

# **Finite Element Modelling with FreeFem++**

## **Part I: Basic features in FreeFem++**

Ionut Danaila<sup>1</sup>,

<sup>1</sup>Université de Rouen Normandie, France

University of Strathclyde, 30th of June, 2017.

# Basic features in FreeFem++

- 1 **WHAT is FreeFem++?**
- 2 **WHY using FreeFem++?**
- 3 **HOW to use FreeFem++ (a step-by-step guide)**
  - (1) How to install FreeFem++?
  - (2) What mathematics do you need to know?
  - (3) Building a mesh
  - (4) Solving the Poisson equation in 10 lines of code
  - (5) Dealing with Boundary Conditions
- 4 **Summary of basic features.**
  - Summary of basic features
- 5 **Towards advanced features**
  - From steady to time-dependent PDEs
  - Build FE-matrices
  - Mesh adaptivity

# What is FreeFem++?

**Intuitive answer**

...yet another finite-element software!

# What is FreeFem++?

**Intuitive answer**

...yet another finite-element software!

**New answer (after this course)**

...**THE** finite-element software you need!

# What is FreeFem++?

## Intuitive answer

...yet another finite-element software!

## New answer (after this course)

...THE finite-element software you need!

## FreeFem++ ([www.freefem.org](http://www.freefem.org))

Free Generic PDE solver using finite elements (2D and 3D)

- syntax close to the mathematical (weak) formulations,
- powerful mesh generator,
- mesh interpolation and adaptivity,
- use combined P1 to P4 Lagrange elements, Raviart-Thomas, etc,
- complex matrices,
- parallel computing, etc.

# Why using FreeFem++?

## Free

- research
- industry

Easy to use  
steep learning  
curve

## Modern

interface to  
up-to-date  
libraries

Close to maths  
low effort to  
implement  
complex  
methods

# Why using FreeFem++?

## Free

- research
- industry

## Easy to use

steep learning  
curve

## Modern

interface to  
up-to-date  
libraries

## Close to maths

low effort to  
implement  
complex  
methods

# Why using FreeFem++?

## Free

- research
- industry

## Easy to use

steep learning  
curve

## Modern

interface to  
up-to-date  
libraries

## Close to maths

low effort to  
implement  
complex  
methods

# Why using FreeFem++?

## Free

- research
- industry

## Easy to use

steep learning curve

## Modern

interface to  
up-to-date  
libraries

## Close to maths

low effort to  
implement  
complex  
methods

## You know what you do and keep control on

- algorithms/methods,
- parameters, convergence criteria, etc.

# Why using FreeFem++?

## Free

- research
- industry

## Easy to use

steep learning curve

## Modern

interface to  
up-to-date  
libraries

## Close to maths

low effort to  
implement  
complex  
methods

## You know what you do and keep control on

- algorithms/methods,
- parameters, convergence criteria, etc.

## Large community (Europe, Japan, China, Canada, etc)

You are welcome to participate in the:

**FreeFem++ Days, Paris, December, every year.**

# Utilisation of FreeFem++

Physics

obs/equations

Numerical meth.

PDE/num analysis.

Implementation

algorithm/code

Results

physical detail

# Utilisation of FreeFem++

Physics

obs/equations

Numerical meth.

PDE/num analysis.

Implementation

algorithm/code

Results

physical detail

## Solve complicated PDEs/ Post-processing of results

- avoid technicalities of the FE-method,
- obtain rapidly numerical results,
- initiate collaborations with physics and industry.

# Utilisation of FreeFem++

Physics	Numerical meth.	Implementation	Results
obs/equations	PDE/num analysis.	algorithm/code	physical detail

## Solve complicated PDEs/ Post-processing of results

- avoid technicalities of the FE-method,
- obtain rapidly numerical results,
- initiate collaborations with physics and industry.

## Develop/Test new numerical methods

- write lines of code like writing mathematical equations,
- versatile (easy-to-change) scripting (change the type of FE, preconditioner, linear solver, etc),
- check mathematical (theory of PDEs/numerical analysis) theories,

# Example 1: Computation of fluids with phase change and convection

- Purpose: solve a very difficult systems of PDEs

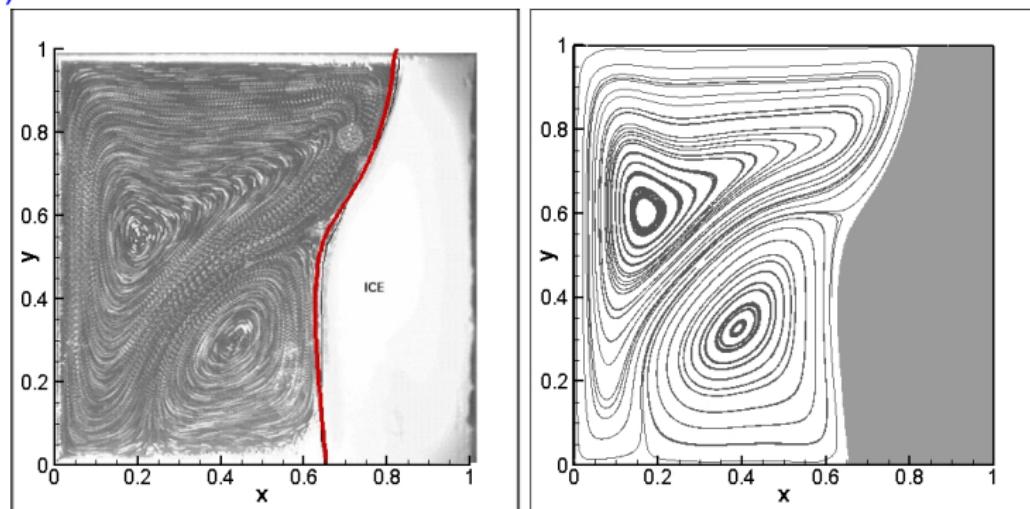
Navier-Stokes-Boussinesq equations + phase change,

- Use: classical methods → new numerical method

Taylor-Hood finite-elements + Newton method,

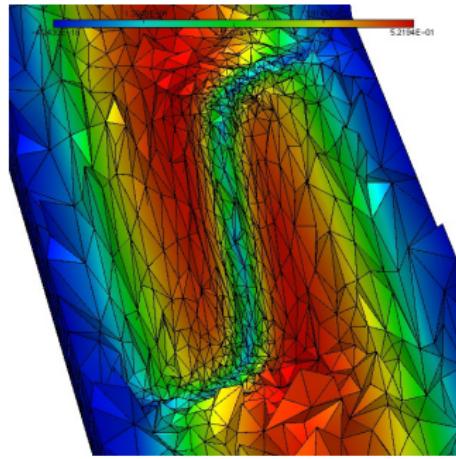
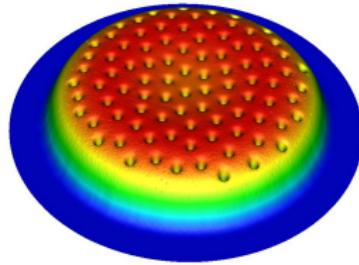
- I. Danaila, R. Moglan, F. Hecht, S. le Masson, JCP, 2014.

(movie) ice formation



## Example 2: Computation of Bose-Einstein condensates (non-linear Schrödinger equation)

- Purpose: develop new (sophisticated) numerical algorithms  
Sobolev gradient methods + Riemannian Optimization,
- Use: classical FE + adaptivity → new gradients, preconditioners, etc
- G. Vergez, I. Danaila, S. Auliac, F. Hecht, CPC, 2016.  
(movie) vortices inside a BEC



# Basic features in FreeFem++

- 1 WHAT is FreeFem++?
- 2 WHY using FreeFem++?
- 3 **HOW to use FreeFem++ (a step-by-step guide)**
  - (1) How to install FreeFem++?
  - (2) What mathematics do you need to know?
  - (3) Building a mesh
  - (4) Solving the Poisson equation in 10 lines of code
  - (5) Dealing with Boundary Conditions
- 4 Summary of basic features.
  - Summary of basic features
- 5 Towards advanced features
  - From steady to time-dependent PDEs
  - Build FE-matrices
  - Mesh adaptivity

# How to install and use FreeFem++?

## FreeFem++: [www.freefem.org](http://www.freefem.org)

- pre-compiled versions for Windows and MacOS,
- compilation needed for Linux,
- to write programs/scripts: use your preferred Editor (Emacs).

## Explore [www.freefem.org](http://www.freefem.org)

- instructions for compilation,
- full documentation, slides from FreeFem++ days, etc
- lots of examples (.edp scripts).

## FreeFem++-js: <https://www.ljll.math.upmc.fr/~leharyc/ffjs>

- Run FreeFem++ scripts online.

# Basic features in FreeFem++

- 1 WHAT is FreeFem++?
- 2 WHY using FreeFem++?
- 3 **HOW to use FreeFem++ (a step-by-step guide)**
  - (1) How to install FreeFem++?
  - (2) What mathematics do you need to know?
  - (3) Building a mesh
  - (4) Solving the Poisson equation in 10 lines of code
  - (5) Dealing with Boundary Conditions
- 4 Summary of basic features.
  - Summary of basic features
- 5 Towards advanced features
  - From steady to time-dependent PDEs
  - Build FE-matrices
  - Mesh adaptivity

# Finite element representation (Lagrange $P^1$ here)

- Functional (Sobolev) spaces

$$H^1(\Omega) = \{v \in L^2(\Omega) : \frac{\partial v}{\partial x}, \frac{\partial v}{\partial y} \in L^2(\Omega)\}$$

$$V(\Omega) = \{v \in H^1(\Omega) : v|_{\Gamma^D} = 0\}.$$

- Approximation spaces

$\mathcal{T}_h$  := triangulation,

$\Omega_h = \cup_{k=1}^{n_t} T_k$ , ( $n_t$  is the number of triangles).

$H_h = \{v \in C^0(\Omega_h) : \forall T_k \in \mathcal{T}_h, v|_{T_k} \in P^1(T_k)\}$ ,

$V_h = \{v \in H_h : v|_{\Gamma_h^D} = 0\}$ .

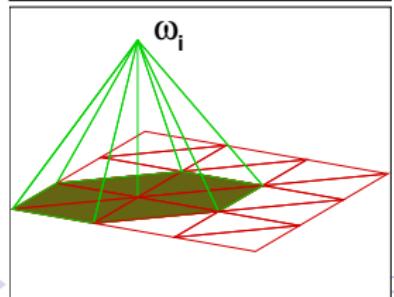
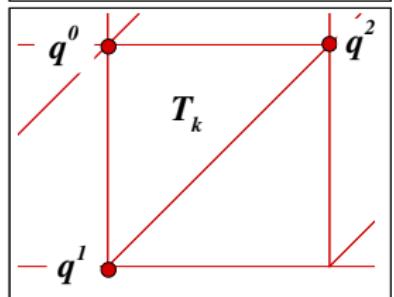
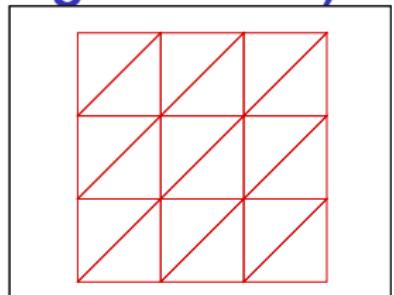
- Basis functions

$w^i \in H_h, w^i(q^j) = \delta_{ij}$  (1 if  $i = j$ , 0 otherwise).

$\nabla w^i|_{T_k} = const$ ,

$dim(H_h) = n_v$  ( $n_v$  is the number of vertices),

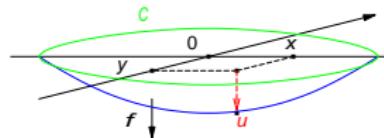
$f_h \in H_h$  := array of  $n_v$  values.



# Weak (variational) formulations (the Poisson equation here)

- Deformation of a circular membrane

$$\begin{cases} -\Delta u = f & \text{for } (x, y) \in \mathcal{D} \\ u = 0 & \text{for } (x, y) \in \partial\mathcal{D} = \mathcal{C} \end{cases}$$



- Variational (weak) formulation:

- multiply by a test function

$$v \in V(\mathcal{D}) = \{v \in H^1(\mathcal{D}) : v|_{\mathcal{C}} = 0\}$$

- use Green's formula (integration by parts)

$$\int_{\mathcal{D}} [-v \Delta u] \, dx dy = \int_{\mathcal{D}} \nabla v \nabla u - \int_{\mathcal{C}} \frac{\partial u}{\partial n} v \, d\gamma,$$

- to obtain (notice that  $v|_{\mathcal{C}} = 0$ )

$$\int_{\mathcal{D}} \nabla v \nabla u - \int_{\mathcal{D}} fv = 0,$$

# Basic features in FreeFem++

- 1 WHAT is FreeFem++?
- 2 WHY using FreeFem++?
- 3 HOW to use FreeFem++ (a step-by-step guide)

