

Weak formulations

Need for more general formulations.

Let's consider space $V = H_0^1(a, b)$ consisting of continuous functions on $[a, b]$, piecewise differentiable with bounded derivative, and vanishing at endpoints.

Generalization to 2D requires Lebesgue integral and Hilbert spaces

$$H^1(\Omega) = \{v \in L^2(\Omega) \text{ s.t. } \vec{\text{grad}} v \in L^2(\Omega)\}$$

where

$$L^2(\Omega) = \left\{ v : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \text{ integrable s.t. } \int_{\Omega} v^2 < \infty \right\}$$

Weak formulations (cont'ed)

Take our model equation, multiply by a generic $v \in V$ (test function), and integrate over (a, b)

$$-\int_a^b u''(x)v(x) dx = \int_a^b f(x)v(x) dx$$

Integrating by parts gives

$$\int_a^b u'(x)v'(x) dx = \int_a^b f(x)v(x) dx$$

$a : V \times V \rightarrow \mathbb{R}, F \in V^*$

$$a(u, v) = \int_a^b u'(x)v'(x) dx, \quad F(v) = \int_a^b f(x)v(x) dx$$

Weak formulations (cont'ed)

Lax–Milgram Lemma

$$\text{Find } u \in V \text{ such that } a(u, v) = F(v) \quad \forall v \in V$$

This problem is well posed (exist., uniq., and stab.) provided

1. V Hilbert space
2. a bilinear, continuous, F linear, continuous
3. a coercive, that is there exists $\alpha > 0$ s.t.

$$a(v, v) \geq \alpha \|v\|_V^2, \quad \forall v \in V$$

$$\|u\|_V \leq \frac{1}{\alpha} \|F\|_{V^*} \quad \text{Stability estimate}$$

Weak formulations (cont'ed)

In our case hypotheses of LM Lemma OK (Poincaré inequality)

Theorem If f is smooth enough, the unique solution to weak formulation solves the original equation as well (strong solution)

More general situation

$$\begin{cases} -\operatorname{div}(\varepsilon \vec{\operatorname{grad}} u) + \vec{\beta} \cdot \vec{\operatorname{grad}} u + \sigma u = f & \text{in } \Omega \\ u = 0 & \text{on } \partial\Omega \end{cases}$$

$$a(u, v) = \int_{\Omega} \varepsilon \vec{\operatorname{grad}} u \cdot \vec{\operatorname{grad}} v \, d\vec{x} + \int_{\Omega} v \vec{\beta} \cdot \vec{\operatorname{grad}} u \, d\vec{x} + \int_{\Omega} \sigma uv \, d\vec{x}$$

Weak formulations (cont'ed)

In general problem in weak form, when a is symmetric, is equivalent to the following variational problem:

Find $u \in V$ such that

$$J(u) = \min_{v \in V} J(v), \quad J(v) = \frac{1}{2}a(v, v) - F(v)$$

In the one dimensional model problem, we have

$$J(v) = \frac{1}{2} \int_a^b (v'(x))^2 dx - \int_a^b f(x)v(x) dx$$

Finite elements (Galerkin method)

Consider a finite dimensional subspace $V_h \subset V$ (h refers to a mesh parameter).

$$\text{Find } u_h \in V_h \text{ such that } a(u_h, v_h) = F(v_h) \quad \forall v_h \in V_h$$

Problem is solvable by Lax–Milgram

Suppose that $V_h = \text{span}\{\varphi_1, \dots, \varphi_N(h)\}$, so $u_h = \sum_{j=1}^N u_j \varphi_j$

Problem can be written: find $\mathbf{u} = \{u_j\}$ s.t. for any i

$$a\left(\sum_{j=1}^N u_j \varphi_j, \varphi_i\right) = F(\varphi_i)$$

Galerkin method (cont'ed)

Bilinearity of a gives

$$\sum_{j=1}^N u_j a(\varphi_j, \varphi_i) = F(\varphi_i), \quad i = 1, \dots, N$$

Let's denote by A the *stiffness* matrix $A_{ij} = a(\varphi_j, \varphi_i)$ and by b the *load* vector $b_i = F(\varphi_i)$. Then we have the matrix form of discrete problem

$$A\mathbf{u} = b$$

a symmetric and coercive implies A symmetric positive definite

Galerkin method (cont'ed)

Existence and uniqueness (Lax–Milgram)

