



Introduction

Numerical Flow Simulation

École polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne

Edouard Boujo Fall 2024

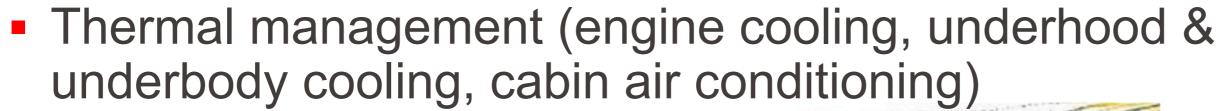
Self-introduction

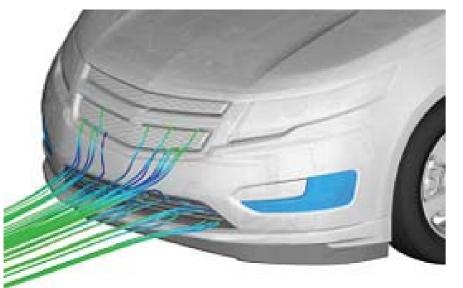
Previously: CFD engineer in the automotive industry

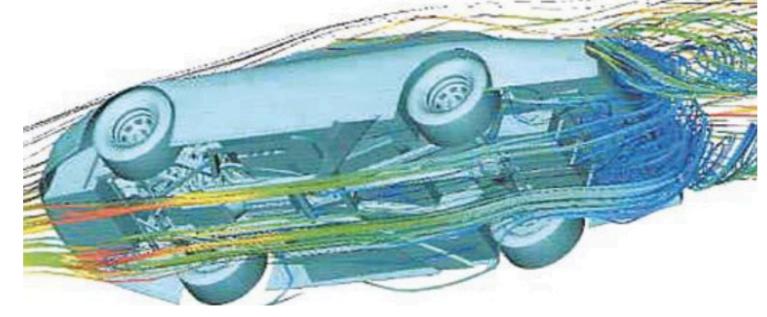
Method development for

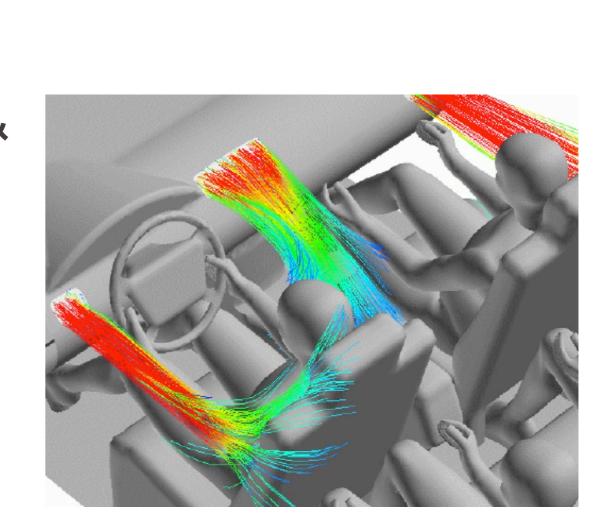
 Aerodynamics: drag (fuel consumption), lift (handling & stability),

