A conservative and non-dissipative Eulerian formulation for the simulation of soft solids in fluids

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\textbf{ABSTRACT}

Soft solids in fluids find wide range of applications in science and engineering, especially in the study of biological tissues and membranes. In this study, an Eulerian finite volume approach has been developed to simulate fully resolved incompressible hyperelastic solids immersed in a fluid. We have adopted the recently developed reference-map technique (RMT) by Valkov et al. (2015) [122] and assessed multiple improvements for this approach. These modifications maintain the numerical robustness of the solver and allow the simulations without any artificial viscosity in the solid regions (to stabilize the solver). This has also resulted in eliminating the striations (“wrinkles”) of the fluid-solid interface that was seen before and hence obviates the need for any additional routines to achieve a smooth interface. An approximate projection method has been used to project the velocity field onto a divergence free field. Cost and accuracy improvements of the modifications on the method have also been discussed.

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\textbf{1. Introduction}

Soft solids in fluids are ubiquitous in nature. Study of these systems is of practical relevance in science and engineering, especially in the field of biomedicine [119,131,3,17]. Some of such applications involve the study of the interaction between micro-bubble collapse-induced shock waves with the tissue in an animal body [1], study of the electroporation phenomenon [81], study of hemodynamics and suspension of blood cells [90,91].

Numerical methods to simulate a fluid-solid coupled system, also known as a fluid-structure interaction (FSI) problem can be broadly classified into mesh-based methods and meshfree methods. Further, the mesh-based methods can be subdivided into (a) fully-Eulerian approach, where both fluids and solids are solved on an Eulerian grid, (b) mixed Lagrangian Eulerian approach, where typically fluids are solved on an Eulerian grid and solids are represented using a Lagrangian grid, (c) fully Lagrangian approach, where both fluids and solids are solved using a Lagrangian grid. A detailed classification of various methods used to study FSI problems is shown in the Fig. 1.

FSI has historically been studied using a partitioned-based mixed-Lagrangian-Eulerian approaches, where fluid and solid regions are solved separately on different meshes using different methods (see, the arbitrary Lagrangian-Eulerian (ALE) approach of Hu et al. [35]; Hirt et al. [30]; Nitikitpaiboon and Bathe [82]; Hughes et al. [38]; Belytschko [6], deforming-spatial-domain/stabilized-space-time approach (DSD/SST) of Tezduyar et al. [107]; Hughes and Stewart [39]). These methods have been widely used to study problems such as flapping wings [76,105], fluid-particle interaction (FPI) [75,45,47,46,48,

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A broad classification of widely used FSI methods in the literature. Methods with a yellow background color represents “non-conforming mesh methods”, where the mesh does not comply with the shape of the solid structures and the methods with a blue background color represents “conforming mesh methods”, where the mesh complies with the shape of the structures. Fully Eulerian approaches are also referred to as “interface-tracking methods” and the partitioned-based mixed-Lagrangian-Eulerian methods are referred to as “interface-capturing methods” in the literature. (For interpretation of the colors in the figure(s), the reader is referred to the web version of this article.)

To overcome the cost of partitioned-based approaches for highly deforming solids, monolithic-based solvers were developed, where a single system of equations are solved simultaneously in a coupled manner [37,68,96]. To account for the effect of presence of solids, a force term that is computed based on the structural configuration of the solid is added to the fluid equations. These methods have been applied to study problems such as modeling rigid particles [134], modeling flexible bodies [78,136], red blood cell [78,14,25]. Further, monolithic-based solvers can be sub-divided into (i) fictitious domain (FD) method / distributed Lagrange multiplier method [23,24,85], (ii) immersed-boundary methods, where the solid region is represented as a boundary [72], (iii) immersed-domain method, where the solid region is represented as a body with a finite volume, for example the immersed finite-element method [63,64,135,124] and the immersed continuum method of [125–127]

Immersed-boundary methods are known to be the simplest of all the methods. For example, the classical immersed-boundary (IB) method [86,87,89,52,36], the direct-forcing method [77,65,67,29], the penalization approach [54], the ghost-cell method, the cut-cell finite volume approach [9] and the immersed-interface method [58,60,61,59,56] all use an Eulerian grid for the fluid region and the boundary of the deforming solid is considered as a forcing term in the fluid equations either in the continuous form (continuous forcing methods) or in discrete form (discrete forcing methods). Owing to its simplicity, these methods have been used to study a wide variety of problems such as magnetohydrodynamics of liquid metals [28], complex flows in irregular domains [15,120,57,53,40], turbulent flows [133], modeling cochlea [7], modeling flexible fibers [99,123], rigid bodies [73], flow-induced vibration [71], biomimetic flight mechanism [74], fluid past an airfoil [22], flexible filaments [137], modeling mechanics of heart [88,27], sperm motility near boundaries [16], microswimmers [12] and ship hydrodynamics [130,129] where it’s been coupled with two-fluid solvers. However, these methods are known to not capture the realistic structural response of the solid and often use a linear theory (infinitesimal strain theory) to approximate the stresses and the deformation of the solid.

On the other hand, relatively less popular class of methods to solve FSI problems are the fully Lagrangian approach such as a particle-finite-element method (PFEM) and meshfree methods such as the reproducing kernel particle method (RKPM) and smoothed-particle hydrodynamics (SPH). These methods have been used for applications such as large number of floating bodies in fluid, bed erosion etc. [84].

Finally, the relatively newer class of methods are the fully Eulerian approaches. These methods typically use an interface-capturing method that was initially developed to track material interfaces in two-fluid flows (see [70]). These approaches are inherently cost effective due to a fixed mesh and results in a easily parallelizable computer programs and is particularly very advantageous compared to other methods for highly deforming solids. Some of previous applications of these methods are modeling linear elastic materials [132], elasto-plastic materials [121,83] and neo-Hookean materials [62,32,13,101], patient-specific arterial modeling of cerebral aneurysms [108–117], parachute modeling [49,97,98] wind-turbine rotor aerodynamics [106,104], moving hyperelastic particles [19] and modeling flow in the heart [128]. However, these methods found success mostly in the stiff limit of the solids [34,46] and was found to be too cumbersome for highly deforming solids, since it requires generating a new grid at each time step.

To overcome the cost of partitioned-based approaches for highly deforming solids, monolithic-based solvers were developed, where a single system of equations are solved simultaneously in a coupled manner [37,68,96]. To account for the effect of presence of solids, a force term that is computed based on the structural configuration of the solid is added to the fluid equations. These methods have been applied to study problems such as modeling rigid particles [134], modeling flexible bodies [78,136], red blood cell [78,14,25]. Further, monolithic-based solvers can be sub-divided into (i) fictitious domain (FD) method / distributed Lagrange multiplier method [23,24,85], (ii) immersed-boundary methods, where the solid region is represented as a boundary [72], (iii) immersed-domain method, where the solid region is represented as a body with a finite volume, for example the immersed finite-element method [63,64,135,124] and the immersed continuum method of [125–127]
2. Eulerian formulation for solids and fluids

2.1. Reference map technique

Consider a solid in convective coordinate system, as shown in Fig. 2. At time $t = 0$, the solid is in its initial configuration (reference configuration), represented by $\Omega_0$, and at time $t > 0$, the solid is in its deformed configuration, represented by $\Omega_t$ after being displaced and deformed by external forces. If $\vec{X}$ represents a position vector in $\Omega_0$ that points to a material particle, then this material particle in $\Omega_t$ has the same $\vec{X}$ associated with it, since $\vec{X}$ represents the initial coordinates of the point in $\Omega_0$. Hence $\vec{X}$ acts as a tag for all the material particles in the solid. If $\vec{x}$ represents the corresponding position vector in $\Omega_t$, then we can define a vector map $\vec{\xi} : \mathbb{R}^4 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$ (a reference map) as

$$\vec{\xi}(\vec{x}, t) = \vec{x}.$$ (1)
such that $\xi$ remains constant for a material particle in the solid (as long as the solid doesn’t deform plastically) but varies from particle to particle. Hence the material derivative of $\xi$ field yields

$$\frac{D\xi}{Dt} = 0. \quad (2)$$

Expressing this in terms of the local derivatives, we obtain an advection equation for the $\xi(\tilde{x}, t)$ field as

$$\frac{\partial \xi}{\partial t} + \tilde{u} \cdot \nabla \xi(\tilde{x}, t) = 0. \quad (3)$$

This equation can be integrated in time given the initial condition $\xi(\tilde{x}, t = 0) = \tilde{x} = \tilde{X}$. Thus, $\xi(\tilde{x}, t)$ acts as a tag for all the points in the solid, and the kinematic condition in Eq. (3) can be used to track every point in the solid, given its initial coordinates. Stress and strain in solid constitutive laws are typically expressed in terms of the material deformation gradient $F$. Hence, relating $F$ to $\xi(\tilde{x}, t)$ as

$$F(\tilde{X}, t) = \frac{\partial \tilde{x}}{\partial \tilde{x}} \tilde{X} = \left[ \nabla \xi(\tilde{x}, t) \right]^{-1}, \quad (4)$$

we can express the stress and strain tensors in terms of this new primitive variable $\xi(\tilde{x}, t)$. Eqs. (1)-(4) in combination give rise to a novel approach to track all the material points in a solid and close the system of equations to model a solid on an Eulerian grid.

### 2.2. Governing equations for solids and fluids

In an Eulerian formulation, momentum balance equation for both fluids and solids can be written as

$$\frac{\partial (\rho \tilde{u})}{\partial t} + \nabla.(\rho \tilde{u} \otimes \tilde{u}) = \nabla.\sigma, \quad (5)$$

where $\tilde{u}$ is the global velocity field and $\sigma$ is the Cauchy stress. Mass balance equation for fluids (continuity equation) can be written as

$$\frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} + \nabla.(\tilde{u} \rho) = 0, \quad (6)$$

which in the incompressible limit simplifies to $\nabla.\tilde{u} = 0$. Similarly, the mass balance for solids can be written as $\rho = \rho_0[\det(F)]^{-1}$, and in the incompressible limit it simplifies to $\det(F) = 1$, implying that the density doesn’t change ($\rho = \rho_0$). Here, $\rho$ and $\rho_0$ are the density of the deformed and reference configurations, respectively. It can be shown that the conditions $\nabla.\tilde{u} = 0$ and $\det(F) = 1$ are equivalent (see, Appendix A).

For solids, the Cauchy stress can be expressed as a function of strain given by

$$\sigma_s = (\det(F))^{-1}F \frac{\partial \psi(E)}{\partial E} F^T - \lambda I = 2(\det(F))^{-1}F \frac{\partial \psi(C)}{\partial C} F^T - \lambda I, \quad (7)$$

where $E = (1/2)(F^TF - I)$ is the Green’s (or Lagrangian) finite strain tensor, $C = F^TF$ is the right Cauchy-Green's deformation tensor (or stretch tensor), $\psi(F) = \psi(E) = \psi(C)$ is the strain energy density (Helmholtz free-energy density) function and $\lambda = P$ is the Lagrangian multiplier and is equal to pressure in the incompressible limit [31]. We use the incompressible neo-Hookean constitutive model for solids, given by

$$\dot{\psi}(C) = \mu^s tr(C - 3), \quad (8)$$

where $\mu^s = E/2(1 + \nu)$ is the shear modulus (Lame’s first parameter), $E$ is the Young’s modulus and $\nu$ is the Poisson’s ratio. Taking a partial derivative of this strain energy density function with respect to $C$ yields

$$\frac{\partial \dot{\psi}(C)}{\partial C} = \mu^s I. \quad (9)$$

Using this and the incompressibility condition for solids ($\det(F) = 1$), the $\sigma_s$ reduces to a simple form given by $\sigma_s = 2\mu^s b - P I$, where $b = F^TF$ is the left Cauchy-Green’s deformation tensor (or stretch tensor). Further more, expressing $\sigma_s$ in terms of $\xi$, Cauchy stress can be expressed in terms of this new primitive variable $\xi$ as

$$\sigma_s = 2\mu^s [(\nabla \xi)^T - (\nabla \xi)^T] - P I = 2\mu^s [(\nabla \xi)^T - (\nabla \xi)^T] - P I. \quad (10)$$

Nonlinearity in the stress-strain relationship is more evident when $\xi$ is expressed in terms of its components. For an incompressible solid in two-dimensions, the Cauchy stress reduces to the form (Appendix B)

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Fig. 3. Schematic of a solid on an Eulerian grid. \( \Omega_5 \) represents the solid region, \( \partial \Omega_5 \) the boundary of the solid. \( \Omega_E \approx 6 \Delta x \) is the narrow band of extended solid region around \( \partial \Omega_5 \).

\[
\sigma^S = 2\mu^S \left[ \begin{array}{c}
\left( \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} \right)^2 + \left( \frac{\partial v}{\partial y} \right)^2 \\
- \left[ \left( \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} \right) \left( \frac{\partial v}{\partial y} \right) + \left( \frac{\partial v}{\partial x} \right) \left( \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} \right) \right]
\end{array} \right] - P \mathbb{I},
\]

(11)

where \( \alpha = \xi \hat{\xi} \) and \( \beta = \xi \hat{\beta} \) are the components of \( \xi \). For fluids, the Cauchy stress can be expressed as a function of the rate of strain. We use the Newtonian constitutive model given by

\[
\sigma^f = \mu^f \left[ \left( \nabla \bar{u} \right) + \left( \nabla \bar{u}^T \right) \right] - P \mathbb{I} = \mu \left[ \begin{array}{c}
\frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial v}{\partial y} \\
\frac{\partial u}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial v}{\partial x}
\end{array} \right] - P \mathbb{I},
\]

(12)

where \( P \) is the pressure and the matrix form of the above system of equations is for a fluid in two-dimensions. Extension to three-dimensions is not included here, but is straightforward. We solve a conservative variable-density formulation of the above system of equations and to close the system of equations for fluid-solid coupled simulations, we use a mixture model derived based on the one-fluid formulation [51] for two-phase flows (see, Section 3.6), or the so called "one-continuum formulation" [102].

3. Discretization, numerical method and conservative implementation

3.1. Basic methodology

Consider a solid on an Eulerian grid, as shown in Fig. 3. Here, \( \Omega_5 \) represents the region inside the solid, \( \partial \Omega_5 \) represents the boundary of the solid, \( \pm \Omega_5 \approx 4 \Delta x \) represents a narrow band region (an extended solid region) around \( \partial \Omega_5 \), and \( \pm \Omega_r \approx 2 \Delta x \) represents another narrow band region (a transition zone) around \( \partial \Omega_5 \) (not shown in the Fig. 3). Since, both solid and fluid regions are solved together in a coupled fashion, they share the same grid and a global velocity field. In the regions of solid \( \Omega_5 \), solid Cauchy stress \( \sigma^S \) is computed using the solid constitutive law (Eq. (11)), and outside this region, fluid Cauchy stress \( \sigma^f \) is computed using the fluid constitutive law (Eq. (12)). Once the stresses for solid and fluid regions are evaluated, a level-set field \( \phi \) and a smoothed Heaviside function \( H(x) \) is constructed using the reference map field \( \xi \) as illustrated in Fig. 4. This Heaviside function is used to appropriately blend the solid and fluid stresses around the solid-fluid interface to compute the global Cauchy stress \( \sigma \). Finally the velocity field is updated by solving the discretized version of momentum equation and by projecting the velocity field onto a divergence-free field. Form of the equations used, discretization techniques and algorithms used in this approach are explained in detail in the subsequent sections.

An important thing to note is that \( \xi \) is a variable that contains the information of the origin of the material. This field quickly becomes invalid in the region containing fluids due to the highly nonlinear deformation behavior of the fluids. Hence, \( \xi \) is defined only within the solid region, and to evaluate the solid stress in \( \Omega_r \), the \( \xi \) field is appropriately extrapolated into the regions outside the solid (into \( \Omega_E \)).

Valkov et al. [122], used the hyperbolic partial-differential equation (PDE) approach of Aslam [4] to extrapolate the \( \xi \) field. This approach assumes that a level-set field is known in the region of extrapolation. By contrast, we use a least-squares-based extrapolation procedure (see, Section 3.5) that does not require a known level-set field in the region of extrapolation. However, a local level-set field \( \phi \) has to be defined in the \( \Omega_E \) region, which is used in defining the Heaviside function required for the mixture model (see, Section 3.6) and also in enforcing the solid-solid and solid-wall contact boundaries. Hereafter, we refer to the approach by Valkov et al. [122] as the original RMT.

3.2. Conservative formulation and discretization

In the numerical solution of partial differential equations, divergence form of the equations is usually preferred over the primitive form (non-conservative form), since it results in discrete conservation of the quantities being solved. We solve
The momentum equation in a conservative form as written in Eq. (5), where both the inertial term and the stress term are in divergence form (see, Section 4.3 for the illustration of importance of the use of divergence form for the stress term). We also use the conservative form of the equation for the advection of $\xi$ field. Though $\xi$ is not a physically conservative field, volume enclosed in the solid region $\Omega_S$ bounded by the fluid-solid interface $\partial\Omega_S$ that is extracted using the $\xi$ field should be conserved (see, Section 4.6.1 for a description on the volumetric error of the solid). Notice that the Eq. (3) can be rewritten in a conservative form as

$$\frac{\partial \xi(x, t)}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot [\bar{u}\, \xi(x, t)] = 0,$$

(13)

in the incompressible limit, using the divergence-free condition ($\nabla \cdot \bar{u} = 0$).

