

Numerical methods

Selected chapters on astrophysics

Pavel Ševeček

`sevecek@sirrah.troja.mff.cuni.cz`

Astronomical Institute of Charles University

1. **Finite difference method**

Explicit vs. implicit schemes. Leapfrog integrator, predictor-corrector methods, Runge-Kutta, Bulirsch-Stoer. Truncation error and stability. Boundary conditions. 2D and 3D problems. Solution of sparse linear systems.

2. **Finite element method**

Weak formulation of PDEs. Method of weighted residuals, Galerkin method. Mass and stiffness matrix. (Semi-)linearization, Picard iteration. Dirichlet and Neumann boundary conditions.

3. **Smoothed particle hydrodynamics**

SPH kernels. Discretization of hydrodynamic equations. Conservation laws vs. discretization error. Smoothing lengths, adaptive spatial resolution. Artificial viscosity. Surface representation and surface forces. Initial and boundary conditions, ghost particles. Efficient neighbor queries.

Before you start coding something, chances are there already is a library or a code that does what you need, and it does it better that you would have made it.

Astrophysics Source Code Library

`https://ascl.net/`

What is it about?

- Partial differential equations are everywhere in physics, e.g.:

$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{D} = \rho$$

$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{B} = 0$$

$$\nabla \times \mathbf{E} = -\frac{\partial \mathbf{B}}{\partial t}$$

$$\nabla \times \mathbf{H} = \mathbf{j} + \frac{\partial \mathbf{D}}{\partial t}$$

- PDEs generally unsolvable analytically, except for special cases, limits, etc.
- Approximate solutions required — convert derivatives ("infinitely small difference") into finite differences

Problem definition

For general PDE:

$$\mathcal{L}[f](\mathbf{r}, t) = 0, \quad \mathbf{r} \in \Omega, t \in (t_0, \infty)$$

we need to specify:

- Initial conditions

$$f(\mathbf{r}, t_0) = f_0 \quad \forall \mathbf{r} \in \Omega$$

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- Initial conditions

$$f(\mathbf{r}, t_0) = f_0 \quad \forall \mathbf{r} \in \Omega$$

- Boundary conditions

$$\mathcal{S}[f](\mathbf{r}, t) = 0 \quad \forall \mathbf{r} \in \partial\Omega$$

e.g.

$$f(\mathbf{r}, t) = f_0$$

Finite differences

- Numerically solve one-dimensional equation:

$$y'(t) = f(t, y(t))$$

- Taylor expansion:

$$y(t + \Delta t) = y(t) + y'(t)\Delta t + \frac{1}{2}y''(t)\Delta t^2 + \dots$$

Finite differences

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- To linear order:

$$y'(t) = \frac{y(t + \Delta t) - y(t)}{\Delta t}$$

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- To linear order:

$$y'(t) = \frac{y(t + \Delta t) - y(t)}{\Delta t}$$

- Centered derivative:

$$y'(t) = \frac{y(t + \Delta t) - y(t - \Delta t)}{2\Delta t}$$

no offset, but twice the interval, worse locality

Higher-order equations

- Second-order equations can be converted into a set of first-order equations, e.g.

$$\mathbf{r}''(t) = -\frac{GM}{r^3} \mathbf{r}$$

is equivalent to:

$$\mathbf{r}'(t) = \mathbf{v}(t)$$

$$\mathbf{v}'(t) = -\frac{GM}{r^3} \mathbf{r}$$

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$$\mathbf{v}'(t) = -\frac{GM}{r^3} \mathbf{r}$$

- Calculate second derivative:

$$y(t + \Delta t) = y(t) + y'(t)\Delta t + \frac{1}{2}y''(t)\Delta t^2$$

$$y(t - \Delta t) = y(t) - y'(t)\Delta t + \frac{1}{2}y''(t)\Delta t^2$$

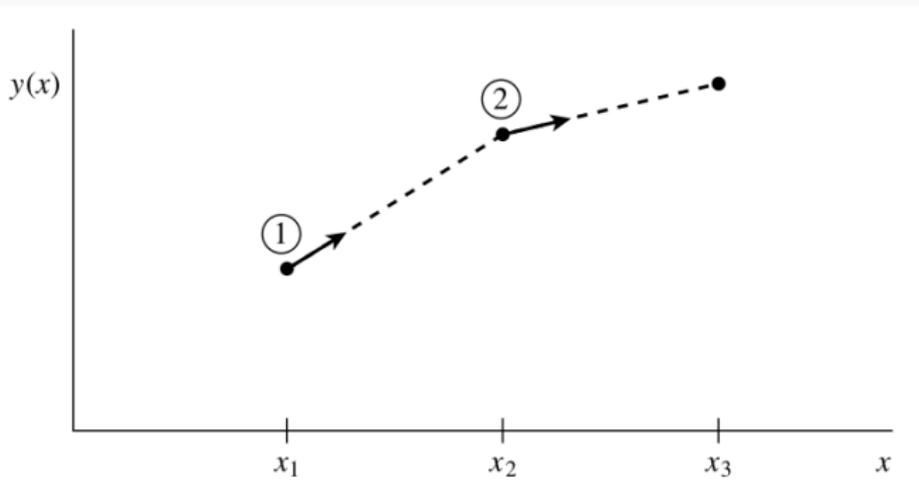
$$\frac{1}{2}y(t + \Delta t) - y(t) + \frac{1}{2}y(t - \Delta t) = y''(t)\Delta t^2$$

- Euler
- Leapfrog
- Runge-Kutta
- Predictor-Corrector
- Bulirsch-Stoer
- ...

Euler method

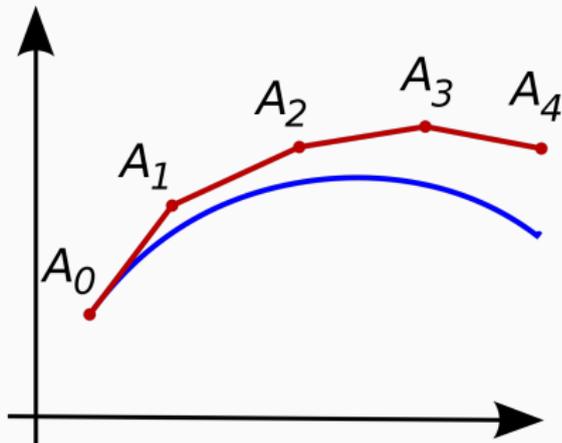
Step computed from derivative at point n :

$$y_{n+1} = y_n + f(t_n, y_n)\Delta t$$



Euler method — properties

- + Fast, simple
- First order accurate :(
- Errors accumulate over time



- Explicit method:

$$y_{n+1} = y_n + f(t_n, y_n) \Delta t$$

- Implicit method:

$$y_{n+1} = y_n + f(t_{n+1}, y_{n+1}) \Delta t$$

- May be combined — Crank-Nicolson scheme:

$$y_{n+1} = y_n + ((1 - \theta)f(t_n, y_n) + \theta f(t_{n+1}, y_{n+1})) \Delta t$$

Explicit (forward) vs. implicit (backward)

Explicit $y_{n+1} = y_n + f(t_n, y_n) \Delta t$

- + RHS can be computed from known values y_n
- + Function f can be non-linear
- Generally worse stability properties

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Implicit methods $y_{n+1} = y_n + f(t_{n+1}, y_{n+1}) \Delta t$

- + More stable, allows larger time steps
- Both LHS and RHS depend on y_{n+1}
- Function f must be either linear or approximated by e.g. Newton-Rhapson method
 - leads to a (sparse) system of linear equations

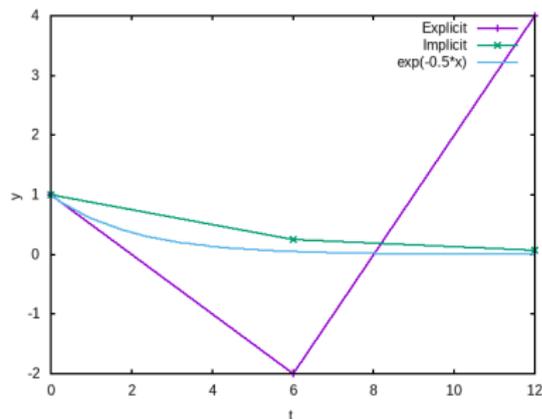
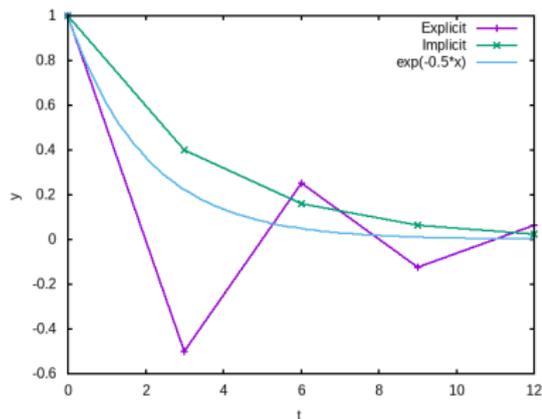
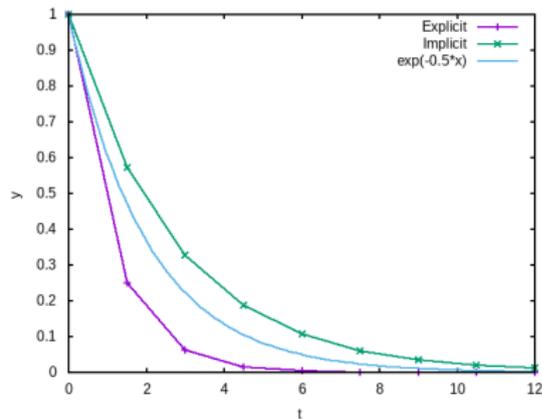
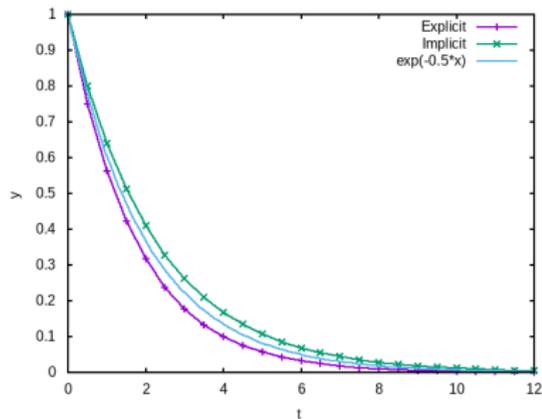
Example: exponential damping

Solve equation:

$$\frac{dy}{dt} = -ky$$

- Explicit Euler: $y_{n+1} = y_n - ky_n\Delta t$
- Implicit Euler: $y_{n+1} = y_n - ky_{n+1}\Delta t = y_n/(1 + k\Delta t)$

Example: exponential damping



Leapfrog

- Half-step difference between positions and velocities
- Drift-Kick-Drift (DKD)

$$x_{n+\frac{1}{2}} = x_n + \frac{1}{2}v_n dt$$

$$v_{n+1} = v_n + f(t_{n+\frac{1}{2}}, x_{n+\frac{1}{2}})dt$$

$$x_{n+1} = x_{n+\frac{1}{2}} + \frac{1}{2}v_{n+1}dt$$

Leapfrog

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- Kick-Drift-Kick (KDK)

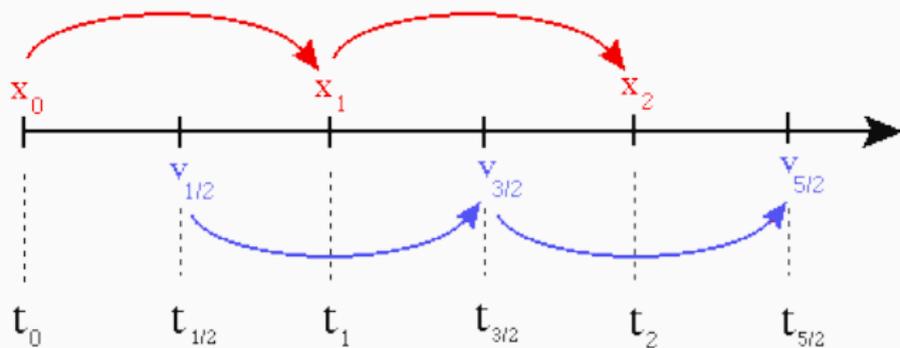
$$v_{n+\frac{1}{2}} = v_n + \frac{1}{2}f(t_n, x_n)dt$$

$$x_{n+1} = x_n + v_{n+\frac{1}{2}}dt$$

$$v_{n+1} = v_{n+\frac{1}{2}} + \frac{1}{2}f(t_{n+1}, x_{n+1})dt$$

Leapfrog

- With constant time step — KDKDKDKD ...
- Time-reversible
- Symplectic — conserves total energy



2th order Runge-Kutta

Evaluate y'_n , do a “test” step by $\Delta t/2$, evaluate y' at the center of the interval and use it for the final step

$$\Delta y_1 = f(t_n, y_n) \Delta t$$

$$\Delta y_2 = f\left(t_n + \frac{\Delta t}{2}, y_n + \frac{\Delta y_1}{2}\right) \Delta t$$

$$y_{n+1} = y_n + \Delta y_2$$

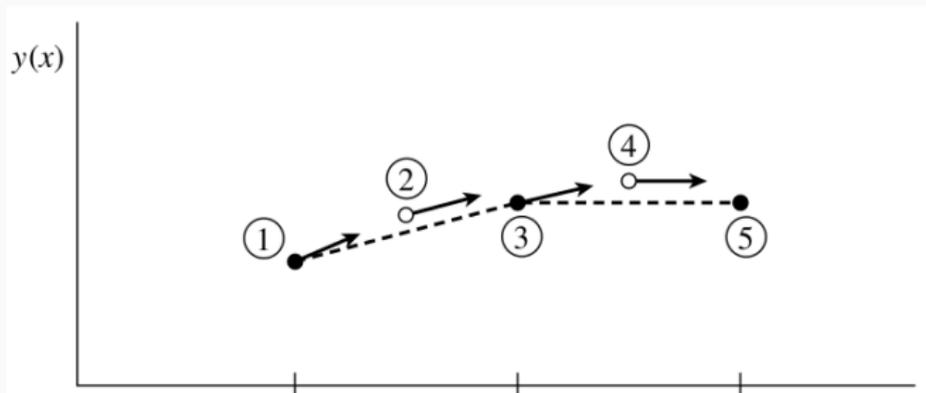
2th order Runge-Kutta

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$$y_{n+1} = y_n + \Delta y_2$$



4th order Runge-Kutta

Same idea, except we do 4 steps:

$$y_{n+1} = y_n + \frac{1}{6}(\Delta y_1 + 2\Delta y_2 + 2\Delta y_3 + \Delta y_4)$$

where

$$\Delta y_1 = f(t_n, y_n) \Delta t$$

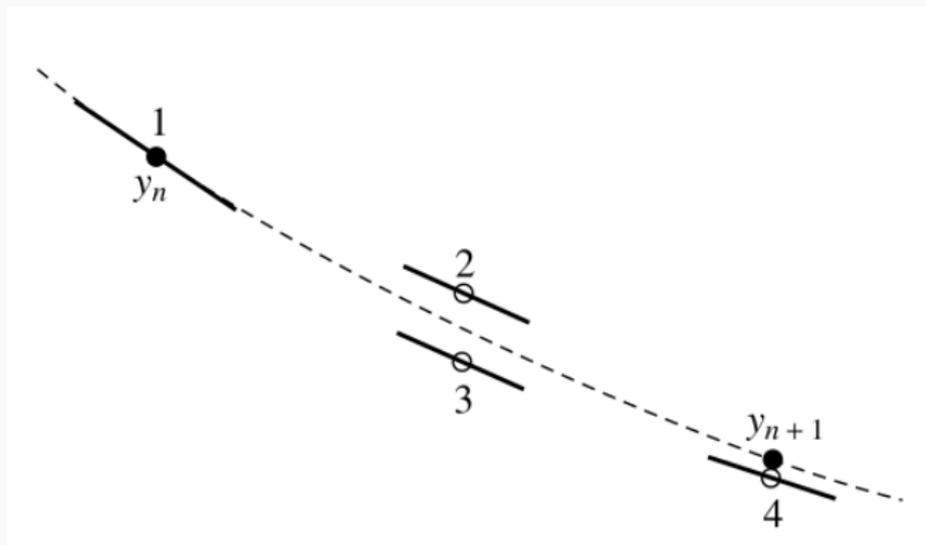
$$\Delta y_2 = f\left(t_n + \frac{\Delta t}{2}, y_n + \frac{\Delta y_1}{2}\right) \Delta t$$

$$\Delta y_3 = f\left(t_n + \frac{\Delta t}{2}, y_n + \frac{\Delta y_2}{2}\right) \Delta t$$

$$\Delta y_4 = f(t_n + \Delta t, y_n + \Delta y_3) \Delta t$$

Runge-Kutta — properties

- The go-to integrator
- Accuracy $\mathcal{O}(\Delta t^4)$
- Works with discontinuities and “ugly” functions
- Requires four evaluation of f per timestep — good trade-of between performance and accuracy



