GeoCubit User Manual

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July 24, 2013

Contents

1 Why?

GeoCubit is a Python library wrapping around the Cubit Python Interface and it aims to facilitate the meshing process in some common problems in seismic wave propagation. In particular, it is focused on the meshing requests of Specfem3D and it is helpful for such tedious tasks as:

- Creation of geophysical surfaces and volumes (ex. topography).
- Mesh of layered volumes with hexahedral.
- Creation of an anisotropic mesh suitable for cases where some alluvial basin (or slow velocity zones) are present.
- It can be used as a serial or parallel process. The parallel meshing capabilities are fundamental for large geophysical problems (ex. mesh of Southern California using SRTM topography).

GeoCubit can be used inside the graphical interface of Cubit (i.e. as a Python object in the script tab) or as unix command. We refer to the Cubit help appendix for more information about the Python interface.

2 First Steps

2.1 Requirements

The minimum requirements for using GeoCubit are:

- Cubit 12.2
- NumPy 1.0+
- Python 2.5 (strictly! it depends on the Cubit library that refers to this version of Python)

and for using the parallel meshing capabilities:

- pyMPI

2.2 Installation

For installing, download the code and type in the GEOCUBIT directory:

```
python2.5 setup.py install
```

and check that the following variables are set:

```
CUBITDIR="/usr/local/CUBIT"
CUBITLIB="$CUBITDIR/bin:$CUBITDIR/structure:$CUBITDIR/components"
PYTHONPATH="$CUBITDIR/components/cubit:$CUBITDIR/structure:$CUBITDIR/bin"
LD_LIBRARY_PATH="$CUBITDIR/bin"
PATH="$CUBITDIR/bin:$CUBITDIR/components/cubit"
```

3 Using GeoCubit from the Command Line

3.1 Utilities

- Checking the configuration of the libraries and dependencies:

```
GEOCUBIT.py --chklib
```

- Checking the parameter file:

```
GEOCUBIT.py --chkcfg --cfg=[file]
```

3.2 Create Geometry

3.2.1 Surfaces

- Creating acis surfaces using a parameter file:

```
 GEOCUBIT.py --build_surface --cfg=[filename]
```

- Creating a surface from regular ascii grid or ascii lines that define a "skin":

```
 GEOCUBIT.py --surface=[file] (--regulargrid=[opts] |
    --skin=[opts])
```

3.2.2 Volumes

- *Serial* command: creating Cubit volumes using a parameter file:

```
GEOCUBIT.py --surface=[file] (--regulargrid=[opts] | --skin=[opts])
```

- *Parallel* command: creating Cubit volumes using a parameter file:

```
mpirun -n [numproc] pyMPI GEOCUBIT.py --build_volume --cfg=[file]
```

  In this parallel application, the volume is separated in N slices, each one is assigned at a single process and one file for each slice is created (see Figure 1 as example).

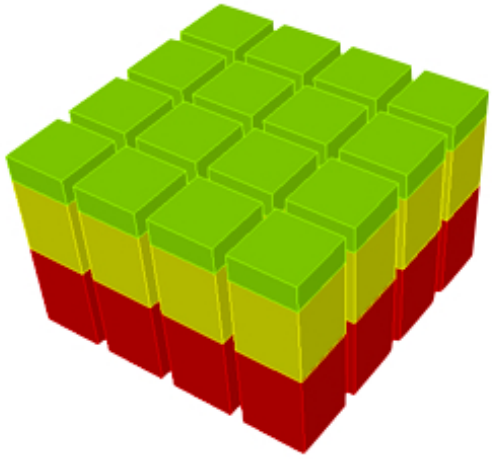
3.3 Meshing

- *Serial* command: building a volume and meshing it.

