



# Automatic mesh generation for the low order dynamical analysis of marine structures

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# Introduction



- MOL Comfort catastrophe
- MSC Napoli cracks



# Introduction

- Direct ship structural analysis based on the FEM is a part of ship structural design process for determination of structural adequacy (Hughes and Paik, 2010).
- Automatic mesh generation to meet the acceptance criteria by the classification societies (Nersesian and Mahmood, 2009).
- Automatic meshers have a problem when dealing with linear constraints on the mesh, see (Jang et al., 2008).
- The proffered elements to be used are dominantly low degree shell elements – locking.

## Requirements on the mesh

Up to 5% triangles are allowed, angles of all elements should be between  $45^\circ$  and  $135^\circ$ .

A girder should be meshed with at least 4 elements, and the smallest element should not be smaller than the thickness of the plate.

## Cross-field (Lévy and Liu, 2010)

Algorithm is designed around the notion of the cross field. This is a heuristic function modeling the preferred orientation of the mesh.

- Cross field is taken to be parallel to the boundaries of the domain.
- Frontal meshing algorithms propagate the cross field from the boundaries and insert a point in the mesh so as to form an equilateral triangle.
- In the quad oriented algorithm, one uses the  $L^\infty$  norm and so the equilateral triangle is actually isosceles with an angle close to the right-angle.



# Measuring regularity of the mesh

- For quadrilateral element  $q$  and its four internal angles  $\alpha_k$ ,  $k = 1, 2, 3, 4$ , quality of the element is defined with  $\eta(q)$  (Remacle et al., 2013) as

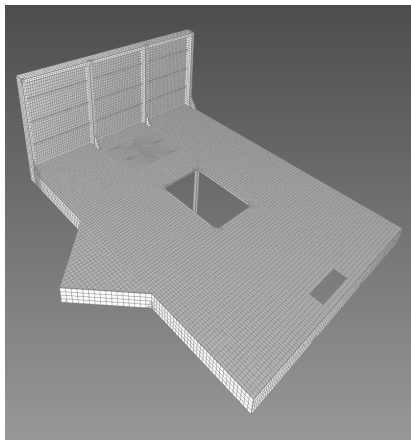
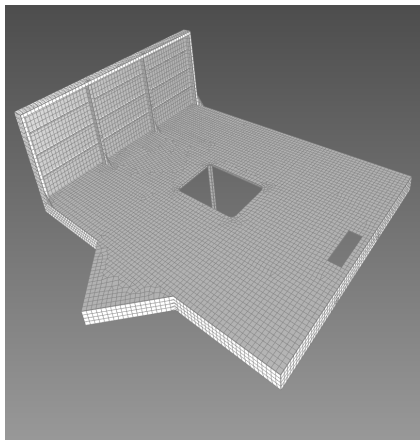
$$\eta(q) = \max \left[ 1 - \frac{2}{\pi} \max_i \left[ \left| \frac{\pi}{2} - \alpha_i(q) \right| \right], 0 \right].$$

- The element quality measure is equal to 1 for perfect square and it is zero in the presence of angles  $\leq 0$  and  $\geq \pi$ .
- Measure which assesses if the mesh consists mostly of regular elements is called  $\tau$  and it measures the percentage of the edges which are close to the globally ideal mesh size. The typical values of the  $\tau$  for triangular meshes are around 85% (Remacle et al., 2012).

