









# Mixed finite element formulation for solid mechanics problems

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#### **Exponential of stretch: Neohookean**

**Classical Neo-Hookean potential expression:** 

$$\Psi(I_C, J) = \frac{\mu}{2}(I_C - 3) - \mu \ln J + \frac{\lambda}{2}(\ln J)^2 \qquad \text{Matrix inversion, Logarithm of Jacobian, affect robustness}$$
$$\delta \Psi = \mathbf{P} : \delta \mathbf{F}$$
$$= \left\{ \mu(\mathbf{F} - (\mathbf{F}^{-T}) + \lambda \ln J J \mathbf{F}^{-T}) \right\} : \delta \mathbf{F}$$

New formulation exploiting logarithmic strain:

$$\begin{split} \Psi(I_C, J) &= \mu(\exp\left(\mathbf{H}\right) - \exp\left(-\mathbf{H}\right)) : \exp_{\mathbf{H}}\left(\delta\mathbf{H}\right) + \lambda\mathbf{H} : \delta\mathbf{H} \\ \mathbf{H} &= \frac{1}{2}\left[\ln(\mathbf{F}^{\mathrm{T}} : \mathbf{F})\right], \quad \lambda^H \in \mathbb{R} \end{split} \qquad \qquad \begin{array}{l} \text{No matrix inversion necessary} \\ &\to \text{numerical stability} \end{array}$$

Bonet, Javier, Antonio J. Gil, and Richard D. Wood. *Nonlinear solid mechanics for finite element analysis: dynamics*. Cambridge University Press, 2021.

Poya, Roman, et al. "Generalised tangent stabilised nonlinear elasticity: An automated framework for controlling material and geometric instabilities." *Computer Methods in Applied Mechanics and Engineering* 436 (2025): 117701.



## Exponential of axis of rotation: Symmetric Incremental Rotations

SO3 (Rotations in 3D)

Sola, Joan, Jeremie Deray, and Dinesh Atchuthan. "A micro lie theory for state estimation in robotics." *arXiv preprint arXiv:1812.01537* (2018).



 $\Delta \mathbf{R} = \exp[\Delta \boldsymbol{\theta}]$  $\mathbf{F}^{t+1} = \mathbf{R}^{t+1} \exp \mathbf{H}^{t+1}$ 

Rodrigues' Rotation Formula. Rotation can be expressed with finite sum series.

Polar decomposition (material)



#### **Example application: Bushing**





## Example application: Structural integrity problems









PARALLEL PARTITION

0.0e+00

#### Messy issue of contact (robustness trumps efficiency in framework design)



- $\succ$  On exchange surfaces, we share: current positions, tractions
- > The kd-tree is built on contact surfaces
- Aircraft's shadow projection method
- Contact surface mesh is arbitrarily refined (take into account HO-approximation)



#### Plasticity, contact, damage & fracture

- Structural integrity problems are difficult to scale heterogeneous materials and complex geometry with many components.
- In structural integrity problems, the devil is in the unilateral constraints, plasticity at integration points, contact on surfaces, or the crack front.
- Strongly nonlinear problems: constitutive equations, history, geometrical nonlinearities, topology evolution & boundary conditions.
- Unavoidable approximation and integration error. Plastic/Contact fronts, Cracks, Wrinkling, Creases, and Cusps, etc







#### First commit June 2013



#### Scientific Management

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Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council

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MesH-Oriented — Solutions — FREUDENBERG



#### In a nutshell

- Core library has ~270,000 lines of code
- Code made by ~50 contributors
- It would take ~70 years of work of a single programmer to write that code (according to COCOMO model -OpenHub)
- It is mostly written in C++
- Open repository and MIT license











Matrices, vectors and many solvers







Matrices, vectors and many solvers







Matrices, vectors and many solvers

















#### **High Level Design**





#### **MoFEM Features**

DG-upwind advection of level set: Tutorial ADV-3.

