iff 0 < c \leq \kappa(x) \forall x$

continuity: $a(u, v) \leq \|u\|_{H^1} \|v\|_{H^1} \iff \kappa(x) \leq C < \infty \forall x$

\rightarrow Lax-M says yeah!

Triangulation: 2D

Suppose the domain is a union of triangles E_m , with vertices x_i .



$$\bar{\Omega} = \bigcup_{i=1}^M E_m.$$

Elements and the Bilinear Form

If the domain, Ω , can be written as a disjoint union of elements, E_k ,

$$\Omega = \cup_{m=1}^M E_m \quad \text{with} \quad E_i^\circ \cap E_j^\circ = \emptyset \text{ for } i \neq j,$$

what happens to a and g ?

$$a(u, v) = \sum_{n=1}^M \int_{E_n} K(x) \cdot \nabla u \cdot \nabla v$$
$$g(v) = \sum_{n=1}^M \int_{E_n} F v$$

Basis Functions

Expand

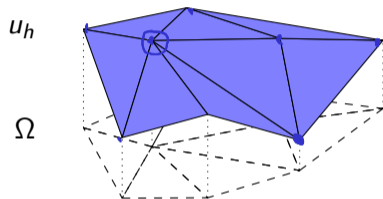
$$\underline{u_N(\mathbf{x})} = \sum_{i=1}^{N_p} \underline{u_i} \varphi_i(\vec{\mathbf{x}})$$

and plug into the weak form.

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

Global Lagrange Basis

Approximate solution u_h : Piecewise linear on Ω

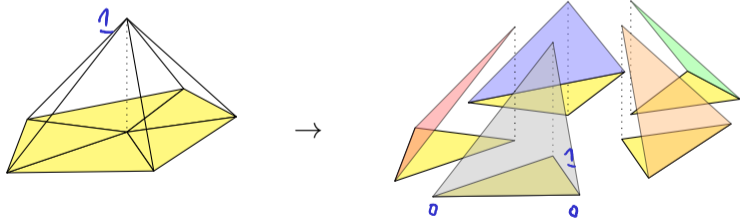


The **Lagrange basis** for V_h consists of piecewise linear φ_i , with...

Basis Functions Features

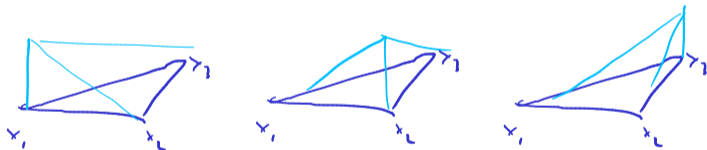
Features of the basis?

- u_N must be continuous (C^0) because basis is.
- Restricted to E_n , each φ_i is linear.



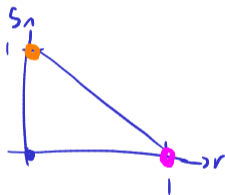
Local Basis

What basis functions exist on each triangle?



Local Basis Expressions

Write expressions for the **nodal** linear basis in 2D.



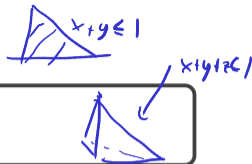
$$\varphi_1(r, s) = 1 - r - s$$

$$\varphi_2(r, s) = r$$

$$\varphi_3(r, s) = s$$

Higher-Order, Higher-Dimensional Simplex Bases

What's an n -simplex?



$$r_i \geq 0 \quad \sum_i r_i \leq 1$$

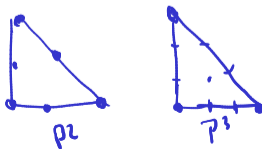
Give a higher-order polynomial space on the n -simplex:

$$P^N = \text{span} \left\{ \prod_{i=1}^d r_i^{n_i} : \sum n_i \leq N \right\}$$

P^2 in \mathbb{R}^2 : $1, r_1, s_1, r_1^2, s_1^2, r_1 s_1$



Give nodal sets (on the \triangle) for P^N and $\dim P^N$ in general.

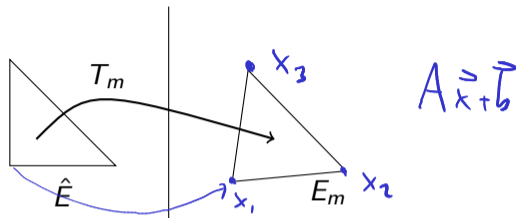


Finding a Nodal/Lagrange Basis in General

Given a nodal set $(\xi_i)_{i=1}^{N_p} \subset \hat{E}$ (where \hat{E} is the reference element) and a basis $(\varphi_j)_{j=1}^{N_p} : \hat{E} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, find a Lagrange basis.

