

# Time Accurate Methods in CFD

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*"Since time accurate solutions are expensive, steady solutions may be greeted  
as successes whether they are correct or not.*

*...on no account should the model be trusted to predict the transition points ...  
responsibility rests with the user ... through an educated guess." - P. Spalart*

Time Accuracy  $\begin{cases} = & \text{Extending predictability horizon} \\ \neq & \text{Estimates} \end{cases} \quad ||\text{error}|| \leq C(u)e^{\alpha t_n} k^2$

- Initialization (spinup), Model calibration & Legacy codes
- Newtonian indeterminacy, uncertainty & ensembles
- Time adaptivity
- Computational, Space & Cognitive complexity

Method from 1960's:

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{u^{n+1} - u^n}{k} + u^* \cdot \nabla u^{n+1} - \nu \Delta u^{n+1} + \nabla p^{n+1} &= f^{n+1} \\ \varepsilon \frac{p^{n+1} - p^n}{k} + \nabla \cdot u^{n+1} &= 0\end{aligned}$$

Solve for  $u$  then Update  $p$

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{u^{n+1} - u^n}{k} + u^* \cdot \nabla u^{n+1} - \frac{k}{\varepsilon} \nabla \nabla \cdot u^{n+1} - \nu \Delta u^{n+1} &= f^{n+1} - \nabla p^n \\ \text{Then: } p^{n+1} &= p^n - \frac{k}{\varepsilon} \nabla \cdot u^{n+1}\end{aligned}$$

Classic Theorem: Stable, Convergent, Error =  $O(\varepsilon + k)$  so take  $\varepsilon = k$

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1960's - 2018: little progress on

Higher Order, Variable Timestep, Time-Adaptive  
Methods

Time Accurate  $\overset{\Rightarrow}{AC}$  Methods elusive

The problem: Variable  $k$  &  $\varepsilon \Rightarrow$  Energy Input

$$\begin{aligned} u_t - \nu \Delta u + \nabla p = 0 \quad \& \quad \boldsymbol{\varepsilon}(\mathbf{t}) p_t + \nabla \cdot u = 0 \\ \Rightarrow \\ \frac{d}{dt} \frac{1}{2} \int |u|^2 + \varepsilon(t) p^2 dx + \int \nu |\nabla u|^2 dx = \dot{\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}}(\mathbf{t}) \int p^2 dx \quad (= \text{Energy Input!}) \end{aligned}$$

Resolution:

$$\frac{\varepsilon_{n+1} p^{n+1} - \hat{\varepsilon} p^n}{k_{n+1}} + \nabla \cdot u^{n+1} = 0$$

$$\text{where } \hat{\varepsilon} = \begin{cases} \sqrt{\varepsilon_n \varepsilon_{n+1}} \\ \text{or} \\ \min\{\varepsilon_n, \varepsilon_{n+1}\} \end{cases}$$

Thm. [w McLaughlin & Ming Chen] Stable, Model Convergence:

$$u_\varepsilon \rightarrow u_{NSE} \quad \& \quad p_\varepsilon \rightarrow p_{NSE} \text{ as } \varepsilon(t) \rightarrow 0 \quad \& \quad \dot{\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}}(\mathbf{t}) \rightarrow \mathbf{0}$$

IDEA: Double Adaptivity [w Michael McLaughlin]

$$\text{LTE}(p \text{ eqn}) = \mathcal{O}(\varepsilon) + \dots$$

&

$$\text{LTE}(u \text{ eqn}) = \mathcal{O}(k) + \dots$$

$$\text{Adapt } \begin{cases} \varepsilon \text{ based on } \mathbf{EST}_p = \|\nabla \cdot u\| \\ k \text{ based on time filters} \end{cases}$$

$\mathbf{EST}_u$  from Time Filters [BIT 2016]:

$$\frac{y^{n+1} - y^n}{k} = f(t_{n+1}, y^{n+1}),$$

$$y^{n+1} \leftarrow y^{n+1} - \frac{\alpha}{2} \{ y^{n+1} - 2y^n + y^{n-1} \} \equiv \mathcal{F}(y^{n+1})$$

**Thm.** [w Guzel]  $\alpha = \frac{2}{3} \Rightarrow A\text{-stable, } O(k^2) \text{ and estimator}$

$$EST = \|y_{post-\mathcal{F}}^{n+1} - y_{pre-\mathcal{F}}^{n+1}\|$$

## Double $\varepsilon, k$ Adaptive Algorithm

**Initialize:**

$$\begin{aligned}\hat{\varepsilon} &= \sqrt{\varepsilon_n \varepsilon_{n+1}} \text{ or } \min\{\varepsilon_n, \varepsilon_{n+1}\} \\ u^* &= \left(1 + \frac{k_{n+1}}{k_n}\right) u^n - \frac{k_{n+1}}{k_n} u^{n-1}\end{aligned}$$

**I. Solve for  $u^{n+1}$**

$$\frac{u^{n+1} - u^n}{k_{n+1}} + u^* \cdot \nabla u^{n+1} - \frac{k_{n+1}}{\varepsilon_{n+1}} \nabla \nabla \cdot u^{n+1} - \nu \Delta u^{n+1} = f^{n+1} - \frac{\hat{\varepsilon}}{\varepsilon_{n+1}} \nabla p^n$$

**II. Time Filter**  $u^{n+1} \Leftarrow \mathcal{F}(u^{n+1})$  & Estimate:

$$\begin{aligned}EST_m &= ||u_{post}^{n+1} - u_{pre}^{n+1}|| \\ EST_c &= ||\nabla \cdot u^{n+1}||\end{aligned}$$

