

COMPUTER AIDED ENGINEERING LAB [ME404]



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TOPIC

- Solving Engineering Problems Involving PDEs
- Solving Engineering Problems Involving Vibrations
- Solving Problems Involving Optimization

Partial Differential Equations (PDEs)

- A Partial Differential Equation (PDE) is a type of differential equation that involves partial derivatives of a multivariable function.
- If $u(x, y, t)$ is a function of multiple independent variables (like space x, y and time t), then PDEs describe how u changes with respect to those variables.
- A general second-order PDE in two variables x, y is:

$$A \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} + B \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x \partial y} + C \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial y^2} + D \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + E \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} + Fu = G(x, y)$$

- Where: $u(x, y)$ = dependent variable
 - x, y = independent variables
 - Coefficients A, B, C, D, E, F can be constants or functions

Types of PDEs

• Discriminant Rule

The type of PDE depends on the **discriminant**:

$$D = B^2 - 4AC$$

1. Elliptic PDE if $D < 0$

- Example: Laplace Equation $\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial y^2} = 0$
- (Steady-state problems, electrostatics, heat conduction in steady state)

2. Parabolic PDE if $D = 0$

- Example: Heat Equation $\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} = \alpha \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2}$
- (Diffusion, heat transfer problems)

3. Hyperbolic PDE if $D > 0$

- Example: Wave Equation $\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial t^2} = c^2 \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2}$
- (Vibration, sound waves, elastic waves)

Solving PDEs Approaches in MATLAB

- MATLAB provides two main approaches:

1. Analytical approach using **Symbolic Math Toolbox** (*pdepe, dsolve, symbolic functions*).

command : *pdepe(m, pdefun, icfun, bcfun, x, t);*

Where: *m*=symmetry, *pdefun*= pde function, *icfun*= initial condition function, *bcfun*= boundary condition function, *x, t*= independent variables

2. Numerical approach using **PDE Toolbox** (*solvepde, finite element methods*).

General PDE Form

- MATLAB PDE Toolbox solves PDEs in the general scalar form

$$m \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial t^2} + d \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} - \nabla * (c \nabla u) + au = f$$

Where: $u(x, y, t)$ = dependent variable (temperature, displacement, concentration, etc.)

- m = mass coefficient (wave, structural problems)
- d = damping coefficient (heat, diffusion)
- c = diffusion/conductivity/stiffness matrix
- a = absorption/reaction coefficient
- f = source term

Standard PDEs in MATLAB

1. Heat Equation (Diffusion)

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} = \alpha \nabla^2 u + Q, \quad m \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial t^2} + d \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} - \nabla * (c \nabla u) + au = f$$

Where: $u(x, t)$ = temperature

- $\alpha = k/(\rho c_p)$ thermal diffusivity
- In MATLAB PDE Toolbox: $m = 0, d = 1, c = \alpha, a = 0, f = Q$

2. Wave Equation

$$\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial t^2} = c^2 \nabla^2 u$$

Where: c = wave speed

- MATLAB form: $m = 1, d = 0, c = c^2, a = 0, f = 0$

3. Laplace Equation (Steady-State Heat/Static)

$$\nabla^2 u = 0$$

Where: MATLAB form: $m = 0, d = 0, c = 1, a = 0, f = 0$

4. Poisson Equation

$$\nabla^2 u = -f$$

Where: MATLAB form: $m = 0, d = 0, c = 1, a = 0, f = f(x, y)$

5. Convection–Diffusion Equation

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} + \vec{v} \cdot \nabla u = D \nabla^2 u + Q$$

Where: MATLAB form: $m = 0, d = 1, c = D, a = \vec{v} \cdot \nabla, f = Q$

6. Structural Mechanics (Elasticity PDE)

$$\rho \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial t^2} - \nabla \cdot \sigma = f$$

with stress tensor $\sigma = C : \varepsilon, \varepsilon = \frac{1}{2}(\nabla u + \nabla u^T)$

Boundary Conditions

1. Dirichlet Boundary Condition (Essential BC)

$$u = g \quad \text{on boundary}$$

- Means the value of the solution u is fixed on the boundary.
- Example: Temperature at left edge fixed at 100°C , $u = 100$.
- Command: *applyBoundaryCondition(model, 'dirichlet', 'Edge', 1, 'u', g);*

