

## Lecture 10 - Variational Asymptotic Method

Dr. Nicholas Smith

Wichita State University, Department of Aerospace Engineering

15 February 2022

1

### schedule

- 17 Feb - Variational Asymptotic Method (HW3 Due)
- 22 Feb - Boundary Conditions
- 24 Feb - Project Descriptions (HW 4 Due)
- 1 Mar - FEA In-class
- 3 Mar - SwiftComp (In-class)

2

- converting to variational statements
- ritz method
- variational asymptotic method

## converting to variational statements

---

- In general, a differential statement can be expressed as

$$\begin{array}{lll} L(u) + f = 0 & \text{in} & \Omega \\ B(u) + g = 0 & \text{on} & \Gamma \end{array}$$

- Where  $L$  is a differential operator,  $B$  can be either differential or algebraic
- $\Omega$  is the domain and  $\Gamma$  is the boundary

4

- The equivalent variational statement is

$$\Pi(u) = \int_{\Omega} \delta u [L(u) + f] d\Omega - \int_{\Gamma} \delta u [B(u) + g] d\Gamma = 0$$

- We can then perform integration by parts on  $L(u)$  to form the variational statement with

$$\delta \Pi = 0$$

5

- 2D steady-state heat transfer

## ritz method

---

## ritz method

- Only a small set of Euler-Lagrange equations have exact solutions
- The Ritz method is one way to find approximate (and exact) solutions
- In the Ritz method we approximate some continuously differentiable function with a linear combination of functions
- We can choose the form of these functions based on our problem, polynomials and trig functions are common

$$y_n = \sum a_k w_k$$

7

## ritz method

- The general method for using the Ritz method with variational statements can be summarized as
  1. Select a set of trial functions
  2. Form a linear combination of trial functions to approximate  $y \approx y_n$
  3. Substitute  $y_n$  into the functional,  $I[y] = I[a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n]$
  4. Obtain a system of equations by carrying out the partial derivatives  $\frac{\partial I}{\partial a_n}$
  5. Solve this system for the unknown coefficients to find  $y$

8

- We can increase the accuracy by including more terms
- If our set contains the exact solution, the solution will be exact
- The Ritz method is a direct method solving stationary problems of functionals and an indirect method for solving Euler-Lagrange equations

## kantarovich method

- A slightly different approach to the Ritz method is used by Kantarovich

$$I[y] = \int_t \int_x F(x, t, y) dx dt$$

- Where boundary conditions are  $y(x_1, t) = y_1(t)$ ,  $y(x_1, t) = y_2(t)$  and  $y(x, t_1) = y_3(x)$
- The trial function will then have the form

$$y(x, t) = g^P(x) + \sum f_j(t)g(j)H(x)$$

- This gives a functional which can be solved for  $f_j(t)$

- Solve the differential equation

$$\frac{d^2 u}{dx^2} + u + x = 0$$

for  $0 \leq x \leq 1$  with  $u(0) = u(1) = 0$

11

- A 2D domain defined by  $x \in [0, \pi]$  and  $y \in [0, 1]$  solve the following PDE

$$\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial y^2} = 0$$

- Where  $u(0, y) = u(\pi, y) = u(0, x) = 0$  and  $u(x, 1) = \sin x$

12

- worked solutions here<sup>1</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup>[https://colab.research.google.com/drive/1c-vmxkPmHK35NJvwysEsSZpSjZ\\_xl1Lo?usp=sharing](https://colab.research.google.com/drive/1c-vmxkPmHK35NJvwysEsSZpSjZ_xl1Lo?usp=sharing)

## variational asymptotic method

---



- Asymptotic analysis is a mathematical method to describe limiting behavior
- It is used to numerically approximate solutions
- Also used in probability theory (large-sample behavior of random variables)
- Computer science (algorithm performance)

14

### example

- Compute  $\sin 39^\circ$  without using trig functions on calculator
- We know  $\sin 30^\circ = 0$  and  $\cos 30^\circ = \sqrt{3}/2$
- Expand  $\sin \theta$  about some known  $\theta_0$  using Taylor Series

$$\sin \theta = \sin \theta_0 + (\theta - \theta_0) \cos \theta_0 - \frac{1}{2}(\theta - \theta_0)^2 \sin \theta_0 + \dots$$