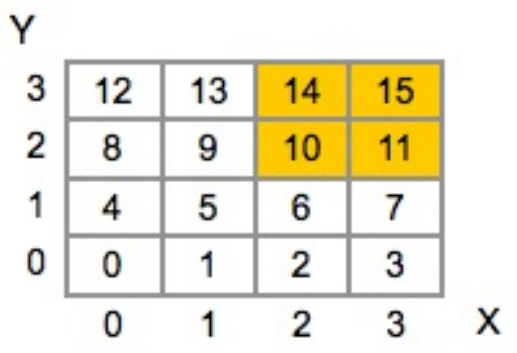
```
GEOCUBIT.py --build_volume --mesh --cfg=[file] (--id_proc=n)
```

- *Serial* command: meshing a volume

```
GEOCUBIT.py --mesh --cfg=[file] (--id_proc=[n, def=0])
```



(a) Volume divided in slices.



(b) Parallel map of the IDs for volume in Figure 1a divided in 16 slices (4 along x-axis and 4 along y-axis).

Figure 1: Volume slicing.

note: without the `--build_volume` flag the script recall an old "`geometry_vol_[id_proc].cub`" file

- *Parallel* command: meshing a volume from a parameter file

```
mpirun -n [nproc] pyMPI GEOCUBIT.py --build_volume --mesh
    --cfg=[file]
```

3.4 Finalizing and Exporting

It is possible to collect, merge, set the absorbing boundary conditions and to export the resulting mesh in a format readable by SPECFEM3D.

- Collecting some CUBIT files, setting the absorbing boundary conditions and merging in a single free mesh cubitfile

```
GEOCUBIT.py --collect --merge --meshfiles=[files] --cpux=N
    --cpuy=N (--rangecpux=[cpuxmin,cpuxmax]
    --rangecpuy=[cpuymin,cpuymax])
```

`cpux, cpuy` set the number of cpus used for creating the mesh files; `rangecpux` and `rangecpuy` set the range of slices that are used in the mesh.

Following the example in Figure 1, the parameters `--cpux=4 --cpuy=4 --rangecpux=1,2 --rangecpuy=2,3` select the slices with id $10, 11, 14, 15$. Only these slices are going to be collected and merged with the appropriate absorbing boundary conditions.

- Collecting a single free mesh cubitfile and refine the hex inside some curves (ex. alluvial basin, Figure 2)

```
GEOCUBIT.py --collect --meshfiles=[list of files]
    --curverefining=[file]
```

note: the curves must be stored in acis format (sat) and must be closed.