2. Neumann Boundary Condition (Natural BC)

$$n \cdot (c \nabla u) = q \quad \text{on boundary}$$

- Meaning:
 - Controls the flux (gradient) of u across the boundary.
 - n = outward normal vector to the boundary
 - $c \nabla u$ = flux term (e.g., heat flux, stress, diffusion flux)
 - Q = specified value of flux
- Examples: Heat conduction: $-k \frac{\partial u}{\partial n} = q$ (prescribed heat flux at surface)
 - Fluid diffusion: flux of concentration at boundary
- Command: *applyBoundaryCondition(model, 'neumann', 'Edge', 1, 'g', q);*

3. Robin (Mixed) Boundary Condition

$$n \cdot (c \nabla u) + hu = r$$

- Meaning:
 - A **combination of Dirichlet and Neumann** conditions.
 - First term = flux across boundary $n \cdot (c \nabla u)$
 - Second term = a proportional part of solution hu
 - Right side r = balance term
- Example: Convective heat transfer (Newton's law of cooling):

$$-k \frac{\partial T}{\partial n} = h(T - T_{\infty}) \text{ which matches the Robin form.}$$

- It means boundary temperature is not fixed, but depends on outside environment.
- Command: *`applyBoundaryCondition(model, 'mixed', 'Edge', 1, 'g', h, 'q', r);`*

- In pdepe, the heat transfer PDE system has the form:

$$c\left(x, t, u, \frac{\partial u}{\partial x}\right) \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} = x^{-m} \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left(x^m f\left(x, t, u, \frac{\partial u}{\partial x}\right) \right) + s\left(x, t, u, \frac{\partial u}{\partial x}\right)$$

Where: $c \rightarrow$ coefficient multiplying time derivative (like thermal capacity)

- $f \rightarrow$ flux term (related to conduction/diffusion/transport)
- $s \rightarrow$ source term (like heat generation, reaction term, etc.)

- In MATLAB, the pde function written as:

pdefun = @(x,t,u,dudx) deal(c,f,s);

- The boundary conditions must be of the form:

$$p(x, t, u) + q(x, t) f\left(x, t, u, \frac{\partial u}{\partial x}\right) = 0$$

at the left boundary ($x = x_l$) and right boundary ($x = x_r$).

- Note:

powers1234 = @(x)

deal(x,x.^2,x.^3,x.^4)

[X1,X2,X3,X4] = powers1234(2)

Ans: X1 = 2, X2 = 4, X3 = 8, X4 = 16

deal command return multiple outputs from an anonymous function.

- In MATLAB, the boundary condition function written as:

bcfun = @(xl,ul,xr,ur,t) deal(pl,ql,pr,qr);

Where: $x_l, u_l \rightarrow$ left boundary position and solution value

- $x_r, u_r \rightarrow$ right boundary position and solution value

- $t \rightarrow$ time

- $p_l, q_l \rightarrow$ define left BC: $p_l + q_l * f = 0$

- $p_r, q_r \rightarrow$ define right BC: $p_r + q_r * f = 0$

Solving PDEs in MATLAB

- **Example:** Solve the given heat equation in MATLAB and plot the heat diffusion process using Symbolic Math Toolbox $\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} = \alpha \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2}, 0 < x < 1, t > 0, u(x, 0) = \sin(\pi x), u(0, t) = 0, u(1, t) = 0$

- **Solution:** $\%c \left(x, t, u, \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} \right) \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} = x^{-m} \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left(x^m f \left(x, t, u, \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} \right) \right) + s(x, t, u, \frac{\partial u}{\partial x}), c = 1, s = 0$

```
clc;clear;
```

```
m = 0; % Symmetry (slab geometry)
```

```
alpha = 0.1;
```

```
% PDE function for pdepe
```

```
pdefun = @(x,t,u,dudx) deal(1, alpha*dudx, 0);
```

