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OpenFOAM workshop for beginners: Hands-on training

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 Session 1:
 31st May 2016
 (09:00 - 12:00)

 Session 2:
 3rd June 2016
 (10:00 - 13:00)

Introduction



3 Simulations





6 Conclusions

Introduction



3 Simulations

Programming

Hands-on training session

Conclusions

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Contents o	of this section				

We will look at the following:

- 1. My background. (page 5)
- 2. What is this workshop about? (page 6)
- 3. Introduction to **OpenFOAM** (page 8)

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1.1 My background					
Experience	in computationa	al mechanics			

Year	Торіс	Software	Institution
[2009]	CFD and experimental study of flow over cylindrical fins.	FLUENT	NUST
[2012]	Numerical simulation of sloshing phenomena in complex tanks.	FLOW-3D	Universität Stuttgart & DLR
[2013]	Modeling of phase change phenomena through a liquid-vapor interface in microgravity.	OpenFOAM	Universität Stuttgart & DLR
[2014]	A first order hyperbolic framework for large strain computational solid dynamics.	OpenFOAM	Swansea University & UPC



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1.2 OpenFOAM workshop							
Introduction	1						

Please login to your workstations.

Non-LaCaN members:

Username : course* * = 1, 2, 3....

Passwords : OpenFOAM2016

Open the terminal (CTRL + ALT + T).

Terminal is a program that opens a window that lets you interact with the shell.

Course material is located at /lordvader/courses/OpenFoam/.

Open a copy of this presentation:

<< evince /lordvader/courses/OpenFoam/presentation/presentation.pdf &

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1.2 OpenFOAM wo	orkshop				
Introduction	1				

Objectives of this course:

- 1. Introduce the basics of OpenFOAM.
- 2. Signify the advantages of using OpenFOAM.
- 3. Utilise the power of linux by extensive use of shell commands.
- 4. By the end of the course, candidates should be able to run OpenFOAM simulations.

Desirable traits

- Basic level of programming in C++.
- Familiarization with Linux interface.
- Fundamentals of Computational Fluid Dynamics (CFD).

During the workshop we will be using:

- OpenFOAM (Version 2.4.0).
- ParaView (Version 4.1.0).

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1.3 Preliminaries					
Disclaimer					

"This offering is not approved or endorsed by OpenCFD Limited, producer and distributor of the OpenFOAM software and owner of the OPENFOAM® and OpenCFD® trade marks."

Summary

- An open source software package
- Developed by OpenCFD Ltd at ESI Group
- Released under the GNU General Public License [link]
- Abbreviation of Open Field Operation And Manipulation
- An efficient library of C++ modules
- Based on the cell centered Finite Volume Method
- Extensive CFD and Multi-physics capabilities
- Under active development [OpenFOAM Extend Project]









OpenFOAM is a C++ library of highest quality of programming for solving computational continuum mechanics problems utilising all the features of Objected Oriented Programming (**OOP**).

Key features of OOP

- Abstraction
- Inheritance
- Polymorphism

Objects of different classes respond differently to functions of the same name. Also includes operator overloading.

Template metaprogramming

- C++ provides template classes.
- · General features of the template class are passed on to any other class created from it.
- Therefore it reduces code duplication.

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1.3 Preliminaries					
Why Openf	OAM?				

		OpenFOAM	Commercial Softwares (ANSYS, ABAQUS etc.)
1.	Cost	\checkmark	×
2.	Parallel computing	\checkmark	\checkmark
3.	Source code	\checkmark	×
4.	Redistribution of code	\checkmark	×
5.	Collaborative development	\checkmark	×
6.	Documentation	×	\checkmark
7.	GUI & user friendliness	×	\checkmark

✓ Motivates collaborative and project-driven development.

✓ According to the GNU GPL v3, OpenFOAM is free to download, install, use, modify and distribute.

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1.3 Preliminaries					
Developme	nt of OpenFOA	М			

1989	Project was initially started under the title of FOAM at Imperial college, London. The idea was to create a simulation platform more powerful than FORTRAN. Due to its object oriented features C++ was chosen as the programming language.
10 th Dec 2004	OpenCFD Ltd was founded and first version (v 1.0) of OpenFOAM was released under the GNU GPL license.
8 th Aug 2011	OpenCFD was acquired by Silicon Graphics International (SGI).
15 th Aug 2012	OpenCFD became a wholly owned subsidiary of ESI group.
15 th Dec 2015	OpenFOAM v3.0.1 was released.

- Henry Weller and Hrvoje Jasak are the main contributors to its development.
- OPENFOAM® is a registered trade mark of OpenCFD Limited, producer and distributor of the OpenFOAM software.



Installation:

- OpenFOAM website [http://www.openfoam.org/download/]
- OpenFOAM wiki [https://openfoamwiki.net/index.php/Installation]

References:

- OpenFOAM user guide [http://www.openfoam.org/docs/]
- OpenFOAM programmer's guide [http://www.openfoam.org/docs/]
- Source code [http://www.openfoam.org/docs/cpp/]
- Book [The OpenFOAM technology primer]
- Research article

[A tensorial approach to computational continuum mechanics using object-oriented techniques]

✓ Plenty of free material available on the web (tutorials, reports, thesis etc).





Other opensource

Commercial

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1.3 Preliminaries					
Convention	s used for this p	presentation			

OpenFOAM terminologies: OpenFOAM_terminology

OpenFOAM command for applications: *OpenFOAM_application*

Commands on terminal:

<< command_name



Load **OpenFOAM** environment every time you use it.

