# Embedded and high-order meshes : two alternatives to linear body-fitted meshes 

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| :--- |
| de mathématiques |
| Hadamard (EDMH) |

## Introduction

## The main topic of this thesis is about meshes

## What is it?

- A set of elementary entities, like triangles, quadrilaterals, tetrahedra, hexahedra, ...
- A discrete representation of an object on a computer


## What for ?

- Two main applications
- Computer graphics
$\Longrightarrow$ Use for animated movies, computer games, ...
- Engineering
$\Longrightarrow$ Use for numerical computations, engineering design, ...


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## Introduction

In a numerical simulation, mesh generation is part of the computational pipeline


- The studied geometry is defined using a CAD model


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In a numerical simulation, mesh generation is part of the computational pipeline


- The studied geometry is defined using a CAD model
- A surface mesh is generated from the CAD



## Introduction

In a numerical simulation, mesh generation is part of the computational pipeline


- The surface mesh may be used as input to generate a volume mesh



## Introduction

In a numerical simulation, mesh generation is part of the computational pipeline


- A numerical computation is then performed on the volume mesh



## Introduction

How do we represent the geometry ?

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- Linear body-fitted mesh



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- Embedded mesh



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- Embedded mesh
- High-order body-fitted mesh



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The aim of this thesis is to study the last two approaches


Embedded


High-order

## Outline



1. Mesh adaptation for the embedded boundary method
2. High-order
2.1 High-order surface meshing
2.2 Optimization of quadratic meshes and applications
2.3 Visualization of high-order meshes and solutions

## Outline



# Mesh adaptation for the embedded boundary method 

## Embedded boundary method: motivations

## Motivations

- CAD systems provide dirty and nonconforming geometries
- Some geometries are only implicitly described
- Aim at reducing preprocessing time to cleanup them


1 to 3 months of preprocessing are mandatory in these two cases
$\Longrightarrow$ The embedded boundary method avoids these issues
[Yang et al, Aeronautical
Journal, 1997], [Löhner et al, IJNME, 2004], [Quan et al, EWC, 2014]

## Embedded boundary method: implementation

## Input

- Linear surface mesh, not necessarily conform $\rightarrow$ Embedded geometry
- Linear volume mesh $\rightarrow$ Computational mesh
- Settings of the flow solver (Euler equations, inviscid flow)


## Strategy (2D and 3D)

- Localize vertices of the embedded geometry inside the computational mesh
- Solve the intersection of the embedded geometry with the computational mesh
- Set an implicit slipping boundary condition that simulates the presence of the object using the intersection result
- Set a constant value to the vertices covered by the geometry (if any)


## Embedded boundary method: results

Case of an embedded supersonic NACA0012 airfoil.


5041 vertices


4812 vertices

## Embedded boundary method: results

Case of an embedded supersonic NACA0012 airfoil.


Density flow

## Embedded boundary method: results

Case of an embedded supersonic NACA0012 airfoil.


Pressure coefficient

## Embedded boundary method: results

Case of an embedded supersonic missile


784847 vertices


90078 vertices

## Embedded boundary method: results

Case of an embedded supersonic missile


Density flow

## Embedded boundary method: results

Case of an embedded supersonic missile


Geometry detected by the solver

## Embedded boundary method: results

## Observations

- Embedded solution is far less accurate than the body-fitted one
- Due to a coarse detection of the geometry by the flow solver


## Idea

- Boundary conditions make naturally appear variations of the solution in the vicinity of the embedded boundary
- Perform feature-based mesh adaptation to retrieve the geometry and thus the accuracy of the solution


## Generating adapted meshes

- Main idea: change mesh generator distance and volume computation [George et al., Adv. Eng. Software 1991]
- Fundamental concept: Generate a local unit mesh w.r.t $(\mathcal{M}(\mathbf{x}))_{\mathbf{x} \in \Omega}$
$\forall \mathrm{e}, \ell_{\mathcal{M}}(\mathrm{e}) \approx 1$ and $\forall K,|K|_{\mathcal{M}} \approx\left\{\begin{array}{l}\sqrt{3} / 4 \text { in 2D } \\ \sqrt{2} / 12 \text { in 3D }\end{array}\right.$


Inputs $\left(\mathcal{H}_{0}, \mathcal{M}_{i}\right)_{i \in \mathcal{H}}$


Output $\mathcal{H}$


## Mesh adaptation loop

The principle of mesh adaptation is to find the optimal mesh-solution couple for a targeted complexity ( $\sim$ number of points)


## Mesh adaptation: results

Case of an embedded supersonic NACA0012 airfoil.


