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Discontinuous Galerkin (DG) methods allow higher-order flow solutions on unstructured or locally refined meshes by increasing the polynomial degree and using curved instead of straight-sided elements. Aerodynamic force coefficients like the drag, lift and moment coefficients are the most important quantities in aerodynamic flow simulations. In addition to the exact approximation of these quantities it is of increasing importance, in particular in the field of uncertainty quantification, to estimate the error in the computed quantities. An estimate of the error in computed force coefficients includes primal residuals multiplied by the solution to an adjoint problem related to the force coefficients. This estimate can be decomposed into a sum of local adjoint-based indicators which can be employed to drive a goal-oriented adaptive mesh refinement algorithm specifically tailored to the accurate and efficient approximation of the aerodynamic force coefficients [1,4]. Residual-based indicators include the element, face and boundary residuals of the discrete flow solution. They do not depend on an adjoint solution or a specific target quantity. Thus, they target at resolving the overall flow solution. Numerical experiments show that the residual-based mesh refinement is particularly well suited for resolving flow features like vortices [4].

In this talk we consider the higher-order and adaptive DG methods for the RANS-$k\omega$ equations. Their implementation in the PADGE code [2] will be applied to aerodynamic test cases considered in the EU projects ADIGMA [3] and IDIHOM.

References