Load OpenFOAM module:

<< source /opt/openfoam240/etc/bashrc

Load pyFoam library:

- << export PYTHONPATH=/opt/python/lib/python2.7/site-packages:\$PYTHONPATH
- << export PATH=/opt/python/bin:\$PATH

Alternatively for regular OpenFOAM use, edit your bashrc file.

Open bashrc file:

<< gedit \sim /.bashrc

Add the following at the end of the file:

- source /opt/openfoam240/etc/bashrc
- export PYTHONPATH=/opt/python/lib/python2.7/site-packages:\$PYTHONPATH
- export PATH=/opt/python/bin:\$PATH



Environment variables are preconfigured to important OpenFOAM directories.

Environment variables beginning with FOAM_:

<< env | grep ^FOAM_

Aliases make use of environment variables to navigate inside OpenFOAM sources.

Definition of aliases:

<< less -N \$WM_PROJECT_DIR/etc/config/aliases.sh

Scheme of presentation





Contents of this section

We will look at the following:

- 1. Installation directory structure. (page 20)
- 2. User's working directory. (page 23)
- 3. Application directory structure. (page 24)
- 4. Solvers in OpenFOAM. (page 25)
- 5. Utilities in **OpenFOAM**. (page 30)



1. applications:

alias: app = 'cd \$FOAM_APP'.

This directory contains the source files of all the executables created using the C++ libraries. It contains the following directories:

1.1 solvers:

alias: *sol* = 'cd \$FOAM_SOLVERS'. Source code to solve a particular continuum mechanics problem.

1.2 test:

Sample codes to help understand the usage of OpenFOAM libraries.

1.3 Utilities:

alias: util = 'cd \$FOAM_UTILITIES'.

Source code to perform pre- and post-processing tasks involving data manipulation and algebraic manipulations.



2. tutorials:

alias: *tut* = 'cd \$FOAM_TUTORIALS'. Contains tutorials that demonstrate the usage of all solvers and most of the utilities.

3. src:

alias: src = 'cd \$FOAM_SRC'.

It contains several subdirectories which include the source code for all libraries. The important folders are:

3.1 finiteVolume:

alias: *foamfv* = 'cd \$FOAM_SRC/finiteVolume'. Includes classes for finite volume space/time discretisation, boundary conditions etc.

3.2 OpenFOAM:

This core library includes important definitions.

3.3 turbulenceModels:

Contains libraries for turbulence models.





4. bin:

This directory contains shell scripts such as *paraFoam*, *foamLog* etc.

5. doc:

It contains all the documentation relevant to the version of **OpenFOAM** including:

- 5.1 User and Programmer's guides
- 5.2 Doxygen generated documentation
- 5.3 OpenFOAM coding style guide
- 6. etc:

It contains global OpenFOAM dictionaries and setup files.

7. platforms:

The binaries generated during the compilation of the applications and the dynamic libraries are stored here.

8. wmake:

Compiler settings are included in this directory including optimisation flags. It also contains *wmake*, a special make command which understands the **OpenFOAM** file structure.



The path to user's working directory is stored in **\$WM_PROJECT_USER_DIR**.

Check the path of working directory:

<< echo \$WM_PROJECT_USER_DIR

Create the run directory:

<< mkdir -p \$FOAM_RUN

Check the path of 'run' directory:

<< echo \$FOAM_RUN

/lordvader/<username>/OpenFOAM/<username>-2.4.0/run





1. appName.C:

Contains the main source code of the application.

2. *.**H**:

The necessary header files needed to compile the application. The solvers include *createFields*.*H* file which declares and initialises the field variables.

3. Make:

This directory contains the compilation instructions and includes the following files:

3.1 files:

List of source files (*.C) needed to compile the application and the executable name.

3.2 options:

Specifies the directories to search for the included header files (*.H) and libraries needed to link the application against.

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2.2 OpenFOAM a	applications				
Standard s	solvers				

✓ Over 70+ OpenFOAM solvers.

Basic CFD solvers:

	Solver	Description
1.	laplacianFoam	Solves a Laplace equation.
2.	potentialFoam	Solves for potential flow.

Incompressible flow:

_		Solver	Description
	1.	icoFoam	Transient solver for incompressible, laminar flow of Newtonian fluids.
	2.	simpleFoam	Steady state solver for incompressible, turbulent flow.
	3.	pisoFoam	Transient solver for incompressible flow.

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Standard s	solvers				

Compressible flow:

	Solver	Description
1.	rhoCentralFoam	Density based compressible flow solver based on cen- tral upwind scheme.
2.	sonicFoam	Transient solver for trans-sonic/supersonic, laminar/tur- bulent flow of a compressible gas.

Muliphase flow:

	Solver	Description
1.	interFoam	Solver for 2 incompressible, isothermal and immiscible fluids based on the VOF method.
2.	interPhaseChangeFoam	Solver for 2 incompressible, isothermal and immis- cible fluids with a phase change model.
3.	multiPhaseEulerFoam	Solver for multiple compressible fluid phases with heat transfer.

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Standard s	solvers				

Other solvers:

-

	Solver	Description
1.	solidDisplacementFoam	Transient solver for linear-elastic, small-strain solver de- formation of a solid body.
2.	mdFoam	Molecular dynamics solver for fluids.
3.	buoyantSimpleFoam	Steady state solver for buoyant, turbulent flow of compressible fluids.

Solver name describe their functionality:

- simple: SIMPLE algorithm used in steady-state solvers.
 - *piso*: **PISO** algorithm used in transient solvers $\alpha_{CFL} < 1$.
- *pimple*: **PIMPLE** algorithm used in transient solvers.
 - DyM: Supports dynamic mesh (eg. mesh refinement, moving meshes).