Aeroacoustics ("wind noise"),





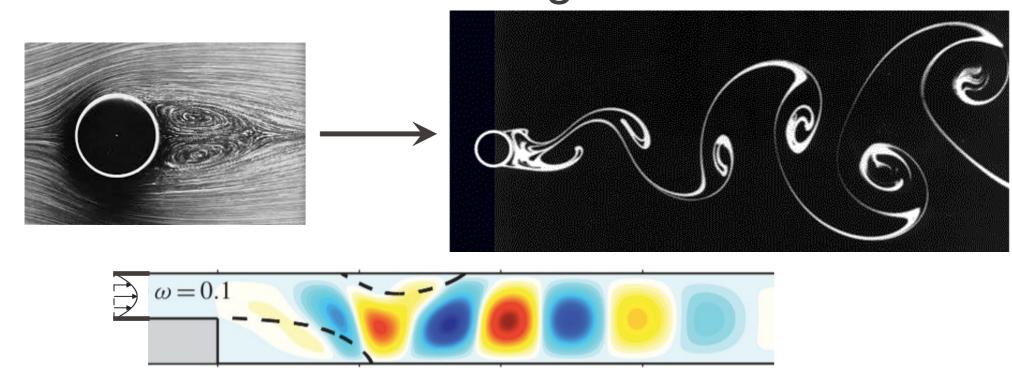




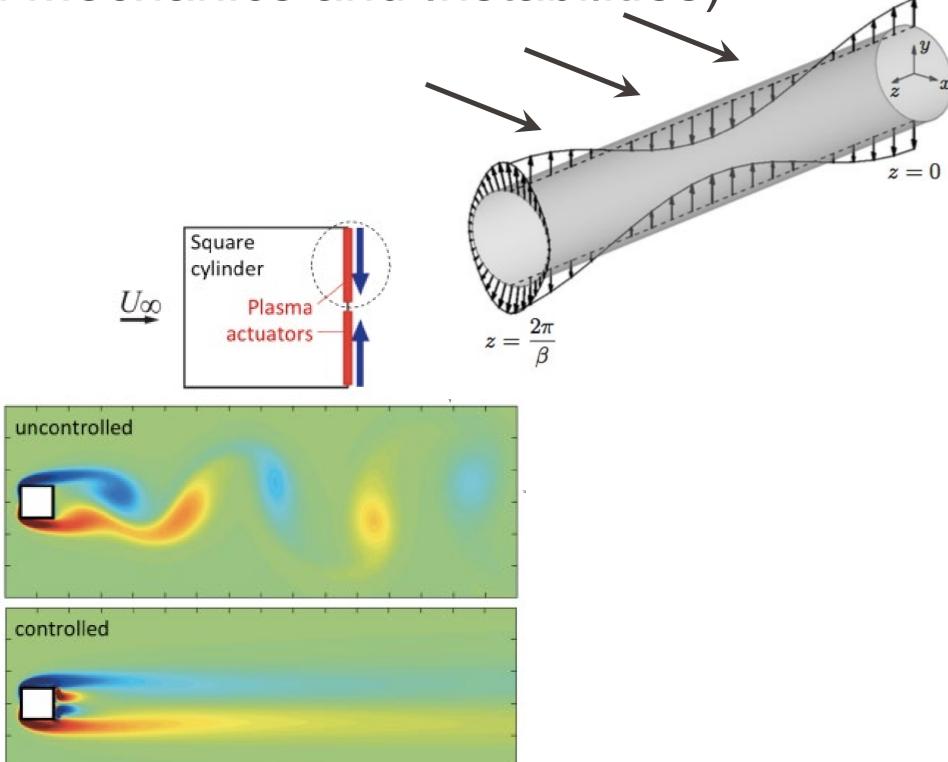
Self-introduction

Currently: scientist at LFMI (Lab. of Fluid Mechanics and Instabilities)

- Research activities:
 - Flow stability and control
 - Thermo-/aero-acoustics
 - Fluid-structure interaction
 - Thin-film coating



When/how does a flow becomes unstable?
Or strongly amplifies perturbations?

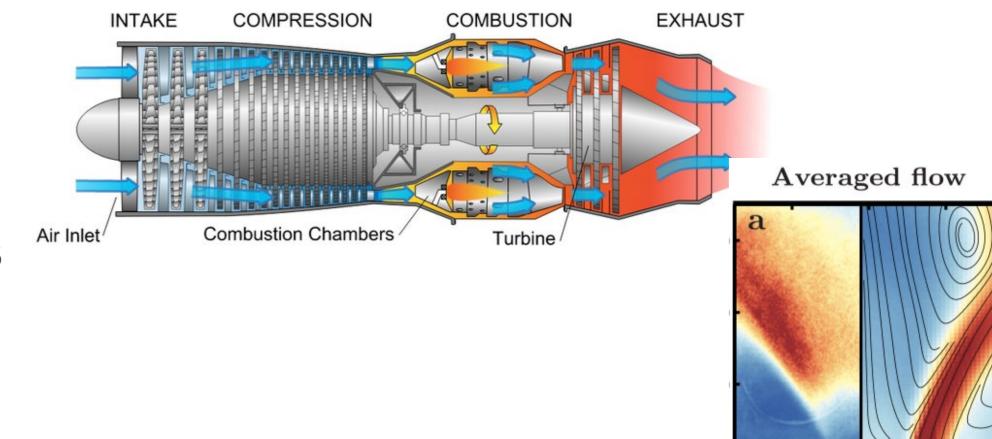


Systematic methods (optimal control) to improve stability or aerodynamics

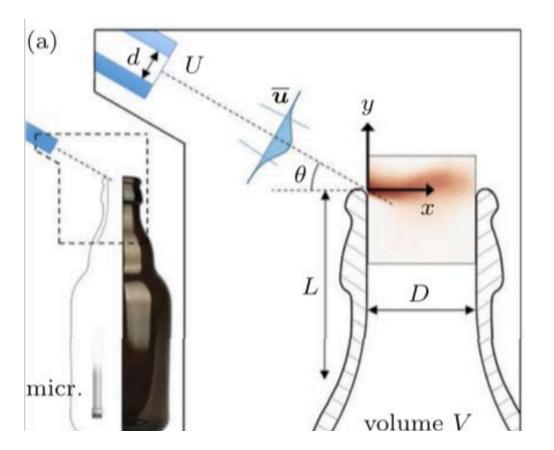
Self-introduction

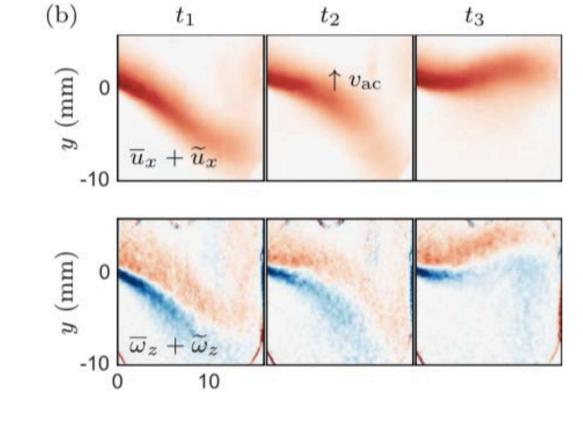
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- Coupling between oscillations of pressure and flame, or pressure and jet/mixing layer
- Low-order modelling and identification of instabilities in turbulent systems

