



FreeFem++-cs, the FreeFem++ Graphical Interface

Antoine Le Hyaric

Laboratoire Jacques-Louis Lions
Université Pierre et Marie Curie

Antoine.Le.Hyaric@upmc.fr

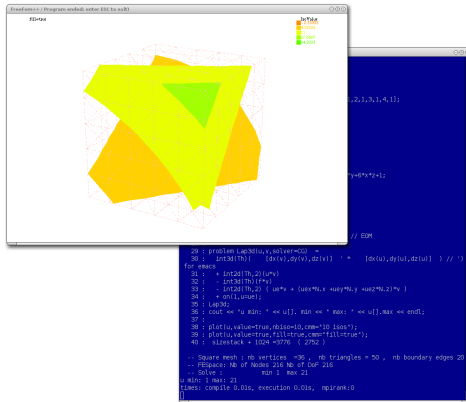
December 10, 2014

How to start using FF?

- The mathematical bases for the FF language are very well documented (PDF, HTML and Wiki available online)
- But there is more to know to run a simulation successfully
- Minimize the FF learning curve through the use of the FFCS interface.

FreeFem++ or FreeFem++-cs?

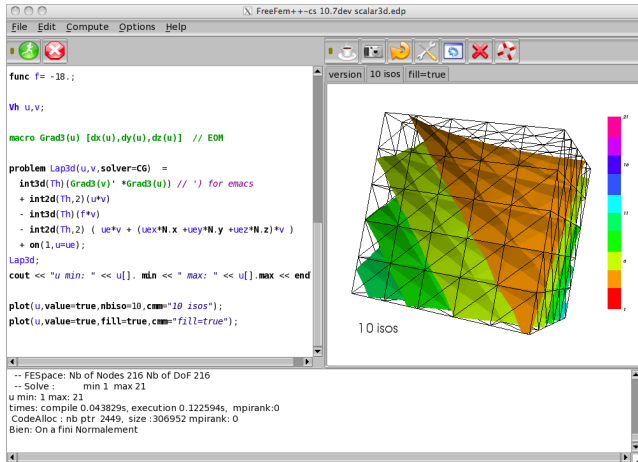
FF is a full-featured standalone application. FFCS is a shell around it. This is FF :



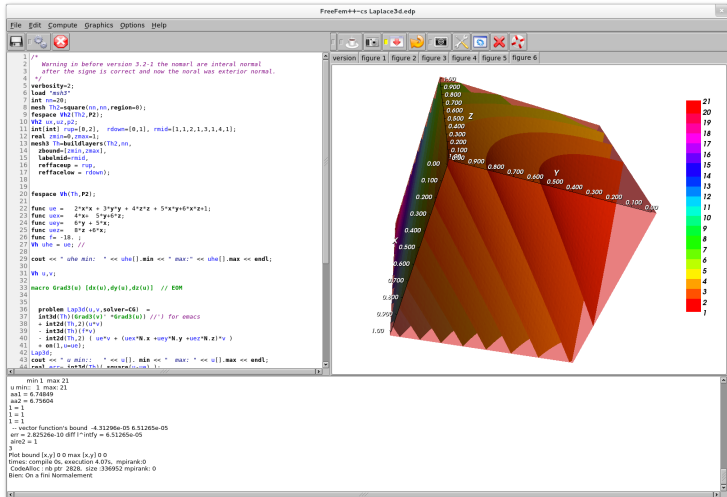
FFCS brings the following extra features :

- graphical shell (more comfortable for first-time users)
- inline documentation (manual, examples, reference card)
- Minimizing the learning curve: available options explicitly listed in menus.
- always possible to switch back and forth between FFCS and FF at any time
- Users should be able to start from scratch (includes editor!)
- Create a simple interface for most uses

This is FFCS

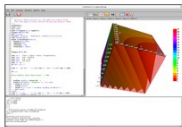


Graphical User Interface

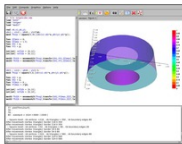


More screenshots

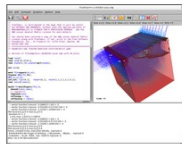
Version 13.6



Version 12.12



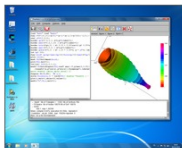
Version 12.8



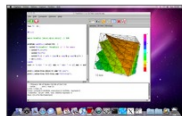
Version 11.13 on Windows 7



Version 10.14 on Windows 7



Version 10.7 on MacOS 10.6



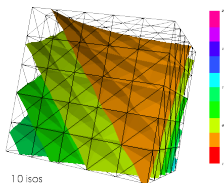
Which machine?

- **Coarse 2D or 3D meshes** : any machine (even a palmtop) will do.
- **Fine 2D meshes** : a fast laptop.
- **Fine 3D meshes** : HPC + MPI

The operating system can be Windows, Linux or MacOS. FF and FFCS work fine under all of these.

