

**Confluences Mathématiques**  
**Le machine learning au pays des équations**

*Rencontres chercheur·euse·s et ingénieur·e·s - 6ème édition*

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# Scientific machine learning for fluid flow modeling and design

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# Overview

- A very brief introduction to Fluid Mechanics
- Scientific machine learning in Fluid Mechanics
  - Requirements, challenges and opportunities
  - Examples
  - Toward more generalizable data-driven models
- Conclusions and outlook

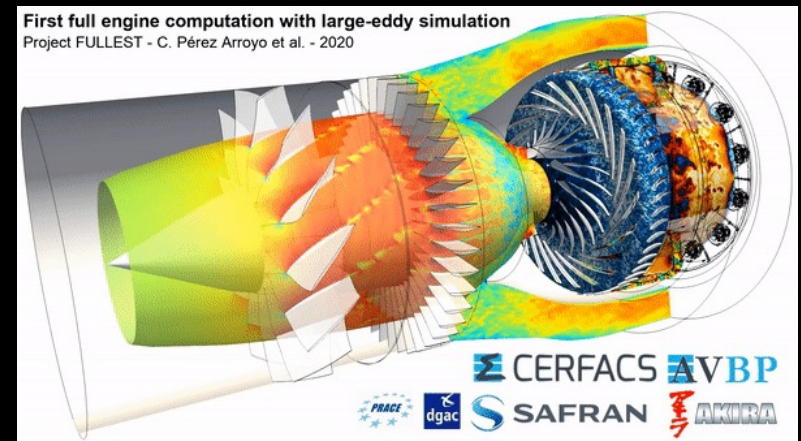
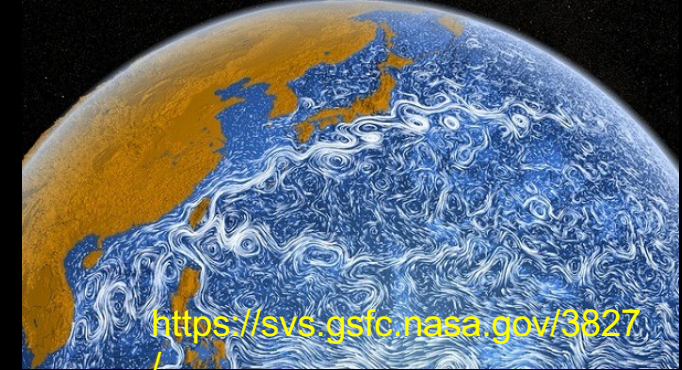
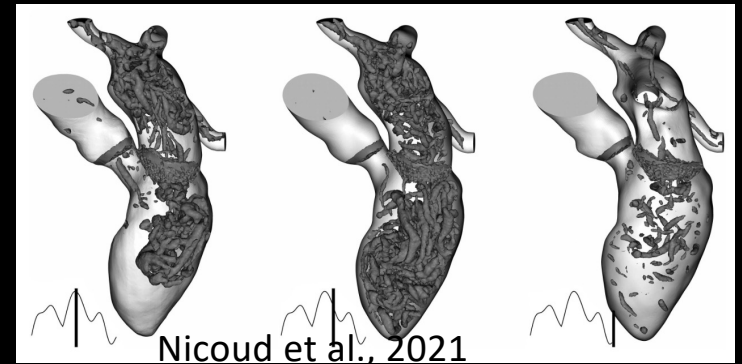
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# Fluid Mechanics

- Fluids play a fundamental role for life
  - Human body contains 60% water
  - 2/3 earth's surface covered by water
  - Atmosphere extends for 17km above earth's surface
- Fluid mechanics is part of our history
  - Geomorphology
  - Human migrations and birth of civilizations
  - Modern scientific and mathematical theories
- Key to many problems in science and engineering
  - Turbulence, geosciences, biology, astrophysics
  - Weather and climate
  - Aerospace, Energy, Industrial processes, health

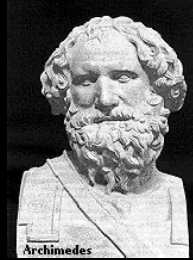
**Fluid mechanics is in almost every daily event**



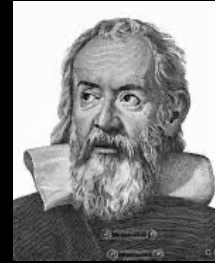


# Investigating fluids

1. Experimental Fluid Mechanics



Archimede  
(C. 287-212 AC)



Galileo  
(C. 287-212 AC)



Reynolds  
(1842-1912)

2. Theoretical Fluid Mechanics

3. Computational Fluid Dynamics

4. High-Performance computing

5. **Data-driven Fluid Mechanics?**



Bernoulli  
(1667-1748)



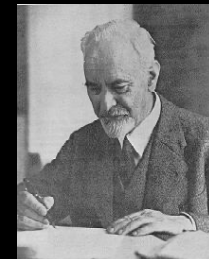
Euler  
(1707-1783)



Navier  
(1785-1836)



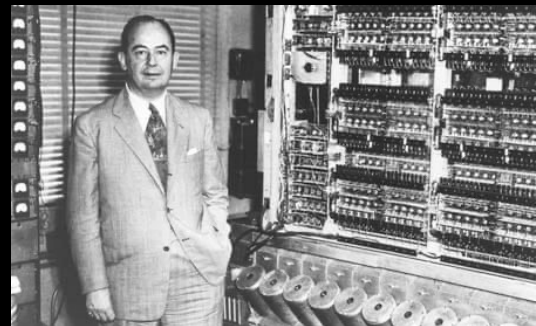
Stokes  
(1819-1903)



Prandtl  
(1875-1953)



Taylor  
(1886-1975)



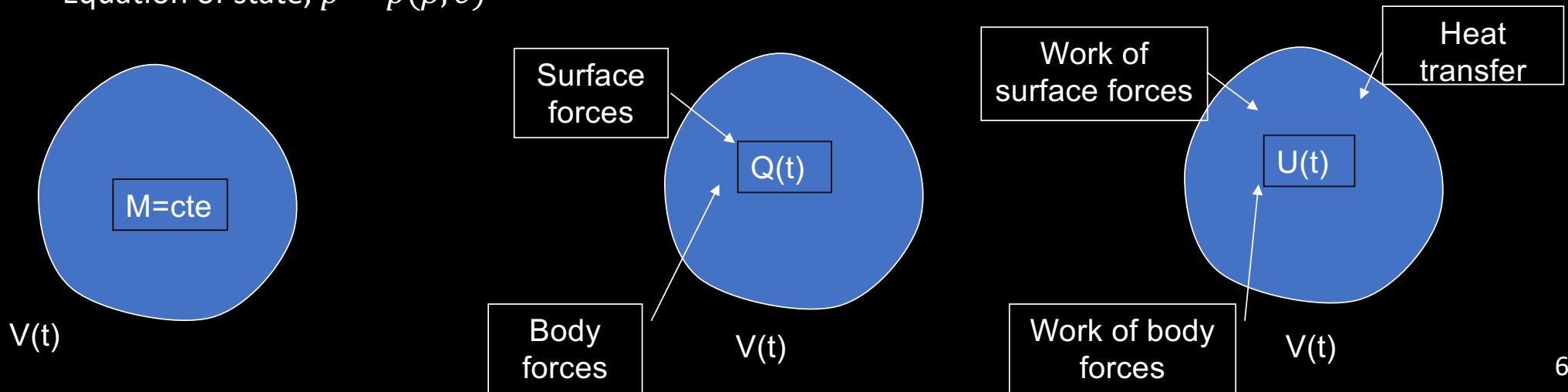
Von Neumann (1903-1957)



Harlow (1928-2016)

# Governing equations (continuum limit)

- Conservation of mass :  $\frac{D\rho}{Dt} = -\rho\nabla \cdot \mathbf{v}$
- Conservation of momentum :  $\rho \frac{D\mathbf{v}}{Dt} = -\nabla p + \nabla \cdot \boldsymbol{\tau}_v + \rho \mathbf{f}$
- Conservation of energy :  $\rho \frac{DE}{Dt} = -\nabla \cdot (p\mathbf{v}) + \nabla \cdot (\mathbf{v} \cdot \boldsymbol{\tau}_v) + \rho \mathbf{f} \cdot \mathbf{v} - \nabla \cdot \mathbf{q}$
- Constitutive equations :
  - Rheology models : e.g. Newtonian fluid  $\boldsymbol{\tau}_v = 2\mu\mathbf{S} + \lambda tr(\mathbf{S})\mathbf{I}$
  - Heat flux :  $\mathbf{q} = -\kappa\nabla T$
  - Equation of state,  $p = p(\rho, e)$





(a)



(b)

Narcy&Colin 2015



(c)



(d)

## Multi-fluid equations...

- Mass, momentum (and energy) conservation for each fluid  $k$

$$\frac{\partial(\rho_k \alpha_k)}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (\rho_k \alpha_k \mathbf{v}) = \alpha_k M_k$$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial(\rho_k \alpha_k \mathbf{v}_k)}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (\rho_k \alpha_k \mathbf{v}_k \mathbf{v}_k) \\ = -\alpha_k \nabla p + \nabla \cdot (\alpha_k \boldsymbol{\tau}_v) + \rho_k \alpha_k \mathbf{f} + \mathbf{I}_k \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial(\rho_k \alpha_k T_k)}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (\rho_k \alpha_k \mathbf{v}_k T_k) \\ = \dot{W}_{p,k} + \dot{W}_{\tau,k} + \dot{W}_{f,k} + \dot{W}_{I,k} + \dot{Q}_k \end{aligned}$$

- Supplementary models for:
  - Rheology, thermophysical properties, mass-exchange terms, interfacial forces, heat fluxes...

# The “simple” case

- Navier-Stokes equations for a single-phase, single-species, incompressible, constant-property Newtonian fluid :

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

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{v}}{\partial t} + \mathbf{v} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{v} = -\frac{1}{\rho} \nabla p + \nu \nabla^2 \mathbf{v}$$

- Buckingham theorem  $\rightarrow$  nondimensional form

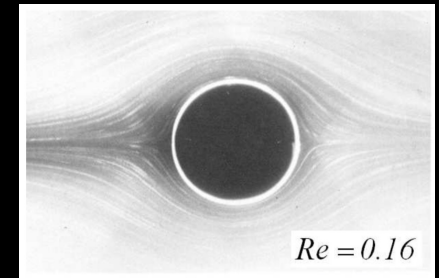
$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{v} = 0$$

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{v}}{\partial t} + \mathbf{v} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{v} = -\nabla p + \frac{1}{Re} \nabla^2 \mathbf{v}$$

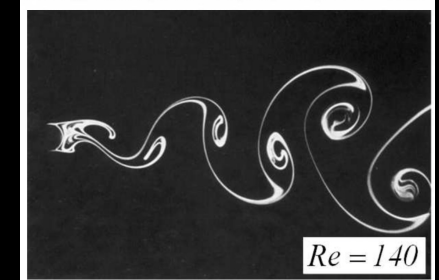
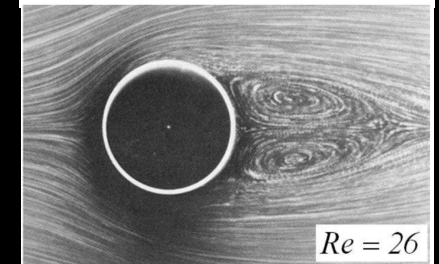
- Reynolds number :  $Re = \frac{V_{ref} L_{ref}}{\nu}$

- Ratio of inertia to viscous forces  $\Leftrightarrow$  ratio of diffusion to convection time scales
- Ratio of nonlinear to linear terms!

