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Applied Finite Element Methods 1TD056

## **Project - Mutualism Dynamics**

**Author:**

Joakim Svensson,

[joakim.svensson7535@gmail.com](mailto:joakim.svensson7535@gmail.com)

Uppsala

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# 1 Introduction

The aim of this project was to get acquainted in one- and two-dimensional PDE's describing prey-predator-mutualist dynamics using finite element methods. The following set of partial difference equations for reaction-diffusion served as inspiration for the project: [1]

$$\begin{cases} \partial_t u + \alpha u(1 - \frac{u}{L_0 + lv}) - \delta_1 \Delta u = f, & (\mathbf{x}, t) \in \Omega \times (0, T], \\ \partial_t v - \beta v(1 - v) + \frac{vw}{\alpha + v + mu} - \delta_2 \Delta v = g, & (\mathbf{x}, t) \in \Omega \times (0, T], \\ \partial_t w + \gamma w - \zeta \frac{vw}{\alpha + v + mu} - \delta_3 \Delta w = q, & (\mathbf{x}, t) \in \Omega \times (0, T], \\ u(\mathbf{x}, 0) = u_0(\mathbf{x}), & \mathbf{x} \in \Omega, \\ v(\mathbf{x}, 0) = v_0(\mathbf{x}), & \mathbf{x} \in \Omega, \\ w(\mathbf{x}, 0) = w_0(\mathbf{x}), & \mathbf{x} \in \Omega. \end{cases} \quad (1)$$

where  $\Omega \in \mathbb{R}^d$ ,  $d = 1, 2, 3$  is a bounded domain,  $f(\mathbf{x}, t)$ ,  $g(\mathbf{x}, t)$  and  $q(\mathbf{x}, t)$  are initial terms,  $u_0(\mathbf{x})$ ,  $v_0(\mathbf{x})$  and  $w_0(\mathbf{x})$  are initial data,  $T > 0$  is a finite time domain and  $\alpha, \beta, \gamma, \zeta, \delta_1, \delta_2, \delta_3, L_0, l, m$  are positive parameters. The system 1 describes the prey-predator-mutualist dynamics for a certain population of animals in a eco-system.[1]

The project was divided in three parts; part A which was focused simplification for one dimensional problems, part B which was concentrated on convergence analysis of two dimensional problems and part C, which focused on FEniCS implementation. In this project, parts A and B were solved using Matlab, and part C was done using the open-source finite element program FEniCS.

## 2 Part A

By considering the one dimensional model:

$$\begin{cases} -\delta u''(x) = f(x), & x \in (-1, 1), \\ u(-1) = u(1) = 0. \end{cases} \quad (2)$$

for some forcing function  $f(x)$ , different simplifications can be made to apply a finite element solver with adaptive mesh refinement using a posteriori error estimation.

### 2.1 Problem A1

Assume that  $u_h$  is a finite element approximation of the model 2, on a mesh  $-1 = x_0 < x_1 < \dots < x_N = 1$  with step size  $h_i$  and the  $i$ -th element  $I_i$ . Hence, a posteriori error estimation can be derived in the energy norm according to:

$$\|(u - u_h)'\|_{L^2(I)}^2 \leq C \sum_{i=1}^n \eta_i^2, \quad (3)$$

where  $\eta_i^2 = h_i \|(f + \delta u_h'')\|_{L^2(I_i)}$  and  $C$  is some constant. This could be proven by first letting the error be:  $e = u - \delta u_h$ . Therefore:

$$\|e'\|_{L^2(I)}^2 = \int_I e'^2 dx = \quad (4)$$

$$= \int_I e'(e - \pi e)' dx = \quad (5)$$

$$= \sum_{i=1}^n \int_{x_{i-1}}^{x_i} e'(e - \pi e)' dx. \quad (6)$$

By using integration of parts equation 6 can be simplified to:

$$\sum_{i=1}^n \int_{x_{i-1}}^{x_i} (e'')(e - \pi e) dx. \quad (7)$$

Since the Galerkin orthogonality can reduce  $\pi e$  to  $e$  it is obvious that  $e$  and  $\pi e$  corresponds in the nodes and also  $e''$  on  $I_i$  can now be simplified as:

$$-e'' = -(u - \delta u_h)'' = -u'' + \delta u_h'' = f + \delta u_h''. \quad (8)$$

