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Augmenting SPH simulations using the Material Point Method:
Modeling mixed-mode failure in rocks



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Mit Geonumerics

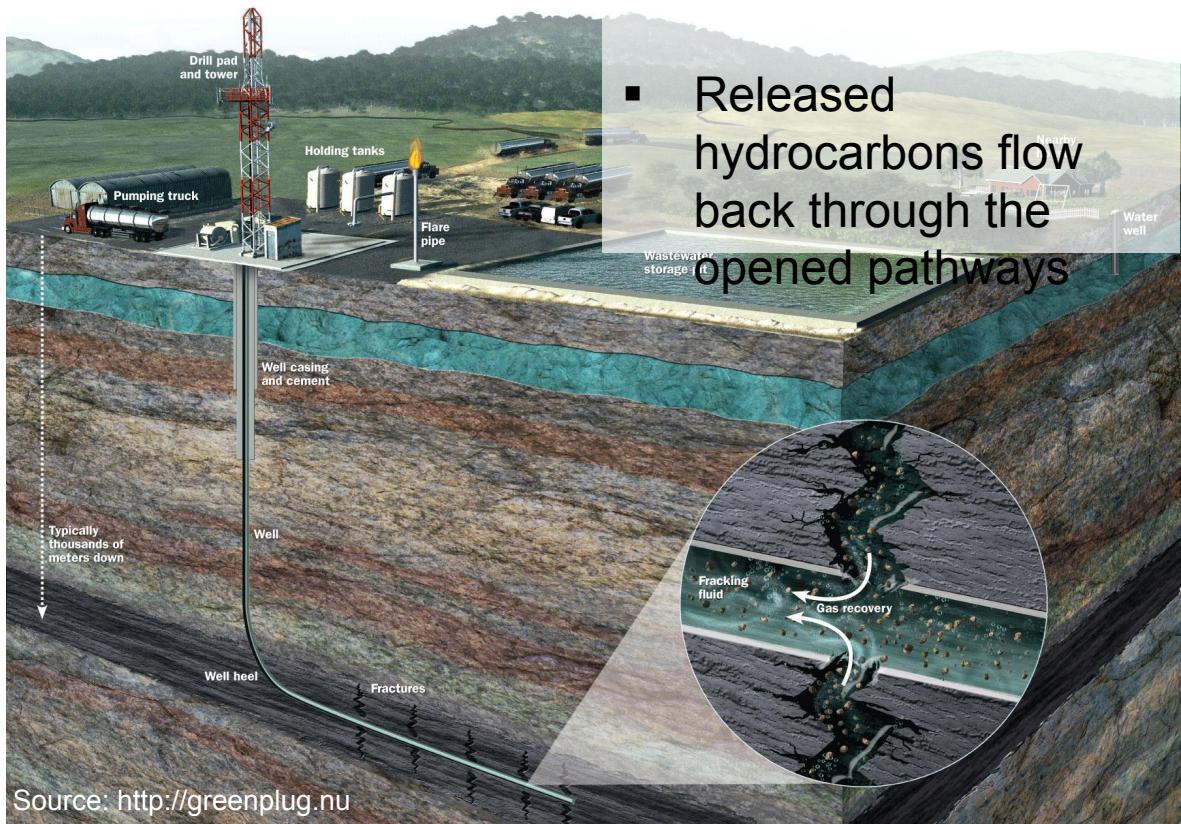
Hydraulic Fracturing – What is it?

Why use numerical models?

- State of material deep underground is hard to measure and reproduce
- Fracture behavior is heavily dependent on material properties

How does it work?

- Fluid is used to open fractures in dense rock
- Released hydrocarbons flow back through the opened pathways