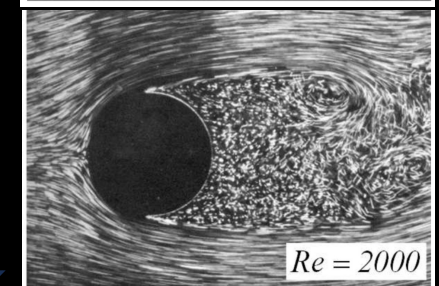
Stokes flow



Laminar flow



Turbulent flow



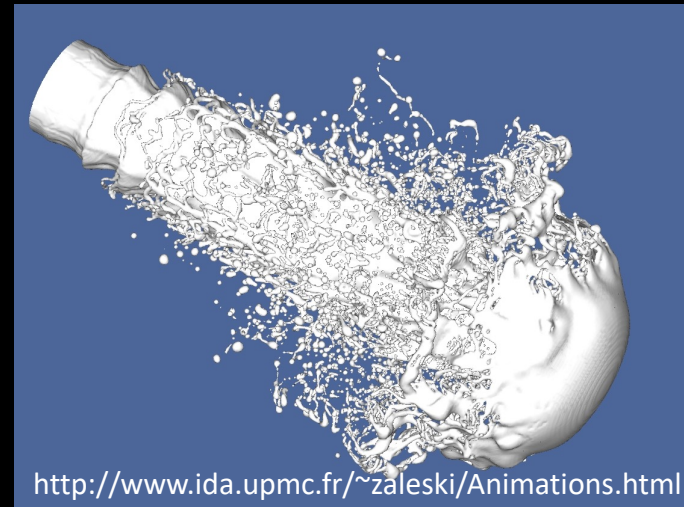
Van Dyke, 1982



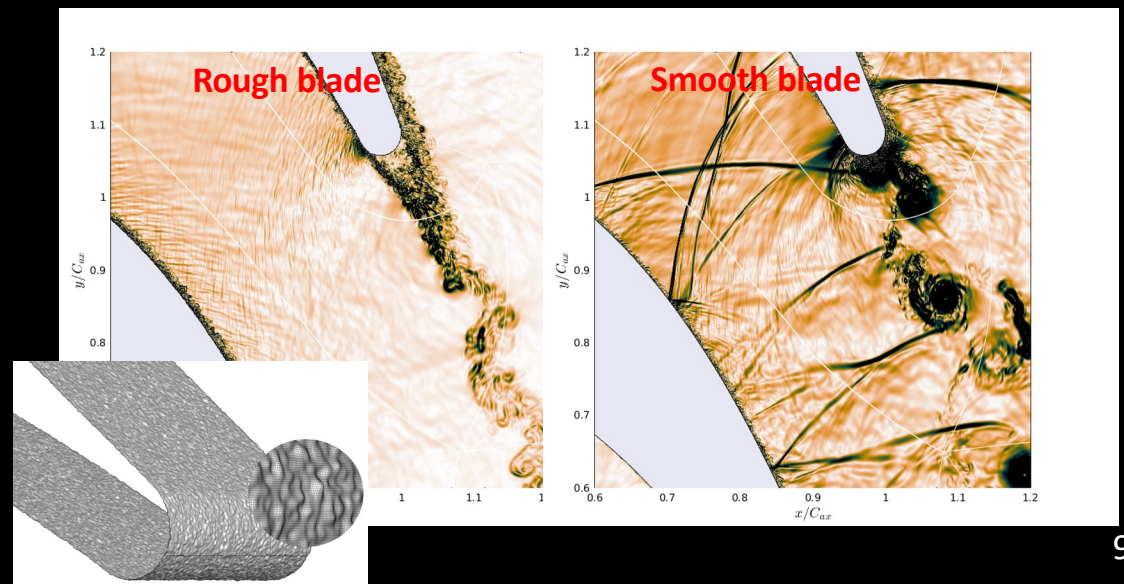
# Multiples scales



<https://svs.gsfc.nasa.gov/3820>

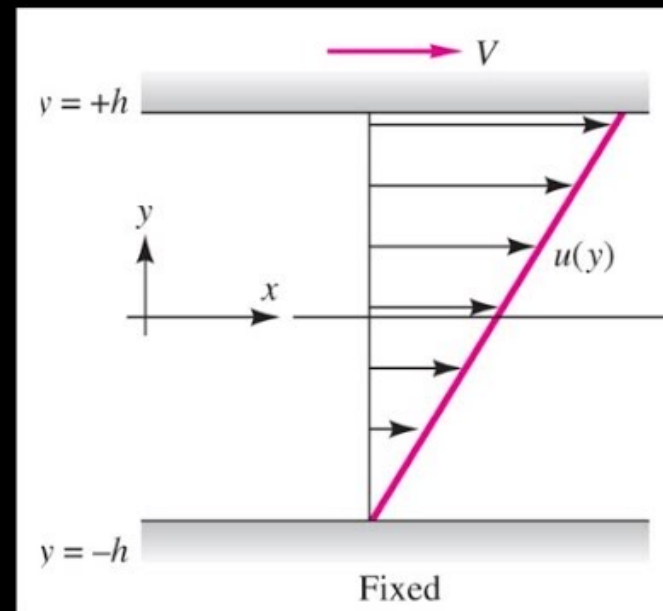
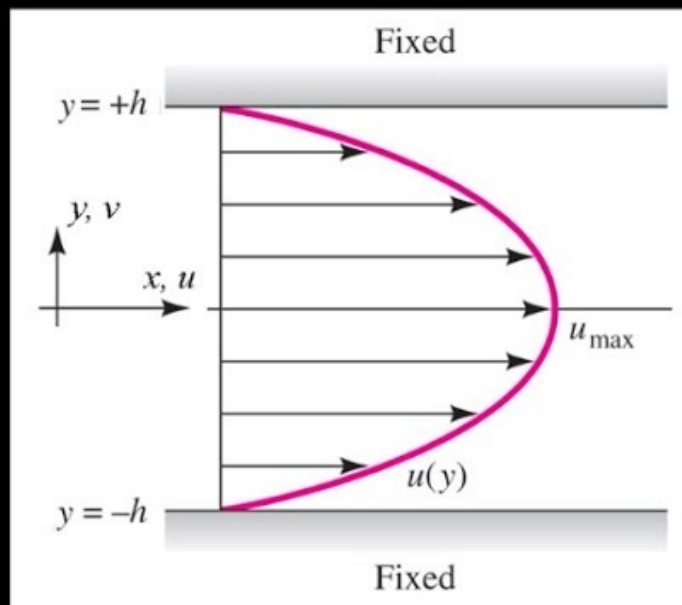


<http://www.ida.upmc.fr/~zaleski/Animations.html>



# Challenges

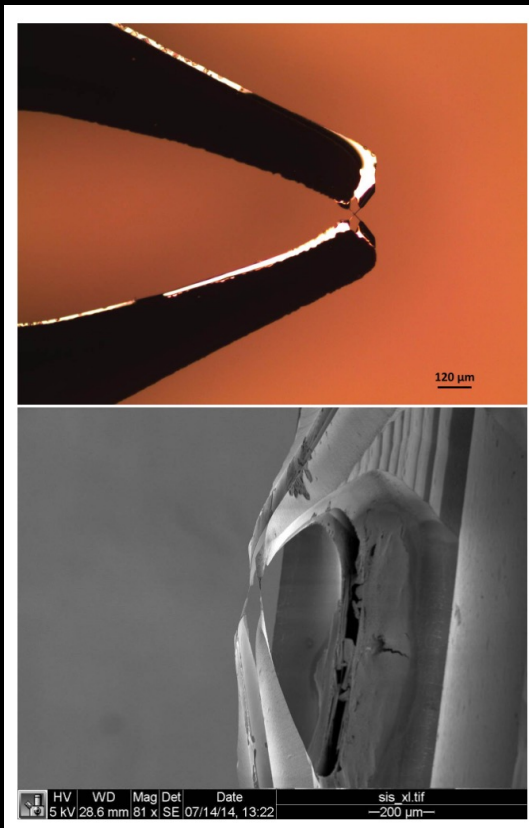
- Analytical solutions possible for a limited range of simple flow cases
- Asymptotic expansions, linearization techniques...
  - Simplifying assumptions
  - But **parcimonious and interpretable** models! Generalizable to some extent...



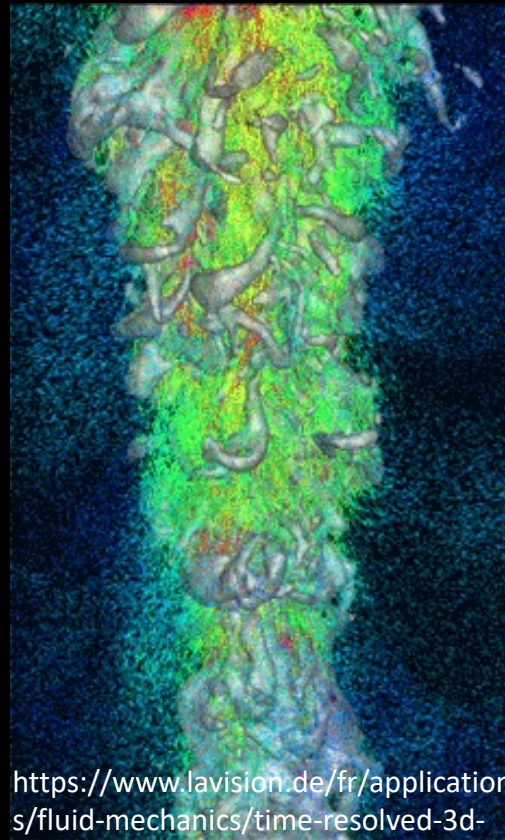


# Challenges

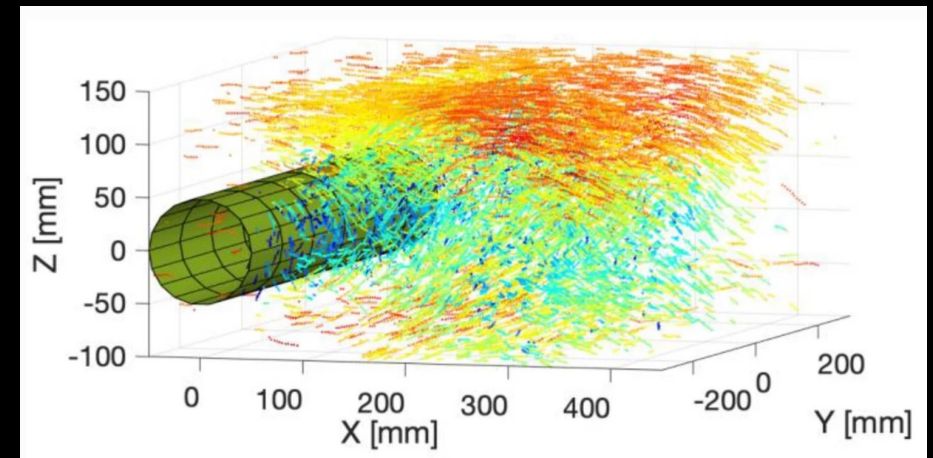
- Experimental investigation costly and time consuming
- Incomplete/noisy (inaccessible regions, scale cutoff, reconstruction errors, unobservable quantities)
- One-shot! Interpretable? Uncertainties?



Smits&Hultmark, 2014



<https://www.lavision.de/fr/applications/fluid-mechanics/time-resolved-3d-particle-tracking/i>



*Time-resolved tomographic PIV of incompressible flow past a cylinder at  $Re_D=27000$  (Scarano et al., 2022)*

# Challenges

Solving all scales generally unfeasible → coarse-grained approaches

## ▪ DNS

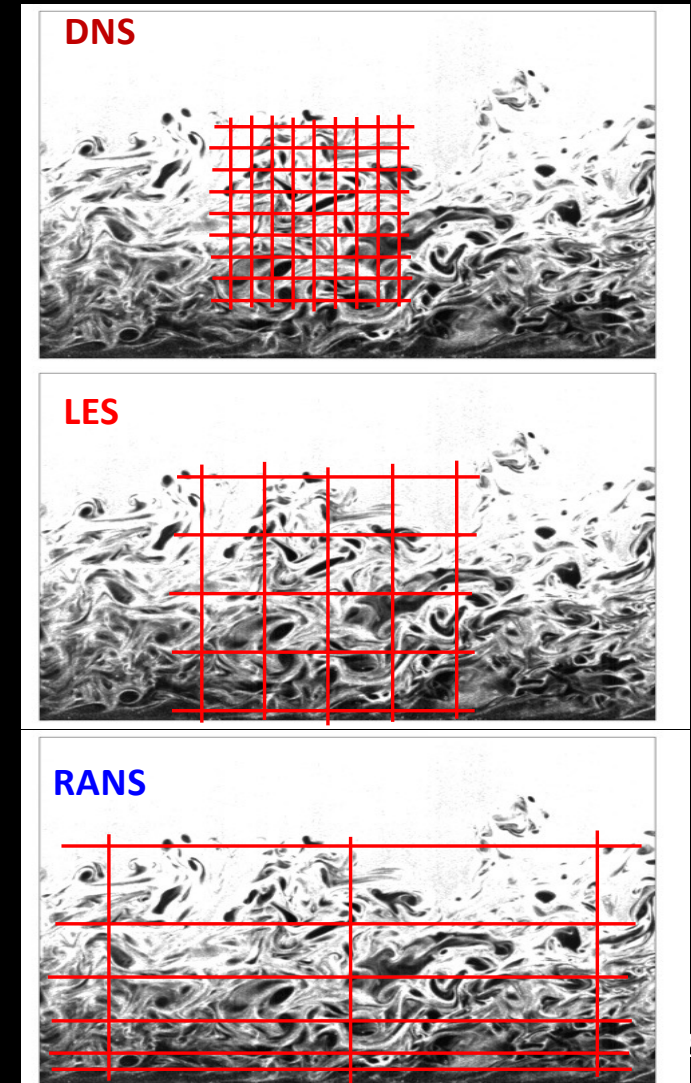
- Number of cells required for solving all scales  
 $\approx \left(\frac{L}{\eta}\right)^3 = Re^{9/4}$
- Cost  $\approx Re^{11/4}$  (number of cells x number of time iterations)