- Exporting a CUBIT mesh file to a SPECFEM3D mesh

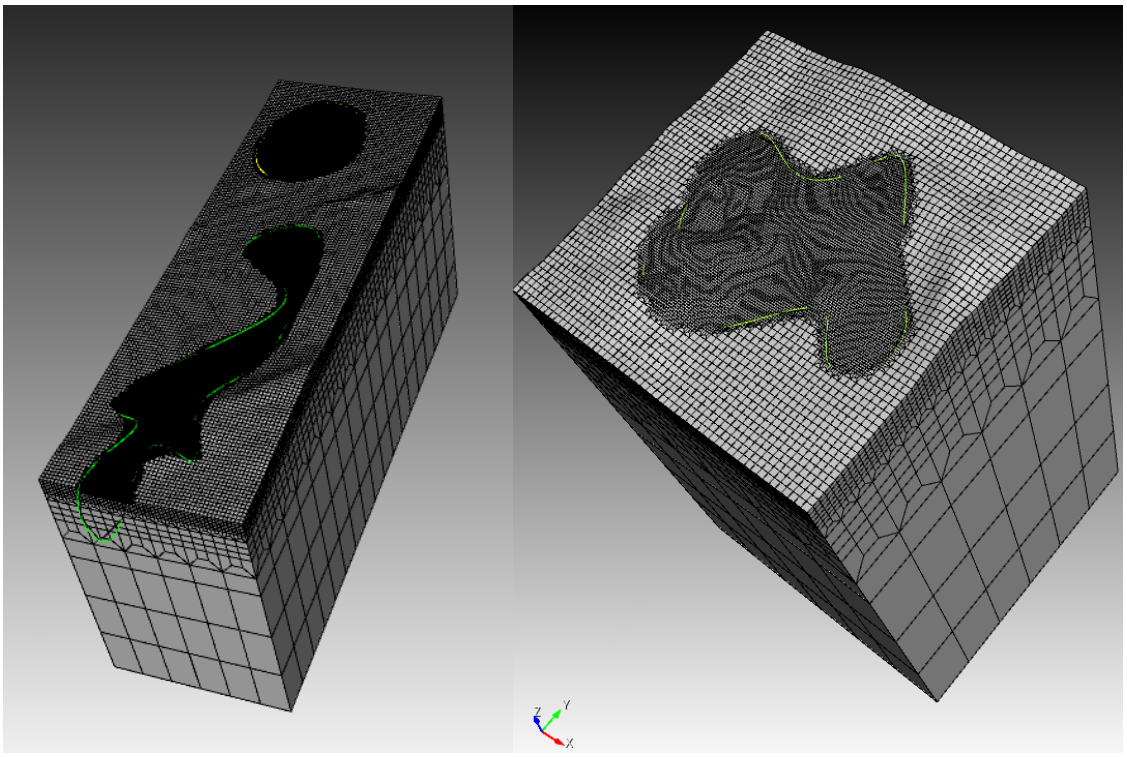


Figure 2: An alluvial basin example.

```
GEOCUBIT.py --export2SPECFEM3D=[output directory]
   --meshfiles=[filename] (--listblock=[list of Cubit blocks]
   --listflag=[list of specfem3d flags])
```

If required, it is possible to assign personalized flags to each block using `--listblock` and the corresponding listflag (for example: `--listblock=3,4 --listflag=1,-1`)

4 GeoCubit and Cubit Graphical Interface

In the Python script tab of Cubit GUI, type:

```
>f="volume.cfg" # store the name of the configuration file, see next
    section

>from geocubitlib import volumes # load the GeoCubit modules
>from geocubitlib import mesh_volume
>from geocubitlib import exportlib

volumes.volumes(f)  # create the volumes, the parameters are stored in
    the cfg file
mesh_volume.mesh(f) # mesh the volume

exportlib.collect()                # set the boundary conditions, see
    Specfem3D manual
exportlib.e2SEM(outdir="./output") # save the mesh in the Specfem3D
    format
```

See the `media/iterative.mov` for a live example.

5 Examples of Configuration Files

In the current section a few configuration files will be described. Please see the files in the examples directory of the GeoCubit distribution for reference.

5.1 General Options

A cfg file has a format similar to ini windows files. They are divided in `[sections]`. There is no order in the position or in the name of the sections.

Generally, the parameters that control the general options are in the first section, called `[cubit.options]` and `[simulation.cpu_parameters]`. For example:

```
[cubit.options]
cubit_info=off              # turn on/off the information of the Cubit
    command
echo_info=off               # turn on/off the echo of the Cubit command
cubit_info=off              # turn on/off the Cubit journaling
echo_info=off               # turn on/off the Cubit error journaling
working_dir=tmp             # set the working directory
output_dir=output           # set the output directory
save_geometry_cubit = True  # true if it saves the geometry files
save_surface_cubit = False  # true if it saves the surfaces in a Cubit
    files
export_exodus_mesh = True   # true if it saves the mesh also in exodus
    format. The default is the Cubit format (cub), that contains both
    the geometry and the meshing information. In case of complex
    geometry, the cub file could be enormous and a more light exodus
    file become important.

[simulation.cpu_parameters]
nodes = 1   # number of nodes/process
```

note: Usually the `*_info` options are turned off by default for improving the performance.

5.2 Creating a Topographic Surface

See stromboli.cfg, execute with: `GEOCUBIT.py --build_surface --cfg=./example/stromboli.cfg`.

GeoCubit is able to create a topographic surface based upon the Cubit command `create skin curve` and `create surface net` (Figure 3). See the Cubit manual for details.

