

# ADAPTIVELY TUNED HIGH-ORDER METHODS FOR ILES

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**Summary.** Implicit Large Eddy Simulation (iLES) is popular for modeling high-Reynolds-number turbulent flows due to its simplicity and efficiency. High-resolution numerical schemes in iLES mimic subgrid-scale models by using numerical dissipation/dispersion errors. Balancing these errors is crucial to avoid unphysical energy build-up or excessive diffusion, especially in compressible flows with discontinuities and smooth features. This work introduces an adaptive dissipation/dispersion adjustment (ADDA) algorithm for the CWENOZ scheme in a finite-volume framework for unstructured meshes, tested in subsonic, transonic, and supersonic regimes. The ADDA algorithm enhances robustness and scale-resolving capabilities, yielding efficient and physically meaningful results, and is available in the open-source UCNS3D CFD solver.

## 1 INTRODUCTION

Turbulent flows with high Reynolds number feature a wide range of spatial and temporal scales that present significant challenges for their numerical simulation. The smaller flow scales are often too fine for the grid resolution of numerical methods. This mismatch leads to under-resolved flows, where small scales can't be accurately captured, affecting the overall dynamics of the flow. Direct numerical simulation (DNS) of such flows is computationally impractical, even with advanced supercomputers. Instead, Large Eddy Simulation (LES) methods are used, which resolve larger scales and model the effects of smaller, unresolved scales with subgrid-scale (SGS) models. Implicit LES (iLES) incorporates the effects of unresolved scales implicitly through the inherent numerical dissipation of high-resolution, non-oscillatory methods, eliminating the need for explicit SGS models. iLES is widely adopted in numerical frameworks like finite-volume (FV), finite-element (FE), finite-difference (FD), and various high-order schemes such as WENO, MUSCL, and TVD [1–7]. High-resolution schemes naturally introduce numerical

dissipation that mimics SGS models, and they should balance low numerical dissipation and dispersion, avoiding unphysical energy build-up in high modes, especially in under-resolved grids. This balance ensures that the energy transfer from larger to smaller scales, truncated in practical computations, is effectively dissipated at the smallest scales present. This work focuses on adapting numerical methods to provide the right amount of dissipation for iLES simulations, minimizing unphysical energy build-up in high modes. Various approaches address this [1, 3, 8–14], such as polynomial de-aliasing techniques, adaptive dissipation blending, and multi-objective optimization. Automatic dissipation adjustment methods adjust dissipation based on energy ratios, maintaining stability even in compressible flows with potential shock waves. We develop an a priori approach for adaptively adjusting dissipation and dispersion (ADDA) in high-order non-oscillatory methods for unstructured meshes, suitable for practical engineering problems. We employ well established test problems, such as the Taylor-Green vortex and the turbulent flow past the SD7003 airfoil to demonstrate the performance of the new framework. The chosen numerical scheme is the high-order CWENOZ method [2], implemented in the UCNS3D CFD code [15] using Fortran 2008, MPI, and OpenMP [16].

## 2 NUMERICAL FRAMEWORK

### 2.1 Governing Equations

The compressible Navier-Stokes equations are considered, written in conservative form as:

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{U}(\mathbf{x}, t)}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (\vec{\mathbf{F}}_c(\mathbf{U}) - \vec{\mathbf{F}}_v(\mathbf{U}, \nabla \mathbf{U})) = 0, \quad (1)$$

where  $\mathbf{U}$  is the vector of the conserved variables,  $\vec{\mathbf{F}}_c$  and  $\vec{\mathbf{F}}_v$  are the inviscid and viscous flux vectors, respectively, as

$$\mathbf{U} = \begin{bmatrix} \rho \\ \rho u \\ \rho v \\ \rho w \\ E \end{bmatrix}, \quad \vec{\mathbf{F}}_c = \begin{bmatrix} \rho u_n \\ \rho w u_n + n_x p \\ \rho v u_n + n_y p \\ \rho w u_n + n_z p \\ u_n(E + p) \end{bmatrix}, \quad \vec{\mathbf{F}}_v = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ n_x \tau_{xx} + n_y \tau_{xy} + n_z \tau_{xz} \\ n_x \tau_{yx} + n_y \tau_{yy} + n_z \tau_{yz} \\ n_x \tau_{zx} + n_y \tau_{zy} + n_z \tau_{zz} \\ n_x \Theta_x + n_y \Theta_y + n_z \Theta_z \end{bmatrix}, \quad (2)$$

