

**Generalised Finite Difference
Method
for linear heatconduction problems
in 2D**

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1 Basic Equations

for the calculation of the temperature field $T(\mathbf{x}, t)$ on an closed area $\Omega \subseteq \mathbb{R}^2$ with the boundary $\partial\Omega$, the following equations apply:

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{T} - a (T_{xx} + T_{yy}) &= 0 & \mathbf{x} \in \Omega \\ T &= \bar{T} & \mathbf{x} \in \partial\Omega_d \quad (\text{Dirichlet boundary condition}) \\ -\lambda (T_x n_x + T_y n_y) &= \dot{q} & \mathbf{x} \in \partial\Omega_n \quad (\text{Neumann boundary condition}) \end{aligned}$$

The **thermal diffusivity** a is composed as follows:

$$a = \frac{\lambda}{\rho c}$$

Here is ρ the **material density**, λ the **thermal conductivity** and c the specific heat capacity of the material.

2 Moving-Least-Square Approximation of the temperature field

The temperature field is approximated at the point \mathbf{x}_i by a second degree Taylor polynomial \tilde{T}_i . At each position x_j with $j \in S_i$, the value of the series expansion is given by

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{T}_i(\mathbf{x}_j) = & T(\mathbf{x}_i) + T_{,x}(\mathbf{x}_i)(x_j - x_i) + T_{,y}(\mathbf{x}_i)(y_j - y_i) + \\ & \frac{1}{2} T_{,xx}(\mathbf{x}_i)(x_j - x_i)^2 + T_{,xy}(\mathbf{x}_i)(x_j - x_i)(y_j - y_i) + \frac{1}{2} T_{,yy}(\mathbf{x}_i)(y_j - y_i)^2. \end{aligned}$$

This gives for all x_j with $j \in S_i$ and $|S| = n$ the numerical error:

$$e_{ij}^T = \tilde{T}_i(\mathbf{x}_j) - T(\mathbf{x}_j)$$

With the definitions

$$\mathbf{e}_i^T = \begin{pmatrix} e_{i1}^T \\ \vdots \\ e_{in}^T \end{pmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^n$$

$$\mathbf{a}_i = \begin{pmatrix} T_i \\ T_{i,x} \\ T_{i,y} \\ T_{i,xx} \\ T_{i,xy} \\ T_{i,yy} \end{pmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^6$$

$$\mathbf{b}_i^T = \begin{pmatrix} T_{j1} \\ \vdots \\ T_{jn} \end{pmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^n$$

$$\mathbf{D}_i = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & \Delta x_{i1} & \Delta y_{i1} & \frac{1}{2} \Delta x_{i1}^2 & \Delta x_{i1} \Delta y_{i1} & \frac{1}{2} \Delta y_{i1}^2 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ 1 & \Delta x_{in} & \Delta y_{in} & \frac{1}{2} \Delta x_{in}^2 & \Delta x_{in} \Delta y_{in} & \frac{1}{2} \Delta y_{in}^2 \end{pmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times 6}$$

follows:

$$\mathbf{e}_i^T = \mathbf{D}_i \cdot \mathbf{a}_i - \mathbf{b}_i^T$$

3 Discretisation of inner area points

Considering a 1st order time discretisation

$$\dot{T}_i = f \left(T_i - T_i^{k-1} \right),$$

the numerical error can be described as follows:

$$f T_i - a (T_{i,xx} + T_{i,yy}) - f T_i^{k-1} = e_{i\Omega}$$

This leads to the following minimisation problem:

$$\min J_i = \sum_{j \in S_i} W_{ij}^2 \left(e_{ij}^T \right)^2 + W_{\Omega}^2 e_{i\Omega}^2$$

Summarised in matrix vector notation:

$$\mathbf{G}_{\Omega} = \begin{pmatrix} f & 0 & 0 & -a & 0 & -a \end{pmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^{1 \times 6}$$

$$\underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{e}_i^T \\ e_{i\Omega} \end{pmatrix}}_{\mathbf{e}_i \in \mathbb{R}^{n+1}} = \underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{D}_i \\ \mathbf{G}_{\Omega} \end{pmatrix}}_{\mathbf{M}_i \in \mathbb{R}^{(n+1) \times 6}} \cdot \mathbf{a}_i - \underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{b}_i^T \\ f T_i^{k-1} \end{pmatrix}}_{\mathbf{b}_i \in \mathbb{R}^{n+1}}$$

The solution of the minimisation problem with the weight matrix

$$\mathbf{W} = \text{diag} (W_{i1}, \dots, W_{in}, W_{\Omega}) \in \mathbb{R}^{(n+1) \times (n+1)} \quad (3.1)$$

is:

$$\mathbf{a}_i = \underbrace{\left[\left(\mathbf{M}_i^T \cdot \mathbf{W}_i^2 \cdot \mathbf{M}_i \right)^{-1} \cdot \mathbf{M}_i^T \cdot \mathbf{W}_i^2 \right]}_{\mathbf{C}_i \in \mathbb{R}^{6 \times (n+1)}} \cdot \mathbf{b}_i \quad (3.2)$$

This results in the system of equations for determining the temperature T_i at the timestep k :

$$T_i = \sum_{j \in S_i} C_i [0, 0 : n] T_j + C_i [0, n] f T_i^{k-1}$$

Or:

$$T_i (1 - C_i [0, 0]) - \sum_{\substack{j \in S_i \\ j \neq i}} C_i [0, 1 : n] T_j = C_i [0, n] f T_i^{k-1}$$