- We aim at the whole de Rham complex: L2, H-div, Hcurl, and H1.
- L2/DG, H1/DG, and other energetic spaces are also included.
- Hierarchical approximation bases.
- Scalar, vectorial and tensorial bases.
- Hierarchical (p-adaptivity) and Beristain-Bezier base



Shallow-Wave equation on generic curved surfaces





#### **MoFEM Design – Industry First Approach**

- Core library (abstraction levels) and modules with physics implementation two different repositories, licensing, copyright when needed.
- Hollywood model (you do not call us, we call you) development patterns high code coverage - research code short pathway to application.

```
MoFEM::Core core(moab);
MoFEM::Interface& m_field = core;
// define fields
CHKERR m_field.add_field("DISP",H1,AINSWORTH_LEGENDRE_BASE,3);
CHKERR m_field.add_field("FLUX",HDIV,DEMKOWICZ_JACOBI_BASE,1);
// meshset consisting all entities in mesh
EntityHandle root_set = moab.get_root_set();
// add entities to field
CHKERR m_field.add_ents_to_field_by_TETs(root_set,"DISP");
CHKERR m_field.add_ents_to_field_by_TETs(root_set,"FLUX");
// set app. order (that is boring same order to all)
int order = 5;
CHKERR m_field.set_field_order(root_set,MBTET,"DISP",order);
CHKERR m_field.set_field_order(root_set,MBTET,"FLUX",order);
// build
CHKERR m_field.build_fields();
```



#### **Finite Element is a pipeline of operators**



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808 nm pulsed

laser

#### Leverage testing through science applications





808 nm pulsed

laser

#### Leverage testing through science applications





#### Leverage testing through science applications



1.9e+08 - 16000 - 12000 - 12000 - 10000 - 6000 - 6000 - 4000 - 2000 - 0 - 0 - 0

Lewandowski K., et al., 2021



Advanced gas-cooled reactors (AGR)



Advanced gas-cooled reactors (AGR)





 $\approx$ 20% of energy from nuclear power



#### Advanced gas-cooled reactors (AGR)





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#### Advanced gas-cooled reactors (AGR)



 $\approx$ 20% of energy from nuclear power



- mechanical stability
- thermal inertia









#### **Fracture process**

### Second Law

## Entropy (nothing) is never like it was before $D := \gamma \dot{W} \cdot A_{\partial \Gamma} \ge C$





#### Force balance at the crack front



Balance:

$$G_K^{\partial\Gamma_{\rm cr}} - (g_{\rm cr}/2 - \rho)A_K^{\partial\Gamma_{\rm cr}} = 0$$

3 cases:

(i) body is not loaded  $\Leftrightarrow G_K^{\partial\Gamma_{\rm cr}} = 0 \Leftrightarrow \rho = g_{\rm cr}/2$ (ii) crack propagates  $\Leftrightarrow \rho = 0$ (iii) intermediate state  $\Leftrightarrow \rho > 0$  and  $G_K^{\partial\Gamma_{\rm cr}} \neq 0$ 

KKT for crack propagation:  $A_K^{\partial\Gamma_{\mathrm{cr}}}\dot{W}_K \ge 0, \quad \rho \ge 0, \quad \rho A_K^{\partial\Gamma_{\mathrm{cr}}}\dot{W}_K = 0$ 

Complementarity function:  $C_{\rm cr}(\rho, \dot{W}_K) := \rho - \max\left(0, \rho - c_{\rm cr} A_K^{\partial \Gamma_{\rm cr}} \dot{W}_K\right)$ 19



#### **Fracture of irradiated graphite bricks**



X\_Y

#### **Fracture of irradiated graphite bricks**





NZ

X Y

#### **Fracture of irradiated graphite bricks**







Athanasiadis, I., Shvarts, A.G. et al. *CMAME* (2023)

Scan to access

paper





### **Analysis geometry**





#### Simulation





#### Simulation




# **Comparison with the experiment**





### Jacobs





## **Mixed Elasticity Formulation**

$$\Pi = W(\boldsymbol{U}) + \int_{\Omega_0} \left( \frac{\partial x_i}{\partial X_J} - R_{iK} U_{KJ} \right) P_{iJ} \mathrm{d}V - \int_{\Omega_0} u_i f_i \mathrm{d}V - \int_{\gamma_0} \bar{u}_i t_i \mathrm{d}S$$

