

Yet another Gmsh introduction

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```
#> gmsh -help
```



■ Gmsh is:

- a 3D finite element mesh generator
- a CAD engine
- a post-processing tool

- a free software → GPL license with exceptions
- quite mature now → started in 1997
- developed mainly by Christophe Geuzaine and Jean-François Remacle

- available for Windows, Mac OS, Linux, iOS and Android
- downloaded about 5000 times per week
- available at <http://gmsh.info>

```
#> gmesh -help | more
```



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■ Gmsh has:

- a (not so bad) documentation → <http://gmsh.info/doc/texinfo/gmsh.html>
- a (quite active) mailing list → <http://onelab.info/mailman/listinfo/gmsh/>

■ Gmsh can be used:

- through a GUI
- in command line through Gmsh's own scripting language



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I this presentation I will focus on the CLI and the .geo language

- The geometry can be described either through the GUI or by a `.geo` file
 - actually, the GUI is writing a `.geo` file!
 - it is possible to mix the two approaches...
- Here are the most elementary commands:
 - `Point(id) = {x, y, z, cl}`; → `cl` = mesh element size at this point
 - `Line(id) = {start, end}`;
 - `Circle(id) = {start, center, end}`; → circle arc (1D)!
 - `Spline(id) = {control_point_1, ...}`;
 - `BSpline(id) = {control_point_1, ...}`;
- Surfaces are created from 1D loops (Line or Circle) or by extrusion
- Volumes are created from 2D loops or by extrusion
- No 2D or 3D elementary entity available (at least with Gmsh's own engine)

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Let's write our first .geo file!

■ The following commands can be also quite useful:

- `Include "...";`
- `Delete{...};`
- `newp;; newl;; newll;; ...` → `new Point, Line, Line Loop, ... id`
- `Boundary{...};`
- `CombinedBoundary{...};` → same as `Boundary` but for complex parts
- `Translate{...};`
- `Duplicata{...};` → to be used in transformations such as `Translate`

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Let's try to insert our cylinder in a box!

```
#> emacs boubouchons/boubouchons.geo
```



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■ To conclude the .geo file introduction, let us add:

- For-style loop is available
- If-style control is available
- `variable~{i}` is a short cut for `variable_i` → can be useful to loop on `i`!
- this can be mixed with arrays: `array~{i}[j]`
- macros can be created (fairly new)
- all variables are global!



```
Merge "HelloCST.stp";
```



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-
- In addition to its own CAD engine, Gmsh is linked with OpenCASCADE (OCC):
 - Gmsh can read or write a lot of CAD file, such as .brep for instance
 - It is possible to drive a **part** of the OCC engine through python bindings
 - Ask me for more details if you are interested
 - Interactions between the two engines are possible → but limited!
 - It is possible to include your model in a box to model its surrounding

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Let's try to import a geometry from CST

```
#> gmsh HelloWorld.geo -2
```



■ Gmsh is also a 1D, 2D and 3D conforming mesh generator

- In GUI just hit 1, 2 or 3
- In CLI use -1, -2 or -3

■ In 2D, Gmsh implements the following algorithm:

1. MeshAdapt
2. Auto → default choice
5. Delaunay
6. Frontal
7. Bang → good for anisotropic meshes
8. Delaunay for quads → good for further recombinations into quads
9. Packing of parallelograms → idem
 - Can be set in .geo file with `Mesh.Algorithm = num;`
 - Can be set in GUI in Tools/Options/Mesh/General
 - Can be set in CLI with `-algo <string>` (see `-help`)

```
#> gmsh HelloWorld.geo -3
```

■ In 3D, Gmsh implements the following algorithm:

1. Delaunay → default choice
 2. New Delaunay
 4. Frontal
 5. Frontal Delaunay
 6. Frontal Hex → good for further recombinations into hexes
 7. MMG3d → good for anisotropic meshes
 9. R-tree → good for further recombinations into hexes
- Can be set in .geo file with `Mesh.Algorithm3D = num;`
 - Can be set in GUI in Tools/Options/Mesh/General
 - Can be set in CLI with `-algo <string>` (see `-help`)

- Gmsh can generate and recombine simplices into quads or hexes:
 1. it uses the Blossom algorithm
 2. just add `Recombine Surface "*" ;` or `Surface {ids, ...} ;` for 2D
 - a 100% quadrangular mesh is technically guaranteed
 - don't forget to try the different algorithm to find the best mesh
 - Packing of parallelograms could be a good start...
 3. just add `Recombine Volume "*" ;` or `Volume {ids, ...} ;` for 3D
 - should create a hex-dominant mesh...
 - highly experimental: use at your own risk ;-)
 - be ready for some seg. faults...
 4. don't mix `Recombine Volume` and `Recombine Surface`
 - `Recombine Volume` implies `Recombine Surface` ...

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Let's have a look at the 3D automatic hex mesh



- Gmsh can also generate hex or quad mesh using transfinites:
 - the number of points and the progression to use on each line can be specified
 - Transfinite Line "*" = points;
 - Transfinite Line {lines_id, ...} = points;
 - surfaces and volumes must also be transfinite
 - Transfinite Surface "*"; or Transfinite Volume {id, ...}; or ...
 - a surface must have four corners
 - a volume must have five or six faces
 - triangles or tets can then be recombined into quads with Recombine

- It is also possible to create a structured by extrusion with Layers



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Let's try it!

```
#> gmsh HelloWorld.geo -3 -order 2
-optimize -optimize_ho
```

■ Curved elements can be generated easily:

- call Gmsh with `-order int`
- or add `Mesh.ElementOrder = int;` in your `.geo` file
- or go into Tools/Options/Mesh/General in the GUI
- up to now, the GetDP solver cannot handle curved elements
- you may have a look in `projects/small_fem` from the Gmsh's repository for a FEM code with high-order capabilities

■ Further optimisation steps can also be applied:

- call Gmsh with `-optimize` and/or `-optimize_ho`
- or add `Mesh.Optimize = 1;` and/or `Mesh.HighOrderOptimize = 1;`

Compound; Homology; Plugin;
Background Mesh; CreateTopology;
AnswerToLiveUniverseAndEverything;



- That's all I wanted to show!
- But there is more, just look at this slide title. . .
- You may have a look at the tutorials in the `Gmsh` documentation

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Thank you for your attention!

return 0;

