

The CE/SE Method for Navier-Stokes Equations Using Unstructured Meshes for Flows at All Speeds

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Abstract

In this paper, we report an extension of the Space-Time Conservation Element and Solution Element (CE/SE) Method for solving the Navier-Stokes equations. Numerical algorithms for both structured and unstructured meshes are developed. To calculate the viscous flux terms, a ‘midpoint rule’ is used. In the setting of space-time flux conservation, a new and unified boundary-condition treatment for solid wall is introduced. The Navier Stokes solvers retain all favorable features of the original CE/SE method for the Euler equations, including high fidelity resolution of unsteady flows, easy implementation of non-reflective boundary conditions, and simplicity of computational logic. In addition, numerical results show that the present Navier-Stokes solvers can be used for high-speed flows as well as low-Mach-number flows without preconditioning. The present Navier Stokes solvers are efficient, accurate, and very robust for flows at all speeds.

1. Introduction

The Space-Time Conservation Element and Solution Element Method, or the CE/SE Method for short, originally proposed by Chang [1-6], is a novel numerical framework for conservation laws. The CE/SE method has many non-traditional features, including a unified treatment of space and time, the introduction of conservation element (CE) and solution element (SE), and a shock capturing strategy without Riemann solver. Moreover, the CE/SE method is based on triangles and

tetrahedrons for two- and three-dimensional flows. Thus it is naturally suited for unstructured mesh. As such, the CE/SE method is a genuine multidimensional scheme because the method has been constructed without dimensional splitting. To date, numerous highly accurate solutions have been reported, including traveling and interacting shocks, acoustic waves, shedding vortices, detonation waves, shock/acoustic waves interaction, shock/vortex interaction, and cavitating flows. In this paper, the CE/SE method is extended for solving the Navier-Stokes equations. The rest of the paper is organized as follows.

In the beginning of Section 2, a short summary for the CE/SE method for the Euler equations in two spatial dimensions is provided. The CE/SE scheme for the Navier-Stokes equations will then be presented. In Section 3, a new and unified wall boundary treatment (proposed by Chang), which is based on space-time flux conservation near wall, is introduced. This wall boundary condition treatment is accurate and numerically stable. In Section 4, we present several flow solutions in a wide range of speeds obtained by the CE/SE Navier Stokes solver. All results compared favorably with reported experimental data or previous numerical solutions. A three-dimensional result by the CE/SE method is also reported. We then offer concluding remarks and give the list of cited references.

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2. The CE/SE Viscous Scheme

Consider the following two-dimensional Navier-Stokes Equations, its dimensionless conservation form can be written as

$$\frac{\partial U_m}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial f_m}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial g_m}{\partial y} - \frac{\partial F_{vm}}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial G_{vm}}{\partial y} = 0, \quad (2.1)$$

where $m = 1, 2, 3, 4$ indicating the continuity, two momentum and the energy equations. Here f and g are the inviscid parts of the fluxes, and they are functions of U_m . F_v and G_v are viscous parts of the fluxes, which are functions of U_m , U_{xm} and U_{ym} . Let $x_1 = x$, $x_2 = y$ and $x_3 = t$ be the coordinates of a three-dimensional Euclidean space E_3 . The integral counterpart of Eq. (2.1) is

$$\oint_{S(V)} H_m \cdot ds = 0, \quad m = 1, 2, 3, 4 \quad (2.2)$$

Here $H_m = (f_m - F_{vm}, g_m - G_{vm}, U_m)$ are the space-time current density vectors of mass, x-momentum, y-momentum and energy, respectively. $S(V)$ is the boundary surface of a space-time region V in E_3 . The above flux vector H_m can be decomposed into the inviscid and viscous parts:

$$H_m = h_m - H_{vm} \quad (2.3)$$

with

$$h_m = (f_m, g_m, U_m), \quad (2.4a)$$

$$H_{vm} = (F_{vm}, G_{vm}, 0), \quad (2.4b)$$

In two spatial dimensions, triangular spatial mesh is used to perform space-time integration. Refer to Fig.1. The grid points are located at centers of triangles. At each mesh node, three conservation elements (CEs) and one solution element (SE) are defined in connection with its three neighbors. For example, at point G , three $CE^{(l)}$ ($l = 1, 2, 3$) are the cylinders $EFGDE'F'G'D'$ ($CE^{(1)}$), $ABGFA'B'G'F'$ ($CE^{(2)}$) and $CDGBC'D'G'B'$ ($CE^{(3)}$). The SE is the union of four planes $ABCDEF$, $G'G''B''B'$, $G'G''D''D'$, $G'G''F''F'$ and their immediate neighborhood.

Inside each $SE(j, n)$, the flow variables are assumed continuous. By using the first-order Taylor series expansions, $U_m(x, y, t)$, $f_m(x, y, t)$ and $g_m(x, y, t)$ are approximated by,

$$U_m^*(x, y, t; j, n) = (U_m)_j^n + (U_{mx})_j^n(x - x_j) + (U_{my})_j^n(y - y_j) + (U_{mt})_j^n(t - t^n) \quad (2.5a)$$

$$f_m^*(x, y, t; j, n) = (f_m)_j^n + (f_{mx})_j^n(x - x_j) + (f_{my})_j^n(y - y_j) + (f_{mt})_j^n(t - t^n) \quad (2.5b)$$

$$g_m^*(x, y, t; j, n) = (g_m)_j^n + (g_{mx})_j^n(x - x_j) + (g_{my})_j^n(y - y_j) + (g_{mt})_j^n(t - t^n) \quad (2.5c)$$

Accordingly,

$$h_m^*(x, y, t; j, n) = (f_m^*(x, y, t; j, n), g_m^*(x, y, t; j, n), U_m^*(x, y, t; j, n)) \quad (2.6)$$

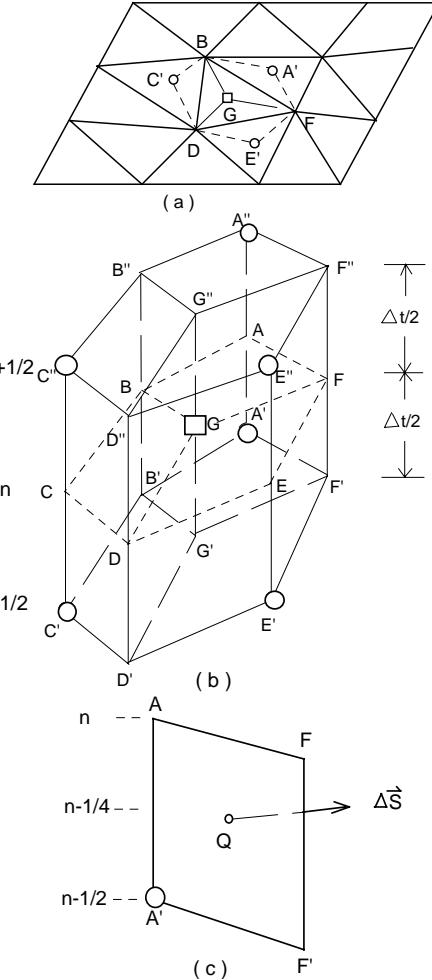


Fig. 1 A schematic of the CE/SE scheme: (a) triangle mesh in two spatial dimensions; (b) The definitions of the CEs and SE; (c) the calculation of the space-time flux.

Thus Eq.(2.2) can be calculated by using the discrete form:

$$\oint_{S(CE^{(l)}(j,n))} (h_m^* - H_{vm}) \cdot ds = 0, \quad (2.7)$$

where $S(CE^{(l)}(j,n))$ is the boundary surface of $CE^{(l)}$.

