

# Lecture 10

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Numerical Methods for Time-Dependent PDEs, Spring 2024

# Outline of Lecture 10

- ⌈ exercises of Lecture 9
- ⌋ historical background
- ⌈ variational and minimization formulation
- ⌋ a finite dimensional approximation & the stationary case
- ⌈ stiffness matrix and load vector
- ⊕ an abstract formulation & the time-dependent case
- ⌋ Next week: Travelling Waves and Higher-order PDEs

# Finite elements [1]

- \* FEM was introduced by engineers in the late 50's/early 60's.  
 (numerical solution of PDEs in structural engineering: elasticity, plates, beams, frames, ...)
  - ↓  
 structure was subdivided into small parts  
 so-called 'finite elements'.
- \* Mathematical study of FEM:  $\geq$  mid 60's
  - ↔ connection with variational methods from early 20<sup>th</sup> century
- \* 60's & 70's: analysis of FEM (engineers, mathematicians, numerical analysts)
  - ⚡  
 functional analysis
    - Hilbert spaces, Sobolev spaces, --
    - test functions, Green's formula, --
    - Cauchy-Schwarz inequality, --

# Finite elements [2]

Variational formulation of a one-dimensional model:

Consider: 
$$\begin{cases} -u''(x) = f(x) & , x \in (0,1) \\ u(0) = 0, u(1) = 0 \end{cases} \quad \boxed{D}$$

;  $f$ : a given function (continuous)

unique solution (integrating twice): 
$$u(x) = Cx + D + \iint^y f(x) dx dy$$

↑      ↑  
from two BCs

Define "inner product": 
$$(v, w) = \int_0^1 v(x) w(x) dx$$

↙ ↘  
real piecewise continuous bounded functions

"linear space": 
$$V = \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{functions } v: \text{continuous on } [0,1], v' \text{ piecewise continuous} \\ \text{and bounded on } [0,1] \\ \text{with } v(0) = v(1) = 0 \end{array} \right\}$$

"functional": 
$$F: V \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$$

$$F(v) = \frac{1}{2} (v', v') - (f, v) = \frac{1}{2} \int_0^1 [v'(x)]^2 dx - \int_0^1 f(x)v(x) dx$$

# Finite elements [3]

"variational model": find  $u \in V$  with  $(u', v') = (f, v) \quad \forall v \in V \quad \boxed{V}$

"minimization model": find  $u \in V$  with  $F(u) \leq F(v) \quad \forall v \in V \quad \boxed{M}$

$F \sim$  "total potential energy" and  $\frac{1}{2}(v', v') \sim$  internal elastic energy  
 $v \sim$  displacement and  $(f, v) \sim$  load potential

$\boxed{D} \Rightarrow \boxed{V}$  1) multiply  $\boxed{D}$  by arbitrary  $v \in V$ :  $-u''v = fv$   
 "test function"

2) integrate over  $(0, 1)$ :  
 $-\int_0^1 u''v \, dx = \int_0^1 f v \, dx \quad \Leftrightarrow \quad \boxed{-(u'', v) = (f, v)}$

3) integrating by parts:  
 $-(u'', v) = -\int_0^1 u''v \, dx = -(u'v)' + \int_0^1 u'v' \, dx$   
 $= -[u'(1)v(1) - u'(0)v(0)] + \int_0^1 u'v' \, dx$   
 $= \int_0^1 u'v' \, dx = \underset{=0}{(u', v')} \underset{=0}{} \Rightarrow \boxed{V}$

## Finite elements [4]

$\boxed{V} \Rightarrow \boxed{M}$

- 1) suppose  $u$  is a solution of  $\boxed{V}$
- 2) set  $w = v - u \in V$  and  $v = u + w$  ( $v \in V$ )
- 3)  $F(v) = F(u+w) = \frac{1}{2} (u'+w', u'+w') - (f, u+w)$ 

$$\begin{aligned}
 &= \frac{1}{2} (u', u') + \frac{1}{2} (u', w') + \frac{1}{2} (w', u') + \frac{1}{2} (w', w') - (f, u) - (f, w) \\
 &\stackrel{\text{properties of } (\cdot, \cdot)}{=} \frac{1}{2} (u', u') - (f, u) + \underbrace{\frac{1}{2} (u', w') + \frac{1}{2} (w', u')}_{=0 \text{ (we } \in V)} + \underbrace{\frac{1}{2} (w', w')}_{\geq 0} - (f, u) - (f, w) \\
 &\stackrel{\text{re-arrange}}{=} \underbrace{\frac{1}{2} (u', u') - (f, u)}_{= F(u)} + \underbrace{\frac{1}{2} (u', w') + \frac{1}{2} (w', u') - (f, w)}_{= 0} + \underbrace{\frac{1}{2} (w', w')}_{\geq 0} \\
 &\geq F(u) \quad \forall v \in V
 \end{aligned}$$

$\Rightarrow \boxed{M}$

---

$\boxed{M} \Rightarrow \boxed{V}$

- 1) if  $u$  is a solution of  $\boxed{M}$ , then  $F(u) \leq F(u + \varepsilon v) \quad \forall \varepsilon \in \mathbb{R}, \forall v \in V$   
 $\varepsilon v$  ( $\varepsilon v$  linear space!)
- 2) the function  $g(\varepsilon) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} F(u + \varepsilon v)$  must have a minimum for  $\varepsilon = 0$ .  
 $\Rightarrow g'(\varepsilon)|_{\varepsilon=0} = 0$ ; Work out  $g'(\varepsilon)$ :
 
$$\begin{aligned}
 g(\varepsilon) &= F(u + \varepsilon v) = \frac{1}{2} ((u + \varepsilon v)', (u + \varepsilon v)') - (f, u + \varepsilon v) \\
 &= \frac{1}{2} (u', u') + \varepsilon (u', v') + \frac{1}{2} \varepsilon^2 (v', v') - (f, u) - \varepsilon (f, v)
 \end{aligned}$$

# Finite elements [5]

$$\begin{aligned} \text{and } g'(\varepsilon) &= 0 + (u', v') + \varepsilon (v', v') - 0 - (f, v) \\ &= (u', v') + \varepsilon (v', v') - (f, v) \end{aligned}$$

$$g'(0) = (u', v') - (f, v) \stackrel{\text{mast}}{=} 0 \Rightarrow \boxed{V}$$

The solution of  $\boxed{V}$  is unique (one solution)

suppose  $u_1$  and  $u_2$  are solutions of  $\boxed{V}$  ( $u_1, u_2 \in V$ )

then:  $(u_1', v') = (f, v) \forall v \in V$  and  $(u_2', v') = (f, v) \forall v \in V$

subtracting these two equations:  $(u_1', v') = (f, v)$

$$(u_2', v') = (f, v)$$

$$(u_1' - u_2', v') = 0$$

choose special  $v$ :  $v = u_1 - u_2 \in V$

$$\Rightarrow (u_1' - u_2', u_1 - u_2) = 0 \Leftrightarrow \int_0^1 \underbrace{[u_1'(x) - u_2'(x)]^2}_{\geq 0} dx = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow u_1'(x) - u_2'(x) = (u_1 - u_2)'(x) = 0 \quad \forall x \in [0, 1]$$

$$\Rightarrow (u_1 - u_2)(x) = C \quad \forall x \in [0, 1]$$

# Finite elements [6]

applying the two BCs:  $u_1(0) = 0, u_2(0) = 0 \Rightarrow u_1(x) = u_2(x) = 0 \quad \forall x \in [0,1]$   
 $\stackrel{C=0}{=} \Rightarrow u_1 = u_2$

suppose now, additionally, that  $u \in C^2([0,1])$

and  $u \in V$  solves  $(u', v') = (f, v) \quad \forall v \in V \quad (\text{IV})$

$$\Leftrightarrow \int_0^1 u'(x) v'(x) dx = \int_0^1 f(x) v(x) dx \quad \forall v \in V$$

integration by parts:

$$(u \text{ use } v(0) = 0, v(1) = 0 !!) \quad - \int_0^1 (u'' + f)(x) v(x) dx = 0 \quad \forall v \in V$$

$$\Rightarrow (u'' + f)(x) = 0 \Rightarrow -u'' = f \quad \text{D}$$

if  $w$  is continuous on  $[0,1]$   
 and  $\int_0^1 w'(x) v(x) dx = 0 \quad \forall v \in V$   
 then  $w'(x) = 0 \quad \forall x \in [0,1]$

