



2.29 Numerical Fluid Mechanics

Fall 2011 – Lecture 22

REVIEW Lecture 21:

- End of Time-Marching Methods: higher-order methods

- Runge-Kutta Methods

- Additional points are between t_n and t_{n+1}

- Multistep/Multipoint Methods: Adams Methods

- Additional points are at past time steps

- Practical CFD Methods

- Implicit Nonlinear systems

- Deferred-correction Approach

- Complex Geometries

- Different types of grids

- Choice of variable arrangements

- Velocity vectors: Cartesian or Grid-oriented
- Staggered or Collocated variables

- Grid Generation

- Basic concepts and structured grids

$$\phi^{n+1} - \phi^n = \int_{t_n}^{t_{n+1}} f(t, \phi) dt$$



TODAY (Lecture 22): Grid Generation and Intro to FV Complex Geometries

- Complex Geometries
- Grid Generation
 - Basic concepts and structured grids
 - Stretched grids
 - Algebraic methods (stretched grids)
 - General coordinate transformation
 - Differential equation methods
 - Conformal mapping methods
 - Unstructured grid generation
 - Delaunay Triangulation
 - Advancing Front method
- Finite Volume on Complex geometries
 - Computation of convective fluxes
 - Computation of diffusive fluxes
 - Comments on 3D
- Solution of the Navier-Stokes Equations



References and Reading Assignments

- Chapter 8 on “Complex Geometries” of “J. H. Ferziger and M. Peric, *Computational Methods for Fluid Dynamics*. Springer, NY, 3rd edition, 2002”
- Chapter 9 on “Grid Generation” of T. Cebeci, J. P. Shao, F. Kafyeke and E. Laurendeau, *Computational Fluid Dynamics for Engineers*. Springer, 2005.
- Ref on Grid Generation only:
 - Thompson, J.F., Warsi Z.U.A. and C.W. Mastin, “Numerical Grid Generation, Foundations and Applications”, North Holland, 1985



Classes of Grid Generation

- An arrangement of discrete set of grid points or cells needs to be generated for the numerical solution of PDEs (fluid conservation equations)
 - Finite volume methods:
 - Can be applied to uniform and non-uniform grids
 - Finite difference methods:
 - Require a coordinate transformation to map the irregular grid in the spatial domain to a regular one in the computational domain
 - Difficult to do this in complex 3D spatial geometries
 - So far, only used with structured grid (could be used with unstructured grids with polynomials ϕ defining the shape of ϕ around a grid point)
- Three major classes of grid generation: i) algebraic methods, ii) differential equation methods and iii) conformal mapping methods
- Grid generation and solving PDE can be independent
 - A numerical (flow) solver can in principle be developed independently of the grid
 - A grid generator then gives the metrics (weights) and the one-to-one correspondence between the spatial-grid and computational-grid



Grid Generation: Basic Concepts for Structured Grids

- Structured Grids (includes curvilinear or non-orthogonal grids)
 - Often utilized with FD schemes
 - Methods based on coordinate transformations
- Consider irregular shaped physical domain (x, y) in Cartesian coordinates and determine its mapping to the computational domain in the (ξ, η) Cartesian coordinates

- Increase ξ or η monotonically in physical domain along “curved lines”
- Coordinate lines of the same family do not cross
- Lines of different family don’t cross more than once
- Physical grid refined where large errors are expected

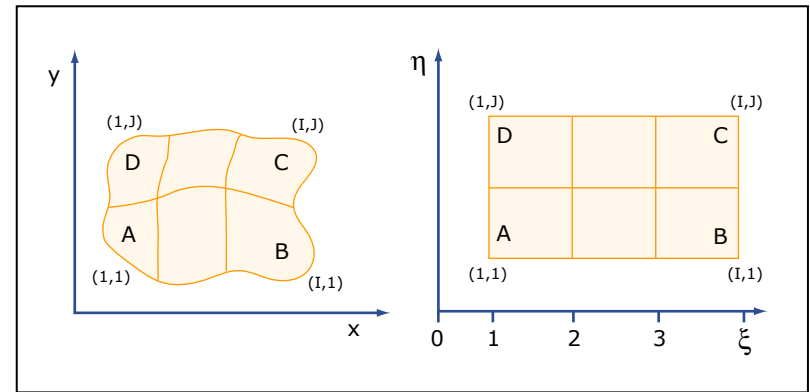


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A simply-connected irregular shape in the physical plane is mapped as a rectangle in the computational plane.

