# Boundary Element Methods

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 BEM is a numerical method that solves PDEs by transforming them into boundary integral equations (BIE)

Boundary Element Method (BEM)	Finite Element Method (FEM)
Boundary solution method Infinite, semi-infinite	Domain method finite
Solves integral equations (BIEs)	Solves differential equations (PDEs)
Mesh boundaries only	Mesh entire domain
Small, filled-in matrix Vh = Hv	Large, sparse matrix Ku = F
Homogeneous, linear problems	Heterogeneous, nonlinear problems



- Advantages
  - Only the boundaries have to be discretized
    - Reduces complexity and dimensions  $\rightarrow$  reduces computational time
  - Good for solving linear problems, stress concentration problems involving incompressible materials, steady state
- Disadvantages
  - Halfspace has to be homogeneous
  - Not efficient for non-linear and/or transient problems
  - Requires explicit knowledge of a fundamental solution of the PDE

# **Historical Perspectives**

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# General Principles & Equations

#### Derivation of potential from Laplace equation

• Laplace equation:  $\nabla^2 u=0$ 

In 2D:

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- $\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial y^2} = 0$
- Fundamental solution for  $-\infty < x < \infty, -\infty < y < \infty$

$$\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial y^2} + \delta(\xi - x, \eta - y) = 0$$



# Solving for potential

• Laplace from Cartesian into radial co-ords:

$$\nabla^2 u = \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} \left( r \frac{\partial u}{\partial r} \right) + \frac{1}{r^2} \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial \theta^2} = 0$$

- Boundary conditions:
- Since in an infinite domain,
- $u \to \infty \text{ as } r \to 0$  $\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial \theta^2} = 0$

 $\delta \neq 0 @ r = 0$ 

$$r = \sqrt{(\xi - x)^2 + (\eta - y)^2}$$

- Applying those conditions, Laplace equation becomes:
- $\frac{1}{r}\frac{\partial}{\partial r}\left(r\frac{\partial u}{\partial r}\right) = 0$

• Solution for this equation: u = Aln(r) + B

# Solving for potential

• Integrating original Laplace equation (in Cartesian co-ords)

$$\int_{\Omega} \nabla^2 u \, d\Omega + \int_{\Omega} \delta(\xi - x, \eta - y) \, d\Omega = 0$$

• Applying Green-Gauss Theorem, and assuming circle of radius  $\varepsilon > 0$  @ r=0:

$$\int_{\Omega} \nabla^2 u \, d\Omega = \int_{d\Omega} \frac{\partial u}{\partial n} \, ds$$
$$= A \ln(r) + B, \qquad \qquad \int_{\Omega}^{2\pi\varepsilon} \frac{A}{\varepsilon} \, ds \Longrightarrow A = \frac{1}{2\pi}$$

- Equating *dn=dr* and since *u* = *Aln(r)* + *B*,
- Setting *B=0* for convenience, we get the equation for the potential:  $u = \frac{1}{2\pi} ln(r)$

# Fluid flow problems

• For flow problems, *u=h*, and unit source strength is indicated as *m* 



# Evaluating head along line segment



 $\xrightarrow{} x \bullet$  Integrate *h* with respect to *x* (polar to Cartesian):

$$\oint \frac{m}{2\pi} \ln(\sqrt{x^2 + y^2}) dx \longrightarrow \frac{m}{4\pi} \oint \ln(x^2 + y^2) dx$$

• Integration by parts, let:  $u = x^2 + y^2$ ,  $\frac{dv}{dx} = 1$   $\implies$   $\frac{du}{dx} = \frac{2x}{x^2 + y^2}$ , v = x

 $\oint \frac{m}{2\pi} \ln(\sqrt{x^2 + y^2}) dx = \frac{m}{4\pi} \left[ x \ln(x^2 + y^2) - \int \frac{2x^2}{x^2 + y^2} dx \right]$  $\frac{m}{4\pi} \left( x \ln(x^2 + y^2) - \left[ -2y \tan^{-1} \left( \frac{x}{y} \right) + 2x \right] \right)$  $h = \frac{m}{2\pi} \left( x \ln(r) + y\theta - x \right)$ 

