

# Thermo-mechanics

Modélisation et simulation  
par éléments finis

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# Four types of “thermo-mechanics”

## 1. Thermal only

Thermal problem



Temperature  $T(x)$

## 2. Uncoupled mechanical

Known  $T(x)$  field



Mechanical pb  
(elastic + thermal strain)



Displacement  $u(x)$

## 3. One-way coupling

Thermal problem



Temperature  $T(x)$



Mechanical pb  
(elastic + thermal strain)



Displacement  $u(x)$

## 4. Fully coupled

Thermal problem  
(with mech. dissipation)

+

Mechanical pb  
(elastic + thermal strain)



Temperature  $T(x)$  &  
displacement  $u(x)$

Today's demo (piston)

Example (thermal switch)  
+ Exo 9 (bearing support)

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Thermal problem  
(with mech. dissipation)

+

Mechanical pb  
(elastic + thermal strain)



Temperature  $T(x)$  &  
displacement  $u(x)$

In Abaqus:

1 step:  
“heat transfer”

1 step:  
“static”

2 steps:  
“heat transfer” → “static”

1 step:  
“coupled temp.-displ.”

# Thermal and mechanical problems

## Thermal problem

Heat equation:

$$\rho c_p \frac{\partial T}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (\lambda \nabla T) = s$$

|  
"conductivité thermique"  
(coefficient de diffusion)

## Mechanical pb (elastic + thermal strain)

Total strain:

$$\varepsilon = \nabla u = \varepsilon^{el} + \varepsilon^{th} = \varepsilon^{el} + \alpha \Delta T$$

|  
coefficient d'expansion th.

Force equilibrium  
(+ Hooke's law):

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &= \nabla \cdot \sigma + f \\ &= \nabla \cdot (C \varepsilon^{el}) + f \\ &= \nabla \cdot (C [\nabla u - \alpha \Delta T]) + f \end{aligned}$$

# Thermal and mechanical problems

## Thermal problem

Heat equation:

$$\rho c_p \frac{\partial T}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (\lambda \nabla T) = s$$

Influence of deformations on the thermal problem  
( $s(\varepsilon)$  = heat source due to deformations)

## Mechanical pb (elastic + thermal strain)

Total strain:

$$\varepsilon = \nabla u = \varepsilon^{el} + \varepsilon^{th} = \varepsilon^{el} + \alpha \Delta T$$

Force equilibrium  
(+ Hooke's law):

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &= \nabla \cdot \sigma + f \\ &= \nabla \cdot (C \varepsilon^{el}) + f \\ &= \nabla \cdot (C [\nabla u - \alpha \Delta T]) + f \end{aligned}$$

