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Lucas Manueco, Pierre-Elie Weiss, Sébastien Deck. On the estimation of unsteady aerodynamic forces and wall spectral content with immersed boundary conditions. *Computers and Fluids*, 2020, 201 (104471), pp.1-15. 10.1016/j.compfluid.2020.104471 . hal-02906135

**HAL Id: hal-02906135**

**<https://hal.science/hal-02906135>**

Submitted on 24 Jul 2020

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**Highlights**

- Comparison of two approaches for unsteady load computation on Immersed Boundaries
- Extended presentation of a procedure to generate meshes of Immersed Boundaries
- The approach is highly validated for two space launcher RANS/LES simulations
- The load computation does not require extra operation and is performed on-the-fly

# On the estimation of unsteady aerodynamic forces and wall spectral content with Immersed Boundary Conditions

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## Abstract

Immersed boundary conditions (IBC) have become a practical tool to simplify the meshing process for the simulation of complex geometries in CFD. This approach has reached a sufficient level of maturity to allow the simulation of compressible high Reynolds number flows. However, the access of physical quantities at the immersed wall is far from being straightforward. This paper provides two methods for the reconstruction of fluctuating wall quantities relying on the creation of explicit watertight surface meshes of the immersed boundary. These surface meshes are used for the investigation of highly unsteady compressible flows of two generic space launcher afterbody configurations using Zonal Detached Eddy Simulation (ZDES). Since the flows are massively separated, the side load arising from the pressure is mainly responsible for the global load unsteadiness. Therefore, in the present study the focus is put on the accuracy of the wall pressure reconstructed on immersed boundaries and compared to validated numerical simulations using a classical body-fitted approach and experimental data. The numerical results demonstrate the ability of the present approaches to accurately capture the global load fluctuation around both afterbody configurations. Moreover, the IBC surface meshes simplify the overall post-processing operations and allow the extraction of wall quantities for unsteady simulation at low computational cost. This last feature has been

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used for the spectral analysis on IBC surfaces which reproduced successfully the location and the intensity of the pressure fluctuation.

*Keywords:* Zonal Detached Eddy Simulation, Hybrid RANS/LES, Immersed Boundary, High Reynolds number, Fluctuating pressure field, Aerodynamic forces

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## 1. Introduction

### 1.1. Context

Simulation tools play an increasingly important role in aeronautics and enhancing their capabilities for unsteady flow simulations on complex geometries is considered as a major objective in the field. On the turbulence modelling side, hybrid RANS/LES methods are now widely acknowledged as good candidates for technical application to deal with high Reynolds number turbulent flows [46, 43, 16]. However, the design of a proper RANS/LES grid is by far not trivial as the grid cell sizes control the ratio between modelled and resolved turbulence. In addition, the existence of different flow phenomena (*e.g.* massively separated flows, attached boundary layers, etc) places often additional conflicting demands on the grid.

In this framework, the time-honored multiblock structured grid strategy remains an interesting solution for semi-complex geometries due to its computational efficiency and its accuracy. However, the time and level of expertise needed for the design of a proper structured grid increase dramatically with the complexity of the geometry. The emergence of unstructured grid strategies is a direct consequence of this limitation. This later strategy has shown its ability to simplify the grid generation process considerably. Nevertheless, this improvement comes with an increased computational cost and a reduced control over the grid quality[26]. Thus, various numerical techniques emerged in the past decades to improve the capability of structured grids to handle complex geometries while limiting the initial effort required for the grid generation.



Table 1: Simulations with global load computation on IBC according to their level of validation as described by Sagaut and Deck [43]. 0 : instantaneous flowfield visualization, 1: integral forces, 2: mean aerodynamic field, 3: second-order statistics, 4 and 5: one and two point spectral analysis, 6: higher order and time-frequency analysis. Acronyms of the test cases are given in Table 2.

Authors	Applications	Regime	Flow	Reynolds	Mach	Turb. Mod.	Validation
Wang et al. [55]	WP	Compr.	Unsteady	$4 \times 10^6$	0.3	-	1
Mizuno et al. [33]	MS	Compr.	Unsteady	300	0.3	DNS	0-1
Tamaki and Imamura [50]	WP	Compr.	Steady	$2.26 \times 10^6$	0.847	RANS	1-2
Balaras [1]	CC	Incompr.	Unsteady	300	-	LES	0-1-2-3
Fadlun et al. [22]	CC	Incompr.	Steady	1000	-	-	0-1-2
Meyer et al [31]	CC	Incompr.	Unsteady	3900	-	LES	0-1-2-3-4
Nam and Lien [37]	CC	Compr.	Unsteady	$2 \times 10^5$	1.7	LES	0-1-2-3
Yang and Balaras [63]	MCC	Incompr.	Unsteady	185	-	LES	0-1-2
Tullio et al. [13]	CC, HCC, S / CC, WP	Compr.	Steady	$<100 / 6.2 \times 10^6$	$<1.7$	RANS	1-2
Meyer et al. [30]	CC / SC	Incompr.	Unsteady	$< 3900$	-	LES	0-1-2-3
Cristallo and Verzicco [11]	RV	Incompr.	Unsteady	$< 10^5$	-	LES	0-1-2-3
Tyacke et al. [52]	CJNN	Compr.	Unsteady	$3 \times 10^6$	-	RANS/LES	0-2-3
Bernardini et al. [2]	WP, CC, S, BFS, RLG	Incompr.	Unsteady	$< 1.1 \times 10^6$	$<0.2$	RANS/LES	0-1-2-3-4
Tyliszczak and Ksizyk [53]	WC, S	Incompr.	Unsteady	$\leq 6700$	-	LES	0-1-2-3
Specklin and Delaur [47]	C,STM	Incompr.	Unsteady	$\leq 5.18 \times 10^4$	-	RANS/LES	0-1-2-3
Dairay et al. [12]	P, Ch	Incompr.	Unsteady	$< 19000$	-	LES	0-2-3

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Among these methods, Immersed Boundary Methods or Conditions (IBM/IBC) have encountered growing interest and success in the past decades. The term IBC gathers in practice a wide range of methodologies characterised by their capability to impose a wall condition without body-conforming meshes. These methods have allowed to dramatically improve the capacity of structured solvers to simulate complex geometries. Thus, they have become a standard addition to structured solvers [34, 22, 29, 10]. As an example, Cartesian grid methods [4, 49, 8] and Lattice Boltzmann Methods [44, 62] rely almost entirely on IBC for the application of wall boundary conditions. In a different spirit, Weiss & Deck [59] have demonstrated that coupling locally IBC in a structured grid framework together with advanced turbulence modelling offers a very interesting alternative to simulate unsteady turbulent flows on complex geometries.

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Though the “standard” IBC methodology is increasingly recognized as a

Table 2: List of acronyms of Table 1.

Acronym	Full denomination
CC	Circular Cylinder
Ch	Channel
CJNN	Coaxial Jet Noise Nozzle
HCC	Heated circular cylinder
MCC	Moving circular cylinder
MS	Moving sphere
P	Pipe
RV	Road vehicle
S	Sphere
SC	Square cylinder
STM	Stirred tank mixer
WC	Wavy Channel
WP	Wing profile

40 mature approach, the mismatch between the computational grid and the effective wall boundary dramatically limits the accurate analysis of wall-fluctuating quantities which are essential to compute the aerodynamic forces. Indeed, table 1 gathers a set of published works using the IBC technique together with their level validation. One can note that the computation of integral forces is mainly  
 45 limited to steady-flow configurations or very simple geometries, whereas a spectral analysis on wall fluctuating quantities is rarely addressed by the authors. This may appear paradoxical since the development of IBC is precisely motivated by their potential capability to predict the fluctuating field in complex configurations.