#### Evaluating velocity along line segment

$$h = \frac{m}{2\pi} \left( x \ln(r) + y\theta - x \right)$$

 Similarly to before, we can calculate the velocities in the x-direction and ydirection at ea

$$v_x = -K \frac{\partial h}{\partial x} = -K \frac{m}{2\pi} ln(r)$$

$$v_y = -K \frac{\partial h}{\partial y} = -K \frac{m}{2\pi} \theta$$

# Hand-Calculation Example

### Systems of equations:



 $\mathbf{V} \mathbf{h} = \mathbf{H} \mathbf{v}$ 

- $\oint V_{ij}$  = integrated effect of a unit source at element i on the resulting normal flux at boundary element j.
- $\oint H_{ij}$  = integrated effect of a unit source at element i on the resulting head at boundary element j.
- c<sub>ij</sub> = free term due to bringing the source to the boundary

# Direct vs Indirect method:

Direct – solves the system of equations directly:

#### $\mathbf{V} \mathbf{h} = \mathbf{H} \mathbf{v}$

Indirect – has an intermediate step whereby the source strength (m) required at each point to reproduce the known BCs (b) is calculated. These source strengths are then applied to calculate the unknown BCs (d). h = 4m

$$b = A_1 m$$
$$m = A_1^{-1} b$$
$$d = A_2 m$$

Where  $A_1$  is a matrix of influence coefficients for the known BCs (b) and  $A_2$  is that for the unknown BCs (d), ie. they are combinations of the terms in V and H.



# Obtaining the H<sub>ii</sub> values: $h = \frac{m}{2\pi} \left[ x ln(r) - x + y \theta \right]_{1}^{2}$



Eg. Effect of a unit source on node 1 on element 1:

• At p2:

• x = 0.5

- y = 0
- r = 0.5

$$\theta = \frac{\pi}{2}$$

- At p1:
  - x = -0.5
  - y = 0
  - r = 0.5

• 
$$\theta = \frac{3\pi}{2}$$

$$h_{11} = \frac{1}{2\pi} [(0.5\ln(0.5) - 0.5) - (-0.5\ln(0.5) + 0.5)] = -0.269$$

# Obtaining the H<sub>ii</sub> values:

$$h = \frac{m}{2\pi} \left[ x ln(r) - x + y \theta \right]_{1}^{2}$$
Eg. Effect of a unit source on node 1 on element 3:  
• At p2:  
• x = 0.5  
• y = -1  
• r =  $\frac{\sqrt{5}}{2}$   
•  $\theta = 1.11715$   
• At p1:  
• x = -0.5  
• y = -1  
• r =  $\frac{\sqrt{5}}{2}$   
•  $\theta = 2.03444$   
h<sub>31</sub> =  $\frac{1}{2\pi} \left[ \left( 0.5 \ln \left( \frac{\sqrt{5}}{2} \right) - 0.5 - 1.11715 \right) - \left( -0.5 \ln \left( \frac{\sqrt{5}}{2} \right) + 0.5 - 2.03444 \right) + 0.006185$ 

# H<sub>ij</sub> matrix:

=

-0.270	-0.053	0.006	-0.053
-0.053	-0.270	-0.053	0.006
0.006	-0.053	-0.270	-0.053
0.053	0.006	-0.053	-0.270

# Obtaining the V<sub>ij</sub> values:



We are interested in the value of flow normal to the element:

- V<sub>x</sub> on elements 2 and 4
- $V_y$  on elements 1 and 3

Eg. Unit source at 1 on element 1:

• At p2:

• 
$$\theta = \frac{\pi}{2}$$
  
At p1:

• 
$$\theta = \frac{3\pi}{2}$$

$$v_{11} = -K \frac{m}{2\pi} \left[\theta\right]_{1}^{2} = -\frac{10}{2\pi} \left[\frac{\pi}{2} - \frac{3\pi}{2}\right] = 5.000$$

