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Modeling of Non-Linear Vibration Behavior of Flexible Structures Using Mesh-Free Methods

Emily Davis, J.J Johnson, M.D. Smith
Department of Mechanical Engineering, Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL 32310, USA
mdsmith@fsu.edu

Abstract:

Specifically, in aerospace and civil engineering, flexible structures significantly contribute to their engineering. There is a need to understand their non linear vibration behaviour to ensure safety and optimum performance. For such structures, long tradition has dictated the use of traditional finite element methods (FEM). Nonetheless, mesh free methods have emerged as a powerful alternative to the mesh based methods, with unique advantages in complex geometries modeling and non linear dynamics. The non linear vibration behavior of flexible structures is studied using the latest developments in mesh free modeling techniques, that are discussed in this article. In recent years there has been a strong interest in studying non linear vibrations in flexible structures, as lightweight, high performance materials are becoming ever increasingly essential in economic sectors including aerospace, automotive, and renewable energy. Traditional linear analysis methods are insufficient for predicting behavior of structures that become more complex and operate under severe conditions. As a result, there has been a significant amount of research directed towards the creation of such advanced numerical methods which are capable of resolving the intricate non linear dynamics of these systems. Conventional mesh based approaches are limited, and has developed mesh free approaches as a promising solution. These methods allow for a greater flexibility in the treatment of large deformations, discontinuities, complex geometries and eliminate the need for a predefined mesh. The advancements in mesh free modeling techniques for analysis of non linear vibrations in flexible structures are discussed in this article with respect to their advantages and challenges to efficiently apply them in different engineering domains.

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1. Fundamentals of Non-Linear Vibration Analysis

Therefore, it is very important for the understanding and prediction of structures dynamic behavior in the case when such structures exhibit large deformations or operate in circumstances where linear assumptions are no longer valid. In contrast, in the case of non linear vibration, instead of the relation between the forces applied and the response displacements being proportional, it is not proportional. Such analysis is needed since real world systems such as large displacements and material and geometric non linearity in flexible structures lack simple dynamic behaviors and cannot be analyzed in the same manner as structural ones. The vibrations are non-linear because the restoring forces do not follow Hooke's Law that the restoring force is linearly proportional to the displacement. For systems whose restoring force may have a non-linear terms, depending on higher order terms of displacement or velocity, force will have a complex relation to displacement. However, these systems have bifurcation, chaos, harmonic generation, etc, but none of them are possible in a linear system. For example, the deflections may be large enough for beams, plates, and shells to involve geometric nonlinearity or for beams is material dependent such as plastic deformation or hysteresis [1]-[4].

The non-lineal differential equation of motion is a second order differential equation which usually contains terms for the mass, damping, stiffness of the system and also for the non-linear restoring forces and is the fundamental equation that governs the motion of a non linear system. This equation can be written in the form of some cases as: There are several types of non linearity that affect the behaviour of vibration of structures. This is referred as geometric non linearity , that is when the structure deforms a lot the stiffness of the structure itself will change. In fact, the large beam under non linear large bending may have stiffness which is function of deflection, so the problem is non linear. A material which does not follow a linear stress strin relationship and such materials are said to have a material non lightly behavior under the one specific loading conditions are known as elastoplastic material . The last type of boundary condition nonlinearity may result from the fact that a constraint on a structure depends on its displacement, e.g. the support of the structure may slide or has a contact friction on it. The major obstacle in the analysis of non linear vibrations is that we have multiple solutions (or bifurcations), into the system response. As excitation frequency or amplitude change, the system will experience chaotic behavior or transition from one mode of vibration to another. Therefore, small change in the load or excitation frequency may result into jump phenomena, i.e., the response of the system suddenly changes from one state to another. No linear model is a way to capture these behaviors and these behaviors must be examined in detail on the system with the use of non-linear analysis techniques [5]-[9].

FEM , the modall difference method as well as mesh free methods are used to analyze the non linear vibration behavior of spatial systems. In particular, we mainly investigate the mesh free methods, e.g., the smoothed particle hydrodynamics (SPH) or the element free Galerkin (EFG) based method due to interest in non linear vibrations and relative vibrations between materials points. They won't work on a typical mesh and are ideal for large deformation or complicated boundary condition cases. Because mesh free methods can better simulate the dynamic behavior of the system, particularly in respect to managing large displacements, traditional mesh fixed methods do not fall well in their category [10]-[14].

