



# Exascale Opportunities for Aerospace Engineering

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**Department of Mechanical Engineering**  
**University of Wyoming**  
**and**  
**the Vision CFD2030 Team**



# Background

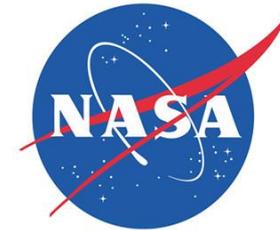
- **Aerospace engineering historically has been a strong driver in advancing computational science and engineering**
  - NASA-led computational fluid dynamics for aeronautics
    - Many /most current algorithms developed with NASA funding
- **Lately, perception that CFD has matured**
  - Commoditized applications using  $O(1000)$  cores (not 1M)
  - Important but limited impact in product design cycle
  - Lack of investment in new fundamental developments
  - Poorly positioned to exploit coming exascale revolution in HPC
- **NASA commissioned study**
  - Identify barriers to progress
  - Provide knowledge-based forecast of future computational capabilities
  - Develop a long-term actionable research plan with a system-level view of technology required for 2030 time frame



# Research & Technology

## NASA Vision 2030 CFD Code

### Final Technical Review



Contract # **NNL08AA16B** (Order # NNL12AD05T)

**Deliverable # 6**

**November 14, 2013**

NASA Langley Research Center

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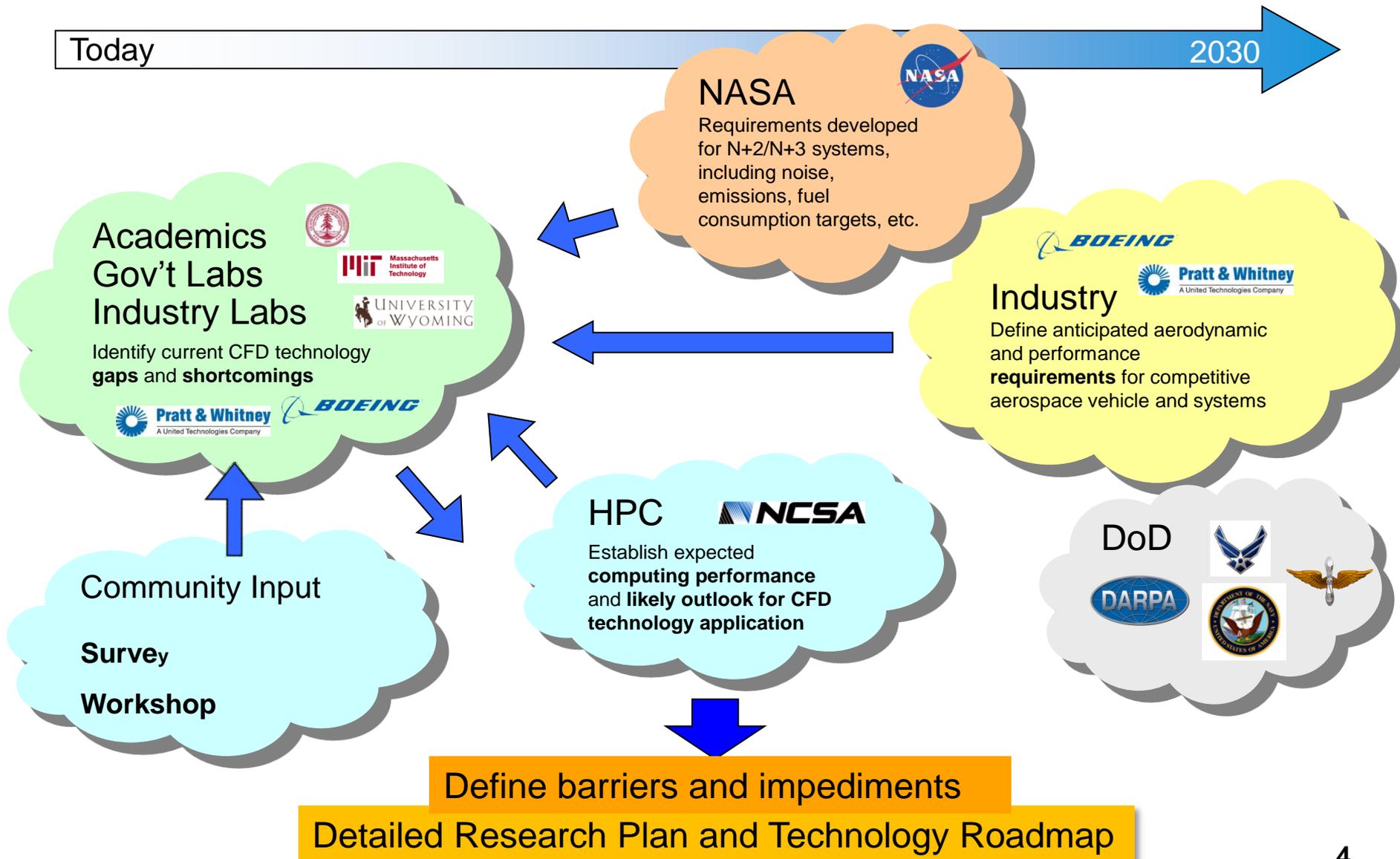


### Dimitri Mavriplis

University of Wyoming



# Technical Approach



# Petaflops Opportunities for the NASA Fundamental Aeronautics Program

*Dimitri Mavriplis (University of Wyoming)*

*David Darmofal (MIT)*

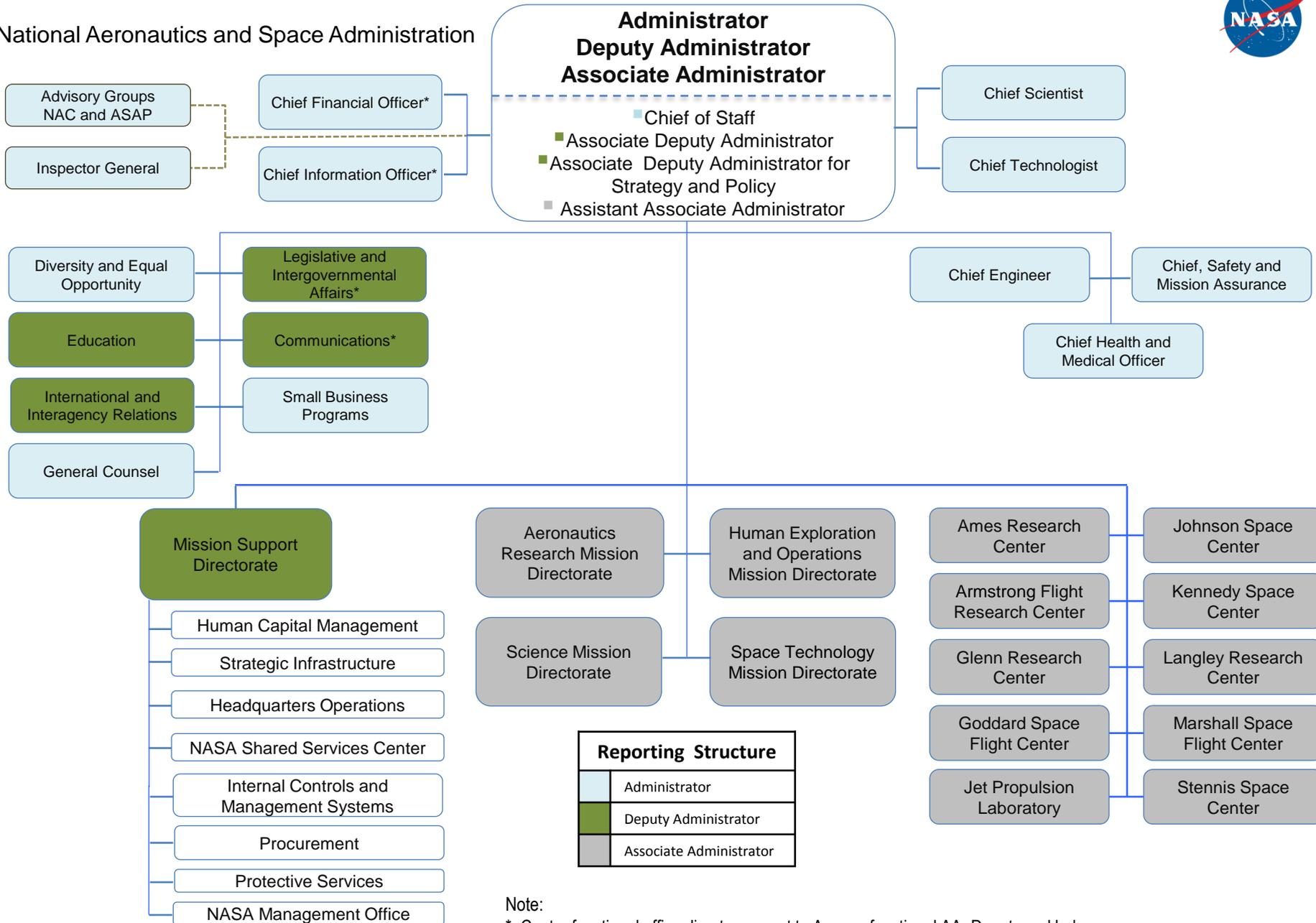
*David Keyes (Columbia University)*

*Mark Turner (University of Cincinnati)*

***AIAA 2007-4048***



# National Aeronautics and Space Administration

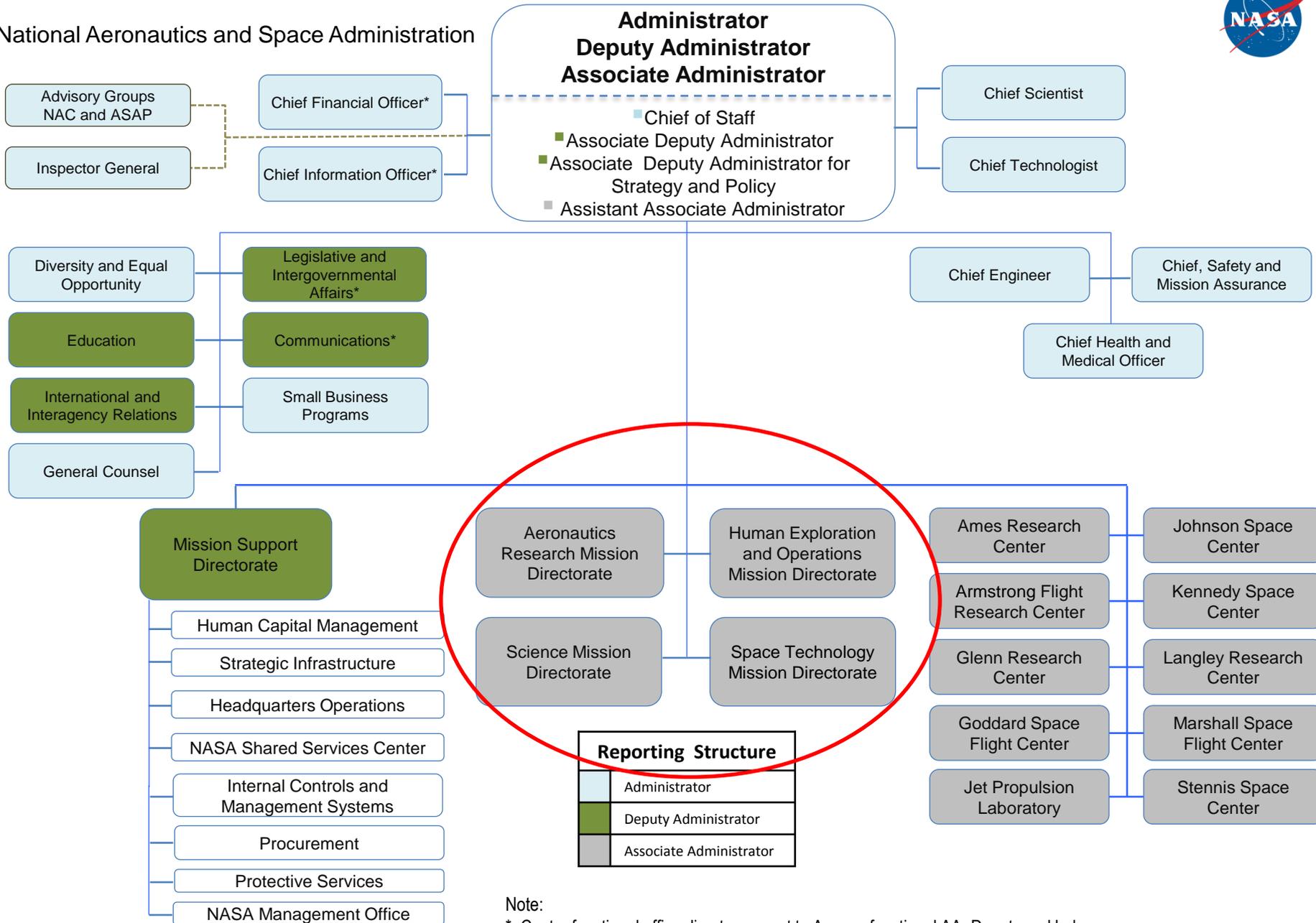


Note:

\* Center functional office directors report to Agency functional AA. Deputy and below report to Center leadership.



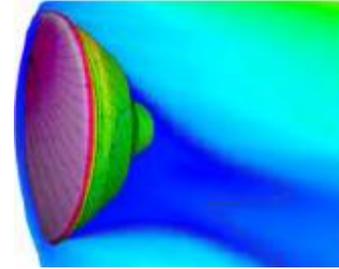
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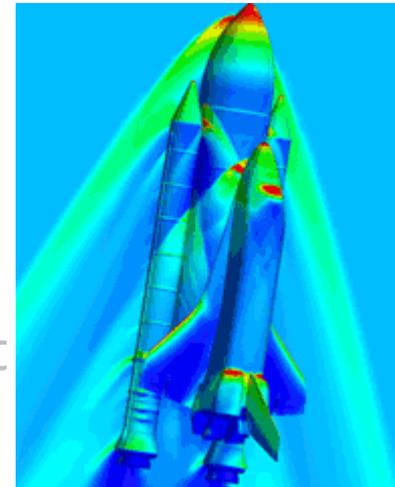
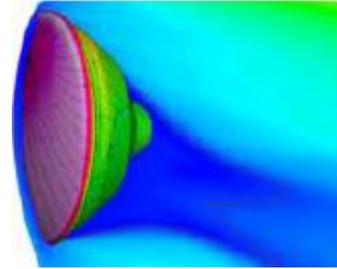
# Computational Methods within NASA Mission Directorates



- Science Mission Directorate (SMD):
  - Climate, weather, environment
  - Planetary entry systems (MSL/Curiosity)
- Human Exploration and Operations (HEO):
  - Development of Space Launch System, Orion
- Aeronautics Research (ARMD):
  - Subsonic and supersonic civil aircraft and rotorcraft technology development
  - **Basic computational tool development**
    - ARC3D, CFL3D, Overflow, LAURA,
    - FUN3D, CART3D...