Which Machine? (2)

As an example, the following simulation runs fine on any machine :



Some examples of bigger test cases at
<http://www.ljll.math.upmc.fr/~gostaf/mfd2010>

Installing FreeFem++-cs

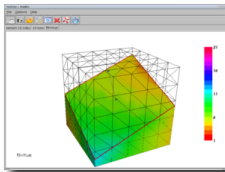
This is the easy part.

- automatic install procedure
- No other software needed
- No administrator privileges needed

FreeFem++-vtk


FreeFem++-vtk : Same graphics as FFCS, same command line as FF

- Install FF
- Install FFCS
- run FF with `-glut .../FreeFem++-vtk`



Download

`www.ljll.math.upmc.fr/lehyaric/ffcs/install.php`



FreeFem++-cs

an integrated environment for FreeFem++

Antoine Le Hyaric, Jacques-Louis Lions Laboratory, Pierre and Marie Curie University.

Download & Install

1. Check the [License](#).
2. Download

Platform	Version	Contains
Debian Testing	12.17	FreeFem++ 3.20
Debian Testing 64	12.17	FreeFem++ 3.20
MacOS 10.6	12.19	FreeFem++ 3.20
MacOS 10.7	12.17	FreeFem++ 3.20
MacOS 10.8	12.18	FreeFem++ 3.20
Source	12.17	FreeFem++ 3.20
Ubuntu 12.04 64	12.19	FreeFem++ 3.20
Unstable Source Tree	latest	FreeFem++ 3.20
Windows	12.19	FreeFem++ 3.20
Windows 64	12.17	FreeFem++ 3.20

SOFTWARE


- [Introduction](#)
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DOCUMENTATION

- [Installation Instructions](#)
- [Tutorial](#)
- [Manuals](#)
- [FAQ](#)
- [Comments](#)

EXTERNAL LINKS

- [FreeFem++](#)
- [Jacques-Louis Lions Laboratory](#)
- [Pierre and Marie Curie University](#)



Installation instructions

Installation instructions (from Source, on Windows, on MacOS, on Linux, etc)

www.ljll.math.upmc.fr/lehyaric/ffcs/quickstart.php



FreeFem++-cs

an integrated environment for FreeFem++

Antoine Le Hyaric, Jacques-Louis Lions Laboratory, Pierre and Marie Curie University.

Installation Instructions

Download FreeFem++-cs from <http://www.ljll.math.upmc.fr/~lehyaric/ffcs/install.php>. You do not need to be an administrator to install and use FreeFem++-cs in your own account. You do not need to remove other versions of FreeFem++-cs or FreeFem++ from your machine (several different versions of FreeFem++-cs can coexist on the same machine or even in the same account without interference).

The FreeFem++-cs package contains the following programs :

- **FreeFem++-cs** : main user interface (including editor and 3D graphics)
- **FreeFem++-cli** : command-line interface (no editor)
- **FreeFem++-lang** : FreeFem++ language interpreter (used by FreeFem++-cs and FreeFem++-cli)
- **FreeFem++-mpilang** : FreeFem++ language interpreter for parallel EDP scripts

SOFTWARE

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Prerequisites

- the Finite Element Method, variational formulation
`www.um.es/freefemv3/ff++/pmwiki.php?n=FFDoc.
GettingStarted`
- C language syntax

Detailed examples

The FreeFem++ documentation contains some very detailed tutorial examples, described from their mathematical definition to the resulting FF program in chapter 3 :

www.um.es/freefemv3/ff++/pmwiki.php?n=FFDoc.

LearningByExamples

Membranes, Heat Exchanger, Acoustics, Thermal Conduction, Irrotational Fan Blade Flow and Thermal, effects, Pure Convection : The Rotating Hill, A Projection Algorithm for the Navier-Stokes equations, The System of elasticity, The System of Stokes for Fluids, A Large Fluid Problem, An Example with Complex Numbers, Optimal Control, A Flow with Shocks

The list of all FreeFem++ examples

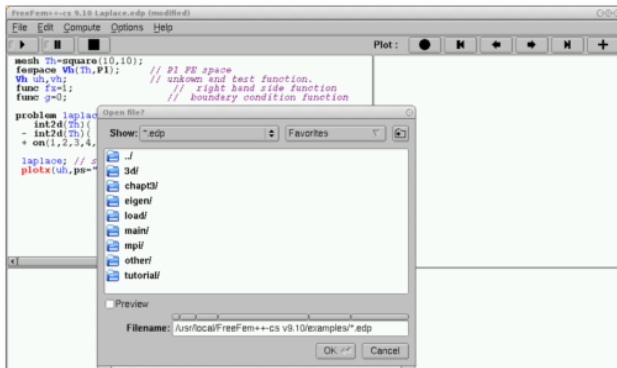
Starting from an existing example makes it easier to try something easily avoid the blank page syndrom. All FF examples (including shared libraries and 3D) are available through :

`www.ljll.math.upmc.fr/lehyaric/ffcs/examples`

tutorial, main, 3d, eigenvalues, load modules, MPI, etc

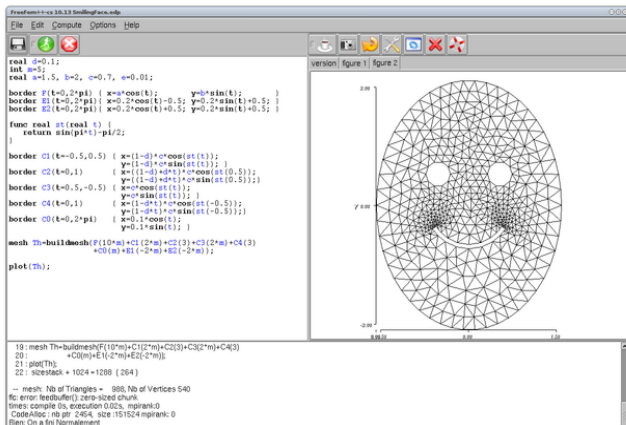
Viewing examples from FFCS

The "File/Open Example..." menu option in FFCS :



Writing a program

All 3 steps of The Development Cycle (edit,run,visualize) in one window.



2d live demo

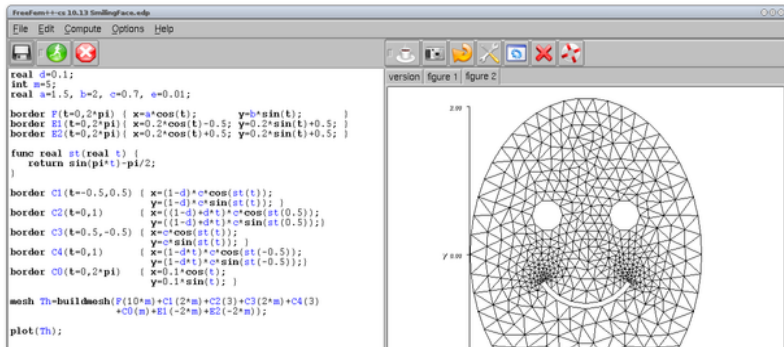
```
mesh Th=square(10,10);  
fespace Vh(Th,P1);  
Vh uh,vh;  
func f=1;  
func g=0;  
solve Laplace(uh,vh)=int2d(Th)(dx(uh)*dx(vh)+dy(uh)*dy(vh))  
-int2d(Th)(f*vh)  
+on(1,2,3,4,uh=g);  
plot(uh);
```

3d live demo

```
load "msh3"  
mesh Th2=square(10,10);  
int[int] rup=[0,1],rlow=[0,1],rmid=[1,1,2,1,3,1,4,1];  
mesh3  
Th=buildlayers(Th2,10,reffaceup=rup,reffacelow=rlow,reffacemid=rmid);  
fespace Vh(Th,P1);  
Vh uh,vh;  
func f=1;  
func g=0;  
solve  
Laplace(uh,vh)=int3d(Th)(dx(uh)*dx(vh)+dy(uh)*dy(vh)+dz(uh)*dz(vh))  
-int3d(Th)(f*vh)  
+on(1,uh=g);  
plot(uh);
```

Describing the mesh programmatically

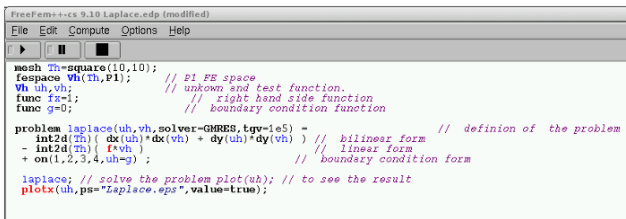
- very handy in 2d (not so much in 3d)
 - easily parameterized once written
 - www.um.es/frefemv3/ff++/pmwiki.php?n=FFDoc.
- MeshGeneration



External CAD tools

- In 3D, tetgen can be called from an FF program, but programming the intersections is cumbersome
- For basic shapes (cube, sphere, ...) see `examples/examples++-3d`
- This is where it is useful to use a CAD tool like GMSH :
 - Draw geometry and build the mesh in GMSH. Then export it to the MEDIT format.
 - Find the numeric labels of the boundaries which will need a boundary condition (e.g. by loading the mesh in MEDIT and displaying the material properties of hand-picked points on the boundaries).
 - Load the mesh into the FF program with `readmesh3()`.

Editing and running



```
FreeFem++-cs 9.10 Laplace.edp (modified)
File Edit Compute Options Help
[Run] [Pause] [Stop]
mesh Th=square(10,10);
fespace Vh(Th,P1);           // P1 FE space
Vh uh,vh;                    // unknown and test function.
func fx=1;                   // right hand side function
func g=0;                     // boundary condition function

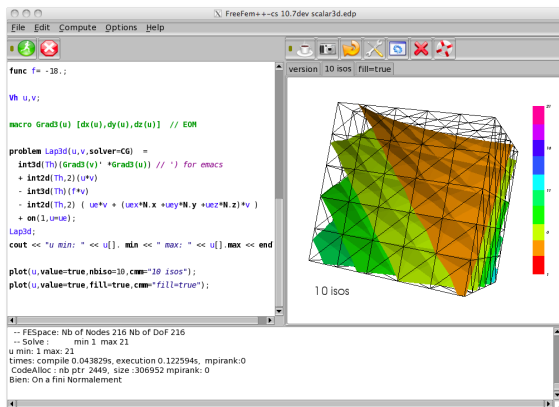
problem laplace(uh,vh,solver=GMRES,tgv=1e5) =
- int2d(Th) ( dx(uh)*dx(vh) + dy(uh)*dy(vh) ) // bilinear form // definition of the problem
- int2d(Th) ( f*vh ) // linear form
+ on(1,2,3,4,uh-g) ;          // boundary condition form

laplace; // solve the problem plot(uh); // to see the result
plotx(uh,ps="Laplace.eps",value=true);
```

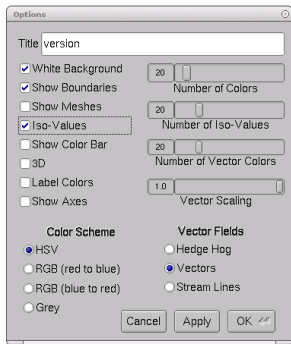
bold black : all standard FreeFem++ keywords. **blue** : user-defined objects User-defined types are in **bold face**. Character strings are in *"dark blue"*. **green** : macros and include files. **bold red** : spelling mistakes, syntax errors, undefined objects, macros and include files containing errors. **purple** : comments.

Visualizing

Simply use the `plot()` command with 3D data :

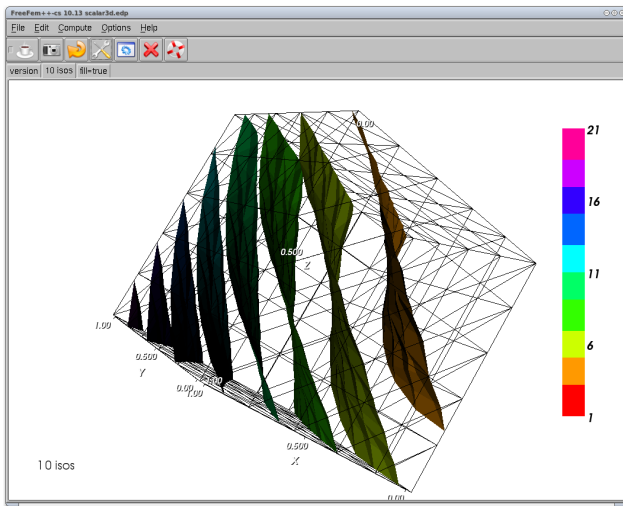


- Graphical options are modifiable from the FF program itself
- All VTK classes are potentially usable
- We are not reimplementing Paraview inside FFCS



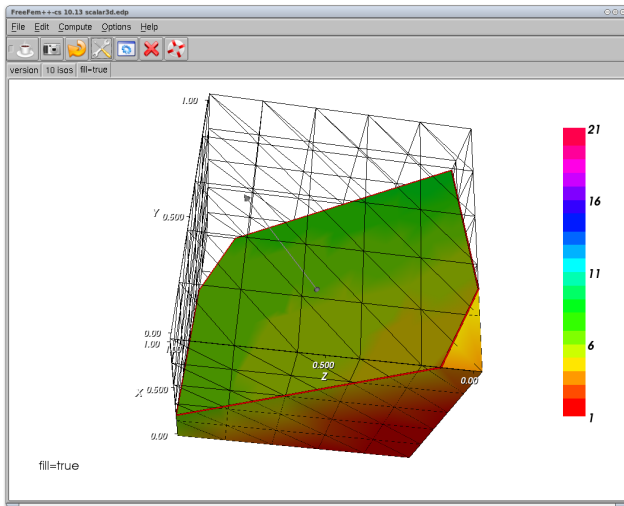
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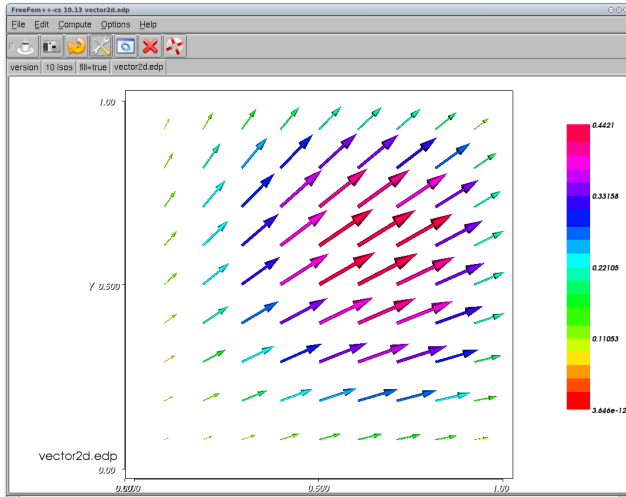
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Running scripts
Visualizing



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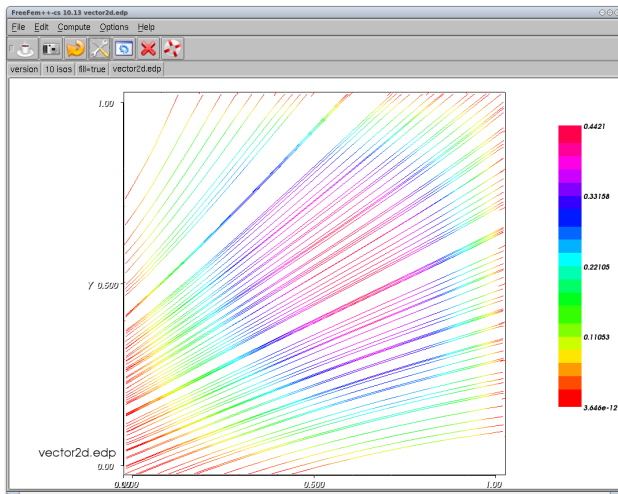
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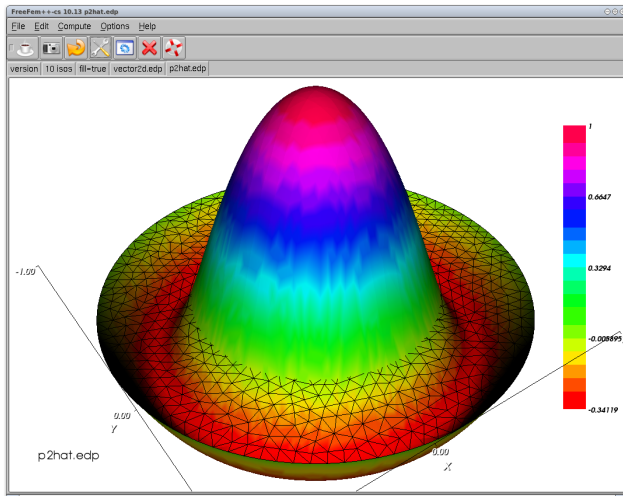
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The FF documentation (which doubles as the FF book) can be accessed in different ways :

- As a PDF :
`www.freefem.org/ff++/ftp/freefem++doc.pdf`
- As a Wiki : `www.um.es/freefemv3/ff++`
- More documents at
`www.ljll.math.upmc.fr/lehyaric/ffcs/doc.php`

Asking questions to the community

`www.ljll.math.upmc.fr/cgi-bin/mailman/listinfo/freefempp`

December 2014 Archives by thread

- Messages sorted by: [\[subject \]](#) [\[author \]](#) [\[date \]](#)
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Starting: Mon Dec 1 13:43:01 CET 2014

Ending: Thu Dec 4 15:54:06 CET 2014

Messages: 18

- [\[Freefempp\] Problems with vectorial finite elements](#) Al ky
 - [\[Freefempp\] Problems with vectorial finite elements](#) Pierre Jolivet
 - [\[Freefempp\] Problems with vectorial finite elements](#) Pierre Jolivet
- [\[Freefempp\] Freefempp Digest, Vol 49, Issue 1](#) Al ky
- [\[Freefempp\] dynamic linking a used-defined library to FreeFEM++](#) Robin Yegavian
 - [\[Freefempp\] dynamic linking a used-defined library to FreeFEM++](#) Pierre Jolivet
- [\[Freefempp\] dynamic linking a used-defined library to FreeFEM++](#) Robin Yegavian
- [\[Freefempp\] Saving multiple files in Freefem](#) rashkov at mathematik.uni-marburg.de
 - [\[Freefempp\] Saving multiple files in Freefem](#) Pierre Jolivet
 - [\[Freefempp\] Saving multiple files in Freefem](#) Laurent Bernard
 - [\[Freefempp\] Saving multiple files in Freefem](#) Richard Michel
- [\[Freefempp\] Discontinuous Galerkin treatment on different fespaces](#) Damien Jallas
 - [\[Freefempp\] Discontinuous Galerkin treatment on different fespaces](#) Hecht Frédéric
 - [\[Freefempp\] Discontinuous Galerkin treatment on different fespaces](#) Hecht Frédéric
- [\[Freefempp\] short cout.flush question](#) Jon Sauer

Here are some 3D graphical tools that may become useful when developing more complex simulations with FF.

- **MEDIT** : www.um.es/freefemv3/ff++/pmwiki.php?n=FFDoc.LinkWithMedit
- **VTK output** : very useful to connect to e.g. Paraview. see [examples/examples++-load/iovtk.cpp](#) or use "File/Save Image As.../VTK" in FFCS.
- **GMSH** : See www.geuz.org/pipermail/gmsh/2010/005844.html

The FFCS editor has one big advantage for new users : it highlights mistyped variables in red. Apart from that, it will never have as many features as a complete development editor (Emacs anyone?). FFCS can deal with a program text edited in an external editor :

- "File/Auto Reload" to reload a file into FFCS automatically when it has been changed externally.
- "Compute/Auto Run" to run a newly reloaded program text automatically.
- "Edit/Hide Editor Panel" to put the unused internal editor window out of sight and make more space for the graphics window.

- "load modules" = dynamic library written in C++
- Because of the universal nature of C++, load modules can be used to implement any functionality missing from FF
- (Downside : may become very complex to implement)
- Just download both packages (FF and FFCS) to use the "ff-c++" script

- **Multicores** : supported automatically through the use of numerical libraries capable of Shared Memory Parallelism (e.g. multithreaded ATLAS/OpenBLAS/MKL/Veclib/...).
- **Distributed Memory Parallelism** (ie several distinct machines working together) : also possible but requires MPI programming.

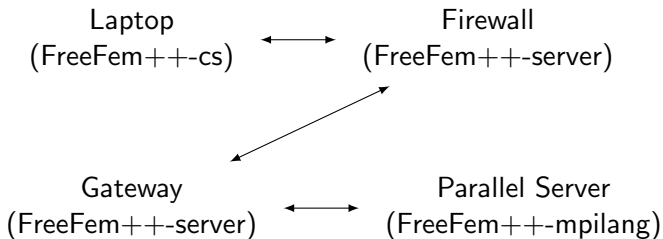
FFCS does its best to hide this complexity from the user, but often needs to be recompiled to take the user's choice of libraries into account.

For more details about parallel programming :

www.um.es/freefemv3/ff++/pmwiki.php?n=FFDoc.

MPIParallelVersion

- created in cooperation with the EJS project fem.um.es/Ejs
- good for big runs on parallel machines and local visualisation



Mercurial

www.ljll.math.upmc.fr/lehyaric/ffcs/news/20120628-1722.php



FreeFem++-cs an integrated environment for FreeFem++

Antoine Le Hyaric, Jacques-Louis Lions Laboratory, Pierre and Marie Curie University.


28/06/2012 - How to access the Unstable Source Tree

Many FreeFem++-cs users get back to this site with very valuable improvement ideas that they have already developed. This is a perfect case for distributed development, and Mercurial is a very useful tool in this situation. So I have published the Mercurial development repository of FreeFem++-cs. Every user who wants to publish his own improvements of the source code is welcome to "clone" this repository and publish his own modifications as another Mercurial copy (in agreement with the [license](#)).

To download the main FreeFem++-cs source tree (check the [quick start guide](#) for more details on the required development tools) :

- hg clone <http://www.ljll.math.upmc.fr/~lehyaric/ffcs/dev> ffcs-dev
- cd ffcs-dev
- autoreconf -i
- ./configure (check ./configure --help for available options)
- make
- run pack/work/FreeFem++-cs

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FreeFem++

Mercurial Structure

ffcs/ff/upstream
is now ~~cloned~~ copied from
www.freefem.org/ff++/ff++

- + sources are still coherent
- + less synchronization work

Developers can still participate in the same way :

- via patches
- via Mercurial clones, published on the web

Mercurial Commands

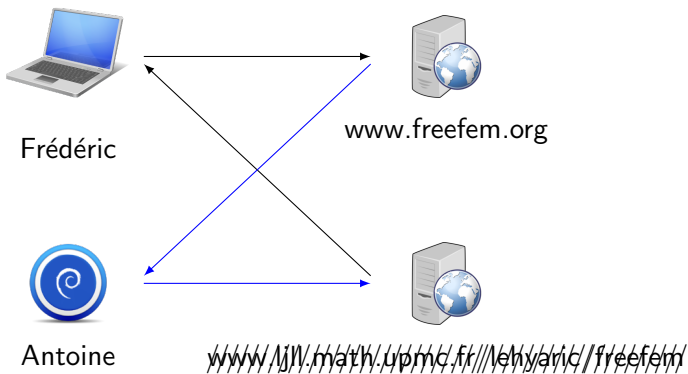
To download the different versions of the source :

- `hg clone http://www.freefem.org/ff++/ff++`
- ~~`hg clone https://www.ann.jussieu.fr/~lehyaric/freefem/`~~
- `hg clone https://www.ann.jussieu.fr/~lehyaric/ffcs/dev`

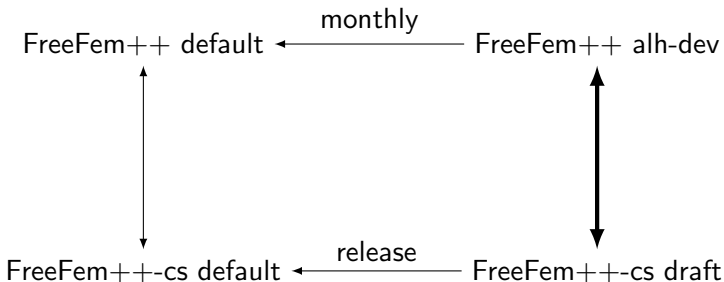
To select the right branch ("default", "alh-dev", "draft") :

- `hg update [branch]`

Physical location of FreeFem++ source code



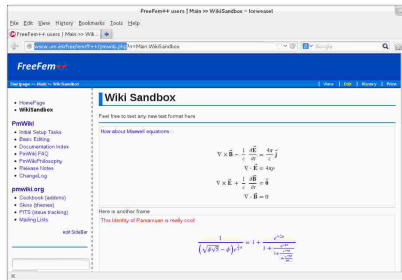
Compatibility between Mercurial branches



Other FFCS changes in 2014

- FFCS
 - VTK 6.1
 - Variable tab size in editor
 - 7 releases this year so far
 - Keeping up with MacOS
- Common FF source
 - cross-references ([file index.org](http://fileindex.org))
 - GSL module load

- FreeFem++ full documentation on Eliseo Chacon Vera's Wiki : DONE

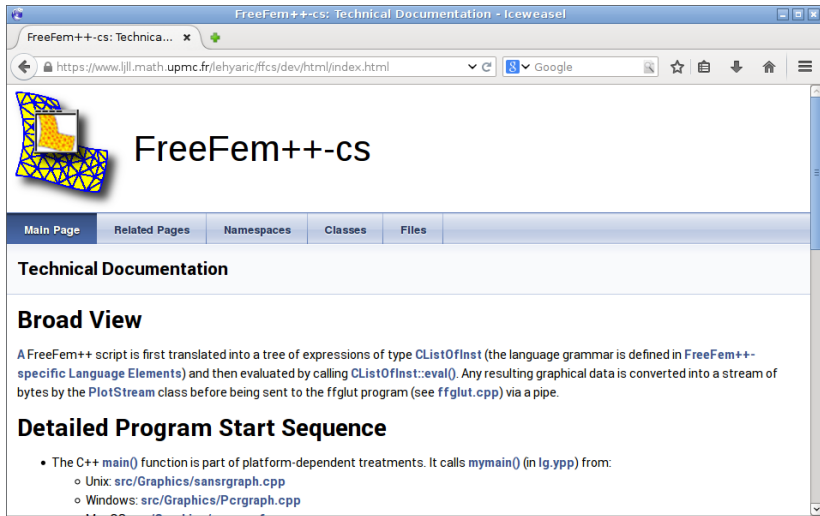


www.um.es/freefem/ff++/pmwiki.php

- Debugger

- opening up the C++ classes through Doxygen documentation : structure DONE
`www.ljll.math.upmc.fr/lehyaric/freefem/html`
`www.ljll.math.upmc.fr/lehyaric/ffcs/dev/html`
- Emacs “org-mode” documentation : index DONE
(require 'org-install)
(global-set-key "\C-co" 'org-open-at-point-global)
links : `[[file:/a/b/c/d.cpp::name]]` targets : `<<name>>`
- connection through GUI
- connection through other languages

`www.ljll.math.upmc.fr/lehyaric/ffcs/dev/html/index.html`



The screenshot shows a web browser window with the title "FreeFem++-cs: Technical Documentation - Iceweasel". The address bar shows the URL `https://www.ljll.math.upmc.fr/lehyaric/ffcs/dev/html/index.html`. The page features a logo on the left consisting of a yellow square with a blue grid pattern, overlaid with a blue wireframe mesh. To the right of the logo, the text "FreeFem++-cs" is displayed in a large, bold, black font. Below this, there is a navigation bar with tabs: "Main Page" (selected), "Related Pages", "Namespaces", "Classes", and "Files". The main content area is titled "Technical Documentation" and contains a section "Broad View" with a paragraph explaining the workflow: "A FreeFem++ script is first translated into a tree of expressions of type `CListOfInst` (the language grammar is defined in `FreeFem++-specific Language Elements`) and then evaluated by calling `CListOfInst::eval()`. Any resulting graphical data is converted into a stream of bytes by the `PlotStream` class before being sent to the `ffglut` program (see `ffglut.cpp`) via a pipe." Below this is a section "Detailed Program Start Sequence" with a bulleted list: "The C++ `main()` function is part of platform-dependent treatments. It calls `mymain()` (in `lg.ypp`) from:" followed by two sub-points: "Unix: `src/Graphics/sansrgraph.cpp`" and "Windows: `src/Graphics/Pcgraph.cpp`".

Connecting FreeFem++-cs to FreeFem++

www.ljll.math.upmc.fr/lehyaric/ffcs/dev/html/ff.html

FreeFem++-cs: Making freefem++ run inside freefem++-cs - Iceweasel

FreeFem++-cs: Making F... x

https://www.ljll.math.upmc.fr/lehyaric/ffcs/dev/html/ff.html

FreeFem++-cs

Main Page Related Pages Namespaces Classes Files

Making FreeFem++ run inside FreeFem++-cs

FreeFem++ is a sequential program. All 3D graphical directives use GLUT in a separate binary called ffglut. The main entry point of ffglut is in `ff/upstream/src/Graphics/ffglut.cpp`.

The main entry point for FreeFem++ (the computational part) is `mainff()` at line 722 in the grammar description file `ff/upstream/src/iglib/ig.ypp` (translated into `ff/upstream/src/iglib/ig.tab.cpp` with bison).

Note

The actual `main()` is in `ff/upstream/src/Graphics/sansrgraph.cpp`, and it calls `mymain()` in `ff/upstream/src/iglib/mymain.cpp`.

- `Compile()` which will print the famous message "Bien: On a fini Normalement" when complete
- `yyparse()` reads the edp file. The grammar is based on C (no object-oriented programming in an EDP script). It builds a tree of expressions in `YYSTYPE` and evaluates it at the end of the grammatical analysis. Most of the objects created by `yyparse()` are defined in `AFunction.hpp` (but more objects

`www.ljll.math.upmc.fr/lehyaric/ffcs/dev/html/...`

- VTK
 - Visualization .../visu.html
 - Dashboard .../classDashboard.html
 - Visucontrol .../classVisucontrol.html
 - Visudata .../classVisudata.html
- Documentation .../doc.html
 - End-users .../doc.html#end-users
 - ~~Reference card~~ (replaced with wiki)
 - Developers .../doc.html#developers
 - Source tree .../files.html

More pointers to the doc

`www.ljll.math.upmc.fr/lehyaric/ffcs/dev/html/...`

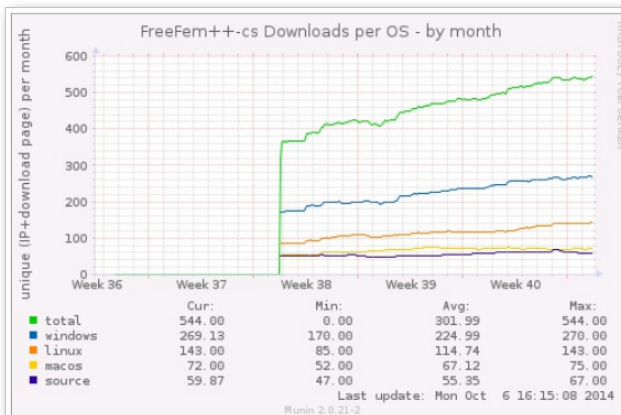
- Packages `.../porting.html`
- Testing `.../testing.html`
- Specifying reference values for testing
`.../mkffref_source.html`
- Parallelism `.../parallelism.html`

Changing the GUI framework

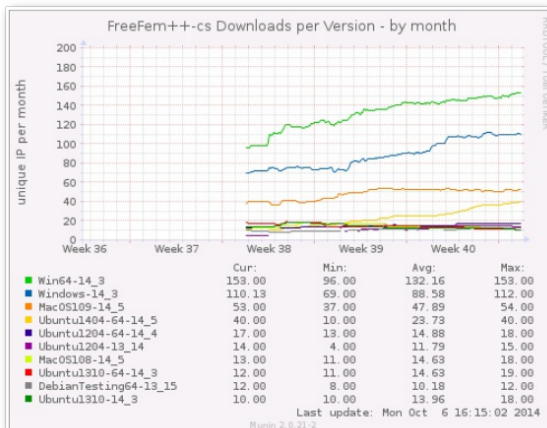
FF and FFCS are mature codes, we now need to improve the looks and the code structure

- Optimize portability (Linux, MacOS, Windows)
- Long-term design choice : GTK? Qt? plain Java? Java with Emscripten? WxWindows?
- MacOS catch-up game
- Connect with course material (eg in Latex or HTML)
- Solve all licence issues

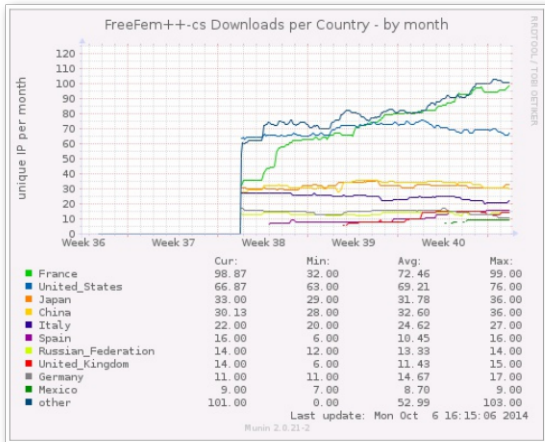
Stats per OS



Stats per version



Stats per country



Through the years, the selling point of FFCS has been to let users focus on the mathematical questions. The single-window approach attracts new users to FF. We will try and keep this philosophy in the future.

- Do not hesitate to comment. The mailing list is at :
`ljl11.math.upmc.fr/cgi-bin/mailman/listinfo/freefempp`
- For the afternoon tutorials, download early to avoid network congestion

To find FreeFem++-cs on the net : just search for “freefem cs”

And thank you for all your messages.