To proceed, we illustrate the viscous term integral in Eq. (2.7). From Eq. (2.4b), the third component of H_{vm} in time is null. Thus, in calculating the viscous fluxes, we only need to calculate integrals over lateral surfaces in the space-time domain. For example, in calculating viscous flux over $CE^{(2)}$, the quadrilateral cylinder $ABGFA'B'G'F'$, we only need to calculate the integrals of viscous terms over four lateral surfaces $ABA'B'$, $AFA'F'$, $GBG'B'$ and $GF'G'F'$. As shown in Fig.1(c), we define the surface vector, denoted by $\Delta\vec{S} = (S_x, S_y, S_t)$, for the surface $AFA'F'$ as the unit outward normal vector multiplied by its area. Thus we have

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{AFA'F'} H_{vm} \cdot dS &\approx S_x \cdot F_{vm} ((U_m, U_{mx}, U_{my})_Q^{n-1/4}) \\ &\quad + S_y \cdot G_{vm} ((U_m, U_{mx}, U_{my})_Q^{n-1/4}) \end{aligned} \quad (2.8)$$

where Q is the centroid of $AFA'F'$. Because the surface $AFA'F'$ belong to the SE of point A' , we have

$$(U_m)_Q^{n-1/4} \approx (U_m)_{A'}^{n-1/2} + (U_{mx})_{A'}^{n-1/2}(x_Q - x_{A'}) + (U_{my})_{A'}^{n-1/2}(y_Q - y_{A'}) + \Delta t / 4 \cdot (U_{mt})_{A'}^{n-1/2} \quad (2.9)$$

To calculate $(U_{mx})_Q$ and $(U_{my})_Q$, we assumed a linear distribution of U in the SE, and the following approximation is employed:

$$\begin{aligned} (U_{mx})_Q^{n-1/4} &\approx (U_{mx})_{A'}^{n-1/2}; \\ (U_{my})_Q^{n-1/4} &\approx (U_{my})_{A'}^{n-1/2} \end{aligned} \quad (2.10)$$

It is similar for surface $AFA'F'$. But for surfaces $GBG'B'$, $GDG'D'$ and $GF'G'F'$, because they belong to the SE of point G , and they also belong to the SE of point G' , we can use the flow variables U_m , U_{mx} and U_{my} at point G or G' to approximate the U_m , U_{mx} and U_{my} at the centroid of each surface. We note that as an approximation it is more efficient to use the flow variables and their derivatives at point G' , which is located at previous time step, such that we need not solve nonlinear equations for U_{mx} and U_{my} at each grid point at the new time level. In this case, however, we must use the dual mesh.

To proceed, we substitute Eqs. (2.5) and (2.6) into Eq. (2.7), and obtain the following discrete equations:

$$\left[\sum_{l_1}^+ \vec{U} + \sum_{l_2}^+ \vec{U}_x + \sum_{l_3}^+ \vec{U}_y \right]_j^n = \left[\sum_{l_1}^- \vec{U} + \sum_{l_2}^- \vec{U}_x + \sum_{l_3}^- \vec{U}_y \right]_{j,l}^{n-1/2} \quad (2.11)$$

where $l = 1, 2, 3$ for flux conservation over three CEs. By adding the three equations together, we get the final formulation for the numerical solution of the flow variables \vec{U} :

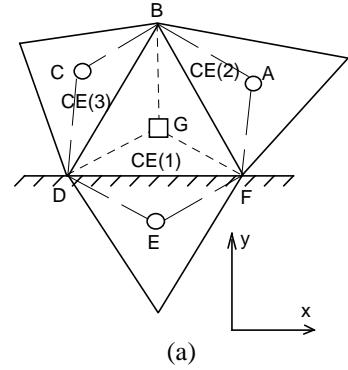
$$\vec{U}_j^n = \frac{1}{S_h} \sum_{l=1}^3 \left[\sum_{l_1}^- \vec{U} + \sum_{l_2}^- \vec{U}_x + \sum_{l_3}^- \vec{U}_y \right]_{j,l}^{n-1/2} \quad (2.12)$$

By solving any two of Eqs. (2.11), we can obtain the numerical solutions for $(\vec{U}_x)_j^n$ and $(\vec{U}_y)_j^n$, which we denote as $(\vec{U}_x^a)_j^n$ and $(\vec{U}_y^a)_j^n$.

