

# Lecture 3

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Qualifying Prep Course – Numerical

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## 1 January 2009 Exam

- Problem 2
- Problem 3



# Problem 2

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Let  $\Omega = (0, 1)^2$  and  $u$  be the solution of the second order elliptic problem:

$$-\Delta u : -u_{x_1 x_1} - u_{x_2 x_2} = f(x), \quad \text{for } x \in \Omega \quad (1.1)$$

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial n} + u = g(x), \quad \text{for } x \in \partial\Omega \quad (1.2)$$

where  $n$  is the outward normal unit vector to the boundary  $\partial\Omega$  and  $f(x)$  and  $g(x)$  are given functions.



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**Remark 1:**  $\frac{\partial u}{\partial n} = \nabla u \cdot n$



- (a) Derive the weak formulation of this problem in the form  $a(u, v) = F(v)$ , where  $a(u, v)$  and  $F(v)$  are the appropriate bilinear and linear forms defined on the Sobolev space  $H^1(\Omega)$ .



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- (b) Let  $S_h$  be a finite element space of continuous piece-wise polynomial functions defined over a regular partitioning of  $\Omega$  into triangles and let  $a_h(u, v)$  and  $F_h(v)$ (!!!) be the bilinear forms where all integrals are computed approximately. Derive Strang's lemma for the error of the FEM: find  $u_h \in S_h$  such that  $a_h(u_h, v) = F_h(v)$ ,  $\forall v \in S_h$ .



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- (c) Let  $S_h$  be the finite element space of piece-wise linear functions. Let all integrals in  $a(u, v)$  and  $F(v)$  be computed using quadratures. Namely, for  $\tau$  and  $e$  being triangle and edge defined by the vertexes  $P_1, P_2, P_3$  and  $P_1, P_2$  respectively,

$$\int_{\tau} w(x) dx \approx \frac{|\tau|}{3} (w(P_1) + w(P_2) + w(P_3)), \quad \int_e w(x) ds \approx \frac{|e|}{2} (w(\alpha) + w(\beta)) \quad (1.3)$$

where  $|\tau|$  is the area of  $\tau$  and  $|e|$  is the length of  $e$ , and  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  are the Gaussian quadrature nodes. Explain why  $a(w, v) = a_h(w, v)$  for all  $w, v \in S_h$ .





## Solution to (c)

Let  $S_h$  be the finite element space of piece-wise **linear** functions. Let all integrals in  $a(u, v)$  and  $F(v)$  be computed using quadratures. Namely, for  $\tau$  and  $e$  being triangle and edge defined by the vertexes  $P_1, P_2, P_3$  and  $P_1, P_2$  respectively,

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Recall that

$$a(u, v) = \int_{\Omega} \nabla u \cdot \nabla v dx + \int_{\partial\Omega} uv ds.$$

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Also recall that the Gaussian quadrature is defined on the interval  $[-1, 1]$ . Let  $e = [a, b]$  be an arbitrary edge.



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Also recall that the Gaussian quadrature is defined on the interval  $[-1, 1]$ . Let  $e = [a, b]$  be an arbitrary edge. Then, we need the transformation

$$T(t) = \frac{1}{2}(1 - t)a + \frac{1}{2}(t + a)b$$

so that  $T(-1) = a$  and  $T(1) = b$ . Note that  $T'(t) = \frac{1}{2}(b - a) = \frac{1}{2}|e|$ .



Now we can compute the boundary integral. Recall that the Gaussian quadrature here is exact up to polynomials of degree 3.

$$\begin{aligned}\int_{\partial\Omega} wv ds &= \sum_{e \in \partial\Omega} \int_e wv dx \\ &= \sum_{e \in \partial\Omega} \int_{-1}^1 wv \underbrace{\frac{1}{2}|e| dt}_{dt} \\ &= \sum_{e \in \partial\Omega} \frac{|e|}{2} \left( (wv)(\alpha) + (wv)(\beta) \right)\end{aligned}$$



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Thus, combining everything, we see that  $a_h(w, v) = a(w, v)$  for all  $w, v \in S_h$ .



## Solution to (d)

Using the estimate of Part (b) estimate the error  $\|u - u_h\|_{H^1}$ .





