

Applied/Numerical Qualifier Solution: August 2017

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Problem 1. Let K be a non-degenerate triangle in R^2 . Let a_1, a_2, a_3 be the three vertices of K . Let $a_{ij} = a_{ji}$ denote the midpoint of the segment (a_i, a_j) , $i, j \in \{1, 2, 3\}$. Let \mathbb{P}^1 be the set of linear functions $p(x_1, x_2)$ over K and $\Sigma = \{\sigma_1, \sigma_2, \sigma_3\}$ be the linear forms (or degrees of freedom) on \mathbb{P}^1 defined as $\sigma_{ij}(p) = p(a_{ij})$, $i, j = 1, 2, 3$, $i \neq j$.

a. Show that the degrees of freedom $\{\sigma_{12}, \sigma_{23}, \sigma_{31}\}$ are unisolvent.

Solution: To prove unisolvence, we need to show that if $\sigma_{ij}(p) = 0$ for all $i \neq j$ and $p \in \mathbb{P}^1$, then $p \equiv 0$. Consider p in terms of the barycentric coordinates, that is, $p(x, y) = p(\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \lambda_3)$. Now specifically, look at p restricted to the line passing through the points a_{12} and a_{23} , call it L_2 . Note that, in barycentric coordinates, $a_{12} = (1/2, 1/2, 0)$ and $a_{23} = (0, 1/2, 1/2)$. Specifically, the line is defined as,

$$L_2 = \{(\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \lambda_3) \in K : \lambda_2 = 1/2\}.$$

Note that $p|_{L_2}$ is a 1-dimensional linear function that is zero at two points, we must have that $p|_{L_2} \equiv 0$. Therefore, we can write p as $p = a(\lambda_2 - 1/2)$. Lastly, by assumption $p(1/2, 0, 1/2) = 0$, hence $-\frac{1}{2}a = 0$. Therefore, $p \equiv 0$ and so Σ is unisolvent. ■

b. Compute the “nodal” basis of \mathbb{P}^1 which corresponds to $\sigma = \{\sigma_{12}, \sigma_{23}, \sigma_{31}\}$.

Solution: Using the same arguments as in part a. we can similarly construct the nodal basis of \mathbb{P}^1 . So consider ϕ_2 which satisfies, $\phi_2(a_{13}) = 1$, and $\phi_2(a_{23}) = \phi_2(a_{12}) = 0$. Then ϕ_2 has the form, $\phi_2(\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \lambda_3) = a(\lambda_2 - \frac{1}{2})$. So, since $\phi_2(\frac{1}{2}, 0, \frac{1}{2}) = 1$, we have that $a = -2$. Hence

$\phi_2 = -2(\lambda_2 - \frac{1}{2})$. Repeating a similar argument for the other basis functions, we have,

$$\begin{aligned}\phi_1 &= -2(\lambda_1 - \frac{1}{2}) \\ \phi_2 &= -2(\lambda_2 - \frac{1}{2}) \\ \phi_3 &= -2(\lambda_3 - \frac{1}{2}).\end{aligned}$$

c. Let \mathcal{T}_h be a triangulation of the domain Ω with polygonal boundary and let the finite dimensional space V consist of functions whose restrictions to each K are the functions from the FE $(K, \mathbb{P}^1, \Sigma)$. Show that in general these functions are NOT in $H^1(\Omega)$.

Solution: Consider the unite square formed by the two triangles,

$$\begin{aligned}K_1 &= \text{conv}\{(0, 0), (1, 0), (0, 1)\} \\ K_2 &= \text{conv}\{(1, 0), (1, 1), (0, 1)\}.\end{aligned}$$

Then consider the functions $f_1(x, y) = x + y$ and $f_2(x, y) = 2x$ defined on K_1 and K_2 respectively. Then note that $f_1(\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}) = 1 = f_2(\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2})$. But $f_1(1, 0) = 1$ and $f_2(1, 0) = 2$. Therefore, a globally defined function on the whole square would not be continuous, even though the functions restricted to the elements are the same at the degrees of freedom. Hence in general these functions are not in $H^1(\Omega)$.

d. If M_K is the element “mass” matrix, evaluate its entries m_{ij} .

