

Finite Element Method for Heat Transfer

Rezgar Shakeri Leila Ghaffari

University of Colorado Boulder

Rezgar.Shakeri@colorado.edu Leila.Ghaffari@colorado.edu

December 7, 2020

- 1 Heat Equation
- 2 Finite Element Method (FEM)
- 3 New Features
 - MATLAB to Python
 - Command line options
 - Modularity
 - Travis CI, Unit and Functional tests
 - Documentation, Comments, User Manual
 - First release - v1.0

Heat Equation

- Predicts the temperature of the body (domain) subjected to the heat source
- Derived from Fourier's law and the conservation of energy
- Of fundamental importance in diverse scientific fields

Fourier's Law:

$$\mathbf{q} = -k \nabla u$$

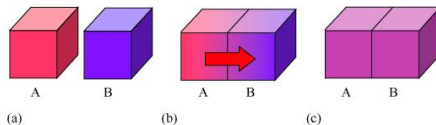


Figure: Heat conduction

Heat Equation

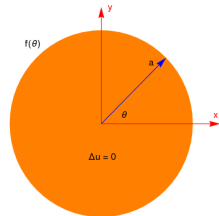
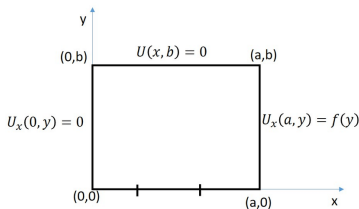
$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} = \alpha \nabla^2 u = \alpha \left(\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial y^2} + \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial z^2} \right), \quad (1)$$

$u(x, y, z, t)$ = Temperature

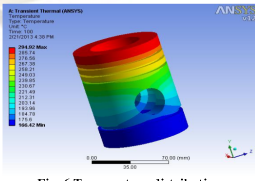
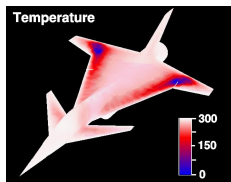
$\alpha = \frac{k}{c_p \rho}$ = Thermal Diffusivity c_p = Specific Heat Capacity
 k = Thermal conductivity ρ = Mass density

Heat Equation

We can solve (1) analytically in **simple geometries** like rectangular (cubic in 3D) or circular by the **Separation of Variables** method.



But how about the complex region? Like aircraft, blade of the turbine?!



Finite Element Method (FEM)

- Divide the domain to small pieces called **Element**
- Implement the weak form of **Heat Equation** for each element
- Expand the unknown variable (here temperature) using shape functions at each element
- Assemble the general form of the equation and find the solution

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} = f(x) &\implies \int_0^L w(x) \left[\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} - f(x) \right] dx = 0 \\ \left(w \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} \right)_0^L - \int_0^L \frac{\partial w}{\partial x} \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} dx - \int_0^L w(x) f(x) dx &= 0\end{aligned}\tag{2}$$

Above equation is correct for each piece of the domain (element)

Finite Element Method (FEM)

$$\begin{aligned}
 u^{h^e}(x) &= \sum_{a=1}^{n_{en}} N_a^e(x) d_a^e = N_1^e(x) d_1^e + N_2^e(x) d_2^e \\
 &= \begin{bmatrix} N_1^e & N_2^e \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} d_1^e \\ d_2^e \end{bmatrix} \\
 &= \mathbf{N}^e(x) \cdot \mathbf{d}^e
 \end{aligned}$$

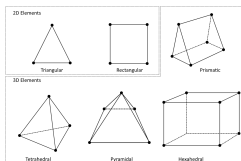
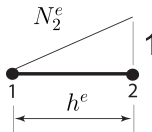
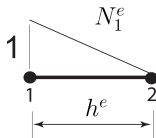
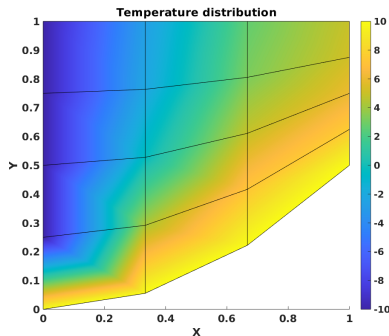


Figure: Different types of element and example of the Piston mesh

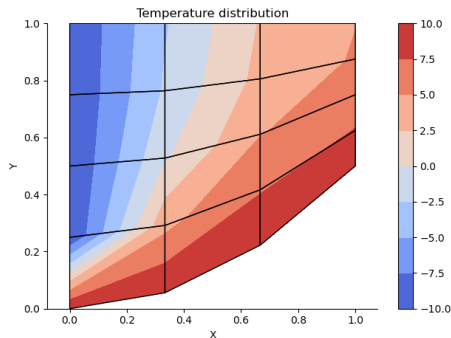
New Features

- MATLAB to Python
- Command line options
- Modularity
- Travis CI, Unit and Functional tests
- Documentation, Comments, User Manual
- First release - v1.0

MATLAB to Python



(a) MATLAB



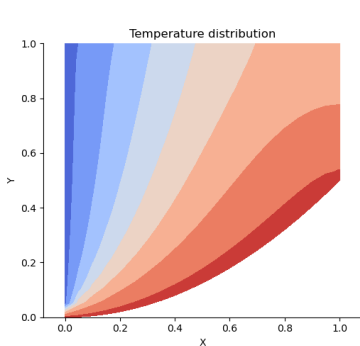
(b) Python

Figure: Temperature distribution, bottom and left edges are subjected to the 10 and -10 boundary conditions. Right and top edges are insulated.

