

The level set method for structural topology optimization: Part I

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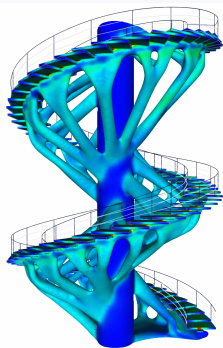
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Foreword

- **Shape and topology optimization** is a ubiquitous concern in the design of physical systems.
- Many “topology optimization” approaches represent the design variable by a **density function**, e.g. the **homogenization method** or the **SIMP** method.
- Alternatively, the **Level Set Method** allows for an explicit **representation** of the optimized shape, which is a domain Ω in \mathbb{R}^d , $d = 2$ or 3 .
- The **Level Set Method** for shape and topology optimization relies on two ingredients:
 - The **Hadamard method** for geometric shape variations,
 - The **Osher-Sethian algorithm** for the robust description of arbitrary shape evolution, including topological changes.



Optimization of a staircase (courtesy of Ansys).

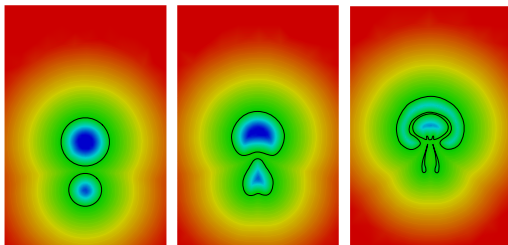


Dramatic evolution of a shape under optimization.

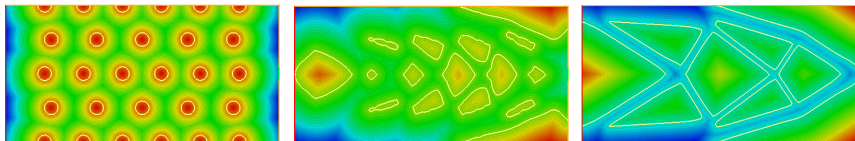
Contents of the webinar series

- **Webinar 1** Introduction to the **Level Set Method** for shape and topology optimization.
 - The Level Set Method for interface capturing.
 - Deployment of the Level Set Method for shape and topology optimization.
 - First numerical experiments.
- **Webinar 2** Mathematical and technical details of the Level Set Method.
 - Calculation of shape derivatives by the adjoint method.
 - Advanced practice of the Level Set Method: Hilbertian method, optimization algorithm, use of simplicial meshes.
- **Webinar 3** The **body-fitted** Level Set Method, based on remeshing.
 - A taste of meshing and remeshing techniques.
 - Multi-physics applications and beyond.

- The Level Set Method for **interface capturing**.



- Deployment of the Level Set Method for **shape and topology optimization**.
- First numerical experiments.



Part I

Basic principles

1 Basic principles

- **Presentation of the setting**
 - Differentiation with respect to the shape
 - Towards numerical implementation

2 The Level Set algorithm

3 The Level Set Method for shape and topology optimization

4 A few illustrations

A general formulation

We consider a **shape and topology optimization problem** of the form:

$$\min_{\Omega} J(\Omega) \text{ s.t. } G(\Omega) = 0. \quad (\mathcal{P})$$

In this formulation:

- The design variable is a **shape**, i.e. a domain Ω in \mathbb{R}^d , $d = 2$ or 3 .
- $J(\Omega)$ is an **objective function**.
- $G(\Omega) = (G_1(\Omega), \dots, G_p(\Omega))$ is a collection of p (equality) **constraints** (for simplicity, no inequality constraints).
- $J(\Omega)$ or some of the $G_i(\Omega)$ depend on Ω via a **state** u_{Ω} , solution to a physical **boundary value problem** posed on Ω .

In this first **Webinar**, we focus on the **unconstrained** problem:

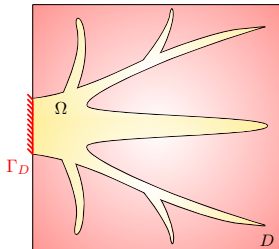
$$\min_{\Omega} J(\Omega).$$

(Possibly, volume constraints are incorporated to $J(\Omega)$ by fixed penalization)

An example in thermal conduction

Let $D \subset \mathbb{R}^d$ be made of two materials with conductivities $0 < \alpha < \beta$.

- The temperature is set to 0 on $\Gamma_D \subset \partial D$.
- The remaining boundary $\partial D \setminus \overline{\Gamma_D}$ is insulated.
- A source $f : D \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is acting in the medium.
- The design variable is the shape $\Omega \subset D$ of the phase β .



The temperature u_Ω inside D is the solution of the two-phase conductivity equation:

$$\begin{cases} -\operatorname{div}(\gamma_\Omega \nabla u_\Omega) = f & \text{in } D \\ u_\Omega = 0 & \text{on } \Gamma_D, \\ \gamma_\Omega \frac{\partial u_\Omega}{\partial n} = 0 & \text{on } \partial D \setminus \overline{\Gamma_D}, \end{cases} \quad \text{where } \gamma_\Omega(x) = \begin{cases} \beta & \text{if } x \in \Omega, \\ \alpha & \text{if } x \in D \setminus \overline{\Omega}. \end{cases}$$

The mean temperature within D is minimized, for a given amount of good conductor:

$$J(\Omega) = \frac{1}{|D|} \int_D u_\Omega \, dx, \quad G(\Omega) = \operatorname{Vol}(\Omega) - V_T, \quad \text{where } \operatorname{Vol}(\Omega) := \int_\Omega dx.$$

An example in solid mechanics

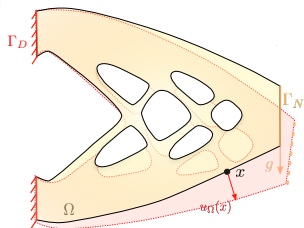
- The shape $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^d$ is a **mechanical structure**.
 - It is **fixed** on a subset Γ_D of its boundary,
 - Surface loads** $g : \Gamma_N \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^d$ are applied on a disjoint region $\Gamma_N \subset \partial\Omega$.
- The **displacement** $u_\Omega : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^d$ is the solution to the **linear elasticity system**:

$$\begin{cases} -\operatorname{div}(Ae(u_\Omega)) & = 0 & \text{in } \Omega, \\ u_\Omega & = 0 & \text{on } \Gamma_D, \\ Ae(u_\Omega)n & = g & \text{on } \Gamma_N, \\ Ae(u_\Omega)n & = 0 & \text{on } \Gamma, \end{cases}$$

where $e(u) = \frac{1}{2}(\nabla u^T + \nabla u)$ is the **strain tensor**, and A is the **Hooke's law** of the material.

- One common objective function is the **compliance**:

$$J(\Omega) = \int_{\Omega} Ae(u_\Omega) : e(u_\Omega) \, dx = \int_{\Gamma_N} g \cdot u_\Omega \, ds.$$



The linear elasticity model

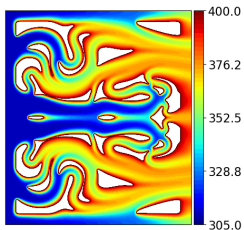


Optimized design of a pylon

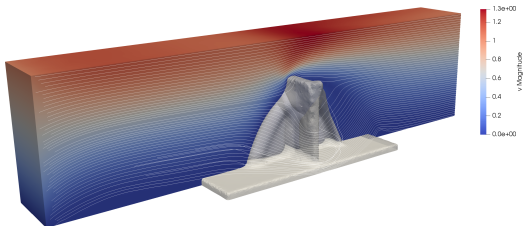
A wide variety of applications beyond

More recently, optimal design appears in such diverse fields as:

- **Fluid mechanics:** external aerodynamics, fluid transport, mixing devices, etc.

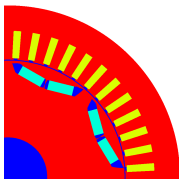


Optimized 2d section of a heat exchanger.

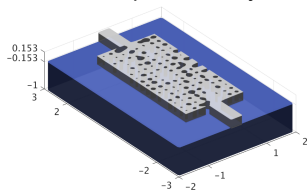


Optimized shape of a solid obstacle to a fluid flow.

- **Electromagnetism:** electric machines, current sensors, photonic crystals...



Optimized section of a rotor.



Optimized shape of a nanophotonic polarization converter.

- **Quantum chemistry**, with the theory of **Maximum Probability Domains**.

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- Presentation of the setting
- **Differentiation with respect to the shape**
- Towards numerical implementation

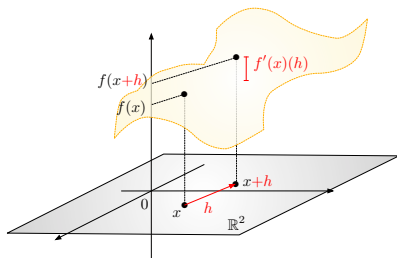
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Differentiation with respect to the shape

- The solution of (\mathcal{P}) calls for a notion of **derivative** of a function $J(\Omega)$ with respect to the shape Ω .
- In a vector space, derivatives are defined from “small variations” of the variables.