# Obtaining the V<sub>ij</sub> values:



Eg. Unit source at 1 on element 2:

• At p2:

• At p1:

• 
$$r = \frac{\sqrt{5}}{2}$$

$$v_{12} = -K \frac{m}{2\pi} \left[ ln(r) \right]_{1}^{2} = -\frac{10}{2\pi} \left[ ln(0.5) - ln\left(\frac{\sqrt{5}}{2}\right) \right] = -1.281$$

# V<sub>ij</sub> matrix:

$$\begin{bmatrix} v_{11} & v_{12} & v_{13} & v_{14} \\ v_{21} & v_{22} & v_{23} & v_{24} \\ v_{31} & v_{32} & v_{33} & v_{34} \\ v_{41} & v_{42} & v_{43} & v_{44} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 5.000 & -1.281 & -1.476 & -1.281 \\ -1.281 & 5.000 & -1.281 & -1.476 \\ -1.476 & -1.281 & 5.000 & -1.281 \\ -1.281 & -1.476 & -1.281 & 5.000 \end{bmatrix}$$

# Direct method:

$$c_{ij}(p)h_j(p) + \oint V_{ij}(p,q)h_{ij}(q) \ dr = \oint H_{ij}(p,q)\vec{v_j}(q) \bullet \hat{n} \ dr$$

 $\mathbf{V} \mathbf{h} = \mathbf{H} \mathbf{v}$ 

Where  $\delta = c_{ij}(p)h_j(p) = 1/2$  $\begin{bmatrix} v_{11} + \delta & v_{12} & v_{13} & v_{14} \\ v_{21} & v_{22} + \delta & v_{23} & v_{24} \\ v_{31} & v_{32} & v_{33} + \delta & v_{34} \\ v_{41} & v_{42} & v_{43} & v_{44} + \delta \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} h_1 \\ 1.000 \\ h_3 \\ 0.000 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} h_{11} & h_{12} & h_{13} & h_{14} \\ h_{21} & h_{22} & h_{23} & h_{24} \\ h_{31} & h_{32} & h_{33} & h_{34} \\ h_{41} & h_{42} & h_{43} & h_{44} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 0.000 \\ v_2 \\ 0.000 \\ v_4 \end{bmatrix}$ 

# Direct method:

 $\mathbf{V} \mathbf{h} = \mathbf{H} \mathbf{v}$ 

Substituting in the pre-calculated values of  $v_{ij}$  and  $h_{ij}$ :

5.500	-1.281	-1.476	-1.281	[	$h_1$		-0.270	-0.053	0.006	-0.053	[	0.000
-1.281	5.500	-1.281	-1.476		1.000	_	-0.053	-0.270	-0.053	0.006		$v_2$
-1.476	-1.281	5.500	-1.281		$h_3$	-	0.006	-0.053	-0.270	-0.053		0.000
	-1.476	-1.281	5.500		0.000		0.053	0.006	-0.053	-0.270		<i>v</i> <sub>4</sub>

Rearranging for known values on the right, unknowns on the left:

$h_1$		5.500	0.050	-1.480	0.050]	-1 -0.270	1.280	0.006	1.280	0		0.409
$v_2$		-1.280	0.270	-1.280	-0.006	-0.050	-5.500	-0.050	1.480	1	_	-16.284
$h_3$	=	-1.480	0.050	5.500	0.050	0.006	1.280	-0.270	1.280	0	-	0.409
$v_4$			-0.006	-1.280	0.270	0.050	1.480	-0.050	-5.500	0_		8.987

