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Simulation of Liquid Composite Molding using OpenFoam with Applications to Civil Aerospace Engineering

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The Manufacturing Process



Step 1: Placement of dry preform
⇒Draping simulations
Goal: find layup strategy with minimal wrinkling and shear deformation



Step 2: Resin infusion
⇒LCM-Simulation
Goal: find injection strategy where
voids and dry spots are prevented;
predict filling time



Step 3: Resin Curing & Cooling
⇒Curing and Spring-Back simulations
Goal: predict deformation due to curing and cooling

OpenFoam

OpenFoam is

- a free, open source CFD software package; entails solvers for
 - compressible/incompressible/multiphase flows
 - combustion problems
 - electromagnetic problems
 - . . .
- distributed by OpenCFD Ltd. under the GPL
- freely available for Linux operating systems

OpenFoam ships with

- Mesh generation and mesh conversion tools: fluentMeshToFoam/ starToFoam/ gambitToFoam/ ideasToFoam/ cfx4ToFoam
- Postprocessing via ParaView
- Parallel processing utilities



Fig: Simulation of a darting flame



OpenFoam



Adequate solvers for the modeling the LCM process

porousInterFoam: Solver for 2 incompressible, isothermal immiscible fluids using a VOF phase-fraction based interphase capturing approach, with explicit handling of porous zones

=> Setup: cavity is filled with air, resin is injected at the inlet and pushes air out the predefined outlet



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OpenFoam

Solver "porousInterFoam" (OpenFoam 2.1.1) Underlying set of equations:

$$\nabla \cdot \vec{v} = 0 \tag{1}$$

$$\frac{\partial(\epsilon\gamma)}{\partial t} = -\nabla \cdot (\gamma \vec{v}) - \nabla \cdot (\vec{v}_r \gamma (1-\gamma)) \quad (2)$$
$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} (\rho \vec{v}) = -\nabla \cdot (\rho \vec{v} \vec{v}) - \nabla P + \nabla \cdot \tau + \rho \vec{g} + S \quad (3)$$

Porous media modeled by sink term: $S = -\frac{\eta}{K} \vec{v}$

K.... Permeability μ viscosity



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Rectilinear Flow



Analogous example: radial flow in an isotropic medium

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Validation

Permeameter Experiment (IWK, G0926 fabric (ORCA layup))

 $\epsilon = 0.4445 \text{ (FVC 55,55\%)}$

 $K = 2^{*}10^{-11} m^2$

```
fl = 1.1*10^{-6} m^{3}/s // 1.0*10^{-6} m^{3}/s // 8.0*10^{-7} m^{3}/s
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Gylcerine-water mixture:

ho = 1220 kg/m³ η = 0.1 Pa s



wallclocktime (1 core): ~36 min



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SARISTU Winglet Spars

Manufacturing of Winglet Spars by MARI (P) AT 511 113 Modeling assumptions:

- Thickness negligible => 2.5D simulation (part thickness 3-6 mm)
- Use combined permeability K_{comb} in areas where flow enhancing layer is placed

Preparation of geometry:



Zone 1 (yellow): $K_{comb} = 2 \cdot 10^{-9} m^2$ Zone 2 (green): $K_{rad} = 8 \cdot 10^{-12} m^2$ Zone 3 (violet): $K_{pref} = 2 \cdot 10^{-11} m^2$ Zone 3 (red): $K_{race} = 2 \cdot 10^{-10} m^2$

SARISTU Winglet Spars

Saristu Winglet Endrib: Different injection strategies



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SARISTU Winglet Spars

Saristu Winglet Endrib: Permeability variability



=> Reliable permeability values are important.

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Summary & Conclusions

Use of OpenSource Software OpenFoam for simulation of the LCM process

- Choice of appropriate OpenFoam solver and its adaptation to the LCM process.
- Verification & Validation of model and solver



solver works correctly

Simulation of the filling process in the Saristu Winglet components

- 2.5D simulation
- Effects such as racetracking and preform variability are taken into account
- valid estimation of filling time (if correct permeability values are used)

accurate filling simulation of real part

Outlook



More detailed mathematical model for vacuum assisted resin infusion:

- Perform entire 3D-simulation taking the flow enhancing layer as a separate structure into account
- Taking preform thickness variation into account (dry/wet compaction behaviour of the material)

Simulation of the entire process chain:

Taking draping effects into account (changes FVC => changes in K => important for filling simulation) by importing FiberSim data in OpenFoam

Thank you for your attention!

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