The discontinuous Galerkin method for the numerical simulation of compressible viscous flow

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Abstract. In this paper we deal with numerical simulation of the compressible viscous flow. The mathematical model of flow is represented by the system of non-stationary compressible Navier-Stokes equations. This system of equations is discretized by the discontinuous Galerkin finite element method in space and in time using piecewise polynomial discontinuous approximations. We present some numerical experiments to demonstrate the applicability of the method using own-developed code.

1 Introduction

During the last decade the discontinuous Galerkin finite element method (DGM), which is based on piecewise polynomial discontinuous approximations of the sought solution, became very popular in the field of numerical simulation of the fluid flow. In this paper we present the DGM for numerical simulation of compressible viscous flow around a moving airfoil. A solid airfoil with two degrees of freedom performs rotation around an elastic axis and oscillations in the vertical direction. Compressible viscous flow is described by the system of the Navier-Stokes equations. Due to the time dependent domain the Navier-Stokes equations in the vertical direction. Compressible viscous flow is described by the system of the Navier-Stokes equations. Due to the time dependent domain the Navier-Stokes equations are transformed in the ALE (Arbitrary Lagrangian-Eulerian) formulation. We consider two approaches to the discretization using the DGM, which differ in the time discretization. First we apply the backward difference formula (BDF) to approximate the ALE derivative. Second, the full space-time discontinuous Galerkin method (ST-DG) is employed. The discrete flow problem is coupled with the system of ordinary differential equations describing airfoil vibrations. Results of numerical simulation are presented.

2 ALE formulation of the Navier-Stokes equations

We consider compressible viscous flow in a bounded domain \( \Omega(t) \subset \mathbb{R}^d, d = 2, 3 \), depending on time \( t \in [0, T] \). We assume that the boundary \( \Omega(t) \) consists of three disjoint parts \( \partial \Omega(t) = \Gamma_I \cup \Gamma_O \cup \Gamma_W(t) \), where \( \Gamma_I \) is the inlet, \( \Gamma_O \) is the outlet and \( \Gamma_W(t) \) is impermeable wall, whose parts may move.

The time dependence of the domain is taken into account with the aid of a regular one–to–one ALE mapping \( A_t : \Omega(0) \rightarrow \Omega(t) \).

We define the ALE velocity \( z \) by the relations

\[
\begin{align*}
\tilde{z}(X, t) &= \frac{\partial}{\partial t} A_t(X), \quad t \in [0, T], X \in \Omega(0), \\
z(x, t) &= \tilde{z}(A_t^{-1}(x), t), \quad t \in [0, T], x \in \Omega(t)
\end{align*}
\]

and the ALE derivative of a vector function \( \mathbf{w} = \mathbf{w}(x, t) \) defined for \( x \in \Omega(t) \) and \( t \in [0, T] \):

\[
\frac{D^A}{Dt} \mathbf{w}(x, t) = \frac{\partial \mathbf{w}}{\partial t}(X, t),
\]

where

\[
\mathbf{w}(X, t) = \mathbf{w}(A_t(X), t), \quad X \in \Omega(0), \quad x = A_t(X).
\]

Then the system of the Navier-Stokes equations describing the compressible viscous flow can be written in the ALE form

\[
\frac{D^A \mathbf{w}}{Dt} + \sum_{i=1}^{2} \frac{\partial g_i(\mathbf{w})}{\partial x_i} + \mathbf{w} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{w} = \sum_{i=1}^{2} \frac{\partial R_i(\mathbf{w}, \nabla \mathbf{w})}{\partial x_i},
\]