Hydraulic Fracturing – Modeling

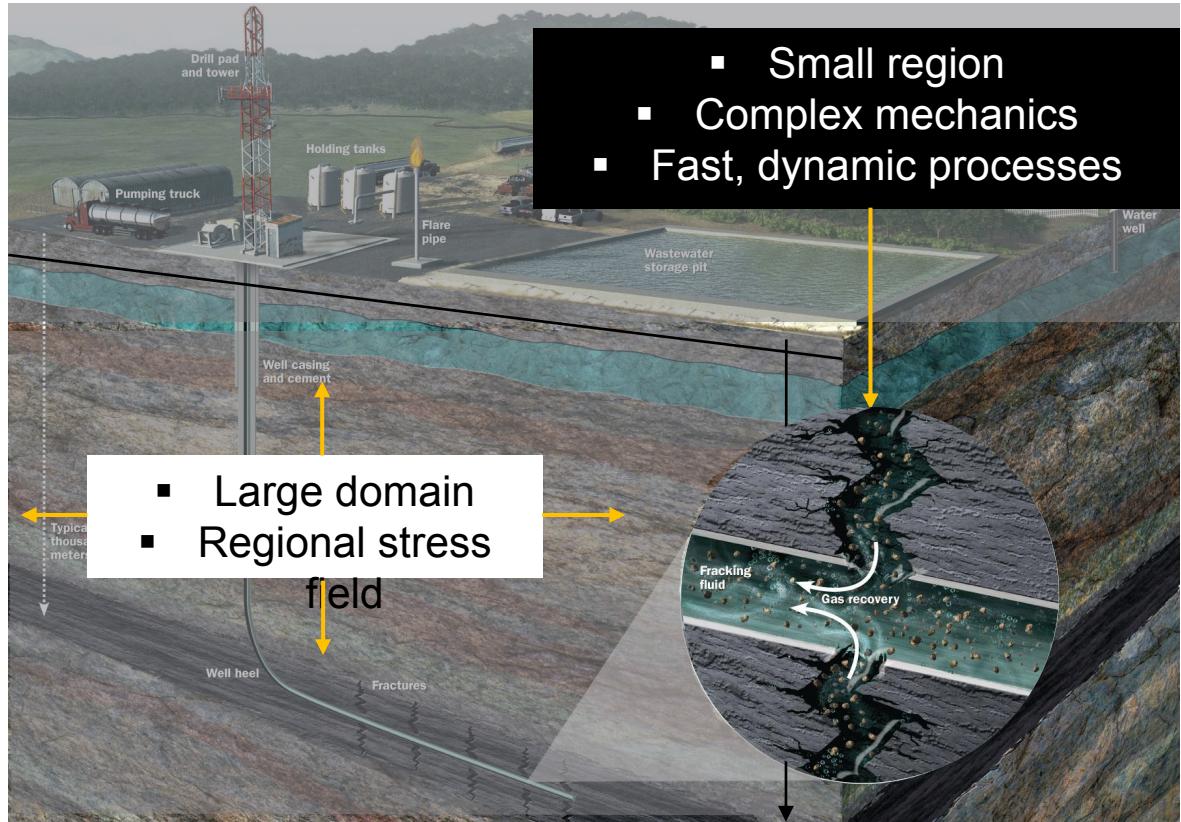
Modeling Challenges

- Two scales of behavior:

- Surrounding rock (~1000's of meters)
- Resource-rich rock around borehole (~1 meter)

- Complex behavior:

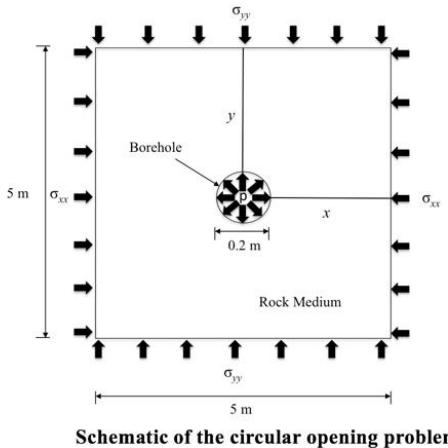
- Fracture creation and propagation
- Fracture interaction
- Fluid-solid interactions



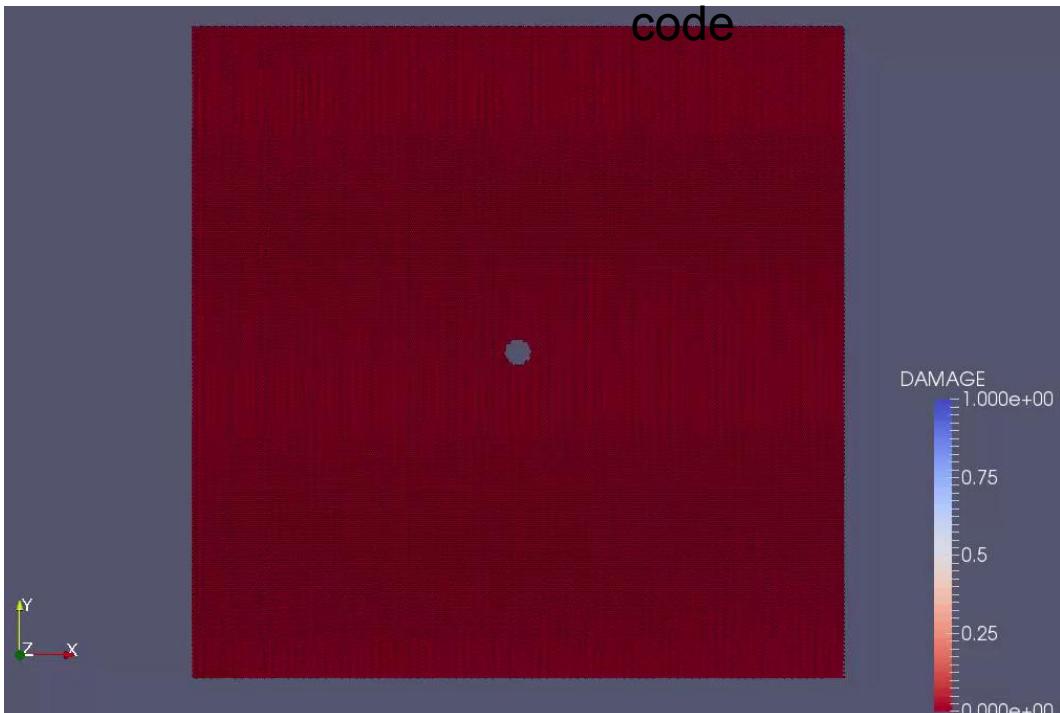
Hydraulic Fracturing – SPH Modeling

Borehole Physics

- Fracture creation and propagation
- Multiple, interacting fractures
- Interaction of multiphase flows



Borehole model of fracture propagation using MIT in-house SPH code



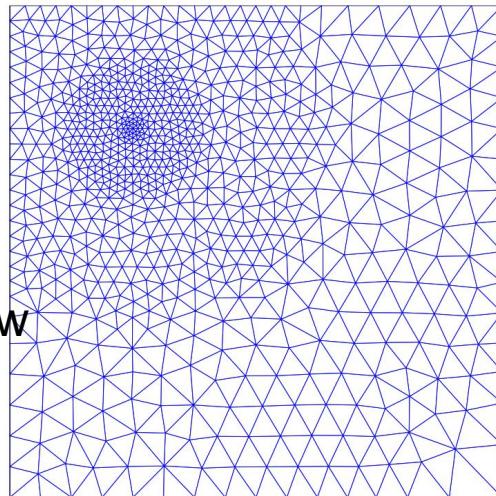
Model Limitations

- 5m x 5m simulation ~ 100,000 particles
- SPH scaling up to reservoir scale is inefficient
- Boundary conditions