Equation (2.12) for \vec{U} , in conjunction with two of the three equation expressed by Eqs (2.11) for \vec{U}_x and \vec{U}_y , are the space-time CE/SE scheme for solving the two-dimensional Navier-Stokes equations. This is similar to the a-scheme for Euler equations [1-6]. Using the same method as that in [1-6], we can get the a-ε and the a-ε-α-β schemes for the Navier Stokes solver. Since the above scheme is based on triangles, it can be directly used in unstructured mesh. In addition, the above scheme can be extended to three-dimensional case in a straight way.

3. Wall Boundary Treatment

In the setting of the CE/SE method, a new boundary condition treatment is developed based on space-time flux conservation. The idea was proposed by Chang, the fourth author of the present paper. Here, only a brief account of this treatment is provided.



(a)

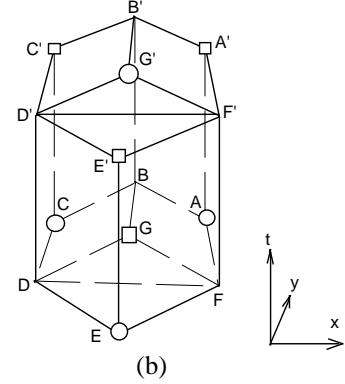


Fig.2. A schematic for wall boundary treatment: (a) Spatial mesh and (b) CEs near the wall boundary.

In the traditional wall boundary treatment, the slip condition is applied along the wall for inviscid flows, while non-slip condition is applied for viscous flows. One cannot make any connection between these two treatments. In the setting of the Space-Time CE/SE method, a new and unified wall boundary treatment is proposed for solving the Navier-Stokes equations. Essentially, the shear stress exerted on the fluid by a wall is modeled as a source term as a part of the local space-time flux conservation over a conservation element in the vicinity of the wall boundary. When the fluid is inviscid, the source term vanishes and the boundary condition reduces to the usual “slip” condition along the wall. When the flow is viscous, the source term survives and the boundary condition is fully consistent with the traditional non-slip condition.

Figure 2(a) shows a schematic of the grid points near a horizontal wall. No grid point is placed on the wall. Instead, a ghost point E , which is the mirror image of point G with respect to the wall, is used. The flow variables U_i ($i = 1, 2, 3, 4$) ($\mathbf{U} = (\rho, \rho u, \rho v, E)$ for two-dimensional flows) and their spatial derivatives, $(U_x)_i$ and $(U_y)_i$ ($i = 1, 2, 3, 4$), at point E are obtained from those of point G by assuming that, at any time t , the flow fields below and above \overline{DF} are the mirror images of each other. Note that the mirror-image conditions traditionally are applied to inviscid flows but not viscous flows. Here, they are applied to both inviscid and viscous flows. With these conditions specified on the ghost point, we can calculate the flow variables and their spatial derivatives at point G for the

next time step. In the CE/SE method, this calculation is carried out by the space-time integration over three conservation elements $CE^{(i)}$, $i=1,2,3$ (Fig.2(b)). Additional treatment for the space-time flux calculation in $CE^{(1)}$ is needed due to the existence of the wall boundary lying across the conservation element.

Let (i) the viscosity μ be a constant; and (ii) the wall be an insulated wall. Because (i) $u = v = 0$ at the wall; and (ii) the numerical solution is linear in x , y , and t within a solution element, it can be shown that the mass, x-momentum, y-momentum and energy fluxes entering into the fluid in the triangular cylinder GDFG'D'F' from the wall form the row matrix

$$\vec{f}_{w_+} = S \cdot (0, -\frac{1}{R_{el}} \cdot \frac{\partial u}{\partial y}, p - \frac{4}{3R_{el}} \cdot \frac{\partial v}{\partial y}, 0)_{Q_+} \quad (3.1)$$

