



An introduction to the eXtended Finite Element Method (X-FEM)





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Lecture plan

- Introduction
- Reminder
- Simple problems (jump on the primal variable)
- Extensions in 2D / 3D
- Other types of problems (jump on the derivatives)
- Other applications
- Boundary conditions
- References





Course Notes available at :

https://www.cgeo.uliege.be/X-FEM





- "Classical" finite element computation
 - The geometry is bounded by element sides
 - Bounds the computation domain
 - Bounds the interface between zones of dissimilar properties
 - A change in geometry implies a change in the mesh
 - Time evolving problems may induce remeshing at each time step in the computation







- Mesh generation techniques
 - May be costlier than the sole finite element computation
 - (Often) necessitates a strong human interaction
 - Are a potential source of mistakes
 - Of human origin
 - Or from the lack of robustness of remeshing algorithms



LIÈGE Extended Finite Elements









- The idea here:
 - Minimize the constraints on the mesh that is used in the FEM simulations
 - However, mesh generations is still necessary
 - e.g. the accuracy of the computation depents on the quality of the mesh
 - \rightarrow mesh adaptation







Reminder

The method relies on the classical FEM; starting with the weak form of a physical problem :

Find
$$u \in H^1(\Omega)$$
 such that

$$\int_{\Omega} a(u, v) d\Omega = \int_{\Omega} b(v) d\Omega \quad \forall v \in H^1_0(\Omega)$$

Discretization: One looks for u in a discrete function space $V_h \subset H^1(\Omega)$ (trial functions v belong to the same space $V_{0h} \subset H_0^1(\Omega)$)

$$u_h(x) = \sum_i \lambda_i N_i(x) , x \in \Omega$$





Reminder

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- A space-conforming mesh is used to define the shape functions SFs $u(x) = \sum \lambda_k N_k$ for $x \in T_j$
- They have a compact support
- Partition of unity $\sum_{i} N_i = 1$ Interpolation $u(x_i) \stackrel{i}{=} \lambda_i$





Reminder

- SFs with a compact support
 - Allows to have banded or hollow matrices (low memory imprint & good solver performance)
- Partition of unity
 - One is able to represent a constant field !
- Interpolation
 - Easy to impose Dirichlet boundary conditions
- Use of conforming meshes
 - Pre-computations of many operators is possible at an elementary level





Simple problem

- Clamped 1D rod (L, E, S) with a variable load f(x)
- One wants to get the displacement u(x) and assume that the rod is cut at some place
 - With the classical FEM
 - With the eXtended Finite Element Method







Simple problem

• Weak form, with homog. boundary conditions find $u \in H_0^1(\Omega)$ such that $a(u,v) = b(v) \ \forall v \in H_0^1(\Omega)$







Simple problem

 Discretization : Linear elements, nodal shape functions.



$$u_h(x) = \sum_i \lambda_i N_i(x)$$





Simple problem

 By reporting the discrete form of u and v in the weak form, one gets the following linear system :

$$\begin{bmatrix} k_{22} & k_{23} \\ k_{32} & k_{33} \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} \lambda_2 \\ \lambda_3 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} f_2 \\ f_3 \end{pmatrix} \qquad k_{ij} = \int_0^L ES \frac{\partial N_i}{\partial x} \cdot \frac{\partial N_j}{\partial x} dx$$
$$f_i = \int_0^L N_i \cdot f(x) dx$$

Here, coefficients λ₁ and λ₄ vanish (clamped extremities)





Cut the rod : FEM case

- Add two nodes and do the same
 - This is "remeshing", it is simple, fast and robust in 1D, less 2D and much less in 3D







Cut the rod : FEM case

• After discretizing, one gets :



- The two outlined parts are independent
- One could solve the linear system separately for each sub-problem





Cut the rod : FEM case

- The meaning of the DoFs is kept
 (λ_i means the displacement of node i.)
- There is indeed a discontinuity in the displacement at nodes 3 and 4
- Nothing changes in the implementation only the mesh and its topology are modified





- Now : we don't change the mesh !
- But one can add/modify shape functions

























Cut the rod : X-FEM case (I)

- How to compute the $N_j^{+,-}$ from the N_i ?
 - Let's introduce the Heaviside function :

 $H(s) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } s \le 0\\ 1 & \text{if } s > 0 \end{cases}$

• This is its complement :

$$\bar{H}(s) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } s \le 0 \\ 0 & \text{if } s > 0 \end{cases}$$

• *s* is the distance to the cut (here, $s = x - \frac{L}{2}$)





Cut the rod : X-FEM case (I)

• With these notations, one have :

$$\begin{cases} N_i^+(x) = N_i(x) \cdot H(s) \\ N_i^-(x) = N_i(x) \cdot \overline{H}(s) \end{cases}$$

 One may notice that the partition of unity is preserved





- One has to sort out the mesh nodes
 - Those which have "regular" degrees of freedom go into set "N"
 - Those which have modified degrees of freedom go into set "C"
- The solution field *u* is written as :

$$u(x) = \sum_{i \in \mathbb{N}} \lambda_i N_i(x) + \sum_{j \in \mathbb{C}} \lambda_j^+ N_j^+(x) + \sum_{k \in \mathbb{C}} \lambda_k^- N_k^-(x)$$





- Linear system
 - We number the DoFs as follows :

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 & 6 \\ \lambda_1 & \lambda_2^- & \lambda_3^- & \lambda_2^+ & \lambda_3^+ & \lambda_4 \end{bmatrix}$$
$$\begin{bmatrix} k_{22} & k_{23}^- & 0 & 0 \\ k_{32}^- & k_{33}^- & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & k_{22}^+ & k_{23}^+ \\ 0 & 0 & k_{32}^+ & k_{33}^+ \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} \lambda_2^- \\ \lambda_3^- \\ \lambda_3^+ \\ \lambda_2^+ \\ \lambda_3^+ \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} f_2^- \\ f_3^- \\ f_2^+ \\ f_3^+ \\ f_3^+ \end{bmatrix}$$





