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I need explanations about fixedFluxPressure

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November 30, 2010, 05:15

I need explanations about fixedFluxPressure

#1

[Cyp](#)

Senior Member

Cyprien

Join Date: Feb 2010

Location: Stanford

University

Posts: 298

Rep Power: 14

Hello!

I had a look at the fixedFluxPressure boundary condition and I am not quite sure to well understand what this BC does.

I guess I have to use this BC if I want to evaluate the pressure according to a velocity input. Am I wrong ?

Furthermore, in the code source, one can read:

Code:

```
gradient() = (pHip - (patch().Sf() & Up))/patch().magSf()/rAp;
```

I do not succeed in linking this snippet with a mathematical formula...

All enlightments are welcome!

Regards,

Cyp

[JR22](#), [Guimloute](#), [amuzeshi](#) and [1 others](#) like this.

Quote

August 19, 2013, 21:36

buoyantPressure vs. fixedFluxPressure

#2

[JR22](#)

Senior Member



Jose Rey

I realize this is an old thread, but it is still very relevant.

I was having terrible problems trying to get buoyantBoussinesqSimpleFoam to converge. I changed the p_rgh BC's from buoyantPressure to fixedFluxPressure and the model started to converge.

Anybody?

[Guimloute](#) and [amuzeshi](#) like this.

Join Date: Oct 2012
Posts: 134
Rep Power: 14



August 1, 2014, 05:42

#3

[Sherlock_1812](#)

Senior Member

Srivathsan N

Join Date: Jan 2013
Location: India
Posts: 101
Rep Power: 9

Same question here. What is the difference between buoyantPressure and fixedFluxPressure boundary conditions?

Regards,

Srivaths



October 16, 2014, 03:23

OpenFOAM 2.3.0 doesn't have buoyantPressure BC

#4

[zandi](#)

Senior Member



Fatema Zandi Goharrizi

Join Date: Mar 2009
Posts: 158
Rep Power: 13

Hi

OpenFOAM version 2.3.0 doesn't have buoyantPressure libraries. Am I right?
what is the difference between buoyantPressure and fixedFluxPressure?
why fixedFluxPressure converge better? is it the only difference between them?
Please help 😊



October 16, 2014, 04:46

#5

[fabian_roesler](#)

Senior Member

Fabian Roesler

Join Date: Mar 2009
Location: Germany
Posts: 212
Rep Power: 14

OpenFOAM 2.2.2 has both boundary conditions. In newer Version, buoyantPressure boundary was dismissed. For clarification have a look into the code or into Doxygen.

From buoyantPressureFvPatchScalarField we learn that:

This boundary condition sets the pressure gradient appropriately for buoyant flow. If the variable name is one of pd, p_rgh or ph_rgh, we assume that the pressure variable is $p - \rho(g \cdot h)$ and the gradient set using:

$$\nabla(p) = -\nabla_{\perp}(\rho)(g \cdot h)$$

Otherwise we assume that it is the static pressure, and the gradient calculated using:

$$\nabla(p) = \rho(g \cdot n)$$

From fixedFluxPressureFvPatchScalarField we see that:

This boundary condition adjusts the pressure gradient such that the flux on the boundary is that specified by the velocity boundary condition.

The predicted flux to be compensated by the pressure gradient is evaluated as **Invalid Equation**, both of which are looked-up from the database, as is the pressure diffusivity used to calculate the gradient using:

$$\nabla(p) = \frac{\phi_{H/A} - \phi}{|Sf|D_p}$$

[haghajani](#), [wyldckat](#), [zandi](#) and [28 others](#) like this.



October 16, 2014, 05:21

#6

[fabian roesler](#)

Senior Member

Fabian Roesler

Join Date: Mar 2009

Location: Germany

Posts: 212

Rep Power: 14

Some additional remarks:

The fixedFluxPressure boundary is known to have a better convergence. This is in my opinion due to the more pressure related calculation of the gradient:

$$\nabla(p) = \frac{\phi_{H/A} - \phi}{|S_f| D_p}$$

phi and phiHbyA (predicted flux field) are directly linked to pressure equation. On a wall, the flux difference tends to zero and so the boundary condition turns to zeroGradient.

The buoyantPressure boundary is more the physical method to describe the pressure gradient with Archimedes' principle.

I hope my explanation is understandable and correct.

Cheers

Fabian

[haghajani](#), [wyldckat](#), [zandi](#) and [27 others](#) like this.



