

# FEniCS Course

Lecture 5: Happy hacking  
Tools, tips and coding practices

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FENICS  
PROJECT

# Post-processing

# Function evaluation

Expression and Function objects `f` can be evaluated at arbitrary points:

```
# 1D
x = 0.5
f(x)
# 2D
x = (0.5,0.3) # tuple
# x = [0.5,0.3] is also valid
f(x)
# 3D
x = (0.5,0.2,1.0) # tuple
# x = [0.5,0.2,1.0] is also valid
f(x)
print f(x)
```

Short-hand

```
f(0.5,0.5)
```

**Exercise:** Try it out! Use one of your existing codes and evaluate the solution at some point.

## Function evaluation vs. Function representation

**Question:** What about plotting  $\sin(u_h)$ ? And  $\nabla u_h$  and  $|\nabla u_h|$ ?

**Experiment:** Try it out! Use

```
sqrt(inner(grad(u), grad(u)))
```

for  $|\nabla u|$ . What happens if you plot these function? Have a closer look at the terminal output. Anything suspicious?

**Question:** What happened now? Why is there a  
> Object cannot be plotted directly, projecting to  
piecewise linears.

**Answer:**

- $\sin(u_h(x))$  is the evaluation of the built-in function  $\sin$  at a *given* value  $u_h(x)$ , which in turn results from a FEM function evaluation.
- $\sin \circ u_h$  is a composition of the built-in function  $\sin$  and a FEM function  $u_h$ . The composition is a UFL (Unified Form Language) expression.

## Simple code validation

# Theory can help you to validate your implementation!

## *A priori* estimates for the Poisson problem

If

- $u \in H_0^1(\Omega) \cap H^{k+1}(\Omega)$
- $V_h = \{v_h \in C(\Omega) : v_h \in P^k(T) \forall T \in \mathcal{T}\}$

then

$$E_1(h) := \|u - u_h\|_{1,\Omega} \leq Ch^k \|u\|_{k+1,\Omega}$$

$$E_0(h) := \|u - u_h\|_{0,\Omega} \leq Ch^{k+1} \|u\|_{k+1,\Omega}$$

where  $\|\cdot\|_{l,\Omega} = \|\cdot\|_{H^l(\Omega)}$  for  $l = 0, 1, k + 1$ .

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Taking log on each side

$$\log(E_1(h)) \leq \log(Ch^k \|u\|_{k+1,\Omega}) = k \log(h) + \log(C \|u\|_{k+1,\Omega})$$

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Take the log of each side:

$$\underbrace{\log(E_1(h))}_y \leq \log(Ch^k \|u\|_{k+1,\Omega}) = \underbrace{k \log(h)}_x + \underbrace{\log(C \|u\|_{k+1,\Omega})}_c$$

# Method of manufactured solutions

## Recipe

- 1 Take a suitable function  $u$
- 2 Compute  $-\Delta u$  to obtain  $f$
- 3 Compute boundary values (trivial if only Dirichlet boundary conditions are used)
- 4 Solve the corresponding variational problem

$$a(u_h, v) = L(v)$$

for a sequence of meshes  $\mathcal{T}_h$  and compute the error

$$E_i(h) = \|u - u_h\|_{i, \Omega_i} \text{ for } i = 0, 1$$

- 5 Plot  $\log(E_i(h))$  against  $\log(h)$  and determine  $k$

## Homework

Try this by taking  $u = \sin(2\pi x) \sin(2\pi y)$  on the unit square. Solve the problem for  $N = 2, 4, 8, 16, 64, 128$  and compute both the  $L^2$  and  $H^1$  errors for  $P1$ ,  $P2$  and  $P3$  elements as a function of  $h$ . Can you determine the convergence rate?