- Again, we manage to separate the domain in two parts
- The signification of the degrees of freedom is partly lost
- Some shape functions have to be modified
- Two "Heaviside" functions are needed to modify the shape functions





Cut the rod : X-FEM case (II)

Without changing the shape functions ! (case II)







Cut the rod : X-FEM case (II)

- How to compute the N_j^* from the N_i ?
 - Lets introduce the modified Heaviside function :

$$H^{*}(s) = 2H(s) - 1 = \begin{cases} -1 & \text{if } s \le 0\\ 1 & \text{if } s > 0 \end{cases}$$

With this notation, one finds that :

$$N_i^*(x) = N_i(x) \cdot H^*(s)$$





- One should again sort out the mesh nodes
 - Those which have modified DoFs go into set "C"
 - "regular" shape functions are still everywhere (no change with respect to regular FEM in that case)
- The solution field *u* is written as :

$$u(x) = \sum_{i \in \Omega} \lambda_i N_i(x) + \sum_{j \in C} \lambda_j^* N_j^*(x)$$





- Linear system
 - We number the DoFs as follows :

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 & 6 \\ \lambda_1 & \lambda_2 & \lambda_2^* & \lambda_3 & \lambda_3^* & \lambda_4 \end{bmatrix}$$
$$\begin{bmatrix} k_{22} & k_{22^*} & k_{23} & k_{23^*} \\ k_{2^*2} & k_{2^*2^*} & k_{2^*3} & k_{2^*3^*} \\ k_{32} & k_{32^*} & k_{33} & k_{33^*} \\ k_{3^*2} & k_{3^*2^*} & k_{3^*3} & k_{3^*3^*} \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} \lambda_2 \\ \lambda_2^* \\ \lambda_2^* \\ \lambda_3^* \\ \lambda_3^* \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} f_2 \\ f_2^* \\ f_2^* \\ f_3^* \\ f_3^* \end{pmatrix}$$





- At the matrix level, the two "parts" are linked
- Are there two physically separated domains ?
 - Lets assemble the matrix without taking care of the boundary conditions, and then determine the number of vanishing (singular) eigenvalues of this matrix.
 - If there is only one domain, there will be only one singular eigenvalue (corresponding to the missing Dirichlet BC to get a non singular system)
 - Two singular values → the rod is indeed cut in two, and two Dirichlet boundary conditions are needed.





Cut the rod : X-FEM case (II)

Case without cut and without BC : typical matrix

$$K^{s} = k \cdot \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 & 0 & 0 \\ -1 & 2 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 2 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$
$$\det(K^{s} - \alpha I) = 0$$

$$k = \frac{3\text{ES}}{L}$$

One eigenvalue vanishes.

K =
 1 -1 0 0
 -1 2 -1 0
 0 -1 2 -1
 0 0 -1 1
 octave:28> E=eig(K)
E =
 -2.67429966923143e-17
 5.85786437626905e-01

- 2.0000000000000000e+00
- 3.41421356237310e+00

octave:29>

octave:27 > K





0

0

0

Cut the rod : X-FEM case (II)

$$K^{c} = k \cdot \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ -1 & 2 & -1 & -1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & -1 & 2 & 0 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 0 & 2 & 1 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 & 1 & 2 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & -1 & -1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\det(K^{c}-\alpha I)=0$$

Two eigenvalues vanished : it is OK !

-1 -1 1 0 0 -1 2 -1 -1 0 1 -1 2 0 -1

0	- 1	0	2	T	- 1
0	0	- 1	1	2	- 1
0	0	0	- 1	- 1	1

octave:18> E=eig(K) E =

> -1.30983399108489e-16 -4.76470136000792e-17 1.00000000000000e+00 1.00000000000000e+00 4.00000000000000e+00 4.000000000000000e+00





- The meaning of the degrees of freedom is lost
- One keeps classical FE basis functions and add others by enrichment
 - A kind of hierarchical FE basis is built
- Only one enrichment function (simpler !)





Cut the rod : X-FEM case

 Cases (I) and (II) are equivalent (the results are exactly identical)

We indeed have a linear combination between shape functions of (I) and those of (II) :

 $N_{2}(x) = N_{2}^{+}(x) + N_{2}^{-}(x) \qquad N_{3}(x) = N_{3}^{+}(x) + N_{3}^{-}(x)$ $N_{2}^{*}(x) = N_{2}^{+}(x) - N_{2}^{-}(x) \qquad N_{3}^{*}(x) = N_{3}^{+}(x) - N_{3}^{-}(x)$

 The case (II) is part of the more theoretical frame – use of a given enrichment function and "constructive" synthesis.




Definition

- eXtended Finite Element Method
 - It is based on classical FEM basis functions
 - The product between these functions and a given enrichment function $E_k(x)$ is then added
 - These enriched functions are able to represent a specific behavior of the solution field that classical shape functions are unable to represent efficiently. (e.g. a discontinuity)

$$u(x) = \sum_{i \in \Omega} \lambda_i N_i(x) + \sum_k \sum_{j \in C} \lambda_{jk}^* N_j(x) \cdot E_k(x)$$





Lecture plan

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- Other applications and current research
- Boundary conditions
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In 2D / 3D

- Case of linear elasticity
- Representation of cracks
- Level-sets
- Crack propagation





2D Example

 A wedge with constrained displacements (linear elast.)

$$a(\bar{u},\bar{v}) = \int_{\Omega} \bar{\nabla}^{s} \bar{u} : \bar{\bar{D}} : \bar{\nabla}^{s} \bar{v} \, d\,\Omega$$
$$b(\bar{v}) = \int_{\Omega} \bar{f} \cdot \bar{v} \, d\,\Omega$$

find \overline{u} such that $a(\overline{u}, \overline{v}) = b(\overline{v}) \quad \forall \overline{v}$







2D Example

DISPLACEMENT

0,028



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41

0.0559





2D Example

- Lets impose a cut path φ
- Modifications of the function space :

$$\overline{u}(x) = \sum_{i \in \Omega} \lambda_i \cdot \overline{N}_i(x) + \sum_{i \in C} \lambda_i^* \cdot \overline{N}_i(x) \cdot H^*(s)$$

 How to define *H*^{*}(s)
 and the set C ?







