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**A FAST AND PORTABLE HIGH-ORDER TEMPORAL SOLVER  
FOR COMPUTATIONAL FLUID DYNAMICS**

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requirements for the degree of

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

in

APPLIED MATHEMATICS AND STATISTICS

by

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## Abstract

A Fast and Portable High-Order Temporal Solver for Computational Fluid Dynamics

by

Youngjun Lee

The recent advent of high-performance computing hardware enables large-scale, multi-physics simulation that provides accurate physical pictures in various fields of study. In order to utilize the high-performance computing system more efficiently, the high-order numerical approximations have become one of the central themes in computational fluid dynamics (CFD) due to their potential in achieving highly accurate predictions in a limited memory capacity.

The single-stage or single-step high-order temporal discretizations have shown great promise in delivering high-order temporal accuracy in fast performance. Fundamentally, the single-stage time integrators are based on a Taylor series in the time domain. Although its high performance, the single-stage time integrators are less attractive and less flexible compared to the multi-stage methods due to the complexities in calculating the coefficient of time-Taylor expansion, which usually demands the flux Jacobians and Hessians.

This dissertation develops a new single-stage high-order temporal integrator under finite difference discretization. The proposed high-order temporal method is based on the Lax-Wendroff type time discretization, with an algorithmic extension that provides the system independence property. The new approach, called system-free (SF) method, furnishes ease of implementation as well as portability and flexibility of the single-stage time integration method while maintaining the accuracy and stability of the numerical solution.



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- Youngjun Lee and Dongwook Lee. A single-step third-order temporal discretization with jacobian-free and hessian-free formulations for finite difference methods. *Journal of Computational Physics*, 427:110063, 2021.
- Youngjun Lee, Dongwook Lee, and Adam Reyes. A recursive system-free single-step temporal discretization method for finite difference methods. *Journal of Computational Physics: X*, 12:100098, 2021.

The primary co-author Dongwook Lee listed in these publications directed and supervised the research which forms the basis for this dissertation.

# Chapter 1

## Introduction

In past decades, the rapid evolution of the high-performance computing (HPC) systems offers growing computational capacity for the numerical simulations of various scientific fields, where conducting a direct experiment is extremely expensive or notoriously complicated. As the computing power of HPC systems gradually increases, scientists can compute more complex and computationally intensive physical models such as visualizing black holes [45, 1], simulating nuclear fusions [42, 34], studying laser-plasma interactions [58, 89], to name a few.

In order to simulate these physical phenomena, it demands meticulously designed numerical algorithms for solving nonlinear, multidimensional, and multi-physics equations judiciously. Generally speaking, numerical algorithms require more computational power for better solution accuracy, i.e., using high-resolution grid configuration.

However, the recent hardware development trend – the progression of the memory capacity per compute core has become gradually saturated [4] – is compelling the HPC community to find more efficient ways that can best exercise computing resources in pursuing computer simulations. As reported in 2014 [29], decreasing memory density per compute core will be the primary limiting factor to the

scalability of scientific simulation codes.

To meet this end, modern practitioners have relentlessly delved into advancing high-arithmetic-intensity models that can increase numerical accuracy per degree of freedom while operating with reduced memory requirements and data transfers in HPC architectures. For example, in the computational fluid dynamics (CFD) community, one such computing paradigm is to promote high-order methods in which high arithmetic intensity is achieved by using an increasing number of higher-order terms. Due to its high availability in increasing the quality of numerical solutions with fewer grid points, high-order discrete methods for hyperbolic conservation laws have become primary themes in the CFD community.

Under the dual computational need for accuracy and stability, the CFD community has developed high-order reconstruction and interpolation strategies that can achieve spatially high-order approximation. [91, 23, 56, 46, 14, 17, 59, 7]

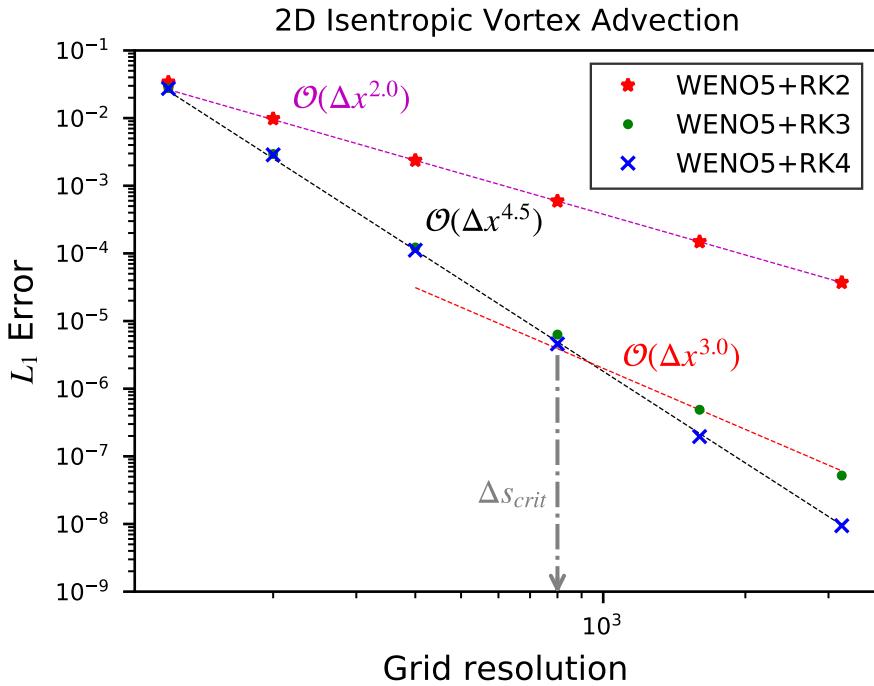
For example, in the Piecewise Parabolic Method (PPM) [91], the given data is considered a profile with piecewise quadratic polynomials, ensuring third-order spatial accuracy of the PPM reconstruction/interpolation. The PPM uses Total Variable Diminishing (TVD) slope limiters to piecewise profiles to enhance the numerical stability in the sharp gradient regions. The robustness and compactness of PPM attract scientists in the CFD community, and it is considered a central “high-order” strategy even today.

On the other hand, the Weighted Essentially Non-Oscillatory (WENO) method proposed in [46], the improved version of the ENO method [43], takes a different route to strengthen the polynomial-based profile’s stability. The WENO method divides the given stencil into smaller sub-stencils and considers lower-order polynomials in each sub-stencil. Then, by taking a convex combination of each sub-polynomials with nonlinear weighting factors, the WENO method con-

structs high-order, shock-capturing profiles in each stencil. The nonlinear weights are designed in a way that converges to the linear weights in a smooth region (i.e., the convex combination in a smooth region is equivalent to the high-order, linear polynomial in a whole stencil). Therefore, the WENO method can be interpreted as a piecewise profile consists of varying degrees of polynomials depending on the local smoothness of the given data.

A recent study from Reyes et al. [68, 69] introduced a new high-order reconstruction/interpolation strategy without considering the polynomial functions. This new design concept utilizes Gaussian Process (GP) to estimate the data at an arbitrary point in high-order accuracy instead of constructing polynomial functions. The GP method can be combined with the WENO weighting scheme to bring the non-oscillatory feature of the WENO method. The WENO-weighted GP method, called the GP-WENO method, employs the marginal likelihood function of GP to measure the smoothness of the given data instead of considering spatial derivatives in the conventional WENO method. The GP-WENO method demonstrated a high-order spatial accuracy and stability with a compact structure in the conventional finite volume discretization and the primitive-variable-based finite difference method, the FD-Primitive [25, 26, 19] method.

In order to achieve highly accurate numerical solutions, the high-order temporal method must be considered alongside the spatial method since the solution lies in a spatiotemporal plane. Generally speaking, two different cases can be considered to determining the order of accuracy: the leading error term from the  $p$ -th order spatial method is dominant over the  $q$ -th order temporal error,  $\mathcal{O}(\Delta s^p) > \mathcal{O}(\Delta t^q)$  or *vice versa*,  $\mathcal{O}(\Delta s^p) < \mathcal{O}(\Delta t^q)$ . Practically, many research articles about the high-order spatial methods for solving CFD simulation use the mediocre low-order temporal methods combined with the high-order spatial meth-



**Figure 1.1:** The numerical test results for measuring errors from different orders of temporal methods combined with the fifth-order spatial method. A numerical experiment of WENO5 with RK3 exhibits a convergence rate degradation from a higher rate of 4.5 following initially the fifth-order spatial accuracy of WENO5 to a lower third-order accuracy of RK3 later on. In WENO5+RK4, the solution continues to converge at 4.5th order without a sudden drop of convergence rate. The situation is even worse for WENO5+RK2 that the solution over the entire range of grid resolutions is bounded to be second-order.

ods. These combinations showed a reasonable convergence rate between  $p$  and  $q$ , meaning that the spatial error is dominant over the temporal error even with a lower order of temporal accuracy,  $q < p$ .

However, as reported in [54], this occurrence is flipped to the other end, i.e., temporal errors are dominant over spatial errors, particularly in a fine grid configuration. As shown in Fig. 1.1, a critical grid delta  $\Delta s_{\text{crit}}$  exists so that the error associated with a  $q$ -th order temporal method is comparable to and becoming dominant over the error of a  $p$ -th order spatial solver with  $q < p$ . This creates

a computational dilemma of not making further enhancements in solution accuracy, particularly when computational grids are progressively refined locally to put more grid resolutions for improved solution quality, such as in an adaptive mesh refinement (AMR) configuration.

Here lies the dire need for an efficient and accurate temporal scheme in predictive science territories of CFD to acquire highly accurate numerical solutions with steadfast fidelity. Although a method bearing high-order accuracy conveys the nexus of mathematical significance on its right, the performance of such a high-order method should also be accompanied by computational efficiency.

For decades, multi-stage time integrators have been considered as the standard temporal integration strategy for an extensive range of high-order numerical schemes for partial differential equation (PDE) solvers. Specifically, the Strong Stability Preserving Runge-Kutta (SSP-RK) method [39, 40, 38] is the most popular high-order time integration scheme in the CFD community. The SSP-RK method is based on the well-known ordinary differential equation (ODE) solver, the Runge-Kutta (RK) method, enforcing TVD property in each sub-stage of the RK method. The SSP-RK methods have proven high fidelity and robustness in acquiring high-order accuracy and numerical stability in compact, straightforward numerical structures.

The number of sub-stages determines the order of accuracy of the RK method in general, i.e.,  $q$  multiple sub-stages for the  $q$ -th order RK method. For example, the third-order RK method integrates the solution over three sub-stages. The optimal third-order SSP-RK method also has three sub-stages with different coefficients, which ensure the TVD property. However, higher than third-order SSP-RK schemes require more sub-stages to achieve the TVD limitation. It is reported in [39], the four-stage, fourth-order SSP-RK method cannot be formu-

lated with positive coefficients, meaning that the classical four-stage, fourth-order RK4 is not SSP. Other authors have demonstrated that SSP-RK4 with positive coefficients could be constructed with increasing sub-stages from five up to eight [80, 81], requiring more computational costs.

Even though its portability and compactness for achieving high-order temporal accuracy, the multi-stage time integrators are less attractive in a perspective of efficiency due to their increasing computational costs with the order of accuracy. For instance, the high-order spatial method and boundary conditions should be applied at each sub-stage of the SSP-RK scheme, which makes the overall procedure of SSP-RK computationally expensive. In parallel simulations, these operations also increase the footprint of data movements between node communications as the number of sub-stages grows. This very nature of SSP-RK makes it less efficient for massively parallel simulations, particularly when the level of adaptive mesh refinement (AMR) progressively builds up around interesting features in simulations.

To circumvent the said issues in SSP-RK, practitioners have taken a different route of providing a high-order temporal updating strategy for solving numerical PDEs. The core design principle lies in formulating a conservative temporal integrator that works for nonlinear PDEs in multiple spatial dimensions with the equivalent high-order accuracy as in SSP-RK, but, this time, in a single-stage, single-step update. One famous strategy is to modifying the Lax-Wendroff scheme [51], which uses a time-Taylor expansion of the conservative variables to achieve high-order temporal accuracy.

The effort in this direction has resulted in the Arbitrary high order DERivative (ADER) method, which was first introduced in [87] for linear equations. Since then, ADER schemes have gone through several generations of a breakthrough by

numerous authors with the common goal of meeting the high-order requirement in a compact single-step update.

The original ADER method proposed by Toro and his collaborators [87, 83, 85] achieve high-order temporal accuracy by solving a series of generalized Riemann problems (GRPs) for temporal derivatives of the conservative variables at cell interfaces. The temporal derivatives are obtained by applying the so-called Lax-Wendroff or Cauchy-Kowalewski (LW/CK) procedure similar to the original Lax-Wendroff method. The primary purpose of the LW/CK procedure is to convert time derivatives to spatial derivatives, which are coupled through Jacobians and Hessians.

The ADER formulation has been further taken to a more modern direction. Balsara et al. [9] presented a new compact ADER framework that replaced the usual Cauchy-Kowalewski procedure in the original ADER formalism with a local continuous space-time Galerkin formulation up to fourth-order and called the new approach ADER-CG (CG for continuous Galerkin). The ADER-CG schemes are shown to be approximately twice faster than the SSP-RK methods at the same order of accuracy [8].

The Picard integral formulation (PIF) method, proposed by Christlieb et al. [22], is another single-stage time integration strategy based on the Lax-Wendroff time discretization method under the finite difference formulation. The conventional finite difference method takes the pointwise representation of data; however, the PIF method takes time-averaged quantities to achieve high-order temporal accuracy. The time-averaged data is constructed through a time-Taylor expansion, and the LW/CK procedure is used to obtain coefficients of the Taylor series. Christlieb and his collaborators demonstrated that LW/CK procedures could successfully be utilized for obtaining high-order terms of the numerical fluxes for

a single-stage update as in many Lax-Wendroff type works of literature. Other studies also have shown that single-step temporal updates are more efficient in terms of CPU time to a solution when compared to multi-stage/multi-step methods [8, 52, 53].

Nonetheless, single-stage time integrators are still less popular choices in the CFD community. Designing a single-stage method generally brings more complicated and sophisticated mathematical structures than the SSP-RK method, requiring more implementation efforts. A recent study from Montecinos [61] proposed a simplification of the LW/CK procedures in the context of the implicit Taylor series. The idea is to generalize the recursive LW/CK procedure by considering the Jacobian matrix as a function of space and time. The ADER-Taylor method [67, 65, 66] is another way to reduce the number of LW/CK calculations by adopting the Differential Transform (DT) method for high-order derivatives.

The flux Jacobians and Hessians are another implementation hurdle/bottleneck for the Lax-Wendroff type schemes. Performing LW/CK procedures to convert the time derivatives to spatial derivatives requires explicit forms of the Jacobians ( $\partial_{\mathbf{U}} \mathbf{F}$ ), Hessians ( $\partial_{\mathbf{U}}^2 \mathbf{F}$ ), and higher derivatives of the flux functions ( $\partial_{\mathbf{U}}^k \mathbf{F}$ ) on high-order schemes. Finding analytical derivations of Jacobian-*like* terms is a notoriously cumbersome process, specifically for nonlinear systems. For example, in the Euler equations, the flux Jacobians are  $5 \times 5$  matrices in three spatial dimensions, and the flux Hessians are  $5 \times 5 \times 5$  rank three tensors. For constructing higher than third-order temporal accuracy through the LW/CK procedure, it is required to have analytic forms of the third-order derivatives of the flux functions with respect to the conservative variables, e.g.,  $\partial_{\mathbf{U}}^3 \mathbf{F}$ . These terms are then  $5 \times 5 \times 5 \times 5$  rank four tensors, which makes the LW/CK procedure less appealing in fourth- or fifth-order temporal methods.

Another limitation on Jacobian-*like* terms is the dependency on the system of equations. Since the Jacobian-*like* terms are based on the flux functions of the governing equations of the system, the hard-coded Jacobian-*like* terms should be re-derived and re-implemented whenever to change the system of equations. For example, the high-order scheme solving Euler equations that uses Jacobian-*like* terms needs to be modified to solve other systems, such as magnetohydrodynamics (MHD) equations.

In this regard, this dissertation develops a single-stage, high-order time integration scheme for hyperbolic PDEs under finite difference formulation. The core design concept is to achieve high-order accuracy within a single step to reduce computational costs and data communications between parallel nodes. Alongside the computational efficiency, the newly developed high-order temporal scheme is sufficiently accurate to maintain the order of accuracy of the spatial methods, even for the fine grid configurations. Another important objective for designing a high-order time integrator in this dissertation is to increase its portability. By designing a time integrator independent of the system of equations, one can provide increased flexibility and ease of code implementation.

Consequently, a newly developed time integrator showed more than two times faster performance gain than the conventional multi-stage methods. Also, it can readily replace only the temporal part of any existing simulation code independent of system of equations.

# Chapter 2

## Discretization Methods

This dissertation interests in solving the general conservation laws of hyperbolic PDEs, predicting numerical solutions with high-order accuracy. This chapter introduces two general ways to discretize the Euler equations, which will be of particular interest in this dissertation.

### 2.1 The Euler equations

In three dimensions, the conservation laws may be written as,

$$\partial_t \mathbf{U} + \nabla \cdot \mathcal{F}(\mathbf{U}) = \partial_t \mathbf{U} + \partial_x \mathbf{F}(\mathbf{U}) + \partial_y \mathbf{G}(\mathbf{U}) + \partial_z \mathbf{H}(\mathbf{U}) = 0, \quad (2.1)$$

where  $\mathbf{U}$  is a vector of conserved variables and  $\mathcal{F} = (\mathbf{F}(\mathbf{U}), \mathbf{G}(\mathbf{U}), \mathbf{H}(\mathbf{U}))^T$  is the flux function in the  $x$ ,  $y$ , and  $z$  directions. The conservation law is considered hyperbolic if the flux Jacobian has only real eigenvalues and is diagonalizable. Thus,

$$\mathbf{A} = \partial_{\mathbf{U}} \mathbf{F} = \mathbf{R} \boldsymbol{\Lambda} \mathbf{L}, \quad (2.2)$$

where  $\mathbf{A}$  is the flux Jacobian in  $x$ -direction,  $\Lambda$  is a diagonal matrix with real eigenvalues, and  $\mathbf{L}$  and  $\mathbf{R}$  are corresponding left and right eigenvectors.

This dissertation focuses on solving Euler equations, which govern compressible, adiabatic inviscid flow. In the Euler equations, the conserved variables and the flux functions are defined as,

$$\mathbf{U} = \begin{bmatrix} \rho \\ \rho u \\ \rho v \\ \rho w \\ E \end{bmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{F}(\mathbf{U}) = \begin{bmatrix} \rho u \\ \rho u^2 + p \\ \rho u v \\ \rho u w \\ u(E + p) \end{bmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{G}(\mathbf{U}) = \begin{bmatrix} \rho v \\ \rho u v \\ \rho v^2 + p \\ \rho v w \\ v(E + p) \end{bmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{H}(\mathbf{U}) = \begin{bmatrix} \rho w \\ \rho u w \\ \rho v w \\ \rho w^2 + p \\ w(E + p) \end{bmatrix}. \quad (2.3)$$

In the above equations,  $\rho$  is the density,  $\mathbf{u} = (u, v, w)^T$  is the velocity,  $E$  is the total energy, and  $p$  is the pressure of the fluid.  $E$ , the total energy of the fluid represents the sum of internal and kinetic energy,

$$E = \epsilon + \frac{1}{2}\rho\mathbf{u}^2, \quad (2.4)$$

where the internal energy of the fluid,  $\epsilon$ , obeys the equation of state. (EOS) This dissertation uses the ideal gas law:

$$\epsilon = \frac{p}{\gamma - 1}, \quad (2.5)$$

where  $\gamma$  is the specific heat ratio.

In the following, this dissertation uses the Euler equation as an example of the conserved hyperbolic system. However, numerical methods presented in this dissertation are valid for any system of the form of Eq. (2.1). Magnetohydrodynamics (MHD) equations, for example, the general numerical strategies will

be nearly identical to the Euler equations except for the solenoidal constraint of the magnetic field. ( $\nabla \cdot \mathbf{B} = 0$ ) Thus, the high-order methods presented in this dissertation can be applied to the MHD simulation code easily.

## 2.2 Finite volume method

The popular way to consider discretized variables for the conserved system is to cast volume integrals to the governing equations, called the finite volume method. (FVM) Consider Eq. (2.1) discretized on a uniform grid containing cells with equal spacing ( $\Delta x, \Delta y, \Delta z$ ) in the three spatial dimensions. Then, each cell's center can be indexed by  $(i, j, k)$  at  $(x_i, y_j, z_k)$  and the cell's face centers at each interface by  $(i \pm \frac{1}{2}, j, k), (i, j \pm \frac{1}{2}, k), (i, j, k \pm \frac{1}{2})$ . Taking the volume average of each computational cell ( $\frac{1}{V_{ijk}} \int_{V_{ijk}} \mathcal{F}(\mathbf{U}) \cdot d\mathcal{V}$ ) to Eq. (2.1) and applying the divergence theorem, we have,

$$\frac{1}{V_{ijk}} \int_{V_{ijk}} \partial_t \mathbf{U} d\mathcal{V} + \frac{1}{V_{ijk}} \oint_{S_{ijk}} \mathcal{F}(\mathbf{U}) \cdot \mathbf{n} d\mathcal{S} = 0, \quad (2.6)$$

where  $V_{ijk}$  is the volume of the cell at  $i, j, k$ , and  $S_{ijk}$  is the surrounding surfaces of the cell at  $i, j, k$ .

The semi-discretized form of FVM representation of the conserved system is obtained by substituting the dimensionally split flux functions  $(\mathbf{F}(\mathbf{U}), \mathbf{G}(\mathbf{U}), \mathbf{H}(\mathbf{U}))$ :

$$\begin{aligned} \partial_t \overline{\mathbf{U}}_{i,j,k} = & - \frac{1}{\Delta x} \left( \widetilde{\mathbf{F}}_{i+\frac{1}{2},j,k} - \widetilde{\mathbf{F}}_{i-\frac{1}{2},j,k} \right) \\ & - \frac{1}{\Delta y} \left( \widetilde{\mathbf{G}}_{i,j+\frac{1}{2},k} - \widetilde{\mathbf{G}}_{i,j-\frac{1}{2},k} \right) \\ & - \frac{1}{\Delta z} \left( \widetilde{\mathbf{H}}_{i,j,k+\frac{1}{2}} - \widetilde{\mathbf{H}}_{i,j,k-\frac{1}{2}} \right). \end{aligned} \quad (2.7)$$

In the above equation, the overline indicates a volume-averaged quantity, while

the tilde indicates a surface average at half-indexed cell face. Note that the above semi-discretized form of FVM scheme is a purely analytical result without any numerical approximation. The numerical methods are used to estimate surface-averaged fluxes at each cell's interfaces and update the volume-averaged conserved variables to the next time step.

The most common way to approximate interfacial fluxes for FVM solver for Euler equations is to solve the Riemann problem at cell interfaces following the Godunov method [37]. The Riemann problem is composed of a conservation equation with a single discontinuity in its initial condition. As firstly introduced by Godunov in [37], the Riemann solver ( $\mathcal{RS}$ ) gives a numerical flux across the discontinuity in the Riemann problem. For example, the numerical flux across the discontinuity at  $x_{i+\frac{1}{2},j,k}$  can be calculated as,

$$\hat{\mathbf{f}}_{i+\frac{1}{2},j,k} = \mathcal{RS}(\mathbf{U}_{i+\frac{1}{2},j,k}^L, \mathbf{U}_{i+\frac{1}{2},j,k}^R). \quad (2.8)$$

The precedent task for solving the Riemann problem is to determining Riemann states at interfaces. Note that the inputs of the Riemann solver are regarded as *pointwise* values,  $(\mathbf{U}_{i+\frac{1}{2},j,k}^L, \mathbf{U}_{i+\frac{1}{2},j,k}^R)$  while the fundamental data type of FVM is the *volume-averaged* values.  $(\bar{\mathbf{U}}_{i,j,k})$  To specify the pointwise Riemann states at interfaces with given volume-averaged conserved variables, they must be reconstructed from the neighboring volume-averaged quantities. For example, a one-dimensional stencil with radius= $r$ , the left Riemann states at  $i+\frac{1}{2}$  can be reconstructed from cell-centered volume-averaged conserved variables  $(\bar{\mathbf{U}}_{i-r,j,k}, \dots, \bar{\mathbf{U}}_{i,j,k}, \dots, \bar{\mathbf{U}}_{i+r,j,k})$ , using  $p$ -th order accurate reconstruction operator  $\mathcal{R}(\cdot)$ :

$$\mathbf{U}_{i+\frac{1}{2},j,k}^L = \mathcal{R}(\bar{\mathbf{U}}_{i-r,j,k}, \dots, \bar{\mathbf{U}}_{i+r,j,k}) + \mathcal{O}(\Delta x^p). \quad (2.9)$$

The spatial order of accuracy,  $p$ , of the FVM solver is thereby determined by choice of the reconstruction operator,  $\mathcal{R}(\cdot)$  which will be discussed in Section 3.1.

It is important to note that the numerical flux resulting from the Riemann solver is also a pointwise representation, while the surface-averaged fluxes ( $\tilde{\mathbf{F}}_{i\pm\frac{1}{2},j,k}$ ,  $\tilde{\mathbf{G}}_{i,j\pm\frac{1}{2},k}$ , and  $\tilde{\mathbf{H}}_{i,j,k\pm\frac{1}{2}}$ ) are needed for FVM formulation as presented in Eq. (2.7). This should be addressed thoroughly, as a naive approximation of the pointwise flux to the surface-averaged flux is bounded by second-order accuracy no matter the accuracy of the Riemann states:

$$\begin{aligned}\tilde{\mathbf{F}}_{i+\frac{1}{2},j,k} &= \frac{1}{\Delta y \Delta z} \int_{y_{j-\frac{1}{2}}}^{y_{j+\frac{1}{2}}} \int_{z_{k-\frac{1}{2}}}^{z_{k+\frac{1}{2}}} \mathbf{F}(x_{i+\frac{1}{2}}, y, z) dz dy \\ &= \mathbf{F}_{i+\frac{1}{2},j,k} + \mathcal{O}(\Delta y^2, \Delta z^2).\end{aligned}\quad (2.10)$$

The conventional way to achieve higher than second-order accuracy in FVM solver is to solve the Riemann problem at multiple quadrature points on each face. [84, 57, 93] More recent studies proposed ways to avoid multiple calls of Riemann solver, reconstructing surface-averaged fluxes from pointwise Riemann fluxes, [16, 33] using linear combinations of Riemann fluxes, [31, 30] to name a few.

## 2.3 Finite difference method

As it firstly proposed in [77], the finite difference method (FDM) seeks a discretization of the spatial derivatives of the fluxes in *pointwise* representation. Assuming that there exist numerical fluxes satisfy the conservative form as,

$$\begin{aligned}\partial_t \bar{\mathbf{U}}_{i,j,k} &= -\frac{1}{\Delta x} (\hat{\mathbf{f}}_{i+\frac{1}{2},j,k} - \hat{\mathbf{f}}_{i-\frac{1}{2},j,k}) \\ &\quad -\frac{1}{\Delta y} (\hat{\mathbf{g}}_{i,j+\frac{1}{2},k} - \hat{\mathbf{g}}_{i,j-\frac{1}{2},k}) \\ &\quad -\frac{1}{\Delta z} (\hat{\mathbf{h}}_{i,j,k+\frac{1}{2}} - \hat{\mathbf{h}}_{i,j,k-\frac{1}{2}}),\end{aligned}\quad (2.11)$$

where  $\hat{\mathbf{f}}_{i\pm\frac{1}{2},j,k}$ ,  $\hat{\mathbf{g}}_{i,j\pm\frac{1}{2},k}$ ,  $\hat{\mathbf{h}}_{i,j,k\pm\frac{1}{2}}$  are the *pointwise* numerical fluxes in each direction at half-indexed cell-face centers. The remaining task is to identify the numerical fluxes in desired order of accuracy,  $p$ , which satisfy,

$$\partial_x \mathbf{F}|_{\mathbf{x}=\mathbf{x}_{ijk}} = \frac{1}{\Delta x} (\hat{\mathbf{f}}_{i+\frac{1}{2},j,k} - \hat{\mathbf{f}}_{i-\frac{1}{2},j,k}) + \mathcal{O}(\Delta x^p), \quad \mathbf{x}_{ijk} = (x_i, y_j, z_k), \quad (2.12)$$

and similarly in  $y$  and  $z$  fluxes.

In order to specify the numerical fluxes for FDM, consider the pointwise  $x$ -flux  $\mathbf{F}(x, y_j, z_k)$  as a one-dimensional cell average of an auxiliary function  $\hat{\mathbf{F}}$ ,

$$\mathbf{F}(x, y_j, z_k) = \frac{1}{\Delta x} \int_{x-\frac{\Delta x}{2}}^{x+\frac{\Delta x}{2}} \hat{\mathbf{F}}(\xi, y_j, z_k) d\xi. \quad (2.13)$$

Then the analytic derivative of Eq. (2.13) at  $x = x_i$  in  $x$ -direction becomes

$$\partial_x \mathbf{F}|_{x=x_i} = \frac{1}{\Delta x} (\hat{\mathbf{F}}(x_{i+\frac{1}{2}}, y_j, z_k) - \hat{\mathbf{F}}(x_{i-\frac{1}{2}}, y_j, z_k)). \quad (2.14)$$

Comparing Eq. (2.12) and Eq. (2.14), the numerical fluxes in FDM are obtained with desired order of accuracy,  $p$ , if they can be defined with the following relationship with  $\hat{\mathbf{F}}$ ,

$$\hat{\mathbf{f}}_{i+\frac{1}{2},j,k} = \hat{\mathbf{F}}(x_{i+\frac{1}{2}}, y_j, z_k) + \mathcal{O}(\Delta x^p). \quad (2.15)$$

Mathematically speaking, the inverse problem of Eq. (2.15) is exactly the same as the conventional 1D reconstruction problem in FVM, the operation of which is specifically designed to find the primitive function value  $\hat{\mathbf{F}}$  at a certain location (mostly,  $x_{i\pm\frac{1}{2}}$ ) in the  $i$ -th cell, given the integral-averaged (or volume-averaged) values  $\mathbf{F}$  at nearby stencil points as input. Namely, this can be written as

$$\hat{\mathbf{F}}(\xi, y_j, z_k) = \mathcal{R}(\mathbf{F}_{i-r,j,k}, \dots, \mathbf{F}_{i+r,j,k}) + \mathcal{O}(\Delta x^p), \quad \xi \in [x_{i-\frac{1}{2}}, x_{i+\frac{1}{2}}], \quad (2.16)$$

where  $\mathcal{R}(\cdot)$  is a  $p$ -th order accurate reconstruction operator that used for FVM formulation in Section 2.2, and will be discussed in Section 3.1.

Contrary to FVM, the conservative FDM uses only the pointwise values for constructing numerical strategies, not requiring the data conversion between pointwise and volume-averaged quantities. In addition, the high-order reconstruction schemes used for constructing Riemann states in FVM can be used for constructing numerical fluxes in FDM without intense changes in the simulation code – only a simple change in the input variables for the reconstruction operator. This simplicity in numerical strategy attracts researchers in the CFD community, leading various adoptions in high-order solvers [46, 75, 59, 22, 72].

Compared to FVM, the major difference of FDM is obtaining high-order numerical fluxes directly from the reconstruction operator. Although it simplifies the numerical schemes, the direct formulation of the numerical fluxes hinders its further modifications while keeping a high-order convergence rate.

For example, the adaptive mesh refinement (AMR) grid configuration [11, 12] requires numerical fluxes splitting between the coarse grid to the fine grid in a conservative manner. Conventionally, this is ensured by an additional flux correction step in FVM formulation. [12] However, in FDM, a different approach should be taken because modifying the high-order numerical fluxes may spoil the order of accuracy. One possible way to maintain conservation across coarse to the fine grid points is to apply nonlinear interpolation on the conserved variables, imply them as boundary conditions, and distribute the calculated errors among coarse grid points. [73]

Another limitation on the direct formulation of numerical fluxes in FDM is the lack of the option to include substructure in the wave model, which Riemann solver typically does in FVM to resolve certain features better. Del Zanna proposed one

alternative way of FDM [25, 26], which views numerical fluxes as the Riemann fluxes with the series of high-order correction terms. This approach can achieve a high-order convergence rate with Riemann fluxes like in FVM, without the additional data type conversions required of conventional FVM. [69]

## 2.4 Conclusion

Two major discretization strategies for conservative systems have been presented. Both the finite difference and finite volume methods are able to achieve high-order spatial accuracy by reconstructing volume-averaged quantities to pointwise values.

