



A fluid-structure interaction model for free-surface flows and flexible structures

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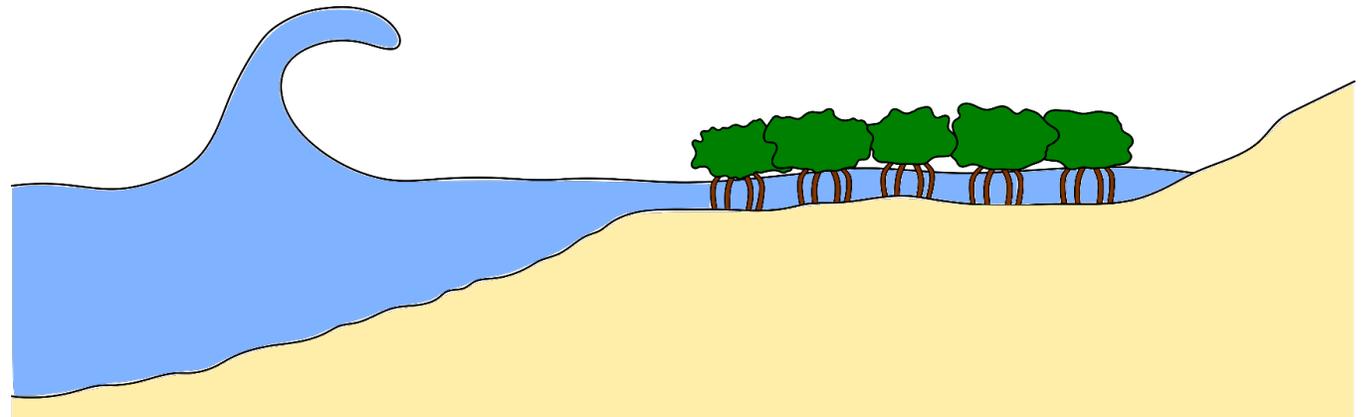
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Motivation for Flexible FSI

- Many real-world problems are governed by flexible fluid-structure interactions
 - Vegetation
 - Biological flows
 - Coastal infrastructure
 - Many more...
- Coupling with Project Chrono provides an extensive set of features to solve a vast range of multiphysics problems
- However, we would also like an approach that is fully contained within DualSPHysics
 - Unified framework
 - Can run entirely on GPU
 - Natural boundary conditions
 - Robust fluid-structure coupling



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Structural Modelling with SPH

- Opted for an SPH-based approach to model the structure:
 - Easier integration within DualSPHysics
 - Monolithic / unified schemes provide enhanced stability over partitioned approaches
 - Better suited to modelling additional complex processes (e.g. fracture)
- Momentum equation for a continuum:

$$\frac{D\mathbf{u}}{Dt} = \frac{1}{\rho} \nabla \cdot \boldsymbol{\sigma} + \mathbf{g}$$

- Can split stress tensor into an isotropic and deviatoric part and solve just like a fluid (with different state equation, constitutive model and Jaumann stress rate)
- However, there are three problems with this approach: 1) tensile instability; 2) linear inconsistency; 3) rank deficiency / hourglassing

Tensile Instability

- Solution is to adopt a Total Lagrangian approach (Belytschko et al. 2000, Rabczuk et al. 2004)
- Reformulate momentum equation with respect to a reference (initial) configuration:

$$\frac{D\mathbf{u}}{Dt} = \frac{1}{\rho_0} \nabla_0 \cdot \mathbf{P} + \mathbf{g}$$

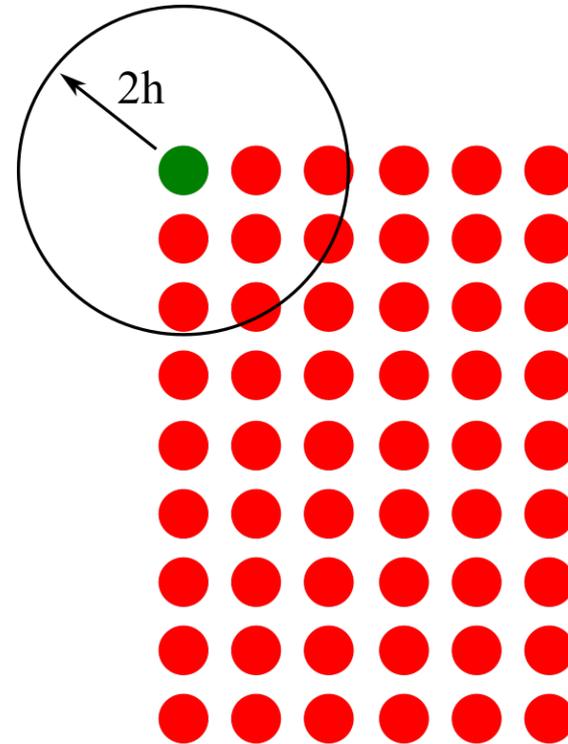
- Cauchy stress tensor is replaced with nominal (first Piola-Kirchhoff) stress tensor and standard SPH discretisation is applied
- Everything is measured with respect to initial configuration:
 - No need to recompute neighbouring particles
 - No need to recompute kernel derivatives
 - No need to compute continuity equation for the structure

Linear Inconsistency

- Boundaries are a big problem for structural dynamics with SPH due to incomplete support
- Need to reproduce gradient of a linear field (Randles & Libersky 1996)
- Introduce a kernel correction:

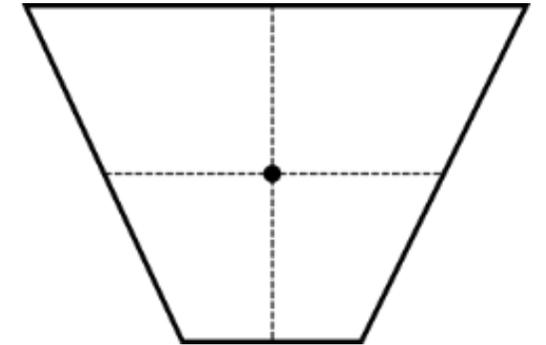
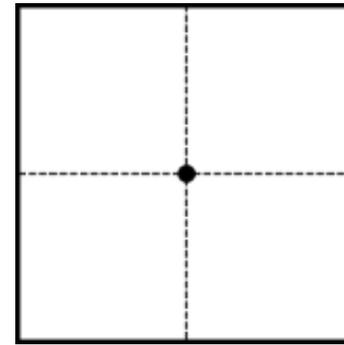
$$\tilde{\nabla}_a W_{ab} = \mathbf{L}_a^{-1} \nabla_a W_{ab}$$

$$\mathbf{L}_a = \sum_b \frac{m_b}{\rho_b} \mathbf{x}_{ba} \otimes \nabla_a W_{ab}$$



Rank Deficiency / Hourglassing

- Rank-deficiency leads to zero-energy modes which are not suppressed and eventually become unstable (similar to reduced order elements in FEM)
- Options for suppressing these modes are:
 - Stress integration points
 - Reformulate into mixed-base set
 - Corrective force
- The corrective force approach penalises any deformation which is not described exactly by the deformation gradient (Ganzenmuller 2015)
- Corrective force approach is easy to implement and efficient however it modifies the effective stiffness of the flexible structure and introduces a tuning parameter



Discretisation and Material Model

- Finally, the discrete form of the momentum equation for the structure is:

$$\frac{D\mathbf{u}_a}{Dt} = \sum_b m_{0b} \left(\frac{\mathbf{P}_a \mathbf{L}_{0a}^{-1}}{\rho_{0a}^2} + \frac{\mathbf{P}_b \mathbf{L}_{0b}^{-1}}{\rho_{0b}^2} \right) \cdot \nabla_{0a} W_{0ab} + \frac{\mathbf{f}_a^{HG}}{m_{0a}} + \mathbf{g}$$

- The first Piola-Kirchhoff stress is related to the second Piola-Kirchhoff stress:

$$\mathbf{P} = \mathbf{F}\mathbf{S}$$

- The second Piola-Kirchhoff stress is related to the Green-Lagrange strain via the Saint Venant-Kirchhoff constitutive model:

$$\mathbf{S} = \lambda \text{tr}(\mathbf{E})\mathbf{I} + 2\mu\mathbf{E}$$

- Where the Green-Lagrange strain and deformation gradient are given by:

$$\mathbf{E} = \frac{1}{2} (\mathbf{F}^T \mathbf{F} - \mathbf{I}) \quad \mathbf{F} = \frac{d\mathbf{x}}{d\mathbf{x}_0}$$

Dynamic Boundary Condition

- The dynamic boundary condition is the basic pre-existing boundary condition within DualSPHysics
- Density of boundary particles is evolved via the continuity equation as normal
- Momentum equation is not computed for boundary particles

Fluid

$$\frac{D\rho}{Dt} = -\rho \nabla \cdot \mathbf{u}$$
$$\frac{D\mathbf{u}}{Dt} = -\frac{1}{\rho} \nabla p + \nu \nabla^2 \mathbf{u} + \mathbf{g}$$

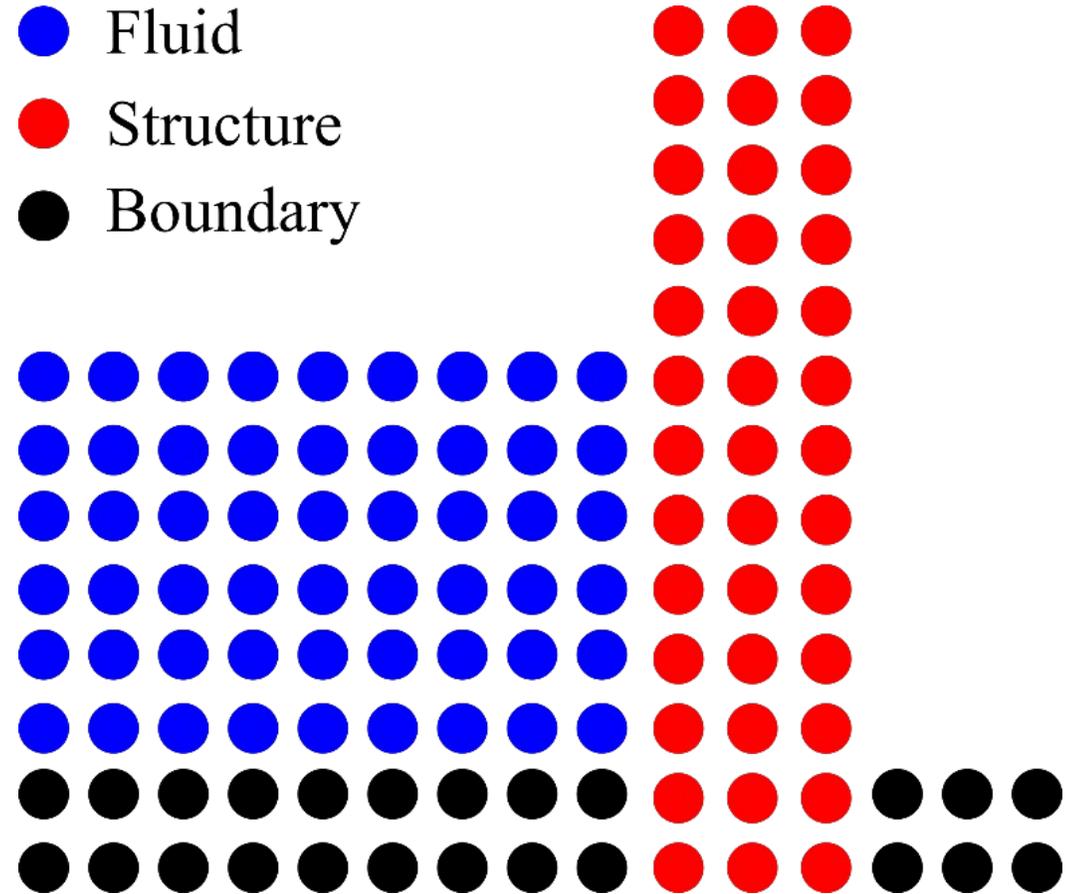
Boundary

$$\frac{D\rho}{Dt} = -\rho \nabla \cdot \mathbf{u}$$

Legend: ● Fluid (blue), ● Boundary (black)

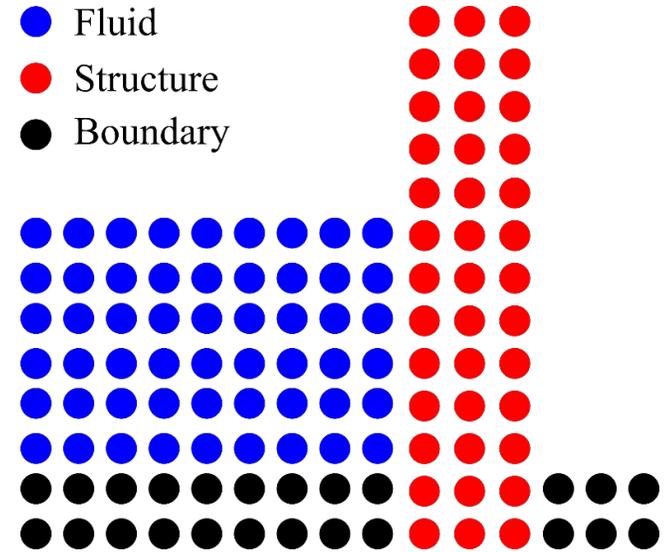
Fluid-Structure Coupling

- The fluid-structure coupling is handled via the same approach (dynamic boundary condition)
- Fluid see structural particles as normal boundary particles (with a velocity)
- Structure sees fluid particles in the same way that a boundary particle sees the fluid
- Momentum equation is integrated for structure particles but not for boundary
- No need to know geometric information about interface (e.g. surface normals)



Fluid-Structure Coupling

- Total force on a particle is sum of contributions from neighbouring fluid, structure and boundary particles
- Note that the last two terms in the structure momentum equation use the Total Lagrangian form



Fluid Particle

$$\frac{D\mathbf{u}_a}{Dt} = -\sum_b m_b \left(\frac{p_a + p_b}{\rho_a \rho_b} \right) \nabla_a W_{ab} - \sum_b m_b \left(\frac{p_a + p_b}{\rho_a \rho_b} \right) \nabla_a W_{ab} - \sum_b m_b \left(\frac{p_a + p_b}{\rho_a \rho_b} \right) \nabla_a W_{ab}$$

