

# Weak formulations and finite elements

Scientific Computing Winter 2016/2017

Lecture 16

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## Recap (Delaunay, Sobolev spaces)

## Delaunay triangulations

- ▶ Given a finite point set  $X \subset \mathbb{R}^d$ . Then there exists simplicial a complex called *Delaunay triangulation* of this point set such that
  - ▶  $X$  is the set of vertices of the triangulation
  - ▶ The union of all its simplices is the convex hull of  $X$ .
  - ▶ (Delaunay property): For any given  $d$ -simplex  $\Sigma \subset \Omega$  belonging to the triangulation, the interior of its circumsphere does not contain any vertex  $x_k \in X$ .
- ▶ Assume that the points of  $X$  are in general position, i.e. no  $n + 2$  points lie on one sphere. Then the Delaunay triangulation is unique.

## Voronoi diagram

- ▶ Given a finite point set  $X \subset \mathbb{R}^d$ . Then the Voronoi diagram is a partition of  $\mathbb{R}^d$  into convex nonoverlapping polygonal regions defined as

$$\mathbb{R}^d = \bigcup_{k=1}^{N_x} V_k$$

$$V_k = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^d : \|x - x_k\| < \|x - x_l\| \forall x_l \in X, l \neq k\}$$

## Voronoi - Delaunay duality

- ▶ Given a point set  $X \subset \mathbb{R}^d$  in general position. Then its Delaunay triangulation and its Voronoi diagram are dual to each other:
  - ▶ Two Voronoi cells  $V_k, V_l$  have a common facet if and only if  $\overline{x_k x_l}$  is an edge of the triangulation.

## Boundary conforming Delaunay triangulations

- ▶ Domain  $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^n$  (we will discuss only  $n = 2$ ) with polygonal boundary  $\partial\Omega$ .
- ▶ Partition (triangulation)  $\Omega = \bigcup_{s=1}^{N_\Sigma} \Sigma_s$  into non-overlapping simplices  $\Sigma_s$  such that this partition represents a simplicial complex. Regard the set of nodes  $X = \{x_1 \dots x_{N_x}\}$ .
- ▶ It induces a partition of the boundary into lower dimensional simplices:  $\partial\Omega = \bigcup_{t=1}^{N_\sigma} \sigma_t$ . We assume that in 3D, the set  $\{\sigma_t\}_{t=1}^{N_\sigma}$  includes all edges of surface triangles as well. For any given lower ( $d - 1$  or  $d - 2$ ) dimensional simplex  $\sigma$ , its *diametrical sphere* is defined as the smallest sphere containing all its vertices.
- ▶ *Boundary conforming Delaunay property:*
  - ▶ (Delaunay property): For any given  $d$ -simplex  $\Sigma_s \subset \Omega$ , the interior of its circumsphere does not contain any vertex  $x_k \in X$ .
  - ▶ (Gabriel property) For any simplex  $\sigma_t \subset \partial\Omega$ , the interior of its diametrical sphere does not contain any vertex  $x_k \in X$ .
- ▶ Equivalent formulation in 2D:
  - ▶ For any two triangles with a common edge, the sum of their respective angles opposite to that edge is less or equal to  $180^\circ$ .
  - ▶ For any triangle sharing an edge with  $\partial\Omega$ , its angle opposite to that edge is less or equal to  $90^\circ$ .

