

# Multiscale methods for planar regular beam lattices using principles of the quasicontinuum method

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## Abstract

The quasicontinuum (QC) method is a multiscale approach to reduce the computational costs of discrete lattice computations. The method incorporates smallscale local lattice phenomena (e.g. a single lattice defect) in macroscale simulations. Since the method works directly and only on the beam lattice, QC frameworks do not require the construction and calibration of an accompanying continuum model (e.g. a cosserat/micropolar description) and no coupling procedures are required between the regions of interest in which the beam lattice is fully resolved and coarse domains in which the lattice is effectively homogenized. Hence, the method is relatively straightforward to implement and calibrate. In this contribution, four variants of the QC method are investigated for their use for planar beam lattice. The different frameworks are compared to the direct lattice computations for three truly multiscale test cases in which a single lattice defect is present in an otherwise perfectly regular beam lattice.

*Key words:* quasicontinuum method, multiscale, beam, beam lattice, beam model, lattice model, network model, discrete model, cosserat, micropolar, mixed formulation

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## 1. Introduction

Lattice models using discrete springs and beams (see ahead to Fig. 1) are often used to numerically predict the mechanical behavior of materials

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with a discrete microstructure (Ostoja-Starzewski, 2002; Fleck and Qiu, 2007; Rvkin and Slepyan, 2010). They are often used to investigate the mechanics of atomistic crystals (Tadmor et al., 1996a,b; Miller et al., 1998; Shimokawa et al., 2004), fibrous materials, such as textiles (Ben Boubaker et al., 2007; Lomov et al., 2007; Beex et al., 2013a), paper (Heyden, 2000; Bronkhorst, 2003; Kulachenko and Uesaka, 2012; Persson and Isaksson, 2013; Wilbrink et al., 2013), collagen networks (Chandran and Barocas, 2006; Stylianopoulos and Barocas, 2007; Argento et al., 2012) and glass-fiber networks (Ridruejo et al., 2010, 2012), and heterogeneous materials, such as concrete (Ince et al., 2002; Karihaloo et al., 2003; Lilliu and Van Mier, 2007). Their extensive use might be explained by their simplicity and discrete nature. This discreteness makes them appropriate to represent discrete meso-, micro- and nano-scale structures. Consequently, lattice models are able to capture mechanical events related to the discreteness of the structures they represent. One can think here of the nucleation of a single dislocation in metals (Tadmor et al., 1996a,b; Shenoy et al., 1999; Eidel and Stukowski, 2009), the failure of an individual fiber-to-fiber bond in collagen networks (Intrigila et al., 2007) or in paper materials (Kulachenko and Uesaka, 2012; Wilbrink et al., 2013) and the failure of a conductive wire in an electronic textile (Beex et al., 2013a,e).

For computations at application scales, the use of lattice models defined at small scales (e.g. the meso-scale or micro-scale) is computationally costly, if not computationally prohibited. Multiscale approaches can be employed to increase the computational efficiency of large-scale lattice computations (e.g. Gonella and Ruzzene (2008); Zhang et al. (2010); Kerfriden et al. (2011, 2012, 2013a,b)). One of those multiscale approaches is the quasicontinuum (QC) method (Tadmor et al., 1996a,b), which has the following advantages that are not all shared by other multiscale approaches.

- The QC method allows the lattice model to be fully resolved in regions of interest so that discrete events (e.g. dislocation nucleation, fiber failure) can be captured.
- QC approaches use the lattice model in fully resolved domains as well as in coarse domains. Hence, the user does not have to formulate and calibrate an accompanying continuum description. This is in contrast to numerous other multiscale approaches in which continuum descriptions are used in coarse domains of less interest and the lattice model only

in regions of interest (Curtin and Miller, 2003; Xiao and Belytschko, 2004; Klein and Zimmerman, 2006; Fish et al., 2007).

- In a number of QC approaches (as those proposed in this paper), no coupling procedures between coarse domains and fully resolved domains are required because the lattice model is used in both domains in a fully nonlocal fashion. This is in contrast to numerous other multiscale approaches that use handshaking procedures or Arlequin type of coupling procedures between continuum descriptions in coarse domains and the full lattice model in regions of interest (Curtin and Miller, 2003; Xiao and Belytschko, 2004; Klein and Zimmerman, 2006; Fish et al., 2007). Consequently, the implementation is straightforward.

A disadvantage of the method is that it can currently not be used for irregular networks, but only for regular discrete models (i.e. lattice models). Since a significant amount of materials contains a regular discreteness at small length scales however, the QC method is frequently used. Even for materials that are characterized by irregular discreteness, a regular lattice, and thus the QC method, at least incorporates a degree of discreteness that cannot necessarily be guaranteed by the use of continuum models.

QC approaches have mostly been used to study the behavior of (conservative) atomistic crystals. Studies can be found that focus on fracture along grain boundaries, nanoindentation and phase transformations (Tadmor et al., 1996a,b; Miller et al., 1998; Shenoy et al., 1999; Miller and Tadmor, 2002; Shimokawa et al., 2004; Eidel and Stukowski, 2009; Dobson et al., 2012; Yang et al., 2013). Recently, QC variants were proposed that allow their use for (non-conservative) dissipative structural lattice models using springs (Beex et al., 2011, 2013b,c). These variants depart from the virtual-power statement of the lattice and are therefore referred to as virtual-power-based QC approaches. Their applicability was demonstrated for structural lattice models with dissipative mechanisms in the lattice interactions (Beex et al., 2013c) and for lattice models with dissipative mechanisms in the lattice nodes (Beex et al., 2013d).

The previous QC approaches for structural lattice models (Beex et al., 2011, 2013c,d) can only treat trusses (i.e. springs). Beams however, which also have a resistance to bending in contrast to springs, are used in a large amount of structural lattice models. A few examples are beam models for graphene sheets (Berinskii and Borodich, 2013; Wang et al., 2013), paper (Heyden, 2000; Bronkhorst, 2003; Kulachenko and Uesaka, 2012; Persson

and Isaksson, 2013) and concrete (Ince et al., 2002; Karihaloo et al., 2003; Lilliu and Van Mier, 2007).

Since the kinematic variables of beam lattices contain not only nodal displacement but also nodal rotations, they cannot straightforwardly be incorporated in existing QC frameworks for structural lattice models that use springs. The aim of this paper is therefore to propose a number of multiscale QC approaches for beam lattices that incorporate local discrete mechanical phenomena in regions of interest, whereas in coarse domains a significant computational gain is made. The proposed QC frameworks incorporate the nodal displacements as well as the nodal rotations.

Large-scale lattice computations are computationally expensive because they contain a large number of lattice points. Since each lattice point contains several degrees of freedom, the governing system of equations is large and thus inefficient to solve. The second problem that arises from a large number of lattice points is the tremendous computational efforts associated with the construction of the governing equations, since it requires the construction of the local governing equations of each lattice point. These two causes make large-scale lattice computations not only inefficient, but can also make them prohibitively expensive.

### *1.1. The QC method in a nutshell*

QC approaches (Tadmor et al., 1996a,b; Miller and Tadmor, 2002) are constructed to avoid these two causes of computational inefficiency for large lattice computations. The first remedy is the use of interpolation to reduce the number of degrees of freedom (see ahead to Fig. 2). The interpolation resembles the interpolation used in finite elements, although it is not used to interpolate a continuous function (i.e. a continuum model), but to interpolate the kinematic variables (and sometimes internal history variables) of the lattice, e.g. the displacements of the lattice points. Interpolation of the kinematic variables takes place between a relatively small number of 'reppoints', which are selected from all lattice points to represent the kinematic variables of all lattice points. The reppoints can be located far away from each other in regions with small fluctuations of the kinematic variables. Consequently, a small number of degrees of freedom remain in these coarse domains. In regions with large fluctuations, all lattice points must be selected as reppoints. This entails that the lattice model is fully resolved in these domains.

The QC method is a multiscale method due to the coarse graining of the lattice in most domains, whereas it is fully resolved in domains of interest.

In this paper, different orders of interpolations are used for beam lattices. Consequently, the nodes of the interpolation triangles are not necessarily located on top of lattice nodes, as is usually the case in QC methodologies, but the numerical issues this entails can be rather straightforwardly overcome.

The second remedy of QC frameworks aims to avoid the construction of the entire governing set of equations by visiting all lattice points in the interpolated lattice, by selecting a small number of 'sampling interactions' to locally sample the governing equations (see ahead to Fig. 2). Most often the interpolated governing equations are only approximated by the use of sampling interactions, but schemes are also available that determine the governing equations exactly (Beex et al., 2011). In all cases, it is required that the selection of sampling interactions approaches the interpolated governing equations well. The manner in which these sampling interactions are selected from all lattice interactions, the way they are treated (locally or nonlocally) and the formulation of their weight factors (that determine how many lattice interactions each sampling interaction represents) is defined in a summation rule. Several summation rules can be found in literature which all have their specific scopes (Shenoy et al., 1999; Knap and Ortiz, 2001; Miller and Tadmor, 2002; Eidel and Stukowski, 2009; Gunzburger and Zhang, 2010; Zhang and Gunzburger, 2010; Beex et al., 2011, 2013b). A general and obvious characteristic is that all lattice interactions in fully resolved domains are selected as nonlocal sampling interactions so that the lattice is truly fully resolved. In coarse domains however, only a small number of lattice interactions is selected as sampling interactions to increase the computational efficiency.

In this paper, several summation rules are employed for the different interpolations. Traditionally, for atomistic lattices, and thus also for QC approaches, sampling points (i.e. sampling atoms) are used, but for structural lattice models it is computationally more efficient to use the interactions directly - as shown by Beex et al. (2013e). Therefore, sampling interactions and not sampling points are employed in this study.

### *1.2. Outline*

This paper contains the following sections. In the next section the governing equations of linear elastic beam lattices are described. Afterwards, the two principles of the QC method, i.e. interpolation and summation, are addressed and how they can be used for beam lattices. The proposed QC variants for beam lattices are explained in detail as well. In section 4 the QC variants are applied to a planar beam lattice with an individual lattice defect

that is separately subjected to in-plane uniform deformation, in-plane bending and out-of-plane bending. The computational gain of the frameworks is presented as well as the accuracy that can be achieved with the approaches. Finally, conclusions are presented.

## 2. Large-scale beam lattices

In this section the governing equations of beam lattices and the high computational costs of large-scale beam lattices are briefly described. The derivation is limited to lattices using elastic Euler-Bernoulli beams (Han et al., 1999). In order to streamline this paper, the derivation of the potential energy (i.e. stored energy) of an individual beam in the lattice can be found in Appendix A.

Let us start with the planar beam lattice presented in Fig. 1 which is part of a large-scale beam lattice. The entire beam lattice contains  $b$  beams (stored in index set  $B = \{1, \dots, b\}$ ) and  $n$  lattice (beam) nodes (stored in index set  $N = \{1, \dots, n\}$ ). Since beams have a resistance to bending (see Appendix A), the kinematic variables associated with the lattice nodes consist of nodal displacements as well as nodal rotations. This is in contrast to the kinematic variables of lattice models consisting of springs that only contain nodal displacements.

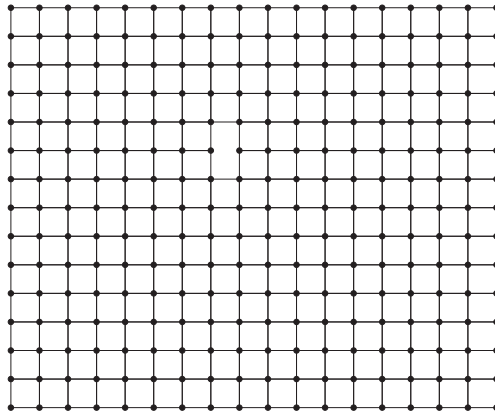


Figure 1: Part of a beam lattice consisting of square unit cells including a lattice defect.

In this study a beam can deform in three dimensions. The kinematic variables associated with lattice node  $i$  are therefore three displacements

$(U_i, V_i, W_i)$  and three rotations  $(\Theta_i, \Phi_i, \Omega_i)$ , see Appendix A). This means that  $6n$  kinematic variables are associated with the entire lattice. All  $3n$  displacements are stored in column matrix  $\mathbf{U}$  and the  $3n$  rotations are stored in column matrix  $\mathbf{\Theta}$ . The displacements and rotations are stored together in one column matrix  $\mathbf{a}$ :  $\mathbf{a} = [\mathbf{U}^T \mathbf{\Theta}^T]^T$  for ease of notation.

Since the beams are considered to be linear elastic in the present study, a solution for the lattice can be found by minimizing the total potential energy,  $E_{tot}$ , with respect to the degrees of freedom, i.e. the  $6n$  kinematic variables:

$$\mathbf{a} = \underset{\mathbf{a}^*}{\operatorname{argmin}} E_{tot}(\mathbf{a}^*). \quad (1)$$

The total potential energy  $E_{tot}$  consists of an internal part,  $E_{int}$ , and an external part:

$$E_{tot}(\mathbf{a}) = E_{int}(\mathbf{a}) - \mathbf{f}_{ext}^T \mathbf{a}, \quad (2)$$

where  $\mathbf{f}_{ext}$  is a column matrix of size  $6n \times 1$  containing forces and moments externally applied at the lattice nodes. The external forces and moments are stored in  $\mathbf{f}_{ext}$  such that they are conjugate to the degrees of freedom in  $\mathbf{a}$  on which they work. The internal potential energy can be computed by summing the internal potential energy of each beam,  $E_i$ :

$$E_{int}(\mathbf{a}) = \sum_{i=1}^b E_i(\mathbf{a}). \quad (3)$$

Of course, the internal energy of beam  $i$ ,  $E_i$ , only depends on the displacements and rotations of the two lattice nodes connected beam  $i$ , but  $E_i$  can thus also be expressed in terms of  $\mathbf{a}$ . The expression for the internal energy of beam  $i$  can be found in Appendix A.

Now an expression for the total potential energy is established, we can return to the minimization thereof (Eq. (1)). The minimum principle can be written in the variational form as follows:

$$\delta E_{tot}(\mathbf{a}) = \delta \mathbf{a}^T (\mathbf{f}(\mathbf{a}) - \mathbf{f}_{ext}) = 0 \quad \forall \delta \mathbf{a}, \quad (4)$$

where  $\delta$  refers to a virtual change and  $\mathbf{f}$  is a column matrix of length  $6n$  that contains the derivatives of the total internal energy to the degrees of freedom (i.e. the kinematic variables). Hence, effectively  $\mathbf{f}$  contains forces and moments. To establish column matrix  $\mathbf{f}$ , each beam in the lattice must be visited (recall Eq. (3)):

$$\mathbf{f}(\mathbf{a}) = \frac{\partial E_{int}(\mathbf{a})}{\partial \mathbf{a}} = \sum_{i=1}^b \frac{\partial E_i(\mathbf{a})}{\partial \mathbf{a}} = \sum_{i=1}^b \mathbf{f}_i(\mathbf{a}), \quad (5)$$

where the components of  $\mathbf{f}_i$  are given by:

$$(f_i)_p = \frac{\partial E_i}{\partial a_p}, \quad (6)$$

and  $p$  runs over all components of  $\mathbf{a}$ , i.e. the degrees of freedom or kinematic variables.

Although in this study a linear elastic (convex) case is considered, we still employ a Newton-Raphson procedure to solve Eq. (4), since non-linearities can present in planar beam lattices, e.g. by using elastoplastic beams instead of linear elastic beams. Employing a Newton-Raphson procedure leads to the following formulation:

$$\delta \mathbf{a}^T (\mathbf{f}(\mathbf{a}^*) + \mathbf{K} d\mathbf{a}) = \delta \mathbf{a}^T \mathbf{f}_{ext} \quad \forall \delta \mathbf{a}, \quad (7)$$

where  $\mathbf{a}^*$  represents the initial guess of the kinematic variables, which is  $\mathbf{a}^* = \mathbf{0}$  for the convex case as considered here. The column matrix  $d\mathbf{a}$  represents corrections to the initial guess. Similar to column matrix  $\mathbf{f}$ , the stiffness matrix is assembled from contributions of each beam in the lattice:

$$\mathbf{K} = \frac{\partial^2 E_{int}(\mathbf{a})}{\partial \mathbf{a}^2} = \sum_{i=1}^b \frac{\partial^2 E_i(\mathbf{a})}{\partial \mathbf{a}^2} = \sum_{i=1}^b \mathbf{K}_i, \quad (8)$$

where the components of  $\mathbf{K}_i$  are given by:

$$(K_i)_{pq} = \frac{\partial^2 E_i}{\partial a_q \partial a_p}, \quad (9)$$



where  $p$  and  $q$  run over all components of  $\mathbf{a}$ .

After incorporating Neumann boundary conditions in  $\mathbf{f}_{ext}$  and Dirichlet boundary conditions in  $\mathbf{a}$  and partitioning the system resulting from Eq. (7), the system can be solved.

Solving such a system is computationally exhaustive for large beam lattices because of two causes. First, if the number of  $n$  lattice nodes in the beam lattice is large, solving the  $6n$  scalar equations resulting from Eq. (7) is computationally expensive. The second cause for large computational costs (i.e. large computation times) is the efforts to construct the governing equations in Eq. 7. The assembly procedure to construct the governing equations is computationally costly because all  $b$  beams of the entire lattice must be visited according to the sums present in Eq. (5) and (8).

### 3. QC approaches for beam lattices

The QC method (Tadmor et al., 1996a,b) aims to overcome these two causes of large computational efforts of direct lattice computations. First, QC frameworks propose to interpolate the kinematic variables to reduce the number of degrees of freedom (see the first step in Fig.2). In the subsequent step, the QC method proposes to select only a small number of all  $b$  lattice interactions to obtain an estimate of the governing equations, instead of visiting all  $b$  beams. Employing these two reduction steps may lead to associated errors (see Fig. 2), but if they are neatly employed the total error ( $e(int + sum)$ ) in Fig. 2) is insignificant and an increase of computational efficiency of at least one order of magnitude is achievable.

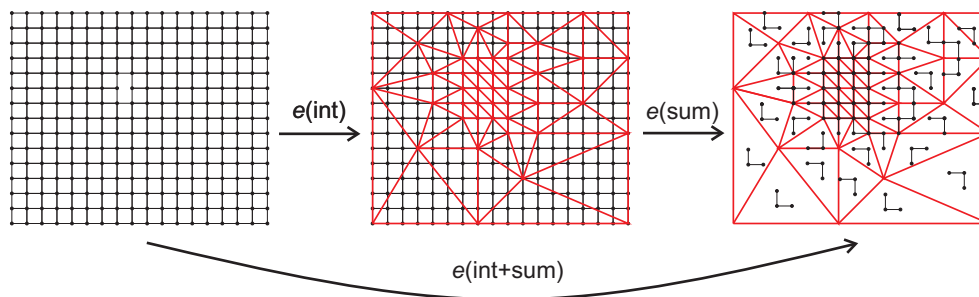


Figure 2: Schematic representation of the two reduction steps introduced in the QC method. In both reduction steps an error,  $e$ , may be introduced.

### 3.1. Interpolation of beam lattices

Interpolation of lattice variables (kinematic variables and sometimes also internal history variables (Beex et al., 2013d)) is employed in QC methodologies by selecting a small number of lattice points to represent the variables of the entire lattice. Therefore, these lattice points are often referred to as representative points or reppoints. Interpolation functions are defined in between the reppoints to interpolate the variables of the lattice points in between them. The used interpolation functions are similar to the shape functions used in finite element (FE) frameworks. This has the benefit that technologies developed in decades of FE research can rather straightforwardly be used in QC frameworks, e.g. adaptivity (Peerlings et al., 2008).

In domains with small fluctuations of the variables, the distance between the reppoints (i.e. the interpolation triangles) can be relatively large. If large fluctuations occur - e.g. around local events such as lattice defects and locally applied deformations - more reppoints require to be selected in order to capture all fluctuations occurring in the lattice (see Fig. 2). In the limit, all lattice points are selected as reppoints, so that interpolation effectively does not occur. Regions in which all lattice points are selected as reppoints are fully resolved, which makes the QC method a true multiscale approach. After all, in regions of interest the small-scale (e.g. meso-scale or micro-scale) discrete lattice model is fully resolved, whereas in the rest of the domain the lattice model is interpolated and thus effectively homogenised.

Only linear interpolation is used so far in QC approaches, but for beam lattices higher order interpolation functions are useful, as shown below. As a result of the use of higher order interpolation, more triangle nodes (reppoints) are required to span the interpolation triangles, but if higher order interpolation functions are used, it cannot be guaranteed that all the triangle nodes are located on top of lattice nodes. As will be shown below however, numerical issues that arise from this can be overcome by relatively straightforward means.

Due to interpolation the kinematic variables of all lattice nodes are now expressed as follows:

$$\mathbf{a} \approx \bar{\mathbf{a}} = \mathbf{\Psi} \mathbf{a}_r, \quad (10)$$

where  $\bar{\mathbf{a}}$  are the kinematic variables of all  $n$  lattice nodes in the interpolated (i.e. condensed) system,  $\mathbf{\Psi}$  is the condensation matrix of size  $6n \times 6r$  that

contains the interpolation function evaluations at the locations of all  $n$  lattice nodes and  $\mathbf{a}_r$  contains the  $6r$  kinematic variables of the  $r$  triangle nodes.

As a consequence of the interpolation, the minimization has to be performed with respect to  $\mathbf{a}_r$ , instead of  $\mathbf{a}$ :

$$\mathbf{a}_r = \underset{\mathbf{a}_r^*}{\operatorname{argmin}} E_{tot}(\mathbf{a}_r^*). \quad (11)$$

By substitution of Eq. (10) in Eq. (7), the governing equations of the condensed lattice are expressed as follows:

$$\delta \mathbf{a}_r^T (\Psi^T \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{a}_r^*) + \Psi^T \mathbf{K} \Psi d\mathbf{a}_r) = \delta \mathbf{a}_r^T \Psi^T \mathbf{f}_{ext} \quad \forall \delta \mathbf{a}_r, \quad (12)$$

where the condensed counterparts of  $\mathbf{f}$  and  $\mathbf{K}$  can be identified as  $\Psi^T \mathbf{f}$  and  $\Psi^T \mathbf{K} \Psi$ , respectively. We leave  $\mathbf{f}_{ext}$  out of consideration in the derivation from here onwards.

In some of the frameworks proposed below, the order of the interpolation used for the nodal displacements is different than the order of the interpolation used for the nodal rotations. Consequently, the triangle nodes of the interpolation triangles for the nodal displacements are not necessarily the same as those of the interpolation triangles for the nodal rotations. Therefore, the total of  $r$  triangle nodes is split in a part used for the displacements,  $r_u$ , and in a part used for the rotations,  $r_\theta$  - although some of the triangle nodes are used to interpolate the displacements as well as the rotations. In correspondence to this differentiation, Eq. (10) can be reformulated as follows, if we still use  $\mathbf{a} = [\mathbf{U}^T \Theta^T]^T$  for ease of notation:

$$\bar{\mathbf{a}} = \begin{bmatrix} \bar{\mathbf{U}} \\ \bar{\Theta} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \Psi_u & 0 \\ 0 & \Psi_\theta \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{U}_{r_u} \\ \Theta_{r_\theta} \end{bmatrix}, \quad (13)$$

where  $\bar{\mathbf{U}}$  and  $\bar{\Theta}$  are the condensed displacements and rotations of the interpolated lattice, respectively, and  $\Psi_u$  (of size  $3n \times 3r_u$ ) and  $\Psi_\theta$  (of size  $3n \times 3r_\theta$ ) are the condensation matrices associated with the interpolation of the displacements and rotations, respectively. The  $3r_u$  displacements of the  $r_u$  triangle nodes spanning the interpolation triangles for the displacements are represented by  $\mathbf{U}_{r_u}$  and the  $3r_\theta$  rotations of the  $r_\theta$  triangle nodes spanning the interpolation triangles for the rotations are presented by  $\Theta_{r_\theta}$ .

### 3.1.1. Linear interpolation of the displacements and the rotations

The first QC scheme for beam lattices proposed here interpolates the displacements as well as the rotations linearly. Linear interpolation of both types of kinematic variables has the advantage that this is in correspondence with most previous QC frameworks (Tadmor et al., 1996a,b; Miller et al., 1998; Knap and Ortiz, 2001; Miller and Tadmor, 2002; Eidel and Stukowski, 2009; Beex et al., 2011, 2013b) and that possibly several technologies yet developed for QC methods can rather directly be employed. Examples are summation rules that specifically focus on linear interpolation, such as the central summation rule (Beex et al., 2013b) which is similarly accurate for the mixed formulation QC framework used by Beex et al. (2013d). Another advantage is that the same triangle nodes can be selected for both interpolations ( $r = 2r_u$ ,  $r_u = r_\theta$  and  $\Psi_u = \Psi_\theta$ ). Linear interpolation of the displacements and the rotations also entails that the discrete beam lattice is automatically fully resolved in domains of interest that are required to be fully resolved (see the left image of Fig. 3).

In most QC methodologies, the transition of the size of interpolation triangles from fully resolved domains to coarse domains is gradual as can be seen in Fig. 2 and in the left image of Fig. 3. However, QC results in studies such as the one by Beex et al. (2011) show that a high accuracy in fully resolved domains can best be achieved by enlarging the fully resolved domains and not by decreasing the size of the triangles in coarse domains (if one desires to keep the computational gain as large as possible). Global responses such as force-displacement responses remain relatively unaffected in all cases (Beex et al., 2013c).

Thus, previous studies indicate that it is computationally most convenient to coarsen the triangulation as much as possible outside the fully resolved domain. Acting on this observation, we not only investigate the efficiency and accuracy of triangulations that are traditionally used in QC methodologies, which gradually coarsen away from fully resolved domains, but in the following section we also investigate the possibilities in terms of accuracy and efficiency for non-conforming triangulations that use large triangles in the entire coarse domain without gradual coarsening, as shown on the right in Fig. 3. The kinematic variables of the triangle nodes at the internal interface in these frameworks are interpolated using the coarse triangles (see the right image in Fig. 3 again).

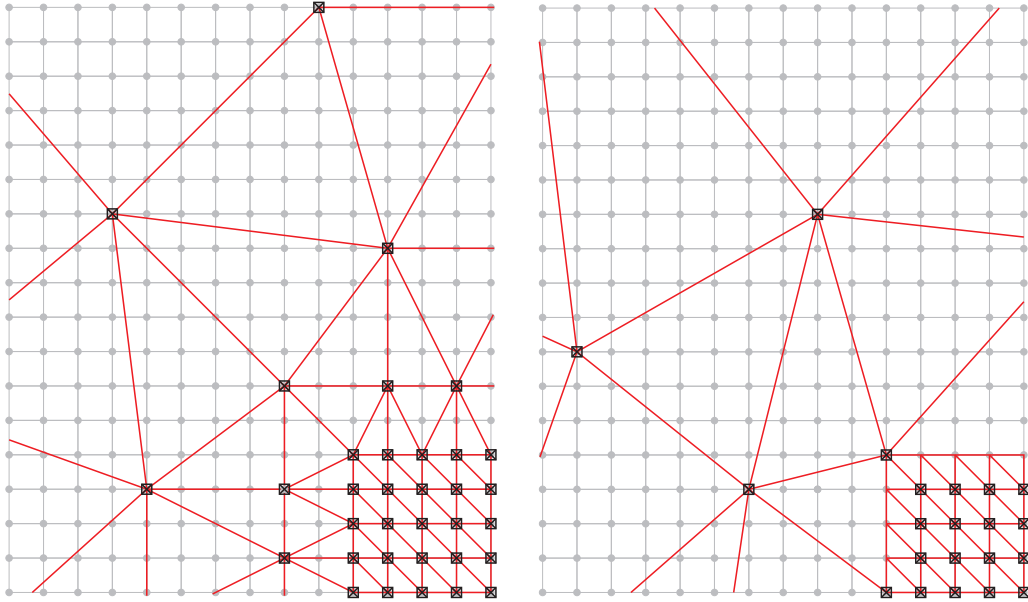


Figure 3: Schematic representation of linear interpolation triangles superimposed on the planar beam lattice. Left: a conforming triangulation, right: a non-conforming triangulation. In the top right corners of both images fully resolved regions can be seen. Black squares represent triangle nodes that interpolate the displacements and black crosses represent triangle nodes used to interpolate the rotations.

### 3.1.2. Cubic interpolation of the displacements and quadratic interpolation of the rotations

The Hermite interpolation that is traditionally used for a linear elastic beam (as well as in this study, see Appendix A) entails that the local beam deflections (the displacements orthogonal to the beam's central axis) are interpolated in a cubic fashion and that the (non-torsional) local beam rotations are interpolated in a quadratic fashion. After all, the local rotations are defined as the derivatives of the local beam deflections (see Appendix A). Consequently, if several beam elements are used to discretise one single rod, the nodal deflections may show a cubic profile over the rod's central axis and the nodal rotations may show a quadratic profile.

To be able to capture these cubic displacements and quadratic rotations in the lattice nodes, which are especially important for out-of-plane deformations, a second QC framework is proposed here that interpolates the nodal

displacements cubically and the nodal rotations quadratically (using ten and six nodes per triangle respectively, see Fig 4). In contrast to QC frameworks with linear interpolation, the use of interpolations of different orders entails that two separate sets of reppoints must be used to span the cubic triangles and the quadratic triangles. Furthermore, it is possible that triangle nodes are not located on top of lattice points - making the term 'reppoints' not very appropriate for these schemes (see Fig. 4).

The cubic and quadratic interpolation of the nodal displacements and nodal rotations forms a problem in fully resolved domains. The cause is that only the corner nodes of the triangles are located on top of all lattice points in these domains. Hence, the number of triangle nodes (i.e. degrees of freedom) is too large to be adequately governed by the underlying beam lattice, leading to ill-posed systems. To overcome this numerical issue, linear interpolation of the displacements and rotations is used in fully resolved regions of the QC schemes with non-conforming triangulations. This entails that in these domains effectively no interpolation takes place and that the beam lattice is truly fully resolved, as is the case for QC frameworks that use linear interpolation of both the displacements and the rotations.

The same numerical issue takes place just outside fully resolved domains for the conforming triangulations traditionally used in QC frameworks, since outside the fully resolved regions also more kinematic variables are present in the imposed triangles than in the underlying beam lattice. Also this will lead to ill-posed systems if left untreated, but in contrast to fully resolved domains the difficulty is that a priori it is substantially difficult to assess in which triangles which degrees of freedom are not governed by the underlying beams. Even if it possible to determine this for each triangle (a posteriori), individual interpolation functions need to be defined for a significant amount of triangles, which makes the implementation more complex and compromises the efficiency of the overheads.

In this study the generalized minimal residual (GMRES) algorithm (Saad and Schultz, 1986) is used to avoid the separate formulation of individual interpolation functions. The GMRES algorithm effectively solves the governing equations, resulting from Eq. (12), in a least square sense. This means that the governing equations are solved in such a manner that the obtained values for the degrees of freedom of the interpolation, that are not governed by the underlying beam lattice, are as close as possible to their initial values (i.e. zero). Depending on the software (we used MATLAB) this can be significantly more straightforward to implement than the remedy formulated in the previous paragraph.