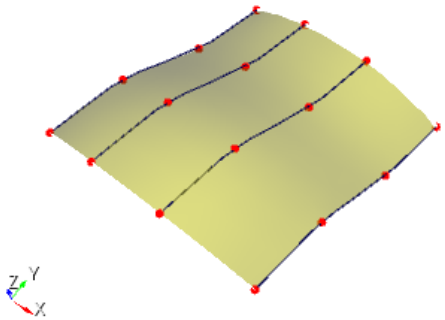
```
[geometry.surfaces]
nsurf = 2 # number of surfaces that will be created

[surface1.parameters]
name=example/data/stromboli.xyz # the name of the file defining the
    surface
surf_type=skin # the type of surface: skin: the file is a sequence of
    parallel points that span the surface in the order described by the
    following direction parameters; regular_grid: the points are
    structured distributed. See Cubit Manual for details (skin surface
    and net surface)
unit_surf = utm # unit of the points, utm or geo (geographical)
    coordinates
directionx = 0 # if surf_type=skin: directionx and directiony define how
    the points span the surface
directiony = 1
step = 1 # the script creates a vertex each step points: in this case
    step=1 means a vertex for all the points

[surface2.parameters] # note the different number of surface in the
    section name
name=./examples/surfaces/topo.dat # the name of the file defining the
    surface
surf_type=regular_grid # the type of surface: skin: the file is a
    sequence of parallel points that span the surface in the order
    described by the following direction parameters; regular_grid: the
    points are structured distributed. See see Cubit Manual for details
    (skin surface and net surface)
unit_surf= geo # unit of the points, utm or geo (geographical)
    coordinates
nx=5 # In case of regular_grid: nx and ny are the number of points along
    x and y direction.
ny=5
```

5.3 Creating and Meshing a Volume

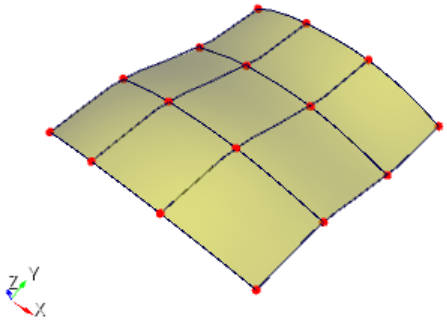
see volume.cfg, for executioning: `GEOCUBIT.py --build_volume --mesh --cfg=./example/volume.cfg`

The example is for a volume with topography with dimension of the hexahedra increasing with depth by means of a refinement layer (Figure 4).

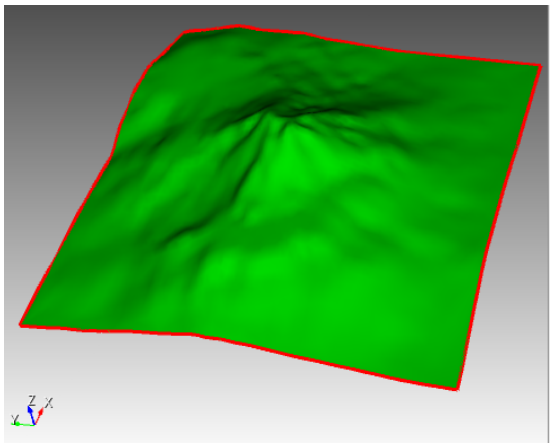
```
[geometry.volumes]
volume_type = layercake_volume_ascii_regulargrid_regularmap
latitude_min                    = 13.879
latitude_max                    = 14.279
longitude_min                   = 40.619
longitude_max                   = 40.969
nx = 5
ny = 5
unit                            = geo
```



(a) Skin topography, `directionx=0` and `directiony=1`



(b) Topography from a net of structured distributed points, `nx=4` and `ny=4`



(c) Topography of Stromboli volcano (Italy) using the net surface method.

Figure 3: Two methods of creating a topographic surface in GeoCubit.

