

# INTRODUCTION TO FINITE ELEMENT METHOD

## DIRECT APPROACH TO FEM

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Czech Republic



**132NAST - Numerical analysis of structures**  
**Prague – 21 September 2022**



- 1 COURSE INFORMATION
- 2 INTRODUCTION TO FEM
- 3 DIRECT APPROACH FOR DISCRETE SYSTEMS



- Lecturer: Tomáš Krejčí
- Room: D2029
- Office hours: Thursday from 12:00 to 13:30 in D2029
- Email: krejci@fsv.cvut.cz
- Web page: <http://mech.fsv.cvut.cz/~krejci/TEACHING/NAST/index.html>
- Credit requirements:
  - Minimal 10 points
  - Mid-term test 20 points
  - Homeworks (optional), each 2 points
  - Semester projects (optional), each 5 points
- Exam requirements:
  - Credit has to be given
  - Grades:
    - A 90 - 100 points
    - B 80 - 89 points
    - C 70 - 79 points
    - D 60 - 69 points
    - E 50 - 59 points



### 132NAST - Numerical analysis of structures

Lecturer: Tomáš Krejčí

#### Subject annotation

- Subject code: 132NAST
- No. of credits: 2 + 2
- Credit and Exam

Short description: Overview of direct stiffness method of structural mechanics. Weak solution of one-dimensional elasticity equations. Galerkin method, Gauss integration, principle of the Finite Element method. Steady state heat conduction in one dimension. Two-dimensional heat conduction problem, triangular finite elements. Two-dimensional elasticity problems. Convergence of FEM, error estimates.

#### References:

- J. Fish and T. Belytschko: *A First Course in Finite Elements*, John Wiley & Sons, 2007 (free access @CTU)
- O. C. Zienkiewicz and R. L. Taylor: *The Finite Element Method, Volume 1, The Basis, Fifth Edition*, Butterworth-Heinemann, 2000
- C. Felippa: *Introduction to Finite Element Methods*, Department of Aerospace Engineering Sciences, University of Colorado at Boulder
- Z. Buzar and J. Sedouk: *Numerical Methods in Structural Mechanics*, ASCE Press, 1996

#### MATLAB links:

- G. Strang: *Short MATLAB tutorial*
- C. Moler: *Numerical Computing with MATLAB*

- [Grading policy](#)
- [Semester projects](#) (optional)
- [Homework assignments](#)
- [Lectures](#)
- [Tutorials](#)
- [Mid-term review test](#)
- [Exams](#) (obsolete)

#### • Course Schedule:

Date	Lecture	Tutorial
September 21	Introduction to FEM, Overview of Direct Stiffness Method - 1D Elasticity	Introduction to Programming - Matlab, Octave, Excel; Localization
September 28	<b>Public Holiday</b>	<b>Public Holiday</b>
October 5	Strong and Weak Forms, Weighted Residual Method, Lagrange Principle	1D Elastic Element: Localization, Benchmarks
October 12	Approximation Functions and Numerical Integration - Gauss Quadrature, Finite Elements	2D Trusses
October 19	Finite Element Formulation for One-Dimensional Problems - Linear Elasticity	Linear and Quadratic Bar Elements, Gauss Quadrature, Natural Coordinates
October 26	Finite Element Formulation for One-Dimensional Heat Conduction Problems	1D Heat Conduction
November 2	Finite Element Formulation for One-Dimensional Nonstationary Heat Conduction Problems	1D Nonstationary Heat Transfer
November 9	Two-Dimensional Heat Conduction Problems	2D Heat Conduction
November 16	<b>Mid-term test</b> ; Consolidation	2D Heat Conduction
November 23	Finite Element Formulation for Two-Dimensional Problems - Linear Elasticity	2D Problems - Plane Stress and Plane Strain Problems
December 1	Finite Element Formulation for Beams	Beams
December 7	Numerical Aspects of FEM Part I	Beams
December 14	Numerical Aspects of FEM Part II	A posteriori Error Estimation

#### Downloads:

#### Links:



## Introduction to Finite Element Method

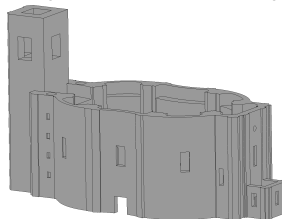
- Many physical phenomena in engineering and science can be described in terms of partial differential equations
  - Stress analysis, Heat transfer, Fluid flow and Electromagnetics
- Solving these equations by classical analytical methods for arbitrary shapes is almost impossible
- The finite element method (FEM) is a numerical approach by which these partial differential equations can be solved approximately
- Millions of engineers and scientists worldwide use the FEM
- Google - “FEM” about 533,000,000 results
- 69,000 FEM books
- Google - “FEM software” 23,900,000 results
- [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_finite\\_element\\_software\\_packages](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_finite_element_software_packages)



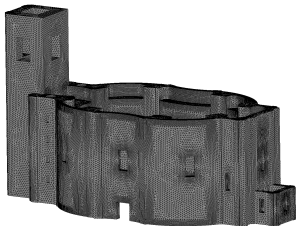
Real structure



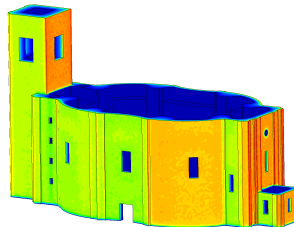
Model - Problem - partial differential equations



Discretization by finite elements



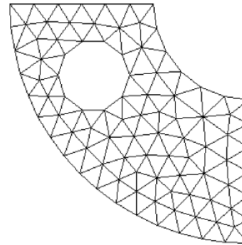
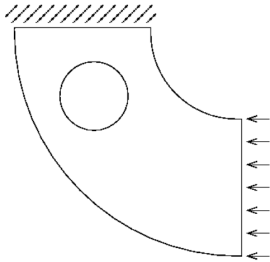
Weak solution - approximation



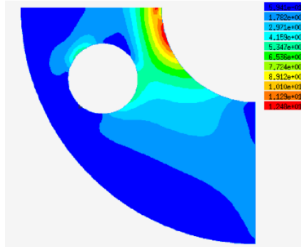
Problem, differential equations



Discretization by finite elements



Weak solution



- **1943:** Courant published a paper in which he used triangular elements with variational principles to solve vibration problems
- **1950:** The FEM was developed in the aerospace industry - Boeing and Bell Aerospace (USA), Rolls Royce (UK)
- **1956:** M.J.Turner, R.W.Clough (Berkeley, Boeing), and M.C.Martin, L. J. Topp published one of the first papers that laid out the major ideas
- **Berkeley:** E. Wilson, R.L.Taylor, professors at Berkeley, and their students PhD students: T.J.R. Hughes, C. Felipa, K.J. Bathe
- **Swansea:** O.C. Zienkiewicz, B. Irons, R.Owen
- **1960:** E. Wilson developed one of the first finite element programs that was widely used
- **1965:** NASA funded a project to develop a general-purpose finite element program Nastran
- **1969:** ANSYS program - focused on linear and nonlinear applications, has a capitalization of \$1.8 billion (in 2006)
- **1978:** ABAQUS software - initially focused on nonlinear applications
- **Nowadays:** FEM applications in many areas
  - Fast computer development
  - Software: NASTRAN, ANSYS, ABAQUS, LS-DYNA, COMSOL, NEMETSCHEK, SCIA Engineer, RFEM, ATENA

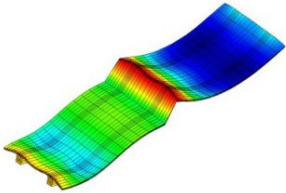




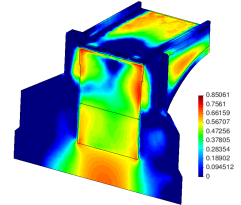
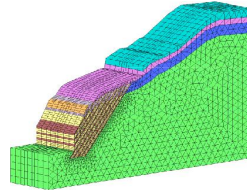
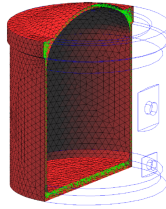
- Stress and thermal analyses of industrial parts such as electronic chips, electric devices, valves, pipes, pressure vessels, automotive engines and aircraft
- Seismic analysis of dams, power plants, cities and high-rise buildings
- Crash analysis of cars, trains and aircraft
- Fluid flow analysis of coolant ponds, pollutants and contaminants, and air in ventilation systems
- Electromagnetic analysis of antennas, transistors and aircraft signatures
- Analysis of surgical procedures such as plastic surgery, jaw reconstruction, correction of scoliosis and many others



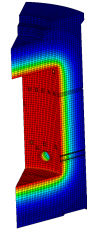
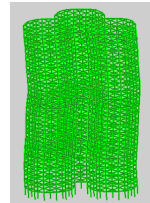
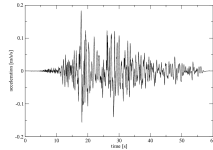
## ■ Civil Engineering: Statics



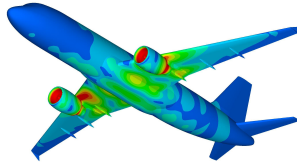
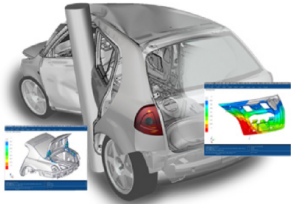
Dynamics



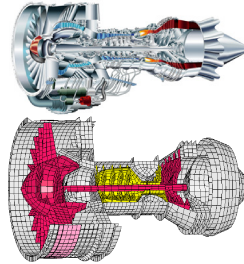
Coupled analysis



## ■ Mechanical Engineering:

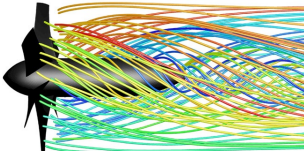


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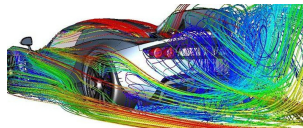


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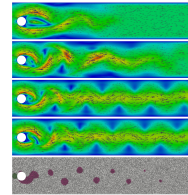
## ■ Fluid Flow:



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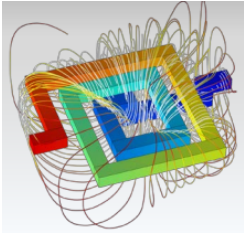
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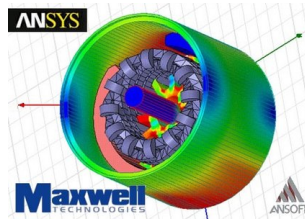
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- Electrical engineering:  
Electromagnetics simulations

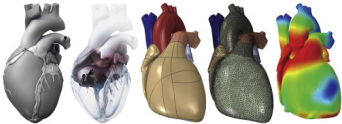


source:comsol.com

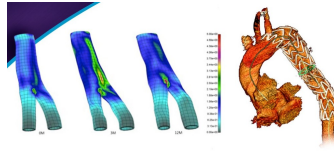


source:<https://solenoidsystems.com>

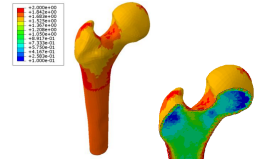
- Medical research:



source:<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.euromechsol.2014.04.001>



source:<http://www.cardiomedtech.com/>



source:semanticscholar.org



The finite element method (FEM) consists of the following five steps:

- 1. Preprocessing: subdividing the problem domain into finite elements
- 2. Element formulation: development of equations for elements
- 3. Assembly: obtaining the equations of the entire system from the equations of individual elements
- 4. Solving the equations
- 5. Postprocessing: determining quantities of interest, such as stresses and strains, and obtaining visualizations of the response

Customary matrix notation is used:

Matrices are denoted by uppercase boldface italic letters  $\mathbf{A}$ ,  $\mathbf{B}$ ,

Lowercase boldface italic letters stand for vectors  $\boldsymbol{\sigma}$ ,  $\mathbf{r}$ ,

Scalars  $A$ ,  $b$ ,

Variables  $A$ ,  $b$ ,



- Truss structures



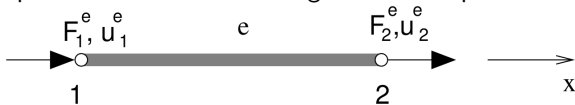
Highway truss bridge over the Mississippi River, photo by Highsmith, Carol M.

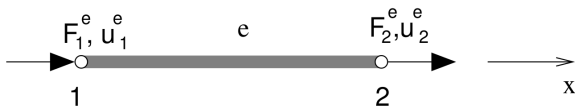


Truss structure in the atelier at Faculty of Civil Engineering

- Direct derivation of FEM for bar elements - deformation method

- Expression of forces according to nodal displacements





- Equilibrium of the element internal forces and nodal forces

$$F_1^e = -\sigma^e A^e, \quad F_2^e = \sigma^e A^e, \quad F_1^e + F_2^e = 0$$

- The elastic stress–strain law, known as Hooke’s law

$$\sigma^e = E^e \varepsilon^e$$

- The deformation of the structure must be compatible
- Strain definition as the ratio of the elongation to the original element length

$$\varepsilon^e = \frac{\Delta l^e}{l^e}$$



- Equation for stress

$$\sigma^e = E^e \varepsilon^e = E^e \frac{\Delta l^e}{l^e} = E^e \frac{u_2^e - u_1^e}{l^e}$$

- Equations for nodal forces

$$F_1^e = -\sigma^e A^e = \frac{E^e A^e}{l^e} (u_1^e - u_2^e), \quad F_2^e = \sigma^e A^e = \frac{E^e A^e}{l^e} (u_2^e - u_1^e)$$

- Matrix form of nodal forces

$$\begin{Bmatrix} F_1^e \\ F_2^e \end{Bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} k^e & -k^e \\ -k^e & k^e \end{bmatrix} \begin{Bmatrix} u_1^e \\ u_2^e \end{Bmatrix},$$

where

$$k^e = \frac{EA}{l^e}$$

- Matrix form of nodal forces

$$\mathbf{F}^e = \mathbf{K}^e \mathbf{d}^e$$

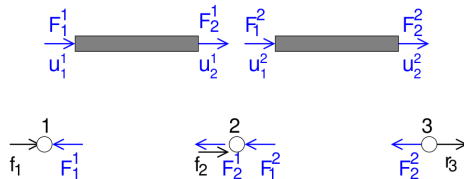
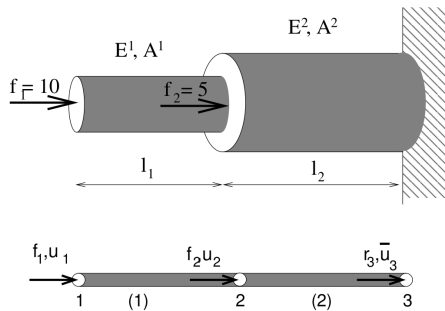




$$\begin{Bmatrix} F_1^e \\ F_2^e \end{Bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} k^e & -k^e \\ -k^e & k^e \end{bmatrix} \begin{Bmatrix} u_1^e \\ u_2^e \end{Bmatrix}$$

- Stiffness matrix  $\mathbf{K}^e$  is symmetric and singular
- Linearity of constitutive, geometrical, and balance equations
- Rigid body motion: If  $u_1^e = u_2^e$ , then  $F_1^e = F_2^e = 0$





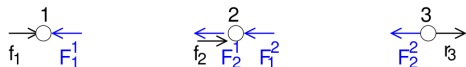
- Force - displacement relations for both elements

$$F^1 = K^1 d^1, \quad F^2 = K^2 d^2$$

- Compatibility of displacements

$$u_1^1 = u_1, \quad u_2^1 = u_1^2 = u_2, \quad u_2^2 = u_3 \quad (1)$$





- Equilibrium equations for three nodes

$$\begin{aligned} (1) & \rightarrow F_1^1 - f_1 = 0 \\ (2) & \rightarrow F_2^1 + F_1^2 - f_2 = 0 \\ (3) & \rightarrow F_2^2 - r_3 = 0 \end{aligned}$$

- Matrix form

$$\begin{Bmatrix} F_1^1 \\ F_2^1 \\ 0 \end{Bmatrix} + \begin{Bmatrix} 0 \\ F_1^2 \\ F_2^2 \end{Bmatrix} = \begin{Bmatrix} f_1 \\ f_2 \\ r_3 \end{Bmatrix}$$

- Element internal nodal forces are expressed by global displacements

$$\begin{Bmatrix} F_1^1 \\ F_2^1 \end{Bmatrix} = \mathbf{K}^1 \begin{Bmatrix} u_1^1 \\ u_2^1 \end{Bmatrix} = \mathbf{K}^1 \begin{Bmatrix} u_1 \\ u_2 \end{Bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{Bmatrix} F_1^2 \\ F_2^2 \end{Bmatrix} = \mathbf{K}^2 \begin{Bmatrix} u_1^2 \\ u_2^2 \end{Bmatrix} = \mathbf{K}^2 \begin{Bmatrix} u_2 \\ u_3 \end{Bmatrix}$$



- Local vectors of nodal forces and stiffness matrices are augmented by adding zeros

$$\underbrace{\begin{Bmatrix} F_1^1 \\ F_2^1 \\ 0 \end{Bmatrix}}_{\tilde{\mathbf{F}}^1} = \underbrace{\begin{Bmatrix} k^1 & -k^1 & 0 \\ -k^1 & k^1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{Bmatrix}}_{\tilde{\mathbf{K}}^1} \begin{Bmatrix} u_1 \\ u_2 \\ u_3 \end{Bmatrix}$$

$$\underbrace{\begin{Bmatrix} 0 \\ F_1^2 \\ F_2^2 \end{Bmatrix}}_{\tilde{\mathbf{F}}^2} = \underbrace{\begin{Bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & k^2 & -k^2 \\ 0 & -k^2 & k^2 \end{Bmatrix}}_{\tilde{\mathbf{K}}^2} \begin{Bmatrix} u_1 \\ u_2 \\ u_3 \end{Bmatrix}$$

- Augmented vectors are introduced into the equilibrium equations for the nodes

$$\underbrace{\begin{Bmatrix} k^1 & -k^1 & 0 \\ -k^1 & k^1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{Bmatrix}}_{\tilde{\mathbf{K}}^1} \underbrace{\begin{Bmatrix} u_1 \\ u_2 \\ u_3 \end{Bmatrix}}_{\mathbf{d}} + \underbrace{\begin{Bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & k^2 & -k^2 \\ 0 & -k^2 & k^2 \end{Bmatrix}}_{\tilde{\mathbf{K}}^2} \underbrace{\begin{Bmatrix} u_1 \\ u_2 \\ u_3 \end{Bmatrix}}_{\mathbf{d}} = \underbrace{\begin{Bmatrix} f_1 \\ f_2 \\ r_3 \end{Bmatrix}}_{\mathbf{f}}$$

$$(\tilde{\mathbf{K}}^1 + \tilde{\mathbf{K}}^2) \mathbf{d} = \mathbf{f} \quad \rightarrow \quad \mathbf{K} \mathbf{d} = \mathbf{f}$$



- Formalising with help of a distribution matrix (“gather” matrix)  $L^e$  for each element,  $d^e = L^e d$
- For example, displacements for the first element read

$$d^1 = \left\{ \begin{array}{c} u_1^1 \\ u_2^1 \end{array} \right\} = \underbrace{\left\{ \begin{array}{ccc} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{array} \right\}}_{L^1} \left\{ \begin{array}{c} u_1 \\ u_2 \\ u_3 \end{array} \right\} = L^1 d$$

- The same for vector of nodal forces

$$F^1 = L^e \tilde{F}^1$$

- Equilibrium equations for one element can be expressed via a global displacement vector

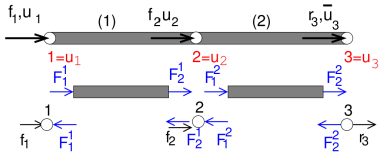
$$K^e d^e = F^e \quad \rightarrow \quad K^e L^e d = F^e$$

- Multiplying by transpose matrix  $L^{eT}$

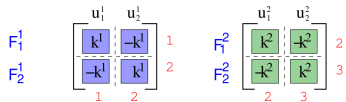
$$\underbrace{L^{eT} K^e L^e}_{\tilde{K}^e} d = \underbrace{L^{eT} F^e}_f$$



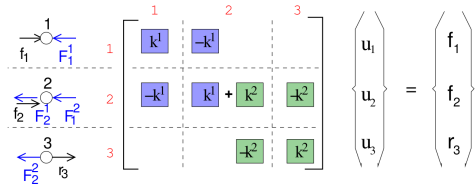
- Code numbers represent numbers of unknown displacements



- Assignment of code numbers to local displacements and forces on elements



- Local stiffness matrices are added to global stiffness matrix



- Code numbers represent mapping between local numbering on elements and global numbering for the whole structure
- Formally we can write:

$$\mathbf{K} = \sum_i \tilde{\mathbf{K}}^i$$

- The stiffness matrix is symmetric and singular
- Regularization of the matrix is obtained by the setting of boundary conditions
- The system of equations is rearranged for free degrees of freedom (unknown displacements) and prescribed displacements

$$\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{K}_{uu} & \mathbf{K}_{up} \\ \mathbf{K}_{pu} & \mathbf{K}_{pp} \end{bmatrix} \begin{Bmatrix} \mathbf{u} \\ \bar{\mathbf{u}} \end{Bmatrix} = \begin{Bmatrix} \mathbf{f} \\ \mathbf{r} \end{Bmatrix}$$

- The vector of unknown displacements is calculated from the first row

$$\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{K}_{uu}^{-1} (\mathbf{f} - \mathbf{K}_{up} \bar{\mathbf{u}})$$

- Unknown reactions are obtained from the second row

$$\mathbf{r} = \mathbf{K}_{up} \mathbf{u} + \mathbf{K}_{pp} \bar{\mathbf{u}}$$



- English course of “Numerical analysis of structures” by J. Zeman (jan.zeman@fsv.cvut.cz)
- Czech course of “Numerická analýza konstrukcí” (Numerical analysis of structures) by B. Patzák (borek.patzak@fsv.cvut.cz)
- J. Fish and T. Belytschko: A First Course in Finite Elements, John Wiley & Sons, 2007