- (1) How to install FreeFem++?
- (2) What mathematics do you need to know?
- (3) Building a mesh
- (4) Solving the Poisson equation in 10 lines of code
- (5) Dealing with Boundary Conditions

- 4 Summary of basic features.
- Summary of basic features

- 5 Towards advanced features
- From steady to time-dependent PDEs
- Build FE-matrices
- Mesh adaptivity

# Mesh of disk (in one line of code)

Any computation starts with a mesh

---

mesh/mesh\_circle\_v01.edp

```
/* Mesh of a circle */

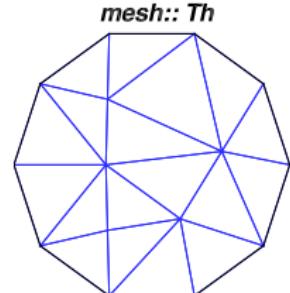
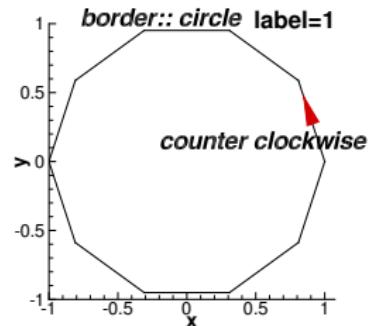
// Parameters

int nbseg=100;
real R=1, xc=0, yc=0;

// border
border circle(t=0,2*pi){label=1;
                      x=xc+R*cos(t);
                      y=yc+R*sin(t);}
plot(circle(nbseg), cmm="border");

// FE mesh
mesh Th = buildmesh(circle(nbseg));
plot(Th, cmm="mesh of a circle");
```

---



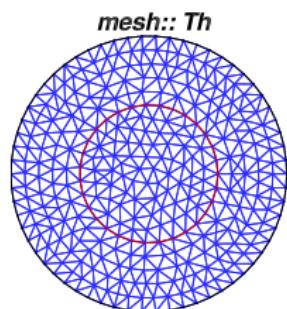
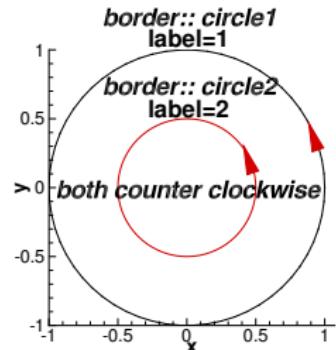
# Mesh of disk (v02)

A mesh with a sub-domain:: + circle2(nbseg\*2\*pi\*R2)

mesh/mesh\_circle\_v02.edp

```
int nbseg=10; real R=1, xc=0, yc=0, R2=R/2;
// borders
border circle1(t=0,2*pi){label=1;
    x=xc+R*cos(t);
    y=yc+R*sin(t);}
border circle2(t=2*pi,0){label=2;
    x=xc+R2*cos(t);
    y=yc+R2*sin(t);}
plot(circle1(nbseg*2*pi*R)+circle2(-nbseg*2*pi*R2)
    ,cmm="border");

// FE mesh
mesh Th = buildmesh(circle1(nbseg*2*pi*R)
    +circle2(nbseg*2*pi*R2));
plot(Th, cmm="mesh of a circle with subdomain");
// Identify subdomains
cout << "inner region:: number =" <<
    Th(xc,yc).region << endl;
cout << "inner region:: number =" <<
    Th(xc+(R2+R)/2,yc).region << endl;
```

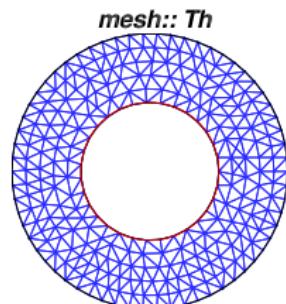
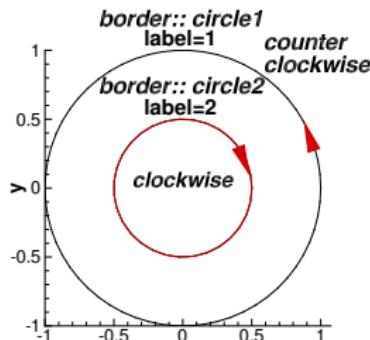


# Mesh of disk (v03)

A mesh with a hole inside:: + circle2(-nbseg\*2\*pi\*R2)

mesh/mesh\_circle\_v03.edp

```
/* Mesh of a circle with a hole inside */
// Parameters
int nbseg=10;
real R=1, xc=0, yc=0, R2=R/2;
// border
border circle1(t=0,2*pi){label=1;
    x=xc+R*cos(t);
    y=yc+R*sin(t);}
border circle2(t=0,2*pi){label=2;
    x=xc+R2*cos(t);
    y=yc+R2*sin(t);}
plot(circle1(nbseg*2*pi*R)+circle2(nbseg*2*pi*R2)
    ,cmm="border");
// FE mesh
mesh Th = buildmesh(circle1(nbseg*2*pi*R)
    +circle2(-nbseg*2*pi*R2));
plot(Th, cmm="mesh of a circle with a hole");
```



# Mesh of disk (v04)

A mesh with a hole inside:: using macros to avoid bugs  
be carreful with the syntax of EndOfMacro and inside comments