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2.2 OpenFOAM a	applications				
icoFoam s	olver				

Open the icoFoam.C file:

- << find \$FOAM_SOLVERS -name "icoFoam.C"
- << less \$FOAM_SOLVERS/incompressible/icoFoam/icoFoam.C

Solver description:

27 Description
28 Transient solver for incompressible, laminar flow of Newtonian fluids.

Header files:

· Contain various class definitions.

32	#include "fvCFD	.H" //	Header	file	with	all ti	he FVM	machinery
33	#include "pisoC	ontrol.H" //	′File r	elated	to t	the PIS	SO algo	prithm

Begining of the main program:

37 int main(int argc, char *argv[]) 38 {

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2.2 OpenFOAM a	applications				
icoFoam s	olver				

Include files:

• Repeated code snippets specific to the case to be solved.

39	#include	"setRootCase.H"	//	Set path and case directories
40	#include	"createTime.H"	11	Initialise time variable
41	#include	"createMesh.H"	//	Initialise the mesh to work with

Time loop begins:

52	while	(runTime.loop())
53	{	

Output results:

ies	directories	time	to	results	Write	11	runTime.write();	115
-----	-------------	------	----	---------	-------	----	------------------	-----

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2.2 OpenFOAM a	pplications				
Standard u	ıtilities				

✓ Over 80+ OpenFOAM utilities.

Mesh generation tools:

	Utility	Description
1.	blockMesh	Multiblock mesh generator.
2.	snappyHexMesh	Automatic split hexahedral mesher which refines and snaps to surface producing hexahedral dominant cells.

Mesh conversion to OpenFOAM format:

	Utility	Description
1.	ansysToFoam	ANSYS input mesh file exported from I-DEAS.
2.	gambitToFoam	GAMBIT mesh file.
3.	gmshToFoam	Reads .msh GMSH file.
4.	ideasUnvToFoam	I-DEAS unv format (eg. SALOME mesh).

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2.2 OpenFOAM	applications				
Standard	utilities				

Mesh manipulation tools:

Utility	Description
checkMesh	Checks the quality of the mesh by providing a detailed output.
renumberMesh	Renumbers the cell list to reduce the bandwidth.
refineMesh	Refines mesh in multiple directions.
autoRefineMesh	Refines cells near to a surface.
refineHexMesh	Refines a hexahederal mesh by 2x2x2 cell splitting.
	Utility checkMesh renumberMesh refineMesh autoRefineMesh refineHexMesh

Post-processing tools:

	Utility	Description
1.	patchAverage	Calculates average of a field over a patch.
2.	patchIntegrate	Calculates integral of a field over a patch.
3.	probeLocations	Outputs the field value at a particular location.
4.	foamCalc	Utility for simple field calculations at specified times.
5.	writeCellCentres	Output cell centres as a volScalarField.

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2.2 OpenFOAM a	applications				
Standard (ıtilities				

Parallel processing tools:

	Utility	Description
1.	decomposePar	Decomposes a mesh and fields of a case for parallel execution.
2.	reconstructParMesh	Reconstructs the decomposed mesh after parallel ex- ecution using only the geometric information.

1 Introduction



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Contents of this section

We will look at the following:

- 1. Case directory structure. (page 35)
- 2. Meshing. (page 37)
- 3. Solving a problem. (page 38)
- 4. Post-processing results using ParaView. (page 42)
- 5. Running **OpenFOAM** tutorials (page 43)

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3.1 OpenFOAM	cases				
Directory s	structure				



1. constant:

This directory contains the information which remains constant throughout the simulation. It contains the following:

1.1 polymesh:

Contains all the mesh information including:

- (a) *points* \rightarrow nodal positions
- (b) faces \rightarrow face connectivities
- (c) owner \rightarrow owner cell labels
- (d) *neighbour* \rightarrow neighbour cell labels
- (e) *boundary* \rightarrow boundary information

1.2 ... properties:

Files which specify physical properties for a particular application eg. gravity, viscosity, thermal properties etc.





2. system:

This directory contains all the parameters associated with the solution procedure. It contains at least the following files:

2.1 controlDict:

Specifies the run control parameters such as start/end time, time step, write interval etc.

2.2 fvSchemes:

Contains the finite volume discretisation schemes used for the solution procedure such as spatial and temporal discretisations.

2.3 fvSolution:

Contains equation solvers, algorithm controls and tolerances for the implicit solvers.

3. 0:

The '0' directory corresponds to zero time. It contains the initial and boundary conditions for variables (ie. pressure p, velocity U) in individual files.


- OpenFOAM only supports three dimensional meshes !!!
- 1D & 2D simulations are carried out by using appropriate '*empty*' boundary conditions.
- Supports arbitrary polyhedral cells bounded by arbitrary polygonal faces.

Using blockMesh:

- Simple mesh generator using blocks.
- Allows multiple blocks and curved edges.
- Not suitable to use for complex geometries.

Good practices:

- Run 'checkMesh' utility to monitor mesh quality.
- Check mesh in ParaView before starting the simulation using paraFoam command .

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3.3 Solving					
Selecting a	an OpenFOAM	solver for sir	nulation		

Procedure:

- Select an **OpenFOAM** solver (alias: *sol*) relevant to the type of simulation that you are interested in.
- Copy a suitable tutorial (alias: *tut*) to your run directory (alias: *run*).
- Understand the inputs in that tutorial to run the solver.
- Modify the case according to your needs.



A sub-dictionary is characterised by curly brackets {...}

```
{
.....keyword entries.....
}
```

A list is characterised by round brackets (...);

```
List<Type>
<n>
(
.....data entry.....
);
```

A dimensionSet is characterised by square brackets [...]