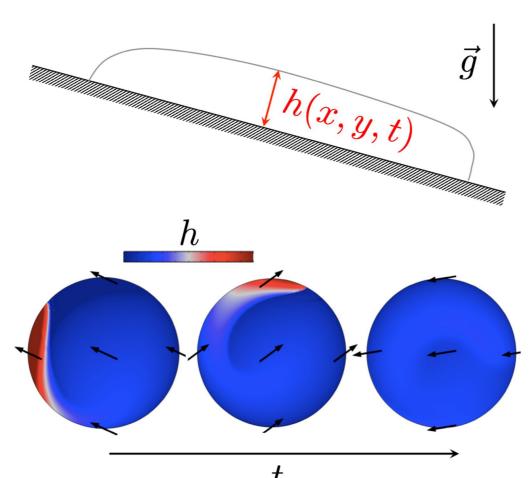


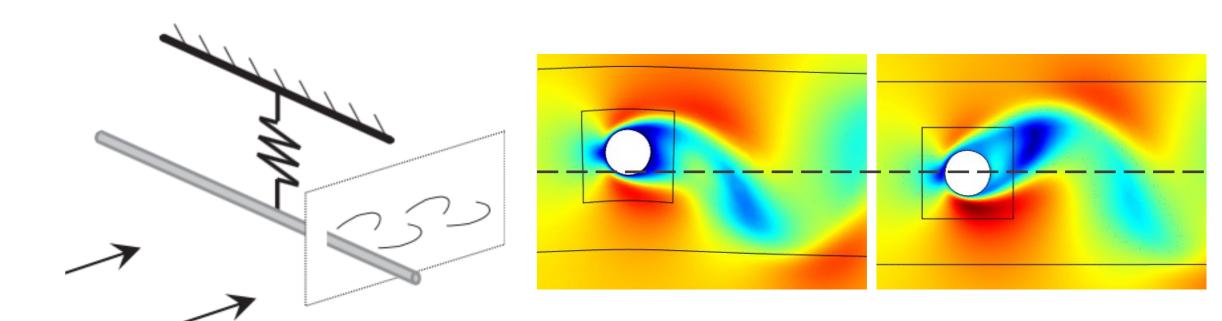


Instantaneous flow

Self-introduction

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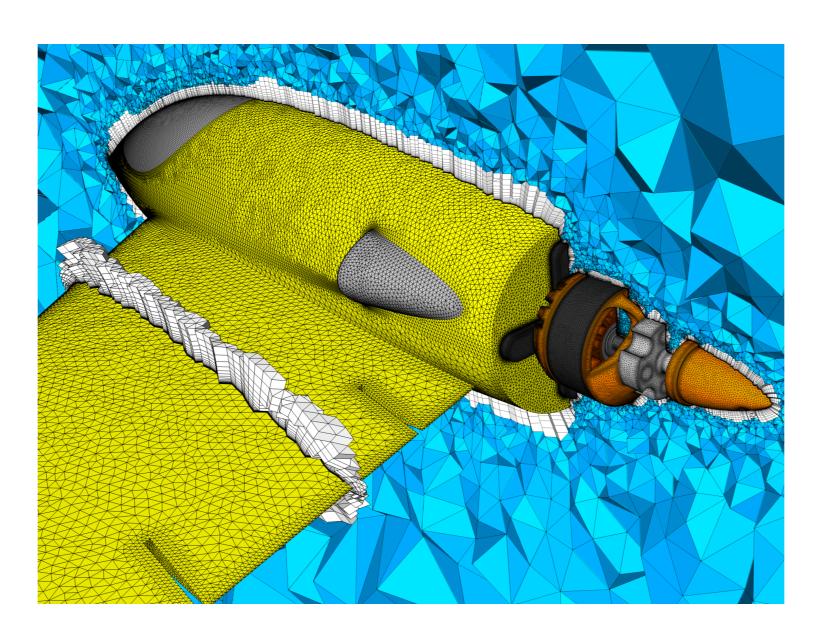




• Energy harvesting, stability properties, low-order modelling

Optimal motion for uniform coating

- A.k.a. "Computational Fluid Dynamics" (CFD)
- General idea: discretize fluid domain → transform governing equations (PDEs for continuous variables) into approximate equations (algebraic equations for discrete variables) → solve numerically (computer)



- Advantages:
 - Can handle complex equations/geometries not solvable analytically
 - Useful when experiments are expensive, difficult, dangerous, time consuming
 - Complete information (time and space-resolved)
 - Parametric studies (+ optimization)

- Drawbacks/pitfalls:
 - Easy to get good-looking but wrong results ("Colourful Fluid Dynamics")
 → requires knowledge (fluid mechanics, numerical methods) AND experience
 - Results only as good as the model: must solve the equations accurately,
 AND need equations describing the physics correctly (not always available: complex turbulence, non-Newtonian flows, chemical reactions...)
 - No substitute to experiments and theory (but a powerful complementary tool)

- Broad range of applications in research and engineering:
 - Aerodynamics, aeroacoustics (aircraft, ground vehicles)

