Finite element codes (commercial)

- About 15 participants, about 10 use commercial FEM
- All of them use Comsol (1 also FLUX)
- Talked inevitably about Comsol
- Popularity: fast learning curve, easy knowledge transfer
  - Why not sharing a couple of basic examples to help new users get an even faster start?
  - E.g. on the website htsmodelling.com
  - We could also share basic known tricks and discovered bugs (e.g. v4.3b)
  - Same could be done with other software (FlexPDE, FLUX,...)
- Huge changes between versions 3.5a and 4
  - Some users did not update, although conversion “in principle” possible (convertpre35a)
  - Frequent problems also with minor version updates
- Comsol now comes with a SC module
  - Doesn’t seem to be developed by people who know SC; not in the basic package (AC/DC)
- Some disappointment with speed of calculation and convergence (also FLUX)
- Not fully clear how to optimize Comsol use with the large computing power that is now available