Predictor-Corrector

- Prediction using $f(t_n, y_n)$:

$$y_{n+1}^{\text{pred}} = y_n + f(t_n, y_n)\Delta t$$

- Correction using $f(t_{n+1}, y_{n+1}^{\text{pred}})$:

$$y_{n+1} = y_n + \frac{1}{2} \left(f(t_n, y_n) + f(t_{n+1}, y_{n+1}^{\text{pred}}) \right)$$

- Can be modified to 1 function evaluation per time step
- The difference between prediction and correction — error estimate

Modified midpoint method

- Does m substeps of size $h = \Delta t/m$ within single timestep
- Needs to evaluate function $f(t, y)$ $(n + 1)$ -times:

$$z_0 = y_n$$

$$z_1 = z_0 + hf(t_n, z_0)$$

...

$$z_m = z_{m-2} + 2hf(t_m + (m - 1)h, z_{m-1})$$

- Finally

$$y_{n+1} = y_n + \frac{1}{2}(z_m + z_{m-1} + hf(x + \Delta t, z_m))$$

- Mainly used as part of Bulirsch-Stoer integrator

- Precise solution y_{n+1} — approximated by estimates with different number of substeps m
- Larger $m \rightarrow$ lower numerical error
- We can view the true solution as function of m :
 1. compute estimates for various m
 2. fit estimates with a smooth function (polynomial, rational function, ...)
 3. find **limit**, corresponding to substep size $h \rightarrow 0$
- Requires smooth function $f(t, x)$, does not handle discontinuities well

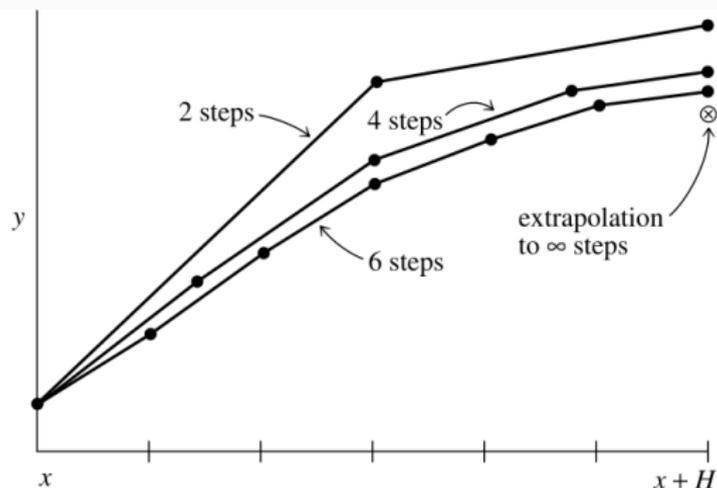


Figure 16.4.1. Richardson extrapolation as used in the Bulirsch-Stoer method. A large interval H is spanned by different sequences of finer and finer substeps. Their results are extrapolated to an answer that is supposed to correspond to infinitely fine substeps. In the Bulirsch-Stoer method, the integrations are done by the modified midpoint method, and the extrapolation technique is rational function or polynomial extrapolation.

Adaptive timestep

- Time step should be computed automatically by the integrator
- Do larger steps when quantities are constant or change linearly
- Do smaller steps when quantities change rapidly
- Time step controls **stability** and **truncation error**

$$y(t + \Delta t) = y(t) + y'(t)\Delta t + \overset{\text{error estimate}}{\frac{1}{2}y''(t)\Delta t^2}$$

Step doubling

- Two steps:

$$y_1(t + \Delta t) = y(t) + f(t, y(t)) \Delta t$$

$$y_1(t + 2\Delta t) = y_1(t + \Delta t) + f(t + \Delta t, y_1(t + \Delta t))\Delta t$$

- One double step:

$$y_2(t + 2\Delta t) = y(t) + 2f(t, y(t))\Delta t$$

- Select Δt so that:

$$\|y_1 - y_2\| < \varepsilon$$

Adaptive timestep

- Value-to-derivative ratio:

$$\Delta t = C \frac{y_n}{y'_n} = C \frac{y_n}{f(t_n, y_n)}$$

→ bounded relative error

- Problem for $y_n \rightarrow 0$ — $\Delta t = 0$
- Relative comparison does not work near zero

Adaptive timestep

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→ bounded relative error

- Problem for $y_n \rightarrow 0$ — $\Delta t = 0$
- Relative comparison does not work near zero
- **Workaround:** Use relative error bound for $|y_n| \gg 0$ and absolute bound for $y_n \simeq 0$:

$$\Delta t = C \frac{|y_n| + y_0}{|y'_n|}$$

- Cons: Necessary to select y_0 — free parameter (for each equation)

Boundary conditions

Matrix problem:

$$A_{ij}u_j = b_i$$

- Dirichlet condition — fixed value on the boundary

$$u_1 = c_1, u_N = c_N$$

→ modify the matrix and the right-hand side vector:

$$A_{11} = A_{NN} = 1$$

$$A_{1j} = A_{Nj} = 0 \quad \forall j, 2 \leq j \leq N-1$$

$$b_1 = c_1, b_N = c_N$$

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$$b_1 = c_1, b_N = c_N$$

or alternatively

$$A_{11} = A_{NN} = L$$

$$b_1 = Lc_1, b_N = Lc_N$$

where $L \simeq 10^{30}$

Boundary conditions

- Neumann condition — fixed derivative on the boundary

$$u'_1 = d_1, u'_N = d_N$$

→ ghost points — u_0, u_{N+1} :

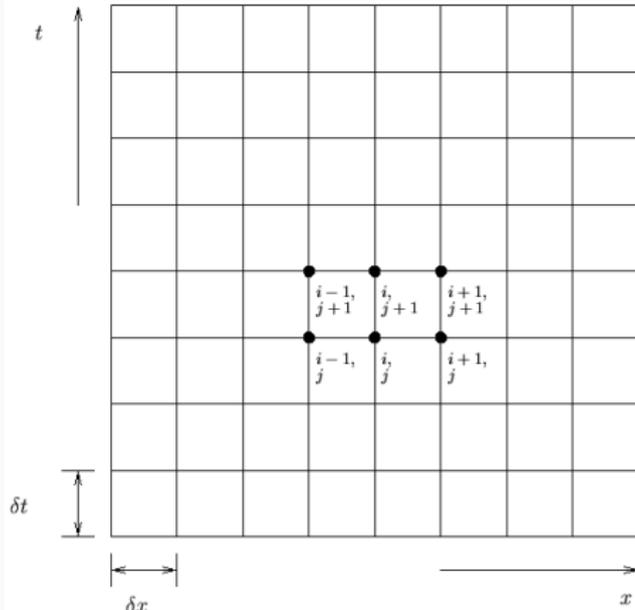
$$u'_1 = \frac{u_2 - u_0}{2dx}, u'_N = \frac{u_{N+1} - u_{N-1}}{2dx}$$

2D finite differences

Solve

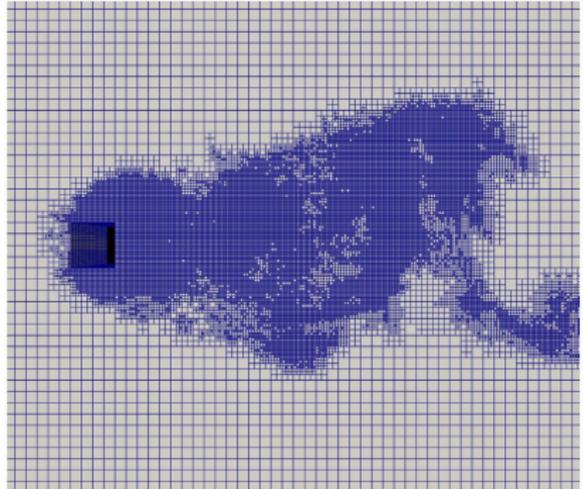
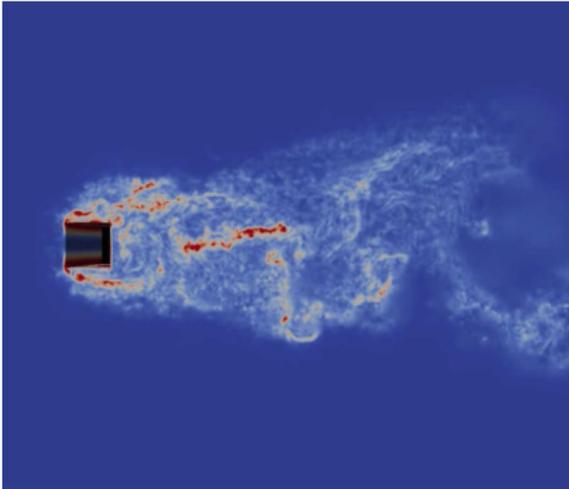
$$y'(x, t) = f(x, t, y(x, t))$$

- Create grid (x_i, t_j) , $0 \leq i \leq N_x$, $0 \leq j \leq N_t$
- Requires rectangular computational domain

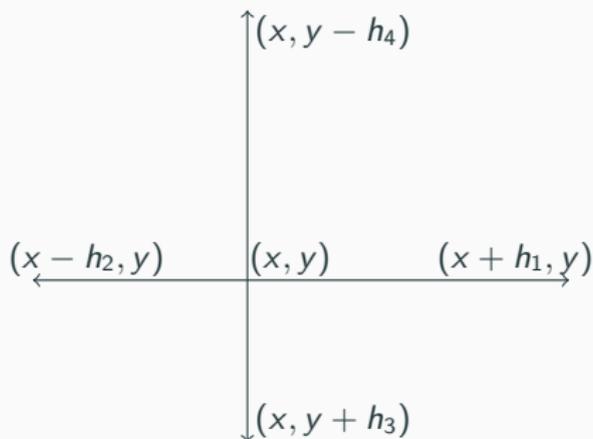


Non-uniform grids

- Constant spatial resolution might be inefficient
- Select **fine** resolution where the solution changes rapidly, **coarse** resolution where the solution is constant (or changes linearly)



Non-uniform grids

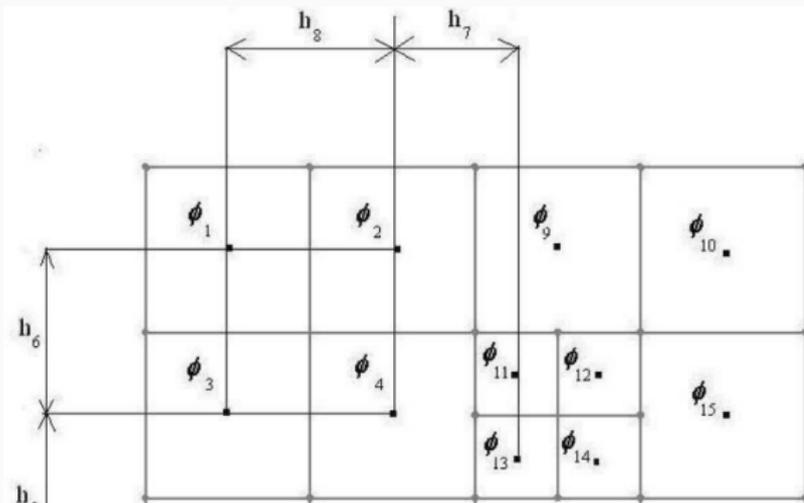


Derivatives have to be generalized, e.g.:

$$\frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x^2} = \frac{2}{h_1 h_2} \left(\frac{h_2}{h_1 + h_2} f(x + h_1, y) - f(x, y) + \frac{h_1}{h_1 + h_2} f(x - h_2, y) \right)$$

Non-uniform grids

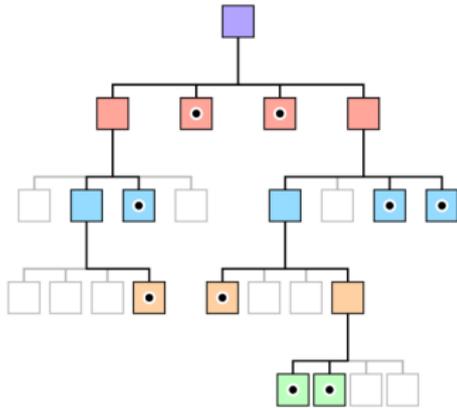
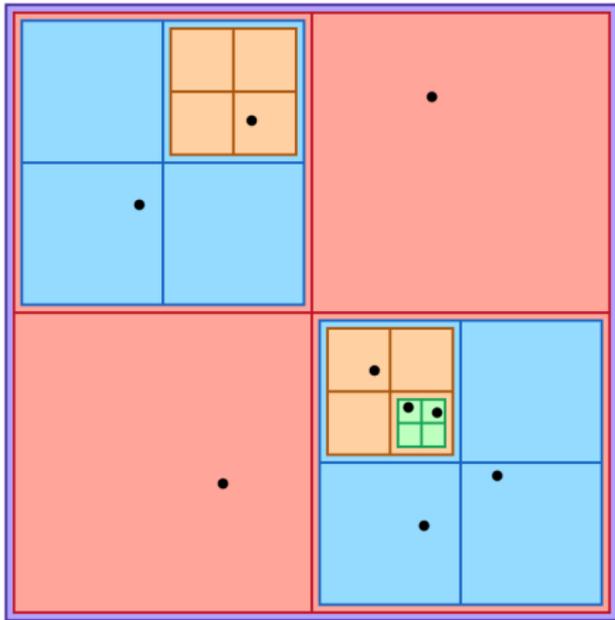
- Some cells have multiple neighbors, e.g. ϕ_4 :
→ use average of ϕ_{11} and ϕ_{13}



- Cell centered vs. node centered discretization
- Typically implemented using **quadtree** (octree)

Quadtree

- Cells have sizes 2^n
- $\mathcal{O}(\log N)$ queries



- Discretization approximates exact solution at $t = t_0 \rightarrow$
discretization approximates exact solution at $t \rightarrow \infty$?
- Errors damped over time \rightarrow numerically stable solution
- Errors grow over time \rightarrow numerically unstable solution

- Discretization approximates exact solution at $t = t_0 \rightarrow$ discretization approximates exact solution at $t \rightarrow \infty$?
- Errors damped over time \rightarrow numerically stable solution
- Errors grow over time \rightarrow numerically unstable solution
- von Neumann stability analysis —
solution as superposition of harmonic waves

$$u(x, t) \sim \exp(ikx) \exp(-i\omega t)$$

Stability analysis — example

Diffusion equation:

$$\frac{u_j^{n+1} - u_j^n}{\Delta t} = D \frac{u_{j+1}^n - 2u_j^n + u_{j-1}^n}{\Delta x^2}$$

$$u_j^{n+1} = u_j^n + R(u_{j+1}^n - 2u_j^n + u_{j-1}^n), \quad R = \frac{D\Delta t}{\Delta x^2}$$

Substitute $u_j^n = \exp(ik\Delta xj)$:

$$u_j^{n+1} = e^{ik\Delta xj} + R(e^{ik\Delta x(j+1)} - 2e^{ik\Delta xj} + e^{ik\Delta x(j-1)})$$

$$u_j^{n+1} = e^{ik\Delta xj} (1 + R(e^{ik\Delta x} + e^{-ik\Delta x} - 2))$$

Stability analysis — example

Define a growth factor:

$$G = e^{-i\omega t} = 1 - 2R(1 - \cos(k\Delta x))$$

Numerical scheme is stable if $|G| \leq 1 \forall k$, thus:

$$|G(k)| = |1 - 2R(1 - \cos(k\Delta x))| \leq |1 - 4R|$$

Numerical scheme is stable for:

$$R = \frac{D\Delta t}{\Delta x^2} \leq \frac{1}{2}$$

- Implicit schemes typically lead to a set of equations:

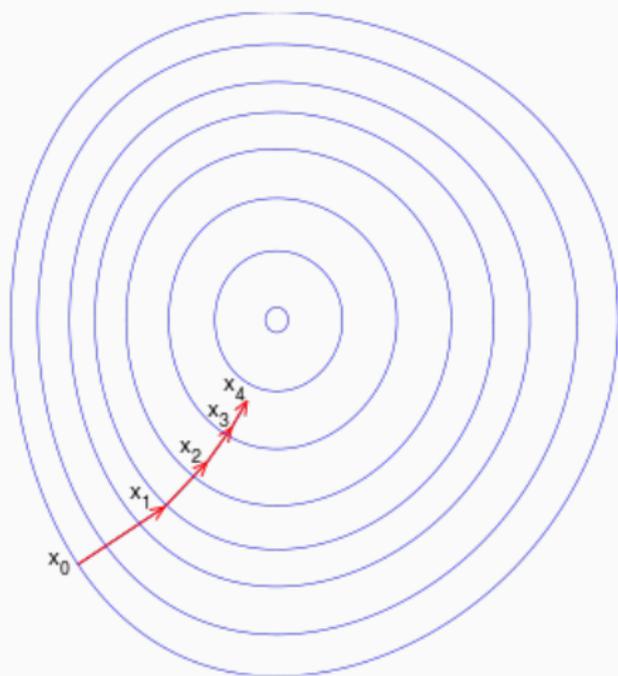
$$A_{ij}x_j = b_i$$

where A_{ij} is a (sparse) matrix, b_j is a known vector of coefficients, x_j is the vector of solutions

- Precise methods (SVD-decomposition, LU, Cholesky)
- Iterative methods (Conjugate gradient)

Gradient descent

- Minimization of differentiable function



Gradient descent

Find a minimum of a function $F(\mathbf{x})$:

1. Start with a guess \mathbf{x}_0
2. Compute gradient $\nabla F(\mathbf{x}_n)$
3. Do a step

$$\mathbf{x}_{n+1} = \mathbf{x}_n - \gamma_n \nabla F(\mathbf{x}_n)$$

4. If $\|\mathbf{x}_{n+1} - \mathbf{x}_n\| > \epsilon$, go to 2

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To solve a linear system $\mathbf{Ax} = \mathbf{b}$, do **least-squares** minimization:

$$F(\mathbf{x}) = \|\mathbf{Ax} - \mathbf{b}\|^2$$

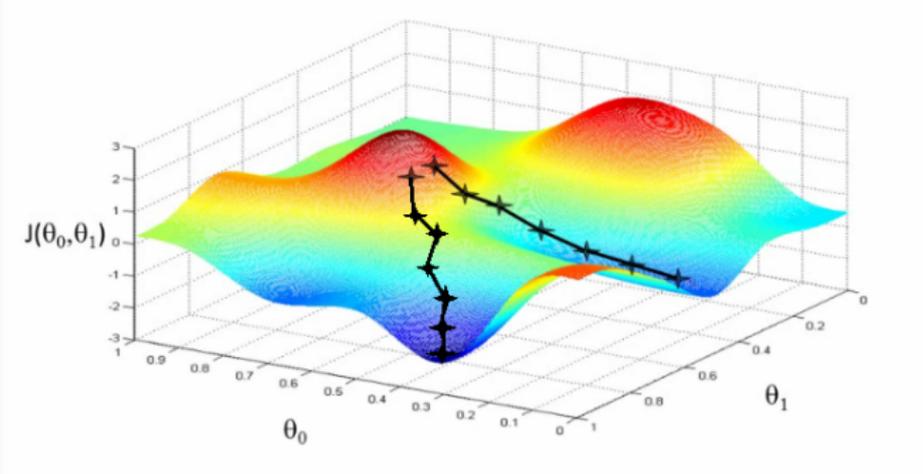
Using Euclidean metric:

$$\nabla F(\mathbf{x}) = 2\mathbf{A}^T(\mathbf{Ax} - \mathbf{b})$$

Gradient descent

- Iterative method
- Faster for low precision
- Convergence very slow near the minimum

May end up in local minimum — depends on the initial guess x_0



Example: wave equation

Solve

$$\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial t^2} = c^2 \left(\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial y^2} \right)$$

Discretized:

$$\dot{u}_{x,y}^{n+1} = \dot{u}_{x,y}^n + c^2 \left(\frac{u_{x+1,y}^{n+1} - 2u_{x,y}^{n+1} + u_{x-1,y}^{n+1}}{dx^2} + \frac{u_{x,y+1}^{n+1} - 2u_{x,y}^{n+1} + u_{x,y-1}^{n+1}}{dy^2} \right) dt$$

$$u_{x,y}^{n+1} = u_{x,y}^n + \dot{u}_{x,y}^{n+1} dt$$

Example: wave equation

Implicit discretization — rewrite to form $\mathbf{Ax} = \mathbf{b}$:

$$\mathbf{x} = \begin{pmatrix} u_{0,0}^{n+1} \\ \dots \\ u_{X,Y}^{n+1} \\ \dot{u}_{0,0}^{n+1} \\ \dots \\ \dot{u}_{X,y}^{n+1} \end{pmatrix} \quad \mathbf{b} = \begin{pmatrix} u_{0,0}^n \\ \dots \\ u_{X,Y}^n \\ \dot{u}_{0,0}^n \\ \dots \\ \dot{u}_{X,y}^n \end{pmatrix}$$

Source code:

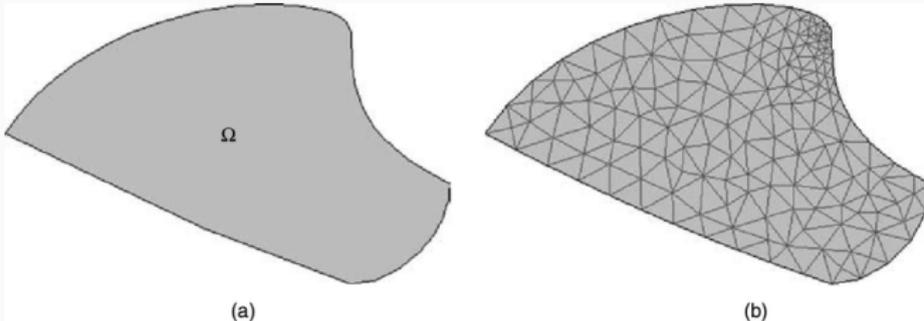
<https://gitlab.com/sevecekp/pdesolvers>

Finite element method

- Popular method for engineering applications
- Handles **arbitrary** domains
 - FDM requires *parameterizable* domains (rectangular, spherical, ...)
- Adaptive spatial resolution
 - FDM cells have sizes of 2^n
- Implicit handling of boundary conditions
- *Much* more difficult to implement compared to FDM
- Used for hydrodynamics, heat diffusion, structural analysis, ...

Finite element method

- Domain is discretized in **elements** — typically triangles in 2D, tetrahedra in 3D



Finite element method

- **Goal:** Given a differential operator \mathcal{L} , find a function $u(\mathbf{r})$ for which:

$$\mathcal{L}(u) = 0$$

(for example $\nabla^2 u = 0$)

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(for example $\nabla^2 u = 0$)

- Replace function $u(\mathbf{r})$ with a linear combination of **basis** functions:

$$\hat{u}(\mathbf{r}) \equiv \sum_{i=1}^M u_i N_i(\mathbf{r})$$

- Problem of finding $u(\mathbf{r})$ (infinite dimensions)
→ finding finite number of u_i

Finite element method

- **Goal:** Given a differential operator \mathcal{L} , find a function $u(\mathbf{r})$ for which:

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→ finding finite number of u_i
- Generally, **NO** linear combination will yield:

$$\mathcal{L}(\hat{u}) = 0$$

- Instead, we **minimize** value $\|\mathcal{L}(\hat{u})\|$ — residuum

Minimizing the residuum

- Minimize $\|\mathcal{L}(\hat{u})\|$ — what is $\|\cdot\|$?

Minimizing the residuum

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- Least squares: minimize the square of $\mathcal{L}(\hat{u})$

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- Using $W_i = N_i \rightarrow$ Galerkin method

Minimizing the residuum

- Solving the set of equations $\int \mathcal{L}(\hat{u}) W_j d\Omega = 0$ is problem-specific
- We need to get

$$a(\hat{u}, N_j) = b(N_j)$$

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- Then

$$\sum_i a(N_i, N_j) u_i = b(N_j)$$

i.e. solve a **linear** system

Example: Poisson equation

Solve one-dimensional equation:

$$\mathcal{L}(u) = u''(x) + f(x) = 0$$

with boundary condition $u(0) = u(1) = 0$

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$$\sum_j u_j \int N_j''(x) N_i(x) dx = - \int f(x) N_i(x) dx$$

- Choose $N_i(x) = \sin i\pi x \rightarrow N_i''(x) = -i^2\pi^2 N_i(x)$
 - Automatically satisfies the boundary conditions
 - Basis functions **orthogonal** \rightarrow leads to diagonal matrix

Example: Poisson equation

- Integral on LHS can be computed:

$$\int N_j''(x)N_i(x) dx = -\frac{j^2\pi^2}{2}\delta_{ij}$$

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- We get the solution:

$$u_i = \frac{2}{i^2\pi^2} \int f(x) \sin i\pi x dx$$

Time dependence

- Use **finite differences** for temporal integration
- Make coefficients u_i functions of time

$$\hat{u}(\mathbf{r}, t) = \sum_{i=1}^M u_i(t) N_i(\mathbf{r})$$

- We already solve a matrix problem
— implicit time stepping “for free”

Basis functions

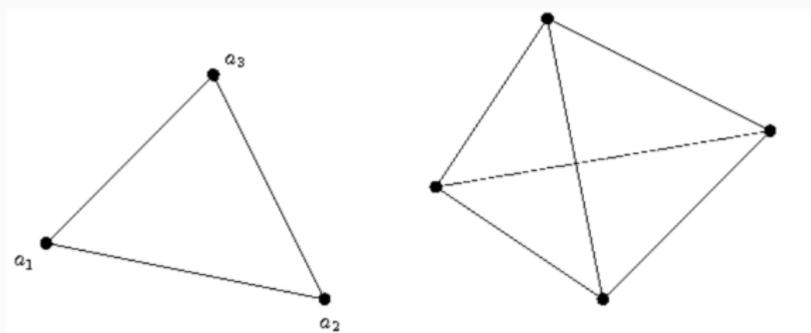
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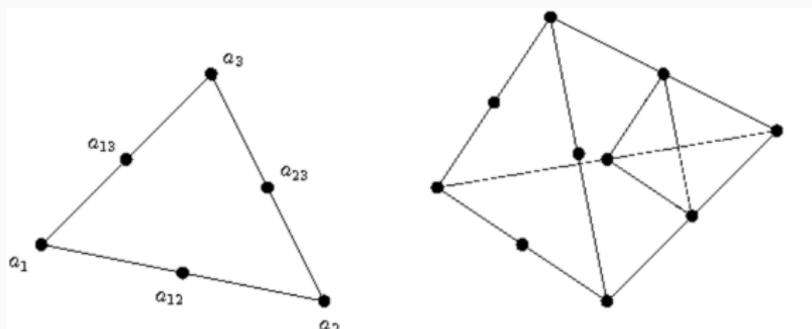
Basis functions

- Connected to mesh elements (vertices, edges, ...)
- Typically piecewise polynomial functions — Lagrange elements
- Piecewise constant \mathbf{P}^0 — associated with the **barycenter** of the triangle (tetrahedron)
- Piecewise linear \mathbf{P}^1 — associated with mesh **vertices**



Basis functions

- Piecewise quadratic P^2 — associated with **vertices** and edge **midpoints**



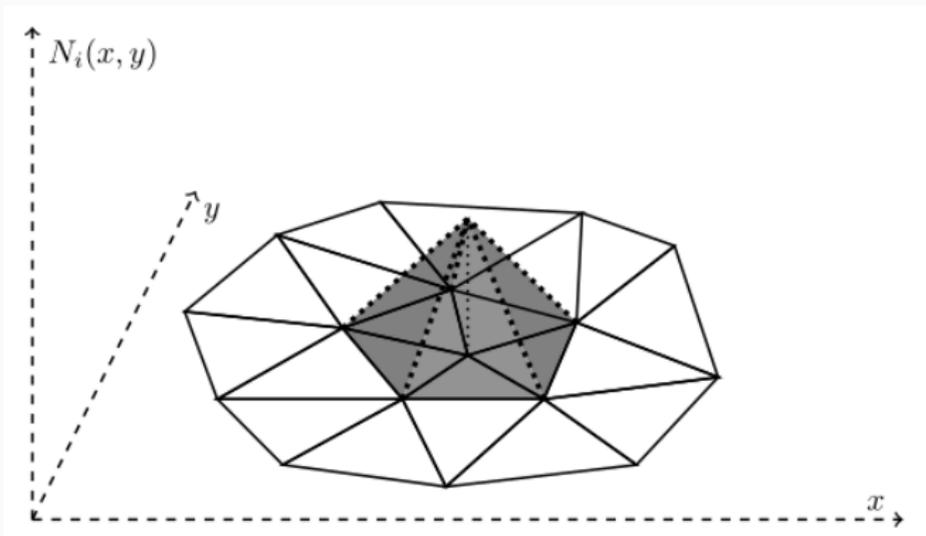
- ... and many others (FreeFem++ has ~ 35 different elements)
- Only non-zero in neighborhood \rightarrow leads to **sparse** matrix

Basis functions

- Basis function $N(x, y)$: sum of **shape** functions

$$\begin{aligned}\phi_i(x, y) &= a_i + b_i x + c_i y \text{ for } (x, y) \in \text{triangle}(i) \\ &= 0 \text{ elsewhere}\end{aligned}$$

- Single \mathbf{P}^1 basis function:



Computing P^1 functions

- 2D triangle with vertices (x_i, y_i)
- Shape function associated with vertex j :

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- Rewriting to a matrix problem:

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & x_j & y_j \\ 1 & x_k & y_k \\ 1 & x_l & y_l \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} a \\ b \\ c \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

Computing matrices

Applied on diffusion problem:

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} = c \nabla^2 u$$

- Weak formulation:

$$\int \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} N_i d\Omega = c \int \nabla^2 u N_i d\Omega$$

Computing matrices

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$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} = c \nabla^2 u$$

- Weak formulation:

$$\int \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} N_i d\Omega = c \int \nabla^2 u N_i d\Omega$$

- Explicit time integration — substitute:

$$\nabla^2 u = \sum_j u_j^0 \nabla^2 N_j$$

$$\partial u / \partial t = (u_j - u_j^0) / \Delta t$$

where \mathbf{u}^0 is solution from previous time step (known values). Then:

$$\sum_j \frac{u_j - u_0}{\Delta t} \int N_i N_j d\Omega = c \sum_j u_j^0 \int \nabla^2 N_i N_j d\Omega$$

Computing matrices

- Assuming $\nabla u = 0$ at $\partial\Omega$ — apply **divergence** theorem:

$$\sum_j \frac{u_j - u_0}{\Delta t} \int N_i N_j d\Omega = -c \sum_j u_j^0 \int \nabla N_i \cdot \nabla N_j d\Omega$$

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- We get:

$$M \frac{\mathbf{u} - \mathbf{u}^0}{\Delta t} = -c \mathbf{K} \mathbf{u}_0$$

Mass lumping

- Both \mathbf{M} and \mathbf{K} depend only on the domain subdivision and selected basis function
- For piecewise linear elements \mathbf{P}^1 , ∇N_i is piecewise constant
→ integral \mathbf{K} is reduced to the **area** of triangle

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- We get:

$$\mathbf{M} \frac{\mathbf{u}}{\Delta t} = -c \mathbf{K} \mathbf{u}^0 + \mathbf{M} \frac{\mathbf{u}^0}{\Delta t}$$

- RHS — known values
- LHS — requires \mathbf{M}^{-1}
→ can be further simplified using **mass lumping** (diagonalization)

- Diagonalization of \mathbf{M} — tradeoff between precision and performance/robustness of the solver
- Row sum method:

$$\tilde{M}_{ij} = \sum_j M_{ij}$$

- Diagonal scaling:

$$\tilde{M}_{ij} = fM_{ij}$$

Non-linear equations

Goal: reduce the discretized equation into:

$$\sum_i a(N_i, N_j) u_i = b(N_j)$$

or in matrix form:

$$\mathbf{A} \mathbf{u} = \mathbf{b}$$

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i For **non-linear** equations, we get e.g.:

$$\mathbf{A}(\mathbf{u}) \mathbf{u} = \mathbf{b}$$

→ Picard iteration method

Picard iterations

Replace $\mathbf{A}(\mathbf{u})\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{b}$ with $\mathbf{A}(\mathbf{u}_0)\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{b}$, using a guess \mathbf{u}_0 .

Then:

1. Solve the linear problem \rightarrow yields solution \mathbf{u}_1
2. Replace \mathbf{u}_0 with the solution \mathbf{u}_1 , compute new matrix \mathbf{A}
3. Solve new problem $\mathbf{A}(\mathbf{u}_k)\mathbf{u}_{k+1} = \mathbf{b}$
4. Iterate until $\|\mathbf{u}_{k+1} - \mathbf{u}_k\| < \epsilon$

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Will it always converge? \rightarrow NO

Relaxation method

We can improve the convergence using **relaxation** method, i.e. weight new and previous solution:

$$\mathbf{A}(\mathbf{u}_k)\mathbf{u}^* = \mathbf{b}$$

$$\mathbf{u}_{k+1} := \omega\mathbf{u}^* + (1 - \omega)\mathbf{u}_k$$

where ω is the relaxation parameter.

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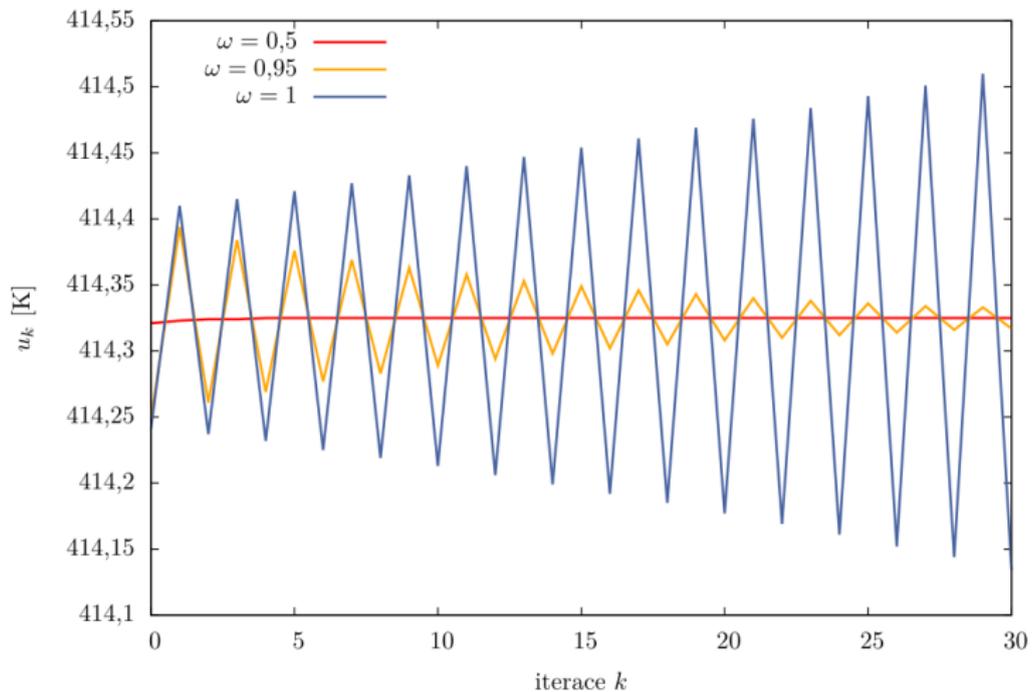
$$\mathbf{u}_{k+1} := \omega\mathbf{u}^* + (1 - \omega)\mathbf{u}_k$$

where ω is the relaxation parameter.

- Essentially decreases the iteration step
- General method, usable outside FEM
- In some cases can be used with $\omega > 1$ to **speed up** the convergence
→ over-relaxation

Relaxation method

Example: linearization of the radiative term $\propto u^4$,
i.e. iterative solution of $\mathbf{A}(u_k^3)u_{k+1} = \mathbf{b}$



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- Dirichlet or Neumann

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- **Essential** boundary conditions — explicitly imposed on the solution:

$$\int_{\Omega} \mathcal{L}(\hat{u}) W_j \, d\Omega + \sum_{k=1}^n \oint_{\Gamma_k} \mathcal{S}_k(\hat{u}) W_j^k \, d\Gamma = 0$$

for the k -th boundary condition

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for the k -th boundary condition

- **Natural** boundary conditions — embedded into the equations, satisfied automatically when finding the solution
- Usually Dirichlet \sim essential and Neumann \sim natural (but not always)

Natural boundary conditions

Example: diffusion equation in domain Ω

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} = c \nabla^2 u$$

with boundary condition at $\partial\Omega$:

$$\mathbf{n} \cdot \nabla u = f$$

Natural boundary conditions

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$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} = c \nabla^2 u$$

with boundary condition at $\partial\Omega$:

$$\mathbf{n} \cdot \nabla u = f$$

We thus solve:

$$\int_{\Omega} \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} N_i d\Omega = c \int_{\Omega} \nabla^2 u N_i d\Omega$$

From divergence theorem:

$$\int_{\Omega} \nabla^2 u N_i d\Omega = \oint_{\partial\Omega} \nabla u \cdot \mathbf{n} N_i d\Sigma - \int_{\Omega} \nabla u \cdot \nabla N_i d\Omega$$

Natural boundary conditions

Plug our BC into the surface term

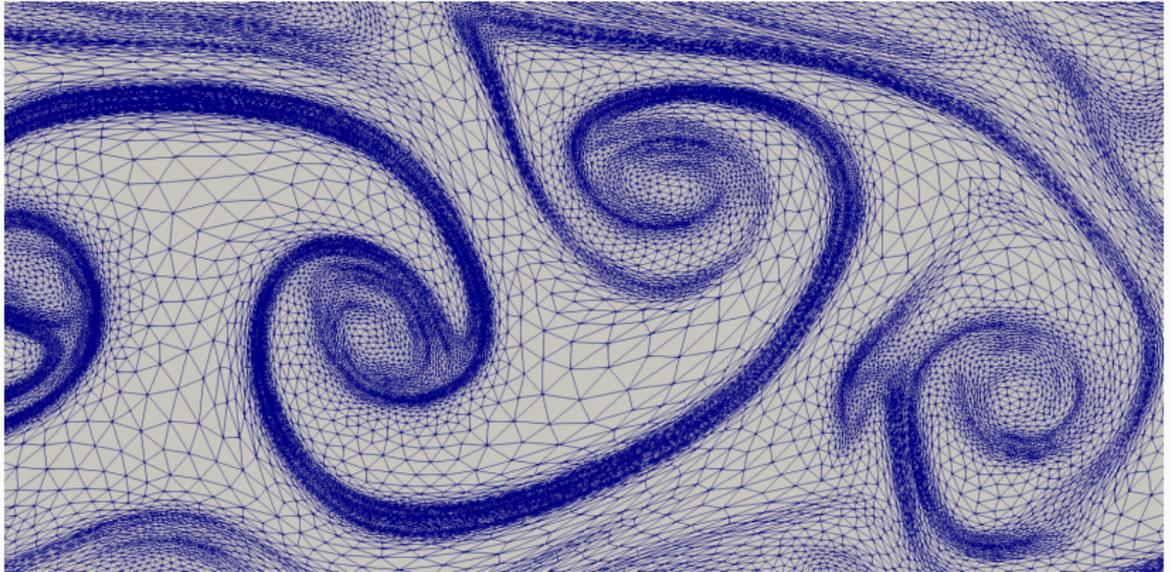
$$\int_{\Omega} \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} N_i d\Omega = c \left(\int_{\partial\Omega} f N_i d\Sigma + \int_{\Omega} \nabla u \cdot \nabla N_i d\Omega \right)$$

Natural boundary conditions

Plug our BC into the surface term

$$\int_{\Omega} \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} N_i d\Omega = c \left(\int_{\partial\Omega} f N_i d\Sigma + \int_{\Omega} \nabla u \cdot \nabla N_i d\Omega \right)$$

- Term $\mathbf{n} \cdot \nabla u$ no longer in the equation
- For $f = 0$, the equation has no surface term, yet still satisfies $\mathbf{n} \cdot \nabla u$ at $\partial\Omega$



Usage

C2500 PICKUP TRUCK MODEL [NCAC V8]

Time = 0.060999

Contours of Effective Stress (v-m)

max lpt. value

min=0, at elem# 3500

max=531.766, at elem# 8

Fringe Levels

5.000e+02

4.500e+02

4.000e+02

3.500e+02

3.000e+02

2.500e+02

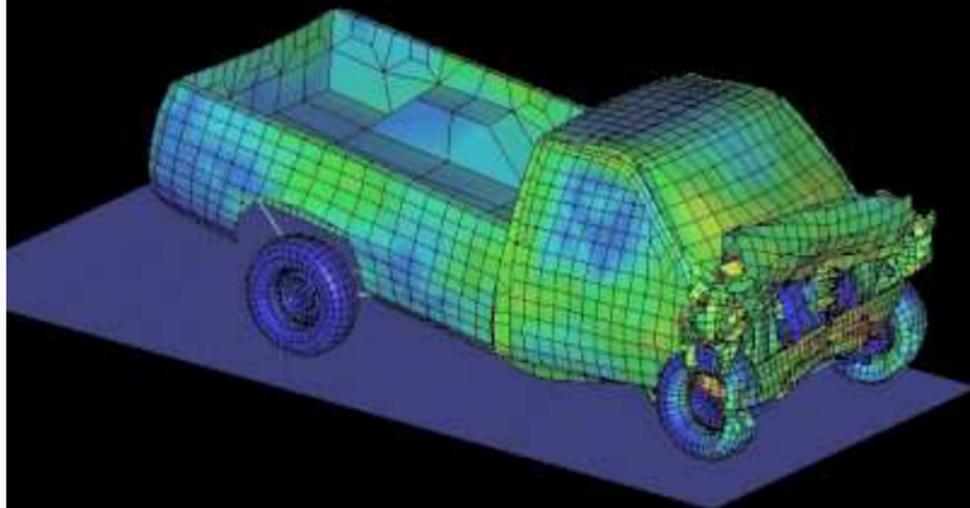
2.000e+02

1.500e+02

1.000e+02

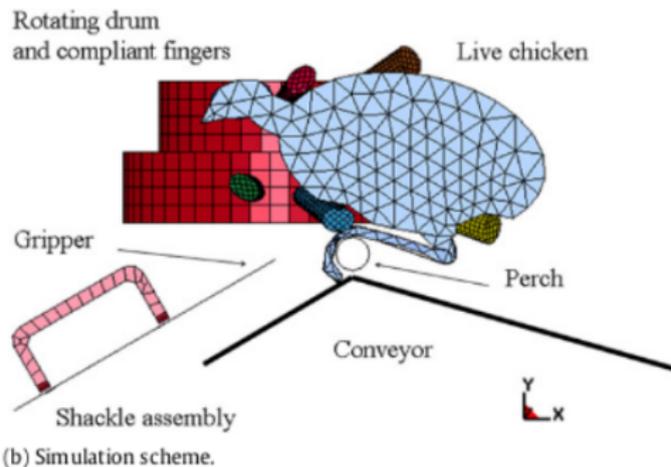
5.000e+01

0.000e+00





(a) Compliant grasping [23].

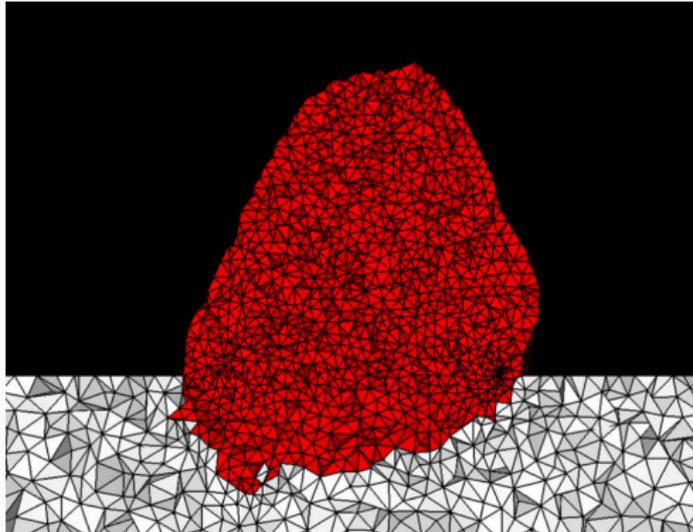


(b) Simulation scheme.

Fig. 1. Compliant grasping of a live bird transfer system (LBTS).

Usage (astrophysics)

- For spherical/cylindrical/rectangular domains, FDM or FVM preferred
- **Example:** Solve a heat diffusion equation in a boulder on the surface of an asteroid



- libMesh
- FreeFEM++
- deal.II
- ParaFEM
- OOFEM
- ...

Example: Planar strain-stress problem

- Solve distribution of stresses inside the body
- Input:
 - external **forces** deforming the body
 - fixed nodes (constraints)
- Using:
 - Eigen library (matrix solvers)
 - CGAL library (mesh generation)
- Source code:
<https://gitlab.com/sevecekp/pdesolvers/fem>

Example: Planar strain-stress problem

- Linear strain-stress relation — Hooke's law

$$\boldsymbol{\sigma} = \mathbf{D}\boldsymbol{\epsilon}$$

where $\boldsymbol{\sigma}$ is the stress tensor, $\boldsymbol{\epsilon}$ the strain tensor.

- Planar strain \rightarrow only non-zero components are:

$$\boldsymbol{\epsilon} = \begin{pmatrix} \epsilon_x \\ \epsilon_y \\ \gamma_{xy} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{\partial \delta_x}{\partial x} \\ \frac{\partial \delta_y}{\partial y} \\ \frac{\partial \delta_x}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial \delta_y}{\partial x} \end{pmatrix}$$

where $\boldsymbol{\delta}$ is the **displacement** vector

- Relation between displacements and external forces (loads):

$$\mathbf{K}\boldsymbol{\delta} = \mathbf{F}$$

where \mathbf{F} is the vector of forces, \mathbf{K} is the **stiffness** matrix

Example: Planar strain-stress problem

- Basis functions \rightarrow used for interpolation of displacements

$$\delta(x, y) = a_1 + a_2x + a_3y$$

- Displacement values at nodes (x_i, y_i) , (x_j, y_j) , (x_k, y_k) :

$$\delta_i = a_1 + a_2x_i + a_3y_i$$

$$\delta_j = a_1 + a_2x_j + a_3y_j$$

$$\delta_k = a_1 + a_2x_k + a_3y_k$$

- Inverting the matrix (**C**):

$$\begin{pmatrix} a_1 \\ a_2 \\ a_3 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & x_i & y_i \\ 1 & x_j & y_j \\ 1 & x_k & y_k \end{pmatrix}^{-1} \begin{pmatrix} \delta_i \\ \delta_j \\ \delta_k \end{pmatrix}$$

Example: Planar strain-stress problem

- Shape functions:

$$\begin{pmatrix} N_i & N_j & N_k \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & x & y \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{C}^{-1}$$

- Using N_s , we can compute strain ϵ :

$$\begin{pmatrix} \epsilon_x \\ \epsilon_y \\ \gamma_{xy} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{\partial N_i}{\partial x} & 0 & \frac{\partial N_j}{\partial x} & 0 & \frac{\partial N_k}{\partial x} & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{\partial N_i}{\partial y} & 0 & \frac{\partial N_j}{\partial y} & 0 & \frac{\partial N_k}{\partial y} \\ \frac{\partial N_i}{\partial y} & \frac{\partial N_i}{\partial x} & \frac{\partial N_j}{\partial y} & \frac{\partial N_j}{\partial x} & \frac{\partial N_k}{\partial y} & \frac{\partial N_k}{\partial x} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \delta_i^x \\ \delta_i^y \\ \delta_j^x \\ \delta_j^y \\ \delta_k^x \\ \delta_k^y \end{pmatrix}$$

- Denoting the RHS matrix as \mathbf{B} :

$$\epsilon = \mathbf{B}\delta_e$$

where δ_e are displacement components

Example: Planar strain-stress problem

- Stress σ :

$$\sigma = \mathbf{DB}\delta_e$$

- Relation between the displacements and forces — use the principle of **virtual work**
- Infinitesimal displacements $\mathbf{d}\delta$ — compute the work dA

$$dA = \mathbf{d}\epsilon \cdot \sigma = \mathbf{d}\delta \mathbf{B}^T \sigma$$

- Plugging in the σ :

$$dA = \mathbf{d}\delta_e \mathbf{B}^T \mathbf{DB}\delta_e$$

- Virtual work of external forces = total work of internal stresses, hence:

$$\mathbf{d}\delta_e \cdot \mathbf{F} = \int_e \mathbf{d}\delta_e \mathbf{B}^T \mathbf{DB}\delta_e dV$$

Example: Planar strain-stress problem

- Equation holds for **any** displacement $d\delta_e$:

$$F = \int_e B^T D B \delta_e dV$$

- Nodal displacements δ_e constant
→ integral yields the **stiffness matrix**:

$$K = \int_e B^T D B dV$$

- Homogeneous material → integral reduces to:

$$K = B^T D B \frac{\det C}{2}$$

- Once K is computed, solve:

$$K\delta = F$$

Example: Planar strain-stress problem

- Problem ill-posed without constraints — whole body could be displaced
- The simplest constraint — stationary node
- Apply constraint on node i \rightarrow set force $\mathbf{F}_i = 0$ and elements of the stiffness matrix:

$$K_{ij} = \delta_{ij}$$

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- Automatic adaptive spatial resolution
- Easily extensible (not fixed to a particular problem)
- Simple to implement
- Generally slower compared to grid-based methods (grid has fixed topology, particle neighbors change over time)

Smoothed particle hydrodynamics

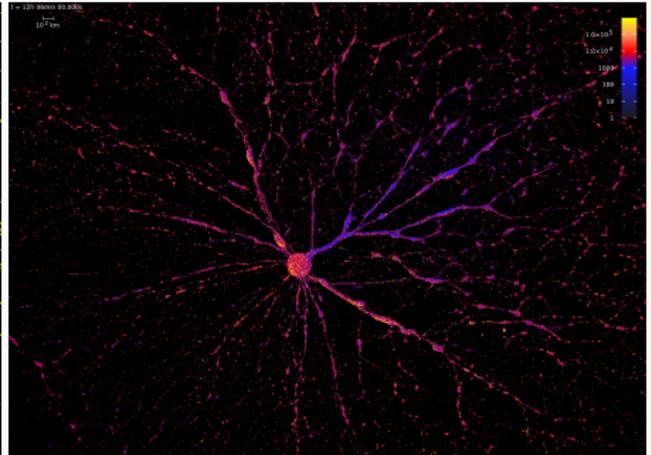
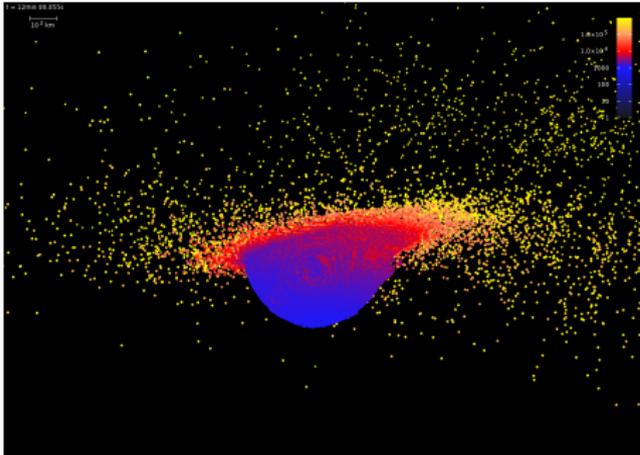
- Mainly used for solution of hydrodynamical equations
- Lagrangian method!
- Grid-less, no computational domain
→ suitable for problems where the domain is not *a priori* known
- Automatic adaptive spatial resolution
- Easily extensible (not fixed to a particular problem)
- Simple to implement
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- Comes in a lot of “flavors” (SSPH, CSPH, ASPH, GSPH, XSPH, δ -SPH, DISPH, ...)

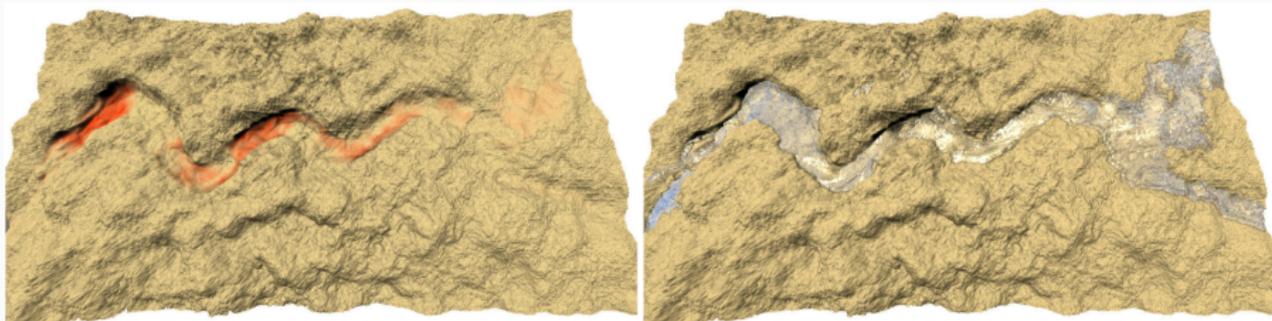
Motivation

Asteroid impact — fragments may end up “anywhere”



Motivation

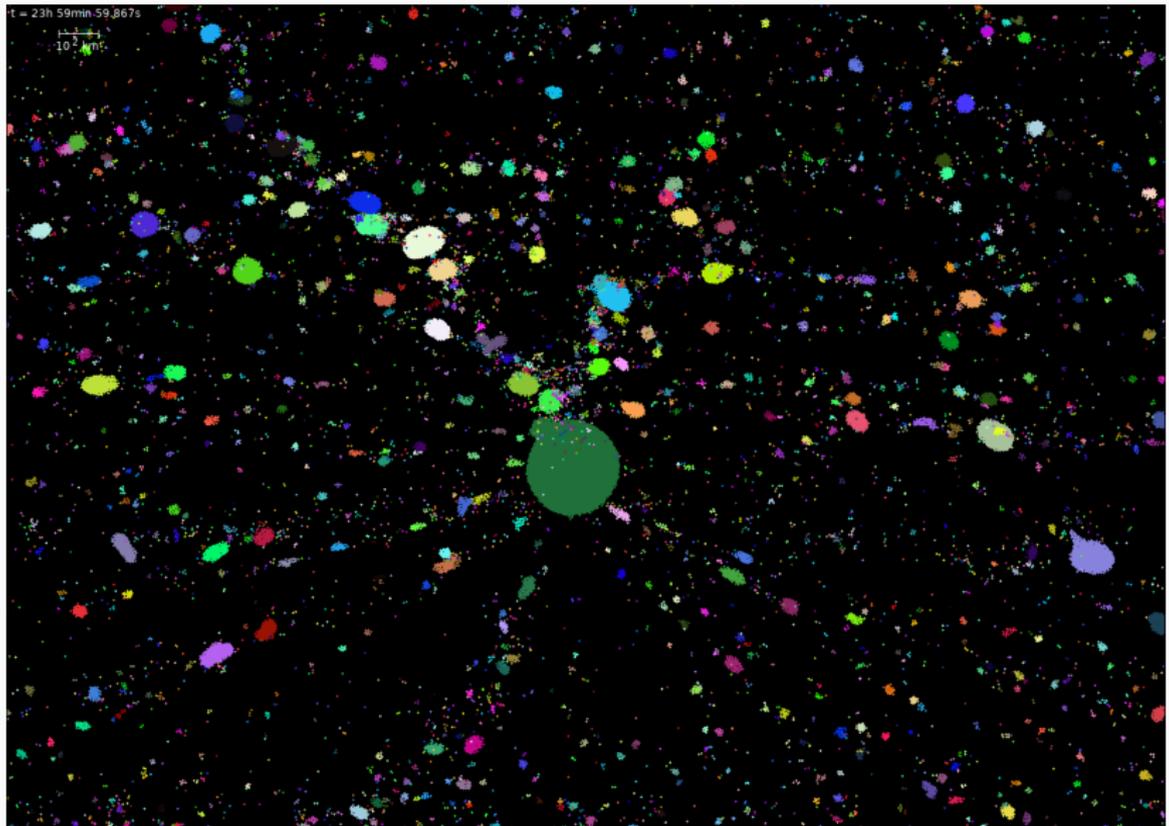
Hydraulic erosion — let the water carve the terrain



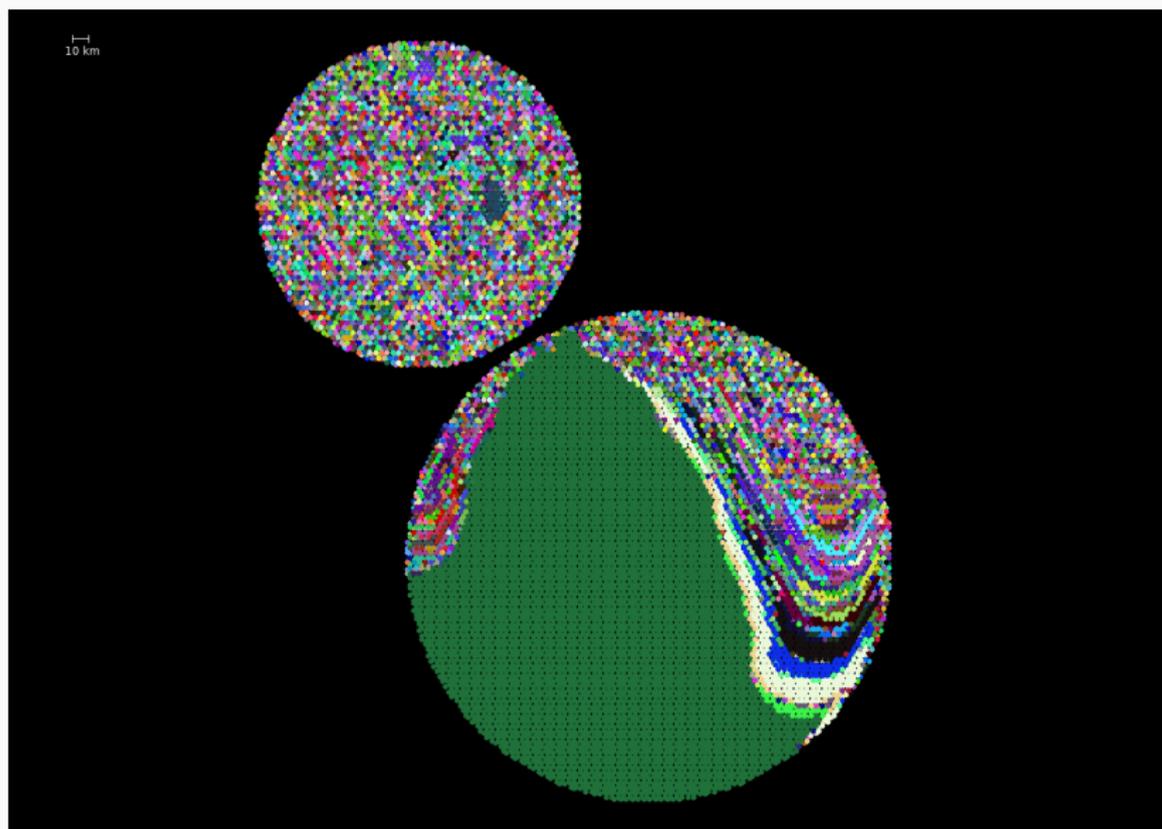
Motivation - tracers

- How does the end state relate to the initial configuration?
- Lagrangian methods: initial configuration is the reference, particles are not created nor destroyed, their “names” are fixed during simulation
- Eulerian methods: add **tracer** particles

Tracers



Tracers



Eulerian description

- Describes velocities (and other quantities) at fixed points in space
- “Person standing in river measuring the velocity of the water”

Eulerian description

- Describes velocities (and other quantities) at fixed points in space
- “Person standing in river measuring the velocity of the water”
- Mapping function using **immediate** configuration as reference:

$$\mathbf{r}_0 = \xi^{-1}(\mathbf{r}(t), t)$$

- Material derivative:

$$\frac{d\mathbf{v}}{dt} = \frac{\partial \mathbf{v}}{\partial t} + (\mathbf{v} \cdot \nabla)\mathbf{v}$$

Lagrangian description

- Describes velocities of pieces of continuum
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Lagrangian description

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- “Person on a boat measuring the velocity with GPS”
- Mapping function using **initial** configuration as reference:

$$\mathbf{r}(t) = \xi(\mathbf{r}_0, t)$$

- No need for the convective derivative:

$$\frac{d\mathbf{v}}{dt} = \mathbf{f}$$

Set of equations:

- Continuity equation — conservation of mass:

$$\frac{d\rho}{dt} + \rho \nabla \cdot \mathbf{v} = 0$$

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→ describes adiabatic inviscid fluid

Continuum mechanics: crash course

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- 5 variables, 4 equations → Equation of state (EoS):

$$P = P(\rho)$$

for example:

$$P = A \left(\frac{\rho}{\rho_0} - 1 \right)$$

- EoS is usually has **two** independent parameters
- Function of specific internal energy u :

$$P = P(\rho, u)$$

for example ideal gas:

$$P = (\gamma - 1)u\rho$$

- Thus we need to add **energy equation**:

$$\frac{du}{dt} = -\frac{P}{\rho} \nabla \cdot \mathbf{v}$$

- Function of specific entropy s :

$$P = K(s)\rho^\gamma$$

- Equation for the entropy function $K(s)$:

$$\frac{dK}{ds} = \frac{\gamma - 1}{\rho^{\gamma-1}} \left(\frac{du}{ds} - \frac{P}{\rho^2} \frac{d\rho}{ds} \right)$$

where

$$u = \frac{K}{\gamma - 1} \rho^{\gamma-1}$$

- Viscosity / material strength
- Navier-Stokes equation

$$\frac{d\mathbf{v}}{dt} = \frac{1}{\rho} \nabla \cdot \boldsymbol{\sigma}$$

where

$$\boldsymbol{\sigma} = -P\mathbf{I} + \mathbf{S}$$

- Constitutive equation — linearly depend on $\nabla \mathbf{v}$:

$$\boldsymbol{\sigma} = \lambda(\nabla \cdot \mathbf{v})\mathbf{I} + 2\mu\dot{\boldsymbol{\epsilon}}$$

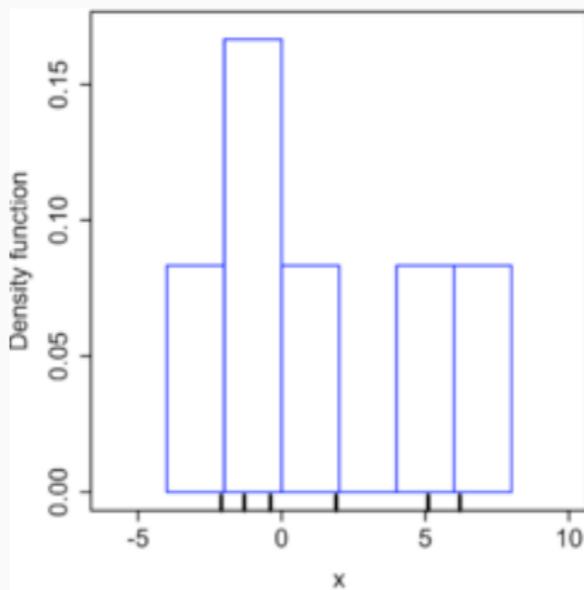
where λ and μ are **Lamé** parameters

Estimate probability from samples

- **Motivation:** We have set of samples from (unknown) probability distribution P
- Goal is to estimate P

Estimate probability from samples

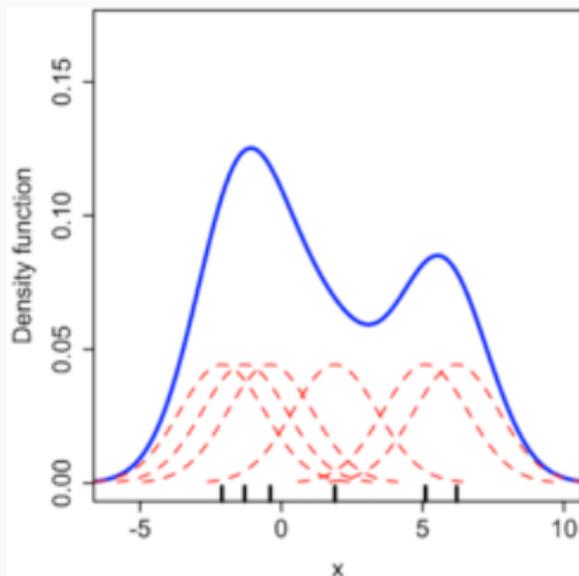
- **Motivation:** We have set of samples from (unknown) probability distribution P
- Goal is to estimate P
- Approach 1: construct a histogram



Estimate probability from samples

- Approach 2: estimate P as a sum of **kernel** functions placed at sample points, i.e.:

$$P(x) = \frac{1}{nh} \sum_{i=1}^n K\left(\frac{x - x_i}{h}\right)$$



Kernel density estimate

- Called kernel density estimate (Parzen window)
- Provides continuous (even C^∞) function
- Bandwidth h — controls precision vs. resolution (similarly to the bin size in histogram)
- Used frequently in statistics, signal processing, computer vision, ...

