# SU2 Analysis Interface Module (AIM)

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## 0.1 Introduction

### 0.1.1 SU2 AIM Overview

This module can be used to interface with the open-source CFD code, SU2 [1] [2] with geometry in the CAPS system. For SU2 capabilities and related documentation, please refer to <a href="http://su2.stanford.edu/">http://su2.stanford.edu/</a>. SU2 expects a volume mesh file and a corresponding configuration file to perform the analysis.

An outline of the AIM's inputs and outputs are provided in AIM Inputs and AIM Outputs, respectively.

Details on the use of units are outlined in AIM Units.

Details of the AIM's automated data transfer capabilities are outlined in AIM Data Transfer

# 0.1.1.1 Automatic generation of SU2 Mesh file

The volume mesh file from SU2 AIM is written in native SU2 format ("filename.su2"). The description of the native SU2 mesh can be found SU2 website. For the automatic generation of mesh file, SU2 AIM depends on Mesh AIMs, for example, TetGen or AFLR4/3 AIM.

### 0.1.1.2 Automatic generation of SU2 Configuration file

The configuration file ("filename.cfg") from SU2 AIM is automatically created by using the flow features and boundary conditions that were set in the driver program as a user input. For the rest of the configuration variables, default set of values are provided for a general execution. If desired, a user has freedom to manually (a) change these variables based on personal preference, or (b) override the configuration file with unique configuration variables.

### 0.1.2 SU2 Examples

Here is an example that illustrated use of SU2 AIM SU2 AIM Example. Note this AIM uses TetGen AIM for volume mesh generation.

# 0.2 AIM Units

A unit system may be optionally specified during AIM instance initiation. If a unit system is provided, all AIM input values which have associated units must be specified as well. If no unit system is used, AIM inputs, which otherwise would require units, will be assumed unit consistent. A unit system may be specified via a JSON string dictionary for example: unitSys = "{"mass": "kg", "length": "m", "time": "seconds", "temperature": "K"}"

# 0.2.1 JSON String Dictionary

The key arguments of the dictionary are described in the following:

```
mass = "None"
Mass units - e.g. "kilogram", "k", "slug", ...
length = "None"
Length units - e.g. "meter", "m", "inch", "in", "mile", ...
time = "None"
Time units - e.g. "second", "s", "minute", ...
temperature = "None"
```

Temperature units - e.g. "Kelvin", "K", "degC", ...

# 0.3 AIM Inputs

For the description of the configuration variables, associated values, and available options refer to the template configuration file that is distributed with SU2. Note: The configuration file is dependent on the version of SU2 used. This configuration file that will be auto generated is compatible with SU2 4.1.1. (Cardinal), 5.0.0 (Raven), 6.2.0 (Falcon) or 7.4.0 (Blackbird - Default)

# Proj\_Name = "su2\_CAPS"

This corresponds to the project "root" name.

#### Mach = NULL

Mach number; this corresponds to the MACH\_NUMBER keyword in the configuration file.

### · Re = NULL

Reynolds number; this corresponds to the REYNOLDS\_NUMBER keyword in the configuration file.

### Math Problem = "Direct"

Math problem type; this corresponds to the MATH\_PROBLEM keyword in the configuration file. Options: DIRECT, CONTINUOUS\_ADJOINT, DISCRETE\_ADJOINT, ... see SU2 template for additional options.

### Physical\_Problem = "Euler"

Physical problem type; this corresponds to the PHYSICAL\_PROBLEM keyword in the configuration file. Options: Euler, Navier\_Stokes, Wave\_Equation, ... see SU2 template for additional options.

### Equation\_Type = "Compressible"

Equation regime type; this corresponds to the REGIME\_TYPE keyword in the configuration file. Options: Compressible or Incompressible.

# Turbulence\_Model = "SA\_NEG"

RANS turbulence model; this corresponds to the KIND\_TURB\_MODEL keyword in the configuration file. Options: NONE, SA, SA\_NEG, SST, SA\_E, SA\_COMP, SA\_E\_COMP, SST\_SUST

### Alpha = 0.0

Angle of attack [degree]; this corresponds to the AoA keyword in the configuration file.

### • Beta = 0.0

Side slip angle [degree]; this corresponds to the SIDESLIP ANGLE keyword in the configuration file.

# • Init Option = "Reynolds"

Init option to choose between Reynolds (default) or thermodynamics quantities for initializing the solution (REYNOLDS, TD\_CONDITIONS); this corresponds to the INIT\_OPTION keyword in the configuration file.

### Overwrite CFG = True

Provides permission to overwrite configuration file. If set to False a new configuration file won't be generated.

### • Num Iter = 9999

Number of total iterations; this corresponds to the EXT\_ITER keyword in the configuration file.

### • CFL Number = 10.0

Courant-Friedrichs-Lewy number; this corresponds to the CFL\_NUMBER keyword in the configuration file.

### Boundary Condition = NULL

See CFD Boundary Conditions for additional details.

### MultiGrid Level = 2

Number of multi-grid levels; this corresponds to the MGLEVEL keyword in the configuration file.

### · Residual Reduction = 6

Residual reduction (order of magnitude with respect to the initial value); this corresponds to the RESIDUAL ← \_\_REDUCTION keyword in the configuration file.

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### • Unit System = "SI"

Measurement unit system; this corresponds to the SYSTEM\_MEASUREMENTS keyword in the configuration file. See SU2 template for additional details.

### • Reference Dimensionalization = NULL

Reference dimensionalization; this corresponds to the REF\_DIMENSIONALIZATION keyword in the configuration file. See SU2 template for additional details.

### • Freestream Pressure = NULL

Freestream reference pressure; this corresponds to the FREESTREAM\_PRESSURE keyword in the configuration file. See SU2 template for additional details.

### • Freestream Temperature = NULL

Freestream reference temperature; this corresponds to the FREESTREAM\_TEMPERATURE keyword in the configuration file. See SU2 template for additional details.

### Freestream\_Density = NULL

Freestream reference density; this corresponds to the FREESTREAM\_DENSITY keyword in the configuration file. See SU2 template for additional details.

### Freestream Velocity = NULL

Freestream reference velocity; this corresponds to the FREESTREAM\_VELOCITY keyword in the configuration file. See SU2 template for additional details.

### Freestream Viscosity = NULL

Freestream reference viscosity; this corresponds to the FREESTREAM\_VISCOSITY keyword in the configuration file. See SU2 template for additional details.

# Moment\_Center = NULL, [0.0, 0.0, 0.0]

Array values correspond to the x\_moment\_center, y\_moment\_center, and z\_moment\_center variables; which correspond to the REF\_ORIGIN\_MOMENT\_X, REF\_ORIGIN\_MOMENT\_Y, and REF\_ORIGIN\_MOMENT ← \_Z variables respectively in the SU2 configuration script. Alternatively, the geometry (body) attributes "caps ← ReferenceX", "capsReferenceY", and "capsReferenceZ" may be used to specify the x-, y-, and z- moment centers, respectively (note: values set through the AIM input will supersede the attribution values).

### Moment\_Length = NULL, 1.0

Reference length for pitching, rolling, and yawing non-dimensional; which correspond to the REF\_LENGTH 
\_\_MOMENT. Alternatively, the geometry (body) attribute "capsReferenceSpan" may be used to specify the x-, y-, and z- moment lengths, respectively (note: values set through the AIM input will supersede the attribution values).

### · Reference Area = NULL

This sets the reference area for used in force and moment calculations; this corresponds to the REF\_AREA keyword in the configuration file. Alternatively, the geometry (body) attribute "capsReferenceArea" maybe used to specify this variable (note: values set through the AIM input will supersede the attribution value).

### • Pressure Scale Factor = 1.0

Value to scale Cp or Pressure data when transferring data. Data is scaled based on Pressure = Pressure\_← Scale\_Factor\*Cp + Pressure\_Scale\_Offset.

### • Pressure Scale Offset = 0.0

Value to offset Cp or Pressure data when transferring data. Data is scaled based on Pressure = Pressure ← \_Scale\_Factor\*Cp + Pressure\_Scale\_Offset.

# Output\_Format = "Paraview"

Output file format; this corresponds to the OUTPUT\_FORMAT keyword in the configuration file. See SU2 template for additional details.

# Two\_Dimensional = False

Run SU2 in 2D mode.

### · Convective Flux = "Roe"

Numerical method for convective (inviscid) flux construction; this corresponds to the CONV\_NUM\_← METHOD\_FLOW keyword in the configuration file. See SU2 template for additional details.

