Acceleration of Robust Experiment Design using Sobol Indices and Polynomial Chaos Expansion

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Keywords: *Robust Experiment Design; Global Sensitivity; Sobol Indices; Polynomial Chaos Expansion; Evolutionary Optimisation; Non-Linear Heat Transfer.*

Abstract

In practice, laboratory experiments are still mostly designed by trial and error method using the expert knowledge of the material model to be calibrated. This is, however, a difficult task in the case of advanced models developed to simulate engineering problems by non-linear finite element techniques. Ruffio et al. (2012) proposed a method for optimisation of model-based design of experiments using robust evolutionary algorithms. Such a method, however suffers from the high computational demands, which make their application to non-linear finite element (FE) simulations difficult.

In this contribution, we present a novel method introducing a surrogate of the FE model based on polynomial chaos expansion (PCE) and global formulation of sensitivity matrices. PCE-based surrogates bring two principal advantages. First, they allow to overcome the computational burden of many times repeated FE simulations within the process of experiment design optimisation. Second, they allow fast analytical evaluation of Sobols indices or response variances, which can be used for quantification of global sensitivity of measured quantities to identified parameters. The advantages and drawbacks of the proposed method are demonstrated on an experiment designed for identification of the volumetric thermal capacity and the conductivities in the two principal directions. The specimen is modelled by 2D squared domain with the prescribed constant heat flux on left and bottom edges and the goal of the given experiment design is to find optimal positions of three sensors.

References

Ruffio, E., D. Saury and D. Petit. Robust experiment design for the estimation of thermophysical parameters using stochastic algorithms. *International Journal of Heat and Mass Transfer*, 55(11-12):2901–2915, 2012.