

in collaboration with
Centro di Simulazione Numerica Avanzata – CeSNA
Istituto Universitario di Studi Superiori

The B-spline version of the finite cell method

The Finite Cell Method (FCM) is a high-order immersed boundary method, which combines the fictitious domain approach with the p-version of the FEM and adaptive integration. For linear elastic problems with a smooth solution, FCM has been shown to achieve exponential rates of convergence, while its structured cell grid guarantees simple mesh generation irrespective of the geometric complexity involved.

In a first step, we give a concise overview of the finite cell method for small and large deformation of porous and foam-like materials. In particular, we show that the FCM concept can also be applied to geometrically nonlinear problems by a modified FCM formulation, which uses repeated deformation resetting in the fictitious domain. We also combine the FCM concept with high-order and high-continuity B-spline approximations, called the B-spline version of the FCM, which exhibits equivalent benefits as the p-version of the FCM.

In a second step, we demonstrate the potential of the B-spline version of the finite cell method as a seamless IGA design-through-analysis procedure for complex engineering parts and assemblies. We use the principle of B-spline subdivision and ideas of the hp-d adaptive approach to derive a hierarchical approach for local refinement of B-splines, which combines full analysis suitability of the basis with straightforward implementation in tree data structures and simple generalization to higher dimensions. We demonstrate with the examples of a ship propeller and a rim of a car wheel that hierarchical refinement considerably increases the flexibility of the B-spline version of the FCM by adaptively resolving local features.

Finally, we show that with a few modifications, our hierarchical approach for local refinement can be applied in NURBS based isogeometric analysis, which is illustrated with some elementary fluid and structural analysis problems in two and three dimensions.

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Wednesday 30 November, 14.30
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