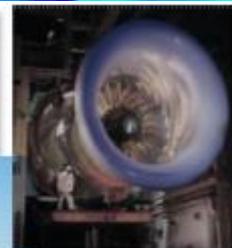
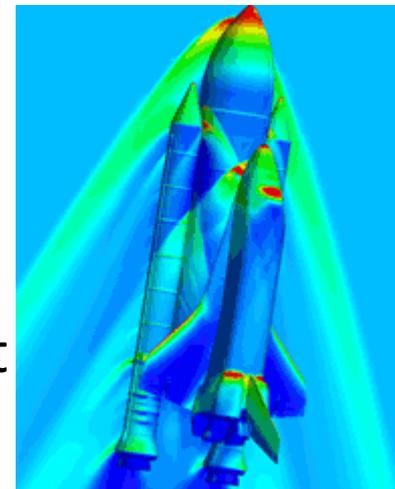
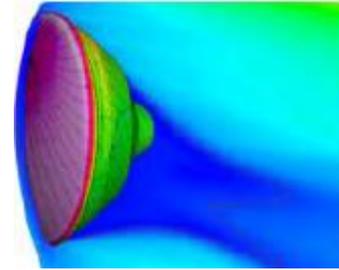
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# ARMD's Historic HPC Leadership (Code R)

- ILLIAC IV (1976)
- National **Aerodynamic** Simulator (1980's)
- 1992 HPCCP Budget:
  - \$596M (Total)
    - \$93M Department of Energy (DOE)
    - \$71M NASA
      - Earth and Space Sciences (ESS)
      - Computational Aerosciences (CAS)
  
- Computational Aerosciences (CAS) Objectives (1992):
  - “...*integrated, multi-disciplinary simulations and design optimization of aerospace vehicles throughout their mission profiles*”
  - “... *develop **algorithm and architectural** testbeds ... scalable to sustained teraflops performance*”

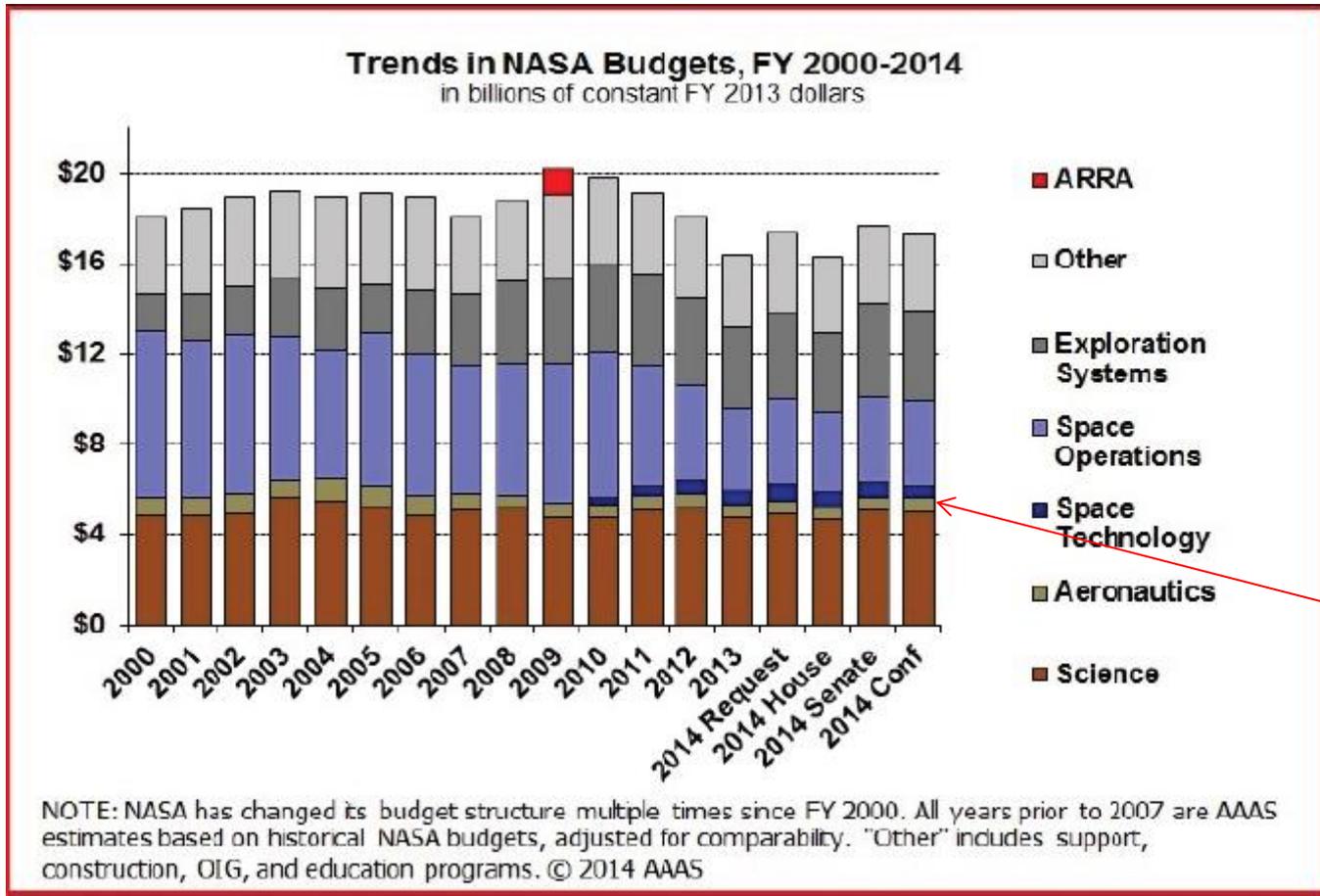


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# Recent NASA Funding Trends



ARMD=\$500M  
3% NASA  
budget

# Findings

1. **NASA investment in basic research and technology development for simulation-based analysis and design has declined significantly in the last decade and must be reinvigorated if substantial advances in simulation capability are to be achieved.**
  - Physics-based simulation is a cross-cutting technology that impacts all of NASA aeronautics missions and vehicle classes – *NAE Decadal Survey*
  - R&D in computational methods and resulting tools have impact far beyond NASA's aeronautics mission (Science, Space, other engineering fields)
  - Advances in simulation capabilities are often driven by the requirement of short-term impact, or in response to simulation failure on a program → *results in incremental improvements to CFD software*
  - NASA's Revolutionary Computational Aerosciences (RCA) project is a step in the right direction *and should be maintained and expanded*

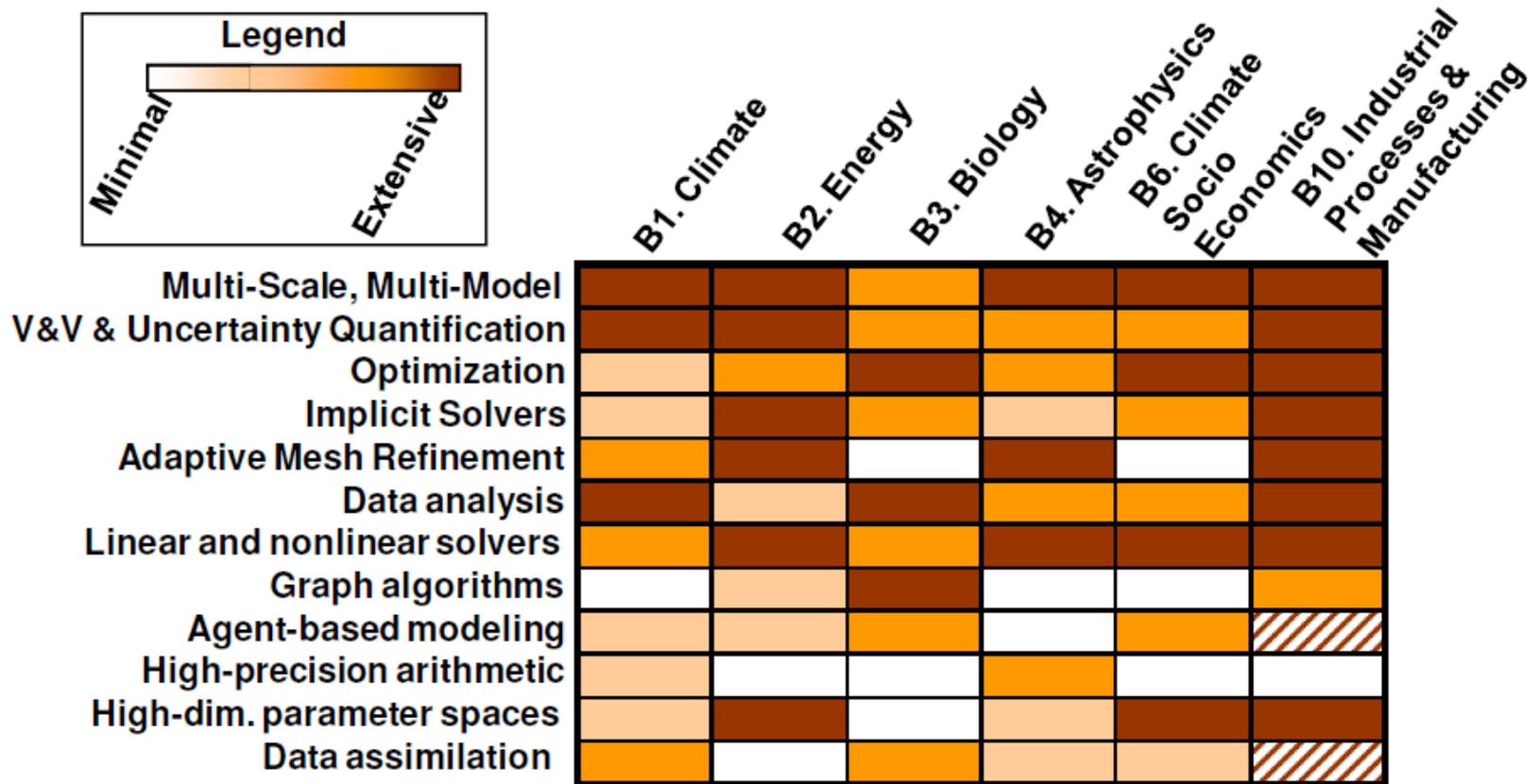
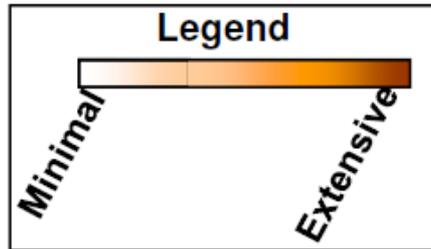
## 2. HPC hardware is progressing rapidly and technologies that will prevail are difficult to predict.

- Current predictions of exascale hardware architecture involve scalar processors with 1000's of “streaming” processor cores, highly parallel memory interfaces, and advanced interconnects → *focus is on power consumption and failure recovery*
- Advanced software programming environments with **higher levels of software abstraction** will be required
- Many current CFD tools and processes do not scale well on today's Petaflops systems, poorly prepared for exaflop revolution
  - *Mature (outdated ?) algorithms*
  - *Failure to provide consistent access to leading edge HPC for development/testing*
  - *Stagnation/commoditization of capabilities in government as well as industry*
- *Monitoring and assessment of disruptive technologies*
  - *e.g. quantum computing*

# Aeronautics/Aerospace HPC

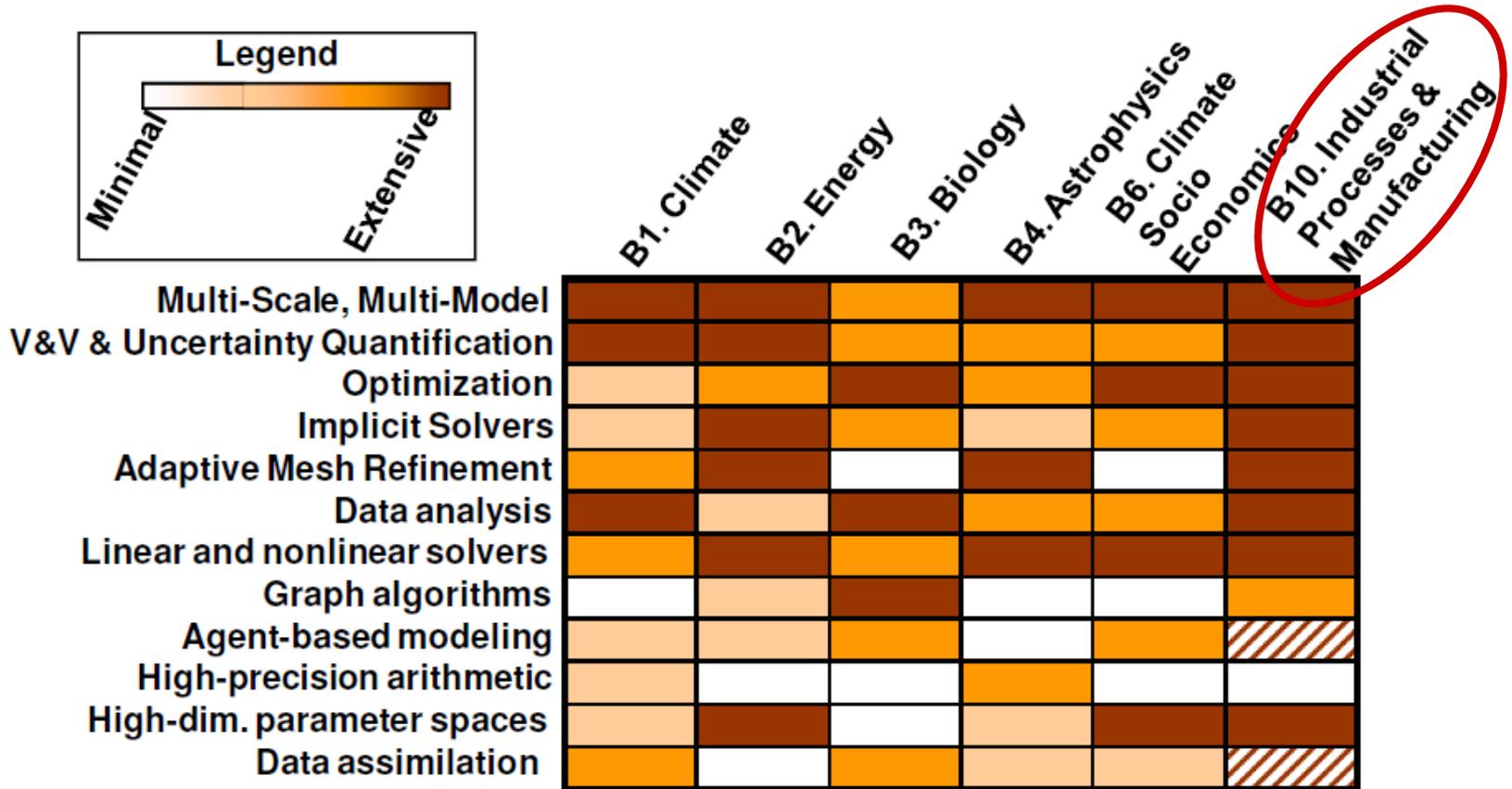
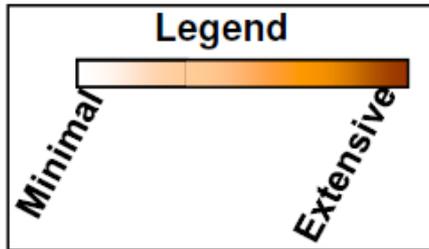
- Aerospace is **engineering** based discipline
- HPC advocacy increasingly has been taken up by the **science** community
  - Numerical simulation is now the third pillar of scientific discovery on an equal footing alongside theory and experiment
  - Increased investment in HPC will enable new scientific discoveries
- Engineering is not discovery based
  - Arguably more difficult to reach exascale
    - Complex geometries, Multidisciplinary, Uncertainties, Risk/Cost
    - e.g Gradient-based optimization is inherently sequential