The finite difference method

- evolves the pointwise conserved variables,
- provides a straightforward framework without data type conversions,
- requires high-order numerical fluxes constructed from the pointwise, cell-centered physical fluxes directly from the high-order reconstruction methods, and
- may be delicate with the additional modifications on the numerical fluxes.

The finite volume method

- evolves the volume-averaged conserved variables,
- requires rigorous data type conversions to maintain high-order accuracy,
- requires high-order reconstruction of the Riemann states from the cell-centered conserved variables, and

- guarantees the conservation laws over the whole spatiotemporal domain by design.

# Chapter 3

## High-Order Methods for FDM

As mentioned in Chapter 1, the high-order numerical schemes are ideal for maximizing the solution accuracy on a given grid resolution; thus, they can produce more accurate solutions on a limited memory capacity.

The discretization strategies for conservative PDEs presented in Chapter 2 can achieve high-order solution accuracy both in spatial and temporal dimensions. Typically, the spatial accuracy is determined by the accuracy of the reconstruction scheme used for estimating Riemann states (FVM) or numerical fluxes (FDM) at cells interfaces. On the other hand, the numerical time integration strategy for the semi-discretized form of the conservative PDEs (Eqs. (2.7) and (2.11)) will settle the temporal accuracy. Since the solution lies on the spatiotemporal plane, both the temporal and spatial errors should be contemplated in a controlled manner to analyze the numerical solutions properly.

The fundamental mission of the numerical scheme is to estimate the values on unknown points with given available data in an accurate fashion. One straightforward way is to interpolate/reconstruct the data to form piecewise polynomials and estimate the desired points using the polynomials. In this way, the order of accuracy will be determined by the degree of polynomials; the number of data

points used to interpolate/reconstruct the data in each stencil.

However, nonlinear systems like Euler equations, the main interest in this dissertation, require more sophisticated care in designing high-order numerical methods because the system can form and evolve discontinuity profiles even with smooth initial conditions. Generally speaking, an artless high-degree piecewise polynomial function can not handle the discontinuous profiles and introduces spurious oscillations caused by over- and under-shot profiles of the underlying function. Therefore, the stability of the numerical method must be taken into account for solving hyperbolic PDEs in high-order accuracy.

One way to ensure the stability of the numerical scheme is to limit the total variation (TV) of the solution, called the total variation diminishing (TVD) property. The total variation of the solution in one-dimensional discrete solution  $u^n$  at time  $t = t^n$  is defined as,

$$TV(u^n) := \sum_i |u_{i+1}^n - u_i^n|, \quad (3.1)$$

and it should be bounded by the total variation of the initial conditions to ensure stability as,

$$TV(u^{n+1}) \leq TV(u^n). \quad (3.2)$$

Van Leer introduced TVD flux limiters to provide TVD property on the piecewise linear functions [90] by limiting the slope of the second-degree polynomial. A simple choice of the TVD slope limiter for the second-degree profile is the minmod slope limiter,

$$\text{minmod}(a, b) = \begin{cases} a, & \text{if } |a| < |b| \text{ and } ab > 0 \\ b, & \text{if } |a| > |b| \text{ and } ab > 0 \\ 0, & \text{if } ab < 0, \end{cases} \quad (3.3)$$

where  $a = \frac{u_{i+1} - u_i}{\Delta x}$  and  $b = \frac{u_i - u_{i-1}}{\Delta x}$  are the forward and backward slope at the cell  $I_i$  centered at  $x = x_i$ . The TVD slope limiters are also used for the popular third-order scheme, the piecewise parabolic method (PPM) by Woodward and Colella [23], for enforcing the TVD property on the quadratic polynomial.

The TVD property is also crucial in designing high-order temporal integration schemes. In the *method of lines* approximations, the semi-discretized form of PDEs (Eqs. (2.7) and (2.11)) can be viewed as an ordinary differential equation (ODE) system in the temporal axis, which an ODE solver can discretize. Thus, the well-known ODE solver, Runge-Kutta (RK) method, can be used as the time integration method in the method of lines schemes; however, the TVD property must be enforced to preserve the numerical stability. Shu and Osher designed TVD limited Runge-Kutta methods [76, 74] for solving hyperbolic conservation laws. Subsequently, Gottlieb and her collaborators [39, 40, 38] further developed this idea to the strong stability preserving Runge-Kutta (SSP-RK) method, which is by far the most popular high-order time integration method used in the CFD community.

This chapter will introduce general schemes for achieving high-order accuracy both in spatial and temporal dimensions in the finite difference method, which is the main interest in this dissertation. The high-order reconstruction schemes in Section 3.1 predict FDM numerical fluxes at cell interfaces, and they are identical to the reconstruction methods used to predict interfacial Riemann states in FVM. The Runge-Kutta methods and the Lax-Wendroff type methods will be introduced in Section 3.2 for achieving high-order in time accuracy for FDM formulation.

### 3.1 High-Order reconstruction schemes

The high-order reconstruction schemes play a pivotal role in reducing numerical errors on the *spatial axis* for solving discrete PDEs under FVM and FDM formulations. The reconstruction schemes furnish a pointwise representation of the given volume-averaged data; thus, they are suitable for estimating pointwise values with given volume-averaged conserved variables (FVM) or volume-averaged auxiliary functions (FDM). Modern practitioners in the CFD community have focused on designing high-order reconstruction schemes that can generate highly accurate solutions while maintaining numerical stability at discontinuous regions. Examples include the early success of the piecewise parabolic method (PPM) by Colella and Woodward [23], which has been still actively adopted as a shock-capturing partial differential equation (PDE) solver by many CFD users after about four decades since its introduction.

In the finite difference method, the numerical fluxes can be estimated through reconstruction schemes by inputting the pointwise physical fluxes at the cell centers. Assuming that a  $p$ -th order reconstruction scheme,  $\mathcal{R}(\cdot)$ , taking the  $2r$  length of stencil centered at cell  $I_i$ , and generating estimated pointwise value at  $x = x_{i+\frac{1}{2}}$ , then the FDM numerical flux  $\hat{\mathbf{f}}_{i+\frac{1}{2}}$  at  $x = x_{i+\frac{1}{2}}$  can be found by,

$$\hat{\mathbf{f}}_{i+\frac{1}{2}} = \mathcal{R}(\mathbf{F}_{i-r}, \dots, \mathbf{F}_{i+r}) + \mathcal{O}(\Delta x^p). \quad (3.4)$$

However, one additional numerical step should be needed for the robustness of the solution. It is well-known that the upwind numerical fluxes can provide more robust solutions in the CFD community. In FVM, this is achieved by solving the Riemann problem, but for FDM, one separated routine should be considered to provide upwind property in the numerical flux. The flux splitting method

is the general way to yield upwinding numerical flux in FDM by splitting the pointwise fluxes into two components moving towards and away from the interface of interest. For example, one can split the flux function into two parts:

$$\mathbf{F}_i = \mathbf{F}_i^+ + \mathbf{F}_i^-, \quad \mathbf{F}_i^\pm = \frac{1}{2} (\mathbf{F}_i \pm \alpha^k \mathbf{U}_i), \quad (3.5)$$

where  $\alpha^k$  is the global maximum characteristic speed of  $k$ -th characteristic field, i.e., the maximum absolute value of  $k$ -th eigenvalue of flux Jacobian  $\partial_{\mathbf{U}} \mathbf{F}$  over the whole domain. This procedure is called the global Lax–Friedrichs flux splitting [46] since we take global maximum for each  $\alpha^k$ . The reconstruction method is applied to the positive and negative parts of the fluxes  $\mathbf{F}_i^\pm$  to construct numerical fluxes, and then they are collected at each interface:

$$\hat{\mathbf{f}}_{i+\frac{1}{2}} = \hat{\mathbf{f}}_{i+\frac{1}{2}}^+ + \hat{\mathbf{f}}_{i+\frac{1}{2}}^-, \quad \hat{\mathbf{f}}_{i+\frac{1}{2}}^+ = \mathcal{R}(\mathbf{F}_s^+), \quad \hat{\mathbf{f}}_{i+\frac{1}{2}}^- = \mathcal{R}(\mathbf{F}_{s'}^-), \quad (3.6)$$

where the sub-index  $s$  represents the stencil ranging from  $i - r, \dots, i + r$ , while at the same time,  $s' = 2i - s + 1$ .

Although the global Lax–Friedrichs flux splitting provides improved stability and robustness of the numerical scheme, it also introduces numerical dissipation into the solution. One possible way to minimize the numerical dissipation of the flux splitting is to project the fluxes into the characteristic field, so-called Rusanov Lax–Friedrichs flux splitting. [24, 59] The Rusanov Lax–Friedrichs splitting projects pointwise physical fluxes to the left- and the right-going parts according to the characteristic decomposition of the Jacobian matrix,

$$\partial_{\mathbf{U}} \mathbf{F}|_{\mathbf{U}_{i+\frac{1}{2}}} = \mathbf{R}_{i+\frac{1}{2}} \boldsymbol{\Lambda}_{i+\frac{1}{2}} \mathbf{L}_{i+\frac{1}{2}}, \quad \mathbf{U}_{i+\frac{1}{2}} = \frac{\mathbf{U}_i + \mathbf{U}_{i+1}}{2}, \quad (3.7)$$

where  $\mathbf{R}$  and  $\mathbf{L}$  are the matrices of right and left eigenvectors, and  $\mathbf{\Lambda}$  is the diagonal matrix whose diagonal entries are corresponding eigenvalues. The projection proceeds to construct  $s$  different left-going ( $-$ ) and right-going ( $+$ ) characteristic states of the pointwise fluxes, denoted as  $\mathbf{V}_{(i+\frac{1}{2}):s}^{k,\pm}$  to the cell interface  $i + \frac{1}{2}$  as

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{V}_{(i+\frac{1}{2}):s}^{k,+} &= \frac{1}{2} \mathbf{L}_{i+\frac{1}{2}}^k \cdot (\mathbf{F}_s + \alpha^k \mathbf{U}_s), \\ \mathbf{V}_{(i+\frac{1}{2}):s}^{k,-} &= \frac{1}{2} \mathbf{L}_{i+\frac{1}{2}}^k \cdot (\mathbf{F}_{s'} - \alpha^k \mathbf{U}_{s'}).\end{aligned}\quad (3.8)$$

Again,  $s$  and  $s'$  are representing the stencil  $s = i - r, \dots, i + r$ ,  $s' = 2i - s + 1$ , and the superscript  $k$  represents each characteristic field. The coefficient  $\alpha^k$  is chosen to be the maximum absolute value of the  $k$ -th characteristic speed over the entire computational domain, resulting in the so-called global Lax-Friedrichs flux splitting. The projected fluxes will be taken into the reconstruction scheme and projected back to the numerical fluxes:

$$\hat{\mathbf{f}}_{i+\frac{1}{2}} = \sum_k \left( \hat{\mathbf{V}}_{i+\frac{1}{2}}^{k,+} + \hat{\mathbf{V}}_{i+\frac{1}{2}}^{k,-} \right) \mathbf{R}_{i+\frac{1}{2}}^k, \quad \hat{\mathbf{V}}_{i+\frac{1}{2}}^{k,\pm} = \mathcal{R} \left( \mathbf{V}_{(i+\frac{1}{2}):s}^{k,\pm} \right). \quad (3.9)$$

### 3.1.1 Weighted Essentially Non-Oscillatory Methods

Generally speaking, the high-order reconstruction schemes based on the polynomial approach assuming that there exists a unique polynomial  $\phi(x)$  satisfies volume-averaging conditions:

$$\frac{1}{\Delta x} \int_{I_k} \phi(x) dx = \bar{q}_k, \quad I_k \in S \quad (3.10)$$

where  $k$  is the index of cell within a stencil  $S$  and  $\bar{q}_k$  is a volume-averaged quantity at  $k$ . However, when  $S$  contains a strong gradient of the volume-averaged data  $\bar{q}_k$ , then it suffers from spurious oscillations since the polynomial  $\phi(x)$  is assumed to

be smooth over the stencil. Handling discontinuous profiles is essential in solving Euler equations, as it can form discontinuous profiles even with smooth initial conditions.

In 1987, Harten et al. [43] proposed an essentially non-oscillatory (ENO) scheme that chooses the appropriate stencil adaptively to avoid containing any discontinuities in the stencil. In ENO methods, the non-oscillatory stencil is chosen by considering all possible stencils of the required size and measure the smoothness on each of them. Liu et al. [56] improved this idea by introducing the weighted essentially non-oscillatory (WENO) scheme, which takes a convex combination of all possible stencils, reducing the number of logical calculations needed for the original ENO scheme. The WENO scheme was further improved by Jiang and Shu [46] and became one of the most popular high-order reconstruction and interpolation methods for solving shock-dominant CFD simulation.

Conventionally, WENO method with  $m$  sub-stencils uses  $2m - 1$  data points and ensures  $2m - 1$  order of accuracy in a smooth region. As an example, the popular five-points, fifth-order WENO-JS [46] method is presented below.

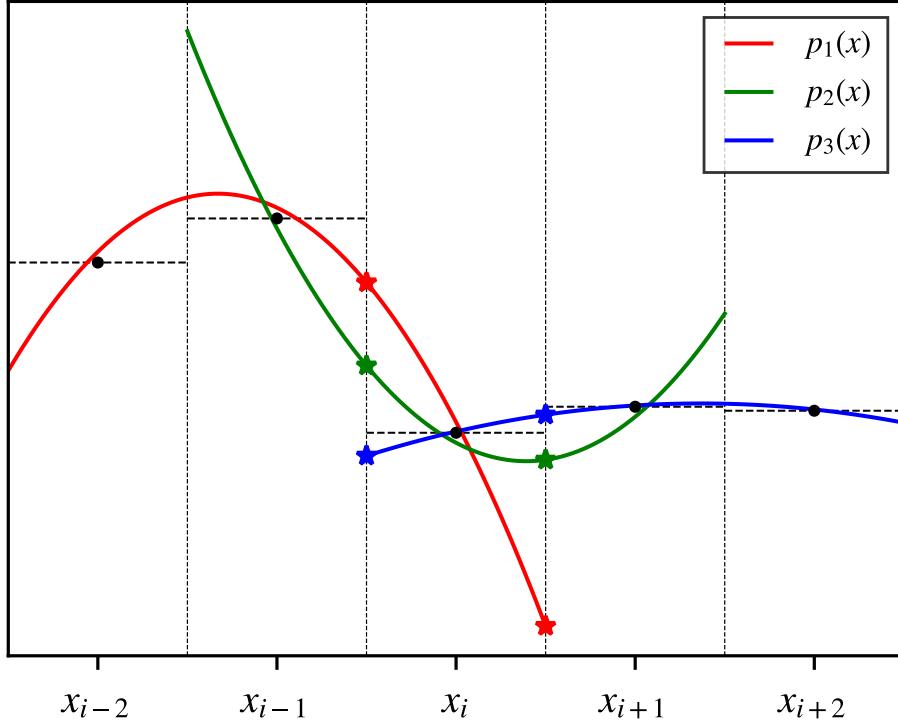
Consider three sub-stencils,

$$S_m = \{I_{i-3+m}, I_{i-2+m}, I_{i-1+m}\}, \quad m = 1, 2, 3, \quad (3.11)$$

then the second degree polynomials  $p_m(x)$  can be constructed on each  $S_m$  as,

$$\int_{I_k} p_m(x) dx = \bar{q}_k, \quad I_k \in S_m. \quad (3.12)$$

The reconstructed profiles are depicted in Fig. 3.1. With three sub-polynomials, the reconstructed pointwise values at the cell interfaces  $q_{i \pm \frac{1}{2}}$  can be represented



**Figure 3.1:** The reconstructed profiles in three sub-stencils of the fifth-order WENO-JS scheme. The black dots and horizontal dotted lines represent the volume-averaged quantities. Note that there is a sharp discontinuity at  $x = x_{i-\frac{1}{2}}$ , resulting three different reconstructed pointwise values at  $x = x_{i \pm \frac{1}{2}}$  of each polynomial, marked as stars. In ENO perspective,  $p_3(x)$  is an appropriate choice, as  $S_3 = \{I_i, I_{i+1}, I_{i+2}\}$  does not include the discontinuous point.

as a convex combination with nonlinear weights  $\omega_m$ :

$$q_{i \pm \frac{1}{2}} = \sum_{m=1}^3 \omega_m p_m(x_{i \pm \frac{1}{2}}). \quad (3.13)$$

The core design principle of WENO is to construct nonlinear weights  $\omega_m$  that adaptively select smooth stencils and converges into the linear reconstruction scheme when all stencils are smooth. Mathematically speaking, the nonlinear

weights should be converged into the *linear weights*  $\gamma_m$ ,  $m = 1, 2, 3$ ,

$$\phi(x) = \sum_{m=1}^3 \gamma_m p_m(x), \quad (3.14)$$

where  $\phi(x)$  is the reconstructed polynomial within the whole stencil  $S = \bigcup_{m=1}^3 S_m$ ,

$$\frac{1}{\Delta x} \int_{I_k} \phi(x) dx = \bar{q}_k, \quad I_k \in \bigcup_{m=1}^3 S_m. \quad (3.15)$$

As the  $\phi(x)$  is the quartic polynomial, it ensures fifth-order convergence rate of the estimations for pointwise values,

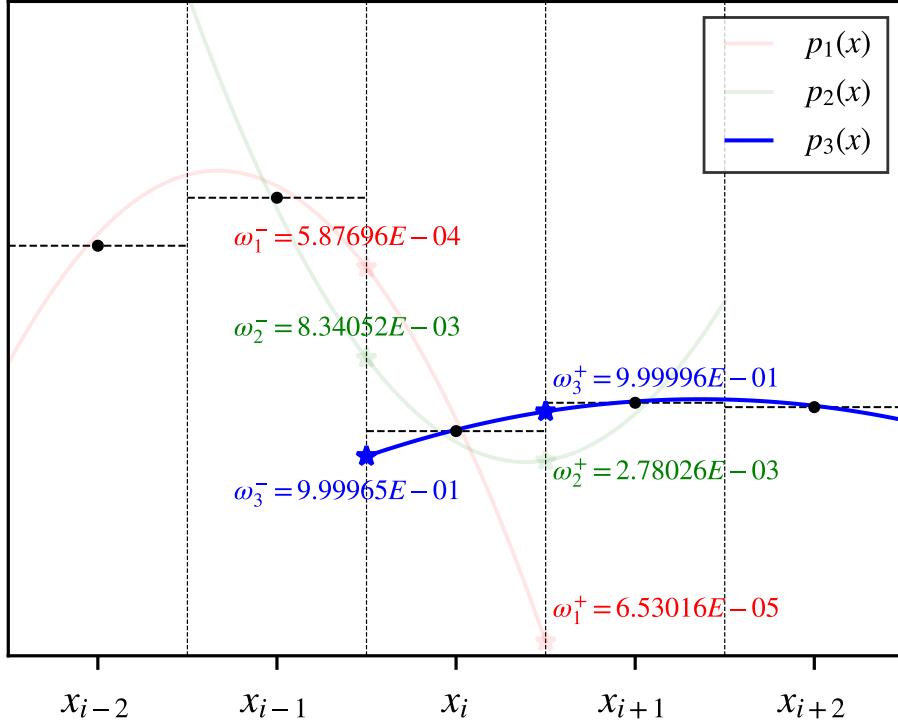
$$q_{i \pm \frac{1}{2}} = \phi(x_{i \pm \frac{1}{2}}) + \mathcal{O}(\Delta x^5). \quad (3.16)$$

Jiang and Shu [46] proposed a functional form of the nonlinear weights by,

$$\omega_m = \frac{\tilde{\omega}_m}{\sum_s \tilde{\omega}_s}, \quad \tilde{\omega}_m = \frac{\gamma_m}{(\epsilon + \beta_m)^p}, \quad (3.17)$$

where  $\epsilon$  is the small number (e.g.,  $1.0 \times 10^{-36}$ ) to prevent division by zero,  $\beta_m$  is the smoothness indicator which measures the smoothness of the data in the given stencil  $S_m$ . The parameter  $p$  is an amplification factor for the difference of scales when a discontinuity is present on one of the candidate stencils.

The remaining step for WENO-JS is to construct the smoothness indicator, which has large values when the stencil data is not smooth and becomes arbitrary small in a smooth stencil; thus, it converges to the linear weight. Jiang and Shu proposed a way to measure the smoothness of the profile based on its second derivatives. In the fifth-order WENO-JS method, the smoothness indicators  $\beta_m$



**Figure 3.2:** The reconstructed fifth-order WENO profiles of the same data stencil in Fig. 3.1, combined with WENO-JS nonlinear weights. (Eq. (3.17)) The opacity of each line measures the nonlinear weights on that sub-stencil, and calculated nonlinear weights are noted in the figure. Note that the nonlinear weights of  $S_3$  are dominant over other stencils,  $S_1$  and  $S_2$ , resulting in ENO-style stencil selection.

are given by,

$$\beta_m = \sum_{n=1}^2 \left( \Delta x^{2n-1} \int_{I_i} \left[ \frac{d^n p_m(x)}{dx^n} \right]^2 dx \right). \quad (3.18)$$

Fig. 3.2 shows the effects of the nonlinear weights on the WENO profiles. The nonlinear weights are calculated through Eq. (3.17), with  $p = 2$ ,  $\epsilon = 1.0 \times 10^{-36}$ . As illustrated in the figure, the nonlinear weights successfully detect the sharp gradient at  $x = x_{i-\frac{1}{2}}$  and weighting on  $p_3(x)$  dominantly to avoid reconstruction on the discontinuity.

### 3.1.2 Gaussian Process reconstruction

Over decades, the high-order data reconstruction/interpolation methods for solving hyperbolic PDEs are based on the polynomial approach. Like the WENO method discussed in the previous section, the idea starts by assuming a unique polynomial represents the stencil data. The polynomial-based approaches are the most successful and popular reconstruction/interpolation methods in the CFD community [90, 23, 46, 52] because of their mathematical simplicity.

However, the polynomial-based reconstruction/interpolation schemes have some downsides. Firstly, since the polynomials are not able to represent the discontinuous data, it is notoriously prone to lead numerical oscillations. There are several ways to avoid the oscillations, like the WENO method in 3.1.1, but it usually brings complexity and computational expenses. Another issue for the polynomial-based approach is that the method must be carried out on a fixed size data stencil, which means changing in stencil size – thus it changes the order of accuracy – requires a complete redesign of the code.

Recently, practitioners have designed *non-polynomial* (or polynomial-free) reconstruction/interpolation methods [63, 64, 41, 13]. Reyes et al. [68, 69] proposed a novel way to use the Gaussian process (GP) to estimate the data at any arbitrary point in high-order accuracy. Based on the probabilistic conditioning property by Bayes' Theorem to the joint Gaussian distribution on observed data, GP reconstruction/interpolation methods are able to predict the data on desired points (usually at cell interfaces) without considering any polynomials; therefore, the code is readily extended to a higher order by simply changing the size of the stencil. In the language of GP, this process can be interpreted in the way that a probability distribution for the unknown function values  $f(x_*)$  (pointwise values at arbitrary points  $x_*$ ) can be trained by the known data  $\bar{q}_i$  (volume-averaged

quantities at cell centers), with posterior mean and uncertainty that are compatible with the known observations.

A GP is fully defined by two functions:

- a mean function  $\mu_f(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbb{E}[f(\mathbf{x})]$  over  $\mathbb{R}^N$ , and
- a covariance kernel function, which is symmetric and positive-definite integral kernel  $K(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) = \mathbb{E}[(f(\mathbf{x}) - \mu_f(\mathbf{x}))(f(\mathbf{y}) - \mu_f(\mathbf{y}))]$  over  $\mathbb{R}^N \times \mathbb{R}^N$ ,

The function  $f$  is then said to belong to the GP with mean and covariance function, written as  $f \sim GP(\mu_f(\mathbf{x}), K(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}))$ .

Suppose that there are  $N$  sample points for the unknown function  $f$ , namely,  $\mathbf{f} = [f(\mathbf{x}_1), \dots, f(\mathbf{x}_N)]$  that are known, then the likelihood  $\mathcal{L}$ , the probability of  $\mathbf{f}$  given the prior GP model, of the input data  $\mathbf{f}$ , is given by,

$$\mathcal{L} = P(\mathbf{f}) \equiv (2\pi)^{-\frac{N}{2}} \det |\mathbf{K}|^{-\frac{1}{2}} \exp \left[ -\frac{1}{2} (\mathbf{f} - \boldsymbol{\mu}_{\mathbf{f}})^T \mathbf{K} (\mathbf{f} - \boldsymbol{\mu}_{\mathbf{f}}) \right], \quad (3.19)$$

where  $\mathbf{K} = [K_{ij}]_{i,j=1,\dots,N}$  with  $K_{ij} = K(\mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{x}_j)$ .

The goal of GP is to make a probabilistic statement about the value of  $f_* = f(\mathbf{x}_*)$  of unknown function  $f \sim GP(\mu_f, K)$  with given function samples. By utilizing the conditioning property of GP from the theory of Bayesian inference, the updated posterior mean function can be obtained as,

$$\tilde{f}_* \equiv \mu_f(\mathbf{x}_*) + \mathbf{k}_*^T \mathbf{K}^{-1} (\mathbf{f} - \boldsymbol{\mu}_{\mathbf{f}}), \quad (3.20)$$

where  $\mathbf{k}_* = [k_{*,i}]_{i=1,\dots,N}$  with  $k_{*,i} = K(\mathbf{x}_*, \mathbf{x}_i)$ . The detailed derivations of Eq. (3.20) can be found in the Appendix of [68]. It is common practice to take the zero mean everywhere, then Eq. (3.20) becomes

$$\tilde{f}_* = \mathbf{k}_*^T \mathbf{K}^{-1} \mathbf{f}, \quad (3.21)$$

reveals GP prediction with known function samples  $\mathbf{f}$ , which is the *pointwise* representation.

However, in the reconstruction scheme, the known function samples should be given as *volume-averaged* quantities, not as pointwise values. Therefore, the GP prediction has to be modified to adapt to the data type changes.

Favorably, the volume averaging operator constitutes a linear operation (e.g., Eq. (3.10)). The linear operations on Gaussian random variables result in new Gaussian random variables with linearly transformed mean and covariance; thus, the GP *interpolation* scheme (Eq. (3.21)) can be transformed into the GP *reconstruction* scheme with proper linear functionals that represent volume-averaging.

Consider a measure  $dg_k(\mathbf{x})$  on the function  $f(\mathbf{x})$  over the cell  $I_k = \prod_{d=x,y,z} I_k^{(d)}$  with 1D cells  $I_k^{(d)} = [x_k^{(d)} - \frac{\Delta^{(d)}}{2}, x_k^{(d)} + \frac{\Delta^{(d)}}{2}]$ , where  $d = x, y, z$  represent the direction of the spatial dimension. This defines the linear functionals

$$G_k \equiv \int f(\mathbf{x}) dg_k(\mathbf{x}), \quad (3.22)$$

which represent the volume integral operations on  $f(\mathbf{x})$ . The measure  $dg_k(\mathbf{x})$  are taken to be the cell volume-average measures as,

$$dg_k(\mathbf{x}) = \begin{cases} d^3 \mathbf{x} \cdot \prod_{d=x,y,z} \frac{1}{\Delta^{(d)}} & \text{if } \mathbf{x} \in I_k \\ 0 & \text{otherwise,} \end{cases} \quad (3.23)$$

where  $\Delta^{(d)}$  is the grid spacing in the  $d$ -direction. Then, the vector  $\mathbf{G} [G_1, \dots, G_N]^T$  is normally distributed with mean  $\mathbb{E}(\mathbf{G}) = \boldsymbol{\mu}_{\mathbf{G}} = [\mu_{G_1}, \dots, \mu_{G_N}]^T$  and covariance matrix  $\mathbf{C} = [C_{kh}]_{k,h=1,\dots,N}$ , where

$$\mu_{G_k} = \mathbb{E}[G_k] = \int \mathbb{E}[f(\mathbf{x})] dg_k(\mathbf{x}) = \int \mu_f(\mathbf{x}) dg_k(\mathbf{x}), \quad (3.24)$$

and

$$\begin{aligned}
C_{kh} &= \mathbb{E} [(G_k - \mu_{G_k})(G_h - \mu_{G_h})] \\
&= \int \int \mathbb{E} [(f(\mathbf{x}) - \mu_f(\mathbf{x}))(f(\mathbf{y}) - \mu_f(\mathbf{y}))] dg_k(\mathbf{x}) dg_h(\mathbf{y}) \\
&= \int \int K(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) dg_k(\mathbf{x}) dg_h(\mathbf{y}).
\end{aligned} \tag{3.25}$$

Thus, the GP distribution on the function  $f \sim GP(\mu, K)$  conducts a multivariate Gaussian distribution on  $N$ -dimensional vector  $\mathbf{G}$  of linear functionals of  $f$ .

In order to generalize Eq. (3.21) for reconstruction, the remaining task is to define the prediction vector  $\mathbf{T}_* = [\mathbf{T}_{*,k}]_{k=1,\dots,N}$  at any arbitrary point of interest  $\mathbf{x}_*$  as,

$$\begin{aligned}
T_{*,k} &= \mathbb{E} [(f(\mathbf{x}_*) - \mu_f(\mathbf{x}_*))(G_k - \mu_{G_k})] \\
&= \int K(\mathbf{x}_*, \mathbf{x}) dg_k(\mathbf{x}).
\end{aligned} \tag{3.26}$$

Finally, the pointwise estimation of  $f(\mathbf{x}_*)$  at the point of  $\mathbf{x}_*$ , reconstructed from the volume-averaged data  $\mathbf{G}$  is given by,

$$\tilde{f}_* = \mathbf{T}_*^T \mathbf{C}^{-1} \mathbf{G}, \tag{3.27}$$

with zero mean values. Eq. (3.27) shows the explicit form of GP reconstruction with known volume-averaged data points,  $\mathbf{G}$ . The terms  $\mathbf{C}$  and  $\mathbf{T}$  are determined by the choice of the covariance kernel function,  $K(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y})$ , which measures the relationship between pairs of data. In this dissertation, the “Squared Exponential” (SE) kernel used for GP reconstruction.

$$K_{\text{SE}}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) = \Sigma^2 \exp \left[ -\frac{(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y})^2}{2\ell^2} \right]. \tag{3.28}$$

The SE kernel has two hyperparameters  $\Sigma$  and  $\ell$ , but the hyperparameter  $\Sigma$  has no effect on the posterior mean function, so this dissertation set  $\Sigma = 1$  for simplicity. On the other hand, the hyperparameter  $\ell$  expresses the correlation length scale of the model, so it should be chosen meticulously corresponding to the physical length scale of the grid configuration.

