

# Solving PDEs using the finite element method with the Matlab PDE Toolbox

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## 1. Project

### 1.1. Solving PDE with Neumann boundary conditions

Please write Matlab code to solve for the unknown function  $\omega$  that is the solution the PDE below that has zero forcing term, zero initial condition, and nonhomogeneous (non-zero) Neumann boundary conditions

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial}{\partial t}\omega(\mathbf{x}, t) - \nabla (\mathcal{D}_0 \nabla \omega(\mathbf{x}, t)) &= 0, & \mathbf{x} \in \Omega, \\ \mathcal{D}_0 \nabla \omega(\mathbf{x}, t) \cdot \nu(\mathbf{x}) &= \mathcal{D}_0 F(t) \mathbf{u}_g \cdot \nu(\mathbf{x}), & \mathbf{x} \in \partial\Omega, \\ \omega(\mathbf{x}, 0) &= 0, & \mathbf{x} \in \Omega, \end{aligned} \tag{1}$$

$\nu$  being the outward normal to the domain  $\Omega$ . The vector  $\mathbf{u}_g$  is a vector in two dimensions and has unit norm. You need to solve this in the time interval

$$t \in [0, TE], \quad TE = \delta + \Delta,$$

where  $\delta$  and  $\Delta$  are given constants. The time-dependent function  $F(t)$  in the Neumann boundary condition is defined in the following way:

$$F(t) \equiv \int_0^t f(s) ds. \tag{2}$$

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where  $f(t)$  is related to  $\delta$  and  $\Delta$  by:

$$f(t) = \begin{cases} 1 & 0 < t \leq \delta, \\ 0 & \delta < t \leq \Delta, \\ -1 & \Delta < t \leq \Delta + \delta, \\ 0 & \text{elsewhere,} \end{cases} \quad (3)$$

In particular,

$$F(t) = \begin{cases} t & 0 < t \leq \delta, \\ \delta & 0 + \delta < t \leq \Delta, \\ \Delta + \delta - t & 0 + \Delta < t \leq \Delta + \delta, \\ 0 & \text{elsewhere.} \end{cases} \quad (4)$$

**Remark 1.** *When you construct the Neumann boundary conditions, please generate the FE matrices without time dependence by writing the function*

`NeumannBC_notime.m`

*In this function, declare*

```
global UG
```

*Then add the time dependence to the ODE solver by writing the function*

`odefun_NeumannBC.m`

**Remark 2.** *The format in Matlab to define functions for the PDE Toolbox is the following*

```
function [value] = NeumannBC_notime(region,state)
```

*where  $x$  position is accessed as `region.x`,  $y$  position is accessed as `region.y` and the normal at the position  $(x,y)$  is accessed by  $(\text{region.nx}, \text{region.ny})$ . So if you want the function to return  $xy$  you would write*

```
value = region.x*region.y.
```

**Remark 3.** *Below is from the documentation of the Matlab Toolbox.*

*Partial Differential Equation Toolbox™ solvers pass the region and state data to your function.*

- "region" is a structure containing the following fields. If you pass a name-value pair to `applyBoundaryCondition` with `Vectorized` set to 'on', then region can contain several evaluation points. If you do not set `Vectorized` or use `Vectorized`, 'off', then solvers pass just one evaluation point in each call.

`region.x` — The x-coordinate of the point or points

`region.y` — The y-coordinate of the point or points

`region.z` — For 3-D geometry, the z-coordinate of the point or points

Furthermore, if there are Neumann conditions, then solvers pass the following data in the region structure.

`region.nx` — x-component of the normal vector at the evaluation point or points

`region.ny` — y-component of the normal vector at the evaluation point or points

`region.nz` — For 3-D geometry, z-component of the normal vector at the evaluation point or points

- "state" is for transient or nonlinear problems.

`state.u` contains the solution vector at evaluation points. `state.u` is an 1-by- $M$  matrix, where each column corresponds to one evaluation point, and  $M$  is the number of evaluation points.

`state.time` contains the time at evaluation points. `state.time` is a scalar.

- Your function returns the boundary condition values. The output has the following form: 1-by- $M$  matrix, where each column corresponds to one evaluation point, and  $M$  is the number of evaluation points.