Targeted complexity of 16000

## Mesh adaptation: results

Case of an embedded supersonic NACA0012 airfoil.


Density flow

## Mesh adaptation: results

Case of an embedded supersonic NACA0012 airfoil.


Pressure coefficient at 16000


Drag evolution

## Mesh adaptation: results

Case of an embedded supersonic missile.


Targeted complexity of 128000

## Mesh adaptation: results

Case of an embedded supersonic missile.


Density flow

## Mesh adaptation: results

Case of an embedded supersonic missile.


Automatic recovery of sharp features

## Mesh adaptation: results

Case of an embedded supersonic missile.


Convergence study using $L^{2}$ error

## Embedded boundary method: conclusion

## Conclusion

- Implementation of the embedded boundary method in a vertex-centered Finite Volume solver
- Coupling with mesh adaptation enables to get an accuracy comparable to the body-fitted case
- No easy generalization to moving objects


## Perspectives

- Use of a high-order embedded geometry
- Computation of a level-set metric
- Extension to Navier-Stokes equations


## Outline


2. High-order
2.1 High-order surface meshing
2.2 Optimization of quadratic meshes and applications
2.3 Visualization of high-order meshes and solutions

## High-order: motivations

Motivations for high-order meshing

- High-order methods : SUPG, DG, FR, SD, WENO, ...
- These methods require high-order discretization of the boundary (meshes of degree $k, P^{k}$ meshes) to be fully efficient [Bassi et al, JCP 1997]


Degree 1 mesh


Degree 2 mesh

Courtesy of C. Peyret (ONERA)

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Degree 1 mesh


Degree 2 mesh

Courtesy of C. Peyret (ONERA)

## High-order: motivations

Motivations for surface remeshing

- CAD queries are expensive and not fail-safe
- Surface remeshing using a high-order geometry as CAD surrogate rather than a linear one



## Outline



## High-order surface meshing

## High-order surface meshing

## Related work

- Seminal work on a direct high-order mesh generation technique [Dey et al., IMR 1999]
- Relocation of the DOF on an initial linear mesh [Ruiz-Girones et al., IMR 2015 \& 2016]. [Toulorge et al., JCP 2016], [Turner, PhD Thesis 2018]
- CAD is used for projection only
$\Longrightarrow$ No explicit control of "high-order" approximation of the surface
$\Longrightarrow$ No extension of linear anisotropic meshing to high order anisotropic meshing on CAD surfaces


## High-order surface meshing

- Focus on parametric surfaces defined by a Boundary Representation (BREP)

- The linear case is well established
[de Cougny et al., IMR 1996], [Tristano et al., IMR 1998], [Miranda et al., IMR 2002], [Siqueira et al., IMR 2010], [Laug, FEAD 2010], [Aubry et al. CAD 2014]

Scope of the work

- Extension of standard linear parametric surface mesh generation techniques
- Based on the development of high-order and intrinsic error estimates


## Study of the Linear Case

- The meshing is performed in a hierarchical fashion: edges and then faces
- It consists in an anisotropic meshing in the parametric space of both curves and surfaces
- The key feature is the computation of the metrics

$\Omega$



## Meshing a surface

- The principal curvature $\kappa_{i}$, their associated principal directions $\mathbf{V}_{i, 0}$ and the normal vector $\mathbf{N}_{0}=\mathbf{V}_{1,0} \times \mathbf{V}_{2,0}$ is defined for each regular point ( $\sigma^{\prime}\left(u_{0}, v_{0}\right)$ invertible) of a parametric surface $(u, v) \rightarrow \sigma(u, v)$