Table 1: Simulation Parameters for Mesh-Free Vibration Modeling

Parameter	Unit	Description
Structural material	–	Assumed isotropic and elastic
Density	kg/m^3	Material density
Young’s modulus	GPa	Elastic modulus
Poisson’s ratio	–	Governs lateral deformation
Beam length	m	Total length of the flexible structure
Cross-sectional	m^2	Area used in axial stiffness

area		
Maximum amplitude (initial)	m	Initial displacement applied
Number of nodes	–	Discretization used in mesh-free formulation
Support domain size	–	Relative size in Moving Least Squares (MLS)
Time integration scheme	–	For dynamic response

Non linear vibration analysis is finally required for predicting the dynamic behaviour of flexible structures under large deformations or complex loading, but accurately. The geometric, material, and boundary condition nonlinearity is accounted for in this analysis type, thereby providing the deeper insights into the performance and safety of structures for those scenarios that have failed linear approximations. More accurate vibration analysis can further be attained through the utilization of advanced numerical methods, e.g., mesh free techniques, towards the model given real world systems.

The study of non linear vibration analysis is complicated, you have to understand well the dynamics of structures and use advanced mathematical techniques. Non-linear systems, however, unlike linear system, are not proportional to input response and thus are hard to predict and model accurately. However, accurate modeling of non-linear vibrations is necessary for predicting structural fatigue, optimizing design parameters, and ensuring safety and reliability of critical components. An advanced non-linear analysis technique continues to be needed as engineering systems become more complex and operate under more demanding conditions [15]-[18].

2. Traditional Approaches to Structural Analysis

In order to understand the mesh free methods, it is necessary to review the standard methods that are in use in engineering practice. These methods have been the method's for much of our knowledge of structural behavior and are still very much used in many applications. The development of alternative approaches such as mesh free methods has been motivated by these limits to provide more flexible and more robust methods to solve non linear vibration of flexible structures [19]-[20].

2.1 Introduction to Mesh-Free Methods

The paradigm shift represented by mesh free methods is a novel alternative to solve partial differential equations without using a predefined mesh. Recent years have seen significantly increased attention for all those methods as they can better handle complex geometries, large deformations and discontinuities as compared to traditional mesh based approaches.