# Exascale Software Study



- From: DARPA/IPTO/AFRL Exascale Computing Study (2008)  
[http://users.ece.gatech.edu/~mrichard/ExascaleComputingStudyReports/ECS\\_reports.htm](http://users.ece.gatech.edu/~mrichard/ExascaleComputingStudyReports/ECS_reports.htm)

# Exascale Software Study

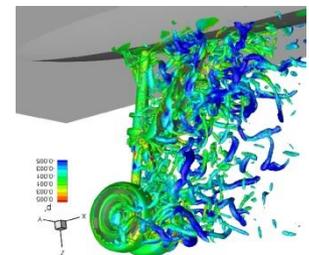
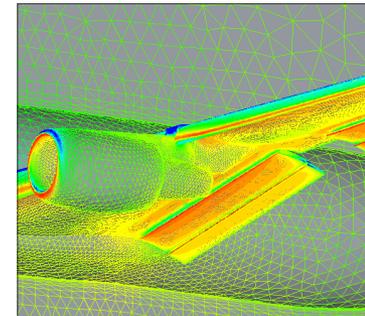
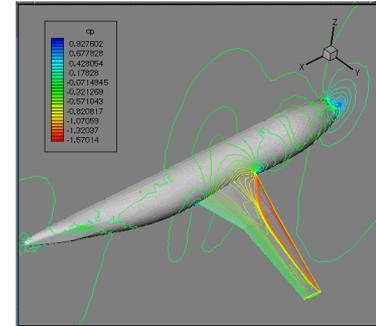


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# Findings CONTINUED

## 3. The **accuracy of CFD** in the aerospace design process is severely limited by the **inability to reliably predict turbulent flows** with significant regions of **separation**

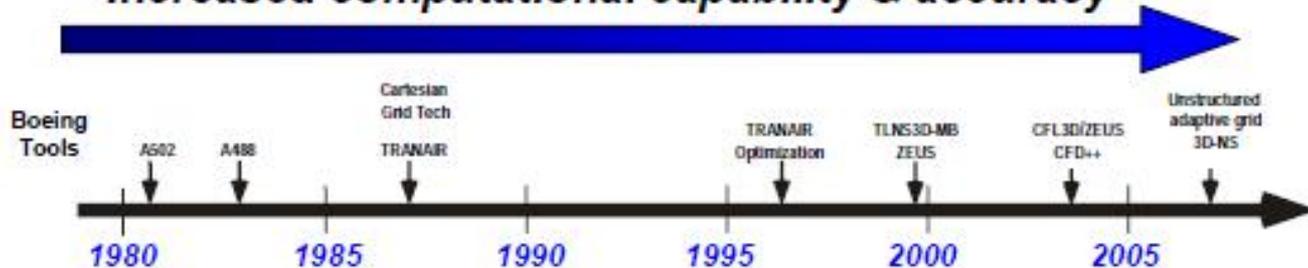
- Steady progression in physical fidelity
  - Panel methods (incompressible, inviscid) : 1960s
  - Linearized compressible flow methods : 1970s
  - Non-linear potential flow methods: 1980s
  - Reynolds averaged Navier-Stokes methods: 1990s to today !!
    - Increase in accuracy driven by finer grids, better HPC
    - **Plateau in physical/modeling fidelity for separated flows**
- CFD notably successful in nominal region of design space
  - Cruise condition (aircraft), nominal operating conditions (propulsion)
  - High accuracy requirements
  - Little or no flow separation by design
- LES not feasible for foreseeable future due to range of turbulence scales at flight Reynolds numbers
  - Hybrid RANS-LES, Wall Modeled LES



# CFD Has Significantly Improved the Wing Development Process

*Increased computational capability & accuracy*

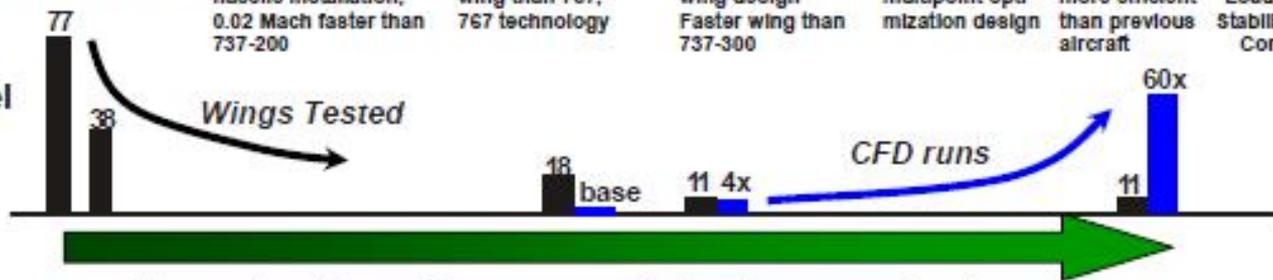
**CFD Tools**



**Boeing Products**



**Wind Tunnel vs. CFD**



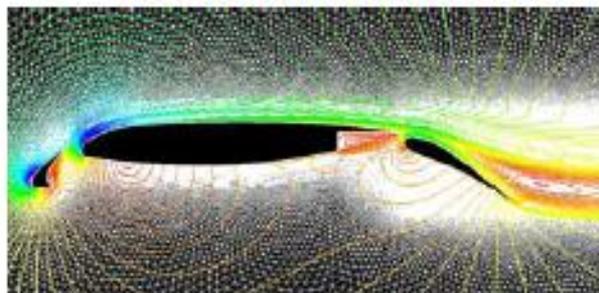
*Less testing, lower cost, better products*

# Complementary Use of CFD and Wind Tunnels for High-Lift Design

Wind-Tunnel Testing

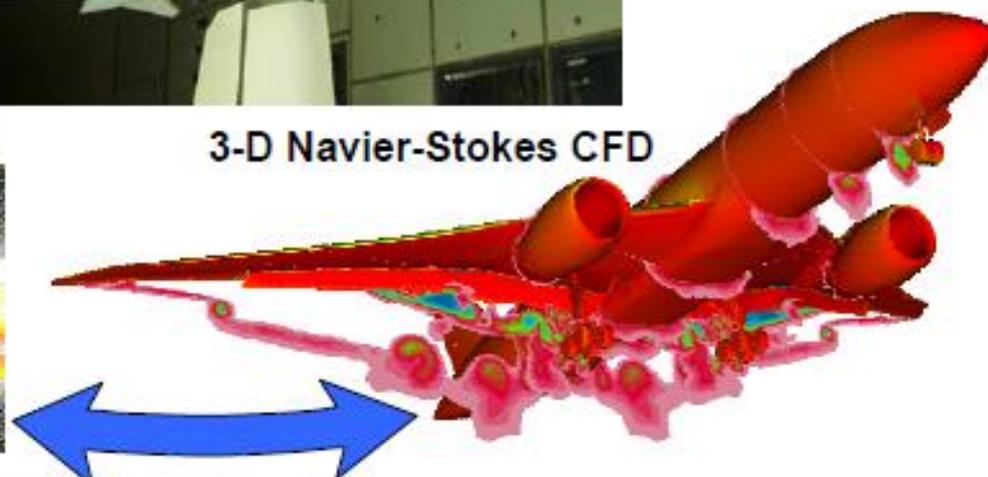


2-D Navier-Stokes CFD



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3-D Navier-Stokes CFD



IDC HPC User Forum – Europe 2008

# Successful in Small/Important Region of Flight Envelope

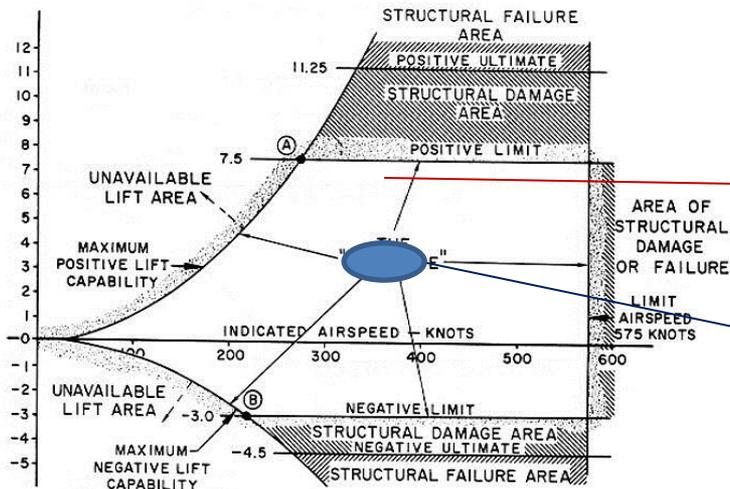
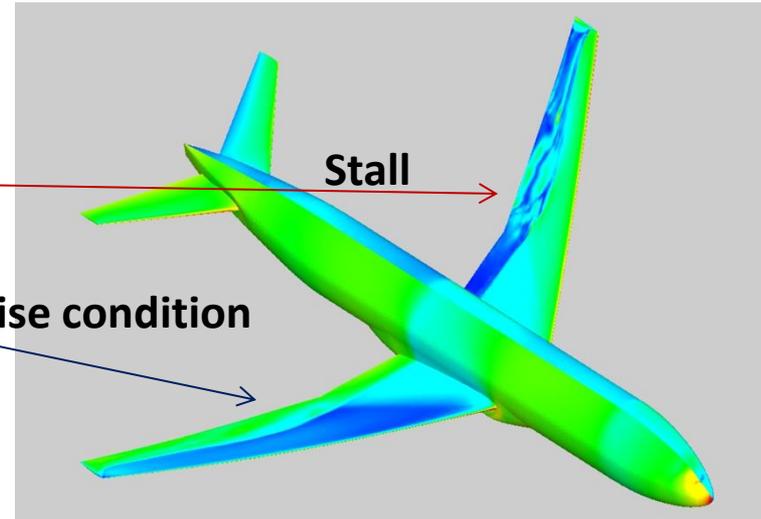
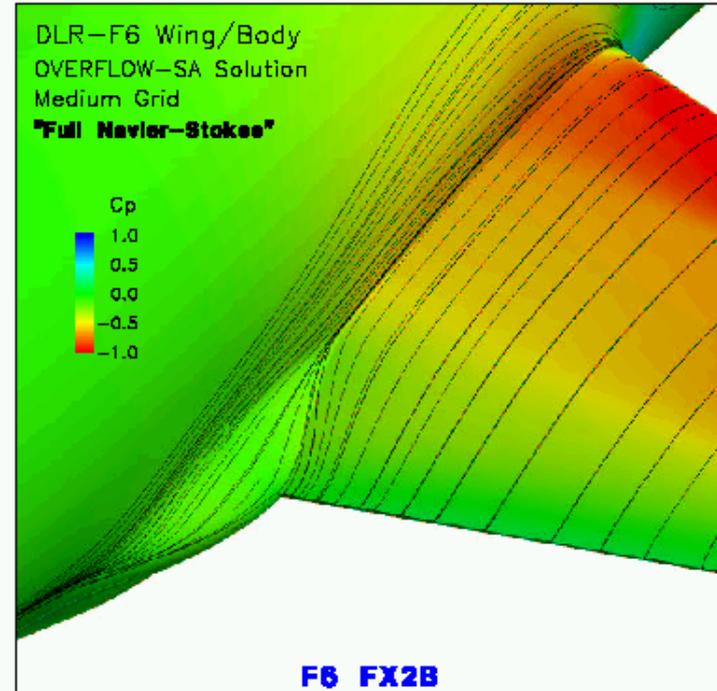
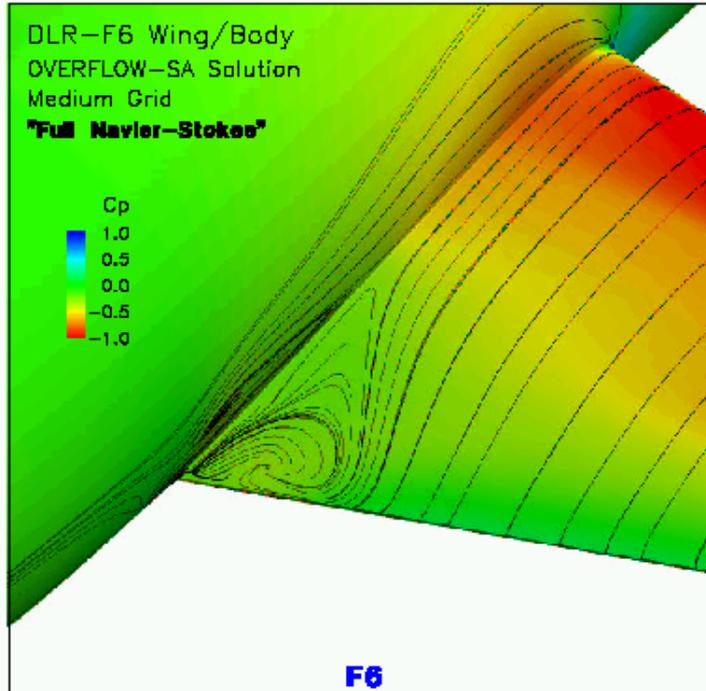