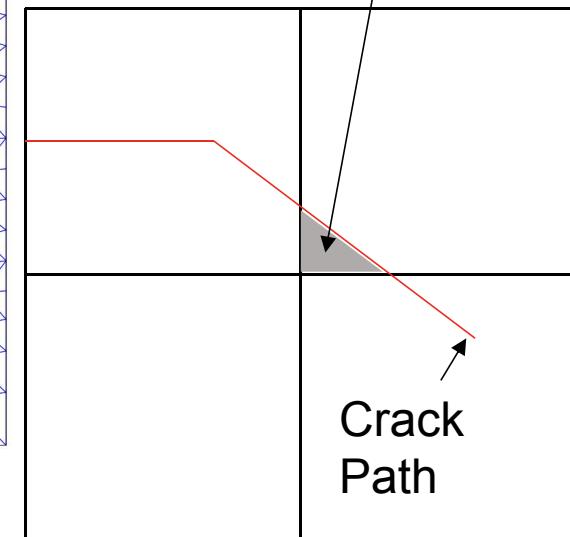
Hydraulic Fracturing – FEM Modeling

Reservoir Model

- Geometry is smoothly varying
- Dynamics are mostly elastic, slow

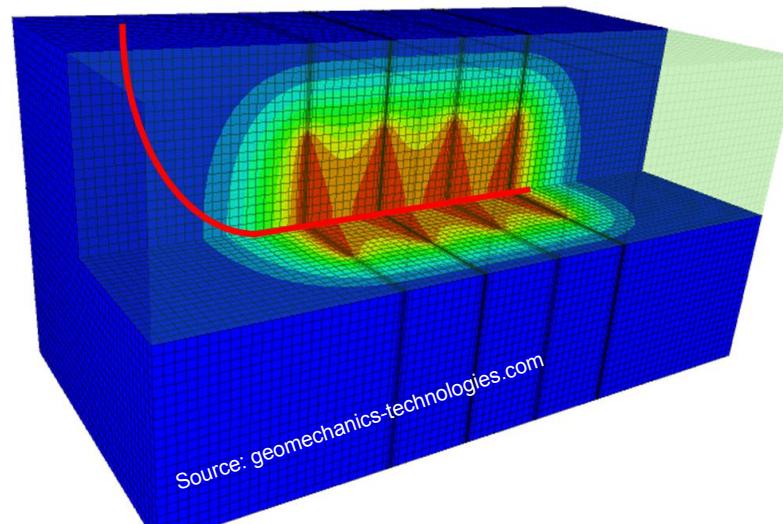


Fragmented cell



FEM Simulation

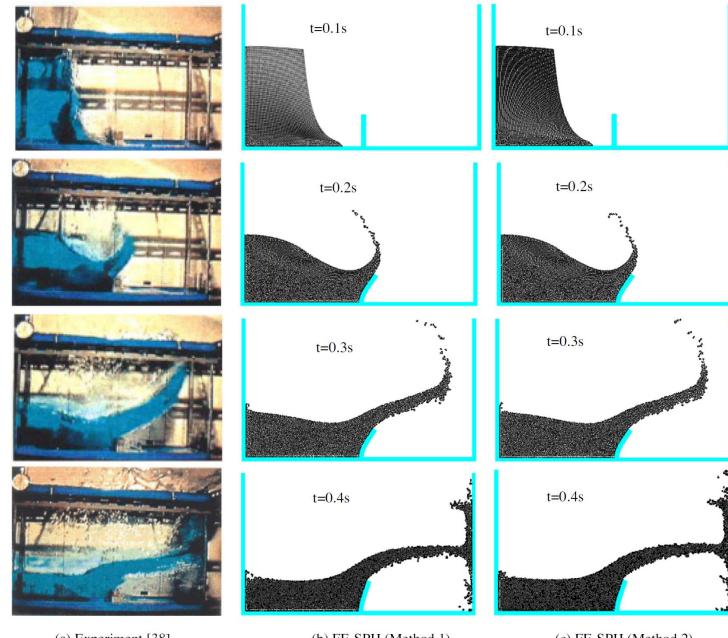
- More efficient at simpler physics and geometries
- Can scale more effectively from borehole to reservoir
- Far field boundary conditions are straightforward



SPH/FEM Coupling

Coupling a particles to a mesh:

- Allows for deformation to be simulated more efficiently
- Reduces total computation time



(a) Experiment [38]

(b) FE-SPH (Method 1)

(c) FE-SPH (Method 2)

Some issues:

- Implementation is complex
- Flexibility of interface interactions

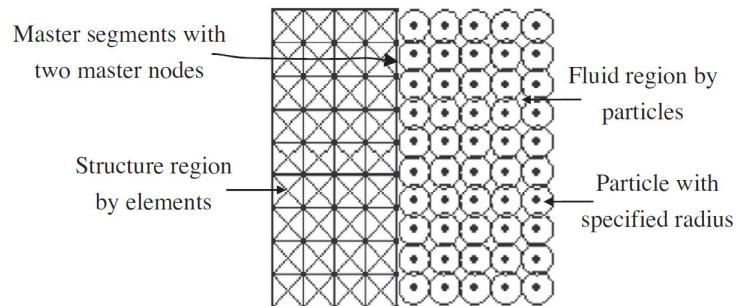
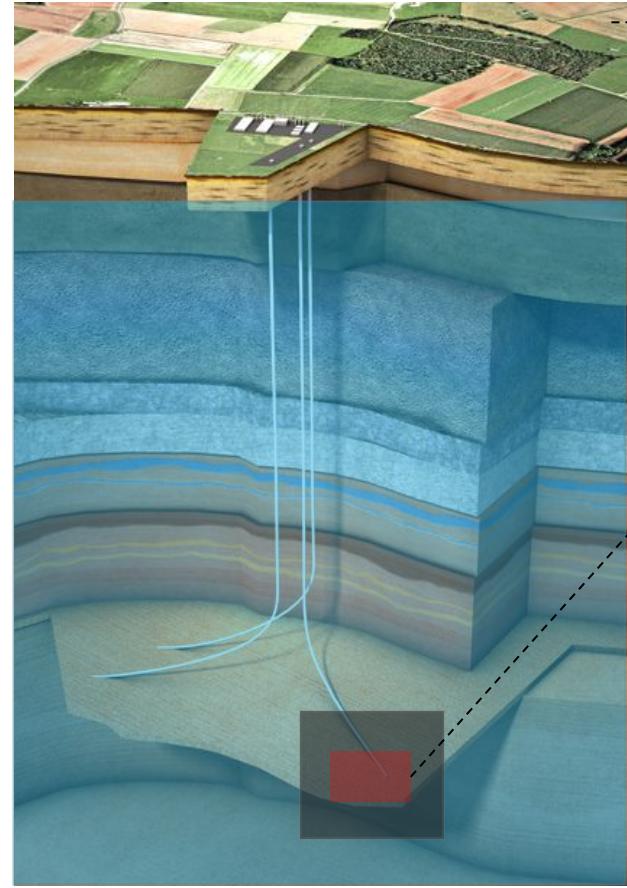


Fig. 1. Schematism of interface between fluid and structure.