Solution: By definition, the entries m_{ij} are defined as,

$$m_{ij} = \int_K \phi_i \phi_j dA.$$

We can transform this integral to the reference triangle \hat{K} and then perform the integration,

where $\lambda_1 = 1 - x - y$, $\lambda_2 = x$ and $\lambda_3 = y$. So consider,

$$\begin{aligned}
m_{11} &= \int_K (\phi_1)^2 dA \\
&= \int_{\hat{K}} \left(-2\left(\lambda_1 - \frac{1}{2}\right)\right)^2 \frac{|K|}{|\hat{K}|} dx dy \\
&= 2|K| \int_0^1 \int_0^{1-x} 4\left(1 - x - y - \frac{1}{2}\right)^2 dy dx \\
&\quad \vdots \\
&= \frac{1}{3}|K|.
\end{aligned}$$

By symmetry arguments, m_{22} and m_{33} will be the same. Similar computations will show that $m_{ij} = 0$ for $i \neq j$. Thus our mass matrix is,

$$M_K = \frac{1}{3}|K| \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

■

Problem 2.

a. Let $\Omega = (0, 1)$. Assume that $u \in H^1(\Omega)$ and let $x_0 \in \overline{\Omega}$. Prove that

$$\|u\|_{L^2(\Omega)}^2 \leq C_1 \left(u^2(x_0) + \|u'\|_{L^2(\Omega)}^2 \right)$$

with a constant C_1 independent of x_0 .

Proof: We first prove the result for $\phi \in C^\infty(\overline{\Omega})$. Consider,

$$\begin{aligned}
\|\phi\|_{L^2(\Omega)}^2 &= \int_0^1 \phi^2 dx \\
&= \int_0^1 \left(\int_{x_0}^x \phi'(t) dt + \phi(x_0) \right)^2 dx \\
&\leq \int_0^1 2 \left(\int_{x_0}^x \phi'(t) dt \right)^2 dx + 2\phi(x_0)^2 \\
&\leq 2 \int_0^1 |x - x_0| \left| \int_{x_0}^x (\phi'(t))^2 dt \right| dx + 2\phi(x_0)^2 \\
&\leq 2(\phi^2(x_0) + |\phi|_{H^1(\Omega)}^2)
\end{aligned}$$

In the above work, we used the inequality $(a+b)^2 \leq 2a^2 + 2b^2$ and the Cauchy-Schwarz inequality.

By the Meyers-Serrin theorem, for $u \in H^1(\Omega)$, we can find a sequence $\{\phi_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \subset C^\infty(\Omega) \cap H^1(\Omega)$ such that $\phi_n \rightarrow u$ in $H^1(\Omega)$. This implies that $\|\phi_n\|_{L^2(\Omega)} \rightarrow \|u\|_{L^2(\Omega)}$ and $|\phi_n|_{H^1(\Omega)} \rightarrow |u|_{H^1(\Omega)}$. Additionally, since Ω is 1D, functions in $H^1(\Omega)$ are continuous, so by the Sobolev embedding theorem, $\|v\|_{C^0(\overline{\Omega})} \leq C\|v\|_{H^1(\Omega)}$. This implies that $\|\phi_n\|_{C^0(\overline{\Omega})} \rightarrow \|u\|_{C^0(\overline{\Omega})}$, i.e. $\phi_n(x_0) \rightarrow u(x_0)$. Thus, because we have convergence in H^1 and pointwise, the Poincaré-type inequality must hold for functions in $H^1(\Omega)$. ■

b. Consider the fourth-order boundary value problem

$$u^{(4)} = f \quad \text{in } \Omega, \quad u(0) = 0, \quad u''(0) = 0, \quad u''(1) + u'(1) = 1, \quad u'''(1) = 0. \quad (1)$$

Derive a weak formulation of this problem assuming that $f \in L^2(\Omega)$.