Structure Particle

$$\frac{D\mathbf{u}_a}{Dt} = -\sum_b m_b \left(\frac{p_a + p_b}{\rho_a \rho_b} \right) \nabla_a W_{ab} + \sum_b m_{0b} \left(\frac{\mathbf{P}_a \mathbf{L}_{0a}^{-1}}{\rho_{0a}^2} + \frac{\mathbf{P}_b \mathbf{L}_{0b}^{-1}}{\rho_{0b}^2} \right) \cdot \nabla_{0a} W_{0ab} + \sum_b m_{0b} \left(\frac{\mathbf{P}_a \mathbf{L}_{0a}^{-1}}{\rho_{0a}^2} + \frac{\mathbf{P}_b \mathbf{L}_{0b}^{-1}}{\rho_{0b}^2} \right) \cdot \nabla_{0a} W_{0ab}$$

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Case Setup in XML

- There are three main steps to setting up a case involving flexible fluid-structure interaction

```
<commands>
  <mainlist>
    <setdrawmode mode="full" />
    <!--Clamp-->
    <setmkbound mk="0" />
    <drawsphere radius="0.05">
      <point x="0.2" y="0.0" z="0.2" />
    </drawsphere>
    <!--Flexible Structure-->
    <setmkbound mk="1" />
    <drawbox>
      <boxfill>solid</boxfill>
      <point x="0.2" y="-0.01" z="0.19" />
      <size x="0.4" y="0.02" z="0.02" />
    </drawbox>
  </mainlist>
</commands>
</geometry>
<motion>
  <objreal ref="1">
    <begin mov="1" start="0" />
    <mvnull id="1" />
  </objreal>
</motion>
</casedef>
<execution>
  <special>
    <flexstrucs>
      <flexstrucbody mkbound="1" mkclamp="0">
        <density value="1000.0" comment="Mass density" units_comment="kg/m^3" />
        <youngmod value="1.4e6" comment="Young's Modulus" units_comment="Pa" />
        <poissratio value="0.4" comment="Poisson ratio" />
        <constitmodel value="1" comment="Constitutive model 1:Plane Strain (2D),
        <hgfactor value="0.0" comment="Hourglass correction factor: keep as low .
      </flexstrucbody>
    </flexstrucs>
  </special>

```

Geometry definition

Tag as moveable object

Flexible structure definition

Example 1 (Turek & Hron CSM3)

Geometry Definition

```
<mainlist>
  <setdrawmode mode="full" />
  <!--Clamp-->
  <setmkbound mk="0" />
  <drawsphere radius="0.05">
    <point x="0.2" y="0.0" z="0.2" />
  </drawsphere>
  <!--Flexible Structure-->
  <setmkbound mk="1" />
  <drawbox>
    <boxfill>solid</boxfill>
    <point x="0.2" y="-0.01" z="0.19" />
    <size x="0.4" y="0.02" z="0.02" />
  </drawbox>
</mainlist>
```

Tag as Moveable Object

```
<motion>
  <objreal ref="1">
    <begin mov="1" start="0" />
    <mvnull id="1" />
  </objreal>
</motion>
```

- Define the geometry of the clamp first
- Embed the flexible structure within the clamp



- Tag flexible structure as moveable object
- The **mvnull** label informs DualSPHysics the motion will be calculated during runtime

Example 1 (Turek & Hron CSM3)

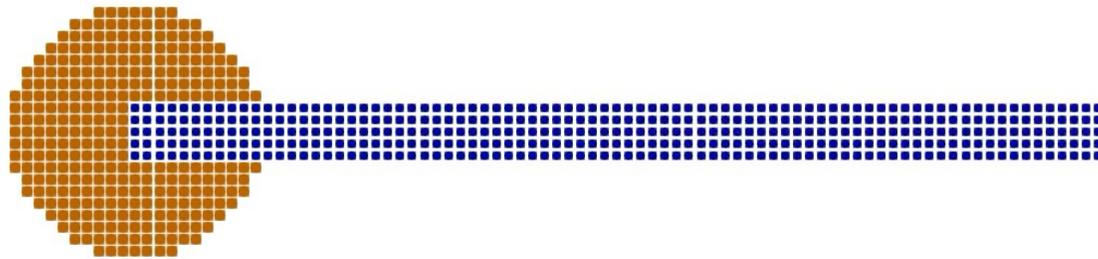
Flexible Structure Definition

```
<special>
  <flexstrucs>
    <flexstrucbody mkbound="1" mkclamp="0">
      <density value="1000.0" comment="Mass density" units_comment="kg/m^3" />
      <youngmod value="1.4e6" comment="Young's Modulus" units_comment="Pa" />
      <poissratio value="0.4" comment="Poisson ratio" />
      <constitmodel value="1" comment="Constitutive model 1:Plane Strain (2D),
      <hgfactor value="0.0" comment="Hourglass correction factor: keep as low
    </flexstrucbody>
  </flexstrucs>
</special>
```

- **mkbound** and **mkclamp** are the mkbound numbers for the flexible structure and clamp
- **density** is mass density, **youngmod** is Young's modulus, and **poissratio** is the Poisson ratio
- **constitmodel** is the constitutive model (plane strain, plane stress, or St. Venant-Kirchhoff)
- **hgfactor** is the hourglass correction factor to use in the zero-energy mode suppression scheme

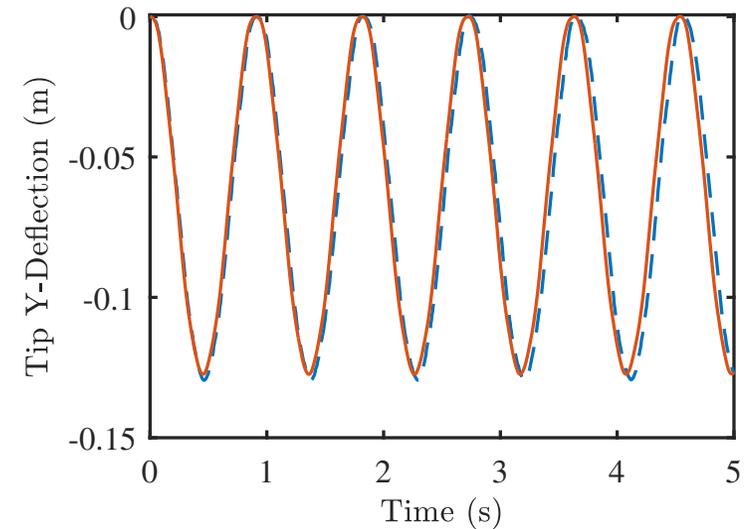
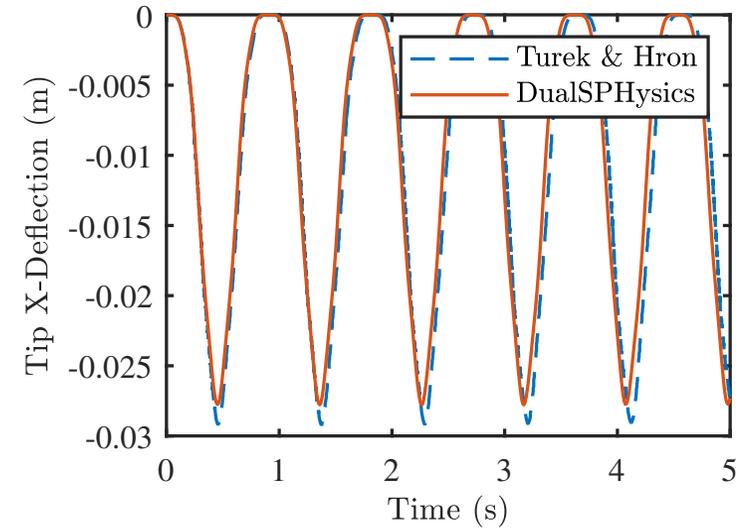
Example 1 (Turek & Hron CSM3)

CaseTurekHronCSM3



Particles: 699
Physical time: 5 s
Runtime (RTX 3080 Ti): 8.8 min

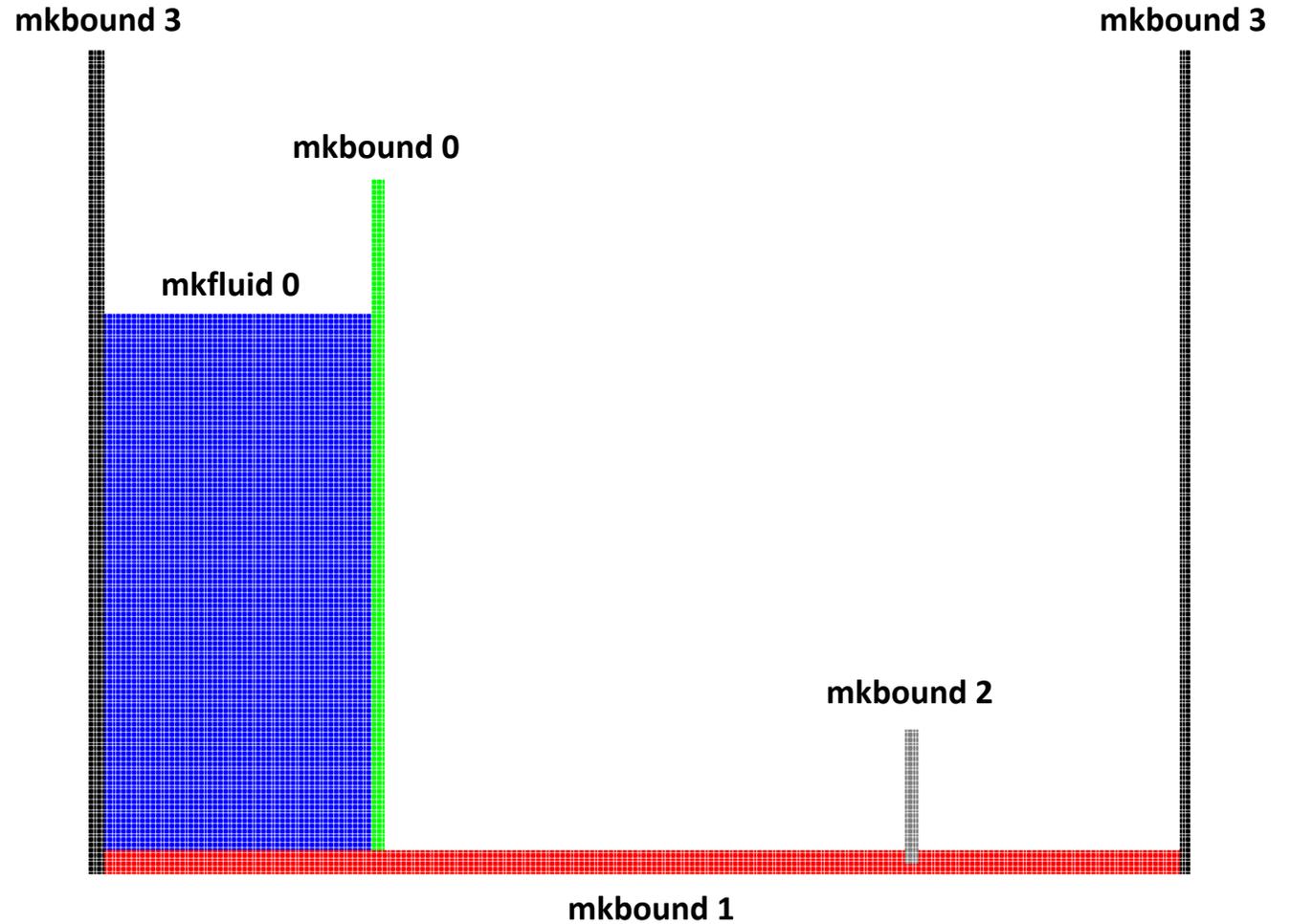
Time: 0.00 s



Example 2 (2D Dambreak)

Geometry Definition

```
<commands>
  <mainlist>
    <setdrawmode mode="full" />
    <setmkfluid mk="0" />
    <drawbox>
      <boxfill>solid</boxfill>
      <point x="0.0" y="-0.01" z="0.0" />
      <size x="0.2" y="0.02" z="0.4" />
    </drawbox>
    <setmkbound mk="0" />
    <drawbox>
      <boxfill>solid</boxfill>
      <point x="0.2" y="-0.01" z="0.0" />
      <size x="0.008" y="0.02" z="0.5" />
    </drawbox>
    <setmkbound mk="1" />
    <drawbox>
      <boxfill>solid</boxfill>
      <point x="-0.008" y="-0.01" z="-0.016" />
      <size x="0.816" y="0.02" z="0.016" />
    </drawbox>
    <setmkbound mk="2" />
    <drawbox>
      <boxfill>solid</boxfill>
      <point x="0.596" y="-0.01" z="-0.008" />
      <size x="0.008" y="0.02" z="0.098" />
    </drawbox>
    <setmkbound mk="3" />
    <drawbox>
      <boxfill>solid</boxfill>
      <point x="-0.008" y="-0.01" z="-0.016" />
      <size x="0.008" y="0.02" z="0.616" />
    </drawbox>
    <drawbox>
      <boxfill>solid</boxfill>
      <point x="0.8" y="-0.01" z="-0.016" />
      <size x="0.008" y="0.02" z="0.616" />
    </drawbox>
  </mainlist>
</commands>
```



Example 2 (2D Dambreak)

Tag as Moveable Object

```
<motion>
  <objreal ref="0">
    <begin mov="1" start="0.0" finish="0.12" />
    <mvfile id="1" duration="0.12">
      <file name="DambreakGateTimeSeries.csv" fields="2" fieldtime="0" fieldz="1" />
    </mvfile>
  </objreal>
  <objreal ref="2">
    <begin mov="1" start="0" />
    <mvnull id="1" />
  </objreal>
</motion>
```

