

# A second-order cut-cell method for the numerical simulation of 2D flows past obstacles

Nicolas JAMES

(Nicolas.James@math.univ-bpclermont.fr)

in collaboration with

François BOUCHON and Thierry DUBOIS.

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# Navier-Stokes equations for incompressible fluid flow

Given  $\mathbf{x} \in \Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^2$  and  $t > 0$ .

Velocity and pressure fields  $\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{u}(\mathbf{x}, t) \in \mathbb{R}^2$ ,  $p = p(\mathbf{x}, t) \in \mathbb{R}$  are solution of

$$\partial_t \mathbf{u} + \operatorname{div}(\mathbf{u} \otimes \mathbf{u}) - \Delta \mathbf{u} / \operatorname{Re} + \nabla p = \mathbf{f} \text{ in } \Omega,$$

$$\operatorname{div} \mathbf{u} = 0 \text{ in } \Omega,$$

$$\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{g} \text{ on } \partial\Omega,$$

$$\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{u}_0 \text{ at } t = 0.$$

with

$$\operatorname{Re} = U_* L_* / \nu,$$

and

$$\nu = \mu / \rho \text{ kinematic viscosity.}$$

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## Backward F.D. scheme + Projection method (1/2)

Let  $\delta t > 0$ . Given  $\mathbf{u}^k(\mathbf{x}) \approx \mathbf{u}(\mathbf{x}, t_k)$  and  $p^k(\mathbf{x}) \approx p(\mathbf{x}, t_k)$ ,  $t_k = k\delta t$ ,

we solve the **prediction step** :

$$\frac{3\tilde{\mathbf{u}}^{k+1} - 4\mathbf{u}^k + \mathbf{u}^{k-1}}{2\delta t} - \Delta\tilde{\mathbf{u}}^{k+1}/Re = -\nabla p^k + \mathbf{f}^{k+1} \\ -2 \operatorname{div}(\mathbf{u}^k \otimes \mathbf{u}^k) + \operatorname{div}(\mathbf{u}^{k-1} \otimes \mathbf{u}^{k-1}), \\ \tilde{\mathbf{u}}^{k+1}|_{\partial\Omega} = \mathbf{g}.$$

then the **projection step** :

$$\mathbf{u}^{k+1} = \tilde{\mathbf{u}}^{k+1} - 2\delta t \nabla(\delta p^{k+1})/3 \\ \operatorname{div} \mathbf{u}^{k+1} = 0 \\ (\mathbf{u}^{k+1} - \tilde{\mathbf{u}}^{k+1})|_{\partial\Omega} \cdot \mathbf{n} = 0.$$

with  $\delta p^{k+1} = p^{k+1} - p^k$ .

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# Backward F.D. scheme + Projection method (2/2)

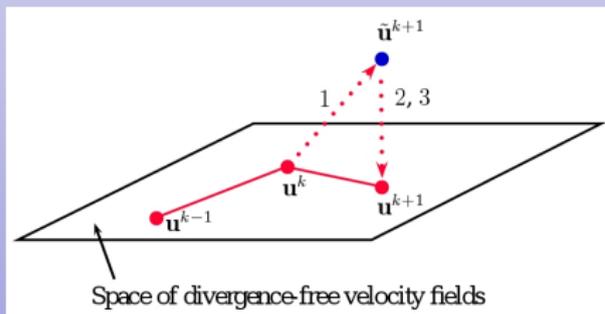
**Pressure increment**  $\delta p^{k+1}$  is solution of :

$$\Delta (\delta p^{k+1}) = 3 \operatorname{div} \tilde{\mathbf{u}}^{k+1} / 2 \delta t$$

$$\partial_{\mathbf{n}} (\delta p^{k+1}) |_{\partial \Omega} = 0,$$

At each iteration,

1. solve prediction step,
2. solve system on pressure increment,
3. correction of velocity via projection step.



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# M.A.C. Scheme : position of unknowns

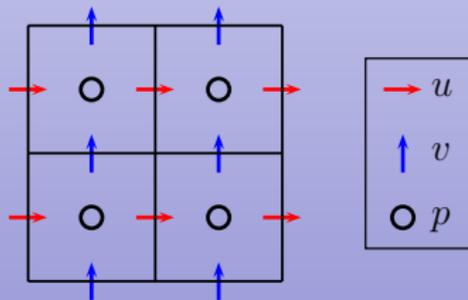
Let  $\Omega = (0, L) \times (0, H)$ .