where  $\rho$  is the density;  $u, v, w$  are the velocity components in  $x, y$  and  $z$  Cartesian coordinates, respectively, and  $u_n$  is the velocity normal to the bounded surface area, defined by  $u_n = n_x u + n_y v + n_z w$ . The total energy per unit mass is given by  $E = p/(\gamma - 1) + (1/2)\rho(u^2 + v^2 + w^2)$ , where  $p$  is the pressure,  $\gamma = 1.4$  is the ratio of specific heats for air at normal atmospheric conditions, and the Sutherland's law is assumed. The viscous stresses and heat conduction,  $\Theta$ , is given by:

$$\begin{aligned} \Theta_x &= u\tau_{xx} + v\tau_{xy} + w\tau_{xz} + \frac{\mu_l}{Pr} \frac{\gamma}{\gamma - 1} \frac{\partial T}{\partial x}, \\ \Theta_y &= u\tau_{yx} + v\tau_{yy} + w\tau_{yz} + \frac{\mu_l}{Pr} \frac{\gamma}{\gamma - 1} \frac{\partial T}{\partial y}, \\ \Theta_z &= u\tau_{zx} + v\tau_{zy} + w\tau_{zz} + \frac{\mu_l}{Pr} \frac{\gamma}{\gamma - 1} \frac{\partial T}{\partial z}. \end{aligned} \quad (3)$$

The viscous stress tensor  $\tau_{ij}$  is defined by is

$$\tau_{ij} = \mu_l \left( \frac{\partial \mathbf{u}_i}{\partial \mathbf{x}_j} + \frac{\partial \mathbf{u}_j}{\partial \mathbf{x}_i} - \frac{2}{3} \frac{\partial \mathbf{u}_k}{\partial \mathbf{x}_k} \delta_{ij} \right), \quad (4)$$

where  $\delta_{ij}$  is the Kronecker delta and the subscripts  $i, j, k$  refer to the Cartesian coordinate components  $\mathbf{x} = (x, y, z)$ .

## 2.2 CWENOZ Discretisation

We discretise the Navier-Stokes on a 3D domain  $\Omega$  consisting of any combination of conforming tetrahedral, hexahedral, prism or pyramids in 3D, by integrating Eq. (1) over each mesh element  $i$  using a high-order explicit finite-volume formulation the following equation is obtained:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d\mathbf{U}_i}{dt} = & - \frac{1}{|V_i|} \sum_{l=1}^{N_f} \sum_{\alpha=1}^{N_{qp}} \vec{\mathbf{F}}_{c_l} (\mathbf{U}_{l,L}^n(\mathbf{x}_{l,\alpha}, t), \mathbf{U}_{l,R}^n(\mathbf{x}_{l,\alpha}, t)) \omega_\alpha |S_l| \\ & + \frac{1}{|V_i|} \sum_{l=1}^{N_f} \sum_{\alpha=1}^{N_{qp}} \vec{\mathbf{F}}_{v_l} (\mathbf{U}_{l,L}^n(\mathbf{x}_{l,\alpha}, t), \mathbf{U}_{l,R}^n(\mathbf{x}_{l,\alpha}, t), \nabla \mathbf{U}_{l,L}^n(\mathbf{x}_{l,\alpha}, t), \nabla \mathbf{U}_{l,R}^n(\mathbf{x}_{l,\alpha}, t)) \omega_\alpha |S_l|, \end{aligned} \quad (5)$$

