

# Simulation of soft tissues using innovative non-conforming Finite Elements Methods (PhiFEM)

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University of Strasbourg

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## Project description

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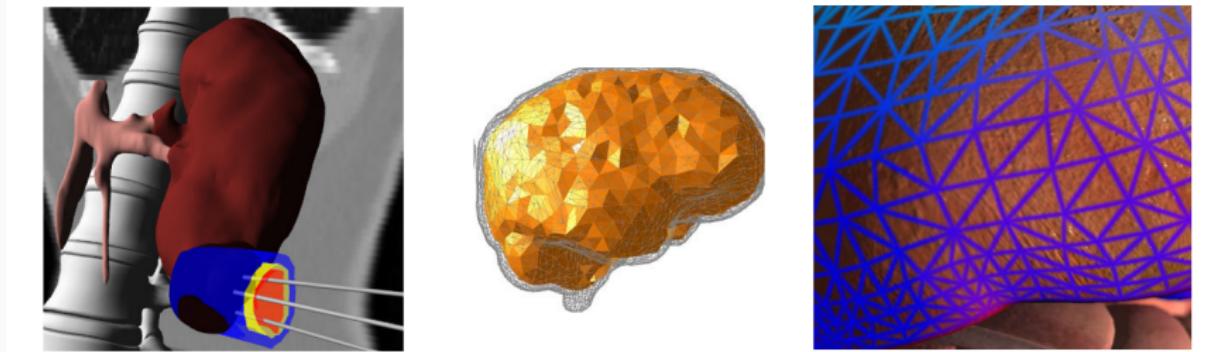
## Project description

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Environment and context

## What is the environment?

- 1 Inria: where **digital health** is a main research topic
  - 2 MIMESIS:
    - real-time simulations for per-operative guidance
    - data-driven simulation dedicated to patient-specific modeling



**Figure :** A few projects at MIMESI.

# What are we trying to do?

The goal is to develop a Finite Elements Method (FEM) adapted to computer-assisted surgery.

The FEM should be:

- quick;
- precise;
- patient-specific.

## Project description

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### Objectives

## What is our goal?

- Main objective: develop a  $\phi$ -FEM technique for the dynamics of soft tissues.
  - Intermediate objectives:
    - 1 Understand the  $\phi$ -FEM technique in question.
    - 2 Reproduce the results from a preliminary study (the Poisson problem).
    - 3 Develop a  $\phi$ -FEM technique for the linear elasticity equation.
    - 4 Use  $\phi$ -FEM on body organ geometries.

## Presentation of $\phi$ -FEM

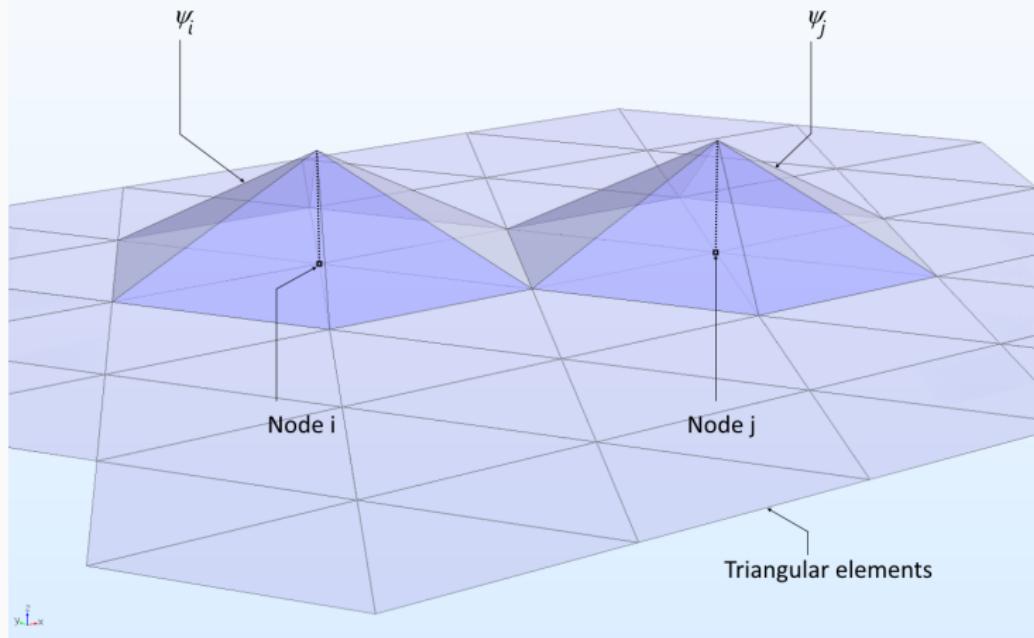
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## Presentation of $\phi$ -FEM