- Continuum representent by a set of particles
- Each particle has a fixed mass m_i

SPH — basic idea

- Continuum represented by a set of **particles**
- Each particle has a fixed mass m_i
- Density — similar to kernel density estimate:

$$\rho(\mathbf{r}) = \sum_i m_i W(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}_i, h_i)$$

where W is the **kernel** function and h is the **smoothing length**

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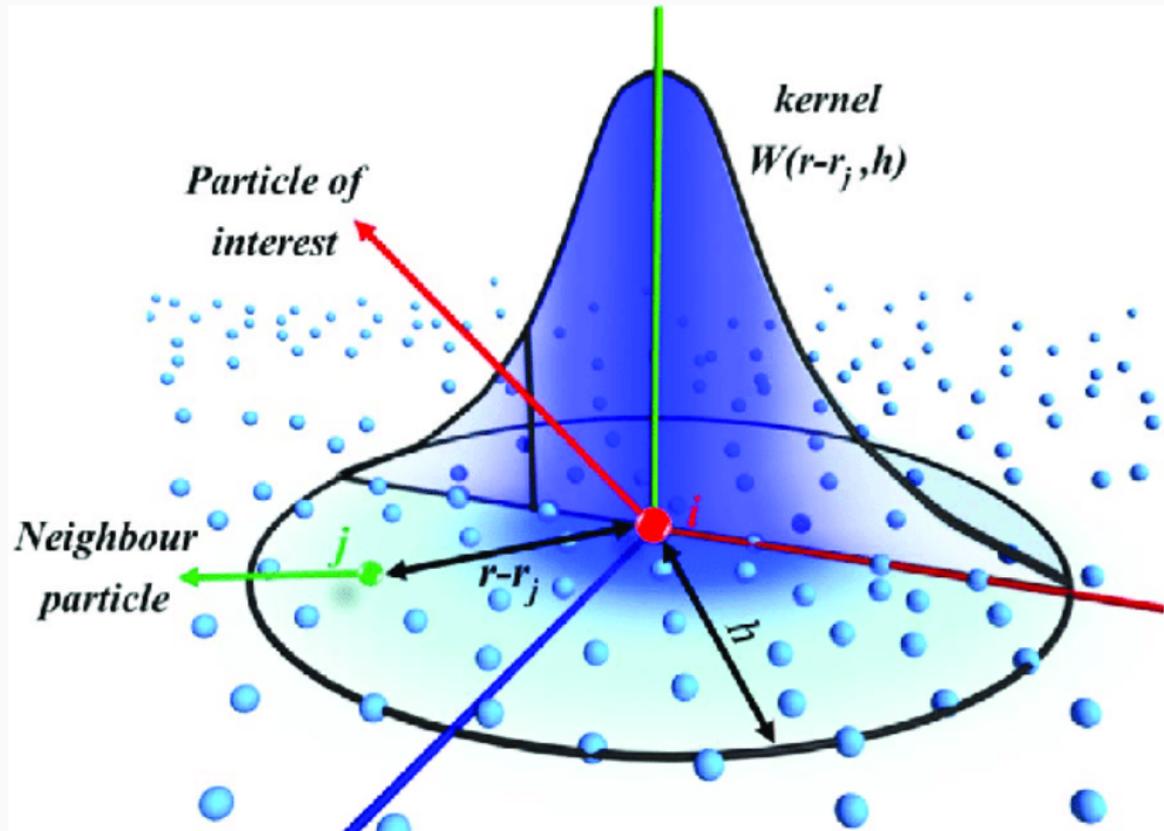
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- Smoothing length h_i — unit of spatial resolution, generally different for each particle

Smoothing kernel



Kernel properties

- Continuous & smooth
- Monotonic — density decreases with increasing distance
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thus:

$$\int W(\mathbf{r}) dV = 1$$

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thus:

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- Isotropy

$$W(\mathbf{r}) = w(\|\mathbf{r}\|)$$

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$$\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} W(\mathbf{r}, h) = \delta(\mathbf{r})$$

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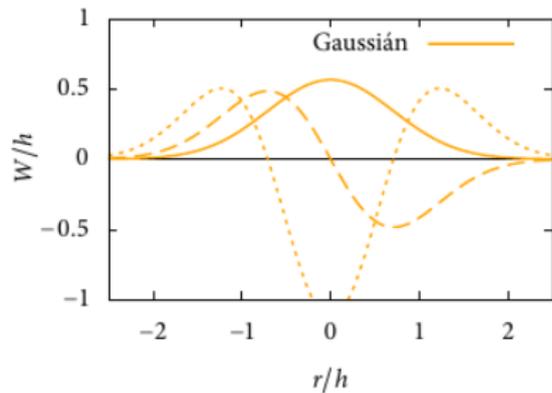
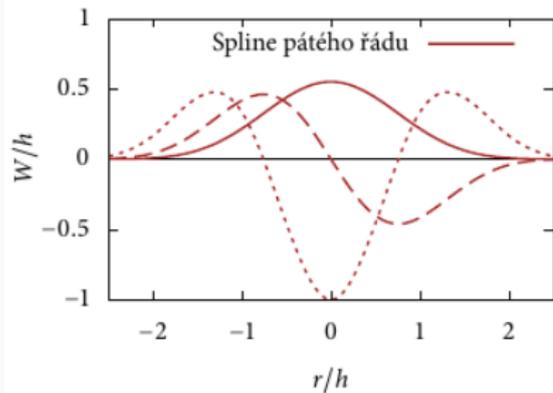
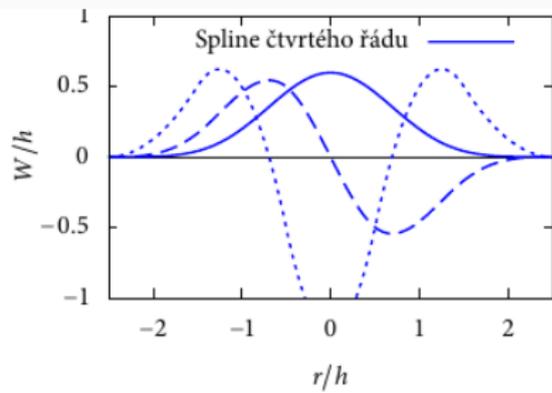
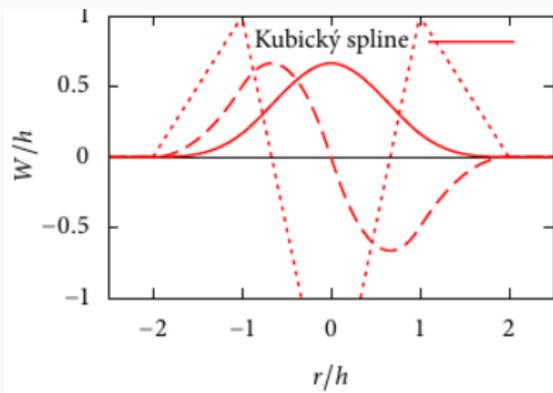
$$\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} W(\mathbf{r}, h) = \delta(\mathbf{r})$$

- Usually **finite** support — performance reasons
- Example**: Gaussian, Wendland functions
- Typically **piecewise polynomial**:

$$W(r, h) = \frac{\sigma}{h^3} \begin{cases} \frac{1}{4}(2 - q)^3 - (1 - q)^3, & 0 \leq q < 1, \\ \frac{1}{4}(2 - q)^3, & 1 \leq q < 2, \\ 0 & q \geq 2, \end{cases} \quad (1)$$

where σ is normalization constant

SPH kernels



SPH interpolation

- Start off with an identity:

$$A(\mathbf{r}) = \int A(\mathbf{r}')\delta(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}') dV'$$

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- Replace the volume element dV with $\frac{m_i}{\rho_i}$ — convert integral into a finite sum:

$$A(\mathbf{r}) \simeq \sum_i A_i \frac{m_i}{\rho_i} W(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}', h_i)$$

- Similarly discretize spatial derivatives:

$$\nabla A(\mathbf{r}) = \sum_i A_i \frac{m_i}{\rho_i} \nabla W(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}_i, h_i)$$

$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{A}(\mathbf{r}) = \sum_i \mathbf{A}_i \frac{m_i}{\rho_i} \cdot \nabla W(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}_i, h_i)$$

$$\nabla \times \mathbf{A}(\mathbf{r}) = \sum_i \mathbf{A}_i \frac{m_i}{\rho_i} \times \nabla W(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}_i, h_i)$$

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- Discretization error is of order $\mathcal{O}(h^2)$
- We can use this to discretize the equations:

$$\frac{d\mathbf{v}_i}{dt} = -\frac{1}{\rho_i} \nabla P_i \simeq -\frac{1}{\rho_i} \sum_j \frac{m_j}{\rho_j} P_j \nabla W(\mathbf{r}_j - \mathbf{r}_i, h_j)$$

Constant functions in SPH

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- **Problem 1:** Constant functions are no longer constant after discretization

$$\nabla C = C \sum_j \frac{m_j}{\rho_j} \nabla W_{ij} \neq \mathbf{0}$$

Constant functions in SPH

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- **Problem 1:** Constant functions are no longer constant after discretization

$$\nabla C = C \sum_j \frac{m_j}{\rho_j} \nabla W_{ij} \neq \mathbf{0}$$

- **Fix:** subtract “gradient of 1”

$$\nabla A = \nabla A - A \nabla 1 = \sum_j \frac{m_j}{\rho_j} A \nabla W_{ij} - A \sum_j \frac{m_j}{\rho_j} \nabla W_{ij} = \mathbf{0}$$

- Leads to discretization

$$\nabla A_i \longrightarrow \sum_j \frac{m_j}{\rho_j} (A_j - A_i) \nabla W_{ij}$$

Linear function in SPH

- Can be improved further — linear functions still linear after discretization
- Instead of **subtracting** a constant value, we multiply the kernel by a **correction tensor**:

$$\mathbf{C}_i = \left(\sum_j \frac{m_j}{\rho_j} (\mathbf{r}_j - \mathbf{r}_i) \otimes \nabla W_{ij} \right)^{-1}$$

- Leads to discretization:

$$\nabla A_i \longrightarrow \sum_j \frac{m_j}{\rho_j} (A_j - A_i) \mathbf{C} \nabla W_{ij}$$

- More precise at a cost of higher overhead (matrix inversion for each particle)

- Can we simply replace gradient with arbitrary discretization?
→ YES
- SPH has a lot of different gradients
- discretization error is always $\mathcal{O}(h^2)$
- So which one is the “correct” one?
- Problem dependent ...

Conservation of integrals

- **Problem 2:** Discretization does not conserve linear momentum, angular momentum, energy, ...

$$m_i \frac{d\mathbf{v}_i}{dt} \neq -m_j \frac{d\mathbf{v}_j}{dt}$$

- Derive conservative equations — use Lagrange's equations:

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial \mathbf{r}_i} - \frac{d}{dt} \left(\frac{\partial L}{\partial \mathbf{v}_i} \right) = 0$$

Consistent SPH equations

- Lagrangian $L = T - V$

$$L = \sum_j \left(\frac{1}{2} m_j \mathbf{v}_j^2 - m_j u_j \right)$$

where u_j is specific internal energy of j -th particle

- Internal energy — first law of thermodynamics:

$$dU = TdS - pdV$$

or in **intensive** quantities:

$$du = Tds + \frac{p}{\rho^2} d\rho$$

Consistent SPH equations

- Internal energy does not depend on velocity:

$$\frac{d}{dt} \left(\frac{\partial L}{\partial \mathbf{v}_i} \right) = \frac{d}{dt} \left(\sum_j \frac{1}{2} m_j \frac{\partial \mathbf{v}_j^2}{\partial \mathbf{v}_i} \right) = m_i \frac{d\mathbf{v}_i}{dt}$$

- First term — gradient of internal energy u :

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial \mathbf{r}_i} = - \sum_j m_j \frac{\partial u(\rho_j, s_j)}{\partial \mathbf{r}_i}$$

$$\frac{\partial u(\rho_j, s_j)}{\partial \mathbf{r}_i} = T_i \frac{ds_i}{d\mathbf{r}_i} + \frac{p_i}{\rho_i^2} \frac{d\rho}{d\mathbf{r}_i}$$

- Assuming **isentropic** process $ds = 0$

Consistent SPH equations

- Gradient of density with respect to position of i -th particle:

$$\frac{\partial \rho_j}{\partial \mathbf{r}_i} = \sum_k m_k \frac{\partial W_{jk}}{\partial \mathbf{r}_i} = \sum_k m_k (\delta_{ji} - \delta_{ki}) \nabla W_{jk}$$

- Equation of motion:

$$m_i \frac{d\mathbf{v}_i}{dt} = - \sum_j m_i m_j \left(\frac{P_i}{\rho_i^2} + \frac{P_j}{\rho_j^2} \right) \nabla W_{ij}$$

- Energy equation:

$$\frac{du_i}{dt} = \frac{P_i}{\rho_i^2} \sum_j m_j (\mathbf{v}_i - \mathbf{v}_j) \cdot \nabla W_{ij}$$

- Continuity equation:

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SPH equations — notes

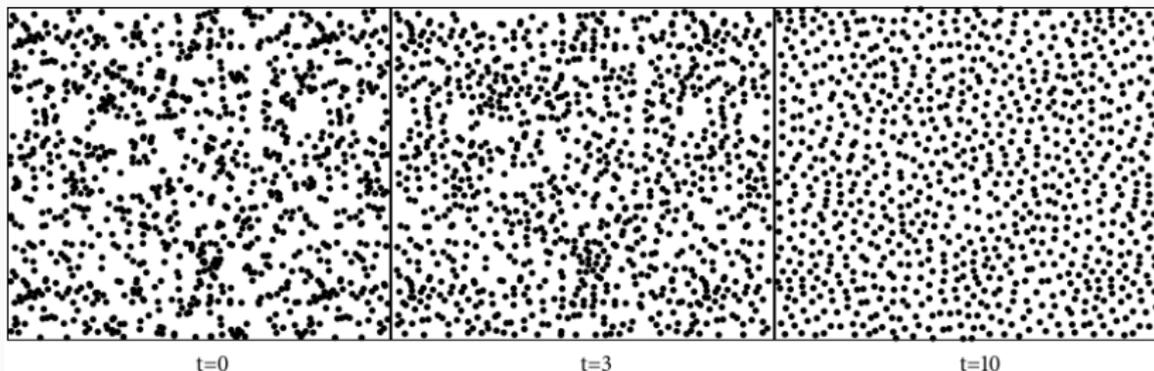
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→ generally non-zero acceleration even if $P = \text{const.}$
- Provides numerical repulsive force — regularization



- Conserves total linear momentum
- Conserves total angular momentum if no viscous forces are used
- Conserves total energy
- With viscous forces: angular momentum conservation can be improved by adding the correction tensor:

$$m_i \frac{d\mathbf{v}_i}{dt} = - \sum_j m_i m_j \left(\frac{P_i}{\rho_i^2} + \frac{P_j}{\rho_j^2} \right) \mathbf{C}_i \nabla W_{ij}$$

Smoothing lengths h

- Balances locality and discretization error
- Large smoothing lengths \rightarrow lot of neighbors, precise interpolation
BUT need more particle for the same spatial resolution
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 \rightarrow unfortunately no
- **Pairing instability** — when particle density exceeds critical value, numerical repulsive forces become **attractive**
- Leads to particles collapsing on top of each other — effectively losing **half** the spatial resolution

Adaptive spatial resolution

- Desirable to have large h in places with few particles, small h in places with a lot of particles
- Automatically balance h — “continuity equation”

$$\frac{dh_i}{dt} = \frac{h_i}{3} \nabla \cdot \mathbf{v}_i$$

- Major strength of SPH — adaptive mesh refinement is order of magnitude more difficult to implement