where  $\mathbf{U}_i$  are the volume averaged conserved variables

$$\mathbf{U}_i = \frac{1}{|V_i|} \int_{V_i} \mathbf{U}(x, y, z) dV, \quad (6)$$

and  $\vec{\mathbf{F}}_{c_l}$  and  $\vec{\mathbf{F}}_{v_l}$  are the numerical flux function,  $N_{qp}$  is the number of quadrature points,  $N_f$  is the number of faces,  $|S_l|$  is the surface area, and  $\mathbf{U}_{l,L}^n(\mathbf{x}_{l,\alpha}, t)$  and  $\mathbf{U}_{l,R}^n(\mathbf{x}_{l,\alpha}, t)$  are the boundary extrapolated reconstructed solutions for the left and right side of the interface,  $\nabla \mathbf{U}_{l,L}^n(\mathbf{x}_{l,\alpha}, t)$  and  $\nabla \mathbf{U}_{l,R}^n(\mathbf{x}_{l,\alpha}, t)$  are the the gradients for the left and right side of the interface; while  $\alpha$  corresponds to different Gaussian integration points  $\mathbf{x}_\alpha$  and weights  $\omega_\alpha$  over each face. We employ the CWENOZ scheme of Tsoutsanis and Dumbser [2], and only the key components are presented in this work. The CWENOZ scheme combines an optimal (high-order)  $p_{opt}$  polynomial from the central stencil with lower-order polynomials from directional stencils. The definition of an optimal polynomial given by:

$$p_{opt}(x, y, z) = \sum_{s=1}^{s_t} \lambda_s p_s(x, y, z), \quad (7)$$

where  $s$  is the stencil index, with  $s = 1$  being the central,  $s = (2, 3, \dots, s_t)$  being the directional,  $s_t$  being the total number of stencils, and  $\lambda_s$  being the linear coefficient for each stencil, whose sum is equal to 1. The  $p_1$  polynomial is computed by subtracting the lower-order polynomials from the optimum polynomial as follows:

$$p_1(x, y, z) = \frac{1}{\lambda_1} \left( p_{opt}(x, y, z) - \sum_{s=2}^{s_t} \lambda_s p_s(x, y, z) \right). \quad (8)$$

The CWENOZ reconstruction polynomial is a non-linear combination of all the polynomials as follows:

$$p(x, y, z)^{\text{cwenoZ}} = \sum_{s=1}^{s_t} \omega_s p_s(x, y, z) \equiv \mathbf{U}_0 + \sum_{k=1}^K \tilde{a}_k \phi_k(x, y, z), \quad (9)$$

where  $\omega_s$  corresponds to the non-linear weights assigned to each reconstruction polynomial, and  $\tilde{a}_k$  are the reconstructed degrees of freedom; and the non-linear weight  $\omega_s$  is defined as: The non-linear weights are now defined as:

$$\omega_s = \frac{\tilde{\omega}_s}{\sum_{s=1}^{s_t} \tilde{\omega}_s} \quad \text{where} \quad \tilde{\omega}_s = \lambda_s \left( 1 + \left( \frac{\tau}{\epsilon + \mathcal{S}\mathcal{I}_s} \right)^b \right). \quad (10)$$

With  $\tau$  being the universal oscillation indicator and taken as the absolute difference between the smoothness indicators as follows:

$$\tau = \left( \frac{\sum_{s=2}^{s_t} |\mathcal{S}\mathcal{I}_s - \mathcal{S}\mathcal{I}_1|}{s_t - 1} \right). \quad (11)$$

The linear weight of the central stencil is assigned an arbitrary large value and the directional stencils an equal value, and then their values are normalised with their sum being equal to unit. For the definitions of smoothness indicator the reader is referred to [2], and the reader is referred to [?, 17–26] and references therein regarding the implementation.

### 2.3 Time Advancement & Fluxes

We employ the explicit 4th-order Strong-Stability-Preserving (SSP) Runge-Kutta of Spiteri and Ruuth [27],[27] or the widely used dual-time stepping strategy [28] in an implicit matrix-free lower-upper symmetric Gauss-Seidel (LU-SGS) fashion [29, 30] using the Rusanov flux [31] as detailed in implementation [15] and references therein. For the inviscid fluxes we employ the Roe Riemann solver [32] and for the viscous fluxes, the gradients are computed using a constrained least-square reconstruction for the boundary condition enforcement including penalty terms as detailed in [15, 21] and references therein.

### 2.4 ADDA

From of the flow-chart of the ADDA-augmented UCNS3D code as shown in Fig. 1 at every physical time step for every cell three steps are taken. Firstly we measure the Energy Ratio as defined in [1], to establish if the field of that cell is well-resolved or under-resolved, and in turn dictates if this cell requires more or less dissipation. The 2nd step is involved the adaptation of CWENOZ reconstruction by adjusting the linear weight ( $\lambda_1$ ) of the central high-order stencil. The third step involves the flux adaptation by adjusting the dissipation (gradual increase, gradual decrease, or return to default value) through a flux dissipation control term ( $d_i$ ) that is multiplied with each of the wave strengths of the Roe Riemann solver, depending on the value of the non-linear CWENOZ weight for the density and pressure, to ensure that the non-oscillatory properties of the framework are maintained. Finally, the fluxes are computed, and the solution advanced in time.

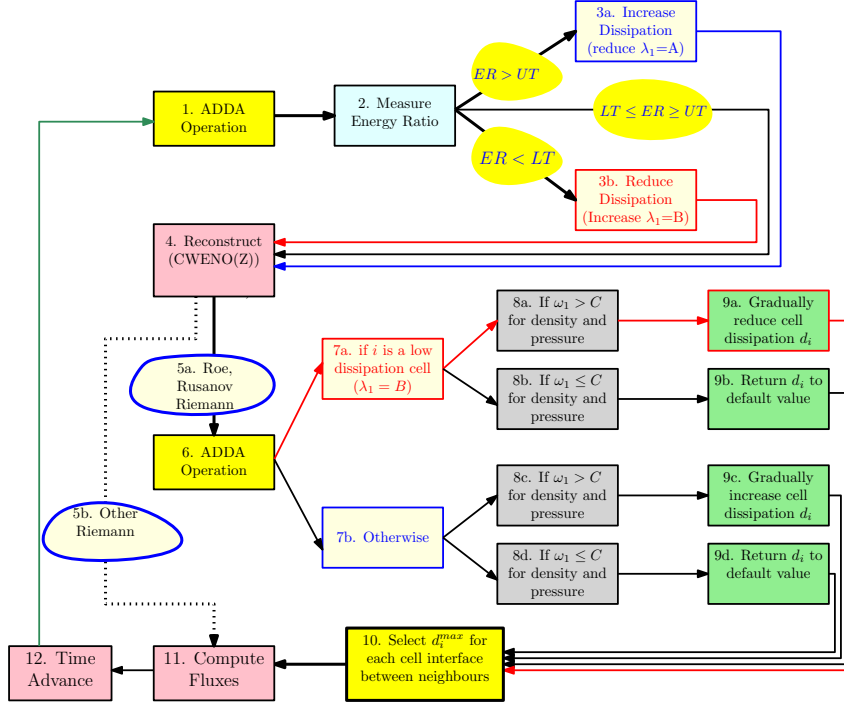


Figure 1: ADDA flow chart

### 3 RESULTS

#### 3.1 Taylor-Green Vortex

The iLES of the 3D inviscid subsonic Taylor-Green vortex test problem is employed for assessing the performance of the developed schemes, as it is widely used by the community for this reason [1, 5, 33–41] and therefore there is a wealth of DNS, LES, iLES computational data from the literature to compare against, and the readers are referred to the work of [33] for the initial conditions for this flow problem. We are interested in coarse grid resolutions, being more representative of the operating conditions of high-order methods, to better understand any benefits that the new ADDA technique can offer for reproducing the transition to turbulence in these situations. The computational domain is defined as  $\Omega = [0, 2\pi]^3$  with periodic boundary conditions and the initial condition corresponds to an initial Mach number  $M \approx 0.08$ , with wavenumber  $k = 2\pi/\lambda = 1$ . Simulations were carried out on hexahedral meshes of  $64^3$  and  $128^3$ . For the present Taylor-Green vortex flow test problem we employ the CWENOZ 5th-order scheme and the 4th-order Runge-Kutta SSP with a CFL of 1.4, with the Roe Riemann solver. We assess the performance of the newly introduced framework by examining the kinetic energy temporal evolution, dissipation rate, and 3D spectra of the kinetic energy after the dissipation peak ( $t = 10$ ). It can be noticed from Fig. 2 that the ADDA variants provide a better agreement with DNS results of Brachet [33] and the theoretical Kolmogorov's slope at both resolutions although several cells were required to increase their dissipation term as shown in Fig. 3.

