

From Electromagnetic Forces To Acoustics

Full Chain Analysis for Vibro-Acoustic Studies with Electromagnetic Excitations

Presented By: Debbie Reeves, PhD October 27, 2015

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Objectives

- Show chained simulation between Infolytica MagNet, MpCCI FSIMapper, MSC Nastran, and MSC Actran
- Predict the noise radiated from an electric motor due to electromagnetic forces





Introduction

Free Field Technologies & ACTRAN

Introduction

- Free Field Technologies Founded in 1998
- Joined MSC Software in 2011
- Headquartered in Brussels, Belgium
- Activities:
 - Development of the Actran software
 - Services support, training, consulting & technology transfer
 - Research in acoustic CAE and related fields
- More than 300 industrial customers worldwide





Why acoustics?

- Noise needs to be studied to (among others):
 - Accommodate for stringent standards
 - The standards are becoming more and more restrictive
 - Improve comfort
 - Acoustic comfort (car or aircraft) is a marketing argument today: Airbus A380
 - Prevent damages
 - In the design of spatial structures, a high level of noise can lead to damages or break-down of the structure
- Increasing need for simulation
 - Prototypes are costly and involved too late in the development cycle
 - Simulation at the early design phase lead to reduce the development cost







Actran Across Industries



The Actran Software Suite



Actran Acoustics Features

- Acoustic near field and far field propagation, with convection
 - Acoustic finite elements, infinite elements, APML, time domain solver
 - Convected wave propagation (flow + temperature)
- Excitations imported from MSC Nastran or others
- Results provided (among others)
 - Acoustic pressure, intensity and power
 - Power distribution and radiation efficiency
- Applications
 - Engine: power train and auxiliaries (oilpan, manifold, exhaust, ...)
 - Engine compartment insulation
 - Any vibrating / radiating component







Actran Vibro-Acoustics Features

- Structure elements
 - Visco-elastic solid, shell, beam, stiffener
 - Poro-elastic elements
 - Rigid body, spring, point mass
 - Piezo-electric elements
- Porous elements to model foam, rock, fibers: based on Biot model
- Perforated sheet model
- Coupling with fluid
 - Strong coupling: fluid and structure interact together
 - Weak coupling: no retroaction of fluid on structure
 - Support of non-congruent meshes
- Import Nastran structural models into Actran
- Example of results provided:
 - Structural displacement, acceleration, force, stress
 - Energy dissipated in each layer or each material
 - Energy balance statements
 - Insertion Loss



Infinite Elements and Perfectly Matched Layers (PML)

Infinite elements:

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- Simulate unbounded domain
- Appropriate high order shape functions in the radial direction
- Ensure no wave reflections at the FE/IE interface
- Provide accurate acoustic results beyond the FE domain

Perfectly Matched Layers

- Alternative/complement to infinite elements for the radiation in free field
- Extra-layer of used to progressively damp the acoustic wave and nonreflecting boundary condition
- Far field solution using automated FWH solver



Adaptive Perfect Matched Layer (APML)

- For handling multiple frequencies in a single computation, the PML method has two opposite constrains:
 - At lower frequencies, the PML layer should be thick enough to absorb acoustics with longer wavelength
 - At higher frequencies, the element size within the PML should be small enough to capture the shorter wavelengths
- <u>APML</u> automates the PML mesh creation, adapting to different frequencies
 - Reduced meshing effort for modeling sound radiation problems
 - Optimized computation time for the each desired frequency
- Actran can generate different adaptations of PML layers for each frequency band
- Gain of calculation time by adaptive mesh





Radiated Noise Simulation in Actran

Radiated Noise Simulation in Actran

• Overview of radiated noise simulation process



Acoustic Radiation Analysis Strategies in Actran (1)

- Two strategies to do acoustic radiation simulations in Actran:
 - 1. Fully coupled computation
 - Structural vibrations create acoustics and acoustic field alter the behavior of the structure
 - Both fluid and structure are modeled in Actran
 - 2. Weakly coupled computation
 - · Acoustics does not alter the behavior of the structure
 - Actran is used to model the acoustic part only
 - Vibration of the structure is analyzed in other FEA tools (e.g. MSC Nastran, Ansys, etc)
 - FEA results (e.g. surface displacements, velocities) are used as the excitation in the acoustic analysis
 - The FEA results are applied as boundary condition
- Weakly coupled strategy was used in this case study



Acoustic Radiation Analysis Strategies in Actran (2)





Case Study

Electromagnetic Noise

Example Case

- Electromagnetic noise from 4-Pole 24-Slots Motor
- Rotation speed = 1800 RPM = 30 Hz