If boundary conditions depend on `state.u` or `state.time`, ensure that your function returns a matrix of NaN of the correct size when `state.u` or `state.time` are NaN. Solvers check whether a problem is nonlinear or time-dependent by passing NaN state values, and looking for returned NaN values.

After you solved for  $\omega(\mathbf{x}, t)$ , the quantity  $h(t)$

$$h(t) = \frac{1}{|\Omega|} \int_{\Gamma} \omega(\mathbf{y}, t) (\mathbf{u}_{\mathbf{g}} \cdot \nu(\mathbf{y})) ds_{\mathbf{y}} \quad (5)$$

is computed in the code

`driver_project.m`

### 1.2. Solving PDE with forcing term

Writing  $\omega$ , which solves the problem (1), as the sum

$$\omega(\mathbf{x}, t) = \tilde{\omega}(\mathbf{x}, t) + F(t) \mathbf{x} \cdot \mathbf{u}_{\mathbf{g}}, \mathbf{x} \in \Omega, \quad t \in [0, TE] \quad (6)$$

where  $\tilde{\omega}(\mathbf{x}, t)$  satisfied the following diffusion equation with a forcing term and homogeneous boundary condition:

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \tilde{\omega}(\mathbf{x}, t) - \nabla (\mathcal{D}_0 \nabla \tilde{\omega}(\mathbf{x}, t)) = -f(t) \mathbf{x} \cdot \mathbf{u}_{\mathbf{g}}, \quad \mathbf{x} \in \Omega, t \in [0, TE], \quad (7)$$

$$\mathcal{D}_0 \nabla \tilde{\omega}(\mathbf{x}, t) \cdot \nu(\mathbf{x}) = 0, \quad \mathbf{x} \in \Gamma, t \in [0, TE], \quad (8)$$

$$\tilde{\omega}(\mathbf{x}, t) = 0, \quad \mathbf{x} \in \Omega, \quad (9)$$

Please compute  $\omega$  from  $\tilde{\omega}$  after solving the above PDE with a forcing term.

### 1.3. Solving PDE with eigenfunctions

The function  $\tilde{\omega}(\mathbf{x}, t)$  also can be expanded in the basis of Laplace eigenfunctions. Let  $\phi_n(\mathbf{x})$  and  $\lambda_n$  be the  $L^2$ -normalized eigenfunctions and eigenvalues associated to the Laplace operator with homogeneous Neumann boundary conditions:

$$-\nabla \mathcal{D}_0 (\nabla \phi_n(\mathbf{x})) = \lambda_n \phi_n(\mathbf{x}), \quad \mathbf{x} \in \Omega, \quad (10)$$

$$\mathcal{D}_0 \nabla \phi_n(\mathbf{x}) \cdot \nu(\mathbf{x}) = 0, \quad \mathbf{x} \in \Gamma. \quad (11)$$

We can write  $\tilde{\omega}(\mathbf{x}, t)$  in the basis of the eigenfunctions as

$$\tilde{\omega}(\mathbf{x}, t) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-a_n) \phi_n(\mathbf{x}) \int_0^t e^{-\lambda_n(t-s)} f(s) ds, \quad (12)$$

where the coefficients are

$$a_n = \int_{\Omega} \mathbf{x} \cdot \mathbf{u}_{\mathbf{g}} \phi_n(\mathbf{x}) d\mathbf{x}. \quad (13)$$

Please solve Eqs 10-11 and compute  $\omega$  using the formula in Eq. 12.

**Remark 4.** To calculate  $\phi_n(\mathbf{x})$  and  $\lambda_n$  in Matlab, you need to use the Matlab function `pdeeig`, with the command:

```
[V,L]=pdeeig(heatmodel,C_COEFF,0,1,[-inf,3*C_COEFF]);
```

$V$  contains the  $\phi_n$  and  $L$  contains  $\lambda_n$ , for  $n = 1, \dots, n_{eig}$ . How many eigenfunctions get computed depends on the interval on which you are looking for eigenvalues. The range I gave is  $\lambda_n \in [-\infty, 3C_{COEFF}]$ .