#### Indirect method:



$$A_{1} = \begin{bmatrix} v_{11} & v_{12} & v_{13} & v_{14} \\ h_{21} & h_{22} & h_{23} & h_{24} \\ v_{31} & v_{32} & v_{33} & v_{34} \\ h_{41} & h_{42} & h_{43} & h_{44} \end{bmatrix} \qquad A_{2} = \begin{bmatrix} h_{11} & h_{12} & h_{13} & h_{14} \\ v_{21} & v_{22} & v_{23} & v_{24} \\ h_{31} & h_{32} & h_{33} & h_{34} \\ v_{41} & v_{42} & v_{43} & v_{44} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$b = A_{1}m$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} v_{1} \\ h_{2} \\ v_{3} \\ h_{4} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 5 & -1.28 & -1.48 & -1.28 \\ -0.05 & -0.27 & -0.05 & 0.0062 \\ -1.48 & -1.28 & 5 & -1.28 \\ -0.05 & 0.0062 & -0.05 & -0.27 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} m_{1} \\ m_{2} \\ m_{3} \\ m_{4} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$m = A_{1}^{-1}b$$

$$m_{1} = \begin{bmatrix} 5 & -1.28 & -1.48 & -1.28 \\ -0.05 & -0.27 & -0.05 & 0.0062 \\ -1.48 & -1.28 & 5 & -1.28 \\ -0.05 & 0.0062 & -0.05 & -0.27 \end{bmatrix}^{-1} \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -1.06 \\ -3.27 \\ -1.06 \\ 0.35 \end{bmatrix}$$

 $d = A_2 m$ 

 $\begin{bmatrix} h_1 \\ v_2 \\ h_3 \\ v_4 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -0.27 & -0.05 & 0.0062 & -0.05 \\ -1.28 & 5 & -1.28 & -1.48 \\ 0.0062 & -0.05 & -0.27 & -0.05 \\ -1.28 & -1.48 & -1.28 & 5 \end{bmatrix}^{-1} \begin{bmatrix} -1.06 \\ -3.27 \\ -1.06 \\ 0.35 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0.437 \\ -14.17 \\ 0.437 \\ 9.296 \end{bmatrix}$ 

# Numerical Example

#### Snaking Pipe Suspected to Have a Hole



**Problem**: Given that one should know the velocity out the right end of the pipe when the pipe is intact, if the velocity were to change could we numerically figure out where a hole in the pipe could be?

**Method**: Use Prof Elsworth's General Direct Boundary Element Routine for Potential Flow code

- 40 Nodes/ 20 Elements
- Boundary Conditions:
  - Head at right-hand-side = 1 (source)
  - Head at left-hand-side = 0 (sink)
  - Sides of 2D pipe should be impermeable, i.e. have velocity = 0 except at hole.
  - One element other than rightmost or leftmost element will be another sink (i.e. h = 0)

Model Setup



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#### Model Setup

GENER	AL DIRECT BOUNDARY ELEMENT ROUTINE FOR POTENTIAL FLOW.
D. EL	SWORTH, UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO. MAY 1985 VERSION.
REVIS	IONS AS OF MARCH 1990
INPUT	FILES MODIFIED FOR PC SEE PROGRAM BEM
INPUT	DATA :
CARD	1 (20A4) HEADING
CARD	2 (315,E15.8) CONTROL DATA NUMNP - NUMBER OF NODAL POINTS NUMEL - NUMBER OF ELEMENTS MDX - MODE OF EXECUTION 1 = GENERAL BEM 2 = SUPERELEMENT BEM HYDC - ISOTROPIC HYDRAULIC CONDUCTIVITY
CARD	3 TO (NUMNP+2) NODAL INPUT DATA (I5,2F10.0,I5,F10.0,I5) NODE - GLOBAL NODE NUMBER X-X - X COORDINATE FO NODE Y-Y - Y COORDINATE OF NODE IBC - INTEGER BOUNDARY CONDITION 1 = NODAL FOTENTIAL SPECIFIED 2 = NODAL VELOCITY SPECIFIED REC - REAL BOUNDARY CONDITION (MAGHITUDE) IGLOB - GLOBAL NUMBER OF NODE FOR SUPERELEMENT IF REQUIRED
CARD	(NUMNP+3) TO (NUMNP+2+NUMEL)       ELEMENT INPUT DATA (515)         NEL       - ELEMENT NUMBER         II       - GLOBAL NODE NO. OF LOCAL NODE II         JJ       - GLOBAL NODE NO. OF LOCAL NODE JJ         KK       - GLOBAL NODE NO. OF LOCAL NODE KK         ELTYP       - ELEMENT TYPE CODE         0       = BOUNDARY ELEMENT         0       = BOUNDARY ELEMENT

