



Centre Tecnològic de Transferència de Calor  
UNIVERSITAT POLITÈCNICA DE CATALUNYA

# Preserving symmetries on unstructured grids

F.Xavier Trias

Heat and Mass Transfer Technological Center, Technical University of Catalonia (UPC)



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- 2 Preserving symmetries at discrete level
- 3 LES of RBC
- 4 Portability and beyond
- 5 Conclusions

# About myself...

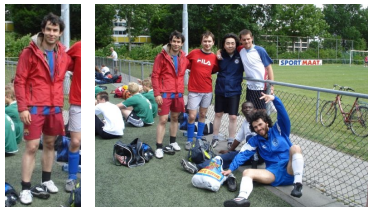
## Professional...

- Current position (since 2018): **Associate Professor** at UPC
- Previous positions: PostDoc at University of Groningen (2007-2009) and UPC (2010-2013), and *Ramón y Cajal* Senior Researcher at UPC (2013-2018).
- My **research** focus is on fluid mechanics, turbulence modeling, physics and numerics of complex flows, applied mathematics and numerical methods.
- Some numbers: 50 papers, 143 conferences, 9 PhD's+5 (on-going)
- Stays and collaborations: Groningen (The Netherlands), UCLA, KIAM (Russian Academy of Sciences), Stanford, Manchester (UK), Tsinghua (China), TokioTech (Japan), Napoli (Italy)...
- More info: [www.fxtrias.com](http://www.fxtrias.com)

# About myself...

... and more personal stuff

- My complete name: Francesc Xavier Trias Miquel
- Born in Barcelona
- My mother tongue is Catalan but I also speak Spanish at native level.
- Hobbies? I like my work but also sports. Most practiced ones are running and football:



Groningen (2009?)

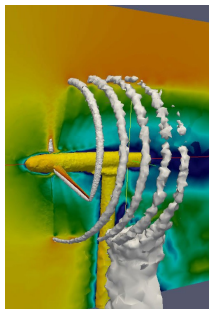
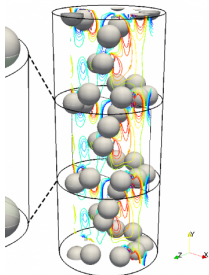
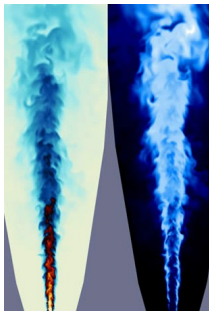


Barcelona (2019)

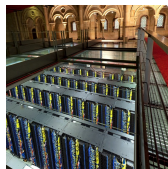
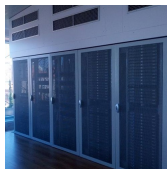
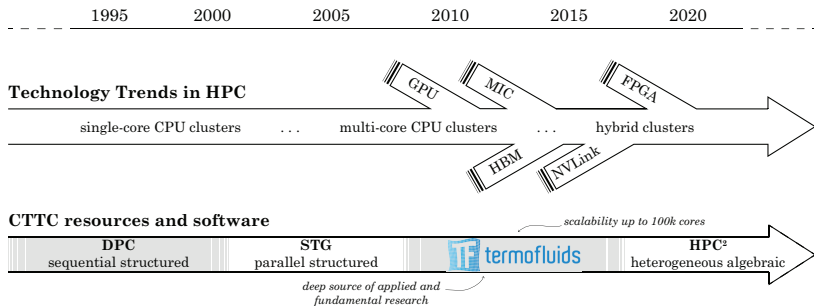
# The CTTC research group

Heat and Mass Transfer Technological Center (Catalan: *Centre Tecnològic de Transferència de Calor*) has more than 25 years experience on CFD:

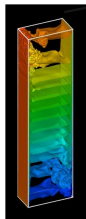
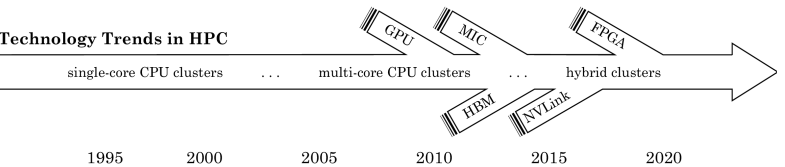
- **Fundamental research** on **numerical methods**, **fluid dynamics** and **heat and mass transfer** phenomena.
- **Applied research** on thermal and fluid dynamic optimization of thermal system and equipment.



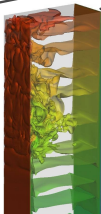
# CTTC's historical background in HPC



## Technology Trends in HPC



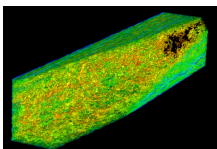
DHC  
 $Ra=10^9$   
 (3.2M)



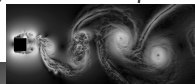
DHC  
 $Ra=10^{11}$   
 (111M)



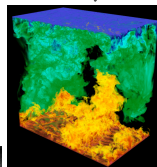
Impinging jet  
 $Re=20000$   
 (102M)



DUCT  $Re_t=1200$  (172M)

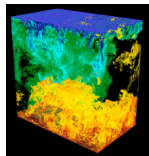


SqCyl  $Re=22000$  (324M)



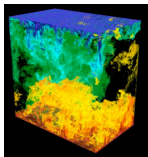
RB  
 $Ra=10^{10}$  (607M)  
 $Ra=10^{11}$  (5600M)

# General motivation: (very) large-scale DNS/LES



DNS {

# General motivation: (very) large-scale DNS/LES

**HAWK**

Rank #27  
5,632 nodes with:  
2 AMD EPYC 7742  
(64 cores each)

**MareNostrum 4**

Rank #82  
3456 nodes with:  
2x Intel Xeon 8160  
1x Intel Omni-Path

**Marconi100**

Rank #21  
980 nodes with:  
2 IBM Power9  
4 NVIDIA Volta V100

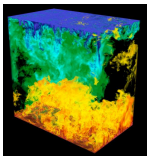


DNS

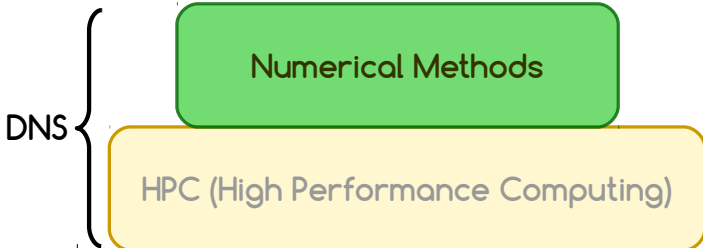
HPC (High Performance Computing)



# General motivation: (very) large-scale DNS/LES

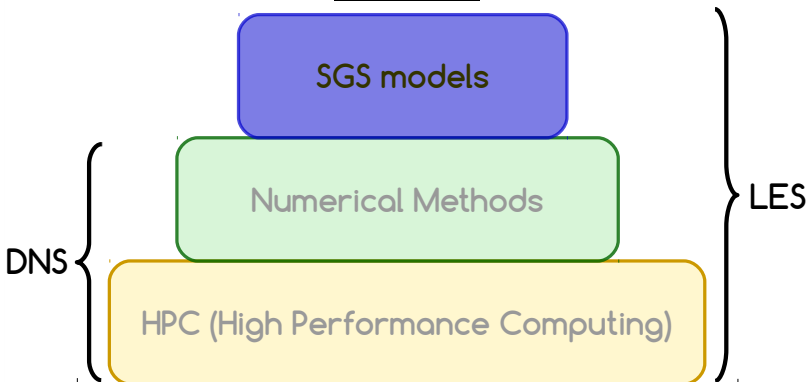
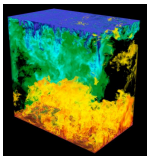


