

# CFD - An Overview

H. Klimach

harald.klimach@dlr.de

Institute of Software Methods for Product  
Virtualization (SP)

DLR

# Computational

- Complex problems
- No analytical solution
- Numerical approximation
- Using computers

## Fluid

- Continually deforms when force is applied



*Images: game-icons.net, Lorc and Delapouite*

## Dynamics

- Considering the forces in fluids
- Studying the resulting fluid motion
- May be stationary or instationary

## Classes of Fluids

- Liquids

- Forms free surface



- Gases

- Freely diffuse



- *Plasma*

- *Ionized, highly electrical conductive*



*Images: game-icons.net, Lorc and Delapouite*

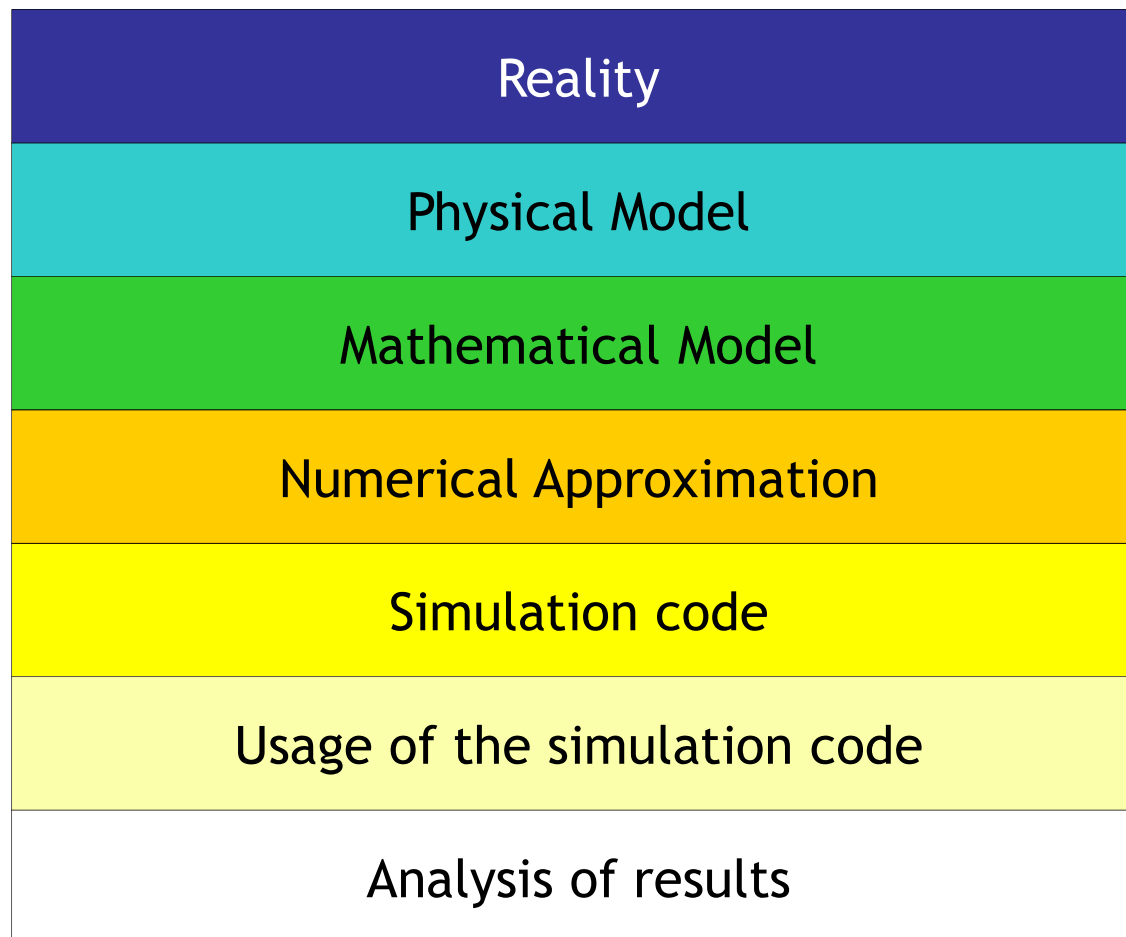
## Some Defining Properties of Fluids

- Viscosity
  - Relation of shear stress to speed of deformation
- Compressibility
  - Relation of volume change under pressure
- Heat conductivity
- Density