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# Review of affine transformations

For reference, see 4.4.1 of Grossman book pg 219.

- We first define the reference element as the triangle:

$$\hat{\tau} = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} \hat{x} \\ \hat{y} \end{pmatrix} : \hat{x} \geq 0, \hat{y} \geq 0, \hat{x} + \hat{y} \leq 1 \right\}. \quad (1.4)$$



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- Consider the mapping  $F_{\tau} : \hat{\tau} \rightarrow \tau$  that goes from the reference element to the triangle  $\tau$  (physical element) with the vertices  $(x_1, y_1)^T, (x_2, y_2)^T, (x_3, y_3)^T$ :

$$F_{\tau}(\hat{p}) = \underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} x_2 - x_1 & x_3 - x_1 \\ y_2 - y_1 & y_3 - y_1 \end{pmatrix}}_B \begin{pmatrix} \hat{x} \\ \hat{y} \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ y_1 \end{pmatrix} \quad (1.5)$$

**Note that**  $|\det B| = \left| \det(F'_{\tau}(\hat{p})) \right| = \frac{|\tau|}{|\hat{\tau}|} \sim ch^2$ . ( $h$  is defined on the next slide)



- Setting  $v(\hat{p}) = u(F(\hat{p}))$  for  $\hat{p} \in \hat{\tau}$ , we see that each function  $u(\mathbf{x})$  for  $\mathbf{x} \in \tau$  is mapped to a function  $v(\hat{p})$  defined on the reference element.

**Notation: We will interchange  $v(\hat{p}) = u(F(\hat{p}))$  with  $\hat{u}$ .**



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- So, if  $F$  is differentiable, then by the chain rule, we have that:

$$\nabla_{\hat{p}} v(\hat{p}) = F'(\hat{p}) \nabla u(F(\hat{p})). \quad (1.6)$$



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- Let  $h$  be the maximum length of the edges of the triangles in the triangulation of  $\Omega$ . Then there exists  $c > 0$  such that

$$\|F'(\hat{p})\| = \|B\| \leq ch \quad \text{for all } \hat{p} \in \hat{\tau} \quad (1.7)$$



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- Using the above we see that

$$\int_{\tau} u^2(\mathbf{x}) d\mathbf{x} = \int_{\hat{\tau}} v^2(\hat{p}) \left| \det F'(\hat{p}) \right| d\hat{p} \quad (1.8)$$



- According to Lemma 4.23 in Grossman book:

$$\int_{\tau} |(\nabla u)|^2 d\mathbf{x} \leq c \|B^{-1}\|^2 \int_{\hat{\tau}} |\nabla_{\hat{p}} \hat{u}|^2 |\det B| d\hat{p} \quad (1.9)$$

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<sup>1</sup>see pg 222 of Grossman book





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- Assuming that the mesh is shape-regular<sup>1</sup> (which we can always do for these error estimates), we have the following bound:

$$\|B^{-1}\| \leq ch^{-1}.$$

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<sup>1</sup>see pg 222 of Grossman book



# A note on Bramble-Hilbert

For applying Bramble-Hilbert (and any other major result), it is recommended that students first state the result in their solution and then apply it appropriately (by making sure the assumptions are satisfied). You should not just say “by Bramble-Hilbert” in a sub-step and move on.



# A note on Bramble-Hilbert

## Bramble-Hilbert

Let  $B \subset \mathbb{R}^n$  be a domain with a Lipschitz boundary and let  $q$  be a bounded sub-linear functional on  $H^{k+1}(B)$ . Assume that

$$q(w) = 0, \quad \text{for all } w \in P^k.$$

Then there exists a constant  $c = c(B) > 0$ , which depends on  $B$ , such that

$$|q(v)| \leq c |v|_{k+1,B}, \quad \text{for all } v \in H^{k+1}(B).$$



## Back to solution...

We first focus on the term  $\inf_{z_h \in S_h} \left(1 + \frac{c}{\alpha}\right) \|u - z_h\|$ .



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$\Pi_h : H^1(\Omega) \rightarrow S_h$  be the projection onto the finite element subspace.