### • SU2 Version = "Blackbird"

SU2 version to generate specific configuration file. Options: "Cardinal(4.0)", "Raven(5.0)", "Falcon(6.2)" or "Blackbird(7.4.0)".

### • Surface Monitor = NULL

Array of surface names where the non-dimensional coefficients are evaluated

### Surface\_Deform = NULL

Array of surface names that should be deformed. Defaults to all inviscid and viscous surfaces.

### Input String = NULL

Array of input strings that will be written as is to the end of the SU2 cfg file.

#### · Mesh = NULL

A Area\_Mesh or Volume\_Mesh link for 2D and 3D calculations respectively.

# 0.4 AIM Outputs

After successful completion, SU2 writes results in various files. The data from these files can be directly viewed, visualized, and or used for further postprocessing.

One of the files is ("forces\_breakdown.dat") which summarizes convergence including flow properties, numerical parameters, and resulting force and moment values. As an AIM output, this file is parsed for force and moment coefficients, and printed as closing remarks.

Net Forces - Pressure + Viscous:

- **CLtot** = The lift coefficient.
- CDtot = The drag coefficient.
- **CSFtot** = The skin friction coefficient.
- **CMXtot** = The moment coefficient about the x-axis.
- **CMYtot** = The moment coefficient about the y-axis.
- **CMZtot** = The moment coefficient about the z-axis.
- **CXtot** = The force coefficient about the x-axis.
- CYtot = The force coefficient about the y-axis.
- CZtot = The force coefficient about the z-axis.

# Pressure Forces:

- CLtot\_p = The lift coefficient pressure contribution only.
- CDtot\_p = The drag coefficient pressure contribution only.
- CSFtot\_p = The skin friction coefficient pressure contribution only.
- **CMXtot\_p** = The moment coefficient about the x-axis pressure contribution only.
- CMYtot p = The moment coefficient about the y-axis pressure contribution only.
- **CMZtot\_p** = The moment coefficient about the z-axis pressure contribution only.
- CXtot\_p = The force coefficient about the x-axis pressure contribution only.

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- CYtot\_p = The force coefficient about the y-axis pressure contribution only.
- CZtot\_p = The force coefficient about the z-axis pressure contribution only.

### Viscous Forces:

- CLtot\_p = The lift coefficient viscous contribution only.
- CDtot\_p = The drag coefficient viscous contribution only.
- CSFtot\_p = The skin friction coefficient viscous contribution only.
- **CMXtot p** = The moment coefficient about the x-axis viscous contribution only.
- **CMYtot\_p** = The moment coefficient about the y-axis viscous contribution only.
- CMZtot p = The moment coefficient about the z-axis viscous contribution only.
- CXtot\_p = The force coefficient about the x-axis viscous contribution only.
- CYtot\_p = The force coefficient about the y-axis viscous contribution only.
- CZtot\_p = The force coefficient about the z-axis viscous contribution only.

# 0.5 AIM Data Transfer

The SU2 AIM has the ability to transfer surface data (e.g. pressure distributions) to and from the AIM using the conservative and interpolative data transfer schemes in CAPS. Currently these transfers may only take place on triangular meshes.

# 0.5.1 Data transfer from SU2 (FieldOut)

### "Cp", or "CoefficientOfPressure"

Loads the coefficient of pressure distribution from surface\_flow\_[project\_name].cvs file. This distribution may be scaled based on Pressure = Pressure\_Scale\_Factor\*Cp + Pressure\_Scale\_Offset, where "Pressure\_\to Scale\_Factor" and "Pressure\_Scale\_Offset" are AIM inputs (AIM Inputs)

# · "Pressure" or "P"

Loads the pressure distribution from surface\_flow\_[project\_name].cvs file. This distribution may be scaled based on Pressure = Pressure\_Scale\_Factor\*Pressure + Pressure\_Scale\_Offset, where "Pressure\_Scale← Factor" and "Pressure Scale Offset" are AIM inputs (AIM Inputs)

# 0.5.2 Data transfer to SU2 (FieldIn)

### · "Displacement"

Retrieves nodal displacements (as from a structural solver) and updates SU2's surface mesh; a new [project ← \_name]\_motion.dat file is written out which may be loaded into SU2 to update the surface mesh/move the volume mesh.

