

DexOF: DEXter OpenFOAM interface

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What is DexOF?

DEXter (Design Exploration and Testing For Engineers) is a Stevens-built platform that allows system design space representation (using the .dex language), exploration (DoE, Sampling), and Optimization (a variety of Multi-Objective GA and other algorithms). Design space abstractions, operations on design spaces (e.g., Unite*: a regularized design space union), parameter dependencies (uses NetworkX graph), simulation execution paths (with multi-fidelity) are part of the DEXter platform core. They have been developed at Stevens Institute of technology. DEXter uses several open-source packages. The exploration and optimization tools are powered by pymoo (for Optimization), SMT (for exploration and surrogation), and Altair (for limited visualization).

DexOF is the DEXter's simulation interface to OpenFOAM (CFD) software. Currently, it is set up to automate lift, drag, and moment coefficient estimation for submerged bodies in laminar and turbulent flow regimes. Three-dimensional and two-dimensional axisymmetric analyses are supported.

How to access and use DexOF?

Set up Requirements:

1. (For Windows/Win64 Users Only) Install Windows Subsystem for Linux
 - a. Install Ubuntu 20.04 (**Requires: Windows 10 version 16237.0 or higher**)
Install WSL2: <https://ubuntu.com/wsl>
Use this link to install:
<https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/p/ubuntu/9nblggh4msv6?activetab=pivot:overviewtab>
(Installation will ask for a username and a password – please remember these you will need them)

(For Win64 **and** Linux Users)

After installation of WSL/Ubuntu 20.04 LTS, Look for the Ubuntu Shell in the windows menu (or search for it in the command box) and open a new shell.

You must permit docker to run within that shell: Type:

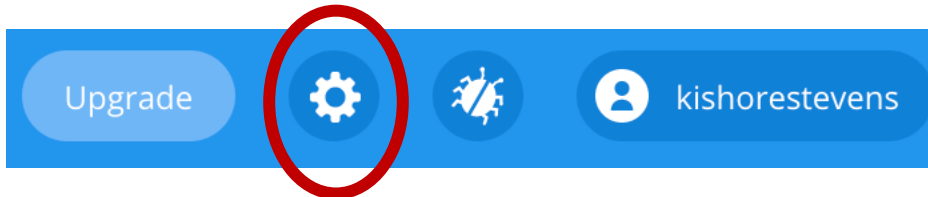
- `sudo groupadd docker`
- `sudo usermod -aG docker ${USER}`

Close that terminal and restart and new one. (One time set up only.)

2. (Mac, Linux, Win64)

Install Docker Desktop: <https://www.docker.com/products/docker-desktop>

- Verify Docker installation – look for the docker icon in the application tray
- Let docker know you have Ubuntu on your windows as a subsystem
- [Win 64 only]** In Docker-Desktop settings (Gear icon on top left)



Go to **Resources – WSL Integration** (left side bar)

Turn on **Ubuntu 20.04** switch

(you will see Ubuntu on this screen if step 1 was a success.)

Apply and Restart

3. There are only 3 commands to run set up problem and run OpenFoam

See section below for step-by-step

```
I) docker run --rm -v ${PWD}:/home/aimed_user/dexof_work kishorestevens/dexof
/home/aimed_user/dex_of/setup_dexof.sh
II) cd ./test_casestudy
III) ./run_dexof.sh rough_mesh_8cores.dex seaglider.stl 1
```

In more detail (all the nitty-gritties)

- Open a Linux/MAC/WSL-Ubuntu terminal.
- Make a new working directory – say, `mkdir test_dexof`
- **On Linux Hosts: Avoid the uid/gid mapping issues by simply setting permissions so everyone can write into that folder: `chmod 777 test_dexof` or use `sudo` when running `run_dexof.sh`**
- `cd` into the directory you just created, i.e. `cd test_dexof`
- Run the following commands (in red) to get the required scripts and a test case.

**i) Get the docker image and the script for running DexOF
(copy the red command below and paste into the terminal)**

```
docker run --rm -v ${PWD}:/home/aimed_user/dexof_work kishorestevens/dexof
/home/aimed_user/dex_of/setup_dexof.sh
```

Response will be:

```
*****
**      DEXTER-OPENFOAM INTERFACE      **
**  Stevens Institute of Technology  **
** No warranties: use at your own risk **
*****
cd to test_casestudy folder and run the following command to run 1 degree aoa on seaglider
Modify the dex files as necessary to make changes to computational grids or other options
----
```

```
./run_dexof.sh <dexfile> <stlfile> <aoa_in_degrees>
FOR EXAMPLE:
./run_dexof.sh rough_mesh_8cores.dex seaglider.stl 1
RUNS seaglider with a coarse mesh and at 1 degree aoa.
----
*** ALL DONE ***
```

This command will create an example case folder with one .stl file (seaglider.stl), four dex files (corresponding to four mesh densities – rough, coarse, medium, and fine and 3 different CPU core resources), and the script that will run OpenFOAM simulations: run_dexof.sh.

WARNING 1: Default mesh files are set for 8 cores. If your system has less, you will need to adjust that in the .dex file.

Look for these two parameters below:

```
subdomains,input,discrete,8
computegrid,input,string,(2 2 2)
```

Above settings are for 8 cores in a 2x2x2 (X x Y x Z) grid.

