

Richard D Myers, Ph.D.

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Professional Summary

Principal research and software engineer with deep expertise in numerical methods for transient pipeline flow, scientific computing, and simulation software architecture. Led multi-year research, validation, and production deployment of advanced time-integration algorithms (notably Time-Step Doubling) within large-scale commercial pipeline simulators.

Extensive experience bridging theory and practice: PDE modeling; stability and accuracy analysis; adjoint methods; optimization; thermal-hydraulic coupling; legacy code modernization; and developer enablement. Proven ability to translate advanced mathematics into robust, production-quality software and to communicate complex technical concepts to diverse audiences.

Core Technical Expertise

Numerical Methods for PDEs and ODEs

Transient Pipeline Hydraulics (Isothermal & Thermal)

Time Integration (θ -method, Step Doubling, Local Extrapolation, Method of Characteristics)

Linear Stability & Order-of-Accuracy Analysis

Adjoint Sensitivities & Gradient-Based Optimization

State Estimation, Calibration, and Leak Detection

Scientific Computing (C++, Python, FORTRAN)

Legacy Code Modernization (FORTRAN → C++)

Machine Learning for Scientific Interpolation

Developer Tooling, Debugging, and Technical Training

Professional Profile

Combines **deep mathematical rigor** with **production software impact**

Operates effectively across **research, architecture, and implementation**

Strong communicator of complex technical concepts to both expert and non-expert audiences

Proven record of **long-horizon technical ownership** and sustained innovation

Professional Experience

Sept 2007 – Mar 2025

Software Development Scientist, DNV – Katy, TX

- Led research, development, validation, and production deployment of advanced numerical algorithms for real-time and offline pipeline simulation platforms, including Synergi Gas, Stoner Pipeline Simulator (SPS), Attune, GTO, and TSM.
- Conducted long-horizon applied research in numerical methods for transient pipeline flow, developing, analyzing, and validating time-integration schemes with provable stability and accuracy properties.
- Served as a technical authority for transient hydraulic and thermal simulation, spanning PDE formulation, spatial discretization, nonlinear solvers, stability analysis, and runtime robustness under SCADA-driven operational conditions.
- Bridged theoretical numerical analysis and large-scale production simulation code, reverse-engineering and modernizing legacy FORTRAN and C++ codebases while preserving numerical fidelity, performance, and backward compatibility.
- Drove cross-team technical enablement and knowledge transfer through internal seminars, developer training, technical documentation, and direct collaboration with research, product, and customer-facing engineering teams.
- Proven record of long-horizon technical ownership and sustained innovation

Sept 2006 – Aug 2007

Director of Computing Facilities for the Mathematics Department, University of St Thomas – Houston, TX

- Built and maintained a departmental Beowulf cluster.
- Installed and configured operating systems and software on departmental computers and students' personal laptops.
- Designed a Linux-based computer lab.

Sept 2005 – Aug 2007

Visiting Assistant Professor of Mathematics, University of St Thomas – Houston, TX

- Taught undergraduate courses across calculus, linear algebra, probability, differential equations, and numerical analysis.
- Supervised undergraduate research and developed new curriculum offerings.
- Served on departmental curriculum revision committee.
- Served as department library liaison.
- Developed a computer science minor for the Mathematics Department.

Aug 2003 – Aug 2005

Teaching Assistant, University of Houston–University Park – Houston, TX

- Responsible for Calculus labs.
- Provided one-on-one student assistance.
- Graded exams/assignments and recorded grades.

June 2000 – Aug 2003

Graduate Research Assistant, University of Houston–University Park – Houston, TX

- Explored numerical algorithms for simulating advection-diffusion-reaction equations arising in atmospheric chemistry and transport modeling.
- Built and ran NCAR's MM5 numerical weather prediction model.
- performed code validation, verification, and performance analysis on high-performance computing platforms.

