

Advancing Layer Surface Mesh Generation

by

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Advancing Layer Surface Mesh Generation

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Abstract

Use of unstructured meshes in the simulation of a computational field to solve for a real world problem is ubiquitous. Specially, solving fluid flow over bodies like an airplane or a turbine computationally requires a well discretized domain, or a mesh around the surfaces of these bodies. In Computational Fluid Dynamic (CFD) simulations over these surfaces, the flow at the viscous-boundary layer of the surface is very important as the gradients in the normal direction of the flow are sharp and are orders of magnitude higher than the gradients in the tangential direction of the flow. Hence, resolving the flow field in the boundary layer is vital for accurate simulation results.

A plethora of 3D boundary layer mesh generation techniques start off from a discretization of the surface. A majority of these techniques either use surface inflation or iterative point placement normal to the surface to generate the advancing layer 3D mesh. Generating boundary layer meshes in 3D depends on the quality of the underlying surface discretization. We introduce a technique to generate advancing layer surface meshes which would improve the mesh generation pipeline for 3D mesh generation. The technique takes an input triangulation of the surface, which is fairly easy to get, even for complex geometries. Surface segments are identified and these segments are meshed independently using an advancing-layer methodology. For each surface segment, a mesh is generated by advancing layers from the identified boundaries to the surface interior while deforming the existing triangulation. As the mesh-generation technique introduced here produces a closed-mesh, we get a valid mesh at each iteration of layer advancement.

The method introduced to generate advancing layer meshes produces semi-structured quad-dominant meshes with the ability to have local control over the aspect ratio of mesh elements at the boundary curves of the surface. Semi-structured 2D anisotropic meshes in the boundary layer regions have been shown to have superior fluid flow simulation results. However, the discretization of the surfaces poses challenges in replicating the same for volume meshes. Point placement in layers, local reconnection, front recovery, front collision handling and smoothing techniques used in the study help produce a valid surface mesh at each step of mesh generation. We demonstrate the ability of the meshing algorithm to tackle fairly complex geometries and coarse initial surface discretization.

Lay Summary

Discretization of geometries using a non-regular arrangement of mesh elements, called unstructured mesh generation is used widely for simulating flow over various objects in industry and government. The region near the surfaces of objects is particularly important during the simulation process because of the extreme non-linearity in the flow characteristics near the boundaries of objects. Hence, generating a well-discretized boundary layer mesh is key to superior flow simulation results. 3D mesh generation methodologies use a surface mesh as the starting point. Hence, the surface mesh plays an important role in the overall fluid flow simulation process.

A method to generate an advancing layer surface mesh is introduced in this paper. This method could be used to generate advancing-layer quad-dominant surface meshes with the required aspect ratio at sharp corners of the surface. 3D mesh generation procedures could use this mesh to produce advancing layer mesh or any other mesh. Example meshes are generated and shown to handle complex geometries.

Preface

All the work presented in this thesis is an intellectual product of a close working relationship between Jasmeet Singh and Dr. Carl Ollivier-Gooch. The implementation of the methods, the data analysis, and the manuscript preparations were done by Jasmeet Singh with invaluable guidance from Carl Ollivier-Gooch throughout the process.

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Glossary

This glossary uses the handy `acroynm` package to automatically maintain the glossary. It uses the package's `printonlyused` option to include only those acronyms explicitly referenced in the \LaTeX source. To change how the acronyms are rendered, change the `\acsfont` definition in `diss.tex`.

CTAN The Common \TeX Archive Network

DOI Document Object Identifier (see <http://doi.org>)

GPS Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies

RCS Revision control system, a software tool for tracking changes to a set of files

URL Unique Resource Locator, used to describe a means for obtaining some resource on the world wide web

Acknowledgments

I would like to acknowledge and thank all the people who were a part of my graduate degree at UBC. These include the professors who taught me in lectures, my classmates, my labmates, people in the broader graduate community with whom I met at various academic and social events, my friends and family.

I would like to thank my supervisor, Dr. Carl Ollivier-Gooch.

