

Part II continued – more details on general issues

Last time – Finite Differences

Higher orders – central, 1-sided, non-equispaced

Compact 4th order Poisson solver

Upwinding

Grids – non-Cartesian, stretched, staggered

Conservative

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Finite Elements

Good for engineering problems with complex geometries

– ‘just’ need to triangulate domain

Good for elliptic, OK for parabolic, poor for hyperbolic

Good for accuracy & conservative

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Good for accuracy & conservative

Poor difficult programming on unstructured grid

Poor no efficient Poisson solver on unstructured grid

Poor difficult presenting results on unstructured grid

Use packages, do not program yourself

Finite Elements = Two ideas

1. Simple **representation** for unknown function over the finite element
 - not point data of FD

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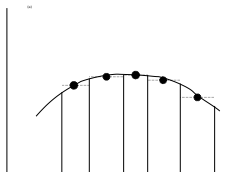
2. **Weak formulation** of the governing equations
 - variational statement

Representations in 1D

a. Constant elements

$$f(x) = f_i$$

in $x_{j-1} \leq x < x_j$

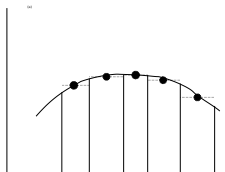


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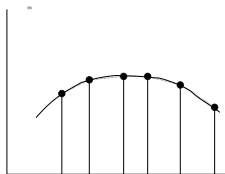
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b. Linear elements

$$f(x) = f_{i-1} \frac{x_i - x}{x_i - x_{i-1}} + f_i \frac{x - x_{i-1}}{x_i - x_{i-1}}$$

in $x_{i-1} \leq x < x_i$



More representations in 1D

First map element to unit interval

$$x(\xi) = x_{i-1} + (x_i - x_{i-1})\xi \quad \text{for } 0 \leq \xi \leq 1$$

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$$f(x) = f_{i-1}(1 - \xi)(1 - 2\xi) + f_{i-\frac{1}{2}}4\xi(1 - \xi) + f_i\xi(2\xi - 1)$$

NB: f' discontinuous at boundaries

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d. Cubic elements

Obvious generalisation, but better:

$$\begin{aligned} f(x) = & f_{i-1}(1 - \xi)^2(1 + 2\xi) + f'_{i-1}(1 - \xi)^2\xi \\ & + f_i\xi^2(3 - 2\xi) + f'_i\xi^2(1 - \xi), \end{aligned}$$

Now only f'' discontinuous at boundaries – see [splines](#) later

basis functions

In all cases, write:

$$f(x) = \sum f_i \phi_i(x)$$

f_i amplitudes $\phi_i(x)$ basis functions, nonzero only in a few elements

basis functions

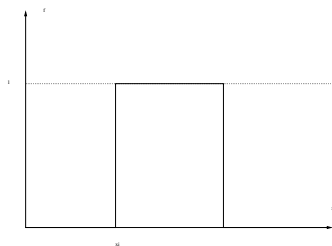
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For the constant elements, the basis functions are

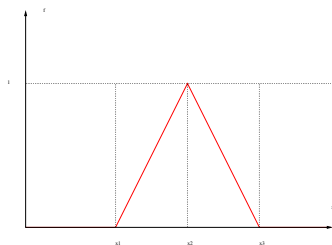
$$\phi_i(x) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{in } x_{i-1} \leq x < x_i \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$



Basis functions for linear elements

$$\phi_i(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{x - x_{i-1}}{x_i - x_{i-1}} & \text{in } x_{i-1} \leq x \leq x_i \\ \frac{x_{i+1} - x}{x_{i+1} - x_i} & \text{in } x_i \leq x \leq x_{i+1} \\ 0 & \text{otherwise,} \end{cases}$$

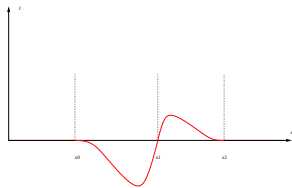
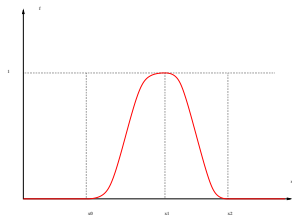
with obvious modifications for the end elements.