4 Discretisation of Dirichlet boundary conditions

For Dirichlet boundary conditions ($\mathbf{x} \in \partial\Omega_d$), the following numerical errors are minimised:

$$\begin{aligned} f T_i - a (T_{i,xx} + T_{i,yy}) - f T_i^{k-1} &= e_{i\Omega} \\ T_i - \bar{T}_i &= e_{i\partial\Omega_d} \end{aligned}$$

This leads to the following minimisation problem:

$$\min J_i = \sum_{j \in S_i} W_{ij}^2 (e_{ij}^T)^2 + W_\Omega^2 e_{i\Omega}^2 + W_{\partial\Omega_d}^2 e_{i\partial\Omega_d}^2$$

Summarised in matrix vector notation:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{G}_{\partial\Omega_d} &= \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^{1 \times 6} \\ \underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{e}_i^T \\ e_{i\Omega} \\ e_{i\partial\Omega_d} \end{pmatrix}}_{\mathbf{e}_i \in \mathbb{R}^{n+2}} &= \underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{D}_i \\ \mathbf{G}_\Omega \\ \mathbf{G}_{\partial\Omega_d} \end{pmatrix}}_{\mathbf{M}_i \in \mathbb{R}^{(n+2) \times 6}} \cdot \mathbf{a}_i - \underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{b}_i^T \\ f T_i^{k-1} \\ \bar{T}_i \end{pmatrix}}_{\mathbf{b}_i \in \mathbb{R}^{n+2}} \end{aligned}$$

The solution of the minimisation problem with the weight matrix

$$\mathbf{W} = \text{diag}(W_{i1}, \dots, W_{in}, W_\Omega, W_{\partial\Omega_d}) \in \mathbb{R}^{(n+2) \times (n+2)} \quad (4.1)$$

is:

$$\mathbf{a}_i = \underbrace{\left[\left(\mathbf{M}_i^T \cdot \mathbf{W}_i^2 \cdot \mathbf{M}_i \right)^{-1} \cdot \mathbf{M}_i^T \cdot \mathbf{W}_i^2 \right]}_{\mathbf{C}_i \in \mathbb{R}^{6 \times (n+2)}} \cdot \mathbf{b}_i \quad (4.2)$$

This results in the system of equations for determining the temperature T_i at the timestep k :

$$T_i = \sum_{j \in S_i} C_i [0, 0 : n] T_j + C_i [0, n] f T_i^{k-1} + C_i [0, n + 1] \bar{T}_i$$

Or:

$$T_i (1 - C_i [0, 0]) - \sum_{\substack{j \in S_i \\ j \neq i}} C_i [0, 1 : n] T_j = C_i [0, n] f T_i^{k-1} + C_i [0, n + 1] \bar{T}_i$$

5 Discretisation of Neumann boundary conditions

For Neumann boundary conditions ($\mathbf{x} \in \partial\Omega_n$), the following numerical errors are minimised:

$$\begin{aligned} f T_i - a (T_{i,xx} + T_{i,yy}) - f T_i^{k-1} &= e_{i\Omega} \\ -\lambda (T_{i,x} n_x + T_{i,y} n_y) - \dot{q}_i &= e_{i\partial\Omega_n} \end{aligned}$$

This leads to the following minimisation problem:

$$\min J_i = \sum_{j \in S_i} W_{ij}^2 (e_{ij}^T)^2 + W_{\Omega}^2 e_{i\Omega}^2 + W_{\partial\Omega_d}^2 e_{i\partial\Omega_n}^2$$

Summarised in matrix vector notation:

$$\mathbf{G}_{\partial\Omega_n} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -\lambda n_x & -\lambda n_y & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^{1 \times 6}$$

$$\underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{e}_i^T \\ e_{i\Omega} \\ e_{i\partial\Omega_n} \end{pmatrix}}_{\mathbf{e}_i \in \mathbb{R}^{n+2}} = \underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{D}_i \\ \mathbf{G}_{\Omega} \\ \mathbf{G}_{\partial\Omega_n} \end{pmatrix}}_{\mathbf{M}_i \in \mathbb{R}^{(n+2) \times 6}} \cdot \mathbf{a}_i - \underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{b}_i^T \\ f T_i^{k-1} \\ \dot{q}_i \end{pmatrix}}_{\mathbf{b}_i \in \mathbb{R}^{n+2}}$$

The solution of the minimisation problem with the weight matrix

$$\mathbf{W} = \text{diag}(W_{i1}, \dots, W_{in}, W_{\Omega}, W_{\partial\Omega_n}) \in \mathbb{R}^{(n+2) \times (n+2)} \quad (5.1)$$

is:

$$\mathbf{a}_i = \underbrace{\left[\left(\mathbf{M}_i^T \cdot \mathbf{W}_i^2 \cdot \mathbf{M}_i \right)^{-1} \cdot \mathbf{M}_i^T \cdot \mathbf{W}_i^2 \right]}_{\mathbf{C}_i \in \mathbb{R}^{6 \times (n+2)}} \cdot \mathbf{b}_i \quad (5.2)$$

This results in the system of equations for determining the temperature T_i at the timestep k :

$$T_i = \sum_{j \in S_i} C_i [0, 0 : n] T_j + C_i [0, n] f T_i^{k-1} + C_i [0, n + 1] \dot{q}_i$$

Or:

$$T_i (1 - C_i [0, 0]) - \sum_{\substack{j \in S_i \\ j \neq i}} C_i [0, 1 : n] T_j = C_i [0, n] f T_i^{k-1} + C_i [0, n + 1] \dot{q}_i$$