



**RÉPUBLIQUE  
FRANÇAISE**

*Liberté  
Égalité  
Fraternité*

**ONERA**

THE FRENCH AEROSPACE LAB

[www.onera.fr](http://www.onera.fr)

# Composite activities at ONERA

Composite material simulation with Europlexus

Jérémy Germain

[jeremy.germain@onera.fr](mailto:jeremy.germain@onera.fr)

Fundings:

Onera



Physafe II



Funded by  
the European Union  
NextGenerationEU

Cleopatra



# Presentation plan

---

- Overview of ONERA activities
- Brief overview of composite materials modelling and recent development
- A workflow for composite materials modelling:  
Chaining different finite element solver

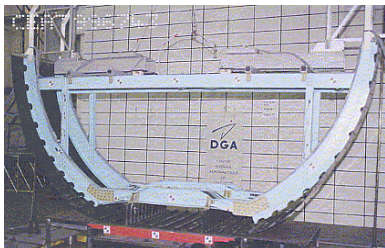
# Accidental dynamic loadings

## Impact

Bird strike, ballistic  
limit/perforation



## Crash fuselage



## Sub-component impact

Assembly, with bearing



[Riccio et al, 2020]

## Energy absorption system

Crush



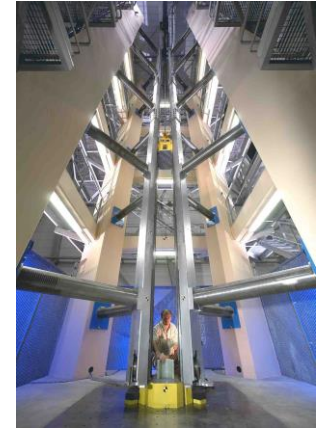
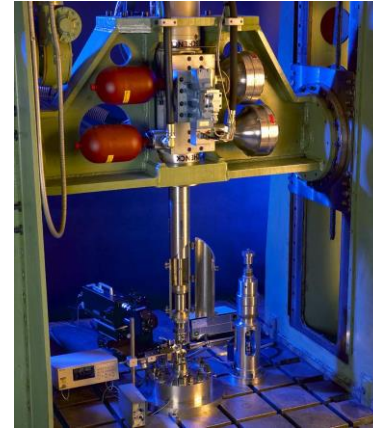
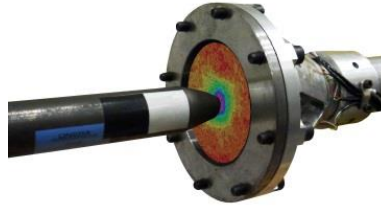
[Feraboli et al, 2016]

**Ensure structural integrity and survivability for accidental loadings regarding certification requirements**

# Experimental devices at ONERA

## Different load capacities and strain rate

Hopkinson bars, hydraulic jack, crash tower, airguns



Material characterisation for different strain rate

Propose specific test procedures for transient dynamic loading (no specific standards)

Validation tests

Gives information and validation test case for modelling

# Test pyramid in the aerospace industry

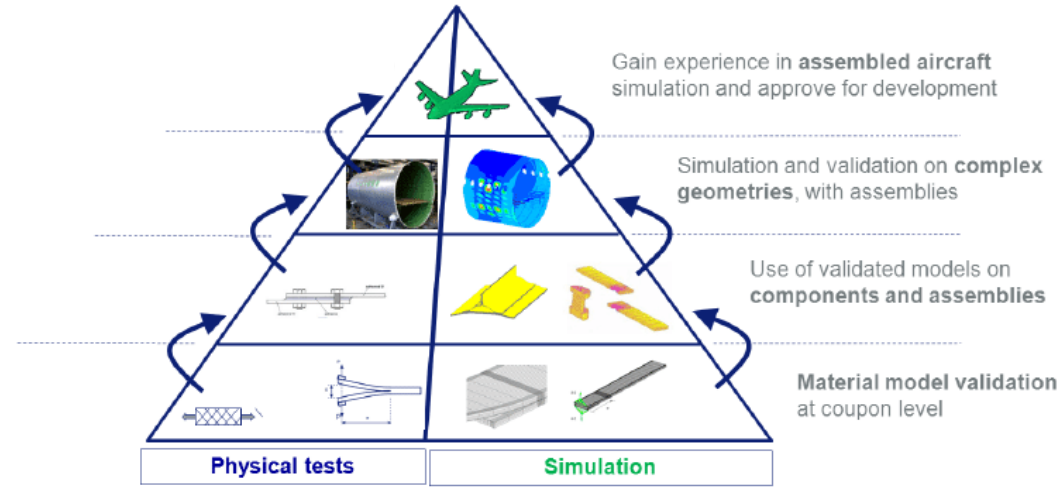
## From component level to the full structure

Elementary material characterisation

Test on sub-component (assembly, open-hole)

Structural scale for validation

Difficulty of modelling: Change of scale

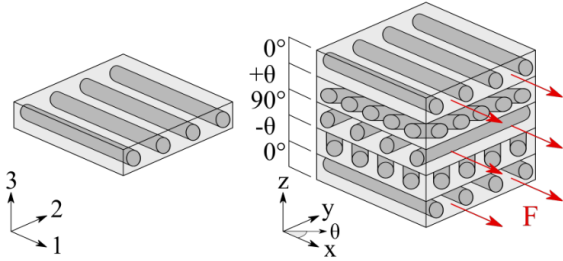


[Bruyneel et al, 2014]

# Composite materials

## Different architecture (UD, 2D, 3D...)

Laminated composites of unidirectionnal plies

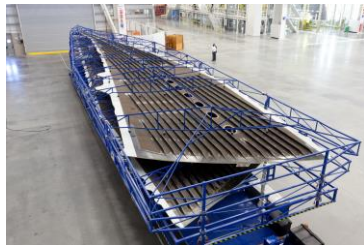
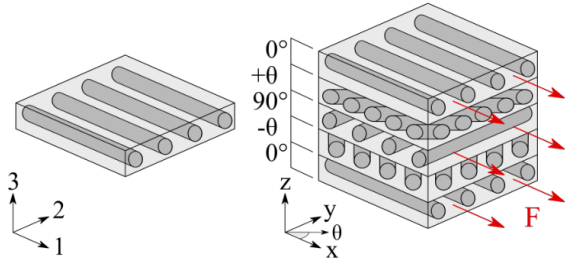


Fuselage and wing panel [airbus.com]

# Composite materials

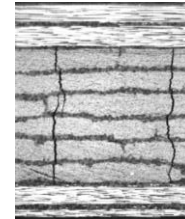
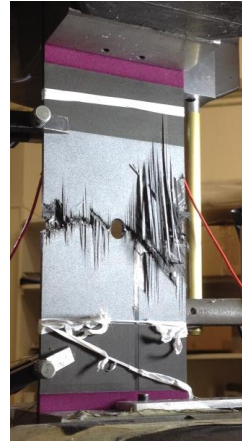
## Different architecture (UD, 2D, 3D...)