We use a finite-volume approach on a collocated uniform grid to discretize our system of equations. Hence, all our primary variables ($\xi, \bar{u}, p, \rho$) are stored on the cell center. We modify the approximate projection method of Almgren et al. [2] to incorporate the coupled solution of solid and fluid regions. The steps involved in our projection method are shown in detail in Algorithm 1.

We split the momentum equation into an advection and diffusion part, since it allows us to use different time-stepping schemes. A second-order central differencing scheme is used to compute convective fluxes in the advection part of the momentum equation and the advection equation for $\xi$, and they are solved using an RK4 time integration scheme. The use of central-difference scheme for the advection of both $\xi$ and $\bar{u}$ fields not only yields a conservative and a non-dissipative approach but also results in solving momentum equation and reference map advection equations consistently, which is crucial for the simulation of high solid-to-fluid density-ratio flows (see Section 3.10 in [118]). A forward-Euler time integration scheme is used to solve the diffusion part of the momentum equation (Eq. (15)). We use the second-order central-difference approximation to evaluate the gradient tensor ($\nabla \xi$) in Eq. (10), unlike the one-sided differences used in the original RMT. For example, in a Cartesian two-dimensional case, $\partial \alpha / \partial x$ in Eq. (11) is approximated as

$$\frac{\partial \alpha}{\partial x} = \frac{\alpha_{i+1,j} - \alpha_{i-1,j}}{2\Delta x},$$

(21)

where $\alpha = \xi, \bar{u}$. The divergence of Cauchy stress in Eq. (15) is also computed using the second-order central-difference scheme. The exact form of discretization of the stress terms is crucial in obtaining a consistent and conservative formulation, hence the discretization used in the current work is presented in detail in Appendix C.

Finally, the use of collocated grid arrangement results in checkerboard pressure fields. To eliminate this, we use a "Rhie-Chow like interpolation" for the intermediate velocity fields ($\bar{u}^{**}$) after the update of advection and diffusion

$$\bar{u}_f^{**} = (\bar{u}_P^{**})_{p \rightarrow f} - \left\{ \frac{\Delta t}{\rho_f^{n+1}} \left[ (\nabla p)_f^n - F_f^{n+1} \right] \right\},$$

(22)

where subscript $P$ represents cell-centered values, $f$ represents face-centered values, $\rangle_{p \rightarrow f}$ is an interpolation from cell center to the cell face and $F$ is the body force computed using the balanced-force approach of Francois et al. [18]. Interpolation from cell center to the cell face $\langle_{p \rightarrow f}$ for a uniform Cartesian grid can be written as

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Algorithm 1 One full time-step iteration with the modified projection method.

1: Advect reference map \( \vec{\xi} \) and extrapolate using least-squares method (see Sections 3.4, 3.5).
2: Reconstruct level-set field \( \phi \) and reinitialize using fast-marching method (see Section 3.3).
3: Compute solid stress \( \sigma^s \) using Eq. (11), fluid stress \( \sigma^f \) using Eq. (12) and update \( \rho \) and \( \sigma \) (see Section 3.6).
4: Solve advection and diffusion to obtain intermediate velocity \( \vec{u}^{n+1}_f \)

\[
\frac{\rho^{n+1}_f \vec{u}^{n+1}_f - \rho^n_0 \vec{u}^n_0}{\Delta t} = \vec{\nabla} \cdot (\rho \vec{u}^{n+1}_f),
\]

(14)

\[
\frac{\rho^{n+1}_f \vec{u}^{n+1}_f - \rho^n_0 \vec{u}^n_0}{\Delta t} = \vec{\nabla} \cdot \sigma (\mu^s, \mu^f, \vec{u}^*_f, \vec{\xi}),
\]

(15)

where subscript \( P \) represents cell-centered values, \( n \) and \( n+1 \) represents two consecutive time steps. Here, an Euler time-stepping scheme for advection step is shown for representation only, however an RK4 time-stepping is used in the implementation to achieve numerical stability.
5: Interpolate to obtain face values (Rhe-Chow-like interpolation)

\[
\vec{u}^*_f = (\vec{u}^*_f)_{P \to f} - \left\{ \frac{\Delta t}{\rho^*_f} \left[ (\vec{\nabla} P)^n_f - P^{n+1}_f \right] \right\},
\]

(16)

where \( (\cdot)_{P \to f} \) is an interpolation from the cell center to the cell face, subscript \( f \) represents face-centered values and \( F \) is the body force computed using the balanced-force approach of Francois et al. [18].
6: Solve pressure Poisson equation

\[
\vec{\nabla} \cdot \left( \frac{\vec{\nabla} P^{n+1}_f}{\rho^*_f} \right) = -\vec{\nabla} P^{n+1}_0,
\]

(17)

where \( \delta P \) is the correction for pressure.
7: Update the pressure

\[
p^{n+1} = p^n + \delta p^{n+1},
\]

(18)

8: Update the face velocity field — exactly divergence free (to be used in calculating convective fluxes in the next time step)

\[
\vec{u}^{n+1}_f = \vec{u}^*_f - \left\{ \frac{\Delta t}{\rho^*_f} \left[ (\vec{\nabla} P)^n_f - P^{n+1}_f \right] \right\},
\]

(19)

9: Update the cell center velocity field — approximately divergence free

\[
\vec{u}^{n+1}_p = \vec{u}^*_p - \Delta t \left\{ \frac{(\vec{\nabla} P)_f - F_f}{\rho_f} \right\}_{f \to p},
\]

(20)

where \( (\cdot)_{f \to p} \) is an interpolation from the cell face to the cell center.

\[\begin{align*}
\frac{u_{i+1/2,j} + u_{i-1/2,j}}{2} \\
\frac{v_{i,j+1/2} + v_{i,j-1/2}}{2}
\end{align*}\]

(23)

(24)

where \( u \) and \( v \) are the \( x \) and \( y \) components of the velocity field. This Rhie-Chow like interpolation does not affect the discrete conservation of momentum. However, it does add a small amount of conservation error in the transport of kinetic energy which is of the order \( O(\Delta t \Delta x^2) \). This has been previously shown to be of dissipative in nature, hence it does not affect the stability of the method (see, Section 6.1 of Morinishi et al. [79]).

3.3. Level-set reconstruction

As explained in the section 3.1, a level-set field \( \phi \) is required to be defined at every time step in the \( \Omega_E \) region. One way to define \( \phi(\vec{x}, t) \) is to advect \( \phi \) using the standard level-set advection equations given \( \phi(\vec{X}, t = 0) \). This approach could lead to a mismatch between the \( \phi(\vec{X}, t = 0) \) and the boundary of the solid defined by \( \vec{\xi}(\vec{X}, t) \) field, which in turn could result in a wrinkled solid-fluid interface, affecting the overall quality of \( \vec{\xi} \) field in the extrapolated region (see Figures 9, 10 in [122]). In the original RMT approach, this issue was resolved by performing additional smoothing routines to eliminate the striations in the extrapolated regions, which could potentially lead to additional mass conservation issues. To avoid this problem, we propose a simpler, exact, conservative and also cost-effective way to define the level-set field \( \phi(\vec{x}, t) \) at any time \( t \). \( \phi(\vec{x}, t) \) can be reconstructed from the given \( \phi(\vec{X}, 0) \) field at \( t = 0 \), utilizing the known \( \vec{\xi}(\vec{X}, t) \) field at time \( t \) using a simple condition given by

\[
\phi(\vec{x}, t) = \phi(\vec{\xi}(\vec{x}, t), t = 0).
\]

(25)
Since an analytical expression can be defined for $\phi(\vec{x}, t = 0)$ for simple-shaped solids, the above equation yields an exact field for $\phi(\vec{x}, t)$ for a given $\vec{\xi}(\vec{x}, t)$, thus maintaining a perfect match between the $\phi(\vec{x}, t) = 0$ surface and the boundary of the solid defined by $\vec{\xi}(\vec{x}, t)$, which is crucial in developing a robust solver. If an analytical expression for $\phi(\vec{x}, t = 0)$ is not available, then a bilinear interpolation (in two-dimensions) can be used to calculate $\phi(\vec{\xi}(\vec{x}, t), t = 0)$.

3.4. Modified reference map advection

The reference map field $\vec{\xi}$ is advected using Eq. (13). As explained in Section 3.1, $\vec{\xi}$ is defined and advected only within the $\Omega_S$. This can be conveniently achieved by modifying Eq. (13) into

$$\frac{\partial \vec{\xi}}{\partial t} + H(\vec{\xi}) \vec{V} \cdot [\vec{u} \vec{\xi}(\vec{x}, t)] = 0,$$

(26)

where $H(\vec{\xi})$ is a Heaviside function defined as

$$H(\vec{\xi}) = \begin{cases} 1 & \Omega_S \\ 0 & \text{else}. \end{cases}$$

(27)

This modification to the advection equation of $\vec{\xi}$ has multiple advantages; the very obvious one is that this approach effectively eliminates the high-frequency content in the $\vec{\xi}$ field, resulting in an ability to use simple schemes such as central-differences to compute the fluxes, without losing the accuracy of the solution to dispersion errors. To realize the second advantage, which is more subtle, consider the $\vec{\xi}$ field of a one-dimensional solid, as shown in Fig. 5.

