

Finite Element Convergence Analysis for non-smooth solutions

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- Finite Element Method
 - Simple 1D Example
- Discretization Error
- Interpolation theorem
- Problem
- K-functional

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$$\begin{cases} -u''(x) = f_\alpha(x), & x \in (0, 1) \\ u(0) = u(1) = 0, \end{cases}$$

where $f_\alpha(x) = x^\alpha$, $f_\alpha \in L_2(0, 1)$ for $\alpha > -1/2$.

- Exact solution:

$$u(x) = \frac{x - x^{\alpha+2}}{\alpha^2 + 3\alpha + 2}.$$

- Let

$$V = H_0^1(0, 1) = \{v \in H^1(0, 1) : v(0) = v(1) = 0\}$$

$$u \in V, \quad \int_0^1 u' v' dx = \int_0^1 f v dx, \quad \forall v \in V$$

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- The weak formulation is

$$u \in V, \quad a(u, v) = \ell(v) \quad \forall v \in V \quad (1)$$

- Existence of a unique solution is guaranteed by the Lax-Milgram Lemma
- Partition the domain $I = [0, 1]$ into N parts as $0 = x_0 < x_1 < \dots < x_N = 1$
 - The points $x_i, 0 \leq i \leq N$ are called nodes,
 - The subintervals $I_i = [x_{i-1}, x_i], 1 \leq i \leq N$ are called elementsDenote $h_i = x_i - x_{i-1}$ and the mesh parameter $h = \max_{1 \leq i \leq N} h_i$
- Approximate solution will be sought in the space $V_h = \{v_h \in V : v_h|_{I_i} \in P_1(I_i), 1 \leq i \leq N\}$: note that, given the properties of the Sobolev space $H^1(I)$, we also have $v_h \in C(\bar{I})$

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- For the basis functions we choose for $i = 1, \dots, N - 1$

$$\phi_i(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{x-x_{i-1}}{h_i}, & x_{i-1} \leq x \leq x_i; \\ \frac{x_{i+1}-x}{h_{i+1}}, & x_i \leq x \leq x_{i+1}; \\ 0, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

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- The FEM thus becomes:

$$u_h \in V_h, \quad \int_0^1 (u_h' v_h') dx = \int_0^1 f_\alpha v_h dx, \quad \forall v_h \in V_h$$

- The variational formulation is:

$$u_h \in V_h, \quad a(u_h, v_h) = \ell(v_h) \quad \forall v_h \in V_h \quad (2)$$

which, using the representation $u_h = \sum_{j=1}^N z_j \phi_j$, can be transformed to the linear system

$$\sum_{j=1}^N z_j \int_0^1 (\phi_i' \phi_j') dx = \int_0^1 f_\alpha \phi_i dx, \quad 1 \leq i \leq N$$

- This system can be rewritten as $\mathbf{A}\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{b}$, where
 - $\mathbf{u} = (z_1, \dots, z_N)^T$ is the vector of unknown coefficients,
 - $\mathbf{b} = (\int_0^1 f \phi_1 dx, \dots, \int_0^1 f \phi_{N-1} dx, \int_0^1 f \phi_N dx)^T$ is the load vector

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Stiffness Matrix

- Entries of the stiffness matrix can be calculated as

$$A_{ij} = \int_0^1 (\phi'_i \phi'_j) dx;$$

Using the formulae

$$\int_0^1 (\phi'_i \phi'_{i-1}) dx = -\frac{1}{h}, \quad 2 \leq i \leq N,$$

$$\int_0^1 (\phi'_i)^2 dx = \frac{2}{h}, \quad 1 \leq i \leq N,$$

We obtain for the stiffness matrix

$$a(\phi_i, \phi_j) = \begin{cases} \frac{2}{h}, & i = j; \\ -\frac{1}{h}, & |i - j| = 1; \\ 0, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

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The Discretization Error

Lemma (Céa)

Let the bilinear form $a : H^1 \times H^1 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be continuous and coercive. Then the solutions $u \in H^1$ and $u_h \in H_h^1$ of the continuous and discrete variational problems satisfy the relation

$$\|u - u_h\|_{H^1} \leq C_0 \|u\|_{H^1}. \quad (3)$$

Idea of proof.