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The classic FEM framework

## What is FEM?



**Figure :** Finite Elements Method (FEM) principle (Cyclopedia, 2017).

# Presentation of $\phi$ -FEM

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Immersed boundary methods

## What are immersed boundary methods?

In the case of quasi-incompressibility for example, it is necessary to use hexahedral meshes in order to avoid locking phenomena. However, there is no 3D mesh generator capable of meshing any geometry in a hexahedral manner.

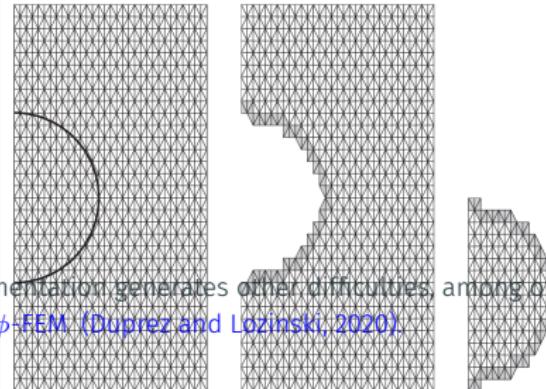
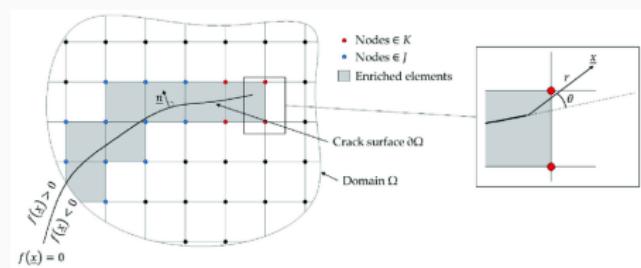
One answer is to use **immersed boundary methods**. They can handle:

- complex geometries;
  - non-body conforming grids;
  - moving/evolving boundaries.

Common examples are:

- XFEM (De Cicco and Taheri, 2018)
  - CutFEM (Burman and Hansbo, 2010)
  - SBM (Main and Scovazzi, 2018)

**Note:** These 3 techniques are efficient, but their implementation generates other difficulties, among other things, the quadrature (on the boundary). This lead to  $\phi$ -FEM (Duprez and Bozinski, 2020).



## PhiFEM

Presentation of  $\phi$ -FEM

## Immersed boundary methods

## What are immersed boundary methods?

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In the case of quasi-incompressibility for example, it is necessary to use hexahedral meshes in order to avoid locking phenomena. However, there is no 3D mesh generator capable of meshing any geometry in a hexahedral manner.

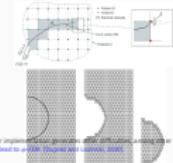
One answer is to use **immersed boundary methods**. They can handle:

- complex geometries;
- non-body conforming grids;
- moving/moving boundaries;

Common examples are:

- ALEF (de Cezza and Tahir, 2006)
- CutFE (Brenner and Hiptmair, 2010)
- SBM (Hans and Sussman, 2010)

Note: These 3 techniques are efficient, but their implementation requires other difficult numerical things, the interface (or the boundary). This will be a subject of another presentation.