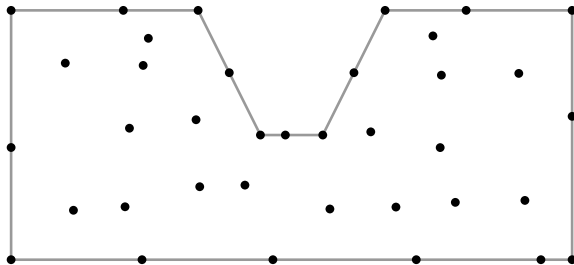
## Restricted Voronoi diagram

- ▶ Given a boundary conforming Delaunay discretization of  $\Omega$ , the *restricted Voronoi diagram* consists of the *restricted Voronoi cells* corresponding to the node set  $X$  defined by

$$\omega_k = V_k \cap \Omega = \{x \in \Omega : \|x - x_k\| < \|x - x_l\| \forall x_l \in X, l \neq k\}$$

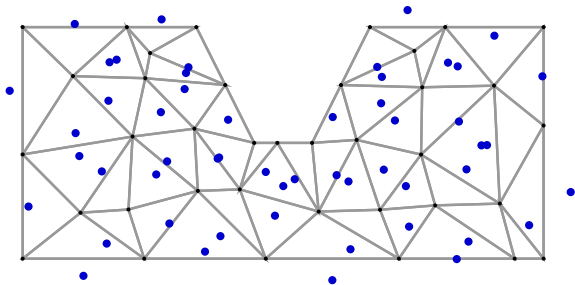
- ▶ These restricted Voronoi cells are used as control volumes in a finite volume discretization

## Piecewise linear description of computational domain with given point cloud



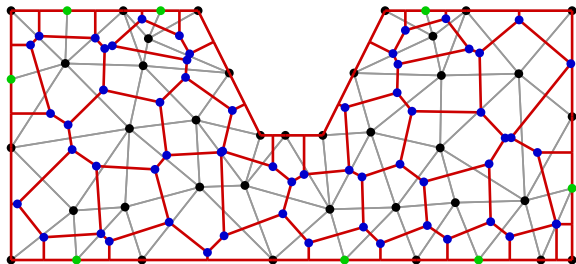


## Delaunay triangulation of domain and triangle circumcenters.



- ▶ Blue: triangle circumcenters
- ▶ Some boundary triangles have larger than  $90^\circ$  angles opposite to the boundary  $\Rightarrow$  their circumcenters are outside of the domain

## Boundary conforming Delaunay triangulation




- ▶ Automatically inserted additional points at the boundary (green dots)
- ▶ Restricted Voronoi cells (red).

## General approach to triangulations

- ▶ Obtain piecewise linear description of domain
- ▶ Call mesh generator (triangle, TetGen, NetGen . . .) in order to obtain triangulation
- ▶ Performe finite volume or finite element discretization of the problem.

Alternative way:

- ▶ Construction “by hand” on regular structures



# Partial Differential Equations

## Differential operators

- ▶ Bounded domain  $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^d$ , with piecewise smooth boundary
- ▶ Scalar function  $u : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$
- ▶ Vector function  $\mathbf{v} : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^d$
- ▶ Write  $\partial_i u = \frac{\partial u}{\partial x_i}$
- ▶ For a multindex  $\alpha = (\alpha_1 \dots \alpha_d)$ , write  $|\alpha| = \alpha_1 + \dots + \alpha_d$  and define
$$\partial^\alpha u = \frac{\partial^{|\alpha|}}{\partial x_1^{\alpha_1} \dots \partial x_d^{\alpha_d}}$$
- ▶ Gradient  $\text{grad} = \nabla : u \mapsto \nabla u = \begin{pmatrix} \partial_1 u \\ \vdots \\ \partial_d u \end{pmatrix}$
- ▶ Divergence  $\text{div} = \nabla \cdot : \mathbf{v} = \begin{pmatrix} v_1 \\ \vdots \\ v_d \end{pmatrix} \mapsto \nabla \cdot \mathbf{v} = \partial_1 v_1 + \dots + \partial_d v_d$
- ▶ Laplace operator  $\Delta = \text{div} \cdot \text{grad} = \nabla \cdot \nabla : u \mapsto \Delta u = \partial_{11} u + \dots + \partial_{dd} u$

