Integrating external simulation components with Simulink

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Key Takeaways

Simulink is an integration platform for simulating your complex, heterogeneous, and multi-domain systems:

- Standard-based interfaces to integrate 3rd party simulation tools/models
- Co-simulation numeric robustness with automatic signal compensation
- Bringing in custom C/C++ code made easy
- Utilizing parallel simulation capabilities to speed up system-level simulations
Motivation

System-level simulation is becoming pervasive in your product development cycle
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Increasing challenges when simulating complex systems

- Multi-domain, inter-disciplinary design
- Model re-use among suppliers, clients and collaborators while hiding design details
- Performance: the need to speed up simulations for quick insights
Agenda

- Interfaces to external simulation tools
- Robust co-simulation
- Bringing in custom C/C++ code
- Scale up system-level simulations
Interfaces to external simulation tools
White-box and Black-box Integration

- **White-box (tool-coupling)**
  - Both Simulink and the external tool are running during simulation

- **Black-box (compiled model)**
  - Only Simulink is running during simulation
  - The 3rd party model is a component inside Simulink

* With or without solver
White-box and Black-box Integration

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- Standard-based interfaces used for both styles
  - S-functions
  - Functional Mockup Interface (FMI)
S-functions Interface

- Build custom dynamic systems in MATLAB, or C/C++
- Supports all Simulink semantics
- Well validated by industry for 20+ years
- The de facto standard to couple external tools with Simulink
S-functions Interface

- Many of the MathWorks’ Connection Partner simulation tools (150+) provide prebuilt co-simulation interfaces using S-functions

- S-functions based co-simulation interface is also available with some non-partner’s tools
To learn more to use S-functions to communicate with an external application

- Example template to use S-functions as the tool-coupling interface
  - Available on “Guy on Simulink”
Functional Mock-up Interface (FMI)

- FMI is a tool independent specification to support dynamic system simulation
  - A FMU is a ZIP file packaging a model exported in FMI format

- A growing list of tools of supporting FMU export or / and FMU import

- Simulink can import both co-simulation and model-exchange FMUs for both FMI 1.0 and FMI 2.0
Demo - Virtual Vehicle ADAS Applications

- Integrating external components using S-functions and FMU
Robust Co-simulation
Co-simulation

- A frequently used method to bring models of external tools into Simulink
  - Each co-simulation component has its own solver
  - Can be implemented either white-box or black-box style

- Co-simulation components can run in parallel freely between communication macro steps
Co-simulation numeric behavior

- Model integration is more than coupling the signals

- Potential error when coupling continuous signals
  - Discretized and delayed crossing co-simulation boundary
  - Non-compensated signals could lead to accuracy loss or even system instability

The un-compensated signal (red line) deviates from the ideal, continuous signal (blue line) due to discretization
Co-simulation numeric behavior

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Robust co-simulation

- Automatic and manual mechanism to compensate the discretized continuous signals
  - Choice of linear or high order extrapolation compensation methods

- More robust co-simulation results compared to un-compensated co-simulation

The compensated signal (black line) with simple linear extrapolation is closer to the ideal, continuous signal (blue line) than the uncompensated, discretized signal (red line)
Robust co-simulation

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![Graph showing compensated and un-compensated signals](image)

The compensated signal (black line) with simple linear extrapolation is closer to the ideal, continuous signal (blue line) than the uncompensated, discretized signal (red line).
Custom Code Integration

```cpp
template<class InputString, class OutputString>
bool unhexlify(const InputString& input, OutputString& output) {
    if (input.size() % 2 != 0) {
        return false;
    }
    output.resize(input.size() / 2);
    int j = 0;
    auto unhex = [](char c) -> int {
        return c >= '0' && c <= '9' ? c - '0' :
            c >= 'A' && c <= 'F' ? c - 'A' + 10 :
            c >= 'a' && c <= 'f' ? c - 'a' + 10 :
                -1;
    };
    for (size_t i = 0; i < input.size(); i += 2) {
        j += unhex(input[i]) + 16 * unhex(input[i + 1]);
    }
    return true;
}
```
Custom Code Integration

Model-Based Design
Custom Code Integration

Model-Based Design

C/C++ Libraries

Hand Code

Internal Libraries

Vendor Libraries
Custom Code Integration

- Versatile ways to integrate your custom code
  - Simply calling your function
  - Reuse your code as a Simulink library
  - Scripting algorithm with discrete states
  - Dynamic system creation
Demo - Virtual Vehicle ADAS Applications

- Integrating custom C code for lane marker detection
Simulation Scalability
Scale Up System Simulation

- System-level simulation problems may involve a large number of simulation iterations due to the complexity of design combinations.

- Complex system simulation takes time to execute.

- The capability to scale up is a must-have of an integration platform to deliver quick simulation insights.

Full vehicle simulation

- 10 drive cycles
- 10 weather conditions
- 10 vehicle loadings
- 10 gear ratios
- 10 tire sizes

-> 100,000 simulations
Scale Up System Simulations

- The same code for desktop simulation and running in the cloud

```matlab
for i = 10000:-1:1
    in(i) = Simulink.SimulationInput('my_model');
    in(i) = in(i).setVariable('my_var', i);
end
out = parsim(in);
```
Scale Up System Simulations

- Manage and visualize the simulations as the simulations are progressing
Scale Up System Simulations

- Move the simulation to the Cloud by leveraging a Prebuilt Cloud Configuration via Reference Architecture

System Simulation

Use MATLAB/Simulink in the Cloud
Summary

As an integration platform Simulink provides key capabilities to scale up your complex, system-level simulations:

- Standard-based interfaces to integrate 3rd party simulation models
- Co-simulation numeric robustness with automatic signal compensation
- Bringing in custom C/C++ code made easy
- Utilizing parallel simulation capabilities to speed up system level simulations
MATLAB EXPO 2021

Thank you