2D Example

 The cutting path may be defined with a "levelset" Φ

We have $\phi = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^3 / lsn(x) = 0\}$

- *lsn(x)* is the signed distance function (to the interface)
- One simply takes : s = lsn(x) $H^*(s) = H^*(lsn(x))$







2D Example

- Definition of the enriched degrees of freedom (the set C)
 - Those are the nodes of the elements completely cut by φ (iso-0 of the level-set)







2D Example

- After assembly and solving the linear system one gets two independent solids (as expected)
- The geometry of may be arbitrary.
- No need of any remeshing







Integration issues

Integration

- One need to subdivide elements that are cut by the interface (discontinuous functions to integrate)
 - On each sub triangle (in red here), a classical Gaussian quadrature is used because the integrand is a polynomial.







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- Crack modelling
 - Historically, this is the first application of the extended finite element method
 - The crack propagates, and one does not want to generate a new mesh at each time step
 - A crack is in fact an incomplete cut made in the domain







- Geometrical representation of the crack
 - It is not part of the mesh (by definition)
 - Its surface is therefore defined, as before, with a level set *lsn* that represents the normal distance to the surface.
 - One also needs the location where it stops (on its surface)
 - Crack tip (or front in 3D)





- We make use of another level set
 lst(x)
 - It represents the distance to the crack front (measured tangentially)
 - Both level sets form an orthogonal basis at the crack tip







- The locus of the crack is therefore defined as : $\Phi = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^3 / lsn(x) = 0, lst(x) \le 0\}$
- The enrichment set C is also modified :







- The enrichment set C is also modified :
 - Zone of influence of the new shape functions







- The enrichment set C is also modified :
 - Zone of influence of the new shape functions







- The enrichment set C is also modified :
 - Zone of influence of the new shape functions
 - Either it cannot cover the crack until its tip or front...







- The enrichment set C is also modified :
 - Zone of influence of the new shape functions
 - Either it cannot cover the crack until its tip or front...
 or it goes a bit too far







- A special procedure is needed at the crack tip
 - The enrichment function should be discontinuous until the crack tip; continuous beyond.













- Alternate set of enriched elements C'
 - It includes every node for which the support is cut (at least partly) by the crack.





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Cracks

Displacements with a crack tip enrichment



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- In fact, the form of the exact solution is known at the crack tip
 - Why not use this directly as a crack enrichment function ?
 - It is readily available for a crack in an infinite medium → see any good fracture mechanics course/book !







Cracks

A polar basis is defined

$$r = \sqrt{lsn(x)^{2} + lst(x)^{2}}$$

$$\theta = \arg\left(\{lst(x), lsn(x)\}\right)$$

$$\theta = \begin{cases} \arctan\frac{lsn(x)}{lst(x)} \text{ if } lst(x) > 0 \\ \left(\pi - \arctan\left|\frac{lsn(x)}{lst(x)}\right|\right) \text{ sgn } lsn(x) \text{ if } lst(x) < \infty \end{cases}$$

-0,6

Or, better said : $\theta = atan2(lsn(x), lst(x))$





 $\kappa = 3 - 4 \nu$

Extended Finite Elements



Cracks

 Exact asymptotic fields at the crack tip (crack in an infinite domain)

$$u_{1} = \frac{1}{2\mu} \sqrt{\frac{r}{2\pi}} \left\{ K_{1} \cos \frac{\theta}{2} (\kappa - \cos \theta) + K_{2} \sin \frac{\theta}{2} (\kappa + 2 + \cos \theta) \right\}$$

$$u_{2} = \frac{1}{2\mu} \sqrt{\frac{r}{2\pi}} \left\{ K_{1} \sin \frac{\theta}{2} (\kappa - \sin \theta) + K_{2} \cos \frac{\theta}{2} (\kappa - 2 + \cos \theta) \right\}$$

$$u_{3} = \frac{2}{2\mu} \sqrt{\frac{r}{2\pi}} \left\{ K_{3} \sin \frac{\theta}{2} \right\}$$

$$K_{1}, K_{2} \text{ and } K_{3} \text{ are constants which depend only on boundary conditions: they are called Stress Intensity Factors (SIFs)}$$

$$\mu = \frac{E}{2(1 + \nu)}$$





Cracks

- Some analytical manipulations lead to : $u_{1} = a_{1}\sqrt{r}\sin\frac{\theta}{2} + a_{2}\sqrt{r}\cos\frac{\theta}{2} + a_{3}\sqrt{r}\sin\frac{\theta}{2}\sin\theta + a_{4}\sqrt{r}\cos\frac{\theta}{2}\sin\theta + BC(x)$ $u_{2} = b_{1}\sqrt{r}\sin\frac{\theta}{2} + b_{2}\sqrt{r}\cos\frac{\theta}{2} + b_{3}\sqrt{r}\sin\frac{\theta}{2}\sin\theta + b_{4}\sqrt{r}\cos\frac{\theta}{2}\sin\theta + BC(x)$ $u_{3} = c_{1}\sqrt{r}\sin\frac{\theta}{2} + c_{2}\sqrt{r}\cos\frac{\theta}{2} + c_{3}\sqrt{r}\sin\frac{\theta}{2}\sin\theta + c_{4}\sqrt{r}\cos\frac{\theta}{2}\sin\theta + BC(x)$
- One can therefore use only 4 enrichment functions (they span the whole function space)

$$f_{1} = \sqrt{r} \sin \frac{\theta}{2} \qquad f_{3} = \sqrt{r} \sin \frac{\theta}{2} \sin \theta$$
$$f_{2} = \sqrt{r} \cos \frac{\theta}{2} \qquad f_{4} = \sqrt{r} \cos \frac{\theta}{2} \sin \theta$$