At time $t = 0$, $\vec{\xi}$ is a simple straight line ($\vec{\xi} = x$) and is given as an input to the solver, as shown on the left. Let $u$ denote the velocity field; then after time $t$, an ideal solid would have advected to a new location, shown on the right, maintaining the shape (solid line). If the modified equation shown in Eq. (26) is not used to advect, then a Total Variation Diminishing (TVD) type scheme can be used to compute the fluxes, which artificially add diffusivity to the equation to stabilize the solver. This results in a non-monotonic $\vec{\xi}$ profile shown on the right with dotted lines. If this profile is obtained as a result of advection, then the reconstruction step of the level-set field using Eq. (25) breaks down. To understand this, consider two solid circles 1 and 2 in Fig. 5. Circle 1 is inside the solid in $\Omega_S$ at $t = 0$, but circle 2 is outside the solid in $\Omega_F$. After the advection step, circle 1 still represents a value of $\vec{\xi}$ inside the solid region, whereas circle 2 now represents a value of $\vec{\xi}$ inside solid region $\Omega_S$ due to numerical diffusion. To clip the values of $\vec{\xi}$ outside the solid region before extrapolating $\vec{\xi}$, the boundaries of the solid needs to be identified. This can be done using the level-set field constructed using Eq. (25) (which takes $\vec{\xi}$ as the input). This procedure (without the modification to the advection equation Eq. (26)) typically creates two boundaries for the solid, resulting in the failure of the method. Therefore using the modified advection equation for $\vec{\xi}$ effectively eliminates this issue by clipping the values of $\vec{\xi}$ outside the solid right in the advection step. As a result, $\vec{\xi}$ can be extrapolated without any need for explicit clipping.

3.5. Least-squares-based extrapolation

The original RMT used a hyperbolic PDE approach to extrapolate the $\vec{\xi}$ field outside the solid regions into $\Omega_F$. We propose a simpler, more cost-effective approach to extrapolate the $\vec{\xi}$ field based on the assumption that the $\vec{\xi}$ field is locally linear, even in the deformed state of the solid since the $\vec{\xi}$ field represents a mapping from the current coordinates $\vec{x}$ to the original coordinates $\vec{X}$ of the solid, which is linear in $x$, $y$ and $z$. This assumption relies on the fact that the solids do not continuously deform under an applied stress. Unlike solids, liquids do not resist stress and continuously deform which would violate this locally linear assumption of $\vec{\xi}$ field. Therefore the $\vec{\xi}$ field is only defined within the solid region. This assumption of locally linear $\vec{\xi}$ field was also used in the hyperbolic PDE based extrapolation of the original RMT approach [122].

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Consider the solid represented by a square (in two-dimensions) in Fig. 6. Consider the dashed circle of radius \(4r\) as the stencil, where \(r = \sqrt{\Delta x^2 + \Delta y^2}\). Hence a plane of the form \(\xi = ax + by + c\) can be fit for the known cell values, where \(x\), \(y\) and \(\xi\) represent the coordinate location and the reference map value of the cells and \(a\), \(b\) and \(c\) are the coefficients to be determined, thus forming an over-determined system that can be solved using the least-squares approach. The stencil’s radius was chosen to make the system over-determined for all the possible configurations. Once the coefficients are calculated, the value of \(\xi\) at the solid circle can be computed. The procedure begins by repeatedly solving least-squares systems for all the cells adjacent to the cells for which the value of \(\xi\) is already known. This is considered as the first pass. The values computed in the first pass are considered as good as the values inside the solid for the second pass. This procedure is repeated until the required width of the extrapolated region is obtained. This cell traversal procedure is summarized in Algorithm 2.

![Algorithm 2: Traversal algorithm.](image)

**Algorithm 2** Traversal algorithm.

1: For all the cells in the domain set \(\text{flag1}\) such that

\[
\text{flag1} = \begin{cases} 
1 & \Omega_s \\
0 & \text{else}
\end{cases}
\]

2: For all the cells in the domain set \(\text{flag2}\) such that

\[
\text{flag2} = \begin{cases} 
1 & \Omega_s + \Omega_t \\
0 & \text{else}
\end{cases}
\]

3: Let \(\text{temp}_\text{flag} = \text{flag1}\)
4: for all cells with \(\text{temp}_\text{flag} = 0\) do
5: if adjacent neighbor or corner neighbor has \(\text{flag1} = 1\) then
6: Solve least-squares system.
7: Update \(\text{temp}_\text{flag}\) to 1.
8: Set \(\text{flag1} = \text{temp}_\text{flag}\).
9: Repeat steps 5 to 9 until \(\text{temp}_\text{flag} = \text{flag2}\).

3.6. Closure model

The level-set field \(\phi\) reconstructed using Eq. (25) should be reinitialized to restore its signed-distance property. We solve the Eikonal equation by adopting the fast marching method (FMM) of Chopp [8] to reinitialize the \(\phi\) field. The coupled fluid-solid system of equations is closed by defining the mixture model inspired by the “one-fluid formulation” as

\[
\sigma = \hat{H}(\hat{\phi}(\vec{x}, t)) \sigma^f + \left(1 - \hat{H}(\hat{\phi}(\vec{x}, t))\right) \sigma^s,
\]
\[
\rho = \hat{H}(\hat{\phi}(\vec{x}, t)) \rho^f + \left(1 - \hat{H}(\hat{\phi}(\vec{x}, t))\right) \rho^s,
\]

where \(\hat{\phi}\) is the reinitialized level-set field and \(\hat{H}(x)\) represents a smoothed Heaviside function defined as...
Table 1
Comparison between the present method and the original RMT method by Valkov et al. [122].

| Grid                  | The original RMT [122] | Present approach |
|-----------------------|------------------------|------------------|
| Nature of the solver  | Staggered              | Collocated       |
| Reference map extrap. | Compressible           |                  |
|                      | PDE based              |                  |
| Discrete momentum    | No                     |                  |
|                      | One-sided (artificial  |                  |
| conservation (inertial terms) | damping)             |                  |
| Discretization stencil | Central               |                  |
| Smoothing routines   | Required (artificial damping) | No |
| Global damping       | Needed (artificial damping) | Not needed |

\[
\hat{H}(x) = \begin{cases} 
0 & x \leq -w_T \\
\frac{1}{2} \left[ 1 + \frac{x}{w_T} + \frac{1}{\pi} \sin \left( \frac{\pi x}{w_T} \right) \right] & |x| < w_T \\
1 & x \geq w_T, 
\end{cases} 
\]  

(28)

where \( w_T \) represents the width of the transition region \( \Omega_T \). For \( n \) number of solids, this model can be extended accordingly

\[
\sigma = \left[ \sum_{i=1}^{n} H_i[\phi(\bar{x}, t)] - n + 1 \right] \sigma_f^f + \sum_{i=1}^{n} \left[ 1 - H_i[\phi(\bar{x}, t)] \right] \sigma_s^s. 
\]  

(29)

When two solids collide in a fluid, a body force needs to be added to the momentum equation to keep them separated and to avoid the inter-penetration of solids. We use a similar procedure as described in [122] to calculate the body force \( \tilde{f}_{i,j} \) for solid-solid contact and solid-wall contact conditions. A level-set field \( \phi_{12} \) is defined as

\[
\phi_{12} = \frac{\phi^{(1)} - \phi^{(2)}}{2} 
\]  

(30)

where \( \phi^{(1)} \) and \( \phi^{(2)} \) are the level-set fields associated with two colliding solids, hence \( \phi_{12} = 0 \) represents a mid-surface between the two solids. The body force \( \tilde{f}_{i,j} \) can then be defined as

\[
\tilde{f}_{i,j} = \begin{cases} 
\gamma_{i,j} \hat{n}_{12i,j} & \phi^{(1)} < 0 \text{ or } \phi^{(2)} < 0 \\
0 & \text{otherwise} 
\end{cases} 
\]  

(31)

\[
\gamma_{i,j} = k_{rep} \delta_i(\phi_{12i,j}) 
\]  

(32)

where \( \hat{n}_{12i,j} \) is the unit vector normal to the level-sets of \( \phi_{12} \) and pointing away from the mid-surface, \( k_{rep} \) is a prefactor and \( \delta_i(x) \) is a compactly supported influence function given by

\[
\delta_i(x) = \begin{cases} 
\frac{1 + \cos \frac{\pi x}{w_T}}{2w_T} & |x| < w_T \\
0 & |x| \geq w_T. 
\end{cases} 
\]  

(33)

Note that, we need to define a separate \( \bar{\xi} \) field and transport it for each object that undergoes collision in the simulation, which is required to evaluate Eq. (30). However, if there are many objects in the domain and if we know that they do not collide with each other beforehand (when they are sufficiently far away), we can use the same \( \bar{\xi} \) field for them to reduce the cost and memory requirements.

