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A Posteriori Error Estimation via Equilibrated Stress Reconstruction for Unilateral Contact Problems

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Motivation - Industrial context

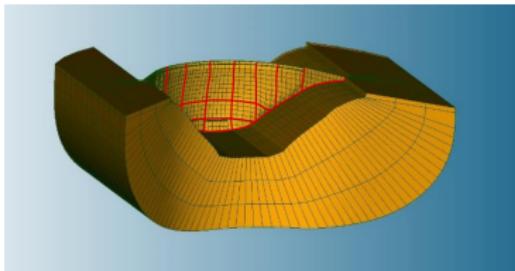
- Engineering teams use finite element numerical simulations to study large hydraulic structures and evaluate their safety.
- Gleno (Italy, 1923), Malpasset (France, 1959)
- Concrete dams show different interface zones:
 - concrete-rock contact in the foundation
 - joints between the blocks of the dam
 - joints in concrete
 - ...
- Need for accurate simulations



Gleno

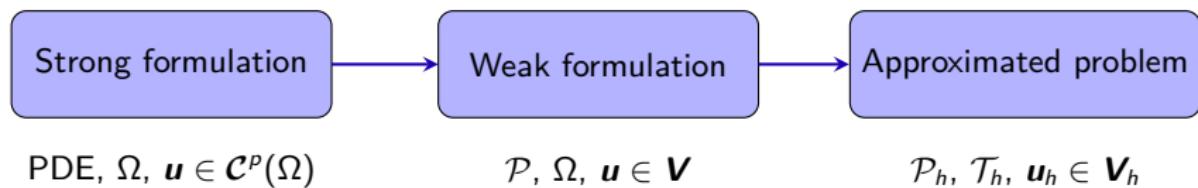


Malpasset



Finite element approximation background

We consider a problem on a domain $\Omega \subseteq \mathbb{R}^d$, $d \geq 1$ which is expressed by some Partial Differential Equations.



- \mathbf{V} is a space of function infinite-dimensional, \mathbf{V}_h is a finite-dimensional approximation of \mathbf{V}
- \mathbf{u} is the *exact solution*, \mathbf{u}_h is an *approximated solution* found using a numerical method
- \mathcal{T}_h is a *spatial mesh*, i.e., a partition of Ω

An example: Poisson problem in one-dimensional space

$$\Omega = (a, b) \subset \mathbb{R}, \quad u' := \frac{du}{dx}$$

Strong formulation: Find $u \in \mathcal{C}^2(\Omega)$ such that

$$u'' + f = 0 \quad \text{in } \Omega \tag{1a}$$

$$u = 0 \quad \text{on } \partial\Omega \tag{1b}$$

Weak formulation: Find $u \in H_0^1(\Omega)$ such that

$$(u', v') = (f, v) \quad v \in H_0^1(\Omega), \tag{2}$$

where $H_0^1(\Omega) := \{v \in H^1(\Omega) | v = 0 \text{ on } \partial\Omega\}$.

Approximated problem: Find $u_h \in V_h$ such that

$$(u'_h, v'_h) = (f, v_h) \quad v_h \in V_h, \tag{3}$$

where $V_h = \{v_h \in \mathcal{C}^0(\overline{\Omega}) | v_h|_T \in \mathcal{P}^p(T) \ \forall T \in \mathcal{T}_h\}$.

A posteriori estimation background

The error between the exact solution and the approximate solution is measured with $\|\| \mathbf{u} - \mathbf{u}_h \| \|$, where $\|\| \cdot \| \|$ is some norm.