## How to properly discretize NS?

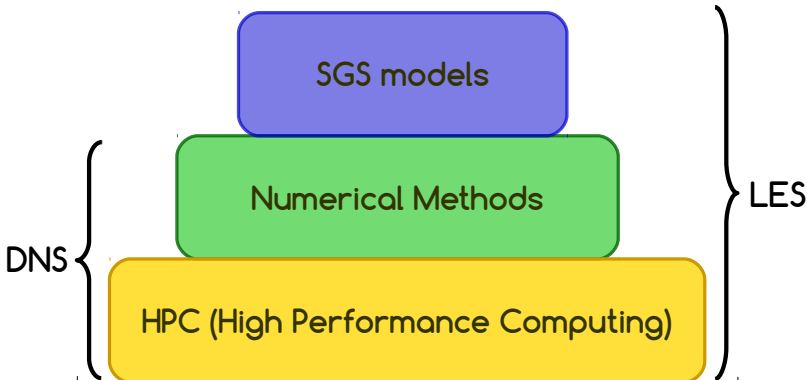
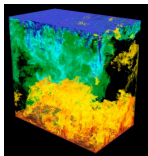


# General motivation: (very) large-scale DNS/LES

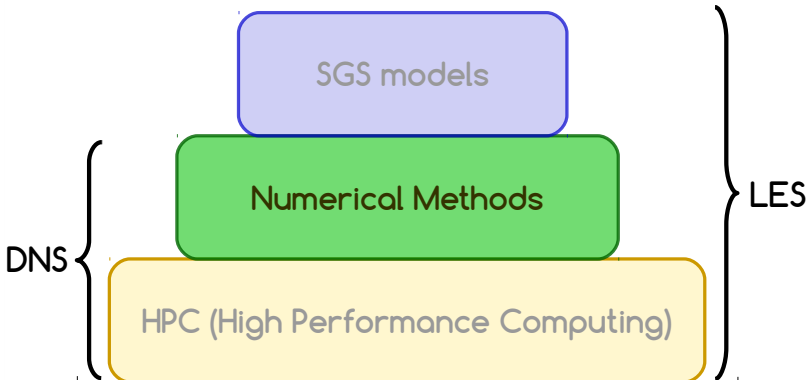
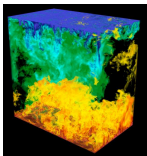
How to properly model SGS?



# General motivation: (very) large-scale DNS/LES



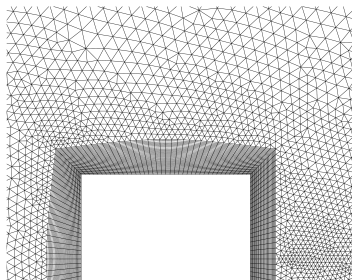
# Numerical methods for DNS/LES



# Numerical methods for DNS/LES

## Research question #1:

- Can we construct numerical discretizations of the Navier-Stokes equations suitable for **complex geometries**, such that the **symmetry properties** are exactly preserved?



DNS<sup>1</sup> of the turbulent flow around a square cylinder at  $Re = 22000$

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<sup>1</sup>F.X.Trias, A.Gorobets, A.Oliva. *Turbulent flow around a square cylinder at Reynolds number 22000: a DNS study*, **Computers&Fluids**, 123:87-98, 2015.

# Motivation

Frequently used general purpose CFD codes:

- STAR-CCM+  **SIEMENS** 
- ANSYS-FLUENT 
- Code-Saturne  **edf** 
- OpenFOAM  

# Motivation

Frequently used general purpose CFD codes:

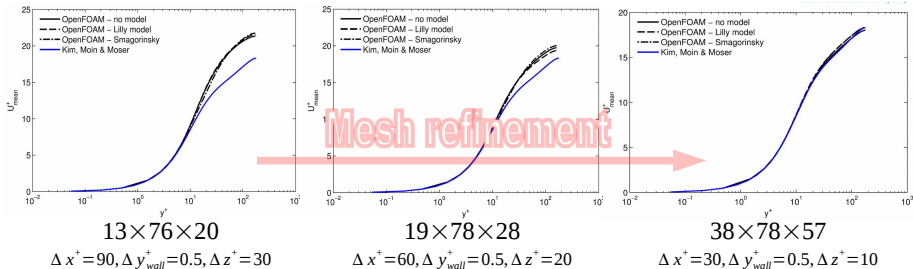
- STAR-CCM+  **SIEMENS** 
- ANSYS-FLUENT 
- Code-Saturne  
- OpenFOAM    


Main common characteristics of LES in such codes:

- **Unstructured finite volume** method, **collocated** grid
- Second-order spatial and temporal discretisation
- Eddy-viscosity type LES models

# Motivation

OpenFOAM® LES<sup>3</sup> results of a turbulent channel for at  $Re_\tau = 180$

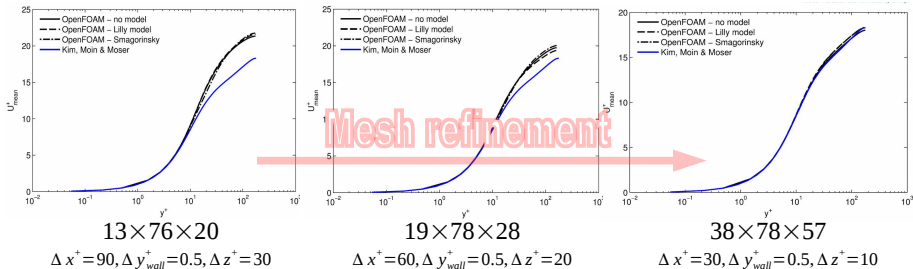


<sup>3</sup>E.M.J.Komen, L.H.Camilo, A.Shams, B.J.Geurts, B.Koren. *A quantification method for numerical dissipation in quasi-DNS and under-resolved DNS, and effects of numerical dissipation in quasi-DNS and under-resolved DNS of turbulent channel flows*, **Journal of Computational Physics**, 345, 565-595, 2017.



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OpenFOAM® LES<sup>3</sup> results of a turbulent channel for at  $Re_\tau = 180$

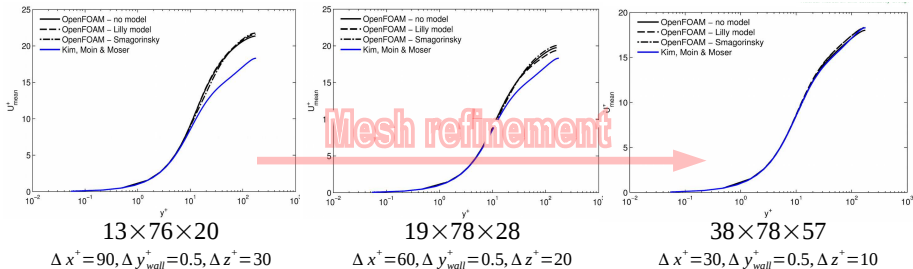


- Are LES results are merit of the SGS model?

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OpenFOAM® LES<sup>3</sup> results of a turbulent channel for at  $Re_\tau = 180$

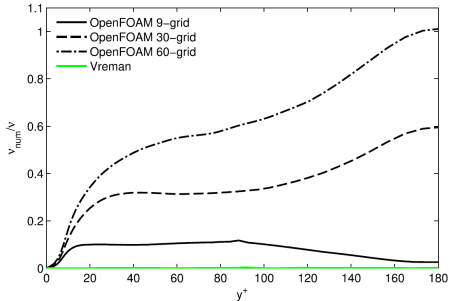
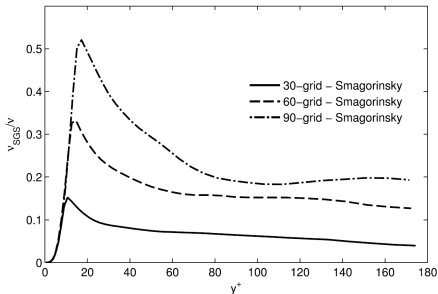


- Are LES results are merit of the SGS model? Apparently **NOT!!!** ✗

<sup>3</sup>E.M.J.Komen, L.H.Camilo, A.Shams, B.J.Geurts, B.Koren. *A quantification method for numerical dissipation in quasi-DNS and under-resolved DNS, and effects of numerical dissipation in quasi-DNS and under-resolved DNS of turbulent channel flows*, **Journal of Computational Physics**, 345, 565-595, 2017.

