

OpenFOAM Tutorials

2 Add temperature to solvers

1. Add the heat transport equation to the `icoFoam` solver, in order to calculate how the flow can affect the heat transfer between two heated walls. The heat transport equation is

$$\frac{\partial T}{\partial t} + (\nabla \cdot \mathbf{V})T = \alpha \nabla^2 T$$

where α is the thermal diffusivity.

Copy the `icoFoam` solver to your OpenFOAM project directory, inside a folder named `applications`, where you can store all your modified OpenFOAM solvers. If you haven't already created such directory, either do it manually, or follow the commands

```
$ mkdir -p $WM_PROJECT_USER_DIR/applications
$ cp -r $FOAM_SOLVERS/incompressible/icoFoam $WM_PROJECT_USER_DIR/applications/myIcoFoam
$ cd $WM_PROJECT_USER_DIR/applications/solvers/myIcoFoam
```

Rename the `icoFoam.C` file to `myIcoFoam.C`. Now go into the Make subdirectory and open the 'files' file with a text editor. Change it to read:

```
myIcoFoam.C

EXE = $(FOAM_USER_APPBIN)/myIcoFoam
```

You can delete old binaries, if they exist, using the command

```
$ wclean
```

To compile the new solver, run the command

```
$ wmake
```

If everything worked correctly, your new solver binary should be present in the `FOAM_USER_APPBIN` directory. Check this with:

```
$ ls $FOAM_USER_APPBIN
```

This will show the steps to add another field variable to a solver. Open the `myIcoFoam.C` with a text editor. Following the flow of the `myIcoFoam` program, one notices that the header file `createFields.H` is called prior to the solution loop. This file was copied with the solver and has the specific information pertaining to what variables will be solved. Inside the `createFields.H` file, the first items loaded is the kinematic viscosity from the `transportProperties` dictionary file. We will add a new transport property related to the thermal diffusivity which will be denoted as `alpha`. Make the following edits:

```
Info<< "Reading transportProperties\n" << endl;

IOdictionary transportProperties
(
    IOobject
    (
        "transportProperties",
        runTime.constant(),
        mesh,
        IOobject::MUST_READ,
        IOobject::NO_WRITE
    )
);

dimensionedScalar nu
(
    transportProperties.lookup("nu")
);
```

```
//Add here...
dimensionedScalar alpha
(
    transportProperties.lookup("alpha")
);
//Done for now...
```

Later on, we will need to edit the `transportProperties` dictionary file to reflect this change. Moreover, in the same file, add a `volScalarField`, similar to the pressure field, that represents the temperature.

```
Info<< "Reading field T\n" <<endl;

volScalarField T
(
    IOobject
    (
        "T",
        runTime.timeName(),
        mesh,
        IOobject::MUST_READ,
        IOobject::AUTO_WRITE
    ),
    mesh
);
```

Save these changes. You've completed adding a new scalar field variable 'T' and a new constant 'alpha'. The next step is to add a new equation describing the transport of the temperature. Return to editing the `myIcoFoam.C` file. Because the temperature transport depends on the velocity field, we will add the equation after the momentum equation is solved (after the PISO loop), but before the time step is written. Edit your file so it looks like this: