Quantification and reduction of epistemic uncertainties in flow simulations: tackling the turbulence modeling dilemma

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Talk overview

- Turbulence modeling uncertainties
- RANS models: what is wrong?
 - Uncertainties in RANS models
- Tackling parametric uncertainties
- Tackling structural uncertainties
- Numerical results
- Conclusions and future trends



Hierarchy of turbulence models



- Navier-Stokes equations contain all the necessary information:
 - brute force option: all scales resolved

\rightarrow Direct numerical simulation

computationally intractable for most practical cases

• alternatives:

several levels of approximation, according to the amount of resolved/modelled scales LES→ RANS/LES→RANS

- More resolved scales

 → high cost, high sensitivity to
 numerical errors & inflow conditions
- More modeled scales

→ lower cost, more flow-dependent, <u>uncertain</u> models



RANS will remain the **workhorse for fluid simulations** of engineering interest for many years to come \rightarrow from now on, we focus on RANS models

RANS models, what is wrong?



Reynolds averaged Navier-Stokes (RANS) equations:

$$\mathbf{u} = \bar{\mathbf{u}} + \mathbf{u}'$$
$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{u} = 0$$
$$\frac{\partial \bar{\mathbf{u}}}{\partial t} + \bar{\mathbf{u}} \cdot \nabla \bar{\mathbf{u}} = -\frac{1}{\rho} \nabla \bar{p} + \frac{1}{\rho} \nabla \left(\mu \nabla \bar{\mathbf{u}} - \rho \overline{\mathbf{u}' \mathbf{u}'} \right)$$

Reynolds stresses

Modeling problems

- Need to define an average (generally in time)
 ☺ ill posed for some flow configurations
 ☺ should be detectable though expert judgement
- 2. Reynolds stresses **r** need <u>a constitutive law</u>: a **turbulence model**

Sources of RANS uncertainties



- Uncertainties due to the constitutive law
 - Model structure \rightarrow expert judgment
 - Model constants \rightarrow imperfectly known/adjustable



RANS closure models



Rich zoology of models proposed through the years



- No universally accepted and valid model yet \rightarrow pacing item for engineering design
- Model development has been stagnating since the end of the 90's
- Accuracy depends on quantity of interest (QoI)
- Models calibrated for simple flows (homogeneous isotropic turbulence, thin shear flows, flat plate boundary layers)







Objectives

- "Improve" RANS models
 - More accurate prediction (not always possible)
 - **<u>Reliability information</u>** (how much wrong am I?)
 - Identify flows/flow regions with high RANS uncertainty
 - Quantify the uncertainty



- Two main approaches
 - 1. Model structure is not modified \rightarrow parametric approach
 - Update model parameters
 - Bayesian mixture of models
 - 2. Model structure is modified \rightarrow non parametric approach
 - « Data-driven » modelling, machine learning approaches



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Tackling parametric uncertainty

 Goal: quantifying and reducing uncertainties related with the choice of closure coefficients

Direct ou Backward UQ

- Direct UQ
 - Sensitivity analysis of a Qol to model parameters
 [Platteuw et al. 2008, Roy & Oberkampf 2010, Edeling et al., 2013, Margheri et al. 2014]
 - Preliminary information on coefficient pdf required
- Backward UQ
 - Infer posterior pdf of model coefficients from available observations
 [Cheung et al., 2011; Kato & Obayashi 2013; Edeling et al. 2013; Margheri et al. 2014...]

\rightarrow Solve an inverse probabilistic problem





Backward step: Bayesian inference

- Represents model uncertainty as a probability distribution
- Well suited for scarce/noisy data



- ▶ Provides a probability distribution (*pdf*) of the closure coefficients → estimate + measure of confidence in estimate
- \rightarrow All uncertainties treated in terms of probability, <u>including epistemic</u>

Model calibration relies on <u>Bayes theorem</u> for conditional probability:

$$p(\boldsymbol{ heta}|\mathbf{z}) = rac{p(\mathbf{z}|\boldsymbol{ heta})p(\boldsymbol{ heta})}{p(\mathbf{z})}$$

where $p(\vartheta)$ is the prior belief about parameters ϑ ;

 $p(\mathbf{z}|\boldsymbol{\vartheta})$ is the likelihood of observing the data \mathbf{z} given the parameters;

p(z) is the evidence of the data can generally be treated as a normalization constant

OUTCOMES:

- Probability distributions for the parameters (posterior pdf)
- Probability distribution for unobserved quantities (predictive posteriors)

Exemple: turbulent flow over a flat plate



Objective: predict velocity profiles developing in the turbulent boundary layer close to the wall $\overline{u_1(x_2)}$



- **Governing equations**: RANS + turbulence model
 - Wilcox' boundary layer code (fast function evaluations)

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- Launder-Jones's (1972) k-ε model
- Data : 13 measured velocity profiles





Calibration setup



• Likelihood model: data z related to model outcomes $y(\theta_p)$, function of the parameters via the multiplicative model error η and the observational error e, at each measurement point i

$$z_i = \eta_i y_i(\theta) + e_i$$
 with, e.g., the assuptions

- $\eta \sim N(1, K_{mc})$, squared exponential correlation structure • $e_i \sim N(0, \lambda^2)$
- Numerical solutions: quick boundary-layer code
- Use Markov-Chain Monte-Carlo method to draw samples from the posterior

$p(\boldsymbol{\theta}|\mathbf{z})$

- Python package pymc <u>https://pymcmc.readthedocs.org/en/latest/#</u>
- Other options: Kalman filters (MAP estimate), particle filters...



Some results



Sample results for the k- ϵ Jones-Launder model

Posterior distributions for $C_{\varepsilon 2}$ for a favorable, zero, mild, moderate and strongly adverse $d\bar{p}/dx$.

Posterior distributions for κ for a favorable, zero, mild, moderate and strongly adverse $d\bar{p}/dx$.



Posterior distributions for C_{μ} for a favorable, zero, mild, moderate and strongly adverse $d\bar{p}/dx$.





Some results



- Posteriors are *propagated* through the RANS code to get the posterior estimate of the velocity profile
- Samples can also be drawn out of the model indequacy term



Lessons learned



- 1. Coefficients are highly case-dependent
 - This reflects the structural inadequacy of the calibrated model
- Including a model-inadequacy term partly alleviates overfitting, but it cannot be easily extended to predict new cases or new Qol
- 3. How to summarize the effect of both parametric and modelform uncertainty to make predictions of new cases?
 - Parameter variability can be used to estimate structural uncertainty (e.g. via p-boxes, Edeling et al. 2014)
 - Use of multi-model ensembles, Bayesian model averages



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Tackling structural uncertainty



- Much more challenging than parametric uncertainty
- Approaches applied to turbulence modelling
 - 1. Include a <u>model-inadequacy term</u> in the stochastic model [Kennedy and O'Hagan, 2001, He & Xiu, 2016]
 - 2. Multi-model ensembles, <u>Bayesian Model Averaging</u> (BMA) [Edeling et al., 2014; 2018]
 - <u>Non-parametric approaches</u>: find a deterministic or stochastic correction of modeled terms (eddy viscosity, source terms in model transport equations, Reynolds stresses) by some form of <u>machine learning</u>
 - Black-box machine learning
 [Dow & Wang, 2011; Singh & Duraisamy, 2016; Xiao et al., 2016]
 Difficult to get insight into models
 - **Open-box** machine learning [Weatheritt & Sandberg, 2016; Edeling et al., 2018; Schmeltzer et al., 2018]
 - → Tangible mathematical expressions





Bayesian Model Averaging (BMA)

[Edeling, Cinnella, Dwight, JCP 2014, AIAA J 2018]



- Call *M* the <u>space of all possible models</u>, *M* a precise model, *y* a QoI, *z* the data:
 - \rightarrow composed by the structure S and the model parameters ϑ (Draper, 1995)

$$p(y | \mathbf{M}, z) = \int_{\mathbf{M}} p(y | \mathbf{M}, z) p(\mathbf{M} | z) d\mathbf{M} = \int \int p(y | \theta, S, z) p(\theta, S | z) d\theta dS$$

Infinite alternative model structures

In practice: infinite space approximated by a finite discrete set of models

→ Use several concurrent models for predicting a new configuration

- Predictions from alternative models are weighted by posterior model plausibilities
- May be extended to include scenario uncertainty (BMSA)
- Mean of the ensemble expected to outperform individual ensemble members
- However, members of a multi-model ensemble
 - May share common systematic errors (e.g. Boussinesq)
 - Do not span the full range of possible model configurations (kind of bias)

Non parametric approaches



• Example: linear eddy viscosity models based on Boussinesq approximation

$$\tau_{ij} = -\nu_t 2S_{ij} + \frac{2}{3}k\delta_{ij} = a_{ij} + \frac{2}{3}k\delta_{ij}$$

- Not suitable for flows with separation, streamline curvature, strong gradients, etc.
- No method to assess reliability of RANS predictions w/o experimental data
- ▶ Internal additive error term→ correction for model-form inadequacy

$$a_{ij} = -2\nu_t S_{ij} + 2kb_{ij}^{\Delta}$$

- Use high-fidelity data (DNS, LES,...) to inform the correction
- Correction may be subject to physical constraints



Deterministic approach: direct model learning



[Schmeltzer, Dwight, Cinnella, ETMM 2018]

- Use high-fidelity data (DNS, LES,...) to inform the correction
 - 1. Find b_{ij}^{Δ} : passively solve model equations using S_{ij} , τ_{ij} , k from a high-fidelity database
 - 2. Assume that τ is a function of the velocity gradient only
 - 3. Write correction as a function of base tensors and invariants (Pope, 1975):

$$b_{ij}(S_{ij}, \Omega_{ij}) = \sum_{n=1}^{N} T_{ij}^{(n)} \alpha_n(I_1, ..., I_5)$$

 10 base tensors and 5 invariants: for simplicity, we choose to use at most quadratic terms, and the first two invariants:

$$T_{ij}^{1} = S_{ij}, \qquad T_{ij}^{3} = S_{ik}S_{kj} - \frac{1}{3}\delta_{ij}S_{mn}S_{nm}, \qquad I_{1} = S_{mn}S_{nm}, \\ T_{ij}^{2} = S_{ik}\Omega_{kj} - \Omega_{ik}S_{kj}, \qquad T_{ij}^{4} = \Omega_{ik}\Omega_{kj} - \frac{1}{3}\delta_{ij}\Omega_{mn}\Omega_{nm} \qquad I_{2} = \Omega_{mn}\Omega_{nm},$$

Relationship between coefficients α and the invariants *I* established by symbolic regression

Stochastic approach: return-to-eddy-viscosity model

[Edeling, laccarino, Cinnella, FTaC 2017]

- Direct estimation of the correction requires solving a highly dimensional inference problem + deterministic regression does not provide uncertainty estimates
- Assume model error is transported
- ► Decompose $\langle u_i u_j \rangle = 2k(V\Lambda V^T + \frac{1}{3}I) \rightarrow \text{baseline (bl) model}$ Magnitude (k), shape (Λ) & orientation (V) of $\langle u_i u_j \rangle$
- Perturb eigenvalues projected onto Banerjee's (2007) baricentric triangle

Linear anisotropy relationship: $b_{ij} = C_{1c}b_{1c} + C_{2c}b_{2c} + C_{3c}b_{3c}$



- Perturb shape $\langle u_i u_j \rangle \Leftrightarrow \Delta \lambda_{\alpha} \Leftrightarrow$ perturb location in barycentric map by defining Δ_B and $C_{\alpha c}$ at every location in space!
- Write transport equations for the perturbations (inspired by the LAG model of Olsen & Coackley)

Rate of return to eddy viscosity
$$\Delta c = a_{\alpha c} \frac{\epsilon}{k} \left(C_{\alpha c}^{(bl)} - C_{\alpha c} \right)$$
, $\alpha = 1 \text{ or } 2$

- BL RANS model recovered where the model does not need to be perturbed (e.g. thin shear flows)
- Use a priori (data-free) or a posteriori (data-driven) intervals for the coefficient



