



Curtin University

MATH5004 (Lec 6)

1D Finite Element Formulation(cont)

Finite Element Method

$$(S) \Leftrightarrow (W) \approx (G) \Leftrightarrow (M)$$

Strong
form

Weak
form

Galerkin
approx.

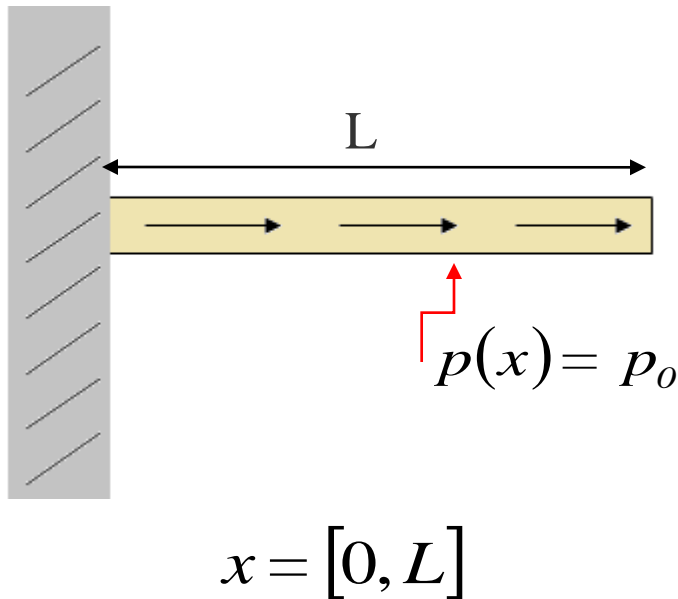
Matrix
form

Sample Problems

Example 1.

Axial deformation of a bar subjected to a uniform load

(1-D Poisson equation)



$$EA \frac{d^2 u}{dx^2} = p_0$$

$$u(0) = 0$$

$$EA \frac{du}{dx} \Big|_{x=L} = 0$$

u = axial displacement

E = Young's modulus = 1

A = Cross-sectional area = 1

Strong Form

The strong form of this problem is

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{d^2 u}{dx^2} &= p_0 \\ u(0) &= 0 \\ \left. \frac{du}{dx} \right|_{x=L} &= 0\end{aligned}$$

Weak Form

Let v be the test function,
the work form is

$$\begin{aligned}\int_0^L \left(\frac{d^2 u}{dx^2} - p_0 \right) v dx &= 0 \\ \int_0^L \frac{d^2 u}{dx^2} v dx &= \int_0^L p_0 v dx\end{aligned}$$

Weak Form

Choosing the test function that satisfies *homogeneous* boundary conditions : $u(0)=0$ so let $v(0)=0$.

Returning to the weak form:

$$\int_0^L \frac{d^2 u}{dx^2} v dx = \int_0^L p_0 v dx$$

Integrate LHS by parts:

$$\begin{aligned} \int_0^L \frac{d^2 u}{dx^2} v dx &= - \int_0^L \frac{du}{dx} \frac{dv}{dx} dx + \left[v(x) \frac{du}{dx} \right]_{x=0}^{x=L} \\ &= - \int_0^L \frac{du}{dx} \frac{dv}{dx} dx + v(L) \frac{du}{dx} \Big|_{x=L} - v(0) \frac{du}{dx} \Big|_{x=0} \end{aligned}$$

Recall the boundary conditions on u and v :

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} u(0) = 0 \\ \frac{du}{dx} \Big|_{x=L} = 0 \\ v(0) = 0 \end{array} \right.$$

Hence,

$$\int_0^L \frac{du}{dx} \frac{dv}{dx} dx + v(L) \frac{du}{dx} \Big|_{x=L} - v(0) \frac{du}{dx} \Big|_{x=0} = \int_0^L p_0 v dx$$

$$-\int_0^L \frac{du}{dx} \frac{dv}{dx} dx = \int_0^L p_0 v dx$$

The weak form satisfies Neumann conditions automatically!

