

## **Application of meshfree methods: Solving practical problems**

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After almost 20 years of intense research and development, meshfree methods are transitioning from the research environment to take their place with other long accepted numerical techniques for solving practical problems. The availability of meshfree methods, both 'home-brewed' codes, but especially, in several commercial codes, provides relatively easy access to an every increasing body of numerical analysts faced with performing challenging numerical simulations.

As with any relatively new numerical technique, it is used, and abused, in ways the developers never considered. Through this process of wide application, the benefits of the technique become evident, so to the limitations. Perhaps more importantly, the sharing of successes and failures leads to the development of ad hoc guidelines on applicability and use that benefit the entire computational community.

The purpose of this minisymposium is to provide a forum for meshfree method practitioners to share their experiences and insights, and thus contribute to the development of a better understanding of the utility of these new analysis tools.