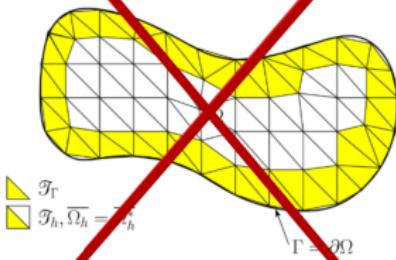


## What is $\phi$ -FEM ?

The main ideas are (for Dirichlet boundary conditions):

- 1 Define the domain using a level-set function  $\phi$ .
  - 2 Then make that function carry the solution:  $u = \phi w + g$ .

$$\exists? u \text{ such that } \begin{cases} \mathcal{L}u = f & \text{in } \Omega \\ u = 0 & \text{on } \partial\Omega \end{cases}$$



$\exists ? w$  such that  $\begin{cases} \mathcal{L}(\phi w) = f & \text{in } \Omega \\ \text{where } \Omega = \{\phi < 0\}, \quad u = \phi w \end{cases}$

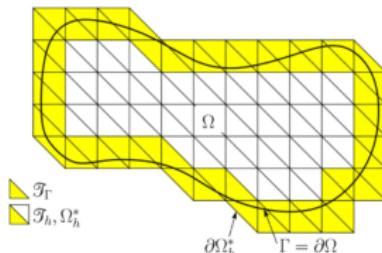


Figure : From Classic FEM (on the left) to  $\phi$ -FEM (on the right)

## Results

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## Results

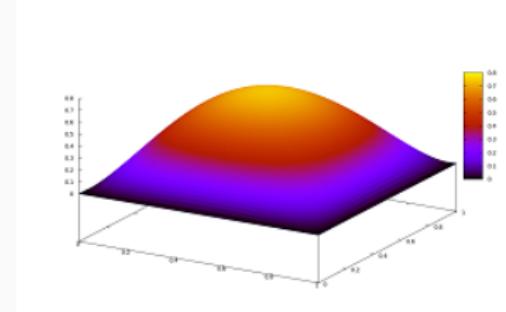
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The Poisson problem

## Why the Poisson problem?

$$\begin{cases} -\Delta u = f & \text{in } \Omega \\ u = 0 & \text{on } \partial\Omega \end{cases}$$

The Poisson problem (Poisson's equation) is used in various areas of Mathematics and Physics (Newtonian gravity, electrostatics, fluid dynamics, etc.).



**Figure :** Displacement of a clamped membrane.



**Figure :** Siméon Denis Poisson  
(Wikipedia, 2020).

It can model the displacement  $u$  of a clamped membrane to which a constant force  $f$  is applied.

Simulating this equation is critical if we are to understand the dynamics of human organs.

# Theoretical framework for the Poisson problem

The Poisson problem:

$$\begin{cases} -\Delta u = f & \text{in } \Omega \\ u = 0 & \text{on } \partial\Omega \end{cases} \quad (1)$$

## Classic FEM

Find  $u_h \in V_h^{(k)}$  (subspace of splines in  $H_0^1(\Omega_h)$ ) such that

$$a_h(u_h, v_h) = l_h(v_h), \quad \forall v_h \in V_h^{(k)},$$

where

$$a_h(u, v) = \int_{\Omega_h} \nabla u \cdot \nabla v,$$

$$l_h(v) = \int_{\Omega_h} fv.$$

$G_h(w, v)$  and  $G_h^{rhs}(w, v)$  are stabilization terms, needed for the well-posedness of the discrete  $\phi$ -FEM system.

$$G_h(w, v) := \sigma h \sum_{E \in \mathcal{F}_h^f} \int_E \left[ \frac{\partial}{\partial n} (\phi_h w) \right] \left[ \frac{\partial}{\partial n} (\phi_h v) \right] + \sigma h^2 \sum_{T \in \mathcal{T}_h^f} \int_T \Delta(\phi_h w) \Delta(\phi_h v),$$

$$G_h^{rhs}(v) := -\sigma h^2 \sum_{T \in \mathcal{T}_h^f} \int_T f \Delta(\phi_h v).$$

$\phi$ -FEM (Duprez and Lozinski, 2020)

First, write  $u_h = \phi_h w_h$ . Then find  $w_h \in V_h^{(k)}$  such that

$$a_h(w_h, v_h) = l_h(v_h) \text{ for all } v_h \in V_h^{(k)},$$

where

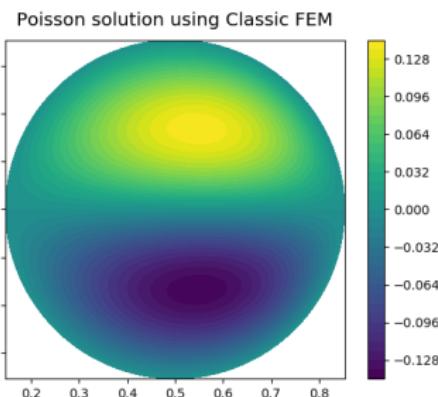
$$a_h(w, v) = \int_{\Omega_h} \nabla(\phi_h w) \cdot \nabla(\phi_h v) - \int_{\partial\Omega_h} \frac{\partial}{\partial n}(\phi_h w) \phi_h v + G_h(w, v),$$

$$l_h(v) = \int_{\Omega_h} f \phi_h v + G_h^{rhs}(v).$$

Numerical solution for the Poisson problem

Classic FEM

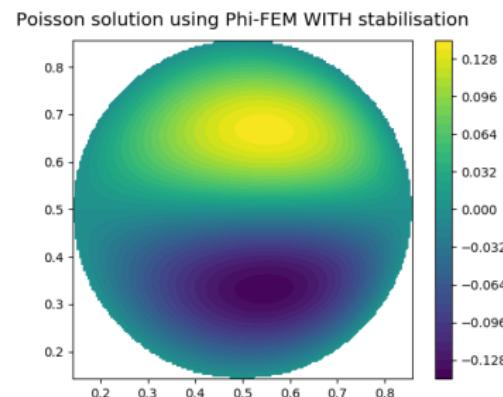
$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \Omega = \left\{ (x, y) \in \mathbb{R}^2 : (x - \frac{1}{2})^2 + (y - \frac{1}{2})^2 < \frac{1}{8} \right\} \\ u(x, y) = - \left( \frac{1}{8} - (x - \frac{1}{2})^2 - (y - \frac{1}{2})^2 \right) \exp(x) \sin(2\pi y) \\ f(x, y) = -\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2}(x, y) - \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial y^2}(x, y) \end{array} \right.$$



**Figure :** Classic FEM (39642 cells)

ϕ-FEM

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \mathcal{O} = [0, 1] \times [0, 1] \\ \phi(x, y) = -\frac{1}{8} + (x - \frac{1}{2})^2 + (y - \frac{1}{2})^2 \\ u(x, y) = \phi(x, y) \times \exp(x) \times \sin(2\pi y) \\ f(x, y) = -\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2}(x, y) - \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial y^2}(x, y) \\ \sigma = 20 \end{array} \right.$$



**Figure :**  $\phi$ -FEM (39936 cells)

## PhiFEM

## Results

## The Poisson problem

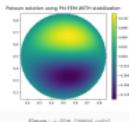
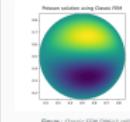
## Numerical solution for the Poisson problem

## Numerical solution for the Poisson problem

## Classic FEM

 $\Delta t = 100$  $\Omega = \{(x,y) \in \mathbb{R}^2 : (x - \frac{1}{2})^2 + (y - \frac{1}{2})^2 < \frac{1}{4}\}$  $\bar{u}(x,y) = \left\{ \begin{array}{ll} 1 & (x - \frac{1}{2})^2 + (y - \frac{1}{2})^2 < \frac{1}{4} \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{array} \right.$  $\bar{f}(x,y) = -\frac{\pi^2}{4}(\sin(2\pi x) + \cos(2\pi y))$  $\bar{g}(x,y) = -\frac{\pi^2}{4}(\sin(2\pi x) + \cos(2\pi y))$  $\nu = 22$ 

## PhiFEM

 $\Delta t = 100$  $\Omega = [0,1] \times [0,1]$  $\bar{u}(x,y) = 1 - \pi^2((x - \frac{1}{2})^2 + (y - \frac{1}{2})^2)$  $\bar{f}(x,y) = \bar{g}(x,y) = \text{rand}(x,y) + \sin(2\pi x) + \cos(2\pi y)$  $\nu = 22$ 

Remarque sur la non-smoothness de la solution sur les bords. C'est parce qu'un disque c'est facilement maillable!

# Convergence study for the Poisson Problem

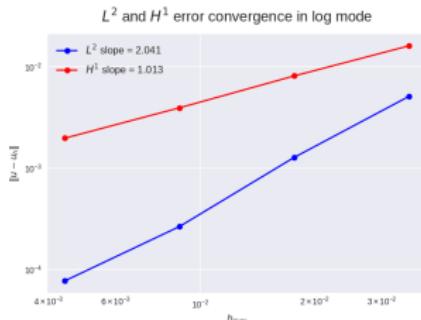
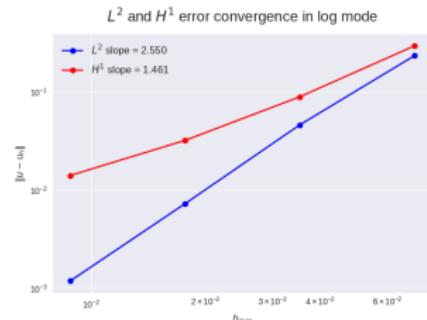


Figure : Classic FEM

Figure :  $\phi$ -FEM

Problem	Technique	$L^2$ slope	$H^1$ slope
Poisson	Classic FEM	2.041	1.013
Poisson	$\phi$ -FEM	2.550	1.461

Table : Convergence rates.

**Note:** The convergence rates are clearly better with  $\phi$ -FEM. However, we can see that for relatively coarse meshes ( $h_{\max} = 10^{-2}$  for example), the errors are smaller in Classic FEM. That said, if  $\phi$  is taken in  $\mathbb{P}^2$  as a second degree polynomial (as opposed to  $\mathbb{P}^1$  as we did), the errors at  $h_{\max} = 10^{-2}$  are the same as with Classic FEM (Duprez, 2020).

## Results

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The elasticity equation

# Why use the equations of linear elasticity?

$$\begin{cases} \nabla \cdot \sigma(u) + f = 0 & \text{in } \Omega \\ \sigma(u) = \lambda(\nabla \cdot u)\mathcal{I} + \mu(\nabla u + \nabla u^T) & \text{in } \Omega \\ u = g & \text{on } \partial\Omega \end{cases}$$

Analysis of structures is one of the major activities of modern engineering, which likely makes the PDE modeling the deformation of elastic bodies **the most popular PDE in the world** (FEniCS, 2020).

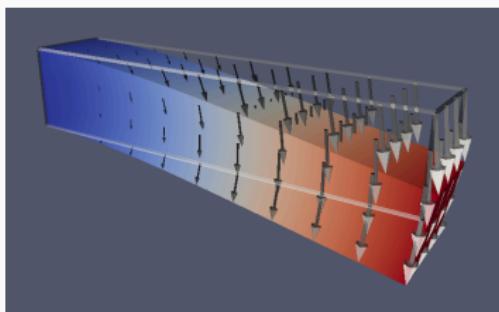


Figure : Gravity-induced deflection in a clamped beam (FEniCS, 2020).

It takes into account variables not considered in the Poisson problem; namely the direction of the displacement vector  $u$ . Also, if we added the Neumann condition  $\sigma(u) \cdot n = g_N$ , it would represent a force applied on the boundary.

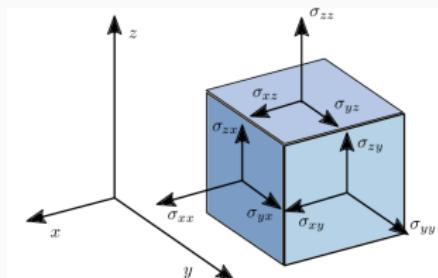


Figure : The nine quantities in the stress tensor  $\sigma(\cdot)$  on a representative volume (Semanticscholar, 2020).

# Theoretical framework for the elasticity equation

The elasticity equation:

$$\begin{cases} \nabla \cdot \sigma(u) + f = 0 & \text{in } \Omega \\ \sigma(u) = \lambda(\nabla \cdot u)\mathcal{I} + \mu(\nabla u + \nabla u^T) & \text{in } \Omega \\ u = g & \text{on } \partial\Omega \end{cases} \quad (2)$$

## Classic FEM

First  $V = [H_0^1(\Omega)]^d$ , and  $\gamma G = g$ . Then find  $u \in G + V$  such that

$$a(u, v) = l(v), \quad \forall v \in V,$$

where  $a$  and  $l$  are defined as

$$a(u, v) = \int_{\Omega} \sigma(u) : \varepsilon(v),$$

and

$$l(v) = \int_{\Omega} f \cdot v.$$

$G(w, v)$  and  $G^{rhs}(w, v)$  are stabilization terms, needed for the well-posedness of the discrete  $\phi$ -FEM system.

$$G(w, v) = \sigma_{pen} h^2 \sum_{E \in \mathcal{T}_h^r} \int_E (\nabla \cdot \sigma(\phi w)) \cdot (\nabla \cdot \sigma(\phi v)) + \sigma_{pen} h \sum_{F \in \mathcal{F}_h^r} \int_F [\sigma(\phi w) \cdot n] \cdot [\sigma(\phi v) \cdot n]$$

$$G_{rhs}(v) = -\sigma_{pen} h^2 \sum_{E \in \mathcal{T}_h^r} \int_E (f + \nabla \cdot \sigma(g)) \cdot (\nabla \cdot \sigma(\phi v)) - \sigma_{pen} h \sum_{F \in \mathcal{F}_h^r} \int_F [\sigma(g) \cdot n] \cdot [\sigma(\phi v) \cdot n]$$

The elasticity equation:

$$\begin{cases} \nabla \cdot \sigma(u) + f = 0 & \text{in } \Omega \\ \sigma(u) = \lambda(\nabla \cdot u)I + \mu(\nabla u + \nabla u^T) & \text{in } \Omega \\ u = g & \text{on } \partial\Omega \end{cases}$$

Classic FEM

For  $u \in [H^1_0(\Omega)]^2$  and  $v \in V$  we find  $\int_{\Omega} v \cdot \sigma(u) = 0$  such that

$$\sigma(v) \cdot v = 0, \quad \forall v \in V,$$

where  $\sigma$  and  $v$  are defined as

$$\sigma(v) = \int_{\Omega} v \cdot \sigma(I) \cdot v \, dx,$$

and

$$\langle v \rangle = \int_{\Gamma} v \, ds.$$

GALERKIN FORMULATION

First, let  $\mathbf{u}_h \in \mathbf{V}_h$  be the discrete solution,  $\mathbf{v}_h \in \mathbf{V}_h$  such that

$$\langle \sigma(\mathbf{u}_h) \cdot \mathbf{v}_h \rangle = 0, \quad \forall \mathbf{v}_h \in \mathbf{V}_h,$$

where  $\sigma$  and  $\mathbf{v}_h$  are defined as

$$\langle \sigma(\mathbf{u}_h) \cdot \mathbf{v}_h \rangle = \int_{\Omega} \sigma(\mathbf{u}_h) \cdot \mathbf{v}_h \, dx - \int_{\Gamma_D} \langle \mathbf{u}_h \rangle \cdot \mathbf{v}_h \, ds - \int_{\Gamma_N} \langle \mathbf{u}_h \rangle \cdot \mathbf{v}_h \, ds,$$

and

$$\langle \mathbf{u}_h \rangle = \int_{\Omega} \mathbf{f} \, dx + \int_{\Omega} \langle \mathbf{u}_h \rangle \, dx - \int_{\Gamma_D} \langle \mathbf{u}_h \rangle \, ds - \int_{\Gamma_N} \langle \mathbf{u}_h \rangle \, ds.$$

 $\langle \sigma(\mathbf{u}_h) \cdot \mathbf{v}_h \rangle$  and  $\langle \mathbf{u}_h \rangle \cdot \mathbf{v}_h$  are stabilization terms, needed for the well-posedness of the discrete FEM system.

$$\langle \mathbf{u}_h \rangle \cdot \mathbf{v}_h = \sigma_{stab}^{-2} \sum_{e \in \mathcal{E}} \int_e (\nabla \cdot \mathbf{u}_h|_e) \cdot (\nabla \cdot \mathbf{v}_h|_e) + \sigma_{stab} \sum_{e \in \mathcal{E}} \int_e |\mathbf{u}_h|_e \cdot \mathbf{v}_h|_e - \langle \mathbf{u}_h \rangle \cdot \mathbf{v}_h,$$

$$\langle \mathbf{u}_h \rangle \cdot \mathbf{v}_h = -\sigma_{stab}^{-2} \sum_{e \in \mathcal{E}} \int_e (\mathbf{f} \cdot \nabla \cdot \mathbf{u}_h|_e) \cdot (\nabla \cdot \mathbf{v}_h|_e) + \sigma_{stab}^{-2} \sum_{e \in \mathcal{E}} \int_e |\mathbf{u}_h|_e \cdot \mathbf{v}_h|_e - \langle \mathbf{u}_h \rangle \cdot \mathbf{v}_h.$$