Why is it “variational”?

$$-\int_0^L \frac{du}{dx} \frac{dv}{dx} dx = \int_0^L p_0 v dx$$

Variational statement :

Find $u \in H^1$ such that

$$a(u, v) = L(v) \quad \forall v \in H_0^1$$

where a is a bilinear functional, L a linear functional

$$a(u, v) = -\int_0^L \frac{du}{dx} \frac{dv}{dx} dx \quad L(v) = \int_0^L p_0 v dx$$

u and v are functions from an infinite-dimensional function space H^1 .

Galerkin's Method

$$\text{Let } u_h = \sum_{j=1}^N u_j \varphi_j(x) \quad v_h = \sum_{j=1}^N v_j \varphi_j(x)$$

We then obtain

$$\sum_{j=1}^N u_j \int_0^L \frac{d\varphi_j}{dx} \frac{d\varphi_i}{dx} dx = \int_0^L p_0 \varphi_i dx \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, N.$$

Matrix form

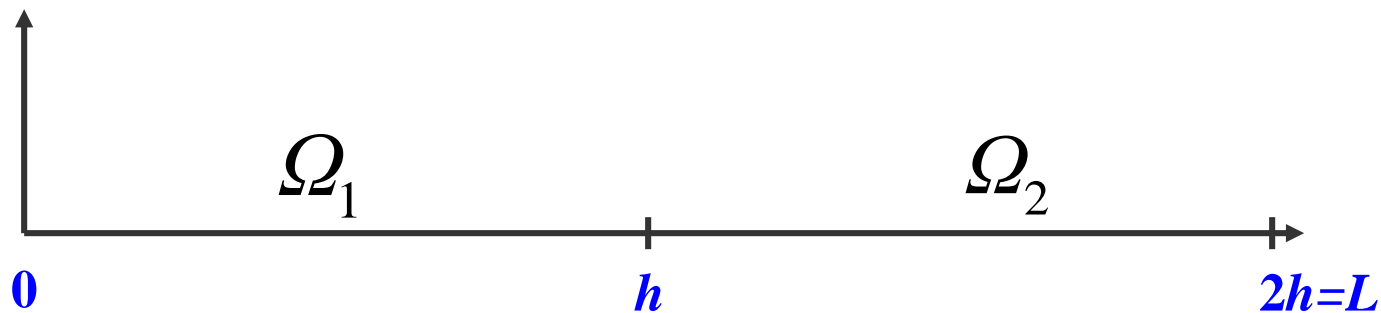
The above integral equations can be written in a matrix form as

$$K\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{F}$$

where K is a symmetric matrix.