## Lebesgue integral, $L^1(\Omega)$ I

- ▶ Let  $\Omega$  have a boundary which can be represented by continuous, piecewise smooth functions in local coordinate systems, without cusps and other degeneracies (more precisely: Lipschitz domain).
  - ▶ Polygonal domains are Lipschitz.
- ▶ Let  $C_c(\Omega)$  be the set of continuous functions  $f : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  with compact support.
- ▶ For these functions, the Riemann integral  $\int_{\Omega} f(x) dx$  is well defined, and  $\|f\| := \int_{\Omega} |f(x)| dx$  provides a norm, and induces a metric
- ▶ A Cauchy sequence is a sequence  $f_n$  of functions where the norm of the difference between two elements can be made arbitrarily small by increasing the element numbers:

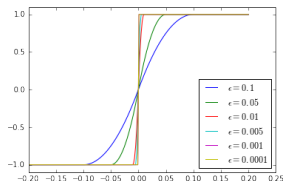
$$\forall \varepsilon > 0 \exists N \in \mathbb{N} : \forall m, n > n, \|f_n - f_m\| < \varepsilon$$

- ▶ All convergent sequences of functions are Cauchy sequences
- ▶ A metric space is *complete* if all Cauchy sequences of its element have a limit within this space

## Lebesgue integral, $L^1(\Omega)$ II

- ▶ Let  $L^1(\Omega)$  be the completion of  $C_c(\Omega)$  with respect to the metric defined by the integral norm, i.e. “include” all limites of Cauchy sequences
- ▶ Defined via sequences,  $\int_{\Omega} |f(x)| dx$  is defined for all functions in  $L^1(\Omega)$ .
- ▶ Equality of  $L^1$  functions is elusive as they are not necessarily continuous: best what we can say is that they are equal “almost everywhere”.
- ▶ Examples for Lebesgue integrable (measurable) functions:
  - ▶ Bounded functions continuous except in a finite number of points
  - ▶ Step functions

$$f_{\epsilon}(x) = \begin{cases} 1, & x \geq \epsilon \\ -(\frac{x-\epsilon}{\epsilon})^2 + 1, & 0 \leq x < \epsilon \\ (\frac{x+\epsilon}{\epsilon})^2 - 1, & -\epsilon \leq x < 0 \\ -1, & x < -\epsilon \end{cases} \xrightarrow{\epsilon \rightarrow 0} f(x) = \begin{cases} 1, & x \geq 0 \\ -1, & \text{else} \end{cases}$$



## Spaces of integrable functions

- ▶ For  $1 \leq p \leq \infty$ , let  $L^p(\Omega)$  be the space of measurable functions such that

$$\int_{\Omega} |f(x)|^p dx < \infty$$

equipped with the norm

$$\|f\|_p = \left( \int_{\Omega} |f(x)|^p dx \right)^{\frac{1}{p}}$$

- ▶ These spaces are *Banach spaces*, i.e. complete, normed vector spaces.
- ▶ The space  $L^2(\Omega)$  is a *Hilbert space*, i.e. a Banach space equipped with a scalar product  $(\cdot, \cdot)$  whose norm is induced by that scalar product, i.e.  $\|u\| = \sqrt{(u, u)}$ . The scalar product in  $L^2$  is

$$(f, g) = \int_{\Omega} f(x)g(x) dx.$$



## Green's theorem

- ▶ Green's theorem for *smooth* functions: Let  $u, v \in C^1(\overline{\Omega})$  (continuously differentiable). Then for  $\mathbf{n} = (n_1 \dots n_d)$  being the outward normal to  $\Omega$ ,

$$\int_{\Omega} u \partial_i v dx = \int_{\partial\Omega} u v n_i ds - \int_{\Omega} v \partial_i u dx$$

In particular, if  $v = 0$  on  $\partial\Omega$  one has

$$\int_{\Omega} u \partial_i v dx = - \int_{\Omega} v \partial_i u dx$$

## Weak derivative

- ▶ Let  $L^1_{loc}(\Omega)$  the set of functions which are Lebesgue integrable on every compact subset  $K \subset \Omega$ . Let  $C_0^\infty(\Omega)$  be the set of functions infinitely differentiable with zero values on the boundary.