*Images: game-icons.net, Cathelineau, Skoll, Lorc and Delapouite*

# Modelling



## Physical Model for Fluids

- Level of detail
  - Quantum - Molecular - Continuum
- Consideration of effects
  - Electrodynamics? Gravity? Relativity?  
Chemical reactions?



## Continuum Assumption

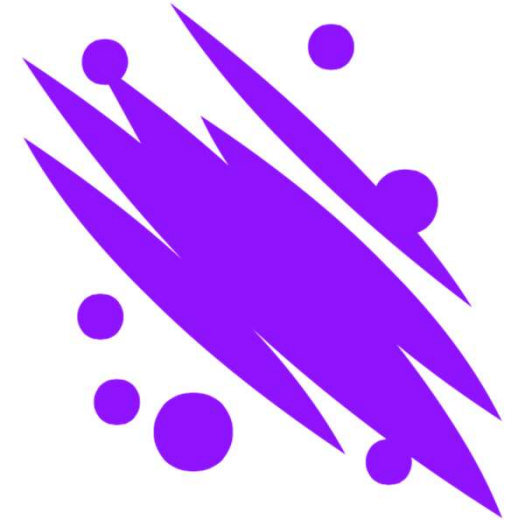
- On the considered scale:
  - Fluid covers complete space
  - Infinitesimal small decomposition possible

- Knudsen number:

$$\text{Kn} = \frac{\text{mean free path}}{\text{reference length scale}}$$

## Continuum Classification

- High  $Kn$  ( $>0.5$ ):
  - (For example rarefied gases)
  - Physical model: Kinetic gas theory
- *Knudsen flow* ( $0.01 < Kn < 0.5$ )
- Low  $Kn$  ( $<0.01$ ):
  - (For example air around plane)
  - Physical model: Continuum mechanics



*Image: game-icons.net, Lorc*

## Physical Continuum Model

- Newtonian mechanics
- Conservation laws:
  - Conservation of mass
  - Conservation of momentum
  - Conservation of energy

## Mathematical Model

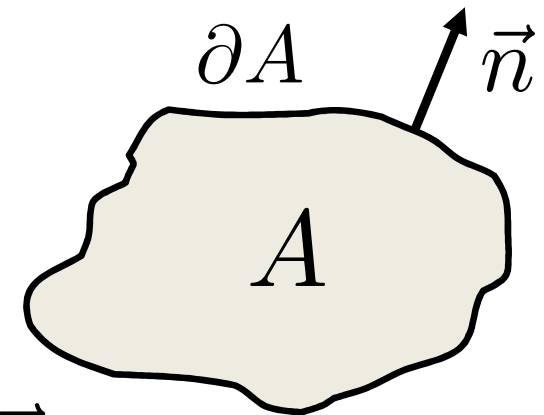
- Conservation laws yield compressible Navier-Stokes equations
- System of partial differential equations
- Describes evolution of state due to spatial fluid variations

## Conservation Laws

- Quantity can neither vanish nor appear
- Observing a given volume:
  - Quantity only changed by transport through the surface

- Mathematical:

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \int_A u(\vec{x}, t) dA = - \oint_{\partial A} \vec{f}(u) \vec{n} ds$$



## Integral Conservation

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \int_A u(\vec{x}, t) dA = - \oint_{\partial A} \vec{f}(u) \cdot \vec{n} ds$$

