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# Calculation of Maxwell's Stress Tensor with FreeFem++

## Computational Electromagnetism Project

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- Electrostatic (Maxwell) stress coupled with elasticity
- Electrostatic forces moving a ball
- Gaining experience using open source Finite Element software for electromagnetics



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# The Maxwell Stress Tensor

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The Lorentz Force Law in the presence of an electrostatic field reads:

$$\vec{f} = \rho \vec{E} \quad (1)$$

and taking into account

$$\nabla \vec{D} = \rho \quad (2)$$

we arrive at

$$\vec{f} = \nabla \cdot \tilde{\sigma} \quad (3)$$

with

$$\sigma_{ij} = -E_i D_j + \frac{1}{2} \delta_{ij} (E_k D_k) \quad (4)$$



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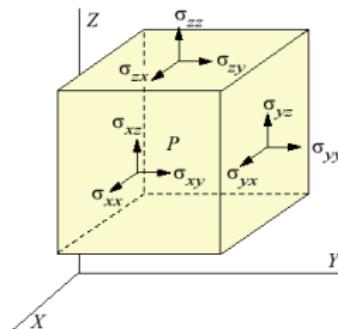
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$$\sigma_{ij} = -E_i D_j + \frac{1}{2} \delta_{ij} E_k D_k$$





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- For the general case of a inhomogeneous material  
 $D_i = \epsilon_{ij} E_j$
- The relative permittivity is a tensor which is represented in matrix form as

$$\epsilon_{ij} = \begin{pmatrix} \epsilon_{11} & \epsilon_{12} & \epsilon_{13} \\ \epsilon_{21} & \epsilon_{22} & \epsilon_{23} \\ \epsilon_{31} & \epsilon_{32} & \epsilon_{33} \end{pmatrix} \quad (5)$$



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# Strong Form

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The strong form of the time independent electrostatics PDE reads

$$\nabla \cdot (\tilde{\epsilon} \nabla \Phi) + \rho = 0 \quad \text{on } V \quad (6a)$$

$$\Phi = 0, \quad \text{on } \Gamma_1 \quad (6b)$$

$$(\tilde{\epsilon} \nabla \Phi) \cdot n = g, \quad \text{on } \Gamma_2 \quad (6c)$$

Where  $\Phi$  is the electrostatic scalar potential defined by  
 $\vec{E} = -\nabla \Phi$



# Weak form of the problem

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The weak form, after inserting to the scalar potential the test  
and trial functions, reads

$$\int_{\Omega} (\tilde{\epsilon} \nabla u) \nabla v dV = \int_{\Gamma_1} \rho v dV + \int_{\Gamma_2} g v dS \quad (7a)$$

$$v = \sum_i \psi_i \quad (7b)$$

$$u = \sum_i \psi_i w \quad (7c)$$



# Formulation in FreeFem++

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```
1 problem PoissonVarf(phi,w,solver=CG) =
2     int2d(Allh)(
3         EPS [0] [0] * dx(phi)*dx(w)
4         + EPS [0] [1] * dx(phi)*dy(w)
5         + EPS [1] [0] * dy(phi)*dx(w)
6         + EPS [1] [1] * dy(phi)*dy(w) )
7         - int2d(Allh)( source*w )
8         + on(Lboxup,phi = phiCup)
9         + on(Lboxdown,phi = phiCdown)
10    ;
11    PoissonVarf;
```



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# Elastostatics

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Stress - deformation relation:

We define  $u_i$  the deformation along direction  $i$ ,  $\sigma_{ij}$  is the stress tensor and  $e_{ij} = \frac{1}{2}u_i,j + u_j,i$  is the strain tensor. Then,

$$\sigma_{ij} = C_{ijkl} e_{kl} \quad (8a)$$

$$(8b)$$

where  $C_{ijkl}$  is the fourth order stiffness matrix that allows for the coupling of any type of stress with any type of deformation (anisotropic materials).



# Lamé system

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We assumed the materials to be isotropic with respect to elastic response. That allows them to be modeled with the Lamé system and that allows for a simpler variational formulation. For full anisotropy all the shape function derivatives have to be taken account of with possibly different material coefficients.

Lamé description of the elastic material response reads:

$$\sigma_{ij} = \lambda \delta_{ij} e_{kk} + 2\mu e_{ij} \quad (9)$$



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The elastostatics formulation was based in the lame system  
(isotropic finite strain elasticity). Example from freefem  
manual:

```
1 macro div(u,v) ( dx(u)+dy(v) ) // EOM
2 macro epsilon(u1,u2) [dx(u1),dy(u2),(dy(u1)+dx(u2))/sqrt2] // EOM
3 ...
4 Vh f1 = dx(T11)+dy(T21);
5 Vh f2 = dx(T21)+dy(T22);
6 ...
7 varf lame([u,v],[uu,vv])= int2d(Th)(
8     (reg==regInternal?lambda1:lambda2)*div(u,v)*div(uu,vv)
9     +2.*(reg==regInternal?mu1:mu2)* epsilon(u,v) * epsilon(uu,vv))
10    + on(3,v=0,u=0);
```



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$$f = \nabla \sigma \quad \Rightarrow \quad \text{in 2 dim } f = \begin{pmatrix} \partial_x \sigma_{11} + \partial_y \sigma_{21} \\ \partial_x \sigma_{12} + \partial_y \sigma_{22} \end{pmatrix}$$

```
1 Vh fx = dx(T[0][0])+dy(T[1][0])
2 Vh fy = dx(T[0][1])+dy(T[1][1])
```

Erratic, inconsistent behaviour (Third order elements, various solvers)!



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```
1 Vh fx = - EPS [0] [0]*dxx(phi)*dx(phi) - EPS [1] [1]*dyx(phi)*dy(phi)
2     + 1/2*(EPS [1] [0] - EPS [0] [1])
3             *( dx(phi)*dyx(phi) + dxx(phi)*dy(phi) )
4     - EPS [0] [0]*(dyy(phi)*dx(phi)+dy(phi)*dyx(phi))
5     - EPS [0] [1]*(2*dyy(phi)*dy(phi));
6 Vh fy = - EPS [1] [0]*(dxx(phi)*dx(phi)*2)
7     - EPS [1] [1]*(dxx(phi)*dy(phi)+dx(phi)*dxy(phi))
8     + EPS [0] [0]*dx(phi)*dyx(phi) - EPS [1] [1]*dy(phi)*dyy(phi)
9     + 1/2*(EPS [0] [1] - EPS [1] [0])
10            *( dx(phi)*dyy(phi) + dyx(phi)*dy(phi) );
```



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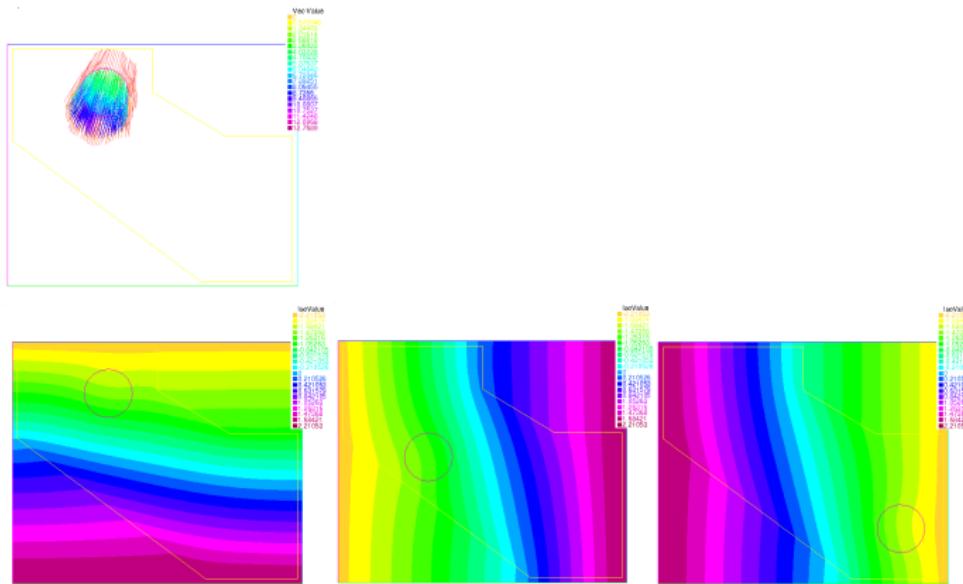
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Integrate  $\vec{f} = \begin{pmatrix} f_x \\ f_y \end{pmatrix}$  over a charged ball  $\oint_V \vec{f} d\vec{r}$  and apply  
velocity verlet.





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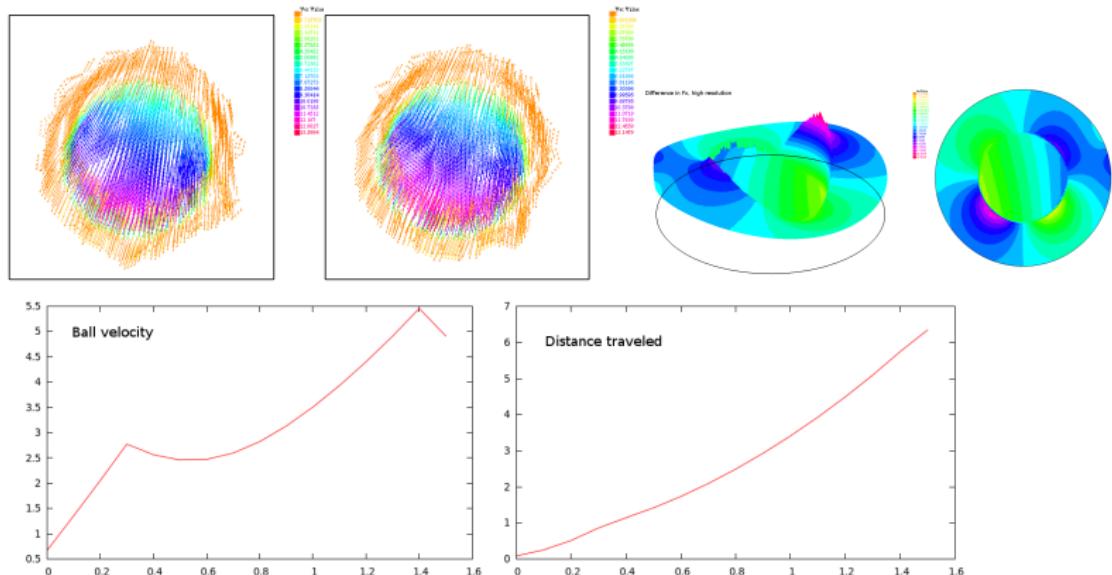
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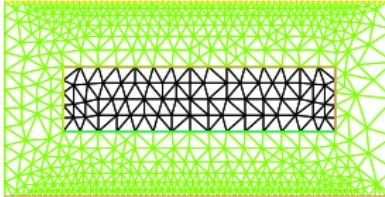
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Conclusion

A simple electroactive polymer structure was simulated as a proof of concept example. The structure has fixed displacements at left end and fixed electric potential at top and bottom boundaries. Calculations are done in dimensionless units.

material	$e_r$	$E_{elas}$	$\nu$
mat1	11.8	800	0.49
mat2	5.8	40	0.49

Deformed mesh





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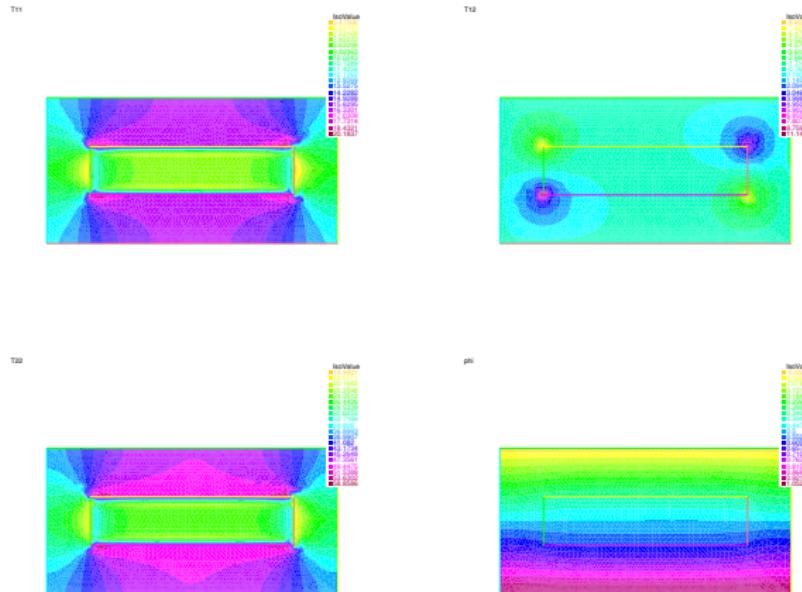
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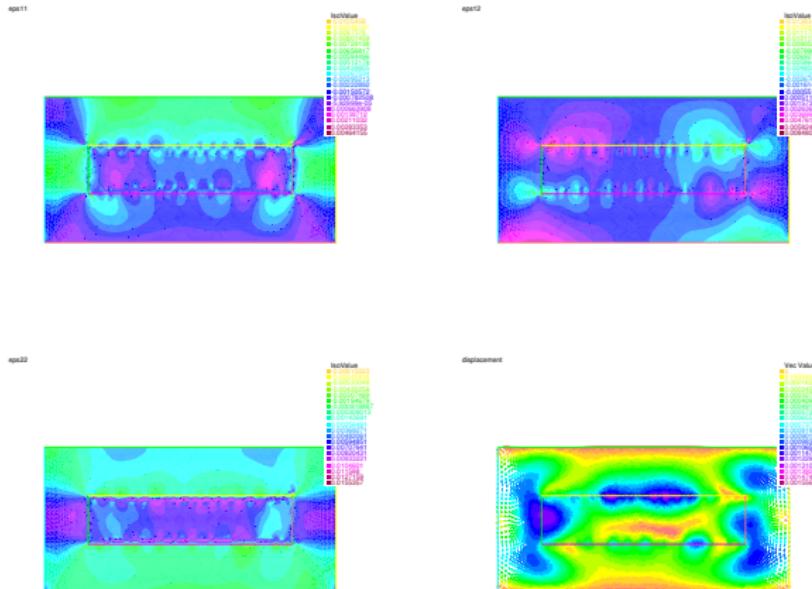
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Results (electric potential defines the induced stress and hence the induced body forces)



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Charilaos  
Mylonas

Introduction  
Motivation/Goals

Weak  
formulation

Strong form for  
anisotropic  
Electrostatics  
Elastostatics  
Force calculation

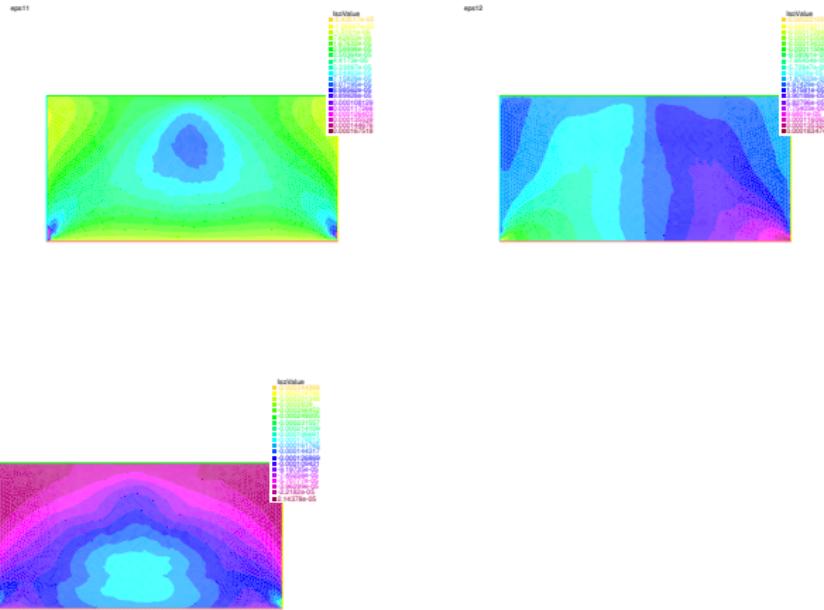
Results  
(Elastostatics)

Ball movement  
Material parameters  
Results - composite  
structure

Results -  
homogeneous  
structure

Conclusion

## Homogeneous structure - fixed base



(14)



# Electroactive polymer structure

Calculation of  
Maxwell's  
Stress Tensor  
with  
FreeFem++

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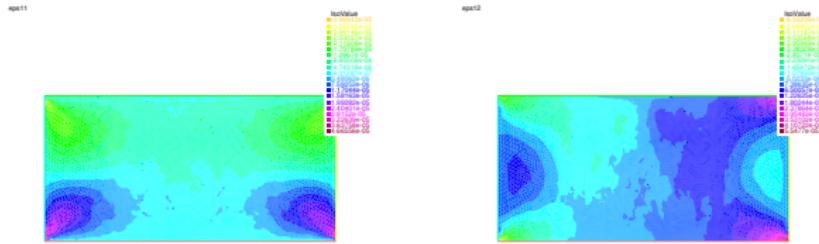
Results  
(Elastostatics)

Ball movement  
Material parameters  
Results - composite  
structure

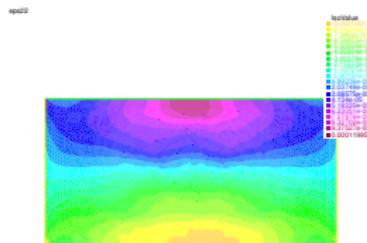
Results -  
homogeneous  
structure

Conclusion

## Homogeneous structure - fixed base and top



(15)





# Outline

Calculation of  
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Elastostatics

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Conclusion

## 1 Introduction

- Motivation/Goals

## 2 Weak formulation

- Strong form for anisotropic Electrostatics
- Elastostatics
- Force calculation

## 3 Results (Elastostatics)

- Ball movement
- Material parameters
- Results - composite structure
- Results - homogeneous structure
- Conclusion



# Discussion

Calculation of  
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homogeneous  
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Conclusions

- Applied knowledge from lecture
- Interesting phenomena
- Working with the FreeFem++ codebase



# Questions?

Calculation of  
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# Questions?