# Application of lattice Boltzmann methods for wind turbine wake simulation

#### Ralf Deiterding

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#### Outline

#### Adaptive lattice Boltzmann method

Construction principles Complex geometry handling and adaptation LES models and verification

#### Wind turbine wake simulation

Solid geometry Single turbine modeling Multiple turbines Wake comparison for different models Actuator line modeling Wake comparison

#### Conclusions and outlook Conclusions

#### Collaboration with / Results from

- Mikael Grondeau on grant Aerodynamics and aeroacoustics of turbulent flows over and past permeable rough surfaces (EPSRC - EP/S013296/1)
- Stephen Wood (now NASA) Lattice Boltzmann methods for wind energy analysis, PhD thesis, University Tennessee Knoxville, Aug 2016.
- Christos Gkoudesnes Implementation and verification of LES models for SRT lattice Boltzmann methods, PhD thesis, University of Southampton, defense Mar 2021.
- Aden Cox Actuator line modelling of wind turbines, undergraduate individual project, University of Southampton, May 2017.
- Antonio Reyes Barraza Lattice Boltzmann method on hybrid boundary layer and Cartesian adaptive mesh refinement, PhD thesis, University of Southampton, defense end of 2021.

# Approximation of Boltzmann equation

Is based on solving the Boltzmann equation with a simplified collision operator

$$\partial_t f + \mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla f = \omega (f^{eq} - f) + F$$

- $\text{Kn} = l_f / L \ll 1$ , where  $l_f$  is replaced with  $\Delta x$
- Weak compressibility and small Mach number assumed

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Equation is approximated in simplified phase space and with a splitting approach.

1.) Transport step solves  $\partial_t f_{\alpha} + \mathbf{e}_{\alpha} \cdot \nabla f_{\alpha} = 0$ Operator:  $\mathcal{T}$ :  $\tilde{f}_{\alpha}(\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{e}_{\alpha}\Delta t, t + \Delta t) = f_{\alpha}(\mathbf{x}, t)$  $\rho(\mathbf{x}, t) = \sum_{\alpha=0}^{18} f_{\alpha}(\mathbf{x}, t), \quad \rho(\mathbf{x}, t) u_i(\mathbf{x}, t) = \sum_{\alpha=0}^{18} \mathbf{e}_{\alpha i} f_{\alpha}(\mathbf{x}, t)$ 

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## Approximation of thermal equilibrium

2.) Collision step solves  $\partial_t f_{\alpha} = \omega (f_{\alpha}^{eq} - f_{\alpha}) + F_{\alpha}$ Operator C:

$$f_{\alpha}(\cdot,t+\Delta t) = \tilde{f}_{\alpha}(\cdot,t+\Delta t) + \omega_{L}\Delta t \left(\tilde{f}_{\alpha}^{eq}(\cdot,t+\Delta t) - \tilde{f}_{\alpha}(\cdot,t+\Delta t)\right) + \Delta t F_{\alpha}(\cdot,t+\Delta t)$$

with  $F_{\alpha} = 3\rho t_{\alpha} \mathbf{e}_{\alpha} \mathbf{F}/c^2$  and equilibrium function

$$f^{eq}_{lpha}(
ho, \mathbf{u}) = 
ho t_{lpha} \left[ 1 + rac{3\mathbf{e}_{lpha}\mathbf{u}}{c^2} + rac{9(\mathbf{e}_{lpha}\mathbf{u})^2}{2c^4} - rac{3\mathbf{u}^2}{2c^2} + 
ight.$$

with  $t_{\alpha} = \frac{1}{9} \left\{ 3, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{4}, \frac$ 

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A Chapman-Enskog expansion  $(f_{\alpha} = f_{\alpha}(0) + \epsilon f_{\alpha}(1) + \epsilon^2 f_{\alpha}(2) + ...)$  shows that

$$\partial_t \rho + \nabla \cdot (\rho \mathbf{u}) = \mathbf{0}, \qquad \partial_t \mathbf{u} + \mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{u} = -\nabla \rho + \nu \nabla^2 \mathbf{u} + \mathbf{F}$$

are recoverd to  $O(\epsilon^{2,3})$  [Hou et al., 1996] and also  $\omega_L = \tau_L^{-1} = \frac{c_s^2}{\nu + \Delta t c_s^2/2}$ 

