

# Project A: Rotationally symmetric conductivity

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## Setup of the project

We consider the time dependent heat conductivity problem

$$\begin{aligned}c(x) \frac{\partial u(x, t)}{\partial t} - \nabla_x^T (\lambda(x) \nabla_x u(x, t)) &= f(x) \quad (x, t) \in \Omega \times (0, T] \\ -\lambda(x) \frac{\partial u(x, t)}{\partial \vec{n}} &= \alpha(x)(u(x, t) - u_{out}(x, t)) \quad (x, t) \in \partial\Omega \times (0, Z] \\ u(x, 0) &= u_0(x) \quad x \in \bar{\Omega} = \bar{\Omega}^{wall} \cup \bar{\Omega}^{fluid} \cup \bar{\Omega}^{air},\end{aligned}$$

with the initial condition  $u_0(x, 0)$  and  $x = (x_1, x_2, x_3)$ . It consist of 3 different regions: The ceramic mug  $\Omega^{wall}$  itself, the inner part with fluid  $\Omega^{fluid}$  and the air region between surface of fluid and the top edge of the cup  $\Omega^{air}$ .

The appropriate material coefficients  $c, \lambda, \alpha$  differ with respect to the various subdomains. There are no inner heat sources  $f$  and only Robin boundary conditions are assumed. We assume that all coefficients above do not change in time or depend on the solution  $u$  and we do not consider heat radiation.

## Rotational symmetry

Let us consider the mug without the handle so that we achieve the rotationally symmetric geometry  $\Omega^{rot}$ .

The transformation of coordinates  $((x_1, x_2, x_3) \rightarrow (\phi, r, z))$  and the assumption that no quantity is a function of  $\phi$  results in the rotationally symmetric PDE

$$\begin{aligned}rc(\cdot) \frac{\partial u(\cdot, t)}{\partial t} - \nabla_{(r,z)}^T (r\lambda(\cdot) \nabla_{(r,z)} u(\cdot, t)) &= rf(\cdot, t), \quad (\cdot, t) \in \Omega^{rot} \times (0, T] \\ -r\lambda(x) \frac{\partial u(\cdot, t)}{\partial \vec{n}} &= r\alpha(\cdot)(u(\cdot, t) - u_{out}(\cdot, t)), \quad (\cdot, t) \in \Gamma^{Robin} \times (0, T] \\ \lambda(x) \frac{\partial u(\cdot, t)}{\partial \vec{n}} &= 0, \quad (0, z, t) \in \Gamma^{symm} \times (0, T] \\ u(\cdot, 0) &= u_0(\cdot), \quad (\cdot) \in \bar{\Omega} = \bar{\Omega}^{wall} \cup \bar{\Omega}^{fluid} \cup \bar{\Omega}^{air}\end{aligned} \tag{1}$$

with the initial condition  $u_0(x, 0)$ , the symmetry boundary  $\Gamma^{symm} := \{(r, z) : r = 0\}$ , the Robin boundary  $\Gamma^{Robin} := \partial\Omega^{rot} \setminus \Gamma^{symm}$

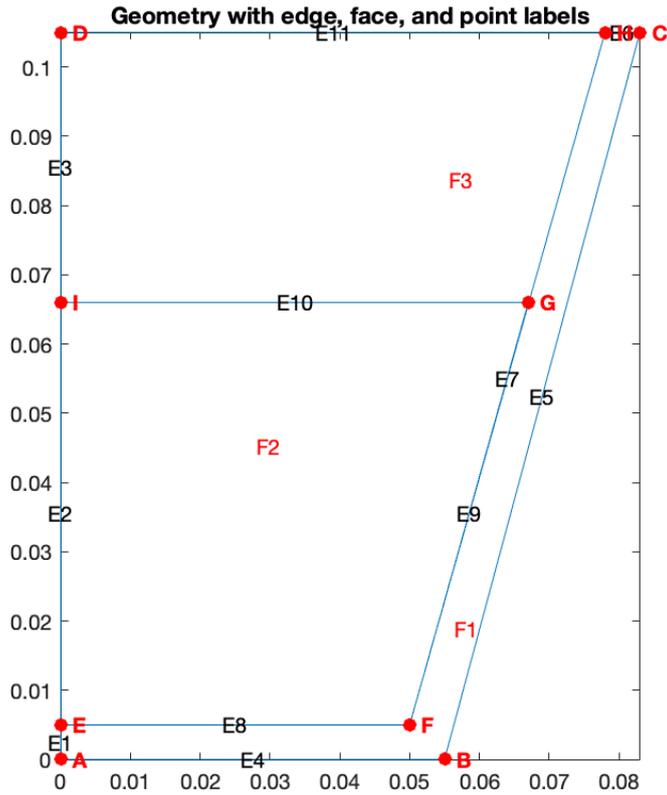


Figure 1: Rotationally symmetric mug geometry ( $\Omega^{rot}$ )

## Task 1: Mesh definition

### Statement:

Generate the 2D mesh with the 3 material domains  $\Omega^{wall}$ ,  $\Omega^{fluid}$ ,  $\Omega^{air}$ . Derive the geometry description by changing `generate_mesh/chip_2materials.m` and using MatLab. The script above generates two files `chip_2materials.txt` (coordinates of vertices and the finite element connectivity) and `chip_2materials_sd.txt` (material number per element).

### Solution:

The mug geometry consists of three distinct subdomains:

- **Ceramic wall** (subdomain 1)
- **Fluid** inside the mug (subdomain 2)
- **Air** above the fluid (subdomain 3)

Defining the geometry correctly is crucial because later tasks assign material properties based on subdomain labels. MATLAB PDE Toolbox supports two approaches:

1. Legacy `initmesh` format (matrix-based), which is cumbersome for multi-domain geometries.

2. Modern `createpde()` with `geometryFromEdges`, which simplifies geometry creation, avoids overlapping edges, and allows easy labeling of subdomains.