For  $u \in L^1_{loc}(\Omega)$  we define  $\partial_i u$  by

$$\int_{\Omega} v \partial_i u dx = - \int_{\Omega} u \partial_i v dx \quad \forall v \in C_0^\infty(\Omega)$$

and  $\partial^\alpha u$  by

$$\int_{\Omega} v \partial^\alpha u dx = (-1)^{|\alpha|} \int_{\Omega} u \partial_i v dx \quad \forall v \in C_0^\infty(\Omega)$$

*if these integrals exist.*

## Sobolev spaces

- ▶ For  $k \geq 0$  and  $1 \leq p < \infty$ , the *Sobolev space*  $W^{k,p}(\Omega)$  is the space functions where all up to the  $k$ -th derivatives are in  $L^p$ :

$$W^{k,p}(\Omega) = \{u \in L^p(\Omega) : \partial^\alpha u \in L^p(\Omega) \forall |\alpha| \leq k\}$$

with then norm

$$\|u\|_{W^{k,p}(\Omega)} = \left( \sum_{|\alpha| \leq k} \|\partial^\alpha u\|_{L^p(\Omega)}^p \right)^{\frac{1}{p}}$$

- ▶ Alternatively, they can be defined as the completion of  $C^\infty$  in the norm  $\|u\|_{W^{k,p}(\Omega)}$
- ▶  $W_0^{k,p}(\Omega)$  is the completion of  $C_0^\infty$  in the norm  $\|u\|_{W^{k,p}(\Omega)}$
- ▶ The Sobolev spaces are Banach spaces.

## Fractional Sobolev spaces and traces

- ▶ For  $0 < s < 1$  define the *fractional Sobolev space*

$$W^{s,p}(\Omega) = \left\{ u \in L^p(\Omega) : \frac{u(x) - u(y)}{\|x - y\|^{s + \frac{d}{p}}} \in L^p(\Omega \times \Omega) \right\}$$

- ▶ Let  $H^{\frac{1}{2}}(\Omega) = W^{\frac{1}{2},2}(\Omega)$
- ▶ A priori it is hard to say what the value of a function from  $L^p$  on the boundary is like.
- ▶ For Lipschitz domains there exists unique continuous *trace mapping*  $\gamma_0 : W^{1,p}(\Omega) \rightarrow L^p(\partial\Omega)$  where  $\frac{1}{p} + \frac{1}{p'} = 1$  such that
  - ▶  $\text{Im}\gamma_0 = W^{\frac{1}{p'},p}(\partial\Omega)$
  - ▶  $\text{Ker}\gamma_0 = W_0^{1,p}(\Omega)$

## Sobolev spaces of square integrable functions

- ▶  $H^k(\Omega) = W^{k,2}(\Omega)$  with the scalar product

$$(u, v)_{H^k(\Omega)} = \sum_{|\alpha| \leq k} \int_{\Omega} \partial^\alpha u \partial^\alpha v \, dx$$

is a Hilbert space.

- ▶  $H^k(\Omega)_0 = W_0^{k,2}(\Omega)$  with the scalar product

$$(u, v)_{H^k(\Omega)} = \sum_{|\alpha| \leq k} \int_{\Omega} \partial^\alpha u \partial^\alpha v \, dx$$

is a Hilbert space as well.