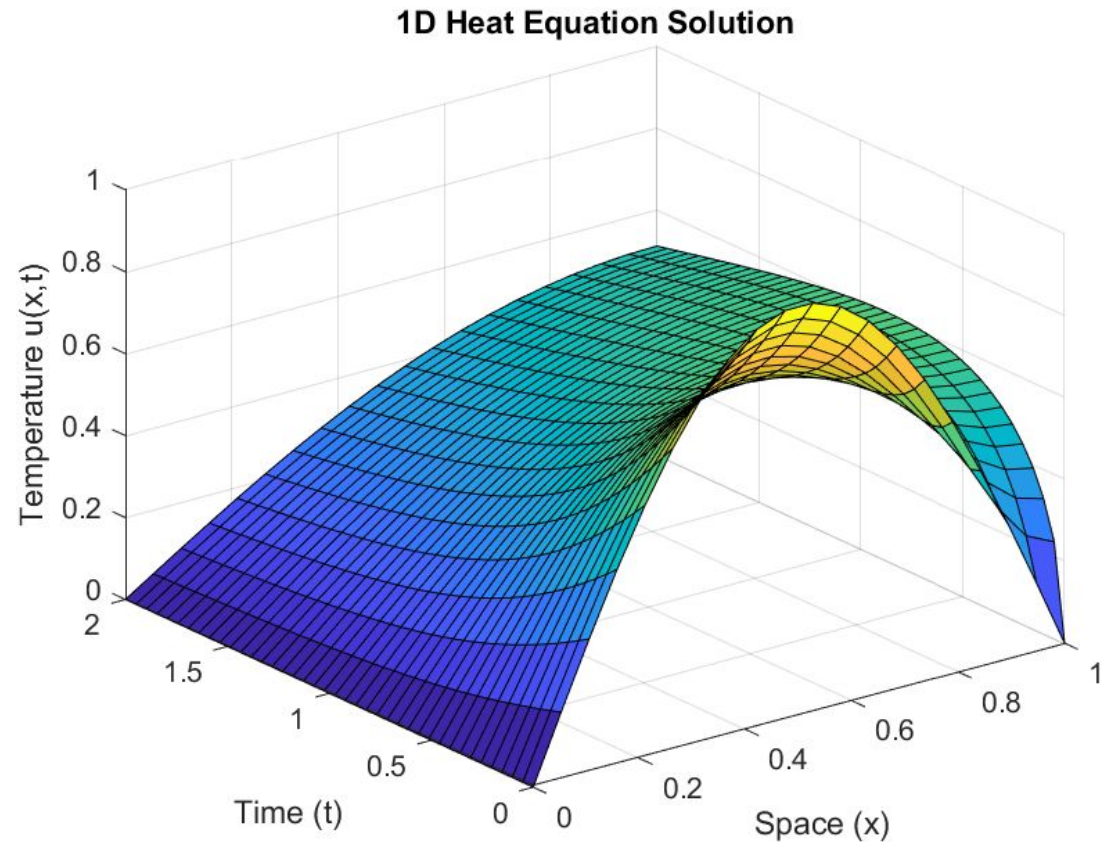
```
% Initial condition
```

```
icfun = @(x) sin(pi*x);
```

```
% Boundary condition
```

```
bcfun = @(xl,ul,xr,ur,t) deal(0, ul, 0, ur); %pl=0,ql=ul,pr=0,qr=ur
```

```
% Solve PDE
x = linspace(0,1,20);
t = linspace(0,2,40);
sol = pdepe(m,pdefun,icfun,bcfun,x,t)
% Plot results
surf(x,t,sol)
xlabel('Space (x)')
ylabel('Time (t)')
zlabel('Temperature u(x,t)')
title('1D Heat Equation Solution')
```



Steps to Solve PDEs in MATLAB (PDE Toolbox)

1. Define the PDE problem type
2. Create a PDE model : *createpde()*;
3. Define the geometry : *geometryFromEdges()*;
4. Generate the mesh : *generateMesh()*;
5. Specify PDE coefficients : *applyProperties()*;
6. Apply boundary conditions : *applyBoundaryCondition()*;
7. Set initial conditions (for time-dependent PDEs) : *applyInitialCondition()*;
8. Define the time steps : *time = i:sl:f*;
9. Solve the PDE : *solution = solve()*;
10. Visualize results : *pdeplot()*;