Influence of temperature on the mechanical problem

# Thermal loading in stress analysis

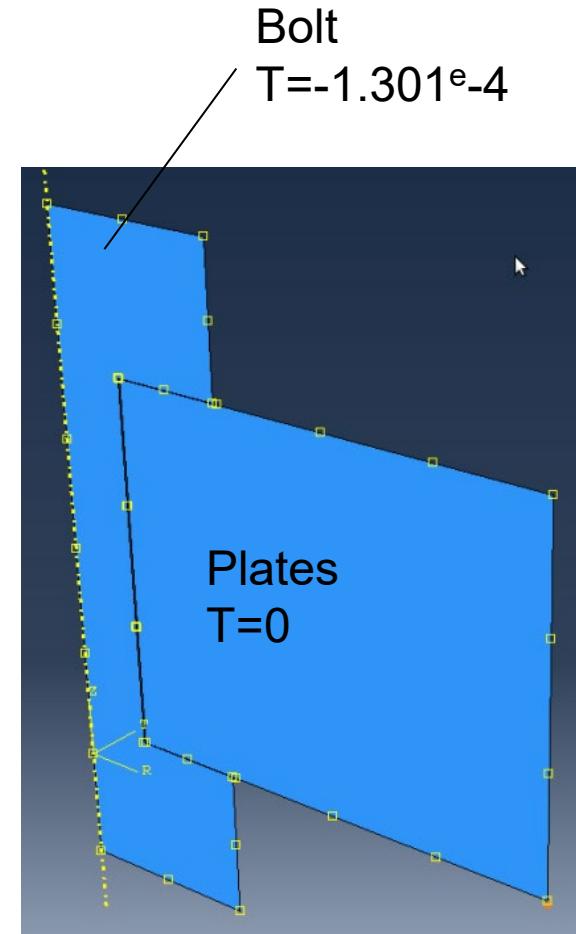
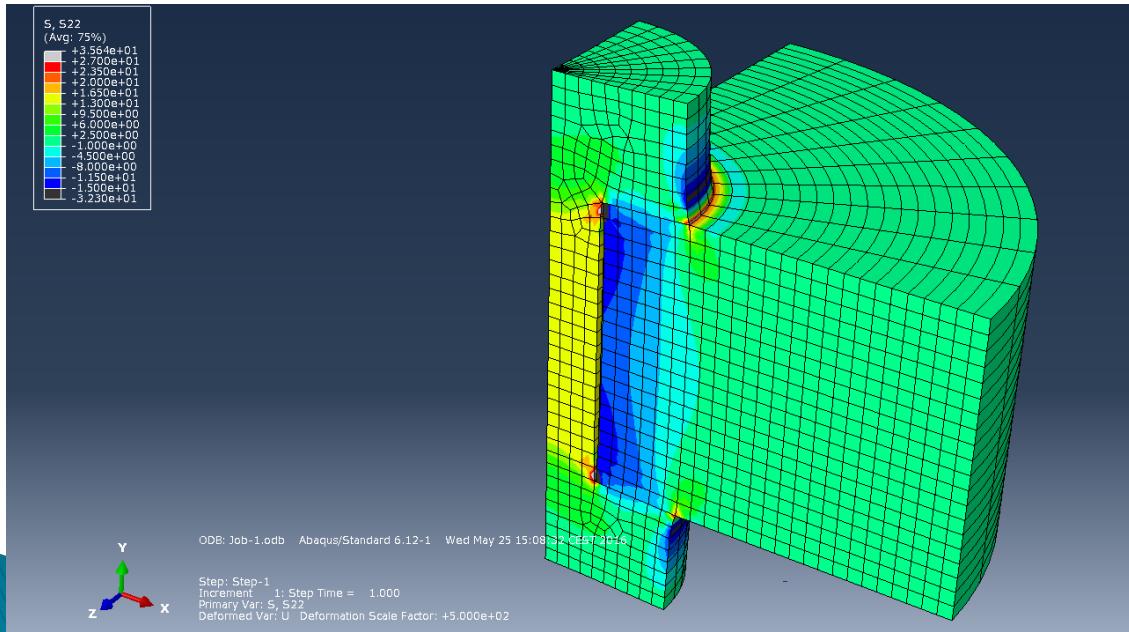
## How to model thermal loading in static analysis:

- ▶ Step= static, as usual
- ▶ Define material properties:
  - Coefficient of thermal expansion (“expansion”),  $\alpha$
  - Reference temperature corresponding to zero stress state, = 0 by default
- ▶ Loads:
  - Temperature field  $T(x)$  can be defined in static stress analysis using Load=>Predefined fields=>Other=> Temperature
- ▶ Modeling preloads:
  - Very useful to define preloads in components:
    - Compute the strain  $\varepsilon_{th}$  corresponding to the preload
    - Specify a CTE  $\alpha=1$  and a temperature change of the preloaded part  $\Delta T = \varepsilon_{th}$  such that then  $\varepsilon_{th} = \alpha \Delta T$

# Thermal loading in stress analysis

## Example: preloaded M8x20 bolt

- ▶ Preload = 1000N,  $E = 210 \text{ GPa}$
- ▶ Equivalent section of M8 bolt =  $36.6 \text{ mm}^2$
- ▶ Prestress =  $1000/36.6 = 27.3 \text{ MPa}$
- ▶ Prestrain =  $27.3/210\text{e}3 = 1.301\text{e}-4$
- ▶ Alpha = 1,  $dT = -1.301\text{e}-4$  (contraction)



# Thermal problem

## ► Variables

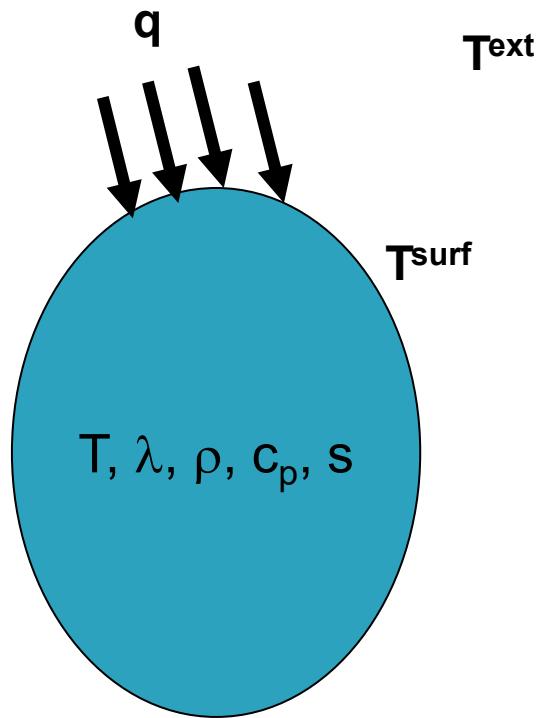
- Essential variable: Temperature field  $T$
- Natural variable: heat flux  $q$

