

# Numerical Simulation Methods in Geophysics, Part 7: Finite Elements

## 1. MGPY+MGIN

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# Recap Finite Elements

- weak form of PDE: integral over product with test function  $\mathbf{w}$
- approximate  $u$  with shape functions  $u = \sum u_i \mathbf{v}_i$
- Galerkin's method: same function space for  $\mathbf{w}$  and  $\mathbf{v}$

## Difference of FE to FD

Solution  $u$  is described on the whole space and approximates the solution, not the PDE!

Any source function  $f(x)$  can be integrated on the whole space!

# Recap (cont)

## Generality of FE

Arbitrary base functions  $v_i$  can be used to describe  $u$

- started with piece-wise linear (hat) functions
- system identical to FD for  $\Delta x = \text{const}$  and  $a = \text{const}$

# Method of weighted residuals

PDE  $\mathcal{L}(u) = f \Rightarrow$  approximated by  $u_h$

residual  $R = L_h(u) - f$  to be minimized, integrating over modelling domain

$$\int_{\Omega} w R d\Omega = \int_{\Omega} w \mathcal{L}(u_h) d\Omega - \int_{\Omega} w f d\Omega = 0$$

with approximation  $u_h(\mathbf{r}) = \sum_j^M u_j \mathbf{v}_j(\mathbf{r})$

( $\mathbf{v}$  basis / shape functions,  $\mathbf{w}$  test / trial functions)

# Bilinear form for Poisson equation

Solve  $\mathbf{Ax} = \mathbf{b}$  with  $A_{ij} = (\nabla v_i, \nabla v_j)$  and  $b_i = (\mathbf{v}_i, f)$ , where

$$(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}) = \int_{\Omega} \mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b} \, d\Omega = \sum_{c=1}^M \int_{\Omega_c} \mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b} \, d\Omega_c$$

Solve the integrals either analytically or numerically

# The general solution

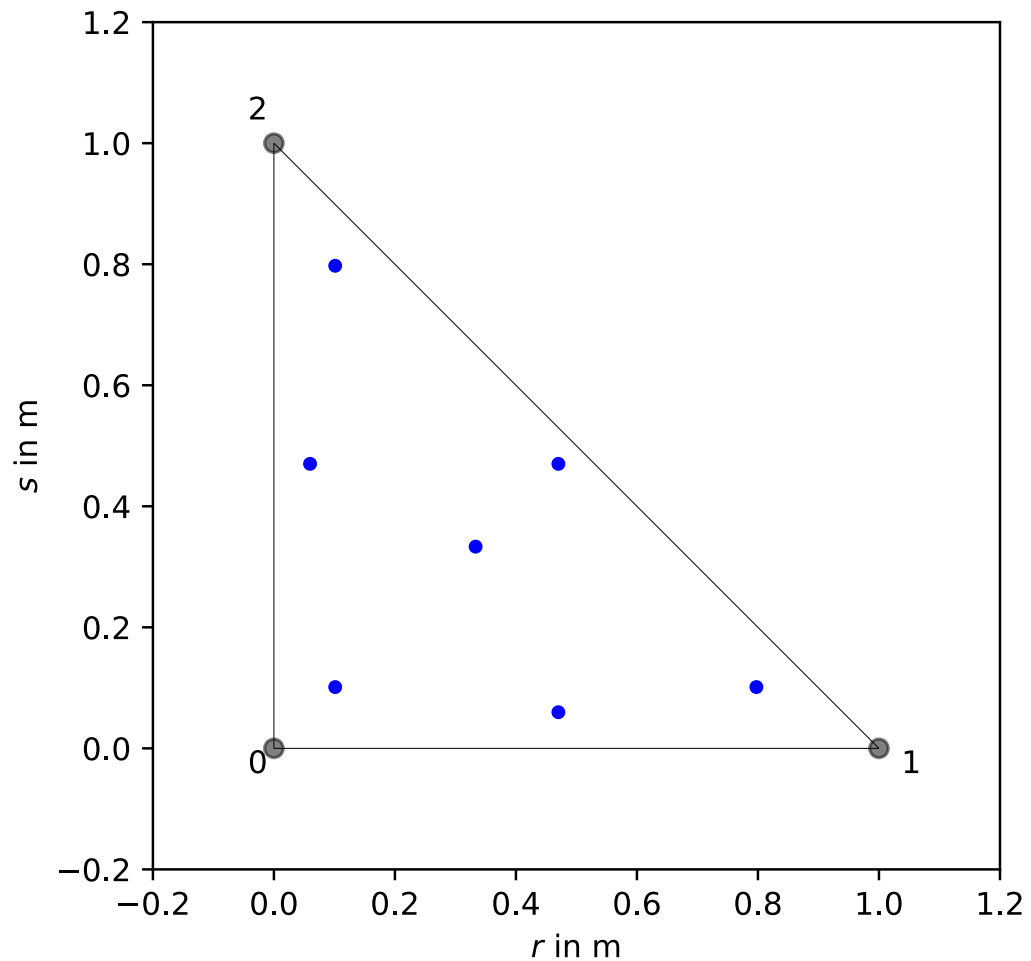
Solving any integral using (Gaussian) quadrature