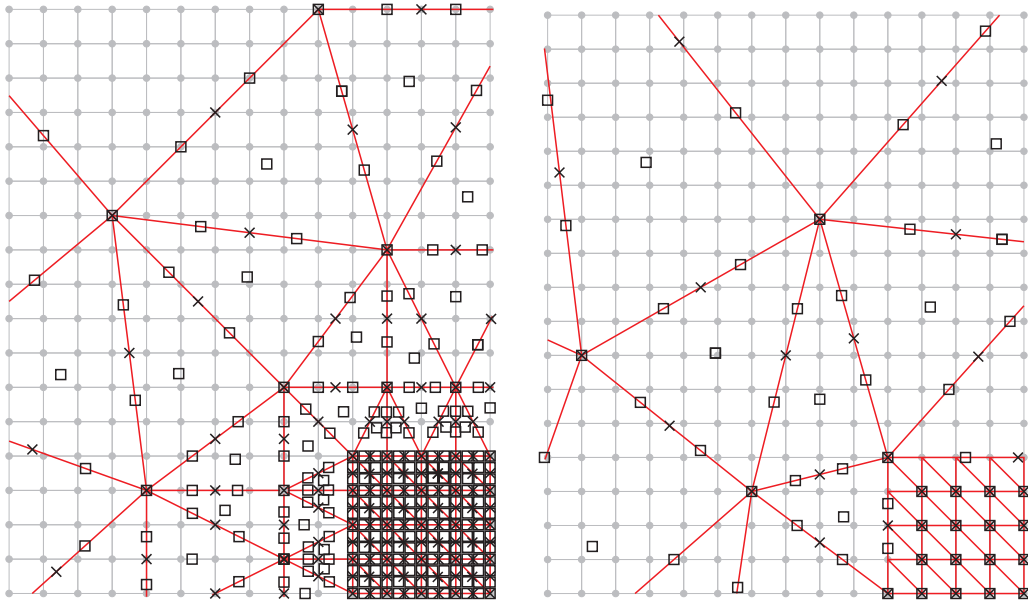


Figure 4: Schematic representation of cubic interpolation triangles and quadratic interpolation triangles superimposed on the planar beam lattice. Left: a conforming triangulation, right: a non-conforming triangulation. In the top right corners of both images fully resolved regions can be seen. Black squares represent triangle nodes that interpolate the displacements and black crosses represent triangle nodes used to interpolate the rotations.

This numerical issue is not present for non-conforming triangulations that are also investigated for the higher order interpolations in the subsequent section (see the right image in Fig. 4). A condition for this is that interpolation triangles are not allowed to be smaller than a particular size, but for the cases presented below no problems were observed, whilst the triangles are significantly small (as can be observed on the right in Fig. 4). In the fully resolved domains, the triangles are always of the same size and only the corner nodes are located on top of lattice nodes (as described above). Since in those domains the size and orientation of the triangles are a priori known, this can straightforwardly be implemented by linearly interpolating the displacements and rotations in these regions (as described above as well).

Although the number of scalar equations resulting from Eq. (12) for the condensed beam lattice is only  $6r$ , compared to the  $6n$  scalar equations resulting from Eq. (7) for the direct beam lattice, still all  $b$  beams of the lattice have to be visited to assemble the governing equations. This extensive assem-

bly procedure significantly compromises the use of direct (and interpolated) beam lattices defined at small scales for engineering scale applications.

### 3.2. Summation

The remedy proposed in QC methodologies is to select only a small number of  $s$  sampling interactions (i.e. beams) to approximate the governing equations, instead of visiting all  $b$  beams. The assembly of the approximated governing equations is obviously only more efficient if  $s \ll b$ . The sampling interactions (stored in subset  $S$ ) are selected from all interactions ( $S \subseteq B$ ). Each sampling interaction is used to sample the lattice interactions of the same type in its vicinity. The number of interactions that sampling interaction  $i$  represents is accounted for in its weight factor  $w_i$  (including sampling interaction  $i$  itself). To guarantee that in fully resolved regions the beam lattice is truly fully resolved, all interactions in the fully resolved regions are selected as sampling interactions that only represent themselves ( $w_i = 1$ ).

Since the kinematic variables (i.e. the degrees of freedom) of the summed, condensed beam lattice remain the same as the for the condensed beam lattice, the minimization remains with respect to the degrees of freedom of the condensed lattice ( $\mathbf{a}_r$ ). As a result of summation however, the construction of the internal potential energy changes to:

$$E_{int}(\mathbf{a}) \approx \bar{E}_{int}(\mathbf{a}_r) \approx \tilde{E}_{int}(\mathbf{a}_r) = \sum_{i \in S} w_i \bar{E}_i(\mathbf{a}_r), \quad (14)$$

where  $\bar{E}_{int}$  refers to the internal potential energy of the condensed beam lattice and  $\tilde{E}_{int}$  refers to the internal potential energy of the summed, condensed beam lattice. As a consequence, Eq. (12) is recasted into the following expression:

$$\delta \mathbf{a}_r^T \left( \tilde{\mathbf{f}}(\mathbf{a}_r^*) + \tilde{\mathbf{K}} d\mathbf{a}_r \right) = \delta \mathbf{a}_r^T \tilde{\mathbf{f}}_{ext} \quad \forall \delta \mathbf{a}_r, \quad (15)$$

where  $\tilde{\mathbf{f}}$  and  $\tilde{\mathbf{K}}$  are the summed, condensed counterparts of  $\mathbf{f}$  and  $\mathbf{K}$  in Eq. (7), respectively. They can be determined as follows:

$$\tilde{\mathbf{f}}(\mathbf{a}_r) = \frac{\partial \tilde{E}_{int}(\mathbf{a}_r)}{\partial \mathbf{a}_r} = \sum_{i \in S} w_i \Psi^T \frac{\partial E_i(\mathbf{a})}{\partial \mathbf{a}} = \sum_{i \in S} w_i \Psi^T \mathbf{f}_i(\mathbf{a}), \quad (16)$$



$$\tilde{\mathbf{K}} = \frac{\partial^2 \tilde{E}_{int}(\mathbf{a}_r)}{\partial \mathbf{a}^2} = \sum_{i \in S} w_i \Psi^T \frac{\partial^2 E_i(\mathbf{a})}{\partial \mathbf{a}^2} \Psi = \sum_{i \in S} w_i \Psi^T \mathbf{K}_i \Psi. \quad (17)$$

The components of  $\mathbf{f}_i$  and  $\mathbf{K}_i$  are still given by Eq. (6) and (9), respectively.

The selection of the sampling interactions, the computation of their weight factors and the manner in which they are treated (locally or nonlocally) are defined in a summation rule. In literature a number of summation rules are proposed which all have their specific aim (Tadmor et al., 1996a,b; Miller et al., 1998; Knap and Ortiz, 2001; Miller and Tadmor, 2002; Eidel and Stukowski, 2009; Gunzburger and Zhang, 2010; Zhang and Gunzburger, 2010; Beex et al., 2011, 2013b). A common point is that they all try to accomplish that the condensed potential energy approximates the summed, condensed total potential energy as accurately as possible ( $\bar{E}_{tot} \approx \tilde{E}_{tot}$ ) with a minimum of sampling points/interactions in order to increase the computational efficiency as much as possible. However, all previously proposed summation rules focus on linear interpolation for atomistic lattices and are not aimed at mixed interpolations, higher order interpolations and structural lattice models as is the case in this study. Only the summation rules defined by Beex et al. (2011) and Beex et al. (2013b) were used for structural lattice models and the summation rule defined by Beex et al. (2013b) was used in the study of Beex et al. (2013d) for a structural lattice model in a mixed QC method.

### 3.2.1. Summation rules for higher order interpolation

The summation rule of Beex et al. (2011) developed QC frameworks with linear interpolation for instance, is based on an exact understanding of how the interpolation triangulation influences the potential energy of the (condensed) lattice. If higher interpolation functions are used for the kinematic variables however, it is far from trivial how the potential energy of the interpolated lattice is exactly governed by the interpolation. Therefore, the sampling interactions are selected near Gaussian quadrature points (GQPs) as used in FE technologies. This was previously proposed by Gunzburger and Zhang (2010) and Zhang and Gunzburger (2010), and to the best of the authors' knowledge only applied to one dimensional chains of atoms. Although for higher interpolation the lattice interactions that cross triangle edges possibly have a unique potential energy, similar to frameworks with linear interpolation, they are not selected as discrete sampling interactions to benefit the computational efficiency.

Since cubic interpolation of the displacements is used and quadratic interpolation of the rotations, the number of sampling interactions must be such that the internal potential energy due to the cubic interpolation of the displacements is accurately captured. In that case, the condensed internal potential energy is expected to be accurately captured to deal with the quadratic interpolation of the rotations as well.

Based on the cubic interpolation of the displacements, one might expect that four GQPs are sufficient according to FE technologies. Because one of these four GQPs is located exactly on top of the central triangle node used for the cubic interpolation of the displacements (see Appendix B) and because the sampling interactions are never exactly located on top of the GQPs however (see Fig. 5), the use of four GQPs leads to rather inaccurate results.

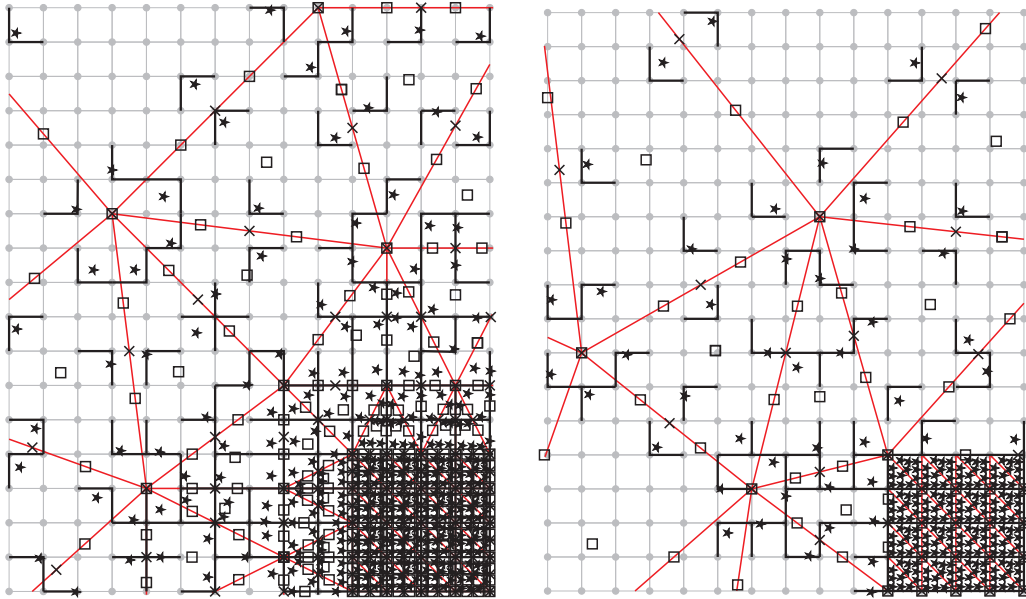


Figure 5: Schematic representation of the QC frameworks using cubic interpolation of the displacements and quadratic interpolation of the rotations and a summation rule based on the use of six Gaussian quadrature points per triangle applied to the planar beam lattice. Left: a conforming triangulation, right: a non-conforming triangulation. In the top right corners of both images fully resolved regions can be seen. Black squares represent triangle nodes that interpolate the displacements and black crosses represent triangle nodes used to interpolate the rotations. Black beams represent sampling beams. Black stars represent the locations of GQPs.

For this reason, the use of six, seven, nine and twelve GQPs are only investigated in the following section. The weight factor  $w_i$  of sampling interaction  $i$  is based on the weights of the GQP as used in FE technologies,  $w_{GQP}$ , as follows:

$$w_i = w_{GQP} b_{tr/T}, \quad (18)$$

where  $b_{tr/T}$  is the total number of beams of the same type (horizontal or vertical) as sampling interaction  $i$  in the considered triangle. Hence, two sampling interactions, each with a unique weight factor, are selected per GQP (see Fig. 5). The locations and weights of the GQPs as used in this study can be found in Appendix A, which are adopted from Hughes (1987).

In case sampling interaction  $i$  is used for multiple GQPs, possibly in another triangle, the weight factors of this interaction is obviously determined by multiple weights and beams per triangle ( $w_{GQP}$  and  $b_{tr/T}$ ). This leads in the limit of the fully resolved domains exactly to the fully resolved beam lattice as desired, i.e.  $w_i = 1$  in these domains. Hence, the part of the implementation that accounts for the summation rule treats each interpolation triangle in the same manner, resulting in a minimum of implementation efforts.

#### 4. Performance study

In this section, the accuracy and computational efficiency of the different QC frameworks are compared with each other. The accuracy and computational efficiency of the QC frameworks are based on the direct lattice computations. Three multiscale problems are used for the comparisons.

##### 4.1. Description of the three test cases

For all three test cases a planar beam lattice is used of  $70 \times 50$  square unit cells in horizontal ( $X$ -)direction and vertical ( $Y$ -)direction, respectively. The properties of the Euler-Bernoulli beams are given in Table 1. A single defect is included in the beam lattice by removing the horizontal beam on the right side of the central lattice point. Consequently, 3621 lattice nodes (21,726 DOFs) and 7119 beams are present. The lattice is rather small so that the full lattice computations can be performed. As a result of the limited size of the lattice however, the computational gain reported below is small

Table 1: The geometrical and material properties of the beams in the lattice. The same symbols are used as in Appendix A.

$L$ [m]	1
$t$ [m]	0.1
$h$ [m]	1
$Y$ [Pa]	1,000
$\nu$ [-]	0.3

and larger computational efficiencies can easily be achieved for larger models using QC approaches (Beex et al., 2011, 2013c).

In the first test case, the beam lattice is subjected to in-plane uniaxial deformation in horizontal ( $X$ -)direction, as shown on the left in Fig. 6. This test case is two-dimensional (2D) and the displacements in  $Z$ -direction and the rotations around the  $X$ - and  $Y$ -axes of all lattice nodes (triangle nodes in the QC models) are suppressed. The displacements and rotations of all lattice points (triangle nodes in the QC computations) on all four model edges are prescribed. The maximum prescribed horizontal displacement, present on the right model edge, equals  $1m$ . The horizontal displacements of the lattice nodes on the other model edges are such that uniform in-plane uniaxial deformation in horizontal direction occurs if the lattice defect is not present. All other kinematic variables of the lattice nodes on the model edges are suppressed (i.e. they equal zero).

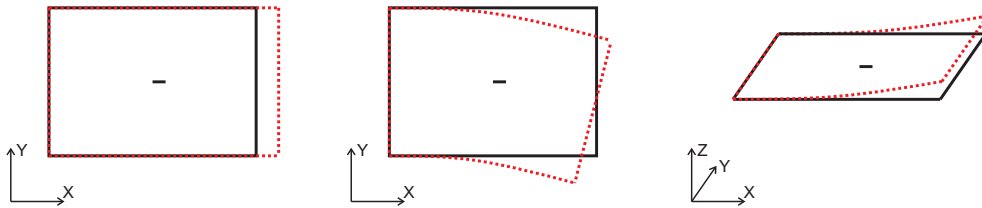


Figure 6: Schematic representation of the three numerical examples including a lattice defect: in-plane uniaxial deformation (left), in-plane bending (center) and out-of-plane bending (right).

The second test case is also fully 2D. Hence, in this case the displacements in  $Z$ -direction and the rotations around the  $X$ - and  $Y$ -axes of all lattice nodes

are also suppressed. In this numerical example, in-plane bending around the  $Z$ -axis is enforced by prescribing the kinematic variables of all lattice points on the four model edges (see the center image in Fig. 6). The applied bending radius equals  $1000m$  and the center of the bending circle is located at the cartesian coordinates  $(0m, -975m, 0m)$ , if the origin of the global cartesian coordinate system spanned by the  $X$ -,  $Y$ - and  $Z$ -axes is located in the left bottom corner of the model.

The third numerical example is three-dimensional (3D) and considers out-of-plane deformation (see the right image in Fig. 6). All kinematic variables of the lattice nodes on the left model edge are constrained (i.e. they are set to zero), whilst the displacements in  $Z$ -direction of the lattice nodes on the right model edge are given a value of  $1m$ . All other kinematic variables of the lattice are free, also those of the lattice nodes on the right model edge.

#### 4.2. Reference results

In this subsection, the results of the three test cases are described that form the reference results for the QC frameworks. The reference results are established using the direct computations and consist of the absolute kinematic variables as well as the 'relative' kinematic variables. These relative kinematic variables are the kinematic variables relative to the test cases without a lattice defect and are a measure for the fluctuation induced by the single lattice defect.

The results computed with the full beam lattice serve as the reference results for the QC models, since these are the results QC frameworks aim to approach as accurately as possible. The deformed lattice computed by the direct lattice computation for the first test case in which uniaxial horizontal deformation is prescribed are presented in the top-left image of Fig. 7. Significant fluctuations can be observed around the lattice defect.

The horizontal (in  $X$ -direction) and vertical (in  $Y$ -direction) displacements of the lattice nodes and the rotations around  $Z$ -axis are separately presented in Fig. 7 as well. The horizontal displacement components clearly show a linear function in the  $X$ -direction with a relative fluctuation field that is caused by the lattice defect. The vertical displacements and the rotations around the  $Z$ -axis only show relative fluctuation fields caused by the lattice defect.

The relative fluctuation fields caused by the lattice defect can be determined by incorporating the results predicted by the direct lattice computation without a lattice defect and the error based on this relative fluctuation

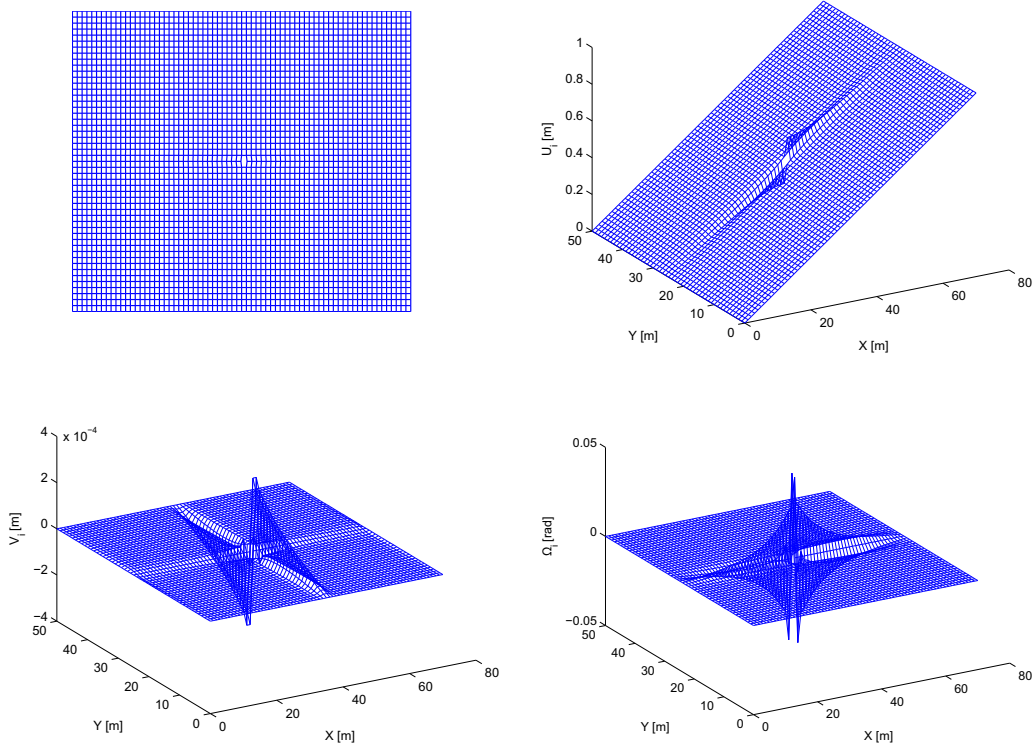


Figure 7: The results predicted by the direct lattice computation for in-plane uniform deformation in horizontal direction: the total deformation (top-left), the horizontal displacements of all lattice points,  $U_i$  (top-right), the vertical displacements of all lattice points,  $V_i$  (bottom-left) and the rotations around the  $Z$ -axis of all lattice points,  $\Omega_i$  (bottom-right).

field will a more stringent error measure than the error based on the absolute displacements (formulated below). The relative fluctuation field can be determined as follows:

$$\mathbf{a}^{rel} = \mathbf{a} - \mathbf{a}^{nold}, \quad (19)$$

where  $\mathbf{a}^{nold}$  are the computed kinematic variables in the case where no lattice defect is present and  $\mathbf{a}^{rel}$  are the kinematic variables that express the relative difference between the kinematic variables for the computations with and without lattice defect.

If the relative horizontal displacement components are extracted from  $\mathbf{a}^{rel}$ ,

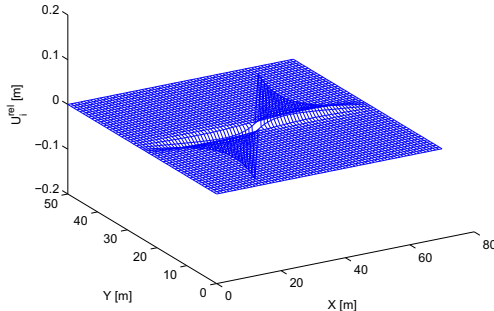


Figure 8: The relative horizontal displacements,  $U_i^{rel}$ , predicted with the direct lattice computation for in-plane uniform deformation in horizontal direction.

Fig. 8 is obtained. This diagram clearly shows only the relative fluctuation of the horizontal displacements caused by the lattice defect. The relative vertical displacements and relative rotations around the  $Z$ -axis give the same result as the absolute vertical displacements and rotations around the  $Z$ -axis. Hence, the bottom diagrams in Fig. 7 present the absolute vertical displacements and absolute rotations around the  $Z$ -axis as well as the relative vertical displacements and relative rotations around the  $Z$ -axis.

The top-left image in Fig. 9 shows the deformed beam lattice for in-plane bending. Relative fluctuations are impossible to observe in this diagram. Also in the other three diagrams in Fig. 9 that separately present the horizontal and vertical displacement components and the rotations around the  $Z$ -axis, do not show any relative fluctuations caused by the lattice defect.

The influence of the lattice defect on the results becomes clearly visible if the results predicted for in-plane bending without a lattice defect are subtracted according to Eq. (19). The relative horizontal and vertical displacements and relative rotations around the  $Z$ -axis are shown in Fig. 10. The influence of the lattice defect is rather similar to the relative kinematic variables as in the case of in-plane uniaxial deformation, although the values are opposite.

The predicted deformation for the third case in which out-of-plane bending is applied is shown in the top-left image of Fig. 11. The influence of the lattice defect cannot be observed in the top-left image of Fig. 11. In the non-zero kinematic variables, the influence of the lattice defect can only be seen in the rotations around the  $X$ -axis in the bottom-left diagram of Fig. 11.

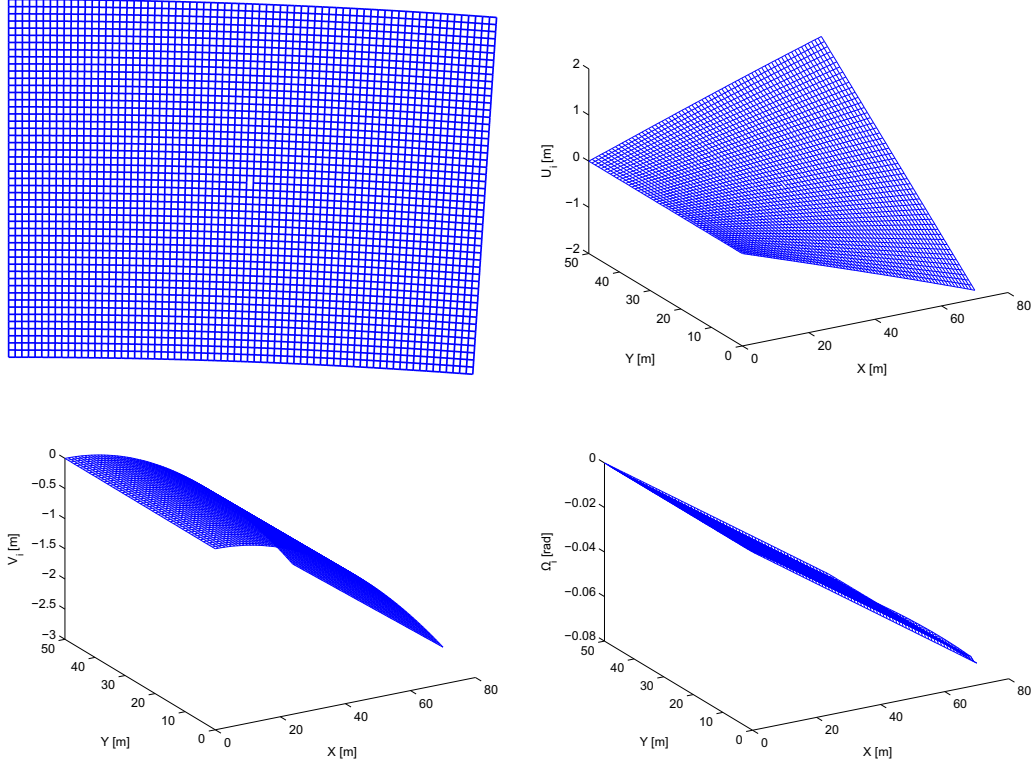


Figure 9: The results predicted with the direct lattice computation for in-plane bending: the total deformation (top-right), the horizontal displacements of all lattice points,  $U_i$  (top-right), the vertical displacements of all lattice points,  $V_i$  (bottom-left) and the rotations around the  $Z$ -axis of all lattice points,  $\Omega_i$  (bottom-right).

The displacements in  $Z$ -direction and the rotations around the  $Y$ -axis in the top-right and bottom-right diagram of Fig. 11, respectively, only show the global response.

The influence of the lattice defect on the displacements in  $Z$ -direction and the rotations around the  $Y$ -axis can also in this case only be visualised if the results predicted by the computation without lattice defect are subtracted according to Eq. (19). The relative fluctuations of these two types of kinematic variables are shown in Fig. 12. The fluctuation fields are clearly different than for the two 2D examples. Note that the absolute and relative rotations around the  $X$ -axis are the same and hence, they are both given by the bottom-left diagram in Fig. 11.



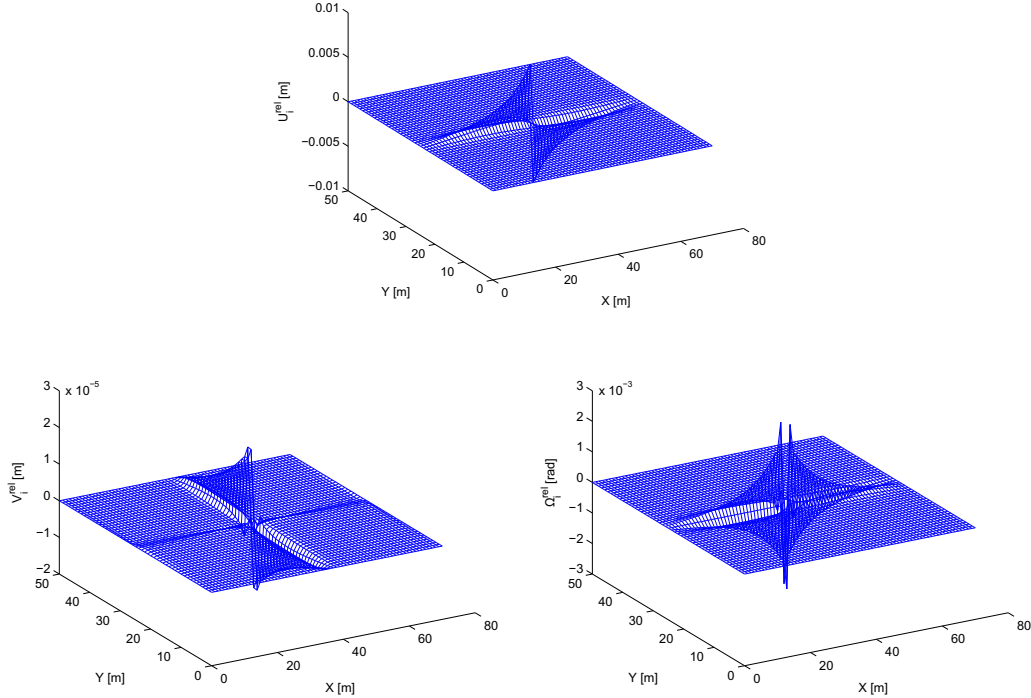


Figure 10: The relative horizontal displacements,  $U_i^{rel}$ , (top), the relative vertical displacements,  $V_i^{rel}$ , (bottom-left) and the relative rotations around the  $Z$ -axis,  $\Omega_i^{rel}$ , (bottom-right) predicted with the direct lattice computation for in-plane bending.

#### 4.3. Influence of interpolation

Before the full QC frameworks are considered, in which interpolation and summation are present, the influence of interpolation alone is regarded. This means that no summation is present in the models considered in this subsection and that all lattice beams are used to construct the governing equations. The error due to summation (see Fig. 2) is zero and in this part we only focus on the error due to interpolation (see Fig. 2).

In this subsection it will become clear that all interpolations are not able to capture the absolute and relative kinematic variables accurately, except for the non-conforming higher-order interpolations. Linear interpolation (conforming as well as non-conforming) is not able to capture the out-of-plane deformation of the planar beam lattice. The conforming cubic interpolation of the nodal displacements and quadratic interpolation of the nodal rotations,

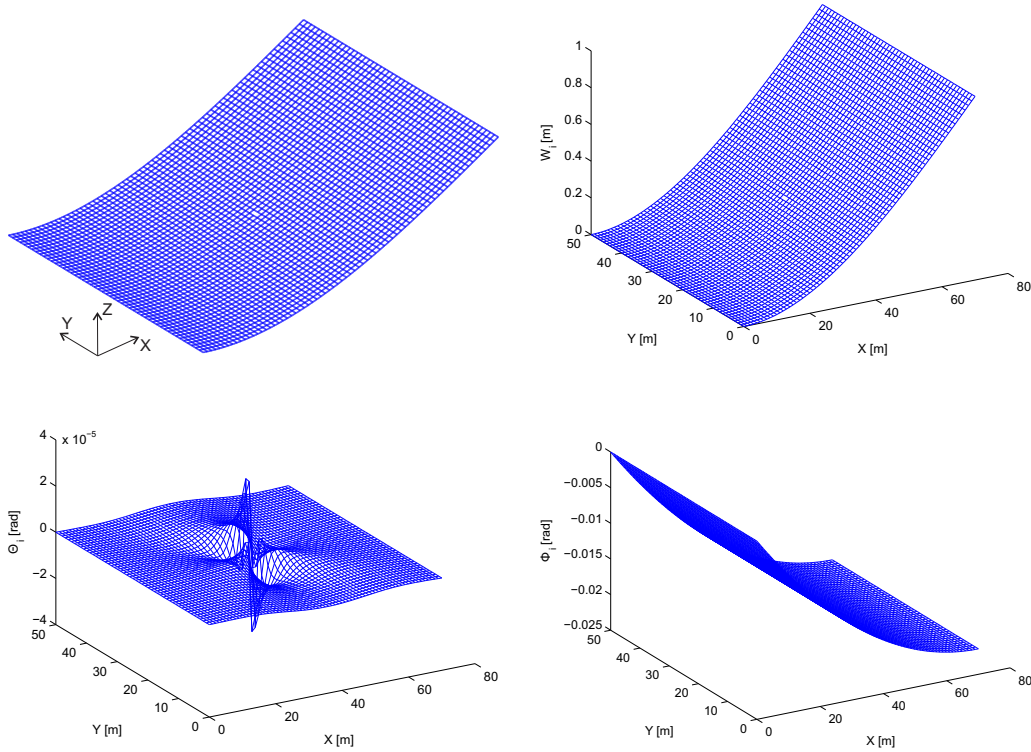


Figure 11: The results predicted with the direct lattice computation for out-of-plane bending: the total deformation (top-right), the displacements in  $Z$ -direction of all lattice points,  $W_i$  (top-right), the rotations around the  $X$ -axis of all lattice points,  $\Theta_i$  (bottom-left) and the rotations around the  $Y$ -axis of all lattice points,  $\Phi_i$  (bottom-right).

that require the GMRES algorithm to solve the governing equations, leads to inaccurate results because the GMRES algorithm cannot deal sufficiently accurate with the ill-posed systems. It is shown in this subsection that the non-conforming higher-order interpolations give accurate results.