## ▪ Large Eddy Simulation

- Free-shear flow:  $\approx Re^{0,4}$  ; cost  $\approx Re^{0,5}$
  - Wall-bounded flows (Wall-Resolved LES, WRLES) :  $\approx Re^{1,8}$  ; cost  $\approx Re^{2,4}$
- quasi-DNS resolution

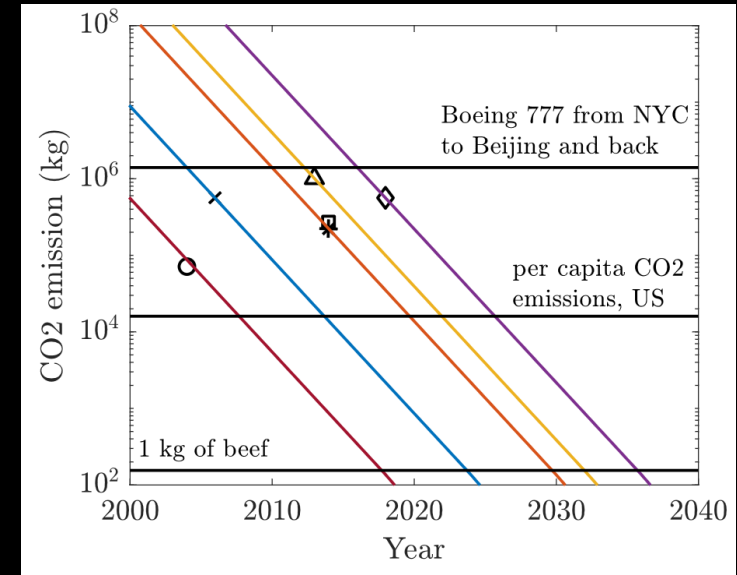
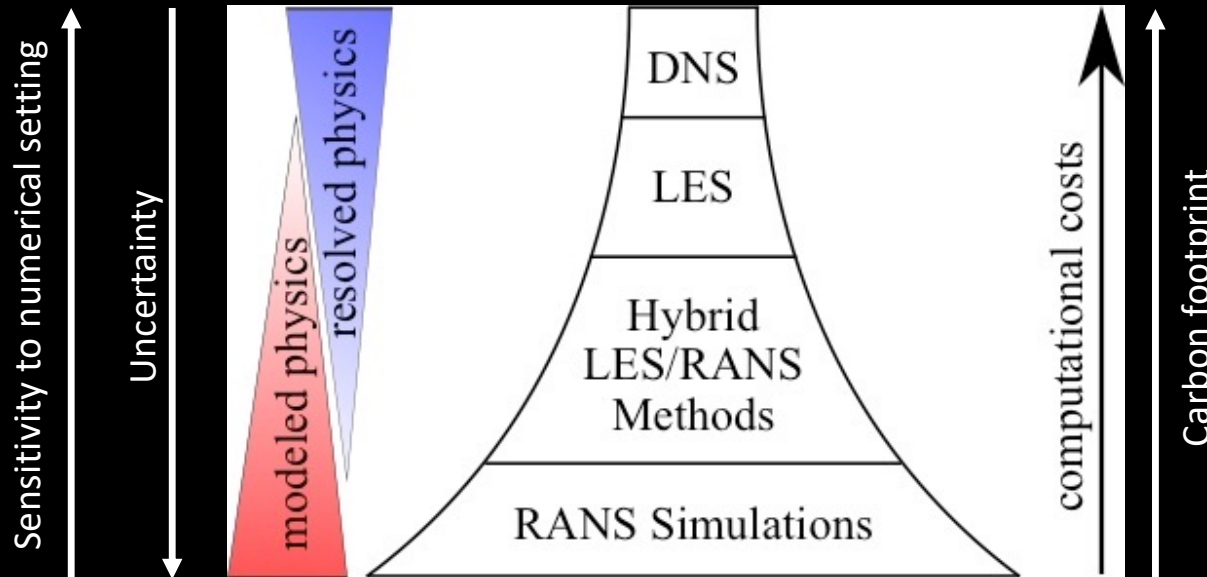
## ▪ RANS

- Drastic reduction of computation time
- Models are less universal and suffer from **uncertainties**





# Multiple modeling fidelities



Estimates of carbon footprint for channel flow DNS [Yang et al., 2024]

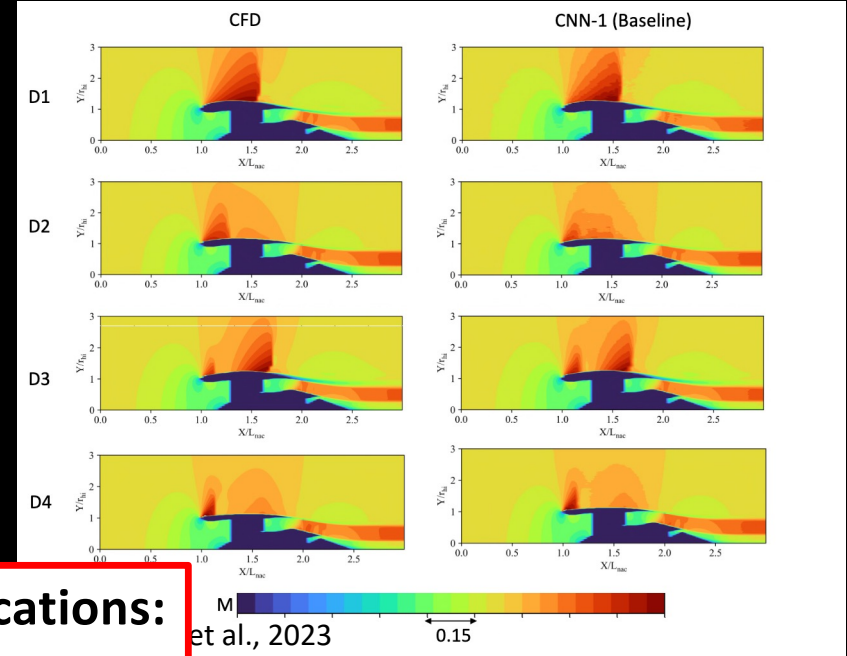
- **High carbon footprint of large simulations**
- Hi-Fi CFD (DNS, Wall-Resolved LES) limited to low/moderate-Reynolds numbers
- Mid-Fi CFD Wall-Modelled LES, WMLES, and hybrid RANS/LES are attractive alternatives but do not solve all of the problems

# Overview

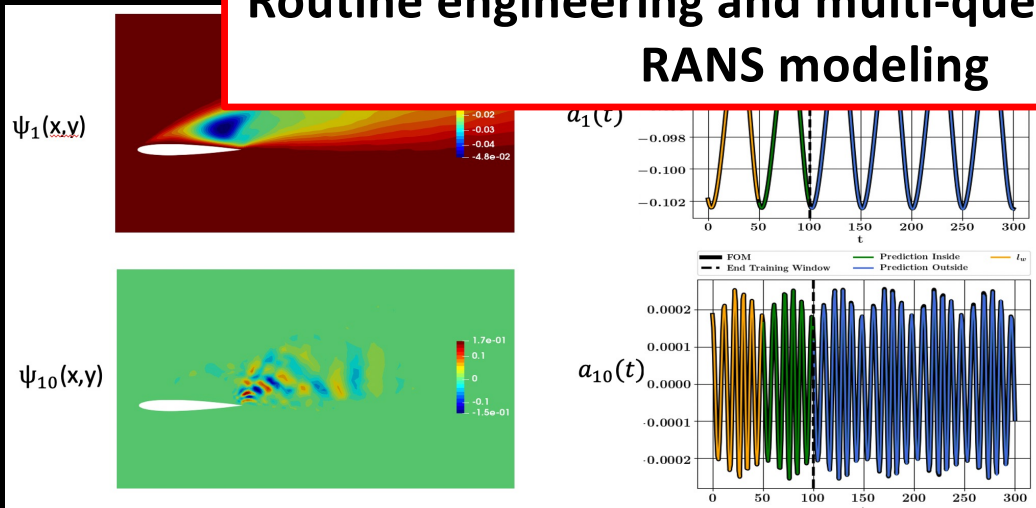
- A very brief introduction to Fluid Mechanics
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  - Requirements, challenges and opportunities
  - Scientific discovery
  - Prediction and design
- Conclusions and outlook

# HiFi-quality CFD at the cost of LoFi (or less!)

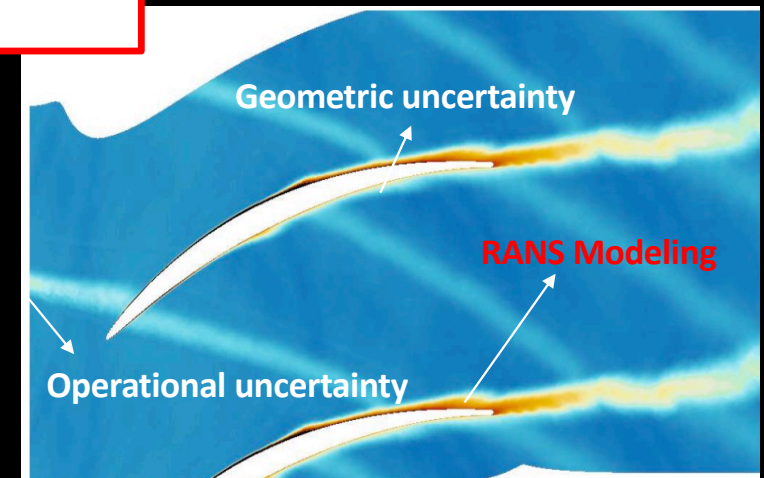
- Automated design and optimization
- Uncertainty quantification
- Digital Twins and real-time simulation



Routine engineering and multi-query applications:  
RANS modeling



Sayadi et al., 2020

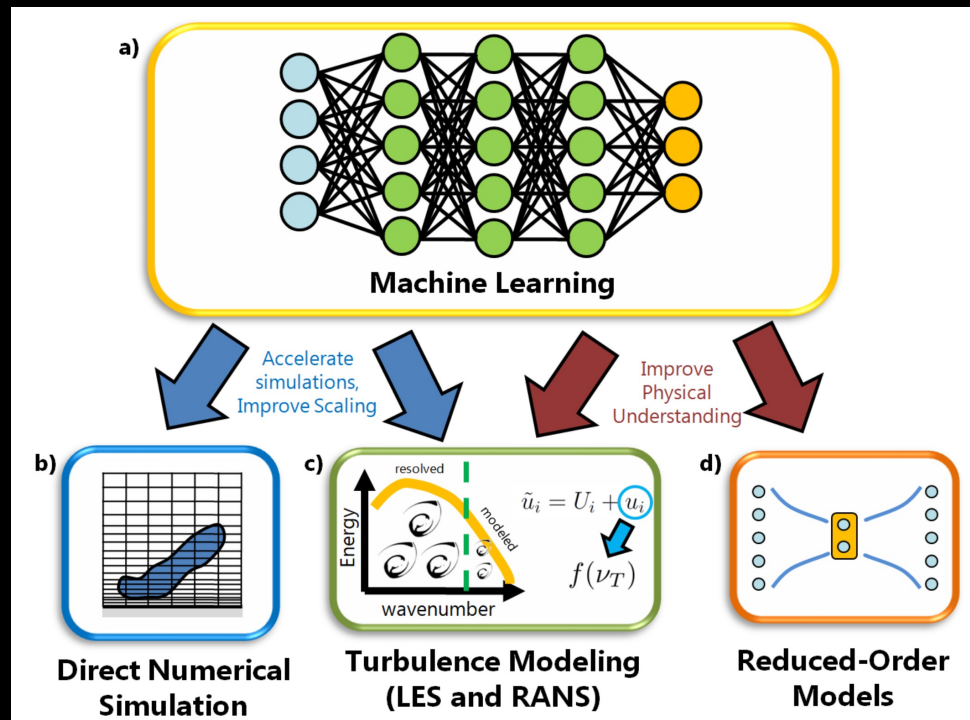


De Zordo Banliat et al., 2020

# The promises of Machine Learning

Potentially disruptive impact of artificial intelligence/machine learning (ML) techniques:

- Abundant HiFi databases → super-resolution, feature extraction, model augmentation, digital twins, control, surrogate modeling, clustering, classification...



Can ML enable fast HiFi-quality for scientific discovery and engineering?

