

# Project A: Rotationally symmetric conductivity

Lisa Pizzo

January 25, 2026

## 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  $\Gamma^{Robin} := \partial\Omega^{rot} \setminus \Gamma^{symm}$

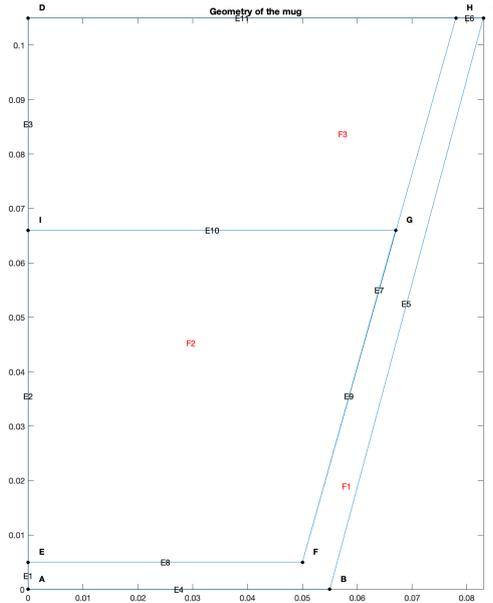


Figure 1: Rotationally symmetric mug geometry ( $\Omega^{rot}$ )

## 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', 0.006, '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,
  - (x1,z1) and (x2,z2) 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.
- `generateMesh(model,'Hmax',0.006)`: generates a triangular mesh with maximum element size  $H_{max} = 0.006$  m.