A priori error estimate:

$$\|\| \mathbf{u} - \mathbf{u}_h \| \| \leq C(\mathbf{u}) h^k$$

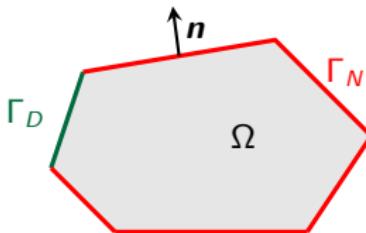
A posteriori error estimate:

$$\|\| \mathbf{u} - \mathbf{u}_h \| \| \leq \left(\sum_{T \in \mathcal{T}_h} \eta_T(\mathbf{u}_h)^2 \right)^{1/2}$$

Features of a good *a posteriori* error estimate:

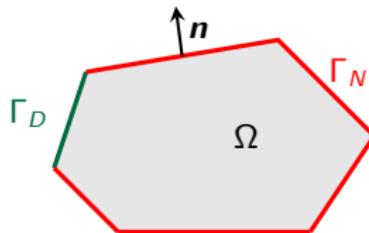
- Error control
- Local efficiency ($\eta_T(\mathbf{u}_h) \leq C \|\| \mathbf{u} - \mathbf{u}_h \| \|_{\mathcal{T}_T}$ for every element T)
- Error localization
- Identification and separation of different components of the error
- Adaptive mesh refinement

Elasto-static problem background



- Small deformation hypothesis
- Ω is the domain which represents an elastic body (reference configuration)
- $\mathbf{u}: \Omega(\subseteq \mathbb{R}^d) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^d$, $d \in \{2, 3\}$ is the unknown displacement
- $\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}(\mathbf{u}) = (\varepsilon_{ij}(\mathbf{u}))_{ij}$, where $\varepsilon_{ij}(\mathbf{u}) := \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{\partial u_i}{\partial x_j} + \frac{\partial u_j}{\partial x_i} \right)$, is the strain tensor
- $\boldsymbol{\sigma}(\mathbf{u}) = \mathbf{A} : \boldsymbol{\varepsilon}(\mathbf{u}) := \lambda \text{tr} \boldsymbol{\varepsilon}(\mathbf{u}) \mathbf{I}_d + 2\mu \boldsymbol{\varepsilon}(\mathbf{u})$ is the elasticity stress tensor

Elasto-static problem background



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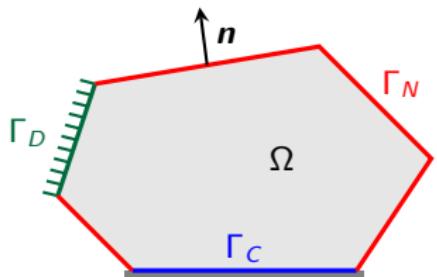
Elasto-static problem

$$\nabla \cdot \boldsymbol{\sigma}(\mathbf{u}) + \mathbf{f} = \mathbf{0} \quad \text{in } \Omega, \quad (4a) \qquad \frac{\partial \sigma_{ij}}{\partial x_j} + f_i = 0 \quad \text{in } \Omega, \quad (5a)$$

$$\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{u}_D \quad \text{on } \Gamma_D, \quad (4b) \qquad u_i = u_{D,i} \quad \text{on } \Gamma_D, \quad (5b)$$

$$\boldsymbol{\sigma}(\mathbf{u}) \mathbf{n} = \mathbf{g}_N \quad \text{on } \Gamma_N \quad (4c) \qquad \sigma_{ij} n_j = g_{N,i} \quad \text{on } \Gamma_N \quad (5c)$$

Unilateral contact problem



Strong formulation

$$\nabla \cdot \sigma(\mathbf{u}) + \mathbf{f} = \mathbf{0} \quad \text{in } \Omega, \quad (6a)$$

$$\sigma(\mathbf{u}) = \mathbf{A} : \varepsilon(\mathbf{u}) \quad \text{in } \Omega, \quad (6b)$$

$$\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{0} \quad \text{on } \Gamma_D, \quad (6c)$$