Vinuesa & Brunton, 2022

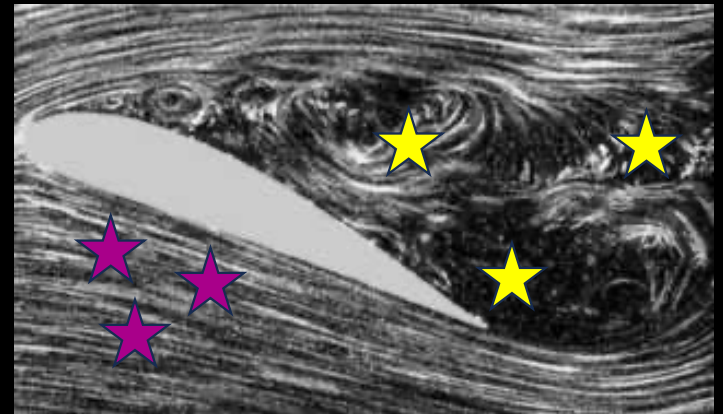
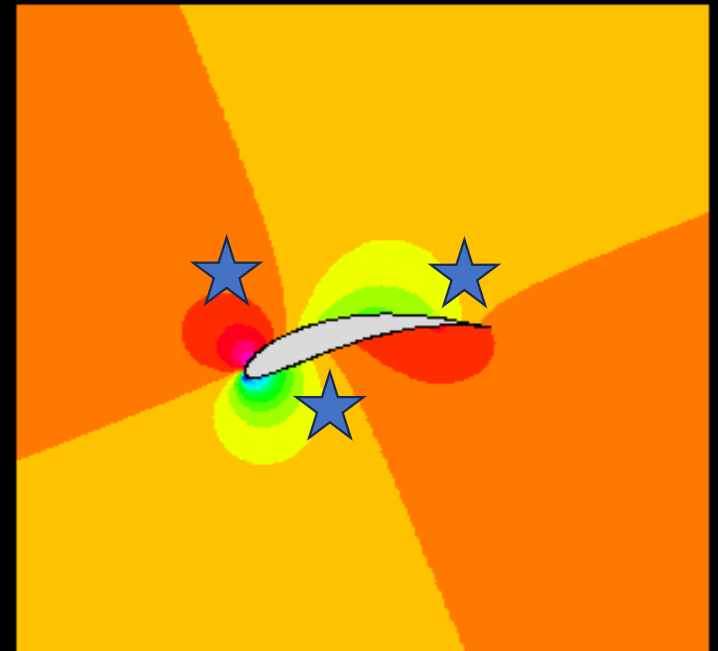
# Requirements

- Interpretable and generalizable models
  - As simple as possible, but not simpler (parsimony principle)

- Example

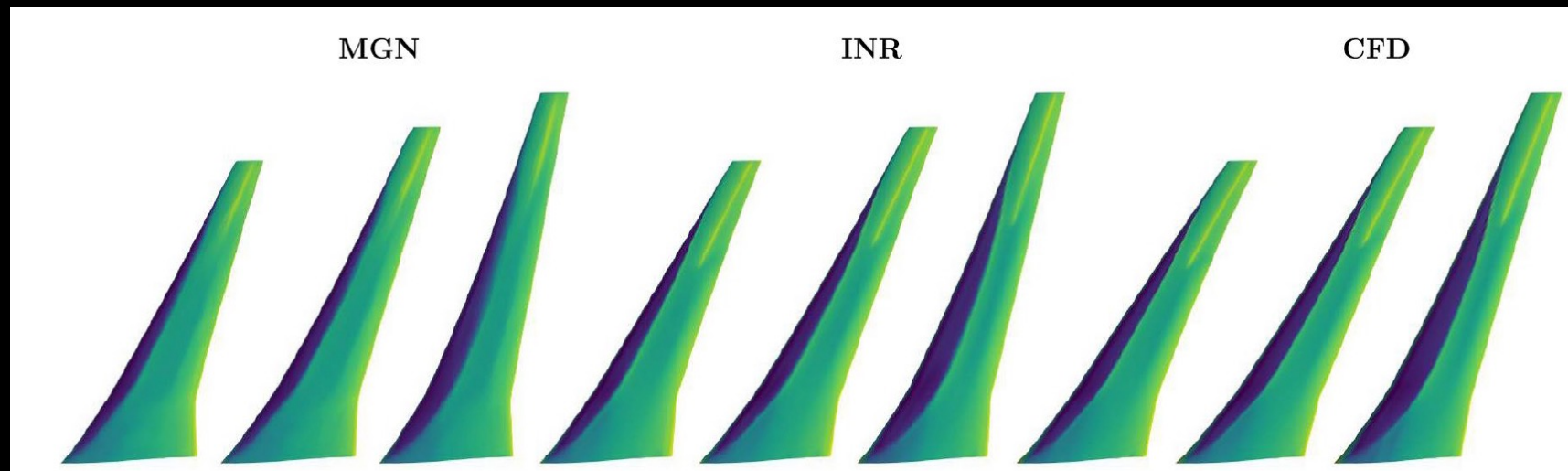
$$\nabla^2 \phi = 0, \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial n} = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad \frac{p}{\rho} + \frac{1}{2} |\nabla \phi|^2 = cte$$

- Uncertainty control
  - Tell something about model reliability, especially in unseen environments
- Deal with sparse/noisy data
  - Very partial sampling from some unknown distribution



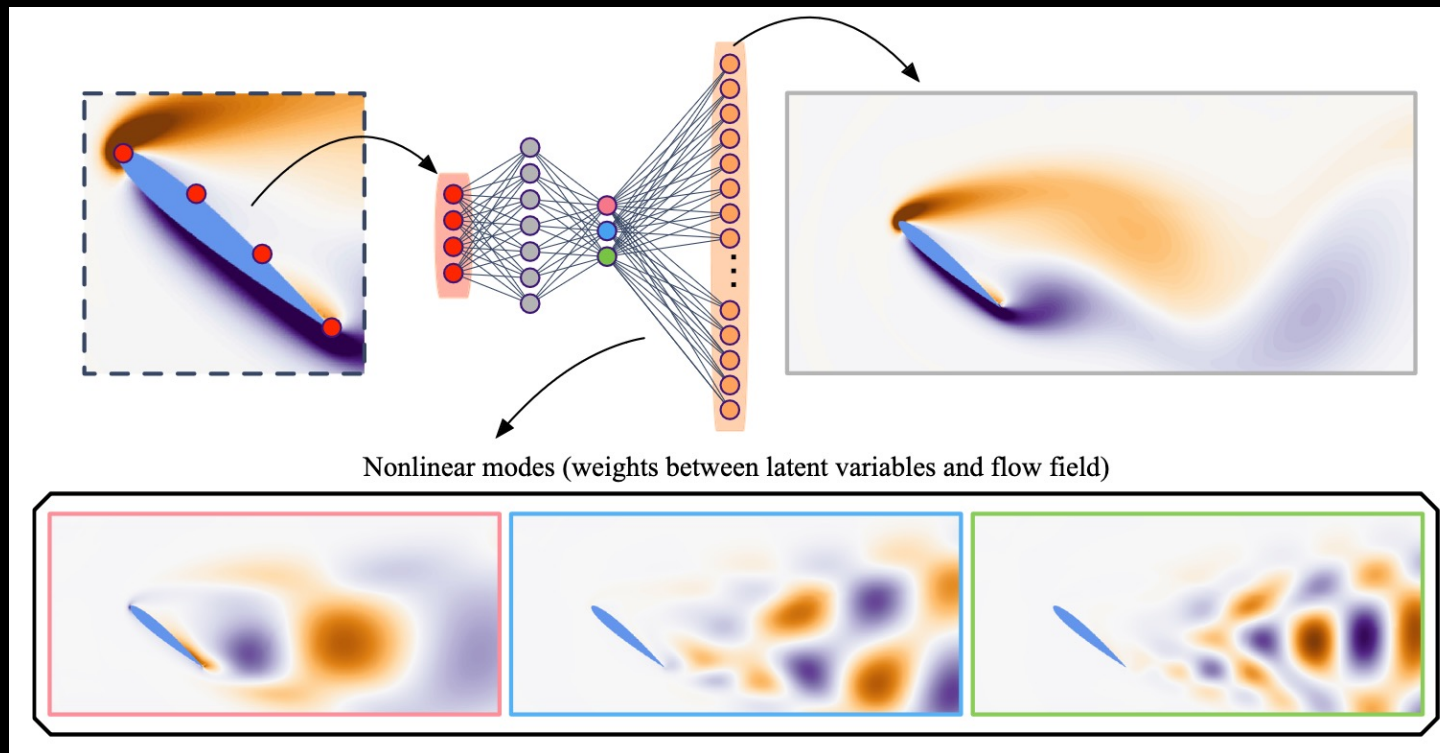
# Application 1: Reduced-order/surrogate models/neural operators

- The response of a costly model to some parameters is reproduced by a cheap ML model (surrogate model or metamodel)
  - Inclusion of **physical constraints in the loss function**
- Useful for optimization, uncertainty quantification, parameter estimation, control tasks
- Surrogate quality control?
- Amount of required data vs range of configurations potentially covered?



# Application 1: Reduced-order/surrogate models/neural operators

- Nonlinear reduction of flow dynamics, pattern extraction, causality effects
- Single flow, spectral bias (small structures ill-captured)

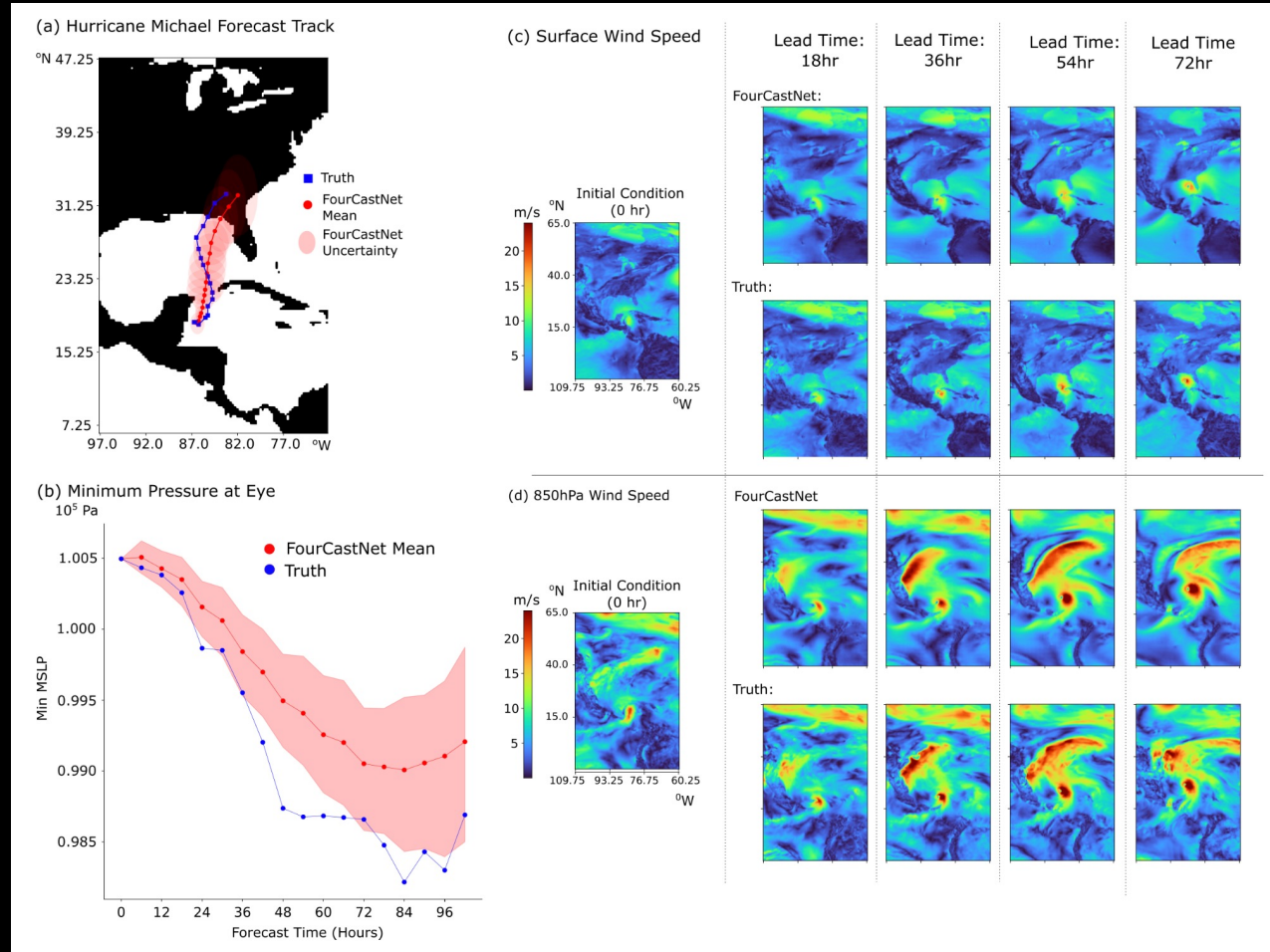


Fukami et al. 2023



# Application 1: Replace costly simulators

- **Neural operators** learn the solution operator
- FourCastNet (NVIDIA), short for Fourier ForeCasting Neural Network
- Global data-driven weather forecasting model
- Accurate short to medium-range global predictions at  $0.25^\circ$  resolution.
- Dramatic reduction of CPU cost
- Ensemble forecasting

