Some issues and challenges on **aeroelastic modeling** and **multi-disciplinary design** of "aero-space" vehicles

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Flexible Engineering Toward Green Aircraft CAE tools improvement for sustainability University of Rome "Tor Vergata" December 14 2017



I - MODELLING in AEROELASTICITY: past and present civil aircraft



Relatively stiff

Decoupled flight dynamics and aeroelasticity Linear aeroelastic behavior Commercial aeroelastic solvers available



Increasingly flexible Coupled flight dynamics and aeroelasticity Nonlinear aeroelastic behavior Commercial aeroelastic solvers not available

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I - MODELLING in AEROELASTICITY: present and future

Which challenges?

Nonlinear aeroelastic solvers to analyze complex very flexible new configurations



Why?

Commercial solvers not available

E.g., coupled flight dynamics and aeroelasticity of complex configurations around nonlinear trim conditions

How?

Methodology to couple off-the-shelf solvers for high-fidelity analysis of fluids and structures → usefull and effective for design



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II - MULTIDISCIPLINARY and MULTIOBJECTIVE DESIGN for AIRCRAFT configurations

Aircraft design is a **multidisciplinary** problem having competitive objectives (**multi-objective**)

Compromise design must be achieved





| DISCIPLINE | MAIN GOALS | DESIGN REQUIREMENTS |
|-----------------------|--|---|
| STRUCTURES | Minimum Weight | Reduction of stress (masses placed) in most critical areas Low wing span High wing box thickness |
| AERODYNAMICS | Maximum L/D | Slender bodies High wing span and aspect ratio Very thin wing box |
| ENVIRONMENT IMPACT | Minimum Noise Minimum fuel consumption | Very slender design High By-Pass Ratio (high engine diameter) |
| MANUFACTURING | Minimum costs | Simple components to be assembled and inspectioned |
| FLIGHT CONTROL | Control surface effectiveness | Minimum structural flexibility |

- Traditional approach mostly based on past experience and knowledge
- Conventional configurations are close to their limits
- Environmental goals require new effective designs

To make more than evolutionary improvements requires modeling, simulation and computation-based multidisciplinary design (I. Kroo)



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II - MULTIDISCIPLINARY and MULTIOBJECTIVE DESIGN for AIRCRAFT configurations



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AEROELASTIC MODELING & - MULTIDISCIPLINARY DESIGN for AIRCRAFT

 \rightarrow Present our research experiences on the trade-off between:

- First-principle-based analysis tools having relatively low computational cost for high fidelity modeling
- Computationally fast Integrated Optimal multi-disciplinary DESIGN of really new design solutions







- Integrated modelling of <u>Aeroelasticity and Flight dynamics</u>
- Modeling for <u>nonlinear aeroelastic trim solutions</u>
- Modeling for FSI (unsteady aerodynamics) linearized analysis for aircraft and non-aircraft configurations
- 2. Multidisciplinary Design and Multi-Objective optimization of aircraft
 - Conventional aircraft configuration
 - Unconventional aircraft configuration



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Some issues and challenges on aeroelastic modeling and multi-disciplinary design of aero-space vehicles Franco Mastroddi et al. *Dept. of Mechanical and aerospace Eng. – Sapienza University of Rome - Italy* Inertial reference

frame

9.29-00

6 63-005 5 31-005 3 98-005 2 68-005 1 33-005 2 45-006

Non-inertial reference frame



Aeroelastic modeling

From lessons learned by linear fixed-wing aeroelasticity on ...



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Higher and higher fidelity for physical models (Flows, material & structures, flight dynamics)



Note that, in flight physics, each disciplinary set may have different relationships (intersections or unions) with the others depending on the assumed Interaction Model

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Space-discretized flight physics model



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Some issues and challenges on aeroelastic modeling and multi-disciplinary design of aero-space vehicles

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Kinematycs of free-free structures – Practical mean axes constraints



Motion of unrestrained aircraft

$$\mathbf{x}(\mathbf{z};t) = \mathbf{x}_{\mathsf{G}}(t) + \mathbf{z}(t) + \mathbf{u}_{\mathsf{E}}(\mathbf{z};t)$$

- Position of the instantaneous center of mass
- Undeformed position with respect to the center of mass
 - Z is expressed in practical mean axes frame, that coincides with FEM reference frame
- Elastic displacement

Small elastic deflections

$$\mathbf{u}_{\mathsf{E}}(\mathbf{z};t) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} q_n(t) \boldsymbol{\psi}_n^{\mathsf{E}}(\mathbf{z};t)$$

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Equations of motion of unconstrained structures – Practical mean axes constraints