- Mapped (computational) region has a rectangular shape:
 - Coordinates (ξ, η) can vary from 1 to (I, J) , with mesh sizes taken equal to 1
- Boundaries are mapped to boundaries



Grid Generation: Basic Concepts for Structured Grids, Cont'd

- The example just shown was the mapping of an irregular, simply connected, region into a rectangle.
- Other configurations are of course possible

– For example, a L-shape domain can be mapped into:

– a regular L-shape

– or into a rectangular shape

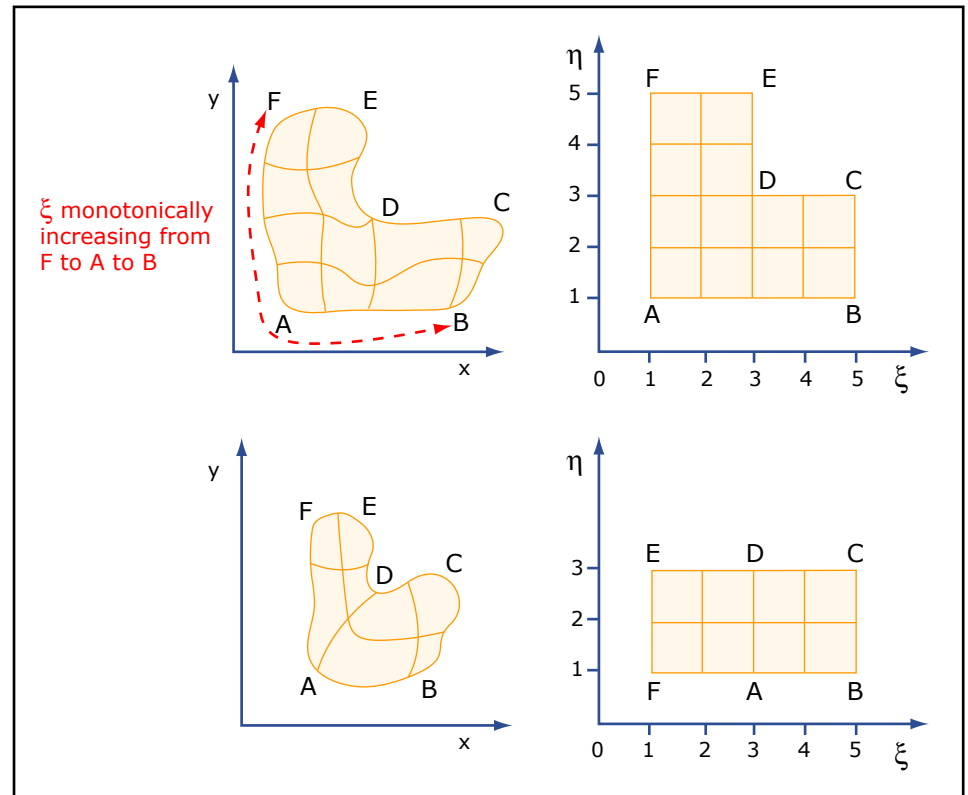


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Grid Generation for Structured Grids: Stretched Grids

- Consider a viscous flow solution on a given body, where the velocity varies rapidly near the surface of the body (Boundary Layer)
- For efficient computation, a finer grid near the body and coarser grid away from the body is effective (aims to maintain constant accuracy)
- Possible coordinate transformation: a scaling “ $\eta = \log(y)$ ” \leftrightarrow “ $y = \exp(\eta)$ ”

$$\xi = x$$

$$\eta = 1 - \frac{\ln[A(y)]}{\ln B} \quad \text{where } A(y) = \frac{\beta + (1 - y/h)}{\beta - (1 - y/h)} \quad \text{and } B = \frac{\beta + 1}{\beta - 1}$$

The parameter β ($1 < \beta < \infty$) is the stretching parameter. As β gets close to 1, more grid points are clustered to the wall in the physical domain.

- Inverse transformation is needed to map solutions back from ξ, η domain:

$$x = \xi$$

$$\frac{y}{h} = \frac{(\beta + 1) - (\beta - 1)B^{1-\eta}}{1 + B^{1-\eta}}$$

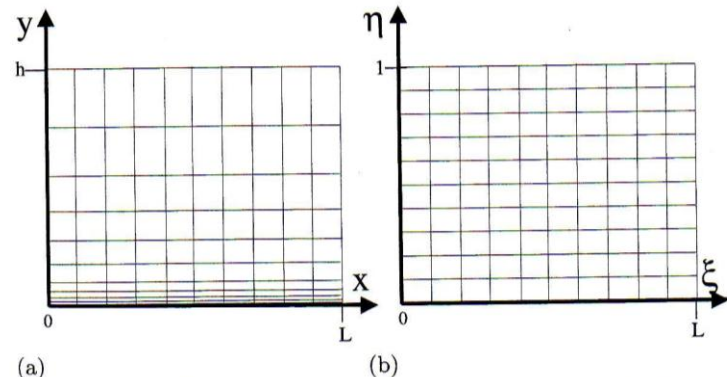


Fig. 9.4. One-dimensional stretching transformation. (a) Physical plane, (b) computational plane.