For our mug, the modern approach is preferred.

```

1 % Axisymmetric mug
2 clear; clc; close all;
3
4 % Create PDE model
5 model = createpde();
6
7 % Points (meters)
8 A = [0, 0];
9 B = [0.055, 0];
10 C = [0.083, 0.105];
11 H = [0.078, 0.105];
12 F = [0.050, 0.005];
13 E = [0, 0.005];
14 G = [0.067, 0.066];
15 I = [0, 0.066];
16 D = [0, 0.105];
17
18 % Geometry matrix (edges)
19 g1 = [2; A(1); E(1); A(2); E(2); 1; 0]; % Axis - ceramic
20 g2 = [2; E(1); I(1); E(2); I(2); 2; 0]; % Axis - fluid
21 g3 = [2; I(1); D(1); I(2); D(2); 3; 0]; % Axis - air
22 g4 = [2; A(1); B(1); A(2); B(2); 1; 0]; % Outer ceramic
23 g5 = [2; B(1); C(1); B(2); C(2); 1; 0]; % Outer ceramic
24 g6 = [2; C(1); H(1); C(2); H(2); 1; 3]; % Top rim: (C-H) ceramic-air
25 g7 = [2; H(1); F(1); H(2); F(2); 1; 3]; % Inner ceramic wall (H-F) ceramic-air
26 g8 = [2; F(1); E(1); F(2); E(2); 1; 2]; % Inner ceramic bottom (F-E) ceramic-fluid
27 g9 = [2; F(1); G(1); F(2); G(2); 2; 3]; % Fluid surface (F-G) fluid-air
28 g10 = [2; G(1); I(1); G(2); I(2); 2; 3]; % Fluid surface (G-I) fluid-air
29 g11 = [2; D(1); H(1); D(2); H(2); 3; 0]; % Air top boundary: (D-H) air-outside
30
31 % Assemble geometry
32 g = [g1 g2 g3 g4 g5 g6 g7 g8 g9 g10 g11];
33 geometryFromEdges(model, g);
34 figure(1);
35 pdegplot(model, 'EdgeLabels','on', 'FaceLabels','on');
36 axis equal;
37 title('Geometry with edge and face labels');
38
39 % Generate linear mesh (3 nodes per element)
40 mesh = generateMesh(model, 'Hmax', 0.002, 'GeometricOrder','linear');
41
42 figure(2);
43 pdemesh(model);
44 axis equal;
45 title('Generated mesh');

```

### Explanation of key steps:

- `model = createpde()`: creates a PDE model object that stores geometry, mesh, boundary conditions, and PDE coefficients.
- Each edge is defined in the PDE Toolbox “edge format”:
  - 2 indicates a straight line segment,
  - $(x_1, z_1)$  and  $(x_2, z_2)$  are the start and end points,
  - `left` and `right` indicate the subdomains on each side of the edge.

- `geometryFromEdges(model,g)`: imports the geometry matrix into the PDE model, creating a 2D geometry object with all edges and subdomains. The face labels generated by it are: 1 = ceramic wall, 2 = fluid, 3 = air.
- `generateMesh(model,'Hmax',0.002)`: generates a triangular mesh with maximum element size  $H_{max} = 0.002$  m.

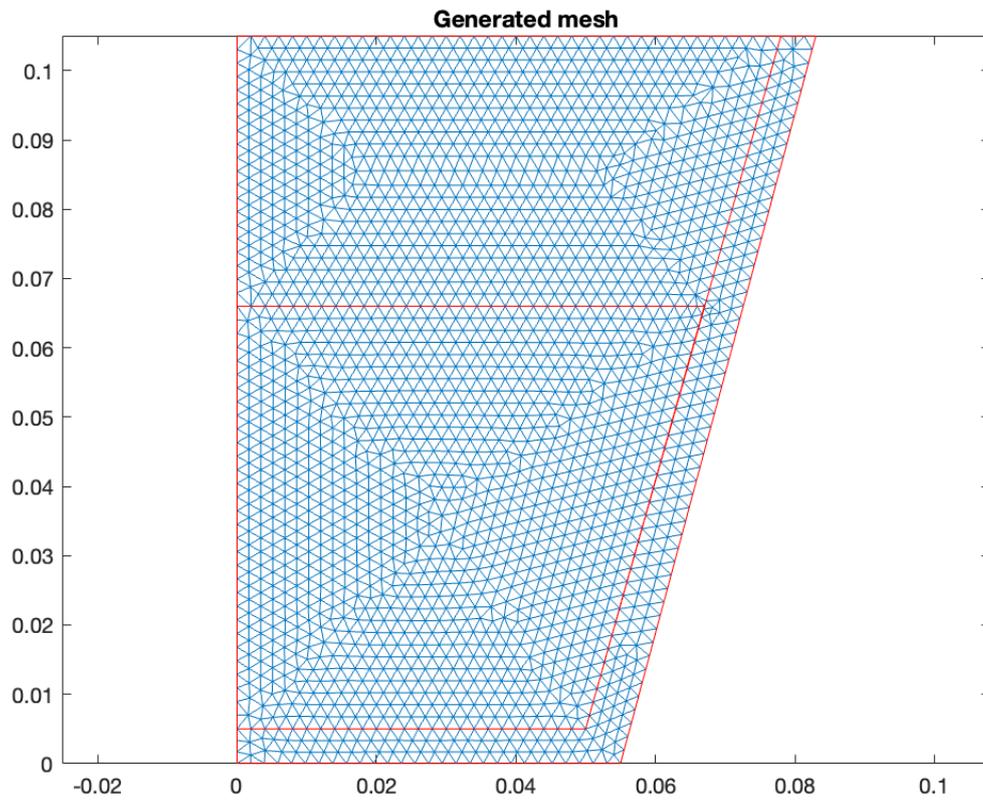


Figure 2: Triangular mesh of the axisymmetric mug domain

## Task 2: Direct solver with constant lambda

### Statement:

Follow the code structure in `mgrid_2/main.cpp` for the Jacobi branch (`#undef MG`) and check whether the stationary Dirichlet problem can be solved.

### Solution:

We solve the stationary Laplace problem

$$-\nabla \cdot (\lambda \nabla u) = 0,$$

with zero Dirichlet boundary conditions on the outer boundary. For this first test, we assume  $\lambda = 1$  throughout the domain. Instead of the Jacobi iterative method, we use a direct method in MatLab, meaning that we use backslash.

```
1 nodes = mesh.Nodes;           % coordinates of all mesh nodes
2 elements = mesh.Elements;     % which nodes make up each triangle element
3
4 Nnodes = size(nodes,2);
5 Nelems = size(elements,2);
6
7 % Define material properties (for simplicity, lambda = 1 everywhere)
8 lambda = ones(Nelems,1);     % thermal conductivity
9
10 % Initialize global stiffness matrix and RHS
11 K = sparse(Nnodes, Nnodes);
12 F = zeros(Nnodes,1);
13
14 % Assemble K and F
15 for e = 1:Nelems %Loop over each triangle element
16     vert = elements(:,e);     %nodes of element
17     x = nodes(1,vert);
18     y = nodes(2,vert);
19
20     Ae = polyarea(x,y);      % Compute area of the triangle
21
22     % Linear triangle gradients
23     b = [y(2)-y(3); y(3)-y(1); y(1)-y(2)]; % derivative with respect to x
24     c = [x(3)-x(2); x(1)-x(3); x(2)-x(1)]; % derivative with respect to y
25
26     % Element stiffness matrix
27     Ke = (lambda(e)/(4*Ae)) * (b*b.' + c*c.');
```

```
28
29     % Assemble
30     K(vert,vert) = K(vert,vert) + Ke;
31
32     % Element load vector (f=0)
33     F(vert) = F(vert) + zeros(3,1);
34 end
35
36 % Find boundary nodesBoundary
37 % all edges -> 2x(3*Nelems) away since each triangle has 3 edges
38 edgesAll = [elements([1 2],:), elements([2 3],:), elements([3 1],:)];
39 % sort nodes of each edge, ensure that [i,j] and [j,i] are the same
40 edgesSorted = sort(edgesAll,1);
41 % identifies unique edges and assigns indices ic
42 [~,~,ic] = unique(edgesSorted,'rows');
```

```
43 % counts how many times each edge appears in the mesh
44 counts = accumarray(ic,1);
45 %edges belonging to only 1 element: hence on the boundary
46 boundaryEdges = find(counts==1);
47 % nodes belonging to these boundary edges
48 boundaryNodes = unique(edgesSorted(:,boundaryEdges));
49
```

```

50 % Direct solver
51 % Enforce Dirichlet BC strongly
52 K(boundaryNodes,:) = 0;
53 K(:,boundaryNodes) = 0;
54 K(boundaryNodes,boundaryNodes) = speye(length(boundaryNodes));
55 F(boundaryNodes) = 0;
56
57 % Direct solve
58 u = K \ F;
59
60 % Plot solution
61 figure(3)
62 pdeplot(model, 'XYData', u, 'Mesh','on');
63 axis equal;
64 title('Stationary Dirichlet solution');
65 colorbar;

