

# Data-driven machine learning techniques for wind farm-scale flow simulations

– Implementing MCIA HPC resources

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# ARIA Project

ARIA (Accurate ROMs for Industrial Applications) project to develop computationally accurate, robust and efficient predictive Reduced-Order Models for applications with complex physical phenomena.



*This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie grant agreement No 872442 (ARIA).*

**Focus on renewable energy:** Joint collaboration Inria-IFPen  
Model large-size offshore wind turbines: 6-12 MW

- Data-driven machine learning techniques for wind farm-scale flow simulations.
- Coupling actuator lines (SOWFA) with data-driven machine learning for the wake.



# Context

## Motivation

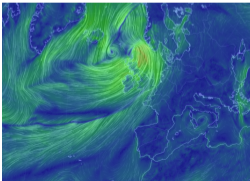
Reduction of the computational cost of high fidelity, wind farm scale simulations.

## Approach

Collate several **single wind turbine models** and an appropriate **propagation model**.

Simulations with realistic flow conditions → Data → Data-driven modeling

Mesoscale flow



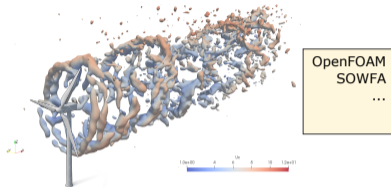
Turbine



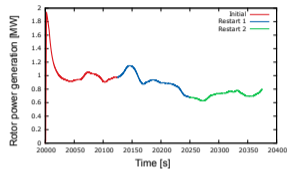
Plant Array



## Simulation



## Post-processing

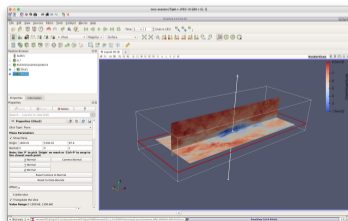


Python  
C++  
...

## HPC tools

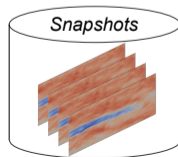
SLURM, bash, Modules, Redmine,  
HPC support, ...

## Visualization



TurboVNC  
gnuplot  
ParaView  
...

## Storage



/gifs  
/scratch  
iRODS  
...

# Outline

1. Flow simulation
2. Post-processing
3. In-sample prediction
4. Conclusion

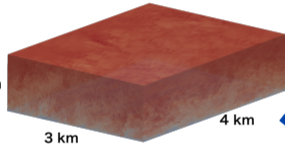
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# Wind turbine simulation

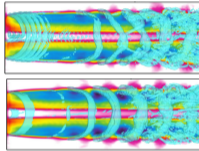
- Simulator for Wind Farm Applications
- Solver to investigate wind turbine and wind plant performance under the full range of atmospheric conditions and terrains.

"Precursor" atmospheric simulation (OpenFOAM)

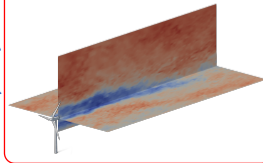


Initial condition:  
Precursor volume field

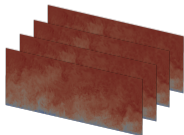
Actuator line or disk  
turbine aerodynamics models



Wind turbine and  
wind farm simulation



Inflow boundary condition:  
Precursor sampled planes



Boundary data at  
fixed time intervals

Wind turbine simulation from  
precursor fields:

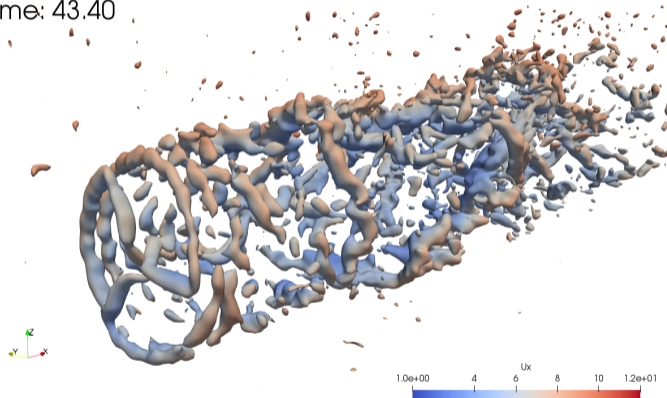
- **~50 million** cells
- **180 Intel® Xeon® Gold SKL-6130 2.1 GHz** processors on textttcompute SD530 nodes of the MCIA *Curta* cluster
- **~6.5 days** of computation time to simulate **~400 s** of flow

