Part I

Multistage Central Difference Schemes for the Euler and Navier-Stokes Equations

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1 Introduction

The subject of Computational Fluid Dynamics (CFD) is a multidisciplinary one involving fluid mechanics, numerical analysis, and computer science. The evolution of this subject over the last three decades has resulted in a broad range of capabilities to compute the aerodynamics of flight vehicles. At cruise flight conditions, a variety of approximate techniques are applied by the aircraft industry in the design process of a flight vehicle. Under the assumptions of inviscid and irrotational flow, versatile and reliable panel methods and nonlinear potential equation solvers are used. To determine viscous effects, either an integral or finite-difference approach is employed to solve the boundary-layer equations. When the interaction between the viscous and inviscid regions of the flow is not negligible, the computational procedures for these regions are coupled in either the direct (i.e., specify surface pressure) or the inverse mode (i.e., specify surface shear stress in the case of a solid wall). Although these techniques are efficient and provide reasonable estimates of viscous effects in many instances, they can be difficult to implement for three-dimensional flows, due to the variety of strong viscous-inviscid interactions, such as aircraft wing-body juncture flow, that can occur.

In the past few years, substantial progress has been made towards the goal of improving the mathematical models of the aerodynamic prediction techniques used in aircraft design. The Euler equations permit rotational effects (i.e., vortical structures) and nonisentropic shock waves, which can be present, in general, for flows over aerodynamic configurations. The Navier-Stokes equations model weak and strong interactions between viscous and inviscid flow regions without special consideration. Both the Euler and the time-averaged Navier-Stokes equations are currently being introduced into the design process. There are several reasons for this progress. A primary one is that the accuracy and efficiency of the numerical algorithms for solving these equations have been improved considerably. Another reason is the significant advancements in the memory capacity and processing times for computers. Although various technologies in computers and computer science will continue to help decrease processing times, this does not obviate the need for a strong effort to increase the robustness, accuracy, and efficiency of the flow solvers to allow their use in the analysis of complex fluid dynamics phenomena as well as in the design of aircraft.

A fairly extensive range of numerical algorithms has been developed to solve the Euler and Navier-Stokes equations during the past decade. These algorithms can be classified according to the type of time-stepping scheme and the type of spatial discretization scheme. Both explicit and implicit time-stepping methods have been constructed. Explicit schemes require less storage and a lower number of operations for time integration than implicit ones; however, they have a more severe limit on the allowable time step. If the temporal and spatial differencing are decoupled, both types of schemes are amenable to a variety of convergence acceleration techniques for steady-state problems. The explicit multistage Runge-Kutta scheme of Jameson, Schmidt, and Turkel [32] and the implicit Approximate Factorization (AF) scheme of Beam and Warming [9] are two examples of schemes that employ this decoupling. The multistage schemes in conjunction with local time stepping and other convergence enhancements [35] as well as the AF scheme with local time stepping and diagonalization of the implicit operator [75] have proven to be efficient schemes for the Euler equations.

For the spatial derivatives in the flow equations, central and one-sided differencing have been considered. To appreciate the selection of one type of differencing over another, it is important to understand the dominating design criterion for central and upwind schemes. In constructing a central difference scheme, the principal underlying guideline is to minimize the arithmetic operation count, and at the same time, maintain the highest possible accuracy. The multistage schemes and Lax-Wendroff schemes [73, 15] are the most widely used explicit algorithms with central spatial differencing at the present time. The AF scheme is the most frequently used implicit scheme with centered differencing. One of the main objectives for an upwind scheme is to capture flow discontinuities such as shock waves with the minimum number of mesh cells. In order to accomplish this, many of these schemes utilize the signs of the slopes of characteristics to determine the direction of propagation of information, and thus, the type of differencing for approximating spatial derivatives. Two procedures for the construction of upwind schemes for hyperbolic systems of conservation laws are the flux vector splitting of van Leer [117] and the flux difference splitting of Roe [83]. Such schemes have become quite popular due to their shock capturing capability. Generally, they represent shock waves with two interior cells rather than the three or four usually needed by central difference schemes, but they can require as much as two times the computational effort.

