Numerical Methods for Partial Differential Equations

ETH Zürich D-MATH

Homework Problem Sheet 3

Problem 3.1 Fourier Spectral Galerkin Scheme for Two-Point Boundary Value Problem

In [NPDE, Section 1.5.2.1] you learned about the discretization of 2-point boundary value problems based on global polynomials using integrated Legendre polynomials as basis. The implementation for a linear BVP was presented in [NPDE, § 1.5.48].

This problem is focused on another variant of spectral Galerkin discretization, which relies on non-polynomial trial and test spaces and, again, employs globally supported basis functions. This time the solution will be approximated by linear combinations of trigonometric functions. You will be asked to implement the Galerkin discretization in MATLAB and to study its convergence in a numerical experiment, *cf* [NCSE, Thm. 9.1.4].

We consider the linear variational problem: seek $u \in C^1_{0,pw}([0,1])$ such that

$$\int_0^1 \sigma(x) \frac{\mathrm{d}u}{\mathrm{d}x}(x) \frac{\mathrm{d}v}{\mathrm{d}x}(x) \, \mathrm{d}x = \int_0^1 f(x)v(x) \, \mathrm{d}x, \quad \forall v \in \mathcal{C}_{0,\mathrm{pw}}^1([0,1]), \tag{3.1.1}$$

cf. [NPDE, Eq. (1.4.23)]. For the discretization of (3.1.1) we may use a so-called *Fourier-spectral* Galerkin method, which boils down to a Galerkin method using the trial and test space

$$V_{N,0} := \text{span}\{\sin(\pi x), \sin(2\pi x), \dots, \sin(N\pi x)\}, \qquad (3.1.2)$$

and the basis function already given in the definition (3.1.2). It is related the spectral Galerkin scheme discussed in [NPDE, Section 1.5.2.1].

(3.1a) Show that the functions specified in (3.1.2) really provides a basis of $V_{N,0}$.

HINT: First establish orthogonality of the basis functions with respect to the inner product

$$(f,g)_{L^2(0,1)} := \int_0^1 f(x)g(x) dx$$
.

Then recall that a basis of a finite dimensional vector space is a maximal *linearly independent* subset.

(3.1b) Which basis should be used for the Fourier spectral scheme, if we had to approximate functions in the space $C_{0,\text{pw}}^1([a,b])$ for fixed a < b, instead of the space $C_{0,\text{pw}}^1([0,1])$.

HINT: Read [NPDE, § 1.5.41].

(3.1c) Since (3.1.1) is a linear variational problem, any Galerkin discretization will lead to a linear system of equations. For the case $\sigma \equiv 1$ compute its matrix for the Galerkin scheme relying on $V_{N,0}$ and the trigonometric basis specified in (3.1.2). Discuss structural properties of the matrix like sparsity, symmetry, regularity.

(3.1d) Write a MATLAB function

that computes the Galerkin matrix for the Fourier spectral Galerkin scheme for (3.1.1). Here sigma is a handle to the coefficient function σ . The evaluation of the integrals should be done by means of a 3N-point Gaussian quadrature formula on [0,1].

HINT: The nodes and weights of the Gaussian quadrature rules on [a, b] can be computed by the MATLAB function [x, w] = gauleg(a, b, n, tol), which is available for download.

(3.1e) Write a function

that computes the right-hand side vector for the Fourier spectral Galerkin discretization with N basis functions. The routine should rely on 3N-point Gaussian quadrature for the evaluation of the integrals.

(3.1f) For $\sigma(x)=\frac{1}{\cosh(\sin(\pi x))}$, $f(x)=\pi^2\sin(\pi x)$, determine an approximate solution of (3.1.1) by means of the Fourier spectral scheme introduced above. Create a suitable plot of the L^2 -norm and L^∞ -norm of the discretization error versus the number N of unknowns for $N=2,3,\ldots,14$ and, thus, investigate the convergence of the method [NCSE, Remark 9.1.4]. The computation of the norms should be done approximately by means of numerical quadrature (equidistant trapeziodal rule with 10^5 points) and sampling (in 10^5 equidistant points), respectively, see [NPDE, Rem. 1.6.19].