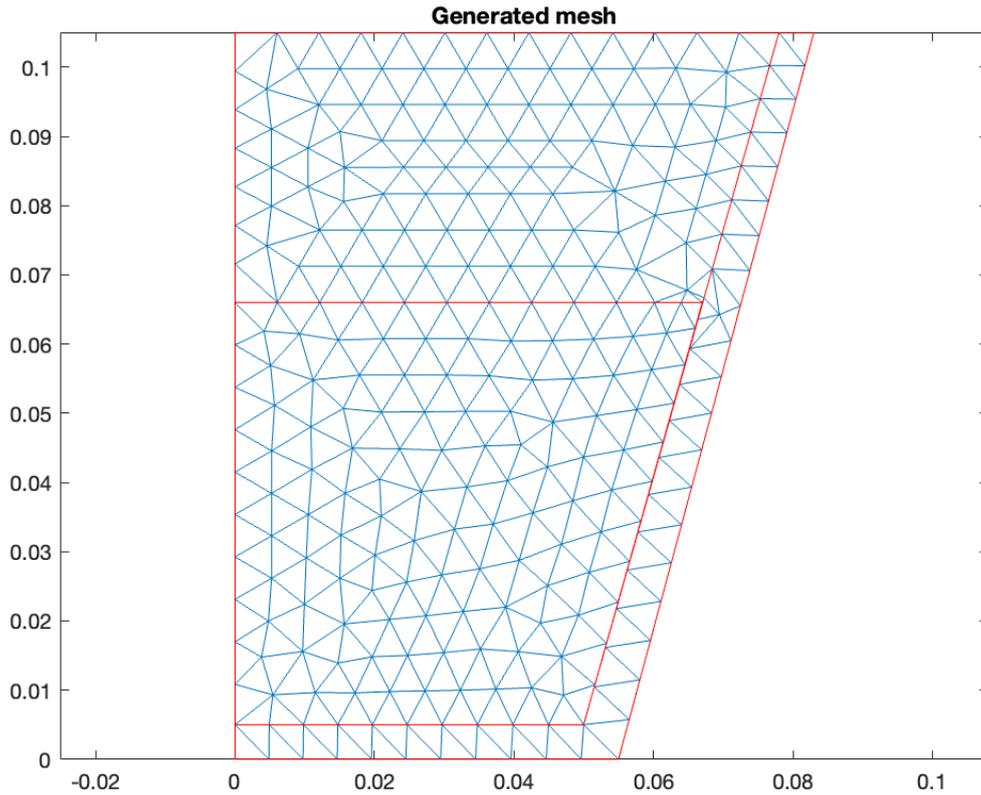


Figure 2: Triangular mesh of the axisymmetric mug domain

## Task 2: Jacobi 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. The Jacobi iterative method is used to solve the linear system resulting from finite element discretization.

```

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 lambda = ones(Nelems,1);      % thermal conductivity
8
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 nodes
37 % Boundary nodes are identified via edge multiplicity
38 % all edges -> 2x(3*Nelems) array
39 edgesAll = [elements([1 2],:), elements([2 3],:), elements([3 1],:)];
40 % sort nodes of each edge, ensure that [i,j] and [j,i] are the same
41 edgesSorted = sort(edgesAll,1);
42 % identifies unique edges and assigns indices ic
43 [~,~,ic] = unique(edgesSorted','rows');
44 % counts how many times each edge appears in the mesh
45 counts = accumarray(ic,1);
46 %edges belonging to only 1 element: hence on the boundary
47 boundaryEdges = find(counts==1);
48 % nodes belonging to these boundary edges
49 boundaryNodes = unique(edgesSorted(:,boundaryEdges));
50
51 % Jacobi iteration
52 maxIter = 5000; tol = 1e-6;
53 D = diag(K);
54 R = K - diag(D);
55 u = zeros(Nnodes,1);
56
57 for iter = 1:maxIter
58     u_new = (F - R*u) ./ D;
59     u_new(boundaryNodes) = 0; % Enforce Dirichlet BC
60     if norm(u_new - u, inf) < tol % Convergence check
61         fprintf('Jacobi converged in %d iterations.\n', iter);
62         break;
63     end
64     u = u_new;
65 end
66
67 % Plot solution
68 figure(3)
69 pdeplot(model, 'XYData', u, 'Mesh','on');
70 axis equal;
71 title('Stationary Dirichlet solution via Jacobi');
72 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.
- **Jacobi iteration:** The linear system  $\mathbf{K}u = \mathbf{F}$  is solved iteratively. Boundary nodes are kept at zero during iterations.
- **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.

### Result and discussion:

Jacobi (Task 2) converged in 1 iterations.

This because the initial guess  $u = 0$  already satisfies the PDE and boundary conditions.