 One may notice that only f₁ is discontinuous; the others are simply C⁰.





Cracks

 Shape of the enrichment functions in the case of an Irwin crack









Cracks

A new function space

$$\overline{u}(x) = \sum_{i \in \Omega} \lambda_i \cdot \overline{N}_i(x)$$

+
$$\sum_{i \in C} \lambda_i^* \cdot \overline{N}_i(x) \cdot H^*(s) + \sum_{i \in T} \sum_{j \in 1..4} \lambda_i^j \cdot \overline{N}_i(x) \cdot f_j(r, \theta)$$

- Where to enrich ?
 - At the crack tip (T), because the rest of the cracked domain is already covered by the Heaviside enrichment
 - The analytical solution used to build the $f_j(r, \theta)$ is only valid around the crack tip.





- Choice of the nodes to enrich
 - The set C contains nodes for which the support is completely cut by the crack
 - The set T contains the nodes for which the support contains or touches the crack tip





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Cracks

 Displacements with the new crack tip enrichment



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Cracks

 If one chooses a good enrichment procedure, one may get a better convergence rate than observed with regular finite elements.







Cracks

 To be able to propagate a crack, it is needed to :

Perform the assembly of the linear system -

Solve the linear system

Compute adequate propagation parameters

Update level-sets *lsn* and *lst*

- Crack propagation obeys to well defined physical laws
 - Fatigue
 - Fragile fracture etc...





- What are the adequate parameters of crack propagation
 - Charge coefficients (stress intensity factors) that are linked to the geometry of the problem and the boundary conditions.
 - Intrisic parameters having effects on the material just in front of the crack path.
 - Material behaviour with respect to these SIFs : ductile propagation (mild steel) or fragile (glass, cast iron)
 - For ductile fracture, one often uses the ratio (number of loading cycle) w.r. to (crack advance)





 a_{n}]

- Computation of the stress intensity factors
 - Depend only on stress field around the crack
 - J integrals and interaction integrals
 (do not recall these, see further) ,

$$J = \int_{\Gamma} \left[\frac{1}{2} \sigma_{ij} \epsilon_{ij} \delta_{1j} - \sigma_{ij} \frac{\partial u_i}{\partial x_1} \right] n_j d\Gamma$$

$$J^{(1+2)} = \int_{\Gamma} \left[\frac{1}{2} (\sigma_{ij}^{(1)} + \sigma_{ij}^{(2)}) (\epsilon_{ij}^{(1)} + \epsilon_{ij}^{(2)}) \delta_{1j} - (\sigma_{ij}^{(1)} + \sigma_{ij}^{(2)}) \frac{\partial (u_i^{(1)} + u_i^{(2)})}{\partial x_1} \right] n_j d\Gamma$$

$$= J^{(1)} + J^{(2)} + I^{(1+2)}$$

$$I^{(1+2)} = \int_{\Gamma} \left[\sigma_{ij}^{(1)} \epsilon_{ij}^{(2)} \delta_{1j} - \sigma_{ij}^{(1)} \frac{\partial u_i^{(2)}}{\partial x_1} - \sigma_{ij}^{(2)} \frac{\partial u_i^{(1)}}{\partial x_1} \right] n_j d\Gamma$$

$$I^{(1+2)} = 2 \frac{(1 - \nu^2)}{E} (K_1^{(1)} K_1^{(2)} + K_2^{(1)} K_2^{(2)}) + \frac{1}{\mu} K_3^{(1)} K_3^{(2)}$$

$$T_{ij} = \frac{1}{2} \frac{(1 - \nu^2)}{E} (K_1^{(1)} K_1^{(2)} + K_2^{(1)} K_2^{(2)}) + \frac{1}{\mu} K_3^{(1)} K_3^{(2)}$$





Cracks

 Going from a contour integral to a volume integral (unloaded crack)

$$I^{(1+2)} = \int_{V} \frac{\partial q_{m}}{\partial x_{j}} \left(\sigma_{kl}^{(1)} \epsilon_{kl}^{(2)} \delta_{mj} - \sigma_{ij}^{(1)} \frac{\partial u_{i}^{(2)}}{\partial x_{m}} - \sigma_{ij}^{(2)} \frac{\partial u_{i}^{(1)}}{\partial x_{m}} \right) dV$$

One have $q_m = \alpha \cdot v_m$ and α is equal to 1 inside the domain and vaniques on the boundary Γ . v_m is the virtual crack propagation speed (norm=1)

One interpolates α on

the mesh.







- The interaction integrals allows to compute the stress intensity factors
 - Robust
 - Same good properties as the J- integral
 - See fracture mechanics course(s) for more info.