# 0.6 CFD Boundary Conditions

Structure for the boundary condition tuple = ("CAPS Group Name", "Value"). "CAPS Group Name" defines the capsGroup on which the boundary condition should be applied. The "Value" can either be a JSON String dictionary (see Section JSON String Dictionary) or a single string keyword string (see Section Single Value String)

# 0.6.1 JSON String Dictionary

If "Value" is a JSON string dictionary (eg. "Value" = {"bcType": "Viscous", "wallTemperature": 1.1}) the following keywords ( = default values) may be used:

# bcType = "Inviscid"

Boundary condition type. Options:

- Inviscid
- Viscous
- Farfield
- Freestream
- BackPressure
- Symmetry
- SubsonicInflow
- SubsonicOutflow
- Internal

### 0.6.1.1 Wall Properties

### • wallTemperature = 0.0

Dimensional wall temperature for inviscid and viscous surfaces

### wallHeatFlux = 0.0

Heat flux on viscous surfaces.

# 0.6.1.2 Stagnation Properties

# • totalPressure = 0.0

Dimensional total pressure on a boundary surface.

# • totalTemperature = 0.0

Dimensional total temperature on a boundary surface.

# 0.6.1.3 Static Properties

# • staticPressure = 0.0

Dimensional static pressure on a boundary surface.

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### 0.6.1.4 Velocity Components

# 0.6.1.5 Massflow Properties

# 0.6.2 Single Value String

If "Value" is a single string the following options maybe used:

- · "Inviscid" (default)
- · "Viscous"
- "Farfield"
- · "Freestream"
- "SymmetryX"
- "SymmetryY"
- "SymmetryZ"
- "Internal"

# 0.7 CFD Functional

Structure for the design functional tuple = {"Functional Name": "Expression"}. "Functional Name" must be one of the SU2 pre-defined functionals:

DRAG, LIFT, SIDEFORCE,

MOMENT\_X, MOMENT\_Y, MOMENT\_Z,

EFFICIENCY, BUFFET,

EQUIVALENT AREA, NEARFIELD PRESSURE,

FORCE X, FORCE Y, FORCE Z, THRUST,

TORQUE, TOTAL HEATFLUX, CUSTOM OBJFUNC,

MAXIMUM\_HEATFLUX, INVERSE\_DESIGN\_PRESSURE,

INVERSE\_DESIGN\_HEATFLUX, SURFACE\_TOTAL\_PRESSURE,

SURFACE\_MASSFLOW, SURFACE\_STATIC\_PRESSURE, SURFACE\_MACH

and "Expression" must be an empty string.

If "Functional Name" is "CUSTOM\_OBJFUNC" then "Expression" defines the objective which is parsed symbolically, e.g.:

 $\{"CUSTOM\_OBJFUNC": 'DRAG + 10*pow(fmax(0.4-LIFT, 0), 2)'\}$ 

# 0.8 SU2 AIM Example

This is a walkthrough for using SU2 AIM to analyze and three-dimensional two-wing configuration.

# 0.8.1 Prerequisites

It is presumed that ESP and CAPS have been already installed. In addition, appropriate meshing and analysis packages were available for CAPS to link them to the corresponding AIMS.

In this example, TetGen is used for volume mesh generation, and SU2 is used for flow analysis. During the CAPS/pyCAPS build process, the location of TetGen source code needs to be set in ESPenv.sh to build TetGen AIM

### 0.8.1.1 Script files

Two scripts are used for this illustration:

- 1. cfdMultiBody.csm: Creates geometry, as described in [Part 1] of the next section
- su2\_and\_Tetgen\_PyTest.py: pyCAPS script for performing analysis, as described in the [Part 2] of the next section.

# 0.8.2 pyCAPS walkthrough using SU2

This is a two-part process. The first part consists of creating a geometry model. The second part is setting the AIMs that uses this geometry model to perform desired analysis. In this walkthrough, the geometry model is created using ESP script and setup for AIMs is done using pyCAPS.