Basis functions for cubic elements

$$\phi_i(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{(x_{i+1}-x)^2(x_{i+1}+2x-3x_i)}{(x_{i+1}-x_i)^3} & \text{in } x_i \leq x < x_{i+1} \\ \frac{(x-x_{i-1})^2(3x_i-2x-x_{i-1})}{(x_i-x_{i-1})^3} & \text{in } x_{i-1} \leq x < x_i \\ 0 & \text{otherwise,} \end{cases}$$

$$\tilde{\phi}_i(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{(x-x_i)(x_{i+1}-x)^2}{(x_{i+1}-x_i)^2} & \text{in } x_i \leq x < x_{i+1} \\ \frac{(x-x_i)(x-x_{i-1})^2}{(x_i-x_{i-1})^2} & \text{in } x_{i-1} \leq x < x_i \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$



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Mostly triangles, sometimes rectangles

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b. Linear elements Need $\ell_{12}(\mathbf{x})$ vanishing on two vertices, unity on third

$$\ell_{12}(x, y) = \frac{(x - x_1)(y_2 - y_1) - (x_2 - x_1)(y - y_1)}{(x_3 - x_1)(y_2 - y_1) - (x_2 - x_1)(y_3 - y_1)}.$$

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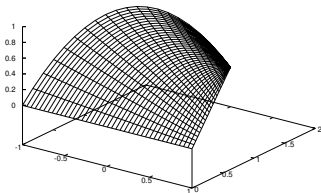
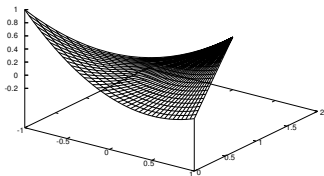
$$f(\mathbf{x}) = f_1 l_{23}(\mathbf{x}) + f_2 l_{31}(\mathbf{x}) + f_3 l_{12}(\mathbf{x}).$$

Representation continuous over domain

more representations in 2D

c. Quadratic elements Values at vertices and mid-points

$$\begin{aligned}f(\mathbf{x}) = & f_1 l_{23}(\mathbf{x})(2l_{23}(\mathbf{x}) - 1) \\ & + f_2 l_{31}(\mathbf{x})(2l_{31}(\mathbf{x}) - 1) \\ & + f_3 l_{12}(\mathbf{x})(2l_{12}(\mathbf{x}) - 1) \\ & + f_{23} 4l_{12}(\mathbf{x})l_{31}(\mathbf{x}) + f_{31} 4l_{23}(\mathbf{x})l_{12}(\mathbf{x}) + f_{12} 4l_{31}(\mathbf{x})l_{23}(\mathbf{x}).\end{aligned}$$



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Cubic in 2D has 10 degrees of freedom:

1 constant + 2 linear + 3 quadratic + 4 cubic.

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Local nature \rightarrow sparse coupling matrices for PDEs

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more representations in 2D

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Bilinear, taking values at vertices

$$f(\mathbf{x}) = f_1\xi\eta + f_2(1 - \xi)\eta + f_3\xi(1 - \eta) + f_4(1 - \xi)(1 - \eta).$$

Continuous over domain.

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Biquadratic – sum of 9 terms, each product of quadratic in separate coordinates, taking values at vertices and midpoints.

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Continuous and continuous tangential derivative at boundaries.

Variational statement of Poisson problem

$$\nabla^2 f = \rho \quad \text{in volume } V$$

with boundary condition, say $f = g$ on surface S ,

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Rayleigh-Ritz variational formulation:

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with $\rho(\mathbf{x})$ and $g(\mathbf{x})$ given.

Rayleigh-Ritz variational formulation: out of all those functions $f(\mathbf{x})$ that satisfy BCs, the one that minimises

$$I(f) = \int_V \left(\frac{1}{2} |\nabla f|^2 + \rho f \right) dV$$

also satisfies the Poisson problem.

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i.e. satisfy PDE in all (finite) ϕ_i directions.

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The [weak formulation](#) of the PDE (f can be non- C^2)

Details in 1D

$$\frac{d^2f}{dx^2} = \rho \quad \text{in } a < x < b, \quad \text{with } f(a) = A \text{ and } f(b) = B,$$

where $\rho(x)$, A and B given.

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Divide $[a, b]$ into N equal segments $h = (b - a)/N$.

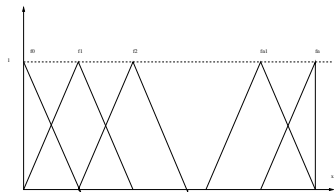
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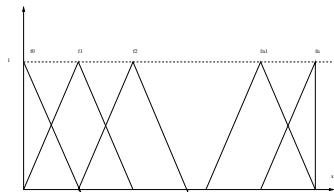
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Unknown $f(x)$ represented (BCs built in)

$$f(x) = A\phi_0(x) + B\phi_N(x) + \sum_{i=1}^{N-1} f_i\phi_i(x)$$

more details in 1D

At interior pts

$$K_{ij} = \int \nabla \phi_i \cdot \nabla \phi_j = \begin{cases} 2/h & \text{if } i = j, \\ -1/h & \text{if } i = j \pm 1, \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

by $\nabla \phi_i = 0, +1/h, -1/h, 0$

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$$r_i = \int \rho(x) \phi_i = h \rho_i.$$

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– same for the point values in the finite difference approach.

more details in 1D

Remark If evaluate r_i more accurately

$$r_i = \int \rho(x)\phi_i(x) = \rho_i + \frac{h^3}{12}\rho_i'' + O(h^5).$$

So obtain f_i to $O(h^4)$.

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i.e. FE approach naturally conservative.