Nonlinear equations of motion



Angular momentum

$$\mathbf{h}_{\mathsf{G}} = \mathbf{J}\boldsymbol{\omega} + \sum_{n,m=1}^{\infty} \mathbf{b}_{nm} q_n \dot{q}_m$$



- First order inertia tensors
- Second order inertia tensors
- Inertia tensor sensitivity
- Coupling vectors

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Inertial coupling terms: from continuous to FEM discretized structures

Continuous structures

$$\begin{split} m &:= \iiint_{\mathcal{V}} \rho \mathrm{d}\mathcal{V} \\ \mathbf{J}_0 &:= \langle \mathbf{z} \otimes \mathbf{z} \rangle \\ \mathbf{J}_n &:= \frac{1}{2} \left[\langle \mathbf{z} \otimes \boldsymbol{\phi}_n^{\mathsf{E}} \rangle + \langle \boldsymbol{\phi}_n^{\mathsf{E}} \otimes \mathbf{z} \rangle \right] \\ \mathbf{J}_{nm} &:= \frac{1}{2} \left[\langle \boldsymbol{\phi}_n^{\mathsf{E}} \otimes \boldsymbol{\phi}_m^{\mathsf{E}} \rangle + \langle \boldsymbol{\phi}_m^{\mathsf{E}} \otimes \boldsymbol{\phi}_n^{\mathsf{E}} \rangle \right] \\ \mathbf{Y}_n &:= \operatorname{sym} \langle \mathbf{r} \otimes \boldsymbol{\phi}_n^{\mathsf{E}} \rangle = \mathbf{J}_n + \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \mathbf{J}_{nm} q_m = \frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial \mathbf{J}}{\partial q_n} \\ \mathbf{b}_{nm} &:= \iiint_{\mathcal{V}} \rho \boldsymbol{\phi}_n^{\mathsf{E}} \times \boldsymbol{\phi}_m^{\mathsf{E}} \mathrm{d}\mathcal{V} = -\mathbf{b}_{mn} \end{split}$$

where

$$\langle \mathbf{a} \otimes \mathbf{b} \rangle := \iiint_{\mathcal{V}} \rho \left[(\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b}) \, \mathbf{I} - \mathbf{a} \otimes \mathbf{b} \, \right] \mathrm{d}\mathcal{V}$$

Space-discretized structures (FEM)

$$\begin{split} m &\simeq \sum_{i=1}^{N_g} m_i \\ \mathbf{J}_0 &\simeq \sum_{i=1}^{N_g} \left\{ m_i \left[(\mathbf{z}_i \cdot \mathbf{z}_i) \, \mathbf{I} - \mathbf{z}_i \otimes \mathbf{z}_i \, \right] + \mathbf{J}_{0_i} \right\} \\ \mathbf{J}_n &\simeq \sum_{i=1}^{N_g} \frac{1}{2} \left\{ m_i \left[2 \left(\mathbf{z}_i \cdot \boldsymbol{\phi}_{n_i}^{\mathsf{E}} \right) \, \mathbf{I} - \mathbf{z}_i \otimes \boldsymbol{\phi}_{n_i}^{\mathsf{E}} - \boldsymbol{\phi}_{n_i}^{\mathsf{E}} \otimes \mathbf{z}_i \right] + \operatorname{sk}(\boldsymbol{\varphi}_{n_i}^{\mathsf{E}}) \, \mathbf{J}_{0_i}^{\mathsf{D}} \\ & - \mathbf{J}_{0_i}^{\mathsf{D}} \operatorname{sk}(\boldsymbol{\varphi}_{n_i}^{\mathsf{E}}) \right\} \\ \mathbf{J}_{nm} &\simeq \sum_{i=1}^{N_g} \frac{1}{2} \left\{ m_i \left[2 \left(\boldsymbol{\phi}_{n_i}^{\mathsf{E}} \cdot \boldsymbol{\phi}_{m_i}^{\mathsf{E}} \right) \, \mathbf{I} - \boldsymbol{\phi}_{n_i}^{\mathsf{E}} \otimes \boldsymbol{\phi}_{m_i}^{\mathsf{E}} - \boldsymbol{\phi}_{m_i}^{\mathsf{E}} \otimes \boldsymbol{\phi}_{n_i}^{\mathsf{E}} \right] + \\ & - 2 \left[\operatorname{sk}(\boldsymbol{\varphi}_{n_i}^{\mathsf{E}}) : \left(\operatorname{sk}(\boldsymbol{\varphi}_{m_i}^{\mathsf{E}}) \mathbf{J}_{0_i}^{\mathsf{D}} \right) \right] \, \mathbf{I} - \operatorname{sk}(\boldsymbol{\varphi}_{n_i}^{\mathsf{E}}) \, \mathbf{J}_{0_i}^{\mathsf{D}} \operatorname{sk}(\boldsymbol{\varphi}_{m_i}^{\mathsf{E}}) \\ & - \operatorname{sk}(\boldsymbol{\varphi}_{m_i}^{\mathsf{E}}) \, \mathbf{J}_{0_i}^{\mathsf{D}} \operatorname{sk}(\boldsymbol{\varphi}_{n_i}^{\mathsf{E}}) \right\} \\ \mathbf{b}_{nm} &\simeq \sum_{i=1}^{N_g} \left[m_i \, \boldsymbol{\phi}_{n_i}^{\mathsf{E}} \times \boldsymbol{\phi}_{m_i}^{\mathsf{E}} - \mathbf{J}_{0_i}^{\mathsf{D}}(\boldsymbol{\varphi}_{n_i}^{\mathsf{E}} \times \boldsymbol{\varphi}_{m_i}^{\mathsf{E}}) \right] \end{split}$$