Solution: Multiply by a test function v and integrate by parts,

$$\begin{aligned} \int_0^1 u^{(4)} v \, dx &= u''' v \Big|_0^1 - \int_0^1 u''' v' \, dx \\ &= u'''(1)v(1) - u'''(0)v(0) - u'' v' \Big|_0^1 + \int_0^1 u'' v'' \, dx \\ &= -u'''(0)v(0) - u''(1)v'(1) + u''(0)v'(0) + \int_0^1 u'' v'' \, dx \\ &= -u'''(0)v(0) - v'(1) + u'(1)v'(1) + \int_0^1 u'' v'' \, dx. \end{aligned}$$

Now since we have no information of $u'''(0)$, we will impose the condition, $v(0) = 0$, on our test functions. So our bilinear and linear forms will be

$$\begin{aligned} a(u, v) &= \int_0^1 u'' v'' \, dx + u'(1)v'(1) \\ f(v) &= \int_0^1 f v \, dx + v'(1). \end{aligned}$$

Lastly, our sobolev space will be,

$$V := \{v \in H^2(0, 1) : v(0) = 0\},$$

and our weak formulation becomes: find $u \in V$ such that $a(u, v) = f(v)$ for all $v \in V$. ■

c. Show that the weak formulation that you derived in part b. above has a unique solution.

Proof: We will use Lax-Milgram to show existence and uniqueness. First, it is an easy check to show that f is continuous. So let's show that a is coercive. Note since our space is a subspace of H^2 , our norm is $\|\cdot\|_{H^2(0,1)}$. We will need a trick from part a. that is, notice that if $u \in H^2(0,1)$ then $u' \in H^1(0,1)$. So the inequality from part a. can be applied to u' . In addition, one can also prove the inequality,

$$\|u\|_{L^2(0,1)}^2 \leq \|u\|_{H^1(0,1)}^2 \quad \text{for all } u \in V$$

So consider,

$$\begin{aligned} a(u, u) &= \int_0^1 (u'')^2 dx + (u'(1))^2 \\ &\geq \frac{1}{2} \|u\|_{H^2(0,1)}^2 + \frac{1}{2} (\|u\|_{H^2(0,1)}^2 + (u'(1))^2) \\ &\geq \frac{1}{2} \|u\|_{H^2(0,1)}^2 + \frac{1}{4} \|u\|_{H^1(0,1)}^2 \\ &\geq \frac{1}{2} \|u\|_{H^2(0,1)}^2 + \frac{1}{8} \|u\|_{H^1(0,1)}^2 + \frac{1}{8} \|u\|_{L^2(0,1)}^2 \\ &\geq \frac{1}{8} \|u\|_{H^2(0,1)}^2. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore a is coercive. Now for continuity, we have,

$$\begin{aligned} |a(u, v)| &\leq \left| \int_0^1 u'' v'' dx \right| + |u'(1) v'(1)| \\ &\leq \|u''\|_{L^2(0,1)} \|v''\|_{L^2(0,1)} + |u'(1) v'(1)| \\ &\leq \|u\|_{H^2(0,1)} \|v\|_{H^2(0,1)} + \|u'\|_{C^0([0,1])} \|v'\|_{C^0([0,1])} \\ &\leq \|u\|_{H^2(0,1)} \|v\|_{H^2(0,1)} + C \|u'\|_{H^1(0,1)} \|v'\|_{H^1(0,1)} \\ &\leq C \|u\|_{H^2(0,1)} \|v\|_{H^2(0,1)}, \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} |F(v)| &\leq \left| \int_0^1 f(x) v(x) dx \right| + |v'(1)| \\ &\leq \|f\|_{L^2(0,1)} \|v\|_{L^2(0,1)} + C \|v'\|_{H^1(0,1)} \\ &\leq (\|f\|_{L^2(0,1)} + C) \|v\|_{H^2(0,1)}. \end{aligned}$$

Note we have not distinguished the constants in the proofs of continuity. Thus by Lax-Milgram, we have existence and uniqueness. ■

d. Using Hermite cubic finite element spaces (i.e., piecewise cubic elements lying in $C^1(\Omega)$) derive a finite element method for the problem in part (b). Be sure to carefully define your finite element space.

Proof: Let $\widehat{K} = [0, 1]$ be the reference element and $K_i := [x_{i-1}, x_i]$ be the global elements for $i = 1, \dots, N$, such that $\bigcup_{i=1}^N K_i = [0, 1]$. In particular, we define our mesh as $\mathcal{T}_h := \{K_i\}_{i=1}^N$. We also define the affine geometric mappings, $T_{K_i} : \widehat{K} \rightarrow K_i$, defined as $T_{K_i}(\hat{x}) = h_i \hat{x} + x_{i-1}$ with $h_i := x_i - x_{i-1}$. We now define our finite element space as,

$$V_h := \{v \in C^1(\Omega) : v \circ T_{K_i} \in \mathbb{P}_3, \forall K_i \in \mathcal{T}_h, v(0) = 0\}. \quad (2)$$

