



# Lecture 6: Adaptive Mesh Refinement

Luca Heltai ([luca.heltai@sissa.it](mailto:luca.heltai@sissa.it))

# Aims for this module

- Implement adaptive mesh refinement
  - Hanging nodes
  - Error-based refinement marking
- Learn about the AffineConstraints

# Adaptive mesh refinement (AMR)

**Note:** The optimal strategy to minimize the error while keeping the problem as small as possible is to *equilibrate* the local contributions

$$e_K = C h_K \|u\|_{H^2(K)}$$

That is, we want to choose

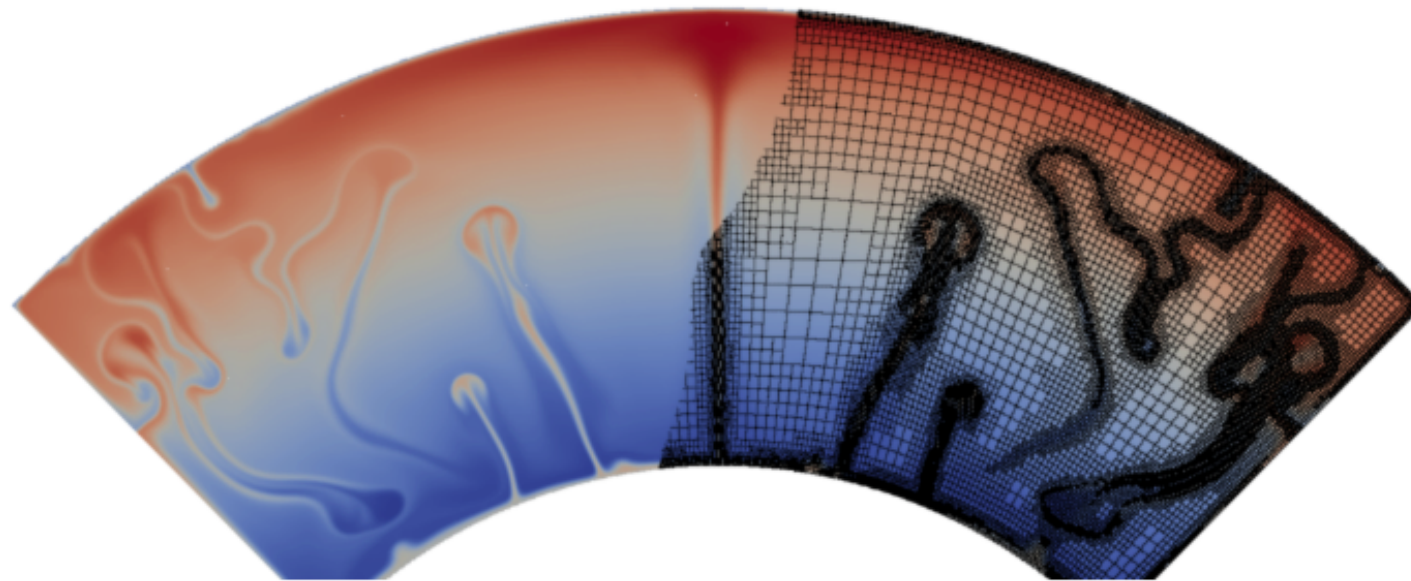
$$h_K \propto \frac{1}{\|u\|_{H^2(K)}}$$

**In practice:** Exact errors are unknown. Thus, use a local *indicator* of the error  $\eta_K$  and choose  $h_K$  so that

$$\sum_K \eta_K = \text{tol}$$

# Adaptive mesh refinement (AMR)

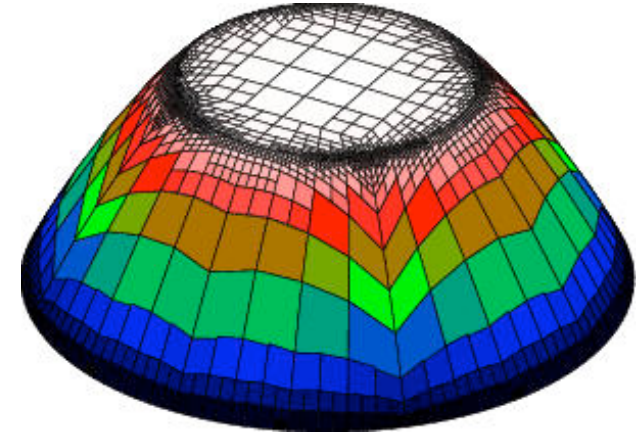
**Example:**



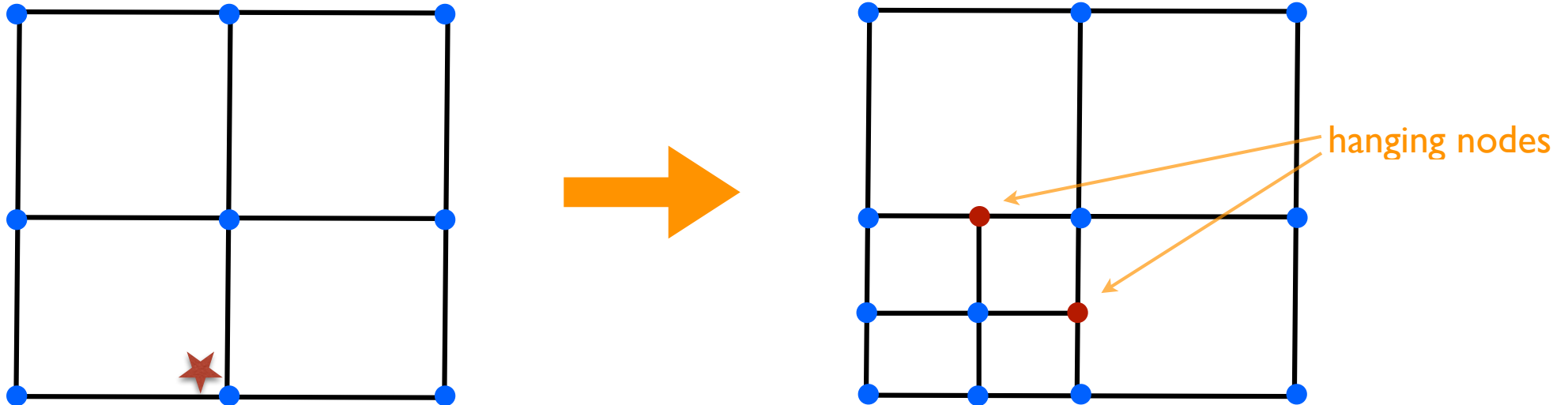
Refine only where “something is happening” (i.e., locally the second derivative of the solution is large).

# Adaptive mesh refinement

- Typical loop
  - Solve (non-)linear system
  - Estimate error
  - Mark cells
  - Refine/coarsen
- Error estimate is problem dependent:
  - Approximate gradient jumps: `KellyErrorEstimator` class
  - Approximate local norm of gradient: `DerivativeApproximation` class
  - Or something else
- Cell marking strategy:
  - `GridRefinement::refine_and_coarsen_fixed_number(...)`
  - `GridRefinement::refine_and_coarsen_fixed_fraction(...)`
- Refine/coarsen grid: `triangulation.execute_coarsening_and_refinement ()`
- Transferring the solution: `SolutionTransfer` class (discussed later)



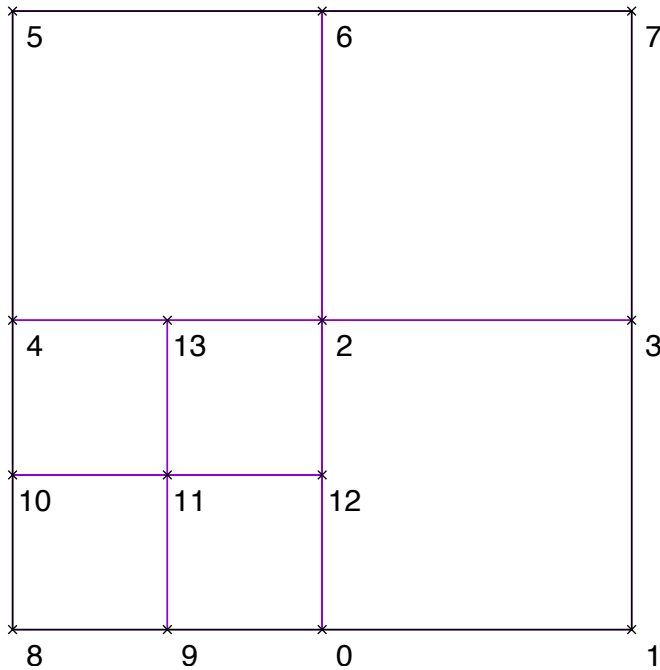
# Adaptive mesh refinement (quad/hex)



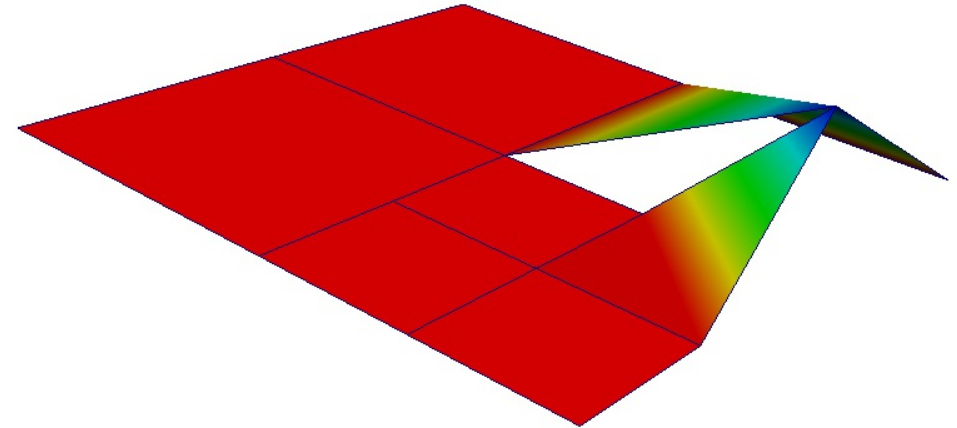
no easy options to keep the children of the top left/bottom right cell as quadrilaterals!

Solution: keep hanging nodes and “deal” with them in another way

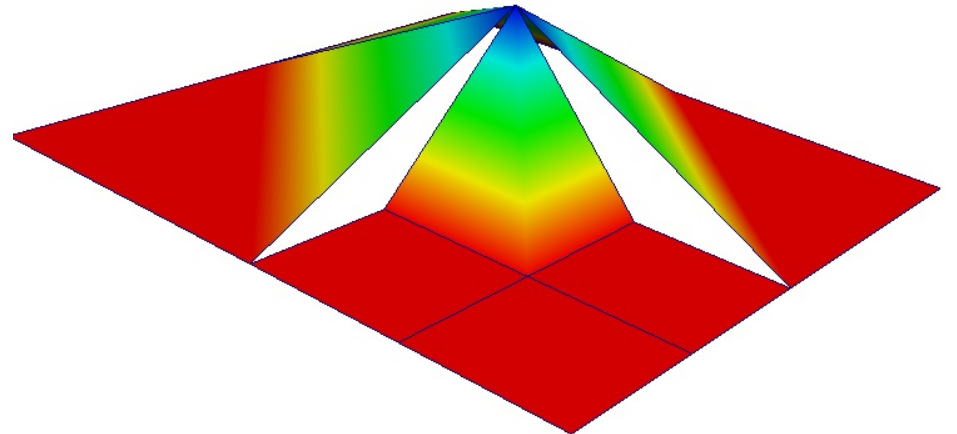
# Hanging nodes



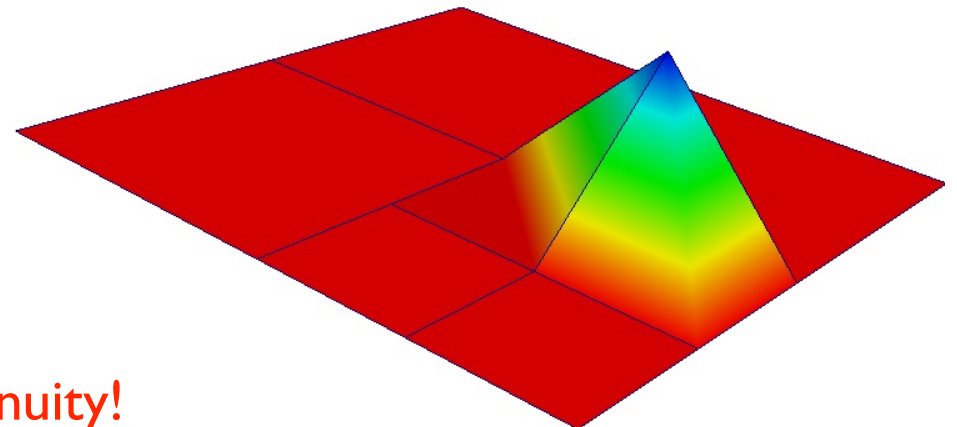
$N_0(\mathbf{x}) :$



$N_2(\mathbf{x}) :$



$N_{12}(\mathbf{x}) :$



Discontinuous FE space!

Not a subspace of  $H^1$

Bilinear forms would require special treatment as gradients are not defined everywhere

$$a(\phi_i, \phi_j) = \int_{\Omega} \nabla N_i(\mathbf{x}) \cdot \nabla N_j(\mathbf{x}) d\mathbf{v}$$

**Solution: introduce constraints to require continuity!**

# Hanging nodes

Use standard (possibly globally discontinuous) shape functions, but require continuity of their linear combination

$$\mathcal{S}^h = \{u^h = \sum_i u_i N_i(\mathbf{x}) : u^h(\mathbf{x}) \in C^0\}$$

Note, that we encounter discontinuities along edges 0-12-2 and 2-13-4.

We can make the function continuous by making it continuous at vertices 12 and 13:

$$u_{12} = \frac{1}{2}u_0 + \frac{1}{2}u_2$$

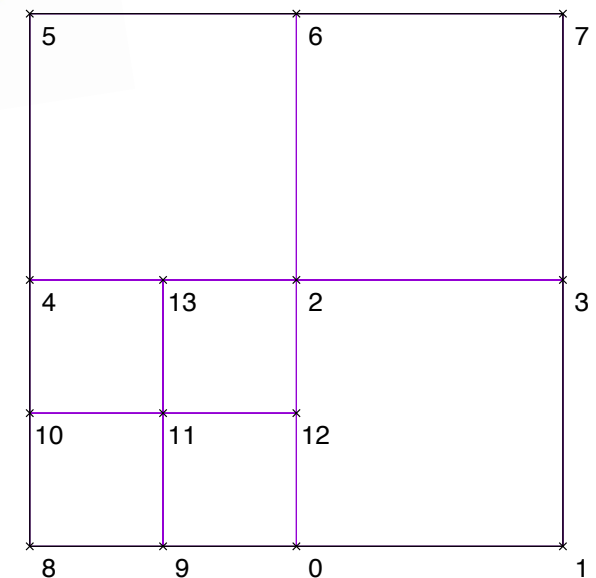
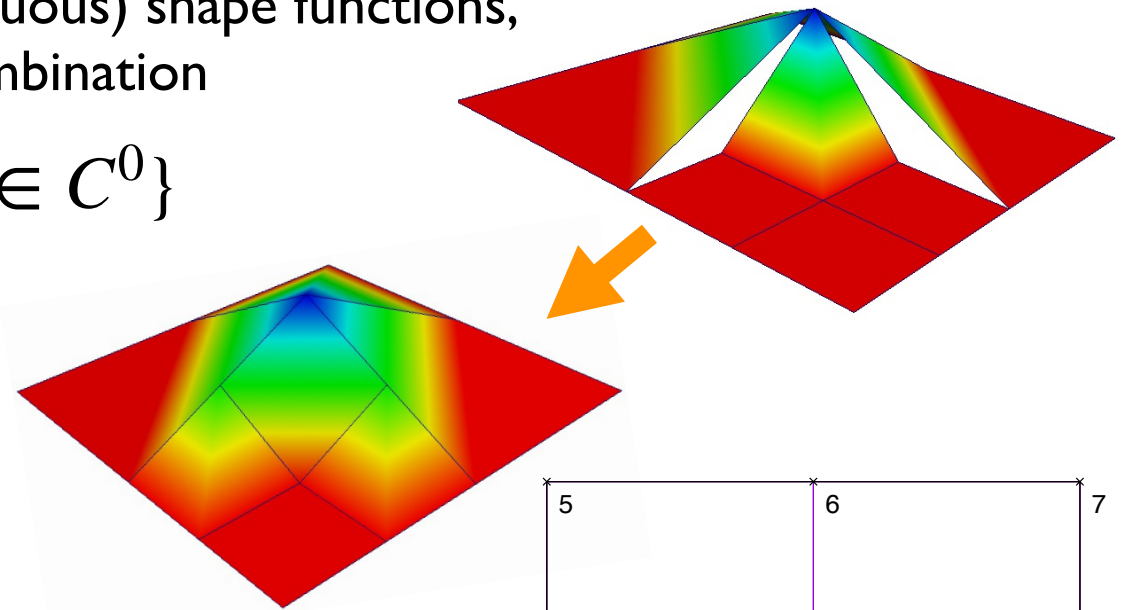
$$u_{13} = \frac{1}{2}u_2 + \frac{1}{2}u_4$$

The general form:

$$u_i = \sum_{j \in \mathcal{N}} c_{ij} u_j + b_i \quad \forall i \in \mathcal{N}_C$$

define a subset of all DoFs to be constrained

$$\mathcal{N}_C \subset \mathcal{N}$$



similar constraints arise from boundary conditions (normal/tangential component) or hp-adaptive FE

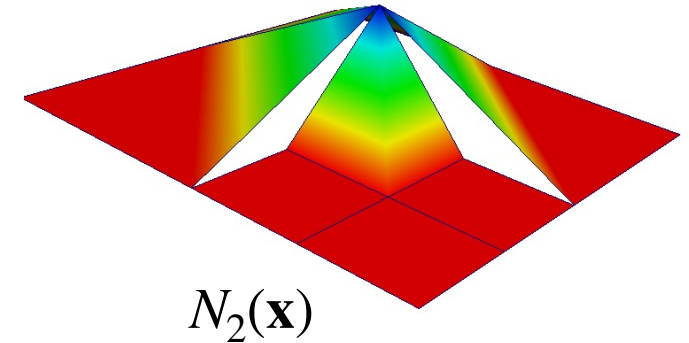
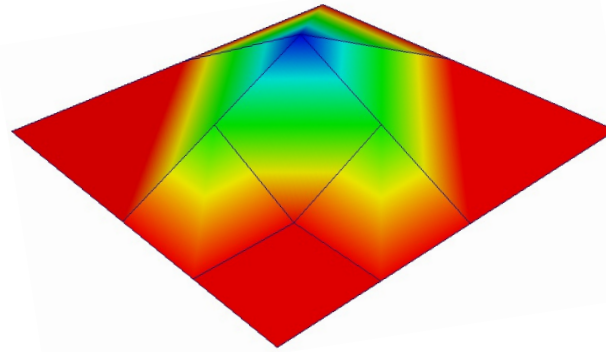


# Condensed shape functions

The alternative viewpoint is to construct a set of conforming shape functions:

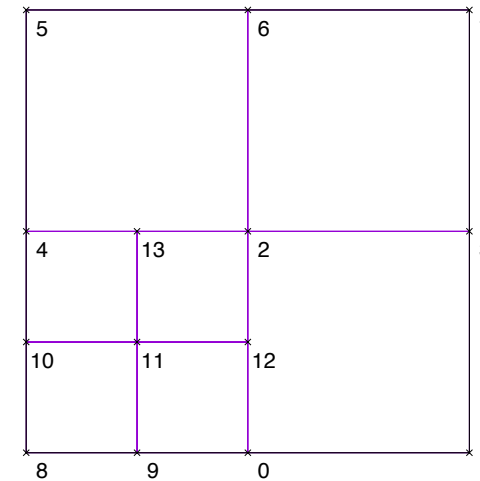
$$\widetilde{N}_2 := N_2 + \frac{1}{2}N_{13} + \frac{1}{2}N_{12}$$

$$\mathcal{S}^h = \{u^h = \sum_{i \in \mathcal{N} \setminus \mathcal{N}_c} u_i \widetilde{N}_i(\mathbf{x})\}$$



$$[\mathbf{K}]_{ij} = \begin{cases} a(\widetilde{N}_i, \widetilde{N}_j) & \text{if } i \in \mathcal{N} \setminus \mathcal{N}_c \text{ and } j \in \mathcal{N} \setminus \mathcal{N}_c \\ 1 & \text{if } i \equiv j \text{ and } j \in \mathcal{N}_c \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

$$[\mathbf{F}]_i = \begin{cases} (f, \widetilde{N}_i) & \text{if } i \in \mathcal{N} \setminus \mathcal{N}_c \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$



The beauty of the approach is that we can assemble local matrix and RHS as usual and then obtain condensed forms in a separate step, i.e

$$\forall i \in \mathcal{N} \setminus \mathcal{N}_c : [\mathbf{F}]_i = (f, \widetilde{N}_i) = (f, N_i + \sum_{j \in \mathcal{N}_c} c_{ji} N_j) = (f, N_i) + \sum_{j \in \mathcal{N}_c} c_{ji} (f, N_j) = [\widetilde{\mathbf{F}}]_i + \sum_{j \in \mathcal{N}_c} c_{ji} [\mathbf{F}]_j$$

# Algebraic form

$$\mathbf{x} =: \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{x}_u \\ \mathbf{x}_m \\ \mathbf{x}_c \end{bmatrix} \quad \begin{array}{l} \text{not involved in constraints} \\ \text{master dofs in constraints} \\ \text{constrained dofs} \end{array}$$

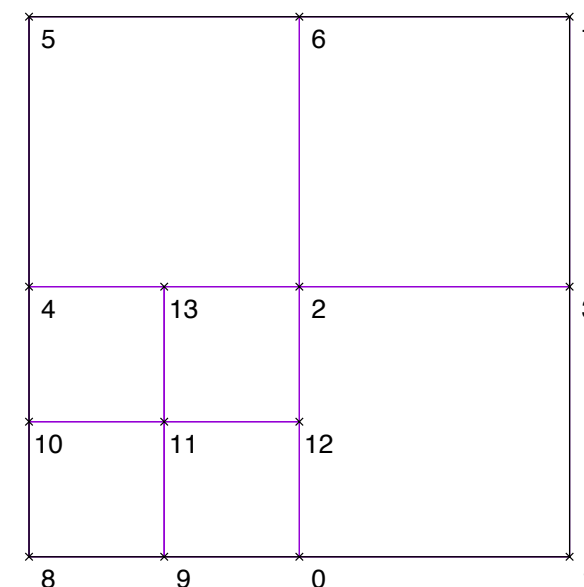
$$\begin{bmatrix} u_{12} \\ u_{13} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0.5 & 0.5 & 0 \\ 0 & 0.5 & 0.5 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} u_0 \\ u_2 \\ u_4 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\mathbf{x}_c = \mathbf{C} \mathbf{x}_m$$

$$\mathbf{\Gamma} := \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{I}_u & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{I}_m \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{C} \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{transformation matrix}$$

The condensed matrix and vector can be written as

$$\mathbf{K} = \mathbf{\Gamma}^T \widetilde{\mathbf{K}} \mathbf{\Gamma} \quad \mathbf{F} = \mathbf{\Gamma}^T \widetilde{\mathbf{F}}$$



To look closer at what condensation does, write the original matrix/vector in block form:

$$\widetilde{\mathbf{K}} =: \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{K}_{uu} & \mathbf{K}_{um} & \mathbf{K}_{uc} \\ \mathbf{K}_{mu} & \mathbf{K}_{mm} & \mathbf{K}_{mc} \\ \mathbf{K}_{cu} & \mathbf{K}_{cm} & \mathbf{K}_{cc} \end{bmatrix} \quad \widetilde{\mathbf{F}} =: \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{F}_u \\ \mathbf{F}_m \\ \mathbf{F}_c \end{bmatrix} \quad \mathbf{F} =: \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{F}_u \\ \mathbf{F}_m + \mathbf{C}^T \mathbf{F}_c \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\mathbf{K} =: \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{K}_{uu} & \mathbf{K}_{um} + \mathbf{K}_{uc} \mathbf{C} \\ \mathbf{K}_{mu} + \mathbf{C}^T \mathbf{K}_{cu} & \mathbf{K}_{mm} + \mathbf{C}^T \mathbf{K}_{cm} + \mathbf{K}_{mc} \mathbf{C} + \mathbf{C}^T \mathbf{K}_{cc} \mathbf{C} \end{bmatrix}$$

# Using constraints:

- The beauty of the FEM is that we do exactly the same thing on every cell
- In other words: assembly on cells with hanging nodes should work exactly as on cells without

# Approach 1 (step-3):

$$\widetilde{\mathcal{S}}^h = \{u^h = \sum_i u_i N_i(x)\}$$

this is not a continuous space, but we may still use it as an intermediate step for matrices!

$$\mathcal{S}^h = \{u^h = \sum_i u_i N_i(x) : u^h(x) \in C^0\}$$

Step 1: Build matrix/rhs  $\widetilde{\mathbf{K}}, \widetilde{\mathbf{F}}$  with all DoFs as if there were no constraints.

Step 2: Modify  $\widetilde{\mathbf{K}}, \widetilde{\mathbf{F}}$  to get  $\mathbf{K}, \mathbf{F}$

i.e. eliminate the rows and columns of the matrix that correspond to constrained degrees of freedom

Step 3: Solve  $\mathbf{K} \cdot \mathbf{u} = \mathbf{F}$

Step 4: Fill in the constrained components of  $\mathbf{u}$  to use  $\widetilde{\mathcal{S}}^h$  for evaluation of the field.

Disadvantages: (i) bottleneck for 3d or higher order/hp FEM; (ii) hard to implement in parallel where a process may not have access to all elements of the matrix; (iii) two matrices may have different sparsity pattern.



# Approach 2 (step-6):

$$\widetilde{\mathcal{S}}^h = \{u^h = \sum_i u_i N_i(x)\}$$

$$\mathcal{S}^h = \{u^h = \sum_i u_i N_i(x) : u^h(x) \in C^0\}$$

Step 1: Build local matrix/rhs  $\widetilde{\mathbf{K}}_K, \widetilde{\mathbf{F}}_K$  with all DoFs as if there were no constraints.

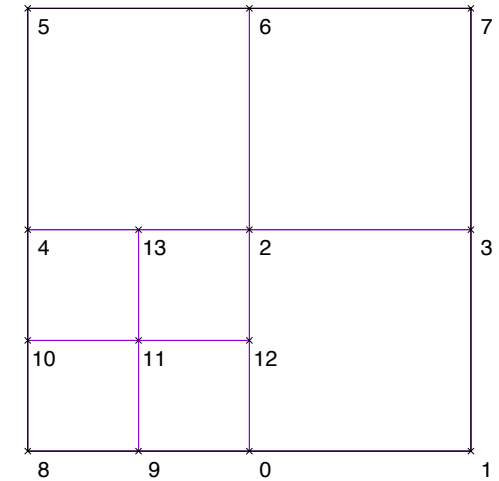
Step 2: Apply constraints during assembly operation (local-to-global)  $\mathbf{K}_K, \mathbf{F}_K$

Step 3: Solve  $\mathbf{K} \cdot \mathbf{u} = \mathbf{F}$

Step 4: Fill in the constrained components of  $\mathbf{u}$  to use  $\widetilde{\mathcal{S}}^h$  for evaluation of the field.

# Approach 2 (example):

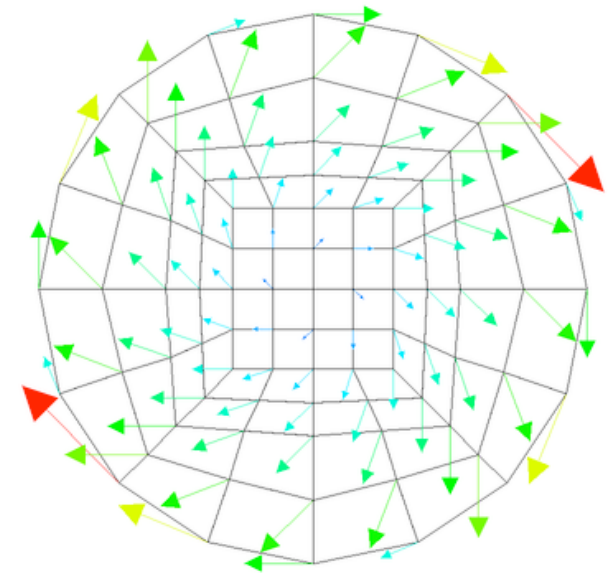
$$\begin{bmatrix} u_{12} \\ u_{13} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0.5 & 0.5 & 0 \\ 0 & 0.5 & 0.5 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} u_0 \\ u_2 \\ u_4 \end{bmatrix}$$



```
=====
Number of active cells: 7
Number of degrees of freedom: 14
===== constraints =====
12 0: 0.5
12 2: 0.5
13 2: 0.5
13 4: 0.5
===== condensed =====
===== matrix =====
1.500e+00 -1.667e-01 -8.333e-02 -3.333e-01 -8.333e-02 -3.333e-01 -3.333e-01 -5.000e-01 0.000e+00
-1.667e-01 6.667e-01 -3.333e-01 -1.667e-01 -8.333e-02 -3.333e-01 -3.333e-01 -3.333e-01 -1.667e-01
-8.333e-02 -3.333e-01 2.833e+00 -3.333e-01 -8.333e-02 -3.333e-01 -3.333e-01 -3.333e-01 -1.667e-01
-3.333e-01 -1.667e-01 -3.333e-01 1.333e+00 -8.333e-02 -3.333e-01 -3.333e-01 -3.333e-01 -1.667e-01
-8.333e-02 -8.333e-02 1.500e+00 -1.667e-01 -3.333e-01 -3.333e-01 -5.000e-01 0.000e+00
-3.333e-01 -1.667e-01 6.667e-01 -1.667e-01 -3.333e-01 -3.333e-01 -3.333e-01 -3.333e-01
-3.333e-01 -3.333e-01 -3.333e-01 -1.667e-01 1.333e+00 -1.667e-01 -1.667e-01 6.667e-01
-3.333e-01 -1.667e-01 -1.667e-01 1.333e+00 -3.333e-01 -3.333e-01 -3.333e-01 -3.333e-01
-3.333e-01 -1.667e-01 -1.667e-01 1.333e+00 -3.333e-01 -3.333e-01 -3.333e-01 -3.333e-01
-5.000e-01 -6.667e-01 -5.000e-01 -3.333e-01 -3.333e-01 -3.333e-01 2.667e+00 0.000e+00 0.000e+00
0.000e+00 0.000e+00 0.000e+00 0.000e+00 0.000e+00 0.000e+00 1.333e+00 0.000e+00 1.333e+00
0.000e+00 0.000e+00 0.000e+00 0.000e+00 0.000e+00 0.000e+00 0.000e+00 1.333e+00 1.333e+00
```

# Applying constraints: the AffineConstraints class

- This class is used for
  - Hanging nodes
  - Dirichlet and periodic constraints
  - Other constraints
- Linear constraints of the the form





# Applying constraints: the AffineConstraints class

- System setup
  - Hanging node constraints created using  
`DoFTools::make_hanging_node_constraints()`
  - Will also use for boundary values from now on:  
`VectorTools::interpolate_boundary_values(..., constraints);`
  - Need different SparsityPattern creator  
`DoFTools::make_sparsity_pattern (... , constraints, ...)`
    - Can remove constraints from linear system  
`DoFTools::make_sparsity_pattern (... , constraints, / *keep_constrained_dofs = * / false)`
  - Sorted, rearrange, optimise constraints  
`constraints.close()`

# Applying constraints: the AffineConstraints class

- Assembly
  - Assemble local matrix and vector as normal
  - Eliminate while transferring to global matrix:  
`constraints.distribute_local_to_global (`  
    `cell_matrix, cell_rhs,`  
    `local_dof_indices,`  
    `system_matrix, system_rhs);`
  - Solve and then set all constraint values correctly:  
`ConstraintMatrix::distribute(...)`

# deal.II methods and classes for AMR

- Error estimate is problem dependent:
  - Approximate gradient jumps: `KellyErrorEstimator` class
  - Approximate local norm of gradient: `DerivativeApproximation` class
  - ... or something else
- Cell marking strategy:
  - `GridRefinement::refine_and_coarsen_fixed_number(...)`
  - `GridRefinement::refine_and_coarsen_fixed_fraction(...)`
  - `GridRefinement::refine_and_coarsen_optimize(...)`
- Refine/coarsen grid:  
`triangulation.execute_coarsening_and_refinement ()`
- Transferring the solution: `SolutionTransfer` class (discussed later)

# Reference material

- Tutorials
  - [https://dealii.org/current/doxygen/deal.II/step\\_6.html](https://dealii.org/current/doxygen/deal.II/step_6.html)
  - <http://www.math.colostate.edu/~bangerth/videos.676.15.html>
  - <http://www.math.colostate.edu/~bangerth/videos.676.16.html>
  - <http://www.math.colostate.edu/~bangerth/videos.676.17.html>
  - <http://www.math.colostate.edu/~bangerth/videos.676.17.25.html>
  - <http://www.math.colostate.edu/~bangerth/videos.676.17.5.html>
  - <http://www.math.colostate.edu/~bangerth/videos.676.17.75.html>
- Documentation
  - [https://dealii.org/current/doxygen/deal.II/group\\_\\_constraints.html](https://dealii.org/current/doxygen/deal.II/group__constraints.html)
  - [https://dealii.org/current/doxygen/deal.II/group\\_\\_grid.html](https://dealii.org/current/doxygen/deal.II/group__grid.html)
  - <https://dealii.org/current/doxygen/deal.II/namespaceGridRefinement.html>
  - <https://dealii.org/current/doxygen/deal.II/namespaceDerivativeApproximation.html>