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In this next step, we bound  $\|B^{-1}\| \leq ch^{-1}$  and replace  $\frac{|\tau|}{|\hat{\tau}|}$  by  $ch^2$ :

$$\begin{aligned} \|u - \Pi_h u\|_{H^1(\Omega)}^2 &\leq ch^2 \sum_{\tau \in \mathcal{T}_h} \int_{\hat{\tau}} \left| \hat{u} - \widehat{(\Pi_h u)} \right|^2 + \\ &\quad c \sum_{\tau \in \mathcal{T}_h} \int_{\hat{\tau}} \left| \nabla(\hat{u} - \widehat{(\Pi_h u)}) \right|^2 d\hat{p} \end{aligned}$$



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Notice that  $\|(\text{Id} - \hat{\Pi}_h)(\cdot)\|_{L^2(\tau)}$  and  $|(\text{Id} - \hat{\Pi}_h)(\cdot)|_{H^1(\tau)}$  are both sublinear functionals defined on  $H^2(\hat{\tau})$  and are zero exactly zero for linear polynomials on  $\tau$ , therefore the Bramble-Hilbert lemma can be applied.



**Recall:**  $\|B\| \leq ch$ ,  $\frac{|\hat{\tau}|}{|\tau|} \rightarrow ch^{-2}$

$$\sum_{\tau \in \mathcal{T}_h} \|u - \Pi_h u\|_{H^1(\tau)}^2 \leq ch^2 \sum_{\tau \in \mathcal{T}_h} |\hat{u}|_{H^2(\hat{\tau})}^2 + c \sum_{\tau \in \mathcal{T}_h} |\hat{u}|_{H^2(\hat{\tau})}^2$$



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 &\leq ch^2 |u|_{H^2(\Omega)}^2.
 \end{aligned}$$

This implies

$$\|u - \Pi_h u\|_{H^1(\Omega)} \leq ch |u|_{H^2(\Omega)}.$$



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We have that:

$$|E_h(fv_h)| = \left| \sum_{\tau \in \mathcal{T}_h} \int_{\tau} f v_h \, d\mathbf{x} - \frac{|\tau|}{3} \sum_{i=1}^3 f(P_i) v_h(P_i) \right| \quad (1.13)$$



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$$\leq ch^2 \sum_{\tau \in \mathcal{T}_h} |fv_h|_{H^1(\tau)} \quad (1.18)$$



where we assumed the mesh was **shape-regular** so that  $\|B\| \leq h^2$  in (1.17).



Since  $f$  is a given function, we can bound  $|fv_h|_{H^1(\tau)}$  by  $c\|f\|_{W^{1,\infty}(\tau)}\|v_h\|_{H^1(\tau)}$ . **HW. Verify the following:**  
 $|fv_h|_{H^1(\tau)}^2 \leq c\|f\|_{W^{1,\infty}(\tau)}^2\|v_h\|_{H^1(\tau)}^2$ . (*hint: use product rule to expand then use Cauchy-Schwarz*)





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where  $|\mathcal{T}_h|$  denotes the number of elements in  $\mathcal{T}_h$ .



Since  $f$  is a given function, we can bound  $|fv_h|_{H^1(\tau)}$  by  $c\|f\|_{W^{1,\infty}(\tau)}\|v_h\|_{H^1(\tau)}$ . **HW. Verify the following:**  
 $|fv_h|_{H^1(\tau)}^2 \leq c\|f\|_{W^{1,\infty}(\tau)}^2\|v_h\|_{H^1(\tau)}^2$ . (*hint: use product rule to expand then use Cauchy-Schwarz*) Thus, we have that

$$\begin{aligned}|E_h(fv_h)| &\leq ch^2 \sum_{\tau \in \mathcal{T}_h} \|f\|_{W^{1,\infty}(\tau)} \|v_h\|_{H^1(\tau)} \\ &\leq ch^2 \|f\|_{W^{1,\infty}(\Omega)} \sum_{\tau \in \mathcal{T}_h} \|v_h\|_{H^1(\tau)}\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Use C.S for sum} &\leq ch^2 \|f\|_{W^{1,\infty}(\Omega)} \left( \sum_{\tau \in \mathcal{T}_h} 1^2 \right)^{1/2} \left( \sum_{\tau \in \mathcal{T}_h} \|v_h\|_{H^1(\tau)}^2 \right)^{1/2} \\ &= ch^2 \|f\|_{W^{1,\infty}(\Omega)} \left( |\mathcal{T}_h| \right)^{1/2} \|v_h\|_{H^1(\Omega)}\end{aligned}$$

where  $|\mathcal{T}_h|$  denotes the number of elements in  $\mathcal{T}_h$ . Since we assumed we have a shape-regular mesh  $|\mathcal{T}_h| \sim h^{-2}$  (pg 248 of Grossman book)