On the other hand, the same four fluxes entering into the fluid in the triangular cylinder EFDE'F'D' from the wall form the row matrix

$$\vec{f}_{w_-} = -S \cdot (0, -\frac{1}{R_{el}} \cdot \frac{\partial u}{\partial y}, p - \frac{4}{3R_{el}} \cdot \frac{\partial v}{\partial y}, 0)_{Q_-} \quad (3.2)$$

Note that, in Eqs. (3.1) and (3.2), (i) S is the area of the surface DFF'D'; and (ii) the fluid properties associated with \vec{f}_{w_+} and \vec{f}_{w_-} , respectively, are to be evaluated at points Q_+ and Q_- , which, respectively, are immediately above and below the centroid Q of the rectangle DFF'D'. Using the mirror image conditions, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \left(\frac{\partial u}{\partial y}\right)_{Q_-} &= -\left(\frac{\partial u}{\partial y}\right)_{Q_+}, \\ \left(p - \frac{4}{3R_{el}} \frac{\partial v}{\partial y}\right)_{Q_-} &= \left(p - \frac{4}{3R_{el}} \frac{\partial v}{\partial y}\right)_{Q_+} \end{aligned} \quad (3.3)$$

By using Eqs. (3.1)-(3.3), it is concluded that the total mass, x-momentum, y-momentum and energy fluxes entering into the fluid in the cylinder GDEFG'D'E'F' (i.e., $CE^{(1)}$) from the wall form the row matrix

$$\vec{f}_w = \vec{f}_{w_+} + \vec{f}_{w_-} = -2S \cdot (0, \frac{1}{R_{el}} \cdot \frac{\partial u}{\partial y}, 0, 0)_{Q_+} \quad (3.4)$$

In the current treatment, the surviving x-momentum flux in Eq. (3.4) is treated as a source term in flux balance calculation involving conservation element $CE^{(1)}$. To calculate the flux \vec{f}_w , we need to calculate $\partial u / \partial y$. For simple laminar flows with enough mesh resolution of the boundary layer, because $u = 0$ at point Q_+ , and $u \approx (u_G + u_{G'})/2$ at the midpoint M of $\overline{GG'}$, we can assume that,

$$\left(\frac{\partial u}{\partial y}\right)_{Q_+} \approx \frac{(u_G + u_{G'})/2 - 0}{y_M - y_{Q_+}} \quad (3.5)$$

Note that, for the inviscid flows (i.e., $1/R_{el} = 0$), $\vec{f}_w = 0$. Thus the current boundary treatment becomes the usual “slip” condition because only the mirror-image conditions are imposed. As such, the present boundary treatment is a unified one, suitable for inviscid as well as viscous flows.

4. Numerical Results

To demonstrate the capabilities of the present scheme, several flow problems are calculated.

4. 1 Shock/Boundary Layer Interaction

The first problem is the shock/boundary layer interaction, which is a standard test problem for Navier Stokes solvers. When the shock is strong and the incident shock angle is large, boundary layer separation occurs at the shock impinging point. In order to resolve the boundary layer, clustered cells near the solid wall must be employed.

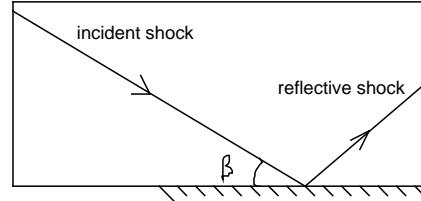
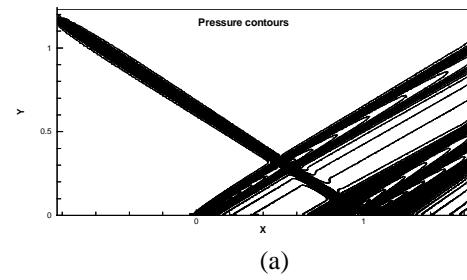


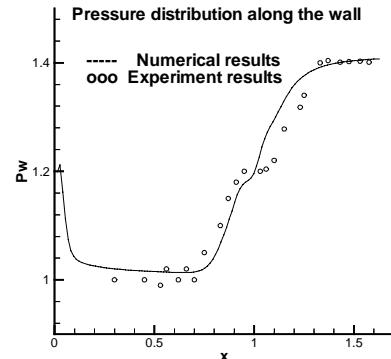
Fig.3 Shock/boundary layer interaction.