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Conclusions and outlook O

## Level-set method for boundary embedding



- Implicit boundary representation via distance function φ, normal n = ∇φ/|∇φ|.
- Construction of macro-values in embedded boundary cells by interpolation / extrapolation.
- Complex boundary moving with local velocity w, ghost cell velocity: u' = 2w - u

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- Then use f<sup>eq</sup><sub>α</sub>(ρ', u') to construct distributions in embedded ghost cells.
- Wall function acts on first layer of exterior cells.
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Block-structured adaptive mesh refinement (SAMR)

- Refinement in all spatial directions and time by same factor
- Refined blocks overlay coarser ones
- Most efficient LBM implementation with patch-wise for-loops
- LBM implemented on finite volume grids
- AMROC V3.0 with significantly enhanced parallelization [Deiterding et al., 2007, Deiterding, 2011, Deiterding and Wood, 2015, Deiterding et al., 2006]

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## Turbulence modeling

Pursue a large-eddy simulation approach with  $\overline{f}_{\alpha}$  and  $\overline{f}_{\alpha}^{eq}$ , i.e.

1.) 
$$\overline{f}_{\alpha}(\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{e}_{\alpha}\Delta t, t + \Delta t) = \overline{f}_{\alpha}(\mathbf{x}, t)$$
  
2.)  $\overline{f}_{\alpha}(\cdot, t + \Delta t) = \widetilde{f}_{\alpha}(\cdot, t + \Delta t) + \frac{1}{\tau^{*}}\Delta t \left( \frac{\widetilde{f}_{\alpha}^{eq}}{f_{\alpha}}(\cdot, t + \Delta t) - \frac{\widetilde{f}_{\alpha}(\cdot, t + \Delta t)}{\overline{f}_{\alpha}(\cdot, t + \Delta t)} \right)$ 

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$$\overline{\mathbf{S}}| = \sqrt{2\sum_{i,j}\overline{S}_{ij}\overline{S}_{ij}}$$

The filtered strain rate tensor  $\overline{S}_{ij} = (\partial_j \overline{u}_i + \partial_i \overline{u}_j)/2$  can be computed as a second moment as

$$\overline{S}_{ij} = \frac{\overline{\Sigma}_{ij}}{2\rho c_s^2 \tau_L^* \left(1 - \frac{\omega_L \Delta t}{2}\right)} = \frac{1}{2\rho c_s^2 \tau_L^*} \sum_{\alpha} e_{\alpha i} e_{\alpha j} (\overline{f}_{\alpha}^{eq} - \overline{f}_{\alpha})$$

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 $\tau_t$  can be obtained as [Yu, 2004, Hou et al., 1996]

$$\tau_t = \frac{1}{2} \left( \sqrt{\tau_L^2 + 18\sqrt{2}(\rho_0 c^2)^{-1} C_{sm}^2 \Delta x |\overline{\mathbf{S}}|} - \tau_L \right)$$

#### Further LES models

Dynamic Smagorinsky model (DSMA)

$$\begin{split} C_{sm}(\mathbf{x},t)^2 &= -\frac{1}{2} \frac{\langle L_{ij} M_{ij} \rangle}{\langle M_{ij} M_{ij} \rangle} \\ L_{ij} &= T_{ij} - \widehat{\tau}_{ij} = \widehat{\overline{u}_i \overline{u}_j} - \widehat{\overline{u}_i} \widehat{\overline{u}}_j \qquad M_{ij} = \widehat{\Delta x}^2 |\widehat{\mathbf{S}}| \widehat{\overline{\mathbf{S}}}_{ij} - \Delta x^2 |\widehat{\overline{\mathbf{S}}}| \widehat{\overline{\mathbf{S}}}_{ij} \end{split}$$

Computations here do not use van Driest damping yet.