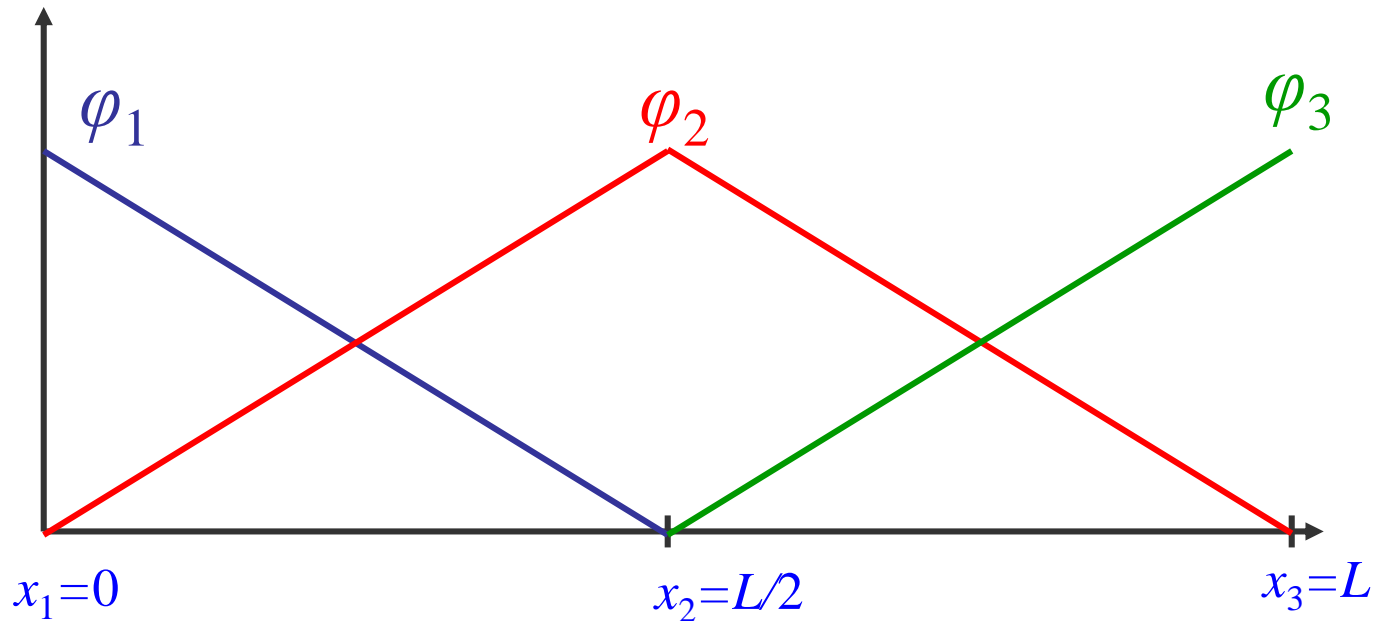
Discretization and Basis Functions

Let's continue with our sample problem. Now we discretize our domain. For this example, we will discretize $x=[0, L]$ into 2 “elements”.



Discretization and Basis Functions

For a set of basis functions, we can choose anything. For simplicity here, we choose piecewise linear “hat functions”. Our solution will be a linear combination of these functions.

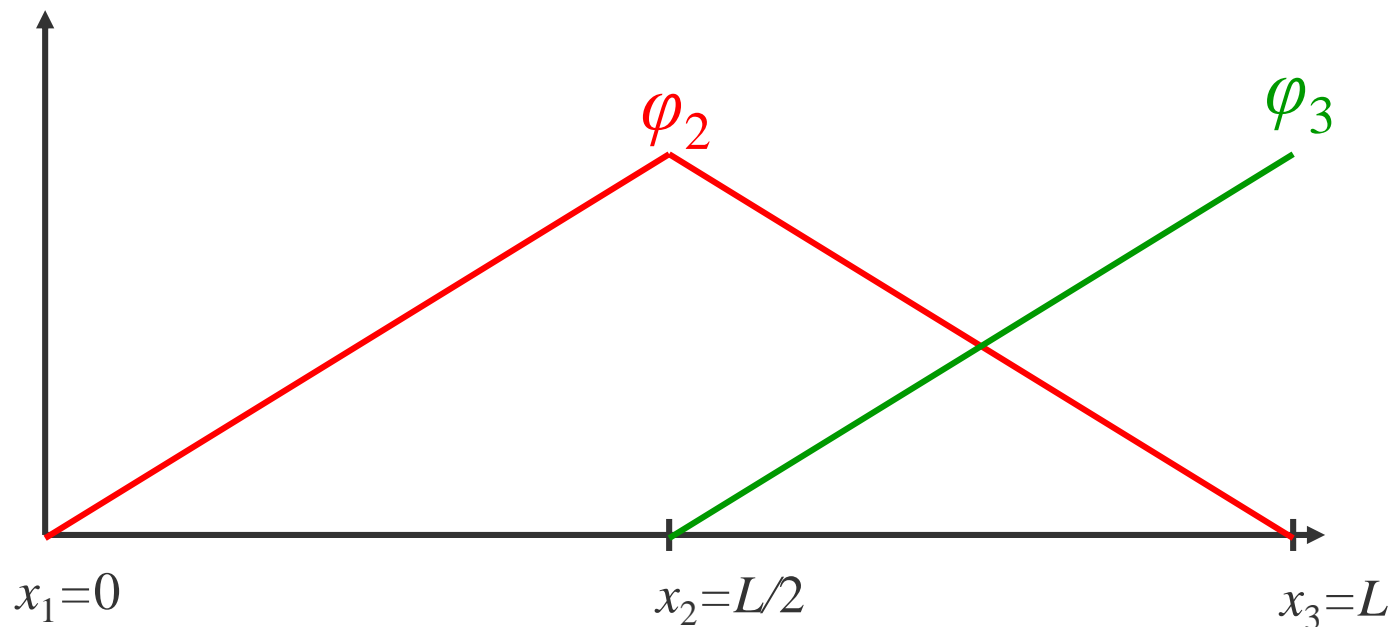


Basis functions satisfy: $\varphi_i(x_j) = \delta_{ij}$

Our solution will be interpolatory. Also, they satisfy the partition of unity.