Cracks

Propagation speed

Example : Alloys under cyclic loadings Paris law for the speed of propagation :

 $\frac{da}{dN} = C \cdot \Delta K^m$

Alloy	т	C (m/cycle)
Steel	3	10 ⁻¹¹
Aluminium	3	10^{-12}
Nickel	3.3	$4 \cdot 10^{-12}$
Titanium	5	10^{-11}

ADI Air





Cracks

– Direction is along the maximal tangent stress $\,\sigma_{\theta\theta}\,$

$$\begin{cases} \sigma_{\theta\theta} \\ \sigma_{r\theta} \end{cases} = \frac{K_1}{4\sqrt{2\pi r}} \begin{cases} 3\cos\frac{\theta}{2} + \cos\frac{3\theta}{2} \\ \sin\frac{\theta}{2} + \sin\frac{3\theta}{2} \end{cases} + \frac{K_2}{4\sqrt{2\pi r}} \begin{cases} -3\sin\frac{\theta}{2} - 3\sin\frac{3\theta}{2} \\ \cos\frac{\theta}{2} - 3\sin\frac{\theta}{2} \end{cases} \\ \cos\frac{\theta}{2} + 3\cos\frac{3\theta}{2} \end{cases}$$
$$\frac{\partial\sigma_{\theta\theta}}{\partial\theta} = 0 \quad \rightarrow \quad \cos\frac{\theta_c}{2} \left[\frac{1}{2}K_1 \sin\theta_c + \frac{1}{2}K_2 (3\cos\theta_c - 1) \right] = 0$$
$$\theta_c = 2\arctan\frac{1}{4} \left(\frac{K_1}{K_2} \pm \sqrt{\left(\frac{K_1}{K_2}\right)^2 + 8} \right)$$

- One chooses θ_c that correspond to a maximal value of $\sigma_{\theta\theta}$ (in traction)





Level set update

- There exists many algorithms but the essential part is to :
 - Conserve the notion of signed distance function at the interface for *lsn*
 - Have an orthonormed frame in the vincinity of the crack tip (*lst,lsn*)





Level set update

Transport of *lsn* and *lst*







Level set update

Rebuilding of *lsn* and *lst*







Level set update

















Propagation





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Propagation





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Tricky points

- Integration
 - One should cut elements along the interface... but one should also change the quadrature or increase the number of quadrature points because the integrand is no more polynomial







Tricky points

- Condition number
 - If the choice of the enriched DoFs is wrongly made, then the condition number will be close to 0 (this yields a singular linear system)
 - If the crack goes close to a node → then it goes through it (at least virtually)
 - The enriched shape functions at crack tip may induce a bad condition number (they "look alike")
 - Use of a specialized preconditionner





Tricky points

Condition number







Tricky points

- Representation valid for cracks in relatively fragile materials
 - The crack is represented using a infinitely thin line
 - The crack tip is a mathematical point, with non bounded values for the various mechanical fields
 - Propagation laws based on global energy-based laws (e.g. energy release rate G...)
- It is too restrictive to lead to good results for ductile materials





Ductile materials

New properties

- Crack shape absolutely non trivial
- The propagation is made via a damage variable
- The level sets are used to represent at the same time
 - the damage variable d
 - the crack front (where d=1)
 - the boundary between the damaged zone (d>0) and the rest of the domain where the behavior is elastic
- Notion of "Thick" Level Set





Thick Level Set







Thick Level Set

N. Moës, C. Stolz, P.-E. Bernard, and N. Chevaugeon A level set based model for damage growth: The thick level set Approach Int. J. Numer. Meth. Engng 2011; 86:358–380 DOI: 10.1002/nme.3069





Problems with a jump in the gradient ("dual" variable)





Bi-material interface

Thermal transfer model problem







Bi-material interface

The interface is represented by the following level-set :

 $\phi = \{x \in \Omega \ / \ ls(x) = 0\}$

- This interface can be of complex geometrical shape and / or changing in time
 - Again, no mesh conformity





Bi-material interface

 Finite element model (again, homogeneous boundary conditions)

Find
$$u \in H_0^1(\Omega)$$
 s.t.
 $a(u, v) = b(v) \quad \forall v \in H_0^1(\Omega)$

with

$$a(u,v) = \int_{\Omega} k \left(\nabla u \cdot \nabla v \right) d \Omega \qquad b(v) = \int_{\Gamma} f(x) \cdot v d \Gamma$$





Bi-material interface

- We want to be able to represent the right temperature profile along the interface
 - A-A cut : Theoretical temperature profile







Bi-material interface

- The discontinuity is on the derivative of T
- If the interface is exactly on element boundaries, then the discontinuity is naturally belonging to the function space







Bi-material interface

- The discontinuity is on the derivative of T
- If the interface is not exactly on element boundaries, then ...







Bi-material interface

This explains the very approximate solution...



z_x 107





Bi-material interface

 The idea here is to enrich the function space so that the discontinuity (in the gradient) belong to it.

$$u(x) = \sum_{i \in \Omega} \lambda_i N_i(x) + \sum_{j \in C} \lambda_j^* N_j(x) \cdot F(x)$$

There exists many possibilities. One very simple is using directly the absolute value of the level-set.

$$F_1(x) = |ls(x)|$$



Х




Bi-material interface

- Definition of the set C of the enriched nodes
 - This time, the nodes where at least one element of the support are cut must be enriched
 - In particular, if the interface is along edges, there is no enrichment







Bi-material interface

Here are some other enrichment functions







Bi-material interface

- Practically speaking, $F_3(x)$ gives the best results
 - On a simple model problem, the functions $F_2(x)$ and $F_3(x)$ are unable to give back the exact solution (which is linear by parts) when the interface does not belong to the mesh, but $F_1(x)$ does.