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Wall-Adapting Local Eddy-viscosity model (WALE)

$$u_t = \left(\textit{C}_w \Delta x 
ight)^2 \textit{OP}_{\textit{WALE}}, \quad \text{where } \textit{C}_w = 0.5$$

WALE turbulence time-scale

$$\begin{split} OP_{WALE} &= \frac{\left(\mathcal{J}_{ij}\mathcal{J}_{ij}\right)^{\frac{3}{2}}}{\left(\overline{S}_{ij}\overline{S}_{ij}\right)^{\frac{5}{2}} + \left(\mathcal{J}_{ij}\mathcal{J}_{ij}\right)^{\frac{5}{4}}}\\ \mathcal{J}_{ij} &= \overline{S}_{ik}\overline{S}_{kj} + \overline{\Omega}_{ik}\overline{\Omega}_{kj} - \frac{1}{3}\delta_{ij}\left(\overline{S}_{mn}\overline{S}_{mn} - \overline{\Omega}_{mn}\overline{\Omega}_{mn}\right)\\ \end{split}$$
Effective relaxation time (see previous slide): 
$$\tau_{L}^{\star} &= \frac{(\nu + \nu_{t}) + \Delta tc_{s}^{2}/2}{c_{s}^{2}} \end{split}$$

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Conclusions and outlook

#### Homogeneous isotropic turbulence

- Fourier representation
- Periodic boundaries, uniform mesh
- Use of external forcing term, i.e., result independent of initial conditions

Forcing:

$$\begin{split} F_{x} &= 2A \Big( \frac{\kappa_{y} \kappa_{z}}{|\kappa|^{2}} \Big) G(\kappa_{x}, \kappa_{y}, \kappa_{z}) \\ F_{y} &= -A \Big( \frac{\kappa_{x} \kappa_{z}}{|\kappa|^{2}} \Big) G(\kappa_{x}, \kappa_{y}, \kappa_{z}) \\ F_{z} &= -A \Big( \frac{\kappa_{x} \kappa_{y}}{|\kappa|^{2}} \Big) G(\kappa_{x}, \kappa_{y}, \kappa_{z}) \end{split}$$

with phase

$$G(\kappa_x, \kappa_y, \kappa_z) = \sin\left(\frac{2\pi x}{L}\kappa_x + \frac{2\pi y}{L}\kappa_y + \frac{2\pi z}{L}\kappa_z + \phi\right) \text{ for } (0 < \kappa_i \le 2) \text{ and } \phi$$
 being a random phase value.



Iso-surface  $||\mathbf{u}||/\langle u_{rms}\rangle = 2$ 

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#### LES model verification



Time-averaged energy spectra normalised by the turbulent kinetic energy k and the integral length scale  $L_{11}$  of LBM DNS and LES for two resolutions and DNS of the highest resolution for the viscosity value  $\nu=5\cdot 10^{-5}$ 

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Contours of vorticity magnitude ( $|\omega| = 0.18$ ) at t = 68.72 (right) for DNS (thin blue lines) of 512<sup>3</sup> against DSMA (dotted black lines) and WALE (thick red lines) of 128<sup>3</sup> cells resolution

#### Motion solver

Based on the Newton-Euler method solution of dynamics equation of kinetic chains [Tsai, 1999]

$$\begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{F} \\ \boldsymbol{\tau}_{\mathrm{P}} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} m\mathbf{1} & -m[\mathbf{c}]^{\times} \\ m[\mathbf{c}]^{\times}\mathbf{I}_{\mathrm{cm}} & -m[\mathbf{c}]^{\times}[\mathbf{c}]^{\times} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{a}_{\mathrm{P}} \\ \boldsymbol{\alpha} \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} m[\boldsymbol{\omega}]^{\times}[\boldsymbol{\omega}]^{\times}\mathbf{c} \\ [\boldsymbol{\omega}]^{\times}(\mathbf{I}_{\mathrm{cm}} - m[\mathbf{c}]^{\times}[\mathbf{c}]^{\times}) \boldsymbol{\omega} \end{pmatrix}.$$