Finally, the pressure Poisson equation (Eq. (17)) which results in a linear system of equations is solved using a conjugate-gradient (CG) approach. Major differences and improvements to the original RMT method by Valkov et al. [122] are listed in Table 1. We thus extended the original reference map technique (RMT) to solve for incompressible fluid-structure interaction problems on an Eulerian collocated grid. Modifications proposed in the extrapolation procedure of the reference map, reconstruction of the level-set field and consistent numerical discretization results in improved robustness, cost effectiveness and conservation properties of the approach.

4. Results and discussion

In this section, we first present some basic validation test cases to assess the accuracy and cost of our fluid and coupled fluid-solid solver. This is then followed by more complex cases involving solid-solid and fluid-solid contact conditions. Since the fluid-solid coupled problem involves multiple time scales, and an explicit time integration is adopted for solving the system of equations, care must be taken to satisfy all the time step constraints involved in the problem. Time step restriction due to CFL criterion from the advection can be written (for forward Euler in one dimension) as \( \Delta t \leq C \Delta x/\mu \), where \( C \) represents the Courant number. Time step restriction from the diffusion equation for fluids yields \( \Delta t \leq 0.5 \rho^f (\Delta x)^2/\mu^f \).
Similarly, shear waves in the solids need to be resolved, and the speed of this shear wave is given by, $u = \sqrt{\frac{\mu_s}{\rho_s}}$. Hence a time constraint based on this shear wave speed can be defined as $\Delta t \leq \frac{P \Delta x \sqrt{\rho_s / \mu_s}}{\mu_s}$, where $P$ represents an appropriate pre-factor that depends on the numerical method. If the ratio of $\mu_s / \rho_s$ is high, traveling shear waves in the solid typically imposes the most restrictive time constraint of all. Hence, in the stiff solid limit such as in the metals, imposed time step constraints are so strict that the simulation time close to solid length scales is virtually impossible with the explicit time stepping approach. Therefore, this formulation is best suited for the simulation of soft solids in fluids.

4.1. Validation of the fluid solver

The incompressible Navier-Stokes solver on a collocated grid was validated for the lid-driven cavity case against the benchmark results from Ghia et al. [21]. A $100 \times 100$ grid was used for the simulation, and the results are reported for $Re = 1000$. Fig. 7 shows a good match of the $u$ and $v$ velocities along the vertical and horizontal lines through the center of the domain with the results from Ghia et al. [21].

Since the equations are solved on a collocated grid, to eliminate the checkerboard fields a Rhie-Chow-like interpolation was performed, as described in Section 3.2. Fig. 8 presents pseudocolor plots of the velocity and pressure fields from the lid-driven cavity case, illustrating the smoothness of the solution fields obtained.

4.2. Cost and accuracy of the extrapolation procedure

We compared the accuracy of our least-squares extrapolation procedure with that of the hyperbolic partial differential equation (PDE) approach used in RMT (using a RK2-minmod scheme to solve the hyperbolic PDEs). Fig. 9 shows the results of the Zalesak disk test case, wherein a slotted disk (a $\xi$ field) that is placed off-center is advected with a given background rotational velocity field and compared against the initial conditions after one full rotation. Three solid lines in (a) represent the initial and final $\phi$ fields of $\partial \Omega_S$ (fluid-solid interface), $+\partial \Omega_E$ and $-\partial \Omega_E$ (boundaries of the extended solid region). Solid lines in (b) and (c) represents $\partial \Omega_S$ and the shaded region represents $\alpha = \xi \cdot \hat{i}$ and $\beta = \xi \cdot \hat{j}$ fields.
The initial and final $\phi$ fields in Fig. 9 (a) are exactly on top of each other, showing that the extrapolation procedure by itself is very accurate. One should be careful in interpreting this result, and should not relate this with the rotation of Zalesak disk usually presented in the literature that is obtained as a result of direct advection of $\phi$ field. Here $\phi$ field is reconstructed using the condition in the Eq. (25) and the high accuracy of this $\phi$ field could only be achieved due to the advection of $\xi$ that was linear and smooth using a second-order central scheme. This clearly shows the advantage of using the compatibility condition in the Eq. (25) as opposed to the advection of the $\phi$ field.

Further, since the errors in the extrapolation procedure manifests as the error in the advection of the $\xi$ field, we computed the $L^2$ norm error $E_{\xi,i} = ||\xi_i - \bar{\xi}_f||_2$ for the advection, where $\xi_i$ and $\bar{\xi}_f$ are the initial and final fields obtained after one full rotation, and report them in Table 2. It is evident that our least-squares procedure is considerably more accurate when compared to the PDE approach.

The above test case was performed on a $100 \times 100$ grid. Moreover, we also compared the cost of the extrapolation procedure using both the approaches and found that on an average the least-squares procedure required $\approx 1500$ ms per extrapolation, whereas the PDE approach required $\approx 5000$ ms per extrapolation on this grid (close to the time taken by a Poisson solver), for an extrapolation band region of $5\Delta x$. This also proves that our least-squares procedure is extremely cost-effective when compared to the PDE approach.

Additionally, to demonstrate that the use of compatibility condition in the Eq. (25) to reconstruct $\phi$ field is not limited to simple shapes that have analytical expression, we considered an asymmetric star-looking object that has sharp regions and repeated the exercise above. Fig. 10 shows the results of the one full rotation of the star-looking object advected with a given background rotational velocity field. Three solid lines represent the initial and final $\phi$ fields of $\partial \Omega_S$ (fluid-solid interface), $+\partial \Omega_E$ and $-\partial \Omega_E$ (boundaries of the extended solid region). The initial and final $\phi$ fields in Fig. 10 (a) are again exactly on top of each other, showing the high accuracy of the method even for objects with sharp regions. Further to quantify the error, we computed the $L^2$ norm error $E_{\xi,i} = ||\xi_i - \bar{\xi}_f||_2$, where $\xi_i$ and $\bar{\xi}_f$ are the initial and final fields obtained after one full rotation. The error values are $E_{\xi,i} = 6.39 \times 10^{-9}$ and $E_{\xi,i} = 6.77 \times 10^{-9}$, which are of the same order as the ones reported in Table 2 for a grid of size $100 \times 100$.

Finally to study the effect of grid size on the sharp corners, we repeated the same test case for various grids of sizes $50 \times 50, 100 \times 100, 200 \times 200$ and $400 \times 400$. The final shape of the object for various grid sizes is shown in Fig. 11, along with close-up views around a sharp corner and a smooth corner showing the grid convergence. We also computed a normalized $L^2$ norm error $E_{\xi,\text{norm}} = ||\xi_i - \bar{\xi}_f||_2/(N_x \times N_y)$, where $N_x$ and $N_y$ are the number of grid points along $x$ and $y$ directions, and report them in Table 3. Normalization is done in such a way that the error quantity $E_{\xi,\text{norm}}$ being compared is grid-size independent and that it represents the error incurred per grid cell in the domain. Clearly, the error per grid cell is very close to machine accuracy for all grid sizes and are roughly independent of the grid size.
Fig. 10. Rotation of an asymmetric star-looking object simulated on a grid of size 100 × 100. Three solid lines represent the initial and final \( \phi \) fields of \( \partial \Omega_s \), \( +\partial \Omega_f \) and \( -\partial \Omega_f \). Color represents the background velocity magnitude. Vector field represents the velocity.

Fig. 11. Final shape of the asymmetric star-looking object simulated on various grids.

Table 3
Comparison of the normalized \( L_2 \) norm error \( E_{\text{norm}} \) for the case of asymmetric star-looking object for various grid sizes.

| Grid size | \( E_{\text{norm}}^f \) | \( E_{\text{norm}}^s \) |
|-----------|----------------|----------------|
| 50 × 50   | 1.28 × 10^{-12} | 1.35 × 10^{-12} |
| 100 × 100 | 6.39 × 10^{-13} | 6.77 × 10^{-13} |
| 200 × 200 | 3.53 × 10^{-13} | 3.70 × 10^{-13} |
| 400 × 400 | 4.52 × 10^{-13} | 4.59 × 10^{-13} |

4.3. Conservative vs non-conservative implementation

Here we would like to highlight that a careful implementation of the blending of fluid and solid Cauchy stresses is crucial in obtaining a discretely conservative momentum formulation. For example, one approach is to compute fluid and solid Cauchy stresses \( \sigma^f, \sigma^s \), combine them to obtain a global Cauchy stress \( \sigma \), and then calculate the divergence of this stress to obtain the force per unit volume \( \vec{f} \) due to stresses as

\[
\sigma \leftarrow \text{Blend}(\hat{H}(\hat{\phi}), \sigma^s, \sigma^f),
\]

\[
\vec{f} = \vec{\nabla} \cdot \sigma.
\]

The second approach is to compute the divergence of the solid and fluid Cauchy stresses \( \vec{\nabla} \cdot \sigma^s, \vec{\nabla} \cdot \sigma^f \) and combine them to obtain the force per unit volume as

\[
\vec{f} \leftarrow \text{Blend}(\hat{H}(\hat{\phi}), \vec{\nabla} \cdot \sigma^s, \vec{\nabla} \cdot \sigma^f).
\]
The first approach is the one that leads to a conservative formulation, due to the presence of divergence outside the blending operation. This divergence operator, when summed up over adjacent control volumes, leads to an exact cancellation of the terms (analogous to a telescoping series). Hence, we use the conservative formulation in our solver.