where for \( i, j = 1, \ldots, d \) we have

\[
\begin{align*}
\mathbf{w} &= (w_1, \ldots, w_{d+2})^T = (\rho, \rho v_1, \ldots, \rho v_d, E)^T \in \mathbb{R}^{d+2}, \\
f(\mathbf{w}) &= (f_{i,1}, \ldots, f_{i,d+2})^T \\
&= (\rho v_i, \rho v_i v_1 + \delta_{i1} p, \ldots, \rho v_i v_d + \delta_{i1} p, (E + p) v_i)^T, \\
g(\mathbf{w}) &= f(\mathbf{w}) - z_i \mathbf{w}, \\
R_i(\mathbf{w}, \nabla \mathbf{w}) &= (R_{1i}, \ldots, R_{di,2})^T \\
&= (0, \tau_{1i}^V, \ldots, \tau_{di}^V, \sum_{j=1}^{d} \tau_{ij}^V v_j + k \frac{\partial \theta}{\partial x_i})^T,
\end{align*}
\]

\[
\tau_{ij}^V = \Lambda \text{div} \mathbf{v} \delta_{ij} + 2 \mu \mathbf{d}_{ij}(v), \quad \mathbf{d}_{ij}(v) = \frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{\partial v_i}{\partial x_j} + \frac{\partial v_j}{\partial x_i} \right).
\]

We use the following notation: \( \mathbf{v} = (v_1, \ldots, v_d) \) - velocity, \( \rho \) - density, \( p \) - pressure, \( \theta \) - absolute temperature, \( E \) - total energy, \( \gamma \) - Poisson adiabatic constant, \( c_s \) - specific heat at constant volume, \( \mu > 0, \Lambda = -2\mu/3 \) - viscosity coefficients, \( k \) - heat conduction coefficient. The above system is completed by the thermodynamical relations

\[
p = (\gamma - 1)(E - \frac{\rho w^2}{2}), \quad \theta = \frac{1}{c_s} \left( \frac{E}{\rho} - \frac{1}{2} |w|^2 \right)
\]

and is equipped with the initial condition

\[
\mathbf{w}(x, 0) = \mathbf{w}^0(x), \quad x \in \Omega(0),
\]

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Further, we introduce the set of boundary faces \( \mathcal{F}_\Gamma \). The matrices \( \mathcal{R}_s(w, \nabla w) \) can be expressed in the form

\[
\mathcal{R}_s(w, \nabla w) = \sum_{k=1}^{d} K_{s,k}(w) \frac{\partial w}{\partial x_k}, \quad s = 1, \ldots, d,
\]

where \( K_{s,k}(w) \in \mathbb{R}^{(d+2)(d+2)} \) are matrices depending on \( w \). Expression of the matrices \( K_{s,k}(w) \) can be found in [3].

### 3 Discretization

#### 3.1 Space discretization of the flow problem

By \( \Omega(t) \) we denote polygonal (d=2) or polyhedral (d=3) approximation of the domain \( \Omega(t) \). Let \( \mathcal{T}_h(t) \) be a partition of the domain \( \Omega(t) \) into finite number of closed elements with mutually disjoint interiors such that \( \overline{\Omega}(t) = \bigcup_{K \in \mathcal{T}_h(t)} K \). In 2D problems, we usually choose \( K \in \mathcal{T}_h(t) \) as triangles or quadrilaterals. In 3D, \( K \in \mathcal{T}_h(t) \) can be, e.g., tetrahedrons, prisms or hexahedrons. By \( \mathcal{F}_h(t) \) we denote the system of all faces of all elements \( K \in \mathcal{T}_h(t) \). Further, we introduce the set of boundary faces \( \mathcal{F}^B_h(t) = \{ \Gamma \in \mathcal{F}_h(t) : \Gamma \subset \partial \Omega_h(t) \} \) and the set of inner faces \( \mathcal{F}^I_h(t) = \mathcal{F}_h(t) \setminus \mathcal{F}^B_h(t) \). Each \( \Gamma \in \mathcal{F}_h(t) \) is associated with a unit normal vector \( n_\Gamma \). If \( \Gamma \in \mathcal{F}^B_h(t) \) the normal \( n_\Gamma \) has the same orientation as the outer normal to \( \partial \Omega_h(t) \). For each \( \Gamma \in \mathcal{F}_h(t) \) there exist two neighbouring elements \( K_\Gamma^1, K_\Gamma^2 \in \mathcal{T}_h(t) \) such that \( \Gamma \subset \partial K_\Gamma^1 \cap \partial K_\Gamma^2 \). We use the convention that \( K_\Gamma^1 \) lies in the direction of \( n_\Gamma \) and \( K_\Gamma^2 \) lies in the opposite direction to \( n_\Gamma \). If \( \Gamma \in \mathcal{F}^B_h(t) \), then the element adjacent to \( \Gamma \) will be denoted by \( K_\Gamma^* \).