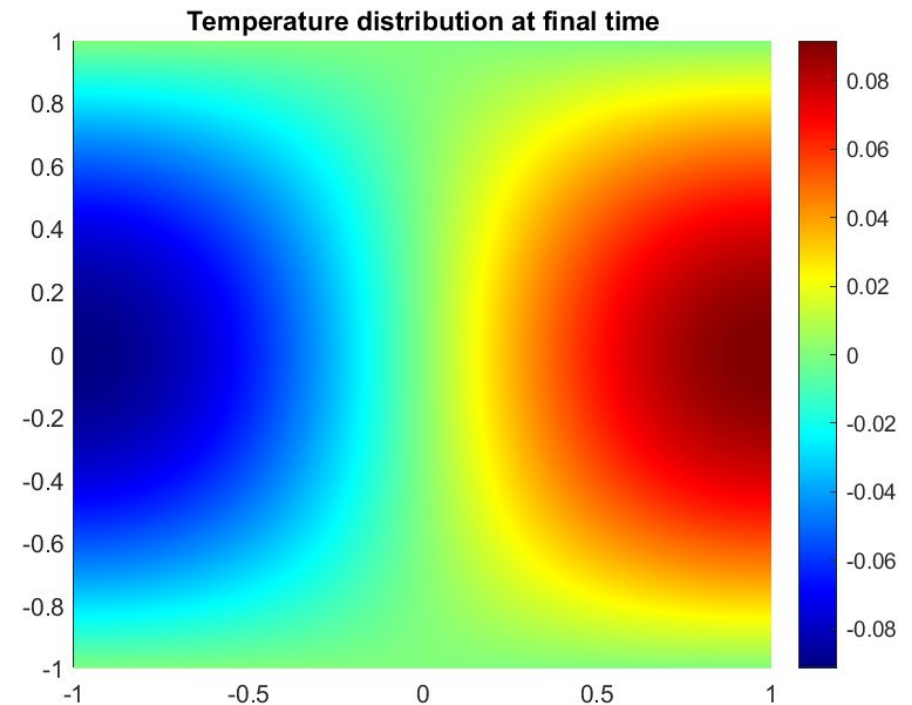
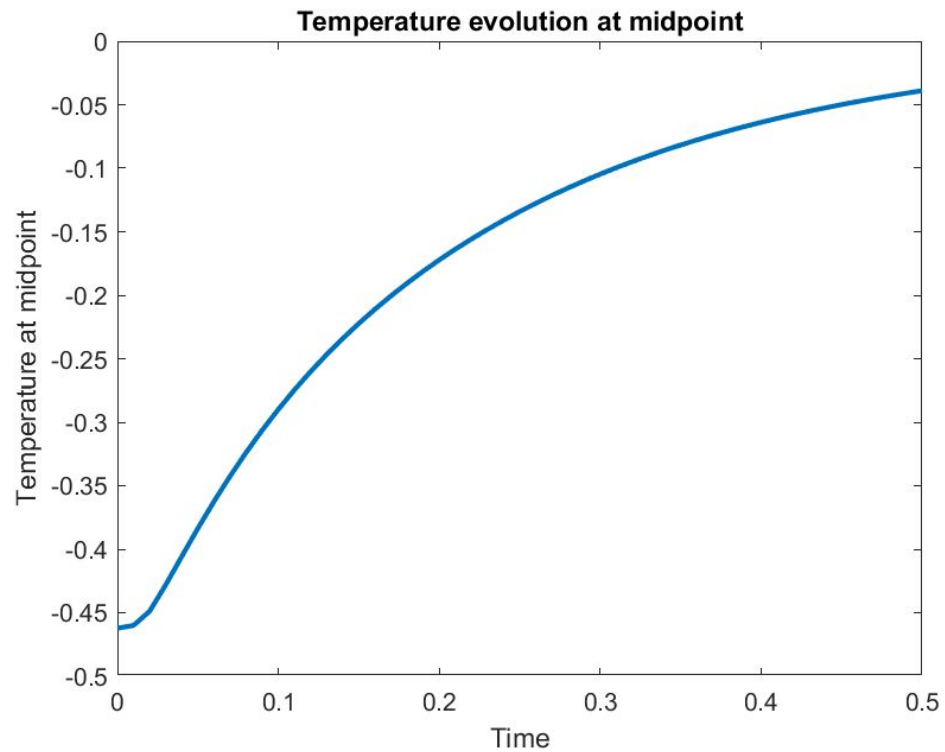
- Example: Solve the given heat equation in MATLAB and plot the heat diffusion process using PDE Toolbox $\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} = \alpha \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2}, 0 < x < 1, t > 0, u(x, 0) = \sin(\pi x), u(0, t) = 0, u(1, t) = 0$