$t$  time

$A$  volume

$\vec{x}$  location

$\partial A$  surface

$u$  conserved quantity

$\vec{n}$  surface normal

$\vec{f}$  flux

## Convective Transport

- Quantity transported by velocity  $\vec{v}$
- Convective flux:

$$\vec{f} = u \cdot \vec{v}$$

## Conservation in Continuum

- Conservation law holds for infinitesimal volumes
- Conservation in each point
  - Differential formulation
- Continuously differentiable:
  - **Divergence Theorem** (*replace surface by volume integral*)
  - **Leibniz Rule** (*exchange integration and differentiation*)



## Replacing Surface by Volume Integral

- Divergence Theorem:  $\oint_{\partial A} \vec{f} \cdot \vec{n} ds = \int_A \nabla \cdot \vec{f} dA$

- Incorporate in the conservation law

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \int_A u(\vec{x}, t) dA = - \oint_{\partial A} \vec{f}(u) \cdot \vec{n} ds$$

- Yields:  $\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \int_A u(\vec{x}, t) dA = - \int_A \nabla \cdot \vec{f}(u) dA$

## Differential Conservation Law

- Using Leibniz's rule and pulling everything into one integral:

$$\int_A \left( \frac{\partial u(\vec{x}, t)}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot \vec{f}(u) \right) dA = 0$$

- Conservation holds for any volume
  - Conservation in each point

$$\frac{\partial u(\vec{x}, t)}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot \vec{f}(u) = 0$$

## Conservation of Mass

- *Conserved*: Mass density  $\rho$

- *Changed by*:

- Convection  $\vec{f} = \rho\vec{v}$

- *Integral form*: 
$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \int_A \rho(\vec{x}, t) dA = - \oint_{\partial A} \rho\vec{v} \cdot \vec{n} ds$$

- *Differential form*: 
$$\frac{\partial \rho(\vec{x}, t)}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (\rho\vec{v}) = 0$$

## Conservation of Momentum

- *Conserved*: Momentum density  $\vec{m} = \rho \vec{v}$
- *Changed by*:
  - Convection  $\overline{\overline{f^c}} = \vec{m} \circ \vec{v}$  (Dyadic product)
  - Surface forces
    - pressure  $\overline{\overline{f^p}} = p \overline{\overline{I}}$  (Identity tensor)
    - friction  $\overline{\overline{f^v}} = -\overline{\overline{\tau}}$  (Stress deviator tensor)
  - Possible volume forces (gravity, electromagnetism)  $\vec{F}^e$

## Conservation of Momentum

- *Integral form:*

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \int_A \vec{m}(\vec{x}, t) dA = - \oint_{\partial A} \left( \overset{\text{convect.}}{\vec{m} \circ \vec{v}} + \overset{\text{pres.}}{p\bar{I}} - \overset{\text{fri.}}{\bar{\tau}} \right) \vec{n} ds + \int_A \vec{F}^e dA$$

- *Differential form:*

$$\frac{\partial \vec{m}(\vec{x}, t)}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot \left( \overset{\text{convect.}}{\vec{m} \circ \vec{v}} + \overset{\text{pres.}}{p\bar{I}} \right) = \overset{\text{fric.}}{\nabla \cdot \bar{\tau}} + \vec{F}^e$$

## Stress Deviator Tensor

- Deformation tensor:  $(\text{def } \vec{v})_{ij} = \frac{\partial v_j}{\partial x_i} + \frac{\partial v_i}{\partial x_j}$
- Stress tensor in Navier-Stokes equations:

$$\overline{\overline{\tau}} = \lambda (\nabla \cdot \vec{v}) \overline{\overline{I}} + \mu \cdot \text{def } \vec{v}$$

$\lambda$  volume viscosity

$\mu$  dynamic shear viscosity

## Newtonian Fluids

- Newtonian fluid:
  - Viscosity **independent** of shear rate
  - Still may depend on thermodynamic quantities (often temperature)
- Non-Newtonian fluids:
  - Viscosity varies with shear rate
  - Rheology

## Conservation of Energy

- *Conserved*: Energy density  $e = \rho\varepsilon + \frac{\rho}{2}\vec{v} \cdot \vec{v} + \rho gh$
- *Changed by*:
  - Convection  $\vec{f}^c = e \cdot \vec{v}$
  - Work of surface forces  $\vec{f}^s = p \cdot \vec{v} - \overline{\overline{\tau}} \vec{v}$
  - Heat conduction  $\vec{f}^h = -\kappa \nabla T$
- Possible work by volume forces; Heat sources (e.g. chemical reactions, radiation)  $\vec{F}^e \cdot \vec{v} + Q$



## Conservation of Energy

- *Integral form:*

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \int_A e(\vec{x}, t) dA = - \oint_{\partial A} \left( \overset{\text{conv.}}{e \cdot \vec{v}} + \overset{\text{pres.}}{p \cdot \vec{v}} - \overset{\text{fric.}}{\bar{\bar{\tau}} \vec{v}} - \overset{\text{heat}}{\kappa \nabla T} \right) \vec{n} ds + \int_A (\vec{F}^e \cdot \vec{v} + Q) dA$$

- *Differential form:*

$$\frac{\partial e(\vec{x}, t)}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (e + p) \vec{v} = \nabla \cdot (\bar{\bar{\tau}} \vec{v}) + \nabla \cdot (\kappa \nabla T) + \vec{F}^e \cdot \vec{v} + Q$$

## Equation of State

- Relation of thermodynamic quantities density, pressure and temperature
- Simplest thermodynamic model is the **ideal gas** assumption:

$$\frac{p}{\rho} = R \cdot T$$

$R$  gas constant

## Calorically Perfect Gas

- Specific heat capacity  $c_v$  assumed to be constant
- Direct proportional relation between inner energy and temperature:  $\varepsilon = c_v \cdot T$
- Together with the ideal gas model:

$$\varepsilon = \frac{p}{\rho(\gamma - 1)}$$

with  $\gamma$  as ratio  
of specific  
heats

## Real Gas

- Usually ideal gas sufficient
- More complex models required for
  - close to phase changes
  - close to critical points
  - high pressures
  - low temperatures
- Compressibility factor as measure

## Real Gas Models

- Virial model: Series of perturbative terms
- Van der Waals: Most prominent 2 term model
- Redlich-Kwong: 2 term model often more accurate than van der Waals
- Many more of varying complexity

## Compressible Navier-Stokes Equations

$$\frac{\partial \rho(\vec{x}, t)}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (\rho \vec{v}) = 0$$

$$\frac{\partial \vec{m}(\vec{x}, t)}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (\vec{m} \circ \vec{v} + p \bar{\bar{I}}) = \nabla \cdot \bar{\bar{\tau}}$$

$$\frac{\partial e(\vec{x}, t)}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (e + p) \vec{v} = \nabla \cdot \bar{\bar{\tau}} \vec{v} + \nabla \cdot (\kappa \nabla T)$$

+ Equation of state

– Perfect gas:  $p = (\gamma - 1) \cdot \left( e - \frac{\rho}{2} |\vec{v}|^2 \right)$



*Image: game-icons.net, Lorc*

## Nondimensionalization

- Introduce suitable reference values
- Define all quantities in relation to reference values
- Useful for classification of flows
- Helps to limit value range

## Reference Values

- Choose a characteristic length, pressure, density and velocity  $L$ ,  $p_{ref}$ ,  $\rho_{ref}$ ,  $v_{ref}$
- Accordingly you get a characteristic time scale, speed of sound and temperature

$$t_{ref} = \frac{L}{v_{ref}}, \quad c_{ref} = \sqrt{\gamma \frac{p_{ref}}{\rho_{ref}}}, \quad T_{ref} = \frac{p_{ref}}{R \rho_{ref}}$$

- Normalize all quantities with the references



## Similarity Parameters

- Ratios of flow effects, experiments with the same parameters show same behavior

