LES of Turbulent Flows: Lecture 8
(ME EN 7960-008)

Prof. Rob Stoll
Department of Mechanical Engineering
University of Utah

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Subgrid-Scale Modeling

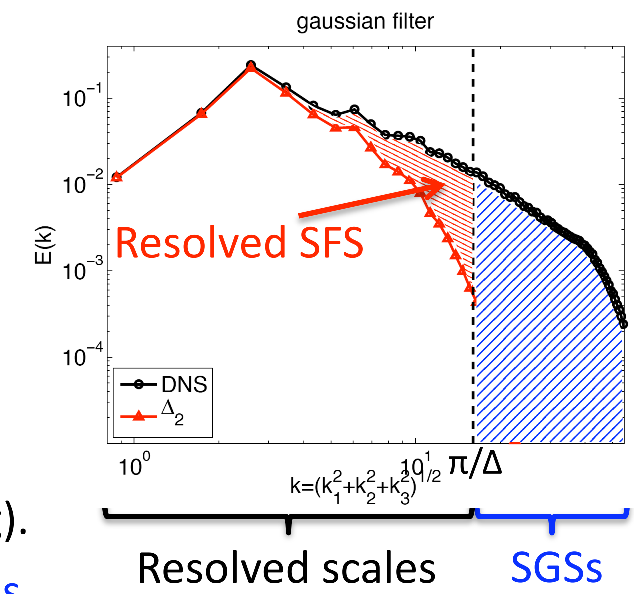
- One of the major hurdles to making LES a reliable tool for engineering and environmental applications is the formulation of SGS models and the specification of model coefficients.
- **Recall:** we can define 3 different "scale regions" in LES depicted in the figure to the right =>

    -**Resolved Scales**, **Resolved SFS**, **SGSs**

- We can also decompose a general variable as:

$$\phi = \widetilde{\phi} + \phi'$$

- When we talk about SGS models we are specifically talking about the scales below Δ **NOT** the Resolved SFS.
- We will specifically discuss the Resolved SFSs when we talk about filter reconstruction later on (time permitting).
- Also, here we will focus on LES with explicit SGS models.
- A class of LES referred to as Implicit LES (**ILES**) also exists.



- **ILES** was 1st developed for compressible flow. It assumes the SGSs are purely dissipative and act in a similar way to dissipative numerical schemes (in general ILES uses monotinicity preserving numerical schemes). See handout Grinstein_etal_2007_ch2.pdf for details.

Modeling τ_{ij}

- see Pope pgs. 582-583 or Sagaut pgs. 49-50, 59-60 (this will mostly follow Sagaut)
- we can decompose the nonlinear term as follows (using $\phi = \widetilde{\phi} + \phi'$):

$$\begin{aligned} \widetilde{u_i u_j} &= \widetilde{(\tilde{u}_i + u_i') (\tilde{u}_j + u_j')} \\ &= \widetilde{\tilde{u}_i \tilde{u}_j} + \widetilde{\tilde{u}_i u_j'} + \widetilde{\tilde{u}_j u_i'} + \widetilde{u_i' u_j'} \end{aligned}$$

- we now have the nonlinear term as a function of $\tilde{u}_i$ and u_i'.
- two different basic forms of the decomposition (based on the above equation are prevalent)

-The 1st one is based on the idea that all terms appearing in the evolution of a filtered quantity should be filtered:

$$\boxed{\tau_{ij} = C_{ij} + R_{ij}} = \widetilde{u_i u_j} - \widetilde{\tilde{u}_i \tilde{u}_j}$$

where $C_{ij} = \widetilde{\tilde{u}_i u_j'} + \widetilde{\tilde{u}_j u_i'} \Rightarrow$ interaction between resolved and SFSs

and $R_{ij} = \widetilde{u_i' u_j'} \Rightarrow$ SFS "Reynold's" stress

Modeling τ_{ij} (continued)

-A 2nd definition can be obtained by further decomposition of $\widetilde{u_i u_j}$ =>

$$\widetilde{\tilde{u}_i\tilde{u}_j} = \underbrace{\left(\widetilde{\tilde{u}_i\tilde{u}_j} - \tilde{u}_i\tilde{u}_j\right)}_{L_{ij}} + \tilde{u}_i\tilde{u}_j$$

L_{ij} => Leonard stress (the interaction among the smallest resolved scales)

Our total decomposition is now:

$$\boxed{\tau_{ij} = L_{ij} + C_{ij} + R_{ij}} = \widetilde{u_i u_j} - \tilde{u}_i\tilde{u}_j$$