- Solution: `clc;clear;`
 `% Heat Equation using PDE Toolbox`
 `model = createpde('thermal','transient');`
 `% Geometry: 1D interval [0,1]`
 `geometryFromEdges(model,@squareg); % squareg is unit square`
 `geometry`
 `model.Geometry.Edges; % edges of geometry`
 `% Assign thermal properties`
 `thermalProperties(model,'ThermalConductivity',1,'MassDensity',1,'SpecificHeat',1);`
 `% Apply boundary conditions: u=0 at both ends`
 `thermalBC(model,'Edge',1,'Temperature',0); % left boundary`
 `thermalBC(model,'Edge',3,'Temperature',0); % right boundary`

```
% Initial condition:  $u(x,0) = \sin(\pi x)$ 
thermalIC(model,@(location) sin(pi*location.x));
% Generate mesh
generateMesh(model,'Hmax',0.05);
% Time stepping
tlist = 0:0.01:0.5; % time vector
% Solve PDE
result = solve(model,tlist)
% Extract solution
u = result.Temperature
% Plot temperature distribution at different times
figure
pdeplot(model,'XYData',u(:,end),'ColorMap','jet');
title('Temperature distribution at final time');
```



```
% Plot evolution at mid-point  
midNode = round(size(u,1)/2);  
figure  
plot(tlist,u(midNode,:),'LineWidth',2);  
xlabel('Time'); ylabel('Temperature at midpoint');  
title('Temperature evolution at midpoint');
```



APPLICATIONS

- **Applications of PDEs :**

1. **Mechanical Engineering:** stress analysis, vibrations, fluid flow, heat conduction
2. **Electrical Engineering:** electromagnetics, wave propagation
3. **Civil Engineering:** structural analysis, soil mechanics
4. **Aerospace:** aerodynamics, thermal analysis in aircraft/drone design

Vibrations in MATLAB

- Vibrations are oscillations of a system about an equilibrium position. In mechanical engineering, vibration analysis is critical for machines, vehicles, and structures.
- **Types of Vibrations :**
- **Free vibration** – System oscillates with its natural frequency (no external force).
Example: Mass-spring-damper system when released from rest.
- **Forced vibration** – System is subjected to an external periodic force.
Example: A car suspension under road disturbances.
- **Damped vibration** – Oscillations decrease with time due to energy loss (friction, air resistance).
- Example: Mathematical model for a single degree of freedom (SDOF) system:

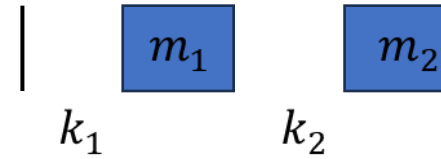
$$m\ddot{x} + c\dot{x} + kx = F(t)$$

Where: m : mass, c : damping coefficient, k : stiffness, $F(t)$: external force

- Example :Solve the 2-DOF spring–mass system:

- Masses: $m_1 = 1 \text{ kg}$, $m_2 = 1 \text{ kg}$
- Stiffnesses: $k_1 = 2000 \text{ N/m}$, $k_2 = 1000 \text{ N/m}$
- Equations of motion: $M\ddot{x} + Kx = 0$
- Where: $M = \begin{pmatrix} m_1 & 0 \\ 0 & m_2 \end{pmatrix}$, $K = \begin{pmatrix} k_1+k_2 & -k_2 \\ -k_2 & k_2 \end{pmatrix}$
- We solve for natural frequencies, mode shapes, and response with initial condition:

$$x(0) = \begin{pmatrix} 0.01 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \dot{x}(0) = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$



