

# Fast techniques for the incompressible variable density Navier-Stokes equations

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# Acknowledgments

**Collaborators:** Abner Salgado (PhD), Department of Mathematics  
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Introduction

Pressure-correction schemes for constant density

Pressure-correction for variable density

Numerical illustrations

Conclusion

# OUTLINE

## 1 Introduction



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- 2 Pressure-correction schemes for constant density



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# Navier-Stokes equations



Claude L. M. H. Navier



George G. Stokes





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George G. Stokes

- $\Omega$  fluid domain
- $T$  some time
- $\mathbf{f}$  smooth source term
- $\mathbf{u}_0$  smooth solenoidal data



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(2) Minimize the computational cost & retain optimal approximation properties

**Strategy:** Fractional time-stepping, Chorin–Temam idea (1968-1969).



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- Step 2 amounts to

$$\tilde{u}^{k+1} = u^{k+1} + \nabla\left(\frac{\Delta t}{\rho}\phi^{k+1}\right), \quad u^{k+1} \in H, \quad \phi^{k+1} \in H^1(\Omega)$$



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$$(i) \quad \nabla^2 \phi^{k+1} = \frac{\rho}{\Delta t} \nabla \cdot \tilde{u}^{k+1}; \quad \partial_n \phi^{k+1}|_{\Gamma} = 0$$

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- **Very simple algorithm**  $\Rightarrow$  **Very popular**



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Theorem (Rannacher (1991), Shen (1992))

$$\|u_{\Delta t} - \tilde{u}_{\Delta t}\|_{\ell^\infty([L^2(\Omega)]^d)} + \|u_{\Delta t} - \tilde{u}_{\Delta t}\|_{\ell^\infty([L^2(\Omega)]^d)} \leq c(u, p, T) \Delta t,$$

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- **Irreducible** splitting error of order  $\mathcal{O}(\Delta t) \Rightarrow$  using higher-order time stepping does not improve the overall accuracy.



# Incremental pressure-correction schemes

- **Simple idea:** use the old pressure  $p^k$  in the viscous step and correct the pressure appropriately afterwards (Goda (1979) Van Kan (1986)).



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*With appropriate initialization,*

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- Time stepping can be replaced by any 2nd order A-stable stepping.



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- Where is the catch?

The tangent component of  $u^{k+1}$  is still not correct!  $\Rightarrow$   
sub-optimality



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## Theorem (Guermont-Shen (2006))

*With appropriate initialization,*

$$\|u_{\Delta t} - u_{\Delta t}\|_{\ell^\infty([L^2(\Omega)]^d)} + \|u_{\Delta t} - \tilde{u}_{\Delta t}\|_{\ell^\infty([L^2(\Omega)]^d)} \leq c(u, p, T) \Delta t^2,$$

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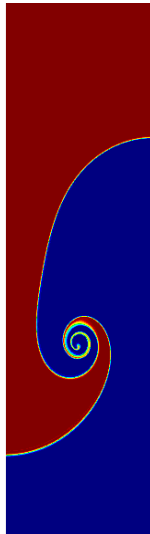
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- **OPEN QUESTION:** can we regain the missing  $\Delta t^{1/2}$ ?





# Variable density flows



# The naive approach for variable density

- Use the same strategy as for constant density.  
Viscous prediction + projection + pressure correction.



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- ⇒ Second-order PDE with **non-constant coefficients**.
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- **All** The current splitting algorithms are based on this model!
- Only two proofs of stability available (Guermond-Quartapelle (2000), Pyo-Shen (2007)).



# A new (old) idea

- Projection methods can also be interpreted as penalty techniques



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- **Ex 1:** Non-incremental pressure-correction equivalent to

$$\begin{cases} \rho(\mathbf{u}_t + \mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{u}) + \nabla p - \mu \nabla^2 \mathbf{u} = \mathbf{f}, & \mathbf{u}|_{\Gamma} = 0, \\ \nabla \cdot \mathbf{u} - \epsilon \nabla^2 \phi = 0, & \partial_n \phi|_{\Gamma} = 0, \quad p = \phi \end{cases}$$





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- **The new idea:** Adopt the penalty point of view instead of the Helmholtz decomposition.