As mentioned before, conforming and non-conforming interpolation triangulations are investigated in this study. In Fig. 13, the conforming triangulations are shown with fully resolved regions of 4, 6, 8, 10, 12 and 14 unit cells around the lattice defect. The coarse domain is automatically generated and the triangle nodes are subsequently moved to the nearest lattice nodes. This latter operation can lead to triangles with a zero area, which are removed. As a result of the automatic triangulation generation, it is possible that the fully resolved regions are not completely square. This is contrast

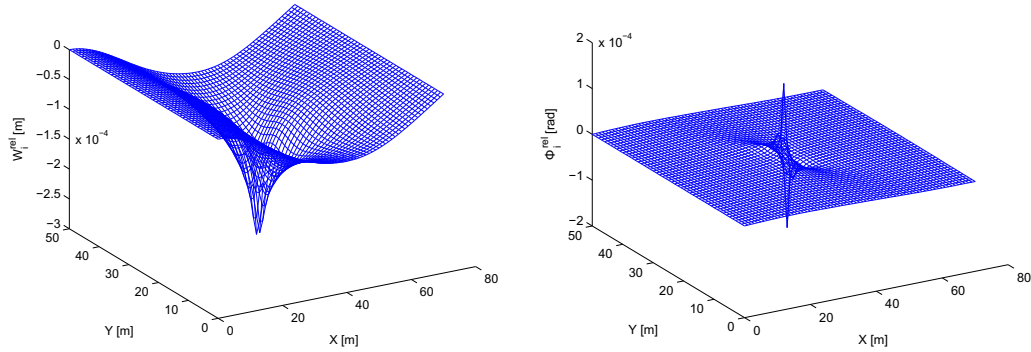


Figure 12: The relative displacements in  $Z$ -direction,  $W_i^{rel}$ , (left) and the relative rotations around the  $Y$ -axis,  $\Phi_i^{rel}$ , (right) predicted with the direct lattice computation for out-of-plane bending.

to the non-conforming triangulations shown in Fig. 14 and those considered by Beex et al. (2011, 2013b,c).

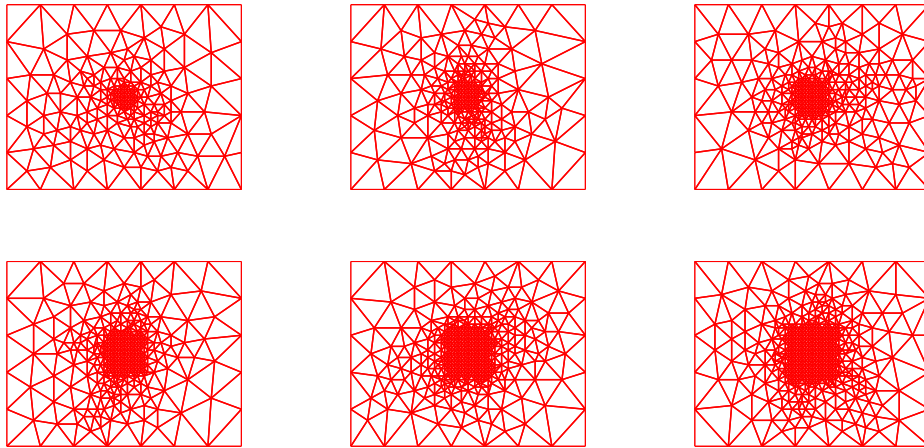


Figure 13: The six conforming triangulations with fully resolved regions of 4 (top-left), 6 (top-center), 8 (top-right), 10 (bottom-left), 12 (bottom-center) and 14 unit cells (bottom-right).

In Fig. 15 some indicative results are shown for the first numerical example in which in-plane uniform deformation is considered. The two most

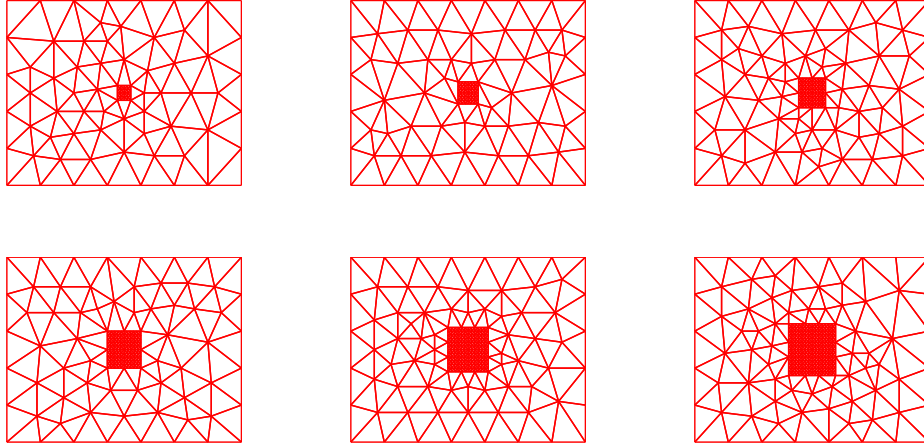


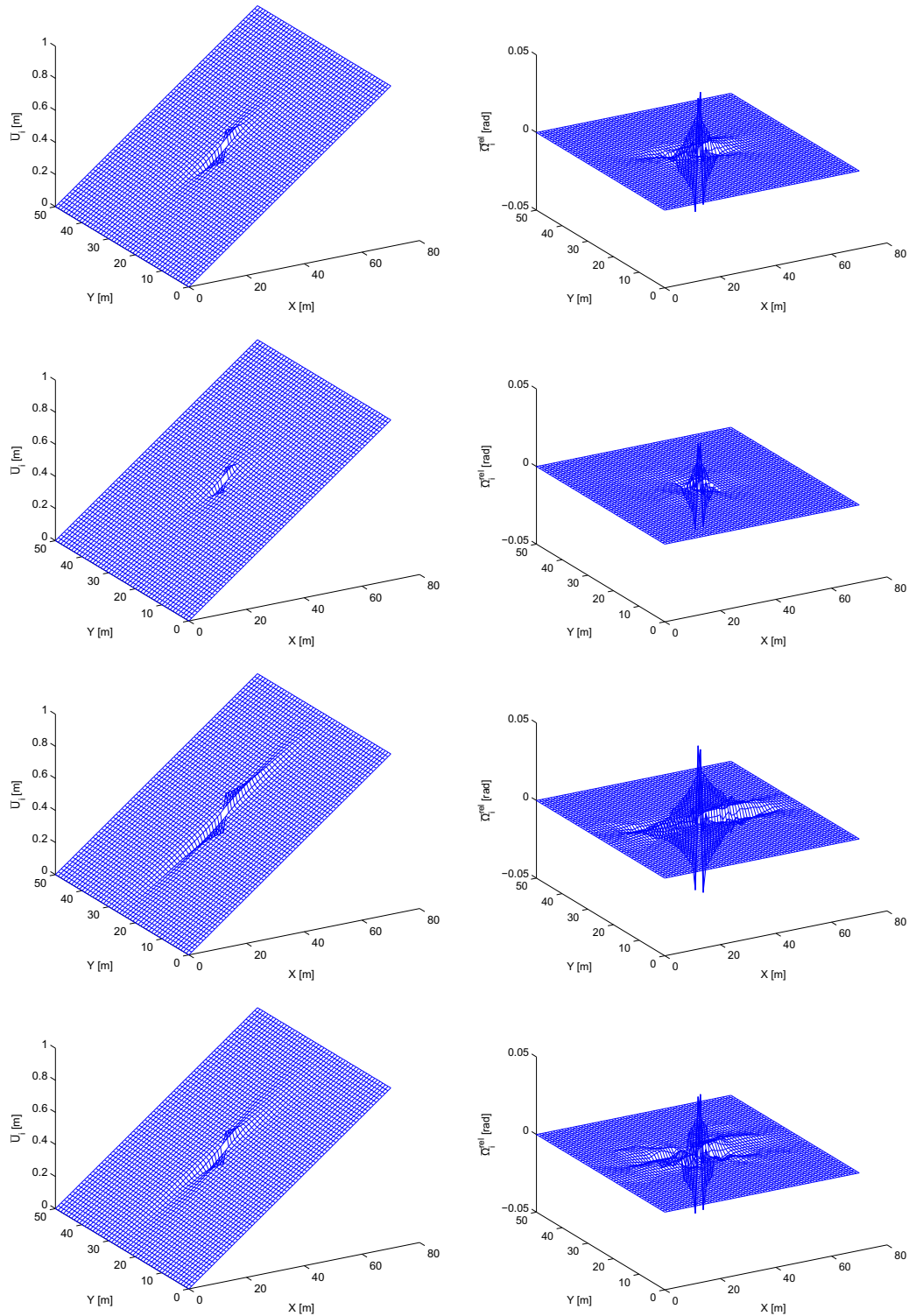
Figure 14: The six non-conforming triangulations with fully resolved regions of 4 (top-left), 6 (top-center), 8 (top-right), 10 (bottom-left), 12 (bottom-center) and 14 unit cells (bottom-right).

important, general observations that can be made are that linear interpolation of the displacements and rotations gives almost as accurate results as cubic interpolation of the displacements and quadratic interpolation of the rotations for this loading case. Another observation is that the conforming triangulations are more accurate than the non-conforming triangulations. This is rather obvious since more DOFs are present in the conforming triangulations and that the additional DOFs are closely located to the fully resolved region. Below, this is considered in more detail.

In Fig. 16, the vertical displacements ( $\bar{V}_i$ ) and the relative horizontal displacements ( $\bar{U}_i^{rel}$ ) can be seen for the second numerical test case in which in-plane bending is applied. The vertical displacements predicted by cubic interpolation of the displacements and quadratic interpolation of the rotations are more accurate at first sight than if linear interpolation is used. This can also be seen for the relative horizontal displacements.

The relative rotations around  $Y$ -axis and the displacements in  $Z$ -direction are shown in Fig. 17 for the test case in which out-of-plane bending is applied. The results predicted by linear interpolation of all kinematic variables are clearly inaccurate, although the influence of the lattice defect can still be observed. The solution predicted by the conforming triangulation with cubic

interpolation of the displacements and quadratic interpolation of the rotations in combination with the GMRES algorithm is clearly inaccurate. This is most likely caused by the fact that the horizontal and vertical displacements and the rotations around the  $Z$ -axis are true DOFs in the computation, which are uncoupled to the other DOFs in Euler-Bernoulli beam theory. The results predicted by the non-conforming triangulations with cubic interpolation of the displacements and quadratic interpolation of the rotations are at first sight satisfyingly accurate.



30  
 Figure 15: The horizontal displacements ( $\bar{U}_i$ ) and the relative rotations around the  $Z$ -axis ( $\bar{\Omega}_i^{rel}$ ), left and right, respectively, predicted for the first test case using the triangulations with a fully resolved region of  $10 \times 10$  unit cells for linear interpolation of the displacements and rotations and a conforming triangulation (top), linear interpolation of the displacements and rotations and a non-conforming triangulation (second from top), cubic interpolation of the displacements and quadratic interpolation of the rotations and a conforming triangulation (second from bottom) and cubic interpolation of the displacements and quadratic interpolation of the rotations and a non-conforming triangulation (bottom).

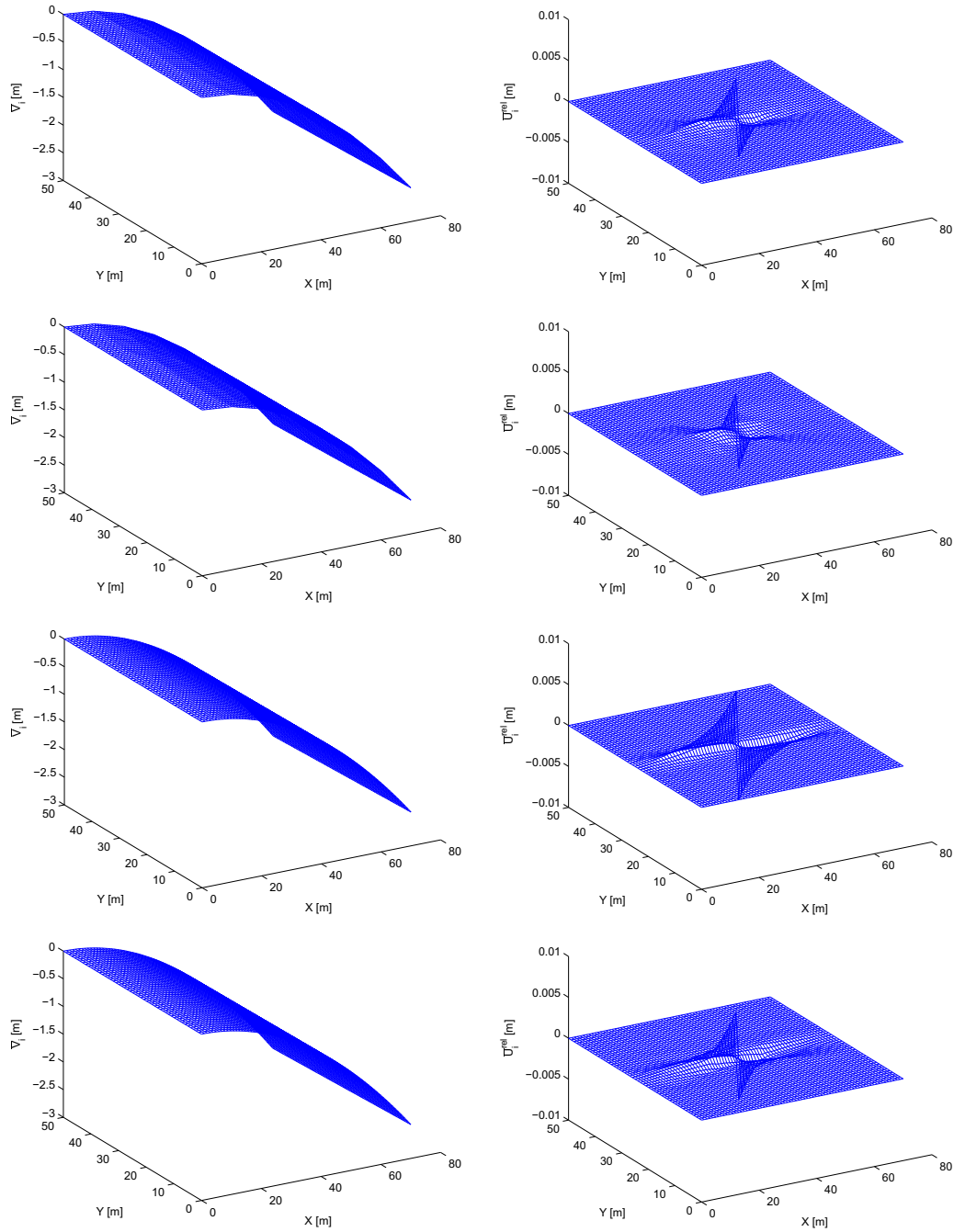


Figure 16: The horizontal displacements ( $\bar{U}_i$ ) and the relative rotations around the  $Z$ -axis ( $\bar{\Omega}_i^{rel}$ ), left and right, respectively, predicted for the second test case using the triangulations with a fully resolved region of  $10 \times 10$  unit cells for linear interpolation of the displacements and rotations and a conforming triangulation (top), linear interpolation of the displacements and rotations and a non-conforming triangulation (second from top), cubic interpolation of the displacements and quadratic interpolation of the rotations and a conforming triangulation (second from bottom) and cubic interpolation of the displacements and quadratic interpolation of the rotations and a non-conforming triangulation (bottom).