We consider  $\ell = L/n_\ell$ ,  $h = H/n_h$ ,  $x_i = i\ell$  and  $y_j = jh$ .

$$K_{i,j} = [x_{i-1}, x_i] \times [y_{j-1}, y_j]$$

$$u_{ij}(t) \simeq \langle u(\cdot, t) \rangle_{K_{i+\frac{1}{2},j}}, \quad v_{ij}(t) \simeq \langle v(\cdot, t) \rangle_{K_{i,j+\frac{1}{2}}},$$

$$p_{ij}(t) \simeq \langle p(\cdot, t) \rangle_{K_{i,j}}, \quad \text{where} \quad \langle w \rangle_K = \frac{1}{|K|} \int_K w(\mathbf{x}) \, d\mathbf{x}.$$



F.H. Harlow and J.E. Welch, *Numerical calculation of time-dependent viscous incompressible flow of fluid with free surface*, Phys. Fluids **8**, 1965.

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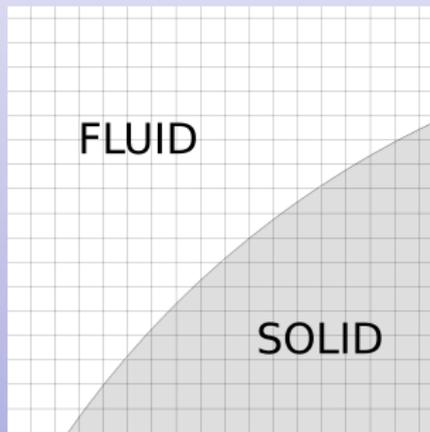
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# Immersed boundary methods on cartesian grid



- ▶ simulation of flows in complex geometry
- ▶ in the literature, several methods exist : forcing, ghost cell, penalization, cut cell

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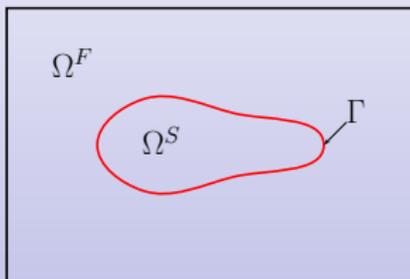
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# Taking into account the obstacle

Rectangular domain  $\Omega$ .

The obstacle  $\Omega^S$  is bounded by  
a **closed curve**  $\Gamma$ .



**Algebraic distance**  $d : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is defined by :

$$d(\mathbf{x}) = \begin{cases} \text{dist}(\mathbf{x}, \Gamma) & \text{if } \mathbf{x} \in \Omega^S, \\ -\text{dist}(\mathbf{x}, \Gamma) & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

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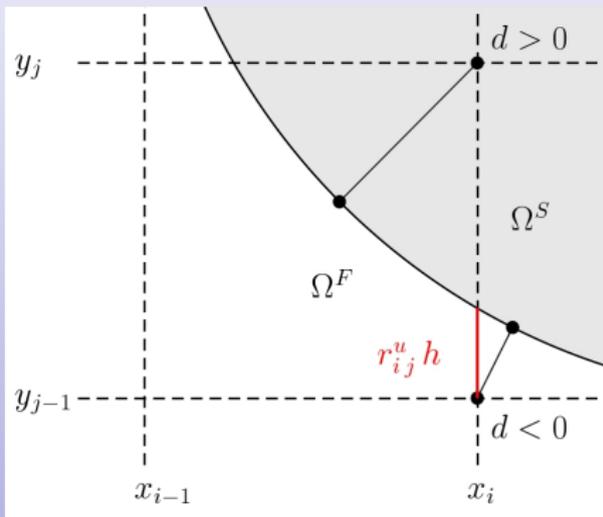
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# Cell-face ratio

$$r_{ij}^u \approx \frac{|\sigma_{i,j}^u \cap \Omega^F|}{|\sigma_{i,j}^u|} \in [0, 1],$$

with

$$\sigma_{i,j}^u = \{x_i\} \times [y_{j-1}, y_j].$$



O. Botella and Y. Cheny, *The LS-STAG method: A new immersed boundary/level-set method for the computation of incompressible viscous flows in complex moving geometries with good conservation properties*, J. Comp. Phys. **229**, 2010.

