

Specialized Numerical Methods for Transport Phenomena

The finite element method:
Poisson problem

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Recapitulation

Finite Element Method: Developing a 1D understanding

A complete example by hand



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Last few courses



In the last few courses, we have introduced (or reviewed for many) the following concepts:

- Triangulating a domain (generating a mesh)
- Integrating over a domain
- Interpolating over a domain

We will now use all of these notions together to solve problems using the Finite Element method.

Type of problems



In the next 6 courses, we will look at problems of increasing complexity

- Linear (Poisson) problem such as the heat equation (HW3)
- Advection-Diffusion problems and the notion of upwinding (HW4)
- Non-linear problems (HW4)
- Navier-Stokes equations (HW5)

After this, we will have acquired a good understanding of a classical numerical method and we will be able to move on to the specialized methods.



Recapitulation

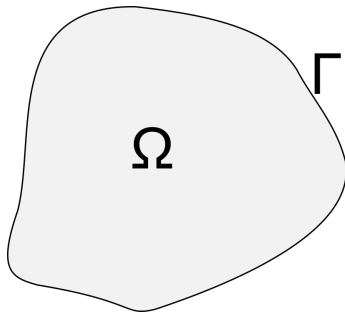
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The heat equation, a PDE prototype

We are interested in solving equations such as the heat equation on a Ω domain whose contour is Γ :

$$\nabla^2 T = 0$$



1D version of the problem



Let's start by solving the 1D heat equation, with Dirichlet boundary conditions:

$$\frac{d^2 T}{dx^2} = 0$$

We can multiply our equation by an a priori unknown function $u(x)$, as long as it is bounded and obtain:

$$\frac{d^2 T}{dx^2} u(x) = 0$$

We can integrate this equation over the entire domain of interest and obtain the **strong integral form**:

$$\int_{\Omega} \frac{d^2 T}{dx^2} u(x) dx = 0$$

The role of interpolation



$$\int_{\Omega} \frac{d^2 T}{dx^2} u(x) dx = 0$$

Let $\Omega = [0, L]$ be an interval partitioned by $n + 1$ points $\{x_i\}_{i=0}^n$ defining the mesh Ω_h . We represent the temperature $T(x)$ using a polynomial space made of our continuous piecewise Lagrange polynomial. For example, we choose piecewise linear Lagrange polynomials.

Now our temperature is:

$$T(x) = \sum_{j=0}^n T_j \varphi_j(x)$$

The role of interpolation



Since we know that $T(x)$ is now:

$$T(x) = \sum_{j=0}^n T_j \varphi_j(x)$$

We can replace it in the strong integral form:

$$\int_{\Omega} \frac{d^2 T}{dx^2} u(x) dx = 0$$

The role of interpolation



Since we know that $T(x)$ is now:

$$T(x) = \sum_{j=0}^n T_j \varphi_j(x)$$

We can replace it in the strong integral form:

$$\int_{\Omega} \frac{d^2 T}{dx^2} u(x) dx = 0$$

Which now reads:

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{\Omega} \frac{d^2 \sum_{j=0}^n (T_j \varphi_j)}{dx^2} u(x) dx &= 0 \\ \int_{\Omega} \sum_{j=0}^n T_j \frac{d^2 \varphi_j}{dx^2} u(x) dx &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

Towards weak form



$$\int_{\Omega} \sum_{j=0}^n T_j \frac{d^2 \varphi_j}{dx^2} u(x) dx = 0$$

We have a problem! $\varphi_j(x)$ being linear, $\frac{d^2 \varphi_j(x)}{dx^2} = 0$.

What to do?

Towards weak form



$$\int_{\Omega} \sum_{j=0}^n T_j \frac{d^2 \varphi_j}{dx^2} u(x) dx = 0$$

By performing an integral by parts, we can go from the **strong integral form** to the **weak integral form**!

