

Immersed domain approach for fluid-structure-contact interaction

FEM@LLNL Seminar Series (https://mfem.org/seminar)

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Overview - complex geometries and coupled problems



Flow (and transport) in fractured porous media



Contact

Fluid-structure interaction (Video)







Types of discrete fractures





(a) Embedded-HD

(b) Embedded-ED

Embedded/Immersed

- Fracture network mesh is independent from matrix mesh
- Convenient for stochastically generated and complex networks
- Intersections and coupling of discrete fields



(c) Decomposition-HD



(d) Decomposition-ED

Fitted/Decomposition

- Exact representation of interface in matrix
- Complexity in meshing stage
- High-resolution meshes vs ill-shaped elements

Flow in fractured porous media



- Matrix domain $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^d, d \in \{2, 3\}$
- Fracture $\subset \Omega$ (manifold dim. *d* or *d* 1)
- Pressure *p*, *p*
- Sink/source f, f
- Lagrange multiplier
- Permeability K, K

The weak form: find $(p, p) \in V$ and \in , such that

$$(K \nabla p, \nabla q)_{\Omega} - (,q) = (f,q)_{\Omega},$$

(K \nabla p, \nabla q) + (,q) = (f,q),

and the weak equality condition $-(p-p \ , \) \ = 0,$ are satisfied, $\forall (q,q \) \in W,$ and $\forall \ \in$



 $n_{\gamma_2^1}$

 $\xi_{1,2}$

-n



- Finite element method
- Meshes $\mathcal{M}_i = \mathcal{M}_{\Omega_i}$ for the matrix sub-domains $\Omega_i, i = 1, \dots N$
- Meshes \mathcal{M}_k for fractures $k, k = 1 \dots N$
- Multiplier space on fracture, we set $\mathcal{M}_{k} = \mathcal{M}_{k}$
- Lagrange elements $\mathbb{P}^k,$ or tensor-product elements \mathbb{Q}^k of order k

$$W_{h,} = \{ w \in W() : \forall E \in \mathcal{M} ,$$

$$w|_{E} \in \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \mathbb{P}^{k} & \text{if } E \text{ is a simplex} \\ \mathbb{Q}^{k} & \text{if } E \text{ is a hyper-cuboid} \end{array} \right\},$$

$$\in \{\Omega, \ ^{d}, \ ^{d-1}\},$$

$$h, \qquad \in \left\{ \begin{array}{l} d, \ ^{d-1} \end{array} \right\} \text{ (Lagrange multiplier space)}$$



- $\{ i\}_{i \in J}$ is the basis of $W_{h,\Omega}$
- $\{ j \}_{j \in J}$ is the basis of $W_{h,j}$
- $\{k\}_{k \in J}$ is the basis of h
- J and $J \subset \mathbb{N}$ are nodes index sets
- Function $p \in W_{h,\Omega}$, $p \in W_{h, \lambda}$, and $\in h_{h, \lambda}$
- $p = \sum_{i \in J} p_i$ i
- $p = \sum_{j \in J} p_j$ j
- $=\sum_{k\in J}$ k k
- $(i, j)_h = ij(i, 1)_h \quad \forall i, j \in J$ (bi-orthogonality)
- ($_{j}, 1$) $_{h} > 0$ (positivity)

Point-wise algebraic equations

• Porous matrix $(\mathbf{A}\mathbf{p} - \mathbf{B}^T \boldsymbol{\lambda} = \mathbf{f})$

$$\sum_{i\in J} p_i (\mathbf{K} \nabla_{i}, \nabla_{j})_{\Omega_h} - \sum_{k\in J} k(k, j)_h = (f, j)_{\Omega_h}, \quad \forall j \in J,$$

• Fracture (**A p** + **D**^T λ = **f**)

$$\sum_{i\in J}p_{i,} (\mathbf{K} \nabla_{i}, \nabla_{j})_{h} + \sum_{k\in J}_{k} (k, j)_{h} = (f, j)_{h}, \quad \forall j \in J,$$

