Efficient and flexible implementation of an interfacing Python-based tool for numerical simulations of fluid-structure interaction problems

### David THOMAS







### Introduction





### Introduction





### Introduction

**Fluid-structure interaction (FSI)** := structure interacting with a surrounding fluid



Garden hose instability





credit Atmosphere



credit ESA – D. Ducros (illustration)







credit ESA – D. Ducros (illustration)



redit Donaldytong



credit Hans Hillewaert



credit ESA – D. Ducros (illustration)







credit ESA – D. Ducros (illustration)







credit Hans Hillewaert

credit A. Marsden, Stanford University

credit Gerrit Vyn

## FSI in engineering design and research

- Current design trend towards larger, slender, lighter structure (e.g. aircraft wings, wind turbine blades)
  - → FSI becomes more critical for safe design
- New research topics such as MAV\* design, flapping flight and aeroelastic energy harvesting
  - → understanding of complex physics

### Numerical/computational model



credit Aerosoft inc

#### **Experimental model**



credit aerolab

#### \*MAV: Micro Air Vehicles

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### Model with coupled physics required

#### Experimental model



#### \*MAV: Micro Air Vehicles

### Objectives



#### \*API : Application Programming Interface

### Objectives



#### \*API : Application Programming Interface

### Outline

#### **PART I: The FSI problem**

- Overview
- Mathematical description and numerical formulation

#### PART II: CUPyDO

Data structure and numerical models

#### **PART III: Verification and applications**

- Verification test cases
- Aeroelastic study of a thin flat plate wing

#### CONCLUSION

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## Static FSI (mechanical)

B-787 during take-off, wing tip deflection





# Vortex-induced vibrations (VIV)

- Vortex shedding
  → Harmonic fluid loads at f<sub>v</sub>
- Structure natural frequency  $f_s$
- Critical conditions :  $f_v \rightarrow f_s$
- Self-limited resonance

**Examples**: marine structures, bridges suspenders, towers, industrials chimneys



Experimental VIV of a cylinder in cross-flow credit Dr Gabriel Weymouth, University of Southampton, 2018



- No vortex shedding
- Negative damping of the coupled system above critical flow conditions
  - → Instability (1 mode)

**Examples**: power lines (transverse galloping) and bridge decks (torsional galloping)



Tacomas Narrows Bridge (WA), 7<sup>th</sup> Nov 1940



- Two structural modes interacting with each other due to the aerodynamics
- Negative damping of the coupled system above critical flow conditions
  - → Instability

**Examples**: aircraft lifting structures



Piper PA-30 Twin Comanche during flight flutter test (NASA, 1966)

# Thermal coupling: conjugate heat transfer (CHT)



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### Partitioned model



Interface  $\frac{\text{loads}: t^{\Gamma}}{\text{displacements}: d^{\Gamma}}$ 



## Partitioned two-way coupling

Fluid loads transfered to the solid surface as structural loads



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# Development of a coupling framework

### Key requirements

#### **Coupling tool - WANTED**

- Coupling flexibility
- Minimal intrusiveness
- Usability
- Numerical stability
- Minimize CPU cost overhead
- Do not degrade parallel scalability

#### **Coupled solvers – MUST HAVE**

- Re-compute the same time step(s) with different interface conditions
- Interface data must be exposed and editable
- Dynamic mesh treatment

# Development of a coupling framework

### Key requirements

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### **Coupled solvers – MUST HAVE**

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- Interface data must be exposed and editable
- Dynamic mesh treatment

There is no magic, code adaption is still required... but can be minimized with no drastic change of the native data structure and architecture

## CUPyDO architecture



## CUPyDO architecture



### Python wrapper










# Solver interfacing

## Compatibility chain



# Solver interfacing

## Compatibility chain



# CUPyDO architecture



# Strong coupling algorithm

## Block Gauss-Seidel with relaxation



# Stability of the mechanical coupling

Added-mass

- Fluid-solid interaction with strong feedback
   numerical instability of the iterative coupling
- Usually referred to as added-mass effect

#### Added mass $\approx$ inertia of the fluid that has to be displaced by the solid



After stability analysis on simple FSI systems, instability appears when  $Ma \ \rightarrow 1^+$ 

$$Ma = \frac{\rho_s}{\rho_f}$$

# Stability of the mechanical coupling

### Stabilization techniques



# CUPyDO architecture



# Coupling partitioned (MPI) solvers



- Distinct communicators could be created
- The coupled solvers must accept to run on **dedicated communicators** (not available !)
- Currently, MPI\_COMM\_WORLD is used for inter- and intra-communications

#### \*MPI : Message Passing Interface

# CUPyDO architecture



# Interface treatment

## Interface tracking



- Interface data exchange at the interface nodes of each mesh
- Interpolation of interface data for non-matching discretization
- **Dynamic fluid mesh** that tracks the solid motion