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OpenFOAM® LES<sup>4</sup> results of a turbulent channel for at  $Re_\tau = 180$

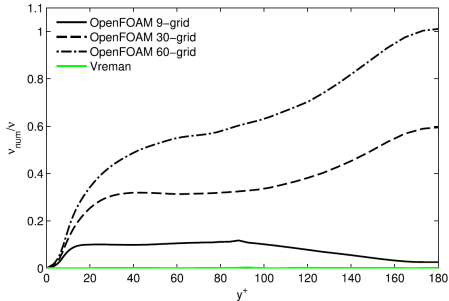
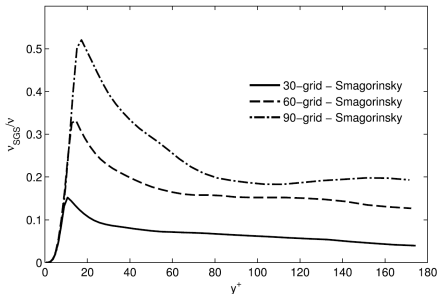


$$\nu_{num} \neq 0$$

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# Motivation

OpenFOAM® LES<sup>4</sup> results of a turbulent channel for at  $Re_\tau = 180$



$$\nu_{SGS} < \nu_{num} \neq 0$$

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# Symmetry-preserving discretization

Continuous

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{u}}{\partial t} + \mathbf{C}(\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{u}) = \nu \nabla^2 \mathbf{u} - \nabla p$$
$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{u} = 0$$

# Symmetry-preserving discretization

Continuous

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{u}}{\partial t} + \mathbf{C}(\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{u}) = \nu \nabla^2 \mathbf{u} - \nabla p$$
$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{u} = 0$$

Discrete

$$\Omega \frac{d\mathbf{u}_h}{dt} + \mathbf{C}(\mathbf{u}_h) \mathbf{u}_h = \mathbf{D} \mathbf{u}_h - \mathbf{G} \mathbf{p}_h$$
$$\mathbf{M} \mathbf{u}_h = \mathbf{0}_h$$

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$$\langle \mathbf{C}(\mathbf{u}, \varphi_1), \varphi_2 \rangle = - \langle \mathbf{C}(\mathbf{u}, \varphi_2), \varphi_1 \rangle$$

Discrete

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$$\Omega \mathbf{G} = -\mathbf{M}^T$$

$$\mathbf{D} = \mathbf{D}^T \quad \text{def -}$$

# Why collocated arrangements are so popular?

- STAR-CCM+



SIEMENS



- ANSYS-FLUENT



- Code-Saturne



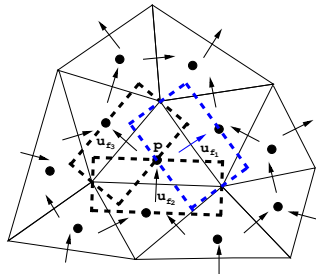
- OpenFOAM



$$\Omega_s \frac{d\mathbf{u}_s}{dt} + \mathbf{C}(\mathbf{u}_s) \mathbf{u}_s = \mathbf{D} \mathbf{u}_s - \mathbf{G} p_c; \quad \mathbf{M} \mathbf{u}_s = \mathbf{0}_c$$

In staggered meshes

- $p$ - $\mathbf{u}_s$  coupling is naturally solved ✓
- $\mathbf{C}(\mathbf{u}_s)$  and  $\mathbf{D}$  difficult to discretize ✗



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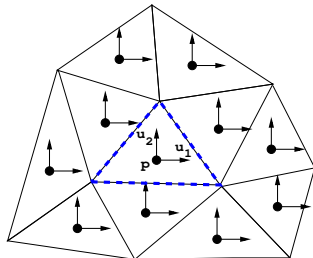
OpenFOAM®



$$\Omega_c \frac{d\mathbf{u}_c}{dt} + \mathbf{C}(\mathbf{u}_s) \mathbf{u}_c = \mathbf{D} \mathbf{u}_c - \mathbf{G}_c \mathbf{p}_c; \quad \mathbf{M}_c \mathbf{u}_c = \mathbf{0}_c$$

In collocated meshes

- $p$ - $\mathbf{u}_c$  coupling is cumbersome **X**
- $\mathbf{C}(\mathbf{u}_s)$  and  $\mathbf{D}$  easy to discretize **✓**
- Cheaper, less memory, ... **✓**



# Why collocated arrangements are so popular?

Everything is easy except the pressure-velocity coupling...

- STAR-CCM+



SIEMENS



- ANSYS-FLUENT



- Code-Saturne



- OpenFOAM

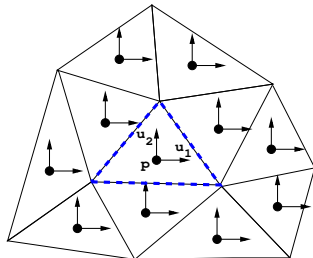
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# Pressure-velocity coupling on collocated grids

A vicious circle that cannot be broken...

In summary<sup>5</sup>:

- Mass:  $M\Gamma_{c \rightarrow s} \mathbf{u}_c = M\Gamma_{c \rightarrow s} \mathbf{u}_c - L_c L_c^{-1} M\Gamma_{c \rightarrow s} \mathbf{u}_c \approx \mathbf{0}_c \quad \mathbf{X}$
- Energy:  $\mathbf{p}_c (L - L_c) \mathbf{p}_c \neq 0 \quad \mathbf{X}$

---

<sup>5</sup>F.X.Trias, O.Lehmkuhl, A.Oliva, C.D.Pérez-Segarra, R.W.C.P.Verstappen.  
*Symmetry-preserving discretization of Navier-Stokes equations on collocated unstructured grids*, **Journal of Computational Physics**, 258 (1): 246-267, 2014.

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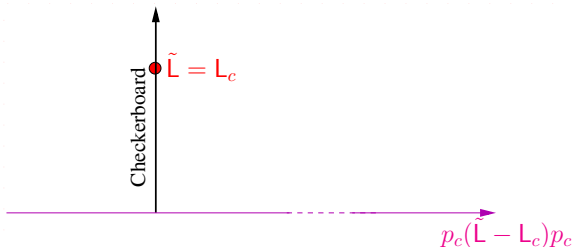
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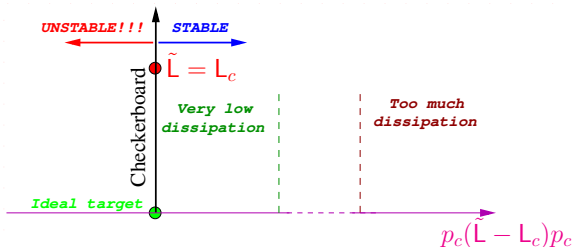


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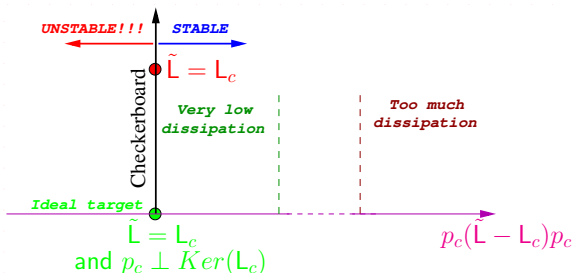
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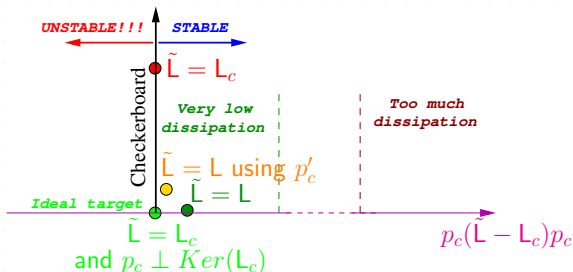
<sup>5</sup>Shashank, J.Larsson, G.laccarino. *A co-located incompressible Navier-Stokes solver with exact mass, momentum and kinetic energy conservation in the inviscid limit*, *Journal of Computational Physics*, 229: 4425-4430,2010.