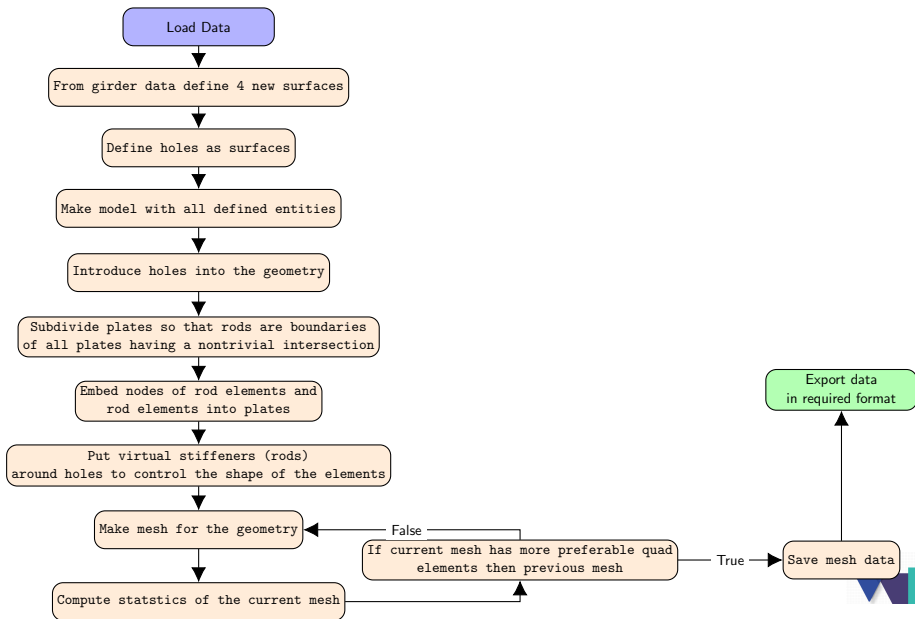


# A case study – deck bulkhead section

Automatic mesh vs. hand generated mesh?

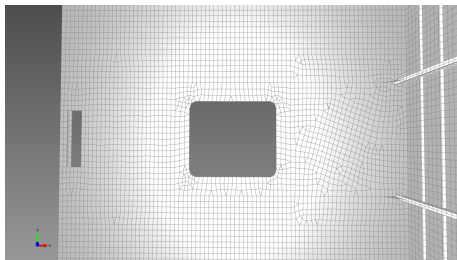


# Automatic mesh generation

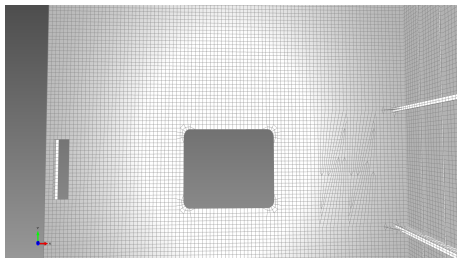




# Automatic mesh vs. hand-generated mesh - view 1



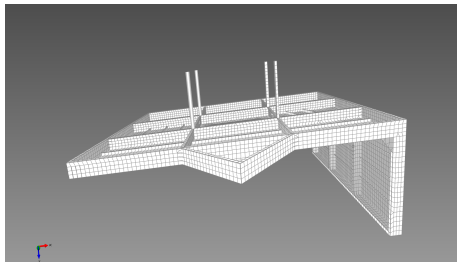
Automatic mesh



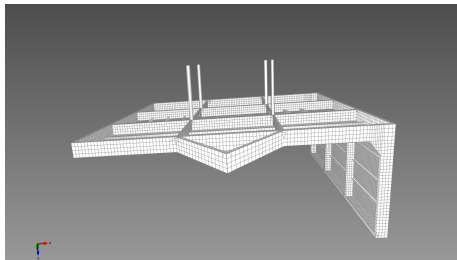
Hand generated mesh.



# Automatic mesh vs. hand-generated mesh - view 2



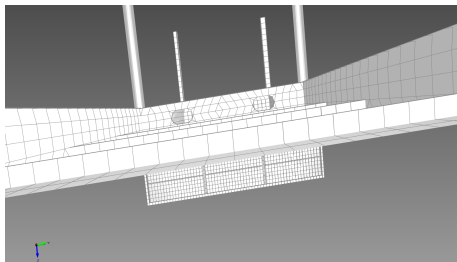
Automatic mesh



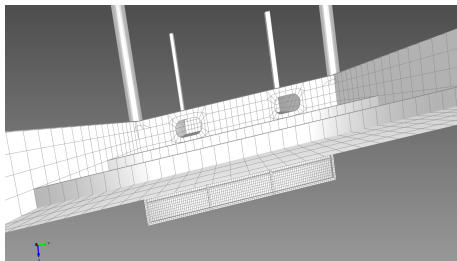
Hand generated mesh.



# Automatic mesh vs. hand-generated mesh - view 3



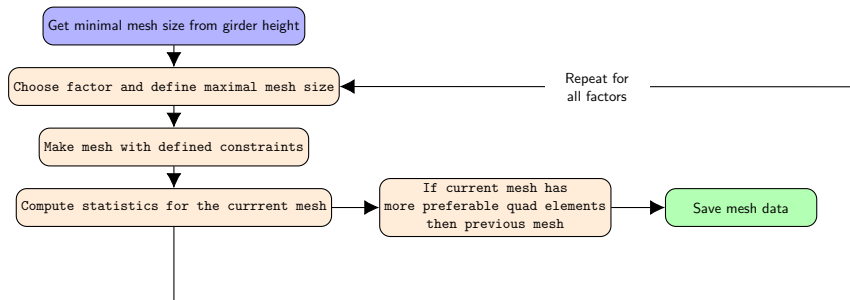
Automatic mesh



Hand generated mesh.

