Development of OpenFOAM-based libraries for massive parallel simulation of compressible turbulent flows in topologically changing meshes

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TOPICS:

- automatic Mesh Motion with Topological Changes
 - slidingInterface, layerAdditionRemoval, attachDetach
 - parallelisation of Topological Changes
 - constrained decomposition
- novel compressible topoSolvers: topoDyM family
- scale-adaptive RANS/LES turbulence modeling: DLRM
- examples of applications to Engineering problems
- conclusions

FRAMEWORK OpenFOAM[®]-2.4.x + in-house developed library

Prescribed mesh motion with topological changes



Domain shape is changing during the simulation according to a prescribed motion law:

- Motion is known and independent of the solution, usually only prescribed at boundaries
- Definition of moving mesh involves point position and mesh connectivity for every point and cell for every time-step of the simulation. This is typically defined with reference to a preprocessor or parametrically in terms of motion parameters (crank angle, valve lift curve, etc.)
- Solution-dependent mesh changes can be performed without affecting the motion: eg. mesh refinement



Solution-dependent mesh motion



External shape of the domain is unknown and a part of the solution:

- by definition, it is impossible to pre-define mesh motion;
- in all cases, it is the motion of the boundary that is known or calculated;
- automatic mesh motion determines the position of internal points based on boundary motion

Example: combustion of hybrid rocket motors (Aerospace)



Joint research with the *SPLab (Space Propulsion Laboratory)*, Aerospace Science and Technology Department, Politecnico di Milano (**Prof. Luciano Galfetti**)



Extended flow solver for dynamic moving grids (rhoPimpleDynFoam):

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \int_{V} \rho u_{i} dV + \int_{S} \rho u_{i} \left(\vec{v} - \vec{v}_{b} \right) \vec{n} dS = \int_{S} \left(\tau_{ij} \vec{i}_{j} - p \vec{i}_{i} \right) \vec{n} dS + \int_{V} \vec{b}_{i} dV$$

- when the location of the grid is known as a function of time, solution of the NS equations must account for convective fluxes, using the relative velocity components at the cell faces
- convective term is the "link" between the conservation equations and the mesh motion solver
- conservation of mass and energy with moving faces is not necessarily ensured if the grid velocity is not used to calculate mass fluxes

Some extensions to the basic solver are needed:

- a correction is applied to mass fluxes over the faces to enforce mass conservation for strong deformations of the grid within the timestep
- enhanced calculation of the contribution of the relative fluxes in the mesh motion solver, to make the solver formulation independent by the mesh motion strategy applied
- improved control on under-relaxation factors with transient solvers applied to problems with moving grids



Mesh motion with cell deformation/stretching or with multiple meshes (remapping):

- variations in the mesh size Δx affect the discretization error and the numerical accuracy;
- if the cutoff length Δx is tied to Δx, mesh refinement will also induce a decrease in Δ and make the subgrid model less influential on the results;
- how filtering behaves as cells increase in their mesh size is not trivial



- A dynamic variation of the filter size requires to find an **error estimate** and a **bound** for the algorithm, in order to guarantee a sufficient resolution of the grid to resolve the main turbulent scales of the engine



Development of a new accurate methodology for LES based on the so-called topologyModifiers to keep the filter size unchanged during mesh motion.



FEATURES:

- variations in the mesh size Δx are limited and localized on a small number of cells: filter width almost constant despite the mesh is moving!
- overall number of cells varies during the engine cycle
- SGS model less influential on the results since it is not interacting with mesh motion

Handling of non-conformal interfaces





For extreme cases of mesh motion, changing point positions is not sufficient to accommodate boundary motion and preserve mesh quality.