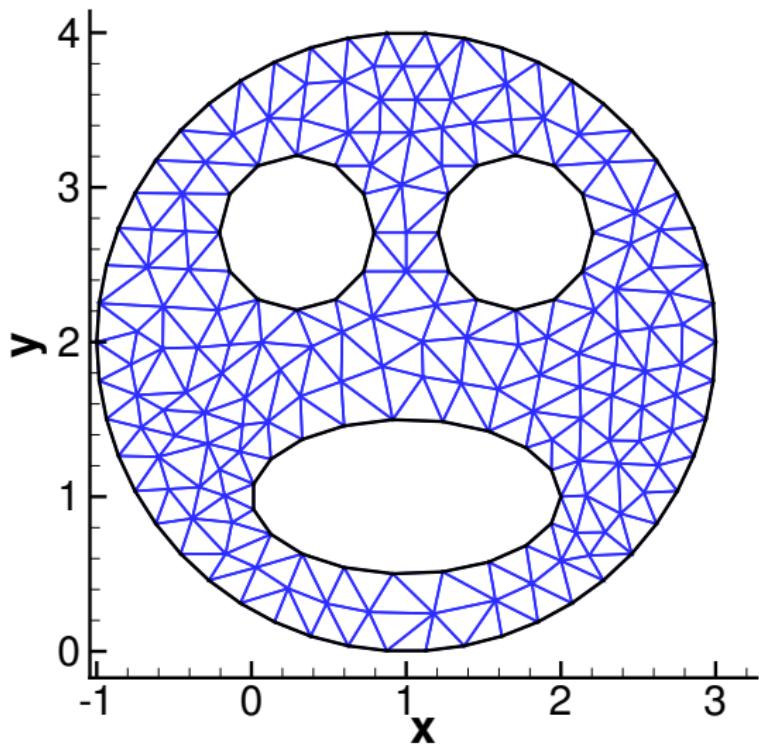
mesh/mesh\_circle\_v04.edp

```
macro Bcircle(bname, Rm, xm, ym, labelm)
    /* circle border */
    border bname(t=0,2*pi)
    {label=labelm; x=xm+Rm*cos(t); y=ym+Rm*sin(t);} //EOM
// Parameters
int nbseg=10;
real R=1, xc=0, yc=0, R2=R/2;

// borders
Bcircle(circle1,R ,xc,yc,1);
Bcircle(circle2,R2,xc,yc,2);

plot(circle1(nbseg*2*pi*R)+circle2(nbseg*2*pi*R2), cmm="border");
// FE mesh
mesh Th = buildmesh(circle1(nbseg*2*pi*R)
                      +circle2(-nbseg*2*pi*R2));
plot(Th, cmm="mesh of a circle with a hole");
```

## Intermission: Mesh of a smiley



# Building a smiley with FreeFem++ (v06)

mesh/mesh\_smiley\_v01.edp

```
macro Bellipse(bname, Rmx, Rmy, xm, ym, labelm)
    border bname(t=0,2*pi)
    {label=labelm; x=xm+Rmx*cos(t); y=ym+Rmy*sin(t); } //EOM
// Parameters
int nbseg=10;
//head
real Rh=2, xh=1, yh=2, Lh=2*pi*Rh;
Bellipse(bs1,Rh,Rh,xh,yh,1);
//eyes
real xy1=xh+Rh/2*cos(pi/4), yy=yh+Rh/2*sin(pi/4), Ry=Rh/4, Ly=2*pi*Ry;
Bellipse(bs2,Ry,Ry,xy1,yy,2);
real xy2=xh-Rh/2*cos(pi/4);
Bellipse(bs3,Ry,Ry,xy2,yy,3);
//mouth
real a=Rh/2, b=Rh/4, Lm=pi*sqrt(2*(a^2+b^2));
Bellipse(bs4,a,b,xh+0,yh-Rh/2,4);

plot(bs1(nbseg*Lh)+bs2(nbseg*Ly)+bs3(nbseg*Ly)+bs4(nbseg*Lm));
// FE mesh
mesh Th = buildmesh(bs1(nbseg*Lh)+bs2(10*nbseg*Ly)+bs3(-nbseg*Ly)+bs4(-nbseg*Lm));
plot(Th, cmm="mesh of a smiley");
```

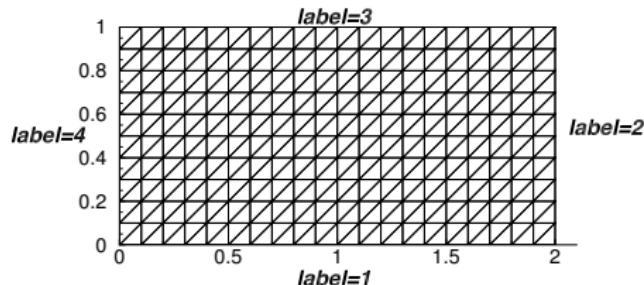


# Mesh of a rectangle (in one line of code)

Mesh a rectangle using the built-in function "square"

mesh/mesh\_rectangle.v01.edp

```
/* Mesh of a rectangle using square
   function */
// Parameters
int nbseg=10;
real L=2, H=1;
real xc1=0,      yc1=0;
// FE mesh
mesh Th = square(nbseg*L,
                  nbseg*H,
                  [xc1+x*L,yc1+y*H]);
plot(Th, cmm="mesh of a rectangle");
```



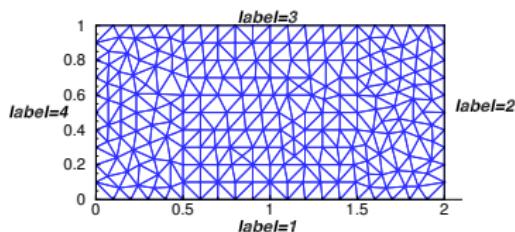
# Mesh of a rectangle (building each border)

mesh/mesh\_rectangle\_v02.edp

```
macro Bsegment(bname,xP1,yP1,xP2,yP2,Ls,labelm)
    real Ls=sqrt((xP1-xP2)^2+(yP1-yP2)^2);
    border bname(t=0,Ls)
    {label=labelm; x=xP1+t*(xP2-xP1)/Ls; y=yP1+t*(yP2-yP1)/Ls;} //EOM
// Parameters
```

```
real L=2,H=1;
real xc1=0,      yc1=0,
     xc2=xc1+L,yc2=yc1,
     xc3=xc2,    yc3=yc2+H,
     xc4=xc1,    yc4=yc3+L;
//borders
Bsegment(bs1,xc1,yc1,xc2,yc2,Ls1,1);
Bsegment(bs2,xc2,yc2,xc3,yc3,Ls2,2);
Bsegment(bs3,xc3,yc3,xc4,yc4,Ls3,3);
Bsegment(bs4,xc4,yc4,xc1,yc1,Ls4,4);

mesh Th = buildmesh(bs1(nbseg*Ls1)+bs2(
    nbseg*Ls2)+bs3(nbseg*Ls3)+bs4(nbseg*
    Ls4));
plot(Th, cmm="mesh of a rectangle");
```



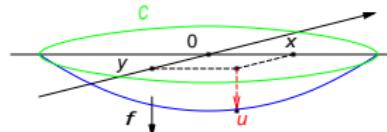
# Basic features in FreeFem++

- 1 WHAT is FreeFem++?
- 2 WHY using FreeFem++?
- 3 **HOW to use FreeFem++ (a step-by-step guide)**
  - (1) How to install FreeFem++?
  - (2) What mathematics do you need to know?
  - (3) Building a mesh
  - (4) Solving the Poisson equation in 10 lines of code
  - (5) Dealing with Boundary Conditions
- 4 Summary of basic features.
  - Summary of basic features
- 5 Towards advanced features
  - From steady to time-dependent PDEs
  - Build FE-matrices
  - Mesh adaptivity

