

Solving PDEs with OpenFOAM

- The PDEs we wish to solve involve derivatives of tensor fields with respect to time and space
- The PDEs must be discretized in time and space before we solve them
- We will start by having a look at algebra of tensors in OpenFOAM at a single point
- We will then have a look at how to generate tensor fields from tensors
- Finally we will see how to discretize PDEs and how to set boundary conditions using high-level coding in OpenFOAM



Basic tensor classes in OpenFOAM

• Pre-defined classes for tensors of rank 0-3, but may be extended indefinitely

Rank	Common name	Basic name	Access function
0	Scalar	scalar	
1	Vector	vector	x(), y(), z()
2	Tensor	tensor	xx(), xy(), xz(),

Example:

A tensor $T = \begin{bmatrix} 11 & 12 & 13 \\ 21 & 22 & 23 \\ 31 & 32 & 33 \end{bmatrix}$ is defined line-by-line: tensor T(11, 12, 13, 21, 22, 23, 31, 32, 33); Info << "Txz = " << T.xz() << endl;

Outputs to the screen:

Txz = 13



Algebraic tensor operations in OpenFOAM

- Tensor operations operate on the entire tensor entity instead of a series of operations on its components
- The OpenFOAM syntax closely mimics the syntax used in written mathematics, using descriptive functions or symbolic operators

Operation	Comment	Mathematical	Description		
		description	in OpenFOAM		
Addition		a + b	a + b		
Outer product	Rank $\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b} \ge 1$	ab	a * b		
Inner product	Rank $\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b} \ge 1$	a · b	a & b		
Cross product	Rank $\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b} = 1$	$\mathbf{a} imes \mathbf{b}$	a ^ b		
Operations exclusive to tensors of rank 2					
Transpose		\mathbf{T}^{T}	T.T()		
Determinant		$\det \mathbf{T}$	det(T)		
Operations exclusive to scalars					
Positive (boolean)		$\mathbf{s} \geq 0$	pos(s)		
Hyperbolic arc sine		asinh s	asinh(s)		

Examples:

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Examples of the use of some tensor classes

- In \$FOAM_APP/test we can find examples of the use of some classes.
- Tensor class examples:

```
run
cp -r $FOAM_APP/test .
cd test/tensor
wmake
tensorTest >& log
```

- Have a look inside tensorTest.C to see the high-level code.
- See also vector, symmTensorField, sphericalTensorField and many other examples.



Dimensional units in OpenFOAM

• OpenFOAM checks the dimensional consistency

Declaration of a tensor with dimensions:

```
dimensionedTensor sigma
  (
    "sigma",
    dimensionSet( 1, -1, -2, 0, 0, 0, 0),
    tensor( 1e6, 0, 0, 0, 1e6, 0, 0, 0, 1e6)
  );
```

The values of dimensionSet correspond to the powers of each SI unit:

No.	Property	Unit	Symbol	
1	Mass	kilogram	kg	
2	Length	metre	m	
3	Time	second	S	
4	Temperature	Kelvin	Κ	
5	Quantity	moles	mol	
6	Current	ampere	А	
7	Luminous intensity	candela	cd	
sigma then has the dimension $\left[ka/ms^2\right]$				

sigma then has the dimension $\lfloor kg/ms^2 \rfloor$



Dimensional units in OpenFOAM

 Add the following to tensorTest.C: Before main(): #include "dimensionedTensor.H" Before return(0):

```
dimensionedTensor sigma
(
    "sigma",
    dimensionSet( 1, -1, -2, 0, 0, 0, 0),
    tensor( 1e6, 0, 0, 0, 1e6, 0, 0, 0, 1e6)
);
Info<< "Sigma: " << sigma << endl;</pre>
```

• Compile, run again, and you will get:

Sigma: sigma [1 -1 -2 0 0 0 0] (1e+06 0 0 0 1e+06 0 0 0 1e+06)

You see that the object sigma that belongs to the dimensionedTensor class contains both the name, the dimensions and values.



Dimensional units in OpenFOAM

• Try some member functions of the dimensioned Tensor class:

```
Info<< "Sigma name: " << sigma.name() << endl;
Info<< "Sigma dimensions: " << sigma.dimensions() << endl;
Info<< "Sigma value: " << sigma.value() << endl;</pre>
```

• You now also get:

Sigma name: sigma Sigma dimensions: [1 -1 -2 0 0 0 0] Sigma value: (1e+06 0 0 0 1e+06 0 0 0 1e+06)

• Extract one of the values:

Info<< "Sigma yy value: " << sigma.value().yy() << endl; Note here that the value() member function first converts the expression to a tensor, which has a yy() member function. The dimensionedTensor class does not have a yy() member function, so it is not possible to do sigma.yy().



