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Poster 2021



Enhanced Quadrature Design for Chordal Ultrasonic Flowmeters

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In addition to his regulatory role, Patrick is a part time research student in the department of Engineering at RGU Aberdeen. Patrick's research is examining design changes to ultrasonic flowmeters to increase the uptake of condition-based monitoring with special emphasis on resilience to velocity profile effects.

Introduction

Some previous work has proposed tailoring designs to *specific* profiles to reduce integration errors due to axial distortion. This work instead aims to improve resilience across a *range* of axial profiles.

We propose a change to the method used for calculating Legendre 4 chord weighting factors which improves performance in axial distortion.

Can new 4 & 5 chord quadrature designs be found which outperform Chebyshev & OWICS designs?

Methodology

Mathematical model developed which allows testing of an integration scheme across 42 disturbed axial profiles. High order Chebyshev interpolants used to model path velocity measurements [1].

36 different orientations for each profile are used, increasing the dataset. Results used to calculate three metrics for each profile: Mean Absolute Error (MAE), Root Mean Square error (RMS) and error span (max-min).

Proposed design compared using the above metrics against an appropriate benchmark.

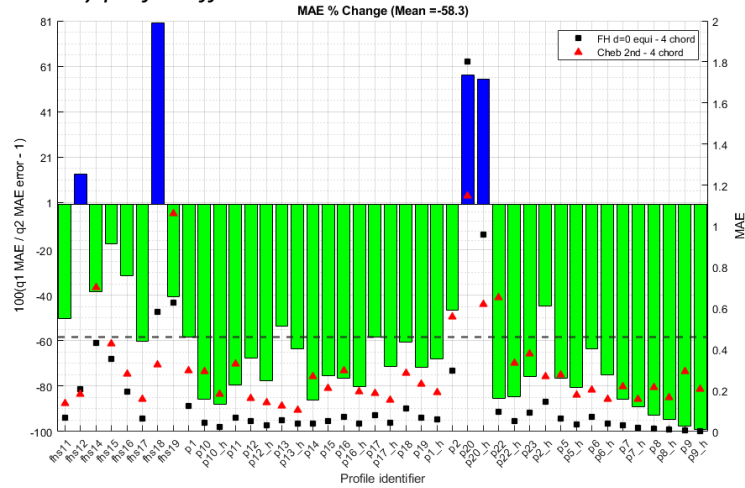


Fig 2 – Change in MAE across a range of distorted axial profiles comparing new 4 chord design with common Gauss-Chebyshev 4 chord design

Results

New method of correcting 4 chord Legendre for a circular domain reduces MAE on average by ~26% across a range of profiles (Fig. 1). Improvement in RMS and error span also seen.

New 4 & 5 chord path positions tested with weights calculated using rational interpolant [2]. Average reduction in MAE of ~58% observed for our 4 chord design when compared with Gauss-Chebyshev 4 chord (Fig. 2). Improvement in RMS and error span also seen. New 5 chord design also an improvement compared with Gauss-Chebyshev 5 chord.

Conclusions

The change to Legendre reduces errors due to axial distortion by improving the fit of the interpolant to the area flow function. New 4 & 5 chord quadrature designs appear to reduce errors due to axial distortion. Initial analysis indicates this is due to cancelling of errors between paths with those near the wall for the 4 chord, and improved fit between paths for the 5 chord.

Further work will test conclusions on profiles with more realistic near wall behaviour.

References

- [1] BATTLES, Z. and TREFETHEN, L.N., 2004. An extension of matlab to continuous functions and operators. *SIAM Journal on Scientific Computing*, 25(5), pp. 1743-1770.
- [2] FLOATER, M.S., HORMANN, K., 2007. Barycentric rational interpolation with no poles and high rates of approximation. *Numer. Math.* 107, pp. 315-331.

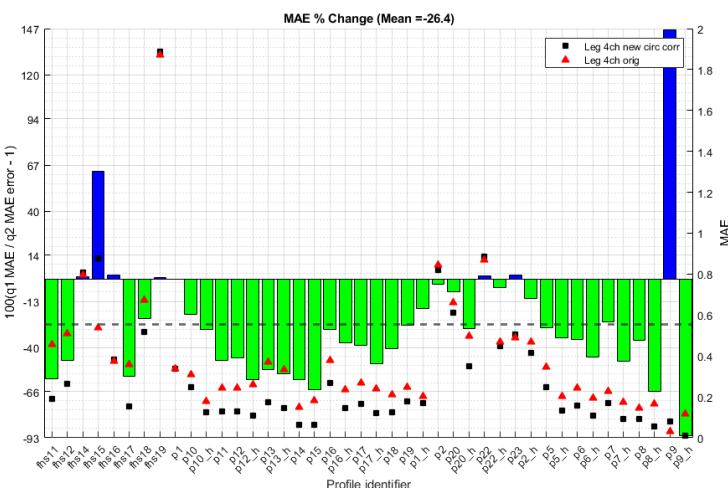


Fig 1 – Change in MAE across a range of distorted axial profiles comparing new circular domain correction to the existing method (Legendre 4 chord)