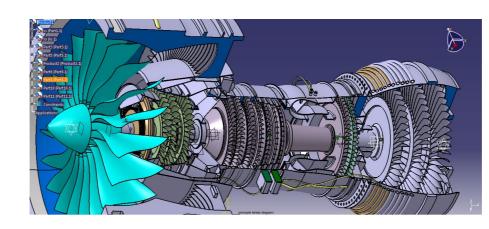


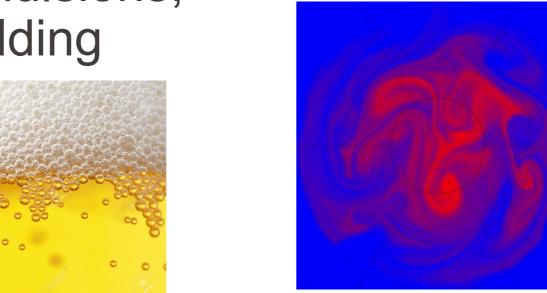


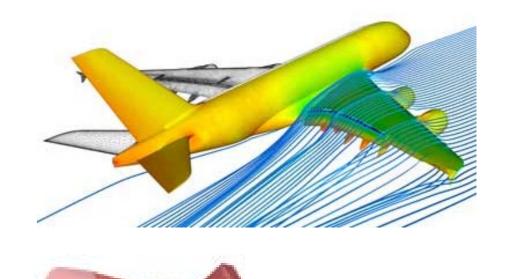


 Food & chemical processes: foam, emulsions, mixing, particle transport, polymer molding











Broad range of applications in research and engineering:

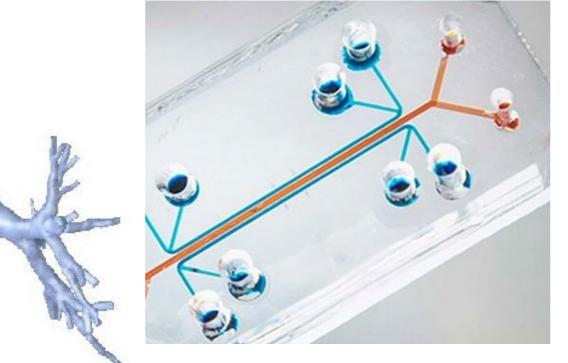
Building thermal management

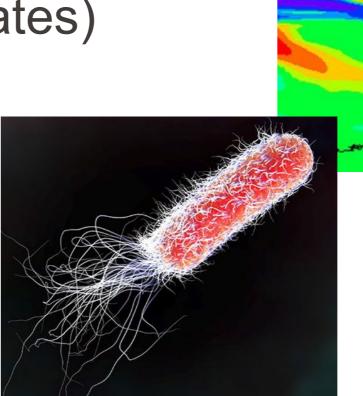
 Fluid-structure interaction: aeroelasticity, civil engineering, energy harvesting

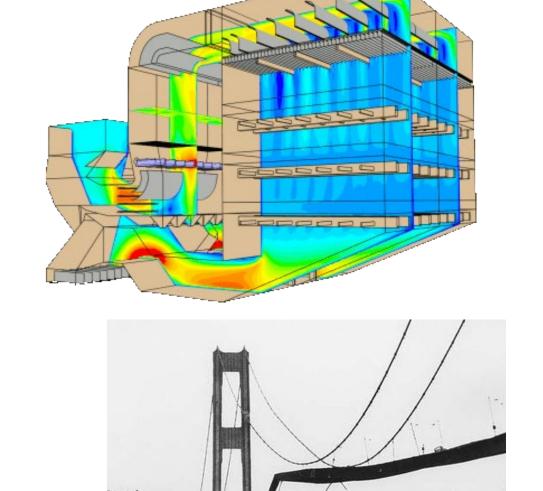
Meteorology: weather prediction, global climate

 Biomedical: blood flow, lab-on-a-chip devices, microswimmers (bacteria, ciliates, flagellates)









Discretization/computation methods

- Finite difference method (FDM)
- Finite element method (FEM)
- Finite volume method (FVM)
- Spectral elements

Spectral methods

Lattice Boltzmann methods (LBM)

Particle-based methods (SPH, DEM...)

Some software (Commercial – Free/open)

(Mostly academic)

Comsol, FreeFEM++, AVBP...

Fluent, Star-CCM+, OpenFOAM...

Nek5000...

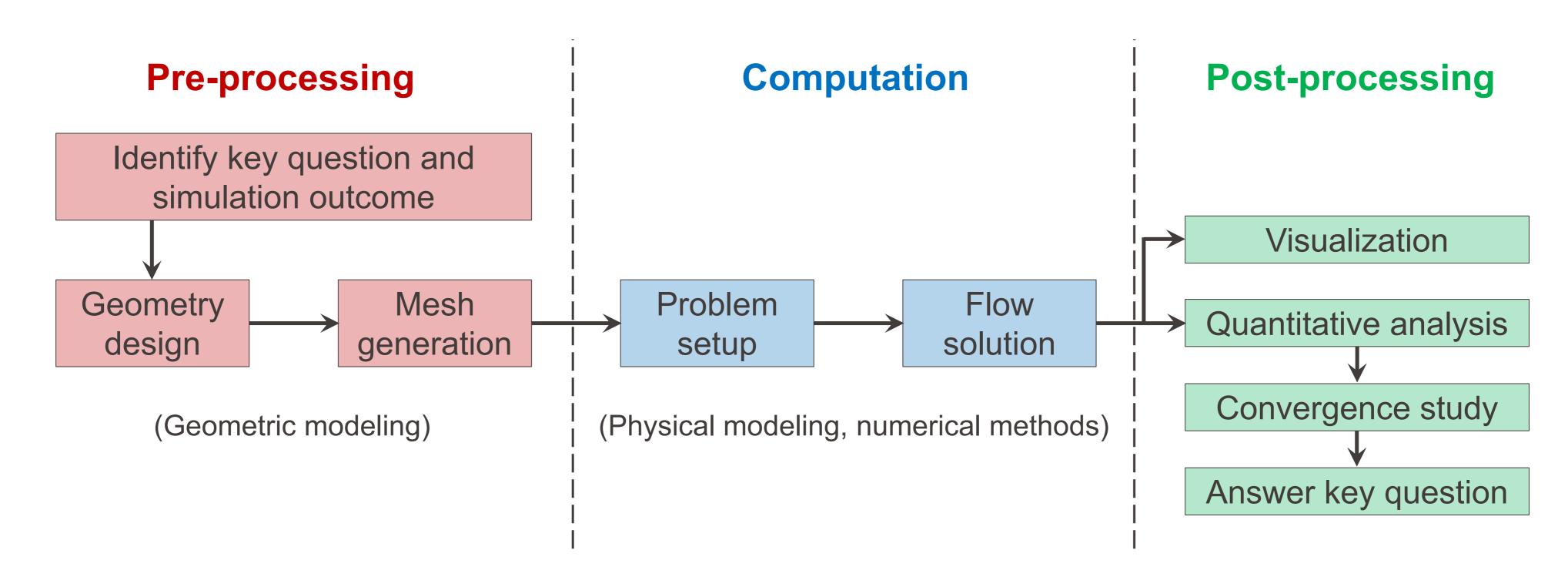
(Mostly academic)

PowerFLOW...

SPH-flow, Fluidix...

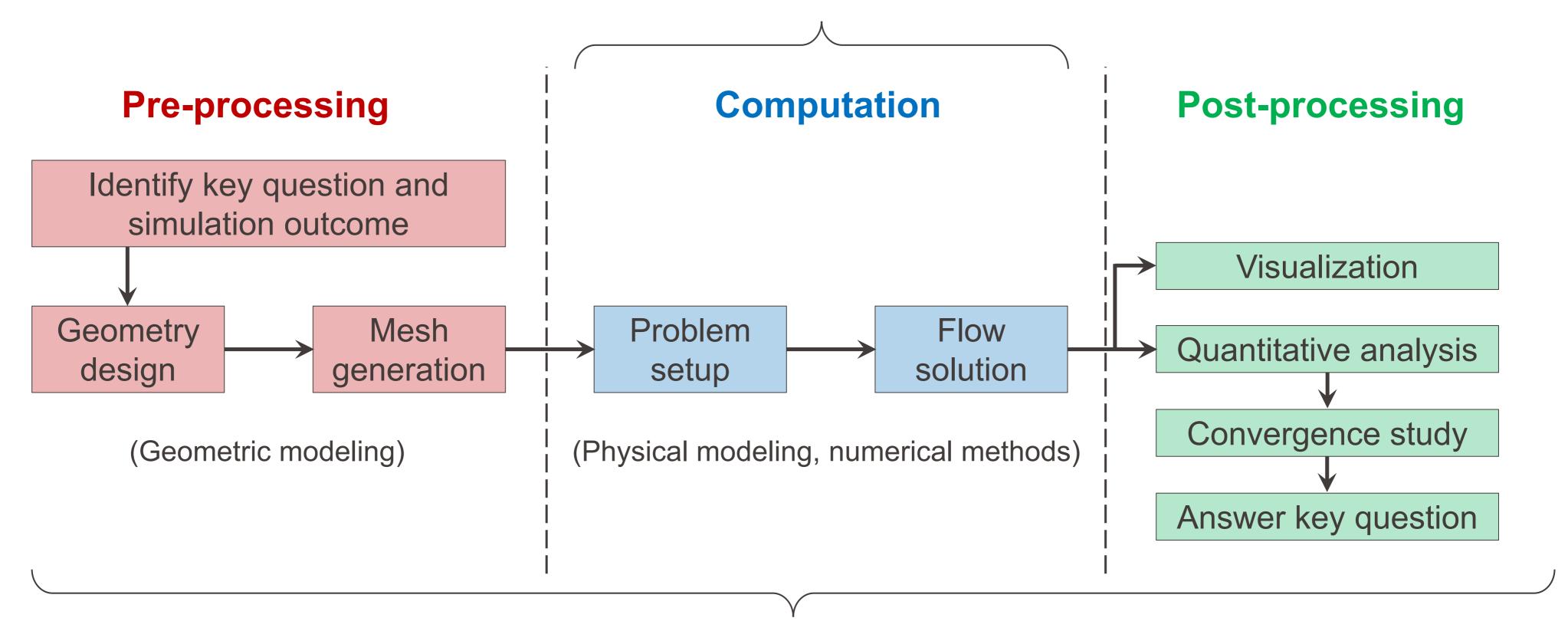
Numerical simulation workflow

Workflow common to all software/methods:



In this course:

2. Focus on numerical methods. Matlab exercises.



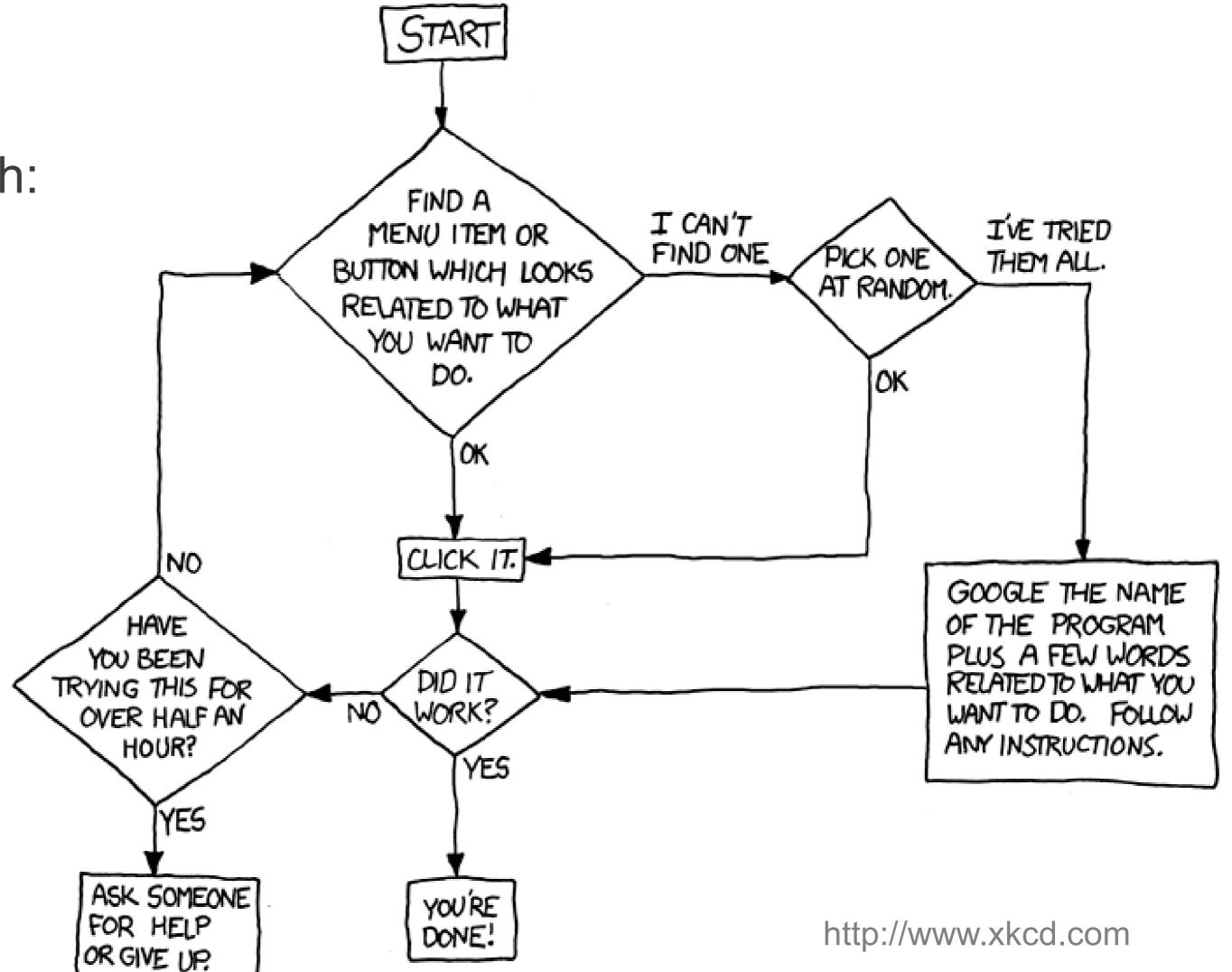
1. Overall workflow / methodology. Fluent tutorials & exercises.

Objective of this course

- Understand the methodology (different steps of the simulation workflow) and practice simulation techniques.
- → Become able to run a full simulation in an autonomous, structured and rigorous way.
- Understand some of the numerical methods involved.
- → Become able to make informed modeling / setup choices, and to justify them.

Objective of this course

Go beyond a black-box approach:



Fluid flow: notoriously difficult equations

The Navier-Stokes equations are difficult to solve. Quizz: why?

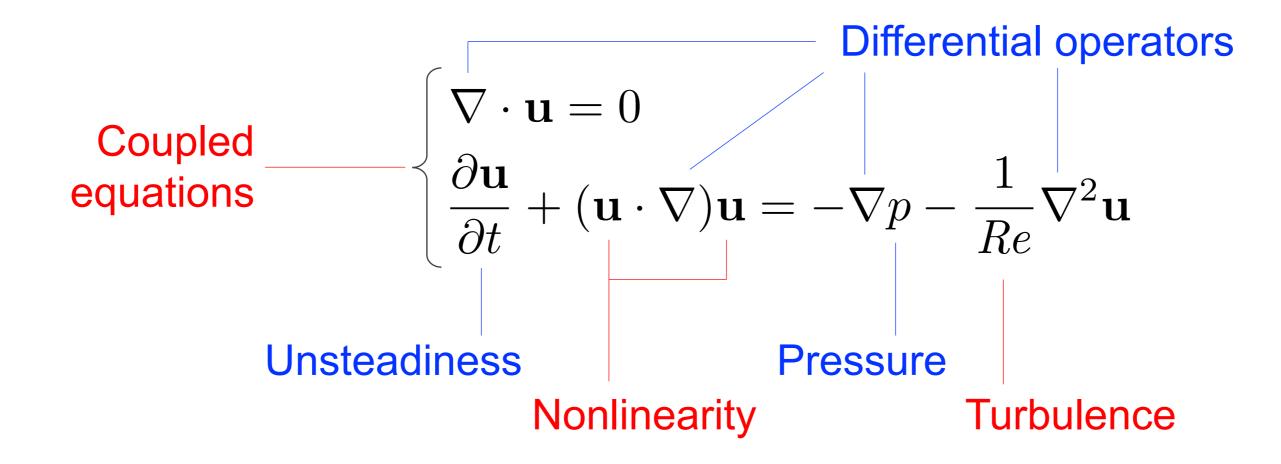
$$\begin{cases} \nabla \cdot \mathbf{u} = 0 \\ \frac{\partial \mathbf{u}}{\partial t} + (\mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla)\mathbf{u} = -\nabla p - \frac{1}{Re} \nabla^2 \mathbf{u} \end{cases}$$