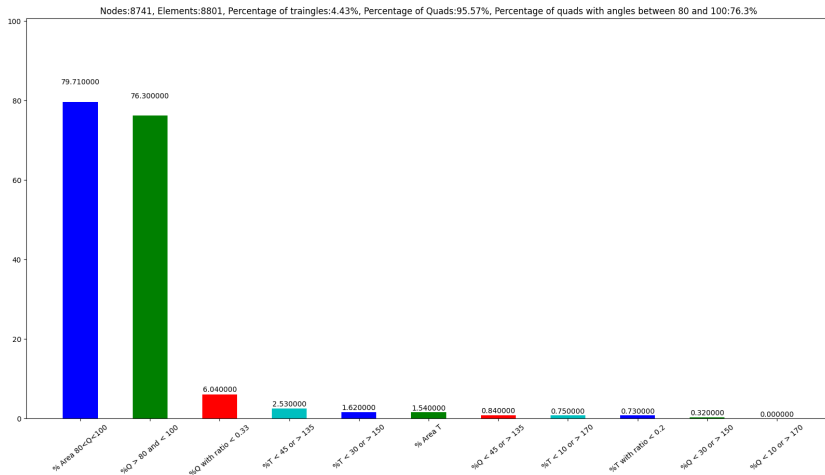


# Mesh refinement algorithm



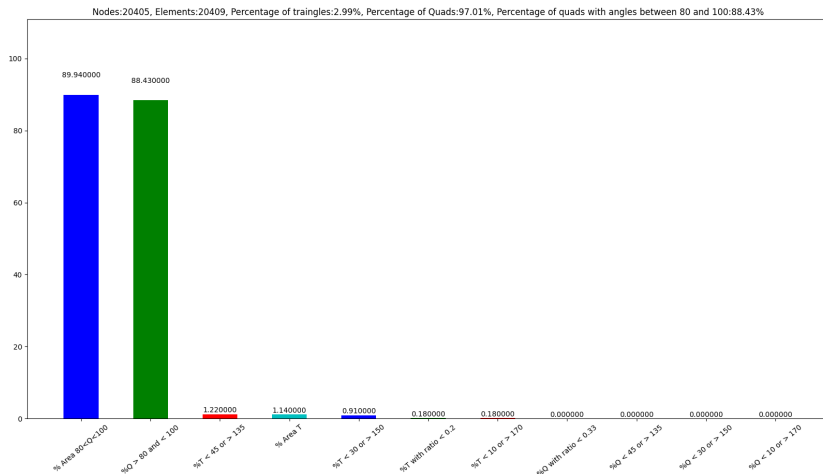
# Quality control by mesh refinement

Minimal mesh size - 100, maximal mesh size - 175



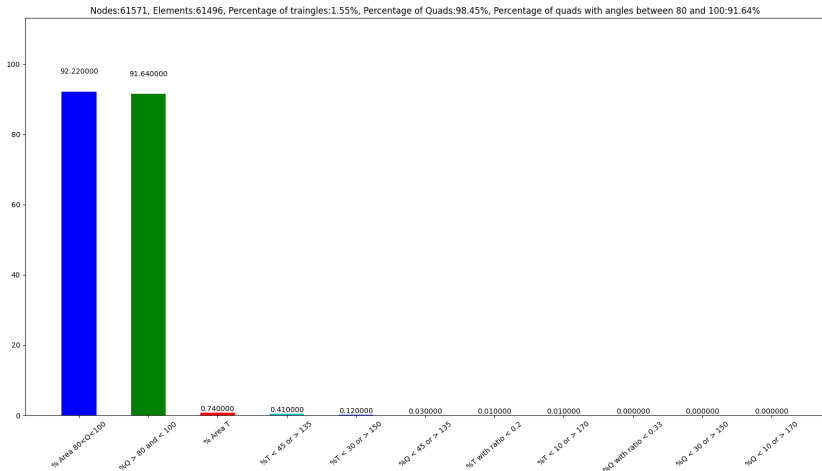
# Quality control by mesh refinement

Minimal mesh size - 57, maximal mesh size - 100



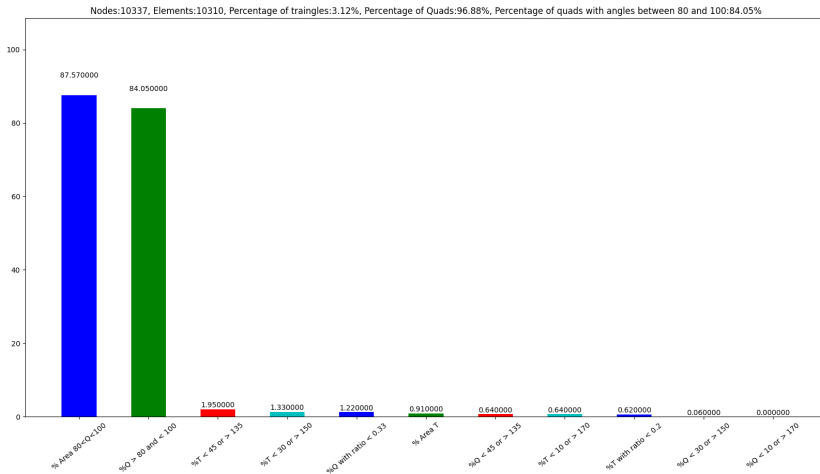
# Quality control by mesh refinement

Minimal mesh size - 32, maximal mesh size - 57



# Quality control by mesh refinement

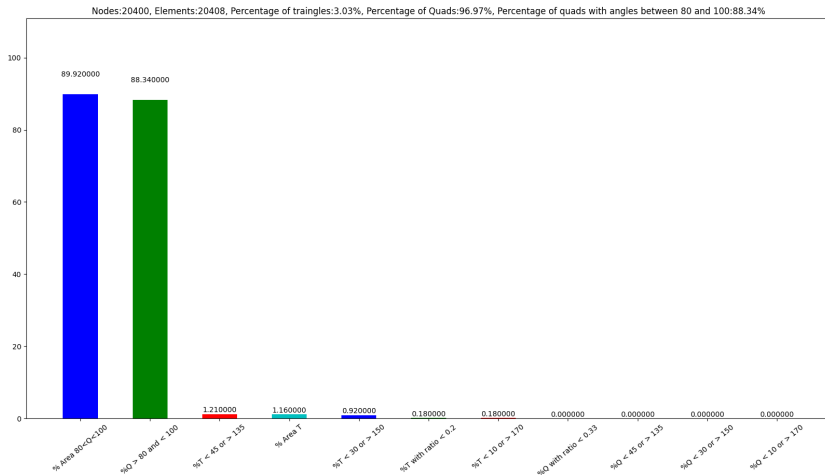
Minimal mesh size - 100, maximal mesh size - 150





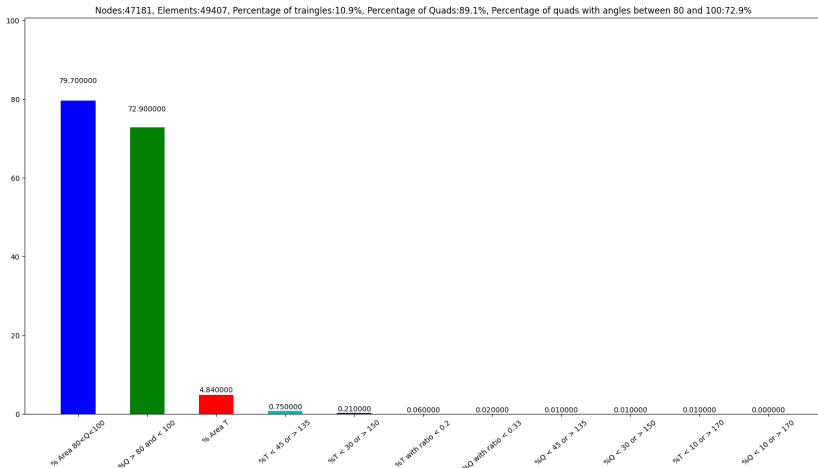
# Quality control by mesh refinement

Minimal mesh size - 66, maximal mesh size - 100



# Quality control by mesh refinement

Minimal mesh size - 44, maximal mesh size - 66



# Quality control by mesh refinement

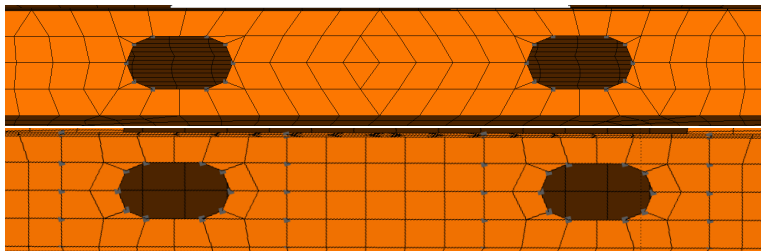


# Quality control by mesh refinement



# Virtual stiffener algorithm

- Insert virtual stiffener(rod) on girder and embed it into the mesh.
- Force mesh generator to localize triangles in the smaller area around the hole.
- It makes the cross field parallel to the virtual stiffeners.
- Future work: automatic insertion of virtual stiffener in geometry



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