Conclusion:  $\boxed{D} \Leftrightarrow \boxed{V} \Leftrightarrow \boxed{M}$



# Finite elements [7]

A finite dimensional subspace  $V_h$  of  $V_{\text{cn}}$   
 "infinite dimensional"

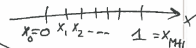
Many choices possible!

Basic example: piecewise linear functions

grid  $0 = x_0 < x_1 < x_2 < \dots < x_M < x_{M+1} = 1$

$$h_j = x_j - x_{j-1}, \quad j = 1, 2, \dots, M+1$$

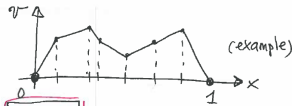
uniform grid  $h_j = h$  (constant)



$V_h \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{functions } v: v \text{ is } \underline{\text{linear}} \text{ on each subinterval } (x_{j-1}, x_j), \\ v \text{ is continuous on } [0, 1] \\ v(0) = 0, v(1) = 0 \end{array} \right\}$

# Finite elements [8]

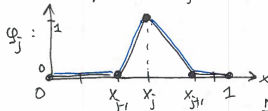
In a figure:



Important observation:  $V_h \subset V$

parameters to describe  $v \in V_h$ :  $q_j = v(x_j)$ ,  $j = 0, 1, \dots, M, M+1$

Introduce basis functions  $\varphi_j \in V_h$ ,  $j = 1, \dots, M$ :  $\varphi_j(x_i) = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if } i=j \\ 0, & \text{if } i \neq j \end{cases}$



$v \in V_h$  can be written as:  $v(x) = \sum_{i=1}^M q_i \varphi_i(x)$ ,  $x \in [0, 1]$   
with  $q_i = v(x_i)$ .

Each  $v \in V_h$  is uniquely described as a linear combination of basis functions  $\varphi_j$ .

# Finite elements [9]

$$\boxed{M_h}$$

Find  $u_h \in V_h$  with  $F(u_h) \leq F(v) \quad \forall v \in V_h$  "Ritz' method"

$$\boxed{V_h}$$

Find  $u_h \in V_h$  with  $(u_h', v') = (f, v) \quad \forall v \in V_h$  "Salerkin's method"

Similar as before:  $\boxed{M_h} \Leftrightarrow \boxed{V_h}$

if  $u_h \in V_h$  satisfies  $\boxed{V_h}$ , then  $v = \varphi_j \in V_h$  can be used:  $(u_h', \varphi_j') = (f, \varphi_j)$

$$\bar{j} = 1, \dots, M$$

taking linear combinations:  $\left( \left( \sum_{i=1}^M \xi_i \varphi_i(x) \right)', \varphi_j'(x) \right) = (f, \varphi_j(x)), \quad \bar{j} = 1, \dots, M$

$$\text{property of } (i,j) \Rightarrow \sum_{i=1}^M \xi_i \underbrace{(\varphi_i', \varphi_j')}_{= u_h \in V_h} = (f, \varphi_j) \quad \bar{j} = 1, \dots, M$$

a linear system of  $M$  equations ( $M$  unknowns  $\xi_1, \dots, \xi_M$ )

In matrix-vector form:

$$\boxed{A \vec{\xi} = \vec{b}}$$

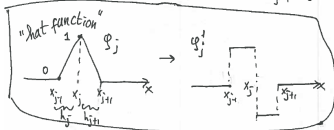
# Finite elements [10]

$A = (a_{ij})$   $M \times M$  matrix with  $a_{ij} = (\varphi_i', \varphi_j')$   
 $\vec{f} = (f_1, \dots, f_M)^T$   
 $\vec{b} = (b_1, \dots, b_M)^T$ ,  $b_i = (f, \varphi_i)$

↑ called "Stiffness matrix"