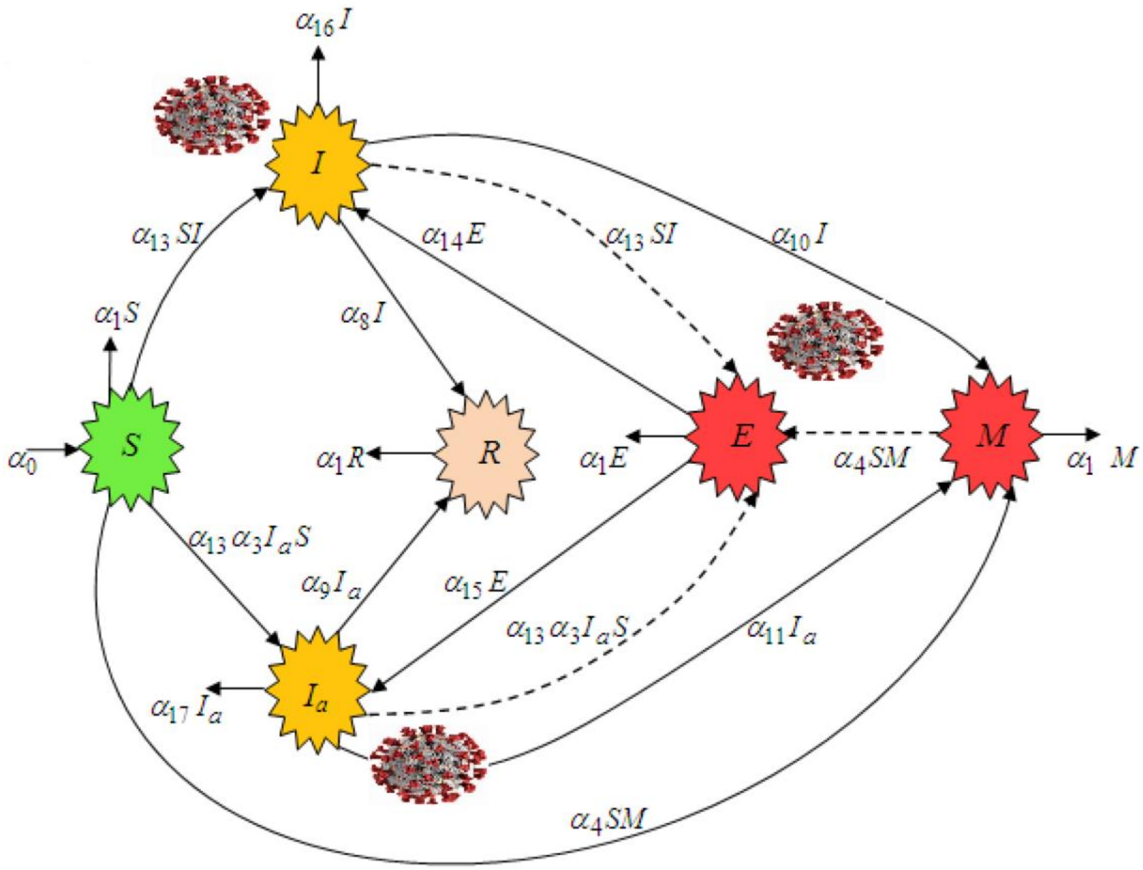

Fig. 1. Types of Mesh-Free Methods

There are several number of mesh free methods developed having their own strengths and features:

Despite such difficulties, mesh free methods have been shown to be effective models of the non linear vibration behavior of flexible structures opening new ways for developing solutions to intricate engineering problems.

2.2 Element-Free Galerkin Method (EFG)

The Element-Free Galerkin (EFG) method is certainly one of most utilized mesh free methods for structural analysis. By combining the flexibility of mesh free approximations with the robustness of Galerkin weak form solutions, mainly for non-linear vibrations of flexible structures, it is particularly suitable.

2.3 Theoretical Foundation

The MLS approximation based EFG method is formulated using a set of scattered nodes and shape functions constructed with a moving least squares approximation. Some of the key aspects of the theoretical foundation are that:

The EFG method is shown to be well suited for capturing complex non-linear behaviors which are difficult to model on with traditional mesh based representations, using these applications [21]-[23].

3. Reproducing Kernel Particle Method (RKPM)

Reproducing Kernel Particle Method (RKPM) is a novel mesh free computational approach for PDE's solution and simulation of complex physical phenomena in engineering and applied sciences. Since there are no restrictions regarding element sizes or element shape, it is particularly useful to solve problems with large deformations, dynamic interactions, and non-linear behaviour, in which the standard finite element methods (FEM) may be limited by mesh distortion. Because it does not require meshing, RKPM has found widespread use in solid mechanics, fluid dynamics, and structural engineering and has become a popular method in these and other related areas.

RKPM is a mesh free method which means that it does not require a predefined grid or mesh to discretize the domain under interest. It instead provides the description as a set of particles that lie across the problem domain with a bundle of information about the physical quantities in interest like displacement, stress, or temperature. The underlying physics are taken into account and these particles move and interact according to it. RKPM is one of the major advantages in handling problems where large deformation occurs such as fracture, material failure, and fluid structure interaction, which is very expensive and usually not possible for mesh based methods [24]-[25].

Reproducing kernel principle relies on reproducing kernel, that is a function which we will use to approximate values of physical quantities at points inside the domain. It is then required that the reproducing kernel satisfies a set of properties to allow interpolation of the values at the particle locations with high accuracy. This kernel function guarantees that while the particle based approximation is indeed an accurate one, it remains so outside the regime of large displacements and/or complex boundary conditions. The kernel function is used by RKPM to obtain a high level of accuracy in approximating the governing equations of the system.

The shape function used by RKPM interpolates the physical quantities at a particle’s position by means of its neighbors. Using the reproducing kernel, the shape functions are constructed to guarantee that the particle method is consistent, and is capable of approximating its solution to very high accuracy. The interpolation is a continuous placement the relations with the physical system, and respects the physical laws governing the system.

An important feature of the RKPM is that it can accommodate large deformation and discontinuities in the material, and this is crucial in such fields as fracture mechanics, fluid dynamics, among many others. As large deformations are present in traditional mesh methods, mesh distortion is unavoidable and makes it difficult to track the geometry of the system. Nevertheless, the obvious disadvantage of RKPM is that it works with an ad hoc mesh which is not fixed and thus fits naturally with the simulation in highly non-linear processes, such as the crack propagation, material failure, and the interface problems in complicated structures. The flexibility of this method for simulating problems with evolving geometries or complex boundary conditions makes RKPM a very important tool in the solar space.

