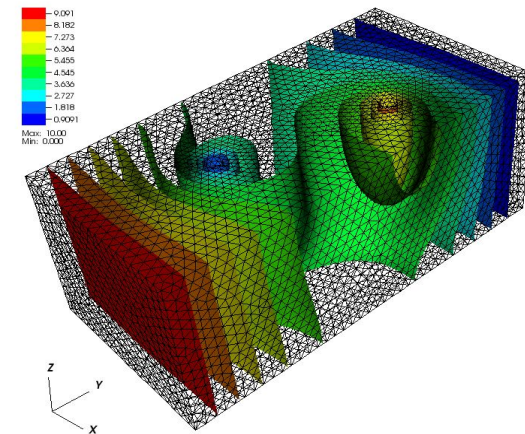
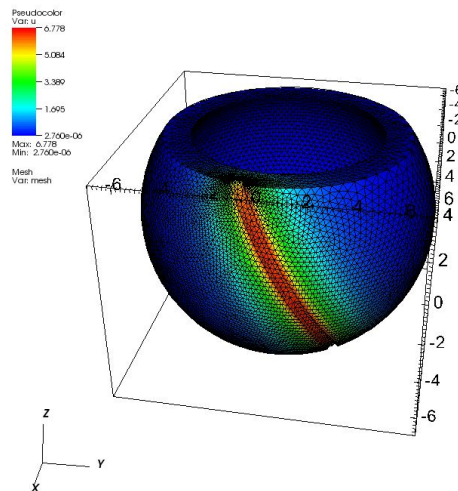


# Finite Element Method – Mixed Formulation

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# Finite Element Method

- Original problem:

$$\begin{cases} -\nabla \cdot K \nabla u = f & \text{in } \Omega \\ u = 0 & \text{in } \Gamma \end{cases}$$

- Weak formulation** (variational problem)

Find  $u \in H_g^1(\Omega)$  such that

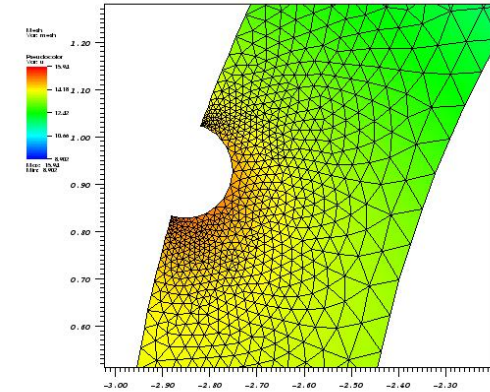
$$\int_{\Omega} \nabla u \cdot K \nabla \omega \, d\underline{x} = \int_{\Omega} f \omega \, d\underline{x}, \quad \forall \omega \in H_0^1(\Omega)$$

- Approximated solution  $u_h \in H_{gh}^1(\Omega_h)$  is represented as a linear combination of basic functions:

$$u_h = \sum_{i=1}^{n_i} \alpha_i \varphi_i(\underline{x}).$$

- Linear** approximation P1 – elementwise linear functions

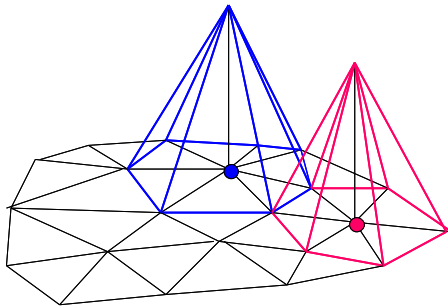
Any function in  $H_h^1(\Omega_h)$  is uniquely defined by its values in nodes of discretization.



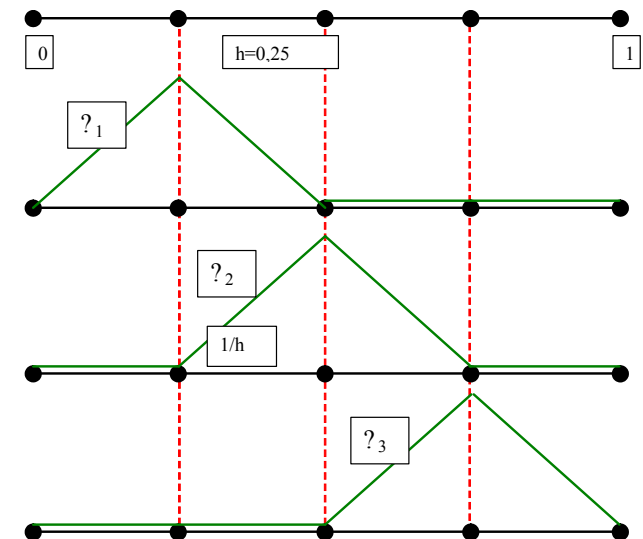
▪ **Construction of basis in  $H_h^1(\Omega_h)$**

Basis function  $\varphi_i$ , connected to a node  $i$  of a triangulation  $T_h$  is:

- continuous function  $\Omega_h \rightarrow R$
- linear on element
- for any  $\varphi_i$ ,  $\varphi_i(\underline{x}_j) = \delta_{ij} = \begin{cases} 1 & , \quad i = j \\ 0 & , \quad i \neq j \end{cases}$ ,  $\underline{x}_j$  – node.



$$\sum_{i=1}^n \varphi_i = 1 \text{ for } \forall \underline{x} \in \Omega_h$$



**Substituting, we get a system of linear equations**  $\mathbf{A} \mathbf{\alpha} = \mathbf{F}$  with unknowns  $\alpha_i, i = 1, \dots, n_i$ .

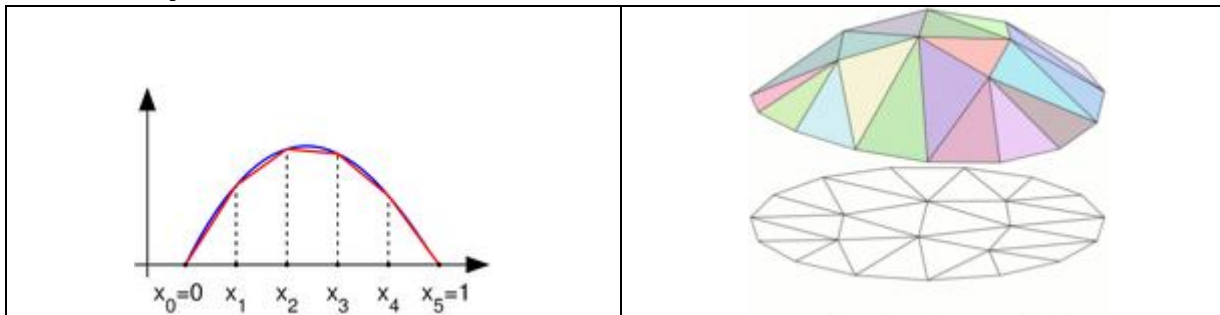
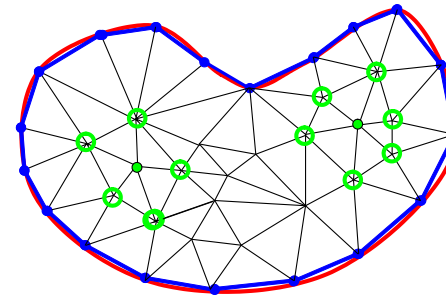
Matrix elements:

$$\mathbf{A}_{ij} = \int_{\Omega} \nabla \varphi_i(\underline{x}) \cdot K \nabla \varphi_j(\underline{x}) d\underline{x}, \quad i, j = 1, \dots, n_i$$

RHS vector:

$$\mathbf{F}_i = \int_{\Omega} f(\underline{x}) \varphi_i(\underline{x}) d\underline{x}$$

- $\mathbf{A}$  is **sparse**.



Piecewise constant derivatives, what may cause problems while solving transport equation, tracing streamlines, etc., (mass conservation does not hold within an element).

**Mixed formulation brings a remedy**

## Finite elements – Mixed formulation

- Original problem: Find  $u : \Omega \rightarrow R$  such that:

$$(1) \quad \begin{cases} -\nabla \cdot K \nabla u = f & \text{in } \Omega \\ u|_{\partial\Omega} = 0 \end{cases}$$

- Apply an equivalent system of equations:

$$(2) \quad \begin{cases} \mathbf{q} = -K \nabla u \\ \nabla \cdot \mathbf{q} = f \\ u|_{\partial\Omega} = 0 \end{cases}$$

$$(3) \quad \begin{cases} K^{-1} \mathbf{q} + \nabla u = 0 \\ \nabla \cdot \mathbf{q} = f \\ u|_{\partial\Omega} = 0 \end{cases}$$

Two unknown functions:  $u$  (pressure, head),  $\mathbf{q}$  (velocity, volumetric flux)

Standard procedure  $\rightarrow$  towards variational formulation:

First equation of (3) is multiplied by a **vector function**  $\mathbf{v} \in H_{0N}^1(\text{div}; \Omega)$ , while the second by a scalar function  $\varphi \in L^2(\Omega)$  and all is integrated over  $\Omega$ .

$$(4) \quad \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \int_{\Omega} K^{-1} \mathbf{q} \cdot \mathbf{v} + \int_{\Omega} \nabla u \cdot \mathbf{v} = 0 \\ \int_{\Omega} \nabla \cdot \mathbf{q} \cdot \varphi = \int_{\Omega} f \cdot \varphi \\ u|_{\partial\Omega} = 0 \end{array} \right.$$

**Green's Theorem** is applied to the second term of the first equation:

$$\int_{\Omega} \nabla u \cdot \mathbf{v} = - \int_{\Omega} u \cdot \nabla \cdot \mathbf{v} + \int_{\partial\Omega} u \cdot \mathbf{n} \cdot \mathbf{v}$$

### Weak formulation in the Mixed form:

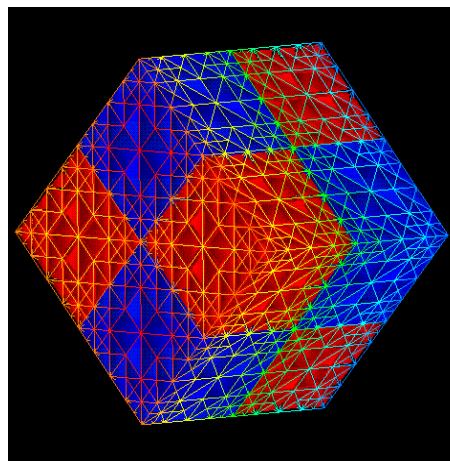
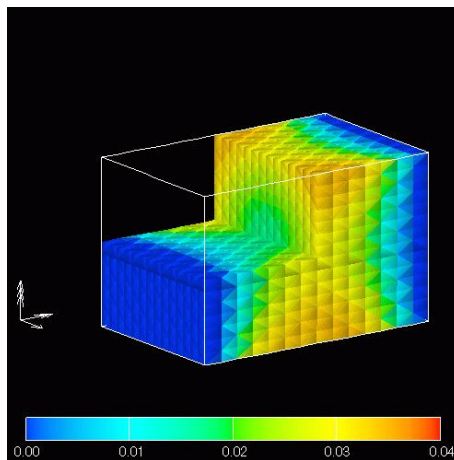
Find  $(\mathbf{q}, u) \in H_{0N}^1(\text{div}; \Omega) \times L^2(\Omega)$  such that

$$(5) \quad \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \int_{\Omega} K^{-1} \mathbf{q} \cdot \mathbf{v} - \int_{\Omega} u \cdot \nabla \cdot \mathbf{v} = 0 \quad \forall \mathbf{v} \in H_{0N}^1(\text{div}; \Omega) \\ - \int_{\Omega} \nabla \cdot \mathbf{q} \cdot \varphi = - \int_{\Omega} f \cdot \varphi \quad \forall \varphi \in L^2(\Omega) \end{array} \right.$$

Under appropriate assumptions, there exists a unique solution of the problem.

Solutions belong to spaces which should be **consistent**.

Condition Ładyženska - Brezzi – Babuška.



Approximate representations:

$$(6a) \mathbf{q}_h = \sum_{i=1}^m \alpha_i \boldsymbol{\psi}_i$$

$\mathbf{q}_h$  and  $\boldsymbol{\psi}_i$  are vectorial functions, coefficients  $\alpha_i$  are scalars.

Degrees of freedom related to  $\boldsymbol{\psi}_i$  are linked to edges (2D), or faces (3D) of elements.

$$(6b) u_h = \sum_{i=1}^n \beta_i \varphi_i$$

Degrees of freedom  $\beta_i$  are linked to elements.

Substituting (6) to (5):

$$(7) \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \sum_{i=1}^m \alpha_i \int_{\Omega} (K^{-1} \boldsymbol{\psi}_i)^T \cdot \boldsymbol{\psi}_j - \sum_{i=1}^n \beta_i \int_{\Omega} \varphi_i \nabla \cdot \boldsymbol{\psi}_j = 0 \\ - \sum_{i=1}^m \alpha_i \int_{\Omega} \nabla \cdot \boldsymbol{\psi}_i \varphi_k = - \int_{\Omega} f \varphi_k \end{array} \right.$$

$j=1, \dots, m$  (edges),  $k=1, \dots, n$  (elements)



It is a system of linear equations with  $m+n$  unknowns:

$$(8) \quad \begin{bmatrix} A & B \\ B^T & 0 \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} \alpha \\ \beta \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} F_1 \\ F_2 \end{bmatrix}, \text{ where:}$$

$$A = \int_{\Omega} (K^{-1} \Psi_i)^T \cdot \Psi_j, \quad B = - \int_{\Omega} \nabla \cdot \Psi_i \varphi_j$$

$$F_1 = 0 \quad (\text{here nonzero Dirichlet BC appears})$$

Remark: Neumann BC is **strongly** fulfilled in the Mixed formulation  
Dirichlet BC is fulfilled in a weak sense (a natural BC).

$$F_2 = - \int_{\Omega} f \varphi_j$$

We need spaces now.

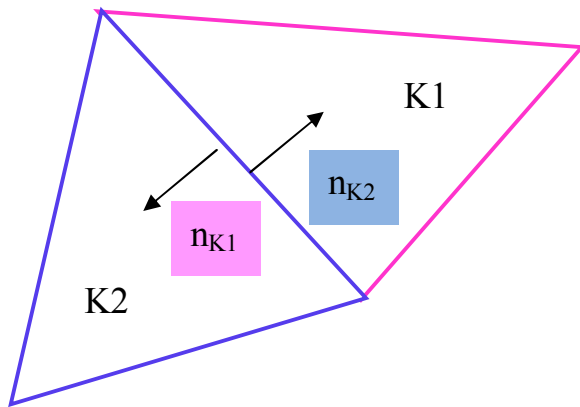
Discretization of **Raviart-Thomas (1977)**.

1)  $u$  can be approximated by **elementwise constant functions** (no continuity across elements is needed):

$$V_h = \{v|_K \text{ constant}\}$$

2) Approximation of  $H^1_{0N}(\text{div}; \Omega)$  is more complicated.

If  $\mathbf{q}$  is smooth on an element  $(\mathbf{q}|_K \in H^1(K))$  then  $\int_{\Omega} |\nabla \cdot \mathbf{q}|^2 < \infty$  if and only if  $\mathbf{n} \cdot \mathbf{q}$  is **continuous across elements**.



Degrees of freedom are normal components of  $\mathbf{q}$  in some points on faces / (edges in 2D).

▪ **Construction of basis in  $H_h^1(\Omega_h)$**

Basis function  $\varphi_i$ , connected to a node  $i$  of a triangulation  $T_h$  is:

- continuous function  $\Omega_h \rightarrow R$
- linear on element

for any  $\varphi_i$ ,  $\varphi_i(\underline{x}_j) = \delta_{ij} = \begin{cases} 1 & , \quad i = j \\ 0 & , \quad i \neq j \end{cases}$ ,  $\underline{x}_j$  – node.

---

Let  $e_i$ ,  $i=1,...,m$  denote numbered faces (edges in 2D), and  $K_j$ ,  $j=1,...,n$  denote numbered elements.

Our vectorial space is spanned by linearly independent vectorial basis functions  $\Psi_i$ , such that for any  $\Psi_i$

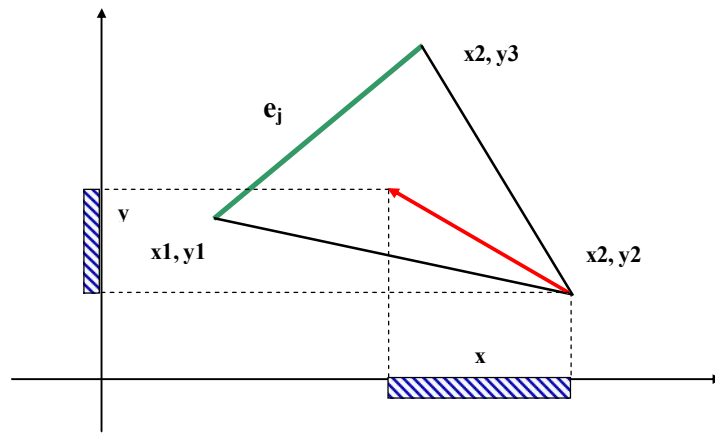
$$\int_{e_j} \mathbf{n}_j \cdot \Psi_i \, d\gamma = \delta_{ij} = \begin{cases} 1, i = j \\ 0, i \neq j \end{cases}, i, j=1,...,M.$$

Any function  $\mathbf{q}$  belonging to this space has one degree of freedom per face / edge,

$$\int_{e_j} \mathbf{n}_i \cdot \mathbf{q} \, d\gamma \text{ (flux through } e_i).$$

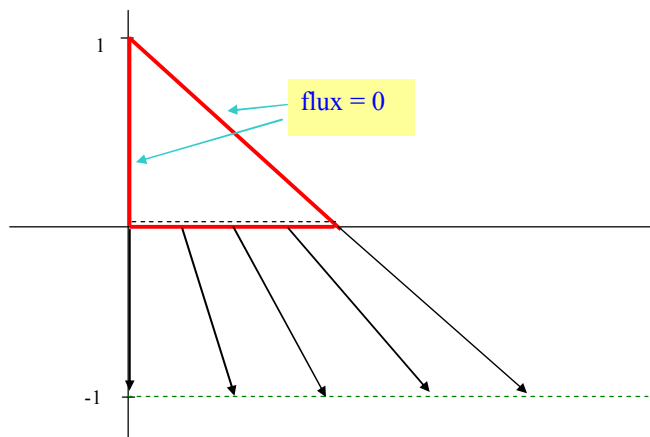
Construction of functions fullfilling:

$$\int_{ej} \mathbf{n}_j \cdot \boldsymbol{\psi}_i d\gamma = \delta_{ij} \quad \int_{ej} \nabla \cdot \boldsymbol{\psi}_i d\gamma = 1$$



$$\boldsymbol{\psi}_j = \frac{1}{2\Delta_T} \begin{bmatrix} x - x_2 \\ y - y_2 \end{bmatrix}$$

An “easy-triangle” example:



$$\boldsymbol{\psi}_j = \frac{1}{2\Delta_T} \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y - 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad n_j = [0, -1]$$

$$2\Delta_T = 1$$

### Example in 1D

Not very convincing...

$$-\frac{d^2 u}{dx^2} = 10 \quad w(0, 0.5)$$

$$u(0) = 0, \quad \left. \frac{du}{dx} \right|_0 = 0$$

Exact solution:  $u(x) = -5x^2 + 5x$ .

We take:

- elementwise functions to approximate  $u$  (pressure),
- elementwise linear functions to approximate  $\mathbf{q}$  (velocity).

## Finite elements – Mixed formulation in 1D

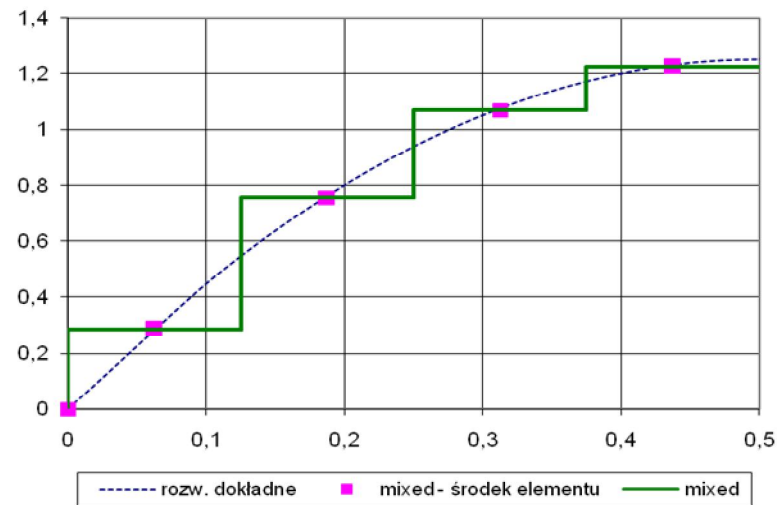
$h = 0,125$

FLUX

FUNCTION VALUE

0,041667	0,020833	0	0	-1	0	0	0	0
0,020833	0,083333	0,020833	0	1	-1	0	0	0
0	0,020833	0,083333	0,020833	0	1	-1	0	0
0	0	0,020833	0,083333	0	0	1	-1	0
-1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	-1,25
0	-1	1	0	0	0	0	0	-1,25
0	0	-1	1	0	0	0	0	-1,25
0	0	0	-1	0	0	0	0	-1,25

Elementwise constant function



5

3,75

2,5

1,25

0,286458

0,755208

1,067708

1,223958

## Towards hybridization

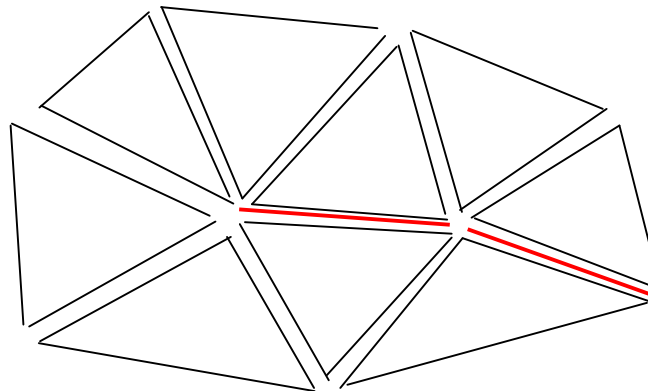
System of linear equations (8) is not good.

- Matrix, though symmetric, is not positive-definied.
- Large size of the matrix (number of elements + number of faces/edges).

In order to obtain a **hybrid version**:

- **Continuity requirements** on faces/edges are relaxed. This way the space of approximate solutions for velocities  $\mathbf{q}$  is **enlarged**.
- In order to **enforce continuity** a new variable is introduced acting on faces/edges (**Lagrange multipliers**).

Each face/edge is 'considered' twice.



What happens:

$$\int_{\Omega} K^{-1} \mathbf{q} \cdot \mathbf{v} + \int_{\Omega} \nabla u \cdot \mathbf{v} = 0$$

Green's theorem is applied for each element independently.

$$\int_{\Omega} \nabla u \cdot \mathbf{v} = \sum_{K \in T_h} \int_K \nabla u \cdot \mathbf{v} = \sum_{K \in T_h} \left( - \int_K u \nabla \cdot \mathbf{v} + \int_{\partial K} u \mathbf{n} \cdot \mathbf{v} \right)$$

In order to enforce continuity of  $\mathbf{v}$ :

$$\sum_{K \in T_h} \int_{\partial K} \mathbf{n} \cdot \mathbf{v} \mu = 0 \quad \forall \mu \text{ constant on } e,$$

Plus boundary conditions:

$$\sum_{K \in T_h} \int_{\partial K} \mathbf{n} \cdot \mathbf{v} \mu \, d\gamma = \int_{\partial \Omega} g_N \mu \, d\gamma \quad \forall \mu \in \dots$$



## Mixed-Hybrid formulation:

Find  $(\mathbf{q}_h, u_h, \lambda_h) \in \dots$  such that:

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{\Omega} (\mathbf{K}^{-1} \mathbf{q}_h) \cdot \mathbf{v}_h - \sum_{K \in T_h} \left( \int_K u_h \nabla \cdot \mathbf{v}_h - \int_{\partial K} \lambda_h \mathbf{n} \cdot \mathbf{v}_h \right) &= 0 \quad \forall \mathbf{v}_h \dots \\ - \sum_{K \in T_h} \left( \int_K \nabla \cdot \mathbf{v}_h \varphi_h \right) &= - \int_{\Omega} f \varphi_h \quad \forall \varphi_h \dots \\ \sum_{K \in T_h} \int_{\partial K} \mathbf{n}_K \cdot \mathbf{v}_h \mu_h d\gamma &= \int_{\partial \Omega} g_N \mu_h d\gamma \quad \forall \mu_h \in \dots \end{aligned}$$

$\mathbf{v}_h$  vector function defined before

$\varphi_h$  constant on elements K

$\mu_h$  constant on faces/edges, a 'trace' of  $u$ .

There exists a unique solution of this system. Moreover, this solution are the same as the solution of the problem in mixed firmulation.

**Remark:** in mixed-hybrid formulation, Dirichlet BCs are **strongly fulfilled**. Neumann BC are fulfilled in a **weak sense**.

We arrived to a (hudge!) system of linear equations:

$$\begin{bmatrix} A & B & C \\ B^T & 0 & 0 \\ C^T & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \alpha \\ \beta \\ \lambda \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} F_1 \\ F_2 \\ F_3 \end{bmatrix}$$

Size of the system:

2x number of faces /edges + number of elements + number of faces/edges  
(-- faces/edges with Dirichlet BC)

So what have we gained ??????????????????

- It is possible to compute  $\alpha$  elementwise:

$$\alpha = A^{-1}(F_1 - B\beta - C\lambda)$$

- After substitution and some algebra:

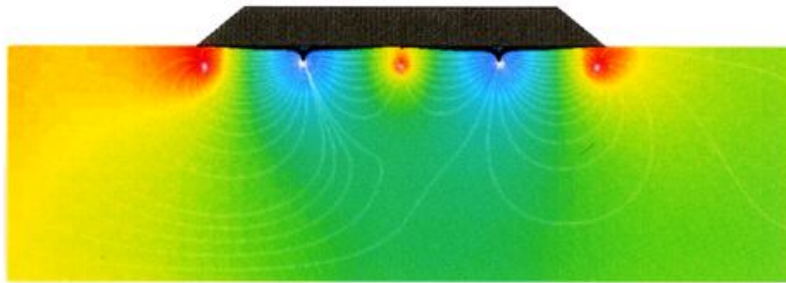
$$\beta = (B^T A^{-1} B)^{-1} (B^T A^{-1} (F_1 - C\lambda) - F_2)$$

- To finally get:

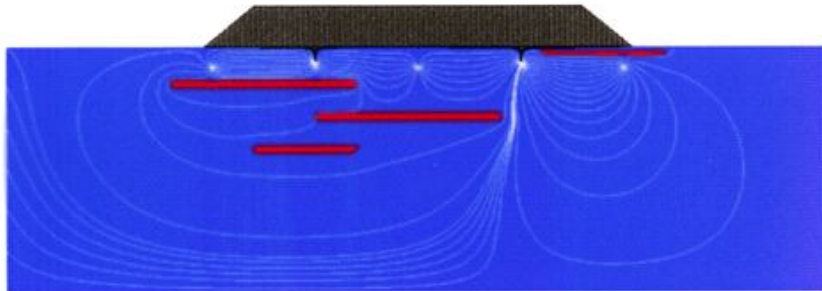
$D\lambda = F$ , with  $D=...$  and  $F=...$ .  $D$  is a matrix 3x3 in 2D (and 4x4 in 3D).

This 'small' (local) system of equations is inserted in to a global matrix, using a global numbering of faces/edges.

- The size of the final system of linear equations: number of faces/edges
- Once  $\lambda$  is computed,  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  are computed elementwise.
- Mass conservation is perfectly fulfilled



infiltration from a waste disposal:  
 0.004 m/d,  
 Regional flow 0.002 m/d  
 Domain 200m x 60 m  
 homogeneous, isotropic



Conductivity coefficients:  
 1 m/day (blue),  
 0.01 m/day (red)