Laminated composites of unidirectionnal plies



Fuselage and wing panel [airbus.com]

## Damage mechanism



Transverse cracking



Delamination  
[Wisnom et al, 2009]



Fibre failure

**Complex material behaviour (anisotropy, non-linear, rate sensitive)**

**Damage mechanism related to material architecture**

**Weaknesses under out of plane loadings (delamination)**

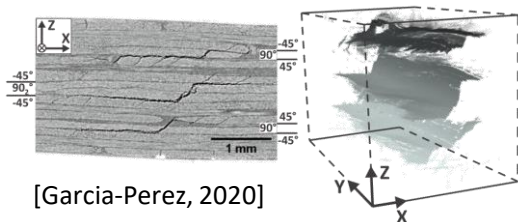


# Interaction between damage mechanisms

## Damage coupling: transverse cracking / delamination

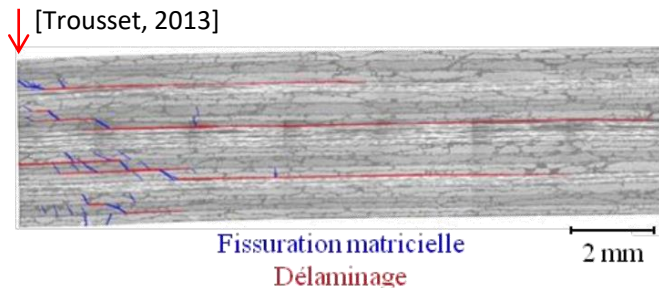
Transverse cracking can trigger delamination

Out of plane shear → Transverse cracking → Delamination

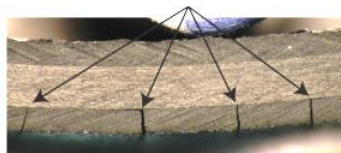
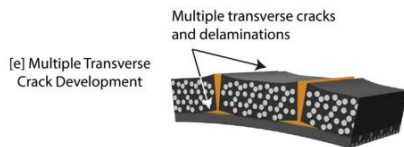


[Garcia-Perez, 2020]

Impact location



[Trousset, 2013]



[Mortell et al, 2014]

**Highly coupled damage mechanisms**  
complex phenomena that influence a structure strength or residual strength

# Presentation plan

---

- Overview of ONERA activities
- Brief overview of composite materials modelling and recent development
- A workflow for composite materials modelling:  
Chaining different finite element solver

# Composite material modelling

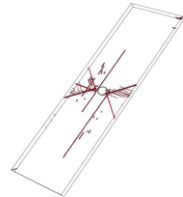
## Ply modelling

### Discrete damage models

[Hallett et al, 2008]

[Bouvet et al, 2009]

[Van Der Meer et al, 2009]



Floating Nodes [Chen et al, 2016]

### Continuum damage model

[Ladevèze et al, 1992, 2000 2006]

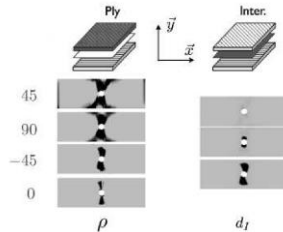
[Lubineau et al, 2008]

[Maimi et al, 2006]

[Camanho et al, 2007]

[Huchette, 2005] [Laurin et al, 2013]

[Germain, 2020]



LMT Mesomodel [Abisset, 2012]

## Interface modelling

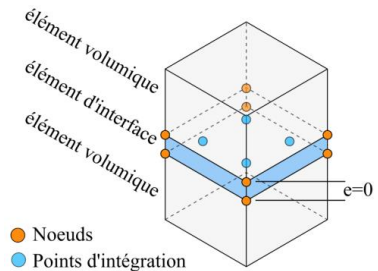
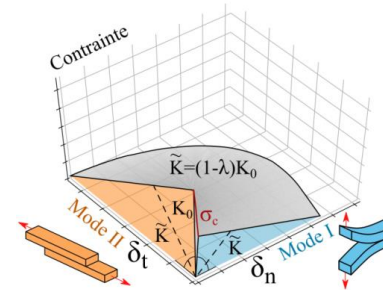
### Cohesive zone model for delamination

[Alfano et al, 2001]

[Camanho et al, 2002]

[Turon et al, 2007 2010]

[Vandellos, 2011]



## Consensus on CZM for delamination analysis

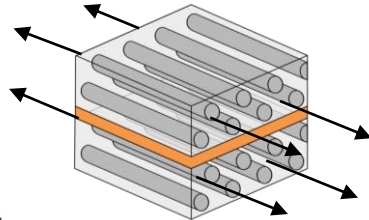
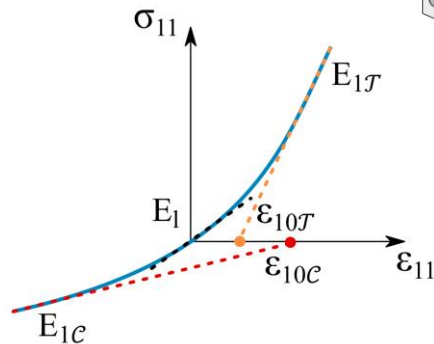
Continuum damage models, better suited to our sense for identification and industrial transfer

# ORFM material behaviour

$$\sigma = \boxed{\tilde{C}} : (\varepsilon - \boxed{\varepsilon_{nl}} - \varepsilon_{th})$$