$$\int g(x) dx \approx \sum_q g(x_q) w_q$$

$$f_i^c = \int_{\Omega_c} v_i f dx \approx \sum_q v(x_q^c) f(x_q^c) w_q^c$$

$$a_{ij}^c = \int_c a_c \nabla v_i \cdot \nabla v_j = \sum a_c \nabla v_i(x_q^c) \cdot \nabla v_j(x_q^c) w_q^c$$

# Gaussian quadrature

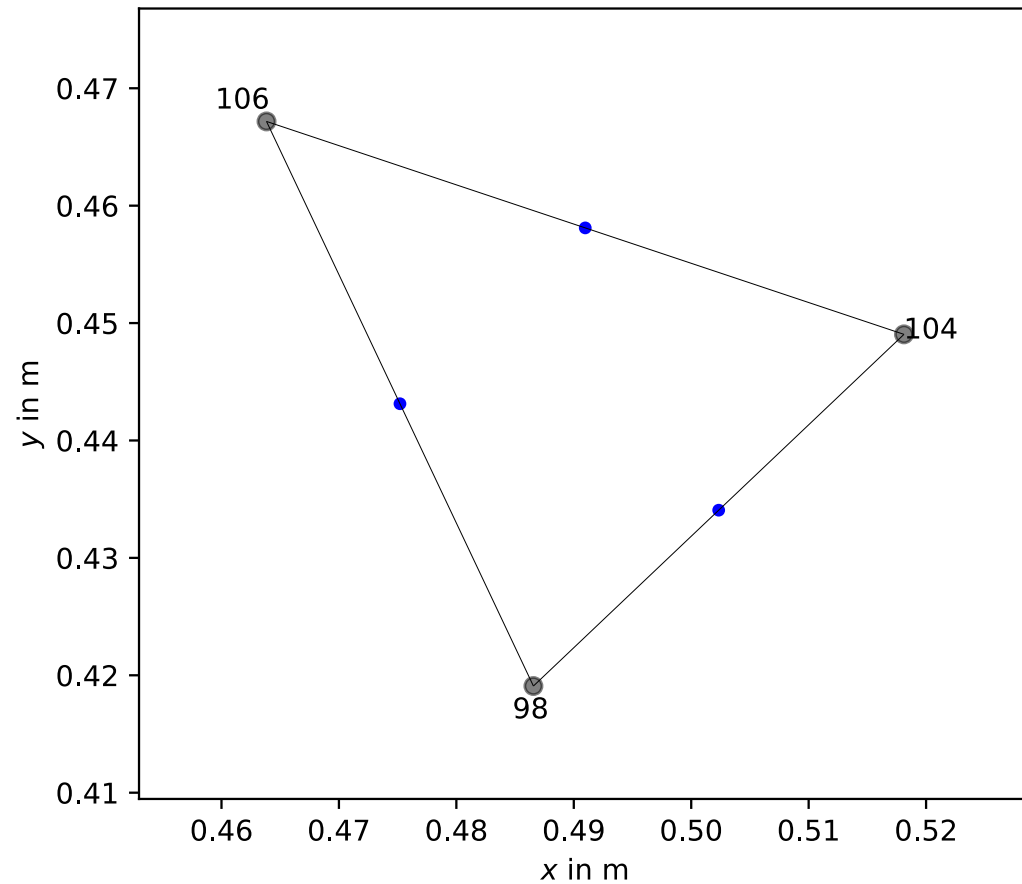


`quadratureRules(c.shape(), 5)`

- optimum quadrature on reference triangle for a given order (5)

Quadrature points

# Gaussian quadrature



`quadratureRules(c, 2)`

- optimum quadrature on arbitrary triangle for order 2

Quadrature points



# Coordinate transformation

1D: local coordinate  $\xi = \frac{x-x_i}{x_{i+1}-x_i}$  (0..1)

$$u(\xi) = c_1 + c_2\xi$$

$$u_0 = u(0) = c_1, u_1 = u(1) = c_1 + c_2 \quad c_2 = u_1 - u_0$$

$$\Rightarrow u(\xi) = u_0 + \xi(u_1 - u_0) = u_0(1 - \xi) + u_1\xi = u_iv_i + u_1v_1$$

# Quadratic elements

$$u(\xi) = c_1 + c_2\xi + c_3\xi^2$$

nodes at  $x_0, x_{1/2}, x_1$

$$u_i = u(0) = c_1, u_1 = c_1 + c_2 + c_3$$

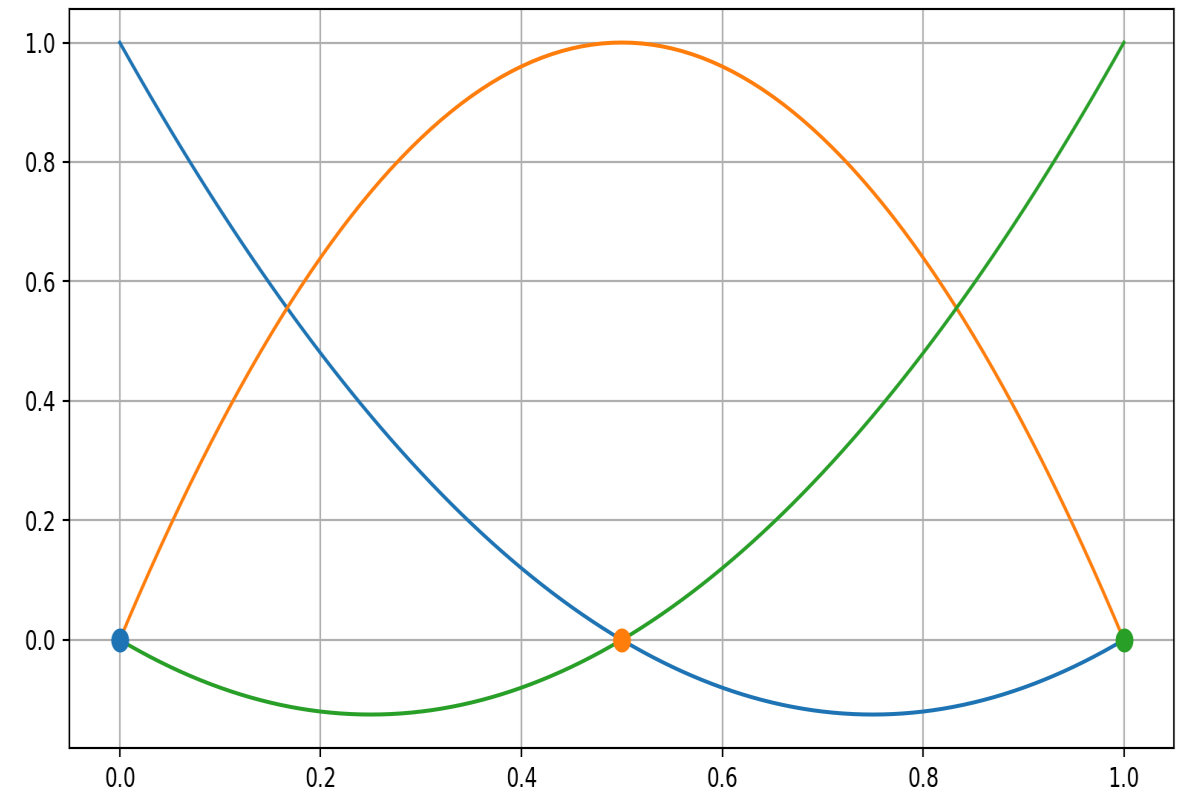
$$u_{1/2} = c_1 + c_2/2 + c_3/4$$

$$u(\xi) = u_0(3\xi + 2\xi^2) + u_{1/2}(4\xi - 4\xi^2) + u_1(-\xi + 2\xi^2)$$

# Quadratic elements

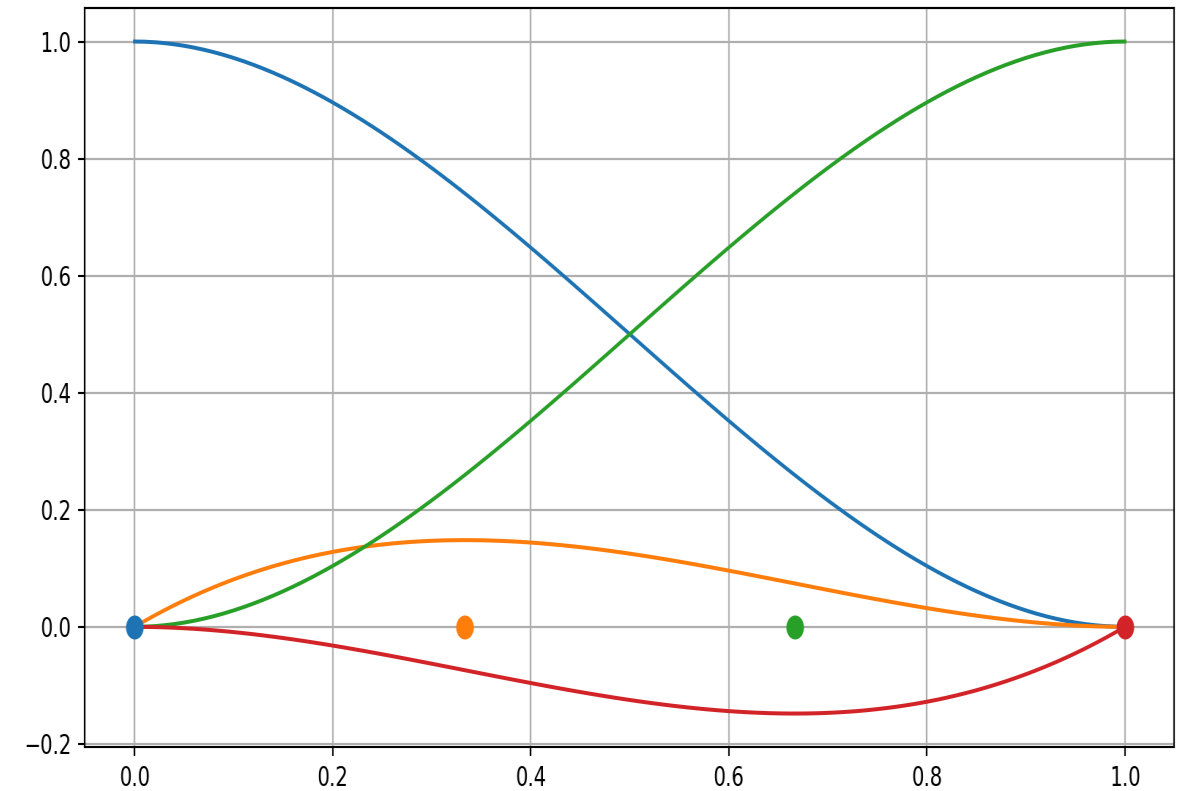
$$u(\xi) = u_0(3\xi + 2\xi^2) + u_{1/2}(4\xi - 4\xi^2) + u_1(-\xi + 2\xi^2)$$

```
1 import numpy as np
2 import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
3 x=np.linspace(0, 1, 101)
4
5 # Plot velocity distribution.
6 plt.plot(x, 1-3*x+2*x**2)
7 plt.plot(x, 4*x-4*x**2)
8 plt.plot(x, -x+2*x**2)
9 plt.plot(0, 0, "o", color="C0", ms=8)
10 plt.plot(0.5, 0, "o", color="C1", ms=8)
11 plt.plot(1, 0, "o", color="C2", ms=8)
12 plt.grid()
```



# Cubic elements

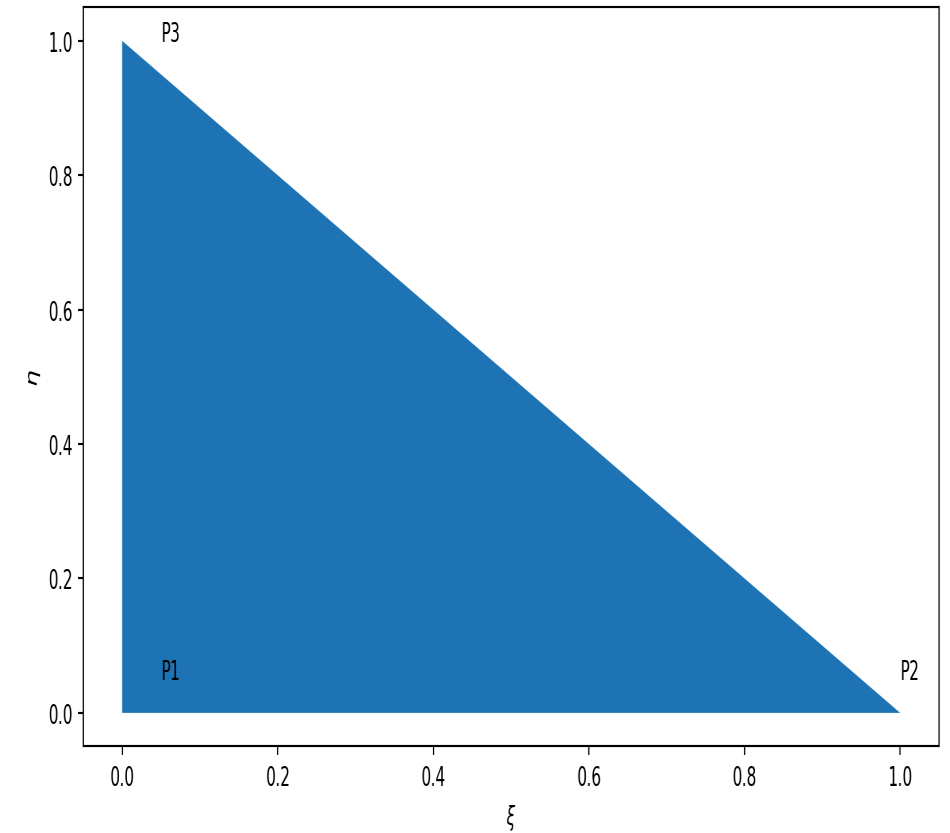
```
1 import numpy as np
2 import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
3 x=np.linspace(0, 1, 101)
4
5 # Plot velocity distribution.
6 plt.plot(x, 1-3*x**2+2*x**3)
7 plt.plot(x, x-2*x**2+x**3)
8 plt.plot(x, 3*x**2-2*x**3)
9 plt.plot(x, -x**2+x**3)
10 for i in range(4):
11     plt.plot(i/(3), 0, "o",
12             color=f"C{i}", ms=8)
13 plt.grid()
```