The free-stream Mach number is $M_\infty = 2.0$. The Reynolds number $R_e = 2.96 \times 10^5$. The shock incident angle $\beta = 32.6^\circ$. The computational domain is $[0, 0.12] \times [0, 0.06]$ and 38400 triangles are used.

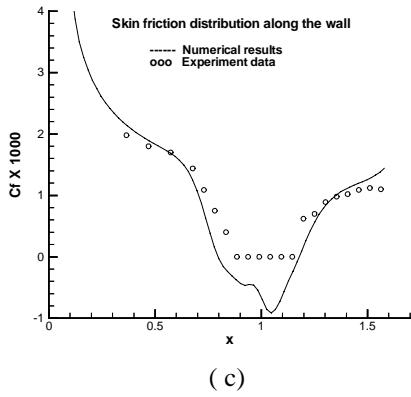
In this problem, the new solid boundary treatment is used along the wall. The numerical results are shown in Fig.4, for pressure contours, pressure distribution and skin friction distribution along the wall. The calculating results all agree well with the experiment results [8].



(a)



(b)



(c)

Fig.4 Numerical results of the shock/boundary layer interaction: (a) pressure contours, (b) pressure distribution along the wall, and (c) skin friction distribution along the wall.

4.2 Buoyancy-Driven Gas Flows in a Square Box

As shown in Fig.5, the configuration consists of two insulated horizontal walls and two lateral walls with constant temperatures of T_h and T_c . For a small temperature difference between two vertical walls, this problem has been extensively studied based on the incompressible flow equations with Boussinesq model for the buoyancy force. For a large temperature difference, the compressible formulation should be employed.

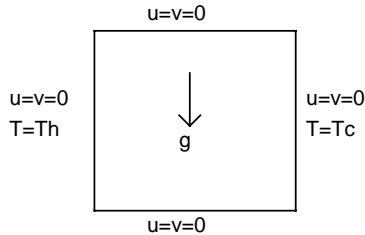


Fig.5 A schematic of the buoyancy-driven gas flow in a box

Flow features of this buoyancy-driven cavity flow depend on Rayleigh number R_a , Froude number F_r , the aspect ratio of the cavity, and the temperature difference parameter ε . Here, two Rayleigh numbers $R_a = 10^4$ and 10^6 are considered with a temperature difference parameter $\varepsilon = 0.6$, which represents $T_h/T_c = 4$. The Froude number and the aspect ratio are unity. This problem is calculated using the present scheme with the 12000 triangles. The present new solid boundary treatment is used on the four solid walls. Figure 6 shows the velocity vectors at two Rayleigh numbers. Figure 7 is the x and y-direction velocity distributions along the vertical and horizontal centerlines at $Ra = 10^4$. The solution by the CE/SE method agrees well with previously reported data [9].