```

### Explanation of key steps:

- **Mesh extraction:** `nodes` and `elements` store the coordinates of the mesh nodes and the connectivity of each triangle.
- **Assembly of  $\mathbf{K}$  and  $\mathbf{F}$ :** Each triangle element contributes a local stiffness matrix  $\mathbf{K}_e$  which is assembled into the global stiffness matrix  $\mathbf{K}$ . The local gradients of the shape functions are constant for linear triangles.
- **Boundary nodes:** Nodes on edges that belong to only one element are detected and used to enforce the Dirichlet boundary condition.
- **Solution:** The linear system  $\mathbf{K}u = \mathbf{F}$  is solved directly. Boundary nodes are kept at zero during the solution.
- **Plot:** The resulting solution  $u$  is plotted over the mesh. Since the boundary values are zero and there is no internal source, the solution is  $u = 0$  everywhere in this case.

This task is intended as a numerical validation of the FEM assembly and solver pipeline. Therefore, homogeneous Dirichlet boundary conditions are imposed on the entire boundary, independently of the physical boundary conditions of the final axisymmetric model.

The physically correct symmetry and Robin boundary conditions are introduced in later tasks.

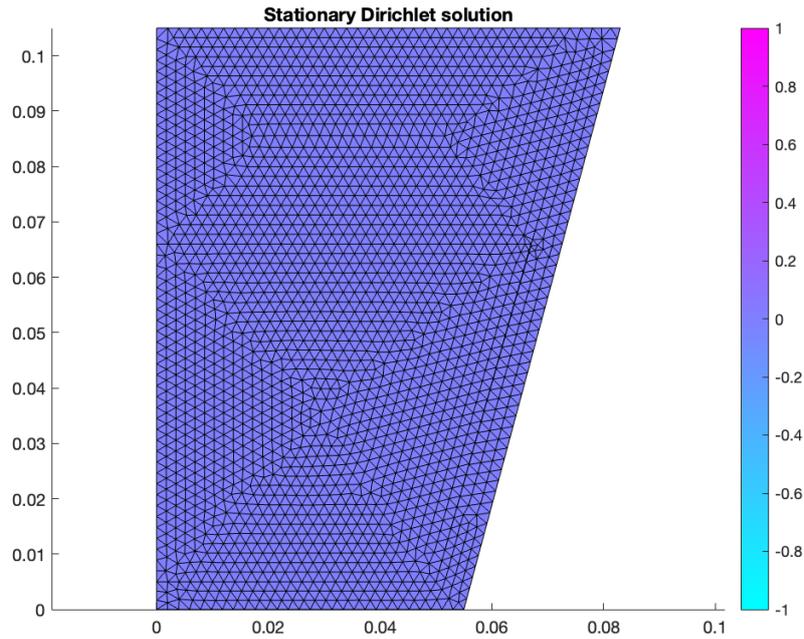


Figure 3: Task 2) Stationary Dirichlet solution

### Task 3: Laplace with multiple lambdas

**Statement:**

Implement for class `FEM_Matrix` a new Method `CalculateLaplace_mult` derived from `CalculateLaplace` that takes into account constant but different conductivities for your domains.

**Solution:**

Unlike Task 2, each subdomain has a different constant  $\lambda$ :

- $\lambda_{wall}$  for ceramic wall
- $\lambda_{fluid}$  for fluid
- $\lambda_{air}$  for surrounding air

The finite element assembly is similar to Task 2, but each element stiffness is scaled by the element's conductivity according to its subdomain label.

```

1 function [K, F] = CalculateLaplace_mult(model, lambda_wall, lambda_fluid, lambda_air)
2
3 mesh = model.Mesh;
4 nodes = mesh.Nodes;
5 elements = mesh.Elements;
6
7 Nnodes = size(nodes,2);
8 Nelems = size(elements,2);
9
10 K = sparse(Nnodes, Nnodes);
11 F = zeros(Nnodes,1);

```

```

12
13 regions = zeros(Nelems,1);
14 regions(findElements(mesh,'region','Face',1)) = 1;
15 regions(findElements(mesh,'region','Face',2)) = 2;
16 regions(findElements(mesh,'region','Face',3)) = 3;
17
18 for e = 1:Nelems %assembly loop
19     vert = elements(:,e);
20     x = nodes(1,vert);
21     y = nodes(2,vert);
22
23     Ae = polyarea(x,y);
24
25     b = [y(2)-y(3); y(3)-y(1); y(1)-y(2)];
26     c = [x(3)-x(2); x(1)-x(3); x(2)-x(1)];
27
28     % conductivity by material
29     switch regions(e)
30         case 1
31             lambda = lambda_wall;
32         case 2
33             lambda = lambda_fluid;
34         case 3
35             lambda = lambda_air;
36         otherwise
37             error('Element %d has no material assignment', e);
38     end
39
40     Ke = (lambda/(4*Ae)) * (b*b.' + c*c. ');
41     K(vert,vert) = K(vert,vert) + Ke;
42 end
43 end

```

### Explanation of key steps:

- Element wise conductivity: Each triangle uses  $\lambda_e$  based on subdomain.
- Assembly: Local matrices  $K_e$  are scaled by  $\lambda_e$  and added to the stiffness matrix.

$$K_e = \lambda_e \int_{T_e} \nabla \phi_i \cdot \nabla \phi_j d\Omega,$$

- The solver remains identical to Task 2.

Solution is identical to Task 2 because since the problem is linear and homogeneous, piecewise constant  $\lambda$  does not affect the zero solution.

## Task 4: Robin boundary condition

### Statement:

Change the boundary conditions from Dirichlet boundary conditions to Robin boundary conditions. Derive a method `ApplyRobinBC_mult` from `ApplyDirichletBC` in class `FEM_Matrix`.

### Solution:

Robin boundary conditions:

$$-\lambda \frac{\partial u}{\partial n} = \alpha (u - u_{\text{out}}) \quad \text{on } \partial\Omega,$$

represents convective heat transfer with the environment. In this equation  $\alpha$  denotes the heat transfer coefficient and  $u_{\text{out}}$  the ambient temperature.