The derivative $f'(x)$ of $f : \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is defined from the fact that, for “small” $h \in \mathbb{R}^2$, $f(x+h) \approx f(x) + f'(x)(h)$.

- Likewise, **shape derivatives** build on “small variations” of a given shape Ω .
- What is a convenient **small increment** for a shape ?

Differentiation with respect to the shape: Hadamard's method (I)

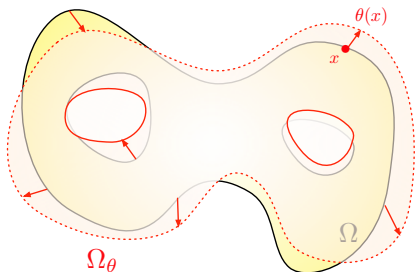
- **Hadamard's boundary variation method** features variations of a shape Ω of the form:

$$\Omega_\theta := (\text{Id} + \theta)(\Omega),$$

for "small" vector fields $\theta : \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^d$.

- In the mathematical theory $\theta \in \mathcal{C}^1(\mathbb{R}^d; \mathbb{R}^d)$.

- **Idea:** Perturbations of a reference shape Ω are **parametrized** by the vector field θ .
- When θ is "small", Ω and Ω_θ have the **same topology**.



Definition.

Let $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^d$ be a smooth domain. A function $\Omega \mapsto J(\Omega)$ is **shape differentiable** at Ω if the mapping

$$\theta \mapsto J(\Omega_\theta)$$

is differentiable at 0, i.e. the following expansion holds:

$$J(\Omega_\theta) = J(\Omega) + J'(\Omega)(\theta) + o(\theta), \text{ where } \frac{o(\theta)}{\|\theta\|} \xrightarrow{\theta \rightarrow 0} 0.$$

The mapping $\theta \mapsto J'(\Omega)(\theta)$ is the **shape derivative** of $J(\Omega)$ at Ω .

A **descent direction** for $J(\Omega)$ is a vector field θ such that $J'(\Omega)(\theta) < 0$:

$$\text{For "small" } \tau > 0, \quad J(\Omega_{\tau\theta}) \approx J(\Omega) + \tau J'(\Omega)(\theta) < J(\Omega);$$

\Rightarrow A "small" perturbation of Ω according to θ entails a decrease of $J(\Omega)$.

Lemma.

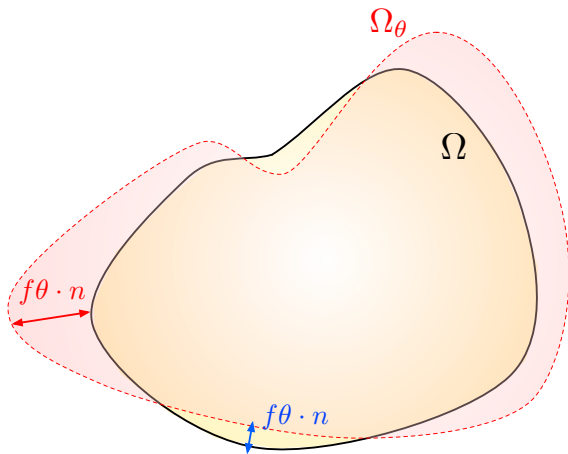
Let $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^d$ be a smooth bounded domain, and let f be a **fixed** smooth function. Consider the functional:

$$J(\Omega) = \int_{\Omega} f(x) \, dx$$

Then $J(\Omega)$ is **shape differentiable** at Ω and its shape derivative is:

$$J'(\Omega)(\theta) = \int_{\partial\Omega} f(x) \left(\theta(x) \cdot n(x) \right) \, ds(x).$$

First examples of shape derivatives (II)



Intuition: For “small” θ , the variation of $J(\Omega_\theta)$ with respect to $J(\Omega)$ is proportional to the distance $\theta \cdot n$ between both sets and to the magnitude of f .

First examples of shape derivatives (III)

- This formula is a particular case of the **Transport** (or **Reynolds**) **theorem**, used to derive the equations of motion from conservation principles in fluid mechanics:

$$\frac{d}{dt} \underbrace{\left(\int_{\Omega(t)} f(t, x) \, dx \right)}_{\text{Total amount of } f(t, x) \text{ within moving domain } \Omega(t)} = \underbrace{\int_{\Omega(t)} \frac{\partial f}{\partial t}(t, x) \, dx}_{\text{"Eulerian" change of } f(t, x) \text{ over time}} + \underbrace{\int_{\partial\Omega(t)} f(t, x)(\theta \cdot n_t)(x) \, ds(x)}_{\text{Variation of } f \text{ due to the motion of } \Omega(t)}.$$

- This result gives the shape derivative of the **volume** functional

$$\text{Vol}(\Omega) = \int_{\Omega} 1 \, dx.$$

Indeed,

$$\text{Vol}'(\Omega)(\theta) = \int_{\partial\Omega} \theta \cdot n \, ds = \int_{\Omega} \text{div} \theta \, dx.$$

⇒ If $\text{div} \theta = 0$, the volume is unchanged (at first order) when Ω is perturbed by θ .

Lemma.

Let $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^d$ be a smooth bounded domain, and let $g : \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a smooth function. Consider the functional:

$$J(\Omega) = \int_{\partial\Omega} g(x) \, ds.$$

Then $J(\Omega)$ is shape differentiable at Ω and its shape derivative is:

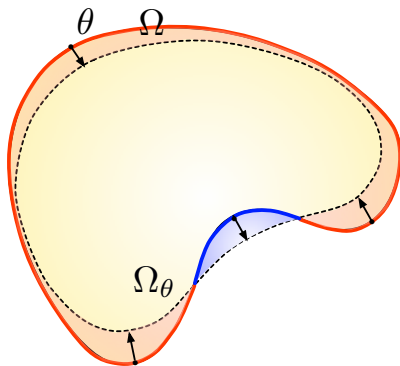
$$J'(\Omega)(\theta) = \int_{\partial\Omega} \left(\frac{\partial g}{\partial n} + \kappa g \right) (\theta \cdot n) \, ds,$$

where κ is the *mean curvature* of $\partial\Omega$.

Example: The shape derivative of the *perimeter* $\text{Per}(\Omega) = \int_{\partial\Omega} 1 \, ds$ is:

$$\text{Per}'(\Omega)(\theta) = \int_{\partial\Omega} \kappa (\theta \cdot n) \, ds.$$

First examples of shape derivatives (V)



Intuition: $\theta = -\kappa n$ is a *descent direction* for $\text{Per}(\Omega)$ which is reduced by smearing the *bumps* of $\partial\Omega$ (i.e. $\theta \cdot n < 0$ when $\kappa > 0$), and sealing its *holes* (i.e. $\theta \cdot n > 0$ when $\kappa < 0$).

Theorem.

The shape derivative of a function $J(\Omega)$ has the following *Hadamard structure*:

$$J'(\Omega)(\theta) = \int_{\partial\Omega} v_{\Omega}(x) \theta(x) \cdot n(x) \, ds(x),$$

where the scalar field $v_{\Omega} : \partial\Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ depends on:

- The *state* u_{Ω} , solution to the physical boundary value problem at play (if applicable).
- An *adjoint state* p_{Ω} , solution to a problem depending on $J(\Omega)$.
- *Geometric quantities* related to $\partial\Omega$ (normal vector, curvature).

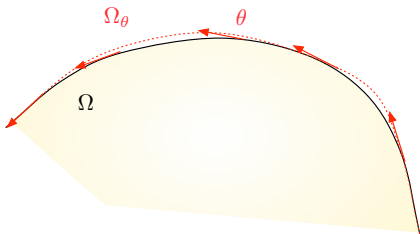
This may hold in the sense of distributions and depend on surface derivatives of $\theta \cdot n$.

The practical computation of shape derivatives by the *adjoint method* will be presented in [Webinar 2](#).

Structure of shape derivatives (II)

- The **structure** of $J'(\Omega)(\theta)$ encodes that it only depends on the normal component of θ on the boundary:

$$\theta \cdot n = 0 \text{ on } \partial\Omega \Rightarrow J'(\Omega)(\theta) = 0.$$



A **tangential** vector field θ , (i.e. $\theta \cdot n = 0$) only accounts for a **convection** of the shape Ω and $J'(\Omega)(\theta) = 0$.

- A **descent direction** for $J(\Omega)$ is readily revealed from this expression:

$$\theta = -v_\Omega n \Rightarrow J'(\Omega)(\theta) < 0.$$

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A generic numerical algorithm

Hadamard's boundary variation method paves the way to a **gradient algorithm** for the (unconstrained) problem

$$\min_{\Omega} J(\Omega). \quad (\mathcal{P})$$

- **Input:** Initial guess Ω^0 .
- **For** $n = 0, \dots$, **until convergence**,
 - ① Compute the solution u_{Ω^n} (and the adjoint p_{Ω^n}) on the domain Ω^n .
 - ② From the **shape derivative** $J'(\Omega^n)$, infer a **descent direction** θ^n for $J(\Omega)$.
 - ③ **Update** the shape Ω^n according to θ^n , so as to get

$$\Omega^{n+1} := (\text{Id} + \tau^n \theta^n)(\Omega^n),$$

with a “small” descent step $\tau^n > 0$ such that $J(\Omega^{n+1}) \leq J(\Omega^n)$.