Convergence = Consistency + Stability

Stability:

$$\|u_h\|_V \leq \frac{1}{\alpha} \|F\|_{V^*}$$

Strong consistency

$$a(u - u_h, v_h) = 0 \quad \forall v_h \in V_h$$

Galerkin method (cont'ed)

Error estimate (Céa's Lemma)

$$\begin{aligned}\alpha \|u - u_h\|_V^2 &\leq a(u - u_h, u - u_h) = a(u - u_h, u - v_h) \\ &\leq M \|u - u_h\|_V \|u - v_h\|_V\end{aligned}$$

$$\|u - u_h\|_V \leq \frac{M}{\alpha} \inf_{v \in V_h} \|u - v_h\|_V$$

Error bounded by best approximation

Need for good choice of V_h !

Galerkin method (cont'ed)

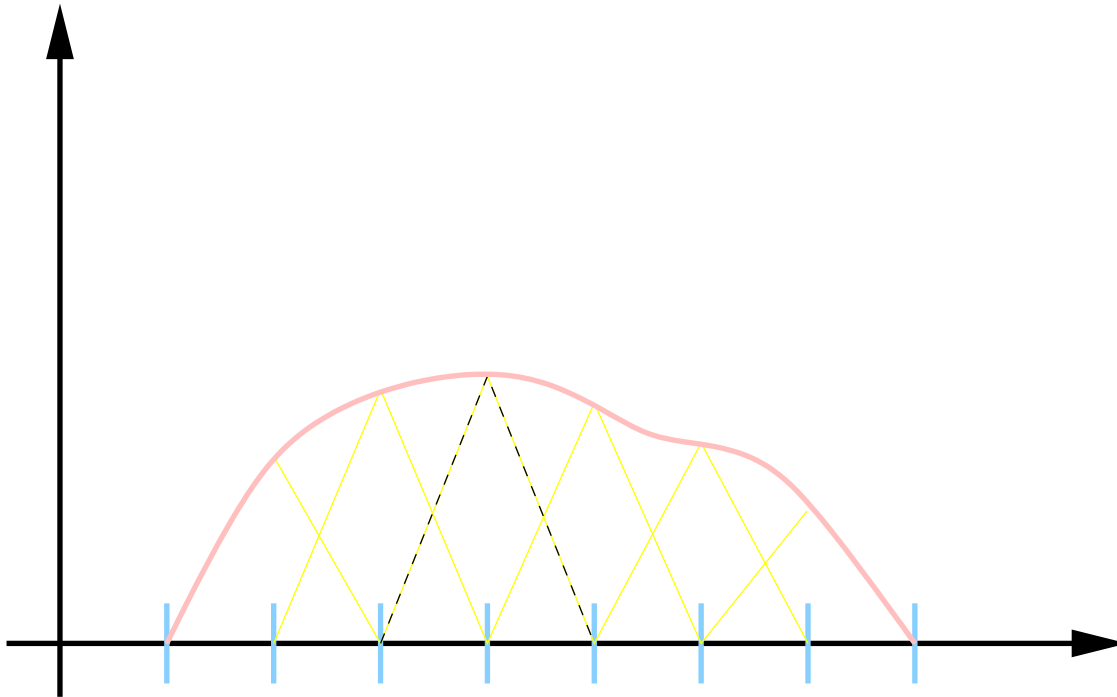
Moreover, when a is symmetric, we have the variational property

$$J(u_h) = \min_{v_h \in V_h} J(v_h)$$

Since $V_h \subset V$, in particular, we have

$$J(u) \leq J(u_h)$$

Finite elements



One dimensional p/w linear approximation.
Shape (or basis) functions:
hat functions.

A finite element is defined by:

- 1) a domain (interval, triangle, tetrahedron, . . .),
- 2) a finite dimensional (polynomial) space,
- 3) a set of degrees of freedom.

Finite elements (cont'ed)

One dimensional finite elements

- 1) domain: interval
- 2) space: \mathbb{P}_p
- 3) d.o.f.'s: depend on polynomial order

linear element: endpoints (2)

quadratic element: endpoints + midpoint (3)

...

Set $\{a_j\}_{j=1}^N$ of degrees of freedom is *unisolvant*, that is, given N numbers $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_N$, there exists a unique polynomial φ in \mathbb{P}_p s. t.

$$\varphi(a_j) = \alpha_j, \quad j = 1, \dots, N$$