Visualization of Flow Past a Marine Turbine: A Multi-field Challenge

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Overview

- Motivation for marine turbine research
- Basic questions posed by engineers
- Description of multi-field simulation data
- Some experiments & attempts visualizing multi-field data

Multiple-Coordinated Views: Histogram table, Velocity histogram, Parallel coordinates, Streamline graph, Distortion

- Some Observations
- Open questions







Marine Turbines: Motivation

- Renewable, green, and sustainable energy
- Converts kinetic energy from tidal water
- More predictable than wind
- Less environmental impact
 - Deep
 - Slow
- Higher Installation and Maintenance Costs



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Marine Turbine Simulation: Questions

- What is the optimal Pylon (turbine support) and blade design?
- Goal: maximize energy drawn + minimize impact on flow
- How does the flow past a marine turbine behave?
- To what spatial extent does a marine turbine affect passing flow?
- How closely can turbines be packed in a given region?





Marine Turbine Visualization Challenges

- Adaptive resolution, unstructured mesh
- High dimensionality of CFD data:
 - Flow Velocity v(x,y,z)
 - Relative Pressure (to boundary)
 - Density (can vary due to pollutants)
 - Turbulent Kinetic Energy (energy associated with rotational flow)
 - Turbulent Dissipation Rate (rate kinetic energy is converted into heat)
 - Turbulent Viscosity (diffusive mixing of flow turbulence)
 - Derived Attributes

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 Commercial off-the-shelf tools may not provide enough insight



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Visualization Application: Features

- Multiple-coordinated views for interactive visualization
- Information-Assisted Multi-field Histogram Views
- Interactively multi-select or brush any attributes deemed interesting
- Information and knowledgeassisted streamline seeding
- Knowledge-assisted distortion
- Multi-threading



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Visualization Application: Overview



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Visualization View: Histogram Table



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Visualization View: Polar Histogram







Visualization View: Parallel Coordinates



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Visualization View: Streamline Graph



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Visualization View: Scientific



Visualization Application: Experiments



Observations, Discussion

- Engineers responded favorably to multiple-views, including parallel coordinates and distortion
- Visualizations highlighted a problem in simulation
- Streamline graph obviates periodicity of swirl flow
- Engineers surprised by asymmetry of tangential velocity
- Engineers want more than just visualization



Question Remaining

- What improvements can be made to histogram table to provide a better overview of multi-field data?
- What alternative scientific or informations visualizations can be used to provide overview of multi-field CFD data?
- Are there any simple techniques to order parallel coordinate axes?
- Can detailed, multi-field views be coupled more closely with the spatial domain?



Thank you for your attention! Any Questions?

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