# 0.8.2.1 Part 1: Creating Geometry using ESP

Step 1: The CSM script generates Bodies which are designed to be used by specific AIMs. The AIMs that the Body is designed for is communicated to the CAPS framework via the "capsAIM" string attribute. This is a semicolon-separated string with the list of AIM names. Thus, the CSM author can give a clear indication to which AIMs should use the Body. In this example, the list contains the list of mesh generators and CFD solvers that can consume the body:

```
ATTRIBUTE capsAIM $fun3dAIM;su2AIM;egadsTessAIM;aflr4AIM;pointwiseAIM;tetgenAIM;aflr3AIM #CFD Analysis
```

Step 2: A typical geometry model can be created and interactively modified using design parameters. These design parameters are either design-variable based, or geometry-variables based. In this example a two-wing configuration is created using following design parameters,

```
40.00000
          area
DESPMTR
           aspect
                         5.00000
DESPMTR
                         0.50000
           taper
DESPMTR
           twist
                         15.00000
DESPMTR
                         30.00000
           lesweep
DESPMTR
          dihedral
                         1.00000
```

as well as the following configuration design paramters. Configuration quantities cannot be used with sensitivities.

```
        CFGPMTR
        series
        8412

        CFGPMTR
        series2
        0020

        CFGPMTR
        sharpte
        0

        CFGPMTR
        wake
        1
```

# Step 3: Set CAPS internal attributes

```
# Set reference values
ATTRIBUTE capsReferenceArea area
ATTRIBUTE capsReferenceChord sqrt(area/aspect)
ATTRIBUTE capsReferenceSpan sqrt(area/aspect) *aspect
```

# Step 4: Local analytical formulation for geometry creation

```
SET cmean sqrt(area/aspect)
SET span cmean*aspect
```

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```
SET
                     span/2
          sspan
                     2*cmean/(1+taper)
          croot
          ctip
SET
                     croot*taper
SET
          xtip
                     sspan*tand(lesweep)
SET
          vtip
                     sspan*tand(dihedral)
SET
          vbot
                     -0.1*croot
                     +0.2*croot+ytip
SET
          ytop
                     0.02*cmean
SET
          extend
```

Step 5: Building solid model. Once all design and locale variables are defined, a half span, solid model is created by "ruling" together to NACA series airfoils (following a series of scales, rotations, and translations).

```
MARK

UDPRIM naca Series series sharpte sharpte
SCALE croot

UDPRIM naca Series series2 sharpte sharpte
SCALE ctip
ROTATEZ -twist 0 0
TRANSLATE xtip ytip -sspan
RULE
```

A full span model is then created by mirroring and joining the half-span model.

```
# Store half of wing and keep a copy on the stack STORE HalfWing 0 1
# Restore and mirror the half wing RESTORE HalfWing 0
MIRROR 0 0 1 0
# Combine halfs into a whole
JOIN 0
```

Once the desired model obtained it needs to be rotated so that it is in the expected aero-coordinated system (y- out the right wing, x- in the flow direction, and +z- up).

```
\# Get body into a typical aero-system ROTATEX 90 0 0
```

Step 6: An attribute is then placed in the geometry so that the geometry components may be reference by the SU2 AIM

```
# Store the wing
STORE Wing 0 0
# Wing 1 - Restore
RESTORE Wing 0
ATTRIBUTE capsGroup $Wing1
ATTRIBUTE capsMesh $Wing1
ATTRIBUTE _name $Wing1
ATTRIBUTE AFLR4_cmp_ID 1
ATTRIBUTE AFLR4_cmp_ED 1
```

Next a second wing is created and scaled using the store/restore operations.

```
# Wing 2 - Restore and scale, translate
RESTORE Wing 0
ATTRIBUTE capsGroup $Wing2
ATTRIBUTE capsMesh $Wing2
ATTRIBUTE _name $Wing2
ATTRIBUTE AFLR4_Scale_Factor 10
ATTRIBUTE AFLR4_Cmp_ID 2
SCALE 0.4
TRANSLATE 10 0 0
```

Step 7: For three-dimensional CFD analysis with the FUN3D AIM a "farfield" or "bounding box" boundary need to be also provided. In this example a simple sphere is created, and designated as such using the capsGroup attribute.