- **Return:** Optimized shape Ω^* .

This **geometric shape optimization** algorithm faces two main difficulties:

- The shape representation has to be updated during the iterations $\Omega^n \mapsto \Omega^{n+1}$;
- The topology of Ω^n never **changes**.

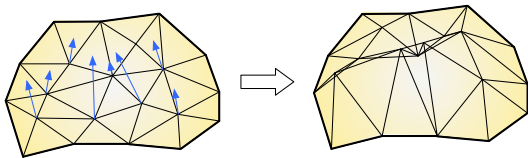
The classical framework: “Lagrangian” approach

- Each shape Ω^n is represented by a (triangular) **mesh** \mathcal{T}^n .
- The **Finite Element method** is applied on \mathcal{T}^n for computing u_{Ω^n} (and p_{Ω^n}).
- The descent direction θ^n is obtained from the **surface form** of the shape derivative:

$$J'(\Omega^n)(\theta) = \int_{\partial\Omega^n} v_{\Omega^n} \theta \cdot n \, ds \quad \Rightarrow \quad \theta^n = -v_{\Omega^n} n \text{ on } \partial\Omega^n.$$

- The **update** $\Omega^n \xrightarrow{\text{Id} + \tau^n \theta^n} \Omega^{n+1}$ is realized by **pushing the nodes** of \mathcal{T}^n along $\tau^n \theta^n$, to obtain the new mesh \mathcal{T}^{n+1} :

$$\forall \text{ vertex } x \in \mathcal{T}^n, \quad x \mapsto x + \tau^n \theta^n(x).$$



Pushing nodes according to the velocity field may result in an invalid configuration.

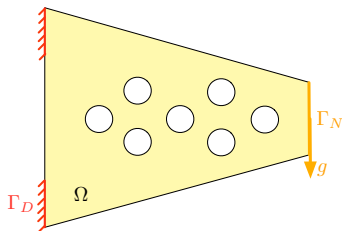
An example of the “Lagrangian” approach

- We minimize the **compliance** $C(\Omega)$ of a cantilever beam:

$$C(\Omega) = \int_{\Omega} A e(u_{\Omega}) : e(u_{\Omega}) dx,$$

where u_{Ω} is the **elastic displacement** of Ω .

- A **volume constraint** is imposed: $G(\Omega) = \text{Vol}(\Omega) - V_T$.



The topology does not change and the algorithm stops because it wants to, but cannot break a thin bar.

Part II

The Level Set algorithm

- 1 Basic principles
- 2 **The Level Set algorithm**
 - Capturing interfaces with Level Sets
 - The Level Set equations governing the evolution of shapes
 - Numerical solution of the Level Set equation
 - (Re-)Initializing Level Set functions
- 3 The Level Set Method for shape and topology optimization
- 4 A few illustrations

Foreword about the Level Set Method

- The **Level Set algorithm** was pioneered by Osher and Sethian [OSeth] to represent moving interfaces.
- A moving shape $\Omega(t)$ is described **implicitly**, via a **Level Set function**

$$\phi(t, x), \quad t > 0, \quad x \in D,$$

defined on a fixed “hold-all” domain D .

- The shape $\Omega(t)$ is not meshed, and can undergo dramatic evolutions, including **topological changes**.
- This viewpoint has progressively been adopted in applicative fields so diverse as **fluid mechanics**, **material science**, **imaging**, **solid mechanics**,...
- ... and **shape and topology optimization!**



Collapse of a water column



Active contour algorithm for image segmentation [CreRouDe].

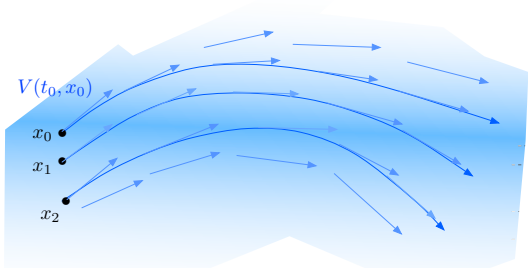
Origin of the Level Set algorithm (I)

- Let $\Omega(t)$ be a shape with boundary $\Gamma(t)$, evolving via a given velocity field $V(t, x)$.
- Early **Lagrangian** approaches to represent the motion of $\Omega(t)$ **track** the motion of its individual points.

Definition (Characteristic curve).

Let $V : \mathbb{R}_t \times \mathbb{R}_x^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^d$ be a smooth velocity field. The **characteristic curve** $t \mapsto \chi(x_0, t)$ emerging from a point $x_0 \in \mathbb{R}^d$ at time $t = 0$ is defined by the ODE:

$$\begin{cases} \frac{d}{dt}(\chi(x_0, t)) = V(t, \chi(x_0, t)) & \text{for } t \in (0, T), \\ \chi(x_0, 0) = x_0. \end{cases}$$



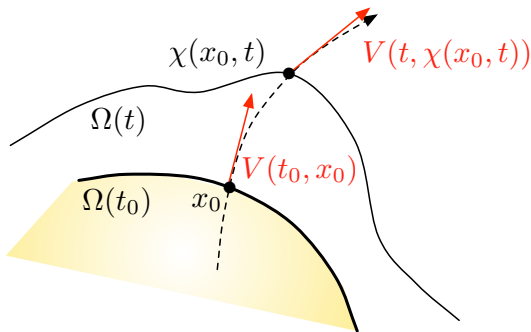
Three characteristic curves of the velocity field V starting at $t = 0$ from different points x_0, x_1, x_2 .

Origin of the Level Set algorithm (II)

“Intuitive” definition of an evolving domain

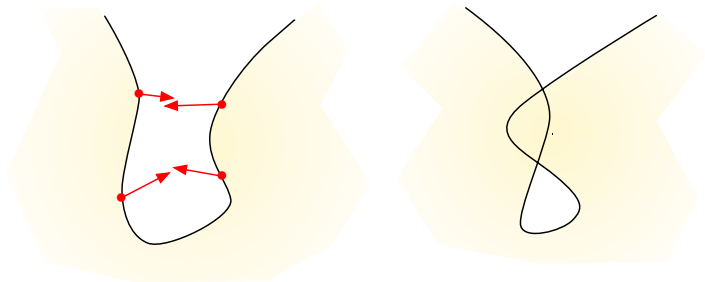
A domain $\Omega(t)$ **evolves** from an initial configuration $\Omega(0)$ according to a velocity field $V(t, x)$ if it is obtained by **advection of its points along V** :

$$\Omega(t) = \left\{ \chi(x_0, t), x_0 \in \Omega(0) \right\}.$$



Origin of the level set algorithm (III)

- This **Lagrangian** viewpoint is unable to accommodate the onset of singularities and self-intersections.

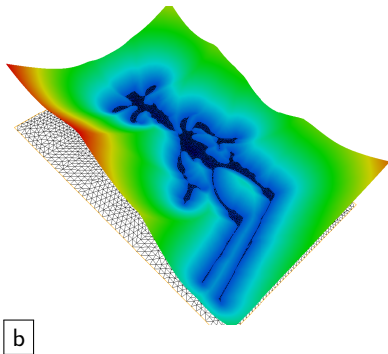
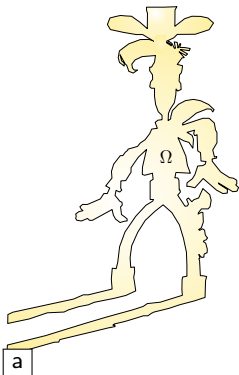


- A robust method for dealing with such phenomena should be:
 - **Irreversible**: the algorithm “selects” a behavior when $\Omega(t)$ becomes singular.
 - Capable of handling **general velocity fields** $V(t, x)$ depending on $\Gamma(t)$ through its normal $n(t, x)$, mean curvature $\kappa(t, x)$, etc.
- The **Level Set Method** is such a **Eulerian, shape capturing** strategy.

Representation of shapes with the Level Set Method (I)

Paradigm: A shape Ω is *implicitly* defined by a “Level Set” function $\phi : \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$:

$$\forall x \in \mathbb{R}^d, \quad \begin{cases} \phi(x) = 0 & \text{if } x \in \Gamma := \partial\Omega, \\ \phi(x) < 0 & \text{if } x \in \Omega, \\ \phi(x) > 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$



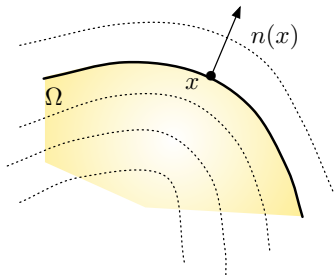
(a) A bounded domain $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^2$; (b) Graph of an associated Level Set function.

Implicit geometries

Most operations on shapes $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^d$ can be realized via **Level Set functions** $\phi(x)$.