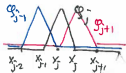
↘ called "load vector"

$$(\varphi_j', \varphi_j') = \int_0^1 (\varphi_j')^2(x) dx = \int_{x_{j-1}}^{x_j} \frac{1}{h_j^2} dx + \int_{x_j}^{x_{j+1}} \frac{1}{h_{j+1}^2} dx = \frac{h_j}{h_j^2} + \frac{h_{j+1}}{h_{j+1}^2} = \frac{1}{h_j} + \frac{1}{h_{j+1}} \quad j=2, \dots, M$$



$$(\varphi_j', \varphi_{j-1}') = (\varphi_{j-1}', \varphi_j') = - \int_{x_{j-1}}^{x_j} \frac{1}{h_j^2} dx = -\frac{1}{h_j}$$

symmetry  
 of  
 inner product



$$a_{ij} = (\varphi_i', \varphi_j') = 0 \quad \text{if } |i-j| > 1$$

# Finite elements [11]

matrix  $A$  : tri-diagonal, symmetric, positive definite

⇒  $A$  non-singular

⇒  $A \vec{x} = \vec{b}$  has a unique solution  
( $A$  is also "sparse")

special case:  $\dots h_{j-1} = h_j = h_{j+1} = \dots = h$  (constant)

$$\frac{1}{h} \begin{pmatrix} 2 & -1 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ -1 & 2 & -1 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & \dots & \dots & \dots & 1 \\ \vdots & & & & \\ 0 & \dots & -1 & 2 & 1 \\ \dots & & & & -1 & 2 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \xi_1 \\ \xi_2 \\ \vdots \\ \xi_M \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} b_1 \\ b_2 \\ \vdots \\ b_M \end{pmatrix}$$

with  $b_j = (f, \varphi_j) = \int_0^1 f(x) \varphi_j(x) dx = \int_{x_{j-1}}^{x_j} f(x) \varphi_j(x) dx$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{b_j}{h} = \frac{\int_{x_{j-1}}^{x_j} f(x) \varphi_j(x) dx}{h} = \bar{f}$$

average value of  $f$

$$(\varphi_i', \varphi_j') = (\varphi_j', \varphi_i')$$

$$\begin{aligned} v(x) &= \sum_{j=1}^M \eta_j \varphi_j(x) \\ \Rightarrow \vec{\eta}^T A \vec{\eta} &= \sum_{i,j=1}^M \eta_i a_{ij} \eta_j \\ &= \sum_{i,j=1}^M \eta_i (\varphi_i', \varphi_j') \eta_j \\ &= \left( \sum_{i=1}^M \eta_i \varphi_i', \sum_{j=1}^M \eta_j \varphi_j' \right) \\ &= (v', v') \geq 0 \end{aligned}$$

scalar  
(inner)  
product  
in  $\mathbb{R}^M$

and  $(v', v') = 0 \Leftrightarrow v' = 0$

$v(0) = 0 \Leftrightarrow v = 0$

$\Leftrightarrow \eta_j = 0, j=1, \dots, M$

$-u' = f$

and  $\frac{-1}{h^2} \begin{pmatrix} \dots \end{pmatrix} \vec{\xi} = \frac{1}{h} \vec{b}$   
 $= D_{2c} !!!!$

# Finite elements [12]

The error can be estimated:

$$u - u_h \leftarrow \begin{array}{l} \text{solution of } \boxed{V_h} \\ \uparrow \\ \text{solution of } \boxed{D} \end{array}$$

$$\text{we know: } (u', v') = (f, v) \quad \forall v \in \boxed{V}$$

$$\Rightarrow (u', v') = (f, v) \quad \forall v \in \boxed{V_h}$$

we also have:

$$\boxed{V_h}$$

$$(u_h', v') = (f, v) \quad \forall v \in \boxed{V_h}$$

$$\Rightarrow ((u - u_h)', v') = 0 \quad \forall v \in \boxed{V_h}$$

Notation:  $\|w\| = \sqrt{(w, w)} = \sqrt{\int w^2 dx}$

norm associated with inner product

Cauchy-Schwarz inequality:  $|(v, w)| \leq \|v\| \|w\|$

Theorem:  $\forall v \in \boxed{V_h} : \|(u - u_h)\| \leq \|u - v\|$

(in a certain sense  $u_h$ , from  $\boxed{V_h}$ , is the "best possible" approximation to the exact solution  $u$ )