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{\Omega} \sum_{j=0}^n T_j \frac{d^2 \varphi_j}{dx^2} u(x) dx &= \left[\sum_{j=0}^n T_j \frac{d\varphi_j}{dx} u(x) \right]_{x=L} - \left[\sum_{j=0}^n T_j \frac{d\varphi_j}{dx} u(x) \right]_{x=0} \\ &\quad - \int_{\Omega} \sum_{j=0}^n T_j \frac{d\varphi_j}{dx} \frac{du(x)}{dx} dx = 0 \end{aligned}$$

Remember that this equation is valid for all $u(x) \in \mathcal{L}^2$.

Boundary terms



$$\left[\sum_{j=0}^n T_j \frac{d\varphi_j}{dx} u(x) \right]_{x=L} - \left[\sum_{j=0}^n T_j \frac{d\varphi_j}{dx} u(x) \right]_{x=0} - \int_{\Omega} \sum_{j=0}^n T_j \frac{d\varphi_j}{dx} \frac{du(x)}{dx} dx = 0$$

When we have Dirichlet conditions, we know the value of the temperature on Γ . Thus we can choose $u(x)$ such that $u(x)$ is zero on the boundary:

$$u(0) = 0$$

$$u(L) = 0$$

We then obtain for the interior of the domain:

$$\int_{\Omega} \sum_{j=0}^n T_j \frac{d\varphi_j}{dx} \frac{du(x)}{dx} dx = 0$$



$$\int_{\Omega} \sum_{j=0}^n T_j \frac{d\varphi_j}{dx} \frac{du(x)}{dx} dx = 0$$

We need to choose the test function $u(x)$ inside the domain. In Galerkin type finite element, we choose the test function identical to the interpolation function. So we get $n - 1$ equations of the form:

$$\int_{\Omega} \sum_{j=0}^n T_j \frac{d\varphi_j}{dx} \frac{d\varphi_i}{dx} = 0$$

Final problem



$$\int_{\Omega} \sum_{j=0}^n T_j \frac{d\varphi_j}{dx} \frac{d\varphi_i}{dx} dx = 0 \quad \forall i \in [1, n-1]$$

$$T_0 = T(x=0)$$

$$T_n = T(x=L)$$

Steps of the resolution:

- Define the triangulation and the elements (Ω_h)
- Define the interpolation functions (φ_i) and their gradient $\left(\frac{d\varphi_i}{dx}\right)$
- Define the structure of the matrix
- Calculate the integral to calculate the matrix (e.g., $\int_{\Omega_1} \frac{d\varphi_0}{dx} \frac{d\varphi_1}{dx}$)
- Solve the linear system of equations to find the T_j
- The temperature is now known everywhere because of the interpolation support!



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Example using two elements



Let us assume a rod of length $L = 3$ m with the temperature on the left fixed at $T = 10^\circ\text{C}$ and the temperature on the right fixed at $T = 20^\circ\text{C}$. Calculate the temperature profile with the finite element method using two elements of equal size.

$$T = 10^\circ\text{C}$$

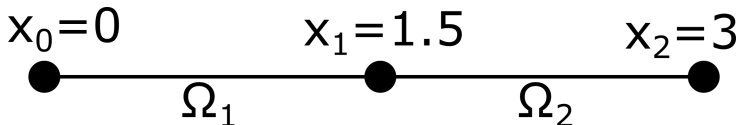
$$T = 20^\circ\text{C}$$



Defining the intervals



We use two elements (Ω_1 and Ω_2), so three nodes (x_0, x_1, x_2). The corresponding mesh is:



The size of each element is the same, we will note it h .

Definition of the interpolation functions

We have three interpolation functions φ_0 , φ_1 and φ_2 :

$$\Omega_1 \begin{cases} \varphi_0 = \frac{x_1-x}{x_1-x_0} \\ \varphi_1 = \frac{x-x_0}{x_1-x_0} \\ \varphi_2 = 0 \end{cases} \quad \Omega_2 \begin{cases} \varphi_0 = 0 \\ \varphi_1 = \frac{x_2-x}{x_2-x_1} \\ \varphi_2 = \frac{x-x_1}{x_2-x_1} \end{cases}$$

As we have elements that are all the same size we can rewrite in the form:

$$\Omega_1 \begin{cases} \varphi_0 = \frac{x_1-x}{h} \\ \varphi_1 = \frac{x-x_0}{h} \\ \varphi_2 = 0 \end{cases} \quad \Omega_2 \begin{cases} \varphi_0 = 0 \\ \varphi_1 = \frac{x_2-x}{h} \\ \varphi_2 = \frac{x-x_1}{h} \end{cases}$$

Gradients of interpolation functions

$$\Omega_1 \begin{cases} \varphi_0 = \frac{x_1 - x}{h} \\ \varphi_1 = \frac{x - x_0}{h} \\ \varphi_2 = 0 \end{cases} \quad \Omega_2 \begin{cases} \varphi_0 = 0 \\ \varphi_1 = \frac{x_2 - x}{h} \\ \varphi_2 = \frac{x - x_1}{h} \end{cases}$$

We need to calculate the gradient of the interpolation function $\left(\frac{d\varphi_i}{dx}\right)$:

$$\Omega_1 \begin{cases} \frac{d\varphi_0}{dx} = -\frac{1}{h} \\ \frac{d\varphi_1}{dx} = \frac{1}{h} \\ \frac{d\varphi_2}{dx} = 0 \end{cases} \quad \Omega_2 \begin{cases} \frac{d\varphi_0}{dx} = 0 \\ \frac{d\varphi_1}{dx} = -\frac{1}{h} \\ \frac{d\varphi_2}{dx} = \frac{1}{h} \end{cases}$$

Building the linear system of equations

We discretize Ω with three points, so we have φ_0 , φ_1 et φ_2 .

$$\int_{\Omega} \sum_{j=0}^2 T_j \frac{d\varphi_j}{dx} \frac{d\varphi_i}{dx} dx = 0$$

Becomes three equations:

$$\int_{\Omega} \sum_{j=0}^2 T_j \frac{d\varphi_j}{dx} \frac{d\varphi_0}{dx} dx = 0$$

$$\int_{\Omega} \sum_{j=0}^2 T_j \frac{d\varphi_j}{dx} \frac{d\varphi_1}{dx} dx = 0$$

$$\int_{\Omega} \sum_{j=0}^2 T_j \frac{d\varphi_j}{dx} \frac{d\varphi_2}{dx} dx = 0$$

Expanding the last summation



The last sum is expanded:

$$\begin{aligned}\int_{\Omega} T_0 \frac{d\varphi_0}{dx} \frac{d\varphi_0}{dx} + T_1 \frac{d\varphi_1}{dx} \frac{d\varphi_0}{dx} + T_2 \frac{d\varphi_2}{dx} \frac{d\varphi_0}{dx} dx &= 0 \\ \int_{\Omega} T_0 \frac{d\varphi_0}{dx} \frac{d\varphi_1}{dx} + T_1 \frac{d\varphi_1}{dx} \frac{d\varphi_1}{dx} + T_2 \frac{d\varphi_2}{dx} \frac{d\varphi_1}{dx} dx &= 0 \\ \int_{\Omega} T_0 \frac{d\varphi_0}{dx} \frac{d\varphi_2}{dx} + T_1 \frac{d\varphi_1}{dx} \frac{d\varphi_2}{dx} + T_2 \frac{d\varphi_2}{dx} \frac{d\varphi_2}{dx} dx &= 0\end{aligned}$$

What's left to do?

- Take care of the integral
- Solve a linear system of equations to obtain the T_j and obtain the temperature profile!

Expanding the integral



We solve with 3 points, we have two intervals $\Omega_1 = [x_0, x_1]$ and $\Omega_2 = [x_1, x_2]$. We obtain:

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_{\Omega_1} T_0 \frac{d\varphi_0}{dx} \frac{d\varphi_0}{dx} + T_1 \frac{d\varphi_1}{dx} \frac{d\varphi_0}{dx} + T_2 \frac{d\varphi_2}{dx} \frac{d\varphi_0}{dx} dx \\ & + \int_{\Omega_2} T_0 \frac{d\varphi_0}{dx} \frac{d\varphi_0}{dx} + T_1 \frac{d\varphi_1}{dx} \frac{d\varphi_0}{dx} + T_2 \frac{d\varphi_2}{dx} \frac{d\varphi_0}{dx} dx = 0 \\ & \int_{\Omega_1} T_0 \frac{d\varphi_0}{dx} \frac{d\varphi_1}{dx} + T_1 \frac{d\varphi_1}{dx} \frac{d\varphi_1}{dx} + T_2 \frac{d\varphi_2}{dx} \frac{d\varphi_1}{dx} dx \\ & + \int_{\Omega_2} T_0 \frac{d\varphi_0}{dx} \frac{d\varphi_1}{dx} + T_1 \frac{d\varphi_1}{dx} \frac{d\varphi_1}{dx} + T_2 \frac{d\varphi_2}{dx} \frac{d\varphi_1}{dx} dx = 0 \\ & \int_{\Omega_1} T_0 \frac{d\varphi_0}{dx} \frac{d\varphi_2}{dx} + T_1 \frac{d\varphi_1}{dx} \frac{d\varphi_2}{dx} + T_2 \frac{d\varphi_2}{dx} \frac{d\varphi_2}{dx} dx \\ & + \int_{\Omega_2} T_0 \frac{d\varphi_0}{dx} \frac{d\varphi_2}{dx} + T_1 \frac{d\varphi_1}{dx} \frac{d\varphi_2}{dx} + T_2 \frac{d\varphi_2}{dx} \frac{d\varphi_2}{dx} dx = 0 \end{aligned}$$

Simplifying



$$\begin{aligned} & \int_{\Omega_1} T_0 \frac{d\varphi_0}{dx} \frac{d\varphi_0}{dx} + T_1 \frac{d\varphi_1}{dx} \frac{d\varphi_0}{dx} + \cancel{T_2 \frac{d\varphi_2}{dx} \frac{d\varphi_0}{dx}} dx \\ & + \int_{\Omega_2} \cancel{T_0 \frac{d\varphi_0}{dx} \frac{d\varphi_0}{dx}} + \cancel{T_1 \frac{d\varphi_1}{dx} \frac{d\varphi_0}{dx}} + T_2 \frac{d\varphi_2}{dx} \frac{d\varphi_0}{dx} dx = 0 \\ & \int_{\Omega_1} T_0 \frac{d\varphi_0}{dx} \frac{d\varphi_1}{dx} + T_1 \frac{d\varphi_1}{dx} \frac{d\varphi_1}{dx} + \cancel{T_2 \frac{d\varphi_2}{dx} \frac{d\varphi_1}{dx}} dx \\ & + \int_{\Omega_2} \cancel{T_0 \frac{d\varphi_0}{dx} \frac{d\varphi_1}{dx}} + T_1 \frac{d\varphi_1}{dx} \frac{d\varphi_1}{dx} + T_2 \frac{d\varphi_2}{dx} \frac{d\varphi_1}{dx} dx = 0 \\ & \int_{\Omega_1} \cancel{T_0 \frac{d\varphi_0}{dx} \frac{d\varphi_2}{dx}} + \cancel{T_1 \frac{d\varphi_1}{dx} \frac{d\varphi_2}{dx}} + T_2 \frac{d\varphi_2}{dx} \frac{d\varphi_2}{dx} dx \\ & + \int_{\Omega_2} \cancel{T_0 \frac{d\varphi_0}{dx} \frac{d\varphi_2}{dx}} + T_1 \frac{d\varphi_1}{dx} \frac{d\varphi_2}{dx} + T_2 \frac{d\varphi_2}{dx} \frac{d\varphi_2}{dx} dx = 0 \end{aligned}$$