For 1D reconstructions,  $T_{*,k}$  and  $C_{kh}$  for SE kernel becomes,

$$T_{*,k} = \sqrt{\frac{\pi}{2}} \frac{\ell}{\Delta} \left\{ \operatorname{erf} \left[ \frac{\Delta_{k*} + 1/2}{\sqrt{2}\ell/\Delta} \right] - \operatorname{erf} \left[ \frac{\Delta_{k*} - 1/2}{\sqrt{2}\ell/\Delta} \right] \right\}, \quad (3.29)$$

and

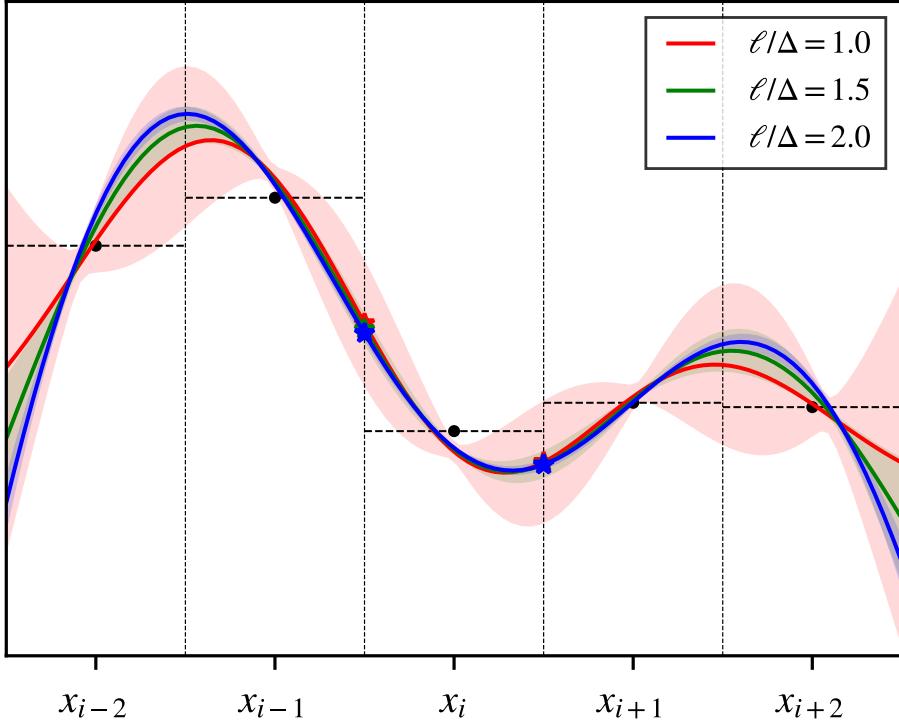
$$\begin{aligned} C_{kh} = & \sqrt{\pi} \left( \frac{\ell}{\Delta} \right)^2 \left\{ \left( \frac{\Delta_{kh} + 1}{\sqrt{2}\ell/\Delta} \operatorname{erf} \left[ \frac{\Delta_{kh} + 1}{\sqrt{2}\ell/\Delta} \right] + \frac{\Delta_{kh} - 1}{\sqrt{2}\ell/\Delta} \operatorname{erf} \left[ \frac{\Delta_{kh} - 1}{\sqrt{2}\ell/\Delta} \right] \right) \right. \\ & + \frac{1}{\sqrt{\pi}} \left( \exp \left[ -\frac{(\Delta_{kh} + 1)^2}{2(\ell/\Delta)^2} \right] + \exp \left[ -\frac{(\Delta_{kh} - 1)^2}{2(\ell/\Delta)^2} \right] \right) \\ & \left. - 2 \left( \frac{\Delta_{kh}}{\sqrt{2}\ell/\Delta} \operatorname{erf} \left[ \frac{\Delta_{kh}}{\sqrt{2}\ell/\Delta} \right] + \frac{1}{\sqrt{\pi}} \exp \left[ -\frac{\Delta_{kh}^2}{2(\ell/\Delta)^2} \right] \right) \right\}, \end{aligned} \quad (3.30)$$

where  $\Delta_{kh} = (x_k - x_h)/\Delta$  and  $\Delta$  is the grid spacing along the 1D direction. Note that the analytic derivations of  $T_{*,k}$  and  $C_{kh}$  above only depend on the grid spacing and the length between the prediction point  $\mathbf{x}_*$  and the locations of known training data. With uniform grid configuration, those values are established at the initial step. Since the prediction points are the cell interfaces  $x_{i \pm \frac{1}{2}}$  for the conventional FDM constructions, one can save,

$$\mathbf{z}_{i \pm \frac{1}{2}} := \mathbf{T}_{i \pm \frac{1}{2}}^T \mathbf{C}^{-1}, \quad (3.31)$$

as the weighting factor for the reconstruction can be expressed as,

$$q_{i \pm \frac{1}{2}} = \mathbf{z}_{i \pm \frac{1}{2}}^T \mathbf{G}, \quad (3.32)$$



**Figure 3.3:** GP reconstructed profiles with the same data as Figs. 3.1 and 3.2 with different hyperparameters  $\ell/\Delta = 1.0, 1.5, 2.0$ . The radius of GP stencil is  $r = 2$ . Note that all the reconstructed profiles produce a new local minimum near  $x = x_{i+\frac{1}{2}}$ , which violates the monotonic-preserving condition and leads to numerical oscillations. The shaded areas represent 95% confidence regions from the posterior variance.

for computational efficiency.

However, the GP reconstruction also needs special handling for the discontinuous profiles, like the nonlinear weightings in the WENO method in Section 3.1.1. Fig. 3.3 shows the GP reconstructions with the same data as Figs. 3.1 and 3.2, with  $\ell = 1, 1.5, 3$ . The initial profile has a strong gradient at  $x = x_{i-\frac{1}{2}}$ ; hence, the GP reconstructed profiles have undershot values at  $x = x_{i+\frac{1}{2}}$ .

Reyes et al. [69] proposed a WENO-*like* approach to the GP reconstruction/interpolations by considering the GP marginal likelihood of the local stencil data for measuring the smoothness of the stencil, and use them to construct non-

linear weights as like in the standard WENO method.

For five points, fifth-order GP reconstruction, suppose three sub-stencils as like fifth-order WENO method. (Eq. (3.11)) Then there are three reconstructed pointwise values for each of the candidate stencils  $S_m$ ,

$$q_{i\pm\frac{1}{2},m} = \mathbf{z}_{i\pm\frac{1}{2},m}^T \mathbf{G}_m. \quad (3.33)$$

The final reconstructed value is taken as the combinations of three candidate GP approximations with nonlinear weights,

$$q_{i\pm\frac{1}{2}} = \sum_{m=1}^3 \omega_m q_{i\pm\frac{1}{2},m}. \quad (3.34)$$

As in the conventional WENO method, the nonlinear weights  $\omega_m$  must be reduced to the optimal (linear) weights  $\gamma_m$  in a smooth region, so the weighted combination Eq. (3.34) converges to the GP approximation over the whole stencil  $S = \bigcup_m S_m$ . The optimal weights  $\gamma_m$  must satisfy,

$$\mathbf{z}_{i\pm\frac{1}{2}}^T \mathbf{G} = q_{i\pm\frac{1}{2}} = \sum_{m=1}^3 \gamma_m q_{i\pm\frac{1}{2},m} = \sum_{m=1}^3 \gamma_m \mathbf{z}_{i\pm\frac{1}{2},m}^T \mathbf{G}_m, \quad (3.35)$$

or explicitly,

$$\begin{aligned} \gamma_1 \left[ \begin{array}{c} z_{1,1}^\pm \\ z_{2,1}^\pm \\ z_{3,1}^\pm \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{array} \right] + \gamma_2 \left[ \begin{array}{c} 0 \\ z_{1,2}^\pm \\ z_{2,2}^\pm \\ z_{3,2}^\pm \\ 0 \end{array} \right] + \gamma_3 \left[ \begin{array}{c} 0 \\ 0 \\ z_{1,3}^\pm \\ z_{2,3}^\pm \\ z_{3,3}^\pm \end{array} \right] &= \left[ \begin{array}{c} z_1^\pm \\ z_2^\pm \\ z_3^\pm \\ z_4^\pm \\ z_5^\pm \end{array} \right] \end{aligned} \quad (3.36)$$

The Eq. (3.36) can be rewritten in the matrix form of overdetermined system as,

$$\begin{bmatrix} z_{1,1}^\pm & 0 & 0 \\ z_{2,1}^\pm & z_{1,2}^\pm & 0 \\ z_{3,1}^\pm & z_{2,2}^\pm & z_{1,3}^\pm \\ 0 & z_{3,2}^\pm & z_{2,3}^\pm \\ 0 & 0 & z_{3,3}^\pm \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \gamma_1 \\ \gamma_2 \\ \gamma_3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} z_1^\pm \\ z_2^\pm \\ z_3^\pm \\ z_4^\pm \\ z_5^\pm \end{bmatrix}. \quad (3.37)$$

Thus, the optimal weights  $\gamma_m, m = 1, 2, 3$  are obtained by solving the overdetermined system, Eq. (3.37). It should be noted that the optimal weights are entirely determined by the choice of kernel function and the stencil size, so they are computed and stored before the simulation begins.

For constructing WENO nonlinear weights Eq. (3.17), the only remaining task is to determine the smoothness indicator,  $\beta_m$ , which measures the degree of smoothness of a given stencil of data. Unlike the conventional WENO method, which measures the smoothness of the data by calculating  $L_2$  norms of all the derivatives of the reconstructed polynomials, the GP reconstruction method should take a different approach to specify the smoothness indicator because there is no polynomial defined in GP. One successful practice is to use the marginal likelihood of the data. The likelihood function is well-furnished to gauge the deviations from smoothness given a sufficiently smooth covariance kernel function, SE kernel, for example. Thus, the GP predictions have smaller likelihoods to non-smooth function by its design.

Suppose the negative log of the GP marginal likelihood as

$$-\log \mathcal{L} = \frac{N}{2} \log [2\pi] + \frac{1}{2} \log |\det \mathbf{K}_m| + \frac{1}{2} (\mathbf{f}_m - \boldsymbol{\mu}_f)^T \mathbf{K}_m^{-1} (\mathbf{f}_m - \boldsymbol{\mu}_f), \quad (3.38)$$

then the three terms on the right-hand side of Eq. (3.38) are revealed as a normal-

ization, a complexity penalty, and a data fit term, respectively. The normalization term and the complexity penalty have no effects on defining smoothness indicators in a uniform grid configuration; only the data fit term along with the choice of zero mean is used for constructing smoothness indicators in GP,

$$\beta_m = \mathbf{f}_m^T (\mathbf{K}_m^{-1}) \mathbf{f}_m. \quad (3.39)$$

A second hyperparameter,  $\sigma$ , should be introduced to calculate the kernel matrix  $\mathbf{K}_m$  in Eq. (3.39) to handle the discontinuity accurately. Using different hyperparameters in the GP-WENO reconstruction can be interpreted as different purposes of viewing angles to the given data:  $\ell$ , to smoothing the data (Eq. (3.32)), and  $\sigma$ , to discriminating discontinuities (Eq. (3.39)). By utilizing two different hyperparameters  $\ell$  and  $\sigma$ , the GP-WENO method have one additional degree of freedom to control the scale of the shock-detecting feature.

Like GP reconstruction weights Eq. (3.32), the calculations of GP smoothness indicators  $\beta_m$  can be expressed in a more computationally efficient form. Considering the eigensystem  $\mathbf{K}_m^{-1} = \sum_i \mathbf{v}_i^m (\mathbf{v}_i^m)^T / \lambda_i^m$ ,

$$\beta_m = \sum_{i=1}^3 \mathbf{f}_m^T \left( \frac{\mathbf{v}_i^m (\mathbf{v}_i^m)^T}{\lambda_i} \right) \mathbf{f}_m, \quad (3.40)$$

in the five-point, three-stencil GP-WENO method. Again, the observed (training) data is in the volume-averaged form; thus, the data-type conversion should be examined:

$$\mathbf{f}_m = \mathbf{Z}_m^T \mathbf{G}_m, \quad (3.41)$$

where each column vector of  $\mathbf{Z}_m$  is given by the GP reconstructing weight,  $\mathbf{z}$ , (see Eq. (3.31)) for each elements of  $\mathbf{f}_m$ .

Lastly, the calculation of the smoothness indicator beta can be expressed in

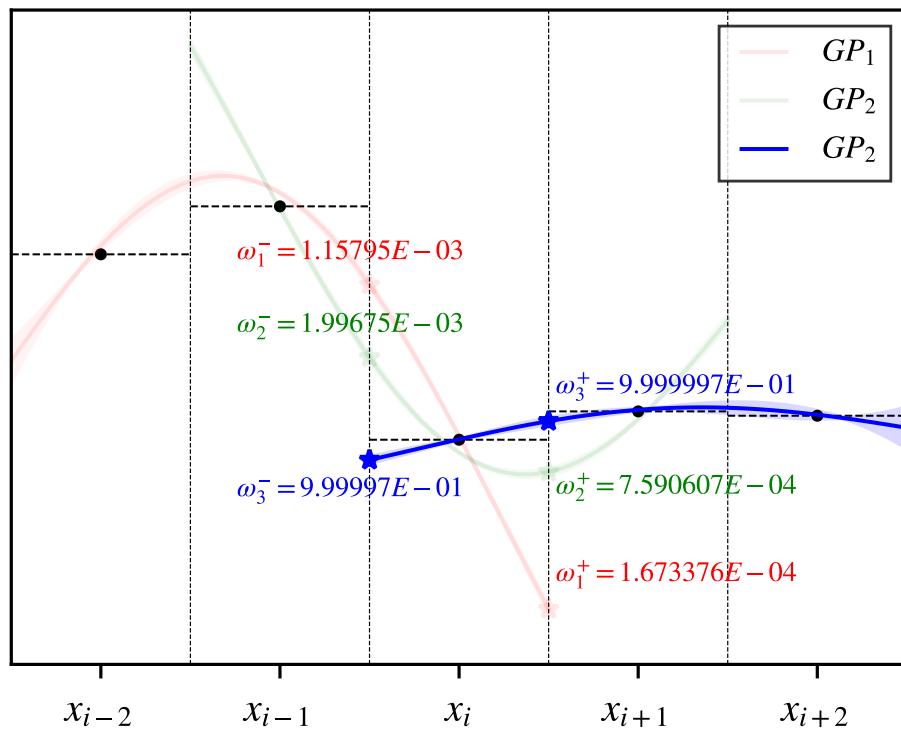
the compact form as,

$$\begin{aligned}\beta_m &= \sum_{i=1}^3 \left( \frac{(\mathbf{v}_i^m)^T \mathbf{Z}_m^T \mathbf{G}_m}{\sqrt{\lambda_i^m}} \right)^2 \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^3 (\mathbf{P}_i^m \mathbf{G}_m)^2,\end{aligned}\tag{3.42}$$

where  $\mathbf{P}_i^m := \frac{(\mathbf{v}_i^m)^T \mathbf{Z}_m^T}{\sqrt{\lambda_i^m}}$ , which can be established before the simulation start, in uniform grid configuration.

Now, the nonlinear weights for GP-WENO reconstruction are fully determined with Eq. (3.17). In the stepwise representation, the GP-WENO reconstruction scheme for FDM formulation in the uniform grid can be summarized as below:

1. Before the simulation starts, calculate the following values and store them for later reconstructions:
  - (a) Reconstruction weights,  $\mathbf{z}_m$  (Eq. (3.33)) for each candidate stencil,  $m$ .
  - (b) Linear weights,  $\gamma_m$ , by solving overdetermined system, Eq. (3.37), using the least square method.
  - (c)  $\mathbf{P}_i^m$  (Eq. (3.42)) for calculating smoothness indicator  $\beta_m$  in later.
2. During the simulation, at each reconstruction step of cell  $I_i$ :
  - (a) Calculate nonlinear weights,  $\omega_m$ , following the conventional WENO method. (Eq. (3.17))
  - (b) Compute  $m$ -number of reconstructed candidate data,  $q_{i \pm \frac{1}{2}, m}$ . (Eq. (3.33))
  - (c) Taking weighted combinations of  $q_{i \pm \frac{1}{2}, m}$ , with nonlinear weights,  $\omega_m$ , and finalize the reconstruction step at  $x_i = x_{i \pm \frac{1}{2}}$ . (Eq. (3.34))



**Figure 3.4:** GP-WENO reconstructed profiles with nonlinear weights with the same data as Fig. 3.3. Hyperparameters  $\ell = 2\Delta$  and  $\sigma = 2\Delta$  are used. 95% confidence regions are shaded with the corresponding colors, and the opacity of each prediction measures the nonlinear weights on that sub-stencil.

## 3.2 High-Order time integration schemes

A high-order temporal discretization scheme ought to be considered alongside the high-order spatial data interpolation/reconstruction to acquire highly accurate numerical solutions in FDM formulation. The numerical errors arise from both spatial and temporal discretizations since the solution of the conservative PDEs lies on the spatio-temporal plane. The overall order of solution accuracy will be determined by the highest order term of the truncation errors both from the spatial and temporal discretization, i.e.,  $\mathcal{O}(\Delta s^p, \Delta t^q)$ . For example, if the leading error term from the temporal discretization is significantly larger than the leading error term from the spatial discretizations,  $\mathcal{O}(\Delta t^q) > \mathcal{O}(\Delta s^p)$ , then the solution accuracy will be degraded by order of temporal accuracy,  $q$ , no matter the order of spatial accuracy is used. Therefore, a high-order FDM scheme requires a meticulously designed temporal discretization method that ensures the solution's accuracy and stability.

### 3.2.1 Strong Stability Preserving Runge-Kutta methods

The Runge-Kutta (RK) method is the most popular way to integrate the semi-discretized form of FDM (Eq. (2.11)) over the time axis. The key idea is to treat the Eq. (2.11) as an ordinary differential equation (ODE) at each lattice point on the computational mesh as,

$$\partial_t \mathbf{U}_i = \mathcal{L}_i(\mathbf{U}), \quad (3.43)$$

where the right-hand side operator  $\mathcal{L}_i$  is given by the spatial discretization method at cell  $I_i$ . The RK approach can be viewed as a strategy to integrate PDEs by solving several ODE problems at each discretized time domain. In general,  $m$ -stage RK method which integrate Eq. (3.43) from  $t = t^n$  to  $t = t^n + \Delta t = t^{n+1}$  is

given by,

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{U}^{(0)} &= \mathbf{U}^n, \\ \mathbf{U}^{(l)} &= \sum_{k=0}^{l-1} \left( \alpha_{l,k} \mathbf{U}^{(k)} + \Delta t \beta_{l,k} \mathcal{L}(\mathbf{U}^{(k)}) \right), \quad \alpha_{l,k} \geq 0, \quad l = 1, \dots, m \\ \mathbf{U}^{n+1} &= \mathbf{U}^{(m)},\end{aligned}\tag{3.44}$$

where the spatial discretization index,  $i$ , is omitted for simplicity. Therefore, the coefficients  $\alpha_{l,k}$  and  $\beta_{l,k}$  fully determine the numerical accuracy and stability of the RK scheme.

Like the spatial discretization method, it is crucial to consider the TVD property of the temporal discretization scheme. Gottlieb and her collaborators [39, 40, 38] developed the so-called strong stability preserving Runge-Kutta (SSP-RK) method, which ensures TVD property by sequentially applying convex combinations of the first-order forward Euler method as a building-block at each sub-stage. In this way, the desired TVD property is achieved if each of the sub-stage is TVD.

SSP-RK method uses that the forward Euler discretization method for building each sub-stages. Since the forward Euler method is strongly stable under the Courant–Friedrichs–Lewy (CFL) condition; thus, if all sub-stages of the RK method can be described as a form of the forward Euler method, then the TVD property is fulfilled by virtue of the forward Euler method. It is easy to see in Eq. (3.44) that the sub-stages of the RK method,  $\mathbf{U}^{(l)}$  can be described as the forward Euler method if all the  $\beta_{l,k}$  are nonnegative  $\beta_{l,k} \geq 0$  by replacing  $\Delta t$  by  $\frac{\beta_{l,k}}{\alpha_{l,k}} \Delta t$ . For example, in [39], Gottlieb found the optimal third-order SSP-RK

method given by,

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{U}^{(1)} &= \mathbf{U}^n + \Delta t \mathcal{L}(\mathbf{U}^n), \\ \mathbf{U}^{(2)} &= \frac{3}{4} \mathbf{U}^n + \frac{1}{4} \mathbf{U}^{(1)} + \frac{1}{4} \Delta t \mathcal{L}(\mathbf{U}^{(1)}), \\ \mathbf{U}^{n+1} &= \frac{1}{3} \mathbf{U}^n + \frac{2}{3} \mathbf{U}^{(2)} + \frac{2}{3} \Delta t \mathcal{L}(\mathbf{U}^{(2)}),\end{aligned}\tag{3.45}$$

which requires three sub-stages for integrating from  $t = t^n$  to  $t = t^{n+1}$ .

The above third-order, three-stages SSP-RK method Eq. (3.45) is by far the most famous high-order time integrator used in most high-order method researches in the CFD community. In practice, spatial accuracy is often considered to carry more weight than temporal accuracy in designing higher accurate spatial models [10, 59], so combining the high-order spatial method (generally, fifth-order or higher) with a relatively low-order temporal scheme (third-order SSP-RK) could be justifiable. However, as it is shown in [54], the order of convergence rate of the solution can be degraded by the order of temporal method (e.g., third-order) in high-resolution computational grids, so using a higher than third-order temporal scheme is required for maintaining desired spatial accuracy in a high-resolution grid.

In contrast to the third-order SSP-RK3 method, devising a fourth-order SSP-RK4 is more involved to meet the favorable SSP property, which is ensured by positive coefficients. Several theoretical studies have shown that a fourth-order SSP-RK4 cannot be formulated with just four sub-stages and positive coefficients [39], meaning that the classical four-stage, fourth-order RK is not SSP. For example,

by far the most optimal fourth-order, fourth-stage SSP-RK method is:

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathbf{U}^{(1)} &= \mathbf{U}^n + \frac{1}{2}\Delta t \mathcal{L}(\mathbf{U}^n), \\
\mathbf{U}^{(2)} &= \frac{649}{1600}\mathbf{U}^{(0)} - \frac{10890423}{25193600}\Delta t \tilde{\mathcal{L}}(\mathbf{U}^n) + \frac{951}{1600}\mathbf{U}^{(1)} + \frac{5000}{7873}\Delta t \mathcal{L}(\mathbf{U}^{(1)}), \\
\mathbf{U}^{(3)} &= \frac{53989}{2500000}\mathbf{U}^n - \frac{102261}{5000000}\Delta t \tilde{\mathcal{L}}(\mathbf{U}^n) + \frac{4806213}{20000000}\mathbf{U}^{(1)} \\
&\quad - \frac{5121}{20000}\Delta t \tilde{\mathcal{L}}(\mathbf{U}^{(1)}) + \frac{23619}{32000}\mathbf{U}^{(2)} + \frac{7873}{10000}\Delta t \mathcal{L}(\mathbf{U}^{(2)}), \\
\mathbf{U}^{(4)} &= \frac{1}{5}\mathbf{U}^n + \frac{1}{10}\Delta t \mathcal{L}(\mathbf{U}^n) + \frac{6127}{30000}\mathbf{U}^{(1)} + \frac{1}{6}\Delta t \mathcal{L}(\mathbf{U}^{(1)}) + \frac{7873}{30000}\mathbf{U}^{(2)} \\
&\quad + \frac{1}{3}\mathbf{U}^{(3)} + \frac{1}{6}\Delta t \mathcal{L}(\mathbf{U}^{(3)}).
\end{aligned} \tag{3.46}$$

Note that the above four-stage, fourth-order SSP-RK method uses the adjoint spatial operator,  $\tilde{\mathcal{L}}$ , to bear the negative coefficients, e.g.,  $-\frac{10890423}{25193600}$  and  $-\frac{102261}{5000000}$ . Numerically speaking, the only difference between  $\mathcal{L}$  and  $\tilde{\mathcal{L}}$  is the direction of the upwind limiting. Although the computational cost of calculating  $\mathcal{L}(\mathbf{U})$  and  $\tilde{\mathcal{L}}(\mathbf{U})$  are identical, but it demands separated codes, and leads implementation complexity.

Spiteri and Ruuth [80] proposed a five-stage, fourth-order SSP-RK4 method that does not require to use adjoint operator:

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathbf{U}^{(1)} &= \mathbf{U}^n + 0.391752226571890\Delta t \mathcal{L}(\mathbf{U}^n), \\
\mathbf{U}^{(2)} &= 0.444370493651235\mathbf{U}^n + 0.555629506348765\mathbf{U}^{(1)} + 0.368410593050371\Delta t \mathcal{L}(\mathbf{U}^{(1)}), \\
\mathbf{U}^{(3)} &= 0.620101851488403\mathbf{U}^n + 0.379898148511597\mathbf{U}^{(2)} + 0.251891774271694\Delta t \mathcal{L}(\mathbf{U}^{(2)}), \\
\mathbf{U}^{(4)} &= 0.178079954393132\mathbf{U}^n + 0.821920045606868\mathbf{U}^{(3)} + 0.544974750228521\Delta t \mathcal{L}(\mathbf{U}^{(3)}), \\
\mathbf{U}^{n+1} &= 0.517231671970585\mathbf{U}^{(2)} + 0.096059710526147\mathbf{U}^{(3)} + 0.063692468666290\Delta t \mathcal{L}(\mathbf{U}^{(3)}) \\
&\quad + 0.386708617503268\mathbf{U}^{(4)} + 0.226007483236906\Delta t \mathcal{L}(\mathbf{U}^{(4)}).
\end{aligned} \tag{3.47}$$

In this dissertation, the fourth-order SSP-RK4 method refers the Spiteri and Ruuth method, Eq. (3.47).

In many studies about high-order CFD solvers [39, 40, 38, 59, 25, 26, 68, 69], the SSP-RK schemes have proven high fidelity and portability, guaranteeing high-order accuracy and numerical stability with TVD property. However, the very nature of the SSP-RK method – being a multi-stage approach – increases computational costs in CFD simulations. In SSP-RK methods, the data reconstruction/interpolation (i.e.,  $\mathcal{L}(\cdot)$ ) and the boundary condition should be applied in each sub-stage, which increases the computational resources and the footprint of data communications in the parallel computational architecture. It makes the simulations using the adaptive mesh refinement (AMR) method less attractive, which progressively refines the grid resolutions and increases data communications around the simulations’ interesting features.

### 3.2.2 Lax–Wendroff type methods

The Lax-Wendroff method [51] rely on the Taylor expansion in time to achieve high-order in time accuracy:

$$\mathbf{U}^{n+1} = \mathbf{U}^n + \Delta t \partial_t \mathbf{U}^n + \frac{\Delta t^2}{2!} \partial_t^2 \mathbf{U}^n + \mathcal{O}(\Delta t^3). \quad (3.48)$$

The temporal derivatives can be transformed into spatial derivatives by applying the Lax-Wendroff or Cauchy-Kowalewski procedure (LW/CK hereafter). In one-dimensional conservative PDEs, for example,

$$\begin{aligned} \partial_t \mathbf{U} &= -\partial_x \mathbf{F}, \\ \partial_t^2 \mathbf{U} &= \partial_t (-\partial_x \mathbf{F}) \\ &= -\partial_x (\partial_{\mathbf{U}} \mathbf{F} \cdot \partial_t \mathbf{U}) \\ &= \partial_x (\partial_{\mathbf{U}} \mathbf{F} \cdot \partial_x \mathbf{F}), \end{aligned} \quad (3.49)$$

where  $\partial_{\mathbf{U}} \mathbf{F}$  is a flux Jacobian matrix. In the original Lax-Wendroff method [51] used an approximation of  $\partial_x (\partial_{\mathbf{U}} \mathbf{F} \cdot \partial_x \mathbf{F}) \approx \frac{1}{\Delta x} (\partial_{\mathbf{U}} \mathbf{F}|_{i+\frac{1}{2}} \cdot \partial_x \mathbf{F} - \partial_{\mathbf{U}} \mathbf{F}|_{i-\frac{1}{2}} \cdot \partial_x \mathbf{F})$ , but it is possible to get an explicit form as,

$$\partial_t^2 \mathbf{U} = \partial_x (\partial_{\mathbf{U}} \mathbf{F} \cdot \partial_x \mathbf{F}) = \partial_{\mathbf{U}}^2 \mathbf{F} \cdot \partial_x \mathbf{U} \cdot \partial_x \mathbf{F} + \partial_{\mathbf{U}} \mathbf{F} \cdot \partial_x^2 \mathbf{F}, \quad (3.50)$$

with flux Hessian tensor,  $\partial_{\mathbf{U}}^2 \mathbf{F}$ .

The primary advantage of the Lax-Wendroff method is that it can achieve a high order in time accuracy within a single step of the calculation. The idea to construct the time-Taylor series by harnessing the tight coupling of temporal and spatial derivatives through LW/CK procedures inspires many practitioners to develop single-step, high-order methods based on the Lax-Wendroff method.

In 2001, Toro et al. [87] extended this idea by combining it with the generalized Riemann problems (GRPs) and introduced the Arbitrary high order derivative Riemann problem (ADER) method. Toro and his collaborators constructed Riemann problems for each spatial derivative at cell interface,  $x_{i+\frac{1}{2}}$ :

$$\begin{aligned} \partial_t \mathbf{U}_x^{(k)} + \partial_{\mathbf{U}} \mathbf{F}|_{i+\frac{1}{2}} \partial_x \mathbf{U}_x^{(k)} &= 0, \quad \text{where } \partial_{\mathbf{U}} \mathbf{F}|_{i+\frac{1}{2}} = \partial_{\mathbf{U}} \mathbf{F}(\mathbf{U}_{i+\frac{1}{2}}, 0^+), \\ \mathbf{U}_x^{(k)}(x, 0) &= \begin{cases} \frac{\partial^k}{\partial x^k} \mathbf{U}_{i+\frac{1}{2},L}, & x < x_{i+\frac{1}{2}}, \\ \frac{\partial^k}{\partial x^k} \mathbf{U}_{i+\frac{1}{2},R}, & x > x_{i+\frac{1}{2}}, \end{cases} \end{aligned} \quad (3.51)$$

where  $\mathbf{U}_x^{(k)} = \frac{\partial^k \mathbf{U}}{\partial x^k}$ , and  $\mathbf{U}_{i+\frac{1}{2},LR}$  represent left and right Riemann states at cell interface,  $x_{i+\frac{1}{2}}$ . Reconstructed profiles can find the Riemann states of the spatial derivatives. The resulting solutions of the above Riemann problems are then applied for LW/CK procedures to get the temporal derivatives,  $\frac{\partial^k \mathbf{U}}{\partial t^k}|_{i+\frac{1}{2}}$ , and they are used to construct the time-Taylor series of the conservative variables at cell

interfaces:

$$\mathbf{U}(x_{i+\frac{1}{2}}, \tau) = \mathbf{U}(x_{i+\frac{1}{2}}, 0^+) + \sum_{k=1}^{r-1} \left[ \frac{\partial^k}{\partial t^k} \mathbf{U}(x, t)(x_{i+\frac{1}{2}}, 0^+) \right] \frac{\tau^k}{k!}. \quad (3.52)$$

ADER methods were further developed in [87, 83, 85], and it has grown its popularity over decades, leading to various further modifications. ADER-DG [32, 92] and ADER-CG [9, 8, 6] in the context of discontinuous and continuous Galerkin schemes; other efforts of employing an implicit GRP solver to solve scalar equations with stiff source terms [60], its extensions to second-order schemes for nonlinear systems [62] and to general hyperbolic systems [88]. The use of an implicit time Taylor series expansion for GRP was further simplified in the study by Montecinos and Balsara [61]. Along the line of simplifying the standard ADER approach, the Differential Transform Method (DTM) [18] was also adopted to alleviate the cost of the ADER scheme, coined as ADER-DT (or ADER-Taylor) in [67, 65, 66].

In general, Lax-Wendroff type methods are able to update the solution in single-step with high-order temporal accuracy. The fundamental advantage of being a single-stage method is the enhanced performance. This becomes hugely attractive in massively parallel computing, minimizing the computational frequency of data transfers between processors each time step, which would need to be repeated for each intermediate RK stage. On the other hand, the dependence of the strong coupling on analytic derivatives of the governing PDEs makes the LW/CK approach less flexible and less broadly applicable to all systems of PDEs.

### 3.3 Conclusion

The high-order discretization methods promote better solution accuracy in the given grid resolutions. In order to achieve high-order accuracy of the conservative

system, high-arithmetic-intensity numerical models should be accomplished both in spatial and temporal axes.

Under the finite difference formulation, the high-order reconstruction methods play a role in discretizing the spatial axis with better solution accuracy by estimating the pointwise data with given volume-averaged quantities. The high-order reconstruction schemes for CFD solvers are also required to have TVD property to reduce the numerical oscillations near the discontinuous profiles. The general strategy is to reduce the order of accuracy locally where the given profile is discontinuous. The conventional WENO method constructs the piecewise polynomials by taking the convex combinations of sub-polynomials with nonlinear weightings.

#### The WENO method

- achieves high-order accuracy by constructing the piecewise polynomials, and
- measures the smoothness of the given data by calculating spatial derivatives of the reconstructed profiles.

GP-WENO method is another class of non-polynomial-based reconstruction strategy utilizing the Gaussian Process. The GP reconstruction is based on the conventional GP regression scheme, with modifications of the kernel function to adopt the data type conversion from volume-averaged to pointwise. The GP method provides a more compact mathematical framework compared to the piecewise polynomial-based reconstruction methods. A similar non-oscillatory strategy is taken from the conventional WENO method, but in this case, the smoothness indicator should be accomplished without the reconstructed polynomials.

#### The GP-WENO method

- estimates the data at the point of interest by utilizing the stochastic process, GP regression, and

- measures the smoothness of given data by evaluating the marginal likelihood function.

On the other hand, the high-order temporal schemes for the finite difference method advance the solution to the next timestep in a highly accurate manner. The most famous temporal solver in the CFD community is the strong stability preserving Runge-Kutta (SSP-RK) method. The SSP-RK method is based on the conventional RK scheme, with different coefficients to ensure TVD property in each sub-stage.

#### The SSP-RK method

- achieves high-order temporal accuracy by integrating the solution in multi-stages,
- has a compact and portable mathematical structure, but
- needs to perform the high-order reconstruction method in each sub-stage which requires a substantial amount of computational costs.

