

WEB-BASED SERVICES
FOR
FINITE ELEMENT ANALYSIS

by

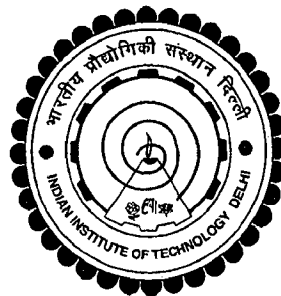
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Department of Applied Mechanics

Thesis submitted
in fulfillment of the requirements
of the degree of

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to the



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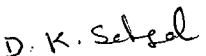
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CERTIFICATE

It is hereby certified that the thesis entitled, “**Web-Based Services for Finite Element Analysis**” being submitted by **Mr. N. Rajarathnam** to the Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi for the award of Doctor of Philosophy in Applied Mechanics Department is a record of bonafide research work carried out by him. He has worked under our guidance and has fulfilled the requirements for the submission of thesis, which, in our opinion, has reached the requisite standard.

The results contained in this thesis have not been submitted in part or full to any other University or Institute for the award of any degree / diploma.


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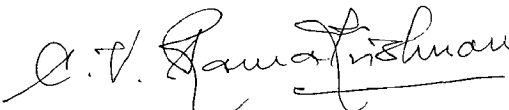
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(N. RAJARATHNAM)

ABSTRACT

Web based finite element modeling and analysis services accessible from anywhere will make it cost effective and affordable to individual engineers and small scale industries. Web enabling existing applications using wrappers and middleware technologies can not bring down the premium prices of FEA packages. A new framework for providing Web based Services for Finite Element Analysis (WebFEA) has been presented with a data standard based on eXtensible Markup Language (XML), the de facto standard for Enterprise Data Interchange. An XML Schema based modular, scalable and flexible finite element modeling and analysis Markup Language (**femaML**) has been developed with the focus on providing Web based services for finite element analysis (FEA). The schema is suitable for representing finite element data pertaining to all stages of the three stage analysis process in a single or multiple documents. All finite element data are stored and interchanged in XML documents conforming to femaML Schema.

Applications for processing finite element data in XML documents have been built using two different APIs widely used in business applications for building parsers, namely, Simple API for XML (SAX) and Document Object Model (DOM). Though it is generally understood that SAX based parsers are faster than DOM based parsers, there is no quantitative study comparing the performance of the two parser applications, especially for processing engineering data in an object-oriented environment. As part of this study special purpose parsers based on SAX and DOM have been built and a comparison of performance of the two parser applications in processing finite element data has been made.

A novel approach that uses the new and emerging XML Query Language, XQuery, for processing finite element data has also been presented. The

XQuery based method of processing finite element data has been compared with the parser based methods. Three applications, based on SAX, DOM, and XQuery, have been built for the solution process that take mesh data from existing mesh generators and provide results in XML format. The three methods were compared quantitatively by solving problems of different sizes for a rectangular domain. Based on this comparative study it is found that SAX based parser is the most suitable for object-oriented FEA applications. Hence, with the SAX based parser for parsing the data and femaML schema for finite element data representation, an application framework for FEA has been developed. This framework has been extended to Web based FEA framework by suitable modifications and additional components to conform to the Model-View-Controller (MVC) design pattern. A prototype implementation has been presented. The Web based application has been compared with the standalone application in terms of processing time. Also, the performance of the system under multi-user environment is presented.

A new approach for visualizing finite element model data and results using Scalable Vector Graphics (SVG) on Web browsers has been presented along with the results of the prototype implementation. The SVG, being an XML application, is text based and is suitable for Web based FEA services due to its low bandwidth requirements and easy integration with other XML applications.

List of Figures

| | | |
|-----|---|-----|
| 1.1 | Total Websites across all domains (August 1995 - November 2007) | 3 |
| 2.1 | Simple finite element model with four elements. | 19 |
| 3.1 | Performance comparison of SAX and DOM based parsers | 43 |
| 3.2 | CPU and memory utilization during SAX and DOM parsing | 44 |
| 3.3 | Effect of tag length on SAX parsing. | 47 |
| 3.4 | Effect of tag length on DOM parsing. | 48 |
| 4.1 | FEA implementation framework. | 56 |
| 4.2 | Java class hierarchy of MeshGenerator Module. | 57 |
| 4.3 | Java class hierarchy of Solver Module. | 59 |
| 4.4 | Java class hierarchy of SVGGenerator Module. | 60 |
| 5.1 | Performance comparison of FEA data extraction using XQuery, SAX and DOM | 67 |
| 5.2 | Comparison of resource utilization during FEA data processing using SAX, DOM, and XQuery | 68 |
| 6.1 | Time taken by the FORTRAN and SAX applications. | 75 |
| 7.1 | MVC framework as per Sun blueprints. | 89 |
| 7.2 | Web based FEA framework implemented in Prototype 1. | 91 |
| 7.3 | An improved WebFEA framework. | 102 |