[0 1 -1 0 0 0 0] // [Mass Length Time Temp. Quanity Current Luminosity]

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3.3 Solving					
OpenFOAM	A case files: 'sy	stem' direct	orv		

ControlDict:

<< less -N /lordvader/courses/OpenFoam/caseFiles/system/controlDict

fvSchemes:

<< less -N /lordvader/courses/OpenFoam/caseFiles/system/fvSchemes

fvSolution:

<< less -N /lordvader/courses/OpenFoam/caseFiles/system/fvSolution



- Initial and boundary conditions must be specified for all variables inside '0' directory.
- Geometry is broken down into patches where boundary conditions are applied.

Initial and boundary conditions:

<< less -N /lordvader/courses/OpenFoam/caseFiles/0/U

Basic boundary conditions for velocity field:

	BC type	Data	Example
1.	fixedValue	value	U = (5, 10, 0)
2.	fixedGradient	gradient	$\frac{\partial T}{\partial n} = 3.5$
3.	zeroGradient	-	$\frac{\partial p}{\partial n} = 0$

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3.4 Postprocessing	g				
How to post	process OpenF	OAM result	s?		

- OpenFOAM comes with builtin support for ParaView.
- ParaView is an open-source, multi-platform data analysis and visualisation application.
- Also possible to visualise results in other third-party softwares.
- OpenFOAM results can be visualised using the paraFoam utility.





Default procedure:

- Copy OpenFOAM tutorial to you run directory.
 - << cp -r <tutorial_directory> \$FOAM_RUN
 - << cd <tutorial_name>
- Create mesh by using the *blockMesh* command.
 - << blockMesh
- Run simulation by using name of an **OpenFOAM** solver (eg. *pisoFoam*). << pisoFoam
- Visualise results using the paraFoam command.
 - << paraFoam

Procedure for complex tutorials:

Some complex tutorials require an *Allrun* script to execute instructions automatically. << find \$FOAM_TUTORIALS -name Allrun

Some tutorials have an *Allclear* script to clean the case directory.

Introduction



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Conclusions

Contents of this section

We will look at the following:

- 1. Classes in OpenFOAM. (page 46)
- 2. Dimensional compatibility in **OpenFOAM**. (page 50)
- 3. Mathematical operators. (page 52)
- 4. Access functions related to mesh. (page 50)
- 5. Code compilation through wmake. (page 56)



✓ Basic classes in **OpenFOAM** have been derived from more fundamental **C++** classes.

✓ **OpenFOAM** classes are more advanced and have more functionality.

Comparison of classes:

	C++ class	OpenFOAM class		
1.	int/long	label		
2.	bool	<i>switch</i> - Accepts true/false, on/off and yes/no.		
3.	string	word		
4.	float/double	scalar		
5.	_	vector		
6.	_	<i>tensor</i> -3×3 tensor with algebra		



• GeometricField class is templated around 3 arguments. GeometricField < Type, PatchField, GeoMesh >

A 'Field' refers to a list of tensors along with a mesh.

- *typedef* is an alias for a class to improve readability.
- Used extensively in **OpenFOAM** particularly in relation to template classes.

The *geometricField* < *Type* > is renamed used *typedef* declarations to indicate where field variables are stored:

- 1. *volField<Type>* \longrightarrow Field defined at cell centres.
- 2. surfaceField<Type> \longrightarrow Field defined at cell faces.
- 3. *pointField<Type>* \longrightarrow Field defined at cell vertices.

Internal field:

- Defined at cell centers
- × Defined at internal faces centers
- Defined at nodes

Boundary field:

× Defined at boundary face centers



(a) volField



(b) surfaceField



(c) pointField



Classical incompressible Navier-Stokes equation:

$$\frac{\partial \rho \boldsymbol{U}}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (\rho \, \boldsymbol{U} \boldsymbol{U}) - \mu \nabla^2 \boldsymbol{U} = -\nabla p + \boldsymbol{b}$$

Navier-Stokes equation in OpenFOAM



- Belongs the *finiteVolumeMethod* class.
- Performs an implicit evaluation and returns an *fvMatrix*.
- 2. typedef fvc:

1. typedef - fvm:

- Belongs to the *finiteVolumeCalculus* class.
- Performs an explicit calculation and returns a *geometricField*.



- ✓ **OpenFOAM** is fully dimensional.
- \checkmark Fields and properties have dimensions associated with them.
- ✓ **Dimensional checking** is performed to avoid meaningless operations.
- \checkmark Units are defined using the *dimensionSet* class.

Dictionary in OpenFOAM

FoamFile	
{	
version	2.0;
format	ascii;
class	dictionary;
object	transportProperties ;
}	
// Thermal	diffusivity
DT DT [0	2 -1 0 0 0 0] 0.01;



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4.2 Dimensions	in OpenFOAM				
Standard of	dimensional uni	ts			

Quantity		SI Base Units						
		kg	m	S	К	mol	А	cd
1.	Density	1	-3	0	0	0	0	0
2.	Linear Momentum	1	-2	-1	0	0	0	0
3.	Pressure	1	-1	-2	0	0	0	0
4.	Force	1	1	-2	0	0	0	0
5.	Lame's Coefficients	1	-1	-2	0	0	0	0
6.	Bulk Modulus	1	-1	-2	0	0	0	0
7.	Young's Modulus of Elasticity	1	-1	-2	0	0	0	0
8.	Specific Heat Capacity	0	2	-2	-1	0	0	0
9.	Thermal Conductivity	1	1	-3	-1	0	0	0

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4.3 Mathematical	operators				
Tensor ope	erations				

