

1 Fenics

1.1 Math stuff

1.1.1 Variational Form of the Poisson equation

$$\begin{aligned} D\nabla^2 u &= f \\ D\nabla^2 uv &= fv \\ D \int_{\Omega} \nabla^2 u dx &= \int_{\Omega} f v dx \end{aligned}$$

left hand side By adding $\int_{\Omega} \nabla u \nabla v dx$ and using Green's first identity the *lhs* yields

$$D \int_{\Omega} \nabla^2 u dx = D \left(\int_{\partial\Omega} v(\nabla u \cdot \vec{n}) ds - \int_{\Omega} \nabla u \cdot \nabla v dx \right) \quad (1.1)$$

right hand side ...

1.1.2 Boundary Conditions

Since the test function must vanish on $\partial\Omega$, only terms concerning $\nabla u \cdot \vec{n}$ must be substituted into 1.1. In order to specify different BCs on different parts of the boundary, the boundary integral in 1.1 can be constructed as a sum

$$\int_{\partial\Omega} v(\nabla u \cdot \vec{n}) ds = \sum \int_{\partial\Omega} v(\nabla u \cdot \vec{n}) ds_i$$

over the pieces s_i of the boundary¹. The above admits both Neumann and nonlinear boundary conditions of the form

$$\begin{aligned} \nabla u \cdot \vec{n} &= \text{const} \\ \nabla u \cdot \vec{n} &= q(u, \vec{p}) \end{aligned}$$

where q depends on u and possible a parameter vector \vec{p} .

¹It is my understanding that this piecewise construction is possible as result of the FEM approach since the solution u is taken from the H^1 Sobolev space, which allows for discontinues derivatives.