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Hence, the main objective of this work is to introduce dedicated methods to extend the capability of IBC methods to permit the analysis of unsteady wall quantities and especially aerodynamic forces. Let us be reminded that the global aerodynamic load induced by pressure  $P$  and viscous stresses  $\boldsymbol{\tau}$  acting  
 55 on a solid surface  $S$  is given by:

$$F_i = \int_S \underbrace{(\tau_{ij} - P\delta_{ij})}_{(a)} \underbrace{n_j}_{(b)} dS \quad (1)$$

The calculation of Eq (1) requires the knowledge of the stresses (term (a)) acting on the oriented wall surface (term (b)). While these quantities can be easily computed on body-fitted grids knowing the boundary condition, their  
 60 knowledge is by far not trivial in an IBC context. The objective of this article is to present a general method to assess these two quantities (*i.e.* (a) and (b)) in order to compute the unsteady integral aerodynamic forces on-the-fly on immersed bodies.

65 The paper is organised as follows: in section 2 we first remind the basis of the IBC framework before presenting the new methodologies and algorithms used

for the study of wall quantities and especially for the assessment of unsteady aerodynamic loads. Section 3 is dedicated to the descriptions of the numerical methods. Finally, in section 4 the methods are finally assessed on two geometries of increasing complexity and representative of a launcher afterbody. Numerical results obtained with IBC are compared both with the available experimental data and the reference body-fitted simulations.

## 2. Representation of Immersed Surfaces

Since the first work of Peskin [41], Immersed Boundaries (IB) have been widely used in the past decades in order to introduce solids in non-body-fitting grids. The boundary forcing is achieved through the addition of extra terms on the continuous or on the discrete form of the governing equations. In particular, the discrete forcing IB methods have been acknowledged for their capacity to simulate rigid bodies at high Reynolds numbers as emphasized by Mittal and Iaccarino [32].

The main idea of discrete forcing immersed boundary methods is to create the effect of an object in the flow through the application of source terms in near-wall regions cells, named IB forcing points. As depicted in figure 1, near-wall solid [24, 38] or fluid cells [64, 25, 5, 65] can be chosen as forcing points. Moreover, in the particular framework of finite-volume methods, the forcing can also be achieved through the direct manipulation of the numerical fluxes at the faces between solid and fluid cells [7, 51]. Finally, the number of forcing point layers depends on stencil used for the spatial discretisation scheme during the simulation [42].

A reconstruction approach, using near-wall fluid cells is generally used to compute the forcing point source terms. For each forcing point, the conservative variables are reconstructed on a point in the wall-normal direction. Then, the source terms are set to enforce the boundary condition on the immersed solid ( i.e. no-slip adiabatic wall). As represented in figures 2 and 3, the immersed

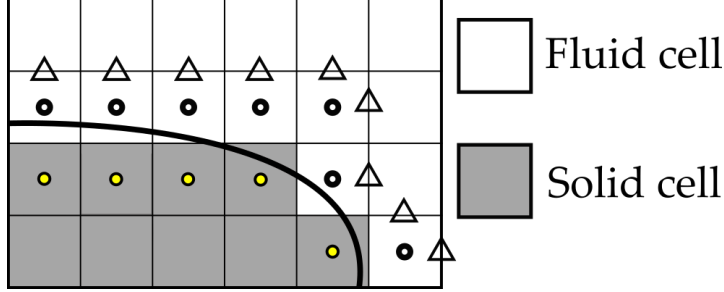


Figure 1: Representation of various possibilities of forcing points (FP) for IBC. ●: Inside solid imposition, ○: outside solid imposition, △: face imposition.

boundary is enforced at only one point, here called Wall Point (WP), per forcing point. In the general case, the location of wall points does not match a point of the computational grid. Therefore, the access to wall quantities on IB is not straightforward and requires dedicated procedures. Since the wall points are independent, the procedural generation of an integration surface for equation (1) remains a major problem to permit global load calculations on IB.

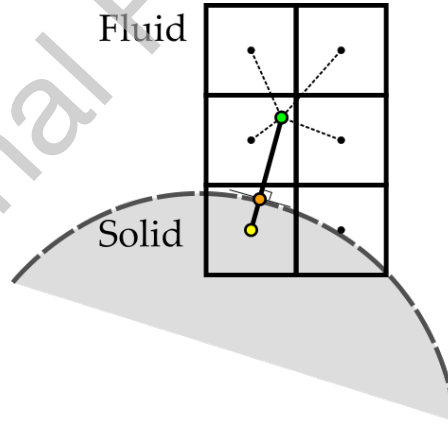


Figure 2: Representation of the interpolation procedure for IBC. ●: Interpolation Points (IntP). ●: Wall Points (WP). ●: Forcing Points (FP) inside the solid.

Tamaki and Imamura [51] used a far-field approach for the computation of the global load on immersed boundaries. This type of approach has been successfully used to assess the global load for steady simulations. Nevertheless, the

105 extension to unsteady flow requires the calculation of volume terms over a large  
 computational domain. Another solution was recently proposed by [3]. They  
 proposed to interpolate the near-wall quantities on the initial geometry ( $S_{ref}$ ).  
 This approach has been applied for simple configurations and shows the influ-  
 ence of the interpolation scheme used for the reconstruction. In the present work  
 110 two approaches without interpolation procedures are proposed for the evalua-  
 tion of aerodynamic forces on immersed boundaries with discrete forcing. The  
 first approach is based on a stepwise approximation (see Fig. 3) of the immersed  
 boundary for the assessment of the global load. For the special case of stepwise  
 immersed boundaries [22, 6] this solution will lead to an exact reconstruction  
 115 of the surface. The second approach relies on a precise reconstruction of the  
 IB surface to minimize the error from term (b) in equation (1). Both methods  
 are designed to generate watertight surfaces and to require minimum operations  
 during CFD simulations for an on-the-fly assessment of unsteady aerodynamic  
 forces. In addition, they are independent of the IB formulations and can be  
 120 used with any discrete forcing methods.

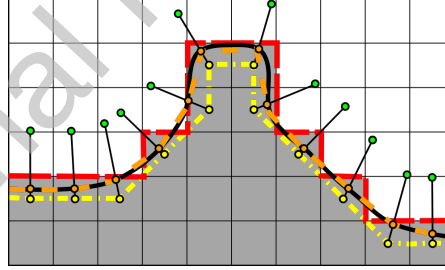


Figure 3: Scheme of the influence of the discretization on the geometry representation.  
 — Exact geometry ( $S_{ref}$ ). - - Inside Solver Geometry ( $S_{ISG}$ ). - - Intermediate surface ( $S_{int_V}$ ). - - Stepwise surface ( $S_{F/S}$ ). ●: Interpolation Points (IntP). ●: Wall Points (WP). ●: Forcing Points (FP) inside the solid.