• Weak-equality condition (-Bp + Dp = 0)

$$-\left(\sum_{i\in J}p_i(j,j)_{\Omega_h}-\sum_{k\in J}p_{k,j}(j,k,j)_{h}\right)=0, \quad \forall j\in J$$

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Linear system of equations

• Saddle-point system

$$\begin{array}{c|cccc} \mathbf{A} & \mathbf{0} & -\mathbf{B}^T \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{A} & \mathbf{D}^T \\ -\mathbf{B} & \mathbf{D} & \mathbf{0} \end{array} \begin{vmatrix} \mathbf{p} \\ \mathbf{\lambda} \end{vmatrix} = \begin{vmatrix} \mathbf{f} \\ \mathbf{f} \\ \mathbf{0} \end{vmatrix}$$

• Gaussian-elimination \rightarrow condensed system

$$(\mathbf{A} + \mathbf{T}^T \mathbf{A} \ \mathbf{T})\mathbf{p} = \mathbf{f} + \mathbf{T}^T \mathbf{f}$$

- $\mathbf{T} = \mathbf{D}^{-1}\mathbf{B}$
- **D** is trivially invertible thanks to bi-orthogonal basis
- Symmetric-positive definite linear system solved only for **p**
- Solved with preconditioned CG or AMG (e.g., Hypre)



Handling non-conforming meshes \rightarrow computing $T = D^{-1}B$



(a) Non conforming interface $_{1,}$ tween mesh \mathcal{M}_1 and mesh \mathcal{M}_2 .

 $_{1,2}$ be- (b) Meshes for fracture \mathcal{M}_{-1} and porous matrix \mathcal{M} for the embedded scenario.

(c) Numerical quadrature within intersections

Matrix (mortar)	Fracture (nonmortar)	Intersection type
$\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^3$	3	polyhedron-polyhedron
$\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^3$	2	polyhedron-polygon
$\partial \Omega_i \cap i, j \subset \mathbb{R}^3$	$\partial \Omega_j \cap i, j \subset \mathbb{R}^3$	polygon-polygon (oriented)
$\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^2$	2	polygon-polygon
$\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^2$	1	polygon-segment
$\partial \Omega_i \cap i, j \subset \mathbb{R}^2$	$\partial \Omega_j \cap i, j \subset \mathbb{R}^2$	segment-segment (oriented)

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Results are selected from these contributions

3D non-conforming mesh model for flow in fractured porous media using Lagrange multipliers (Schädle, Zulian, Vogler, Bhopalam, Nestola, Ebigbo, Krause, and Saar [2019])

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Research poper

3D non-conforming mesh model for flow in fractured porous media using Lagrange multipliers^{1,00} Philip Schäfle^{1,1}, Parité Zalian¹, Dasiel Vagier¹, Sharishtha R. Biogalam¹, Maria G. Navad¹, Anaste Bhio¹, Bell Krause¹, Maria O. Saar¹

Maria G.C. Nentola ¹, Anozie Elligbo¹, Rall Krause¹, Martin O. Snar¹ "I'm dink, conternet inequ est forderic close, notase of computer. AND Month O. Snar¹ "I'm spin, human of computing from, other spin, fordering

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Comparison and application of non-conforming mesh models for flow in fractured porous media using dual Lagrange multipliers (Zulian, Schädle, Karagyaur, and Nestola [2020])



Comparison and application of non-conforming mesh models for flow in fractured porous media using dual Lagrange multipliers [®]

Patrick Zulian ^{1,1}, Philipp Schidle¹, Lindmila Karagyaur², Maria G.C. Nestola^{1,1} ¹ data terms (Progen Distance Internet ¹ mine (Compute Dependent from Internet II ¹ mine (Compute Dependent from Internet II ¹ mine (Compute on Privile Dependent of Text Internet II ¹ mine (Compute on Privile Dependent of Text Internet II ¹ mine (Compute on Privile Dependent of Text Internet III)

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Benchmark 1: regular fracture network