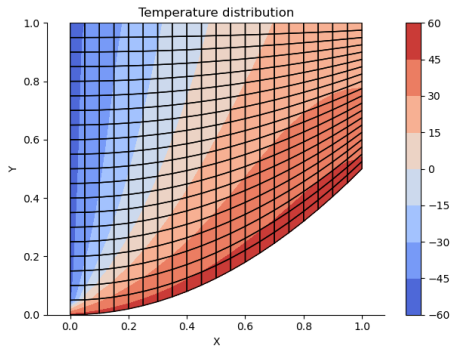
we found temperature by solving $\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial y^2} = 0$

Command line options

```
python src/heat2d.py --num_elm_x 20 --num_elm_y 20  
--T0_bottom 50 --T0_left -50 --heat_source 400 --flux_top  
100 --grid
```



(a) Without grid



(b) With grid

Modularity

`src_flux()`

`setup_ID_LM()`

`Dirichlet_BCs()`

`NeumannBCs()`

`connectivity()`

`assembly()`

`heat2delem()`

`phys_coord()`

`setup()`

`gauss()`

Travis CI, Unit and Functional tests

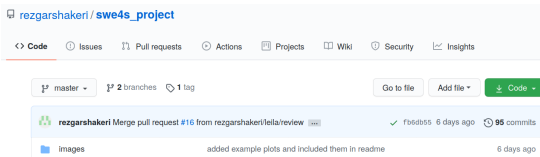
language: python

before_install:

```
- wget https://repo.anaconda.com/miniconda/Miniconda3-latest-Linux-x86_64.sh
- bash Miniconda3-latest-Linux-x86_64.sh -b
- . /home/travis/miniconda3/etc/profile.d/conda.sh
- conda update --yes conda
- conda config --add channels r
- conda create --yes -n test
- conda activate test
- conda install --yes python=3.8
- conda install -y pycodestyle
- conda install -y numpy
- conda install -y matplotlib
```

script:

```
- python src/test_FE_subroutines.py
- bash src/test_heat2d.sh
- pycodestyle src/test_FE_subroutines.py
- pycodestyle src/heat2d.py
- pycodestyle src/FE_subroutines.py
- pycodestyle src/plot.py
```



Documentation, Comments, User Manual

```
def phys_coord(nelx, nely):
    """ This function returns the physical coordinates of the nodes.
```

Input:

```
nelx: integer
      number of elements in the x direction.
nely: integer
      number of elements in the y direction.
```

Output:

```
x: float (1d array)
    the coordinate of the node in the x direction
y: float (1d array)
    the coordinate of the node in the y direction
```

The geometry we are working on is like the following.

(for nelx = 2, nely = 2)

6-----7-----8
| (2) | (3) |
| -----4-----/ |
3-----/ | (1) |
| (0) | -----2 |
| -----1-----/ |
0-----/

```

There are 4 elements (numbering in parenthesis), and 9 nodes.
Bottom edge (0 to 2) is  $y=0.5x^2$ . (see src/test_subroutines.py)
This function returns x,y as 9x2 array for the above mesh.
"""

```

```
# Get the setup properties
```

```
nel, lpx, lpy, nnp, ndof, nen, neq = setup(nelx, nely)
```

```
# Divide [0,1] by lpx (mesh in the x direction)
```

```
x0 = np.linspace(0, 1, lpx)
```

```
y0 = 0.5 * x0**2 # the bottom geometry line
```

```
y = np.zeros((nnp, 1))
```

```
for i in range(0, lpx):
```

```
# Divide [0,1] by lpy (mesh in the y direction)
```

```
y1 = np.linspace(y0[i], 1, lpy)
```

```
for i in range(0, lpy):
```

```
y[i + j*lp_x] = y1[j]    # collection of y
```

```
x = np.zeros((nnp, 1))
```

```
for i in range(0, lpy):
```

```
for i in range(0, lpx):
```

```
x[j + i*lp_x] = x0[j]    # collection of x
```

```
return x, y
```

(a) Documentation

(b) Comments

User Manual/README

First release - v1.0



Releases 1

 **v1.0** Latest
31 minutes ago

Packages

No packages published
[Publish your first package](#)

Contributors 2



LeilaGhaffari Leila Ghaffari



rezgarshakeri

Languages



● Python 98.2% ● Shell 1.8%

Question