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## Non-incremental version

- Density

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- Error  $\mathcal{O}(\Delta t)$  on velocity in  $\mathbf{H}^1$ -norm and pressure in  $L^2$ -norm.
- $p^n + \phi = 2p^n - p^{n-1}$ : second-order extrapolation on pressure  
 $\Rightarrow$  second-order accuracy reachable.



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- Velocity extrapolation  $\mathbf{u}^* = 2\mathbf{u}^n - \mathbf{u}^{n-1}$ .





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Introduction

Pressure-correction schemes for constant density

Pressure-correction for variable density

**Numerical illustrations**

Conclusion

Convergence tests

Rayleigh-Taylor instability ,  $\rho_{\max}/\rho_{\min} = 3$ ,  $Re = 1000$

Rayleigh-Taylor instability ,  $\rho_{\max}/\rho_{\min} = 3$ ,  $Re = 5000$

Rayleigh-Taylor instability ,  $\rho_{\max}/\rho_{\min} = 7$ ,  $Re = 1000$

# Numerical illustrations



## Convergence tests

- Velocity  $\mathbb{P}_2$ , pressure  $\mathbb{P}_1$ , density  $\mathbb{P}_2$

$\Delta t$	Vel. $L^2$	rate	Vel. $H^1$	rate	Pre. $L^2$	rate	Den. $L^2$	rate
0.100000	3.90E-3		1.63E-2		1.25E-2		1.25E-2	
0.050000	1.18E-3	1.73	5.03E-3	1.70	3.61E-3	1.79	2.93E-3	2.09
0.025000	3.35E-4	1.82	1.47E-3	1.77	1.00E-3	1.85	7.60E-4	1.95
0.012500	9.04E-5	1.89	4.13E-4	1.83	2.70E-4	1.89	2.08E-4	1.87
0.006250	2.37E-5	1.93	1.15E-4	1.84	7.10E-5	1.93	5.85E-5	1.83
0.003125	6.12E-6	1.95	3.17E-5	1.86	1.87E-5	1.93	1.67E-5	1.81

- Rotational incremental version + BDF2; **Smooth domains:**  
 $(\mathcal{O}(\Delta t)^2)$  on velocity in  $\mathbf{L}^2$ -norm, a little less in  $\mathbf{H}^1$ -norm and pressure in  $L^2$ -norm.

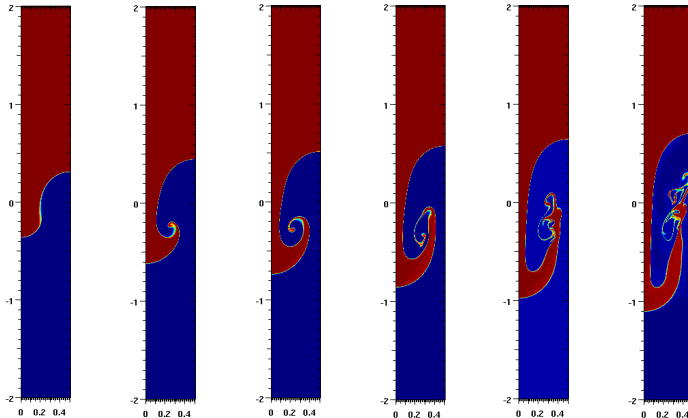


# Convergence tests

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# Numerical illustrations. RT, $\rho_{\max}/\rho_{\min} = 3$ , $R_e = 1000$