## **Interface treatment** Interface tracking



Fluid mesh deformation



+ Arbitrary Lagrangian-Eulerian (ALE)

# Interface mesh treatment

## Non-matching interface discretization



48

# Interface mesh treatment

## Mapping with Radial Basis Functions (RBF)

Only node coordinates and distance computation

0.2

0

0.4

0.6

ξ

$$w(x) = \sum_{k=1}^{N} \alpha_k \phi(||x - x_k||) + p(x)$$
Global support  $||x||^2 \log ||x||$  (TPS)  
Local support  $(1 - \xi)^4_+ (4\xi + 1)$  with  $\xi = \frac{||x||}{r}$  (CPC2)

0.8

# Interface mesh treatment

## Mapping with Radial Basis Functions (RBF)

Only node coordinates and distance computation

$$w(x) = \sum_{k=1}^{N} \alpha_k \phi(||x - x_k||) + p(x)$$
  
Global support  $||x||^2 \log ||x||$  (TPS)  
Local support  $(1 - \xi)^4_+ (4\xi + 1)$  with  $\xi = \frac{||x||}{r}$  (CPC2)

#### Step 1: compute $\alpha_k$ and $\beta_i$

- Impose exact recovery at donor nodes
- Linear system to solve

#### Step 2: interpolate on target

• Use the computed coefficients

$$\begin{bmatrix} \boldsymbol{a} \\ \boldsymbol{\beta} \end{bmatrix} = \mathbf{A}^{-1} \begin{bmatrix} \boldsymbol{a}_{S} \\ \mathbf{0} \end{bmatrix}$$

 $d_f^{\Gamma} = \mathbf{B}\begin{bmatrix} \boldsymbol{\alpha} \\ \boldsymbol{\beta} \end{bmatrix}$ 

- M-

г лГл

Donor (size N<sub>s</sub>)

Step 1 + step 2:  $BA^{-1} \rightarrow H$ 

Target

(size  $N_f$ )



# Interface data structure

## Interface data

### Interface matrix



- Generic partitioned **data container**
- Used to store interface physical quantities or coupling residuals
- Parallel algebraic operations

- Typically used to store and compute **A** and **B** in parallel
- Parallel matrix-vector operations with Interface
   Data

# CUPyDO architecture



## **Coupled solvers** In this thesis



# **Coupled solvers**

## Beyond this thesis



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# Overview







2D pitch-plunge airfoil

3D wing model

# VIV of a rigid cylinder - 1D oscillator

$$Re_{D} = \frac{UD}{v} = 90 \text{ to } 120$$
$$Ma = 148$$



**Fluid:** viscous laminar flow **Solid:** oscillator equation  $m\ddot{h} + c\dot{h} + kh = L$  **Initial conditions**:  $\ddot{h} = \dot{h} = h = 0$  $\rightarrow$  until solid motion reaches an established regime





# VIV of a rigid cylinder





SU2×RBM

# VIV of a rigid cylinder



- Inside lock-in region: strong feedback between coupled physics
- Outside lock-in region: marginal effect of solid motion
- **Good match** with numerical references

SUZXRBM

# VIV of a rigid cylinder



#### **Uncoupled model misses important physics**

SU2\*RBM

# Flutter – Isogai wing section





 $Re_c = 12.56 \ 10^6$  $M = \frac{U}{a} = 0.75 \ to \ 0.895$ Ma = 60

Initial condition:  $\alpha = 1^{\circ}$ 

**Damping extracted** from the aeroelastic response and used for **flutter inception** 

**Fluid**: transonic inviscid flow solved with Euler equations **Solid**: 2-DoF oscillator equation for h and  $\alpha$ 

# Flutter - Isogai wing section

# SU2×RBN1

#### **Flutter boundary**



# Flutter - Isogai wing section

#### **Flutter boundary**



SU2×RBM

# Flutter - Isogai wing section

# SU2\*RBNA

#### **Flutter boundary**



65



Pitch-plunge in phase

Pitch-plunge in opposite phase

## VIV of a flexible cantilever Coupled model



H = 1 cm $Re_{H} = 333$ 

Ma = 84.7 to 0.8

**Fluid**: viscous laminar flow **Solid** (cantilever): nonlinear FE, elastic material

Interface: matching discretization

# VIV of a flexible cantilever

Tip displacement and frequency



- SU2×NIetafor
- Laminar vortex shedding in the wake of the square
  - ➔ harmonic loads on the cantilever
  - ➔ harmonic response
- The case is setup to have  $f_v \approx f_0$

	max $d_y$ [cm]	<i>f</i> [Hz]
CUPyDO	1.14	3.20
Sanchez <i>et al.</i>	1.05-1.15	3.05-3.15
Habchi <i>et al.</i>	1.02	3.25
Kassiotis <i>et al.</i>	1.05	2.98
Wood <i>et al.</i>	1.15	2.94
Olivier <i>et al</i> .	0.95	3.17