# The Poisson equation (1)

- Deformation of a circular membrane

$$\begin{cases} -\Delta u = f & \text{for } (x, y) \in \mathcal{D} \\ u = 0 & \text{for } (x, y) \in \partial\mathcal{D} = \mathcal{C} \end{cases}$$



- Variational (weak) formulation:

- multiply by a test function

$$v \in V(\mathcal{D}) = \{v \in H^1(\mathcal{D}) : v|_{\mathcal{C}} = 0\}$$

- use Green's formula (integration by parts)

$$\int_{\mathcal{D}} [-v \Delta u] \, dx dy = \int_{\mathcal{D}} \nabla v \nabla u - \int_{\mathcal{C}} \frac{\partial u}{\partial n} v \, d\gamma,$$

- to obtain (notice that  $v|_{\mathcal{C}} = 0$ )

$$\int_{\mathcal{D}} \nabla v \nabla u - \int_{\mathcal{D}} fv = 0,$$

## The Poisson equation (2)

$$\int_{\mathcal{D}} \nabla v \cdot \nabla u - \int_{\mathcal{D}} fv = 0 \Leftrightarrow \int_{\mathcal{D}} \left( \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} \frac{\partial v}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} \frac{\partial v}{\partial y} \right) - \int_{\mathcal{D}} fv = 0$$

- derive the discrete weak formulation: FreeFem++ will take care!

(part of) lap/lap\_v01.edp

---

```
// Data of the problem
func fs=4; // RHS (source) function
// FE space
fespace Vh(Th, P1);
// Variational (weak formulation)
Vh u,v; // u=unknown, v=test function
Vh uexact=R^2-x^2-y^2; //exact solution
problem Poisson(u,v) =
  int2d(Th) (dx(u)*dx(v)+dy(u)*dy(v))
  - int2d(Th) (fs*v)
  + on(1,u=0); // Dirichlet boundary condition
// Solve the problem, plot the solution
```

---

## The Poisson equation (3)

- using a macro for the gradient = column array of two components  
 $\text{grad}(u) = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial u}{\partial x}, \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} \end{bmatrix}$  and  $\text{grad}(u)'$  is the transposed gradient (row array)

(part of) lap/lap-v01b.edp

---

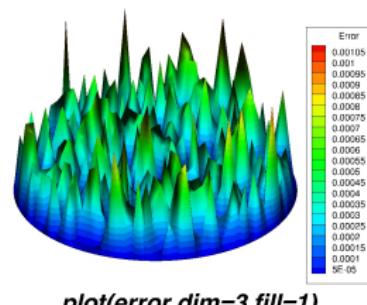
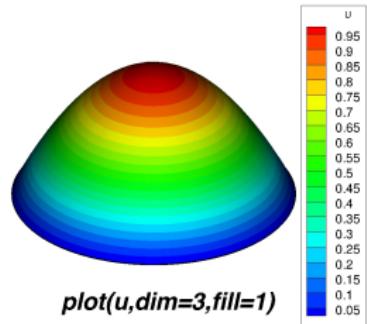
```
Vh u,v;      // u=unknown, v=test function
Vh uexact=R^2-x^2-y^2; //exact solution
macro grad(u) [dx(u), dy(u)]//EOM
problem Poisson(u,v)=int2d(Th)(grad(u)'*grad(v))
                    -int2d(Th)(fs*v)
                    +on(1,u=0); // Dirichlet bc
// Solve the problem, plot the solution
Poisson; plot(u,dim=2,fill=1);
// Compare with the exact solution
Vh error=abs(u-uexact);
plot(error,dim=3,fill=1);
```

---

# FreeFem++ program for the Poisson equation

lap/lap\_v01b.edp

```
int nbseg=100; real R=1, xc=0, yc=0;
border circle(t=0,2*pi){label=1;x=xc+R*cos(t);
y=yc+R*sin(t);}
mesh Th = buildmesh(circle(nbseg));plot(Th);
// Data of the problem
func fs=4; // RHS (source) function
// FE space
fespace Vh(Th, P1);
// Variational (weak formulation)
Vh u,v; // u=unknown, v=test function
Vh uexact=R^2-x^2-y^2;//exact solution
macro grad(u) [dx(u), dy(u)]//EOM
problem Poisson(u,v)=int2d(Th) (grad(u)' *grad(v))
-int2d(Th) (fs*v)
+on(1,u=0); // Dirichlet bc
// Solve the problem, plot the solution
Poisson; plot(u,dim=2,fill=1);
// Compare with the exact solution
Vh error=abs(u-uexact);
plot(error,dim=3,fill=1);
cout.precision(12);
cout<<"Maximum error ="<<error[].linfty<<endl;
cout<<"Maximum error ="<<error[].max<<endl;
```



# Versatility of the software: change the accuracy

- to switch from P1 to P2 just change the definition of the FE-space (for P3 and P4 also load the corresponding module)

(part of) lap/lap\_v01c.edp

```
// FE space
fespace Vh(Th, P2);
```

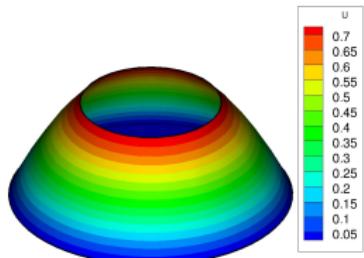
(part of) lap/lap\_v01d.edp

```
// FE space
load "Element_P3";
fespace Vh(Th, P3);
```

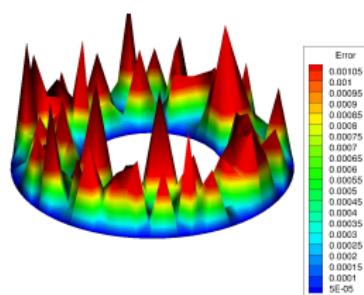
# Versatility of the software: change the mesh

lap/lap\_v02.edp

```
include "../mesh/mesh_circle_v03.edp";  
  
// Data of the problem  
func fs=4; // RHS (source) function  
// FE space  
fespace Vh(Th, P1);  
// Variational (weak formulation)  
Vh u,v; // u=unknown, v=test function  
Vh ueexact=R^2-x^2-y^2; //exact solution  
macro grad(u) [dx(u), dy(u)] //EOM  
problem Poisson(u,v)=int2d(Th)(grad(u)'*grad(v))  
-int2d(Th)(fs*v)  
+on(1,2, u=ueexact); // exact  
Dirichlet bc  
// Solve the problem, plot the solution  
Poisson; plot(u,dim=2,fill=1);  
// Compare with the exact solution  
Vh error=abs(u-ueexact);  
plot(error,dim=3,fill=1);  
cout.precision(12);  
cout<<"Maximum error ="<<error[].linfty<<endl;  
cout<<"Maximum error ="<<error[].max<<endl;
```



plot( $u$ ,dim=3,fill=1)



plot(error,dim=3,fill=1)

