Automatic code generation for Finite Element Methods applied to the Shallow-Water equations

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Abstract

CTADEL, a code generation tool, has proven that it can generate highly optimized Fortran code for several schemes in weather forecast models such as *dynamics*, *cloud* and *turbulence* schemes. All these codes use finite difference methods as discretization. In this paper we describe how to extend CTADEL to generate code for the energy conserving Galerkin finite element schemes. We apply this technique to solve the Shallow-Water equations. We use the hand code as the reference to assess the efficiency of the generated code. The experiments show that the generated code has a performance gain upto two-thirds over the hand code.

1 Introduction

Coding for computationally intensive programs usually faces a number of issues. The main issue is the task to correctly translate the problem from the underlying mathematical theory into an efficient algorithm written in some programming language, and how to maintain the program when the problem specification is modified. Furthermore, making these programs efficient on different types of computer architectures is difficult, because each computer system requires different algorithms for optimization. A Problem Solving Environment (PSE) or code generator can assist these problems.

CTADEL (Code generation Tool for Applications based on Differential Equation using high-level Language specification), developed by van Engelen [2], is able to produce efficient code for sequential, vector, shared memory virtual, and distributed memory parallel computers. The problem, specified in a high-level language, is transformed into an abstract syntax tree (AST) using a transformation-database. On the AST global optimizations, common subexpression elimination and architecture dependent optimizations are performed before the result code is generated. These transformations ensure the generation of correct and efficient codes, which can compete with hand optimized codes.

CTADEL can generate code for several schemes in weather forecast models such as *dynamics*, *cloud* and *turbulence* schemes. Till now, all codes which have been generated by CTADEL use finite difference discretization techniques. The aim of this work is to extend CTADEL to handle finite element methods. In this paper we present how to extend CTADEL to generate code for the energy conserving Galerkin finite element schemes. The Shallow-Water equations are chosen as a test-case. These equations describe a single homogenous layer of fluid. In general they are applied to various problems, such as tidal flow, earthquake waves in oceans, etc. In meteorology they are used to forecast the geopotential.

This paper is organized as follows: Section 2 introduces the CTADEL system. A short description of the Galerkin finite element schemes for the Shallow-Water equations given in Section 3. Section 4 presents templates for Galerkin finite element schemes and the specification of the Shallow-Water equations. In Section 5 we describe the code generation process in CTADEL. The results and an assessment of the generated code are shown in Section 6. Section 7 is reserved for conclusions and future work.

2 CTADEL

Many attempts have been made to solve scientific or physical models numerically using computers. Today, a large collection of libraries, tools, and Problem Solving Environments (PSEs) have been developed for these problems. The computational kernels of most PSEs consist of a large library containing routines for several numerical solution methods. These routines form the templates for the resulting code. The power of this library determines the numerical knowledge of such a system.

A different approach to those so-called library-based PSEs consist of a collection of tools that generate code based on a problem specification without the use of a library. The numerical knowledge is determined by the expressiveness of the problem specification language and the underlying translation techniques. CTADEL belongs to this class of PSEs. Furthermore, a hardware description of the target platform is included in CTADEL's problem specification. This makes it possible to produce efficient codes for different types of architectures.

3 Galerkin finite element methods for the Shallow-Water equations

This section gives a short description of Galerkin finite element methods for the Shallow-Water equations. For more detail, the reader is referred to [13, 14].

3.1 Galerkin projection and finite element methods

For an arbitrary field ϕ , we assume the following representation

$$\tilde{\phi}(r) = \sum_{\nu=1}^{N} \phi_{\nu} e_{\nu}(r). \tag{1}$$

Here r denotes the x or y horizontal coordinates and e_{ν} are basis functions.

In order to formulate the finite element methods, it is necessary to approximate a rather general field $\phi(r)$ by a function $\tilde{\phi}(r)$ in the form of the right hand side of Equation (1). This is achieved by the Galerkin projection, where the coefficient ϕ_{ν} in Equation (1) are defined by

$$\left(\tilde{\phi}, e_{\nu}\right) = \left(\phi_{\nu}, e_{\nu}\right), \quad \nu \in \{1, \cdots, N\},\tag{2}$$

with the scalar product (a, b) is computed as

$$(a,b) = \int a(r)b(r)d\mu, \tag{3}$$

where

$$d\mu = w(r) dxdy \tag{4}$$

with the positive continuous function w is called the weight of the Galerkin projection. The relation between the fields ϕ and $\tilde{\phi}$, given by (2), can be written as

$$\tilde{\phi} = G\phi,\tag{5}$$

where G is called the Galerkin projection operator.

