Computer Graphics for Engineering

Mesh Generation

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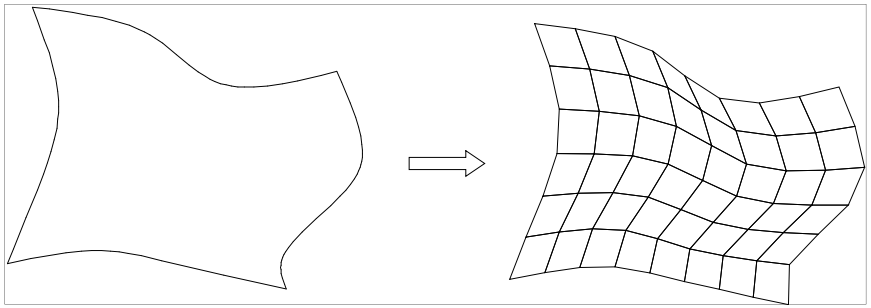
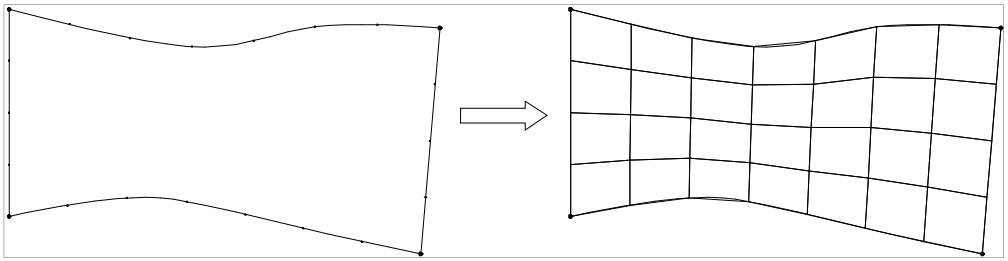
Graz, Austria
June 2014

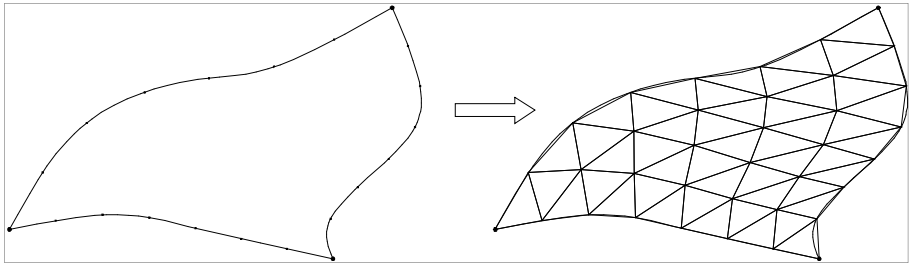
Library of mesh generation algorithms

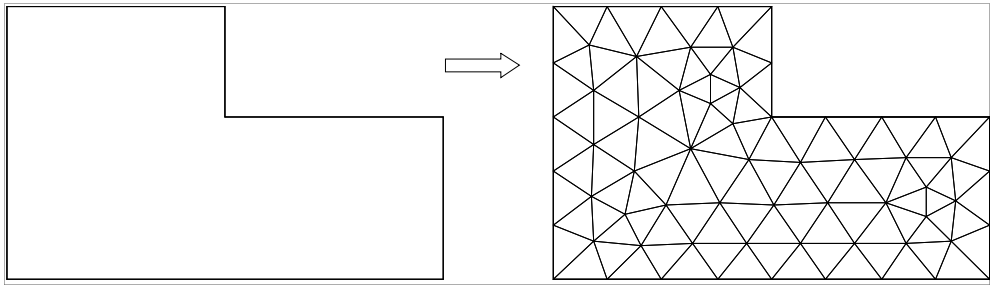
2D structured meshes





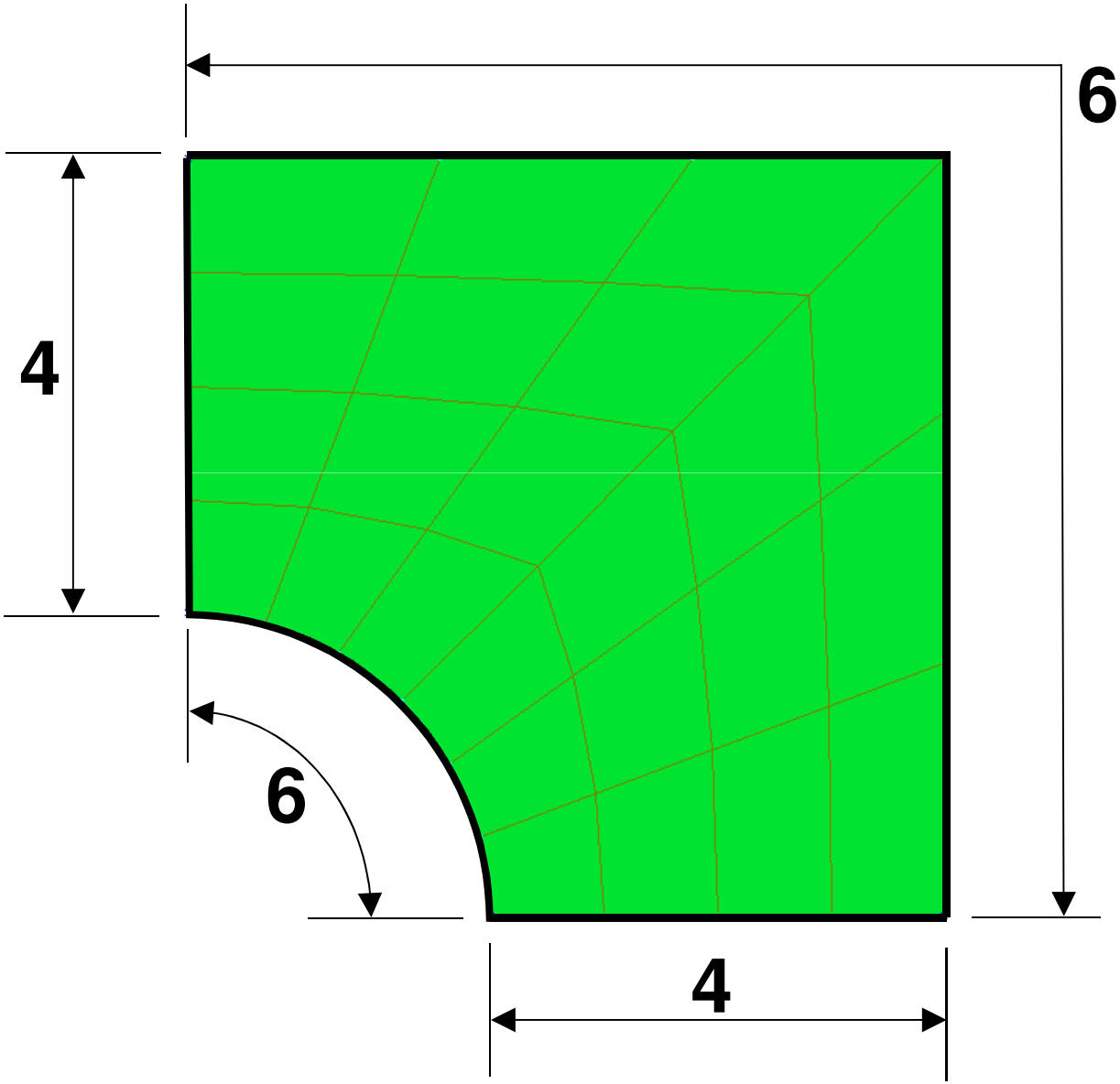
2D structured and non-structured meshes





Structured mesh – 2D Mapping

- **Geometry Requirements**
  - **4 topological sides**
  - **Opposite sides must have similar discretization**



Structured mesh – 2D Mapping

INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL FOR NUMERICAL METHODS IN ENGINEERING, VOL. 17, 1015–1044 (1981)

A GENERAL TWO-DIMENSIONAL, GRAPHICAL FINITE ELEMENT PREPROCESSOR UTILIZING DISCRETE TRANSFINITE MAPPINGS

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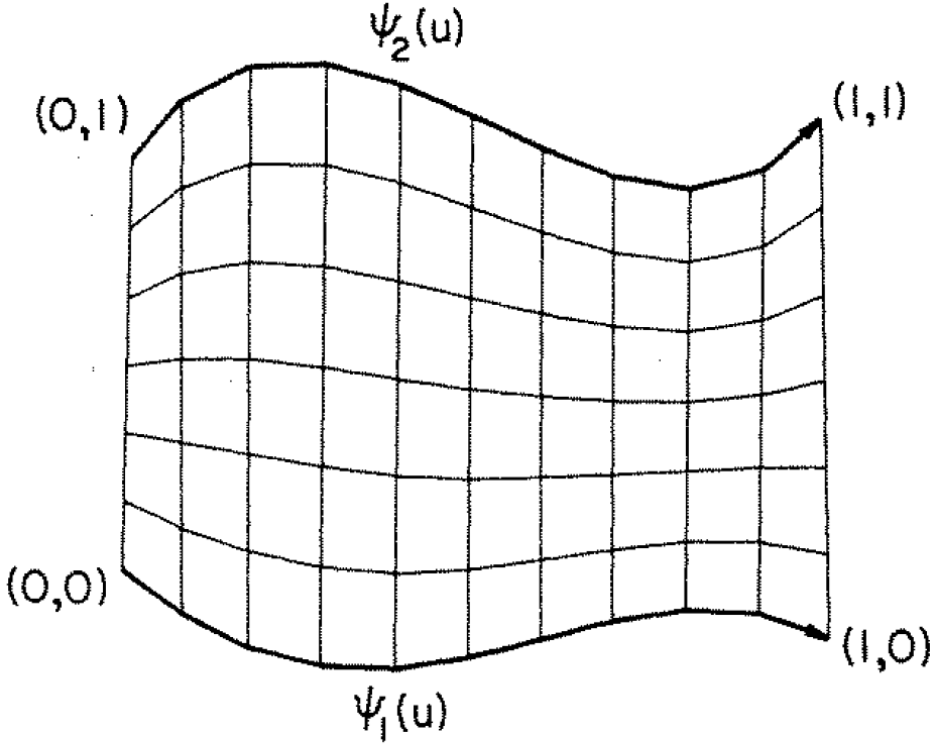
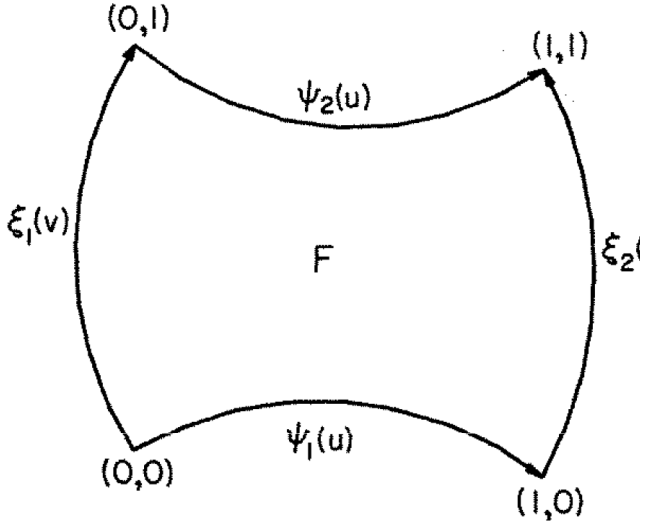
Structured mesh – 2D Mapping



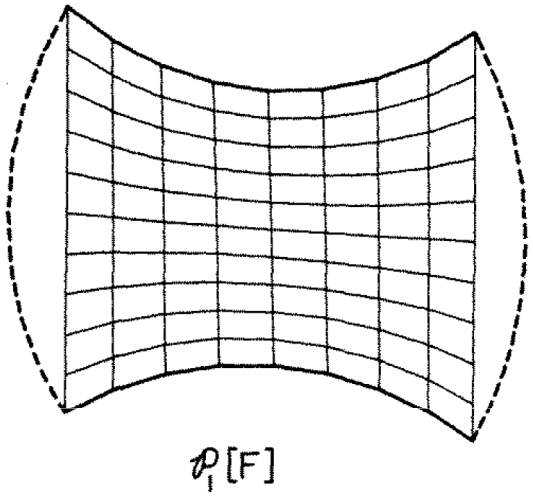
Lofting projector

$$\mathscr{P}_1[F] \equiv P_2(u, v) = (1 - v)\psi_1(u) + v\psi_2(u) \qquad 0 \leqslant u \leqslant 1$$

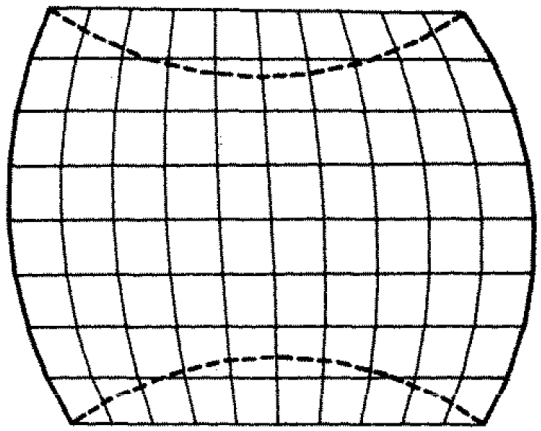
Structured mesh – 2D Mapping



Bilinear projector: co-ordinate system and boundary curves



Bilinear projector: $\mathcal{P}_1$

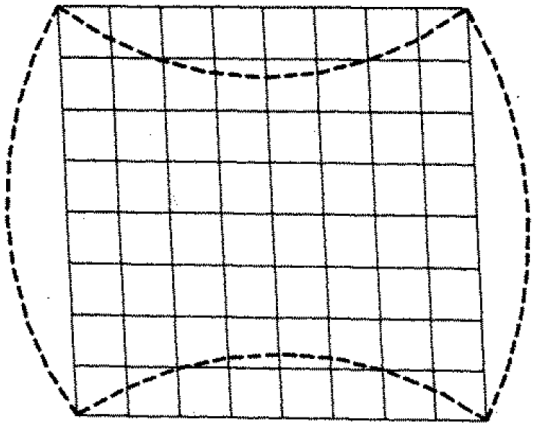


Bilinear projector: $\mathcal{P}_2$

$$\mathcal{P}_1[F] \equiv P_2(u, v) = (1-v)\psi_1(u) + v\psi_2(u) \qquad 0 \leqslant u \leqslant 1$$

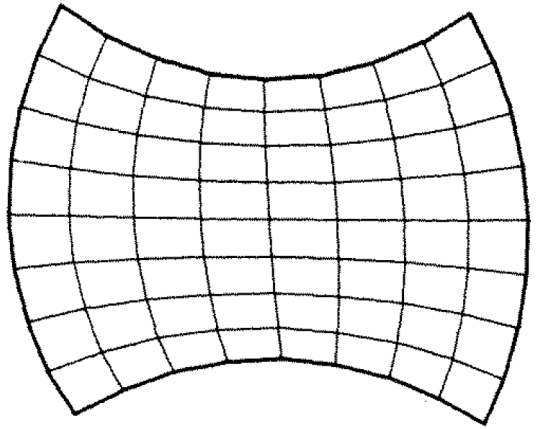
$$\mathcal{P}_2[F] \equiv P_2(u, v) = (1-u)\xi_1(v) + u\xi_2(v) \qquad 0 \leqslant v \leqslant 1$$

Structured mesh – 2D Mapping



$\mathcal{P}_1\mathcal{P}_2[F]$

Bilinear projector: $\mathcal{P}_1\mathcal{P}_2$



$\mathcal{P}_1 \oplus \mathcal{P}_2$

Bilinear projector: $\mathcal{P}_1 \oplus \mathcal{P}_2$

$$(\mathcal{P}_1 \oplus \mathcal{P}_2)[F] \equiv \mathcal{P}_1[F] + \mathcal{P}_2[F] - \mathcal{P}_1\mathcal{P}_2[F]$$

$$= P_B(u, v)$$

$$= (1-v)\psi_1(u) + v\psi_2(u) + (1-u)\xi_1(v) + u\xi_2(v)$$

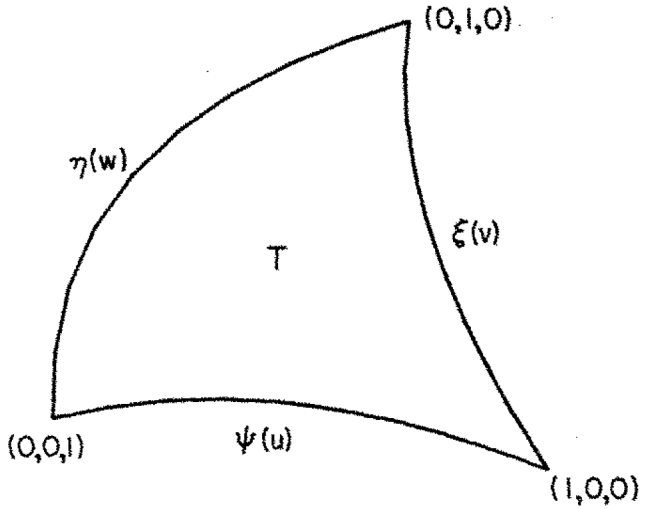
$$-(1-u)(1-v)F(0,0) - (1-u)vF(0,1)$$

$$-uvF(1,1) - u(1-v)F(1,0) \qquad 0 \leqslant u \leqslant 1, 0 \leqslant v \leqslant 1$$

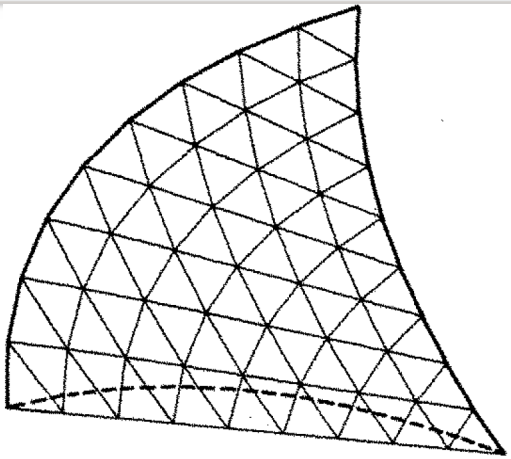
Assumed discrete representation of curves:

$$\{\xi_1(v_i), \xi_2(v_i)\} i = 1, n, \qquad \{\psi_1(u_j), \psi_2(u_j)\} j = 1, m$$

Structured mesh – 2D Mapping

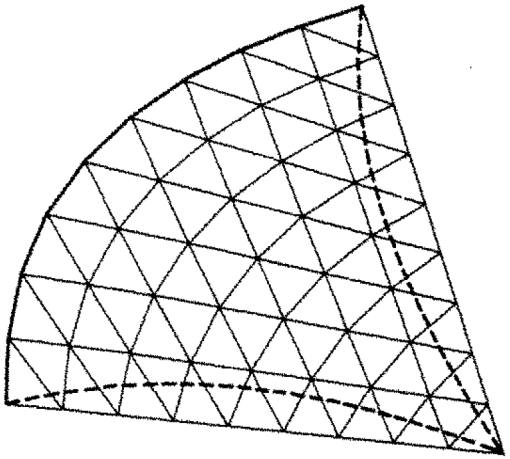


Trilinear projector: co-ordinate system and boundary curves



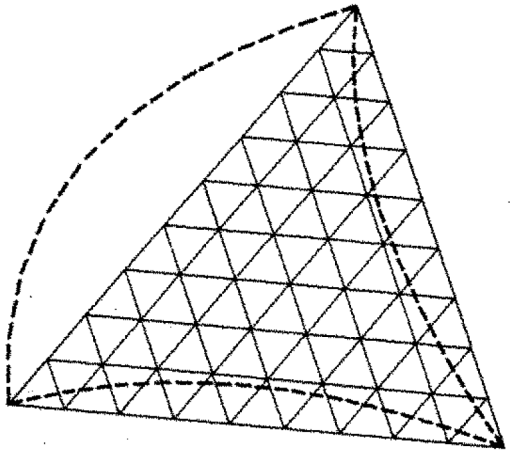
$\mathcal{N}_1[T]$

Trilinear projector: $\mathcal{N}_1$



$\mathcal{N}_1\mathcal{N}_2[T]$

Trilinear projector: $\mathcal{N}_1\mathcal{N}_2$



$\mathcal{N}_1\mathcal{N}_2\mathcal{N}_3[T]$

Trilinear projector: $\mathcal{N}_1\mathcal{N}_2\mathcal{N}_3$

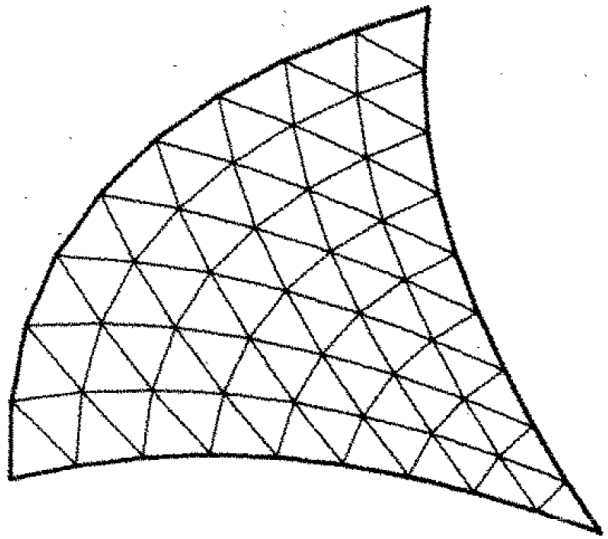
$$\mathcal{N}_1 \equiv N_1(u, v, w) = \left(\frac{u}{1-v}\right)\xi(v) + \left(\frac{w}{1-v}\right)\eta(1-v)$$

$$\mathcal{N}_2 \equiv N_2(u, v, w) = \left(\frac{v}{1-w}\right)\eta(w) + \left(\frac{u}{1-w}\right)\psi(1-w)$$

$$\mathcal{N}_3 \equiv N_3(u, v, w) = \left(\frac{w}{1-u}\right)\psi(u) + \left(\frac{v}{1-u}\right)\xi(1-u)$$

$$0 \leq u \leq 1, \quad 0 \leq v \leq 1, \quad 0 \leq w \leq 1, \quad u + v + w = 1$$

Structured mesh – 2D Mapping



Q [T]

Trilinear projector: $\mathcal{Q}$

$$\mathcal{Q} \equiv Q(u, v, w) = \frac{1}{2}\left[\left(\frac{u}{1-v}\right)\xi(v) + \left(\frac{w}{1-v}\right)\eta(1-v) + \left(\frac{v}{1-w}\right)\eta(w) + \left(\frac{u}{1-w}\right)\psi(1-w)\right.$$

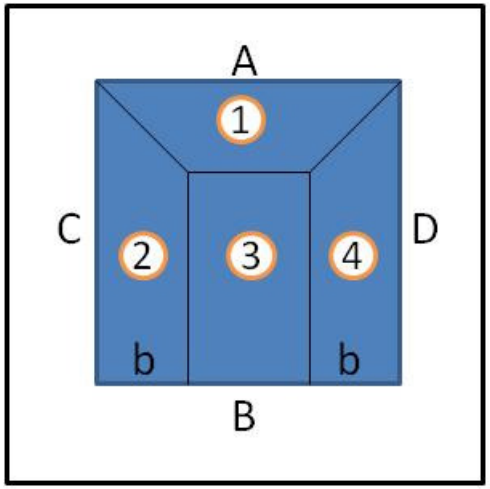
$$\left. + \left(\frac{w}{1-u}\right)\psi(u) + \left(\frac{v}{1-u}\right)\xi(1-u) - w\psi(0) - u\xi(0) - v\eta(0)\right]$$

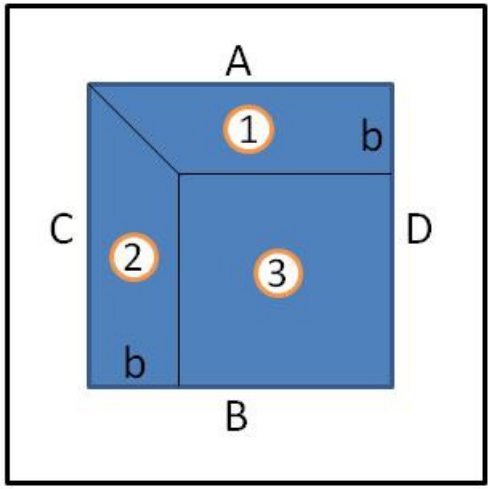
Assumed discrete representation of curves:

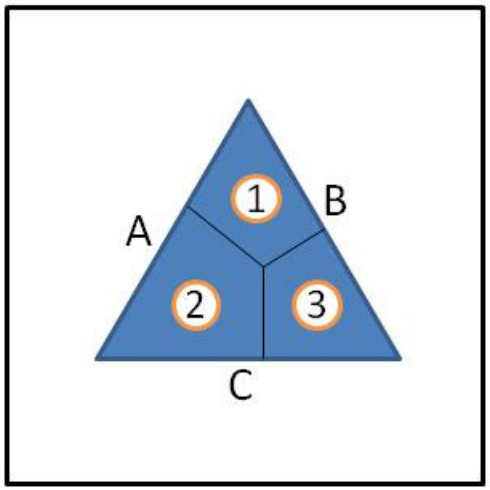
$$\{\psi(u_i), \xi(v_i), \eta(w_i); i = 1, n\}$$

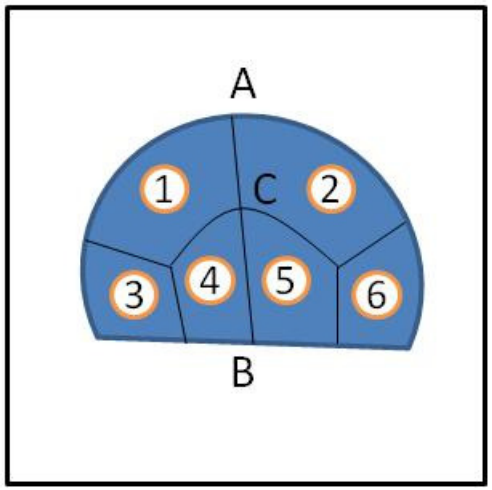
Library of mesh generation algorithms

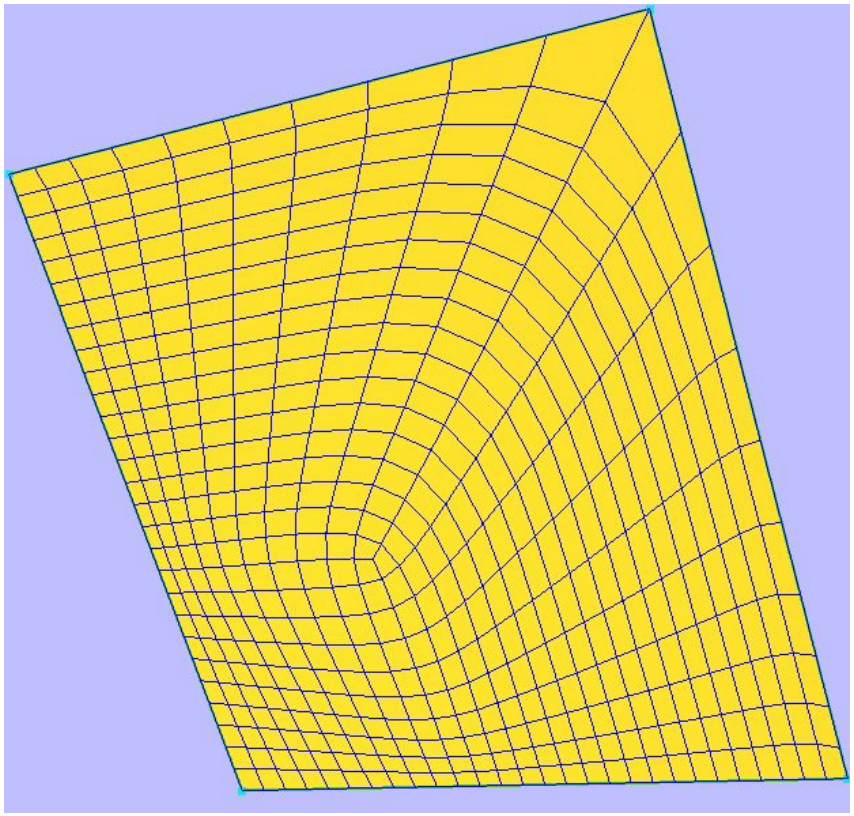
Quadrilateral template (new)





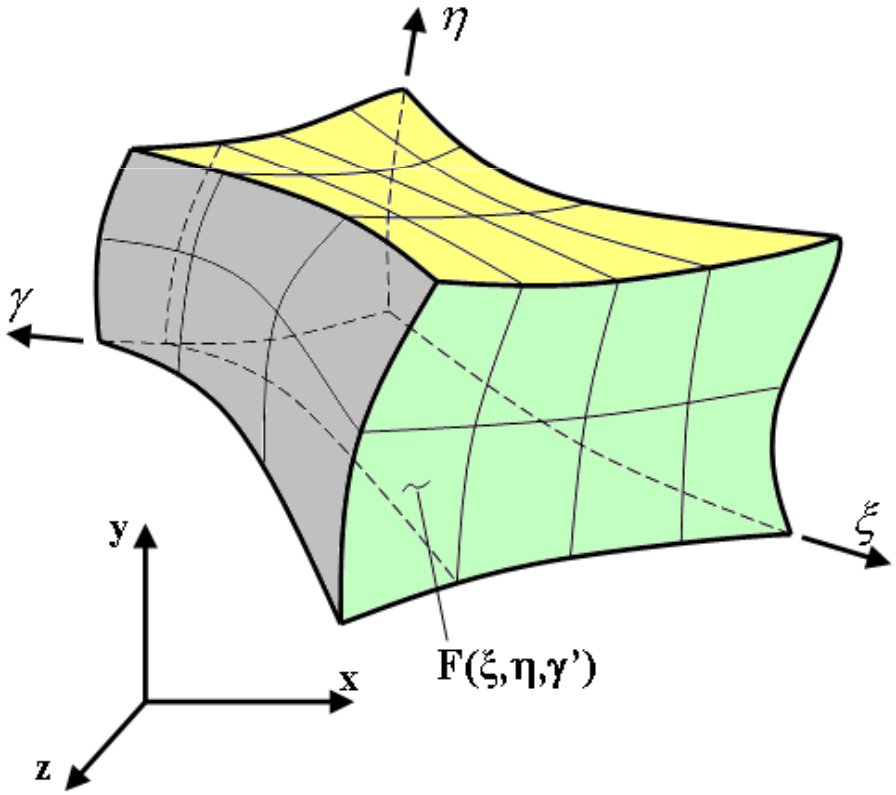


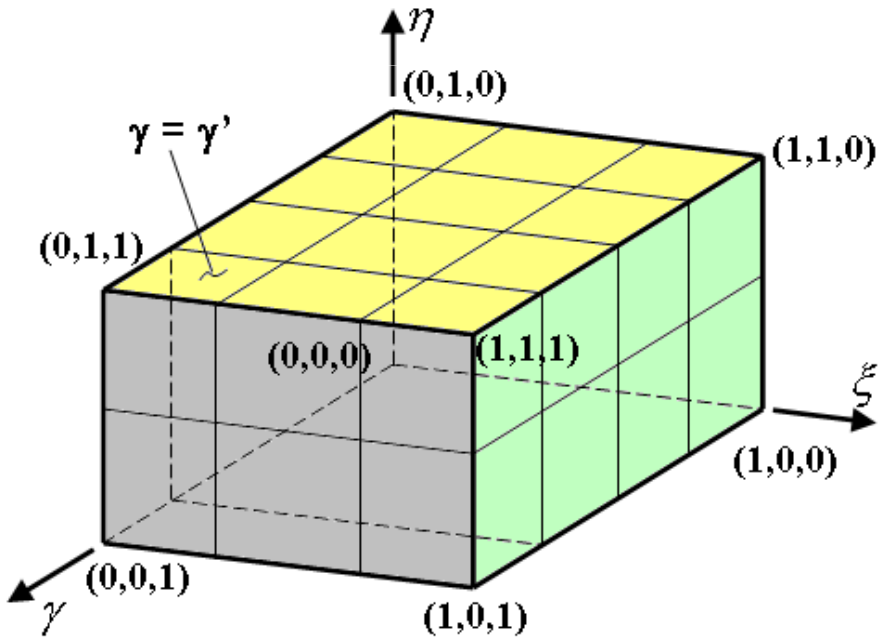




Structured mesh – 3D Mapping

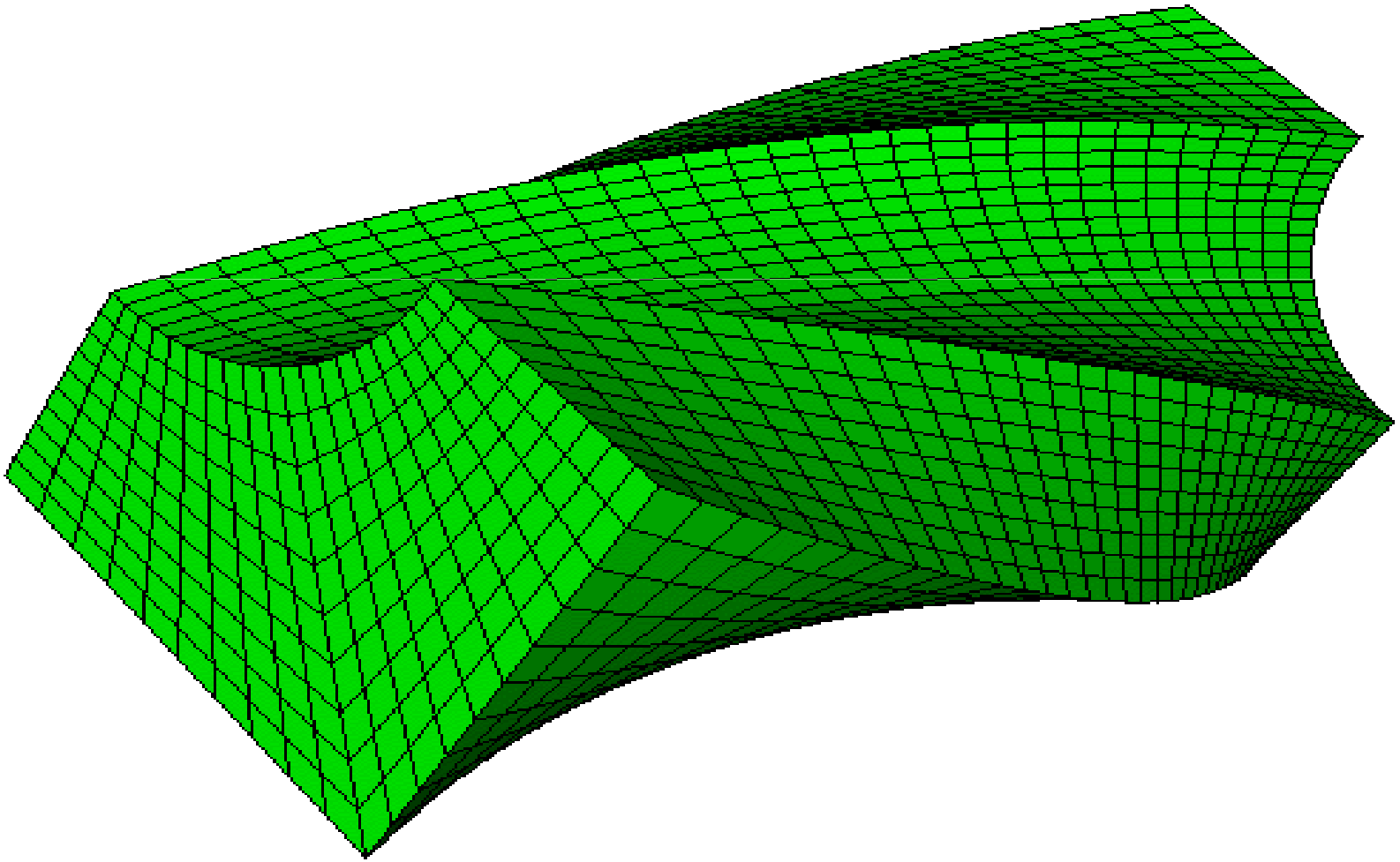
- **Geometry Requirements**
  - **6 topological surfaces**
  - **Opposite surfaces must have similar mapped meshes**





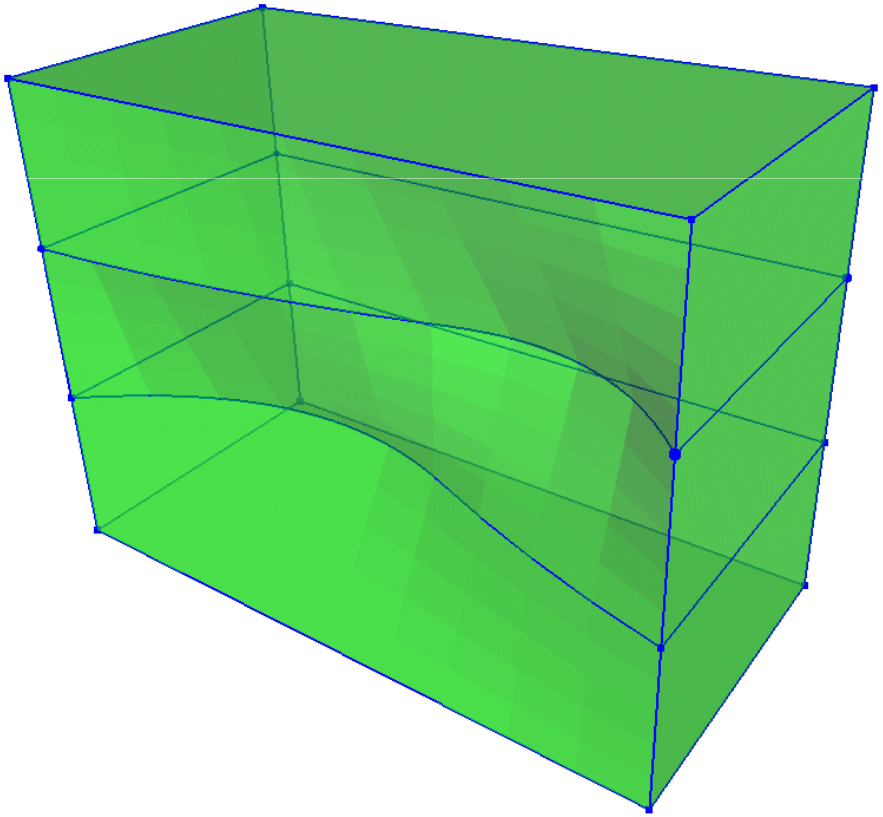
Structured mesh – 3D Mapping

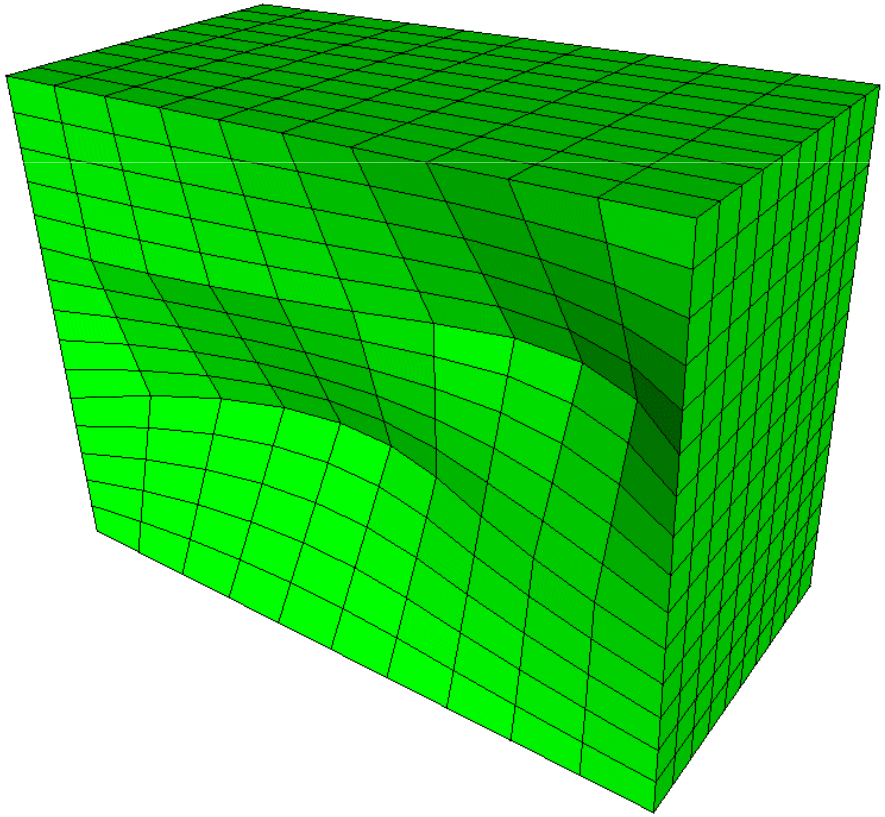
- **Many complex domains can be mapped**



Structured mesh – 3D Mapping

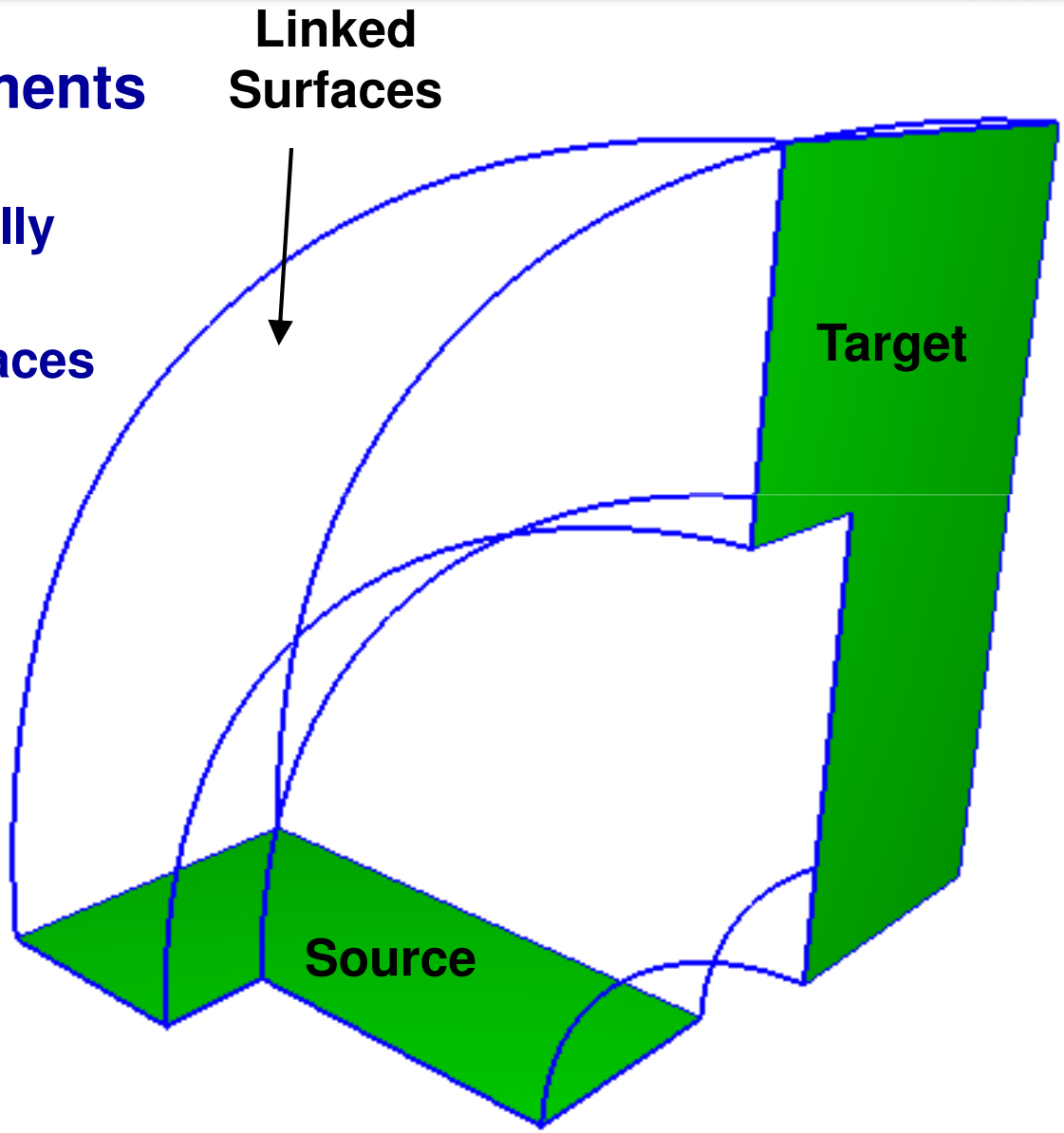
- **Algorithm must deal with:**
  - **Multiple surfaces on boundary**
  - **Concave surfaces**





Structured mesh – Sweeping

- **Geometry Requirements**
  - **Source and target surfaces topologically similar**
  - **Mapped linked surfaces**



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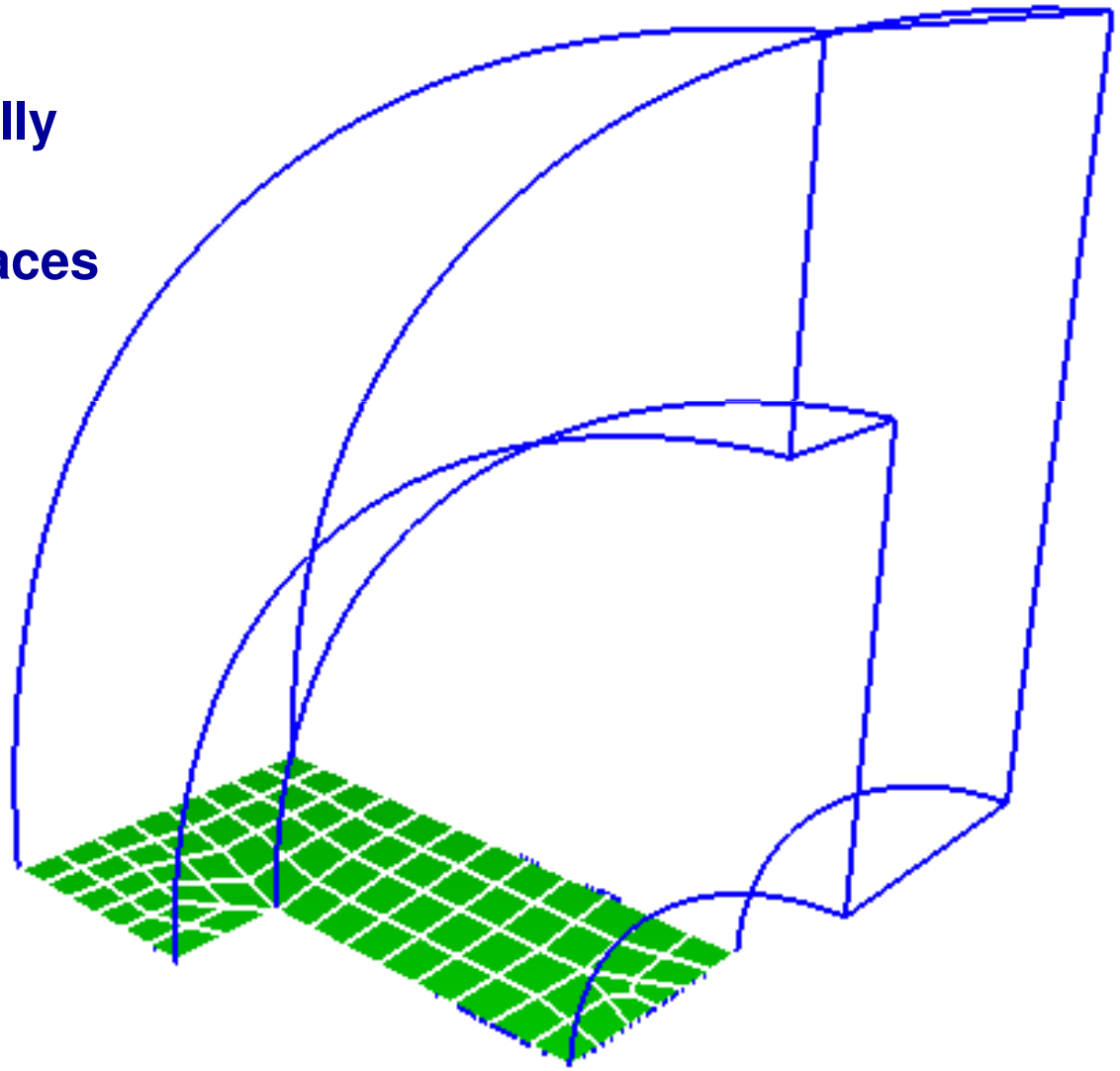

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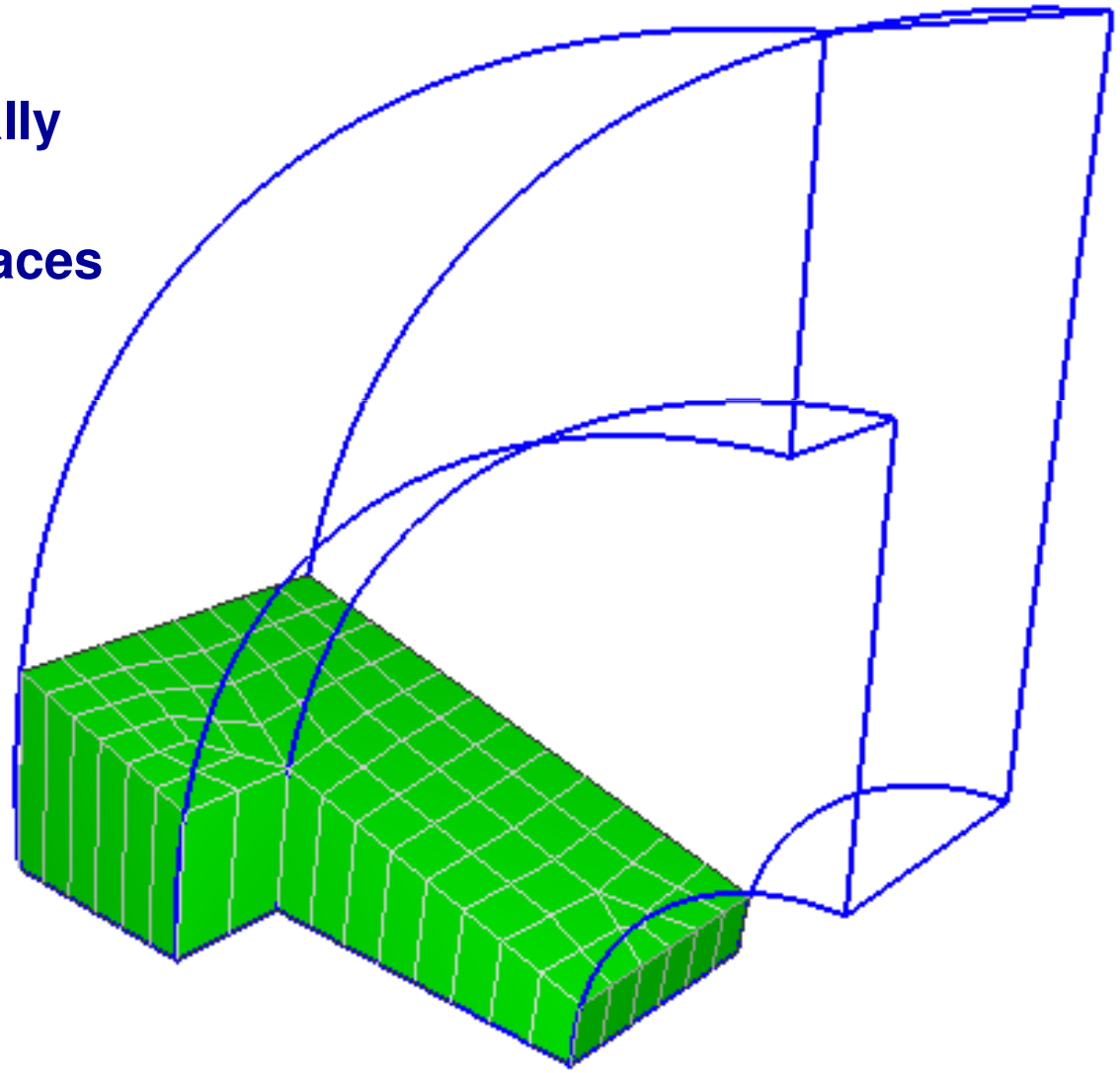