### 2.1. Stepwise oriented surface approximation

The access to the IB wall content, represented by the wall points, requires ad-  
 ditional operations that are unnecessary to enforce the IBC. Hence, the present

approach is designed to assess aerodynamic forces on IB with only marginal  
 125 additions to CFD solvers. Assuming the knowledge of the grid and the cell  
 states (i.e. fluid or solid), a stepwise surface  $S_{F/S}$ , depicted in figure 3, can be  
 easily created, through the summation of  $\Delta S_{F/S}$ , the cell faces between fluid  
 and solid cells. In the particular case where  $S_{F/S}$  is aligned with the IB (i.e.  
 $S_{ref}$ ), the representation of the surface would be the true representation of the  
 130 boundary. Even for unaligned geometries, Mizuno et al. [33] showed that such  
 an approach provides a quite accurate evaluation of global load for the direct  
 numerical simulation of a moving sphere.

In the framework of Finite Volume (FV) methods, the conservative variables  
 135 are reconstructed at the cell faces during the computation of the numerical  
 fluxes. Therefore, their assessment on the  $\Delta S_{F/S}$  is already computed during  
 the simulation and can be used to approximate the wall-stress. Hence, the new  
 equation for the computation of aerodynamic forces on the stepwise surface  
 reads as :

$$F_i \simeq \sum_l^{nbr\ F/S} \underbrace{(\tau_{ij} - P\delta_{ij})_{F/S_l}}_{(a)} \underbrace{(n_j \Delta S)_{F/S_l}}_{(b)} \quad (2)$$

140 Where  $nbr\ F/S$  is the number of faces between fluid and solid cells. This  
 simple approach requires only a minor implementation effort, is computationally  
 inexpensive for FV methods and provides a proper evaluation of aerodynamic  
 forces as illustrated later in section 4. The procedure used to compute (2) is  
 detailed in Algorithm 1.

**Algorithm 1** Stepwise surface reconstruction

---

During the computation of the FV fluxes

**for** Each face **do**

**if** the present face is between a fluid and a solid cell **then**

$\tau_{ij} - P\delta_{ij}$  is computed using the face values (term (a))

$\mathbf{n}\Delta S$  of the face is used for the evaluation of the local surface (term

(b))

**end if**

**end for**

---

145   2.2. Immersed boundary surface reconstruction

As reminded in section 2, the IB is enforced at the IB wall points (see Fig. 3). During the computation, the forcing points flow variables are computed using the chosen IBC formulation to create the effect of the boundary inside the fluid. Using the same boundary formulation, the computation of the flow variables at the wall points is straightforward and provides a direct access to wall quantities on IB. Therefore, the evaluation of the wall stress on the immersed boundary can be obtained without any further interpolation and approximation. The main bottleneck of this idea lies in the computation of a consistent oriented surface contribution  $\mathbf{n}\Delta S$  for each wall points to assess aerodynamic forces.

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In the framework of Cartesian grid solvers with face-forcing IBC, Capizzano [9] proposed an efficient algorithm to create a surface mesh between IB wall points that could eventually be used for visualisation purposes and global load computations.

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This surface, illustrated in figure 3, is created using the IB wall points (see Fig. 2) and is referred here to as  $S_{ISG}$  where *ISG* stands for Inside Solver Geometry. It is supposed to correspond to the surface actually introduced inside the solver by the immersed boundary method. The ISG is particularly adapted if the characteristic length  $\Delta l_S$  of the elements discretizing the exact surface

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geometry  $S_{ref}$  is equal or greater than  $\Delta x$ , the characteristic length of a grid cell. In this case, where  $\Delta l_S \geq \Delta x$ , the resulting surface  $S_{ISG}$  would match the immersed geometry. However, for  $\Delta l_S \ll \Delta x$  the ISG could misrepresent highly curved geometries as depicted in figure 4. Moreover, as stated in section 2, multiple layers of forcing points may be required to create the IB. Nonetheless,  $S_{ISG}$  is created using the first layer of forcing points and does not take into account the other layers. As a consequence, the geometrical details brought by the other forcing point layers, and their related wall points, are not considered during the creation of  $S_{ISG}$ .

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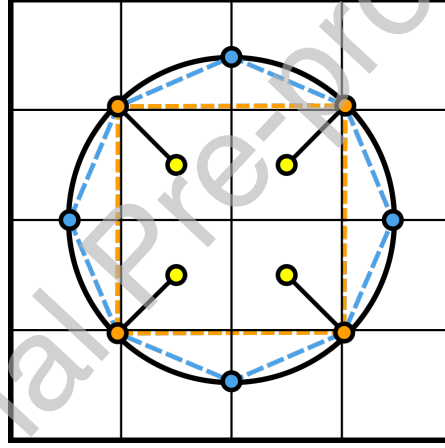


Figure 4: Immersed boundary surface reconstruction of a 2D cylinder. ----- Inside Solver Geometry (ISG). ----- Projected Inside Solver Geometry (PISG). ——— Exact geometry. ●: Wall Points (WP). ●: Forcing Points (FP) inside the solid. ●: Construction Points for  $S_{PISG}$ .

A new approach, called Projected ISG (PSIG) has been developed to reduce the error on the surface approximation while keeping possible the direct evaluation of the wall stress. The approximation made on the reconstructed surface is controlled through successive correction steps. Since the creation of the new surface relies on the ISG surface, the algorithm of Capizzano [9] has been adapted to IB methods based on inside and outside forcing points.

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As proposed by Capizzano [9] the connectivity between vertices and cells can be advantageously used to create this first surface. For every vertex  $V$  around the immersed boundary the following operation is performed to create an intermediate surface,  $Sint_V$  (see Fig. 3), between Forcing Points (FP) :

$$\forall FP \in (\{C_V\} \cap \{K_V\}) \Rightarrow FP \in \{Sint_V\} \quad (3)$$

Where  $\{C_V\}$  is the set of cells sharing the vertex  $V$  and where  $\{K_V\}$  represents a complementary test required to avoid wrong connections for thin IB as presented in figure 5. Hence,  $\{K_V\}$  is defined as the set of cells sharing a cell face with a fluid cell included in  $\{C_V\}$ . For outside forcing points,  $\{K_V\}$  is defined as the set of cells sharing a cell face with a solid cell included in  $\{C_V\}$ .

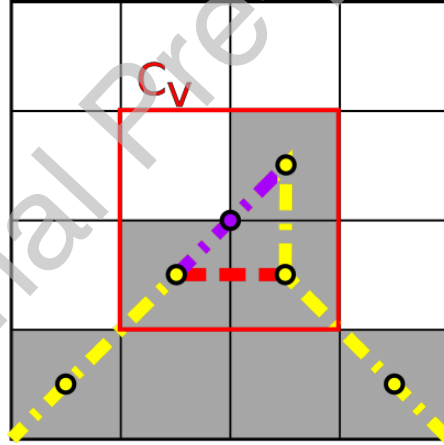


Figure 5: Illustration of wrong connection detection for the generation of the immersed boundary surface mesh. ●: Forcing points (FP) inside the solid. ●: Vertex of interest. ---: FP connections. ---: Erroneous connection. ---: Connection created.

Finally, the coordinates of the forcing points are replaced by their related Wall Points (WP) to create the ISG surface.

$$FP \in \{Sint_V\} \Rightarrow WP \in \{S_{ISG}\} \quad (4)$$

For structured meshes, three to four wall points are classically linked by vertices. The surface between these points is decomposed into triangles to compute the local surface value  $\Delta S_{ISG}$  associated to an IB wall point as depicted in figure 6. Therefore, the resulting force applied on an IB can be computed as follows:

$$F_i \simeq \sum_l^{FP\ nbr} \underbrace{(\tau_{ij} - P\delta_{ij})_{WP_l}}_{(a)} \underbrace{(n_j \Delta S_{ISG})_{WP_l}}_{(b)} \quad (5)$$

Where  $FP\ nbr$  is the number of forcing points.