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Bi-material interface

Comparison of the solution with the right enrichment function







Bi-material interface

 Comparison of the solution with the right enrichment function









Bi-material interface

Comparison of the gradient

Solution without enrichment

10

Solution with enrichment









Bi-material interface

Comparaison du gradient

Exact solution



10

Solution with enrichment



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Bi-material interface

Convergence







- Discontinuities in the primal variable
 - Cracks
 - non linearities, plasticity
 - Dynamic effects (fast propagation)
 - Solidification front propagation
 - hydrogels
 - Discontinuities in the derivatives
 - Homogeneization





- Applications to other materials
 - Confined plasticity
 - Composites materials
 - Piezoelectric materials
 - Etc...





- Direct interfaces with CAD for numerical simulations
 - From an explicit representation to an implicit representation
 - Non conforming boundaries
- Imposition of boundary conditions
 - Non conforming material interfaces





- Applications in explicit dynamics
 - Non conforming geometry → issue with the critical time step
 - Propagation of unstable cracks (change of function space at the crack tip → leads to problems of energy conservation)





More applications

Explicit dynamics : case without enrichment







The issue of boundary conditions on implicit volumes





Goal

- Free the mesh from geometrical constraints
 - Boundaries of the problem
 - And/or interfaces between different materials







Applications

- Direct use of CAD models for the analysis
 - Mesh generation shall be minimalistic
- Use of "dirty" geometrical date not usually adapted to mesh generation
 - Tomography, biomedical applications
- Mobile interfaces
 - Thermoplastic mold filling
 - Topological shape optimization
- Contact problems in mechanical engineering





CAD interface

 From a traditional CAD (B-rep) representation ...







CAD interface

• ... To an implicit representation with level-sets







Boundary conditions

- How to apply boundary conditions
 - Neumann/natural boundary conditions (e.g. pressure, forces, gradients)
 - Using integration (it is a linear form)

Find
$$\overline{u}$$
 s.t.
 $a(\overline{u}, \overline{v}) = b(\overline{v}) \quad \forall \overline{v}$
 $a(\overline{u}, \overline{v}) = \int \overline{\nabla}^s \overline{u} : \overline{\overline{D}} : \overline{\nabla}^s \overline{v} \, d\Omega$

$$b(\overline{v}) = \int_{\Omega} \frac{\widehat{f}}{\widehat{f}} \cdot \overline{v} \, d \, \Omega + \int_{\Gamma_N} \hat{f} \cdot \overline{v} \, d \, \Gamma_N$$

• Beware ! The integration is made on a domain Γ_N (or Ω) that cut elements in the mesh

4x





Boundary conditions

- How to apply boundary conditions
 - Dirichlet/essential boundary conditions (e.g. : displacements, temperature)
 - "standard" FEM elimination of DoFs and adding a contribution in the right hand side
 - Here, the domain Γ_D on which to apply this method is non conforming therefore one cannot simply eliminate DoFs
 one needs to compute the values to impose at each concerned DoF; so that the "right" Dirichlet BC is obtained on the boundary





Dirichlet boundary conditions

Example 1: a simple Laplacian

Find
$$u \in V_1 = \{v \in H^1(\Omega), v_{|\Gamma_D} = u_D\}$$
 s.t.
 $a(u, v) = b(v) \quad \forall v \in V_0 = \{v \in H^1(\Omega), v_{|\Gamma_D} = 0\}$
 $a(u, v) = \int_{\Omega} \nabla u \cdot \nabla v d \Omega$
 $b(v) = \int_{\Gamma_N} f \cdot v d \Gamma$





Dirichlet boundary conditions

Example 1

 Dofs which are concerned : those where the support cuts the boundary...







Dirichlet boundary conditions

- With only two linear elements ?
 - Without Dirichlet B.C. : 4 DoFs, *u* has some freedom in the red part
 - If one imposes *exactly* u=0 on the boundary ...



- $\frac{u_1}{a_1} = \frac{u_2}{a_2}; \quad \frac{u_2}{b_2} = \frac{u_3}{b_3}; \quad \frac{u_3}{c_3} = \frac{u_4}{c_4}$
- How many DoFs left for the red part of the domain ?





Dirichlet boundary conditions

- Concrete example
 - Number of available DoFs after imposing *exactly* the Dirichlet B.C. :



 The function space is very poor in the elements crossed by the interface, therefore the F.E. solution will be far from accurate.





Dirichlet boundary conditions

- One cannot impose exactly a Dirichlet B.C. by elimination as long as it is crossing through finite elements !
- For this, an interpolation is preferred and the B.C. must be along element edges.
- This is the reason why Lagrange F.E. are so widely used.
 - (One) solution : the use of Lagrange multipliers, see an article of Babuska (1973) - in the bibliography)





Lagrange multipliers

On wants to minimize $\pi(u, v) = u^2 + v^2$

$$\delta \pi(u, v) = 2 u \delta u + 2 v \delta v = 0 \quad \forall \delta u, \delta v u = v = 0 \quad \pi(0, 0) = 0$$

If one sets an additional condition :

$$g(u, v) = u - v + 2 = 0$$

Method 1 : elimination of v : $\pi'(u) = 2u^2 + 4u + 4 \equiv \pi(u, v)$ $\delta \pi'(u) = 4(u+1)\delta u = 0 \quad \forall \delta u$ $u = -1 \quad \pi'(-1) = 2 \rightarrow v = 1$

This is the method used just before ...