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BMSA: Turbulent flow over a flat plate



Objective: predict velocity profiles for flat plate boundary layer subject to various gradients



Governing equations: RANS + turbulence model

- Algebraic Baldwin-Lomax' (1972) model
- Launder-Jones's (1972) k-ε model
- Menter's (1992) k- ω SST model
- Spalart-Allmaras (1992) model
- Wilcox' stress-ω model (2006)

Data: 13 velocity profile measurements from [Coles & Hirst, 1968]

Bayesian model-scenario averaged prediction of the profiles : requires 5x13 UQ runs

• Average prediction:

$$E\left[\Delta \mid \boldsymbol{Z}\right] = \sum_{i=1}^{m} \sum_{j=1}^{s} E\left[\Delta \mid \boldsymbol{z}_{j}, \boldsymbol{M}_{i}\right] P\left(\boldsymbol{M}_{i} \mid \boldsymbol{z}_{j}\right) P\left(\boldsymbol{z}_{j}\right)$$

Analogous formula for the variance

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BMSA : model probabilities



• Posterior model plausibilities computed for all models in M for each z_k by sampling

 $p(\boldsymbol{\theta}_k \mid \mathbf{z}_k)$

• Can be considered as a <u>measure of consistency</u> of calibrated model M_i with data \mathbf{z}_k



Large spread in model plausibilities, according to the pressure gradient scenario

BMSA prediction



Scenario pmf uniform (overconservative) or weighted according to an error measure

ightarrow penalizes scenarios with a large between-model, in-scenario variance

$$\varepsilon_{j} = \sum_{i=1}^{m} \left\| E\left[\Delta \mid z_{j}, M_{i}\right] - E\left[\Delta \mid z_{j}, M\right] \right\|_{L_{2}} \quad \forall z_{j} \in \mathbb{Z}$$
$$P(z_{j}) = \varepsilon_{j}^{-p} / \sum_{k=1}^{s} \varepsilon_{k}^{-p}$$



BMSA: Flow over a periodic 2D hill at Re=5600



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- Prediction of a flow configuration far from RANS safety margins
- Models: Spalart-Allmaras, Jones-Launder, Wilcox
- Propagation of the 13 boundary layer MAP estimates of the parameters through SIMPLEFOAM
- Comparison with DNS data of Breuer et al.



BMSA: Transonic flow past a wing

- Coefficient and plausibility database applied to the prediction of the pressure coefficient for transonic flow past the ONERA M6 wing:
- M=0.8395, AoA=3.06°

- Results based on two models (Jones-Launder & Spalart-Allmaras)
- Propagation of the MAP estimates of the parameters through FLUENT
- Scenario weights computed locally in each section.



Direct model learning



- Model corrections to k-ω SST derived using LES data (Breuer 2009) for the 2D-hill flow at Re=10595
 - Learn model on Reynolds-stress profile
 - Propagate through the main system (OPENFOAM solver)



Direct model learning





Return-to-eddy-viscosity model



- Application: backward facing step at Re=5100
- Data-free prediction: 4 RANS calculation (nominal + 3 perturbed to the corners of baricentric triangle)
- Data-driven prediction:
 - Bayesian calibration of the LAG coefficients using 3 experimental Reynolds-stress profiles [Jovic & Driver, 1994]; use Gaussian likelihood + uniform priors corresponding to theoretical bounds
 - Use stochastic collocation polynomial surrogate (high accuracy with 12x12 tensor grid)



Skin friction coefficient distribution



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Conclusions



- Bayesian inference provides a systematic framework for updating coefficients associated to turbulence models, and selecting or averaging concurrent models
 - Posterior distributions of the coefficients can be propagated back through the code to make predictions with quantified uncertainty
 - > The posteriors maybe strongly dependent on the calibration scenario
- In most cases, no single « best » model can be identified
 - BMSA can be used to account for uncertainties due to multiple model structures/calibration scenarios
 - ▶ BMSA is <u>non-intrusive</u> → readily available for industrial codes
 - Computational cost may be strongly reduced by using MAP approximation
- But:
 - BMSA acts through model coefficients \rightarrow global
 - > Estimated structural uncertainties biased by the models used in the mixture.
- Is it possible to calibrate an error field?