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- Shock waves, material interfaces, ...
- Particle interpenetration — velocity field becomes **multivalued**
- Solution is to smooth the discontinuity over several h s
- Add **artificial viscosity**:

$$\Pi_i = \sum_j m_j \frac{-\alpha \bar{c}_{ij} \mu_{ij} + \beta \mu_{ij}^2}{\bar{\rho}_{ij}} \nabla W_{ij}$$

where μ_{ij} is an approximation of $\nabla \cdot \mathbf{v}$:

$$\mu_{ij} = \frac{h(\mathbf{v}_i - \mathbf{v}_j) \cdot (\mathbf{r}_i - \mathbf{r}_j)}{\|\mathbf{r}_i - \mathbf{r}_j\|^2 + \epsilon h^2}$$

For each time step:

1. Compute P and c_s from EoS
2. Update smoothing lengths h_i , determine the search radius
3. Find neighbors of each particle
4. Loop over neighbors, compute sum $\nabla P, \nabla \cdot \mathbf{S}, \nabla \cdot \mathbf{v}, \dots$
5. Compute LHS: $\dot{\rho}, \dot{\mathbf{v}}, \dot{u}, \dots$
6. Integrate using predictor-corrector, RK4, ...
7. Using LHSs, determine new time step

SPH algorithm

The most basic SPH code:

```
for (float t = 0; t < duration; t += dt) {  
    // update pressure values using the equation of state  
    for (int i = 0; i < num_particles; i++) {  
        p[i] = eos(rho[i]);  
        dv[i] = divv[i] = drho[i] = 0;  
    }  
    // compute derivatives by summing up neighbor values  
    for (int i = 0; i < num_particles; i++) {  
        for (int j : neighbors(i)) {  
            Vector grad = kernel.gradient(r[i] - r[j], 0.5*(h[i] + h[j]));  
            divv[i] += m[j]/rho[j] * (v[j] - v[i]) * grad;  
            dv[i] += m[j]/rho[j] * (p[i]/rho[i] + p[j]/rho[j]) * grad;  
        }  
        drho[i] = -rho[i] * divv[i];  
    }  
    // integrate time-dependent quantities  
    for (int i = 0; i < num_particles; i++) {  
        r[i] += v[i] * dt;  
        v[i] += dv[i] * dt;  
        rho[i] += drho[i] * dt;  
    }  
}
```

Density evolution

Density is now given by two different equations

- Direct summation:

$$\rho_i = \sum_j m_j W_{ij}$$

- Continuity equation:

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- We can use either one

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Pros & cons:

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- Direct summation enforces smoothing of density field

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- Set of equations is then modified as:

$$\frac{d\rho_i}{dt} = \frac{1}{\Omega_i} \sum_j m_j (\mathbf{v}_i - \mathbf{v}_j) \cdot \nabla W_{ij}(h_i)$$

$$\frac{d\mathbf{v}_i}{dt} = - \sum_j m_j \left(\frac{P_i}{\Omega_i \rho_i^2} \nabla W_{ij}(h_i) + \frac{P_j}{\Omega_j \rho_j^2} \nabla W_{ij}(h_j) \right)$$

$$\frac{du}{dt} = \frac{P_i}{\Omega_i \rho_i^2} \sum_j m_j (\mathbf{v}_i - \mathbf{v}_j) \cdot \nabla W_{ij}(h_i)$$

Gradient of smoothing length

- Ensure momentum conservation — action and reaction principle
- Generally resolved by kernel **symmetrization**

Gradient of smoothing length

- Ensure momentum conservation — action and reaction principle
- Generally resolved by kernel **symmetrization**
- Symmetrize smoothing lengths:

$$W_{ij} \longrightarrow W(\mathbf{r}_i - \mathbf{r}_j, \frac{h_i + h_j}{2})$$

- Symmetrize kernels:

$$W_{ij} \longrightarrow \frac{W(\mathbf{r}_i - \mathbf{r}_j, h_i) + W(\mathbf{r}_i - \mathbf{r}_j, h_j)}{2}$$

Boundary conditions

- Difficult to realize arbitrary boundary condition
- “Implicit” BCs — $\rho(\mathbf{r}) = 0$ (vacuum BC)
- Alternatively, we can use **periodic** boundary conditions
- Reflecting boundaries?

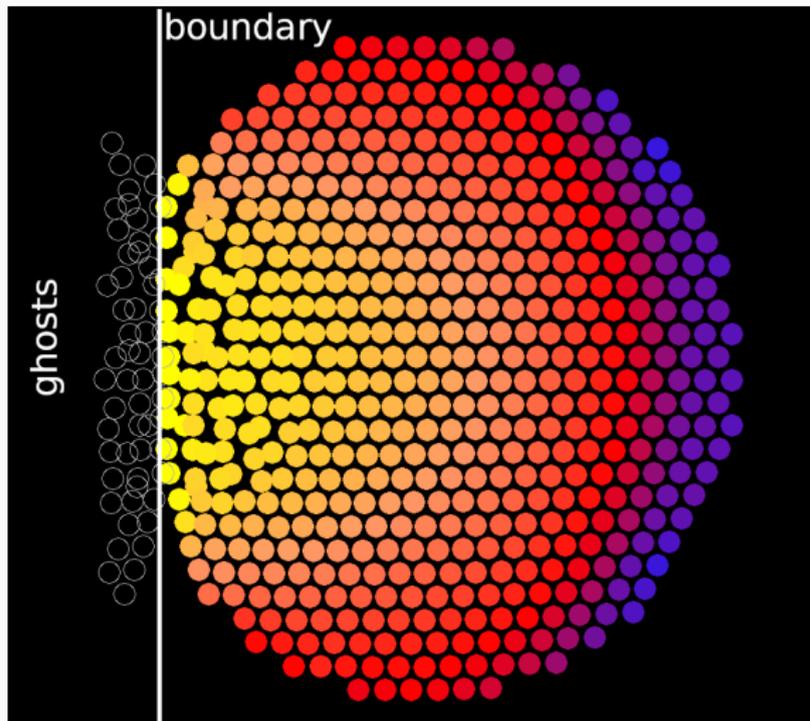
Boundary conditions

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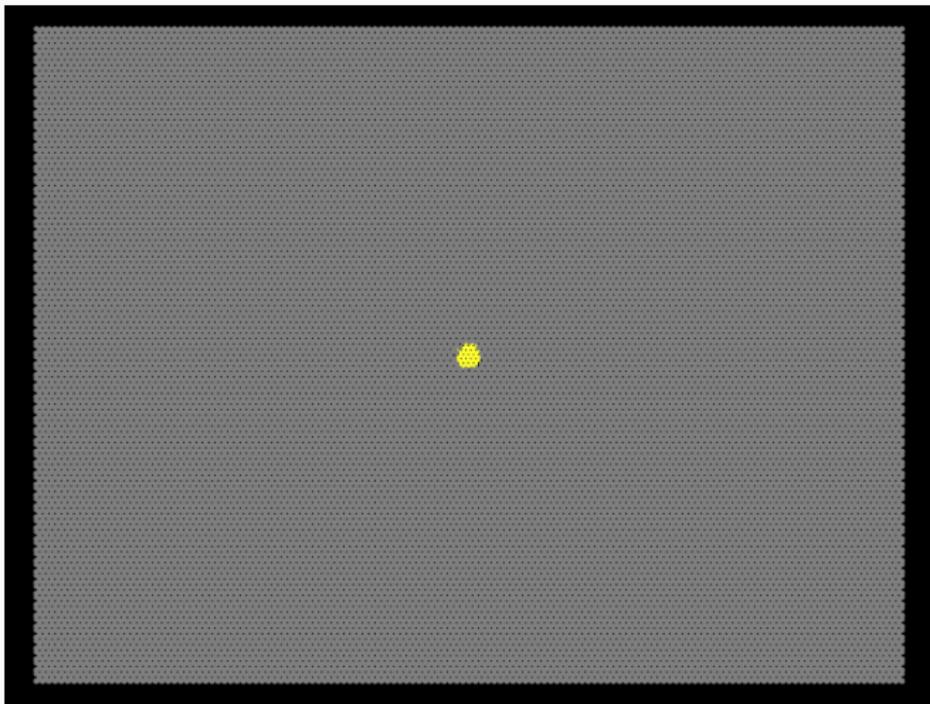
Boundary conditions

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- Alternatively, we can use **periodic** boundary conditions
- Reflecting boundaries?
- Create physical domain using particles — e.g. solid boundary interacting with fluid particles
- Or use **ghost** particles
→ create dummy particles symmetrically along the boundary

Ghost particles



Periodic boundary



Initial conditions

- We need to generate particles
- Particle positions \mathbf{r} , smoothing lengths h
+ other quantities (\mathbf{v} , ρ , u , ...)
- If $\rho_i = \rho_0$, then

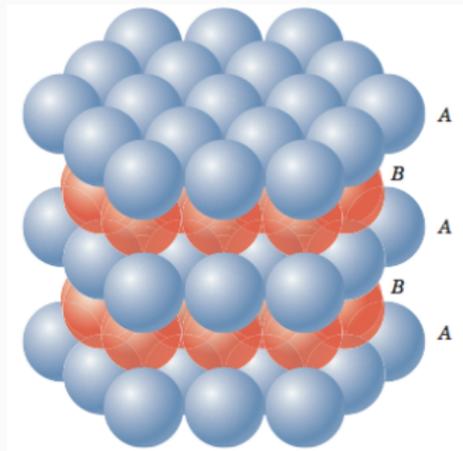
$$m_i = \frac{\rho_0 V}{N}$$

$$h_i = \left(\frac{V}{N} \right)^{\frac{1}{3}}$$

- Particle distribution?

Close hexagonal packing

- Distribute the particles in a hexagonal grid
- Easy to set up
- Stable — energy minimum
- Uniform, no particle disorder
- Not **isotropic** — may create numerical clumping, ...



Halton sequence

- Distribute particles using quasi-random number sequence
- Halton — low-discrepancy sequence
- n -th number of the sequence is n written in binary representation, inverted and written after the decimal point

$$\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{4}, \frac{3}{4}, \frac{1}{8}, \frac{5}{8}, \frac{3}{8}, \frac{7}{8}, \frac{1}{16}, \frac{9}{16}, \dots$$

- Multiple dimensions — use other base (prime), e.g.

$$\frac{1}{3}, \frac{2}{3}, \frac{1}{9}, \frac{4}{9}, \frac{7}{9}, \frac{2}{9}, \frac{5}{9}, \frac{8}{9}, \frac{1}{27}, \dots$$

- Worse interpolation — particle clumps

Blue noise distribution

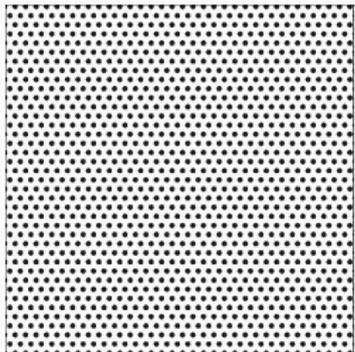
- Relaxation-based sampling
- Initially distribute particles (quasi-)randomly
- Compute **repulsive forces** — move particles away from each other:

$$\Delta \mathbf{r}_i \propto \frac{\mathbf{r}_i - \mathbf{r}_j}{\|\mathbf{r}_i - \mathbf{r}_j\|^3}$$

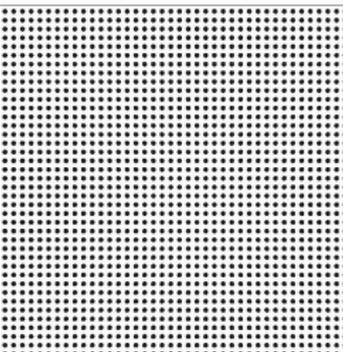
- Repeat until convergence
- Particles (almost) uniformly distributed
- Isotropic!
- More difficult to implement (especially with arbitrary domain shapes)

Particle distributions

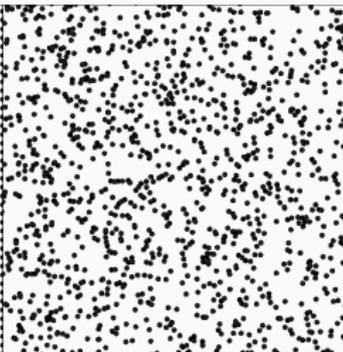
hexagonal grid



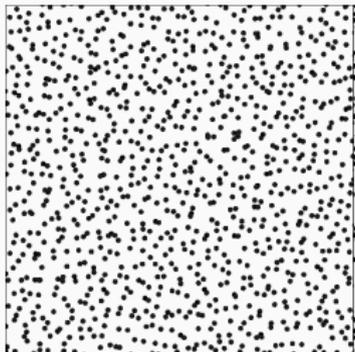
cubic grid



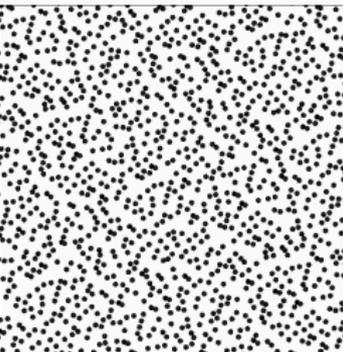
white noise



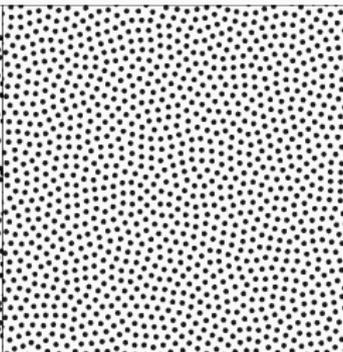
stratified



Halton

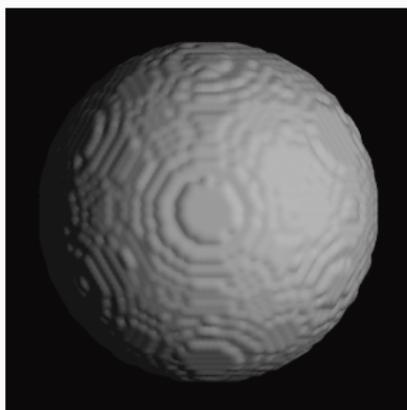
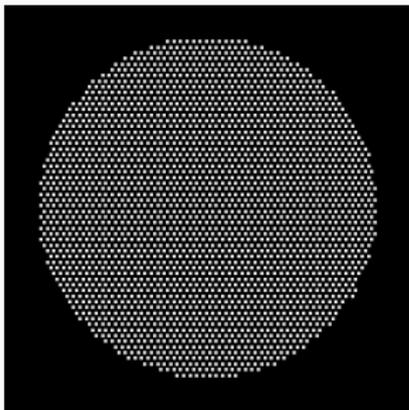


blue noise

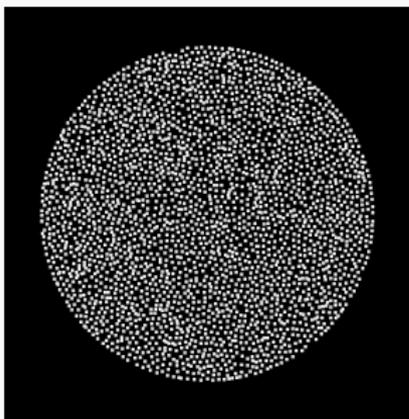


Initial conditions

Hexagonal grid



Isotropic distribution



- All terms either symmetric or antisymmetric in particle indices i and j

$$\frac{d\mathbf{v}}{dt} \propto \frac{p_i}{\rho_i^2} + \frac{p_j}{\rho_j^2}$$

$$\frac{du}{dt} \propto v_i - v_j$$

etc.

- Code optimization — terms can be computed only once and added into sums for particles i and j

SPH symmetry

- All terms either symmetric or antisymmetric in particle indices i and j

$$\frac{d\mathbf{v}}{dt} \propto \frac{p_i}{\rho_i^2} + \frac{p_j}{\rho_j^2}$$

$$\frac{du}{dt} \propto v_i - v_j$$

etc.

- Code optimization — terms can be computed only once and added into sums for particles i and j
- Cannot be used with the correction tensor \mathbf{C} — need to be computed before other derivatives, but all the sums are only partial
- Also more difficult to parallelize

Parallelization

- Asymmetric solver — we accumulate to each particle independently
→ embarrassingly parallel

```
#pragma omp parallel for
```

or

```
tbb::parallel_for(0, num_particles, [](int i) {
```

- Symmetric solver — we accumulate to both the particle and its neighbors → parallelization more complex
- For example: using **thread-local** sums or domain decomposition

Finding neighbors

How to find neighbors of particle i ?

- Check all particles — extremely inefficient (but correct, useful for tests)
- Look only in radius $2h_i$ — do we find all of them?