# Basic features in FreeFem++

- 1 WHAT is FreeFem++?
- 2 WHY using FreeFem++?
- 3 **HOW to use FreeFem++ (a step-by-step guide)**
  - (1) How to install FreeFem++?
  - (2) What mathematics do you need to know?
  - (3) Building a mesh
  - (4) Solving the Poisson equation in 10 lines of code
  - (5) Dealing with Boundary Conditions
- 4 Summary of basic features.
  - Summary of basic features
- 5 Towards advanced features
  - From steady to time-dependent PDEs
  - Build FE-matrices
  - Mesh adaptivity

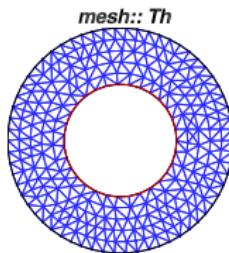
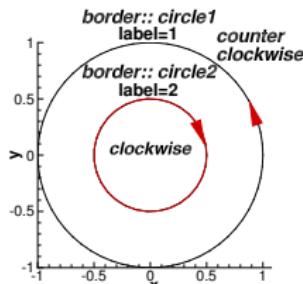
# Boundary conditions (1)

- Consider the Poisson (heat) equation:

$$-\Delta u = f, \quad \text{in } \Omega$$

- with boundary conditions:

$$\begin{cases} \text{on } \Gamma_2 \quad u = u_{hot} & \text{Dirichlet BC} \\ \text{on } \Gamma_1 \quad \frac{\partial u}{\partial n} + \alpha u = 0 & \text{Neumann/Fourier BC} \\ & (\alpha \geq 0) \end{cases}$$



- Weak formulation:

$$\int_{\Omega} [-v \Delta u] = \int_{\Omega} \nabla v \nabla u - \int_{\Gamma} \frac{\partial u}{\partial n} v,$$

$$\int_{\Omega} \nabla v \nabla u - \int_{\Omega} fv - \int_{\Gamma} \frac{\partial u}{\partial n} v = 0.$$

## Boundary conditions (2)

$$\int_{\Omega} \nabla v \nabla u - \int_{\Omega} fv - \sum_{i=1}^2 \int_{\Gamma_i} \frac{\partial u}{\partial n} v = 0.$$

```
Vh u,v;      // u=unknown, v=test function
problem Poisson(u,v) =int2d(Th)(dx(u)*dx(v)+dy(u)*dy(v))
                      -int2d(Th)(fs*v)
```

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{lll} \text{on } \Gamma_2 \quad u = u_{hot} & \text{Dirichlet} \quad v = 0 & \int_{\Gamma_2} \frac{\partial u}{\partial n} v = 0 \\ + \text{on}(2, u = u_{hot}) & & \\ \text{on } \Gamma_1 \quad \frac{\partial u}{\partial n} + \alpha u = 0 & \text{Fourier} \quad \frac{\partial u}{\partial n} = -\alpha u & \int_{\Gamma_1} \frac{\partial u}{\partial n} v = \int_{\Gamma_1} (-\alpha u v) \\ + \text{int1d}(Th, 1)(alpha * u * v); & & \end{array} \right.$$

### Warning: important to carefully identify the borders

- for homogeneous Neumann BC ( $\alpha = 0$ )  $\Rightarrow$  nothing to be specified;
- if for a border nothing is specified (with "on" or "int1d")  $\Rightarrow$  homogeneous Neumann BC is implicitly imposed!

## Boundary conditions (2)

$$\int_{\Omega} \nabla v \nabla u - \int_{\Omega} fv - \sum_{i=1}^2 \int_{\Gamma_i} \frac{\partial u}{\partial n} v = 0.$$

```
Vh u,v;      // u=unknown, v=test function
problem Poisson(u,v) =int2d(Th)(dx(u)*dx(v)+dy(u)*dy(v))
                      -int2d(Th)(fs*v)
```

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{lll} \text{on } \Gamma_2 \quad u = u_{hot} & \text{Dirichlet} \quad v = 0 & \int_{\Gamma_2} \frac{\partial u}{\partial n} v = 0 \\ & + \text{on}(2, u = u_{hot}) & \\ \text{on } \Gamma_1 \quad \frac{\partial u}{\partial n} + \alpha u = 0 & \text{Fourier} & \frac{\partial u}{\partial n} = -\alpha u \quad \int_{\Gamma_1} \frac{\partial u}{\partial n} v = \int_{\Gamma_1} (-\alpha u v) \\ & + \text{int1d}(Th, 1)(alpha * u * v); & \end{array} \right.$$

### Warning: important to carefully identify the borders

- for homogeneous Neumann BC ( $\alpha = 0$ )  $\Rightarrow$  nothing to be specified;
- if for a border nothing is specified (with "on" or "int1d")  $\Rightarrow$  homogeneous Neumann BC is implicitly imposed!

# Boundary conditions (3): the script

lap/lap\_v03.edp

```
include "../mesh/mesh_circle_v03.edp";\n\n// Data of the problem\nfunc fs=0; // RHS (source) function\n// FE space\nfespace Vh(Th, P1);\n// Variational (weak formulation)\nVh u,v; // u=unknown, v=test function\n\nreal uhot=10;\nreal alpha=10;\nmacro grad(u) [dx(u), dy(u)] //EOM\nproblem Poisson(u,v)=int2d(Th) (grad(u)' *grad(v))\n            -int2d(Th) (fs*v)\n            +int1d(Th,1) (alpha*u*v) //from Fourier bc\n            +on(2, u=uhot); // Dirichlet bc\n\n// Solve the problem, plot the solution\nPoisson; plot(u,dim=3,fill=1,value=1);\n\ncout<<"Maximum value ="<<u[].max<<endl;\ncout<<"Minimum value ="<<u[].min<<endl;
```

# Basic features in FreeFem++

- 1 WHAT is FreeFem++?
- 2 WHY using FreeFem++?
- 3 HOW to use FreeFem++ (a step-by-step guide)
  - (1) How to install FreeFem++?
  - (2) What mathematics do you need to know?
  - (3) Building a mesh
  - (4) Solving the Poisson equation in 10 lines of code
  - (5) Dealing with Boundary Conditions
- 4 Summary of basic features.
  - Summary of basic features
- 5 Towards advanced features
  - From steady to time-dependent PDEs
  - Build FE-matrices
  - Mesh adaptivity

# Summary of basic features (1)

## Basic C++ syntax + FE layer (meta-language)

- **real** (double precision), **integer**, **bool**, **string** ;
- arrays (**real [int] v(n);**) , full matrices (**real [int, int] A(n,n);**) ;
- **if** clauses, **for** loops, etc.

