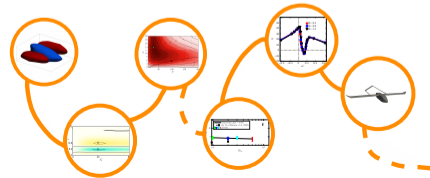


Skin-friction drag reduction in turbulent flows

Federica Gattere

February 17, 2025

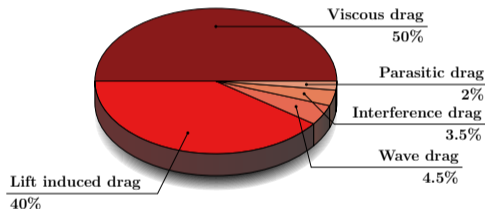
Dipartimento di Scienze e Tecnologie Aerospaziali
Politecnico di Milano



Motivation

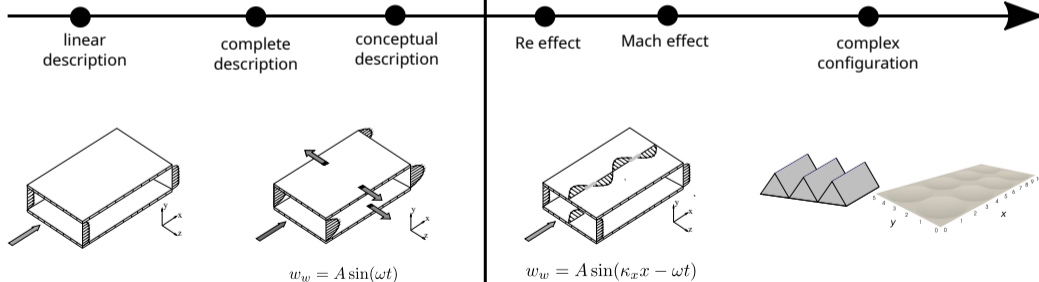
- 50% of an aircraft's drag comes from **viscous effects**
- An efficient drag reduction (\mathcal{R}) technology would have huge economic and **environmental benefits**

$$\mathcal{R} = \frac{C_{f,0} - C_f}{C_{f,0}}$$



Understanding wall-bounded turbulence
towards its control

Understanding controlled turbulence
towards applications



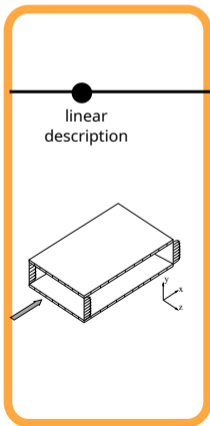
Part I:

**Understanding wall-bounded
turbulence towards its control**

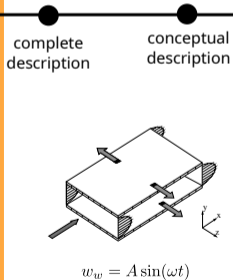
Understanding wall-bounded turbulence towards its control

Understanding wall-bounded turbulence towards its control

Understanding controlled turbulence towards applications



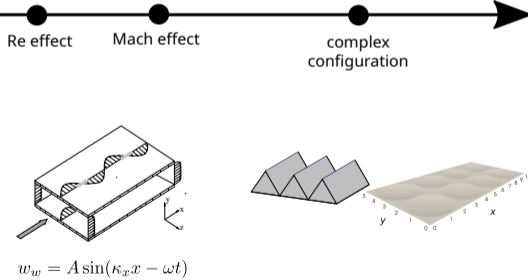
linear description



complete description

conceptual description

$$w_w = A \sin(\omega t)$$

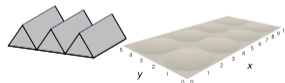


Re effect

Mach effect

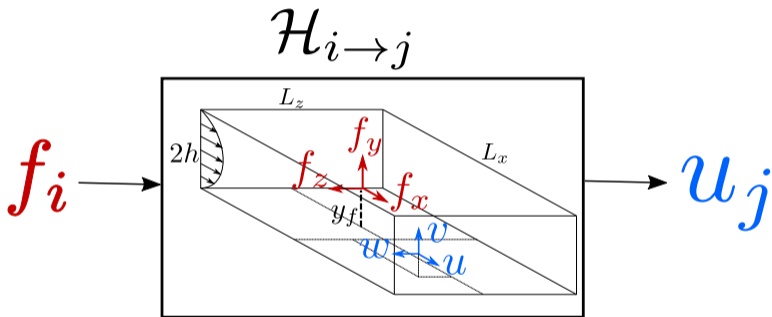
complex configuration

$$w_w = A \sin(\kappa_x x - \omega t)$$



The linear impulse response function (LIRF)