- 1 Calculation of the unit **normal vector** n to Γ pointing outward Ω :

$$\forall x \in \Gamma, n(x) = \frac{\nabla \phi(x)}{|\nabla \phi(x)|}.$$



Normal vector to a domain Ω ; some isolines of ϕ are dotted.

- 2 Calculation of the **mean curvature** κ of Γ :

$$\forall x \in \Gamma, \kappa(x) = \operatorname{div} \left(\frac{\nabla \phi(x)}{|\nabla \phi(x)|} \right).$$

- 3 Calculation of **integrals on Ω and Γ** with an Heaviside function.

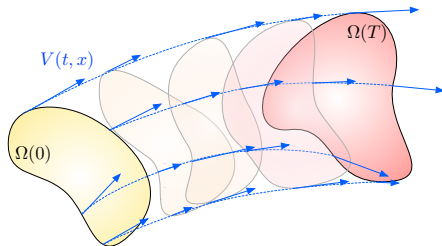
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Evolving domains (I)

- Let $\Omega(t) \subset \mathbb{R}^d$ be a domain with boundary $\Gamma(t)$, evolving over a time period $(0, T)$ according to a velocity field $V(t, x)$.



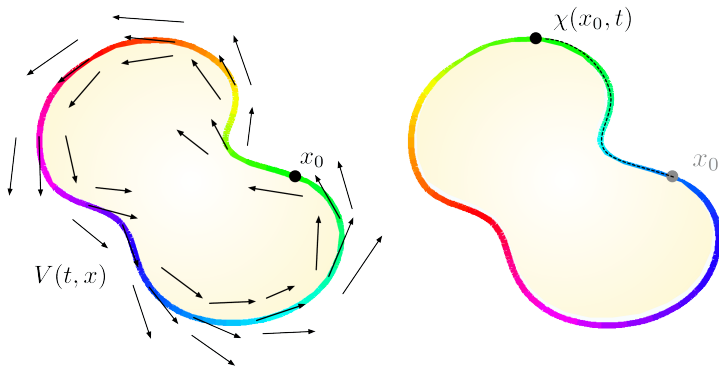
- Let $\phi(t, \cdot)$ be a **Level Set function** for $\Omega(t)$:
$$\begin{cases} \phi(t, x) < 0 & \text{if } x \in \Omega(t), \\ \phi(t, x) = 0 & \text{if } x \in \Gamma(t), \\ \phi(t, x) > 0 & \text{if } x \in \mathbb{R}^d \setminus \overline{\Omega(t)}. \end{cases}$$

Questions

- How does the motion of $\Omega(t)$ translate in terms of $\phi(t, \cdot)$?
- To start with, what does it even mean for $\Omega(t)$ to **evolve according to** $V(t, x)$?

Evolving domains (II)

- The motion of $\Omega(t)$ depends only on the **normal component** of $V(t, x)$.



A **tangential** velocity $V(t, x)$, (i.e. $V \cdot n = 0$) only accounts for a **sliding** of $\Omega(t)$.

- The tangential component of $V(t, x)$ can thus be ignored.

Evolving domains (III)

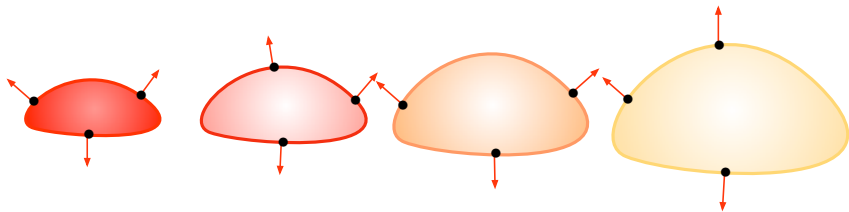
The motion of $\Omega(t)$ may be classified into three categories depending on the nature of the velocity field $V(t, x)$.

- 1 $\Omega(t)$ is **passively transported** when $V(t, x)$ **does not depend on $\Omega(t)$** , i.e. it is a prescribed datum.
- 2 The velocity $V(t, x)$ depends on **local features** of $\Omega(t)$ or $\Gamma(t)$, such as:
 - The normal vector $n(t, x)$ at $x \in \Gamma(t)$;
 - The mean curvature $\kappa(t, x)$ of $\Gamma(t)$.
- 3 The field $V(t, x)$ depends on **global features** of the domain $\Omega(t)$, e.g. it depends on the solution to **a partial differential equation (PDE) posed on $\Omega(t)$** .

Example (I): The flame propagation model

The shape $\Omega(t)$ is a **burnt region**, which expands with constant, normal velocity c :

$$V(t, x) = c n(t, x), \text{ where } c > 0 \text{ is a constant.}$$



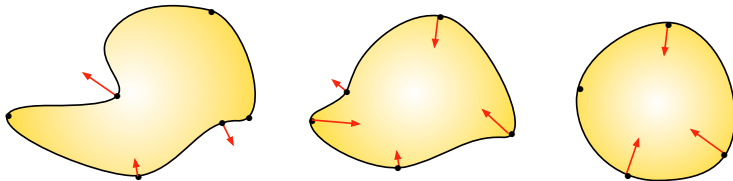
An example of the dynamics in the flame propagation model.

Example (II): The mean curvature flow

The velocity field $V(t, x)$ reads:

$$V(t, x) = -\kappa(t, x) n(t, x),$$

that is, $\Omega(t)$ evolves by “resorption of its bumps”, and “filling of its creases”.



An example of the dynamics of the mean curvature flow: Grayson's theorem [Grayson].

Deriving an equation for the Level Set evolution (I)

- Let $\Omega(t)$ be a shape moving with velocity field $V(t, x)$ (that may depend on $\Omega(t)$).
- Let $\phi(t, \cdot)$ be a **smooth** Level Set function for $\Omega(t)$, i.e:

$$\forall t \in (0, T), x \in \mathbb{R}^d, \begin{cases} \phi(t, x) < 0 & \text{if } x \in \Omega(t), \\ \phi(t, x) = 0 & \text{if } x \in \Gamma(t), \\ \phi(t, x) > 0 & \text{if } x \in \mathbb{R}^d \setminus \overline{\Omega(t)}. \end{cases}$$

- Let $x_0 \in \Gamma(0)$ be fixed; by the **intuitive definition of an evolving domain**, it comes:

$$\forall t \in (0, T), \phi(t, \underbrace{\chi(x_0, t)}_{\in \Gamma(t)}) = 0.$$

- Differentiating and using the chain rule, we obtain:

$$\frac{\partial \phi}{\partial t}(t, \chi(x_0, t)) + \underbrace{\frac{d}{dt}(\chi(x_0, t))}_{=V(t, \chi(x_0, t))} \cdot \nabla \phi(t, \chi(x_0, t)) = 0.$$

Deriving an equation for the Level Set evolution (II)

- Since this holds for any point $x_0 \in \Gamma(0)$, we obtain the **Level Set advection equation**

$$\forall t \in (0, T), x \in \mathbb{R}^d, \quad \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial t}(t, x) + V(t, x) \cdot \nabla \phi(t, x) = 0. \quad (\text{LS-ADV})$$

- Since the tangential component of the velocity does not play any role, one may assume that $V(t, x)$ is aligned with the normal vector $n(t, x)$ to $\Omega(t)$, that is:

$$V(t, x) = v(t, x) \underbrace{\frac{\nabla \phi(t, x)}{|\nabla \phi(t, x)|}}_{=n(t, x)}, \text{ for some scalar field } v(t, x).$$

The equation (LS-ADV) rewrites as the **Level Set Hamilton-Jacobi equation**

$$\forall t \in (0, T), x \in \mathbb{R}^d, \quad \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial t}(t, x) + v(t, x) |\nabla \phi(t, x)| = 0. \quad (\text{LS-HJ})$$

Evolving domains: comments (I)

- Strictly speaking, (LS-ADV) and (LS-HJ) only hold for pairs (t, x) with $x \in \Gamma(t)$. However, the previous analysis applies *mutatis mutandis* when

$$x_0 \in \Gamma_c(0) := \left\{ x \in \mathbb{R}^d, \phi(0, x) = c \right\}, \text{ for arbitrary } c \in \mathbb{R}.$$

Thus, the equations (LS-ADV) and (LS-HJ) actually encode that **all the level sets** of ϕ move according to $V(t, x)$.

- The velocity fields $V(t, x)$ and $v(t, x)$ often make sense only for $x \in \Gamma(t)$. In the above derivation, it is assumed that they are **extended** to the whole space \mathbb{R}^d .

Evolving domains: comments (II)

- Critically, this derivation rests upon the assumption that $\Omega(t)$, $V(t, x)$, $\phi(t, x)$ stay **smooth** over $(0, T)$.

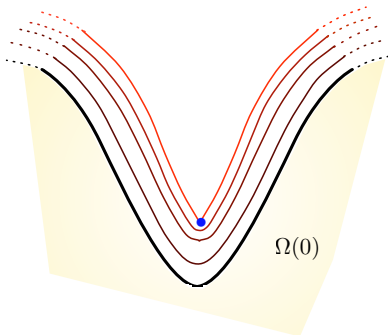
Question

How is it possible to account for the evolution of $\Omega(t)$ when either the domain $\Omega(t)$, or the velocity field $V(t, x)$ has developed a **singularity**?