(do a linear solve)

Element Mappings



Construct a mapping $T_m : \hat{E} \rightarrow E_m$. Reference element \hat{E} , global $\triangle E_m$.

$$T_m(\underbrace{r, s}_{=\vec{r}^T}) = \underbrace{(\vec{x}_2 - \vec{x}_1)}_r + \underbrace{(\vec{x}_3 - \vec{x}_1)}_s + \vec{x}_1$$

What is the Jacobian of T_m ?

$$J_T = \begin{pmatrix} \vec{x}_2 - \vec{x}_1 & \vec{x}_3 - \vec{x}_1 \end{pmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^{2 \times 2}$$

Constructing the Global Basis

$$\int \nabla_n \nabla u \sim \int \nabla \varphi_i \nabla \varphi_j$$

Construct a basis on the element E_m from the reference basis

$$(\hat{\varphi}_j)_{j=1}^{N_p} : E_m \rightarrow \mathbb{R}.$$

$$\varphi_j(\vec{x}) = \hat{\varphi}_j(\underbrace{T_n^{-1}(\vec{x})}_{\vec{r}})$$

What's the gradient of this basis?

$$\begin{aligned} \nabla_{\vec{x}} \varphi_j(T^{-1}(\vec{x})) &= \left[\frac{d}{d\vec{x}} \varphi_j(T^{-1}(\vec{x})) \right]^T \\ &= \left[\frac{d\varphi_j}{d\vec{r}} \Big|_{T^{-1}(\vec{x})} \mathcal{J}_T^{-1}(\vec{x}) \right]^T \\ &= \mathcal{J}_T^{-T}(\vec{x}) \nabla_{\vec{r}} \varphi_j(T^{-1}(\vec{x})) \end{aligned}$$

Assembling a Linear System

Express the matrix and vector elements in

$$\sum_{j=1}^{N_p} u_j a(\varphi_j, \varphi_i) = g(\varphi_i) \quad \text{for } i = 1, \dots, N_p.$$

$$a(\varphi_j, \varphi_i) = \sum_{n=1}^M \int_{E_n} k(\bar{x}) \nabla \varphi_i^{(k)} \cdot \nabla \varphi_j^{(l)} d\bar{x}$$
$$g(\varphi_i) = \sum_{n=1}^M \int_{E_n} F(\bar{x}) \varphi_i(\bar{x}) d\bar{x}$$

Integrals on the Reference Element

Evaluate

$$\int_E \kappa(\mathbf{x}) \nabla_{\mathbf{x}} \varphi_i(\mathbf{x})^T \nabla_{\mathbf{x}} \varphi_j(\mathbf{x}) d\mathbf{x}.$$

$$\begin{aligned} &= \int_E \kappa(\mathbf{x}) \left(\mathbf{J}_{\mathbf{T}}^{-T} \nabla_{\mathbf{r}} \varphi_i \right)^T \left(\mathbf{J}_{\mathbf{T}}^{-T} \nabla_{\mathbf{r}} \varphi_j \right) d\mathbf{x} \\ \rightarrow &= \mathbf{P}_i^T \left(\mathbf{J}_{\mathbf{T}}^{-T} \nabla_{\mathbf{r}} \varphi_i \right)^T \left(\mathbf{J}_{\mathbf{T}}^{-T} \nabla_{\mathbf{r}} \varphi_j \right) \int_E \kappa(\mathbf{x}) d\mathbf{x} \end{aligned}$$

And now the RHS functional.

$$\rightarrow \int_E f(\mathbf{x}) \varphi_i(\mathbf{x}) d\mathbf{x} = |\mathbf{J}_{\mathbf{T}}| \int_{\hat{E}} f(\mathbf{T}(\boldsymbol{\nu})) \hat{\varphi}_i(\boldsymbol{\nu}) d\hat{\boldsymbol{\nu}}$$

Inhomogeneous Dirichlet BCs

Handle an inhomogeneous boundary condition $u(\mathbf{x}) = \eta(\mathbf{x})$ on $\partial\Omega$.

$u \in H^1_0$?

• Find $u^0 \in H^1(\Omega)$ with $u^0(x) = \eta(x)$ on $\partial\Omega$

• Define $\hat{u} = u - u^0 \in H^1_0$! (phew!)

$$u = \hat{u} + u^0$$

$$a(\hat{u} + u^0, v) = a(\hat{u}, v) + \underline{a(u^0, v)} = g(v)$$

$$\rightarrow a(\hat{u}, v) = g(v) - a(u^0, v)$$

Demo

- ▶ [Demo: Developing FEM in 2D](#) [\[cleared\]](#)
- ▶ [Demo: 2D FEM Using Firedrake](#) [\[cleared\]](#)
- ▶ [Demo: Rates of Convergence](#) [\[cleared\]](#)

Outline

Introduction

Finite Difference Methods for Time-Dependent Problems

Finite Volume Methods for Hyperbolic Conservation Laws

Finite Element Methods for Elliptic Problems

tl;dr: Functional Analysis

Back to Elliptic PDEs

Galerkin Approximation

Finite Elements: A 1D Cartoon

Finite Elements in 2D

Approximation Theory in Sobolev Spaces

Saddle Point Problems, Stokes, and Mixed FEM

Non-symmetric Bilinear Forms

Discontinuous Galerkin Methods for Hyperbolic Problems