Design optimization techniques for industrial applications: challenges and progress

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Keywords. Design optimization; metamodel; trust region strategy.

Current industrial applications of design optimization exhibit several features that are not yet adequately addressed by commercially available optimization tools:

– Large scale (1000+ design variables) optimization problems with expensive (10+ hours) response function evaluations that are polluted by numerical noise
– Discrete optimization with even moderately expensive response functions
– Multidisciplinary optimization in an industrial setting
– Optimization with non-deterministic responses.

The presentation discusses recent progress towards addressing these issues by identifying general trends and appropriate methods for solving large scale optimization problems focusing on the trust region-based metamodelling techniques [1], specifically addressing the issues of numerical noise and uncertainty and occasional failures of the solvers to produce responses [2,3]. The use of variable fidelity responses is identified as a highly beneficial approach as it allows to establish high accuracy metamodels using only small-scale sampling of the high fidelity responses. The presentation is illustrated by examples of industrial optimization problems with a focus on the aerospace sector [4].

Acknowledgements.
Research was supported by Rolls-Royce plc, Airbus and European Commission.

References