

DIRECT FEM-SIMULATION OF TURBULENT FLOW

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Abstract. Turbulent fluid flow has been considered as the main unsolved problem of classical mechanics beyond theoretical description and also beyond computational simulation, because of thin no-slip boundary layers requiring trillions of mesh points to be resolved. In recent work we have discovered that using a slip boundary condition as a model of the small skin friction of slightly viscous turbulent flow, allows predictive simulation of mean value quantities such as drag and lift of turbulent flow with instead millions of mesh points. Basic aspects of turbulent flow from applications point of view thus show to be computable by stabilized finite element methods without turbulence modeling referred to as Direct FEM-Simulation, which opens large areas for exploration. As a key example the turbulent flow around a wing and complete airplane is computable and inspecting the solutions leads to a new theory flight essentially different from the accepted theory by Kutta-Zhukovsky-Prandtl developed 100 years ago.

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