- Topological Changes on Polyhedral Meshes:
- Definition of a topological change: number or connectivity of points, faces or cells in the mesh changes during the simulation
 - slidingInterface, layerAdditionRemoval, attachDetach
- Motion can be handled by the FVM with no error (moving volume), while a topological change requires additional algorithmic steps

dynamicMesh: non-conformal interfaces





- SUPERMESH APPROACH (AMI): vertex-based solution using a bounded Galerkin projection over a virtual triangulated surface mesh
 - allows to avoid updates in mesh change every time step;
 - optimized solution with full overlap of fluid regions;
 - not stable with partial overlap of mesh regions.
- TARGET MESH APPROACH (slidingInterface): coupling/decoupling of mesh regions based on polyhedral cells support.
 - updating the mesh topology updated anytime the algorithm operates;
 - no specific treatment for interpolation of fluid-dynamic quantities over the supermesh.

Adaptive LES of ICE







Time: -66 CA-deg ATDCE



Examples of application on the TCC Engine. Dynamic addition/removal of cell layers during:

- piston motion: cell layer over the piston head is removed/added during compression/expansion
- valve motion: cells are added/removed both in the valve seat and on the valve bottom

A wide set of tools for case setup (automatic extraction and automatic decomposition over multiple processors of faceSets/cellSets) for dynamic layerAR has been implemented.

Adaptive LES of IC engines





- grids at different time steps differs only for layers of hexahedral cells;
- initial skewness and non-orthogonality preserved during the whole engine cycle;
- almost no cell deformation and no re-meshing are present;
- SGS filter cell size does not change during the engine cycle

Moving mesh based on topological changes

ADVANTAGES:

- decoupling of mesh morphology in different mesh regions
- initial mesh quality preserved during the all simulation
- high quality results
- faster convergence of the solver
- significantly reduced simulation time

DRAWBACKS:

- requires advanced numerical solvers
- not-easy initial setup





Adaptive LES of IC engines





WHAT IS NEEDED:

Automatic Mesh Motion with Parallel Topological Changes

- slidingInterface to handle non-conformal interfaces
- layerAdditionRemoval of multiple layers of cells
- attachDetach to simulate valve opening/closure event

Solver

- motionSolver for topologically changing meshes
- topoEngineFoam to handle topologically changing and moving meshes



Dynamic mesh handling is available and well established in the official version of OpenFOAM:

- Grid points moved by means of an automatic mesh motion solver
- Mesh to mesh interpolation
- AMI (Arbitrary Mesh Interpolation)
- layerAdditionRemoval (basic features)
- snappyHexMesh: automatic mesh generator

Implementation and operation of **dynamic mesh handling BASED ON TOPOLOGICAL CHANGES** is strictly dependent on the mesh handling strategy of the code:

- foam-extend-3.1 (released by the Extend Community): mesh definition contains all the topological changes performed during the simulation as a set of faces, cells and points labeled as "inactive".
- OpenFOAM (released by the OpenFOAM Foundation): mesh definition contains the topology of the current calculation only. Additional information about the topological changes is stored separately → official releases by OpenCFD are not configured to allow for the decoupling of the mesh through an interface.



Dynamic mesh handling is available and well established in the official version of OpenFOAM®:

- Grid points moved by means of an automatic mesh motion solver
- Mesh to mesh interpolation
- AMI (Arbitrary Mesh Interpolation)
- layerAdditionRemoval (basic features)
- snappyHexMesh: automatic mesh generator

Author's choice: implementation compatible with OpenFOAM® by OpenCFD®

In **REQUIRED FEATURES**:

- very general implementation \rightarrow must be compatible:
 - to any distribution of OpenFOAM[®] (released by the Foundation) also for non-engine applications (spray nozzles, extAero, renewable energy, etc);
 - with any solver/application/utility (VOF, multiphase,...) already available in OpenFOAM[®], without modifications.