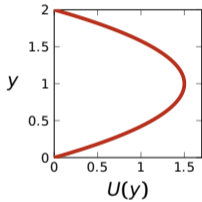
Relationship between each **volume force** and each **velocity** component



$$\langle u_j(\alpha, y, \beta, t; y_f) \rangle = \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \langle \mathcal{H}_{i \rightarrow j}(\alpha, y, \beta, t - \tau; y_f) \epsilon f_i(\alpha, \beta, \tau; y_f) \rangle d\tau$$

How to define and measure the LIRF

Laminar



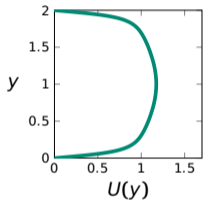
- ϵ needs to be **small** enough for the response to be **linear**

Previous work

- Stability theory: Jovanovic & Bamieh 2005, JFM
- Control theory: Höpfner et al. 2005, JFM

How to define and measure the LIRF

Pseudo-turbulent



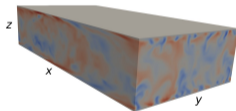
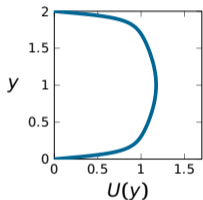
- ϵ needs to be **small** enough for the response to be **linear**

Previous work

- Resolvent analysis: McKeon & Sharma 2010, JFM
Vararevu et al. 2019, JFM

How to define and measure the LIRF

Turbulent



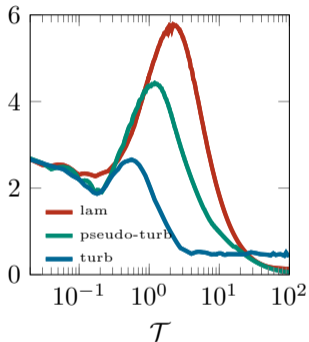
Previous work

- Luchini et al. 2006, PoF

- ϵ needs to be **small** enough for the response to be **linear**
- ϵ **too small** compared to **turbulent fluctuations**
- LIRF can be computed as an ensemble average
- LIRF can be computed as an **input-output correlation**

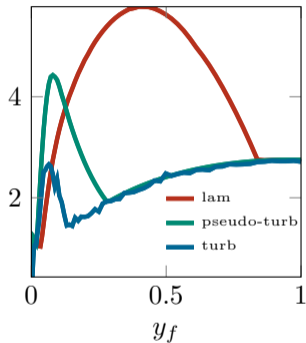
Result: $\mathcal{H}_{y \rightarrow u}$

$$\max_{\alpha, y, \beta, y_f} |\mathcal{H}_{y \rightarrow u}(\alpha, y, \beta, t; y_f)|$$



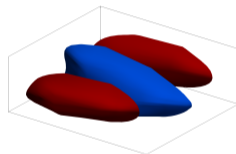
- transient growth
- $T_{\text{turb}}^+ \approx 5$

$$\max_{\alpha, \beta, t, y_f} |\mathcal{H}_{y \rightarrow u}(\alpha, y, \beta, t; y_f)|$$