Inserting equation 8 into 7 and using the Cauchy-Schwarz identity and a standard interpolation error estimation, it can be proven, since:

$$\|e'\|_{L^2(I)}^2 = \sum_{i=1}^n \int_{x_{i-1}}^{x_i} (f + \delta u_h'')(e - \pi e) dx \quad (9)$$

$$\leq \sum_{i=1}^n \|f + \delta u_h''\|_{L^2(I_i)} \|(e - \pi e)\|_{L^2(I_i)} \quad (10)$$

$$\leq \sum_{i=1}^n \|f + \delta u_h''\|_{L^2(I_i)} C h_i \|e'\|_{L^2(I_i)} \quad (11)$$

$$= C \sum_{i=1}^n h_i \|f + \delta u_h''\|_{L^2(I_i)} \|e'\|_{L^2(I_i)} \quad (12)$$

$$\leq C \left( \sum_{i=1}^n h_i \|f + \delta u_h''\|_{L^2(I_i)}^2 \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \left( \sum_{i=1}^n h_i \|e'\|_{L^2(I_i)}^2 \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \quad (13)$$

$$= C \left( \sum_{i=1}^n h_i^2 \|f + \delta u_h''\|_{L^2(I_i)}^2 \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \|e'\|_{L^2(I)} \quad (14)$$

Dividing both sides by  $\|e'\|_{L^2(I)}$  leads to equation 3 where  $\eta_i = h_i \|(f + \delta u_h'')\|_{L^2(I_i)}$ , hence it can be proven and therefore it is derived.

## 2.2 Problem A2

In problem A2 the task was to solve equation 2 using the finite element method with adaptive mesh refinement.  $\delta = 0.1$  was given and the weight function  $f(x)$  could be defined as:

$$f(x) := \begin{cases} |x|, & g(x) > |x|, \\ -|x|, & g(x) < |x|, \\ g(x), & \text{otherwise,} \end{cases} \quad (15)$$

where  $g(x) = 10x \sin(7\pi x)$ . The stopping criteria for the adaptive finite element approximation was either  $\sum_{i=1}^n \eta_i^2 < 0.001$  or  $N > 10000$ . With all of this in mind the problem could be solved. The solution was made on Matlab and the following plots for the solution  $u_h$ , the residual  $R(u_h) = f + \delta \Delta_h u_h$ , the error indicator  $\eta(u_h)$  and the grid size distribution were given:

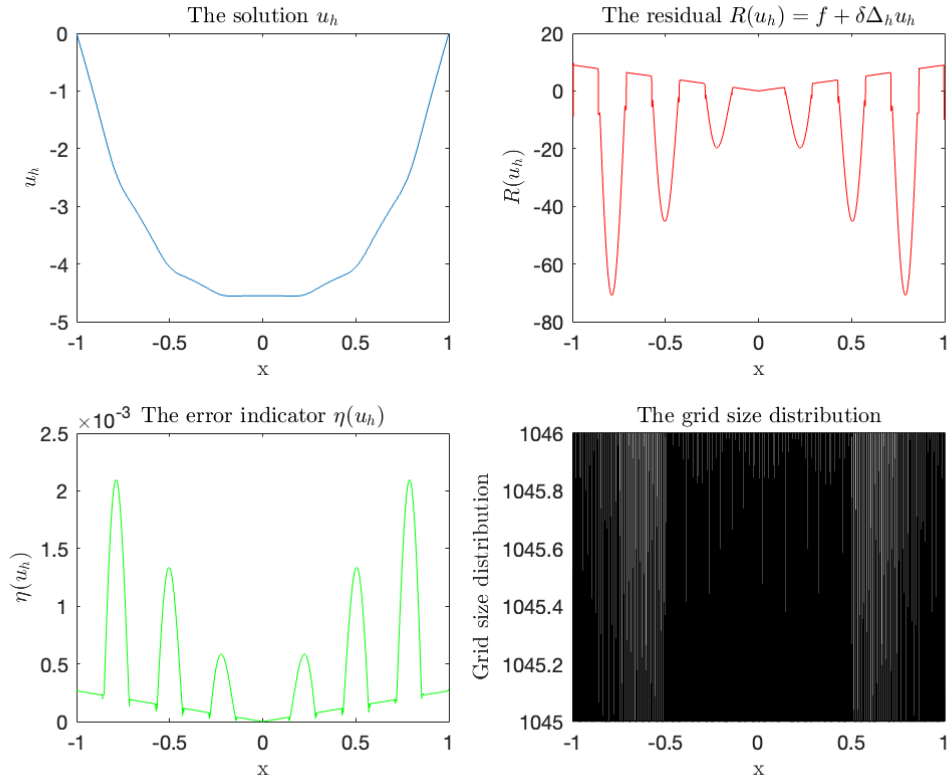


Figure 1: Four different subplots from the adaptive finite element approximation.

For the convergence of the problem the following plot could be made:

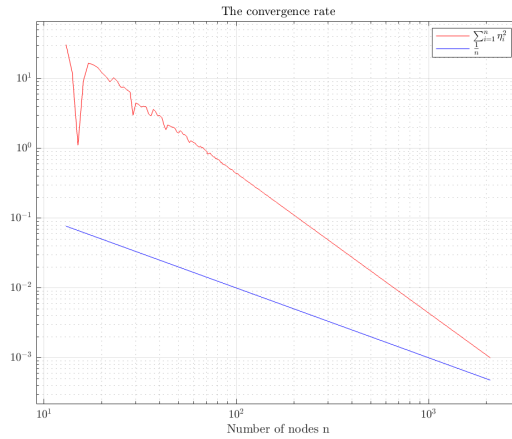


Figure 2: The convergency of the problem A2.

The criterion for the tolerance  $TOL = 0.001$  was achieved when  $N = 2091$ . In figure 2 a comparison between the convergence rate for the used method and  $\frac{1}{n}$  can be made. The convergence rate for the used method is

almost as fast as  $\frac{1}{n}$  for large  $n$ , where  $n$  is the number of nodes for the final grid. Hence, the convergence rate for the adaptive finite element method is  $q = 1$ .

### 2.3 Problem A3

In problem A3, the task was to investigate exactly the same equation as in A2, with the only difference that instead of defining  $\eta_i = h_i \|(f + \delta u_h'')\|_{L^2(I_i)}$ , make the assumption that the second derivative of  $u_h$  disappears on every interval  $I_i$  because  $u_h$  is a continuous piecewise linear function. The error indicator changes as a result when the discrete Laplacian is removed from the error estimate, hence  $\eta_i$  is instead defined as  $\eta_i = h_i \|(f)\|_{L^2(I_i)}$ .

The stopping criteria for the adaptive finite element approximation was either  $\sum_{i=1}^n \eta_i^2 < 0.001$  or  $N > 10000$ . The solution was made on Matlab and the following plots for the solution  $u_h$ , the residual  $R(u_h) = f + \delta \Delta_h u_h$ , the error indicator  $\eta(u_h)$  and the grid size distribution were given:

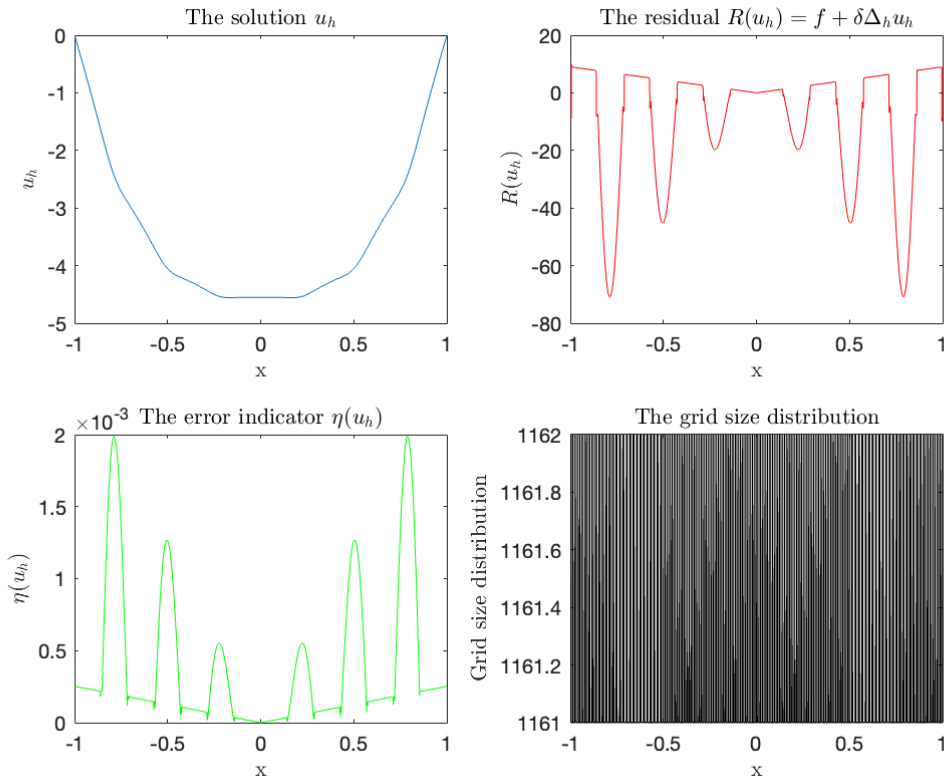


Figure 3: Four different subplots from the adaptive finite element approximation in A3.

For the convergency of the problem the following plot could be made:

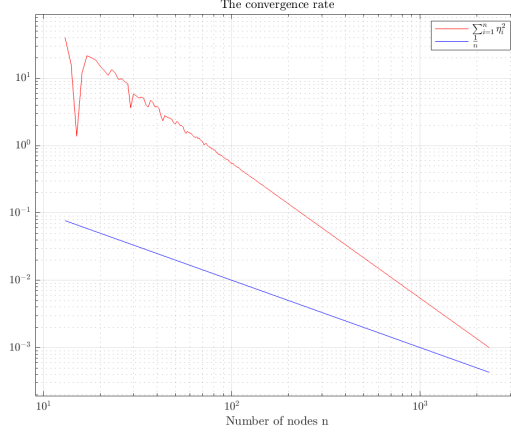


Figure 4: The convergency of the problem A3.

The criterion for the tolerance  $TOL = 0.001$  was achieved when  $N = 2323$ . The differences between A2 and A3 are minor. It takes approximately 200 iterations more for the tolerance to be achieved, hence the method in A3 has a slower convergence rate, compared with the method in A2. This becomes obvious when watching the grid size distributions in figure 1 and 3. The method in A2 has a better distribution over the grid, since the error indicator in A2 are taking the discrete laplacian into account. With that said, the method where the discrete laplacian is being omitted can still be used, even though it offers more advantages to include the discrete laplacian in the a posteriori estimation.

## References

- [1] Murtazo Nazarov. *Project – Mutualism dynamics*. Uppsala University, Division of Scientific computing, Applied Finite Element Methods 1TD056. Accessed 2022-11-08. 2022.