The Lax-Wendroff type scheme is another way to achieve high-order temporal accuracy in discretizing conservative system. The Lax-Wendroff type methods construct a Taylor series of the solution in the temporal axis and utilize the LW/CK procedure to obtain the explicit form of temporal derivatives. By building an explicit form of the time-Taylor series, the Lax-Wendroff type method is able to update the solution in a single step while maintaining high-order temporal accuracy.

The Lax-Wendroff type scheme is

- able to update the solution in a highly accurate manner within a single step, but

- less attractive and less flexible due to the need for the high-order derivatives of the flux Jacobian, which are highly dependent on the system of equations.

# Chapter 4

## System-Free Picard Integral Formulation

Unlike the broad usage of SSP-RK in various discrete PDE solvers, the developments of ADER mentioned above have been exclusively applied to FV and DG methods, but FD methods. This is mainly because the fundamental principle of obtaining high-order accuracy in the original ADER scheme relies on solving generalized (or high-order) Riemann problems, which are the characteristic building blocks of FV and DG methods.

Recently, Christlieb et al. introduced a new high-order temporal scheme for FDM, the so-called Picard integral formulation (PIF) method. [22, 72] The PIF discretization is based on the constructions of high-order approximation to the time-averaged fluxes over  $[t^n, t^{n+1}]$ , allowing high-order temporal accuracy in a single-step update. Firstly introduced in [22], the PIF method demonstrated third-order temporally accurate numerical fluxes by computing the coefficients of the time-Taylor expansion of the averaged fluxes via LW/CK procedure which converts the high-order temporal derivatives terms into the spatial derivatives.

However, like many Lax-Wendroff type methods, the PIF method requires

finding analytic derivations for flux Jacobians and Hessians. Although the Jacobian and the Hessian calculations can be easily obtained with the aid of symbolic manipulators such as **Sympy**, **Mathematica**, or **Maple**, it still demands complicated coding/debugging efforts and ample memory consumption. Furthermore, as the Jacobian/Hessian calculations highly depend on the type of the governing system under consideration, it is required to re-derive the Jacobian/Hessian terms analytically every time we need to solve a new system, e.g., shallow water equations or magnetohydrodynamics (MHD) equations, to name a few. In addition, the calculation complexities of the Jacobian-*like* terms are drastically increasing with the number of spatial dimensions and the order of accuracy.

## 4.1 Picard Integral Formulation

Applying the Picard integral formulation (PIF), the governing equations of the conservative system Eq. (2.1) can be discretized by taking a time average within a single time step  $\Delta t$  over an interval  $[t^n, t^{n+1}]$ ,

$$\mathbf{U}^{n+1} = \mathbf{U}^n - \Delta t (\partial_x \mathbf{F}^{avg} + \partial_y \mathbf{G}^{avg} + \partial_z \mathbf{H}^{avg}), \quad (4.1)$$

where  $\mathbf{F}^{avg}$ ,  $\mathbf{G}^{avg}$ , and  $\mathbf{H}^{avg}$  are the time-averaged fluxes in each direction,

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{F}^{avg}(\mathbf{x}) &= \frac{1}{\Delta t} \int_{t^n}^{t^{n+1}} \mathbf{F}(\mathbf{U}(\mathbf{x}, t)) dt, \\ \mathbf{G}^{avg}(\mathbf{x}) &= \frac{1}{\Delta t} \int_{t^n}^{t^{n+1}} \mathbf{G}(\mathbf{U}(\mathbf{x}, t)) dt, \\ \mathbf{H}^{avg}(\mathbf{x}) &= \frac{1}{\Delta t} \int_{t^n}^{t^{n+1}} \mathbf{H}(\mathbf{U}(\mathbf{x}, t)) dt, \end{aligned} \quad (4.2)$$

for  $\mathbf{x} = (x, y, z) \in \mathbb{R}^3$ .

The goal is to express the spatial derivatives of the time-averaged fluxes

in Eq. (4.1) using highly approximated numerical fluxes  $\hat{\mathbf{f}}$ ,  $\hat{\mathbf{g}}$ , and  $\hat{\mathbf{h}}$  at cell interfaces:

$$\begin{aligned}\partial_x \mathbf{F}^{avg}|_{\mathbf{x}=\mathbf{x}_{ijk}} &= \frac{1}{\Delta x} (\hat{\mathbf{f}}_{i+\frac{1}{2},j,k} - \hat{\mathbf{f}}_{i-\frac{1}{2},j,k}) + \mathcal{O}(\Delta x^p + \Delta t^q), \\ \partial_y \mathbf{G}^{avg}|_{\mathbf{x}=\mathbf{x}_{ijk}} &= \frac{1}{\Delta y} (\hat{\mathbf{g}}_{i,j+\frac{1}{2},k} - \hat{\mathbf{g}}_{i,j-\frac{1}{2},k}) + \mathcal{O}(\Delta y^p + \Delta t^q), \\ \partial_z \mathbf{H}^{avg}|_{\mathbf{x}=\mathbf{x}_{ijk}} &= \frac{1}{\Delta z} (\hat{\mathbf{h}}_{i,j,k+\frac{1}{2}} - \hat{\mathbf{h}}_{i,j,k-\frac{1}{2}}) + \mathcal{O}(\Delta z^p + \Delta t^q),\end{aligned}\quad (4.3)$$

where  $\mathbf{x}_{ijk} = (x_i, y_j, z_k)$  is the discretization indices.

The above equation is almost analog to Eq. (2.12), which is the conventional way to construct numerical fluxes for FDM through the high-order reconstruction schemes (Eq. (2.16)). The only difference is to take time-averaged fluxes,  $\mathbf{F}^{avg}$ ,  $\mathbf{G}^{avg}$ , and  $\mathbf{H}^{avg}$  as an input of the reconstruction scheme rather than taking pointwise fluxes. Thus Eq. (4.3) states that with highly approximated time-averaged fluxes, the resulting numerical fluxes from the conventional reconstruction schemes will be high-order in time and space.

With PIF-numerical fluxes, the governing equation can be expressed in a fully discretized form as,

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{U}_{i,j,k}^{n+1} &= \mathbf{U}_{i,j,k}^n - \frac{\Delta t}{\Delta x} (\hat{\mathbf{f}}_{i+\frac{1}{2},j,k} - \hat{\mathbf{f}}_{i-\frac{1}{2},j,k}) \\ &\quad - \frac{\Delta t}{\Delta y} (\hat{\mathbf{g}}_{i,j+\frac{1}{2},k} - \hat{\mathbf{g}}_{i,j-\frac{1}{2},k}) \\ &\quad - \frac{\Delta t}{\Delta z} (\hat{\mathbf{h}}_{i,j,k+\frac{1}{2}} - \hat{\mathbf{h}}_{i,j,k-\frac{1}{2}}),\end{aligned}\quad (4.4)$$

which requires only a single update while attaining high-order accuracy both in time and space.

It is worth remarking that the derived governing form in Eq. (4.4) for PIF is something in between those of FVM and FDM. It is different from that of FVM in that it does not carry any spatial average but the temporal average. It is also

different from that of FDM in that it does involve the temporal average in the fluxes in Eq. (4.2), to which the numerical fluxes  $\hat{\mathbf{f}}$ ,  $\hat{\mathbf{g}}$ , and  $\hat{\mathbf{h}}$  approximate.

The time-averaged fluxes are obtained through the Taylor expansion of the pointwise flux around  $t^n$ . In the  $q$ th-order PIF method, the time-averaged  $x$ -directional flux  $\mathbf{F}^{avg}$  is approximated as,

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{F}^{avg}(\mathbf{x}) &= \frac{1}{\Delta t} \int_{t^n}^{t^{n+1}} \mathbf{F}(\mathbf{x}, t) dt \\ &= \mathbf{F}(\mathbf{x}, t^n) + \frac{\Delta t}{2!} \partial_t^{(1)} \mathbf{F}(\mathbf{x}, t) \Big|_{t=t^n} + \frac{\Delta t^2}{3!} \partial_t^{(2)} \mathbf{F}(\mathbf{x}, t) \Big|_{t=t^n} + \dots \\ &= \sum_{i=0}^{q-1} \frac{\Delta t^i}{(i+1)!} \partial_t^{(i)} \mathbf{F}(\mathbf{x}, t) \Big|_{t=t^n} + \mathcal{O}(\Delta t^q) \\ &= \mathbf{F}^{appx,q}(\mathbf{x}, t^n) + \mathcal{O}(\Delta t^q).\end{aligned}\tag{4.5}$$

The *temporally*  $q$ th-order approximated fluxes  $\mathbf{F}^{appx,q}$  will be used as the inputs of the  $p$ th-order reconstruction scheme  $\mathcal{R}(\cdot)$  that is combined with a characteristic flux splitting method  $\mathcal{FS}(\cdot)$  to apply the  $p$ th-order *spatial* approximation to the numerical flux  $\hat{\mathbf{f}}$  at cell interfaces,

$$\hat{\mathbf{f}}_{i+\frac{1}{2},j,k} = \mathcal{R} \left( \mathcal{FS} \left( \mathbf{F}_{i-r,j}^{appx,q}, \dots, \mathbf{F}_{i+r+1,j}^{appx,q} \right) \right) + \mathcal{O}(\Delta x^p),\tag{4.6}$$

where  $r$  represents the stencil radius required for the  $p$ th-order reconstruction method,  $\mathcal{R}(\cdot)$ . The details of the high-order reconstruction methods,  $\mathcal{R}(\cdot)$ , and the flux-splitting methods,  $\mathcal{FS}(\cdot)$  are described in Chapter 3.

Therefore, the primary objective of the PIF method is to approximate the time-averaged fluxes in the desired order  $q$ , i.e., obtaining  $\mathbf{F}^{appx,q}$ . For instance, the fourth-order PIF method is characterized by the fourth-order approximated time-averaged flux in the  $x$ -direction,  $\mathbf{F}^{appx,4}$ , from the Taylor expansion of the pointwise flux around  $t^n$ . As expressed in Eq. (4.5), the fourth-order PIF method

requires

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{F}^{appx,4}(\mathbf{x}) = & \mathbf{F}(\mathbf{x}, t^n) + \frac{\Delta t}{2!} \partial_t^{(1)} \mathbf{F}(\mathbf{x}, t) \Big|_{t=t^n} \\ & + \frac{\Delta t^2}{3!} \partial_t^{(2)} \mathbf{F}(\mathbf{x}, t) \Big|_{t=t^n} + \frac{\Delta t^3}{4!} \partial_t^{(3)} \mathbf{F}(\mathbf{x}, t) \Big|_{t=t^n}.\end{aligned}\quad (4.7)$$

The other  $y$ - and  $z$ -directional approximated fluxes,  $\mathbf{G}^{appx,4}$  and  $\mathbf{H}^{appx,4}$ , are defined in similarly. The only remaining task for the fourth-order PIF method (PIF4) is transforming all the time derivatives in Eq. (4.7) to the corresponding spatial derivatives via LW/CK procedures; thereby we could express Eq. (4.7) in a fully explicit form.

For simplicity, the compact subscript notation of partial derivatives is adopted in the following discussions. The subscripts represent the partial derivatives, and the temporal expression of  $t = t^n$  is omitted. In the compact notation, Eq. (2.1) can be rewritten as,

$$\mathbf{U}_t + \nabla \cdot \mathcal{F}(\mathbf{U}) = \mathbf{U}_t + \mathbf{F}_x + \mathbf{G}_y + \mathbf{H}_z = 0. \quad (4.8)$$

By applying the chain rule to  $\mathbf{F}_t$ , the evolution equation of the  $x$ -flux,  $\mathbf{F}$  can be obtained as,

$$\mathbf{F}_t = \mathbf{F}_{\mathbf{U}} \mathbf{U}_t, \quad (4.9)$$

where  $\mathbf{F}_{\mathbf{U}}$  is the  $x$ -directional flux Jacobian matrix. The above equation can be combined with Eq. (4.8), resulting the explicit expression for  $\mathbf{F}_t$  as,

$$\mathbf{F}_t = -\mathbf{F}_{\mathbf{U}} \nabla^f, \quad \text{where } \nabla^f = \mathbf{F}_x + \mathbf{G}_y + \mathbf{H}_z \quad (4.10)$$

The higher-order time derivatives could be achieved by taking partial derivatives

to Eq. (4.10) recursively. As an example, the second-order term is written as

$$\mathbf{F}_{tt} = \mathbf{F}_{\mathbf{UU}} \cdot \nabla^f \cdot \nabla^f - \mathbf{F}_{\mathbf{U}} \cdot \nabla_t^f, \quad (4.11)$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} \nabla_t^f = & -\mathbf{F}_{\mathbf{UU}} \cdot \mathbf{U}_x \cdot \nabla^f - \mathbf{F}_{\mathbf{U}} \cdot \nabla_x^f \\ & - \mathbf{G}_{\mathbf{UU}} \cdot \mathbf{U}_y \cdot \nabla^f - \mathbf{G}_{\mathbf{U}} \cdot \nabla_y^f \\ & - \mathbf{H}_{\mathbf{UU}} \cdot \mathbf{U}_z \cdot \nabla^f - \mathbf{H}_{\mathbf{U}} \cdot \nabla_z^f, \end{aligned} \quad (4.12)$$

and  $\mathbf{F}_{\mathbf{UU}}$  is the  $x$ -directional flux Hessian tensor. In Euler equations, the flux Hessians,  $\mathbf{F}_{\mathbf{UU}}$ ,  $\mathbf{G}_{\mathbf{UU}}$ , and  $\mathbf{H}_{\mathbf{UU}}$  are the symmetric, rank-3 tensors, so a dot product between the Hessian tensor and a vector is to be understood as a tensor contraction. Thus a double dot product between the Hessian tensor and two vectors, i.e.,  $\mathbf{F}_{\mathbf{UU}} \cdot (\ ) \cdot (\ )$  yields a vector of the same dimension with  $\mathbf{U}$ .

Following the same procedure, an explicit form of the third-order time derivative of the flux can be obtained as,

$$\mathbf{F}_{ttt} = -\mathbf{F}_{\mathbf{UUU}} \cdot \nabla^f \cdot \nabla^f \cdot \nabla^f + 3\mathbf{F}_{\mathbf{UU}} \cdot \nabla^f \cdot \nabla_t^f - \mathbf{F}_{\mathbf{U}} \cdot \nabla_{tt}^f, \quad (4.13)$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} \nabla_{tt}^f = & \mathbf{F}_{\mathbf{UUU}} \cdot \nabla^f \cdot \mathbf{U}_x \cdot \nabla^f + 2\mathbf{F}_{\mathbf{UU}} \cdot \nabla^f \cdot \nabla_x^f - \mathbf{F}_{\mathbf{UU}} \cdot \mathbf{U}_x \cdot \nabla_t^f - \mathbf{F}_{\mathbf{U}} \cdot \nabla_{tx}^f \\ & + \mathbf{G}_{\mathbf{UUU}} \cdot \nabla^f \cdot \mathbf{U}_y \cdot \nabla^f + 2\mathbf{G}_{\mathbf{UU}} \cdot \nabla^f \cdot \nabla_y^f - \mathbf{G}_{\mathbf{UU}} \cdot \mathbf{U}_y \cdot \nabla_t^f - \mathbf{G}_{\mathbf{U}} \cdot \nabla_{ty}^f \\ & + \mathbf{H}_{\mathbf{UUU}} \cdot \nabla^f \cdot \mathbf{U}_z \cdot \nabla^f + 2\mathbf{H}_{\mathbf{UU}} \cdot \nabla^f \cdot \nabla_z^f - \mathbf{H}_{\mathbf{UU}} \cdot \mathbf{U}_z \cdot \nabla_t^f - \mathbf{H}_{\mathbf{U}} \cdot \nabla_{tz}^f, \end{aligned} \quad (4.14)$$

and

$$\begin{aligned}
\nabla_{tx}^f = & \mathbf{F}_{UUU} \cdot \mathbf{U}_x \cdot \nabla^f \cdot \mathbf{U}_x - \mathbf{F}_{UU} \cdot \mathbf{U}_{xx} \cdot \nabla^f - 2\mathbf{F}_{UU} \cdot \nabla_x^f \cdot \mathbf{U}_x - \mathbf{F}_U \cdot \nabla_{xx}^f \\
& - \mathbf{G}_{UUU} \cdot \mathbf{U}_x \cdot \nabla^f \cdot \mathbf{U}_y - \mathbf{G}_{UU} \cdot \mathbf{U}_{xy} \cdot \nabla^f - \mathbf{G}_{UU} \cdot \nabla_x^f \cdot \mathbf{U}_y \\
& - \mathbf{G}_{UU} \cdot \mathbf{U}_x \cdot \nabla_y^f - \mathbf{G}_U \cdot \nabla_{xy}^f \\
& - \mathbf{H}_{UUU} \cdot \mathbf{U}_x \cdot \nabla^f \cdot \mathbf{U}_z - \mathbf{H}_{UU} \cdot \mathbf{U}_{xz} \cdot \nabla^f - \mathbf{H}_{UU} \cdot \nabla_x^f \cdot \mathbf{U}_z \\
& - \mathbf{H}_{UU} \cdot \mathbf{U}_x \cdot \nabla_z^f - \mathbf{H}_U \cdot \nabla_{xz}^f,
\end{aligned} \tag{4.15}$$

and similarly for  $\nabla_{ty}^f$  and  $\nabla_{tz}^f$ .

Collecting Eqs. (4.10) to (4.15) the fourth-order approximation of the time-averaged  $x$ -flux,  $\mathbf{F}^{appx,4}$  can be expressed in the explicit form, as the spatial derivatives are readily approximated through the conventional central differencing schemes. In this dissertation, the conventional five-point central differencing formulae are used:

$$\mathbf{F}_x|_{\mathbf{x}=\mathbf{x}_{ijk}} = \frac{\mathbf{F}_{i-2} - 8\mathbf{F}_{i-1} + 8\mathbf{F}_{i+1} - \mathbf{F}_{i+2}}{12\Delta x} + \mathcal{O}(\Delta x^4), \tag{4.16}$$

$$\mathbf{F}_{xx}|_{\mathbf{x}=\mathbf{x}_{ijk}} = \frac{-\mathbf{F}_{i-2} + 16\mathbf{F}_{i-1} - 30\mathbf{F}_i + 16\mathbf{F}_{i+1} - \mathbf{F}_{i+2}}{12\Delta x^2} + \mathcal{O}(\Delta x^4). \tag{4.17}$$

For the cross derivatives,

$$\mathbf{F}_{xy}|_{\mathbf{x}=\mathbf{x}_{ijk}} = \frac{\mathbf{F}_{i+1,j+1} - \mathbf{F}_{i-1,j+1} - \mathbf{F}_{i+1,j-1} + \mathbf{F}_{i-1,j-1}}{4\Delta x \Delta y} + \mathcal{O}(\Delta x^2, \Delta y^2). \tag{4.18}$$

The above five-points central differencing formulae can produce sufficiently accurate predictions of spatial derivatives for the PIF method. However, these conventional approaches cannot capture the shock discontinuities, leading to unforeseen spurious oscillations at strong shock profiles. (e.g., Sod shock problem)

One solution to this issue is to introduce WENO nonlinear weights in Eq. (3.17) to the central differencing formula. Alike the fifth-order WENO reconstruction scheme, consider the three central differencing schemes approximating the first-order derivatives at  $x = x_i$ , in each sub-stencil as,

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{d}_1 &= \frac{1}{2\Delta x} (\mathbf{F}_{i-2} - 4\mathbf{F}_{i-1} + 3\mathbf{F}_i), \\ \mathbf{d}_2 &= \frac{1}{2\Delta x} (-\mathbf{F}_{i-1} + \mathbf{F}_{i+1}), \\ \mathbf{d}_3 &= \frac{1}{2\Delta x} (-3\mathbf{F}_i + 4\mathbf{F}_{i+1} - \mathbf{F}_{i+2}).\end{aligned}\tag{4.19}$$

Then the goal is to make a convex combination with the nonlinear weights  $\omega_m$  describing the first-order derivatives at  $x = x_i$ :

$$\mathbf{F}_x|_{x=x_i} \approx \omega_1 \mathbf{d}_1 + \omega_2 \mathbf{d}_2 + \omega_3 \mathbf{d}_3.\tag{4.20}$$

In a smooth region, following the original context of WENO, the nonlinear weights  $\omega_m$  are anticipated to be reduced to the linear weights  $\gamma_m$  so that the convex combination represents the approximation of  $\mathbf{F}_x$  in a whole five-point stencil. That is to say, the convex combination with the linear weights should be equal to Eq. (4.16),

$$\gamma_1 \mathbf{d}_1 + \gamma_2 \mathbf{d}_2 + \gamma_3 \mathbf{d}_3 = \frac{1}{12\Delta x} (\mathbf{F}_{i-2} - 8\mathbf{F}_{i-1} + 8\mathbf{F}_{i+1} - \mathbf{F}_{i+2}).\tag{4.21}$$

Explicitly, the linear weights for the five-point WENO-*like* central differencing are given by,

$$\gamma_1 = \frac{1}{6} \quad \gamma_2 = \frac{4}{6} \quad \gamma_3 = \frac{1}{6}.\tag{4.22}$$

The nonlinear weights  $\omega_m$  are calculated in the same way as the classical WENO-JS reconstruction method in Eq. (3.17), with the same choice of the smoothness

indicators,  $\beta_m$  in Eq. (3.18).

Although the fourth-order PIF method requires the second-order derivatives, Eq. (4.17), and cross derivatives, Eq. (4.18); however, using the WENO-*like* central differencing formula above only for the first-order derivative effectively reduces the oscillations of the PIF method. Needless to say, the WENO-*like* central differencing Eq. (4.20) increases the overall computational loads of the PIF method.

In practical code implementation, it is worth noting that reusing the flux divergence  $\nabla^f$  for calculating high-order spatial derivatives is more efficient than calculating them directly. For example,  $\nabla_x^f$  can be calculated as  $\text{dx}(\nabla^f)$ , with the numerical spatial derivative function  $\text{dx}(\cdot)$ , rather than calculating as  $\nabla_x^f = \mathbf{F}_{xx} + \mathbf{G}_{yx} + \mathbf{H}_{zx}$ . This approach requires an additional guard cell layer (resulting in two more guard cells for the five-points derivatives). However, the overall code performance is better than evaluating high-order derivatives in each direction without affecting the accuracy of the scheme.

The PIF method is a very efficient numerical strategy to update the solution in FDM formulation. Once the high-order time-averaged fluxes are determined, the solution can be updated through a single step by following the exact same process for the conventional FDM spatial reconstruction. Using the conventional spatial strategy of the FDM formulation, the PIF method can be “swapped” readily with the SSP-RK scheme in the existing simulation code for improving the code performance.

However, the direct analytic derivations for flux Jacobians, Hessians (and more) remain as the implementation hurdle for the PIF method. Unlike SSP-RK methods, the PIF method requires different code implementation for a different system of equations only because of the Jacobian-*like* terms. (e.g.,  $\mathbf{F}_U$ ,  $\mathbf{F}_{UU}$ ,  $\mathbf{F}_{UUU}, \dots$ ) This dissertation aims to tackle this problem, making a different strat-

egy to use the LW/CK procedure, which does not require analytical derivations of Jacobian-*like* terms.

## 4.2 System-Free approach

This section aims to provide a new alternate formulation of computing the multiplications of Jacobian-vector and Hessian-vector-vector terms in Eqs. (4.10) to (4.15). The new approach will replace the necessity for analytical derivations of the Jacobian-*like* terms in the original PIF method that is system-dependent, with a new system-independent formulation, based on the so-called “Jacobian-free” method, which is widely used for Newton-Krylov-type iterative schemes [36, 15, 49, 50].

Suppose the Taylor expansion for the flux vector  $\mathbf{F}$  at a small displacement from  $\mathbf{U}$ ,

$$\mathbf{F}(\mathbf{U} + \varepsilon\mathbf{V}) = \mathbf{F}(\mathbf{U}) + \varepsilon\mathbf{F}_\mathbf{U} \cdot \mathbf{V} + \frac{1}{2}\varepsilon^2\mathbf{F}_{\mathbf{U}\mathbf{U}} \cdot \mathbf{V} \cdot \mathbf{V} + \mathcal{O}(\varepsilon^3), \quad (4.23a)$$

$$\mathbf{F}(\mathbf{U} - \varepsilon\mathbf{V}) = \mathbf{F}(\mathbf{U}) - \varepsilon\mathbf{F}_\mathbf{U} \cdot \mathbf{V} + \frac{1}{2}\varepsilon^2\mathbf{F}_{\mathbf{U}\mathbf{U}} \cdot \mathbf{V} \cdot \mathbf{V} + \mathcal{O}(\varepsilon^3), \quad (4.23b)$$

where  $\mathbf{V}$  is an arbitrary vector that has the same number of components as  $\mathbf{U}$ , and  $\varepsilon$  is a small scalar perturbation. By subtracting Eq. (4.23b) from Eq. (4.23a), we get an expression of a central differencing that is of second-order in  $\varepsilon$ ,

$$\mathbf{F}_\mathbf{U} \cdot \mathbf{V} = \frac{1}{2\varepsilon} \left[ \mathbf{F}(\mathbf{U} + \varepsilon\mathbf{V}) - \mathbf{F}(\mathbf{U} - \varepsilon\mathbf{V}) \right] + \mathcal{O}(\varepsilon^2). \quad (4.24)$$

Alternatively, the first-order forward differencing or the backward differencing can be used here. However, the above second-order central differencing is used for this dissertation, so that the order of accuracy of the entire system-free approach

consistently scales with  $\mathcal{O}(\varepsilon^2)$ , given that the Hessian approximation described in the following is to be bounded by  $\mathcal{O}(\varepsilon^2)$ . With the system-free approximation of Jacobian, all the Jacobian-vector products in Eqs. (4.10) to (4.15) are to be replaced with the central differencing in Eq. (4.24).

For the approximation for Hessians, it is imperative to classify the types of the Hessian tensor contraction. The first type is the Hessian tensor contracts with the same vector twice, e.g.,  $\mathbf{F}_{\mathbf{U}\mathbf{U}} \cdot \mathbf{V} \cdot \mathbf{V}$ , and the second type is the tensor contracts with two different vectors, e.g.,  $\mathbf{F}_{\mathbf{U}\mathbf{U}} \cdot \mathbf{V} \cdot \mathbf{W}$ .

For the first type, we use a Taylor expansion analogous to Eq. (4.23) to approximate the Hessian-vector-vector product with a central differencing of order  $\mathcal{O}(\varepsilon^2)$ ,

$$\mathbf{F}_{\mathbf{U}\mathbf{U}} \cdot \mathbf{V} \cdot \mathbf{V} = \frac{1}{\varepsilon^2} \left[ \mathbf{F}(\mathbf{U} + \varepsilon\mathbf{V}) - 2\mathbf{F}(\mathbf{U}) - \mathbf{F}(\mathbf{U} - \varepsilon\mathbf{V}) \right] + \mathcal{O}(\varepsilon^2). \quad (4.25)$$

Using a simple vector calculus, the second type can be derived from the first type in Eq. (4.25) by exploring a symmetric property of the Hessians,

$$\mathbf{F}_{\mathbf{U}\mathbf{U}} \cdot \mathbf{V} \cdot \mathbf{W} = \frac{1}{2} \left[ \mathbf{F}_{\mathbf{U}\mathbf{U}} \cdot (\mathbf{V} + \mathbf{W}) \cdot (\mathbf{V} + \mathbf{W}) - (\mathbf{F}_{\mathbf{U}\mathbf{U}} \cdot \mathbf{V} \cdot \mathbf{V} + \mathbf{F}_{\mathbf{U}\mathbf{U}} \cdot \mathbf{W} \cdot \mathbf{W}) \right]. \quad (4.26)$$

The Hessian approximations derived here are now ready to be substituted in Eqs. (4.11) to (4.15).

Theoretically speaking, the system-free procedure in the above can be applied to any arbitrary order of derivatives of the flux function  $\mathbf{F}$  with respect to the conservative variable  $\mathbf{U}$ . For instance, the fourth-order PIF method Eq. (4.7) requires the third-order derivative of  $\mathbf{F}$ , i.e.,  $\mathbf{F}_{\mathbf{U}\mathbf{U}\mathbf{U}}$ . Following the same mathematical basis of Eqs. (4.24) and (4.25), the tensor contractions with the same

vectors can be approximated as,

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{F}_{\mathbf{U}\mathbf{U}\mathbf{U}} \cdot \mathbf{V} \cdot \mathbf{V} \cdot \mathbf{V} = & \frac{1}{2\varepsilon^3} \left[ -\mathbf{F}(\mathbf{U} - 2\varepsilon\mathbf{V}) + 2\mathbf{F}(\mathbf{U} - \varepsilon\mathbf{V}) \right. \\ & \left. - 2\mathbf{F}(\mathbf{U} + \varepsilon\mathbf{V}) + \mathbf{F}(\mathbf{U} + 2\varepsilon\mathbf{V}) \right] + \mathcal{O}(\varepsilon^2). \end{aligned} \quad (4.27)$$

We can further extend the procedure to compute the contraction with three different vectors,  $\mathbf{V}$ ,  $\mathbf{W}$ , and  $\mathbf{X}$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{F}_{\mathbf{U}\mathbf{U}\mathbf{U}} \cdot \mathbf{V} \cdot \mathbf{W} \cdot \mathbf{X} = & \frac{1}{6} \left[ \mathbf{F}_{\mathbf{U}\mathbf{U}\mathbf{U}} \cdot (\mathbf{V} + \mathbf{W} + \mathbf{X}) \cdot (\mathbf{V} + \mathbf{W} + \mathbf{X}) \cdot (\mathbf{V} + \mathbf{W} + \mathbf{X}) \right. \\ & - \mathbf{F}_{\mathbf{U}\mathbf{U}\mathbf{U}} \cdot (\mathbf{V} + \mathbf{W}) \cdot (\mathbf{V} + \mathbf{W}) \cdot (\mathbf{V} + \mathbf{W}) \\ & - \mathbf{F}_{\mathbf{U}\mathbf{U}\mathbf{U}} \cdot (\mathbf{V} + \mathbf{X}) \cdot (\mathbf{V} + \mathbf{X}) \cdot (\mathbf{V} + \mathbf{X}) \\ & - \mathbf{F}_{\mathbf{U}\mathbf{U}\mathbf{U}} \cdot (\mathbf{W} + \mathbf{X}) \cdot (\mathbf{W} + \mathbf{X}) \cdot (\mathbf{W} + \mathbf{X}) \\ & + \mathbf{F}_{\mathbf{U}\mathbf{U}\mathbf{U}} \cdot \mathbf{V} \cdot \mathbf{V} \cdot \mathbf{V} \\ & + \mathbf{F}_{\mathbf{U}\mathbf{U}\mathbf{U}} \cdot \mathbf{W} \cdot \mathbf{W} \cdot \mathbf{W} \\ & \left. + \mathbf{F}_{\mathbf{U}\mathbf{U}\mathbf{U}} \cdot \mathbf{X} \cdot \mathbf{X} \cdot \mathbf{X} \right], \end{aligned} \quad (4.28)$$

and only to see that the number of terms to be computed rapidly increases in high-order tensor contraction terms.

#### 4.2.1 The proper choices of $\varepsilon$

In the above system-free approximations, the choice of  $\varepsilon$  has to be considered carefully as it affects the solution accuracy and stability. On one hand,  $\varepsilon$  is needed to be minimized to improve the approximated solution accuracy, the quality of which will scale as the truncation error of  $\mathcal{O}(\varepsilon^2)$ . On the other hand, if it is too small the solution would be contaminated by the floating-point roundoff

error which is bounded by the machine accuracy  $\varepsilon_{\text{mach}}$  [49]. Therefore,  $\varepsilon$  is to be determined judiciously to provide a good balance between the two types of error.

A recent study by An et al. [3] presents an effective analysis of choosing  $\varepsilon$  in the context of the Jacobian-free Newton-Krylov iterative framework. The authors have shown how to compute an ideal value of  $\varepsilon$  which minimizes the error of the central differencing in the Jacobian-vector approximation.

The main idea in [3] is to find a good balance between the truncation error  $\mathcal{O}(\varepsilon^2)$  of each Jacobian-free approximation in Eq. (4.24) and Hessian-free approximation in Eq. (4.25), and the intrinsic floating-point roundoff error  $\delta\mathbf{F}(\mathbf{U})$  when calculating the target exact function value  $\mathbf{F}(\mathbf{U})$  with an approximate value  $\mathbf{F}(\mathbf{U}) + \delta\mathbf{F}(\mathbf{U})$ . The perturbation  $\delta\mathbf{F}(\mathbf{U})$  may include any errors characterized in computer arithmetic such as roundoff errors, and is assumed to be bounded by the machine accuracy.