**Remark 5.** Before you use Eq. 12, please first (numerically) normalize the eigenfunctions  $\{\phi_n\}$  to have  $L^2$ -norm equal to 1, meaning:

$$\int_{\Omega} |\phi_n(\mathbf{x})|^2 d\mathbf{x} = 1. \quad (14)$$

The inner product of the functions  $f$  and  $g$  (for projection and norm operation) is defined by

$$\langle f, g \rangle \equiv \int_{\Omega} f(\mathbf{x})g(\mathbf{x})d\mathbf{x}. \quad (15)$$

If you have the values of  $f$  and  $g$  at the nodes, how do you do the above integral? Remember  $f(\mathbf{x}) \approx \sum_1^{N_p} f_j \psi_j(\mathbf{x})$ , where  $\psi_j(\mathbf{x})$  is the  $\mathbb{P}_1$  finite elements basis function on the node  $j$  and  $f_j$  is the value of  $f$  at node  $j$ . And  $g(\mathbf{x}) \approx \sum_1^{N_p} g_i \psi_i(\mathbf{x})$ . You want to compute

$$\int_{\Omega} \left( \sum_1^{N_p} g_i \psi_i(\mathbf{x}) \right) \left( \sum_1^{N_p} f_j \psi_j(\mathbf{x}) \right) d\mathbf{x}.$$

**Remark 6.** Write a function

`seqprofile_expintegral.m`

that integrates

$$\int_0^t e^{-\lambda_n(t-s)} f(s) ds$$

analytically. Break into different cases for  $t \in [0, \delta], [\delta, \Delta], [\Delta, \Delta + \delta]$ . The function should take as inputs  $t$  and  $\lambda$  :

```
function value = seqprofile_expintegral(time,lambda)
    global BDELTA SDELTA
```

Be sure to treat the case  $\lambda = 0$ .

#### 1.4. Computing a quantity related to the solution $\omega$

Please compute the quantity  $h(t)$  using the first definition given below:

$$h(t) = \frac{1}{|\Omega|} \int_{\Omega} \mathbf{u}_{\mathbf{g}} \cdot \nabla \omega(\mathbf{x}, t) d\mathbf{x} = \frac{1}{|\Omega|} \int_{\Gamma} \omega(\mathbf{y}, t) (\mathbf{u}_{\mathbf{g}} \cdot \nu(\mathbf{y})) ds_{\mathbf{y}}. \quad (16)$$

and compare with the computed result from using Eq. 5.

### 1.4.1. Sample output

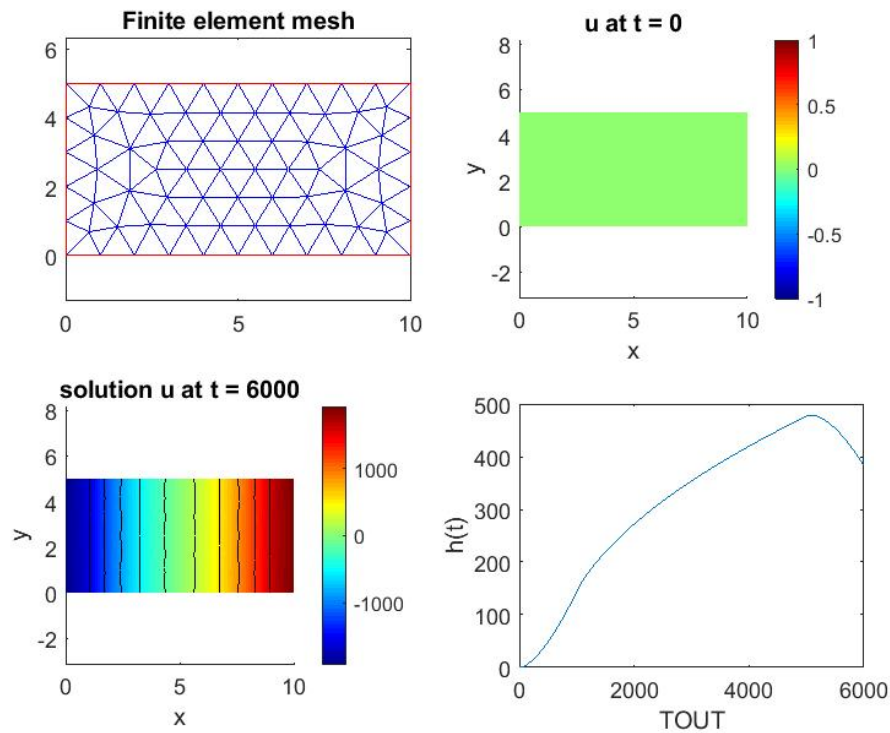


Figure 1: This is an example of the output.