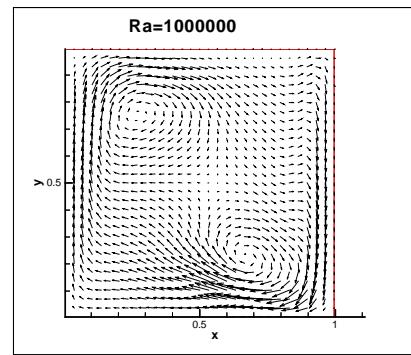
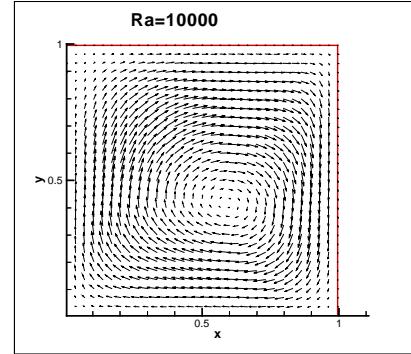
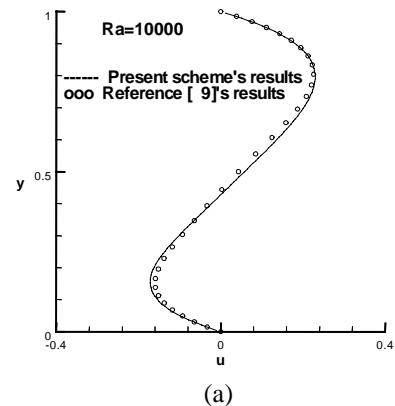
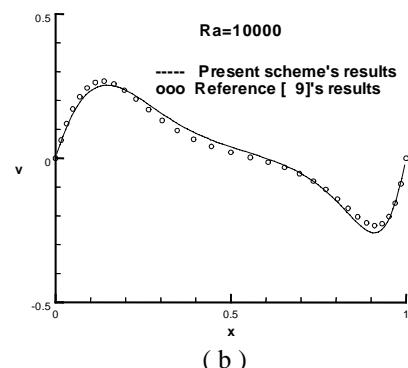


Fig.6 Velocity vectors of the buoyancy-driven flow at two Raylaigh numbers.



(a)



(b)

Fig.7 Velocity distributions along the vertical and horizontal centerlines: (a) u , and (b) v .

4.3 Driven Cavity Flow

This problem is a benchmark problem for incompressible viscous flow calculations. Here the full compressible Navier-Stokes equations are solved to demonstrate the capabilities of the CE/SE scheme at the incompressible limit. Here the 12000 triangles are used. Figure 8 shows velocity vectors, x and y-direction velocity distributions along the vertical and horizontal centerlines at $Re = 10^3$. This solution agrees well with Ghia's data [10].

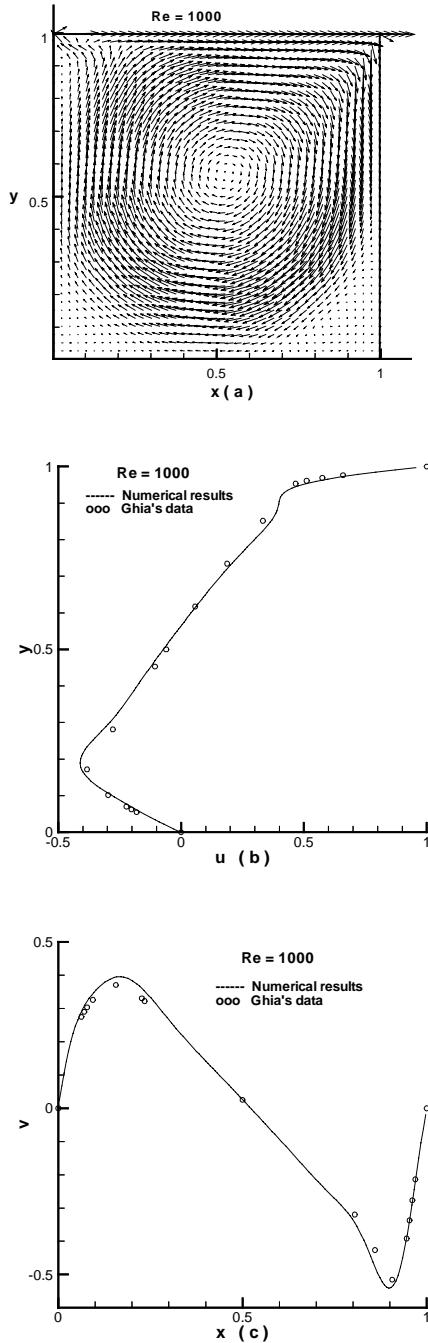


Fig.8. Solution of a driven cavity flows: (a) Velocity vectors, (b) u along the vertical centerline, and (c) v along the central horizontal centerline.