- These data are intrinsic [Do Carmo, Differential Geometry 2016]
- From this, a 3D metric is deduced $\left(\rho_{i}=\frac{1}{\kappa_{i}}, c_{i}, \lambda \in \mathbb{R}\right)$ :

$$
\mathcal{M}_{\text {surf }}=\left(\begin{array}{c}
\mathbf{V}_{1,0} \\
\mathbf{V}_{2,0} \\
\mathbf{N}_{0}
\end{array}\right)^{T}\left(\begin{array}{ccc}
\frac{1}{\left(c_{1} \rho_{1}\right)^{2}} & 0 & 0 \\
0 & \frac{1}{\left(c_{2} \rho_{2}\right)^{2}} & 0 \\
0 & 0 & \lambda
\end{array}\right)\left(\begin{array}{l}
\mathbf{V}_{1,0} \\
\mathbf{V}_{2,0} \\
\mathbf{N}_{0}
\end{array}\right)
$$

- In the parametric space, the used metric is:

$$
\tilde{\mathcal{M}}_{\text {surf }}=\left(\begin{array}{ll}
\sigma_{u}^{T} & \sigma_{v}^{T}
\end{array}\right) \mathcal{M}_{\text {surf }}\binom{\sigma_{u}}{\sigma_{v}}
$$

## Extension to high-order

Requirements

- Direct extension of the linear case
- Independence with respect to any parameterization


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## Observations

- Principal curvatures are terms of order 2 of Taylor expansions of the gap to the tangent plane in the intrinsic local frame


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## Requirements

- Direct extension of the linear case
- Independence with respect to any parameterization


## Observations

- Principal curvatures are terms of order 2 of Taylor expansions of the gap to the tangent plane in the intrinsic local frame
- If we note $\sigma\left(u_{0}, v_{0}\right)=\left(x_{0}, y_{0}, z_{0}\right)$ in $\left(\mathbf{V}_{1,0}, \mathbf{V}_{2,0}, \mathbf{N}_{0}\right)$, then

$$
z=z_{0}+\frac{1}{2}\left(\kappa_{1}\left(x-x_{0}\right)^{2}+\kappa_{2}\left(y-y_{0}\right)^{2}\right)+\mathcal{O}\left(\left\|\left(x-x_{0}, y-y_{0}\right)\right\|^{3}\right)
$$

## Extension to high-order

## Strategy

- Extend the previous Taylor expansion to higher orders
- Deduce from these expansions "high-order curvatures"
- Build new metrics using these curvatures
- Generate high-order meshes using these metrics


## Case of a surface

- We assume that $\sigma$ is at least $C^{k+1}$
- In the local frame, we have

$$
\begin{aligned}
(X, Y) & =\left(x-x_{0}, y-y_{0}\right) \\
& =\left(\left(\sigma(u, v)-\sigma\left(u_{0}, v_{0}\right), \mathbf{V}_{1,0}\right),\left(\sigma(u, v)-\sigma\left(u_{0}, v_{0}\right), \mathbf{V}_{2,0}\right)\right) \\
& =\phi\left(u-u_{0}, v-v_{0}\right)
\end{aligned}
$$

- If $\left(u_{0}, v_{0}\right)$ is a regular point, then, using the inversion function theorem $\phi$ is invertible in ( $u_{0}, v_{0}$ ) and there exists $\psi$ such that $\psi(X, Y)=\left(u-u_{0}, v-v_{0}\right)$ in the vicinity of $\left(u_{0}, v_{0}\right)$
- If $\phi$ is $C^{k+1}$, then $\psi$ is $C^{k+1}$


## Case of a surface

- $\phi$ is an analytical function whose derivatives up to order $k+1$ are known [Piegl et al., Nurbs Book 1997]
- Using an inversion formula, the derivatives of $\psi$ can be deduced up to order $k+1$ [Encinas et al., Applied Mathematics Leterers 2003]
- We then deduce a Taylor expansion of parameters $(u, v)$ in the vicinity of $\left(u_{0}, v_{0}\right)$ with respect to $(X, Y)$ :

$$
\binom{u-u_{0}}{v-v_{0}}=\sum_{n=1}^{k+1} \sum_{i+j=n} A_{i j}^{n} X^{i} Y^{j}+\mathcal{O}\left(\|(X, Y)\|^{k+2}\right)
$$

- As $\sigma$ is $C^{k+1}, Z$ has a Taylor expansion in $\left(u-u_{0}, v-v_{0}\right)$ up to order $k+1$