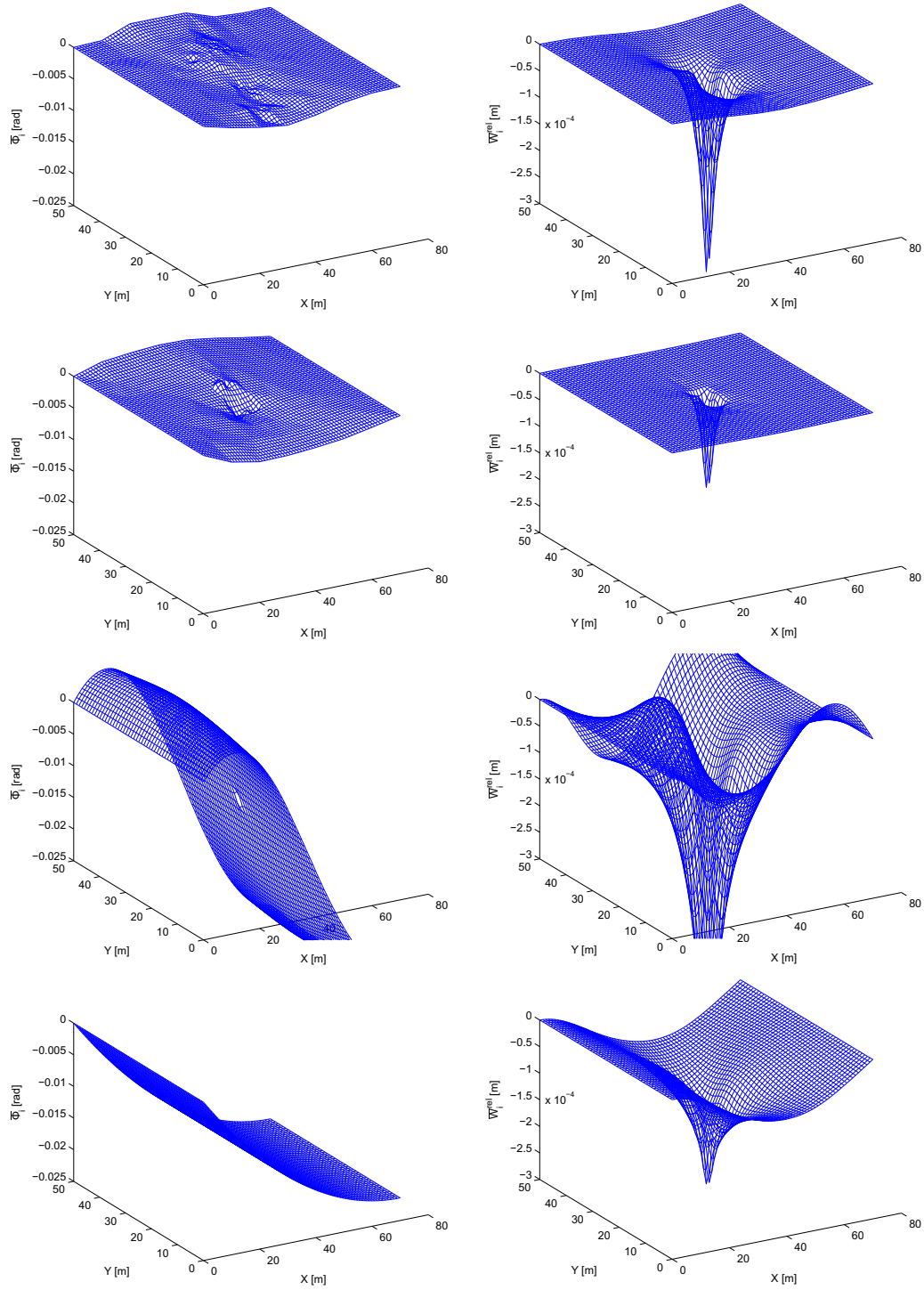


Figure 17: The horizontal displacements ( $\bar{U}_i$ ) and the relative rotations around the  $Z$ -axis ( $\bar{\Omega}_i^{rel}$ ), left and right, respectively, predict **32** for the third test case using the triangulations with a fully resolved region of  $10 \times 10$  unit cells for linear interpolation of the displacements and rotations and a conforming triangulation (top), linear interpolation of the displacements and rotations and a non-conforming triangulation (second from top), cubic interpolation of the displacements and quadratic interpolation of the rotations and a conforming triangulation (second from bottom) and cubic interpolation of the displacements and quadratic interpolation of the rotations and a non-conforming triangulation (bottom).



To quantify the errors due to interpolation, two error measures are introduced. One error,  $e_{gl}$ , quantifies the error of the absolute values of the non-zero kinematic variables and  $e_{rel}$  measures the ability of the interpolation triangulation to capture the relative fluctuation induced by the lattice defect. For the 2D example in which uniform in-plane deformation is prescribed, the global error is defined as:

$$e_{gl} = 100 \sqrt{\frac{\sum_{i=1}^n (\bar{U}_i - U_i)^2}{\sum_{i=1}^n (U_i)^2}}, \quad (20)$$

and for the 2D example with in-plane bending it is defined as:

$$e_{gl} = \frac{100}{3} \sqrt{\frac{\sum_{i=1}^n (\bar{U}_i - U_i)^2}{\sum_{i=1}^n (U_i)^2}} + \frac{100}{3} \sqrt{\frac{\sum_{i=1}^n (\bar{V}_i - V_i)^2}{\sum_{i=1}^n (V_i)^2}} + \frac{100}{3} \sqrt{\frac{\sum_{i=1}^n (\bar{\Omega}_i - \Omega_i)^2}{\sum_{i=1}^n (\Omega_i)^2}}, \quad (21)$$

and finally for the 3D example as:

$$e_{gl} = \frac{100}{2} \sqrt{\frac{\sum_{i=1}^n (\bar{W}_i - W_i)^2}{\sum_{i=1}^n (W_i)^2}} + \frac{100}{2} \sqrt{\frac{\sum_{i=1}^n (\bar{\Phi}_i - \Phi_i)^2}{\sum_{i=1}^n (\Phi_i)^2}}, \quad (22)$$

where the bar on top of the type of kinematic variables refers to the results computed with the interpolation triangulations. By incorporating each kinematic variables in these and the following error measures with the same weight and neglecting the types of kinematic variables that are zero (or close to zero), the error measures become independent of the geometrical and material properties of the beam lattice (given in Table 1).

The relative errors - that measure the error of the relative fluctuation field caused by the single lattice defect - for the 2D examples are both defined as follows:

$$e_{rel} = \frac{100}{3} \sqrt{\frac{\sum_{i=1}^n (\bar{U}_i^{rel} - U_i^{rel})^2}{\sum_{i=1}^n (U_i^{rel})^2}} + \frac{100}{3} \sqrt{\frac{\sum_{i=1}^n (\bar{V}_i^{rel} - V_i^{rel})^2}{\sum_{i=1}^n (V_i^{rel})^2}} + \frac{100}{3} \sqrt{\frac{\sum_{i=1}^n (\bar{\Omega}_i^{rel} - \Omega_i^{rel})^2}{\sum_{i=1}^n (\Omega_i^{rel})^2}}, \quad (23)$$

and for the 3D example as:

$$e_{rel} = \frac{100}{3} \sqrt{\frac{\sum_{i=1}^n (\bar{W}_i^{rel} - W_i^{rel})^2}{\sum_{i=1}^n (W_i^{rel})^2}} + \frac{100}{3} \sqrt{\frac{\sum_{i=1}^n (\bar{\Theta}_i^{rel} - \Theta_i^{rel})^2}{\sum_{i=1}^n (\Theta_i^{rel})^2}} + \frac{100}{3} \sqrt{\frac{\sum_{i=1}^n (\bar{\Psi}_i^{rel} - \Psi_i^{rel})^2}{\sum_{i=1}^n (\Psi_i^{rel})^2}}. \quad (24)$$

The errors for the different interpolations are shown in Fig. 18 for the three numerical examples. They are shown as a function of the relative number of DOFs. The relative number of DOFs should be read in Fig. 18 as the solution space and not as a factor of computational burden. The reason is that although less DOFs are present than in the direct lattice computation, the computational time to solve the system may well be larger than the computational time to solve the direct lattice computation. The reason is the poor conditioning of the stiffness matrix for condensed (interpolated) systems (although preconditioning may avoid this problem which is not considered in this study) that render relatively long computation times for iterative solvers. The true computational gain in QC methodologies (without preconditioning) thus stems from summation, i.e. the reduction in efforts to construct the governing equations. Hence, the computational time that is saved scales with the number of sampling interactions as reported by Beex et al. (2013c).

If we first consider the errors for the conforming triangulations using linear interpolation, it can be observed that the global and relative errors are sufficiently accurate for uniform in-plane deformation. The relative error reduces for the used fully resolved regions to approximately 30% for the triangulation with a fully resolved region of  $14 \times 14$  unit cells. It is expected however that this error remains significant for a further increase of the size of the fully resolved region, because the influence of the single lattice defect

is significantly non-local as can be seen in Fig. 7. This is contrast to fluctuation fields caused by individual lattice defects in truss networks, which are significantly more local (Beex et al., 2011). If we consider the global error for in-plane bending, it can be observed that global error reduces for an increasing size of the fully resolved region, but the relative error remains at the same order of magnitude which is significant. For the 3D test case in which out-of-plane bending is considered, both errors are significantly large for the conforming triangulations with linear interpolation.

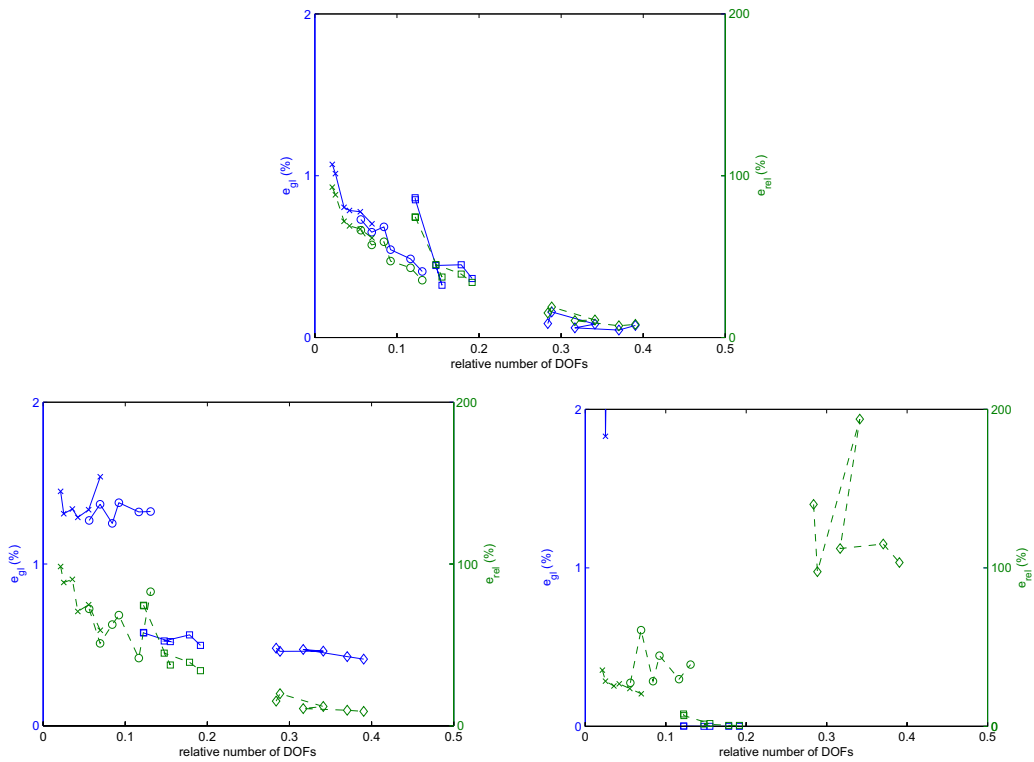


Figure 18: The global ( $e_{gl}$ , solid) and relative errors ( $e_{rel}$ , dashed) of the conforming triangulations with linear interpolation ( $\circ$ ) and cubic interpolation of the displacements and quadratic interpolation of the rotations ( $\diamond$ ) and of the non-conforming triangulations with linear interpolation ( $\times$ ) and cubic interpolation of the displacements and quadratic interpolation of the rotations ( $\square$ ) as a function of the relative number of DOFs. Top: uniform in-plane deformation, bottom-left: in-plane bending and bottom-right: out-of-plane bending.

The two error measures of the non-conforming triangulations with linear

interpolation of the kinematic variables show the same trends as those of the conforming triangulations with linear interpolation. The non-conforming triangulations use of course less DOFs and because of that the errors are larger.

The global and relative errors of the conforming triangulations with cubic interpolation of the displacements and quadratic interpolation of the displacements show a significant accuracy in Fig. 18 for the two 2D examples. For the 3D case however, the accuracy is so poor that it cannot be seen in the diagram - is a result of the use of the GMRES algorithm.

The global and relative errors of the non-conforming triangulations with cubic interpolation of the displacements and quadratic interpolation of the displacements are substantially accurate for all the considered test cases (see Fig. 18). A condition for this is that the fully resolved region cannot be too small. An advantage of the fact that the non-conforming triangulations show sufficiently accurate results is that they use significantly less triangles than the conforming triangulations and hence, require significantly less sampling beams.

#### *4.4. Full QC models: influence of interpolation and summation*

Since only the non-conforming triangulations with cubic interpolation of the displacements and quadratic interpolation of the rotations give accurate results for all test cases, the influence of summation is investigated on that particular type of triangulation (non-conforming triangulations with cubic interpolation of the nodal displacements and quadratic interpolation of the nodal rotations). As mentioned before, for higher order interpolations it is far from trivial how the potential energy depends on the interpolation. Therefore, sampling beams are selected near GQPs, as performed for 1D atomistic chains by Zhang and Gunzburger (2010) and Gunzburger and Zhang (2010). In this subsection, results are reported using 6, 7, 9 and 12, GQPs, but the accuracy is rather similar. For this reason, we suggest to use 6 GQPs because this does not hardly influences the accuracy and it selects as few sampling beams per triangle as possible (which is beneficial for the computational efficiency). A large discrepancy can however be observed for different triangulations (for 6, 7, 9 and 12 GQPs). As will be shown in this subsection, this stems from the selection of sampling beams that cross triangle edges. If a relatively large number of sampling beams are selected that cross triangle edges, the accuracy reduces.

For cubic finite elements it is sufficient to use 4 GQPs (Hughes, 1987), but the use of only 4 GQPs yields substantially inaccurate results. The reason for this is that one of the 4 GQPs is located exactly on the top of the central triangle nodes used for the cubic interpolation of the displacements, whereas the horizontal and vertical sampling beams selected near these GQPs are never exactly located on top of them.

Therefore, the selection of sampling beams is investigated for the use of 6, 7, 9 and 12 GQPs. The location and weights of the GQPs can be found in Appendix B. The global and relative errors for these QC frameworks are presented in Fig. 19. Rather remarkable is that the use of 7 GQPs per triangle leads to less sampling beams than the use of 6 GQPs, which theoretically leads to the selection of 14 sampling beams per triangle versus the selection

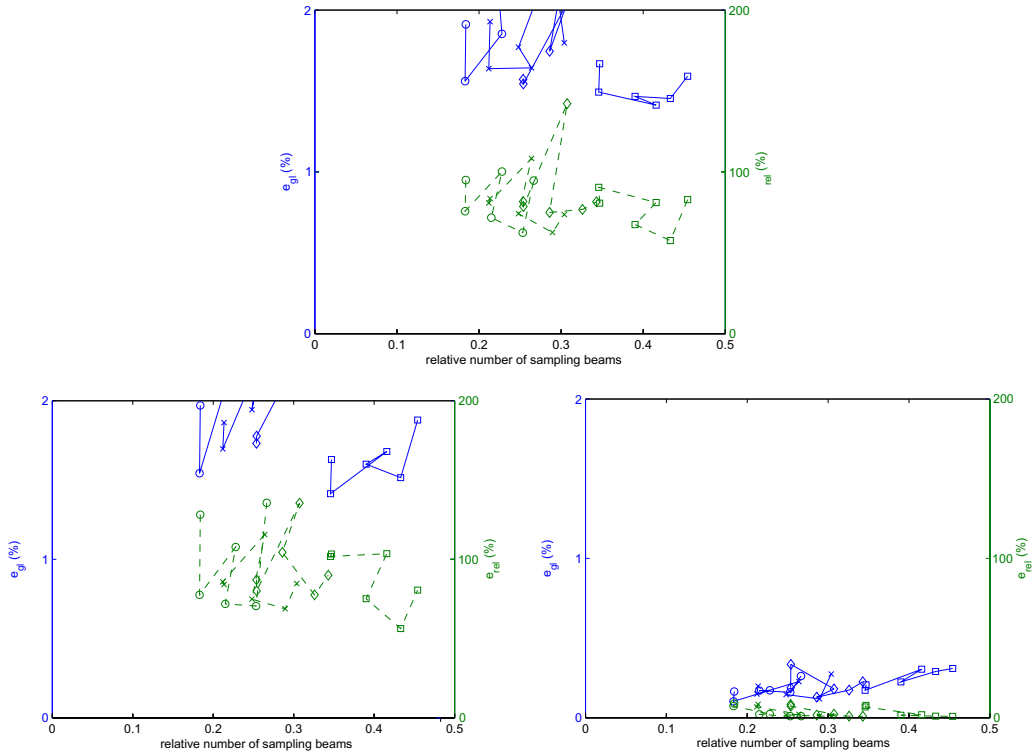


Figure 19: The global ( $e_{gl}$ , solid) and relative errors ( $e_{rel}$ , dashed) of the non-conforming triangulations with cubic interpolation of the displacements and quadratic interpolation of the rotations and sampling beams near 6 ( $\circ$ ), 7 ( $\times$ ), 9 ( $\square$ ) and 12 GQPs ( $\diamond$ ).

of 12 sampling beams per triangle for the considered beam lattice, respectively. This is however only the case for large triangles. Apparently for small triangles present in the numerical examples, a significant number of sampling beams are selected twice in the scheme with 7 GQPs.