- **Mach number**  $Ma = \frac{v}{c}$   $\frac{\text{Flow velocity}}{\text{Speed of sound}}$
- **Reynolds number**  $Re = \frac{\rho v L}{\mu}$   $\frac{\text{Fictitious force}}{\text{Friction}}$
- **Prandtl number**  $Pr = \frac{\mu c_p}{\kappa}$   $\frac{\text{Momentum diff.}}{\text{Thermal diff.}}$

# Nondimensional Navier-Stokes Equations



- Similarity parameters of reference, perfect gas:

$$\frac{\partial \rho(\vec{x}, t)}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (\rho \vec{v}) = 0$$

$$\frac{\partial \vec{m}(\vec{x}, t)}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (\vec{m} \circ \vec{v} + \frac{p}{\gamma Ma^2} \bar{\bar{I}}) = \frac{\nabla \cdot \bar{\bar{\tau}}}{Re}$$

$$\frac{\partial e(\vec{x}, t)}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (e + \frac{p}{\gamma Ma^2}) \vec{v} = \frac{1}{Re} \left( \nabla \cdot \bar{\bar{\tau}} \vec{v} + \frac{\Delta T}{(\gamma - 1) Ma^2 \cdot Pr} \right)$$

$$p = (\gamma - 1) \cdot \left( e - \frac{\rho}{2} |\vec{v}|^2 \right) \gamma Ma^2$$

Image: game-icons.net, Lorc

## Other Similarity Parameters

- Depending on the problem
- Some examples:
  - Péclet number **Pe** (transport)
  - Froude number **Fr** (gravitation)
  - Richardson number **Ri** (weather)
  - Rayleigh number **Ra** (free convection)
  - Strouhal number **St** (vortex shedding)

# Simplifications

- Two important simplifications often deployed:
  - Inviscid flows: Euler equations
    - Neglecting diffusive processes
  - Incompressible flows
    - Density independent of pressure
    - Infinite speed of sound

## Simplification Overview

Compressible Navier-Stokes equations  
include friction and thermal conduction

*hyperbolic - parabolic*

$Re \rightarrow \infty$

Euler equations  
Gas dynamics  
*hyperbolic*

$Ma \rightarrow 0$

Incompressible Navier-  
Stokes  
equations  
*parabolic - elliptic*

## Flow Regimes

- Different classes of PDEs



➤ Different numerical methods

*Image: game-icons.net, Lorc*

## Simplification to Euler Equations

Compressible Navier-Stokes equations  
include friction and thermal conduction

*hyperbolic - parabolic*

$$Re \rightarrow \infty$$

Euler equations  
Gas dynamics  
*hyperbolic*

$$Ma \rightarrow 0$$

Incompressible Navier-  
Stokes  
equations  
*parabolic - elliptic*

## Neglect Friction and Heat Transport

- Compressible Navier-Stokes -> Euler equations

$$\frac{\partial \rho(\vec{x}, t)}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (\rho \vec{v}) = 0$$

$$\frac{\partial \vec{m}(\vec{x}, t)}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (\vec{m} \circ \vec{v} + p \bar{\bar{I}}) = \nabla \cdot \bar{\bar{\tau}}$$

$$\frac{\partial e(\vec{x}, t)}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (e + p) \vec{v} = \nabla \cdot \bar{\bar{\tau}} \vec{v} + \nabla \cdot (\kappa \nabla T)$$



## Gas Dynamics: The Euler Equations

- Hyperbolic system (wave transport)

$$\frac{\partial \rho(\vec{x}, t)}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (\rho \vec{v}) = 0$$

$$\frac{\partial \vec{m}(\vec{x}, t)}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (\vec{m} \circ \vec{v} + p \bar{\bar{I}}) = 0$$

$$\frac{\partial e(\vec{x}, t)}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (e + p) \vec{v} = 0$$

+ Equation of state (usually ideal gas)