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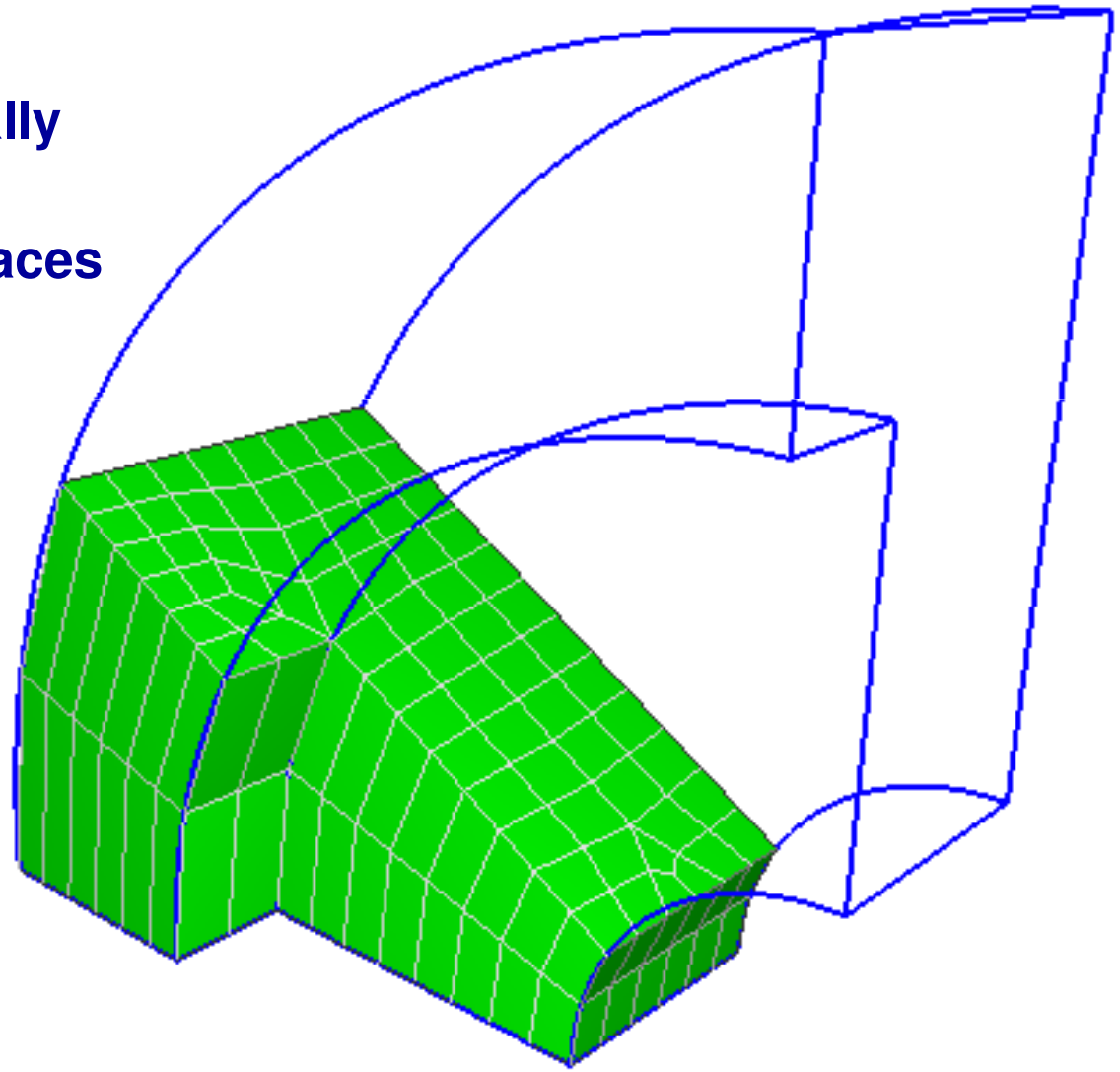

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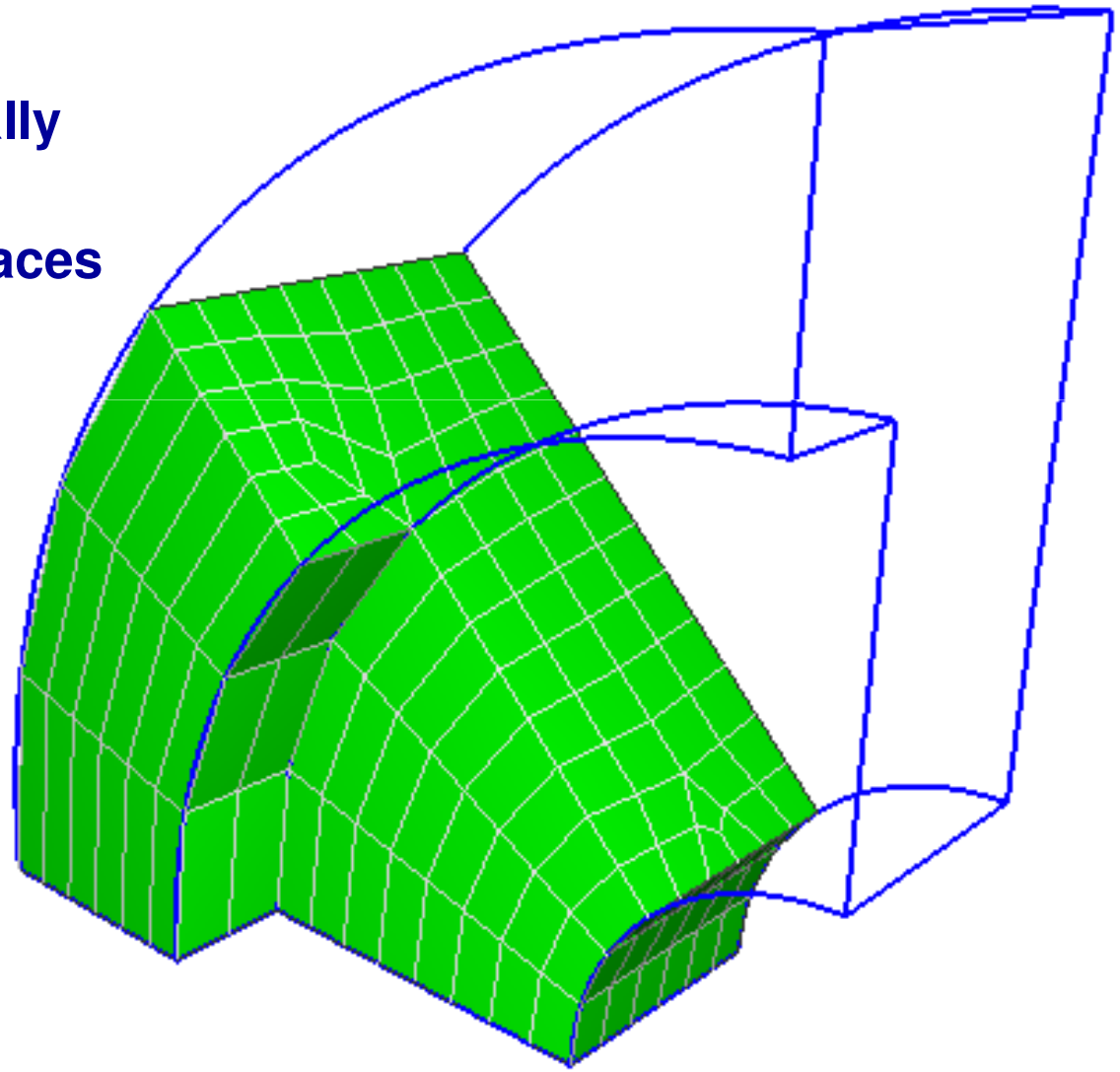

Structured mesh – Sweeping

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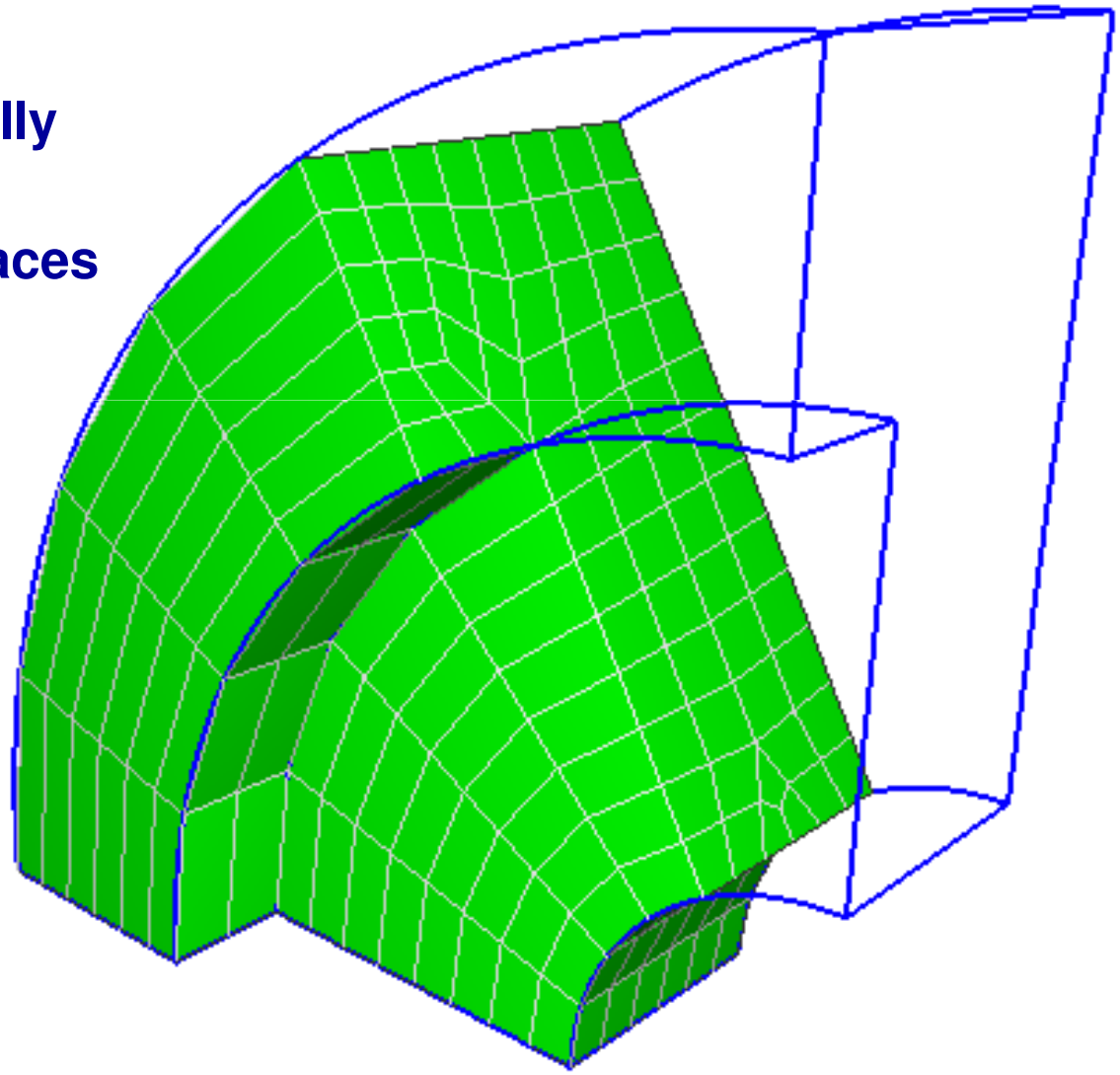

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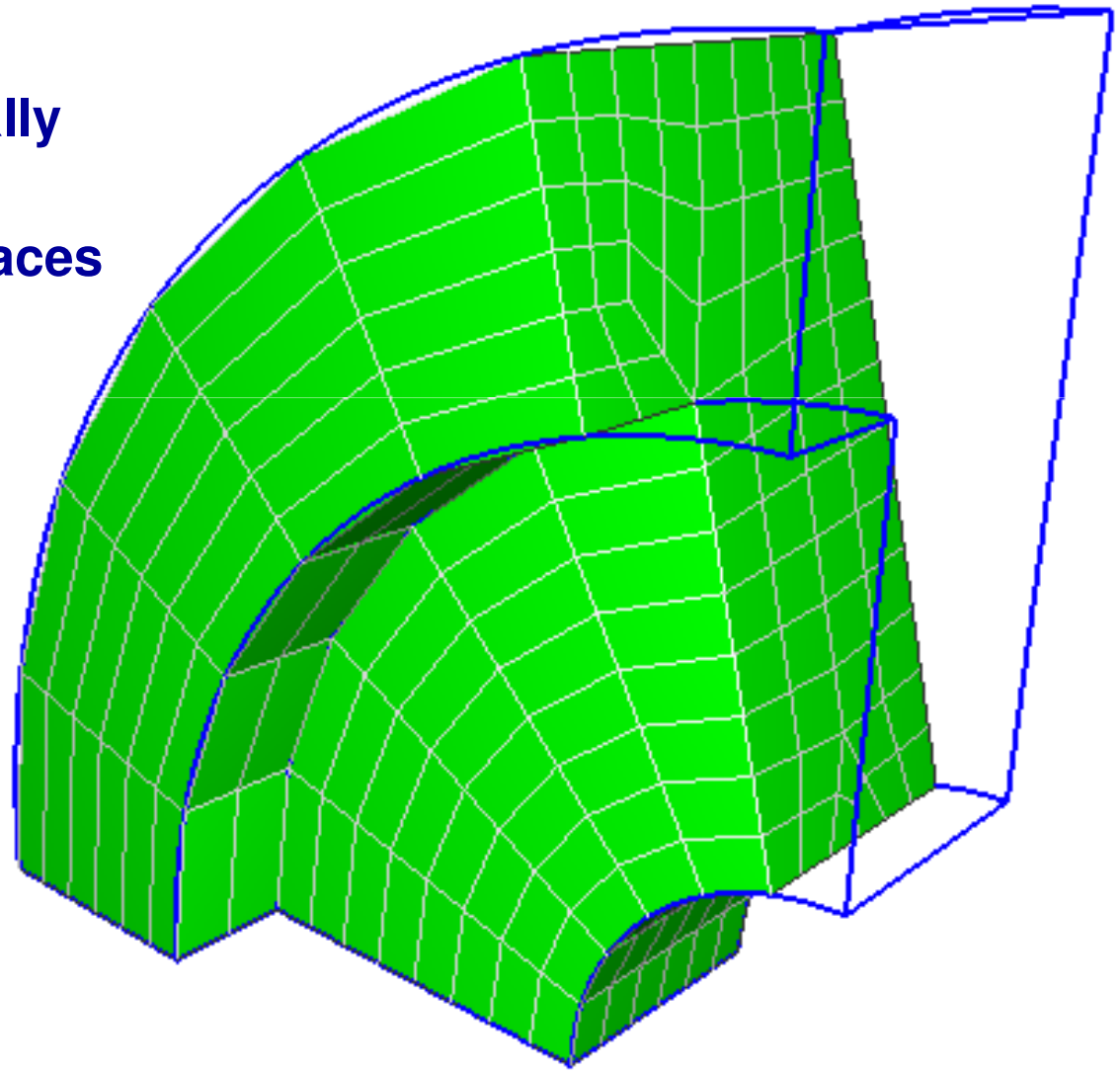

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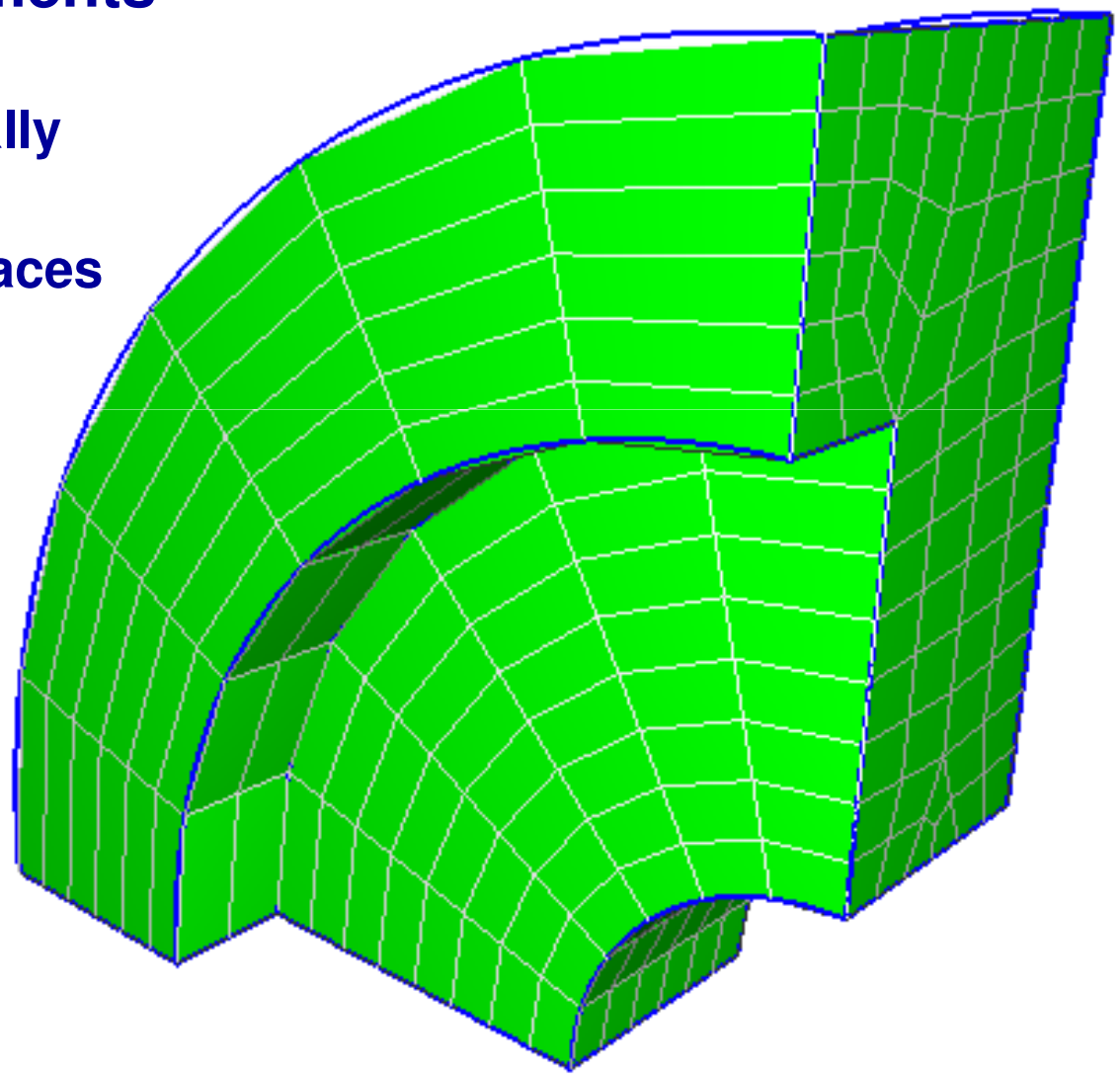
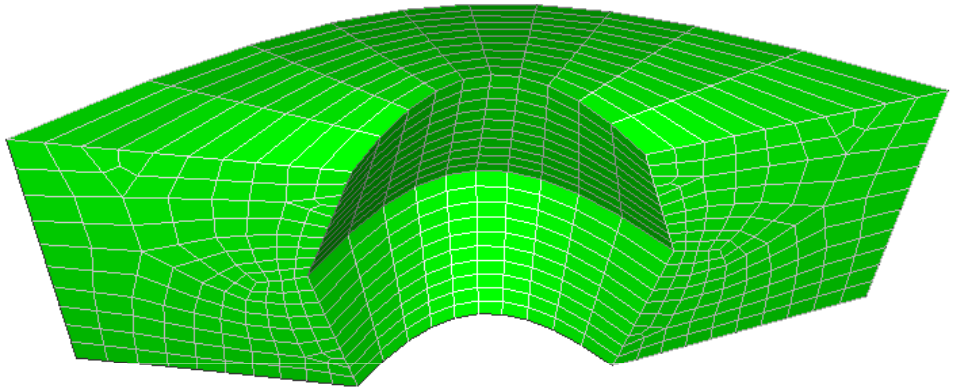
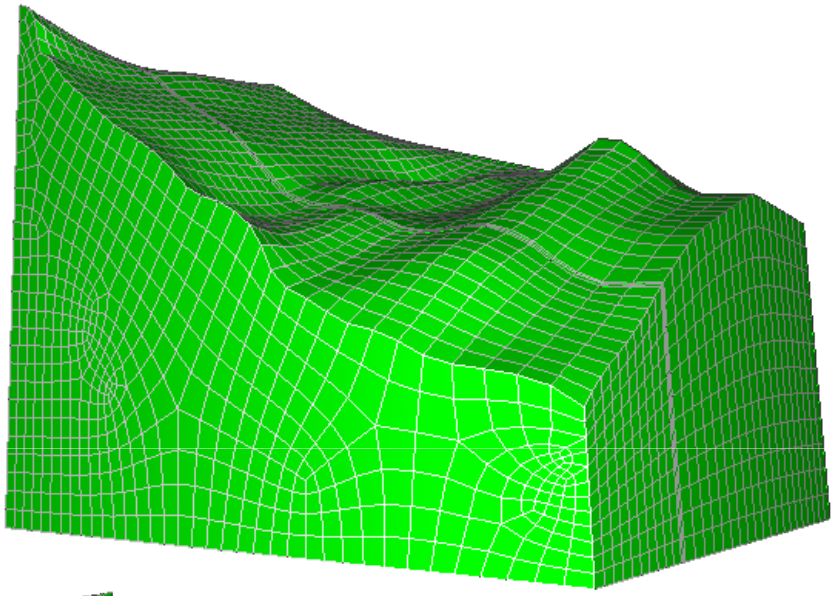
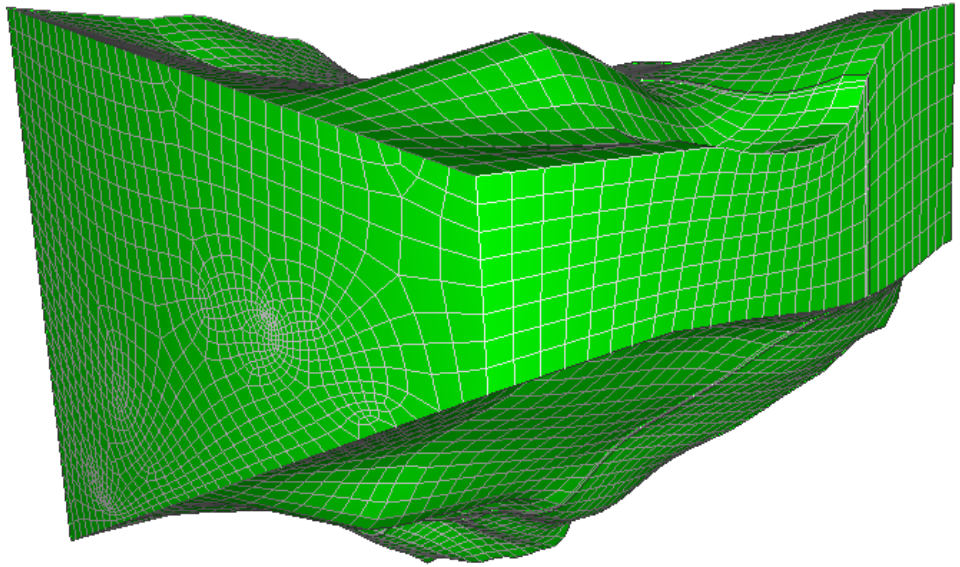


Structured mesh – Sweeping

- **Examples**

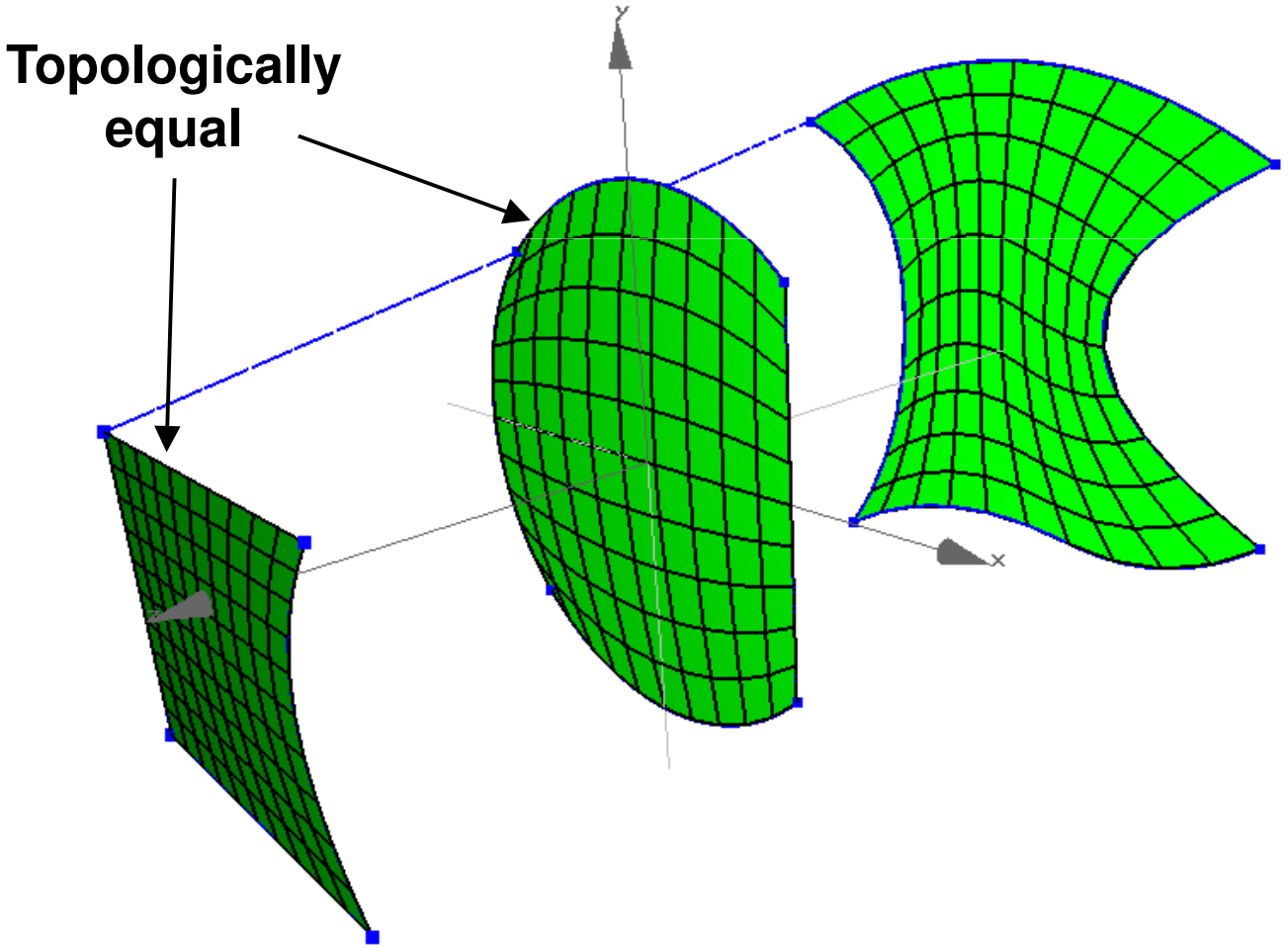






Structured mesh – Spline Sweeping

- **Geometry Requirements**
  - **Sequence of sections**
  - **Meshes must be topologically equal**



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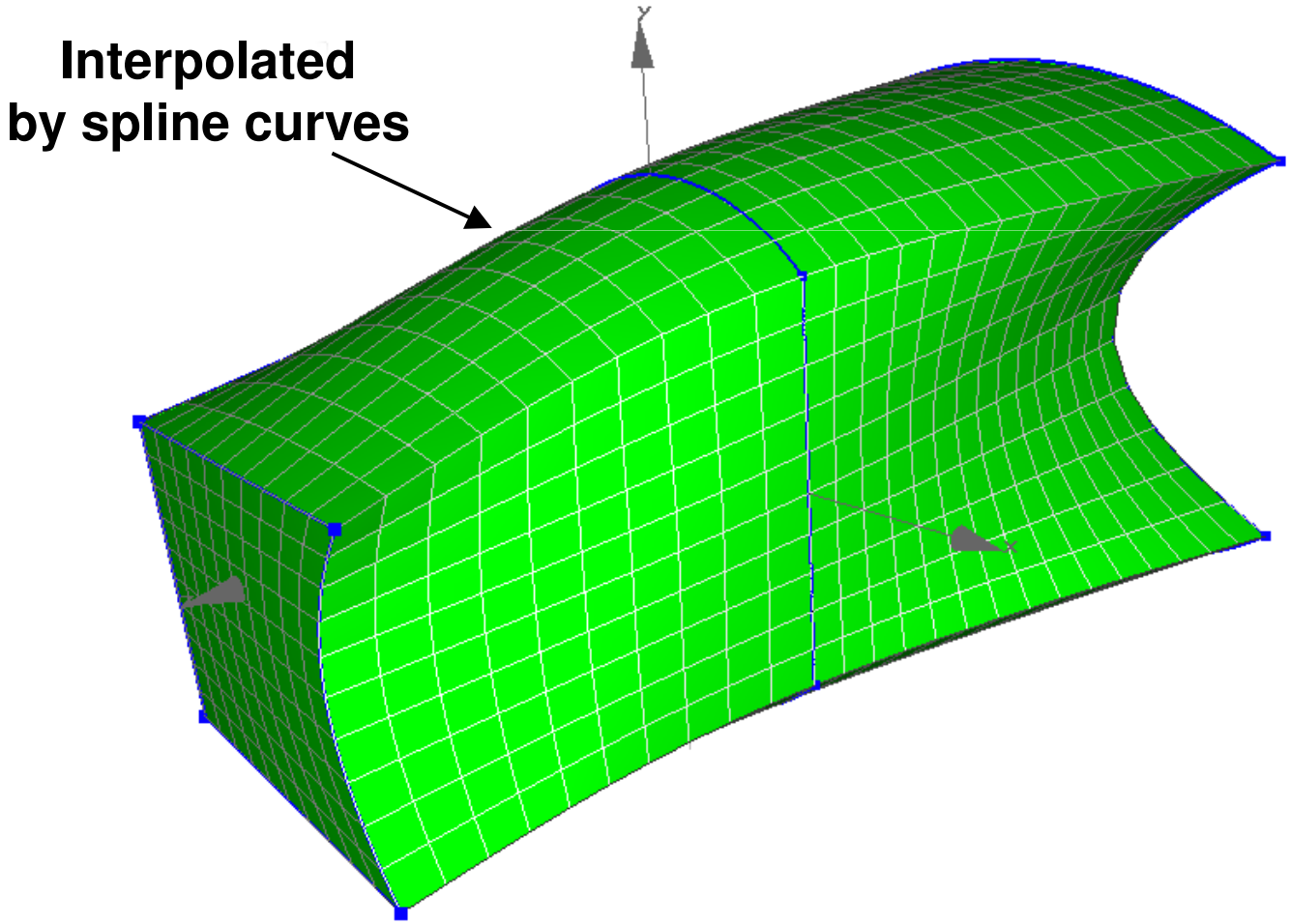

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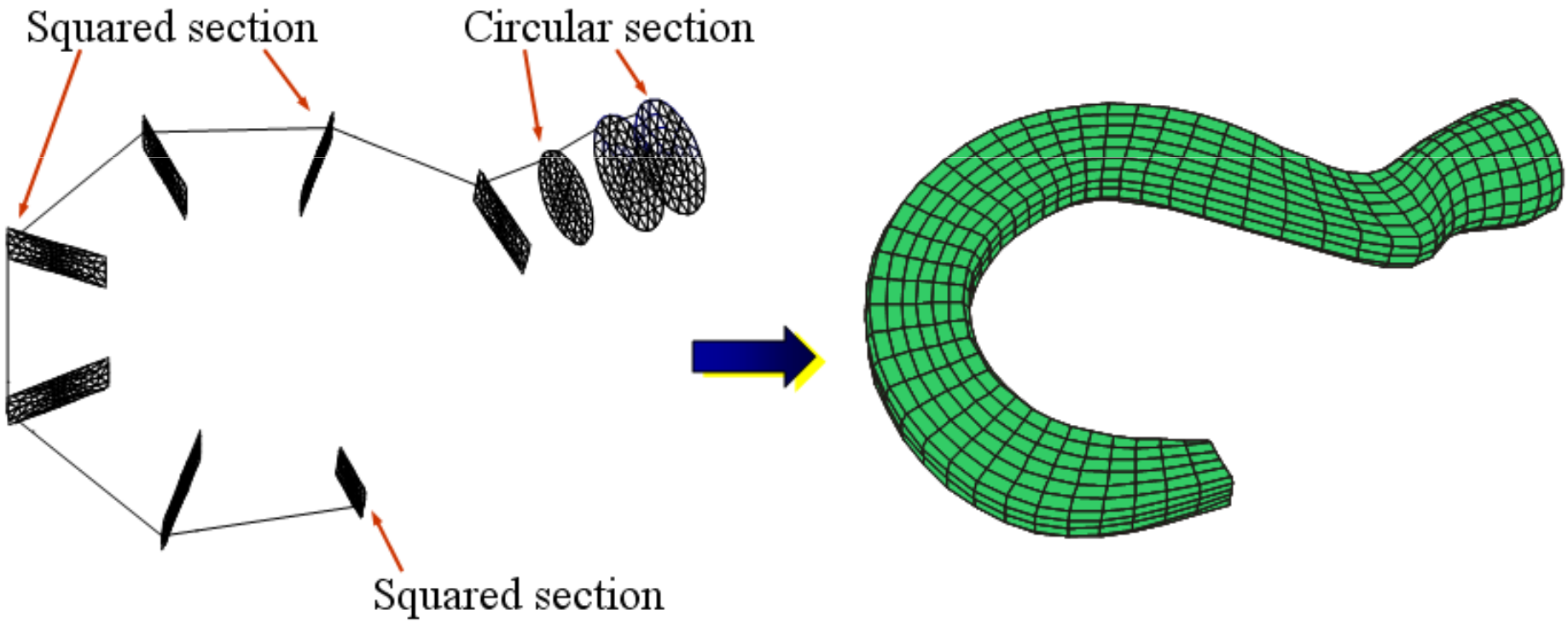

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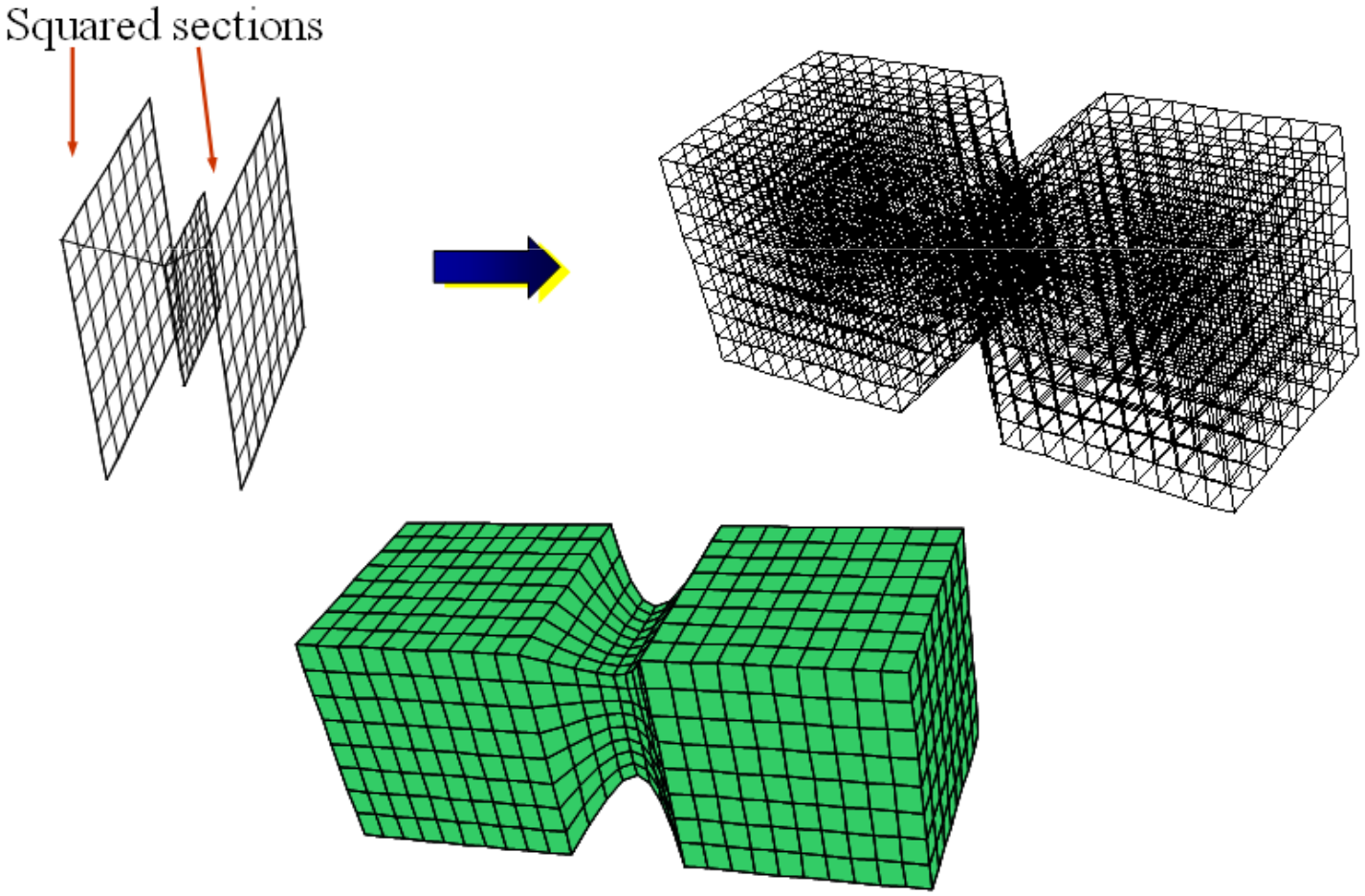


Unstructured mesh – Requirements

- **Specific algorithm requirements inherited from its ancestor**

  J-Mesh (Joaquim Cavalcante-Neto, Wawrzynek, Carvalho, Martha & Ingraffea; 2001):

  - **Generation of well-shaped elements**
  - **Ability to conform to an existing refinement at the boundary of region**
  - **Ability to transition well between regions with different element sizes**
  - **Capability for modeling discontinuities (internal restriction and cracks)**

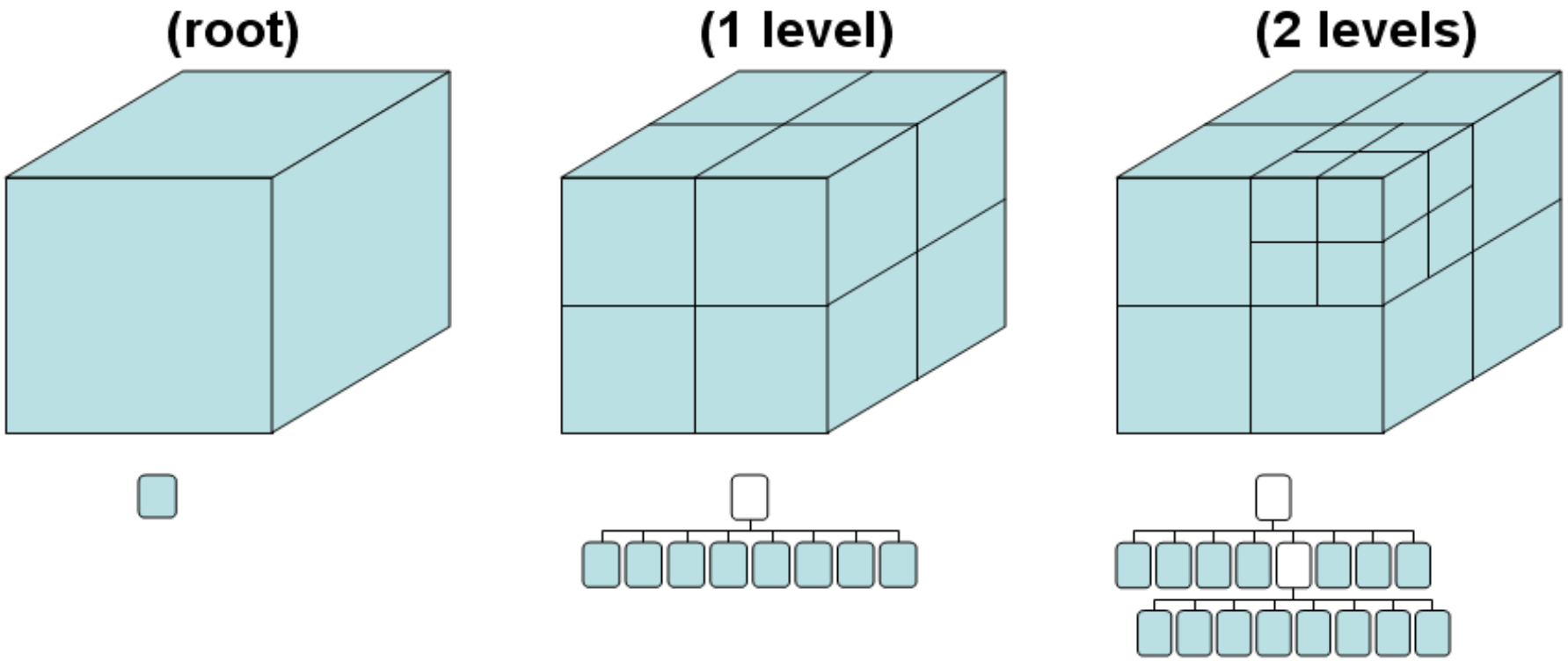
- **Additional requirements for surfaces**
  - **Locally refine the mesh in regions with curvatures**

Unstructured mesh generation outline

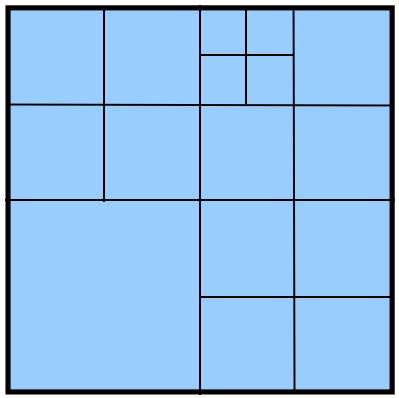
- **Background mesh generation – quadtree/octree**
  - Initialization based on boundary mesh.
  - Refinement to force a maximum cell size.
  - Refinement to provide minimum size disparity for adjacent cells.
- **Advancing-front procedure**
  - Geometry-based element generation
  - Topology-based element generation
  - Element generation based on back-tracking with face deletion.
- **Local mesh improvement**
  - Laplacian smoothing,
  - Local back-tracking with element deletion, or
  - Taubin smoothing (surfaces)

Unstructured mesh – auxiliary background structure

- **Quadtree and Octree**
  - **Fast search procedures to navigate through end leaves**
  - **Represent the desired size of elements with nearly the same size as the end leaves**



Unstructured mesh – 2D auxiliary background structure



2D

- Create internal points on domain
- Advancing front algorithm

2D

- Create element using patterns in each cells
- Advancing front algorithm near boundary

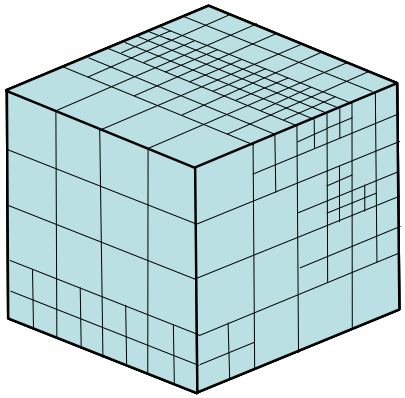
2D

- Use cell size as guideline to generate new elements
- Advancing front algorithm

Surf

- Use cells to store desired sizes for elements and surface metric information
- Advancing front algorithm in parametric space

Unstructured mesh – 3D auxiliary background structure



3D

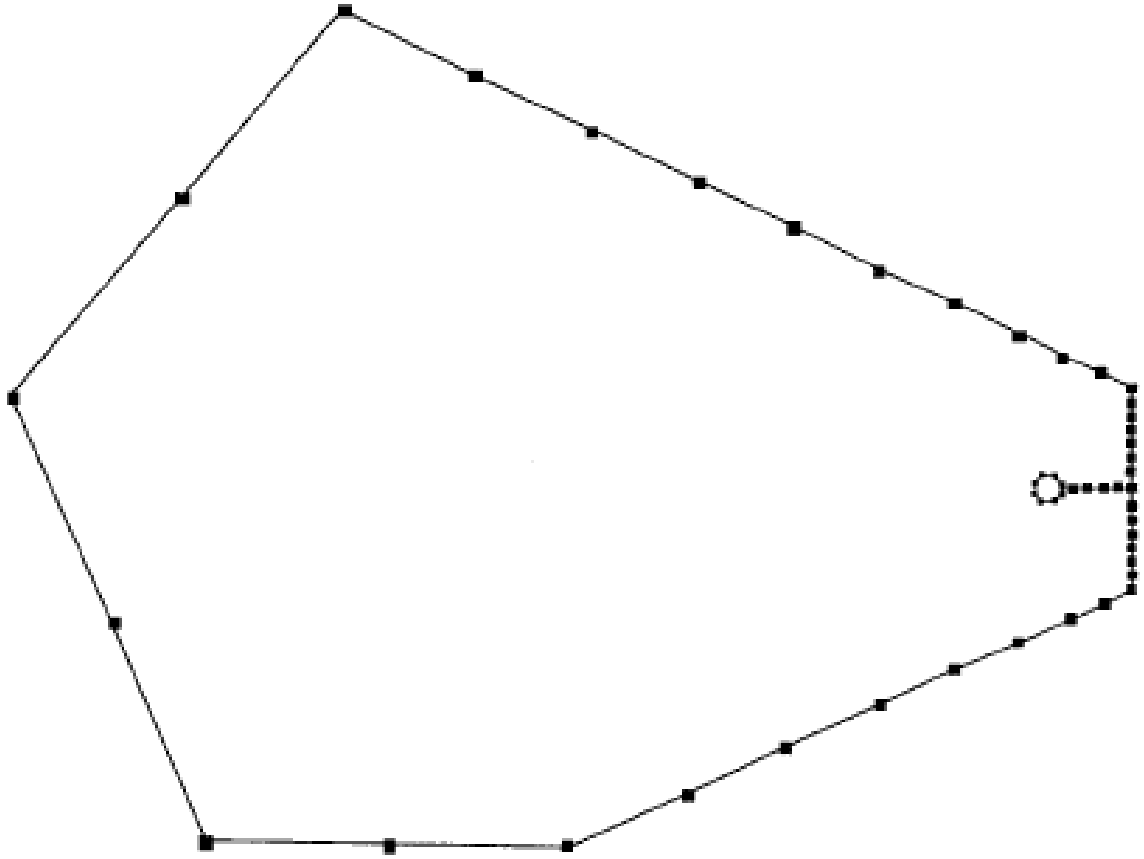
- **Use cells to store desired sizes for elements**
- **Advancing front algorithm**

Surf

- **Use cells to store desired sizes for elements and surface metric information**
- **Advancing front algorithm direct in 3D space**

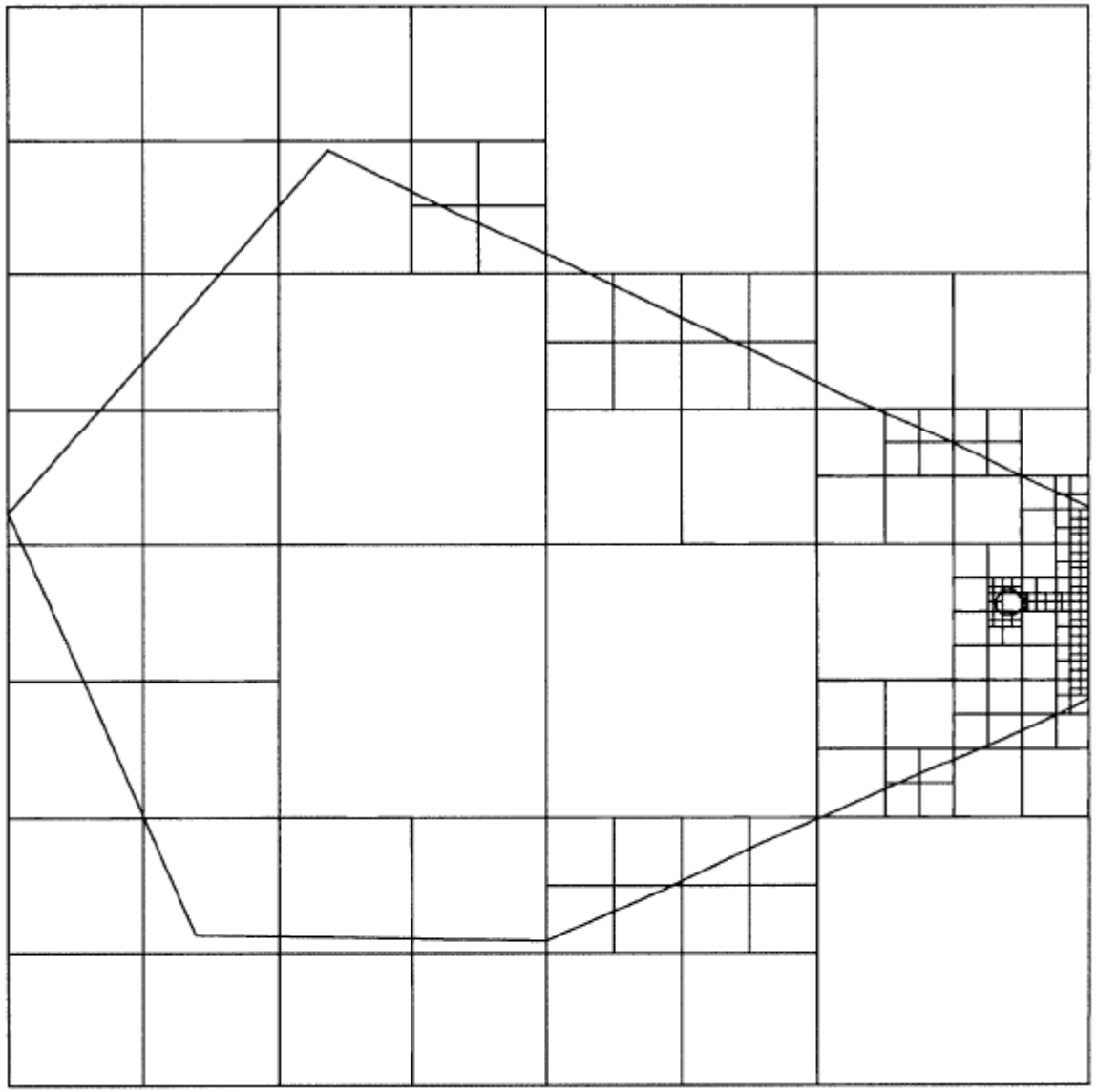
Unstructured mesh – background structure generation