The basis for this space is composed of the cubic Hermite polynomials. (Not going into the details about these polynomials here.) Therefore, the discrete variational problem becomes: find $u_h \in V_h$ such that $a(u_h, v_h) = F(v_h)$ for all $v_h \in V_h$. ■

e. Show that the finite element method you derived has a unique solution u_h and derive an optimal-order error estimate for $u - u_h$ in the $H^2(\Omega)$ -norm. *Hint:* A correct proof will involve using an interpolation error bound. You may state and use such a bound without proving it.

Proof: First note that our finite dimensional space V_h is a subspace of V , so by Lax-Milgram, we know there exists a unique solution $u_h \in V_h$. Since we have a unique solution on our finite dimensional space, this means we can use Cea's Lemma. In addition, let \mathcal{I}_h be the interpolant of u on our space V_h . Then we have the following,

$$\begin{aligned} \|u - u_h\|_{H^2(\Omega)}^2 &\leq C \left(\inf_{v_h \in V_h} \|u - v_h\|_{H^2(\Omega)} \right)^2 \\ &\leq C \|u - \mathcal{I}_h(u)\|_{H^2(\Omega)}^2 \\ &= C \sum_{i=1}^N |u - \mathcal{I}_h(u)|_{H^2(K_i)}^2 + |u - \mathcal{I}_h(u)|_{H^1(K_i)}^2 + |u - \mathcal{I}_h(u)|_{L^2(K_i)}^2. \end{aligned}$$

Now we can use the Bramble-Hilbert lemma (or theorem) to bound each of these seminorms. Thus we have

$$\begin{aligned} \|u - u_h\|_{H^2(\Omega)}^2 &\leq C \sum_{i=1}^N (h^{4-2})^2 |u|_{H^2(K_i)}^2 + (h^{4-1})^2 |u|_{H^1(K_i)}^2 + (h^4)^2 \|u\|_{L^2(K_i)}^2 \\ &\leq C \sum_{i=1}^N h^4 \|u\|_{H^2(K_i)}^2 + h^6 \|u\|_{H^2(K_i)}^2 + h^8 \|u\|_{H^2(K_i)}^2 \\ &\leq Ch^4 \sum_{i=1}^N \|u\|_{H^2(K_i)}^2 \\ &\leq Ch^4 \|u\|_{H^2(\Omega)}^2 \end{aligned}$$

Taking the square root of both sides, we thus have our optimal error estimate

$$\|u - u_h\|_{H^2(\Omega)} \leq Ch^2 \|u\|_{H^2(\Omega)}$$

■

Problem 3. Let $u(x, t)$ be a smooth solution satisfying

$$\partial_t u + \beta \partial_x u = 0, \quad x \in \Omega := (0, 1), \quad t > 0 \quad \text{and} \quad u(0, x) = \phi(x), \quad x \in \Omega \quad (3)$$

where $\beta \in \mathbb{R}$ and ϕ is a given smooth function. In addition, we assume that $u(x, t)$ satisfies the periodic boundary condition $u(0, t) = u(1, t)$, $t > 0$. Let $V = \{v \in H^1(\Omega) : v(0) = v(1)\}$.

a. Let $N \in \mathbb{N}$, set $h := \frac{1}{N+1}$ and consider the uniform mesh \mathcal{T}_h composed of the cells $[x_i, x_{i+1}]$, $i = 0, \dots, N$. Let $P(\mathcal{T}_h)$ be the finite element space composed of continuous piecewise linear functions on \mathcal{T}_h . Given $\phi_h \in V \cap P(\mathcal{T}_h)$ an approximation of ϕ , consider the semi-discrete method: For $t > 0$, find $u_h(t, \cdot) \in V \cap P(\mathcal{T}_h)$ such that $u_h(0, x) = \phi_h(x)$ and for every $v_h \in P(\mathcal{T}_h)$ with $v_h(0) = v_h(1)$ there holds

$$\frac{h}{2} \sum_{i=0}^N (\partial_t u_h(t, x_{i+1}) v_h(x_{i+1}) + \partial_t u_h(t, x_i) v_h(x_i)) + \beta \int_{\Omega} \partial_x u_h(t, x) v_h(x) dx = 0. \quad (4)$$

Show that the above problem can be reformulated as a system of ODEs and express this system in matrix-vector form.