November 5, 2014, 17:06

#7

[santiagomarquezd](#)

Senior Member

**Santiago Marquez****Damian**

Join Date: Aug 2009

Location: Santa Fe, Santa

Fe, Argentina

Posts: 452

Rep Power: 20

Hi folks, I'm dealing with fixedFluxPressure BCs also and this thread was helpful. Checking the code things have changed at least in FOAM 2.3.0. The class definition is now more simple

fixedFluxPressureFvPatchScalarField.C

Code:

```
125 void Foam::fixedFluxPressureFvPatchScalarField::updateCoeffs
126 (
127     const scalarField& snGradp
128 )
129 {
130     if (updated())
131     {
132         return;
133     }
134
135     curTimeIndex_ = this->db().time().timeIndex();
136
137     gradient() = snGradp;
138     fixedGradientFvPatchScalarField::updateCoeffs();
139 }
```

it only sets the proper gradient in line 137 and then calls the updateCoeffs() method from the fixedGradientFvPatchScalarField class (from which the present class inherits). This requires to set the value of snGradp which is done at solver level. For example, from pEqn.H of interFoam we have:

Code:

```
27 // Update the fixedFluxPressure BCs to ensure flux consistency
28 setSnGrad<fixedFluxPressureFvPatchScalarField>
29 (
30     p_rgh.boundaryField(),
31     (
32         phiHbyA.boundaryField()
33         - (mesh.Sf().boundaryField() & U.boundaryField())
34         ) / (mesh.magSf().boundaryField() * rAUf.boundaryField())
35 );
```

From the new code the gradient reads:

$$\vec{\nabla} p = \left(\vec{H}/a_P \cdot \vec{S}_f - \vec{U} \cdot \vec{S}_f \right) \frac{(a_P)_f}{||\vec{S}_f||}$$

Hope this helps for 2.3.0 users.

Regards.

[wikstrom](#), [fabian roesler](#), [haghajani](#) and [23 others](#) like this.

Santiago MÁRQUEZ DAMIÁN, Ph.D.
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Last edited by santiagomarquezd; November 7, 2014 at 06:25. Reason: Add equation



April 14, 2015, 17:46

#8

[SSSS](#)

Senior Member

anonymous

Join Date: Aug 2014

Posts: 205

Rep Power: 9



I would like to comment out a bit, why does OpenFOAM use the expression given by **santiagomarquezd** (gracias por el análisis del código fuente) for the pressure surface normal gradient in the boundaries.

First of all we need to write down the momentum equation discretized using the Rhie-Chow interpolation method. This reads:

$$\vec{u}_f = \left(\frac{\vec{h}}{a_p} \right)_f - \left(\frac{1}{a_p} \right)_f \nabla p_m$$

Where the f subscript means interpolate to the face, p_m is the variable p_rgh whose value is $p_m = p - \rho \vec{g} \cdot \vec{h}$, and the vector u is the velocity. Now multiply the equation by the face surface vector $\vec{S}_f = ||S_f|| \cdot \vec{n}$ where the vector n is the surface normal:

$$\vec{u}_f \cdot \vec{S}_f = \left(\frac{\vec{h}}{a_p} \right)_f \cdot \vec{S}_f - \left(\frac{1}{a_p} \right)_f \nabla p_m \cdot \vec{S}_f$$

Thus the following equation for the pressure surface gradient $\nabla p_m \cdot \vec{n}$ can be obtained:

$$\nabla p_m \cdot \vec{n} = \left(\left(\frac{\vec{h}}{a_p} \right)_f \cdot \vec{S}_f - \vec{u}_f \cdot \vec{S}_f \right) \frac{a_p|_f}{||S_f||}$$

Hope this is useful for you foamers

[wikstrom](#), [haghajani](#), [zandi](#) and [27 others](#) like this.



October 14, 2015, 14:55

#9

[angelmonsalve](#)

New Member

Angel Monsalve

Join Date: Oct 2009

Posts: 6

Rep Power: 13



Thanks for the explanation!!



August 31, 2016, 15:35

[value uniform 0;](#)

#10

Dear all, thank you for the above discussion

[JonW](#)

Member

Jon Elvar Wallevik

Join Date: Nov 2010

Location: Reykjavik,
ICELAND

Posts: 94

Rep Power: 16



There is one thing I don't understand fully. In the damBreak example for interFoam (say of OF 4.0) the b.c. for p_rgh is given as...

```
leftWall
{
    type fixedFluxPressure;
    value uniform 0;
}
```

so the question is, what does "value uniform 0;" stand for?

There is one constructor in fixedFluxPressureFvPatchScalarField.C which has 3 arguments:
Foam::fixedFluxPressureFvPatchScalarField::fixedFluxPressureFvPatchScalarField

```
(
    const fvPatch& p,
    const DimensionedField<scalar, volMesh>& iF,
    const dictionary& dict
)
```

... and in that function body, there is
if (dict.found("value") && dict.found("gradient"))

But in interFoam, this constructor is not used, since it is the constructor with two arguments that is used (actually the first constructor), c.f. in pEqn.H

```
setSnGrad<fixedFluxPressureFvPatchScalarField>
(
    p_rgh.boundaryField(),
    (
        phiHbyA.boundaryField()
        - fvOptions.relative(mesh.Sf()).boundaryField() & U.boundaryField()
    )/(mesh.magSf()).boundaryField()*rAUf.boundaryField()
);
```

So am I understanding this correctly: When using interFoam, then the "value uniform 0;" is actually not used?

