A Non-Intrusive Coupling prototype for ABAQUS: implementation, demonstration & prospects

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Abstract

Non-Intrusive Coupling Techniques (NICT) [1, 2] aim at simulating the behaviour of large and complex structures: investigate local structural non-linearities, while avoiding any human intervention on existing global models. Though existing numerical technologies may already afford the coupling of different structural models (sub-modelling), they still remain penalizing in terms of operability, and/or valid only within limited domains where local non-linearities do not affect the global behaviour significantly.

Exploratory investigations of a variety of coupling capabilities offered by NICT (FEM/X-FEM [3], determinist/stochastic [4], 2D-1D/3D [5], domain decomposition [6], FEM/NURBS [7]) have been achieved within ANR funded project ICARE, 2013-2016. The joined efforts of ICARE's partners have resulted in NICT's implementation and documentation in openSource FEM software code-aster (http://www.code-aster.org).

As an additional industrialization effort and dissemination towards AIRBUS stress analysis community, AGI has derived a prototype for ABAQUS, based on co-simulation features, specific developments and adapted meshing strategy. For demonstration purpose, specific needs of civil aircraft structural engineering have been addressed: shell to solid, linear orthotropic elasticity to damage and failure of composite materials. Attention was paid to consider models actually representative of day-to-day stress analysis exercises, which involve geometrical complexity, large number of dofs, mixture of element types (shell, connectors & solid), imposed kinematical constraints. A critical source of local non-linearity was considered: damage and failure of composites, captured through adapted solid meshes at local scale (discretization at meso-consituents scale, plies & interfaces) and relevant constitutive models ([8] & ABAQUS Example Problems Guide §1.4.6).

References

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