- ▶ The initially most important:

- ▶  $L^2(\Omega)$  with the scalar product  $(u, v)_{L^2(\Omega)} = \int_{\Omega} uv \, dx$
- ▶  $H^1(\Omega)$  with the scalar product  $(u, v)_{H^1(\Omega)} = \int_{\Omega} (uv + \nabla u \cdot \nabla v) \, dx$
- ▶  $H_0^1(\Omega)$  with the scalar product  $(u, v)_{H_0^1(\Omega)} = \int_{\Omega} (\nabla u \cdot \nabla v) \, dx$

- ▶ Inequalities:

$$|(u, v)|^2 \leq (u, u)(v, v) \quad \text{Cauchy-Schwarz}$$

$$\|u + v\| \leq \|u\| + \|v\| \quad \text{Triangle inequality}$$

## Heat conduction revisited: Derivation of weak formulation

- ▶ Sobolev space theory provides the necessary framework to formulate existence and uniqueness of solutions of PDEs.
- ▶ Heat conduction equation with homogeneous Dirichlet boundary conditions:

$$\begin{aligned} -\nabla \cdot \lambda \nabla u &= f \text{ in } \Omega \\ u &= 0 \text{ on } \partial\Omega \end{aligned}$$

Multiply and integrate with an arbitrary *test function* from  $C_0^\infty(\Omega)$ :

$$\begin{aligned} - \int_{\Omega} \nabla \cdot \lambda \nabla u v \, dx &= \int_{\Omega} f v \, dx \\ \int_{\Omega} \lambda \nabla u \nabla v \, dx &= \int_{\Omega} f v \, dx \end{aligned}$$

## Weak formulation of homogeneous Dirichlet problem

- ▶ Search  $u \in H_0^1(\Omega)$  such that

$$\int_{\Omega} \lambda \nabla u \nabla v \, dx = \int_{\Omega} f v \, dx \quad \forall v \in H_0^1(\Omega)$$

- ▶ Then,

$$a(u, v) := \int_{\Omega} \lambda \nabla u \nabla v \, dx$$

is a self-adjoint bilinear form defined on the Hilbert space  $H_0^1(\Omega)$ .

It is bounded due to Cauchy-Schwarz:

$$|a(u, v)| = |\lambda| \left| \int_{\Omega} \nabla u \nabla v \, dx \right| \leq \|u\|_{H_0^1(\Omega)} \cdot \|v\|_{H_0^1(\Omega)}$$

- ▶  $f(v) = \int_{\Omega} f v \, dx$  is a linear functional on  $H_0^1(\Omega)$ . For Hilbert spaces  $V$  the dual space  $V'$  (the space of linear functionals) can be identified with the space itself.

## The Lax-Milgram lemma

Let  $V$  be a Hilbert space. Let  $a : V \times V \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  be a self-adjoint bilinear form, and  $f$  a linear functional on  $V$ . Assume  $a$  is coercive, i.e.

$$\exists \alpha > 0 : \forall u \in V, a(u, u) \geq \alpha \|u\|_V^2.$$

Then the problem: find  $u \in V$  such that

$$a(u, v) = f(v) \quad \forall v \in V$$

admits one and only one solution with an a priori estimate

$$\|u\|_V \leq \frac{1}{\alpha} \|f\|_{V'}$$



## Heat conduction revisited

Let  $\lambda > 0$ . Then the weak formulation of the heat conduction problem: search  $u \in H_0^1(\Omega)$  such that

$$\int_{\Omega} \lambda \nabla u \nabla v \, dx = \int_{\Omega} f v \, dx \quad \forall v \in H_0^1(\Omega)$$

has an unique solution.

**Proof:**  $a(u, v)$  is coercive:

$$a(u, v) = \int_{\Omega} \lambda \nabla u \nabla u \, dx = \lambda \|u\|_{H_0^1(\Omega)}^2$$

□

## Weak formulation of inhomogeneous Dirichlet problem

$$\begin{aligned} -\nabla \cdot \lambda \nabla u &= f \text{ in } \Omega \\ u &= g \text{ on } \partial\Omega \end{aligned}$$

If  $g$  is smooth enough, there exists a *lifting*  $u_g \in H^1(\Omega)$  such that  $u_g|_{\partial\Omega} = g$ . Then, we can re-formulate:

$$\begin{aligned} -\nabla \cdot \lambda \nabla (u - u_g) &= f + \nabla \cdot \lambda \nabla u_g \text{ in } \Omega \\ u - u_g &= 0 \text{ on } \partial\Omega \end{aligned}$$

