

ME 702-Computational Fluid Dynamics

Spring 2010

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Course web resources

This course makes use of the [Blackboard](#) online learning environment. All course materials, announcements and course information are distributed via Blackboard, to which all registered students have automatic access.

Prerequisite

ME 542 Advanced Fluid Mechanics (or speak with the instructor for a possible exception)

Catalog description

"Numerical techniques for solving the Navier-Stokes and related equations. Topics are selected from the following list, although the emphasis may shift from year to year: boundary integral methods for potential and Stokes flows; free surface flow computations; panel methods; finite difference, finite element and finite volume methods; spectral and pseudo-spectral methods; vortex methods; lattice-gas and lattice-Boltzmann techniques; numerical grid generation."

Course schedule

Tuesday & Thursday, 2pm in room ENG-202

Textbook

There is no required textbook for this course. A number of books will be discussed as support material during lectures. Various reading materials will be distributed electronically via Blackboard.

Course aims

This course will give students the fundamentals of the computational approach to study fluid flow problems, and a deeper understanding of the physical models and governing equations of fluid dynamics. It will also present an opportunity to learn the basic skills of programming solutions to differential equations, and provide an overview of essential numerical techniques.

Learning objectives

Students will ...

- i. deepen their understanding of the governing equations of fluid dynamics, their mathematical nature, and the physical significance of each term thereof.
- ii. learn to develop finite difference (FD) discretizations, and implement them in computer code; they will gain understanding of the sources of error in FD approximations.
- iii. develop a Navier-Stokes solver step-by-step, and apply it to solve canonical problems in two dimensions.
- iv. become familiar with a set of standard CFD techniques (e.g. Lax-Wendroff, McCormack, relaxation, etc.).
- v. become acquainted with the finite volume (FV) discretization, spectral methods, and other standard methods of CFD.
- vi. appreciate the importance and implications of analytical issues: consistency, stability, convergence, error analysis.

Assessment policies

All assessment is based on student presentations, both oral and written, of assigned work. About 5 presentations will be required in the semester, all weighted equally.

Course content

This plan is subject to changes, but approximately, we will cover the following subjects:

1. Review of the Navier-Stokes equations: derivation, physical interpretation, assumptions and applications
2. Introduction to discretization of partial differential equations with Finite Differences (FDs)
3. Practical Module — *“The 12 steps to computing Navier-Stokes”*
This module will take the students through 12 steps, one by one, at the end of which they will have programmed a Navier-Stokes solver, using FDs. The steps are the following:
 - a. Steps 1–4 are in one dimension: (i) linear convection with a step-function initial condition (IC) and appropriate boundary conditions (BC); with the same IC/BCs: (ii) nonlinear convection, and (iii) diffusion only; (iv) Burgers' equation, with a saw-tooth IC and periodic BCs.

- b. Steps 5-10 are in two dimensions: (v) linear convection with square function IC and appropriate BCs; with the same IC/BCs: (vi) nonlinear convection, and (vii) diffusion only; (viii) Burgers' equation; (ix) Laplace equation, with zero IC and both Neumann and Dirichlet BCs; (x) Poisson equation in 2D.
 - c. Steps 11-12 solve the Navier-Stokes equation in 2D: (xi) cavity flow; (xii) channel flow.
4. Discussion of numerical diffusion, accuracy and convergence.
 5. Mathematical models of fluid flow and various approximations.
 6. The mathematical nature of the flow equations.
 7. The finite difference method for structured grids, in detail.
 8. Fundamentals of the finite volume (FV) method.
 9. Time integration methods for space-discretized equations.
 10. Iterative methods for the solution of algebraic systems.
 11. Numerical simulation of inviscid flows: solution of the Euler equations, potential flow models & panel methods.
 12. Vortex methods and particle methods.
 13. Validation and Verification of computational codes.