Chain Analysis of Vibro-Acoustic Study

- Chain analysis process
 - 1. EM force computation
 - MagNet & FSIMapper
 - 2. Structural vibration computation
 - MSC Nastran
 - 3. Acoustic computation
 - MSC Actran





Actran Acoustic Model (1)

BC Mesh procedure



Actran Acoustic Model (2)

Acoustic radiation model requires an acoustic mesh



Actran Noise Radiation Model

- Two main modeling strategy for free-field radiation:
 - 1. "Manually" create fluid mesh surrounding the structure
 - 2. Actran automatically creates fluid mesh
 - Fluid mesh is created in the background during solving stage
 - Reduce meshing effort

Non-reflecting boundary condition to model unbounded media

Coupling surface to read *c* structural results



Field mesh

Fluid Mesh for Radiation Calculation

"Traditional" acoustic radiation calculation



- One mesh is designed for the highest frequency solved
 - Small element size
 - Mesh is used for all frequencies
- Computation time is the same for all frequencies

• "Adaptive" acoustic radiation calculation



- The complete calculation frequency range is divided into smaller frequency bands
 - One mesh is created for each frequency band
- The computation time is reduced for low frequencies

Automatic Fluid Mesh

- Exterior Acoustic method
- Automatically creates acoustic domain in the framework of acoustic radiation in far field





Automatically created fluid meshes

Actran Model Setup

• Model setup process

- 1. Build fluid mesh (2D and 3D)
- 2. Define material properties
 - Air: c = 340 m/s, ρ = 1.225 kg/m³
- 3. Define fluid components (domains + material properties)
- 4. Define non-reflecting boundary condition (NRBC)
 - Infinite element: 2D skin of acoustic domain
 - Enable wave propagation into free-field
- 5. Define excitation
 - Use Nastran results (OP2 format)
 - Apply excitation using BC mesh
 - Use of coupling surface to map structural results into acoustic mesh
- 6. Define field points
 - To obtain output quantities





Field Points for Post-Processing

- Field points distances from structure surface
- Field points in horizontal and vertical planes
 - Can be used to generate directivity plots
- Sound Pressure Levels (SPL) computed at virtual microphones

•
$$SPL = 20 \times \log_{10} \left[\frac{\sqrt{Fluid \, pressure^2}}{Ref \, pressure} \right]$$

- Fluid pressure in Pascal
- Reference pressure = 2e-5 Pa







Results

Structural Results (1)

• Plots of displacement at a node on the flange



Structural Results (2)

Plots of displacement at a node on the case



Structural Results (3)

• Comparison of displacements at nodes on the flange and the case



Structural Results (4)

• Plots of acceleration at a node on the flange



Structural Results (5)

• Plots of acceleration at a node on the case



Structural Results (6)

• Comparison of accelerations at nodes on the flange and case



Structural Results (7)

Animation of displacement output ٠



Color and deformation map as a function of frequencies Color and deformation map at 120 Hz

Color and

at 4000 Hz





Acoustic Results (1)

- Virtual microphones IDs and locations
- Use PLTViewers to plot results



Acoustic Results (2)

• Sound Pressure Level (SPL) at left and right microphones



Acoustic Results (3)

• Sound Pressure Level (SPL) at front and back microphones



Acoustic Results (4)

• Sound Pressure Level (SPL) at top and bottom microphones



Acoustic Results (5)

Comparison of SPL from various microphones



Acoustic Results (6)

Directivity plots on horizontal and vertical planes





Directivity Plot - Vertical Plane Microphones



Acoustic Results (7)

 Source directivity influences the overall SPL heard by observer

Mic on horizontal plane (front mic)

Mic on vertical plane (top mic)





Acoustic Results (8)

- Sound pressure map at a discrete frequency
- View radiation pattern at a certain frequency





Sound pressure map at 960 Hz

Acoustic Results (9)

- Sound pressure map at discrete frequency
- View radiation pattern at a certain frequency





Sound pressure map at 4.2 kHz

Acoustic Results (10)

Animation of pressure field around structure



Pressure map as a function of frequencies



Pressure map at f = 4210 Hz



Conclusion

Conclusion

- ACTRAN has powerful capabilities to efficiently and accurately predict the sound radiated by vibrating structures
- ACTRAN can be used as a part of chained analysis with MagNet and FSIMapper to compute the radiated noise by electromagnetic
- Existing NASTRAN structural models can be used
- Can listen to predicted EM noise





Thank You