For equations of the form

$$\phi_t = f\left(\phi\right) \tag{6}$$

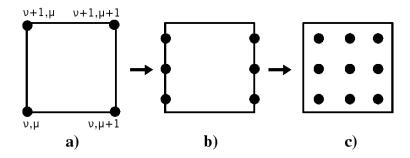


Figure 1. Grids: a) Nodepoint grid; b) Y-collocation grid; c) Collocation grid.

where the subscript t denotes the differentiation in time, the approximation

$$\tilde{\phi}_t = Gf\left(\tilde{\phi}\right) \tag{7}$$

is called the standard finite element scheme.

3.2 The Galerkin finite element method for the Shallow-Water equations

The Shallow-Water equations have the following form

$$\frac{\partial U}{\partial t} = fV - UU_x - VU_y - gH_x,
\frac{\partial V}{\partial t} = -fU - UV_x - VV_y - gH_y,
\frac{\partial H}{\partial t} = -(UH)_x - (VH)_y,$$
(8)

Here, the subscripts denote the differentiation with respect to the specified variable. U and V are the velocity components in x and y direction, respectively, H denotes the height field, g is the gravity constant, and f represents the Coriolis parameter.

The Galerkin finite element method for the Shallow-Water equations, as proposed by Steppler [13, 15], reads as follows

$$\frac{\partial U_{\nu,\mu}}{\partial t} = G_1 \left\langle \eta V - \left(G_2 \left\langle \frac{1}{2} \left(U^2 + V^2 \right) + gH \right\rangle \right)_x \right\rangle_{\nu,\mu},$$

$$\frac{\partial V_{\nu,\mu}}{\partial t} = G_1 \left\langle -\eta U - \left(G_2 \left\langle \frac{1}{2} \left(U^2 + V^2 \right) + gH \right\rangle \right)_y \right\rangle_{\nu,\mu},$$

$$\frac{\partial H_{\nu,\mu}}{\partial t} = -G_2 \left\langle \left(UH \right)_x + \left(VH \right)_y \right\rangle_{\nu,\mu},$$

$$\eta = V_x - U_y + f,$$
(9)

where η represents the absolute vorticity, ν and μ are the coordinates of the nodepoint grid (Figure 1a). G_1 and G_2 are the Galerkin operators with weights H and 1, respectively. The angle brackets denote the Galerkin projection (see [14]).

In order to approximate Equation (9) by the Galerkin finite element method, we interpolate the fields from the nodepoint to the y-collocation grid (Figure 1b) and then from the y-collocation to the collocation grid (Figure 1c). The purpose of interpolation is to create a finer resolution grid. Next, we compute the right hand side of Equation (9) on the collocation grid. Finally, we perform the Galerkin projection in the x direction and then in the y direction to transform from collocation to nodepoint grid. In the next paragraphs, we will describe these interpolations and projections.

Interpolation

Let ξ be either x or y and $\psi(\xi)$ be a function obtained from two dimensional function $\psi(x,y)$ by keeping the other variable fixed, then the interpolation formula for an interval (a,b) can be written as

$$\psi(\xi) = \frac{\psi(a)\left(b - \xi\right) + \psi(b)\left(\xi - a\right)}{b - a},\tag{10}$$

where ψ stands for U, V, or H. Within each interval, we always interpolate to the three Gauss-points ξ_{ρ} , $\rho = 1, 2, 3$ [1], defined as

$$\xi_{\rho} = \frac{b-a}{2}\xi_{\rho}' + \frac{b+a}{2},\tag{11}$$

with

$$\xi_{1}^{'} = -0.774596669241483, \quad \xi_{2}^{'} = 0, \quad \xi_{3}^{'} = +0.774596669241483.$$
 (12)

Choosing the interval $(a, b) \equiv (\xi, \xi + 1)$ and substitute Equation (11) in Equation (10), we have

$$\psi(\xi_{\rho}) = \frac{\psi(\xi) \left(1 - \xi_{\rho}^{'}\right) + \psi(\xi + 1) \left(1 + \xi_{\rho}^{'}\right)}{2}.$$
(13)