Compare for instance with the (much simpler) steady heat equation:

$$\nabla^2 T = 0$$

Fluid flow: notoriously difficult equations

Some elements that make the Navier-Stokes equations difficult to solve:



- Additional complexity:
 - Multiphysics: chemical reaction, heat transfer, magnetohydrodynamics, fluid-structure interaction...
 - Multiphase: bubbles, drops, particles...

General information

- 5 credits
- Time repartition:
 - Lectures (2 h/week)
 - Exercise sessions: practical computer tutorials/exercises (2 h/week)
 - Personal work: exercises, group projects (about 2-3 h/week)
- Approach:
 - Combination of theory, demonstrations, tutorials and exercises
 - Combination of self-written Matlab codes (numerical methods, simple flows) and commercial CFD software Fluent (overall methodology, complex flows; NOT a Fluent training course).

Practical organization

- Lectures: 9:15-11:00 in INJ218. Previous years videos on SWITCHtube.
- Exercises: 11:15-13:00 in INJ218 (no computer) + CM1103 (computers).
- Assistants: A. Silvestri, I. Beniffou, M. De Pascalis, V. Scurria (AEs) and K. Wittkowski (LFMI).
- All announcements / documents on Moodle.
- Feedback about the course welcome at any time!

Practical organization

- Software: Matlab and Fluent
 - Available on computers in room CM1103.
 - Available on virtual machines "STI-WINDOWS10" via VDI (Virtual Desktop Infrastructure, vdi.epfl.ch). More info on Moodle.
 - Can be installed on your personal computers (Matlab from Distrilog, Fluent student version from ANSYS website). Please check conditions of use.

- Assessment:
 - 2 project reports: 1 Matlab + 1 Fluent (see details in next slides),
 - 1 written exam.

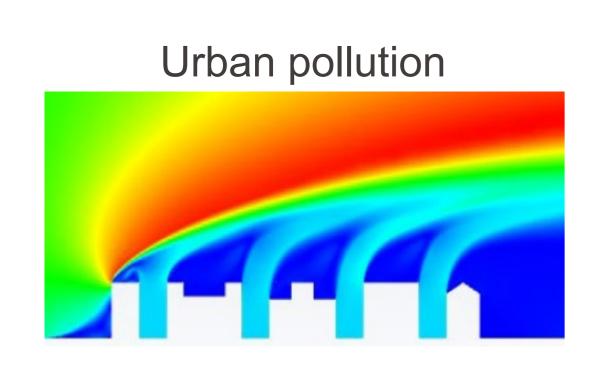
Assessment: mini-projects

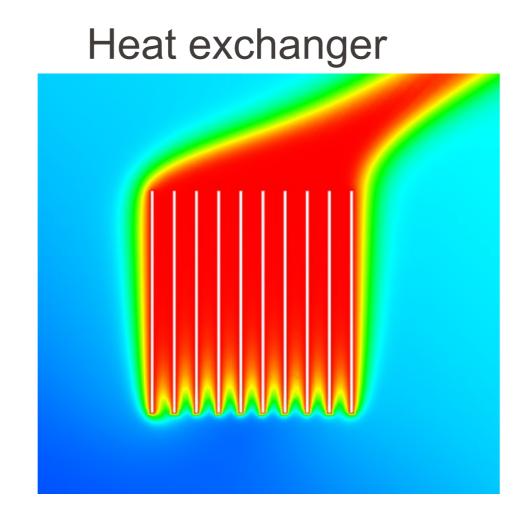
- 2 mini-projects:
 - 1 with Matlab (focused on numerical methods).
 - 1 with Fluent (focused on overall workflow / methodology).
- Objective: apply the course contents to a "practical" problem.
- Organization:
 - In parallel of the course, during the whole semester (Matlab first, then Fluent).
 - Groups of 3-4 students. Please fill in the list on Moodle.

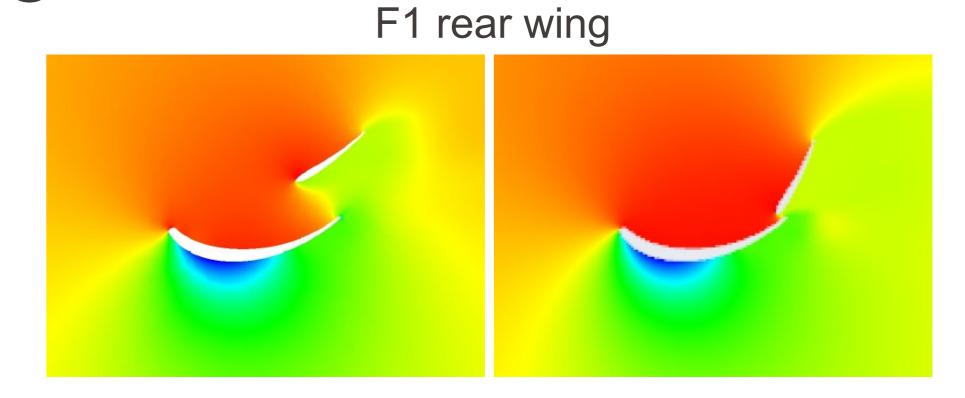
Mini-projects

- Workload: total of about 30 h/person (outside contact hours).
- Evaluation based on the final reports only.
- Work equitably distributed among group members, same grade to all members.
- Topic:
 - Matlab: one single subject (same for all groups).
 - Fluent: chosen by you, or among a proposed list if you don't have ideas.