(b) Decomposition/blocking



fethod	#-matr.	#-frac.	d.o.f.	nnz/size ²	· ₂-cond.	errm
mbedded-ED	10 656 triangles	8648	5853	2.6e-4	3.7e6	3.3e-5
mbedded-ED	47 142 triangles	8648	25 992	7.6e-5	1.8e8	1.9e-6
mbedded-ED	96 762 triangles	8648	53 379	5.3e-5	1.2e9	2.8e-7
ecomposition-ED	12 791 triangles	34 592	32935	2.3e-4	5.2e10	6.4e-8
ecomposition-ED	36 331 triangles	34 592	45172	1.7e-4	8.8e10	2.8e-8
ecomposition-ED (blocking)	922 triangles	34 592	26 520	2.7e-4	9.4e7	3.3e-8
mbedded-HD	1600 quads	112	1681	9.7e-4	1.6e5	1.3e-7
mbedded-HD	25 600 guads	448	25 921	4.3e-5	9.5e6	1.0e-7
mbedded-HD	102 400 quads	896	103 041	1.0e-5	7.6e7	9.8e-8
mbedded-ED (disconnected)	7596 triangles	12 052	4198	3.2e-4	2.0e6	6.1e-5
mbedded-ED (disconnected)	34 116 triangles	12 052	18 902	7.7e-5	4.1e7	4.0e-6
mbedded-ED (disconnected)	70 365 triangles	12 052	38 998	4.6e-5	2.6e8	8.9e-7
mbedded-HD (disconnected)	1600 quads	112	1681	8.5e-4	1.6e5	2.9e-7
mbedded-HD (disconnected)	25 600 guads	448	25 921	4.3e-5	9.6e6	2.3e-7
mbedded-HD (disconnected)	102 400 quads	896	103 041	1.0e-5	7.6e7	2.2e-7



Benchmark 1 (+3D): choice of Lagrange multiplier

Method	#-matr.	#-frac.	d.o.f.	nnz/size ²	$\ \cdot\ _2$ -cond.
Box	1078 triangles	74	577	1.1e-2	2.2e3
TPFA	1386 triangles	95	1481	2.7e-3	4.8e4
MPFA	1348 triangles	91	1439	8.0e-3	5.8e4
EDFM	1369 quads	132	1501	3.3e-3	5.6e4
Flux-Mortar	1280 triangles	75	3366	1.8e-3	2.4e6
P-XFEM	961 quads	164	1650	8.0e-3	9.3e9
D-XFEM	1250 triangles	126	4474	1.3e-3	1.2e6
MFD	1 136 456 quads	38 600	2 352 280		
SLM-FEM: $\xi = 1000$	1089 quads	112	1374	-	1.3e5
LM-L ²	1089 quads	112	1374	6.7e-3	4.6e11
LM-L ² - dual-LagrMult.	1089 quads	112	1156	9.7e-3	3.0e4
LM-L ² - p0-LagrMult.	1089 quads	112	1377	6.3e-3	3.7e8
LM-L ² - (3D)	35 937 hexas	3584	46 498	6.0e-4	7.7e12
LM-L ² - dual-LagrMult (3D)	35 937 hexas	3584	39 304	1.4e-3	6.4e4
$LM-L^2$ - p0-LagrMult (3D)	35 937 hexas	3584	46 485	5.4e-4	1.7e11



High-resolution example





Matrix mesh: 62 676 992 tetrahedra





Fracture mesh: 3367552 triangles





Flow: pressure iso-surfaces



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Flow: pressure iso-surfaces









Similar idea for a more challenging scenario Fluid-structure-contact interaction

Project	Application	Fluid	Solid	Coupling	Contact	Article
AV-Flow	Heart-valves	FD	FEM	IB	-	Nestola et al. [2019]
-	Heart-valves	FEM	FEM	ID	Lagrange Multipliers (LM)	Nestola et al. [2021]
Fluya	Pumps	CVFEM	FEM	ID	Shifted-Penalty (SP)	In preparation
ID . In the second Devention ID . In the second Devention						