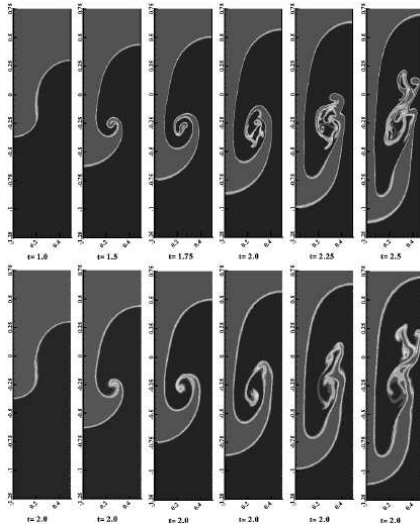


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movie



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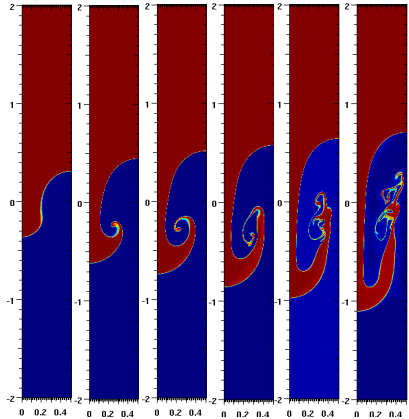
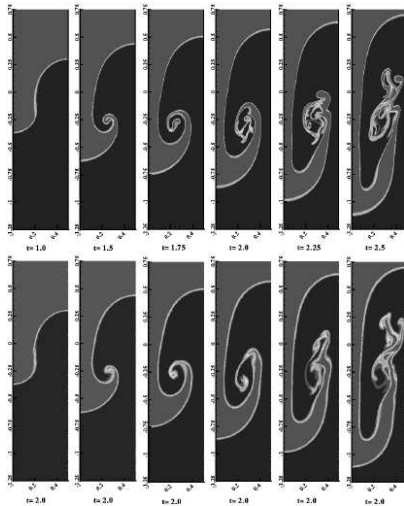


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Standard algorithm  
Finite volume  $256 \times 512$

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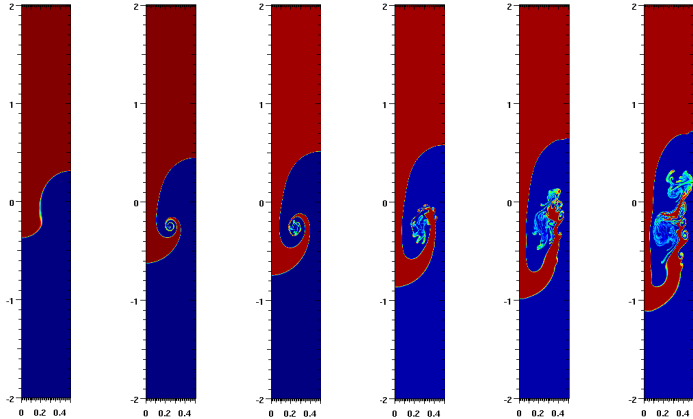


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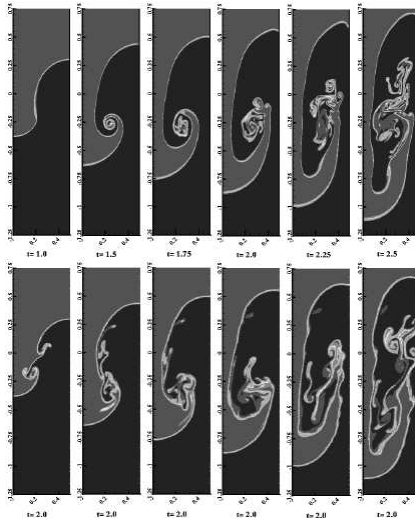


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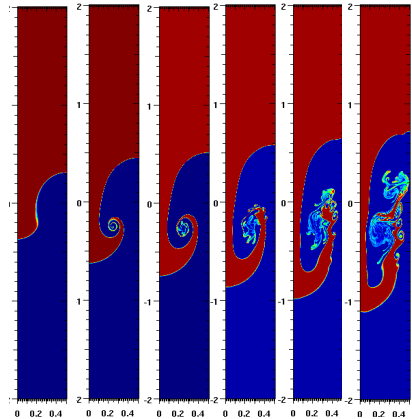
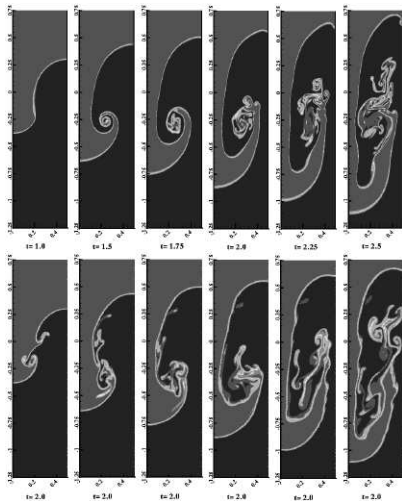