### 1.5. Questions

1. What should you use as the limits of the eigenvalues in the command

```
[V,L]=pde eig(heatmodel,C_COEFF,0,1,[-inf,EigLim]);
```

I used

```
[V,L]=pde eig(heatmodel,C_COEFF,0,1,[-inf,3*C_COEFF]);
```

What can you use if you want to get about 10 eigenvalues? For the rectangle? For the disk? For the ellipse? Hint, where are the eigenvalues for the rectangle,...

2. Plot the eigenfunctions  $\phi_n(\mathbf{x})$  corresponding to the 4 largest  $a_n = \int_{\Omega} \mathbf{x} \cdot \mathbf{u}_g \phi_n(\mathbf{x}) dx$  using the command

pdeplot

How do the most important eigenfunctions vary according to  $\mathbf{u}_g$ ? Try  $\mathbf{u}_g = [0, 1]$  and  $\mathbf{u}_g = [1, 0]$ .

3. Fix a geometry and  $\delta$  (SDELTA), increase  $\Delta$  (BDELTA). How does  $h(t)$  change as  $\Delta$  increases?

### 1.6. Matlab files

#### 1.6.1. Matlab functions that you should have in your project folder

seqprofile.m (given, this is  $f(t)$ )  
seqintprofile.m (given, this is  $F(t)$ )  
project\_inputs.in (given)  
read\_simulation\_parameters.m (given)  
Build\_FE\_Mesh.m (given)  
Plot\_Figures.m (given)

Solve\_NeumannBC.m (given)

odefun\_ForcingTerm.m (need to write)  
odefun\_NeumannBC.m (need to write)  
ForcingTerm\_notime.m (need to write)  
NeumannBC\_notime.m (need to write)  
Solve\_EigenFunctions.m (need to write)  
Solve\_ForcingTerm.m (need to write)

#### 1.6.2. Files provided to you

There is an input file

project\_inputs.in

containing the necessary input parameters for the code.

```
1 0          % M_COEFF
2 1          % D_COEFF
3 1e-3      % C_COEFF
4 0          % A_COEFF
```

```

5 0 1          % UG
6 2500        % SDELTA_INPUT
7 3000        % BDELTA_INPUT
8 1           % SHAPE_INPUT (1=rectangle,2=ellipse)
9 10 5        % WIDTH, HEIGHT (of rectangle or ellipse)
10 0.5        % hmax of FE mesh
11 1e-6       % ODESOLVER_TOL

```

There is a file that reads the input parameters

read\_simulation\_parameters.m

```

1 function [M_COEFF,D_COEFF,C_COEFF,A_COEFF,UG,SDELTA_input,
2         BDELTA_input,...
3         shape_input,shape_parameters,hmax,odesolve_tol]...
4         = read_simulation_parameters(fname)
5 fid=fopen(fname);
6
7 tline = fgetl(fid);
8 M_COEFF = sscanf(tline,'%f',1);
9
10 tline = fgetl(fid);
11 D_COEFF = sscanf(tline,'%f',1);
12
13 tline = fgetl(fid);
14 C_COEFF = sscanf(tline,'%f',1);
15
16 tline = fgetl(fid);
17 A_COEFF = sscanf(tline,'%f',1);
18
19 tline = fgetl(fid);
20 UG = sscanf(tline,'%f',2);
21 UG = UG/norm(UG);
22
23 tline = fgetl(fid);
24 SDELTA_input = sscanf(tline,'%f',1);
25

```



```

26 tline = fgetl(fid);
27 BDELTA_input = sscanf(tline, '%f', 1);
28
29 tline = fgetl(fid);
30 shape_input = sscanf(tline, '%f', 1);
31
32 tline = fgetl(fid);
33 shape_parameters = sscanf(tline, '%f', 2);
34
35 tline = fgetl(fid);
36 hmax = sscanf(tline, '%f', 1);
37
38 tline = fgetl(fid);
39 odesolve_tol = sscanf(tline, '%f', 1);
40
41 fclose(fid);

