Two-level consistent splitting methods based on three corrections for the time-dependent Navier–Stokes equations

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SUMMARY

Three kinds of two-level consistent splitting algorithms for the time-dependent Navier–Stokes equations are discussed. The basic technique of two-level type methods for solving the nonlinear problem is first to solve a nonlinear problem in a coarse-level subspace, then to solve a linear equation in a fine-level subspace. Hence, the two-level methods can save a lot of work compared with the one-level methods. The approaches to linearization are considered based on Stokes, Newton, and Oseen corrections. The stability and convergence demonstrate that the two-level methods can acquire the optimal accuracy with the proper choice of the coarse and fine mesh scales. Numerical examples show that Stokes correction is the simplest, Newton correction has the best accuracy, while Oseen correction is preferable for the large Reynolds number problems and the long-time simulations among the three methods. Copyright © 2015 John Wiley & Sons, Ltd.

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KEY WORDS: two-level methods; consistent splitting scheme; Navier–Stokes equations; stability; error estimates

1. INTRODUCTION

In this article, we consider the following incompressible time-dependent Navier–Stokes equations

\[
\begin{aligned}
u_t - \nu \Delta u + (u \cdot \nabla)u + \nabla p &= f \quad \forall (x, t) \in \Omega \times [0, T], \\
\nabla \cdot u &= 0 \quad \forall (x, t) \in \Omega \times [0, T], \\
u(x, t) &= 0 \quad \forall t \in [0, T], \forall x \in \partial \Omega, \\
u(x, 0) &= u_0 \quad \forall x \in \Omega.
\end{aligned}
\]

(1.1)

Let \(\Omega\) be a bounded domain in \(\mathbb{R}^d (d = 2, 3)\) and assumed to have a Lipschitz continuous boundary, \(u\) is the velocity field, \(u_0\) is the initial velocity satisfying \(\nabla \cdot u_0 = 0\), \(p\) denotes the pressure, \(f\) is the density of body forces, \(\nu > 0\) is the kinetic viscosity, and \(T > 0\) denotes a finite time.

It is well known that the coupling of the velocity and the pressure encounters a main difficulty for solving the incompressible Navier–Stokes equations numerically. To decouple the velocity and the pressure, Chorin [1] and Temam [2] originally introduced the projection type methods in the 1960s in which a provisional velocity is used to acquire the velocity and the pressure independently. Later on, many articles have been proposed to discuss the various projection methods. For example, the pressure-correction schemes [1, 2], velocity-correction schemes [3], and the consistent splitting schemes [4]. In order to decouple the velocity and the pressure, the pressure-correction schemes and the velocity-correction schemes impose a non-physical boundary condition on the pressure,
which limits the accuracy of the pressure [5]. Unlike the pressure-correction and velocity-correction schemes, analysis and numerical examples show that the consistent splitting schemes can reach the optimal convergence rate (see the numerical tests in [4] and the analysis in [6]). At every time step, the consistent splitting schemes include the following two steps:

- Step 1: Acquire the velocity by solving a fully nonlinear equation,
- Step 2: Acquire the pressure by solving a Possion equation.

At the aforementioned Step 1, the existing consistent splitting schemes replace the nonlinear terms $u \cdot \nabla u$ by the value of last time step to avoid solving a fully nonlinear equation [3, 4], that is to say, the explicit scheme. However, the explicit scheme requires smaller time step than the implicit scheme. The fully implicit scheme is stable unconditionally in some sense, but it requires solving a nonlinear equation at each time step. A fully implicit treatment on the nonlinear term based on the two-level methods is considered in this paper. The two-level methods are the alternative choice for solving the nonlinear PDEs effectively. For examples, Xu et al. [7–9] apply the two-level techniques for solving the general linear and nonlinear PDEs, Stokes/Darcy, and Navier–Stokes/Darcy problems. The two-level methods for the Navier–Stokes equations have been discussed by Layton [10], Novo et al. [11, 12], Hou et al. [13–19], He et al. [20–22], and Shang et al. [23, 24].

The basic idea of the two-level type methods for solving the nonlinear equation is first to solve a nonlinear equation to acquire the large eddy components $(u_H, p_H)$ in a coarse-level subspace and then solve a linear equation in a fine-level subspace to acquire the fine-level approximation $(u_h, p_h)$. In fact, we can decompose $(u_h, p_h)$ as $(u_h, p_h) = (u_H, p_H) + (\hat{u}_H, \hat{p}_H)$, where $(u_H, p_H)$ is called the large eddy components and $(\hat{u}_H, \hat{p}_H)$ is called the small eddy components. In the two-level methods, the linear equation reflects the interactive relation between large eddy components $(u_H, p_H)$ and small eddy components $(\hat{u}_H, \hat{p}_H)$, which plays an important role in the effectiveness of the two-level methods. Recently, some articles have been reported to discuss the two-level iterative methods for the steady Navier–Stokes equations. For example, He et al. [21, 22] study some two-level iterative FEMs for the steady Navier–Stokes equations. Shang et al. [23, 24] combine the two-level method with the subgrid stabilized method and the local and parallel FEMs, respectively, for the steady Navier–Stokes equations. However, to our knowledge, there are few articles discussing the comparison of different interactive relations between large and small eddy components for the time-dependent Navier–Stokes equations. The interactive relation between large and small eddy components for the time-dependent Navier–Stokes equations should be more complicated compared with the case for the steady Navier–Stokes equations because the time term is involved. This paper combine the two-level method with the consistent splitting schemes for solving the time-dependent Navier–Stokes equations. We consider three kinds of two-level consistent splitting algorithms for the time-dependent Navier–Stokes equations. This paper can be viewed as a sequel to the work of Liu et al. [17, 18] and He et al. [22–24]. Among the discussed three algorithms, although two algorithms (labeled as Stokes correction and Newton correction algorithms) were developed in previous papers [17, 18], a new algorithm (labeled as Oseen correction algorithm) is developed in this paper. For the steady Navier–Stokes equations, Oseen correction algorithm is preferable for the small viscosity [22]. For the time-dependent Navier–Stokes equations, numerical analysis and numerical examples in this article show that Oseen correction algorithm is preferable for the small viscosity problem and the long-time simulations.