• Tensor operations available to all OpenFOAM tensor classes

Product operations:

	Product operator	OpenFOAM notation	Rank of a & b
1.	Outer	a * b	≥ 1
2.	Inner/dot	a & b	≥ 1
З.	Double inner/dot	a && b	≥ 2
4.	Cross	a^b	= 1

Other operations:

	Product operator	OpenFOAM notation
1.	Magnitude	mag(a)
2.	Square of magnitude	magSqr(a)
3.	Square	sqr(a)
4.	Power	pow(a, n)

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4.3 Mathematica	l operators				
Tensor ope	erations				

Operations exclusive to tensors of rank 2:

Operations exclusive to tensors of rank 0:

	Operator	OpenFOAM notation
1.	Transpose	$A \cdot T()$
2.	Diagonal	diag(A)
3.	Trace	tr(A)
4.	Symmetric part	symm(A)
5.	Skew-symmetric part	skew(A)
6.	Determinant	det(A)
7.	Cofactor	cof(A)
8.	Inverse	inv(A)

	Operator	OpenFOAM notation
1.	Square root	sqrt(s)
2.	Exponential	exp(s)
3.	Natural log	log(s)
4.	Log base 10	<i>log10</i> (<i>s</i>)
5.	Sine	sin(s)
6.	Cosine	$\cos(s)$
7.	Tangent	tan(s)

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4.4 Mesh					
Mesh para	Imeters				

Important mesh parameters:

	Description	Access function	Data type
1.	Total number of cells	mesh.nCells()	scalar
2.	Total number of internal faces	mesh.nInternalFaces()	scalar
3.	Cell volumes	mesh.V()	volScalarField
4.	Face area normal vectors	mesh.Sf()	surfaceVectorField
5.	Face area magnitudes	mesh.magSf()	surfaceVectorField

Coordinates:

	Coordinates	Access function	Data type
1.	Cell center	mesh.C()	volVectorField
2.	Face center	mesh.Cf()	surfaceVectorField
3.	Nodal	mesh.points()	pointField

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4.4 Mesh					
Mesh con	nectivities				

• All mesh connectivities are stored in *labelListList* data type.

	C	onnectiv	Access function	
1.	Node Node Node Node	$ \begin{array}{c} \longrightarrow \\ \longrightarrow \\ \longrightarrow \\ \longrightarrow \end{array} $	Node Edge Face Cell	mesh.pointPoints() mesh.edgePoints() mesh.pointFaces() mesh.pointCells()
2.	Edge Edge		Node Face	mesh.edges() mesh.edgeFaces()
3.	Face Face		Node Edge	mesh.faces() mesh.faceEdges()
4.	Cell Cell		Face Cell	mesh.cells() mesh.cellCells()



- ✓ **OpenFOAM** uses its own compilation tool *wmake*.
- ✓ **OpenFOAM** applications and libraries require a '*Make*' directory.

Compilation is performed by executing the '*wmake*' command from the directory containing the Make folder.

Introduction



3 Simulations





Conclusions

We will perform the following tutorials:

- 1. Meshing with *blockMesh*. (page 59)
- 2. Running an OpenFOAM tutorial. (page 66)
- 3. Usage of **OpenFOAM** utilities. (page 72)
- 4. Perform parallel computing. (page 78)
- 5. Solve a problem using an **OpenFOAM** solver. (page 86)
- 6. Using an advanced mesh generation in **OpenFOAM**. (page 90)
- 7. Running **OpenFOAM** on the cluster. (page 101)



Inputs for creating a mesh using *blockMesh* requires a *constant/polymesh/blockMeshDict* file.

Copy blockMesh tutorial:

- << cp -r /lordvader/courses/OpenFoam/tutorials/blockMesh/ \$FOAM_RUN
- << cd \$FOAM_RUN/blockMesh
- << tree

Run blockMesh command:

- << pwd
- << blockMesh
- << tree

Check the mesh quality:

<< checkMesh

Visualise the mesh:

<< paraFoam



Open blockMeshDict file:

<< less -N constant/polyMesh/blockMeshDict

Convert units:

17 convertToMeters 0.001; // Scaling to convert to millimeters

List of vertices:

19	verti	ces	6			
20	(
21	(0	0 (0)	11	Vertex	0
22	(1	0	0)	11	Vertex	1
23	(0) 1	0)	11	Vertex	2
24	(1	1	0)	11	Vertex	3
25	(0	0 (1)	11	Vertex	4
26	(1	0	1)	11	Vertex	5
27	(1	1	1)	11	Vertex	6
28	(0) 1	1)	11	Vertex	7
29);					



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5.1 blockMesh tu	torial				
Study block	MeshDict file				

Defining cells:









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5.1 blockMesh tu	torial				
Study block	MeshDict file				

Boundary field:

38 39	boundary (//	Contains	definition	of	boundary	patches
67);						

Boundary patch:

40	sides	11	Boundary	patch	name
41	{				
42	type patch;				
43	face				
44	(
45	(4 0 2 7)	//	Boundary	face	definitions
46	(1 5 6 3)				
47	(0 1 3 2)				
48	(4 5 6 7)				
49);				
50	}				

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5.1 blockMesh tutorial							
Exercise							

Modify the *blockMeshDict* to increase mesh density to $10 \times 10 \times 10$ cells.



You can edit the file using any text editor (eg. gedit, vim, nano).

<< gedit constant/polyMesh/blockMeshDict

Jibran Haider

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5.1 blockMesh tutorial							
Exercise							

Connect points with an **arc** instead of a line.