- Solution:

```
clc; clear; close all;
```

```
% Parameters
```

```
m1 = 1; m2 = 1;
```

```
k1 = 2000; k2 = 1000;
```

```
M = [m1 0; 0 m2];
```

```
K = [k1+k2 -k2; -k2 k2];
```

```
% Eigenvalue problem
```

```
[phi, D] = eig(K, M);
```

```
wn = sqrt(diag(D)); % natural frequencies (rad/s)
```

```
% Normalize mode shapes
phi = phi ./ max(abs(phi));
disp('Natural frequencies (Hz):')
disp(wn/(2*pi))
disp('Mode shapes:')
disp(phi)
% Initial conditions
x0 = [0.01; 0]; % initial displacement
xd0 = [0; 0]; % initial velocity
% Modal coordinates
q0 = phi' * M * x0;
qd0 = phi' * M * xd0;
% Time vector
t = linspace(0, 2, 1000);
% Compute response
x = zeros(2, length(t));
```

```

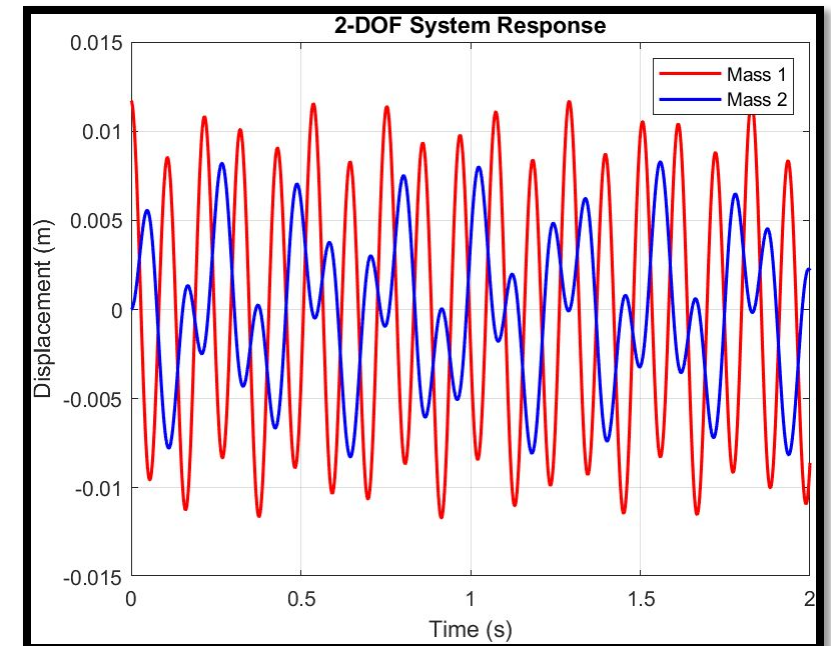
for i = 1:length(wn)
    x = x + phi(:,i) * ( q0(i)*cos(wn(i)*t) + (qd0(i)/wn(i))*sin(wn(i)*t) );
end
% Plot response
figure;
plot(t, x(1,:), 'r', 'LineWidth', 1.5); hold on;
plot(t, x(2,:), 'b', 'LineWidth', 1.5);
xlabel('Time (s)'); ylabel('Displacement (m)');
legend('Mass 1', 'Mass 2');
title('2-DOF System Response');
grid on;

```

• Ans:

Natural frequencies (Hz): 3.8520
9.2996

Mode shapes: -0.4142 -1.0000
 -1.0000 0.4142



Optimization in MATLAB

- Optimization is the process of finding the **best solution** under given constraints, usually by minimizing or maximizing an objective function.
- **Types of Optimization Problems :**

1. Unconstrained Optimization

$$\min f(x)$$

Example: *Minimize* $f(x) = x^2 + 4x + 5$

2. Constrained Optimization

$$\min f(x) \text{ subject to } g(x) \leq 0, h(x) = 0$$

Example: Minimize cost while satisfying design limits.

MATLAB Functions for Optimization

Problem Type	MATLAB Command
Unconstrained Optimization	
Constrained Optimization	
Linear Programming	
Quadratic Programming	
Nonlinear Least Squares	
Global Optimization	
Multiobjective Optimization	
Integer/Mixed Integer	

MATLAB Implementation of Optimization

• **Example 1: Unconstrained Optimization**

Minimize function $f(x) = x^2 + 4x + 5$

• Solution:

```
f = @(x) x.^2 + 4*x + 5;
```

```
x0 = 2; % initial guess
```

```
[x_opt,fval] = fminunc(f,x0);
```

```
disp(['Optimal x = ', num2str(x_opt)])
```

Ans: -2

```
disp(['Minimum value = ', num2str(fval)])
```

Ans: 1

• **Example 2: Constrained Optimization**

Minimize $f(x) = x_1^2 + x_2^2$

Subject to: $x_1 + x_2 \geq 1, x_1, x_2 \geq 0$

• Solution:

```
f = @(x) x(1)^2 + x(2)^2; % Objective function
```

```
x0 = [0.5, 0.5]; % Initial guess
```

```
A = [-1 -1]; % Inequality constraint (x1 + x2 >= 1)
```