Lagrange multipliers

Method 2 : Introduction of an additional variable

$$\begin{aligned} \widetilde{\pi}(u, v, \lambda) &= \pi(u, v) + \lambda g(u, v) = u^2 + v^2 + \lambda (u - v + 2) \\ \delta \widetilde{\pi}(u, v, \lambda) &= 0 \\ &= (2u + \lambda) \delta u + (2v - \lambda) \delta v + (u - v + 2) \delta \lambda \qquad \forall \, \delta u, \, \delta v, \, \delta \lambda \\ \begin{cases} 2u + \lambda = 0 \\ 2v - \lambda = 0 \\ u - v + 2 = 0 \end{cases} \Leftrightarrow \begin{cases} u = -1 \\ v = 1 \\ \lambda = 2 \end{cases} \end{aligned}$$





 $a(u, \delta u) = l(\delta u)$

Lagrange multipliers

In finite elements, this gives us :

 $\begin{array}{ll} -\Delta u = f & \text{in } \Omega \\ u = u_D & \text{on } \Gamma_D \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{l} \text{of weak form:} \\ \text{find } u \text{ s.t.} \end{array} \quad \int_{\Omega} \nabla u \cdot \nabla \delta u \, d \, \Omega = \int_{\Omega} f \, \delta u \, d \, \Omega \quad \forall \, \delta u \\ \text{Equivalent to minimize } F(u) = \frac{1}{2} \int_{\Omega} \nabla u \cdot \nabla u \, d \, \Omega - \int_{\Omega} f u \, d \, \Omega \\ \text{if the conditions of} \\ \text{Lax-Milgram's theorem are satisfied.} \qquad = \frac{1}{2} a(u, u) - l(u) \end{array}$

, for all *u* satisfying the B.C. on Γ_D . By using Lagrange multipliers for the BC's, one gets a new functional to minimize:

$$\widetilde{F}(u,\lambda) = \frac{1}{2} \int_{\Omega} \nabla u \cdot \nabla u \, d \, \Omega - \int_{\Gamma_D} \lambda (u - u_D) \, d \, \Gamma_D - \int_{\Omega} f u \, d \, \Omega$$





Lagrange multipliers

Associated weak form :

$$\begin{split} \widetilde{F}(u,\lambda) &= \frac{1}{2} \int_{\Omega} \nabla u \cdot \nabla u \, d\,\Omega - \int_{\Gamma_{D}} \lambda(u - u_{D}) \, d\,\Gamma_{D} - \int_{\Omega} f u \, d\,\Omega \\ &= \frac{1}{2} A(U,U) - L(U) \qquad U = \begin{pmatrix} u \\ \lambda \end{pmatrix} \\ A(U,U) &= (u,\lambda) \cdot \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ b & 0 \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} u \\ \lambda \end{pmatrix} = a(u,u) + b(u,\lambda) + b(\lambda,u) \\ L(U) &= l(u) + c(\lambda) \qquad a(u,v) = \int_{\Omega} \nabla u \cdot \nabla v \, d\,\Omega \\ A(U,\delta U) &= L(\delta U) \qquad b(u,\lambda) = b(\lambda,u) = -\int_{\Gamma_{D}} u \cdot \lambda \Gamma_{D} \\ &\downarrow \qquad l(u) = \int_{\Omega} f u \, d\,\Omega \\ a(u,\delta u) + b(\lambda,\delta u) = l(\delta u) \\ b(\delta\lambda,u) &= c(\delta\lambda) \qquad c(\lambda) = -\int_{\Gamma_{D}} u_{D} \, d\,\Gamma_{D} \end{split}$$





Dirichlet boundary conditions

To simplify notations, lets assign $v = \delta u$, $\mu = \delta \lambda$

Find
$$u \in V = \{v \in H^1(\Omega)\}$$

 $\lambda \in L = \{\mu \in H^{1/2}(\Gamma_D)'\}$ s. t.

$$\int_{\Omega} \nabla u \cdot \nabla v \, d\Omega - \int_{\Gamma_D} \lambda \cdot v \, d\Gamma = \int_{\Gamma_N} f \cdot v \, d\Gamma \qquad \forall v \in V$$
$$- \int_{\Gamma_D} \mu \cdot u \, d\Gamma = - \int_{\Gamma_D} \mu \cdot u_D \, d\Gamma \qquad \forall \mu \in L$$

The Dirichlet B.C. has been "dualized". This is now a Neumann B.C. on the lagrange multipliers *2*





Dirichlet boundary conditions

- The Lagrange multipliers have a physical meaning
 - In mechanics, it is the force to impose so that the condition on the primal variable is ensured (here, displacements).
 - In our case, it is the gradient of the solution (flux) to impose so that $u=u_D$ on Γ_D .
- We have now a saddle point problem (min-max) the matrix of the linear system is not definite positive anymore (but still has an inverse and is symmetric)
- Not all solvers are able to handle that mostly direct solvers and very few iterative solvers.





Dirichlet boundary conditions

How to build adequate discrete function spaces

• Find
$$u_h \in V_h \subset V = \left\{ v \in H^1(\Omega) \right\}$$

 $\lambda_h \in L_h \subset L = \left\{ \mu \in H^{1/2}(\Gamma_D)' \right\}$ s. t. ...

- One do not change the primal functional space (for *u*). It is the usual finite element space using nodal hat functions
- One need to build a function space for λ .
 - Lets try to use an identical function space L_h for λ (or the restriction to the boundary of such a space... (the trace)





Dirichlet boundary conditions

Lets try to use an identical function space L_h for λ (or the restriction to the boundary of tsuch a space... (the trace)



 Lets perform a computation. The linear system has the following shape :

$$\int_{\Omega} \nabla u \cdot \nabla v \, d\Omega - \int_{\Gamma_{D}} \lambda \cdot v \, d\Gamma = \int_{\Gamma_{N}} f \cdot v \, d\Gamma \qquad \forall v \in V_{h}$$

$$(A_{h} \land B_{h}^{T}) \left(u_{h} \right) = \begin{pmatrix} F_{h} \\ D_{h} \end{pmatrix} \qquad (D_{h}) \qquad (D_{h}) \qquad \forall \mu \in L_{h}$$





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Dirichlet boundary conditions

- The we solve it ...
 - Lagrange multipliers are oscillating.
 - The more *h* (element size) shrinks, the more it oscillates...