Discretization and Basis Functions

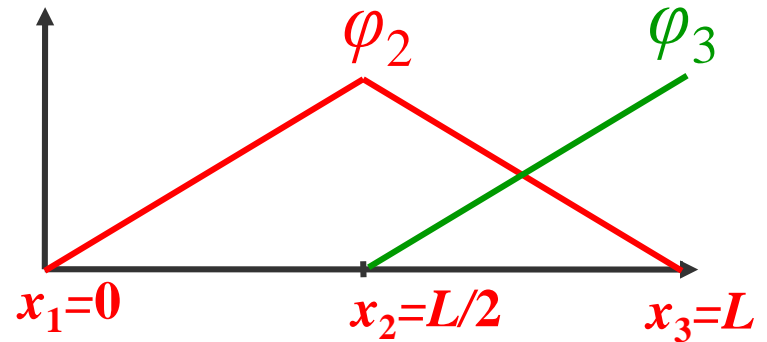
To save time, we can throw out φ_1 a priori because, since in this example $u(0)=0$, we know that the coefficient c_1 must be 0.



Basis Functions

$$\varphi_2 = \begin{cases} \frac{2x}{L} & \text{if } x \in [0, \frac{L}{2}] \\ 2 - \frac{2x}{L} & \text{if } x \in [\frac{L}{2}, L] \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

$$\varphi_3 = \begin{cases} \frac{2x}{L} - 1 & \text{if } x \in [\frac{L}{2}, L] \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$



Matrix Formulation

Given our matrix problem

$$-\sum_{j=1}^N \underbrace{u_j}_{\mathbf{u}} \underbrace{\int_0^L \frac{d\varphi_j}{dx} \frac{d\varphi_i}{dx} dx}_{\mathbf{K}} = \underbrace{\int_0^L p_0 \varphi_i dx}_{\mathbf{F}} \quad \Rightarrow \quad \mathbf{K}\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{F}$$

$$\mathbf{K} = \frac{1}{L} \begin{bmatrix} 4 & -2 \\ -2 & 2 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{F} = \frac{p_0}{L} \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{2} \\ \frac{1}{4} \end{bmatrix}$$

Solving the problem

we obtain $\mathbf{u} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{3p_0L^2}{8} \\ \frac{p_0L^2}{2} \end{bmatrix}$