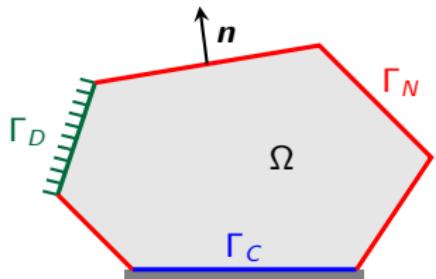
$$\sigma(\mathbf{u})\mathbf{n} = \mathbf{g}_N \quad \text{on } \Gamma_N, \quad (6d)$$

$$u^n \leq 0, \quad \sigma^n(\mathbf{u}) \leq 0, \quad \sigma^n(\mathbf{u}) u^n = 0 \quad \text{on } \Gamma_C, \quad (6e)$$

$$\sigma^t(\mathbf{u}) = \mathbf{0} \quad \text{on } \Gamma_C \quad (6f)$$

- $\mathbf{f} \in L^2(\Omega)$ represents volume forces
- $\mathbf{g}_N \in L^2(\Gamma_N)$ represents surface forces
- $\mathbf{u} = u^n \mathbf{n} + \mathbf{u}^t$ on Γ_C
- $\sigma(\mathbf{u})\mathbf{n} = \sigma^n(\mathbf{u})\mathbf{n} + \sigma^t(\mathbf{u})$ on Γ_C

Unilateral contact problem



Strong formulation

$$\nabla \cdot \sigma(\mathbf{u}) + \mathbf{f} = \mathbf{0} \quad \text{in } \Omega, \quad (6a)$$

$$\sigma(\mathbf{u}) = \mathbf{A} : \varepsilon(\mathbf{u}) \quad \text{in } \Omega, \quad (6b)$$

$$\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{0} \quad \text{on } \Gamma_D, \quad (6c)$$

$$\sigma(\mathbf{u})\mathbf{n} = \mathbf{g}_N \quad \text{on } \Gamma_N, \quad (6d)$$

$$u^n \leq 0, \quad \sigma^n(\mathbf{u}) \leq 0, \quad \sigma^n(\mathbf{u}) u^n = 0 \quad \text{on } \Gamma_C, \quad (6e)$$

$$\sigma^t(\mathbf{u}) = \mathbf{0} \quad \text{on } \Gamma_C \quad (6f)$$

$$\mathbf{H}_D^1(\Omega) := \left\{ \mathbf{v} \in \mathbf{H}^1(\Omega) : \mathbf{v} = \mathbf{0} \text{ on } \Gamma_D \right\}$$

$$\mathcal{K} := \left\{ \mathbf{v} \in \mathbf{H}_D^1(\Omega) : v^n \leq 0 \text{ on } \Gamma_C \right\}$$

Weak formulation

Find $\mathbf{u} \in \mathcal{K}$ such that

$$(\sigma(\mathbf{u}), \varepsilon(\mathbf{v} - \mathbf{u})) \geq (\mathbf{f}, \mathbf{v} - \mathbf{u}) + (\mathbf{g}_N, \mathbf{v} - \mathbf{u})_{\Gamma_N} \quad \forall \mathbf{v} \in \mathcal{K}. \quad (7)$$

Unilateral contact problem - Numerical approach

Let \mathcal{T}_h be a triangulation of Ω , and $\mathbf{V}_h := \mathbf{H}_D^1(\Omega) \cap \mathcal{P}^p(\mathcal{T}_h)$, $p \geq 1$. Moreover, we define $[\cdot]_{\mathbb{R}^-}$ as the projection on the half-line of negative real numbers \mathbb{R}^- , and the following operator

$$\begin{aligned} P_\gamma: \mathbf{V}_h &\rightarrow L^2(\Gamma_C) \\ \mathbf{v}_h &\mapsto \sigma^n(\mathbf{v}_h) - \gamma v_h^n. \end{aligned}$$