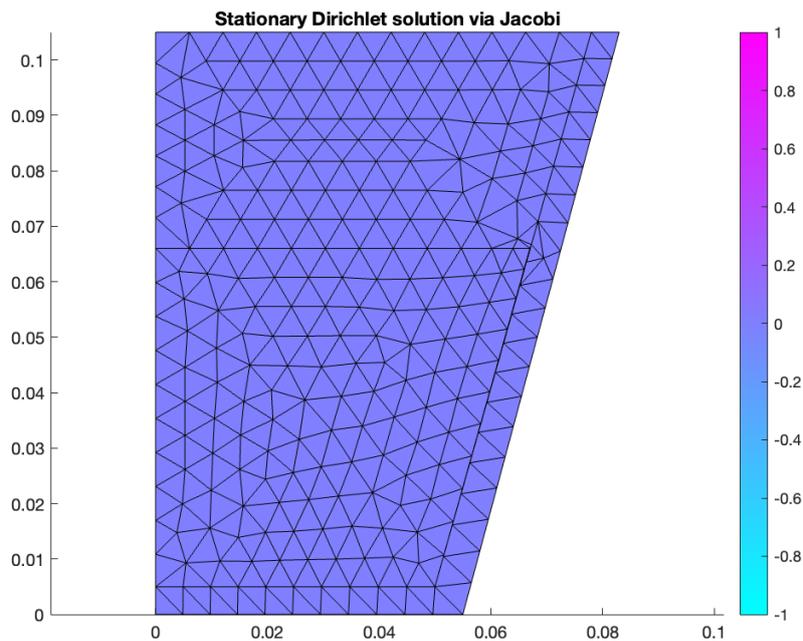


Figure 3: Task 2: Stationary Dirichlet solution using Jacobi iteration

## 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 % PDE Toolbox compatible version
3
4 mesh = model.Mesh;
5 nodes = mesh.Nodes;
6 elements = mesh.Elements;
7
8 Nnodes = size(nodes,2);
9 Nelems = size(elements,2);
10
11 K = sparse(Nnodes, Nnodes);
12 F = zeros(Nnodes,1);
13
14 %build region array manually
15 regions = zeros(Nelems,1);
16 wallElems = findElements(mesh,'region','Face',1);
17 fluidElems = findElements(mesh,'region','Face',2);
18 airElems = findElements(mesh,'region','Face',3);
19 regions(wallElems) = 1;
20 regions(fluidElems) = 2;
21 regions(airElems) = 3;
22
23 for e = 1:Nelems %assembly loop
24     vert = elements(:,e);
25     x = nodes(1,vert);
26     y = nodes(2,vert);
27
28     Ae = polyarea(x,y);
29
30     b = [y(2)-y(3); y(3)-y(1); y(1)-y(2)];
31     c = [x(3)-x(2); x(1)-x(3); x(2)-x(1)];
32
33     % conductivity by material
34     switch regions(e)
35         case 1
36             lambda = lambda_wall;
37         case 2
38             lambda = lambda_fluid;
39         case 3
40             lambda = lambda_air;
41         otherwise
42             error('Element %d has no material assignment', e);
43     end
44
```

```
45 | Ke = (lambda/(4*Ae)) * (b*b.' + c*c.');
```

```
46 | K(vert,vert) = K(vert,vert) + Ke;
```

```
47 | end
```

```
48 | 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.

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

- Jacobi solver remains identical to Task 2

### Result and discussion:

Jacobi (Task 3) converged in 1 iterations.

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 % ApplyRobinBC_mult
3 % Implements Robin BC:
4 %   lambda * du/dn + alpha*u = alpha*u_out
5 %
6 % alpha   : heat transfer coefficient
7 % u_out   : outside temperature
8
9 mesh = model.Mesh;
10 nodes = mesh.Nodes;
11 elements = mesh.Elements;
12
13 % --- Find boundary edges ---
14 edgesAll = [elements([1 2],:), elements([2 3],:), elements([3 1],:)];