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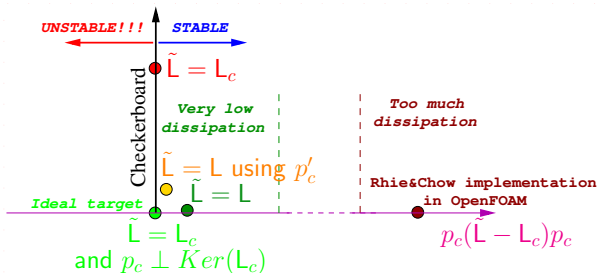
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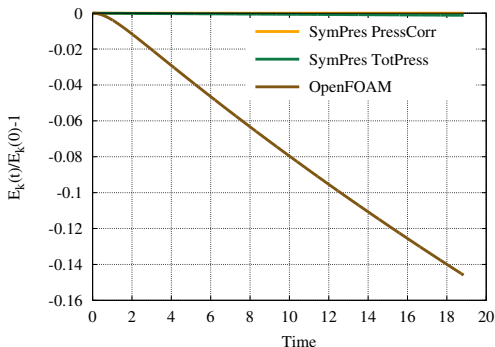
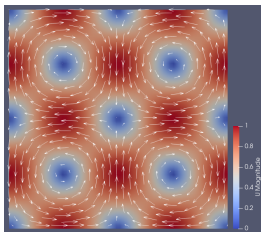
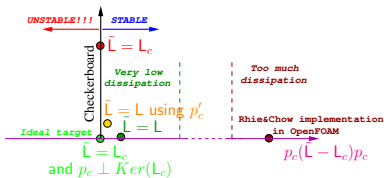
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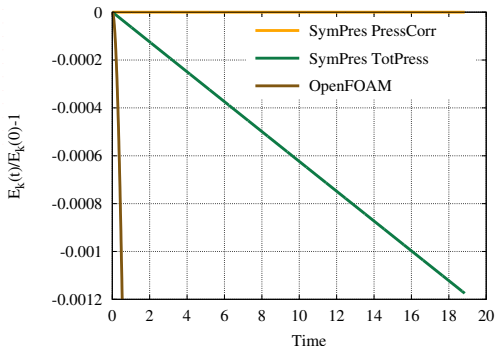
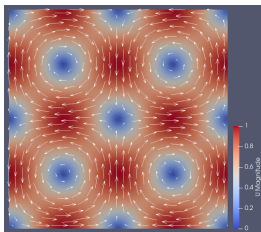
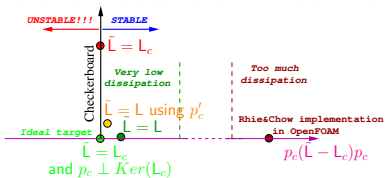


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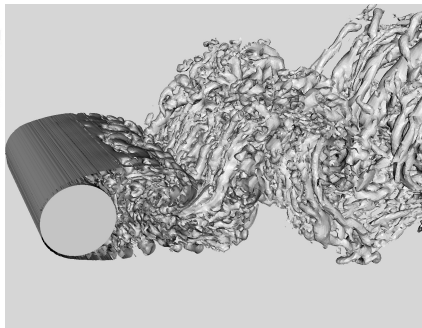
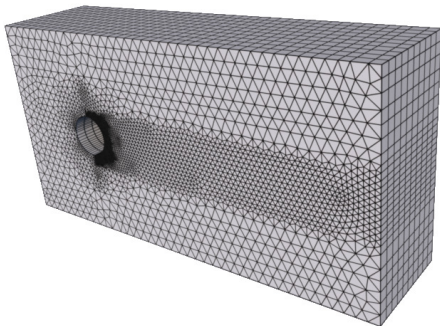
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## Examples of simulations

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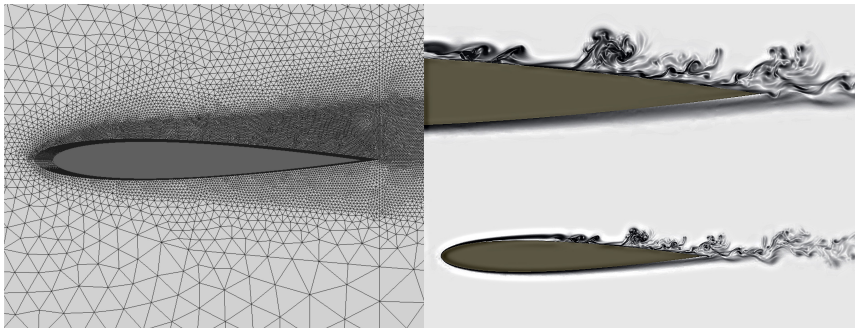


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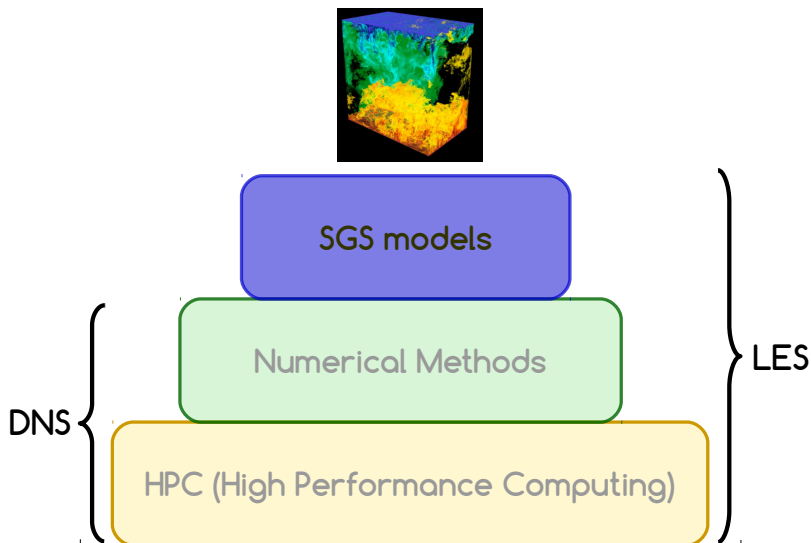
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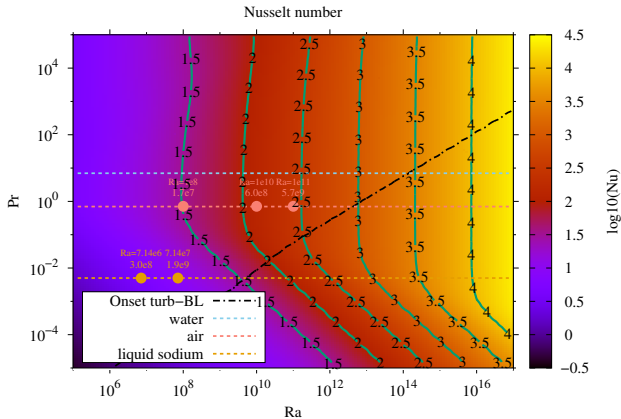
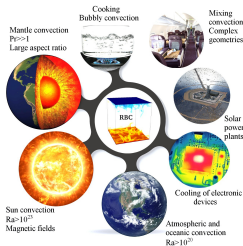
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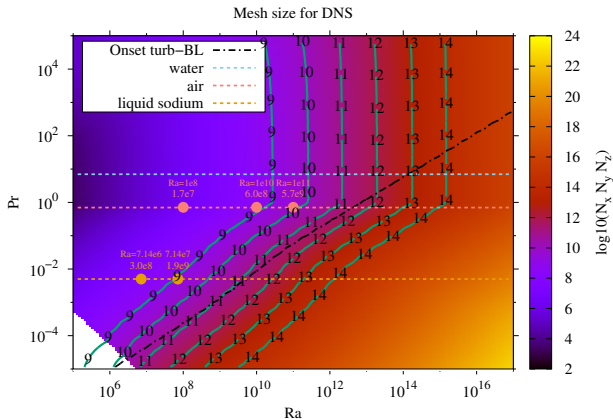
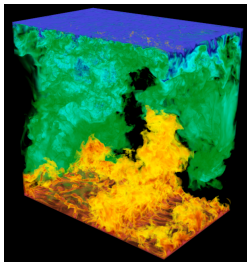
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# LES of RBC