When $\overline{\psi(\xi)}^+ = \frac{\psi(\xi) + \psi(\xi+1)}{2}$ and $\triangle^+ \psi(\xi) = \psi(\xi+1) - \psi(\xi)$ Equation (13) can be rewritten as

$$\psi(\xi_{\rho}) = \overline{\psi(\xi)}^{+} + \frac{1}{2}\xi_{\rho}^{'} \triangle^{+}\psi(\xi). \tag{14}$$

This equation is used for the interpolation. With $\xi = y$ and taking $(\nu, \nu + 1)$ as interval, the interpolation will lead from the nodepoint to the y-collocation grid. Similarity, interpolate with $\xi = x$ in the interval $(\mu, \mu + 1)$ will transfer fields from the y-collocation to the collocation grid (see Figure 1).

Projection

Let $RS(\xi)$ denotes the right hand side of Equation (9) where ξ is either x or y, then the Galerkin projection for $RS(\xi)$ is defined as

$$G[RS(\xi)] = \int e_{\nu}(\xi_{\mu}) RS(\xi) w(\xi) d\xi, \tag{15}$$

with basis functions $e_{\nu}(\xi)$ defined by the properties

$$e_{\nu}\left(\xi_{\mu}\right) = \begin{cases} 0, & \text{if } \mu \neq \nu, \\ 1, & \end{cases} \tag{16}$$

and $w\left(\xi\right)$ is a weight function which will be either H or 1 for the G1 and G2 Galerkin operator, respectively. The integration of any function $\psi(\xi)$ in the interval (a,b) can be computed as follows

$$\int_{a}^{b} \psi(\xi) d\xi = \sum_{\rho=1}^{3} \psi(\xi_{\rho}) g_{\rho} (b - a) , \qquad (17)$$

with ξ_{ρ} are calculated according to Equation (11) and g_{ρ} are the Gaussian-weights, defined as

Choosing the interval $(a, b) \equiv (\xi, \xi + 1)$ and substitute Equations (16) and (17) in Equation (15), we have

$$\psi(\xi) = \sum_{\rho=1}^{3} \left(\frac{\triangle \xi}{2} \frac{\psi(\xi_{\rho}) w(\xi_{\rho}) g_{\rho} \left(1 - \xi_{\rho}' \right) + \psi(\xi_{\rho} - 1) w(\xi_{\rho} - 1) g_{\rho} \left(1 + \xi_{\rho}' \right)}{2} \right). \tag{19}$$

Let
$$\overline{\psi\left(\xi_{\rho}\right)w\left(\xi_{\rho}\right)}^{-}=\frac{\psi\left(\xi_{\rho}-1\right)w\left(\xi_{\rho}-1\right)+\psi\left(\xi_{\rho}\right)w\left(\xi_{\rho}\right)}{2}$$
 and $\triangle^{-}\psi\left(\xi_{\rho}-1\right)w\left(\xi_{\rho}-1\right)=\psi\left(\xi_{\rho}\right)w\left(\xi_{\rho}\right)-\psi\left(\xi_{\rho}-1\right)w\left(\xi_{\rho}-1\right)$, we have

$$\psi(\xi) = \sum_{\rho=1}^{3} \left(\frac{\triangle \xi}{2} g_{\rho} \left(\overline{\psi(\xi_{\rho}) w(\xi_{\rho})} - \frac{\xi_{\rho}'}{2} \triangle^{-} \psi(\xi_{\rho} - 1) w(\xi_{\rho} - 1) \right) \right). \tag{20}$$

Equation (20) is used for the projection. If $\xi = x$ and RS is given on the collocation grid, by keeping y fixed, the Galerkin projection will transform from the collocation to the y-collocation grid. Similarity, if $\xi = y$ and RS is given on the y-collocation grid, by keeping x fixed, the Galerkin projection will lead from the y-collocation to the nodepoint grid.

4 Specification

As discussed in Section 3, the Galerkin finite element methods consist of two main steps: interpolation and projection. In this section we will present how to construct templates for these steps in CTADEL. Next, we show the specification of the Shallow-Water equations applying the Galerkin finite element method.

4.1 Templates

Interpolation template

The interpolation of a field is performed following Equation (14). In CTADEL we define the template interpolate which has as input ψ , the field to be interpolated in ξ direction, and as output the corresponding interpolated field. The code of interpolate reads

In the template interpolate we denote Psi, Gp, and Xi for the notations ψ, ξ' , and ξ as in Equation (14), respectively. The LaTeX output for this template produced by CTADEL has the following form

interpolate
$$\left(\psi, \xi_{\rho}', \xi\right) = \overline{\psi(\xi)}^{+} + \frac{1}{2}\xi_{\rho}'\Delta^{+}\psi(\xi).$$
 (21)

We see that the right hand sides of Equations (14) and (21) are exactly the same. This proves that the template *interpolate* definition is correct.

Projection template

Based on Equation (20) we construct the template project for Galerkin projection. This template has as input the field $\psi\left(\xi_{\rho}\right)$ to be projected in the ξ direction, the weight function $w\left(\xi_{\rho}\right)$, the Gauss-points and Gauss-weights parameters. The output of project is the corresponding projected field. The template project has the following form

In the template project Psi denotes the input field $\psi\left(\xi_{\rho}\right)$, Xi is direction of projection ξ , W is the weight function w, and Gp and Gw denote the Gauss-points ξ_{ρ}' and the Gauss-weights g_{ρ} , respectively. CTADEL produces the LaTex output for this template as

$$project\left(\psi, w, \xi_{\rho}^{'}, g_{\rho}, \xi\right) = \sum_{\rho=1}^{3} \left(\frac{\triangle \xi}{2} g_{\rho} \left(\overline{\psi\left(\xi_{\rho}\right) w\left(\xi_{\rho}\right)}^{-} - \frac{\xi_{\rho}^{'}}{2} \triangle^{-} \psi\left(\xi_{\rho} - 1\right) w\left(\xi_{\rho} - 1\right)\right)\right). \tag{22}$$

The right hand side of Equation (22) is exactly the same as it in Equation (20). This proves the correctness of *project* template definition.

4.2 Specification of the Shallow-Water equations

Next we show the specification of the Shallow-Water equations. For convenience, we only give the specification related to the field H. The fields U and V are specified in a similar way.

```
% Gauss-points(Gp) and Gauss-weights(Gw) parameters:
Gp :: float field (xc(grid)) on long_collocation.
Gw :: float field (xc(grid)) on long_collocation.
% Field on nodepoint(H), y-collocation(Hycol), and collocation(Hcol) grid:
H :: float dim Height field (x(grid), y(grid),t) on horizontal.
 \label{eq:Hycol::float} \mbox{ dim } \mbox{ Height field } (x(grid),y(grid),yc(grid),t) \mbox{ on } y\_collocation. 
Hcol :: float dim Height field (x(grid), xc(grid), yc(grid), yc(grid), t) on collocation.
% Interpolate field from nodepoint to collocation grid.
Hycol = interpolate(H,
                            Gp,y).
Hcol = interpolate(Hycol, Gp, x).
% Compute the right hand side of Equation (9) in collocation grid:
RsHcol :: float dim Height field (x(grid), xc(grid), y(grid), yc(grid),t) on collocation.
RsHcol = - d (Ucol*Hcol) / d x - d (Vcol*Hcol) / d y.
% Project right hand size from collocation to nodepoint grid:
RsHycol:: float dim Velocity field (x(grid), y(grid), yc(grid), t) on y_collocation.
      :: float dim Velocity field (x(grid), y(grid), t) on horizontal.
\label{eq:RsHycol} \textit{RsHycol=project\_bound}(\textit{RsHcol,1,Gp,Gw,x}) \ \textit{if on boundary} \setminus \\ \\
                  project (RsHcol, 1, Gp, Gw, x) otherwise.
RsH
       = project_bound(RsHycol,1,Gp,Gw,y) if on boundary\\
                  project (RsHycol, 1, Gp, Gw, y) otherwise.
```

5 Generating code

This section presents the code generation process in CTADEL. We describe the steps which CTADEL performs in order to translate from the abstract specification into optimized Fortran code. We give the LaTeX output of each step for the field H which is the result of the specification given in Subsection 4.2. These LaTeX outputs are produced by CTADEL to compare the specification with the mathematical description and to check the different steps. The outputs of the fields U and V are similar.