- buffer layer
- $y_{f, \text{turb}}^+ \approx 10$

$$|\mathcal{H}_{y \rightarrow u}(x, y, z, t; y_f^+ \approx 10)|$$

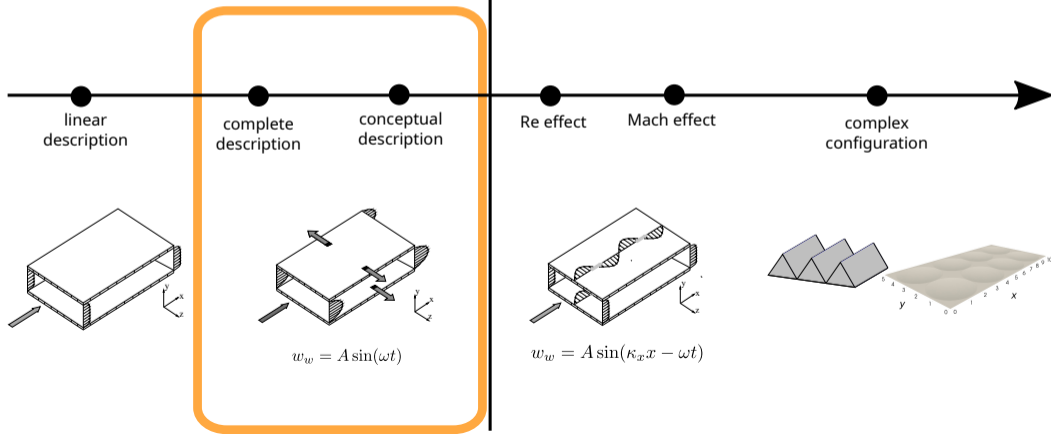


- streaks

Understanding wall-bounded turbulence towards its control

Understanding wall-bounded turbulence towards its control

Understanding controlled turbulence towards applications

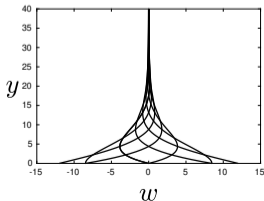


The oscillating wall (Jung et al. 1992, PoF)

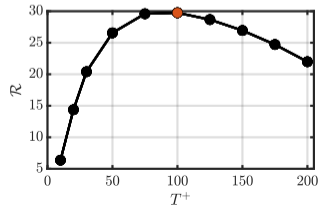
$$w_w = A \sin(\omega t) \quad \omega = \frac{2\pi}{T}$$

The Stokes Layer

$$w(y) = Ae^{y/\sqrt{\nu T/\pi}} \sin\left(\frac{2\pi}{T}t - \frac{y}{\sqrt{\nu T/\pi}}\right)$$

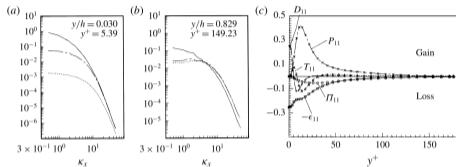


Optimum oscillation period



Phase-aware Anisotropic Generalised Kolmogorov Equations (φ AGKE)

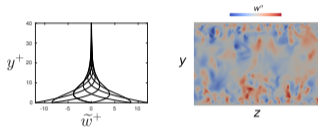
- Anisotropic flows (Gatti et al. 2020, JFM)



$$\delta u'_i \delta u'_j =$$

$$(u'_i(X + r/2, t) - u'_i(X - r/2, t))(u'_j(X + r/2, t) - u'_j(X - r/2, t))$$

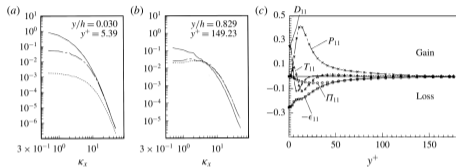
- Periodic/coherent flows



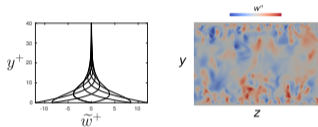
$$u_i = U_i + \underbrace{\tilde{u}_i + u''_i}_{u'_i}$$

Phase-aware Anisotropic Generalised Kolmogorov Equations (φ AGKE)

- Anisotropic flows (Gatti et al. 2020, JFM)



- Periodic/coherent flows



$$\delta u'_i \delta u'_j =$$

$$(u'_i(X + r/2, t) - u'_i(X - r/2, t))(u'_j(X + r/2, t) - u'_j(X - r/2, t))$$

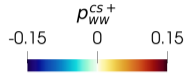
$$u_i = U_i + \underbrace{\tilde{u}_i + u''_i}_{u'_i}$$

$$\frac{2\pi}{T} \frac{\partial \overline{\delta \tilde{u}_i \delta \tilde{u}_j}}{\partial \varphi} + \frac{\partial \phi_{k,ij}^c}{\partial r_k} + \frac{\partial \psi_{k,ij}^c}{\partial X_k} = p_{ij}^{mc} - p_{ij}^{cs} + \pi_{ij}^c + d_{ij}^c + \zeta_{ij}^c$$

$$\frac{2\pi}{T} \frac{\partial \overline{\delta u''_i \delta u''_j}}{\partial \varphi} + \frac{\partial \phi_{k,ij}^s}{\partial r_k} + \frac{\partial \psi_{k,ij}^s}{\partial X_k} = p_{ij}^{ms} + p_{ij}^{cs} + \pi_{ij}^s + d_{ij}^s$$

$$p_{ww}^{cs} = -2 \overline{\delta v'' \delta w''} \frac{d\tilde{w}}{dy}$$

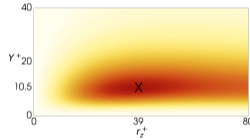
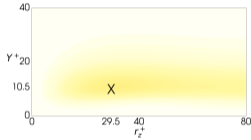
Interaction between the control and the turbulence