This problem is not a pure mathematicality: even in the simplest models, $\Omega(t)$ and $V(t, x)$ (thus $\phi(t, x)$) **become singular in finite time**.

Emergence of singularities (I)

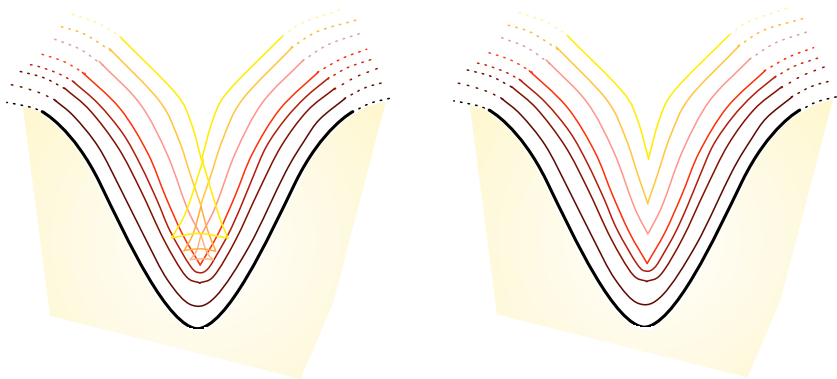
In the **flame propagation model**, a domain $\Omega(t)$ initially featuring a **concave** region evolves according to the velocity field $V(t, x) = n(t, x)$.



A few positions of $\Gamma(t)$; at a critical time, $\Gamma(t)$ develops a singularity where $n(t, x)$ (thus $V(t, x)$) is not defined (blue dot).

Emergence of singularities (II)

There are then **several ways** of giving a sense to the evolution of the front once a singularity has appeared.



(Left) Evolution of $\Omega(t)$ obtained by "pursuing the motion" of all the points of $\Gamma(t)$ where the normal vector is defined; (right) Evolution of $\Omega(t)$ obtained by imposing an "entropy criterion": "a burnt point stays burnt".

Emergence of singularities (III)

- Singularities are **inevitable**, even when the initial situation is smooth.
- What happens after the onset of singularities is actually a matter of **defining** the motion of a possibly **non smooth** domain, under a possibly **non smooth** velocity.
- The theory of **viscosity solutions** [Ba, CIL] offers a notion of solutions which selects the **correct physical evolution**.

Mathematical definition of an evolving domain

- 1 Start from any Level Set function $\phi_0(x)$ for the initial domain $\Omega(0)$.
- 2 Find the **unique viscosity solution** of the Level Set evolution equation

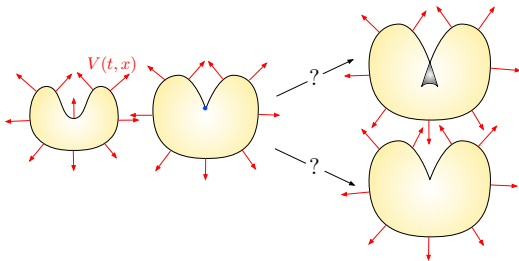
$$\begin{cases} \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial t}(t, x) + v(t, x)|\nabla \phi(t, x)| = 0 & \text{for } t \in (0, T), x \in \mathbb{R}^d, \\ \phi(0, x) = \phi_0(x) & \text{for } x \in \mathbb{R}^d. \end{cases}$$

- 3 **Define** the domain $\Omega(t)$ by $\Omega(t) = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^d, \phi(t, x) < 0\}$.

Emergence of singularities: final comments

Why solve the **non-linear** Hamilton-Jacobi equation (LS-HJ) instead of using the simple Lagrangian evolution scheme?

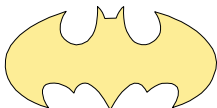
- The Lagrangian method is unable to **define** the motion of $\Omega(t)$ after the onset of singularities.



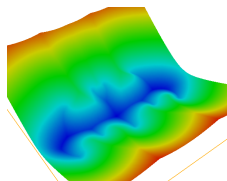
- The theory of **viscosity solutions** for Hamilton-Jacobi equations goes beyond the singularities and defines fronts **for all times t** .
- Viscosity solutions naturally accommodate **topology changes**.
- This is at the price of **losing time-reversibility** of the evolution.

The Level Set method: a short summary

- Domain $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^d$.



- Level Set function $\phi(t, x)$.



- Evolution w.r.t. a normal vector field
 $V(t, x) = v(t, x)n(t, x)$.

- Resolution of the Level Set equation.

$$\frac{\partial \phi}{\partial t}(t, x) + v(t, x)|\nabla \phi(t, x)| = 0.$$

Part II

The Level Set algorithm

- 1 Basic principles
- 2 The Level Set algorithm**
 - Capturing interfaces with Level Sets
 - The Level Set equations governing the evolution of shapes
 - Numerical solution of the Level Set equation**
 - (Re-)Initializing Level Set functions
- 3 The Level Set Method for shape and topology optimization
- 4 A few illustrations

Solution of the Level Set equation (I)

Let $\Omega(t)$ be a shape, described by a **Level Set function** $\phi(t, x)$

$$\Omega(t) = \left\{ x \in \mathbb{R}^d, \phi(t, x) < 0 \right\},$$

evolving through a normal velocity $v(t, x)$ (a descent direction for its optimization).

- The Level Set **Hamilton-Jacobi equation** is

$$\begin{cases} \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial t}(t, x) + v(t, x) |\nabla \phi(t, x)| = 0 & \text{for } (t, x) \in (0, T) \times \mathbb{R}^d, \\ \phi(t = 0, x) = \phi_0(x) & \text{for } x \in \mathbb{R}^d. \end{cases}$$

- We discretize $(0, T)$ into a series of sub-intervals $0 = t^0 < t^1 < \dots < t^N = T$, where the velocity is assumed to be constant in time:

$$v(t, x) \approx v^n(x) := v(t^n, x), \text{ for } t \in (t^n, t^{n+1}).$$

- Doing so, it is enough to consider a **steady-state velocity** $v(x)$:

$$\begin{cases} \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial t}(t, x) + v(x) |\nabla \phi(t, x)| = 0 & \text{for } (t, x) \in (0, T) \times \mathbb{R}^d, \\ \phi(t = 0, x) = \phi_0(x) & \text{for } x \in \mathbb{R}^d. \end{cases}$$

Solution of the Level Set equation (II)

- We present numerical schemes for **first-order Hamilton-Jacobi equations** of the form:

$$\begin{cases} \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial t}(t, x) + v(x)|\nabla \phi(t, x)| = 0 & \text{for } (t, x) \in (0, T) \times \mathbb{R}^d, \\ \phi(t = 0, x) = \phi_0(x) & \text{for } x \in \mathbb{R}^d. \end{cases}$$

- The theory of **viscosity solutions** for Hamilton-Jacobi equations gives **existence and uniqueness** of solutions for this equation.
- It also proposes **adequate** numerical schemes to compute viscosity solutions.
- The key idea of these numerical schemes is to rely on **upwinding**, as in fluid mechanics.
- For simplicity, we focus on the **2d situation**, where the space is equipped with a **Cartesian grid**.

The need for upwinding (I)

Example: When $v(x) \equiv c \in \mathbb{R}$, (LS-HJ) is the **Eikonal equation**:

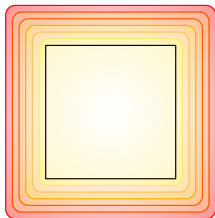
$$\frac{\partial \phi}{\partial t}(t, x) + c|\nabla \phi(t, x)| = 0.$$

- The **viscosity solution** to this equation equals:

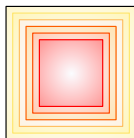
$$\phi(t, x) = d_{\Omega(0)}(x) - ct, \text{ where } d_{\Omega(0)}(x) = \begin{cases} -d(x, \Gamma(0)) & \text{if } x \in \Omega(0), \\ 0 & \text{if } x \in \Gamma(0), \\ d(x, \Gamma(0)) & \text{otherwise,} \end{cases}$$

is the **signed distance function** to the initial domain $\Omega(0)$.

- This solution is **irreversible**: some corners remain sharp, others get rounded.



$c = 1$



$c = -1$

- An **upwind scheme** is needed to distinguish both situations.

The need for upwinding (II)

- Let us consider the one-dimensional **Eikonal equation**:

$$\frac{\partial \phi}{\partial t}(t, x) + c \left| \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x}(t, x) \right| = 0, \quad t > 0, \quad x \in \mathbb{R},$$

with constant, positive velocity $c > 0$.

- (Formally) Setting $u = \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x}$ and taking derivatives, this becomes:

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial f(u)}{\partial x} = 0 \quad \text{with } f(u) = c |u| \text{ convex,}$$

which is a one-dimensional **hyperbolic equation**.