Construction of a tensor field in OpenFOAM

- A tensor field is a list of tensors
- The use of typedef in OpenFOAM yields readable type definitions: scalarField, vectorField, tensorField, symmTensorField, ...
- Algebraic operations can be performed between different fields, and between a field and a single tensor, e.g. Field U, scalar 2.0: U = 2.0 * U;
- Add the following to tensorTest: Before main(): #include "tensorField.H" Before return(0):

```
tensorField tf1(2, tensor::one);
Info<< "tf1: " << tf1 << endl;
tf1[0] = tensor(1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9);
Info<< "tf1: " << tf1 << endl;
Info<< "2.0*tf1: " << 2.0*tf1 << endl;</pre>
```



Discretization of a tensor field in OpenFOAM

- FVM (Finite Volume Method)
- No limitations on the number of faces bounding each cell
- No restriction on the alignment of each face
- The mesh class polyMesh can be used to construct a polyhedral mesh using the minimum information required
- The fvMesh class extends the polyMesh class to include additional data needed for the FV discretization (see test/mesh)
- The geometricField class relates a tensor field to an fvMesh (can also be typedef volField, surfaceField, pointField)
- A geometricField inherits all the tensor algebra of its corresponding field, has dimension checking, and can be subjected to specific discretization procedures



Examine an fvMesh

• Let us examine an fvMesh:

```
run
rm -rf cavity
cp -r $FOAM_TUTORIALS/incompressible/icoFoam/cavity .
cd cavity
sed -i s/"20 20 1"/"2 2 1"/g constant/polyMesh/blockMeshDict
blockMesh
```

- Run the test/mesh/meshTest (first compile it!)
- C() gives the center of all cells and boundary faces.
 V() gives the volume of all the cells.
 Cf() gives the center of all the faces.



Examine a volScalarField

• Read a volScalarField that corresponds to the mesh. Add in meshTest.C, before return(0):

```
volScalarField p
    IOobject
         "p",
         runTime.timeName(),
         mesh,
         IOobject::MUST READ,
         IOobject::AUTO WRITE
    ),
    mesh
);
Info<< p << endl;</pre>
Info<< p.boundaryField()[0] << endl;</pre>
```





Equation discretization in OpenFOAM

- Converts the PDEs into a set of linear algebraic equations, **Ax=b**, where **x** and **b** are volFields (geometricFields). **A** is an fvMatrix, which is created by a discretization of a geometricField and inherits the algebra of its corresponding field, and it supports many of the standard algebraic matrix operations
- The fvm (Finite Volume Method) and fvc (Finite Volume Calculus) classes contain static functions for the differential operators, and discretize any geometricField. fvm returns an fvMatrix, and fvc returns a geometricField.

Examples:

Term description	Mathematical expression	fvm::/fvc:: functions
Laplacian	$ abla \cdot \Gamma abla \phi$	laplacian(Gamma,phi)
Time derivative	$\partial \phi / \partial t$	ddt(phi)
	$\partial ho \phi / \partial t$	ddt(rho, phi)
Convection	$ abla \cdot (\psi)$	div(psi, scheme)
	$ abla \cdot (\psi \phi)$	div(psi, phi, word)
		div(psi, phi)
Source	$ ho\phi$	Sp(rho, phi)
		SuSp(rho, phi)
ϕ : vol <type>Fiel</type>	d, ρ : scalar, volScalarField	ψ : surfaceScalarField



Example

The equation

$$\frac{\partial \rho \vec{U}}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot \phi \vec{U} - \nabla \cdot \mu \nabla \vec{U} = -\nabla p$$

has the OpenFOAM representation

```
solve
(
    fvm::ddt(rho, U)
    + fvm::div(phi, U)
    - fvm::laplacian(mu, U)
    ==
    - fvc::grad(p)
)
```

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Example: laplacianFoam, the source code

```
Solves \partial T / \partial t - \nabla \cdot k \nabla T = 0
#include "fvCFD.H" // Include the class definitions
int main(int argc, char *argv[])
#
    include "setRootCase.H" // Set the correct path
    include "createTime.H" // Create the time
#
#
    include "createMesh.H" // Create the mesh
#
    include "createFields.H" // Temperature field T and diffusivity DT
    while (runTime.loop()) // Time loop
#
    include "readSIMPLEControls.H" // Read solution controls
        for (int nonOrth=0; nonOrth$<$=nNonOrthCorr; nonOrth++)</pre>
             solve( fvm::ddt(T) - fvm::laplacian(DT, T) ); // Solve eq.
#
    include "write.H" // Write out results at specified time instances}
    return 0; // End with 'ok' signal
```



Example: laplacianFoam, discretization and boundary conditions

Find this in \$FOAM_TUTORIALS/basic/laplacianFoam/flange

Discretization:

dictionary fvSchemes, read from file:

```
ddtSchemes
{
    default Euler;
}
laplacianSchemes
{
    default none;
    laplacian(DT,T) Gauss linear corrected;
}
```

Boundary conditions:

Part of class volScalarField object T, read from file:

```
boundaryField{
   patch1{ type zeroGradient;}
   patch2{ type fixedValue; value uniform 273;}}
```

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