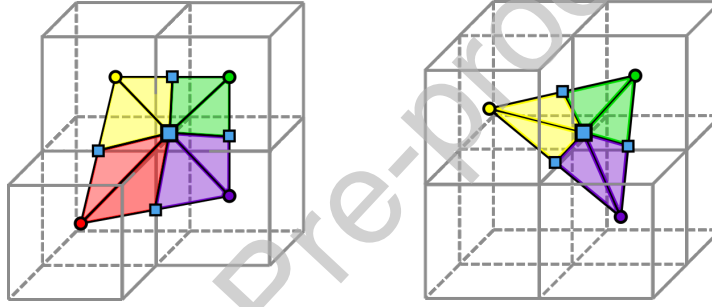


Figure 6: Decomposition of  $S_V$  between the immersed boundary wall points. circles : IB wall points / squares : construction points

In the cases where  $\Delta l_S \ll \Delta x$ , additional operations are realized in order to improve the accuracy of  $S_{ISG}$ . This new surface  $S_{PISG}$  is obtained via successive refinement and projection of the triangles obtained in figure 6. First of all, the construction points, used to decompose the surfaces in triangles, are projected on  $S_{ref}$ . Then, the triangles can be successively decomposed as shown in figures 4 and 7 and the additional construction points are projected on  $S_{ref}$ . Each decomposition level reduces the size  $\Delta l_S$  of the reconstructed surface elements and reduces the error during the reconstruction process. This recursive decomposition can be performed as many times as required until convergence of the reconstructed surface. Finally, for each wall point, the locally oriented surface  $\mathbf{n}\Delta S_{(P)ISG}$  is computed through the summation of the triangle surfaces.

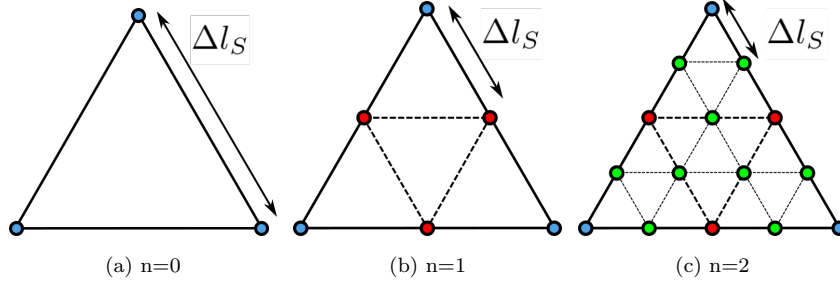


Figure 7: Illustration of the triangle decomposition procedure proceeded three times on the triangulated surface in figure 6.

To assess the accuracy of the present reconstruction approach, several numerical tests have been performed. A sphere has been immersed in a Cartesian grid with a cell size  $\Delta x$ . The relative error,  $(S - S_{ref})/S_{ref}$ , on the global surface reconstruction has been plotted in figure 8 for different  $\Delta x$  and for different refinement levels of the PISG surface. The number  $n$  represents the level of projection used (i.e.  $n = 0$  for the ISG surface,  $n = 1$  for the PISG surface without sub-triangle decomposition,  $n > 2$  for the PISG surface with  $n-1$  sub-triangle divisions see fig 7). Figure 8 shows the second-order accuracy obtained with both the ISG and the PISG methodologies for  $\Delta l_S \ll \Delta x$ . Moreover, the error on the surface representation is clearly reduced for each new subdivision step. Figure 9 reports the same plot for two different  $\Delta l_S$ . The ideally achieved second-order accuracy is not preserved when  $\Delta l_S \simeq \Delta x$ . In practice, the triangle subdivision process is stopped before this loss of accuracy to avoid the introduction of a large numerical error during the summation of the triangle surface to compute  $S_{PISG}$ .

The projection procedure used to generate the PISG surface may appear computationally expensive. The major cost lies in the multiple triangle projections on  $S_{ref}$ . This cost can be severely reduced by using kd-trees to partition  $S_{ref}$  (see [54] for more information on kd-trees architectures). Moreover, these operations are only performed once before the simulation. The overall procedure is detailed in Algorithms 2 and 3. A simplified procedure has also been

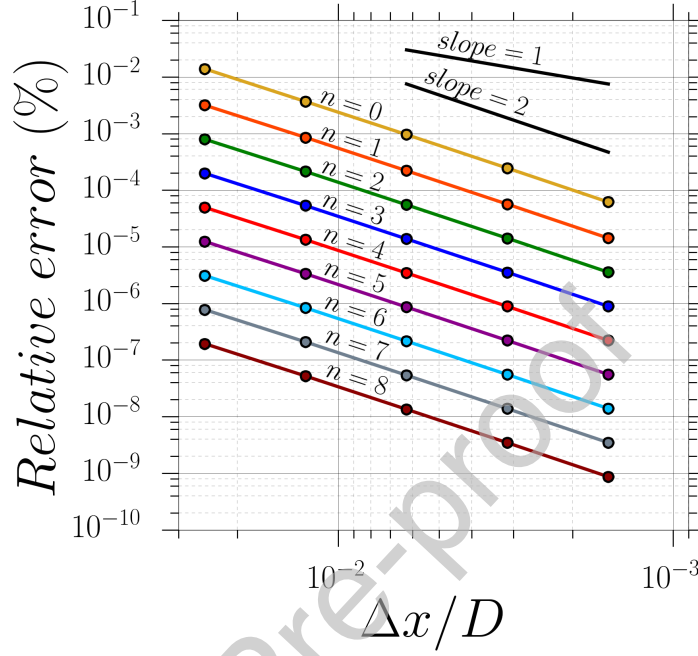


Figure 8: Relative error of the surface reconstruction method against the grid size for different levels  $n$  of projection.

developed in order to create a structured surface mesh linking the forcing points  
 235 and is described in Appendix A. In addition, it is worth mentioning that the  
 surface mesh between IB wall points generated during the creation of  $S_{ISG}$  can  
 also be used to extract wall quantities on a surface mesh file. This feature has  
 been presently used to assess the capacity of IB to obtain an accurate single  
 and two-point analysis of the wall fluctuating pressure field (see section 4).

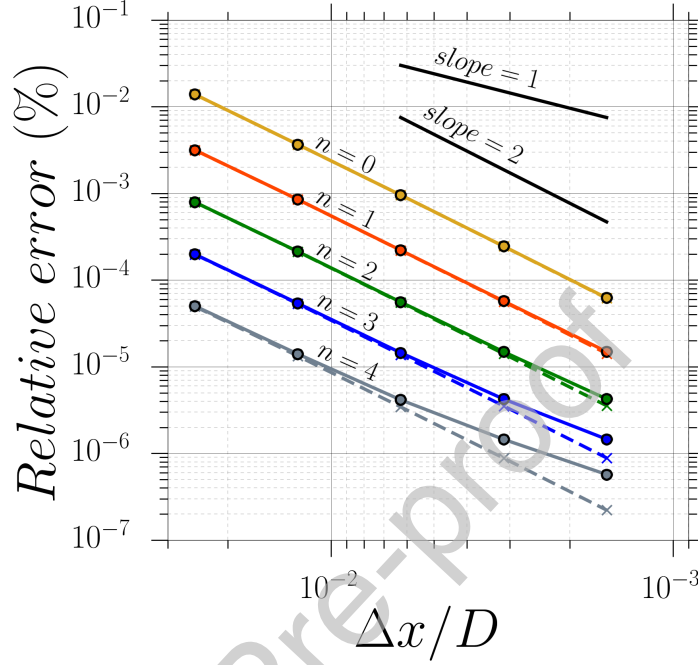


Figure 9: Relative error of the surface reconstruction method against the grid size for different levels  $n$  of projection for two different geometrical files. straight line : coarse geometry / dotted line : fine geometry.

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**Algorithm 2** Creation of  $S_{ISG}$

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```

for each vertex do
    The cells linked to this vertex are included in the set  $V$ 
    for each cell  $\in V$  do
        if  $cell_V \in FP$  then
            if  $cell_V$  shares a face with a fluid cell  $\in V$  then
                 $cell_V$  is included in  $S_{int_V}$ 
            end if
        end if
    end for
    The wall points corresponding to the forcing points in  $S_{int_V}$  are included
in  $S_{ISG}$ 
    A surface composed by triangles is formed to compute the oriented surface
associated with a wall point
    (Optional) The triangles are split and projected on  $S_{ref}$  to create  $S_{PISG}$ 
end for

```

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**Algorithm 3** Global load computation with  $S_{ISG}$  and  $S_{PISG}$ 


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At the end of an iteration

**for** Each IB forcing point **do**

    Computation of the flow variables at the corresponding Wall Points

    Computation of  $\tau_{ij} - P\delta_{ij}$  at the Wall Points (term (a))

    (Optional) Storage of the Wall Point values for wall extraction

    Computation of the global load using the evaluation of the local wall surface  $\mathbf{S}_{(P)ISG}$  (term (b))

**end for**

---

### 240 3. Numerical method

#### 3.1. Solver description

The present simulations were performed using the FLU3M cell-centred finite volume research code. The validation of this solver has been assessed on various applications for steady and unsteady flow regimes, especially in the framework of space launcher simulations [20, 60, 58, 59, 45, 39]. FLU3M solves the compressible Navier-Stokes equations on multiblock structured grids. The calculations presented in this paper were done using a modified low-dissipation AUSM+(P) scheme developed by Liou [27] for the convective fluxes. A MUSCL reconstruction method is used without limiter to increase the spatial accuracy of this scheme. The gradients for the diffusion fluxes are evaluated using the Green-Gauss method, which is known to be second-order accurate for structured mesh [48]. Finally, the time discretisation is carried out using the implicit and second-order accurate Gear scheme [23] associated to a Newton-type iterative algorithm.

#### 255 3.2. Zonal Detached Eddy simulation

The ZDES approach developed by ONERA[14, 15] belongs to the family of multiresolution approaches. This hybrid RANS/LES method, based on the Spalart-Allmaras (SA) model, is particularly suited for the study of different

flow topologies within the same simulations as demonstrated by [17]. Indeed, the  
 260 three specific length scales, or modes, of ZDES (See Eq. (6)) are each optimised  
 for a particular flow topology as illustrated in figure 10. For each ZDES mode,  
 the corresponding length scales is introduced in the Spalart-Allmaras turbulence  
 model by substitution of the wall distance  $d_w$  by  $\tilde{d}_{ZDES}$  as follows:

$$\tilde{d}_{ZDES} = \begin{cases} d_w & \text{if } mode = 0 \\ \tilde{d}_{ZDES}^I(\tilde{\Delta}) & \text{if } mode = 1 \\ \tilde{d}_{ZDES}^{II}(\tilde{\Delta}) & \text{if } mode = 2 \\ \tilde{d}_{ZDES}^{III}(\tilde{\Delta}) & \text{if } mode = 3 \end{cases} \quad (6)$$

where  $\tilde{\Delta}$  is the subgrid length scale and is either based on the volume of the  
 265 cell  $\tilde{\Delta} = \Delta_{vol} = (\Delta x \Delta y \Delta z)^{1/3}$  or based on the vorticity  $\tilde{\Delta} = \Delta \omega =$  (where  $S_\omega$   
 is the averaged cross section of the cell normal to the vorticity vector  $\omega$ , see [15]  
 for details ).

In the present configurations described in section 4.1 the flow separation  
 is caused by a geometrical discontinuity at the end of the upstream cylinder  
 (see Figure 11). Two modes of ZDES have been used in one simulation. The  
 upstream attached flow is modelled by ZDES mode 0, which corresponds to  
 an URANS SA modelling, whereas the downstream separating flow is modelled  
 using ZDES mode 1. Such an approach is selected due to the fact that it allows  
 a higher control on the boundary layer development before the separation point.  
 Downstream the separation point, the mode 1 of ZDES ( $\tilde{\Delta}^I = \tilde{\Delta}$ ) is particularly  
 adapted for the study of massively separated flows. Consequently,  $d_w$  is replaced  
 by  $\tilde{d}_{ZDES}^I$  in the LES regions according to:

$$\tilde{d}_{ZDES}^I = \min(d_w, C_{DES} \tilde{\Delta}^I) \quad (7)$$

where  $C_{DES} = 0.65$ . Given  $\Delta_{vol}$  has been successfully used for the simulation  
 of space launcher configurations [20, 56, 60] this length scale is chosen in the  
 270 present study.



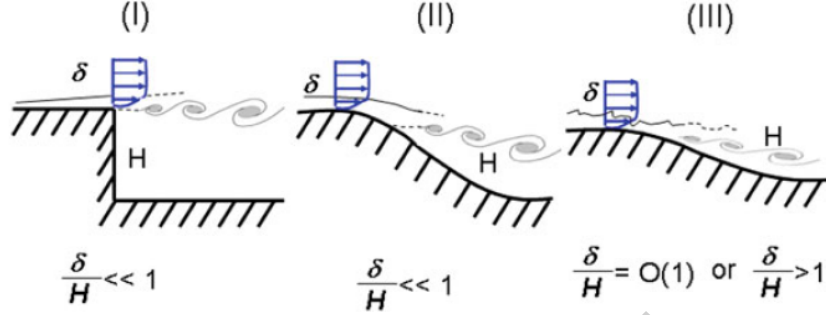


Figure 10: Classification of typical flow problems [15] . I: location of the separation known in advance since fixed by the geometry, II: location of the separation unknown a priori, e.g. induced by a pressure gradient on a curved surface (see also [19]), III: separation strongly influenced by the dynamics of the incoming boundary layer (e.g. WMLES mode).

### 3.3. Immersed Boundary Condition

The current immersed boundary approach is based on the direct forcing approach developed by Mohd-Yusof [36] and adapted in a finite volume context. This method belongs to the discrete immersed boundary approaches and uses the cells inside the solid as forcing points to enforce the boundary condition. As a result, the IB source terms are imposed in the momentum equations and in the pseudo eddy viscosity transport equation of the Spalart-Allmaras model. Due to the implicit time integration scheme, the IB forcing should require the inversion of a large sparse system during the simulation. In practice, an explicit source term formulation has been adopted which is applied during the inner iteration of the implicit time step. Balaras [1] exhibits that this explicit approach with sub-iterations during the implicit time-stepping shows only slight differences with a fully explicit approach. Thus, during a time step  $n$ , the explicit residual  $R^{n+1}$  of the momentum equations and the turbulent transport equation is nullified to impose the desired value inside the immersed solid. The discrete formulation of the finite volume system can be written as follows :

$$\frac{3}{2}\Delta\mathbf{W}^{n+1} - \frac{1}{2}\Delta\mathbf{W}^n = -\frac{\Delta t}{\Omega} \left( \sum_{l=1}^6 [(\mathbf{F}_c)_l - (\mathbf{F}_d)_l]^{n+1} - [\mathbf{T}_{ZDES}]^{n+1} - [\mathbf{T}_{IBC}]^{n+1} \right) \quad (8)$$

where  $\mathbf{W}^n$  is the conservative variable vector at the iteration  $n$  and  $\Delta\mathbf{W}^n = \mathbf{W}^n - \mathbf{W}^{n-1}$ ,  $\mathbf{F}_c$  and  $\mathbf{F}_d$  are the convective and the diffusive fluxes,  $\Omega$  the volume of a cell and  $\mathbf{T}$  the source terms for the IB forcing and the ZDES approach. The  
 290 expression of  $\mathbf{T}_{IBC}$  is defined as follows :

$$\mathbf{T}_{IBC} = {}^t \left( 0, tagibc \times f_{\rho u_i}^{n+1}, 0, tagibc \times f_{\rho \tilde{v}}^{n+1} \right) \quad (9)$$

with  $f_{\rho u_i}^{n+1}$  and  $f_{\rho \tilde{v}}^{n+1}$  are the sum of the convective and diffusive fluxes for the momentum and the conservative turbulent variable, respectively. The sensor *tagibc* is equal to 1 inside the immersed solid and 0 outside. Further details concerning the implementation and the discretisation of the Immersed Boundary  
 295 approach can be found in Weiss and Deck [59].

A hybrid body-fitted/IBC approach named Zonal Immersed Boundary Condition (ZIBC) is used in the present work. This methodology has been introduced by Mochel et al. [35] to include a control device in a pre-existing body-fitted simulation. This numerical strategy takes full advantage of its zonal  
 300 nature by restricting the use of body-fitted approach to the simplest part of the geometry. Therefore, the complex parts of the geometry are taken into account with immersed boundaries to avoid the time-consuming meshing step intrinsic to the generation of structured body-fitted grids.

## 4. Results and Discussion

### 305 4.1. Test Cases

Two generic configurations of space launcher afterbodies are considered to assess the capacity of IB to analyse fluctuating wall quantities. Such geometries are subject to significant pressure fluctuations on the afterbody walls issuing from strong geometrical changes. The first configuration, depicted in figure 11  
 310 (a), is designed to reproduce the experimental set-up of Deprés et al. [21] (see also [28]). It consists in two connected cylinders of diameter  $D = 100$  mm and  $0.4D$ , respectively. The length of the larger cylinder has been adjusted to obtain a boundary layer thickness ratio  $\delta/D$  of 0.2 before the separating point.

Finally, the length  $L$  of the smaller cylinder is prescribed to match a  $L/D$  ratio  
 315 equal to 1.2. The second configuration corresponds to a "smooth" Ariane 5  
 afterbody (i.e. without technological details) represented in figure 11 (b). The  
 smaller cylinder of the first configuration is replaced by the real afterbody ge-  
 ometry and the length of the bigger cylinder is truncated in order to match the  
 ratio of  $\delta/D = 0.1$  used in the ZDES simulation performed by Weiss and Deck  
 320 [57] with a body-fitted grid. For both cases, the Reynolds number based on  $D$   
 has been set to  $1.2 \cdot 10^6$ , and the corresponding free stream Mach numbers are  
 equal to  $M = 0.702$  and  $M = 0.8$  for the first and the second cases, respectively.

To assess the capacity of the present IB method to correctly mimic com-  
 325 plex geometries without mesh adaptation, both simulations were performed on  
 the same structured curvilinear grid. This grid is the same as in Pain et al.  
 [40] which has been generated using the convergence study performed by Deck  
 and Thorigny [20]. In the configuration 1, the cell faces are aligned with the  
 immersed boundary which corresponds to the most favourable case to evalu-  
 330 ate the sole effect of the wall boundary formulation without any bias due to a  
 mismatch between the mesh and the immersed geometry. Conversely, config-  
 uration 2 is not aligned with the background mesh and is used to assess the  