| | | |
|-----|--|-----|
| 7.4 | WebFEA file upload HTML form. | 103 |
| 7.5 | WebFEA JSP page after completion of FEA process. | 104 |
| 7.6 | WebFEA results file in XML format viewed through browser. . . | 105 |
| 7.7 | WebFEA generated SVG mesh viewed through browser. | 106 |
| 7.8 | WebFEA deflection diagram in SVG viewed through browser. . | 107 |
| 7.9 | CPU time taken by the standalone and Web based SAX appli- cations. | 108 |
| 8.1 | Generation of basic shapes in SVG | 114 |
| 8.2 | Raster graphics image of a vertical bracket. | 119 |
| 8.3 | Zoom-in of raster graphics image of a vertical bracket. | 120 |
| 8.4 | SVG image of the vertical bracket. | 121 |
| 8.5 | The SVG image of mesh of a vertical bracket zoomed-in in Squiggle SVG viewer. | 122 |
| 8.6 | SVG mesh viewed through Web browser | 123 |
| 8.7 | The SVG image of plate zoomed-in in Squiggle SVG viewer. . . | 123 |
| 8.8 | Source view of SVG in Web browser | 124 |

List of Tables

| | | |
|-----|--|-----|
| 6.1 | Input file size for SAX and FORTRAN versions of the application. | 73 |
| 6.2 | Comparison of size of SAX and FORTRAN versions of FEA solver applications. | 74 |
| 7.1 | CPU time taken in multi-user environment for 1000 elements. | 100 |

Contents

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Certificate | i |
| Acknowledgements | ii |
| Abstract | iv |
| Contents | vi |
| List of Figures | xii |
| List of Tables | xiv |
| 1 Introduction | 1 |
| 1.1 Growth of the Internet | 2 |
| 1.2 Web Based Services | 3 |
| 1.3 Engineering Software | 4 |
| 1.3.1 Advances in Engineering Software | 5 |
| 1.3.2 Object-Oriented Finite Element Analysis | 6 |
| 1.4 Data Interchange Standard | 7 |
| 1.5 The Present Study | 8 |
| 1.5.1 Brief Overview of the Thesis | 9 |
| 2 Development of XML Schema based finite element modelling and analysis Markup Language | 11 |

| | | |
|----------|---|-----------|
| 2.1 | Introduction | 12 |
| 2.2 | Markup Languages | 12 |
| 2.2.1 | Meta Data and XML | 13 |
| 2.3 | XML Everywhere | 15 |
| 2.3.1 | Literature Review | 16 |
| 2.3.2 | An Overview of femML | 18 |
| 2.4 | Development of XML Schema based femaML | 21 |
| 2.4.1 | Meta Requirements of femaML Schema | 22 |
| 2.4.2 | Identification of Elements and Attributes | 22 |
| 2.4.3 | Data Design for FEA Interchange | 24 |
| 2.5 | Designing the femaML Schema | 26 |
| 3 | Processing XML Documents | 33 |
| 3.1 | Introduction | 34 |
| 3.2 | Processing FEA data | 35 |
| 3.2.1 | Processing FEA data using SAX parser | 35 |
| 3.2.2 | Processing FEA data using DOM parser | 37 |
| 3.3 | Java Classes | 38 |
| 3.3.1 | Why Java | 38 |
| 3.3.2 | FEA Classes | 38 |
| 3.3.3 | Comparative Study | 41 |
| 3.4 | Impact of tag length on the processing of FEA data | 43 |
| 3.5 | Results and Discussion | 46 |
| 3.5.1 | SAX vs. DOM | 46 |
| 3.5.2 | Effect of tag length | 48 |
| 3.6 | Summary | 49 |
| 4 | FEA Framework with femaML as Data Interchange Standard | 51 |