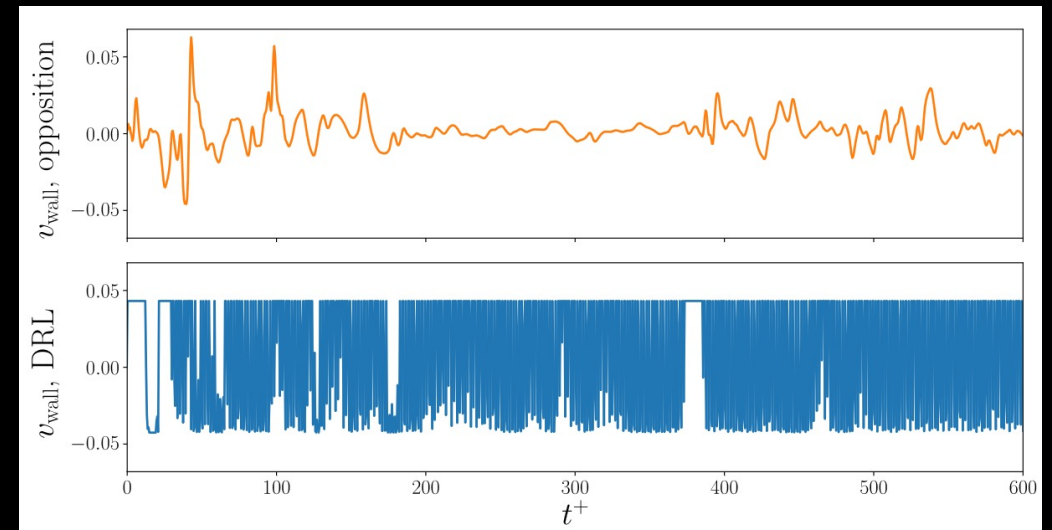
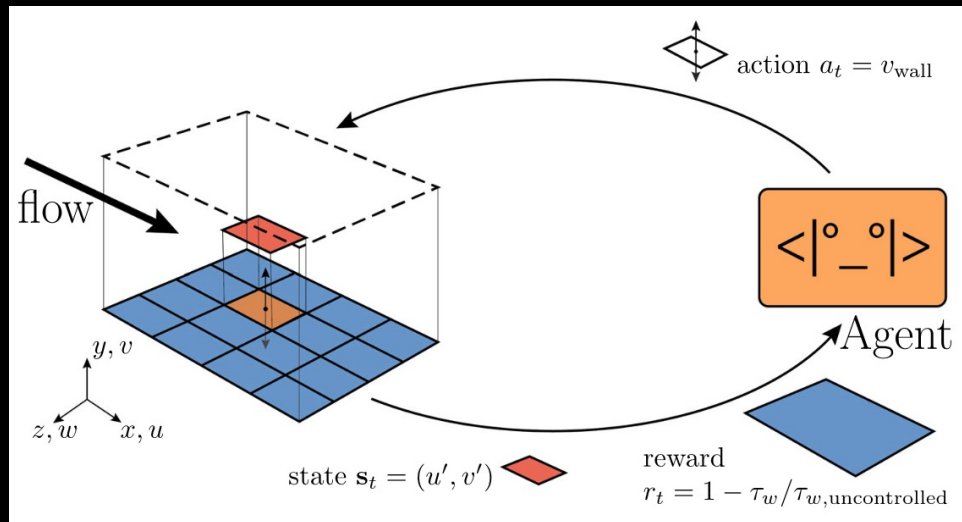




## Application 2: Flow control

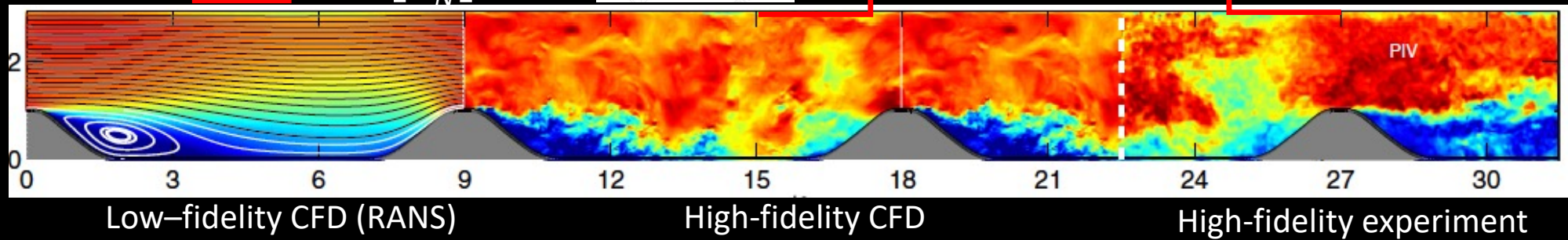
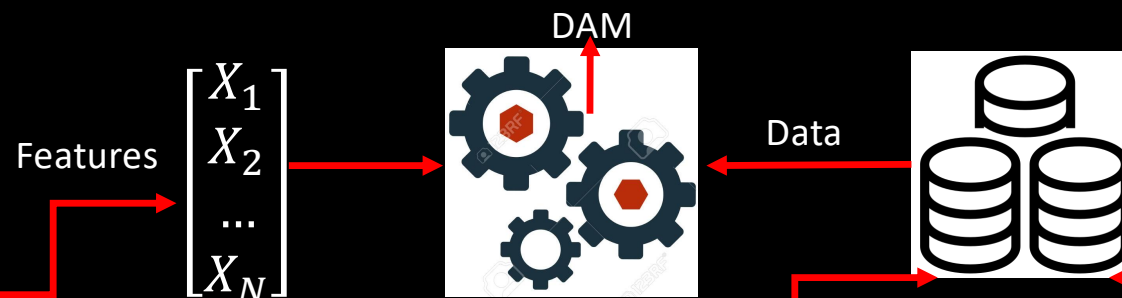
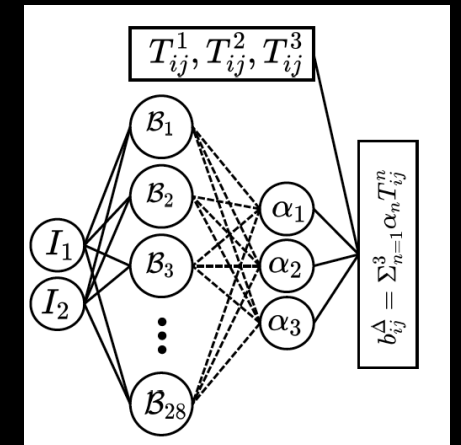
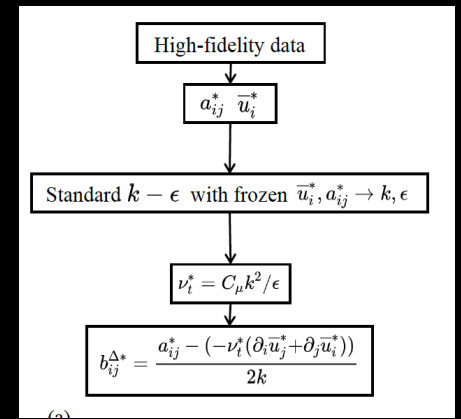
- Drag reduction via Deep Reinforcement Learning
- Discovery of new control strategies
- Detection of sensitive flow structures

Guastoni et al., 2022



# Application 3: Discovery/augmentation of models

- Learn data-driven coarse-grained models
- Symbolic regression, neural networks, random forests, Gaussian processes, ...



# Open-box ML for the discovery of turbulence models

[Schmelzer et al., 2020]

**SpaRTA** = Sparse Regression of Turbulent-stress Anisotropy

- Start with linear eddy viscosity model (here, Menter's  $k - \omega$  SST)

$$\tau_{ij} = 2k \left( b_{ij} + \frac{1}{3} \delta_{ij} \right); \quad b_{ij} = -\frac{\nu_t}{k} S_{ij}; \quad \nu_t = f(k, \omega)$$

+ transport equations for  $k$  and  $\omega$

- Internal additive corrections of Reynolds stress anisotropy ( $b_{ij}^\Delta$ ) and turbulent transport equations ( $R$ ):

$$b_{ij} = -\frac{\nu_t}{k} S_{ij} + b_{ij}^\Delta \quad \frac{Dk}{Dt} = P + P^\Delta + D + T + R \quad \frac{D\omega}{Dt} = P_\omega + P_{\omega,\Delta} + P_{\omega,R} + D + T$$

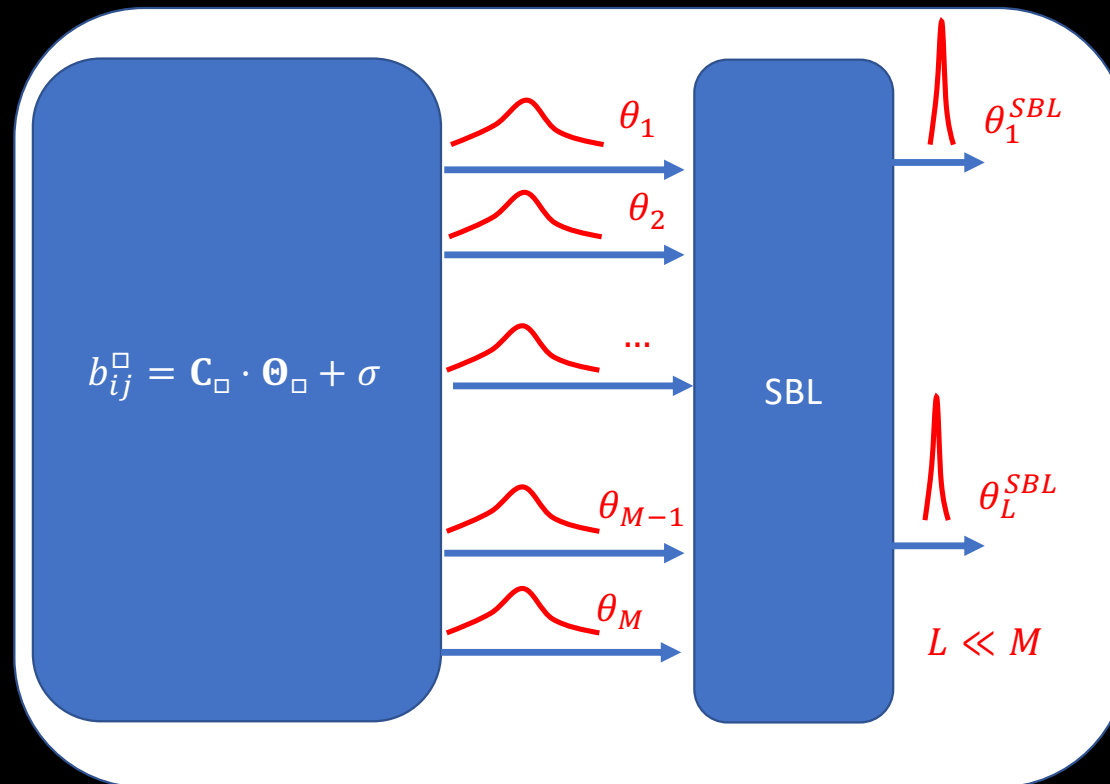
- Learn  $b_{ij}^\Delta$  and  $R$  from high-fidelity data

## SPARSE SYMBOLIC IDENTIFICATION

Open-box learning from a dictionary of explicit operators

# Bayesian learning : SBL-SpaRTA [Cherroud et al., 2022]

- Find  $p(\Theta_{\square}, \alpha, \sigma^2 | b_{ij}^{\square})$  using the efficient Sparse Bayesian Learning (SBL) algorithm (Tipping 2001)
  - Solves a generalized linear regression problem
  - Recursively **select** features in  $C_{\square}$  dictionary and **infer parameter posteriors**



# SBL-SpaRTA : discovered models

- Training data

Case	Data
CHAN	DNS of turbulent channel flow, $180 \leq Re_\tau \leq 590$
ANSJ	PIV of near sonic axisymmetric jet
SEP	LES of Periodic Hills (PH) at $Re=10595$ DNS of Converging-Diverging (CD) channel at $Re=13600$ LES of Curved Backward Facing Step (CBFS) at $Re = 13700$