ID := Immersed Domain, IB := Immersed Boundary

Introduction: Techniques for fluid-structure interaction

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FSI: Boundary-fitted methods

- Matching boundary of fluid and solid meshes
- Arbitrary Lagragian Eulerian (ALE)
- Fluid mesh deforms with solid mesh
- Accurate results at FSI interface
- Large displacements → Distorted fluid grid → reduced numerical stability and accuracy



Figure: ALE mesh

Introduction: Techniques for fluid-structure interaction



FSI: Non Boundary-fitted fixed-grid methods

Immersed techniques

- Independent meshes of fluid and solid meshes
- Eulerian fluid formulation
- **Fuzzy** FSI interface → **higher resolution required** for reproducing accurate results
- Flexible choice of discretization for the fluid (*e.g.,* FEM, FVM, CVFEM, FDM) and software

Immersed domain \rightarrow fluid and solid are **coupled in the** entire intersection **volume**



Figure: Super-imposed solid and fluid meshes

Glowinski et al. [1999], Baaijens [2001], Hesch et al. [2014]

FSI approach



Strong formulation of the fluid-structure-interaction problem

$$\int \frac{\partial u_f}{\partial t} + \int (u_f \cdot \nabla) u_f + \sigma_f - \lambda = 0 \quad \text{in} \quad \Omega_f, \quad \text{(Navier-Stokes equations)}$$
$$\nabla \cdot u_f = 0 \quad \text{in} \quad \Omega_f,$$
$$\int \frac{\partial^2 \eta_s}{\partial t^2} + \sigma_s + \lambda = 0 \quad \text{in} \quad \Omega_s(t), \quad \text{(Elastodynamics equation)}$$
$$\frac{\partial \eta_s}{\partial t} - u_f = 0 \quad \text{in} \quad I = \Omega_f \cap \Omega_s(t),$$

where

 $u_f :=$ velocity, $p_f :=$ pressure, $\eta_s :=$ displacement, $\lambda :=$ Lagrange multiplier, := mass density, and initial and boundary conditions ...

Introduction: structure sub-problem



Contact between structures

• Initial conditions for FSI simulation

- \rightarrow Containment problem
- → Large stresses in structure will cause interpenetration
- Cases with low resolution (TTS constraints)
- Multi-body contact and unilateral contact



Dickopf and Krause [2009], Krause and Walloth [2012]

FSCI approach



Two-body contact problem

- Elastic bodies $\Omega^m, \Omega^s \in \mathbb{R}^d, d \in \{2, 3\}$
- Lipschitz continuous boundaries ^m, ^s
- A priori unknown contact boundary $\partial \Omega_c = c$
- Gap between the two bodies g_c



FSCI approach



Contact conditions

- Vector field of normal directions: \mathbf{n}_{Φ} : ${}^{s}_{c} \rightarrow \mathbb{S}^{2}$

$$n_{\Phi}(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{\Phi(x) - x}{|\Phi(x) - x|}, & \text{if } \Phi(x) \neq x, \\ n^s(x), & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

• Jump of the solution in n_{Φ}

$$\llbracket \boldsymbol{\eta}
rbracket := \boldsymbol{\eta}^s - \boldsymbol{\eta}^m \circ \Phi \qquad \llbracket \ _n
rbracket := \llbracket \boldsymbol{\eta}
rbracket \cdot \boldsymbol{\eta}_{\Phi}$$

Contact conditions

Non-penetration condition:
$$\begin{bmatrix} & & & \\ & & & \end{bmatrix} - g_c & \leq 0$$

Normal contact stress: $p_n(\eta^s) & \leq 0$
Complementary condition: $(\begin{bmatrix} & & \\ & & \end{bmatrix} - g_c)p_n(\eta^s) = 0$
Tangential contact stress: $\tau_t(\eta^s) = 0$