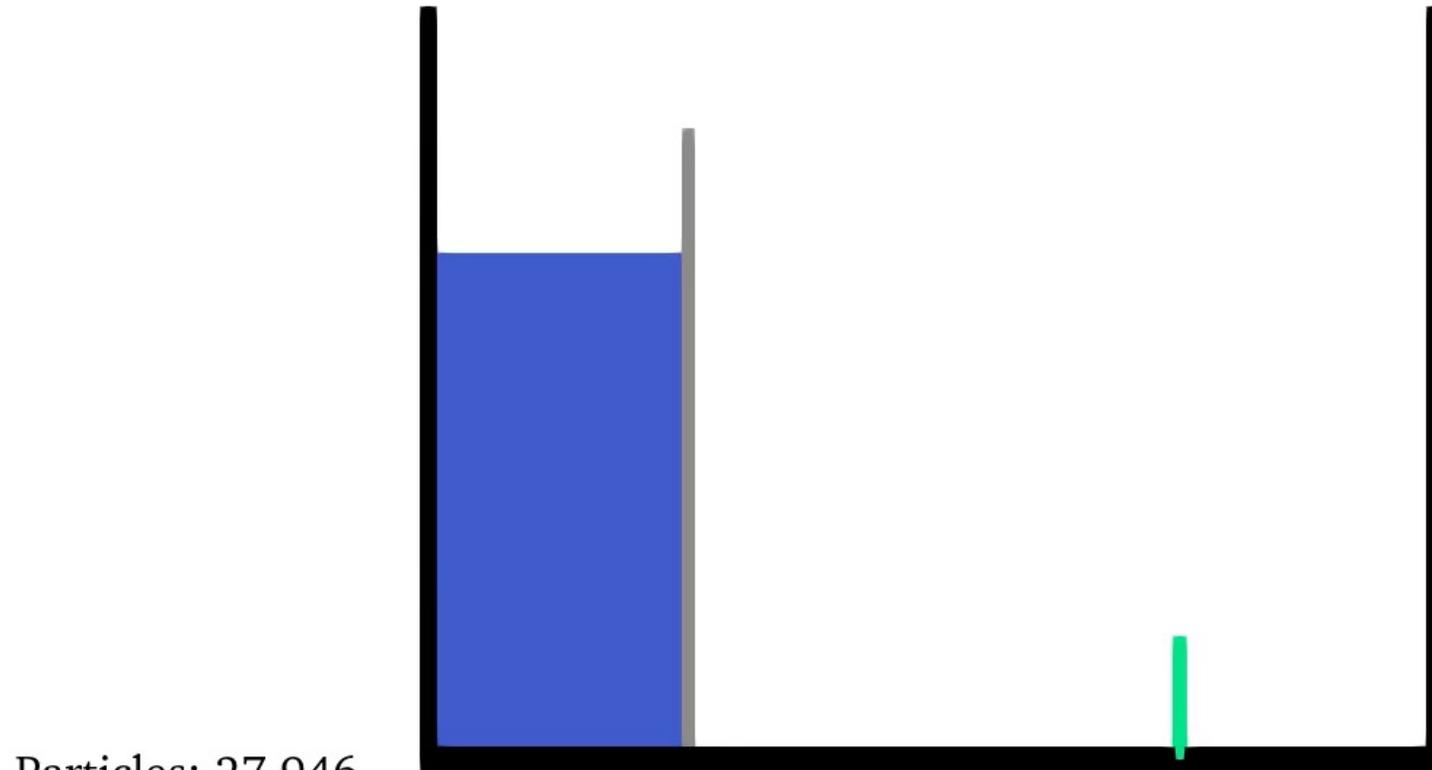
Uses realistic gate motion

Flexible Structure Definition

```
<special>
  <flexstrucs>
    <flexstrucbody mkbound="2" mkclamp="1">
      <density value="1161.54" comment="Mass density" units_comment="kg/m^3" />
      <youngmod value="8.75e5" comment="Young's Modulus" units_comment="Pa" />
      <poissratio value="0.49" comment="Poisson ratio" />
      <constitmodel value="1" comment="Constitutive model 1:Plane Strain (2D),
      <hgfactor value="0.1" comment="Hourglass correction factor: keep as low a
    </flexstrucbody>
  </flexstrucs>
</special>
```

Example 2 (2D Dambreak)

CaseDambreak2D_FSI



Particles: 27,946
Physical time: 1 s
Runtime (RTX 3080 Ti): 6.2 min

Time: 0.00 s

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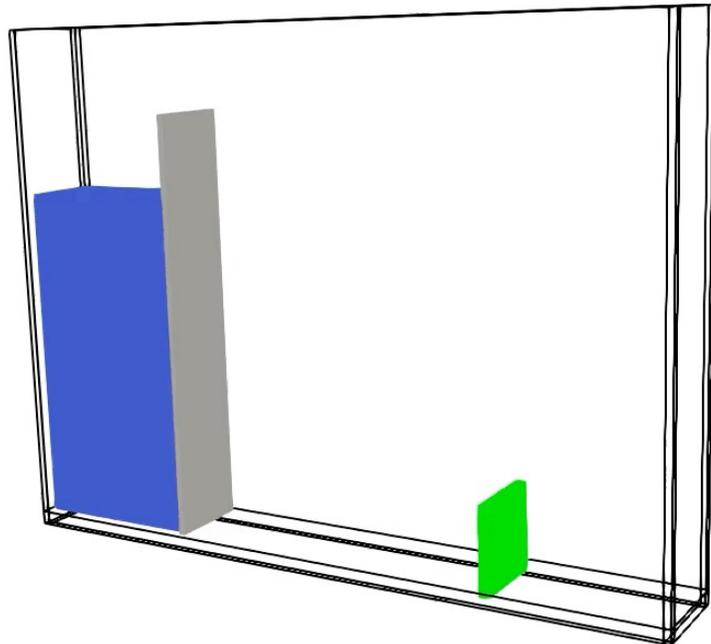
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3D Dambreak

CaseDambreak3D_FSI

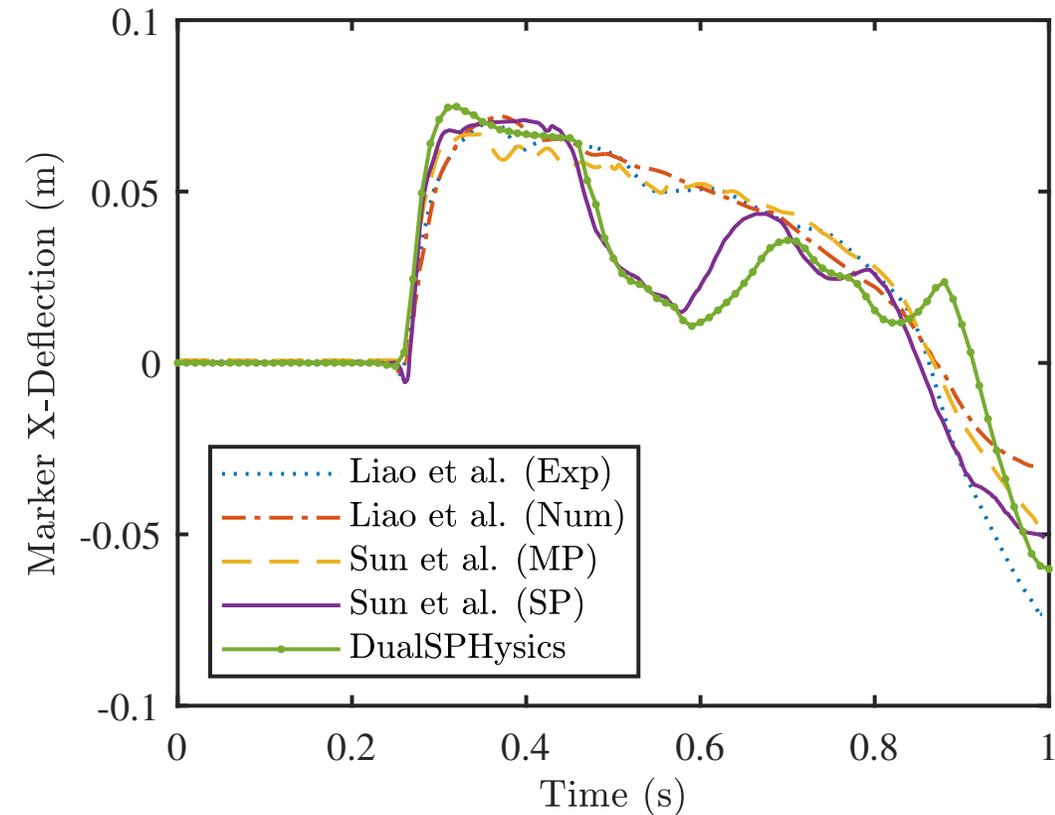


Particles: 2,503,102
Physical time: 1 s
Runtime (RTX 3080 Ti): 61 min



Time: 0.00 s

Note that the example XML is slightly modified with respect to the validation case to enable a faster run time for the example



Turek & Hron FSI2

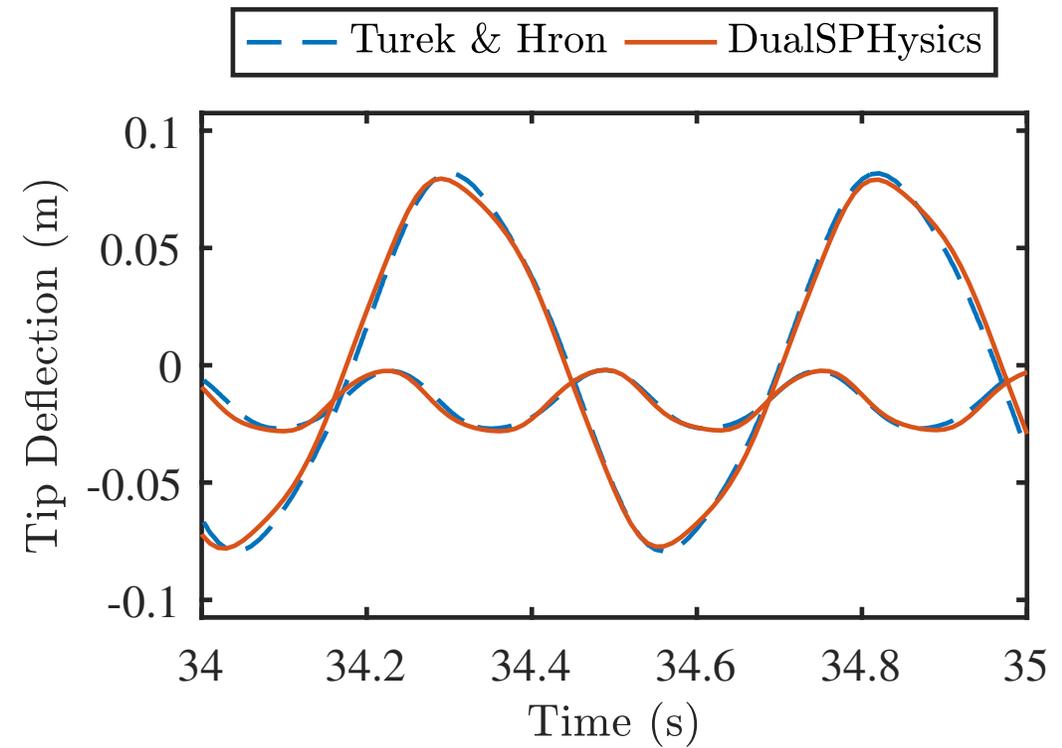
- With inlet/outlet and shifting

CaseTurekHronFSI2



Particles: 173,293
Physical time: 15 s
Runtime (RTX 3080 Ti): 2 h

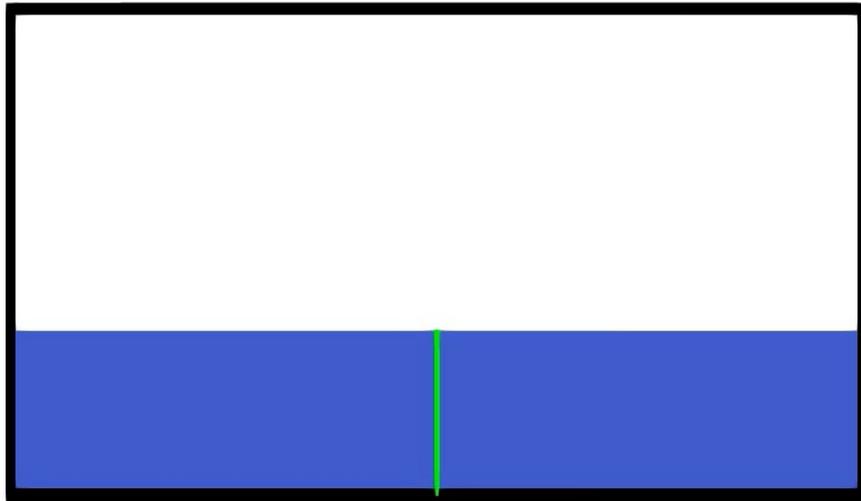
Time: 0.00 s



Rolling Tank (Deep)