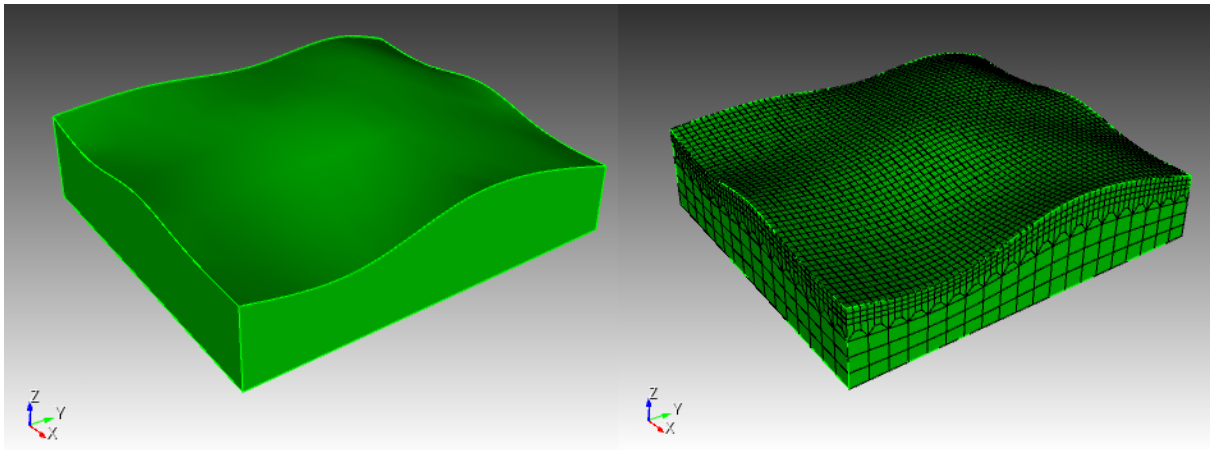


Figure 4: Mesh of a simple volume

```
[geometry.volumes.layercake]
nz = 2
bottomflat = True
depth_bottom = -7000
filename = ./example/topo.dat
geometry_format=ascii
```

nz is the number of the horizontal surfaces in the volume (in this case: topography and bottom).

bottomflat is `True` if the bottom is flat.

depth_bottom is the depth of the bottom.

filename is a list of files. Each one defines a surface (in this case there is only the topography file in a `regular_grid` format).

geometry_format is set to `ascii` since the definition of the surfaces comes from ASCII files (structured xyz points).

```
[meshing]
map_meshing_type=regularmap
iv_interval=5, # if only one value is present, append the comma
size=2000
or_mesh_scheme=map
ntripl=1
tripl=2, # if only one value is present, append the comma
smoothing=False
```

The `[meshing]` section contains the parameters requested for the meshing process.

map_meshing_type sets the meshing scheme and is `regularmap` by default (other schemes are in preliminary phase).

iv_interval sets the number of "horizontal" hex sheets for each layer.

size is the dimension of hexahedral (horizontally).

or_mesh_scheme is the meshing scheme for the topography (`map` or `pave` are possible, see the CUBIT manual for more information).

ntripl is the number of tripling layer in the mesh (in this case 1).

tripl means in this case that the refinement layer is located at the second surface (the topography). The surfaces are ordered from the bottom (surface 1) to the top (surface 2).

smoothing performs the smoothing command in CUBIT.

5.4 Layered Volume and Mesh for Central Italy (in Parallel)

In the example abruzzo.cfg, the layers are 2. For execution, type: `mpirun -n 150 GEOCUBIT.py --build_volume --mesh --cfg=./example/abruzzo.cfg`.

Comparing the previous cfg files, there are few modifications:

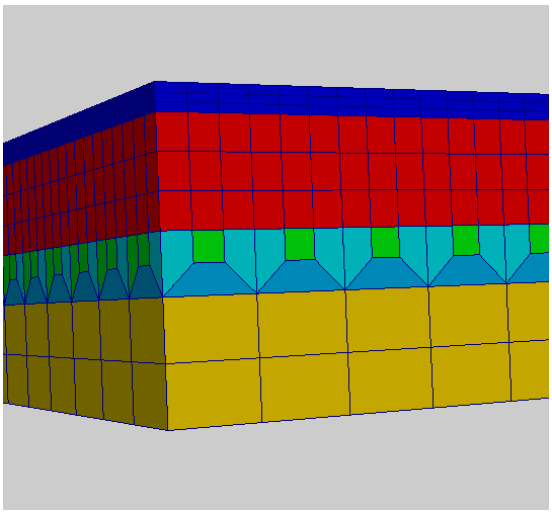
```
. . .
nz = 3
. . .
filename = example/data/moho_int.xyz,example/data/topo.xyz
. . .
iv_interval=8,8 (one value for each layer)
. . .
refinement_depth=1,
```

