



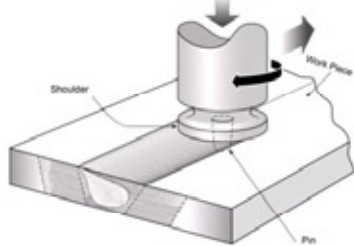
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## Motivation

### Friction Stir Welding (FSW)

- FSW is a solid state joining process
- A rotating tool is traversed along the joint line between two pieces of base material.
- It generates frictional heat, plasticizes and mixes the material thus forming a joint



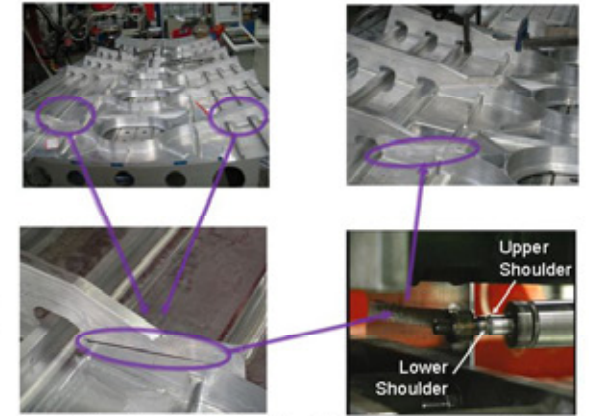
Example of a Bobbin Tool



Macrograph of a Bobbin Tool Friction Stir Weld

### Bobbin-Tool: Advantages

- A FSW bobbin tool consists of two shoulders connected by the pin.
- Rigid backing to counter act the process forces **is not required**
- Suitable to applications such as tubes and hollow profiles
- Consolidation forces are applied by the shoulders and not by the handling system.
- No risk of root flaws

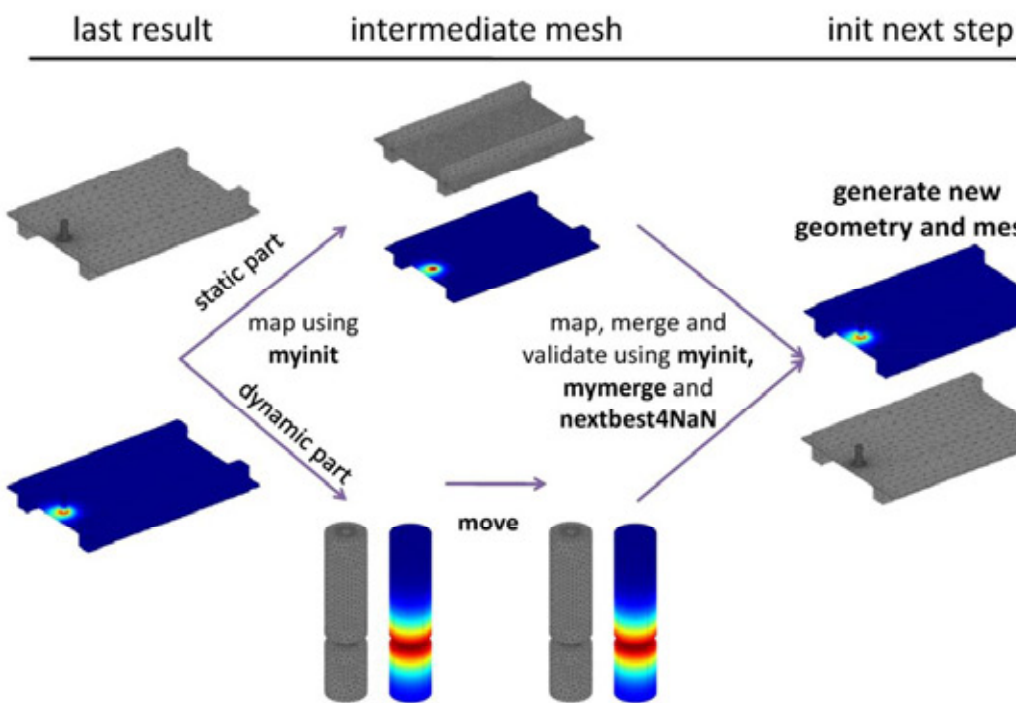


Robotic Bobbin Tool FSW of complex aircraft structure

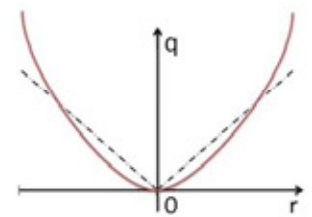
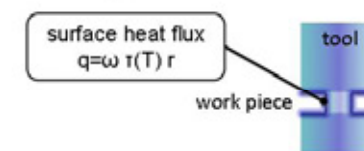
## Approach