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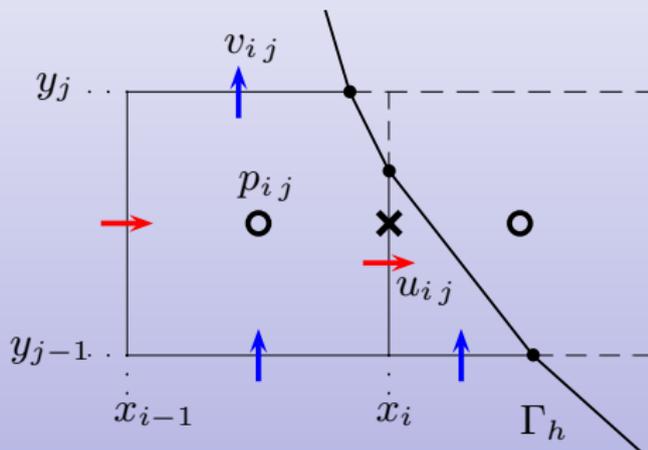
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- ▶ Position of velocity field well-adapted to divergence
- ▶ Interpolation of the pressure gradient

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# Discretization of the prediction step

**Far away from the obstacle** : **second** order centered discretization

**Near the obstacle** :

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \Delta \mathbf{u} : \text{first order Finite Difference approximation} \\ \operatorname{div}(\mathbf{u} \otimes \mathbf{u}) : \text{first order Finite Volume approximation} \end{array} \right.$$



N. Matsunaga and T. Yamamoto, *Superconvergence of the Shortley-Weller approximation for Dirichlet problems*, J. Comp. Appl. Math. **116**, 2000.

linear elliptic  
 $\implies$

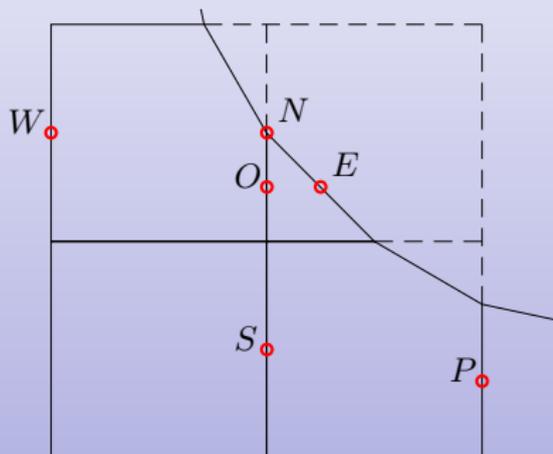
**Second order  
accurate**

# Discretization of the prediction step : $\Delta u$

First-order Finite Difference approximation is exact on  $\mathbb{R}_2[X, Y]$ .

$$\mathcal{V} = \{O, N, S, E, W, P\}$$

- ▶  $O$  the position of  $u_{ij}$ ,
- ▶  $N, S, E, W$  among unknowns close to  $O$  or on the board  $\Gamma$ ,
- ▶  $P$  arbitrarily chosen



Find coefficients  $\alpha_M$  such that :

$$\sum_{M \in \mathcal{V}} \alpha_M u(M) = \Delta u(O) + \mathcal{O}(h).$$

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Discretization of the prediction step :  $\operatorname{div}(\mathbf{u} \otimes \mathbf{u})$ 

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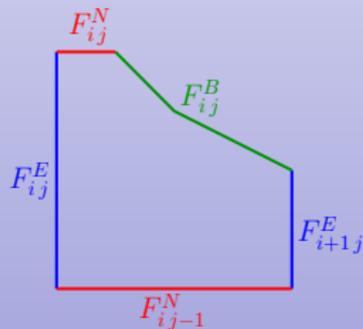
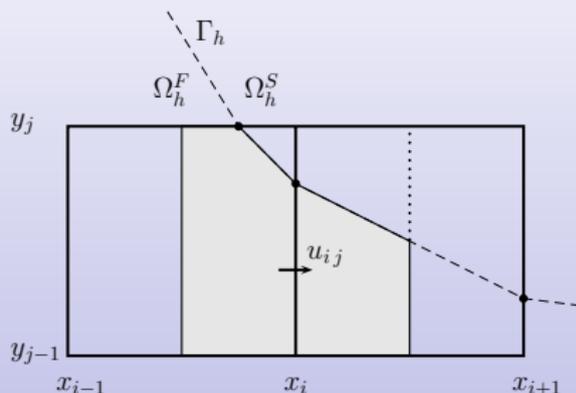
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$$\tilde{K}_{i,j} = K_{i,j} \cap \Omega^F$$