Thesis Outline

1. Introduction

- Introduction to Meshing
- Introduction to unstructured meshing and its importance
- Boundary Layer Phenomenon and its importance
- Meshes that deal with such scenarios.
- 2D previous works
- 3D previous works
- Surface Mesh generation methods
 - Parametric Mapping
 - Direct 3D methods

Chapter 1

Introduction

If I have seen farther it is by standing on the shoulders of Giants. — Sir Isaac Newton
(1855)

This document provides a quick set of instructions for using the `ubcdiss` class to write a dissertation in \LaTeX . Unfortunately this document cannot provide an introduction to using \LaTeX . The classic reference for learning \LaTeX is Lamport’s book [3]. There are also many freely-available tutorials online; Andy Roberts’ online \LaTeX tutorials¹ seems to be excellent. The source code for this document, however, is intended to serve as an example for creating a \LaTeX version of your dissertation.

We start by discussing organizational issues, such as splitting your dissertation into multiple files, in Section 1.1. We then cover the ease of managing cross-references in \LaTeX in Section 1.2. We cover managing and using bibliographies with Bib \TeX in Section 1.3. We briefly describe typesetting attractive tables in Section 1.4. We briefly describe including external figures in Section 1.5, and using special characters and symbols in Section 1.6. As it is often useful to track different versions of your dissertation, we discuss revision control further in Section 1.8. We conclude with pointers to additional sources of information in Section 1.10.

1.1 Suggested Thesis Organization

The UBC Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (GPS) specifies a particular arrangement of the components forming a thesis.² This template reflects that arrangement.

In terms of writing your thesis, the recommended best practice for organizing large documents in \LaTeX is to place each chapter in a separate file. These chapters are then included from the main file through the use of `\include{file}`. A thesis might be described as six files such as `intro.tex`,

¹<http://www.andy-roberts.net/misc/latex/>

²See <http://www.grad.ubc.ca/current-students/dissertation-thesis-preparation/order-components>

`relwork.tex`, `model.tex`, `eval.tex`, `discuss.tex`, and `concl.tex`.

We also encourage you to use macros for separating how something will be typeset (e.g., bold, or italics) from the meaning of that something. For example, if you look at `intro.tex`, you will see repeated uses of a macro `\file{}` to indicate file names. The `\file{}` macro is defined in the file `macros.tex`. The consistent use of `\file{}` throughout the text not only indicates that the argument to the macro represents a file (providing meaning or semantics), but also allows easily changing how file names are typeset simply by changing the definition of the `\file{}` macro. `macros.tex` contains other useful macros for properly typesetting things like the proper uses of the latinate *exempli gratiā* and *id est* (i.e., `\eg` and `\ie`), web references with a footnoted URL (`\webref{url}{text}`), as well as definitions specific to this documentation (`\latexpackage{}`).

1.2 Making Cross-References

\LaTeX make managing cross-references easy, and the `hyperref` package’s `\autoref{}` command³ makes it easier still.

A thing to be cross-referenced, such as a section, figure, or equation, is *labelled* using a unique, user-provided identifier, defined using the `\label{}` command. The thing is referenced elsewhere using the `\autoref{}` command. For example, this section was defined using:

```
\section{Making Cross-References}
\label{sec:CrossReferences}
```

References to this section are made as follows:

```
We then cover the ease of managing cross-references in  $\LaTeX$ 
in \autoref{sec:CrossReferences}.
```

`\autoref{}` takes care of determining the *type* of the thing being referenced, so the example above is rendered as

We then cover the ease of managing cross-references in \LaTeX in Section 1.2.

The label is any simple sequence of characters, numbers, digits, and some punctuation marks such as “:” and “–”; there should be no spaces. Try to use a consistent key format: this simplifies remembering how to make references. This document uses a prefix to indicate the type of the thing being referenced, such as `sec` for sections, `fig` for figures, `tbl` for tables, and `eqn` for equations.

For details on defining the text used to describe the type of *thing*, search `diss.tex` and the `hyperref` documentation for `autorefname`.

³The `hyperref` package is included by default in this template.