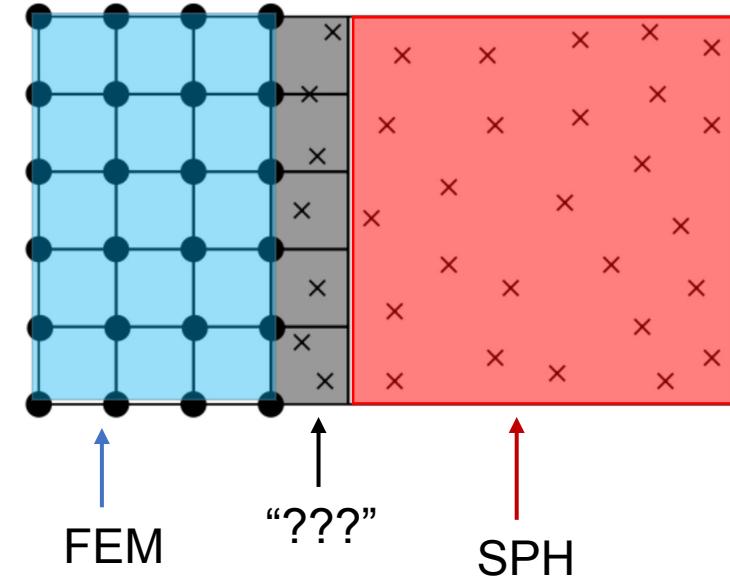
Source: Comput. Methods Appl. Mech. Engrg. 276 (2014) 266–286

Proposed Solution SPH+“???”+FEM



Full scale
10's of km

Area of
interest 10's
of meters



Transitional Method between SPH & FEM

- Hybrid particle/grid technique
- Couple grid to FEM for fast scaling
- Couple particles to SPH for complex mechanics

The Material Point Method (MPM)

MPM has been used in the animation industry for movies like Disney's Frozen, Big Hero 6, Zootopia, Moana and more.

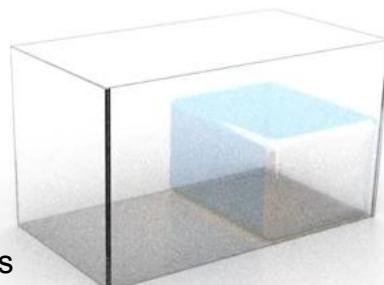
$$\begin{aligned}E_0 &= 4.8 \times 10^{-1} \\ \theta_c &= 2.5 \times 10^{-2} \\ \theta_s &= 7.5 \times 10^{-3} \\ \xi &= 10\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}E_0 &= 1.4 \times 10^{-1} \\ \theta_c &= 2.5 \times 10^{-2} \\ \theta_s &= 7.5 \times 10^{-3} \\ \xi &= 10\end{aligned}$$

Made by Walt Disney Studios Animation Group

Can be used for a wide range of problems in continuum mechanics

Fluids with free surfaces



Hypervelocity impacts with plasticity effects



Made with our code

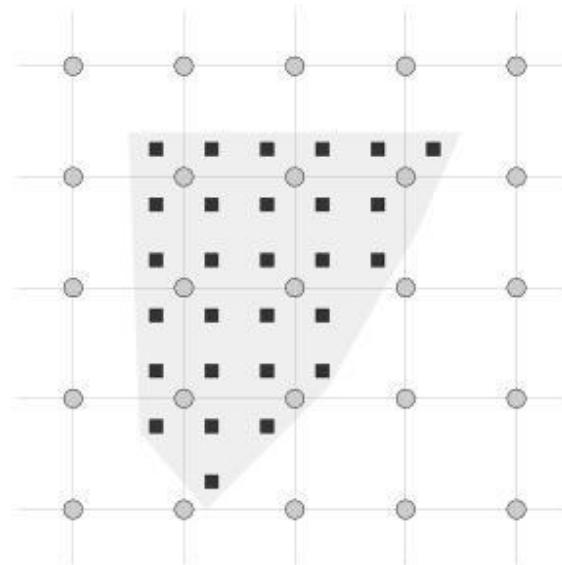
The Material Point Method (MPM)

MPM Algorithm

Step 1 – Interpolate to nodes

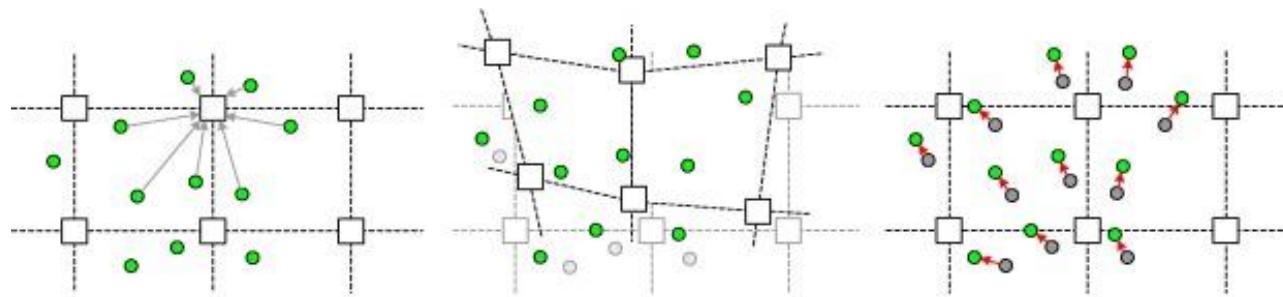
$$\text{Mass: } M_i = \sum_{p=1}^{N_p} m_p N_{ip}$$

$$\text{Force: } f_i^{int} = -\sum_{p=1}^{N_p} \sigma_p G_{ip} V_p \quad (G_{ip} \equiv \nabla N_{ip})$$