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Grid Generation for Structured Grids: Stretched Grids, Cont'd

- How do the conservation equations change?
- Consider the continuity equation for steady state flow in physical (x, y) space:

$$\nabla \cdot (\rho \vec{v}) = 0 \quad \Rightarrow \quad \frac{\partial \rho u}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial \rho v}{\partial y} = 0$$

- In the computational plane, this equation becomes (chain rule)

$$\left. \begin{aligned} \frac{\partial \rho u}{\partial x} &= \frac{\partial \rho u}{\partial \xi} \frac{\partial \xi}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial \rho u}{\partial \eta} \frac{\partial \eta}{\partial x} \\ \frac{\partial \rho v}{\partial y} &= \frac{\partial \rho v}{\partial \xi} \frac{\partial \xi}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial \rho v}{\partial \eta} \frac{\partial \eta}{\partial y} \end{aligned} \right\} \Rightarrow \frac{\partial \rho u}{\partial \xi} \xi_x + \frac{\partial \rho u}{\partial \eta} \eta_x + \frac{\partial \rho v}{\partial \xi} \xi_y + \frac{\partial \rho v}{\partial \eta} \eta_y = 0$$

- For our stretching transformation, one obtains:

$$\xi_x = 1, \quad \eta_x = 0, \quad \xi_y = 0, \quad \eta_y = \frac{2\beta}{h \ln(B)} \frac{1}{\beta^2 - (1 - y/h)^2}$$

- Therefore, the continuity equation becomes:

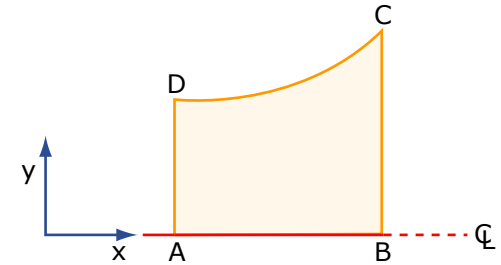
$$\frac{\partial \rho u}{\partial \xi} + \frac{\partial \rho v}{\partial \eta} \eta_y = 0$$

- This equation can be solved on a uniform grid (slightly more complicated eqn. system), and the solution mapped back to the physical domain using the inverse transform

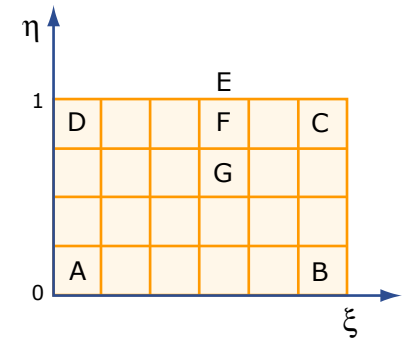
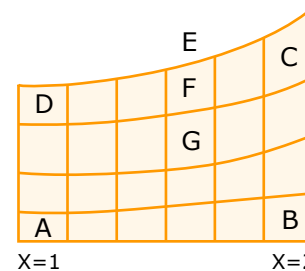


Grid Generation for Structured Grids: Algebraic Methods

- Algebraic Method = Generalization of stretching method (2 & 3D)
- Consider fitting a diverging nozzle:
 - Let's assume a nozzle defined by: $y = x^2 \quad 1 \leq x \leq 2$



- Now, choose a curvilinear system:
 - Define the transformation:



- Metrics of the transformation:
for the continuity eqn.

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$$\frac{\partial \rho u}{\partial \xi} \xi_x + \frac{\partial \rho u}{\partial \eta} \eta_x + \frac{\partial \rho v}{\partial \xi} \xi_y + \frac{\partial \rho v}{\partial \eta} \eta_y = 0, \quad \text{where} \quad \xi_x = 1, \quad \xi_y = 0, \quad \eta_x = -\frac{2\eta}{\xi}, \quad \eta_y = \frac{1}{\xi^2}$$

$$\xi = x$$

$$\eta = \frac{y}{x^2}$$



Grid Generation for Structured Grids: Algebraic Methods: Transfinite Interpolation

- Multi-directional interpolation (Transfinite Interpolation)

- To generate algebraic grids within more complex domains or around more complex configurations, multi-directional interpolations can be used

- They consist of a suite of unidirectional interpolations

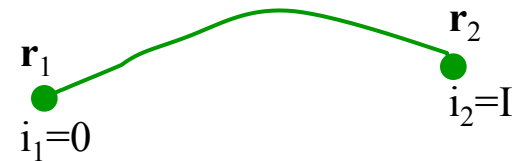
- Unidirectional Interpolations (1D curve)

- The Cartesian coordinate vector of each point on a curve $\mathbf{r}(x,y)$ is obtained as an interpolation between points that lie on the boundary curves

- How to interpolate? the regulars:

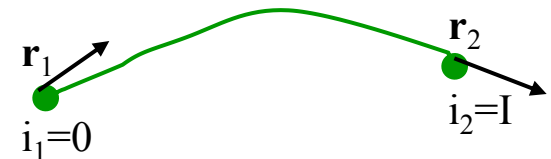
- Lagrange Polynomials: match function values

$$\vec{r}(i) = \sum_{k=0}^n L_k(i) \vec{r}_k \quad \text{with} \quad L_k(i) = \prod_{j=0, j \neq k}^n \frac{i - i_j}{i_k - i_j}$$



- Hermite Polynomials: match both function and 1st derivative values

$$\vec{r}(i) = \sum_{k=1}^n a_k(i) \vec{r}_k + \sum_{k=1}^m b_k(i) \vec{r}'_k$$





Grid Generation for Structured Grids: Algebraic Methods: Transfinite Interpolation, Cont'd

- Unidirectional Interpolations (1D curve), Cont'd

- Lagrange and Hermite Polynomials fit a single polynomial from one boundary to the next => for long boundaries, oscillations may occur

- Alternative, use set of lower order polynomials to form a piece-wise continuous interpolation:

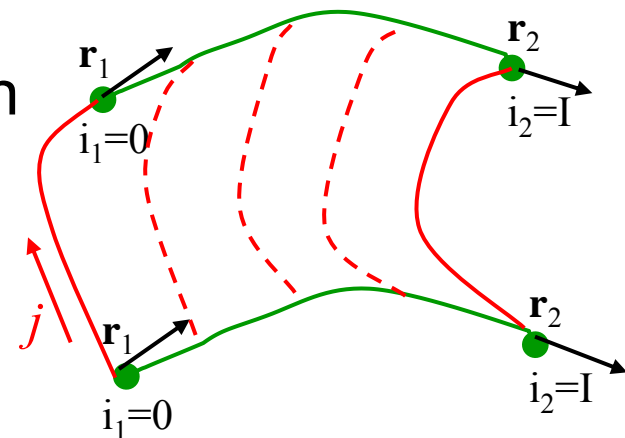
- Spline interpolation (match as many derivatives as possible at interior point junctions), Tension-spline (more localized curvature) and B-splines (allows local modification of the interpolation)

- Use interpolation functions that are not polynomials, usually “stretching functions”: exp, tanh, sinh, etc

- Multi-directional or Transfinite Interpolation

- Extends 1D results to 2D or 3D by successive applications of 1D interpolations

- For example, i then j .





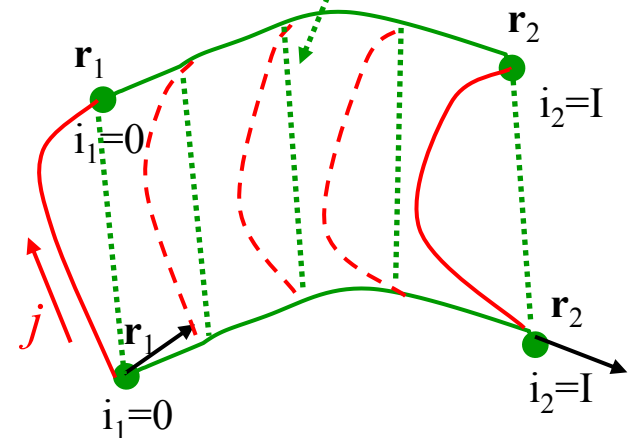
Grid Generation for Structured Grids: Algebraic Methods: Transfinite Interpolation, Cont'd

• Multi-directional or Transfinite Interpolation, Cont'd

– In 2D, the transfinite interpolation can be implemented as follows

- Interpolate position vectors \mathbf{r} in i -direction \Rightarrow leads to points $\mathbf{f}_1 = \square_i(\mathbf{r})$ and i -lines
- Evaluate the difference between \mathbf{r} and this result on the j -lines that will be used in the j -interpolation (e.g. difference with curved $i=0$ and $i=I$): $\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{f}_1$
- Interpolation of the discrepancy in the j -direction: $\mathbf{f}_2 = \square_j(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{f}_1)$
- Addition of the results of this j -interpolation to the results of the i -interpolation:
 $\mathbf{r}(i, j) = \mathbf{f}_1 + \mathbf{f}_2$

- Of course, Lagrange, Hermite Polynomials, Spline and non-polynomial (stretching) functions can be used for transfinite interpolations
- In 2D, inputs to program are 4 boundaries
- Issues: Propagates discontinuities in the interior and grid lines can overlap in some situations
- \Rightarrow needs to be refined by grid generator solving a PDE





Grid Generation for Structured Grids: Algebraic Methods: Transfinite Interpolation, Cont'd

- Examples:

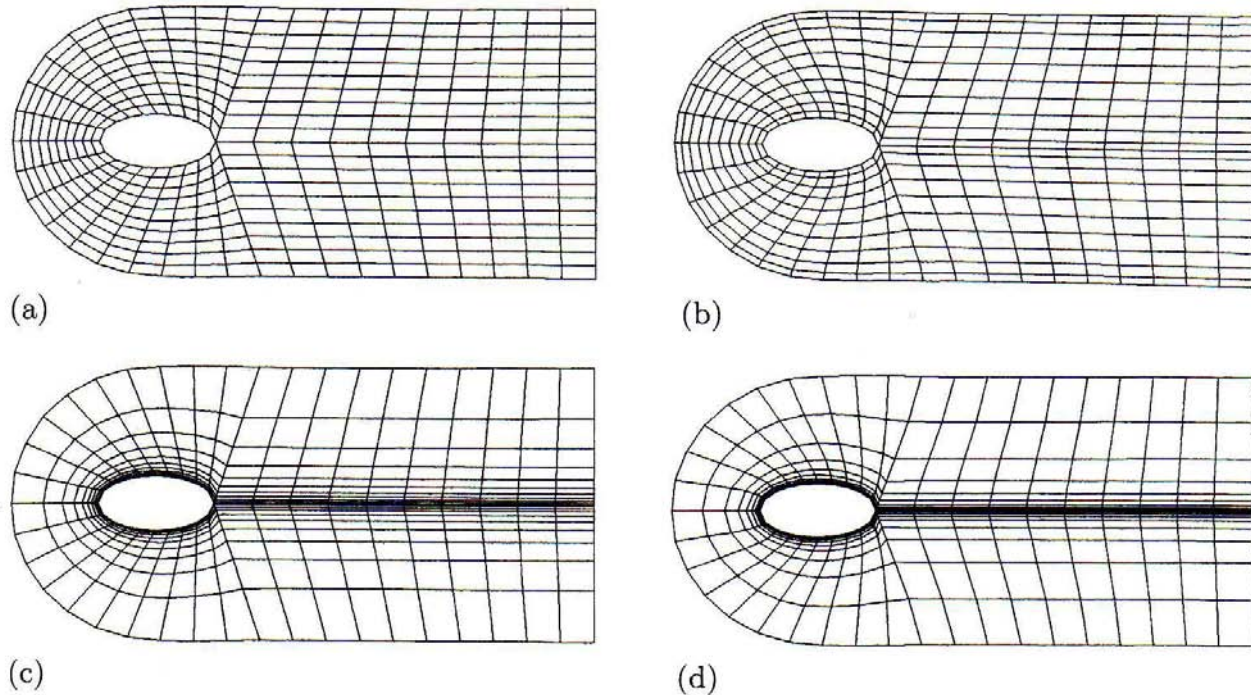


Fig. 9.12. (a) C-grid around ellipse: Unidirectional Lagrange Interpolation, (b) C-grid around ellipse: Unidirectional Hermite Interpolation, (c) C-grid around ellipse: Unidirectional Lagrange Interpolation with Hyperbolic Tangent Spacing, (d) C-grid around ellipse: Unidirectional Hermite Interpolation with Hyperbolic Tangent Spacing.

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Grid Generation, structured Grids: General Coordinate transformation

- In general, coordinates are defined by a transformation: $x_i = x_i(\xi_j)$ (i and $j = 1, 2, 3$)
- All transformations are characterized by their Jacobian determinant J .

$$J = \det \begin{pmatrix} \frac{\partial x_i}{\partial \xi_j} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{vmatrix} \frac{\partial x_1}{\partial \xi_1} & \frac{\partial x_1}{\partial \xi_2} & \frac{\partial x_1}{\partial \xi_3} \\ \frac{\partial x_2}{\partial \xi_1} & \frac{\partial x_2}{\partial \xi_2} & \frac{\partial x_2}{\partial \xi_3} \\ \frac{\partial x_3}{\partial \xi_1} & \frac{\partial x_3}{\partial \xi_2} & \frac{\partial x_3}{\partial \xi_3} \end{vmatrix}$$

- For Cartesian vector components, one only needs to transform derivatives. One has:

$$\frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x_i} = \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial \xi_j} \frac{\partial \xi_j}{\partial x_i} = \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial \xi_j} \frac{\beta^{ij}}{J}, \quad \text{where } \beta^{ij} \text{ represents the cofactor of } \frac{\partial x_i}{\partial \xi_j} \text{ (element } i, j \text{ of Jacobian matrix)}$$

- In 2D, $x = x(\xi, \eta)$ and $\phi = \phi(\xi, \eta)$, this leads to:

$$\frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x} = \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial \xi} \frac{\partial \xi}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial \eta} \frac{\partial \eta}{\partial x} = \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial \xi} \frac{\beta^{11}}{J} + \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial \eta} \frac{\beta^{12}}{J} = \frac{1}{J} \left(\frac{\partial \phi}{\partial \xi} \frac{\partial y}{\partial \eta} - \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial \eta} \frac{\partial y}{\partial \xi} \right)$$

