

FEniCS Course

Lecture 2: Static linear PDEs

Contributors

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FENICS
PROJECT

Hello World!

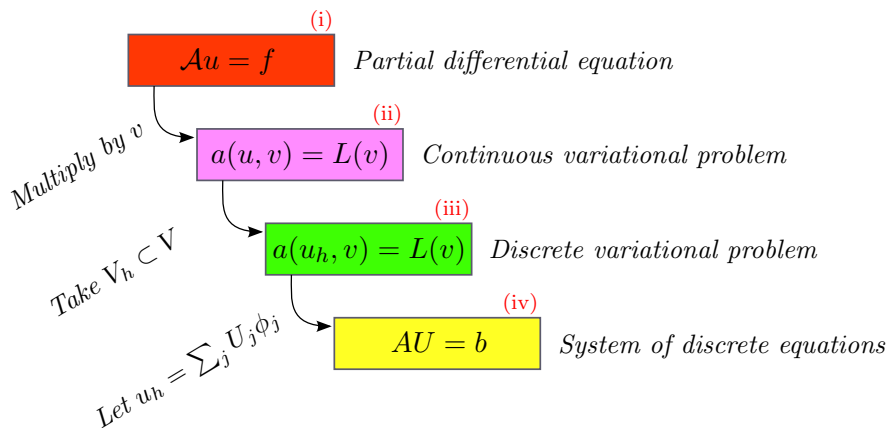
We will solve Poisson's equation, the Hello World of scientific computing:

$$\begin{aligned} -\Delta u &= f && \text{in } \Omega \\ u &= u_0 && \text{on } \partial\Omega \end{aligned}$$

Poisson's equation arises in numerous contexts:

- heat conduction, electrostatics, diffusion of substances, twisting of elastic rods, inviscid fluid flow, water waves, magnetostatics
- as part of numerical splitting strategies of more complicated systems of PDEs, in particular the Navier–Stokes equations

The FEM cookbook



Solving PDEs in FEniCS

Solving a physical problem with FEniCS consists of the following steps:

- 1 Identify the PDE and its boundary conditions
- 2 Reformulate the PDE problem as a variational problem
- 3 Make a Python program where the formulas in the variational problem are coded, along with definitions of input data such as f , u_0 , and a mesh for Ω
- 4 Add statements in the program for solving the variational problem, computing derived quantities such as ∇u , and visualizing the results

Deriving a variational problem for Poisson's equation

The simple recipe is: multiply the PDE by a test function v and integrate over Ω :

$$-\int_{\Omega} (\Delta u)v \, dx = \int_{\Omega} f v \, dx$$

Then integrate by parts and set $v = 0$ on the Dirichlet boundary:

$$-\int_{\Omega} (\Delta u)v \, dx = \int_{\Omega} \nabla u \cdot \nabla v \, dx - \underbrace{\int_{\partial\Omega} \frac{\partial u}{\partial n} v \, ds}_{=0}$$

We find that:

$$\int_{\Omega} \nabla u \cdot \nabla v \, dx = \int_{\Omega} f v \, dx$$

Variational problem for Poisson's equation

Find $u \in V$ such that

$$\int_{\Omega} \nabla u \cdot \nabla v \, dx = \int_{\Omega} f v \, dx$$

for all $v \in \hat{V}$

The trial space V and the test space \hat{V} are (here) given by

$$V = \{v \in H^1(\Omega) : v = u_0 \text{ on } \partial\Omega\}$$

$$\hat{V} = \{v \in H^1(\Omega) : v = 0 \text{ on } \partial\Omega\}$$

Discrete variational problem for Poisson's equation

We approximate the continuous variational problem with a discrete variational problem posed on finite dimensional subspaces of V and \hat{V} :

$$V_h \subset V$$

$$\hat{V}_h \subset \hat{V}$$

Find $u_h \in V_h \subset V$ such that

$$\int_{\Omega} \nabla u_h \cdot \nabla v \, dx = \int_{\Omega} f v \, dx$$

for all $v \in \hat{V}_h \subset \hat{V}$

Canonical variational problem

The following canonical notation is used in FEniCS: find $u \in V$ such that

$$a(u, v) = L(v)$$

for all $v \in \hat{V}$

For Poisson's equation, we have

$$a(u, v) = \int_{\Omega} \nabla u \cdot \nabla v \, dx$$
$$L(v) = \int_{\Omega} f v \, dx$$

$a(u, v)$ is a *bilinear form* and $L(v)$ is a *linear form*

Poisson example 1

Strong form

Let $\Omega = [0, 1] \times [0, 1]$. Solve

$$\begin{aligned} -\Delta u &= 1 && \text{in } \Omega \\ u &= 0 && \text{on } \partial\Omega \end{aligned}$$

Weak form

Find $u \in H_0^1(\Omega)$ such that for all $v \in H_0^1(\Omega)$

$$\underbrace{\int_{\Omega} \nabla u \cdot \nabla v \, dx}_{a(u,v)} = \underbrace{\int_{\Omega} 1v \, dx}_{L(v)}$$

Poisson example 2

- Domain:

$$\Omega = [0, 1] \times [0, 1]$$

$$\partial\Omega_D = \{0\} \times [0, 1] \cup \{1\} \times [0, 1]$$

$$\partial\Omega_N = [0, 1] \times \{0\} \cup [0, 1] \times \{1\}$$

- Source and boundary values:

$$f(x, y) = 2 \cos(2\pi x) \cos(2\pi y)$$

$$g_D(x, y) = 0.1 \cos(2\pi y)$$

Strong form

$$-\Delta u = f \quad \text{in } \Omega$$

$$u = g_D \quad \text{on } \partial\Omega_D$$

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial \mathbf{n}} = 0 \quad \text{on } \partial\Omega_N$$

Weak form

Find $u \in V$ such that for all $v \in \hat{V}$

$$\underbrace{\int_{\Omega} \nabla u \cdot \nabla v \, dx}_{a(u,v)} = \underbrace{\int_{\Omega} f v \, dx}_{L(v)}$$

- Function spaces:

$$V = \{v \in H^1(\Omega) : v = g_D \text{ on } \partial\Omega_D\}$$

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Poisson example 3

- Domain:

$$\begin{aligned}\Omega &= [0, 1] \times [0, 1] \setminus \text{dolphin domain} \\ \partial\Omega_D &= \{0\} \times [0, 1] \cup \{1\} \times [0, 1] \\ \partial\Omega_N &= \partial\Omega \setminus \partial\Omega_D\end{aligned}$$

- Source and boundary values:

$$\begin{aligned}f(x, y) &= 2 \cos(2\pi x) \cos(2\pi y) \\ g_D(x, y) &= 0.5 \cos(2\pi y) \quad \text{on } x = 0 \\ g_D(x, y) &= 1 \quad \text{on } x = 1 \\ g_N(x, y) &= \sin(\pi x) \sin(\pi y)\end{aligned}$$

Strong form

$$\begin{aligned}-\Delta u &= f \quad \text{in } \Omega \\ u &= g_D \quad \text{on } \partial\Omega_D \\ \frac{\partial u}{\partial \mathbf{n}} &= g_N \quad \text{on } \partial\Omega_N\end{aligned}$$

Weak form

Find $u \in V$ such that for all $v \in \hat{V}$

$$\underbrace{\int_{\Omega} \nabla u \cdot \nabla v \, dx}_{a(u,v)} = \underbrace{\int_{\Omega} f v \, dx + \int_{\partial\Omega_N} g v \, ds}_{L(v)}$$

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