



Mathematical
Institute

Firedrake-NETGEN Integration: New Features

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A collection of white-outlined geometric shapes, including squares, rectangles, and trapezoids, arranged in a pattern that suggests a mesh or a tessellation. Some shapes are solid, while others are partially overlapping or cut off.

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Solving a Partial Differential Equation

When solving a partial differential equation the following macro steps can be identified:

- ▶ Geometrical modelling,
- ▶ Meshing,
- ▶ Discretising a PDE,
- ▶ Solving the linear or nonlinear system.

We aim to allow the Firedrake user to do all the steps above described in a single script.

Why NETGEN?

NETGEN is an advancing front 2D/3D-mesh generator, with many interesting features. Among the most important:

- ▶ Python wrapping (through pybind11),
- ▶ Multiple ways of describing the geometry to be meshed, i.e. its builtin **Constructive Solid Geometry (CSG)** and the **Open Cascade Technology (OCCT)** geometry kernel,
- ▶ Supports **adaptive mesh refinement** (also anisotropic mesh refinement).
- ▶ Supports **high-order** meshes for curved geometries.

Getting Started – Installing NETGEN

Install NETGEN using Firedrake scripts

```
python3 firedrake-install --netgen  
python3 firedrake-update --netgen
```

PETSc

If you are using an external PETSc installation, it should be updated to include commit 654059db.

NETGEN

If you are interested in **anisotropic mesh refinement**, please install, <https://github.com/UZerbinati/netgen.git>

Some of the old features of the Firedrake-NETGEN integration are:

- ▶ Describing the geometry to be meshed using **Open Cascade Technology** geometry kernel.
- ▶ Using **NETGEN** as a mesh generator in Firedrake, for **linear** meshes.
- ▶ Marking subregions of the geometry for **finer meshing**.
- ▶ **Adaptive mesh refinement**, this feature can be accessed using the `refine_marked_elements` method.

ngsPETSc is a new component of the NGSolve library, which allows to use PETSc as a linear algebra backend for NGSolve. In particular thanks to the **NETGEN-DMPIex** interface it is possible NETGEN mesh in Firedrake.

- ▶ Less code to maintain on the Firedrake side and additional features for the **NETGEN-DMPIex** interface.
- ▶ No need to install the full NGSolve library, for most of the features here presented only NETGEN will suffice.

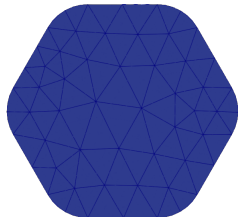
Firedrake-NETGEN Integration: New Features

Some of the new features of the Firedrake-NETGEN integration are:

- ▶ Using **NETGEN** as a mesh generator in Firedrake, for **high-order** meshes.
- ▶ Support for **anisotropic** mesh refinement, using NETGEN ZRefinement and HPrefinement methods.
- ▶ Using **PETSc Transformation** for **Alfeld** and **Powell-Sabin** splits and **quadrilateral** meshes.

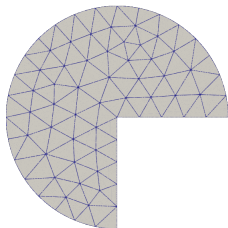
Open Cascade – High Order Meshes

```
1 wp = WorkPlane()
2 if comm.rank == 0:
3     for i in range(6):
4         wp.Line(0.6).Arc(0.4, 60)
5     shape = wp.Face()
6     ngmesh = OCCGeometry(shape, dim=2)
7     .GenerateMesh(maxh=1.)
8 else:
9     ngmesh = netgen.libngpy._meshing.
10    Mesh(2)
11 import firedrake as fd
12 mesh = fd.Mesh(fd.Mesh(ngmesh).
13    curve_field(3))
14 fd.File("VTK/wp.pvd").write(mesh)
```



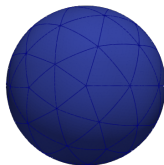
Open Cascade – High Order Meshes

```
1 wp = WorkPlane()
2 if comm.rank == 0:
3     for i in range(6):
4         wp.Line(0.6).Arc(0.4, 60)
5     shape = wp.Face()
6     ngmesh = OCCGeometry(shape, dim=2)
7     .GenerateMesh(maxh=1.)
8 else:
9     ngmesh = netgen.libngpy._meshing.
10    Mesh(2)
11 import firedrake as fd
12 mesh = fd.Mesh(fd.Mesh(ngmesh).
13    curve_field(3))
14 fd.File("VTK/wp.pvd").write(mesh)
```