We shall look for an approximate solution of the problem in the space of piecewise polynomial functions

\[
S^p_h(t) = (S^p_h(t))^{d+2}, \quad S^p_h(t) = \{v ; v|_K \in P^p(K), \forall K \in \mathcal{T}_h(t) \},
\]

where \( p > 0 \) is an integer and \( P^p(K) \) denotes the space of all polynomials on \( K \) of degree \( \leq p \). A function \( \Phi \in S^p_h(t) \) is, in general, discontinuous on interfaces \( \Gamma \in \mathcal{F}^B_h(t) \). By \( \Phi_\Gamma^+ \) and \( \Phi_\Gamma^- \) we denote the values of \( \Phi \) on \( \Gamma \) considered from the interior and of the exterior of \( K_\Gamma^* \), respectively, and set

\[
\langle \Phi \rangle_\Gamma = \frac{1}{2} (\Phi_\Gamma^+ + \Phi_\Gamma^-), \quad [\Phi]_\Gamma = \Phi_\Gamma^+ - \Phi_\Gamma^-,
\]

which denotes average and jump of \( \Phi \) on \( \Gamma \).

The discrete problem is derived in the following way: For arbitrary \( t \in [0, T] \) we can multiply the system by a test function \( S^p_h(t) \), integrate over \( K \in \mathcal{T}_h(t) \), apply Green’s theorem, sum over all elements \( K \in \mathcal{T}_h(t) \), use the concept of the numerical flux and introduce suitable terms mutually vanishing for a regular exact solution. Moreover, we carry out a suitable partial linearization of nonlinear terms. In order to evaluate the integrals over \( \Gamma \in \mathcal{F}^B_h(t) \) in inviscid term we use the approximation

\[
\int_{\Gamma} H(w_f^\Gamma, w_f^\Gamma, n_f) \, dS = \int_{\Gamma} \sum_{s=1}^{d} \Phi_s(w_f)(n_f)_s \, dS,
\]

where \( H \) is a numerical flux. For the construction of the numerical flux we use the properties (2) of \( \mathcal{F}_s \). Let us define the matrix

\[
P(w, n) := \sum_{s=1}^{d} (\mathcal{A}_s(w) - z_s I) n_s,
\]

where \( n = (n_1, \ldots, n_d), \quad n_1^2 + \ldots + n_d^2 = 1 \). Then we have

\[
P(w, n)w := \sum_{s=1}^{d} g_s(w) n_s.
\]

It is possible to show that the matrix \( P \) is diagonalizable. It means that there exists a nonsingular matrix \( T = T(w, n) \) and a diagonal matrix \( \Lambda = \Lambda(w, n) \) such that

\[
P = T \Lambda T^{-1}, \quad \Lambda = \text{diag}(\lambda_1, \ldots, \lambda_d),
\]

where \( \lambda_i = \lambda_i(w, n) \) are eigenvalues of the matrix \( P \). Then we can define the "positive" and "negative" parts of the matrix \( P \) by

\[
P^+ = T \Lambda^+ T^{-1}, \quad \Lambda^+ = \text{diag}(\lambda_1^+ , \ldots, \lambda_d^+),
\]

where \( \lambda_1^+ = \max(\lambda, 0), \lambda_- = \text{min}(\lambda, 0) \). Using this concept, we introduce the so-called Vijayasundaram numerical flux

\[
H(w^L, w^R, n) = P^+ \left( \frac{w^L + w^R}{2}, n \right) w^L + P^- \left( \frac{w^L + w^R}{2}, n \right) w^R.
\]