If you have only 4 cores, edit these lines in the dex file:

```
subdomains,input,discrete,4
computegrid,input,string,(2 2 1)
```

If you have only 2 cores, edit these lines in the dex file:

```
subdomains,input,discrete,2
computegrid,input,string,(2 1 1)
```

If you have only one core, perhaps it is time to get a new computer!

ii) Use the following command to run a 3D analysis in OF using the same docker container pulled before.

```
cd ./test_casestudy

./run_dexof.sh <dexfile> <stlfile> <aoa_in_degrees>
FOR EXAMPLE:
./run_dexof.sh rough_mesh_8cores.dex seaglider.stl 1
```

Notes:

- In this setup, only the stlfile and the aoa can be overwritten from the script's command line. All other variables must be edited in the .dex file.
- Other scripts and OF templates are in the docker container in the /home/aimed_user/dex_of/ directory. Feel free to edit them as you need them.
- Warnings during pre-processing are ok. Ignore them. We are working on repairing the STL.

```
<frozen importlib._bootstrap>:219: FutureWarning: Passing (type, 1) or 'ltype' as
a synonym of type is deprecated; in a future version of numpy, it will be
understood as (type, (1,)) / '(1,)type'.
Your mesh is not closed, the mass methods will not function
```

```

        correctly on this mesh. For more info:
        https://github.com/WoLpH/numpy-stl/issues/69
Your mesh is not closed, the mass methods will not function
        correctly on this mesh. For more info:
        https://github.com/WoLpH/numpy-stl/issues/69
<frozen importlib._bootstrap>:219: FutureWarning: Passing (type, 1) or '1type' as
a synonym of type is deprecated; in a future version of numpy, it will be
understood as (type, (1,)) / '(1,)type'.

```

- **You may replace STL file with your own file.** Computation box will be automatically set up as defined in the configuration dex file. (See Warning #1 and Appendix-A)
- **WARNING #2:** Note that the flow is along +x axis and lift along +Y axis. Please make sure that this is the case. Rotation of the STL File into this coordinate frame has not been implemented (Future Release). We assume that you already have the STL has +x oriented along the flow direction.
- **You may edit the configuration file (.dex) files as you like.** The parameters in the configuration files (.dex) files are described in Appendix-A. These are propagated into OpenFOAM input files at various places by the dex_of.py script located in the container.

iii) Use the following command to run a 2D-axisymmetric analysis in OF using the same docker container pulled fore.

```

cd ./test_casestudy

./run_dexof_axisymmetric.sh <dexfile> <stlfile>
FOR EXAMPLE:
./run_dexof_axisymmetric.sh axisymmetric.dex cone.stl

```

Notes:

- **Axisymmetric analyses require a 3D axisymmetric body (.stl file) as input. The axis of symmetry of the stl file must coincide with the x-axis.** Otherwise, the analysis will fail with an error message.
- Analysis parameter files (.dex files) can be used (mostly) interchangeably for 3D and 2D-axisymmetric analyses. However, the following points have to be considered (see Appendix A for more details).:
 - If running a simulation in parallel, the **compute grid z component has to be 1.**
 - The aoa parameter will be ignored in a 2D-axisymmetric analysis and the .stl file will be used without rotation.
 - The parameters DomainSizeYBot, DomainSizeZLeft, and DomainSizeZRight will be ignored. The negative y-direction is limited by the symmetry axis and the analysis is two-dimensional in z-direction.
 - The parameter cellSizeZ will be ignored. The analysis is two-dimensional in z-direction
- An axisymmetric analysis can only be used to estimate the drag forces and drag coefficient. Lift estimates should be ignored!

Appendix-A

DexOF configuration file structure.

Syntax:

**** Comment**

*** DEXter command – dex_of ignores these**

Parameter, ..., Value

*All lines that do not begin with a * are parameter definitions. They are comma-separated filed. First field is the parameter name, and the last field is the parameter value. All the other fields are for DEXter use and dex_of.py users can safely ignore them.
(All parameters are bolded-red in the listing below)*

```
*** AIMED Project
*** Stevens Institute of Technology,2021
***
** UUV CL CD COMPUTATION WITH OPEN Foam
***
*** Syntax: ParameterName,,,ParameterValue
*** All lines without * in front are parameters
*** Example:
*** casefoldername,input,string,UUV_aoa0_core32
*** line.split(',')[0] --> parameter Name
*** line.split(',')[1] --> Parameter Value
****
**** NOTES: 1) CHANGE ONLY THE VALUES (after the last comma)–Names are fixed.
**** 2)runopenfoam, backgroundof are not implemented in release 0.1
**** 3) Values in blue are overwritten by command line from shell scripts.
**** 4)dex_of.py can overwrite them all.
****
*DesignSpace,Name=UUV_Coarse
*Parameters
***
*** RUN CONTROL PARAMETERS
***
***
casefoldername,input,string,UUV_aoa0_core32
runopenfoam,input,string,yes
backgroundof,input,string,no
kOmegaTol,input,continuous,1e-8
upTol,input,continuous,1e-8
maxiter,input,discrete,500
***
*** Geometry Details
***
infile,input,string,UUV_Orig.stl
outfile,input,string,UUV0.stl
aoa,input,continuous,1.0
***
*** if the stl file needs to be scaled.
scalex,input,continuous,0.001
```

