

# PDEs in FEniCS

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Ευρωπαϊκή Ένωση  
Ευρωπαϊκό Κοινωνικό Ταμείο



ΥΠΟΥΡΓΕΙΟ ΠΑΙΔΕΙΑΣ ΚΑΙ ΘΡΗΣΚΕΥΜΑΤΩΝ  
ΕΙΔΙΚΗ ΥΠΗΡΕΣΙΑ ΔΙΑΧΕΙΡΙΣΗΣ

Με τη συγχρηματοδότηση της Ελλάδας και της Ευρωπαϊκής Ένωσης



# What is FEniCS

“The FEniCS Project is a collection of free software with an extensive list of features for automated, efficient solution of differential equations.”

<http://fenicsproject.org/>



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# FEniCS is a multi-institutional project

- Initiated 2003 by Univ. of Chicago and Chalmers Univ. of Technology (Ridgway Scott and Claes Johnson)
- Important contributions from
  - Univ. of Chicago (Rob Kirby, Andy Terrel, Matt Knepley, R. Scott)
  - Chalmers Univ. of Technology (Anders Logg, Johan Hoffman, Johan Janson)
  - Delft Univ. of Technology (Garth Wells, Kristian Oelgaard)
- Current key institutions:
  - Simula Research Laboratory (Anders Logg, Marie Rognes, Martin Alnæs, Johan Hake, Kent-Andre Mardal, ...)
  - Cambridge University (Garth Wells, ...)
- About 20 active developers
- Lots of application developers



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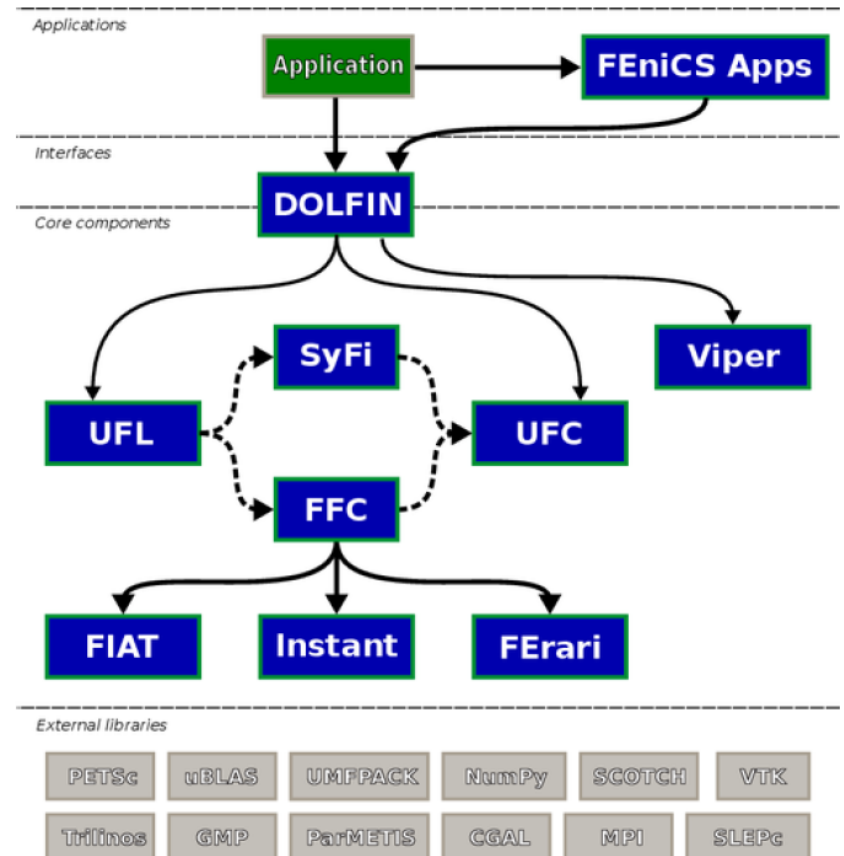
# FEniCS Features

- Automated solution of variational problems
- Automated error control and adaptivity
- An extensive library of finite elements
- High performance linear algebra: PETSc, Trilinos/Epetra, uBlas, MTL4
- Computational Meshes: adaptive refinement, mesh partitioning (parmetis, scotch)
- Visualization and plotting
- Extensive documentation: It has its own book!



# FEniCS Components

- DOLFIN: Problem solving environment
- FFC: FEniCS Form compiler
- FIAT: Finite element Automatic Tabulator
- UFC: Unified Form-assembly Code Code generation interface
- UFL: the Unified Form-assembly Code
- JIT compiler: instant



# FEniCS is easy to install

- Easiest on Ubuntu (Debian):  
`sudo apt-get install fenics`
- Mac OS X drag and drop installation (.dmg file)
- Windows binary installer
- Automated installation from source (compile & link)

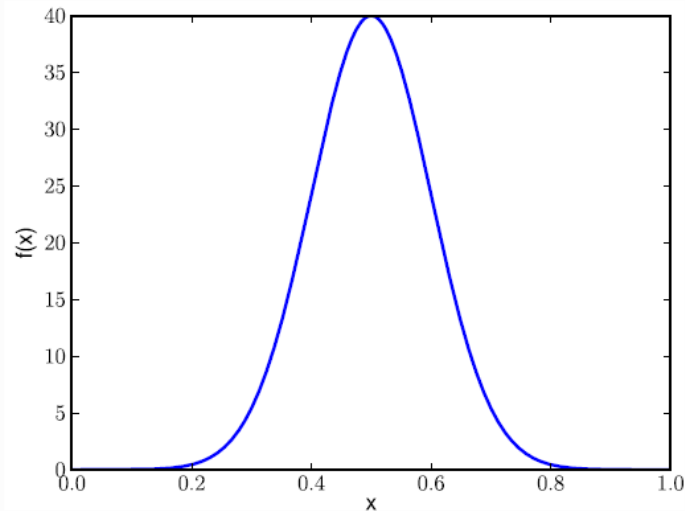


We will first use FEniCS to solve a stationary diffusion problem, the Poisson equation on the unit interval

Poisson

$$-u'' = f(x); \quad u'(0) = 4; \quad u(1) = 0$$

Source,  $f(x)$



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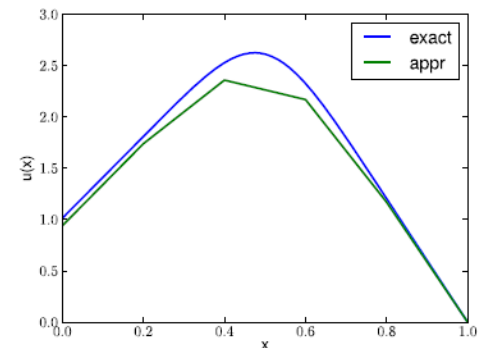




The problem can be stated, solved and plotted, using a **PyDOLFIN** script written in 16 lines

```
>>> from dolfin import *
>>>
>>> mesh = UnitInterval(5)
>>> V = FunctionSpace(mesh, "CG", 1)
>>>
>>> def right(x, on_boundary):
...     return x > 1-DOLFIN_EPS
...
>>> g = Constant(0)
>>> bc = DirichletBC(V, g, right)
>>>
>>> f = Expression("A*exp(-pow(x[0]-0.5,2)/(2*pow(sigma,2)))")
>>> f.A, f.sigma = 40, 0.1
>>>
>>> u = TrialFunction(V)
>>> v = TestFunction(V)
>>>
>>> a = inner(grad(v), grad(u))*dx
>>> L = f*v*dx - 4*v*ds
>>>
>>> problem = VariationalProblem(a, L, bc)
>>> u = problem.solve()
>>>
>>> plot(u)
```

$$\begin{aligned}-u'' &= f \\ u'(0) &= 4 \\ u(1) &= 0\end{aligned}$$



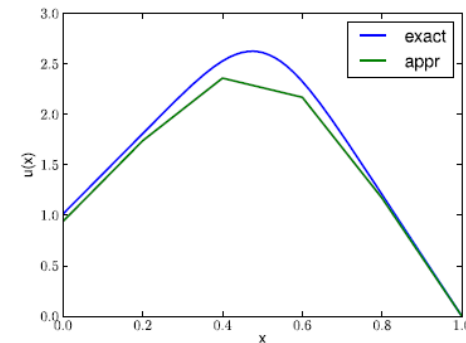


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```

Domain  
Solution space

$$\begin{aligned}-u'' &= f \\ u'(0) &= 4 \\ u(1) &= 0\end{aligned}$$

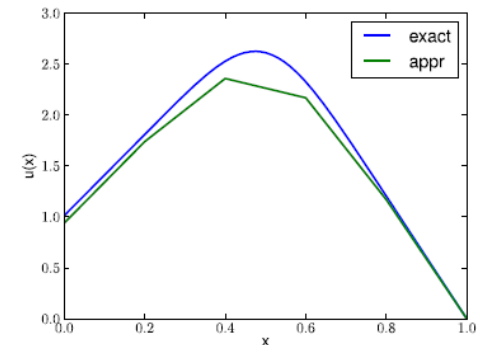


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```

Boundary  
condition

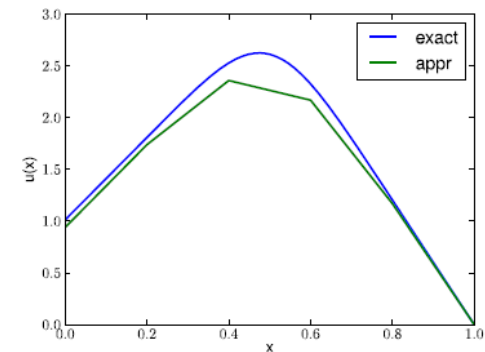
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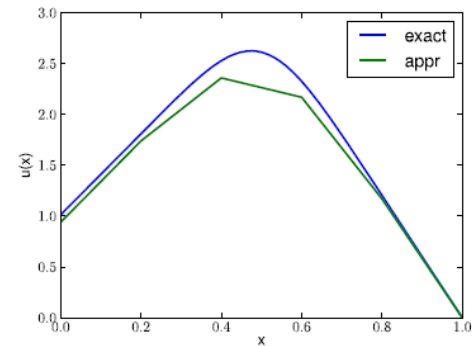


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Variational formulation

$$\begin{aligned}-u'' &= f \\ u'(0) &= 4 \\ u(1) &= 0\end{aligned}$$

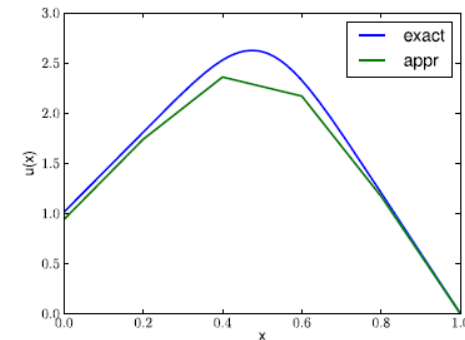


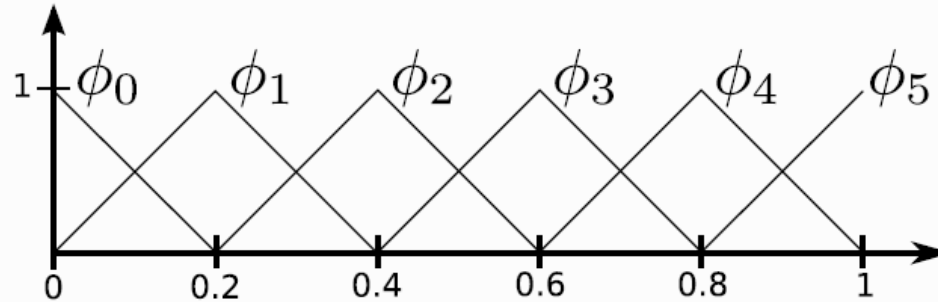
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Solve and plot

$$\begin{aligned}-u'' &= f \\ u'(0) &= 4 \\ u(1) &= 0\end{aligned}$$





A **FunctionSpace** in PyDOLFIN takes a mesh and a *finite element* as arguments.

```
>>> mesh = UnitInterval(5)
>>> V = FunctionSpace(mesh, "Lagrange", 1)
```



Any scalar function on the domain can be approximated using a linear combination of the basis functions in the **FunctionSpace**

### Discrete **Function**

$$\begin{aligned}u(x) &\simeq \sum_{j=0}^5 u_j \phi_j(x) \\&= u_0 \phi_0 + u_1 \phi_1 + u_2 \phi_2 + \\&\quad u_3 \phi_3 + u_4 \phi_4 + u_5 \phi_5 \\U &= [u_0, u_1, u_2, u_3, u_4, u_5]\end{aligned}$$

Evaluation is done by interpolation

```
>>> u = Function(V)
>>> u.vector().array()
[ 0.,  0.,  0.,  0.,  0.,  0.]
>>> u(0.1)
0.0
>>> u.vector()[0] = 1
>>> u(0.1)
0.49999999999999967
```

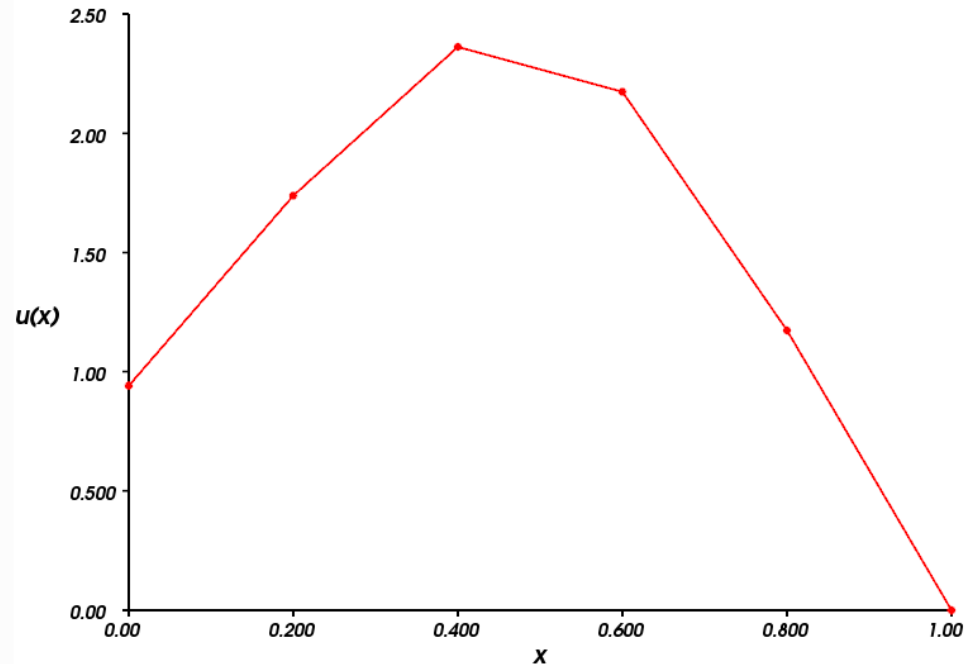
- $U$  is called the vector of *expansion coefficients*





# The solution of our problem is a discrete **Function**

Solution:  $u(x)$



```
>>> plot(u)
>>> u.vector().array()
array([ 0.94,  1.74,  2.36,  2.17,  1.17,  0.  ])
```



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The PDE can be re-written using the *discrete weak* formulation, which eventually will let us describe our problem as a *linear algebraic system*:  $Ax = b$

### Strong formulation

$$-u'' = f$$

- Should be true for every point (*strong*) in space

### Discrete weak formulation

$$u(x) = \sum_{j=0}^5 u_j \phi_j(x)$$

$$-\int_0^1 u'' \phi_i dx = \int_0^1 f \phi_i dx, \quad i = 0, \dots, 5$$

- By weighting the equation with  $\phi_i$  and taking the integral over the whole domain, we solve an approximation of  $u$  (*weak*)



Before we simplify the *weak form*, we treat the *dirichlet* boundary condition:  $u(1) = 0$

- The *dirichlet* boundary conditions at  $x=1$ , is treated by letting  $\phi_i(1) = 0 (\Rightarrow \phi_5 = 0)$
- Then adding a function  $g(x)$  to our *function space* which equals 0 at  $x=1$

$$u(x) = \sum_{j=0}^5 u_j \phi_j(x) + g(x)$$

```
>>> def right(x, on_boundary):  
...     return x > 1-DOLFIN_EPS  
...  
>>> g = Constant(0)  
>>> bc = DirichletBC(V, g, right)
```



To be able to use piecewise linear basis functions, we need to partial integrate the left hand side of the (discrete) weak form as,  $\int_0^1 u'' \phi_i dx = 0$

Integration by parts

$$-\int_0^1 u'v dx = \int_0^1 uv' dx - [uv]_0^1$$



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Integration by parts

$$\begin{aligned} - \int_0^1 u' v dx &= \int_0^1 uv' dx - [uv]_0^1 \\ - \int_0^1 u'' \phi_i dx &= \int_0^1 u' \phi_i' dx + u'(0)\phi_i(0) - u'(1)\phi_i(1) \end{aligned}$$

- This includes the derivatives at the boundaries!



To be able to use piecewise linear basis functions, we need to partial integrate the left hand side of the (discrete) weak form as,  $\int_0^1 u'' \phi_i dx = 0$

### Integration by parts

$$\begin{aligned} - \int_0^1 u' v dx &= \int_0^1 uv' dx - [uv]_0^1 \\ - \int_0^1 u'' \phi_i dx &= \int_0^1 u' \phi'_i dx + u'(0)\phi_i(0) - u'(1)\phi_i(1) \end{aligned}$$

- This includes the derivatives at the boundaries!
- Recall that our *boundary conditions* implies that  $\phi_i(1) = 0$  and  $u'(0) = 4$ , which gives us:

$$\int_0^1 u' \phi'_i dx = \int_0^1 f \phi_i dx - 4\phi_i(1), \quad i = 0, \dots, 5$$



We are now ready to describe the *weak form* as a *linear algebraic system*:  $Ax = b$

$$\text{LHS: } \int_0^1 u' \phi_i' dx = \int_0^1 \left( \sum_{j=0}^5 u_j \phi_j \right)' \phi_i' dx$$





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$$\sum_{j=0}^5 \left( \int_0^1 \phi_j' \phi_i' dx \right) u_j = \int_0^1 f \phi_i dx - 4\phi_i(0), \quad i = 0, \dots, 5$$



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$Ax = b$ , where :

$$A_{ij} = \int_0^1 \phi_j' \phi_i' dx, \quad x_j = u_j \quad \text{and} \quad b_i = \int_0^1 f \phi_i dx - 4\phi_i(0)$$



**PyDOLFIN** provides functionality to assemble the *matrix A* and the *vector b* (using numerical integration), and to solve the linear system

Recall that after integration by part we had:

$$\int_0^1 u' \phi_i' dx = \int_0^1 f \phi_i dx - 4\phi_i(0), \quad i = 0, \dots, 5$$



**PyDOLFIN** provides functionality to assemble the *matrix A* and the *vector b* (using numerical integration), and to solve the linear system

Recall that after integration by part we had:

$$\int_0^1 u' \phi_i' dx = \int_0^1 f \phi_i dx - 4\phi_i(0), \quad i = 0, \dots, 5$$

We use  $v$  instead of  $\phi_i$  and we can write our problem as:  
find  $u \in V$  such that

$$a(u, v) = L(v), \quad \forall v \in V, \quad \text{where}$$

$$a(u, v) = \int_{\Omega} u' v' dx \quad \text{and} \quad L(v) = \int_{\Omega} f v dx - \int_{\partial\Omega} 4v ds$$

*The variational formulation*



# UFL in FEniCS can be used to describe variational forms, and PyDOLFIN can be used to solve Variational Problems

Mathematical notation:

find  $u \in V$  such that

$$a(u, v) = L(v), \quad \forall v \in V$$

where:

$$a(u, v) = \int_{\Omega} u' v' dx$$

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**PyDOLFIN** notation:

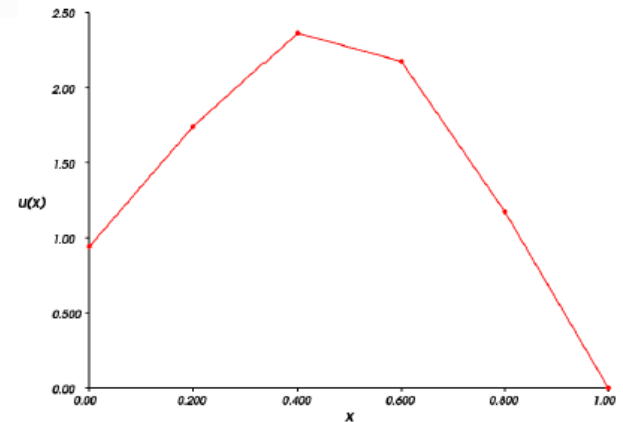
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>>> problem = VariationalProblem(a, L, bc)
>>> u = problem.solve()
```



```

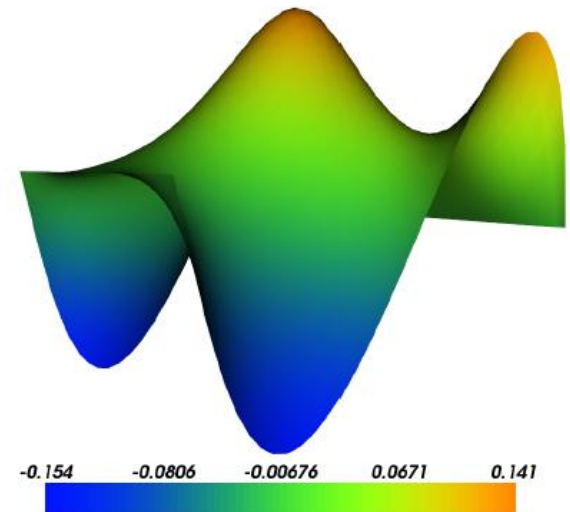
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>>>
>>> plot(u)

```



$$-\nabla^2 u = f; \quad \frac{\partial u}{\partial n}(:, [0, 1]) = g; \quad u([0, 1], :) = 0$$

```
>>> from dolfin import *
>>>
>>> mesh = UnitSquare(32, 32)
>>> V = FunctionSpace(mesh, "CG", 1)
>>>
>>> def boundary(x):
...     return x[0] < DOLFIN_EPS or x[0] > 1.0 - DOLFIN_EPS
...
>>> u0 = Constant(0.0)
>>> bc = DirichletBC(V, u0, boundary)
>>>
>>> v = TestFunction(V)
>>> u = TrialFunction(V)
>>> f = Expression("10*exp(-(pow(x[0] - 0.5, 2) + pow(x[1] - 0.5, 2)) / 0.02)")
>>> g = Expression("-sin(5*x[0])")
>>> a = inner(grad(v), grad(u))*dx
>>> L = v*f*dx + v*g*ds
>>>
>>> problem = VariationalProblem(a, L, bc)
>>> u = problem.solve()
>>> plot(u, interactive=True)
```

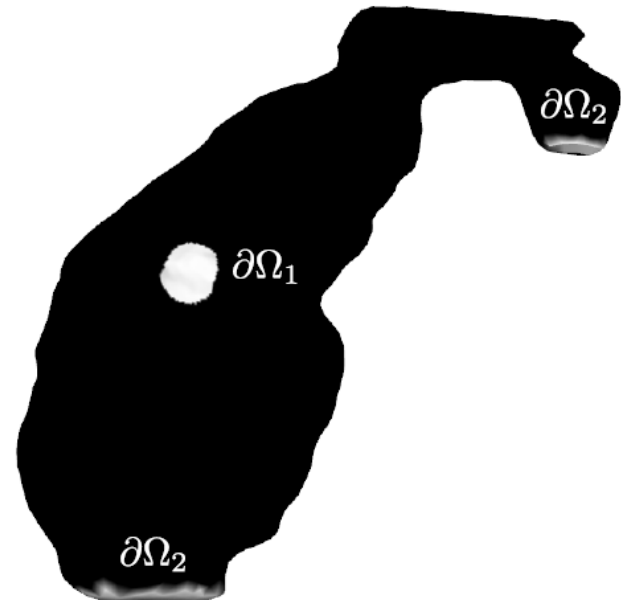




Time dependent system, like the diffusion equation, can be solved using the same framework

### PDE

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{u} &= D \nabla^2 u && \text{in } \Omega \\ D \frac{\partial u}{\partial n} &= J(t) && \text{on } \partial\Omega_1 \\ u &= 1 && \text{on } \partial\Omega_2 \\ u(0, :) &= 1 \\ J(t) &= \begin{cases} 100 & : t \leq J_{stop} \\ 0 & : t > J_{stop} \end{cases} \end{aligned}$$



# Diffusion equation solved using **PyDOLFIN**

## (Domain declarations)

```
>>> from dolfin import *
>>>
>>> mesh = Mesh("single-TT.xml.gz")
>>> subdomains = MeshFunction("uint", mesh, 2)
>>> V = FunctionSpace(mesh, "CG", 1)
>>>
>>> tstop = 3.0; J_stop = 2.0; dt = 0.02; u0 = 1; J0 = 100; D = 100
>>>
>>> class Outflow(SubDomain):
...     def inside(self, x, on_boundary):
...         return (on_boundary and -110 < x[0] and x[0] < -50 and \
...                 70 < x[1] and x[1] < 130 and \
...                 22 < x[2] and x[2] < 82) or (5 < x[0] and x[0] < 75 and \
...                 -105 < x[1] and x[1] < -35 and \
...                 -210 < x[2] and x[2] < -140)
...
>>> class Inflow(SubDomain):
...     def inside(self, x, on_boundary):
...         return on_boundary and ((x[0]-65)**2+(x[1]+30)**2+x[2]**2 < 16**2)
...
>>> outflow = Outflow()
>>> inflow = Inflow()
>>>
>>> inflow.mark(subdomains, 2)
>>>
>>> out_values = Constant(1)
>>> bc = DirichletBC(V, out_values, outflow)
```



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Domain,  
Subdomains &  
Solution space



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Model parameters



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>>>
>>> class Outflow(SubDomain):
...     def inside(self, x, on_boundary):
...         return (on_boundary and -110 < x[0] and x[0] < -50 and \
...             70 < x[1] and x[1] < 130 and \
...             22 < x[2] and x[2] < 82) or (5 < x[0] and x[0] < 75 and \
...             -105 < x[1] and x[1] < -35 and \
...             -210 < x[2] and x[2] < -140)
...
>>> class Inflow(SubDomain):
...     def inside(self, x, on_boundary):
...         return on_boundary and ((x[0]-65)**2+(x[1]+30)**2+x[2]**2 < 16**2)
...
>>> outflow = Outflow()
>>> inflow = Inflow()
>>>
>>> inflow.mark(subdomains, 2)
>>>
>>> out_values = Constant(1)
>>> bc = DirichletBC(V, out_values, outflow)
```

Define boundaries





# Diffusion equation solved using **PyDOLFIN** (linear algebra initialization)

```
>>> u = TrialFunction(V)
>>> v = TestFunction(V)
>>>
>>> K = assemble(inner(grad(u),grad(v))*dx)
>>> M = assemble(u*v*dx)
>>> source = assemble(v*ds(2), exterior_facet_domains=subdomains)
>>>
>>> u_n = Function(V)
>>>
>>> A = K.copy()
>>> b = Vector(A.size(1))
>>> b[:] = 0.0
>>> x = u_n.vector()
>>> x[:] = u0
```



# Diffusion equation solved using **PyDOLFIN**

## (linear algebra initialization)

```
>>> u = TrialFunction(V)
>>> v = TestFunction(V)
>>>
>>> K = assemble(inner(grad(u), grad(v))*dx)
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>>> u_n = Function(V)
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>>> A = K.copy()
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>>> b[:] = 0.0
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>>> x[:] = u0
```

Basis functions





# Diffusion equation solved using **PyDOLFIN**

## (linear algebra initialization)

```
>>> u = TrialFunction(V)
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>>> b[:] = 0.0
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>>> x[:] = u0
```

Assemble tensors



# Diffusion equation solved using **PyDOLFIN** (linear algebra initialization)

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>>> u = TrialFunction(V)
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>>>
>>> u_n = Function(V)
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>>> A = K.copy()
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>>> b[:] = 0.0
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>>> x[:] = u0
```

Initialise linear algebra



# The diffusion equation on *weak form*, using *backward Euler* for the time discretization

## Strong form

$$\dot{u} = D\nabla^2 u \text{ in } \Omega; \quad D \frac{\partial u}{\partial n} = J(t) \text{ on } \partial\Omega_1; \quad u = 1 \text{ on } \partial\Omega_2$$

## Weak form

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{\Omega} \dot{u} v \, dx &= \int_{\Omega} D \nabla^2 u v \, dx \\ \int_{\Omega} \dot{u} v \, dx &= -D \int_{\Omega} \nabla u \nabla v \, dx + \int_{\partial\Omega_1} D \frac{\partial u}{\partial n} v \, ds \\ \int_{\Omega} \frac{u^n - u^{n-1}}{\Delta t} v \, dx &= -D \int_{\Omega} \nabla u^n \nabla v \, dx + \int_{\partial\Omega_1} J v \, ds \\ \int_{\Omega} u^n v + \Delta t D \nabla u^n \nabla v \, dx &= \int_{\Omega} u^{n-1} v \, dx + \Delta t J \int_{\partial\Omega_1} v \, ds \end{aligned}$$



Instead of using the *variational form*, it is convenient to express the *weak form* on *matrix form*

### Matrix form

$$(\mathbf{M} + \Delta t D \mathbf{K}) U^n = \mathbf{M} U^{n-1} + \Delta t J(t) \text{ source}$$

where  $U^n$  is the vector of *expansion coefficients* and

$$\left. \begin{aligned} M_{ij} &= \int_{\Omega} \phi_i \phi_j dx \\ K_{ij} &= \int_{\Omega} \nabla \phi_i \nabla \phi_j dx; \\ \text{source}_i &= \int_{\partial\Omega_1} \phi_i ds \end{aligned} \right\} \text{ for all } \phi_i \text{ and } \phi_j \text{ in } V$$

### Assemble of tensors in **PyDOLFIN**

```
>>> K = assemble(inner(grad(u), grad(v))*dx)
>>> M = assemble(u*v*dx)
>>> source = assemble(v*ds(2), exterior_facet_domains=subdomains)
```



Each time step we need to solve a *linear system*

*Weak form on Matrix form*

$$(\mathbf{M} + \Delta t D \mathbf{K}) U^n = \mathbf{M} U^{n-1} + \Delta t J(t) \text{ source}$$



Each time step we need to solve a *linear system*

*Weak form on Matrix form*

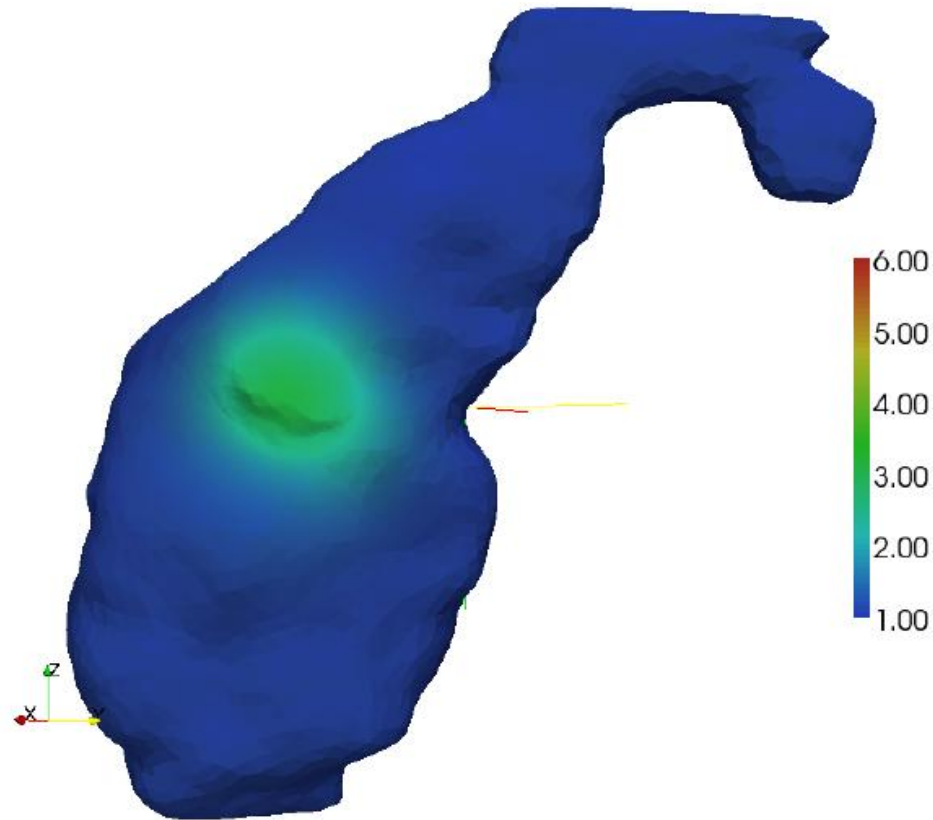
$$(\mathbf{M} + \Delta t D \mathbf{K}) U^n = \mathbf{M} U^{n-1} + \Delta t J(t) \text{ source}$$

Time stepping in **PyDOLFIN**

```
>>> t = 0.0
>>> plot(u_n, vmin=1, vmax=5, rescale=False)
>>> while t < tstop:
...     t += float(dt)
...
...     A.assign(K)
...     A *= D*dt
...     A += M
...
...     b[:] = 0.0
...     if t <= J_stop:
...         b[:] = source
...         b *= dt*J0
...
...     b+= M*x
...
...     bc.apply(A, b)
...
...     solve(A, x, b)
...     plot(u_n)
```



```
>>> tstop = 3.0; J_stop = 2.0; dt = 0.02; u0 = 1; J0 = 100; D = 100
```



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