$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{I}_{i,j} &= \int_{\tilde{K}_{i+\frac{1}{2},j}} (\partial_x(u^2) + \partial_y(uv)) \, dx \\ &= \int_{\partial \tilde{K}_{i+\frac{1}{2},j}} (u^2 n_x + (uv) n_y) \, dS \\ &= F_{i+1,j}^E - F_{i,j}^E + F_{i,j}^N - F_{i,j-1}^N + F_{i,j}^B. \end{aligned}$$

→ flux reconstruction

# Discretization of the correction step

- $\text{div } \mathbf{u}$  : Discrete divergence on cut cells
- $\nabla p$  : Interpolation of the pressure gradient

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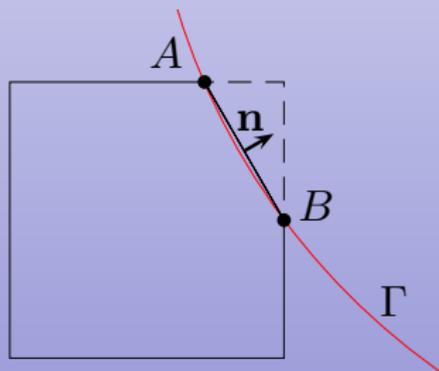
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Discretization of the correction step :  $\operatorname{div} \mathbf{u}$  (1/2)

$$\begin{aligned}
 \iint_{\tilde{K}_{i,j}} \operatorname{div} \mathbf{u} \, d\mathbf{x} &= \int_{\partial \tilde{K}_{i,j}} \mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{n} \, dS \\
 &= \int_{\sigma_{i,j}^u \cap \Omega^F} u \, dS - \int_{\sigma_{i-1,j}^u \cap \Omega^F} u \, dS \\
 &\quad + \int_{\sigma_{i,j}^v \cap \Omega^F} v \, dS - \int_{\sigma_{i,j-1}^v \cap \Omega^F} v \, dS + \int_{\widehat{AB}} \mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{n} \, dS,
 \end{aligned}$$

with  $\widehat{AB} = \Gamma \cap K_{i,j}$ .



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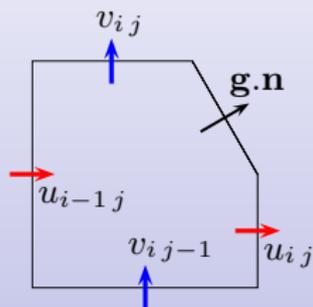
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Discretization of the correction step :  $\operatorname{div} \mathbf{u}$  (2/2)

- Assuming  $h \ll$  radius of curvature of  $\Gamma$  :

$$\int_{\widehat{AB}} \mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{n} \, dS \approx \int_{[AB]} \mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{n} \, dS \\ \approx L \mathbf{g} \left( (A+B)/2 \right) \cdot \mathbf{n}_{i,j}.$$

- $\int_{\sigma_{i,j}^u \cap \Omega^F} u \, dS \approx r_{i,j}^u h u_{i,j}$  and  $\int_{\sigma_{i,j}^v \cap \Omega^F} v \, dS \approx r_{i,j}^v h v_{i,j}$ .

$$\begin{aligned} (D_{obs} \mathbf{u})_{i,j} &= h (r_{i,j}^u u_{i,j} - r_{i-1,j}^u u_{i-1,j}) + h (r_{i,j}^v v_{i,j} - r_{i,j-1}^v v_{i,j-1}) \\ &\quad + L \mathbf{g} \left( (A+B)/2 \right) \cdot \mathbf{n}_{i,j} \\ &= (D_{obs}^0 \mathbf{u})_{i,j} + D_{i,j}^{supp} \end{aligned}$$

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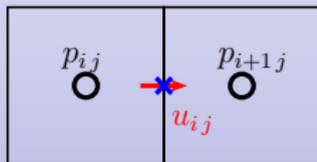
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Discretization of the correction step :  $\mathcal{P}_\phi G\delta p$ 

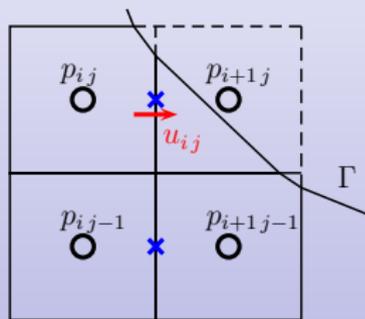
Without

$$Gp = \begin{pmatrix} (p_{i+1,j} - p_{i,j})/h \\ (p_{i,j+1} - p_{i,j})/h \end{pmatrix}$$



$$\begin{aligned} D(G\delta p) &= \frac{3}{2} \frac{h^2}{\delta t} D(\tilde{\mathbf{u}}) \\ \Rightarrow \mathbf{u} &= \tilde{\mathbf{u}} - \frac{2}{3} \frac{\delta t}{h^2} G\delta p \\ &\Rightarrow D(\mathbf{u}) = 0 \end{aligned}$$

With



$$\begin{aligned} D_{obs}^0(\mathcal{P}_\phi(G\delta p)) &= \frac{3}{2} \frac{h^2}{\delta t} D_{obs}(\tilde{\mathbf{u}}) \\ \Rightarrow \mathbf{u} &= \tilde{\mathbf{u}} - \frac{2}{3} \frac{\delta t}{h^2} \mathcal{P}_\phi(G\delta p) \\ &\Rightarrow D_{obs}(\mathbf{u}) = 0 \end{aligned}$$

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Obstacle  $\rightarrow$  **nonsymmetric** linear system

- **Iterative** methods for solving linear systems

Cut cells  $\rightarrow$  ill-conditioned linear systems

$\rightarrow$  slow convergence

$\rightarrow$  simulation on coarse mesh

$\rightarrow$  simulations of flow at moderate Reynolds

- **Direct** method for solving linear systems

**Unmoving** obstacle :

- ▶ *Preprocessing step* :  $\mathcal{O}(n^3)$  operations, **once** per simulation.
- ▶ Every iteration :  $\mathcal{O}(n^2 \log n)$  operations (idem without obstacle).



B.L. Buzbee,  
F.W.Dorr, J.A. George  
and G.H. Golub, *The direct  
solution of the discrete Poisson  
equation on irregular regions*, J.  
Num. Anal. **8**, 1971.

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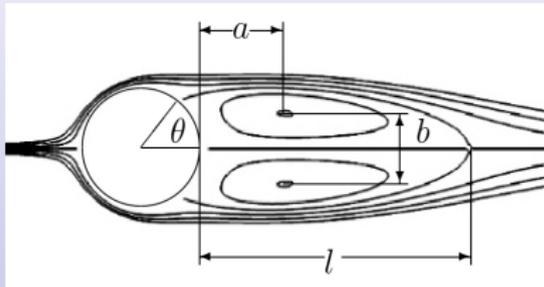
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# Numerical results : $Re = 40$

## Laminar flows



$$\sum \text{Forces}_{/\text{obstacle}} = \frac{1}{2} \rho A u_{\infty} \begin{pmatrix} C_d \\ C_l \end{pmatrix}$$



R. Bouard and M. Coutanceau, *Experimental determination of the main features of the viscous flow in the wake of a circular cylinder in uniform translation*, J. Fluid Mech. **79**, 1977.

Authors	$Re = 40$				
	$C_d$	$\theta$	$l$	$a$	$b$
Bouard et al		53.8	2.13	0.76	0.59
Calhoun	1.62	54.2	2.18		
Dennis et al	1.52	53.8	2.35		
Fornberg	1.50	55.6	2.24		
Linnick et al	1.54	53.6	2.28	0.72	0.60
Taira et al	1.55	54.1		0.73	0.60
Present study	1.50	53.4	2.26	0.710	0.60