This paper is arranged as follows: Section 2 gives some mathematical preliminaries. Section 3 gives the three kinds of two-level consistent splitting schemes. In Section 4, we present some numerical examples. Finally, we give the conclusions in Section 5.

2. PRELIMINARIES

We introduce the following Hilbert spaces:

$$X = H^1_0(\Omega)^d, \quad Y = L^2(\Omega)^d, \quad M = L^2_0(\Omega) = \left\{ q \in L^2(\Omega); \int_{\Omega} q dx = 0 \right\}.$$

We denote the bilinear form $a(\cdot, \cdot)$ on $X \times X$ and trilinear form $b(\cdot, \cdot, \cdot)$ on $X \times X \times X$ respectively by

\[ a(u, v) = \langle Au, v \rangle_{X'} = \langle (u, v) \rangle, \quad \forall u, v \in X, \]
\[ b(u, v, w) = \langle B(u, v), w \rangle_{X'} = \langle (u \cdot \nabla)v, w \rangle + \frac{1}{2}\langle (\nabla \cdot u)v, w \rangle \]
\[ = \frac{1}{2}\langle (u \cdot \nabla)v, w \rangle - \frac{1}{2}\langle (\nabla \cdot u)v, w \rangle, \quad \forall u, v, w \in X, \]

where $A = -P\Delta, B = P(u \cdot \nabla u)$, where $P$ is the orthogonal projection of $Y$ onto the divergence-free space.

Based on the aforementioned notations, the variational form of the Navier–Stokes equations (1.1) is to find $(u, p) \in (X, M)$ such that

\[ (u_t, v) + \nu a(u, v) + b(u, u, v) + (\nabla p, v) = (f, v), \quad \forall v \in X, \]
\[ (\nabla \cdot u, q) = 0, \quad \forall q \in M. \]

(2.1)

In the following text, we need the regularity of the exact solution of the Navier–Stokes equations [25].

**Theorem 2.1**

Assume that $f_{tt} \in L^\infty(0, T; H)$; then there exists a positive constant $\kappa$ such that

\[ \|u(t)\|_2 + \|u_{tt}(t)\|_0 + \|p(t)\|_1 + \|p_{tt}(t)\|_0 \leq \kappa \quad \forall t \in [0, T]. \]

In the following text, we use $c$ to denote a common constant and $\kappa$ to denote a constant, which may depend additionally on $\nu, u_0$ and on time $t$, assumed to be continuous with respect to $t$. We denote by $T$ a positive constant satisfying $0 \leq T \leq +\infty$ for $d = 2$ and $0 \leq T < T^*$ for $d = 3$, where $T^*$ denotes the length of the time interval on which the strong solution exists.

To end this section, we recall some inequalities that are useful in the following analysis [20, 26].

\[ b(u_h, v_h, w_h) = -b(u_h, w_h, v_h), \]
\[ |b(u_h, v_h, w_h)| \leq c_0\|u_h\|_{1+s} \|v_h\|_1 \|w_h\|_0, \quad c_0\|u_h\|_0 \|v_h\|_1 \|w_h\|_1, \quad \forall s > 1. \]
\[ |b(u_h, v_h, w_h)| \leq c_0(\|u_h\|_0 \|v_h\|_1 + \|u_h\|_1 \|v_h\|_0) \|w_h\|_{L^\infty}, \]

(2.2)

(2.3)

(2.4)

for $\forall u_h, v_h, w_h \in X_h$, and $c_0$ is a constant depending only on $\Omega$.

We have the Brezis–Gallouet inequality in the finite dimensional case [27],

\[ \|u_h\|_{L^\infty} \leq c_{L_h}\|\nabla u_h\|_0. \quad \forall u_h \in X_h, \]

(2.5)

where $L_h = |\log(h)|^{\frac{1}{2}}$ for $d = 2$ and $L_h = h^{-\frac{1}{2}}$ for $d = 3$.

### 3. TWO-LEVEL CONSISTENT SPLITTING SCHEMES

In this section, we discuss some two-level consistent splitting methods for the time-dependent Navier–Stokes equations and their stability and convergence results. For the space discretization, we use FEMs. Specially, let $h$ be a real positive parameter tending to 0. The finite element subspace $(X_h, M_h)$ is characterized by $\tau_h$, which is a partition of $\Omega$ into triangles $K$ or quadrilaterals $K$, assumed to be uniformly regular as $h$ tending to 0.

Let $P_h : X \rightarrow X_h$ be the orthogonal projection defined by

\[ (v - P_h v, v_h) = 0, \quad \forall v \in X, \quad \forall v_h \in X_h. \]
Furthermore, the projection $P_h$ satisfies the following properties [20, 25].

$$\| P_h v \|_0 \leq c \| v \|_0, \quad \forall v \in X,$$

$$\| v - P_h v \|_0 + h \| v - P_h v \|_1 \leq c h^2 \| A v \|_0, \quad \forall v \in H^2(\Omega)^d. \quad (3.1)$$

### 3.1. Two-level consistent splitting scheme based on Stokes correction

Firstly, we introduce the two-level consistent splitting methods of (1.1) based on Stokes correction. We call it Method I. Let $u_0^h = P_h u_0$, $u_0^H = P_H u_0$ and positive integer $n(0 \leq n \leq N = T/k)$.

Method 1 is achieved by the following three steps:

**Step 1.** Find a coarse-level solution $(u_n^{H+1}, p_n^{H+1}) \in (X_H, M_H)$ such that

$$\begin{aligned}
& (d_t u_n^{H+1}, v) + va (u_n^{H+1}, v) + b (u_n^{H+1}, u_n^{H+1}, v) + (v, \nabla p_n^{H+1}) - (u_n^{H+1}, \nabla q) = (f_n^{H+1}, v), \\
& f_n^{H+1} = f(t_n), \quad t_n = nk.
\end{aligned} \quad (3.2)$$

for all $(v, q) \in (X_H, M_H)$. Here, $k$ is the time step length, and $d_t u_n^{H+1} = \frac{1}{k} (u_n^{H+1} - u_n^H)$.