Coupling and resampling



FSCI problem discretization

- FEM for the structure
- CVFEM^{*a*} for the fluid
- Variants of mortar-method^b for the coupling between fluid and structure
- $\frac{\partial \eta_s}{\partial t} u_f = \mathbf{0} \rightarrow \int_I \left(\sum_i \frac{\partial i}{\partial t} \varphi_i \sum_j u_j \theta_j \right) \cdot \mu_k = \mathbf{0} \quad \forall \mu_k \in \Lambda$ (weak equality condition)
- Where φ_i ∈ V_s, θ_j ∈ V_f, μ_k ∈ Λ are the basis functions for structure, fluid, and multiplier discretizations, respectively
- Similary for contact

^a Baliga and Patankar [1983]
^b Bernardi et al. [2005]

Lagrange multiplier

Standard interpolation (etc.)



Variational approach



Coupling and resampling



Parallel coupling procedure

Coupling types

- FSI Volumetric coupling
- Contact conditions Surface coupling
- Geometric operations
 - Structure considered in the **deformed** configuration
 - Intersection mesh for numerical quadrature of the coupling conditions fluid-structure and structure-structure

Krause and Zulian [2016]





















Bio-prosthetic heart-valve simulation Spatial discretization

- Fluid: FEM (+SUPG), with the MOOSE framework [Peterson et al., 2018]
- Structure: FEM

Time discretization

- Fluid: Backward Differentiation Formula (BDF2)
- Structure: Contact-stabilized-Newmark scheme [Krause and Walloth, 2012]

Staggered approach

- Fluid and structure sub-problems solved separately within a Picard iteration
- A multibody contact problem is solved with a non-smooth sub-structuring method^a





Bio-prosthetic heart-valve simulation

Aortic valve stenosis

- Prevalent valvular pathology in Western countries
- Progressive thickening of the valve
- Results in severe impairment of the valve motion → Replacement with bioprosthetic valve

Bioprosthetic heart valve

- Limited durability
- Numerical simulations for studying valve design





Bio-prosthetic heart-valve simulation

BHV model

- Holzapfel fiber-reinforced material
- Two valve designs
- with and without fibers







Bio-prosthetic heart-valve simulation

Purely structure simulation of the BHV

- Pressure profile imposed on the structure
- VonMises stresses are lower in the fiber-reinforced BHV 1 model





Bio-prosthetic heart-valve simulation

Fiber reinforced BHV 1 performance

- Mechanical and haemodynamic performance
- (a) Velocity. Inflow boundary condition.
- (b) Windkessel model for pressure gradient between 80 and 120 mmHg
- (c) Systole
- (d) Diastole

More details in Nestola, Zulian, Gaedke-Merzhäuser, and Krause [2021]



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- Properly and efficiently simulating the sub-problems is challenging on their own
- **Complex setups and geometries** → generality and robustness of methods and algorithms
 - Non-smooth interactions between structures due to **contact**
 - Closing gaps and **blockage** of fluid flow
 - From CAD models to proper initial value problem
 - Physical parameters and engineering goals
 - FP70 Video
- **Transient simulation (3 + 1)D** → scalable solution techniques and high-performance codes
 - Simulation time is constrained by business goals and computational resources
 - Sufficient fidelity vs computational effort
- (Limited freedom due to split development efforts)



Figure: Set-up for FSCI in idealized hydro-pump

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Hydro-pump simulation

Simulation of fluid-structure interaction in diaphragm pumps

- Collaboration with **HSLU**, article is WIP
- Structure only IVP initialization
- NeoHookean hyperelastic material
- Monolithic formulation