15 edgesSorted = sort(edgesAll,1);
16 [edgesUnique,~,ic] = unique(edgesSorted,'rows');
17 counts = accumarray(ic,1);
18 boundaryEdges = edgesUnique(counts==1,:); % Nx2 array
19
20 % --- Loop over Robin boundary edges ---
21 for k = 1:size(boundaryEdges,1)
22     i = boundaryEdges(k,1);
23     j = boundaryEdges(k,2);
24
25     ri = nodes(1,i);
26     rj = nodes(1,j);
27
28     if ri == 0 && rj == 0
29         % Edge lies on symmetry axis r = 0
30         % -> homogeneous Neumann BC, no Robin contribution
31         continue;
32     end
33
34     xi = nodes(:,i);
35     xj = nodes(:,j);
36
37     L = norm(xi - xj); % edge length
38
39     % Robin boundary element matrices
40     Ke = alpha * L / 6 * [2 1; 1 2];
41     Fe = alpha * u_out * L / 2 * [1; 1];
42
43     % Assemble
```

```

44 | K([i j],[i j]) = K([i j],[i j]) + Ke;
45 | F([i j])      = F([i j]) + Fe;
46 | end
47 | 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.
- Jacobi solver: Uses updated  $K$  and  $F$  including Robin contributions.

### Result and discussion:

The Jacobi solver converges after approximately 2929 iterations.

Temperature is nearly uniform at  $u \approx u_{\text{out}} = 18^\circ\text{C}$ . Small variations of order  $10^{-4}$  are observed between different parts of the boundary and are due to discretization and stopping tolerance.

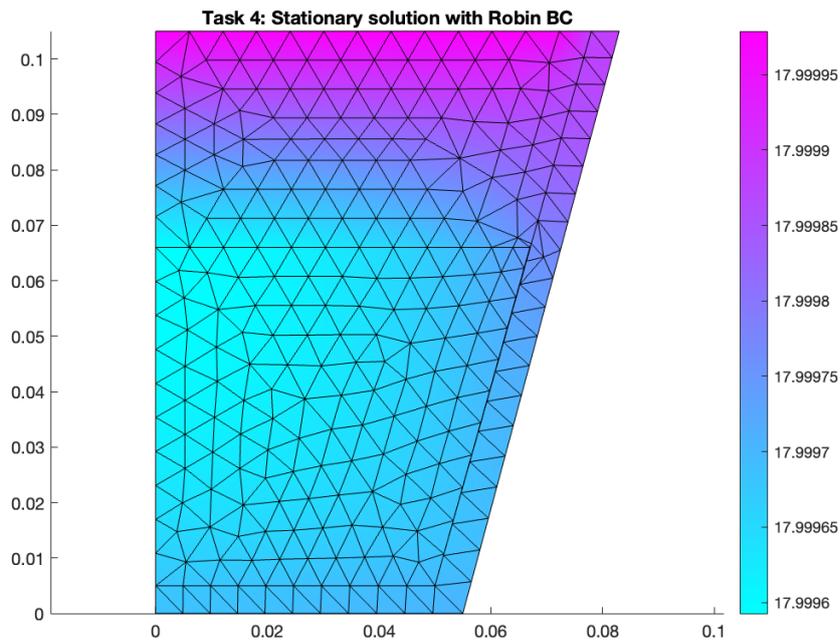


Figure 4: Task 4: Temperature distribution with Robin boundary conditions

## 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     if ri == 0 && rj == 0
20         % Edge lies on symmetry axis r = 0
21         % -> homogeneous Neumann BC, no Robin contribution
22         continue;
23     end
24
25     xi = nodes(:,i);
26     xj = nodes(:,j);
27
28     L = norm(xi - xj);
29     rbar = 0.5 * (xi(1) + xj(1)); % r at edge midpoint
30
31     Ke = rbar * alpha * L / 6 * [2 1; 1 2];
32     Fe = rbar * alpha * u_out * L / 2 * [1; 1];
33
34     K([i j],[i j]) = K([i j],[i j]) + Ke;
35     F([i j]) = F([i j]) + Fe;
36 end
37 end

