

# Richard D Myers, Ph.D.

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👤 rdm375

## 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 ( $\theta$ -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)

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, and deployment of advanced numerical algorithms for real-time and offline pipeline simulation platforms including **Synergi Gas**, **Stoner Pipeline Simulator (SPS)**, **Attune**, **GTO**, and **TSM**.

- 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.

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## 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 idea is 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 SPS models, Attune/GTO/TSM, and GasModels.jl.

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,  $\theta$ -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  $\theta$ -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  $\theta$ -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  $\theta$ -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  $\theta$ -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.

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

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## 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/](https://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

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## 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

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## 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.

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## Academic Appointments

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.

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## Professional Service

Curriculum development and revision, University of St. Thomas

Departmental computing facilities director, Mathematics Dept, University of St. Thomas

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## 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

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## Courses Developed

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

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

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## 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

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## 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