 present methodologies on an industrial case.

#### 4.2. *Instantaneous Flow Field*

335 Figure 12 presents the main characteristic of the massively separated flow for  
 the second configuration. In both configurations, the abrupt change of geom-  
 etry at the end of the upstream cylinder generates toroidal structures rapidly  
 converted into three-dimensional structures. Considering that the upstream  
 cylinder is modelled using a body-fitted approach for all simulations and that  
 340 the influence of the IB condition has not shown any modification on their de-  
 velopment, the shear layer structures present the same salient features. As a  
 consequence, the prediction of fluctuating wall quantities on the rear-body is  
 only affected by the boundary condition, either IBC or body-fitted, used to en-

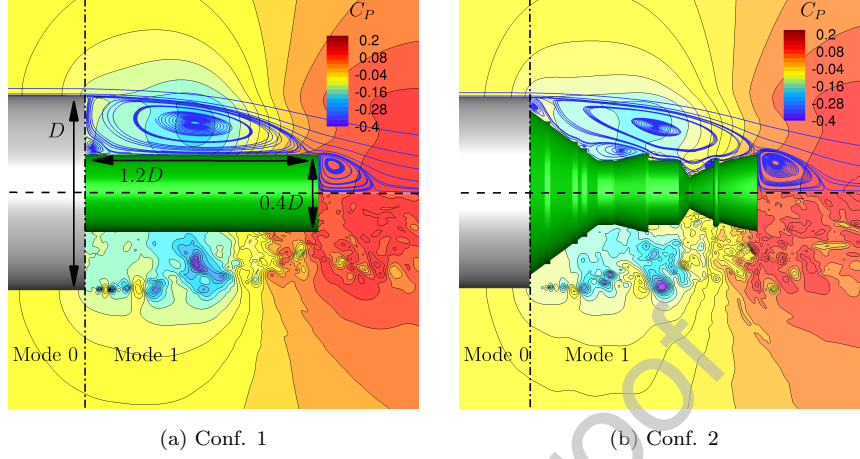


Figure 11: Contours of the pressure coefficient  $C_P$  and streamlines (upper part: mean flow field, lower part: instantaneous flow field) with characteristic sizes of the geometries and ZDES modes locations. Green parts are modelled using IBC.

force the no-slip condition. Nonetheless, the assessment of this effect is only possible through higher validation levels such as first and second order statistics and spectral analyses.

#### 4.3. First and second-order statistics

The unsteady wall values have been time-averaged during the ZDES simulations. The streamwise evolution of the mean pressure coefficient  $C_P = \frac{P-P_0}{q_\infty}$  (where  $q_\infty = \frac{1}{2}\rho_\infty U_\infty^2$  is the free-stream dynamic pressure) and the r.m.s pressure coefficient  $C_{Prms} = \frac{P_{rms}}{q_\infty}$  at the wall are plotted in figures 13 and 14 for the first and the second configurations, respectively. The longitudinal evolution of  $C_P$  allows to identify the recompression phenomenon occurring in the recirculation zone around the afterbodies. A first region between  $x/D = 0$  and  $x/D = 0.6$  shows a decrease in  $C_P$  caused by the acceleration of the backflow. Finally, the end of the afterbodies are subject to a strong recompression due to the impact of the shear layer structures on the surface. The same process is shown for the second configuration with the same intensity. However, the

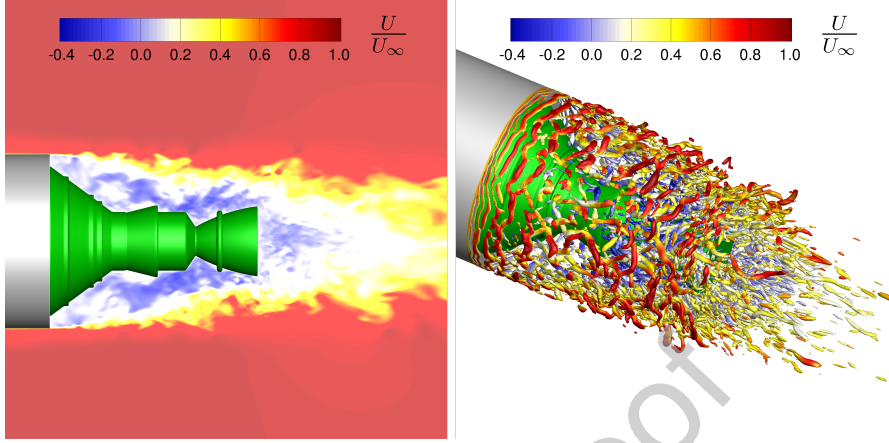


Figure 12: (Left) Longitudinal cut of the instantaneous dimensionless velocity of the ZDES/IBC simulation for configuration 2. (Right) Visualisation of coherent structures via an iso-surface of the dimensionless Q criterion ( $Q \cdot D^2/U_\infty^2 = 100$ ) colored by the dimensionless streamwise velocity component.

abrupt geometrical changes observable at  $x/D = 0.65$ ,  $0.8$  and  $1.0$  generate  
 360 local recompression processes that are well captured by the IBC simulation.

The streamwise evolution of  $C_{Prms}$  coefficient for the first configuration shows a good agreement with the experiment of Meliga and Reijasse [28]. The pressure fluctuation levels along with there locations are well-described by the body-fitted and the IB simulations. For this configuration,  $C_{Prms}$  increases  
 365 regularly until  $x/D = 0.8$  where a constant value is reached around  $C_{Prms} = 0.035$ . As in the  $C_P$  distribution, the  $C_{Prms}$  values for the second configuration is perturbed by the three geometrical changes. The major distribution of the pressure fluctuation is well reproduced in the IB simulation.

To get further into the validation of the IBC simulation, the streamwise  
 370 mean and rms velocity profiles were plotted at three locations for both configurations. These profiles are located at  $X/D = 0.2$ ,  $0.6$  and  $1.0$  and are plotted in figures 15, 16 and 17, respectively. They are chosen to compare the body-fitted and the immersed boundary simulations at different stages of the mixing layer development. Here again, the agreement between the body-fitted and the im-

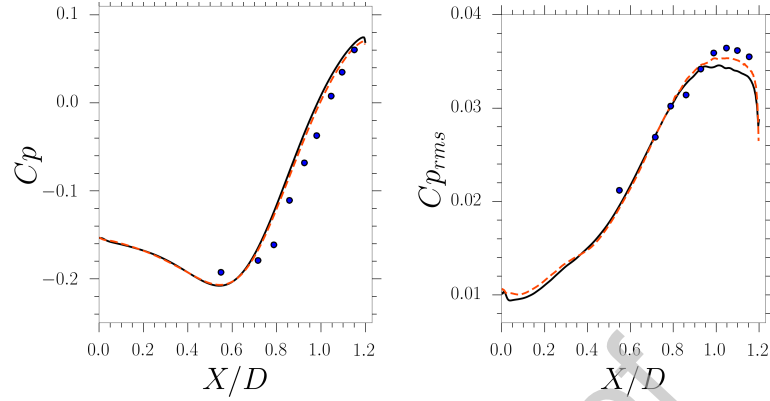


Figure 13: Streamwise evolution of the mean pressure coefficient (Left) and the rms pressure coefficient (Right) at the wall for conf.1. —: Body-fitted, - - - : Immersed Boundary, •: Meliga et al [28].

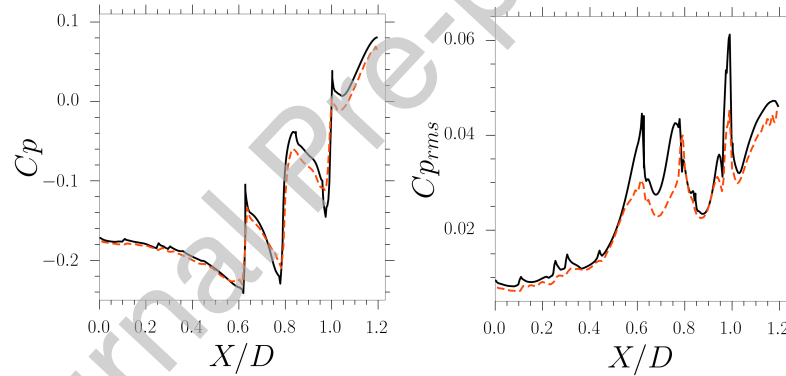


Figure 14: Streamwise evolution of the mean pressure coefficient (Left) and the rms pressure coefficient (Right) at the wall for conf.2. —: Body-fitted, - - - : Immersed Boundary.

375 mersed boundary simulations is satisfying. The main discrepancies are located  
 at the early stages of the mixing layer for the rms streamwise velocity for con-  
 figuration 2 (Fig. 15). Nonetheless, the mean velocity is still mainly retrieved  
 with IBC. At  $X/D = 0.6$ , a strong backflow reaching 40 % of the free stream  
 velocity is equally predicted for both configurations. Finally, for the intense  
 380 velocity fluctuations at this location and at  $X/D = 1.0$  (Figs. 16 and 17) the

two methods show only small discrepancies.

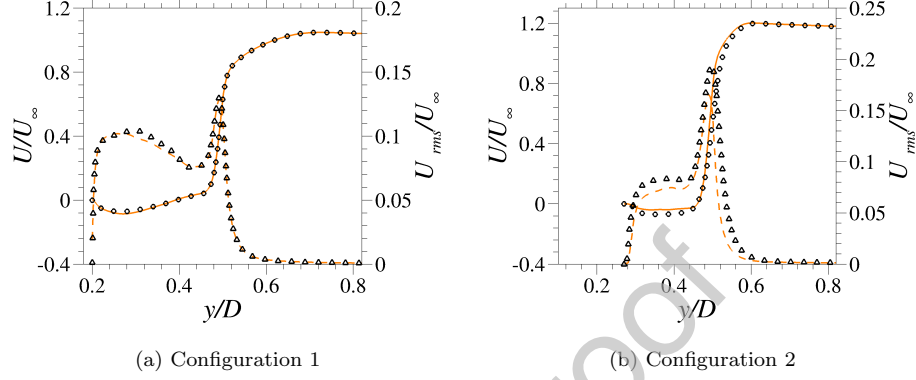


Figure 15: Dimensionless streamwise mean velocity profile  $U/U_\infty$  (—: Immersed Boundary,  $\bullet$ : Body-fitted) and Dimensionless streamwise rms velocity profile  $U_{rms}/U_\infty$  (---: Immersed Boundary,  $\blacktriangle$ : Body-fitted) at  $X/D = 0.2$ .