Any comment would be helpful
J.



November 23, 2016, 18:45



#11

[decah](#)

Member

Declan

Join Date: Oct 2016

Location: Ireland

Posts: 40

Rep Power: 6



Hi Jon,

I had a similar question about flowRateInletVelocity which requires an input value that doesn't appear to do anything. As explained by Roman in the below thread some derived boundary conditions necessarily inherit a placeholder value like this one because of their basic structure.

<http://www.cfd-online.com/Forums/openfoam-solving/82581-i-need-explanations-about-fixedfluxpressure.html>

I think the value uniform 0; you asked about is like this and could be assigned any value you like without affecting your simulation.

[JonW](#), [amolrajan](#), [mizzou](#) and [1 others](#) like this.



January 18, 2017, 05:46



#12

[nw_ds](#)

New Member

Mido

Join Date: Mar 2011

Posts: 24

Rep Power: 11



So the bottom line, The difference between this bc and zeroGradient is in term of the convergence (HOW MANY ITER TO SOLVE THE PRESSURE EQN) not the accuracy or whether the solver will converge or not.



October 11, 2017, 12:22

#13

beh_zadi

New Member

Join Date: Jan 2016

Posts: 3

Rep Power: 6



Hi openfoam users,

I'm new to openfoam and I need your help about fixedFluxPressure BC. I have made a new solver derived from icoFoam and I didn't find the following code in it while it exists in interFoam. I specified fixedValue BC for velocity field and fixedFluxPressure for pressure field. Does it need to add the following code in new solver to ensure flux consistency or not?

Code:

```

27 // Update the fixedFluxPressure BCs to ensure flux consistency
28 setSnGrad<fixedFluxPressureFvPatchScalarField>
29 (
30     p_rgh.boundaryField(),
31     (
32         phiHbyA.boundaryField()
33         - (mesh.Sf().boundaryField() & U.boundaryField())
34     )/(mesh.magSf().boundaryField()*rAUf.boundaryField())
35 );

```

Any comment would be helpful



December 14, 2017, 09:58

#14

roenby

Member

Johan Roenby

Join Date: May 2011

Location: Denmark

Posts: 89

Rep Power: 17



Just for the record:

If you are using a newer version of OpenFOAM (e.g. 5.x), you will find that the referred code snippet from interFoam's pEqn.H file has been replaced by the function call:

[constrainPressure\(p_rgh, U, phiHbyA, rAUf, MRF\);](#)

This is also the case for [icoFoam](#).

In the source code for this function, you'll find a similar code snippet:

<https://github.com/OpenFOAM/OpenFOAM...Pressure.C#L34>

Best,
Johan

[Andrea1984](#), [tiam](#), [amolrajan](#) and [3 others](#) like this.



April 30, 2020, 09:21

#15

Andrea1984

Senior Member

Andrea

Join Date: Feb 2012

Location: Leeds, UK

Posts: 168

Rep Power: 12



Apologies for digging up and old thread.

I have noticed that the call to constrainPressure does not take place in the Eulerian multiphase solvers (I am using OpenFOAM 6.0). I take this means that zeroGradient and fixedFluxPressure are equivalent for this class of solvers. Would be useful is some can confirm this.

Cheers,
Andrea



April 30, 2020, 10:00

#16

Ok so to answer my previous question, in multiphase Eulerian solvers this is done within pEqn without

Andrea1984

Senior Member

Andrea

Join Date: Feb 2012

Location: Leeds, UK

Posts: 168

Rep Power: 12



calling the constrainPressure function (probably because this is only suitable for one-fluid solvers).

In twoPhaseEulerFoam's pEqn.H this is done by

Code:

```
// Update the fixedFluxPressure BCs to ensure flux consistency
setSnGrad<fixedFluxPressureFvPatchScalarField>
(
    p_rgh.boundaryFieldRef(),
    (
        phiHbyA.boundaryField()
        - (
            alphaf1.boundaryField()*phi1.boundaryField()
            + alphaf2.boundaryField()*phi2.boundaryField()
        )
    )/(mesh.magSf().boundaryField()*rAUf.boundaryField())
);
```

The same is done in the pressure equation of the reactingEulerFoam family.

So to conclude the answer to my question in the previous post is no: fixedFluxPressure and zeroGradient are NOT the same thing in multiphase Eulerian solvers.



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