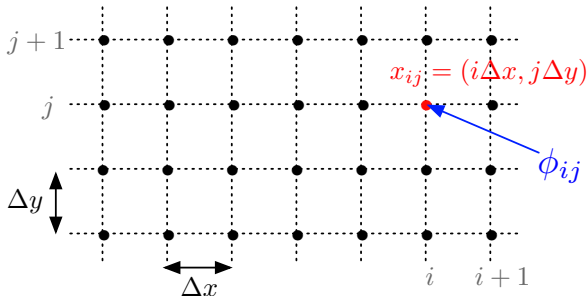
- According to the “classical” theory of shock waves, the solution of the Riemann problem with initial data $u(0, x) = \begin{cases} u_L & x < 0, \\ u_R & x > 0. \end{cases}$ is

$$u(t, x) = \begin{cases} \text{shock} & \text{if } u_L > u_R, \\ \text{rarefaction} & \text{if } u_L < u_R. \end{cases} \Rightarrow \begin{cases} \text{sharp corner} & \text{for } \psi, \\ \text{rounded corner} & \text{for } \psi. \end{cases}$$

- This behavior is preserved numerically if one uses **upwind schemes**.

Osher-Sethian's first-order upwind scheme (I)

- The time interval $(0, T)$ is split into $N = T/\Delta t$ subintervals:
 (t^n, t^{n+1}) , where $t^n = n\Delta t$, $n = 0, \dots, N$, and Δt is a **time step**.
- The space is discretized by a **Cartesian grid** with steps $\Delta x, \Delta y$.



- For $i, j \in \mathbb{Z}$, we introduce the **finite difference** quantities:

$$D_{ij}^{+x} \phi = \frac{\phi_{i+1j} - \phi_{ij}}{\Delta x} \quad ; \quad D_{ij}^{-x} \phi = \frac{\phi_{ij} - \phi_{i-1j}}{\Delta x},$$

and:

$$D_{ij}^{+y} \phi = \frac{\phi_{ij+1} - \phi_{ij}}{\Delta y} \quad ; \quad D_{ij}^{-y} \phi = \frac{\phi_{ij} - \phi_{ij-1}}{\Delta y}.$$

Osher-Sethian's first-order upwind scheme (II)

The **Level Set Hamilton-Jacobi equation** is solved by the following numerical scheme:

$$\begin{cases} \forall n \in \mathbb{N}, i, j \in \mathbb{Z}, & \phi_{ij}^{n+1} = \phi_{ij}^n - \Delta t (\max(v_{ij}, 0) \nabla_{ij}^+ \phi^n + \min(v_{ij}, 0) \nabla_{ij}^- \phi^n), \\ \forall i, j \in \mathbb{Z}, & \phi_{ij}^0 = \phi_0(i\Delta x, j\Delta y), \end{cases}$$

with the discretizations $\nabla_{ij}^+ \phi$ and $\nabla_{ij}^- \phi$ of the gradient norm $|\nabla \phi|$ defined by:

$$\nabla_{ij}^+ \phi = \left(\begin{array}{c} \max(\max(D_{ij}^{-x} \phi, 0), -\min(D_{ij}^{+x} \phi, 0))^2 \\ + \max(\max(D_{ij}^{-y} \phi, 0), -\min(D_{ij}^{+y} \phi, 0))^2 \end{array} \right)^{\frac{1}{2}},$$

and

$$\nabla_{ij}^- \phi = \left(\begin{array}{c} \max(\max(D_{ij}^{+x} \phi, 0), -\min(D_{ij}^{-x} \phi, 0))^2 \\ + \max(\max(D_{ij}^{+y} \phi, 0), -\min(D_{ij}^{-y} \phi, 0))^2 \end{array} \right)^{\frac{1}{2}}.$$

Osher-Sethian's first-order upwind scheme (III)

- The quantity $\nabla_{ij}^+ \phi$ (resp. $\nabla_{ij}^- \phi$) is **upwind** (resp. **downwind**): it involves only those values among $\{\phi_{i-1j}, \phi_{i+1j}, \phi_{ij-1}, \phi_{ij+1}\}$ which are **smaller** (resp. **larger**) than ϕ_{ij} .
- The discretization of the Hamiltonian $H(x, p) = v(x)|p|$ by the quantity

$$\max(v_{ij}, 0) \nabla_{ij}^+ \phi^n + \min(v_{ij}, 0) \nabla_{ij}^- \phi^n$$

is **upwind**: for given i, j, n , the update $\phi_{ij}^n \rightarrow \phi_{ij}^{n+1}$ is only carried out using information coming from

- **smaller** values than ϕ_{ij}^n if $v_{ij} \geq 0$,
- **larger** values than ϕ_{ij}^n if $v_{ij} \leq 0$.
- This scheme is **convergent**, provided the following **CFL**-like condition is fulfilled:

$$\left(\sup_{i,j} v_{ij} \right) \frac{\Delta t}{\min(\Delta x, \Delta y)} \leq 1, \text{ i.e.}$$

"The information cannot travel more than one cell during one time step".

- **High-order** variants of this strategy are available.

Part II

The Level Set algorithm

- 1 Basic principles
- 2 The Level Set algorithm**
 - Capturing interfaces with Level Sets
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The need for calculating / re-initializing distance functions (I)

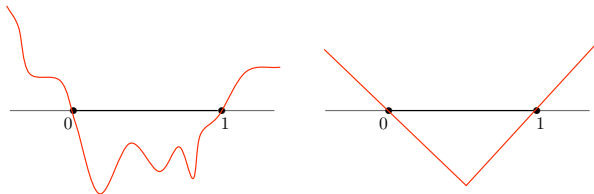
The **signed distance function** is one preferred Level Set function for a domain $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^d$.

Definition (Signed distance function).

The **signed distance function** d_Ω to a domain $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^d$ is:

$$d_\Omega(x) = \begin{cases} -d(x, \partial\Omega) & \text{if } x \in \Omega, \\ 0 & \text{if } x \in \partial\Omega, \\ d(x, \partial\Omega) & \text{if } x \in \mathbb{R}^d \setminus \bar{\Omega}, \end{cases}$$

where $d(x, \partial\Omega) = \inf_{y \in \partial\Omega} |x - y|$ is the usual **Euclidean distance** to $\partial\Omega$.



Two Level Set functions for the domain $\Omega = (0, 1) \subset \mathbb{R}$. The **signed distance function** (right) satisfies $|\nabla d_\Omega(x)| = 1$ for a.e. $x \in \mathbb{R}^d$.

The need for calculating / re-initializing distance functions (II)

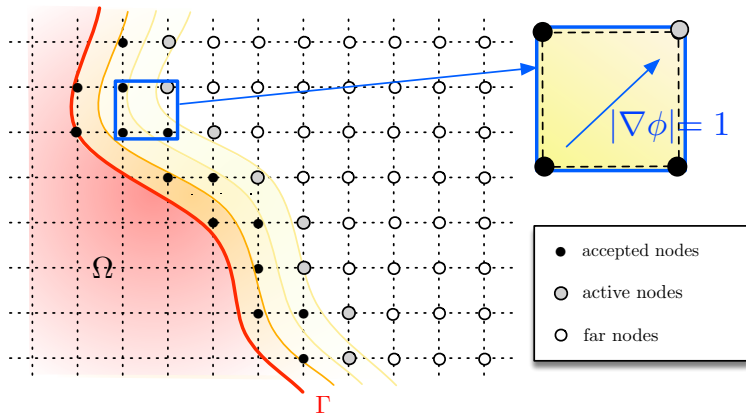
- For **numerical stability**, it is crucial that the Level Set function $\phi(t, \cdot)$ of $\Omega(t)$ stay “close” to a **signed distance function** for $t \geq 0$:

$$|\nabla\phi(t, x)| = 1 \text{ for a.e. } x \in \mathbb{R}^d \Rightarrow \phi(t, \cdot) \text{ is not “too steep”, nor “too flat”}.$$

- Unfortunately, even if the initial Level Set function ϕ_0 is a signed distance function, $\phi(t, \cdot)$ is **bound** not to stay so during motion.
- In the practice of the Level Set Method, it is essential to
 - Convert the initial shape $\Omega(0)$ into a Level Set function by calculating its signed distance function, e.g. via the **Fast Marching Method**.
 - Periodically **re-initialize** a current, very steep or flat Level Set function into a signed distance function for the same domain.
- **Remark:** The use of the signed distance function as a Level Set function is not required by the theory: it is a (crucial) matter of **numerical** accuracy [Cho].

Initializing distance functions with the Fast Marching algorithm

- The **Fast Marching Method** was pioneered in [SethianFMM].
- Inspired by **Dijkstra's algorithm**, it mimicks the **expansion of a front** from Γ .
- An **upwind** discretization of the **eikonal equation** $|\nabla\phi|=1$ is used to predict **trial values** at nodes "on the front", from **accepted values**, where it has already passed.
- The front advances from closer to further nodes.



Level Set redistancing

- Let $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^d$ be a domain, described with a possibly “ill-shaped” Level Set function ϕ_0 (with very steep or flat variations).
- The function ϕ_0 is used as the initial state of the **redistancing equation** [Cho]:

$$\begin{cases} \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial t}(t, x) + \text{sgn}(\phi_0(x)) (|\nabla \psi| - 1) = 0 & \text{for } (t, x) \in (0, \infty) \times \mathbb{R}^d \\ \psi(0, x) = \phi_0(x) & \text{for } x \in \mathbb{R}^d. \end{cases}$$

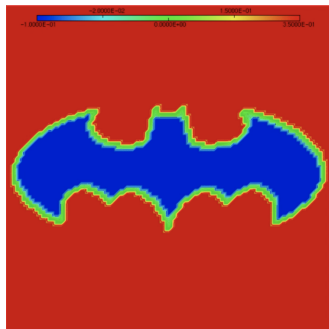
- Formally, its steady state $\tilde{\psi}$ satisfies:

$$|\nabla \tilde{\psi}| - 1 = 0, \text{ and}$$

$$\tilde{\psi}(x) = 0 \text{ on } \Gamma = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^d \text{ s.t. } \phi_0(x) = 0\},$$

i.e. $\tilde{\psi}$ is the signed distance function to Ω .

- Its study reveals that ϕ_0 is steadily “regularized” into d_Ω , starting from Γ , to the “far” region [AuAu].



The Level Set Method: computational efficiency

- The numerical algorithms for the practice of the Level Set Method are very **cheap**: no linear systems need to be inverted.
- They are **explicit** algorithms on **Cartesian meshes**: low CPU, low memory requirement.
- Several time steps can be performed at each optimization iteration: the explicit time step is not the descent step of optimization!
- In the next **Webinar 2**, we shall see how to handle the Level Set Method on simplicial (triangular) meshes.

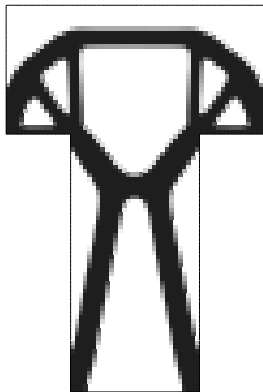
Part III

The Level Set Method for shape and topology optimization

- 1 Basic principles
- 2 The Level Set algorithm
- 3 The Level Set Method for shape and topology optimization**
- 4 A few illustrations

The level set Method for shape and topology optimization

- Preliminary forays of the Level Set Method in shape optimization appear in [SeWie, OSan].
- The method was later made more systematic in [AlJouToa, AlJouToa2, Wan].
- The shapes Ω^n are embedded in a working domain D equipped with a **fixed** (e.g. Cartesian) mesh \mathcal{T} .
- The successive shapes Ω^n are accounted for in the **level set** framework, i.e. via a function $\phi^n : D \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ which **implicitly** defines them.
- Once a descent direction (\equiv a **velocity**) θ^n is found, ϕ^n is updated to ϕ^{n+1} by solving the **Level Set Hamilton-Jacobi equation** on \mathcal{T} .
- This approach is versatile and does not require a mesh of the shapes at each iteration.



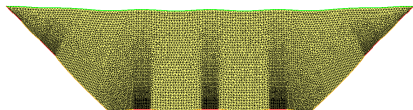
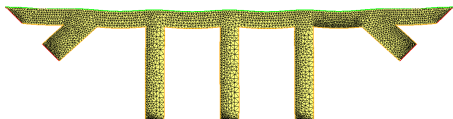
Shape accounted for by a Level Set description

The level set method in the context of shape optimization (II)

Problem: At each iteration n , **no mesh** of Ω^n is available to solve the state and adjoint equations on Ω^n .

Remedy: **Approximate** these by problems posed on the **total domain** D .

Example: In the linear elasticity context, use the **ersatz material method**:



$$\left\{ \begin{array}{ll} -\operatorname{div}(Ae(u_\Omega)) = 0 & \text{in } \Omega, \\ u_\Omega = 0 & \text{on } \Gamma_D, \\ Ae(u_\Omega)n = g & \text{on } \Gamma_N, \\ Ae(u_\Omega)n = 0 & \text{on } \Gamma. \end{array} \right. \approx \left\{ \begin{array}{ll} -\operatorname{div}(A_\varepsilon e(u_{\Omega,\varepsilon})) = 0 & \text{in } D, \\ u_{\Omega,\varepsilon} = 0 & \text{on } \Gamma_D, \\ A_\varepsilon e(u_{\Omega,\varepsilon})n = g & \text{on } \Gamma_N, \\ Ae(u_{\Omega,\varepsilon})n = 0 & \text{on } \partial D \setminus (\Gamma_D \cup \Gamma_N), \end{array} \right.$$

(Problem posed on Ω)
(Problem posed on D)

with the **approximate Hooke's tensor** $A_\varepsilon := \chi_\Omega A + (1 - \chi_\Omega)\varepsilon A$, $\varepsilon \ll 1$.

Summary of the algorithm

- **Input:**
 - Mesh (e.g. Cartesian grid) \mathcal{T} of the computational domain D ;
 - Level set function ϕ^0 for the initial shape Ω^0 , defined at the vertices of \mathcal{T} .
- **For $n = 0, \dots$, until convergence**
 - ① Solve the state equation for u_{Ω^n} on \mathcal{T} .
 - ② Solve the adjoint equation for p_{Ω^n} on \mathcal{T} .
 - ③ Identify a descent direction $\theta^n = v^n(x)n(x)$ for $J(\Omega)$ from Ω^n .
 - ④ Solve the **Level Set Hamilton-Jacobi equation**

$$\begin{cases} \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial t} + v^n |\nabla \psi| = 0 & \text{on } (0, \tau^n) \times D, \\ \psi(t = 0, \cdot) = \phi^n. \end{cases}$$

for a “small” pseudo-time step τ^n , and set $\phi^{n+1} = \psi(t = \tau^n, \cdot)$.

- ⑤ Stopping criterion (typically when $v^n \approx 0$).
- **Return:** Level set function ϕ^* for the optimized shape Ω^* .

Comments on the algorithm

- One may use different meshes \mathcal{T}_{FE} and \mathcal{T}_{LS} for the **Finite Element analysis** and the practice of the **Level Set method**, e.g.
 - A **Cartesian grid** \mathcal{T}_{LS} where the previous Finite Difference schemes are used for the Level Set Method,
 - A **simplicial mesh** \mathcal{T}_{FE} of the (complex) computational domain D for mechanical computations by a third-party solver.

This leverages **interpolation** operators between \mathcal{T}_{FE} and \mathcal{T}_{LS} .

- The derivative of $J(\Omega)$ is a **shape derivative**, which is completely different from a parametric derivative as in density-based methods.
- The Level Set function ϕ is used solely for the numerical capture of the shape evolution: **it is not the optimization variable**.
- In the next **Webinar 2**, we shall discuss the treatment of equality and inequality constraints in the optimization problem.

Part IV

A few illustrations

- 1 Basic principles
- 2 The Level Set algorithm
- 3 The Level Set Method for shape and topology optimization
- 4 A few illustrations**

Optimization of a mast under multiple loads (I)

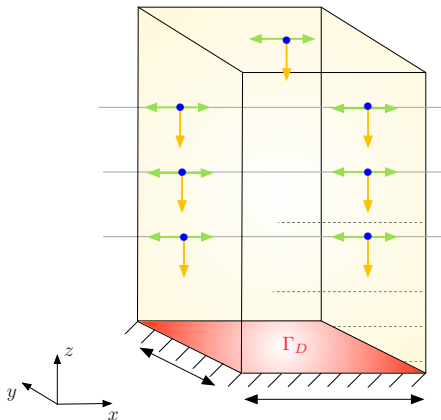
G. Allaire, A. Couvelas, C. Dapogny, R. Estevez, A. Faure & G. Michailidis

We consider the optimization of an **electric pylon** $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^3$.

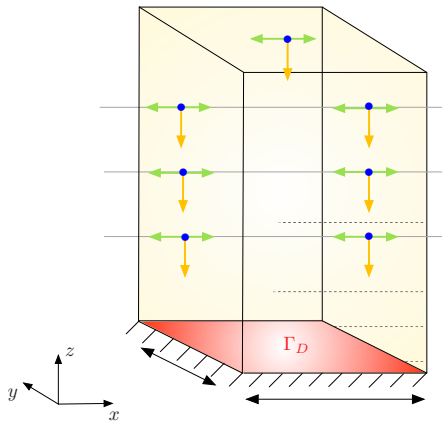
- At its basis Γ_D , the pylon is **fixed** to the ground.
- It is submitted to the **weight of the cables** attached to its arms, and to **wind loads**.
- The **displacement** $u_\Omega : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$ is the solution to the linear elasticity system.
- The **compliance** of the structure,

$$J(\Omega) = \int_{\Omega} Ae(u_\Omega) : e(u_\Omega) dx$$

is minimized under a volume constraint.



Optimization of a mast under multiple loads (II)



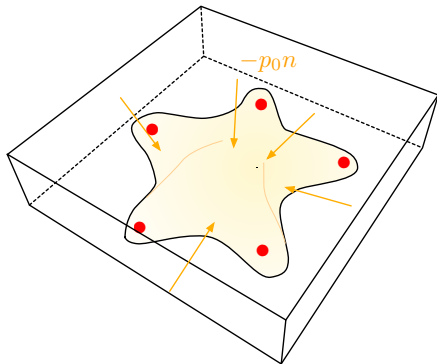
We consider the optimization of the shape of a **submarine dome** $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^3$.

- The dome is **anchored** at five points on the bottom of the design domain D .

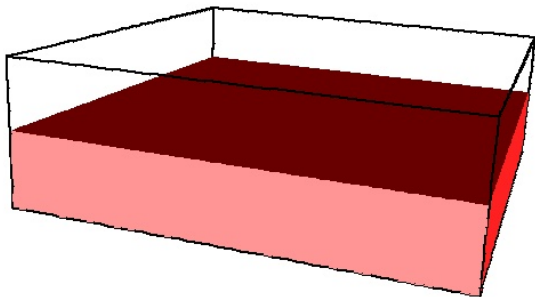
- It is submitted to **hydrostatic pressure** forces:

$$-p_0 n \text{ on } \partial\Omega, \text{ where } n : \partial\Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3 \text{ is the unit normal vector to } \partial\Omega.$$

- The **compliance** of Ω is minimized, under a **volume constraint**.

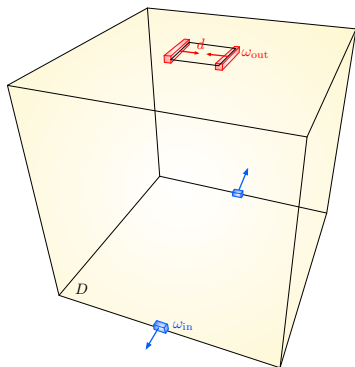


Itération 0

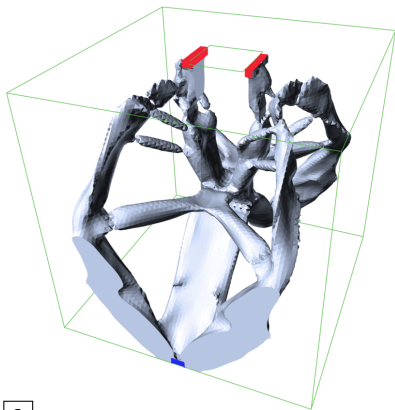


- We optimize a jointless **compliant mechanism**, converting an input displacement on an input region ω_{in} into a maximum output displacement on ω_{out} .
- We minimize the non self-adjoint “**geometric advantage**” criterion:

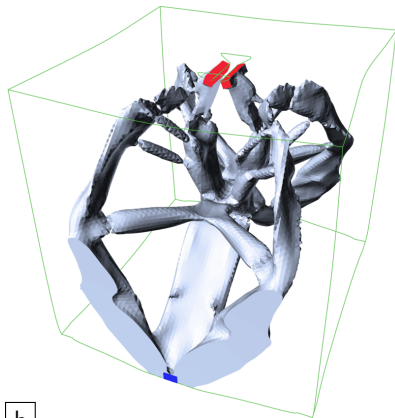
$$J(\Omega) = - \frac{\int_{\omega_{out}} |u_{\Omega} \cdot d| ds}{\int_{\omega_{in}} |u_{\Omega}| ds}.$$



Optimization of a gripping mechanism (II)



a



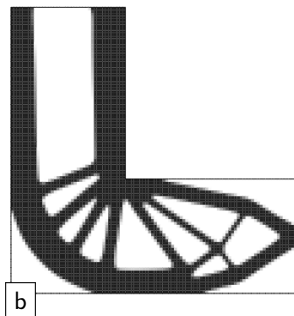
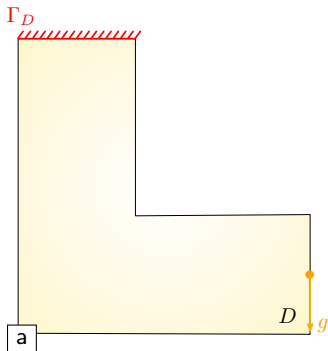
b

(a) *Optimized gripping mechanism*; (b) *Deformed configuration*.

- We minimize the L^p norm of the stress tensor within an L-shaped beam:

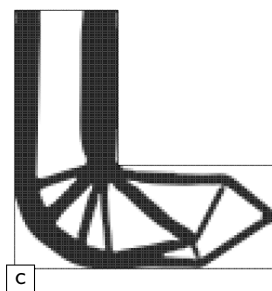
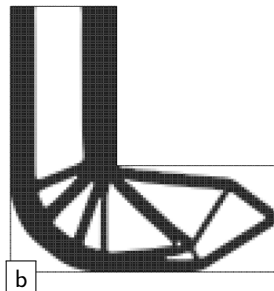
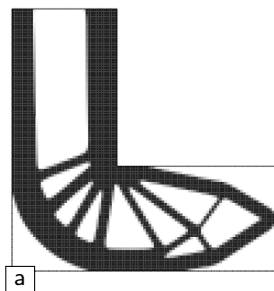
$$J(\Omega) = \int_{\Omega} k(x) \|\sigma(u_{\Omega})\|^p dx,$$

under a constraint on the volume $\text{Vol}(\Omega)$ of the structure.



(a) Setting of the L-shaped beam problem; (b) Optimized shape with respect to the compliance.

Optimization of a stress-based functional (II)



Optimized shapes of the L-beam associated to the exponent values (a) $p = 2$; (b) $p = 5$, and (c) $p = 10$.

The Level Set Method: assets and drawbacks

Assets of the method:

- Optimal design problems are formulated in the exact language of **shapes**: the expressions of pressure loads, geometric constraints.... are natural.
- The Level Set Method allows to account for **dramatic evolutions** of the shape.

Drawbacks:

- The shape Ω is not meshed exactly: need to **approximate** the physical equations.

The ersatz material method works pretty well for compliance or stress optimization, but much less so for the design of compliant mechanisms.

- The Level Set Method is quite sensitive to the initial design, **especially in 2d**.
- At first glance, its implementation is more complex than that of density methods:
 - Admittedly, the theory of shape derivatives is pretty involved;
 - Efficient **open-source libraries** exist for the practice of the Level Set Method.

Overview of the next webinars

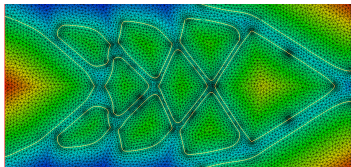
- **Webinar 2** Advanced methods for the practice of the Level Set Method.

- Practical computation of shape derivatives;
- Details on the optimization algorithms;
- Making the Level Set Method efficient in practice;
- A few applications.



- **Webinar 3** A body-fitted variant of the Level Set Method.

- A taste of remeshing;
- Presentation of the method;
- Multi-physics applications.



Thank you!

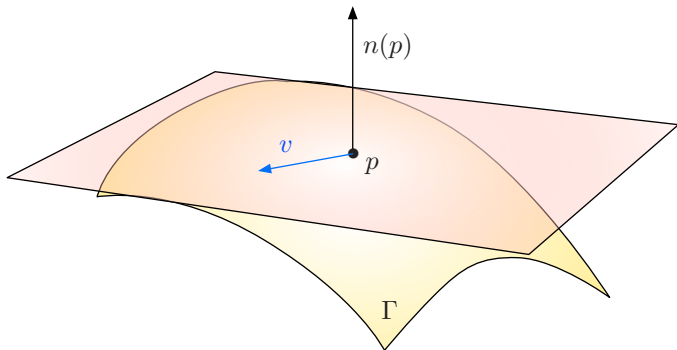
Thank you for your attention!

Technical appendix

Surfaces and curvature (I)

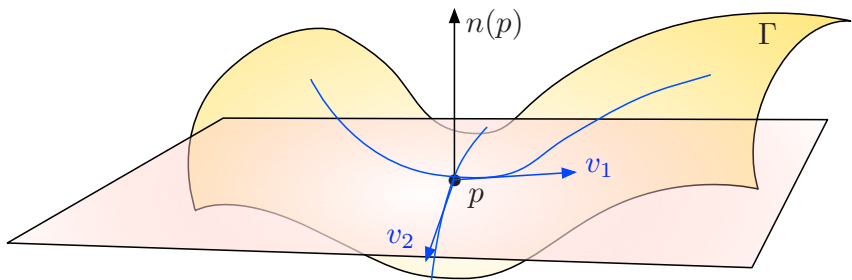
At first order, in the neighborhood of a point $p \in \Gamma$, a surface Γ behaves like a plane, the **tangent plane**,

- With **normal vector** $n(p)$,
- Which contains the **tangential directions** to Γ .









Surfaces and curvature (II)

- At second order in the neighborhood of $p \in \Gamma$, the surface Γ has one **curvature** in each tangential direction.
- The **principal directions** at p are those tangential directions $v_1(p)$ et $v_2(p)$ associated to the lower and larger curvatures $\kappa_1(p)$ et $\kappa_2(p)$.
- The **mean curvature** $\kappa(p)$ is the sum $\kappa(p) = \kappa_1(p) + \kappa_2(p)$.









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