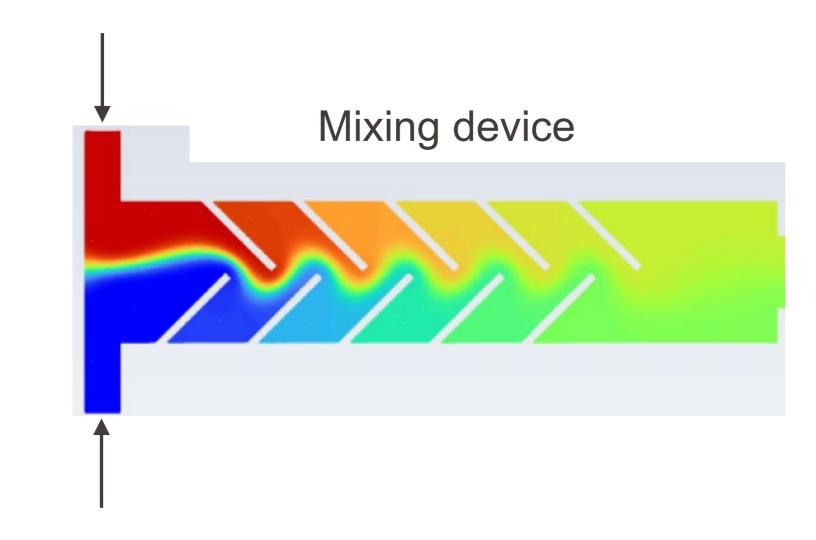
Fluent mini-projects: examples

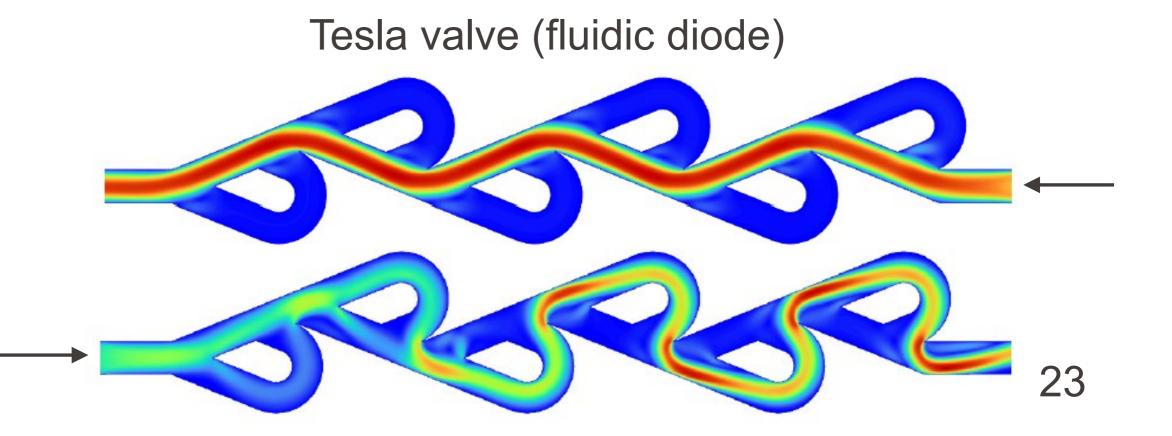






Car slipstreaming





Fluent mini-projects

- If chosen by you (may be related to other course/project, personal interest/hobby etc.), some rules to follow:
 - 1. Computational mesh \leq 500'000 elements \rightarrow 2D or axisymmetric flow. No 3D.
 - 2. Stick to simple physics, avoid complex multi-physics:
 - No solid thermal conduction. (But fluid thermal convection-diffusion OK.)
 - Fluid-structure interaction: no 2-way coupling. (But 1-way coupling OK for fluid flow with prescribed solid displacement).
 - Two-phase flow OK to some extent.
 - No combustion, no chemical reactions, no phase change (evaporation, solidification etc.), no aero-acoustics...
 - 3. No optimization. (But reasonable parametric studies OK.)

Learning prerequisites

- Required courses:
 - Fluid mechanics (ME-280)
 - Numerical analysis (MATH-251)
- Recommended courses:
 - Fluid flow (ME-271)
 - Discretization methods in fluids (ME-371)
- Other concepts/skills:
 - Matlab or equivalent
 - CAD

References

- Books:
 - Numerical heat transfer and fluid flow, S. Patankar (1980)
 - An introduction to Computational Fluid Dynamics The Finite Volume Method,
 H.K. Versteeg, W. Malalasakera (2007)
 - Computational methods for fluid dynamics, J.H. Ferziger, M. Perić (1999)
- Software documentation:
 - Matlab: help
 - ANSYS Fluent: user guide, theory guide