The selection of sampling beams near 6, 7, 9 and 12 GQPs leads approximately to the same global and relative errors. However, significant changes can be observed for the same schemes for different triangulations. For instance, the selection of sampling beams near 6 GQPs using the non-conforming triangulation with a fully resolved region of  $10 \times 10$  unit cells results in a significantly better accuracy than the non-conforming triangulation with a fully resolved region of  $14 \times 14$  unit cells. This is remarkable, because it is generally observed in QC frameworks that an increase of the fully resolved region leads to an improved accuracy.

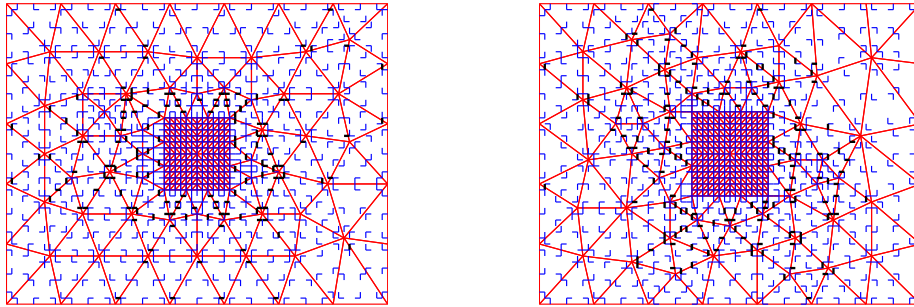


Figure 20: The sampling beams near 6 GQPs for the non-conforming triangulations with fully resolved regions of  $10 \times 10$  (left) and  $14 \times 14$  unit cells (right) from Fig. 14. Sampling beams that are located inside the same triangles are shown as thin blue lines and sampling beams that cross triangle edges are shown as thick black lines.

The reason for this appears to be the fact that more small triangles are used in the non-conforming triangulation with a fully resolved region of  $14 \times 14$  unit cells than in the non-conforming triangulation with a fully resolved region of  $10 \times 10$  unit cells. For the non-conforming triangulation with a fully resolved region of  $14 \times 14$  unit cells this leads to a (relatively as well as absolute) larger number of sampling beams that cross triangle edges than for the non-conforming triangulation with a fully resolved region of  $10 \times 10$  unit cells. This is shown in Fig. 20.

#### 4.5. Full QC models: final framework

In this subsection, it is proposed to use triangulations with cubic interpolation of the nodal displacements and quadratic interpolation of the nodal rotations in combination with the selection of sampling beams near 6 GQPs. Furthermore, to ensure that as few sampling beams as possible are selected that cross triangle edges, the interpolation triangles (not those in the fully resolved region obviously) must be relatively large. Although the relative error in the 2D test cases, which is governed by an extremely non-local fluctuation field in contrast to truss networks with a similar lattice defect, cannot be reduced as far as would be desired, this QC method gives the most accurate results for all three test cases.

To ensure that hardly any sampling beams are selected that cross triangle edges, non-conforming triangulations with relatively large triangles in the coarse domain are investigated. These non-conforming triangulations with fully resolved regions of  $8 \times 8$ ,  $10 \times 10$ ,  $12 \times 12$  and  $14 \times 14$  are shown in Fig. 21 together with the selection of the sampling beams.

Clearly, significantly less sampling beams that cross triangle edges are selected. No non-conforming triangulations with fully resolved regions of  $4 \times 4$  and  $6 \times 6$  are investigated, because they could not be generated using the automatic triangulation procedure due to the large discrepancy between the small fully resolved regions and required size of the coarse triangles.

Some indicative results for the non-conforming triangulation with a fully resolved region of  $14 \times 14$  unit cells shown in Fig. 21 are presented in Fig. 22. The presented, absolute kinematic variables correspond well to those predicted by the direct lattice computations. The presented, relative kinematic variables for the 2D numerical examples correspond to a lesser extent with those predicted by the direct lattice computations. The reason is that the fluctuation induced by the single lattice defect is significantly non-local for the 2D examples. Since relatively large triangles are required in the coarse domain, this non-local fluctuation field given by the relative kinematic variables cannot be captured as accurately as the absolute kinematic variables.

The global and relative errors using the QC framework for non-conforming triangulations selecting sampling beams near 6 GQPs are presented in Fig. 23 for the three numerical examples. The diagrams show significantly small global errors for all three examples. They support the observation that the non-local fluctuation fields present in the relative kinematic variables can only be captured to a limited extent by the QC frameworks due to large triangles

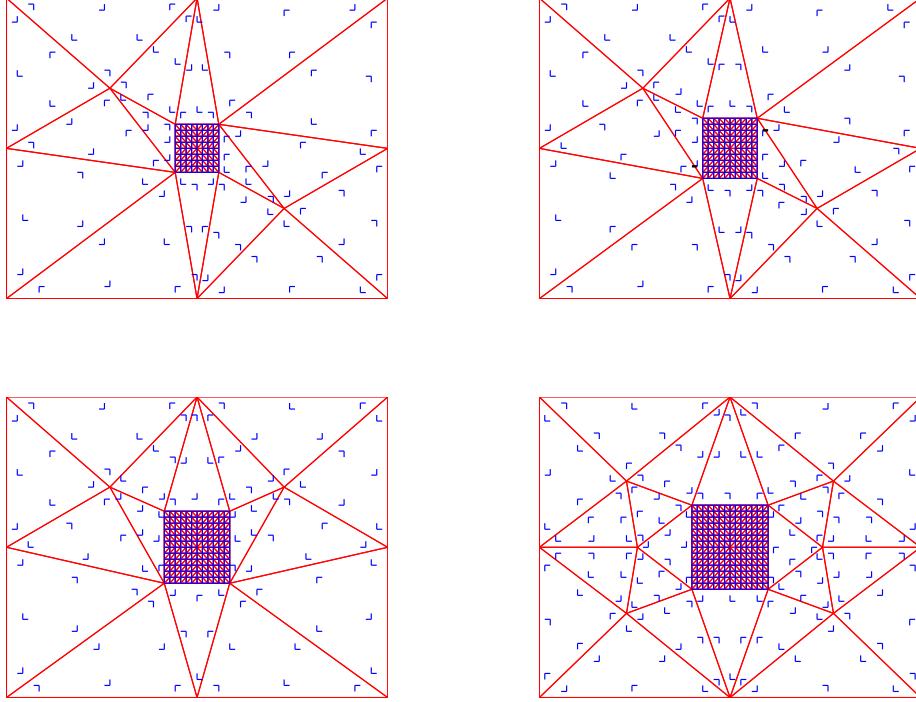


Figure 21: The sampling beams near 6 GQPs for the non-conforming triangulations with relatively large coarse triangles and fully resolved regions of  $8 \times 8$  (top-left),  $10 \times 10$  (top-right),  $12 \times 12$  (bottom-left) and  $14 \times 14$  unit cells (bottom-right). Sampling beams that are located inside the same triangles are shown as thin blue lines and sampling beams that cross triangle edges are shown as thick black lines.

required in the coarse domain. Because the fluctuation field occurring in the 3D test case is significantly more local, it can be captured accurately.

Although the final QC framework for planar beam lattices is not able to capture the non-local fluctuations fields of the relative kinematic variables that accurately due to the required large triangles in the coarse domains, the method requires a significantly small number of sampling beams - which are a good estimate of the saved computational time (Beex et al., 2013c). Since the modelling domain in the numerical examples is substantially small, the computational gain will be even larger for larger modelling domains. Furthermore, the QC framework is accurate for 2D as well as 3D examples.



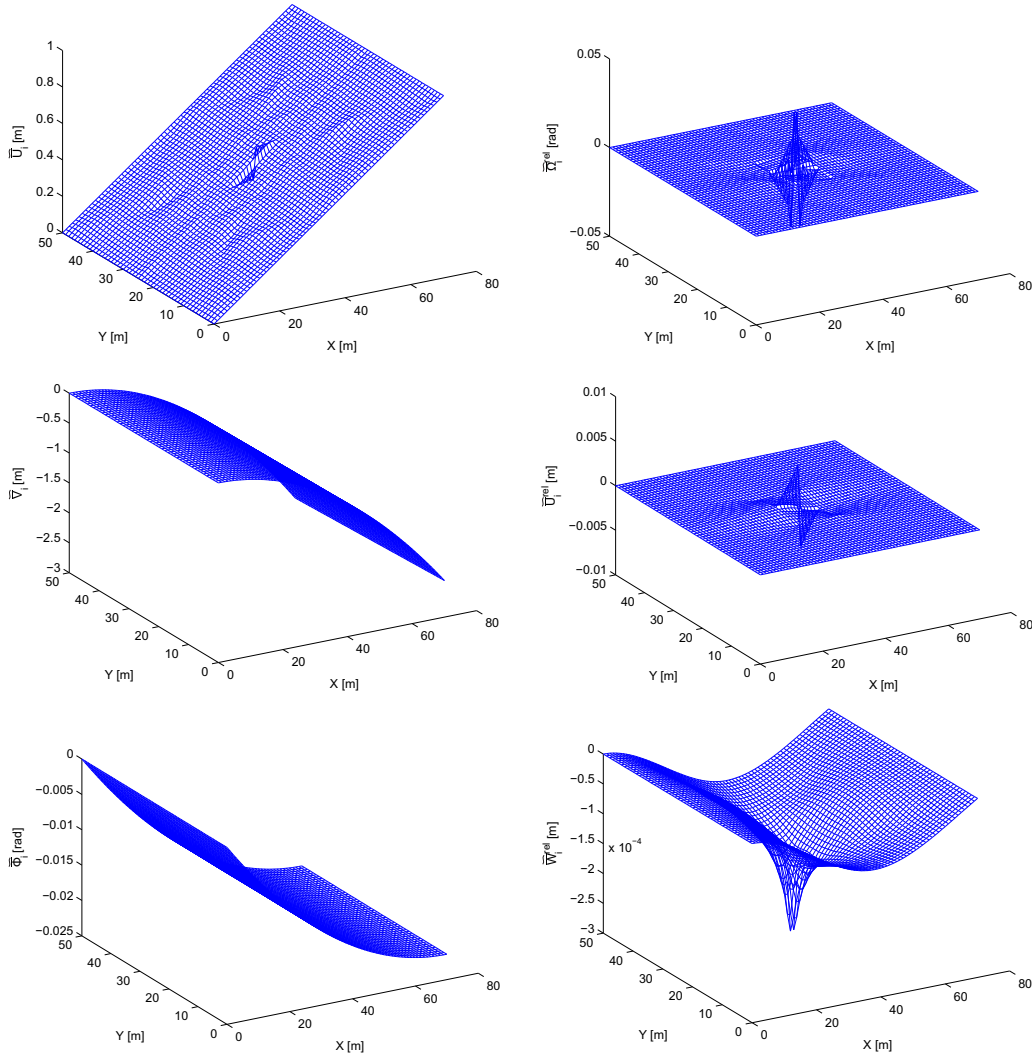


Figure 22: The horizontal displacements ( $\tilde{U}_i$ , top-left) and the relative rotations around the  $Z$ -axis ( $\tilde{\Omega}_i^{rel}$ , top-right) for uniform in-plane deformation, the vertical displacements ( $\tilde{V}_i$ , center-left) and the relative horizontal displacements ( $\tilde{U}_i^{rel}$ , center-right), and the rotations around the  $Y$ -axis ( $\tilde{\Phi}_i$ , bottom-left) and the relative displacements in  $Z$ -direction ( $\tilde{W}_i^{rel}$ , bottom-right) predicted by the QC framework using 6 GQPs for the non-conforming triangulation with a fully resolved region of  $14 \times 14$  unit cells shown in Fig. 21.

## 5. Conclusion

The QC method is a multiscale approach to reduce the computational costs of discrete lattice computations. The method allows to incor-

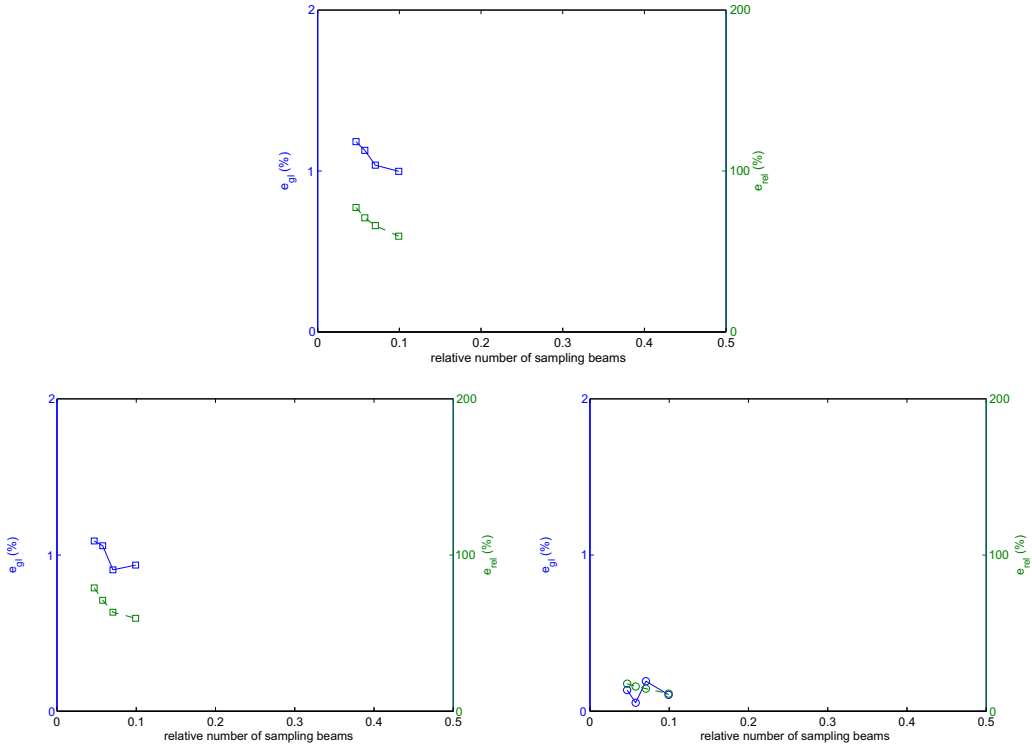


Figure 23: The global ( $e_{gl}$ , solid) and relative errors ( $e_{rel}$ , dashed) using the non-conforming triangulations shown in Fig. 21 with cubic interpolation of the displacements and quadratic interpolation of the rotations and sampling beams near 6 GQPs ( $\circ$ ) for in-plane uniform deformation (top), in-plane bending (bottom-left) and out-of-plane bending (bottom-right).

porate local lattice phenomena (e.g. a single lattice defect) in macroscale simulations. The use of QC frameworks to reduce the computational costs of planar beam lattices is investigated in this study. QC frameworks have the advantage that they do not require the construction and calibration of a continuum description in coarse domains. Also no coupling procedures or handshaking methods need to be formulated to couple coarse domains to fully resolved domains.

In contrast to the kinematic variables of spring lattices such as atomistic lattices, the kinematic variables in beam lattices include nodal rotations next to nodal displacements. In the presented frameworks the rotations are interpolated as well. Linear interpolation of the nodal displacements as well as

the nodal rotations results in large errors, because linear interpolation is not able to capture out-of-plane deformation of Euler-Bernoulli beam lattices accurately. Furthermore, the fluctuation fields caused by single lattice defects are significantly non-local - in contrast to the fluctuation fields caused by single lattice defects in spring lattices (Beex et al., 2011) - which cannot be captured well using linear interpolation.

In order to capture the out-of-plane deformation in an accurate manner, cubic interpolation of the nodal displacements and quadratic interpolation of the nodal rotations is investigated. For conforming triangulations - as generally used in QC methods - this leads to ill-posed systems because more kinematic variables are present in small interpolation triangles than governed by the underlying beam lattice. Using the GMRES algorithm this ill-posedness can be circumvented, but the results are insufficiently accurate. However, if non-conforming triangulations are used where in the coarse domains the nodal displacements and nodal rotations are interpolated cubically and quadratically, respectively, and if both types of kinematic variables are interpolated linearly in the fully resolved domains, significantly accurate results can be obtained.