Consistency equation:

$$\frac{\partial \Pi}{\partial P_{iJ}} \delta P_{iJ} = \int_{\Omega_0} \frac{\partial x_i}{\partial X_J} \delta P_{iJ} \mathrm{d}V - \int_{\Omega_0} R_{iK} U_{KJ} \delta P_{iJ} \mathrm{d}V$$

Physical equation:

$$\frac{\partial \Pi}{\partial U_{KL}} \delta U_{KL} = \frac{\partial W}{\partial U_{MN}} \partial U_{MN} - \int_{\Omega_0} R_{iK} U_{KL,MN} \delta U_{MN} P_{iL} \mathrm{d}V$$

Conservation of angular momentum:

$$\frac{\partial \Pi}{\partial \theta_{\alpha}} \delta \theta_{\alpha} = -\frac{1}{2} \int_{\Omega_0} \left( \delta \theta_{\alpha} \varepsilon_{ij\alpha} R_{jK} + R_{iN} \varepsilon_{NK\alpha} \delta \theta_{\alpha} \right) U_{KL} P_{iL} \mathrm{d}V$$

Conservation of linear momentum:

$$\frac{\partial \Pi}{\partial u_i} \delta u_i = \int_{\Omega_0} P_{iJ} \frac{\partial \delta u_i}{\partial X_J} \mathrm{d}V - \int_{\Omega_0} \delta u_i f_i \mathrm{d}V$$

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# H(div) main properties

$$H(\operatorname{div};\Omega) := \left\{ \mathbf{u} \in \left[ L^2(\Omega) \right]^2 \mid \operatorname{div} \mathbf{u} \in L^2(\Omega) \right\}$$

*Normal* component of H(div) function is continuous across any inner boundary:



Natural space for flow/diffusion problems

(Classic example: Raviart-Thomas FE space)

[1] Boffi D, Brezzi F, Fortin M. Mixed finite element methods and applications (2013)



### **Spaces**

 $\delta \mathbf{P} \in U_0^h \subset H_0^{\mathrm{div}}(\Omega_0^h) := \{ \delta \mathbf{P} \in H^{\mathrm{div}}(\Omega_0^h) : N_i \delta P_{ii} = 0 \text{ on } \partial \Omega_0^{h,u} \}$  $\tilde{\mathbf{P}} + \mathbf{P} \in U^h := \{ \tilde{\mathbf{P}} + \mathbf{P} : \mathbf{P} \in H_0^{\mathrm{div}}(\Omega_0^h) \}$  $\mathbf{u}, \boldsymbol{\omega}, \delta \mathbf{u}, \delta \boldsymbol{\omega} \in C^h \subset L^2(\Omega_0^h)$  $\mathbf{H}, \delta \mathbf{H} \in S^h \subset S := \{H_{ij} \in L^2(\Omega_0^h) : H_{ij} = H_{ij}^T\}$ Riviart-Thomas (RT) - Demkowicz recipe  $H^{\operatorname{div}}(\mathcal{B}_0^h) = \mathcal{RT}^k(\mathcal{K}) + \operatorname{curl}((\operatorname{curl}\tilde{\mathbf{A}}^k(\mathcal{K}))\mathbf{b}_{\mathrm{K}})$ matrix bubble Antisymmetric matrix  $b_{\mathrm{K}ij} = \sum \lambda_{l-3} \lambda_{l-2} \lambda_{l-3} \lambda_{l,i} \lambda_{l,j}$ homogenous polynomial

Gopalakrishnan, Jayadeep, and Johnny Guzmn. "A second elasticity element using the matrix bubble." IMA Journal of Numerical Analysis 32.1 (2012): 352-372.



