



# High-level programming in OpenFOAM – and a first glance at C++





## Solving PDEs with OpenFOAM

- The PDEs we wish to solve involve derivatives of tensor fields with respect to time and space
- The PDEs must be discretized in time and space before we solve them
- We will start by having a look at algebra of tensors in OpenFOAM at a single point
- We will then have a look at how to generate tensor fields from tensors
- Finally we will see how to discretize PDEs and how to set boundary conditions using high-level coding in OpenFOAM
- For further details, see the ProgrammersGuide

We will use 2.3.x, since we will use the test directory





## Basic tensor classes in OpenFOAM

• Pre-defined classes for tensors of rank 0-3, but may be extended indefinitely

Rank	Common name	Basic name	Access function
0	Scalar	scalar	
1	Vector	vector	x(), y(), z()
2	Tensor	tensor	xx(), xy(), xz(),

#### **Example:**

Txz = 13

A tensor 
$$T = \begin{bmatrix} 11 & 12 & 13 \\ 21 & 22 & 23 \\ 31 & 32 & 33 \end{bmatrix}$$
 is defined line-by-line:  
tensor T( 11, 12, 13, 21, 22, 23, 31, 32, 33);  
Info << "Txz = " << T.xz() << endl;  
Outputs to the screen:





## Algebraic tensor operations in OpenFOAM

- Tensor operations operate on the entire tensor entity instead of a series of operations on its components
- The OpenFOAM syntax closely mimics the syntax used in written mathematics, using descriptive functions or symbolic operators

#### **Examples:**

Operation	Comment	Mathematical	Description		
		description	in OpenFOAM		
Addition		a + b	a + b		
Outer product	Rank $\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b} \ge 1$	ab	a * b		
Inner product	Rank $\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b} \ge 1$	$\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b}$	a & b		
Cross product	Rank $\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b} = 1$	$\mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{b}$	a^b		
Operations exclusive to tensors of rank 2					
Transpose		$\mathbf{T}^T$	T.T()		
Determinant		$\det\!\mathbf{T}$	det(T)		
Operations exclusive to scalars					
Positive (boolean)		$s \ge 0$	pos(s)		
Hyperbolic arc sine		asinh s	asinh(s)		





## Examples of the use of some tensor classes

- In \$FOAM\_APP/test we can find examples of the use of some classes.
- Tensor class examples:

```
run
cp -r $FOAM_APP/test .
cd test/tensor
wmake
Test-tensor >& log
```

- Have a look inside Test-tensor.C to see the high-level code.
- You see that tensor. H is included, which is located in \$FOAM\_SRC/OpenFOAM/primitives/Tensor/tensor. This defines how to compute eigenvalues.
- In tensor.H, Tensor.H is included (located in \$FOAM\_SRC/OpenFOAM/primitives/Tensor), which defines the access functions and includes TensorI.H, which defines the tensor operations. The capital T means that it is a template class. The tensor class is simply typedef Tensor<scalar> tensor;
- See also vector, symmTensorField, sphericalTensorField and many other examples.





## Dimensional units in OpenFOAM

• OpenFOAM checks the dimensional consistency

#### Declaration of a tensor with dimensions:

#### The values of dimensionSet correspond to the powers of each SI unit:

No.	Property	Unit	Symbol	
1	Mass	kilogram	kg	
2	Length	metre	m	
3	Time	second	S	
4	Temperature	Kelvin	K	
5	Quantity	moles	mol	
6	Current	ampere	A	
7	Luminous intensity	candela	cd	
sigma then has the dimension $\lceil kq/ms^2 \rceil$				





#### Dimensional units in OpenFOAM

• Add the following to Test-tensor.C:
 Before main():
 #include "dimensionedTensor.H"
 Before return(0):
 dimensionedTensor sigma
 (
 "sigma",
 dimensionSet(1, -1, -2, 0, 0, 0, 0),
 tensor(1e6, 0, 0, 0, 1e6, 0, 0, 0, 1e6)
 );
 Info<< "Sigma: " << sigma << endl;</pre>

• Compile, run again, and you will get:

```
Sigma: sigma [1 -1 -2 \ 0 \ 0 \ 0] (1e+06 0 0 0 1e+06 0 0 0 1e+06)
```

You see that the object sigma that belongs to the dimensionedTensor class contains both the name, the dimensions and values.

• See \$FOAM\_SRC/OpenFOAM/dimensionedTypes/dimensionedTensor





## Dimensional units in OpenFOAM

• Try some member functions of the dimensioned Tensor class:

```
Info<< "Sigma name: " << sigma.name() << endl;
Info<< "Sigma dimensions: " << sigma.dimensions() << endl;
Info<< "Sigma value: " << sigma.value() << endl;</pre>
```

• You now also get:

```
Sigma name: sigma

Sigma dimensions: [1 -1 -2 0 0 0 0]

Sigma value: (1e+06 0 0 0 1e+06 0 0 0 1e+06)
```

• Extract one of the values:

```
Info<< "Sigma yy value: " << sigma.value().yy() << endl;
Note here that the value() member function first converts the expression to a
tensor, which has a yy() member function. The dimensionedTensor class
does not have a yy() member function, so it is not possible to do sigma.yy().
```





## Construction of a tensor field in OpenFOAM

- A tensor field is a list of tensors
- The use of typedef in OpenFOAM yields readable type definitions: scalarField, vectorField, tensorField, symmTensorField, ...
- Algebraic operations can be performed between different fields, and between a field and a single tensor, e.g. Field U, scalar 2.0: U = 2.0 \* U;

```
• Add the following to Test-tensor:
    Before main():
    #include "tensorField.H"
    Before return(0):

        tensorField tf1(2, tensor::one);
        Info<< "tf1: " << tf1 << endl;
        tf1[0] = tensor(1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9);
        Info<< "tf1: " << tf1 << endl;
        Info<< "tf1: " << tf1 << endl;
        Info<< "tf1: " << tf1 << endl;</pre>
```





# Discretization of a tensor field in OpenFOAM

- FVM (Finite Volume Method)
- No limitations on the number of faces bounding each cell
- No restriction on the alignment of each face
- The mesh class polyMesh can be used to construct a polyhedral mesh using the minimum information required
- The fvMesh class extends the polyMesh class to include additional data needed for the FV discretization (see test/mesh)
- The geometricField class relates a tensor field to an fvMesh (can also be typedef volField, surfaceField, pointField)
- A geometricField inherits all the tensor algebra of its corresponding field, has dimension checking, and can be subjected to specific discretization procedures





#### Examine an fvMesh

• Let us examine an fvMesh:

```
run
rm -rf cavity
cp -r $FOAM_TUTORIALS/incompressible/icoFoam/cavity .
cd cavity
sed -i s/"20 20 1"/"2 2 1"/g constant/polyMesh/blockMeshDict
blockMesh
```

- Run Test-mesh (first compile it: wmake \$FOAM\_RUN/test/mesh)
- C() gives the center of all cells and boundary faces.
  - $\forall$  () gives the volume of all the cells.
  - Cf () gives the center of all the faces.
- Try also adding in Test-mesh.C, before return (0):

```
Info<< mesh.C().internalField()[1][1] << endl;
Info<< mesh.boundaryMesh()[0].name() << endl;</pre>
```

• See \$FOAM\_SRC/finiteVolume/fvMesh





#### Examine a volScalarField

• Read a volScalarField that corresponds to the mesh. Add in Test-mesh.C, before return(0):

```
volScalarField p
    IOobject
         "p",
         runTime.timeName(),
         mesh,
         IOobject::MUST_READ,
         IOobject::AUTO WRITE
    mesh
);
Info<< p << endl;</pre>
Info<< p.boundaryField()[0] << endl;</pre>
```





## Equation discretization in OpenFOAM

- Converts the PDEs into a set of linear algebraic equations, **Ax=b**, where **x** and **b** are volFields (geometricFields). **A** is an fvMatrix, which is created by a discretization of a geometricField and inherits the algebra of its corresponding field, and it supports many of the standard algebraic matrix operations
- The fvm (Finite Volume Method) and fvc (Finite Volume Calculus) classes contain static functions for the differential operators, and discretize any geometricField. fvm returns an fvMatrix, and fvc returns a geometricField (see \$FOAM\_SRC/finiteVolume/finiteVolume/fvc and fvm)

#### **Examples:**

Term description	Mathematical expression	fvm::/fvc:: functions
Laplacian	$\nabla \cdot \Gamma \nabla \phi$	laplacian(Gamma,phi)
Time derivative	$\partial \phi/\partial t$	ddt(phi)
	$\partial  ho \phi / \partial t$	ddt(rho, phi)
Convection	$ abla \cdot (\psi)$	div(psi, scheme)
	$ abla \cdot (\psi \phi)$	div(psi, phi, word)
		div(psi, phi)
Source	$ ho\phi$	Sp(rho, phi)
		SuSp(rho, phi)
A. real Armas Fiel	d a goolow realCoolowField	// granfa as Caslantiald

 $\phi$ : vol<type>Field,  $\rho$ : scalar, volScalarField,  $\psi$ : surfaceScalarField





## Example

A call for solving the equation

$$\frac{\partial \rho \vec{U}}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot \phi \vec{U} - \nabla \cdot \mu \nabla \vec{U} = -\nabla p$$

has the OpenFOAM representation

```
solve
(
          fvm::ddt(rho, U)
          + fvm::div(phi, U)
          - fvm::laplacian(mu, U)
          ==
           - fvc::grad(p)
)
```





#### Example: laplacianFoam, the source code

```
Solves \partial T/\partial t - \nabla \cdot k \nabla T = 0 (see $FOAM_SOLVERS/basic/laplacianFoam)
#include "fvCFD.H" // Include the class declarations
int main(int argc, char *argv[])
    include "setRootCase.H" // Set the correct path
#
#
    include "createTime.H" // Create the time
    include "createMesh.H" // Create the mesh
#
    include "createFields.H" // Temperature field T and diffusivity DT
    while (runTime.loop()) // Time loop
#
    include "readSIMPLEControls.H" // Read solution controls
        for (int nonOrth=0; nonOrth<=nNonOrthCorr; nonOrth++)
            solve (fvm::ddt(T) - fvm::laplacian(DT, T)); // Solve eq.
#
    include "write.H" // Write out results at specified time instances}
    return 0; // End with 'ok' signal
```





## Example: laplacianFoam, discretization and boundary conditions

See \$FOAM\_TUTORIALS/basic/laplacianFoam/flange

#### **Discretization:**

dictionary fvSchemes, read from file:

```
ddtSchemes
{
    default Euler;
}

laplacianSchemes
{
    default none;
    laplacian(DT,T) Gauss linear corrected;
}
```

#### **Boundary conditions:**

Part of class volScalarField object T, read from file:

```
boundaryField{
   patch1{ type zeroGradient;}
   patch2{ type fixedValue; value uniform 273;}}
```