# Summary of basic features (1)

## Basic C++ syntax + FE layer (meta-language)

- **real** (double precision), **integer**, **bool**, **string** ;
- arrays (**real [int] v(n);**) , full matrices (**real [int, int] A(n,n);**) ;
- **if** clauses, **for** loops, etc.

## mesh Th=buildmesh(...)

- Automatic Delaunay triangulation (2D)/ **tetgen** in 3D;
- possibility to save the mesh (**savemesh**);
- possibility to load a mesh (generated by another software, **Gmsh**).

# Summary of basic features (1)

## Basic C++ syntax + FE layer (meta-language)

- **real** (double precision), **integer**, **bool**, **string** ;
- arrays (**real [int] v(n);**) , full matrices (**real [int, int] A(n,n);**) ;
- **if** clauses, **for** loops, etc.

## mesh Th=buildmesh(...)

- Automatic Delaunay triangulation (2D)/ **tetgen** in 3D;
- possibility to save the mesh (**savemesh**);
- possibility to load a mesh (generated by another software, **Gmsh**).

## fespace Vh(Th, P1)

- **Vh** is a type (like **integer** or **real**);
- definition of FE-variables **Vh u, v;**;
- the only line to change if other FE is needed: **fespace Vh(Th, P2).**

## Summary of basic features (2)

**Basic brick: transcription of the weak formulation**  
problem  $\text{Lap}(u,v) = \text{int2d}(\text{Th})(\text{dx}(u)^*\text{dx}(v) + \text{dy}(u)^*\text{dy}(v)) - \text{int2d}(\text{Th})(\text{fs}^*v) + \text{on}(1, u=g);$

- **u** is the unknown, **v** the test function
- **int2d(Th)(...)**  $\iff \int_{\mathcal{D}}(...)$
- **int1d(Th,2)(...)**  $\iff \int_{\Gamma_2}(...)$
- **on(1, u=g)**  $\iff \text{on } \Gamma_2, u = g(x, y)$
- **dx(u)**  $\iff \partial u / \partial x$
- + other operators related to FE (normal vector, etc).

## Summary of basic features (3)

### What's behind the scene? FreeFem++

- identifies **u** as the unknown, **v** as the test function,
- identifies the bilinear form

$$\mathcal{A}(u, v) = \text{int2d}(\text{Th})(dx(u) * dx(v) + dy(u) * dy(v)),$$

- creates the associated sparse matrix **A** for the declared FE-type,
- identifies the linear form  $\ell(v) = \text{int2d}(\text{Th})(fs * v)$ ,
- creates **b** the associated RHS for the declared FE-type,
- includes Dirichlet BC from **on** instructions (penalisation of **A** and **b**),
- solves the linear system **AU = b**,
- identifies *u* with the array **U** (switch between representations).

## Summary of basic features (3)

### What's behind the scene? FreeFem++

- identifies **u** as the unknown, **v** as the test function,
- identifies the bilinear form

$$\mathcal{A}(u, v) = \text{int2d}(\text{Th})(dx(u) * dx(v) + dy(u) * dy(v)),$$

- creates the associated sparse matrix **A** for the declared FE-type,
- identifies the linear form  $\ell(v) = \text{int2d}(\text{Th})(fs * v)$ ,
- creates **b** the associated RHS for the declared FE-type,
- includes Dirichlet BC from **on** instructions (penalisation of **A** and **b**),
- solves the linear system **AU = b**,
- identifies *u* with the array **U** (switch between representations).

### Good news

- FreeFem++ take care of all FE-technicalities,
- the **problem** formulation is symbolic, evaluated when called,  
(no need to rewrite the **problem** if any changes, in *f* or *g*, etc.),
- the user can control the process: create separately the arrays **A**, **b**,  
select the linear solver, impose BC, etc.

# Basic features in FreeFem++

- 1 WHAT is FreeFem++?
- 2 WHY using FreeFem++?
- 3 HOW to use FreeFem++ (a step-by-step guide)
  - (1) How to install FreeFem++?
  - (2) What mathematics do you need to know?
  - (3) Building a mesh
  - (4) Solving the Poisson equation in 10 lines of code
  - (5) Dealing with Boundary Conditions
- 4 Summary of basic features.
  - Summary of basic features
- 5 Towards advanced features
  - From steady to time-dependent PDEs
  - Build FE-matrices
  - Mesh adaptivity

# Solving the time-dependent heat equation (1)

$$\frac{\partial \theta}{\partial t} - \Delta \theta = 0, \quad \text{for } (x, y) \in \Omega, \quad 0 \leq t \leq t_{max}$$

+Boundary Conditions(in space) + Initial Condition( $t = 0$ ).

- Discretisation in time (FD finite-difference type)

$$[0, t_{max}] = \bigcup_{n=0}^{N-2} [t_n, t_n + \delta t], \quad t_n = n\delta t, \quad n = 0, 1, \dots, N-1, \quad \delta t = T/(N-1).$$

Notation  $\theta^n(x) = \theta(x, t_n)$ .

$$\frac{\theta^{n+1}(x) - \theta^n(x)}{\delta t} - \Delta \theta^{n+1}(x) = 0 \quad (\text{implicit scheme})$$

$$\frac{\theta^{n+1}(x) - \theta^n(x)}{\delta t} - \Delta \theta^n(x) = 0 \quad (\text{explicit scheme})$$

## Solving the time-dependent heat equation (2)

- Discretisation in space (FE finite-element type): implicit scheme

$$\int_{\Omega} \frac{\theta^{n+1}}{\delta t} v - \int_{\Omega} \frac{\theta^n}{\delta t} v + \int_{\Omega} [-v \Delta \theta^{n+1}] = 0$$

$$\int_{\Omega} \frac{\theta^{n+1}}{\delta t} v - \int_{\Omega} \frac{\theta^n}{\delta t} v + \int_{\Omega} \nabla \theta^{n+1} \nabla v - \int_{\Gamma} \frac{\partial \theta^{n+1}}{\partial n} v = 0$$

- Weak formulation ready to use with FreeFem++: impose (spatial) BC on  $\theta^{n+1}$  as for the stationary problem.
- In programs, in the "time loop" we use only two variables:  $u = \theta^{n+1}$  and  $uold = \theta^n$ .