- With moving clamp

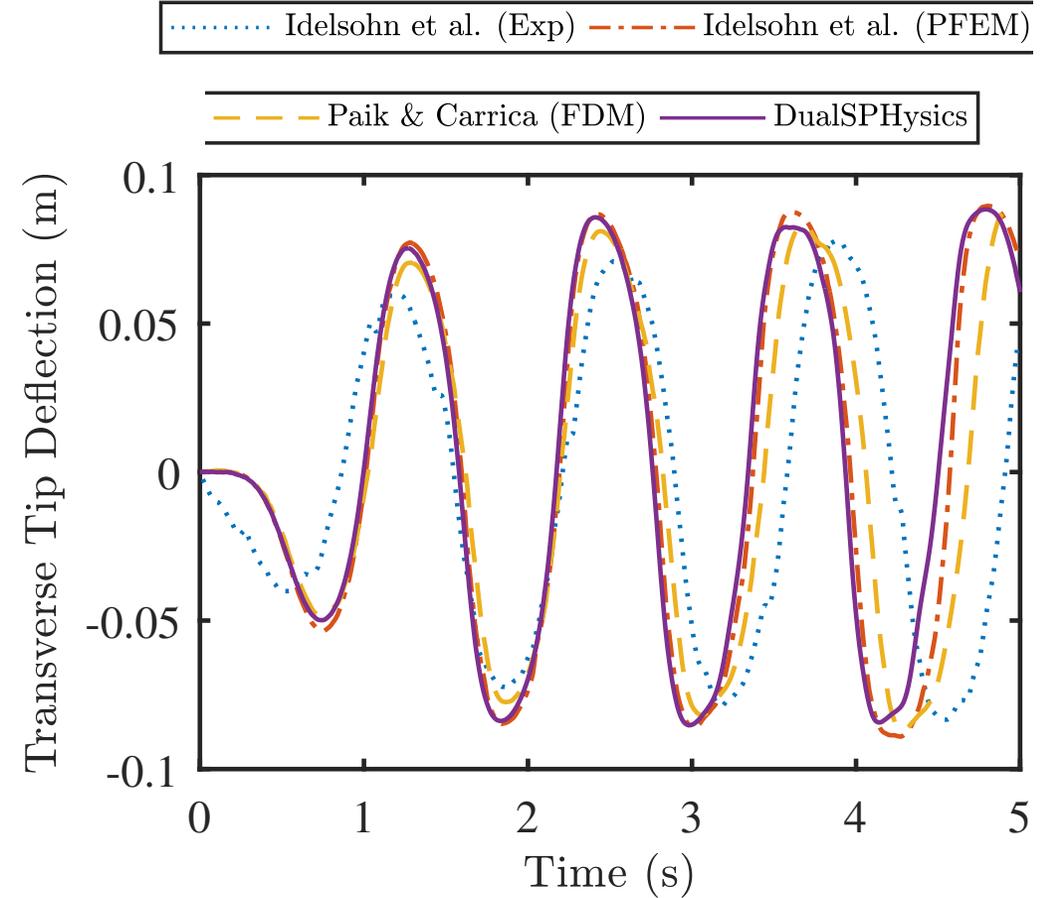
CaseRollingTankDeep



Particles: 83,248
Physical time: 5 s
Runtime (RTX 3080 Ti): 3 h



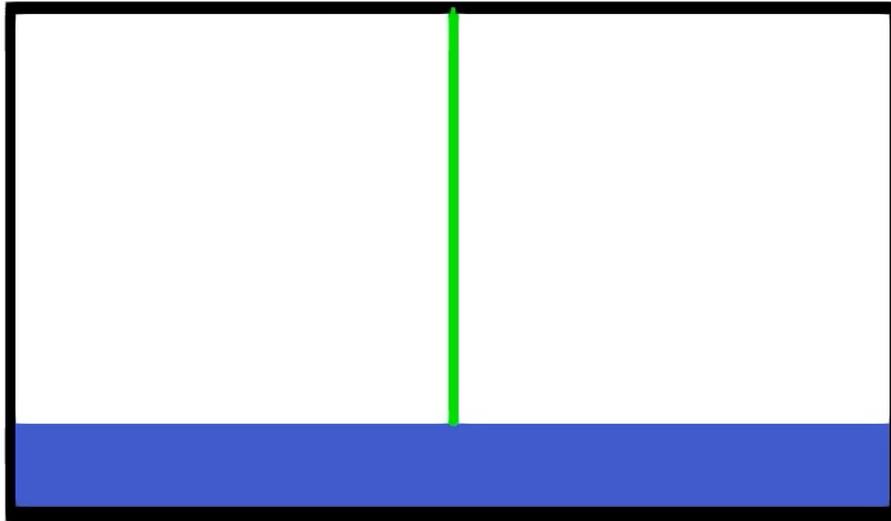
Time: 0.00 s



Rolling Tank (Hanging)

