

The present wall-function approach is based on the numerical resolution of simplified 1D Turbulent Boundary Layer Equations (TBLE). For the velocity field, given a null wall velocity and the velocity u_m at a distance δ from the wall, the wall shear stress at the wall is computed by solving the following equation:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dy}[(\mu + \mu_t) \frac{du}{dy}] &= F_u \\ u(y=0) &= 0 \\ u(y=\delta) &= u_m \end{aligned} \quad (1)$$

And then computing:

$$\tau_w = \rho u_\tau^2 = \mu \left. \frac{du}{dy} \right|_w \quad (2)$$

In order to close equation (1), a model is required for the turbulent viscosity μ_t and, as done by different authors, the currently adopted approach consists in using a mixing length hypothesis:

$$\mu_t = \mu k y^+ \left(1 - e^{-\frac{y^+}{A^+}} \right)^2 \quad (3)$$

Where $k=0.41$ is the Von Karman constant and $A^+=19$ is the Van Driest constant. An important thing that should be noticed is that, when equation (3) is used for the turbulent viscosity and F_u is assumed constant, equation (1) has a closed, implicit solution, which makes superfluous the actual numerical solution. This solution can be obtained as follows. The equation is first integrated in the wall normal direction y , leading to:

$$(\mu + \mu_t) \frac{du}{dy} = F_u y + \tau_w \quad (4)$$

Then, dividing by ρu_τ^2 and rearranging, leads to:

$$\left(1 + \frac{\mu_t}{\mu} \right) \frac{du^+}{dy^+} = 1 + F_u^+ y^+ \quad (5)$$

Where:

$$F_u^+ = \left(\frac{\mu F_u}{\rho^2 u_\tau^3} \right) \quad (6)$$

Finally, equation (5) is integrated in y^+ to give the final solution:

$$u^+(y^+) = \int_0^{y^+} \frac{1}{1 + \frac{\mu_t}{\mu}} dy^+ + F_u^+ \int_0^{y^+} \frac{y^+}{1 + \frac{\mu_t}{\mu}} dy^+ \quad (7)$$

It is known that the Reichardt function:

$$f^+ = \frac{1}{k} \log(1 + ky^+) + A \left(1 - e^{-\frac{y^+}{B}} - \frac{y^+}{B} e^{-\frac{y^+}{C}} \right) \quad (8)$$

Is already a very good approximation for $u^+(y^+)$ when $F_u = 0$. This approximation can be improved if, instead of $A=7.8$ (as in the original Reichardt function), $A=8.078$ is used ($B=11$ and $C=3$ are instead retained at the moment). In order to include also pressure gradient effects one can note that, if f^+ in equation (8) is a good approximation of the first integral of u^+ in equation (7), then the second integral of u^+ in equation (7) can be computed through an integration by parts. Indeed:

$$u^+(y^+) = \int_0^{y^+} \frac{1}{1 + \frac{\mu_t}{\mu}} dy^+ + F_u^+ \int_0^{y^+} \frac{y^+}{1 + \frac{\mu_t}{\mu}} dy^+ \approx f^+ + F_u^+ \int_0^{y^+} y^+ \frac{df^+}{dy^+} dy^+ = f^+(1 + F_u^+ y^+) - F_u^+ \int_0^{y^+} f^+ dy^+ \quad (9)$$

with the last integral in the previous equation being:

$$\int_0^{y^+} f^+ dy^+ = \frac{(1 + ky^+) \log(1 + ky^+) - ky^+}{k^2} + A \left[y^+ \left(1 + \frac{C}{B} e^{-\frac{y^+}{C}} \right) + B \left(e^{-\frac{y^+}{B}} - 1 \right) + \frac{C^2}{B} \left(e^{-\frac{y^+}{C}} - 1 \right) \right] \quad (10)$$

This provides a closed semi-analytical formulation $u^+(y^+)$ when F_u is different from 0.

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