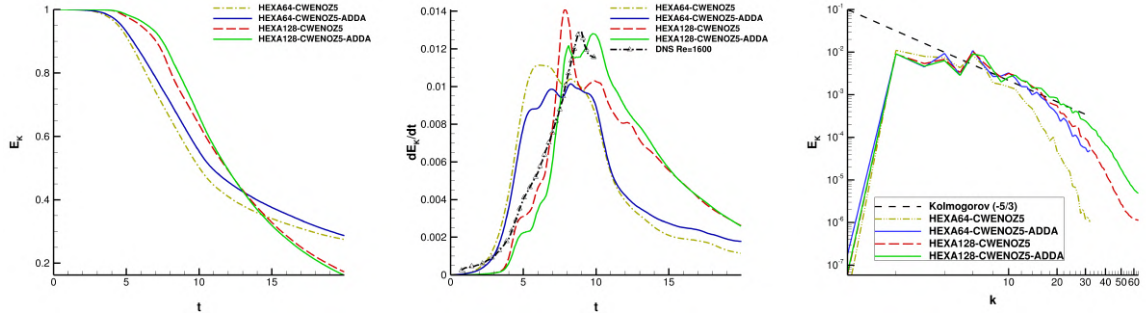


Figure 2: Kinetic energy (left), kinetic energy dissipation rate(middle), and kinetic energy spectra at  $t=10$  for the inviscid Taylor Green vortex using various schemes.

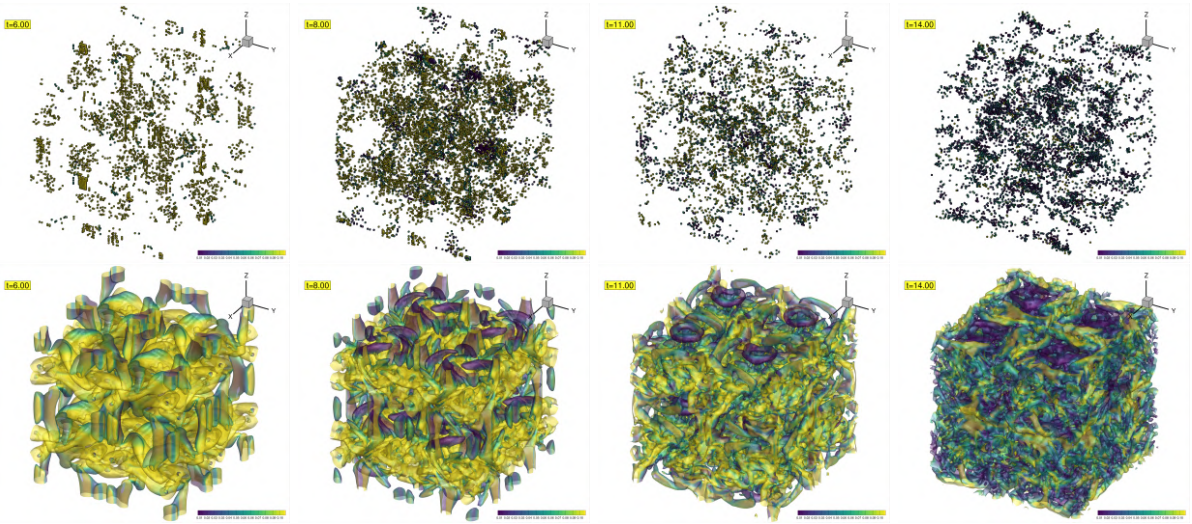


Figure 3: Cells identified for increased dissipation for the Taylor-Green vortex flow problem at different instants (top), and iso-surfaces of  $Q$ -criterion coloured by kinetic energy (bottom) using a CWENO5-ADDA scheme.

### 3.2 SD7003

We apply the developed framework to the turbulent flow over the SD7003 wing at Mach number of  $M = 0.2$ , at Reynolds number  $Re = 60,000$  and angle of attack of  $\alpha = 8^\circ$ . This benchmark case has been widely used to assess the performance of LES methods [37,42–45]. For this purpose we employ the CWENO4-ADDA scheme on a hybrid unstructured mesh consisting of 5.3 million cells as illustrated in Fig. 4. The domain extends  $50c$  upstream and downstream, and  $0.2c$  in the span-wise direction, where  $c$  is the chord length. The grid resolution at the boundary layer region gives a  $(y^+ = 0.87, x^+ = 3.1, z^+ = 5.4)$  with no-slip boundary conditions at the surface of the aerofoil, free-stream conditions at the farfield and periodic boundary conditions in the span-wise direction. All the schemes employ the low-Mach number correction [45], the Roe Riemann solver [32] and the 2nd-order implicit dual-time stepping available in UCNS3D [15] with a timestep size of  $\Delta t = \frac{t_c}{500}$  with the convection time being given by  $t_c = c/U_\infty$ . The

simulations were run for  $t = 20t_c$  to develop the flow, and an additional  $20t_c$  for time averaging. It can be noticed from Fig. 5 and Fig. 6 that the ADDA variant provides the correct predictions, and is in good agreement with previous computational studies in terms of lift, drag, separation and reattachment locations as seen in Table 1. More importantly we notice that the cells in the laminar region at the wake have been adjusted for reduced dissipation since these are well resolved regions, while in the transitional region they are tagged for high dissipation.

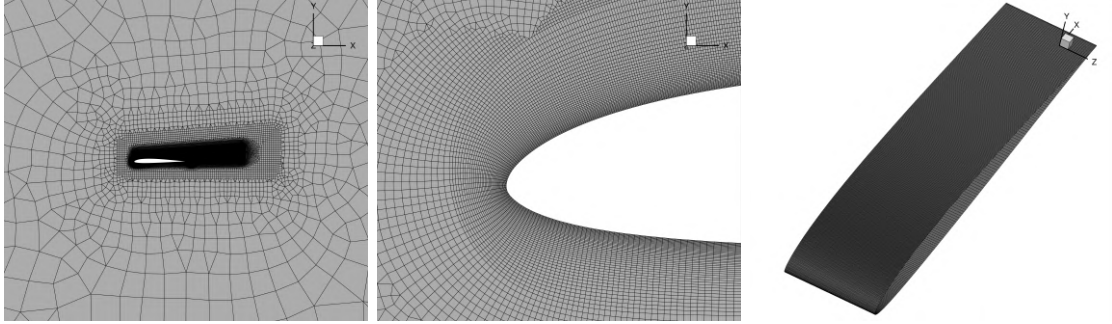


Figure 4: Unstructured mesh used for the SD7003 airfoil test problem.