This coefficients are obtainable by extrapolating the lumped mass matrix from any off-the-shelf FEM solver



Space-state model (Aeroelasticity + Flight Mechanics) → STANDARD CONTROL THEORY DESIGN APPLICABLE



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Computational framework for «design level»: Integration of FEM solvers into a home-made code

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Integrated modeling of aeroelasticity and flight dynamics

NUMERICAL TEST CASE: Body freedom flutter model

Lockheed-Martin website https://www.lockheedmartin.com/us/products/x-56/body-freedom-flutter.html

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Stability: Open-loop and closed-loop (with optimal control) systems

 $U_F^c = 27.60 \text{ m/s}$

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Gust response

Gust response: comparison controll on v.s. control off cases

The controller is also effective for gust alleviation since the critical mode is the most excited one for this kind of gust load

- Nonlinear aeroelastic trim solver to analyze complex very flexible configurations
- Commercial solvers **not available**
- Coupled flight dynamics and aeroelasticity of complex configurations around nonlinear trim conditions
- Methodology to couple off-the-shelf solvers for high-fidelity analysis of fluids and structures
- A statically nonlinear FSI flight-physics model

Courtesy of the University of Michigan's Active Aeroelasticity and Structures Research Laboratory (A²SRL)

Modeling for nonlinear aeroelastic trim solutions

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Numerical test case on XHALE: very flexible model

Ritter, M., Jones, J. R., Cesnik, C. E. S., "Enhanced Modal Approach for Free-Flight Nonlinear Aeroelastic Simulation of Very Flexible Aircraft", *15th Dynamics Specialists Conference*, Jan. 2017, San Diego, California, USA.

Aeroelastic model:

Beam elements with constant stiffness properties and rigid bars Cambered lifting surface with twist and dihedral and flat plates 6DOF splines

Aeroelastostatic analyses:

| Air density | 1.22161 kg/m ³ |
|---------------------|---------------------------|
| Freestream velocity | 16 m/s |
| Angle of attack | 0 deg, 0.5 deg, 1 deg |
| Gravity | On |

Comparison with:

UM/NAST solver with VLM MSC.Nastran SOL 400/VLM solver

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Motivation of statically nonlinear dynamically linear model

Transonic flows: NL-ties really relevant in static solution

Complex geometries

Only CFD simulations can assess the aerodynamics in this case

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A Linearization procedure in Frequency domain (LFD) for determining the unsteady aerodynamic operator (GAF Matrix)

i) Apply a motion to the boundary associated to any *m* mode: $\mathbf{x}(\xi^{\alpha}, t + dt) = \mathbf{x}(\xi^{\alpha}, t) + \dot{t}_{m}^{t}(t)\Psi^{(m)}(\xi^{\alpha})dt$

ii) **Project** the perturbed pressure field $(c_p^{(UNST)}-c_P^{(ST)})$ on any *n* mode:

$$\int_{n}^{m} (t) = -\frac{1}{2} \rho_{\infty} V_{\infty}^{2} \oint_{S} C_{p}^{m} (\xi^{\alpha}, t) \mathbf{n}(\xi^{\alpha}) \cdot \Psi^{n}(\xi^{\alpha}) dS$$

modelling

iii) Apply Fourier transform on each obtained time generalized aerodynamic force (outputs): (m)

$$\tilde{e}_n^{(m)}(\omega) = \int_0^\infty e_n^{(m)}(t) e^{-j\omega t} dt$$

iv) **Divide** (in the Fourier domain) each response by the input to obtain the Generalized Aerodynamic Force (GAF) matrix:

$$E_{nm}(\omega) = \tilde{e}_n^m(\omega) / \tilde{q}_m^t(\omega) q_D$$

Signal processing

$$\sum_{m}^{M_{modi}} s^2 M_{nm} \tilde{q}_m + \sum_{m}^{M_{modi}} K_{nm} \tilde{q}_m = \frac{1}{2} \rho_\infty V_\infty^2 \sum_{m}^{M_{modi}} E_{nm}(s; M_\infty, V_\infty) \tilde{q}_m$$

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Reduced Order Model (ROM): LFD for unsteady aerodynamics

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Test case AGARDS 445.6 Wing (AGARD): experimental reference results (wind tunnel tests)

Test case AGARDS 445.6 Wing (AGARD): reated CFD simulation

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Updated modes (via structural optimization in FE framework)

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Flutter prediction and comparison with experimental results

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Application to a **non aircraft Aerial vehice:** Scout-type laucher

No commercial codes exist in this case

Technical data:

- Diameter: 1 m
- Length: 25.8 m
- Total mass: 17850 Kg
- Thrust: 513 kN
- 4 stages

Transonic Flight

- M = 0.88
- α = 1°
- V = 293.6 m/s
- p = 65057 Pa
- $\rho = 0.80 \text{ kg/m}^{3}$

CFD model

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Structural model

Unstedy BC and pressure field projection via RBF morph

Stability Analysis for a LV

Linearized gust response for a LV

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Multidisciplinary-Design and

Multi-Objective Optimization of aircraft

..... How to use the learned lessons on modeling?

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Multidisciplinary-Design and Multi-Objective Optimization (MDO + MOO) of aircraft

MDO – MOO combination

THE BEST PHYSICAL MODELING: Multi-Disciplinary Analysis and Optimization (MDAO) allows designers to integrate simultaneously all the disciplines into a multidisciplinary computational environment \rightarrow coupling interactions

THE BEST DESIGN SOLUTION: Multi-Objective Optimization (MOO) for a MDO problem allows to keep homogeneus relevance for each discipline:

- No artificial constraints are introduced in the optimization problem
- Pareto Frontier describes the compromise among contrasting objectives

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Application on standard civil-aircraft configuration

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MDO and MOO for a "middle-step" unconventional aircraft configuration

Application on Over Wing Nacell (OWN) NASA concept

- OWN is a middle step between conventional transport aircraft designs and more unusual configurations
- OWN concept is promising to be a very efficient solution for improving transonic performance thanks to shock location control in the inboard section of the wing
- Several benefits due to the over wing engine installation (Noise reduction, larger engine diameter, thrust reversal spoilers, etc..)

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Results of the MDO-MOO on unconventional High Altitude Long Endurance (HALE) or High Altitude Pseudo Satellite (HAPS)

High-Altitude Long-Endurance unmanned aerial vehicles

HALEs are able to perform most of the LEO satellites AKA HAPS, High Altitude Pseudo Satellites

This is possible thanks to the capability of flying aloft for long periods of time (a fortnight is the record) thanks to a green energy source: SUN Energy

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Multi-disciplinary analyses

After the model generation, some preliminary analyses have been done.

- Linear static analysis (gravity and landing): no failure and acceptable displacements (MSC Nastran SOL 101);
- **Modal analysis**: very low frequencies (SOL 103);
- Aeroelastostatic analysis: trim is possible (SOL 144);
- Flutter analysis: no flutter occurs (SOL 145);
- Gust response analysis: high flexibility (SOL 146).

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MDO and MOO for an unconventional aircraft configuration

⁷Results of the MDO-MOO on unconventional High Altitude Long Endurance (HALE) or .. High Altitude Pseudo Satellite (HAPS)

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MDO and MOO for an unconventional aircraft configuration

Results of the MDO-MOO on unconventional High Altitude Long Endurance (HALE) or .. Hight Altitude Pseudo Satellite (HAPS)

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Some final remarks

Old/New challenges for aircraft modelling and design:

- 1. More and more <u>integrated multidisciplinary modelling and optimization</u> Cross-fertilization between different scientific communities is mandatory to significantly improve future designs
- 2. More and more <u>physical fidelity</u> of modelling
 - Models based on first principles (not surrogates) and capturing the relevant physics are necessary to guide design optimization
- 3. More and more <u>computational efficiency</u>

First-principle-based and possibly high-fidelity models must be at the same time computationally efficient if to be used for design (reduced-order modeling)

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Thank you for your attention