In CTADEL, the code is generated through the following steps:

 Get scalar values and Dimensional analysis: All scalar values and equations in the specification are retrieved and sorted in order of computation. Then CTADEL analyzes all units and dimensions declared in the specification. Scalar form as follows

$$\begin{split} \operatorname{RsHcol} \coloneqq - \left(& \ \overline{\overline{U}} + \frac{1}{2} \xi_{\rho}' \triangle_{y} \left[\overline{U} \right] + \frac{1}{2} \xi_{\rho}' \triangle_{x} \left[\overline{\overline{U}} + \frac{1}{2} \xi_{\rho}' \triangle_{y} \left[\overline{U} \right] \right] \right) * \left(& \ \frac{\partial \left(\overline{\overline{H}} + \frac{1}{2} \xi_{\rho}' \triangle_{y} \left[\overline{H} \right] + \frac{1}{2} \xi_{\rho}' \triangle_{x} \left[\overline{H} + \frac{1}{2} \xi_{\rho}' \triangle_{y} \left[\overline{H} \right] \right] \right) \\ & - \left(& \ \overline{\overline{V}} + \frac{1}{2} \xi_{\rho}' \triangle_{y} \left[\overline{V} \right] + \frac{1}{2} \xi_{\rho}' \triangle_{x} \left[\overline{V} + \frac{1}{2} \xi_{\rho}' \triangle_{y} \left[V \right] \right] \right) * \left(& \ \frac{\partial \left(\overline{H} + \frac{1}{2} \xi_{\rho}' \triangle_{y} \left[\overline{H} \right] \right)}{\partial y} + \frac{1}{2} \xi_{\rho}' \triangle_{x} \left[\frac{\partial \left(\overline{H} + \frac{1}{2} \xi_{\rho}' \triangle_{y} \left[\overline{H} \right] \right)}{\partial y} \right] \right) \end{split}$$

$$-\left(\begin{array}{c} \overline{H} + \frac{1}{2}\xi'_{\rho}\triangle_{y}\left[\overline{H}\right] + \frac{1}{2}\xi'_{\rho}\triangle_{x}\left[\overline{H} + \frac{1}{2}\xi'_{\rho}\triangle_{y}\left[\overline{H}\right]\right] \right) * \left(\begin{array}{c} \left(\frac{\partial\left(\overline{U} + \frac{1}{2}\xi'_{\rho}\triangle_{y}\left[U\right] + \frac{1}{2}\xi'_{\rho}\triangle_{x}\left[\overline{U} + \frac{1}{2}\xi'_{\rho}\triangle_{y}\left[U\right]\right]\right)}{\partial x}\right) + \\ \left(\frac{\partial\left(\overline{V} + \frac{1}{2}\xi'_{\rho}\triangle_{y}\left[U\right]\right)}{\partial y} + \frac{1}{2}\xi'_{\rho}\triangle_{x}\left[\frac{\partial\left(\overline{V} + \frac{1}{2}\xi'_{\rho}\triangle_{y}\left[U\right]\right)}{\partial y}\right]\right) \right) \\ \text{RsH} := \sum_{\rho=1}^{3} \left(\begin{array}{c} \frac{\triangle Y}{2}g_{\rho}\left(\sum_{\rho=1}^{3}\left(\frac{\triangle X}{2}g_{\rho}\left(\overline{\left(RsHcol\right)} - \frac{\xi'_{\rho}}{2}\triangle_{x}RsHcol\right)\right)\right) \\ -\frac{\xi'_{\rho}}{2}\triangle_{y}\sum_{\rho=1}^{3}\left(\frac{\triangle X}{2}g_{\rho}\left(\overline{\left(RsHcol\right)} - \frac{\xi'_{\rho}}{2}\triangle_{x}RsHcol\right)\right) \right) \end{array}\right)$$

2. Discretization: Discretization of the continuous equations by finite element method. Interpolation and Galerkin projection are used to discretize all spatial variables and its derivatives. Since extra information is needed for discretizing at boundary, the boundary condition is applied in this process. Output of this step are spatial discrete equations as

3. Common-subexpression elimination (CSE): The global common-subexpression eliminator constructs a dataflow graph for the intermediate code which is iteratively refined using a hardware cost model of the target computer architecture. The result of CSE is an optimized intermediate code in which the subexpressions which are repeatly used are computed and stored in temporary variables for later uses. After CSE, CTADEL gives the following output

$$\begin{aligned} & \mathbf{t} 0_{jc} := 1 - G p_{jc} \\ & t 2_{jc} := G p_{jc} + 1 \\ & t 7_{ic} := 1 - G p_{ic} \end{aligned}$$