Snaking	Pipe w Ho	oles		
40	20 1	1.0		
	6.2832	2.0000	1 0.0	
2	5.6218	1.3858	1 0.0	
∣ <del>∟ ,</del>	4.9604	1.0306	2 0.0	
4	4.2990	1.0842	2 0.0	
5	3.6376	1.5241	2 0.0	
6	2.9762	2.1646	2 0.0	
7	2.3149	2.7357	2 0.0	
8	1.6535	2.9966	2 0.0	
9	0.9921	2.8372	2 0.0	
10	0 3307	2 3247	2 0 0	
11	-0.3307	1 6753	2 0 0	
12	-0.9921	1 1628	2 0 0	
13	-1 6535	1 0034	2 0 0	
14	-2 3149	1 2643	2 0 0	
15	-2 9762	1 8354	2 0 0	
16	-3 6376	2 4759	2 0 0	
17	-4 2990	2 9158	2 0 0	
18	-4 9604	2 9694	2 0 0	
19	-5 6218	2 6142	2 0 0	
20	-6.2832	2.0000	1 1.0	
21	-6.2832	0.0000	1 1.0	
22	-5.6218	0.6142	2 0.0	
23	-4.9604	0.9694	2 0.0	
24	-4.2990	0.9158	2 0.0	
25	-3.6376	0.4759	2 0.0	
26	-2.9762	-0.1646	2 0.0	
27	-2.3149	-0.7357	2 0.0	
28	-1.6535	-0.9966	2 0.0	
29	-0.9921	-0.8372	2 0.0	
30	-0.3307	-0.3247	2 0.0	
31	0.3307	0.3247	2 0.0	
32	0.9921	0.8372	2 0.0	
33	1.6535	0.9966	2 0.0	
34	2.3149	0.7357	2 0.0	
35	2.9762	0.1646	2 0.0	
36	3.6376	-0.4759	2 0.0	
37	4.2990	-0.9158	2 0.0	
38	4.9604	-0.9694	2 0.0	
39	5 6218	-0 6142	2 0 0	
40	6 2832	-0 0000	1 0 0	
		2 0		
1	3 1	2 0		
	Snaking 40 4 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 21 22 23 24 25 26 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 9 40 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 10 11 15 16 17 18 17 18 17 18 17 18 17 18 17 18 17 18 17 18 17 18 17 18 20 21 21 21 21 21 21 21 21 21 21	Snaking Fipe w H.           4         20         1           1         6.2832         2           2         5.6218         3           3         4.5604         4           4         2.9762         7           7         2.3149         8           8         1.6535         9         0.9921           10         0.3307         11         -0.3307           11         -0.3307         12         -0.9921           13         -1.6535         14         -2.9762           16         -3.6376         17         -4.2990           18         -4.9604         19         -5.6218           20         -6.2832         -2         -5.6218           21         -6.2832         -2         -5.6218           20         -6.2832         -2         -5.6218           21         -6.2832         -2         -5.6218           22         -5.6218         -2         -9.6213           23         -4.9604         -4.2990         -4.2990           25         -3.6376         -2         -9.921           30         -0.3307         -31         0.330	$ \begin{array}{c ccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	

Matlab formats input and plots output.

#### Results



# **Example Applications**

Displacement strain and stress on a Fault System





Geodynamics: 3D Flow BEM



Subducting slabs with three different ratios of viscosity of the slab-mantle.

fast.u-psud.fr/~ribe

#### Stokes Flow



Stokes flow interacting with fibers

Heat Transfer



Fastbem.com



