The Evolution of Meshing

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A Long Time Ago…
Meshing: Remember Where We Came From!

- Text Only UI
- Layflat
- Dominant Flow Path
- 2D Strip Files
- UNIX
- MFG
- MFVIEW
- MODELLER
- PO X,Y,Z
Meshing: It’s what we do

- Meshing used to take 80% of the project time, but it’s what we did to make it work

- The recommended aspect ratio of 6 was onerous at best, but it’s what we did, or tried to do, to make it work

- Putting 3 elements across a thickness change took extra time, but it’s...wait, you should still do that!

- Advances in meshing, and solver, technology has changed how we should look at meshing, and how we should be meshing
New Development and Release Schedule Changes

- Moved to a new “agile” development schedule
  - More frequent releases (Goal is Quarterly)

- 2017 R2 release was the start of this new schedule (Released at K-Show 2016) with 2017.3 following in Jan 2017

- Installs as a complete standalone install not an update or Service Pack that “patches”
  - Material DB updates, new features, fixes

- Can have multiple versions coexist (i.e. 2017 SP2 & 2017 R2)
2017 3D Meshing Algorithms by Advancing Layers

- Improved mesh quality for thick models
  - The new algorithm does not rely on surface mesh match, it can generate tetras with regular shape even in unmatched chunky regions

- Significantly reduced percentage of flat tetra elements

- Avoided dramatic increase in element counts when number of layers is high

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Releases</th>
<th>Number of tetra elements (in thousands)</th>
<th>Differences between 10 and 20 layers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6 layers</td>
<td>10 layers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>267K</td>
<td>455K</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>263K</td>
<td>424K</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2017 New 3D Meshing Algorithms by Advancing Layers

- Alternate orientation eliminates certain sensitivity!
2017 New 3D Meshing Algorithms by Advancing Layers

- More smooth near edges and corners (no bitter aftertaste)
Extra refinement on edges

Faster
- For chunky models, the new 3D mesher is about 2 times faster than Moldflow 2016 for same layers. It can generate 1 million tetras in 3-4 minutes.

Improved analysis accuracy – better mesh=better pizza

The chance for users to repair 3D meshes is much lower.
- In fact, it is not recommended to repair 3D meshes since 2017 release
2017 – Other Changes

- 3D mesh default is now 10 layers through the thickness

- Can use Query tool to highlight CAD faces by labels
2017 – Mesh Selection Tools

- Select Nodes by Feature Edge
- Select Nodes by Surface
- Select Triangles by Surface
- Select Tetras by Surface

All the 4 selection tools can work on curved surfaces. They can support multiple/incremental selections by holding “Ctrl” key.
2017 - Advanced Mesh Editing Tools for Design Changes

- **Offset**
  - Select triangles and move them in surface normal direction.

- **Extrude**
  - Select triangles as base and create new features or new bodies.

- **Plane Cut**
  - Cut triangular meshes by XY, XZ or YZ planes

- **Fill Hole**
  - Fill holes by smooth patches based on surrounding elements.

- **Imprint**
  - Imprint existing surface meshes to increase match ratio.
Mesh matching has been improved for models with thin ribs

This is the result from Moldflow 2016 release:

This is the result from Moldflow 2017 release:
Meshing on Linux

- Supported by the following mesh types:
  - Dual Domain
  - 3D
- Supported on the following Linux systems:
  - RedHat 6.5/CentOS 6.5 or higher
- Benefits
  - Provides access to the same functionality as on Windows
- Limitations
  - No support for 3D channels
Users can select CAD faces and modify geometry directly

With DOE, Parametric Geometry Optimization is supported
Users can split beam elements

When the beam has underlying curve, new nodes will be created on the curve

When the beam has NO underlying curve, new nodes will be created on the axis of the beam

“Remesh Area” tool can split beams only when they have underlying curves
Mesh statistics can be displayed as a larger popup window.
Users can specify the number of element layers for cores/inserts separately. By default, the number of element layers for cores/inserts is 6, while 10 layers for parts.