The volume has `nz=3` interfaces: bottom, moho, and topography. The bottom is flat and its z-coordinate position is set by `depth_bottom`. The name of the files that storage the data for the other interfaces are listed in `filename`. The interfaces defines 2 geological layers. Each layer has `iv_interval=8` "horizontal" hex sheets. There is only a refinement and it is set in the `refinement_depth=1` hex sheet, i.e just below the topography (`refinement_depth=8` means just below the moho).

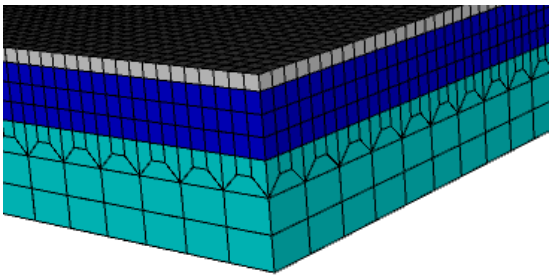
5.5 Creation of a Regular Mesh

In the example grid.cfg, the layers are 3. For execution, type: `GEOCUBIT.py --build_volume --mesh --cfg=./example/grid.cfg`.

In this example we create a simple layercake box `geometry_format=regmesh` with 3 layers at depth defined by `zdepth=-7000,-3000,-600,0`. The initial mesh has hex with horizontal size `size=2000` and the numbers of vertical hex sheets is `iv_interval=3,1,1` respectively for the bottom, middle and top layer. We include a refinement layer (`ntripl=1`) at `tripl=2,` interface (the second from the bottom). Since the refinement occurs on the vertical direction, the vertical dimensions of the hexes in the top layer is too small and the quality of the mesh decreases. `coarsening_top_layer=True` remesh the top layer and the number of vertical hex sheet in the vertical is defined by `actual_vertical_interval_top_layer=1`. (see Figure 5)



(a) Mesh with `coarsening_top_layer=False`



(b) Mesh with `coarsening_top_layer=True`. The top layer is remeshed with `actual_vertical_interval_top_layer=1` vertical hex sheet.

Figure 5: Regular mesh with one tripling layer showing the effect of `coarsening_top_layer`.

5.6 TODO: Mesh for Southern California

Mesh with high number of hexes and high resolution topography. Mesh in Parallel.

TO DO

5.7 TODO: Mesh for Santa Monica Overtrust

Using part of the mesh for Southern California, stitching together several slices.
TO DO

5.8 TODO: Grouping Hexes with Different Resolved Periods

Checking the stability For execution type: `GEOCUBIT.py --meshfiles=[filename] --stability (--tomofile=[tomographic file]/--vp=[vp text value] --vs=[vs text value])`.
Or in the script tab of the CUBIT GUI, type:

```
>from geocubitlib.hex_metric import SEM_stability_3D # load the GeoCubit
    modules
>mesh=SEM_stability_3D()
>mesh.check_simulation_parameter(vp_static=vp,vs_static=vs) # test the
    mesh against some homogeneous velocity model
# or
>mesh.check_simulation_parameter(tomofile=tomofile) # test the mesh
    against a tomographic file
mesh.group_timestep() # grouping hex with similar timestep
mesh.group_period() # grouping hex with similar period
```

TO DO: picture

6 TODO: SPECFEM3D Mesh Format

TO DO

7 TODO: Notes about the Dimension of the Hexes, the Minimum Period Resolved and the Time Step of the Simulation

TO DO