$$\begin{split} m &= \text{mass of the body, } 1 = \text{the } 4 \times 4 \text{ homogeneous identity matrix,} \\ \mathbf{a}_p &= \text{acceleration of link frame with origin at } \mathbf{p} \text{ in the preceding link's frame,} \\ \mathbf{I}_{\rm cm} &= \text{moment of inertia about the center of mass,} \\ \boldsymbol{\omega} &= \text{angular velocity of the body,} \\ \boldsymbol{\alpha} &= \text{angular acceleration of the body,} \end{split}$$

 $\boldsymbol{c}$  is the location of the body's center of mass,

and  $[\mathbf{c}]^{ imes}$  ,  $[\boldsymbol{\omega}]^{ imes}$  denote skew-symmetric cross product matrices.

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Here, we additionally define the total force and torque acting on a body,

 $\mathbf{F} = (\mathbf{F}_{FSI} + \mathbf{F}_{prescribed}) \cdot \mathcal{C}_{xyz}$  and

 $\tau = (\tau_{FSI} + \tau_{prescribed}) \cdot \mathcal{C}_{\alpha\beta\gamma}$  respectively.

Where  $C_{xyz}$  and  $C_{\alpha\beta\gamma}$  are the translational and rotational constraints, respectively.

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Single turbine modeling



- Inflow velocity 8 m/s. Prescribed motion of rotor with 33 rpm, r = 14.5 m: tip speed 46.7 m/s, Re<sub>r</sub> ≈ 919,700, TSR=5.84
- Simulation with three additional levels with refinement factors 2, 2, 4
- Refinement based on vorticity and level set.
- $\blacktriangleright$   $\sim$  24 time steps for 1° rotation
- Validation results: Mexico rotor [Deiterding and Wood, 2016b], [Deiterding and Wood, 2016a]

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Wind turbine wake simulation

#### Rotor loads



- Sampled every 0.034 s on 18 radial sections binned into 36 circumferential sectors
- Mean pressure and torque  $\propto 81 \, \mathrm{kW}$  production,  $C_p = 0.44$ , and  $C_t = 0.78$
- All within 5% of the rated values [Vestas, 1994]
- A simple actuator disc model predicts 95 kW production,  $C_p$ =0.53, and  $C_t$ =0.61 for the  $\bar{u}_x = 6.5 \text{ m/s}$  [Schaffarczyk, 2014, Spera, 2009]

Wind turbine wake simulation

Conclusions and outlook O



- No-slip (NS) and wall function (WF) boundary condition, const. Smagorinksy model (CSMA) with  $C_{sm} = 0.14$ , WALE model with  $C_w = 0.5$
- D3Q27 with recursive regularized approach by [Malaspinas, 2015] up to order 6
- Simulation with three additional levels with refinement factors 2, 2, 4
- Resolution  $\Delta x = 6.25 \, \mathrm{cm}$  at structures,  $\Delta x = 50 \, \mathrm{cm}$  in wake
- ho  $\sim$  45.6  ${
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# Simulation of the SWIFT array

- Three prototypical Vestas V27 turbines. 225 kW power generation at wind speeds 14 to 25 m/s (then cut-off)
- $\blacktriangleright\,$  Prescribed motion of rotor with 33 and 43  $\rm rpm.$  Inflow velocity 8 and 25  $\rm m/s$
- ▶ TSR: 5.84 and 2.43,  $Re_r \approx 919,700$  and 1,208,000
- Simulation domain  $448 \,\mathrm{m} \times 240 \,\mathrm{m} \times 100 \,\mathrm{m}$
- Base mesh 448 × 240 × 100 cells with refinement factors 2, 2, 4. Resolution of rotor and tower Δx = 6.25 cm
- 94,224 highest level iterations to 40 s computed, then statistics are gathered for 10 s [Deiterding and Wood, 2016a]





Adaptive lattice Boltzmann method

Wind turbine wake simulation 

#### Multiple turbines

#### Vorticity development – inflow at $0^{\circ}$ , $8 \,\mathrm{m/s}$ , $33 \,\mathrm{rpm}$



- Refinement of wake up to level 2 ( $\Delta x = 25 \text{ cm}$ ).
- Vortex break-up before 2nd turbine is reached.