Step 2 – Solve F=ma on nodes

Step 3 – Interpolate back to particles and update



Step 1

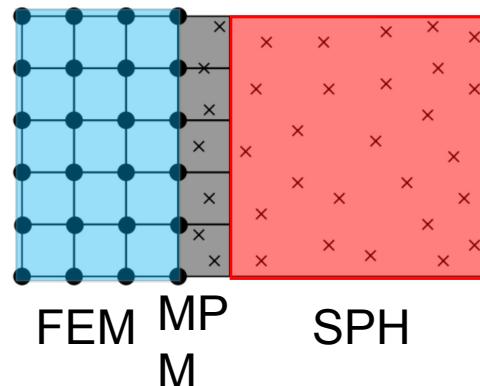
Step 2

Step 3

Checklist

For MPM to be a useful candidate it must be capable of:

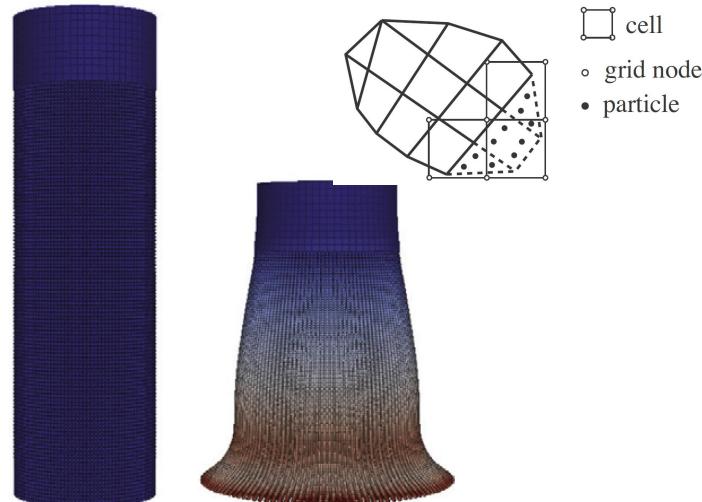
- ? MPM – FEM coupling
- ? MPM – SPH Coupling
- ? Modeling same physics as SPH



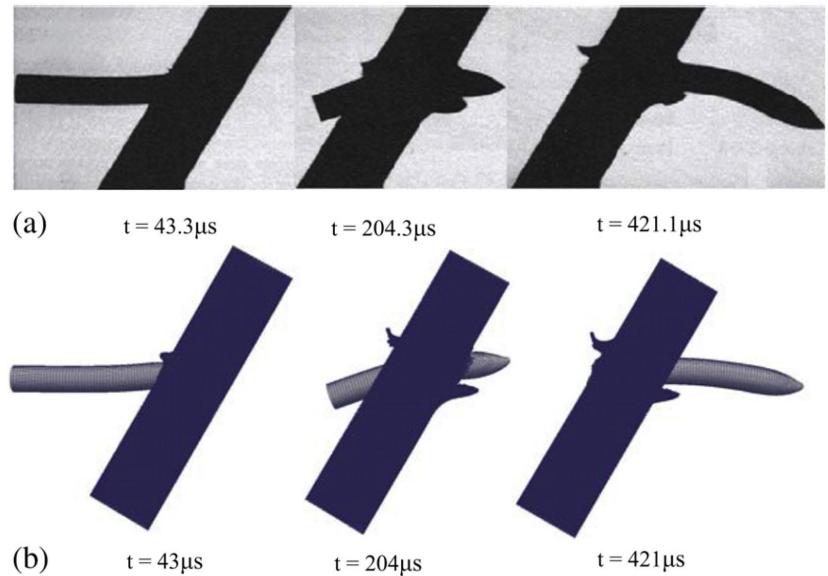
MPM/FEM Coupling

MPM-FEM Coupling

- ❑ Used to augment FEM simulations (below)
- ❑ Used to model different material behavior (right)



Source: *Comput. Methods Appl. Mech. Engrg.* 241–244 (2012) 275–285



Source: *Comput. Methods Appl. Mech. Engrg.* 200 (2011) 3482–3494

Nodal values during MPM timestep

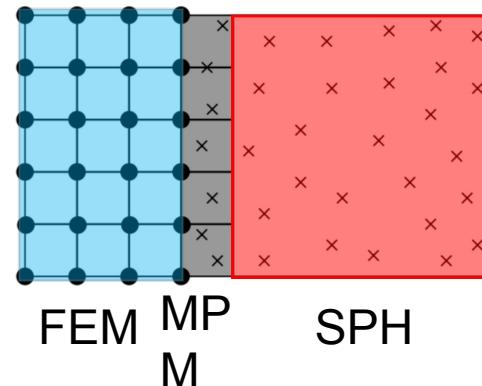
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FEM nodal values

Checklist

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- ✓ MPM – FEM coupling
- ? MPM – SPH Coupling
- ? Modeling same physics as SPH