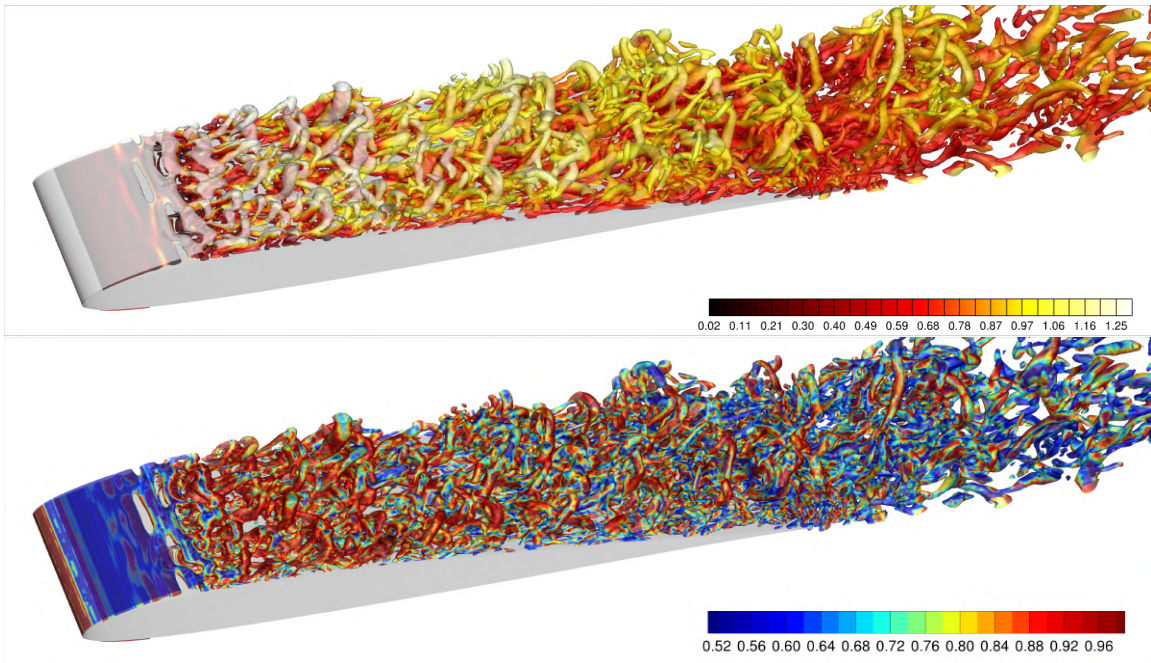


Figure 5: Instantaneous iso-surfaces of Q criterion ( $Q=100$ ) coloured by the non-dimensionalised velocity magnitude (top) and the ADDA flux dissipation  $d_i$  for the SD7003 airfoil with the CWENO4-ADDA scheme. The LSB is characterised by a low-dissipation  $d_i$  value and a high-dissipation profile in the turbulent region according to the energy ratio values.

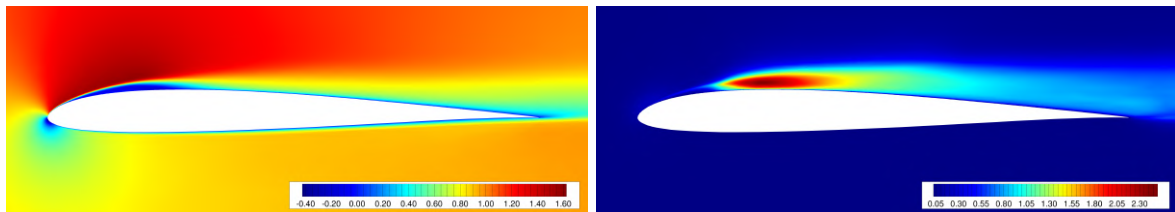


Figure 6: Time-averaged, span-wise averaged contour plots of non-dimensional  $u$ -velocity (left) and turbulent kinetic energy (right) for the SD7003 flow problems with CWENOZ4-ADDA.

Method	$C_L$	$C_D$	$x_s$	$x_r$
CWENOZ4-ADDA-mesh	0.927	0.045	0.041	0.270
Frank et al. [43]	0.923	0.045	0.027	0.310
Galbraith & Visbal [46]	0.917	0.044	0.031	0.303

Table 1: Predictions for lift-coefficient  $C_L$ , drag-coefficient  $C_D$ , separation position  $x_s$ , and reattachment position  $x_r$  for the SD7003 airfoil test problem and comparison with computational studies in the literature.

## 4 CONCLUSIONS

This work developed an adaptive dissipation/dispersion adjustment algorithm within a high-order finite-volume framework for iLES simulations of compressible turbulent flows. The algorithm measures the energy ratio to adjust the CWENOZ reconstruction and the dissipation term of the Roe Riemann solver for each cell at each time step. It was tested on several problems, showing improved scale-resolving capability and non-oscillatory properties. The algorithm’s versatility suggests potential applications in other frameworks like DG and hybrid DG-FV.

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