## Case of a surface

- By composition, it comes the intrinsic Taylor expansion:

$$
Z=F_{k}(X, Y)+R_{k+1}(X, Y)+\mathcal{O}\left(\|(X, Y)\|^{k+2}\right)
$$

$F_{k}$ is a polynomial of degree $\leq k$ and $R_{k+1}$ is an homogeneous polynomial of degree $k+1$

- Using the log-simplex algorithm [Couluad et al., IMR, 2016], it comes:

$$
\left|R_{k+1}(X, Y)\right| \leq\left(\frac{1}{2}(X Y) Q_{k+1}(X Y)^{T}\right)^{\frac{k+1}{2}}
$$

where $Q_{k+1}$ is a symmetric matrix

- "High-order principal curvatures" $\kappa_{i}^{k+1}$ are chosen as the eigenvalues of $Q_{k+1}$ and the "high-order principal directions" $\mathbf{V}_{i}^{k+1}$ are deduced from the eigenvectors


## Surface meshing process

Meshing steps

- Perform line meshing using a high-order metric
- Perform surface meshing in the parametric space using a high-order metric
- Project high-order nodes onto the CAD geometry


## Torus

- 2 NURBS of degree 5 both defined by 6 control points and 12 knots.
- Results for an equivalent level of error (err $\sim 10^{-1}$ )



## Shuttle

- 2 NURBS of degree 3 defined by 8 (resp. 13) control points and 12 (resp. 17) knots with strong variation in the parametric space
- Results for an equivalent number of degrees of freedom (DOF ~ 1700)

$$
P^{1}
$$


$\mathrm{err}=197.814$

$P^{3}$

err $=58.3507$
Embedded and high-order meshes

## High-order surface meshing: conclusion

## Conclusion

- A novel approach for high-order surface mesh generation
- It is based on error estimates issued of an intrinsic Taylor expansion
- Readily usable in a surface mesh generation process

Perspectives

- High-order implicit surface meshing
- Coupling with curvilinear mesh adaptation
[2] Feuillet, Coulaud and Loseille, Anisotropic error estimate for high-order parametric surface mesh generation, 28th International Meshing


## Outline



## Optimization of quadratic meshes and applications

## mesh optimization and applications

## Related work

- High-order volume meshing with high-order surface as an input
$\Longrightarrow$ Local approach: high-order mesh untangling [George et al., INME 2012]. [Toulorge et al., JCP 2013]
$\Longrightarrow$ Global approach: PDE/variational models [Roca et al., IMR 2012]. [Moxey et al., IMR 2014]


## Intent

- Expose $P^{2}$ quality-based mesh optimization operators for simplicial meshes
- Use $P^{2}$ quality function proposed in [George et al. 2019] $\Longrightarrow$ It varies between 1 and infinity, the best element (equilateral) has a quality of 1
- Applications to $P^{2}$ mesh generation, $P^{2}$ moving mesh techniques and $P^{2}$ boundary layer mesh generation
- Two classical operators of $P^{1}$ mesh optimization [Brière de l|'Ise et al., 1995]
- Mesh smoothing

Initial configuration
Each edge of the ball propose an optimal new position for P

New configuration


- Two classical operators of $P^{1}$ mesh optimization [Briere de l'Iste et al., 1995]
- Generalized edge swapping
- Delete an edge and replace it by a new triangulation of its shell

- $P^{2}$ mesh smoothing is done in two steps
- Vertex smoothing


## Initial configuration in $\mathrm{P}^{2} \quad$ Each edge of the $\mathrm{P}^{1}$ ball propose an optimal new position for P



- Optimization of the position of the vertices using $P^{1}$ smoothing technique
- Extrapolation for the nodes of the ball so that $P^{2}$ straight meshes stay consistent with $P^{1}$ meshes


## $P^{2}$ Mesh smoothing

- $P^{2}$ mesh smoothing is done in two steps
- Node smoothing

- Resolution of an optimization problem


## $P^{2}$ Edge/Face swapping

- Generalization of edge swapping to $P^{2}$ meshes in 3 steps



$$
Q_{\text {mid }}=5.78(4.48)
$$


$Q_{\text {end }}=4.78$ (3.72)

- Resolution of the same optimization problem as with the node smoothing


## Applications

## $P^{2}$ Mesh Generation, Moving-Mesh and BL Mesh Generation

- Methods are based on a PDE model
- Finite element resolution of linear elasticity equation
- Resolution at the order of the studied mesh
- Dirichlet boundary conditions are used