This numerical flux has suitable form for a linearization. Now we can define inviscid form in the following way:

\[
b_h(\bar{w}_h, w_h, \Phi_h, t) := \sum_{K \in \mathcal{T}_h(t)} \left( \sum_{s=1}^{d} (\mathcal{A}_s(\bar{w}_h) - z_s(t) I) w_h \right) \frac{\partial \Phi_h}{\partial x_s} \ dx
\]

\[
- \sum_{K \in \mathcal{T}_h(t)} \left( \sum_{s=1}^{d} (\mathcal{A}_s(\bar{w}_h) - z_s(t) I) w_h \right) \frac{\partial \Phi_h}{\partial x_s} \ dx
\]
where the coeﬃcients \( a_i, l = 0, ..., q \), depend on \( \tau_{m-l}, l = 0, ..., q - 1 \). In the case \( m < q \) we set \( q := m \). For the nonlinear parts of the forms we employ the extrapolation \( \tilde{w}_h^m \):

\[
\tilde{w}_h^m = \sum_{i=1}^{q} \beta_i \tilde{w}_h^{m-i},
\]

where the coeﬃcients \( \beta_i, l = 1, ..., q \), depend on \( \tau_{m-l}, l = 0, ..., q - 1 \). In the case \( m < q \) we set \( q := m \). Expression of the coeﬃcients \( a_i, \beta_l \) of order \( q \leq 3 \) can be found in [1] or [2]. Finally, we set

\[
(\varphi, \psi) = \int_{\Omega(t)} \varphi \psi \, dx.
\]

We say that the function \( w_h^m \in S_h^m(t_m) \) is the approximate solution of the problem (1) obtained by the BDF method,
if it satisfies the conditions
\[
\begin{align*}
\left( a_0 w_h^0 + \sum_{l=1}^{q} a_l w_h^{m-1}, \Phi_l \right)_t + \left( (z(t_m) \cdot \nabla) w_h^0, \Phi_h \right)_{t_m} \\
+ a_0(h^0_w, w_h^0, \Phi_h, t_m) + b_0(h_w^m, w_h^m, \Phi_h, t_m) \\
+ \beta_0(h_w^m, w_h^m, \Phi_h, t_m) + \beta 0(h_w^m, w_h^m, \Phi_h, t_m) \\
= l_0(h_w^m, \Phi_h, t_m) \quad \forall \Phi_h \in S_h^p(t_m),
\end{align*}
\]
where \( w_h^0 \) is \( S_h^p(t_0) \)-approximation of \( w^0 \).