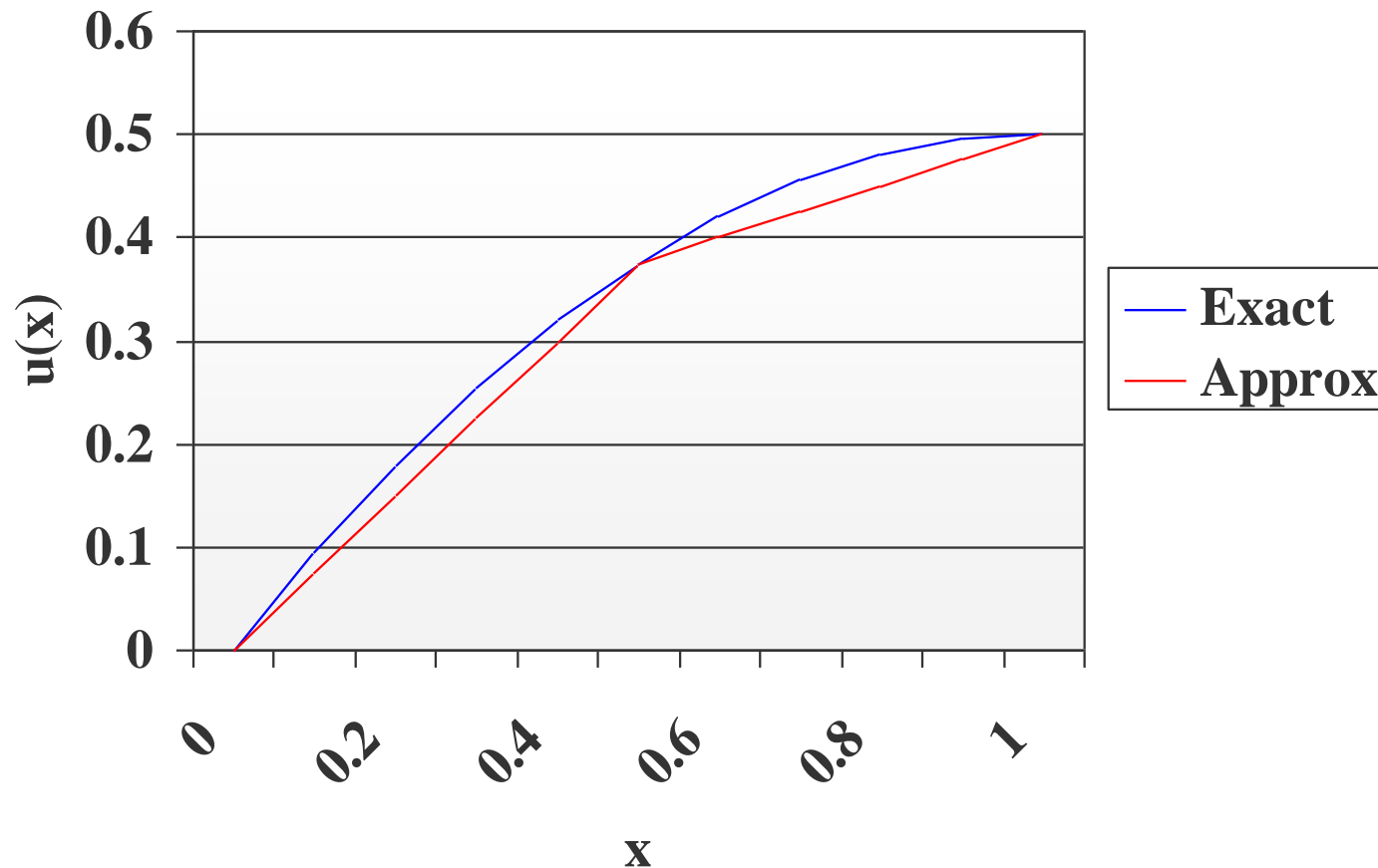
which when multiplied by basis functions φ_i gives

$$\varphi(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{3}{4} p_0 Lx & \text{when } x \in \left[0, \frac{L}{2}\right] \\ \frac{1}{4} p_0 (L^2 + Lx) & \text{when } x \in \left[\frac{L}{2}, L\right] \end{cases}$$

The exact analytical solution for this problem is :

$$u(x) = p_0 Lx - \frac{p_0 x^2}{2}$$

Solution



Notice the numerical solution is “interpolatory”, or nodally exact.

Example 2. Two-point Boundary Value Problem

$$\begin{aligned} -pu'' + qu &= f(x), \quad 0 < x < 1, & (*) \\ u(0) &= u(1) = 0, \end{aligned}$$

where $p > 0$ and $q \geq 0$.

As described before, we construct a variational form of the equation (*) using Galerkin's method. For this constant-coefficient problem, we seek to determine $u \in H^1[0,1]$ satisfying

$$a(u, v) = L(v), \quad \text{for all } v \in H_0^1, \quad (**)$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} a(u, v) &= \int_0^1 (v'pu' + qvu)dx \\ L(v) &= \int_0^1 vf \, dx \end{aligned}$$

With $u \in H^1[0,1]$ and $v \in H_0^1$, we are sure that the integral in (**) exist and that the trivial boundary conditions are satisfied.

$$u(x) \approx u_h(x) = \sum_j u_j \phi_j(x)$$

$$v(x) \approx v_h(x) = \sum_i v_i \varphi_i(x)$$

For Galerkin's method, $\phi_j(x) = \varphi_j(x)$.

Let us establish the goal of finding the simplest continuous piecewise polynomial approximations of u and v .