Spatial discretization

- Fluid: CVFEM
- Structure: FEM

Time discretization

- Fluid: Implicit Euler
- Structure: Newmark scheme





Hydro-pump simulation

FSI Saddle-point system (after linearization)

$$\begin{vmatrix} \mathbf{A}_f & \mathbf{0} & -\mathbf{B}^T \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{A}_s & \mathbf{D}^T \\ -\mathbf{B} & \mathbf{D} & \mathbf{0} \end{vmatrix} \begin{vmatrix} \mathbf{u}_f \\ \mathbf{u}_s \\ \lambda \end{vmatrix} = \begin{vmatrix} \mathbf{R}_f \\ \mathbf{R}_s \\ \mathbf{R}_{\text{FSI}} \end{vmatrix},$$

with dual-Lagrange multipliers

$$\begin{split} \mathbf{T} &= \mathbf{D}^{-1}\mathbf{B}, \quad \mathbf{u}_s = \mathbf{D}^{-1}\mathbf{R}_{\mathrm{FSI}} + \mathbf{T} \quad \mathbf{u}_f, \\ \lambda &= \mathbf{D}^{-T}\left(\mathbf{R}_s - \mathbf{A}_s(\mathbf{D}^{-1}\mathbf{R}_{\mathrm{FSI}} + \mathbf{T} \quad \mathbf{u}_f)\right), \end{split}$$

we compute (Gaussian elimination on paper)

$$(\mathbf{A}_f + \mathbf{T}^T \mathbf{A}_s \mathbf{T}) \ \mathbf{u}_f = \mathbf{R}_f + \mathbf{T}^T \mathbf{R}_s - \mathbf{T}^T \mathbf{A}_s \mathbf{D}^{-1} \mathbf{R}_{FSI},$$

where $\mathbf{R}_{\text{FSI}} = -(\mathbf{D}\mathbf{u}_s^k - \mathbf{B}\mathbf{u}_f^k)$.



Hydro-pump simulation

- Condensed linearized system (k) is solved for the velocity increment \mathbf{u}_f
- Structure equations adapted after linearization
 - $\mathbf{A}_s = \frac{2}{2}\mathbf{M}_s + \frac{1}{2}\mathbf{H}_s(\boldsymbol{\eta}_s^k),$
 - $\mathbf{R}_{s} = f_{s}^{\text{external}} f_{s}^{\text{contact}} f_{s}^{\text{int}}(\eta_{s}^{k}) + \mathbf{M}_{s}(\mathbf{a}_{s}^{t} \frac{2}{2}(\mathbf{u}_{s}^{k} \mathbf{u}_{s}^{t})),$
 - after solve $\mathbf{u}_s^{k+1} = \mathbf{u}_s^k + \mathbf{T} \ \mathbf{u}_f (\mathbf{u}_s^k \mathbf{T}\mathbf{u}_f^k)$,
 - t := time, := time-step.
- The structure displacement is computed with $\eta_s^{t+1} = \eta_s^t + \frac{1}{2}(\mathbf{u}_s^t + \mathbf{u}_s^{t+1})$,
- Penalty methods for f_s^{contact}
 - Interior penalty, logarithmic barrier (or polynomial)
 - Exterior penalty and shifted variant (Augmented Lagrangian)

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Hydro-pump simulation

Shifted-penalty method^a

- Classical penalty term in the objective is modified (augmented Lagrangian)
 ¹/₂ g²_c → ¹/₂ (s + g_c)²
- The shift *s* is used to "change the obstacle"
- Same penalty parameter but better enforcement of non-penetration condition
- The contribution included in the FSI by means of f_s^{contact} (details not shown here)

^aDivi and Kesavan [1982], Zavarise [2015]





Hydro-pump: initial conditions





Hydro-pump simulation: simplified diaphragm pump

Simplified diaphragm pump test-rig

- 1. Rigid driving piston
- 2. Fluid reservoir
- 3. Valve limiters
- 4. Valves^a
- 5. Transparent plexiglass window

^aParts removed due to copyright



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Hydro-pump simulation: simplified diaphragm pump

Simplified diaphragm pump mesh

- Fluid 122 432 nodes (637 570 cells)
- Structure 11 140 nodes (47 045 cells)

Simulation setup

- Rigid piston modelled as inlet/outlet boundary with prescribed transient flow signal
- Water surface of reservoir modelled as opening with constant static pressure
- Valves modelled as immersed structures, anchored through contact with fluid domain walls