Let  $\mathbf{F}(\mathbf{U})$  be an exact function value of  $\mathbf{F}$  at  $\mathbf{U}$ , and let  $\mathbf{F}^*(\mathbf{U}) = \mathbf{F}(\mathbf{U}) + \delta\mathbf{F}(\mathbf{U})$  be an approximation to  $\mathbf{F}(\mathbf{U})$ , where  $\delta\mathbf{F}(\mathbf{U})$  is a perturbation of  $\mathbf{F}(\mathbf{U})$  that is potentially due from roundoff errors and truncation errors and is assumed to be bounded by the machine accuracy, i.e.,  $\|\delta\mathbf{F}(\mathbf{U})\| \leq \varepsilon_{\text{mach}}$ . The main idea is to choose an optimal  $\varepsilon$  value for the Jacobian-free approximation Eq. (4.24),  $\varepsilon_{\text{jac}}^{op}$ , in such a way that the error is minimized when approximating  $\mathbf{F}_{\mathbf{U}} \cdot \mathbf{V}$  using the central differencing approximation of  $\mathbf{F}^*(\mathbf{U})$  in Eq. (4.24), i.e.,

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{F}_{\mathbf{U}} \cdot \mathbf{V} &\approx \frac{1}{2\sigma} [\mathbf{F}^*(\mathbf{U} + \sigma\mathbf{V}) - \mathbf{F}^*(\mathbf{U} - \sigma\mathbf{V})] \\ &= \frac{1}{2\sigma} [\mathbf{F}(\mathbf{U} + \sigma\mathbf{V}) + \delta\mathbf{F}(\mathbf{U} + \sigma\mathbf{V}) - \mathbf{F}(\mathbf{U} - \sigma\mathbf{V}) - \delta\mathbf{F}(\mathbf{U} - \sigma\mathbf{V})].\end{aligned}\tag{4.29}$$

For the sake of this analysis, we assume that the function  $\mathbf{F} : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$  is defined to be continuously differentiable sufficiently everywhere,  $\mathbf{F} \in C^k(\mathbb{R}^n)$ . We now

define the error  $E$  by the difference between the central differencing approximation in Eq. (4.29) and  $\mathbf{F}_U \cdot \mathbf{V}$ ,

$$\begin{aligned}
E &= \frac{1}{2\sigma} [\mathbf{F}^*(\mathbf{U} + \sigma\mathbf{V}) - \mathbf{F}^*(\mathbf{U} - \sigma\mathbf{V})] - \mathbf{F}_U \cdot \mathbf{V} \\
&= \frac{1}{2\sigma} [\mathbf{F}(\mathbf{U} + \sigma\mathbf{V}) - \mathbf{F}(\mathbf{U} - \sigma\mathbf{V})] + \frac{1}{2\sigma} [\delta\mathbf{F}(\mathbf{U} + \sigma\mathbf{V}) - \delta\mathbf{F}(\mathbf{U} - \sigma\mathbf{V})] - \mathbf{F}_U \cdot \mathbf{V} \\
&= \frac{1}{2\sigma} \left[ 2\sigma\mathbf{F}_U \cdot \mathbf{V} + \sigma^3 \int_0^1 (1-t)^2 \mathbf{F}^{(3)}(\mathbf{U} + t\sigma\mathbf{V}) \cdot \mathbf{V}^3 dt \right] \\
&\quad + \frac{1}{2\sigma} [\delta\mathbf{F}(\mathbf{U} + \sigma\mathbf{V}) - \delta\mathbf{F}(\mathbf{U} - \sigma\mathbf{V})] - \mathbf{F}_U \cdot \mathbf{V} \\
&= \mathcal{O}\left(\frac{\sigma^2}{2} + \frac{\varepsilon_{\text{mach}}}{2\sigma}\right),
\end{aligned} \tag{4.30}$$

where the Taylor series expansion around  $\mathbf{U}$  is used for each term in which the remainders after the third power are given as the integral form as below,

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathbf{F}(\mathbf{U} + \sigma\mathbf{V}) &= \mathbf{F}(\mathbf{U}) + \sigma\mathbf{F}_U \cdot \mathbf{V} + \frac{\sigma^2}{2} \partial_U^2 \mathbf{F} \cdot \mathbf{V} \cdot \mathbf{V} \\
&\quad + \frac{\sigma^3}{2} \int_0^1 (1-t)^2 \mathbf{F}^{(3)}(\mathbf{U} + t\sigma\mathbf{V}) \cdot \mathbf{V}^3 dt, \\
\mathbf{F}(\mathbf{U} - \sigma\mathbf{V}) &= \mathbf{F}(\mathbf{U}) - \sigma\mathbf{F}_U \cdot \mathbf{V} + \frac{\sigma^2}{2} \partial_U^2 \mathbf{F} \cdot \mathbf{V} \cdot \mathbf{V} \\
&\quad - \frac{\sigma^3}{2} \int_0^1 (1-t)^2 \mathbf{F}^{(3)}(\mathbf{U} + t\sigma\mathbf{V}) \cdot \mathbf{V}^3 dt.
\end{aligned} \tag{4.31}$$

The optimal choice of  $\varepsilon_{\text{jac}}^{op}$  is to be obtained by considering the minimization problem of the leading error term in the last line in Eq. (4.30),

$$\varepsilon_{\text{jac}}^{op} = \arg \min_{\sigma>0} \left( \frac{\sigma^2}{2} + \frac{\varepsilon_{\text{mach}}}{2\sigma} \right) = \left( \frac{\varepsilon_{\text{mach}}}{2} \right)^{\frac{1}{3}} \approx 4.8062 \times 10^{-6}, \tag{4.32}$$

where  $\varepsilon_{\text{mach}} \sim 2.2204 \times 10^{-16}$  is used assuming a double-precision in a typical 64-bit machine.

Following the similar procedures, the optimal epsilon value for the Hessian-free

approximation Eq. (4.25),  $\varepsilon_{\text{hes}}^{op}$  can be found as,

$$\varepsilon_{\text{hes}}^{op} = \arg \min_{\sigma > 0} \left( \frac{\sigma^2}{3} + \frac{\varepsilon_{\text{mach}}}{\sigma^2} \right) = (3\varepsilon_{\text{mach}})^{\frac{1}{4}} \approx 1.6065 \times 10^{-4}. \quad (4.33)$$

However, direct use of  $\varepsilon^{op}$  as the displacement step size in the central differencing schemes in Eq. (4.24) and Eq. (4.25) is not a good idea for stability reasons. Usually, the vector  $\mathbf{V}$  in Eq. (4.24) and Eq. (4.25) could have an enormous value in a strong shock region, so it is safer to use a smaller step size to preserve the needed stability. To meet this, the ideal value,  $\varepsilon^{op}$  should be normalized by the magnitude of the vector  $\mathbf{V}$ . There are several prescriptions available in the Jacobian-free Newton–Krylov literatures [49, 15] to help finalize the decision of choosing a proper value of  $\varepsilon$  as a function of  $\varepsilon^{op}$ . Nonetheless, as reported in [53], a simple approach of taking a square root of  $\varepsilon^{op}$  with a simple normalization is sufficient to attain the desired accuracy and stability, which is given as,

$$\bar{\varepsilon} = \frac{\sqrt{\varepsilon^{op}}}{\|\mathbf{V}\|_2}. \quad (4.34)$$

Lastly, the  $\varepsilon$  estimation can be finalized by taking the minimum value between  $\bar{\varepsilon}$  and  $\Delta t$ ,

$$\varepsilon = \min(\bar{\varepsilon}, \Delta t), \quad (4.35)$$

to prevent the division by zero case.

### 4.3 Recursive System-Free approach

The original system-free (SF) approach presented in the previous section provides good approximations of tensor contractions between Jacobian-*like* terms and vectors. However, the original SF method becomes less attractive for any PIF

method higher than third-order accuracy, as it demands increasing complexity in code implementation, which results in a significant loss in the overall performance of the code. For example, Eq. (4.28) requires 28 times flux function calls for just getting a single tensor contraction,  $\mathbf{F}_{\mathbf{U}\mathbf{U}} \cdot \mathbf{V} \cdot \mathbf{W} \cdot \mathbf{X}$ . It is worth noting that the major bottleneck of the original SF method stems from Eq. (4.26) and Eq. (4.28) that require to perform the Jacobian-*like* approximations multiple times.

To avoid the additional modifications for the case of the tensor contractions with different vectors, the improved version of the SF method was proposed in [54]. This new, improved SF method, apply the Jacobian-free method recursively to construct the high-order Jacobian-*like* terms.

The recursive SF method starts from defining a functional  $\mathcal{D}_u$  that represents the Jacobian-free method denoted in Eq. (4.24):

$$\mathbf{F}_{\mathbf{U}} \cdot \mathbf{V} \approx \mathcal{D}_u(\mathbf{F}; \mathbf{V}) := \frac{1}{2\varepsilon_v} \left[ \mathbf{F}(\mathbf{U} + \varepsilon_v \mathbf{V}) - \mathbf{F}(\mathbf{U} - \varepsilon_v \mathbf{V}) \right], \quad (4.36)$$

where  $\varepsilon_v$  is the appropriately calculated  $\varepsilon$  corresponding to the vector  $\mathbf{V}$  by following the original system-free method Eq. (4.34),

$$\varepsilon_v = \min (\bar{\varepsilon}_v, \Delta t), \quad \text{where } \bar{\varepsilon}_v = \frac{\sqrt{\varepsilon^{op}}}{\|\mathbf{V}\|_2}. \quad (4.37)$$

The recursive SF method uses  $\varepsilon^{op} = 4.8062 \times 10^{-6}$  that is the optimal  $\varepsilon$  value for the second-order Jacobian-free approximation in the 64-bit machine as it shown in Eq. (4.32). This choice is also justifiable for the recursive scheme considered below, where the functional  $\mathcal{D}_u$  itself is defined as the Jacobian-free method fundamentally.

By applying  $\mathcal{D}_u$  in the following successive fashion, the tensor contractions between higher order derivatives for the flux function  $\mathbf{F}$  and arbitrary vectors.

For instance, the Hessian approximation becomes,

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathbf{F}_{\mathbf{U}\mathbf{U}} \cdot \mathbf{V} \cdot \mathbf{W} &\approx \mathcal{D}_u \left( \mathcal{D}_u(\mathbf{F}; \mathbf{V}); \mathbf{W} \right) \\
&= \frac{1}{4\varepsilon_v\varepsilon_w} \left[ \mathbf{F}(\mathbf{U} + \varepsilon_v \mathbf{V} + \varepsilon_w \mathbf{W}) - \mathbf{F}(\mathbf{U} - \varepsilon_v \mathbf{V} + \varepsilon_w \mathbf{W}) \right. \\
&\quad \left. - \mathbf{F}(\mathbf{U} + \varepsilon_v \mathbf{V} - \varepsilon_w \mathbf{W}) + \mathbf{F}(\mathbf{U} - \varepsilon_v \mathbf{V} - \varepsilon_w \mathbf{W}) \right]. \tag{4.38}
\end{aligned}$$

Again, following Eq. (4.37),  $\varepsilon_v$  and  $\varepsilon_w$  are the optimal  $\varepsilon$  values normalized by its corresponding vectors  $\mathbf{V}$  and  $\mathbf{W}$ , respectively.

Note that the improved version of the Hessian-free method in Eq. (4.38) is applicable regardless the tensor contraction is with two identical vectors (e.g.,  $\mathbf{F}_{\mathbf{U}\mathbf{U}} \cdot \mathbf{V} \cdot \mathbf{V}$ ) or with two distinct vectors (e.g.,  $\mathbf{F}_{\mathbf{U}\mathbf{U}} \cdot \mathbf{V} \cdot \mathbf{W}$ ), hence it does not require separate formulations as in Eqs. (4.26) and (4.28).

The simplicity gain from the improved version of the system-free method is further rewarded when considering the higher-order derivatives of  $\mathbf{F}$ . Following the equivalent strategy, the tensor contraction of the third-order derivative of the flux function,  $\mathbf{F}_{\mathbf{U}\mathbf{U}\mathbf{U}}$  with three distinct vectors,  $\mathbf{V}$ ,  $\mathbf{W}$ , and  $\mathbf{X}$  is written compactly as,

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathbf{F}_{\mathbf{U}\mathbf{U}\mathbf{U}} \cdot \mathbf{V} \cdot \mathbf{W} \cdot \mathbf{X} &\approx \mathcal{D}_u \left( \mathcal{D}_u \left( \mathcal{D}_u(\mathbf{F}; \mathbf{V}); \mathbf{W} \right); \mathbf{X} \right) \\
&= \frac{1}{8\varepsilon_v\varepsilon_w\varepsilon_x} \left[ \mathbf{F}(\mathbf{U} + \varepsilon_v \mathbf{V} + \varepsilon_w \mathbf{W} + \varepsilon_x \mathbf{X}) - \mathbf{F}(\mathbf{U} - \varepsilon_v \mathbf{V} + \varepsilon_w \mathbf{W} + \varepsilon_x \mathbf{X}) \right. \\
&\quad - \mathbf{F}(\mathbf{U} + \varepsilon_v \mathbf{V} - \varepsilon_w \mathbf{W} + \varepsilon_x \mathbf{X}) + \mathbf{F}(\mathbf{U} - \varepsilon_v \mathbf{V} - \varepsilon_w \mathbf{W} + \varepsilon_x \mathbf{X}) \\
&\quad - \mathbf{F}(\mathbf{U} + \varepsilon_v \mathbf{V} + \varepsilon_w \mathbf{W} - \varepsilon_x \mathbf{X}) + \mathbf{F}(\mathbf{U} - \varepsilon_v \mathbf{V} + \varepsilon_w \mathbf{W} - \varepsilon_x \mathbf{X}) \\
&\quad \left. + \mathbf{F}(\mathbf{U} + \varepsilon_v \mathbf{V} - \varepsilon_w \mathbf{W} - \varepsilon_x \mathbf{X}) - \mathbf{F}(\mathbf{U} - \varepsilon_v \mathbf{V} - \varepsilon_w \mathbf{W} - \varepsilon_x \mathbf{X}) \right] \tag{4.39}
\end{aligned}$$

Here, the performance between the recursive SF method and the original SF method can be compared by the number of flux function calls. For instance, considering the case of approximating  $\mathbf{F}_{UUU} \cdot \mathbf{V} \cdot \mathbf{W} \cdot \mathbf{X}$  term, the original SF method requires 28 function calls. On the other hand, the recursive SF method needs only eight evaluations. This is a huge improvement in both performance and compactness.

By utilizing Eqs. (4.36) to (4.39), all the tensor contractions needed in the fourth-order PIF method in Eqs. (4.10) to (4.15) can be approximated without the analytical calculations of the Jacobian-*like* terms. Combining the recursive SF method, the PIF method can be implemented more efficiently, allowing the system independence of the high-order scheme. It should be noted that the recursive modifications of the SF method presented in this section do not affect the solution's accuracy and stability compared to the original SF method.

The fourth-order SF-PIF4 method can be summarized as the following step-wise fashion. The discretization indices  $i, j, k$  and  $n$  are omitted for simplicity in representing the conservative variables  $\mathbf{U}_{ijk}^n$  and the corresponding fluxes  $\mathcal{F}_{ijk}^n = (\mathbf{F}_{ijk}^n, \mathbf{G}_{ijk}^n, \mathbf{H}_{ijk}^n)$ .

**Step 1:** Calculate  $\nabla^f = \mathbf{F}_x + \mathbf{G}_y + \mathbf{H}_z$  via the standard fourth-order accurate, five-point central differencing scheme on every grid point and save them. These saved flux divergences will be used as inputs for the central differencing formulae in the following steps to get higher-order spatial derivatives.

**Step 2:** Apply the Jacobian approximation in Eq. (4.36) in preparation for  $\mathbf{F}_t$  as expressed in Eq. (4.10), and construct the second-order temporally averaged flux  $\mathbf{F}^{appx,2} = \mathbf{F} + \Delta t \mathbf{F}_t / 2$ . Apply the similar procedures to  $y-$  and  $z-$ directional fluxes to obtain  $\mathbf{G}^{appx,2}$  and  $\mathbf{H}^{appx,2}$ . This finalizes the

second-order temporal approximations of pointwise fluxes in all directions.

**Step 3:** Given the pointwise conservative variables  $\mathbf{U}$  and the divergence of fluxes  $\nabla^f$  from **Step 1**, calculate  $\mathbf{U}_x, \mathbf{U}_y, \mathbf{U}_z, \nabla_x^f, \nabla_y^f$ , and  $\nabla_z^f$  via the same five-point central differencing operator in **Step 1**. They will be used as building blocks for constructing  $\mathbf{F}_{tt}, \mathbf{G}_{tt}$  and  $\mathbf{H}_{tt}$  in the following steps.

**Step 4:** Apply the Jacobian and Hessian approximations in Eqs. (4.36) and (4.38) to the spatially approximated derivative quantities in **Step 3** in order to compute  $\nabla_t^f$  by following the explicit expression in Eq. (4.12).

**Step 5:** Apply the Jacobian approximation in (4.36) to  $\nabla_t^f$  from **Step 4** and the Hessian approximation in (4.38) to  $\nabla^f$  from **Step 1** in order to get  $\mathbf{F}_{tt}$  using Eq. (4.11); add the computed  $\mathbf{F}_{tt}$  to the results of **Step 2** to update the second-order temporal fluxes in **Step 2** to the third-order temporally averaged flux,  $\mathbf{F}^{appx,3} = \mathbf{F}^{appx,2} + \Delta t^2 \mathbf{F}_{tt}/6$ . Perform the similar procedures in  $y$ - and  $z$ -directions to obtain  $\mathbf{G}^{appx,3}$  and  $\mathbf{H}^{appx,3}$ . This finalizes the third-order temporal approximations of pointwise fluxes in all directions.

**Step 6:** Using the five-point central differencing, compute the fourth-order accurate approximations of the second derivatives and the mixed-derivatives of the conservative variables and the divergence of fluxes to obtain  $\mathbf{U}_{xx}, \mathbf{U}_{xy}, \mathbf{U}_{yy}, \dots$  etc. and  $\nabla_{xx}^f, \nabla_{xy}^f, \nabla_{yy}^f, \dots$  etc.

**Step 7:** Apply the tensor contractions of the first, second, and third-order flux derivatives in Eqs. (4.36), (4.38) and (4.39) to the quantities computed and stored from the previous steps in order to calculate  $\nabla_{tt}^f$  and  $\nabla_{tx}^f$  by following the explicit relations in Eqs. (4.14) and (4.15) respectively. Also calculate  $\nabla_{ty}^f$  and  $\nabla_{tz}^f$  similarly.

**Step 8:** Next, perform the last set of tensor contractions in Eqs. (4.36), (4.38) and (4.39) to construct  $\mathbf{F}_{ttt}$  as expressed in Eq. (4.13). Add the resulting  $\mathbf{F}_{ttt}$  to the result of **Step 5** to obtain the fourth-order temporally averaged flux,  $\mathbf{F}^{appx,4} = \mathbf{F}^{appx,3} + \Delta t^3 \mathbf{F}_{ttt}/24$ . Perform the similar procedures in  $y-$  and  $z-$ directions to obtain  $\mathbf{G}^{appx,4}$  and  $\mathbf{H}^{appx,4}$ . This finalizes the fourth-order temporal approximations of pointwise fluxes in all directions.

**Step 9:** Proceed with the conventional FDM procedures for high-order spatial accuracy, viz., apply a high-order reconstruction method with a characteristic flux-splitting strategy in Eq. (4.6) to the results,  $\mathbf{F}^{appx,4}$ ,  $\mathbf{G}^{appx,4}$ , and  $\mathbf{H}^{appx,4}$ , from **Step 8**. For example, taking WENO-JS (Section 3.1.1) as a reconstruction method using  $\mathbf{F}^{appx,4}$  ensures a temporally fourth-order and spatially fifth-order accurate approximation to the numerical flux,  $\hat{\mathbf{f}} = \text{WENO-JS}(\mathbf{F}^{appx,4}) + \mathcal{O}(\Delta x^5, \Delta t^4)$ . Perform the similar procedures in  $y-$  and  $z-$ directions to obtain  $\hat{\mathbf{g}}$  and  $\hat{\mathbf{h}}$ .

**Step 10:** Lastly, update the solution following Eq. (4.4).

## 4.4 System-Free PIF method with source term

Since the PIF method depends on the LW/CK procedure, the PIF method must be modified accordingly when the governing equation has changed. For instance, the non-homogeneous system of equations with a source term  $\mathbf{S}(\mathbf{U})$ , the solution updating strategy for the original PIF method Eq. (4.1) should be modified with appropriately time-averaged source term. Consider a conservative equations with a source term  $\mathbf{S}(\mathbf{U})$ ,

$$\mathbf{U}_t + \nabla \cdot \mathcal{F}(\mathbf{U}) = \mathbf{S}(\mathbf{U}). \quad (4.40)$$

Taking time-averaging,

$$\mathbf{U}^{n+1} = \mathbf{U}^n - \Delta t (\partial_x \mathbf{F}^{avg} + \partial_y \mathbf{G}^{avg} + \partial_z \mathbf{H}^{avg}) + \Delta t \mathbf{S}^{avg}, \quad (4.41)$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{S}^{avg}(\mathbf{x}) &= \frac{1}{\Delta t} \int_{t^n}^{t^{n+1}} \mathbf{S}(\mathbf{x}, t) dt \\ &= \sum_{i=0}^{q-1} \frac{\Delta t^i}{(i+1)!} \partial_t^{(i)} \mathbf{S}(\mathbf{x}, t) \Big|_{t=t^n} + \mathcal{O}(\Delta t^q) \\ &= \mathbf{S}^{appx,q}(\mathbf{x}, t^n) + \mathcal{O}(\Delta t^q). \end{aligned} \quad (4.42)$$

For the fourth-order PIF method, the fourth-order approximation of the time-averaged source term is needed,

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{S}^{appx,4}(\mathbf{x}) &= \mathbf{S}(\mathbf{x}, t^n) + \frac{\Delta t}{2!} \partial_t^{(1)} \mathbf{S}(\mathbf{x}, t) \Big|_{t=t^n} \\ &\quad + \frac{\Delta t^2}{3!} \partial_t^{(2)} \mathbf{S}(\mathbf{x}, t) \Big|_{t=t^n} + \frac{\Delta t^3}{4!} \partial_t^{(3)} \mathbf{S}(\mathbf{x}, t) \Big|_{t=t^n}. \end{aligned} \quad (4.43)$$

In order to modify the conventional PIF procedures in a way that maintains the general mathematical structures in Section 4.1, a modified version of the flux divergence  $\widetilde{\nabla}^f$  can be considered as,

$$\widetilde{\nabla}^f := \nabla^f - \mathbf{S}. \quad (4.44)$$

Then, the time derivatives of the source term have similar expressions as the time derivatives of the flux function, e.g.,  $\mathbf{F}_t$ ,  $\mathbf{F}_{tt}$ , and  $\mathbf{F}_{ttt}$  in Eqs. (4.10), (4.11) and (4.13), through the LW/CK procedures:

$$\mathbf{S}_t = -\mathbf{S}_U \widetilde{\nabla}^f, \quad (4.45)$$

$$\mathbf{S}_{tt} = \mathbf{S}_{\mathbf{UU}} \cdot \widetilde{\nabla}^f \cdot \widetilde{\nabla}^f - \mathbf{S}_{\mathbf{U}} \cdot \widetilde{\nabla}_t^f, \quad (4.46)$$

$$\mathbf{S}_{ttt} = -\mathbf{S}_{\mathbf{UUU}} \cdot \widetilde{\nabla}^f \cdot \widetilde{\nabla}^f \cdot \widetilde{\nabla}^f + 3\mathbf{S}_{\mathbf{UU}} \cdot \widetilde{\nabla}^f \cdot \widetilde{\nabla}_t^f - \mathbf{S}_{\mathbf{U}} \cdot \widetilde{\nabla}_{tt}^f. \quad (4.47)$$

The equation independence property of the system-free method is rewarded in calculations of the source Jacobian  $\mathbf{S}_{\mathbf{U}}$  and Hessian  $\mathbf{S}_{\mathbf{UU}}$ , since the only required job is to change the flux function  $\mathbf{F}(\cdot)$  in Eqs. (4.36) and (4.38) to the source function,  $\mathbf{S}(\cdot)$ .

The time derivatives of the modified flux divergence,  $\widetilde{\nabla}_t^f$  and  $\widetilde{\nabla}_{tt}^f$ , can be defined as linear combinations with the time derivatives of the conventional flux divergence terms as,

$$\begin{aligned} \widetilde{\nabla}_t^f &= \nabla_t^f - \mathbf{S}_t \\ &= \nabla_t^f + \mathbf{S}_{\mathbf{U}} \cdot \widetilde{\nabla}^f, \end{aligned} \quad (4.48)$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} \widetilde{\nabla}_{tt}^f &= \nabla_{tt}^f + (\mathbf{S}_{\mathbf{U}} \cdot \widetilde{\nabla}^f)_t \\ &= \nabla_{tt}^f - \mathbf{S}_{\mathbf{UU}} \cdot \widetilde{\nabla}^f \cdot \widetilde{\nabla}^f + \mathbf{S}_{\mathbf{U}} \cdot \widetilde{\nabla}_t^f, \end{aligned} \quad (4.49)$$

where  $\nabla_t^f$  and  $\nabla_{tt}^f$  are defined in Eqs. (4.12) and (4.14), respectively.

With a new governing equation, Eq. (4.40), the high-order time derivatives of the flux functions, e.g.,  $\mathbf{F}_t$ ,  $\mathbf{F}_{tt}$ , and  $\mathbf{F}_{ttt}$  in Eq. (4.7) should be adjusted with the modified flux divergence,  $\widetilde{\nabla}^f$ . The governing equation Eq. (4.40) leads the adjusted first-order time derivative of the flux as,

$$\mathbf{F}_t = -\mathbf{F}_U \widetilde{\nabla}^f. \quad (4.50)$$

Using the modified flux divergence,  $\widetilde{\nabla}^f$ , the adjusted time derivatives of the

flux functions maintain the similar mathematical structures in Eqs. (4.10), (4.11) and (4.13) as,

$$\mathbf{F}_{tt} = \mathbf{F}_{\mathbf{UU}} \cdot \widetilde{\nabla}^f \cdot \widetilde{\nabla}^f - \mathbf{F}_{\mathbf{U}} \cdot \widetilde{\nabla}_t^f, \quad (4.51)$$

and

$$\mathbf{F}_{ttt} = -\mathbf{F}_{\mathbf{UUU}} \cdot \widetilde{\nabla}^f \cdot \widetilde{\nabla}^f \cdot \widetilde{\nabla}^f + 3\mathbf{F}_{\mathbf{UU}} \cdot \widetilde{\nabla}^f \cdot \widetilde{\nabla}_t^f - \mathbf{F}_{\mathbf{U}} \cdot \widetilde{\nabla}_{tt}^f, \quad (4.52)$$

where  $\widetilde{\nabla}_t^f$  and  $\widetilde{\nabla}_{tt}^f$  are defined as in Eqs. (4.48) and (4.49) respectively.

## 4.5 Conclusion

The Picard integral formulation (PIF) method is one of the Lax-Wendroff class high-order in temporal integration strategies for FDM discretization. By virtue of a single-stage time integrator, the PIF method can perform faster than the traditional multi-stage method. Also, the PIF method does not depend on the spatial reconstruction scheme; thus, it can be combined with any high-order spatial method in general.

However, as like other Lax-Wendroff type schemes, the PIF method highly depends on the system of equations, requiring analytical derivations for Jacobian-*like* terms. Although the symbolic manipulation tools can aid these calculations, Jacobian-*like* terms remain as a major implementation hurdle due to their perplexing structures.

The (original, non-recursive) system-free (SF) approach provides capability to Lax-Wendroff type scheme to bypass all the analytical derivations of Jacobian-*like* terms, approximating tensor contractions between Jacobian-*like* terms and arbitrary vectors. The major advantage of SF method lies in ease of its code implementation for practical use. By combining with PIF method, SF-PIF method can be applied to any system of equations to furnish high-order in temporal accu-

racy in a single-step. However, the increasing number of calculations needed for higher order derivatives of the flux function  $\mathbf{F}$  with respect to the conservative variables  $\mathbf{U}$  makes the SF method less attractive for higher than third-order PIF method.

The improved version, recursive SF approach is then introduced to minimize the number of calculation needed for approximating the tensor contractions. The recursive SF method introduced a functional representing the Jacobian-free method, then the higher order derivative terms can be obtained by applying the functional recursively. This feature allows to extend SF-PIF method to the fourth-order accuracy efficiently.

It is important to note that the SF method is neither designed particularly for the PIF method nor any specific numerical methods in CFD. Instead, it is solely intended for approximating the Jacobian-*like* tensor contractions, so the SF approach is applicable in other numerical algorithms to enhance the calculation speed and implementation efficiency.

# Chapter 5

## Results

This chapter will provide various numerical test results of SF-PIF methods. In order to examine the numerical capabilities of the SF method, several well-known numerical benchmark problems are conducted, and the traditional SSP-RK methods' results will be provided with the same initial conditions as counterparts of SF-PIF methods for comparisons. SF-PIF3 and SF-PIF4 will refer to the *recursive* SF method in Section 4.3 with third-order and fourth-order PIF methods, respectively, and RK3 and RK4 will refer to the three-stage, third-order SSP-RK method Eq. (3.45), five-stage, fourth-order SSP-RK method Eq. (3.47), respectively. The original, *non-recursive* SF approach (Section 4.2) with the PIF method is denoted by oSF-PIF. The conventional five-point central differencing formulae Eqs. (4.16) to (4.18) are used for SF-PIF and PIF methods otherwise specified.

### 5.1 Performance of SF-PIF method

The main advantage of the PIF method is the performance gain compared to the SSP-RK methods. This section will compare the performance of PIF methods (with or without the SF approach) and the SSP-RK method. The main purpose of

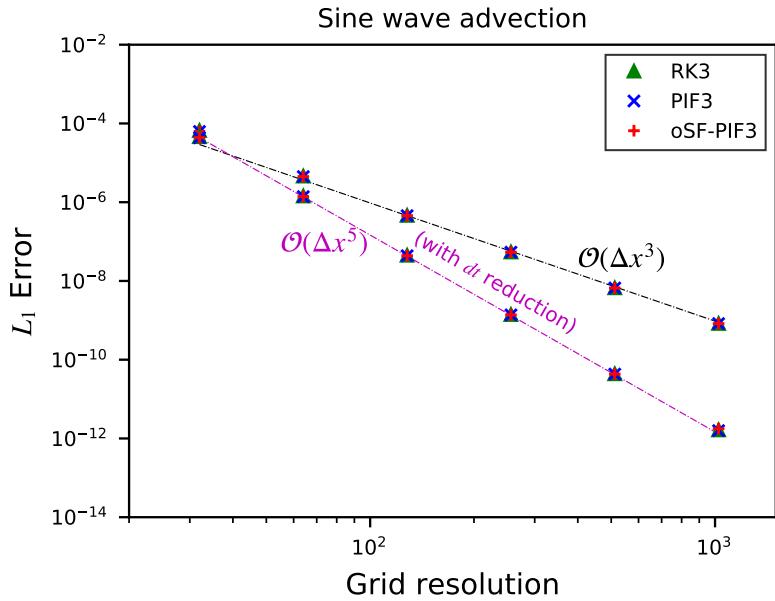
this section is to check if the SF-PIF methods provide improved performance while maintaining the same accuracy as SSP-RK methods. Theoretically speaking, the SF and oSF approach should not affect the solution's accuracy and stability, so the original PIF method's results are presented for comparisons.

All test results in this section use the standard fifth-order WENO-JS method (Section 3.1.1) for the spatially high-order reconstruction scheme. Therefore, the expected truncation error is  $\mathcal{O}(\Delta s^5, \Delta t^q)$ , where  $q$  is the order of the temporal scheme. In this section,  $C_{\text{cfl}} = 0.7$  is used for all 1D simulation results, and  $C_{\text{cfl}} = 0.4$  is used for 2D simulation runs.