NOTE: a *similar* theory (but completely different technology, implementation and operation) is available in *foam-extend-3.1*; **porting is not possible**.

dynamicMesh class: requirements (1)





FLEXIBILITY

- point motion algorithm must be as general as possible;
- extension to 'new' components must require little programming;
- implementation must be transparent to the final user

EFFICIENCY (\rightarrow paper available soon for download at https://imem.cray.com/)

- small overhead on the overall computation
- must run in parallel and provide good scalability

dynamicMesh class: requirements (2)



ACCURACY

- cell quality must not degrade as grid changes;



- $CA = -180^{\circ} ATDC$ $CA = -90^{\circ} ATDC$ $CA = 0^{\circ} ATDC$
- it must coupled with a robust and accurate flow solver



- SPEED
 - it must be very fast!

dynamicMesh class: inheritance and collaboration





- management of topoChanges (definition, parallelization/synchronization, variables interpolation) implemented at low-level (class topoManager)
- engine class: any extension can be easily done by adding new physical components (valves, ports)
- implementation of new 'components' requires only the point motion law
- mesh motion functionality supported by ALL the solvers of the code

Test case: TCC engine





http://www.sandia.gov/ecn/engines/engineFlows/TCCEngine/engGeo.php

- spark-ignition engine, set up at the University of Michigan
- a two-valve head and a pancake-shape combustion chamber
- optical data available through the Engine Combustion Network (ECN)

The TCC optical engine represents a perfect test-case for the validation of:

- algorithms for moving mesh (slidingInterface, layerAdditionRemoval)
- models and solvers for LES

Dynamic grids with topological changes





- 1. Point motion without topological change
- 2. Point insertion (removal)
- 3. Face insertion (cell split)
- 4. Face removal (cell merge)





Topology modifiers

- 1. sliding interface
- 2. layer addition/removal
- 3. attach/detach boundary

Revised structure of the dynamic mesh class

- topological changes completely transparent to the mesh motion solver
- automatic case setup with topological changes
- topoManager class: very flexible and fully object-oriented implementation



Disconnected, but adjacent, mesh domains can be stationary or move relative to one another.



- tested on IC Engines, rotating machinery, external aerodynamics and on several simulations involving partially/fully overlapping mesh regions.
- only possible way to simulate relative motion between partially overlapping regions connected by non conformal-interfaces.





slidingInterface is a technique that allows simulation across disconnected, but adjacent, mesh domains, that can be stationary or move relative to one another.

- When coupling the interface, old topology must be stored for later decoupling;
- Decoupling of the interface is not supported in the official distribution of the code, that does not retain any information about removed entities: hence, interface coupling is always irreversible;





slidingInterface is a technique that allows simulation across disconnected, but adjacent, mesh domains, that can be stationary or move relative to one another.

- mesh regions are connected through non-conformal interfaces, preserving the overall mesh quality;
- Connection algorithms works automatically during mesh motion;
- Second order interpolation of face-fluxes over the interface;
- fully parallelised and integrated into boundary patch classes.

The present implementation works only with the mesh definition of the code released by the OpenFOAM[®] Foundation. (\rightarrow SAE 2013-24-0027)







Recent development and improvements:

- improved robustness of the algorithm when non-conformal interfaces are generated through Third-Party software
- improved calculation of mesh fluxes during point merging/splitting, for enhanced conservation of the variables
- novel algorithm for the calculation of stickOut faces, based on their sharedPoints → improved stability with very complex/hybrid non-conformal interfaces (example: spark-plug)
- low-level definition of topology modifiers \rightarrow topological changes are transparent to the user during novel mesh motion solver implementation

slidingInterface: two stroke engines











The layerAdditionRemoval mesh modifier:

- adds/removes dynamically one or more layers of cells as a consequence of a moving boundary (piston, valves)
- only one layer of cells undergoes actual deformation: global mesh quality is preserved
- Deforming layer does not have to lie on the moving boundary: constant aspect ratio of nearwall cells

layerAdditionRemoval



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Extensions to the official version of the layerAdditionRemoval class:

- variable topology-driven time-stepping to ensure grid consistency
- decomposePar: extension of the scotch algorithm for **automatic decomposition** of the mesh, to comply with the constraints of the topology modifiers
- run-time update of faceZones crossing a cellZone where layerAR is triggered
- synchronization of layerAR through processor boundaries
- checking for boundary proximity: automatic deactivation near the physical mesh boundaries to prevent topological inconsistency

attachDetach



attachDetach mesh modifier is applied to simulate the valve closure event and it consists in a reversible interface between two conformal mesh regions.