### 3.3 Full space-time DGM discretization

Another way how to construct a method of high-order accuracy both in space and time is the full space-time discontinuous Galerkin (ST-DG) method. We again consider a partition \( 0 = t_0 < t_1 < \ldots < t_M = T \) of the interval \([0, T]\) and denote \( I_m = (t_{m-1}, t_m), t_m = t_{m-1} - 1 \) for \( m = 1, \ldots, M \). We define the space \( S_{h,T}^{p,q} = (S_{h,T}^p)^{\otimes q} \), where
\[
S_{h,T}^{p,q} := \left\{ \Phi : \Phi|_{I_m} = \sum_{i=0}^{q} \zeta_i \phi_i, \quad \text{where} \quad \phi_i \in S_h^p(I_m) \right\},
\]
with integers \( p, q \geq 1 \). \( S_h^p(I_m) \) denotes the space of all polynomials in \( t \) on \( I_m \) of degree \( \leq q \). Moreover for \( \Phi \in \mathbb{S}_{h,T}^{p,q} \) we introduce the following notation:
\[
\Phi^m = \Phi(t_m^c) = \lim_{t \to t_m^-} \Phi(t), \quad \{\Phi\}_m = \Phi^m - \Phi^m_{m-1}.
\]
Approximate solution \( \Phi_{ht} \) of the problem will be sought in the space \( \mathbb{S}_{h,T}^{p,q} \). Since the functions of this space are in general discontinuous in time, we ensure the connection between \( I_{m-1} \) and \( I_m \) by the penalty term in time
\[
\{(w_{ht})|_{I_{m-1}}, \Phi_{ht}(t_{m-1})\}_{t_{m-1}}.
\]
The initial state \( w_{hr} \) is included by the \( \mathbb{L}_2(Q_h(t_0)) \)-projection of \( w^0 \) on \( S_h^p(t_0) \):
\[
(w_{hr}(t_0), \Phi_{hr}(t_0))_{t_0} = (w^0, \Phi_{hr}(t_0))_{t_0} \quad \forall \Phi_{ht} \in \mathbb{S}_{h,T}^{p,q}.
\]
Similary as in Section 3.2 we introduce a suitable linearization.

1) We put \( w_{ht}(t) := w_{ht}(t_{m-1}) \) for \( t \in I_m \).
2) We prolong the solution from the time interval \( I_{m-1} \) to the time interval \( I_m \).

We say that a function \( w_{hr} \in \mathbb{S}_{h,T}^{p,q} \) is an approximate solution of the problem (1) obtained by the ST-DG method, if it satisfies the following conditions
\[
\begin{align*}
\sum_{m=1}^{M} \int_{I_m} \left( \frac{D^2 w_{ht}}{Dt^2}, \Phi_{ht} \right)_t + \left( (z(t) \cdot \nabla) w_{ht}, \Phi_{ht} \right)_{t_m} \\
+ \sum_{m=1}^{M} \int_{I_m} (a_0 h_w^m, w_{ht}^m, \Phi_{ht}, t_m) + b_0 h_w^m, w_{ht}^m, \Phi_{ht}, t_m) \\
+ \sum_{m=1}^{M} \int_{I_m} (\beta_0 h_w^m, w_{ht}^m, \Phi_{ht}, t_m) + \beta_0 h_w^m, w_{ht}^m, \Phi_{ht}, t_m) \\
= \int_{I_m} l_0 h_w^m, \Phi_{ht}, t_m) \quad \forall \Phi_{ht} \in \mathbb{S}_{h,T}^{p,q}.
\end{align*}
\]

### 3.4 Equations for the moving airfoil

We shall simulate the motion of a profile in 2D with two degrees of freedom: \( H \) - displacement of the profile in the vertical direction (positively oriented downwards) and \( \alpha \) - the rotation of the profile around the so-called elastic axis (positively oriented clockwise), see Figure 1. The motion of the profile is described by the system of ordinary differential equations
\[
\begin{align*}
m\ddot{H} + S_\alpha \ddot{\alpha} + k_H H &= -L(t), \\
S_a \ddot{H} + I_a \ddot{\alpha} + k_\alpha \alpha &= M(t),
\end{align*}
\]
where we use the following notation: \( m \) - mass of the airfoil, \( L(t) \) - aerodynamic lift force, \( M(t) \) - aerodynamic torsional moment, \( S_\alpha \) - static moment of the airfoil around the elastic axis (EA), \( k_{H} \) - bending stiffness, \( k_{\alpha} \) - torsional stiffness. We define \( L(t) \) and \( M(t) \) by the terms
\[
\begin{align*}
L(t) := -l \int_{J_n(t)} \sum_{j=1}^{2} \tau_{ij} \rho_j \ dS, \\
M(t) := l \int_{J_n(t)} \sum_{j=1}^{2} \tau_{ij} \rho_j (-\frac{1}{2}) \left( x_{1+\delta_j} - x_{1+\delta_j}^{EA} \right) dS,
\end{align*}
\]
where \( l \) is the depth of the airfoil, \( x_{1+\delta_j} \) are the coordinates of the elastic axis, and \( \tau_{ij} := -p_{ij} \) and \( \tau_{ij}^{EA} \) are the components of the stress tensor. For the derivation of the system (4), see e.g. [5].

