
Introduction to PDEs (LAB)

Academic Year 2015/2016

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Assignment 5 - Finite Element Solution of Poisson's equation in 3D

Due date: Thursday 22 October 2015, 10:30

Solution of Poisson's equation

We seek the discrete solution of Poisson's equation

$$\begin{aligned} -\nabla^2 u(x, y, z) &= f(x, y, z), \quad \in \Omega \\ \frac{\partial u}{\partial n} &= 0, \quad y = 1, z = 1, \\ u(x, y, z) &= u_0(x, y, z), \text{ otherwise,} \end{aligned}$$

where $\Omega = [0, 1]^3$. We discretize the domain Ω using a quadrilateral $N_x \times N_y \times N_z$ grid of trilinear elements.

1. Find the analytical expression of $f(x, y)$ so that the exact solution of the PDE is

$$u_0(x, y) = x e^{-(y-1)^2(z-1)^2}.$$

2. Verify that the exact solution satisfies the homogeneous Neumann conditions at $y = 1$ and at $z = 1$.
3. Implement the solution in MATLAB following the steps described below.

1. Mesh generation

Modify the mesh generation routine you already have, so that it assumes three input arguments for the cube dimensions L_x, L_y, L_z and three for the grid size N_x, N_y, N_z . It outputs the hexahedral or tetrahedral mesh of the cube.

2. Finite element assembly

- Compute by hand the mass matrix and the Laplacian on the Hexahedron $[0, 1]^3$ and the Tetrahedron $[(0,0,0), (1, 0, 0), (0, 1, 0), (0, 0, 1)]$.
- Compute the mass and Laplacian matrices on the single-element grid consisting of the hexahedron or the tetrahedron you used in the previous step using your code.

3. Local operators

Modify the following functions to obtain the local operators for the hexahedral.

$$M_e = \int_{V_e} N_i N_j dV_e$$

```
function I = Mass2DSymbolic()
    xi = sym('xi', 'real'); eta = sym('eta', 'real');
    dx = sym('dx', 'real'); dy = sym('dy', 'real');

    c=[-1 -1; 1 -1; 1 1; -1 1];

    J(1,1) = 0.5*dx; J(2,2) = 0.5*dy;

    for i=1:4
        N(i) = 1/4*( 1+c(i,1)*xi )*( 1+c(i,2)*eta );
    end

    F = det(J)*N'*N;
    M = int(int(F, 'xi', -1, 1), 'eta', -1, 1);
end
```

$$K_e = \int_{V_e} \nabla N_i \cdot \nabla N_j dV_e$$

```
function I = Laplace2DSymbolic()
    xi = sym('xi', 'real'); eta = sym('eta', 'real');
    dx = sym('dx', 'real'); dy = sym('dy', 'real');

    c=[-1 -1; 1 -1; 1 1; -1 1];
    J(1,1) = 0.5*dx; J(2,2) = 0.5*dy;

    for i=1:4
        N(i) = 1/4*( 1+c(i,1)*xi )*( 1+c(i,2)*eta );
    end

    Nx = diff(N, 'xi'); Ny = diff(N, 'eta');
    dN = [Nx; Ny];
    Jd = inv(J) * dN;
    F = det(J)*Jd'*Jd;
    I = int(int(F, 'xi', -1, 1), 'eta', -1, 1);
end
```

4. Enforce boundary conditions

Describe the necessary modifications to the code so that you enforce Dirichlet conditions such that the symmetry of the matrix is maintained.

5. Linear system

1. Use the direct sparse solver implemented in MATLAB (backslash) to solve the linear system for $h = \delta z = \delta y = \delta x = 1/N$ for $N = 10, 20, 40, 80, 160$. Create a table listing the running time of the direct sparse solver.

6. Convergence study

Perform a study of the convergence. Similarly to previous assignments compute the L^2 and H^1 norms of the error and plot it **using logarithmic scale on both axes** as a function of $h = \delta z = \delta y = \delta x = 1/N$ for $N = 10, 20, 40, 80, 160$. Note that the discrete L^2 and H^1 norms are easily obtained from

$$\|u - u_h\|_{L^2} = \sqrt{(u - u_h)^T M (u - u_h)}$$
$$\|u - u_h\|_{H^1} = \sqrt{(u - u_h)^T M (u - u_h) + (u - u_h)^T K (u - u_h)},$$

where u_h is the vector of the discrete finite element solution you obtained by solving the linear system $Ku_h = b$ and u is the vector of the exact values of the solution (recall that the exact solution is given by $u_0(x, y, z)$) evaluated at the grid-points.

7. Performance study

For each N of the previous question, compute the time needed for the assembly, and the solution of the linear system and plot them on the same plot on logarithmic scale on both axes.

8. Visualization

For both grid types visualize the solution using (ViSiT) for three values of N , $N = 10, 80, 160$ and also visualize the exact solution at the end (as the fourth plot) for comparison.