### Moving Geometry Model:

- Matlab scripting allows for moving geometry
- The model is re-meshed for every time step
- Advanced mapping performed between time steps

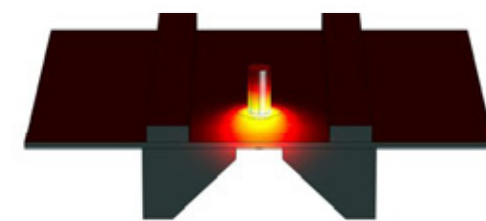


A Moving Geometry model based on a robust Thermal Pseudo Mechanical (TPM) heat source modelling approach has been developed.

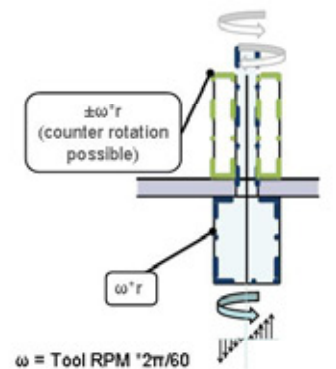


Heat is generated as a surface flux at the interface between the tool shoulders, pin and work piece.

TPM heat source:  $q = \omega \tau(T) r$



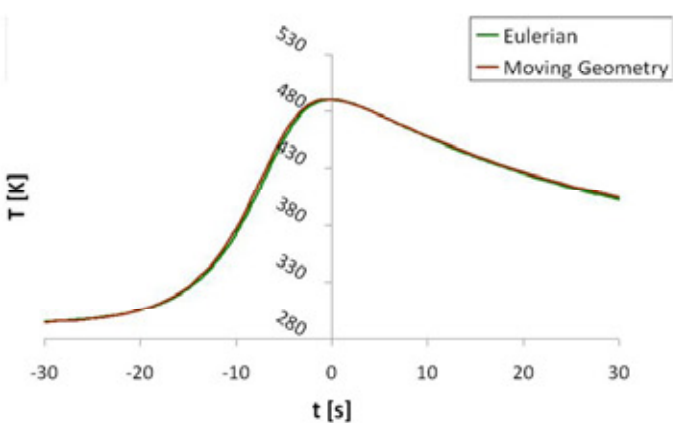
Tool rotation and translation are modeled as convective material flux



## Validation and Results

### Numerical Validation:

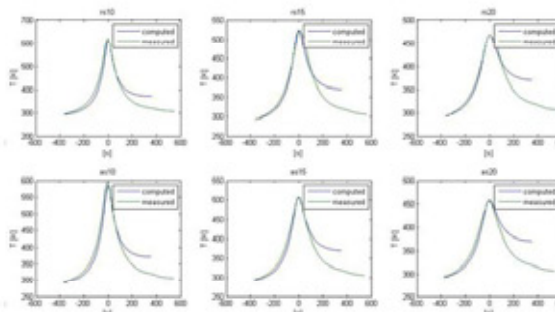
Model Comparison (RS, 10mm)



Comparison between Moving Geometry Predictions and a Eulerian reference model

### Experimental Validation:

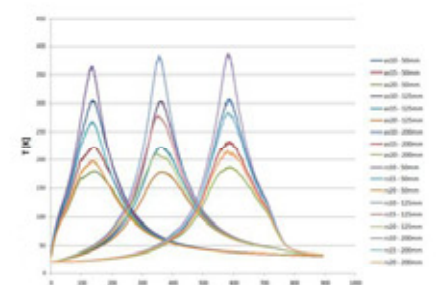
- FlexiStir welding unit
- Aluminium 2024-T3, 4mm thick



Experiments show good agreement in  $T_{max}$  and  $\Delta P_{400}$  as well as temperature profile shape



FlexiStir unit



Temperature data as recorded with thermocouples

### Statistical Validation:

Variable	abs. mean	rel. mean	abs. std. deviation	rel. std. deviation
$\Delta T_{max}$	-3.5 [K]	-0.6 %	6.2 [K]	1.1 %
$\Delta P_{width}$	6.2 [s]	3.3 %	5.2 [s]	2.9 %