

# Introduction of FreeFEM : a domain specific language and example on nonlinear elasticity solver

Atsushi Suzuki<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>R-CCS, Large-scale Parallel Numerical Computing Technology Research Team  
[atsushi.suzuki.aj@riken.jp](mailto:atsushi.suzuki.aj@riken.jp)

# FreeFEM script to solve Poisson using matrix

bilinear form :  $a(u, v) = \int_{\Omega} \nabla u \cdot \nabla v \, dx$ ,  $L^2$  inner product :  $(f, v) = \int_{\Omega} fv$

Find  $u_h \in V_h$  s.t.  $a(u_h, v_h) = (f, v_h) \quad \forall v_h \in V_h$ .

```
mesh Th=square(20,20); // (0,1)x(0,1) square domain
fespace Vh(Th,P1);
Vh u,v;
func f = cos(x)*sin(y);
func g = 1.0;
varf poisson(u,v)=int2d(Th) ( dx(u)*dx(v)+dy(u)*dy(v) )
                           + on(1,2,3,4,u=g);
varf external(u,v)=int2d(Th) ( f*v );
real tgv=1.0e+40; // penalty parameter > (machine eps)^-2
matrix A = poisson(Vh,Vh, tgv=tgv,solver=CG);
real[int] ff = external(0, Vh);
real[int] bc = poisson(0, Vh, tgv=tgv);
ff = bc ? bc : ff; // penalty term for inhomogenise data
u[] = A^-1 * ff;
plot(u);
```

penalty term added to the linear system

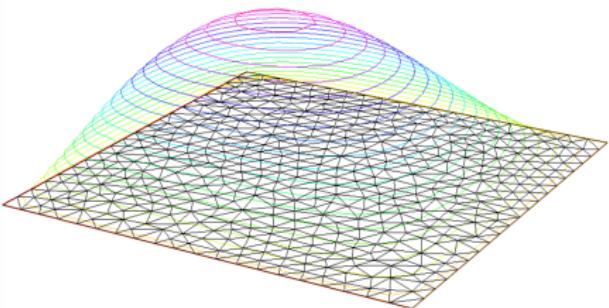
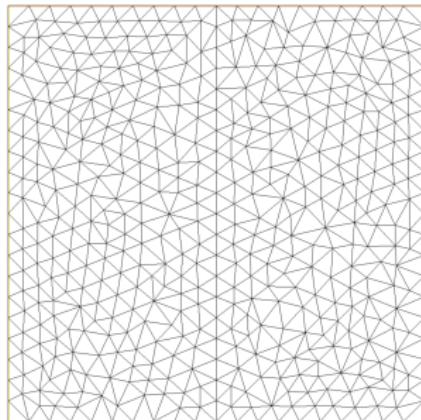
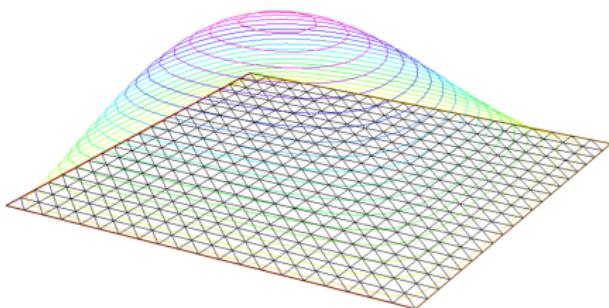
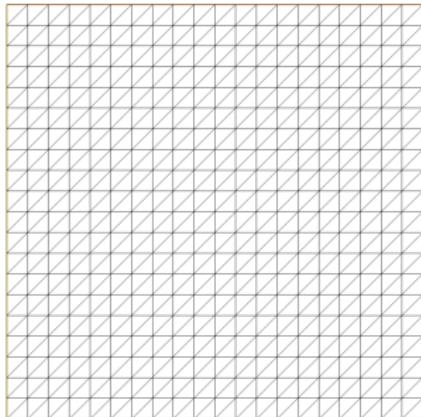
$$\begin{aligned} \tau u_k + \sum_{j \neq k} a_{kj} u_j &= \tau g_k & \sum_j a_{ij} u_j &= f_i \text{ for } i \neq k \\ \sum_j a_{ij} u_j &= f_i & \forall i \in \{1, \dots, N\} \setminus \Lambda_D. \end{aligned}$$

useful liner solver; solver=

CG / GMRES iterative solver for SPD / general matrix

sparsesolver direct solvers called by dynamic link, PARDISO or MUMPS

## structured/unstructured mesh



## FreeFEM script to generate unstructured mesh

```
int n1 = 20;
border bottom(t=0,1) {x=t;y=0;    label=1;};
border right(t=0,1) {x=1;y=t;    label=2;};
border top(t=0,1)   {x=1-t;y=1; label=3;};
border left(t=0,1)  {x=0;y=1-t; label=4;};
mesh Th1=buildmesh(bottom(n1)+right(n1)+top(n1)
                    +left(n1));
...
fespace Vh10(Th1,P0);
Vh10 h1 = hTriangle;
real hmax = h1[].max;
...
```

It is better to look  $\min_K h_K$ ,  $\sum_K h_K / \#\mathcal{T}_h$ ,  $\max_K h_K$ , corresponding to mesh refinement.

## FreeFEM script for error estimation

```
int n1 = 20;
real hh1,hh2,err1,err2;
func sol = sin(pi*x)*sin(pi*y/2.0);
func solx = pi*cos(pi*x)*sin(pi*y/2.0);
func soly = (pi/2.0)*sin(pi*x)*cos(pi*y/2.0);
mesh Th1=square(n1,n1);
fespace Vh1(Th1,P2);
// calculation of a solution on Vh1 wth mesh Th1
matrix A = poisson(Vh1, Vh1, tgv=tgv,solver=CG);
real[int] ff = external(0, Vh1);
real[int] bc = poisson(0, Vh1, tgv=tgv);
ff = bc ? bc : ff;
u1[] = A^-1 * ff;
err1 = int2d(Th1) ((dx(u1)-solx)*(dx(u1)-solx) +
(dy(u1)-soly)*(dy(u1)-soly) +
(u1-sol)*(u1-sol));
err1 = sqrt(err1);
// calculation of a solution on Vh2 with mesh Th2
hh1 = 1.0/n1*sqrt(2.0); hh2 = 1.0/n2*sqrt(2.0);
cout<<"O(h^2)="<<log(err1/err2)/log(hh1/hh2)<<endl;
```

theory on error estimation says, for the exact solution  $u \in H^2(\Omega)$  and finite element solution  $u_h \in S_h(Pk)$  with mesh size  $h$

$$\|u - u_h\|_1 = ch^k, \quad \frac{\|u - u_{h_1}\|_1}{\|u - u_{h_2}\|_1} = \frac{ch_1^k}{ch_2^k} = \left(\frac{h_1}{h_2}\right)^k$$

# syntax of FreeFem++ script

## loops

```
for (int i=0; i<10; i++) {  
    ...  
    if (err < 1.0e-6) break;  
}  
//  
int i = 0;  
while (i < 10) {  
    ...  
    if (err < 1.0e-6) break;  
    i++;  
}
```

## finite element space, variational form, and matrix

```
fespace Xh(Th,P1)  
Xh u,v;           // finite element data  
varf a(u,v)=int2d(Th)( ... ) ;  
matrix A = a(Xh,Xh,solver=UMFPACK);  
real [int] v;    // array  
v = A*u[];       // multiplication matrix to array
```

## procedure (function)

```
func real[int] ff(real[int] &pp) { // C++ reference  
    ...  
    return pp;                      // the same array  
}
```

## array, vector, FEM data, sparse matrix, block data : 1/2

### fundamental data types

```
bool flag; // true or false
int i;
real w;
string st = "abc";
array
real[int] v(10); // real array whose size is 10
real[int] u; // not yet allocated
u.resize(10); // same as C++ STL vector
real[int] vv = v; // allocated as same size of v.n
a(2)=0.0 ; // set value of 3rd index
a += b; // a(i) = a(i) + b(i)
a = b .* c ; // a(i) = b(i) * c(i); element-wise
a = b < c ? b : c // a(i) = min(b(i), c(i)); C-syntax
a.sum; // sum a(i);
a.n; // size of array
```

There are other operations such as  $\ell^1$ ,  $\ell^2$ ,  $\ell^\infty$ -norms, max, min.

## array, vector, FEM data, sparse matrix, block data : 2/2

### FEM data

```
func fnc = sin(pi*x)*cos(pi*y); // function with x,y
mesh Th = ...;
fespace Vh(Th,P2);           // P2 space on mesh Th
Vh f;                         // FEM data on Th with P2
f[];                           // access data of FEM DOF
f = fnc;                      // interpolation onto FEM space
fespace Vh(Th, [P2,P2]);      // 2 components P2 space
Vh [u1,u2];                   // u1[], u2[] is allocatd
u1[] = 0.0;                    // access all data of [u1,u2];
real[int] uu([u1[].n+u2[].n]);
u1[] = uu;                     // u1[], u2[] copied from uu
[u1[], u2[]] = uu;            // using correct block data
```

### dense and sparse matrices

```
real[int,int] B(10,10); // 2D array
varf aa(u,v)=int2d(Th)(u*v); // L2-inner prod. for mass
matrix A=aa(Vh,Vh,solver=sparse); //sparse matrix
```

### file I/O is same as C++,

```
Vh u;
{
    ofstream file("output.data");
    file << u; // with meta data
} // scope of file object
```

```
Vh u;
{
    ifstream file("saved.data");
    for (int i=0; i<u[].n; i++) {
        file >> u[](i); // only number
    }
} // scope of file object
```

## linear elasticity problem in 2D : 1/2

$$\int_{\Omega} \Sigma(e(u)) : e(v) = \int_{\Omega} \lambda \operatorname{div}(u) \operatorname{div} v + 2\mu e(u) : e(v)$$

a trick to write a product of tensors by one of matrix and vectors is very useful

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} \\ a_{12} & a_{22} \end{bmatrix} \text{ and } B = \begin{bmatrix} b_{11} & b_{12} \\ b_{12} & b_{22} \end{bmatrix}.$$

$$\Sigma(A) : B = (\lambda \operatorname{tr} A I + 2\mu A) : B$$

$$= \begin{bmatrix} \lambda(a_{11} + a_{22}) + 2\mu a_{11} & 2\mu a_{12} \\ 2\mu a_{12} & \lambda(a_{11} + a_{22}) + 2\mu a_{22} \end{bmatrix} : \begin{bmatrix} b_{11} & b_{12} \\ b_{12} & b_{22} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$= \begin{bmatrix} \lambda + 2\mu & 0 & \lambda \\ 0 & \mu & 0 \\ \lambda & 0 & \lambda + 2\mu \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} \\ 2a_{12} \\ a_{22} \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} b_{11} \\ 2b_{12} \\ b_{22} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$[e(u)] \leftrightarrow [\partial_1 u_1, (\partial_1 u_2 + \partial_2 u_1), \partial_2 u_2]$$

$$\Sigma(e(u)) : e(v) \leftrightarrow \begin{bmatrix} \lambda + 2\mu & 0 & \lambda \\ 0 & \mu & 0 \\ \lambda & 0 & \lambda + 2\mu \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \partial_1 u_1 \\ \partial_1 u_2 + \partial_2 u_1 \\ \partial_2 u_2 \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} \partial_1 v_1 \\ \partial_1 v_2 + \partial_2 v_1 \\ \partial_2 v_2 \end{bmatrix}$$

3 × 3 matrix with Lamé constants is symmetric

## linear elasticity problem in 2D : 2/2

```
load "PARDISO"
macro EL(u1, u2) [dx(u1), (dx(u2)+dy(u1)), dy(u2)] //'
mesh Th = square(40, 10, [5*x, y]);
int[int] llabel = [1, 2, 2, 2, 3, 2, 4, 1];
Th = change(Th, label = llabel);
fespace Vh(Th, [P2, P2]);
real lambda = 1.0, mu = 1.0, gg = -0.5e-3;
func A = [ [lambda + 2.0 * mu, 0.0, lambda],
           [0.0, mu, 0.0],
           [lambda, 0.0, lambda + 2.0 * mu] ];
Vh [u1, u2], [v1, v2];
varf lelasticity([u1, u2], [v1, v2])
= int2d(Th) (EL(u1, u2)' * A * EL(v1, v2)) //'
+ on (1, u1 = 0.0, u2 = 0.0);
varf rhs([u1, u2], [v1, v2])
= int2d(Th) (v2 * gg) + on (1, u1 = 0.0, u2 = 0.0);
matrix AA = lelasticity(Vh, Vh);
set(AA, solver = "PARDISO", sym = 1);
real[int] bb = rhs(0, Vh);
real[int] xx = AA^-1 * bb;
u1[] = xx;
mesh Thm = movemesh(Th, [x + u1, y + u2]); plot(Thm);
```

## linear elasticity problem in 3D : 1/3

$$\int_{\Omega} \Sigma(e(u)) : e(v) = \int_{\Omega} \lambda \operatorname{div}(u) \operatorname{div} v + 2\mu e(u) : e(v)$$

a trick to write a product of tensors by one of matrix and vectors

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & a_{13} \\ a_{12} & a_{22} & a_{23} \\ a_{13} & a_{23} & a_{33} \end{bmatrix} \text{ and } B = \begin{bmatrix} b_{11} & b_{12} & b_{13} \\ b_{12} & b_{22} & b_{23} \\ b_{13} & b_{23} & b_{33} \end{bmatrix}.$$

$$\Sigma(A) : B = (\lambda \operatorname{tr} A I + 2\mu A) : B$$

$$\begin{aligned} &= \begin{bmatrix} \lambda(\sum_k a_{kk}) + 2\mu a_{11} & 2\mu a_{12} & 2\mu a_{13} \\ 2\mu a_{12} & \lambda(\sum_k a_{kk}) + 2\mu a_{22} & 2\mu a_{23} \\ 2\mu a_{13} & 2\mu a_{23} & \lambda(\sum_k a_{kk}) + 2\mu a_{33} \end{bmatrix} : \begin{bmatrix} b_{11} & b_{12} & b_{13} \\ b_{12} & b_{22} & b_{23} \\ b_{31} & b_{23} & b_{33} \end{bmatrix} \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} \lambda + 2\mu & \lambda & \lambda \\ \mu & \lambda + 2\mu & \lambda \\ \lambda & \mu & \lambda + 2\mu \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} \\ 2a_{12} \\ 2a_{13} \\ a_{22} \\ 2a_{23} \\ a_{33} \end{bmatrix} : \begin{bmatrix} b_{11} \\ 2b_{12} \\ 2b_{13} \\ b_{22} \\ 2b_{23} \\ b_{33} \end{bmatrix}. \end{aligned}$$

$$[e(u)] \leftrightarrow [\partial_1 u_1, (\partial_1 u_2 + \partial_2 u_1), (\partial_1 u_3 + \partial_3 u_1), \partial_2 u_2, (\partial_2 u_3 + \partial_3 u_2), \partial_3 u_3]$$

## linear elasticity problem in 3D : 2/4

```
load "PARDISO"
macro EL(u1,u2,u3) [dx(u1),(dx(u2)+dy(u1)),(dx(u3)+dz(u1)),
                     dy(u2),(dy(u3)+dz(u2)),dz(u3)] //
include "cube.idp"
int[int] Nxyz=[40,10,10];
real [int,int] Bxyz=[[0.,5.],[0.,1.],[0.,1.]];
int [int,int] Lxyz=[[1,2],[2,2],[2,2]];
mesh3 Th=Cube(Nxyz,Bxyz,Lxyz);
fespace Vh(Th, [P2, P2, P2]);
real lambda = 1.0, mu = 1.0, gg = -0.5e-3;
real a1 = lambda + 2.0 * mu;
real a2 = mu;
real a3 = lambda;
func A = [ [a1, 0.0, 0.0, a3, 0.0, a3],
           [0.0, a2, 0.0, 0.0, 0.0, 0.0],
           [0.0, 0.0, a2, 0.0, 0.0, 0.0],
           [a3, 0.0, 0.0, a1, 0.0, a3],
           [0.0, 0.0, 0.0, 0.0, a2, 0.0],
           [a3, 0.0, 0.0, a3, 0.0, a1] ]; //
Vh [u1, u2, u3], [v1, v2, v3];
varf lelasticity([u1, u2, u3], [v1, v2, v3])
= int3d(Th,qfV=qfV1)(EL(u1, u2, u3)' * A * EL(v1, v2, v3)) //'
+ on (1, u1 = 0.0, u2 = 0.0, u3 = 0.0);

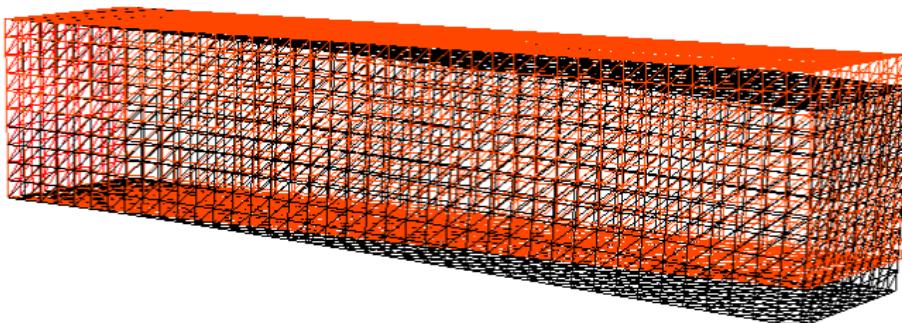
varf rhs([u1, u2, u3], [v1, v2, v3])
= int3d(Th,qfV=qfV1)(v3 * gg)
+ on(1, u1 = 0.0, u2 = 0.0, u3 = 0.0);
```

## linear elasticity problem in 3D : 3/4

```
matrix AA = lelasticity(Vh, Vh);
set(AA, solver = "PARDISO", sym = 1);
real[int] bb = rhs(0, Vh);
real[int] xx = AA^-1 * bb;
u1[] = xx;

mesh3 Thm = movemesh3(Th,transfo=[x + u1, y + u2, z + u3]);
plot(Th, Thm);
```

3D beam : displacement on the left wall is fixed



## nonlinear elasticity : symmetric Jacobian matrix

$$\int_{\Omega} \Sigma(dE(u^n)[w]) : dE(u^n)[v] + \Sigma(E(u^n)) : d^2E(u^n)[v, w]$$

```
macro ENL(u1, u2, u3) [
  (dx(u1)*dx(u1)+dx(u2)*dx(u2)+dx(u3)*dx(u3))*0.5,
  (dx(u1)*dy(u1)+dx(u2)*dy(u2)+dx(u3)*dy(u3)),
  (dx(u1)*dz(u1)+dx(u2)*dz(u2)+dx(u3)*dz(u3)),
  (dy(u1)*dy(u1)+dy(u2)*dy(u2)+dy(u3)*dy(u3))*0.5, // ...
macro dENL(u1, u2, u3, v1, v2, v3) [
  (dx(u1)*dx(v1)+dx(u2)*dx(v2)+dx(u3)*dx(v3)),
  (dx(u1)*dy(v1)+dx(v1)*dy(u1) +
   dx(u2)*dy(v2)+dx(v2)*dy(u2) +
   dx(u3)*dy(v3)+dx(v3)*dy(u3)),
  (dx(u1)*dz(v1)+dx(v1)*dz(u1) +
   dx(u2)*dz(v2)+dx(v2)*dz(u2) +
   dx(u3)*dz(v3)+dx(v3)*dz(u3)),
  (dy(u1)*dy(v1)+dy(u2)*dy(v2)+dy(u3)*dy(v3)), //...
macro E(u1, u2, u3) (EL(u1, u2, u3) + ENL(u1, u2, u3)) //
macro dE(u1, u2, u3, v1, v2, v3) (EL(v1, v2, v3) +
  dENL(u1, u2, u3, v1, v2, v3)) //
varf nelasticity([w1, w2, w3], [v1, v2, v3])
= int3d(Th,qfV=qfV1)(dE(u1, u2, u3, w1, w2, w3)' * A *
  dE(u1, u2, u3, v1, v2, v3)) +
  E(u1, u2, u3)' * A *
  dENL(w1, w2, w3, v1, v2, v3)) + on( ... //
```

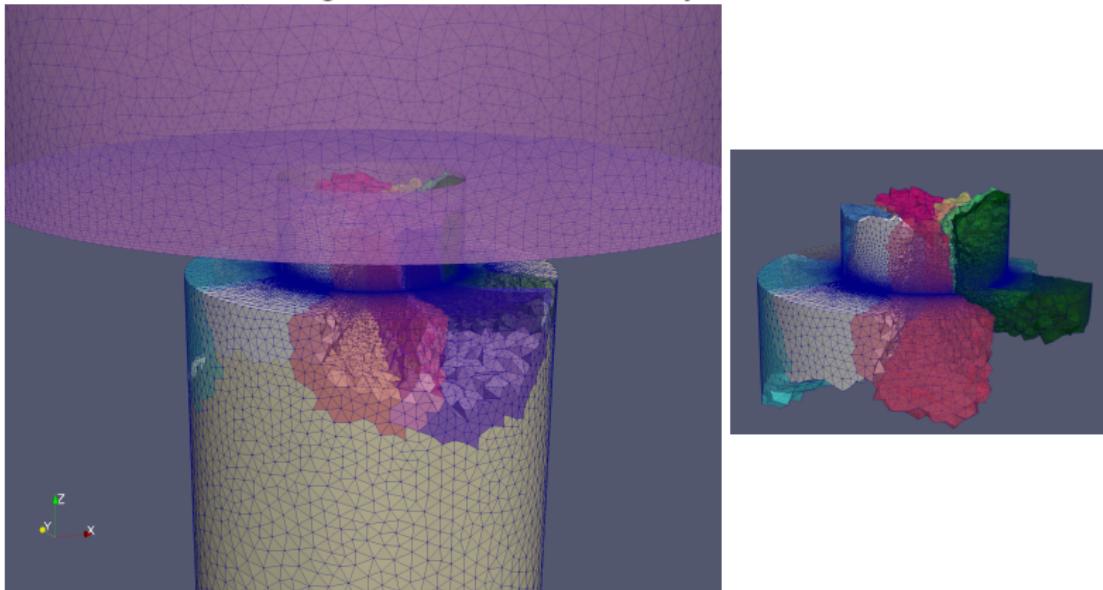
## overlapping domain decomposition by METIS and HPDDM: 1/3

```
load "hpddm"
mpiComm comm(mpiCommWorld,0,0);
mesh3 ThGlobal, Th;
ThGlobal = gmshload3("cylinders.msh"); // read Gmsh mesh
func Pk = [P1, P1, P1];
fespace Vhg(ThGlobal, Pk); // FE space on global domain
fespace Vh(Th, Pk); // FE space on local domain
int[int][int] intersection;
real[int] D;
{
    Th = ThGlobal;
    build(Th, 1, intersection, D, Pk, comm, 3)
}
matrix Rgl = interpolate(Vh, Vhg);
matrix Dh = [D]; // diagonal matrix
```

- ▶  $\text{mesh3 } \text{Th} : \widetilde{\Omega}_p$  : one layer extended overlapping subdomain
- ▶  $\text{matrix } \text{Rgl}$  : restriction operator  $R_p$ , global to local
- ▶  $\text{matrix } \text{D}$  : diagonal matrix of discrete partition of the unity

## overlapping domain decomposition by METIS and HPDDM: 2/3

12 subdomains are generated, visualized by ParaView:



- ▶ macro `build()` in HPDDM generates overlapped subdomains
- ▶ Since METIS provides graph decomposition, interface between subdomains is not smooth in general
- ▶ additive Schwarz preconditioner is robust even with non-smooth interfaces

## overlapping domain decomposition by METIS and HPDDM: 3/3

```
load "hpddm"
mpiComm comm(mpiCommWorld,0,0);
mesh3 ThGlobal, Th;
fespace Vh(Th, Pk); // FE space on local domain
// ...
totaldof = Vhg.ndof;
localdof = Vh.ndof;
real[int] xxg(totaldof), xdl(localdof), xxl(localdof);
matrix AA = lelasticity(Vh, Vh, tgv = -1, sym=1);
real[int] bb = rhs(0, Vh, tgv= -1);
schwarz dA(AA, intersection, D);
set(dA, sparams = "-hpddm_schwarz_method ras " +
"-hpddm_variant right " +
"-hpddm_gmres_restart 150 -hpddm_max_it 150" +
"-hpddm_verbose 10 -hpddm_tol 1.0e-10")
xxl = AA^-1 * bb; // solution is distributed
xdl = Dh * xxl; // adjust with weights for overlapping
xxg = Rgl' * xdl; // local -> global
mpiAllReduce(wg, ul[], comm, mpisum); //
```

- ▶ stiffness matrix is generated from bilinear form locally  $\text{Th}$  and  $\text{Vh}$
- ▶ global solution is obtained by mpi reduction for  $\sum_p R_p^T D_p u_p$

## computational efficiency

linear and nonlinear elasticity problem with 2,076,809 DOF

solver	linear		memory	
	matrix	RHS	solver	
pardiso symmetric	52.17	0.04	432.50	40.2GB
hpddm unsymmetric	20.30	0.01	352.69	5.1G×12
hypre unsymmetric	20.33	0.01	72.03	1.5G×12

solver	nonlinear		memory	
	matrix	RHS	solver	
pardiso symmetric	233.34	129.33	430.60	40.2GB
hpddm unsymmetric	42.44	22.15	366.02	5.1G×12
hypre unsymmetric	45.01	20.1	87.42	1.5G×12

- ▶ generation of stiffness matrix for nonlinear elasticity problem consumes non-negligible time
- ▶ hypre multigrid preconditioner does not converge for more higher nonlinearity

## References to opensource softwares

the latest version of FreeFem is 4.12.

installation guid is found at

<https://doc.freefem.org/introduction/installation.html>

- ▶ FreeFEM : A high level multiphysics finite element software  
<https://freefem.org>
- ▶ gmsh : 3d mesh generator, geometry described by own script language or STEP file with OpenCASCADE engine  
<https://gmsh.info>
- ▶ mmg3d : 3d mesh regenerator, for mesh refinement  
<https://www.mmgtools.org>
- ▶ hpddm : parallel linear solver with additive Schwarz preconditioner  
<https://github.com/hpddm/hpddm>
- ▶ paraview : 3d visualization software  
<https://www.paraview.org>

interfaces to FreeFEM are developed in [FreeFem-sources/plugin/{seq,mpi}](#)/  
examples of FreeFEM scripts are located in [FreeFem-sources/examples/](#)  
interface to paraview in FreeFEM

```
load "iovtk"
mesh3 Th = ... ;
fespace Vh(Th, P1);
Vh u;
...
int[int] vtkorder = [1];
savevtk("output.vtk", Th, u, order = vtkorder);
```