Add the following after the blocks definition:

38 edges 39 (40 arc 6 3 (1.3 1.3 0.5) 41);







- ✓ Understand the structure of blockMeshDict file.
- ✓ Modify blockMeshDict file.
- \checkmark Use *blockMesh* utility to generate meshes.
- \checkmark Use *checkMesh* utility to determine the quality of mesh.
- \checkmark Use *paraFoam* utility to visualise the mesh before a simulation.



interFoam solver based on the Volume Of Fluid (VOF) interface capturing approach.



1. Introduction	2. OpenFOAM code	3. Simulations	4. Programming	5. Hands-on training	6. Conclusions		
5.2 Dam break tutorial							
interFoam s	solver						

Copy damBreak tutorial:

<< cp -r \$FOAM_TUTORIALS/multiphase/interFoam/laminar/damBreak/ \$FOAM_RUN

Change to damBreak directory:

- << cd \$FOAM_RUN/damBreak
- << tree

Create and view mesh:

- << blockMesh
- << checkMesh
- << paraFoam

Run the solver:

<< interFoam

-> FOAM FATAL IO ERROR:

cannot find file

```
file: /home/jibran/OpenFOAM/jibran-2.4.0/run/damBreak/0/alpha.water at line 0.
From function regIOobject::readStream()
in file db/regIOobject/regIOobjectRead.C at line 73.
FOAM exiting
```





Create alpha.water file:

- << cp -r 0/alpha.water.org 0/alpha.water
- << tree

Run the solver again:

- << interFoam > log
- << ls
- << less -N log

Clear time directories:

- << pyFoamClearCase.py .
- << ls
- << less PyFoamHistory

Initialise the alpha.water field:

- << less system/setFieldsDict
- << setFields
- << paraFoam



1. Introduction	2. OpenFOAM code	3. Simulations	4. Programming	5. Hands-on training	6. Conclusions			
5.2 Dam break tutorial								
interFoam s	solver							

Check 0/alpha.water:

<< head -35 0/alpha.water

Run the solver successfully:

- << interFoam | tee log
- << less log
- << paraFoam





Run the same problem with a refined mesh and save an animation.

Hints:

- A utility "refineMesh" could be utilised
- Please pay attention to the error messages displayed on your terminal. The solution is always there!!!





- ✓ Understand **OpenFOAM** errors displayed on the terminal.
- ✓ Use *setFields* utility to initialise fields.
- ✓ Running an **OpenFOAM** solver.
- ✓ Output **OpenFOAM** solver data to a log file.
- ✓ Use *pyFoamClearCase.py* . to clear time directories.
- ✓ Use *paraFoam* utility to visualise results.
- ✓ Use *refineMesh* utility for mesh refinement.

1. Introduction	2. OpenFOAM code	3. Simulations	4. Programming	5. Hands-on training	6. Conclusions
5.3 Elbow tutorial					

In this tutorial we will learn the usage of some important **OpenFOAM** utilities.
1. Introduction
 2. OpenFOAM code
 3. Simulations
 4. Programming
 5. Hands-on training
 6. Conclusions

 5.3 Elbow tutorial
 fluentMeshToFoam utility
 5. Hands-on training
 5. Hands-on training
 6. Conclusions

How to use a mesh generated from ANSYS FLUENT which is to be solved using an OpenFOAM solver?

Search for a suitable tutorial:

<< grep -r -n fluentMeshToFoam \$FOAM_TUTORIALS

Copy the elbow tutorial:

<< run

<< cp -r \$FOAM_TUTORIALS/incompressible/icoFoam/elbow/ .

Change to elbow directory:

- << cd elbow
- << tree

Use the fluentMeshToFoam utility:

- << fluentMeshToFoam elbow.msh
- << fluentMeshToFoam -help
- << checkMesh



Convert to ParaView's VTK format:

- << foamToVTK
- << tree

Read mesh in paraview:

<< paraview File \longrightarrow Open \longrightarrow "VTK/elbow_0.vtk" Display surface with edges and color by cellID.



- × High bandwidth slows the performance of matrix solvers.
- \checkmark Renumbering of cell labels can reduce the bandwidth in a solution matrix.

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5.3 Elbow tutorial					
renumberN	lesh utility				

Renumber cell labels :

- << renumberMesh
- << renumberMesh -overwrite

Display new cell labels:

- << foamToVTK
- << paraview&
- $\mathsf{File} \longrightarrow \mathsf{Open} \longrightarrow \mathsf{"VTK/elbow_0.vtk"}$

Display surface with edges and color by cellID.





- ✓ Search for a particular text using 'grep' command in OpenFOAM installation directory.
- ✓ See usage of an **OpenFOAM** command using '-help' option.
- ✓ Convert mesh from **FLUENT** to **OpenFOAM** format using the *fluentMeshToFoam* utility.
- ✓ Convert mesh from **OpenFOAM** to **VTK** format using the *foamToVTK* utility.
- ✓ Use *renumberMesh* utility to decrease bandwidth.

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5.4 Parallel compu	iting				

Perform a serial run using a fine mesh of the damBreak tutorial and compare it against results from a **parallel** run.

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5.4 Parallel compu	uting				
Serial run					

Copy damBreakFine case files:

- << run
- << cp -r /lordvader/courses/OpenFoam/tutorials/damBreakFine .
- << mv damBreakFine damBreakFine_serial
- << cp -r damBreakFine_serial damBreakFine_parallel
- << cd damBreakFine_serial
- << tree

Run the problem:

- << blockMesh
- << checkMesh
- << setFields
- << interFoam | tee log_serial

Visualise resuls:

<< paraFoam

Simulation time for a serial run: ≈ 223 sec.