Figure 5.4. Significance of the V-n Diagram

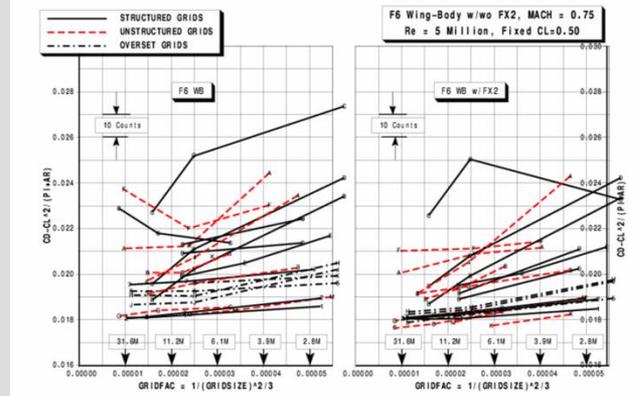


- High accuracy required: 1 count of drag ( $10^{-4}$  of  $C_D$ )
  - CFD approaching wind tunnel accuracy in this flight regime
  - Necessary to reduce risk: Manufacturer performance guarantees
- Predictive ability lacking in most other regions
- **Edges of flight envelope required for certification/safety**

# Drag Prediction Workshop (2001-2012)

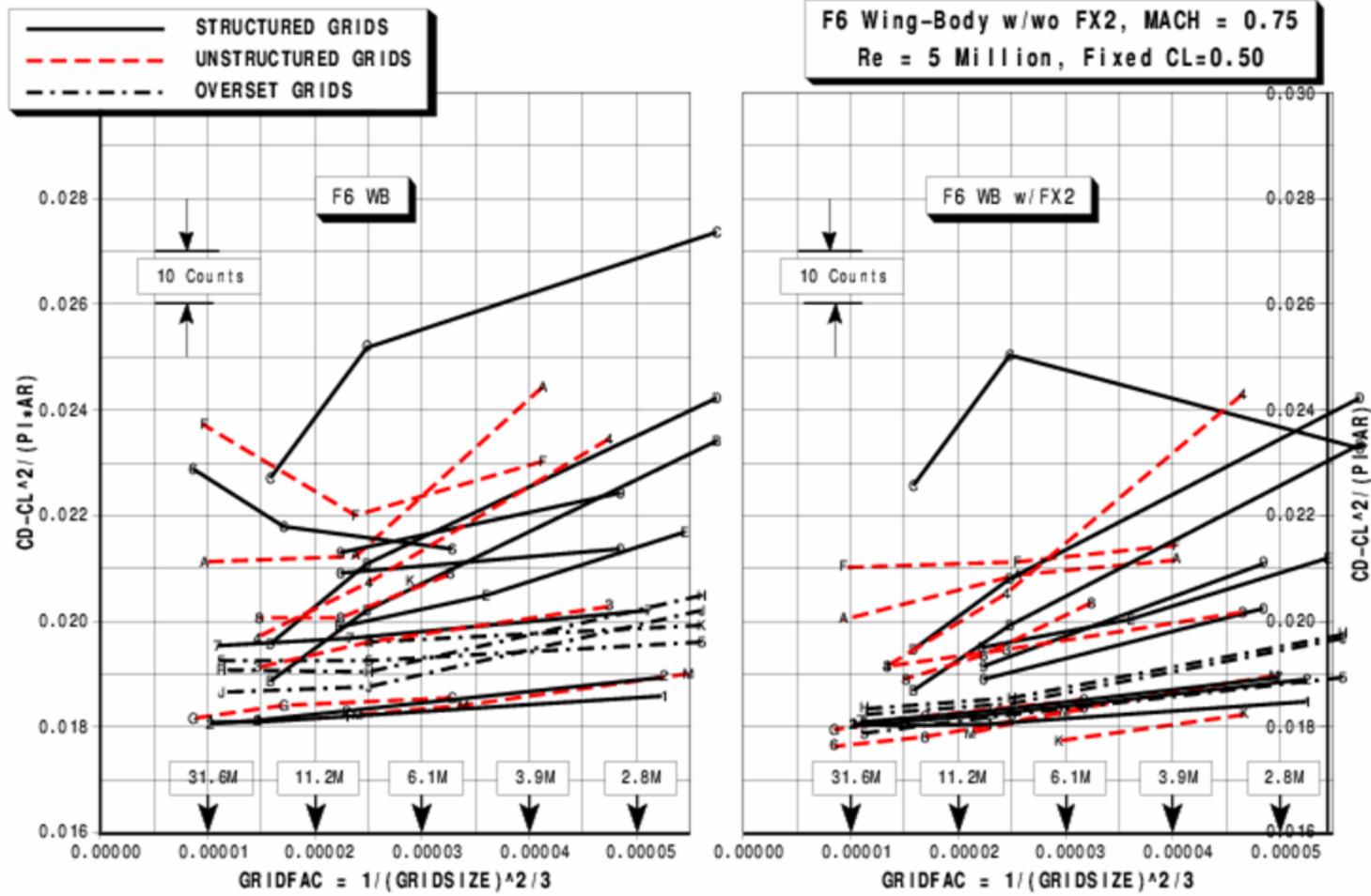


> 20 count scatter  
as grid is refined



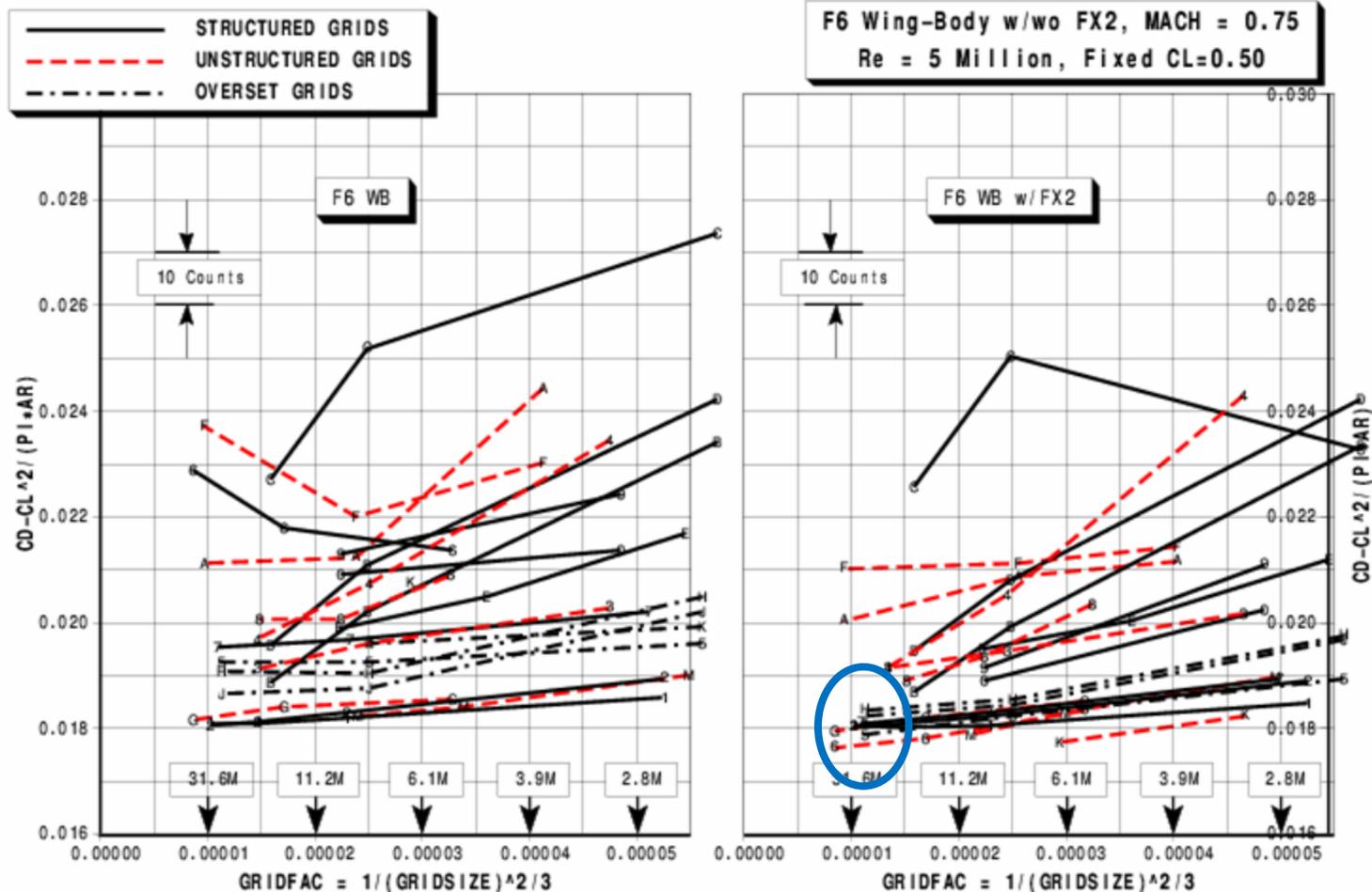
5 count scatter as  
grid is refined

# Collective Workshop Results



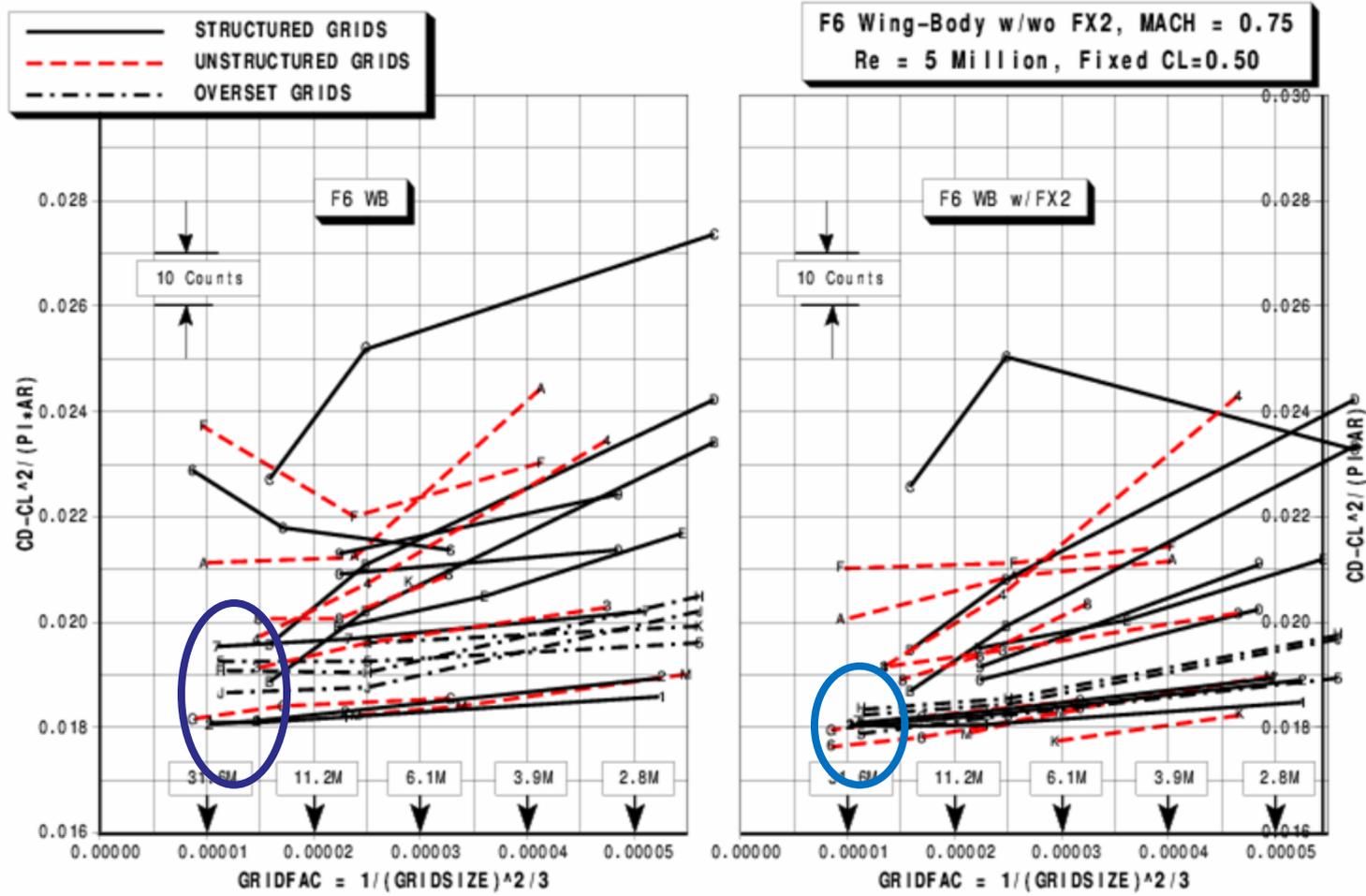
- Idealized drag vs grid index factor ( $N^{-2/3}$ )
  - Wing-body and Wing-body+fairing