# Matlab Code

## Part A

Listing 1: Problem A2

```
1 clear all; close all; clc;
2 %% Problem A2
3
4 %% Initial data etc.
5 N = 12;
6 a = -1; % left end point of interval
7 b = 1; % right
8 TOL = 1e-3;
9 delta = 0.1;
10
11 %% The main loop
12 while N < 1e+4
13     h = abs(b-a)/N;
14     x = a:h:b; % node coords
15     A=Stiffness_assembler(x);
16     B=Load_vector(x);
17     M=Mass_assembler(x);
18     xi = A\B; % solve system of equation
19     zeta = -inv(M)*A*xi; % the discrete laplacian
20     eta = zeros(N,1); % allocate element residuals
21     eta2 = zeros(N,1); % allocate element residuals
22     for i = 1:N % loop over elements
23         h = x(i+1) - x(i); % element length
24         if 10*x(i)*sin(7*pi*x(i)) > abs(x(i))
25             f = @(x) abs(x)/delta;
26         elseif 10*x*sin(7*pi*x(i)) < abs(x(i))
27             f = @(x) -abs(x)/delta;
28         else
29             f = @(x) (10*x*sin(7*pi*x))/delta;
30         end
31         R(i) = f(x(i)) + delta*zeta(i);
32         a2 = f(x(i)) + delta*zeta(i); % temporary variables
33         b2 = f(x(i+1)) + delta*zeta(i+1);
34         t = (a2^2+b2^2)*h/2; % integrate f^2. Trapezoidal rule
35         eta(i) = h*sqrt(t);
36         eta2(i) = h^2*t; % element residual
37     end
38     sum_eta2(N) = sum(eta2, 'all');
39     n_nodes(N) = length(x);
40     if sum_eta2(N) < TOL
41         break
42     end
43     alpha = 0.9; % refinement parameter
44     for i = length(eta2)
45         if eta2(i) > alpha*max(eta2) % if large residual
46             x = [x (x(i+1)+x(i))/2]; % insert new node point
```

```

47         end
48     end
49     x = sort(x); % sort node points accendingly
50     N = N+1;
51 end
52
53 %% PLOTS
54 % First figure
55 figure(1)
56 set(gcf,'color','w');
57 set(gca,'TickLabelInterpreter','latex')
58 grid on
59 axis padded
60
61 subplot(2,2,1)
62 plot(x,xi)
63 title('The solution  $u_h$ ', 'Interpreter','latex')
64 xlabel('x','Interpreter','latex');ylabel('u_h','Interpreter','latex');
65
66 subplot(2,2,2)
67 plot(x(2:end), R, 'r')
68 title('The residual  $R(u_h) = f + \Delta u_h$ ', 'Interpreter','latex')
69 xlabel('x','Interpreter','latex');ylabel('R(u_h)', 'Interpreter','latex');
70
71 subplot(2,2,3)
72 plot(x(2:end),eta, 'g')
73 title('The error indicator  $\eta(u_h)$ ', 'Interpreter','latex')
74 xlabel('x','Interpreter','latex');ylabel('eta(u_h)', 'Interpreter','latex');
75
76 subplot(2,2,4)
77 plot(x(2:end),round([1./diff(x)]), 'black')
78 title('The grid size distribution', 'Interpreter','latex')
79 xlabel('x','Interpreter','latex');ylabel('Grid size distribution','Interpreter','latex');
80
81 % Next figure
82 figure(2)
83 loglog(n_nodes, sum_eta2, 'r')
84 hold on
85 loglog(n_nodes, n_nodes.^(-1), 'b')
86 title('The convergence rate', 'Interpreter','latex')
87 set(gcf,'color','w');
88 legend('$\sum_{i=1}^n \eta_i^2$', '$\frac{1}{n}$','Interpreter','latex','Location','best');
89 set(gca,'TickLabelInterpreter','latex')
90 xlabel('Number of nodes n','Interpreter','latex');
91 grid on
92 axis padded

```

Listing 2: Problem A3

```

1 clear all; close all; clc;
2 %% Problem A3
3
4 %% Initial data etc.
5 N = 12;
6 a = -1; % left end point of interval
7 b = 1; % right
8 TOL = 1e-3;
9 delta = 0.1;
10
11 %% The main loop
12 while N < 1e+4
13     h = abs(b-a)/N;
14     x = a:h:b; % node coords
15     A=Stiffness_assembler(x);
16     B=Load_vector(x);
17     M=Mass_assembler(x);
18     xi = A\B; % solve system of equation
19     zeta = -inv(M)*A*xi; % the discrete laplacian
20     eta = zeros(N,1); % allocate element residuals
21     eta2 = zeros(N,1); % allocate element residuals
22     for i = 1:N % loop over elements
23         h = x(i+1) - x(i); % element length
24         if 10*x(i)*sin(7*pi*x(i)) > abs(x(i))
25             f = @(x) abs(x)/delta;
26         elseif 10*x*sin(7*pi*x(i)) < abs(x(i))
27             f = @(x) -abs(x)/delta;
28         else
29             f = @(x) 10*x*sin(7*pi*x)/delta;
30         end
31         R(i) = f(x(i))+ delta*zeta(i);
32         a2 = f(x(i)); % temporary variables
33         b2 = f(x(i+1));
34         t = (a2^2+b2^2)*h/2; % integrate f^2. Trapezoidal rule
35         eta(i) = h*sqrt(t);
36         eta2(i) = h^2*t; % element residual
37     end
38     sum_eta2(N) = sum(eta2, 'all');
39     n_nodes(N) = length(x);
40     if sum_eta2(N) < TOL
41         break
42     end
43     alpha = 0.9; % refinement parameter
44     for i = length(eta2)
45         if eta2(i) > alpha*max(eta2) % if large residual
46             x = [x (x(i+1)+x(i))/2]; % insert new node point
47         end
48     end
49     x = sort(x); % sort node points accendingly
50     N = N+1;

```

```

51 end
52
53 %% PLOTS
54 % First figure
55 figure(1)
56 set(gcf,'color','w');
57 set(gca,'TickLabelInterpreter','latex')
58 grid on
59 axis padded
60
61 subplot(2,2,1)
62 plot(x,xi)
63 title('The solution  $u_h$ ', 'Interpreter', 'latex')
64 xlabel('x','Interpreter','latex');ylabel('u_h','Interpreter','latex');
65
66 subplot(2,2,2)
67 plot(x(2:end), R, 'r')
68 title('The residual  $R(u_h) = f + \Delta u_h$ ', 'Interpreter', 'latex')
69 xlabel('x','Interpreter','latex');ylabel('R(u_h)', 'Interpreter', 'latex');
70
71 subplot(2,2,3)
72 plot(x(2:end),eta, 'g')
73 title('The error indicator  $\eta(u_h)$ ', 'Interpreter','latex')
74 xlabel('x','Interpreter','latex');ylabel('eta(u_h)', 'Interpreter', 'latex');
75
76 subplot(2,2,4)
77 plot(x(2:end), round([1./diff(x)]), 'black')
78 title('The grid size distribution', 'Interpreter','latex')
79 xlabel('x','Interpreter','latex');ylabel('Grid size distribution','Interpreter','latex');
80
81 % Next figure
82 figure(2)
83 loglog(n_nodes, sum_eta2, 'r')
84 hold on
85 loglog(n_nodes, n_nodes.^(-1), 'b')
86 title('The convergence rate', 'Interpreter','latex')
87 set(gcf,'color','w');
88 legend('$\sum_{i=1}^n \eta_i^2$', '$\frac{1}{n}$','Interpreter','latex','Location','best');
89 set(gca,'TickLabelInterpreter','latex')
90 xlabel('Number of nodes n','Interpreter','latex');
91 grid on
92 axis padded

```

## Part A Methods

Listing 3: Load vector assembler

```
1 function b=Load_vector(x)
2 %
3 % Returns the assembled load vector b.
4 % Input is a vector x of node coords.
5 %
6 delta = 0.1;
7 N = length(x) - 1;
8 b = zeros(N+1, 1);
9 for i = 1:N
10     if 10*x(i)*sin(7*pi*x(i)) > abs(x(i))
11         f = @(x) abs(x)/delta;
12     elseif 10*x*sin(7*pi*x(i)) < abs(x(i))
13         f = @(x) -abs(x)/delta;
14     else
15         f = @(x) (10.*x.*sin(7*pi.*x))/delta;
16     end
17     h = x(i+1) - x(i);
18     n = [i i+1];
19     b(n) = b(n) + [f(x(i)); f(x(i+1))]*h/2;
20 end
21 end
```

Listing 4: Mass matrix assembler

```
1 function M = Mass_assembler(x)
2     n = length(x) - 1;
3     M = sparse(zeros(n+1,n+1));
4     for i = 1:n
5         h = x(i+1) - x(i);
6         M(i,i) = M(i,i) + h/3;
7         M(i,i+1) = M(i,i+1) + h/6;
8         M(i+1,i) = M(i+1,i) + h/6;
9         M(i+1,i+1) = M(i+1,i+1) + h/3;
10    end
11 end
```

Listing 5: Stiffness matrix assembler

```
1 function A=Stiffness_assembler(x)
2 %
3 % Returns the assembled stiffness matrix A.
4 % Input is a vector x of node coords.
5 %
6 N = length(x) - 1; % number of elements
7 A = zeros(N+1, N+1); % initialize stiffness matrix to zero
8 for i = 1:N % loop over elements
9     h = x(i+1) - x(i); % element length
10    n = [i i+1]; % nodes
11    A(n,n) = A(n,n) + [1 -1; -1 1]/h; % assemble element stiffness
12 end
13 A(1,1) = 1.e+6; % adjust for BC
14 A(N+1,N+1) = 1.e+6;
15 end
```