Note: we assume that as a function of t , $u_h(t) \rightarrow V \cap P(\mathcal{T}_h)$ is smooth.

Solution: Let $\{\varphi_i\}_{i=0}^{N+1}$ be the basis of $P(\mathcal{T}_h)$ consisting of the usual “tent” functions. Then since $u_h(t, \cdot) \in V \cap P(\mathcal{T}_h)$ we write can write $u_h(t, x)$ as,

$$u_h(t, x) = \sum_{j=0}^{N+1} U_j(t) \varphi_j(x). \quad (5)$$

Then we can plug this u_h into (4) and take $v_h(x) = \varphi_k(x)$ for some $k \in \{0 : N+1\}$. Doing so gives us the following,

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{h}{2} \sum_{i=0}^N \left[\left(\sum_{j=0}^{N+1} U'_j(t) \varphi_j(x_{i+1}) \right) \varphi_k(x_{i+1}) + \left(\sum_{j=0}^{N+1} U'_j(t) \varphi_j(x_i) \right) \varphi_k(x_i) \right] \\ + \beta \sum_{j=0}^{N+1} U_j(t) \int_{\Omega} \varphi'_j(x) \varphi_k(x) dx = 0. \end{aligned} \quad (6)$$

Using the fact that $\varphi_j(x_i) = \delta_{j,i}$, we can further rewrite this equation as,

$$\sum_{j=0}^{N+1} U'_j(t) \left[\frac{h}{2} \sum_{i=0}^N (\delta_{j,i+1} \delta_{k,i+1} + \delta_{j,i} \delta_{k,i}) \right] + \beta \sum_{j=0}^{N+1} U_j(t) \int_{\Omega} \varphi'_j(x) \varphi_k(x) dx = 0. \quad (7)$$

Let M and A be matrices with entries defined as, $m_{j,k} := \frac{h}{2} \sum_{i=0}^N (\delta_{j,i+1} \delta_{k,i+1} + \delta_{j,i} \delta_{k,i})$ and $a_{j,k} := \beta \int_{\Omega} \varphi'_j(x) \varphi_k(x) dx$, respectively. Then we can write the problem as a system of ODEs in the following form,

$$M\mathbf{U}'(t) + A\mathbf{U}(t) = 0, \quad (8)$$

where $\mathbf{U}(t) = (U_0(t), \dots, U_{N+1}(t))$. ■

b. Show that the Finite Element approximation $u_h(t)$ satisfies

$$\frac{d}{dt} \sum_{i=0}^N u_h(t, x_i)^2 = 0. \quad (9)$$

Solution: We start by setting $v_h := u_h(t, x)$ (for fixed t) in (4). Then (4) can be written as,

$$\frac{h}{2} \sum_{i=0}^N \left(\frac{1}{2} \partial_t (u_h(t, x_{i+1}))^2 + \frac{1}{2} \partial_t (u_h(t, x_i))^2 \right) + \beta \int_{\Omega} \frac{1}{2} \partial_x (u_h(t, x)^2) dx = 0. \quad (10)$$

Note that the integral over Ω will vanish due to the periodic boundary condition. Then the remaining summation can be written in the following way,

$$\frac{h}{2} \frac{d}{dt} \left[\sum_{i=1}^N u_h(t, x_i)^2 + \frac{1}{2} u_h(t, x_0)^2 + \frac{1}{2} u_h(t, x_{N+1})^2 \right] = 0 \quad (11)$$

Again by the periodic boundary condition we have $u_h(t, x_{N+1}) = u_h(t, x_0)$. Thus we have,

$$\frac{d}{dt} \sum_{i=0}^N u_h(t, x_i)^2 = 0. \quad (12)$$

■

c. Show that

$$c^{-1} \int_{\Omega} u_h^2(t, x) dx \leq h \sum_{i=0}^N u_h(t, x_i)^2 \leq c \int_{\Omega} u_h^2(t, x) dx \quad (13)$$

and deduce the estimate

$$\int_{\Omega} u_h^2(t, x) dx \leq C \int_{\Omega} \phi_h^2(0, x) dx. \quad (14)$$

Here c and C are constants independent of h .

Solution: