

# Finite Elements for Computational Fluid Dynamics

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## Basic equations

### Conservation or transport equations

- Conservation equations for:
  - Mass
  - Momentum
  - Energy
- Transport equations for:
  - Concentrations
  - Turbulence
  - etc.

System of non-linear, coupled, partial differential equations of convection-diffusion type

$$\frac{\partial \varphi}{\partial t} + U_j^* \frac{\partial \varphi}{\partial x_j} - \Gamma \frac{\partial^2 \varphi}{\partial x_j^2} - f = 0$$

①

②

③

④

① Time derivative

② Convection term

③ Diffusion term

④ Source term

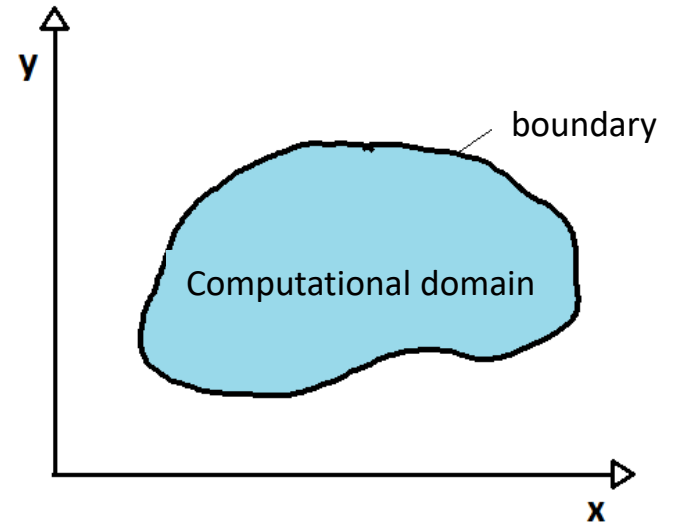
## Basic equations

Computational domain and boundary conditions

Boundary conditions:

Dirichlet type (fixed values)

Neumann type (gradient type b.c.)



For unsteady problems also **Initial Conditions** are required

## Solution methods

*Usually used solution methods:*

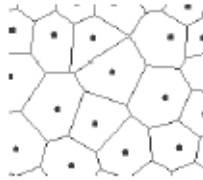
- Finite Difference Methods (FDM)
- Finite Volume Methods (FVM)
- **Finite Element Methods (FEM)**

### Other Methods

- Spectral methods
- Lattice Boltzmann Methods
- Boundary Element Methods
- Etc.

## Solution methods

**FVM**



$$\frac{\partial U}{\partial x}$$



Integral form

$$\int_{CV} \frac{\partial U}{\partial x} dV$$

Divergence theorem



$$\int_A n \cdot U dA$$

**FDM**



$$\frac{\partial U}{\partial x}$$



Difference Equations

$$U_{i+1} = U_i + \Delta x \cdot \frac{\partial U}{\partial x}$$

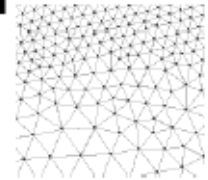
$$U_{i-1} = U_i - \Delta x \cdot \frac{\partial U}{\partial x}$$

Taylor series



$$\frac{U_{i+1} - U_{i-1}}{2 \Delta x}$$

**FEM**

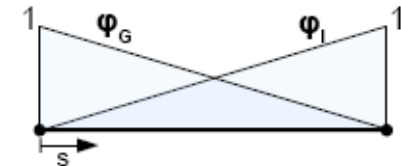


$$\frac{\partial U}{\partial x}$$



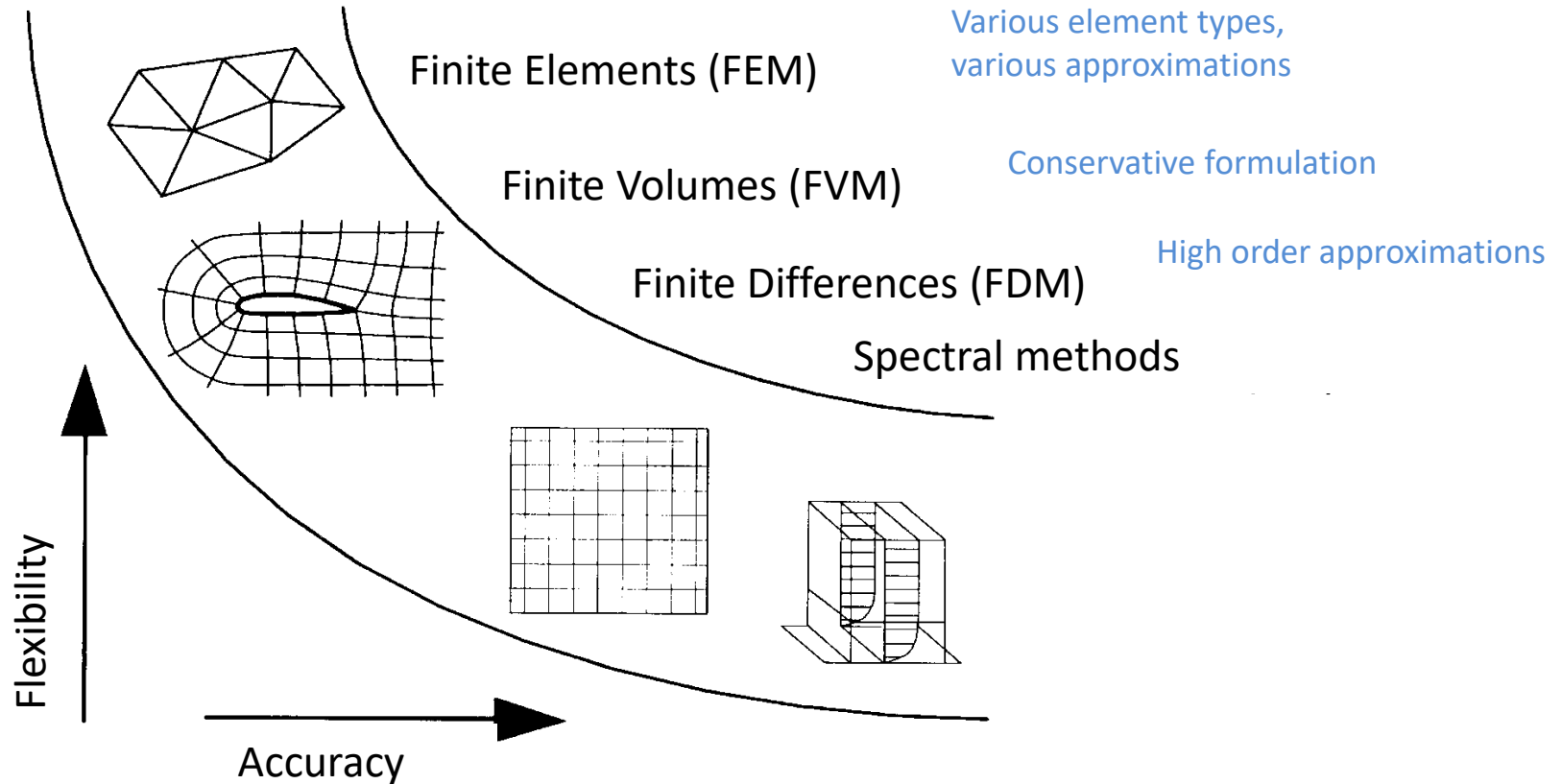
Using basis function

$$U = U_G \cdot \phi_G + U_I \cdot \phi_I$$



$$\frac{\partial U}{\partial x} = U_G \cdot \frac{\partial \phi_G}{\partial x} + U_I \cdot \frac{\partial \phi_I}{\partial x}$$

## Solution methods



## General procedure

1

Definition of describing equations

2

Definition of Computational domain, Boundary conditions Initial conditions

3

Dividing of the domain into Finite Elements

4

Definition of the local approximation of the solution quantities

5

Discrete form of the describing equations

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Assembling of the relevant matrices

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Solution of the system of linear equations

8

Solution (Linear equations)



Update of coefficients



Convergence check

Solution (non-linear equations)

## 1 Definition of describing equations

Example: Navier-Stokes equations, **steady-state**, incompressible

Mass conservation: 
$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial v}{\partial y} = 0$$

Momentum conservation: (x-direction) 
$$u \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + v \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} = -\frac{1}{\rho} \frac{\partial p}{\partial x} + \nu \left( \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial y^2} \right)$$

Momentum conservation: (y-direction) 
$$u \frac{\partial v}{\partial x} + v \frac{\partial v}{\partial y} = -\frac{1}{\rho} \frac{\partial p}{\partial y} + \nu \left( \frac{\partial^2 v}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 v}{\partial y^2} \right)$$

- Coupled
- Non-linear —
- 2. order for velocities —
- 1. order for pressure —



## 1 Definition of describing equations

Navier-Stokes equations, 3D, unsteady, incompressible

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial v}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial w}{\partial z} = 0$$

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} + u \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + v \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} + w \frac{\partial u}{\partial z} = -\frac{1}{\rho} \frac{\partial p}{\partial x} + \nu \left( \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial y^2} + \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial z^2} \right)$$

$$\frac{\partial v}{\partial t} + u \frac{\partial v}{\partial x} + v \frac{\partial v}{\partial y} + w \frac{\partial v}{\partial z} = -\frac{1}{\rho} \frac{\partial p}{\partial y} + \nu \left( \frac{\partial^2 v}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 v}{\partial y^2} + \frac{\partial^2 v}{\partial z^2} \right)$$

$$\frac{\partial w}{\partial t} + u \frac{\partial w}{\partial x} + v \frac{\partial w}{\partial y} + w \frac{\partial w}{\partial z} = -\frac{1}{\rho} \frac{\partial p}{\partial z} + \nu \left( \frac{\partial^2 w}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 w}{\partial y^2} + \frac{\partial^2 w}{\partial z^2} \right)$$

### In Index form

Mass conservation  $\frac{\partial u_i}{\partial x_i} = 0$

Momentum conservation  $\frac{\partial u_i}{\partial t} + u_j \frac{\partial u_i}{\partial x_j} = -\frac{1}{\rho} \frac{\partial p}{\partial x_i} + \nu \frac{\partial^2 u_i}{\partial x_j^2}$

**Summation  
convention**

## 1 Definition of describing equations

### Example: Turbulent flow

Mass conservation  $\frac{\partial u_i}{\partial x_i} = 0$

Momentum conservation  $\frac{\partial u_i}{\partial t} + u_j \frac{\partial u_i}{\partial x_j} = -\frac{1}{\rho} \frac{\partial p}{\partial x_i} + (\nu + \nu_t) \frac{\partial^2 u_i}{\partial x_j^2}$

Turbulent viscosity  $\nu_t = c_\mu \frac{k^2}{\varepsilon}$

Turbulent kinetic energy  $\frac{\partial k}{\partial t} + u_i \frac{\partial k}{\partial x_i} = \frac{\partial}{\partial x_i} \left( \frac{\nu_t}{\sigma_\varepsilon} \frac{\partial k}{\partial x_i} \right) + \nu_t \left( \frac{\partial u_i}{\partial x_j} + \frac{\partial u_j}{\partial x_i} \right) \frac{\partial u_i}{\partial x_j} - \varepsilon$

Dissipation rate  $\frac{\partial \varepsilon}{\partial t} + u_i \frac{\partial \varepsilon}{\partial x_i} = \frac{\partial}{\partial x_i} \left( \frac{\nu_t}{\sigma_\varepsilon} \frac{\partial \varepsilon}{\partial x_i} \right) + c_{1\varepsilon} \frac{\varepsilon}{k} \nu_t \left( \frac{\partial u_i}{\partial x_j} + \frac{\partial u_j}{\partial x_i} \right) \frac{\partial u_i}{\partial x_j} - c_{2\varepsilon} \frac{\varepsilon^2}{k}$

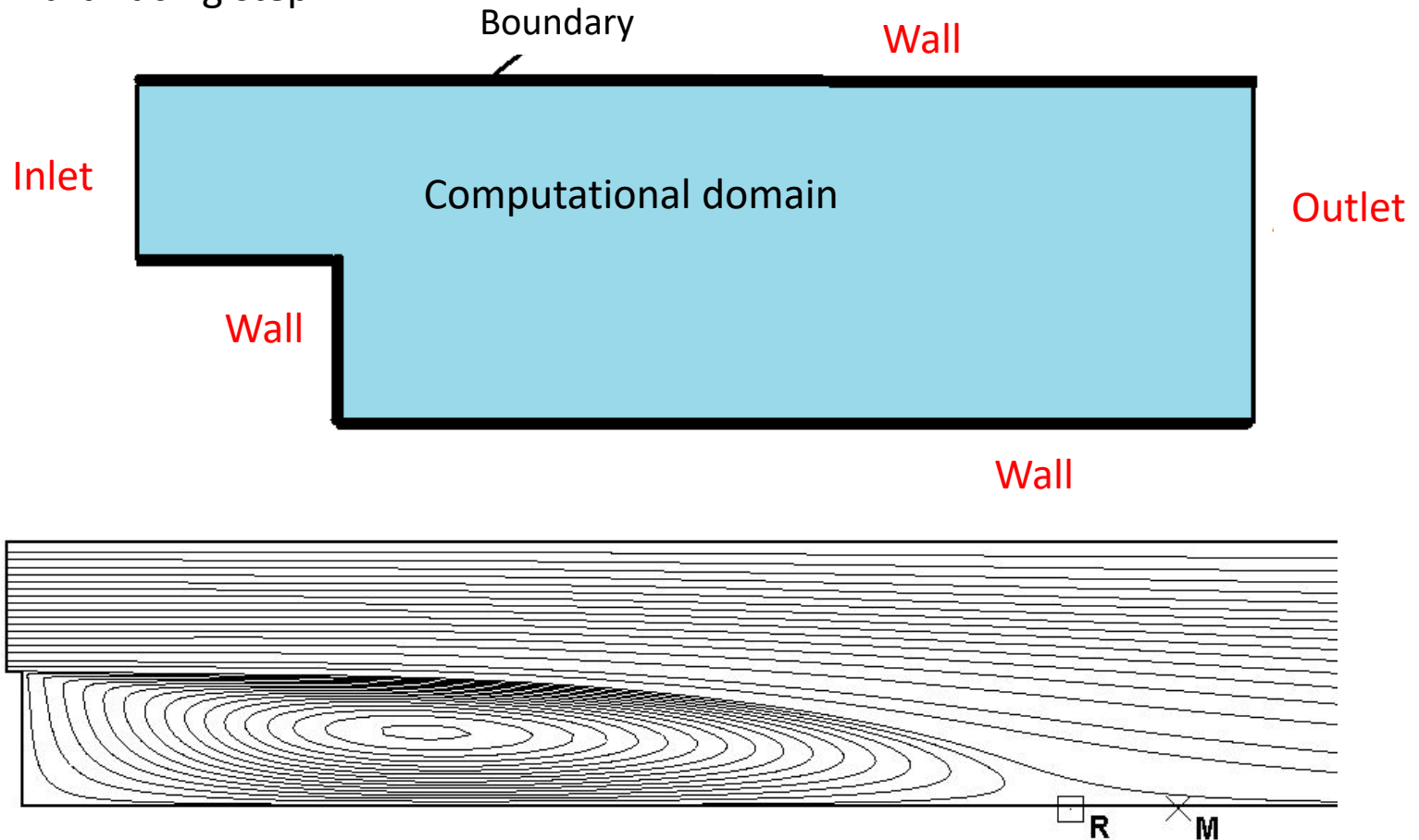
Model constants  $c_\mu = 0.09; \quad \sigma_k = 1.0; \quad \sigma_\varepsilon = 1.3; \quad c_{1\varepsilon} = 1.44; \quad c_{2\varepsilon} = 1.92$

Advection – diffusion equation

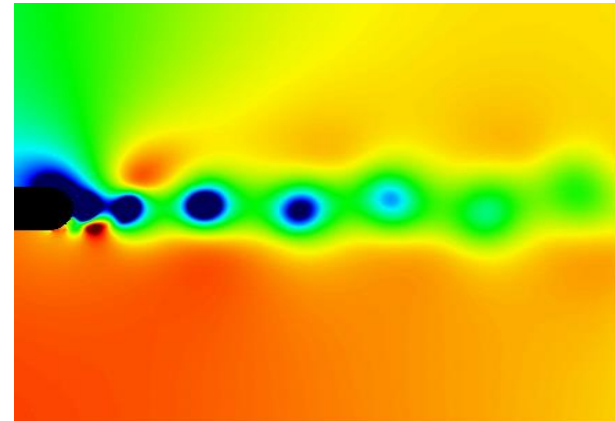
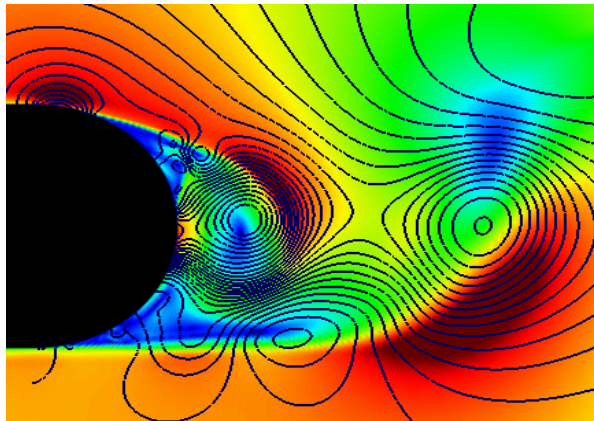
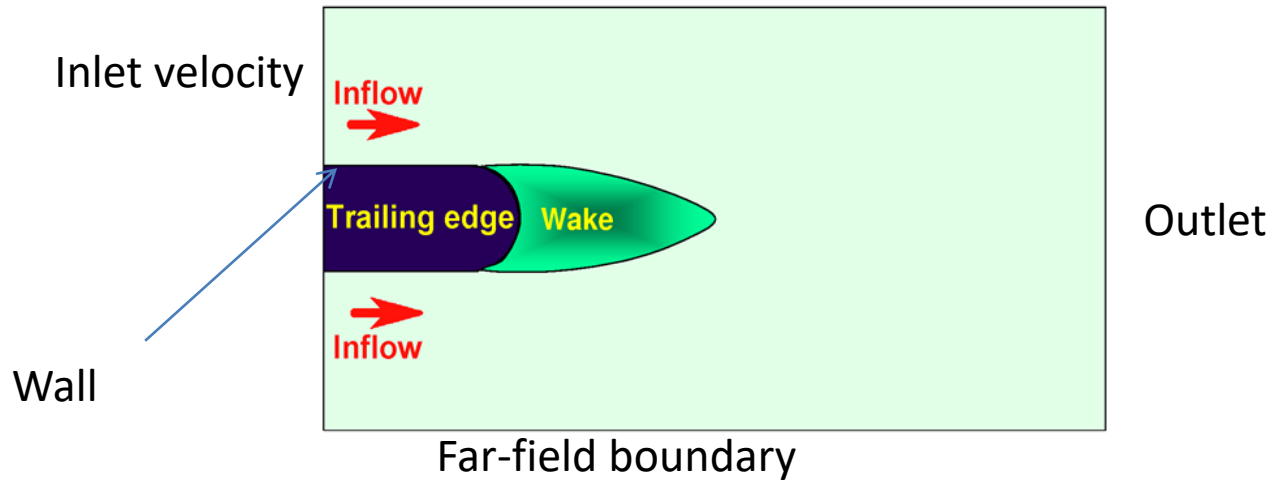
$$\frac{\partial \varphi}{\partial t} + u_j \frac{\partial \varphi}{\partial x_j} - \Gamma \frac{\partial^2 \varphi}{\partial x_j^2} - f = 0$$

## 2 Definition of computational domain and boundary conditions

Example backward-facing step



## 2 Definition of computational domain and boundary conditions



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Solution (Linear equations)

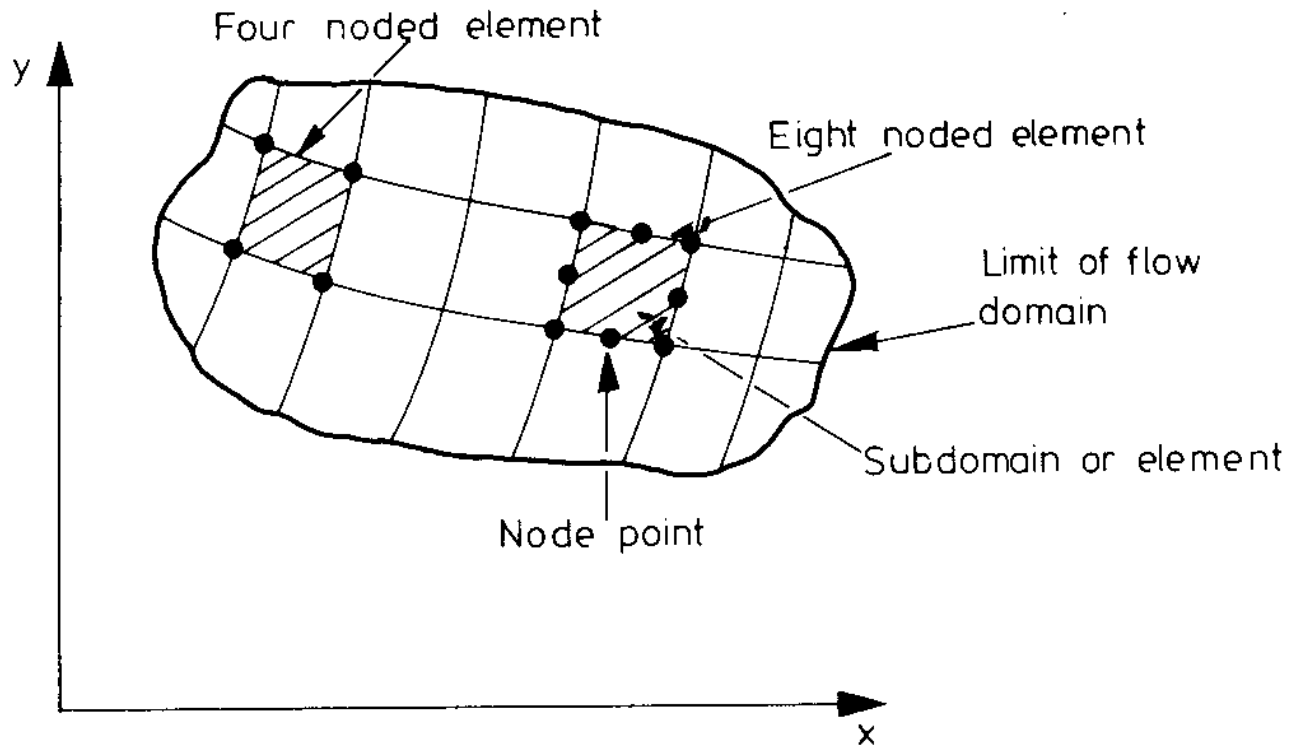


Update of coefficients

Convergence check

Solution (non-linear equations)

## 3 Dividing of the domain into Finite Elements

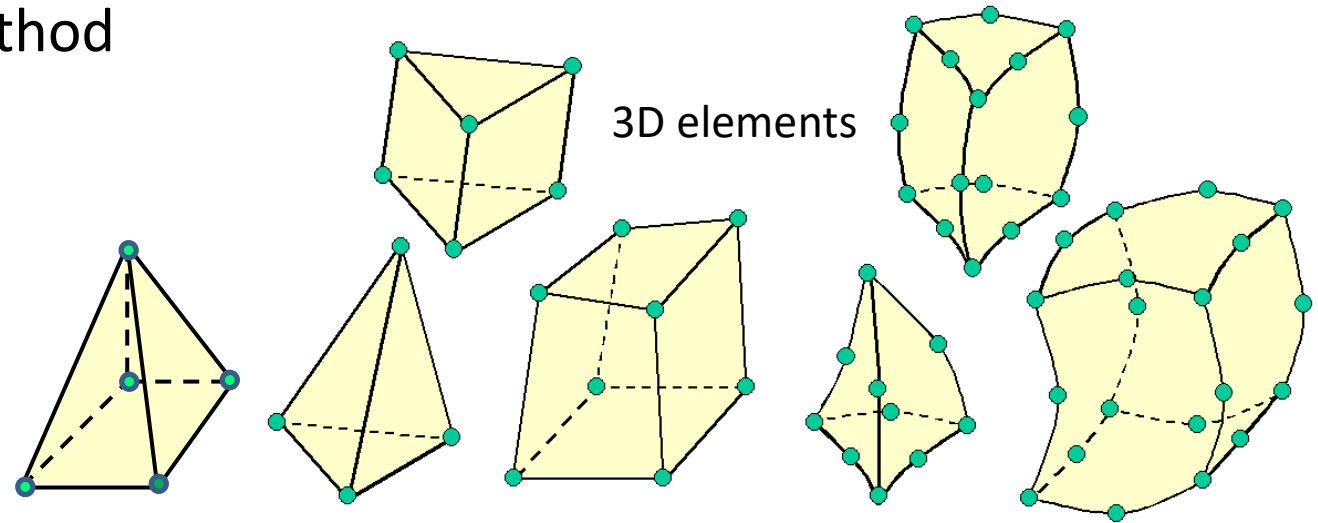
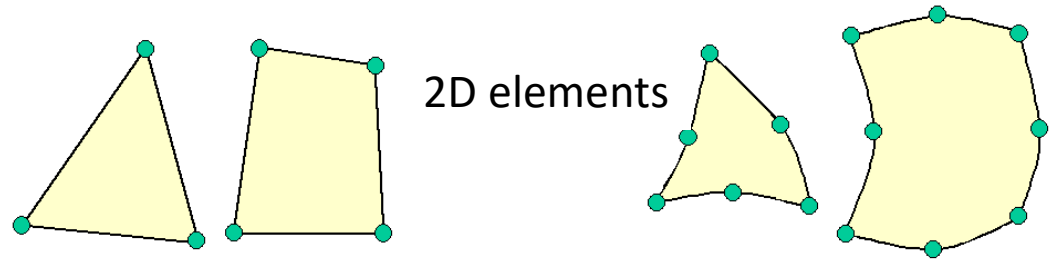


Various types of elements

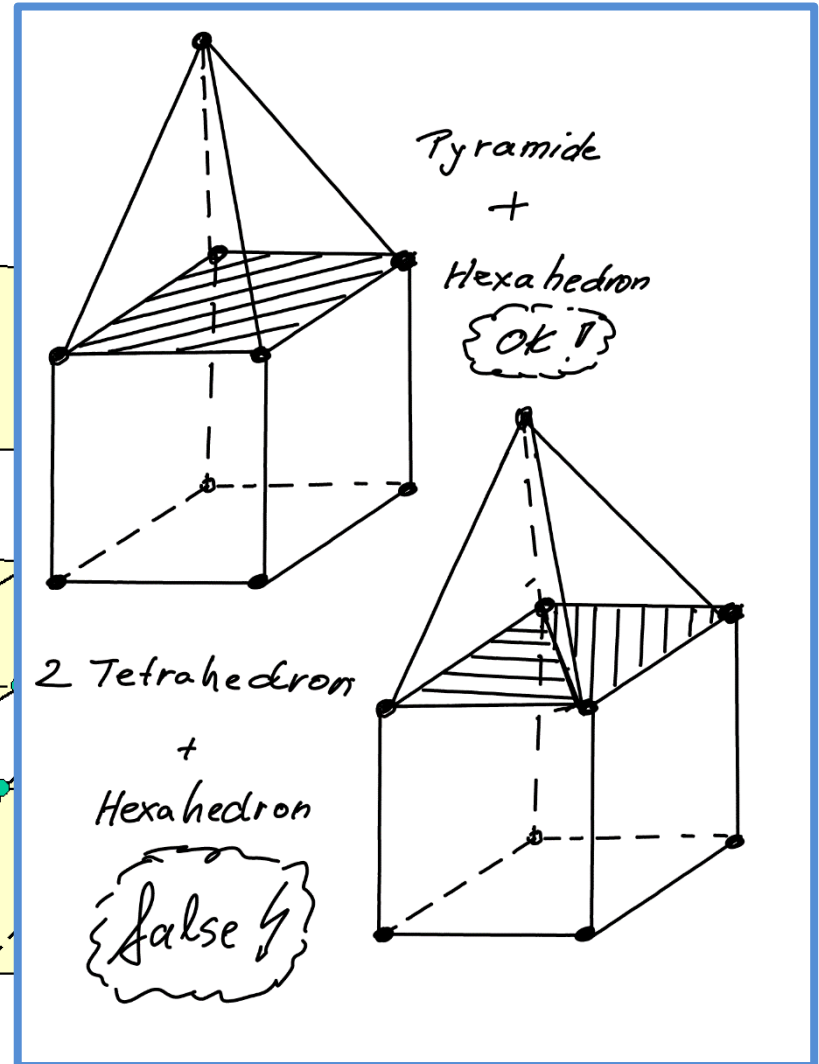
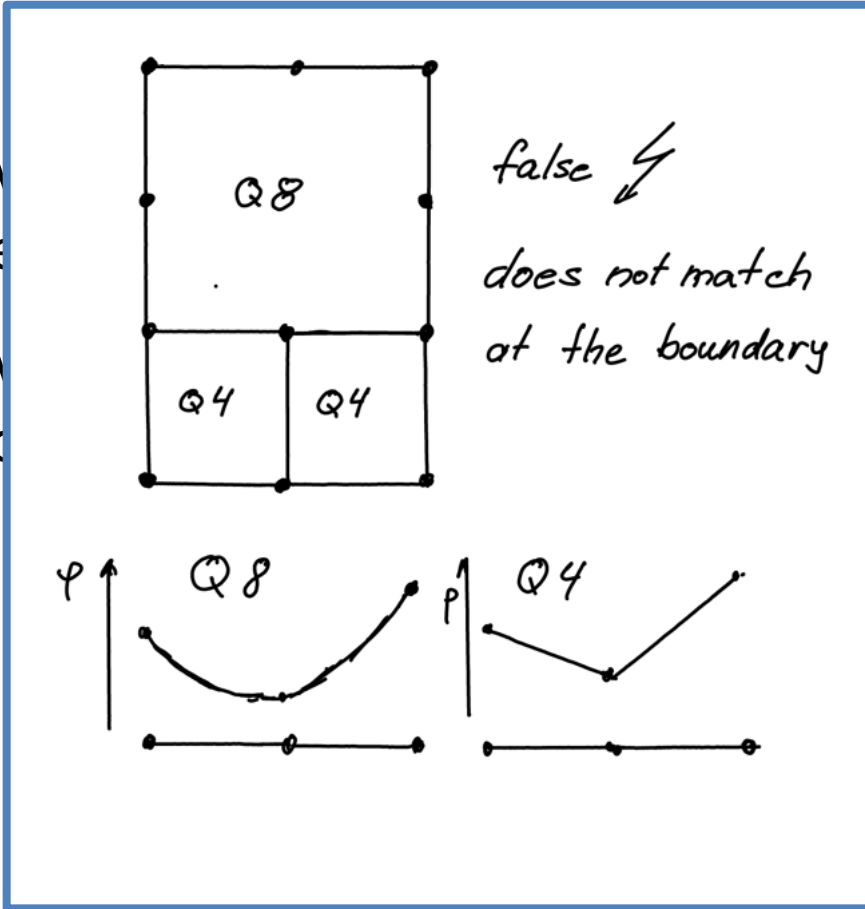
## 3 Dividing of the domain into Finite Elements

Various types of elements can be used

Very flexible discretization method



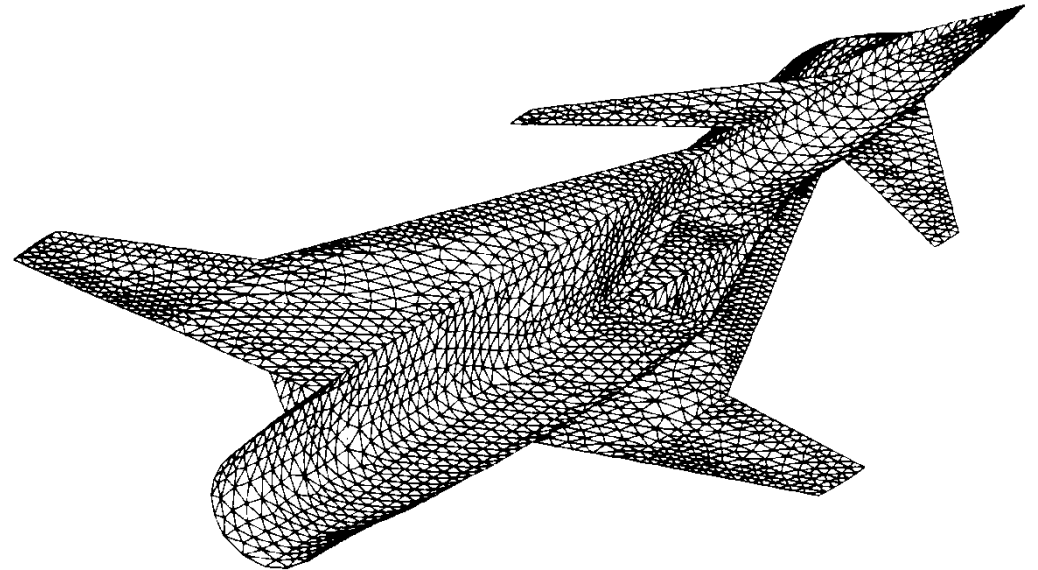
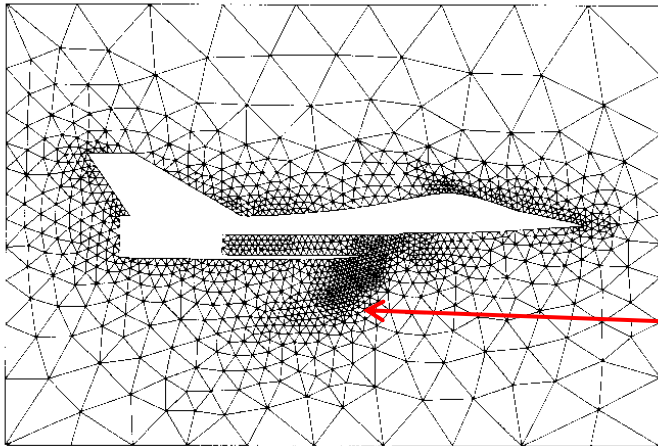
## 3 Dividing of the domain into Finite Elements





## Elements

### Example: Flow around a jet

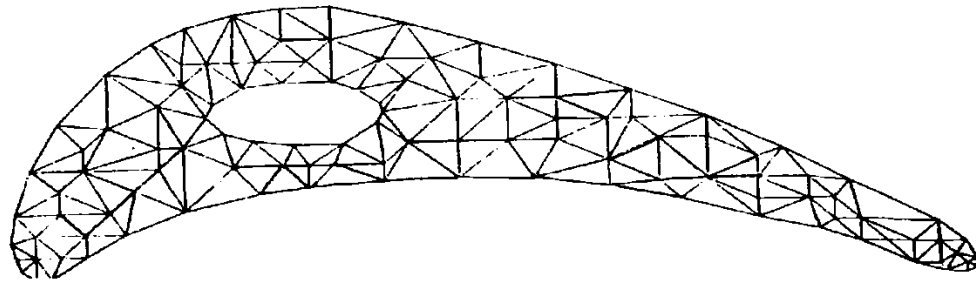


Zienkiewicz & Taylor (2000)

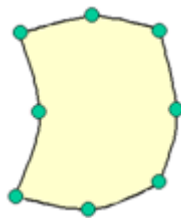
Grid concentration in regions with steep gradients

## Elements

Simple grids



5	10	18	24	29	34	39	44	50	58	63	68	73
4	9	17	23	28	33	38	43	49	57	62	67	72
3	8	16	22	27	32	37	42	48	56	61	66	71
2	7	15	21	26	31	36	41	47	55	60	65	70
1	6	14	20	25	30	35	40	46	54	59	64	69



Curvilinear elements

Source: Taylor & Hughes

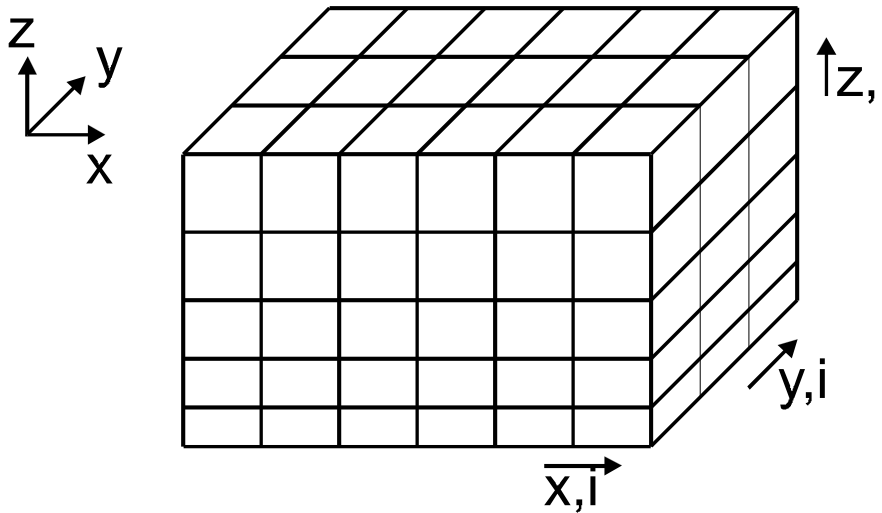
## Insertion: Characteristic grid structures

### Cartesian Grid

$$P_{ijk}(x_i, y_j, z_k)$$

Is defined by 1D arrays

real x(nx), y(ny), z(nz), u(nx,ny,nz)



- All grid lines are straight lines parallel to the coordinate axis
- All cells are rectangular
- All angles are right angles
- Partial differentials can be build in 1D

### For FDM

Example program

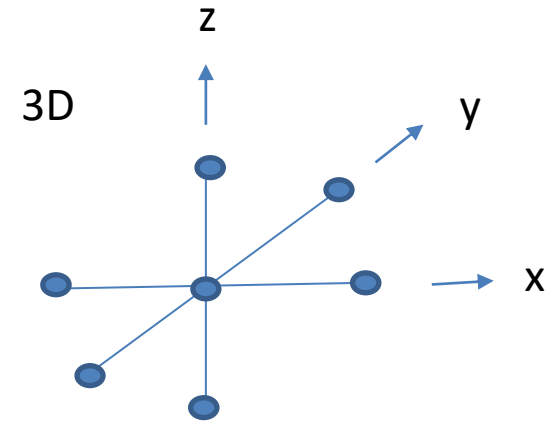
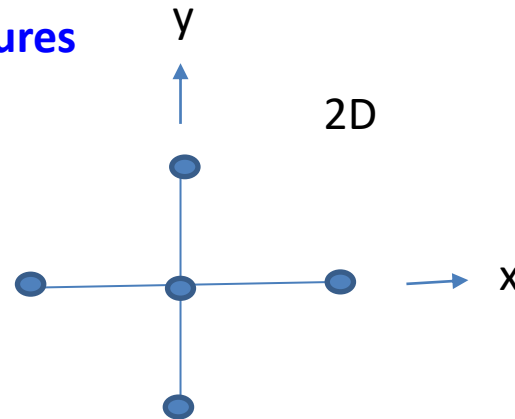
```

delx = Lx/(nx-1)
dely = Ly/(ny-1)
delz = Lz/(nz-1)
do i = 1,nx
do j = 1,nz
do k = 1,nz
x (i,j,k) = delx*(i-1)
y (i,j,k) = dely*(j-1)
z (i,j,k) = delz*(k-1)
u (i,j,k) = 0.0
end do
end do
end do
    
```

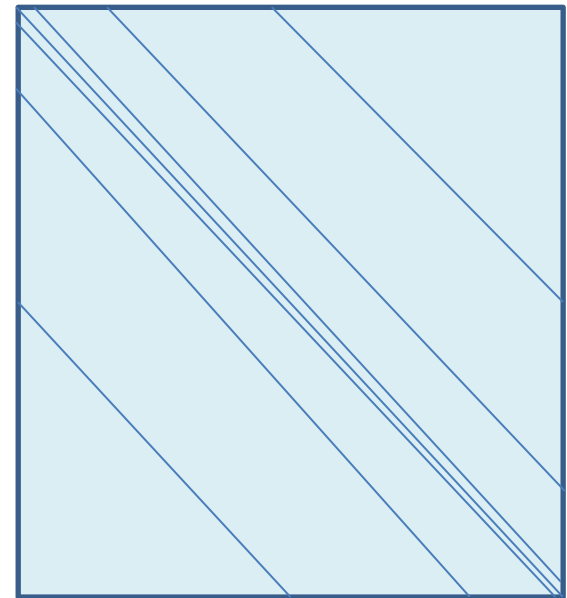
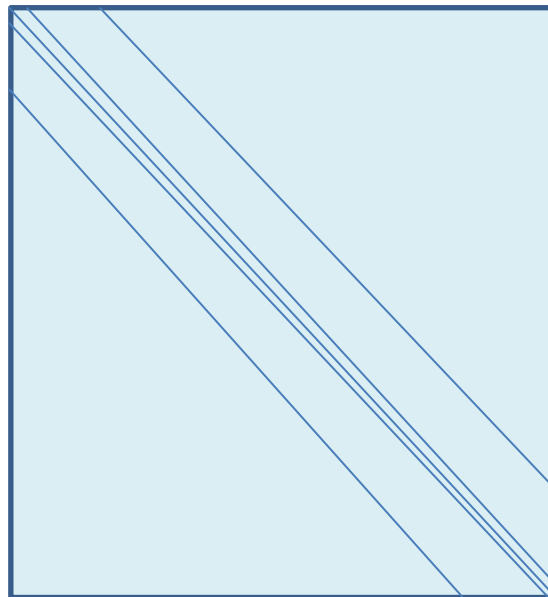
## Characteristic grid structures

Discretization results in band matrices

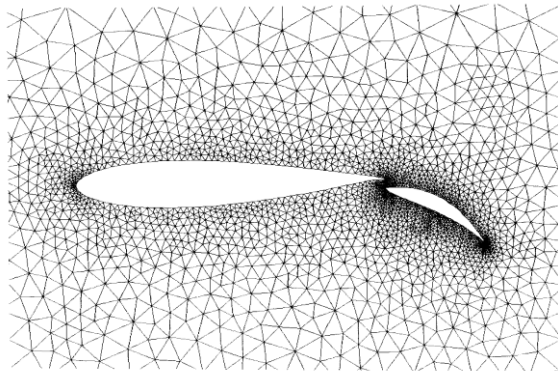
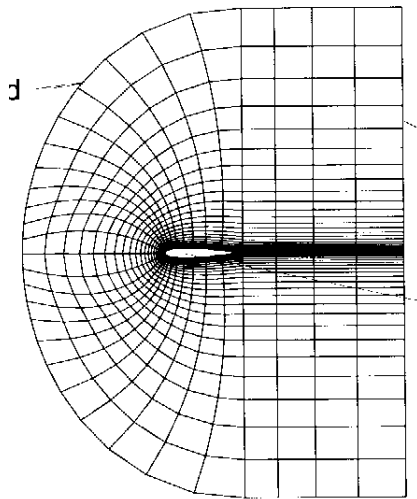
2D: 5 bands  
3D: 7 bands



Number of columns depend on the number of neighbours



## Characteristic grid structures



### Structured grids

2D

Two regimes of grid lines

Cells with four corners

Each grid point has 4 neighbors

Body-fitted coordinates by using curvilinear grid lines

### Unstructured grids

No regimes of grid lines

Cells can have different shapes

e. g. triangles ...

No of neighbors are different

3D

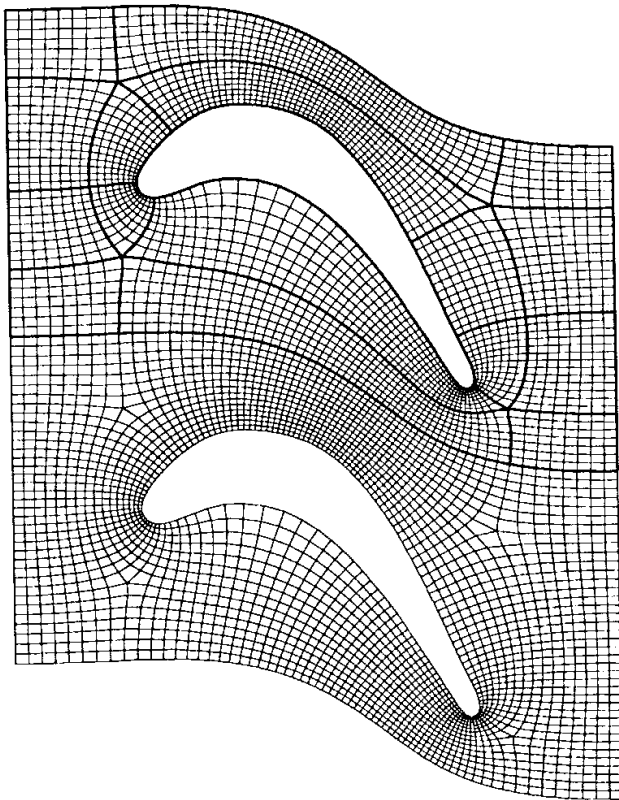
three

Hexahedron

six

Prisms...

## Bock-structured grids



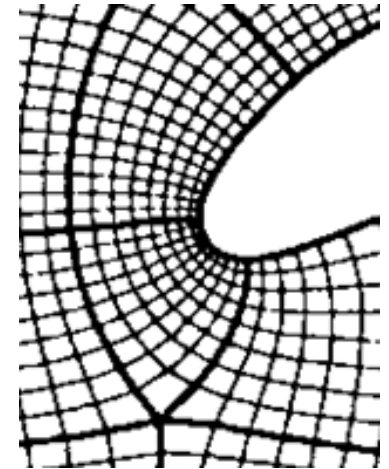
**Turbine blades  
(Geometry is periodic)**

**Each block consists of a structured grid**

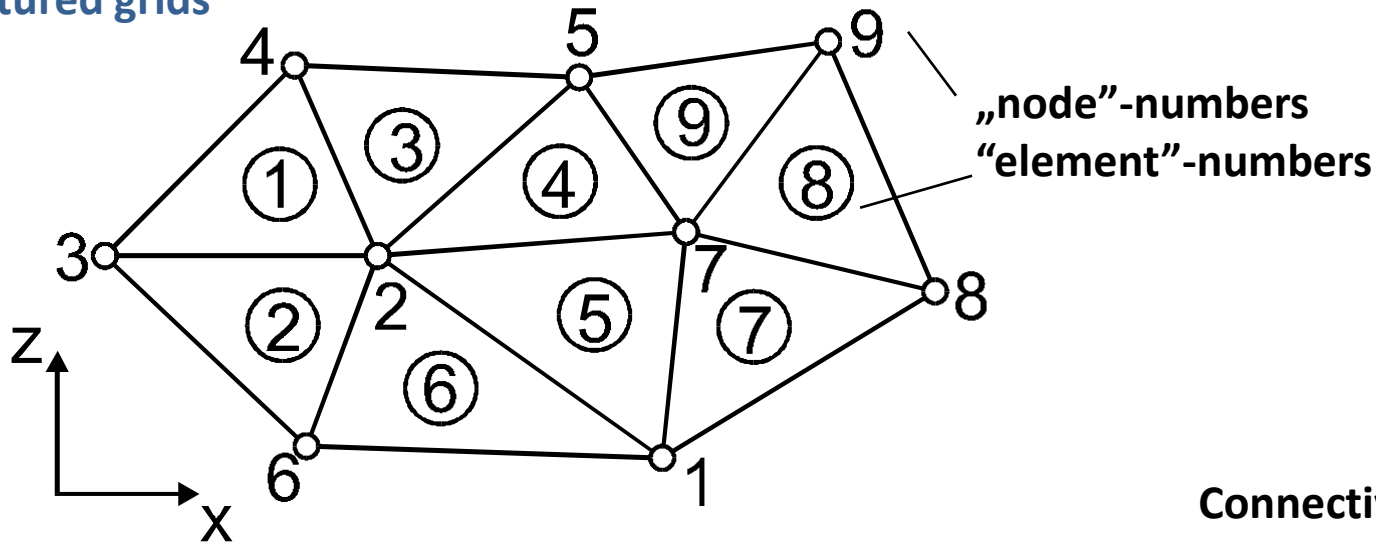
**On the block boundaries the grid points are identical between neighbor blocks**

**Grid lines should be smooth on block boundaries**

**Advantages:  
Suitable for complex geometries  
Easy to parallelize**



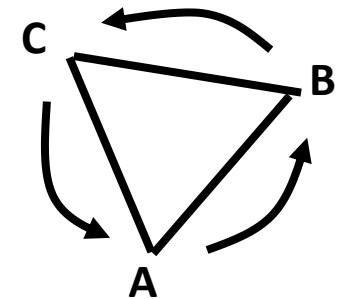
## Unstructured grids



Connectivity table

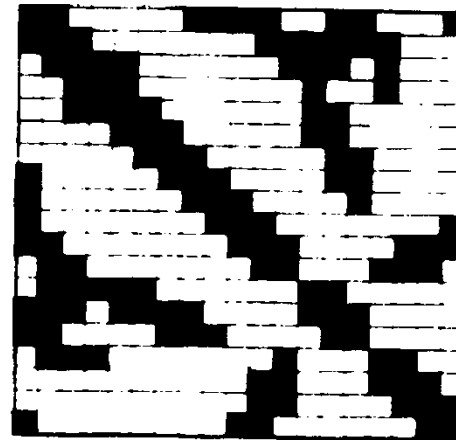
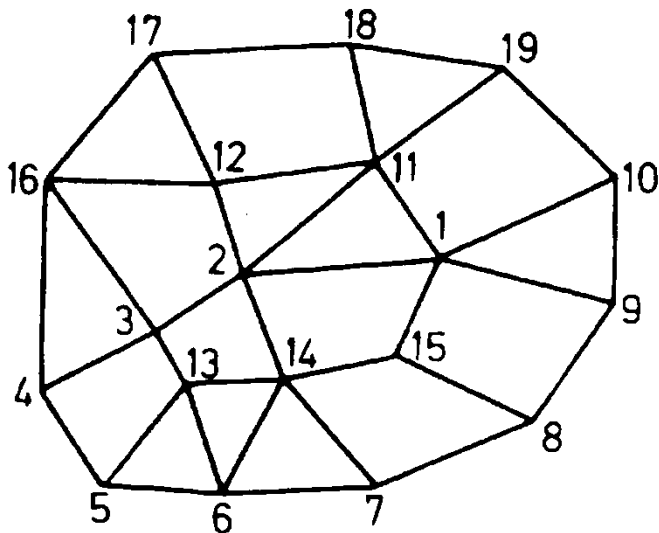
„local“ nodes	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
<b>A</b>	3	6	2	2	1	1	1	7	7
<b>B</b>	2	2	5	7	7	2	8	8	9
<b>C</b>	4	3	4	5	2	6	7	9	5

„global“ nodes



## Unstructured grids

Unlike for structured meshes, where band matrices occur, for unstructured meshes, unstructured, sparse matrices arise instead.



Structure of the matrices is symmetric

Matrices are not stored completely, instead only the relevant parts are stored, for this special storage technologies exists.



## General procedure

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Solution (Linear equations)



Update of coefficients



Convergence check

Solution (non-linear equations)

## Definition of approximation

In each element an approximation for the required quantity  $\phi$  is defined. This means it is defined, how the quantity behaves within the element.

Examples:

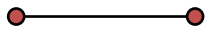
2D linear: 
$$\hat{\phi}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) = \alpha_1 + \alpha_2 \mathbf{x} + \alpha_3 \mathbf{y}$$

2D quadratic: 
$$\hat{\phi}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) = \alpha_1 + \alpha_2 \mathbf{x} + \alpha_3 \mathbf{y} + \alpha_4 \mathbf{x}^2 + \alpha_5 \mathbf{x}\mathbf{y} + \alpha_6 \mathbf{y}^2$$

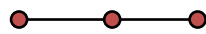
The coefficients are the solution

## Definition of approximation

Examples:



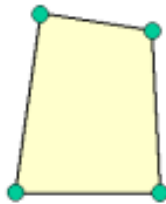
$$\hat{\Phi} = \alpha_0 + \alpha_1 X$$



$$\hat{\Phi} = \alpha_0 + \alpha_1 X + \alpha_2 X^2$$



$$\hat{\Phi} = \alpha_0 + \alpha_1 X + \alpha_2 Y$$



$$\hat{\Phi} = \alpha_0 + \alpha_1 X + \alpha_2 Y + \alpha_3 XY$$



$$\hat{\Phi} = \alpha_0 + \alpha_1 X + \alpha_2 Y + \alpha_3 X^2 + \alpha_4 Y^2 + \alpha_5 XY$$

## Definition of approximation

The approximations must fulfill certain continuity conditions:

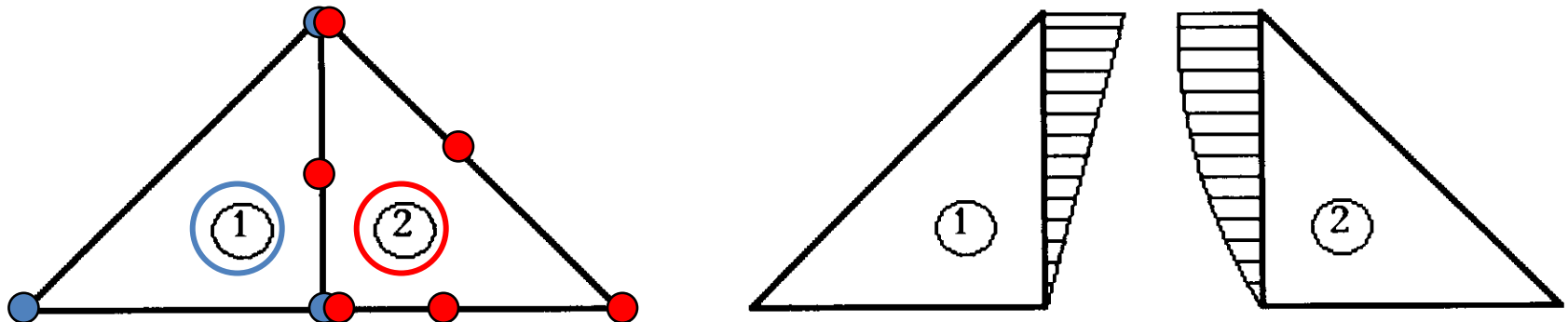
### 1.) Conforming elements

The approximation on neighbor element boundaries must be identical

These are called **conforming elements**.

Only conforming elements are considered here.

EXAMPLE: Non-conforming velocity approximation



Because the approximations are different in each element, this acts as a source or sink between the elements

## Definition of approximation

### 2.) $C_{n-1}$ continuity requirement

If the integrand contains derivatives of n-th order, the approximations have to be continuous up to derivatives of (n-1)-th order.

For the Navier-Stokes equations this means:

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} + u \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + v \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} = -\frac{1}{\rho} \frac{\partial p}{\partial x} + \nu \left( \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial y^2} \right)$$

Velocities are 2nd order, pressure 1st order

⇒ Velocity approximation must be continuous and differentiable

⇒ Pressure approximation must be continuous

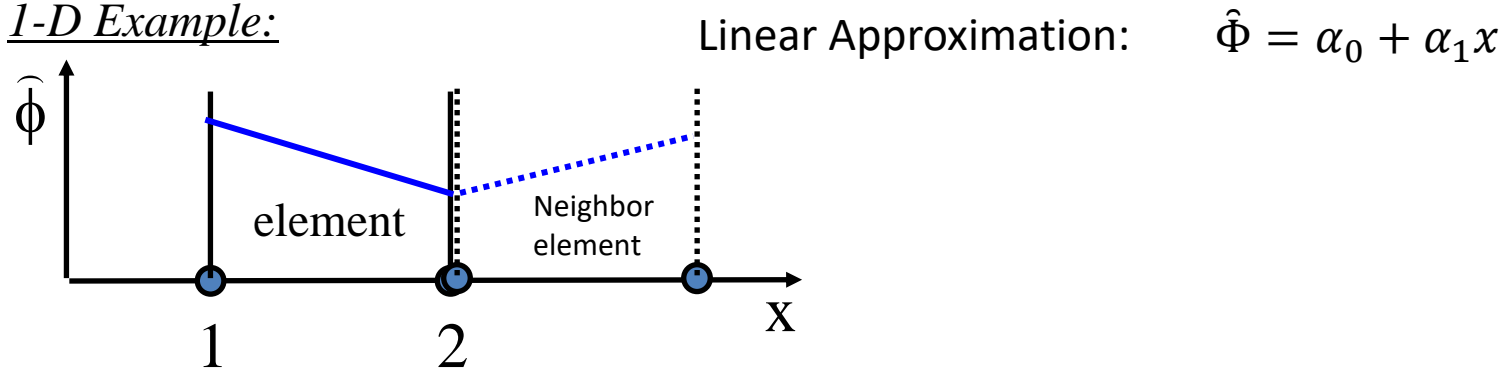
(The continuity requirements can be reduced by applying Galerkin method by means of Green-Gauss theorem, see later)

## Definition of approximation

To fulfill the  $C_{n-1}$  continuity requirements the polynomial approximations are not suitable. Between the coefficients of neighboring elements constraints has to be satisfied.

It is much easier to use node values instead of coefficients to prescribe the approximation

1-D Example:



The continuity can be satisfied easier when expressing the approximation by node values

$$\hat{\phi} = \hat{\phi}^1 + \left( \hat{\phi}^2 - \hat{\phi}^1 \right) \frac{(x - x_1)}{x_2 - x_1}$$

## Definition of approximation

$$\text{Generalized: } \hat{\phi}(\mathbf{x}_i) = \sum \hat{\phi}^k \mathbf{N}^k(\mathbf{x}_i) \quad \langle k = 1, \dots, \text{No nodes} \rangle$$

$$\text{Linear Approximation: } \hat{\phi}^{(e)} = \hat{\phi}^{1(e)} \mathbf{N}^{1(e)} + \hat{\phi}^{2(e)} \mathbf{N}^{2(e)}$$

$\mathbf{N}$  are the shape or trial functions (der index (e) means that it is related to the local element numbering).

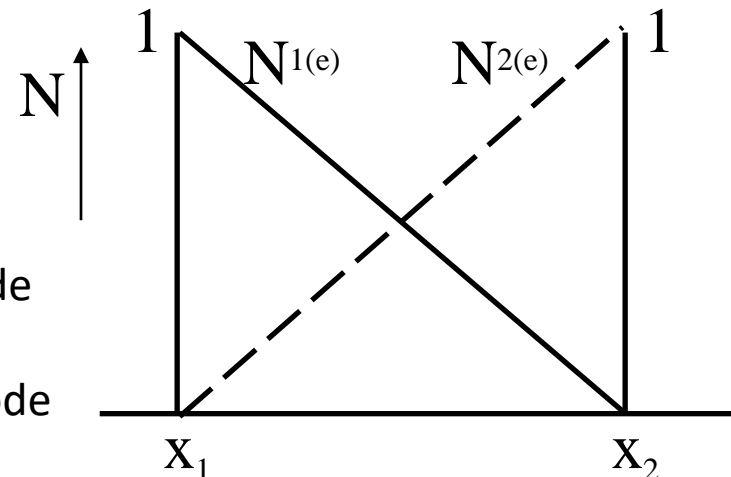
Introducing the dimensionless coordinate  $\xi = \frac{\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_1}{\mathbf{x}_2 - \mathbf{x}_1}$

the shape functions are

$$\mathbf{N}^{1(e)} = 1 - \xi \quad \text{and} \quad \mathbf{N}^{2(e)} = \xi$$

The shape function characterize the influence of a node value to the solution.

The shape function must be 1 in the corresponding node and must be 0 in all other nodes



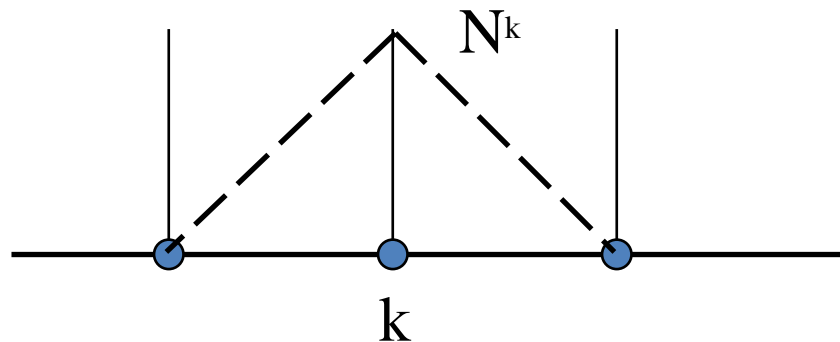
## Definition of approximation

By a global numbering of all nodes the local approximations can be put together to a global approximation.

$$\widehat{\phi}(\mathbf{x}_i) = \sum \widehat{\phi}^k \mathbf{N}^k(\mathbf{x}_i) \quad \langle k = 1, \dots, \text{Number of nodes} \mid \rangle$$

The global shape functions are composition of the local shape functions

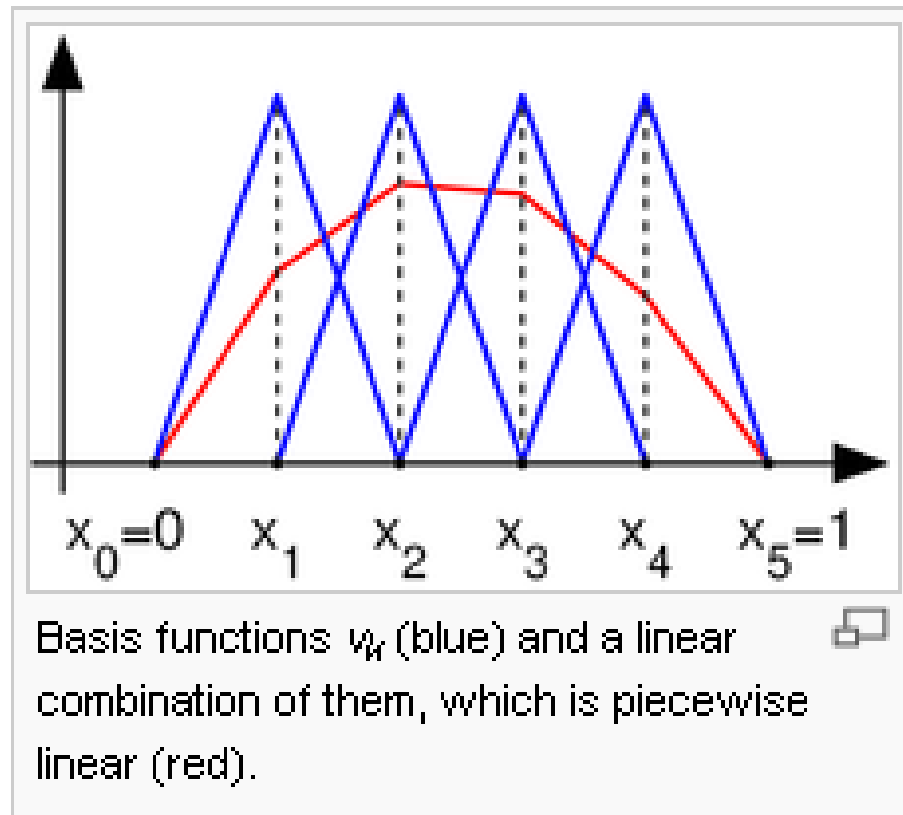
Example: 1D linear





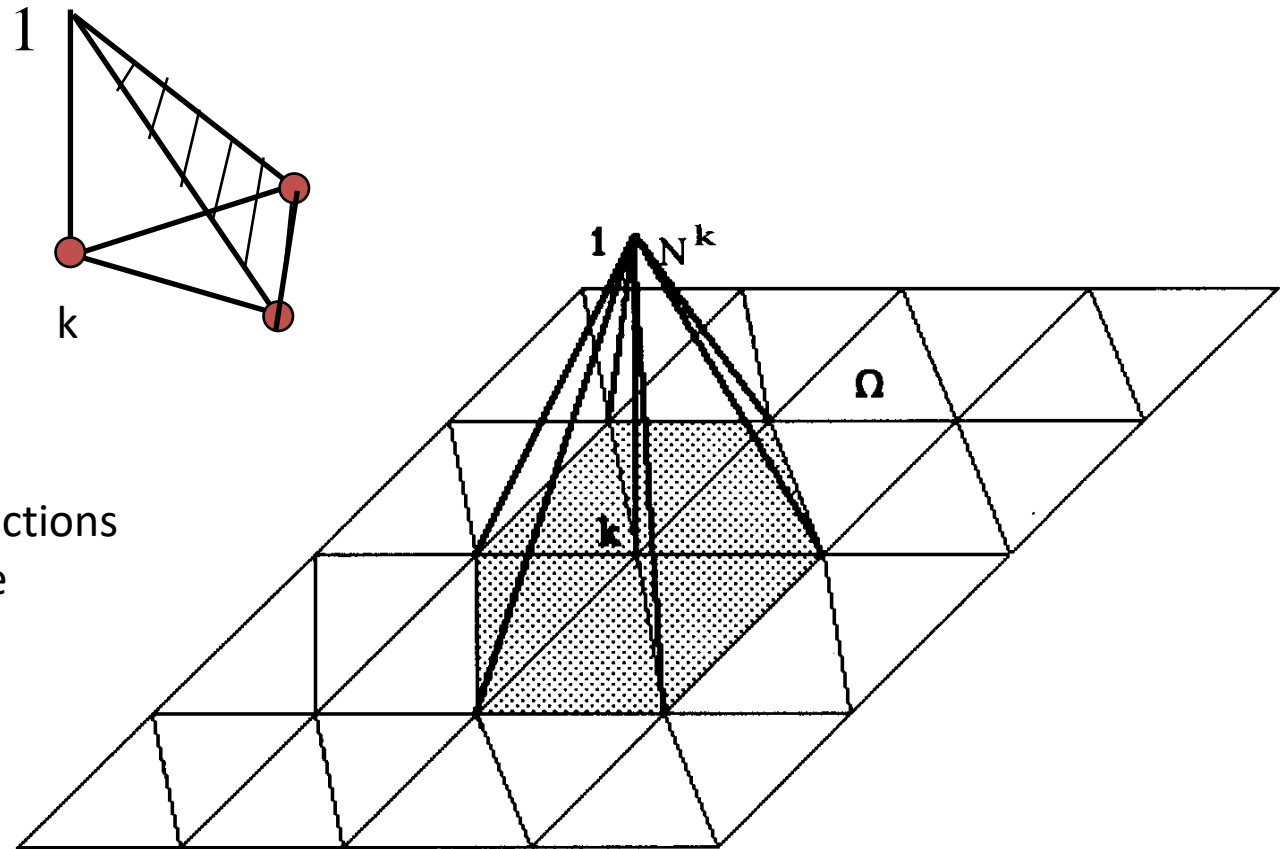
Definition of approximation

$$\hat{\phi}(x_i) = \sum \hat{\phi}^k N^k(x_i) \quad \langle k = 1, \dots, \text{no nodes} \rangle$$



## Definition of approximation

For 2D linear triangles the following shape function for node  $k$  is obtained

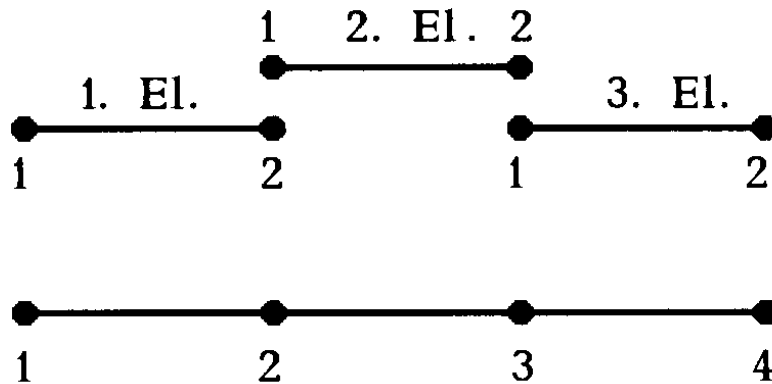


and the global shape functions for node  $k$  are given here

## Definition of approximation

The introduction of global shape functions simplifies the formal description,  
 For programming only the element shape functions are usually used.

This is explained at a 1D example.



elements with local numbering

Elements with global numbering

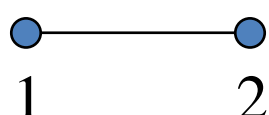
Applied is a linear approximation

## Definition of approximation

Approximation for element 1:  $\widehat{\phi}^{(e)} = \alpha_1 + \alpha_2 X$

Approximation for element 2:  $\phi^{(e)} = \beta_1 + \beta_2 X$

As already mentioned with these approximations it is difficult to satisfy the continuity requirements. There are constraints between the coefficients. Therefore the approximations are expressed in node values



The diagram shows a horizontal line segment with two blue circular nodes. The node on the left is labeled '1' and the node on the right is labeled '2'.

$$\widehat{\phi}^{(e)} = \widehat{\phi}^{1(e)} + \left( \widehat{\phi}^{2(e)} - \widehat{\phi}^{1(e)} \right) \frac{X - X^{1(e)}}{X^{2(e)} - X^{1(e)}}$$

This results in

for element 1:  $\widehat{\phi}^{(e)} = \widehat{\phi}^1 + \left( \widehat{\phi}^2 - \widehat{\phi}^1 \right) \frac{X - X^1}{X^2 - X^1}$

for element 2:  $\widehat{\phi}^{(e)} = \widehat{\phi}^2 + \left( \widehat{\phi}^3 - \widehat{\phi}^2 \right) \frac{X - X^2}{X^3 - X^2}$

## Definition of approximation

So the continuity is satisfied without additional measures.

By introducing a dimensionless coordinate for each element:

$$\xi = \frac{\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}^{1(e)}}{\mathbf{x}^{2(e)} - \mathbf{x}^{1(e)}}$$

the approximation can be written in the form

$$\widehat{\phi}^{(e)} = \widehat{\phi}^{1(e)} (1 - \xi) + \phi^{2(e)} \xi$$

or with the shape functions

$$\widehat{\phi}^{(e)} = \widehat{\phi}^{1(e)} \mathbf{N}^{1(e)} + \phi^{2(e)} \mathbf{N}^{2(e)}$$

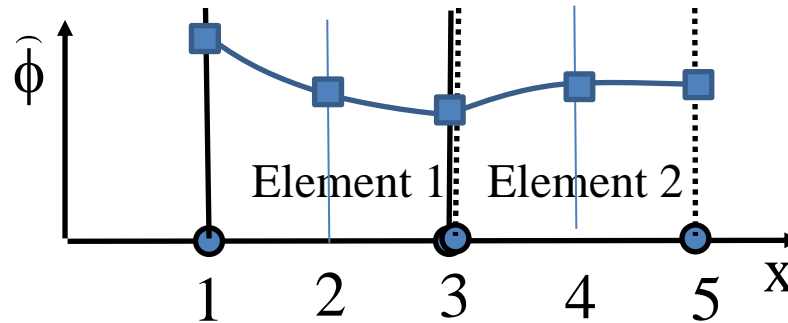
Where the shape functions are defined as

$$\mathbf{N}^{1(e)} = 1 - \xi \quad \text{and} \quad \mathbf{N}^{2(e)} = \xi$$

## Definition of approximation

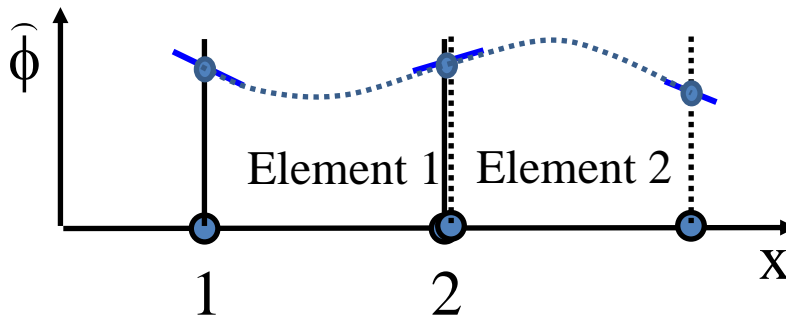
The continuity is automatically satisfied by using node values

Example:  
1D quadratic



But differentiability is not yet obtained

This could be obtained by introducing also the derivatives on the nodes as generalized node values



This works, but it is very complicated in 2D and 3D

If not Galerkin method is applied (reduction of continuity requirements!) for higher order differential equations mostly the higher order differential equation is transformed into a system of differential equation of first order.

Example:                      Basic equation       $\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} + f = 0$

   Introduction of function  $g$        $g = \frac{\partial u}{\partial x}$

Resulting system of 1<sup>st</sup> order equation       $\frac{\partial g}{\partial x} + f = 0$

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial x} - g = 0$$

---

By introducing the vorticity vector the Navier-Stokes equations can be transferred into a system of 6 equations of first order

## General procedure

1

Definition of describing equations

2

Definition of Computational domain, Boundary conditions Initial conditions

3

Dividing of the domain into Finite Elements

4

Definition of the local approximation of the solution quantities

5

Discrete form of the describing equations

6

Assembling of the relevant matrices

7

Solution of the system of linear equations

8

Solution (Linear equations)



Update of coefficients



Convergence check

Solution (non-linear equations)



## Discrete form of the describing equations

In opposition to the Finite Difference Method, where a direct discretization of the differential equations is undertaken, the FEM is based on a variation principle:

$$\Pi = \iiint_{\Omega} F\left(\phi, \frac{\partial\phi}{\partial x}, \frac{\partial\phi}{\partial y}, \frac{\partial\phi}{\partial z}, \frac{\partial^2\phi}{\partial x^2}, \dots, x, y, z\right) dx dy dz = \min$$

$\phi$  is the solution function looked for. It can be a single function or a set of unknown functions (e. g. for the Navier-Stokes equations  $\phi$  stands for the velocity components and the pressure).

In structural mechanics an equivalent variation principle to the differential equation formulation exists (e. g. principle of virtual work).

For the Navier-Stokes equations an equivalent variation principle is not known! As a consequence an approximation must be used.

## Discrete form of the describing equations

### Method of weighted residuals (MWR)


Partial Differential equation (PDE)  $D(\Phi) = f$  im Gebiet  $\Omega$

Approximation of the solution  $\hat{\Phi} = \sum_{k=1}^n \alpha^k \cdot \phi^k$

$\phi^k$  ... linear independent functions  
 $\alpha^k$  ... coefficients (looked for)

Introduced into the in PDE results in a residuum  $\varepsilon = D(\hat{\Phi}) - f$

Postulated:  $\int_{\Omega} w^k \cdot \varepsilon d\Omega = \int_{\Omega} w^k \cdot (D(\hat{\Phi}) - f) d\Omega = 0 \quad < k = 1, \dots, n >$

 linear independent weighting functions

There are several methods to choose the weighting functions

## Discrete form of the describing equations

### Least Square Method

For the LSM it is postulated

$$\iiint_{\Omega} \varepsilon^2 d\Omega = \min$$

This is equivalent to

$$\iiint_{\Omega} \frac{\partial \varepsilon}{\partial \alpha^k} \varepsilon d\Omega = 0$$

Compared to the general MWR approach this results in the following weighting functions

$$w^k = \frac{\partial \varepsilon}{\partial \alpha^k}$$

Note: Using LSM no reduction of the continuity requirements can be obtained by partial integration (Green-Gauss theorem)

## Discrete form of the describing equations

### Galerkin Formulation

This is the mostly used formulation for the Navier-Stokes equation.

The weighting function are chosen equal to the shape functions

$$w^k = N^k$$

This results in a variation principle

$$\iiint_{\Omega} N^k \varepsilon \, d\Omega = 0$$

## Discrete form of the describing equations

### Collocation method

Using the collocation method Dirac-functions are used as weighting functions

$$w^k = \delta(\mathbf{x}_i - \mathbf{x}_i^k) \quad \delta(\mathbf{x}_i - \mathbf{x}_i^k) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{for } (\mathbf{x}_i \neq \mathbf{x}_i^k) \\ \infty & \text{for } (\mathbf{x}_i = \mathbf{x}_i^k) \end{cases} \quad \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \delta \, d\mathbf{x} = 1$$

This is equivalent to the postulation, that the residuals at given points (collocation points) is zero.

$$\iiint_{\Omega} \varepsilon \cdot \delta(\mathbf{x}_i - \mathbf{x}_i^k) \, d\Omega = \varepsilon|_{\mathbf{x}_i^k} = 0$$

## Discrete form of the describing equations

### Subdomain Method

The weighting function is chosen to be 1 in the subdomain and 0 outside the subdomain

This means the residuum zero in an „integral“ way in the subdomain.

The weighting function is given as 
$$w^k = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{in } D_m \\ 0 & \text{out of } D_m \end{cases}$$

The subdomain method is equivalent to the Finite Volume Method (FVM)

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Convergence check



Solution (non-linear equations)

## Assembling of the relevant matrices

### Calculation of the element matrices

Based on the method of weighted residuals

$$\iiint_{\Omega} w^k \varepsilon d\Omega = 0 \quad < k = 1, \dots, \text{no of nodes} >$$

the integral can be expressed by the sum of the integrals over all elements

$$\iiint_{\Omega} w^k \varepsilon d\Omega = \sum \iiint_{\Omega^{(e)}} w^{k^{(e)}} \varepsilon d\Omega^{(e)}$$

This results in a linear system of equations (LSE)

$$\underline{\underline{A}}\underline{\phi}=\underline{b}$$

The matrix A can be assembled from the element matrices, also the vector of the right-hand side is calculated from all element contributions

Vector  $\phi$  are the node values, searched for.



## Assembling of the relevant matrices

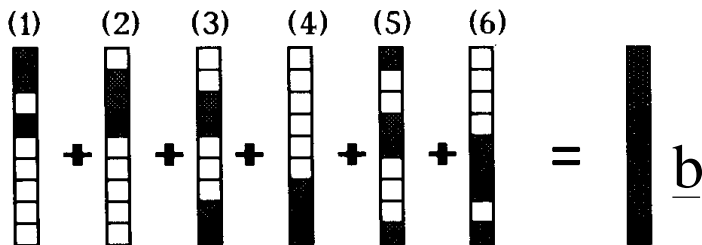
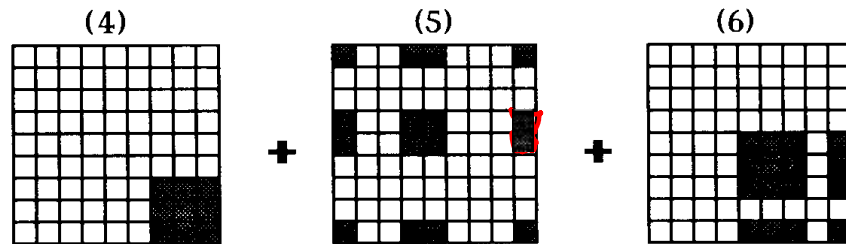
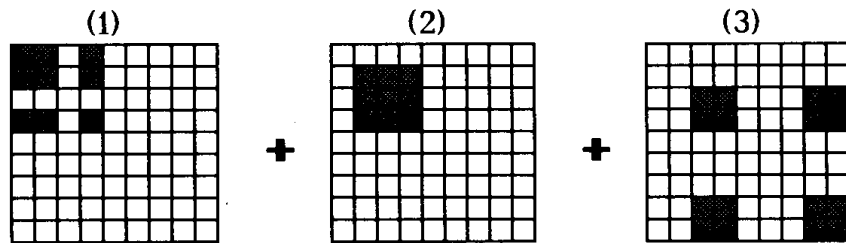
$$\underline{\underline{A}} = \sum \underline{\underline{A}}^{(e)} \quad \text{und} \quad \underline{\underline{b}} = \sum \underline{\underline{b}}^{(e)}$$

The element matrices depend on the equations, the types of elements, approximations etc.

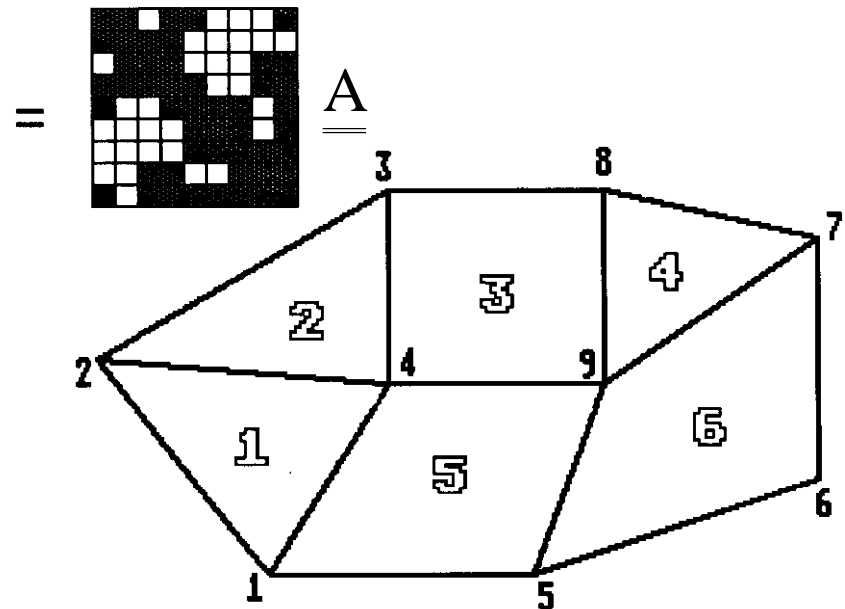
For linear PDEs and rather simple types of elements the element matrices can be calculated directly. For non-linear PDEs and/or more complex elements the element matrices must be calculated numerically.

The calculation of the element matrices will be shown later at an example.

## Assembling of the relevant matrices



The global matrix is assembled from the local element matrices under consideration of the global node numbering



## Introduction of boundary conditions

Through the assembly of the element matrices one obtains the global linear system of equations

Dirichlet boundary conditions must be introduced into this LSE

Neuman boundary conditions result in an additional contribution to the global matrix

Example: Dirichlet b.c.

$$\begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & a_{13} & a_{14} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} & a_{23} & a_{24} \\ a_{31} & a_{32} & a_{33} & a_{34} \\ a_{41} & a_{42} & a_{43} & a_{44} \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} \hat{\phi}_1 \\ \hat{\phi}_2 \\ \hat{\phi}_3 \\ \hat{\phi}_4 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} b_1 \\ b_2 \\ b_3 \\ b_4 \end{bmatrix}$$

Node value 1 is given  $\hat{\phi}_1 = \phi_{\text{fix}}$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ a_{21} & a_{22} & a_{23} & a_{24} \\ a_{31} & a_{32} & a_{33} & a_{34} \\ a_{41} & a_{42} & a_{43} & a_{44} \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} \hat{\phi}_1 \\ \hat{\phi}_2 \\ \hat{\phi}_3 \\ \hat{\phi}_4 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \phi_{\text{fix}} \\ b_2 \\ b_3 \\ b_4 \end{bmatrix}$$

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**Linearization**

Convergence check

Solution (non-linear equations)

## Linearization

Basic equations

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} + \underbrace{u \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + v \frac{\partial u}{\partial y}}_{\text{Non-linear terms}} = -\frac{1}{\rho} \frac{\partial p}{\partial x} + \nu \left( \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial y^2} \right)$$

$$\frac{\partial v}{\partial t} + \underbrace{u \frac{\partial v}{\partial x} + v \frac{\partial v}{\partial y}}_{\text{Non-linear terms}} = -\frac{1}{\rho} \frac{\partial p}{\partial y} + \nu \left( \frac{\partial^2 v}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 v}{\partial y^2} \right)$$

Non-linear terms

Stokes-Linearization:

Convection term is completely taken from the previous iteration step

Picard-Iteration:

$$u \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} \approx u^{old} \frac{\partial u^{new}}{\partial x}$$

Robust, slower convergence,  
 large convergence radius

Newton-Iteration:

fast convergence, small convergence radius

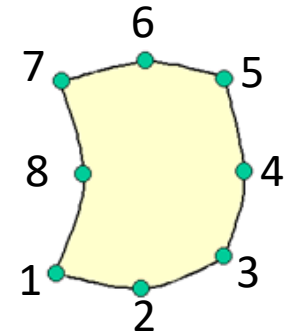
## Steady-state convection-diffusion equation

Basic equation

$$U_j^* \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x_j} - \Gamma \frac{\partial^2 \phi}{\partial x_j^2} - f = 0$$

Approximation within the element

$$\hat{\phi} = \sum_{l=1}^8 N^l \phi^l$$



Residuum

$$\varepsilon = U_j^* \frac{\partial \hat{\phi}}{\partial x_j} - \Gamma \frac{\partial^2 \hat{\phi}}{\partial x_j^2} - f$$

Method of weighted residuals

$$\iiint_{\Omega} w^k \varepsilon \, d\Omega = \sum_{\text{Elemente}} w^{k(e)} \varepsilon \, d\Omega$$

## Steady-state convection-diffusion equation

Galerkin formulation

$$w^k = N^k$$

$$\iiint_{\Omega} N^k \varepsilon \, d\Omega = \sum_{\text{elements}} \iiint_{\text{El } i} N^{k(e)} \varepsilon \, d\Omega = 0$$

with

$$\varepsilon = \left( U_j^* \frac{\partial N^1}{\partial x_j} - \Gamma \frac{\partial^2 N^1}{\partial x_j^2} \right) \hat{\phi}^1 - f$$

$$\sum_{\text{Elemente}} \iiint_{\text{El } i} N^k \left( \left( U_j^* \frac{\partial N^1}{\partial x_j} - \Gamma \frac{\partial^2 N^1}{\partial x_j^2} \right) \hat{\phi}^1 - f \right) d\Omega = 0$$

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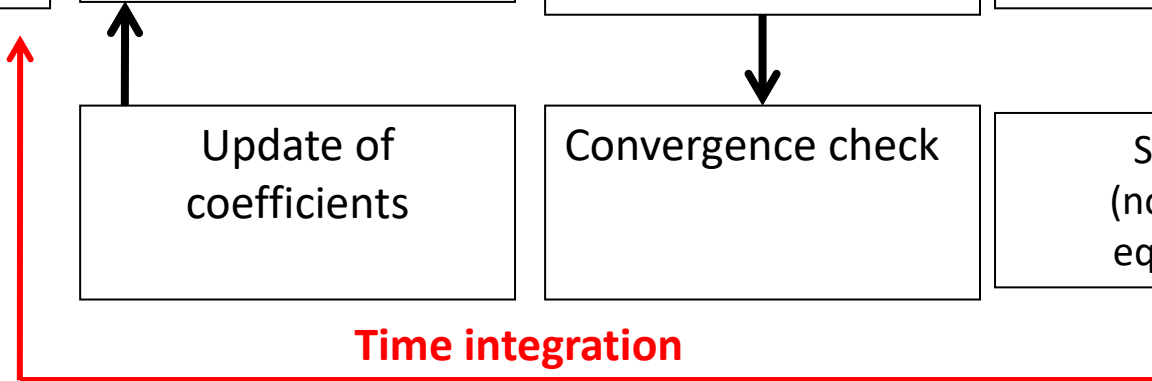
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Solution (Linear equations)

Update of coefficients

Convergence check

Solution (non-linear equations)



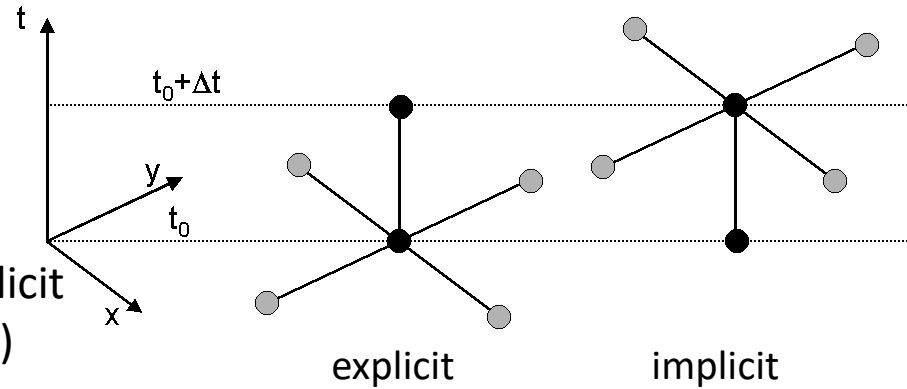
**Time integration**



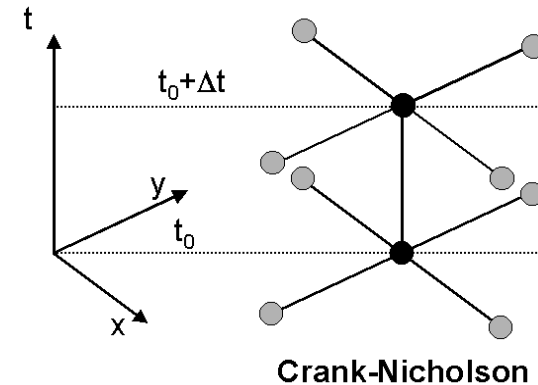
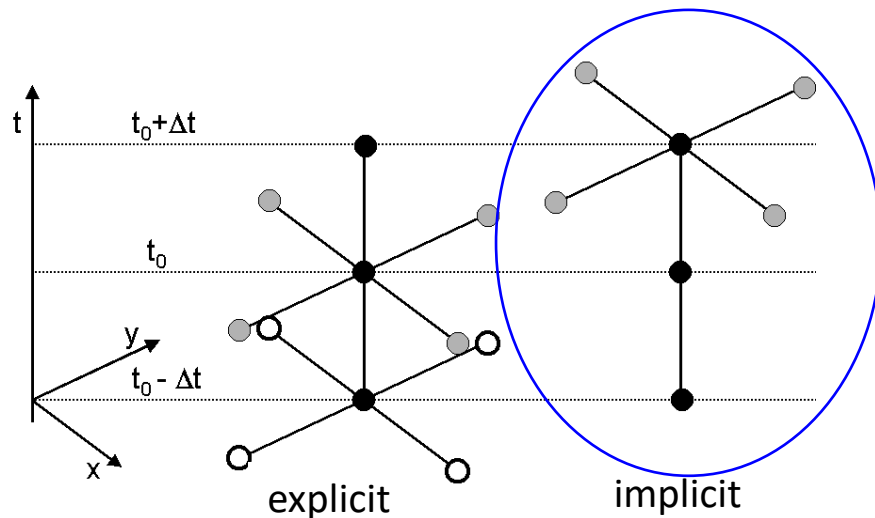
## Time discretization

The time discretization is done by means of finite differences in time, FEM is used only in space

Explicit or implicit Euler (1. order)



Crank Nicholson (2. order)



3 Level Schemes  
explicit order implicit  
(2. order)

## Unsteady convection-diffusion equation

Basic equation

$$\frac{\partial \phi}{\partial t} + U_j^* \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x_j} - \Gamma \frac{\partial^2 \phi}{\partial x_j^2} - f = 0$$

Approximation within the elements

$$\hat{\phi} = \sum_{l=1}^8 N^l \hat{\phi}^l$$

Residuum

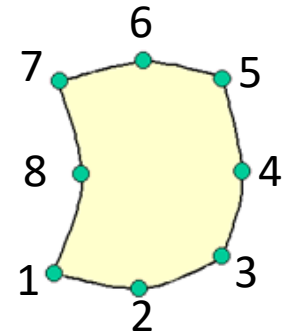
$$\varepsilon = \frac{\partial \hat{\phi}}{\partial t} + U_j^* \frac{\partial \hat{\phi}}{\partial x_j} - \Gamma \frac{\partial^2 \hat{\phi}}{\partial x_j^2} - f$$

MWR

$$\iiint_{\Omega} w^k \varepsilon d\Omega = \sum_{\text{elements}} w^{k(e)} \varepsilon d\Omega$$

Galerkin formulation

$$w^k = N^k$$



## Unsteady convection-diffusion equation

Galerkin formulation

$$\iiint_{\Omega} \mathbf{N}^k \varepsilon \, d\Omega = \sum_{\text{elements}} \iiint_{\text{El } i} \mathbf{N}^{k(e)} \varepsilon \, d\Omega = 0$$

With the residuum

$$\varepsilon = \mathbf{N}^1 \dot{\hat{\phi}} + \left( \mathbf{U}_j^* \frac{\partial \mathbf{N}^1}{\partial \mathbf{x}_j} - \Gamma \frac{\partial^2 \mathbf{N}^1}{\partial \mathbf{x}_j^2} \right) \hat{\phi}^1 - f$$

$$\sum_{\text{Elemente}} \left( \iiint_{\text{El } i} \mathbf{N}^k \mathbf{N}^1 \, d\Omega \right) \dot{\hat{\phi}}^1 + \iiint_{\text{El } i} \mathbf{N}^k \left( \left( \mathbf{U}_j^* \frac{\partial \mathbf{N}^1}{\partial \mathbf{x}_j} - \Gamma \frac{\partial^2 \mathbf{N}^1}{\partial \mathbf{x}_j^2} \right) \hat{\phi}^1 - f \right) d\Omega = 0$$

Discretized equations

$$M^{kl} \cdot \dot{\hat{\phi}}^l + D^{kl} \cdot \hat{\phi}^l - f^l = 0$$

$\uparrow$                        $\uparrow$   
 Mass matrix          Stiffness matrix

Time discretisation

$$M^{kl} \cdot \frac{\hat{\phi}^l - \hat{\phi}^l}{\Delta t} + D^{kl} \hat{\phi}^l - f^l = 0$$

FD discretisation

Implicit (Euler backward)

$$M^{kl} \cdot \frac{\hat{\phi}_{new}^l - \hat{\phi}_{old}^l}{\Delta t} + D^{kl} \hat{\phi}_{new}^l - f_{new}^l = 0$$

Explicit (Euler forward)

$$M^{kl} \cdot \frac{\hat{\phi}_{new}^l - \hat{\phi}_{old}^l}{\Delta t} + D^{kl} \hat{\phi}_{old}^l - f_{old}^l = 0$$

Still a linear system of equations must be solved

=> In FEM usually an implicit time discretization is applied

### Example: 1D Helmholtz equation

$$\frac{\partial^2 \phi}{\partial x^2} - \lambda^2 \phi = 0 \quad \lambda = 0.5$$

Boundary conditions  
 $\phi(0)=1; \quad \phi(2)=1.54308$

---

Exact solution:  $\phi = c_1 e^{-\lambda x} + c_2 e^{\lambda x}$  with  $c_1 = c_2 = 0.5$

---

MWR

$$\int_0^2 w^k \left( \frac{\partial^2 \hat{\phi}}{\partial x^2} - \lambda^2 \hat{\phi} \right) dx = 0$$

Approximation  $\hat{\phi} = \hat{\phi}^k N^k$

In the direct form the approximation must be continuous and differentiable.

The requirement can be reduced by applying Galerkin method and the Green Gauss theorem

## Example: 1D Helmholtz equation

Galerkin formulation

$$w^k = N^k$$

Weighting functions = Shape functions

$C_{n-1}$ -continuity

Integral contains derivations 2. order => approximation continuous and differentiable

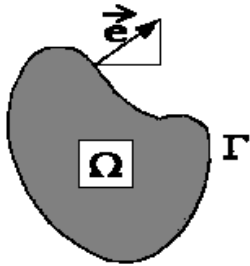
$$\left[ \int_0^2 N^k \left( \frac{\partial^2 N^l}{\partial x^2} - \lambda^2 N^l \right) dx \right] \hat{\phi}^l = 0$$

System matrix (n x n)
Node values

k and l count from 1 to the no of nodes n

By applying Green-Gauss theorem the continuity requirements can be reduced by one order.

## Green-Gauss theorem



$$\iiint_{\Omega} \phi \frac{\partial \theta}{\partial x_i} d\Omega = - \iiint_{\Omega} \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x_i} \theta d\Omega + \int_{\Gamma} \phi \theta e_i d\Gamma$$

## Example: 1D Helmholtz equation

Weak formulation

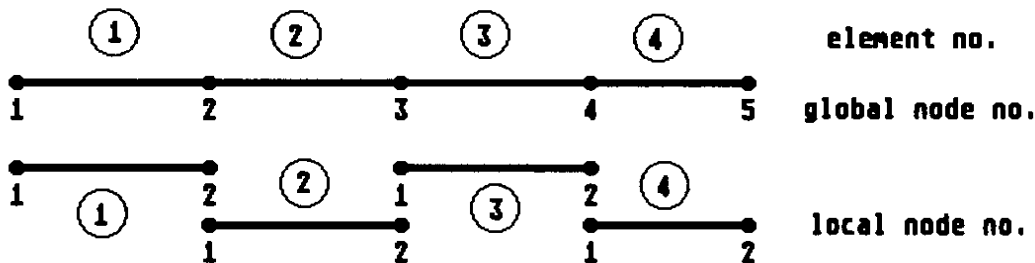
$$\left[ \int_0^2 \left( \frac{\partial N^k}{\partial x} \frac{\partial N^l}{\partial x} + \lambda^2 N^k N^l \right) dx \right] \hat{\phi}^1 = \underline{\underline{A}} \hat{\phi} = 0$$

(Change of sign!!)

The resulting surface integral can be neglected since Diriclet boundary conditions are given. For Neuman boundary conditions the surface integral has to be calculated and results in an addition to the system matrix.

In the weak formulation the integral contains only derivatives of first order. Therefore only  $C_0$ -continuity is required. (This is the big advantage of the Galerkin formulation)

### Solution with 4 linear elements





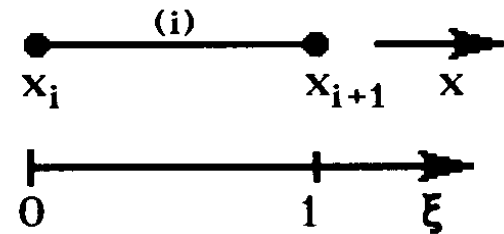
### Example: 1D Helmholtz equation

Calculation of the global matrix from the local element matrices

$$\left[ \sum \int_{x_i}^{x_{i+1}} \left( \frac{\partial \mathbf{N}^k}{\partial x} \frac{\partial \mathbf{N}^l}{\partial x} + \lambda^2 \mathbf{N}^k \mathbf{N}^l \right) dx \right] \hat{\phi}^1 = \sum \underline{\underline{A}}^{(e)} \underline{\underline{\phi}} = 0$$

Element matrix

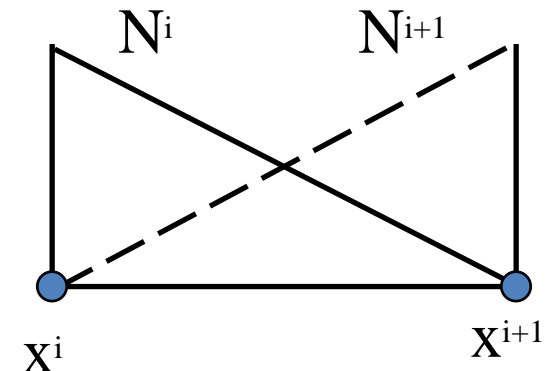
Dimensionless coordinate



$$\xi = \frac{x - x_i}{L} \quad \text{with} \quad L = x_{i+1} - x_i$$

Linear shape functions

$$N^i = 1 - \xi; \quad N^{i+1} = \xi$$



### Example: 1D Helmholtz equation

with  $dx = L d\xi$

and 
$$\frac{\partial N^k}{\partial x} = \frac{\partial N}{\partial \xi} \frac{\partial \xi}{\partial x} = \frac{1}{L} \frac{\partial N}{\partial \xi}$$

This results in 
$$\underline{\underline{A}}^{(e)} = \int_0^1 \left( \frac{1}{L^2} \frac{\partial N^k}{\partial \xi} \frac{\partial N^l}{\partial \xi} + \lambda^2 N^k N^l \right) \cdot L \cdot d\xi$$

In components

$$\underline{\underline{A}}^{(e)} = \int_0^1 \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{L} \left( \frac{\partial N^1}{\partial \xi} \right)^2 + \lambda^2 L (N^1)^2 & \frac{1}{L} \left( \frac{\partial N^1}{\partial \xi} \frac{\partial N^2}{\partial \xi} \right) + \lambda^2 L (N^1 N^2) \\ \frac{1}{L} \left( \frac{\partial N^1}{\partial \xi} \frac{\partial N^2}{\partial \xi} \right) + \lambda^2 L (N^1 N^2) & \frac{1}{L} \left( \frac{\partial N^2}{\partial \xi} \right)^2 + \lambda^2 L (N^2)^2 \end{bmatrix} d\xi$$

### Example: 1D Helmholtz equation

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{with } \frac{\partial N^1}{\partial \xi} &= -1 & \text{and } \frac{\partial N^2}{\partial \xi} &= 1 \\
 \text{and } \int_0^1 \xi^2 d\xi &= \frac{1}{3}; & \int_0^1 (1 - \xi)\xi d\xi &= \frac{1}{6} & \text{and } \int_0^1 (1 - \xi)^2 d\xi &= \frac{1}{3}
 \end{aligned}$$

With  $L = 0.5$  and  $\lambda = 0.5$  this results in the element matrix

$$\underline{\underline{\mathbf{A}^{(e)}}} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{L} + \lambda^2 \frac{L}{3} & -\frac{1}{L} + \lambda^2 \frac{L}{6} \\ -\frac{1}{L} + \lambda^2 \frac{L}{6} & \frac{1}{L} + \lambda^2 \frac{L}{3} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 2.042 & -1.979 \\ -1.979 & 2.042 \end{bmatrix}$$

### Example: 1D Helmholtz equation

Assembling of the  
global matrix

$$\underline{\underline{A}} = \begin{bmatrix} 2.042 & -1.979 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ -1.979 & 4.083 & -1.979 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -1.979 & 4.083 & -1.979 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -1.979 & 4.083 & -1.979 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & -1.979 & 2.042 \end{bmatrix}$$

Introduction of the boundary conditions  $\hat{\phi}^1 = 1.$   $\hat{\phi}^5 = 1.54308$

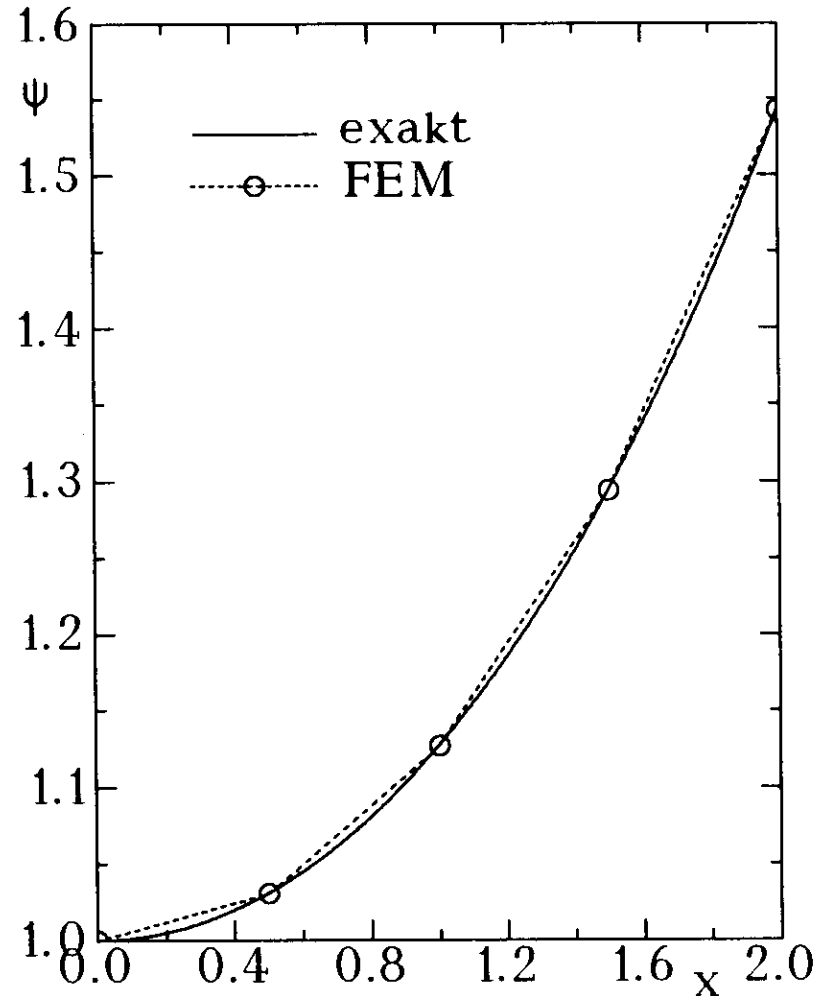
Final equation

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ -1.979 & 4.083 & -1.979 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -1.979 & 4.083 & -1.979 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -1.979 & 4.083 & -1.979 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \hat{\phi}^1 \\ \hat{\phi}^2 \\ \hat{\phi}^3 \\ \hat{\phi}^4 \\ \hat{\phi}^5 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 1.54308 \end{bmatrix}$$

Example: 1D Helmholtz equation

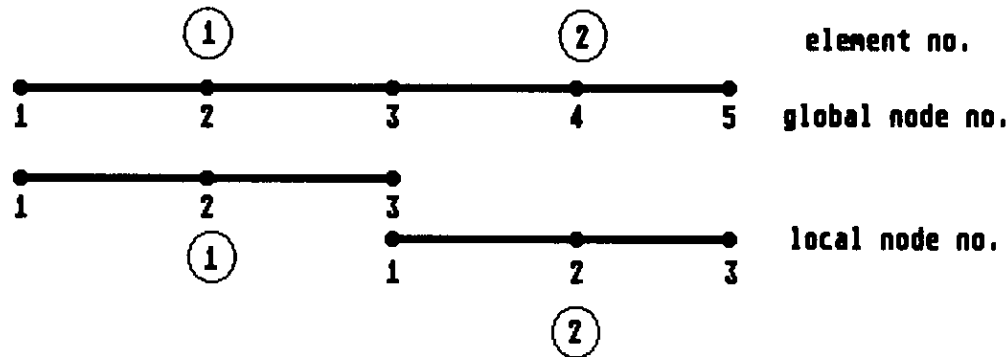
Solution

node	numerical	exact
1	1	1
2	1.03092	1.03141
3	1.12694	1.12763
4	1.29414	1.29468
5	1.54308	1.54308



## Example: 1D Helmholtz equation

### Solution using two quadratic elements



Shape functions

$$N^{1(e)} = (1 - \xi)(1 - 2\xi)$$

$$N^{2(e)} = 4\xi(1 - \xi)$$

$$N^{3(e)} = -\xi(1 - 2\xi)$$

In analogy to the linear elements the element matrices can be calculated

### Example: 1D Helmholtz equation

Element matrix

$$\underline{\underline{A}}^{(e)} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{7}{3L} + \frac{4L}{30} & \frac{-8}{3L} + \frac{2L}{30} & \frac{1}{3L} - \frac{L}{30} \\ -8 & 2L & -8 & 2L \\ \frac{-8}{3L} + \frac{2L}{30} & \frac{16}{3L} + \frac{16L}{30} & \frac{-8}{3L} + \frac{2L}{30} \\ \frac{1}{3L} - \frac{L}{30} & \frac{-8}{3L} + \frac{2L}{30} & \frac{7}{3L} + \frac{4L}{30} \\ \frac{-8}{3L} + \frac{2L}{30} & \frac{-8}{3L} + \frac{2L}{30} & \frac{7}{3L} + \frac{4L}{30} \end{bmatrix}$$

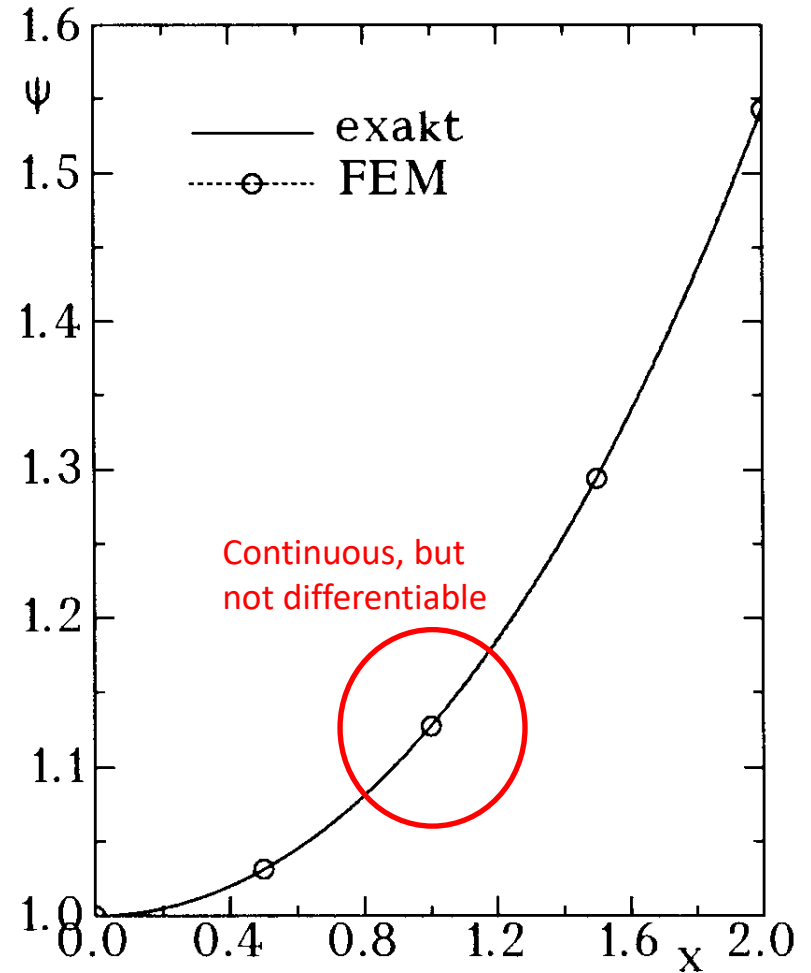
Both element matrices will be summed up and the boundary conditions must be introduced.

## Example: 1D Helmholtz equation

Global matrix

$\frac{7}{3L_1}$	$-\frac{8}{3L_1}$	$\frac{1}{3L_1}$		
$-\frac{8}{3L_1}$	$\frac{16}{3L_1}$	$-\frac{8}{3L_1}$		
$\frac{1}{3L_1}$	$-\frac{8}{3L_1}$	$\frac{7}{3L_1} + \frac{7}{3L_2}$	$-\frac{8}{3L_2}$	$\frac{1}{3L_2}$
		$-\frac{8}{3L_2}$	$\frac{16}{3L_2}$	$-\frac{8}{3L_2}$
		$\frac{1}{3L_2}$	$-\frac{8}{3L_2}$	$\frac{7}{3L_2}$

Solution





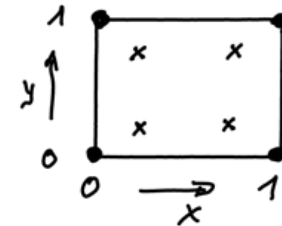
## Gauss Integration

For linear PDEs and rather simple types of elements the element matrices can be calculated directly. For non-linear PDEs and/or more complex elements the element matrices must be calculated numerically.

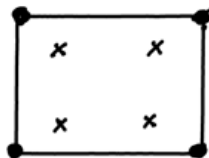
### Gauss Integration

$$2D: \int_E f(x, y) dx dy \approx A \cdot \sum_{i=1}^{n_g} f(x_i, y_i) \cdot \omega_i$$

↑ Area
↑ Gauss points
↑ weight



Example: 2D rectangle



Accuracy  
2<sup>nd</sup> order is sufficient.  
↳ 4 Gauss points

$$\int_E f(x, y) dx dy = A \cdot \sum_{i=1}^4 f(x_i, y_i) \cdot \omega_i$$

	X	Y	$\omega$
1	0.2113	0.2113	0.25
2	0.7887	0.2113	0.25
3	0.2113	0.7887	0.25
4	0.7887	0.7887	0.25



## Navier-Stokes equation

Mass conservation

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{u}_i}{\partial \mathbf{x}_i} = 0$$

Momentum conservation

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{u}_i}{\partial t} + \mathbf{u}_j \frac{\partial \mathbf{u}_i}{\partial \mathbf{x}_j} = -\frac{1}{\rho} \frac{\partial p}{\partial \mathbf{x}_i} + \frac{\partial}{\partial \mathbf{x}_j} \left[ \mathbf{v}_{\text{eff}} \left( \frac{\partial \mathbf{u}_i}{\partial \mathbf{x}_j} + \frac{\partial \mathbf{u}_j}{\partial \mathbf{x}_i} \right) \right]$$

Approximations

$$\hat{\mathbf{u}}_i = \mathbf{N}^k \hat{\mathbf{u}}_i^k$$

$N^k$  and  $M^k$  Shape functions  
 $\hat{\mathbf{u}}_i^k$  Node values

$$\hat{p} = \mathbf{M}^k \hat{p}^k$$

## Navier-Stokes equation

### Momentum equations

$$\int_{\Omega} \left[ N^k N^l \dot{U}_i^l + \tilde{U}_j N^k \frac{\partial N^l}{\partial x_j} U_i^l + \nu_{eff} \frac{\partial N^k}{\partial x_j} \left( \frac{\partial N^l}{\partial x_j} U_i^l + \frac{\partial N^l}{\partial x_i} U_j^l \right) \right] d\Omega$$

$$- \int_{\Gamma} \nu_{eff} N^k \left( \frac{\partial N^l}{\partial x_j} U_i^l + \frac{\partial N^l}{\partial x_i} U_j^l \right) n_j d\Gamma - \int_{\Omega} \frac{1}{\rho} \frac{\partial N^k}{\partial x_i} M^q P^q + \int_{\Gamma} N^k M^q P^q n_i d\Gamma = 0$$

$$\langle k = 1, \dots, n \rangle, \langle l = 1, \dots, n \rangle, \langle q = 1, \dots, m \rangle$$

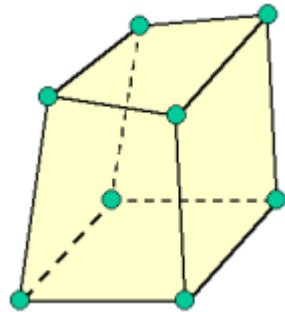
Continuity equation  $\int_{\Omega} M^q \frac{\partial N^l}{\partial x_i} U_i^l d\Omega = 0$   $\langle q = 1, \dots, m \rangle, \langle l = 1, \dots, n \rangle$

## Navier-Stokes equation

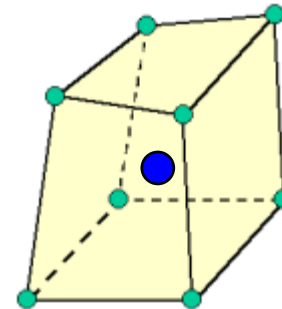
Minimum continuity requirements:

Continuous approximation for velocity components

Discontinuous approximation for pressure



Tri-linear Hexahedron  
for velocity components



Constant pressure

## LBB Condition

## Ladyzhenskaya–Babuška–Brezzi condition

The approximations for velocity and pressure cannot be defined independently.

For the Navier-Stokes equation the velocity components can be interpreted as main variables (degrees of freedom),

The pressure can be seen as constrains

It is necessary to have more degrees of freedom as constrains

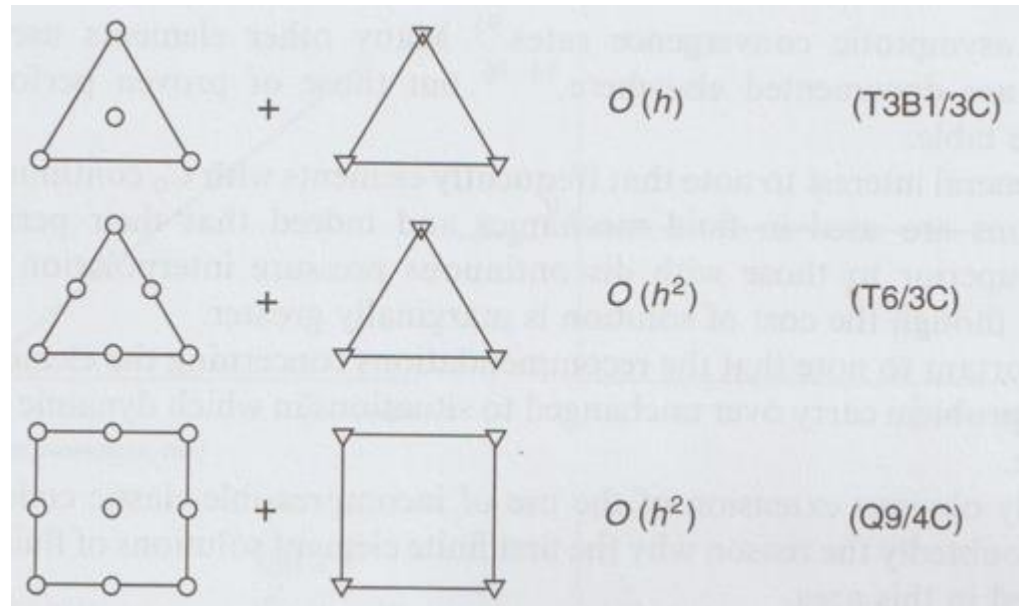
To guaranty a unique solution, the approximations must fulfill the LBB condition, this condition is very complicated and cannot be discussed here.

$$\sup_{v \in V, v \neq 0} \frac{b(v, q)}{\|v\|_V} \geq \beta \|q\|_Q$$

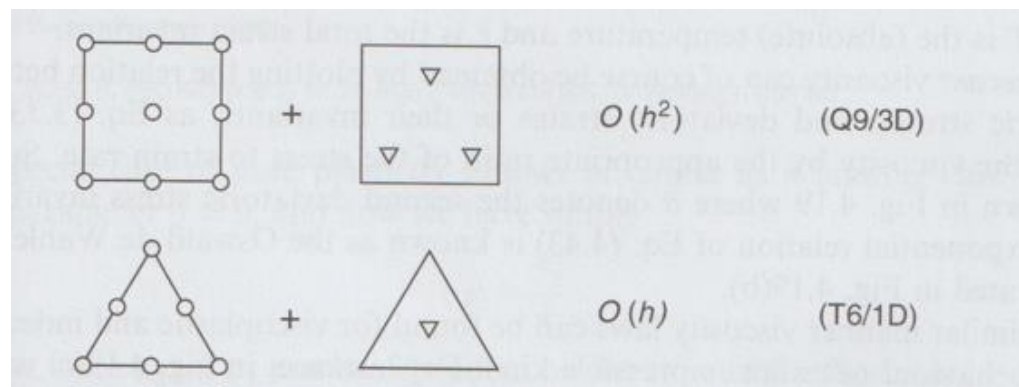
As a rule of thumb, it can be said, that the approximation of the velocities should be one order higher compared to the approximation of the pressure

## LBB Condition

Example of elements, satisfying the LBB condition



Continuous pressure approximation



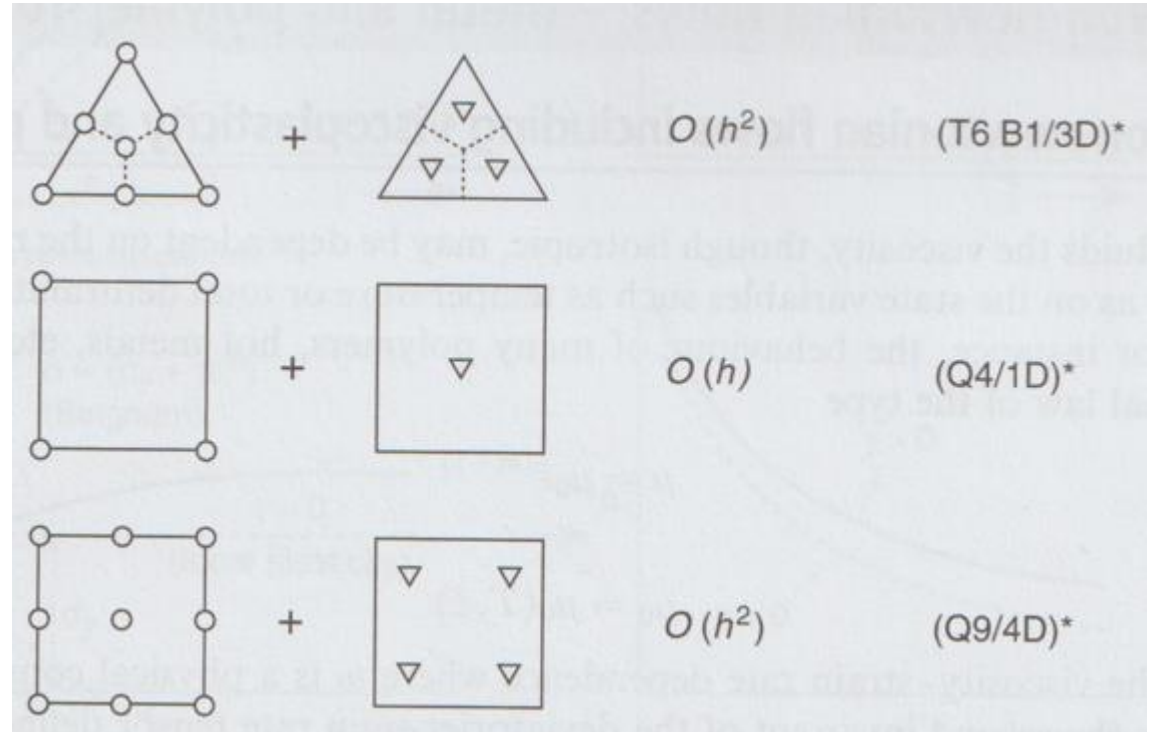
Discontinuous pressure approximation

○ Velocity node  
▽ Pressure node

## LBB Condition

Elements failing the LBB condition, but still performing reasonable

○ Velocity node  
▽ Pressure node



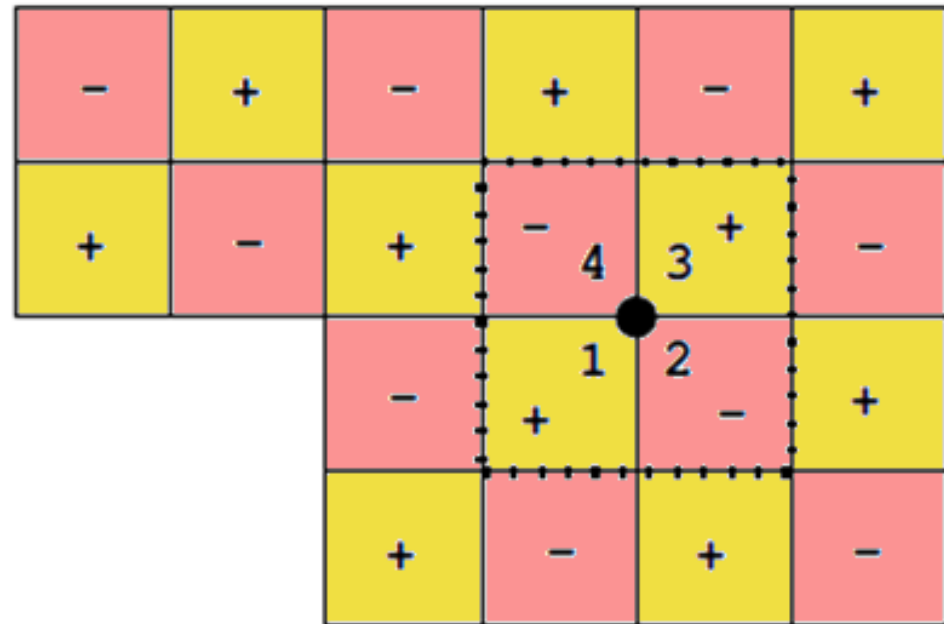
**Problem with decoupling of different pressure modes**



## LBB Condition

Problem with decoupling of different pressure modes

Checkerboard oscillation



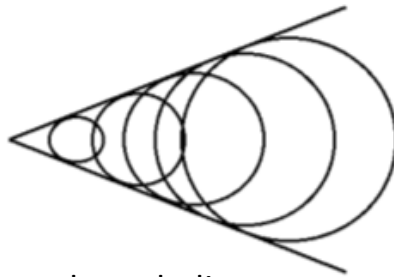
Cure: Smoothing of the pressure

## Convection-diffusion problem

$$\frac{\partial \phi}{\partial t} + \mathbf{U}_j^* \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial \mathbf{x}_j} - \Gamma \frac{\partial^2 \phi}{\partial \mathbf{x}_j^2} - f = 0$$

Convection

Diffusion

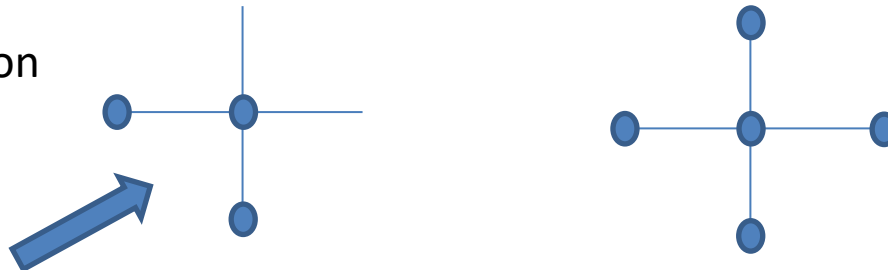


hyperbolic



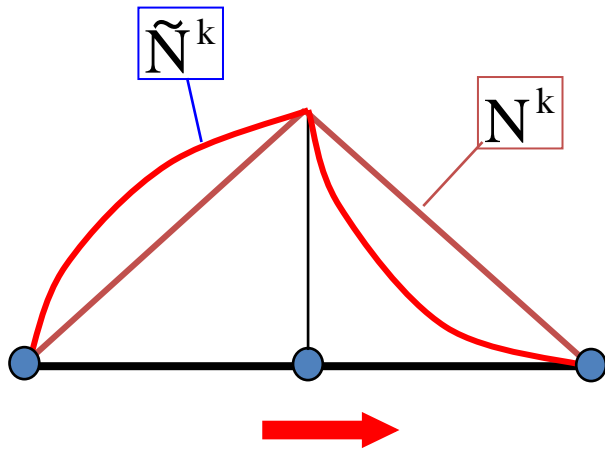
elliptic

FD discretization



## Upwind discretization

"Streamline-upwind" Petrov-Galerkin Method



Approximation:  $\hat{\phi} = \mathbf{N}^k \Phi^k$

Galerkin:  $\int_{\Omega} \mathbf{N}^k \varepsilon d\Omega = 0$

Petrov-Galerkin:  $\int_{\Omega} \tilde{\mathbf{N}}^k \varepsilon d\Omega = 0$

Residuum:  $\varepsilon = \frac{\partial \hat{\phi}}{\partial t} + \mathbf{U}_j^* \frac{\partial \hat{\phi}}{\partial x_j} - \Gamma \frac{\partial^2 \hat{\phi}}{\partial x_j^2} - f$

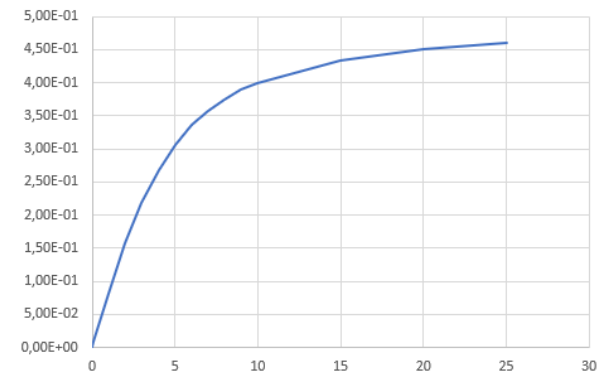
## Upwind discretization

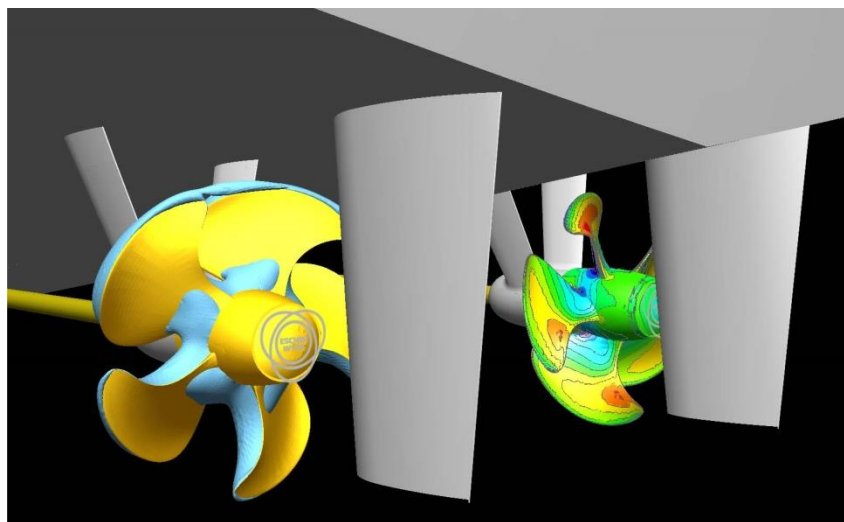
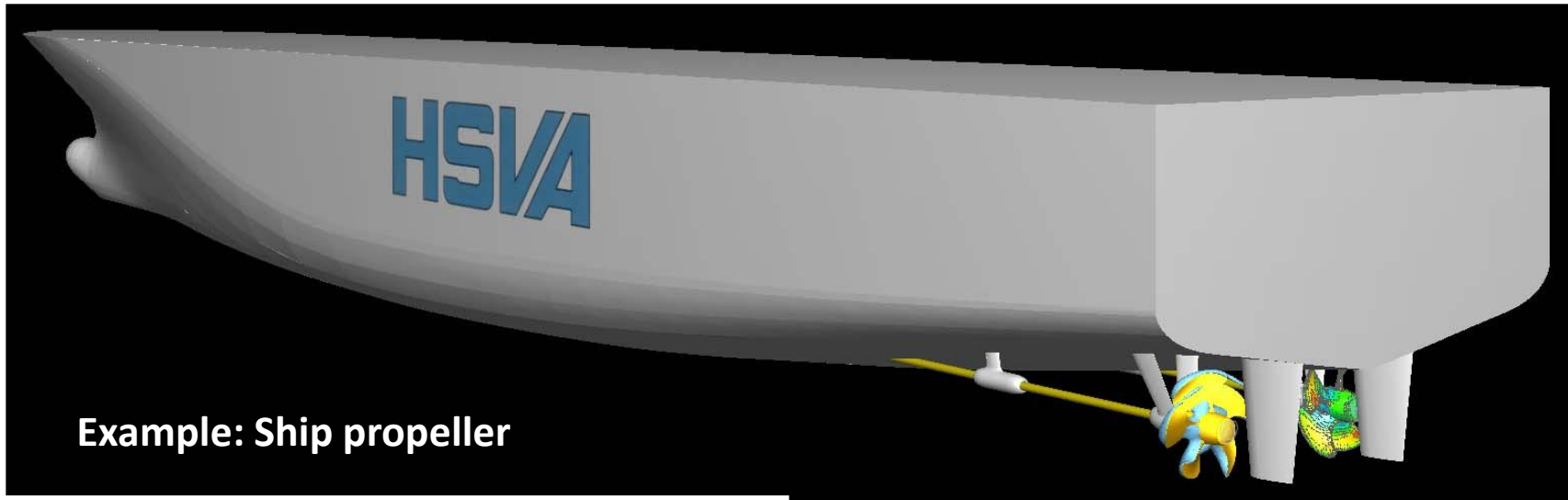
### SUPG weighting function

$$\tilde{N}^k = \begin{cases} N^k + \frac{\partial N^k}{\partial x_j} \frac{U_j}{\sqrt{U_i U_i}} \cdot k'' & \text{für } Re^{(e)} > 2 \\ N^k & \text{für } Re^{(e)} \leq 2 \end{cases}$$

$$Re^{(e)} = \frac{U^{(e)} h}{\Gamma}$$

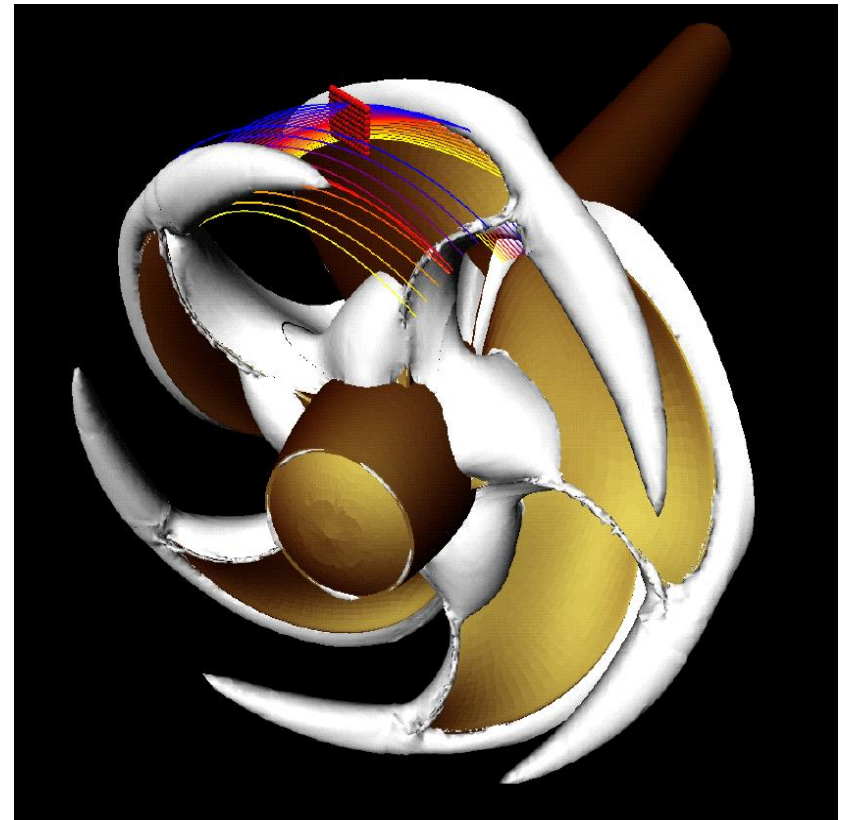
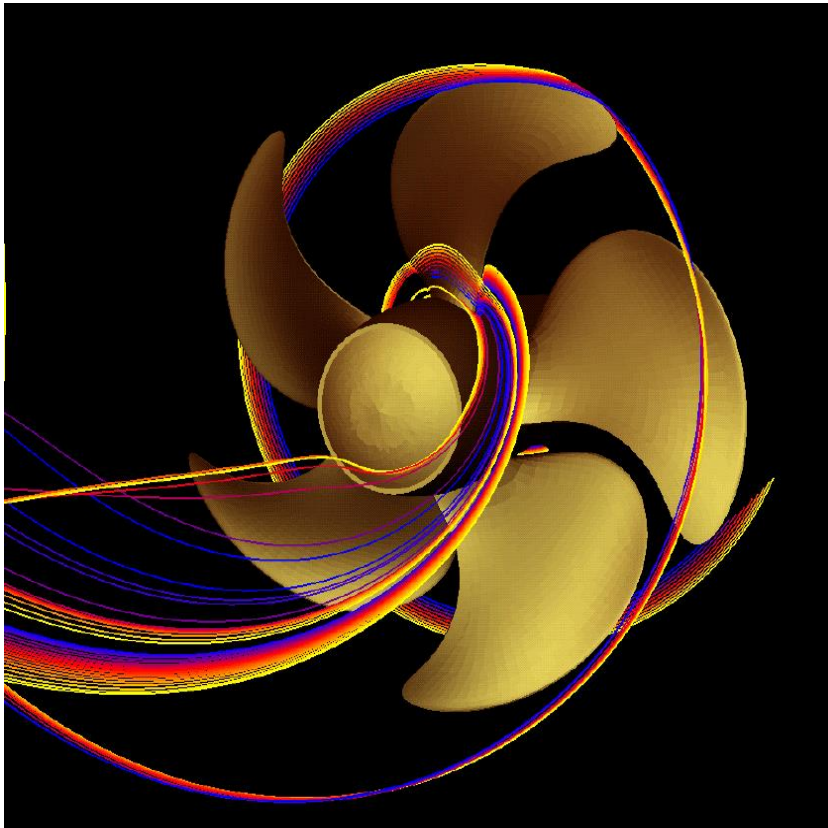
$$k'' = \left( \coth(Re^{(e)}/2) - 2/Re^{(e)} \right) \cdot h/2$$





## Example ship propeller

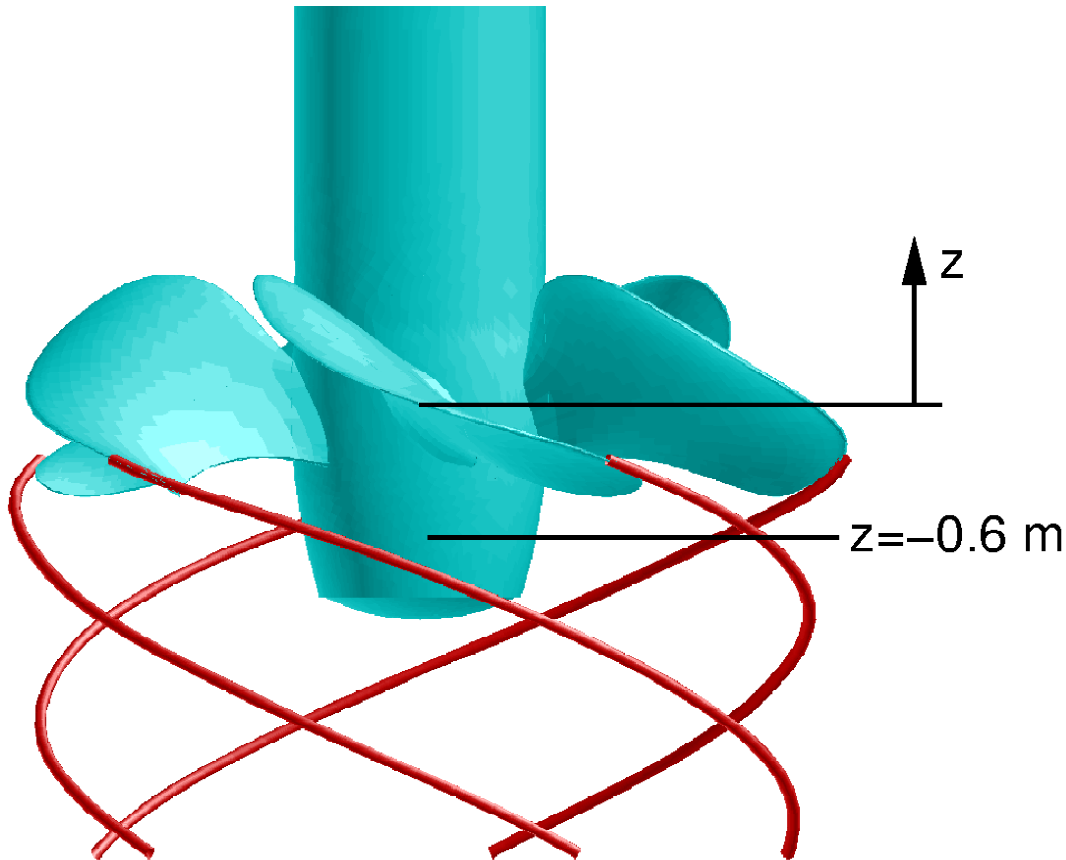
### Tip vortex



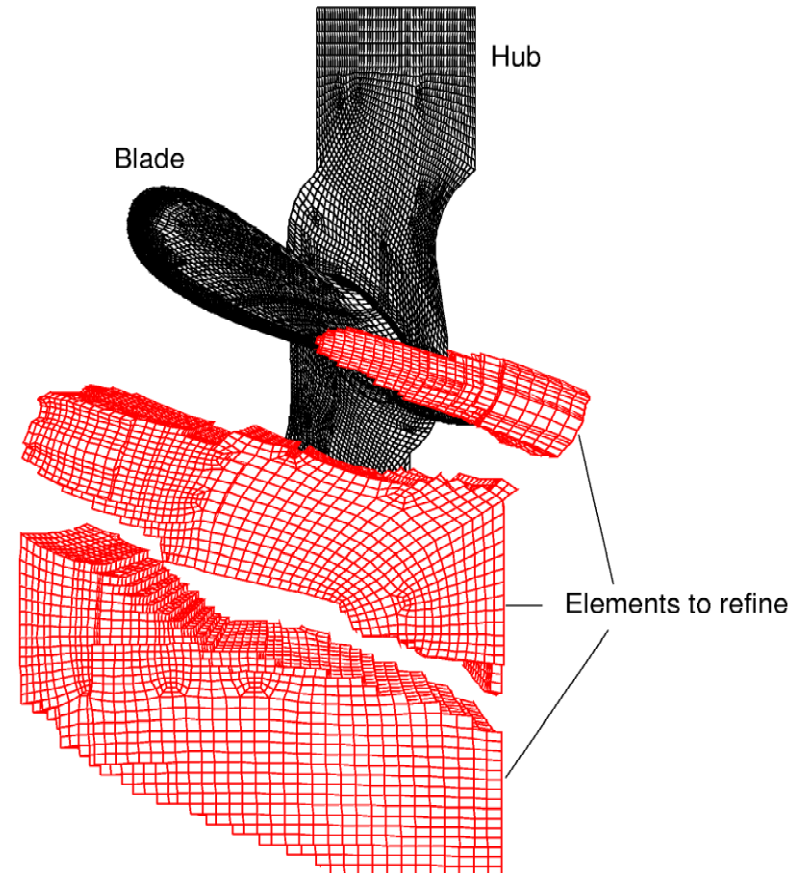
Prediction of vortex cavitation

## Example ship propeller

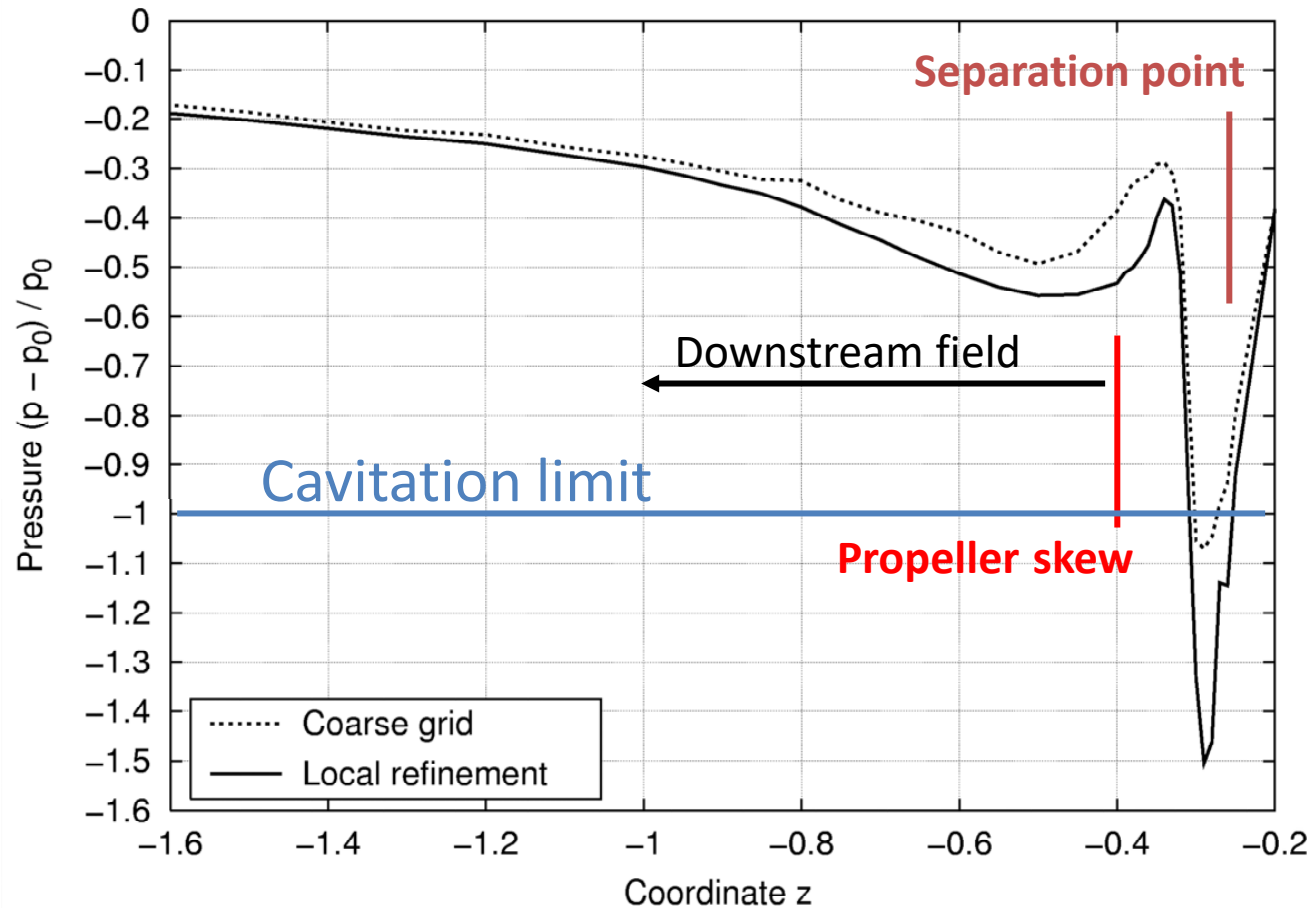
### Tip vortex center



### Local grid refinement



## Example ship propeller





## Summary

- Finite Element Method is very flexible
  - Different element types (tetraether, hexaeder, curvilinear elements, .....
  - Different approximation (linear, quadratic .....
- Unstructured grids
- Mostly used: Galerkin method
  - Green-Gauss theorem
  - Reduction of continuity requirements
- Streamline upwind Petrov Galerkin method for convection dominated flows
  - Skew-symmetric weighting function according to flow direction

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Error estimation possible

Adaptive grid refinement possible