Recall: the minor element m_{ij} corresponding to a_{ij} is the determinant of the submatrix that remains after the i^{th} row and the j^{th} column are deleted from \mathbf{A} . The cofactor c_{ij} of a_{ij} is: $c_{ij} = (-1)^{i+j} m_{ij}$



Structured Grids: Coordinate transformation, Cont'd

Some Comments

- Coordinate transformation often presented only as a means of converting a complicated non-orthogonal grid into a simple, uniform Cartesian grid (the computational domain, whose grid-spacing is arbitrary)
- However, simplification is only apparent:
 - Yes, the computational grid is simpler than the original physical one
 - But, the information about the **complexity** in the computational domain **is now in the metric coefficients of the transformed equations**
 - i.e. discretization of computational domain is now simple, but the calculation of the Jacobian and other geometric information is not trivial (the difficulty is hidden in the metric coefficients)
- As mentioned earlier, FD method can in principle be applied to unstructured grids: specify a local shape function, differentiate and write FD equations. Has not yet been done.



Grid Generation for Structured Grids: Differential Equation Methods

- Grid transformation relations determined by a finite-difference solution of PDEs
 - For 2D problems, two elliptic (Poisson) PDEs are solved
 - Can be done for any coordinate systems, but here we will use Cartesian coordinates. The 2D transformation is then:
 - From the physical domain (x, y) to the computational domain (ξ, η)
 - At physical boundaries, one of ξ, η is constant, the other is monotonically varying
 - At interior points:

$$\frac{\partial^2 \xi}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 \xi}{\partial y^2} = P(\xi, \eta)$$
$$\frac{\partial^2 \eta}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 \eta}{\partial y^2} = Q(\xi, \eta)$$

where $P(\xi, \eta)$ and $Q(\xi, \eta)$ are called the “control functions”

- Their selection allows to concentrate the ξ, η lines in specific regions
- If they are null, coordinates will tend to be equally spaced away from boundaries
- Boundary conditions: ξ, η specified on boundaries of physical domain



Grid Generation for Structured Grids: Differential Equation Methods, Cont'd

- Computations to generate the grid mapping are actually carried out in the computational domain (ξ, η) itself!
 - don't want to solve the elliptic problem in the complex physical domain!
- Using the general rule, the elliptic problem is transformed into:

$$\alpha \frac{\partial^2 x}{\partial \xi^2} - 2\beta \frac{\partial^2 x}{\partial \xi \partial \eta} + \gamma \frac{\partial^2 x}{\partial \eta^2} + J^2 \left(P \frac{\partial x}{\partial \xi} + Q \frac{\partial x}{\partial \eta} \right) = 0$$
$$\alpha \frac{\partial^2 y}{\partial \xi^2} - 2\beta \frac{\partial^2 y}{\partial \xi \partial \eta} + \gamma \frac{\partial^2 y}{\partial \eta^2} + J^2 \left(P \frac{\partial y}{\partial \xi} + Q \frac{\partial y}{\partial \eta} \right) = 0$$

where $\alpha = x_\eta^2 + y_\eta^2$; $\beta = x_\xi x_\eta + y_\xi y_\eta$; $\gamma = x_\xi^2 + y_\xi^2$; $J = x_\xi y_\eta - x_\eta y_\xi$ (with $x_\xi = \frac{\partial x}{\partial \xi}$, etc)

- Boundary conditions are now the transformed values of the BCs in (x, y) domain: they are the values of the positions (x, y) of the grid points on the physical domain mapped to their locations in the computational domain
- Equations can be solved by FD method to determine values of every grid point (x, y) in the interior of the physical domain
- Method developed by Thomson et al, 1985 (see ref)