**Step 2a.** Find a fine-level solution $u_n^{n+1} \in X_h$ defined by the following Stokes problem:

$$\begin{aligned}
& (d_t u_n^{n+1}, v) + va (u_n^{n+1}, v) + b (u_n^{H+1}, u_n^{n+1}, v) + (v, \nabla p_n^n) = (f_n^{n+1}, v), \quad \forall v \in X_h.
\end{aligned} \quad (3.3)$$

**Step 3.** Update $p_n^{n+1} \in M_h$ defined by

$$\nabla \left( \frac{p_n^{n+1} - p_n^n + v \nabla \cdot u_n^{n+1}}{2} \right) = (d_t u_n^{n+1}, \nabla q), \quad \forall q \in M_h. \quad (3.3)$$

The following theorems provide the stability and convergence results of Method I [17].

**Theorem 3.1**

Suppose that $0 < k < c$. Then the solution of Method I has the following estimates:

$$\| u_n^H \|_0^2 + k v \sum_{i=0}^n (\| \nabla u_i^f \|_0^2 + \| p_i^f \|_0^2) \leq \kappa, \quad 0 \leq n \leq N.$$

**Theorem 3.2**

Under the conditions of Theorem 2.1 and Theorem 3.1, we have

$$\| u(t_n) - u_n^H \|_0 + k v \sum_{i=0}^n (\| \nabla u(i) - \nabla u_i^f \|_0^2 + \| p(i) - p_i^f \|_0^2) \leq \kappa \left( H^4 L^2_h + h^4 + k^2 \right), \quad 0 \leq n \leq N.$$

### 3.2. Two-level consistent splitting scheme based on Newton correction

Secondly, we introduce the two-level consistent splitting methods of (1.1) based on Newton correction. We call it Method II, which is achieved by the following three steps:

**Step 1.** Find a coarse-level solution $(u_n^{H+1}, p_n^{H+1}) \in (X_H, M_H)$ defined by (3.2).

**Step 2b.** Find a fine-level solution $u_n^{n+1} \in X_h$ defined by the following problem:

$$\begin{aligned}
& (d_t u_n^{n+1}, v) + va (u_n^{n+1}, v) + b (u_n^{H+1}, u_n^{n+1}, v) + b (u_n^{n+1}, u_n^{n+1}, v) + (v, \nabla p_n^n) = (f_n^{n+1}, v), \quad \forall v \in X_h.
\end{aligned}$$

**Step 3.** Update $p_n^{n+1} \in M_h$ defined by (3.3).

In our recent paper [18], we have the following estimates of Method II.
Theorem 3.3
Under the conditions of Theorem 3.1, the solution of Method II has the following estimates:

\[ \| u_h^n \|_0^2 + k \nu \sum_{i=0}^{n} (\| \nabla u_h^i \|_0^2 + \| p_h^i \|_0^2) \leq \kappa, \quad 0 \leq n \leq N. \]

Theorem 3.4
Under the conditions of Theorem 3.2, we have

\[ \| u(t_n) - u_h^n \|_0^2 + k \nu \sum_{i=0}^{n} (\| \nabla u(t_i) - \nabla u_h^i \|_0^2 + \| p(t_i) - p_h^i \|_0^2) \leq \kappa \left( H^8 L^2 + h^4 + k^2 \right), \quad 0 \leq n \leq N. \]

3.3. Two-level consistent splitting scheme based on Oseen correction

Finally, we introduce the two-level consistent splitting methods of (1.1) based on Oseen correction. We call it Method III, which is achieved by the following three steps:

**Step 1.** Find a coarse-level solution \( (u_h^n, p_h^n) \in (X_h, M_H) \) defined by (3.2).

**Step 2c.** Find a fine-level solution \( u_h^n \in X_h \) defined by the following Oseen problem:

\[
\left( d_1 u_h^{n+1}, v \right) + \nu \left( \nabla u_h^{n+1}, v \right) + (u_h^{n+1}, v) + \left( v, \nabla p_h^n \right) = \left( f^{n+1}, v \right), \quad \forall v \in X_h. \tag{3.4}
\]

**Step 3.** Update \( p_h^{n+1} \in X_h \) defined by (3.3).

In the following text, we give a detailed analysis of the stability and convergence of Method III. Before giving the stability results, we first show a discrete Gronwall lemma provided in [26, 28].

**Lemma 3.1**
Let \( k, C, \) and \( a_n, b_n, c_n, d_n \) for integers \( n \geq 0 \) be nonnegative number such that

\[ a_m + k \sum_{n=1}^{m} b_n \leq k \sum_{n=1}^{m} a_n + k \sum_{n=1}^{m} c_n + C, \quad \forall m \geq 1. \]

Suppose that \( kd_n < 1 \) for all \( n \), and set \( \gamma_n = (1 - kd_n)^{-1} \). Then,

\[ a_m + k \sum_{n=1}^{m} b_n \leq \exp \left( k \sum_{n=1}^{m} \gamma_n d_n \right) \left( k \sum_{n=1}^{m} c_n + C \right), \quad \forall m \geq 1. \]

In the following text, we obtain the stability of Method III. We first have the following lemma.

**Lemma 3.2**
Under the conditions of Theorem 2.1, there exists a positive constant \( \kappa \) such that

\[ \| d_1 u_h^{n+1} \|_0^2 + k \nu \sum_{i=0}^{n+1} \| \nabla d_1 u_h^i \|_0^2 \leq \kappa, \quad 0 \leq n < N. \]

**Proof**
The proof will be similar to the procedure provided in [18]. Here, we omit it. \( \Box \)

We have the following stability results.
The solution of Method III has the following estimates:

\[ \| u_h^n \|_0^2 + k v \sum_{i=0}^{n} \left( \| \nabla u_h^i \|_0^2 + \| p_h^i \|_0^2 \right) \leq \kappa, \quad 0 \leq n \leq N, \]

where \( \kappa \) depends only on \( (n, t, u_0) \).

