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## Sec 12.4. An Introduction to the Finite-Element Method

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

$$(-\nabla \cdot (K \nabla u) + ru = f)$$

- Variational problem

$$I[u] = \frac{1}{2} \int_{\Omega} [\nabla u]^2 d\vec{x} - \int_{\Omega} f u d\vec{x}$$

Find  $u \in V$  that minimizes  $I[u]$ .

• Function space  $V$

$u \in V \Rightarrow I[u]$  must be finite.

$$\int_{\Omega} [\nabla u]^2 d\vec{x} < \infty$$

$$\int_{\Omega} f u d\vec{x} \leq \underbrace{\left( \int_{\Omega} [f]^2 d\vec{x} \right)^{1/2}}_{C-S} \underbrace{\left( \int_{\Omega} [u]^2 d\vec{x} \right)^{1/2}}_{\infty} < \infty$$

$$V = \left\{ v : \int_{\Omega} [\nabla v]^2 d\vec{x} < \infty, \int_{\Omega} [v]^2 d\vec{x} < \infty, v = 0 \text{ on } \partial\Omega \right\}$$

$$(C^2(\Omega) \not\subset V)$$

- Equivalent variational problem

Find  $u \in V$  such that

$$\int_{\Omega} f v \, d\vec{x} = \int_{\Omega} (-\Delta u) v \, d\vec{x}$$

$$= \int_{\Omega} \nabla u \cdot \nabla v \, d\vec{x} - \int_{\partial\Omega} (\nabla u \cdot \vec{n}) v \, d\vec{x}$$

outward normal vector

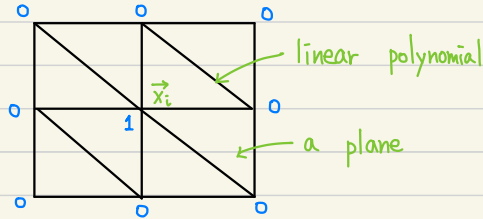
for all  $v \in V$ .

↳ Bilinear form

$$a(u, v) = \int_{\Omega} \nabla u \cdot \nabla v \, d\vec{x}$$

- Finite element space  $V_h$

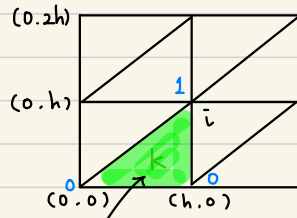
- Basis functions



$$\phi_i(\vec{x}_i) = 1$$

$$\phi_i(\vec{x}_j) = 0 \quad \text{if } j \neq i$$

ex)



a plane :  $z = \phi_i^k(x, y) = ax + by + c$   
 $\Rightarrow \phi_i^k(h, h) = ah + bh + c = 1$   
 $\phi_i^k(h, 0) = ah + c = 0$   
 $\phi_i^k(0, 0) = c = 0$

$$\Rightarrow \phi_i^k(x, y) = y/h$$

•  $v_h \in V_h$

$$v_h(x, y) = \sum_i \alpha_i \phi_i(x, y)$$

$$(V_h \subseteq V \text{ (Why?)})$$

- Finite element method

Find  $u_h \in V_h$  such that

$$a(u_h, v_h) = \int_{\Omega} f v_h d\vec{x}$$

for all  $v_h \in V_h$ . (Galerkin)

↳  $\phi_i$  for all  $1 \leq i \leq N$

$$\Rightarrow u_h(x, y) = \sum_{j=1}^N u_j \phi_j(x, y)$$

$$a(u_h, \phi_i) = \int_{\Omega} \nabla u_h \cdot \nabla \phi_i \, d\vec{x}$$

$$= \sum_{j=1}^N u_j \int_{\Omega} \nabla \phi_j \cdot \nabla \phi_i \, d\vec{x}$$

$$= \int_{\Omega} f \phi_i \, d\vec{x}$$

for all  $1 \leq i \leq N$

$$\Rightarrow A\vec{x} = \vec{b}, \text{ where}$$

$$(A)_{ij} = \int_{\Omega} \nabla \phi_j \cdot \nabla \phi_i \, d\vec{x} \\ = \int_{\Omega} \nabla \phi_i \cdot \nabla \phi_j \, d\vec{x} \rightarrow A : \text{symmetric.}$$

$$(\vec{x})_i = u_i$$

$$(\vec{b})_i = \int_{\Omega} f \phi_i \, d\vec{x}$$