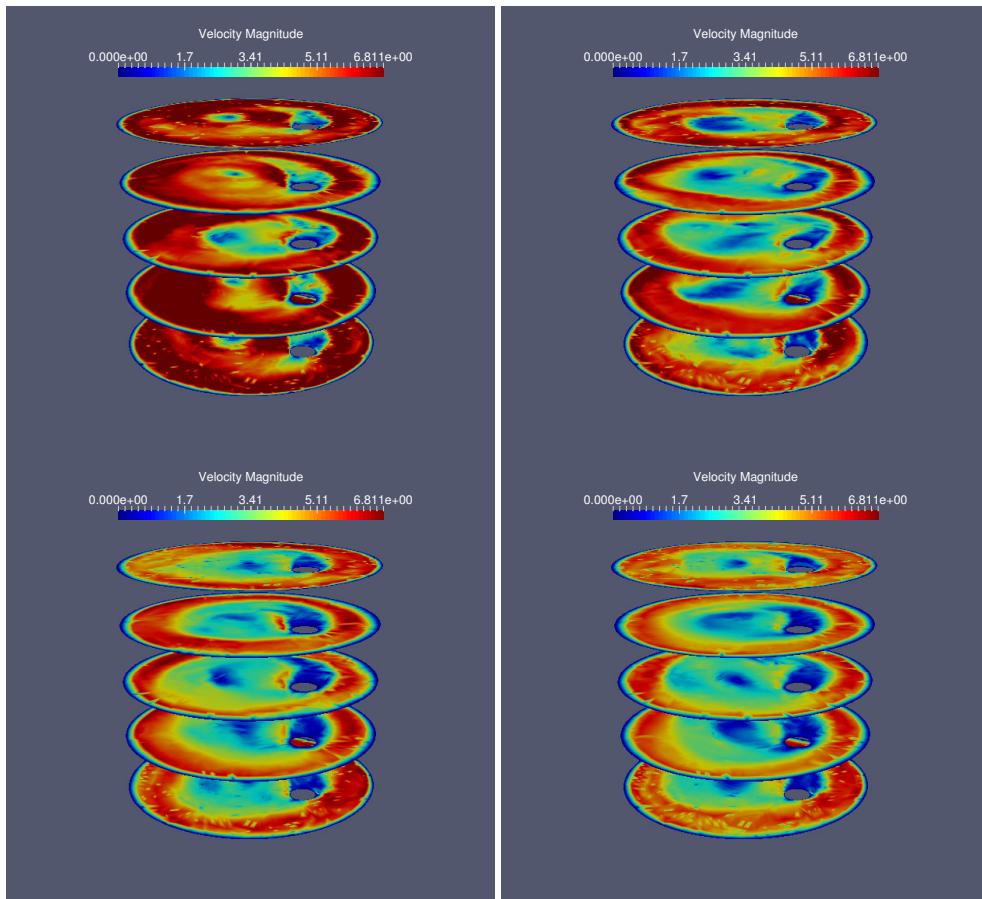
**III. Decision tree:** Adapt  $\varepsilon, k$

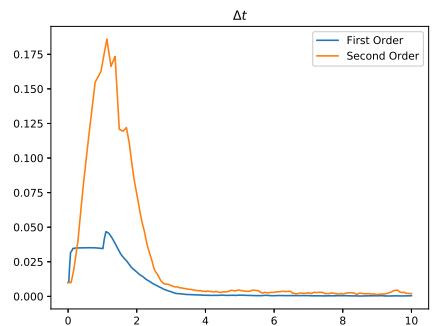
EST too Big? EST too Small? EST just Right?

**IV. Update:**

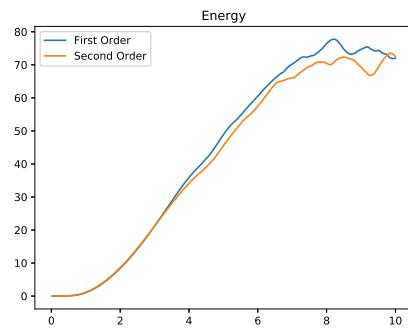
$$p^{n+1} = \frac{\hat{\varepsilon}}{\varepsilon_{n+1}} p^n - \frac{k_{n+1}}{\varepsilon_{n+1}} \nabla \cdot u^{n+1}$$

Offset cylinder problem

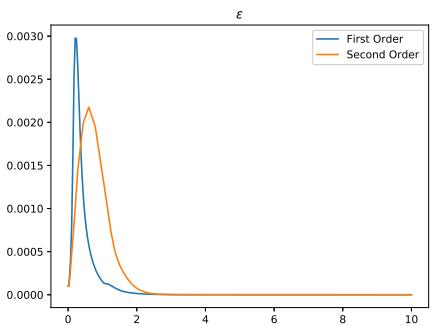




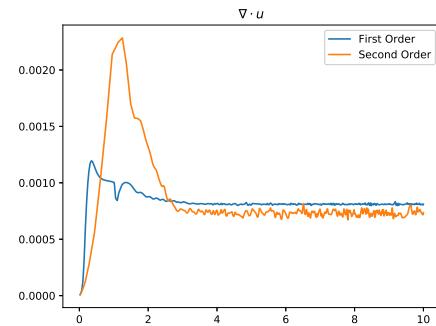
timestep evolution



energy evolution



$\varepsilon$  evolution



$\|\nabla \cdot u\|$  evolution

Onwards!

Higher order + Adaptive + AC + Ensembles



Extend the predictability horizon of turbulent  
flows