- Search  $u \in H^1(\Omega)$  such that

$$\begin{aligned} u &= u_g + \phi \\ \int_{\Omega} \lambda \nabla \phi \nabla v \, dx &= \int_{\Omega} f v \, dx + \int_{\Omega} \lambda \nabla u_g \nabla v \, dx \quad \forall v \in H_0^1(\Omega) \end{aligned}$$

Here, necessarily,  $\phi \in H_0^1(\Omega)$  and we can apply the theory for the homogeneous Dirichlet problem.

## Weak formulation of Robin problem

$$\begin{aligned} -\nabla \cdot \lambda \nabla u &= f \text{ in } \Omega \\ \lambda \nabla u \cdot \mathbf{n} + \alpha(u - g) &= 0 \text{ on } \partial\Omega \end{aligned}$$

Multiply and integrate with an arbitrary *test function* from  $C_c^\infty(\Omega)$ :

$$\begin{aligned} - \int_{\Omega} (\nabla \cdot \lambda \nabla u) v \, dx &= \int_{\Omega} f v \, dx \\ \int_{\Omega} \lambda \nabla u \nabla v \, dx + \int_{\partial\Omega} (\lambda \nabla u \cdot \mathbf{n}) v \, ds &= \int_{\Omega} f v \, dx \\ \int_{\Omega} \lambda \nabla u \nabla v \, dx + \int_{\partial\Omega} \alpha u v \, ds &= \int_{\Omega} f v \, dx + \int_{\partial\Omega} \alpha g v \, ds \end{aligned}$$

## Weak formulation of Robin problem II

- ▶ Let

$$a^R(u, v) := \int_{\Omega} \lambda \nabla u \nabla v \, dx + \int_{\partial\Omega} \alpha uv \, ds$$
$$f^R(v) := \int_{\Omega} fv \, dx + \int_{\partial\Omega} \alpha gv \, ds$$

The integrals over  $\partial\Omega$  must be understood in the sense of the trace space  $H^{\frac{1}{2}}(\partial\Omega)$ .

- ▶ Search  $u \in H^1(\Omega)$  such that

$$a^R(u, v) = f^R(v) \quad \forall v \in H^1(\Omega)$$

- ▶ If  $\lambda > 0$  and  $\alpha > 0$  then  $a^R(u, v)$  is coercive.

## Neumann boundary conditions

Homogeneous Neumann:

$$\lambda \nabla u \cdot \mathbf{n} = 0 \text{ on } \partial\Omega$$

Inhomogeneous Neumann:

$$\lambda \nabla u \cdot \mathbf{n} = g \text{ on } \partial\Omega$$

Weak formulation:

- ▶ Search  $u \in H^1(\Omega)$  such that

$$\int_{\omega} \nabla u \nabla v dx = \int_{\partial\Omega} g v ds \quad \forall v \in H^1(\Omega)$$

Not coercive due to the fact that we can add an arbitrary constant to  $u$  and  $a(u, u)$  stays the same!

## Further discussion on boundary conditions

- ▶ Mixed boundary conditions:  
One can have different boundary conditions on different parts of the boundary. In particular, if Dirichlet or Robin boundary conditions are applied on at least a part of the boundary of measure larger than zero, the bilinear form becomes coercive.
- ▶ Natural boundary conditions: Robin, Neumann  
These are imposed in a “natural” way in the weak formulation
- ▶ Essential boundary conditions: Dirichlet  
Explicitly imposed on the function space
- ▶ Coefficients  $\lambda, \alpha \dots$  can be functions.