- **Hypothetical 2D model and its boundary refinement**



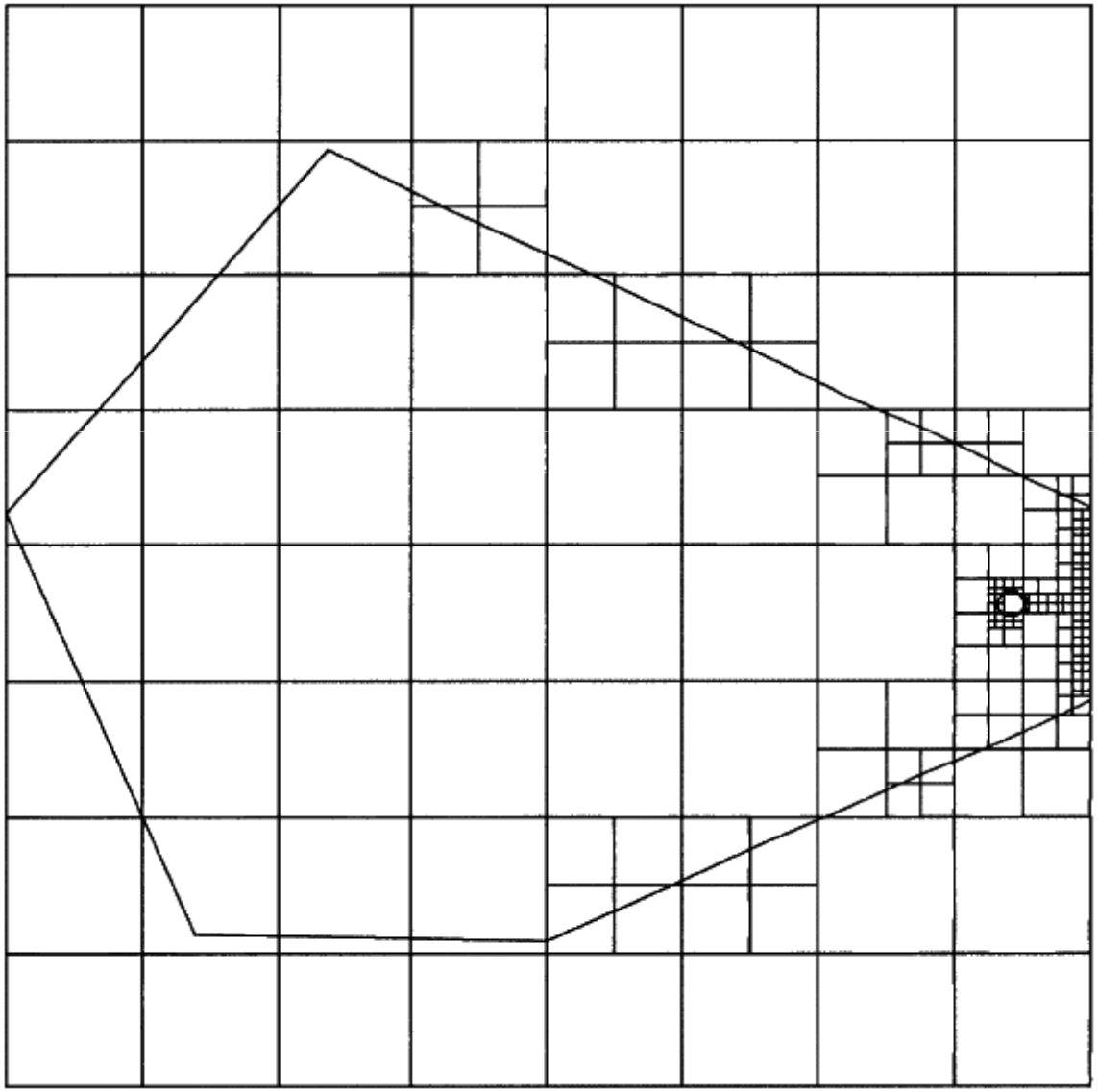
Unstructured mesh – background structure generation

- **Initialization based on boundary mesh**



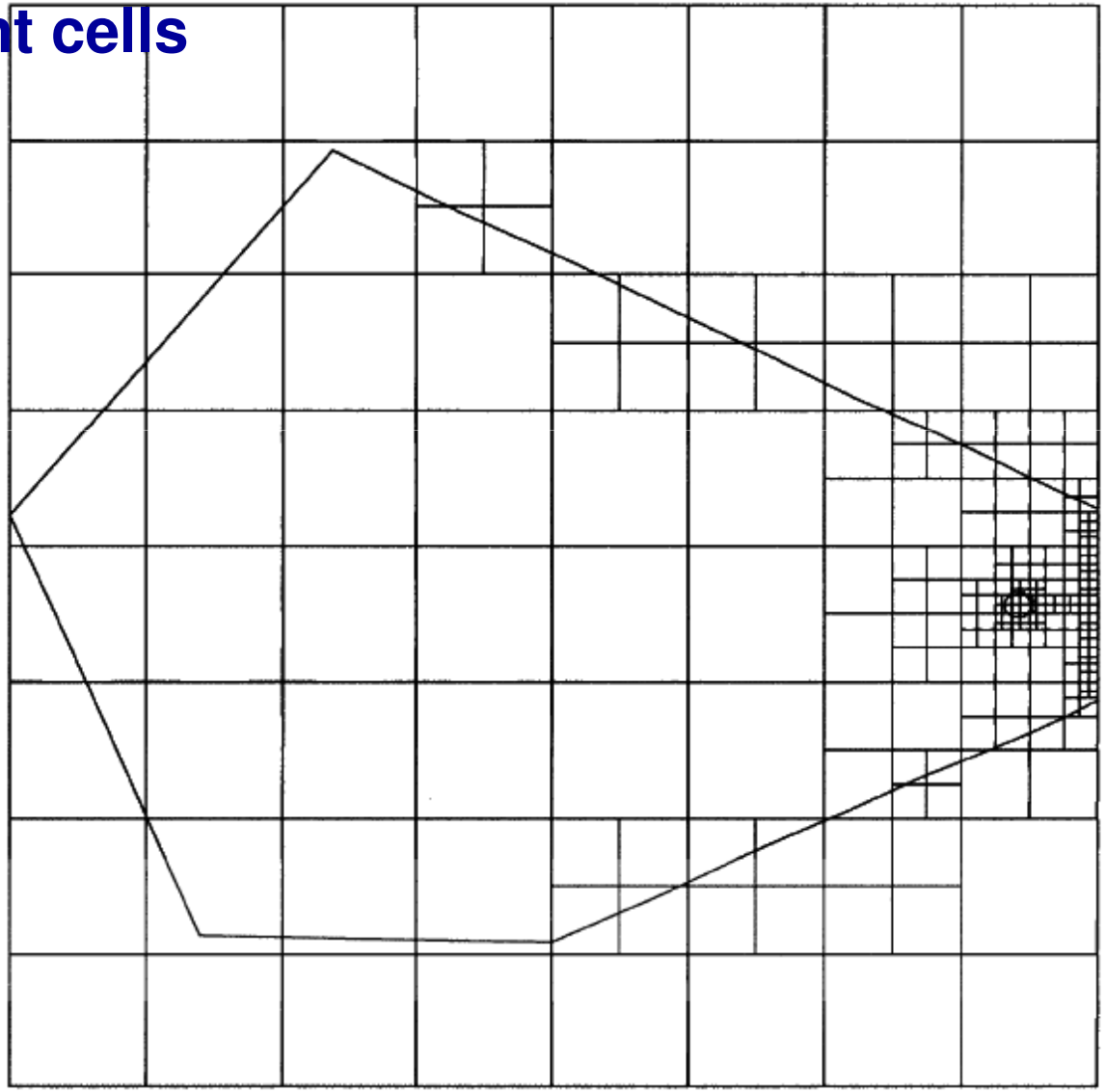
Unstructured mesh – background structure generation

- **Refinement to force a maximum cell size**



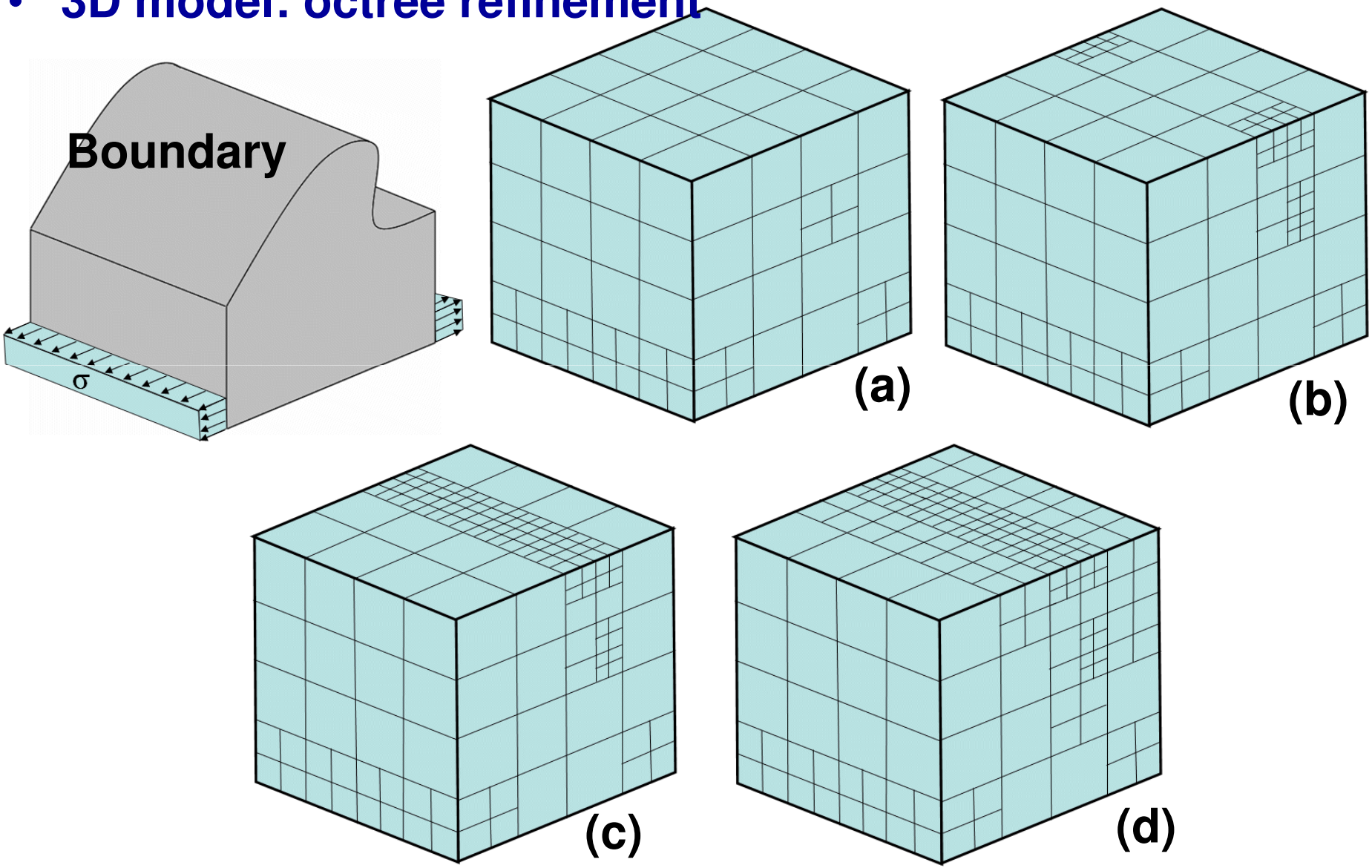
Unstructured mesh – background structure generation

- **Refinement to provide minimum size disparity for adjacent cells**



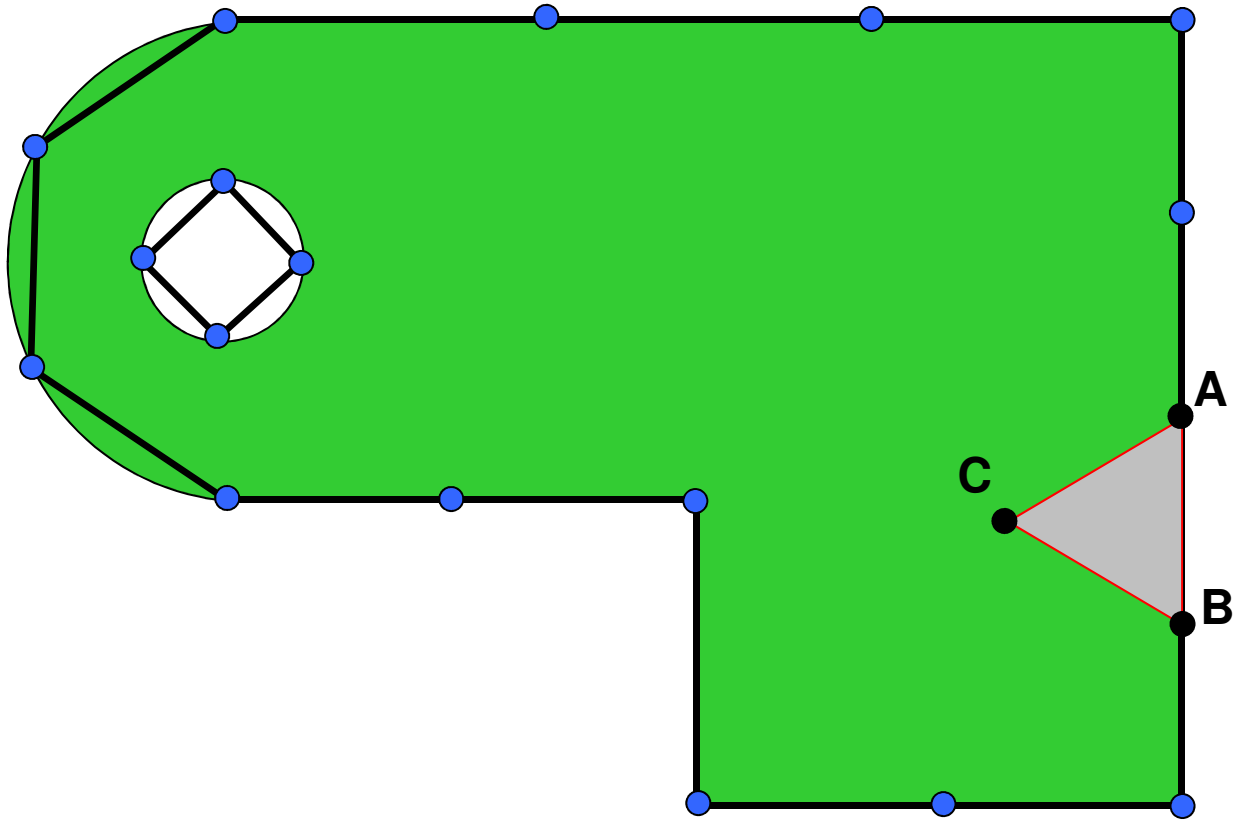
Unstructured mesh – background structure generation

- **3D model: octree refinement**



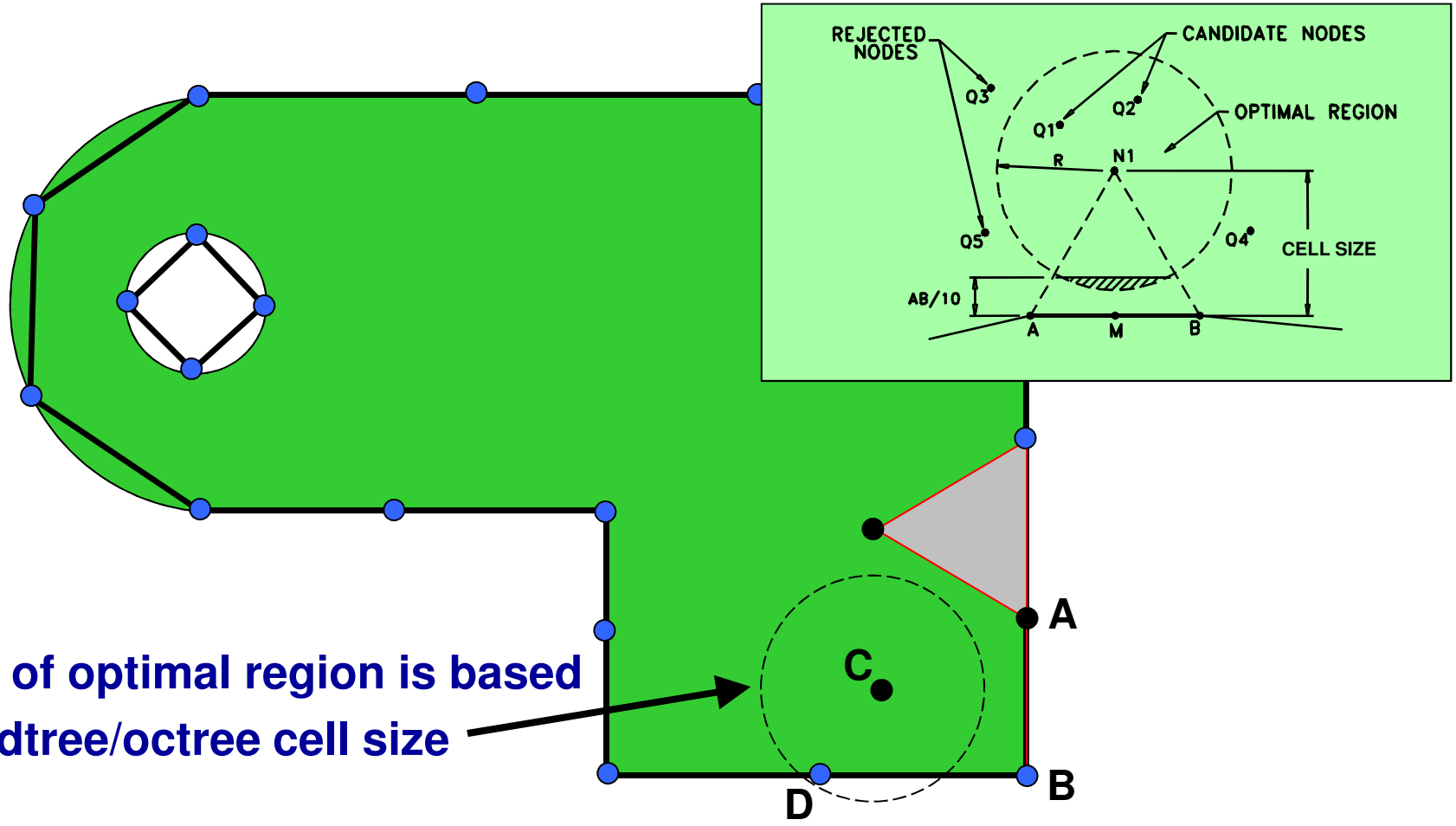
Unstructured mesh – advancing-front technique

- **Advancing front algorithm**
  - **Begin with boundary mesh – define as initial *front***
  - **For each edge (face) on front, locate initial node C based on front AB**



Unstructured mesh – advancing-front technique

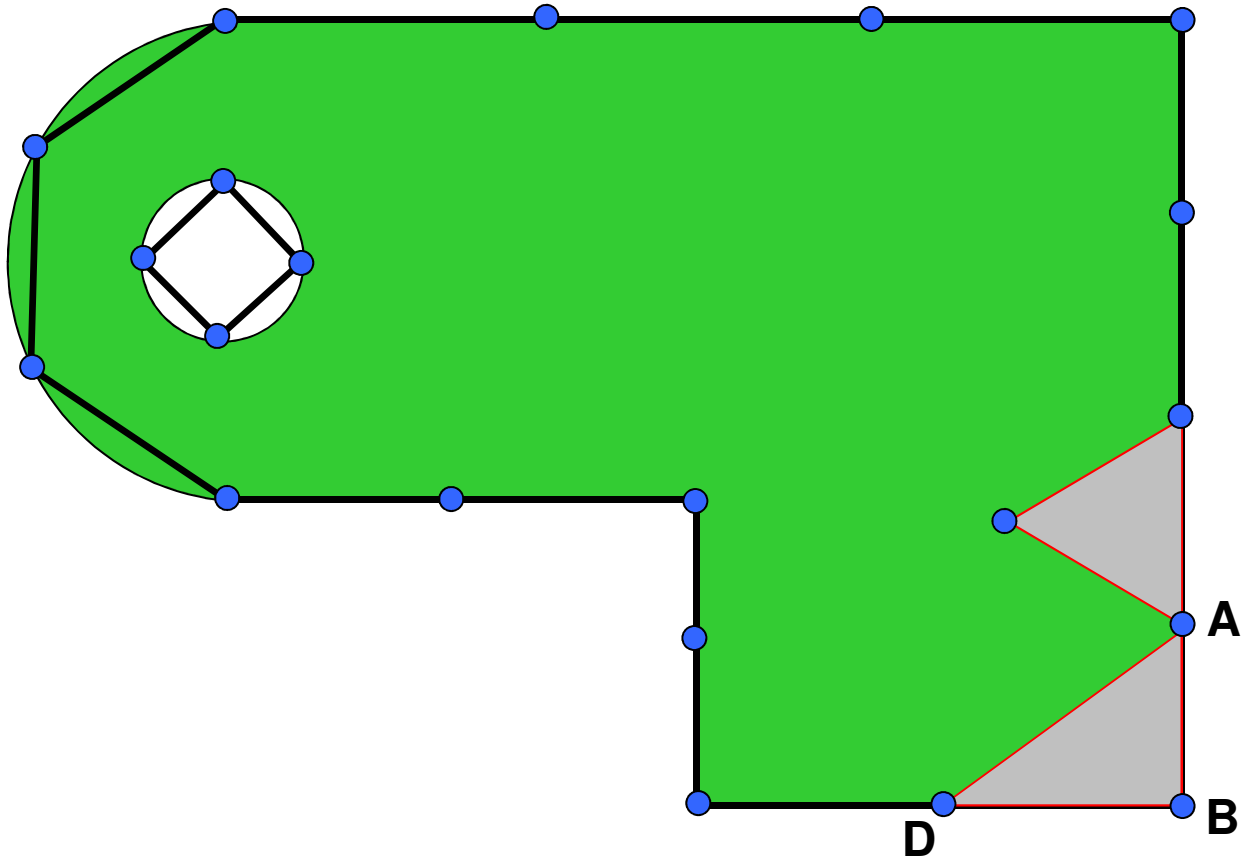
- **Advancing front algorithm**
  - **Determine if any other node on current from are within search radius *r* of ideal location C (Choose D instead of C)**



Radius of optimal region is based on quadtree/octree cell size

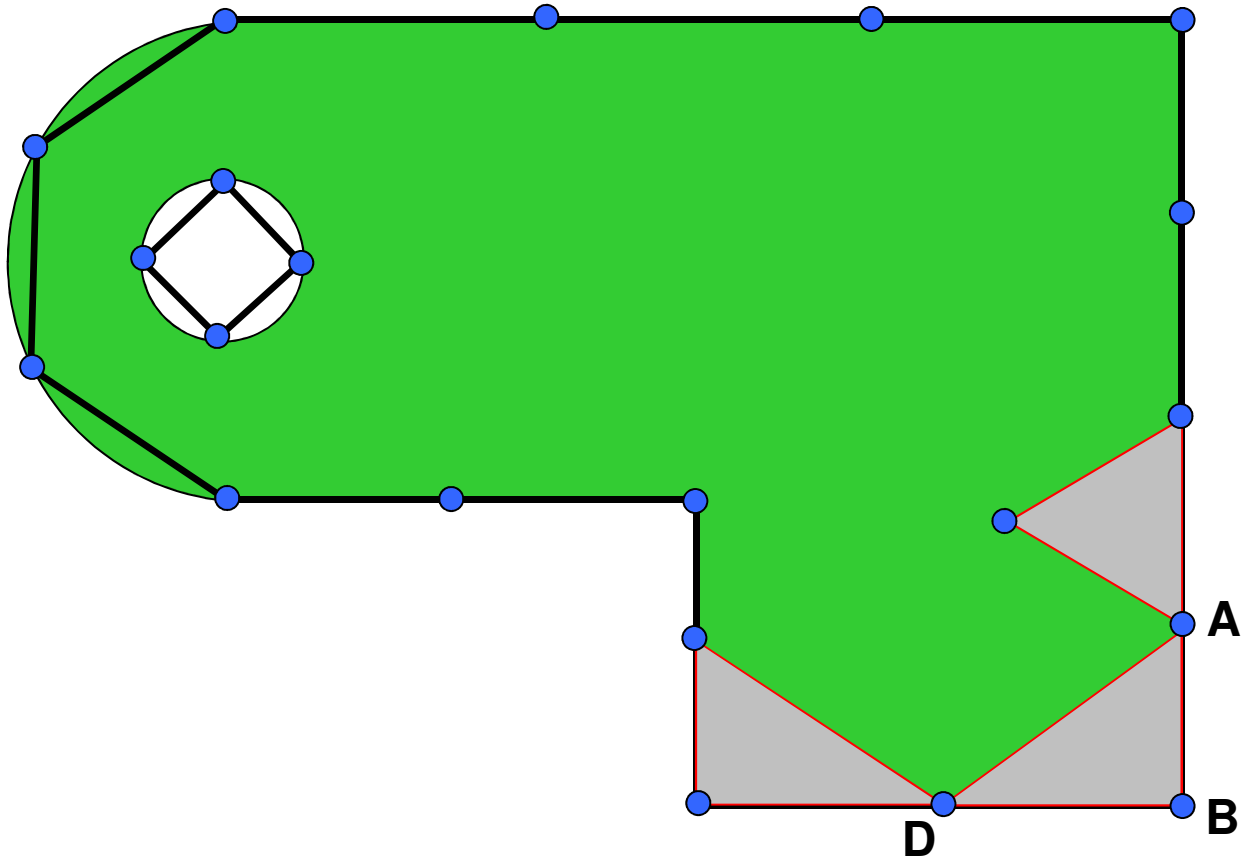
Unstructured mesh – advancing-front technique

- **Advancing front algorithm**
  - **New *front edges* (*faces*) added and deleted from *front* as triangles (tetrahedral) are formed**
  - **Continue until *front edges* (*faces*) remain on *front***



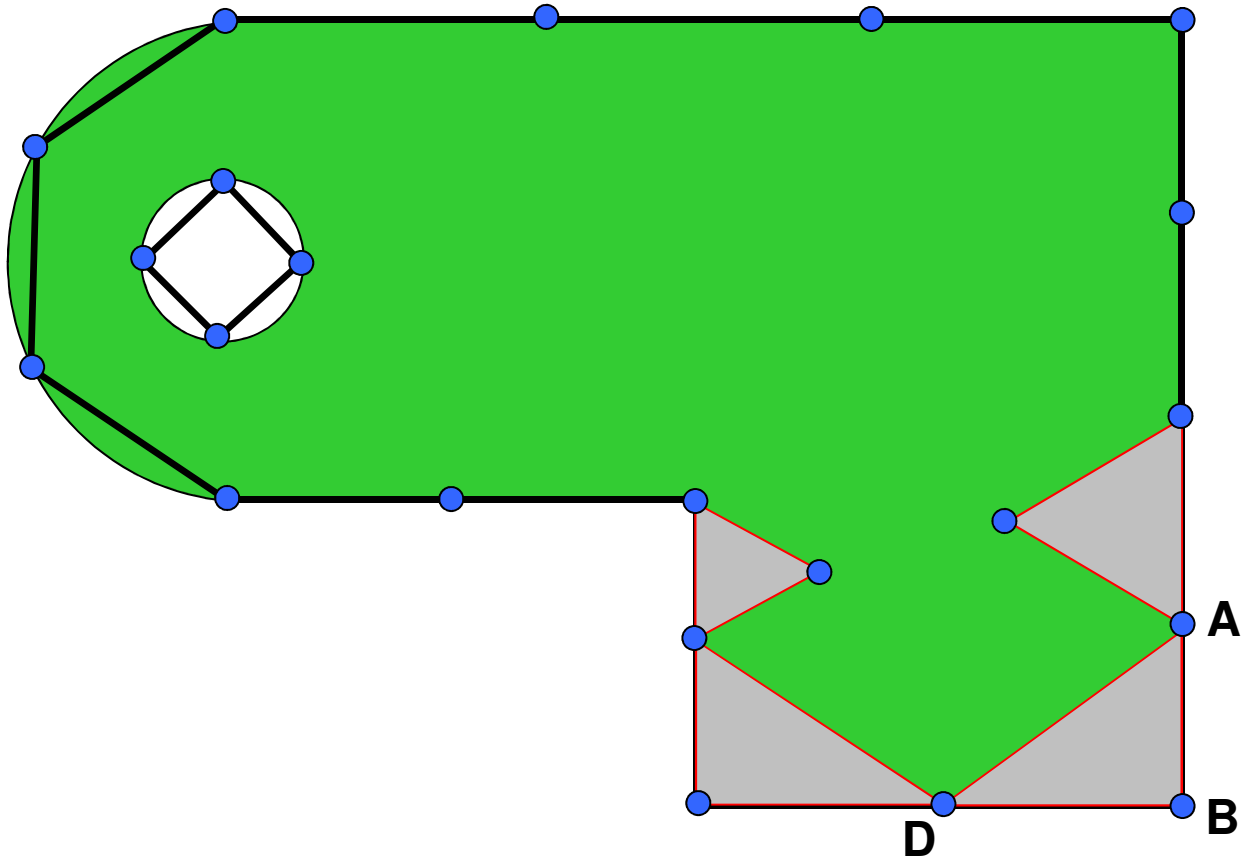
Unstructured mesh – advancing-front technique

- **Advancing front algorithm**
  - **New *front edges* added and deleted from *front* as triangles are formed**
  - **Continue until *front edges* remain on *front***



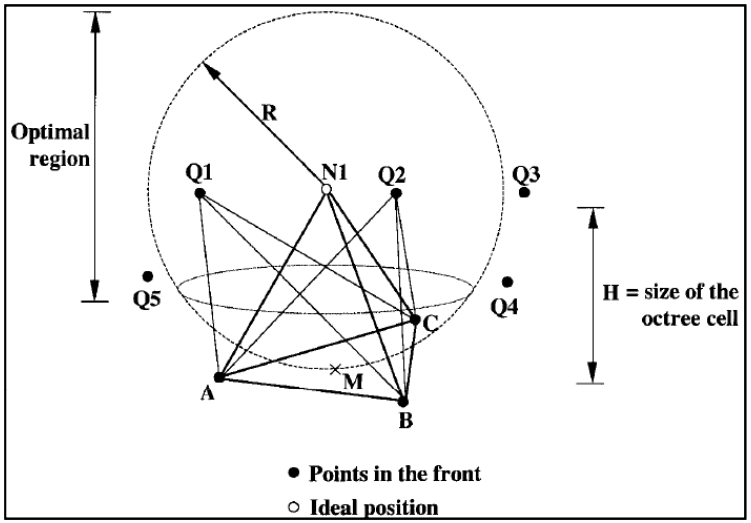
Unstructured mesh – advancing-front technique

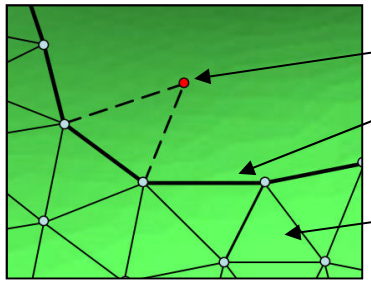
- **Advancing front algorithm**
  - **New *front edges* added and deleted from *front* as triangles are formed**
  - **Continue until *front edges* remain on *front***

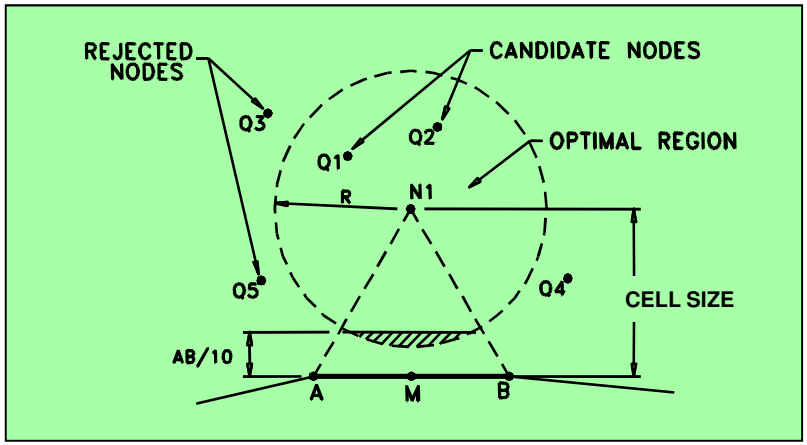


Unstructured mesh – advancing-front technique

- **Geometry-based element generation**
  - **Boundary contraction list**
    - List of active edges
    - List of rejected edges
  - **Generation of optimal elements**
    - Size of element
    - Optimal location N1
    - Ratio = 0.85 * size
    - Upper bound and lower bond
    - Range Tree Search

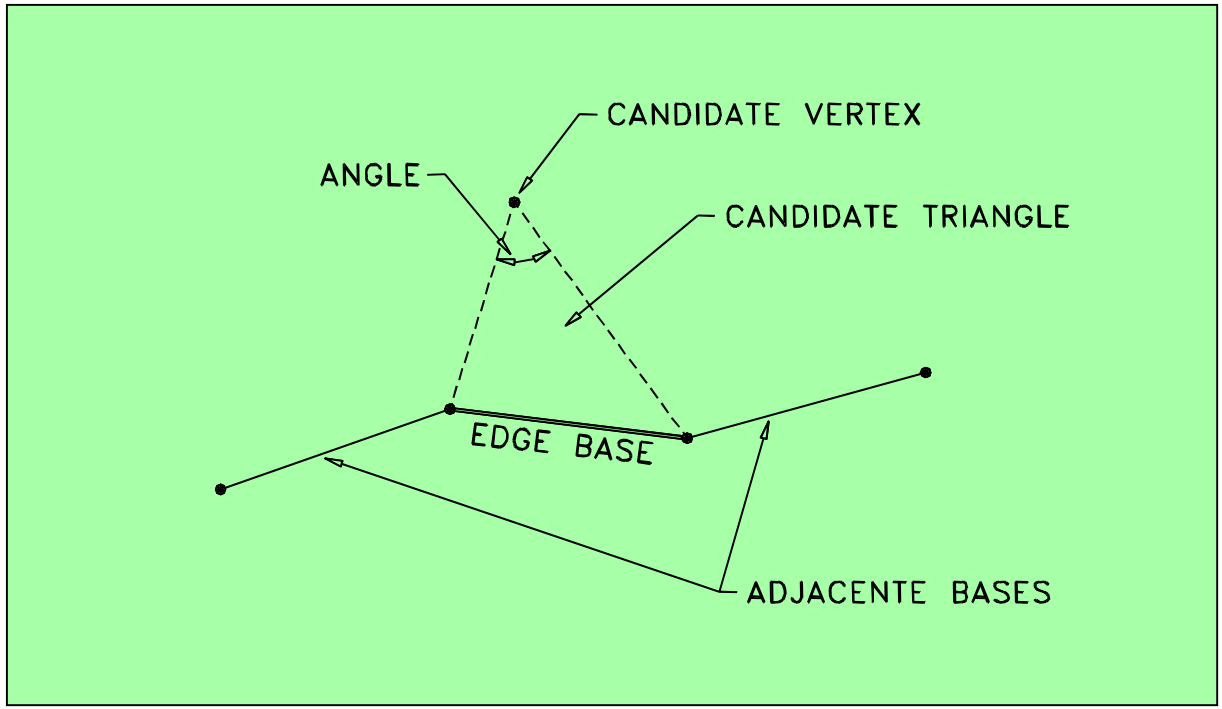






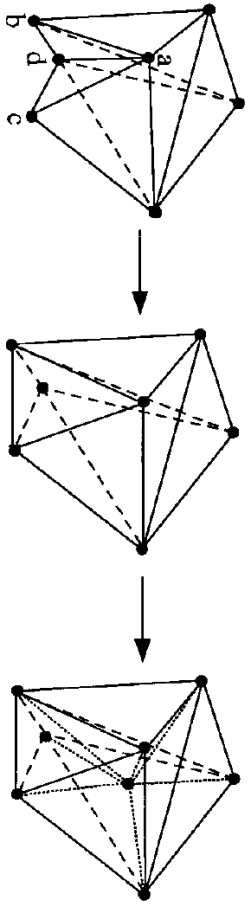
Unstructured mesh – advancing-front technique

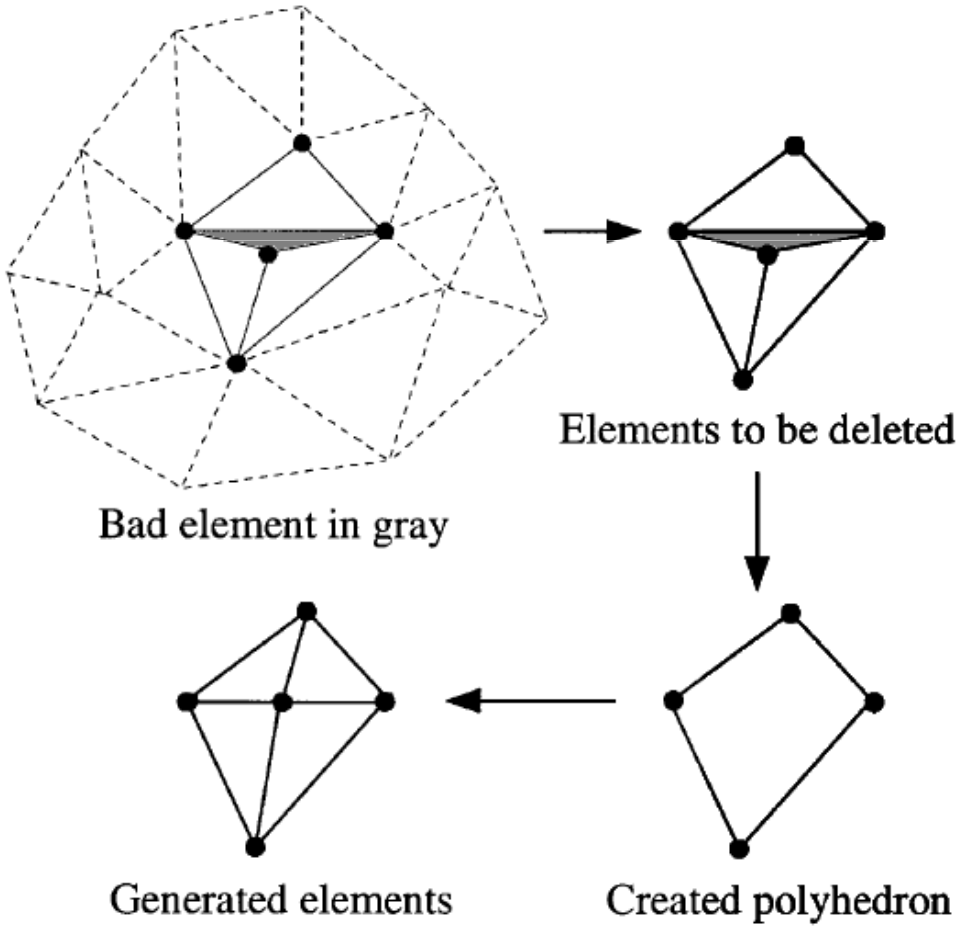
- **Topology-based element generation**
  - **List of rejected edges becomes active edges**
  - **Generation of elements by any node close to the base edge (best angle)**
  - **Generate a valid mesh, although not optimal**



Unstructured mesh – advancing-front technique

- **Back-Tracking**
  - **Locally modify the advancing front, deleting already generated adjacent tetrahedra until a 'near' convex non-meshed polyhedron is formed**



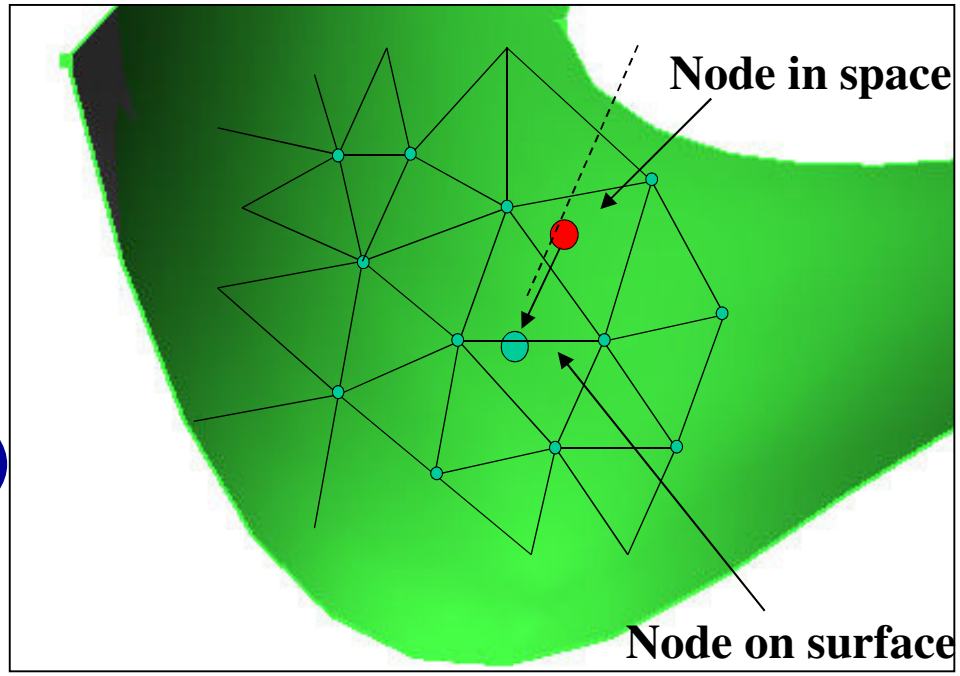


Unstructured mesh – local mesh improvement

- **Laplacian smoothing**
  - **Uses Laplacian equation and the closest point function for surface**

$$X_0^{n+1} = X_0^n + \phi \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{m} w_{i0}(X_i^n - X_0^n)}{\sum_{i=1}^{m} w_{i0}}$$

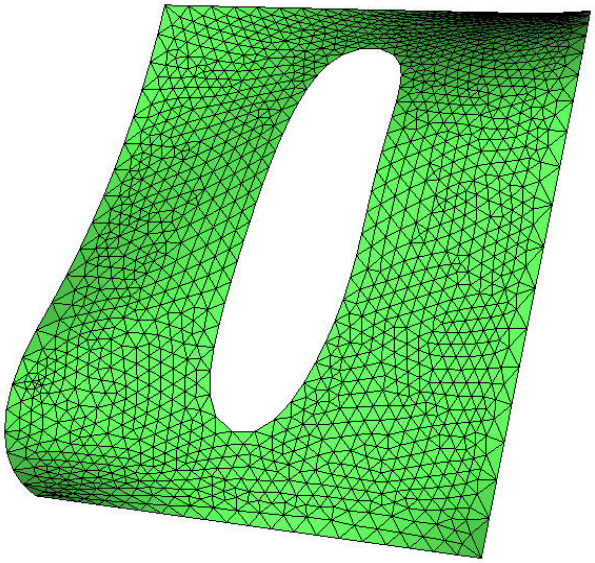
  - **ϕ = 1.0 and w_{i0}=1.0**



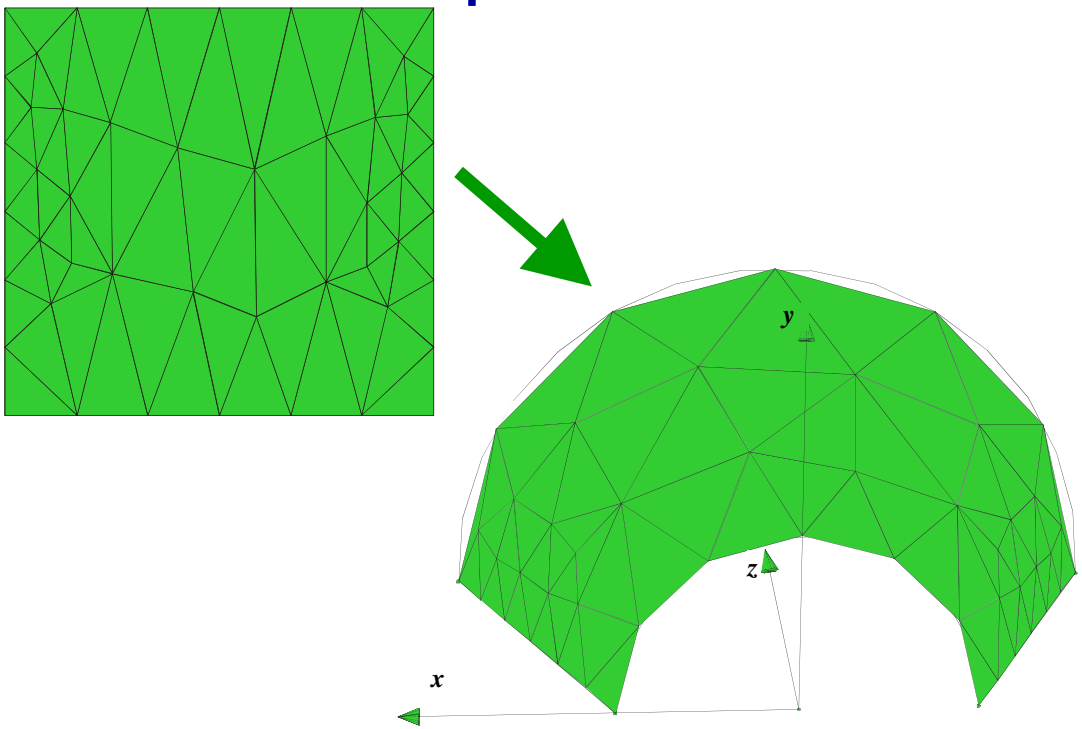
- **Taubin smoothing (surfaces)**
  - **Uses twice Laplacian equation**
    - **ϕ = 1.0 and w_{i0} = 0.63**
    - **ϕ = 1.0 and w_{i0} = - 0.67**
  - **Filters high frequencies**
  - **Preserves the low frequencies**
  - **Good results with geological and microstructure surfaces**

Unstructured mesh – Surface Meshing

- **Direct 3D Meshing**
  - **Elements formed in 3D using actual x-y-z representation of surface**

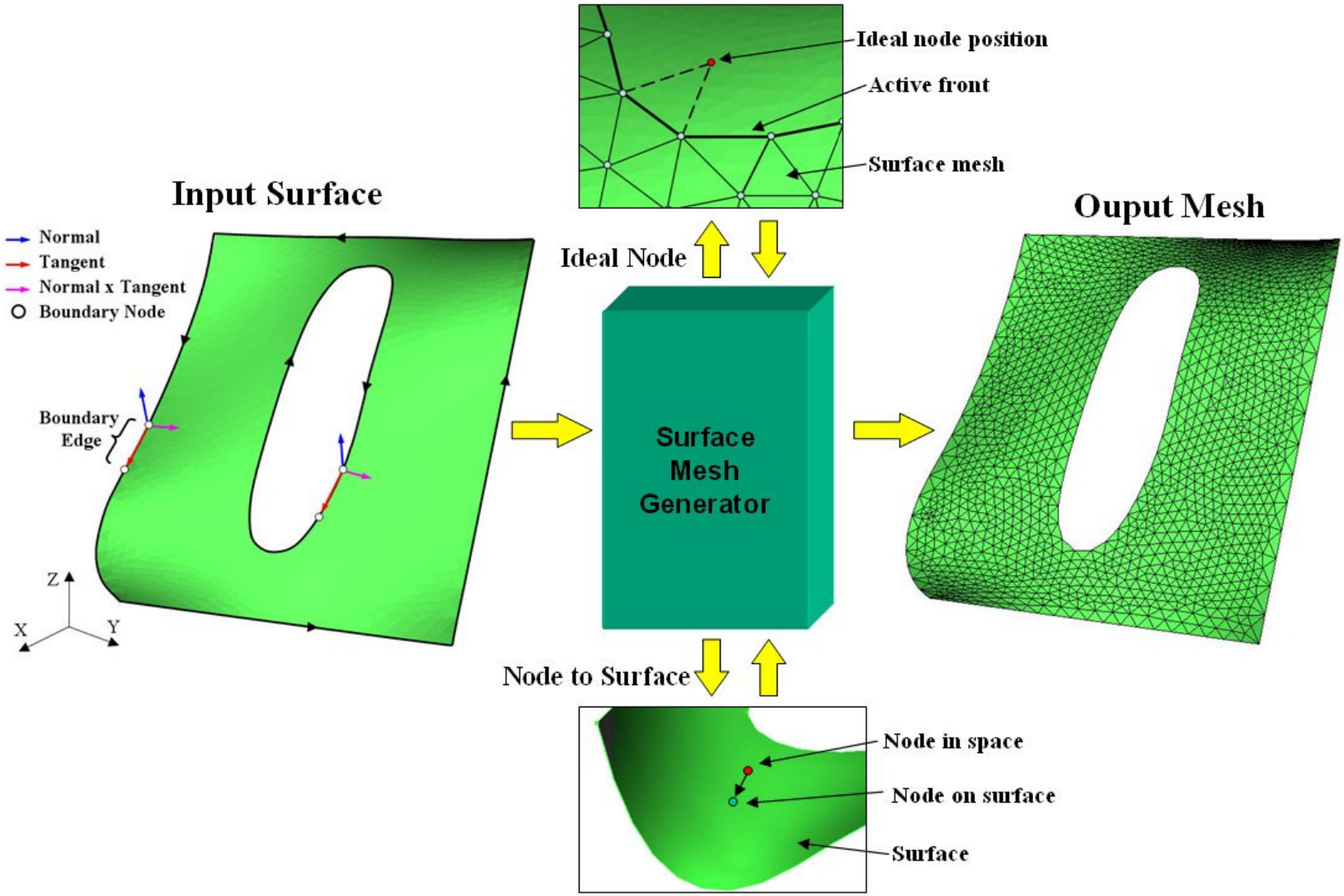


- **Parametric Space Meshing**
  - **Elements formed in 2D using parametric representation of surface**
  - **Nodes locations later mapped to 3D space**



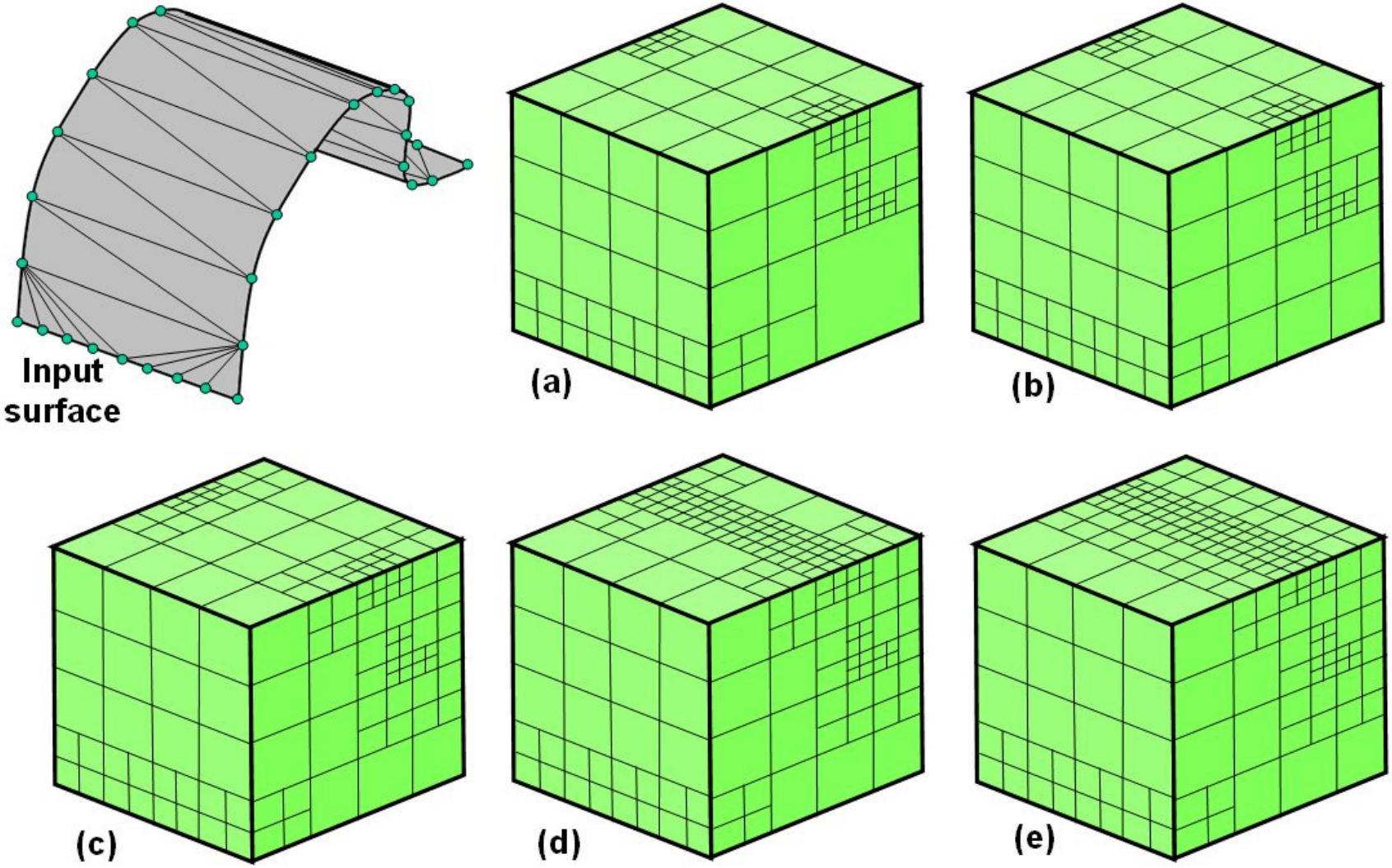
Unstructured mesh – Surface Meshing

- **Direct 3D Meshing**



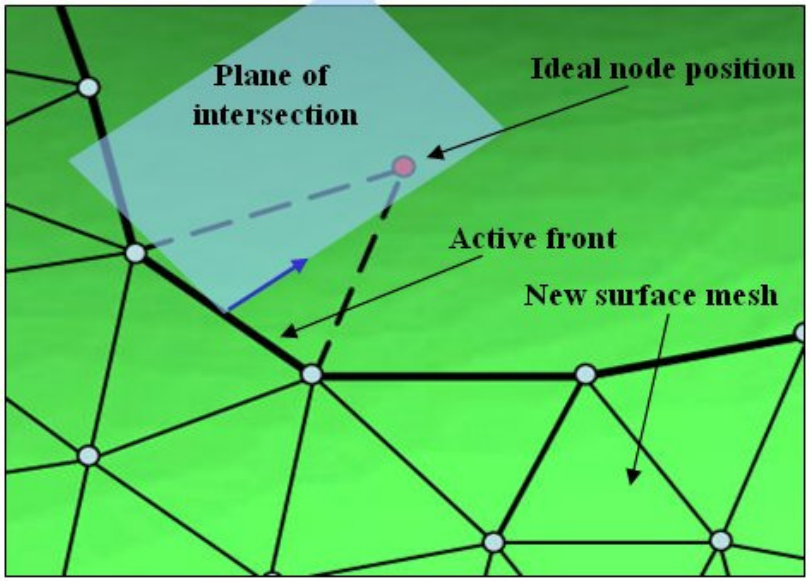
Unstructured mesh – Surface Meshing

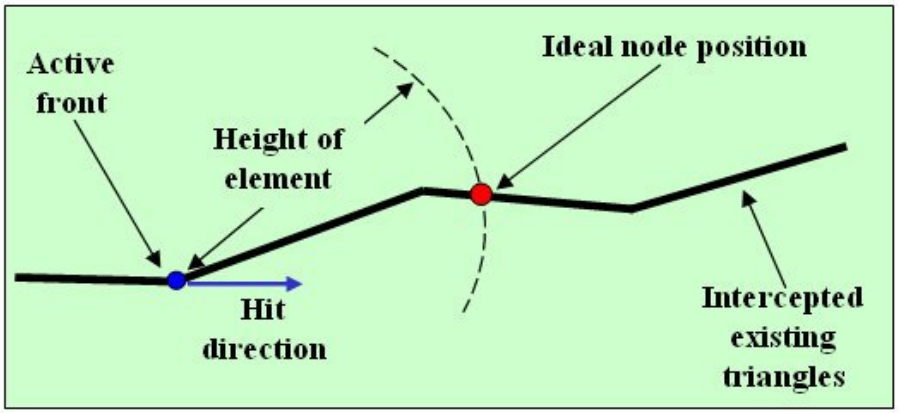
- **Direct 3D Meshing – refinement of octree**



Unstructured mesh – Surface Meshing

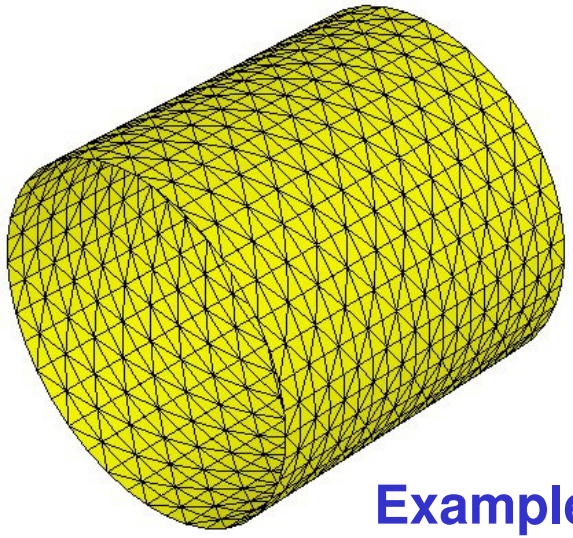
- **Direct 3D Meshing – node location**



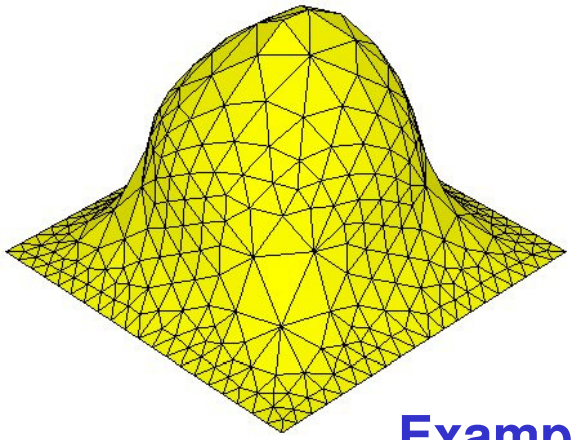


Unstructured mesh – Surface Meshing

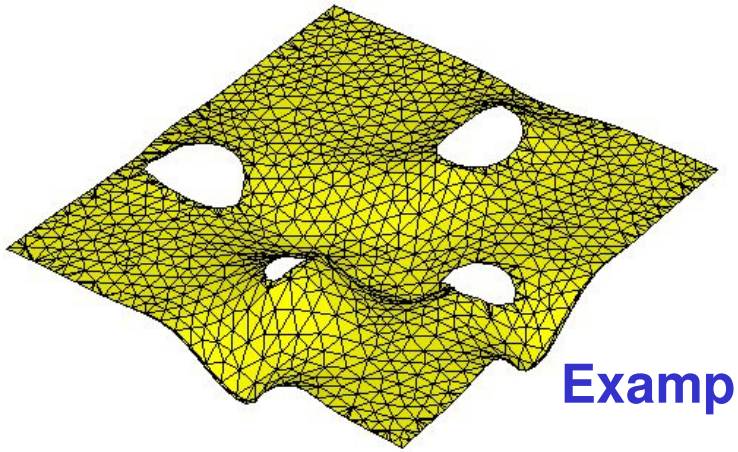
- **Direct 3D Meshing – Examples**



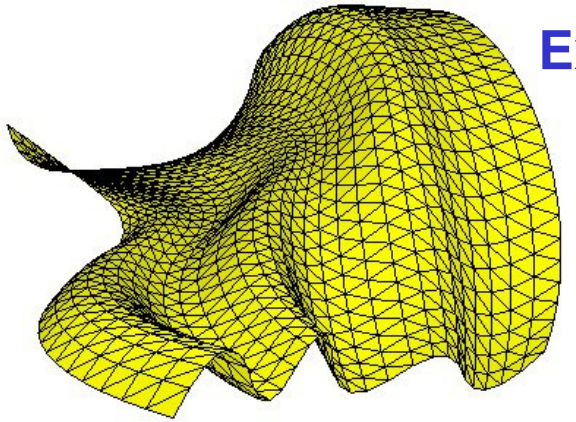
Example 1



Example 2



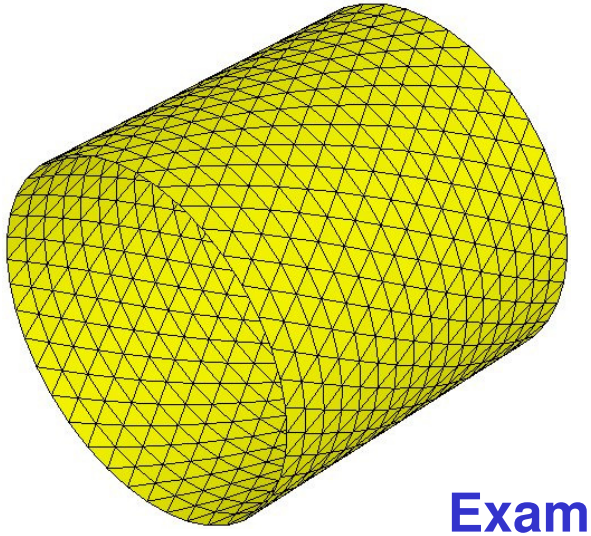
Example 3



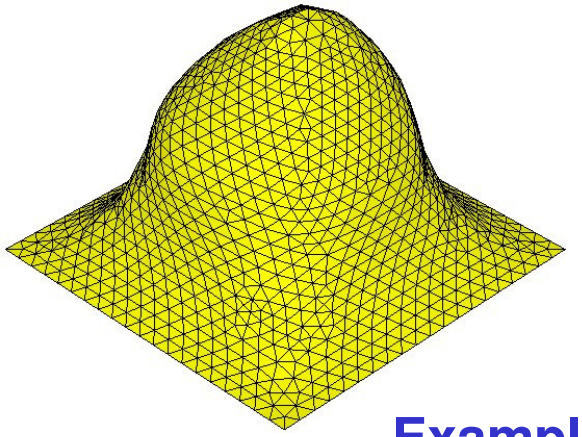
Example 4

Unstructured mesh – Surface Meshing

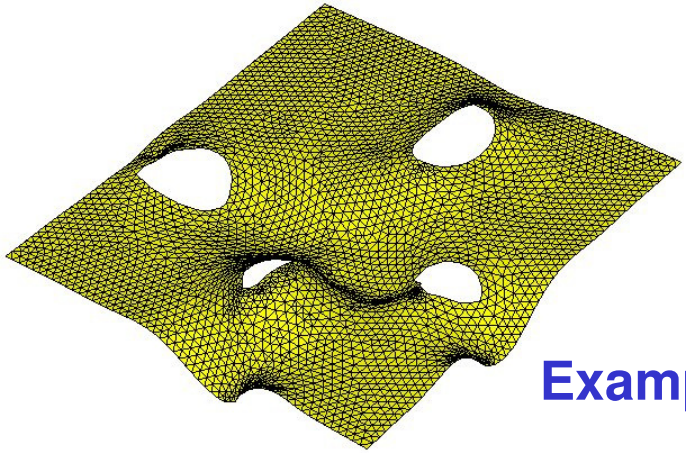
- **Direct 3D Meshing – Examples**



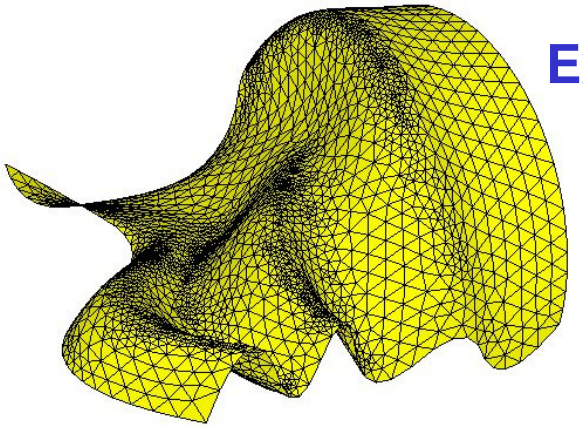
Example 1



Example 2

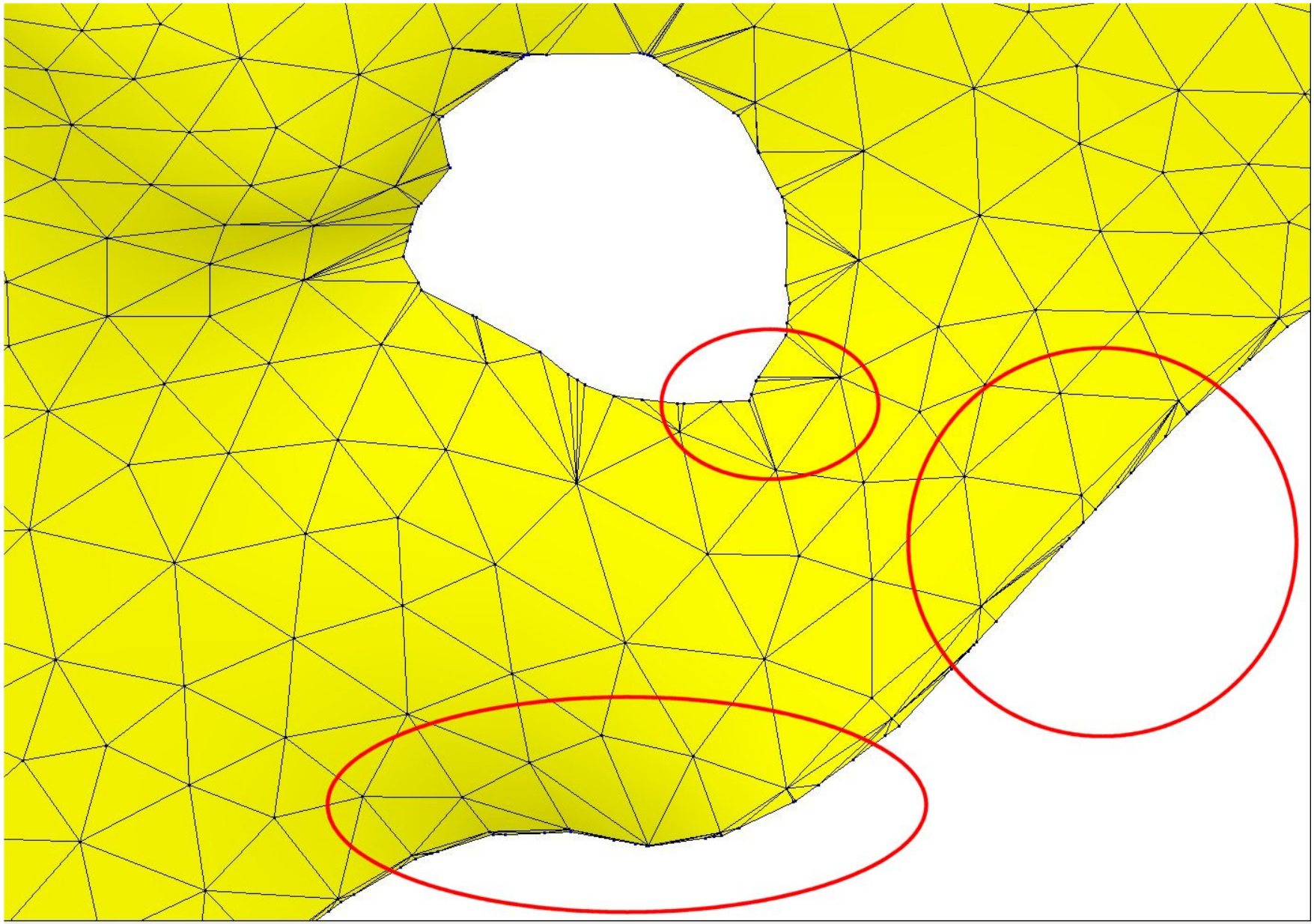


Example 3

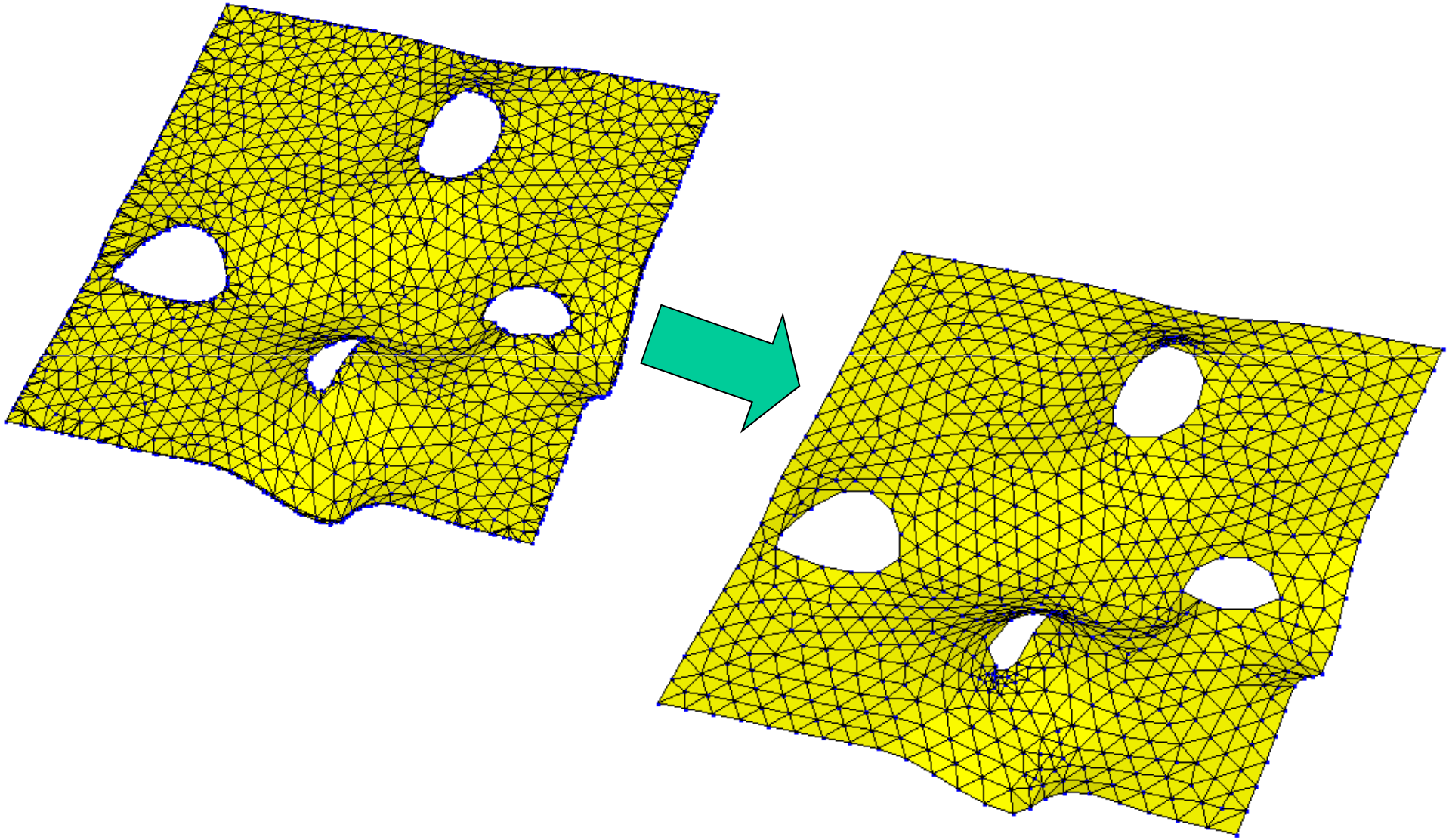


Example 4

Imported triangulation with poorly-shaped elements

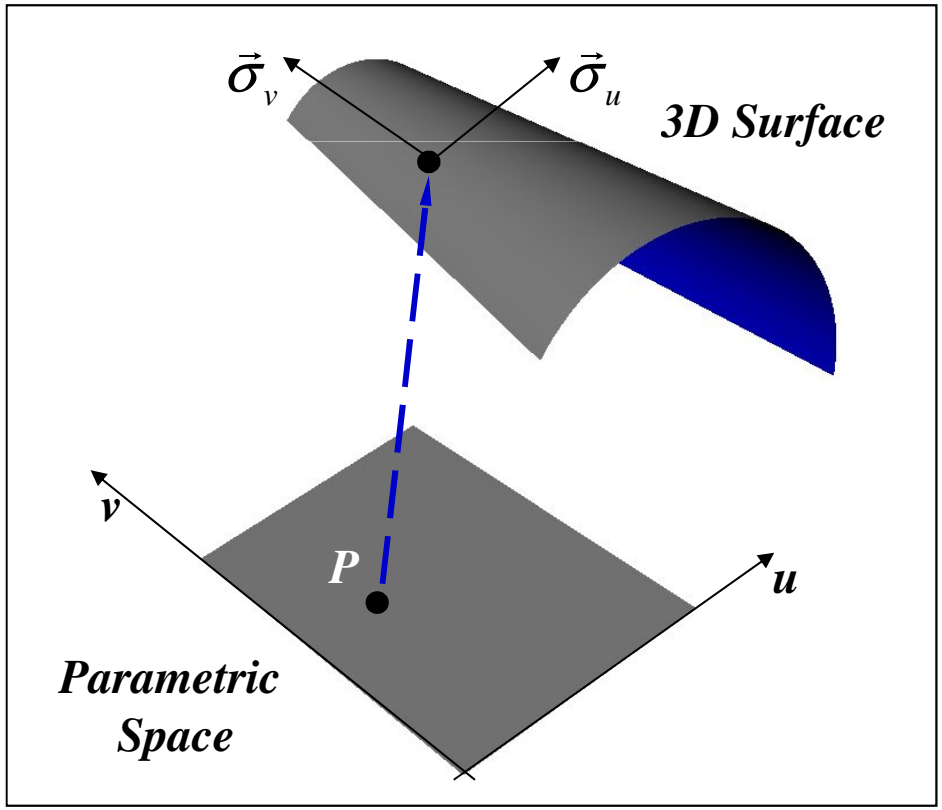


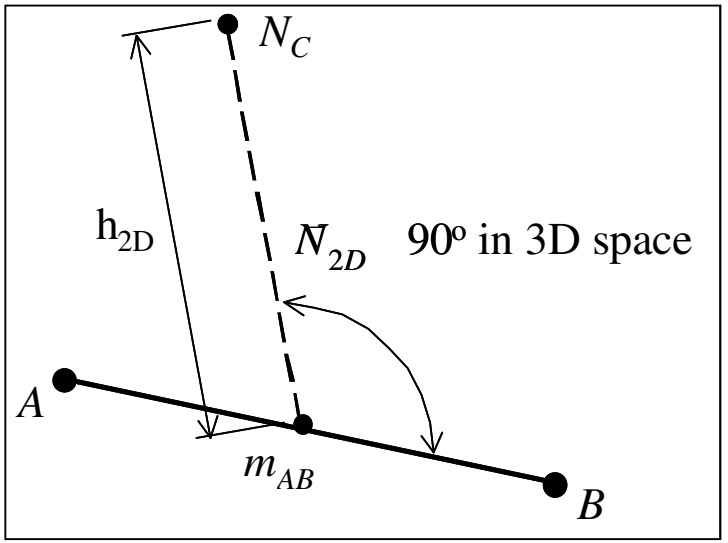
Example of surface re-triangulation



Unstructured mesh – Surface Meshing

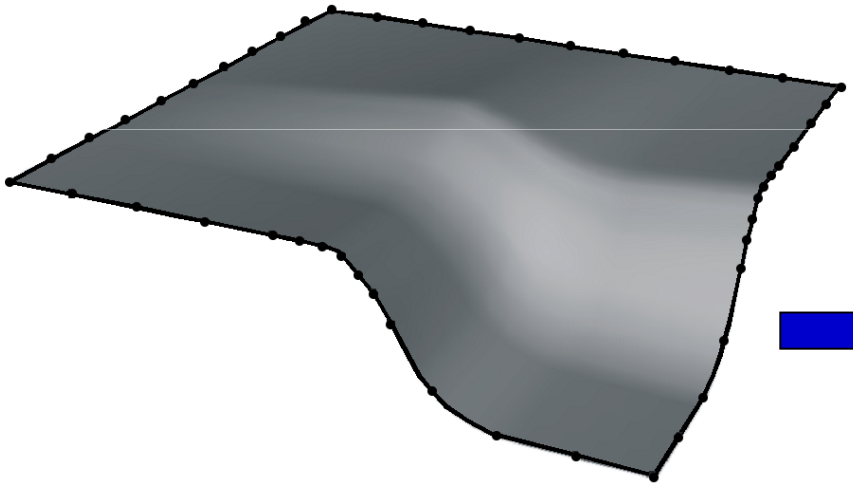
- **Parametric Space Meshing**
  - **Elements formed in 2D using parametric representation of surface**
  - **Distance and angles are distorted in parametric space**
  - **Nodes locations later mapped to 3D space**



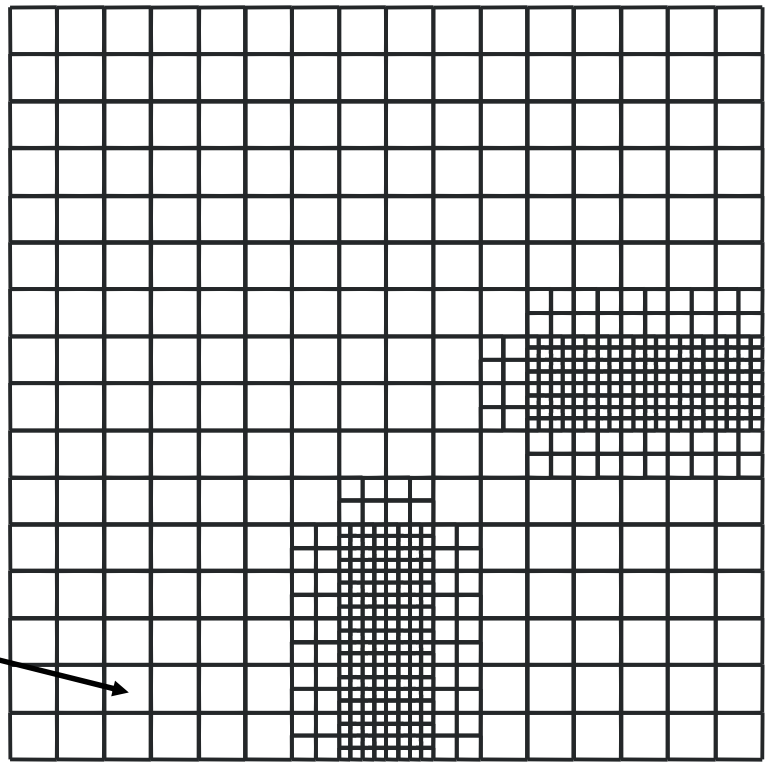


Unstructured mesh – Surface Meshing

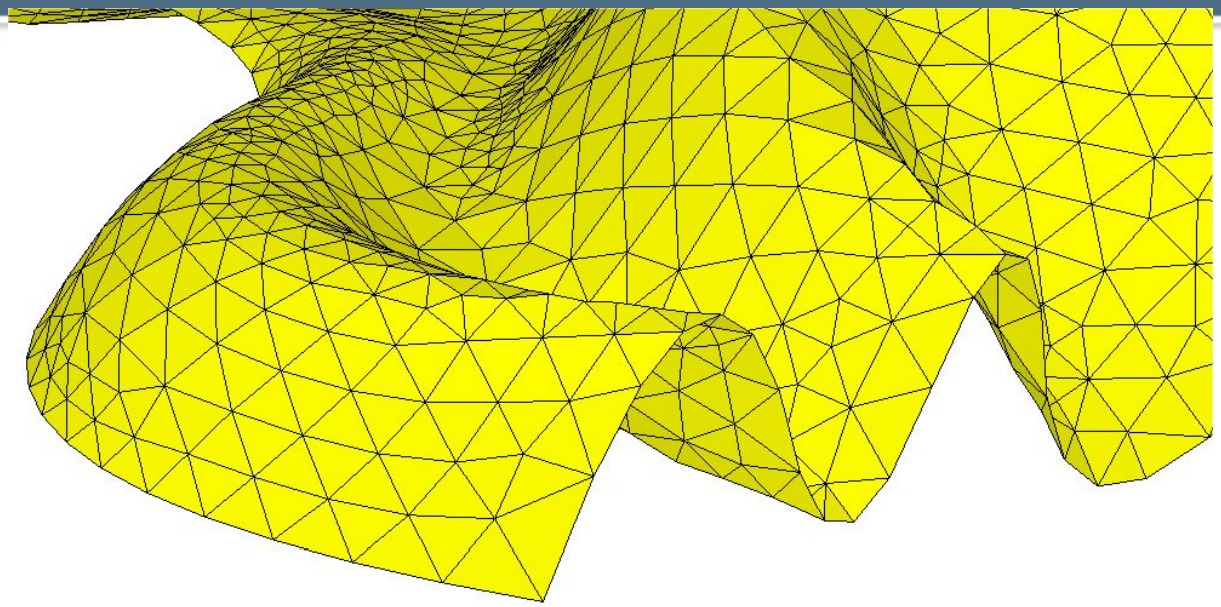
- **Parametric Space Meshing**
  - Given an analytical surface description and boundary segments
  - **Background quadtree**



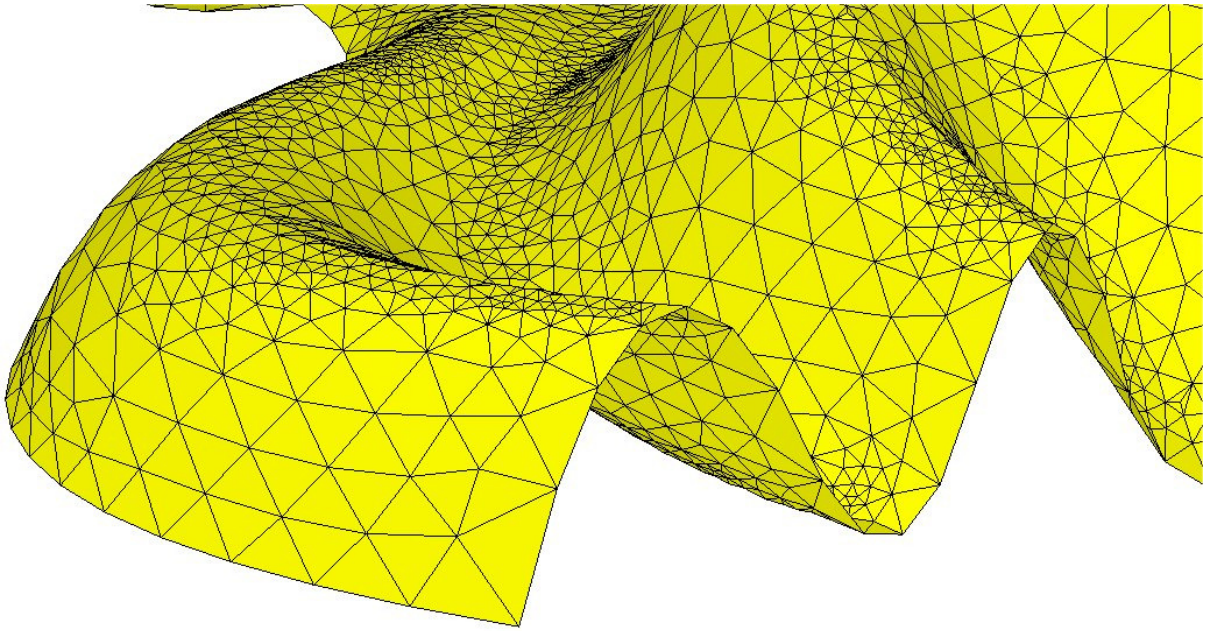
Metric Information



Importance of considering the curvature

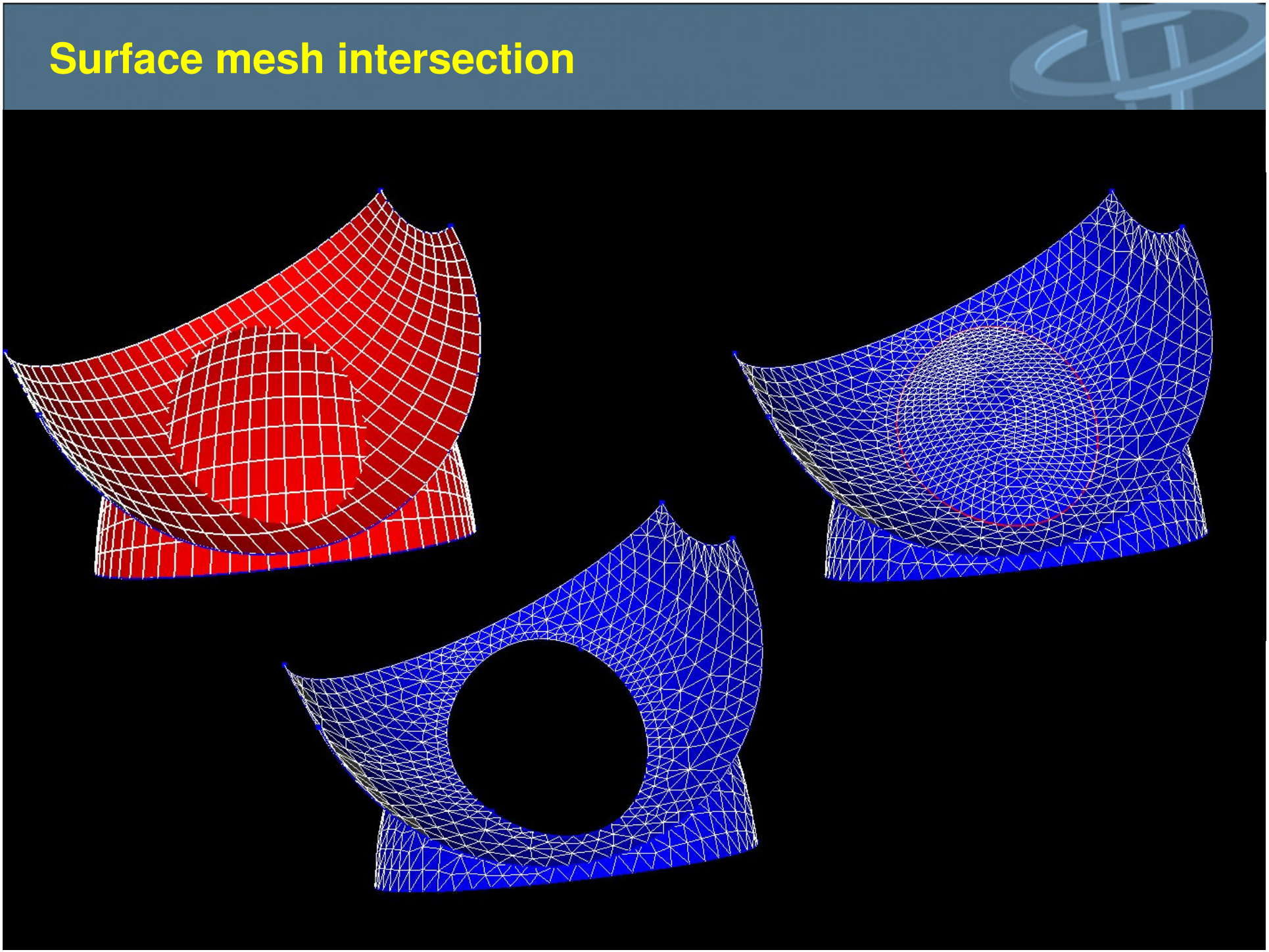


No consideration of curvature

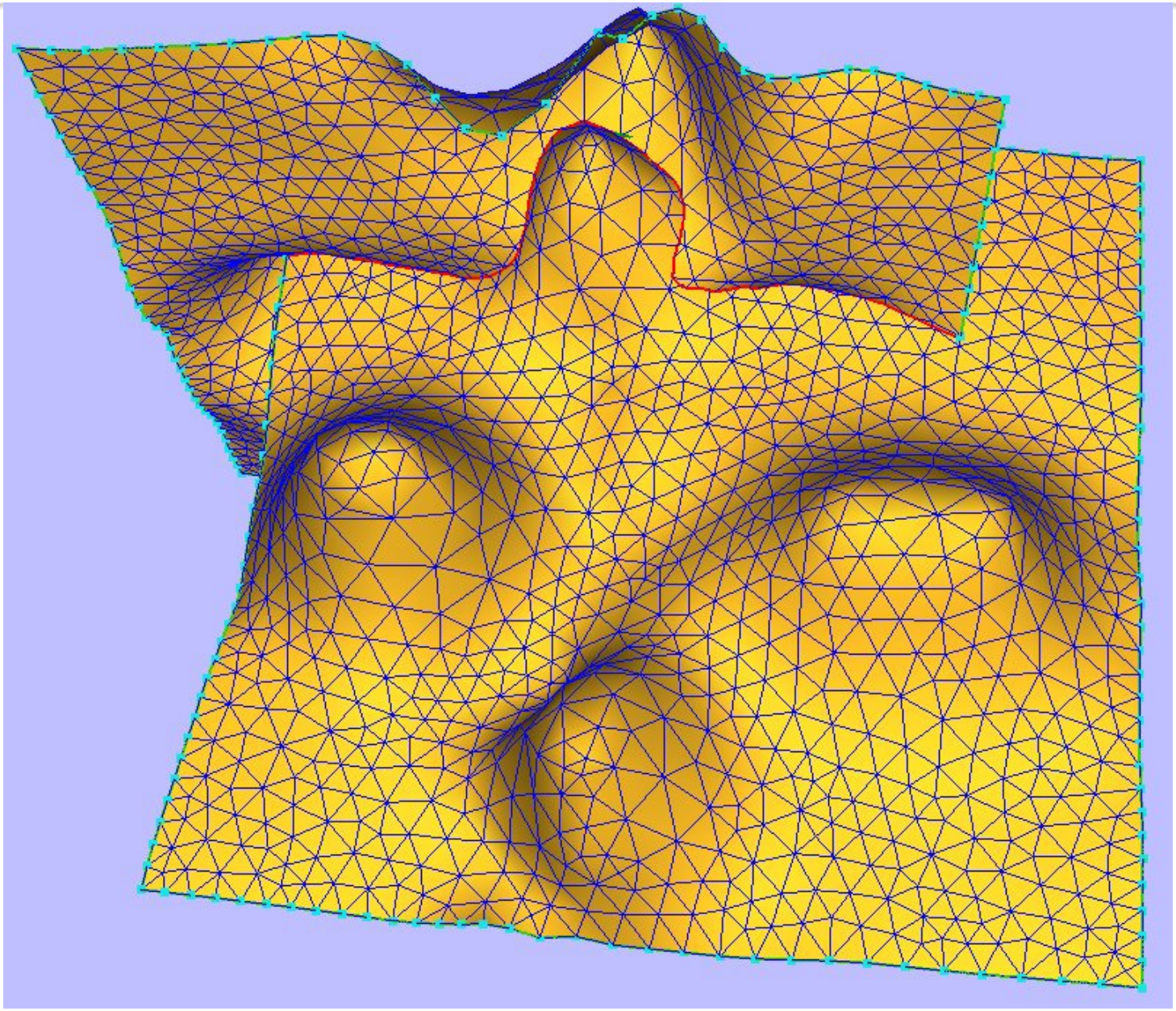


Consideration of curvature

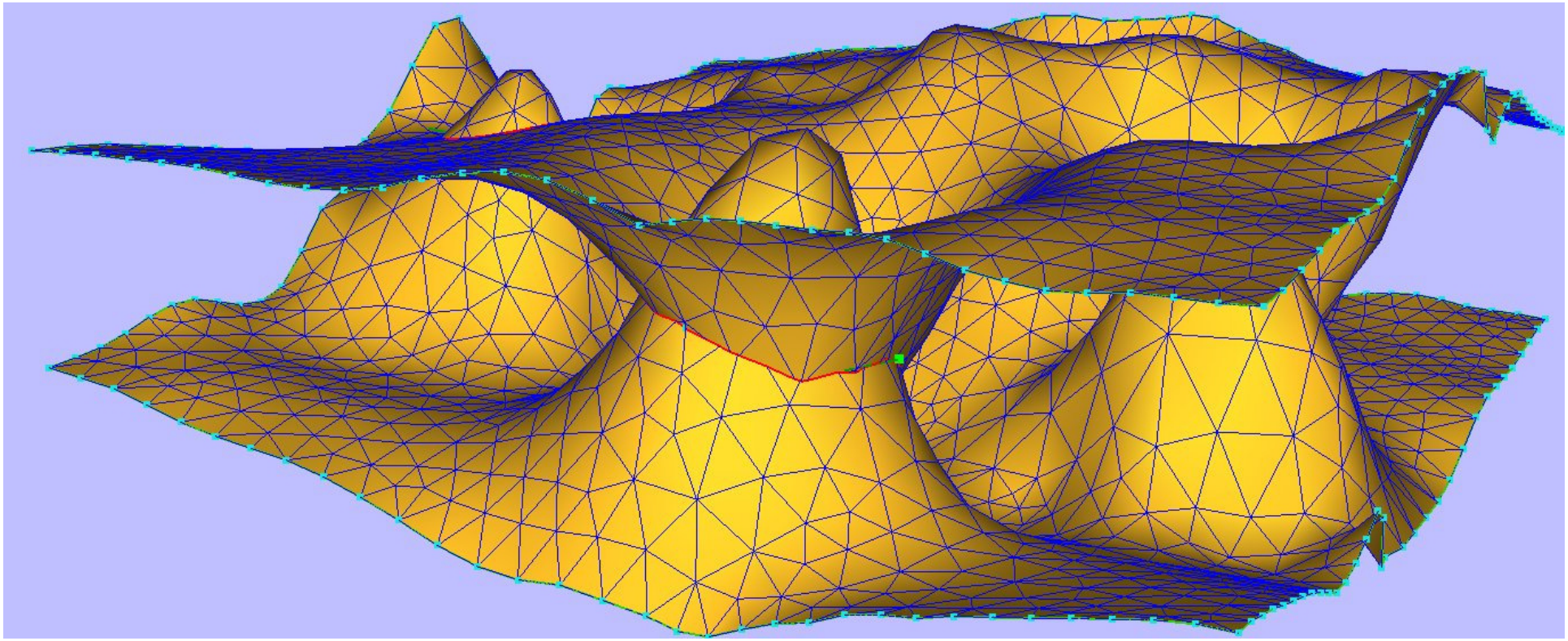
Surface mesh intersection



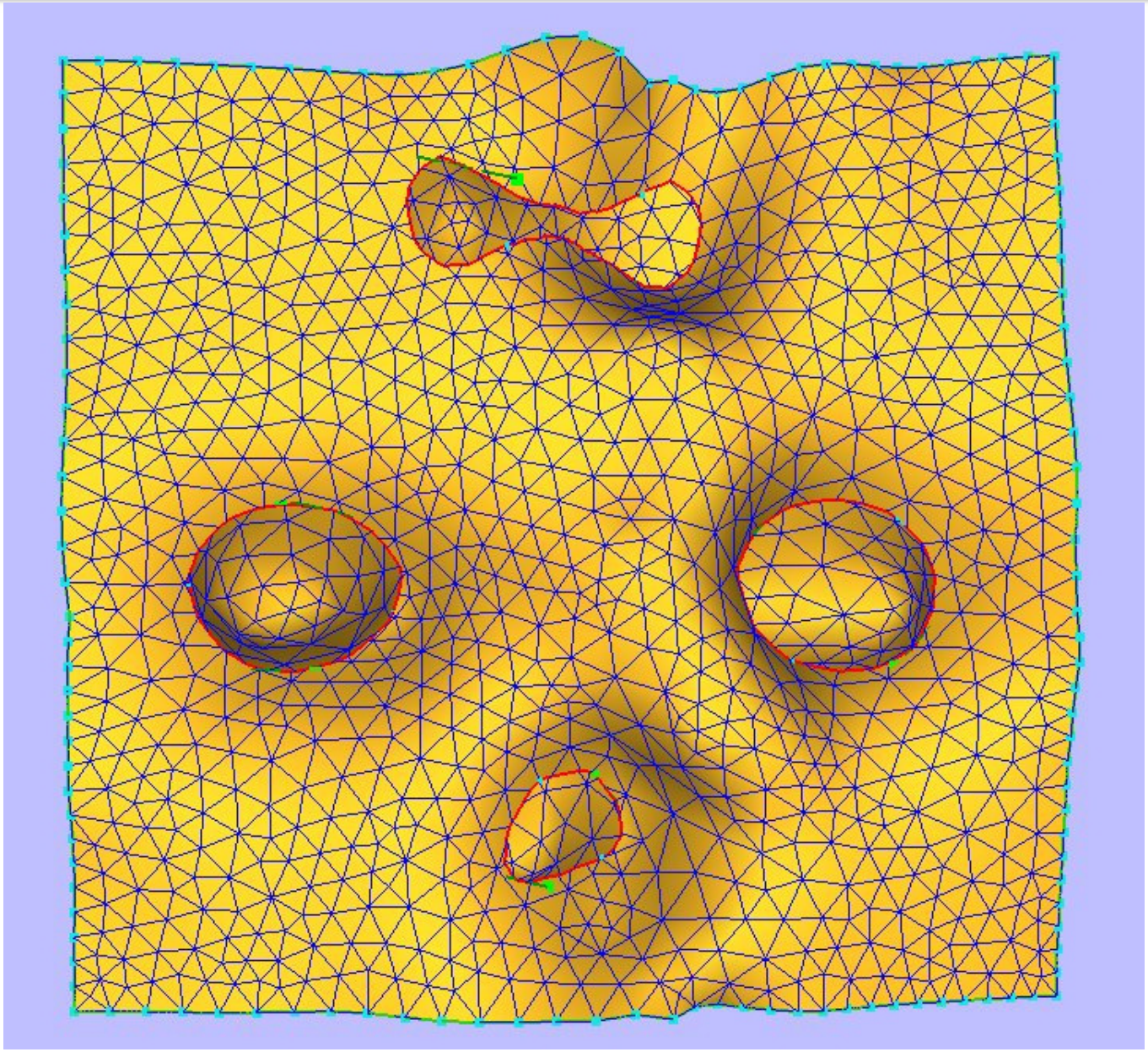
Surface intersection with exact arithmetic



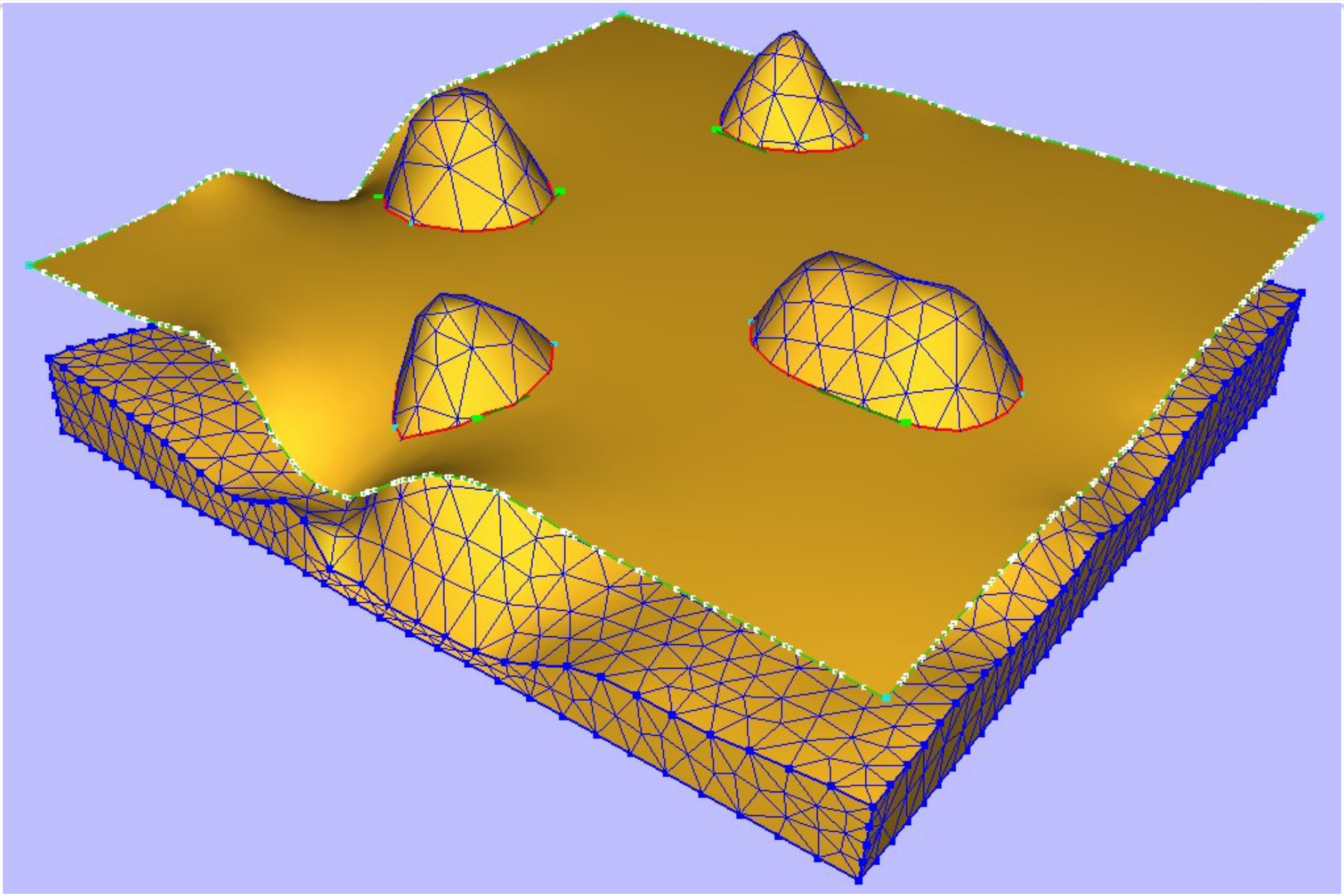
Surface intersection with exact arithmetic



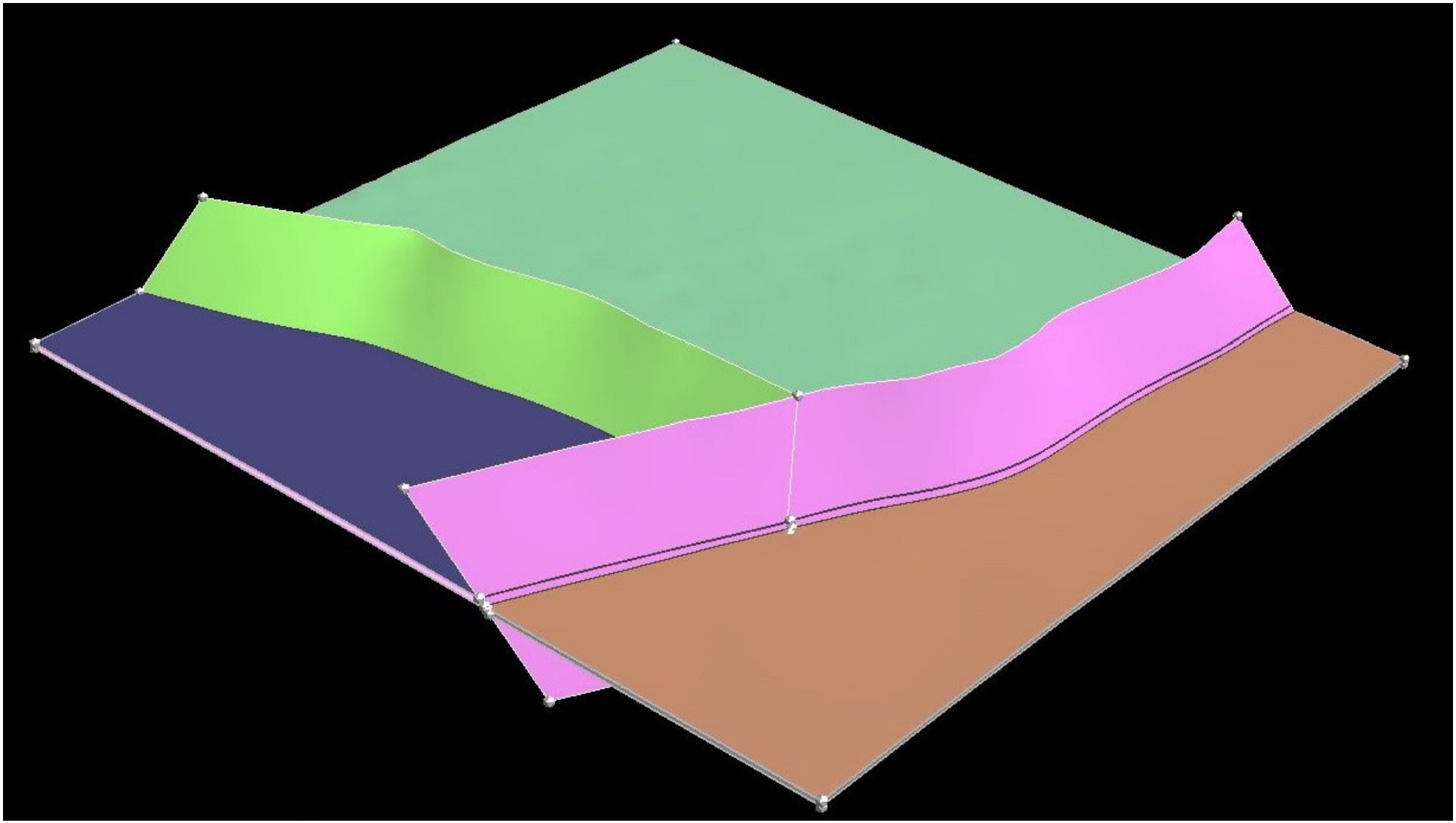
Surface intersection with exact arithmetic



