

# Dirichlet's principle and well posedness of steady state solutions in peridynamics

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## The steady state peridynamic model

Consider the “elliptic” nonlocal model:

$$(PD) \quad \begin{cases} \mathcal{L}(u)(x) = b(x), & x \in \Omega \\ u(x) = g(x), & x \in \Gamma, \end{cases}$$

where

$$\mathcal{L}(u)(x) := 2 \int_{\Omega \cup \Gamma} (u(x') - u(x)) \mu(x, x') dx',$$

- $\Omega$  is an open bounded subset of  $\mathbb{R}^n$
- $\Gamma \subset \mathbb{R}^n \setminus \Omega$  denotes a “collar” domain surrounding  $\Omega$  which has nonzero volume
- $\mu(x, x')$  is nonnegative,  $\mu(x, x') = \mu(x', x)$ .

**Remark:** The integral operator is defined on the boundary  $\Gamma$  as well.

## Notation

$\alpha : \Omega \cup \Gamma \times \Omega \cup \Gamma \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ ,  $u : \Omega \cup \Gamma \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ ,  $f : \Omega \cup \Gamma \times \Omega \cup \Gamma \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$

(i) Generalized nonlocal gradient

$$\mathcal{G}(u)(x, x') := (u(x') - u(x))\alpha(x, x'), \quad x, x' \in \Omega,$$

(ii) Generalized nonlocal divergence

$$\mathcal{D}(f)(x) := \int_{\Omega \cup \Gamma} (f(x, x')\alpha(x, x') - f(x', x)\alpha(x', x))dx', \quad x \in \Omega,$$

(iii) Generalized nonlocal normal component

$$\mathcal{N}(f)(x) := - \int_{\Omega \cup \Gamma} (f(x, x')\alpha(x, x') - f(x', x)\alpha(x', x))dx', \quad x \in \Gamma.$$

**Note:** For the given peridynamic model we will use  $\mu = \alpha^2$

## Useful nonlocal calculus identities

Gunzburger & Lehoucq:

- $\mathcal{L}u = \mathcal{D}(\mathcal{G}(u))$
- For  $u, v \in L^2(\Omega \cup \Gamma)$

$$\int_{\Omega} v \mathcal{D}(\mathcal{G}(u)) dx + \int_{\Omega \cup \Gamma} \int_{\Omega \cup \Gamma} \mathcal{G}(u) \mathcal{G}(v) dx' dx = \int_{\Gamma} v \mathcal{N}(\mathcal{G}(u)) dx.$$

- For  $u, v \in L^2(\Omega \cup \Gamma)$ ,  $v = 0$  over  $\Gamma$

$$\int_{\Omega} (\mathcal{L}u) v dx = - \int_{\Omega \cup \Gamma} \int_{\Omega \cup \Gamma} \mathcal{G}(v) \cdot \mathcal{G}(u) dx' dx.$$

## Nonlocal boundary conditions

Dirichlet Problem:

$$\begin{cases} \mathcal{L}u = b, & x \in \Omega \\ u = g, & x \in \Gamma \end{cases}$$

Neumann Problem:

$$\begin{cases} \mathcal{L}u = b, & x \in \Omega \\ \int_{\Gamma} (u' - u)\mu(x, x') dx' = g, & x \in \Gamma, \end{cases}$$

where  $u' = u(x')$ ,  $u = u(x)$ .

## Set up for the Dirichlet's principle. Spaces

Introduce the inner product

$$\langle u, v \rangle_\mu = \frac{1}{2} \int_{\Omega \cup \Gamma} \int_{\Omega \cup \Gamma} (u(x') - u(x))(v(x') - v(x)) \mu(x, x') dx' dx \\ + (u, v)_{L^2(\Omega \cup \Gamma)},$$

The space

$$\mathcal{W} := \{w \in L^2(\Omega) \mid \langle w, w \rangle_\mu < \infty, w = 0 \text{ on } \Gamma\},$$

endowed with the norm

$$\|w\|_{\mathcal{W}} = \langle w, w \rangle_\mu^{1/2}.$$

is a Banach space whenever  $\mu$  is nonnegative and symmetric.

## The energy functional

The energy functional associated with the peridynamic problem (PD) is given by:

$$\mathcal{F}[u] = \frac{1}{2} \int_{\Omega \cup \Gamma} \int_{\Omega \cup \Gamma} (u(x') - u(x))^2 \mu(x, x') dx' dx + \int_{\Omega} b(x) u(x) dx,$$

for  $u$  in the class of admissible functions

$$\mathcal{A} = \{w \in L^2(\Omega) \mid w = g + u_0, \text{ for some } u_0 \in \mathcal{W}\},$$

**Convention:**  $\mathcal{A}$  will also be denoted by  $g + \mathcal{W}$ .

# The Nonlocal Dirichlet's Principle

## Theorem

Let  $\mu(x, x')$  be nonnegative and symmetric.