Summation rules that select sampling beams near 4, 6, 7, 9 and 12 Gaussian quadrature points (GQPs) are investigated for the non-conforming triangulations using cubic interpolation of the nodal displacements and quadratic interpolation of the nodal rotations. The results are similarly accurate for the use of 6, 7, 9 or 12 GQPs. Hence, to increase the computational efficiency as much as possible, the use of 6 GQPs is suggested. A demand for significantly accurate results for the applied 2D and 3D test cases is that the triangles in the coarse domain are significantly large so that no sampling beams cross triangle edges.

With the final QC framework that uses non-conforming triangulations, interpolates the nodal displacements cubically and the nodal rotations quadratically and selects sampling beams near 6 GQPs per triangle, significantly accurate results are obtained for all three multiscale test cases. These are summarised in Fig. 24. The relative error, which measures the relative fluctuation field caused by a single lattice defect, is an extremely stringent error measure, and although it seems large for the 2D test cases, it is acceptable and other multiscale approaches do not determine such an error measure, e.g. because they are based on homogenization and do not capture local defects (Zhang et al., 2010; Gonella and Ruzzene, 2008). However, this requirement also leads to substantial computational savings in terms of the number of sam-

pling beams; the most important means to measure the computational gain. Since the used numerical examples only demand a small modelling domain, the expected computational gain is even larger for increasing modelling domains.

Although not investigated in this contribution, it may be more beneficial for implementation purposes to interpolate the nodal rotations cubically, similarly to the nodal displacements. It is expected that this will hardly influence the accuracy, since the quadratic interpolation field is part of the cubic interpolation field. Also the efficiency is expected not to be influenced by this, since it will not influence the number of sampling beams. After all, the use of 6 GQPs is already required to accurately sample the lattice for the cubic interpolation of the nodal displacements. To implement the framework however, it may be easier to use cubic interpolation of the nodal displacements and nodal rotations.

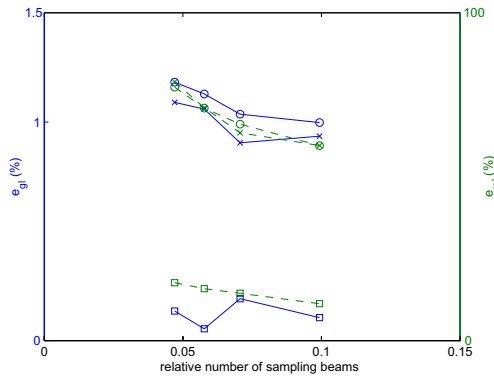


Figure 24: The global ( $e_{gl}$ , solid) and relative errors ( $e_{rel}$ , dashed) as a function of the relative number of sampling beams of the final QC framework for uniform in-plane deformation ( $\circ$ ), in-plane bending ( $\times$ ) and out-of-plane bending ( $\square$ ) including an individual lattice defect.

## Acknowledgements

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### A. Potential energy of an Euler-Bernoulli beam

In this appendix, the potential energy of lattice interaction  $i$  ( $E_i$  in Eq. (3)) is derived in terms of the (global) kinematic variables ( $\mathbf{a} = [\mathbf{U}^T \boldsymbol{\Theta}^T]^T$ ). The beam lattice as shown in Fig. 1, and thus also the beam in Fig. 25, is located in the  $X$ - $Y$  plane. The lattice beams have a rectangular cross-section. The beam in Fig. 25 is connected between lattice nodes  $i$  and  $j$ , which are locally defined as nodes 1 and 2. The axes of the global coordinate system are indicated by  $X$ ,  $Y$  and  $Z$ , respectively. Global displacements are indicated by  $U$ ,  $V$  and  $W$  in the  $X$ -direction,  $Y$ -direction and  $Z$ -direction, respectively. Global rotations indicated by  $\Theta$ ,  $\Phi$  and  $\Omega$  are defined as clockwise rotations around the  $X$ -axis,  $Y$ -axis and  $Z$ -axis, respectively. In the same fashion local beam axes, local beam displacements and local beam rotations are indicated by  $x$ ,  $y$ ,  $z$ , and  $u$ ,  $v$ ,  $w$ , and  $\theta$ ,  $\phi$  and  $\omega$ , respectively. The subscripts refer to the displacements and rotations at the local beam nodes. The beam is of length  $L$  in  $x$ -direction, thickness  $t$  in  $y$ -direction and height  $h$  in  $z$ -direction. The plane of the planar beam lattice corresponds the  $X$ - $Y$  plane. An initial rotation of the beam is present, indicated by  $\Omega_0$ . Note that  $\Omega_0$  is positive, since the rotations are defined as clockwise rotations around the associated axes.

The beams in the lattice consist of a linear elastic isotropic material and undergo small deformations. As assumed in traditional Euler-Bernoulli beam theory (Han et al., 1999), the deformation modes of the beams do not influence each other, although some studies do not use this assumption, see e.g. (Karihaloo et al., 2003). As a result of the independence of the deformation modes, they can be superimposed. This leads to the following expression of the potential energy of Euler-Bernoulli beam  $i$ ,  $E_i$ :

$$E_i = \frac{Y}{2} \int_0^L \int_{-\frac{t}{2}}^{\frac{t}{2}} \int_{-\frac{h}{2}}^{\frac{h}{2}} \epsilon_{xx/ud}^2 + \epsilon_{xx/bz}^2 + \epsilon_{xx/by}^2 + \frac{\gamma_{xy}^2 + \gamma_{xz}^2}{2(1 + \nu)} dz dy dx, \quad (25)$$

where  $Y$  and  $\nu$  are the Young’s modulus and the Poisson’s ratio, respectively. Furthermore,  $\epsilon_{xx/ud}$ ,  $\epsilon_{xx/bz}$  and  $\epsilon_{xx/by}$  are the normal strains in  $x$ -direction due to uniform deformation in  $x$ -direction, bending around the  $z$ -axis and

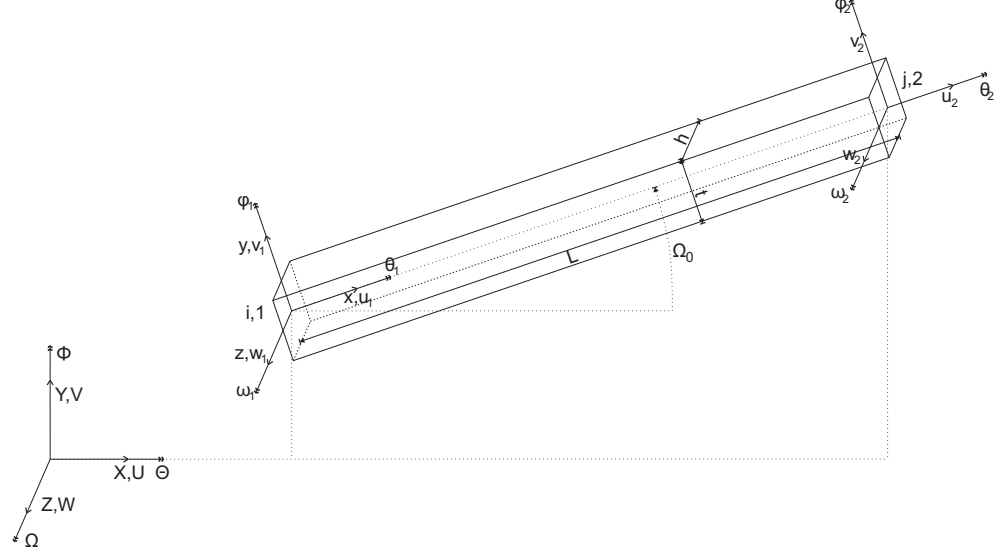


Figure 25: Schematic representation of a beam in the planar beam lattice.

bending around the  $y$ -axis, respectively. The shear strains occurring due to torsion around the  $x$ -axis are represented by  $\gamma_{xy}$  and  $\gamma_{xz}$ , respectively. If we now express the strains in terms of the kinematic variables that are linearly interpolated over the  $x$ -axis (i.e. the longitudinal displacements and torsional rotations), the following formulation is obtained:

$$E_i = \frac{Y}{2} \int_0^L \int_{-\frac{t}{2}}^{\frac{t}{2}} \int_{-\frac{h}{2}}^{\frac{h}{2}} \left( \frac{u_2 - u_1}{L} \right)^2 + y^2 \left( \frac{\partial^2 v}{\partial x^2} \right)^2 + z^2 \left( \frac{\partial^2 w}{\partial x^2} \right)^2 + \frac{(\theta_2 - \theta_1)^2 (y^2 + z^2)}{2x(1 + \nu)} dz dy dx. \quad (26)$$

Hermite interpolation is used to interpolate the beam deflections and bending angles in beam theory. It interpolates the beam deflections cubically and bending angles quadratically and effectively expresses the bending deflections and rotation angles over the  $x$ -axis of a beam in terms of the nodal deflections and nodal bending angles ( $v_1, v_2, w_1, w_2, \phi_1, \phi_2, \omega_1, \omega_2$ ). This type of interpolation uses the assumption made in Euler-Bernoulli beam theory that the bending angles are the derivatives of the beam deflections. Two polynomials,  $H_z$  and  $H_y$ , are to this end introduced as follows:

$$\begin{aligned}
H_z &= c_{z1}x^3 + c_{z2}x^2 + c_{z3}x + c_{z4} \\
H_y &= c_{y1}x^3 + c_{y2}x^2 + c_{y3}x + c_{y4},
\end{aligned} \tag{27}$$

where the letters in the subscripts refer to axes around which bending takes place. The different constants ( $c_{z1}, \dots, c_{z4}$  and  $c_{y1}, \dots, c_{y4}$ ), can be determined by solving the following equations simultaneously:

$$H_z(x=0) = v_1 \quad H_z(x=L) = v_2 \quad \left. \frac{\partial H_z}{\partial x} \right|_{x=0} = \omega_1 \quad \left. \frac{\partial H_z}{\partial x} \right|_{x=L} = \omega_2 \tag{28}$$

$$H_y(x=0) = w_1 \quad H_y(x=L) = w_2 \quad \left. \frac{\partial H_y}{\partial x} \right|_{x=0} = -\phi_1 \quad \left. \frac{\partial H_y}{\partial x} \right|_{x=L} = -\phi_2.$$

Substitution of  $\frac{\partial^2 H_z}{\partial x^2} = \frac{\partial^2 v}{\partial x^2}$  and  $\frac{\partial^2 H_y}{\partial x^2} = \frac{\partial^2 w}{\partial x^2}$  in Eq. (27) expresses  $E_i$  as a function of the local kinematic variables. The orientation of the beam in terms of the global coordinate system must be used to express  $E_i$  as a function of the global kinematic variables. This leads to the following formulation for the kinematic variables of node  $i$  (local node 1):

$$\begin{bmatrix} u_1 \\ v_1 \\ w_1 \\ \theta_1 \\ \phi_1 \\ \omega_1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \cos \Omega_0 & \sin \Omega_0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ -\sin \Omega_0 & \cos \Omega_0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \cos \Omega_0 & \sin \Omega_0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & -\sin \Omega_0 & \cos \Omega_0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} U_i \\ V_i \\ W_i \\ \Theta_i \\ \Phi_i \\ \Omega_i \end{bmatrix}. \tag{29}$$

## B. Locations and weights of Gaussian quadrature points

The locations and weights of Gaussian quadrature points as used in FE technologies are shown in Table 2, which is adopted from Hughes (1987). Although the four GQP rule is not used, it is included in the table to present that one of the GQPs is located in the center of a triangle as reported in section 3.2.1. The locations of the GQPs in Table 2 are presented in terms of the barycentric coordinates,  $\lambda_1$ ,  $\lambda_2$  and  $\lambda_3$ , which are indicated in Fig. 26.

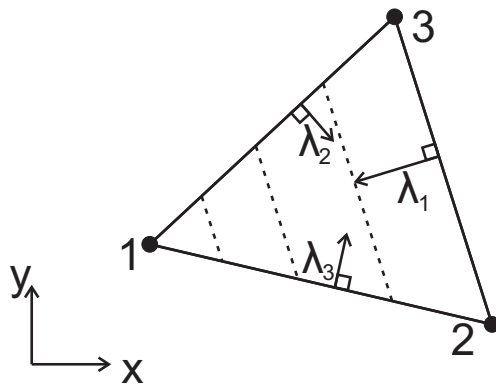


Figure 26: Schematic representation of the barycentric coordinates,  $\lambda_1$ ,  $\lambda_2$  and  $\lambda_3$ , in a triangle that is spanned by nodes 1, 2 and 3. Some lines for a constant  $\lambda_1$  are shown by dashed lines. The  $Z$ -direction is not included, since all triangles are obviously located in the  $X$ - $Y$  plane, similar to the beam lattice.



Table 2: Locations and weights of GQPs of the four-point rule, six-point rule, seven-point rule, nine-point rule and twelve-point rule for triangular finite elements as used in this study. This table is adopted from Hughes (1987).

Rule	$w_{GQP}$	$\lambda_1$	$\lambda_2$	$\lambda_3$
4	-0.56250 00000	0.33333 33333	0.33333 33333	0.33333 33333
	0.52083 33333	0.60000 00000	0.20000 00000	0.20000 00000
	0.52083 33333	0.20000 00000	0.60000 00000	0.20000 00000
	0.52083 33333	0.20000 00000	0.20000 00000	0.60000 00000
6	0.10995 17437	0.81684 75730	0.09157 62135	0.09157 62135
	0.10995 17437	0.09157 62135	0.81684 75730	0.09157 62135
	0.10995 17437	0.09157 62135	0.09157 62135	0.81684 75730
	0.22338 15897	0.10810 30182	0.44594 84909	0.44594 84909
	0.22338 15897	0.44594 84909	0.10810 30182	0.44594 84909
	0.22338 15897	0.44594 84909	0.44594 84909	0.10810 30182
7	0.22500 00000	0.33333 33333	0.33333 33333	0.33333 33333
	0.12593 91805	0.79742 69854	0.10128 65073	0.10128 65073
	0.12593 91805	0.10128 65073	0.79742 69854	0.10128 65073
	0.12593 91805	0.10128 65073	0.10128 65073	0.79742 69854
	0.13239 41527	0.05971 58718	0.47014 20641	0.47014 20641
	0.13239 41527	0.47014 20641	0.05971 58718	0.47014 20641
	0.13239 41527	0.47014 20641	0.47014 20641	0.05971 58718
9	0.20595 05048	0.12494 95032	0.43752 52484	0.43752 52484
	0.20595 05048	0.43752 52484	0.12494 95032	0.43752 52484
	0.20595 05048	0.43752 52484	0.43752 52484	0.12494 95032
	0.06369 14143	0.79711 26519	0.16540 99274	0.03747 74208
	0.06369 14143	0.79711 26519	0.03747 74208	0.16540 99274
	0.06369 14143	0.16540 99274	0.79711 26519	0.03747 74208
	0.06369 14143	0.03747 74208	0.79711 26519	0.16540 99274
	0.06369 14143	0.16540 99274	0.03747 74208	0.79711 26519
	0.06369 14143	0.03747 74208	0.16540 99274	0.79711 26519
	0.06369 14143	0.03747 74208	0.16540 99274	0.79711 26519
12	0.05084 49064	0.87382 19710	0.06308 90145	0.06308 90145
	0.05084 49064	0.06308 90145	0.87382 19710	0.06308 90145
	0.05084 49064	0.06308 90145	0.06308 90145	0.87382 19710
	0.11678 62757	0.50142 65097	0.24928 67452	0.24928 67452
	0.11678 62757	0.24928 67452	0.50142 65097	0.24928 67452
	0.11678 62757	0.24928 67452	0.24928 67452	0.50142 65097
	0.08285 10756	0.63650 24991	0.31035 24510	0.05314 50498
	0.08285 10756	0.63650 24991	0.05314 50498	0.31035 24510
	0.08285 10756	0.31035 24510	0.63650 24991	0.05314 50498
	0.08285 10756	0.05314 50498	0.63650 24991	0.31035 24510
	0.08285 10756	0.31035 24510	0.05314 50498	0.63650 24991
	0.08285 10756	0.05314 50498	0.31035 24510	0.63650 24991

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