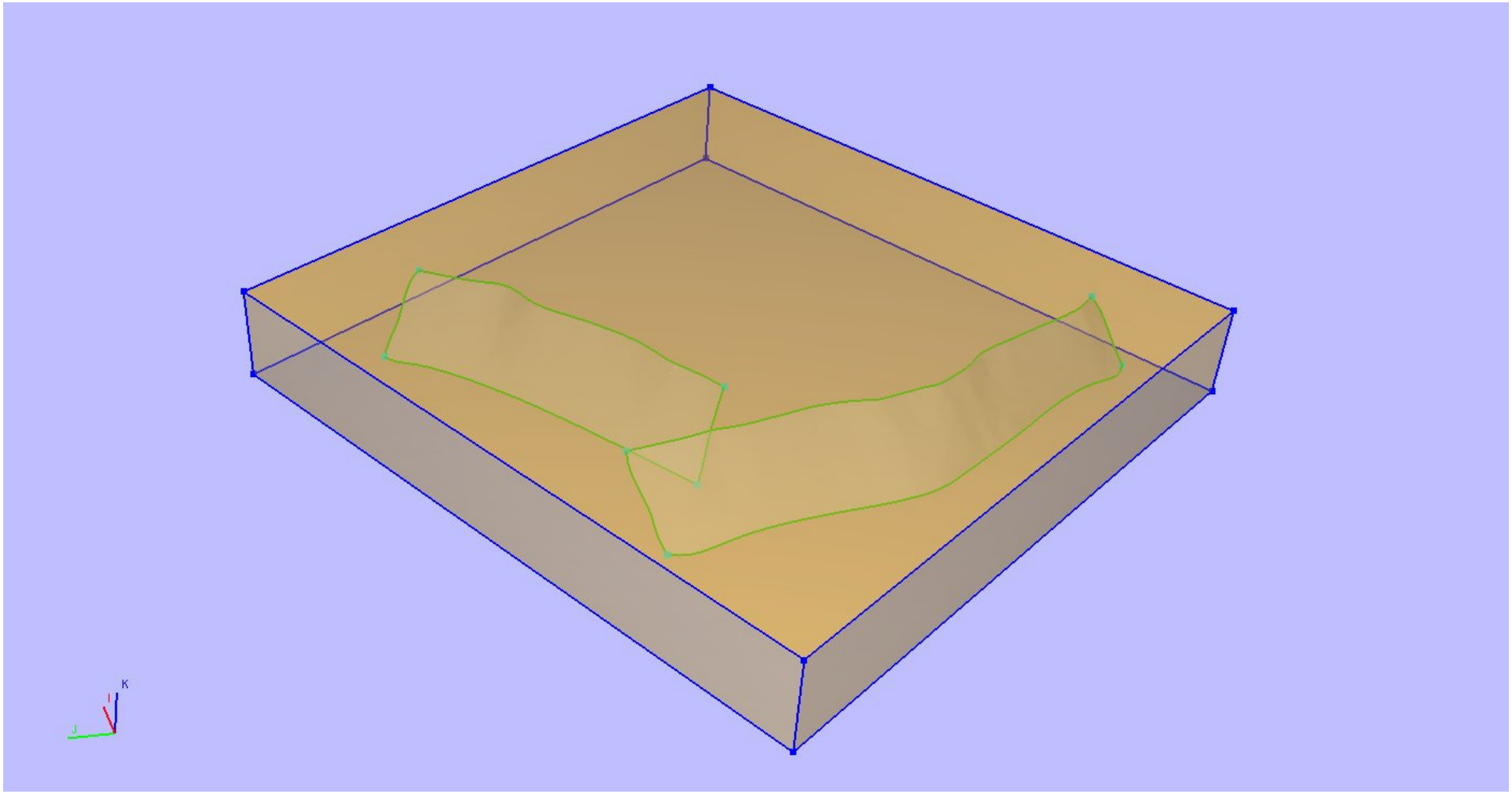
Surface intersection with exact arithmetic



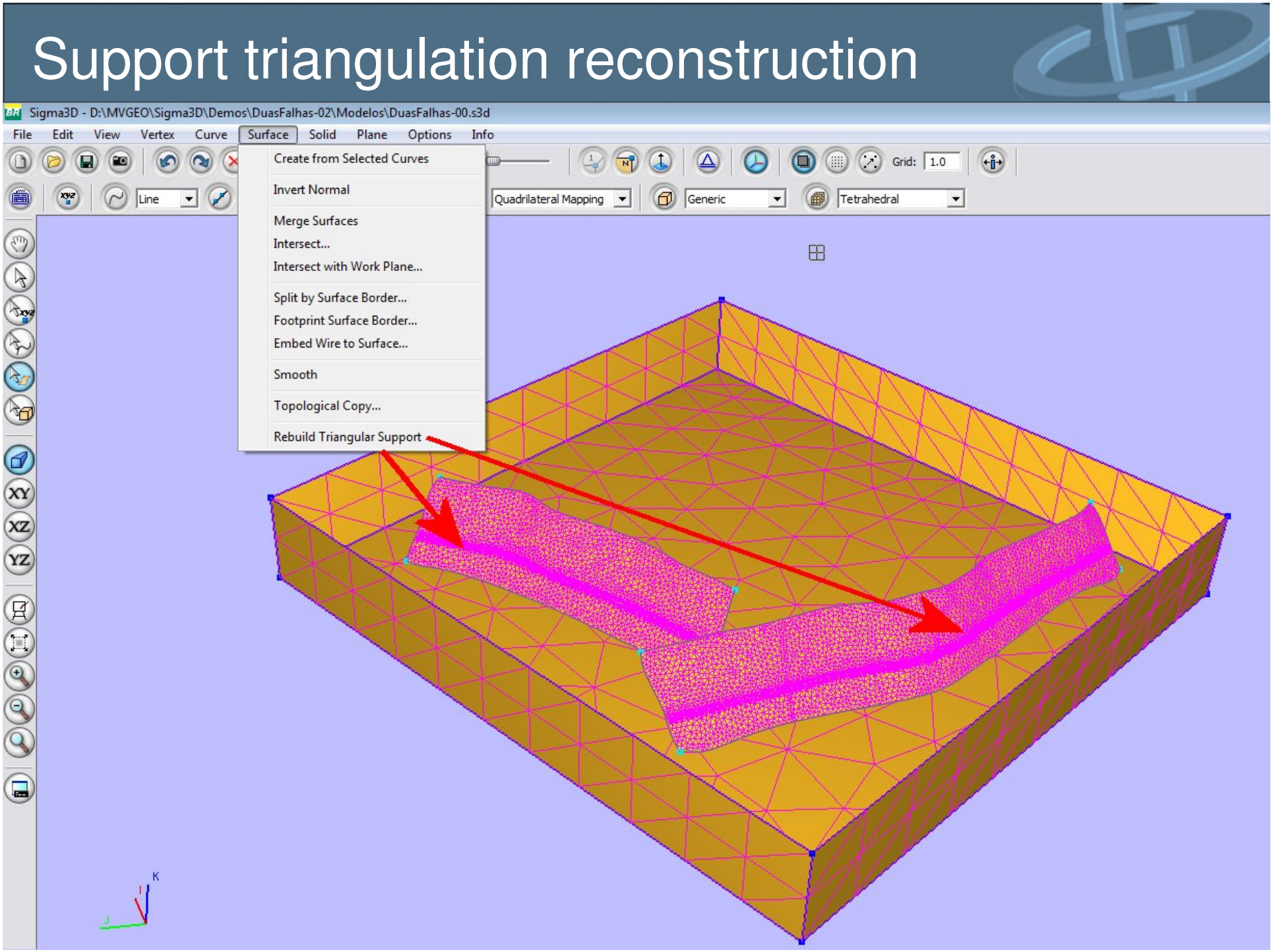
Case study: two-fault subsurface model



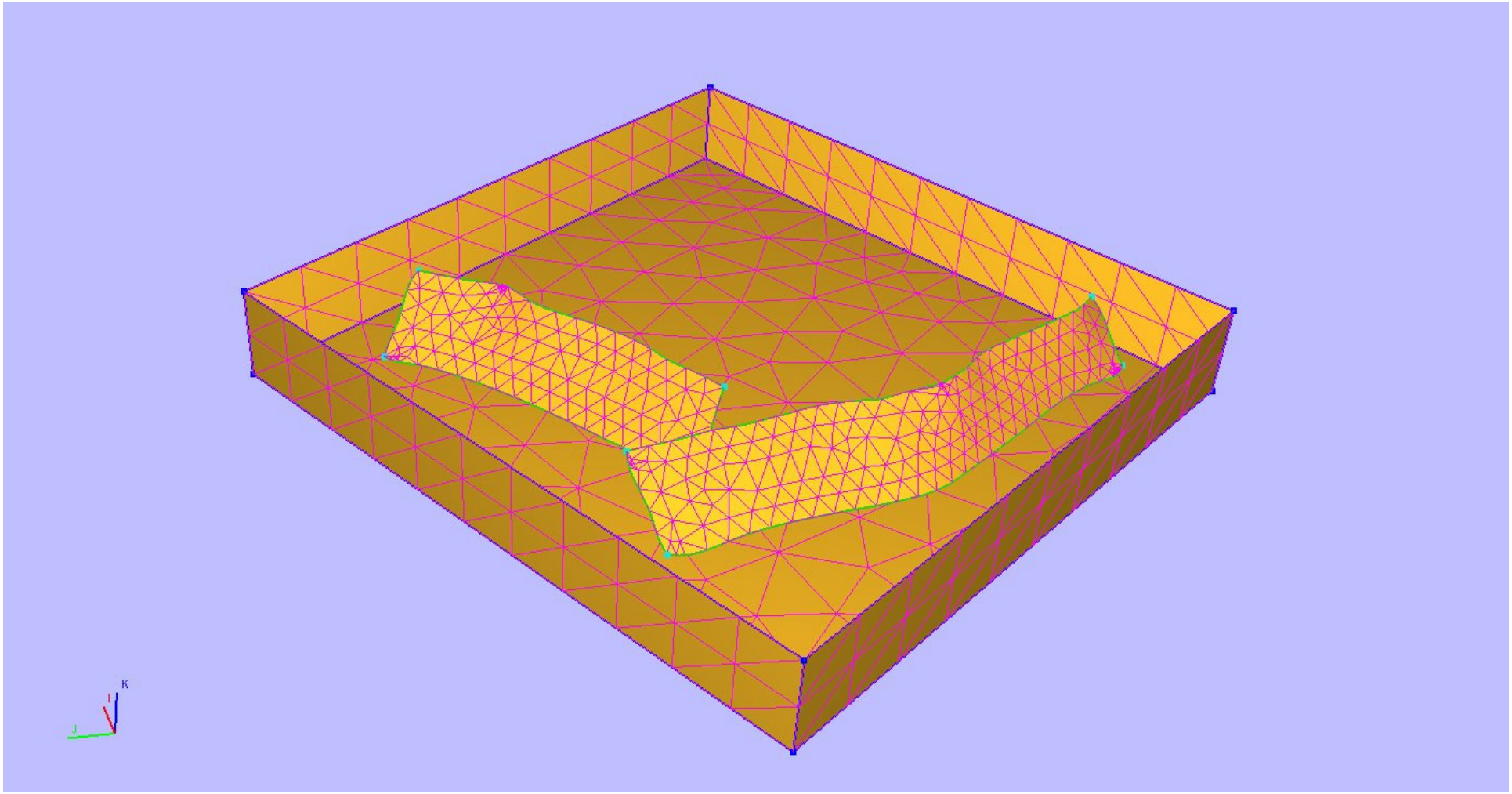
Original geological faults and limiting box



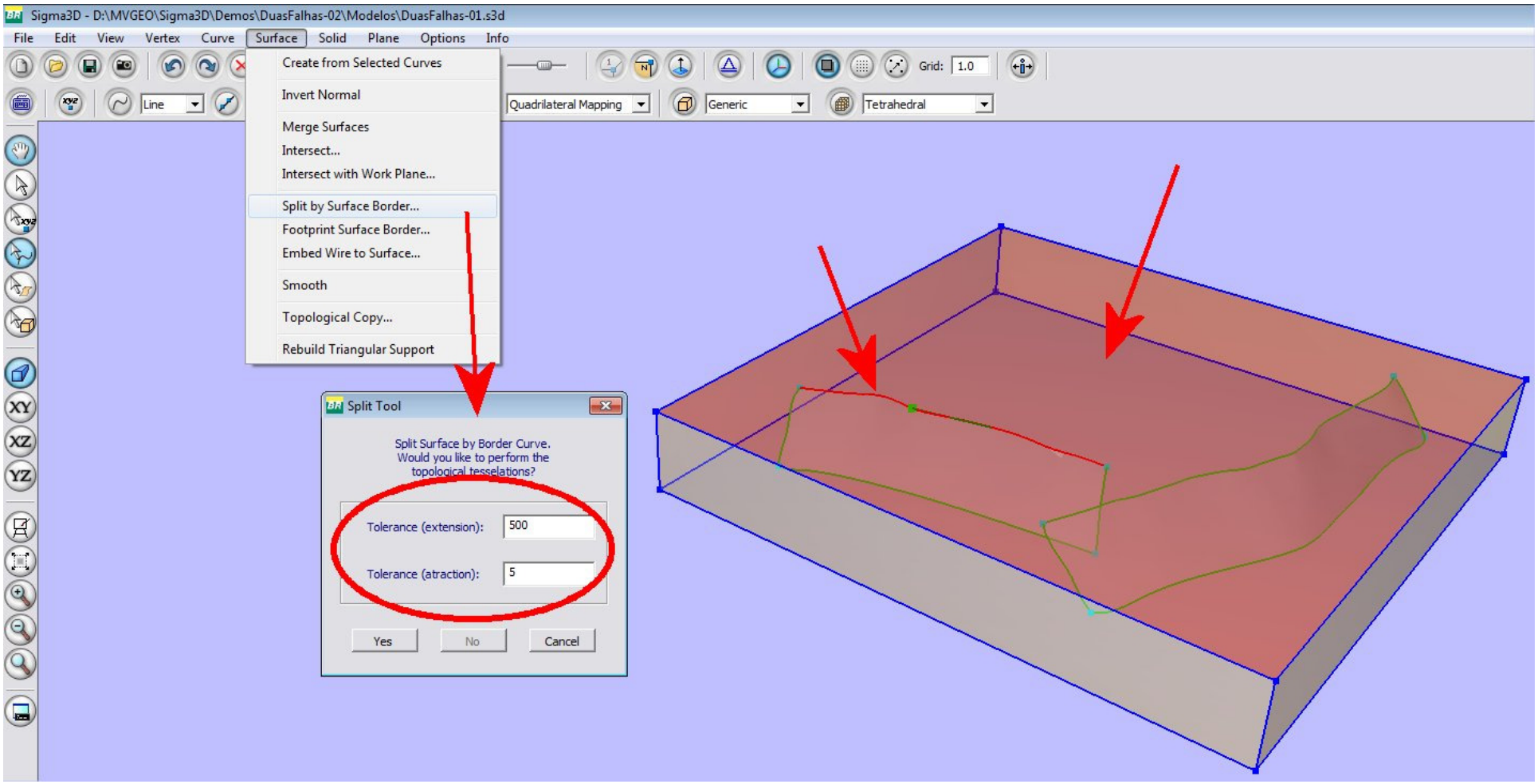
Support triangulation reconstruction



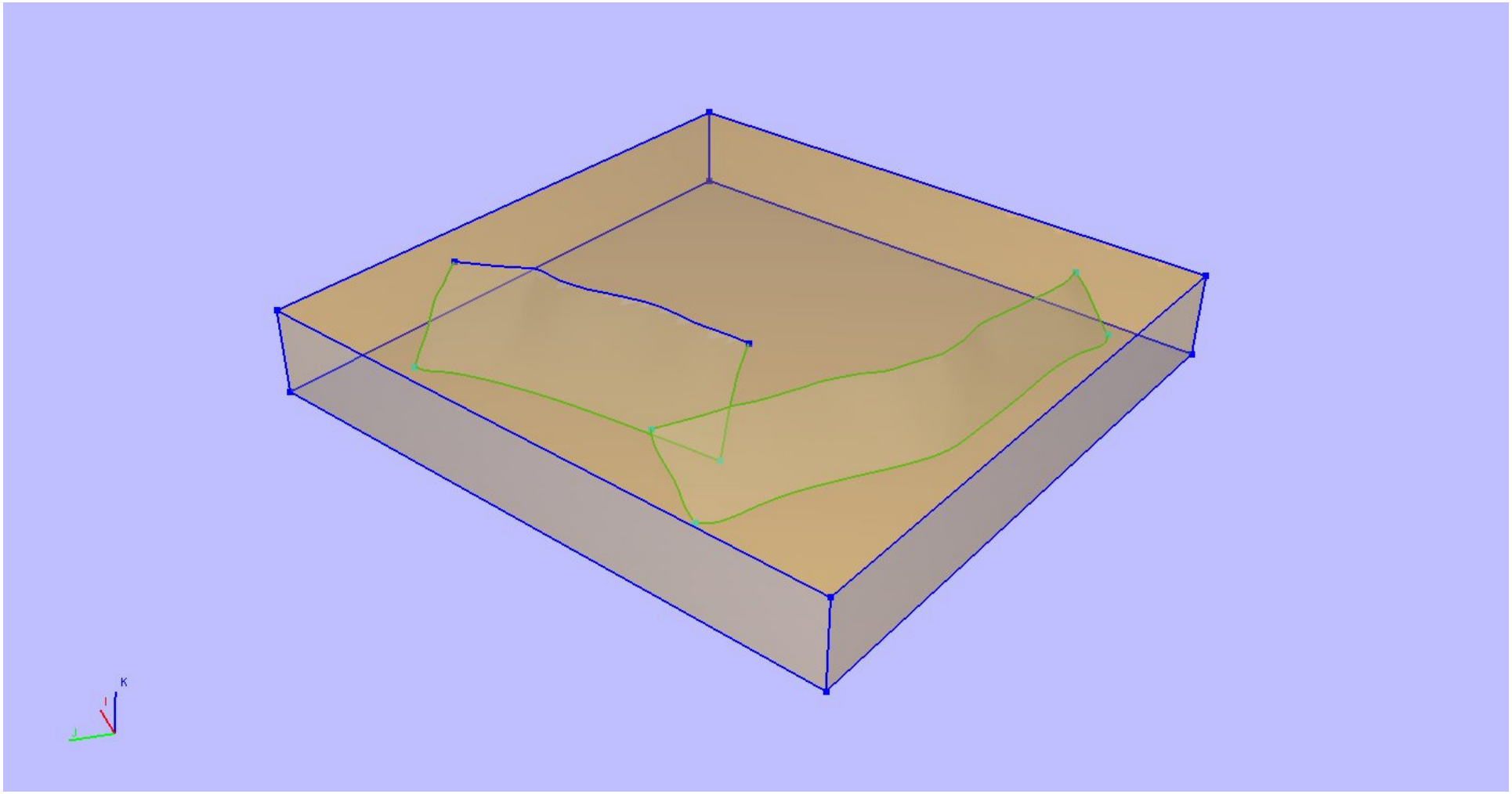
Support triangulation reconstruction



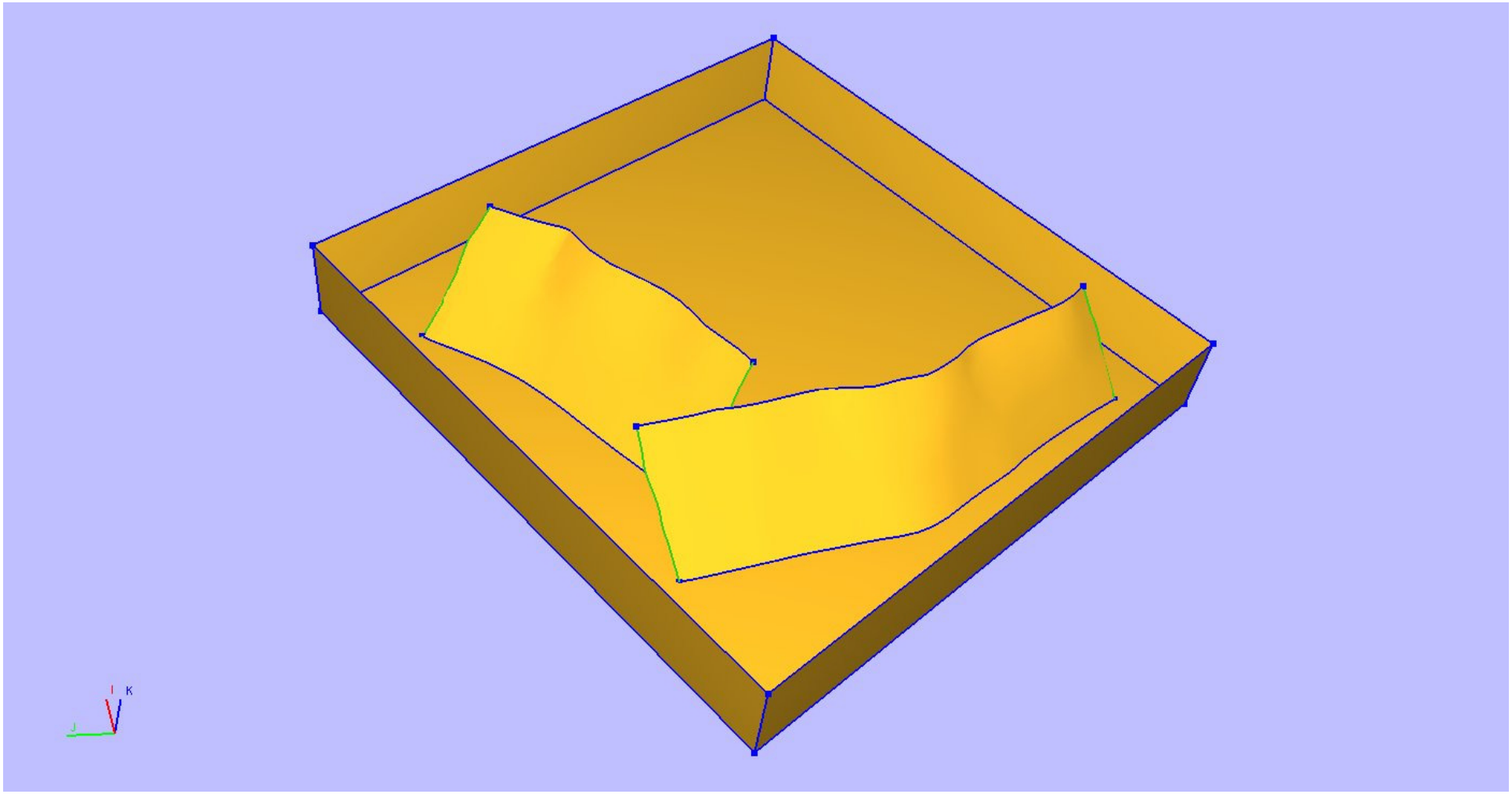
Split surface by surface border



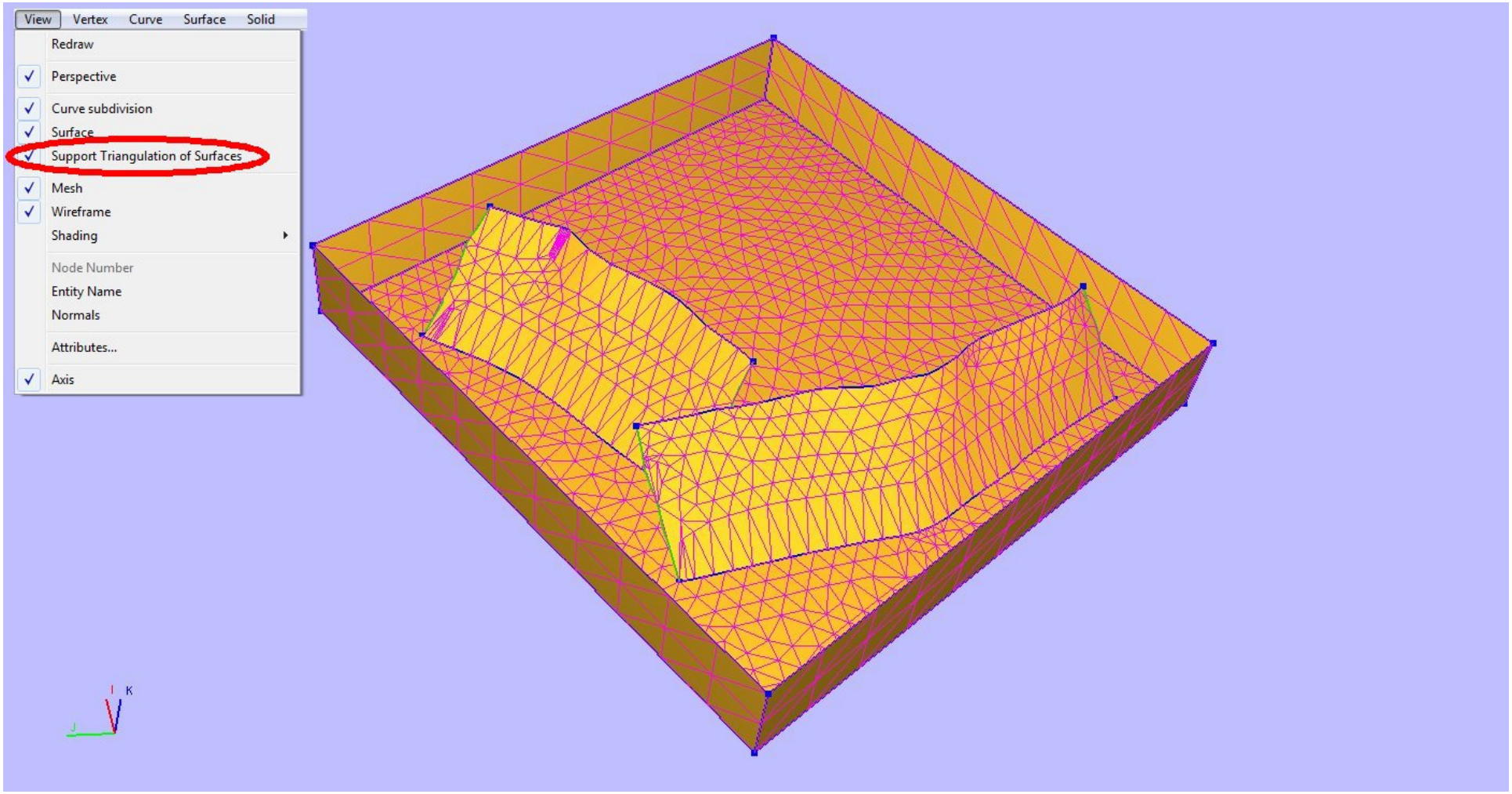
Surface split by extended surface border



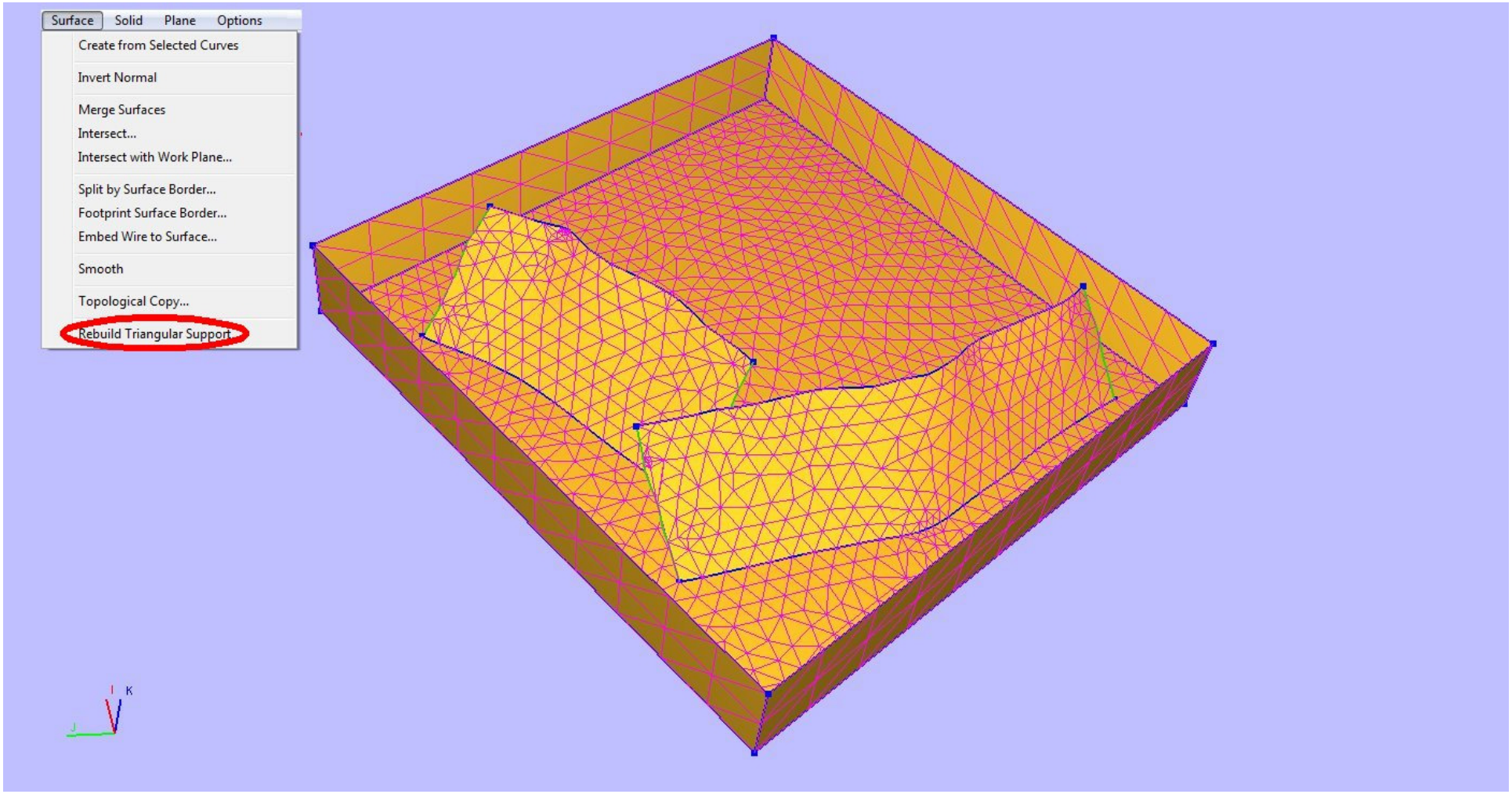
Split by surface border: fault extensions



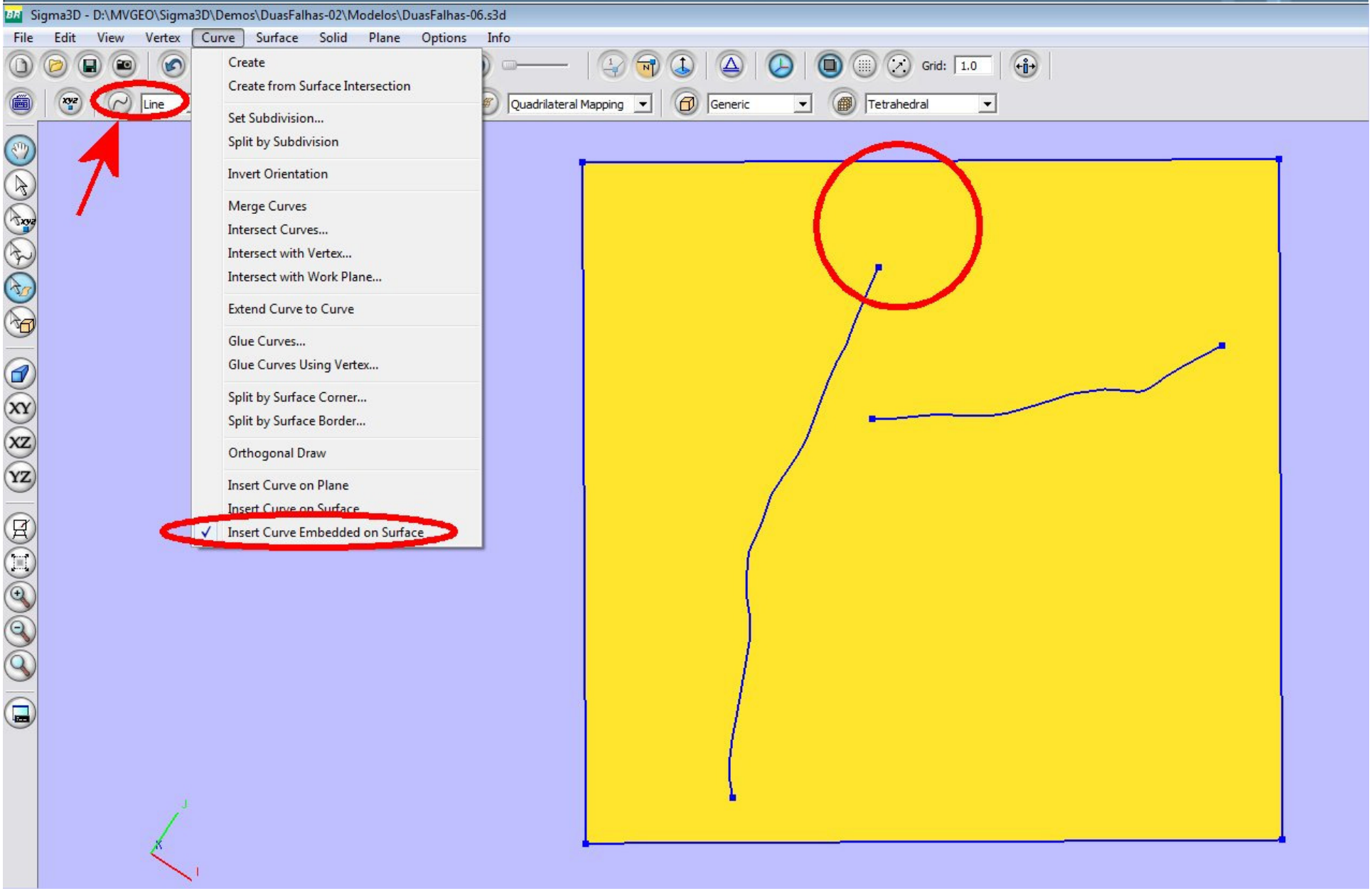
Extended faults: support triangulations



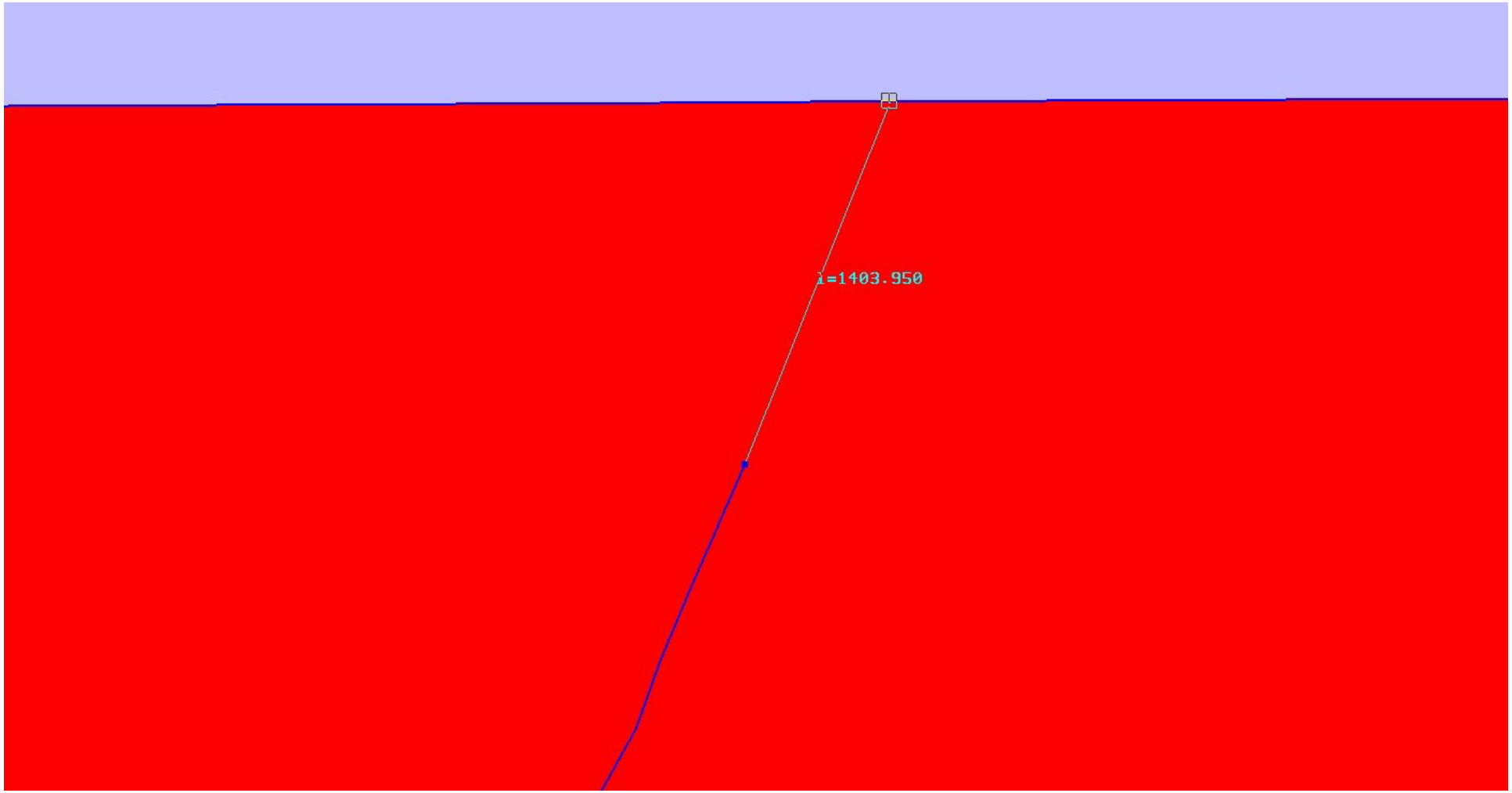
Support triangulation reconstruction



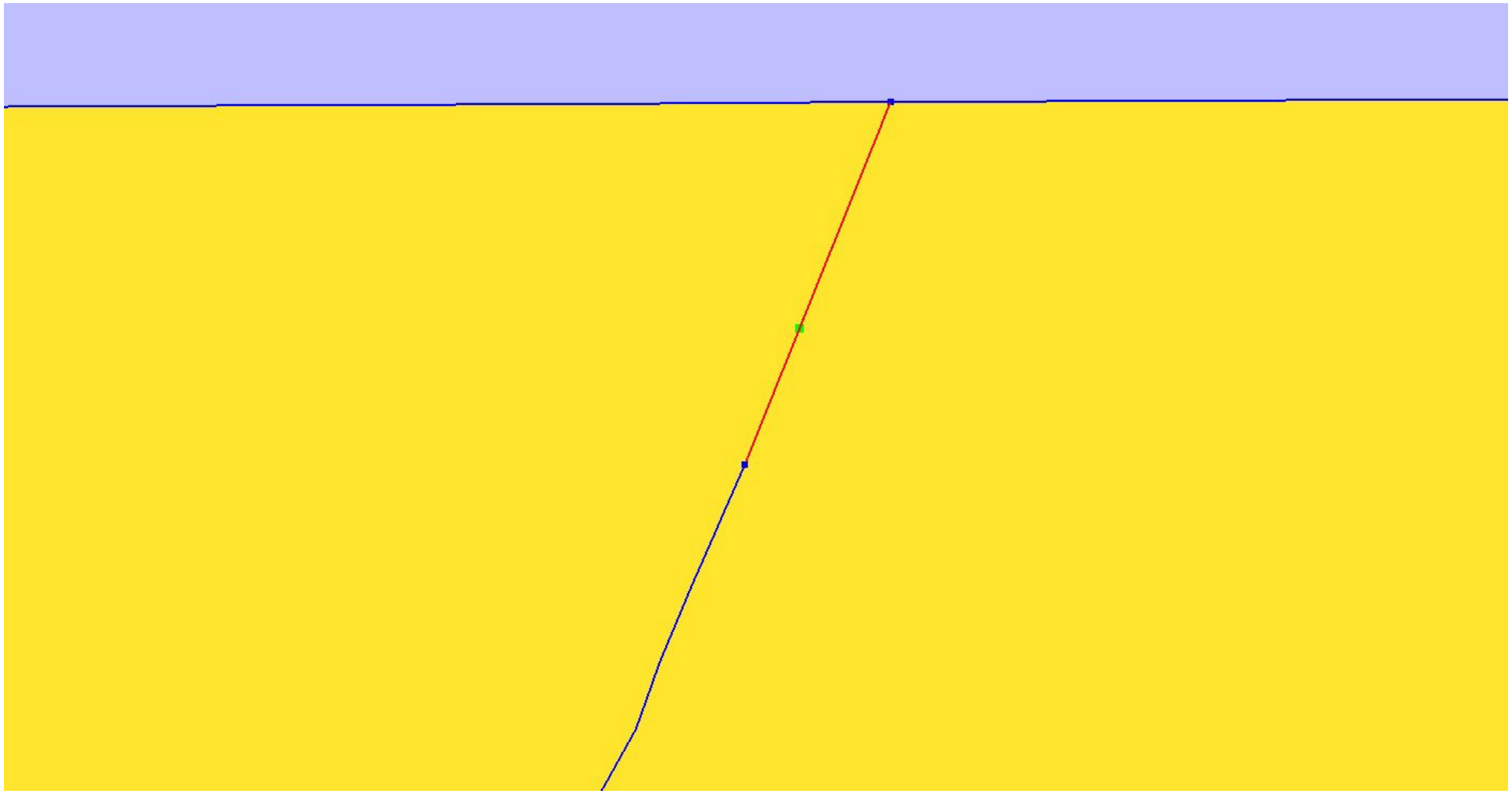
Curve insertion of surfaces



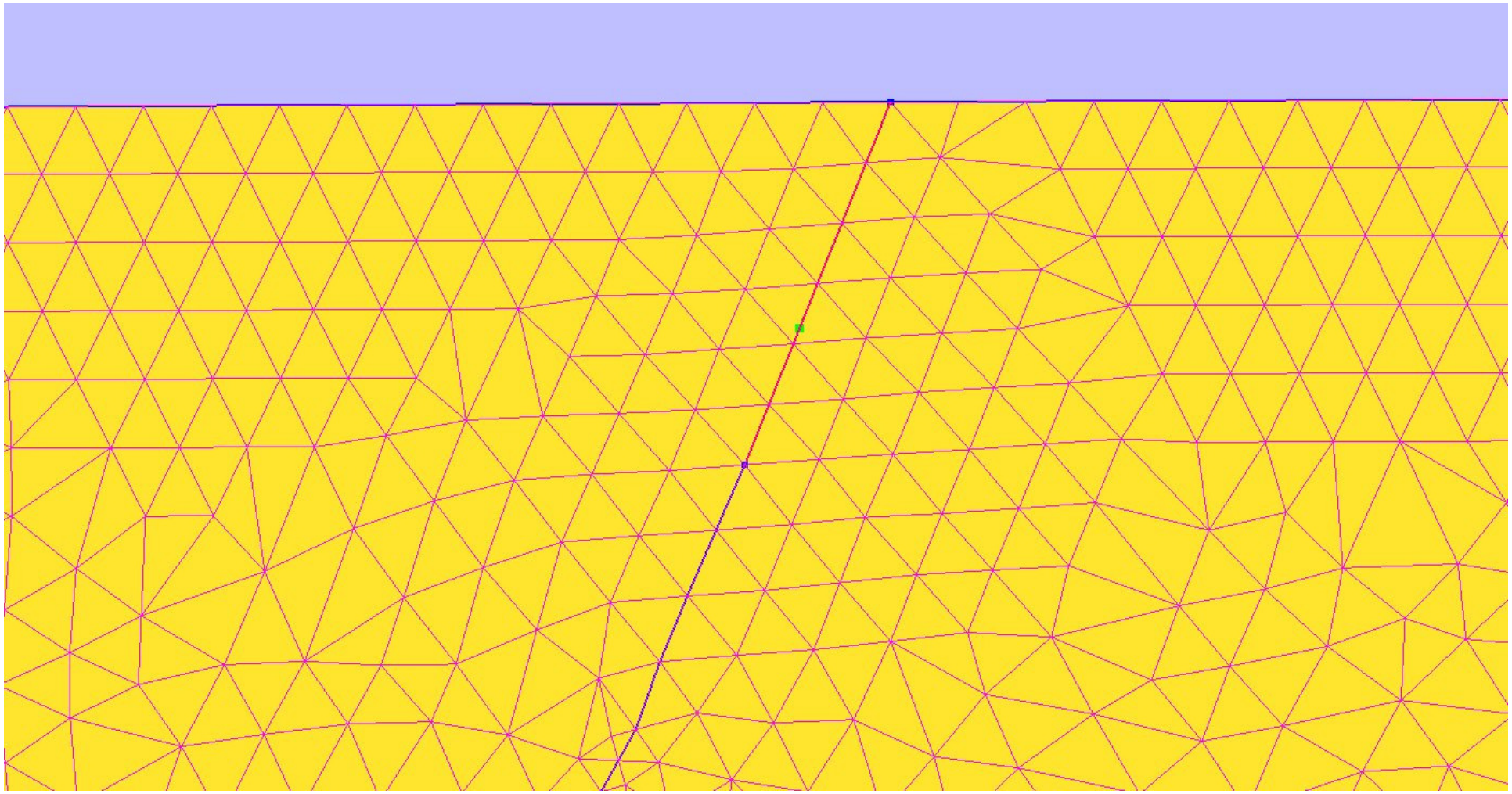
Curve insertion of surfaces



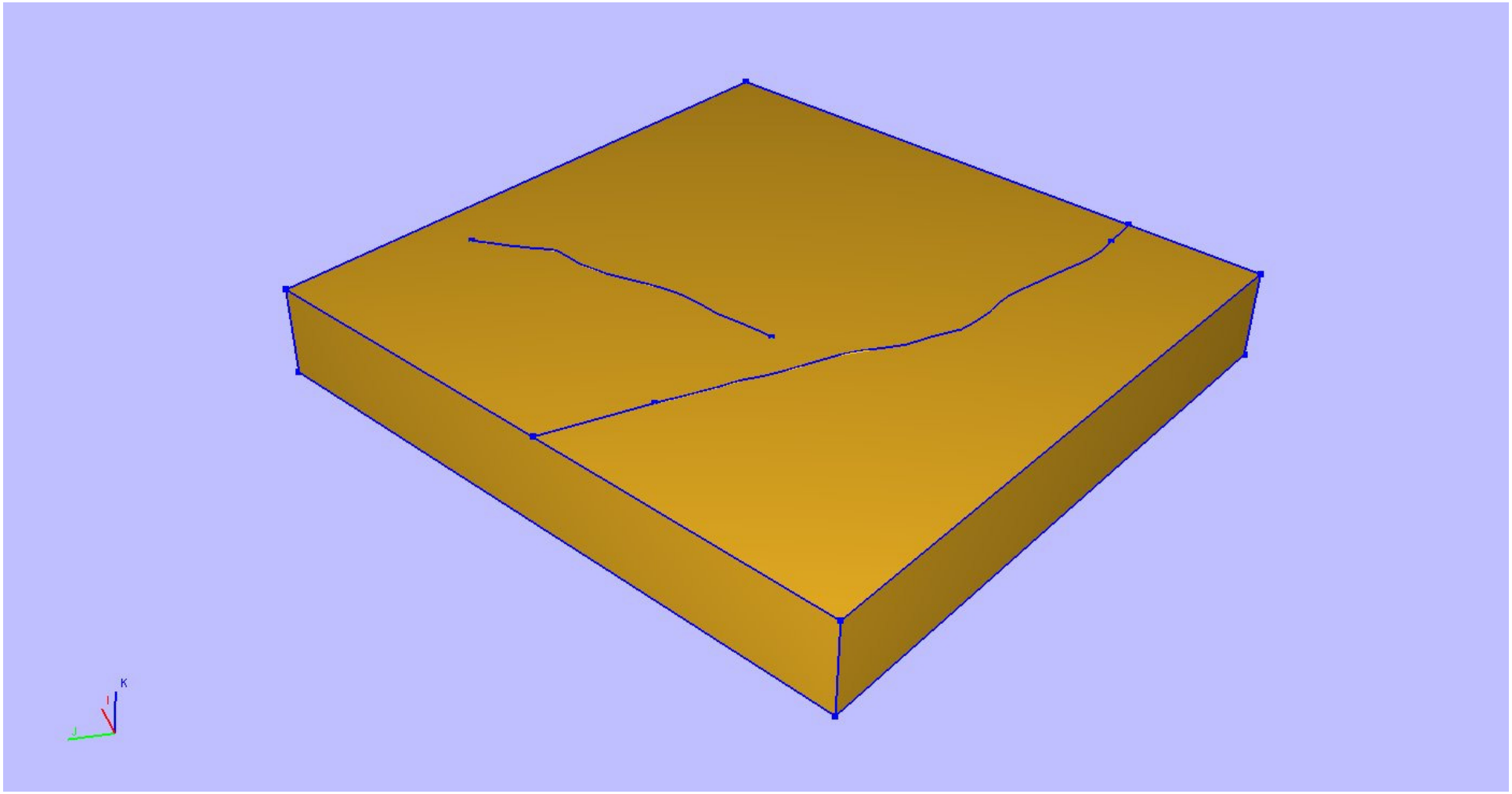
Curve insertion of surfaces



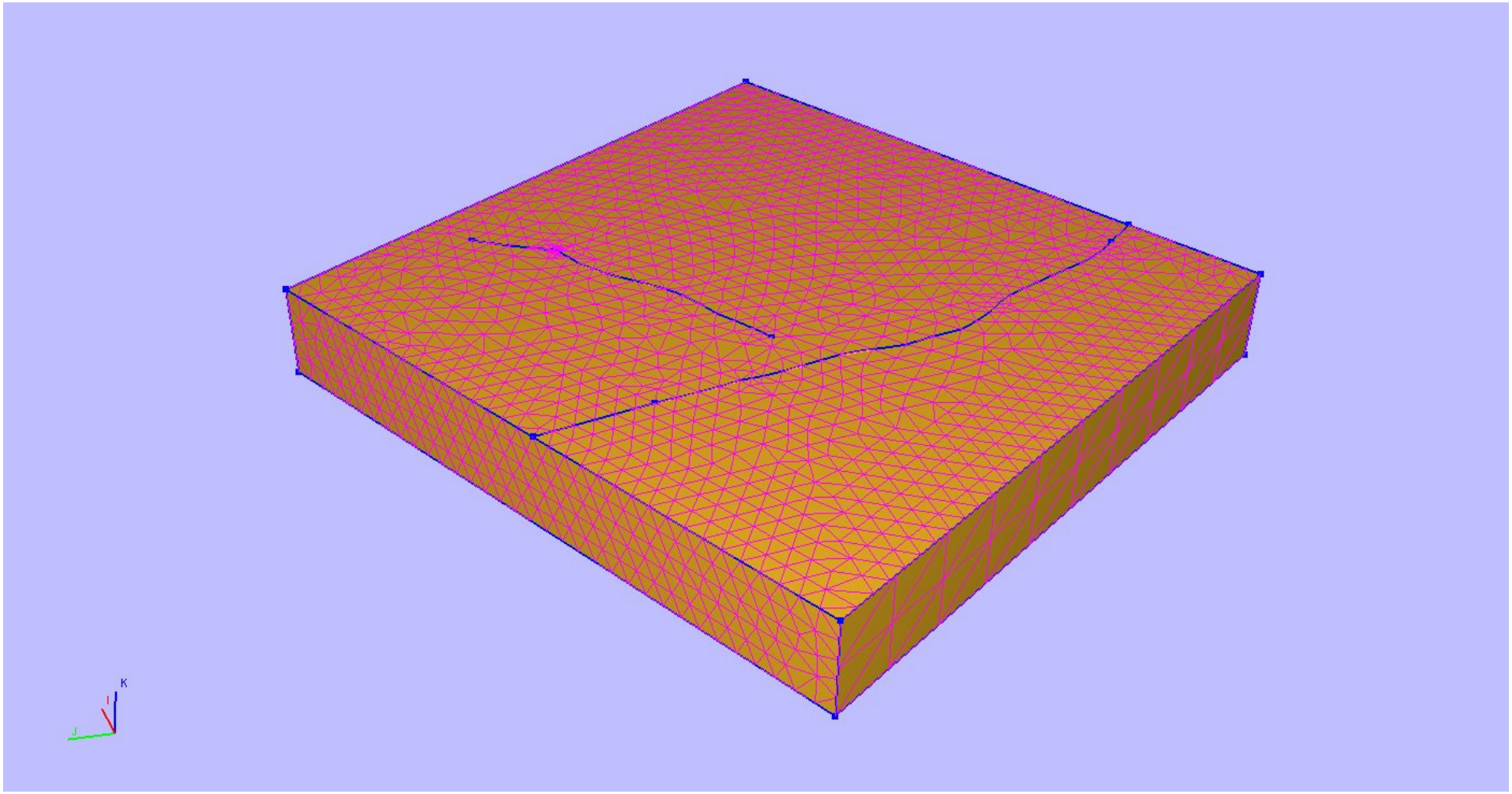
Support triangulation reconstruction



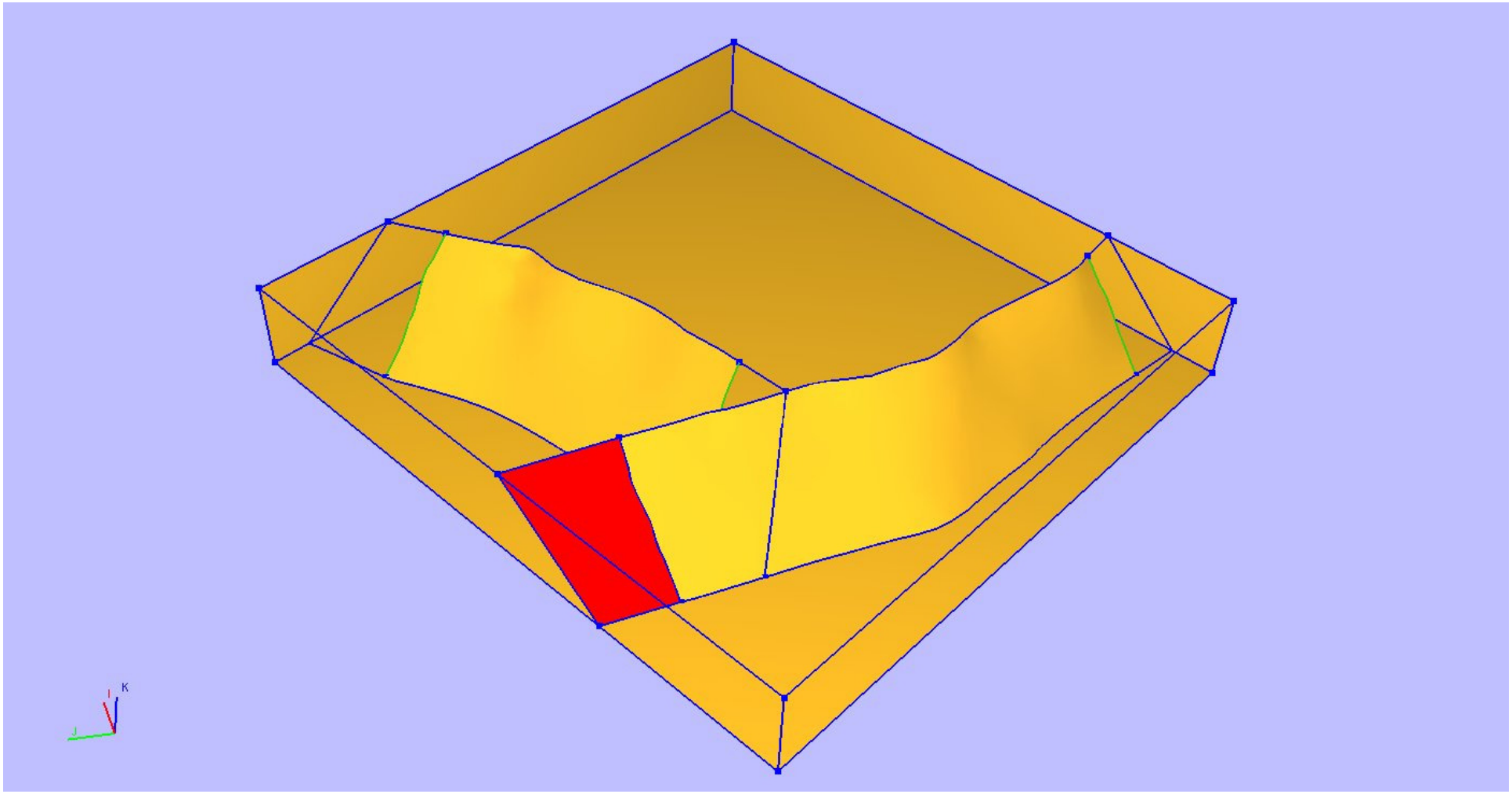
Curve insertion of surfaces



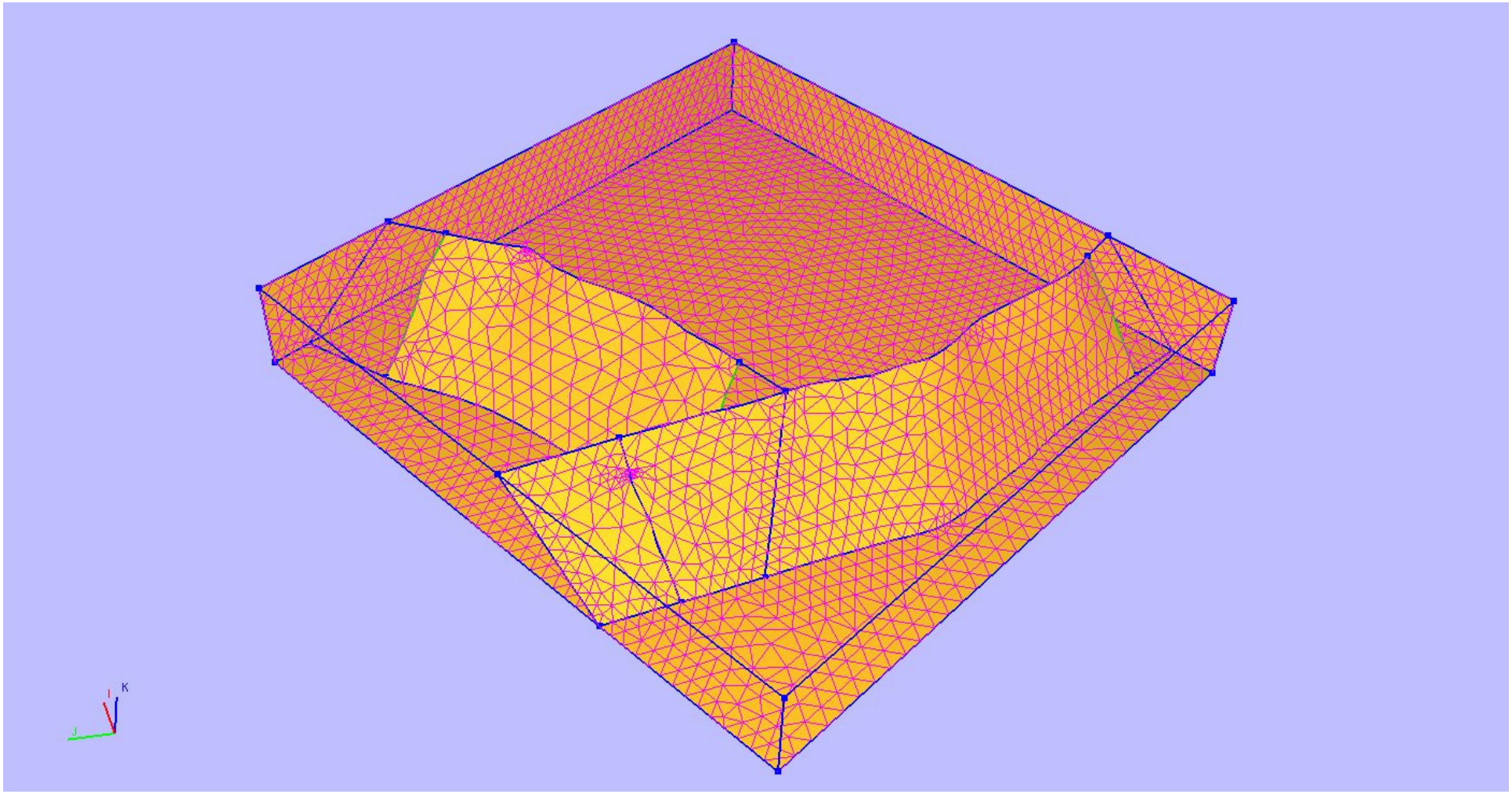
Support triangulation reconstruction



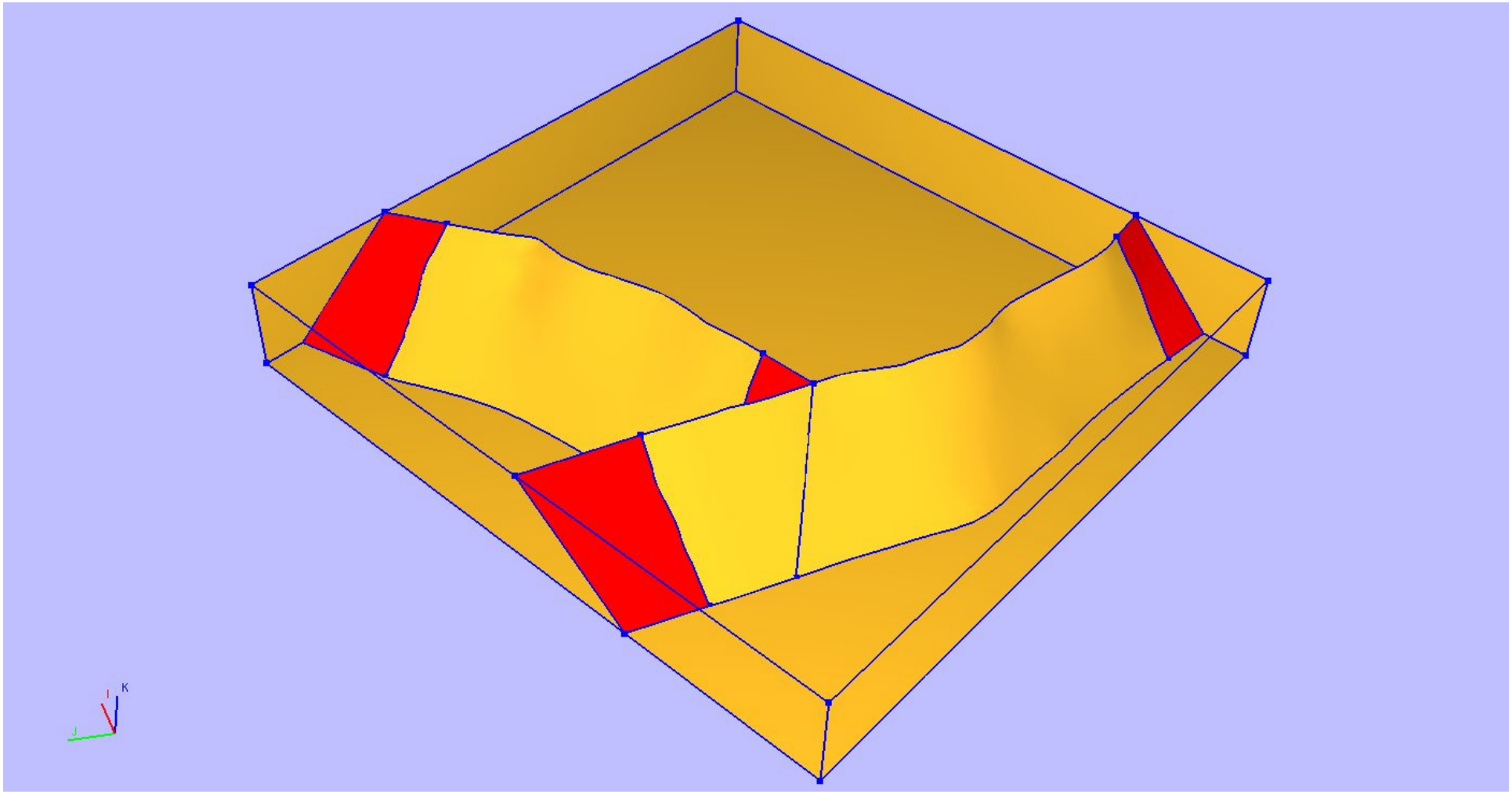
Creation of a new surface patch



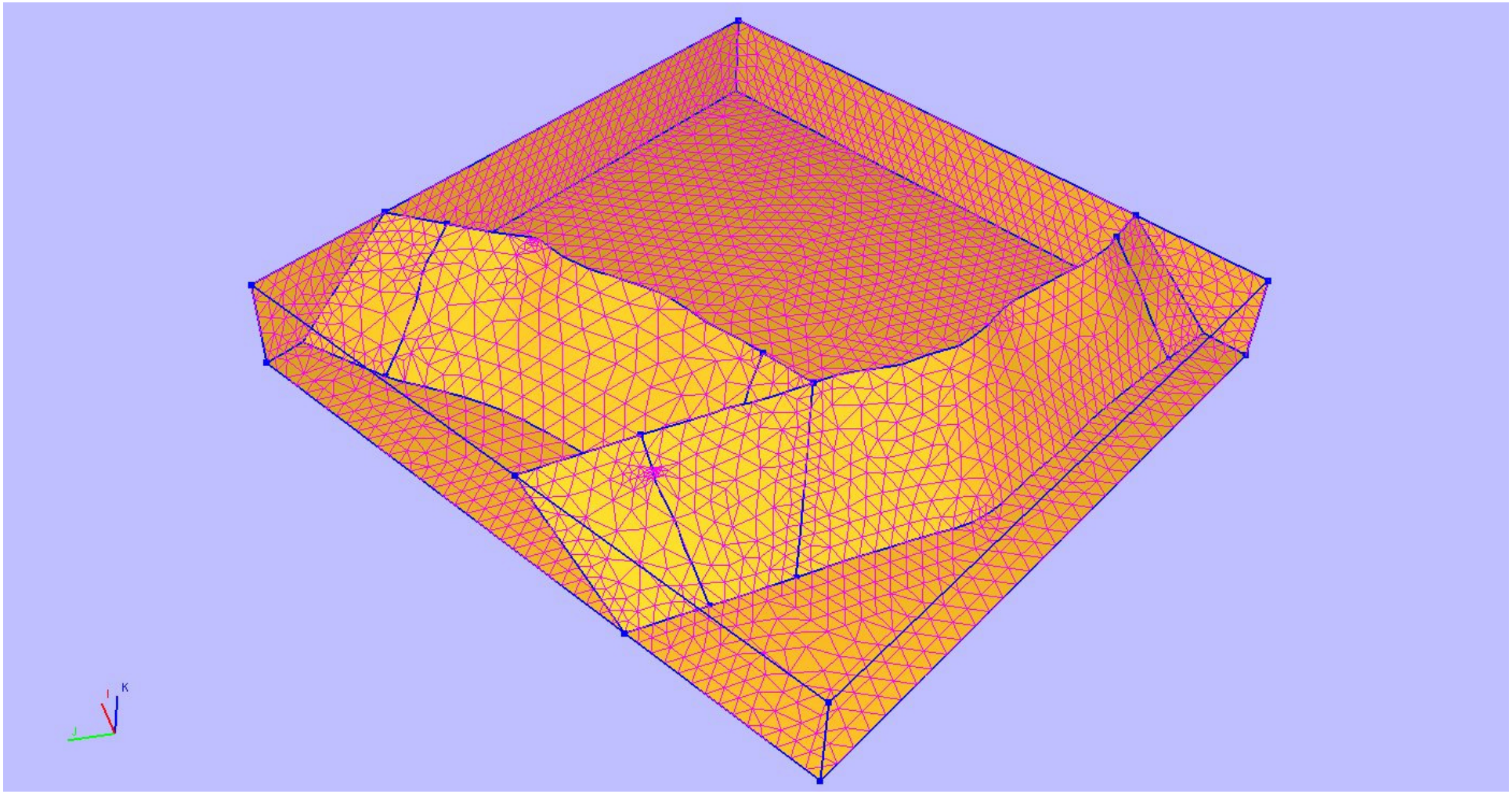
New patch: support triangulation



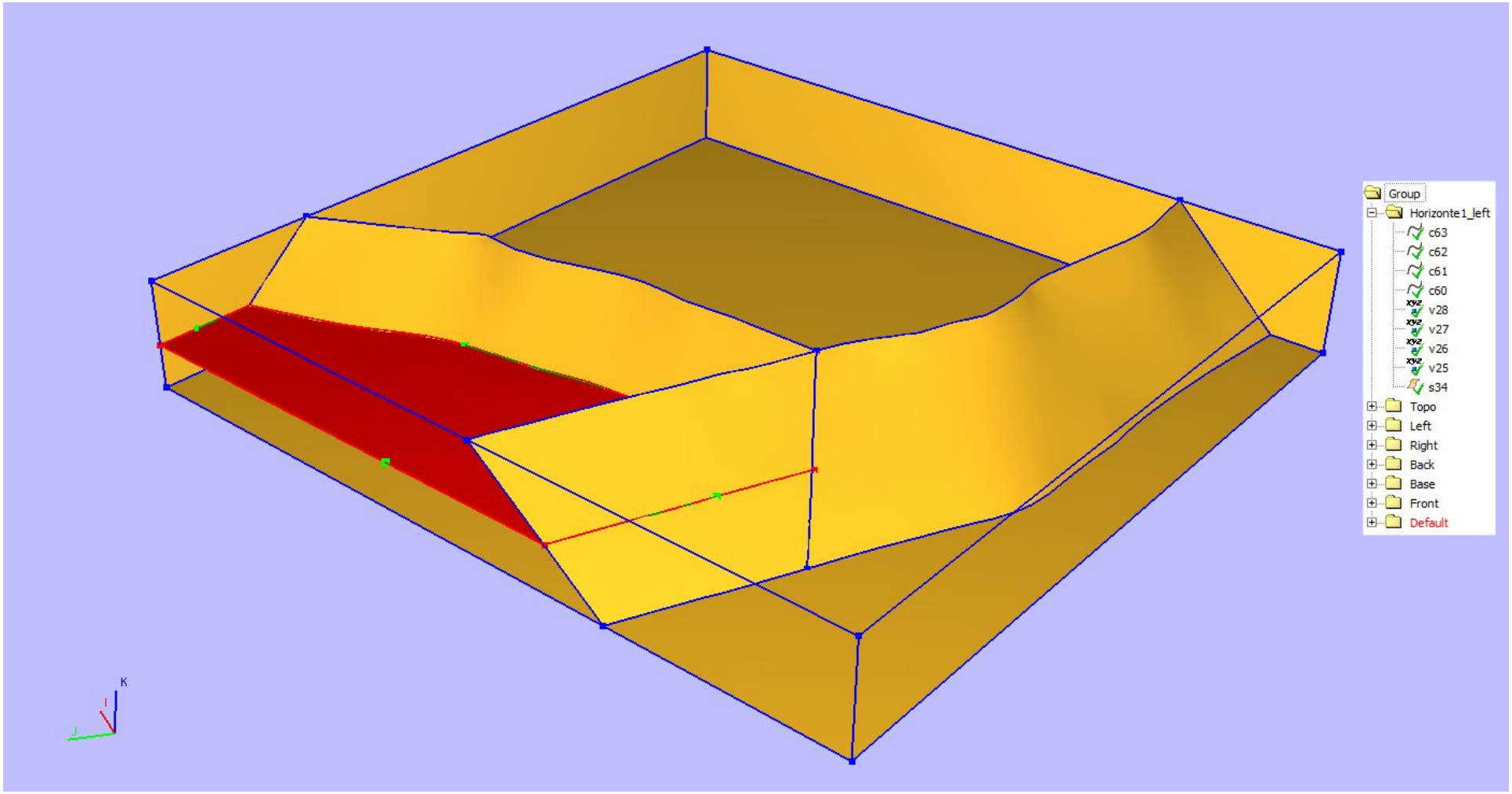
New surface patches



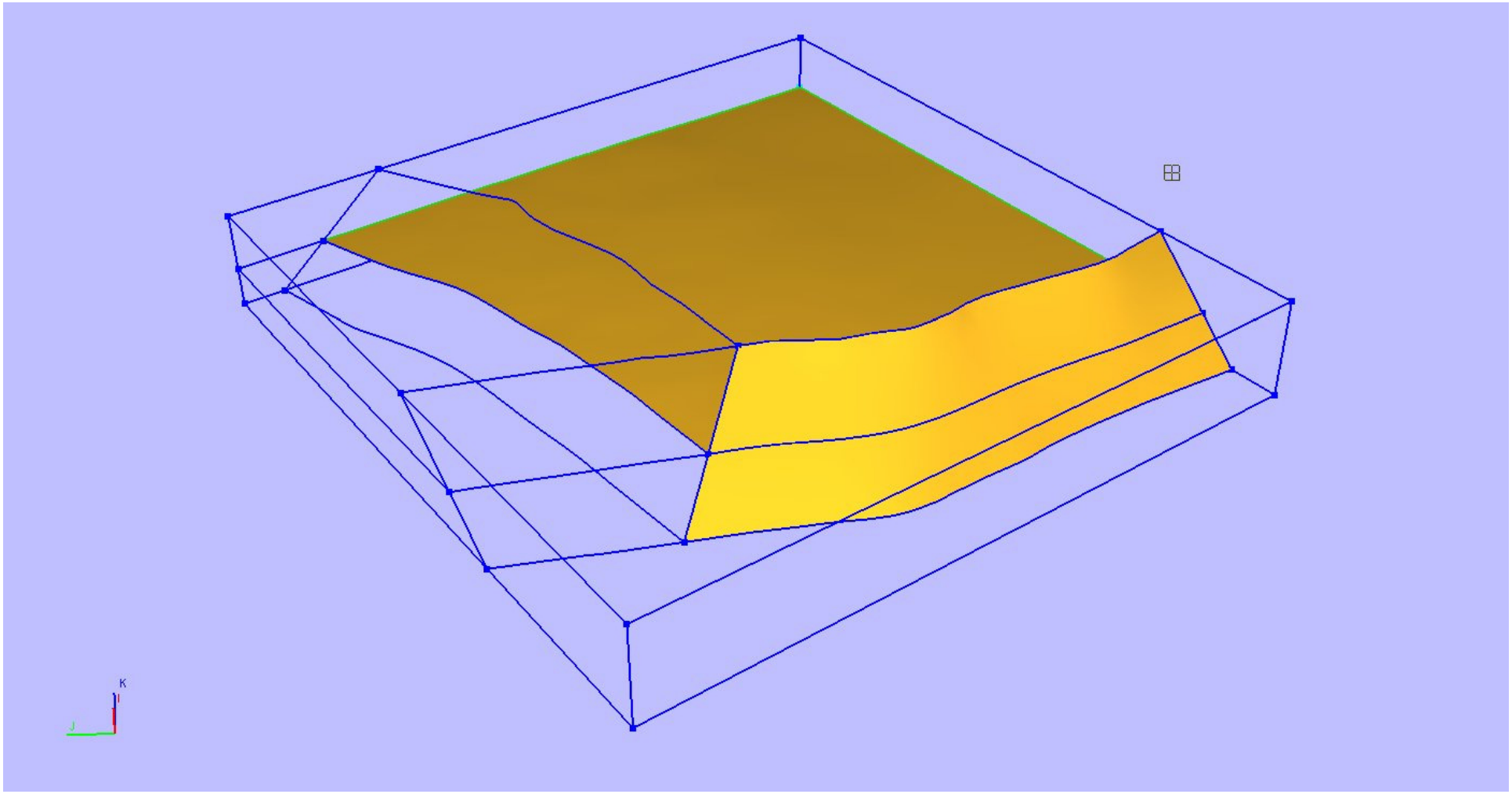
Support triangulations



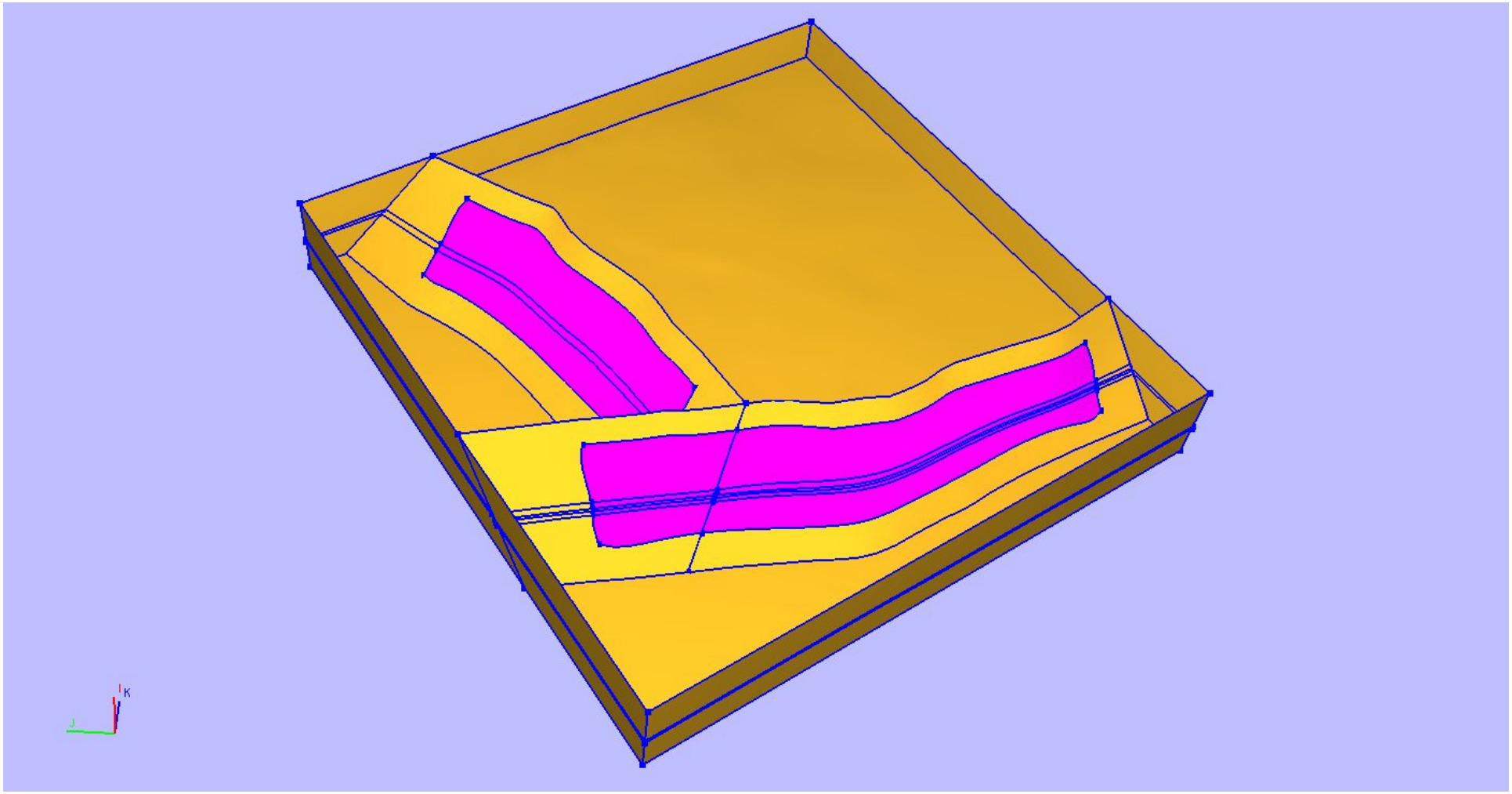
Geological horizon adjustments



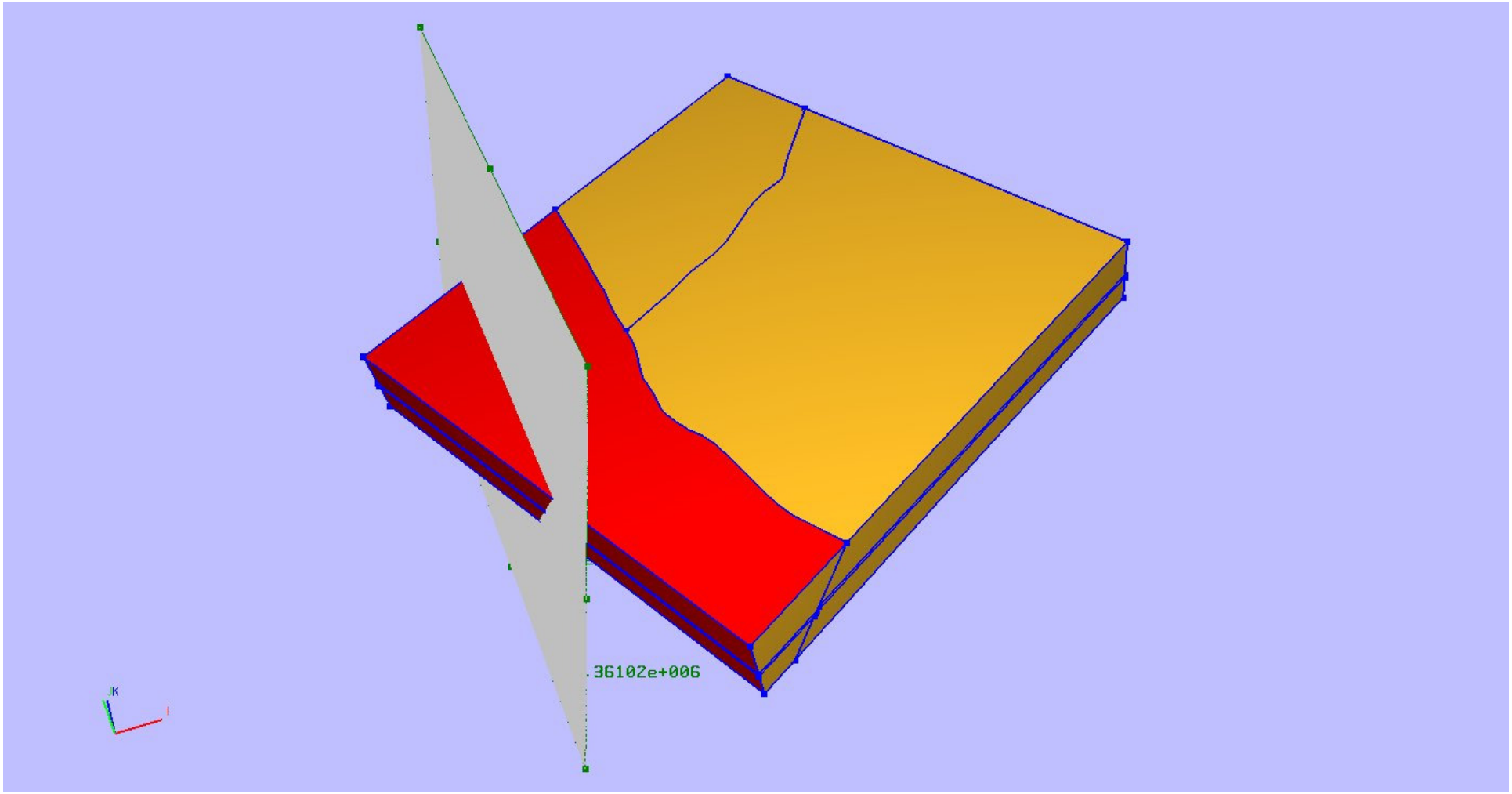
Treatment of other geological horizons



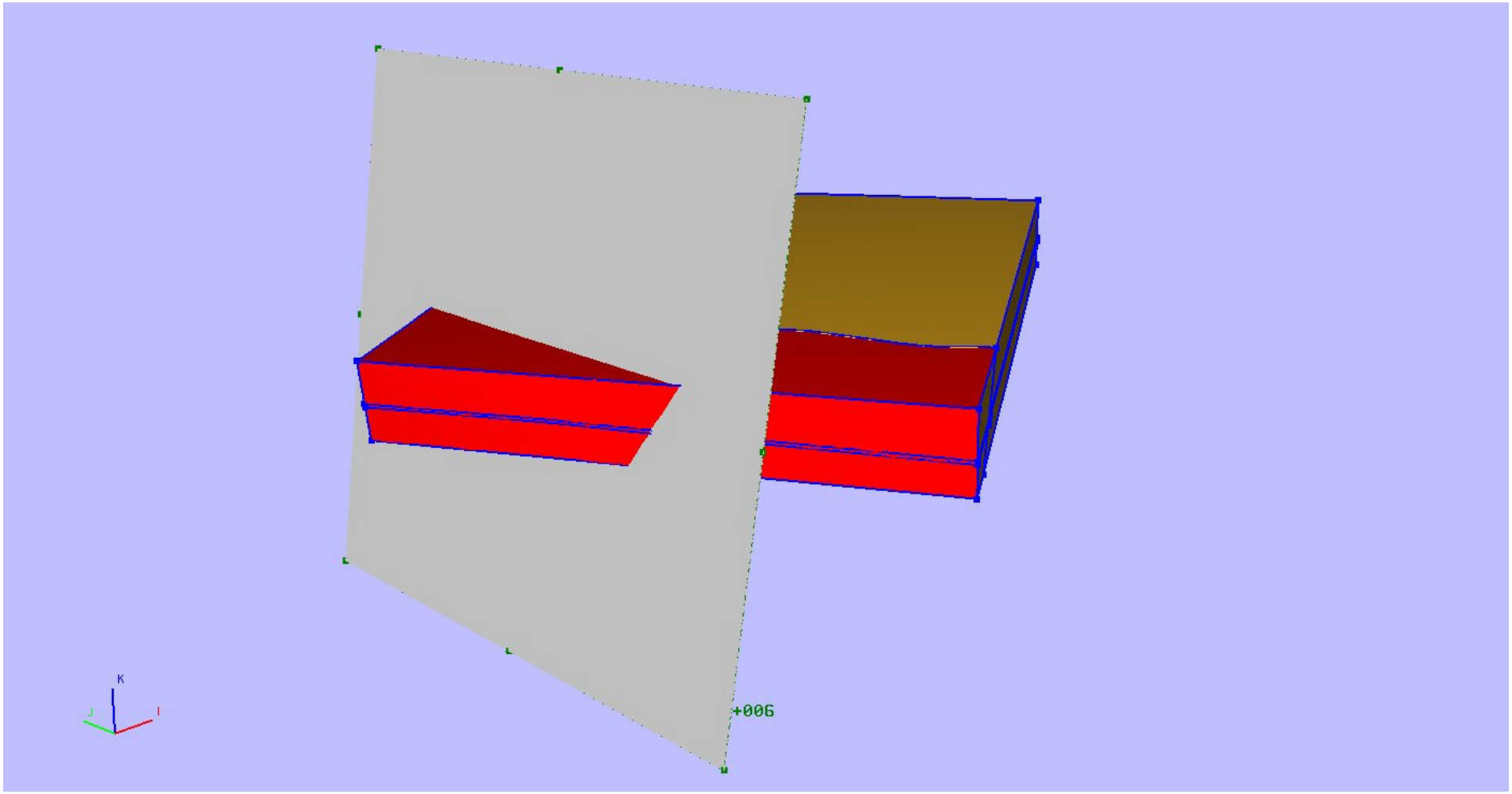
Recovery of original fault geometries



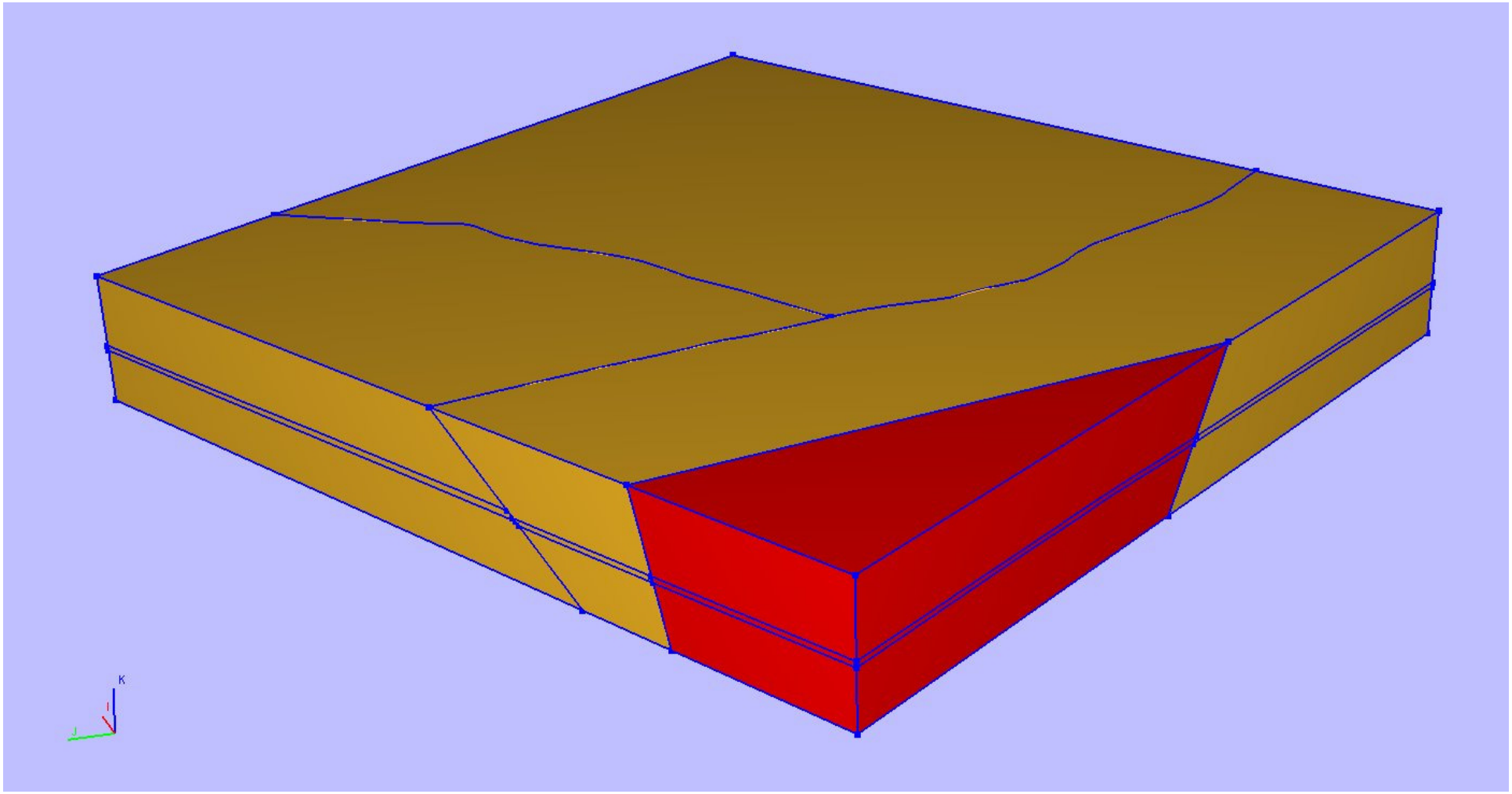
Volume decomposition for mesh generation



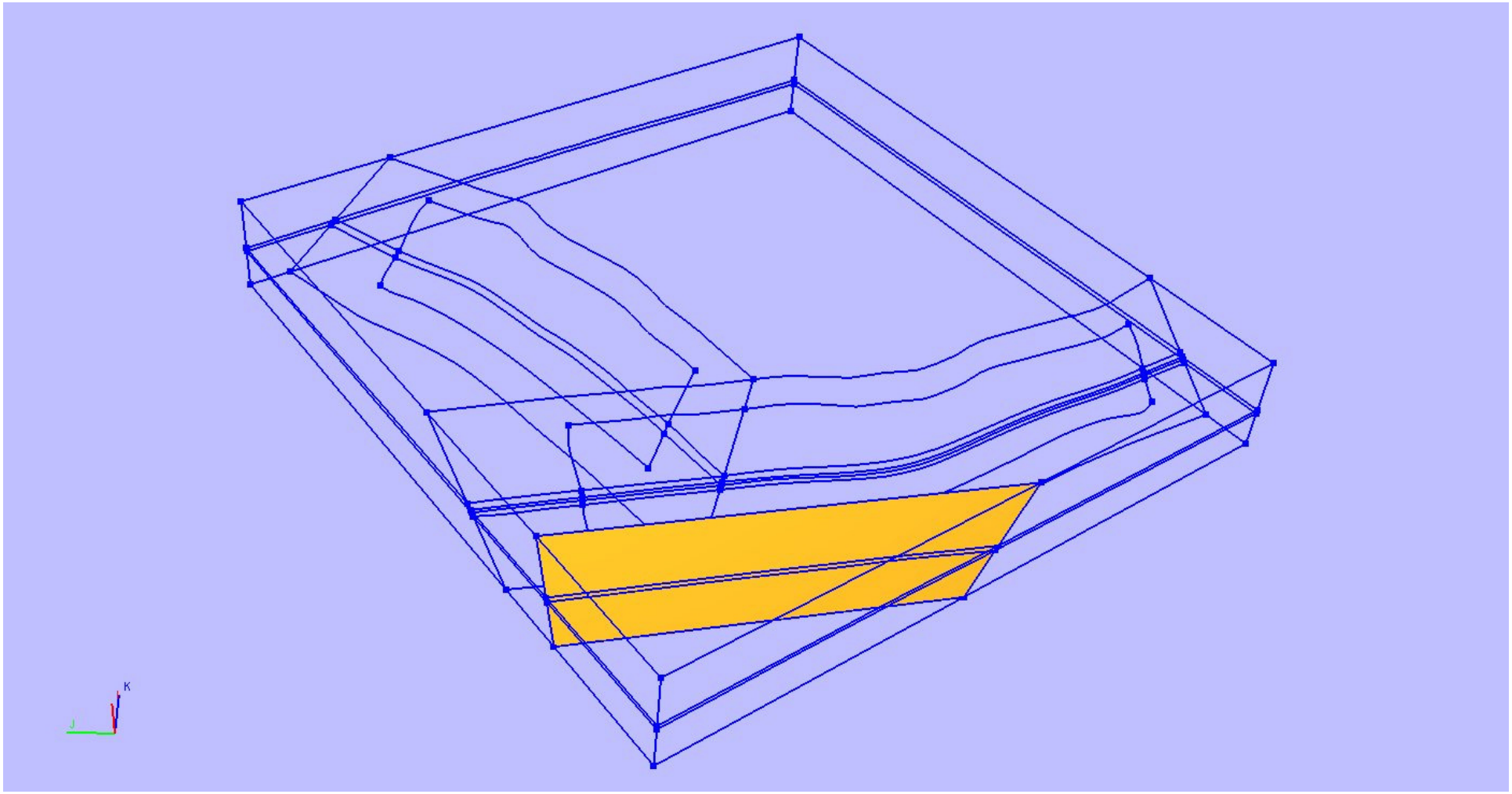
Volume decomposition for mesh generation



Volume decomposition for mesh generation



Volume decomposition for mesh generation



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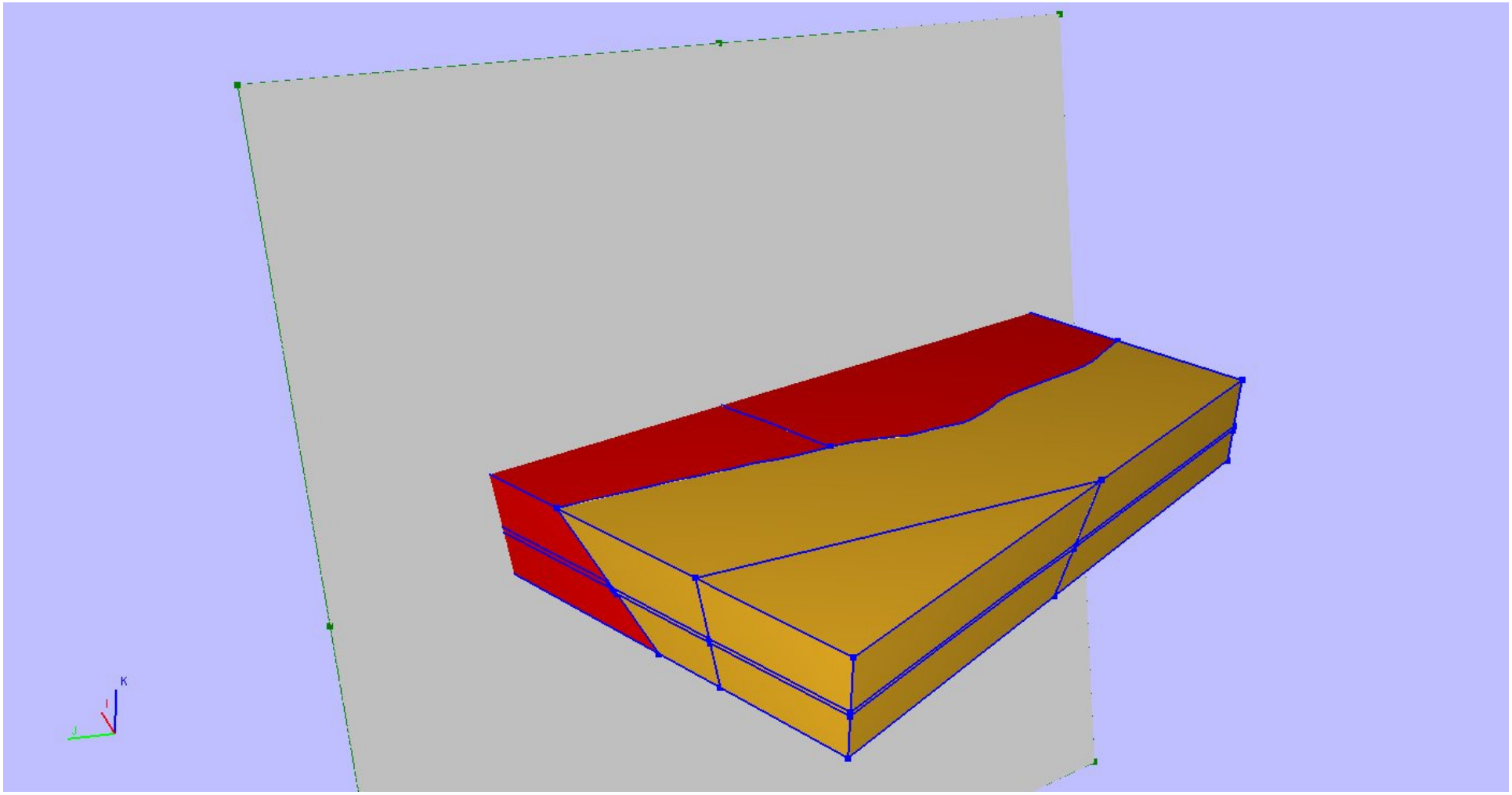

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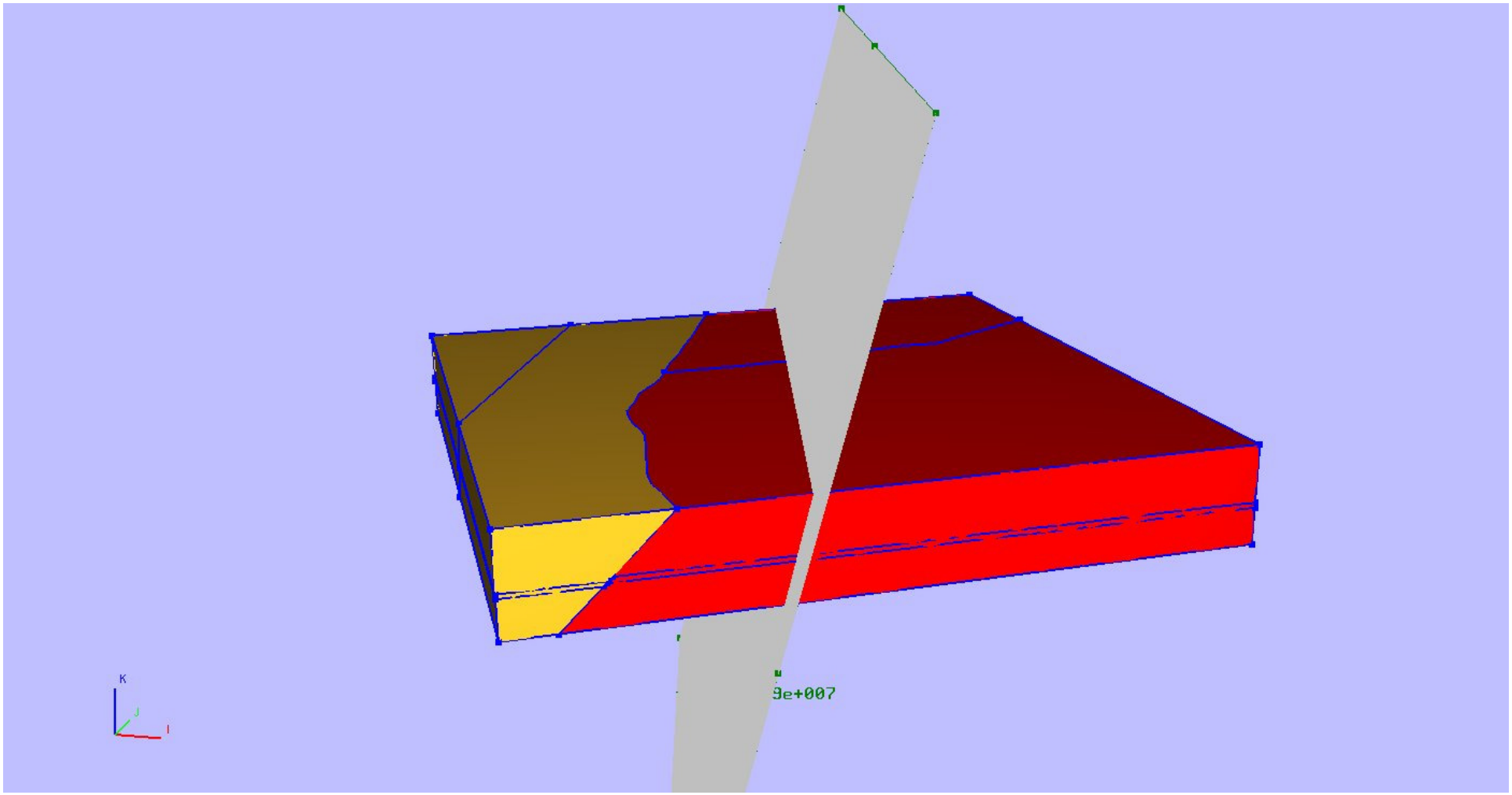

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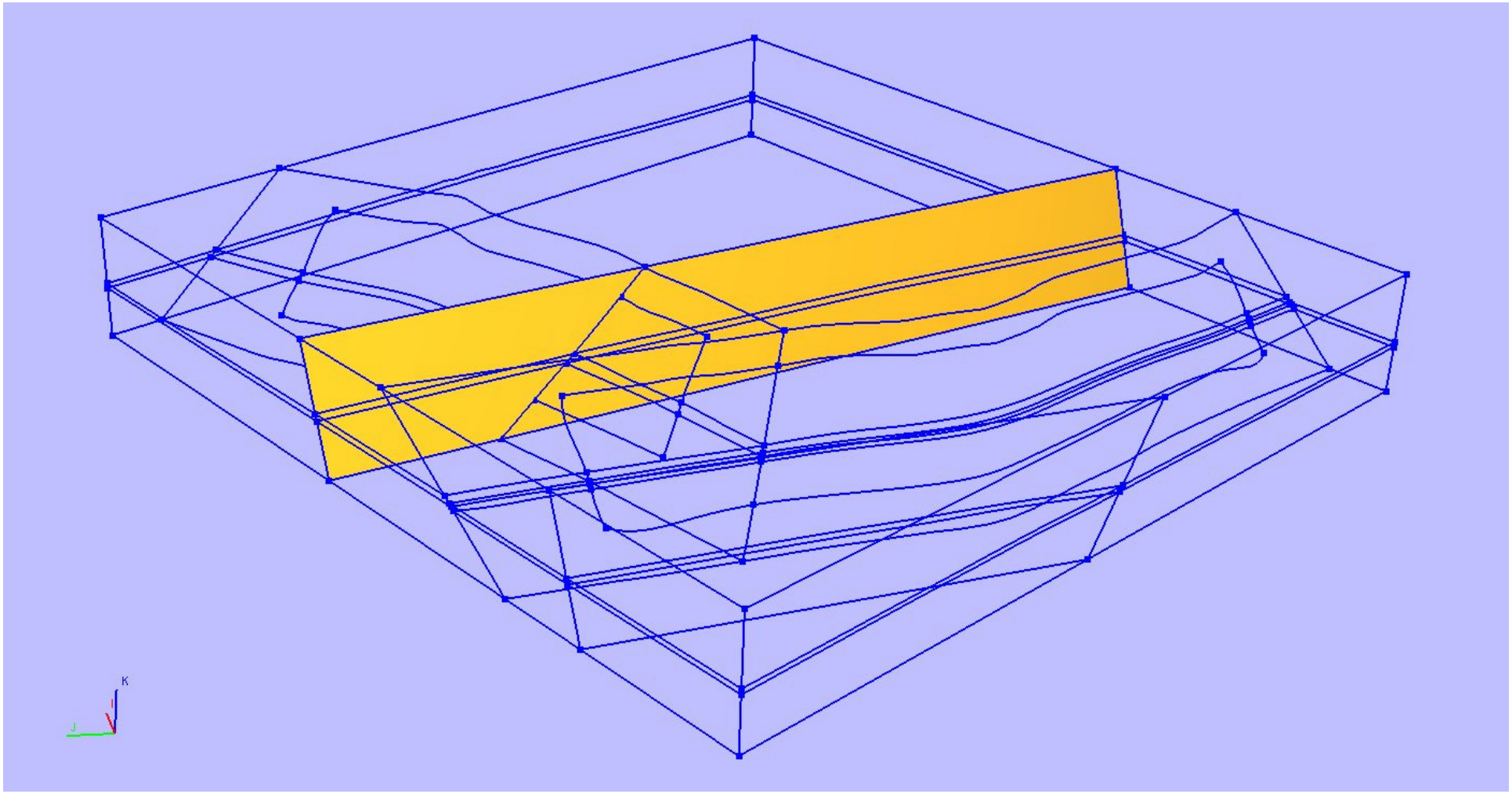