Finding neighbors

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- Check all particles — extremely inefficient (but correct, useful for tests)
- Look only in radius $2h_i$ — do we find all of them?

NO!

Symmetrized kernel uses $h = \frac{h_i + h_j}{2}$, it could be nonzero for $h_j > h_i$!

- Look in radius $2h_{\max}$ — again inefficient for big differences in h

Can we do better?

SPH symmetric solver

- Symmetric solver processes each pair i and j only once
- **Trick**: sort particles by their smoothing lengths h
- Since we know order of particles (in h), we can only look for neighbors with lower rank

→ each pair will be evaluated exactly once

→ symmetrized length $\frac{h_i+h_j}{2}$ will be always lower than h_i

We will not miss any neighbors!

- Cannot be used for antisymmetric solver — we need to find **all** neighbors :(

Second derivative in SPH

- Laplacian could be obtained using:

$$\nabla^2 A_i = \sum_j \frac{m_j}{\rho_j} A_j \nabla^2 W_{ij}$$

- Highly sensitive to particle disorder

Second derivative in SPH

- Laplacian could be obtained using:

$$\nabla^2 A_i = \sum_j \frac{m_j}{\rho_j} A_j \nabla^2 W_{ij}$$

- Highly sensitive to particle disorder
- Instead, we use approximation:

$$\nabla^2 A(\mathbf{r}) = \int 2 \frac{A(\mathbf{r}') - A(\mathbf{r})}{\|\mathbf{r}' - \mathbf{r}\|} (\mathbf{r}' - \mathbf{r}) \cdot \nabla W(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}')$$

- Discretization:

$$\nabla^2 A_i = -2 \sum_j \frac{m_j}{\rho_j} (A_j - A_i) \frac{(\mathbf{r}_i - \mathbf{r}_j) \cdot \nabla W_{ij}}{\|\mathbf{r}_i - \mathbf{r}_j\|^2}$$

Linear consistency

- Discretization from Lagrangian: velocity gradient $\nabla \mathbf{v}_i$ is corrected by constant
- Problem fixed only partially — now gradients of **linear** functions are generally not **constant** \rightarrow angular momentum not conserved
- Rotations misinterpreted as deformation

Linear consistency

- Discretization from Lagrangian: velocity gradient $\nabla \mathbf{v}_i$ is corrected by constant
- Problem fixed only partially — now gradients of **linear** functions are generally not **constant** → angular momentum not conserved
- Rotations misinterpreted as deformation
- We can still correct it at a cost of some computational overhead, using the correction tensor \mathbf{C} :

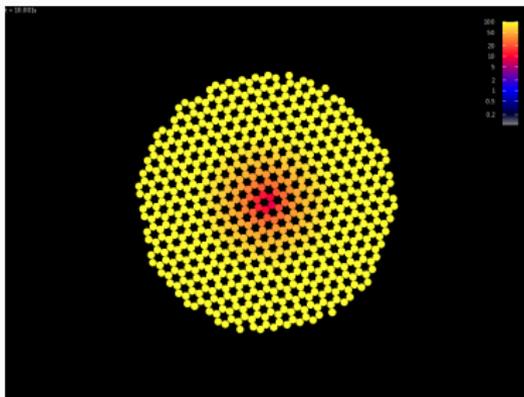
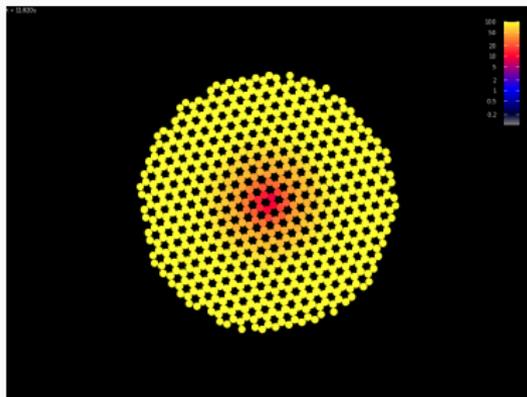
$$\mathbf{C}_i \equiv \left(\sum_j \frac{m_j}{\rho_j} (\mathbf{r}_j - \mathbf{r}_i) \otimes \nabla W_{ij} \right)^{-1}$$

- Then the velocity gradient is:

$$\nabla \mathbf{v}_i \equiv \sum_j \frac{m_j}{\rho_j} (\mathbf{v}_j - \mathbf{v}_i) \mathbf{C}_i \cdot \nabla W_{ij}$$

Linear consistency

Linear inconsistency can be neglected for short timescales, but it is essential for long-term evolution!



Tensile instability

Standard SPH not stable for negative pressure. To solve it:

- Fixed neighborhood for each particle

$$\frac{d\mathbf{v}_i}{dt} = - \sum_j m_j \left(\frac{P_i}{\rho_i^2} + \frac{P_j}{\rho_j^2} \right) \nabla W(\mathbf{r}_i^0 - \mathbf{r}_j^0)$$

(Lagrangian SPH)

- Useful to simulate **elastic** deformations — allows for large deformations without tensile instability
- Does not handle changes of **topology**

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(Lagrangian SPH)

- Useful to simulate **elastic** deformations — allows for large deformations without tensile instability
- Does not handle changes of **topology**
- Alternatively, add **artificial stress** $\zeta^{\alpha\beta}$

- Add extra term to equation of motion:

$$\zeta_i^{\alpha\beta} = \sum_j m_j R_{ij}^{\alpha\beta} f_{ij}^n$$

where $f_{ij} = W(\mathbf{r}_i - \mathbf{r}_j)/W(\Delta\rho)$, $\Delta\rho$ is the initial particle spacing, n is a fixed exponent

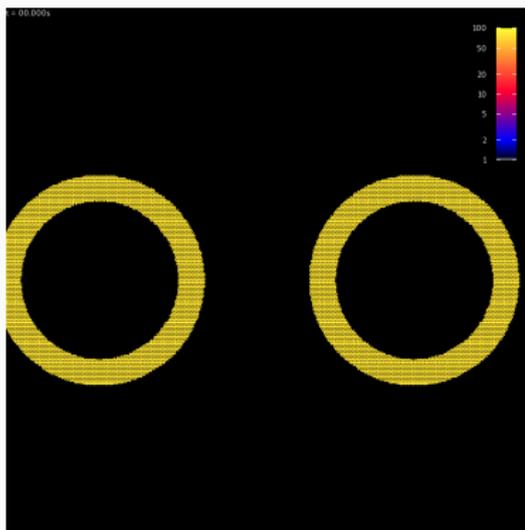
- Tensor $\mathbf{R}_{ij} = \mathbf{R}_i + \mathbf{R}_j$ is specified using principal axes of $\boldsymbol{\sigma}$ as:

$$R_i = -\epsilon \frac{\sigma_i}{\rho_i^2} \text{ if } \sigma_i > 0$$

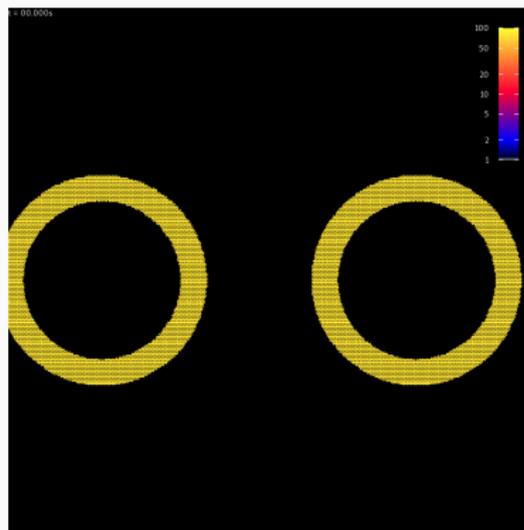
otherwise $R_i = 0$

Tensile instability

Standard SPH



With artificial stress



Neighbor search

- Simple timestep is generally $\mathcal{O}(N_{\text{part}}^2)$
— impossibly slow for $N_{\text{part}} > 1000$
- BUT kernel W usually has **compact support** — $N_{\text{neigh}} \ll N_{\text{part}}$
- Requires efficient search of neighbors
- Build an acceleration structure at the beginning of each time step
→ makes a single timestep $\mathcal{O}(N_{\text{part}} \log N_{\text{part}})$ or $\mathcal{O}(N_{\text{part}})$

Grid-based neighbor search

- Place particles into cells of a **grid**
- We can compute cell indices from the particle positions in $\mathcal{O}(1)$ — potential neighbors are in neighboring cells, depending on h_i
- Inefficient if particle concentration varies significantly (=useless for impact simulations)
- SPH no longer a “gridless method” :(

Grid-based neighbor search

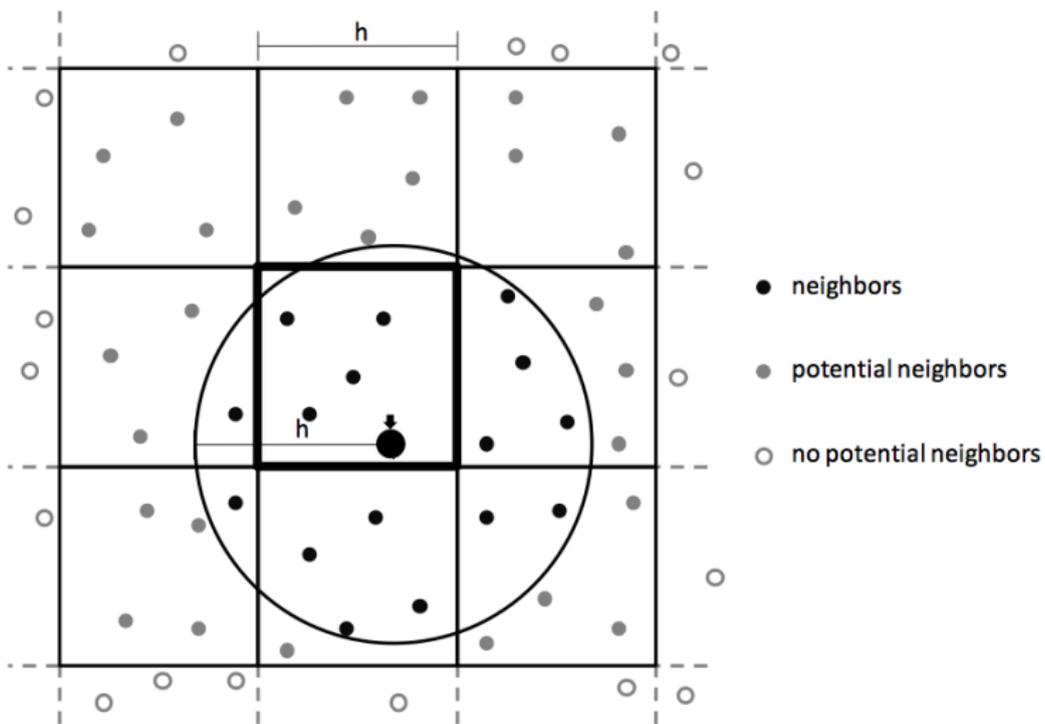
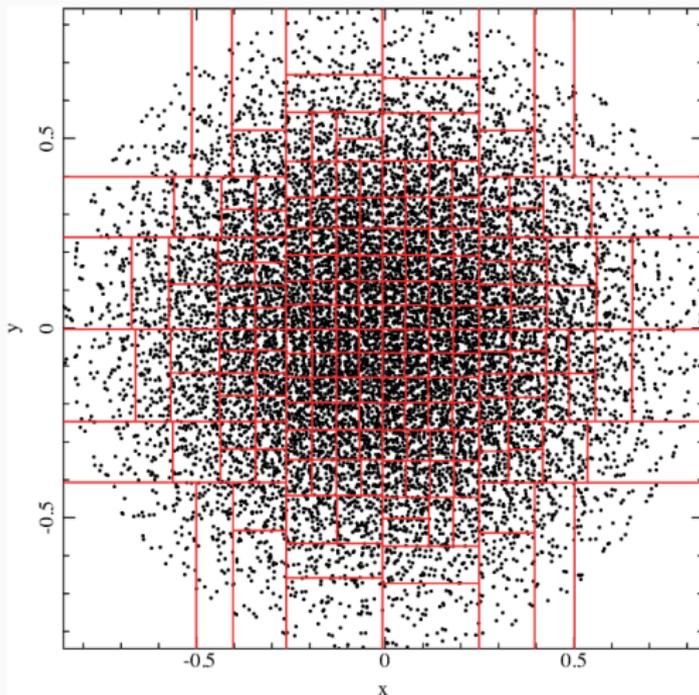


Figure 10: Grid based neighbour search

Tree-based neighbor search

- Cluster particles hierarchically into a tree (octree, K-d tree, ...)
- Neighbor lookup in $\mathcal{O}(\log N)$
- Tree might be also used for gravity evaluation — “2 in 1”



Surface handling in SPH

- SPH particles are volume elements
- Quantities continuously approach zero, where is the surface?

Surface handling in SPH

- SPH particles are volume elements
- Quantities continuously approach zero, where is the surface?
- We define the **color field**:

$$C(\mathbf{r}) \equiv \sum_j \frac{m_j}{\rho_j} W(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}_j)$$

For $N \rightarrow \infty$, $h \rightarrow 0$, color field $C = 1$ for the body and $C = 0$ for vacuum

- Then the surface of the asteroid is an **isosurface** $C(\mathbf{r}) = c_0$
- Construction of the surface: either convert to triangle mesh using **marching cubes** or find the intersection with rays using **raymarching** (depending on application)

Surface forces

- SPH normally computes volumetric forces
- Surface forces quite tricky, e.g. surface tension
- Surface area minimization term

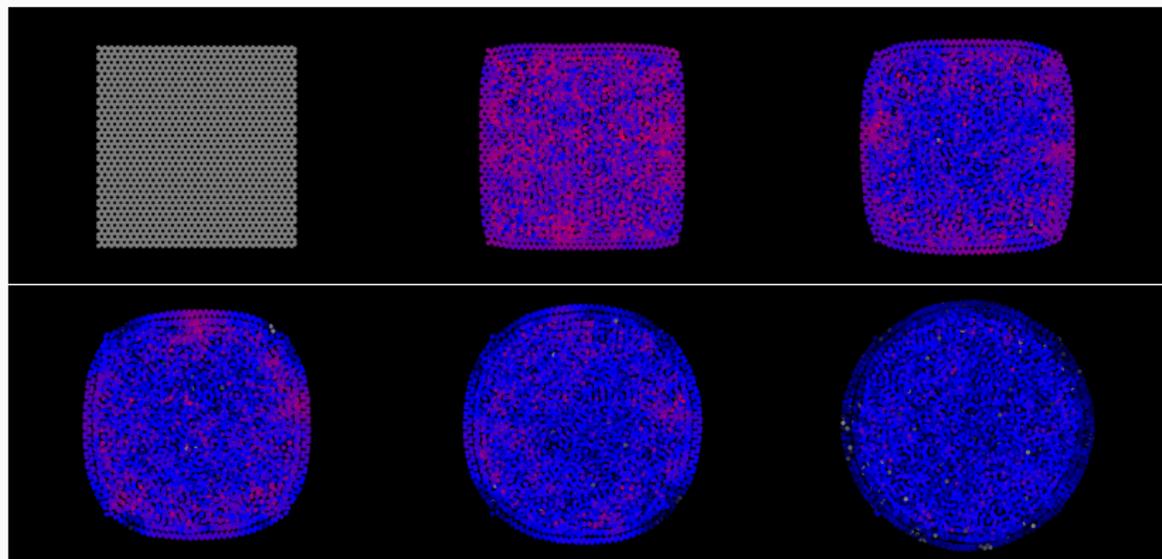
$$\mathbf{F}_i^{\text{surface}} = - \sum_j \gamma m_j (\mathbf{n}_i - \mathbf{n}_j)$$

where \mathbf{n}_i is the surface normal:

$$\mathbf{n}_i = h \sum_j \frac{m_j}{\rho_j} \nabla W_{ij}$$

and $\gamma \sim 1$

Surface tension



- `OpenSPH` — my humble contribution, mostly for impact modeling and N-body simulations
- `GADGET` — cosmological SPH/N-body simulations
- `Spheral` — hydrodynamical & gravitational numerical modeling
- `OpenFOAM` — large CFD package for engineering applications
- `DualSPHysics`
- ... and much more

- Mail: `sevecek@sirrah.troja.mff.cuni.cz`
- Code examples: `https://gitlab.com/sevecekp/pdesolvers`
- SPH code: `https://gitlab.com/sevecekp/sph`