Adaptive lattice Boltzmann method 0000000 Multiple turbines Wind turbine wake simulation

ا<sub>m</sub>/u<sub>0</sub> [-]

Conclusions and outlook

# Mean point values - inflow at 0°,

- Turbines located at (0,0,0), (135,0,0), (-5.65,80.80,0)
- Lines of 13 sensors with  $\Delta y = 5 \text{ m}, z = 37 \text{ m}$  (approx. center of rotor)
- u and p measured over [40 s, 50 s] (1472 level-0 time steps) and averaged





Velocity deficits larger for higher TSR

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- Velocity deficits larger for higher TSR
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ا<sub>m</sub>/u<sub>0</sub> [-]

Wind turbine wake simulation

Conclusions and outlook O

# Vorticity on levels – inflow at $30^{\circ}$ , $8 \,\mathrm{m/s}$ , $33 \,\mathrm{rpm}$



- $\blacktriangleright$  Top view at 30 m (hub height). Turbine hub and inflow at 30° yaw leads to off-axis wake impact.
- $\blacktriangleright$  160 cores Intel-Xeon E5 2.6 GHz, 33.03 h for interval [50, 60] s.  $\sim$  320 h CPU per revolution and turbine
- At 63.8 s approximately 167M cells used vs. 44 billion (factor 264)

Level	Grids	Cells	
0	2,463	10,752,000	
1	6,464	20,674,760	
2	39,473	131,018,832	
3	827	4,909,632	

Wind turbine wake simulation

Conclusions and outlook O



- **D**3Q27, CSMA with  $C_{sm} = 0.14$ , WALE with  $C_w = 0.5$
- Lower resolution!  $\Delta x = 12.5 \,\mathrm{cm}$  at structures,  $\Delta x = 50 \,\mathrm{cm}$  in wake
- Simulation with three additional levels refined by 2, 2, 2. Only one level for wake
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Conclusions and outlook O





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## Method variation – 3D wake field



Wind turbine wake simulation

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Clearly greater extension of wake with WF boundary condition when same iso-surface value of vortcity magnitude |ω| is considered

Wind turbine wake simulation

Conclusions and outlook O

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Wind turbine wake simulation

Conclusions and outlook O

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Wind turbine wake simulation

Conclusions and outlook O

#### Actuator line model



Gaussian spreading function [Sørensen et al., 1998]

$$f(d) = rac{1}{arepsilon^3 \pi^{rac{3}{2}}} \, \exp \Big( - rac{d}{arepsilon} \Big)^2$$

Distance d between cell midpoint and ith actuator point



Construction of velocity  $U_{rel}$  in blade coordinate system and evaluation of local aerodynamic forces

Appropriate choice of  $\varepsilon$  and dr is essential:



# Simulation of single V27 rotor

- ▶ 8 m/s, 33 rpm, TSR: 5.84
- 3 actuator lines with 40 points. Inner radius 0.5 m, outer radius 13.5 m, ε = 2 m, dr = 0.325 m
- Chord length modeled roughly along actual blade
- Simulation domain  $320 \text{ m} \times 160 \text{ m} \times 160 \text{ m}$
- D3Q19 with CSMA



$$F_1 = \frac{2}{\pi} \cos^{-1} \left[ \exp\left( -g \frac{B(R-r)}{2r \sin \phi} \right) \right]$$

- ► Base mesh  $80 \times 40 \times 40$  cells with refinement factors 2, 2, 4. Finest resolution of rotor and tower  $\Delta x = 25$  cm (same as before for wake)
- $\blacktriangleright~50\,\mathrm{s}$  in 33  $\mathrm{h}$  on 12 cores Intel-Xeon-E5 2.10 GHz.  $\sim$  14.4  $\mathrm{h}$  CPU per revolution