## VIV of a flexible cantilever Added-mass effect



||U|| [m/s]: 0 0.1 0.2 0.3 0.4 0.5 0.6 0.7 0.8



Aeroelastic model y (

flow

Λ

 $z \odot$ 

AGARD 445.6

# Flow: transonic inviscid flow (Euler eqn.)

 $c_r$ 

Solid: nonlinear FE, elastic material

**Interface**: non-matching discretization  $\rightarrow$  use of RBF interpolator (TPS)

 $c_t$ 

 $b_s$ 

x







flow

SU2×Metafor

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## Aeroelastic model



**Interface**: non-matching discretization → use of RBF interpolator (TPS)

Initial perturbation (load) to trigger the aeroelastic response

**Damping extracted** from the aeroelastic response and used for **flutter inception** 



# AGARD 445.6

#### SU2×Meraror Aeroelastic response speed index Mach = 0.96 0.06 r $V^* = 0.218$ <sup>•</sup> = 0.281 0.04 $V^* = 0.300$ 0.02 $d_z/b_r \,\, \mathrm{[m]}$ 0 -0.02 h -0.04 -0.06 $\begin{array}{c} 0.6 \\ t \ [s] \end{array}$ 0.2 0.4 0.8 1.2 0
### AGARD 445.6

### Aeroelastic response



Post-critical conditions, speed index = 0.3 Mach = 0.96



### AGARD 445.6 Flutter boundary



SU2×Metafor

# AGARD 445.6 Flutter boundary



- Good agreement in the transonic regime (+ transonic dip)
- Increased spread of the results in the supersonic regime



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# Thin flat plate wing

### Aeroelastic model



Geometry  $s = 0.8 \, {\rm m}$  $c = 0.2 \, {\rm m}$ t = 1 mm(thickness)  $\Lambda = 0^{\circ} | 20^{\circ} | 45^{\circ}$ 

Numerical model



SUSXMETAFOR Wind tunnel experimental model flow

 $Re_c^{max} = 2.6 \ 10^5$ 



Flow: turbulent flow (URANS) **Solid**: nonlinear FE model, elastic material (aluminum)

**Interface**: non-matching discretization  $\rightarrow$  use of RBF interpolator (CPC2)

# Thin flat plate wing

### Aeroelastic model



#### Geometry

- $s = 0.8 \, {\rm m}$
- c = 0.2 m
- t = 1 mm (thickness)  $\Lambda = 0^{\circ} \mid 20^{\circ} \mid 45^{\circ}$



- Initial perturbation (load) to trigger the aeroelastic response
- Controlled by perturbation duration t\*

 $Re_c^{max} = 2.6 \ 10^5$ 

#### Wind tunnel experimental model





SU2+Metafor

## **Thin flat plate wing** Flutter speed and frequency



**Computation time** VLM : a few seconds CUPyDO: 12h for one cycle SU2+Metaror

# Thin flat plate wing

Post-critical aeroelastic response



#### Low frequency LCO Dominated by **bending**



#### **High** frequency LCO Dominated by **torsion**



# Thin flat plate wing





supercritical bifurcation

Not observed experimentally

81

### Thin flat plate wing LCO flow characteristics





- Periodic formation of a leading edge recirculation bubble
   → locally increases the suction
- Spanwise increase of the size then collapses due to tip vortices
- Relates occurrence of **high-frequency LCO** with the occurrence of the LE recirculation

# Thin flat plate wing

Aeroelastic response – swept wing





- Significant spanwise flow component
- Large tip vortices
- No LE recirculation detected
  - → Only one LCO branch

# Thin flat plate wing

### Aeroelastic response – swept wing



 $\Lambda = 45^{\circ}$ 

Qualitative comparison with the experimental model





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# Concluding words

#### **Development of CUPyDO**

- Innovative implementation of state-of-the-art coupling algos
- Coupling based on Python wrapping
- Maximizes flexibility and modularity
- Minimally intrusive

#### Application of CUPyDO...

#### ... in this thesis

• Demonstrated the accuracy, flexibility and efficiency

#### ... in other research projects

- FSI with free-surface flows and strong added-mass effect
- Steady aeroelasticity of composite wings in transonic regime
- Validation of lower-fidelity method for flutter calculation
- Adjoint formulation for steady FSI (unsteady is ongoing)



