

# Automating the Finite Element Method

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# Outline

The need for automation

The finite element method for Poisson's equation

Automating the finite element method

Lecture plan

# Would you implement a Poisson solver like this?

```
...
for (dof_handler.begin_active(); cell! = dof_handler.end(); ++cell)
{
  for (unsigned int i = 0; i < dofs_per_cell; ++i)
    for (unsigned int j = 0; j < dofs_per_cell; ++j)
      for (unsigned int q_point = 0; q_point < n_q_points; ++q_point)
        cell_matrix(i, j) += (fe_values.shape_grad (i, q_point) *
                              fe_values.shape_grad (j, q_point) *
                              fe_values.JxW(q_point));

  for (unsigned int i = 0; i < dofs_per_cell; ++i)
    for (unsigned int q_point = 0; q_point < n_q_points; ++q_point)
      cell_rhs(i) += (fe_values.shape_value (i, q_point) *
                    <value of right-hand side f> *
                    fe_values.JxW(q_point));
}
```

## Or would you implement it like this?

```
for (int i = 1; i <= nbf; i++)
  for (int j = 1; j <= nbf; j++)
    elmat.A(i, j) += (fe.dN(i, 1) * fe.dN(j, 1) +
                    fe.dN(i, 2) * fe.dN(j, 2) +
                    fe.dN(i, 3) * fe.dN(j, 3)) *
                    detJxW;

for (int i = 1; i <= nbf; i++)
  elmat.b(i) += fe.N(i)*<value of f>*detJxW;
```

# Or maybe like this?

```
a = dot(grad(v), grad(U))*dx
L = v*f*dx
```

# Or perhaps like this?

$$\begin{aligned} -\Delta u &= f && \text{in } \Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^d \\ u &= 0 && \text{on } \partial\Omega \end{aligned}$$

# Differential equation

Poisson's equation:

$$\begin{aligned} -\Delta u &= f && \text{in } \Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^d \\ u &= 0 && \text{on } \partial\Omega \end{aligned}$$

- ▶ Heat transfer:  $u$  is the temperature
- ▶ Electrostatics:  $u$  is the potential
- ▶ Appears in some form in most differential equations

# Variational problem

Multiply with a test function  $v \in \hat{V}$  and integrate by parts:

$$\int_{\Omega} -v \Delta u \, dx = \int_{\Omega} \nabla v \cdot \nabla u \, dx - \int_{\partial\Omega} v \partial_n u \, ds = \int_{\Omega} \nabla v \cdot \nabla u \, dx$$

Find  $u \in V$  such that

$$\int_{\Omega} \nabla v \cdot \nabla u \, dx = \int_{\Omega} v f \, dx \quad \forall v \in \hat{V}$$

Suitable test and trial spaces:

$$\hat{V} = V = H_0^1(\Omega)$$



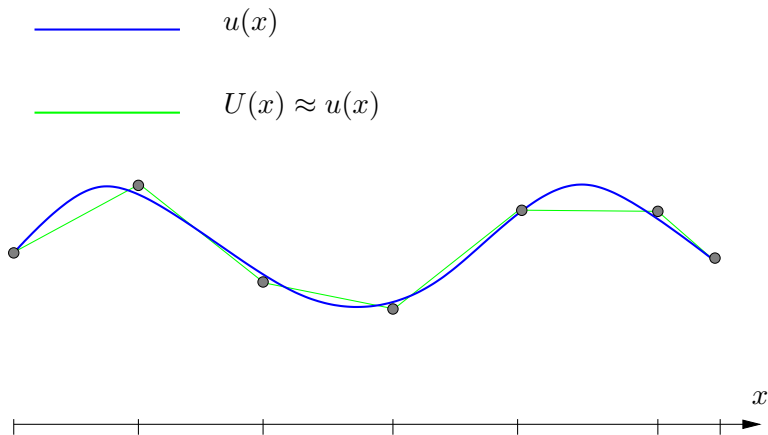
# Discrete variational problem

Find  $U \in V_h$  such that

$$\int_{\Omega} \nabla v \cdot \nabla U \, dx = \int_{\Omega} v f \, dx \quad \forall v \in \hat{V}_h$$

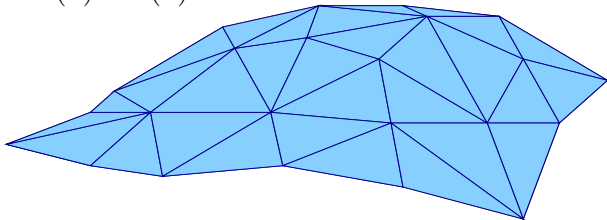
- ▶  $\hat{V}_h \subset \hat{V}$  and  $V_h \subset V$  is a pair of *discrete* function spaces
- ▶ Galerkin's method:  $R(U) = -\Delta U - f \perp \hat{V}_h$
- ▶ FEM: Galerkin with piecewise polynomial spaces

# Finite element function spaces

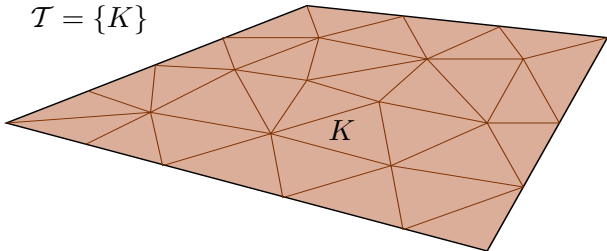


# Finite element function spaces

$$U(x) \approx u(x)$$



$$\mathcal{T} = \{K\}$$



## The discrete system

Introduce bases for  $\hat{V}_h$  and  $V_h$ :

$$\hat{V}_h = \text{span}\{\hat{\phi}_i\}_{i=1}^N$$

$$V_h = \text{span}\{\phi_i\}_{i=1}^N$$

Find  $U \in V_h$  such that

$$\int_{\Omega} \nabla v \cdot \nabla U \, dx = \int_{\Omega} v f \, dx \quad \forall v \in \hat{V}_h$$

Find  $(U_i) \in \mathbb{R}^N$  such that

$$\int_{\Omega} \nabla \hat{\phi}_i \cdot \nabla \left( \sum_{j=1}^N U_j \phi_j \right) \, dx = \int_{\Omega} \hat{\phi}_i f \, dx, \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, N$$

# The discrete system

Find  $(U_i) \in \mathbb{R}^N$  such that

$$\sum_{j=1}^N U_j \int_{\Omega} \nabla \hat{\phi}_i \cdot \nabla \phi_j \, dx = \int_{\Omega} \hat{\phi}_i f \, dx, \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, N$$

Find  $(U_i) \in \mathbb{R}^N$  such that

$$AU = b$$

where

$$A_{ij} = \int_{\Omega} \nabla \hat{\phi}_i \cdot \nabla \phi_j \, dx$$

$$b_i = \int_{\Omega} \hat{\phi}_i f \, dx$$

# Canonical form

Find  $U \in V_h$  such that

$$a(v, U) = L(v) \quad \forall v \in \hat{V}_h$$

Find  $(U_i) \in \mathbb{R}^N$  such that

$$AU = b$$

where

$$A_{ij} = a(\hat{\phi}_i, \phi_j)$$

$$b_i = L(\hat{\phi}_i)$$

# Implementation

```
element = FiniteElement(...)
```

```
v = BasisFunction(element)
```

```
U = BasisFunction(element)
```

```
f = Function(element)
```

```
a = dot(grad(v), grad(U))*dx
```

```
L = v*f*dx
```

# Automating the finite element method

Compute the discrete system

$$AU = b$$

from a given discrete variational problem: Find  $U \in V_h$  such that

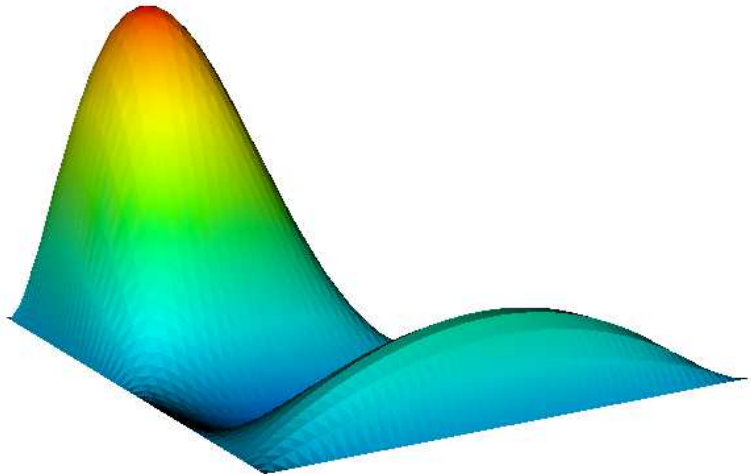
$$a(v, U) = L(v) \quad \forall v \in \hat{V}_h$$

Key steps:

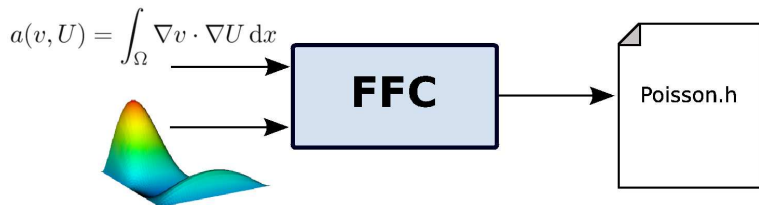
- ▶ Automating the tabulation of basis functions
- ▶ Automating the computation of the element tensor
- ▶ Automating the assembly of the discrete system



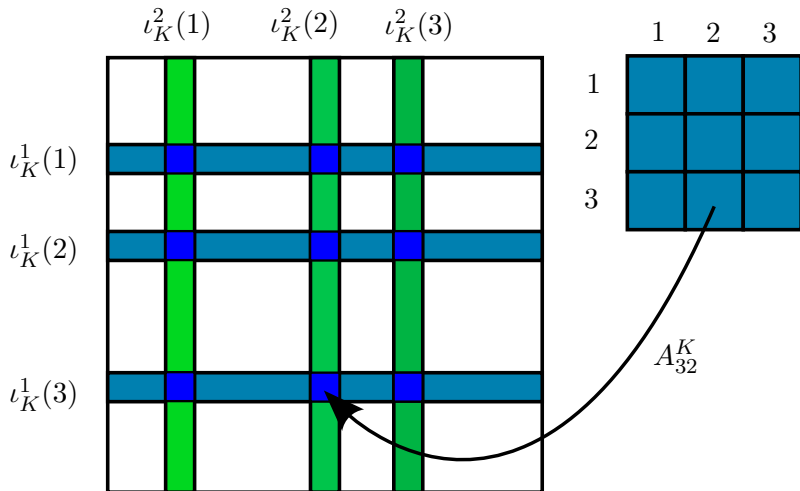
# Automating the tabulation of basis functions



# Automating the computation of the element tensor



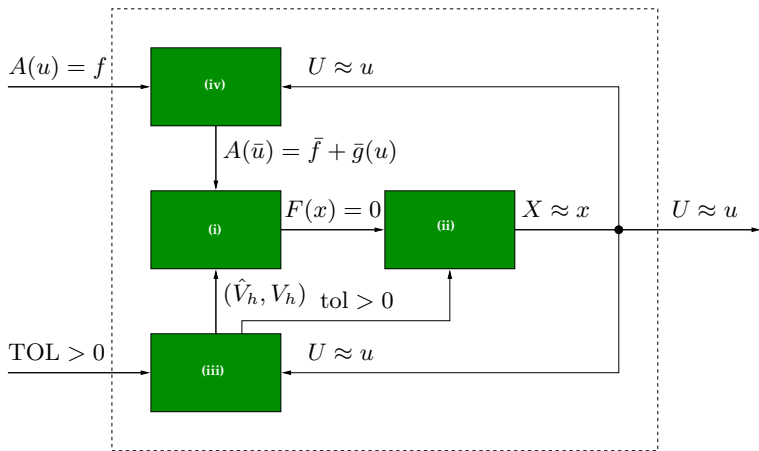
# Automating the assembly of the discrete system



# The Automation of CMM



## Key steps



# Sunday March 5

- ▶ 16.40–17.25  
Automating the Finite Element Method
- ▶ 17.30–18.15  
Hoffman: Navier–Stokes

# Monday March 6

- ▶ 09.00–10.30  
Hoffman: Navier–Stokes
- ▶ 15.45–16.30  
Survey of Current Finite Element Software
- ▶ 17.00–18.30  
The Finite Element Method

# Tuesday March 7

- ▶ 09.00–10.30  
Automating Basis Functions and Assembly
- ▶ 15.45–16.30  
Hoffman: Navier–Stokes
- ▶ 17.00–18.30  
Hoffman: Navier–Stokes



# Wednesday March 8

▶ 09.00–10.30

Hoffman: Navier–Stokes

▶ 15.45–16.30

Automating and Optimizing the  
Computation of the Element Tensor

▶ 17.00–18.30

Automating and Optimizing the  
Computation of the Element Tensor (cont'd)

# Thursday March 9

- ▶ 09.00–10.30  
FEniCS and the Automation of CMM
- ▶ 15.45–16.30  
Hoffman: Navier–Stokes
- ▶ 17.00–18.30  
Hoffman: Navier–Stokes

# Friday March 10

- ▶ 09.00–10.30  
Hoffman: Navier–Stokes
- ▶ 11.00–12.30  
FEniCS Demo Session (laptops ready!)

# Homework ; -)

Download and install:

- ▶ FIAT version 0.2.3
- ▶ FFC version 0.3.0
- ▶ DOLFIN version 0.6.0

<http://www.fenics.org/>

