The Non-affine Fiber Network Plugin for Finite Element Analysis

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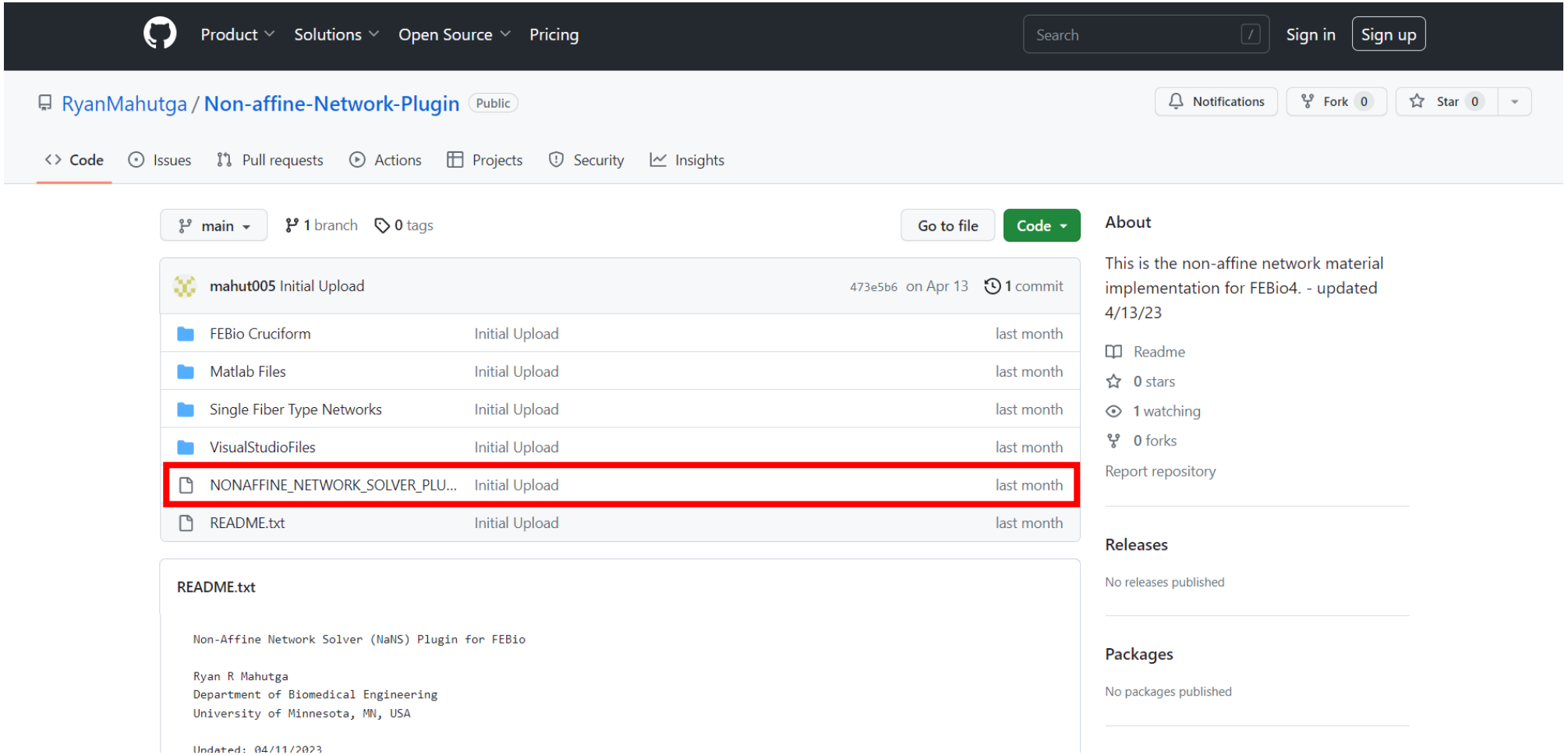
Getting Started

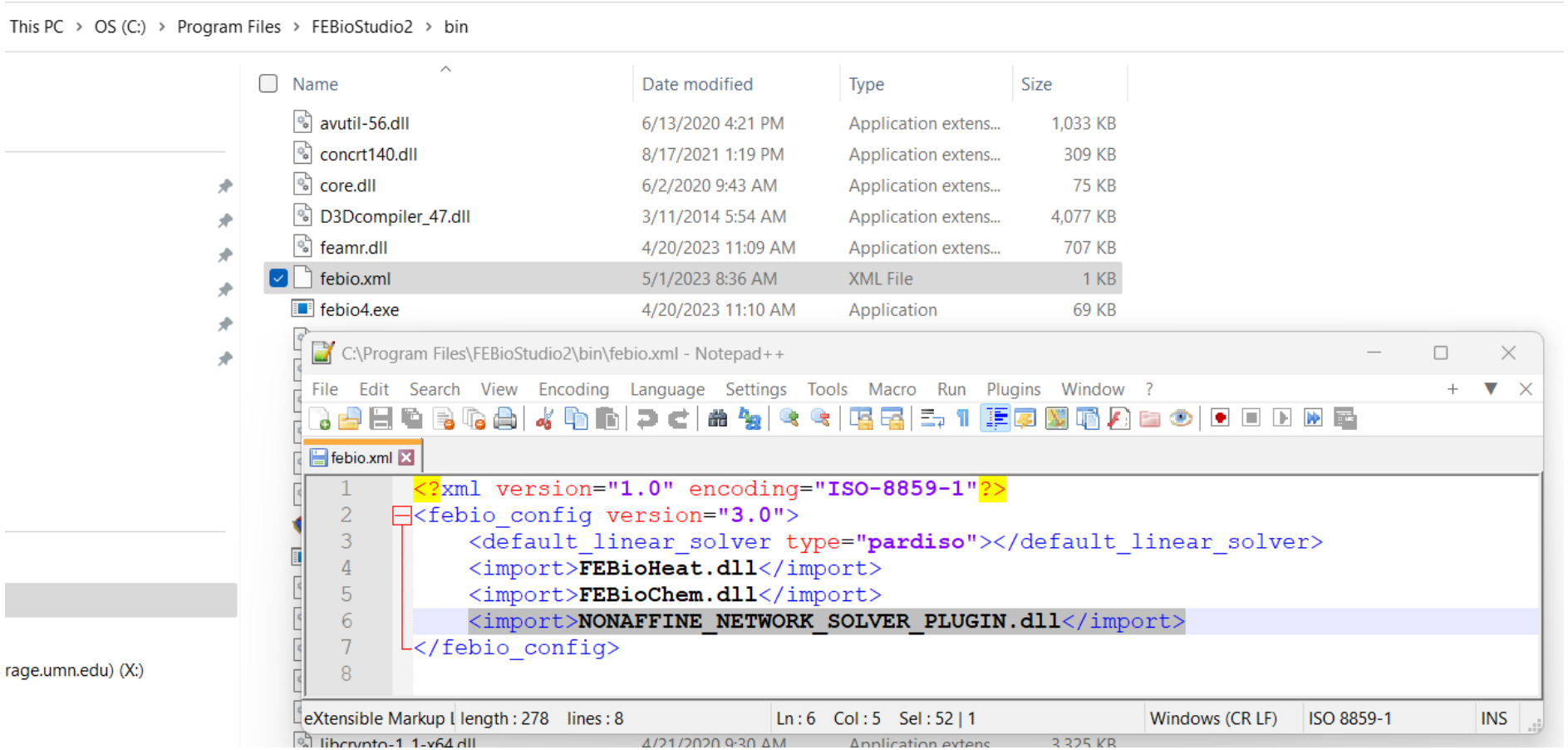
What You'll Need:

1. FEBio Studio 2 + the FEBio SDK
2. Text Editor (Notepad++)
3. MATLAB (any newish version should work, I used 2021b)

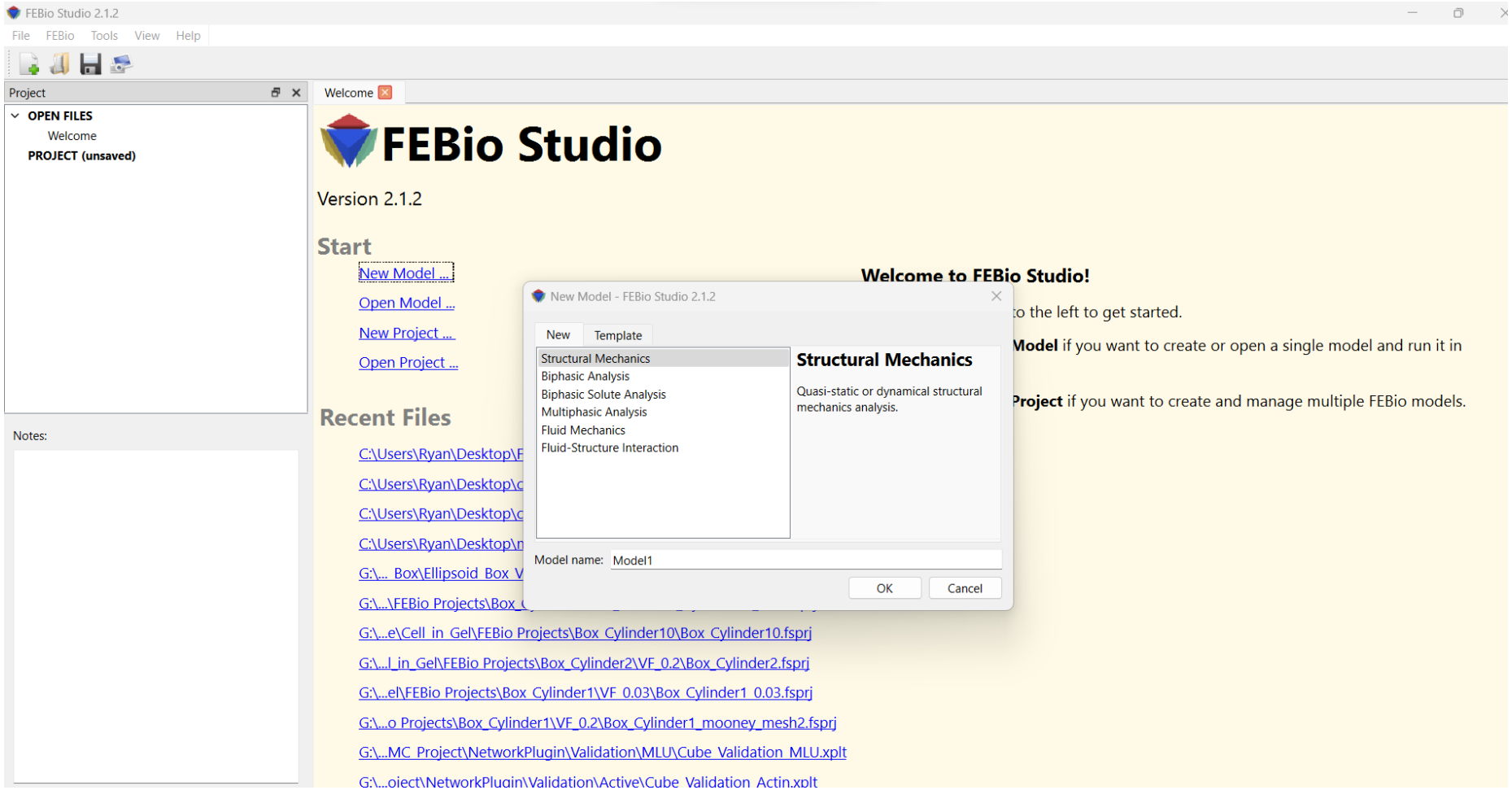
Download the Plugin



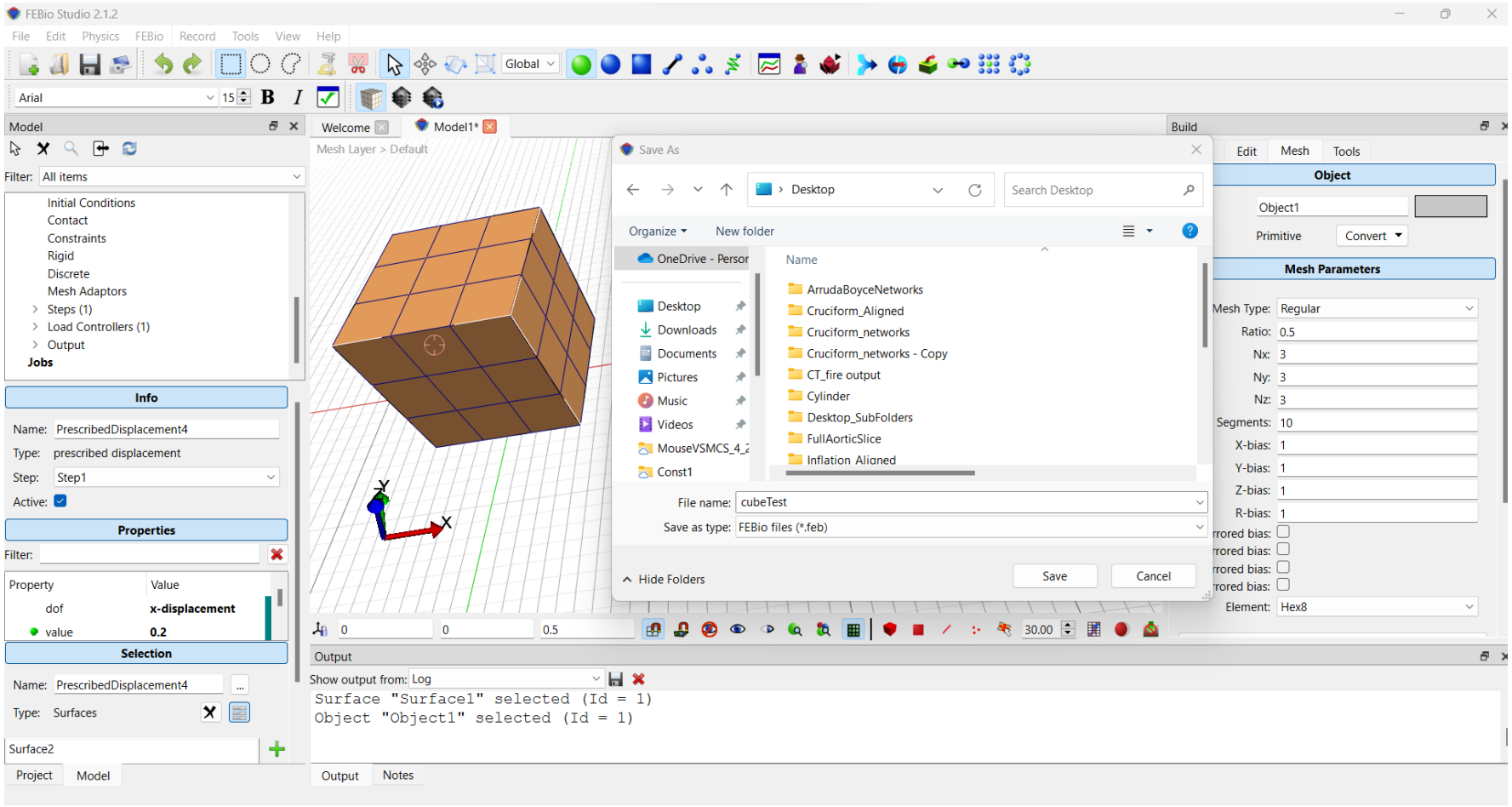
Modify the febio.xml File



Create a Model

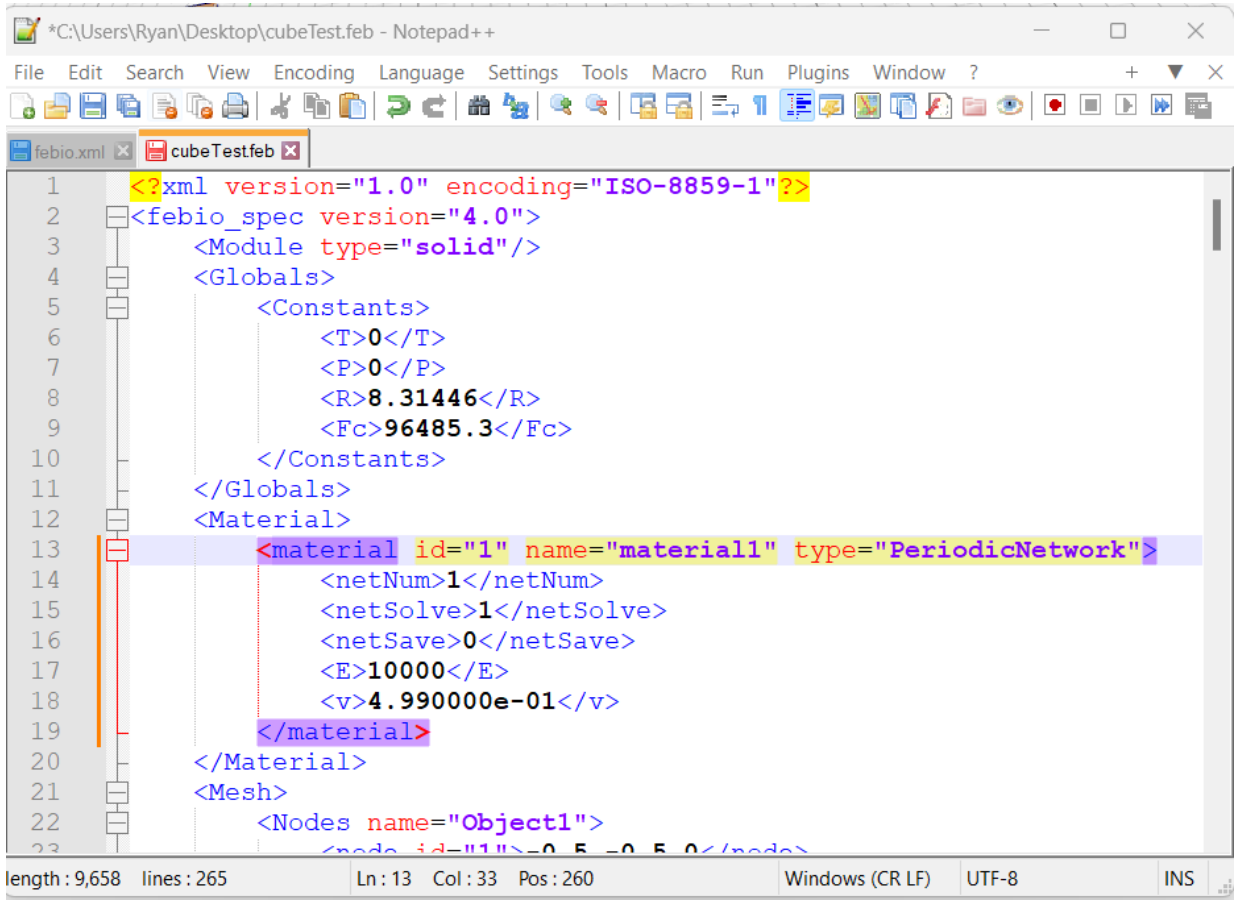


Export the Model .feb File



Edit the .feb File

- NetNum refers to the number appended to ‘PeriodicNetworkN.txt’ which defines which network to use for which material.
- NetSolve when true (1) solves the full network equilibrium when false (not=1) uses the affine approximation.
  - Affine approximation is faster and can be used when solving intermediate states you don’t really care about (i.e., one can use a load curve on this parameter so the full solution is only solved on the final iteration)
- NetSave when true (1) saves many text files of network data (fiber stresses, stretches, etc.). The NetSave feature overwrites data and only saves one file per element so beware of its use.
- E is the neoHookean modulus parameter and v is the Poisson’s Ratio of the material.

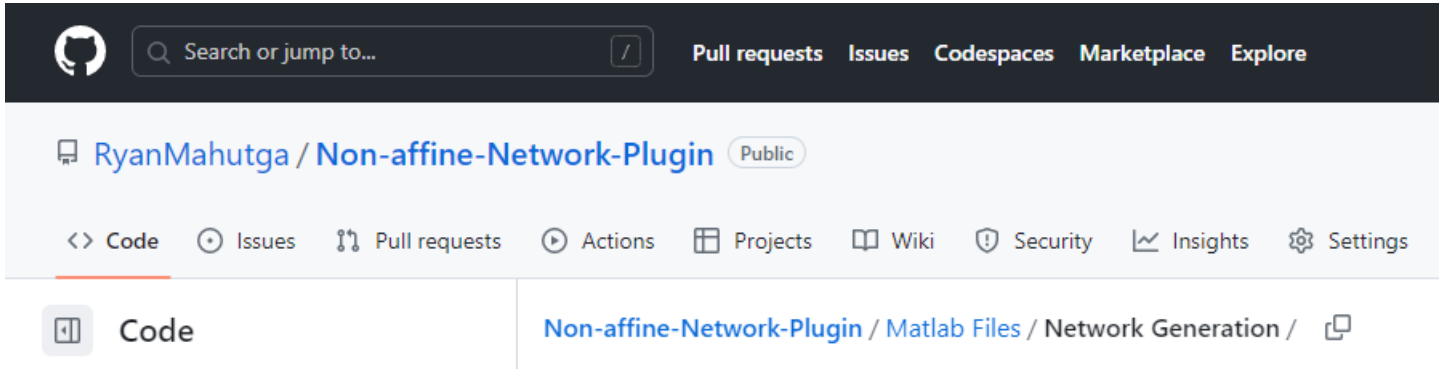


Edit the .feb (ADVANCED)

- Included in the Matlab Files folder on Github is a folder called FE Simulation Modification
  - Open main2.m – this code will allow you to take a base .feb file with a specified number of elements and break it into a different material for each element, and create a new network for each material.
  - The file writeFEBio2.m will need to be modified for specific simulations (including pressure, using different mesh types, including material axes, etc.

Create a Network

Navigate to MatlabFiles/Network Generation on GitHub



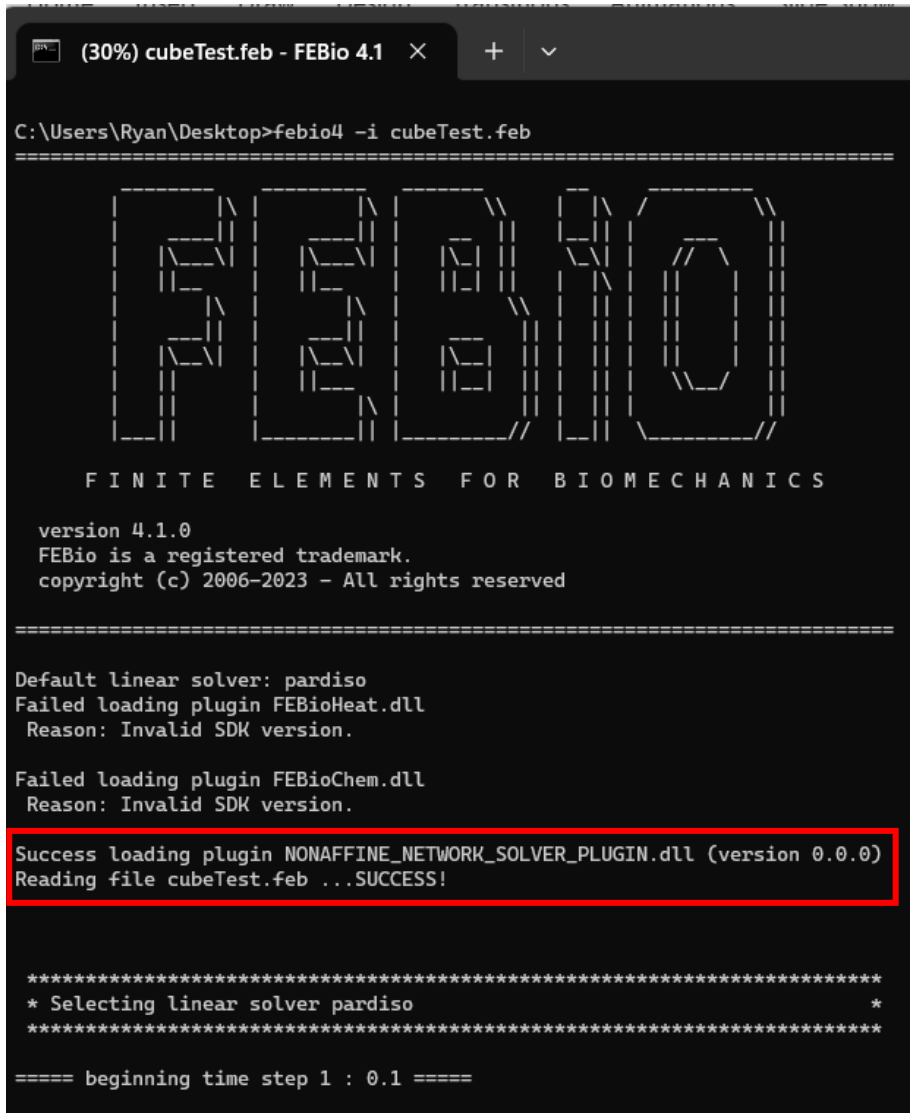
There are two files for creating networks

1. collagen_networks.m which creates single fiber type networks
2. createMLU.m which creates medial lamellar unit networks

Create a Network

- Inside the main network creation files, one will find several important sub-functions
  - periodicDelaunay.m – performs periodic Delaunay tessellation on a set of nodes and extracts fibers
  - periodicDelaunay2D.m – performsa 2D periodic Delaunay tessellation on a set of nodes and extracts fibers
  - removeDupes.m – checks for duplicate fibers and remove them
  - NetworkPare.m – pares the network connectivity to the specified value
  - MinDegreeReorder.m – reorders the nodes to improve computational efficiency
  - networkFeatures.m – calculates fiber lengths and applies fiber radii
  - WriteNet3.m – writes the network to a text file
  - solve_periodic_BCs2.m is used to calculate fiber boundary crossing locations for plotting netoworks
  - plot_net_single_fib_type.m plots a single network with fiber types color coded
  - plot_net_tile_fib_type.m plots a 3x3 grid of networks with defined normal direction (1,2,3)

Run the Simulation



** If febio4 is unrecognized as a command go to System Properties >> Advanced >> Environment Variables >> Path >> Edit >> New >> [location of FEBio Studio]

Visualize the Results

- Open the [filename].xplt file to view the results.