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Adaptive lattice Boltzmann method 0000000 Wake comparison Wind turbine wake simulation

Conclusions and outlook

#### Axial velocity profiles at $t = 43 \,\mathrm{s}$



- Reasonable quantitative agreement in averaged axial velocity
- Smaller scale wake structures imminently different than with resolved geometry approach

Adaptive		Boltzmann	
Conclusio	ns		

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- Consideration of tower and ground topology can pose stability challenges.
- Immediate next steps: Test synthetic eddy inflow conditions and dynamic Smagorinsky LES model with van Driest damping.
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#### Lattice Boltzmann equation in mapped coordinates

Solves lattice Boltzmann equation in mapped coordinates

$$rac{\partial f}{\partial t} + \tilde{\mathsf{e}}_{lpha\xi} rac{\partial f_{lpha}}{\partial \xi} + \tilde{\mathsf{e}}_{lpha\eta} rac{\partial f_{lpha}}{\partial \eta} = -rac{1}{ au} \left( f_{lpha} - f_{lpha}^{eq} 
ight).$$

by applying finite volume scheme (2nd-order central differences with 4th-order dissipation stabilization) to transport step. Collision step unchanged [Reyes Barraza and Deiterding, 2020].





Re		CPU-time	Mesh
20	AMROC-LBM	24:55:21	297796
	FV-LBM	06:08:41	65536
40	AMROC-LBM	27:10:08	317732
	FV-LBM	05:57:17	65536
100	AMROC-LBM	113:15:37	1026116
	FV-LBM	05:58:49	65536
200	AMROC-LBM	130:37:18	1130212
	FV-LBM	06:03:42	65536

#### Further LES verification results

## Results



Time-averaged energy spectrum (solid line) [ $N = 128^3$  cells,  $\nu = 3e^{-5}$  m<sup>2</sup>/s] against a modelled one (dashed line and the -5/3 power law (dot-dashed line).

Further single turbine results

#### Near wake pressures



- Sampled every 0.034 s on 6 circular regions centered at hub height ( $r_c = 1.5R$ )
- 20 radial positions on 36 circumferential sectors
- Tower shadow prominent
- p̄ deficit recovers 60% by 20 m

Further single turbine results

#### Near wake pressures



- Sampled every 0.034 s on 6 circular regions centered at hub height ( $r_c = 1.5R$ )
- 20 radial positions on 36 circumferential sectors
- Tower shadow prominent
- p̄ deficit recovers 60% by 20 m
- *p<sub>rms</sub>* deficit recovers 22% by 20 m
- *p<sub>rms</sub>* most intense in tower shadow

No-slip boundary condition, Constant coefficient Smagorinsky model

t=20.3771 sec



Wall function boundary condition, Constant coefficient Smagorinsky model

t=20.3771 sec



Stronger, more stable vortices with no-slip boundary condition from blade rotation and behind tower

Wall function boundary condition, Wall-adapting local eddy-viscosity model

t=20.3771 sec



- Stronger, more stable vortices with no-slip boundary condition from blade rotation and behind tower
- Slightly larger expansion of downstream wake with WALE model than with CSMA

No-slip boundary condition, Wall-adapting local eddy-viscosity model

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- Stronger, more stable vortices with no-slip boundary condition from blade rotation and behind tower
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# Vorticity – inflow at 30°, $8 \,\mathrm{m/s}$ , $33 \,\mathrm{rpm}$



- Top view in plane in z-direction at 30 m (hub height)
- Turbine hub and inflow at 30° yaw leads to off-axis wake impact.
- 160 cores Intel-Xeon E5 2.6 GHz, 33.03 h wall time for interval [50, 60] s (including gathering of statistical data)













### Axial velocity, 100-150m downstream, $t = 43 \,\mathrm{s}$



# Vorticity between -5 and 25m downstream, $t = 43 \,\mathrm{s}$