```

There is a file that constructs the FE mesh

Build\_FE\_Mesh.m

```

1 function [heatmodel] = Build_FE_Mesh(shape,
2     shape_parameters, hmax)
3 width = shape_parameters(1);
4 height = shape_parameters(2);
5
6 if (shape == 1)
7     % gdm is a matrix to describe the geometry.
8     gdm = [3 4 0, width, width, 0, 0, 0, height, height]';
9     %gdm = [3 4 -width/2, width/2, width/2, -width/2, -height
10         /2, -height/2, height/2, height/2]';
11 elseif (shape == 2)
12     gdm = [4 0 0 width, height, 0]';
13 end
14 g = decsg(gdm);
15

```

```

16 % Creates PDE model object
17 heatmodel = createpde();
18 % Creates PDE model geometry
19 heatmodel_geom = geometryFromEdges(heatmodel,g);
20
21 % generates finite elements mesh
22 msh = generateMesh(heatmodel,'GeometricOrder','linear','
    hmax',hmax);

```

There is a file that plots figures

Plot\_Figures.m

```

1 function Plot_Figures(heatmodel,TOUT,YOUT,hvec)
2 figure;
3 subplot(2,2,1);
4 pdeplot(heatmodel);
5 title('Finite element mesh');
6 axis equal;
7 subplot(2,2,2);
8 pdeplot(heatmodel,'XYData',YOUT(1,:),'Contour','on','
    ColorMap','jet');
9 title(['u at t = ',num2str(TOUT(1))]);
10 xlabel('x');
11 ylabel('y');
12 axis equal;
13 subplot(2,2,3);
14 pdeplot(heatmodel,'XYData',YOUT(end,:),'Contour','on','
    ColorMap','jet');
15 title(['solution u at t = ',num2str(TOUT(end))]);
16 xlabel('x');
17 ylabel('y');
18 axis equal;
19 subplot(2,2,4);
20 plot(TOUT,hvec);
21 xlabel('TOUT');
22 ylabel('h(t)');

```

There is a driver file that calls all the Matlab functions

driver\_project.m

```
1 %close all; clear;
2 global UG;
3 global BDELTA SDELTA
4
5 fname = 'project_inputs.in';
6
7 [M_COEFF,D_COEFF,C_COEFF,A_COEFF,UG_input,SDELTA_input,
8  BDELTA_input,...
9  shape_input,shape_parameters,hmax,odesolve_tol]...
10 = read_simulation_parameters(fname);
11 SDELTA = SDELTA_input;
12 BDELTA = BDELTA_input;
13
14 [heatmodel] = Build_FE_Mesh(shape_input,shape_parameters,
15 hmax);
16 [TOUT,YOUT,G_save,M_save] = Solve_NeumannBC(M_COEFF,
17 D_COEFF,C_COEFF,A_COEFF,...
18 UG_input,SDELTA_input,BDELTA_input,heatmodel,
19 odesolve_tol);
20
21 VOL = sum(sum(M_save));
22
23 hvec = G_save.*YOUT'/VOL;
24
25 Plot_Figures(heatmodel,TOUT,YOUT,hvec);
26
27 [TOUT,YOUT] = Solve_ForcingTerm(M_COEFF,D_COEFF,C_COEFF,
28 A_COEFF,...
29 UG_input,SDELTA_input,BDELTA_input,heatmodel,
30 odesolve_tol);
31
32 hvec = G_save.*YOUT'/VOL;
33
34 Plot_Figures(heatmodel,TOUT,YOUT,hvec);
```

```

31
32 if (shape_input==2)
33     BesselJPrimeRoots;
34     Leig_mat = [besseljprimeroots;besseljprimeroots(2:end
35     ,:)].^2/shape_parameters(1)/shape_parameters(2);
36 elseif (shape_input == 1)
37     Leig_mat = pi^2*([0:1:10]').^2/shape_parameters(1)^2*
38     ones(1,11)...
39     +ones(11,1)*pi^2*([0:1:10]).^2/shape_parameters(2)
40     ^2;
41 end
42 numroots = prod(size(Leig_mat));
43 L_exact = reshape((Leig_mat*C_COEFF)',[numroots,1]);
44 [L_sort,L_index]=sort(L_exact,'ascend');
45 if (shape_input == 2)
46     L1 = [0;L_sort];
47 else
48     L1 = L_sort;
49 end
50 neig = min(40,length(L1)-1);
51 EigLim = (L1(neig)+L1(neig+1))/2;
52
53 [TOUT,YOUT,V,L,proju0] = Solve_EigenFunctions(M_COEFF,
54     D_COEFF,C_COEFF,A_COEFF,...
55     UG_input,SDELTA_input,BDELTA_input,heatmodel,EigLim);
56
57 hvec = G_save.*YOUT'/VOL;
58
59 Plot_Figures(heatmodel,TOUT,YOUT,hvec);
60
61 L2 = L;
62 Stmp = min(length(L1),length(L2));
63
64 figure; hold on; plot(L1(1:Stmp),'x'); plot(L2(1:Stmp),'o'
65     );
66 figure; plot(proju0,'o');
67
68 PU0_max = max(abs(proju0));