- With moving clamp

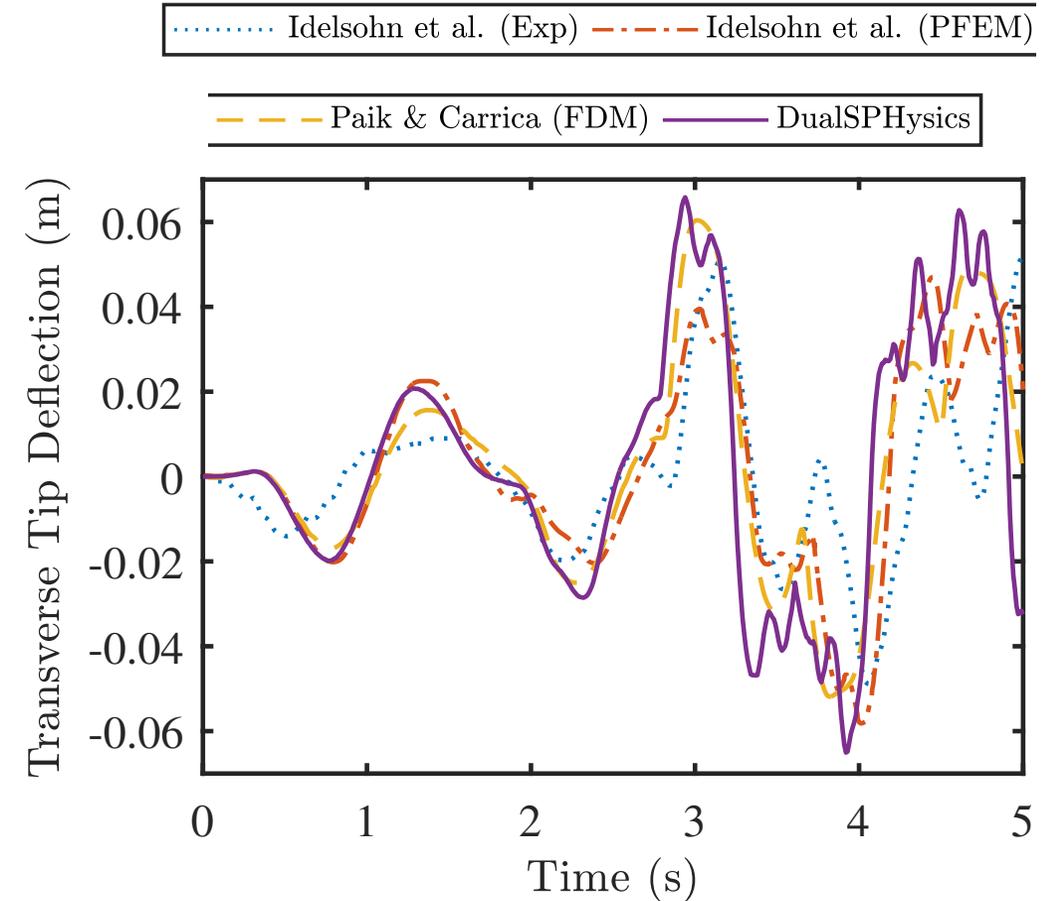
CaseRollingTankHanging



Particles: 50,022
Physical time: 5 s
Runtime (RTX 3080 Ti): 1.72 h



Time: 0.00 s



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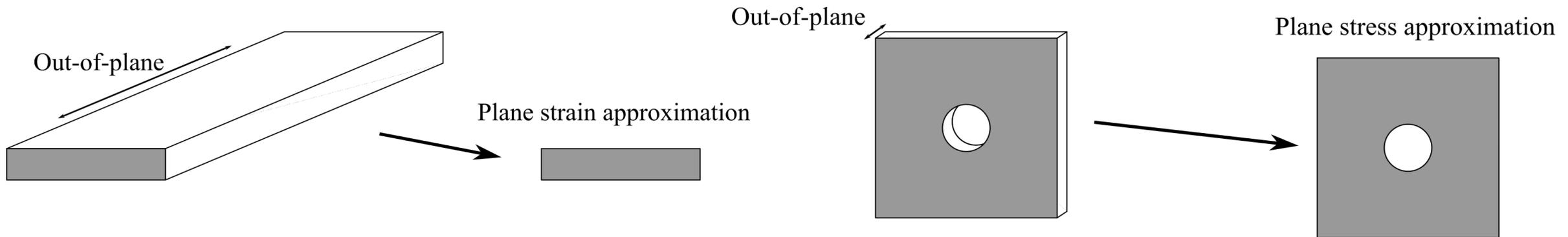
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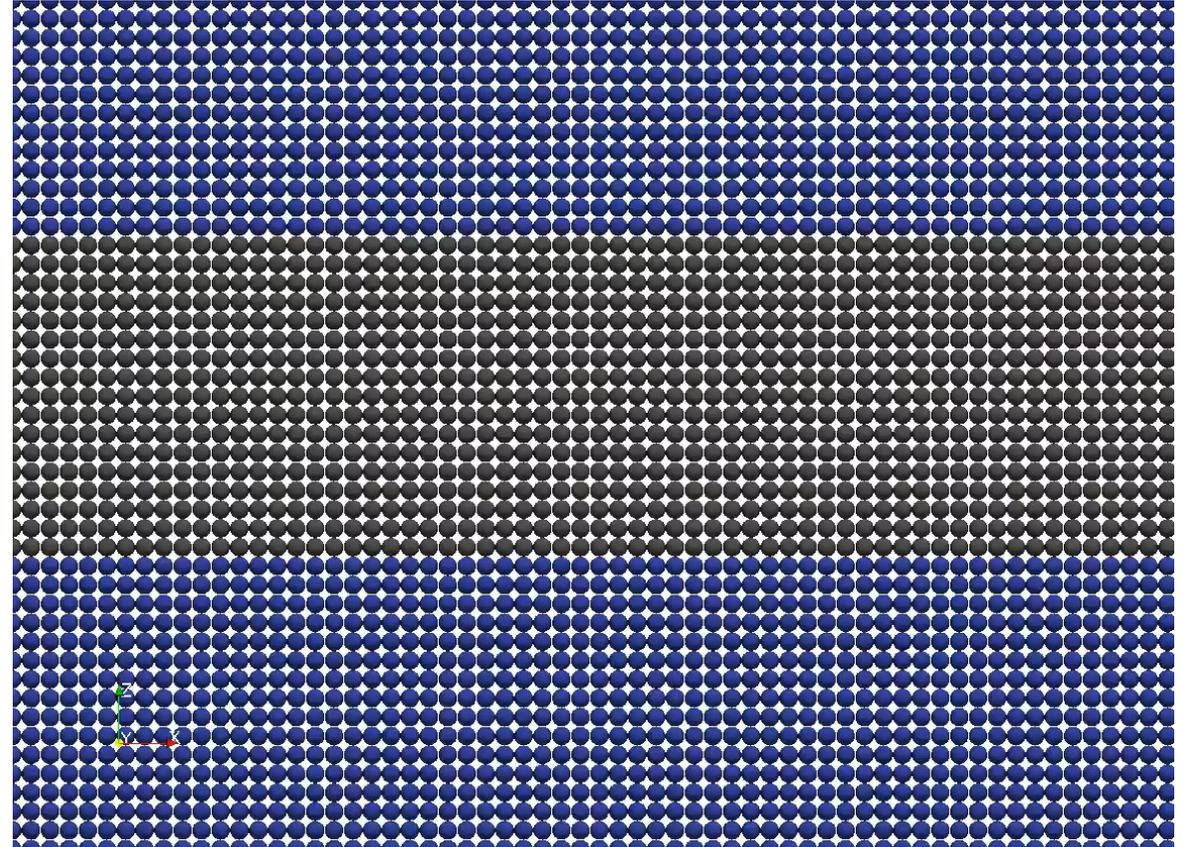
Constitutive Model

- Plane strain (2D) models the third (out-of-plane) dimension by assuming zero strain in the out-of-plane direction (suitable for problems that are very thick in the out-of-plane direction)
- Plane stress (2D) models the third (out-of-plane) dimension by assuming zero stress in the out-of-plane direction (suitable for problems that are very thin in the out-of-plane direction)
- The hyperelastic St. Venant-Kirchhoff constitutive model is the only available 3D model and is an extension of the linear elastic model to the geometrically nonlinear regime



Hourglass Suppression Scheme

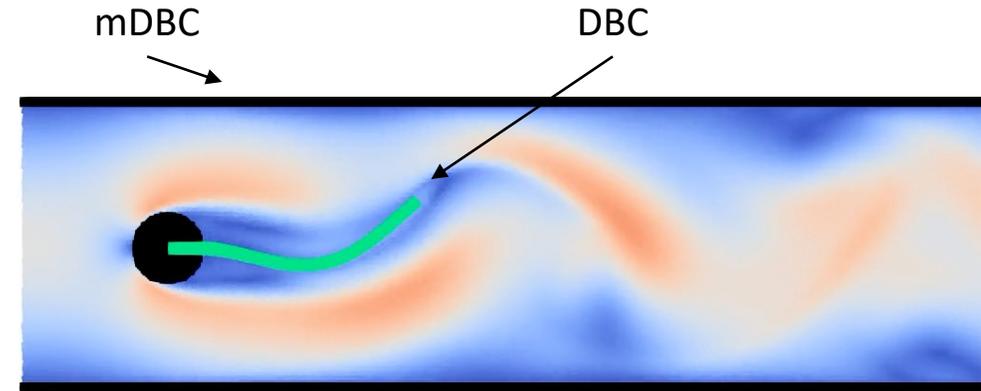
- Hourglass / zero-energy mode instability manifests as unphysical particle displacements
- The hourglass suppression scheme penalises any deformation which is not described exactly by the deformation gradient
- However, this modifies the effective stiffness of the flexible structure
- Therefore, it is recommended to first try without the correction (hgfactor = 0)
- If the instability appears, a value of 0.1 typically mitigates this instability with negligible impact on the effective stiffness



More Information

Combined Options

- The flexible FSI does not currently work with restart or symmetric/periodic BCs
- It does work with mDBC – but not on the flexible structure itself



Particle Resolution

- Generally, a minimum of four particles across the structure thickness is required
- Therefore, very thin structures will require a lot of particles and will be very expensive

Timestep Size

- There is an additional timestep constraint for the flexible structure (based on sound speed)
- High Young's modulus combined with low mass density will lead to smaller timestep

Reference & Acknowledgements

For more details, please see:

O'Connor, J. and Rogers, B.D. A fluid-structure interaction model for free-surface flows and flexible structures using smoothed particle hydrodynamics on a GPU. *Journal of Fluids and Structures*, 104 (103312). 2021.

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