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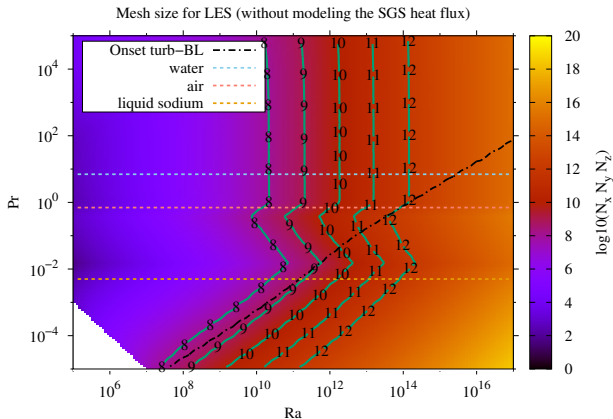
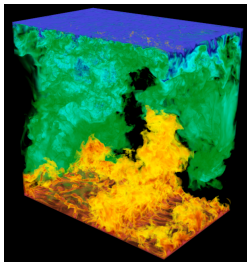
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# LES of RBC

## Research question #2:

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# Problems to model the SGS heat flux<sup>8</sup>

$$\partial_t \bar{\mathbf{u}} + (\bar{\mathbf{u}} \cdot \nabla) \bar{\mathbf{u}} = \nu \nabla^2 \bar{\mathbf{u}} - \nabla \bar{p} - \nabla \cdot \boldsymbol{\tau}(\bar{\mathbf{u}}) ; \quad \nabla \cdot \bar{\mathbf{u}} = 0$$

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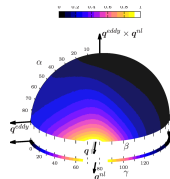
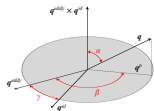
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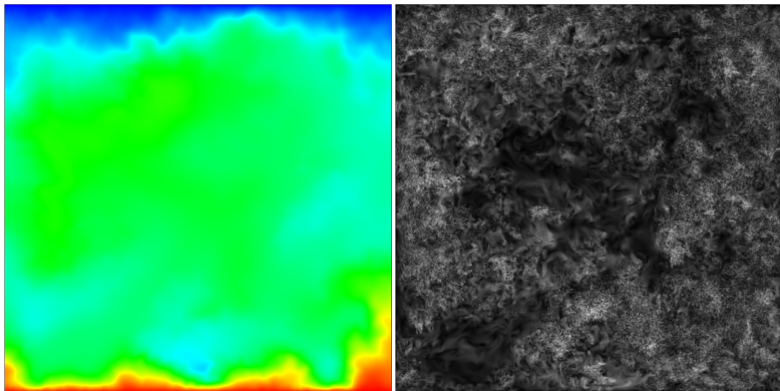
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**Why?** scale separation grows as  $\eta_K/\eta_T = Pr^{3/4}$ .