$T^+ \approx 100 (\mathcal{R} = 25\%)$

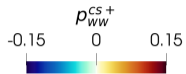
$T^+ \approx 250 (\mathcal{R} = 13\%)$

$$\sum_{\varphi} p_{ww}^{cs}$$



One way interaction:
coherent \rightarrow stochastic

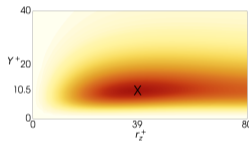
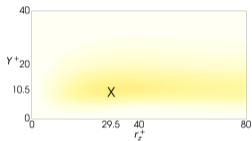
Interaction between the control and the turbulence



$T^+ \approx 100 (\mathcal{R} = 25\%)$

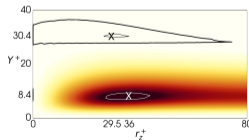
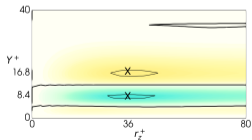
$T^+ \approx 250 (\mathcal{R} = 13\%)$

$$\sum_{\varphi} p_{ww}^{cs}$$



One way interaction:
coherent \rightarrow stochastic

$$p_{ww}^{cs}(\varphi = \frac{2\pi}{4} T)$$



Two ways interaction:
coherent \leftrightarrow stochastic

Interpretations of the oscillating wall optimal parameter

Maximum \mathcal{R} : $T_{opt}^+ \approx 100$

Possible interpretations:

- Time scale
- Longitudinal length scale
- Lateral displacement
- Penetration depth length scale

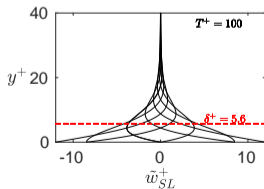
Conceptual description: a thought experiment

Oscillating wall:

Periodic movement of the wall

$$\tilde{w}_{SL} = Ae^{y/\delta_{SL}} \sin\left(\frac{2\pi}{T}t - \frac{y}{\delta_{SL}}\right)$$

$$\delta_{SL} = \sqrt{\frac{\nu T}{\pi}}$$

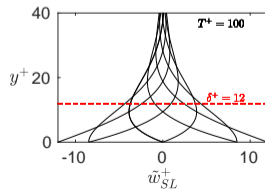


Extended Stokes Layer:

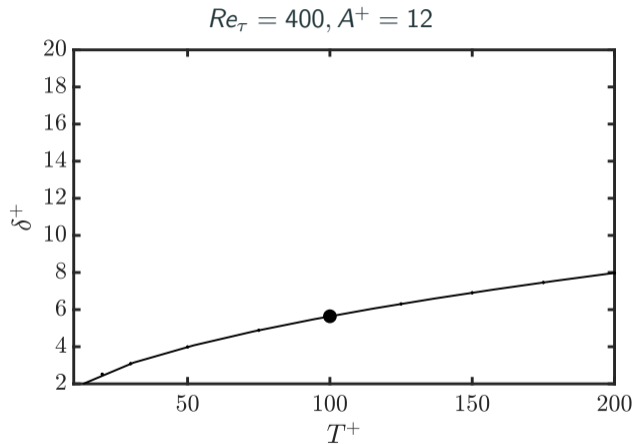
Imposition of velocity profile $w_{ESL}(y, t)$

$$\tilde{w}_{ESL} = Ae^{y/\delta_{ESL}} \sin\left(\frac{2\pi}{T}t - \frac{y}{\delta_{ESL}}\right)$$