Enhancements:

- extension: face matching calculated on the basis of point projection (strategy based on the <u>slidingInterface algorithm</u>)

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Topological changes cannot occur across a processor interface:

- each sliding patch pair must be on the same processor mesh
- the same constraint applies for attachDetach
- in layerAR region all processor patches must be perpendicular to cutting faces
- Domain decomposition has to be complemented with new algorithms to account for the added constraints



Parallel decomposition







Constrained decomposition

- Best results using automatic decomposition algorithms (METIS, Scotch)
- Modified decomposePar with layer AR decomposition
- Fully automatic setup provided by shell scripts

Vertical-Axis Wind Turbines (VAWT)



- Axial blocks have non-conformal interfaces (greater flexibility)
- Static non-conformal interfaces generated by stitching



Stitch 1: turbine upper part





Stitch 2: blade-link plate





Dynamic mesh for external aerodynamics





Simulation of overtake maneuver

- layerAdditionRemoval on car front and back;
- fixed cells around car;
- slidingInterface on mesh middle section

The topoDyMFoam family



Improved algorithm for the compressible dynamic solver:

✓ strict coupling between energy with pressure equation





enhanced flux correction after topological change (or remapping):

$$abla^2 p_{\mathsf{corr}} +
abla \cdot ig[
ho(\mathbf{x^{n+1}}, t^n) \mathbf{u}(\mathbf{x^{n+1}}, t^n) ig] dt = 0$$




Conservation of momentum and energy through the non-conformal interface with layerAR (fields are NOT interpolated during post processing).



460 CA-deg ATDCE

Whatever software you are using, please always check if energy (i.e. T) is conserved over the faces where topological changes (layerAR, slidingInterface, attachDetach) occur!

Compressible solver: validation





Adiabatic compression/expansion of air by a piston in a constant vessel: comparison between simulations and theory

- piston speed: 2000 RPM
- vol. compr. ratio r=10
- initial cond: p=101325 Pa, T=292 K
- theory: $p V^k = const$
- Mass conserved within 10⁻⁵ of relative error



TCC: mesh motion





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From what we have seen, EVERY equation is solved by a linear system AX=B, where the size of vectors and matrices is proportional to the mesh size.



A common way in CFD to solve governing equations (mass+momentum) is by the PISO (Pressure implicit with splitting of operator) algorithm:

- segregated solver
- momentum and mass solved sequentially
- pressure-velocity coupling is achieved by iterations

Flux interpolation: influence on the solution





Horizontal line for profile comparison

- steady-state solver
- Perfect orthogonal cartesian mesh
- 2nd order linear schemes for temporal discretization and diffusion terms
- different flux interpolation (2nd order) for convection





Lid-driven cavity case (Re=5000)





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NACA012 airfoil





Gregory, N. and O'Reilly, C. L., Low-Speed Aerodynamic Characteristics of NACA 0012 Aerofoli Sections, including the Effects of Upper-Surface Roughness Simulation Hoar Frost, NASA R&M 3726 (1970).

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NACA012 airfoil





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NACA012 airfoil





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- Model switches between URANS and LES on the basis of a criterion:
 - ... whether cell lies on a wall (DES)
 - ... whether distance from wall is below a threshold (hybrid RANS-LES)
 - ... local mesh resolution (filtered model)
- Fine mesh resolution is used only in regions really requiring it: strong unsteadiness, curvature, free shear
- almost-steady regions are solved by RANS (boundary layers, jet cores, channel flow, etc)



A. Montorfano et al., Comparison of Direct and Large Eddy Simulations of the Turbulent Flow in a Valve/Piston assembly, Flow, Turbulence and Combustion, 2015. DOI 10.1007/s10494-015-9620-6



- Switch between modeling (RANS) and the resolving (LES) the turbulent length scales;