**Proof**

We use the induction argument to establish the stability theorem. Firstly, we assume that

\[ k \sum_{i=0}^{n} \| p_h^i \|_0^2 \leq \kappa. \]

In the following work, we present the numerical stability in \( (n + 1) \) step.

Taking \( v = 2k u_h^{n+1} \) in (3.4), we have

\[ \| u_h^{n+1} \|_0^2 - \| u_h^n \|_0^2 + \| u_h^{n+1} - u_h^n \|_0^2 + 2kv \| \nabla u_h^{n+1} \|_0^2 + 2k \left( u_h^{n+1}, \nabla p_h^n \right) = 2k \left( f^{n+1}, u_h^{n+1} \right). \quad (3.5) \]

Using the Cauchy–Schwarz inequality, we acquire

\[ 2k | (u_h^{n+1}, \nabla p_h^n) | \leq 2k \| \nabla u_h^{n+1} \|_0 \| p_h^n \|_0 \leq \frac{k v}{2} \| \nabla u_h^{n+1} \|_0^2 + \frac{2k}{v} \| p_h^n \|_0^2. \]

\[ 2k | (f^{n+1}, u_h^{n+1}) | \leq 2k \| f^{n+1} \|_{-1} \| \nabla u_h^{n+1} \|_0 \leq \frac{k v}{2} \| \nabla u_h^{n+1} \|_0^2 + \frac{2k}{v} \| f^{n+1} \|_{-1}^2. \]

Combining the aforementioned estimates with (3.5), we obtain

\[ \| u_h^{n+1} \|_0^2 - \| u_h^n \|_0^2 + \| u_h^{n+1} - u_h^n \|_0^2 + k v \| \nabla u_h^{n+1} \|_0^2 \leq \frac{2k}{v} \| p_h^n \|_0^2 + \frac{2k}{v} \| f^{n+1} \|_{-1}^2. \]

Summing the aforementioned inequalities for each \( n \) leads to

\[ \| u_h^{n+1} \|_0^2 - \| u_h^n \|_0^2 + k v \sum_{i=0}^{n} \| \nabla u_h^{i+1} \|_0^2 \leq \frac{k}{v} \sum_{i=0}^{n+1} \left( \| p_h^i \|_0^2 + \| f^{i+1} \|_{-1}^2 \right). \]

Applying the induction argument, we have

\[ \| u_h^{n+1} \|_0^2 + k v \sum_{i=0}^{n} \| \nabla u_h^{i+1} \|_0^2 \leq \kappa. \quad (3.6) \]

The inequality mentioned previously implies the stability of the velocity. For the stability of the pressure, we have the following estimates.

Taking \( q = p_h^{n+1} - p_h^n + v \nabla \cdot u_h^{n+1} \triangleq \psi^{n+1} \) in (3.3), we obtain

\[ \| \nabla \psi_h^{n+1} \|_0^2 = (d_t u_h^{n+1}, \nabla \psi_h^{n+1}) \leq \| d_t u_h^{n+1} \|_0 \| \nabla \psi_h^{n+1} \|_0 \leq \frac{1}{2} \| \nabla \psi_h^{n+1} \|_0^2 + \frac{1}{2} \| d_t u_h^{n+1} \|_0^2. \quad (3.7) \]
The equation \( \psi_h^{n+1} = P_h^{n+1} - P_h^n + v \nabla \cdot u_h^{n+1} \) takes inner product with \( 2P_h^{n+1} \); there holds

\[
\| P_h^{n+1} \|_0^2 - \| P_h^n \|_0^2 + \| P_h^{n+1} - P_h^n \|_0^2 = 2(\psi_h^{n+1}, P_h^n) - 2v(\nabla \cdot u_h^{n+1}, P_h^{n+1})
\]

(3.8)

Using the Cauchy–Schwarz inequality and noticing \( \| \nabla \cdot u_h^{n+1} \|_0 \leq \| \nabla u_h^{n+1} \|_0 \), we obtain

\[
2| (\psi_h^{n+1}, P_h^n - P_h^n) | \leq \frac{1}{2} \| P_h^{n+1} - P_h^n \|_0^2 + 2\| \psi_h^{n+1} \|_0^2,
\]

\[
2| (\psi_h^{n+1}, P_h^n) | \leq \| \psi_h^{n+1} \|_0^2 + \| P_h^n \|_0^2,
\]

\[
2v| (\nabla \cdot u_h^{n+1}, P_h^n - P_h^n) | \leq \frac{1}{2} \| P_h^{n+1} - P_h^n \|_0^2 + 2v^2 \| \nabla u_h^{n+1} \|_0^2,
\]

\[
2v| (\nabla \cdot u_h^{n+1}, P_h^n) | \leq v^2 \| \nabla u_h^{n+1} \|_0^2 + \| P_h^n \|_0^2.
\]

We derive from (3.8) and the aforementioned estimates that

\[
\| P_h^{n+1} \|_0^2 \leq 3\| P_h^n \|_0^2 + 3\| \psi_h^{n+1} \|_0^2 + 3v^2 \| \nabla u_h^{n+1} \|_0^2.
\]

The aforementioned inequality multiplies \( k \) and sums for each \( n \), noticing (3.7); there holds

\[
k \sum_{i=0}^{n+1} \| P_h^n \|_0^2 \leq 3k \sum_{i=0}^{n} (\| P_h^i \|_0^2 + \| d_i u_h^i + v \|_0^2 + v^2 \| \nabla u_h^i \|_0^2).
\]

The combination of (3.6) and Lemma 3.2 fulfills the proof. \( \square \)

Before presenting the error estimates of Method III, for \( 0 \leq n \leq N \), we denote

\[
u = u^{n+1} = P_h u^{n+1} + (I - P_h) u^{n+1} = U^{n+1} + W^{n+1},
\]

\[
U = P_h u^{n+1}, \quad W = (I - P_h) u^{n+1},
\]

\[
u_h^{n+1} = U^{n+1} - u_h^{n+1}, \quad p(t_{n+1}) = P_h^{n+1}, \quad u_h^{n+1} = P_h^{n+1} - p_h^{n+1}.
\]

Similarly to Lemma 3.2, before giving the error estimates, we first have the following lemma. We also leave its proof to the interested readers.