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Hydro-pump simulation: simplified diaphragm pump



Flow from the piston cylinder into the water reservoir during the pressure stroke

Flow from the water reservoir into the piston cylinder during the suction stroke



Hydro-pump simulation: simplified diaphragm pump





On the role of aortic valve architecture for physiological hemodynamics and valve replacement

Work from

- Corso and Obrist [2024a]
- Corso and Obrist [2024b]
- Tsolaki, Corso, Zboray, Avaro, Appel, Liebi, Bertazzo, Heinisch, Carrel, Obrist, et al. [2023]
- Corso, Coulter, and Nestola [2024]
- Based on AVFLOW [Nestola, Becsek, Zolfaghari, Zulian, De Marinis, Krause, and Obrist, 2019]
- Videos are courtesy of Pascal Corso (ETHZ)



Further research using our techniques and tools

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Contact between rough surfaces using a dual mortar method

• Work from von Planta, Vogler, Zulian, Saar, and Krause [2020]



Further research using our techniques and tools



Scalable hierarchical PDE sampler for generating spatially correlated random fields using nonmatching meshes

- Work from Osborn, Zulian, Benson, Villa, Krause, and Vassilevski [2018]
- Based on Krause and Zulian [2016] integrated in MFEM





Preliminary work on semi-structured operators

- Greater spatio-temporal resolution of simulations needed to capture relevant small scale dynamics
- More complex physics such as multi-phase flows
- Supercomputing mandatory → Semi-structured operators
- PASC project 2025-2028 XSES-FSI (https://pasc-ch.org/index.html)

WIP: High-performance tetrahedral FEM

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Comparison with cuSPARSE on NVIDIA P100 (FP64: 4.7 TFlop/s)

Throughput in MDoF/s (Million degrees of freedom per second)

- Matrix-Free (MF) operators achieve higher throughput than cuSPARSE SpMV except tet4 (highest macrotet4)
- Laplacian: 1.8x and 3.2x speedup over SpMV and tet4, respectively
- Linear Elasticity: 3.4x and 2.9x speedup over SpMV and tet4, respectively
- In line with results from ECP, additional regularity benefits performance



WIP: Semi-structured discretizations

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Memory footprint **from structured to unstructured** Basic example

- Cuboid with $\Omega = (0, 2) \times (0, 1) \times (0, 1)$
- 80 × 40² × 8³ = 65 536 000 elements, and 66 049 281 nodes.
- Semi-structured mesh ("level 8"), with 128000 macro-elements.
- Laplace operator stored with first-fundamental form, i.e., 6 scalars per element (*FP16*)
- Nodal field (*FP64*), Elemental indices (*INT32*), Coordinates (*FP32*)



Mesh	Points [GB]	Elements [GB]	Field [GB]	Operator [GB]	Total [GB]	Proportion
Structured	0	0	0.528	0	0.528	1
Semi-structured (8)	0.001	0.37	0.528	0.0015	0.9	1.7
Unstructured	0.79	2	0.528	0.7864	4.1	7.7

WIP: Semi-structured discretizations



Compromise between convenience and regularity

- Complex mesh descriptions → Boundary parametrization [Zulian et al., 2017] (to be revisited)
- Memory efficiency and bandwidth requirements
- **Implicit** hierarchical **structure** to be mapped to compute hardware
- Geometric multigrid methods and sub-structuring methods
- Workload granularity (1 element per thread to 1 element per GPU)
- Main target is solution strategies employing matrix-free operators
- Performance of linear operators might be further improved by exploting stencils



WIP: Geometric Multigrid



Performance of semi-structured operators

Throughput in MDoF/s (Million degrees of freedom per second)