## High-order mesh generation

- The initial boundary deformation is given by the input high-order surface mesh

- This is interpreted as a Dirichlet boundary condition
- Resolution of the FE system gives volume deformation
- High-order resolution provides a model in which all DOF are intrinsically represented.
- Optimization operators in post and preprocessing ensure robustness to the process


## NASA Common Research Model

Mesh size: 32479 vertices - 118012 tets - 45956 triangles
Total number of swaps: 12703
$Q \in[1, \infty)$

$$
\begin{gathered}
P^{1} \text { mesh } \\
Q_{\text {avg }}=2.5 \\
Q_{\text {wst }}=271
\end{gathered}
$$

$$
\begin{gathered}
P^{2} \text { mesh } \\
Q_{\text {avg }}=\infty \xrightarrow{\text { optim }} 2.13 \\
Q_{\text {wst }}=10 \mathrm{inv} . \xrightarrow{\text { optim }} 271
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$$



## Applications

## Basic $P^{2}$ Moving Mesh Algorithm

- Start from a $P^{2}$-mesh
- Compute moving body displacement providing boundary nodes/vertices positions
It sets Dirichlet boundary conditions for the linear elasticity solver
- Compute high-order solution, it provides new positions to all nodes/vertices
Move all nodes/vertices to their new position
- Perform high-order mesh optimization to correct invalid elements and improve mesh quality
- Iterate until displacement is performed
- Translating and rotating falcon in a mesh of 498181 tetrahedra
- Result with no optimization

- Translating and rotating falcon in a mesh of 498181 tetrahedra
- Result with swap and vertex/node smoothing

- Translating and rotating falcon in a mesh of 498181 tetrahedra
- Evolution of the worst quality

Translating-Rotating Falcon


## Application

$P^{2}$ Boundary Layer mesh generation

- Extension to $P^{2}$ of a closed-advancing layer method [Alauret et al., EwC, 2015]


## Features

- Start from an existing $P^{2}$ mesh
- Inflate the boundary while proposing a $P^{2} \mathrm{BL}$ mesh
- Use of a connectivity-change moving-mesh method during the inflation
- Backtracking if necessary
- Guarantee of a final valid mesh


## Sphere example

- Initial BL spacing is set to 0.0001
- Growth rate is 1.2
- 21 layers are generated



## Sphere example

- Initial BL spacing is set to 0.0001
- Growth rate is 1.2
- 21 layers are generated



## Quadratic mesh optimization: conclusion

## Conclusion

- Development of vertices/nodes smoothing and connectivity-change quality-based optimization operators
- Insurance of a robust high-order Euler mesh generation
- Possibility of a high-order connectivity-change moving mesh methods
- Application to $P^{2}$ boundary layer mesh generation
- The methodology is as robust as for the $P^{1}$ context


## Perspectives

- Extension to higher orders
- Investigation of mesh curving using a local approach
- Extension to anisotropy
[3] Feuillet, Loseille and Alauzet, $P^{2}$ mesh optimization operators, 27th International Meshing Roundtable, 2018
[4] Feuillet, Loseille, Marcum and Alauzet, Connectivity-change moving mesh methods for high-order meshes: Toward closed advancing-layer high-order boundary layer mesh generation, AIAA, 2018
[5] Feuillet, Marcum and Alauzet, A closed advancing-layer method for generating curved boundary layer mesh, AIAA, 2019
[6] Feuillet, Loseille and Alauzet, Optimization of $P^{2}$ meshes and applications, under review, 2019


## Outline



## Visualization of high-order meshes and solutions

## Visualization

## Motivations

- High-order entities (meshes and solutions) are not properly handled
- Entities are subdivided on CPU during a preprocessing step



## Visualization

## Motivations

- High-order entities (meshes and solutions) are not properly handled
- Entities are subdivided on CPU during a preprocessing step


1858 triangles are generated in this case

## Visualization

Focus on high-order finite elements representations
Related work

- Ray tracing techniques for pixel-exact solution rendering [Peiro et al, 2015]
$\Longrightarrow$ Resolution of nonlinear problems
$\Longrightarrow$ Greedy computations
- Adaptive subdivision [Schroeder et al., IEEE, 2006, Remacle et al., UNME, 2006]
$\Longrightarrow$ Still end-up with linear interpolation...