**Lemma 3.3**

Under the conditions of Theorem 3.5, the following results hold

\[
\sum_{i=0}^{n+1} \| d_i e_h^i \|_0^2 + k v \sum_{i=0}^{n+1} \| \nabla d_i e_h^i \|_0^2 \leq \kappa (H^6 L_h^2 + h^4 + k^2).
\]

Then we have the following error estimates of Method III.

**Theorem 3.6**

The convergence results of Method III are

\[
\sum_{i=0}^{n} \| \nabla u(t_i) - \nabla u_h^i \|_0^2 + k v \sum_{i=0}^{n} \| p(t_i) - p_h^i \|_0^2 \leq \kappa (H^6 L_h^2 + h^4 + k^2), \quad 0 \leq n \leq N,
\]

where \( \kappa \) depends only on \( (n, t, u_0) \).
Proof
We also apply the induction arguments to obtain the convergence results. Firstly, we assume that the following estimates are valid:

\[ k \sum_{i=0}^{n} \| \eta_h^i \|_0^2 \leq \kappa \left( H^6 L_h^2 + h^4 + k^2 \right). \]

Subtracting (3.4) from (2.1) at \( t = t_{n+1} \), we have

\[
(d_t e_h^{n+1}, v) + \nu a(e_h^{n+1}, v) + b(U^{n+1}, e_h^{n+1}, v) + b(e_h^{n+1}, u_h^{n+1}, v) + b(\hat{u}_h^{n+1}, u_h^{n+1}, v) + kQ^{n+1}(v) + k(v, \nabla d_t p^{n+1}) + (v, \nabla \eta_h^n) = (g^{n+1}, v), \quad \forall v \in X_h, \tag{3.9}
\]

where

\[
\hat{u}_h^{n+1} = u_h^{n+1} - u_H^{n+1}, \quad g^{n+1} = \frac{1}{k} \int_{t_n}^{t_{n+1}} (u(t) - u(t_{n+1})) dt.
\]

Taking \( v = 2ke_h^{n+1} \) in (3.9), we have

\[
\| e_h^{n+1} \|_0^2 - \| e_h^n \|_0^2 + \| e_h^{n+1} - e_h^n \|_0^2 + 2k\nu \| \nabla e_h^{n+1} \|_0^2 + 2kb(U^{n+1}, e_h^{n+1}, e_h^{n+1}) + 2k b(e_h^{n+1}, u_h^{n+1}, e_h^{n+1}) + 2k b(\hat{u}_h^{n+1}, u_h^{n+1}, e_h^{n+1}) + 2kQ^{n+1}(e_h^{n+1}) + 2k^2 (e_h^{n+1}, \nabla d_t p^{n+1}) + 2k (e_h^{n+1}, \nabla \eta_h^n) = 2k (g^{n+1}, e_h^{n+1}). \tag{3.10}
\]

Using (2.3), (2.4), and (2.5), there hold

\[
2k | b(e_h^{n+1}, u_h^{n+1}, e_h^{n+1}) | \leq 2c_0 k L_h \| \nabla e_h^{n+1} \|_0 \| \nabla e_h^{n+1} \|_0 \leq \frac{k\nu}{6} \| \nabla e_h^{n+1} \|_0^2 + \frac{6c_0^2 k L_h^2}{\nu} \| \nabla u_h^{n+1} \|_0^2.
\]

\[
2k | b(\hat{u}_h^{n+1}, u_h^{n+1}, e_h^{n+1}) | \leq 2c_0 k L_h \| \hat{u}_h^{n+1} \|_0 \| \nabla u_h^{n+1} \|_0 \| \nabla e_h^{n+1} \|_0 \leq \frac{k\nu}{6} \| \nabla e_h^{n+1} \|_0^2 + \frac{6c_0^2 k L_h^2}{\nu} \| \hat{u}_h^{n+1} \|_0^2 \| \nabla u_h^{n+1} \|_0^2.
\]

\[
2k | Q^{n+1}(e_h^{n+1}) | \leq 2c_0 k \| U^{n+1} \|_2 \| W^{n+1} \|_0 \| \nabla e_h^{n+1} \|_0 \leq \frac{k\nu}{6} \| \nabla e_h^{n+1} \|_0^2 + \frac{6c_0^2 k}{\nu} \| U^{n+1} \|_2^2 \| W^{n+1} \|_0^2.
\]

\[
2k^2 | (e_h^{n+1}, \nabla d_t p^{n+1}) | \leq 2k^2 \| \nabla e_h^{n+1} \|_0 \| d_t p^{n+1} \|_0 \leq \frac{k\nu}{6} \| \nabla e_h^{n+1} \|_0^2 + \frac{6k^3}{\nu} \| d_t p^{n+1} \|_0^2.
\]

\[
2k | (e_h^{n+1}, \nabla \eta_h^n) | \leq 2k \| \nabla e_h^{n+1} \|_0 \| \eta_h^n \|_0 \leq \frac{k\nu}{6} \| \nabla e_h^{n+1} \|_0^2 + \frac{6k}{\nu} \| \eta_h^n \|_0^2.
\]

\[
2k \| (g^{n+1}, e_h^{n+1}) \| \leq 2k \| \nabla e_h^{n+1} \|_0 \| g^{n+1} \|_{-1} \leq \frac{k\nu}{6} \| \nabla e_h^{n+1} \|_0^2 + \frac{6k}{\nu} \| g^{n+1} \|_{-1}^2.
\]

The combination of (3.10) and the aforementioned estimates admits

\[
\| e_h^{n+1} \|_0^2 - \| e_h^n \|_0^2 + \| e_h^{n+1} - e_h^n \|_0^2 + k\nu \| \nabla e_h^{n+1} \|_0^2 \leq \frac{6k}{\nu} \left( c_0^2 L_h^2 \| e_h^{n+1} \|_0 \| \nabla u_h^{n+1} \|_0^2 + c_0^2 L_h^2 \| \hat{u}_h^{n+1} \|_0^2 \| \nabla u_h^{n+1} \|_0^2 + c_0^2 \| U^{n+1} \|_2^2 \| W^{n+1} \|_0^2 + k^2 \| d_t p^{n+1} \|_0^2 + \| \eta_h^n \|_0^2 + \| g^{n+1} \|_{-1}^2 \right). \]