HINT: The exact solution of the 2-point boundary value problem is

$$u(x) = \sinh(\sin(\pi x)).$$

(3.1g) Carry out the investigations requested in subproblem (3.1f) for

$$\sigma(x) = \begin{cases} 2 & \text{for } |x - \frac{1}{2}| < \frac{1}{4}, \\ 1 & \text{elsewhere,} \end{cases} \qquad f \equiv 1 ,$$

this time using N=2,4,8,16,32,64,128,256,512,1024. What kind of convergence do you observe? Relate with the observation made in subproblem (3.1f) and try to explain.

HINT: The exact solution is

$$u(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{3}{64} + \frac{1}{4}x - \frac{1}{4}x^2 & |x - \frac{1}{2}| < \frac{1}{4}, \\ \frac{1}{2}x - \frac{1}{2}x^2 & \text{elsewhere.} \end{cases}$$

Also recall the observations made in [NPDE, Exp. 1.6.31].

```
M = 6;

sigma = @(x)(1./(cosh(sin(pi*x))));

N=5;
fprintf('\n\n##getGalMat:')
getGalMat(sigma, N)

f = @(x) (pi^2 * sin(pi*x));
fprintf('\n\n##getrhsvector:')
getrhsvector(f, N)
```

Listing 3.2: Output for Testcalls for Problem 3.1

```
test_call2
2
  ##getGalMat:
  ans =
      4.4209
             0.0000 1.4066 0.0000
                                              0.2058
                          0.0000
                                              -0.0000
      0.0000
               16.1117
                                     3.4734
7
      1.4066
               0.0000
                          35.9390
                                   0.0000
                                              6.4682
                        0.0000
      0.0000
                3.4734
                                    63.8443
                                              -0.0000
      0.2058
               -0.0000
                         6.4682
                                  -0.0000
                                              99.7504
10
11
  ##getrhsvector:
12
  ans =
13
14
      4.9348
15
      0.0000
16
      0.0000
17
     -0.0000
18
      0.0000
```

Problem 3.2 Linear Finite Elements for the Brachistochrone Problem

In this problem we focus on the Galerkin discretization of the variational formulation for the brachistochrone problem by means of linear finite elements as introduced in [NPDE, Section 1.5.2.2].

We remind that the variational problem reads as: Find $\mathbf{u} \in V$ so that

$$\int_0^1 \left(\frac{\mathbf{u}' \cdot \mathbf{v}'}{\sqrt{-u_2} \|\mathbf{u}'\|} - \frac{v_2 \|\mathbf{u}'\|}{2\sqrt{-u_2}u_2} \right) d\xi = 0 \quad \text{for all } \mathbf{v} \in V_0,$$
(3.2.1)

 $V_0 := \left\{ \mathbf{v} \in (\mathcal{C}^1_{\mathrm{pw}}([0,1]))^2 \, \middle| \, \mathbf{v}(0) = \mathbf{v}(1) = \mathbf{0} \right\}$ and $V := \left\{ \mathbf{v} \in (\mathcal{C}^1_{\mathrm{pw}}([0,1]))^2 \, \middle| \, \mathbf{v}(0) = \boldsymbol{a}, \, \mathbf{v}(1) = \boldsymbol{b} \right\}$. Throughout we use equidistant meshes $\mathcal{M} = \left\{ \left] x_{j-1} := \frac{j-1}{M}, x_j := \frac{j}{M} \left[j = 1, \dots, M \right] \right\}$ of [0,1] and the standard "tent function" basis \mathfrak{B} of the Galerkin trial space

$$V_{N,0} = (\mathcal{S}_{1,0}^0(\mathcal{M}))^2 = \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \mathbf{v} \in (C^0([0,1]))^2 : \mathbf{v}_{|[x_{i-1},x_i]} \text{ linear }, \\ i = 1, \dots, M, \mathbf{v}(0) = \mathbf{v}(1) = 0 \end{array} \right\}.$$
 (3.2.2)

This is explained in detail in [NPDE, § 1.5.82], see, in particular, [NPDE, Eq. (1.5.83)]. It is recommended to use the ordering of the basis functions implied by [NPDE, Eq. (1.5.83)], though you are free to use any other scheme.

(3.2a) Determine a "u-dependent coefficient function" $\sigma(\xi) = \sigma(\mathbf{u})(\xi)$ and a "u-dependent source function" $\mathbf{f}(\xi) = \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{u})(\xi)$ such that the variational formulation (3.2.1) can be written as

$$\mathbf{u} \in V: \quad \int_0^1 \sigma(\mathbf{u})(\xi) \mathbf{u}'(\xi) \cdot \mathbf{v}'(\xi) \, \mathrm{d}\xi = \int_0^1 \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{u})(\xi) \cdot \mathbf{v}(\xi) \, \mathrm{d}\xi \quad \forall \mathbf{v} \in V_0 \ . \tag{3.2.3}$$

The point of recasting (3.2.1) in this form is the reduction to the structure of a linear variational problem. For the elastic string model this has proved highly useful as regards the implementation of Galerkin discretizations in [NPDE, § 1.5.55], Code [NPDE, Code 1.5.58], and [NPDE, § 1.5.82], Code [NPDE, Code 1.5.92]. Please study the latter example and code again, in case you do not remember the rationale behind (3.2.3).

(3.2b) Implement a MATLAB function

$$s = sigma(mu, xi)$$

where:

- mu is a $2 \times (M+1)$ matrix containing the components $\{\mu_1, \mu_2, ..., \mu_{M+1}\}$ of \mathbf{u}_N with respect to the basis representation of the curve (where $\mu_1 = \mathbf{u}(0)$ and $\mu_{M+1} = \mathbf{u}(1)$ are the pinning points);
- xi is a vector of evaluation points in the interval]0,1[.

The output is a vector s with the evaluations of the scalar function $\sigma = \sigma(\mathbf{u})$ at the mesh points xi.

HINT: You may use the MATLAB function linterp to get a piecewise linear interpolation of \mathbf{u}_N at the evaluation points.

Remember that the mesh on which you have the coefficients mu is equispaced.

The derivative of u_N is piecewise constant. You don't have to worry if an evaluation point is also a mesh point, where the derivative is discontinuous; in this case, you can take either the left or the right derivative.

A reference implementation sigma_ref is available in the file sigma_ref.p.

(3.2c) Write a MATLAB function

$$f = sourcefn(mu, xi)$$

where the input arguments are the same as in subproblem (3.2b) and the output is a $2 \times K$ matrix, with K the length of xi, containing the evaluations of the u-dependent source function f = f(u) at the mesh points xi.

If an evaluation point concides with a mesh point, where the derivative of u_N is not uniquely defined, consider either the left or the right derivative.

$$t = traveltime (mu)$$

which accepts as input the vector mu as in (3.2b), and returns the approximate value of the functional

$$J(\mathbf{u}_N) = \int_0^1 \frac{\|\mathbf{u}_N'(\xi)\|}{\sqrt{-(\mathbf{u}_N)_2(\xi)}} \,\mathrm{d}\xi$$
 (3.2.4)

representing the time needed to go from $\mathbf{u}(0)$ to $\mathbf{u}(1)$ along the curve \mathbf{u}_N .

For the computation of the integral in (3.2.4), use the midpoint rule (see [NPDE, Eq. (1.5.77)]). Note that the trapezoidal rule would be inappropriate because of the singularity of the functional at the origin.

HINT: A reference implementation traveltime_ref is available in the file traveltime_ref.p.

(3.2e) Proceeding as in [NPDE, \S 1.5.82], the discretization of (3.2.3) leads to a *nonlinear* system of equations of the form

$$\begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{R}(\vec{\mu}) & 0 \\ 0 & \mathbf{R}(\vec{\mu}) \end{pmatrix} \vec{\mu} = \begin{pmatrix} \vec{\varphi}_1(\vec{\mu}) \\ \vec{\varphi}_2(\vec{\mu}) \end{pmatrix}, \tag{3.2.5}$$

with $\mathbf{R}(\vec{\mathbf{\mu}}) \in \mathbb{R}^{M-1,M-1}$ and $\vec{\mathbf{\phi}}_i(\vec{\mathbf{\mu}}) \in \mathbb{R}^{M-1}$. Write a MATLAB function

$$R = Rmat(mu)$$

such that, given the coefficients $\vec{\mu} = \text{mu}$ in input (as in subproblem (3.2a)), returns the matrix $\mathbb{R} = \mathbb{R}(\vec{\mu})$.