(Leonard, Adv. in Geo., 1974)

- If our filter is a Reynolds operator (e.g., cutoff filter) **C_{ij} and L_{ij} vanish!**
- **NOTE:** while τ_{ij} is invariant to Galilean transformations, L_{ij} and C_{ij} are NOT. Because of this, the decomposition given above (for the most part) is not used anymore (although we will see similar terms again in our SGS models)
- **A more rigorous decomposition was proposed by Germano into generalized filtered moments.** Under this framework the generalized moments look just like "Reynolds" moments, our original τ_{ij}! (see Germano, JFM, 1992 in the handouts section. This is also recommended reading for a discussion of filtering and the relationship between LES filters and Reynolds operators)

Classes of LES Models (for τ_{ij})

1. **Eddy-Viscosity Models:**
   - The largest and most commonly used class of SGS models
   - The general idea is that turbulent diffusion at SGSs (i.e. how SGS remove energy) is analogous to molecular diffusion. It is very similar in form to K-theory for Reynolds stresses.
   - The deviatoric part of τ_{ij} is modeled as:

$$\tau_{ij} - \frac{1}{3}\tau_{kk}\delta_{ij} = -2\nu_T \tilde{S}_{ij}$$

where ν_T is the SGS eddy-viscosity and $\tilde{S}_{ij} = \frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{\partial \tilde{u}_i}{\partial x_j} + \frac{\partial \tilde{u}_j}{\partial x_i}\right)$

Within this class of models we have many different ways of determining ν_T

a) Smagorinsky model (Smagorinsky, Mon. Weath. Rev., 1963)
b) "Kolmolgorov" eddy-viscosity (Wong and Lilly, Phys. of Fluids, 1994)
c) Two-point closure models (based on Kraichan's (JAS, 1974) spectral eddy-viscosity model and developed by Lesiour (see Lesiour et al., 2005)
d) One-equation models that use the filtered KE equation (see Lecture 6 for the KE equation and Deardorff (BLM, 1980) for an early application of the model)

Classes of LES Models (for τ_{ij})

2. **Similarity Models:**
   - Based on the idea that the most active SGS are those close to the cutoff wavenumber (or scale) these models were first introduced by Bardina et al. (AIAA, 1980). A subclass under this type of model is the nonlinear model. Many times these models are paired with an eddy-viscosity model.
3. **Stochastic SGS models:**
   - In these models a random (stochastic) component is incorporated into the SGS model. Usually the nonlinear term is combined with an eddy-viscosity model in a similar manner to the similarity models (Mason and Thomson, JFM, 1992).
4. **Subgrid Velocity Reconstruction Models:**
   - These models seek to approximate the SGS stress through a direct reconstruction of the SGS velocity or scalar fields. Two examples are:
     - fractal models (Scotti and Meneveau, Physica D, 1999)
     - Linear-eddy and ODT models (Kerstein, Comb. Sci. Tech, 1988)
5. **Dynamic Models:**
   - Actually more of a procedure that can be applied with any base model, first developed by Germano (Phys of Fluids, 1991).
   - One of the biggest and most influential ideas in LES SGS modeling.

Testing SGS Models

How do we test SGS models?

- ***a posteriori*** testing (term can be credited to Piomelli et al., Phys of Fluids, 1988)
  - Run "full" simulations with a particular SGS model and compare the results (statistically) to DNS, experiments and turbulence theory.
  - A "complete" test of the model (including dynamics and feedback) but is has the disadvantage of including numerics and **we can't gain insight into the physics of SGSs**.

- ***a priori*** testing (term can be credited to Piomelli et al., Phys of Fluids, 1988)
  - Use DNS or high resolution experimental data to test SGS models "offline"
  - **Goal:** directly compare $\tau_{ij}^{\Delta}(\vec{x},t)$ with $\tau_{ij}^{\Delta,M}(\vec{x},t)$ by:
    - Filter DNS (or experimental) data at Δ and compute the exact $\tau_{ij}^{\Delta}(\vec{x},t)$ and other relevant parameters (e.g., *Π*)
    - Use the filtered *u*,*v* and *w* to compute $\tau_{ij}^{\Delta,M}(\vec{x},t)$ from the model (and stats) and compare with above results (this can also be used to calculate unknown model coefficients)
    - Allows us to look specifically at how the model reproduces SGS properties and the physics associated with those properties
    - Drawback, it doesn't include dynamic feedback and numerics!