| | | |
|----------|--|-----------|
| 4.1 | Introduction | 52 |
| 4.2 | Data Interchange in FEA | 52 |
| 4.3 | Object-oriented Approach | 53 |
| 4.4 | The Framework | 55 |
| 4.5 | Summary | 58 |
| 5 | Processing femaML Documents using XQuery | 61 |
| 5.1 | Introduction | 62 |
| 5.2 | XQuery Expressions | 62 |
| 5.3 | XQuery for extracting FEA data | 63 |
| 5.4 | Comparison with Parser based Solutions | 66 |
| 5.5 | Results and Discussion | 67 |
| 5.5.1 | XQuery vs. SAX and DOM | 67 |
| 6 | Comparison of Processing Methods | 71 |
| 6.1 | Introduction | 72 |
| 6.2 | Comparison of SAX and FORTRAN Applications | 72 |
| 6.2.1 | Comparison of Input and Output File Sizes | 73 |
| 6.2.2 | Comparison of the Application Size | 74 |
| 6.2.3 | Performance Comparison | 74 |
| 6.3 | Results and Discussion | 75 |
| 6.4 | Summary | 76 |
| 7 | Development of Web based FEA Framework | 79 |
| 7.1 | Introduction | 80 |
| 7.2 | Web based Services | 80 |
| 7.3 | Growth of Server-side Solutions | 82 |
| 7.3.1 | Hypertext Transfer Protocol | 82 |
| 7.4 | Java Servlets and JavaServer Pages | 84 |

| | | |
|----------|--|------------|
| 7.4.1 | Components of a JSP Page | 84 |
| 7.4.2 | Web based Applications | 87 |
| 7.5 | The MVC Architecture | 88 |
| 7.6 | Development of WebFEA Framework | 90 |
| 7.6.1 | Prototype 1 | 90 |
| 7.6.2 | Limitations of Prototype 1 | 91 |
| 7.7 | Improved WebFEA Framework | 92 |
| 7.7.1 | Broad Specifications | 92 |
| 7.7.2 | The New Framework | 93 |
| 7.7.3 | Implementation of Prototype 2 | 93 |
| 7.7.4 | Components of WebFEA Framework | 93 |
| 7.7.5 | Demonstration of the prototype | 96 |
| 7.8 | Performance of Web based Application as compared with Standalone Application | 99 |
| 7.9 | Performance of WebFEA under Multi-user Environment | 100 |
| 7.10 | Approaches for Web based FEA | 100 |
| 7.11 | Summary | 101 |
| 8 | SVG for Viewing Finite Element Model and Results | 109 |
| 8.1 | Introduction | 110 |
| 8.2 | Scalable Vector Graphics | 110 |
| 8.2.1 | Advantages of SVG | 113 |
| 8.3 | SVG Generator for FEA | 115 |
| 8.4 | Summary | 117 |
| 9 | Conclusions and Recommendations | 125 |
| 9.1 | Summary | 126 |
| 9.2 | Future Directions | 130 |

| | |
|---|------------|
| A femaML Schema (femaML.xsd) | 133 |
| B DOM Parser Application | 145 |
| C Sample XML input file – nodalCoords.xml | 149 |
| D Sample SVG result file giving deflections. | 151 |
| E Source code of Complete SAX Parser based FEA Application | 159 |
| E.1 Structure.java | 160 |
| E.2 FeNode.java | 163 |
| E.3 FeElement.java | 165 |
| E.4 BCs.java | 168 |
| E.5 Load.java | 169 |
| E.6 Bandwidth.java | 170 |
| E.7 JMatrix4NQ.java | 172 |
| E.8 DMatrix4NQ.java | 173 |
| E.9 BMatrix4NQ.java | 174 |
| E.10 ElmntKMatrix4NQ.java | 176 |
| E.11 GlobalKMatrix4NQ.java | 180 |
| E.12 SAXParseStrData.java | 182 |
| E.13 SAXParseNodalCoords.java | 186 |
| E.14 SAXParseElmntConnectivity.java | 188 |
| E.15 SAXParseMatProperty.java | 191 |
| E.16 SAXParseBc.java | 194 |
| E.17 SAXParseLoad.java | 197 |
| E.18 MeshGenerator4NQ.java | 199 |
| E.19 GenerateXMLFiles4NQ.java | 200 |
| E.20 Solver4NQ.java | 206 |

| | |
|---|------------|
| E.21 Fea4NQ.java | 215 |
| E.22 InputDetails.java | 217 |
| F The Hardware and Software Environment Used | 221 |
| Biodata | 232 |