Local resolvable length scale (LES):

$$\Delta_f = \max(\Delta_{eq}, \ \alpha |\mathbf{U}| \Delta t)$$

- Locally minimum resolvable scale:

$$\ell_t = \min\{L_t, \Delta_f\}$$

- Resulting formulation of the eddy viscosity¹

$$g \equiv \left(rac{\ell_t}{L_t}
ight)^{2/3}$$

¹ F. Piscaglia, A. Montorfano and A. Onorati. "A Scale Adaptive Filtering Technique for Turbulence Modeling of Unsteady Flows in IC Engines". SAE paper 2015-01-0395

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 $\mu_t = g^2 \rho \frac{k}{2}$

Local integral length scale (RANS):

$$L_t \sim k^{1/2}/\omega$$



Resulting turbulent viscosity smoothly changes from RANS to LES depending on the local resolvable scales compared to problem's turbulence lengthscale

$$\mu_t = g^2 \rho \frac{k}{\omega}$$
$$g \equiv \left(\frac{\ell_t}{L_t}\right)^{2/3}$$



$$- \ell_t = L_T \Rightarrow g^2 = 1$$

$$\mu_t = \rho k/\omega \qquad (RANS)$$

$$- \ell_t = \Delta_f \Rightarrow g^2 < 1$$

$$\mu_t < \mu_{t,RANS} \qquad (LES)$$

$$- \lim_{\Delta_f \to 0} g^2 = 0$$

$$\mu_t \to 0 \qquad (DNS/ILES)$$



$$\Delta_f = \max(\Delta_{eq}, \ \alpha |\mathbf{U}| \Delta t)$$

limited by space discretization

We define the LSR index: 1

$$\mathsf{LSR} = \frac{\bar{\Delta}}{\ell_{di}}$$

LES is (almost) complete if

$$\mathsf{LSR} \leq \mathsf{LSR}_{\mathsf{max}} pprox 5 \div 7$$

Therefore:

$$\Delta_{eq} = \mathsf{LSR}_{max} \cdot \ell_d$$

limited by time discretization

Distance covered by fluid particle in a timestep:

$$\Delta x = |\mathbf{U}| \Delta t$$

... in relation with cell size:

(

$$CFL = rac{|\mathbf{U}|\Delta t}{\Delta x}$$

too a high CFL limits the turbulence timescale:

$$\alpha = \frac{\mathsf{CFL}_{\mathsf{max}}}{\mathsf{CFL}_{\mathsf{local}}}$$

¹ F. Piscaglia, A. Montorfano, A. Onorati, F. Brusiani. Oil & Gas Science and Technology, IFPEN, Vol.69, 2014

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Validation: flow around poppet valve





EXPERIMENTS:

- Simple IC engine geometry: one axis-centered valve, expansion ratio=3.5
- Mean velocity at the inlet: 65 m/s ($Ma \approx 0.1$)
- LDA measurements @ z=20 mm and z=70 mm
 - axial mean flow velocity
 - velocity fluctuations (radial and tangential direction)

L. Thobois, G. Rymer, T. Soulères, and T. Poinsot. "Large-eddy simulation in IC engine geometries". SAE Technical Paper 2004-01-1854, 2004.

Validation: flow around a poppet valve





F. Piscaglia, A. Montorfano and A. Onorati. "A Scale Adaptive Filtering Technique for Turbulence Modeling of Unsteady Flows in IC Engines". SAE paper 2015-01-0395

DLRM: resolved scales





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Square piston with guillotine valve



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DLRM turbulence model (\rightarrow SAE 2015-01-0395) of topologically changing grids



Square piston with guillotine valve



















DURINE 56 (CA)





Experiment: 73 (CA)

DIRM 23 (CA)











Experiment: 185 (CA) DLRM: 185 (CA) Experiment: 247 (CA) DURNE 247 (CA) Experiment: 276 (CA) DURM: 276 (CA)



LES of engine-like geometries in OpenFOAM





A. Montorfano, F. Piscaglia, M. Schmitt, C.E. Frouzakis, A. G. Tomboulides, K. Boulouchos and A. Onorati. "Comparison of direct and large eddy simulations of the turbulent flow in a valve/piston assembly", Flow, Turbulence and Combustion, Springer. In Press, 2015.