Dirichlet boundary conditions

- What happens ?
 - The discrete spaces for $u \text{ et } \lambda$ are incompatible.
 - Those do not satisfy the Ladyzhenskaya-Babuška-Brezzi (LBB) condition, or inf-sup condition :

$$\inf_{\mu \in L_h u \in V_h} \frac{\int_{\Gamma} \lambda_h u_h d\Gamma}{h^{1/2} \|\lambda\|_{0,\Gamma_D} \|u\|_{1,\Omega}} \ge \alpha > 0$$

This condition is often difficult to check analytically.

O. Ladyzhensakya, Global solvability of a boundary value problem for the Navier–Stokes equations in the case of two spatial variables. *Proc. Ac. Sc. USSR* 123 (3) (1958) 427–429.
I. Babuska, Error bounds in the finite element method, *Numer. Math.*, 16 (1971), pp. 322-33.
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Dirichlet boundary conditions

- Numerical validation of the LBB condition.
 - There exists a "simple" numerical test; see Chapelle, Bathe, 1993 and KJ Bathe 2001 (in the bibliography)
 - One considers a more general problem with an added "stiffness" on the Dirichlet boundary condition (becomes a Robin B.C.) if $k \to \infty$, back to a "hard" Dirichlet B.C.

$$\int_{\Omega} \nabla u \cdot \nabla v \, d\Omega - \int_{\Gamma_D} \lambda \cdot v \, d\Gamma = \int_{\Gamma_N} f \cdot v \, d\Gamma \qquad \forall v \in V_h$$
$$-\int_{\Gamma_D} \mu \cdot u \, d\Gamma - \left(\int_{\Gamma_D} \frac{1}{k} \lambda \mu \, d\Gamma\right) = -\int_{\Gamma_D} \mu \cdot u_D \, d\Gamma \qquad \forall \mu \in L_h$$
$$\begin{pmatrix} A_h & B_h^T \\ B_h & \left(-\frac{1}{k} M_h\right) \\ \lambda_h \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} F_h \\ D_h \end{pmatrix}$$




Dirichlet boundary conditions

Chapelle – Bathe numerical test

$$\begin{pmatrix} A_h & B_h^T \\ B_h & -\frac{1}{k} M_h \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} u_h \\ \lambda_h \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} F_h \\ D_h \end{pmatrix}$$

- It amounts to check the first non vanishing eigenvalue (β_0) of the following eigenproblem :
 - $\frac{1}{h} \left(B_h A_h^{-1} B_h^{\mathrm{T}} \right) W_h = \beta M_h W_h \quad \text{ou} \quad \frac{1}{h} \left(B_h^{\mathrm{T}} M_h^{-1} B_h \right) W_h^{'} = \beta' A_h W_h^{'}$
- \ddot{A}_h must have an inverse
- Does not depend on k !
- One checks that $\beta_{_0}$ does not vanish for a sequence of meshes with an increasing density
- Here, $\alpha = \sqrt{\beta_0}$ (and for α : see slides before)











Dirichlet boundary conditions

- What we have are incompatibles functional spaces...
 - The space for the Lagrange multipliers is way too "rich" with respect to the one for the primal variable.
 - It amounts to impose exactly the Dirichlet B.C., which has been already shown to be a bad idea.

 \rightarrow We have to "decimate" L_h





Dirichlet boundary conditions

•From the mesh of the interface, take each node and put it in a set N

- •If a node of N is also part of the mesh, mark it as Vital (set V), and delete it from N
- •Take each edge incident to N and count each intersecting edge going from end nodes with the interface
- •Sort N. The sorting key is the number defined above (smallest first)



•Loop over the sorted set N, take ni

- Take the end nodes of ni, and from those, the connected nodes in N (may be many)
- If ni is not yet NV (non vital), mark it as Vital (V) and all the other connected nodes as (NV)
 EndLoop





Dirichlet boundary conditions

What remains,

An approximately uniform distribution of nodes



- The density is same as the initial mesh (2D here, 3D in general
- Works in 3D !





Dirichlet boundary conditions

Result of the decimation

Projection of 3D nodes







Dirichlet boundary conditions

Result of the decimation

Projection of 3D nodes







- How to build shape functions from this ?
 - Directly on the interface ?



- Works...
 - ... only in 2D !!!





Dirichlet boundary conditions

 In 3D : one would have to build a triangulation of the set of nodes V

What about :

- Curvy interfaces
- Discrepancy (non conformity) btw. triangulations
 - Integration problems
- So we must find a better way in 3D...







- Another solution
 - Lets take the trace of volume shape functions but there are too many !
 - One will combine SFs. (linear combinations) for each V-node



- At some places, a volume SF may be linked to more than one V-node.
- There is room for freedom : 100% with the green, or 100% with the red or whatever combination such that the sum is 100% (to keep "partition of unity")





- Advantages of using trace shape function for Lagrange multipliers
 - Easy integration
 - Compact shape functions
 - Partition of unity on the interface
 - Same algorithm in 3D and 2D
 - Good numerical results ? See what's follow !











Dirichlet boundary conditions



1/h























Dirichlet boundary conditions





Composites : perfect glueing

Imperfect glueing























Cad Interface

 From a traditional CAD (B-rep) representation ...









CAD interface

... To an implicit representation and F.E. computation (here, no mesh generation steps, only mesh cutting ...)









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<u>Nota :</u>

IJNME = International journal for numerical methods in engineering (Wiley)

CMAME = Computer methods in applied mechanics and engineering (Elsevier)

FEAD = Finite element in analysis and design (Elsevier)

JCP = Journal of computational physics (Elsevier)