This would be a piecewise linear polynomial with respect to a mesh;

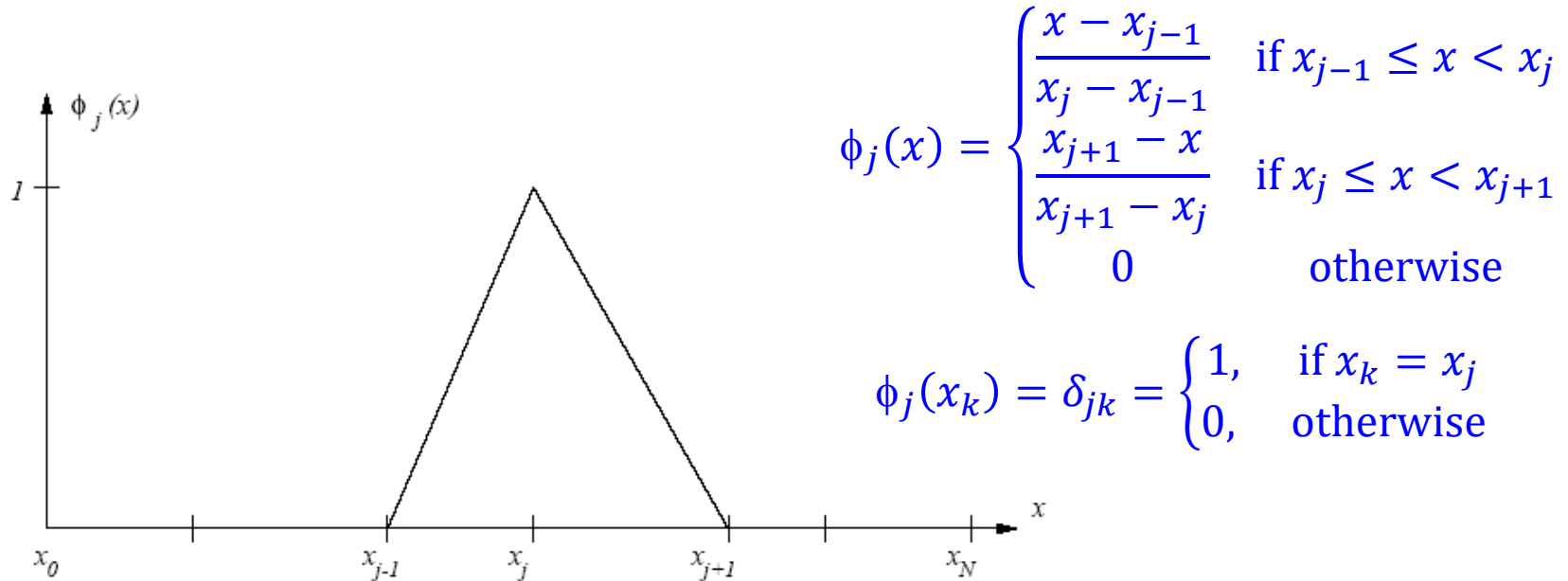
$$0 = x_0 < x_1 < \cdots < x_N = 1 \quad \text{introduced on } [0,1].$$

Each subinterval $(x_{j-1}, x_j), j = 1, 2, \dots, N$

is called a finite element.

Hat Function

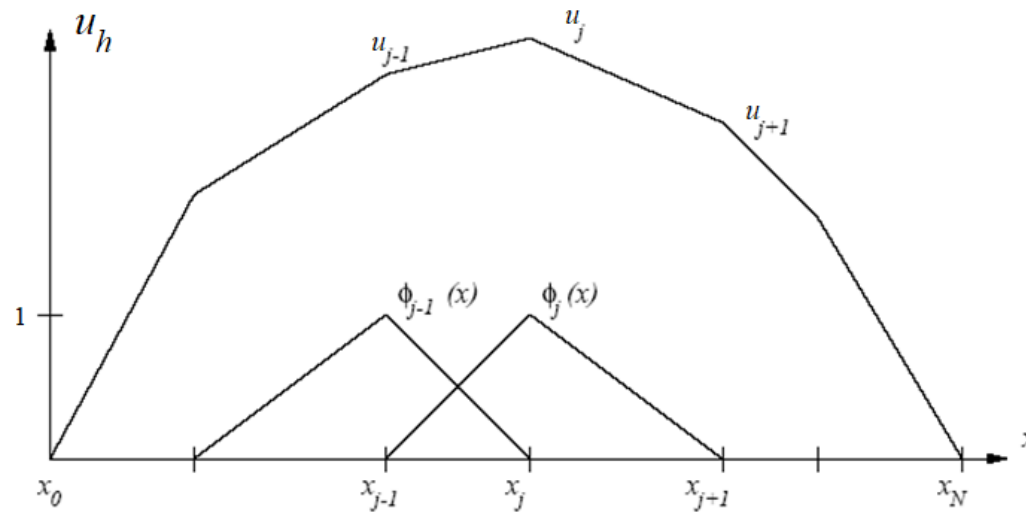
- The basis is created from the “hat function”