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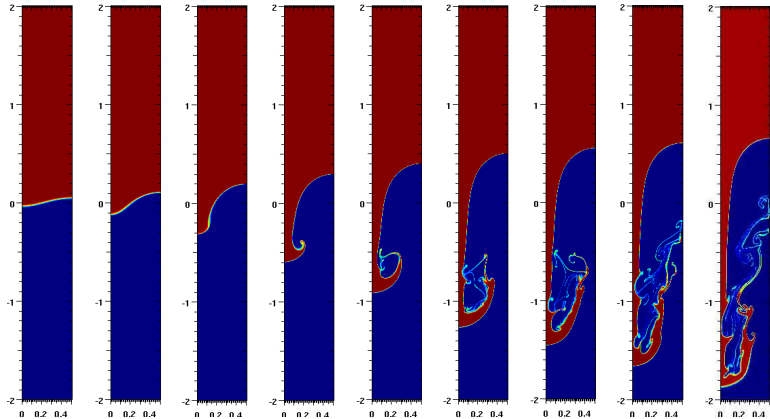
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# Numerical illustration. RT, $\rho_{\max}/\rho_{\min} = 7$ , $Re = 1000$

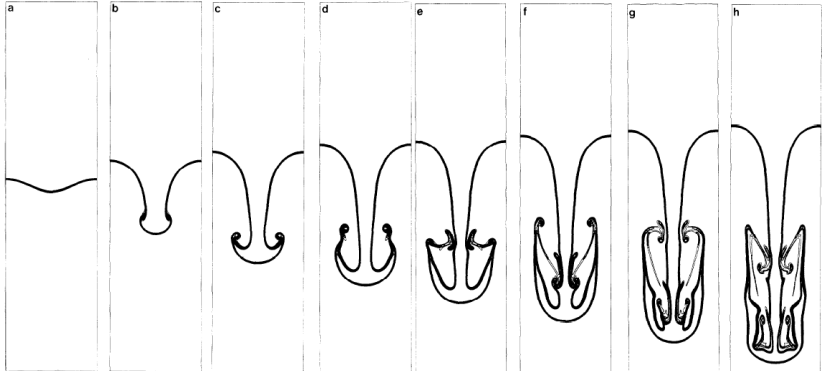


$t = 1, 1.5, 2, 2.5, 3, 3.5, 3.75, 4, 4.25$

movie



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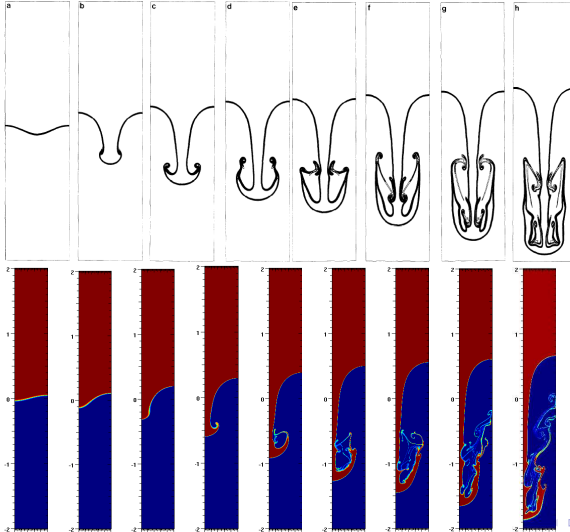


- $t = 1.5$   $t = 2$   $t = 2.5$   $t = 3$   $t = 3.5$   $t = 3.75$   $t = 4$   $t = 4.25$

- Bell, Marcus (1992), Standard algorithm, Finite volume  
200 × 800



# Numerical illustration. RT, $\rho_{\max}/\rho_{\min} = 7$ , $R_e = 1000$



# Concluding remarks

- Splitting algorithms are **fast and easy** to implement.



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- Splitting algorithms are **fast and easy** to implement.
- **New fast splitting algorithm for solving variable density** flows: solve  $\nabla^2 \phi = \psi$  instead of  $\nabla \cdot (\frac{1}{\rho} \nabla \phi) = \psi$ .
- Stability proven up to second-order time stepping.  
Convergence analysis coming soon.





# Open issues

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- Can splitting schemes do well with open BCs?
- Does there exist a splitting scheme that is fully  $\mathcal{O}(\Delta t^2)$  in non-smooth domains?
- Be **suspicious** about any splitting method that claims convergence order (in  $H^1$ -norm)  $> \mathcal{O}(\Delta t^{\frac{3}{2}})$ .