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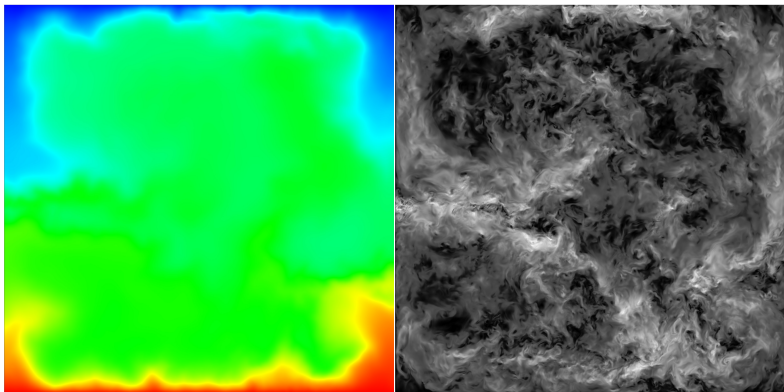
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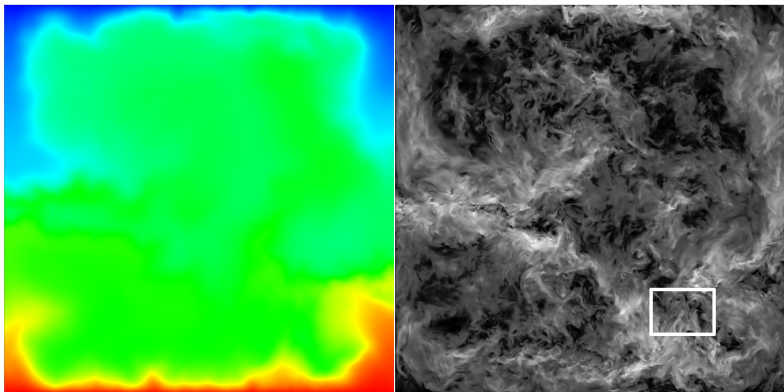
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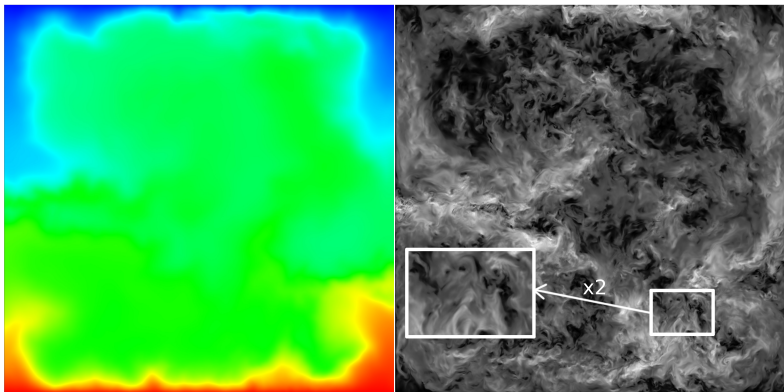
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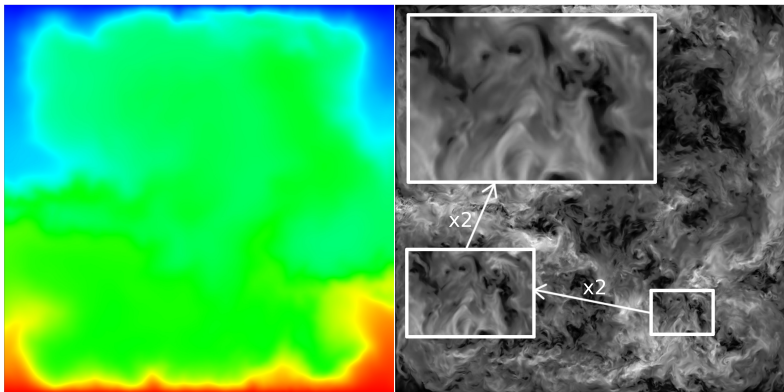
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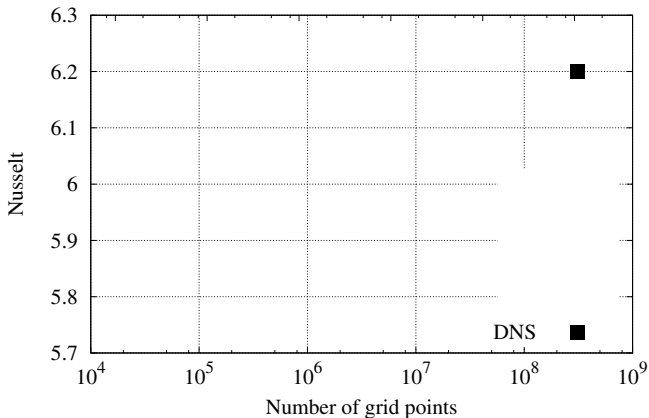
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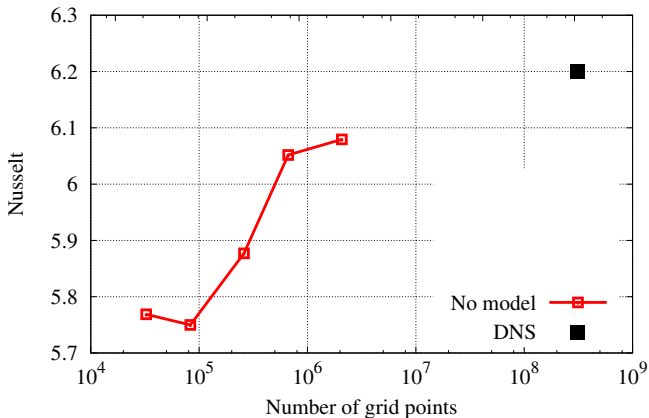
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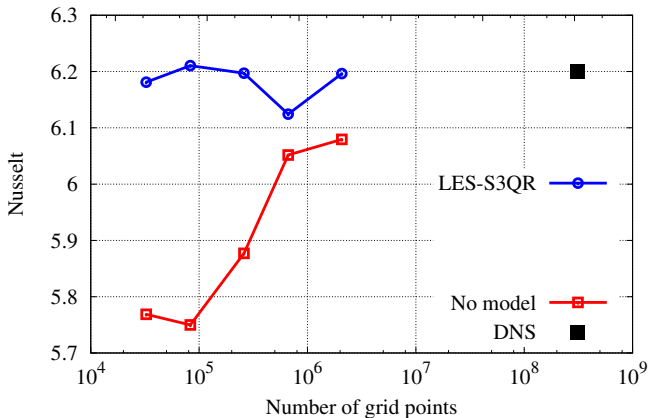
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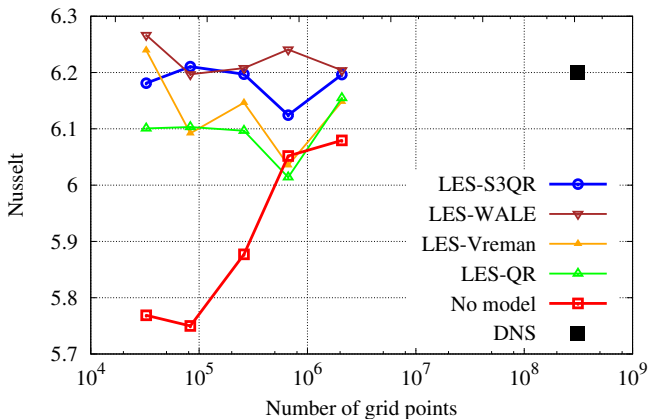
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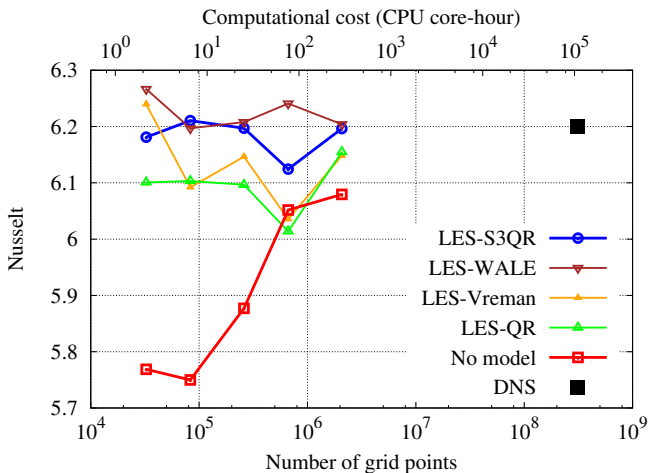
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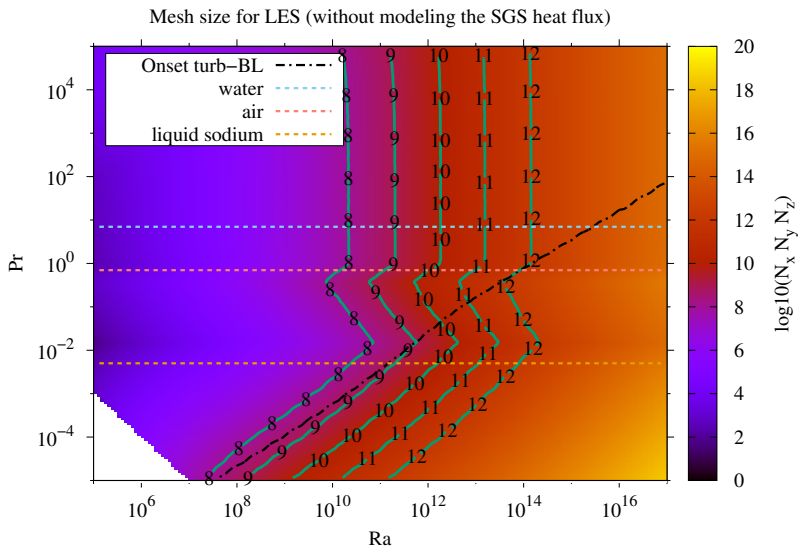
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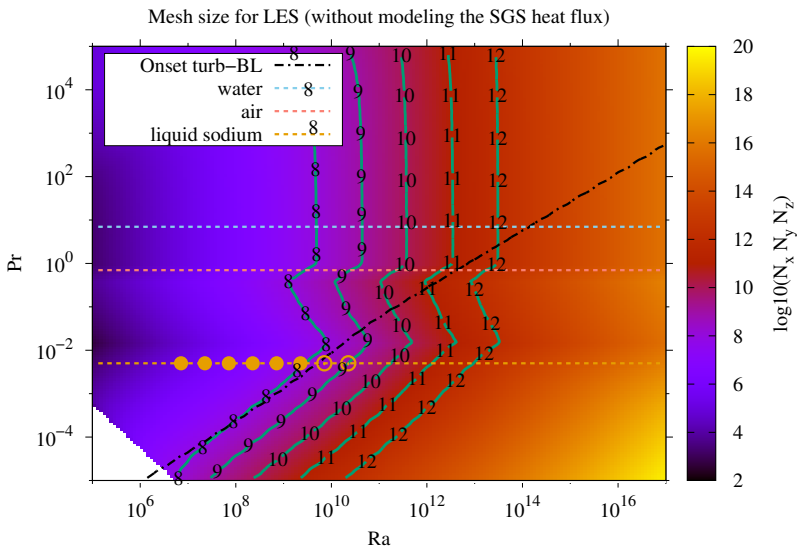