For linear elements, the weak form contribution for each boundary edge  $E$  of length  $L$  is:

$$K_e^{(R)} = \frac{\alpha L}{6} \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ 1 & 2 \end{pmatrix}, \quad F_e^{(R)} = \frac{\alpha u_{\text{out}} L}{2} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

```
1 function [K, F] = ApplyRobinBC_mult(model, K, F, alpha, u_out)
2 mesh = model.Mesh;
3 nodes = mesh.Nodes;
4 elements = mesh.Elements;
5
6 %Boundary edges
7 edgesAll = [elements([1 2],:), elements([2 3],:), elements([3 1],:)];
8 edgesSorted = sort(edgesAll,1);
9 [edgesUnique,~,ic] = unique(edgesSorted,'rows');
10 counts = accumarray(ic,1);
11 boundaryEdges = edgesUnique(counts==1,:); % Nx2 array
12
13 for k = 1:size(boundaryEdges,1) %Loop over Robin boundary edges
14     i = boundaryEdges(k,1);
15     j = boundaryEdges(k,2);
16
17     ri = nodes(1,i);
18     rj = nodes(1,j);
19
20     %find the edges on the axis -> homogeneous Neumann BC, no Robin contribution
21     if ri == 0 && rj == 0
22         continue;
23     end
24
25     xi = nodes(:,i);
26     xj = nodes(:,j);
27
28     L = norm(xi - xj); % edge length
29
30     % Robin boundary element matrices
31     Ke = alpha * L / 6 * [2 1; 1 2];
32     Fe = alpha * u_out * L / 2 * [1; 1];
33
34     % Assemble
35     K([i j],[i j]) = K([i j],[i j]) + Ke;
36     F([i j]) = F([i j]) + Fe;
37 end
38 end
```

### Explanation of key steps:

- Boundary detection: Same as Task 2, edges belonging to one element are boundary edges.

- Robin contribution: Local  $K_e$  and  $F_e$  are computed per edge and assembled globally.
- Symmetry axis handling: Boundary edges located on the symmetry axis  $r = 0$  are explicitly excluded from the Robin assembly, since a homogeneous Neumann condition holds there and is naturally satisfied by the weak formulation.

**Result and discussion:**

Temperature is nearly uniform at  $u \approx u_{\text{out}} = 18^\circ\text{C}$ . The slight gradient in the temperature, around an imperceptible difference of  $18^\circ\text{C}$ , is due to numerical/machine errors, arising from discretization and discretization and floating-point errors.

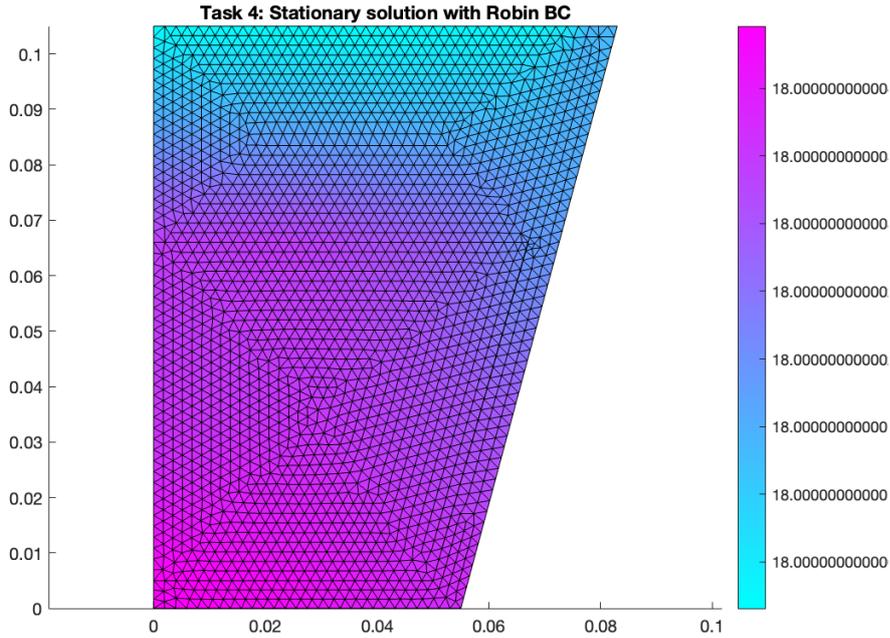


Figure 4: Task 4) Temperature distribution with Robin boundary conditions

At this stage, the Robin boundary condition is implemented in its standard 2D form. The additional radial weighting required by the axisymmetric formulation is introduced in Task 5 together with the rotational Laplace operator.

## Task 5: Axisymmetric Laplace + Robin BC

### Statement:

Implement for class FEM\_Matrix a new Method CalculateLaplace\_mult\_rot and a method ApplyRobinBC\_mult\_rot that realize the finite element matrix computation for the Laplace part (without  $\frac{\partial u}{\partial t}$ ) in equation (1).

### Solution:

Axisymmetry introduces a radial weighting factor  $r$  in integrals:

- Stiffness:  $K_e \rightarrow r_{avg}K_e$
- Robin:  $K_e^{(R)} \rightarrow r_{mid}K_e^{(R)}$  and  $F_e^{(R)} \rightarrow r_{mid}F_e^{(R)}$

where  $r_{avg}$  is the element centroid radius and  $r_{mid}$  the midpoint of the boundary edge.

Robin boundary conditions:

$$-r\lambda\frac{\partial u}{\partial n} = r\alpha(u - u_{out}) \quad \text{on } \partial\Omega_{rot} \setminus \Gamma_{symm},$$