- Use Galerkin Orthogonality $a(u - u_h, v_h) = 0, \forall v_h \in H_h^1$,
- Coercivity of a , i.e. $a(u, u) \geq \gamma \|u\|_{H^1}^2, \forall u \in H_1$,
 $0 \leq \gamma \leq C \leq \infty$,
- and continuity of a , i.e. $|a(u, v)| \leq C \|u\|_{H^1} \|v\|_{H^1} \forall u, v \in H_1$



The Discretization Error (Cont.)

Theorem

Let $u \in H^2(\Omega)$ and u_h be the solutions to the continuous and discrete variational equations respectively. Then for the interpolation error satisfies

$$\|u - u_h\|_{H^1(\Omega)} \leq C_1 h \|u\|_{H^2(\Omega)}. \quad (4)$$

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Idea of proof.

Since $H^1(0, 1) \subset C[0, 1]$, we can define an interpolation operator I_h , cont. piecewise linear function, which coincides with v at nodes as $v_h(x_i) = v(x_i)$.

Therefore,

- $\inf_{v_h \in V_h} \|u - u_h\|_{H^1} \leq \|u - I_h u\|_{H^1}$ (Interpolation error).
- Focus on Interpolation error and to get the convergence result use the following steps
 - 1 Localization of the error on subdomains (Partitions),
 - 2 Transformation of the subdomains onto the unit interval,
 - 3 Calculation of the local Interpolation error,
 - 4 Inverse transformation back to subdomains.



Theorem (An Exact Interpolation Theorem)

Let $T : X_0 + X_1 \mapsto Y_0 + Y_1$ be linear operator with properties

$$\|Tx\|_{Y_0} \leq c_0 \|x\|_{X_0} \quad \text{and} \quad \|Tx\|_{Y_1} \leq c_1 \|x\|_{X_1},$$

let be either $0 < \theta < 1$ and $1 \leq q < \infty$ or $0 \leq \theta \leq 1$ and $q = \infty$.

Then for $X_\theta = (X_0, X_1)_{\theta, q; K}$ and $Y_\theta = (Y_0, Y_1)_{\theta, q; K}$

$$\|Tx\|_{Y_\theta} \leq c_0^{1-\theta} c_1^\theta \|x\|_{X_\theta}. \quad (5)$$

The Problem:

Define $T : H^1 \longrightarrow H^1$ by $Tu = u - u_h$ then using equation (3) , (4) and the interpolation theorem, we have:

$$\|u - u_h\|_{H^1} \leq C_0^{1-\theta} C_1^\theta h^\theta \|u\|_{H^{1+\theta}}. \quad (6)$$

For our model problem the exact solution can be approximated as:- $u(x) \approx x^{\alpha+2}$

$$\int_0^1 |x^{\alpha+2}|^2 dx = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{2\alpha+5}, & \alpha > \frac{-5}{2}; \\ \infty, & \text{else.} \end{cases}$$

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The solution:

$$x^{\alpha+2} \begin{cases} \in H^1, & \alpha > \frac{-3}{2}; \\ \notin H^2, & \alpha \in (\frac{-3}{2}, \frac{-1}{2}]. \end{cases}$$

Equivalent to: $v := u'(x) \approx x^\gamma$ for $\gamma = \alpha + 1$

$$x^\gamma \begin{cases} \in L_2, & \alpha > \frac{-3}{2}; \\ \notin H^1, & \alpha \in (\frac{-3}{2}, \frac{-1}{2}]. \end{cases}$$

Now we need to find θ so that $x^\gamma \in H^\theta$ for $\gamma \in (-\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2})$. $x^\gamma \in H^\theta$ if

$$\int_0^\infty t^{-(2\theta+1)} K(t; v)^2 dt < \infty$$

with

$$K(t; v)^2 = \inf_{v=v_0+v_1} (\|v_0\|_{L_2}^2 + t^2 \|v_1\|_{H_1}^2).$$

We know $K(t; v) \leq \|v\|_{L_2}$.