Training case	Model	Interpretation
CHAN	$\begin{cases} M_{b\Delta}^{(CHAN)} = [0] \pm 0.0914 \\ M_{bR}^{(CHAN)} = [0] \pm 4.61 \times 10^{-3} \end{cases}$	$P_k^{(CHAN)} = 2\nu_t S^2 \text{ (baseline } k - \omega \text{ SST)}$
ANSJ	$\begin{cases} M_{b\Delta}^{(ANSJ)} = [(\mathbf{0.33} \pm 0.0189)] \mathbf{T}^{(1)} \pm 0.00622 \\ M_{bR}^{(ANSJ)} = [0] \pm 3.45 \times 10^{-3} \end{cases}$	$(P_k)^{(ANSJ)} = 2\nu_t (1 - \mathbf{0.33}) S^2 = \mathbf{0.67} P_k^{(CHAN)}$
SEP	$\begin{cases} M_{b\Delta}^{(SEP)} = [(5.21 \pm 0.0173)] \mathbf{T}^{(2)} \pm 0.0348 \\ M_{bR}^{(SEP)} = [(\mathbf{0.681} \pm 0.02)] \mathbf{T}^{(1)} \pm 0.0318 \end{cases}$	$(P_k)^{(SEP)} = 2\nu_t (1 + \mathbf{0.681}) S^2 = \mathbf{1.681} P_k^{(CHAN)}$

$E[\theta]$

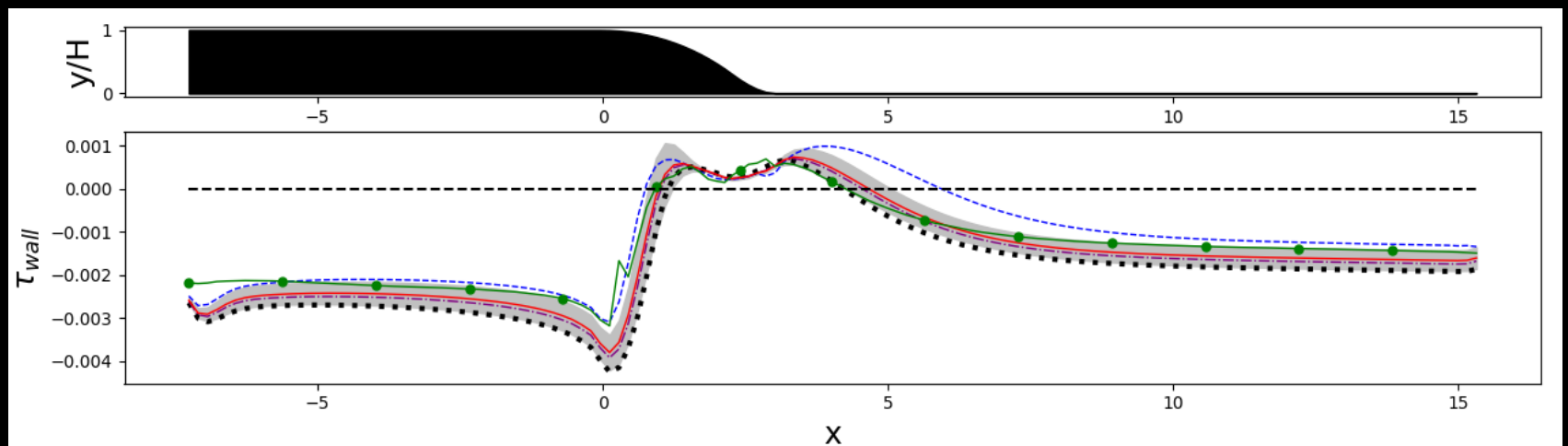
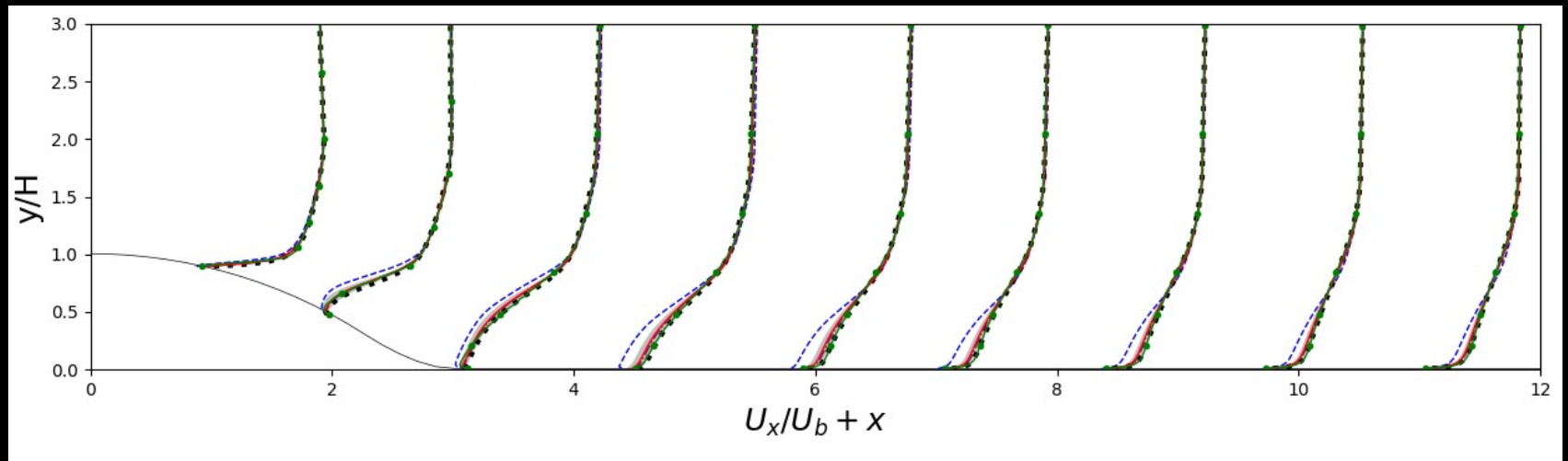
$std[\theta]$

$\sigma$

Channel flow : the discovered model correction is 0!

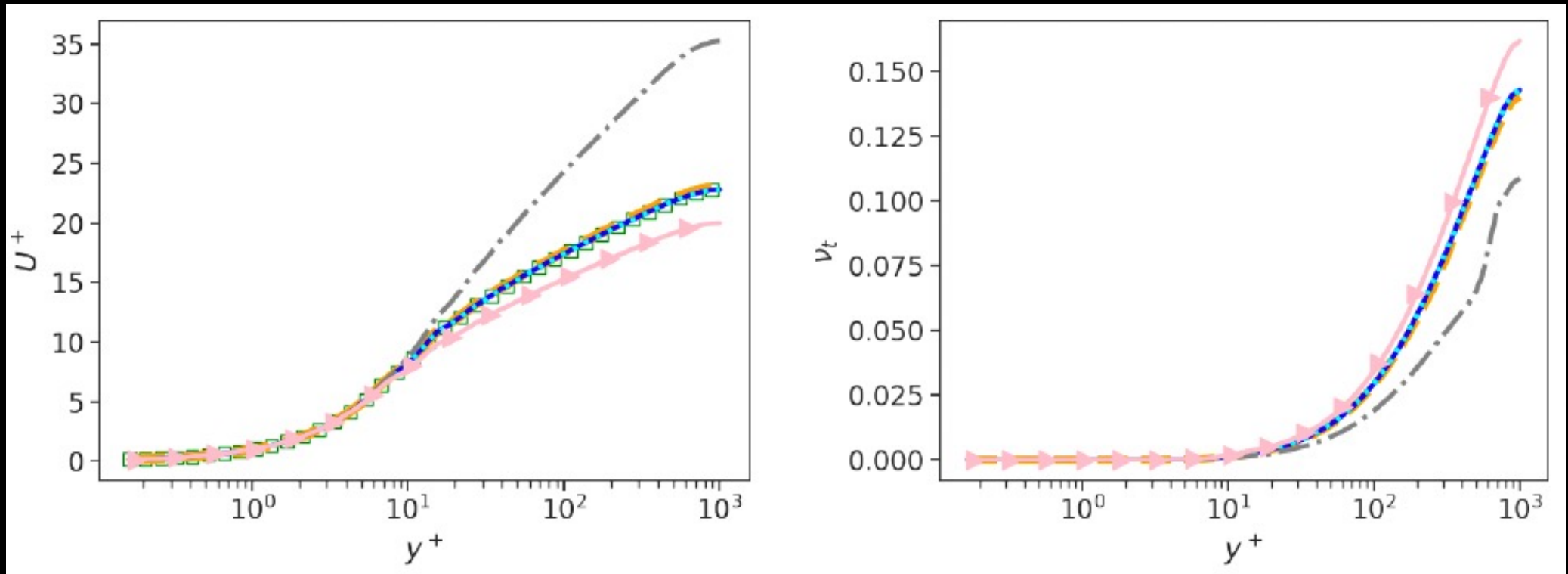
# SBL-SpaRTA

- Curved backward-facing step flow at  $Re=13700$



# Generalization

- Customized models may generate large errors when applied outside their application range

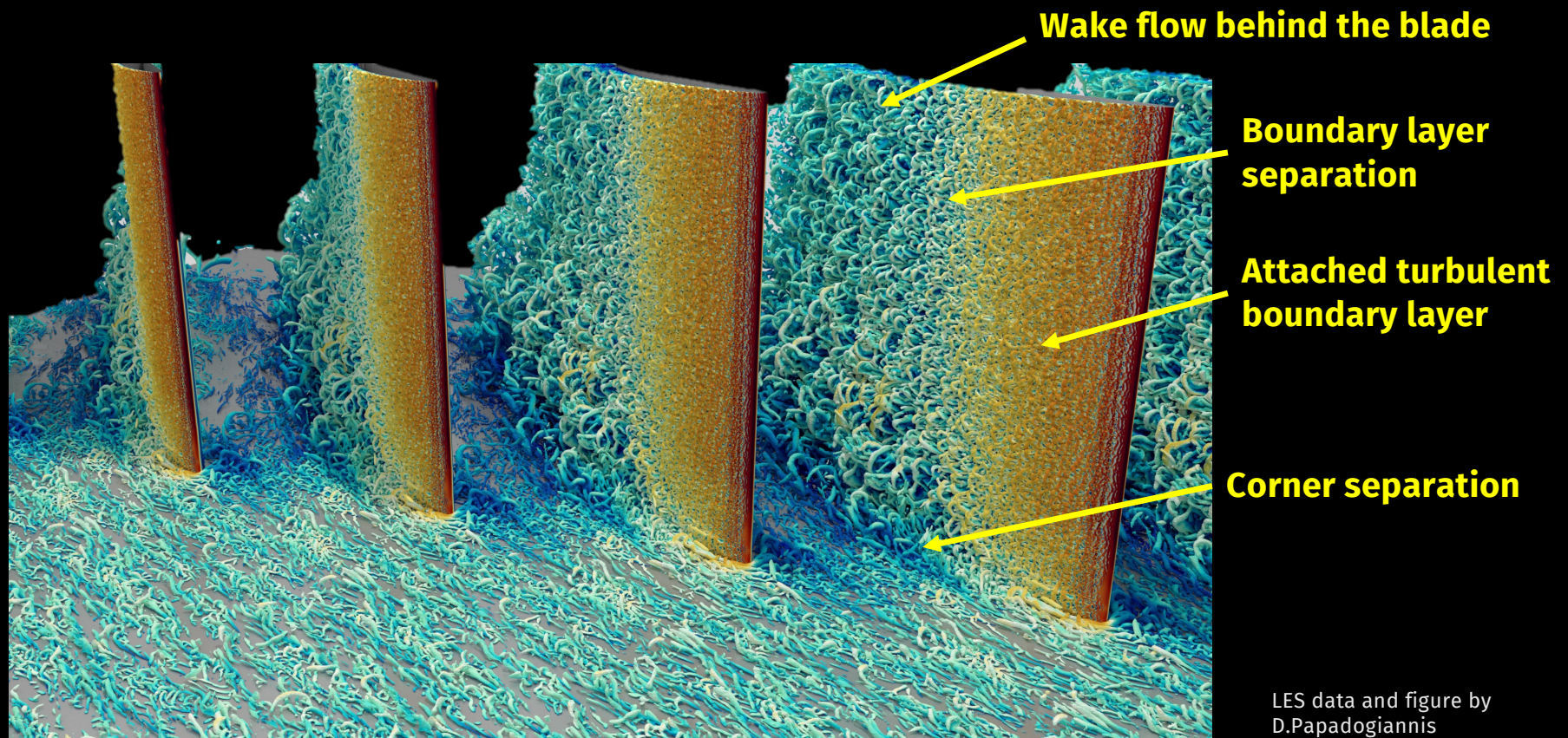


$M^{(ZPG)}$  : ---,  $M^{(CHAN)}$  : —,  $M^{(APG)}$  : ····,  $M^{(ANSJ)}$  : - · - · - ,  
 $M^{(SEP)}$  : —▶, High-fidelity data : □



# Quest for the “universal” model

- Some degree of generality needed
- Hand-set “zonal” models not acceptable for industry



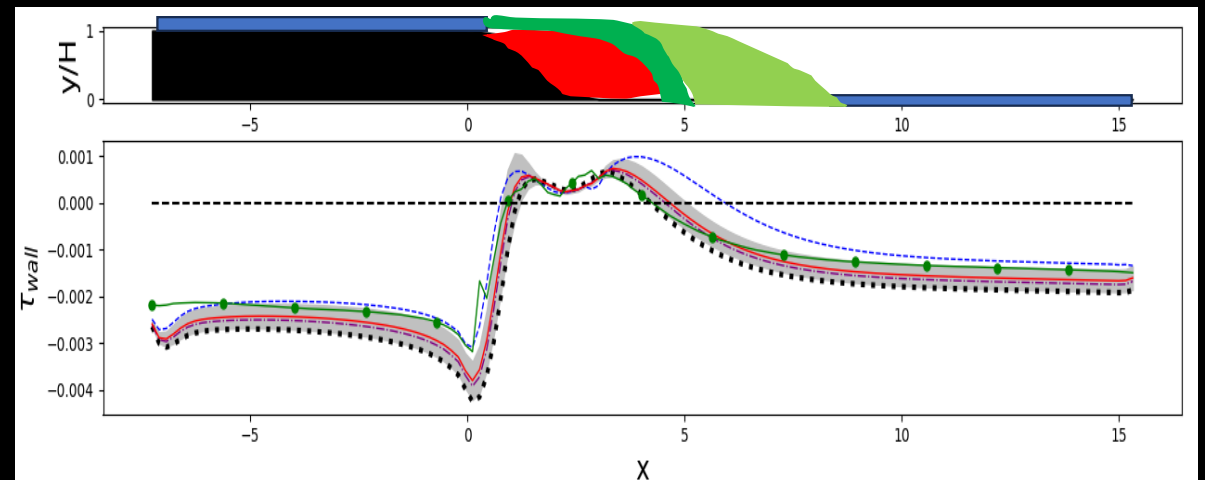
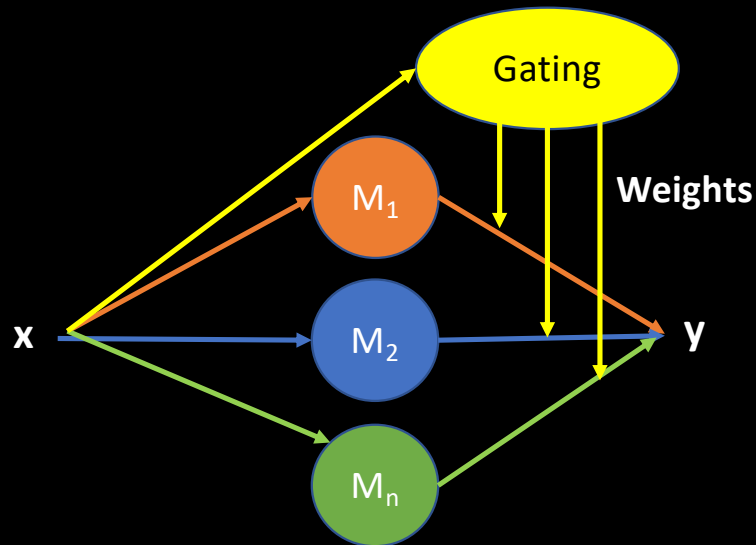


# Towards more generalizable ML models

## Model Mixtures

- **Large data sets**: combining models trained on subsets better than single model trained over all data
- **Out of distribution predictions**: uncertainty on which model (among those at hand) is better
- Generate **hypermodels** by combining component models

Mixture of Experts



# Spatial model aggregation (XMA) of turbulence models [de Zordo et al., 2021]

- Consider a set of  $K$  competing models  $\mathcal{M} = \{M_1, M_2, \dots, M_K\}$

- « Hypermodel »:  $M_{hyp}(\mathbf{x}, \boldsymbol{\theta}) = \sum_{k=1}^K w_k M_k(\mathbf{x}; \boldsymbol{\theta})$ , with

$$w_k = w_k(\mathbf{x}) = w_k(\boldsymbol{\eta}(\mathbf{x}))$$

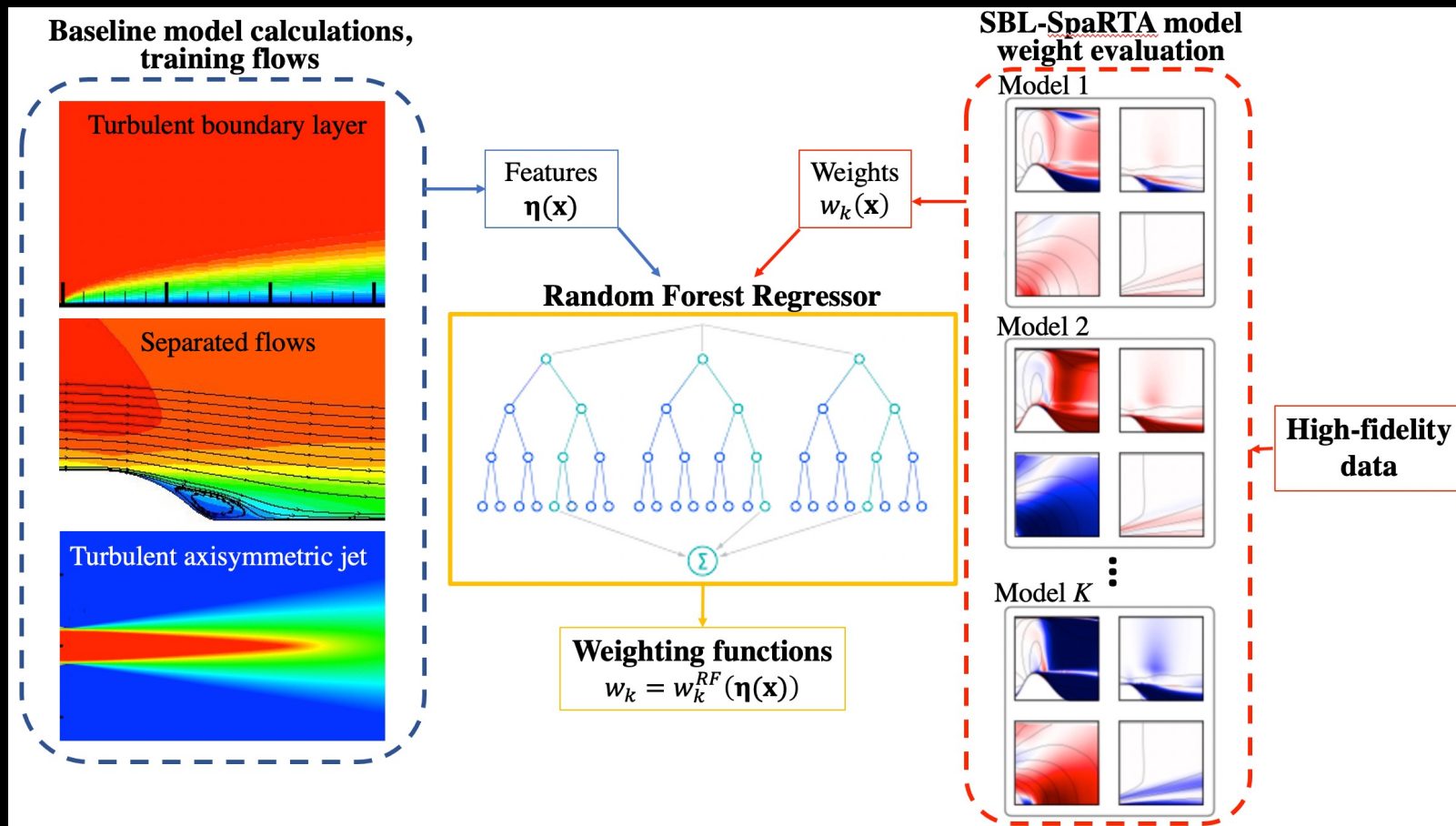
- Regress  $w_k(\boldsymbol{\eta}(\mathbf{x})|\mathbf{Y})$  from data as a function of features  $\rightarrow$  **Random Forests, Gaussian Processes, ANN...**
  - Features from Ling&Templeton (2015)
  - Predict local model weights for a new case  $w_k(\boldsymbol{\eta}(\mathbf{x})|\mathbf{Y})$  and use them to aggregate individual model predictions
- Uncertainty estimates can be obtained by aggregating the **component variances**

$$Var[M_{hyp}(\mathbf{x}, \boldsymbol{\theta})] = \sum_{k=1}^K w_k^2 Var[M_k(\mathbf{x}; \boldsymbol{\theta})]$$

# XMA : offline training

[Cherroud et al., 2023]

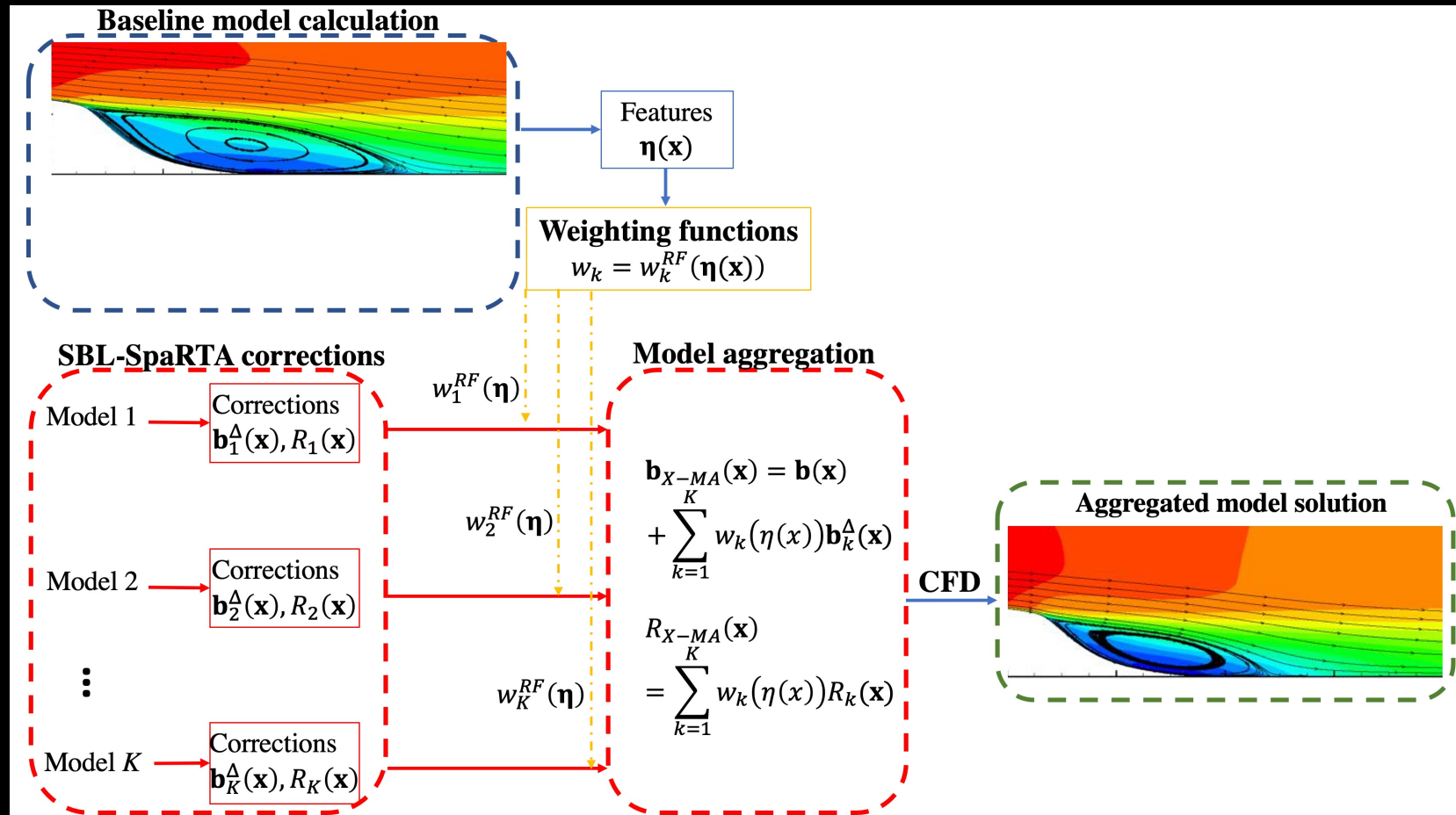
## XMA Training Workflow



# XMA prediction: model blending

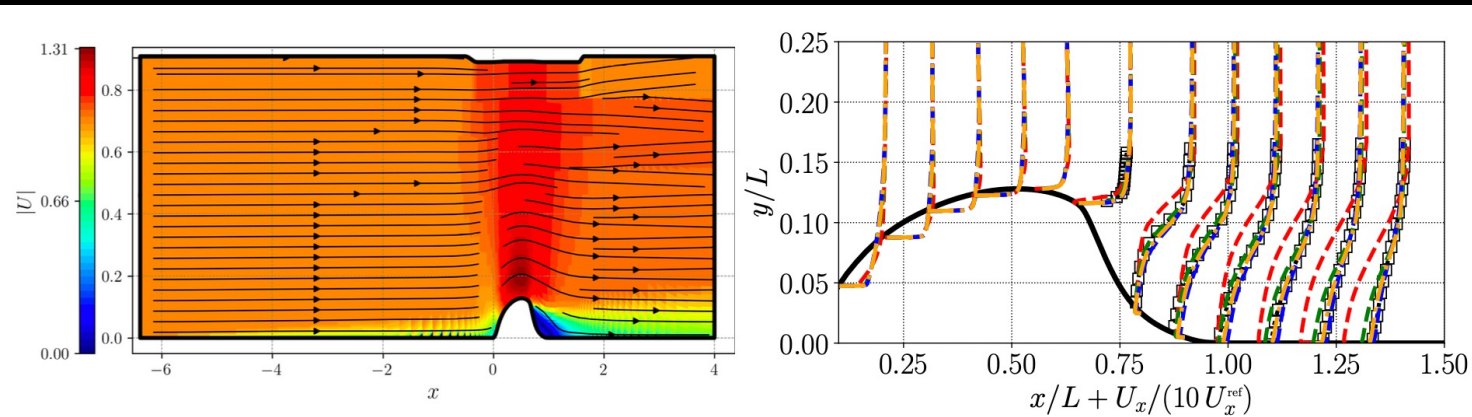
Oulghelou et al., 2024: <https://arxiv.org/abs/2410.14431>