4. Code generation: From the optimized intermediate code, CTADEL produces the following Fortran code based on predefined templates and rulebases. A part of code generated by CTADEL as follows

```
DO 119 jc=1, LCOL
         DO 120 j=0,L
          DO 121 ic=1, LCOL
           DO 122 i=0,L
             *\,(\texttt{t5}\,(\texttt{i+1},\texttt{j},\texttt{jc})\,-\texttt{t5}\,(\texttt{i},\texttt{j},\texttt{jc})\,)\,*\,(\texttt{t12}\,(\texttt{ic})\,*\texttt{t13}\,(\texttt{i+1},\texttt{j},\texttt{jc})
                    +t13(i,j,jc)*t7(ic)))-2.5E-1*(t12(ic)*t19(i+1,j,jc)+t19(i,j,jc)*t7(ic))
                     *(t12(ic)*t26(i+1,j,jc)+t26(i,j,jc)*t7(ic))-5.0E-1*(1.5909090909090909091E-6
                     *(t13(i+1,j,jc)-t13(i,j,jc))+5.0E-1*(t12(ic)*t34(i+1,j,jc)+t34(i,j,jc)
                     *t7(ic))) *(t12(ic) *t5(i+1, j, jc) +t5(i, j, jc) *t7(ic))
122
            CONTINUE
           ENDDO
121
           CONTINUE
          ENDDO
120
          CONTINUE
         ENDDO
119
         CONTINUE
       ENDDO
       DO 147 j=1,L
         DO 148 i=1,L
          IF (0.EQ.1-j) THEN
           RsH(i,j)=1.57142857142857142856E5*(t0(jc)*t102(i,ic,1,jc))
            \text{RsH}\left(\text{i,j}\right) = 1.57142857142857142856E5 \star \left(\text{t0(jc)} \star \text{t102(i,ic,j,jc)} + \text{t102(i,ic,j-1,jc)} \star \text{t2(jc)} \right) 
          ENDIF
148
          CONTINUE
         ENDDO
147
         CONTINUE
       ENDDO
```

6 Experiments

This section presents experiments with the code generated by CTADEL for the Shallow-Water equations based on Galerkin finite element methods. The original hand code [14] is considered as a reference. Firstly, we compare the output of the both codes to prove the correctness of the generated code. Next we assess the performance of the generated code by comparing execution times of the two codes.

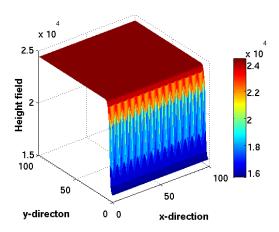


Figure 2. Height field value after 100 time steps.

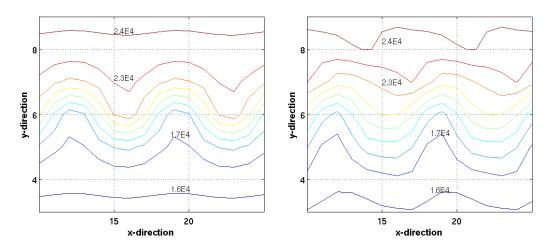


Figure 3. Height field: Initial value (left); Forecast after 100 time steps (right).

The experiments were performed on DAS3 [16]. We run program on one node with has 2.6GHz CPU and 4GB memory. The operation system is Scientific Linux. For compiling the program we used the g77 version 3.4.6 and the Pathscale version 3.0 compiler. In both cases we turned on the optimization option (-O2).

The solid boundary conditions were implemented in the y direction. In the x direction we used periodic boundary conditions. This presents physically a channel around the Earth at midlatitudes [10] (see Figure 2). The initial values as follows

$$H(X,Y) = H_0 + H_1 \tanh \frac{9(Y - Y_0)}{2D} + H_2 \frac{1}{\cosh^2(\frac{9Y - Y_0}{D})} \sin 2\pi x,$$

$$U = -\frac{1}{f} \frac{\partial H}{\partial Y},$$

$$V = -\frac{1}{f} \frac{\partial H}{\partial X}.$$
(23)

The parameters were chosen same to [4, 5, 14]. Figures 3 and 4 (left) show the initial values of the height and the velocity field, respectively. The predicted values after 100 time steps (20.000 second) are shown in Figures 3 and 4 (right).