with  $\Gamma_{symm} = \{r = 0\}$  denoting the symmetry axis, where a homogeneous Neumann condition is naturally satisfied.

```

1 function [K, F] = CalculateLaplace_mult_rot(model, lambda_wall, lambda_fluid,
2     lambda_air)
3 mesh = model.Mesh;
4 nodes = mesh.Nodes;
5 elements = mesh.Elements;
6
7 Nnodes = size(nodes,2);
8 Nelems = size(elements,2);
9
10 K = sparse(Nnodes, Nnodes);
11 F = zeros(Nnodes,1);
12
13 regions = zeros(Nelems,1);
14 regions(findElements(mesh,'region','Face',1)) = 1;
15 regions(findElements(mesh,'region','Face',2)) = 2;
16 regions(findElements(mesh,'region','Face',3)) = 3;
17
18 for e = 1:Nelems
19     vert = elements(:,e);
20
21     x = nodes(1,vert); % r-coordinates
22     y = nodes(2,vert); % z-coordinates
23
24     Ae = polyarea(x,y);
25
26     b = [y(2)-y(3); y(3)-y(1); y(1)-y(2)];
27     c = [x(3)-x(2); x(1)-x(3); x(2)-x(1)];
28
29     rbar = mean(x); % <-- axisymmetric weight
30     switch regions(e)
31         case 1
32             lambda = lambda_wall;
33         case 2
34             lambda = lambda_fluid;
35         case 3
36             lambda = lambda_air;
37     end
38     Ke = rbar * (lambda/(4*Ae)) * (b*b.' + c*c.');
```

```

39     K(vert,vert) = K(vert,vert) + Ke;
40 end
41 end

1 function [K, F] = ApplyRobinBC_mult_rot(model, K, F, alpha, u_out)
2 mesh = model.Mesh;
3 nodes = mesh.Nodes;
4 elements = mesh.Elements;
5
6 edgesAll = [elements([1 2],:), elements([2 3],:), elements([3 1],:)];
7 edgesSorted = sort(edgesAll,1);
8 [edgesUnique,~,ic] = unique(edgesSorted,'rows');
9 counts = accumarray(ic,1);
10 boundaryEdges = edgesUnique(counts==1,:);
11
12 for k = 1:size(boundaryEdges,1)
13     i = boundaryEdges(k,1);
14     j = boundaryEdges(k,2);
15
16     ri = nodes(1,i);
17     rj = nodes(1,j);
18
19     %find the edges on the axis -> homogeneous Neumann BC, no Robin contribution
20     if ri == 0 && rj == 0
21         continue;
22     end
23
24     xi = nodes(:,i);
25     xj = nodes(:,j);
26
27     L = norm(xi - xj);
28     rbar = 0.5 * (xi(1) + xj(1)); % r at edge midpoint
29
30     Ke = rbar * alpha * L / 6 * [2 1; 1 2];
31     Fe = rbar * alpha * u_out * L / 2 * [1; 1];
32
33     K([i j],[i j]) = K([i j],[i j]) + Ke;
34     F([i j]) = F([i j]) + Fe;
35 end
36 end

```

### Result and discussion:

Temperature field remains nearly uniform, representing a physically consistent 3D solution obtained by rotating the 2D axisymmetric solution.

Robin boundary contributions are applied only on  $\partial\Omega_{\text{rot}} \setminus \Gamma_{\text{symm}}$ , while boundary edges on the symmetry axis  $r = 0$  are explicitly excluded in the implementation, since the homogeneous Neumann condition on  $\Gamma_{\text{symm}}$  is naturally satisfied. This confirms that the axisymmetric formulation is consistent with the full 3D model. As before, the observed gradient arises from the same numerical errors due to discretization and floating point errors.

The constant factor  $2\pi$  arising from the rotational symmetry is omitted, since it appears uniformly in all integrals and does not affect the solution.

The two-dimensional visualization of the solution in the  $(r, z)$ -plane is very similar to the result obtained in Task 4 and is therefore not shown again.

It is possible to find an animation of this 3D plot into the "Images and Videos" folder.

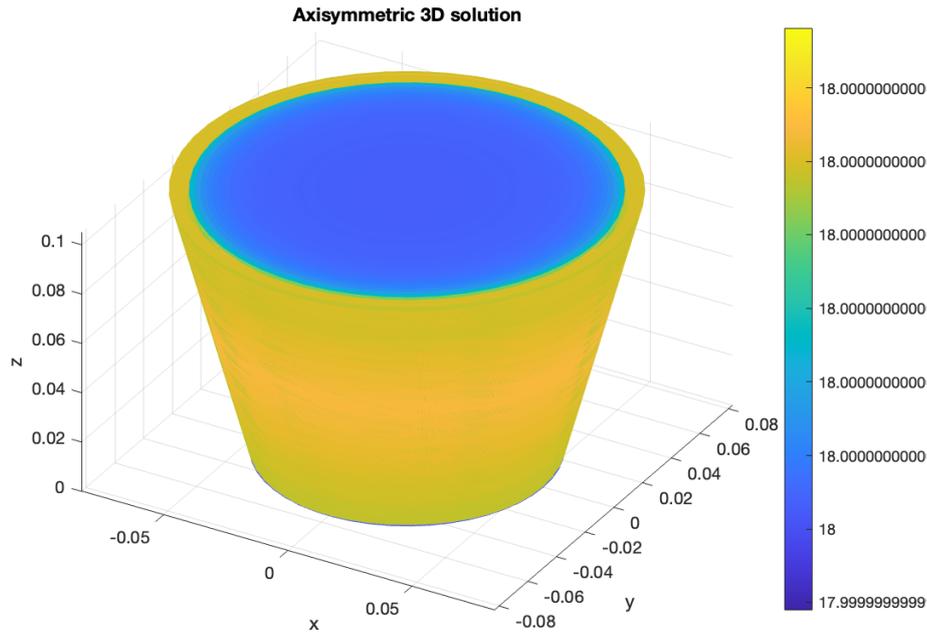


Figure 5: Task 5) Axisymmetric stationary solution with Robin BC

## Task 6: Axisymmetric mass matrix assembly

### Statement:

Implement a method `AddMass_mult_rot` that realizes internally the calculation of the mass matrix entries

$$M_{i,j} := \int \int rc(r, z) \phi_i \phi_j dr dz$$

similar to the element calculation for the Laplace part of the matrix  $K_{i,j}$  and adds it to the existing matrix entries.

### Solution:

The mass matrix represents heat storage and it is defined

$$M_{i,j} := \int_{\Omega_{\text{rot}}} r c(r, z) \phi_i \phi_j dr dz,$$

where  $c(r, z)$  denotes the heat capacity and  $\phi_i$  are the linear finite element shape functions.

For linear triangles and axisymmetry, element contribution:

$$M_e = r_{\text{avg}} c_e \frac{A_e}{12} \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 2 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 2 \end{pmatrix},$$

where  $c_e$  is material specific heat capacity.

```

1 function M = AddMass_mult_rot(model, M, c_wall, c_fluid, c_air)
2 mesh = model.Mesh;
3 nodes = mesh.Nodes;

```

```

4 elements = mesh.Elements;
5
6 Nelems = size(elements,2);
7
8 regions = zeros(Nelems,1);
9 regions(findElements(mesh,'region','Face',1)) = 1;
10 regions(findElements(mesh,'region','Face',2)) = 2;
11 regions(findElements(mesh,'region','Face',3)) = 3;
12
13 for e = 1:Nelems
14     vert = elements(:,e);
15
16     x = nodes(1,vert); % r-coordinates
17     y = nodes(2,vert); % z-coordinates
18
19     Ae = polyarea(x,y); % element area
20     rbar = mean(x); % mean radius (axisymmetric weight)
21
22     switch regions(e) % Select heat capacity
23         case 1
24             c = c_wall;
25         case 2
26             c = c_fluid;
27         case 3
28             c = c_air;
29     end
30     % Axisymmetric element mass matrix
31     Me = rbar * c * Ae / 12 * [2 1 1; 1 2 1; 1 1 2];
32     % Assemble
33     M(vert,vert) = M(vert,vert) + Me;
34 end
35 end

```

## Task 7: Initial solution

### Statement:

Write a function (or method) `Init_Solution_mult` that initializes the solution in the whole domain depending on the subdomain. That function might be useful in sub-task (i) as well as in (ii).

### Solution:

- Each node should be initialized once.
- Initial temperatures: `u_wall`, `u_fluid`, `u_air` for respective subdomains.
- Shared nodes are assigned only once using a boolean mask

```

1 function u0 = Init_Solution_mult(model, u_wall, u_fluid, u_air)
2 mesh = model.Mesh;
3 nodes = mesh.Nodes;
4 elements = mesh.Elements;
5
6 Nnodes = size(nodes,2);
7 Nelems = size(elements,2);
8
9 u0 = zeros(Nnodes,1); %initialize solution vector
10
11 regions = zeros(Nelems,1);
12 regions(findElements(mesh,'region','Face',1)) = 1; % wall
13 regions(findElements(mesh,'region','Face',2)) = 2; % fluid

```

```

14 regions(findElements(mesh,'region','Face',3)) = 3; % air
15
16 % Creates a boolean array to ensure each node is assigned a temperature only once
17 nodeAssigned = false(Nnodes,1);
18
19 for e = 1:Nelems
20     vert = elements(:,e); %current element
21     switch regions(e) %determines which temperature to assign
22         case 1
23             u_val = u_wall;
24         case 2
25             u_val = u_fluid;
26         case 3
27             u_val = u_air;
28     end
29
30     %loops over the three nodes of the current element
31     % if a node has not been assigned -> u_val and marks assigned in the
32     % boolean vector
33     for k = 1:3
34         i = vert(k);
35         if ~nodeAssigned(i)
36             u0(i) = u_val;
37             nodeAssigned(i) = true;
38         end
39     end
40 end
41 end

```

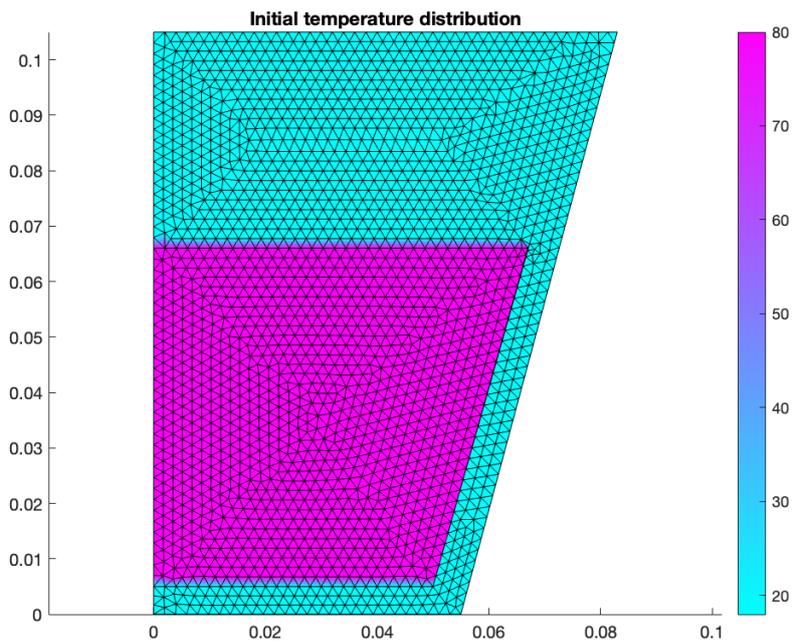


Figure 6: Task 7) Initial temperature distribution in all subdomains

**Note:** At material interfaces, nodal values are assigned according to the first encountered subdomain. This choice is sufficient since the initial condition only serves as a starting point for the transient simulation.

## Task 8: Time discretization of the heat equation

### Statement:

Use explicit scheme to discretize in time so that we end up with the discrete formulation of (1)

$$\left(\frac{1}{\tau}M + K\right)\underline{u}^{k+1} = \underline{f}^{k+1} + \frac{1}{\tau}M \cdot \underline{u}^k \quad (2)$$

with  $\tau$  denoting the chosen time step.

### Solution:

This method allows us to compute the solution  $\underline{u}^{k+1}$  from the previous time step  $\underline{u}^k$ .

```
1 tau = 0.5; % time step in seconds
2 T_end = 400; % total simulation time (seconds)
3 Nt = ceil(T_end/tau); % number of time steps
4
5 A = (1/tau)*M+K; % Left-hand side matrix
6 u = u0; % Initialize solution
7
8 for k = 1:Nt
9     b = (1/tau)*M*u + F; % F is the load vector, F=0
10
11     u_next = A\b; % Solve for next time step
12
13     u = u_next; % Update
14 end
```

### Explanation of key steps:

- **Time discretization:** The transient heat equation is discretized in time using a first-order scheme, leading to a linear system at each time step.
- **System matrix:** The matrix  $(1/\tau)M + K$  combines heat capacity effects and thermal diffusion including Robin boundary conditions.
- **Time stepping:** Starting from the initial temperature distribution  $u_0$ , the solution is advanced iteratively in time.
- **Visualization:** The temperature distribution is plotted periodically to observe the transient heat propagation.

### Result and discussion:

The implemented scheme produces a stable and physically consistent transient temperature evolution of the mug. Heat diffuses from the hot fluid into the ceramic wall and surrounding air, as expected from the governing heat equation.

To illustrate the time-dependent heat transfer within the mug, snapshots of the temperature distribution are recorded at selected physical times. The two following figures show the evolution of the temperature field at  $T = 0, 100, 200, 300, \dots, 1700$ s.

Transient temperature evolution (0–800 s)

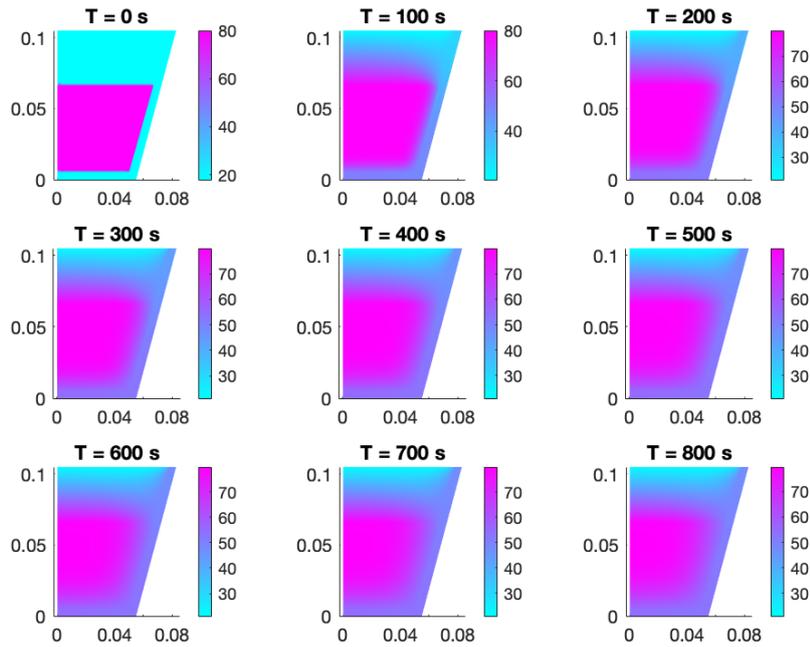


Figure 7: Temperature distribution in the mug, 0-800s

Transient temperature evolution (900–1700 s)