- OpenFOAM uses domain decomposition for parallel runs.
- Geometry is broken down and allocated to separate processors.
- Decomposition requires a system/decomposeParDict file.
- Decomposition process is initiated by using the decomposePar utility.

Check contents of decomposeParDict:

- << cd \$FOAM_RUN/damBreakFine_parallel
- << less -N system/decomposeParDict

18 19	numberOfSubdomains	9;	//	No. of subdomains for decomposition
20 21	method	simple ;	//	Method of decomposition
22 23	simpleCoeffs {		//	Coefficients for simple method
24	n	(331);	11	Domain split in x,y,z directions
25	delta	0.001;	11	Cell skew factor (Default value = 0.001)
26	}			
27				
28	hierarchicalCoeffs		11	Coefficients for hierarchical method
29	{			
30	n	(111);		
31	delta	0.001;		
32	order	xyz;	11	Order in which the decomposition is done
33	}	•		·
34				
35	distributed	no;	//	If data is distributed over several disks

Find available processors:

<< grep processor /proc/cpuinfo

Modify decomposeParDict:

<< gedit system/decomposeParDict

Modify the 'numberOfSubdomains' and the domain split 'n' accordingly:

18 19	numberOfSubdomains	4;	//	No. d	of su	bdomain	s for	decomposition
20 21	method	simple;	//	Metho	od of	decom	ositic	on
22 23	simpleCoeffs {		//	Coef	ficie	nts for	simp	le method
24 25 26	n delta }	(221); 0.001;	 	Doma Cell	in sµ skew	olit in 2 • factor	(,y,z (Def	directions ault value = 0.001)

Some decomposition methodologies:

- 1. simple \longrightarrow Used for simple geometries by using geometric decomposition.
- 2. hierarchical \longrightarrow Similar to simple but with order of direction split.
- 3. scotch \rightarrow Used for complex geometries by minimising the number of processor boundaries.
- 4. manual \longrightarrow User specified decomposition for each cell.

Initialise the problem:

- << blockMesh
- << setFields
- << checkMesh

Decompose domain for parallel execution:

- << decomposePar
- << tree
- << paraFoam -case processor0





(a) Processor 0

(b) Processor 1

unran	наю	er
onorun	i iuiu	C 1



- OpenFOAM uses the public domain openMPI implementation of the standard Message Passing Interface (MPI).
- Syntax for parallel execution on a single node is as follows:

```
<< mpirun -np <no_of_processors> <solver_name> -parallel
```

Parallel run:

- << mpirun -np 4 interFoam -parallel > log_parallel&
- << gnome-system-monitor

Visualise results:		No. of processors	Simulation time (s)
<< ls			
<< tree processor0	1.	1	≈ 223
<< paraFoam -case processor0	2.	4	≈ 86
Simulation time for parallel run:	3.	6	≈ 91
<< tail log_parallel	4.	8	≈ 96

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5.4 Parallel com	puting				
Step 3: Re	econstruction				

reconstructPar utility can be used to reassemble the fields and mesh from the decomposed parallel run.

Reconstruction of results:

<< reconstructPar

Visualise results:

<< ls << paraFoam









- ✓ Setup *decomposeParDict* with appropriate number of processors.
- \checkmark Use *decomposePar* utility to decompose to domain.
- \checkmark Launch a parallel run on a single node using mpirun with '-parallel' option.
- ✓ Use *reconstructPar* utility to reassemble decomposed fields and mesh.

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5.5 Pitz-Daily tuto	rial				
Exercise					

Simulate the problem using an appropriate OpenFOAM solver.

Problem description:

- Two dimensional, steady state flow.
- Incompressible and turbulent flow.
- Newtonion fluid with viscosity $\nu = 1 \times 10^{-5} m^2/s$.



Case setup:



Copy the simulation case:

<< cp -r /lordvader/courses/OpenFoam/tutorials/pitzDaily/ \$FOAM_RUN

Hints:

- Please pay attention to the error messages displayed on your terminal.
- Don't start writing files from scratch for missing files. Be smart!.
- Remember to define the problem variables correctly.
- The geometry is provided in the simulation case.
- Parameters associated to turbulence modelling are already defined.

Geometry and meshing:



Pressure distribution:





Velocity vectors:





- ✓ Select an **OpenFOAM** solver based on our problem definition.
- ✓ Understand additional **OpenFOAM** errors displayed on the terminal.
- \checkmark Modify parameters in the input files according to our needs.
- \checkmark Create input files by copying an already existing similar file.
- ✓ Use the glyph filter in **ParaView** to plot vectors.



Steps for creating a snappyHexMesh:

1. Creation of a castellated mesh



(a) Background mesh



(c) Refinement completed



(b) Refinement initiated



(d) Cell removal



2. Snap to surface



(e) Region refinement



(f) Snapping

3. Addition of layers



(g) Layer addition

1. Introduction	2. OpenFOAM code	3. Simulations	4. Programming	5. Hands-on training	6. Conclusions
5.6 snappyHexMe	esh tutorial				
Surface me	eshes				

Copy the motorbike tutorial:

- << run
- << cp -r \$FOAM_TUTORIALS/incompressible/simpleFoam/motorBike .
- << cd motorike
- << tree
- << less constant/trisurface/README

Obtain motorbike geometry:

- << cd constant/triSurface
- << cp -r \$FOAM_TUTORIALS/resources/geometry/motorBike.obj.gz .
- << gunzip motorBike.obj.gz

Visualise geometry:

<< paraview



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5.6 snappyHexMe	esh tutorial				
Surface me	shes				

Utilities for surface meshes:

- << cd \ldots / \ldots
- << surface[TAB][TAB]
- << surfaceMeshInfo -help

<< surfaceMeshInfo constant/triSurface/motorBike.obj

nPoints	:	132871
nFaces	:	331653
area	:	12.1486

Extract surface features from the geometry:

- << gedit system/surfaceFeatureExtractDict
 - 28 includedAngle 180
- << surfaceFeatureExtract
- << tree

View patches:

<< surfaceConvert constant/triSurface/motorBike.obj constant/triSurface/motorBike.vtk



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5.6 snappyHexM	lesh tutorial				
Castellated	d mesh				

Meshing using *snappyHexMesh* utility requires a base background mesh to start with.