In order to check the correctness of the generated code, we compare the output of the generated code with the one of the hand code. Figure 5 presents the differences between these outputs. These results were obtained by subtracting the H field values returned by the hand code and those returned by the generated code. We tested with the domain

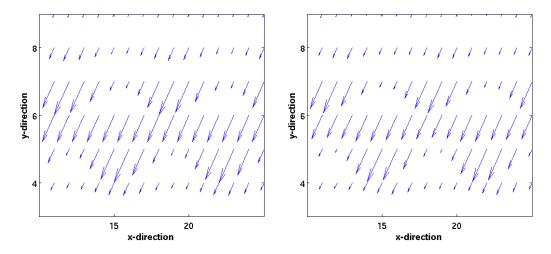


Figure 4. Velocity field: Initial value (left); Forecast after 100 time steps (right).

of 100x100 grid points and 100 time steps. From Figure 5 we can conclude that the differences between the outputs of the hand code and the generated code are very small. Figure 6 shows the total execution times of the generated

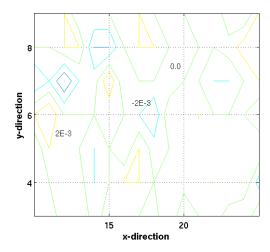


Figure 5. Differences between the hand code and generated code.

and the hand code compiled by the g77 compiler (left) and the Pathscale compiler (right), where the domain varies from 10000 to 90000 grid points. We see that, with both compilers, the generated code is much faster than the hand code. With 90000 grid points, the generated code has a performance gain upto two-thirds over the hand code. These results are the consequence of the fact that the hand code was not well optimized, whereas CTADEL which performs optimization like common subexpression elimination can generate a more efficient code.

7 Conclusions and Future work

Previous studies such as [2, 3, 8, 7] have shown that CTADEL can generate code for several schemes in weather forecast models using finite difference methods. In this paper we have proven that with some extensions, CTADEL is able to generate code for Galerkin finite element schemes applied to the Shallow-Water equations. Furthermore, the code generated by CTADEL is more efficient than the hand code. This is due to the hand code was not well optimized,

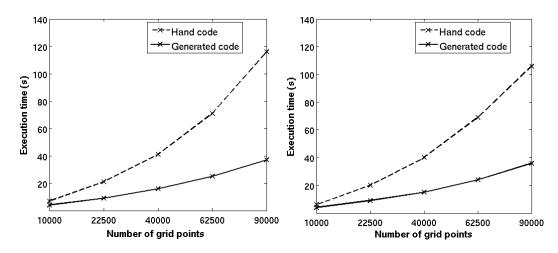


Figure 6. Execution times of the hand code and generated code with the g77 compiler (left) and the Pathscale compiler (right) using -O2 optimization option.

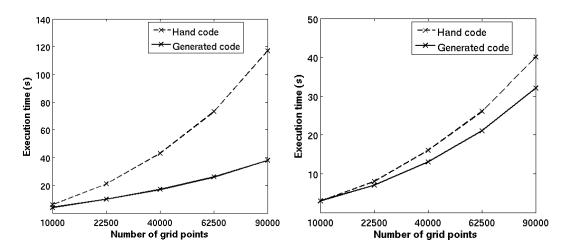


Figure 7. Execution times of the hand code and generated code with the g77 compiler (left) and the Pathscale compiler (right) using -O3 optimization option.

whereas CTADEL, which takes optimization such as common subexpression elimination into account, can generate an efficient code that can compete with optimized hand code.

In the generated code, a set of temporary variables were used which increase the use of memory. In fact, the memory used in the generated code is 1.3 time larger than the memory which the hand code uses. With very large domain problem, this may become a problem since memory is usually not an unlimited resource in most computers. Further research on CTADEL may focus on how to reuse these variables.

Mesh generation is an important step of the finite element methods for numerical computation. Currently CTADEL uses regular rectangular grid. In the next step, we will extend CTADEL to generate complex mesh such as structured or unstructured meshes.

Our experiments were performed on one processor. In the future we will generate parallel code and run program on other environments like clusters and grids in order to confirm that CTADEL can generate efficient code for different computer architectures.

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