Dam break against elasto-plastic obstacle (PFEM+Metafor) M.L. Cerquaglia



Aeroelastic study of the EBW (FLOW+Modali) A. Crovato

## **Future perspectives**

#### Development

- Extend the list of coupled solvers (e.g. OpenFOAM, TACS)
- Vectorial coupling (>< staggered)</li>
- Improve/extend non-matching mesh interpolation
- Scalability on massively distributed resources



#### **Applications**

- More general **multiphysics** applications (e.g. add electro-magnetic field)
- Unsteady adjoint FSI using harmonic balance
- FSI with very large solid motion

# Acknowledgements



**Computational resources** 



**Research stay + SU2** 



# Additional support

# Thermal coupling: conjugate heat transfer (CHT)



## Multi-code coupling architectures



### **Development of a coupling framework** Review of existing software

	API level	HPC	Legal	Coup. schemes	Communication	Intrusive
ADVENTURE	med	yes	in-house	yes	TCP/IP	yes
EMPIRE	med	no	open	yes	MPI	yes
MpCCI	med	no	commercial	yes	TCP/IP	yes
OpenPALM	high	yes	open	no	MPI	yes
OASIS	low	yes	open	no	MPI	yes
preCICE	high	yes	open	yes	TCP/IP/MPI	yes
FUNtoFEM	high	yes	open	yes	TCP/IP/MPI	no
CUPyDO	high	yes	open	yes	Direct	no

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OASIS	low	yes	open	no	MPI	yes
preCICE	high	yes	open	yes	TCP/IP/MPI	yes
FUNtoFEM	high	yes	open	yes	TCP/IP/MPI	no
CUPyDO	high	yes	open	yes	Direct	no

## Python wrapper generation



## **Class architecture**



# Weak coupling algorithm



# Thermal coupling schemes

$$\mathrm{Bi} = \frac{hL}{\lambda}$$



Use of **numerical heat transfer coefficient** to stabilize or accelerate the convergence (hFFB, hFTB)

Stability based on numerical vs physical Bi

## Partitioned solver distribution



# Interface date structure

Used in inter-communications



## Interface data structure



# Interface mesh treatment

### Parallel mapping

- Mapping performed in parallel through successive MPI communication rounds (donor → target)
- Use of non-blocking communications
- Each pair of donor-target fills the corresponding entries of the **matrices**





# Interface data structure

### Interface matrix



# VIV of a rigid cylinder



# Flutter - Isogai wing section





104

# Flutter - Isogai wing section

### Limit cycle aeroelastic response





**Oscillating shock** 

SUZXRBM

### **Isogai wing section** Weak vs strong coupling





Weak coupling provides numerically stable solution,
but physically unstable response
→ flutter point is under-predicted compared to strong coupling

### AGARD 445.6 Performance measurement





→ typical computing time: **12h for one cycle of the response** 



## Heated hollow cylinder in cross-flow Coupled model



**Flow**: viscous laminar flow **Solid**: linear FE model (heat equation)

**Interface**: matching discretization

Re = 40M = 0.38 Pr =  $\frac{v}{\alpha}$  = 0.72

Case A: 
$$\frac{\lambda_s}{\lambda_f} = 4 \Rightarrow \overline{Bi} < 1$$
  
Case B:  $\frac{\lambda_s}{\lambda_f} = \frac{1}{4} \Rightarrow \overline{Bi} > 1$ 

• The steady state thermal equilibrium is sought

• Assessment of the available coupling schemes

SU2xGetDs
# Heated hollow cylinder in cross-flow Temperature field – $\overline{Bi} < 1$





SU2xGetDp

## Heated hollow cylinder in cross-flow Temperature distribution – $\overline{Bi} < 1$



SU2+GetDp

### Heated hollow cylinder in cross-flow

Performance of coupling schemes

	$\overline{\mathrm{Bi}} < 1$	$\overline{\mathrm{Bi}} > 1$
FFTB	8	Unstable
TFFB	Unstable	8
hFTB	8	Unstable
hFFB	33	11

- Expected behavior for FFTB and TFFB (cf. 1D stability analysis)
- Numerical h.t.c. can stabilize the FB scheme for  $\overline{\text{Bi}} < 1$ , requires more iterations
- Numerical h.t.c. cannot stabilize the TB scheme for  $\overline{\mathrm{Bi}} > 1$
- Using numerical h.t.c. does not improve the convergence rate for stable cases

SUZIGETDD

#### **Thin flat plate wing** Flutter speed and frequency

Experimental model ( $\Lambda = 0^{\circ}$ ) at flutter speed Snapchot of the mean deflection



G. Dimitriadis

#### mean deflection $\rightarrow$ stiffening $\rightarrow$ increased frequency



**Computation time** VLM : a few seconds CUPyDO: 12h for one cycle SUZXANIEtafor

### Thin flat plate wing LCO flow characteristics





117

SU2×Meraror