

Stiffness matrices and load vectors

second-order equation (1D heat equation):

$$\frac{d}{dx} \left(Ak \frac{dT}{dx} \right) + Q = 0, \quad T(0) = T_0, \quad q(L) = -k \frac{dT}{dx}(L) = q_L$$

weak formulation:

$$\int_0^L \frac{dv}{dx} Ak \frac{dT}{dx} dx = - [vAq]_0^L + \int_0^L vQ dx, \quad T(0) = T_0, \quad q(L) = q_L$$

nodal discretisation (n nodes):

$$T(x) = \sum_{i=1}^n N_i(x) T_i \quad (T_i \text{ the nodal temperatures})$$

Galerkin approach:

$$v = N_i \quad (\text{take the } n \text{ shape functions for test functions})$$

finite element equation:

$$Ku = f_l + f_b$$

where

$$K_{ij} = \int_0^L \frac{dN_i}{dx} Ak \frac{dN_j}{dx} dx, \quad f_{li} = \int_0^L N_i Q dx, \quad f_{bi} = - [N_i A q]_0^L$$

2-node element stiffness matrix and load vector in the uniform case (i.e., A , k , Q constant):

$$K = \frac{Ak}{L} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -1 \\ -1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad f_l = \frac{QL}{2} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

fourth-order equation (Euler-Bernoulli beam equation):

$$\frac{d^2}{dx^2} \left(EI \frac{d^2 y}{dx^2} \right) = f, \quad M = EI \frac{d^2 y}{dx^2}$$

possible boundary conditions:

$$y(0) = 0 = \frac{dy}{dx}(0), \quad y(L) = 0 = M(L) \quad (\text{fixed-pinned beam})$$

weak formulation ($S = -dM/dx$ is the shear force):

$$\int_0^L \frac{d^2 v}{dx^2} M dx = \int_0^L v f dx + [vS]_0^L + \left[\frac{dv}{dx} M \right]_0^L$$

nodal discretisation (n nodes, two variables per node):

$$y(x) = \sum_{i=1}^{2n} N_i(x) u_i \quad (u_{2i-1} \text{ and } u_{2i} \text{ the displacement, } y, \text{ and slope, } dy/dx, \text{ at the } i^{\text{th}} \text{ node})$$

Galerkin approach:

$$v = N_i \quad (\text{take the } 2n \text{ shape functions for test functions})$$

finite element equation:

$$Ku = f_l + f_b$$

where

$$K_{ij} = \int_0^L \frac{d^2 N_i}{dx^2} EI \frac{d^2 N_j}{dx^2} dx, \quad f_{li} = \int_0^L N_i f dx, \quad f_{bi} = [N_i S]_0^L + \left[\frac{dN_i}{dx} M \right]_0^L$$

2-node element stiffness matrix and load vector in the uniform case (i.e., E , I , f constant):

$$K = \frac{EI}{L^3} \begin{pmatrix} 12 & 6L & -12 & 6L \\ 6L & 4L^2 & -6L & 2L^2 \\ -12 & -6L & 12 & -6L \\ 6L & 2L^2 & -6L & 4L^2 \end{pmatrix}, \quad f_l = \frac{fL}{12} \begin{pmatrix} 6 \\ L \\ 6 \\ -L \end{pmatrix}$$