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Decompose $v(x) = v_0(x) + v_1(x)$ for $\varepsilon \in (0, \frac{1}{2})$

$$v_0(x) = \max(x^\gamma - \varepsilon^\gamma, 0)$$

$$v_1(x) = \min(x^\gamma, \varepsilon^\gamma)$$

$$\|v_0\|_{L_2}^2 + t^2 \|v_1\|_{H_1}^2 = \int_0^1 |v_0(x)|^2 dx + t^2 \int_0^1 (|v_1(x)|^2 + |v_1'(x)|^2) dx$$

$$g(t; \varepsilon) := \frac{2\gamma}{\gamma+1} \varepsilon^{2\gamma+1} - \frac{\gamma^2}{2\gamma-1} t^2 \varepsilon^{2\gamma-1} + C$$

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K-Method(cont.)

Minimize $g(t; \varepsilon)$ over ε .

$$g'(t; \varepsilon) = \frac{2(2\gamma + 1)\gamma}{\gamma + 1} \varepsilon^{2\gamma} - \gamma^2 t^2 \varepsilon^{2\gamma-2} = 0$$

gives

$$\varepsilon = t \sqrt{\frac{(\gamma + 1)\gamma}{2(2\gamma + 1)}} = C_1 t$$

$$g''(t; \varepsilon) = \frac{4(2\gamma + 1)\gamma^2}{\gamma + 1} \varepsilon^{2\gamma-1} - 2\gamma^2(\gamma - 1)t^2 \varepsilon^{2\gamma-3} \geq 0.$$

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$$\inf_{\varepsilon} g(t; \varepsilon) = \frac{2\gamma}{\gamma + 1} (C_1 t)^{2\gamma+1} - \frac{\gamma^2}{2\gamma - 1} t^2 (C_1 t)^{2\gamma-1} + C = C_2 t^{2\gamma+1}$$

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$$\varepsilon = t \sqrt{\frac{(\gamma + 1)\gamma}{2(2\gamma + 1)}} = C_1 t$$

$$g''(t; \varepsilon) = \frac{4(2\gamma + 1)\gamma^2}{\gamma + 1} \varepsilon^{2\gamma-1} - 2\gamma^2(\gamma - 1)t^2 \varepsilon^{2\gamma-3} \geq 0.$$

Therefore

$$\inf_{\varepsilon} g(t; \varepsilon) = \frac{2\gamma}{\gamma + 1} (C_1 t)^{2\gamma+1} - \frac{\gamma^2}{2\gamma - 1} t^2 (C_1 t)^{2\gamma-1} + C = C_2 t^{2\gamma+1}$$

Hence

$$K(t; v)^2 \leq C_2 t^{2\alpha+3}.$$

Application of Interpolation theorem

Then

$$\int_0^1 t^{-(2\theta+1)} K(t; v)^2 dt \leq \int_0^1 t^{2(\alpha-\theta+1)} dt < \infty,$$

if $2(\alpha - \theta + 1) > -1 \implies \theta < \frac{3}{2} + \alpha$.

This implies

$$\begin{aligned} v(x) &= x^{\alpha+1} \in H^\theta, \text{ for } \theta < \frac{3}{2} + \alpha, \\ \implies u(x) &= x^{\alpha+2} \in H^{\frac{5}{2}+\alpha}, \text{ for } \alpha \in \left(-\frac{3}{2}, -\frac{1}{2}\right). \end{aligned}$$

Then we can estimate the error as $h \rightarrow 0$ in

$$\|u - u_h\|_{H^1} \leq C_0^{1-\theta} C_1^\theta h^\theta \|u\|_{H^{1+\theta}}. \quad (7)$$

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Thank you!