# Why mixed formulation with stress approximation

- ✓ Separation of non-linearities as different equations
- ✓ Conservation equations (momentum flux continuity) is satisfied a priori
- ✓ Trades floating point operations to local and temporal memory access
- ✓ Weaker (ultra weak formulation) suitable for unilateral constraints emerging from contact, fracture, plasticity and geometric instabilities
- ✓ Sparse Dense Block Structure
- ✓ Future hardware ready (GPUs)







Mathematical formulations for small strains:

Gopalakrishnan, J., & Guzmán, J. (2012). A second elasticity element using the matrix bubble. IMA Journal of Numerical Analysis, 32(1), 352-372.



# **Total vs update Lagrangian formulation**

**Objectivity:** Lagrangian and Total formulations have to yield the same result. Not exactly the case for mixed formulation. ???

$$\|\mathbf{u} - \mathbf{u}^{h,k}\|_{L^2(\Omega)} \le Ch^{k+1} \|\mathbf{u}\|_{H^{k+1}(\Omega)}$$

Stenberg, R. (1988). A family of mixed finite elements for the elasticity problem. Numerische Mathematik, 53, 513-538.





$$W_q(\mathbf{h}, \mathbf{h}, j) = \alpha_q(\mathbf{h} : \mathbf{h})^2 + \beta_q(\mathbf{y} : \mathbf{y})^2 + f_q(j)$$
  
$$f_q(j) = -24\beta \ln(j) - 12 \epsilon' \ln(j) + \frac{\lambda}{2''^2} (j'' + j^{-''})$$
  
$$\alpha_q = 21 \text{ kPa}, \quad \beta_q = 42 \text{ kPa}, \quad \lambda_q = 8000 \text{ kPa}, \quad \varepsilon_q = 20.$$

Based on a test by Bonet et al., A computational framework for polyconvex large strain elasticity. Comput. Methods Appl. Mech. Eng. 283 (2015)

Schröder, J., Wriggers, P., & Balzani, D. (2011). A new mixed finite element based on different approximations of the minors of deformation tensors. *Computer Methods in Applied Mechanics and Engineering*, 200(49-52), 3583-3600.



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 $W_q(\mathbf{h}, \mathbf{h}, j) = \alpha_q(\mathbf{h} : \mathbf{h})^2 + \beta_q(\mathbf{y} : \mathbf{y})^2 + f_q(j)$  $f_q(j) = -24\beta \ln(j) - 12 \epsilon' \ln(j) + \frac{\lambda}{2''^2} (j'' + j^{-''})$  $\alpha_q = 21 \text{ kPa}, \quad \beta_q = 42 \text{ kPa}, \quad \lambda_q = 8000 \text{ kPa}, \quad \varepsilon_q = 20.$ 



### Cook beam: uniform mesh refinement study



Jörg Schröder, Peter Wriggers, and Daniel Balzani, "A New Mixed Finite Element Based on Different Approximations of the Minors of Deformation Tensors," Computer Methods in Applied Mechanics and Engineering Javier Bonet, Antonio J. Gil, and Rogelio Ortigosa, "A Computational Framework for Polyconvex Large Strain Elasticity," Computer Methods in Applied Mechanics and Engineering

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### **Twisting cantilever beam**

- Large rotations
- Neo-Hookean material-using new formulation.









# Pullout of an open-ended cylindrical shell









### p-refinement





Multigrid is not trivial – Null Space – Neuman type problem



### **Hybridisation**

# Three neighbors in 2d and 4 in 3D (like quad mesh in finite volume method)



 $\int_{\Gamma^{\mathcal{S}}} \delta u_i^{\mathcal{S}} \left( \mathbf{N}_J^+ \mathbf{P}_{iJ}^+ + \mathbf{N}_J^- \cdot \mathbf{P}_{iJ}^- \right) \mathrm{d}\Gamma = 0$ 



Boffi, Daniele, Franco Brezzi, and Michel Fortin. *Mixed finite element methods and applications*. Vol. 44. Heidelberg: Springer, 2013.

Dobrev, Veselin, et al. "Algebraic hybridization and static condensation with application to scalable H (div) preconditioning." *SIAM Journal on Scientific Computing* 41.3 (2019): B425-B447.





### Hybridised solver







 $\succ$  Continuous functions  $\mathcal{M} := H^1(\Gamma^c)$ 



#### $\succ$ Continuous functions $\mathcal{M} := H^1(\Gamma^c)$

#### Test: 2D wavy surface contact





 $\succ$  Continuous functions  $\mathcal{M} := H^1(\Gamma^c)$ 





- $\succ$  Continuous functions  $\mathcal{M} := H^1(\Gamma^c)$
- ➤ Dual space <sup>[3,4]</sup>  $\mathcal{M} := H^{-1/2}(\Gamma^c)$ trace :  $H^1(\Omega) \to H^{1/2}(\Gamma^c)$ dual space for  $H^{1/2}(\Gamma^c)$  is denoted as  $H^{-1/2}(\Gamma^c)$

[3] Flemisch, B. and Wohlmuth, B.I. *Comput. Meth. Appl. Mech. Eng.*, *196*(8), 2007.
[4] Popp, A., et al., *SIAM J. Sci. Comput.*, 79(11), 2009.
[5] Boffi D, Brezzi F, Fortin M. Mixed finite element methods and applications (2013)



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- ▶ Continuous functions  $\mathcal{M} := H^1(\Gamma^c)$
- ➤ Dual space <sup>[3,4]</sup>  $\mathcal{M} := H^{-1/2}(\Gamma^c)$ trace :  $H^1(\Omega) \to H^{1/2}(\Gamma^c)$ dual space for  $H^{1/2}(\Gamma^c)$  is denoted as  $H^{-1/2}(\Gamma^c)$
- Raviart-Thomas space <sup>[5]</sup>

$$\begin{split} H(\operatorname{div};\Omega) &:= \left\{ \mathbf{u} \in \left[ L^2(\Omega) \right]^n \ \big| \ \operatorname{div} \mathbf{u} \in L^2(\Omega) \right\} \\ \text{normal trace} : \mathbf{\lambda} \in \underbrace{H(\operatorname{div};\Omega)}_{\text{natural space for stress}} \to \mathbf{\lambda} \cdot \mathbf{n} |_{\Gamma^c} \in \underbrace{H^{-1/2}(\Gamma^c)}_{\text{natural space for pressure}} \end{split}$$

 $\lambda \in H(\operatorname{div}; \Omega)$ 



- > Continuous functions  $\mathcal{M} := H^1(\Gamma^c)$
- ➤ Dual space <sup>[3,4]</sup>  $\mathcal{M} := H^{-1/2}(\Gamma^c)$ trace :  $H^1(\Omega) \to H^{1/2}(\Gamma^c)$ dual space for  $H^{1/2}(\Gamma^c)$  is denoted as  $H^{-1/2}(\Gamma^c)$
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normal trace :  $\boldsymbol{\lambda} \in \underline{H}(\operatorname{div}; \Omega) \to \boldsymbol{\lambda} \cdot \mathbf{n}|_{\Gamma^c} \in \underline{H^{-1/2}(\Gamma^c)}$   
natural space for stress natural space for pressure





- Continuous functions  $\mathcal{M} := H^1(\Gamma^c)$
- Dual space [3,4]  $\mathcal{M} := H^{-1/2}(\Gamma^c)$ trace :  $H^1(\Omega) \to H^{1/2}(\Gamma^c)$



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[3] Flemisch, B. and Wohlmuth, B.I. Comput. Meth. Appl. Mech. Eng., 196(8), 2007. [4] Popp, A., et al., SIAM J. Sci. Comput., 79(11), 2009. [5] Boffi D, Brezzi F, Fortin M. Mixed finite element methods and applications (2013) MoFEM: H1 formulation

----- Analytical (Westergaard)

MoFEM: H(div) formulation







### Stability is essential for contact area estimation







Experiment (interference reflection microscopy) [8] Kumar C. et al. *Nano Energy* 107 (2023)