For the evaluation of the integrals, use the midpoint rule [NPDE, Eq. (1.5.77)].

HINT: Compute the matrix including also the rows and columns referring to the two basis functions for the offset function. In this way, your matrix $\mathbb R$ will have dimensions $(M+1)\times (M+1)$. Then, in subproblem (3.2g), where you will have to solve the linear system, you have to consider just the entries relative to the inner nodes (i.e. you have to exclude the first and last columns and rows of $\mathbb R$). The reason for doing this is that with such $\mathbb R$ it will be easier, in subproblem (3.2g), to modify the right hand side to take into account the boundary conditions.

A reference implementation R_ref is available in the file R_ref.p.

(3.2f) Write a MATLAB function

$$phi = rhs(mu)$$

which, given the coefficients mu in input, returns as output the right hand side vector from (3.2.5)

$$\vec{\boldsymbol{\varphi}}(\vec{\boldsymbol{\mu}}) = \begin{pmatrix} \vec{\boldsymbol{\varphi}}_1(\vec{\boldsymbol{\mu}}) \\ \vec{\boldsymbol{\varphi}}_2(\vec{\boldsymbol{\mu}}) \end{pmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^{2M-2} . \tag{3.2.6}$$

For integration, consider the composite trapezoidal quadrature rule [NPDE, Eq. (1.5.72)]. At the origin (where the source function is singular), consider the integrand to be zero.

HINT: A reference implementation rhs_ref is available in the file rhs_ref.p.

(3.2g) The nonlinear system (3.2.6) can be solved by *fixed point iteration*. In this way, an approximate solution is computed solving, at each iteration, a *linear* system of equations (see [NPDE, \S 1.5.82], [NPDE, Code 1.5.92]).

Implement a MATLAB function

to compute the approximate solution (i.e. the coefficients mufinal with respect to the basis functions) using the fixed point iteration.

The input arguments are the initial guess mu0 and the tolerance tol for the relative error in the fixed point iteration algorithm (see [NPDE, Code 1.5.92], line 41).

For each iteration, plot the shape of the curve (see [NPDE, Code 1.5.92], lines 19-22).

Plot the travel time as defined in subproblem (3.2d) with respect to the number of iteration steps.

Remark: Remember to take into account the boundary conditions.

HINT: The solution should look like the cycloid

$$\mathbf{u}(\xi) = \begin{pmatrix} \pi \xi - \sin(\pi \xi) \\ \cos(\pi \xi) - 1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad 0 \le \xi \le 1,$$
 (3.2.7)

that was shown in the previous assignment to be a strong solution.

A reference implementation solvebrachlin_ref is available in the file solvebrachlin_ref.p.

- (3.2h) The fixed point iteration algorithm converges quite slowly to the approximate solution. To improve this, we use *nested iterations*:
 - a) start from an initial guess mu0 and an initial coarse mesh mesh 0 and compute the solution mu1;
 - b) consider the mesh mu1 obtained from mu0 inserting the midpoints of the interval as mesh points (thus doubling the number of mesh points) and compute the solution mu2 considering mu1 as initial guess;
 - c) repeat point b) iteratively until the desired final meshwidth level L is reached.

In point b), to get the initial guess, one has to extend a piecewise linear function defined on a coarser grid to a finer nested grid. To achieve this, piecewise linear interpolation can be used.

Remark: The advantage of considering the relative error tolerance for the fixed point iteration adapted to the meshsize (see [NPDE, Code 1.5.92], line 41) is that in all iterations from point b) the same tolerance tol can be used.

Write a MATLAB function

to solve the brachistochrone problem using nested iterations.

Here, uend is the right pinning point, while the left pinning point is consider to be the origin. L is the number of refinement levels. Start from a mesh of M=2 intervals, corresponding to the level L=0.

HINT: For the linear interpolation for the initial guess in point b), use the MATLAB function linterp.