## ► Material

- Conductivity  $\lambda$
- Density  $\rho$  & specific heat  $c_p$  if transient
- Expansion coefficient for stress analysis

## ► Boundary conditions:

- Temperature:  $T^{\text{surf}} = f(t, x)$
- Surface heat fluxes:
  - Imposed heat flux  $q^{\text{surf}} = f(t, x)$
  - Convection:  $q^{\text{surf}} = h (T^{\text{surf}} - T^{\text{ext}}(t))$
- Volume heat source:  $s = f(t)$



# Thermal problem in Abaqus

- ▶ Select Step = **Heat transfer**
  - Choose **steady state or transient**
  - If transient: set time period, set small initial increment, set max  $\Delta T$  per increment (<1/10 of max  $\Delta T$ )
- ▶ In Mesh:
  - select **element type: Heat transfer, linear**
- ▶ Loading:
  - If steady, need to **impose at least one temperature** (otherwise “thermal rigid body”).
  - **Adiabatic interface: leave free = no flux!**
  - Loading: Heat Flux = Load; Temperature = BC
  - Convection: in *Interaction* module, *create Surface Film condition*, enter  $h$  and  $T^{\text{ext}} \Rightarrow q^{\text{surf}} = h (T - T^{\text{ext}}(t))$
  - **If transient: define an amplitude curve** (tool  $\Rightarrow$  amplitude), need to start at  $T=0$  for  $t=0$ . Tabular or **smooth step** are good choices.

# Coupled thermo-mechanics in Abaqus

- ▶ Select Step = **Coupled Temp-Displacement**
  - Choose **steady state or transient**
  - If transient: set time period, set small initial increment, set max  $\Delta T$  per increment (<1/10 of max  $\Delta T$ )
- ▶ In Mesh:
  - select **element type: Coupled Temp.-Displ.**, quadratic
- ▶ Loading:
  - If steady, need to **impose at least one temperature**. Must also **block 6 rigid body motions**.
  - **Adiabatic interface: leave free = no flux!**
  - Loading: Heat Flux = Load; Temperature = BC
  - Convection: in *Interaction* module, *create Surface Film condition*, enter  $h$  and  $T^{\text{ext}} \Rightarrow q^{\text{surf}} = h (T - T^{\text{ext}}(t))$
  - **If transient: define an amplitude curve** (tool  $\Rightarrow$  amplitude), need to start at  $T=0$  for  $t=0$ . Tabular or **smooth step** are good choices.

# Transient simulation: time settings

Basic Incrementation Other

Description:

Response:  Steady-state  Transient

Time period: 500

Total physical time to be simulated.

Basic Incrementation Other

Type:  Automatic  Fixed

Maximum number of increments: 100

Increment size: Initial 1e-3 Minimum 1e-4 Maximum 10

Max. allowable temperature change per increment: 5

Automatic incrementation: Abaqus adjusts the size of the time step (time increment  $dt$  from one iteration at  $t$  to the next iteration at  $t+dt$ ), based on how quickly the solution converges.

Maximum number of iterations. Simulation will stop if reach this number of iterations.

Initial increment size  $dt$  at  $t=0$ .

Minimum increment size  $dt$ . If at some point Abaqus needs a smaller time increment than this value to reach a convergent solution, it stops the analysis.

Maximum increment size  $dt$ . Abaqus will not increase the increment size beyond this value.

Abaqus will limit the increment size  $dt$  such that the temperature  $T$  does not vary by more than this value between  $t$  and  $t+dt$  anywhere in the model (optional).