```

```

64 PU0_ind = find(abs(proju0)>=0.001*PU0_max);
65
66 figure;
67 for ieig = 1:min(12,length(PU0_ind))
68     figure;
69     %subplot(1,1,ieig);
70     pdeplot(heatmodel,'XYData',V(:,PU0_ind(ieig)),'Contour
71         ','on','ColorMap','jet');
72     title(['ef',mynum2str(PU0_ind(ieig),1),'ev=',
73         mynum2str(L(PU0_ind(ieig)),1),...
74         ',an=',mynum2str(abs(proju0(PU0_ind(ieig))),2)]);
75     xlabel('x');
76     ylabel('y');
77     axis equal;
78 end

```

There is the function that solves the PDE in Eq. 1

Solve\_NeumannBC.m

```

1 function [TOUT,YOUT,G_save,M_save] = Solve_NeumannBC(
2     M_COEFF,D_COEFF,C_COEFF,A_COEFF,...
3     UG_input,SDELTA_input,BDELTA_input,heatmodel,
4     odesolve_tol)
5
6 global FEM_M FEM_K FEM_A FEM_Q FEM_G FEM_F
7 global UG;
8 global BDELTA SDELTA
9
10 SDELTA = SDELTA_input;
11 BDELTA = BDELTA_input;
12 UG = UG_input;
13
14 % set PDE coefficients
15 specifyCoefficients(heatmodel,'m',M_COEFF,'d',D_COEFF,'c',
16     C_COEFF,'a',A_COEFF,'f',0);
17 NumEdges = heatmodel.Geometry.NumEdges;
18 % set boundary conditions

```

```

16 for ie = 1:NumEdges
17     applyBoundaryCondition(heatmodel,'neumann','Edge',ie,
18         ...
19         'g',@NeumannBC_notime,'q',0,'Vectorized','on');
19 end
20 % assemble the 6 finite elements matrices
21 model_FEM_matrices = assembleFEMatrices(heatmodel);
22 FEM_M = model_FEM_matrices.M;
23 FEM_K = model_FEM_matrices.K;
24 FEM_A = model_FEM_matrices.A;
25 FEM_Q = model_FEM_matrices.Q;
26 FEM_G = C_COEFF*model_FEM_matrices.G;
27 FEM_F = model_FEM_matrices.F;
28
29 G_save = model_FEM_matrices.G;
30
31 M_save = model_FEM_matrices.M/D_COEFF;
32
33
34 % set time of simulation
35 startTime = 0;
36 endTime = BDELTA+SDELTA;
37
38 tlist = [startTime,endTime];
39
40 % This evaluates Initial Condition
41 u0 = zeros(1,size(FEM_M,1));
42
43 options = odeset('Mass',FEM_M,'AbsTol',odesolve_tol,'
44     RelTol',odesolve_tol,'Stats','on');
45
46 disp('ode23t');
47 tic
48     [TOUT,YOUT] = ode23t(@odefun_NeumannBC,tlist,u0',options
49     );
49 toc

```