The contact boundary condition (6e) can be rewritten as

$$\sigma^n(\mathbf{u}) = [P_\gamma(\mathbf{u})]_{\mathbb{R}^-}. \quad (8)$$

Nitsche-based method

Find $\mathbf{u}_h \in \mathbf{V}_h$ such that

$$(\sigma(\mathbf{u}_h), \varepsilon(\mathbf{v}_h)) - \left([P_\gamma(\mathbf{u}_h)]_{\mathbb{R}^-}, v_h^n \right)_{\Gamma_C} = (\mathbf{f}, \mathbf{v}_h) + (\mathbf{g}_N, \mathbf{v}_h)_{\Gamma_N} \quad \forall \mathbf{v}_h \in \mathbf{V}_h.$$

Unilateral contact problem - Numerical approach

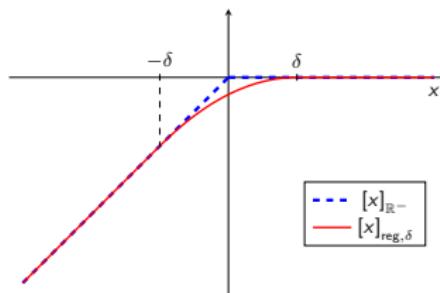
Nitsche-based method

Find $\mathbf{u}_h \in \mathbf{V}_h$ such that

$$(\sigma(\mathbf{u}_h), \varepsilon(\mathbf{v}_h)) - \left([P_\gamma(\mathbf{u}_h)]_{\mathbb{R}^-}, v_h^n \right)_{\Gamma_C} = (\mathbf{f}, \mathbf{v}_h) + (\mathbf{g}_N, \mathbf{v}_h)_{\Gamma_N} \quad \forall \mathbf{v}_h \in \mathbf{V}_h.$$

In order to solve this nonlinear problem

1. we regularize the projection operator $[\cdot]_{\mathbb{R}^-}$ with $[\cdot]_{\text{reg}, \delta}$,
2. we use Newton method.



At each step $k \geq 1$ we have to solve the linear problem: Find $\mathbf{u}_h^k \in \mathbf{V}_h$ such that

$$(\sigma(\mathbf{u}_h^k), \varepsilon(\mathbf{v}_h)) - \left(P_{\text{lin}}^{k-1}(\mathbf{u}_h^k), v_h^n \right)_{\Gamma_C} = (\mathbf{f}, \mathbf{v}_h) + (\mathbf{g}_N, \mathbf{v}_h)_{\Gamma_N} \quad \forall \mathbf{v}_h \in \mathbf{V}_h. \quad (9)$$

A posteriori analysis - Measure of the error

At the k -th iteration of the Newton algorithm, we define the residual operator $\mathcal{R}(\mathbf{u}_h^k) \in (\mathbf{H}_D^1(\Omega))^*$ by

$$\langle \mathcal{R}(\mathbf{u}_h^k), \mathbf{v} \rangle := (\mathbf{f}, \mathbf{v}) + (\mathbf{g}_N, \mathbf{v})_{\Gamma_N} - (\boldsymbol{\sigma}(\mathbf{u}_h^k), \boldsymbol{\varepsilon}(\mathbf{v})) + \left([P_\gamma(\mathbf{u}_h^k)]_{\mathbb{R}^-}, \mathbf{v}^n \right)_{\Gamma_C} \quad (10)$$

for all $\mathbf{v} \in \mathbf{H}_D^1(\Omega)$. Then, the error between \mathbf{u} and \mathbf{u}_h^k is measured by the dual norm

$$\| \mathcal{R}(\mathbf{u}_h^k) \|_{(\mathbf{H}_D^1(\Omega))^*} := \sup_{\substack{\mathbf{v} \in \mathbf{H}_D^1(\Omega), \\ \|\mathbf{v}\|_{C,h}=1}} \langle \mathcal{R}(\mathbf{u}_h^k), \mathbf{v} \rangle \quad (11)$$

where $\|\cdot\|_{C,h}$ is a norm which takes into account the boundary contact part:

$$\| \mathbf{v} \|_{C,h}^2 := \| \nabla \mathbf{v} \|^2 + \sum_{F \in \mathcal{F}_h^C} \frac{1}{h_F} \| \mathbf{v} \|_F^2 \quad \forall \mathbf{v} \in \mathbf{H}_D^1(\Omega). \quad (12)$$

