

Turbulent flow simulation by a multiple-relaxation-time lattice Boltzmann method with a one-equation subgrid scale model

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ABSTRACT

We present large eddy simulation of turbulent flows by a lattice Boltzmann method with a one-equation subgrid scale model. We use the three-dimensional twenty-seven (D3Q27) discrete velocity model because it has the best isotropy properties and is the best choice for turbulence modelling, and the multiple-relaxation-time (MRT) scheme in order to increase the stability [1].

In lattice Boltzmann-based large eddy simulation, the Smagorinsky model has been widely used [2]. It computes the SGS eddy-viscosity from the local shear rate and a length scale.

In a one-equation subgrid scale model, however, the SGS eddy-viscosity is determined from the SGS turbulent kinetic energy. The transport equation for the SGS turbulent kinetic energy is utilized [3]. The SGS turbulent kinetic energy accounts for the history and non-local effects, and has the potential to benefit complex flows with non-equilibrium turbulence. We employ the finite difference scheme in order to solve the transport equation on the same computational grid that is used in the lattice Boltzmann method. The only link between the transport equation and the lattice Boltzmann dynamics is through the SGS eddy-viscosity relation.

Simulation results are presented for the turbulent flow over a backwards facing step. We compare reattachment length obtained by the present method, the method using the conventional Smagorinsky model, and experiment.

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