Towards fully automated aerodynamic shape optimization of nonplanar wings with SU2

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- I. Introduction: need for aerodynamic shape optimization of nonplanar configurations
- **II. SU2 and Aerodynamic Shape Optimization**
- III. SU2 inside MDAO: NERONE
- **IV. Conclusions and future works**



Introduction

Need for aerodynamic shape optimization of nonplanar configurations

Sustainability

- Environmental challenge and increase in the demand due to the need for mobility.
- More efficient aircraft
 - Design: introduction of higher-fidelity MDO ab-initio
 - Unconventional configurations

Aerodynamic Shape Optimization

- The majority of commercial flights do operate in transonic regimes
 - properly modeling transonic flow physics is costly, and also difficult;
 - enhanced sensitiveness with respect to small and localized features of the **wing shape;**
 - to exploit the potentials of aerodynamic shape optimization (ASO), a rich-enough design space has to be considered;
 - adjoint method is the perfect candidate to perform such optimization sensitivities at a relatively low computational costs (cost of evaluating the gradient is almost independent of the number of design variables).





Introduction

Aerodynamic Shape Optimization inside MDAO

Typically multi-level optimization problems:

- external variation of planform-level DV (sweep, dihedral, etc.
- internal local aerodynamic shape optimization (ASO)

Automatization:

- Parametric description (wing-planform level and local-shape features)
- Robust grid generation (wing-planform level) or deformation (local shape features)
- Aerodynamic Optimization







Non-planar wings

- Classic winglets (to reduce drag)
- Box Wings/PrandtlPlane



A320 Sharklet (photo: Airbus)

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SU2 for Aerodynamic Shape Optimization

- For CFD analyses, continuous and discrete adjoints are provided to support gradientbased optimization.
- Various surface deformation parametrizations and mesh deformation algorithms available.
- High-level routine (python-written) available for aerodynamic shape optimization.

Works well for planar configuration!





Issues when considering nonplanar wings:

- Point-inversion not robust.
- Locked position of control points on adjacent FFD boxes.





Functionalities added to SU2 core

Robust point-inversion to allow non-parallel opposite faces of a FFD box.

 use of genetic algorithm for point-inversion (avoids local minima)





Changes in "grid_movement_structure.cpp" file, "CsurfaceMovement::SetParametricCoord" class member function

 if the SU2 original point inversion algorithm fails (parametric coordinates not bounded in [0,1]) a new genetic algorithm (based on <u>https://www.iitk.ac.in/kangal/codes.shtml</u>) is called

Functionalities added to SU2 core

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 Failed pointinversion

> SU2 original code, random deformation.

> > modified SU2, random deformation.

Functionalities added to SU2 core

New conditions on adjacent FFD boxes control points:

- Allows for displacement of originally fixed control points.
- Maintains smoothness (constraint equations between control points displacements).

SU2 original code: random control-points displacement.

abutting faces

fixed control points (C1 condition)

Have been modified:

- python SU2-optimizer interface "scipy_tools.py"
- input file and parser "config.py"

Functionalities added to SU2 core

SU2 modified code: random control-points displacement.

New conditions on adjacent FFD boxes control points.



- Continuity requirements on control points up- down-stream the shared FFD interfaces to guarantee a certain level of smoothness
- Dependent design variables (control points) eliminated from the independent DVs.
- Gradient projection adapted to reflect the constraint.

$$\delta \boldsymbol{P}^B_{i1k} = \delta \boldsymbol{P}^A_{iMk} = \frac{\delta \boldsymbol{P}^A_{iM-1k} + \delta \boldsymbol{P}^B_{i2k}}{2}$$

$$J = J(\delta \boldsymbol{P}_{ijk}^{A}, \ \delta \boldsymbol{P}_{rst}^{B}, \ \delta \boldsymbol{P}_{iMk}^{A}(\delta \boldsymbol{P}_{iM-1k}^{A}, \ \delta \boldsymbol{P}_{i2k}^{B}), \ \delta \boldsymbol{P}_{i1k}^{B}(\delta \boldsymbol{P}_{iM-1k}^{A}, \delta \boldsymbol{P}_{i2k}^{B}))$$

$$\frac{dJ}{d\delta \boldsymbol{P}_{iM-1k}^{A}} = \frac{\partial J}{\partial \delta \boldsymbol{P}_{iM-1k}^{A}} + \frac{\partial J}{\partial \delta \boldsymbol{P}_{iMk}^{A}} \frac{\partial \delta \boldsymbol{P}_{iMk}^{A}}{\partial \delta \boldsymbol{P}_{iM-1k}^{A}} + \frac{\partial J}{\partial \delta \boldsymbol{P}_{i1k}^{B}} \frac{\partial \delta \boldsymbol{P}_{i1k}^{B}}{\partial \delta \boldsymbol{P}_{iM-1k}^{A}}$$

Performance of modified SU2

Synthetic testcase, based on ONERA M6 with added winglets:

- Euler-based
 - multi-point optimization (several C_L, fixed M=0.84);
 - t/c and C_M (pitching moment) constraints.





Mach

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Aerodynamic Shape Optimization: NERONE

NERONE

(opeNsource mEsh cReation fOr aerodyNamic Evaluation)

Tool for the aerodynamic shape optimization of **nonplanar** configurations based on open-source software.



Highlights

- Fully automatic.
- Fairing surfaces controlled in an intuitive and robust way.
- User-guided meshing strategy.
- Well-suited to be used within an MDAO workflow.
- Features added to SU2 code to handle nonplanar configurations.



NERONE: Geometric Engine

region

Geometric engine

OPENCASCADE

Based on the **OpenCascade** library.

- Converts the CPACS (common language) parametric description into a mathematical continuous surface.
- Creates regions on the surface to guide the meshing process.
- Creates external boundaries of the domain, and intermediate surfaces to support meshing process.
- Creates, in case an optimization is carried out, the Free Form Deformation (FFD) boxes.



Freeform-deformation (FFD) boxes

NERONE: Grid Generation module

Meshing Module Based on GMSH.



An interface imports the geometries, and associates parameter specified in a dedicated section of the input file (CPACS) to the appropriate regions on the wing surface and domain boundaries.

Current fully working

- 2D Euler Mesh
- 2D Rans Mesh
- 3D Euler Mesh

Under development

- 3D RANS mesh
 - Issues with GMSH algorithms if a quality mesh is sought (requirement for SU2 code, and for good results in general).





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Conclusions and Future Works

Conclusions

- Modification on SU2 code have been carried out in order to perform aerodynamic shape optimization of nonplanar wings.
- SU2 has been employed inside NERONE, for automatic shape optimization inside an MDAO.

Future Works

- SU2 level:
 - Code "polishing" (comments, comply with SU2-code standard.
 - Add generality.
- NERONE level
 - \circ 3D meshing for RANS



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