## Intrusive X-MA Prediction Workflow



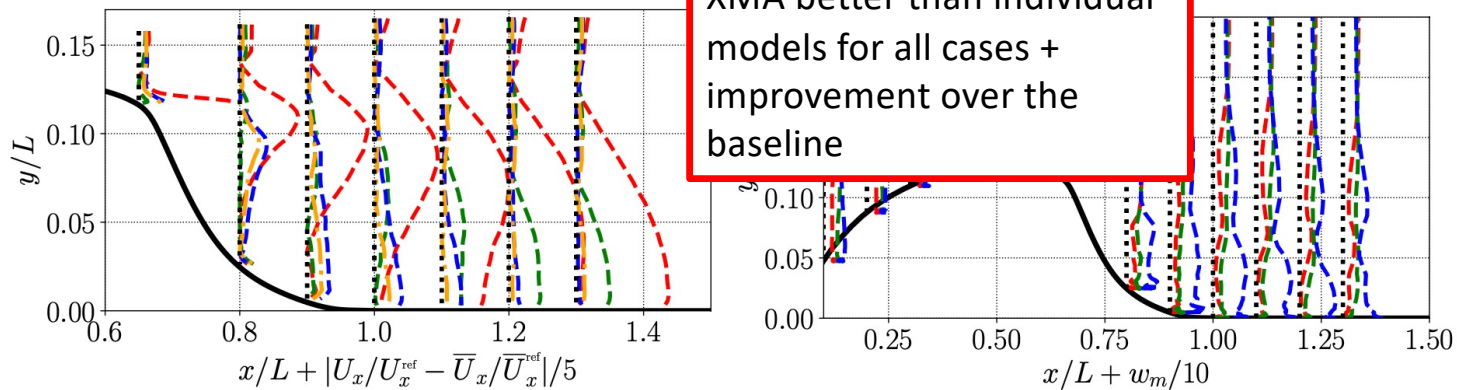
# NASA Turbulence Modeling Testing Challenge

- Application to Test Case 4 2DWMH: 2D NASA Wall-Mounted Hump Separated Flow Validation Case



(a) RANS velocity obtained by  $M_{blend}$

(b) Velocity profiles across  $x/L$  locations.



(c) Absolute errors.

(d) Weight distributions

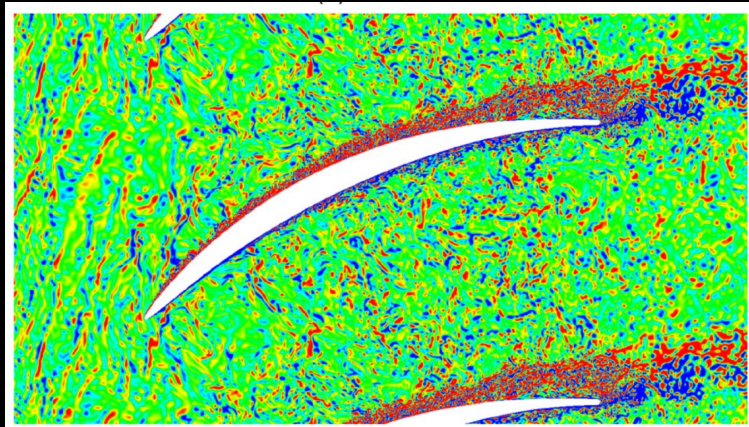
(.....□.....) experimental data [67, 68]

(- - -)  $M_{ANSJ}$ , (- - -)  $M_{SST}$

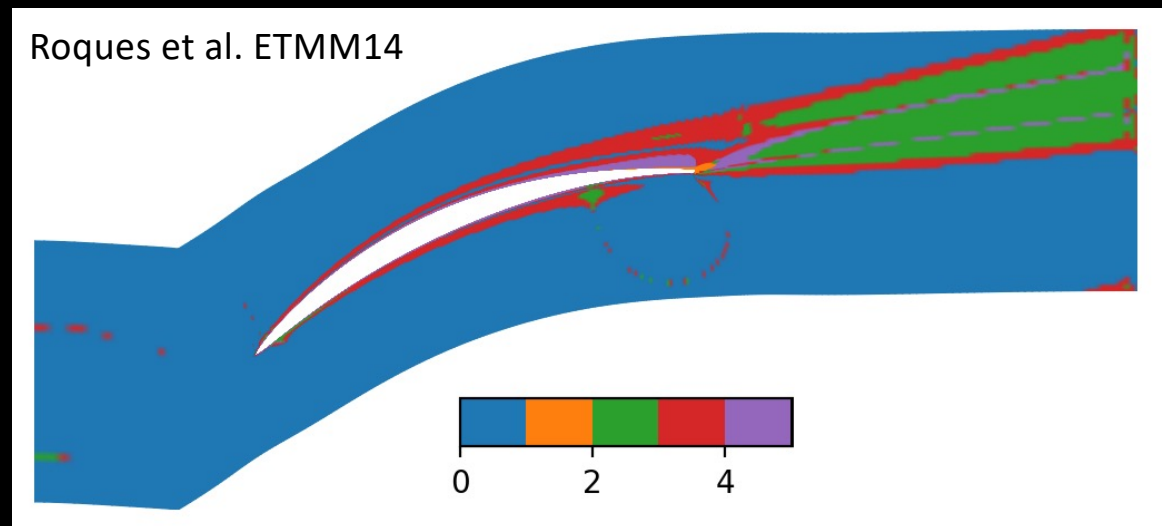
(- - -)  $M_{SEP}$ , (- - -)  $M_{blend}$

# Training from clustered data

- Training flows contain several physical processes at once
  - Equilibrium BL, non-equilibrium BL, separation, wakes, corner flows, vortices, shocks...
  - Training algorithms tend to find a compromise among such processes
- Is it possible to find a better training strategy?
  - IDEA: Train by clusters, then aggregate



Leggett et al. ASME J Turbo, 2016

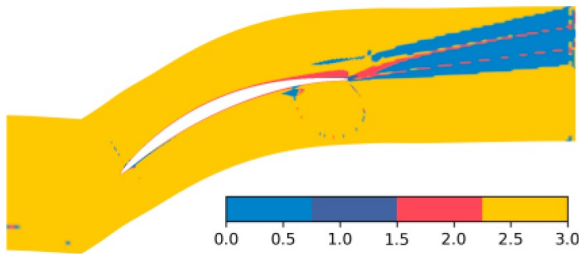




# Clustered model aggregation [Roques et al., ETMM14]

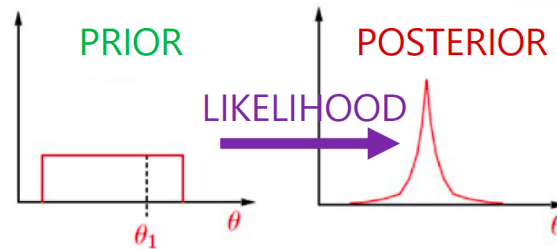
## Offline training

### Clustering



Identify the dominant physical processes\*

### Bayesian learning



$$p(\theta|D) \propto p(D|\theta)p(\theta)$$

For each cluster  $k$

### Within-cluster weights

Based on local **score** of model  $l$  in cluster  $k$

$$p(M_i|\mathbf{Y}_k) = \frac{p(\mathbf{Y}_k|M_i)p(M_i)}{\sum_{j=1}^I p(\mathbf{Y}_k|M_j)p(M_j)}$$

## Online prediction

Cluster probability

Within-cluster weighting

### Reconstruction

$$\Delta = \sum_k \sum_i p(C_k)w_{ik}\Delta(M_i)$$

\*Inspired from Callaham et al. 2021

# Overview

- A very brief introduction to Fluid Mechanics
- Scientific machine learning in Fluid Mechanics
  - Requirements, challenges and opportunities
  - Examples
  - Toward more generalizable data-driven models
- **Conclusions and outlook**

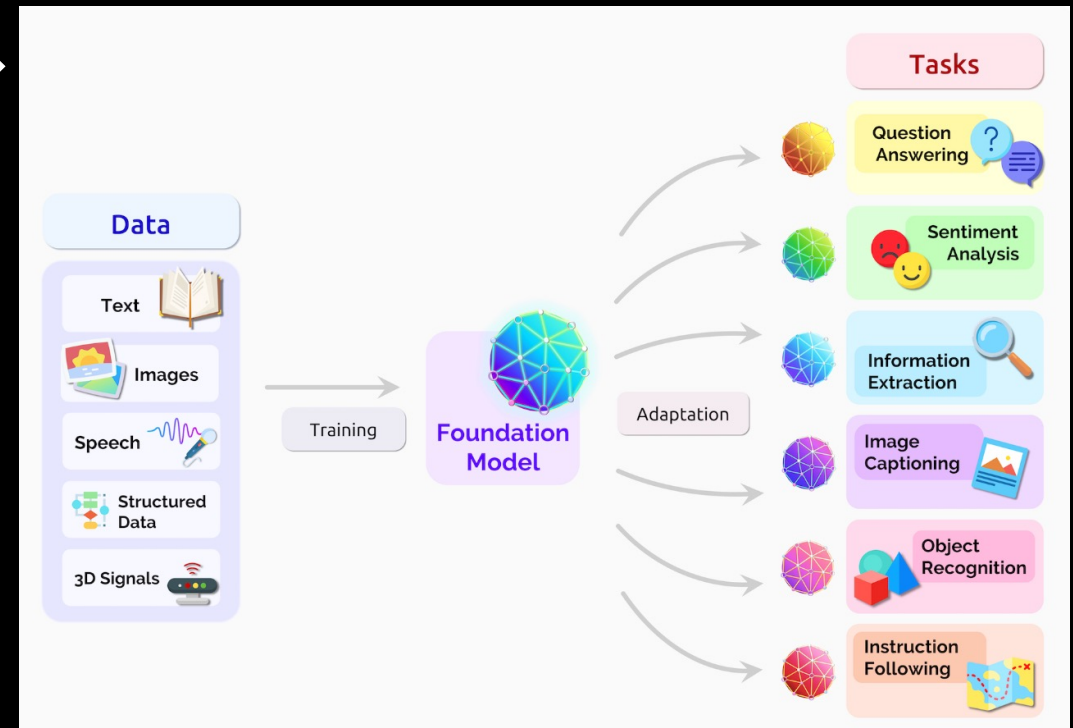


# Conclusions

- Artificial intelligence and physics are changing one another
  - Physical modeling , simulation, and experiments can successfully merge with ML to mine large datasets or to solve complex problems
  - ML can be analysed under the lens of physics/mathematics
- Fluid Mechanics complex multiscale and highly nonlinear flow problems are difficult and costly to represent with standard modeling technique and may hugely benefit from AI
- High standards of scientific discovery (interpretability, uncertainties, ...) call for more generalizable ML
  - Enforcement of hard constraints, inductive biases, novel definitions of loss functions...
- Massive amount of HF data are becoming available BUT
  - Mostly limited to “simple” configurations and low Reynolds numbers
  - A relatively small number of well-detailed configurations is available
  - Use of **experimental data** is essential for reaching more complex, high-Reynolds configurations
- Likely, we will NEVER have enough data to cover all possible fluid flow processes BUT

# Outlook

- “Smart” training instead of “brute-force” training → **learn the “language of fluids”**
  - Identify and extract features and “building blocks” representative of dominant physical processes
  - Recursively encode and combine blocks for prediction based on **context**
  - Use uncertainty estimates to **update** the model
- **Foundation models**: train from heterogeneous data and for multiple tasks, fine-tune
  - Translate into simpler, **explicit models** (AI-Feynman, pySR) for specific end use



Bommasani et al., 2022