# Collective Workshop Results



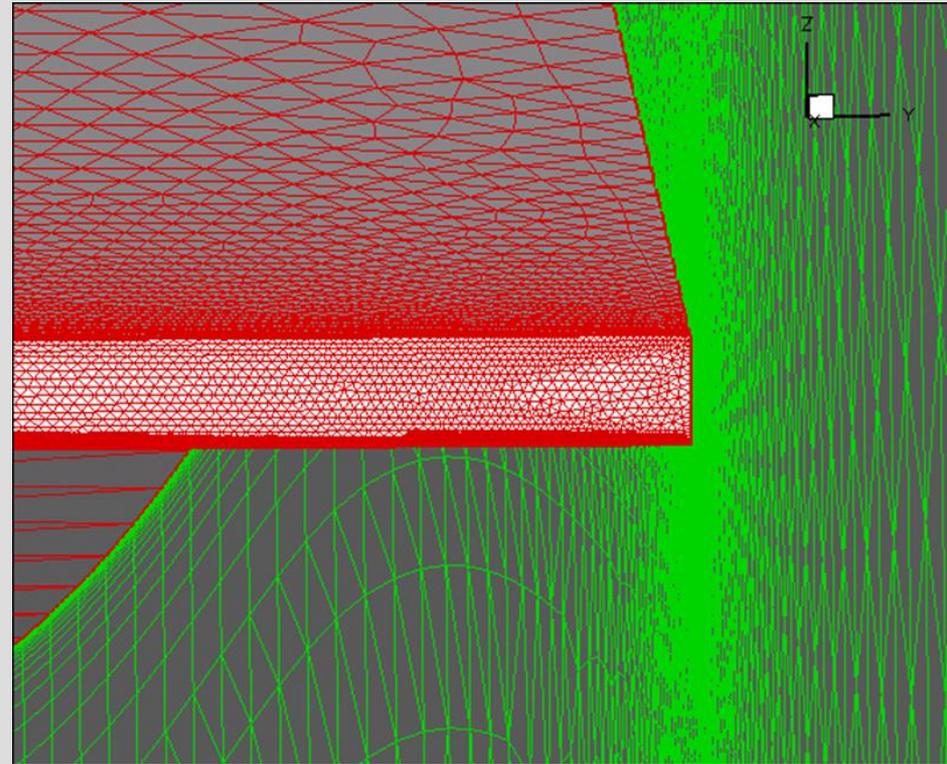
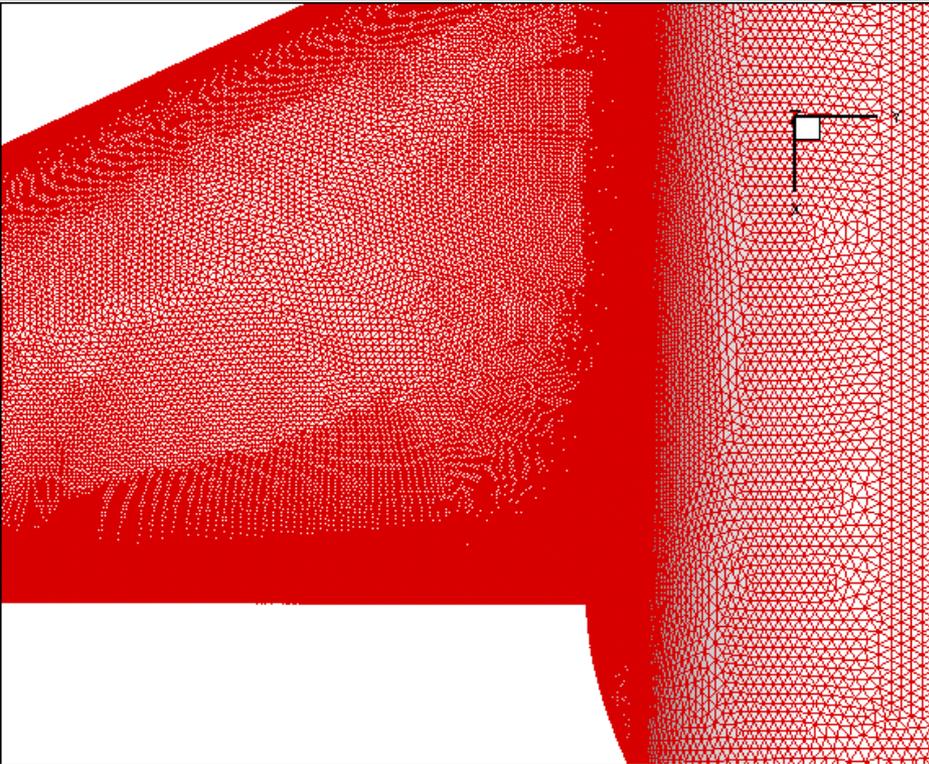
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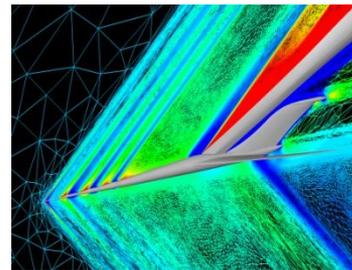
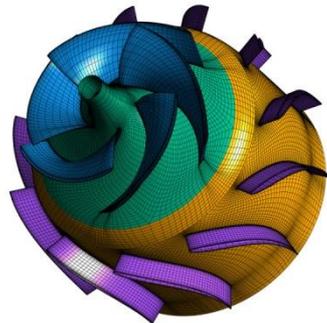
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# Steady RANS Meshing Requirements



- Range of spatial scales
  - Highly anisotropic cells in boundary layer: Resolve to  $y^+=1$ ,  $10^{-6}$  to  $10^{-7}$  wing chords
  - Far-field located 50 to 100 chords
- Production run meshes currently in range  $\sim 100$  million points/cells
- **Spatial discretization error still dominant (workshop conclusions)**

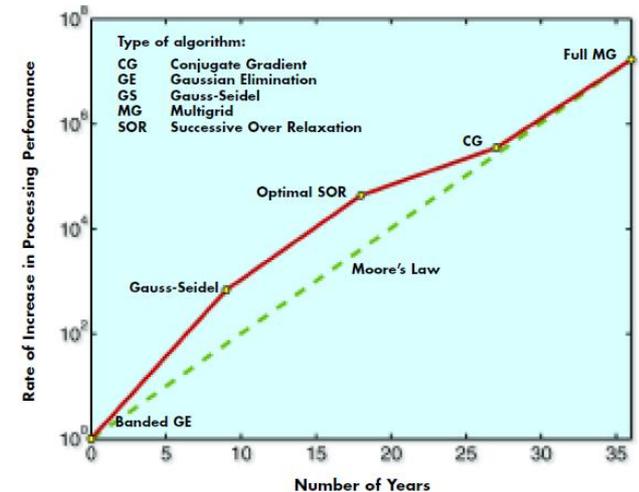
4. **Mesh generation and adaptivity** continue to be **significant bottlenecks** in the CFD workflow, and very little government investment has been targeted in these areas.
- Streamlined and robust geometry (e.g., CAD) access, interfaces, and integration into CFD processes is lacking
  - Large-scale, automated, parallel mesh generation is needed as the size and complexity of CFD simulations increases → *goal is to make grid generation invisible to the CFD analysis process*
  - Robust and optimal **mesh adaptation methods** need to become the norm
  - **Curved mesh element generation** for higher-order discretizations is needed
  - Consider newer strategies like cut cells, strand grids, “meshless”



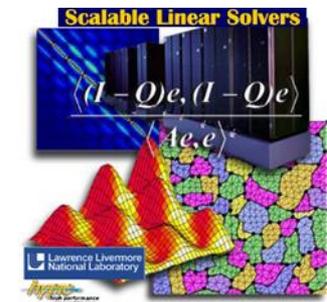
## 5. Revolutionary algorithmic improvements will be required to enable future advances in simulation capability.

- Traditionally equivalent advances in simulation capability derived from:
  - Advances in HPC hardware
  - Algorithmic improvements
  - (increasingly important for large problems)
- NASA investment in solver technology has stalled
  - e.g. Multigrid methods pioneered by NASA (circa 1980's)
  - Unlikely solvers developed in other applications can be leveraged without substantial investment
    - e.g. parallel algebraic multigrid
- Algorithmic breakthroughs required for:
  - (Adaptive) error estimation and control
  - Long-time integration problems (limited spatial parallelism)
  - Uncertainty quantification (curse of dimensionality)
  - Optimization

Improvements in Algorithms Relative to Moore's Law



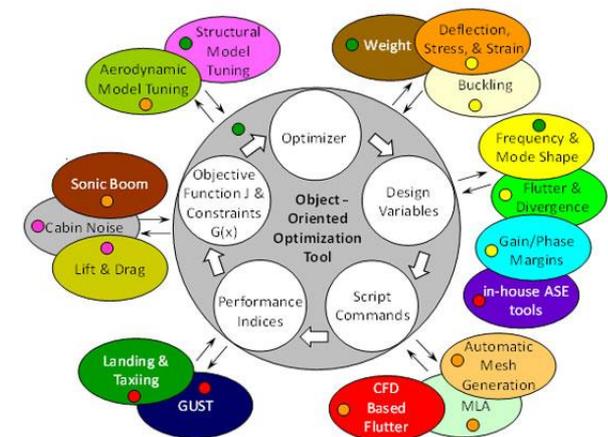
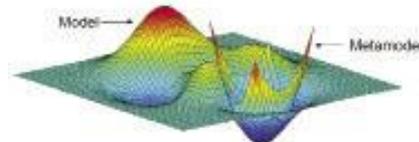
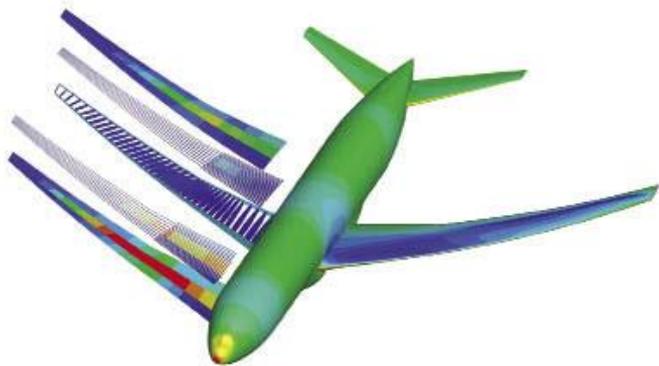
from: SCaLeS 2003, PITAC 2005



# Findings CONTINUED

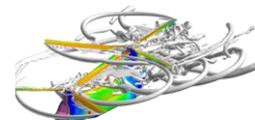
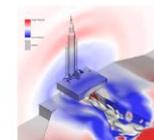
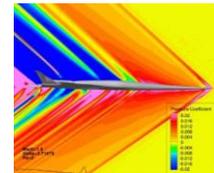
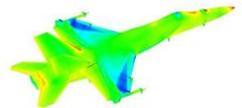
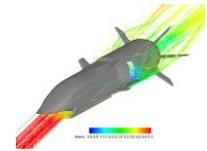
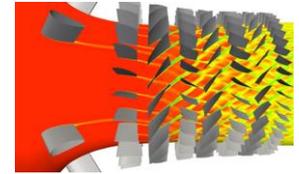
## 7. In order to enable increasingly **multidisciplinary simulations**, for both **analysis and design optimization purposes**, several **advances are required**:

- Individual **component CFD solver robustness and automation** will be required.
- Development of **standards for coupling** of CFD to **high-fidelity** simulations of other disciplines
- Emphasis on the **Science of MDAO** and the development of stable, accurate and conservative techniques for information transfer
- Techniques for **computing sensitivity information** and **propagating uncertainties** in the context of high-fidelity MDAO problems



# Vision of CFD in 2030

- **Emphasis on physics-based, predictive modeling**  
Transition, turbulence, separation, chemically-reacting flows, radiation, heat transfer, and constitutive models, among others.
- **Management of errors and uncertainties**  
From physical modeling, mesh and discretization inadequacies, natural variability (aleatory), lack of knowledge in the parameters of a particular fluid flow problem (epistemic), etc.
- **A much higher degree of automation in all steps of the analysis process** Geometry creation, mesh generation and adaptation, large databases of simulation results, extraction and understanding of the vast amounts of information generated with minimal user intervention.
- **Ability to effectively utilize massively parallel, heterogeneous, and fault-tolerant HPC architectures that will be available in the 2030 time frame** Multiple memory hierarchies, latencies, bandwidths, etc.
- **Flexible use of HPC systems**  
Capability- and capacity-computing tasks in both industrial and research environments.
- **Seamless integration with multi-disciplinary analyses**  
High fidelity CFD tools, interfaces, coupling approaches, etc.



# Grand Challenge Problems

- Represent critical step changes in engineering design capability
- May not be routinely achievable by 2030
- Representative of key elements of major NASA missions.

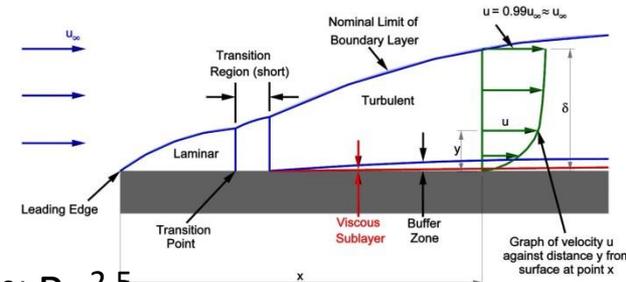
1. Large Eddy Simulation (LES) of a powered aircraft configuration across the full flight envelope
2. Off-design turbofan engine transient simulation
3. Multi-Disciplinary Analysis and Optimization (MDAO) of a highly-flexible advanced aircraft configuration
4. Probabilistic analysis of a powered space access configuration



# GC1: Estimates for Full Aircraft LES

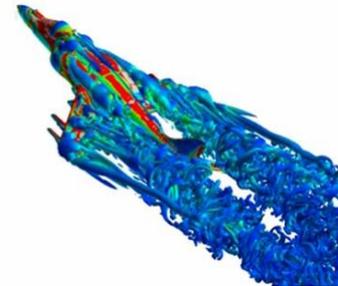
- **Pure LES intractable due to range of scales in Boundary Layer**

- Large aircraft flight Reynolds number  $\sim 50M$
- LES\* (explicit in time) : grid resolution  $\sim Re^{13/7}$ , FLOPS  $\sim Re^{2.5}$ 
  - Resolved to  $y^+ = 1$
- Wall Modeled LES\* (explicit): grid res.  $\sim Re$ , FLOPS  $\sim Re^{1.3}$ 
  - Resolved to  $y^+ = 100$



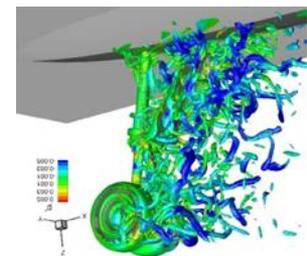
- **Estimates for WMLES for simple wing (AR=10) at flight Re**

- $10^{11}$  to  $10^{12}$  grid points, 500 Pflops for 24hr turnaround
- Simulating transition adds factor of 10 to 100
- Feasible on Exaflop machine



- **Hybrid RANS-LES (DES) starting to be used today**

- Increasing regions of LES (resolved) vs RANS (modeled)
  - HPC advances, Algorithmic advances



[\*]Choi and Moin, “Grid point requirements for LES: Chapman’s estimates revisited”, Phys. Fluids, 24, 011702 (2012)

# GC1:Filling in the flight envelope

- Simple inviscid flow example with 3 parameters

- **Wind-Space:**

- $M_\infty = \{0.2-6.0\}$ ,  $\alpha = \{-5^\circ-30^\circ\}$ ,  $\beta = \{0^\circ-30^\circ\}$

- $P$  has dimensions (38 x 25 x 5)

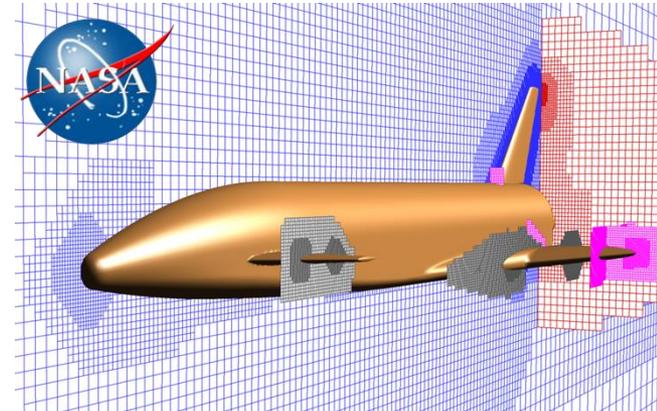
- 2900 simulations

- Complete envelope characterization may involve > 10,000 cases

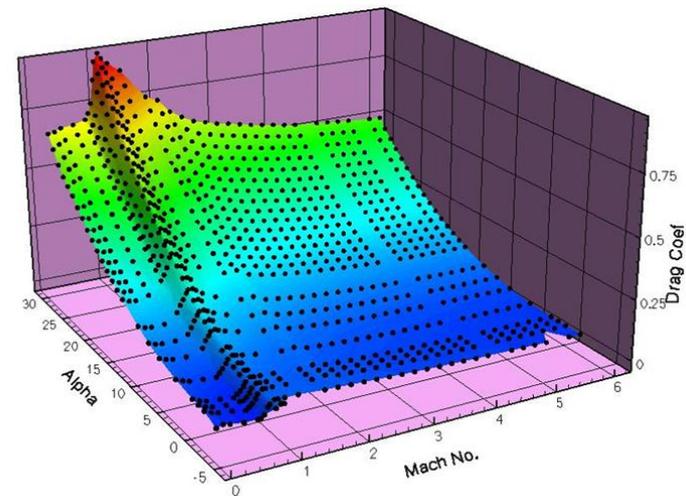
- Alternatively, digital flight simulation with prescribed time dependent maneuvers