# Finite elements [13]

Proof: let  $v \in V_h$  be arbitrary; set  $w = u_h - v \in V_h$

we have seen:  $((u - u_h)', v') = 0 \quad \forall v \in V_h$

choose  $w = u_h - v$   
(“special v”)

$$\xrightarrow{\text{}} ((u - u_h)', w') = 0$$

Apply Cauchy-Schwarz:  $\| (u - u_h)' \|^2 = ((u - u_h)', (u - u_h)')$

$$= ((u - u_h)', (u - u_h)') + ((u - u_h)', w')$$

$$= ((u - u_h)', (u - u_h + w)')$$

$$= ((u - u_h)', (u - v)')$$

$$\leq \| (u - u_h)' \| \cdot \| (u - v)' \|$$

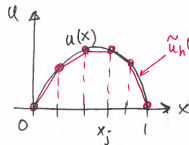
Divide both side by  $\| (u - u_h)' \| \neq 0$

(if  $\| (u - u_h)' \| = 0$ , then  $0 \leq \| (u - v)' \|$  always true ...)

$$\| (u - u_h)' \| \leq \| (u - v)' \|$$

# Finite elements [14]

How do we obtain a "real" error estimate?



$\tilde{u}_h(x)$ : a suitably chosen function

estimate:  $\|u - \tilde{u}_h\|$

$\tilde{u}_h \in V_h$ : the interpolant of  $u$ , i.e.

$\tilde{u}_h$  interpolates  $u$  at the

grid points  $x_j$ :  $\tilde{u}_h(x_j) = u(x_j)$

$j = 0, 1, \dots, M, M+1$

From numerical analysis (Bachelor course):

$$0 \leq x \leq 1: |u'(x) - \tilde{u}_h'(x)| \leq h \cdot \max_{0 \leq y \leq 1} |u''(y)|$$

$$\text{or } |u(x) - \tilde{u}_h(x)| \leq \frac{h^2}{8} \cdot \max_{0 \leq y \leq 1} |u''(y)|$$

combine with  $\|u - u_h\| \leq \|u - v\|$

$$\|u - u_h\| \leq h \cdot \max_{0 \leq y \leq 1} |u''(y)|$$

from  
"intermediate value theorem"

$$(u - u_h)(x) = \int_0^x (u - u_h)'(y) dy$$

Cauchy-Schwarz inequality

$$(u - u_h)(0) = 0$$

$$|u(x) - u_h(x)| \leq h \cdot \max_{0 \leq y \leq 1} |u''(y)|$$

for  $0 \leq x \leq 1$





# Abstract formulation [2]

$$\Rightarrow \int_{\partial\Omega} v \frac{\partial u}{\partial n} dS = 0 \Rightarrow \boxed{\int_{\Omega} \nabla u \cdot \nabla v d\Omega = \int_{\Omega} f v d\Omega \quad \forall v \in V}$$

\* define:  $a(u, v) = \int_{\Omega} \nabla u \cdot \nabla v d\Omega$  (a bilinear form) }  $\Rightarrow$  find  $u \in V$   
 and  $\langle f, v \rangle = \int_{\Omega} f v d\Omega$  such that  $a(u, v) = \langle f, v \rangle$   
 $\forall v \in V$



\* approximate the function  $u$ :  $u \approx u_h$

$$\text{Find } u_h \in V_h \text{ such that } a(u_h, v) = \langle f, v \rangle \quad \forall v \in V_h$$

$$= \left\{ v \text{ continuous in } \Omega, v|_K \text{ linear}, v|_{\partial\Omega} = 0 \right\} \subset V$$

for example  $\uparrow$  restricted to











# Abstract formulation [8]

\* Suppose (in the abstract formulation) that:

i)  $a(\cdot, \cdot)$  is symmetric

ii)  $a(\cdot, \cdot)$  is continuous:  $|a(v, w)| \leq \beta \cdot \|v\|_V \cdot \|w\|_V$

$\forall v, w \in V$   
for some constant  $\beta > 0$

iii)  $a(\cdot, \cdot)$  is 'V-elliptic':

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

for some constant  $\alpha > 0$

iv)  $L(\cdot)$  is continuous:

$$L(v) \leq \Delta \cdot \|v\|_V \quad \forall v \in V$$

for some constant  $\Delta > 0$

THEN, for the exact solution: ①  $a(u, v) = L(v)$  has a unique solution  $u \in V$

②  $\|u\|_V \leq \frac{\Delta}{\alpha}$  ("stability" of solution)

Proof: take  $v = u$  and use iii), iv):

$$\alpha \cdot \|u\|_V^2 \leq a(u, u) = L(u) \leq \Delta \cdot \|u\|_V$$

$$\Rightarrow \|u\|_V \leq \frac{\Delta}{\alpha} \quad (\text{suppose } u \neq 0)$$









# Abstract formulation [12]

$$\text{(ii)} \quad |v(x)| = \underbrace{|v(0)|}_{=0} + \left| \int_0^x v'(y) dy \right| = \left| \int_0^x v'(y) dy \right| \leq \left| \int_0^1 v'(y) dy \right| \leq \underbrace{\sqrt{\int_0^1 1^2 dy}}_2 \cdot \underbrace{\sqrt{\int_0^1 (v')^2 dy}}_1$$

$v \in H_0^1$  (under  $=0$ )       $x \leq 1$  (under  $\int_0^x$ )      Cauchy-Schwarz (under  $\sqrt{\int_0^1 1^2 dy}$ )

take square and  $\int$ 's on both sides:

$$\int_0^1 |v(x)|^2 dx \leq \int_0^1 \int_0^1 (v'(y))^2 dy dx = \int_0^1 (v')^2 dy$$

$$\Rightarrow \|v\|_{H_0^1}^2 \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \int_0^1 v^2 dx + \int_0^1 (v')^2 dx \leq 2 \cdot \int_0^1 (v')^2 dx = 2 \cdot \alpha(v, v)$$

So, here  $\alpha = \frac{1}{2} \Rightarrow$  a  $\bar{u}$   $V$ -elliptic  
( $V = H_0^1$ )











# Time-dependent case [5]

• Result:  $\|u_R(t)\|_{L_2} \leq \|u^0\|_{L_2} \quad \forall t \geq 0 \quad (16)$

•  $\nabla$  continuous estimate !! (see page 67)

• proof:  $\int \langle \frac{\partial u_R}{\partial t}, v \rangle + a(u_R, v) = \langle v, v \rangle \quad \forall v \in V_R$   
 take  $v = u_R$  and  $v = u_R \in V_R$

$\Rightarrow \langle \frac{\partial u_R}{\partial t}, u_R \rangle + a(u_R, u_R) = 0, \quad t \in (0, T)$

$\frac{1}{2} \int \frac{d}{dt} u_R^2 d\Omega = \frac{1}{2} \int \frac{d}{dt} (u_R^2) d\Omega$   
 $= \frac{1}{2} \frac{d}{dt} \int u_R^2 d\Omega$   
 $= \frac{1}{2} \frac{d}{dt} \|u_R\|_{L_2}^2$

thus:  $\frac{1}{2} \frac{d}{dt} \|u_R\|_{L_2}^2 + a(u_R, u_R) = 0$

integrate over time  $t$ :  $\|u_R\|_{L_2}^2 + 2 \int_0^t a(u_R(s), u_R(s)) ds = \|u_R(0)\|_{L_2}^2$

$\Rightarrow \|u_R(t)\|_{L_2} \leq \|u_R(0)\|_{L_2}$

$\leq \|u^0\|_{L_2}$  (via original IC)

via Cauchy-Schwarz  
 $\|u_R(0)\|_{L_2}^2 = \langle u_R(0), u_R(0) \rangle = \langle u^0, u_R(0) \rangle \leq \|u^0\|_{L_2} \|u_R(0)\|_{L_2}$   
 $\Rightarrow \|u_R(0)\|_{L_2} \leq \|u^0\|_{L_2}$