# Simulation output

- **Computational domain:**  
4 km × 3 km × 1 km
- **Atmospheric boundary layer:**  
Neutral  
LES SGS Model: One-equation eddy viscosity model  
Solver: PISO  
Streamwise velocity magnitude at hub-height = 8 m/s  
Aerodynamic roughness height = 1E-2 m (level grass plain)
- **Wind turbine:** NREL 5 MW Ref.  
Turbine models:
  - Actuator line model - Advanced
  - Actuator disc model

Postprocess in *ParaView* on *Curta's* visu node

Time: 43.40



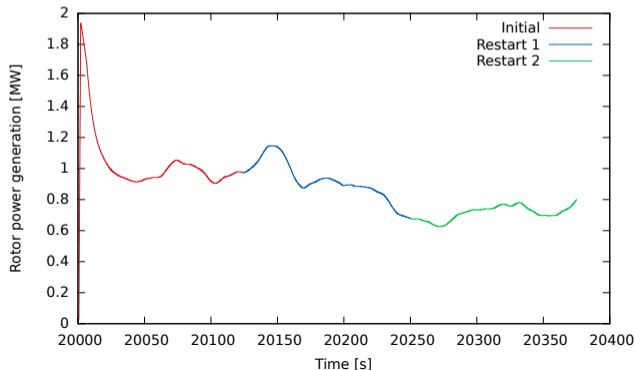
Iso-surface of Q-criterion ( $Q=0.012 \text{ s}^{-2}$ )  
colored by streamwise velocity magnitude



# Simulation output

## Sampling of field variables:

- ABL develops up to 20000 s after which precursor data is collected.
- ADM simulation is initiated and sampling is performed:
  - Fields:  $U$   $T$   $p$   $p\_rgh$   $kSGS$   $nuSgs$
  - Sampling time step: 0.35 s (equivalent to  $\sim 14$  snapshots per rotation)
  - Sampling time window: 20000 – 20400 s



# Simulation output

## Snapshot generation:

- ~1 million cells near the wind turbine.
- 1150 snapshots account for a disk space of ~150 GB.

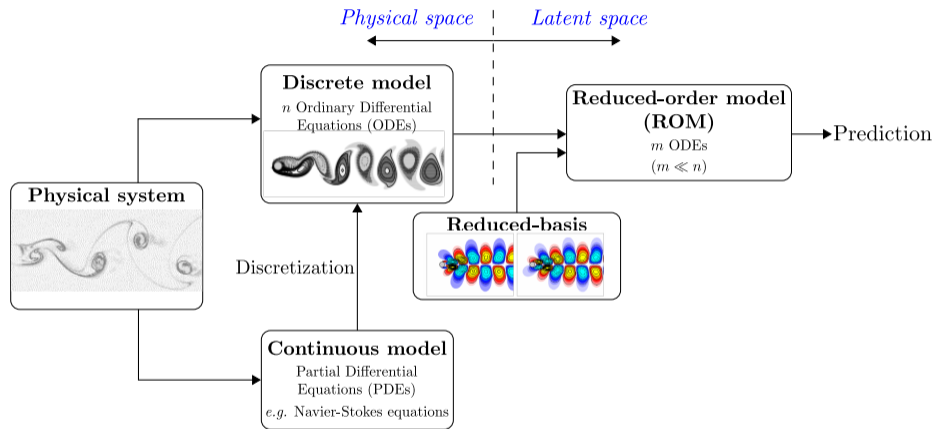
## *iRODS* storage:

- Consistent I/O with tar compression.  
\$ tar -cvf <tar-file.tar> <source-directory> # Create archive  
\$ iput -fPvDtar <tar-file.tar> <irods-destination> # Upload archive
- Access the archived directory by remotely mounting it on *iRODS*.  
\$ imcoll -m tar <tar-file.tar> <mount-directory> # Mount  
\$ imcoll -Usp <mount-directory> # Unmount

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# Model order reduction



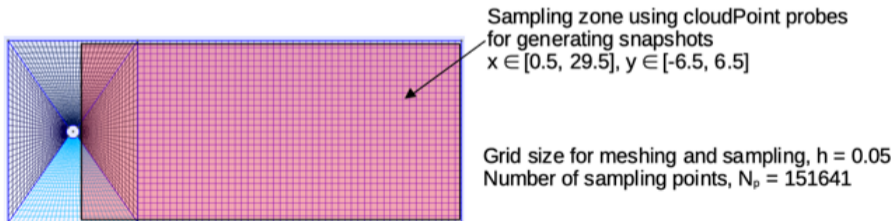
**Motivation:** Representation of complex high-dimensional data in a simpler low-dimensional space such that the dominant characteristics are preserved.

# Proper Orthogonal Decomposition (POD)

POD modal description of velocity  $\tilde{\mathbf{u}}$  field in a low-fidelity domain ( $\Omega_{LF}$ ):

$$\tilde{\mathbf{u}}(\mathbf{x}, t) = \mathbf{f}_u(\mathbf{x}, t) + \sum_{i=1}^N \hat{u}_i(t) \Phi_i(\mathbf{x}), \quad \hat{u}_i \in \mathbb{R}, \Phi_i \in \mathbb{R}^d, \mathbf{x} \in \Omega_{LF}.$$

Example: Laminar vortex shedding over a cylinder at  $Re = 100$

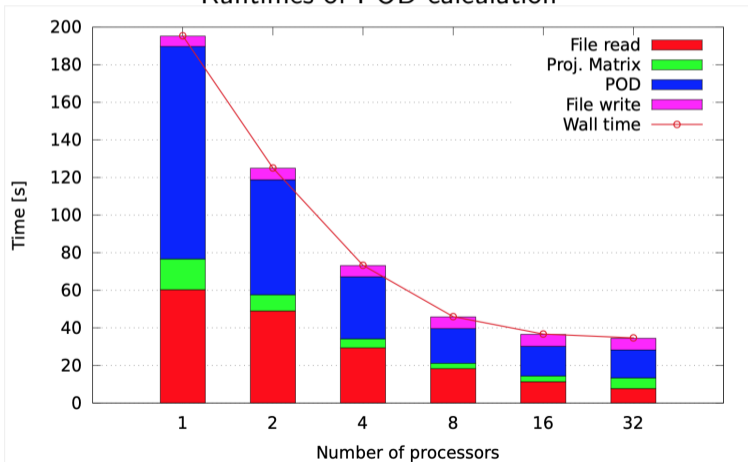


# POD - Laminar vortex shedding

MPI-based parallel POD implementation in C++:

**parallel-pod** – Source code: <https://gitlab.ifpen.fr/supercalcul/rom4wt/-/tree/main/POD>

Runtimes of POD calculation

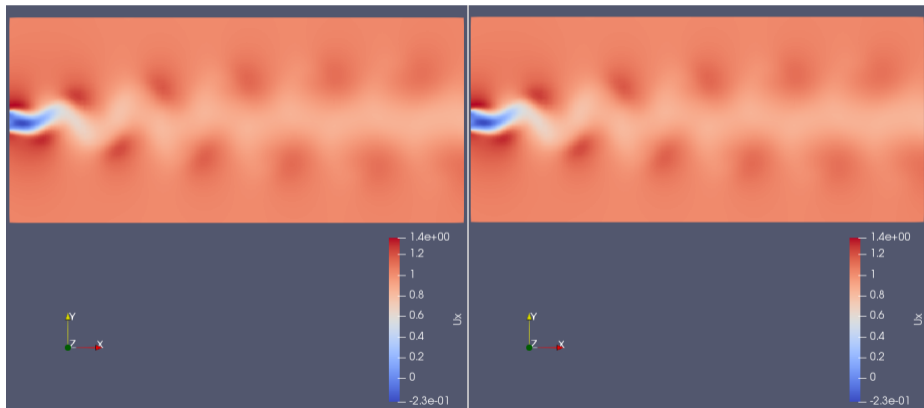


# POD - Laminar vortex shedding

Normalized RMSE =  $1.21\text{E-}5$  (for all configurations):