Emerging trends: «data-driven» frameworks



Characterized by:

- (Spatially) local information on model quality
- Use of lots of data (DNS/LES)
- High-dimensional parameter-spaces.
- Usually machine-learning to identify mean-flow => error relationship.

Many possibilities are being explored:

- Calibrate correction terms for a baseline turbulence model (e.g. by direct identification)
 - Requires high-quality data
 - Provides an open-box model
 - No uncertainty quantification
- Develop transport equations for Reynolds stress correction
 - Data-free or data-driven application, rough data sufficient
 - Physical realizability constraints
 - Uncertainty bounds provided
 - Computational cost (two additional transport equations + UQ)

Reliability of predictions far away of the training set?



Questions?

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[3] Edeling, W.N., Schmeltzer, M., Dwight, R., Cinnella, P., 2018. Bayesian predictions of RANS uncertainties using MAP estimates. AIAA J. 56(5):2018-2029

[4] Edeling, W.N., Iaccarino, G., Cinnella, P., 2017. Data-Free and Data-Driven RANS Predictions with Quantified Uncertainty. Turb Flow Comb 100(3):593-616

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Bayesian model-scenario averaging (BMSA)



- Let M_i be a model structure in set M of m models
- Be z_i a calibration dataset taken in a training set Z of s calibration scenarios
- BMSA prediction of the expectancy of Qol Δ for a new scenario :

$$E\left[\Delta \mid \boldsymbol{Z}\right] = \sum_{i=1}^{m} \sum_{j=1}^{s} E\left[\Delta \mid \boldsymbol{z}_{j}, \boldsymbol{M}_{i}\right] P\left(\boldsymbol{M}_{i} \mid \boldsymbol{z}_{j}\right) P\left(\boldsymbol{z}_{j}\right)$$

The scenario of Δ is **<u>NOT</u>** in the calibration set *Z*

$$E\left[\Delta \mid z_{j}, M_{i}\right]$$
 is the expectancy of Δ for the new scenario,
under model M_{i} calibrated on dataset z_{j}



Bayesian model-scenario averaging (BMSA)



• Similarly, the variance of Δ may be written as:

$$\operatorname{var}\left[\Delta | \mathcal{Z}\right] = \sum_{i=1}^{m} \sum_{j=1}^{s} \operatorname{var}\left[\Delta | z_{j}, M_{i}\right] P\left(M_{i} | z_{j}\right) P\left(z_{j}\right) +$$
In-model, in-scenario variance
$$\sum_{i=1}^{m} \sum_{j=1}^{s} \left(E\left[\Delta | z_{j}, M_{i}\right] - E\left[\Delta | z_{j}\right]\right)^{2} P\left(M_{i} | z_{j}\right) P\left(z_{j}\right) +$$
Between-model, in-scenario variance (model error)
$$\sum_{j=1}^{s} \left(E\left[\Delta | z_{j}\right] - E\left[\Delta | \mathcal{Z}\right]\right)^{2} P\left(z_{j}\right)$$
Between-scenario variance (spread)

BMSA prediction



- BMA prediction for a validation case (not in the calibration set)
 - Strong adverse pressure gradient
- Uniform pmf over the calibration scenarios



(d) The BMSA standard deviation for validation case 4400.

- Good prediction, but variance strongly over-estimated
 - Significant contribution of the between-scenario variance

How good is our scenario weighting?



- For calibration cases we DO HAVE data! Leave one out validation
 - Modelled error versus real error \rightarrow good agreement in most cases



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Deterministic approach: direct model learning



[Schmeltzer, Dwight, Cinnella, ETMM 2018]

- Symbolic regression procedure:
 - 1. Build a library of weakly nonlinear functions of the invariants

 $\boldsymbol{\mathcal{B}} = \left\{ c, I_1, I_2, I_1^2, I_2^2, I_1^2 I_2^3, I_1^4 I_2^2, I_1 I_2^2, I_1 I_2^3, \\ I_1 I_2^4, I_1^3 I_2, I_1^2 I_2^4, I_1^2 I_2, I_1 I_2, I_1^3 I_2^2, I_1^2 I_2^2 \right\}$