Notes:

- Must only consist of hexahedral cells.
- The aspect ratio of cells must be equal to 1 for optimum behaviour.

Create background mesh:





Run snappyHexMesh in parallel:

- << decomposePar
- << foamJob -parallel -screen snappyHexMesh
- << less system/snappyHexMeshDict

Local mesh refinement:



Reconstruct decomposed mesh:

- << reconstructParMesh -time 1
- << checkMesh
- << tree





Cell faces are projected down onto the surface geometry.



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5.6 snappyHexM	esh tutorial				
Snapping					

Check the quality of snapping process.





- Clean the case: << ./Allclean</pre>
- Run the case: << ./Allrun



3. Simulations

4. Programming

5. Hands-on training

6. Conclusions

5.6 snappyHexMesh tutorial

Running the case



Login to clonetroop:

<< ssh -X <username>@clonetroop.upc.es

Create directory (only for first time usage):

<< mkdir -p /OpenFOAM/OpenFOAM/2.3.1

Load OpenFOAM environment every time you use it.

<< module load apps/openfoam/2.3.1; source \$OPENFOAM_SETUP

Alternatively for regular **OpenFOAM** use, edit your 'bashrc' file.

Open bashrc file:

<< gedit \sim /.bashrc

Add the following at the end of the file:

module load apps/openfoam/2.3.1; source \$OPENFOAM_SETUP



3 Simulations



Hands-on training session

6 Conclusions

Commands:

- ✓ Effective usage of bash shell commands.
- \checkmark Navigate through important directories by using environment variables and aliases.

Basics of OpenFOAM:

- ✓ Understand the organisation of **OpenFOAM** installation directory structure.
- ✓ Understand the directory structure of **OpenFOAM** simulation cases.
- \checkmark A brief introduction to programming in **OpenFOAM**.

Meshing:

- \checkmark Use *blockMesh* utility to generate simple meshes.
- ✓ Use *snappyHexMesh* utility for generating complex meshes.
- \checkmark Use mesh conversion utilities in **OpenFOAM** to use meshes from external softwares.

Solving:

- ✓ Use **OpenFOAM solvers** to run simulations.
- ✓ Use various **OpenFOAM** utilities for parallel simulations.

Visualising:

✓ Use ParaView to post-process results.

APPENDIX

OpenFOAM cheat sheets:

• [Source flux cheat sheet]

OpenFOAM user community:

- [CFD online forum for OpenFOAM]
- [OpenFOAM extend project]

Further information:

• [OpenFOAM wiki page]

Free OpenFOAM course material:

- [PhD course by Prof. Hakan Nilsson at Chalmers]
- [Course by Dr. Joel Guerrero]

-

Directories:

	Command	Description
1.	cd <directory></directory>	Change to a directory location.
2.	mkdir <directory></directory>	Create a directory.
3.	rm -r <directory></directory>	Remove directory with all its contents.
4.	cd	Go one level up from current directory.
5.	cd/	Go two levels up from current directory.
6.	cd	Change to the home directory.
7.	pwd	Print the present working directory path.
8.	ls <directory></directory>	List contents of a directory.
9.	tree	Print the current directory structure.

Basic Linux commands

Files / Directories:

	Command	Description
1.	cp <directory1> <directory2></directory2></directory1>	Copy a directory from directory path 1 to 2.
2.	mv <file1> <file2></file2></file1>	Rename file1 to file2.
3.	less <file></file>	Open a file, press 'q' to quit.
4.	cat <file></file>	Print contents of the file
5.	head -10 <file></file>	Print first 10 lines of a file.
6.	tail -50 <file></file>	Print last 50 lines of a file.
Other commands:

	Command	Description
1.	clear	Clears the terminal window.
2.	ps	Displays information about current running processes.
3.	kill <pid></pid>	Kills a process ID.
4.	<command/> -help	See help for a command.
5.	man <command/>	Manual for a command, press 'q' to quit.

Useful Linux commands for OpenFOAM

Commands for searching:

	Command	Description
1.	blockMesh -help	See usage of an OpenFOAM command.
2.	find \$FOAM_TUTORIALS -name sampleDict	Search <i>sampleDict</i> file in '\$FOAM_TUTORIALS' directory.
3.	<pre>find \$FOAM_SRC -type f xargs grep -1 "::findNearestCell"</pre>	Search the definition of 'findNearestCell' function in '\$FOAM_SRC' directory.
4.	find \$FOAM_SRC -type l xargs grep -l typedef xargs grep -l "volScalarField;"	Find the <i>typedef</i> , ' <i>volScalarField</i> ' in '\$FOAM_SRC' directory.
5.	find \$FOAM_SOLVERS -name "*FvPatch*"	Find solver specific boundary conditions in '\$FOAM_SOLVERS' directory.
6.	find \$FOAM_SOLVERS -name *.C xargs grep -l incompressible xargs grep -l multiphase	Find '*.C' files in '\$FOAM_SOLVERS' directory which contain the words 'incompressible' and 'multiphase'.