Abstract

Modeling and Simulation of Multiphysics Multiscale Systems (SMMS) poses a grand challenge to computational science. To adequately simulate numerous intertwined processes characterized by different spatial and temporal scales spanning many orders of magnitude, sophisticated models and advanced computational techniques are required. The aim of the SMMS workshop is to encourage and review the progress in this multidisciplinary research field. This short paper describes the scope of the workshop and gives pointers to the papers reflecting the latest developments in the field.

Keywords: Multiphysics, Multiscale, Complex systems, Modeling, Simulation, ICCS, SMMS, Workshop

1. Introduction to the Workshop

The progress in understanding physical, chemical, biological, sociological and economical processes strongly depends on adequacy and accuracy of numerical simulation. All the systems important for scientific and industrial applications are inherently multiphysics and multiscale: they involve interactions amongst a wide range of physical phenomena operating at different spatial and temporal scales. Complex flows, fluid-structure interactions, plasma and chemical processes, thermo-mechanical and electromagnetic systems are just a few examples essential for fundamental and applied sciences. Numerical simulation of these multiphysics and multiscale problems requires development of sophisticated models and methods for their integration, as well as efficient numerical algorithms and advanced computational techniques.

To boost scientific cross-fertilization and promote collaboration of the diverse groups of specialists involved, eight years ago we launched a series of mini-symposia on Simulation of Multiphysics Multiscale Systems (SMMS) in conjunction with the International Conference on Computational Sciences (ICCS) [1]. The importance of the topic and success of the workshop branched out annual symposia on Computational Multiphysics Applications within ASME Computers and Information in Engineering Conference [2]. There we concentrate on application of the novel methodologies in engineering.
The topics traditionally addressed by the symposium include modeling of multiphysics and/or multiscale systems on different levels of description, novel approaches to combine different models and scales in one problem solution, advanced numerical methods for solving multiphysics multiscale problems, new algorithms for parallel distributed computing specific to the field, and challenging multiphysics multiscale applications from industry and academia.

The majority of applications presented in the meeting are coming from physics and engineering, but the number of biological and biomedical applications is steadily growing. There are computational models of tissue- and organo-genesis, tumor growth, blood vessel formation and interaction with the hosting tissue, biochemical transport and signaling, neuroscience and brain dynamics, biomedical simulations for surgical planning, etc.

The seventh workshop in the series, organized as a part of ICCS-2010, attracted 74 submissions. As a result, we have 30 oral presentations and several posters.

A large collection of rigorously reviewed papers selected for the previous six workshops highlight modern trends and recent achievements [3]. It shows the progress made in coupling different models (such as continuous and discrete models; quantum and classical approaches; deterministic and stochastic techniques; nano, micro, meso and macro descriptions) and suggests various coupling approaches (e.g. homogenization techniques, multigrid and nested grids methods, variational multiscale methods; embedded, concurrent, integrated or hand-shaking multiscale methods, domain bridging methods, etc.). A number of selected papers have been published in the special issues of the International Journal for Multiscale Computational Engineering [4], collecting state-of-the-art methods for multiscale multiphysics applications.

This year, our special issue has been invited to the new Elsevier Journal of Computational Science [5] – a very focused journal, with the target audience perfectly matching the scope of our workshop. The issue is planned to be published around Christmas 2010.

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank my colleague Alfons Hoekstra for his help in organizing the SMMS workshops, Dick van Albada for his tremendous work and patience in organizing the workshops as the ICCS Workshop Chair, the participants of our workshop for their inspiring contributions, and the members of the program committee for their diligent work. The least I can do is to mention their names (in alphabetical order): E. Albayrak, S.V. Bobashev, B. Boghosian, A. Caiazzo, J.-L. Cambier, B. Chopard, V. Ervin, L. Galfetti, S. Gimelshein, P. Gong, Y. Gorbachev, A. Hoekstra, E.J. Kansa, J.W. Kim, C.R. Kleijn, A. Lagana, H.K. Lee, J. Liu, S. MacLachlan, R. Melnik, J. Michopoulos, S.A. Rashkovskiy, F. Rogier, F.-X. Roux, A.A. Schmidt, T. Tang, P.V. Trusov, S.J. van Albada, M.A.A. van der Meer, M.K. van Vugt, H. Wang, M.S. Wartak, A. Zhmakin.

Special thanks go to the European Aerospace association, especially EUCASS President Jean-Pierre Taran, and the European Office of Aerospace Research & Development, especially EOARD Chief for Aeronautical Sciences Surya Surampudi, for promoting our workshop among the aerospace researchers.

Finally, I thank Jacob Fish, Editor-in-Chief of the International Journal for Multiscale Computational Engineering, for hosting our special issues for the past 7 years, and Peter Sloot, Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Computational Science, for inviting us to the new journal.

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