Boundary conditions on nodes are protected, including trigger nodes of valve gates. They will not be lost when using Global Merge or Remesh Area tools.
Meshing: It’s what we do

What my friends think I do

What my mom thinks I do

What my daughter thinks I do

What my coworkers think I do

What I think I do

What I do with the 2017.3+ mesher
2017.3

It’s not R3, it’s .3
On by default (Global edge length or global chord angle will not be used)

Set local edge length and chord angle on CAD faces automatically without dramatic increase in element counts

Users can adjust edge length by a “scale factor”

No need to define local mesh density manually

Auto-sizing does not overwrite user specifications
For parts: smoother mesh, especially around high curvature area

No chord angle is applied on fillets in order to prevent an excessive fillet mesh density.
Auto-sizing for CAD Surface Mesh Generation

- For mold blocks: large elements on external boundaries vs. smaller elements on internal boundaries
- Same edge length on surface meshes of assembly contact interfaces
Create CAD bodies for mold blocks

- Use the Mold Block Wizard to create a mold block around your CAD parts
  - Non-default option, because it relies on a clean CAD model with no modeling errors
  - Part and inserts **MUST** be in CAD
  - The cooling channels, and feed system can be CAD or beams with curves
  - Supported for Dual Domain and 3D meshes
  - Supported for analysis sequences that include Cool (FEM)
  - The CAD mold is constructed by subtracting the internal CAD components from a cuboid mold

**cuboid** is a convex polyhedron bounded by six quadrilateral faces, whose polyhedral graph is the same as that of a cube.
Create CAD bodies for mold blocks

Workflow

- Ensure that the layers hosting the CAD components, runners and cooling channels are visible
- Click (Geometry tab > Create panel > Mold block)
- For clean models, select **Create as CAD mold block**. Otherwise generate the mold as regions
- If you prefer, first create the mold block as regions, inspect and adjust the dimensions if necessary, and then create the CAD mold block. The mold block regions are then deleted.
Create CAD bodies for mold blocks

- Not recommended that you run simulations with real mold blocks
  - If you import a mold, delete all mold components, or make them invisible
  - Leave thermally significant components only
Advantages

- No need to stitch contact interfaces

- Meshing is fast because only those components relevant to the analysis are included

- When you mesh with the mold mesher, large edge lengths are assigned to the mold external boundary, while the edge lengths on the mold internal boundary match the part edge lengths more closely

Create CAD bodies for mold blocks
AMI 2017: One global edge length, no chord angle.  
10 M Tets.

New: Separate global edge length for each body.  
Chord angle on selected faces.  
1.7 M Tets.  
7 days to 4min
Previously, mold blocks are represented by regions. Users need to stitch contact interfaces to form mold internal boundary.

Now we can create CAD bodies for mold blocks. Users do NOT need to stitch contact interfaces manually.
2017.3 – Other Changes

- Warped shapes can now be exported as STEP or SAT

- When meshing curves, the minimum number of beams on baffles/bubblers is default 3. This can be changed in Curves tab on mesh UI.
With one click you can now automatically mesh the model and launch the specified analysis together, saving time.

Boundary conditions are now applied to the imported CAD model.

New meshing algorithms apply an appropriate global mesh density and also refine the mesh around small features automatically.

**Conventional workflow**
1. Import model without mesh
2. Mesh the model
3. Set required boundary conditions
4. Start Analysis

**One Click Meshing and Analysis**
1. Import model without mesh
2. Set required boundary conditions
3. Start analysis
2018 - One Click Meshing and Analysis Benefits

- Designers or engineers who are new to Moldflow: Run and check results quickly with less learning, preprocessing
- Experienced users: Launch an analysis (mesh + solve) conveniently by end of his work day and check result tomorrow
- Seamless workflow with Geometry Optimization
- Works on any model: CAD, IGES, STL
- Supports all mesh types:
  - Midplane (*except CAD body), Dual Domain, 3D
- Supports most conventional analysis sequences
- Close studies or client during mesh / solver running
- Cloud, API and batch queue support
2018 - One Click Meshing and Analysis Limitations

- **Accuracy:**
  - Default mesh settings may not guarantee required accuracy
  - Review mesh generated & results for proper accuracy

- **Does not support:**
  - Boundary Conditions:
    - Prohibited gate locations, surface loads, dispensing controller, valve gates controllers
  - Analysis sequences:
    - Cool (FEM), Coreshift, Thermoset Dispensing
  - 3D runner + Part CAD Geometry
  - Mixed CAD and Mesh
  - “Runstudy” can’t launch Mesh (both Windows/Linux)
  - Some Mesh settings are not recorded: such as Auto Sizing Scale Factor

**Note:** These are just limitations for One click meshing and Analysis, not for conventional mesh and analysis.
Geometry Deformation Enhancements

- Large deformation – Multistep improvements
- Allows large deformations that were not possible before
Geometry Deformation Enhancements
CAD Export As STEP

- CAD models can now be exported in STEP (*stp) format
- The CAD bodies must be visible
- Multiple CAD components in an assembly are grouped together and save as one STEP file
- Geometry transformation performed in Synergy, is preserved when you open the STEP file the CAD package

Limitations:
- The layer name, and any custom colors assigned in the layers, are not preserved
Make anything.