The system (4) is transformed to a first-order system and solved by the fourth-order Runge-Kutta method together with the discrete flow problem.

### 4 Numerical experiments

We performed numerical simulations in 2D for the profile NACA0012 with the following data and initial conditions: \( m = 0.086622 \) kg, \( S_a = -0.00779673 \) kg m,
The constants in the artificial viscosity forms were set as $k_{\nu} = 0.000487291$ kg m$^{-2}$ s$^{-1}$, $k_{\alpha\alpha} = 3.696682$ N m rad$^{-1}$, $\mu = 1.72 \cdot 10^{-3}$ kg m$^{-1}$ s$^{-1}$, far-field pressure $p = 101250$ Pa, airfoil depth $l = 0.05$ m, airfoil length $c = 0.3$ m, far-field density $\rho = 1.225$ kg m$^{-3}$, Poisson adiabatic constant $\gamma = 1.4$, specific heat $c_v = 721.428$ m$^2$ s$^{-2}$ K$^{-1}$, heat conduction coefficient $k = 2.428 \cdot 10^{-2}$ kg m$^{-1}$ s$^{-1}$ K$^{-1}$, $H(0) = -20$ mm, $\alpha(0) = 6^\circ$, $\dot{H}(0) = \dot{\alpha}(0) = 0$. For all numerical simulations we chose symmetric version of the viscous term (SIPG), the parameter $C_W = 500$ for all $\Gamma \in F_0(t)$ except for $\Gamma \subset F_1(t)$, where we set $C_W = 5000$. The constants in the artificial viscosity forms were set $v_1 = v_2 = 0.1$. The time step was chosen $\tau = 0.003299 \cdot \max(\nu, \dot{\nu})$, where $\nu, \dot{\nu}$ is the far-field velocity. We employed quadratic polynomials ($p=2$) for the space discretization. In the case of the BDF we used the second order approximation for the time discretization (BDF-p2q2). In the case of the ST-DG we used linear polynomials in time (ST-DG-p2q1). Far-field-velocity was chosen 20 m s$^{-1}$ and 40 m s$^{-1}$. In this cases Reynolds number is between $10^5$ and $10^6$. Figures 2-5 show the computed displacement and rotation of the profile obtained by both methods.

At the end we present an example of high-speed flow for far-field velocity 680 m s$^{-1}$ and Reynolds number $10^7$. In this case we left the data and initial conditions the same except bending stiffness and torsional stiffness which were chosen 1000 times higher. Figures 6-7 show the displacement and rotation of the profile obtained only by ST-DG, because for this regimes the BDF method became unstable. Figures 8 and 9 display distribution of the Mach number and pressure at time instant $t = 0.00087$s.

5 Conclusion

In this paper we dealt with the discontinuous Galerkin method for the numerical solution of compressible viscous flow. The applicability of the proposed method was demonstrated on the example of interaction of compressible viscous flow and a moving airfoil. Subject for the further work is including a turbulence model into the method.

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Fig. 8. The distribution of the Mach number at $t = 0.00087 \text{s}$ for far-field velocity $680 \text{ms}^{-1}$.

Fig. 9. The distribution of the pressure related to the quantity $\rho_\infty |u_\infty|^2$, where $\rho_\infty$ and $u_\infty$ mean far-field density and far-field velocity, at $t = 0.00087 \text{s}$ for far-field velocity $680 \text{ms}^{-1}$.

References