$$\delta_{ESL} \neq \sqrt{\frac{\nu T}{\pi}}$$



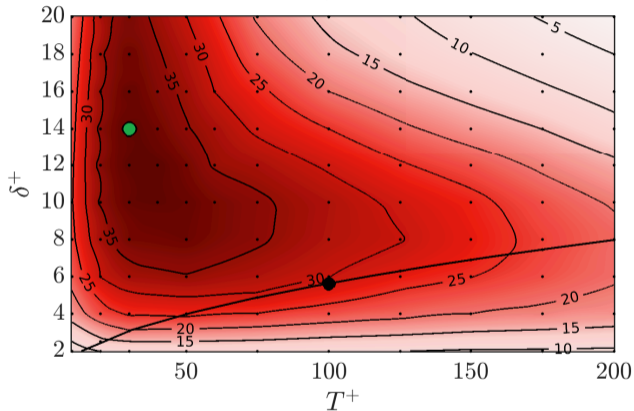
Control parameters: Drag reduction map



$$T_{opt}^+ = 100, \delta_{opt}^+ \approx 6 \rightarrow \mathcal{R} \approx 30\%$$

Control parameters: Drag reduction map

$Re_\tau = 400, A^+ = 12$



$$T_{opt}^+ = 100, \delta_{opt}^+ \approx 6 \rightarrow \mathcal{R} \approx 30\%$$



$$T_{opt}^+ = 30, \delta_{opt}^+ = 14 \rightarrow \mathcal{R} \approx 40\%$$

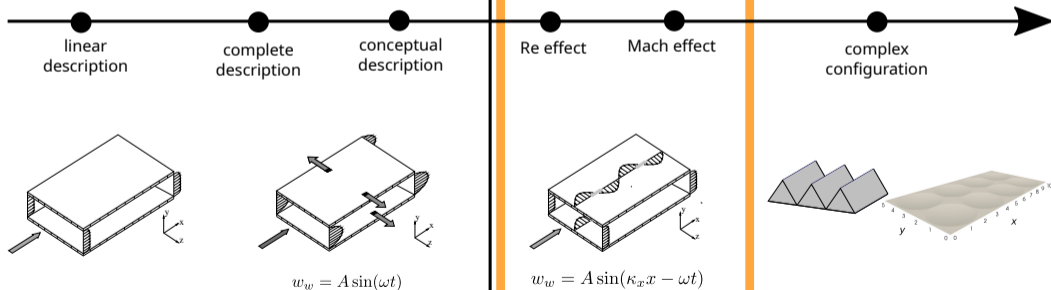
Part II:

**Understanding controlled turbulence
towards applications**

Understanding controlled turbulence towards applications

Understanding wall-bounded turbulence
towards its control

Understanding controlled turbulence
towards applications



Motivation

- Gatti & Quadrio 2016, JFM:
 \mathcal{R} marginally **decreases** with Re
- Marusic et al. 2021, Nat. Commun.:
 \mathcal{R} **increases** with Re if the control **targets large scale** structures

Effect of Reynolds number or of the study limitations?

- Gatti & Quadrio 2016, JFM:
 \mathcal{R} marginally **decreases** with Re

Limitations:

- small domain
- small Re

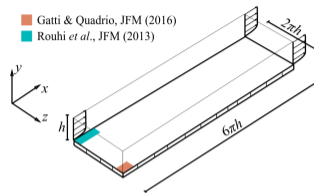
- Marusic et al. 2021, Nat. Commun.:
 \mathcal{R} **increases** with Re if the control **targets large scale** structures

Limitations:

- different flows and methods
- LES: small domain
- Experiments: control parameters fixed in outer units

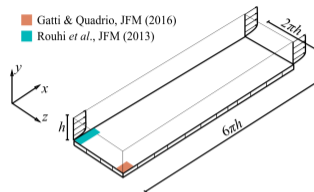
No effect of Reynolds number on drag reduction

- Large-domain DNS
- Open channel flow
- Re_τ : 1000-6000

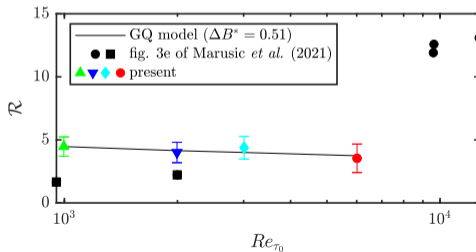


No effect of Reynolds number on drag reduction

- Large-domain DNS
- Open channel flow
- Re_{τ} : 1000-6000



$$A^+ = 5, \kappa_x^+ = 0.00078, \omega^+ = -0.0105$$



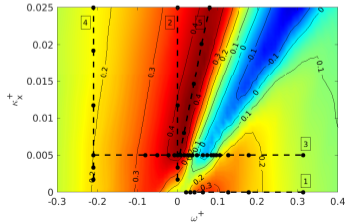
\mathcal{R} marginally decreases with Re