2. Multiply by each base tensor, store in the library matrix for each mesh point k=1,...,K:

$$\boldsymbol{C} = \begin{bmatrix} cT_{xx}^{(1)}|_{k=0} & cT_{xx}^{(2)}|_{k=0} & \dots & I_1^2 I_2^2 T_{xx}^{(4)}|_{k=0} \\ cT_{xy}^{(1)}|_{k=0} & cT_{xy}^{(2)}|_{k=0} & \dots & I_1^2 I_2^2 T_{xy}^{(4)}|_{k=0} \\ cT_{xz}^{(1)}|_{k=0} & cT_{xz}^{(2)}|_{k=0} & \dots & I_1^2 I_2^2 T_{xz}^{(4)}|_{k=0} \\ cT_{yy}^{(1)}|_{k=0} & cT_{yy}^{(2)}|_{k=0} & \dots & I_1^2 I_2^2 T_{yy}^{(4)}|_{k=0} \\ cT_{xz}^{(1)}|_{k=0} & cT_{yz}^{(2)}|_{k=0} & \dots & I_1^2 I_2^2 T_{yz}^{(4)}|_{k=0} \\ cT_{zz}^{(1)}|_{k=0} & cT_{zz}^{(2)}|_{k=0} & \dots & I_1^2 I_2^2 T_{zz}^{(4)}|_{k=0} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ cT_{zz}^{(1)}|_{k=K} & cT_{zz}^{(2)}|_{k=K} & \dots & I_1^2 I_2^2 T_{zz}^{(4)}|_{k=K} \end{bmatrix}$$

3. Carry out regularize regression (L1-rnom LASSO, L2-norm ridge, mixed L1-L2 elastic net and MLE have been tested) to find the spatially-varying coefficients combining elements of C. E.g.:

$$\begin{split} \boldsymbol{\Theta} &= \mathop{\arg\min}_{\hat{\boldsymbol{\Theta}}} \left\| \boldsymbol{C} \hat{\boldsymbol{\Theta}} - \boldsymbol{b}^{\boldsymbol{\Delta}} \right\|_{2}^{2} + \lambda \rho \left\| \hat{\boldsymbol{\Theta}} \right\|_{1} \\ &+ 0.5\lambda(1-\rho) \left\| \hat{\boldsymbol{\Theta}} \right\|_{2}^{2}, \end{split}$$

Stochastic approach: return-to-eddy-viscosity model

[Edeling, laccarino, Cinnella, FTaC 2017]

Perturb eigenvalues projected onto Banerjee's (2007) baricentric triangle

Linear anisotropy relationship: $b_{ij} = C_{1c}b_{1c} + C_{2c}b_{2c} + C_{3c}b_{3c}$

- Only two independent coefficients (convex combination)
- All realizable states lie within the triangle and can be expressed in terms of the C coefficients (bijection beteen the C's and the I's)

Perturbation tensor
$$\check{E}_{ij} := \operatorname{diag} \left(\Delta \lambda_1, \Delta \lambda_2, \Delta \lambda_3 \right)$$

$$\check{E}_{ij} = \operatorname{diag}\left(\frac{2}{3}\left[C_{1c} - \frac{3}{2}C_{1c}^{(bl)}\right], -\frac{1}{3}C_{1c} + \frac{1}{6}C_{2c}, -\frac{1}{3}\left[C_{1c} - 3C_{1c}^{(bl)}\right] - \frac{1}{3}C_{2c}\right)$$

> Data-free prediction: perturb the coefficients toward the triangle corners.

4 RANS simulations are required to build the prediction interval:



 Data-driven prediction: infer on the LAG coefficients (characteristic time scale for return to eddy viscosity model), propagate posteriors to obtain confidence intervals

Rate of return to eddy viscosity
$$\alpha = 1 \text{ or } 2$$

 $C_{\alpha c} = a_{\alpha c} \frac{\epsilon}{k} \left(C_{\alpha c}^{(bl)} - C_{\alpha c} \right)$