```

### Result and discussion:

The Jacobi solver converges after 3354 iterations.

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.

Small variations of order  $10^{-4}$  are observed.

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.

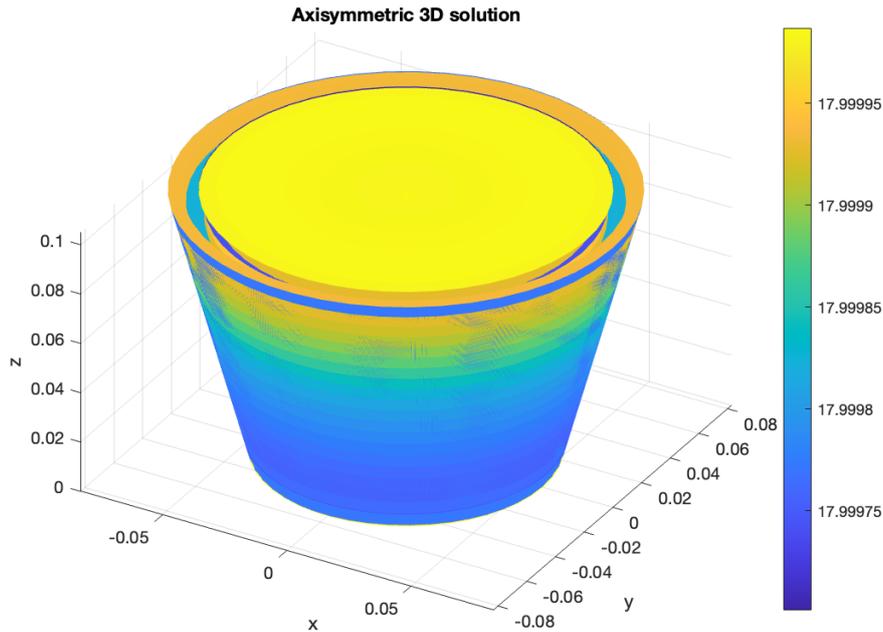


Figure 5: Task 5: Axisymmetric stationary solution with Robin BC

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

```

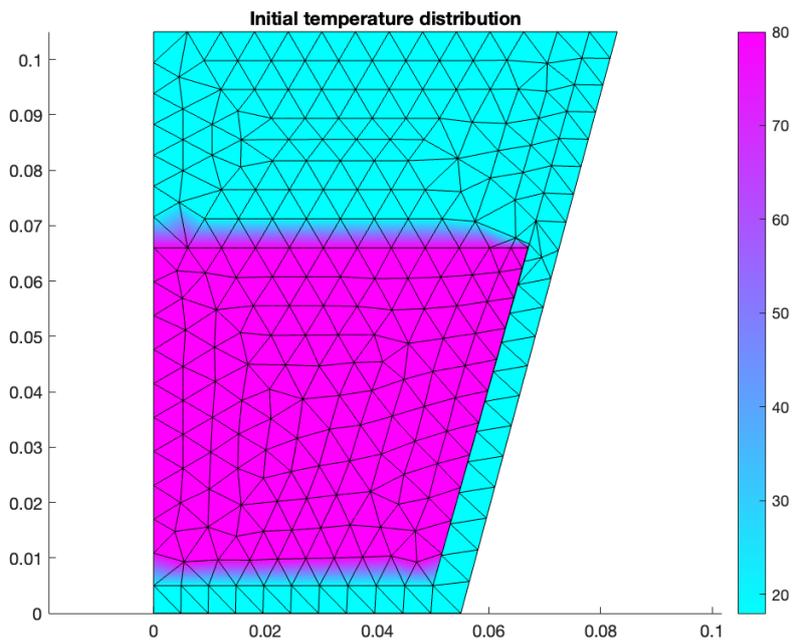


Figure 6: Task 7: Initial temperature distribution in all subdomains

## Task 8: Time discretization of the heat equation

### Statement:

Use an 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 = 0.1; % 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 [L,U,P,Q] = lu(A); % A is constant -> factorize it once: PAQ=LU
7
8 u = u0; % Initialize solution
9
10 for k = 1:Nt
11     b = (1/tau)*M*u + F; % F is the load vector, F=0
12
13     % Solve for next time step
14     u_next = Q*(U\ (L\ (P*b))); % efficient solution using LU factors
15
16     u = u_next; % Update
17
18     if mod(k,20) == 0 %Plot every 20 steps
19         figure(8)
20         pdeplot(model, 'XYData', u, 'Mesh','on');
21         axis equal
22         title(['Temperature at t = ', num2str(k*tau), ' s']);
23         colorbar
24         drawnow
25     end
26 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.
- **LU factorization:** Since the system matrix is constant, it is factorized once to efficiently solve the system at every time step.