The example of Poisson problem

The error is measured by

$$\| (u - u_h)' \| = \sup_{\substack{v \in H_0^1(\Omega), \\ \|v'\|=1}} \left\{ (f, v) - (u_h', v') \right\}, \quad (13)$$

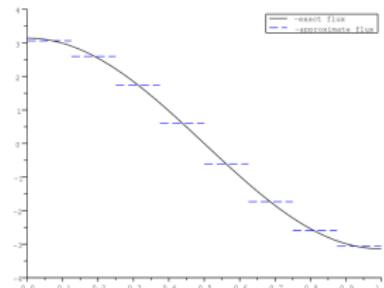
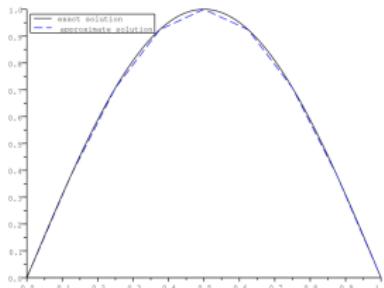
and we define the flux $\sigma(u) := u'$.

- Properties of the exact solution:

$$u \in H_0^1(\Omega) \quad \text{and} \quad \sigma(u) \in H^1(\Omega)$$

- Properties of the approximated solution

$$u_h \in H_0^1(\Omega) \quad \text{but} \quad \sigma(u_h) \notin H^1(\Omega) \text{ in general}$$



A posteriori analysis - Stress reconstruction

$$u_h^k \in H_D^1(\Omega) \quad \text{but} \quad \sigma(u_h^k) \notin \mathbb{H}(\text{div}, \Omega),$$

where $\mathbb{H}(\text{div}, \Omega) := \{\tau \in \mathbb{L}^2(\Omega) \mid \nabla \cdot \tau \in \mathbb{L}^2(\Omega)\}$.

Stress reconstruction: $\sigma_h^k \in \mathbb{H}(\text{div}, \Omega)$

$$\sigma_h^k = \sigma_{h,1}^k + \underbrace{\sigma_{h,2}^k}_{\text{regularization}} + \underbrace{\sigma_{h,3}^k}_{\text{linearization}}$$

$$\sigma_{h,2}^k \rightarrow 0 \text{ as } \delta \rightarrow 0$$

$$\sigma_{h,3}^k \rightarrow 0 \text{ as } k \rightarrow +\infty$$

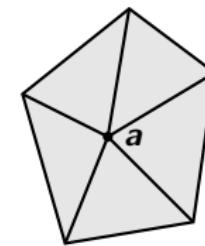


Figure: Patch around a node

Each term is obtained through local problems defined on patches around the vertices of the mesh using the Arnold-Falk-Winther mixed finite element space.

→ Equilibrated, H-div conforming and weakly symmetric tensor σ_h^k

A posteriori analysis

THEOREM (A posteriori error estimate)

$$\|\mathcal{R}(\mathbf{u}_h^k)\|_{(\mathbf{H}_D^1(\Omega))^*} \leq \left(\sum_{T \in \mathcal{T}_h} (\eta_{\text{tot}, T}^k)^2 \right)^{1/2}$$

where

$$\eta_{\text{tot}, T}^k := \eta_{\text{osc}, T}^k + \eta_{\text{flux}, T}^k + \eta_{\text{Neu}, T}^k + \eta_{\text{disc}, T}^k + \eta_{\text{reg}, T}^k + \eta_{\text{lin}, T}^k.$$

$$\eta_{\text{osc}, T}^k := \frac{h_T}{\pi} \left\| \mathbf{f} - \boldsymbol{\Pi}_T^{p-1} \mathbf{f} \right\|_T$$

$$\eta_{\text{flux}, T}^k := \|\boldsymbol{\sigma}_{h,1}^k - \boldsymbol{\sigma}(\mathbf{u}_h^k)\|_T$$

$$\eta_{\text{Neu}, T}^k := \sum_{F \in \mathcal{F}_T^C} C_{t, T, F} h_F^{1/2} \left\| \mathbf{g}_N - \boldsymbol{\Pi}_F \mathbf{g}_N \right\|_F$$