## Non-linear elasticity ■

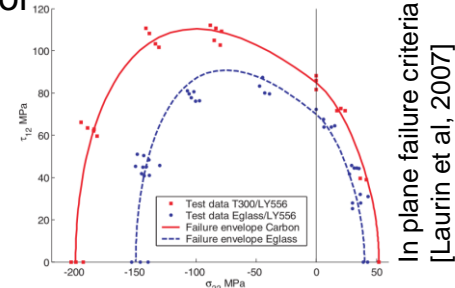
In the fibre direction



## ■ Transverse cracking and fibre failure

Rate dependance introduced through compliance/stiffness tensor

Transverse cracking



Softening fibre failure law

Regularization and additional numerical difficulties

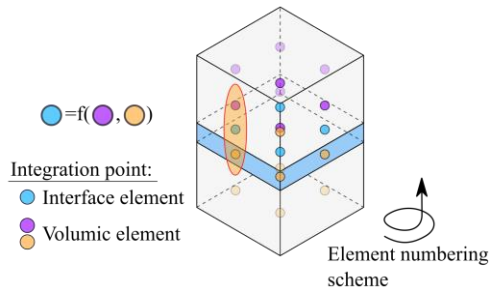
**Development of a numerical framework to couple damage with delamination**

# Numerical damage coupling framework

## Transverse cracking / delamination

Build a connectivity table:

- Upper / lower interface element neighbour
- Create a datastructure to pass integration point variables *DATACONTAB*



Gather *D\_DATACONTAB* and broadcast *DATACONTAB* (MPI)

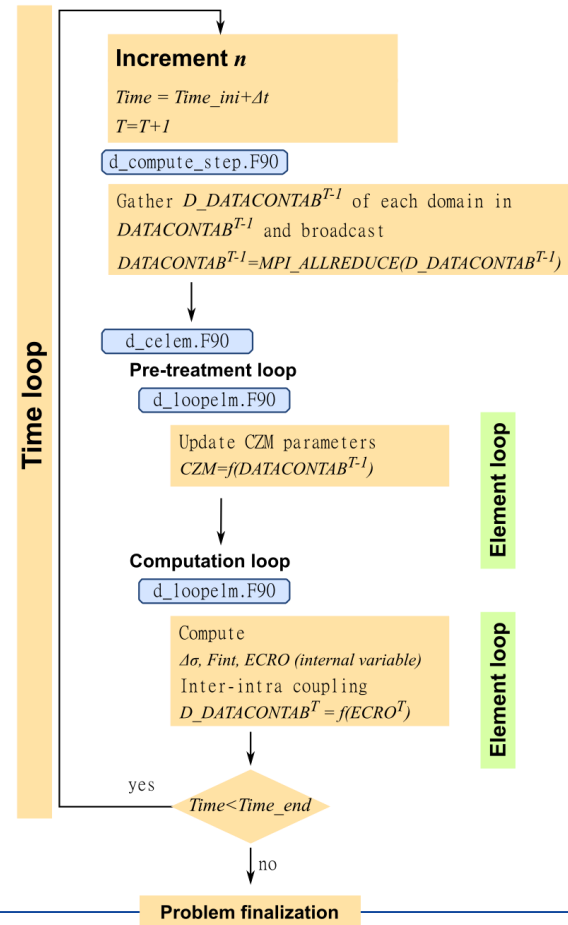
Get in the pre-treatment loop:

- Update the interface element law based on the ply element values

Get in the Computation loop:

- Update Fint and internal variables, fill *D\_DATACONTAB*

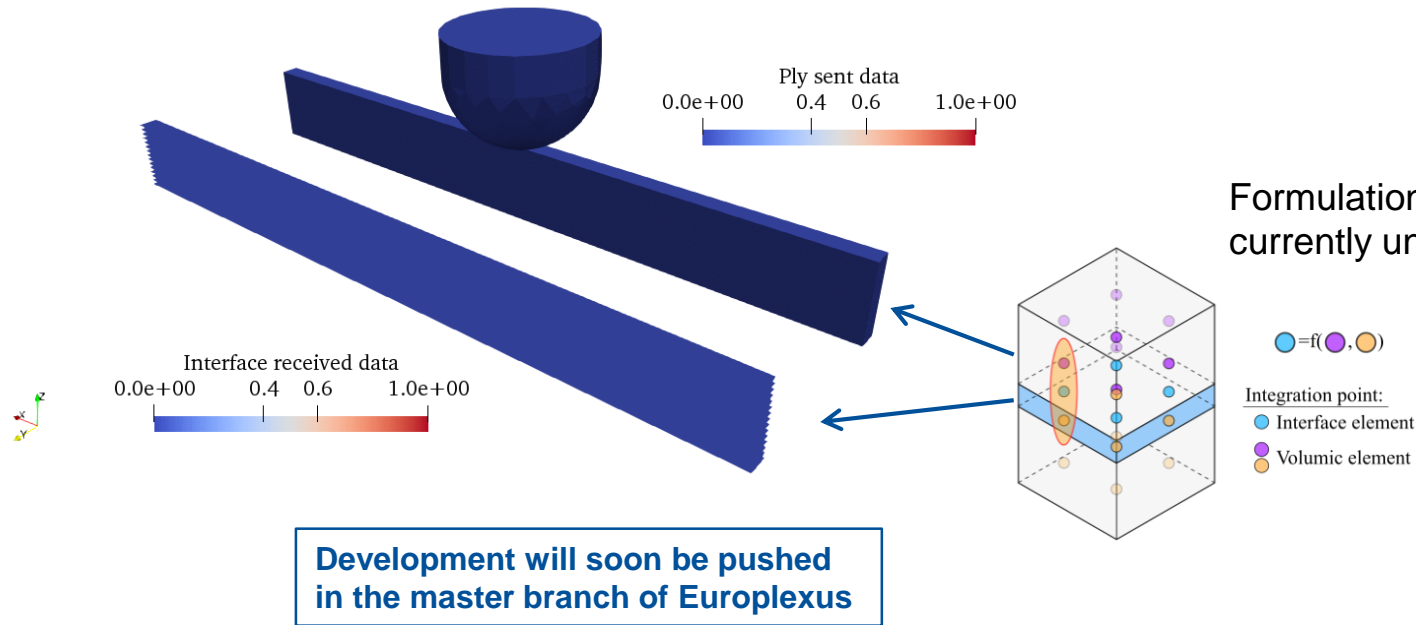
Parallel computation



# Numerical damage coupling framework

## Transverse cracking / delamination

Data transfer visualisation on a three point bending specimen



# ORFM material behaviour

$$\sigma = \tilde{C} : (\varepsilon - \varepsilon_{nl} - \boxed{\varepsilon_{th}})$$

## Thermal residual strain

Cooling phase in the manufacturing process (slow)

Anisotropy of thermal coefficient expansion,

Stresses always present in multidirectional laminate

$$\varepsilon_{th} = \begin{bmatrix} \alpha_L \\ \alpha_T \\ \alpha_T \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} (T - T_0)$$

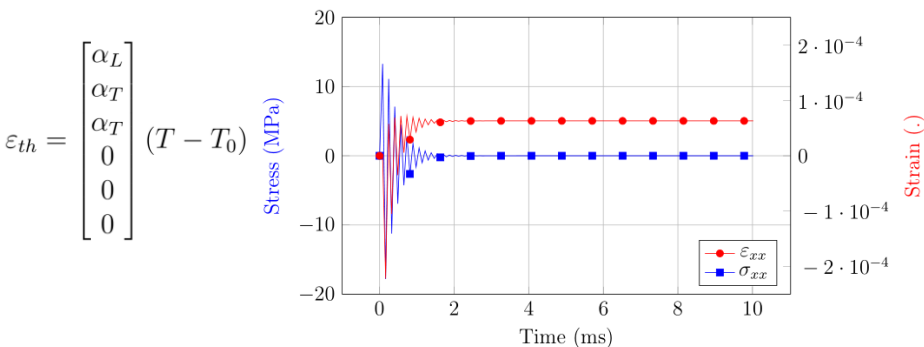
**To our knowledge, never been accounted for in simulations using an explicit solver**

**Important feature for damage and failure prediction:  
~25-30MPa while the transverse strength is approx. 60-70MPa ...**

# Instant residual thermal strain

## Direct computation in the material law

Computation on a single element (CUBE)



**Oscillations of the stresses**

**High frequencies due to direct computation**

**Progressively damped by the element**



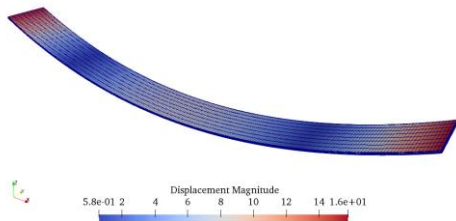
# Instant residual thermal strain

## Direct computation in the material law, application to a [0/90] laminate

### Explicit simulation



- 10080 elements CUBE (reduced integration)
- Quasi-static damping
- 12 domains



**Time: 15905s~4h25**

**Important number of increment to obtain a stationary state**

**Critical time step is a drawback here**

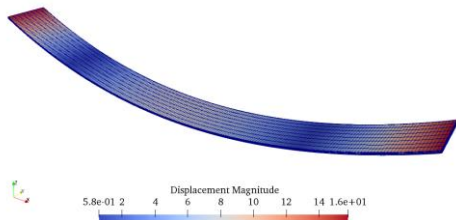
# Instant residual thermal strain

## Direct computation in the material law, application to a [0/90] laminate

### Explicit simulation



- 10080 elements CUBE (reduced integration)
- Quasi-static damping
- 12 domains



**Time: 15905s~4h25**

**Important number of increment to obtain a stationary state**

**Critical time step is a drawback here**

### Implicit simulation (ZSet)



- Fully integrated elements
- Quasi static simulation
- 1 domain, 1 core

**Time: 11s**

**Speed up > 1445 wrt explicit simulation**

**Equilibrium and STATIONNARITY**

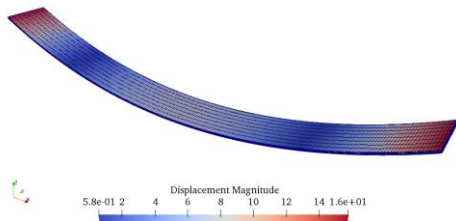
# Instant residual thermal strain

## Direct computation in the material law, application to a [0/90] laminate

### Explicit simulation



- 10080 elements CUBE (reduced integration)
- Quasi-static damping
- 12 domains



**Time: 15905s~4h25**

**Important number of increment to obtain a stationary state**

**Critical time step is a drawback here**

### Implicit simulation (ZSet)



- Fully integrated elements
- Quasi static simulation
- 1 domain, 1 core

**Time: 11s**

**Speed up > 1445 wrt explicit simulation**

**Equilibrium and STATIONNARITY**

**Can I use results from implicit simulations to start my explicit simulations ???**

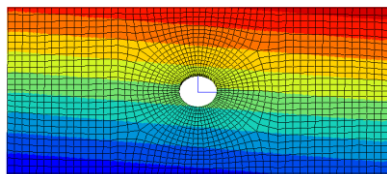
# Presentation plan

---

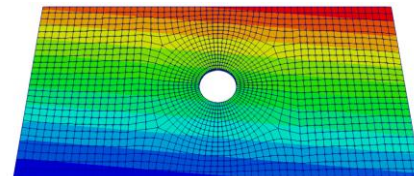
- Overview of ONERA activities
- Brief overview of composite materials modelling and recent development
- A workflow for composite materials modelling:  
Chaining different finite element solver

# Implicit toward explicit simulations: Strategy n° 1

1) Compute residual thermal stresses



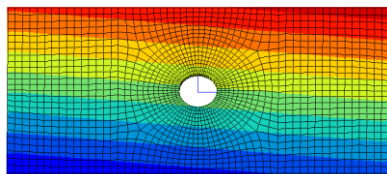
Displacement field U1



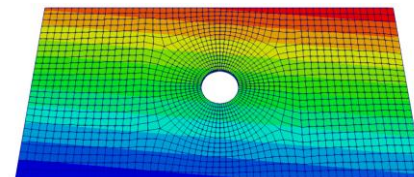
2) Extract displacement field; Apply it in Europlexus;  
Instant  $\epsilon$ th computation in the law; No external loading

# Implicit toward explicit simulations: Strategy n° 1

## 1) Compute residual thermal stresses



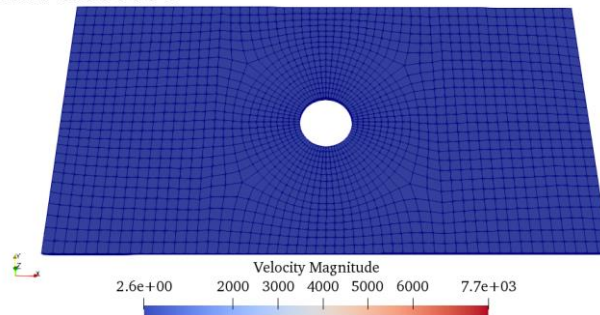
Displacement field U1



## 2) Extract displacement field; Apply it in Europlexus; Instant $\epsilon$ th computation in the law; No external loading