### 5.1.1 Sine wave advection

The first choice of the benchmark problem is the sine wave advection to test if the desired solution accuracy is retrieved in smooth flows. The initial condition follows the setup in [52], where the density profile is initialized with a sinusoidal wave,  $\rho(x) = 1.5 - 0.5 \sin(2\pi x)$ . The  $x$ -velocity and the pressure are set as constant values of  $u = 1$  and  $p = 1/\gamma$  with the specific heat ratio,  $\gamma = 5/3$ . Albeit solved using the nonlinear Euler equations, the problem is solved in a linear regime, viz., the velocity and pressure remain constant for all  $t \geq 0$  so that the initial sinusoidal density profile is purely advected by the constant velocity  $u = 1$  without any nonlinear dynamics such as a formation of shocks and rarefactions.

The simulation domain is defined on a one-dimensional box of  $[0, 1]$  with the periodic boundary condition on both ends. The density profile will propagate one period through the computational domain and will return to its initial position at  $t = 1$ . In return, any shape deformation of the density profile from the initial density profile can be considered as a numerical error associated with phase errors or numerical diffusions. The accuracy of the numerical solutions is measured



**Figure 5.1:** Convergence test for the 1D sine wave advection problem. The errors are calculated in  $L_1$  sense against the initial density profile resolved on the computational grids refined from 32 to 1024 by a factor of 2. All numerical solutions follow the theoretical third-order convergence rate (the black-dotted line) when using the timesteps computed from the Courant condition. Also plotted are the solutions of using reduced timesteps, which follows the fifth-order convergence rate represented in the pink-dotted line.

by computing  $L_1$  error between the initial and the final density profiles. The numerical experiment results from the sine wave advection test on different number of grid points,  $N_x = 32, 64, 128, 256, 512$ , and  $1024$  are depicted in Fig. 5.1 for three different temporal methods, Rk3, PIF3, and oSF-PIF3.

There are two types of convergence rates demonstrated in Fig. 5.1. In the first type, the numerical solutions of three different temporal methods advanced with timesteps computed from the Courant condition with  $C_{\text{cfl}} = 0.7$ . Interestingly, the numerical solutions from all three different temporal methods show a third-order convergence rate, indicating that the leading error term from third-order temporal methods dominates the spatial error from the fifth-order WENO-JS method. These results are different from Fig. 1.1, calculating  $L_1$  error from the 2D nonlinear vortex advection case, where the solution accuracy follows the spatial order at low-resolution regions until the leading error of the solution is caught up by the temporal error as computational grids get further refined to higher resolutions. However, in this test case, the third-order temporal accuracy quickly takes control throughout the entire range of the grid resolutions tested herein. This solution behavior strongly supports the importance of integrating spatially reconstructed solutions with a temporal scheme whose accuracy is sufficiently high enough to be well comparable to that of the spatial solver.

In the second type of the convergence rate, on the other hand, the timesteps are restricted in order to match up the lower third-order temporal accuracy with the higher fifth-order spatial accuracy. Following the usual trick of timestep reduction in [59], the timestep  $\Delta t_N$  is manually adjusted on a grid size of  $N$  to satisfy the equal rate of change between the spatial and temporal variations. The restricted timestep is defined by,

$$\Delta t_N = \Delta t_0 \left( \frac{\Delta x_N}{\Delta x_0} \right)^{\frac{5}{3}}, \quad (5.1)$$

where the sub-indices “0” and  $N$  refer to the time and grid scales on a nominal coarse and fine resolution, respectively. In the current configuration,  $\Delta x_0$  is the grid-scale of  $N_x = 32$ , and  $\Delta t_0$  is the corresponding timestep subject to the Courant condition with  $C_{\text{cfl}} = 0.7$ . With the timestep reduction, the overall leading error from the spatial and temporal methods are matched with the fifth-order spatial accuracy of WENO5, and the numerical solution of PIF3 and oSF-PIF3 follows the fifth-order convergence rate as expected. In all test cases for linear advection problems, the oSF-PIF3 solutions behave almost equally well with the solutions of the original PIF3 and RK3 both quantitatively and qualitatively.

### 5.1.2 Nonlinear isentropic vortex advection

The isentropic vortex advection problem [75] is one of the most popular benchmark tests to measure the numerical method’s accuracy and performance in the nonlinear case. Although the problem is fully nonlinear, the exact solution always exists in the form of its initial condition, from which an isentropic vortex is advected through periodic boundaries in a 2D computational box. The accuracy of a numerical method on a nonlinear problem can be evaluated by comparing the final density profile with the initial condition.

The initial condition consists of a constant background mean flow with  $\rho = 1$ ,  $(u, v) = (1, 1)$  and  $p = 1$  on the 2D computational domain with periodic boundary conditions. The isentropic vortex is given by the velocity perturbations  $(\delta u, \delta v)$ , and the temperature perturbation  $\delta T$ . The perturbation terms are designed to set the constant entropy  $S$  everywhere in the simulation domain, i.e.,  $\delta S = 0$ . The perturbations are given as,

$$(\delta u, \delta v) = \frac{\epsilon}{2\pi} e^{-\frac{1}{2}(1-r^2)} (-y, x), \quad \delta T = -\frac{(\gamma - 1)\epsilon^2}{8\gamma\pi^2} e^{1-r^2}, \quad (5.2)$$

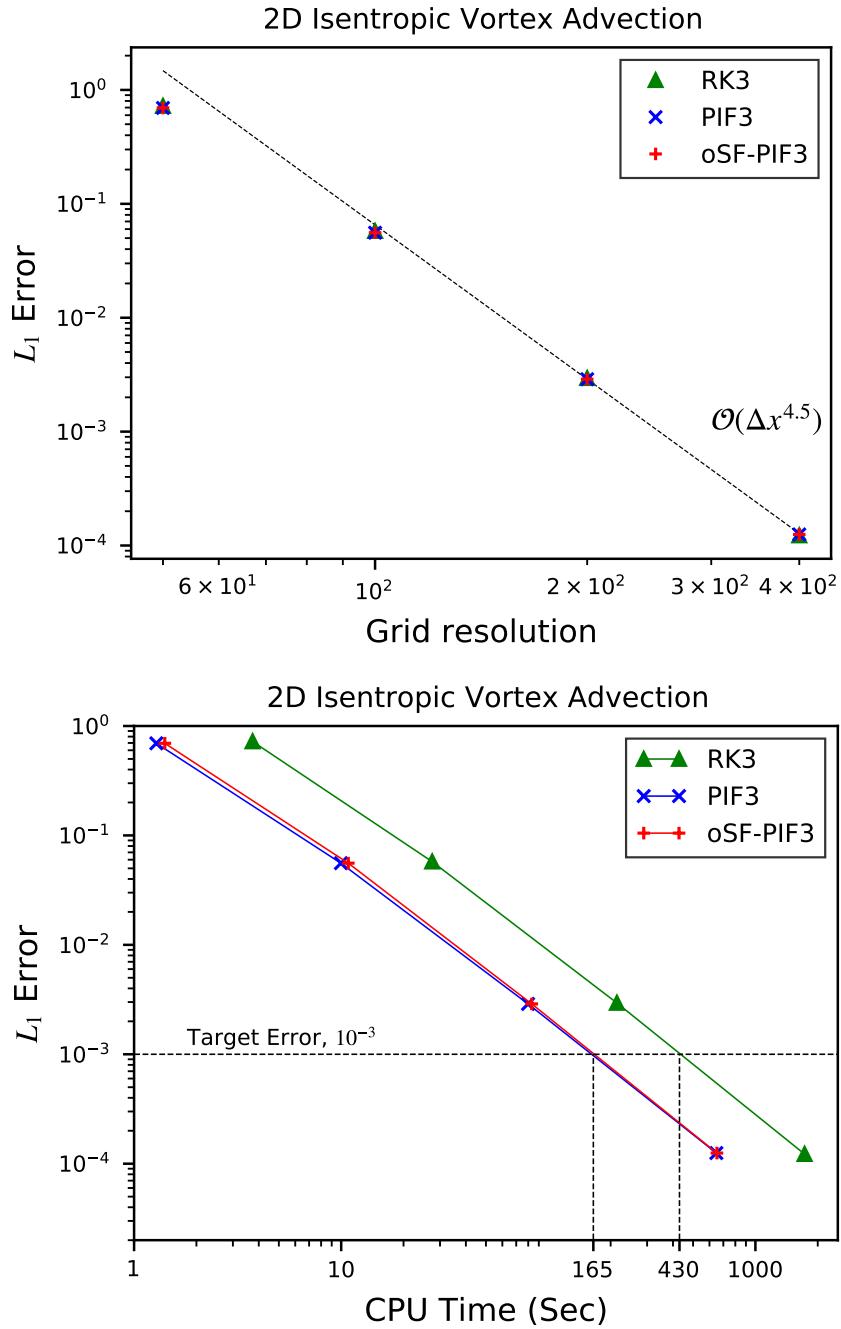
**Table 5.1:** The  $L_1$  errors, the rates of convergence, and the relative computation times for the vortex advection test. Here, the comparison between RK3 and oSF-PIF is only displayed, since the difference between oSF-PIF3 and PIF3 is indistinguishable. All the performance results (measured in seconds) are averaged over 10 simulation runs which are conducted on a Coffee Lake quad-core i7 Intel CPU with a clock speed of 2.7GHz, Turbo Boost up to 4.5GHz, utilizing four parallel threads.

$N_x = N_y$	RK3				oSF-PIF3			
	$L_1$ error	$L_1$ order	CPU Time	Speedup	$L_1$ error	$L_1$ order	CPU Time	Speedup
50	$7.22 \times 10^{-1}$	—	3.73 s	1.0	$6.95 \times 10^{-1}$	—	1.41 s	0.38
100	$5.76 \times 10^{-2}$	3.65	27.51 s	1.0	$5.58 \times 10^{-2}$	3.64	10.82 s	0.39
200	$2.94 \times 10^{-3}$	4.29	214.44 s	1.0	$2.89 \times 10^{-3}$	4.27	83.21 s	0.39
400	$1.22 \times 10^{-4}$	4.59	1727.71 s	1.0	$1.26 \times 10^{-4}$	4.52	652.18 s	0.38

where  $\epsilon = 5$  is the vortex strength and  $r^2 = x^2 + y^2$ . The vortex is initially located at the domain center, and it advects to the diagonal directions, then returns to its original position after one cycle. The simulation domain size is doubled-up as  $[0, 20] \times [0, 20]$  compared to the original setup in [75], to prevent vortex-vortex couplings near the periodic boundaries as reported in [79].

The results of the convergence test are depicted on the left panel in Fig. 5.2. Three different temporal schemes, RK3, PIF3, and oSF-PIF3, show an excellent comparable match in magnitudes and slopes of the  $L_1$  errors with varying grid resolution,  $N_x = N_y = 50, 100, 200$ , and 400. One important finding in this figure is that there is no significant distinction between PIF3 and oSF-PIF3 in accuracy and performance. These results demonstrate that the original SF method does not affect the solution accuracy and performance of the PIF method.

The performance results of three different temporal schemes are presented on the right panel of Fig. 5.2 and summarized in Table 5.1. Both the PIF3 and oSF-PIF3 methods perform more than two times faster than the multi-stage method, RK3. It is worth noting that the original SF-PIF method, oSF-PIF, can be readily swappable with an RK integrator in an existing code without too much

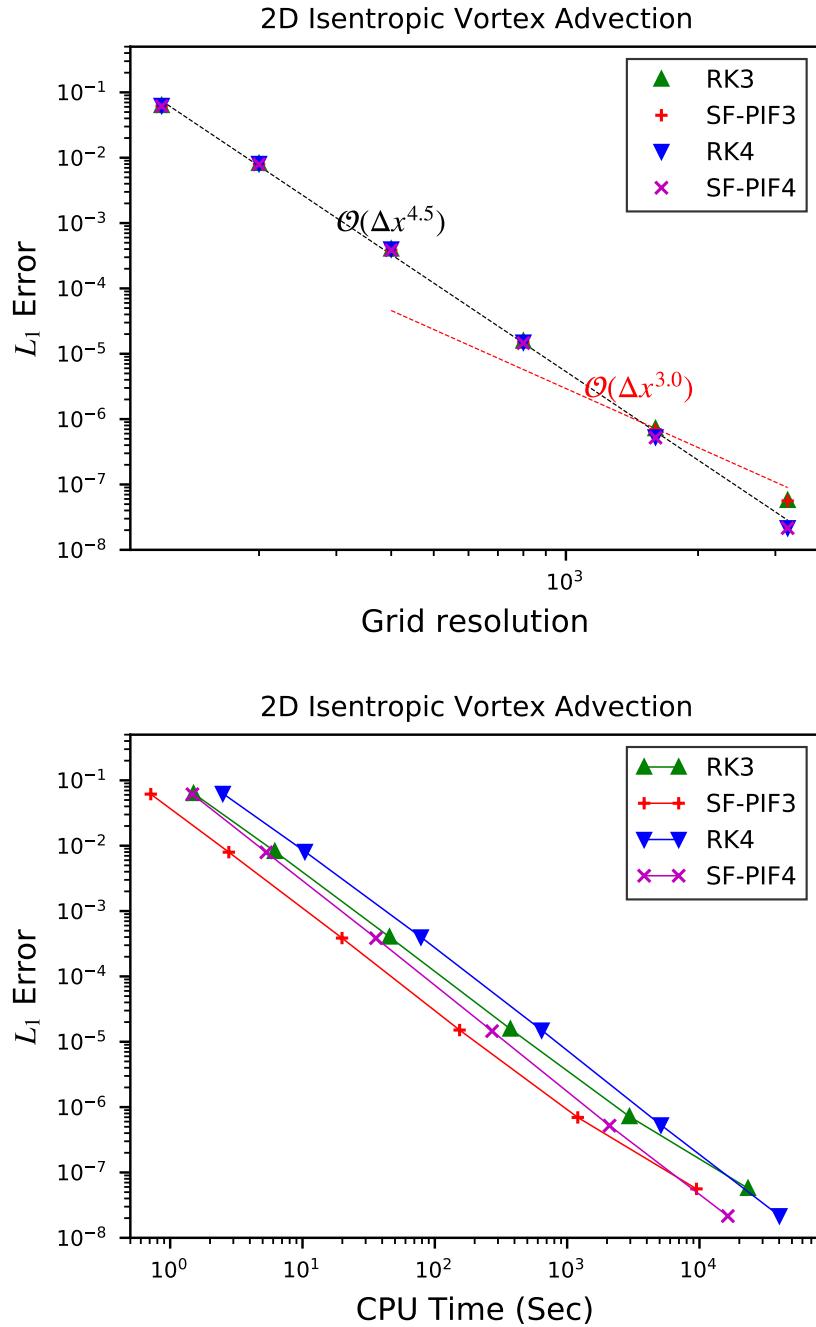


**Figure 5.2:** The  $L_1$  errors of the isentropic vortex advection test problem on different grid resolutions,  $N_x = N_y = 50, 100, 200$ , and 400. The three different third-order temporal schemes are used combined with WENO5 spatial method. The  $L_1$  errors with respect to the grid resolutions (**top**); with respect to the computation time (**bottom**).

effort, leaving any existing spatial implementations intact. Moreover, such a code transformation with oSF-PIF is more advantageous in simplicity than the original PIF method because oSF-PIF replaces the analytic derivations of the Jacobian and Hessian terms with the system-free approximations, which have shown to be highly commensurate with the analytical counterparts of the original PIF scheme.

Unlike the 1D linear sine advection test in Section 5.1.1, the overall solution accuracy is not completely dominated by the third-order temporal discretizations, which could reduce the overall convergence rate down to third-order as observed in the sine advection case. Concurrently, the solution does not converge at full fifth-order either, the rate due to the use of WENO5. This can be explained as a nonlinear effect in which the lower third-order time integration schemes slightly compromise the overall leading error term of the fifth-order spatial discretization.

However, the third-order temporal schemes gradually degrade the overall solution accuracy on the fine grid resolutions. Fig. 5.3 illustrates the same convergence test results, but in this case, containing more higher grid resolutions,  $N_x = N_y = 120, 200, 400, 800, 1600$ , and  $3200$ . Notice that the recursive SF-PIF method, SF-PIF3, and SF-PIF4 are used instead of the original SF-PIF method. As expected, all temporal methods follow the convergence line of order  $\sim \mathcal{O}(\Delta x^{4.5})$ , which is nearly the same as WENO’s fifth-order spatial accuracy, equivalently in Fig. 5.2. However, at the critical grid resolution,  $N_x = N_y = 1600$ , the third-order temporal schemes of RK3 and SF-PIF3 start to compromise the overall solution accuracy. This behavior can be explained that the spatial errors from the fifth-order WENO method are dominant on the grid resolutions up to  $N_x = N_y = 1600$ , after which the truncation errors associated with the third-order temporal methods become dominant over the error of the fifth-order spatial solver, WENO5. This result emphasizes the importance of high-order temporal



**Figure 5.3:** The  $L_1$  errors of the isentropic vortex advection test problem solved by third- and fourth-order temporal schemes combined with WENO5 spatial method. The  $L_1$  errors with respect to the grid resolutions (**top**); with respect to the computation time (**bottom**).

**Table 5.2:** The  $L_1$  errors, the rates of convergence, and the computation times for the vortex advection test solved using RK3 and SF-PIF3 methods (**top**); using RK4 and SF-PIF4 methods (**bottom**). All simulation runs are equipped with WENO5 spatial method, performed on the four 20-cores Cascade Lake Intel Xeon processors, utilized 64 parallel threads. CPU times are measured in seconds, averaged over 10 individual runs.

$N_x = N_y$	RK3				SF-PIF3			
	$L_1$ error	$L_1$ order	CPU Time	Speedup	$L_1$ error	$L_1$ order	CPU Time	Speedup
120	$6.31 \times 10^{-2}$	—	1.50 s	1.0	$6.16 \times 10^{-2}$	—	0.71 s	0.48
200	$8.20 \times 10^{-3}$	4.00	6.17 s	1.0	$7.96 \times 10^{-3}$	4.00	2.77 s	0.45
400	$4.02 \times 10^{-4}$	4.35	45.44 s	1.0	$3.86 \times 10^{-4}$	4.37	19.89 s	0.44
800	$1.57 \times 10^{-5}$	4.68	372.47 s	1.0	$1.51 \times 10^{-5}$	4.68	153.92 s	0.41
1600	$7.18 \times 10^{-7}$	4.45	2957.26 s	1.0	$6.95 \times 10^{-7}$	4.44	1203.10 s	0.41
3200	$5.72 \times 10^{-8}$	3.65	23 274.37 s	1.0	$5.60 \times 10^{-8}$	3.63	9494.65 s	0.41

$N_x = N_y$	RK4				SF-PIF4			
	$L_1$ error	$L_1$ order	CPU Time	Speedup	$L_1$ error	$L_1$ order	CPU Time	Speedup
120	$6.30 \times 10^{-2}$	—	2.50 s	1.0	$6.14 \times 10^{-2}$	—	1.47 s	0.59
200	$8.15 \times 10^{-3}$	4.00	10.42 s	1.0	$7.91 \times 10^{-3}$	4.01	5.33 s	0.51
400	$4.01 \times 10^{-4}$	4.35	78.47 s	1.0	$3.85 \times 10^{-4}$	4.36	35.89 s	0.46
800	$1.51 \times 10^{-5}$	4.73	641.50 s	1.0	$1.46 \times 10^{-5}$	4.72	270.94 s	0.42
1600	$5.33 \times 10^{-7}$	4.82	5115.47 s	1.0	$5.21 \times 10^{-7}$	4.81	2091.20 s	0.41
3200	$2.17 \times 10^{-8}$	4.62	40 195.034 s	1.0	$2.15 \times 10^{-8}$	4.60	16 377.73 s	0.41

methods in fine grid resolution: a high-order spatial method does require a *comparably* high-order temporal method to maintain the overall quality of the solutions, mainly when adding more grid resolutions to resolve finer scales more accurately. Otherwise, lower-order accuracy from the temporal solver can potentially degrade the solution accuracy, contradicting the intended motivation.

The performance results of recursive SF-PIF methods can be found on the right panel of Fig. 5.3 and Table 5.2. As shown in the right panel of Fig. 5.3, the SF-PIF3 method is the fastest method in reaching any given target  $L_1$  error threshold until  $N_x = 1600$ . However, on any grid resolutions finer than the critical resolution,  $N_x = 1600$ , SF-PIF3’s  $L_1$  error drops to the third-order convergence rate, which ultimately crosses the straight convergence line of SF-PIF4. SF-PIF3’s error will remain larger than the errors from the fourth-order temporal methods as long as the convergence rate follows the pattern at the high-resolution trail.

On the other hand, it is distinctively superior to see that SF-PIF4's solution reaches any fixed target error in a *faster* CPU time than the third-order RK3's solution while keeping the numerical errors as low as RK4 results at all grid resolution tested herein. Remark that Table 5.2 shows quantitatively that the SF-PIF4 method performs *faster* than the RK3 method, producing more accurate solutions at any grid resolution.

### 5.1.3 Sod shock tube problem

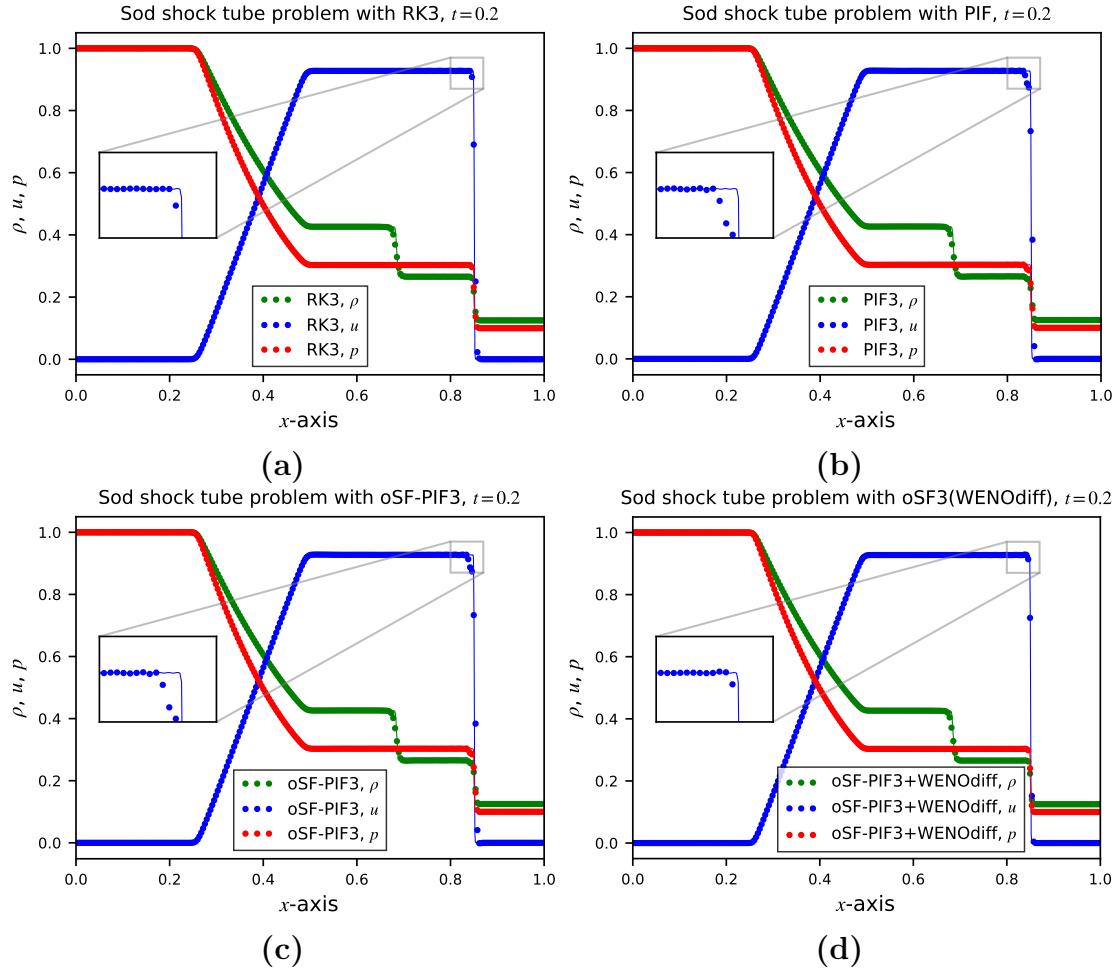
The Sod's shock tube problem [78] is the one of the most famous 1D hydrodynamics test problems for testing a numerical scheme's capability to handle discontinuities and shocks. The initial condition is given as,

$$(\rho, u, p) = \begin{cases} (1, 0, 1) & \text{for } x \leq 0.5, \\ (0.125, 0, 0.1) & \text{for } x > 0.5, \end{cases} \quad (5.3)$$

in a simulation box of  $[0, 1]$ , with outflow boundary conditions on both ends at  $x = 0$  and  $x = 1$ . This benchmark problem is an excellent practice to test if the PIF and oSF-PIF methods can capture the shock discontinuities appropriately.

The numerical solutions with the grid size of  $N_x = 256$  at  $t = 0.2$  are plotted as symbols in each panel of Fig. 5.4. The solid lines on each panel represent the reference solution resolved on a more finer grid size,  $N_x = 1024$ , by using WENO5+RK3. The results resolved with recursive SF-PIF3 methods are omitted in this figure, since the differences between SF-PIF3 and oSF-PIF3 are indistinguishable.

As illustrated in Fig. 5.4b and Fig. 5.4c, oSF-PIF3 method produce almost identical results of PIF3, agreeing with the reference solutions and RK3's solutions in Fig. 5.4a. However, both in PIF3 and oSF-PIF3 methods, there is a slight



**Figure 5.4:** Sod's shock tube problem at  $t = 0.2$ . The reference solutions are over-plotted as solid lines in each panel, which are resolved on a grid resolution of  $N_x = 1024$  with RK3. The symbols in each panel represent the solution resolved on  $N_x = 256$  grid cells with (a) RK3, (b) PIF3, and (c) oSF-PIF3. (d), the solution is resolved with oSF-PIF3 method combining with a new WENO-*like* numerical differentiate operator, described as in Eqs. (4.19) to (4.22).

oscillation in the x-velocity immediately behind the shock front. This small oscillation is originated from the use of the conventional central differencing formulae in Eq. (4.16) for both oSF-PIF3 and PIF3.

The WENO-*like* differencing strategy in Eqs. (4.19) to (4.22) can resolve this oscillation. As displayed in Fig. 5.4d, the interchanging central differencing to WENO-differencing helps to improve the performance of oSF-PIF3 at the shock, suppressing the post-shock oscillations observed in Fig. 5.4b and Fig. 5.4c. With this small fix, the oSF-PIF3 results are almost identical to the RK3 results in Fig. 5.4a. Computationally, the WENO-*like* differencing adds extra floating-point operations, which consequently slows down oSF-PIF's and SF-PIF's overall performance. For this reason, the WENO-*like* discretization was employed only on the Sod's shock-tube test as a guide, while it was opt-out on the rest of the test problems in this dissertation where any unphysical has not been observed shock/discontinuity oscillations.

### 5.1.4 Implosion test

The next problem to consider is the implosion test problem introduced by Hui et al. [44]. An unsteady flow configuration is given as an initial condition which launches a converging shock wave towards the domain center. Following a more straightforward version by Liska and Wendroff [55], the only right upper quadrant of the original setup in [44] is taken as the simulation domain. In this setup, the simulation is initialized on a region of a 2D square box,  $[0, 0.3] \times [0, 0.3]$ , enclosed with reflecting walls, in which case a converging shock wave is launched toward the lower-left corner at  $(x, y) = (0, 0)$ . The initial shock wave bounces at the reflecting walls and produces a double Mach reflection along two edges of  $x = 0$  and  $y = 0$ . Consequently, two jets are formed along the edges, moving toward

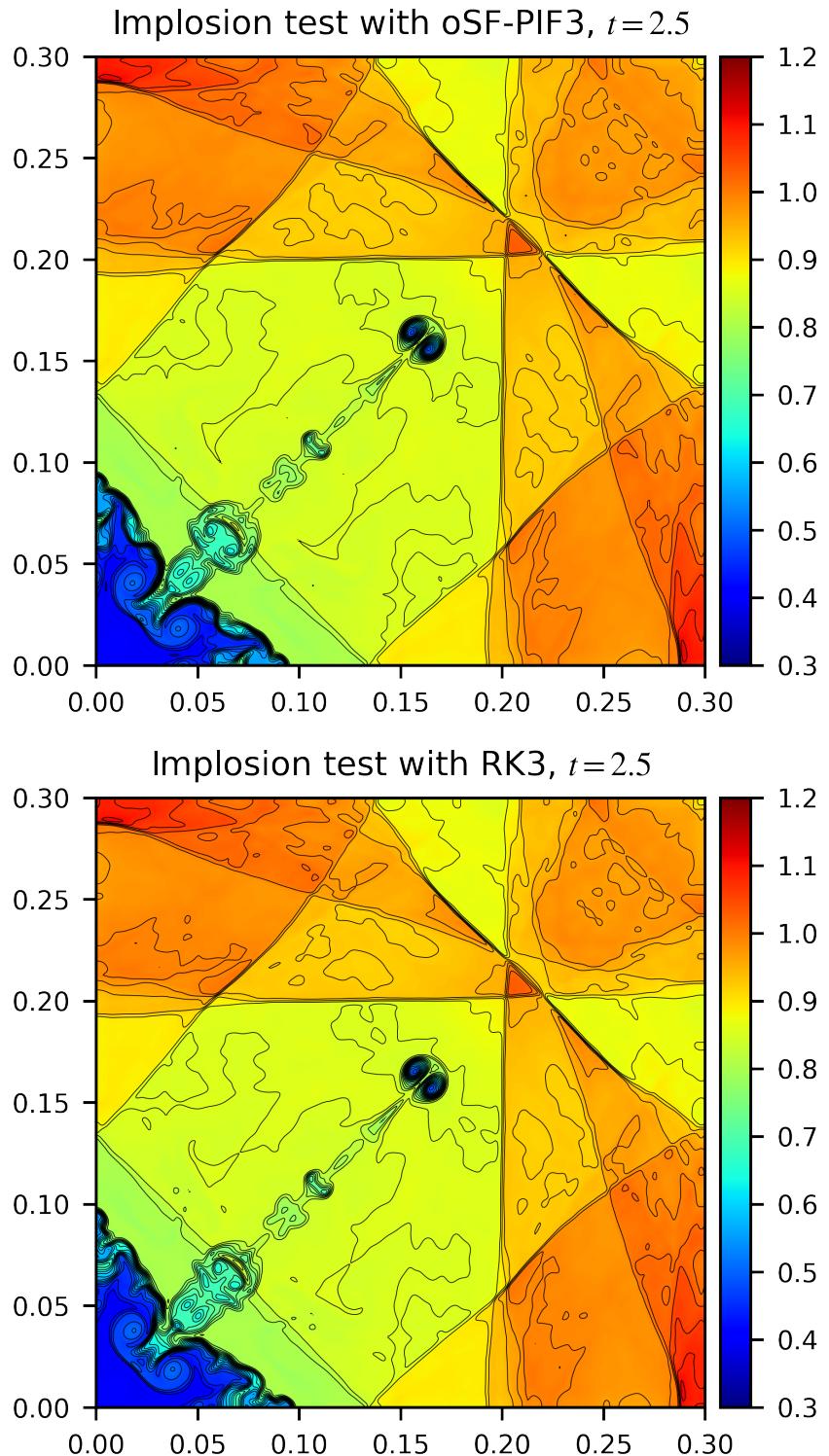
the origin  $(x, y) = (0, 0)$  and collide with each other. This two-jet collision then ejects a newly-formed jet into the diagonal direction  $x = y$ . Reflecting shocks continuously interact with the diagonal jet, turning it into a long and narrow shape over time. The observed structures of filaments and fingers along with the diagonal jet and at its base are progressively intensified by the Ritchmyer-Meshkov instability, a level of which depends sensitively on numerical dissipation.

The shape of the jet is the key view point of the implosion test since it is a good indicator of a numerical method's symmetric property and numerical dissipation. If the numerical scheme fails to maintain a high level of symmetry, the jet will eventually be derailed off-diagonally and deformed over time. Besides, an excess amount of numerical dissipation will turn the jet into a less narrow and less elongated shape along the diagonal.

The density maps of the implosion test performed on  $400 \times 400$  grid resolution at  $t = 2.5$  are displayed in Fig. 5.5. The result with oSF-PIF3 is on the left panel in Fig. 5.5 and RK3 on the right. These results can also be directly compared with Fig. 4.7 in [55] and Fig. 17 in [82]. The results of oSF-PIF3 (as well as RK3) present the well-maintained symmetric jet along the diagonal direction at a sufficient level. At the same time, the shape of the diagonal jet using oSF-PIF3 matches well with the shape using RK3, and hence is sufficient to demonstrate that the numerical dissipation in oSF-PIF3 is well-managed compared with RK3.

