

① We consider the weak & strong formulations of a 1D BVP:

$$\begin{cases} -u'' = f & \text{in } (-1, 1) \\ u(-1) = 0 = u(1) \end{cases} \quad (S) \quad \text{where } u \in C^2([-1, 1]) \cap C([1, 1])$$

$$\int_{-1}^1 u'v' dx = \langle f, v \rangle_{H^{-1}, H_0^1} \quad (W) \quad \text{where } u \in H_0^1([-1, 1]) \text{ and } (W) \text{ holds } \forall v \in H_0^1([-1, 1])$$

Problem: Let $u = \frac{1}{2}(1 - |x|)$. Show that u satisfies (W) but not (S), and find the forcing term f .

Solution: $\rightarrow u$ does not have two continuous derivatives, thus it cannot solve (S).

$\rightarrow u$ does, however, have piecewise continuous 1st derivatives:

$$u = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{2}(1+x), & x \in [-1, 0] \\ \frac{1}{2}(1-x), & x \in [0, 1] \end{cases} \rightarrow u' = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{2}, & x \in [-1, 0] \\ -\frac{1}{2}, & x \in [0, 1] \end{cases}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Then we have: } \int_{-1}^1 u'v' dx &= \int_{-1}^0 \frac{1}{2}v' dx + \int_0^1 -\frac{1}{2}v' dx = \frac{1}{2} [v]_{-1}^0 - \frac{1}{2} [v]_0^1 \\ &= v(0) \quad \forall v \in H_0^1([-1, 1]) \end{aligned}$$

$\leftarrow \text{as } v \in H_0^1([-1, 1])$

And so it follows that: $v(0) = \langle f, v \rangle_{H^{-1}, H_0^1}$, and so $f = \delta(x)$ is the Dirac δ (generalized) function.

Thus, we have that u satisfies (W) w/ $f = \delta(x)$.

Learning Progress

Most important thing learned: Definitely dealing w sparse matrices in MATLAB, and in particular learning about assembling multi-dimensional operators through kronecker products.

Aha! moment: Question one was illuminating, as we actually got to work through a week solution example (which ended up having a non-trivial RHS $f = 8(x)$.)