# Script for the time-dependent heat equation (1)

$$\int_{\Omega} \frac{u}{\delta t} v - \int_{\Omega} \frac{uold}{\delta t} v + \int_{\Omega} \nabla u \nabla v - \int_{\Gamma} \frac{\partial u}{\partial n} v = 0$$

(part 1 of) time-dep/heat\_time\_v01.edp

```
include "../mesh/mesh_circle_v03.edp";  
  
// FE space  
fespace Vh(Th, P1);  
// Variational (weak formulation)  
Vh u,v;      // u=unknown, v=test function  
  
real uhot=10, alpha=10;  
  
// Time-evolution formulation  
real tmax=0.1, dt=0.001, idt=1./dt;  
Vh uold=0;  
macro grad(u) [dx(u), dy(u)] // EOM  
problem HeatTime(u,v)=int2d(Th)(idt*u*v)-int2d(Th)(idt*uold*v)  
+int2d(Th)(grad(u)' *grad(v))  
+int1d(Th,1)(alpha*u*v) // from Fourier bc  
+on(2, u=uhot); // Dirichlet bc
```

## Script for the time-dependent heat equation (2)

(part 2 of) time-dep/heat\_time\_v01.edp

---

```
//Time loop
real t=0; verbosity=0;
while (t <= tmax)
{
    t+=dt;
    HeatTime;
    plot(u,dim=3,cmm="Time t="+t,fill=1);
    cout<<"Time=<< t<<"  Max(u) ="<<u[].max<<"  Min(u) ="<<u[].min<<
        endl;
uold=u;
}
```

---

# Basic features in FreeFem++

- 1 WHAT is FreeFem++?
- 2 WHY using FreeFem++?
- 3 HOW to use FreeFem++ (a step-by-step guide)
  - (1) How to install FreeFem++?
  - (2) What mathematics do you need to know?
  - (3) Building a mesh
  - (4) Solving the Poisson equation in 10 lines of code
  - (5) Dealing with Boundary Conditions
- 4 Summary of basic features.
  - Summary of basic features
- 5 Towards advanced features
  - From steady to time-dependent PDEs
  - Build FE-matrices
  - Mesh adaptivity

# Time-dependent heat equation with matrices (1)

$$\int_{\Omega} \frac{u}{\delta t} v - \int_{\Omega} \frac{uold}{\delta t} v + \int_{\Omega} \nabla u \nabla v - \int_{\Gamma} \frac{\partial u}{\partial n} v = 0$$
$$\mathcal{A}(u, v) = \ell(v)$$

$$\mathcal{A}(u, v) = \int_{\Omega} \frac{uv}{\delta t} + \int_{\Omega} \nabla u \nabla v - \int_{\Gamma} \frac{\partial u}{\partial n} v \implies (\text{matrix}) \mathbf{A}$$

$$\ell(v) = \int_{\Omega} \frac{uold}{\delta t} v \implies (\text{rhs}) \mathbf{b} = \mathbf{A}_{mass} * \mathbf{uold}$$

$$\mathcal{A}_{mass}(u, v) = \int_{\Omega} \frac{uv}{\delta t}$$

+ impose Dirichlet BC by penalisation (tgv technique)

# Time-dependent heat equation with matrices (2)

(part of) time-dep/heat\_time\_v02.edp

```
//----- matrix of the system
real tgv=1e30;
varf Vsys(u,v) = int2d(Th)(idt*u*v)
    +int2d(Th)(grad(u)'*grad(v))
    +int1d(Th,1)(alpha*u*v)
    + on(2,u=uhot); // + on(2,u=1); the same matrix

matrix Asys      = Vsys(Vh,Vh,tgv=tgv);

//----- Mass matrix
varf Vmass(u,v) = int2d(Th)(u*v*idt);
matrix Amass     = Vmass(Vh,Vh,tgv=tgv);

//----- right-hand side term + (boundary conditions)
Vh BC;
varf Vbc(u,v) = on(2,u=uhot);
BC[] = Vbc(0,Vh,tgv=tgv);
```

# Time-dependent heat equation with matrices (3)

(part of) time-dep/heat\_time\_v02.edp

---

```
// BC0 = 0 for nodes on Gamma2, BC0=1 elsewhere

Vh BC0;
BC0[] = Vbc(0,Vh,tgv=1); // BC0=1 for nodes on Gamma2, BC=0 elsewhere
BC0    = -BC0;
BC0[] +=1;   //now BC0 = 0 for nodes on Gamma2, BC0=1 elsewhere
```

---

# Time-dependent heat equation with matrices (4)

(part of) time-dep/heat\_time\_v02.edp

```
//Time loop
real t=0; verbosity=0;
real [int] rhs = BC[]; // fix the correct dimension

set(Asys,solver=UMFPACK);

while (t <= tmax)
{
    t+=dt;

// prepare the rhs
rhs    = Amass*uold[];
rhs .*= BC0[];      // set to zero the value for nodes on Gamma2
rhs += BC[];        // set the correct value on Gamma2

// solve the linear system
u[] = Asys^-1*rhs;

plot(u,dim=3,cmm="Time t="+t,fill=1);
cout<<"Time=<< t<< Max(u) ="<<u[].max<< Min(u) ="<<u[].min<<
endl;
uold=u;
}
```

# Basic features in FreeFem++

1 WHAT is FreeFem++?

2 WHY using FreeFem++?

3 HOW to use FreeFem++ (a step-by-step guide)

- (1) How to install FreeFem++?
- (2) What mathematics do you need to know?
- (3) Building a mesh
- (4) Solving the Poisson equation in 10 lines of code
- (5) Dealing with Boundary Conditions

4 Summary of basic features.

- Summary of basic features

5 Towards advanced features

- From steady to time-dependent PDEs
- Build FE-matrices
- Mesh adaptivity

# Time-dependent heat equation with mesh adaptivity

(part of) time-dep/heat\_time\_v03.edp

---

```
//Time loop
real t=0; verbosity=0;
real errorAdapt=0.01;
while (t <= tmax)
{
    t+=dt;
    HeatTime;
    plot (Th,u,dim=2,cmm="Time t=" +t,fill=0);
    cout<<"Time=<< t<<" Max(u) ="<<u[].max<<" Min(u) ="<<u[].min<<
        endl;
    Th=adaptmesh(Th,u,uold,inquire=1,err=errorAdapt,iso=1);
    u=u;
    uold=u;
}
```

---