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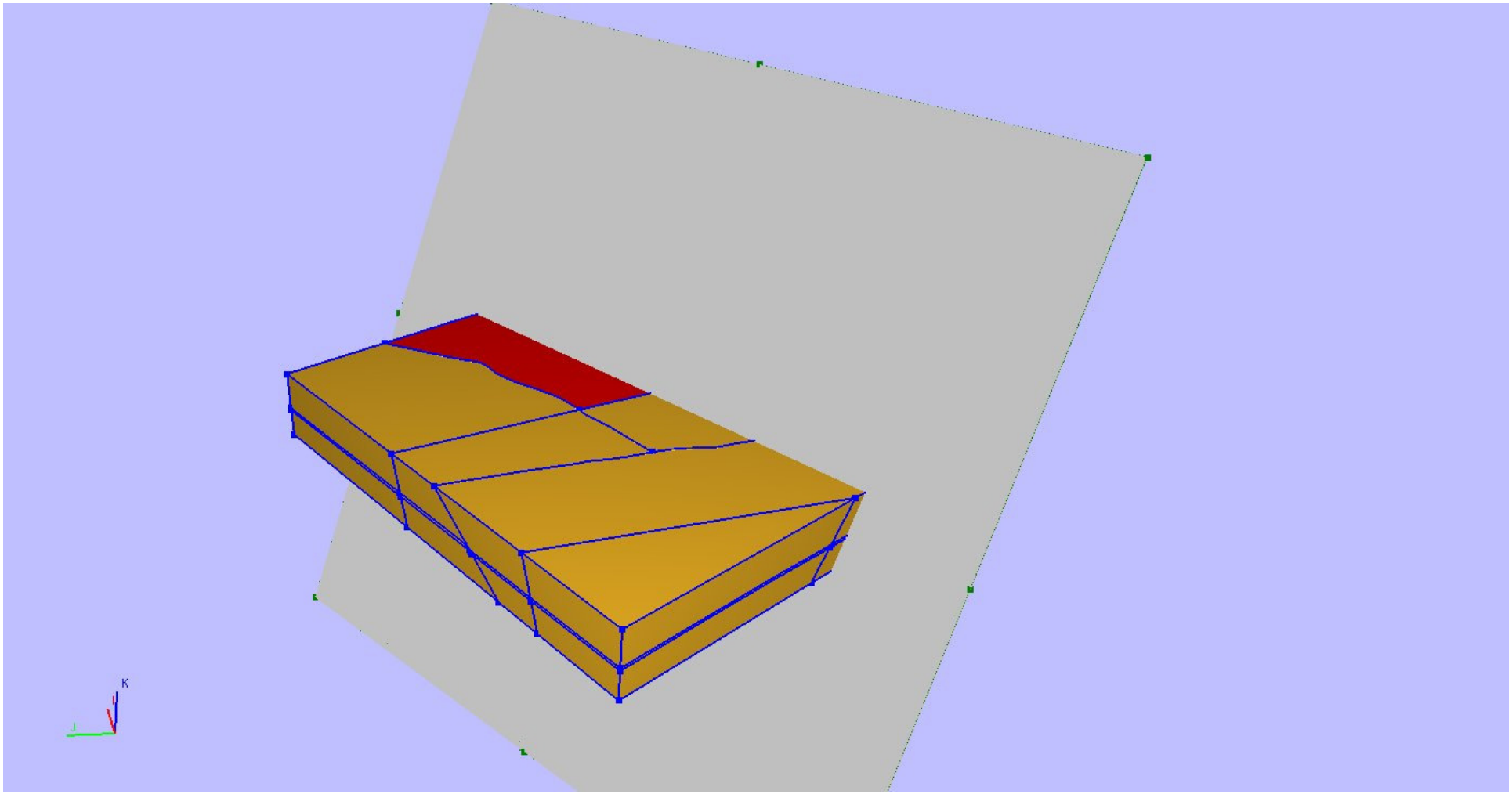

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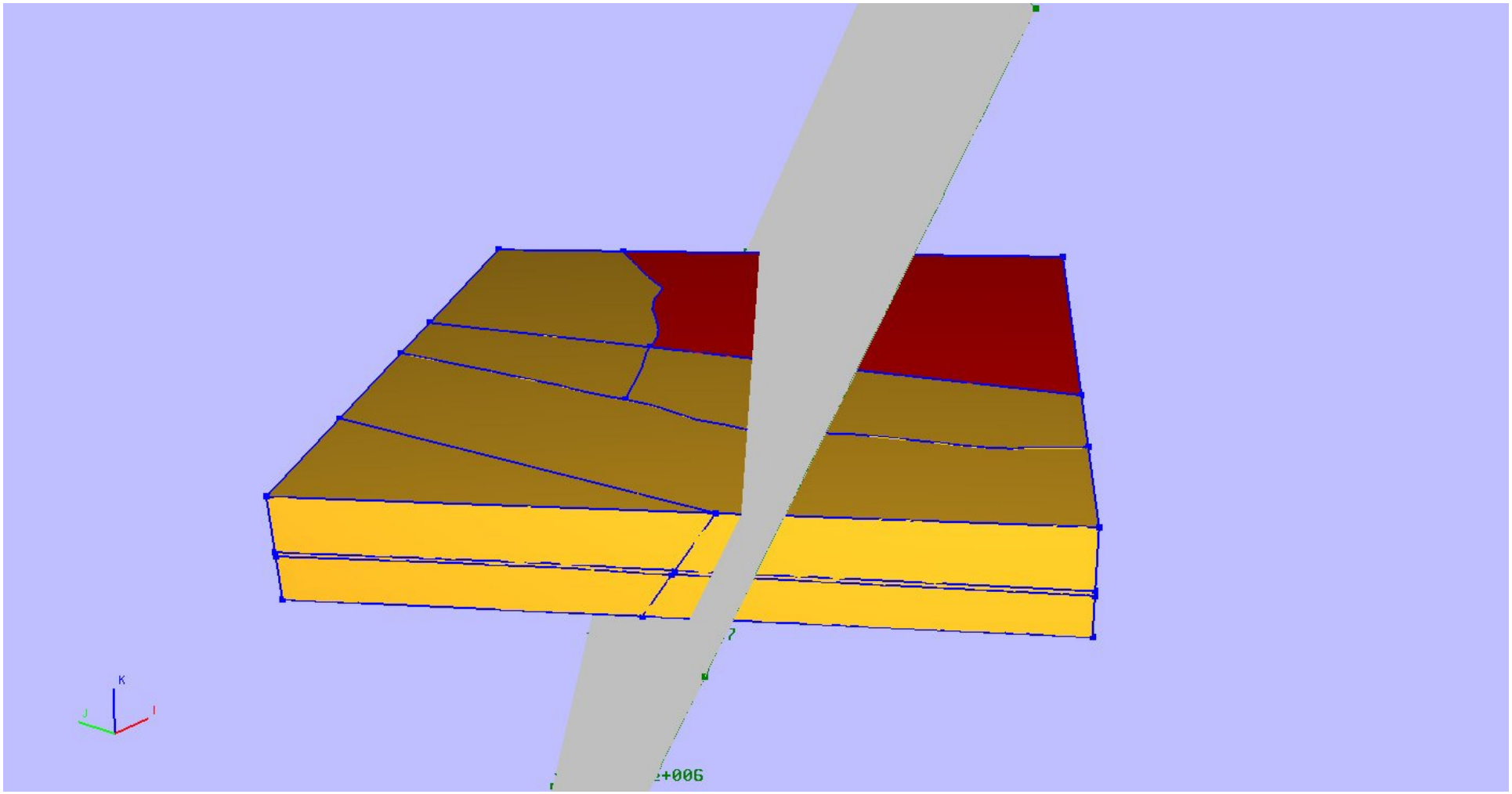

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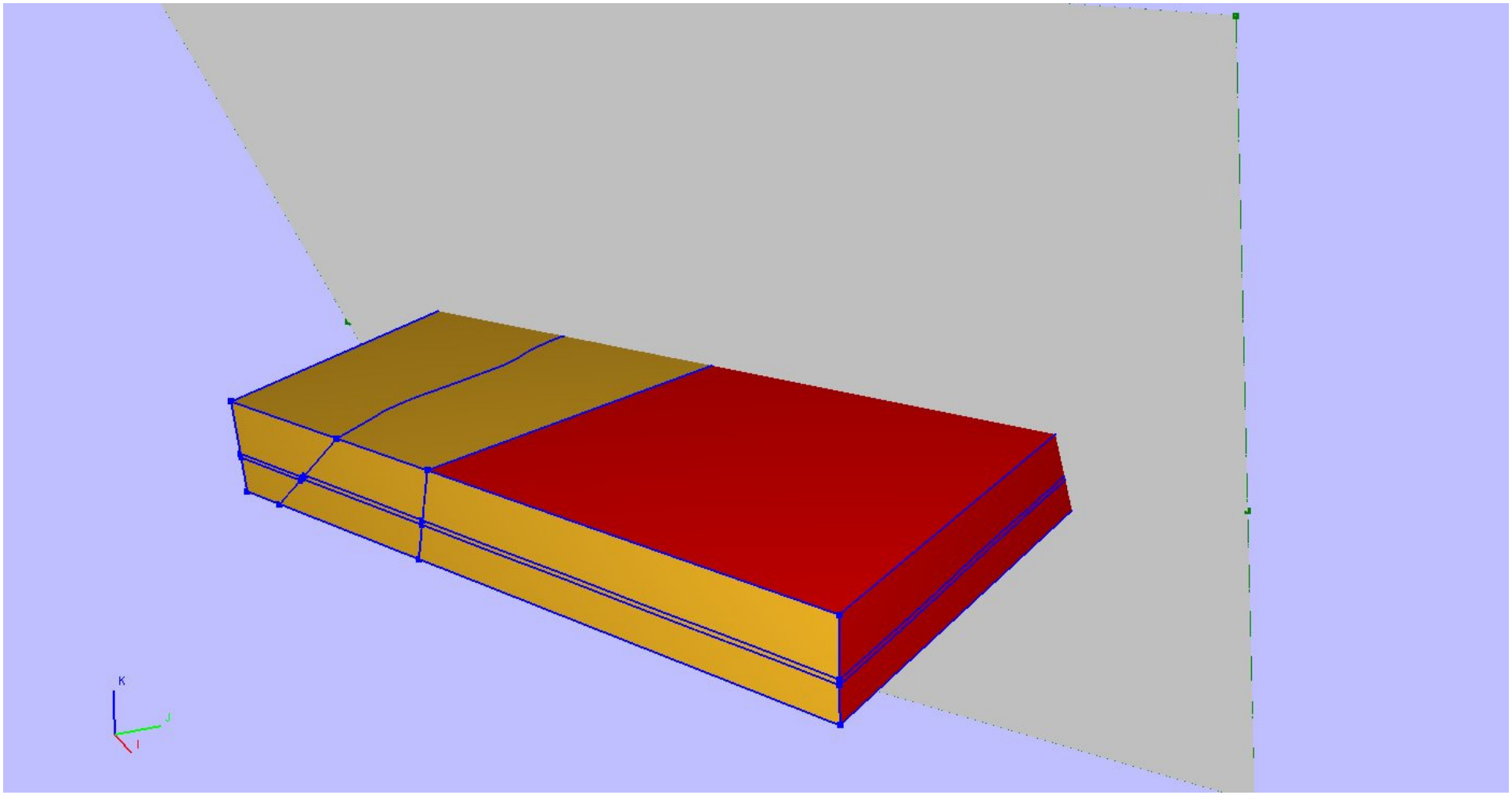

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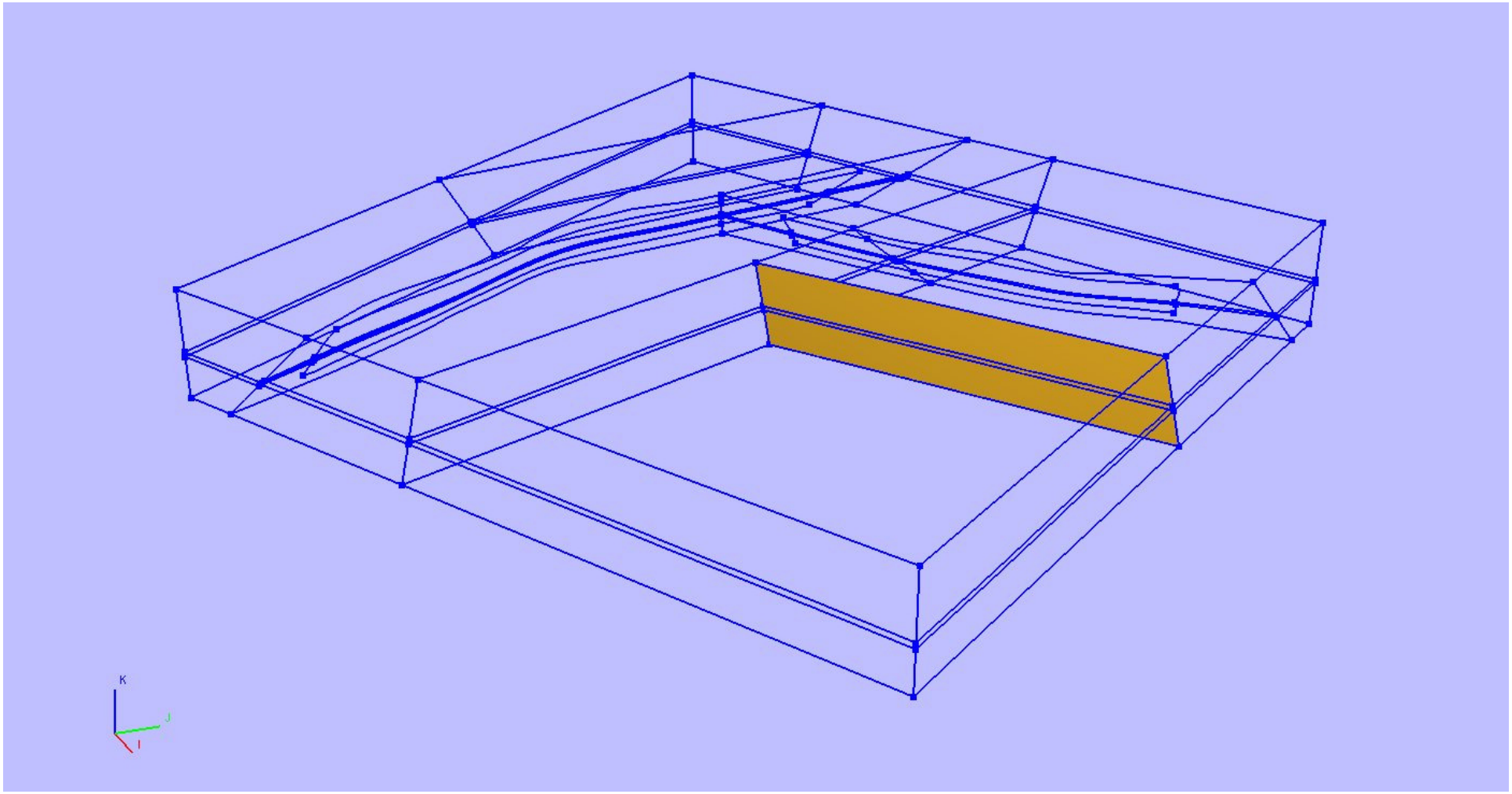
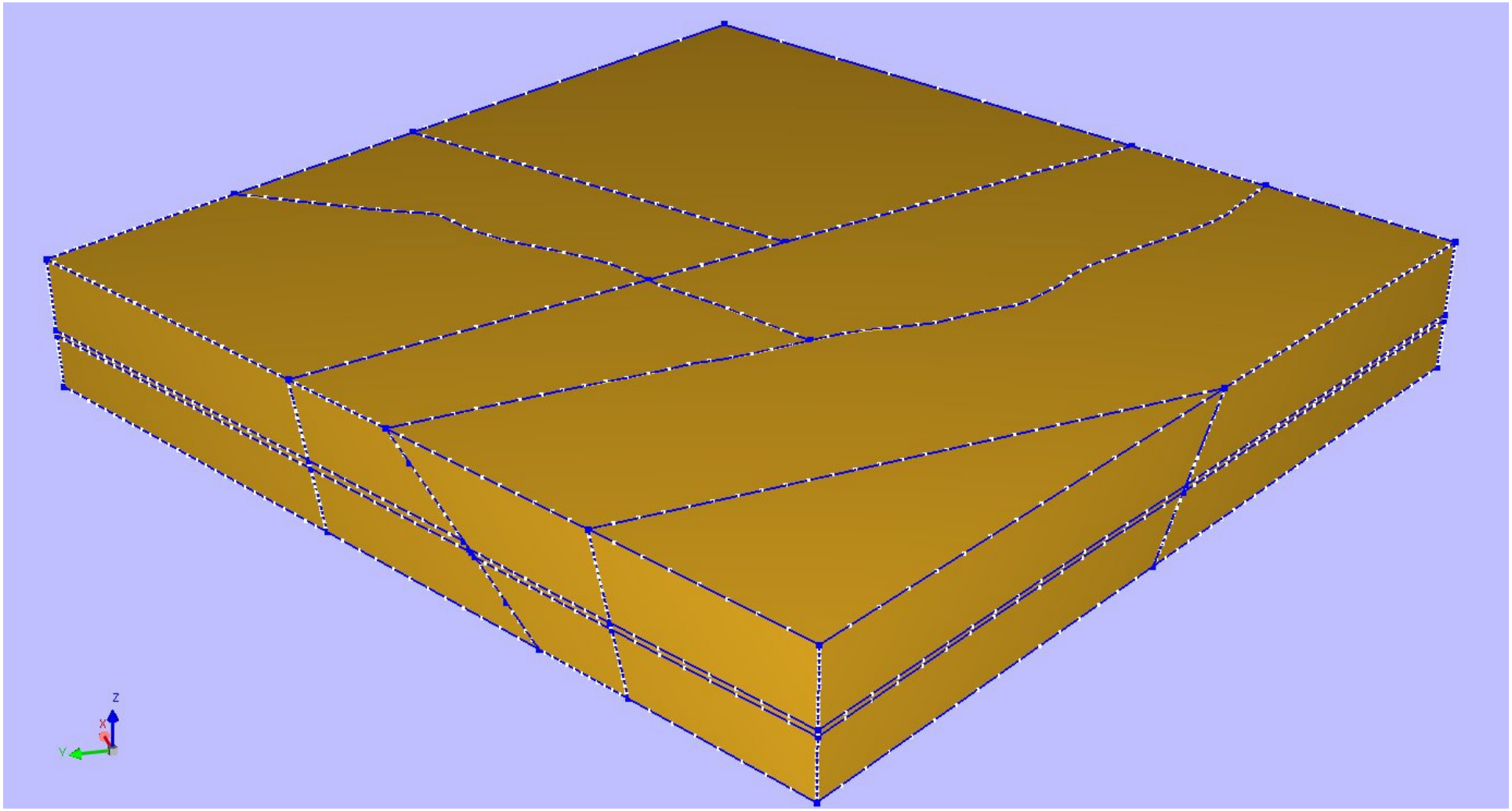
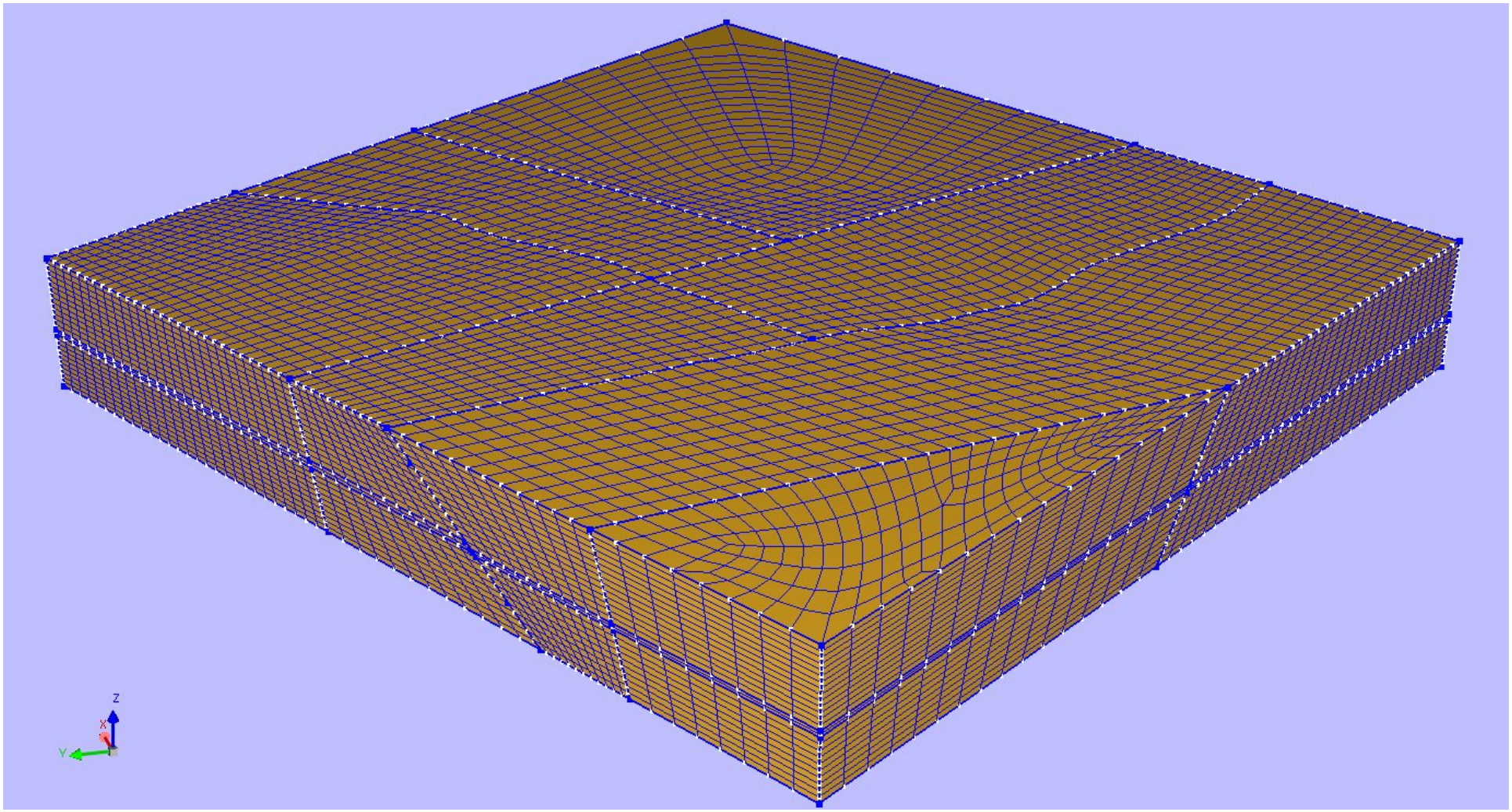


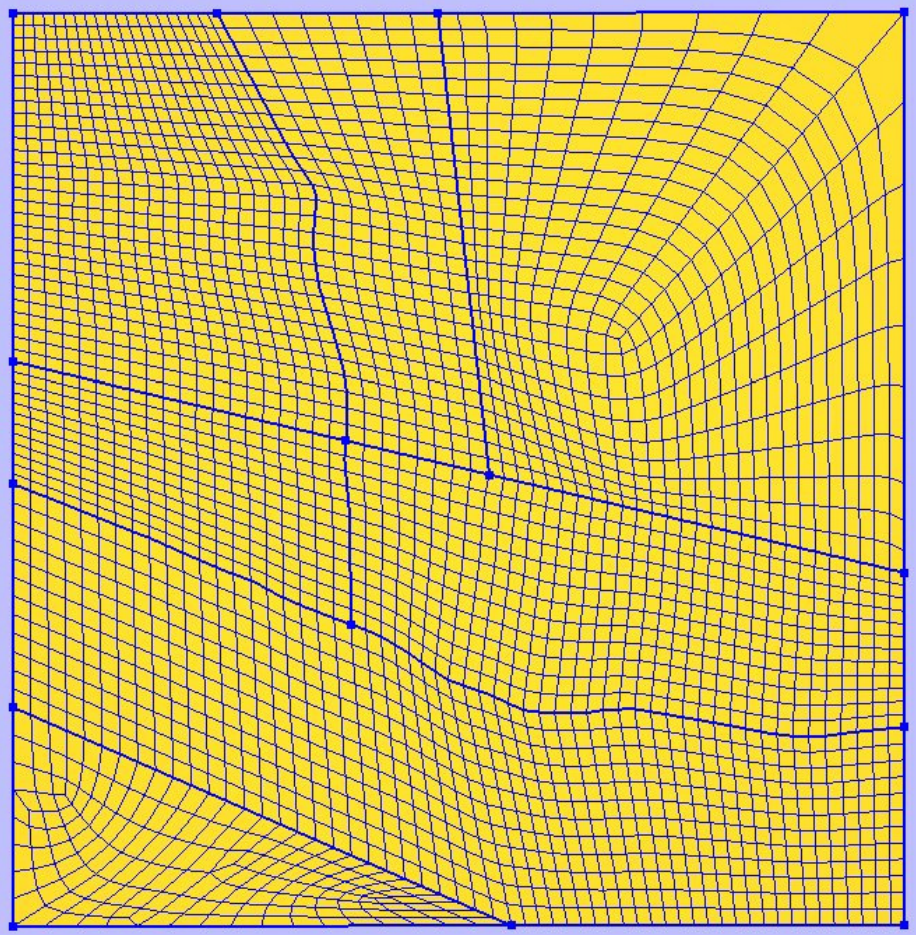
Curve subdivision



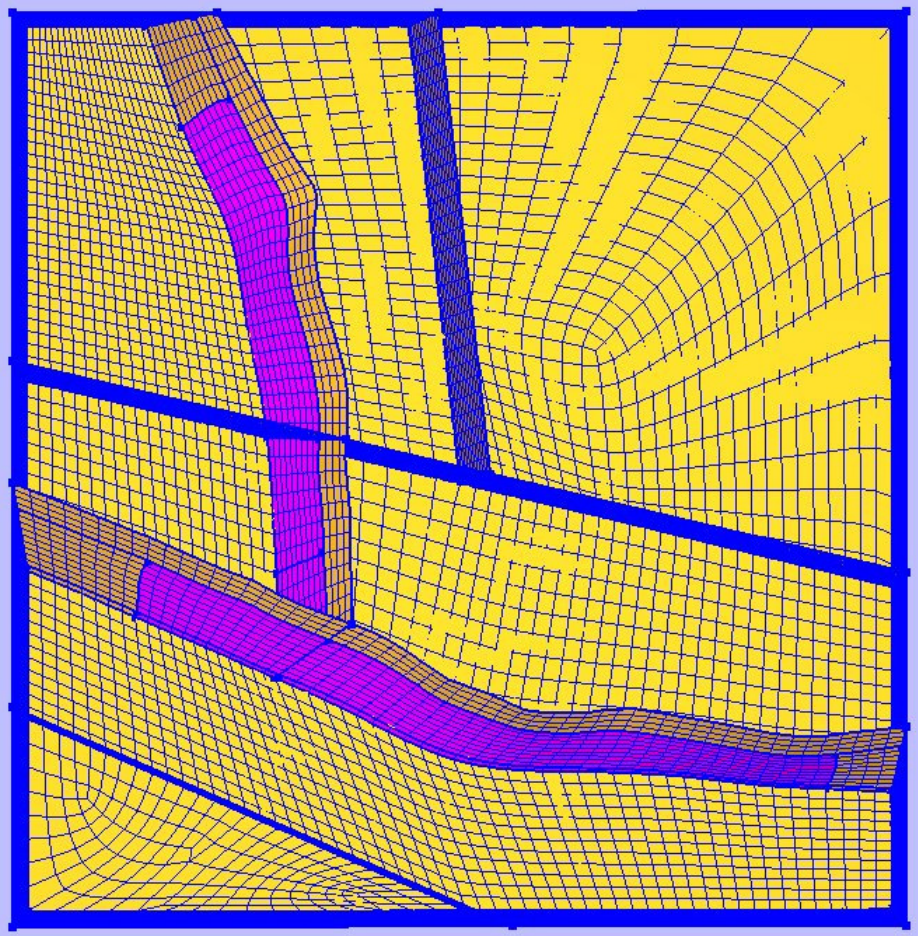
Surface mesh generation



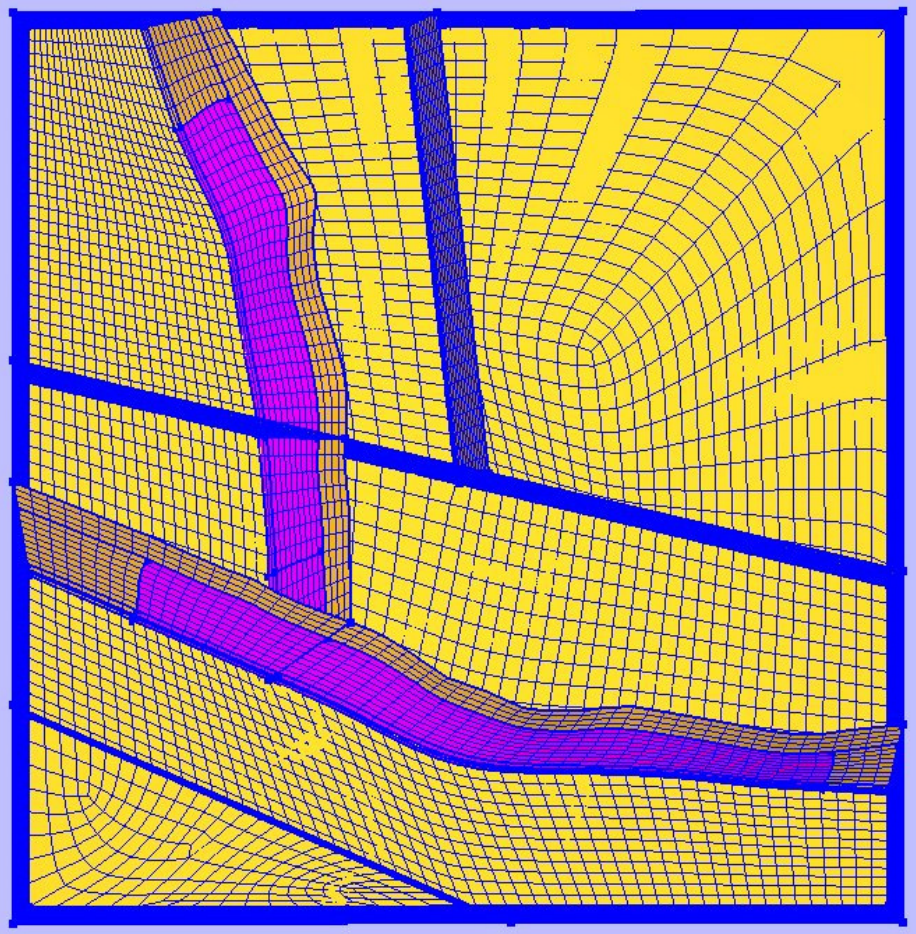
Surface mesh generation



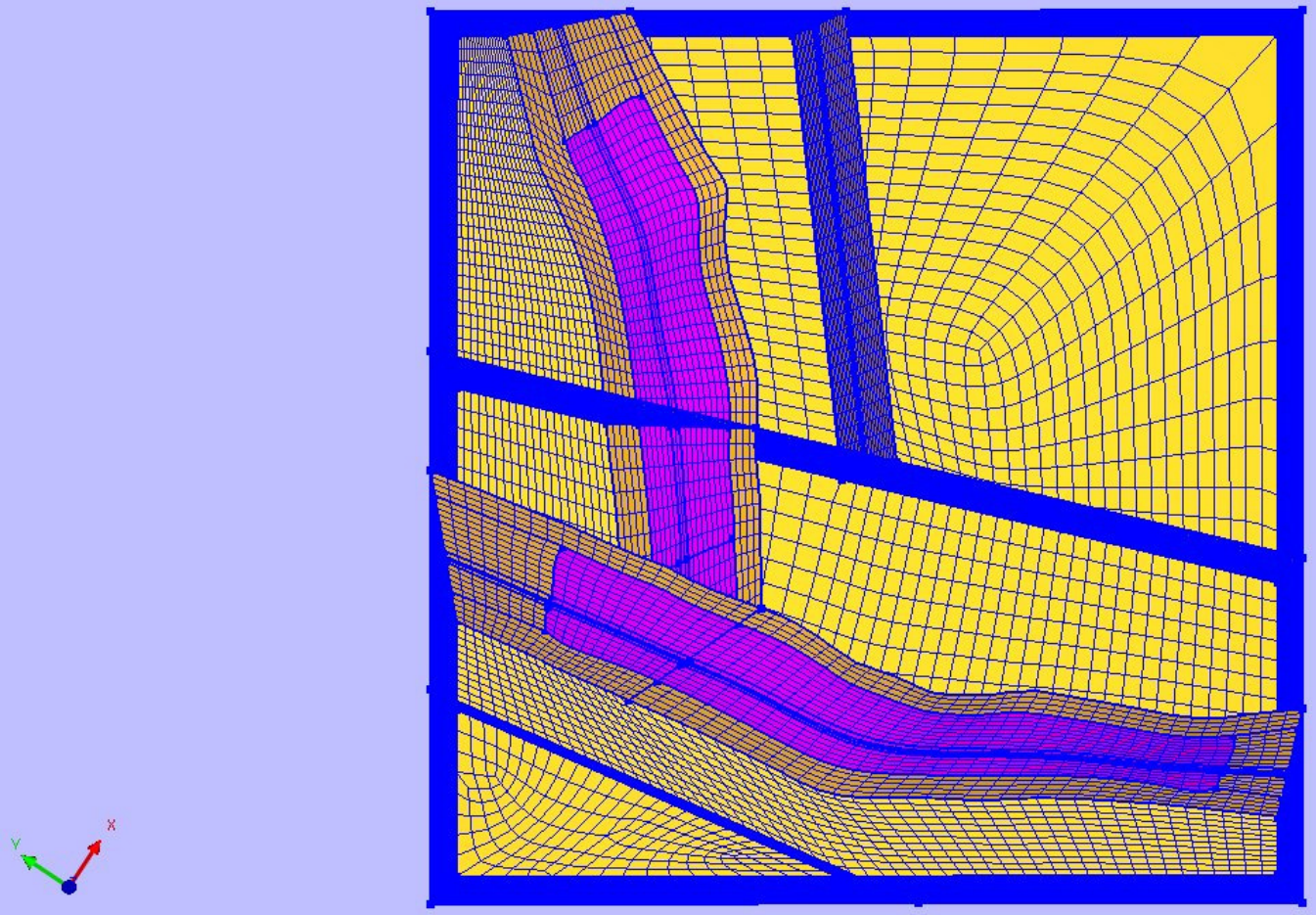
Surface mesh generation



Surface mesh generation



Surface mesh generation



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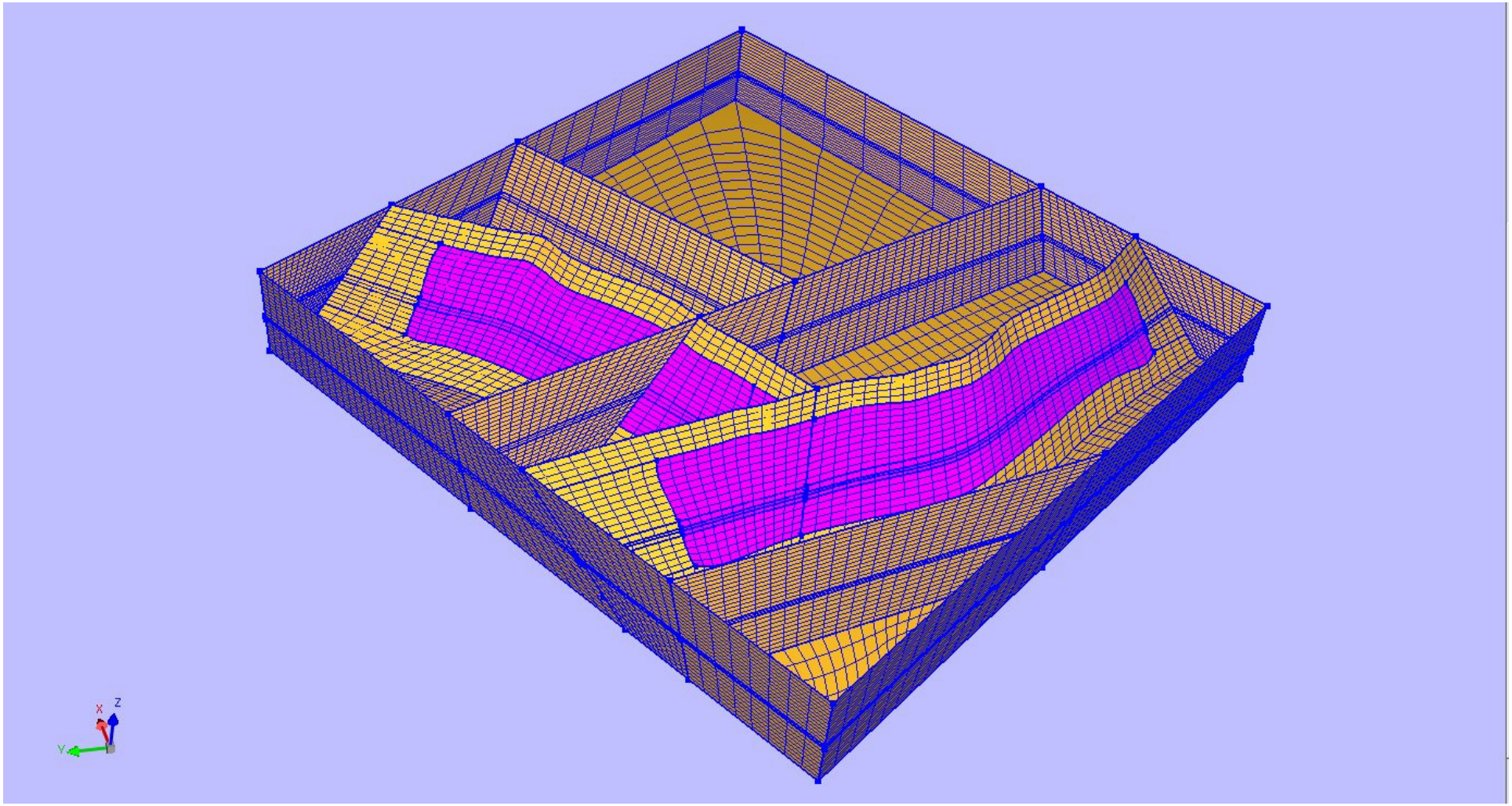
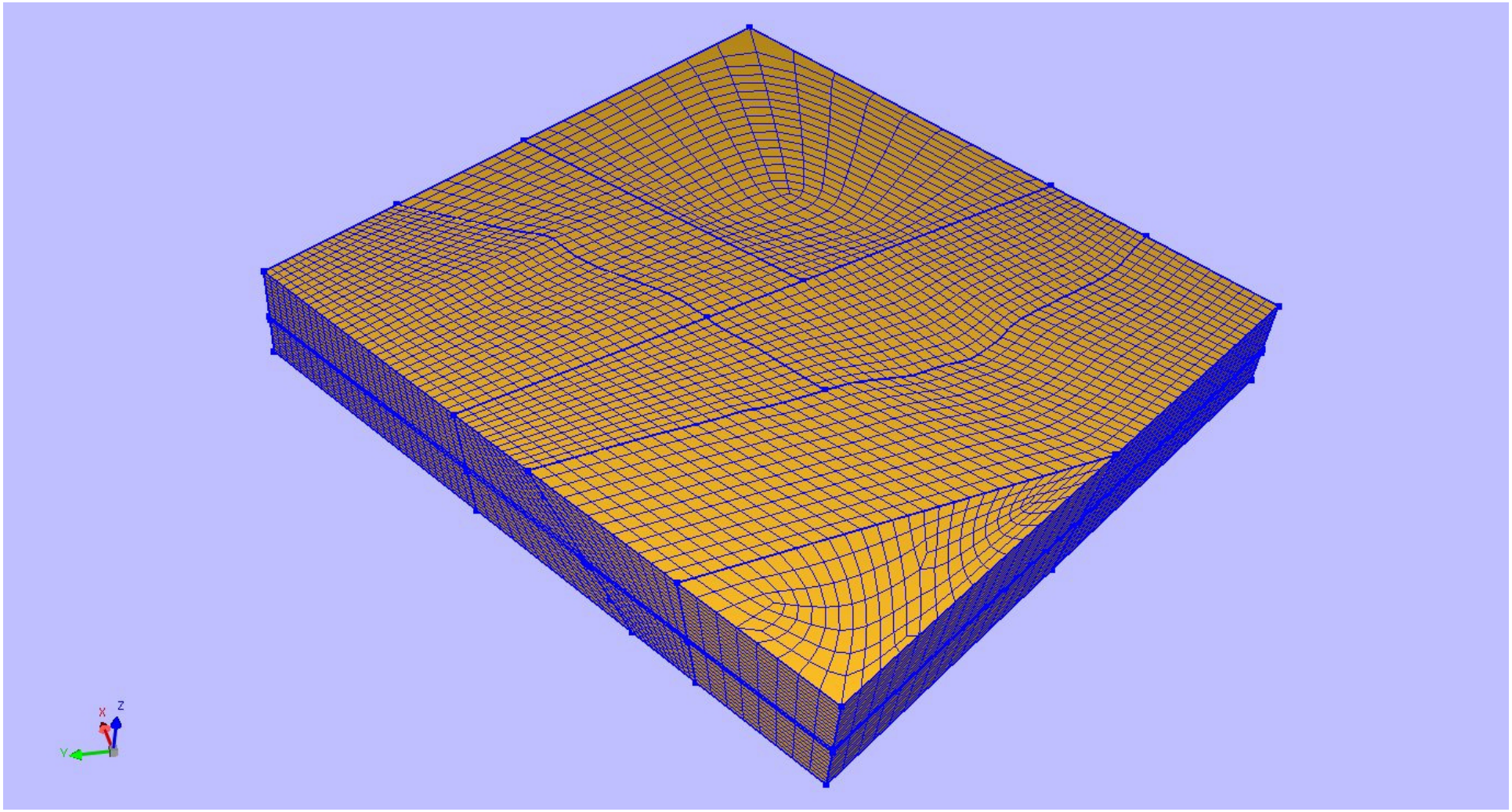
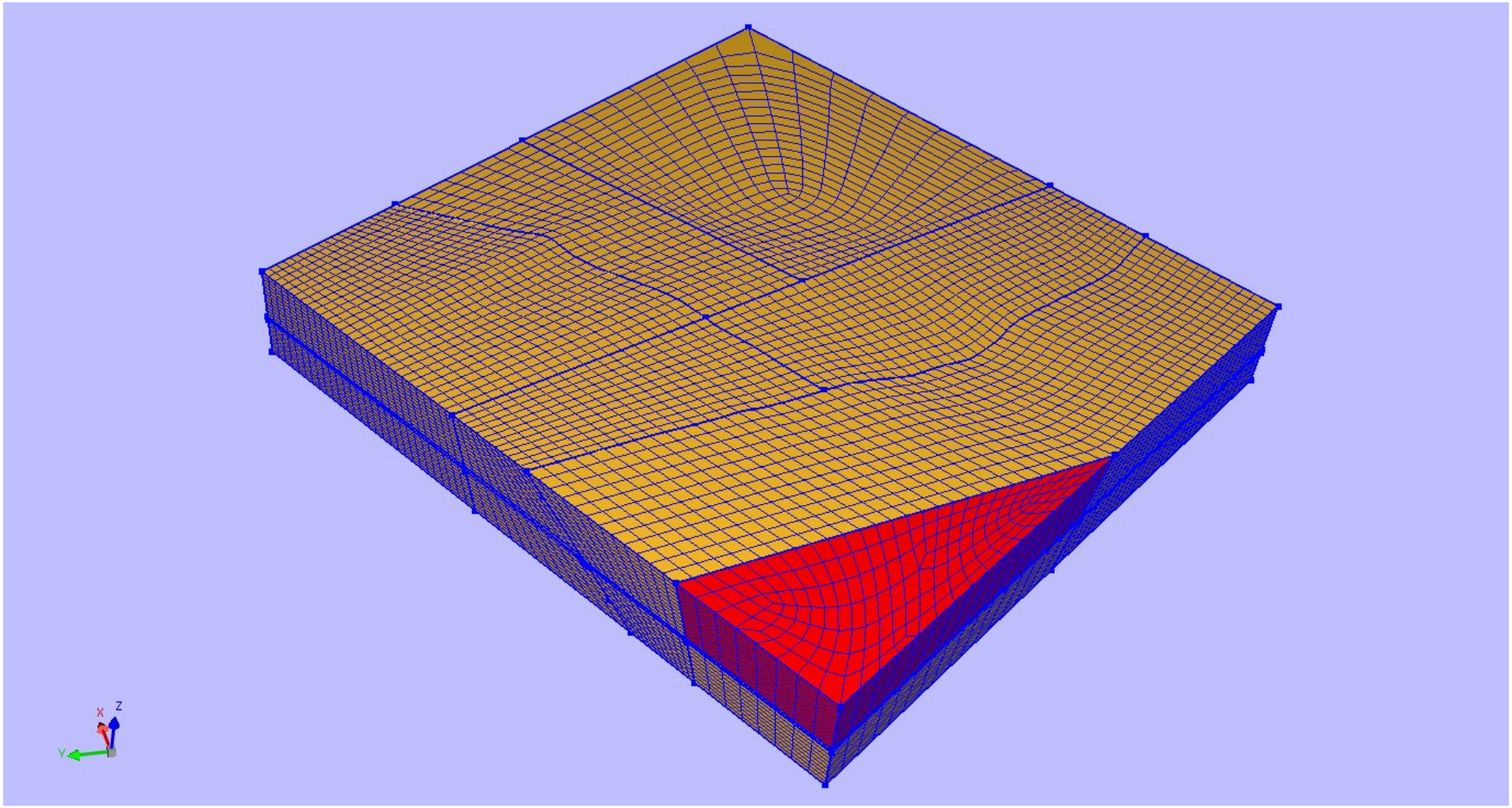