# Transient simulation: time settings

Basic Incrementation Other

Description:

Response:  Steady-state  Transient

Time period: 500

Basic Incrementation Other

Type:  Automatic  Fixed

Maximum number of increments: 100

Initial	Minimum	Maximum
Increment size: 1e-3	1e-4	10

Max. allowable temperature change per increment: 5

In this example, the transient simulation:

- is from  $t=0$  s to  $t=500$  s,
- will start with  $dt=0.001$  s,
- will then automatically adjust  $dt$  between 0.0001 s and 10 s ( $\rightarrow$  number of iterations falls necessarily between  $500/10=50$  and  $500/0.0001=5e6$ ),
- will also limit  $dt$  such that T varies by no more than 5 degrees between  $t$  and  $t+dt$ ,
- will stop if it reaches 100 iterations.

# Thermal problem in Abaqus

## ▶ Note #1: units of temperature

- By default, Abaqus uses K, but one can choose to work with °C. Unimportant if no radiation and no source term: solution of heat equation defined up to a uniform constant.
- However, everything must be defined consistently (boundary and initial conditions, etc).

## ▶ Note #2: absolute zero

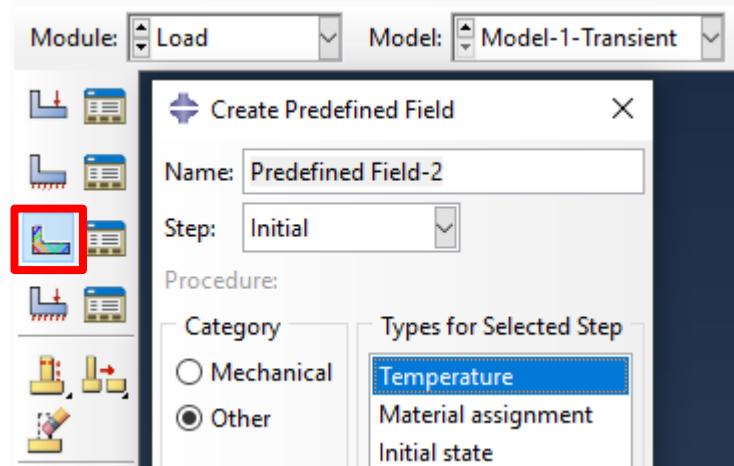
- Possible to define the value of the absolute zero temperature (Model → Edit attributes → Physical constants).
- E.g., setting -273.15 implicitly defines the units as °C, while setting 0 (default) implicitly defines the units as K.

# Thermal problem in Abaqus

## ▶ Note #3: initial conditions

- By default, initial temperature in unsteady simulations:  $T(t=0)=0$ .
- Possible to define a non-zero initial condition  $T(x)$ :
  - In a **purely thermal** analysis, need a steady *heat transfer* step with the desired  $T$  as boundary condition before the unsteady *heat transfer* step.
  - In a **coupled thermo-mechanical** analysis (*coupled temperature-displacement* step), can create a “**Predefined field**” for the Initial step in the module “Load” (see for example exercise 10).

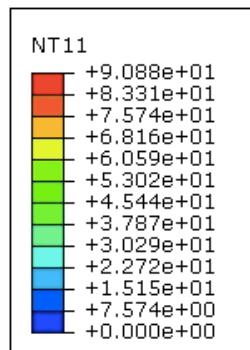
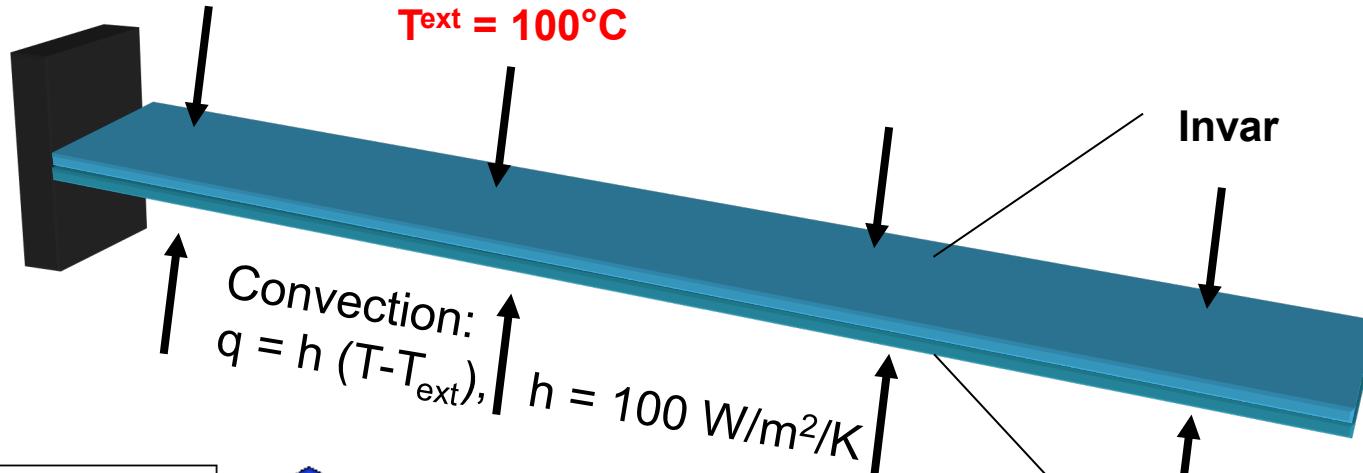
Name	Procedure
Initial	(Initial)
Step-Init	Heat transfer (Steady-State)
Step-1	Heat transfer (Transient)