1.3 Managing Bibliographies with BibTeX

One of the primary benefits of using L^AT_EX is its companion program, BibTeX, for managing bibliographies and citations. Managing bibliographies has three parts: (i) describing references, (ii) citing references, and (iii) formatting cited references.

1.3.1 Describing References

BibTeX defines a standard format for recording details about a reference. These references are recorded in a file with a `.bib` extension. BibTeX supports a broad range of references, such as books, articles, items in a conference proceedings, chapters, technical reports, manuals, dissertations, and unpublished manuscripts. A reference may include attributes such as the authors, the title, the page numbers, the Document Object Identifier (DOI), or a Unique Resource Locator (URL). A reference can also be augmented with personal attributes, such as a rating, notes, or keywords.

Each reference must be described by a unique *key*.⁴ A key is a simple sequence of characters, numbers, digits, and some punctuation marks such as “:” and “-”; there should be no spaces. A consistent key format simplifies remembering how to make references. For example:

`last-name`–`year`–`contracted-title`

where *last-name* represents the last name for the first author, and *contracted-title* is some meaningful contraction of the title. Then Kiczales et al.’s seminal article on aspect-oriented programming [2] (published in 1997) might be given the key `kiczales-1997-aop`.

An example of a BibTeX `.bib` file is included as `biblio.bib`. A description of the format a `.bib` file is beyond the scope of this document. We instead encourage you to use one of the several reference managers that support the BibTeX format such as JabRef⁵ (multiple platforms) or BibDesk⁶ (MacOS X only). These front ends are similar to reference managers such as EndNote or RefWorks.

1.3.2 Citing References

Having described some references, we then need to cite them. We do this using a form of the `\cite` command. For example:

```
\citet{kiczales-1997-aop} present examples of crosscutting
from programs written in several languages.
```

When processed, the `\citet` will cause the paper’s authors and a standardized reference to the paper to be inserted in the document, and will also include a formatted citation for the paper in the bibliography.

⁴Note that the citation keys are different from the reference identifiers as described in Section 1.2.

⁵<http://jabref.sourceforge.net>

⁶<http://bibdesk.sourceforge.net>

Table 1.1: Available `cite` variants; the exact citation style depends on whether the bibliography style is numeric or author-year.

Variant	Result
<code>\cite</code>	Parenthetical citation (e.g., “[2]” or “(Kiczales et al. 1997)”)
<code>\citet</code>	Textual citation: includes author (e.g., “Kiczales et al. [2]” or “Kiczales et al. (1997)”)
<code>\citet*</code>	Textual citation with unabbreviated author list
<code>\citealt</code>	Like <code>\citet</code> but without parentheses
<code>\citep</code>	Parenthetical citation (e.g., “[2]” or “(Kiczales et al. 1997)”)
<code>\citep*</code>	Parenthetical citation with unabbreviated author list
<code>\citealp</code>	Like <code>\citep</code> but without parentheses
<code>\citeauthor</code>	Author only (e.g., “Kiczales et al.”)
<code>\citeauthor*</code>	Unabbreviated authors list (e.g., “Kiczales, Lamping, Mendhekar, Maeda, Lopes, Loingtier, and Irwin”)
<code>\citeyear</code>	Year of citation (e.g., “1997”)

For example:

Kiczales et al. [2] present examples of crosscutting from programs written in several languages.

There are several forms of the `\cite` command (provided by the `natbib` package), as demonstrated in Table 1.1. Note that the form of the citation (numeric or author-year) depends on the bibliography style (described in the next section). The `\citet` variant is used when the author names form an object in the sentence, whereas the `\citep` variant is used for parenthetical references, more like an end-note. Use `\nocite` to include a citation in the bibliography but without an actual reference.

1.3.3 Formatting Cited References

Bib_T_EX separates the citing of a reference from how the cited reference is formatted for a bibliography, specified with the `\bibliographystyle` command. There are many varieties, such as `plainnat`, `abbrvnat`, `unsrtnat`, and `vancouver`. This document was formatted with `abbrvnat`. Look through your _T_EX distribution for `.bst` files. Note that use of some `.bst` files do not emit all the information necessary to properly use `\citet{}`, `\citep{}`, `\citeyear{}`, and `\citeauthor{}`.

There are also packages available to place citations on a per-chapter basis (`bibunits`), as footnotes (`footbib`), and inline (`bibentry`). Those who wish to exert maximum control over their bibliography style should see the amazing `custom-bib` package.

L^AT_EX Rocks!

Figure 1.1: Proof of L^AT_EX’s amazing abilities

1.4 Typesetting Tables

Lamport [3] made one grievous mistake in L^AT_EX: his suggested manner for typesetting tables produces typographic abominations. These suggestions have unfortunately been replicated in most L^AT_EX tutorials. These abominations are easily avoided simply by ignoring his examples illustrating the use of horizontal and vertical rules (specifically the use of `\hline` and `|`) and using the `booktabs` package instead.

The `booktabs` package helps produce tables in the form used by most professionally-edited journals through the use of three new types of dividing lines, or *rules*. Tables 1.1 and 1.2 are two examples of tables typeset with the `booktabs` package. The `booktabs` package provides three new commands for producing rules: `\toprule` for the rule to appear at the top of the table, `\midrule` for the middle rule following the table header, and `\bottomrule` for the bottom-most at the end of the table. These rules differ by their weight (thickness) and the spacing before and after. A table is typeset in the following manner:

```
\begin{table}
\caption{The caption for the table}
\label{tbl:label}
\centering
\begin{tabular}{cc}
\toprule
Header & Elements \\
\midrule
Row 1 & Row 1 \\
Row 2 & Row 2 \\
% ... and on and on ...
Row N & Row N \\
\bottomrule
\end{tabular}
\end{table}
```

See the `booktabs` documentation for advice in dealing with special cases, such as subheading rules, introducing extra space for divisions, and interior rules.

1.5 Figures, Graphics, and Special Characters

Most L^AT_EX beginners find figures to be one of the more challenging topics. In L^AT_EX, a figure is a *floating element*, to be placed where it best fits. The user is not expected to concern him/herself with the placement of the figure. The figure should instead be labelled, and where the figure is used, the text should use `\autoref` to reference the figure’s label. Figure 1.1 is an example of a figure. A figure is

generally included as follows:

```
\begin{figure}  
\centering  
\includegraphics[width=3in]{file}  
\caption{A useful caption}  
\label{fig:fig-label} % label should change  
\end{figure}
```

There are three items of note:

1. External files are included using the `\includegraphics` command. This command is defined by the `graphicx` package and can often natively import graphics from a variety of formats. The set of formats supported depends on your \TeX command processor. Both `pdflatex` and `xelatex`, for example, can import GIF, JPG, and PDF. The plain version of `latex` only supports EPS files.
2. The `\caption` provides a caption to the figure. This caption is normally listed in the List of Figures; you can provide an alternative caption for the LoF by providing an optional argument to the `\caption` like so:

```
\caption[nice shortened caption for LoF]{%  
longer detailed caption used for the figure}
```

GPS generally prefers shortened single-line captions in the LoF: multiple-line captions are a bit unwieldy.

3. The `\label` command provides for associating a unique, user-defined, and descriptive identifier to the figure. The figure can be referenced elsewhere in the text with this identifier as described in Section 1.2.

See Keith Reckdahls excellent guide for more details, *Using imported graphics in LaTeX2e*⁷.

1.6 Special Characters and Symbols

\LaTeX appropriates many common symbols for its own purposes, with some used for commands (i.e., `\{ \}` & `\%`) and mathematics (i.e., `\$^_`), and others are automatically transformed into typographically-preferred forms (i.e., `-''`) or to completely different forms (i.e., `<>`). Table 1.2 presents a list of common symbols and their corresponding \LaTeX commands. A much more comprehensive list of symbols and accented characters is available at: <http://www.ctan.org/tex-archive/info/symbols/comprehensive/>