Thus, we have that

$$|E_h(fv_h)| \leq ch \|f\|_{W^{1,\infty}(\Omega)} \|v_h\|_{H^1(\Omega)} \quad (1.19)$$



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**HW. Show that :**

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**The process is VERY similar, but requires the trace inequality  $\|v_h\|_{H^1(e)}^2 \leq c\|v_h\|_{H^1(\tau_e)}^2$  where  $\tau_e$  is the triangle corresponding to the boundary edge  $e$ .**





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The final estimate is given by:

$$\|u - u_h\|_{H^1(\Omega)} \leq ch\left(\|u\|_{H^1(\Omega)} + \|f\|_{W^{1,\infty}(\Omega)} + \|g\|_{W^{1,\infty}(\partial\Omega)}\right) \quad (1.20)$$



## Problem 3

Let  $\Omega = (0, 1)^2$  and  $u$  be the solution of the elliptic problem:

$$-\Delta u + u = f(\mathbf{x}) \text{ for } \mathbf{x} \in \Omega, \quad u = g(\mathbf{x}) \text{ for } \mathbf{x} \in \partial\Omega \quad (1.21)$$



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<sup>2</sup>Section 2.5 of <http://citeseerx.ist.psu.edu/viewdoc/download?doi=10.1.1.>

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(a) Let

$\omega_h = \{\mathbf{x} = (x_{1,i}, x_{2,j}) : x_{1,i} = ih, x_{2,j} = jh, i, j = 0, 1, \dots, N, h = 1/N\}$  be a square mesh in  $\Omega$ .<sup>2</sup>



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$$\max_{\mathbf{x} \in \omega_h} |U(\mathbf{x})| \leq \max_{\mathbf{x} \in \omega_h \cap \partial\Omega} |g(\mathbf{x})| + \max_{\mathbf{x} \in \omega_h} |f(\mathbf{x})|.$$



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(c) Using this a priori estimate and the estimation of the local truncation error in a. conclude that for sufficiently smooth solution  $u(\mathbf{x})$  the following error estimate (with a constant independent of  $h$ ):

$$\max_{\mathbf{x} \in \omega_h} |U(\mathbf{x}) - u(\mathbf{x})| \leq Ch^2 \quad (1.22)$$

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## Solution to part (a)

For notation purposes, let  $x := x_1$  and  $y = x_2$ .



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We can substitute this into (1.21) to obtain the 5-point stencil finite difference scheme:

$$-\left( \frac{U_{i+1,j} - 2U_{i,j} + U_{i-1,j}}{h^2} + \frac{U_{i,j+1} - 2U_{i,j} + U_{i,j-1}}{h^2} \right) + U_{i,j} = f(x_i, y_j)$$





The previous equation can be simplified as follows:

$$-\frac{1}{h^2}(U_{i+1,j} + U_{i-1,j} + U_{i,j+1} + U_{i,j-1} - 4U_{i,j}) + U_{i,j} = f(x_i, y_j)$$



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We now want to derive the local truncation error (LTE). The LTE is defined as the residual after replacing the numerical solution  $U$  by the true solution  $u$  in the numerical scheme evaluated at  $(x_i, y_j)$ .



We first expand  $u(x, y)$  in a Taylor series about  $(x_i, y_j)$  assuming that  $u$  is sufficiently smooth:



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where "H.O.T." represents "higher order terms".



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where "H.O.T." represents "higher order terms". Now we need to compute the terms in the 5-point stencil using the expansion above. For example, to compute  $u(x_{i+1}, y_j)$  substitute  $(x_{i+1}, y_j)$ . Notice that all the  $y_j - y_j$  terms will drop out and the terms  $x_{i+1} - x_i$  will produce powers of  $h$ .