A posteriori analysis

THEOREM (A posteriori error estimate)

$$\|\mathcal{R}(\mathbf{u}_h^k)\|_{(\mathbf{H}_D^1(\Omega))^*} \leq \left(\sum_{T \in \mathcal{T}_h} (\eta_{\text{tot}, T}^k)^2 \right)^{1/2}$$

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$$\eta_{\text{disc}, T}^k := \sum_{F \in \mathcal{F}_T^C} h_F^{1/2} \left\| [P_\gamma(\mathbf{u}_h^k)]_{\mathbb{R}^-} - \Pi_F^p [P_\gamma(\mathbf{u}_h^k)]_{\mathbb{R}^-} \right\|_F$$

$$\eta_{\text{reg}, T}^k := \|\boldsymbol{\sigma}_{h,2}^k\|_T + \sum_{F \in \mathcal{F}_T^C} h_F^{1/2} \|\boldsymbol{\sigma}_{h,2}^{k,n}\|_F$$

$$\eta_{\text{lin}, T}^k := \|\boldsymbol{\sigma}_{h,3}^k\|_T + \sum_{F \in \mathcal{F}_T^C} h_F^{1/2} \|\boldsymbol{\sigma}_{h,3}^{k,n}\|_F$$

A posteriori analysis

THEOREM (A posteriori error estimate)

$$\|\mathcal{R}(\mathbf{u}_h^k)\|_{(\mathbf{H}_D^1(\Omega))^*} \leq \left(\sum_{T \in \mathcal{T}_h} (\eta_{\text{tot}, T}^k)^2 \right)^{1/2}$$

where

$$\eta_{\text{tot}, T}^k := \eta_{\text{osc}, T}^k + \eta_{\text{flux}, T}^k + \eta_{\text{Neu}, T}^k + \eta_{\text{disc}, T}^k + \eta_{\text{reg}, T}^k + \eta_{\text{lin}, T}^k.$$

Adaptive algorithm

- Only the element where $\eta_{\text{tot}, T}$ is high are refined.

$$\eta_{\text{reg}, T}^k \rightarrow 0 \text{ as } \delta \rightarrow 0 \quad \text{and} \quad \eta_{\text{lin}, T}^k \rightarrow 0 \text{ as } k \rightarrow +\infty$$

- The number of Newton iterations and the value of δ can be fixed automatically by the algorithm using some stopping criteria:

$$\eta_{\text{reg}}^k \leq \gamma_{\text{reg}} (\eta_{\text{osc}}^k + \eta_{\text{flux}}^k + \eta_{\text{Neu}}^k + \eta_{\text{disc}}^k + \eta_{\text{lin}}^k), \quad (14)$$

$$\eta_{\text{lin}}^k \leq \gamma_{\text{lin}} (\eta_{\text{osc}}^k + \eta_{\text{flux}}^k + \eta_{\text{Neu}}^k + \eta_{\text{disc}}^k). \quad (15)$$