Summing the aforementioned inequality for each $n$, we have
\[ \|e_h^{n+1}\|_0^2 - \|e_h^n\|_0^2 + k\nu \sum_{i=0}^n \|\nabla e_h^{i+1}\|_0^2 \leq \frac{6k^2}{\nu^2} \sum_{i=0}^n (c_0 L_h^2 \|e_h^{i+1}\|_0^2 \|\nabla u_h^{i+1}\|_0^2 + c_0^2 L_h^2 \|u_h^{i+1}\|_0^2 \|W_i^{i+1}\|_0^2 + k^2 \|dt_i p^{i+1}\|_0^2 + \|\eta_h^n\|_0^2 + \|g^{i+1}\|_0^2). \]

Applying Gronwall Lemma 3.1 to the aforementioned inequality and noticing (3.1), we have
\[ \|e_h^{n+1}\|_0^2 + k\nu \sum_{i=0}^n \|\nabla e_h^{i+1}\|_0^2 \leq \kappa (H^6 L_h^2 + h^4 + k^2) . \]

(3.11)

Then we give the error estimates of the pressure.

Adding some zero terms to (3.3), we acquire
\[ \nabla \phi_h^{n+1} \cdot \nabla q = (d_t e_h^{n+1}, \nabla q) + k (\nabla d_t p^{n+1}, \nabla q), \quad \forall q \in M_h. \]

(3.12)

It follows from the aforementioned equation that
\[ \nabla d_t \phi_h^{n+1} \cdot \nabla q = (d_{tt} e_h^{n+1}, \nabla q) + k (\nabla d_{tt} p^{n+1}, \nabla q), \quad \forall q \in M_h. \]

Taking $q = \eta_h^{n+1} - \eta_h^n + v\nabla \cdot e_h^{n+1} \triangleq \phi_h^{n+1}$ in (3.12), we have
\[ \nabla \phi_h^{n+1} \|_0^2 \leq (d_t e_h^{n+1}, \nabla \phi_h^{n+1}) + k (\nabla d_t p^{n+1}, \nabla \phi_h^{n+1}) \]
\[ \leq \|d_t e_h^{n+1}\|_0^2 \|\nabla \phi_h^{n+1}\|_0 + k \|\nabla d_t p^{n+1}\|_0 \|\nabla \phi_h^{n+1}\|_0 \]
\[ \leq \frac{1}{2} \|\nabla \phi_h^{n+1}\|_0^2 + \|d_t e_h^{n+1}\|_0^2 + k^2 \|\nabla d_t p^{n+1}\|_0^2. \]

(3.13)

The equation $\phi_h^{n+1} = \eta_h^{n+1} - \eta_h^n + v\nabla \cdot e_h^{n+1}$ takes the inner product with $2\eta_h^{n+1}$, leading to
\[ \|\eta_h^{n+1}\|_0^2 - \|\eta_h^n\|_0^2 + \|\eta_h^{n+1}\|_0^2 = 2 \left( \phi_h^{n+1}, \eta_h^{n+1} \right) - 2v \left( \nabla \cdot e_h^{n+1}, \eta_h^{n+1} \right) \]
\[ = 2 \left( \phi_h^{n+1} - \eta_h^n \right) + 2 \left( \phi_h^{n+1}, \eta_h^n \right) - 2v \left( \nabla \cdot e_h^{n+1}, \eta_h^{n+1} - \eta_h^n \right) - 2v \left( \nabla \cdot e_h^{n+1}, \eta_h^n \right). \]

(3.14)

We have the following estimates
\[ 2(\phi_h^{n+1}, \eta_h^{n+1} - \eta_h^n) \leq \frac{1}{2} \|\eta_h^{n+1} - \eta_h^n\|_0^2 + 2\|\phi_h^{n+1}\|_0^2, \]
\[ 2v(\nabla \cdot e_h^{n+1}, \eta_h^{n+1} - \eta_h^n) \leq \frac{1}{2} \|\eta_h^{n+1} - \eta_h^n\|_0^2 + 2v^2 \|\nabla e_h^{n+1}\|_0^2. \]

Combining (3.14) with the aforementioned estimates, we obtain
\[ \|\eta_h^{n+1}\|_0^2 \leq 3 \|\eta_h^n\|_0^2 + 3 \|\phi_h^{n+1}\|_0^2 + 3v^2 \|\nabla e_h^{n+1}\|_0^2. \]

Summing the aforementioned inequality for each $n$ and noticing (3.1), we have
\[ k \sum_{i=0}^n \|\eta_h^n\|_0^2 \leq 3k \sum_{i=0}^n \left( \|\eta_h^n\|_0^2 + 2\|d_t e_h^{i+1}\|_0^2 + 2k^2 \|d_t p^{i+1}\|_0^2 + v^2 \|\nabla e_h^{i+1}\|_0^2 \right). \]

Noticing (3.11) and Lemma 3.3, we acquire
\[ k \sum_{i=0}^n \|\eta_h^n\|_0^2 \leq \kappa (H^6 L_h^2 + h^4 + k^2). \]

Hence, we obtain the error estimates in the $(n + 1)$ step and complete the proof of this theorem. □
Remark 3.1
For the three kinds of two-level consistent splitting schemes (Methods I, II, and III), we first solve a standard Galerkin method (3.2) in the coarse-level subspace to acquire the large eddy components \( u^n_H, p^n_H \). As an initial solution, we solve a linear problem in the fine-level subspace based on Stokes, Newton, and Oseen iterations, respectively. Finally, the pressure is updated by solving a Poisson equation (3.3). Step 2 reflects the interaction between the large and small eddy components. It is easy to find that Stokes iteration is the simplest approximation for the nonlinear term and Newton iteration is the most complicated method, which is the second-order approximation for the nonlinear term. Hence, Method I is the most time-saving method, while Method II can hold the best accuracy among the three methods.