Multistage time-stepping schemes with a finite-volume formulation for spatial discretization and both structured and unstructured meshes are now being used for solving the Euler equations for flows over complex configurations, including an airplane [34, 38]. Members of this class of algorithms have also been extended to allow the solution of the compressible Navier-Stokes equations in both two and three dimensions [95, 118]. With the inclusion of convergence acceleration methods such as local time stepping and constant coefficient implicit residual smoothing, which extends the explicit time step limit, these solvers have proven to be reasonably effective. Significant improvements in performance have been achieved principally by using the multistage scheme as a driver of a multigrid method. This method, which involves a sequence of successively coarser meshes, has enhanced not only the convergence rate but also the robustness of the single-grid scheme. In [66], a three-stage Runge-Kutta scheme with multigrid was successfully applied to the two-dimensional (2-D) Navier-Stokes equations. Then, both Swanson and Turkel [97] and Martinelli and Jameson [68] demonstrated that the type of convergence behavior indicated in [66] could be substantially improved. The multigrid procedure was used to solve flow over a wing in [45]. Significant improvements in the performance of [45] were obtained [77, 119] by closely following and extending the ideas developed in the 2-D solvers [68, 97, 98].

In the current work, an efficient and versatile class of central difference, finite-volume multigrid schemes for the two-dimensional compressible Euler and Navier-Stokes equations is presented. The elements of these schemes are the basis for a family of computer codes (FLOMG series) developed by the authors. These codes are now being used in both industry and universities. They have been applied to numerous fluid dynamics problems over the last several years, and they have been employed as an analysis code in airfoil design procedures (i.e., [65]).

In Sections 2 and 3 of this report the flow equations are given and the finite-volume formulation for spatial discretization is described. Three alternatives for numerical approximation of viscous stress and heat flux terms are discussed. Then, the influence of grid stretching on numerical accuracy is determined. Section 4 discusses artificial dissipation. After outlining the historical development of a form for dissipation, the scalar dissipation model that has been frequently used with the present schemes is given in Section 4.2. The selection of boundary-point difference operators is an important consideration for the dissipation model. Suitable operators are given, and we show how local mode analysis can often provide an evaluation for a proposed boundary-point difference operator. Analysis based on considering the dissipative character of the discrete system of equations is also performed. In Section 4.5 the intimate connection between the formulation for an upwind scheme and a central difference scheme is examined. A foundation is established for a matrix dissipation model. Next, a theorem is proven that provides a sufficient condition for a central difference scheme with the dissipation form of Section 4.2 to be total variation diminishing (TVD). Imposing the requirements of the theorem we obtain a limiter function for the TVD property. The discussion on limiters also includes the symmetric limited positive ($SLIP$) scheme of Jameson [40]. In Section 4.8 the matrix dissipation model used with the present schemes is described. A matrix dissipation can allow the capturing of a shock wave with a single interior point. In Section 4.9 we discuss the convective upwind and split pressure $CUSP$ scheme of Jameson [40] that also permits shocks with one interior point.

In Section 5 the discrete boundary conditions are discussed. Section 6 defines the class of explicit multistage time-stepping schemes that we consider and summarizes their properties. Then, the stability of Runge-Kutta schemes for systems of equations is examined. Subsequently, a time-step estimate for pseudo-time integration of the flow equations is given. Since the temporal and spatial discretizations are decoupled, these explicit schemes are amenable to convergence acceleration techniques. The techniques used here, which include local time stepping, implicit residual smoothing, and multigrid, are addressed in Section 7. In the initial part of this section we indicate how the discrete system of flow equations is preconditioned with local time stepping. In Section 7.2 there is first a discussion of constant coefficients for implicit residual smoothing. Some basic properties of residual smoothing are also presented. Then, a form for variable coefficients for implicit residual smoothing, which is based on stability analysis of a 2-D linear wave equation, is introduced. From this form two different formulas for variable smoothing coefficients evolve, and these formulas are compared. With these coefficients one still requires, in general, a time-step estimate that depends on a diffusion limit. In the last part of Section 7.2 we show how one can use such coefficients to construct new ones that can allow the removal of the diffusion restriction. Section 7.3 delineates the salient features of the multigrid method. It also includes some discussion of multigrid for hyperbolic equations. In Section 8 turbulence modeling is discussed. Both an algebraic equilibrium model and a half-equation nonequilibrium model are considered. Details for the present implementation of the turbulence models are given. Then, some numerical results are presented in Section 9. Different artificial dissipation schemes are compared on the basis of accuracy, convergence, and computational effort. In Section 10 some concluding remarks are made.