# Triangles with linear shape functions

$$x = x_1 + (x_2 - x_1)\xi + (x_3 - x_1)\eta$$

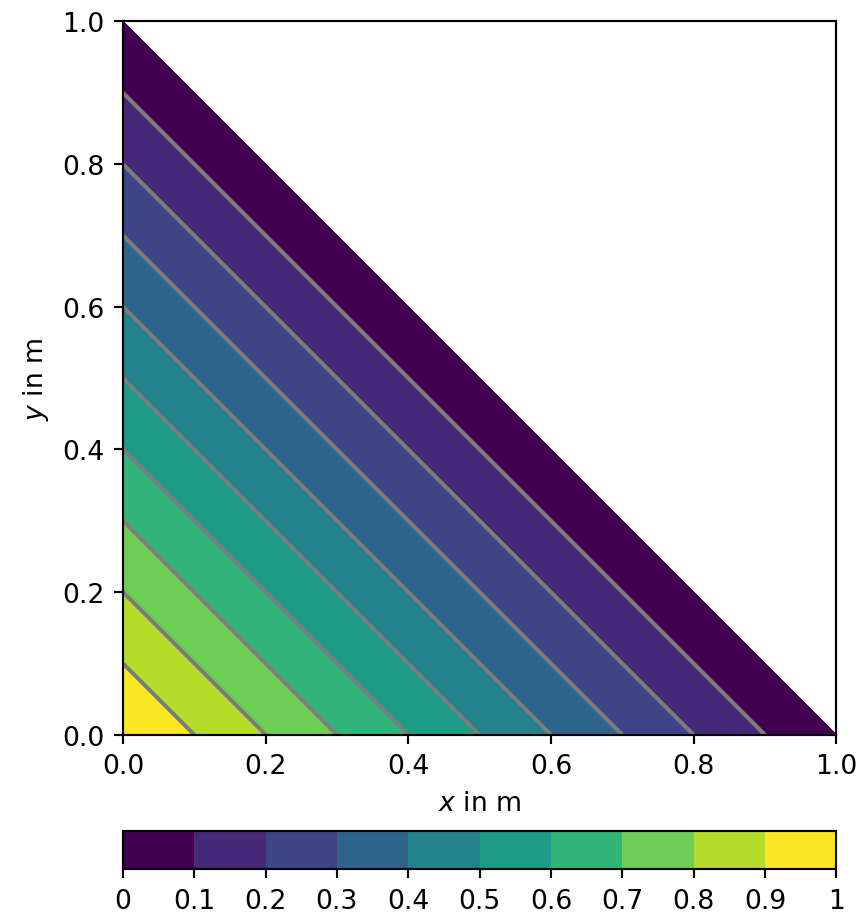
$$y = y_1 + (y_2 - y_1)\xi + (y_3 - y_1)\eta$$



# Triangle

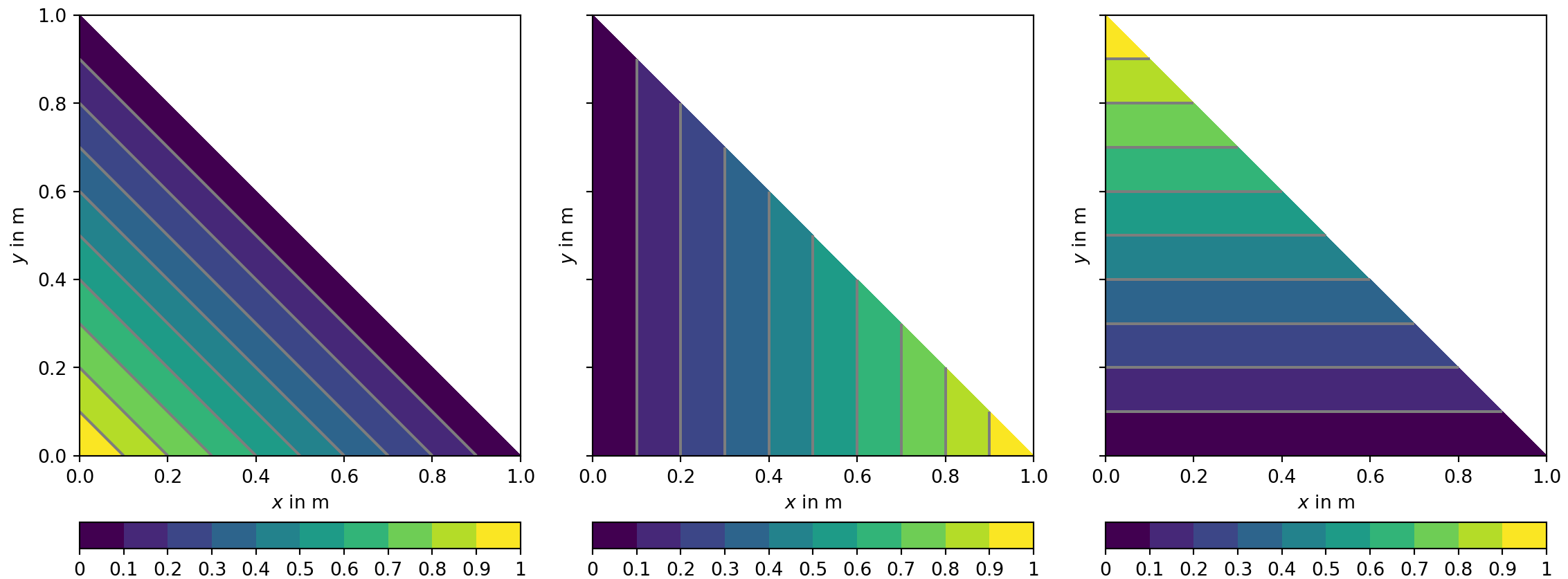
$$u(\xi) = u_1(1 - \xi - \eta) + u_2\xi + u_3\eta$$

```
1 import pygimli as pg
2 import pygimli.meshtools as mt
3
4 shape = mt.createPolygon(
5     [[0, 0], [1, 0], [0, 1]],
6     isClosed=True)
7 mesh = mt.createMesh(shape, area=0.01)
8 mx = pg.x(mesh)
9 my = pg.y(mesh)
10 # Plot velocity distribution.
11 fig, ax = plt.subplots()
12 pg.show(mesh, 1-mx-my, ax=ax, nLevs=11);
```



# Triangle linear shape functions

$$u(\xi) = u_1(1 - \xi - \eta) + u_2\xi + u_3\eta$$



# Verification

## 1. Method of Manufactured Solutions (MMS)

- manufacture a smooth  $u$
- generate  $f$  matching approximation of  $u$

## 2. Method of Exact Solutions (MES)

- find parameters for which an analytic solution exists

## 3. Perform convergence tests for increasingly smaller $h$

- approximation error  $E(h) < Ch^n$  test for some  $h$



# Green's functions

The Green's function  $G$  is the solution for a Dirac source  $\delta$

$$\mathcal{L}G = \delta$$

The solution can then be obtained by convolution

$$u = G * f$$