Result



$$\begin{aligned} \int_{\Omega_1} T_0 \frac{d\varphi_0}{dx} \frac{d\varphi_0}{dx} + T_1 \frac{d\varphi_1}{dx} \frac{d\varphi_0}{dx} dx &= 0 \\ \int_{\Omega_1} T_0 \frac{d\varphi_0}{dx} \frac{d\varphi_1}{dx} + T_1 \frac{d\varphi_1}{dx} \frac{d\varphi_1}{dx} dx + \int_{\Omega_2} T_1 \frac{d\varphi_1}{dx} \frac{d\varphi_1}{dx} + T_2 \frac{d\varphi_2}{dx} \frac{d\varphi_1}{dx} dx &= 0 \\ + \int_{\Omega_2} T_1 \frac{d\varphi_1}{dx} \frac{d\varphi_2}{dx} + T_2 \frac{d\varphi_2}{dx} \frac{d\varphi_2}{dx} dx &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

In matrix-vector form:

$$\begin{bmatrix} \int_{\Omega_1} \frac{d\varphi_0}{dx} \frac{d\varphi_0}{dx} & \int_{\Omega_1} \frac{d\varphi_1}{dx} \frac{d\varphi_0}{dx} & 0 \\ \int_{\Omega_1} \frac{d\varphi_0}{dx} \frac{d\varphi_1}{dx} & \int_{\Omega_1} \frac{d\varphi_1}{dx} \frac{d\varphi_1}{dx} + \int_{\Omega_2} \frac{d\varphi_1}{dx} \frac{d\varphi_1}{dx} & \int_{\Omega_2} \frac{d\varphi_2}{dx} \frac{d\varphi_1}{dx} \\ 0 & \int_{\Omega_2} \frac{d\varphi_1}{dx} \frac{d\varphi_2}{dx} & \int_{\Omega_2} \frac{d\varphi_2}{dx} \frac{d\varphi_2}{dx} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} T_0 \\ T_1 \\ T_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

Dirichlet boundary conditions



$$\begin{bmatrix} \int_{\Omega_1} \frac{d\varphi_0}{dx} \frac{d\varphi_0}{dx} & \int_{\Omega_1} \frac{d\varphi_1}{dx} \frac{d\varphi_0}{dx} & 0 \\ \int_{\Omega_1} \frac{d\varphi_0}{dx} \frac{d\varphi_1}{dx} & \int_{\Omega_1} \frac{d\varphi_1}{dx} \frac{d\varphi_1}{dx} + \int_{\Omega_2} \frac{d\varphi_1}{dx} \frac{d\varphi_1}{dx} & \int_{\Omega_2} \frac{d\varphi_2}{dx} \frac{d\varphi_1}{dx} \\ 0 & \int_{\Omega_2} \frac{d\varphi_1}{dx} \frac{d\varphi_2}{dx} & \int_{\Omega_2} \frac{d\varphi_2}{dx} \frac{d\varphi_2}{dx} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} T_0 \\ T_1 \\ T_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

We impose the Dirichlet boundary conditions **strongly** by imposing that the temperature at the boundary respects the boundary condition

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ \int_{\Omega_1} \frac{d\varphi_0}{dx} \frac{d\varphi_1}{dx} & \int_{\Omega_1} \frac{d\varphi_1}{dx} \frac{d\varphi_1}{dx} + \int_{\Omega_2} \frac{d\varphi_1}{dx} \frac{d\varphi_1}{dx} & \int_{\Omega_2} \frac{d\varphi_2}{dx} \frac{d\varphi_1}{dx} \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} T_0 \\ T_1 \\ T_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 10^\circ\text{C} \\ 0 \\ 20^\circ\text{C} \end{bmatrix}$$

Calculating the integrals



$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ \int_{\Omega_1} \frac{d\varphi_0}{dx} \frac{d\varphi_1}{dx} & \int_{\Omega_1} \frac{d\varphi_1}{dx} \frac{d\varphi_1}{dx} + \int_{\Omega_2} \frac{d\varphi_1}{dx} \frac{d\varphi_1}{dx} & \int_{\Omega_2} \frac{d\varphi_2}{dx} \frac{d\varphi_1}{dx} \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} T_0 \\ T_1 \\ T_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 10^\circ\text{C} \\ 0 \\ 20^\circ\text{C} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\Omega_1 \begin{cases} \frac{d\varphi_0}{dx} = -\frac{1}{h} \\ \frac{d\varphi_1}{dx} = \frac{1}{h} \\ \frac{d\varphi_2}{dx} = 0 \end{cases} \quad \Omega_2 \begin{cases} \frac{d\varphi_0}{dx} = 0 \\ \frac{d\varphi_1}{dx} = -\frac{1}{h} \\ \frac{d\varphi_2}{dx} = \frac{1}{h} \end{cases}$$

Now we just have to calculate the value of the gradients and integrate!

Overview



$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ \int_{\Omega_1} \frac{d\varphi_0}{dx} \frac{d\varphi_1}{dx} & \int_{\Omega_1} \frac{d\varphi_1}{dx} \frac{d\varphi_1}{dx} + \int_{\Omega_2} \frac{d\varphi_1}{dx} \frac{d\varphi_1}{dx} & \int_{\Omega_2} \frac{d\varphi_2}{dx} \frac{d\varphi_1}{dx} \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} T_0 \\ T_1 \\ T_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 10^\circ\text{C} \\ 0 \\ 20^\circ\text{C} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\Omega_1 \begin{cases} \frac{d\varphi_0}{dx} = -\frac{1}{h} \\ \frac{d\varphi_1}{dx} = \frac{1}{h} \\ \frac{d\varphi_2}{dx} = 0 \end{cases} \quad \Omega_2 \begin{cases} \frac{d\varphi_0}{dx} = 0 \\ \frac{d\varphi_1}{dx} = -\frac{1}{h} \\ \frac{d\varphi_2}{dx} = \frac{1}{h} \end{cases}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{\Omega_1} \frac{d\varphi_0}{dx} \frac{d\varphi_1}{dx} dx &= -\frac{1}{h} \quad , \quad \int_{\Omega_1} \frac{d\varphi_1}{dx} \frac{d\varphi_1}{dx} dx = \frac{1}{h} \\ \int_{\Omega_2} \frac{d\varphi_1}{dx} \frac{d\varphi_1}{dx} dx &= \frac{1}{h} \quad , \quad \int_{\Omega_2} \frac{d\varphi_1}{dx} \frac{d\varphi_2}{dx} dx = -\frac{1}{h} \end{aligned}$$

Result



$$\begin{aligned}\int_{\Omega_1} \frac{d\varphi_0}{dx} \frac{d\varphi_1}{dx} &= -\frac{1}{h}, & \int_{\Omega_1} \frac{d\varphi_1}{dx} \frac{d\varphi_1}{dx} &= \frac{1}{h} \\ \int_{\Omega_2} \frac{d\varphi_1}{dx} \frac{d\varphi_1}{dx} &= \frac{1}{h}, & \int_{\Omega_2} \frac{d\varphi_1}{dx} \frac{d\varphi_2}{dx} &= -\frac{1}{h}\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ \int_{\Omega_1} \frac{d\varphi_0}{dx} \frac{d\varphi_1}{dx} & \int_{\Omega_1} \frac{d\varphi_1}{dx} \frac{d\varphi_1}{dx} & \int_{\Omega_2} \frac{d\varphi_1}{dx} \frac{d\varphi_1}{dx} \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} T_0 \\ T_1 \\ T_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 10^\circ\text{C} \\ 0 \\ 20^\circ\text{C} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ -\frac{1}{h} & \frac{2}{h} & -\frac{1}{h} \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} T_0 \\ T_1 \\ T_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 10^\circ\text{C} \\ 0 \\ 20^\circ\text{C} \end{bmatrix}$$

We will obtain $T_1 = 15!$



That was hard and tedious!

Hopefully, from this example you will have seen how hard and tedious FEM is to use manually! There is a reason why we use a computer to solve this problems!



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Next class

- We will learn to generalize what we have seen above to 2D and 3D problems
- We will discuss the basics of linear algebra to solve the large matrices that arise
- We will learn how to code a solver!