### 5.1.5 Shallow water equations

One of the essential features of the SF-PIF methods is that the SF-PIF methods can be applicable to any other system without changing the high-order parts of the simulation codes. As an example of the system independence feature, the simulation result by changing the system of equations to the 2D shallow water



**Figure 5.5:** The density profile of the implosion test with oSF-PIF3 (**top**) and with RK3 (**bottom**) resolved on  $400 \times 400$  grid resolution. The color map ranges from 0.3 to 1.2, and 40 evenly-spaced contour lines are over-plotted with the same range.

equations (SWE) without a source term is presented in this section. In SWE, the conservative variables and the flux functions are defined by,

$$\mathbf{U} = \begin{bmatrix} h \\ hu \\ hv \end{bmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{F}(\mathbf{U}) = \begin{bmatrix} hu \\ hu^2 + \frac{1}{2}gh^2 \\ huv \end{bmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{G}(\mathbf{U}) = \begin{bmatrix} hv \\ huv \\ hv^2 + \frac{1}{2}gh^2 \end{bmatrix}. \quad (5.4)$$

Here,  $h$  is the vertical depth of the fluid,  $\mathbf{v} = (u, v)$  is a vector of vertically-averaged velocity components in  $x$ - and  $y$ -directions. Denoted as  $g$  is a gravitational acceleration in the negative vertical  $z$ -direction, which is averaged out in the derivation of the shallow water equations.

The sole purpose of presenting the new system of equations above is to demonstrate the flexibility of SF-PIF schemes, in that the system-free approach allows an easy code implementation without the need for other analytical derivations of new Jacobian-*like* terms of the new governing system. By virtue of the system-independent property of the SF-PIF methods, the process of changing from the 2D Euler code to the 2D SWE code is no more than switching the governing equations without touching anything on the high-order numerical parts. This process is much simpler than other Lax-Wendroff type schemes (PIF, for example), where each governing system should re-calculate the Jacobian-*like* terms.

The well-known circular dam-breaking problem [2, 86, 27] is conducted to validate the numerical capability of the SF-PIF method in SWE. Initially, a volume of still water is confined in the virtual (i.e., invisible) cylindrical wall with a radius of 11 meters (m), located at the center of simulation domain, [50 m  $\times$  50 m] resolved on a 100  $\times$  100 grid resolution. The depth of the water inside of the wall is 10 m and 1 m outside. This configuration would be considered as an SWE version

of 2D Riemann problem. Explicitly, the initial condition is given as,

$$(h, u, v) = \begin{cases} (10 \text{ m}, 0, 0) & \text{for } r \leq 11 \text{ m}, \\ (1 \text{ m}, 0, 0) & \text{for } r > 11 \text{ m}, \end{cases} \quad (5.5)$$

where  $r$  is the distance from the center of domain,  $r = \sqrt{(x - 25 \text{ m})^2 + (y - 25 \text{ m})^2}$ .

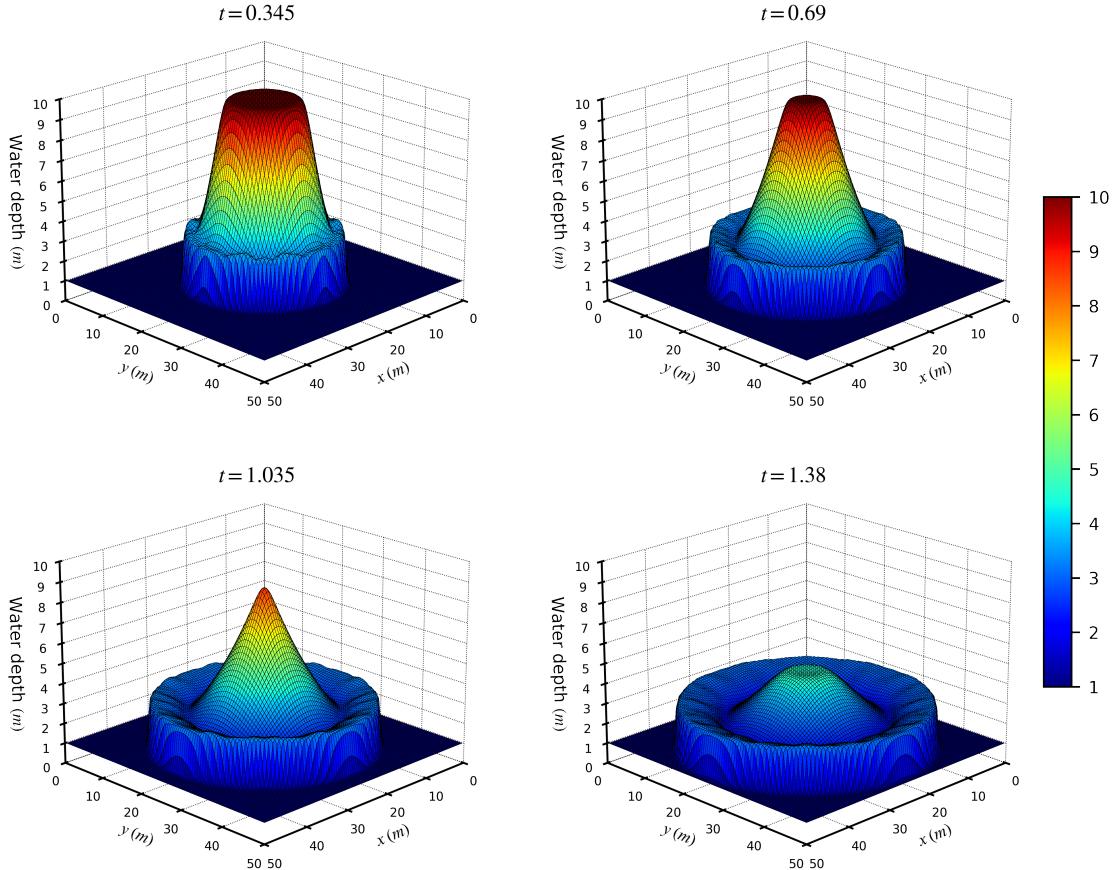
The outflow boundary condition is applied for both directions, and the gravitational acceleration is  $g = 9.81 \text{ m s}^{-2}$ . Again, the Courant number is set to  $C_{\text{cfl}} = 0.4$ .

The results of the simulation with the oSF-PIF3 method are presented in Fig. 5.6. The figure represents well-comparable numerical solutions with the results using the same configuration reported in [2, 86, 27]. As shown in Fig. 5.6, the overall spherical symmetry and the sharp profile at the wavefront are well-maintained in each snapshot at four different times,  $t = 0.345, 0.69, 1.035$ , and  $1.38$ .

## 5.2 SF-PIF method with WENO-JS

The previous section demonstrates that the original SF-PIF and recursive SF-PIF methods, combined with the traditional WENO method, generate the highly accurate and stable solution in faster computational time compared to the SSP-RK methods. This section provides numerical test results from additional benchmark problems, both in 2D and 3D, with the presence of strong shock. All simulations are performed with third-order and fourth-order *recursive* SF-PIF methods coupled with the traditional fifth-order WENO method described in Section 3.1.1. 2D simulations are carried out on high grid resolutions to emphasize the numerical effects of the temporal solver, as discussed in Section 5.1.2. The Courant condition with  $C_{\text{cfl}} = 0.4$  is used for all 2D simulations otherwise specified.

### Circular Dam Breaking with oSF-PIF3



**Figure 5.6:** Snapshots of the circular dam breaking simulation at four different times,  $t = 0.345, 0.69, 1.035$ , and  $1.38$  seconds. A volume of water in rest is initially confined in a cylindrical dam of a radius  $r = 11$  m and a height  $h = 10$  m. The simulation starts with an instantaneous removal of the cylindrical wall located at the center of the domain  $[50 \text{ m} \times 50 \text{ m}]$  resolved on a grid resolution of  $100 \times 100$ . The gravitational force is exerted on the steady water, which triggers the onset of the gravitational collapse of the entire volume of water, making the circular splash in the outer rim as well as the ripple effects in the central region that move radially outward in time.

### 5.2.1 The Shu-Osher problem (rotated 45°)

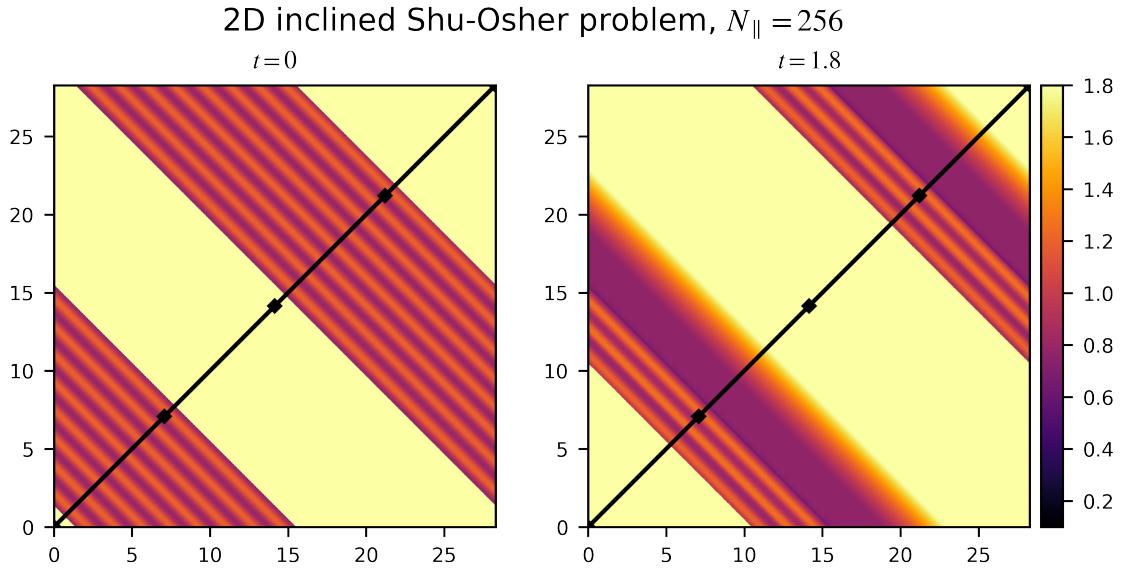
The Shu-Osher problem [77] is a well-known benchmark problem that describes the interactions between a Mach 3 shock and a smooth density profile. Initially, a Mach 3 shock wave travels to the right through a sinusoidally perturbed density profile. As the shock wave propagates along the perturbed region, the profile gets compressed, resulting in a frequency-doubled region behind the shock. As the shock wave moves further to the right, the doubled-frequency region returns to its original frequency, at which point it becomes a sequence of sharp profile instead of smooth sine wave due to the shock-steepening.

In this section, the Shu-Osher problem is performed in 2D by inclining the shock wave direction by an angle of  $\theta = 45^\circ$ , adopting the idea of Kawai [47], where the initial conditions are repeated multiple times along the direction of the wave propagation so that the problem may be executed with periodic boundary conditions. Explicitly, the initial condition is given as,

$$\mathbf{U}(x_{\parallel}, t = 0) = \begin{cases} \mathbf{U}_L & \text{for } x_{\parallel} \leq 1, \quad 11 < x_{\parallel} \leq 21, \quad 31 < x_{\parallel} \leq 40, \\ \mathbf{U}_R & \text{for } 1 < x_{\parallel} \leq 11, \quad 21 < x_{\parallel} \leq 31, \end{cases}$$

$$\text{where } \mathbf{U}_L = \begin{bmatrix} \rho = 3.857143 \\ u = 2.629369 \cos(\pi/4) \\ v = 2.629369 \sin(\pi/4) \\ p = 10.33333 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{U}_R = \begin{bmatrix} \rho = 1 + 0.2 \sin(5x_{\parallel}) \\ u = 0 \\ v = 0 \\ p = 1 \end{bmatrix}. \quad (5.6)$$

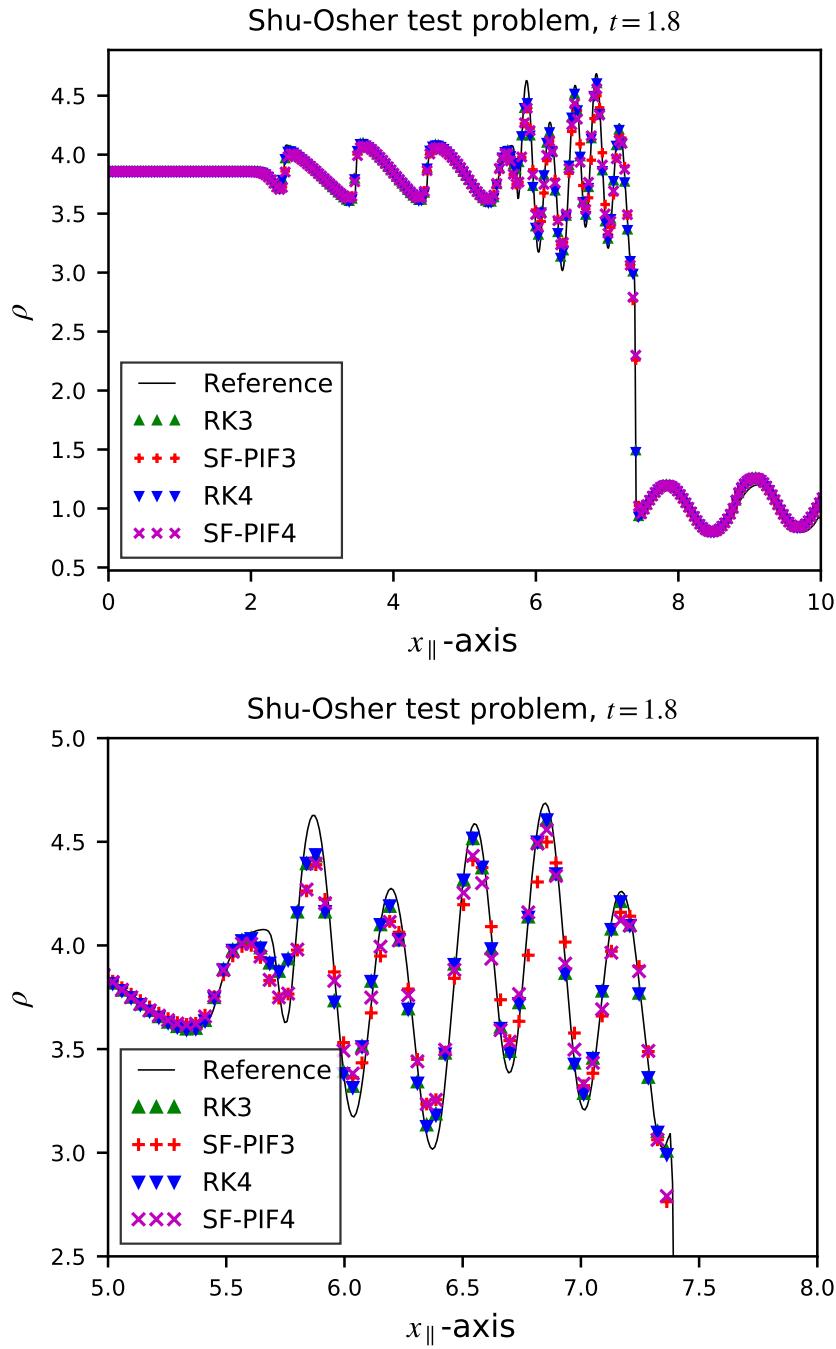
$x_{\parallel} = x \cos \theta + y \sin \theta$  is the direction parallel to the wave propagation and the simulation domain is a periodic box of  $[0, 20/\cos \theta] \times [0, 20/\sin \theta]$ . With this configuration, the 1D test problem, Shu-Osher test, can be performed on the diagonal direction of 2D periodic box. The same 1D solution is expected by



**Figure 5.7:** 2D density maps of inclined 2D Shu-Osher test problem at  $t = 0$  and  $t = 1.8$ . The test was performed on a 2D simulation box of  $1024 \times 1024$  resolution with the SF-PIF4 method. The solid black line represents the shock propagating direction,  $x_{\parallel}$ , and square markers divide the line in each quartile.

following the diagonal direction,  $x_{\parallel}$ , and taking only the bottom-left quarter of the diagonal axis. Therefore, the number of data points of this result profiles would be a quarter of the 2D grid resolution, i.e.,  $N_{\parallel} = N_x/4 = N_y/4$ . The 2D density map of the initial and final conditions are plotted in Fig. 5.7.

The density profiles of the bottom-left quarter of the diagonal axis  $x_{\parallel}$  are given in Fig. 5.8. All tests are performed on a box of resolution  $N_x = N_y = 1024$ , so the effective resolution of each profile is  $N_{\parallel} = 256$ , except for the reference solution, which performed on a finer grid,  $N_{\parallel} = 1024$ . The four different temporal methods, RK3, RK4, SF-PIF3, and SF-PIF4 produce reasonably acceptable solution profiles capturing the high-frequency amplitudes fairly well in the frequency-doubled region. Generally, RK methods capture the amplitudes marginally better, but in the left-most part of the double-frequency region,  $x \approx 5.8$ , SF-PIF methods capture the highest peak of the amplitude better than the RK methods near the transition between the frequency doubling and the shock steepened perturbations.



**Figure 5.8:** One dimensional density profiles along the  $x_{\parallel}$  direction of the inclined Shu-Osher problem at  $t = 1.8$ . The solid line represents the reference solution, solved by RK4 with 1024 data points in the diagonal axis, i.e.,  $N_{\parallel} = 1024$ . All other solutions, represented by the symbols, are resolved on an  $N_{\parallel} = 256$  grid resolution in the diagonal axis. The detailed view of the high-frequency region is shown on the right panel.

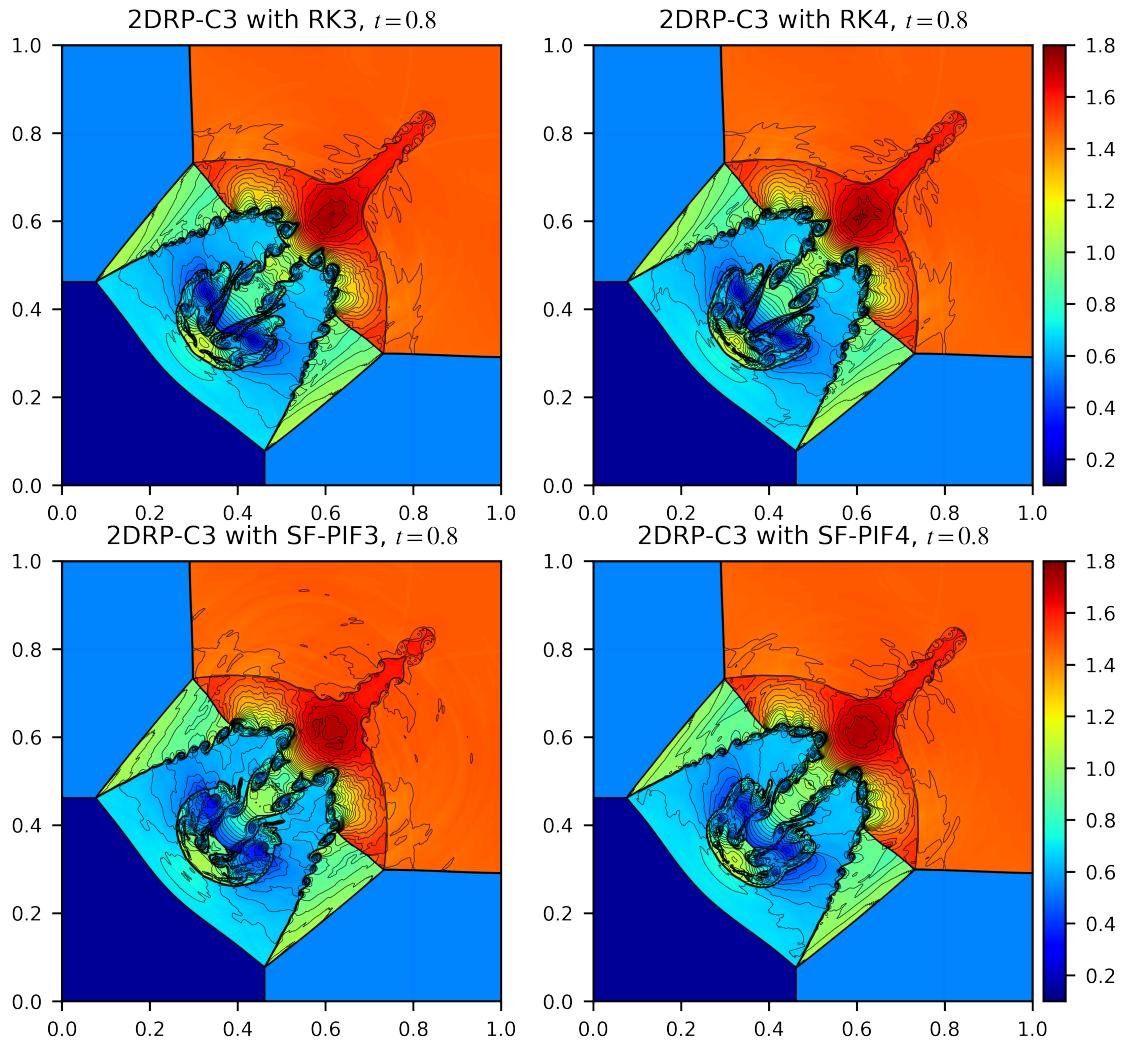
### 5.2.2 2D Riemann problem: Configuration 3

The two-dimensional Riemann problem is a widespread benchmark problem to test the methods' ability to capture the complex fluid structures in 2D. This specific setup and other types of configurations have been extensively studied in [94, 70, 71] and have been adopted as prevalent benchmark test problems. This dissertation follows the initial condition of Configuration 3 described in [28, 52, 53, 54].

The simulation domain is set on  $1600 \times 1600$  grid resolution, which is generally considered as a very high resolution in 2D simulation. This grid resolution choice is made based on the observation in Section 5.1.2 to ensure that the temporal errors are comparable to or dominant over the spatial errors; thereby, the temporal error dominant results are anticipated that allows to see the different behaviors of four different temporal solvers.

The results at  $t = 0.8$  are shown in Fig. 5.9. The pseudo-colors represent the density map ranging between  $[0.1, 1.8]$ , and 40 contour lines within the same range are over-plotted as solid black lines.

As illustrated in the figures, all four different temporal schemes produce well-known, acceptable results, keeping the assumed diagonal symmetry exceptionally well on this high resolution. This problem is highly nonlinear, involving formations of the upward-moving jet, the downward-moving mushroom-jet, secondary Kelvin-Helmholtz instabilities exhibited as the small-scale vortical rollups along the slip lines and along the stems of the two jets. Therefore, it is a non-trivial task to address if a method under consideration is *better* or *worse* based on the number of such rollups in the simulations without a systemic comparison analysis requiring extensive, careful validation and verification tests that are beyond the scope of this dissertation. At best, such quantification can only provide proof of



**Figure 5.9:** The density maps of Configuration 3 at  $t = 0.8$ . **Left column:** The solutions using RK3 (top) and SF-PIF3 (bottom). **Right column:** The solutions using RK4 (top) and SF-PIF4 (bottom). Forty levels of black contour lines are over-plotted in each figure with the same range of the color map. All simulations are performed on a  $1600 \times 1600$  grid resolution.

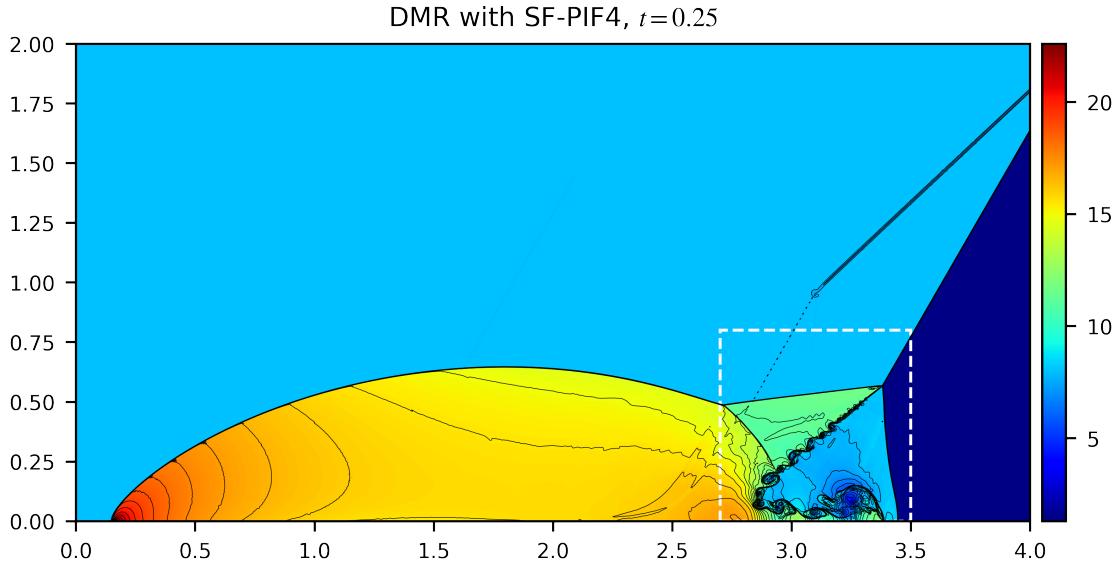
intrinsic information about the amount of numerical dissipation of each method. From this perspective, one concludes that the two SF-PIF solutions produce the equivalent amount of vortical rollups compared with the corresponding RK solutions, although their different shapes on the downward jets, confirming the validity of the recursive SF-PIF methods on the presence of the shocks in 2D simulations.

### 5.2.3 Double Mach reflection

The double Mach reflection (DMR) test problem was firstly introduced by Woodward and colella [91]. At initial, a planar shock is located at the left side of the domain with a  $30^\circ$  to the reflecting bottom surface. As the shock propagates to the right, the bottom wall continuously bounces off the shock wave and creates a round reflected shock. The initial condition is the same as the original setup in [91], except for the doubled the  $y$ -domain size following [48] to prevent numerical artifacts from the top boundary interaction with the secondary shock wave and the slip line.

As the solution evolves, two contact discontinuities and two Mach stems are formed, as well as a jet along the bottom surface. The formation of the jet is similar to the formation of the two jets in implosion test (Section 5.1.4), the collision of which led to the upward moving diagonal jet. The solution density profiles resolved with the SF-PIF4 method is portrayed in Fig. 5.10.

Fig. 5.11 shows the zoomed-in views of the main point of interest in the DMR problem, the vicinity of the jet and the primary triple point, resolved with four different temporal solvers. Again, the results from the third- and fourth-order SF-PIF methods produce well-acceptable results compared to the corresponding RK methods. There are minor differences in the shape of Kelvin-Helmholtz instabilities along the primary slip line and the bottom jet, but the overall dynamics of



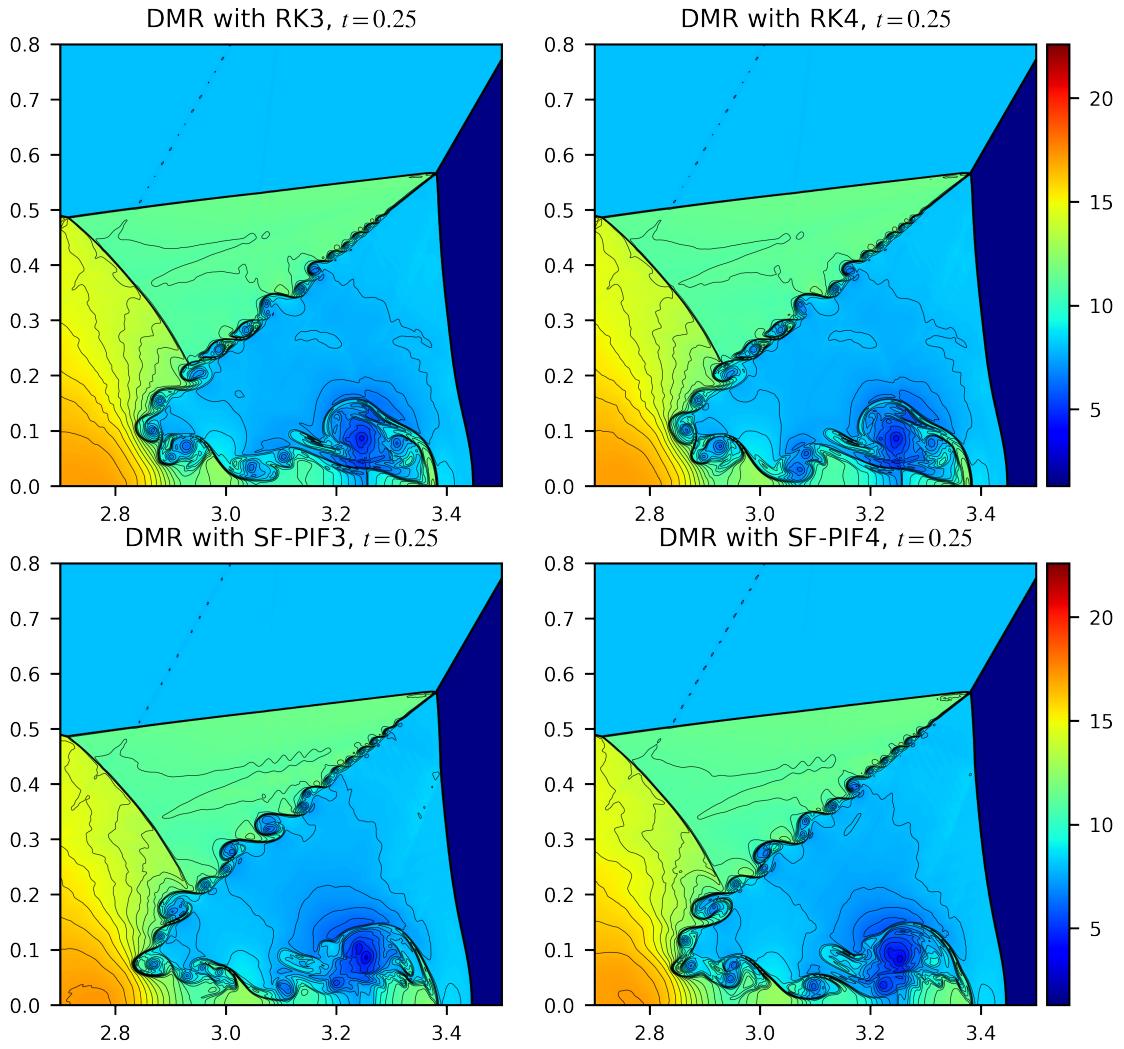
**Figure 5.10:** The solution density profile of Double Mach reflection test solved with SF-PIF4 method on a  $4096 \times 2048$  grid resolution. The solid black curves represent the forty levels of contour lines ranging within the same range of the colormap. The white-dotted rectangle is the main point of interest in this simulation, where the jet and the primary triple point are formed. More detailed view of the rectangle region with different temporal solvers are plotted in Fig. 5.11.

the two SF-PIF solutions match well with the RK solutions, validating the fidelity of the proposed SF-PIF methods in the presence of a strong shock.