A simulation of a solid placed in a Taylor-Green vortex was performed to qualitatively study the differences between these two formulations. Consider Fig. 12, which shows the initial state of a solid placed in a Taylor-Green vortex field. Initial flow field should stretch the solid to a certain extent, beyond which the internal stresses developed in the solid should retract it back resulting in an oscillating motion of the solid that stretches and retracts back and forth until all the energy is lost in the viscous dissipation of the fluid. Fig. 13 shows the result of the simulation performed using both the non-conservative formulation and conservative formulation described above. Clearly, the results are completely unphysical for the non-conservative formulation wherein the solid extends indefinitely with no signs of retraction. By contrast, the conservative formulation for the exact same problem resulted in a more physically meaningful calculation.

Figure 12. Initial state of a circular solid placed in a Taylor-Green vortex field.

Figure 13. Time evolution of the interface of the solid placed in an initially Taylor-Green vortex field, showing the comparison between the results obtained using a conservative formulation and a non-conservative formulation. Radius along the y direction r is also plotted as a function of time t for both the formulations.

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4.4. Convergence study

Above demonstrated test case of a solid placed in a Taylor-Green vortex field was repeated for the values used in [136,93] to validate our solver against the results from a mixed Eulerian-Lagrangian based approach. A solid of radius $r = 0.2$ is placed in an initially imposed Taylor-Green vortex field given by the streamfunction $\psi = \psi_0 \sin(k_x x) \sin(k_y y)$ where $\psi_0 = 5 \times 10^{-2}$ and $k_x = k_y = 2\pi$. Domain size used is $1 \times 1$ and is discretized into a $128 \times 128$ grid. Other parameters used in the simulation are fluid viscosity $\mu^f = 10^{-3}$, shear modulus $\mu^s = 0.5$, solid density $\rho^s = 1$ and fluid density $\rho^f = 1$. For the sake of consistency with the results of Robinson-Mosher et al. [93]; Zhao et al. [136], a small amount of viscosity equal to the fluid viscosity of $\mu^f = 10^{-3}$ is added in the solid regions. But in general our solver is stable without any viscous damping in the solid regions (see section 4.6 for simulations without any viscosity in the solid regions). Time evolution of kinetic energy ($ke$) and strain energy ($se$) is plotted in Fig. 14 for various grid size and also compared against previous studies, where

$$ke = \int \frac{1}{2} u_i u_i \, d\Omega,$$

and

$$se = \int \mu^s (\text{tr}(\mathbf{F}^T \mathbf{F}) - 2) \, d\Omega.$$  

(37)

(38)
the previous works compared to the current results. This highlights the non-dissipative nature of central-difference scheme
[93]; Zhao et al. [136] compared to the current results. Similarly, the strain energy is under-predicted and decays faster in
used in the current work. Further, using the same test case we also assessed the order of convergence of all the primitive
the first period of oscillation, but eventually the kinetic energy decays faster in the simulations by Robinson-Mosher et al.
Frequency of oscillation of the solid matches well with the results of Robinson-Mosher et al. [93]; Zhao et al. [136]. The
Errors for the kinetic energy ($E_{ke}$), strain energy ($E_{se}$), pressure ($E_p$), velocity ($E_v$) and ($E_\xi$) fields computed at $t = 0.25$. Dashed line represents an $O(\Delta x^2)$ convergence rate.
Clearly the results are independent of the grid for sizes $128 \times 128$ and above. Further, the viscous dissipation ($\varepsilon$) in the fluid and solid regions combined was computed using the expression
$$\varepsilon = \int \mu \frac{\partial u_i}{\partial x_j} \frac{\partial u_i}{\partial x_j} d\Omega,$$
and the conservation of total energy $E$ was assessed at the final time of $t = 1$ and was found to decrease less than 1% of
the initial time value, where $E$ is given by
$$E = ke + se + \int_0^t \varepsilon(t') dt'.$$
Frequency of oscillation of the solid matches well with the results of Robinson-Mosher et al. [93]; Zhao et al. [136]. The
time evolution of the kinetic energy in the present work matches well with that of Robinson-Mosher et al. [93] during
the first period of oscillation, but eventually the kinetic energy decays faster in the simulations by Robinson-Mosher et al.
[93]; Zhao et al. [136] compared to the current results. Similarly, the strain energy is under-predicted and decays faster in
the previous works compared to the current results. This highlights the non-dissipative nature of central-difference scheme
used in the current work. Further, using the same test case we also assessed the order of convergence of all the primitive
variables ($\vec{u}$, $p$, $\vec{\xi}$), the kinetic energy ($ke$) and the strain energy ($se$) of the solid used in our solver against a refined case on
a $1024 \times 1024$ grid. Fig. 15 shows that the order of convergence is roughly $O(\Delta x^2)$ for all the variables. Errors are defined as
$$E_{ke} = |ke/N^2 - ke_{ref}/1024^2|,$$
$$E_{se} = |se/N^2 - se_{ref}/1024^2|,$$
$$E_v = ||\vec{v} - \vec{v}_{ref}||_\infty,$$
$$E_p = ||p - p_{ref}||_\infty,$$
$$E_\xi = ||\vec{\xi} - \vec{\xi}_{ref}||_\infty,$$
where the subscript $ref$ refers to the most refined case on a $1024 \times 1024$ grid.
Fig. 16. Comparison of the interface of a deforming solid placed in a driven cavity obtained using the present method with that of the results by Sugiyama et al. [102] for various time instances. The black solid line represents current method and the red dashed line represents the results by Sugiyama et al. [102]. Colored thin lines represents the flow streamlines.

Fig. 17. Comparison of the centroid of the solid placed in a driven cavity obtained using the present method on a grid of size 128 × 128 with that of the results by Sugiyama et al. [102] on grids of size 128 × 128 and 1024 × 1024.

4.5. Solid in a driven cavity

To further validate the fluid-solid coupling of the solver, we simulated a deformable solid in a lid-driven cavity. This test case was previously simulated using mixed-Lagrangian-Eulerian based approach by Zhao et al. [136] and using a VOF based Eulerian approach by Sugiyama et al. [102]. Fig. 16 (a) shows the initial configuration of the solid in the domain. Domain used for this simulation is [0, 1] × [0, 1] and is discretized into a 128 × 128 grid. The solid is initially circular in shape with a radius of r = 0.2 and is placed at (0.6, 0.5) location. Other parameters used in the simulation are fluid viscosity $\mu^f = 10^{-2}$, solid viscosity $10^{-2}$, shear modulus $\mu_s = 0.05$, solid density $\rho_s = 1$ and fluid density $\rho_f = 1$. Time evolution of the interface of two solids are shown in Fig. 16, where the black solid line represents the current method and the dashed red line represents results by Sugiyama et al. [102], which shows a pretty good match. Further, we also plot the centroid of the solid in space in Fig. 17 against the results by Sugiyama et al. [102]. This shows that the centroid obtained using the present conservative Reference-Map-Technique on a grid of 128 × 128 is very close to the centroid obtained using a VOF based Eulerian method of Sugiyama et al. [102] on a grid of 1024 × 1024.
4.6. Simulations of solids in a fluid

In this section we present the simulations of more complex configurations of incompressible solid(s) in a fluid domain such as solid-solid contact, solid-wall contact situations. First, a case of solid-solid contact is considered. Fig. 18 shows a configuration of two solids placed in an initially imposed Taylor-Green vortex field given by the streamfunction $\psi = \psi_0 \sin(k_x x)\sin(k_y y)$ where $\psi_0 = 1$ and $k_x = k_y = 1$. Domain used for this simulation is $[-\pi, \pi] \times [-\pi, \pi]$ and is discretized into a $100 \times 100$ grid. Two solids are initially circular in shape with radii $r_1 = r_2 = \pi/3$ and are placed at $(\pi, 1.4\pi)$ and $(\pi, 0.6\pi)$ locations respectively. Other parameters used in the simulation are fluid viscosity $\mu^f = 1$, shear moduli $\mu_1^s = \mu_2^s = 100$, solid densities $\rho_1^s = \rho_2^s = 100$ and fluid density $\rho^f = 100$. Time evolution of the interface of two solids are shown in Fig. 19. Solids collide and subsequently rebounce due to the internal stresses developed in them as a result of deformation. Centroid of both the solids are also plotted as a function of time.