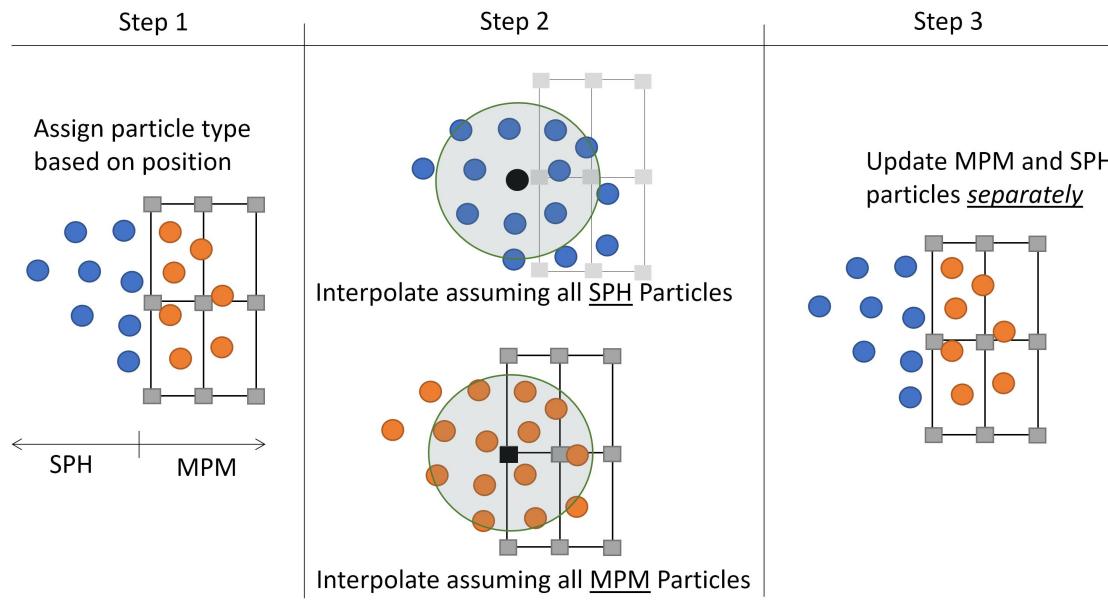
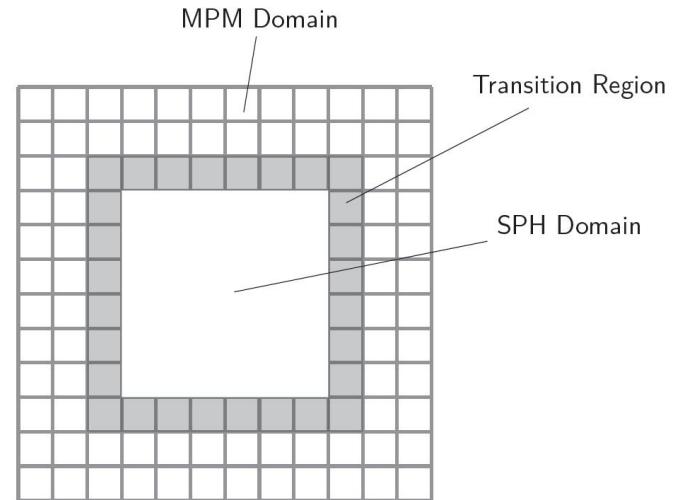


MPM/SPH Coupling

Coupling Philosophy

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- Assume each particle is data for interpolation*
- + Update particles based on type*



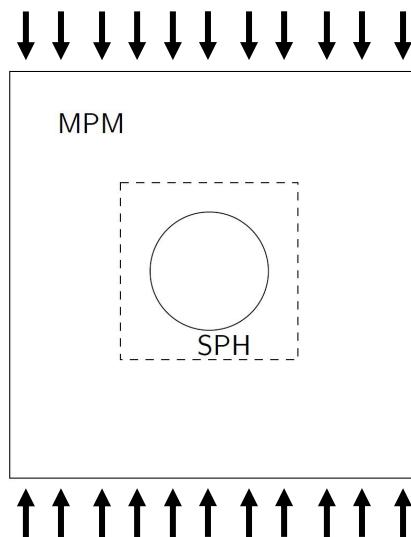
Coupling Algorithm:

- Assign particle type based on position.
- Interpolate from all surrounding points.
- Update particles using respective algorithms, SPH/MPM

MPM/SPH Coupling

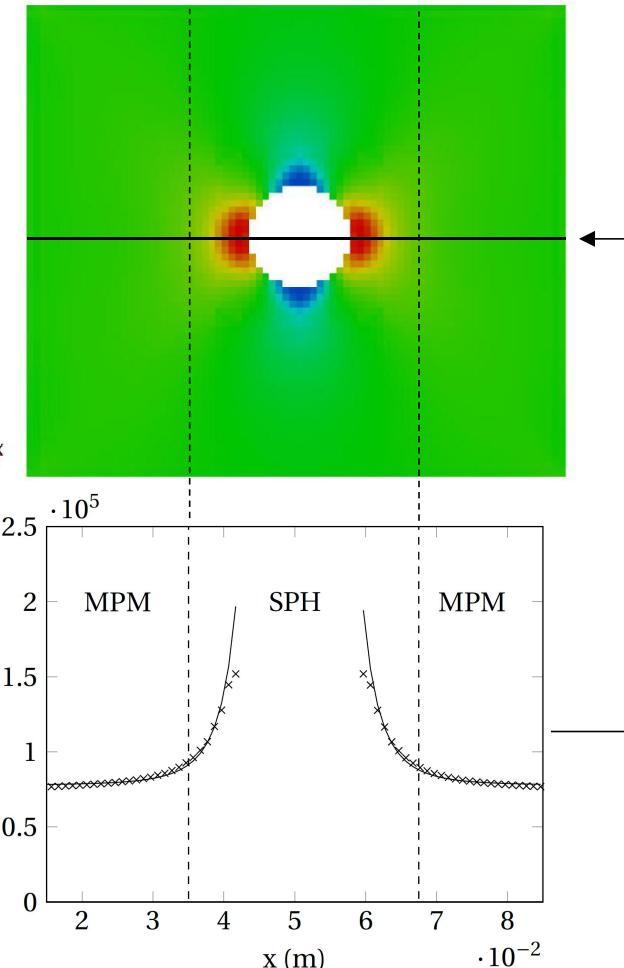
Coupling Verification: 2D Hole in a plate

- Stress concentration
- Stress gradient across transition region
- Analytical solution



MPM-SPH Simulation:

- Smooth transition across stress gradient
- Matches analytical solution



Stress along
centerline

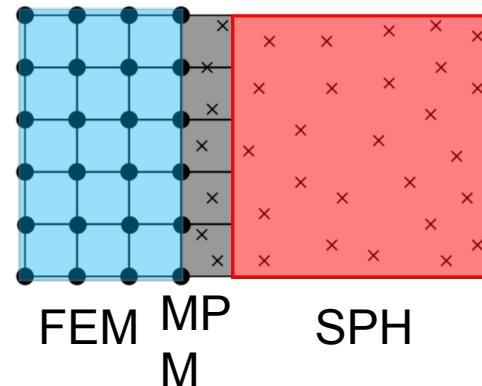
Full paper in **Computational Particle Mechanics**:

Raymond, S.J., Jones, B. & Williams, J.R. Comp. 'A strategy to couple the material point method (MPM) and smoothed particle hydrodynamics (SPH) computational techniques' (2016).