Consider approximations of the form, ($u_0 = u_N = 0$),

$$u_h(x) = \sum_{j=1}^{N-1} u_j \phi_j(x). \quad (***)$$

- Piecewise linear finite element solution $u_h(x)$



- ❖ Since each ϕ_j is a continuous piecewise linear function of x , their summation u_h is also continuous and piecewise linear. Evaluating u_h at a node x_k of the mesh yields $u_h(x_k) = \sum_{j=1}^{N-1} u_j \phi_j(x_k) = u_k$.

Thus, the coefficients u_k , $k = 1, 2, \dots, N-1$ are the values of u_h at the interior nodes of the mesh.

- ❖ 2. By selecting the lower and upper summation indices as 1 and $N-1$, we have ensured that **(***)** satisfies the prescribed BCs: $u_h(0) = u_h(1) = 0$.

3. The restriction of the FE solution to the element $[x_{j-1}, x_j]$ is the linear function

$$u_h(x) = u_{j-1}\phi_{j-1}(x) + u_j\phi_j(x), \quad x \in [x_{j-1}, x_j],$$

Since ϕ_{j-1} and ϕ_j are the only nonzero basis elements on $[x_{j-1}, x_j]$, using Galerkin's method we have to solve

$$\sum_{k=1}^{N-1} u_k a(\phi_j, \phi_k) = L(\phi_j), \quad j = 1, 2, \dots, N-1.$$

$$a(\phi_j, \phi_k) = \int_0^1 (p\phi_j'\phi_k' + q\phi_j\phi_k)dx,$$

$$L(\phi_j) = \int_0^1 \phi_j f dx$$



$$\mathbf{Ku} + \mathbf{Mu} = \mathbf{F}$$

Matrix Form of the Problem

Consider a typical finite element $e = [x_{k-1}, x_k]$,

$$\Delta x = x_k - x_{k-1}$$

$$K^e = \frac{p}{\Delta x} \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 1 \\ 1 & -1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$M^e = \frac{q\Delta x}{6} \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ 1 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$F^e = \begin{bmatrix} ? \\ ? \end{bmatrix}$$

Assembling

$$\mathbf{K} = \frac{p}{h} \begin{bmatrix} 2 & -1 & & & \\ -1 & 2 & -1 & & \\ & -1 & 2 & -1 & \\ & & \dots & \dots & \dots \\ & & & -1 & 2 & -1 \\ & & & & -1 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\mathbf{F} =$$

$$\mathbf{M} = \frac{qh}{6} \begin{bmatrix} 4 & 1 & & & \\ 1 & 4 & 1 & & \\ & 1 & 4 & 1 & \\ & & \dots & \dots & \dots \\ & & & 1 & 4 & 1 \\ & & & & 1 & 4 \end{bmatrix}$$

Semi-discretization in space

Consider the solution of linear parabolic problems (diffusion problems) as follows:

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} - \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left(k(x) \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} \right) = f(x), \quad \text{in } (0,1) \times (0,T]$$

$$\text{subj. B.C.} \quad u(0,t) = 25, \quad u(1,t) = 100,$$

$$\text{I.C.} \quad u(x,0) = 0$$

Weak formulation

$$\int_0^1 v(x) \{ u_t - (k(x)u_x)_x - f(x) \} dx = 0$$

$$\int_0^1 v(x) u_t dx - \int_0^1 v(x) (k(x)u_x)_x dx - \int_0^1 v(x) f(x) dx = 0 \quad \dots (*)$$