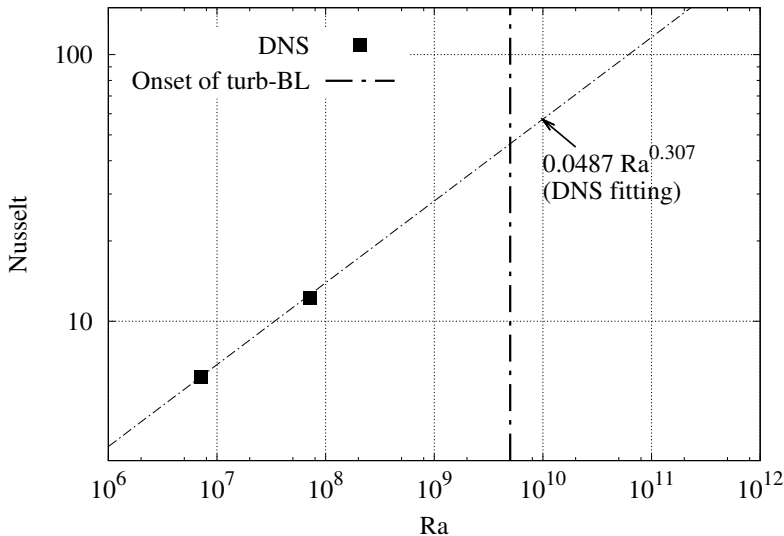
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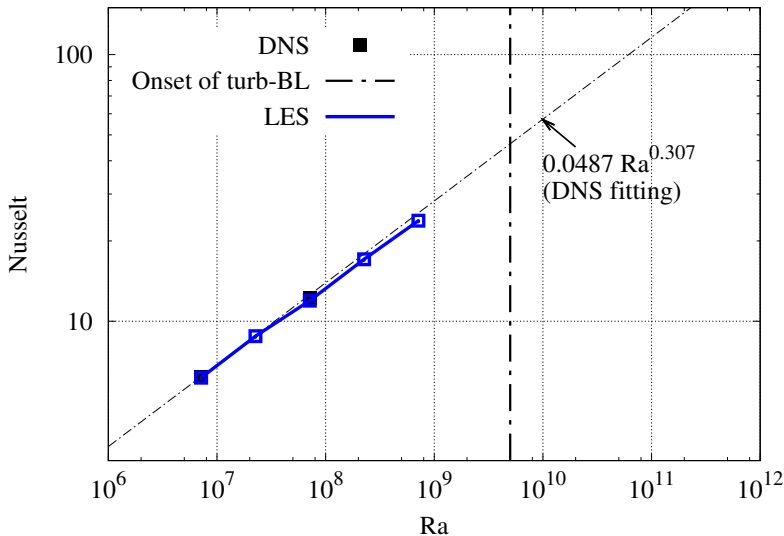


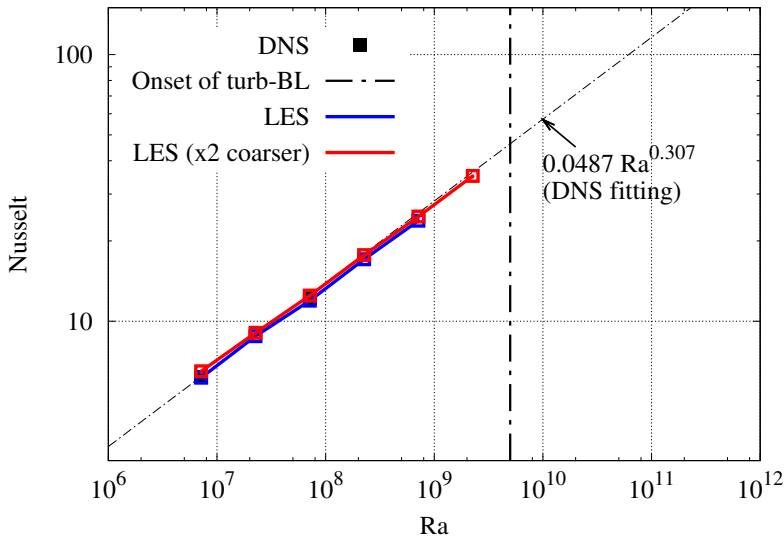
# LES results at very low $Pr$ number (on-going)



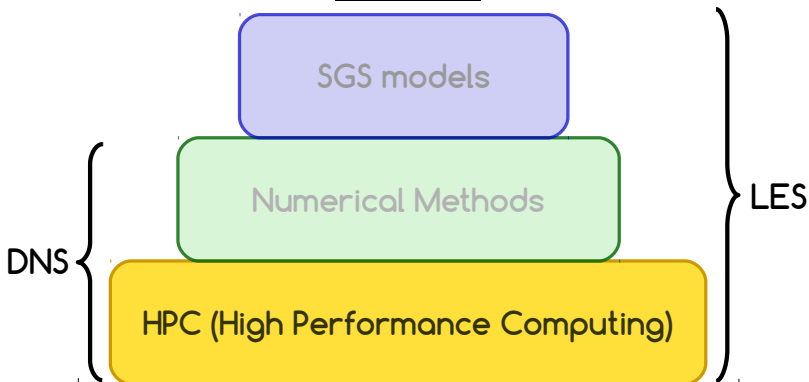
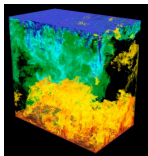
LES results at very low  $Pr$  number (on-going)



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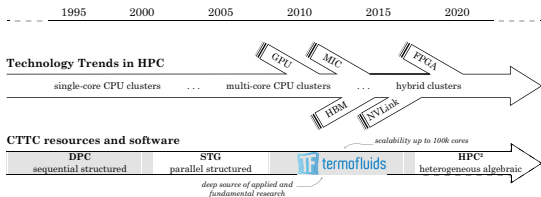
# HPC on modern supercomputers



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## Research question #3:

- How can we develop **portable** and **efficient** CFD codes for large-scale simulations on modern supercomputers?



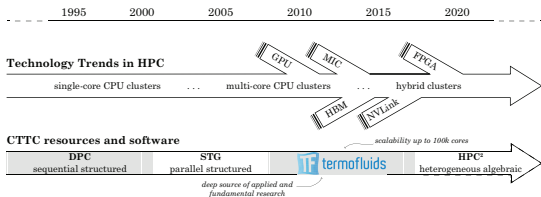
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# HPC on modern supercomputers

## Research question #3:

- How can we develop **portable** and **efficient** CFD codes for large-scale simulations on modern supercomputers?



**HPC<sup>2</sup>:** portable, algebra-based framework for heterogeneous computing is being developed<sup>10</sup>. Traditional stencil-based data and sweeps are replaced by algebraic structures (sparse matrices and vectors) and kernels. SpMM-based strategies to increase the arithmetic intensity are under development<sup>11</sup>.

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# Algebra-based approach naturally leads to portability, to simple and analyzable formulations

Continuous

Discrete

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{u}}{\partial t} + \mathbf{C}(\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{u}) = \nu \nabla^2 \mathbf{u} - \nabla p$$