It follows from Theorem 3.2, Theorem 3.4, and Theorem 3.6 to reach the same accuracy as the usual one-level method with the space size \( h \); we should choose \( h = L_h H^2 \) for Method II. While for Methods I and III, the configurations should be \( h^2 = L_h H^3 \). Specifically, if we fix the relation \( h = H^2 \), only Method II can obtain the good approximations. We should choose a finer \( H \) to keep the aforementioned configuration for a fixed \( h \) by Methods I and III if we want to improve the accuracy.

Remark 3.2
The detailed proof of Theorem 3.3 and Theorem 3.4 can be found in [18]. The stability and convergence results of Methods I and III are exhibited in Theorem 3.1, Theorem 3.2, Theorem 3.5, and Theorem 3.6. The proof of these theorems will be similar to the procedure in [18]. Here, we only give the numerical analysis of Method III because it is newly proposed in this paper. Also, we find that the constant \( \kappa \) in Theorem 3.1 and Theorem 3.3 is proportional to the time \( t \) and has an exponential factor with respect to \( \frac{1}{\nu} \), owing to the applications of Gronwall lemma. Therefore, \( \kappa \) will increase rapidly when \( \nu \) decreases at some time. On the other hand, when we try to acquire the stability of Method III, we take \( \nu = u^{n+1}_h \) in (3.4) as the usual way; the term \( b(u^{n+1}_h, u^{n+1}_h, u^{n+1}_h) \) will be zero. Hence, we can acquire the stability of Method III without using the Gronwall lemma. Specifically, the constant \( \kappa \) in Theorem 3.5 is independent of \( \nu \). In other words, Method III will perform the best for the small viscosity problem among the three methods.

4. NUMERICAL EXAMPLES
This section gives some numerical examples to illustrate the performance of the three kinds of two-level consistent splitting schemes. We choose the well-known Taylor–Hood element in all examples. That is, the Lagrange quadratic elements are used to approximate the velocity and line elements to approximate the pressure. For all the implicit time stepping in the simulations, we use Newton iteration with tolerance \( 10^{-6} \). And we use the generalized minimal residual iterative method to solve the linear algebraic equations arising at every time step with tolerance \( 10^{-9} \). All numerical experiments are carried out on a Pentium(R) Dual-Core CPU E5500 with 2-GB memory, under the Debian GNU/Linux operating system, with the FreeFem++ package [29] compilers.

4.1. Analytical solution
We compare the accuracy of the three kinds of two-level consistent splitting schemes with a known analytical solution. The prescribed solution is given by

\[
\begin{align*}
\mathbf{u}_1(x, y, t) &= \pi \sin t \sin 2\pi y \sin^2 \pi x, \\
\mathbf{u}_2(x, y, t) &= -\pi \sin t \sin 2\pi x \sin^2 \pi y, \\
p(x, y, t) &= \sin t \cos \pi x \sin \pi y.
\end{align*}
\]

The right-hand \( f \) is determined such that \( (\mathbf{u}_1, \mathbf{u}_2, p) \) is the solution of the Navier–Stokes equation (1.1).
We first fix the time step size \( k = 0.001 \), the final time \( T = 1 \), and \( \nu = 1 \). We choose the configuration \( h \sim H^2 \) of the fine mesh size \( h \) and coarse mesh size \( H \) to acquire the accuracy of the three methods. The advantage of two-level methods in CPU time in comparison with the one-level methods is presented in Tables I and II. We can see the two-level methods can acquire the same accuracy as the one-level methods with a proper coarse mesh size \( H \). In all the tables,

\[
\|e_u\|_{L^\infty(0,T;Y)} = \max_{0 \leq i \leq N} \frac{\|u(t_i) - u_h^{(i)}\|_0}{\|u(t_i)\|_0}, \quad \|e_u\|_{L^2(0,T;X)} = \left( \frac{k}{\|u(t_i)\|_1^2} \right)^{1/2} \sum_{i=0}^{N} \frac{\|u(t_i) - u_h^{(i)}\|_1}{\|u(t_i)\|_1}^{1/2}.
\]

Furthermore, Tables III–V report the corresponding results of Methods I, II, and III, respectively. Just like Remark 3.1, Method I is the most time-saving method among the three methods. Method II has the better convergence order than Methods I and III.

To establish the possible impact of the viscosity on the three methods, we present the pressure contours of the three methods for \( \nu = 0.1 \) and \( \nu = 0.001 \). In Figures 1–3, we fix the time step size \( k = 0.001 \) and choose the coarse mesh size \( H = 1/16 \) and the fine mesh size \( h = 1/32 \). For \( \nu = 0.1 \), which is the large viscosity problem, the three methods all can give the good approximations at \( t = 2 \) (Figure 1). For the further small viscosity \( \nu = 0.001 \), Method I appears oscillations at \( t = 1.2 \), while the other two methods can still keep the good approximations (Figure 2). For the long-time simulations, Method II also appears oscillations at \( t = 2 \); only Method III can provide a good accuracy even at \( t = 2 \) (Figure 3). The velocity contours will present the same results as the pressure contours by using the three methods. Here, we only give the pressure contours to save the place of this paper.

4.2. The flow around a circular cylinder

Another example to be considered here is the flow around a circular cylinder, which is one of the classical flow problems. At upper and lower computational boundaries and at the inflow section, a uniform free-stream velocity boundary condition is imposed. The traction-free condition is imposed at the outflow boundary. The geometry and the boundary conditions of the cylinder problem are shown in Figure 4. The coarse and fine meshes are listed in Figure 5. We simulate this problem for \( T = 500 \) and choose the time step size \( k = 0.05 \).