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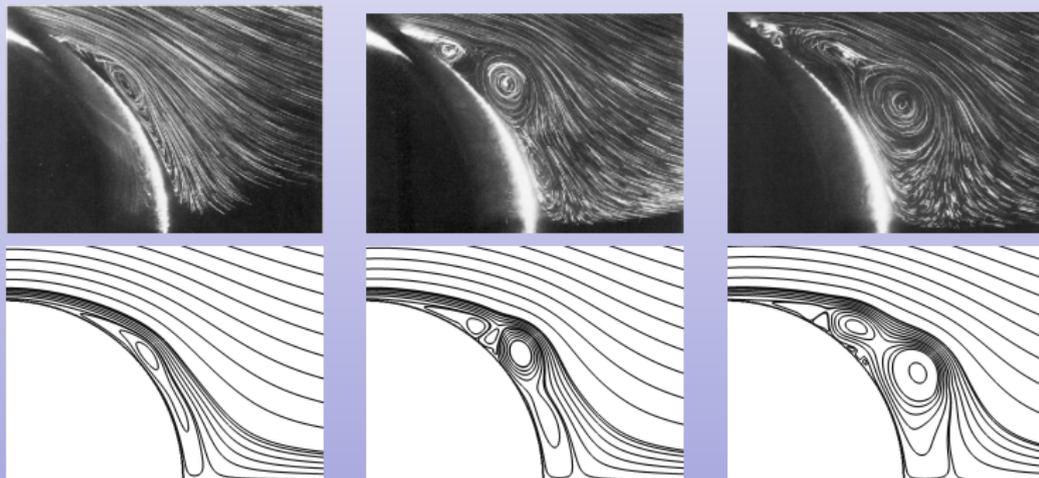
# Numerical results : $Re = 9\,500$

$\Omega = (-5, 5) \times (-2.5, 2.5)$ , obstacle = disk,  $D = 1$

Non-uniform grid, 3072 mesh points in each direction

Near the obstacle  $h = 1.6 \cdot 10^{-3}$

CFL stability condition  $\Rightarrow \delta t = 10^{-4}$



**Figure:** Evolution of the boundary layer : comparison with experimental results.

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# Numerical results : flow past a NACA airfoil

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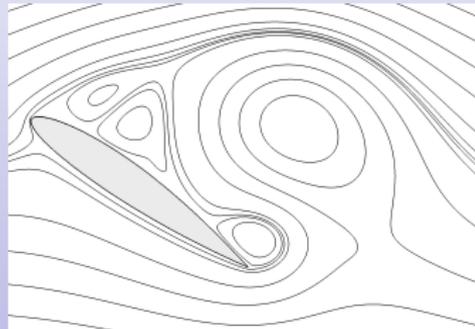
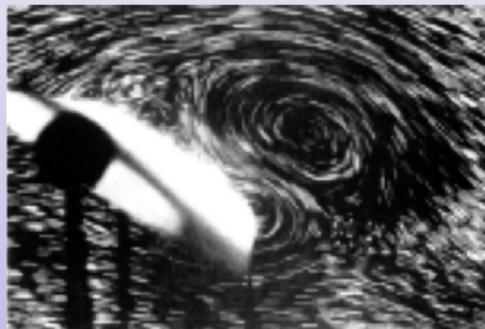


Figure: Flow behind NACA 0012 at  $Re = 1\,000$ , incidence  $34^\circ$  : comparison with experimental results

# Summary

## Context

## Numerical simulation of incompressible fluid flows around obstacles

## Conclusion and prospects

### Summary

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N-S eq. for  
incompressible fluid  
flows

Time discretization  
M.A.C. Scheme

#### Numerical simulation of incompressible fluid flows around obstacles

Immersed boundary  
methods

Numerical scheme

Taking into account  
the obstacle

Cell-face ratio

Position of unknowns

Discretization of the  
prediction step

Discretization of the  
correction step

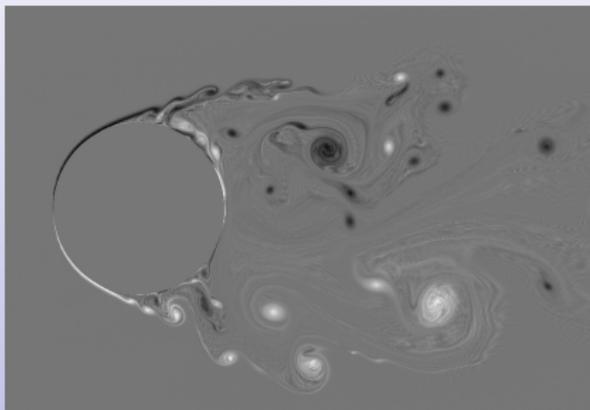
Solver

Numerical results

#### Conclusion and prospects

# Conclusion and prospects

**Accurate** (second order)  
and **fast** (efficient solver)  
new cut cell method.



1. Three Dimensional flows

2. Coupling with :

- ▶ H-box method (avoid the *small cell problem*,  $\delta t \nearrow$ )
- ▶ Turbulence model (flows at high  $Re$ )
- ▶ Local grid refinement
- ▶ Domain decomposition

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# Thank you