```
ATTRIBUTE capsGroup $Farfield
ATTRIBUTE capsMesh $Farfield
ATTRIBUTE __name $Farfield
ATTRIBUTE AFLR_GBC $FARFIELD_UG3_GBC
ATTRIBUTE AFLR4_Cmp_ID 4
ATTRIBUTE capsMeshLength cmean #Charachteristic length for meshing
ATTRIBUTE .tParam "30.;5.;30;"
```

### Step 8: Close the ESP script

END

### 0.8.2.2 Part 2: Performing analysis using CAPS/pyCAPS

### Step 1: Import (py)CAPS environment.

### Step 3: Make a list of design parameters available to interact with geometry model

```
# Change a design parameter - area in the geometry and no wake (TetGen does not support the wake)
myProblem.geometry.despmtr.area = 50
myProblem.geometry.cfgpmtr.wake = 0
```

Step 4: Load required AIMS. A typical high-fidelity CFD analysis requires mesh AIMs and an analysis AIM. For surface meshing, the face tessellation from ESP geometry can be directly used as a surface mesh. If the face tessellation is not satisfactory, an additional step of using surface AIM for external surface mesh generator will be required. Here, the face tessellation is used as surface mesh. For volume mesh generation, TetGen is used. For this, TetGen AIM is used.

Provide appropriate inputs to mesh generator required to generate mesh with adequate mesh quality and any additional features, such as boundary layer and local refinement. Refer TetGen AIM documentation for the list of all the available options.

```
# Set project name so a mesh file is generated
mySurfMesh.input.Proj_Name = "egadsTessMesh"
# Set new EGADS body tessellation parameters
mySurfMesh.input.Tess_Params = [0.5, 0.1, 20.0]
# Set output grid format since a project name is being supplied - Tecplot file
mySurfMesh.input.Mesh_Format = "Tecplot"
# Link surface mesh from EGADS to TetGen
myMesh.input["Surface_Mesh"].link (mySurfMesh.output["Surface_Mesh"])
# Preserve surface mesh while meshing
myMesh.input.Preserve_Surf_Mesh = True
```

Note that both EGADS and TetGen mesh generates are executed automaticall by CAPS:

Load and SU2 AIM and link it to TetGen AIM as a parent. This step is required so that the volume mesh generated by TetGen AIM can be used for SU2 analysis. This step allows the volume mesh generated by TetGen AIM to be converted into SU2 native format.

```
# Load SU2 aim - child of Tetgen AIM
myAnalysis = myProblem.analysis.create(aim = "su2AIM", name = "su2")
```

Set analysis parameters specific to SU2. These parameters are automatically converted into SU2 specific format and transferred into the SU2 configuration file. See AIM Inputs for the available options.

```
# Link the Mesh to the TetGen Volume Mesh
myAnalysis.input["Mesh"].link(myMesh.output["Volume_Mesh"])
# Set SU2 Version
myAnalysis.input.SU2_Version = "Blackbird"
 Set project name
myAnalysis.input.Proj_Name = "pyCAPS_SU2_Tetgen"
# Set AoA number
myAnalysis.input.Alpha = 1.0
 Set Mach number
myAnalysis.input.Mach = 0.5901
 Set equation type
myAnalysis.input.Equation_Type = "Compressible"
# Set number of iterations
myAnalysis.input.Num_Iter = 5
# Specifcy the boundares used to compute forces
myAnalysis.input.Surface_Monitor = ["Wing1", "Wing2"]
```

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Set the boundary conditions using attribution. These boundary tags and associated boundary conditions are converted into SU2 specific boundary conditions and set in the SU2 configuration file.

After all desired options are set aimPreAnalysis needs to be executed.

```
myAnalysis.preAnalysis()
```

Execute SU2 flow solver. Here the python module for parallel computation is used. The configuration file (and the corresponding mesh file) is provided automatically for executing SU2. The number of processors can be set by user, depending on the available computational resources.

```
print ("\n\nRunning SU2.....")
currentDirectory = os.getcwd() # Get our current working directory
os.chdir(myAnalysis.analysisDir) # Move into test directory
su2Run(myAnalysis.input.Proj_Name + ".cfg", args.numberProc) # Run SU2
os.chdir(currentDirectory) # Move back to top directory
```

Perform post analysis task, such as parsing the final values from SU2 execution.

myAnalysis.postAnalysis()

### Step 5: Print the post analysis values.

# 0.8.3 Executing pyCAPS script

Issuing the following command executes the script:

```
python su2_and_Tetgen_PyTest.py
```

# **Bibliography**

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