- Aerodynamics (CFD)
  - Structural dynamics
  - Flight control system
  - Full dynamic effects

- Initially require lower fidelity modeling

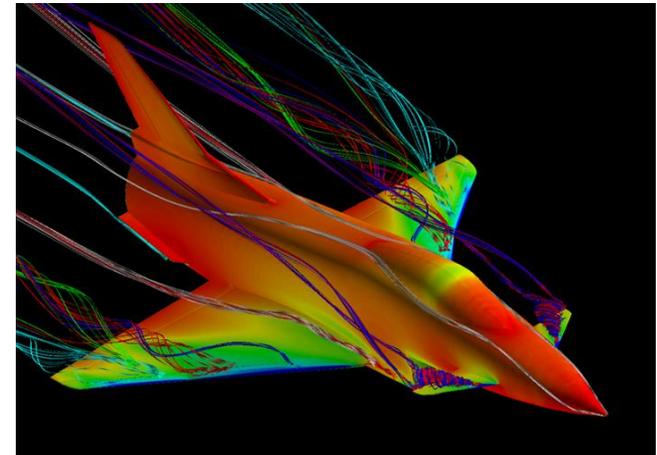
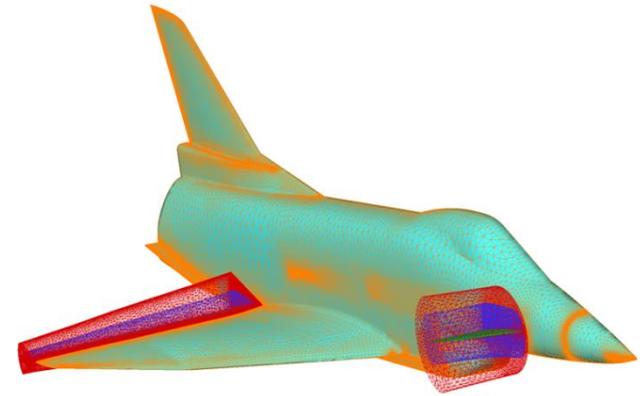


- Liquid glide-back booster
  - Crank delta wing, canards, tail
- Wind-space only



# GC1:Filling in the flight envelope

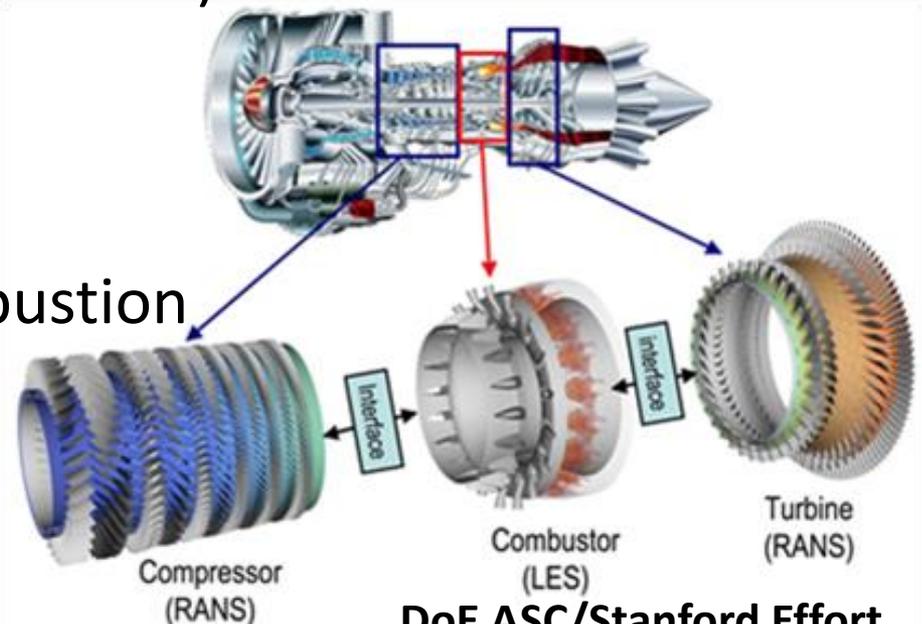
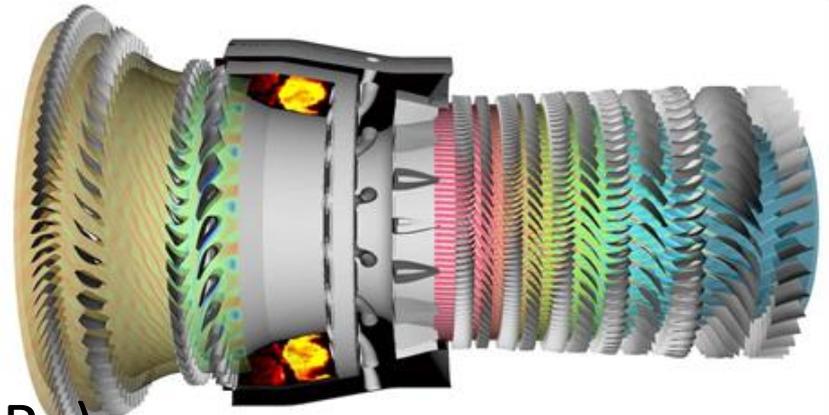
- Simple inviscid flow example with 3 parameters
  - Wind-Space:  
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- A. Schutte, G. Einarsson, A. Raichle, B. Schoning, M. Orlt, J. Neumann, J. Arnold, W. Monnich, and T. Forkert. *Numerical simulation of maneuvering aircraft by aerodynamic, flight mechanics and structural mechanics coupling*. AIAA Paper 2007-1070

# GC2: Transient/Off Design Full Engine Simulation

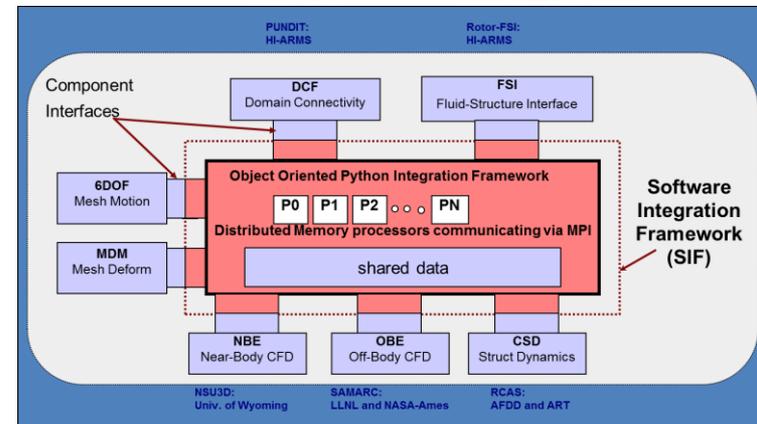
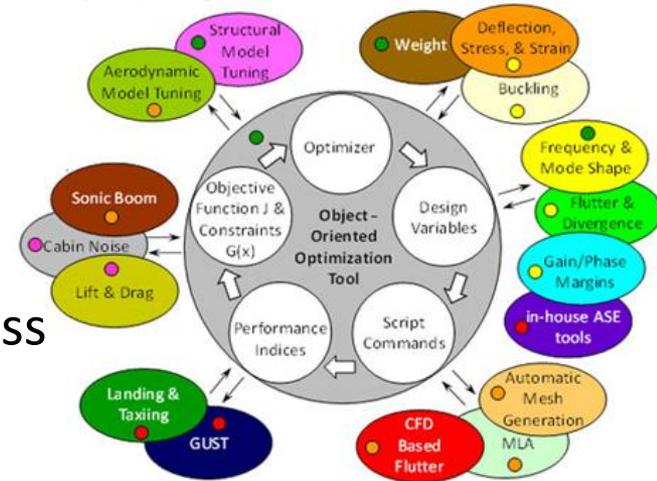
- Complex geometry
- Rotating/static components
- Turbulence and transition
  - Combustor LES feasible (lower Re)
- Conjugate heat transfer
- Combustion
  - NASA computational combustion effort lags DoE, AFOSR



DoE ASC/Stanford Effort

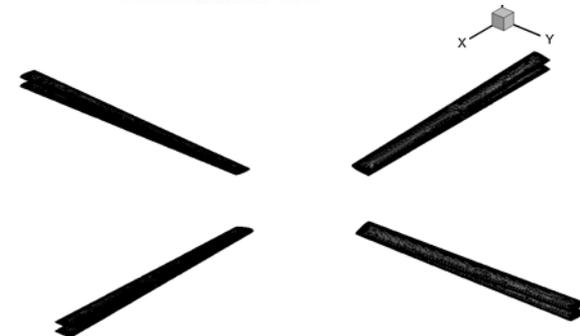
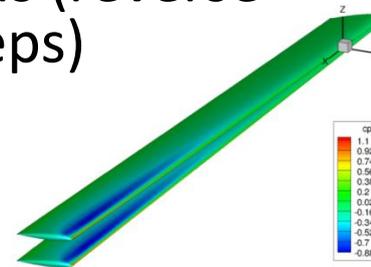
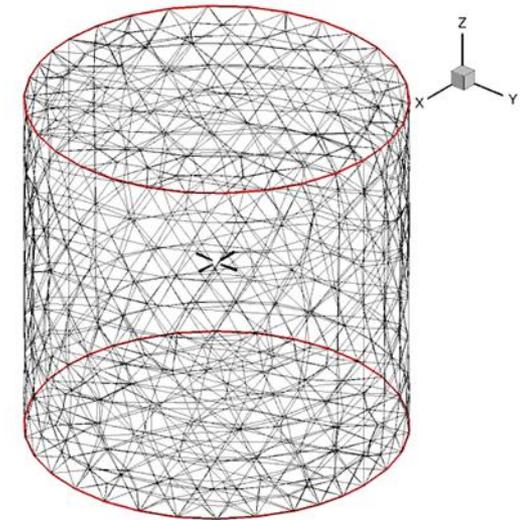
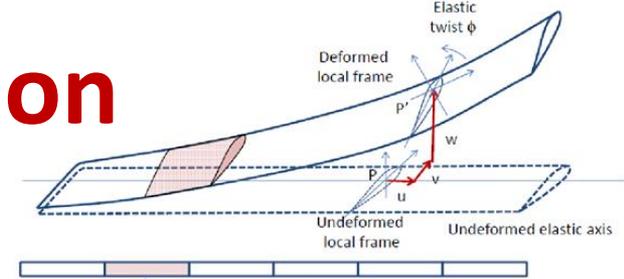
# GC3: Multidisciplinary Analysis and Optimization

- Large scale coupling of multiple disciplines
  - Aero, structures, thermal, controls, acoustics
  - Improvements in disciplinary solver robustness
  - Science of coupling
  - Interfaces and standards
- Difficulties for effective exascale
  - Multiple disciplinary codes
  - Long time histories
    - Limited spatial parallelism in many cases
      - Good enough mesh resolution
  - Gradient-based optimization
    - Sequential iterative in nature



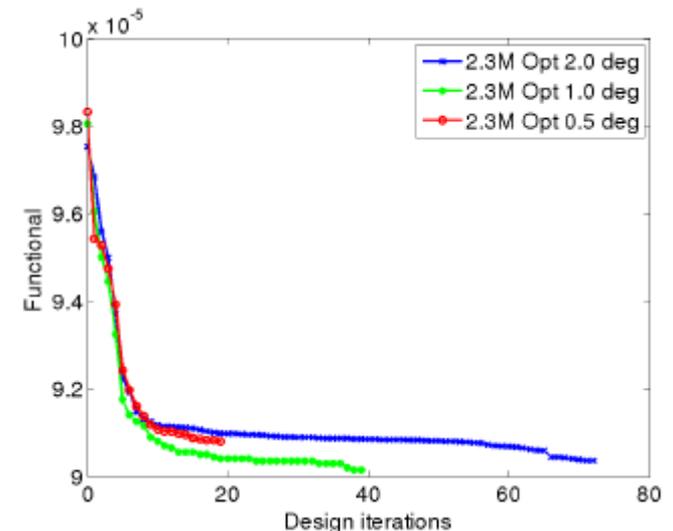
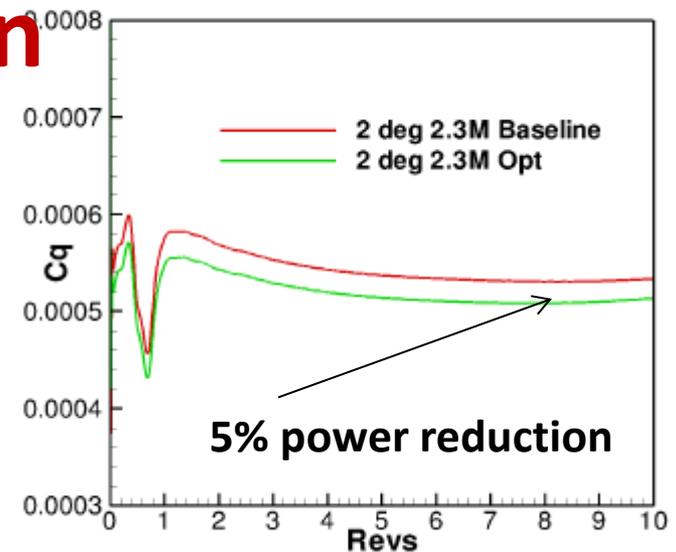
# Example: Time Dependent Aeroelastic Rotor Optimization

- Aerodynamics: 3M point mesh
- Structural model: Beam model 80 elements
- 2.0 degree time step
  - Coupled aero-structural Newton-Krylov solver at each time step
- 20 to 80 design cycles
  - Analysis simulation (forward integration 2000 time steps)
  - Adjoint sensitivity analysis (reverse integration 2000 time steps)
  - Optimization



