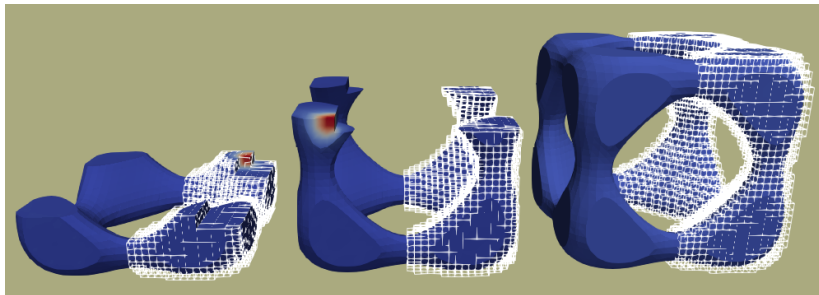


Gridap: Towards productivity and performance in Julia

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MWNDEA, Monash University, February 14th 2020

My concerns about **poor productivity wrt software development**

Workflow

Design new method → analyse it → implement it (rapid prototyping) → exploit it in (large scale) applications (performance)

Probably not your case: Focused on analysis (academic examples) or application side (existing libraries OK)

PhD students (3-4y), postdocs (1-3y), no computer scientists

Software dev policies

Start from scratch: Academic codes in **dynamic languages** (MATLAB, Python...), wasting previous work, no performance, usually not accessible code (**no reproducible science**)

Software dev policies

Reuse: Excellent pool of high-performance libraries: deal.ii, Fenics, FEMPAR, MOOSE, libmesh, Firedrake, DUNE, NGSolve, etc.

- **Static languages** (C++, FORTRAN08...) for *performance*
- Excellent if they provide all you need (Python interfaces)
- Far more involved if not (**productivity loss**)

Productivity

Related to **dynamic languages** (Python, MATLAB...):
More expressive, no compilation step, interactive development (debugging on-the-fly), better for math-related bugs (no benefit from static compilation), no set-up of environment (compilers, system libraries, etc)

Performance

Related to **static languages** (C/C++, FORTRAN,...):
Compilers generate *highly optimised* code



<https://julialang.org/>

21st century FORTRAN, designed for numerical computation (MIT, 2011-)

All-in-one (?)

Productive: Dynamic language (as Python, MATLAB...)

Performant: Advanced type-inference system + just-in-time (JIT) compilation

- **Not OO:** No inheritance of concrete types (only abstract types), *use composition, not inheritance, classify by their actions, not their attributes...*
- **Multiple dispatching paradigm:** functions not bound to types, dispatching wrt all arguments

- **Not OO:** No inheritance of concrete types (only abstract types), *use composition, not inheritance, classify by their actions, not their attributes...*
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Let us play a little with with Julia...

Gridap seed started in Christmas 2018 trying to increase productivity in my team

Some key decisions based on previous experience and Julia capabilities:

- Functional-like style i.e. **immutable objects**, no *state diagram* (just cache arrays for performance)
- **Lazy evaluation** of expressions (implement unary/binary expression trees for types)

In the spirit of the lazy matrix example...

CellField

Given a *cell* in a partition \mathcal{T} of a manifold \mathcal{M} (e.g. cells, faces, edges in a mesh), it provides a `Field`. A `Field` assigns a *physical quantity* (*n-tensor*) per *space(-time) point* in the manifold.

Key method, lazy evaluation: Given an array of points per cell in \mathcal{T} , we can evaluate a `CellField`, returning an array of scalars/vectors/tensors (`FieldValue`) per cell per point

```
Evaluate(cf::CellField,ps::CellPoints)  
::CellArray{FieldValue}
```

We also implement operations:

- Unary operations: e.g. $\nabla()$, $\nabla \times ()$, $\nabla \cdot ()$, etc.
- Binary operations: $\text{inner}()$, \times , etc.

With these types, we represent *FE functions*, *FE bases*, *constitutive models*, etc.

Applying a `CellField` to a `CellPoints` (integration points) plus expression trees we can integrate forms and assemble matrices

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Let us look at [Gridap Tutorial 1](#)

Gridap is pretty comprehensive (big thanks to F Verdugo's amazing work at UPC):

- Lagrangian, Raviart-Thomas, Nedelec, dG
- Multifield or multiphysics methods
- Interaction with GMesh, Pardiso, PETSc...
- dimension-agnostic (5-dim Laplacian), order-agnostic

Quite rich documentation, tutorials, automatic testing, etc.

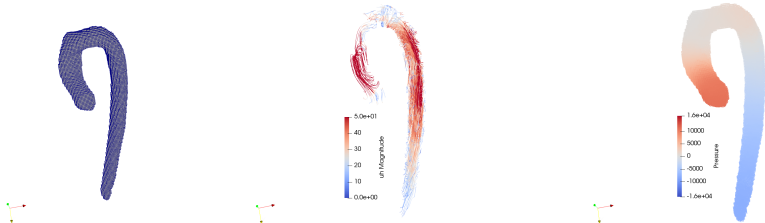
After 1 year and two developers (part time!)... *highly productive environment*

Objective: same **software for research and teaching**

- Designing FE tutorials in *MTH5321 - Methods of computational mathematics*

Objective: same **software for research and teaching**

- One undergrad AMSI project on *Gridap* (Connor Mallon, Monash): No idea about FEs/coding → from patient-specific MRI data of aorta velocity field to pressure field (Navier-Stokes solver...) in about 2 months



This is just the beginning:

- Distributed-memory integration/assembly
- Parallel hp-adaptivity
- Historic variables in nonlinear constitutive models
- Virtual element methods
- Space-time discretisations
- Interaction with other Julia packages (optimisation, ML, UQ, ODE, automatic diff...)
- ...

Performance analysis:

- Poisson solver w/ 1st order FEs on 145^3 mesh in 30 sec (CG+AMG about 60%), similar for 30^4 mesh
- Trying to write performant code (type stable), but NO optimisation yet
- *Performance analysis* on the way (x2-3 performance hit OK if x2-3 productivity, but does not seem to be the case)
- Further topic: In fact, type stability + JIT compilation *eliminates virtualisation* overhead in static languages

Learning Julia

`julialang.org`

Gridap

`github.com/gridap/Gridap.jl`

Gridap tutorials

`github.com/gridap/Tutorials`

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Thanks!