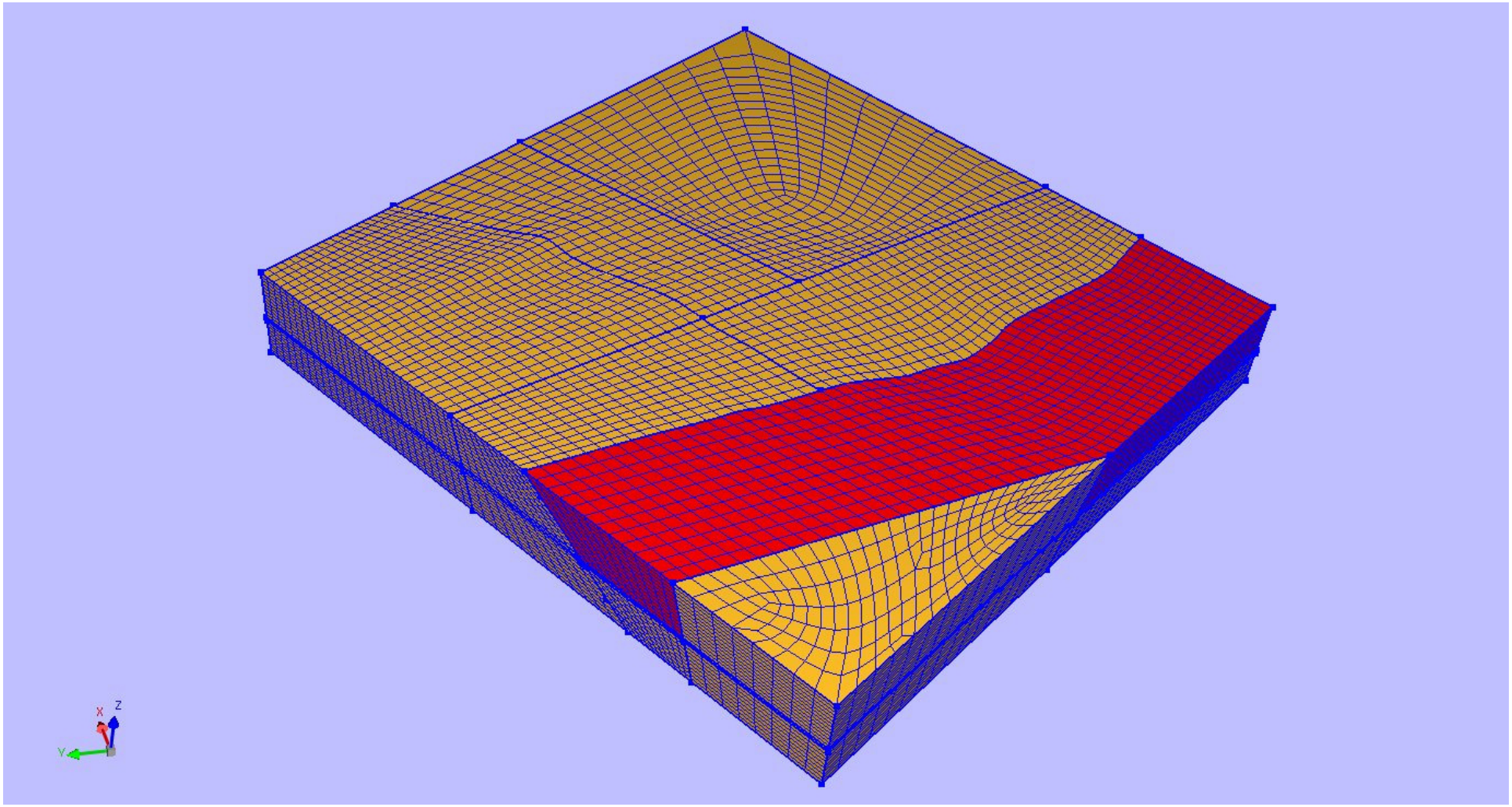
Surface mesh generation



Automatic volume recognition



Automatic volume recognition



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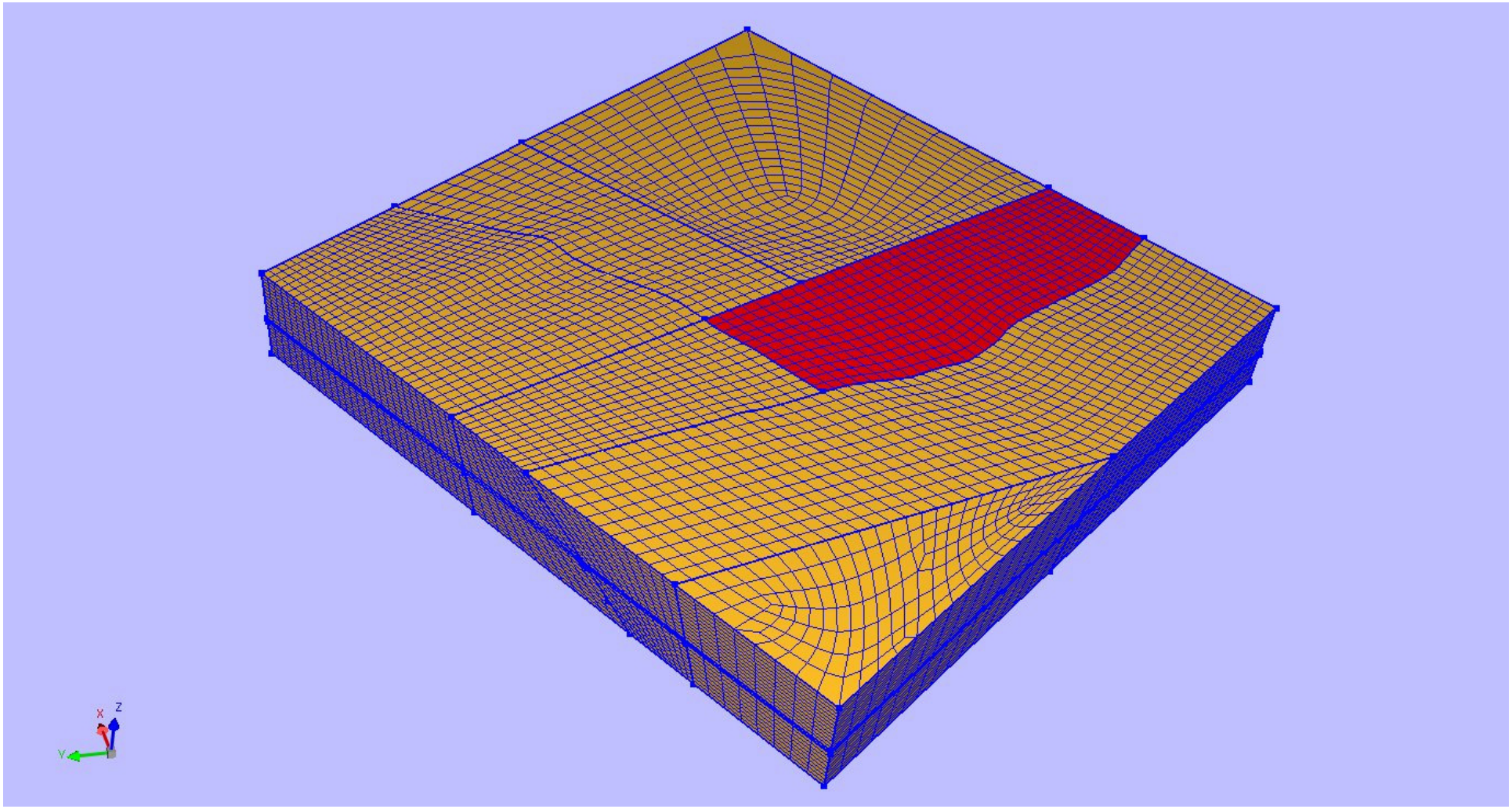
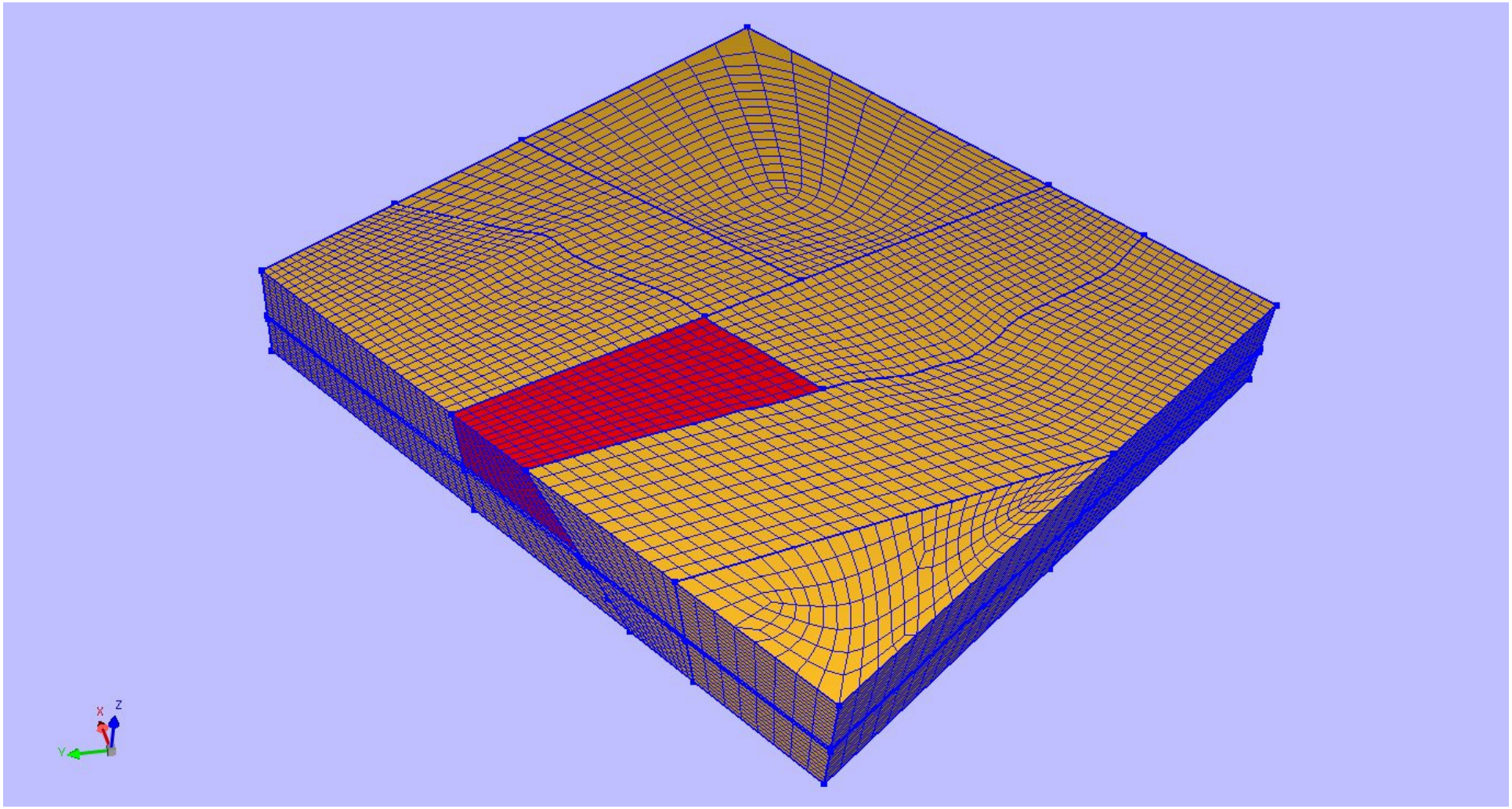


Automatic volume recognition



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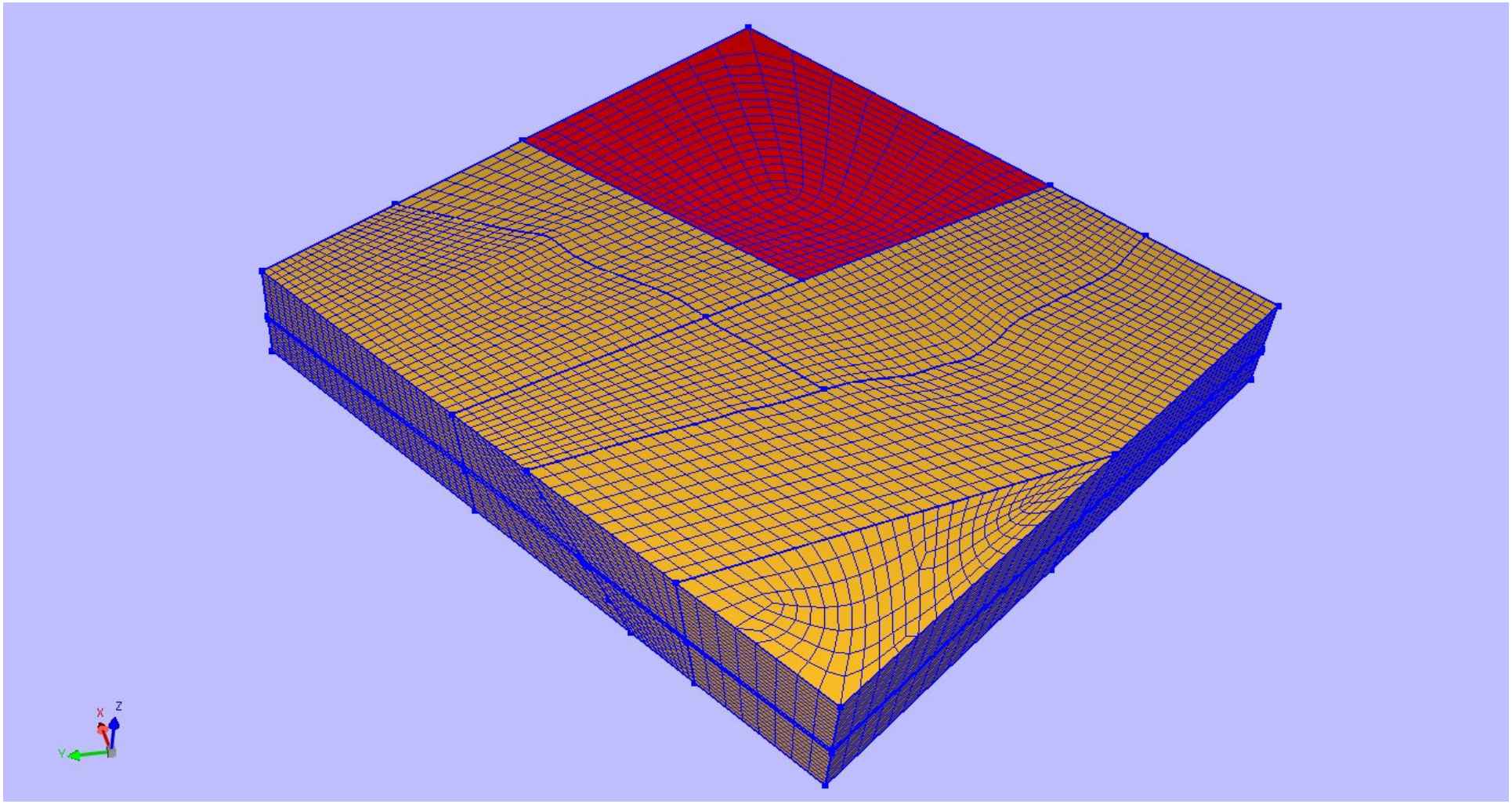
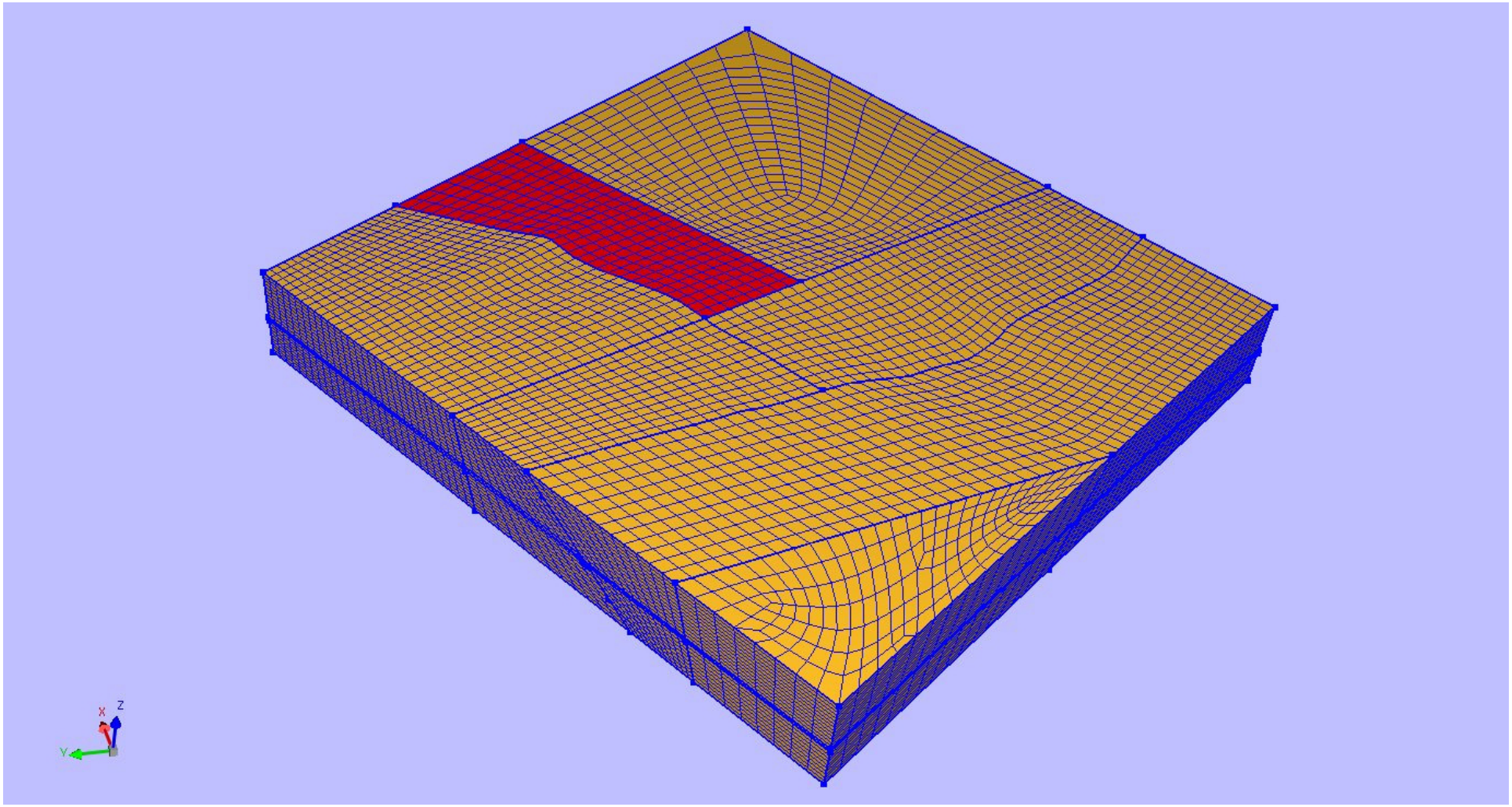
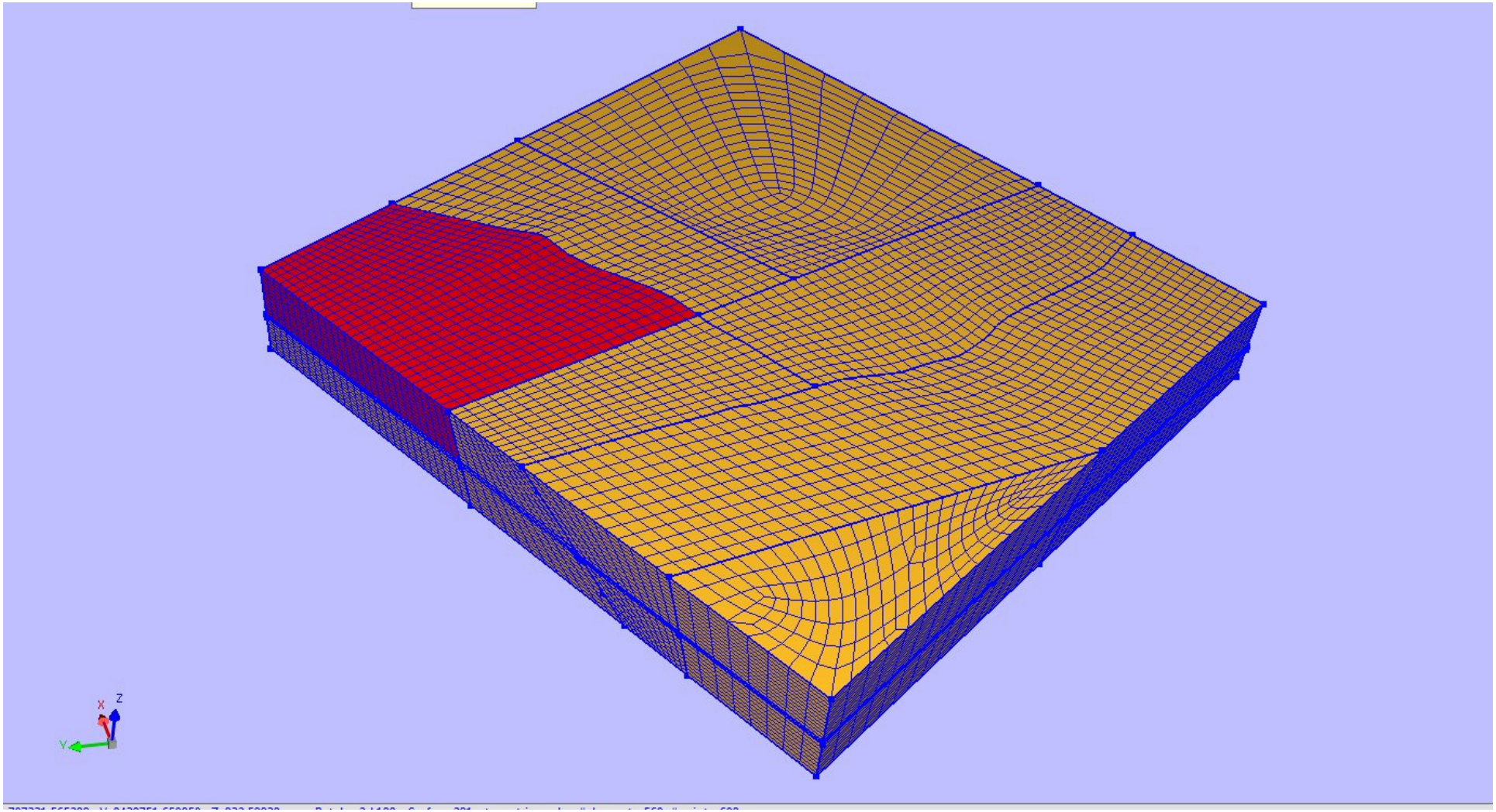


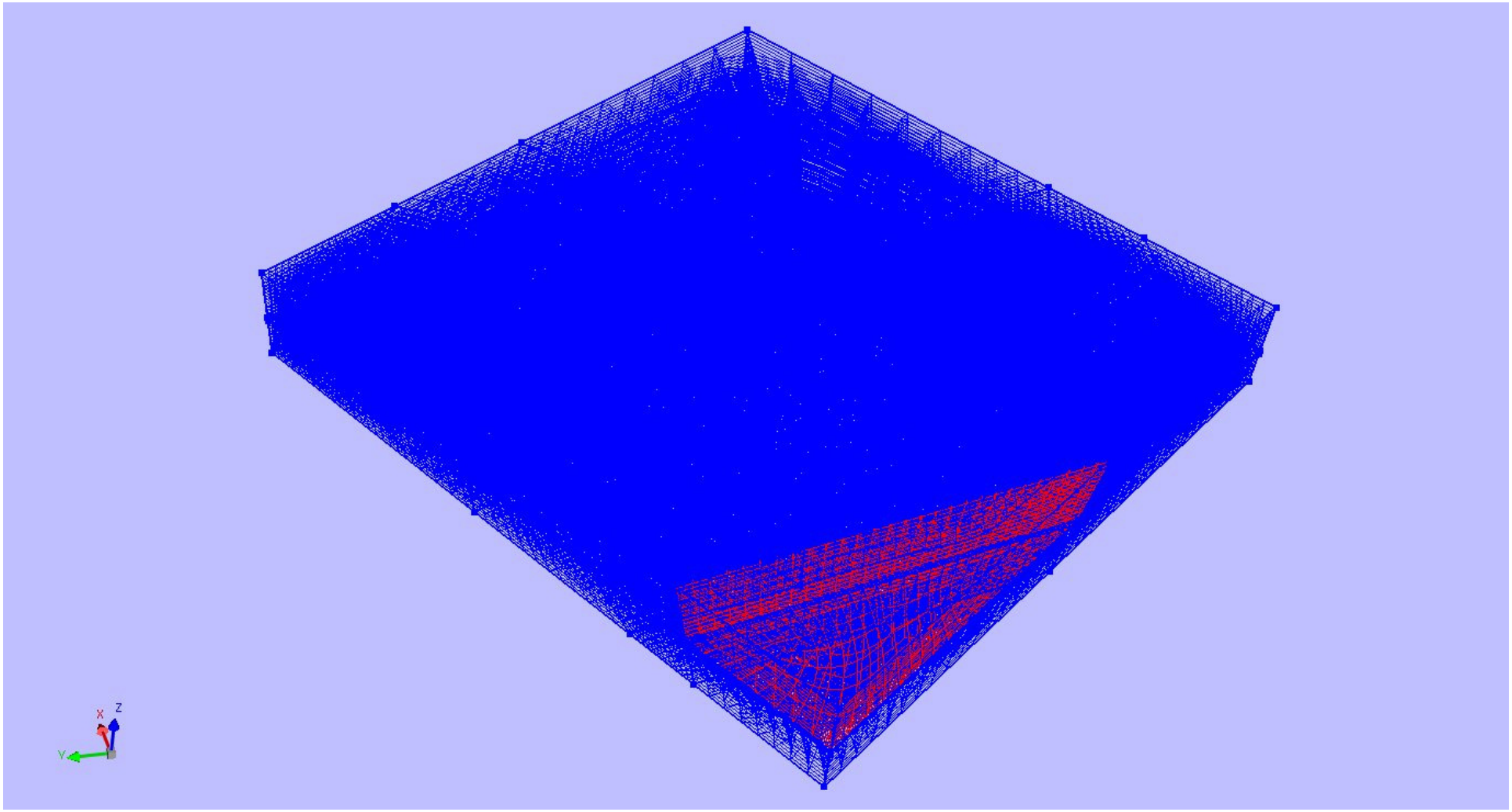
Automatic volume recognition



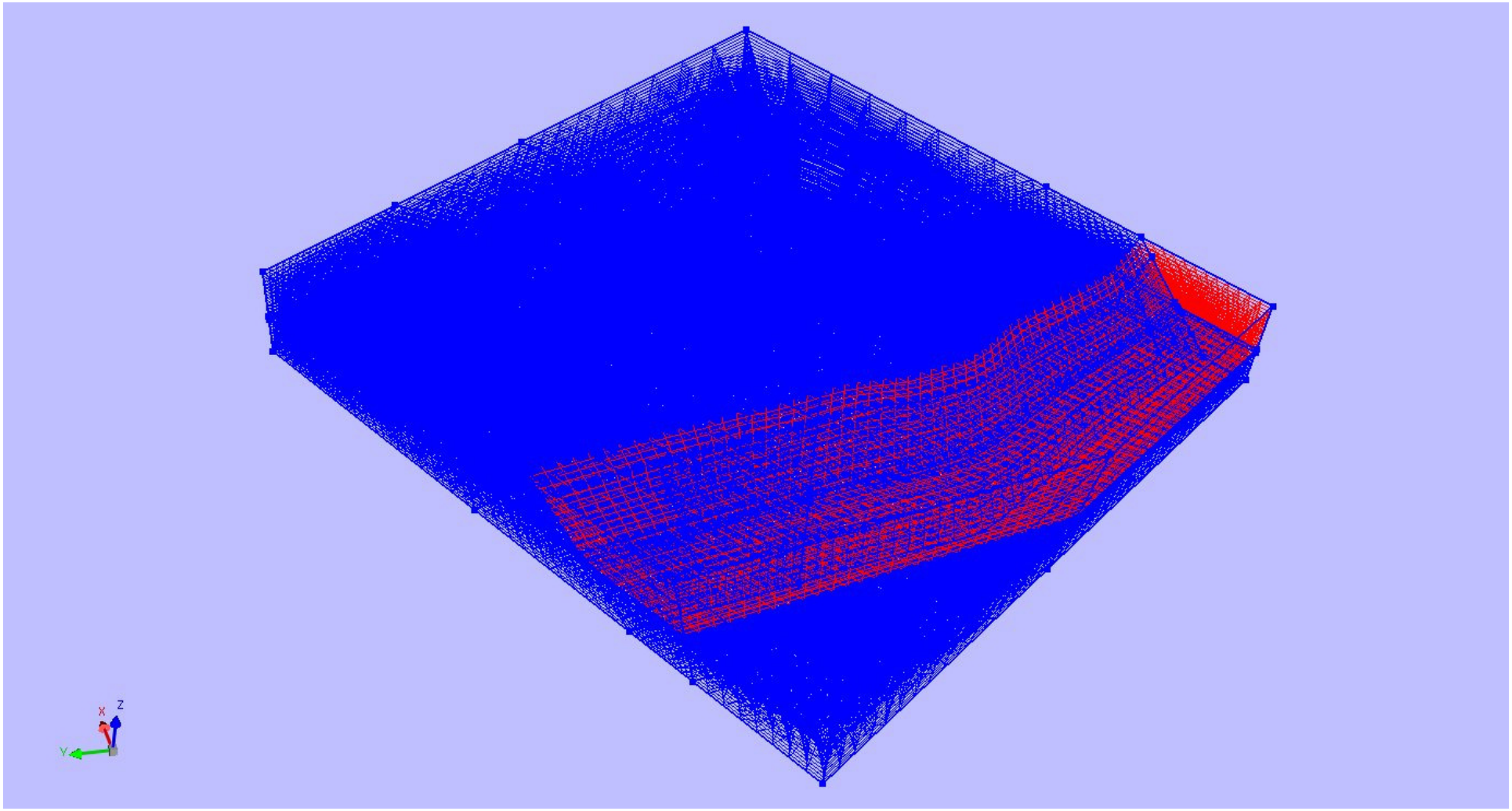
Automatic volume recognition



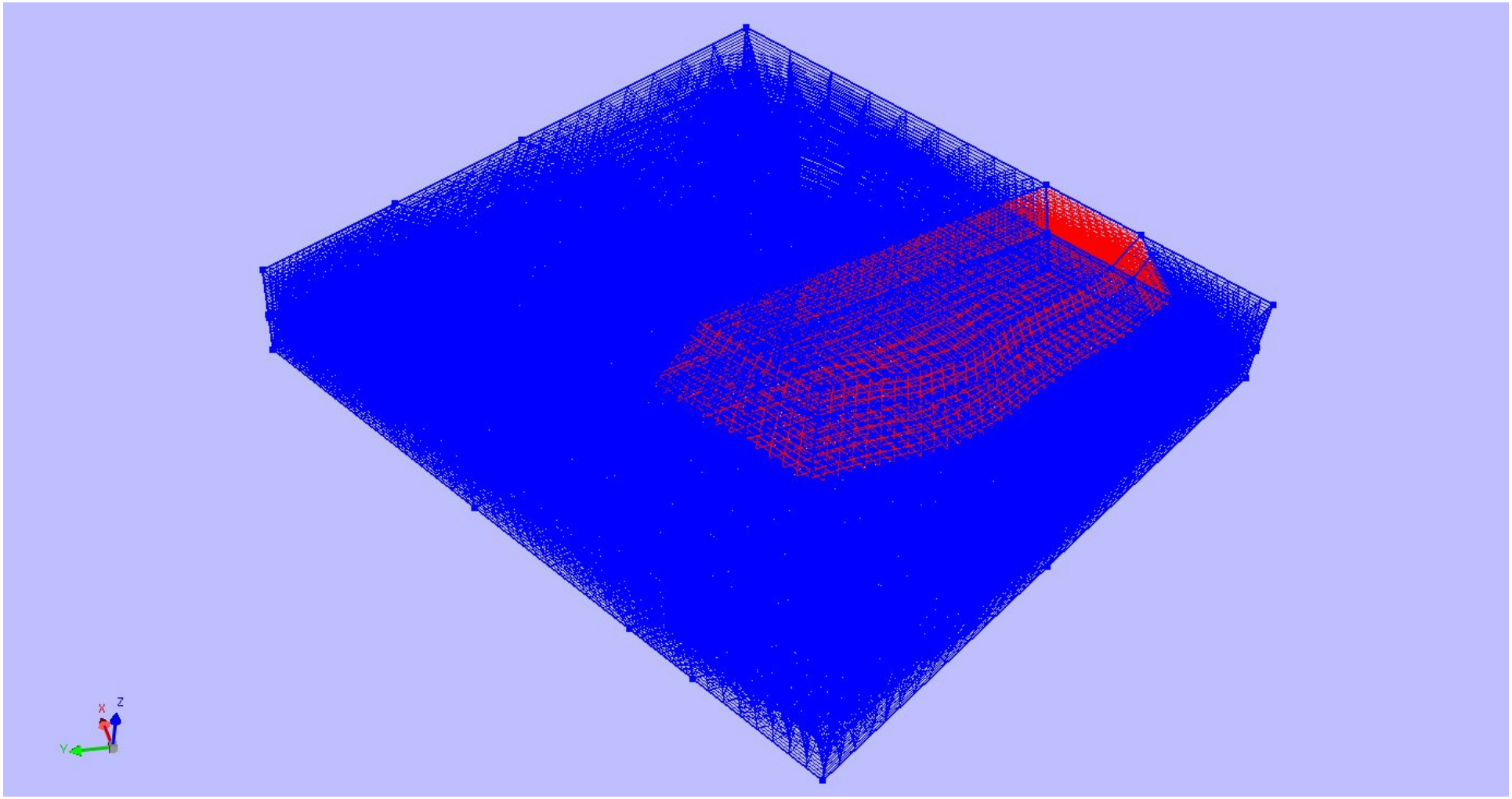
3D mapping mesh generation



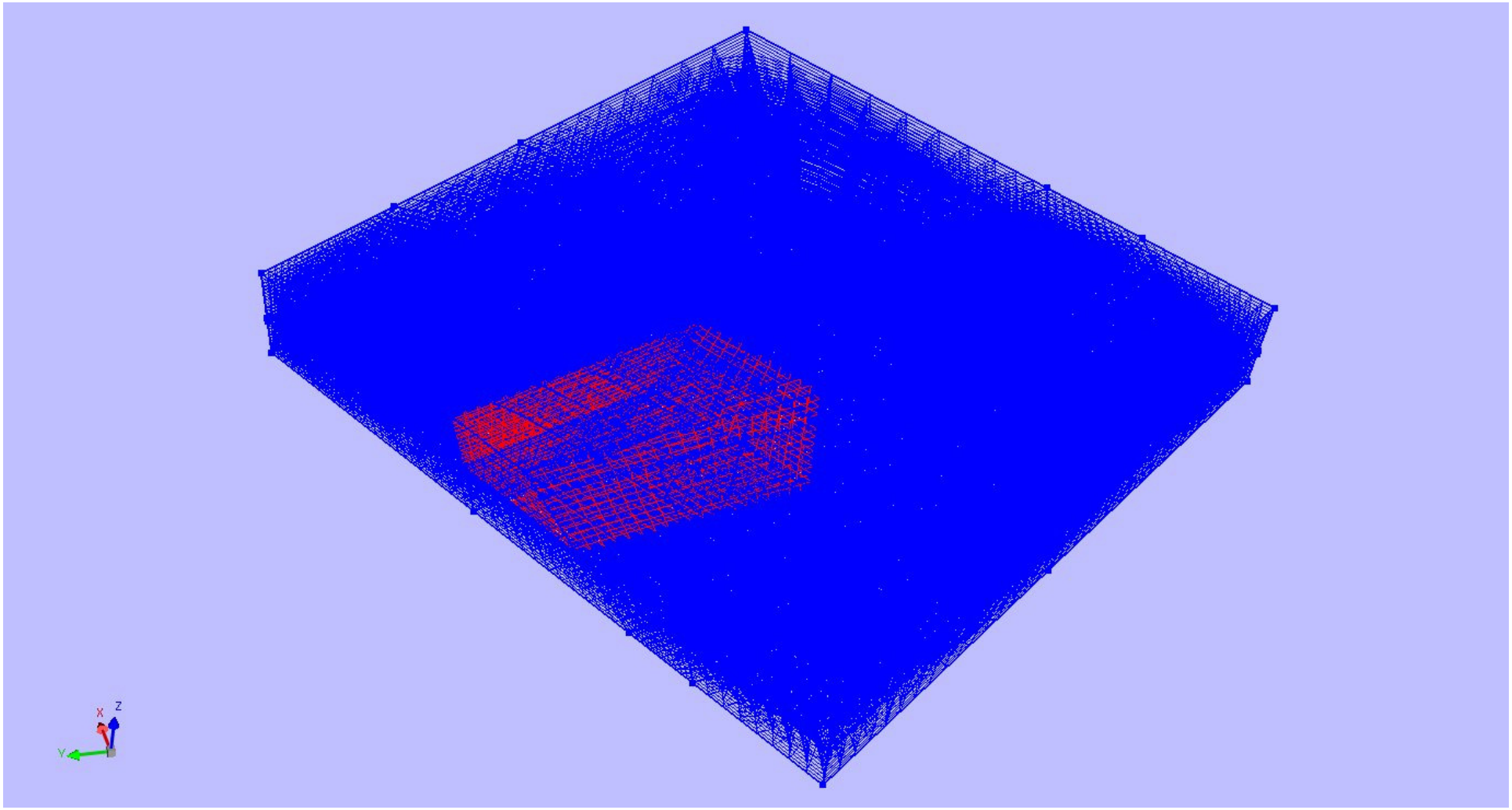
3D mapping mesh generation



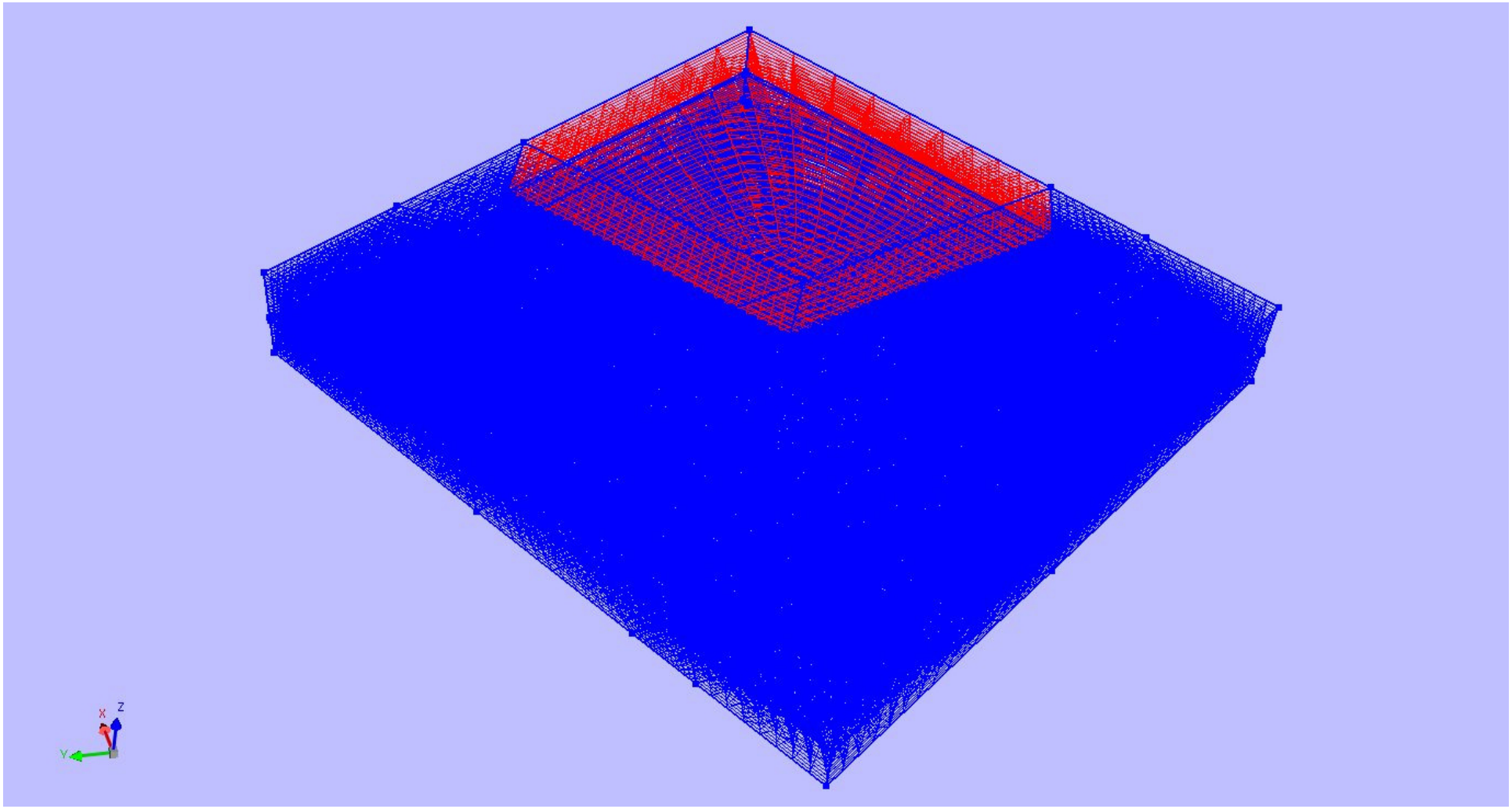
3D mapping mesh generation



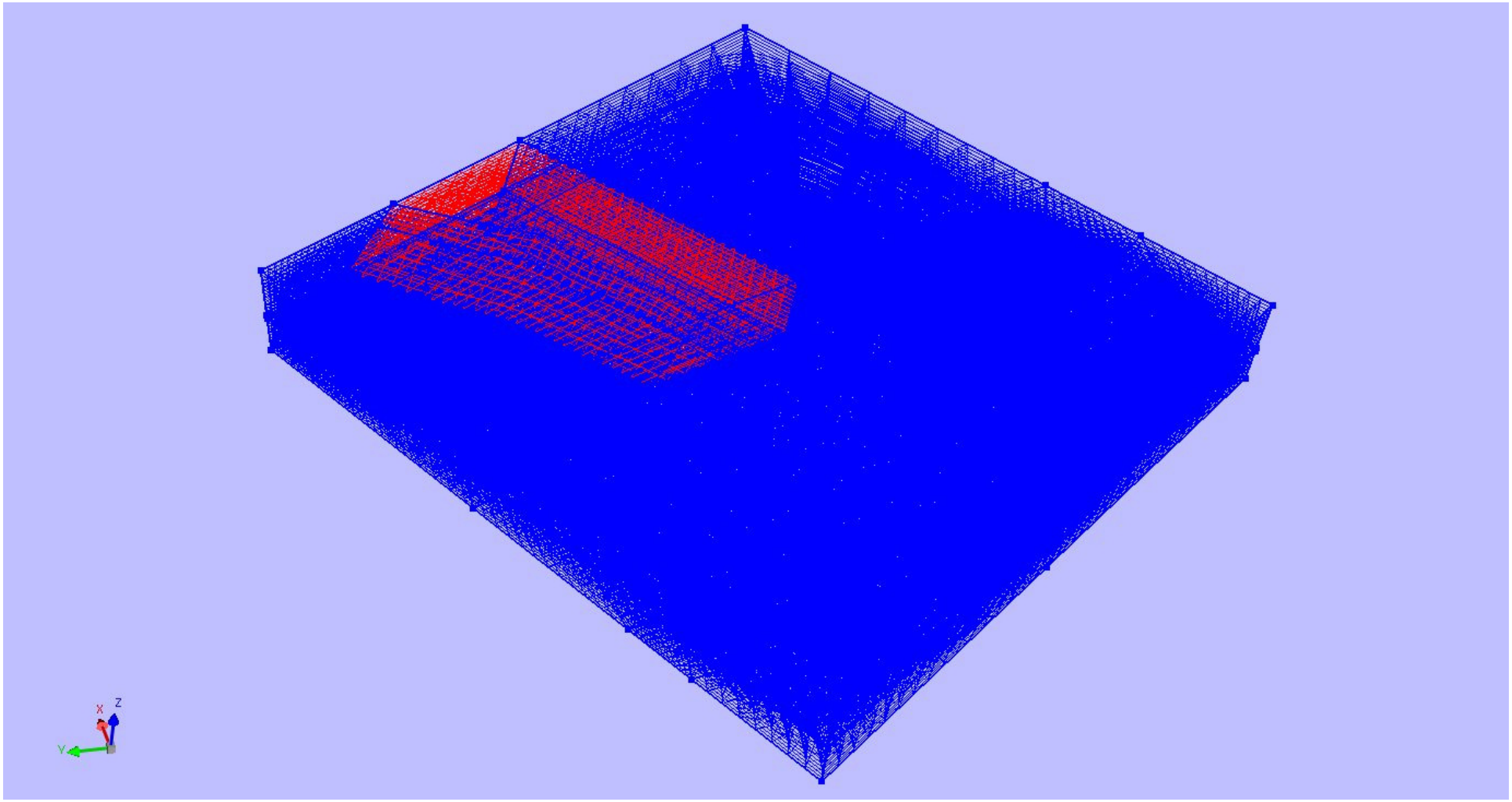
3D mapping mesh generation



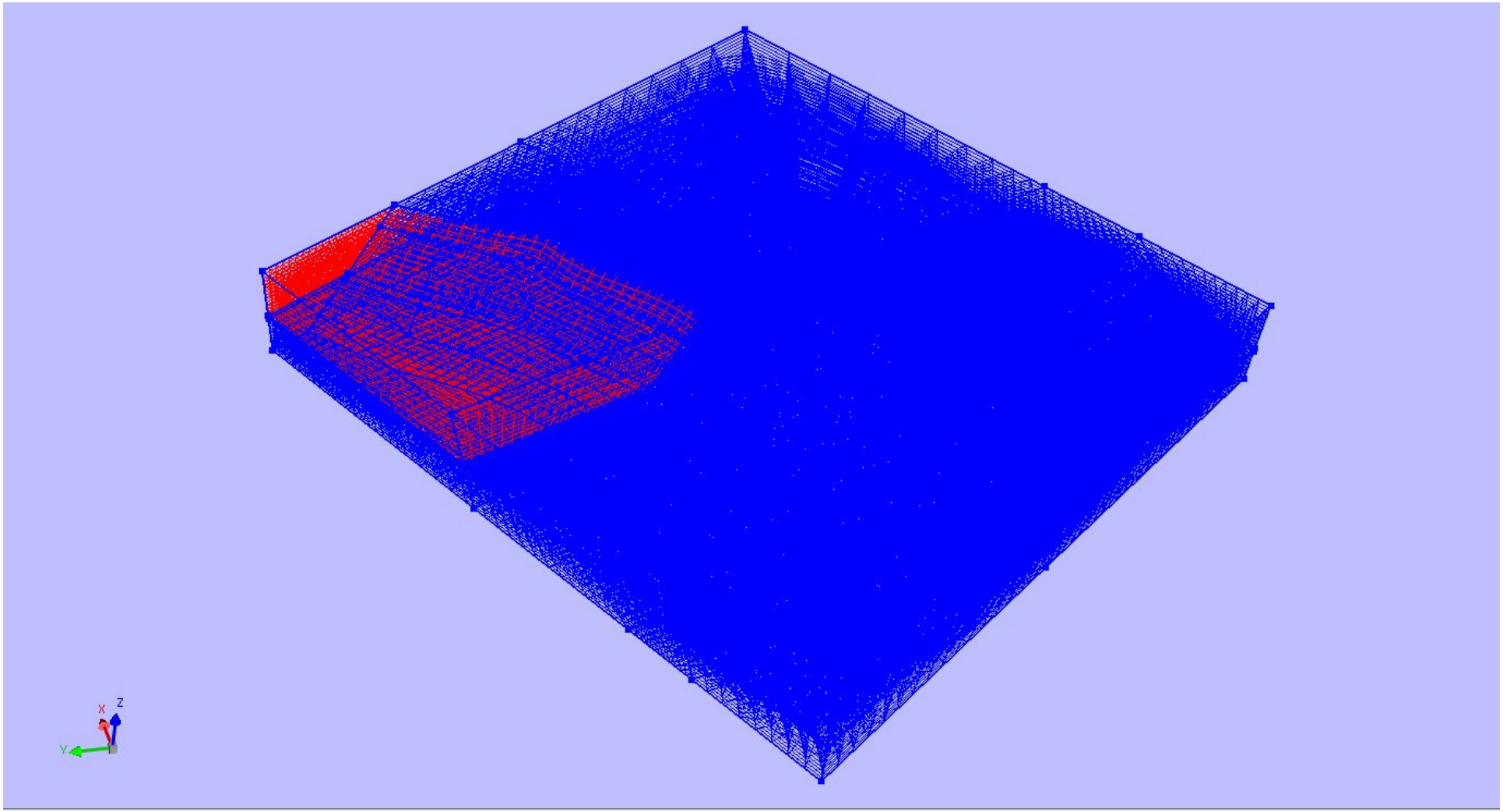
3D sweeping mesh generation



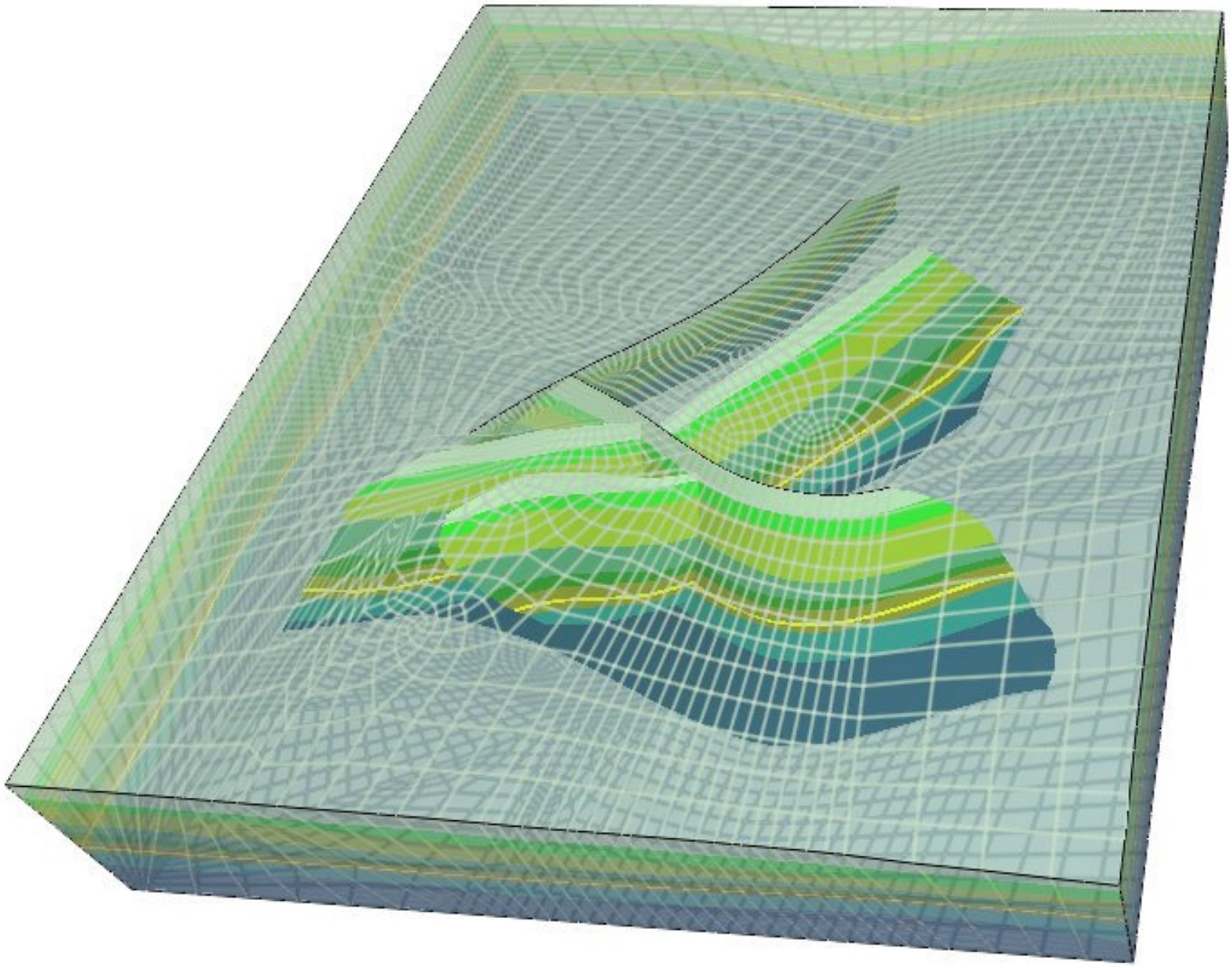
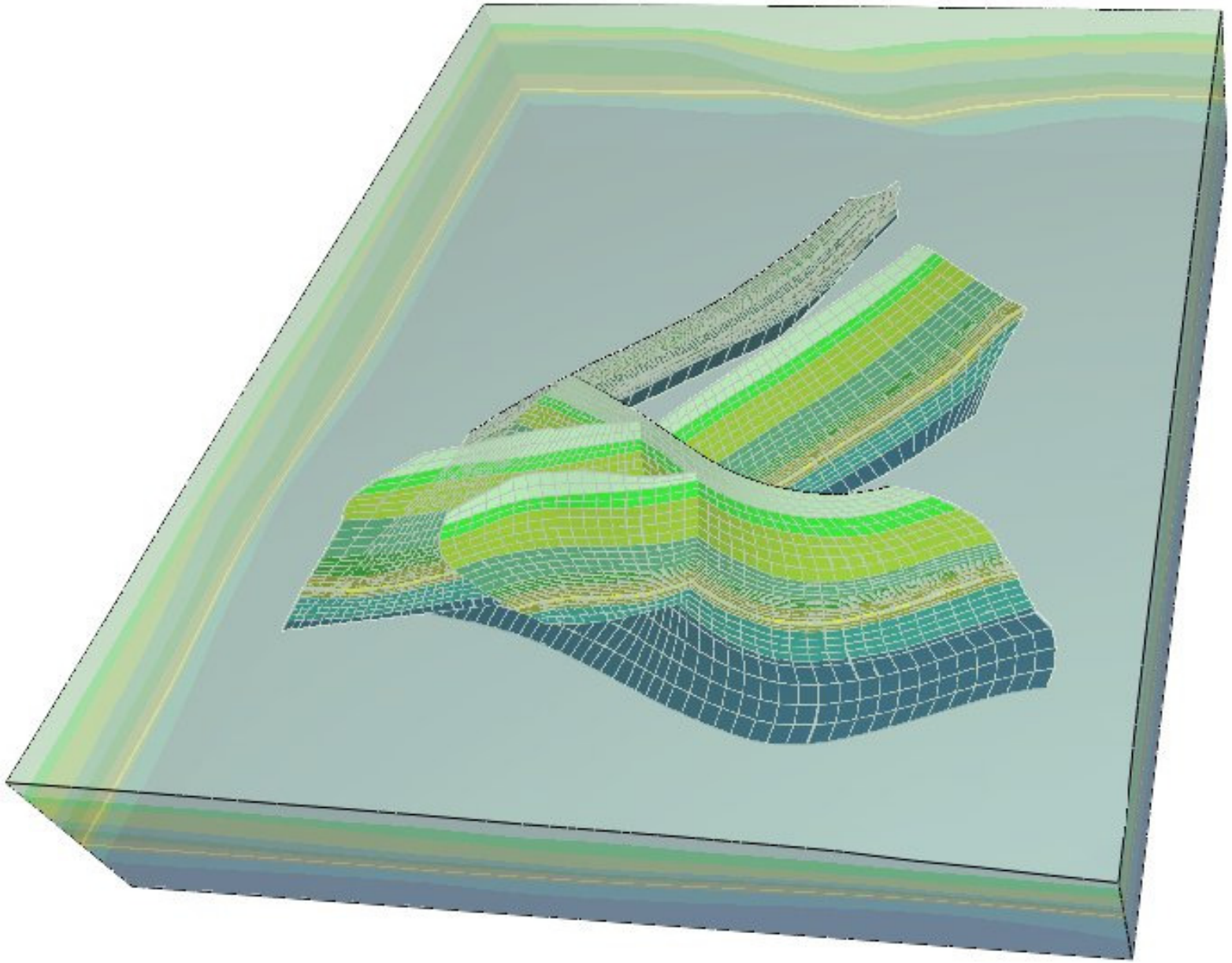
3D mapping mesh generation



3D mapping mesh generation



Final mesh consolidation



Final mesh consolidation