## Examples [1]

Some finite element spaces ( $V_h$ )

- piecewise polynomial functions on "triangulations"  $T_h$  of a bounded domain  $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^d$  ( $d=1,2,3$ )  
 $d=1$ : elements  $K \rightarrow$  intervals  
 $d=2$ : " " triangles or quadrilaterals  
 $d=3$ : " " tetrahedrons (for instance)


$V_h \subset H^1(\Omega) \Leftrightarrow V_h \subset C^0(\bar{\Omega})$  (continuous function)  
 $V_h \subset H^2(\Omega) \Leftrightarrow V_h \subset C^1(\bar{\Omega})$  (continuous function + first derivatives are continuous)

$\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^2$  ( $d=2$ ) with polygonal boundary  $\partial\Omega$   
 $T_h = \{K\}$  a given triangulation

notation:  $P_r(K) = \{v : v \text{ is polynomial of degree } \leq r \text{ on } K\}$

$r=1$ :  $P_1(K) =$  space of linear functions on  $K$   
 $v(x) = a_0 + a_1 x_1 + a_2 x_2, x \in K$  ( $a_j \in \mathbb{R}$ )  
 $\dim(P_1(K)) = 3$   
 basis for  $P_1(K)$ :  
 $\Psi_1(x) \equiv 1$   
 $\Psi_2(x) = x_1$   
 $\Psi_3(x) = x_2$

$v$  uniquely determined by values at  $*$



## Examples [2]

$\tau=2$ :  $P_2(K)$  = space of quadratic functions on  $K$

$v(x) = a_{00} + a_{10}x + a_{20}x^2 + a_{01}x + a_{11}x + a_{21}x^2 + a_{02}x^2 + a_{12}x^2 + a_{22}x^2$ ,  $x \in K$

is uniquely determined by values at 6 nodes

basis:  $\{1, x, x^2, xy, y^2, x^2+y^2\}$  ( $a_{ij} \in \mathbb{R}$ )

$\dim(P_2(K)) = 6$

$\tau=3$ :  $\dim(P_3(K)) = 10$

center of gravity

general  $\tau$ :  $\dim(P_\tau(K)) = \frac{(\tau+1)(\tau+2)}{2}$

$\tau=3$  (other choice!!)

then above

is uniquely determined by 3 corner values + 1 value at center of gravity

total = 10

or  $\frac{\partial v}{\partial x}$  at 3 corner points

or  $\frac{\partial v}{\partial y}$  at 3 corner points

$\tau=5$

$\dim(P_5(K)) = 21$

derivatives  $\in \mathbb{Z}$

outward normal direction

$D^2 v$ ,  $a_{11} + a_{22} \leq 2$  at 3 corner points

$\frac{\partial v}{\partial x}$  at 3 "midpoints"

$\frac{\partial^2 v}{\partial x^2}$ ,  $\frac{\partial^2 v}{\partial y^2}$ ,  $\frac{\partial^2 v}{\partial x \partial y}$ ,  $\frac{\partial^2 v}{\partial x^2 + \partial y^2}$

$\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^3$  ( $d=3$ )

$\tau=1$  tetrahedron  $K$

$V_K = \{v \in C^0(\bar{\Omega}) : v|_K \in P_1(K), \forall K \in \mathcal{T}_h\}$

4 values at nodes

$\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^2$  ( $d=2$ )

rectangular element  $K$

$Q_1(K) = \{v : v \text{ is bilinear on } K, \text{ i.e.,}$

$v(x) = a_{00} + a_{10}x + a_{01}y + a_{11}xy$ ,  $x \in K, a_{ij} \in \mathbb{R}\}$

$Q_2(K) = \{biquadratic functions on K,$

$v(x) = \sum_{i,j=0}^2 a_{ij} x^i y^j, x \in K, a_{ij} \in \mathbb{R}\}$

A finite element = triple  $(K, P_K, \Sigma)$

geometric object (example: triangle)

finite dimensional space of functions on  $\Omega$

a set of degrees of freedom