Since

$$\int_0^1 v (ku_x)_x dx = \int_0^1 (vku_x)_x - v_x(ku_x) dx$$

$$= [v(x)k(x)u_x(x)]_{x=0}^{x=1} - \int_0^1 v_x(ku_x) dx$$

Eqn (*) becomes

$$\int_0^1 v u_t dx - [v(x)k(x)u_x(x)]_{x=0}^{x=1} + \int_0^1 v_x(ku_x) dx - \int_0^1 v f(x) dx = 0$$

Variational statement

Find $u \in H^1[(0,1) \times (0,T)]$ such that $u(0,t) = 25, u(1,t) = 100,$
 $u(x,0) = 0$ and

$$\int_0^1 v u_t dx + \int_0^1 v_x (k u_x) dx = \int_0^1 v f(x) dx, \text{ for all } v \in H_0^1 \dots (**)$$

where $H^1[(0,1) \times (0,T)] = \{u \mid u, u_x \in L^2[(0,1) \times (0,T)]\}$

$$H_0^1[(0,1) \times (0,T)] = \{v \in H^1 \mid v(0,t) = v(1,t) = 0\}$$

Using inner product notation $(\cdot, \cdot),$

$$(u_t, v) = \int_0^1 v u_t dx \quad a(u, v) = \int_0^1 v_x (k u_x) dx \quad L(v) = \int_0^1 v f(x) dx$$

the Eqn (**) can be rewritten as

$$(u_t, v) + a(u, v) = L(v), \quad \text{for all } v \in H_0^1 \dots (***)$$

Finite Element Approximation

Let H_h^1 be a finite dimensional subspace of H^1 with basis functions $\{\phi_1, \phi_2, \dots, \phi_n\}$.

Then, the variational problem is approximated by :

Find $u_h(x, t) \in H_h^1$ such that $u_h(0, t) = 25$, $u_h(1, t) = 100$
and $u_h(x, 0) = 0$

$$\left(\frac{\partial u_h}{\partial t}, v_h \right) + a(u_h, v_h) = L(v_h) \quad \forall v_h \in H_{0h}^1.$$

In the usual way, we introduce a discretization of Ω as a union of elements

$$\Omega_e, \text{ i.e. } \Omega \rightarrow \bigcup_{e=1}^E \Omega_e$$

and approximate $u(x, t)$ at t by

$$u_h(x, t) = \sum_{j=1}^n u_j(t) \varphi_j(x)$$



By using the usual FE formulation, we obtain the system of ODEs

$$\mathbf{M}\dot{\mathbf{u}} + \mathbf{A}\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{F}$$

where

$$\mathbf{M} = (m_{ij})_{N \times N} \quad \text{with} \quad m_{ij} = (\phi_i, \phi_j) = \int_0^1 \phi_i \phi_j dx$$

$$\mathbf{A} = (a_{ij})_{N \times N} \quad \text{with} \quad a_{ij} = (\phi'_i, k\phi'_j) = \int_0^1 k \phi'_i \phi'_j dx$$

$$\mathbf{F} = (f_i)_{N \times 1} \quad \text{with} \quad f_i = \int_0^1 \phi_i f(x) dx$$

Forward Difference Scheme

$$\text{Let} \quad \frac{d\mathbf{u}}{dt}(t) = \frac{\mathbf{u}(t + \Delta t_r) - \mathbf{u}(t)}{\Delta t} \quad \left(\text{or} \quad \frac{d\mathbf{u}_r}{dt} = \frac{\mathbf{u}_{r+1} - \mathbf{u}_r}{\Delta t_r} \right)$$

and use forward difference with $O(\Delta t)$ accuracy

$$\mathbf{M} \mathbf{u}_{r+1} = (\mathbf{M} - \Delta t_r \mathbf{A}) \mathbf{u}_r + \Delta t_r \mathbf{F}_r \quad \text{where} \quad \sum_{r=1}^n \Delta t_r = T$$

Exercise. Derive system of Finite element equations of an unsteady two-point BVP:

$$u_t - k(x, t)u_{xx} = 0, \quad x \in (0, 1), t \in (0, \tau)$$

subject to IC: $u(x, 0) = 0$, and each of the following BCs

(a) $u(0, t) = f, u(1, t) = g$

(b) $u(0, t) = f, \frac{\partial}{\partial x}u(1, t) = g$

(c) $\frac{\partial}{\partial x}u(0, t) = f, \frac{\partial}{\partial x}u(1, t) = g$