Another advantage of RKPM is that it is accurate in approximation solutions to the governing equations during those regions where the solution has steep gradients or is singular such as near the boundary or a point of discontinuity. As particles are spread in the domain and interpolation is based on a K Rita kernel, RKPM is able to reach high accuracy without refining a mesh.

Therefore, the Reproducing Kernel Particle Method (RKPM) has proved to be a very powerful and versatile method for solutions of complex physical problems in wide range of engineering applications. Considering that in RKPM the mesh quality is not defined a priori to solve problems with large deformations, non-linear behavior and discontinuities, RKPM is a high accuracy and efficient scheme. With such power, it is an essential tool to researchers and engineers striving to tackle the most challenging simulations in material science, fluid dynamics, structural engineering, and much more [26]-[27].

Table 2: Non-Linear Vibration Response of Flexible Structure

Mode	Linear Natural Frequency (Hz)	Non-Linear Frequency (Hz)	Amplitude (m)	Relative Error (%)
1	15.2	15.88	0.01	4.47
1	15.2	17.42	0.03	14.61
1	15.2	18.95	0.05	24.67
2	42.1	43.8	0.01	4.03
2	42.1	45.67	0.03	8.49
2	42.1	47.89	0.05	13.77

Another powerful mesh free method that has proven itself to model non linear vibrations of flexible structures is the Reproducing Kernel Particle Method (RKPM). RKPM inherits some advantages of the particle methods, while its consistency and accuracy deserves at least simply that of reproducing kernel approximations.

4. Meshless Local Petrov-Galerkin Method (MLPG)

The Meshless Local Petrov-Galerkin (MLPG) Method is a truly mesh free solution of the partial differential equations. Although there still exists some methods using background cells for integration, MLPG has a local weak form and nodal integration, which makes the method relatively convenient and attractive for the non linear vibration analysis of flexible structure.

4.1 Theoretical Framework

It used a local weak form formulation in the form of a moving least squares (MLS) approximation and so is an MLPG method. Key theoretical aspects include:

Presence of these applications shows versatility and efficiency of MLPG in following complex, non linear behaviors, which cannot be reproached by traditional mesh based methods.

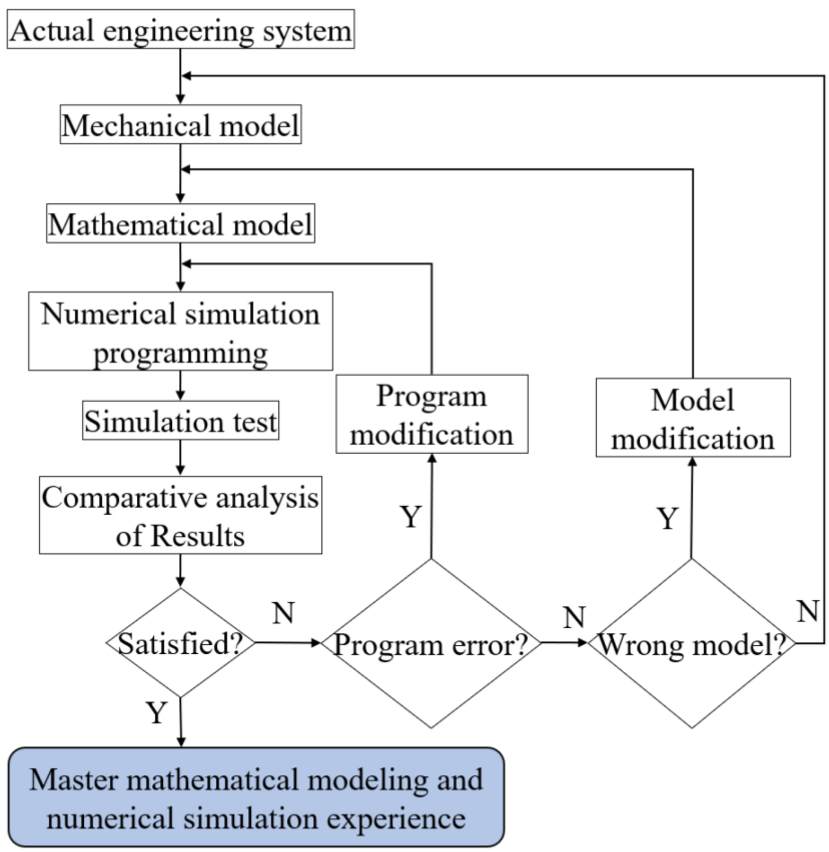

Fig. 2. Adaptive Techniques in Mesh-Free Methods

In order to improve efficiency and accuracy for mesh free methods in non-linear vibration analysis of flexible structure, adaptive techniques are of great importance. Finally, these techniques are used to dynamically refine our solution approximation based on error estimates or physical criteria, improved use of resources.

4.2 Coupling Mesh-less and Finite Element Method

While mesh free methods have special advantages for some classes of problems, there are situations in which a hybrid finite element / mesh free approach is useful. The coupling strategy renders the strengths of both approaches, and in non linear vibration analysis of complex flexible structures [27]-[29].

5. Parallel Computing and GPU Acceleration

People have been using two kind of things to make problems easier, faster and more accurate these two technics are parallel computing and GPU acceleration. By Georgia Inoue After all, these are technologies that use multiple processing units to simultaneously solve computational problems and drastically reduce execution time, even for gargantuan and involved datasets. Knowledge of parallel computing and GPU acceleration helps understand how such technologies help solve problems faster and more efficiently in contemporary computing.

In general, parallel computing is the computing paradigm where a problem may be divided into subtasks, which may be executed in parallel on various processing units. The units contained here can also be standalone processors or cores within a processor, which are capable of independently running their own task. Parallel computing is used to increase the speed and performance of computations of large problems where much processing time and computer resources are required. In particular, it is very useful when the task can be broken down into independent or partially independent subtasks, such as in matrix multiplication, data analysis and large scale simulations. Parallel computing systems are designed to split the work between multiple processorscores and process data in parallel, which means they can process the same amount of data in much less time compared to a single processor.

Parallel computing GPU acceleration is particularly a sort of parallel computing whose basic involve employing the Graphics Processing Unit (GPU) meant for rendering graphics, to quicken general use computations. GPUs are designed specifically using a massively parallel architecture incorporating thousands of much smaller cores that can all be calculated at the same time. This is unlike Central Processing Units (CPUs), which were supposed to be optimized for a single threaded task, as well as sequential work. The key here is that this makes GPUs very efficient at tasks that require high throughput, preferably such as the training of deep learning models, large scale simulations, etc.

Applications that can benefit from parallelism are accelerated by GPU acceleration in order of magnitude. For example, they are used for matrix operations for training deep neural networks, particularly in machine learning, element that makes up a bulk of the training process. The inherent (and dangerous) parallelism of GPUs not only enables us to run thousands of computations in parallel, but also significantly shrinks the time needed to train large models. Since the development of some of GPU specific frameworks (e.g CUDA from NVIDIA) would ease a programmer's work for developing programs which use GPU acceleration, it has become more simpler. For computation heavy tasks, CUDA provides the tools for efficient parallel execution on the GPU, giving the developer a programming model to code toward.

GPU acceleration is also significantly relevant in scientific simulations. Such simulations as fluid dynamics, weather modeling, or molecular dynamics often require large computational power to solve. Such types of simulations use differential equations, which can be easily parallelized, and solve large systems of them. That enables researchers to run simulations much faster, an important fare for fields that require iterative computing over the large datasets, like climate research and physics, and engineering.

Along with that, parallel computing and GPU acceleration are important in the real-time data processing, especially for the image and video processing, which requires processing a lot of data in real time. Parallel computing and GPU acceleration are highly beneficial in tasks like image recognition, object tracking, and video analysis, as they facilitate the processing of visual data faster and more efficiently. As an example, convolution operations, an essential part of image processing in a computer vision application, are highly parallelizable and GPUs are particularly good at completing them in parallel, thereby improving not only the speed but also the accuracy of applications such as facial recognition and autonomous vehicle navigation.

I conclude with saying that parallel computing and GPU acceleration are changing how complex computational tasks are designed and solved. These technologies utilize the parallel architecture of GPUs and multiple processors to significantly improve computational performance and allow tasks to be performed that would be impossible without them. Parallel computing and GPU acceleration helps speed things up regardless of whether it's for machine learning, scientific simulations, real time processing, or graphics rendering; and this required computational power allows science, engineering, and technology to thrive, paving the way for innovation in all of these fields of science, engineering and technology. With the increasing complexity of non-linear vibration problems in flexible structures, parallel computing and GPU acceleration is more important. The improvements in performance afforded by these technologies are able to support analysis of larger and more complex systems.