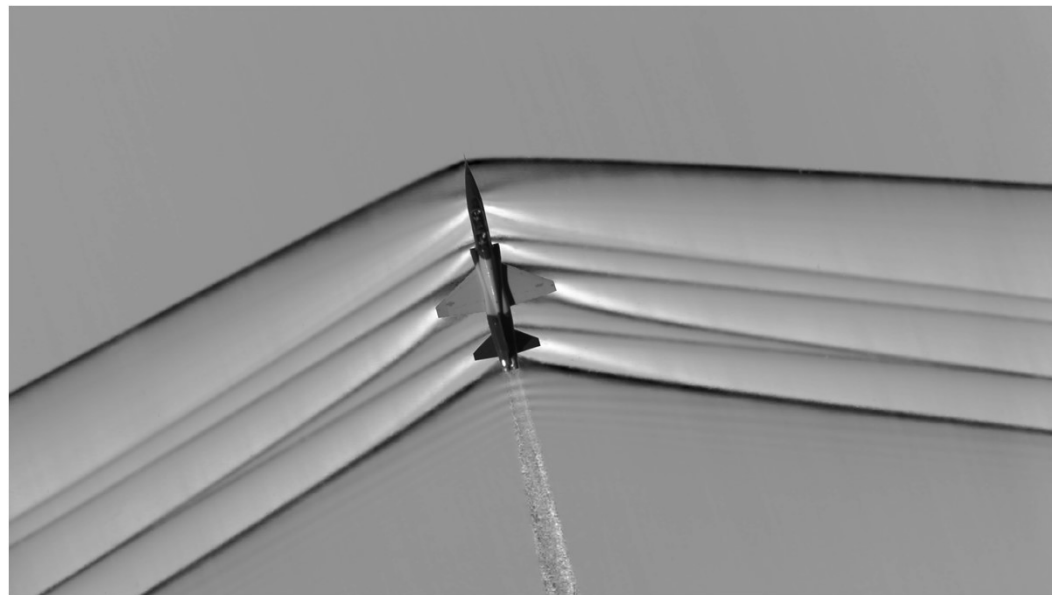


Image: game-icons.net, Lorc

## Gas Dynamics

- Nonlinear transport problem
- State travels along characteristics
- Formation of discontinuities (shocks)

Schlieren image  
of supersonic  
aircraft with  
shock waves.



*Image: NASA Photo*

## Vectorial Notation (1D, Perfect Gas)

- Gather state in one vector:  $\vec{u}(x, t) = \begin{bmatrix} \rho(x, t) \\ m(x, t) \\ e(x, t) \end{bmatrix}$

- Also the flux:  $\vec{f}(\vec{u}) = \begin{bmatrix} m \\ \frac{(3-\gamma)m^2}{2\rho} + (\gamma - 1)e \\ \frac{m}{\rho} \left( \gamma e + \frac{(1-\gamma)m^2}{2\rho} \right) \end{bmatrix}$

- (Equation of state for perfect gas in flux)*

## Compact Notation of the System with Vectors

$$\frac{\partial \vec{u}(x, t)}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial \vec{f}(\vec{u})}{\partial x} = 0$$

- First order, nonlinear PDE system
- Conservative variables  $\vec{u}$
- Compact notation shows structure of the PDEs

## More Spatial Dimensions

- Space coordinate becomes a vector  $\vec{x}$
- Momentum becomes a vector  $\vec{m}$ 
  - ( more components in the state vector)
- Get a flux for each spatial dimension

## Compact Notation, Multiple Spatial Dimensions

- For  $d$  dimensions we have:

$$\frac{\partial \vec{u}(\vec{x}, t)}{\partial t} + \sum_{i=1}^d \frac{\partial \vec{f}_i(\vec{u})}{\partial x_i} = 0$$