## 3) Oscillations of the velocity field $\rightarrow$ not a stationary state

Time: 0.00000 s

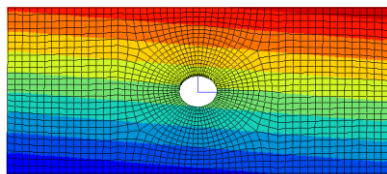


### Reason:

- $\Delta\sigma$  on the first time step
- $\rightarrow \Delta F_{int} \rightarrow a \rightarrow v \rightarrow u$

# Implicit toward explicit simulations: Strategy n° 2

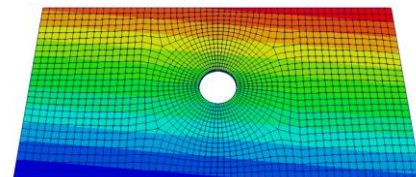
## 1) Compute residual thermal stresses



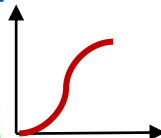
Displacement field U1



## 2) Extract displacement field; Progressive application of U and $\epsilon_{th}$ with time; No external loading

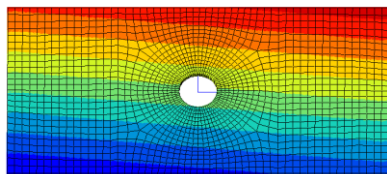


No inertial effect, I enforce each point displacement



# Implicit toward explicit simulations: Strategy n° 2

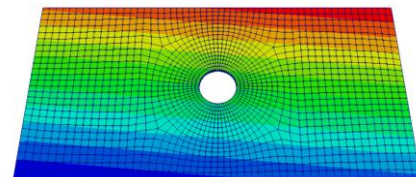
## 1) Compute residual thermal stresses



Displacement field U1



## 2) Extract displacement field; Progressive application of U and $\epsilon_{th}$ with time; No external loading



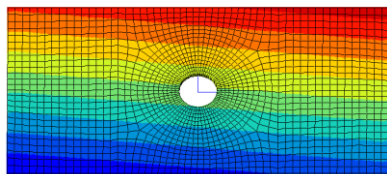
No inertial effect, I enforce each point displacement

## 3) Initialize a second Europlexus simulation with the previous one *INIT ALICE 10* No external loading

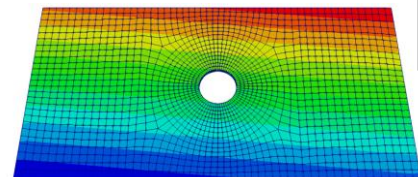


# Implicit toward explicit simulations: Strategy n° 2

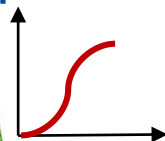
## 1) Compute residual thermal stresses



Displacement field U1

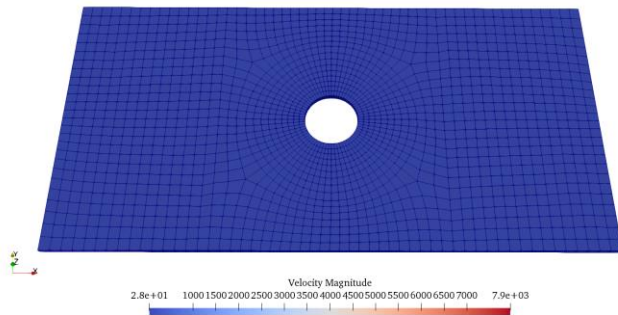


No inertial effect, I enforce each point displacement



## 3) Initialize a second Europlexus simulation with the previous one *INIT ALICE 10* No external loading

Time: 0.00000 s



Some troubles are  
persistent  
Still no stationnarity ...  
Lots of additional tricks,  
method clearly lacks of  
robustness

# Implicit toward explicit simulations: Strategy n° 3

## 1) Initialisation by the material behaviour and the stresses *CONT*

Law equivalence through  $\varepsilon_{comp}$

- Assumption: no damage occurs  
(perspective)



$$\sigma = \tilde{C} : (\varepsilon_{ZSet} - \varepsilon_{nl} - \varepsilon_{th}) = \tilde{C} : (\varepsilon_{EPX} - \varepsilon_{nl} + \varepsilon_{comp})$$

$$\sigma_{th} = C_0 : (\varepsilon - \varepsilon_{nl|sth} + \varepsilon_{comp}) = C_0 : (\varepsilon(u_{sth}) - \varepsilon_{nl|sth} - \varepsilon_{th})$$



$$\varepsilon_{comp} = S_0 : \sigma_{th} + \varepsilon_{nl|sth}$$

# Implicit toward explicit simulations: Strategy n° 3

## 1) Initialisation by the material behaviour and the stresses *CONT*

Law equivalence through  $\varepsilon_{comp}$

- Assumption: no damage occurs  
(perspective)


$$\sigma = \tilde{C} : (\varepsilon_{ZSet} - \varepsilon_{nl} - \varepsilon_{th}) = \tilde{C} : (\varepsilon_{EPX} - \varepsilon_{nl} + \varepsilon_{comp})$$
$$\sigma_{th} = C_0 : (\varepsilon - \varepsilon_{nl|oth} + \varepsilon_{comp}) = C_0 : (\varepsilon(u_{oth}) - \varepsilon_{nl|oth} - \varepsilon_{th})$$
$$\varepsilon_{comp} = S_0 : \sigma_{th} + \varepsilon_{nl|oth}$$

Subtelty: 2 stress vector to be managed:



- Stress of the ply (criteria, damage, non-linearity)

# Implicit toward explicit simulations: Strategy n° 3

## 1) Initialisation by the material behaviour and the stresses *CONT*

Law equivalence through  $\varepsilon_{comp}$

- Assumption: no damage occurs  
(perspective)


$$\sigma = \tilde{C} : (\varepsilon_{ZSet} - \varepsilon_{nl} - \varepsilon_{th}) = \tilde{C} : (\varepsilon_{EPX} - \varepsilon_{nl} + \varepsilon_{comp})$$

$$\sigma_{th} = C_0 : (\varepsilon - \varepsilon_{nl|oth} + \varepsilon_{comp}) = C_0 : (\varepsilon(\underline{u}_{oth}) - \varepsilon_{nl|oth} - \varepsilon_{th})$$

$$\varepsilon_{comp} = S_0 : \sigma_{th} + \varepsilon_{nl|oth}$$

Subtelty: 2 stress vector to be managed:

- Stress of the ply (criteria, damage, non-linearity)
- Stress for Fint (exclude the stationnary reference state)  $a = M^{-1}(F_{ext} - F_{int})$

$$\sigma_{CD-Scheme} = \tilde{C} : (\varepsilon_{EPX} - \varepsilon_{nl} + S_0 : \sigma_{th} + \varepsilon_{nl|oth}) - \tilde{C} : (\varepsilon(\underline{u}_{oth}) - \varepsilon_{nl|oth} - \varepsilon_{th})$$

$$\sigma_{CD-Scheme} = \tilde{C} : (\varepsilon_{EPX} - \varepsilon_{nl} + S_0 : \sigma_{th} + \varepsilon_{nl|oth} - S_0 : \sigma_{th})$$

$$\sigma_{CD-Scheme} = \tilde{C} : (\varepsilon_{EPX} - \varepsilon_{nl} + \varepsilon_{nl|oth})$$

# Implicit toward explicit simulations: Strategy n° 3

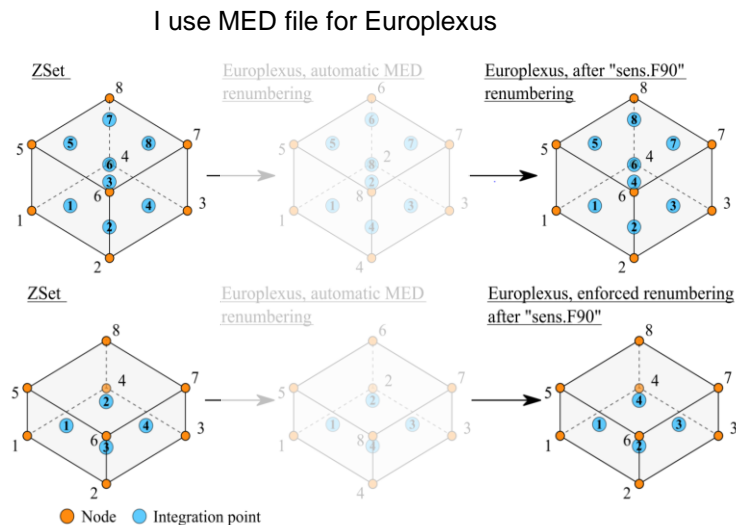
## 2) Integration point mapping



Extract each stress component for each integration point in Zset

Integration point mapping:

- C3D8 / CUB8
- I3D8 / INT8
- C3D6 / PR6



# Implicit toward explicit simulations: Strategy n° 3

## 2) Integration point mapping



Extract each stress component for each integration point in Zset

Integration point mapping:

- C3D8 / CUB8
- I3D8 / INT8
- C3D6 / PR6

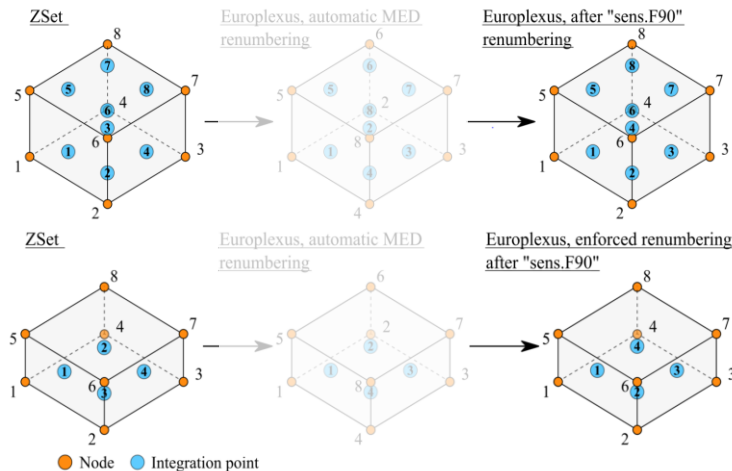
Automatic initialisation file writer with correct mapping  
*INIT CQST*

Europlexus file:

```
$ ***** GROUP E FUNCTIONS AND INITIAL CONDITIONS *****  
$ *****  
INCLUDE 9! File containing stresses has this file name with '.msh' extension
```

```
INIT  
CQST 1 -3.989907026290894 37.978317260742188 3.502702474594116  
-5.171805381774902 -6.953680992126465 6.911044120788574 0 0  
LECT 1 TERM  
CQST 2 -9.553457260131836 33.996635437011719 -2.203387260437012  
-4.478072643280029 -1.780829548835754 3.736872196197510 0 0  
LECT 1 TERM  
.  
RETOUR
```

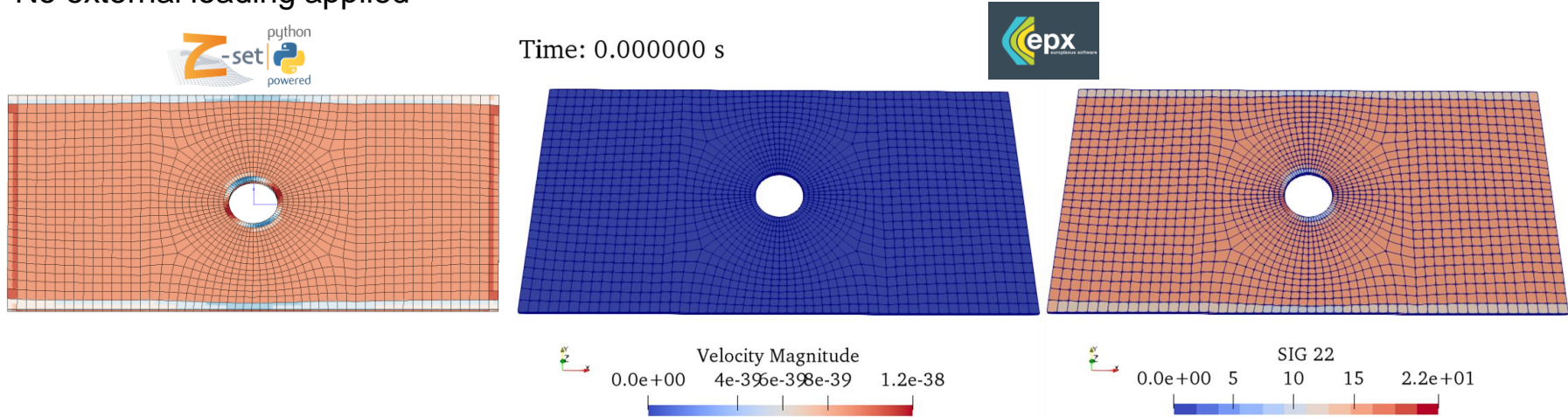
I use MED file for Europlexus



# Validation of the proposed strategy

## Stress initialisation with *CONT*, *INIT CQST* for each integration point

No external loading applied



\*field visualisation;  
1 value per integration point in Zset  
1 value per cell for Europlexus

