

# 1. A One-Dimensional Boundary-Value Problem

differential equation:

$$\underline{u_{,xx} + f = 0 \quad \text{in } \Omega}$$

- comma stands for differentiation:  $u_{,x} = \frac{\partial u}{\partial x}$ .
- the domain here is fixed to be  $\Omega = (0, 1)$   
↑  
textbook uses  $[0, 1]$  for open set
- $f$ , in fact, can be very non-smooth; but is restricted to be  $u$ , on the other hand, has to be  $C^2(\Omega)$ . ↙  $C^0$
- $n_{sd} = 1$  # of spatial dimensions.

Remark: It makes more physical sense by writing the eqn. as

$$\begin{cases} \frac{d}{dx} \sigma(x) = f(x) & \leftarrow \text{a balance law} \\ \sigma(x) = -\kappa(x) \frac{du}{dx} & \leftarrow \text{a constitutive law} \end{cases}$$

e.g.

physical prob.	balance law.	$u$ ,	flux $\sigma$ ,	material modulus $\kappa$ ,	source, $f$	constitutive law
deformation of an elastic bar	linear momentum	disp.	stress,	Young's modulus	body force	Hooke's law (1)

heat conduction  
in a bar/rod

energy

temp.

heat  
flux

thermal  
conductivity

radiation

Fourier's  
law.

For more examples, see BCO-book, Figure 2.1.

We need boundary conditions, data on the boundary of  $\Omega$ , to complete the specification of the problem.

1. on  $\partial\Omega$ , we may specify the value of  $u$ :

$$u = g \text{ on } \partial\Omega$$

e.g. prescribe the temperature.

denoted as  
 $\partial\Omega$

Dirichlet BC.

2. on  $\partial\Omega$ , we may specify the value of  $-u_x$

$$\left( \sigma = -\kappa \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} = \right) -u_x = h \text{ on } \partial\Omega$$

e.g. prescribe the heat flux.

Neumann BC

In our discussion, we consider both:

$$u(1) = g$$

$$-u_x(0) = h.$$

Now, the equation is uniquely solvable.

$$(S) \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Given } f: \bar{\Omega} \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \text{ and constants } g \text{ \& } h. \text{ find } u: \bar{\Omega} \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \\ \text{such that} \\ u_{,xx} + f = 0 \\ u(1) = g \\ -u_{,x}(0) = h \end{array} \right.$$

↑  
Strong-form problem.

Sobolev spaces of functions

$$H^k = H^k(\Omega) := \left\{ w : w \in L_2, w_{,x} \in L_2, \dots, \underbrace{w_{,x \dots x}}_{k\text{-times}} \in L_2 \right\}$$

$$L_2 = L_2(\Omega) := \left\{ w : \int_{\Omega} w^2 dx = \int_0^1 w^2 dx < \infty \right\}$$

trial solution space  $\mathfrak{S} := \{ u : u \in H^1, u(1) = g \}$

test function, weighting function, variations space

$$\mathfrak{V} := \{ w : w \in H^1, w(1) = 0 \}$$

$$(W) \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Given } f \in L_2, g \in \mathbb{R}, h \in \mathbb{R}, \text{ find } u \in \mathfrak{S} \text{ such that} \\ \int_0^1 w_{,x} u_{,x} dx = \int_0^1 w f dx + w(0) h. \\ \text{for all } w \in \mathfrak{V} \end{array} \right.$$



- Equivalence between (S) and (W).

Integration-by-parts

$$\int_0^1 w(x) u_{,xx}(x) dx = w(1)u(1) - w(0)u(0) - \int_0^1 w_{,x}(x) u(x) dx$$

Proposition: Let  $u$  be a solution of (S),  
then  $u$  is a solution of (W).

$$(S) \Rightarrow (W).$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Proof: } 0 &= \int_0^1 -w u_{,xx} - wf dx \\ &= \int_0^1 w_{,x} u_{,x} - wf dx - w u_{,x} \Big|_0^1 \\ &= \int_0^1 w_{,x} u_{,x} - wf dx - w h. \end{aligned}$$

we pick  $w \in \mathcal{V}$ .

$$u(0) = g \quad \text{and} \quad u \in C^2 \Rightarrow u \in \mathcal{S}.$$

then  $u$  is the solution of (W).



Fundamental Lemma of the calculus of variations.

If  $f \in C(\Omega)$  satisfies  $\int_{\Omega} fg \, dx = 0$  for all smooth functions  $g$  with  $g(0) = g(1) = 0$ , then  $f = 0$ .

Proof: We may choose  $g = \phi f$ ,  $\phi > 0$ , is smooth, and  $\phi(0) = \phi(1) = 0$ .

$$\text{Then: } 0 = \int_0^1 g f \, dx = \int_0^1 \phi f^2 \, dx.$$

Since  $\phi > 0$  and can be arbitrary,  $f = 0$  in  $\Omega$ .

■

Proposition 6: Let  $u$  be a solution of (W), then  $u$  is a solution of (S).

Proof: First, if  $u \in \mathcal{S}$ , then  $u(1) = g$ .

$$\int_0^1 w_{,xx} u_{,x} \, dx = \int_0^1 w f \, dx + w(0) \ell.$$

$$\Rightarrow \int_0^1 w(u_{,xx} + f) \, dx + w(0)[u_{,x}(0) + \ell] \quad (*)$$

(i) Let  $w = \phi(u_{,xx} + f)$  with  $\phi > 0$ , smooth,  $\phi(0) = \phi(1) = 0$

$$\Rightarrow \int_0^1 \phi (u_{,xx} + f)^2 dx = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow u_{,xx} + f = 0.$$

(ii) Now we have  $0 = w(0) [u_{,x}(0) + \eta_h]$ .

$w \in \mathcal{V}$  places no restriction on  $w(0)$ .

we have  $0 = u_{,x}(0) + \eta_h.$



Remark: In (w), the BC  $u(1) = g$  is embedded in the definition of the trial solution space  $\mathcal{S}$ . We call this type of BC the essential boundary condition.

The BC  $-u_{,x}(0) = \eta_h$  is satisfied in the variational equation. We call it the natural boundary condition.

Remark: (\*) in the above proof is the Euler-Lagrange equations of the weak problem.

Notation:  $a(w, u) = \int_0^1 w_{,x} u_{,x} dx \quad \leftarrow$

$(w, f) = \int_0^1 w f dx \quad \leftarrow$  symmetric bilinear forms.