- For example in 2D, 2 fluxes with 4 components:

$$\vec{f}_1(\vec{u}) = \begin{bmatrix} m_1 \\ \frac{(3-\gamma)m_1^2}{2\rho} + (\gamma-1)\left(e - \frac{m_2^2}{2\rho}\right) \\ \frac{m_1 \cdot m_2}{\rho} \\ \frac{m_1}{\rho} \left( \gamma e + \frac{(1-\gamma)(m_1^2 + m_2^2)}{2\rho} \right) \end{bmatrix} \quad \vec{f}_2(\vec{u}) = \begin{bmatrix} m_2 \\ \frac{m_2 \cdot m_1}{\rho} \\ \frac{(3-\gamma)m_2^2}{2\rho} + (\gamma-1)\left(e - \frac{m_1^2}{2\rho}\right) \\ \frac{m_2}{\rho} \left( \gamma e + \frac{(1-\gamma)(m_1^2 + m_2^2)}{2\rho} \right) \end{bmatrix}$$

## Simplification To Incompressible

Compressible Navier-Stokes equations  
include friction and thermal conduction

*hyperbolic - parabolic*

$$Re \rightarrow \infty$$

Euler equations  
Gas dynamics  
*hyperbolic*

$$Ma \rightarrow 0$$

Incompressible Navier-  
Stokes  
equations  
*parabolic - elliptic*

## Neglect Density and Temperature Changes

- Compressible Navier-Stokes -> Incompressible

$$\frac{\partial \rho(\vec{x}, t)}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (\rho \vec{v}) = 0$$

$$\frac{\partial \vec{m}(\vec{x}, t)}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (\vec{m} \circ \vec{v} + p \bar{\bar{I}}) = \nabla \cdot \bar{\bar{\tau}}$$

$$\frac{\partial e(\vec{x}, t)}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (e + p) \vec{v} = \nabla \cdot \bar{\bar{\tau}} \vec{v} + \nabla \cdot (\kappa \nabla T)$$



## Divergence Free Flow

- Constant density:
  - One variable less
  - mass conservation reduces to divergence free constrained for the velocity field:

$$\nabla \vec{v} = 0$$

- Note: no time dependency in this equation

## One Equation Less

- With  $\nabla \vec{v} = 0$
  - And constant temperature ( $\nabla T = 0$ )
- The energy balance does not provide any additional information

# Incompressible Navier-Stokes Equations

- Parabolic - Elliptic system of PDEs:

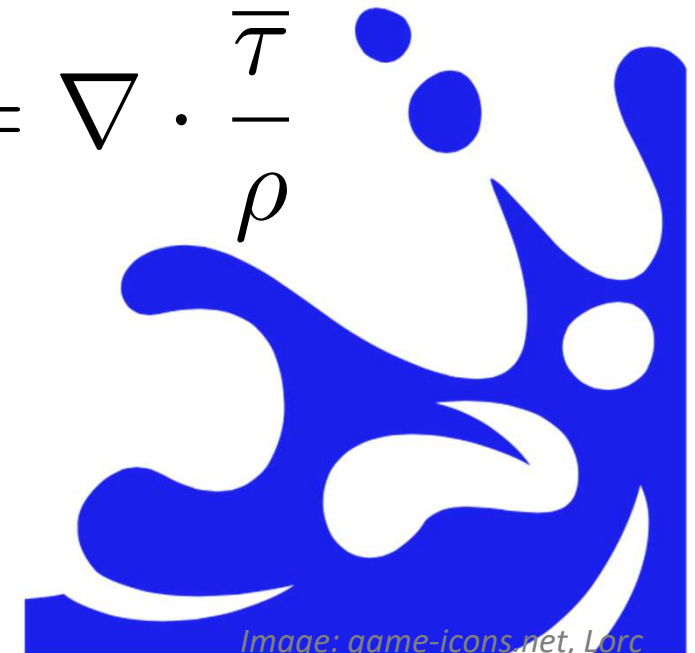
$$\nabla \cdot \vec{v} = 0$$

$$\frac{\partial \vec{v}(\vec{x}, t)}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot \left( \vec{v} \circ \vec{v} + \frac{p}{\rho} \bar{I} \right) = \nabla \cdot \frac{\bar{\tau}}{\rho}$$

- Variables:

Velocity  $\vec{v}$

Pressure  $p$



*Image: game-icons.net, Lorc*

## Potential Flow

- Incompressible and inviscid
- Can use a scalar potential to describe the velocity field