**Stationnarity state, velocity field remains null**



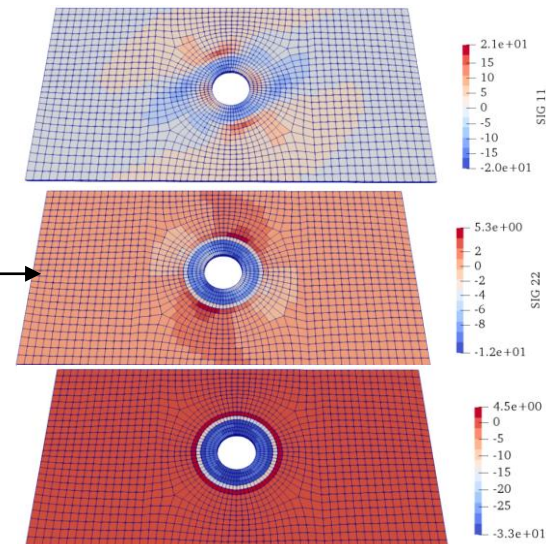
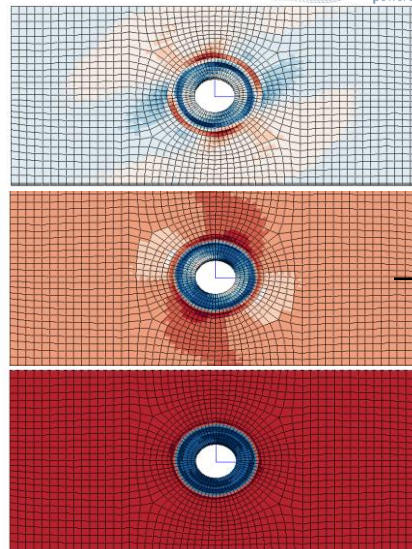
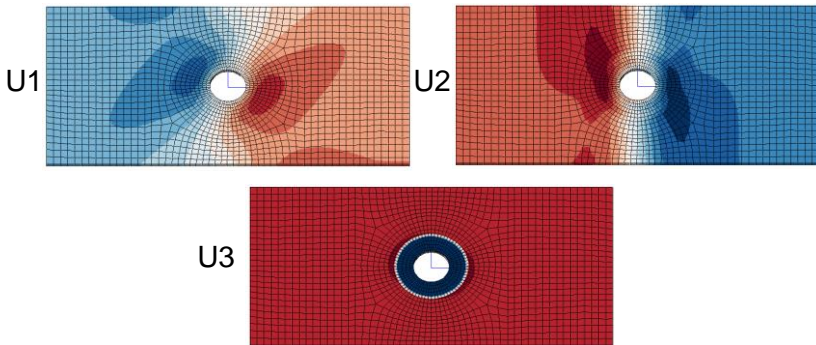
# Versatility of the proposed strategy

Impose a generic equilibrium state to start an explicit simulation, as long as no damage occurs

Example: Compression around hole due to bolting



Displacement field solution of equilibrium



\*field visualisation;  
1 value per integration point in Zset  
1 value per cell for Europlexus



# Versatility of the proposed strategy

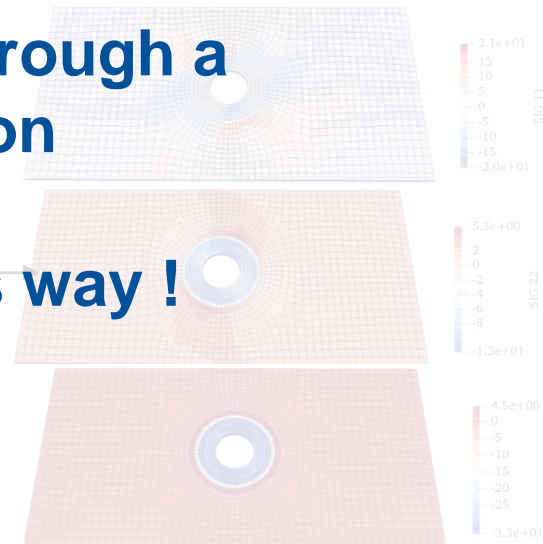
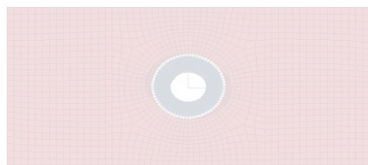
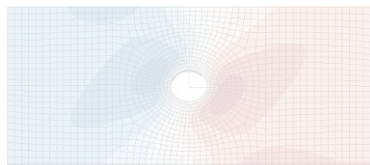
Impose a generic equilibrium state to start an explicit simulation, as long as no damage occurs

Example: Compression around hole due to bolting



Transfer are fully automated through a module named **Europython**

Displacement field solution of equilibrium

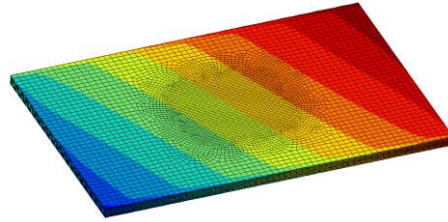


**Be patient, live demo is on its way !**

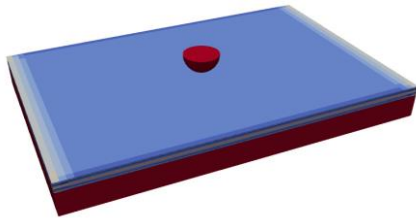
\*field visualisation;  
1 value per integration point in Zset;  
1 value per cell for Europlexus