$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{u} = 0$$

$$\langle \mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b} \rangle = \int_{\Omega} \mathbf{a} \mathbf{b} d\Omega$$

$$\langle \mathbf{C}(\mathbf{u}, \varphi_1), \varphi_2 \rangle = - \langle \mathbf{C}(\mathbf{u}, \varphi_2), \varphi_1 \rangle$$

$$\langle \nabla \cdot \mathbf{a}, \varphi \rangle = - \langle \mathbf{a}, \nabla \varphi \rangle$$

$$\langle \nabla^2 \mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b} \rangle = \langle \mathbf{a}, \nabla^2 \mathbf{b} \rangle$$

$$\Omega \frac{d\mathbf{u}_h}{dt} + \mathbf{C}(\mathbf{u}_h) \mathbf{u}_h = \mathbf{D} \mathbf{u}_h - \mathbf{G} \mathbf{p}_h$$

$$\mathbf{M} \mathbf{u}_h = \mathbf{0}_h$$

$$\langle \mathbf{a}_h, \mathbf{b}_h \rangle_h = \mathbf{a}_h^T \Omega \mathbf{b}_h$$

$$\mathbf{C}(\mathbf{u}_h) = -\mathbf{C}^T(\mathbf{u}_h)$$

$$\Omega \mathbf{G} = -\mathbf{M}^T$$

$$\mathbf{D} = \mathbf{D}^T \quad \text{def -}$$

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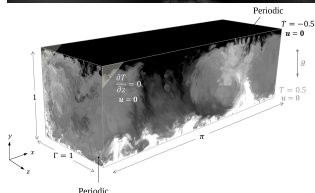
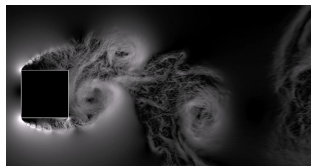
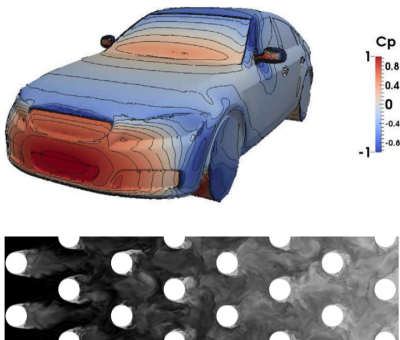
Minimal set of kernels:

SpMM :  $\mathbf{y} \leftarrow \mathbf{A} \mathbf{x}$

axpy :  $\mathbf{z} \leftarrow \mathbf{a} \mathbf{x} + \mathbf{b} \mathbf{y}$

dot :  $r \leftarrow \mathbf{x} \cdot \mathbf{y}$

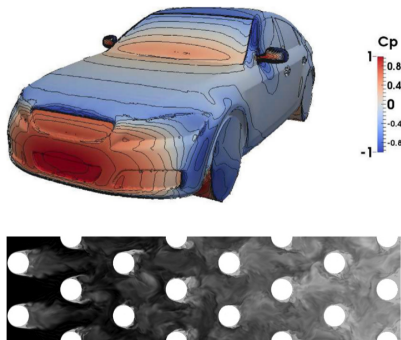
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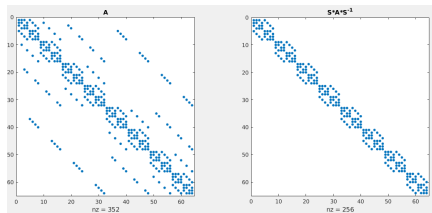
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$$\hat{L} = SLS^{-1} = I \otimes L_{inn} + \text{diag}(\mathbf{d})$$



SpMM can be used  $\implies$  **higher AI**

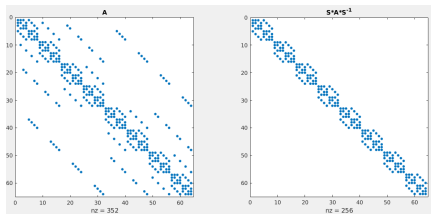
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Benefits for Poisson solver are 3-fold:

- Higher arithmetic intensity (AI)
- Reduction of memory footprint
- Reduction in the number of iterations

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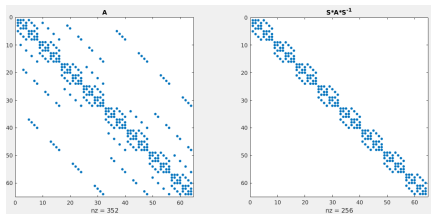
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→ Overall speed-up up to **x2-x3** ✓

→ Memory reduction of  $\approx 2$  ✓

$$\hat{L} = SLS^{-1} = I \otimes L_{inn} + \text{diag}(\mathbf{d})$$



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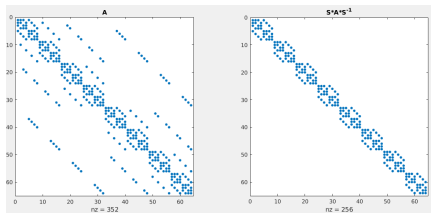
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Other SpMM-based strategies to **increase AI** and **reduce memory footprint**:

- Multiple transport equations
- Parametric studies
- Parallel-in-time simulations
- Go to higher-order?

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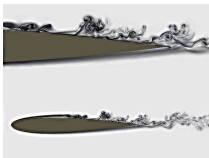


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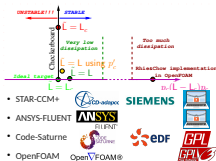
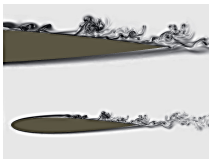
## Concluding remarks

- **Preserving symmetries** either using staggered or collocated formulations is the key point for **reliable LES/DNS** simulations.



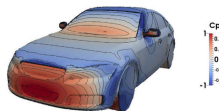
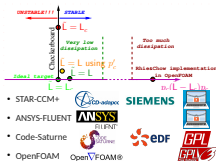
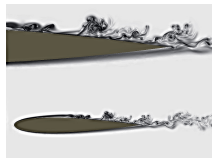
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- Main drawback of **collocated** formulations: you either have **checkerboard** or some (small) amount of **artificial dissipation** due to pressure term.



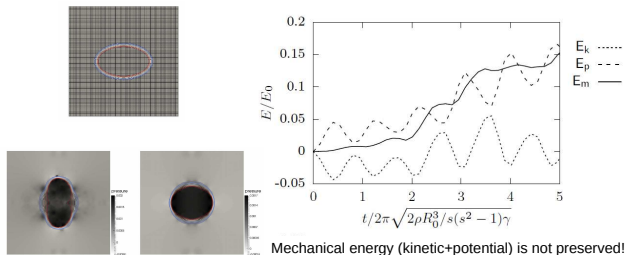
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- Main drawback of **collocated** formulations: you either have **checkerboard** or some (small) amount of **artificial dissipation** due to pressure term.
- Algebra-based approach naturally leads to **portability**, to simple and **analyzable** formulations and opens the door to **new strategies to improve its performance**.



# On-going (related) research

- **Rethinking** standard CFD operations (e.g. flux limiters<sup>13</sup>, CFL<sup>14</sup>, ...) to adapt them into an algebraic framework (*Leitmotiv*: maintaining a minimal number of basic kernels is crucial for portability!!!)
- Symmetry-preserving formulations for **multiphase flows**<sup>15</sup>



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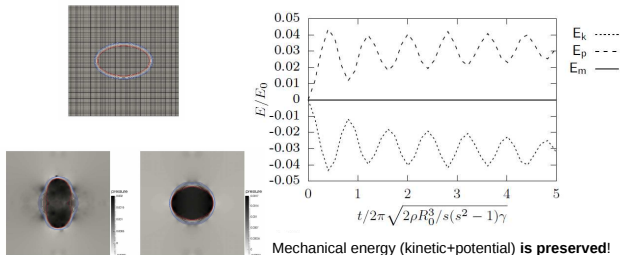
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Mechanical energy (kinetic+potential) is preserved!

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Thank you for your ~~virtual~~  
attendance

# Open questions and ideas for roundtable discussion

- I. **Discrete conservation and turbulence modeling**  
Reconciling numerics with subgrid-scale modeling, ILES, LES, DES, ...
- II. **Are we satisfied with the existing SGS models for LES?**  
Do we need better models? Is eddy-viscosity/eddy-diffusivity assumption good enough?
- III. **What is (if it is) preventing LES/WMLES/Hybrid RANS-LES techniques to be routinely used in industrial applications?**  
Robustness, computational cost, proper mesh generation, grey-area (or similar) issues,...
- IV. **We can preserve (kinetic) energy. What about other inviscid invariants such as enstrophy (in 2D) or helicity?**
- V. **What about time-integration methods?**  
We tend to ignore their effect. Shall we use symplectic time-integration methods?
- VI. **Is it possible to preserve linear momentum in multiphase flows?**