Rappeler qu'il s'agit d'une formulation variationnelle dans l'espace H1, et non l'approximation éléments finis.  
 Ce qui fait qu'on peut enlever le subscript h.

# Numerical solution for the elasticity equation

## Classic FEM

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \Omega = \left\{ (x, y) \in \mathbb{R}^2 : (x - \frac{1}{2})^2 + (y - \frac{1}{2})^2 < \frac{1}{8} \right\} \\ u(x, y) = \begin{pmatrix} 2x + \sin(x) \exp(y) \\ \frac{x}{2} + \cos(x) - 1 \end{pmatrix} \\ f(x, y) = -\nabla \cdot \sigma(u(x, y)) \\ g(x, y) = u(x, y) \end{array} \right.$$

## $\phi$ -FEM

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \mathcal{O} = [0, 1] \times [0, 1] \\ \phi(x, y) = -\frac{1}{8} + (x - \frac{1}{2})^2 + (y - \frac{1}{2})^2 \\ u(x, y) = \begin{pmatrix} 2x + \sin(x) \exp(y) \\ \frac{x}{2} + \cos(x) - 1 \end{pmatrix} \\ f(x, y) = -\nabla \cdot \sigma(u(x, y)) \\ g(x, y) = u(x, y) + \phi(x, y) \begin{pmatrix} \sin(x) \\ \exp(y) \end{pmatrix} \\ \sigma_{pen} = 20 \end{array} \right.$$

Elasticity solution using Classic FEM

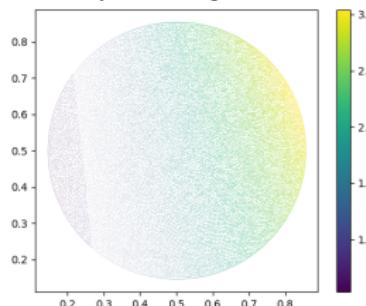


Figure : Classic FEM

Elasticity solution using Phi FEM

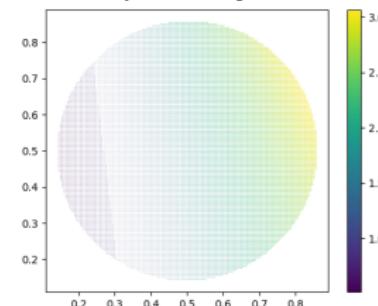


Figure :  $\phi$ -FEM

## PhiFEM

## Results

## The elasticity equation

## Numerical solution for the elasticity equation

## Numerical solution for the elasticity equation

$$\begin{cases} \Omega = \{(x, y) \in \mathbb{R}^2 : (x - 1)^2 + (y - 1)^2 < \frac{1}{2}\} \\ \Gamma = \{(x, y) \in \mathbb{R}^2 : (x - 1)^2 + (y - 1)^2 = \frac{1}{2}\} \\ u(x, y) = \left( \begin{array}{c} u_1(x, y) \\ u_2(x, y) \end{array} \right) \\ f(x, y) = -\nabla \cdot u(x, y) \\ g(x, y) = -u(x, y) \end{cases}$$

$$\begin{cases} \Omega = [0, 1] \times [0, 1] \\ u(x, y) = \left( \begin{array}{c} x + \sin(\pi y) \\ y + \cos(\pi x) \end{array} \right) \\ f(x, y) = \left( \begin{array}{c} 2x + \sin(\pi y) \\ 2y + \cos(\pi x) \end{array} \right) \\ g(x, y) = -u(x, y) - 1 \\ \alpha = 20 \end{cases}$$

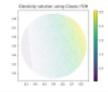
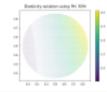


Figure 1: Classical FEM



Signaler que  $g$  n'est pas égale à  $u$  sur les bords, ceci afin d'introduire une perturbation qui sera résolue par les termes de penalisation.

## Numerical solution for the elasticity equation (cont.)

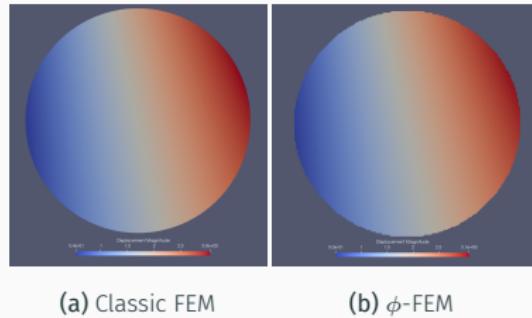


Figure : Solution (deformation) magnitude in Paraview.

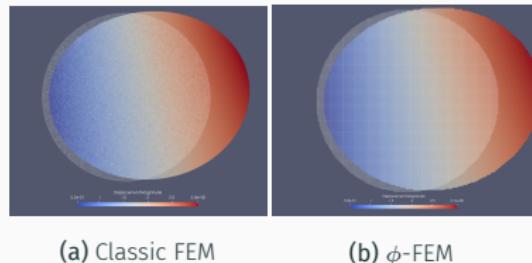


Figure : Solution warped by vector in Paraview.

# Convergence study for the elasticity equation

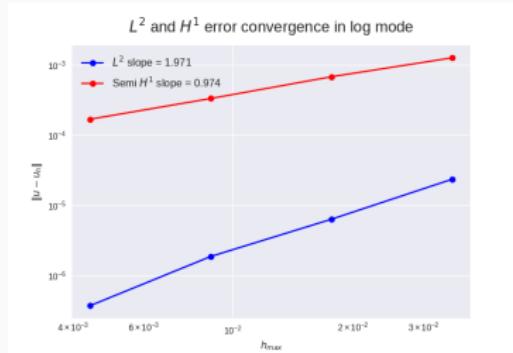


Figure : Classic FEM



Figure :  $\phi$ -FEM

Problem	Technique	$L^2$ slope	$H^1$ slope
Elasticity	Classic FEM	1.971	0.974
	$\phi$ -FEM	2.539	1.450

Table : Convergence rates.

**Note:** The convergence rates are clearly better with  $\phi$ -FEM. However, our tests were conducted on relatively coarse meshes ( $h_{\max} = 10^{-2}$ ), in which the errors are smaller in Classic FEM.

## PhiFEM

## Results

## The elasticity equation

## Convergence study for the elasticity equation

## Convergence study for the elasticity equation

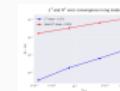


Figure : Classic FEM

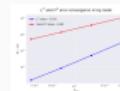


Figure : phi-FEM

Problem	Technique	$L^2$ shape	$H^1$ shape
Stability	Classic FEM	2.99%	9.97%
	phi-FEM	2.93%	3.10%

Table : Convergence rates.

Note: The convergence rates are clearly better with phi-FEM. However, our tests were conducted on relatively coarse meshes ( $D_{max} = 10^{-2}$ ), in which case errors are smaller in Classic FEM.

Rappeller qu'il s'agit des semi-normes H1.

## Project summary

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## Project summary

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Work done

## What has been done?

Based on the objectives, the deadlines, and the time estimates we set early in the project:

- ✓ Understanding  $\phi$ -FEM : November 3rd, 2020 : **10 hours**
  - ✓ Implementing the Poisson problem: November 10, 2020 : **50 hours**
  - ✓ Implementing the elasticity equation: January 19, 2021 : **30 hours**
  - ✗ Running Simulations on organ geometries: January 19, 2021 : **00 hours**

## Possible explorations:

- Test the technique on complex geometries.
  - Benchmark the technique for speed efficiency.
  - Deploy the numerical implementation into the SOFA software.
  - Implement the Neumann case (Duprez et al., 2020).

## Project summary

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Delivered documents

## What did I deliver?

As promised:

- 1 A typewritten report
  - 2 A Python code base

All are available on this GitHub repository: <https://github.com/master-csmi/2020-m2-mimesis>

## References

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Thank you for your kind attention ☺ !  
Questions ?