Listing 3.3: Testcalls for Problem 3.2

```
u0 = [0; 0];
u1 = [pi; -2];
 M = 4;
_{4} | mesh = linspace (0,1,M+1);
  h = \mathbf{mesh}(2) - \mathbf{mesh}(1);
  mu = u0*(1-(0:1/M:1))+u1*(0:1/M:1);
  fprintf('\n\n##sigma:')
  xi = h/2:h: (1-h/2);
  sigma(mu, xi)
11
  fprintf('\n\n##sourcefn:')
  xxi = h:h:(1-h);
  sourcefn(mu,xxi)
15
  fprintf('\n\n#traveltime:')
16
  traveltime(mu)
17
18
  fprintf('\n\n##Rmat:')
  Rmat (mu)
20
21
  fprintf('\n\n##rhs:')
22
  rhs (mu)
23
24
  fprintf('\n\n##solvebrachlin:')
25
  solvebrachlin (mu, 10^{-6})
  fprintf('\n\n##nestitbrachlin:')
  nestitbrachlin([pi;-2],3,10^(-5))
```

Listing 3.4: Output for Testcalls for Problem 3.2

```
>> test_call_fem
2
  ##sigma:
  ans =
      0.5370 0.3101 0.2402 0.2030
  ##sourcefn:
  ans =
10
                      0
           0
11
     -5.2668 -1.8621 -1.0136
12
13
  #traveltime:
  ans =
15
16
      4.4737
17
```

```
##Rmat:
  ans =
20
21
     (1, 1)
                 2.1481
22
     (2,1)
                 -2.1481
23
     (1, 2)
                 -2.1481
24
     (2, 2)
                 3.3883
25
     (3, 2)
                 -1.2402
     (2,3)
                 -1.2402
27
     (3,3)
                 2.2009
28
     (4,3)
                 -0.9607
29
     (3, 4)
                -0.9607
30
     (4, 4)
                 1.7726
31
     (5, 4)
                 -0.8119
32
     (4, 5)
                -0.8119
     (5, 5)
                 0.8119
34
35
  ##rhs:
36
  ans =
37
38
                 0
           0
39
     -1.3167 -0.4655 -0.2534
  ##solvebrachlin:
42
  ans =
43
44
           0
                 0.3114
                          1.0169 1.9977 3.1416
45
               -0.6794 -1.3570 -1.8269 -2.0000
46
47
  ##nestitbrachlin:
  ans =
49
50
    Columns 1 through 9
51
52
               0.0510 0.1019 0.2179 0.3339 0.4994
53
               0.6650
                         0.8683
                                   1.0717
           0 \quad -0.1679 \quad -0.3358 \quad -0.5287 \quad -0.7215 \quad -0.9031
54
               -1.0847 -1.2425
                                   -1.4002
55
    Columns 10 through 17
56
57
      1.3040 1.5364 1.7906 2.0447 2.3145 2.5843
58
         2.8629 3.1416
     -1.5280 -1.6558 -1.7500 -1.8442 -1.9022 -1.9602
59
        -1.9801 -2.0000
```

Problem 3.3 Spline Collocation Method

[NPDE, Section 1.5.3.2] introduces the spline collocation method for 2-point boundary value problems based on natural cubic splines, see [NPDE, Def. 1.5.116]. In this problem we consider the simple BVP

$$-\frac{\mathrm{d}^2 u}{\mathrm{d}x^2} = f(x) \quad \text{in } [0,1], \quad u(0) = u(1) = 0, \tag{3.3.1}$$

 $f\in\mathcal{C}^0([0,1]),$ and its cubic spline collocation discretization based on the knot set

$$\mathcal{T} := \{jh\}_{j=0}^{M}, \quad h := 1/M, \quad M \in \mathbb{N},$$
 (3.3.2)

and on the set of collocation nodes $\{jh\}_{j=1}^{M-1}$.

(3.3a) Refresh your knowledge of the basic idea of discretization by collocation as explained in the beginning of [NPDE, Section 1.5.3].

(3.3b) Any cubic spline $s \in S_{3,T}$ has the local monomial representation

$$s(x) = a_i(x - x_{i-1})^3 + b_i(x - x_{i-1})^2 + c_i(x - x_{i-1}) + d_i, \quad x_{i-1} < x < x_i, \ i = 1, \dots, M, \quad (3.3.3)$$

with coefficients $a_i, b_i, c_i, d_i \in \mathbb{R}$. This local monomial representation will be used in the sequel.

Denote
$$f_i := f(x_i), i = 0, ..., M$$
.

Show that the collocation conditions [NPDE, Eq. (1.5.100)] imply the following formulas

$$a_i = \frac{f_{i-1} - f_i}{6h}, \quad i = 1, \dots, M,$$
 (3.3.4a)

$$b_1 = 0$$
 (3.3.4b)

$$b_i = -\frac{1}{2}f_{i-1}, \quad i = 2, \dots, M,$$
 (3.3.4c)

for the coefficients of the local monomial representation of the spline solving the collocation equations (in the fist equation we have set $f_M := s''(1) = 0$).

(3.3c) The equations (3.3.4) are too few to determine all unknown coefficients. To obtain further equations, use the continuity conditions for the "zeroth" and first derivative of a cubic spline, the collocation and boundary conditions at x = 0 and x = 1, and the relationships (3.3.4) to establish

$$d_1 = 0 (3.3.5a)$$

$$d_{i+1} - 2d_i + d_{i-1} = -\frac{h^2}{6}(f_i + 4f_{i-1} + f_{i-2}), \qquad 2 \le i \le M - 1,$$
 (3.3.5b)

$$c_{i+1} - c_i = -\frac{h}{2}(f_i + f_{i-1}),$$
 $1 \le i \le M - 1,$ (3.3.5c)

$$c_M h + d_M = \frac{h^2}{3} f_{M-1},$$
 (3.3.5d)

$$c_{M-1}h + d_{M-1} - d_M = \frac{h^2}{6}(2f_{M-2} + f_{M-1}). \tag{3.3.5e}$$

HINT: Recall the formulas for interpolating natural cubic splines from [NCSE, Sect. 3.8.1].

(3.3d) Write a MATLAB function

that computes the local monomial expansion coefficients of the natural cubic spline collocation solution of (3.3.1) with node set (3.3.2). These coefficients are to be returned in the row vectors a, b, c, d of length M. The argument f is a handle to the (continuous) right hand side function f.

- (3.3e) Plot the approximate solution of (3.3.1) with $f(x) = \sin(2\pi x)$ obtained by natural cubic spline collocation on an equidistant node set (3.3.1) with M = 5, 10, 20.
- (3.3f) As outlined in [NCSE, Rem. 9.1.4], investigate the convergence of the method on the same problem as in subproblem (3.3e) with M=5,10,20,40,80 in the L^2 -norm. In order to approximate the integral for computation of the norm use the composite 2-point Gauss quadrature rule.

HINT: The nodes and weights for 2-point Gaussian quadrature on [-1,1] are $\zeta_1 = -\frac{1}{3}\sqrt{3}$, $\zeta_2 = \frac{1}{3}\sqrt{3}$, $\omega_1 = 1$, $\omega_2 = 1$. This quadrature rule has to be transformed to all mesh cells (x_{j-1}, x_j) , see [NCSE, Rem. 10.1.3].

Listing 3.5: Testcalls for Problem 3.3

```
fprintf('\n\n##natcubsplinecoll:')

f = @(x) sin(2*pi.*x(:));

M = 5;
[a, b, c, d]=natcubsplinecoll(M,f)
```

Listing 3.6: Output for Testcalls for Problem 3.3

```
>> test_call
   ##natcubsplinecoll:
       -0.7925
        0.3027
        0.9796
        0.3027
       -0.7925
10
11
   b =
12
13
              0
14
       -0.4755
15
       -0.2939
16
        0.2939
17
        0.4755
18
19
20
   C =
21
        0.1376
22
        0.0425
23
       -0.1114
24
       -0.1114
25
        0.0425
   d =
29
              0
30
```

```
31 0.0212

32 0.0131

33 -0.0131

34 -0.0212
```

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References

[NPDE] Lecture Slides for the course "Numerical Methods for Partial Differential Equations". SVN revision # 74075.

[1] M. Struwe. Analysis für Informatiker. Lecture notes, ETH Zürich, 2009. https://moodle-app1.net.ethz.ch/lms/mod/resource/index.php?id=145.

[NCSE] Lecture Slides for the course "Numerical Methods for CSE".

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