

NASA Multiscale Analysis Tool (NASMAT)

Robust, Integrated, Physics-based, Non-linear, Variable Fidelity Modeling of Multi-phased Materials and Structures

Challenge

- Materials and structures contain numerous relevant length scales
- Predicting the non-linear behavior requires integration of these length scales, i.e., Downscaling / Upscaling
- The problem size can quickly become computationally intractable; therefore, to date analysis has been mostly limited to coupon specimens

Expected Impacts

- Enable physics-based modeling of structures containing advanced, hierarchical engineering materials
- Reduce cost, improve performance, and expand design of aeronautical structures
- Prediction of deformation and life of industrial-sized problems considering non-linear material behavior at the appropriate length scales
- Capability to "design with the material" AND "design the material"

Solution

- Upgrade legacy code MAC/GMC, FEAMAC
- NASMAT designed for High Performance Computing (HPC)
- Recursive code structure allowing for an arbitrary number of length scales in the analysis
- Modular design for integration with 3rd party software
- Library of micromechanics theories allowing variable fidelity for computationally efficient solutions

Results

- Physics-based modeling of real aerospace structures
 - Ceramic matrix composite (CMC) turbine vane; Thermal Protection Materials and Systems (TPS); Metals; Porous Materials; semicrystalline thermoplastics; 3D woven composites
- Experimental validation of micromechanics-based analyses
- Desirable computational scaling demonstrated on HPC
- 2022 AIAA Integrated Computational Materials Engineering (ICME) Prize Winner, software foundational for success of project

Next Steps

- Continue enhancement to parallelization and optimization of code
- Develop and integrate machine learning surrogate models with for improved computational speed
- Develop multi-physics capabilities, i.e., Litz wire
- Advanced structural applications – welding of thermoplastic composites joints, curing of concrete in 0 g environment

Partners and/or Participants

- General Electric Company, Aerospace Corporation
- U Tenn.-Knoxville, U Mass Lowell, U Texas – Austin, Utah State, Boise State, Penn State, Boise St., U. South Carolina, Michigan Tech, Western Michigan
- Office of Naval Research (ONR), Army Engineer Research & Development Center, Air Force Research Laboratory
- NASA Space Technology Mission Directorate, Entry Systems Modeling, Thermoplastics Development for Exploration Applications, Small Business Innovation Research; ONR