Selected Projects

- 2024 **Pipeline model conversion between SPS, Attune/GTO/TSM and LANL GasModels.jl Simulator and Optimizer Interoperability**
- Began initial work on a Python-based tool to convert pipeline models between DNV's Synergi Pipeline Simulator (SPS), Attune/GTO/TSM, and LANL's GasModels.jl.
 - The goal was to use GasModels.jl to jump start State-Finding and Transient Optimization for Attune and GTO.
 - Researched the model formats for SPS, Attune/GTO/TSM, and GasModels.jl to understand their differences and similarities.
 - Implemented initial code to read/write pipeline models for all target platforms.
- 2023 **Investigate merging Attune/GTO/TSM Thermal Shell Calculations into Synergi Gas Slow Transients Engine**
Research & Development
- Researched the integration of Attune/GTO/TSM thermal shell calculations into Slow Transients Engine.
 - Analyzed existing thermal shell implementations in Attune, GTO, and TSM to understand their methodologies and assumptions.
 - Code spelunked finding where to insert the calculations.
 - Found that manual FORTRAN memory management in Slow Transients Engine made integration challenging.
 - The full thermal calculations in Attune/GTO/TSM were tightly integrated to the hydraulic calculations, so using the thermal calculations required replacing the pipe hydraulics in the slow transients engine.
 - Thoroughly documented everything in mathematically rigorous detail for the next person (future-me).
- 2022 **Column Separation Estimation**
Advanced Numerical Methods
- Developed/Reversed engineered a novel algorithm for estimating fluid properties from column separation data in gas pipeline simulations.
 - Implemented and validated the algorithm using real-world data.
 - The real-time algorithm would process pressure data obtained during shut-in conditions and would estimate fluid vapor pressure, vapor volume, and time of column separation.
 - The algorithm thresholds divided difference derivatives to estimate local geometry of the shut-in region of the pressure data series.
 - This thresholding algorithm can be generalized with quadratures to estimate the data series geometry further.

- 2022 **Python Integration & Debugging for SPS**
Developer Enablement & Training
- Developed and delivered training on debugging Python scripts integrated with SPS, covering both API-driven and embedded execution.
 - Demonstrated live attachment to SPS runtime processes for breakpoint-based debugging and stack inspection.
 - Standardized workflows using Visual Studio Community Edition, improving developer productivity and script reliability.
 - Documented challenges related to Python versioning, symbols, and enterprise deployment constraints.
- 2019 **Time-Step Doubling (TSD) & Local Extrapolation for Pipeline Hydraulics**
Research, Development, Validation, and Production Deployment
- Researched, implemented, and productionized Time-Step Doubling (TSD) and Step Doubling with Local Extrapolation (SDoLE / ASDoLE) as stable, second-order time integration methods for transient pipeline hydraulics.
 - Derived and analyzed linear stability regions, amplification factors, and order-of-accuracy properties, comparing explicit, implicit, Crank–Nicolson, θ -method, and TSD schemes.
 - Demonstrated that TSD provides second-order accuracy with built-in error estimation, eliminating numerical oscillations during rapid boundary condition changes.
 - Implemented TSD for isothermal gas flow PDEs using box-scheme discretization and Newton linearization.
 - Validated methods using single-pipe, multi-pipe, and gun-barrel compressor models, benchmarking against highly resolved reference solutions.
 - Conducted extensive runtime performance studies, showing TSD can be up to $6\times$ faster than the θ -method in favorable regimes, while identifying cases where fallback is required.
 - Integrated TSD into Synergi Pipeline Simulator (SPS), including runtime enable/disable logic and automatic fallback to θ -method under challenging hydraulic conditions.
 - Authored and delivered reviewed internal seminars, ISS virtual seminars, and PSIG conference presentations, translating numerical analysis into practical operational guidance.
- 2019 **Transient Isothermal Pipe Flow Modeling**
Foundational Theory, Solver Design, and Reverse Engineering
- Derived isothermal gas pipeline governing equations from conservation of mass and momentum.
 - Analyzed hyperbolicity, eigenstructure, and characteristic speeds, establishing validity regimes for transient simulations.
 - Implemented finite-difference spatial discretization combined with θ -method and Newton iteration for nonlinear systems.
 - Reverse-engineered legacy SPS, Attune, GTO, and TSM codebases, reconciling production implementations with theoretical formulations.
 - Documented automatic time-step selection and validation logic, including pressure- and velocity-based error metrics.
 - Clarified matrix formulations and discretization details used in production solvers.

- 2019 **Thermal Transient Pipe Flow & Heat Transfer**
Coupled Hydraulic-Thermal Simulation
- Extended transient flow models to include energy conservation and thermal dynamics.
 - Implemented upwinding schemes to suppress numerical oscillations in temperature during sharp transients.
 - Modeled radial heat conduction through pipe walls and surrounding soil using a Galerkin finite-element approach.
 - Integrated thermal solvers with hydraulic box schemes using θ -weighted time integration.
 - Compared thermal implementations across SPS, Attune, GTO, and TSM, identifying accuracy and feature trade-offs.
 - Evaluated effects of film coefficients, soil properties, and SCADA boundary conditions on thermal response.
- 2018 **Machine Learning & Interpolation for Thermophysical Properties**
Research & Prototyping
- Designed and trained ReLU neural networks to approximate gas compressibility $Z(T,P)$ and compressor efficiency surfaces.
 - Achieved sub-1% median absolute error across high-dimensional operating domains.
 - Interpreted ReLU networks as continuous piecewise-linear spline approximators, enabling principled model design.
 - Explored model-reduction techniques (PCA, SVD, feature selection) to balance accuracy and inference cost.
 - Evaluated deployment strategies using exported ANN weights and C++ linear-algebra inference.
 - Compared ANN interpolation against classical polynomial and spline methods for robustness and numerical stability.
- 2018 **Method of Characteristics (MOC)**
Numerical Methods Review
- Presented Method of Characteristics (MOC) formulation for transient gas pipeline hydraulics.
 - Reviewed thermodynamic assumptions related to compressibility, speed of sound, and heat transfer.
 - Derived characteristic equations and Riemann invariants for isothermal and non-isothermal flow.
 - Compared MOC with finite-difference and box-scheme approaches in terms of stability, accuracy, and applicability.
 - Clarified historical trade-offs influencing solver choices in commercial simulators.

2017 Attune vs StateFinder & Pipeline State Estimation

Analytics Evaluation and Model Diagnostics

- Compared performance of Attune (adjoint method based state-finding data assimilation optimization) and StateFinder (single-state least-squares estimation) methodologies.
- Designed realistic SCADA-driven test cases to evaluate pressure and velocity reconstruction accuracy.
- Identified observability limits, data requirements, and workflow mismatches between analytics tools.
- Evaluated slackline flow implementations, reverse-engineering legacy algorithms and documenting assumptions.
- Provided recommendations for algorithm modernization and solver upgrades.

2017 Adjoint Sensitivities & Gradient-Based Optimization

Advanced Numerical Methods

- Worked with and debugged(!) adjoint sensitivity analysis for large nonlinear systems arising in pipeline simulation.
- Derived continuous and discrete adjoint formulations for box-scheme-based transient solvers.
- Demonstrated computational advantages of adjoint methods when the number of outputs is small relative to parameter count.
- Validated adjoint implementations using inner-product tests and finite-difference comparisons.
- Responsible for care and feeding of adjoint methods into Attune / TSM / GTO optimization workflows, enabling efficient gradient-based calibration.

2015 Legacy Code Modernization – FORTRAN to C++

High-Performance Scientific Computing

- Investigated automated conversion of legacy FORTRAN simulation code to modern C++ using FABLE.
- Diagnosed extreme initial performance regressions ($\sim 10^5 \times$ slower) and systematically optimized generated code.
- Eliminated unnecessary runtime memory allocation by replacing emulated common blocks with namespace-scoped static variables.
- Applied profiling-driven optimizations (VTune), improving memory locality and numeric efficiency.
- Reduced performance gap to $\sim 10 \times$ or better, restoring feasibility for production use.
- Identified remaining challenges (row-major vs column-major ordering) and proposed generator-level improvements.

- 2014 **Signal Processing & Imaging Techniques**
Exploratory Research
- Applied wavelet-based signal denoising techniques to noisy engineering and SCADA data.
 - Compared wavelet filtering and Empirical Mode Decomposition (EMD) with traditional smoothing methods for transient preservation.
 - Investigated Eulerian Video Magnification (EVM) to amplify subtle temporal variations in video data.
 - Analyzed spatial derivative operators (e.g., Sobel filters) and frequency-domain trade-offs for noise suppression.

Technical Leadership & Knowledge Sharing

- Delivered recurring research reviews and innovation updates, synthesizing numerical, algorithmic, and performance findings.
- Participated in several internal Simulation Software Seminar Series focused on hands-on technical learning.
- Communicated complex mathematical concepts clearly to cross-disciplinary engineering audiences.
- Served as a technical bridge between research, product development, and customer-facing teams.

Publications

May 2019

Step Doubling for Pipeline Flow

This paper defines and studies a simple, efficient method for discretizing pipeline equations in time.

Todd F Dupont, Richard D Myers

onepetro.org/PSIGAM/proceedings-abstract/PSIG19/PSIG19/PSIG-1923/2121 (Paper presented at the PSIG Annual Meeting, London, UK, May 2019)

Education

Sept 2003 – Aug 2005

University of Houston–University Park, PhD in Mathematics – Houston, TX

- Dissertation: *Numerically Consistent Approximations for Optimal Control Problems Applied to Stiff Chemical Systems*
- Abstract: In the context of optimal control problems of state-finding and time-based controls, adjoint discretizations for Runge-Kutta methods were developed that converge at the same rate as the solution and objective function.
- Advisor: Prof. Jiwen He
- github.com/rdm375/RichardMyers-Dissertation/

Sept 2000 – May 2002

University of Houston–University Park, MS in Applied Mathematics – Houston, TX

Focused on Numerical Analysis and Scientific Computing: Numerical ODEs, PDEs, Linear Algebra, Optimization, and Parallel Programming.

Sept 1995 – May 2000

University of Houston–University Park, BS in Mathematics – Houston, TX

- Graduated Magna Cum Laude

Technical Skills

Platforms: Linux, Windows, WSL

Languages: Python, FORTRAN, C++, Bash

Automatic Differentiation: Odyssee, Tapenade

Parallel Programming: MPI, OpenMP

Environments: GCC, Clang, Make/CMake, MS Visual Studio, VS Code, TFS

Document Processing: LaTeX, Markdown, HTML

Research Areas: Numerical Analysis, Scientific Computing, Signal Processing, Machine Learning

Additional Training

Python Boot Camp: Jan. 2007. Covered use of the Python programming language in a scientific computing context.

Sun Application Tuning Seminar: Mar. 2004. Focused on using Sun's application profiler to locate and optimize code bottlenecks. MPI and OpenMP were used for writing code for various parallel computing architectures.

CompTIA A+ Certification: July 2003. Focused on building, repairing, and configuring operating systems for PCs.

Parallel Programming with MPI Seminar at UH: Oct. 2000. Taught by Marc Garbey. Covered parallel programming on distributed memory systems using the MPI message passing interface.

Courses Taught

Calculus I, MATH 1431, University of St. Thomas: Summer 2006

Calculus II, MATH 1432, University of St. Thomas: Fall 2005, Spring 2006, Fall 2006

Calculus III, MATH 2431, University of St. Thomas: Spring 2007

Differential Equations, MATH 2343, University of St. Thomas: Fall 2005, Fall 2006

Intro to Technical Computing, MATH 2338, University of St. Thomas: Spring 2007

Numerical Analysis, MATH 3339, University of St. Thomas: Fall 2005, Spring 2007

Linear Algebra, MATH 3334, University of St. Thomas: Spring 2006

Probability, MATH 3335, University of St. Thomas: Fall 2006

Real Analysis, MATH 4331, University of St. Thomas: Fall 2006

Junior Research Seminar, MATH 3181, University of St. Thomas: Fall 2005, Spring 2006, Fall 2006

Senior Research Seminar, MATH 4181, University of St. Thomas: Spring 2006, Fall 2006

Independent Study, MATH 4392, University of St. Thomas: Spring 2006, Summer 2006, Fall 2006

Courses Developed

Junior/Senior Research Seminar, MATH 3181/4181, University of St. Thomas

Introduction to Technical Computing, MATH 2338, University of St. Thomas

Undergraduate Research Supervision

Michael Deeb - *The Mathematics Behind Basketball*, Fall 2006

Ashley Gibbs - *Mathematics of Stringed Instruments*, Fall 2006

David Gutierrez - *The Use of Mathematics in Predicting Human Strength Performance*, Fall 2006

Kulvir Kaur - *The Techniques of Teaching Mathematics in Grades 8-12*, Fall 2006

Hai Le - *The Mathematics of Digital Photography*, Fall 2006

Michael Nguyen - *P vs. NP*, Fall 2006

Claudia Oramas - *Stabilization of Structures*, Fall 2006

Linh Tran - *Mathematics and Pool*, Fall 2006

Mary Tapado - *The Golden Mean*, Fall 2006

Giselle Ramos-Bryan - *Pascal's Triangle*, Spring 2006

Moses Khan - *The Relevance of Mathematics in Our Daily Lives*, Spring 2006

Ashley Gibbs - *Bezier Curves*, Spring 2006

Michael Nguyen - *Cryptology: The Study of Cryptography and Cryptanalysis*, Spring 2006

Janie Garcia - *Tomography: A mathematical Background for Medicine's Image Machine*, Spring 2006

Randhi Panapitiya - *Mathematical Relationships with Traffic Flow*, Spring 2006

Robin Stone - *Chaos, Fractals, and Perlin Noise in the Generation of Virtual Landscapes*, Spring 2006

Mary Tapado - *Wallpaper Patterns*, Spring 2006

Janie Garcia - *Galileo Galilei: His Life, His Work*, Fall 2005

Moses Khan - *The Life and Philosophy of Pythagoras*, Fall 2005

Dominic Novak - *Algorithmic Composition: How can math be used in the composition of music?*, Fall 2005

Giselle Ramos-Bryan - *Math in Art: Prospective Geometry*, Fall 2005

Robin Stone - *Unlocking Young Minds: Methods of Teaching Mathematics*, Fall 2005

The University of St. Thomas Research Symposium (Sponsored Students)

Ashley Gibbs - *Bezier Curves in Application*, Spring 2006

Christopher LaVallee - *The Use of Mathematics in the Design of a Long-Bow*, Spring 2006