## Objectives

- Compromise between two approaches
- Solution that does not subdivide straight entities at all and subdivides curved entities on the fly on GPU
- Reliable rendering of high-order solutions


## Curved surface elements visualization

- The visualization process relies on the use of the OpenGL 4.0 graphic pipeline that can be customized with up to five different shader stages
- Shaders are parts of code that are directly compiled on GPU
- Display of a point



## Curved surface elements visualization

- The visualization process relies on the use of the OpenGL 4.0 graphic pipeline that can be customized with up to five different shader stages
- Shaders are parts of code that are directly compiled on GPU
- Display of a simple geometry (edg, tri)



## Curved surface elements visualization

- The visualization process relies on the use of the OpenGL 4.0 graphic pipeline that can be customized with up to five different shader stages
- Shaders are parts of code that are directly compiled on GPU
- Display of a complex geometry (high-order elements)



## Curved surface elements visualization



- The accuracy of the geometric approximation can be controlled thanks to a tesselation shaders
- Among built-in variables, we can pass trough our own variables:
$\Longrightarrow$ for a pixel we then know: $(x, y, z)$, or $(u, v)$, or primitive ids


## Curved surface elements visualization

- Display of elements of degree 2 (up) and degree 3 (bottom)
- From left to right: edge, triangle and quadrilateral



## Volume element visualization

- The volume is visualized through cut planes
- Example of $P^{3}$ tetrahedral mesh



## Almost pixel exact solution rendering

- Rendering of a $P^{3}$ solution
- No subdivision is needed



## Almost pixel exact solution rendering

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## Almost pixel exact solution rendering

- Rendering of a $P^{3}$ solution
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## CFD example

- Rendering of a $Q^{10}$ solution on a $Q^{2}$ mesh
- Simulation of Euler equations around a CFM56


Courtesy of C. Peyret (ONERA) [Peyret, AlAA, 2017]

## CFD example

- Rendering of a $Q^{10}$ solution on a $Q^{2}$ mesh
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Courtesy of C. Peyret (ONERA) [Peyret, AlaA, 2017]

## Wave propagation example

- Rendering of a $Q^{10}$ solution on a $Q^{1}$ mesh
- Simulation of a wave propagation with a Perfectly Matched Layer


Courtesy of S. Impériale (INRIA) [Baffet et al., , sci. Comp. 2019]

## Visualization: conclusion

## Conclusion

- Full GPU-based rendering
- Pixel-exact rendering on straight elements (independently of the degree of the solution)
- Almost pixel exact for elements with non-linear geometrical mapping


## Perspectives

- Volume rendering
- Handling of iso-surfaces
- Extraction of solutions induced on cut surfaces
[7] Loseille and Feuillet, Vizir: high-order mesh and solution visualization using OpenGL 4.0 graphic pipeline, AIAA, 2018
[8] Feuillet and Loseille, On pixel-exact rendering for high-order mesh and solution, submitted, 2019


## Outline

General conclusion and perspectives

## General conclusion and perspectives

## General conclusion

- Study of two alternatives to linear body-fitted representation
- The embedded approach avoids the meshing cost of complex geometries
$\Longrightarrow$ Mesh adaptation enables to get back the loss of accuracy induced by the approach
- High-order meshes are more convenient for the solver
$\Longrightarrow$ Presentation of a novel approach for generating high-order surface meshes
$\Longrightarrow$ Design of optimization operators for quadratic meshes with applications to mesh curving, moving-mesh and boundary layer mesh generation
$\Longrightarrow$ Setup of an efficient and accurate visualization process of high-order entities


## General conclusion and perspectives

## Perspectives

- Hybrid metric-aligned mesh adaptation [Loseille, IMR, 2014], [Marcum et al., IMR, 2014]
- Curvilinear mesh adaptation [Zhang et al., IMR, 2018], [Aparicio-Estrems et al., IMR, 2018]
- Space-time meshes [Belda Ferrin et al., IMR, 2018], [Caplan et al., AlAA, 2019]


Hybrid mesh adaptation (Thesis of L. Tenkès)


Curvilinear mesh adaptation (Thesis of L. Rochery)

## Thank you

Thank you for your attention!