# Application: Rigid impact on a laminate

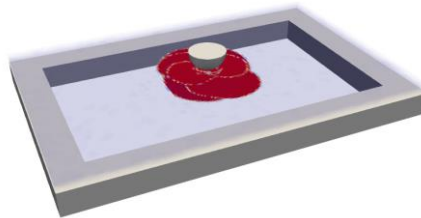
## Residual thermal stresses



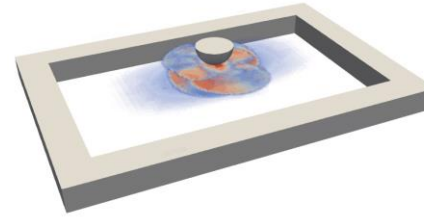
## Impact



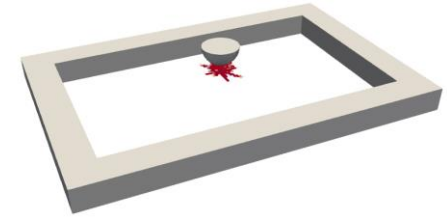
Initial stress



Delamination



Transverse cracking

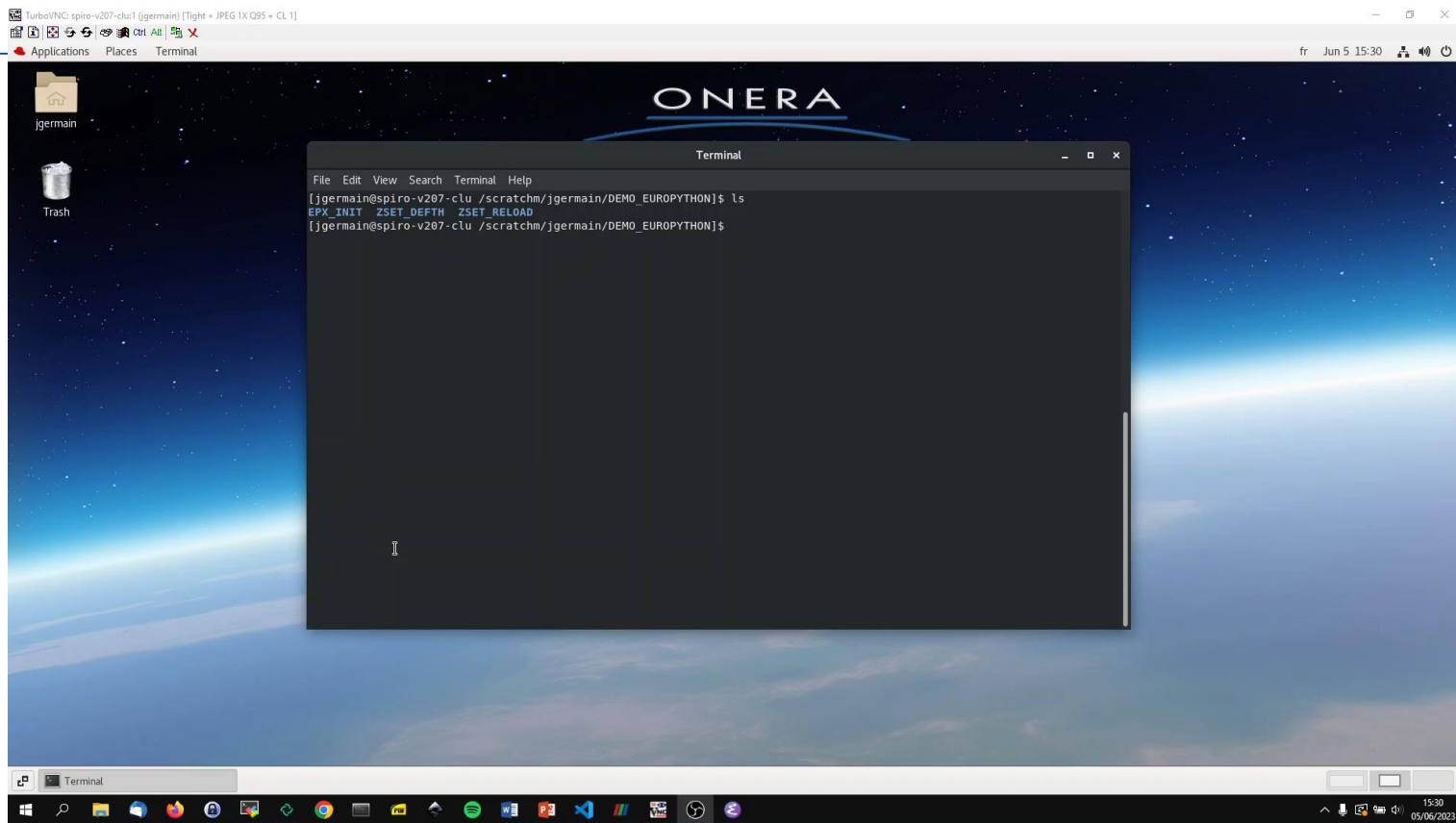


Fibre failure

\*Numerical difficulties:

- Regularization and dissipated energy control
- High frequencies due to important loss of stiffness

# « Script free » automated procedure with Europython module developed



# Conclusion:

## Chaining finite element code

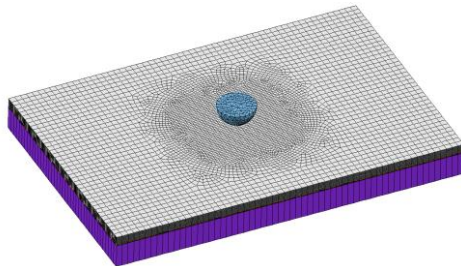
- Development of methods to use the most adapted solver to the considered loading
  - Numerically efficient (speed up > 1400)
  - Methodology based on stresses (it should work with strain, but it is not managed the same way in EPX)
  - Law dependent ..., additional variables are to be stored
- Transfer remain « partial » **But, probably sufficient ... ?**
  - Zset → Europlexus:
    - Stresses for each integration point
    - Mesh could be deformed to take into account the initial loading displacement
  - Europlexus → ZSet:
    - Internal variables for each integration point

# Perspective:

## Chaining finite element code

- Initialisation of ECRO **My method cannot be applied if damage occurs prior to the explicit simulation**
  - How to ? EPX as a library could be a way to achieve this.
- Output management
  - I read .listing file in a « smart » way
  - Possibility to directly have data stored in .npy file will be a more efficient workflow
- Mesh management for multibody problems:
  - Each body not necessarily usefull for each simulation
    - Additional mapping between mesh

**Discussion with  
Pascal Bouda  
around EPX as a  
library**



---

**Thank you,  
Please, feel free for  
discussion and questions**