 $p_{\text{ext}} \approx 0.01 \, \text{MPa}$  Simulation







Experiment (interference reflection microscopy) [8] Kumar C. et al. *Nano Energy* 107 (2023)



 $p_{\text{ext}} \approx 0.04 \, \text{MPa}$  Simulation







Experiment (interference reflection microscopy) [8] Kumar C. et al. *Nano Energy* 107 (2023)



 $p_{\rm ext} \approx 0.07\,{\rm MPa}$  Simulation







Experiment (interference reflection microscopy) [8] Kumar C. et al. *Nano Energy* 107 (2023)



Simulation

 $p_{\mathsf{ext}} pprox 0.1 \, \mathsf{MPa}$ 







Experiment (interference reflection microscopy) [8] Kumar C. et al. *Nano Energy* 107 (2023)



 $p_{\text{ext}} \approx 0.13 \,\text{MPa}$  Simulation







Experiment (interference reflection microscopy) [8] Kumar C. et al. *Nano Energy* 107 (2023)



 $p_{\text{ext}} \approx 0.16 \, \text{MPa}$  Simulation





### **Signed distance function**

Signed distance function defined for a domain  $\Omega$  outside the surface

 $s(oldsymbol{x}) = egin{cases} d(oldsymbol{x},\partial\Omega) & ext{if } oldsymbol{x} \in \Omega \ -d(oldsymbol{x},\partial\Omega) & ext{if } oldsymbol{x} 
otin \Omega \ ert 
abla d(oldsymbol{x},\partial\Omega) ert ert = 1 \ ert$ 

Sphere with radius r and centroid:

$$\boldsymbol{x_c} = [x_c, y_c, z_c]^T$$

Signed distance function for a sphere:

$$s = \sqrt{(x - x_c)^2 + (y - y_c)^2 + (z - z_c)^2 - r}$$





### **Contact formulation**

One if positive gap, or positive traction, i.e. no contact

$$\begin{split} \mathcal{C}(g,t_n) &= \overline{\frac{1}{2}(1-\operatorname{sign}(g-c_nt_n))} \\ P_{ij}^{\mathcal{C}} &= \mathcal{C}(n_i^{\mathrm{sdf}}n_j^{\mathrm{sdf}}) \leftarrow \text{Contact projection operator} \\ Q_{ij}^{\mathcal{C}} &= \delta_{ij} - P_{ij}^{\mathcal{C}} \leftarrow \text{Tangent projection operator} \\ f^{\mathcal{S}} &= \int_{\Gamma^c} \delta u_i^{\mathcal{S}} \left( Q_{ij}^{\mathcal{C}} \left( N_J P_{jJ} \right) + \frac{\mathcal{C}}{c_n} n_i^{\mathrm{sdf}} g \right) \mathrm{d}\Gamma \\ f^{\mathcal{P}} &= \int_{\Gamma^c} \left( N_J \delta P_{iJ} \right) u_i^{\mathcal{S}} \mathrm{d}\Gamma \end{split}$$



Note: Hybridised displacement on skeleton (contact boundary is part of it), is a Lagrange multiplier enforcing contact constraints.




Boffi et al., 2013: Lemma 2.1.2.







#### Boffi et al., 2013: Lemma 2.1.2.





Boffi et al., 2013: Lemma 2.1.2.





Boffi et al., 2013: Lemma 2.1.2.





Boffi et al., 2013: Lemma 2.1.2.





#### Boffi et al., 2013: Lemma 2.1.2.





# Fracture is natural, for weakly enforced conformity

Color represents z-axis rotation



- Crack propagates by erasing rows and columns of the matrix. Matrix adjacency is fixed. That provides robustness
- Trace of H-div space is associated with faces, thus crack face energy can be easily estimated
- If crack propagate one face by one face, and iterative solver is deployed, crack propagation are resolved on linear solver level

$$\Psi^{\mathcal{F}} = \int_{\Omega} \sigma_{ij}^{\mathcal{F}} \varepsilon_{ij} \mathrm{d}\Omega$$

Extension of face trace



#### Thank you for your attention!



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