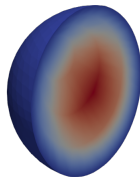
Open Cascade 3D – High Order Meshes

```
1 comm = MPI.COMM_WORLD
2 if comm.rank == 0:
3     shape = Sphere(Pnt(0,0,0), 1)
4     ngmesh = OCCGeometry(shape, dim=3)
5         .GenerateMesh(maxh=1.)
6 else:
7     ngmesh = netgen.libngpy._meshing.
8         Mesh(3)
9 import firedrake as fd
10 mesh = fd.Mesh(fd.Mesh(ngmesh).
11     curve_field(3))
12 fd.File("VTK/sphere.pvd").write(u)
```



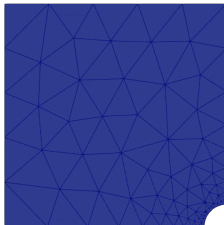
Open Cascade 3D – High Order Meshes

```
1 comm = MPI.COMM_WORLD
2 if comm.rank == 0:
3     shape = Sphere(Pnt(0,0,0), 1)
4     ngmesh = OCCGeometry(shape, dim=3)
5         .GenerateMesh(maxh=1.)
6 else:
7     ngmesh = netgen.libngpy._meshing.
8         Mesh(3)
9 import firedrake as fd
10 mesh = fd.Mesh(fd.Mesh(ngmesh).
11     curve_field(3))
12 fd.File("VTK/sphere.pvd").write(u)
```



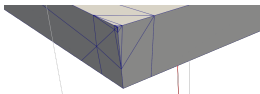
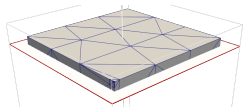
Constructive Solid Geometry – High Order Meshes

```
1 if comm.rank == 0:
2     geo = CSG2d()
3     circle = Circle(center=(1,1),
4                     radius=0.1, bc="curve").Maxh(0.01)
5     rect = Rectangle(pmin=(0,1), pmax
6                     =(1,2), bottom="bottom", left="
7                     left", top="top", right="right")
8     geo.Add(rect-circle)
9     ngmesh = geo.GenerateMesh(maxh
10                             =0.2)
11 else:
12     ngmesh = netgen.libngpy._meshing.
13             Mesh(2)
14 import firedrake as fd
15 mesh = fd.Mesh(fd.Mesh(ngmesh).
16                curve_field(3))
```



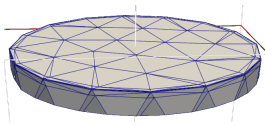
Anisotropic Mesh Refinement – Singular Vertex

```
1 if comm.rank == 0:
2     cube = Box((0,0,0), (1,1,1))
3     cube.vertices.Max(X+Y+Z).hpref=3
4     cube.vertices.Max(X+Y-Z).hpref=3
5     geo = OCCGeometry(cube)
6     mesh = ngs.Mesh(geo.GenerateMesh(
7         maxh=0.4))
8     mesh.RefineHP(2)
9     ngmesh = mesh.ngmesh
10 else:
11     ngmesh = netgen.libngpy._meshing.
12         Mesh(3)
13 import firedrake as fd
14 mesh = fd.Mesh(ngmesh, netgen_flags={"
15     purify_to_tets": True})
```



Anisotropic Mesh Refinement – Singular Edge

```
1 comm = MPI.COMM_WORLD
2 if comm.rank == 0:
3     cyl= Cylinder((0,0,0), Z, r=1, h
4         =3)
5     cyl.edges.Max(Z).hpref=1
6     geo = OCCGeometry(cyl)
7     mesh = ngs.Mesh(geo.GenerateMesh(
8         maxh=0.4))
9     mesh.RefineHP(2)
10    ngmesh = mesh.ngmesh
11 else:
12    ngmesh = netgen.libngpy._meshing.
13        Mesh(3)
14 import firedrake as fd
15 mesh = fd.Mesh(ngmesh, netgen_flags={"
16     purify_to_tets": True})
```