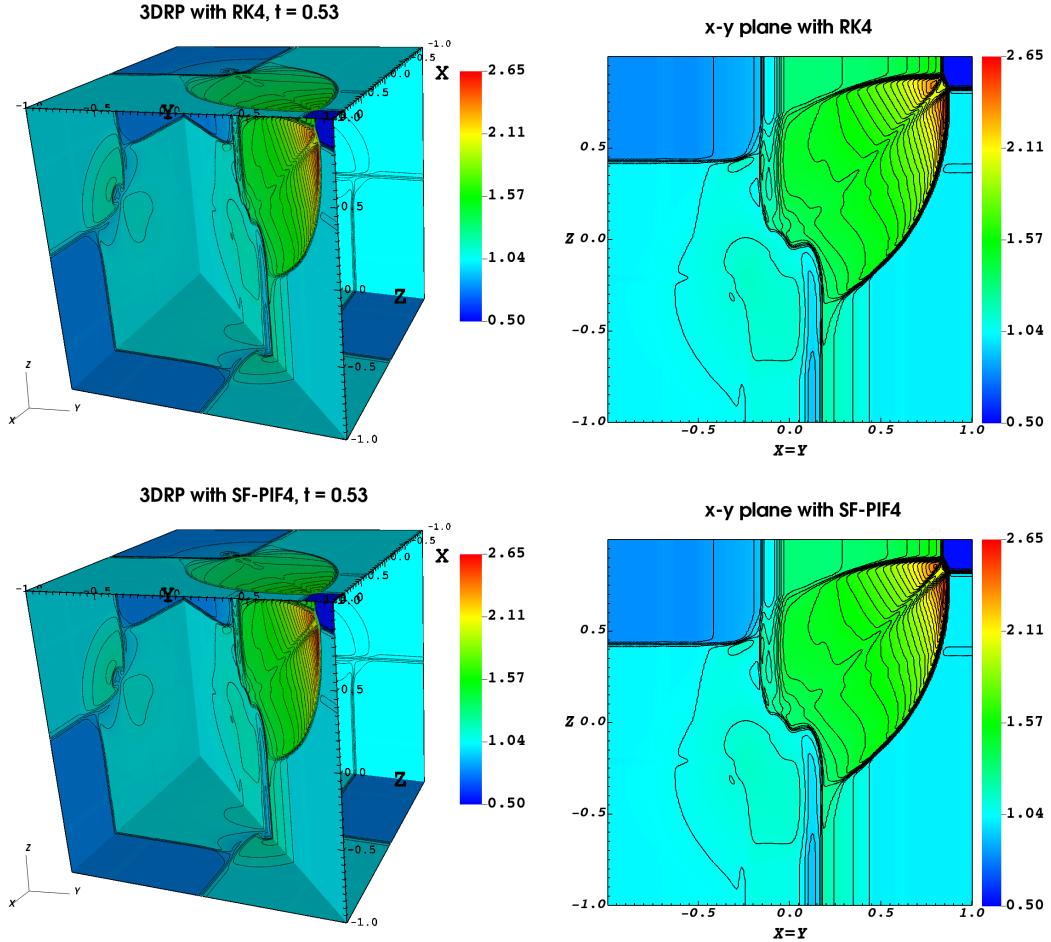
#### 5.2.4 3D Riemann problem

The 3D Riemann problem is the 3D extension of the 2D Riemann problem described in Section 5.2.2, introduced by Balsara [5]. Initially, each octant of the computational domain,  $[-1, 1] \times [-1, 1] \times [-1, 1]$ , has constant initial conditions, each of which will carry out 2D Riemann problem including the diagonal plane of the 3D computational cubic.

The results of 3D Riemann problem solved with RK4 and SF-PIF4 are illustrated in Fig. 5.12. The solutions were resolved on a  $256 \times 256 \times 256$  grid resolution. The pseudo-color map ranges between  $[0.5, 2.65]$ , and 40 levels of contour lines are



**Figure 5.11:** The density map of the double Mach reflection test at  $t = 0.25$  zoomed-in near the jet. Forty levels of contour lines are over-plotted in solid black curves with the same range of the color map. All simulation results are performed on a  $4096 \times 2048$  grid resolution. **Left column:** The solutions using RK3 (top) and SF-PIF3 (bottom). **Right column:** The solutions using RK4 (top) and SF-PIF4 (bottom).



**Figure 5.12:** The density maps of the 3D Riemann problem test at  $t = 0.53$ . Forty contour lines are over-plotted. The left panels show each face's geometrical views, while the right panels show the detailed picture of the diagonal planes. All simulations are performed on a  $256 \times 256 \times 256$  grid resolution, solved with RK4 (**top**) and SF-PIF4 (**bottom**) solvers. The Courant condition,  $C_{\text{cfl}} = 0.3$  is used for calculating the timestep.

**Table 5.3:** Performance results for the 3DRP test problem. All performance results (measured in seconds) are averaged over five simulation runs conducted on 16 nodes. Each node has  $2 \times 20$ -core Intel Xeon Gold 6248 (Cascade Lake) CPUs, and the simulation utilized 512 parallel threads for each run.

Grid Resolution	RK3		SF-PIF3		RK4		SF-PIF4	
	CPU Time	Speedup						
$64 \times 64 \times 64$	1.79 s	1.0	1.09 s	0.61	2.95 s	1.64	2.67 s	1.49
$128 \times 128 \times 128$	15.62 s	1.0	7.63 s	0.49	25.88 s	1.66	18.97 s	1.21
$256 \times 256 \times 256$	191.00 s	1.0	82.02 s	0.43	321.34 s	1.68	201.40 s	1.05
$512 \times 512 \times 512$	2679.85 s	1.0	1173.54 s	0.44	4507.88 s	1.68	2817.78 s	1.05

over-plotted using the same range. As depicted in Fig. 5.12, each surface of 3D computational domain evolves different 2D Riemann problems, including the diagonal plane which is separately plotted on the left panel. The recursive SF-PIF4 method is able to capture all the important features as much as the RK4 result, confirming the validity of the SF-PIF4 method in 3D simulation with strong shocks.

Table 5.3 shows the performance results for the 3D Riemann problem test on four grid resolutions. As shown in the table, the SF-PIF4 method demonstrates nearly the same performance as the *third*-order RK method, especially in high-resolution cases. It is important to note that the performance gains from the SF-PIF methods are more compensated on the high-resolution grids, which are indispensable for high fidelity physical simulation studies.

### 5.3 SF-PIF method with GP-WENO

As mentioned in Chapter 4, the SF-PIF method is an entirely independent temporal solver, which does not require any modification in the spatial high-order part of the simulation codes alike RK methods. For the purpose of demonstrating the portability of the SF-PIF method, this section will conduct several test problems using GP-WENO (instead of the conventional WENO as in the previous

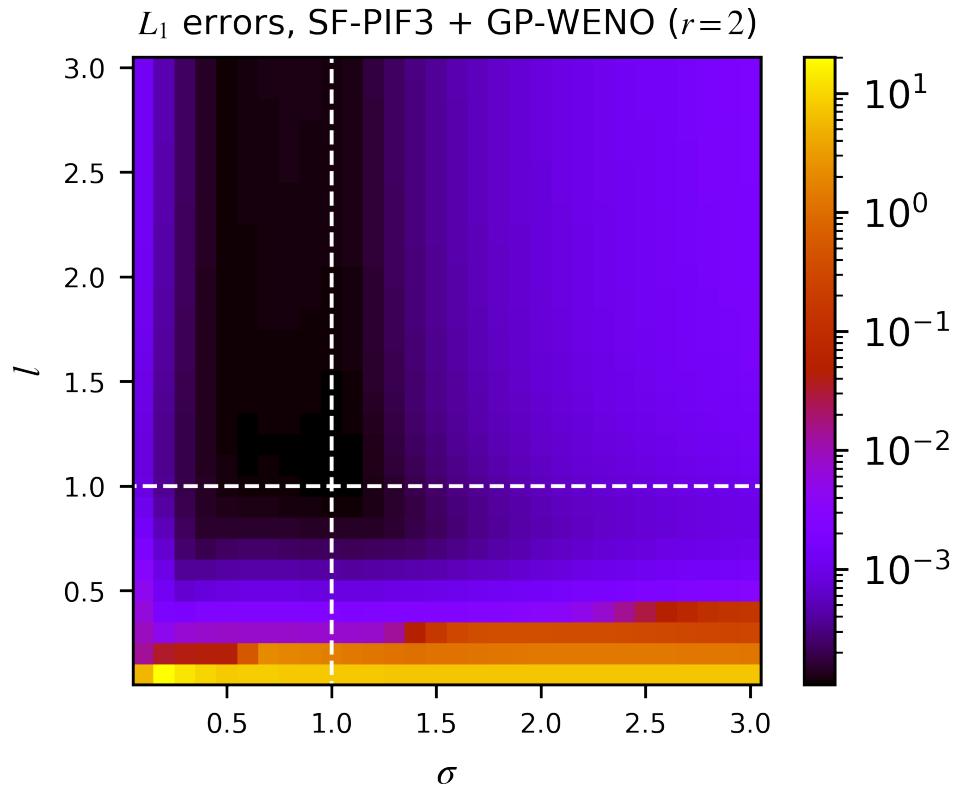
sections) described in Section 3.1.2 as a spatial high-order reconstruction method combining with SF-PIF methods for time integration strategy.

### 5.3.1 Hyperparameters

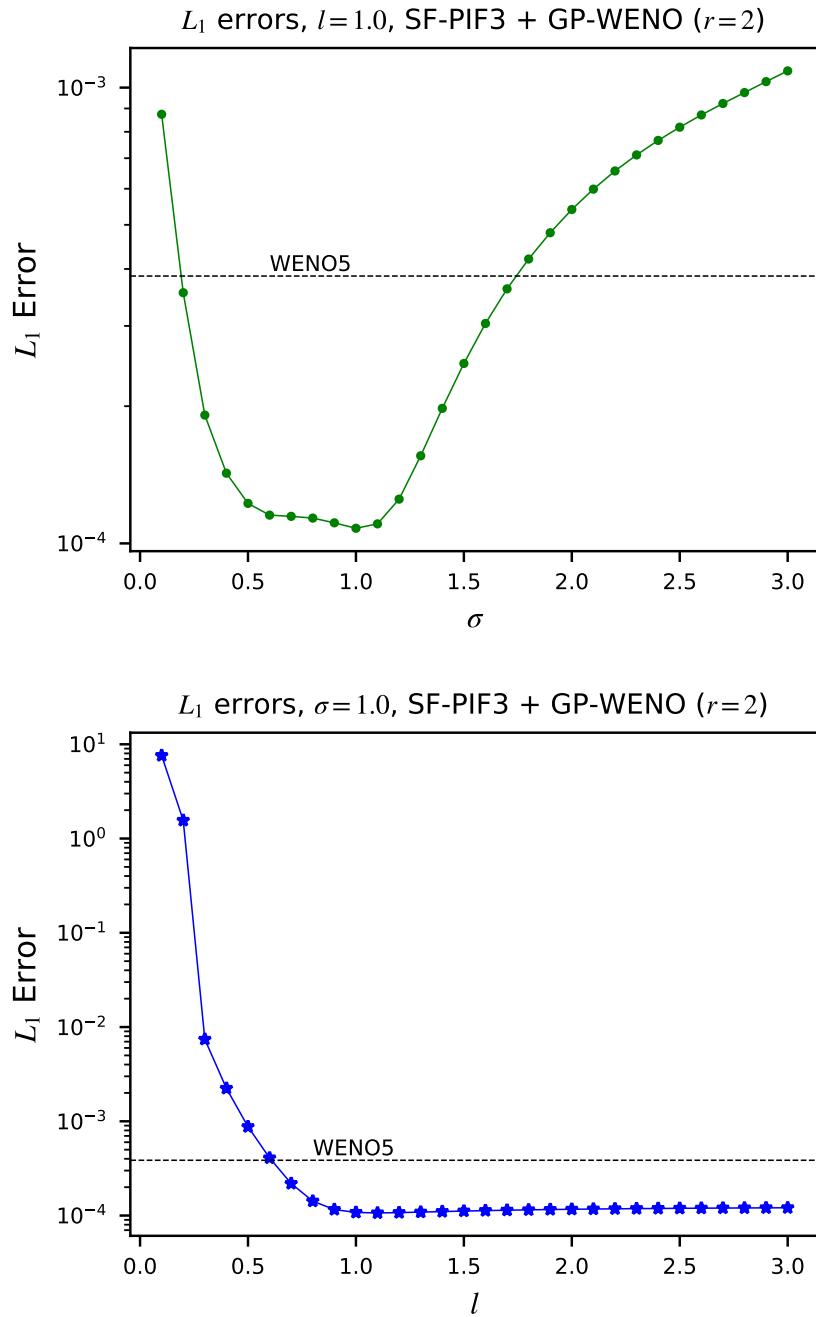
Unlike the polynomial-based reconstruction schemes, the GP method lacks any analytical considerations of the behavior of numerical errors with respect to the grid resolutions. This is further complicated by the use of nonlinear weighting in the GP-WENO method, which is necessary to capture the discontinuities appropriately. Consequently, direct numerical experiments should be conducted to predict the numerical errors from the GP-WENO method.

The GP-WENO method has two hyperparameters that need to be tuned, the length hyperparameter  $\ell$  and the shock-capturing hyperparameter  $\sigma$ . The numerical errors from the 2D vortex advection problem with varying hyperparameters are illustrated in Fig. 5.13. The simulations are conducted on  $400 \times 400$  grid resolutions, resolved with SF-PIF3 temporal solver with the same setup in Section 5.1.2. As dotted white lines represent, the minimum error has been found with  $\ell = \sigma = 1$  for this systematic test.

Fig. 5.14 shows the slice plots by following the dotted lines in Fig. 5.13, showing the  $L_1$  errors with the best choice of  $\ell$  and  $\sigma$ . Surprisingly, the shock-capturing hyperparameter  $\sigma$  affects the solution accuracy, even though the solution is entirely smooth. Theoretically speaking, the vortex advection test is a nonlinear smooth problem, and  $\sigma$  only plays a role in the presence of a shock discontinuity; thus, it has to have the same errors across all sigma values. The different errors with varying sigma in the smooth problem are the indication of numerical errors in calculating nonlinear weights of GP-WENO. This could be arisen from calculating the linear weights, (i.e., solving the overdetermined system Eq. (3.37))



**Figure 5.13:** The  $L_1$  errors of vortex advection problem in Section 5.1.2 solved by GP-WENO and SF-PIF3 on a  $400 \times 400$  grid resolution. The radius of GP-WENO stencil is  $r = 2$ , which is the same stencil size of the fifth-order WENO method. Using other temporal solvers produces the same pattern, and omitted in this study. The white dotted-lines are represent the hyperparameters of minimum error.



**Figure 5.14:** The slices of Fig. 5.13 at the minimum error. The horizontal dotted line is the target error obtained from WENO method with same configurations.

**Table 5.4:** The  $L_1$  errors, the rates of convergence, and the computation times for the vortex advection test solved using GP-WENO method with radius of  $r = 2$ . The hyperparameters,  $\ell = 1$  and  $\sigma = 0.3$  are used for all simulation based on the results of Fig. 5.15. The “Speedup” columns represent the relative speed-ups compared to the WENO5 method with corresponding SF-PIF temporal solvers. All simulation runs are performed on the four 20-cores Cascade Lake Intel Xeon processors, utilized 64 parallel threads. CPU times are measured in seconds, averaged over 10 individual runs.

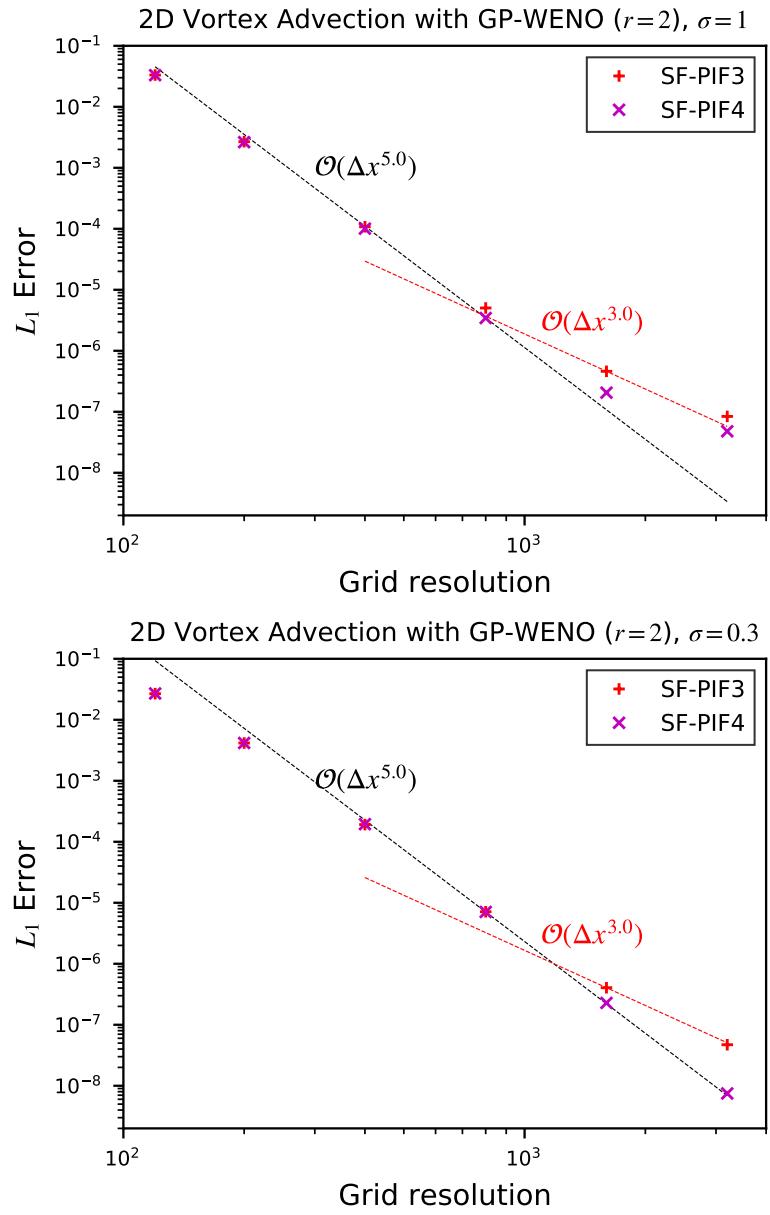
$N_x = N_y$	GP-WENO + SF-PIF3				GP-WENO + SF-PIF4			
	$L_1$ error	$L_1$ order	CPU Time	Speedup	$L_1$ error	$L_1$ order	CPU Time	Speedup
120	$2.68 \times 10^{-2}$	—	0.67 s	0.95	$2.67 \times 10^{-2}$	—	1.36 s	0.92
200	$4.16 \times 10^{-3}$	3.65	2.43 s	0.88	$4.17 \times 10^{-3}$	3.66	4.97 s	0.93
400	$1.91 \times 10^{-4}$	4.44	16.86 s	0.85	$1.94 \times 10^{-4}$	4.42	33.39 s	0.93
800	$7.12 \times 10^{-5}$	4.75	133.79 s	0.87	$7.07 \times 10^{-6}$	4.78	252.08 s	0.93
1600	$4.05 \times 10^{-7}$	4.14	1061.26 s	0.88	$2.28 \times 10^{-7}$	4.95	1944.68 s	0.93
3200	$4.71 \times 10^{-8}$	3.10	8375.05 s	0.89	$7.48 \times 10^{-9}$	4.93	15 514.25 s	0.95

or calculating smoothness indicators in Eq. (3.39), which requires further studies. Nonetheless, since the numerical solvers are involved in calculating both the linear weights and smoothness indicators, e.g., the least square method and QR algorithm, numerical errors are inevitable in GP-WENO nonlinear weights.

Notwithstanding the fact that the GP-WENO method with  $\sigma = 1$  has the smallest amount of  $L_1$  errors from the previous tests, however, another numerical tests argue that the large  $\sigma$  values degrade the solution accuracy in high-resolution simulation.

Fig. 5.15 shows that the GP-WENO method’s hyperparameter  $\sigma$  affects the convergence rate significantly. As shown in the left panel of Fig. 5.15, the GP-WENO method with the choice of  $\sigma = 1$  can not retain the expected order of convergence rate in high-resolution regimes both with SF-PIF3 and SF-PIF4 methods. On the other hand, the choice of  $\sigma = 0.3$  on the right panel of Fig. 5.15 shows similar performance results as in the discussions of Section 5.1.2, although the absolute magnitudes of  $L_1$  errors are slightly larger than the case of  $\sigma = 1$ .

The detailed numerics of the GP-WENO’s convergence tests are summarized



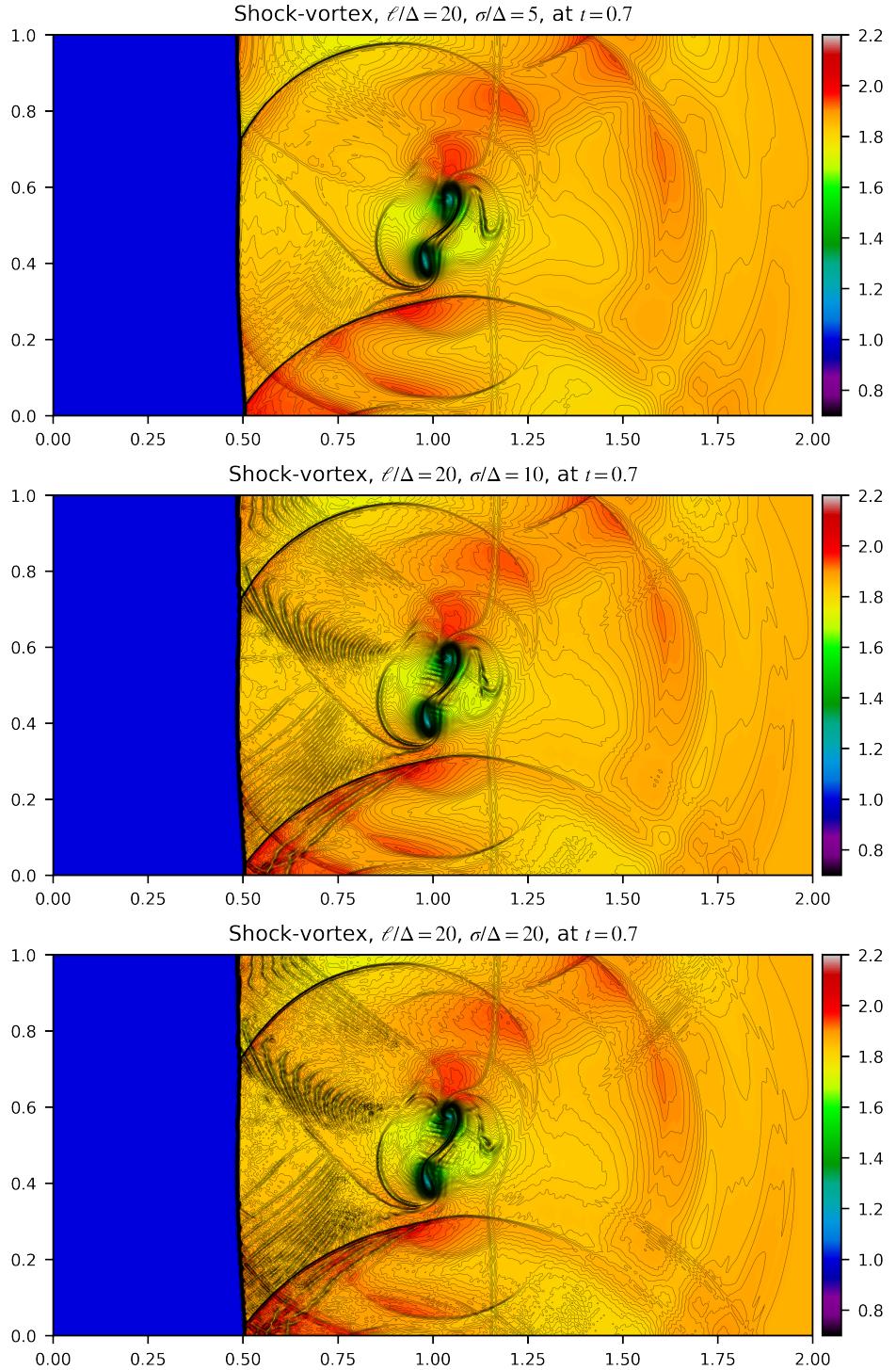
**Figure 5.15:** The convergence rate of GP-WENO method with  $r = 2$  obtained by solving 2D isentropic vortex advection problem on varying grid resolutions. Two temporal methods, SF-PIF3 and SF-PIF4 are used for integrating the solution, and the behavior of third-order and fourth-order temporal schemes is identical to the results from Section 5.1.2. The GP length hyperparameters,  $\ell = 1$  is used for both tests, and the shock-capturing hyperparameter **top**:  $\sigma = 1$ , and **bottom**:  $\sigma = 0.3$  are used. The tests with  $\sigma = 1$  on the top panel have smaller absolute  $L_1$  error, but failed to maintaining the convergence rate on high-resolution grids. On the other hand, tests with  $\sigma = 0.3$  demonstrate consistent convergence rate on all grid configurations.

in Table 5.4. The all simulation runs are performed with the same configurations of WENO5 tests in Table 5.2; thus, the “Speedup” columns portray the relative speed-ups of GP-WENO method compared to the conventional fifth-order WENO method. The GP-WENO method with appropriately selected hyperparameters produces less  $L_1$  errors and better convergence rate with the high-order temporal method, SF-PIF4. On the other hand, the GP-WENO method coupled with the relatively low-order temporal solver, SF-PIF3, experiences the convergence rate degradation more faster than the WENO5.

### 5.3.2 Strong shock vortex interaction

In order to test GP-WENO’s numerical capability to capturing a complex flow patterns with both smooth regions and discontinuous shock waves, the strong shock vortex interaction test [20, 35] is considered. Initially, a Mach 1.5 stationary shock is present at  $x = 0.5$ , and the vortex is located at the center of  $(x_c, y_c) = (0.25, 0.5)$ . As the simulation evolves, the vortex moves with the background flow, which is traveling toward to a stationary shock. Consequently, the vortex penetrates the stationary shock, evolving complex fluid structures of the “squeezed” vortex. The computational domain is a 2D rectangle box of  $[0, 2] \times [0, 1]$  with an inflow boundary on the left and an outflow boundary on the right. Bottom and top boundaries are reflected walls.

The results of the simulation of the GP-WENO method with varying  $\sigma$  are presented in Fig. 5.16. The SF-PIF3 method is used as a temporal method on a  $[1024 \times 512]$  grid resolution. The obtained solutions with GP-WENO and SF-PIF3 methods are well-comparable with the reference solution presented in [20, 35]. The GP hyperparameters are normalized with the grid scale  $\Delta$ , as suggested in [68, 69]. The length-scale hyperparameters,  $\ell/\Delta = 20$  is taken based on the results of the



**Figure 5.16:** The density colormaps of the strong shock vortex interaction problem. The GP-WENO ( $r = 2$ ) + SF-PIF3 method are used for all simulation runs on  $[1024 \times 512]$  grid resolution with varying hyperparameter,  $\sigma/\Delta$ . The pseudo-colors represent the density map ranging between  $[0.75, 2.2]$ , and 200 contour lines within the same range are over-plotted as solid black lines.

previous section (e.g.,  $\ell/\Delta = 20$  is equivalent to  $\ell = 1$  with the vortex problem of  $400 \times 400$  resolution grid) and various shock-capturing hyperparameters,  $\sigma/\Delta = 5, 10$ , and  $20$  are tested.

As shown in Fig. 5.16, the larger values of  $\sigma/\Delta$  is better to capture the small-scale fluid structures, especially on the trailing waves of the vortex around  $0.5 \leq x \leq 1$ . However, as discussed in Section 5.2.2 before, identifying the numerical artifacts in the small-scale fluids is not feasible without extensive numerical tests. The only rational discussion is that the larger  $\sigma$  values can produce less dissipative solutions or generate numerical oscillations. Extensive research about the effect of  $\sigma$  is required to identifying the proper way to tune the hyperparameters, which remained a further study to this dissertation.

# Chapter 6

## Conclusion

A new high-order numerical method solving the conservative system of the partial differential equation has been developed under the finite difference formulation. The proposed high-order discretization strategy, the SF-PIF method, has been tested with several benchmark problems and demonstrated high-order accuracy and fast performance. The SF-PIF method provides an efficient way to update the solution in high-order accuracy without significant efforts to implement it into the existing code.

The third-order in temporal PIF method was originally proposed in [72], and it furnishes an efficient single-stage time integration strategy in the finite difference discretization. Based on the Lax-Wendroff/Cauchy-Kowalevski procedures, the PIF method converts the time derivatives into spatial derivatives, ensuring the explicit form of the time-Taylor series. However, the tight coupling between the spatial and temporal derivatives requires the flux Jacobian and Hessian tensors. The flux Jacobians' high-order derivatives are highly dependent on the system of equations; hence extending the PIF method to higher than fourth-order or implementing it to other systems is less attractive and requires effort compared to the traditional multi-stage Runge-Kutta methods.

The system-free approach can resolve this issue. The system-free approach provides a numerical strategy to approximating the tensor contractions between high-order derivatives of Jacobian tensors and arbitrary vectors instead of deriving the analytical form of Jacobian-*like* terms. This new design concept is combined with the original PIF method offering better portability and extensibility. The system-free PIF method, SF-PIF method, demonstrated that the numerical approximation of the tensor contractions does not affect the solution's accuracy and stability. In the various numerical test results presented in Section 5.1, the original SF-PIF method produces nearly identical solutions from the PIF method, maintaining the overall quality of numerical solutions. As a result, the original SF-PIF method provides an alternative way to achieve high-order temporal accuracy in the finite difference method, guaranteeing the same numerical characteristics as the PIF method.

The main concept of designing the system-free approach is to make a numerical method independent of the system of equations. As described by its name, the system-free method is entirely independent of the system of equations; thus, it can be implemented to any other system without a hassle. The system independence feature of the system-free method is a unique characteristic among the conventional Lax-Wendroff type schemes that generally require modifying the code to change the system of equations. In Section 5.1.5, the SF-PIF method demonstrates that it can be applied to other simulation codes – from the Euler equations solver to the Shallow Water equation solver – without changing the numerical part of the code.

The system-independence feature can also fuel the extension of the PIF method to the nonhomogeneous equation, e.g., the Euler equations with a nonlinear source term. The initial effort in extending the mathematical form of the PIF method to

the nonhomogeneous equation solver has been made in Section 4.4. In this scenario, the new Jacobian-*like* terms of the source function are required to maintain the overall temporal accuracy. Here, the system-free method can approximate those terms as well, in the same mathematical strategy. Since the system-free method can be identically applied to any source function, modifications of the numerical structures would not be required in the different forms of source terms. Testing numerical capabilities of the SF-PIF method with a source term is the first prioritized further study for this dissertation.

However, the original system-free approach demands one additional step to finalizing the approximation of the tensor contraction, which makes the system-free approach less extensible to higher than third-order schemes. The modification step is originated from the discrepancy between the numerical strategies to approximating tensor contractions of the same vectors and different vectors, and it requires an exponentially increasing amount of computational costs in extending to the higher-order scheme. In this regard, an improved numerical strategy for the system-free approach is needed for the fourth-order extension of the PIF method.

The recursive version of the system-free method is then proposed in Section 4.3. Instead of directly building approximations for high-order derivatives of the flux Jacobians, the improved system-free method applies the Jacobian-vector contraction recursively, avoiding further modifications to handling different vector cases. Theoretically speaking, the recursive system-free method can approximate rank-4 tensor contractions more than three times faster than the original system-free method. Moreover, the recursive system-free method has more compact code structures as well. Needless to say, the recursive strategy does not degrade the quality of numerical solutions.

The PIF method is a purely high-order temporal scheme, meaning any spa-

tial high-order reconstruction/interpolation schemes can be combined. Initially, the PIF method uses the conventional fifth-order WENO reconstruction method, which is one of the most popular high-order reconstruction methods in the CFD community. GP-WENO method, on the other hand, is another class of high-order reconstruction scheme proposed recently. Unlike the conventional reconstruction schemes based on the piecewise polynomials, the GP-WENO method utilizes the Gaussian process (GP) to estimating the data at unknown points in a stochastic way. GP-WENO method brings the nonlinear weighting idea from the conventional WENO method in order to capture the shock discontinuities appropriately, which is inevitable in nonlinear fluid simulations. GP-WENO was firstly introduced under the finite volume method and the primitive-variable-based finite difference method, but the conventional finite difference formulation. In Section 5.3, several numerical tests demonstrate that the GP-WENO method provides comparably accurate solutions in the finite difference discretization, maintaining the fast performance of the SF-PIF methods. Adopting the GP-WENO into the conventional finite difference formulation demands additional fine-tuning on the hyperparameters, which it remained as a further study for this dissertation.

The system-free approach enables the fourth-order single-stage time integration schemes in a better efficient way. Many high-order research articles in the CFD community designed a “high-order” method by combining mediocre lower-order temporal solver with higher-order spatial solver, e.g., third-order in temporal, fifth-order spatial in the original PIF method. It is widely known in the CFD community that the developments of small-scale fluid features relevant to grid scales depend much more sensitively on the choice of spatial solvers rather than the temporal solver. However, as discussed in Section 5.1.2, the numerical errors of the temporal solver dominate the spatial errors on the high-resolution

grid configurations, leading to the degradations of the overall solution accuracy. This phenomenon should be considered in performing the large-scale simulations conducted on a high-resolution grid to capture small-scale physics.

The system-free approach is not explicitly designed for the PIF method nor the CFD solvers. The sole purpose of the system-free method is to approximate the tensor contractions for high-order derivatives of Jacobians; thus, it can be applied to any other physics models which need derivations of Jacobians. Like the SF-PIF methods presented in this dissertation, the system-free strategy could provide better high-order numerical approximations in an efficient, flexible, and portable way.

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