- Baseline Laplace operator for geometric multigrid
- #nodes per element is $(N+1)^3$
- Factor of 8 increase in elements does not translate to 8x larger compute times
- Finer levels have higher throughput approx. **3-5x**
- On NVIDIA H100 GPU best throughput 20320.3 [MDOF/s]
- On Mac M1 Max (8 OpenMP threads) best throughput 758.631 [MDOF/s] (*N* = 10)
- On Shaheen's AMD EPYC 9654, perf. limited by basic OpenMP parallelization (0.5-0.6 efficiency), for Level = 16 #elements 1 943 764 992, #nodes 1 948 441 249

Table: One node on Shaheen: **192 OpenMP threads**. Coarse mesh (N = 1) #elements 78³, approx. 1.9 G dofs

Ν	TTS [s]	Throughput [MDOF/s]
16	0.303056	6429.3
8	0.0390528	6251.56
4	0.00781309	3924.73
2	0.000913524	4236.23
1	0.000239933	2054.9



Solution to contact problems with semi-structured matrix-free finite elements operators¹



¹Collaboration with PSU for algebraic coarse spaces. Article in preparation

WIP: Shifted-Penalty Multigrid for Contact

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High-frequency surface geometric features

- Geometric MG proof-of-concept for Fluya FSCI
- Unilateral linearized contact problem, SDF obstacle
- WIP: baseline implementation to be optimized
- One Shaheen III node, AMD EPYC 9654 CPUs (192 cores)
- TLP: OpenMP
- #elements 136 294 400 (HEX8)
- #nodes $137380497 \rightarrow #dofs 412141491$
- Matrix-based version does not fit one node
- Time-to-solution: **39 minutes**
- 65% Linear-elasticity operator
- 82% Nonlinear smoothing → #steps 7230 fine-level block-Jacobi (block size = 3 × 3)



WIP: Shifted-Penalty Multigrid for Contact







Resampling: structured \rightarrow unstructured

- Approximate numerical quadrature
- Sampling a field defined over a structured grid for each quadrature node in the **tetrahedral** mesh.
- Gather memory access pattern
- First and second order iso-parametric mesh
- We start from structured to unstructured, we will address semi-structured to semi-structured later
- Effects of approximate quadrature? (study by Boffi, Credali, and Gastaldi [2024])
- Preliminary work in collaboration with Simone Riva (USI)

Example for a triangular mesh: quadrature-points for a triangle, nodes of the structured grid



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Performance results Linear TET4 elements (CPU)

AMD EPYC 9654 96-Core on Shaheen III, KAUST Supercomputer

 $21\cdot 10^6$ tetrahedral elements, $900\times 900\times 900$ structured mesh



• 10 nodes per element, and 56 quadrature points per element



Performance results Quadratic TET10 elements (CPU)

AMD EPYC 9654 96-Core on Shaheen III, KAUST Supercomputer

 $21\cdot 10^6$ tetrahedral elements, $900\times 900\times 900$ structured mesh



• 10 nodes per element, and 56 quadrature points per element



CUDA Tiled-partitioned quadrature (GPU)

- A tile consists of a subset of a Warp (32 lanes) of a GPU vector unit, and each GPU thread occupies one lane
- One tetrahedral element per tile
- The performances significantly change as a function of the tile size *N*





Performance results Quadratic TET10 elements (GPU)

GH200 nodes @ Alps CSCS

 $21\cdot 10^6$ tetrahedral elements, $900\times 900\times 900$ structured mesh



• 10 nodes per element, and 56 quadrature points per element

Conclusions



Thank you for your attention!

Summary

- Immersed approach to flow in fractured porous media and FSI
- Example numerical applications
- Open-source libraries (BSD 3-clause license)
 - https://github.com/mfem/mfem (branch "moonolith_h1_bugfix" PR in review)
 - https://bitbucket.org/zulianp/utopia
 - https://bitbucket.org/zulianp/par_moonolith

Future work

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- Focus on FSCI models and large scale FSI and FSCI
- Hybrid matrix-free and matrix-based algorithm on GPU
- Preconditioning techniques exploiting semi-structured operators

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 - Stress-based methods for variational inequalities in Solid Mechanics
- UniDistance Suisse and USI-FIR
- PASC 2025-2028 XSES-FSI



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