## The Dirichlet penalty method

- ▶ Robin problem: search  $u_\alpha \in H^1(\Omega)$  such that

$$\int_{\Omega} \lambda \nabla u_\alpha \nabla v \, dx + \int_{\partial\Omega} \alpha u_\alpha v \, ds = \int_{\Omega} f v \, dx + \int_{\partial\Omega} \alpha g v \, ds \quad \forall v \in H^1(\Omega)$$

- ▶ Dirichlet problem: search  $u \in H^1(\Omega)$  such that

$$u = u_g + \phi \quad \text{where } u_g|_{\partial\Omega} = g$$
$$\int_{\Omega} \lambda \nabla \phi \nabla v \, dx = \int_{\Omega} f v \, dx + \int_{\Omega} \lambda \nabla u_g \nabla v \quad \forall v \in H_0^1(\Omega)$$

- ▶ Penalty limit:

$$\lim_{\alpha \rightarrow \infty} u_\alpha = u$$

- ▶ Formally, the convergence rate is quite low
- ▶ Implementing Dirichlet boundary conditions directly leads to a number of technical problems
- ▶ Implementing the penalty method is technically much simpler
- ▶ Proper way of handling the parameter leads to exact fulfillment of Dirichlet boundary condition in the floating point precision

## The Galerkin method I

- ▶ Weak formulations “live” in Hilbert spaces which essentially are infinite dimensional
- ▶ For computer representations we need finite dimensional approximations
- ▶ The finite volume method provides one possible framework which in many cases is close to physical intuition. However, its error analysis is hard.
- ▶ The Galerkin method and its modifications provide a general scheme for the derivation of finite dimensional approximations



## The Galerkin method II

- ▶ Let  $V$  be a Hilbert space. Let  $a : V \times V \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  be a self-adjoint bilinear form, and  $f$  a linear functional on  $V$ . Assume  $a$  is coercive with coercivity constant  $\alpha$ , and continuity constant  $\gamma$ .
- ▶ Continuous problem: search  $u \in V$  such that

$$a(u, v) = f(v) \quad \forall v \in V$$

- ▶ Let  $V_h \subset V$  be a finite dimensional subspace of  $V$
- ▶ “Discrete” problem  $\equiv$  Galerkin approximation:  
Search  $u_h \in V_h$  such that

$$a(u_h, v_h) = f(v_h) \quad \forall v_h \in V_h$$

By Lax-Milgram, this problem has a unique solution as well.

## Céa's lemma

- ▶ What is the connection between  $u$  and  $u_h$  ?
- ▶ Let  $v_h \in V_h$  be arbitrary. Then

$$\begin{aligned}\alpha \|u - u_h\|^2 &\leq a(u - u_h, u - u_h) \quad (\text{Coercivity}) \\ &= a(u - u_h, u - v_h) + a(u - u_h, v_h - u_h) \\ &= a(u - u_h, u - v_h) \quad (\text{Galerkin Orthogonality}) \\ &\leq \gamma \|u - u_h\| \cdot \|u - v_h\| \quad (\text{Boundedness})\end{aligned}$$

- ▶ As a result

$$\|u - u_h\| \leq \frac{\gamma}{\alpha} \inf_{v_h \in V_h} \|u - v_h\|$$

- ▶ Up to a constant, the error of the Galerkin approximation is the error of the best approximation of the solution in the subspace  $V_h$ .

## From the Galerkin method to the matrix equation

- ▶ Let  $\phi_1 \dots \phi_n$  be a set of basis functions of  $V_h$ .
- ▶ Then, we have the representation  $u_h = \sum_{j=1}^n u_j \phi_j$
- ▶ In order to search  $u_h \in V_h$  such that

$$a(u_h, v_h) = f(v_h) \quad \forall v_h \in V_h$$

it is actually sufficient to require

$$\begin{aligned} a(u_h, \phi_i) &= f(\phi_i) \quad (i = 1 \dots n) \\ a\left(\sum_{j=1}^n u_j \phi_j, \phi_i\right) &= f(\phi_i) \quad (i = 1 \dots n) \\ \sum_{j=1}^n a(\phi_j, \phi_i) u_j &= f(\phi_i) \quad (i = 1 \dots n) \end{aligned}$$

$$AU = F$$

with  $A = (a_{ij})$ ,  $a_{ij} = a(\phi_i, \phi_j)$ ,  $F = (f_i)$ ,  $f_i = F(\phi_i)$ ,  $U = (u_i)$ .

- ▶ Matrix dimension is  $n \times n$ . Matrix sparsity ?

## Obtaining a finite dimensional subspace

- ▶ Let  $\Omega = (a, b) \subset \mathbb{R}^1$
- ▶ Let  $a(u, v) = \int_{\Omega} \lambda(x) \nabla u \nabla v dx$ .
- ▶ Analysis I provides a finite dimensional subspace: the space of sin/cos functions up to a certain frequency  $\Rightarrow$  *spectral method*
- ▶ Ansatz functions have global support  $\Rightarrow$  full  $n \times n$  matrix
- ▶ OTOH: rather fast convergence for smooth data
- ▶ Generalization to higher dimensions possible
- ▶ Big problem in irregular domains: we need the eigenfunction basis of some operator. . .
- ▶ Spectral methods are successful in cases where one has regular geometry structures and smooth/constant coefficients – e.g. “Spectral Einstein Code”

## The finite element idea

- ▶ Choose basis functions with local support. In this case, the matrix becomes sparse, as only integrals of basis function pairs with overlapping support contribute to the matrix.
- ▶ Linear finite elements in  $\Omega = (a, b) \subset \mathbb{R}^1$ :
- ▶ Partition  $a = x_1 \leq x_2 \leq \dots \leq x_n = b$
- ▶ Basis functions (for  $i = 1 \dots n$ )

$$\phi_i(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{x-x_{i-1}}{x_i-x_{i-1}}, & i > 1, x \in (x_{i-1}, x_i) \\ \frac{x_{i+1}-x}{x_{i+1}-x_i}, & i < n, x \in (x_i, x_{i+1}) \\ 0, & \text{else} \end{cases}$$

- ▶ Any function  $u_h \in V_h = \text{span}\{\phi_1 \dots \phi_n\}$  is piecewise linear, and the coefficients in the representation  $u_h = \sum_{i=1}^n u_i \phi_i$  are the values  $u_h(x_i)$ .
- ▶ Fortunately, we are working with a weak formulation, and weak derivatives are well defined !

## 1D matrix elements

( $\lambda = 1$ ,  $x_{i+1} - x_i = h$ ) - The integrals are nonzero for  $i = j, i + 1 = j, i - 1 = j$

Let  $j = i + 1$

$$\begin{aligned} a_{ij} = a(\phi_i, \phi_{i+1}) &= \int_{\Omega} \nabla \phi_i \nabla \phi_j dx = \int_{x_i}^{x_{i+1}} \nabla \phi_i \nabla \phi_j dx = - \int_{x_i}^{x_{i+1}} \frac{1}{h^2} dx \\ &= \frac{1}{h} dx \end{aligned}$$

Similarly,  $a(\phi_i, \phi_{i-1}) = -\frac{1}{h}$

For  $1 < i < N$ :

$$\begin{aligned} a_{ii} = a(\phi_i, \phi_i) &= \int_{\Omega} \nabla \phi_i \nabla \phi_i dx = \int_{x_{i-1}}^{x_{i+1}} \nabla \phi_i \nabla \phi_i dx = \int_{x_{i-1}}^{x_{i+1}} \frac{1}{h^2} dx \\ &= \frac{2}{h} dx \end{aligned}$$

For  $i = 1$  or  $i = N$ ,  $a(\phi_i, \phi_i) = \frac{1}{h}$



## Where to go from here

- ▶ Higher space dimensions
- ▶ Piecewise polynomials instead of piecewise linear functions