Checklist

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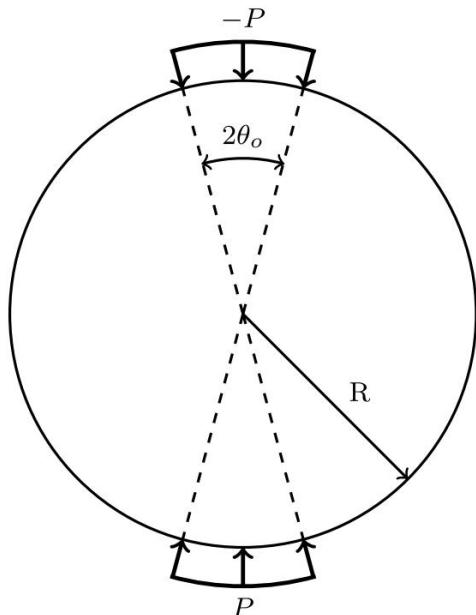
- ✓ MPM – FEM coupling
- ✓ MPM – SPH Coupling
- ? Modeling same physics as SPH



Validating MPM against SPH

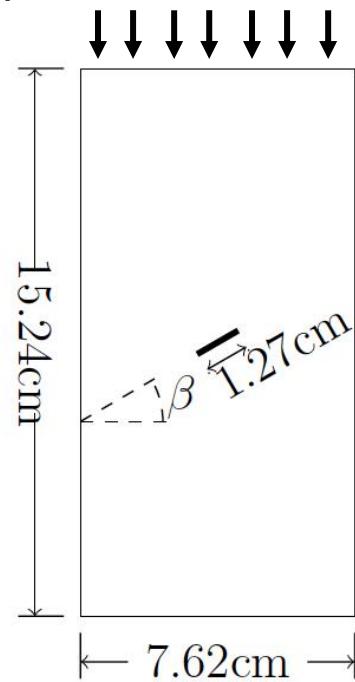
Brazil Test

- Analytical solution in elastic region
- Separate plastic and damage regions



Single Flaw Uniaxial Compression

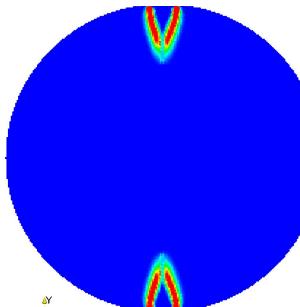
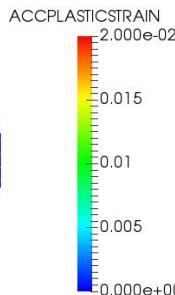
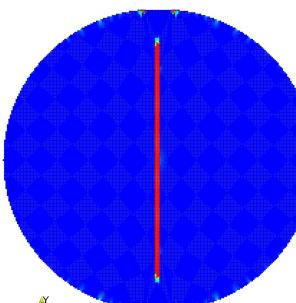
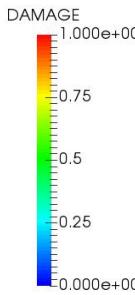
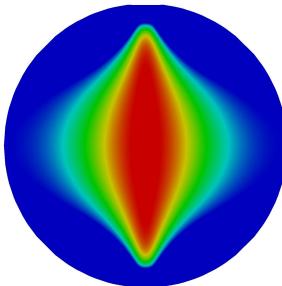
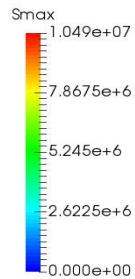
- Comparison with experimental results
- Complex mixed-mode failure paths



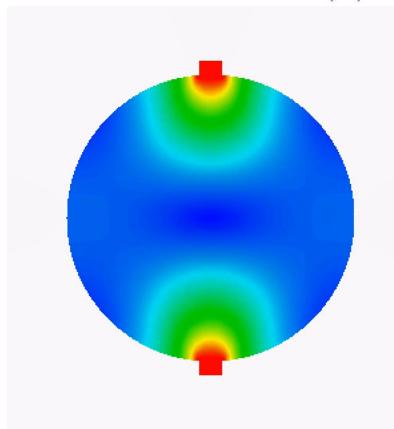
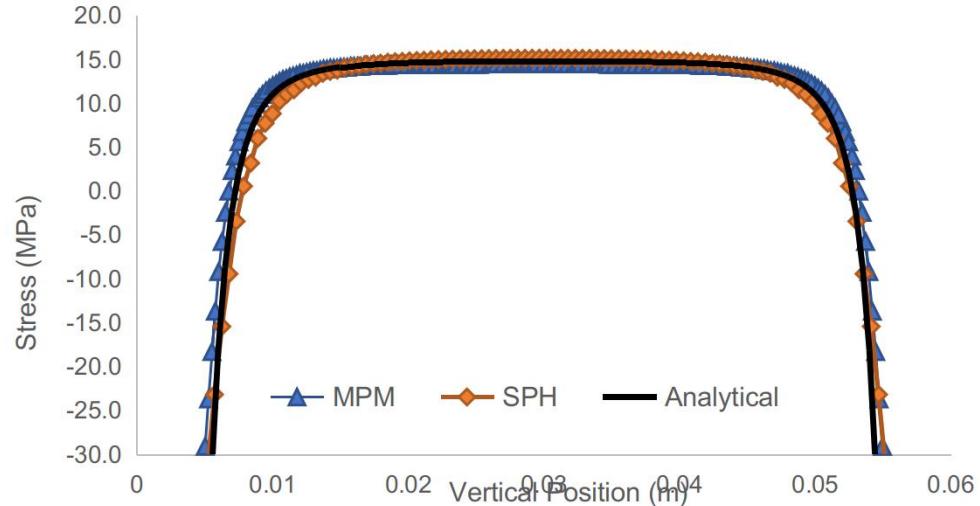
Brazil Test – SPH vs. MPM