⁷<http://www.ctan.org/tex-archive/info/epslatex.pdf>

Table 1.2: Useful L^AT_EX symbols

L ^A T _E X	Result	L ^A T _E X	Result
<code>\texttrademark</code>	™	<code>\&</code>	&
<code>\textcopyright</code>	©	<code>\{ \}</code>	{ }
<code>\textregistered</code>	®	<code>\%</code>	%
<code>\textsection</code>	§	<code>\verb!~!</code>	~
<code>\textdagger</code>	†	<code>\\$</code>	\$
<code>\textdaggerdbl</code>	‡	<code>\^{} </code>	^
<code>\textless</code>	<	<code>_</code>	-
<code>\textgreater</code>	>		

1.7 Changing Page Widths and Heights

The `ubcdiss` class is based on the standard L^AT_EX `book` class [3] that selects a line-width to carry approximately 66 characters per line. This character density is claimed to have a pleasing appearance and also supports more rapid reading [1]. I would recommend that you not change the line-widths!

1.7.1 The `geometry` Package

Some students are unfortunately saddled with misguided supervisors or committee members whom believe that documents should have the narrowest margins possible. The `geometry` package is helpful in such cases. Using this package is as simple as:

```
\usepackage[margin=1.25in ,top=1.25in ,bottom=1.25in]{geometry}
```

You should check the package’s documentation for more complex uses.

1.7.2 Changing Page Layout Values By Hand

There are some miserable students with requirements for page layouts that vary throughout the document. Unfortunately the `geometry` can only be specified once, in the document’s preamble. Such miserable students must set L^AT_EX’s layout parameters by hand:

```
\setlength{\topmargin}{-.75in}
\setlength{\headsep}{0.25in}
\setlength{\headheight}{15pt}
\setlength{\textheight}{9in}
\setlength{\footskip}{0.25in}
\setlength{\footheight}{15pt}

% The *sidemargin values are relative to 1in; so the following
% results in a 0.75 inch margin
\setlength{\oddsidemargin}{-.25in}
\setlength{\evensidemargin}{-.25in}
\setlength{\textwidth}{7in}          % 1.1in margins (8.5-2*0.75)
```

These settings necessarily require assuming a particular page height and width; in the above, the setting for `\textwidth` assumes a US Letter with an 8.5" width. The `geometry` package simply uses the page height and other specified values to derive the other layout values. The `layout` package provides a handy `\layout` command to show the current page layout parameters.

1.7.3 Making Temporary Changes to Page Layout

There are occasions where it becomes necessary to make temporary changes to the page width, such as to accomodate a larger formula. The `chnpage` package provides an `adjustwidth` environment that does just this. For example:

```
% Expand left and right margins by 0.75in
\begin{adjustwidth}{-0.75in}{-0.75in}
% Must adjust the perceived column width for LaTeX to get with it.
\addtolength{\columnwidth}{1.5in}
\[ an extra long math formula \]
\end{adjustwidth}
```

1.8 Keeping Track of Versions with Revision Control

Software engineers have used Revision control system (RCS) to track changes to their software systems for decades. These systems record the changes to the source code along with context as to why the change was required. These systems also support examining and reverting to particular revisions from their system's past.

An RCS can be used to keep track of changes to things other than source code, such as your dissertation. For example, it can be useful to know exactly which revision of your dissertation was sent to a particular committee member. Or to recover an accidentally deleted file, or a badly modified image. With a revision control system, you can tag or annotate the revision of your dissertation that was sent to your committee, or when you incorporated changes from your supervisor.

Unfortunately current revision control packages are not yet targetted to non-developers. But the Subversion project's TortoiseSVN⁸ has greatly simplified using the Subversion revision control system for Windows users. You should consult your local geek.

A simpler alternative strategy is to create a GoogleMail account and periodically mail yourself zipped copies of your dissertation.

⁸<http://tortoisetsvn.net/docs/release/TortoiseSVN.en/>

1.9 Recommended Packages

The real strength to L^AT_EX is found in the myriad of free add-on packages available for handling special formatting requirements. In this section we list some helpful packages.

1.9.1 Typesetting

enumitem: Supports pausing and resuming enumerate environments.

ulem: Provides two new commands for striking out and crossing out text (`\sout{text}` and `\xout{text}` respectively) The package should likely be used as follows:

```
\usepackage[normalem,normalbf]{ulem}
```

to prevent the package from redefining the emphasis and bold fonts.

chnpage: Support changing the page widths on demand.

mhchem: Support for typesetting chemical formulae and reaction equations.

Although not a package, the `latexdiff`⁹ command is very useful for creating changebar'd versions of your dissertation.

1.9.2 Figures, Tables, and Document Extracts

pdfpages: Insert pages from other PDF files. Allows referencing the extracted pages in the list of figures, adding labels to reference the page from elsewhere, and add borders to the pages.

subfig: Provides for including subfigures within a figure, and includes being able to separately reference the subfigures. This is a replacement for the older `subfigure` environment.

rotating: Provides two environments, `sidewaystable` and `sidewaysfigure`, for typesetting tables and figures in landscape mode.

longtable: Support for long tables that span multiple pages.

tabularx: Provides an enhanced tabular environment with auto-sizing columns.

ragged2e: Provides several new commands for setting ragged text (e.g., forms of centered or flushed text) that can be used in tabular environments and that support hyphenation.

⁹<http://www.ctan.org/tex-archive/support/latexdiff/>

1.9.3 Bibliography Related Packages

bibunits: Support having per-chapter bibliographies.

footbib: Cause cited works to be rendered using footnotes.

bibentry: Support placing the details of a cited work in-line.

custom-bib: Generate a custom style for your bibliography.

1.10 Moving On

At this point, you should be ready to go. Other handy web resources:

- Common T_EX Archive Network (CTAN)¹⁰ is *the* comprehensive archive site for all things related to T_EX and L^AT_EX. Should you have some particular requirement, somebody else is almost certainly to have had the same requirement before you, and the solution will be found on CTAN. The links to various packages in this document are all to CTAN.
- An online reference to L^AT_EX commands¹¹ provides a handy quick-reference to the standard L^AT_EX commands.
- The list of Frequently Asked Questions about T_EX and L^AT_EX¹² can save you a huge amount of time in finding solutions to common problems.
- The teT_EX documentation guide¹³ features a very handy list of the most useful packages for L^AT_EX as found in CTAN.
- The `color`¹⁴ package, part of the graphics bundle, provides handy commands for changing text and background colours. Simply changing text to various levels of grey can have a very dramatic effect.
- If you're really keen, you might want to join the T_EX Users Group¹⁵.

¹⁰<http://www.ctan.org>

¹¹<http://www.ctan.org/get/info/latex2e-help-texinfo/latex2e.html>

¹²<http://www.tex.ac.uk/cgi-bin/texfaq2html?label=interruptlist>

¹³<http://www.tug.org/tetex/tetex-texmfdist/doc/>

¹⁴<http://www.ctan.org/tex-archive/macros/latex/required/graphics/grfguide.pdf>

¹⁵<http://www.tug.org>

Bibliography

- [1] R. Bringhurst. *The Elements of Typographic Style*. Hartley & Marks, 2.5 edition, 2002. ISBN 0881791326. → page 8
- [2] G. Kiczales, J. Lamping, A. Mendhekar, C. Maeda, C. Lopes, J.-M. Loingtier, and J. Irwin. Aspect-oriented programming. In *Proceedings of the European Conference on Object-Oriented Programming (ECOOP)*, volume 2591 of *Lecture Notes in Computer Science*, pages 220–242, 1997. → pages 4, 5
- [3] L. Lamport. *TEX: A Document Preparation System*. Addison-Wesley, 2 edition, 1994. ISBN 0201529831. → pages 2, 6, 8
- [4] J. K. Rowling. *Harry Potter and the Philospher’s Stone*. Bloomsbury, 1997. ISBN 0747532699.

Appendix A

Supporting Materials

This would be any supporting material not central to the dissertation. For example:

- additional details of methodology and/or data;
- diagrams of specialized equipment developed.;
- copies of questionnaires and survey instruments.