Motivation

- Yao & Hussain 2019, JFM
- Oscillating wall
- \mathcal{R} increases with Mach number

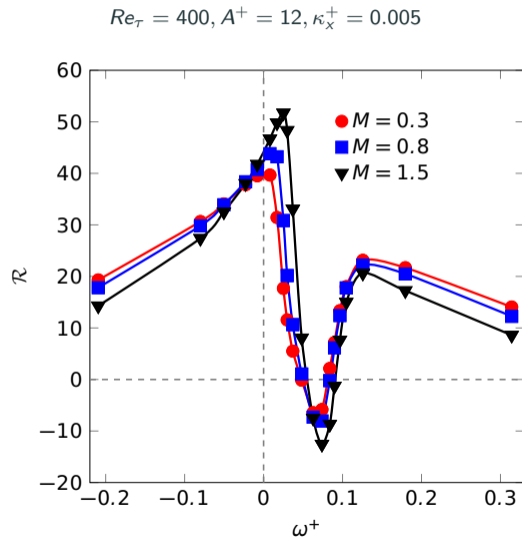
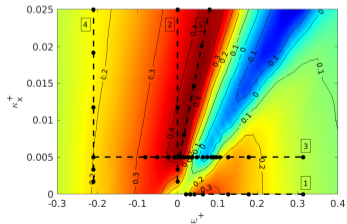
Motivation

- Yao & Hussain 2019, JFM
- Oscillating wall
- \mathcal{R} increases with Mach number
- Present work
- Travelling waves



Motivation

- Yao & Hussain 2019, JFM
- Oscillating wall
- \mathcal{R} increases with Mach number
- Present work
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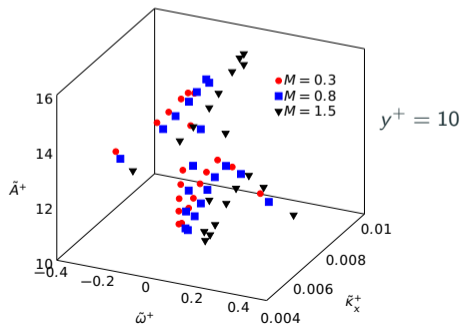
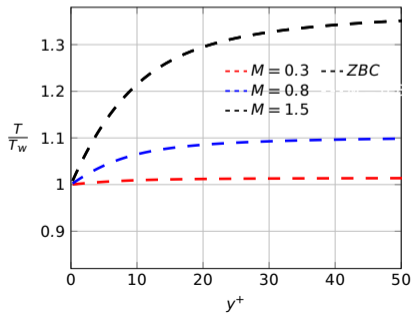


Effect of Mach number or thermodynamics?

Zero Bulk Cooling (ZBC)

Bulk temperature is free to evolve in time

- Different thermodynamic state
- T/T_w of an internal flow

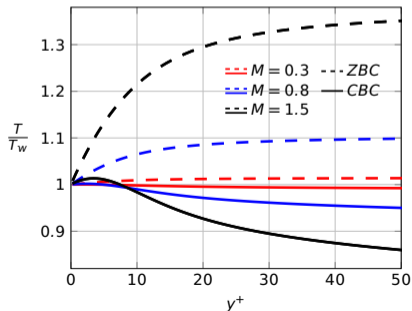


Effect of Mach number or thermodynamics?

Zero Bulk Cooling (ZBC)

Bulk temperature is free to evolve in time

- Different thermodynamic state
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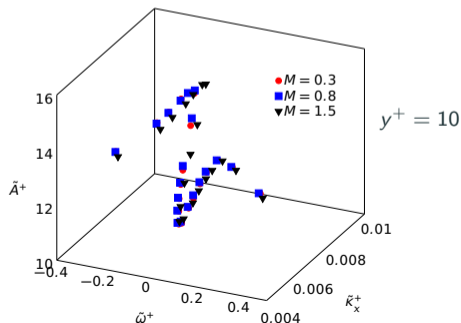


Constrained Bulk Cooling (CBC)