2 Mathematical Formulation

In this section we first define the integral form of the full Navier-Stokes equations. To complete the general mathematical formulation we then give boundary conditions for the infinite domain problem. In Section 3 we will discuss the discrete analogue of the full Navier-Stokes equations, and we will introduce the reduced form of these equations that is frequently solved in aerodynamic applications. Then, in Section 5 boundary conditions for the truncated (finite) domain problem will be given.

2.1 Equations

Let ρ, u, v, p, T, E, and H denote respectively the density, velocity components in the x and y Cartesian directions, pressure, temperature, specific total internal energy, and specific total enthalpy. The two-dimensional, unsteady Navier-Stokes equations, neglecting body forces and heat sources, can be written in conservative form in a Cartesian coordinate system as,

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t}\iint_{\mathcal{S}} \mathbf{W} d\mathcal{V} + \int_{\partial\mathcal{S}} \mathcal{F} \cdot \mathbf{n} d\mathcal{S} = 0, \tag{2.1.1}$$

where

$$\mathbf{W} = \begin{bmatrix} \rho \\ \rho u \\ \rho v \\ \rho E \end{bmatrix}, \qquad \mathcal{F} = \begin{bmatrix} \rho q \\ \rho u q + p e_x + \bar{\tau} \cdot e_x \\ \rho v q + p e_y + \bar{\tau} \cdot e_y \\ \rho H q + \bar{\tau} \cdot q - Q \end{bmatrix},$$

and

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathbf{q} &= u\mathbf{e}_x + v\mathbf{e}_y, \\
\bar{\tau} &= \sigma_x \mathbf{e}_x\mathbf{e}_x + \tau_{xy}\mathbf{e}_x\mathbf{e}_y + \tau_{yx}\mathbf{e}_y\mathbf{e}_x + \sigma_y\mathbf{e}_y\mathbf{e}_y, \\
\sigma_x &= -\lambda\left(\frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial v}{\partial y}\right) - 2\mu\frac{\partial u}{\partial x}, \\
\tau_{xy} &= \tau_{yx} = -\lambda\left(\frac{\partial u}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial v}{\partial x}\right), \\
\sigma_y &= -\lambda\left(\frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial v}{\partial y}\right) - 2\mu\frac{\partial v}{\partial y}, \\
\mathbf{Q} &= k\nabla T = k\left(\frac{\partial T}{\partial x}\mathbf{e}_x + \frac{\partial T}{\partial y}\mathbf{e}_y\right), \\
E &= e + \frac{1}{2}(u^2 + v^2), \\
H &= E + \frac{p}{\rho},
\end{aligned}$$

$\mathbf{e}_x$, $\mathbf{e}_y$ are unit vectors of the Cartesian coordinate system (x, y), and $\mathbf{n}$ is an outward pointing unit vector normal to the curve $\partial\mathcal{S}$ enclosing the region $\mathcal{S}$. In this paper, the working fluid is air, and it is assumed to be thermally and calorically perfect. That is, the equation of state is

$$p = \rho RT,$$

where $R = \bar{c}_p - \bar{c}_v$, and the specific heats $\bar{c}_p$, $\bar{c}_v$ are constant. The quantities μ and λ are the first and second coefficients of viscosity, respectively, and λ is taken to be $-\frac{2}{3}\mu$ (Stokes hypothesis). A simple power law or Sutherland's law can be used to determine the molecular viscosity coefficient μ. The coefficient of thermal conductivity (k) is evaluated using the constant Prandtl number assumption. The effect of turbulence is taken into account by using the eddy-viscosity hypothesis (see Section 8 on turbulence modeling).

2.2 Physical Boundary Conditions

In the continuum case we consider either an external or an internal flow problem defined for an infinite domain. Thus, we need to define appropriate conditions at wall boundaries, which we assume to be solid. Later, in the discrete case, we define finite domains. It will then be necessary to define suitable inflow and outflow boundary conditions.