Numerical results

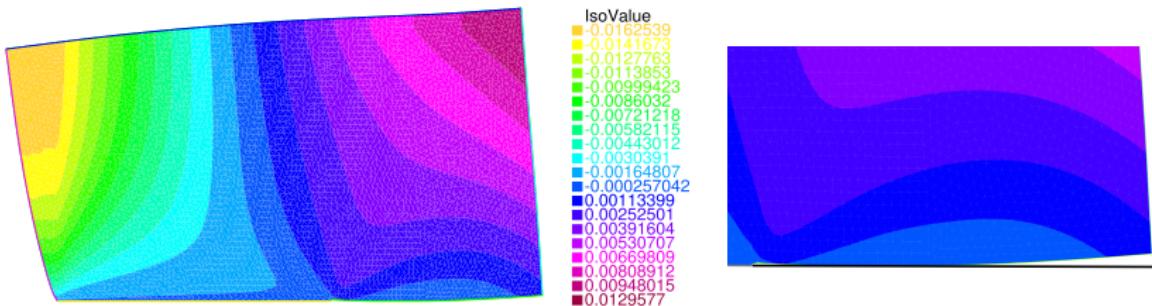
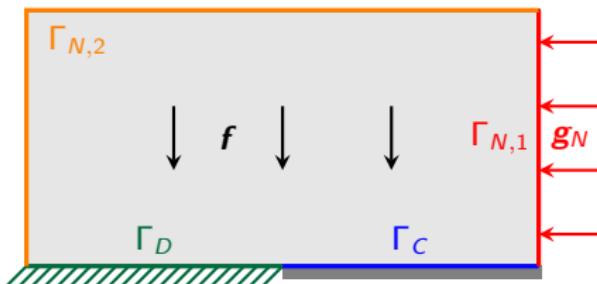
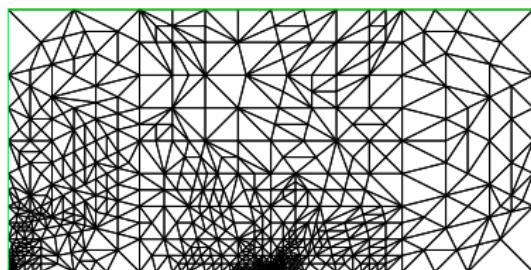
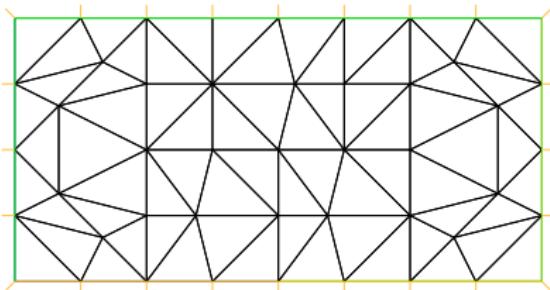
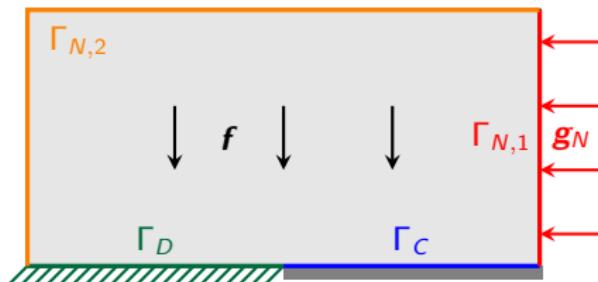


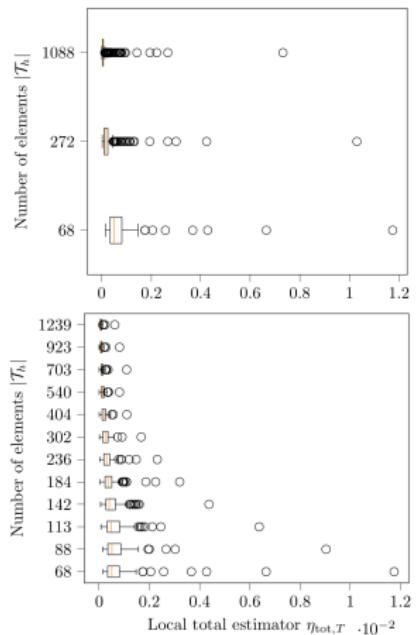
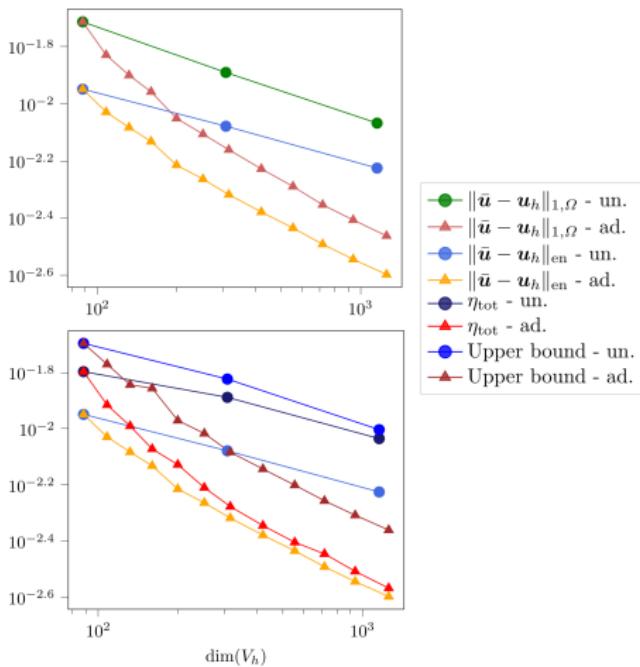
Figure: Vertical displacement in the deformed domain (amplification factor = 5): whole domain (left) and zoom near the contact boundary (right).

Adaptive mesh refinement



Adaptive VS Uniform refinement

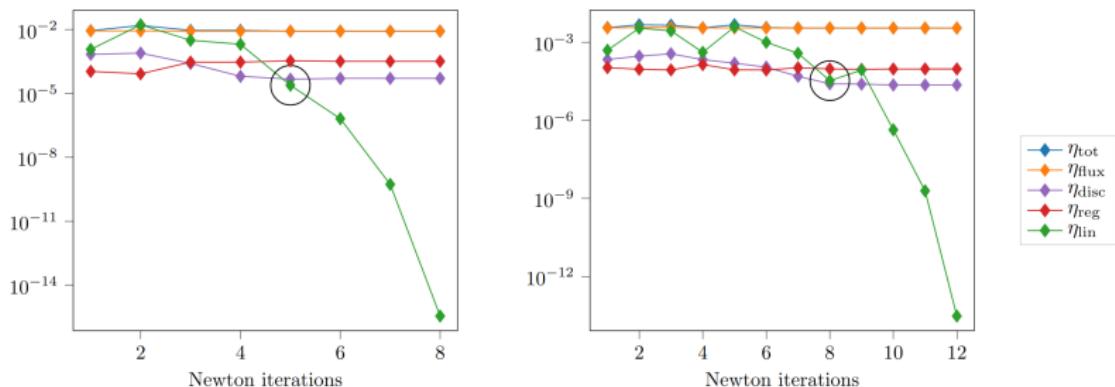
$$\|\boldsymbol{v}\|_{\text{en}} := (\sigma(\boldsymbol{v}), \boldsymbol{\varepsilon}(\boldsymbol{v}))$$



Stopping criteria

	Initial	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th	6 th	7 th	8 th	9 th	10 th	11 th
N_{reg}	7	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
N_{lin}	26	2	4	5	3	4	4	4	5	8	8	7

Table: Number of regularization iterations N_{reg} and Newton iterations N_{lin} at each refinement step of the adaptive algorithm with the stopping criteria.



Conclusions:

- Nitsche-based method applied to the unilateral contact problem without friction.
- Regularization and linearization steps.
- A posteriori estimate of the error measured with a dual norm.
- We distinguish the different error components.
- Better asymptotic convergence with adaptive refinement.

Perspectives:

- Extension to the unilateral problem with friction and bilateral problem.
- Extension to contact problem with cohesive forces.
- Industrial application on hydraulic structures.

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