(i) Assume  $u$  solves the nonlocal peridynamics problem

$$(PD) \quad \begin{cases} \mathcal{L}(u)(x) = b(x), & x \in \Omega \\ u(x) = g(x), & x \in \Gamma. \end{cases}$$

Then

$$\mathcal{F}[u] \leq \mathcal{F}[v]$$

for every  $v \in \mathcal{A}$ .

(ii) Conversely, if  $u \in \mathcal{A}$  satisfies  $\mathcal{F}[u] \leq \mathcal{F}[v]$  for every  $v \in \mathcal{A}$ , then  $u$  solves the above nonlocal peridynamics problem.

Proof:

(i) If  $w \in \mathcal{A}$ , then  $u - w = 0$  over  $\Gamma$ . Integration by parts yields:

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &= \int_{\Omega} (Lu - b)(u - w) dx \\ &= - \int_{\Omega \cup \Gamma} \int_{\Omega \cup \Gamma} \mathcal{G}(u) \cdot \mathcal{G}(u - w) dx' dx - \int_{\Omega} b(u - w) dx \end{aligned}$$

By Cauchy-Schwarz we obtain:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{2} \int_{\Omega \cup \Gamma} \int_{\Omega \cup \Gamma} \mathcal{G}(u) \cdot \mathcal{G}(u) dx' dx + \int_{\Omega} b u dx \\ \leq \frac{1}{2} \int_{\Omega \cup \Gamma} \int_{\Omega \cup \Gamma} \mathcal{G}(w) \cdot \mathcal{G}(w) dx' dx + \int_{\Omega} b w dx \end{aligned}$$

(ii) Fix  $v \in \mathcal{W}$  and write

$$i(\tau) := \mathcal{F}[u + \tau v],$$

where  $\tau \in \mathbb{R}$ . Since  $u + \tau v \in \mathcal{A}$  for each  $\tau$ , the scalar function  $i(\cdot)$  has a minimum at zero. Thus  $i'(0) = 0$ , ( $' = \frac{d}{d\tau}$ ), provided the derivative exists. Now we have

$$\begin{aligned} i(\tau) = \int_{\Omega \cup \Gamma} \int_{\Omega \cup \Gamma} \frac{1}{2} \mathcal{G}(u) \cdot \mathcal{G}(u) + \tau \mathcal{G}(u) \cdot \mathcal{G}(v) + \frac{\tau^2}{2} \mathcal{G}(v) \cdot \mathcal{G}(v) dx' dx \\ + \int_{\Omega} b(u + \tau v) dx \end{aligned}$$

Hence, after integration by parts we obtain:

$$0 = i'(0) = \int_{\Omega \cup \Gamma} \int_{\Omega \cup \Gamma} \mathcal{G}(u) \cdot \mathcal{G}(v) dx' dx + \int_{\Omega} v b dx = \int_{\Omega} (\mathcal{L}u - b) v dx$$

## A particular kernel

**Assumption A.** For every  $x' \in \mathcal{H}_x$ , there exists a constant  $C_0 > 0$  such that  $\mu(x, x') \geq C_0$ . In other words, for all  $x \in \Omega \cup \Gamma$  we have:

$$C_0 \chi_\delta(x, x') \leq \mu(x, x'),$$

where  $\chi_\delta(x, x') = \begin{cases} 1, & |x - x'| \leq \delta \\ 0, & |x - x'| > \delta. \end{cases}$

**Remark:** The prototype kernel

$$\mu(x, x') = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{|x-x'|^\beta} & \text{for } |x - x'| \leq \delta \\ 0 & \text{for } |x - x'| > \delta, \end{cases}$$

satisfies this assumption for all  $\beta > 0$ .

Prototype kernel:

$$\mu(x, x') = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{|x-x'|^\beta} & \text{for } |x - x'| \geq \delta \\ 0 & \text{for } |x - x'| < \delta, \end{cases}$$

where  $\beta \geq 0$ .

- $\beta \geq n \implies$  strong singularity; work in the framework of Nikolskii spaces  $H^{(\beta-n)/2}(\Omega)$
- $\beta < n \implies$  weak singularity; work with  $L^2$  spaces (with weights?)

## More “elliptic” properties of $\mathcal{L}$

### Proposition

The operator  $\mathcal{L}$  admits the following properties:

- (a) If  $u \equiv \text{constant}$  then  $\mathcal{L}u = 0$ .
- (b) Let  $x \in \Omega \cup \Gamma$ . For any maximal point  $x_0$  that satisfies  $u(x_0) \geq u(x)$ , we have  $-\mathcal{L}u(x_0) \geq 0$ . Similarly, if  $x_1$  is a minimal point such that  $u(x_1) \leq u(x)$ , then  $-\mathcal{L}u(x_1) \leq 0$ .
- (c)  $\mathcal{L}u$  is a positive semidefinite operator, i.e.  $\langle -\mathcal{L}u, u \rangle \geq 0$ .
- (d)  $\int_{\Omega \cup \Gamma} -\mathcal{L}u(x) dx = 0$ .

(e) Weak mean-value inequality.

If  $\mu$  satisfies (A) and  $u$  is a **nonnegative** solution of  $\mathcal{L}u(x) = 0$  then:

$$u(x) \geq \frac{1}{|\mathcal{H}_x|} \int_{\mathcal{H}_x} u(y) dy$$

(f) Maximum and minimum principle (Rossi)

Assume that  $u \in C(\Omega)$  solves (PD) with  $f = 0$ . If

$$u(x_0) = \max_{x \in \Omega \cup \Gamma} u(x)$$

then  $x_0 \in \Gamma$ . Similarly, if

$$u(x_0) = \min_{x \in \Omega \cup \Gamma} u(x)$$

then  $x_0 \in \Gamma$ .

## Lemma

*(Nonlocal Poincaré's Inequality - Rossi, Aksoylu & Parks) If  $u \in L^p(\Omega)$ ,  $p > 1$ ,  $m \geq 1$ , and  $\mathcal{G}$  is as defined in (3), then there exist  $\lambda_{Pncr} = \lambda_{Pncr}(\Omega, \Gamma, \delta, m) > 0$  and  $C_g > 0$  such that the following inequality holds:*

$$\lambda_{Pncr} \|u\|_{L^p(\Omega)} \leq \|\mathcal{G}(u)\|_{L^p(\Omega \cup \Gamma \times \Omega \cup \Gamma)} + C_g.$$

## Wellposedness of the system (PD)

### Theorem

*With  $\mathcal{F}[u]$  defined as before and  $\mu$  satisfying assumption (A) we have that*

$$\inf \{ \mathcal{F}[u] : u \in \mathcal{A} \}$$

*attains its minimum, and furthermore this minimizer is unique. Hence, there exists a unique solution to (PD) in  $\mathcal{A}$  for every  $f, g$  in  $\mathcal{A}$ .*

## Existence of solutions

Follows from **convexity** of  $\mathcal{F}$  and **coercivity** of  $\mathcal{F}$ .

First note that since  $\mathcal{F}[u] \geq 0$  for  $u \in L^2(\Omega)$ , we have that

$$\inf \{ \mathcal{F}[u] : u \in \mathcal{A} \} = m \geq 0.$$

Let  $\{u_\nu\}$  be a minimizing sequence so that  $\mathcal{F}[u_\nu] \rightarrow m$ . Thus there exists  $M > 0$  such that  $\mathcal{F}[u_\nu] < M$ . We will show that the sequence  $u_\nu$  is bounded in  $L^2$  (**coercivity**).

$$\begin{aligned} M &> \frac{1}{2} \int_{\Omega \cup \Gamma} \int_{\Omega \cup \Gamma} [\mathcal{G}(u_\nu)]^2 dx' dx + \int_{\Omega} b(x) u_\nu(x) dx \\ &\geq \frac{1}{2} \|\mathcal{G}(u_\nu)\|_{L^2(\Omega \cup \Gamma \times \Omega \cup \Gamma)}^2 - \frac{\varepsilon}{2} \|b\|_{L^2(\Omega)}^2 - \frac{1}{2\varepsilon} \|u_\nu\|_{L^2(\Omega)}^2, \end{aligned}$$

## Existence contd.

By the nonlocal Poincaré's inequality we have:

$$M > C_1 \|u_\nu\|_{L^2(\Omega)}^2 + C_2 \|g\|_{L^2(\Gamma)}^2 - C_3 \|b\|_{L^2(\Omega)}^2$$

Thus, we can find  $\gamma > 0$  such that

$$\|u_\nu\|_{L^2(\Omega)} \leq \gamma.$$

Therefore, we may extract a subsequence  $\{u_\nu\}$  and find  $\bar{u} \in L^2(\Omega)$  such that  $u_\nu \rightarrow \bar{u}$  in  $L^2(\Omega)$ . By Mazur's Lemma we can find a sequence of convex combinations of  $u_\nu$ , denoted by  $\bar{u}_\nu \rightarrow \bar{u}$  in  $L^2(\Omega)$ , hence

$$\lim_{\nu \rightarrow \infty} \mathcal{F}[\bar{u}_\nu] \leq m.$$

By Fatou's lemma

$$\mathcal{F}[\bar{u}] \leq \lim_{\nu \rightarrow \infty} \mathcal{F}[\bar{u}_\nu],$$

hence, from the above inequalities we have that  $\bar{u}$  is a minimizer since

$$\mathcal{F}[\bar{u}] \leq m.$$

## Uniqueness of solutions

Let  $\bar{u}, \bar{v} \in L^2(\Omega)$  be minimizers of  $\mathcal{F}$  with  $\bar{u} \neq \bar{v}$ . Set

$$\bar{w} = \frac{\bar{u} + \bar{v}}{2} \in L^2(\Omega).$$

By the strict convexity of the integrand, we have

$$m \leq \mathcal{F}[\bar{w}] \leq \frac{1}{2}\mathcal{F}[\bar{u}] + \frac{1}{2}\mathcal{F}[\bar{v}] = m.$$

Hence  $\bar{w}$  is a minimizer of  $\mathcal{F}$ . This implies that

$$\frac{1}{2}\mathcal{F}[\bar{u}] + \frac{1}{2}\mathcal{F}[\bar{v}] - \mathcal{F}[\bar{w}] = 0.$$

Thus

$$\int_{\Omega \cup \Gamma} \int_{\Omega \cup \Gamma} \frac{\mathcal{G}[\bar{u}]^2}{2} + \frac{\mathcal{G}[\bar{v}]^2}{2} - \mathcal{G}[\bar{w}] dx' dx = 0.$$

Again, by strict convexity, the integrand is strictly positive – contradiction!!

## Fick diffusion in peridynamics models

Consider the nonlocal flux that satisfies a nonlocal Fourier's law:

$$\mathcal{Q}[u](x, x') = -a\mathcal{G}[u](x, x'),$$

The nonlocal conservation law:

$$u_t = -\mathcal{D}(\mathcal{Q}).$$

We obtain the nonlocal peridynamic diffusion law

$$u_t = \mathcal{D}(a\mathcal{G}(u)) = a\mathcal{L}u.$$

## Hyperbolic diffusion in peridynamics

Assume that the flux  $\mathcal{Q}$  is given by the Cattaneo-Vernotte equation

$$\mathcal{Q}_t + a\mathcal{Q} = -\mathcal{G}(u).$$

Differentiate the conservation law  $u_t = -\mathcal{D}(\mathcal{Q})$  with respect to time:

$$u_{tt} = -\mathcal{D}(\mathcal{Q}_t).$$

Substituted into the above equation yields:

$$u_{tt} = -\mathcal{D}(-\mathcal{G}(u) - a\mathcal{Q}) = \mathcal{D}(\mathcal{G}(u)) + \mathcal{D}(a\mathcal{Q}) = \mathcal{L}u - au_t.$$

or

$$u_{tt} - \mathcal{L}u + au_t = 0.$$

## Importance of hyperbolic diffusion (classical case)

Consider the classical heat and damped wave equations:

$$\begin{cases} v_t - \Delta v = 0 & \text{in } \mathbb{R}^n \\ v|_{t=0} = v_0 & \text{in } \mathbb{R}^n. \end{cases} \quad \begin{cases} u_{tt} - \Delta u + u_t = 0 & \text{in } \mathbb{R}^n \\ (u, u_t)|_{t=0} = u_0 + u_1 & \text{in } \mathbb{R}^n. \end{cases}$$

- hyperbolic diffusion is important in unsteady heat conduction (the second sound of helium)
- the long time behavior of  $u$  with initial conditions  $(u_0, u_1)$  can be very well approximated by the long time behavior of  $v$  with initial condition  $v_0 = u_0 + u_1$  (Abstract Diffusion Phenomenon - JDE)

## Questions and future directions

1. physical interpretation of the exponent  $\beta$  in  $\mu$ ;
2. what if  $\mu$  depends on time? OR the horizon changes with space (different phases of the material)
3. weakly singular kernels ( $0 < s < n$ ): Harnack's inequality
4. obtain regularity results via Calculus of Variations techniques
5. wellposedness and regularity for time dependent models (diffusion, elasticity,..)
6. nonlinear local problems: very difficult since there is no gain in "smoothness" (higher integrability or more derivatives for the solution)
7. wellposedness in weighted spaces