For inviscid flows, the tangency (or nonpenetration) condition

$$\mathbf{q} \cdot \mathbf{n} = 0, \tag{2.2.1}$$

where $\mathbf{q}$ is the velocity vector and $\mathbf{n}$ is the unit vector normal to the surface, must be satisfied. Now, consider the vector momentum equation

$$\rho \frac{D\mathbf{q}}{Dt} = -\nabla p, \tag{2.2.2}$$

where $D\mathbf{q}/Dt$ denotes the substantial derivative of $\mathbf{q}$, and ∇ is the gradient operator. Clearly, along the surface boundary the substantial derivative of $\mathbf{q} \cdot \mathbf{n}$ must vanish. Therefore,

$$\rho \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial t} + \mathbf{q} \cdot \nabla \right) (\mathbf{q} \cdot \mathbf{n}) = 0. \tag{2.2.3}$$

If one subtracts the inner product of the unit normal and (2.2.2) from (2.2.3), then

$$\rho \mathbf{q} \cdot (\mathbf{q} \cdot \nabla) \mathbf{n} = \mathbf{n} \cdot \nabla p. \tag{2.2.4}$$

Now, consider the transformation

$$(x, y) \to (\xi, \eta),$$

taking $\eta(x, y) =$ constant to coincide with the surface boundary, and noting that the contravariant velocity component

$$V = -\frac{y_\xi}{J^{-1}} u + \frac{x_\xi}{J^{-1}} v$$

where the subscripts mean differentiation and J is the transformation Jacobian, is zero because of (2.2.1). Then, one obtains from (2.2.4) that

$$p_\eta = \frac{1}{\left(x_\xi^2 + y_\xi^2\right)} \left[(x_\xi x_\eta + y_\xi y_\eta) p_\xi + (y_\eta u - x_\eta v) (\rho v x_{\xi\xi} - \rho u y_{\xi\xi}) \right].$$

For viscous flows, the nonpenetration condition (2.2.1) and the no-slip condition

$$\mathbf{q} \cdot \mathbf{t} = 0,$$

where $\mathbf{t}$ is the unit vector tangent to the surface, must be satisfied. In addition, a boundary condition is required to determine the surface temperature. For this condition we either set the wall temperature to a specified value or we impose the adiabatic condition

$$\mathbf{Q} \cdot \mathbf{n} = 0,$$

where $\mathbf{Q}$ is the heat flux vector given in (2.1.1).

3 Spatial Discretization

A finite-volume approach is applied to discretize the equations of motion. The computational domain is divided into quadrilateral cells, fixed in time, and for each cell the governing equations can be nondimensionalized and written in integral form as follows:

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \iint_{\Omega} \mathbf{W} dx dy + \int_{\partial\Omega} (\mathbf{F} dy - \mathbf{G} dx) = \frac{\sqrt{\gamma} M}{Re} \int_{\partial\Omega} (\mathbf{F}_v dy - \mathbf{G}_v dx), \tag{3.1}$$

where Ω is a generic cell (or cell area) with $\partial\Omega$ its boundary. In the scaling factor for the viscous terms on the right hand side of (3.1), the quantities γ, M, and Re are the specific heat ratio, Mach number, and Reynolds number, respectively, with M and Re defined in terms of nominal conditions. These factors arise because of our choice of nondimensionalization of the equations. The flux vectors are defined by

$$\mathbf{F} = \begin{bmatrix} \rho u \\ \rho u^2 + p \\ \rho u v \\ \rho u H \end{bmatrix}, \qquad \mathbf{G} = \begin{bmatrix} \rho v \\ \rho u v \\ \rho v^2 + p \\ \rho v H \end{bmatrix},$$

and

$$\mathbf{F}_v = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ \sigma_x \\ \tau_{xy} \\ u\sigma_x + v\tau_{xy} - k\frac{\partial T}{\partial x} \end{bmatrix}, \qquad \mathbf{G}_v = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ \tau_{yx} \\ \sigma_y \\ u\tau_{yx} + v\sigma_y - k\frac{\partial T}{\partial y} \end{bmatrix}.$$

The independent variables x, y, and t are nondimensionalized as

$$x = \frac{\tilde{x}}{\tilde{l}_{\text{ref}}}, \qquad y = \frac{\tilde{y}}{\tilde{l}_{\text{ref}}}, \qquad t = \tilde{t}\,\frac{\tilde{u}_{\text{ref}}}{\tilde{l}_{\text{ref}}},$$

where $\tilde{u}_{\text{ref}} = \sqrt{\tilde{p}_{\text{ref}}/\tilde{\rho}_{\text{ref}}}$, and the tilde in this section means dimensional variable. Examples of a reference length are the chord for an airfoil and the throat height for a nozzle flow. The thermodynamic variables (p, ρ, T) and the transport coefficients (μ, k) are nondimensionalized by their corresponding quantity evaluated at some reference condition. The velocity