The deformed configuration of the solids along with the normal stresses $\sigma_{22} = (\sigma_{11} + \sigma_{22})/2$ are shown in Fig. 18 for the time $t = 0.024$. Since the solids are in the rebouncing stage, formation of the four symmetric counter-rotating vortices can be clearly seen around the solids. A zoomed-in view of the solid is also shown in this figure to illustrate the smoothness of the interface obtained in our approach even at such coarse resolution of $100 \times 100$ grid points (due to the exact match between the level-set field $\phi$ and $\xi$ fields at all times; see Section 3.3). We also do not see any striations in the extrapolated $\xi$ fields that was observed in the original RMT (see Figure 10 in [122]), thus eliminating the requirement of the artificial smoothing routines that were used to remove the striations in the extrapolated region. This test case shows the robustness of our solver in handling the solid-solid contact situations. Further, the time evolution of the centroid of the colliding solids are plotted in Fig. 20 for the grid sizes $100 \times 100, 200 \times 200$ and $400 \times 400$, which shows that the results (including the collision model) converge with the increase in grid size.

4.6.1. Deviation of $\det(F)$ from 1 (volumetric error)

In compressible flows, the conservative form of the momentum equation results in inconsistency between density advected using Eq. (6) and density computed using $\rho_0 \det(F)^{-1}$. To alleviate this, Kamrin et al. [50] proposed an alternative approach for the computation of density in a one-dimensional setting, where the density is always defined in terms of the motion as opposed to solving the continuity equation. However, in the incompressible limit, density is constant within the solid. Therefore the Eq. (6) reduces to $\nabla \cdot \mathbf{u} = 0$, which is satisfied discretely using the projection method. Hence the inconsistency is only in maintaining $\rho = \rho_0$ within the solid region, i.e., $\det(F)$ equal to 1. This condition is satisfied in the continuous limit (see, Appendix A), and is generally not satisfied discretely. However, a good numerical implementation holds the value of $\det(F)$ close to 1. From Eq. (53) we can write
Fig. 20. Time evolution of centroids of colliding solids placed in an initially Taylor-Green vortex field. Results from the simulation using grid sizes of 100 × 100, 200 × 200 and 400 × 400 are plotted.

Fig. 21. Volumetric error at two different time instances for the case of two solids initially placed in a Taylor-Green vortex (see, Section 4.6). The error is only shown for the top solid here.

\[
\text{det}(F) - 1 = \frac{\text{det}(F)}{V} \text{d}V.
\]

Hence \(\text{det}(F) - 1 = (\text{d}V - dV)/V\) represents the local volumetric error in an incompressible solid due to the numerical discretization. Here, we present the volumetric error in the solid obtained using the present approach for the test case of two solids placed in an initially Taylor-Green vortex, described in Section 4.6. Fig. 21 shows the error for the top solid at two different time instances (\(t = 2.4, 5.6\)). Evidently, the volumetric error in the solid at \(t = 5.4\) is lower compared to that at \(t = 2.4\). Hence, the error (\(\text{det}(F) - 1\)) does not seem to be accumulating with time, instead it is roughly proportional to the deformation of the solid. Moreover, the error is localized within the transition zone (\(\Omega_T\)) of the solid and the max value is around 0.14(14%) and is independent of the grid size chosen. This error occurs due to the presence of mixture region where the stress is computed as a weighted average of the fluid and solid stresses and is typical of any Eulerian approach that uses a diffuse-interface approach. However, since this error is localized to the transition zone, the total error in the mean sense is negligible.

Additionally, to quantify the local volumetric error incurred throughout the solid the normalized \(L_2\) norm of \(\text{det}(F)\) from 1 can be computed. This quantity is defined as \(||\text{det}(F)||_2/n\) where \(i\) is the cell index and \(n\) is the number of cells inside the solid and is plotted as a function of time in Fig. 22 (b) for three different grid sizes. Another similar measure that could be used to evaluate the deviation of \(\text{det}(F)\) from 1 is the net volumetric error of the solid, which represents the total volume loss or gain of the solid during the simulation. This quantity is defined as the normalized discrete summation of the \(\text{det}(F) - 1\) quantity, i.e., \(\sum_{i=0}^{n}(\text{det}(F)_i - 1)/n\) and is plotted as a function of time in Fig. 22 (a). On a uniform grid this quantity can be expressed as

\[
\sum_{i=0}^{n} \frac{(\text{det}(F)_i - 1)}{n} = \sum_{i=0}^{n} \frac{(dV_i - dV_i)}{(n dV_i)} = \frac{(V_{\text{fin}} - V_{\text{init}})}{V_{\text{init}}},
\]

where \(V_{\text{fin}}\) and \(V_{\text{init}}\) are the final and initial volumes of the solid. Fig. 22 (a) shows the net volumetric error and Fig. 22 (b) shows the normalized \(L_2\) norm error as a function of simulation time for the top solid in the test case of two solids placed in an initially Taylor-Green vortex for various grid sizes. As the solid deforms, \(\text{det}(F)\) deviates from 1 and the volumetric error reaches a value of roughly 1% and the \(L_2\) norm error reaches a value of roughly 0.1% for the 100 × 100 grid case, however when the solid retracts back, \(\text{det}(F)\) gets closer to 1 and the volumetric error reduces down to 0.25% and the \(L_2\) norm error reduces to a value of roughly 0.02%. Therefore, there is no increase in error \(\text{det}(F) - 1\) or accumulation with
4.6.2. Simulations of solid-wall contact

Next, a sequence of three test cases named (a) collision, (b) bounce ($\mu_s = 100$) and (c) bounce ($\mu_s = 1000$) that involve solid-wall contact situations are considered. These classic test cases involving the collision of elastic solids with a rigid wall can be very useful and are of practical relevance in many engineering fields of research. In all the three cases, a domain of $[0, 2\pi] \times [0, 2\pi]$ is used and a circular shaped solid of radius $\pi/3$ is placed at $(\pi, \pi)$ in an initially quiescent surrounding fluid. Case (a) is simulated in a microgravity condition ($g = 0$) and the values of other simulation parameters used in this case are $\rho_s = 100$, $\rho_f = 100$, $\mu_s = 100$, $\mu_f = 1$. Solid is given an initial velocity of $\vec{u} = -1\hat{j}$ and since this initial condition is fictitious and doesn’t satisfy incompressibility condition, the solver adjusts the velocity to achieve incompressibility in the first time step. Hence the effective velocity of the solid after one time step was $\vec{u} = 0.48\hat{j}$. Time evolution of the interface of the solid is plotted as a function of time as shown in Fig. 23. Solid encounters the rigid wall and bounces back and goes to a state of rest after losing all its kinetic energy to the surrounding fluid.

Case (b) is simulated in a gravity condition with $g = 0.0981$ and the values of other simulation parameters used in this case are $\rho_s = 1000$, $\rho_f = 100$ hence a density ratio of $\rho_s/\rho_f = 10$, $\mu_s = 1000$, $\mu_f = 10$. Solid is driven by the gravity and is initialized with a zero velocity. Time evolution of the interface of the solid is plotted as a function of time as shown in Fig. 24. Solid encounters the rigid wall and bounces back and forth until it goes to a state of rest after losing all its kinetic and potential energy to the surrounding fluid. Case (c) is similar to case (b), but with parameters $\mu_s = 100$, $\mu_f = 1$. Solid is initialized with zero velocity and the time evolution of the interface of the solid is plotted as a function of time in Fig. 25. Similar to case (b), here the solid bounces back and forth until it goes to a state of rest, but loses most of its energy to the fluid.

Fig. 22. (a) Net volumetric error and (b) $L_2$ norm error, as a function of simulation time for the top solid in the test case of two solids placed in an initially Taylor-Green vortex.

Fig. 23. Time evolution of the interface of a solid colliding with a rigid wall in a microgravity condition. A plot of centroid of the solid (solid line) as a function of time is also included. Dashed line represents the axis.

Fig. 24. Time evolution of the interface of a solid (more stiff $\mu_s = 1000$) colliding with a rigid wall under a non-zero gravity condition. A plot of centroid of the solid (solid line) as a function of time is also included. Dashed line represents the axis.

time in the present approach. Furthermore, both volumetric and $L_2$ norm errors reduce significantly with increase in the grid size. Hence, the inconsistency does not pose a critical problem in the present method.
Fig. 25. Time evolution of the interface of a solid (less stiff $\mu^s = 100$) colliding with a rigid wall under a non-zero gravity condition. Dashed line represents the axis.