Grid Generation for Structured Grids: Differential Equation Methods, Example

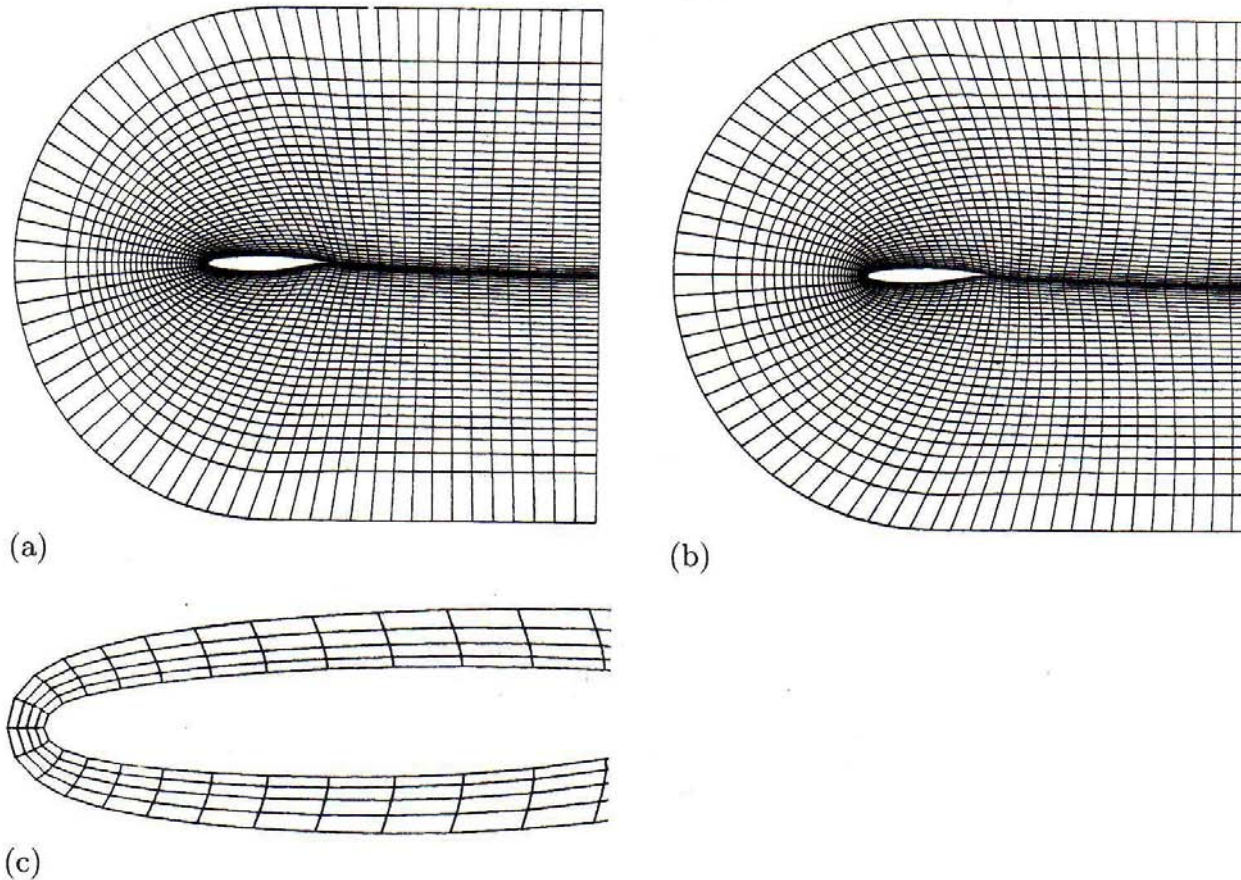


Fig. 9.13. (a) Starting algebraic C-grid around an airfoil section; 70 × 30 grid points; inner spacing $\Delta S_1 = 0.015c$, outer spacing $\Delta S_2 = 0.3c$, (b) Elliptic C-grid obtained after smoothing the algebraic grid of (a) by the solution of Poisson equations (50 iterations), (c) Close-up of the C-grid showing the application of orthogonality conditions near the leading edge region.

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Grid Generation for Structured Grids: Conformal Mapping Methods

- Conformal mapping schemes are analytical or partially analytical (as opposed to differential equation methods)
- Restricted to two dimensional flows (based on complex variables): useful for airfoils
- Examples:

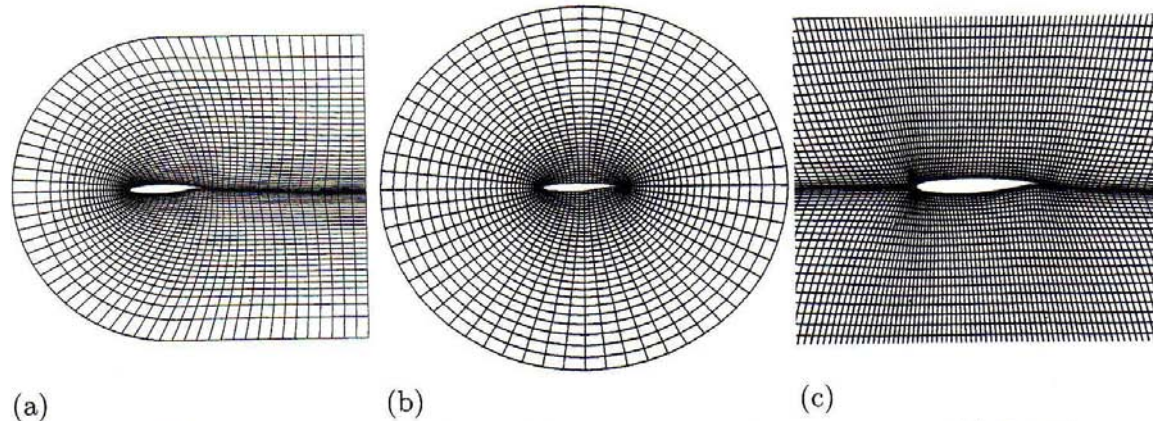


Fig. 9.14. Three common grids for airfoils. (a) C-grid, (b) O-grid, and (c) H-grid.

