

# FEM

1. Assume we have a variational problem (weak form)

Find  $u \in H_0^1((a,b))$  s.t.

$$\underbrace{\int_a^b u'(x) v'(x) dx}_{=: a(u,v)} = \underbrace{\int_a^b f(v) \cdot v(x) dx}_{=: b(v)} \quad \forall v \in H_0^1((a,b))$$

The strong form is then

$$-u'' = f \quad \text{in } (a,b)$$

$$u(a) = u(b) = 0$$

No Neumann BC

**Idea underlying FEM:** approximate  $u$  by means of continuous, piecewise polynomial f-ns

→ When talking about piecewise polynomials one has to fix a partitioning on the domain  $(a,b)$  first.

→ We equip  $\Omega = [a,b]$  with  $M+1$  nodes:

$$V(M) := \{a = x_0 < x_1 < \dots < x_{M-1} < x_M = b\}$$

Then we have mesh/grid:

$$\mathcal{M} := \{(x_{j-1}, x_j) : 1 \leq j \leq M\} \quad a = x_0 \quad x_1 \quad x_2 \quad \dots \quad x_M = b$$

A special case: equidistant mesh:

$$x_j = a + jh, \quad h = \frac{b-a}{M}$$

**Meshwidth:**

$$h_{\mathcal{M}} := \max |x_j - x_{j-1}| = \max h_j$$

Recall Prop 2.10 (Continuous, piecewise diff. f-ns).

Assume that  $(\Omega_j)_{j=1, \dots, M}$  is an open partition of  $\Omega$ , i.e.,  $\overline{\Omega} = \overline{\Omega_1} \cup \dots \cup \overline{\Omega_M}$ ,  $\Omega_j$  is open for  $j=1, \dots, M$  and  $\Omega_j \cap \Omega_k = \emptyset, j \neq k$ .

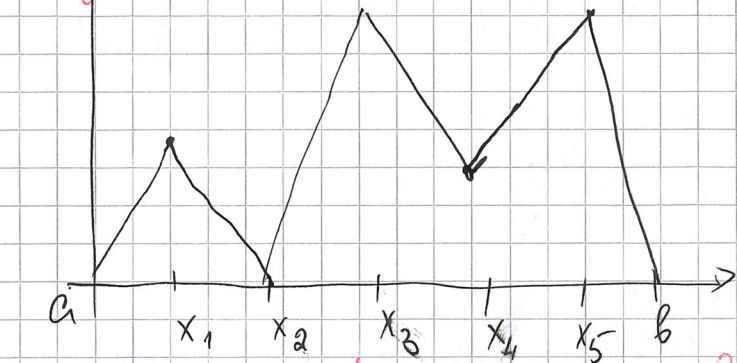
Let  $u \in C(\overline{\Omega})$  be s.t.  $u|_{\Omega_j} \in C^1(\Omega_j)$  for  $j=1, 2, \dots, M$ .  $\Rightarrow$

$u$  is weakly diff., i.e.  $u \in H^1(\Omega)$ .

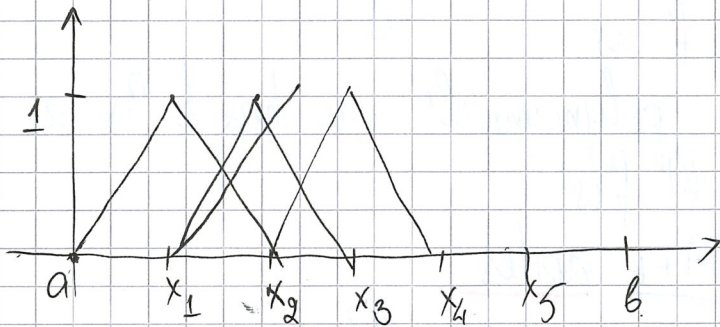
The simplest space of continuous  $M$ -piecewise polynomial f-ns in  $H_0^1(\Omega)$ :



$S_{1,0}^0(M) := \{ v \in C^0([a,b]), v|_{[x_{i-1}, x_i]} \text{ linear}, i=1, \dots, M \}$   
 $v(a)=v(b)=0$



Now we need to specify a basis for  $S_{1,0}^0(M)$  —  
 — We use 1D „tent (hat) f-ns“:



$\{\varphi_h^1, \dots, \varphi_h^{M-1}\}$

$$\varphi_h^j(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{(x-x_{j-1})}{h_j} & , x_{j-1} \leq x \leq x_j \\ \frac{x_{j+1}-x}{h_{j+1}} & , x_j \leq x \leq x_{j+1} \\ 0 & , \text{elsewhere.} \end{cases} \Rightarrow$$

$$\varphi_h^j(x_i) = \delta_{ij} := \begin{cases} 1 & , \text{if } i=j \\ 0 & , \text{if } i \neq j \end{cases}$$

$$\text{Supp}(\varphi_h^j) = [x_{j-1}, x_{j+1}] \quad , j=1, \dots, M-1$$

We compute weak derivatives:

$$\frac{d\varphi_h^j}{dx}(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{h_j} & , \text{if } x_{j-1} \leq x \leq x_j \\ -\frac{1}{h_{j+1}} & , \text{if } x_j \leq x \leq x_{j+1} \\ 0 & , \text{elsewhere.} \end{cases}$$



Obviously, derivatives are piecewise constant and discontinuous

Now we expand

$$u_h = M_1 \psi_h^1 + \dots + M_N \psi_h^N, \quad \text{test weak formulation, } N=M-1$$

with all test  $\psi$ -ns  $\Rightarrow$  we get:

seek  $M_e \in \mathbb{R}, e=1, \dots, N$ :

$$\int_a^b \sum_{l=1}^N M_e \frac{d\psi_h^l}{dx}(x) \frac{d\psi_h^k}{dx}(x) dx = \int_a^b f(x) \psi_h^k(x) dx, \quad k=1, \dots, N \Rightarrow$$

$$= a(u_h, \psi_h^k) = b(\psi_h^k)$$

$$\sum_{l=1}^N \left( \int_a^b \frac{d\psi_h^l}{dx}(x) \frac{d\psi_h^k}{dx}(x) dx \right) M_e = \int_a^b f(x) \psi_h^k(x) dx, \quad k=1, \dots, N$$

$$A_{ke} \quad B_k \Rightarrow$$

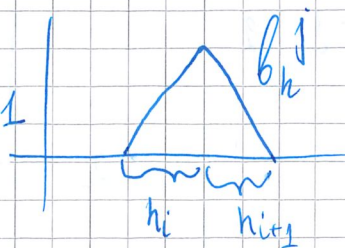
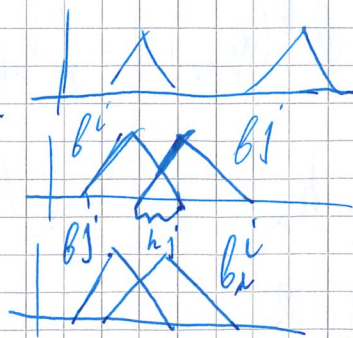
We get linear system:  $Au = B$

$A$  - Galerkin matrix,  $B$  - RHS vector

Compute entries of  $A$ :

$$\frac{d\psi^j}{dx}(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{h_j}, & x_{j-1} \leq x \leq x_j \\ -\frac{1}{h_{j+1}}, & x_j < x \leq x_{j+1} \\ 0, & \text{elsewhere} \end{cases} \Rightarrow$$

$$\int_a^b \frac{d\psi^j}{dx}(x) \frac{d\psi^i}{dx}(x) dx = \begin{cases} 0, & \text{if } |i-j| \geq 2 \\ -\frac{1}{h_{i+1}}, & \text{if } j=i+1 \\ -\frac{1}{h_i}, & \text{if } j=i-1 \\ \frac{1}{h_i} + \frac{1}{h_{i+1}}, & 1 \leq i=j \leq M+1 \end{cases}$$





$$\Rightarrow A = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{h_1} + \frac{1}{h_2} & -\frac{1}{h_2} & 0 & \dots & \dots \\ -\frac{1}{h_2} & \frac{1}{h_2} + \frac{1}{h_3} & & & \\ 0 & & & & -\frac{1}{h_{M-1}} \\ & & -\frac{1}{h_{M-2}} & \frac{1}{h_{M-1}} + \frac{1}{h_M} & \\ 0 & & & & \end{bmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^{N,N}$$

A is symmetric, <sup>strictly</sup> diagonally dominant, tridiagonal  $\rightarrow$  invertible

Special case: equidistant mesh:  $h_i = h \Rightarrow$

$$A = \frac{1}{h} \begin{bmatrix} 2 & -1 & 0 & & \\ -1 & 2 & -1 & & \\ & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots & \\ & & & & 2 \end{bmatrix}$$

How to calculate RHS? numerical quadrature, e.g. trapezoidal rule (with given mesh  $\mathcal{M}$ ):

$$\int_a^b \psi(t) dt \approx \sum_{l=1}^M \frac{1}{2} h_l (\psi(x_{l-1}) + \psi(x_l)),$$

In our case:

$$\int_a^b f(x) \varphi^k(x) dx \approx \frac{1}{2} h_k (f(x_{k-1}) \varphi^k(x_{k-1}) + f(x_k) \varphi^k(x_k)) + \frac{1}{2} h_{k+1} (f(x_k) \varphi^k(x_k) + f(x_{k+1}) \varphi^k(x_{k+1}))$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} (h_k + h_{k+1}) f(x_k) \Rightarrow \text{Equidistant mesh: Solve}$$

$$\frac{1}{h} \begin{bmatrix} 2 & -1 & & & \\ -1 & 2 & & & \\ & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots & \\ & & & & 2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} u_1 \\ \vdots \\ u_N \end{bmatrix} = h \begin{bmatrix} f(x_1) \\ \vdots \\ f(x_N) \end{bmatrix}$$



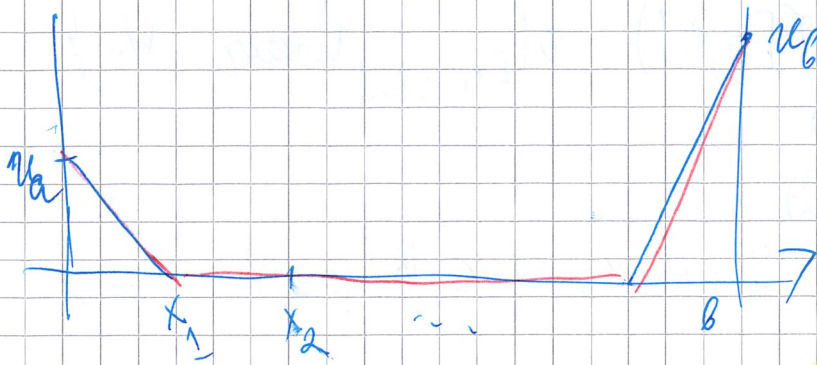
Remark: Offset f-n for finite element Galerkin d-n.

Assume we have

$$u(a) = u_a, \quad u(b) = u_b$$

In this case we can use piecewise linear offset f-n

$$u_{0,h}(x) = \begin{cases} u_a \left(1 - \frac{x-a}{h_1}\right), & \text{if } a \leq x \leq x_1 \\ u_b \left(1 - \frac{b-x}{h_m}\right), & \text{if } x_{m-1} \leq x \leq b \\ 0, & \text{elsewhere.} \end{cases}$$

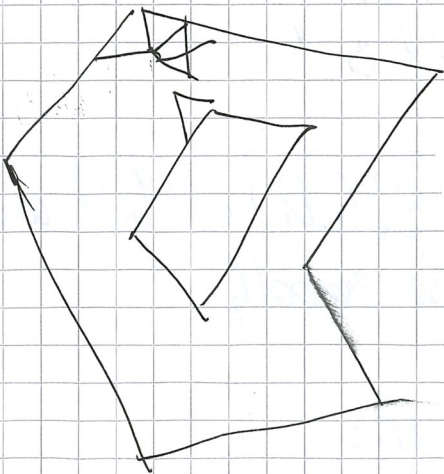


$u = \tilde{u} + u_{0,h}(x)$   
 $\tilde{u}$  is sol-n with homogeneous Dirichlet BC.

## Triangular FEM in 2D:

For the sake of simplicity, assume  $\Omega$  is a polygon

Q: What is the 2D counterpart of the 1D mesh/grid  $\mathcal{M}$ ?



Many more possibilities in higher dim-n!  
 We opt for triangulations

A triangulation  $\mathcal{M} = \{K_i\}_{i=1}^M, M \in \mathbb{N}$

$K_i$  - open triangle

(2) disjoint interiors:  $i \neq j \Rightarrow K_i \cap K_j = \emptyset$

(3) partition property

$$\bigcup_{i=1}^M K_i = \overline{\Omega}$$

(4) intersection  $\overline{K_i} \cap \overline{K_j}, i \neq j$ :

- either  $\emptyset$

- or an edge of both triangles (98)

- or a vertex of both triangles

Show

→ Pic 1 & 2.



We call:

vertices of  $\Delta$ 's : nodes of mesh ( $= V(M)$ )

$\Delta$ 's = cells or elements of mesh ( $= M$ )

$$M = \{K_1, \dots, K_M\}, \quad V(M) = \{x^1, \dots, x^M\}, \quad N \in V$$

### Linear Finite element space

Recall in 1D we used the space

$$S_{1,0}^0(M) = \{v \in C^0([a,b]) : v|_{[x_{i-1}, x_i]} \text{ linear}, v(a) = v(b) = 0\}$$

If no Dirichlet BC we can use

$$S_1^0(M) := \{v \in C^0([a,b]) : v|_{[x_{i-1}, x_i]} \text{ linear } \forall i\}$$

$\Rightarrow$  Generalize to  $d=2$ :

linear f-n in 2D

$$x \in \mathbb{R}^2 \mapsto \alpha + \beta \cdot x, \quad \alpha \in \mathbb{R}, \beta \in \mathbb{R}^2 \Rightarrow$$

in 2D:

$$V_{lin} = S_1^0(M) = \{v \in C^0(\bar{\Omega}) : \forall K \in M : v|_K = \alpha_K + \beta_K \cdot x \}$$

$\alpha_K \in \mathbb{R}, \beta_K \in \mathbb{R}^2, x \in K$

Notation

$S_1^0 \leftarrow$  cont. f-n,  $C^0(\bar{\Omega})$

$CH^1(\bar{\Omega})$

" Show

$\rightarrow$  pict 3 "

$\leftarrow$  locally, 1st degree polynomials

Similarly, as in 1D case

$$S_1^0(M) \subset CH^1(\bar{\Omega}), \text{ because } S_1^0(M) \subset C^0(\bar{\Omega}) \text{ and piecewise smooth.}$$

Next: Basis fns:

In 1D:

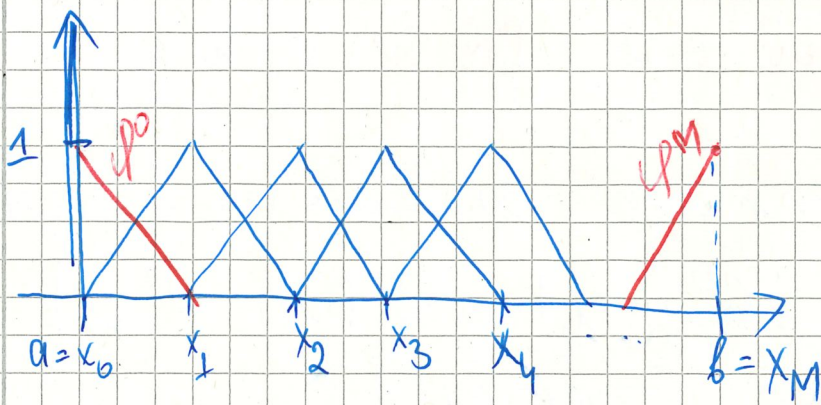
Recall the basis ("tent f-ns") for  $S_{1,0}^0(M)$ :

$$\{\varphi_n^1, \dots, \varphi_n^{M-1}\}$$

By adding 2 more "half-tent" f-n we obtain basis for  $S_1^0(M)$ :

$$\{\varphi_n^0, \dots, \varphi_n^M\}$$





We have "nodal property":

$$\varphi_h^j(x_i) = \delta_{ij} := \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if } i=j \\ 0, & \text{if } i \neq j \end{cases}$$

→ use it in 2D.

**Idea:** Define the basis f-n  $\varphi_h^x, x \in V(\mathcal{M})$  by "nodal conditions"

$$\varphi_h^x(y) = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if } y=x \\ 0, & \text{if } y \in V(\mathcal{M}) \setminus \{x\} \end{cases} \rightarrow \text{"show" "pict 4"}$$

Is this possible? Yes, because:

(i): There is exactly one plane through three non-collinear pts in  $\mathbb{R}^3$  ( $\Rightarrow$  Sheet 10)

(ii) The graph of a linear f-n  $\mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is a plane.

$\mathcal{V}_h \in S_1^0(\mathcal{M})$  is uniquely determined by  $\{\mathcal{V}_h(x), x \in V(\mathcal{M})\}$

$$\Rightarrow \dim S_1^0(\mathcal{M}) = \#V(\mathcal{M}) = N$$

If  $V(\mathcal{M}) = \{x_1, \dots, x_N\}$ , we define the nodal basis

$$\{\varphi_h^1, \dots, \varphi_h^N\} \text{ by}$$

$$\varphi_h^i \in S_1^0(\mathcal{M}),$$

$$\varphi_h^i(x_j) = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if } i=j \\ 0, & \text{else} \end{cases}$$

$$i, j \in \{1, \dots, N\}$$

→ "show" "pict 5".



# Linear finite element space for homogeneous Dirichlet BC.

$u|_{\partial\Omega} = 0$  corresponding Sobolev space  $H_0^1(\Omega) \Rightarrow$

Galerkin space:  $V_{0,h} = S_{1,0}^0(\mathcal{M}) := S_1^0(\mathcal{M}) \cap H_0^1(\Omega)$   
 $\leftarrow$  zero on  $\partial\Omega$

We can obtain  $S_{1,0}^0(\mathcal{M})$  by dropping basis fns on the boundary

$S_{1,0}^0(\mathcal{M}) = \text{Span}(\varphi_h^j : x_j \in \Omega \text{ (interior nodes)}) \Rightarrow$

$\dim(S_{1,0}^0(\mathcal{M})) = \#\{x \in V(\mathcal{M}), x \notin \partial\Omega\} \rightarrow$  "show" "pic 6"

## Sparcity of the Galerkin matrix:

Recall that in 1D the Galerkin matrix was tridiagonal, in particular, sparse. Since

$$A_{ij} = a(\varphi_h^i, \varphi_h^j) :$$

$\{ \text{Vol}(\text{supp}(\varphi_h^i) \cap \text{supp}(\varphi_h^j)) = 0 \Leftrightarrow \text{Nodes } x_i, x_j \in V(\mathcal{M}) \text{ not connected by an edge} \}$   
"show" "pic 4"

$\Rightarrow A_{ij} = 0 \rightarrow$  "pic 4"

Computation: For the sake of simplicity we consider the bilinear form for the Poisson problem:

$$a(u, v) := \int \nabla u \cdot \nabla v \, dx, \quad u, v \in H_0^1(\Omega)$$

Galerkin discretization is based on:

- (i) triangular mesh, set of vertices  $\{x_i\} = V(\mathcal{M})$
- (ii) discrete trial/test space  $S_1^0(\mathcal{M}) \subset H^1(\Omega)$
- (iii) the nodal basis

①  $\{\varphi_h^i\}$



Then

$$A_{i,j} = a(\psi_h^i, \psi_h^j) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^2} \nabla \psi_h^i \nabla \psi_h^j dx \Rightarrow$$

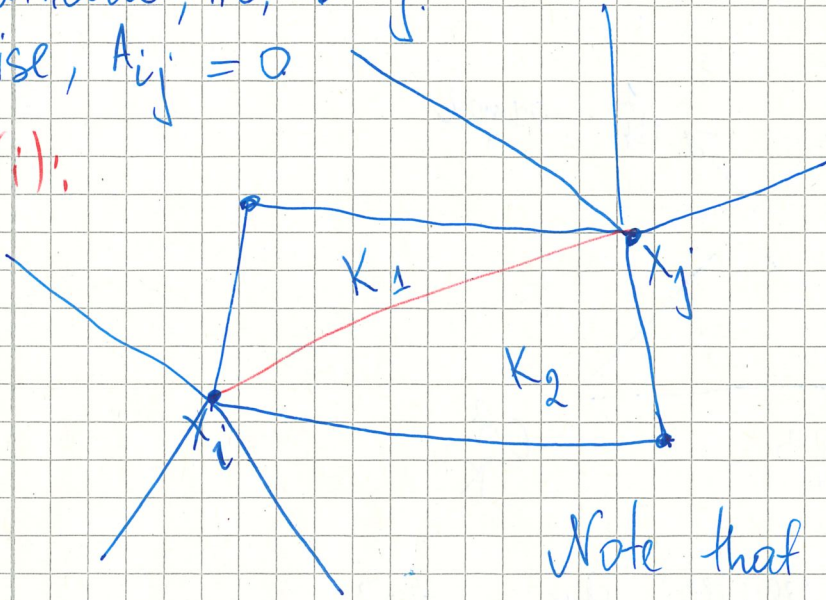
We need only deal with the sit-ns, where  $x_i, x_j \in V(M)$ :

(i) are connected by an edge of the triangulation

(ii) coincide, i.e.,  $i=j$ .

otherwise,  $A_{ij} = 0$

Case (i):



Note that  $\text{supp}(\psi_h^i) \cap \text{supp}(\psi_h^j)$

$$\subseteq K_1 \cup K_2 \Rightarrow$$

$$A_{ij} = \int_{K_1} \nabla \psi_h^i|_{K_1} \nabla \psi_h^j|_{K_1} dx + \int_{K_2} \nabla \psi_h^i|_{K_2} \nabla \psi_h^j|_{K_2} dx$$

This motivates us to calculate locally:

$$a_K(\psi_h^i, \psi_h^j) = \int_K \nabla \psi_h^i \nabla \psi_h^j dx$$

where  $K \in \mathcal{T}_h$  is a triangle,  $x_i, x_j$  are vertices of  $K$

Assume  $a_K^1, a_K^2, a_K^3$  are the vertices of  $K$

$$a_K^1 = \begin{bmatrix} a_1^1 \\ a_2^1 \end{bmatrix}, \quad a_K^2 = \begin{bmatrix} a_1^2 \\ a_2^2 \end{bmatrix}, \quad a_K^3 = \begin{bmatrix} a_1^3 \\ a_2^3 \end{bmatrix}$$

Then  $\forall i \in \{1, 2, 3\}$

$$a_K^i = x_j, \quad j \in \{1, \dots, N\}$$

$$\chi_i := \psi_h^j|_K, \quad i \in \{1, 2, 3\}$$

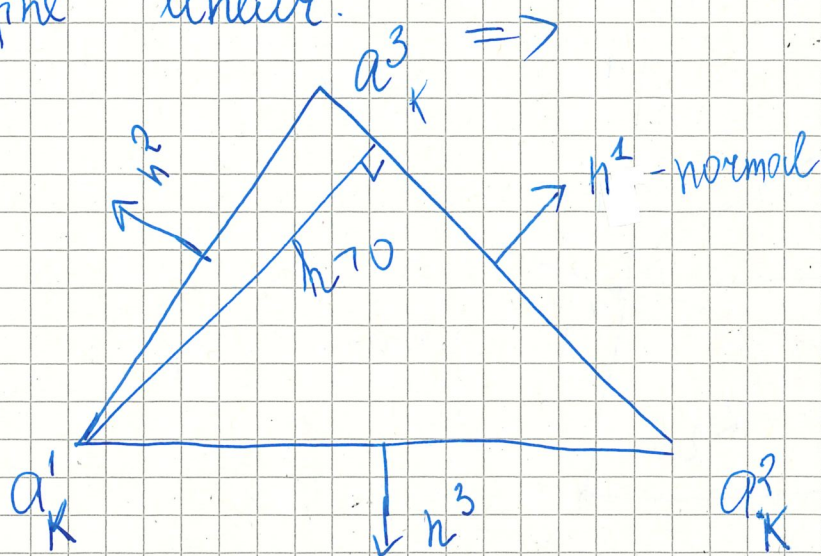
We write

*i*-local indexing  
*j*-global indexing



The f-ns  $\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \lambda_3$  on the triangle  $K$  are also known as barycentric coordinate f-ns  $\rightarrow$  "show pict 8 & 9"

Note that  $\lambda_i(a_K^j) = \delta_{ij}$  and  $\lambda_i: \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  affine linear.



$l_i$  - edge opposite vertex  $a_K^i \Rightarrow$

$$\lambda_1(x) = \frac{|l_1|}{2|K|} (x - a_K^2) \cdot n^1$$

$[\lambda_1(a_K^2) = 0, \lambda_1(a_K^3) = 0$  since  $a_K^3 - a_K^2 \perp n^1,$

$$\lambda_1(a_K^1) = \frac{|l_1|}{2|K|} \cdot \underbrace{(a_K^1 - a_K^2) \cdot (-n^1)}_{=h^1} = \frac{|l_1| \cdot |h^1|}{2} \cdot \frac{1}{|K|} = 1$$

There is exactly 1 plane through 3 noncollinear pts in  $\mathbb{R}^3$

Similarly,

$$\lambda_2(x) = \frac{|l_2|}{2|K|} (x - a_K^3) \cdot n^2$$

$$\lambda_3(x) = \frac{|l_3|}{2|K|} (x - a_K^1) \cdot n^3$$

Let us now compute the gradients



$$\text{grad } \lambda_1 = -\frac{|e_1|}{2|K|} n^1$$

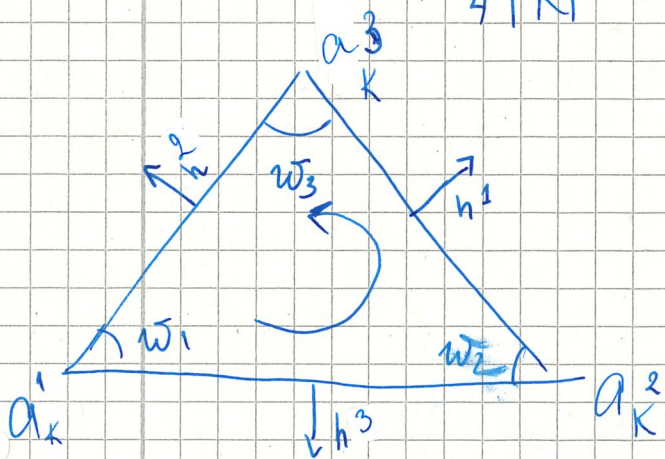
$$\text{grad } \lambda_2 = -\frac{|e_2|}{2|K|} n^2 \rightarrow \text{constant gradients}$$

$$\text{grad } \lambda_3 = -\frac{|e_3|}{2|K|} n^3$$

Now we can compute the contributions to entries of the Galerkin matrix:

$$A_K = \left[ \int_K \text{grad}(\lambda_i) \cdot \text{grad}(\lambda_j) dx \right]_{i,j=1}^3 \in \mathbb{R}^{3 \times 3}$$

$$\frac{1}{4|K|} |e_i| |e_j| n_i \cdot n_j$$



If \$i \neq j\$ we have

$$\ast h_i \cdot h_j = \cos(\pi - w_k)$$

$$\ast |K| = \frac{1}{2} |e_i| |e_j| \cdot \sin w_k \Rightarrow$$

$$(A_K)_{ij} = \frac{1}{2|e_i| |e_j| \cdot \sin(w_k)} \cdot |e_i| |e_j| \cdot \cos(\pi - w_k)$$

$k \neq i, k \neq j$

$$i=j: \sum_{i=1}^3 \lambda_i = 1 \Rightarrow$$

$$\text{grad} \left( \sum_{i=1}^3 \lambda_i \right) = 0 \Rightarrow$$

$$\sum_{i=1}^3 (A_K)_{ij} = 0 \Rightarrow (A_K)_{ii} = -(A_K)_{ij} - (A_K)_{ik}$$

$$\Rightarrow (A_K)_{ii} = \frac{1}{2} (\cot(w_k) + \cot(w_j)), \quad i \neq j, i \neq k, j \neq k \Rightarrow$$



$$A_K = \frac{1}{2} \begin{bmatrix} \cot(\omega_3) + \cot(\omega_2) & -\cot(\omega_3) & -\cot(\omega_2) \\ -\cot(\omega_3) & \cot(\omega_3) + \cot(\omega_1) & -\cot(\omega_1) \\ -\cot(\omega_2) & -\cot(\omega_1) & \cot(\omega_2) + \cot(\omega_1) \end{bmatrix} \quad (*)$$

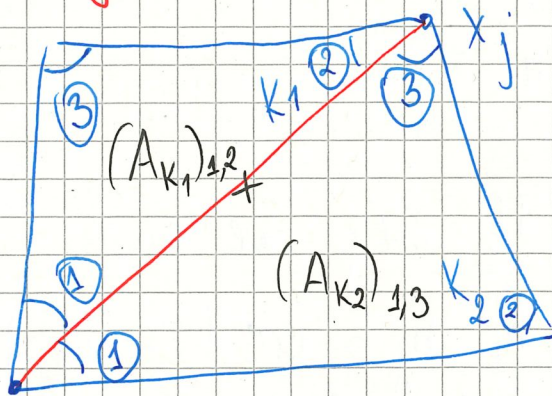
Another formula one can prove:

$$A_K = |K| \begin{bmatrix} \beta_1^1 & \beta_1^2 & \beta_1^3 \\ \beta_2^1 & \beta_2^2 & \beta_2^3 \end{bmatrix}^T \begin{bmatrix} \beta_1^1 & \beta_1^2 & \beta_1^3 \\ \beta_2^1 & \beta_2^2 & \beta_2^3 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\lambda_i(x) = d_i + \beta^i \cdot x, \quad \text{grad } \lambda_i = \beta^i \quad \begin{matrix} \uparrow \\ \text{easier to implement} \end{matrix}$$

Assembly of full Galerkin matrix:

Note that for  $i \neq j$  we have:



$$(A)_{ij} = \int_{K_1} \text{grad}(\psi_{K_1}^j) \text{grad}(\psi_{K_1}^i) \cdot dx$$

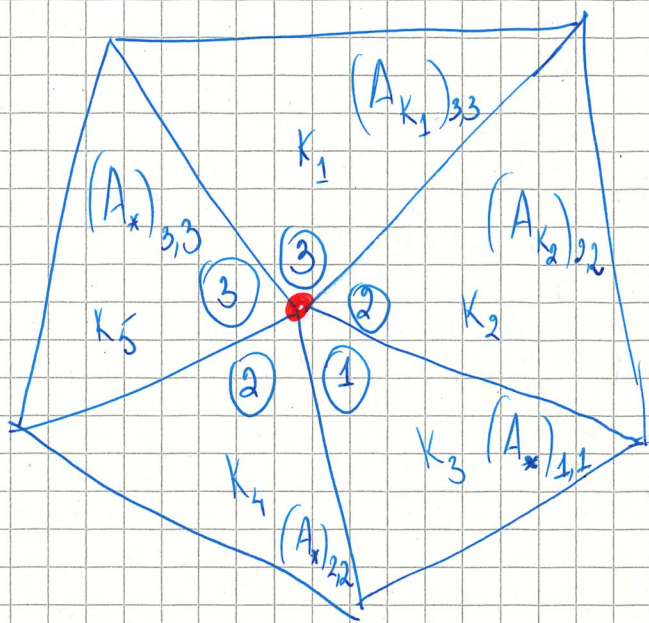
$$+ \int_{K_2} \text{grad}(\psi_{K_2}^j) \text{grad}(\psi_{K_2}^i) \cdot dx$$

Then we can use (\*):

$$(A)_{i,j} = (A_{K_1})_{1,2} + (A_{K_2})_{1,3}, \quad i \neq j$$

$$A_{ii} = \int_{\Omega} (\text{grad } \psi_{K_1}^i) (\text{grad } \psi_{K_1}^i) \cdot dx$$





•  $X_i$   
 - We should sum corresponding diagonal entries of element matrices belonging to triangles adjacent to node  $X_i$ :

$$(A)_{ii} = (A_{K_1})_{3,3} + (A_{K_2})_{2,2} + (A_{K_3})_{1,1} + (A_{K_4})_{2,2} + (A_{K_5})_{3,3}$$

$\Rightarrow$  In conclusion to build the  $S_1^0(\mathcal{M})$ -Galerkin matrix we will need:

\* a numbering of nodal basis f-ns  $\leftrightarrow$  numbering of mesh vertices  $\in V(\mathcal{M})$

\* a numbering of triangles (cells) of mesh  $\mathcal{M} = \{K_1, \dots, K_M\}$ ,  $M := \#\mathcal{M}$

\* a local numbering of the three vertices of every triangle  $K \in \mathcal{M}$ .  $\Rightarrow$

We get  $\downarrow$  pseudo-code:

foreach  $e \in \mathcal{E}(\mathcal{M})$  ( $\mathcal{E}(\mathcal{M}) = \text{set of edges of } \mathcal{M}$ )

$(i, j) \equiv$  vertex numbers of endpoints of  $e$

$A_{ij} = 0$ ,  $A_{ji} = 0$ ,

foreach triangle  $K$  adjacent to  $e$

find local numbers  $l, m \in \{1, 2, 3\}$  of endpoints  $e$

$A_{ij} = A_{ij} + (A_K)_{lm}$

$A_{ji} = A_{ji} + (A_K)_{ml}$

endfor

endfor



foreach  $v \in V(U)$

$j =$  number of vertex  $v$

$$A_{jj} = 0$$

foreach triangle  $K$  adjacent to  $v$

$l =$  local number of  $v$  in  $K$

$$A_{jj} = A_{jj} + (A_K)_{e,e}$$

endfor

endfor