The cylinder problem can be characterized by the Reynolds number, which is based on the maximum velocity \( u_{\text{max}} \) and the cylinder diameter \( d \), i.e., \( Re = (u_{\text{max}}d)/\nu \). For Reynolds number \( Re \leq 40 \) when the flow is steady, a wake behind the cylinder develops. The wake is two symmetrical eddies upstream and downstream and will become bigger with the increasing of the Reynolds numbers. For Reynolds number \( Re > 40 \), the flow is unsteady, causing periodic wake flow with vortex shedding behind the cylinder. It is the well-known Karman vortex street. Vortex shedding occurs at a well-defined frequency.

Figures 6–8 present the pressure contours of the three methods with different Reynolds numbers. Just like the first example, for the small Reynolds number \( Re = 40 \), the three methods all can give the good approximations at \( t = 20 \) (Figure 6). For the further large Reynolds number \( Re = 80 \), Method I appears oscillations, while the other two methods can still keep the good approximations (Figure 7). With the increasing of Reynolds number \( Re = 2500 \), Method I diverges at \( t = 1.05 \), Method II also appears oscillations at \( t = 20 \), and only Method III can perform well at \( t = 20 \) (Figure 8).

Having demonstrated the performances of the three methods, the focus of this numerical example is to demonstrate the results of Oseen correction because we have given many numerical results of the Stokes correction in [17] and the Newton correction in [18]. For the additionally proposed two-level consistent splitting schemes based on Oseen correction, we discuss the long-time performance...
Table I. Results of one-level method.

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<th>Order $e_u_{L^2(0,T;X)}$</th>
<th>Order $e_p_{L^2(0,T;Y)}$</th>
<th>Order $e_p_{L^\infty(0,T;X)}$</th>
<th>Order CPU time</th>
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<td>0.102407</td>
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Table V. Results of Method III.

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<td>1/49</td>
<td>6.81212e-05</td>
<td>0.9696</td>
<td>0.0012178</td>
<td>1.9910</td>
<td>0.00399944</td>
<td>1.4998</td>
<td>0.0508025</td>
<td>1.2726</td>
<td>2420.5s</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Figure 1. Pressure contours of (a) Methods I, (b) II, and (c) III for $v = 0.1$ at $t = 2$.

Figure 2. Pressure contours of (a) Methods I, (b) II, and (c) III for $v = 0.001$ at $t = 1.2$.

Figure 3. Pressure contours of (a) Methods I, (b) II, and (c) III for $v = 0.001$ at $t = 2$.

of Method III furthermore. For the long-time behavior, Figures 9–11 present the contours of the streamlines, pressure, and vorticity for $Re = 40$ and $Re = 80$ at $t = 500$, respectively. These figures show the features of the steady and unsteady cases mentioned earlier very well. Figure 12 shows the temporal development of the drag and lift coefficients. This figure shows that the flow field is well developed and has reached an unsteady periodic behavior about from $t = 350$. This figure also illustrates the shedding period $T_p = 24.5$. Furthermore, Figure 13 provides the streamlines for $Re = 80$ at $t = 450$ and $t = 474.5$. These two streamlines are almost the same. Moreover, some comparisons of the drag coefficients $C_D$, the wake length $L_r/d$ that is from the rearmost point of the
Figure 4. The statement of the flow around a cylinder.

Figure 5. (a) Coarse and (b) fine meshes.

Figure 6. Pressure contours of (a) Methods I, (b) II, and (c) III for $Re = 40$ at $t = 20$.

Figure 7. Pressure contours of (a) Methods I, (b) II, and (c) III for $Re = 80$ at $t = 20$. 
Figure 8. Pressure contours of (a) Methods I, (b) II, and (c) III for $Re = 2500$.

Figure 9. Streamlines for (a) $Re = 40$ and (b) $Re = 80$ at $t = 500$.

Figure 10. Pressure contours for (a) $Re = 40$ and (b) $Re = 80$ at $t = 500$.

Figure 11. Vorticity contours for (a) $Re = 40$ and (b) $Re = 80$ at $t = 500$. 

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Figure 12. Drag and lift coefficients for (a) $Re = 40$ and (b) $Re = 80$.

Figure 13. Streamlines for $Re = 80$ at (a) $t = 450$ and (b) $t = 474.5$.

Table VI. The comparisons of the drag coefficients, the wake length, the separation angle, and the Strouhal number.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Method</th>
<th>$Re = 40$</th>
<th>$Re = 80$</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$C_D$</td>
<td>$L_r/d$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dennis [30]</td>
<td>1.522</td>
<td>2.35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ding [31]</td>
<td>1.713</td>
<td>2.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russell [32]</td>
<td>1.60</td>
<td>2.29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ye [33]</td>
<td>1.52</td>
<td>2.27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Silva [34]</td>
<td>1.54</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Present work</td>
<td>1.60</td>
<td>2.26</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

cylinder to the end of the wake, the separation angle $\theta$, and the Strouhal number $S_t = d/(u_{max}T_p)$ with some previous simulations are listed in Table VI, which shows that our results can agree well with the results of previous studies.

5. CONCLUSIONS

In this paper, we have studied three kinds of fully discrete two-level consistent splitting methods for the time-dependent Navier–Stokes equations. Methods I and II are proposed in the preceding papers [17, 18]. We additionally propose a two-level consistent splitting schemes based on Oseen correction (Method III) for the large Reynolds number problems and the long-time simulations. The detailed stability and convergence results of Method III are given. Some numerical results are shown for the time-dependent Navier–Stokes equations by using three kinds of two-level consistent splitting
schemes. The first example is a test problem to see the convergence orders, and the other is the flow past a circular cylinder. The Stokes, Newton, and Oseen iterations reflect the interaction between large and small eddy components. For large viscosity case, Stokes correction method (Method I) is a good choice. For the moderate viscosity case, Newton correction method (Method II) can acquire the best accuracy. For the small viscosity case, Oseen correction method (Method III) is preferable for the long-time simulations.

For the numerical examples, we only consider the two-dimensional Navier–Stokes equations for simplicity. A similar idea can be applied in a straightforward way to the three-dimensional case according to our analysis. In this paper, our main interest is to compare the three kinds of two-level consistent splitting schemes for the time-dependent Navier–Stokes equations. These methods are only an interesting first step. We will give the numerical examples in high-dimensional cases in our future work.

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