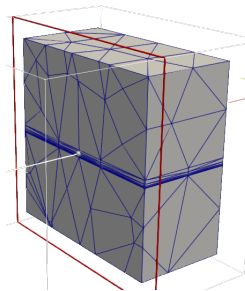


Anisotropic Mesh Refinement – Z Refinement

```

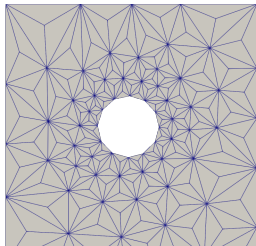
1   geo = CSGeometry()
2   box = OrthoBrick(Pnt(0,0,0),Pnt
    (1,1,1))
3   top = Plane(Pnt(0,0,0.52),Vec
    (0,0,1))
4   bot = Plane(Pnt(0,0,0.48),Vec
    (0,0,-1))
5   plate = box * top * bot
6   geo.Add((box-top).mat("air"))
7   geo.Add(plate.mat("plate"))
8   geo.Add((box-bot).mat("air"))
9   slices = [2**(-i) for i in
    reversed(range(1,6))]
10  geo.CloseSurfaces(bot,top,slices)
11  ngmesh = geo.GenerateMesh(maxh
    =0.3)
12  ZRefinement(ngmesh,geo)

```



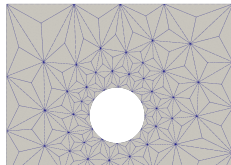
PETSc Transformation – Alfeld Split

```
1 if comm.rank == 0:
2     shape = Rectangle(2,0.41).Circle
3         (0.2,0.2,0.05).Reverse().Face()
4     ngmesh = OCCGeometry(shape,dim=2)
5         .GenerateMesh(maxh=0.5)
6 else:
7     ngmesh = netgen.libngpy._meshing.
8         Mesh(2)
9 import firedrake as fd
10 transform = PETSc.DMPlexTransform().
11     create(comm=PETSc.COMM_WORLD)
12 transform.setType(PETSc.
13     DMPlexTransformType.REFINEALFELD)
14 mesh = fd.Mesh(ngmesh,netgen_flags={"
15     transform":transform})
16 mesh = fd.Mesh(mesh.curve_field(3))
```



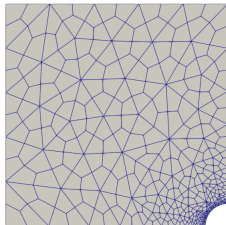
NETGEN Transformation - Curved Alfeld Split

```
1 if comm.rank == 0:
2     shape = Rectangle(2,0.41).Circle
3         (0.2,0.2,0.05).Reverse().Face()
4     ngmesh = OCCGeometry(shape,dim=2)
5         .GenerateMesh(maxh=0.5)
6     mesh = ngs.Mesh(ngmesh)
7     mesh.SplitElements_Alfeld()
8     ngmesh = mesh.ngmesh
9 else:
10    ngmesh = netgen.libngpy._meshing.
11        Mesh(2)
12
13 import firedrake as fd
14 mesh = fd.Mesh(ngmesh)
15 mesh = fd.Mesh(mesh.curve_field(3))
```



PETSc Transformation – Quadrilateral Split

```
1 if comm.rank == 0:
2     geo = CSG2d()
3     circle = Circle(center=(1,1),
4                     radius=0.1, bc="curve").Maxh(0.01)
5     rect = Rectangle(pmin=(0,1), pmax
6                     =(1,2))
7     geo.Add(rect-circle)
8     ngmesh = geo.GenerateMesh(maxh
9                               =0.2)
10 else:
11     ngmesh = netgen.libngpy._meshing.
12             Mesh(2)
13 import firedrake as fd
14 mesh = fd.Mesh(ngmesh, netgen_flags={"
15     quad": True})
```



- ▶ Improve support for **quadrilateral elements**, and consider **hexahedral elements**.
- ▶ Mesh **hierarchy awareness**, using Firedrake HierarchyBase class.
- ▶ Support “**snap back**”, to OCCT geometry, thanks to PETSc OCC awareness.
- ▶ Support for MFEM **GLVIS** mesh and solution live display, thanks to PETSc-GLVIS interface.

Thank You for your attention !

<https://github.com/UZerbinati/Firedrake23>