



VIRTUAL WIND TUNNEL FOR EXTERNAL AERODYNAMIC ANALYSIS

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Agenda





- Overview external aerodynamics
- VWT Workflow and Demo
- Tips, Tricks, and Post Processing Results

About Me

- University of Minnesota
 - Aerospace Engineering, 2019
- "Rayces"
 - FSGP/ASC 2016, 2018,
 - WSC 2015, 2017

Joined Altair Engineering in 2019

- Structural FEA
- Composite Design & Optimization







Importance of External Aerodynamics (automotive)





Aerodynamic forces





- Accounts for 75% of the car's resistance (100km/h)
- Computation:



- Car shape Frontal area
- Drag reduction by minimizing $C_D \rightarrow$ shape optimization
- lift side Frontal area A

- Lift force
 - Impacts steering behavior
 - For race cars, down force important (more grip)



Drag force



- Drag resistance vs. rolling resistance
 - From ~ 70km/h, the aero resistance is dominant



Early shape optimization

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• Jaray (1933)





- Lange/Prandtl (1937)
 - Combine two airfoils, common trailing edge



 C_{D} =0.16

C_D=0.33 (Porsche 911, 1995)

History of aerodynamic drag (Cd)





Non-automotive drag values



• Boeing 747: C_D = 0.031

• Eiffel Tower $C_D = 1.8 - 2.0$

• Man (upright position) $C_D = 1.0 - 1.3$

• Cow Standing Upright $C_D = 0.2$



Source of drag on a modern passenger car





Determining the drag force (CFD)

- Preparation
 - up to 4 weeks (clean-up / surface meshing)
 - Shell mesh ~ 4-7Mio trias
- Model
 - Volume mesh ~ 70-150M (mixed elems, 1-6h meshing time)
 - 1st layer height ~ 1e-4m (*y*+ ~ 10)
 - 5-10 boundary layers
- CFD run
 - 100-400 cores (formula 1 teams use up to 3000 cores)
 - Transient: 48h or more (physical time 1-6 sec)
 - Steady: over night ~ 10h
- Post-processing
 - Data size up 100GB and more
 - Batch process













Modeling aspects



- Wind tunnel dimensions
 - ~3 car length in the front,~7 car length to the rear
 - Blockage of ~2% (ratio between WT inflow area and frontal area of car
- Surface mesh
 - Triangle elements,
 - Variable element size, in general 2-10mm
- Volume mesh
 - Refinement zone(s) around the car
 - 1/2 car length to front, side and top
 - At least 1 car length downstream
- Boundary layer
 - y+ ~ 10 (e.g. 1st layer height ~ 1e-4...1e-5)
 - BL on wind tunnel floor, upper body, windows, wheels, rims, parts of underbody





Showing results for $CFD \times$

Sort by Most Popular





General Purpose CFD

External Aerodynamics

Particle-based Fluid Dynamics



AcuSolve - Overview

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- AcuSolve Key Points
 - General purpose, 3-dimensional, unstructured flow solver ٠

Based on finite element method

- Started at Stanford University in 80's and 90's
- Rich history in academia Further refined by Altair Engineering for industrial applications ٠
- Differentiation ٠
 - Robustness
 - Most problems solved on first attempt, no parameter • tuning/knob turning required!
 - Almost no Element quality requirements ٠
 - Speed
 - Architected for massively parallel applications, with efficient time stepping
 - Accuracy
 - Highly accurate in space and time
 - 2nd order for **all** problems







AcuSolve – Better Technology, Better Solution





Multiphysics Analysis and Optimization

- Global footprint with diverse applications
- Integrated with HyperWorks

ultraFluid by FluiD/na®



ultra-fast CFD for Ground Transportation Aerodynamics

Fast GPU-based LBM solver

for transient external aerodynamics

with low surface mesh requirements

yielding short overall process times.





- Lattice Boltzmann Method
 - Based on kinetic gas theory (Boltzmann, Maxwell)
 - Discretization of space, time AND velocities
 - Statistical description of flow through particle velocity distribution functions
 - Inherently transient and weakly compressible
- Designed for GPGPUs
 - Computational algorithm well suited for extreme parallelization
 - GPGPUs deliver superior performance





- Transient external aerodynamics case:
 Passenger car, 70M voxels, 2sec physical time
- ultraFluidX saves time, cost and energy against established commercial Lattice-Boltzmann solution

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Virtual Wind Tunnel



Pre-Processing

Surface Mesh Import

Definition of

- Domain
- Boundary Conditions
- Refinement Regions
- Run Parameters

ultraFluid

HyperView

Post-Processing

Visualization of

- Cutting Planes
- Isosurfaces

Forces in VWT

Probes



Virtual Wind Tunnel 2017.2



- <u>https://altairone.com/Marketplace</u>
- Download Virtual Wind Tunnel 2017.2 for Acusolve.

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Virtual Wind Tunnel (mesh)



Virtual Wind Tunnel requires a good quality surface (2D mesh). The CFD surface mesh needs to be:

- Enclosed / Connected without holes or internal T-Connections
- No duplicate / double elements
- Good element quality, pay special attention to features like radius etc.

Meshing and Checks are usually done in HyperMesh:



Possible situation









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Working with VWT





Advanced: Fluid-Structure-Interaction





Advanced: Fluid-Structure-interaction of a rear wing



- FSI analysis
 - · Generic model of an automotive rear wing
 - Soft plastic material, thickness of 2mm
 - 20 & 100 eigenmodes computed with OptiStruct





Advanced: Fluid-Structure-interaction for rear wing



- FSI analysis
 - · Generic model of an automotive rear wing
 - Soft plastic material, thickness of 2mm
 - 20 & 100 eigenmodes computed with OptiStruct





Structural deformation (vel. contour)



Structural deformation (vel. contour)

Extras: Morphing , Validation





- Surface meshing of sphere (d=0.1m, elem size=0.01m)
- Export "Nastran(Fluent)"

Virtual Wind Tunnel

- Import surface mesh
- Setup: see next slide for details
- Run & check report for Cd
- HyperMesh
 - Morph initial surface mesh
 - Export "Nastran(Fluent)"

• Virtual Wind Tunnel

- Import morphed surface mesh
- Position at location of sphere
- Run & check report for Cd





Cd=0.28

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Summary – Altair's Virtual Wind Tunnel



- Environment for external CFD analyses
- Reduces user input to minimum
- Strength
 - Transient and steady state
 - Efficient workflow
- CFD solver AcuSolve
 - General purpose CFD solver
 - Accurate / robust / scalable



Virtual Wind Tunnel





Xeon processors, 2.53GHz

Additional VWT Tutorial







Inspire Studio – Freeform Design





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Solar Car Success Stories:

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