- `b = -1;`
`lb = [0 0]; % Lower bounds`
`[x_opt, fval] = fmincon(f,x0,A,b,[],[],lb);`
`disp(['Optimal x = ', num2str(x_opt)])` **Ans: 0.5 0.5**
`disp(['Minimum value = ', num2str(fval)])` **Ans: 0.5**
- **Example 3:** Find the optimum solution and minimum value of given global optimization problem $x_1^2 + x_2^2 + 10 \cdot \sin(x_1) + 5 \cdot \sin(x_2)$.
- **Solution:**
`f = @(x) x(1)^2 + x(2)^2 + 10*sin(x(1)) + 5*sin(x(2));`
`[x_opt, fval] = ga(f,2);`
`disp(['Optimal solution = ', num2str(x_opt)])` **Ans: -1.3157 -1.121**
`disp(['Minimum value = ', num2str(fval)])` **Ans: -11.1914**
- **Example 4:** Find the maximum of the function $f(x) = \sin(x)$ in interval $[0, 2\pi]$.
- **Solution:**
`f=@(x) sin(x);`
`sol=fminbnd(f,0,2*pi)`
Ans: sol= 4.7124

EXERCISE

1. Solve the heat equation $\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} = c^2 \left(\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial y^2} \right)$ with $c = \frac{1}{\pi}$. The boundary conditions are $u(0, y, t) = u(1, y, t) = 0, 0 < y < 1$ and $u(x, 0, t) = u(x, 1, t) = 0, 0 < x < 1$. The initial temperature distribution is $u(x, y, 0) = 100$ for $0 < x < 1, 0 < y < 1$.
2. Solve following heat equation $\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} = \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2}$. Initial conditions is $u(0, x) = \frac{2x}{1+x^2}$ and boundary conditions are $u(t, 0) = 0, u(t, 1) = 1$.
3. Solve the following heat equation

$$\begin{aligned}u_t &= u_{xx} + u_{yy} + \sin(t) \\u(t, 0, y) &= 0; \quad u_x(t, \pi, y) = 1 \\u_y(t, x, 0) &= 0; \quad u(t, x, 2\pi) = x \\u(0, x, y) &= 0\end{aligned}$$

4. Solve the 1-D wave equation $u_{tt} = c^2 u_{xx}, x \in (0, 1), t > 0$. Boundary Conditions $u(0, t) = u(1, t) = 0$. Initial Conditions are $u(x, 0) = \sin(\pi x), u_t(x, 0) = 0$.

5. Solve the optimization problem, a cantilever beam vibrates with natural

frequency: $\omega_n = \sqrt{\frac{3EI}{mL^3}}$

E = modulus of elasticity, I = moment of inertia ($I = \frac{bh^3}{12}$)

m = mass per unit length, L = beam length

Find beam dimensions b, h that maximize natural frequency (less vibration, more stable).

Constraint: maximum material volume $V = b \cdot h \cdot L \leq V_{max}$

6. Solve the optimization problem, equation of motion: $m\ddot{x} + c\dot{x} + kx = F_0 \sin(\omega t)$, steady-state amplitude: $X = \frac{F_0}{\sqrt{(k - m\omega^2)^2 + (c\omega)^2}}$. Choose damping coefficient c that minimizes vibration amplitude X . Constraint: $0 < c < c_{max}$.
7. Find the minimum of function $f(x) = x^2 - 2\sin x$ in the interval from $x_1 = 0$ to $x_2 = 4$.

8. As electric current moves through a wire, heat generated by resistance is conducted through a layer of insulation and then convected to the surrounding air. The steady-state temperature of the wire can be computed as

$$T = T_{air} + \frac{q}{2\pi} \left[\frac{1}{k} \ln \left(\frac{r_w + r_i}{r_w} \right) + \frac{1}{h} \left(\frac{1}{r_w + r_i} \right) \right]$$

Determine the thickness of insulation $r_i(m)$ that minimizes the wire's temperature given the following parameters: $q = \text{heat generation rate} = 75 \text{ W/m}$, $r_w = \text{wire radius} = 6 \text{ mm}$, $k = \text{thermal conductivity of insulation} = 0.17 \text{ W/(m K)}$, $h = \text{convective heat transfer coefficient} = 12 \text{ W/(m}^2 \text{ K)}$, and $T_{air} = \text{air temperature} = 293 \text{ K}$.

THANK YOU!