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- C-mesh: high density near leading edge of airfoil and good wake
- O-mesh: high density near leading and trailing edge of airfoil
- H-mesh: two sets of mesh lines similar to a Cartesian mesh, which is easiest to generate. Its mesh lines are often well aligned with streamlines



Grid Generation for Structured Grids: Conformal Mapping Methods: Example

- C-mesh example is generated by a parabolic mapping function
- It is essentially a set of confocal, orthogonal parabolas wrapping around the airfoil

- The mapping is defined by:

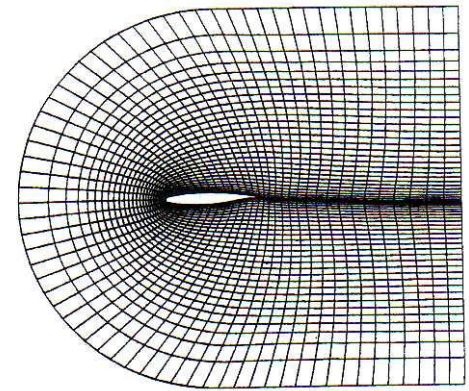
$$2(x + iy) = (\xi + i\eta)^2$$

or

$$2x = \xi^2 - \eta^2 ; \quad y = \xi \eta$$

- Inverse transformation:

$$\xi^2 = \sqrt{x^2 + y^2} + x ; \quad \eta^2 = \sqrt{x^2 + y^2} - x$$



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- Polar coordinates can be used for easier physical plane to computational plane transformation.
- In conformal mapping, singular point is point where mapping fails (here, it is the origin) => move it to half the distance from the nose radius



Grid Generation: Unstructured Grids

- Generating unstructured grid is complicated but now relatively automated in “classic” cases
- Involves succession of smoothing techniques that attempt to align elements with boundaries of physical domain
- Decompose domain into blocks to decouple the problems
- Need to define point positions and connections
- Most popular algorithms:
 - Delaunay Triangulation Method
 - Advancing Front Method
- Two schools of thought: structured vs. unstructured, what is best for CFD?

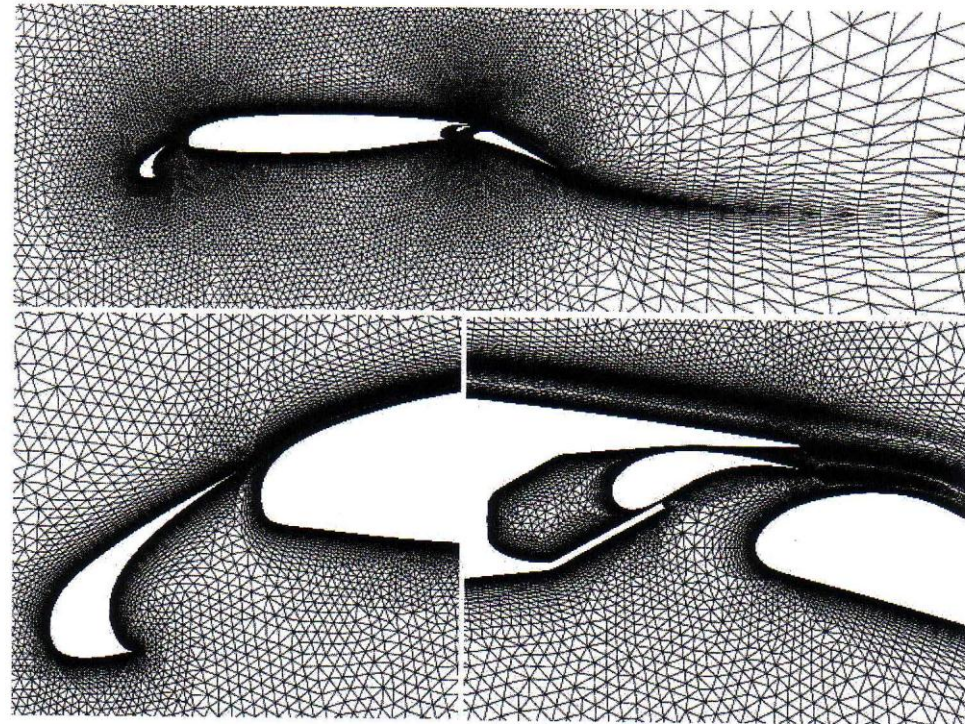


Fig. 9.16. 2D Unstructured grid for Navier–Stokes computations of a multi-element airfoil generated with the hybrid advancing front Delaunay method of Mavriplis [6].

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- Structured grids: simpler grid and straightforward treatment of algebraic system, but mesh generation constraints on complex geometries
- Unstructured grids: generated faster on complex domains, easier mesh refinements, but data storage and solution of algebraic system more complex

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2.29 Numerical Fluid Mechanics

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