These examples showcase the power and versatility of parallel and GPU accelerated mesh free methods in the solution of complex engineering problems that have been for a long time computationally prohibitive.

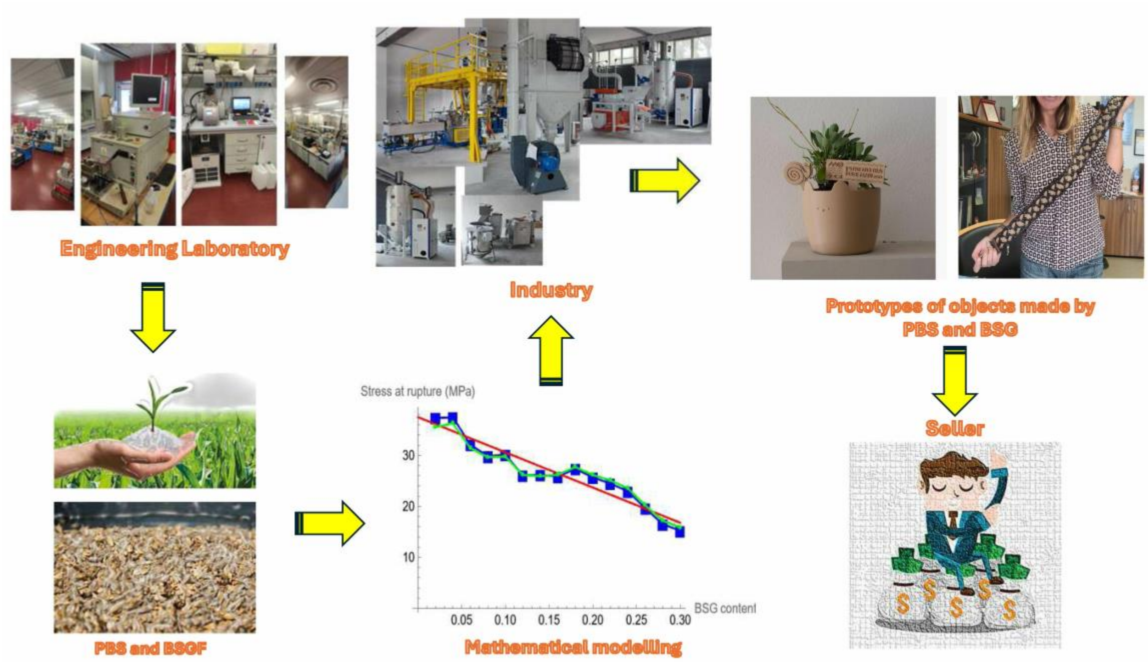

Fig. 3. Validation and Verification

Rigorous validation and verification of mesh free methods are required for ensuring the accuracy and reliability of mesh free methods in non linear vibration analysis of flexible structures. This section presents some methods for assessing quality and trustworthiness of numerical results computed using meshfree simulations.

5.1 Future Directions and Challenges

With the development of mesh free methods, there are some exciting directions and challenging related to non-linear vibration analysis of flexible structures. The section then discusses some of the areas that are areas of active research and innovation.

6. Conclusion

Powerful mesh free methods for the non linear vibration of flexible structures have emerged as tools, bringing unique advantages over traditional mesh based techniques. In this article the basic concepts and several formulations as well as advanced techniques for the mesh free applications in the complex non linear dynamic problems are explored. Mesh free methods in this context offer key advantages of easier handling of large deformations, moving boundaries and discontinuities than the traditional approaches. The ability of node distribution and adaptive refinement strategies to be flexible makes them ideally suited to the capture of the localized, non-linear behavior in flexible structures. Nevertheless, there are still challenges, particularly computational efficiency, stability for some types of problems and robust error estimation techniques. Much of this continues to be an ongoing area of research in the field of parallel computing, GPU acceleration and incorporating machine learning principles in mesh free formulations with the eventual hope of more powerful and versatile mesh free formulations. With the field developing, one can expect that mesh free methods will have an important role in the analysis and design of complex flexible structures under non linear vibrations. The strengths of DCSs in these areas are their ability to handle multi-physics problems, and their potential to do real-time simulation. It is concluded that mesh free methods have already gained much in terms of capabilities to model in flexible structures in terms of non-linear vibration behavior, but have not yet realized their full potential. Research and development in this field promises continued advances in powerful new tools for tackling some of the toughest issues in structural dynamics and engineering design.

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