# Example: bi-material beam (thermal switch)

Block: clamped,  
 $T = 0^\circ\text{C}$

Water:  
 $T_{\text{ext}} = 100^\circ\text{C}$

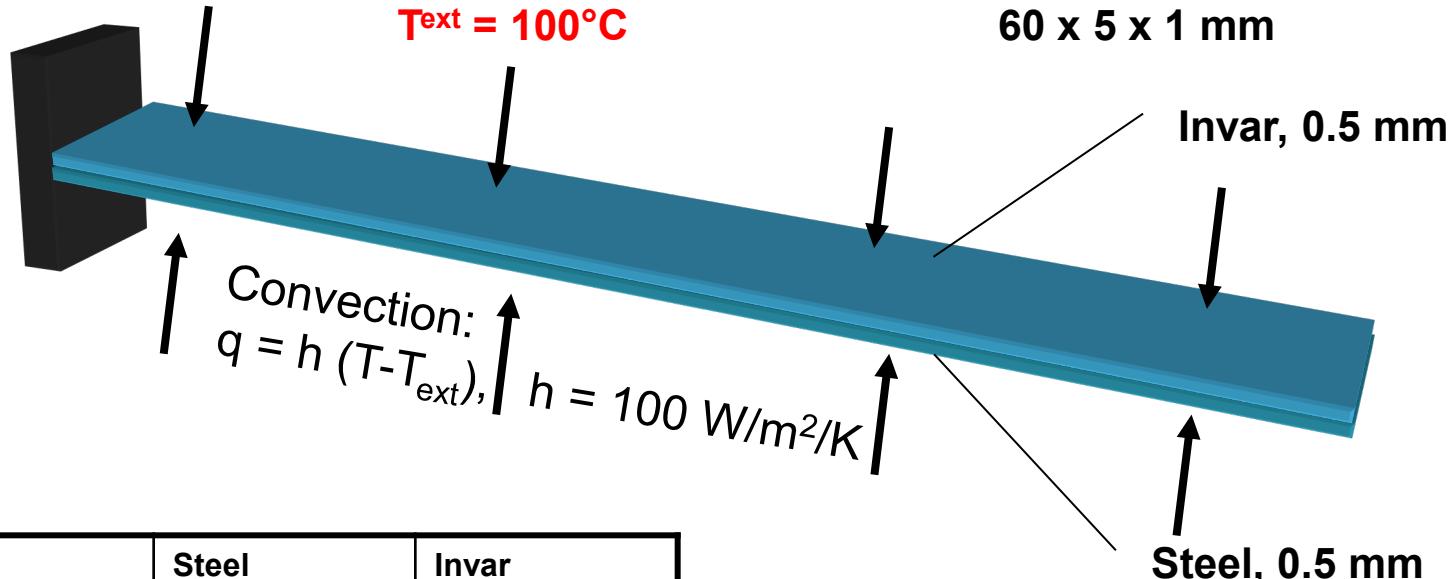


# Example: bi-material beam (thermal switch)

Block: clamped,  
 $T = 0^\circ\text{C}$

Water:  
 $T_{\text{ext}} = 100^\circ\text{C}$

Beam dimensions:  
 $60 \times 5 \times 1 \text{ mm}$



Prop.	Steel	Invar
Young's modulus	210 GPa	141 GPa
Poisson ratio	0.3	0.3
Th. Expansion	$1 \times 10^{-5}$	$1 \times 10^{-6}$
Density	7800 kg/m <sup>3</sup>	8000 kg/m <sup>3</sup>
Conductivity	30 W/m/K	10 W/m/K
Specific heat	1000 J/kg/K	500 J/kg/K