4.4 Flows Over a Circular Cylinder

The fourth example is an external flow over a circular cylinder at $R_e = 40$, with which a steady state solution exists. Again, the full compressible equations are solved by the CE/SE method without preconditioning. The computational domain is $[-5, 15] \times [-5, 5]$, and 10,092 triangles are used. Figure 9(a) shows the unstructured mesh near the circular cylinder. Figure 9(b) shows the velocity vectors of the flow solution. The wake length $L/d \approx 2.0$, and it compares well with the experiment data and previously reported results [11].

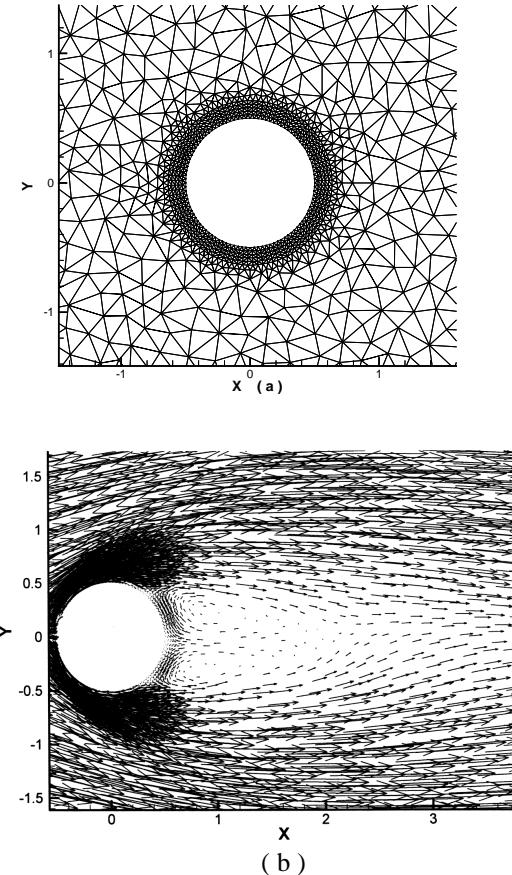
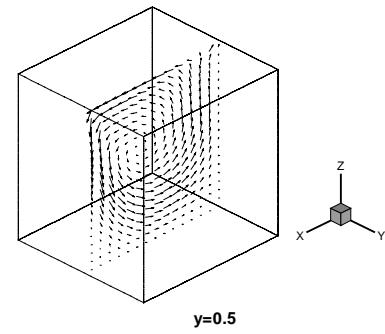


Fig.9. A flow over a cylinder ($R_e = 40$): (a) the mesh around the cylinder, (b) velocity vectors.



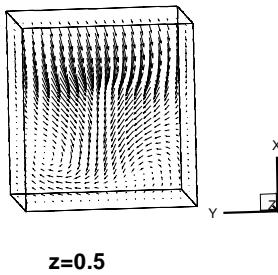


Fig.10. Velocity vectors in the mid-planes ($y=0.5$ and $z=0.5$) of a three-dimensional driven cavity flow.

4.5 A Three-Dimensional Driven Cavity Flow

The top lid is moving in the x direction with a constant speed with $Re=500$. 124,992 tetrahedrons are used. Figure 10 is the velocity vectors in the mid-plane $y=0.5$ and $z=0.5$. This result at $y=0.5$ plane is very similar to its two-dimensional counterpart. Details of the three-dimensional CE/SE method for Navier-Stokes equations will be presented in a separate paper.

Concluding Remarks

In this paper, we report an extension of the space-time CE/SE method for Navier Stokes equations. This scheme retains all favorable features of the CE/SE method, including the unified treatment of space and time, accurate computation of space-time flux conservation, and high resolution of unsteady flows. Since the present CE/SE method is based on triangles and tetrahedrons for two and three-dimensional flows, it is naturally suited for unstructured meshed. A unified wall boundary condition treatment for inviscid as well as viscous flows is illustrated. The present Navier Stokes solver of the CE/SE scheme can be applied to high speed flows as well as low-Mach-number flows without preconditioning. Numerical results reported in this paper agree well with the experimental or previously reported numerical results.

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