Simulation

Reconstruction

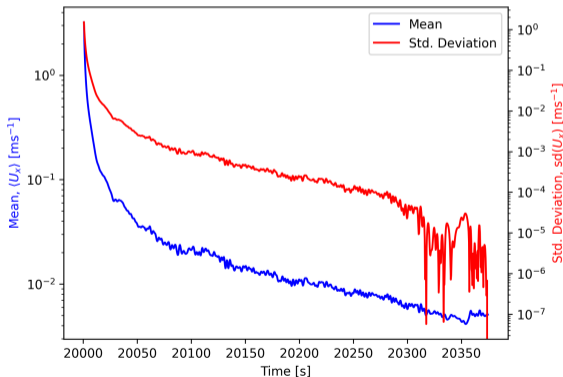


Streamwise velocity at  $t = 200$  s.

# POD of SOWFA simulation dataset

Statistical stationarity of snapshots:

- Streamwise velocity probed at  $15D$  downstream of the turbine.
  - Snapshot files read in parallel using `mpi4py` module.
- Speedup of 15x with 32 processors as compared to serial implementation.





# POD of SOWFA simulation dataset

Dataset:

- $N_t = 370$  snapshots
- Each snapshot contains three components of velocity vector ( $u_x, u_y, u_z$ ) stored at  $N_p = 1081608$  data points.

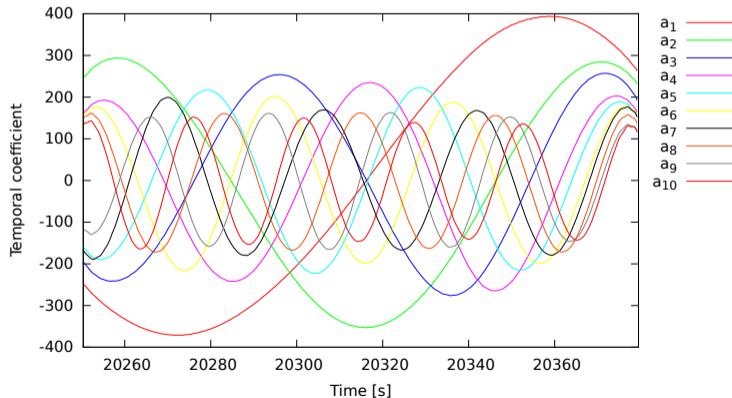
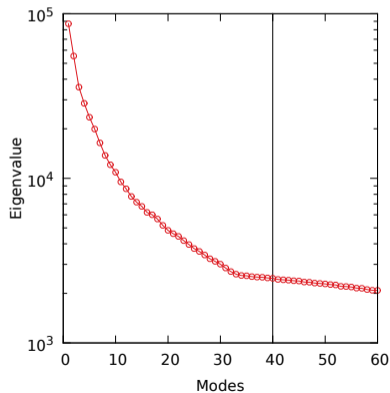
MPI-based parallel POD implementation in C++:

Task (32 processors)	Time
Reading snapshots...	43.7s
Computing projection matrix...	29.2s
Computing POD modes...	105.1s
Writing 40 POD modes...	179.8s
Wall time	357.9s

# POD of SOWFA simulation dataset

Snapshot POD of SOWFA simulation dataset:

- Relative information content,  $RIC \approx 70\%$  corresponding to 40 most energetic modes.

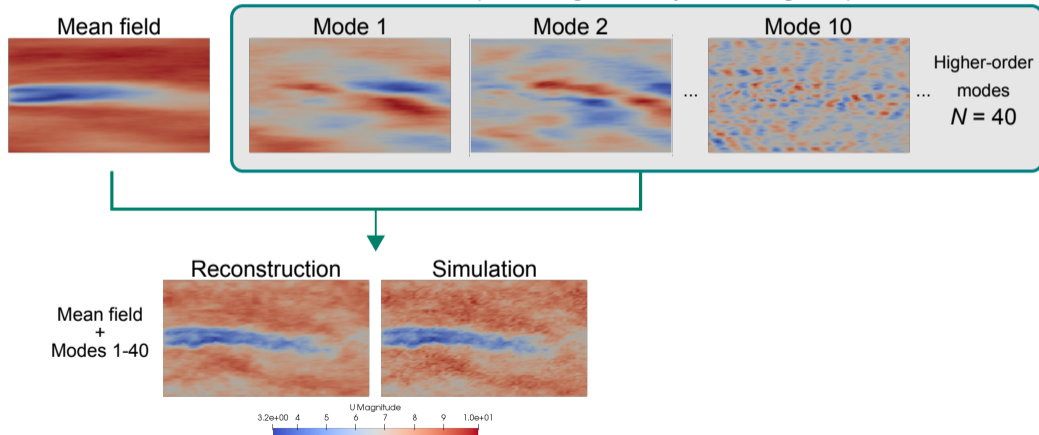


# POD of SOWFA simulation dataset

Snapshot POD of SOWFA simulation dataset:

- In-sample reconstruction: Average  $NRMSE = 1.419 \times 10^{-4}$ , Max  $NRMSE = 0.1406$ .

POD modes representing unsteady fluctuating components



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# In-sample prediction

The time-series data is split into **training** and **test** subsets (70:30 ratio in general).

The **training** subset is used to build the POD basis  $\Phi_i(\mathbf{x})$ , used to project the **test** snapshots:

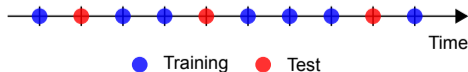
$$\mathcal{P}(\mathbf{u}_j(\mathbf{x})) = \Phi_0(\mathbf{x}) + \sum_{i=1}^N \langle \mathbf{u}_j(\mathbf{x}) - \Phi_0(\mathbf{x}), \Phi_i(\mathbf{x}) \rangle_{\Omega} \Phi_i(\mathbf{x}).$$

Projection error:

$$e_j(\mathbf{x}) = \|\mathbf{u}_j(\mathbf{x}) - \mathcal{P}(\mathbf{u}_j(\mathbf{x}))\|.$$

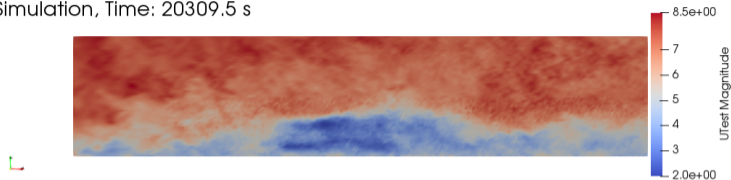
Random selection from SOWFA simulation dataset to create training and test subsets:

- 450 snapshots in the time window [20150.2, 20374.95] s selected to build the basis, and
- the remaining 193 snapshots selected to test the prediction error using the basis.

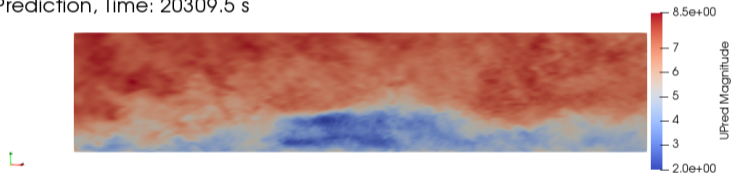


# In-sample prediction

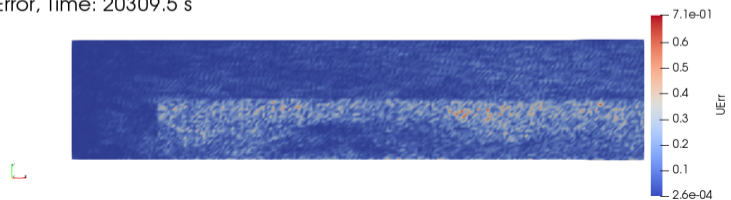
Simulation, Time: 20309.5 s



Prediction, Time: 20309.5 s



Error, Time: 20309.5 s



Number of modes,  $N=80$ .

Prediction performed in parallel in time using `mpi4py`.

Instantaneous velocity magnitude plots showcase the ability of the POD-basis to provide fair in-sample prediction.

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# Conclusion

- MCIAs *Curta* cluster provides the necessary resources to perform scientific research.
- Parallelized implementation provides significant reduction in the code runtimes -  $\sim 6\times$  faster POD calculation,  $\sim 15\times$  faster file I/O.
- Remote visualization tools facilitate plotting of results.
- *iRODS* offers a resilient archive storage of the simulation results.



Thank you for your attention.

*Special acknowledgements to:*

Michel BERGMANN (INRIA), Frédéric BLONDEL (IFPEN), Adrià BORRAS-NADAL (IFPEN),  
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