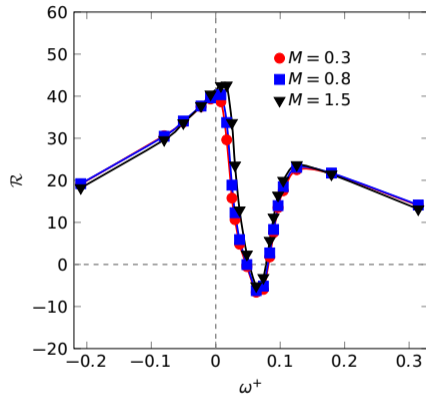
Bulk temperature is fixed in time

Fixed portion of kinetic energy converted into thermal energy at the wall (Cogo et al. 2023, JFM)

- Same control in the buffer layer
- T/T_w of an aeronautical boundary layer



No effect of Mach number on drag reduction

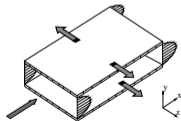
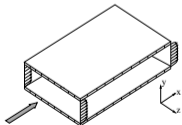


\mathcal{R} almost constant with M

Understanding controlled turbulence towards applications

Understanding wall-bounded turbulence
towards its control

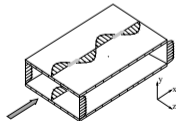
linear description complete description conceptual description



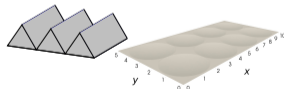
$$w_w = A \sin(\omega t)$$

Understanding controlled turbulence
towards applications

Re effect Mach effect complex configuration

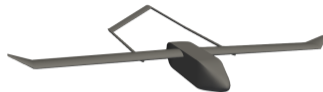


$$w_w = A \sin(\kappa_x x - \omega t)$$

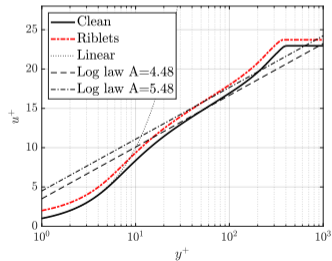


Large-scale modifications of the flat geometry

From flat wall to multi-body geometries



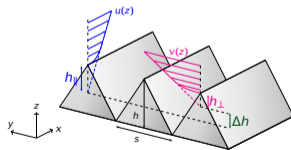
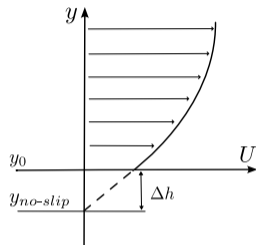
- UAV at $Re = \frac{\rho U_\infty c}{\mu} = 5 \times 10^5$
- RANS simulations
- homogenized bc



How to test riblets on complex geometries

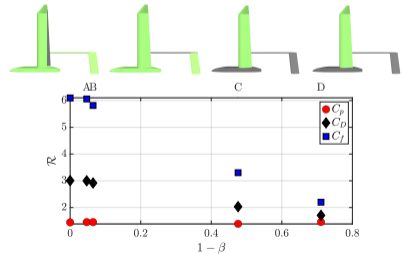
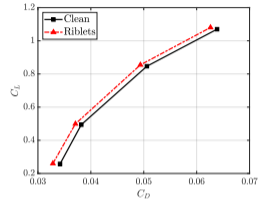
Partial slip BC:

- $u^+(y_0) = u^+(y_{no-slip}) + \Delta h^+ \frac{\partial U^+}{\partial y^+} \Big|_{y_0}$
- optimal riblets size: $\Delta h^+ = 1$



Exploitation of secondary effects

- **Increment** of aerodynamic **efficiency**
 - riblets \rightarrow change P distribution \rightarrow L
 - $L = \text{const} \rightarrow \alpha \downarrow \rightarrow E = C_L/C_D \uparrow$
 - $C_L = \text{const}$
 - $C_D \downarrow (C_D = C_f \downarrow + C_p \downarrow)$
- **Reduced cost-benefit ratio**
 - $1 - \beta = 1 \rightarrow \mathcal{R} = 3\%$
 - $1 - \beta = 0.28 \rightarrow \mathcal{R} = 1.7\%$
 - less than **1/3** of the **coverage** \rightarrow more than **1/2** of the **efficacy**



Conclusions

- The information provided by the presented tools can be aggregated to design a more **efficient control law**
- The **search for an actuator should be postponed** until finding the optimum control law
- Spanwise forcing retains its utility under **realistic flow conditions** and its underlying **physics remains unchanged**
- Riblets still work on **complex configuration** but their production and maintenance costs open up the need of designing more efficient passive techniques

Thank you for your attention!