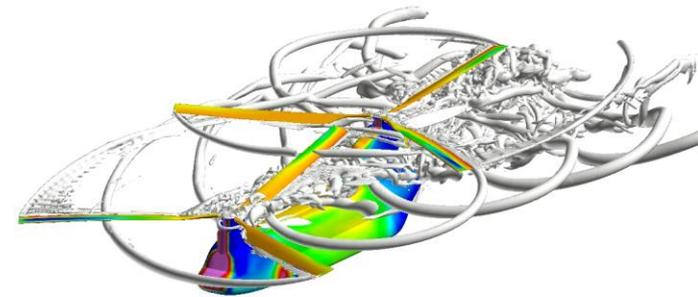
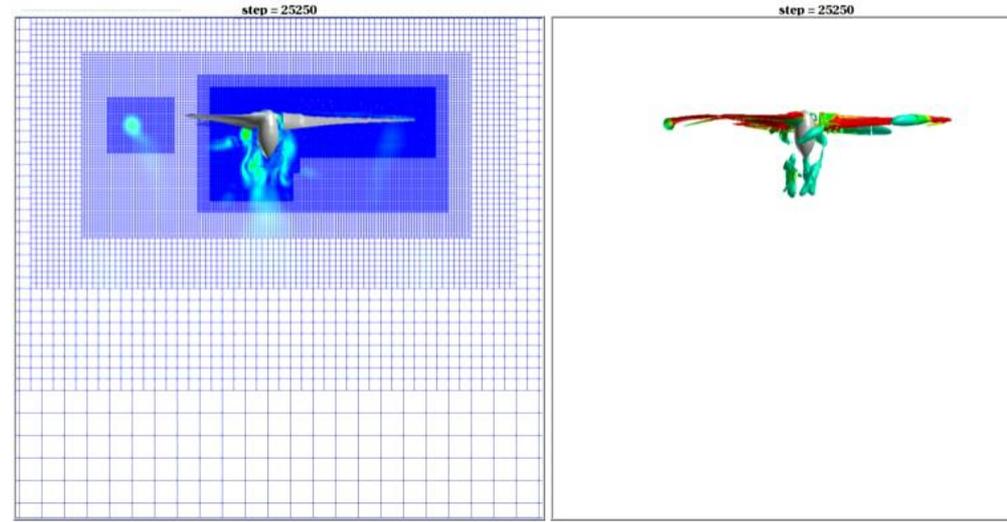
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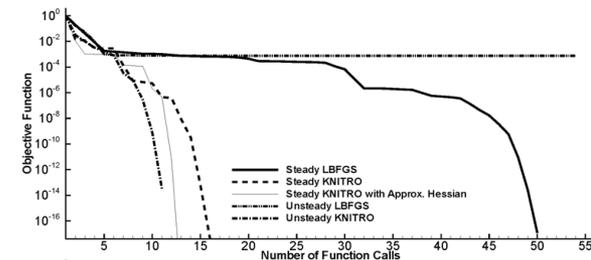
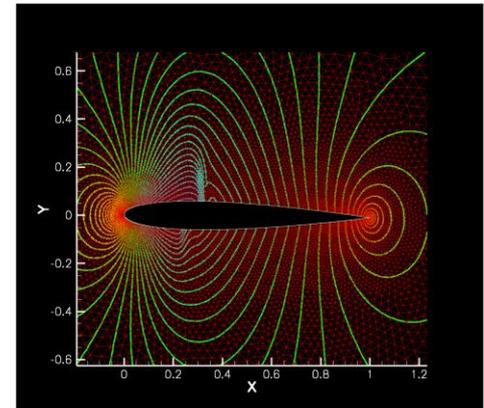
# Desired Capabilities

- Full aircraft configuration
  - Overlapping moving mesh system > 100M points
- Smaller time steps, longer time-integration
- Adaptive temporal and spatial error control
- Additional disciplines
  - Aero-thermo-servo-elastic
- Multi-objective, multi-point, multi-constraint optimization
- Optimization under uncertainty
- All assuming RANS is a suitable model



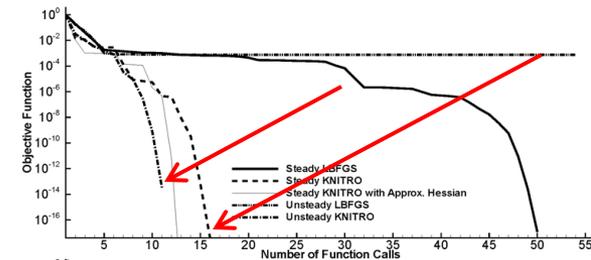
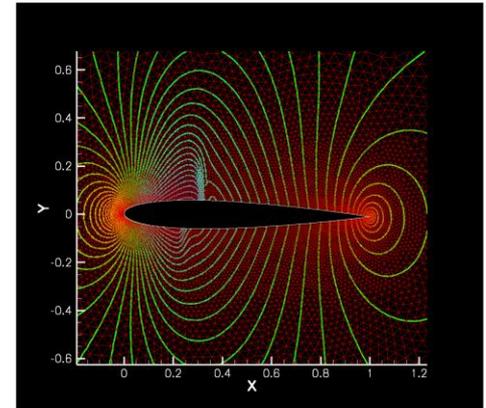
# GC3: Algorithmic Opportunities

- Increased accuracy and efficiency
  - High order accurate discretizations (space and time)
- Accelerated solver convergence
  - Scalable solvers
- Reliable (adjoint) error estimation and robust adaptive processes in space and time
- Parallelism in time
  - Space-time methods
  - Time-spectral methods (periodic problems)
- Parallel optimization
  - Parallel Hessian construction for Newton optimization
  - Combined global/local optimization



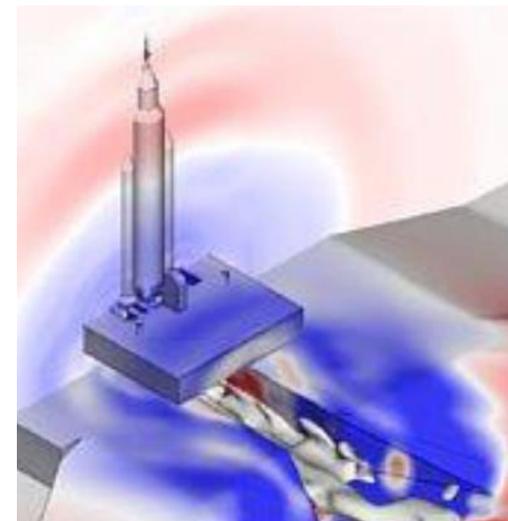
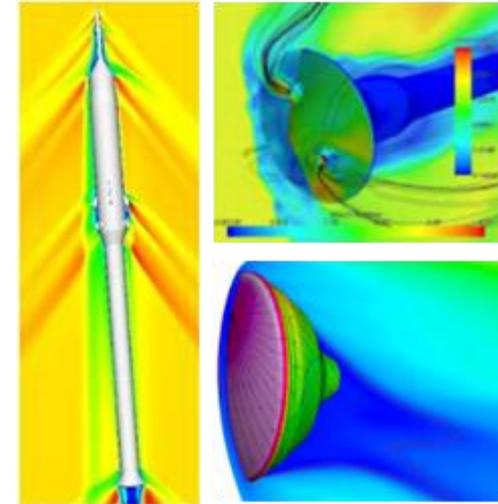
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# GC 4: Probabilistic Launch Vehicle

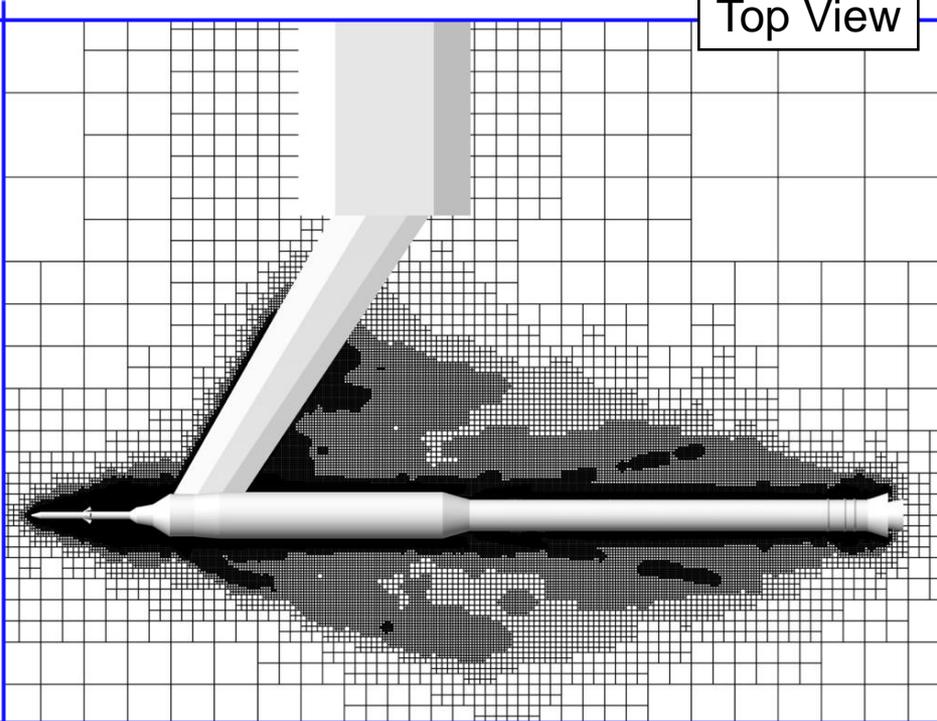
- NASA Space Aerosciences review of capabilities identified principal challenges:
  - Prediction of unsteady separated flows
  - Aero-plume interaction prediction
  - Aerothermal predictions
- Ares I program:
  - Aerocoustic vibrations, buffet
  - Determined CFD more expensive, less reliable than experimental testing (used for unfeasible test conditions)
  - Overly conservative design, reduced payload to orbit
- Mars Science Lab (Curiosity)
  - Data showed overly conservative heat shield design (LAURA)
  - Quantifying uncertainties paramount (1 shot)
- Historically, NASA space programs have used existing computational tools developed within ARMD
  - Columbia Accident Investigation (Overflow, Cart3d)
  - Constellation, SLS, Orion
- Advances will require foundational investments



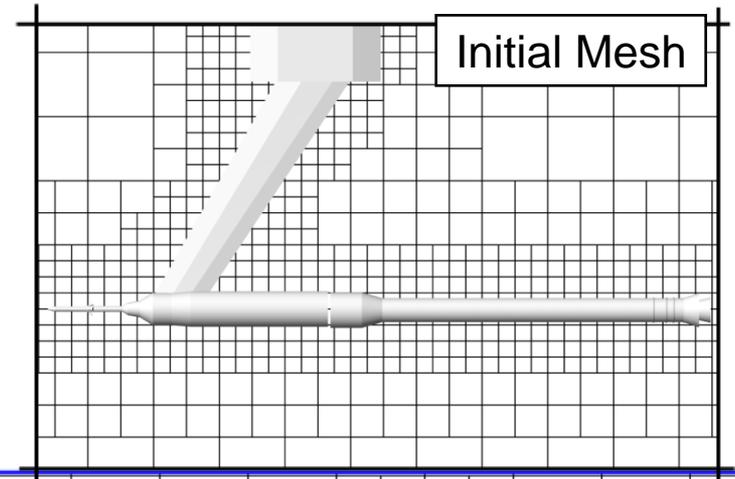


# Adjoint-based Discretization Error Control for Vehicle Stage Separation(CART3D/inviscid)

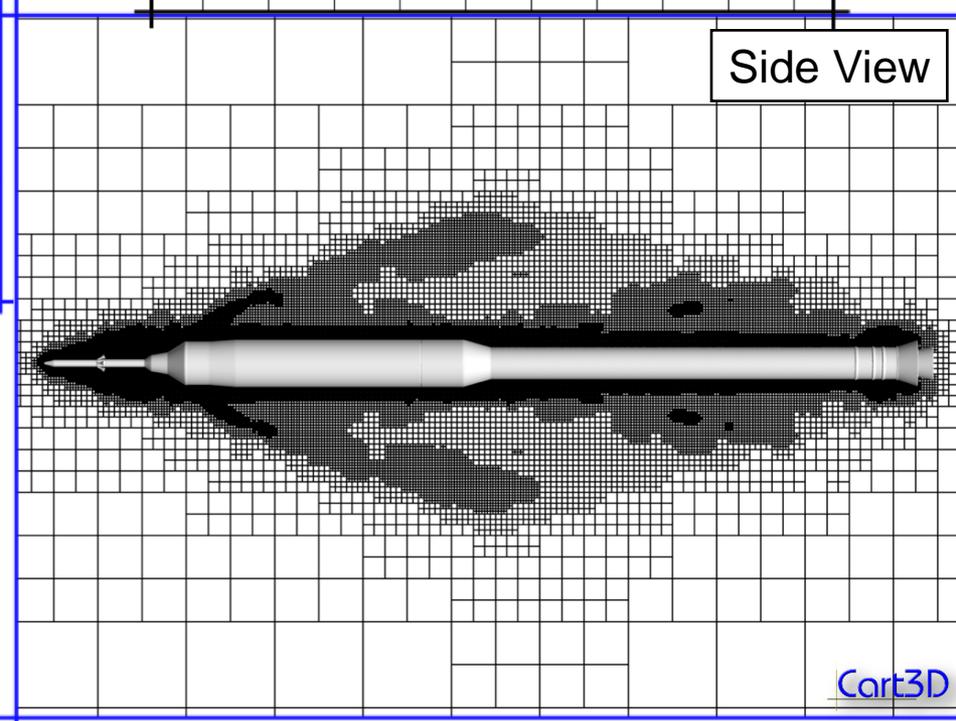
Top View



Initial Mesh



Side View

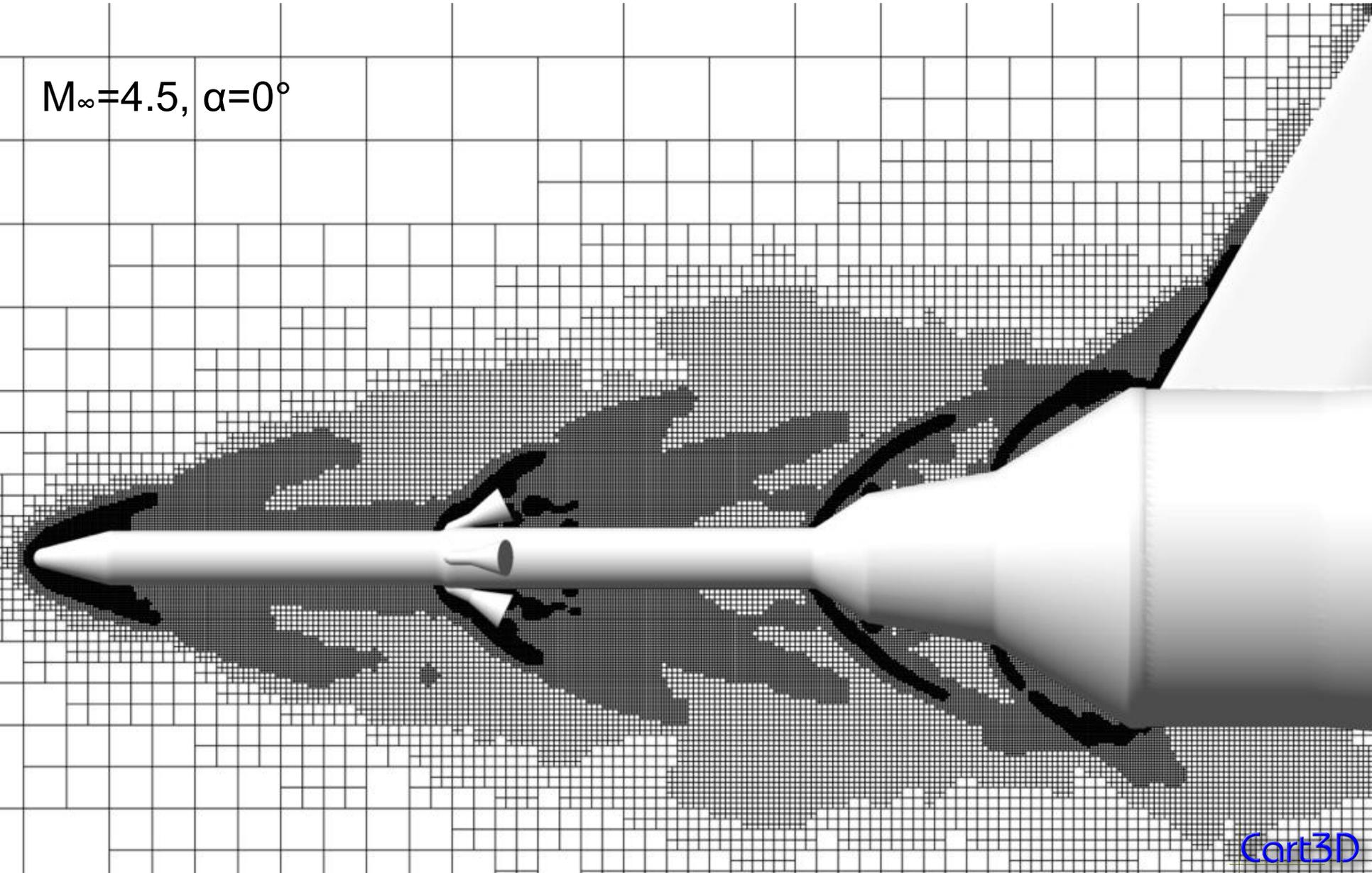


- Minimize error of loads on vehicle upper stage
- Initial mesh contains only 13k cells
- Final meshes contain between 8M to 20M cells



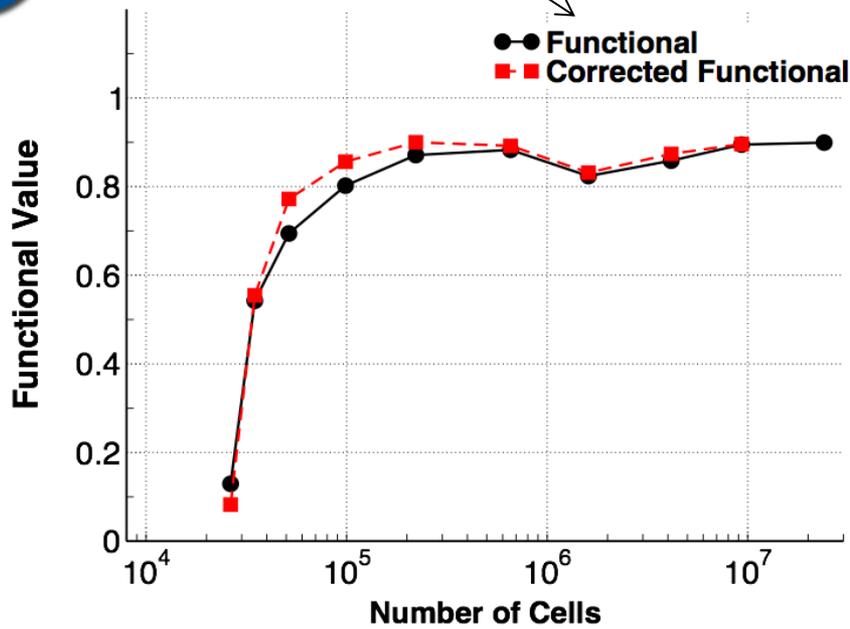
# Pressure Contours

$M_\infty=4.5, \alpha=0^\circ$

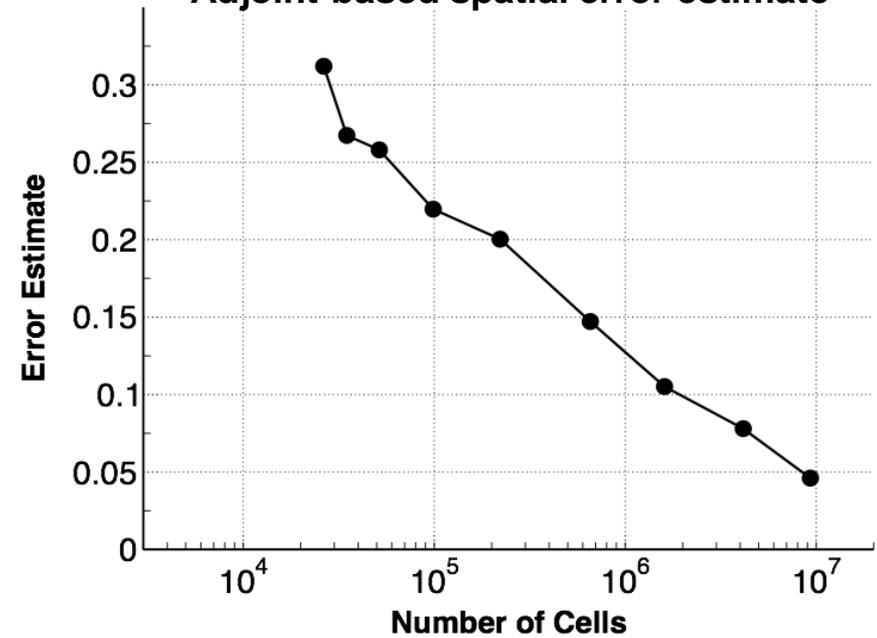




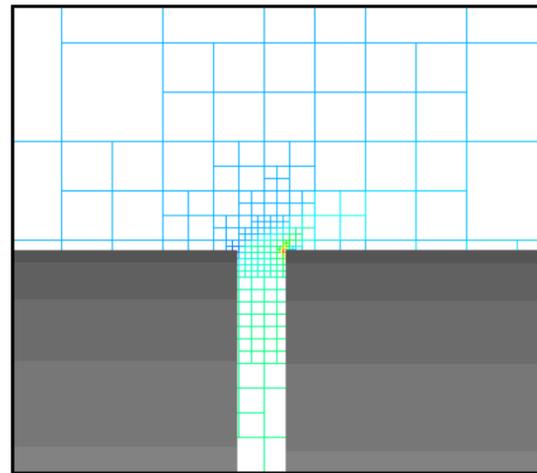
### Upper stage airloads



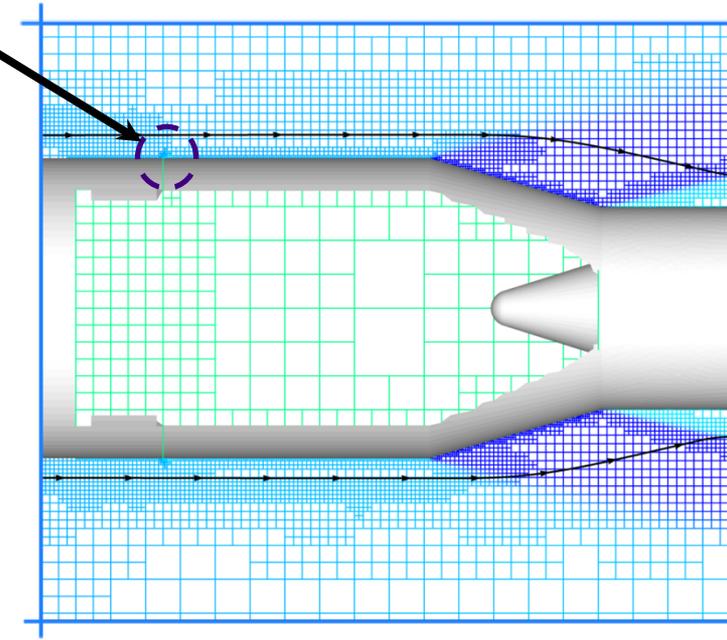
### Adjoint-based spatial error estimate



- Minimal refinement of inter-stage region
- Gap is highly refined
- Overall, excellent convergence of functional and error estimate

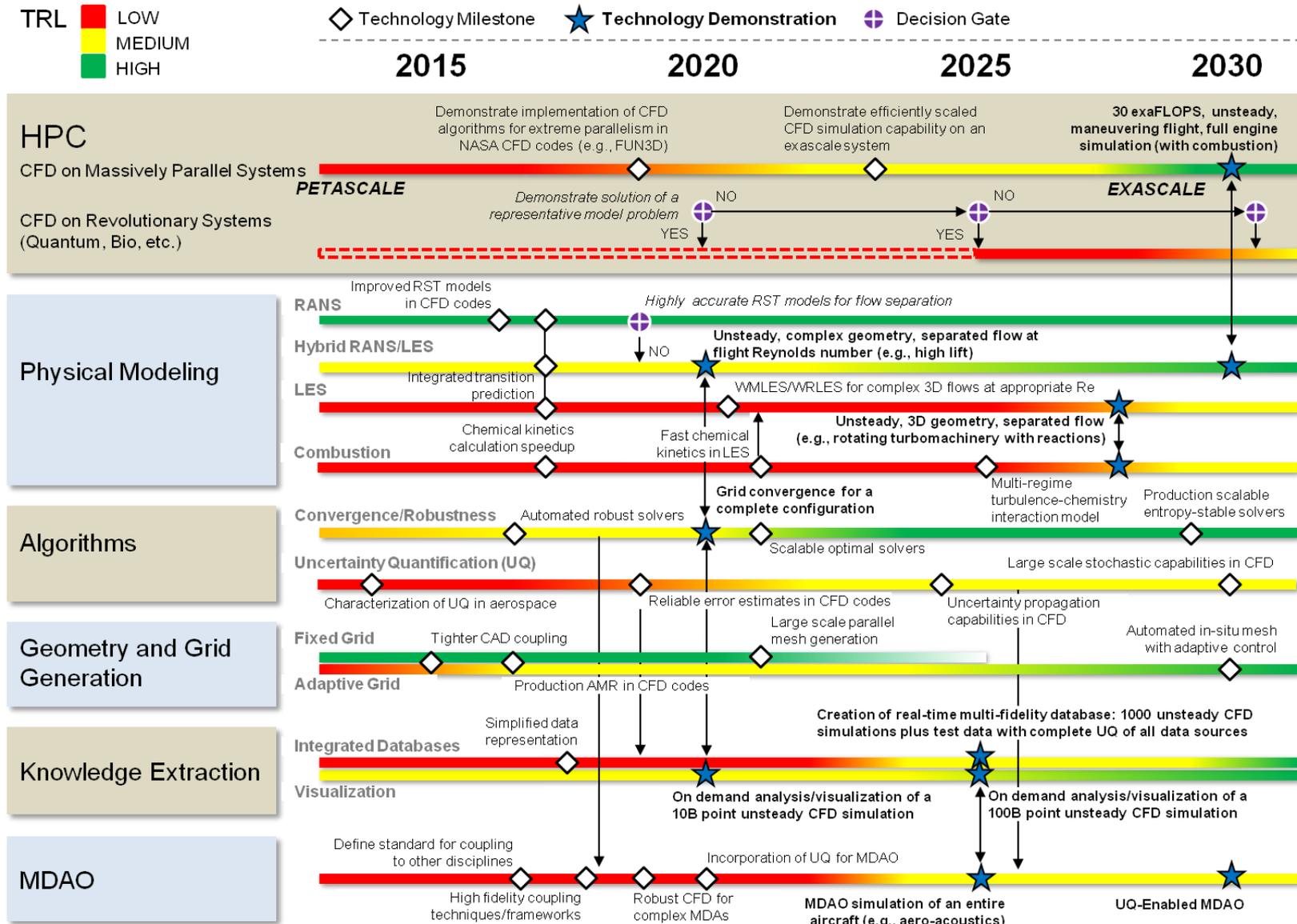


Cutaway view of inter-stage





# Technology Roadmap



# Recommendations CONTINUED

## 3. Make available and utilize HPC systems for large-scale CFD development and testing.

- Provide access to large-scale computing for both throughput (capacity) to support on-going programs, **but also development (capability) to directly support technology demonstrations and progress towards Grand Challenge problems.**
- **Survey of NASA Pleiades Supercomputer (October 2013)**
  - 200,000 cores: #19 on Top 500 list
  - 469 jobs, average 457 cores per job
  - Largest job: 5000 cores (only job > 1000 cores)
- **Selected NASA projects using INCITE resources**
- **Strategic HPC approach required**
  - Make large scale HPC available for software research and development
  - Investigate emerging architectures
  - Shared investment within NASA and across other government agencies



# Recommendations CONTINUED

5. **Develop, foster, and leverage improved collaborations with key research partners and industrial stakeholders across disciplines within the broader scientific and engineering communities.**
  - Aerospace engineering arguably has been the leading application in computational engineering
    - Unique interaction between government (NASA, DoD), industry, academia
  - Computational science in aerospace engineering is underfunded and insular
    - National Aerospace R&D Plan (OSTP) focuses on aerospace specific outcomes with no mention of foundational technologies in applied math, computer science, HPC etc.
  - Leverage other government agencies and stakeholders (US and foreign) outside of the aerospace field → *collaborate with DoE, DoD, NSF, NIST, etc.*
  - Re-emphasize basic funding in applied math and computer science → *Advanced developments in CFD will require breakthroughs in numerical algorithms and efficient solution techniques for emerging HPC systems*

# Conclusions

- Exascale will enable revolutionary capabilities in aerospace analysis, design, understanding, capabilities
  - Decadal Survey of Civil Aeronautics (NAE):** *“...an important benefit of advances in physics-based analysis tools is the new technology and systems frontiers they open”*
- Improved simulation capabilities bring:
  - Superior/more capable designs
  - Reduced development cycle time/cost/risk
  - Scientific and industrial competitiveness
- Holy grail of aerospace product development: **Certification by analysis**
- Achieving exascale for aeronautical /aerospace applications will be very challenging
  - Requires sustained foundational investment
  - Strong engagement with national HPC efforts and CSE communities