## Numerical Methods

- **Finite Differences**
- **Finite Volumes**
- **Finite Elements**
  - continuous
  - discontinuous
- **Finite Points**
- **Smoothed Particle Hydrodynamics**
- **Lattice Boltzmann**
- **Pseudo-Spectral**
- **Boundary Elements**
- **Panel Method**  
(potential flows)
- **Vortex Lattice**  
(potential flows)

## Finite Differences

- Approximates differentials by difference quotients on a grid with point values
- Will be briefly discussed on Tuesday
- Solver using this scheme:
  - Overture  
(<http://www.overtureframework.org/>)

## Finite Volume

- Utilizes an integral formulation with integral means in control volumina and the fluxes between those
- Will be discussed on Tuesday
- Solvers using this scheme:
  - OpenFOAM (dedicated course)
  - Code Saturne (<https://www.code-saturne.org/cms/>)
  - Gerris  
([http://gfs.sourceforge.net/wiki/index.php/Main\\_Page](http://gfs.sourceforge.net/wiki/index.php/Main_Page))

## Finite Elements

- Utilizes functions in elements to represent the solution
- Will be discussed on Wednesday (continuous) and Thursday (discontinuous)
- Solvers using this scheme:
  - Elmer (<https://www.csc.fi/web/elmer>)
  - Nektar++ (<https://www.nektar.info/>)
  - Ateles (<http://www.apes-suite.org/pages/ateles>)



## Finite Points

- Meshfree method based on scattered point values with a solution construction from a local point neighborhood
- Least-Square fitting of unknowns
- Interesting for moving/deforming boundary problems

## Smoothed-Particle Hydrodynamics

- Meshless, lagrangian method: particles build the fluid and a kernel function describes the “range“ of the properties of the particle
- Especially interesting for free-surface flows
- Solvers implementing this scheme:
  - AQUAgsph (<http://canal.etsin.upm.es/aquagusph/>)
  - Pysph (<https://pysph.readthedocs.io/en/latest/>)
  - FLUIDS (<http://fluids3.com/>)

## Lattice-Boltzmann

- Works on the Boltzmann equation with a discrete space
- Cellular automata on a mesoscopic level reproduce Navier-Stokes equations in a macroscopic view
- Solvers with this scheme:
  - Palabos (<http://www.palabos.org/>)
  - Musubi (<http://www.apes-suite.org/pages/musubi>)
  - OpenLB (<http://www.openlb.net/>)

## (Pseudo)-Spectral

- Approximation of the solution by a function series
- Highly efficient for smooth problems
- Limitations by function choice and geometrical layout
- Example: <http://dedalus-project.org/>
- Spectral Element Method solver:
  - Nek5000 (<https://nek5000.mcs.anl.gov/>)

## Boundary Elements

- Uses boundary values to define solution to integral equation
- Requires Green's function to be computable for the given problem
- Solvers for this scheme:
  - FastBEM (<http://www.yijunliu.com/Software/>)
  - Nemoh (<https://lheea.ec-nantes.fr/logiciels-et-brevets/nemoh-presentation-192863.kjsp>)

## Panel Method

- Represents a potential flow by superposition of various singularities
- Singularities organized in panels to represent walls in the flow
- Solvers implementing this scheme:
  - XFOIL (<http://web.mit.edu/drela/Public/web/xfoil/>)
  - Panair (<http://www.pdas.com/panair.html>)
  - Q-Blade (<http://www.q-blade.org/>)

## Vortex Lattice

- For potential flows
- Prandtl's lifting lines theory
- Model lifting surfaces by discrete vortex lines
- Surfaces discretized into panels with horseshoe vortices
- Implementation:
  - OpenVOGEL  
(<https://sites.google.com/site/gahvogel/main>)

## Focus of This Course

- We will look at the „classical“ methods (FDM, FVM and FEM)
- We will use the batch system to run larger computations on a parallel HPC system
- We use Ateles as a solver and look at the workflow from mesh generation to visualization