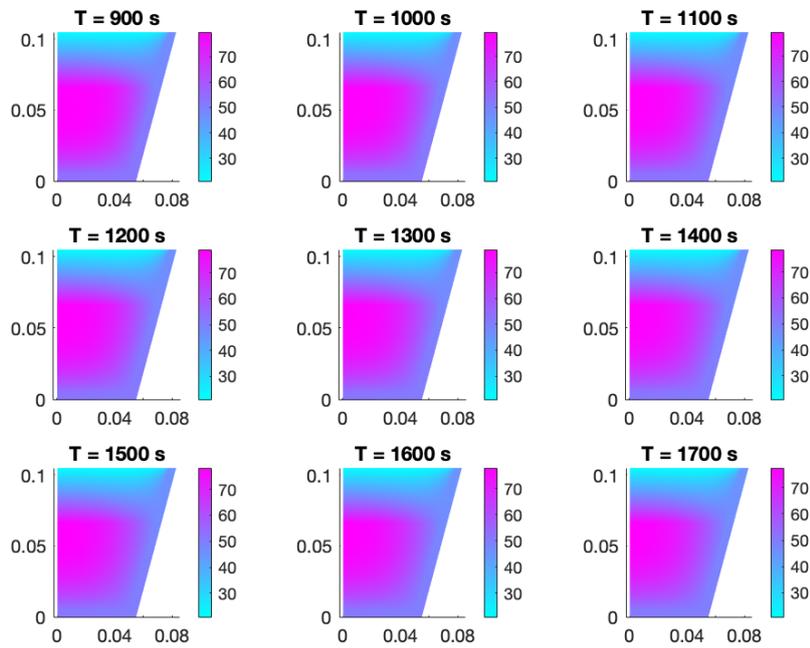


Figure 8: Temperature distribution in the mug, 900-1700s

## Task 9: Time-dependent solution of the heat equation

### Statement:

Solve (2) for the following sub-task: The initial temperature of the cup is the same as the surrounding air  $u_0^{air,wall}=18^\circ\text{C}$ . The cup is filled with warm water such that  $u_0^{fluid}=80^\circ\text{C}$ .

**Question:** How long does it take ( $T_{warm}$ ) until the mug is heated to the optimal temperature of  $67^\circ\text{C}$ ?

### Solution:

The rotationally symmetric, time-dependent heat equation is given by

$$rc(\mathbf{x})\frac{\partial u(\mathbf{x},t)}{\partial t} - \nabla_{(r,z)}^T \left( r\lambda(\mathbf{x})\nabla_{(r,z)}u(\mathbf{x},t) \right) = 0, \quad (\mathbf{x},t) \in \Omega_{\text{rot}} \times (0,T].$$

Using an Euler discretization in time with time step  $\tau$ , we obtain the linear system

$$\left( \frac{1}{\tau}M + K \right) \underline{u}^{k+1} = \frac{1}{\tau}M \underline{u}^k,$$

where  $M$  is the mass matrix assembled using the spatially varying heat capacity and  $K$  is the stiffness matrix resulting from the Laplace operator with Robin boundary conditions.

The initial condition is defined piecewise as

$$u(\mathbf{x},0) = \begin{cases} 80^\circ\text{C}, & \mathbf{x} \in \Omega_{\text{fluid}}, \\ 18^\circ\text{C}, & \mathbf{x} \in \Omega_{\text{wall}} \cup \Omega_{\text{air}}. \end{cases}$$

```

1 T_target = 67; % [C]
2
3 [K,F] = CalculateLaplace_mult_rot(model, lambda_wall, lambda_fluid, lambda_air);
4 [K,F] = ApplyRobinBC_mult_rot(model, K, F, alpha, u_out);
5
6 A = (1/tau)*M+K; % Left-hand side matrix
7
8 innerWallNodes = unique([findNodes(model.Mesh,'region','Edge',8), findNodes(model.Mesh,
9     'region','Edge',9)]);
10 %innerWallNodes = findNodes(model.Mesh,'region','Edge',9);
11
12 u= u0;
13
14 % Storage
15 timeVec = (0:Nt-1)' * tau;
16 innerWallTemp = zeros(Nt,1);
17 Twarm = NaN;
18
19 for k = 1:Nt
20     b = (1/tau)*M*u + F;
21     u = A\b;
22
23     innerWallTemp(k) = mean(u(innerWallNodes));
24     %innerWallTemp(k) = max(u(innerWallNodes));
25
26     % Check heating criterion
27     if innerWallTemp(k) >= T_target
28         Twarm = k * tau;
29         fprintf('Task 9 (i): Inner wall reaches %.1fC at T = %.1f s\n', ...
30             T_target, Twarm);
31         break
32     end
33 end

```

```

34 figure(9)
35 plot(timeVec(1:k), innerWallTemp(1:k), 'LineWidth', 2)
36 hold on
37 yline(T_target, 'r--', '67C', 'LineWidth', 1.5)
38 xlabel('Time [s]')
39 ylabel('Average inner wall temperature [C]')
40 title('Heating of the inner ceramic wall')
41 grid on

```

### Explanation of key steps:

- **Target definition:** The desired temperature  $T_{\text{target}} = 67^\circ\text{C}$  is defined according to the problem statement.
- **Inner wall identification:** The nodes belonging to the ceramic–fluid interface are extracted using `findNodes`. The average temperature over these nodes is used as a representative inner wall temperature.
- **Time stepping:** Starting from the initial temperature distribution  $u_0$ , the solution is advanced in time using the formulation derived in Task 8. At each step, the right-hand side vector is assembled as

$$b = \frac{1}{\tau} M u^k + F.$$

- **Linear system solve:** The resulting linear system is solved using a direct solver.
- **Heating criterion:** After each time step, the mean temperature at the inner ceramic wall is computed and compared to  $T_{\text{target}}$ . If the target temperature is reached, the corresponding heating time  $T_{\text{warm}}$  is stored and the simulation is stopped.
- **Post-processing:** The temporal evolution of the average inner wall temperature is plotted together with the target temperature line to visualize the heating behavior.

### Results and discussion:

The figure shows the temporal evolution of the average temperature at the inner ceramic wall, considering edges 8 and 9 together.

When analyzing edges 8 and 9 together, the maximum temperature reaches  $67^\circ\text{C}$  immediately due to some nodes being directly in contact with the hot fluid. However, the mean temperature over these edges rises more slowly and does not reach the target immediately. In contrast, if only edge 9 is considered, both the mean and maximum temperatures reach  $67^\circ\text{C}$  immediately. This indicates that the observed discrepancy arises from the inclusion of edge 8, where some nodes are initially at the cooler wall temperature.

This behavior can be traced back to the initialization of the temperature field. In the current implementation, temperatures are assigned to nodes based on the first element they belong to, which may result in some nodes on boundaries shared between fluid and wall receiving the lower wall temperature instead of the fluid temperature. Consequently, when averaging over multiple edges that include such nodes, the mean temperature is lower than expected, even though the maximum temperature correctly reflects the hot nodes. A more precise node assignment, for example based on node coordinates or explicit edge assignment, could eliminate this discrepancy and ensure that both mean and maximum temperatures accurately reflect the physical system.

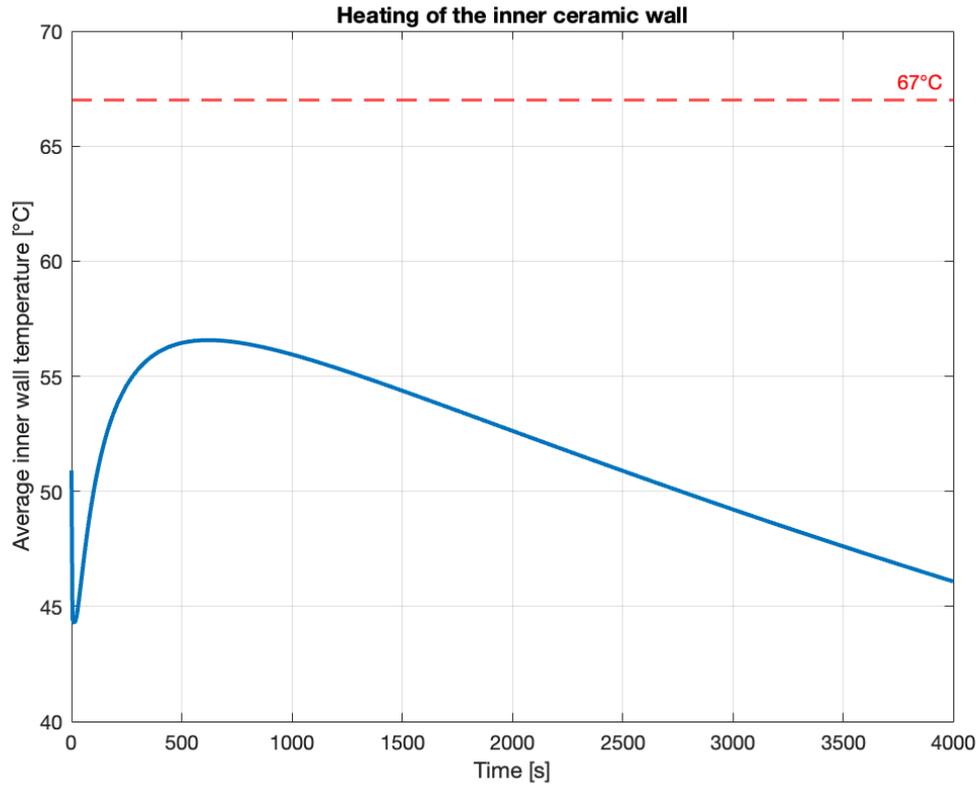


Figure 9: Transient evolution of the mean temperature on edges 8 and 9 of the inner ceramic wall. The dashed line indicates the target temperature of 67°C.

**Remarks on subtasks (ii) and (iii).** In this project, we focused on subtask (i) as explicitly required in Task 9. Subtasks (ii) and (iii) would require modifying the initial condition at time  $T_{\text{warm}}$  and/or the Robin boundary coefficient  $\alpha$  on the top boundary.

## Validation test: insulated mug (homogeneous Neumann boundary conditions)

As a first physical validation of the model, we consider an idealized insulated mug. From a mathematical point of view, thermal insulation corresponds to imposing homogeneous Neumann boundary conditions on the mug walls,

$$\lambda \frac{\partial u}{\partial n} = 0,$$

meaning that no heat flux crosses the ceramic boundaries.

In the finite element formulation, homogeneous Neumann boundary conditions are natural boundary conditions and therefore do not require any additional terms in the stiffness matrix or the load vector. Consequently, heat exchange with the environment is completely suppressed and thermal energy can only be redistributed inside the computational domain.

Starting from a non-uniform initial temperature distribution, the time-dependent simulation shows a progressive transfer of heat from the hot liquid to the colder air region above it. As expected from physical considerations, temperature gradients develop near the liquid-air interface, while no heat loss occurs through the mug walls. Over time, the system evolves toward a uniform temperature state, consistently with energy conservation in the insulated configuration.

```
1 %% CHECK: Insulated mug
2 [K_neu, F_neu] = CalculateLaplace_mult_rot(model, lambda_wall, lambda_fluid, lambda_air);
3
4 M_neu = sparse(Nnodes, Nnodes);
5 M_neu = AddMass_mult_rot(model, M_neu, c_wall, c_fluid, c_air);
6
7 tau = 0.5;
8 T_end = 400;
9 Nt = ceil(T_end / tau);
10
11 A_neu = (1/tau) * M_neu + K_neu;
12
13 u = u0;
14
15 for k = 1:Nt
16     b = (1/tau) * M_neu * u + F_neu;
17     u = A_neu \ b;
18 end
```

Transient temperature evolution (0–800 s)

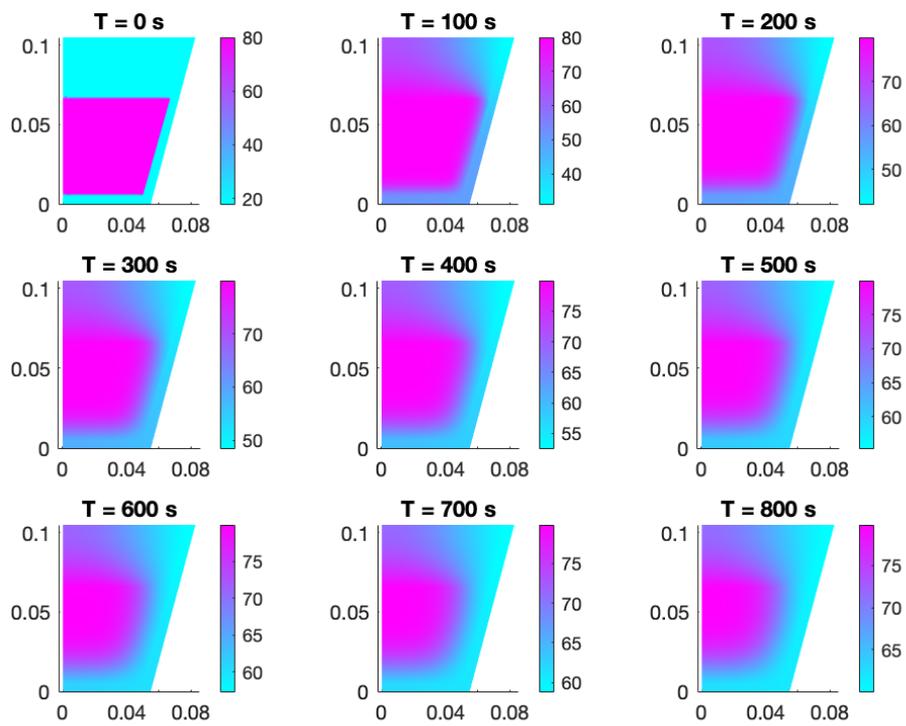


Figure 10: Transient temperature evolution