- Wind upstream velocity V₀ = 14.2 m/s
- Wind rotational speed Ω = 41.44 m/s
- Tip speed ratio $\lambda = \Omega R/U = 1.5$













DLRM

$$k - \omega$$
 SST







Vertical Axis Wind Turbines



Turbulent Kinetic Energy (TKE)









k [m2/s2] 1.e+02

0.01

Vertical Axis Wind Turbines





$$k - \omega$$
 SST

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VAWT: aerodynamic coeffs





LES modeling of Liquefying Hybrid Propellants

chromoFoam (Combustion of Hybrid ROcket MOtors)

PIMPLE (merged PISO+SIMPLE) solver with dynamic mesh and layering for solid propellant and turbulent diffusion flames with reacting Lagrangian parcels, surface film and pyrolysis modeling



- Dynamic mesh modeling of the propellant corrosion driven by surface regression rate
- LES turbulence modeling of the fluid flow
- Surface-film modeling (propellant gasification, droplet entrainment)
- **Heat-transfer modeling** at the propellant's interfaces (fluid-liquid, liquid-solid)



Joint project with the SPLab (Space Propulsion Laboratory), Aerospace Science and Technology Department, Politecnico di Milano (Prof. Luciano Galfetti)



The initial mesh (TDC, closed valves) can be done:

- by open-source code (example: snappyHexMesh+bash scripting)
- any commercial mesh generators supporting the OpenFOAM® format: you can find an example at:

 $\tt http://www.pointwise.com/theconnector/July-2014/Unsteady-Engine-Analysis.shtml$

After the initial mesh is generated:

- **automatic case setup** (case pre-processing, including constrained domain decomposition, solver settings, etc) is automatically defined by bash scripting.
- **post-processing** (averaging for LES post-processing, countour plots, etc) is performed offline by implemented applications/bash scripting:
 - python scripting
 - VTK scripting by ParaView®

IN THIS PRESENTATION:

- Development and validation of mesh motion with topological changes (*implementation compatible with software releases by OpenFOAM® Foundation*)
 - enhanced algorithm for non-conformal interfaces coupling to perform mesh stitching over complex interfaces (including sharp corners)
 - variable topology-driven time-stepping for dynamic layer addition/removal
 - full low-level integration to favor extensions of the motion solver
- combination of AMI/slidingInterface for mesh motion strategy¹
- novel compressible dynamic solver for consistent handling of flux interpolation through non conformal interfaces (target-mesh and supermesh strategy)
- novel hybrid RANS/LES turbulence model (DLRM)
- 🗸 validation

NOTE: the presentation includes all the development performed by the authors from June 2014 up to now.





Simulations were carried out by the computing resources provided on BLUES, a high-performance computing cluster operated by the Laboratory Computing Resource Center at Argonne National Laboratory (IL, USA).

- Compute 310 nodes, Each with two Sandy Bridge 2.6 GHz Pentium Xeon (hyper threading disabled.) 4960 available compute cores
- Memory 64GB of memory
- Storage 110TB of clusterwide space provided by GPFS (shared with Fusion) 15GB on node Ramdisk
- Network Infiniband Qlogic QDR







Authors would like to thank:

- the LCRC (Laboratory Computing Resource Center), ARGONNE National Lab, for making available the computing resources thorugh the HPC cluster blues within the PETSc-Foam project.
- Dr. S. M. Aithal (*Argonne National Laboratory*, Lemont, IL 60439, United States) for helping in scaling and parallelization tests.
- Proff. V. Sick, D. Reuss, X. Yang and T. Kuo, who made available detailed data and geometry of the TCC engine; the TCC engine work has been funded by General Motors through the General Motors University of Michigan Automotive Cooperative Research Laboratory, Engine Systems Division.
- **Prof. Jacques Borée** (*ISAE-ENSMA*, Futuroscope Chasseneuil, France) for the very detailed dataset of experimental data provided on the square piston geometry.
- Mr. Y. Wu, Mr. J. Martinez (phD student, ICE Group, Politecnico di Milano) and Mr. Mr. F. Giussani (MS student, ICE Group, Politecnico di Milano).



Thank you for your attention!

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