

Knowledge Base

Information

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Plug-in utility to save field output created in Abaqus/Viewer

Portfolio / Domain:

SIMULIA Abaqus Unified FEA / SIMULIA Abaqus Unified FEA

Product:

n/a

QUESTION

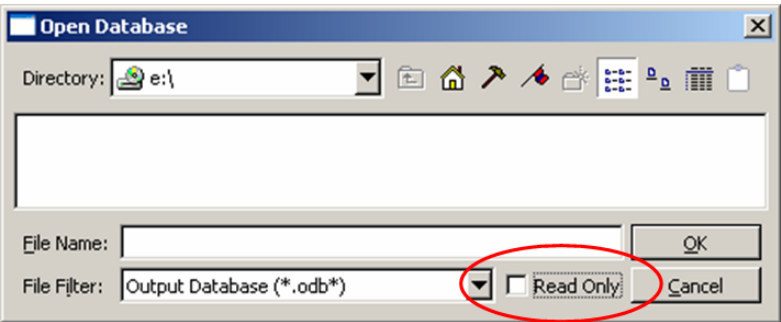
I have created some field output in Abaqus/Viewer or the Visualization module of Abaqus/CAE and would like to save it to the output database. How can I do this?

ANSWER

(The following applies to Abaqus/CAE Versions 6.5 and higher.)

Field output that you have created is stored in the Abaqus/CAE session step until you end the session or close the output database (.odb) from which the field output originates. An Abaqus/CAE plug-in utility that allows session step output to be saved is attached to this article.

To permanently save the session step output, the plug-in takes all the session step data associated with the current .odb and writes it to the .odb. Note that to add data to an .odb, the **Read Only** checkbox in the **Open Database** dialog must be un-set:



The **Read Only** status of the .odb cannot be altered once it is opened.

Installation and Usage

To install the plug-in, save the attached files to one of the following directories:

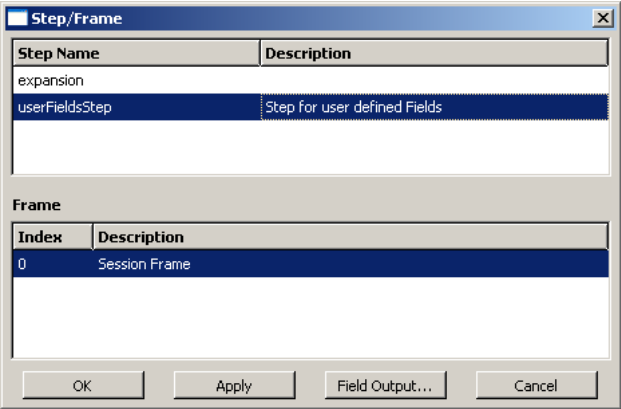
- abaqus_dir*\abaqus_plugins where *abaqus_dir* is the Abaqus parent directory
- home_dir*\abaqus_plugins where *home_dir* is your home directory
- current_dir*\abaqus_plugins where *current_dir* is the current directory

Note that if the abaqus_plugins directory does not exist in the desired path, it must be created. The *plugin_dir* directory can also be used, where *plugin_dir* is a directory specified in the abaqus_v6.env file by the environment variable *plugin_central_dir*. You can store plug-ins in a central location that can be accessed by all users at your site if the directory to which *plugin_central_dir* refers is mounted on a file system that all users can access. For example, *plugin_central_dir*= r'\\fileServer\sharedDirectory'

The next time Abaqus/CAE is started, a menu item named **Save User Defined Fields...** will be available in the **Plug-ins** pull down menu in the **Visualization** module. Select **Plug-ins** → **Tools** → **Save User Defined Fields...** to invoke the following dialog:



After the user-defined field output is saved, and the .odb is closed and re-opened, a step containing the user-defined field output, named *userFieldsStep*, appears in the **Step/Frame** dialog box:



The user-defined output variables will be available in the **Field Output** dialog box after selecting step userFieldsStep from the **Step/Frame** dialog box. The plug-in can be run any number of times for a given .odb.

Revision History

16 Jan 07	Version 1.1-1 of plug-in released.
24 Jul 08	Version 1.1-2 released to check for implicit step requirement.
01 Jul 10	Version 1.1-3 released.

Disclaimer

The attachments to this article are subject to certain usage conditions. Please [click here](#) for details.

KEYWORDS plugin, plug-in, script, customization, 3189

ATTACHMENT

Answer_3189_Fig3.png	Answer_3189_Fig2.png	Answer_3189_Fig4.png	saveUserFields.zip
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