- **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. Figure 7 shows the evolution of the temperature field at  $T = 0, 50, 100, 150, 200, 250, 300, 350,$  and  $400$  s.

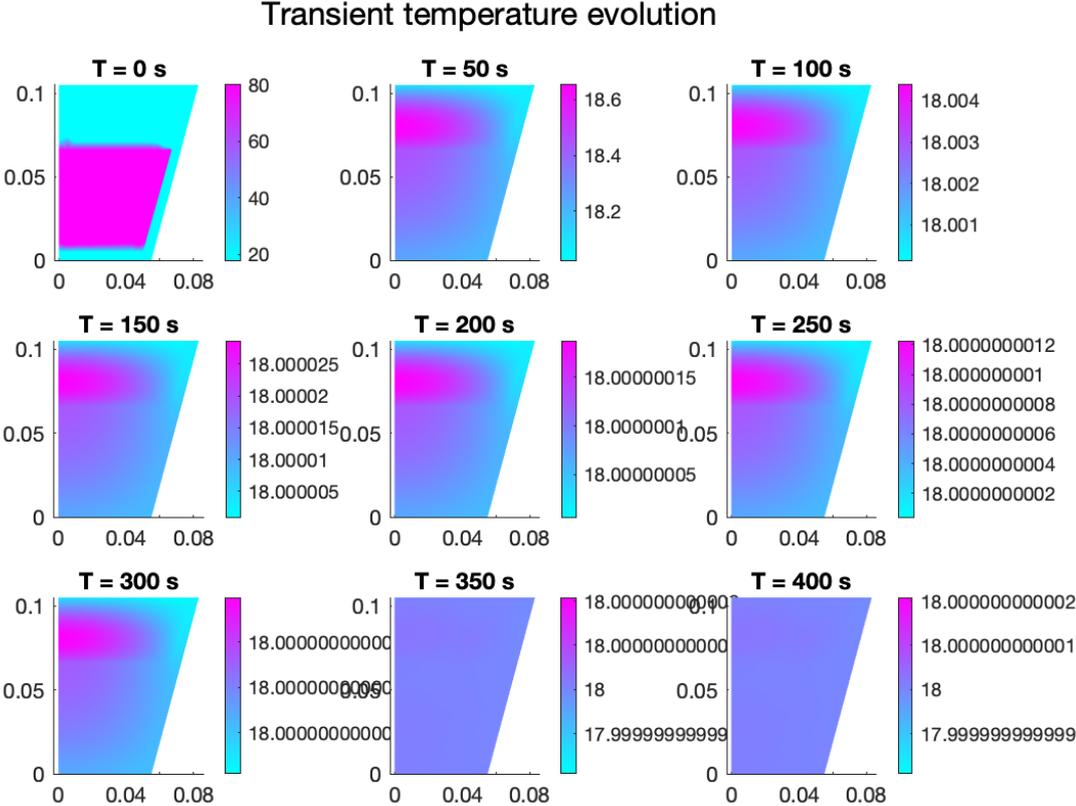


Figure 7: Temperature distribution in the mug at selected time instances.

It is possible to find an animation of this 9 plots into the "Images and Videos" folder.

## 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 explicit 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 %% Task 9 (i): Heating time using inner ceramic wall temperature
2 T_target = 67; % [C]
3
4 innerWallNodes = findNodes(model.Mesh,'region','Edge',8); %Edge 8 = ceramic-fluid
5 u = u0;
6
7 % Storage
8 timeVec = (0:Nt-1)' * tau;
9 innerWallTemp = zeros(Nt,1);
10 Twarm = NaN;
11
12 for k = 1:Nt
13     b = (1/tau)*M*u + F;
14
15     u = Q*(U\(L\(P*b)));
16
17     % Average inner wall temperature
18     innerWallTemp(k) = mean(u(innerWallNodes));
19
20     % Check heating criterion
21     if innerWallTemp(k) >= T_target
22         Twarm = k * tau;
23         fprintf('Task 9 (i): Inner wall reaches %.1f C at T = %.1f s\n', ...
24             T_target, Twarm);
25         break
26     end
27 end
28
29 %% --- Plot inner wall temperature evolution
30 figure(9)
31 plot(timeVec(1:k), innerWallTemp(1:k), 'LineWidth', 2)
32 hold on
33 yline(T_target, 'r--', '67C', 'LineWidth', 1.5)
34 xlabel('Time [s]')

```

```
35 ylabel('Average inner wall temperature [C]')
36 title('Heating of the inner ceramic wall')
37 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 explicit 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 precomputed LU factorization of the matrix  $\left(\frac{1}{\tau}M + K\right)$ , ensuring efficient time stepping.
- **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 transient temperature evolution inside the mug for several time instances.

Although the initial hot fluid causes a rapid increase of temperature in the surrounding regions during the first seconds, the maximum temperature inside the domain never reaches the target value of  $67^\circ\text{C}$ . Instead, the temperature peaks at approximately  $55^\circ\text{C}$  shortly after the start of the simulation and subsequently decreases, approaching the ambient temperature of  $18^\circ\text{C}$  as time progresses.

This indicates that, under the current model assumptions and parameter choices, the heat losses dominate over the heat storage, preventing the mug from warming up to the desired temperature. This is due to the absence of a sustained heat source in the model. The initial hot fluid provides only a finite amount of thermal energy, which is rapidly redistributed and subsequently dissipated through the Robin boundary conditions. As a result, the system relaxes towards the ambient temperature.

**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.

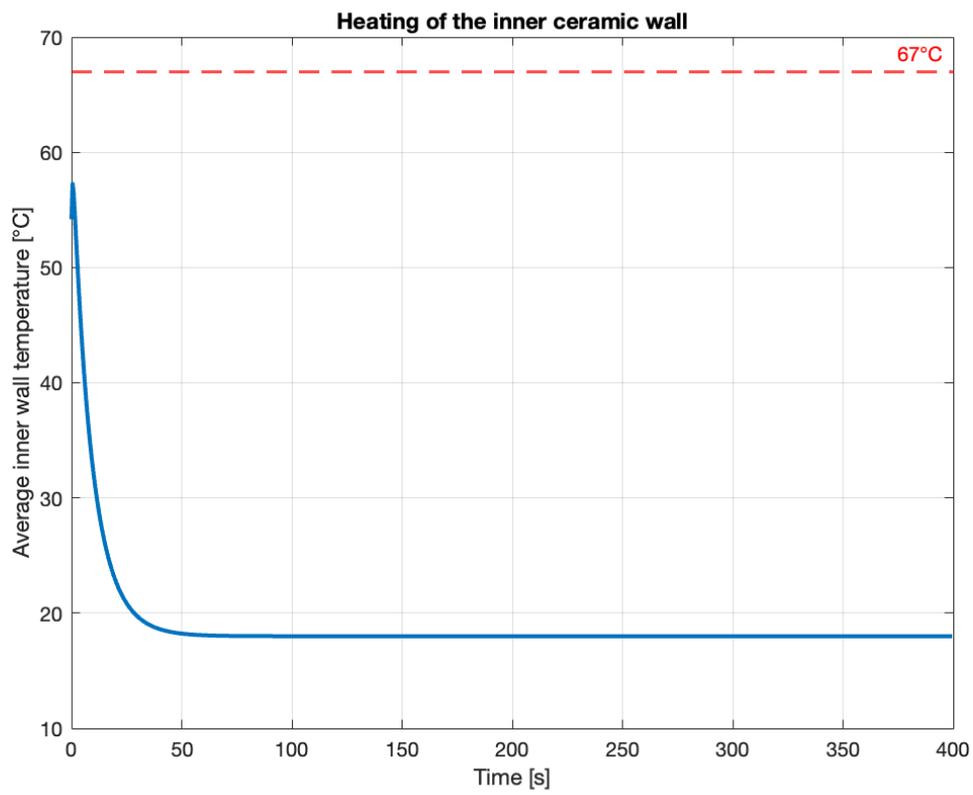


Figure 8: Transient temperature evolution