Fig. 26. A plot of centroid of the solid as a function of time for all three cases (a) collision, (b) bounce ($\mu^s = 100$), and (c) bounce ($\mu^s = 1000$), that tests the implementation of solid-wall contact conditions.

5. Summary and conclusions

We have presented an Eulerian formulation for the simulation of incompressible soft solids in a fluid. Methods that handle solids in a Lagrangian fashion are known to be too expensive for highly deforming solids due to large grid deformations and severe time step restrictions. On the other hand an Eulerian approach appears to be a more natural choice for such situations. Hence we have adopted the recently proposed “reference map technique” (RMT) by Valkov et al. [122] to simulate solids and fluid-solid problems on an Eulerian grid. We extended this formulation for incompressible settings with the use of an approximate Projection method by Almgren et al. [2] to achieve divergence-free velocity condition.

Our formulation discretely conserves momentum and is very cost-effective. Furthermore, we introduced (a) a least-squares extrapolation procedure that is more accurate and cost-effective, (b) a modified advection equation for the reference map field that improves the robustness of the method, (c) a simple, cost-effective way to reconstruct the level-set field that removes any inconsistencies between the reference map field and the level-set field at all times and thereby eliminating the need to have more subroutines to fix the issue of striations of the interface (d) use of simple central-difference schemes to compute the fluxes that improves the stability of the numerical method and to eliminate any spurious dissipation of the kinetic energy.

We evaluated our solver on a variety of test cases involving solid-wall and solid-solid contact situations and showed that it is stable for all the cases. Furthermore, the test cases that we formulated can serve as a reference for future developers to compare and evaluate their models. Overall, this novel approach opens up a new pathway for the high fidelity numerical simulations of complex, large scale, coupled fluid-solid problems involving large deformations at lower costs compared to the Lagrangian or ALE methods.
Declaration of competing interest

The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper.

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Appendix A. Equivalence of \( \nabla \cdot \bar{u} = 0 \) and \( \text{det}(\mathbf{F}) = 1 \) relations

We can relate the divergence of velocity to the normal strain rate as

\[
\nabla \cdot \bar{u} = \frac{\partial u_i}{\partial x_i} = \epsilon_{ii} \tag{48}
\]

where \( \epsilon \) represents the strain rate. Therefore, the normal strain rate / total dilatation (\( \epsilon_{ii} = 0 \)) is zero because of the divergence free condition (\( \nabla \cdot \bar{u} = 0 \)). Now, relating the total dilation to the rate of change of elementary volume with respect to a unit volume as

\[
\epsilon_{ii} = \frac{1}{V} \frac{D(V)}{Dt} = 0 \tag{49}
\]

we can therefore show that the rate of change of elementary volume (\( \frac{D(V)}{Dt} \)) is zero. This implies that the elementary volume \( V \) remains constant. Now rewriting this condition in a convective coordinate system, we obtain

\[
dV = dV \tag{50}
\]

where \( dV \) is the elementary volume after deformation and \( dV \) is the elementary volume before deformation as shown in Fig. 27. These two elementary volumes \( dV \) and \( dV \) can be re-expressed in terms of vectors \( \bar{r}_1 \), \( \bar{r}_2 \) and \( \bar{r}_3 \) that form the undeformed elementary volume \( dV \) as

\[
dV = (\bar{r}_1 \times \bar{r}_2) \cdot \bar{r}_3 = (\bar{n}dA) \cdot \bar{r}_3 \tag{51}
\]

\[
dV = (\mathbf{F}\bar{r}_1 \times \mathbf{F}\bar{r}_2) \cdot \mathbf{F}\bar{r}_3 = (\bar{n}da) \cdot \mathbf{F}\bar{r}_3 \tag{52}
\]

where \( \bar{n}dA \) represents the area vector of the face of the elementary volume \( dV \) formed by the vectors \( \bar{r}_1 \) and \( \bar{r}_2 \) and \( \bar{n}da \) represents the area vector of the face of the elementary volume \( dV \) formed by the vectors \( \mathbf{F}\bar{r}_1 \) and \( \mathbf{F}\bar{r}_2 \). Now making use of the Nanson's formula (\( \bar{n}da = \text{det}(\mathbf{F})^{-1} \bar{n}dA \)) that relates these two area vectors, and making use of the relations in the Eqs. (51)-(52), we can show that

\[
dV = \text{det}(\mathbf{F})dV \Rightarrow \text{det}(\mathbf{F}) = 1 \tag{53}
\]

Appendix B. Derivation of the incompressible solid Cauchy stress \( \sigma \) in terms of components of the reference map \( \bar{\xi} \)

As described in Section 2.2, we can write the Cauchy stress in terms of the left Cauchy-Green's deformation tensor (or stretch tensor, \( \bar{C} = \mathbf{F}\mathbf{F}^T \)) for an incompressible neo-Hookean solid as

\[
\sigma = \frac{\partial \bar{\xi}}{\partial \bar{x}} (\bar{C} \otimes \bar{C}) (\bar{C}^{-1} \otimes \bar{C}^{-1}) \frac{\partial \bar{x}}{\partial \bar{\xi}}
\]

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Appendix C. Discretization of the stress terms in the momentum equation

As shown in Appendix B, we can express the Cauchy stress in terms of the components of the reference map field \( \tilde{\xi} \) as

\[
\sigma^s = 2\mu^s \left[ \begin{array}{c}
-\left( \frac{\partial \alpha}{\partial x} \right)^2 + \left( \frac{\partial \alpha}{\partial y} \right)^2 \\
-\left( \frac{\partial \alpha}{\partial y} \right)^2 + \left( \frac{\partial \alpha}{\partial x} \right)^2 \\
\left( \frac{\partial \alpha}{\partial x} \right) \left( \frac{\partial \alpha}{\partial y} \right)
\end{array} \right] - P \mathbb{I}
\]

where \( \alpha = \tilde{\xi}_i \) and \( \beta = \tilde{\xi}_j \) for a 2D system. We use the second-order central difference scheme for the discretization of the gradients of \( \alpha \) and \( \beta \), which results in a conservative and non-dissipative formulation. If \( i, j \) represents the cell index along \( x \) and \( y \) directions, we can write the discrete form of \( \sigma^s \) as

\[
\sigma^s = 2\mu^s \left[ \begin{array}{c}
\sigma^s_{i,j,11} = \sigma^s_{i,j,22} = 2\mu^s \left[ \begin{array}{c}
\alpha_{i+1,j} - \alpha_{i,j-1} \\
\alpha_{i,j+1} - \alpha_{i,j-1}
\end{array} \right] \\
\sigma^s_{i,j,12} = \sigma^s_{i,j,21} = -2\mu^s \left[ \begin{array}{c}
\alpha_{i,j} - \alpha_{i-1,j} \\
\alpha_{i+1,j} - \alpha_{i,j-1}
\end{array} \right]
\end{array} \right] - P \mathbb{I}
\]

where \( \sigma^s_{i,j,11}, \sigma^s_{i,j,12}, \sigma^s_{i,j,21} \) and \( \sigma^s_{i,j,22} \) are the components of the tensor \( \sigma^s \). Notice that we use a wider stencil that uses \( i+1 \) and \( i-1 \) points to obtain the gradient at \( i \) as opposed to a compact stencil that uses \( i+1/2 \) and \( i-1/2 \). Once \( \sigma^s \) is evaluated at \( i, j \), we evaluate the fluid Cauchy stress \( \sigma^f \) in a similar fashion using the same stencil. We then obtain the total Cauchy stress at \( i, j \) as

\[
\sigma_{i,j} = \tilde{H} \left[ \phi(\tilde{\xi}, t) \right]_{i,j} s_{i,j} + \left[ \tilde{H} \left[ \tilde{\phi}(\tilde{\xi}, t) \right]_{i,j} \right] s_{i,j}
\]

Further, to evaluate the divergence of \( \sigma \) at \( i, j \), we use the same stencil as

\[
\vec{\nabla} \cdot \sigma_{i,j} = \left[ \frac{\sigma_{i+1,j} - \sigma_{i,j-1}}{2\Delta x} + \frac{\sigma_{i-1,j} - \sigma_{i-1,j}}{2\Delta x} \right] + \left[ \frac{\sigma_{i,j+1} - \sigma_{i,j-1}}{2\Delta y} + \frac{\sigma_{i,j} - \sigma_{i+1,j}}{2\Delta y} \right]
\]

which results in a conservative and consistent discretization of the stress terms that results in correct physical behavior of the solid as described in Section 3.4.
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Highlights

- An Eulerian formulation for the simulation of fluid-solid incompressible flows.
- Least-square procedure for extrapolation of reference-map results in higher accuracy at lower costs.
- Modified reference-map advection equation results in improved robustness of the method.
- Wrinkle free solid-fluid interface has been achieved with no artificial damping/smoothing.