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A direct substitution (with a lot of messy algebra) yields

$$-\Delta u(x_i, y_j) + u(x_i, y_j) + \mathcal{O}(h^2) = f(x_i, y_j) \quad (1.23)$$



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Thus, our LTE  $\tau_{i,j} = f(x_i, y_j) - (-\Delta u(x_i, y_j) + u(x_i, y_j)) = \mathcal{O}(h^2)$  as  $h \rightarrow 0$ .



## Solution to (b)

Show that

$$\max_{x \in \omega_h} |U(x)| \leq \max_{x \in \omega_h \cap \partial\Omega} |g(x)| + \max_{x \in \omega_h} |f(x)|.$$



## Solution to (b)

There are two cases that can occur: (i) the maximum occurs on the boundary; (ii) the maximum occurs on the interior  $\omega_h \setminus \partial\Omega$ .





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$$-\frac{1}{h^2}(U_{i+1,j} + U_{i-1,j} + U_{i,j+1} + U_{i,j-1} - 4U_{i,j}) + U_{i,j} = f(x_i, y_j).$$



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This can be rewritten as

$$\begin{aligned}(4 + h^2)U_{i,j} &= h^2 f_{i,j} + U_{i+1,j} + U_{i-1,j} + U_{i,j+1} + U_{i,j-1} \\ &\implies \\ (4 + h^2)|U_{i,j}| &\leq |h^2 f_{i,j} + U_{i+1,j} + U_{i-1,j} + U_{i,j+1} + U_{i,j-1}| \\ &\leq h^2 |f_{i,j}| + |U_{i+1,j}| + |U_{i-1,j}| + |U_{i,j+1}| + |U_{i,j-1}|\end{aligned}$$





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Then, we take the maximum over  $0 \leq i, j \leq N$ :

$$(4 + h^2) \max_{0 \leq i, j \leq N} |U_{i,j}| \leq h^2 \max_{x \in \omega_h} |f(x)| + 4 \max_{0 \leq i, j \leq N} |U_{i,j}|$$



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This implies that

$$\max_{0 \leq i,j \leq N} |U_{i,j}| \leq \max_{x \in \omega_h} |f(x)| \leq \max_{x \in \omega_h} |f(x)| + \max_{x \in \omega_h \cap \partial\Omega} |g(x)|$$



## Solution to (c)

Using this a priori estimate and the estimation of the local truncation error in a. conclude that for sufficiently smooth solution  $u(\mathbf{x})$  the following error estimate (with a constant independent of  $h$ ):

$$\max_{\mathbf{x} \in \omega_h} |U(\mathbf{x}) - u(\mathbf{x})| \leq Ch^2 \quad (1.24)$$

Assume that  $u(\mathbf{x})$  is sufficiently smooth. **The goal is to formulate a BVP for the difference  $U - u$ , so we can use the previous results.**



## Solution to (c)

Assume that  $u(\mathbf{x})$  is sufficiently smooth. **The goal is to formulate a BVP for the difference  $U - u$ , so we can use the previous results.**

Let us define the following continuous and discrete operators:

$$Lu := -\Delta u + u$$

$$L_h U := -\frac{1}{h^2}(U_{i+1,j} + U_{i-1,j} + U_{i,j+1} + U_{i,j-1} - 4U_{i,j}) + U_{i,j}.$$



## Solution to (c)

Assume that  $u(\mathbf{x})$  is sufficiently smooth. **The goal is to formulate a BVP for the difference  $U - u$ , so we can use the previous results.**

Let us define the following continuous and discrete operators:

$$Lu := -\Delta u + u$$

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We can now apply the bound from part (b) for this discrete problem:

$$\max_{x \in \omega_h} |U(x) - u(x)| \leq + \max_{x \in \omega_h \cap \partial\Omega} \underbrace{|0|}_{=0} + \max_{x \in \omega_h} |Lu - L_h u| \leq Ch^2. \quad (1.24)$$

**Recall that  $Lu - L_h u$  is the residual which is bounded by the LTE.**