- With only three terms of a Taylor series, we have a very close approximation
- This only works when  $\theta - \theta_0$  is less than 1 in radians

15

- Suppose  $f(x)$  and  $g(x)$  are continuous functions with defined limits as  $x \rightarrow x_0$
- $f(x) = O(g(x))$  as  $x \rightarrow x_0$  if  $|f(x)| \leq K|g(x)|$  in the neighborhood of  $x_0$  where  $K$  is a constant. We say that  $f(x)$  is asymptotically bounded by  $g(x)$  or that  $f(x)$  is of the order of  $g(x)$
- $f(x) = o(g(x))$  as  $x \rightarrow x_0$  if  $|f(x)| \leq \epsilon|g(x)|$  in the neighborhood of  $x_0$  for all positive values of  $\epsilon$ . We say that  $f(x)$  is asymptotically smaller than  $g(x)$
- $f(x) \sim g(x)$  as  $x \rightarrow x_0$  if  $f(x) = g(x) + o(g(x))$  in the neighborhood of  $x_0$ . We say that  $f(x)$  is asymptotically equal to  $g(x)$

16

## characteristic length

- If we define the maximum difference of a function between two points as

$$\bar{f} = \max |f(x_1) - f(x_2)|$$

- Then for some  $l$  the following will be true

$$\left| \frac{df}{dx} \right| \leq \frac{\bar{f}}{l}$$

- The largest  $l$  which satisfies this equation is termed the characteristic length
- For estimating higher order derivatives we use

17

## variational asymptotic method

- Let us consider a functional  $I[u, \epsilon]$  which depends on some elements,  $u$ , as well as some small parameter,  $\epsilon$
- For a beam, we could say that  $u$  represents the 3D displacement field, while  $\epsilon$  is the aspect ratio of the cross section with respect to the length
- Let us call the stationary value of this functional  $\bar{u}$
- $\bar{u}$  will be a function of  $\epsilon$ , and will approach its asymptotic limit as  $\epsilon \rightarrow 0$
- This is often referred to as the zeroth order approximation

18

## variational asymptotic method

- We start with a zeroth-order approximation and let  $I_0[u] = I[u, 0]$  and find the stationary values
- The following cases could be encountered
  1.  $I_0[u]$  has isolated stationary points
  2.  $I_0[u]$  has non-isolated stationary points
  3.  $I_0[u]$  does not have stationary points
  4.  $I_0[u]$  is meaningless (undefined)

19

## case one

- If  $I_0$  has isolated stationary points, we can use them as a first approximate for stationary points of  $I$
- We now write  $u = \bar{u} + u'$  and we can arrange terms to find  $I_1[u', \epsilon]$
- The stationary points of  $I_1$  can then be found, this process is repeated to the desired order

20

## example

- Approximate the stationary values of

$$f(u, \epsilon) = u^2 + u^3 + 2\epsilon u + \epsilon u^2 + \epsilon^2 u$$

21

- Consider the following

$$f(x, y, \epsilon) = f_0(x) + \epsilon g(x, y)$$

- If we drop the small term,  $\epsilon g(x, y)$ , we find stationary lines in the  $y$ -direction

22

## example

- Approximate the stationary values of

$$f(x, y, \epsilon) = \cos(x - y) + \epsilon \left( \frac{1}{x} + y \right)$$

23

- Approximate the stationary values of

$$f(x, y, \epsilon) = x^2 - 2x + 4\epsilon(x - 1)y + \epsilon^2 y^2 + 2\epsilon^2 y$$

24

## cases three and four

- It is not uncommon to have a problem where  $I_0$  has no stationary points

$$f(u, \epsilon) = u + \epsilon u^2 + \sin \epsilon u$$

- The only way to approach such problems is to make a substitution
- For the above problem, if we let  $v = \epsilon u$  and  $g = \epsilon f$  we find

$$g(v, \epsilon) = v + v^2 + \epsilon \sin v$$

25

- Boundary conditions