Maximum Tensile Stress

SPH
MPM

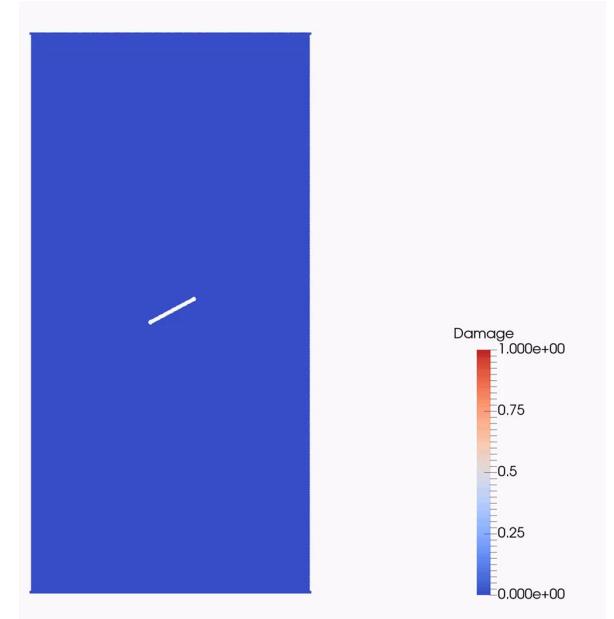
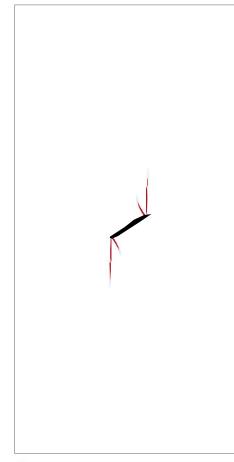
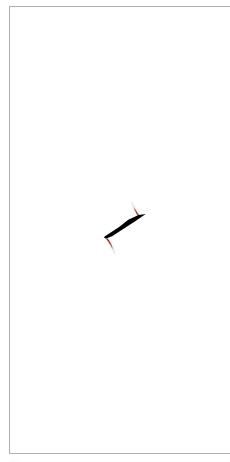
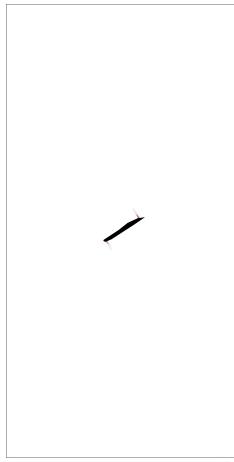


$$\sigma_x(0, y) = \frac{2p}{\pi} \left[\frac{(1 - y^2/R^2) \sin 2\theta_o}{1 - 2y^2/R^2 \cos 2\theta_o + y^4/R^4} - \tan^{-1} \left(\frac{1 + y^2/R^2}{1 - y^2/R^2} \tan \theta_o \right) \right]$$

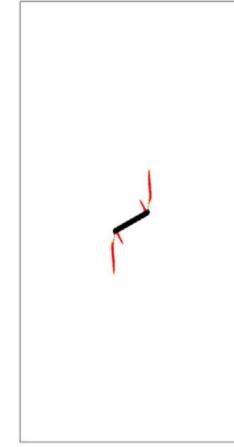
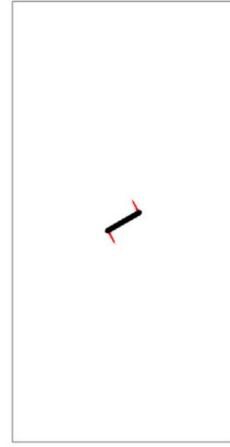
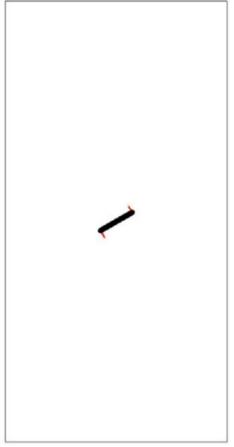


Single Flaw Specimen – SPH vs. MPM

MPM



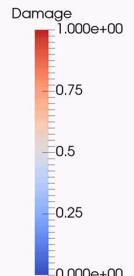
SPH



(d) $\beta = 30^\circ$ at $t = 1ms$

(e) $\beta = 30^\circ$ at $t = 1.5ms$

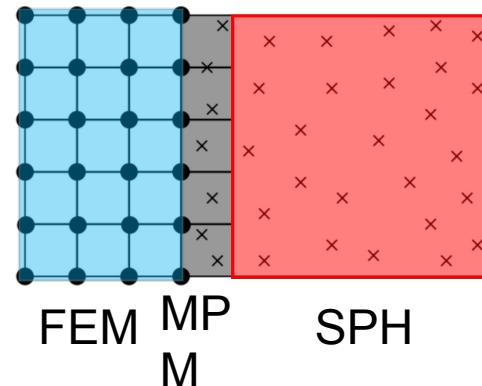
(f) $\beta = 30^\circ$ at $t = 2ms$



Checklist

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- ✓ MPM – FEM coupling
- ✓ MPM – SPH Coupling
- ✓ Modeling same physics as SPH



Conclusions and moving forward

Summary:

- ✓ MPM is a potential candidate for smooth particle to mesh method coupling
- ✓ SPH and MPM can accurately model mixed mode failure in rock material

Next Steps:

- Combine all three methods into a single simulation
- MPM and SPH only with scaled MPM regions