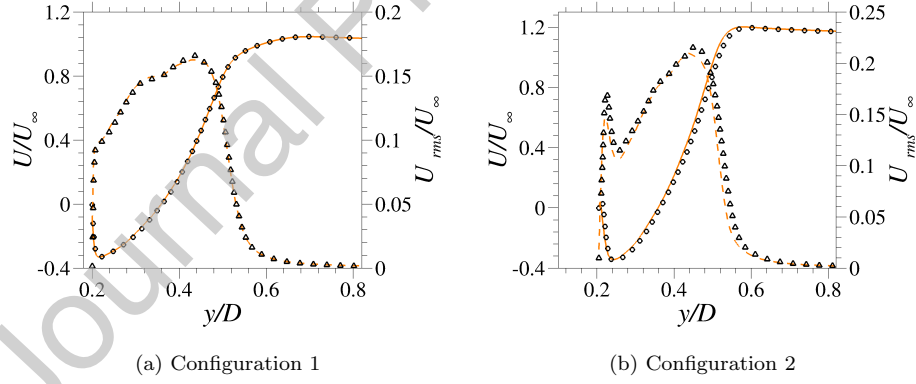


Figure 16: Dimensionless streamwise mean velocity profile  $U/U_\infty$  (—: Immersed Boundary,  $\bullet$ : Body-fitted) and Dimensionless streamwise rms velocity profile  $U_{rms}/U_\infty$  (---: Immersed Boundary,  $\blacktriangle$ : Body-fitted) at  $X/D = 0.6$ .

#### 4.4. Unsteady aerodynamic loads

Due to the strong geometrical change at the end of the upstream cylinder, the flow around the afterbodies is massively separated. The resulting wall pressure

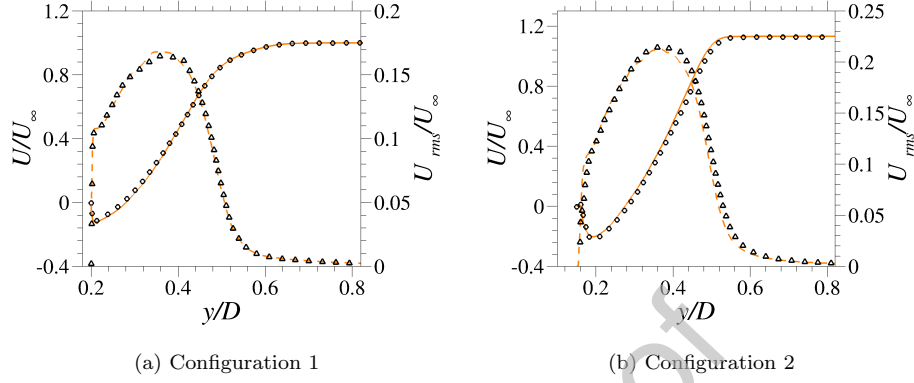


Figure 17: Dimensionless streamwise mean velocity profile  $U/U_\infty$  (—: Immersed Boundary,  $\circ$ : Body-fitted) and Dimensionless streamwise rms velocity profile  $U_{rms}/U_\infty$  (---: Immersed Boundary,  $\Delta$ : Body-fitted) at  $X/D = 1.0$ .

fluctuation leads to non-axisymmetric unsteady repartition of the instantaneous pressure field on the afterbody. Since the flows are massively separated, the study is limited to the prediction of the side load arising from the pressure. The time history of the pressure loads applied on the afterbody parts of the configurations (see parts in green in figure 11) have been sampled during the simulation over a total duration of 200 ms. Figures 18 (a) and (b) provide a polar plot of the two components of the dimensionless side load  $Cf_z = F_z(t)/(q_\infty \pi D^2/4)$  and  $Cf_y = F_y(t)/(q_\infty \pi D^2/4)$  for configurations one and two, respectively. These loads, corresponding to the forces which apply normally to the free stream direction, are normalised by the dynamic pressure  $q_\infty$  and  $S_{ref} = \frac{\pi D^2}{4}$ . The random character of this load fluctuation can be assessed through its statistical properties using the confidence ellipse of the bidimensional variables defined by  $\tilde{F} = [F_y, F_z]^t$ . As described by Deck and Nguyen [18], the confidence ellipse with  $\alpha = 95\%$  includes 95% of the observation of  $\tilde{F}$ . The shape and the size of this ellipse reflect the distribution and the intensity of the dynamic load phenomenon.

For the first configuration, the stepwise and the accurate approaches de-



scribed in section 2.2 give the same results with an underlying mesh conforming the geometry of the afterbody. Moreover, the intensity and the repartition of the global load of the IB simulation are coherent with the body-fitted results.

405 Thus, the IB formulation is able to reproduce a no-slip condition as a classical boundary condition would do. For the second configuration, the results do not converge to the same confidence ellipses (see figure 18 (b)) suggesting the accurate reconstruction of the surface is of primary importance in the estimation of the physical quantities at the wall.

410 As a consequence, during the same simulation, the global load has been computed with several IB surface reconstructions. The statistical properties of the resulting dynamic loads are reported in table 3 along with the computational cost associated with the creation of the integration surface. Due to the axisymmetry of both configurations the resulting ellipses are supposed to converge to a centered circle (i.e.  $\overline{Fy} \simeq \overline{Fz} \simeq 0$  and  $\sigma_{Fz}/\sigma_{Fy} = 1$ ). This can be analysed  
415 through the ratio between the standard deviation of  $Fz$  and  $Fy$  which is also confirmed by the fact that the mean values of the two components of the load are  $\overline{Fy} \simeq \overline{Fz} \simeq 0$ . The intensity of the global load can, therefore, be assessed through the radius of the circle.

420 As explained in section 2, the wall stress on  $S_{ISG}$  and  $S_{PISG}$  is computed without approximation or additional interpolation procedures. As a consequence, the discrepancies between the global load is only due to the refinement of the integration surface. As shown in table 3, the confidence ellipse properties  
425 converge after only 12 refinement levels of the  $S_{PISG}$  surface and improves greatly the assessment of the dynamic load. The preprocessing time required to create  $S_{PISG}$  may seem prohibitive but its generation is highly parallelized. On the other hand, the stepwise approach is shown to overestimate the global load on the second configuration. Nonetheless, this approach does not require  
430 preprocessing operations and can therefore be used for a quick estimation of the load.

The analysis of this phenomenon can be developed through the analysis of

Table 3: First and second order statistical properties of the dynamic load integrated with different reconstructed surfaces on configuration 2 during 200 ms of simulation along with the time required to generate these surfaces,  $\bar{R}$  denotes the radius of the circle in the case of axisymmetric flows.

	$\sigma_{Fz}/\sigma_{Fy}$	$\overline{Fy}$	$\overline{Fz}$	$\bar{R}$	$S/S_{ref}$	Time (s)
Body-Fitted	0.9941	-5.473E-5	7.213E-5	6.743E-3	1.0	$\emptyset$
Stepwise	0.9839	-9.581E-5	1.538E-5	6.832E-3	1.219	$\emptyset$
$S_{ISG}$	0.9809	-4.710E-5	-1.629E-6	6.560E-3	0.980	6.43
$S_{PISG} n = 1$	0.9862	-6.762E-5	3.114E-5	6.582E-3	0.984	13.37
$S_{PISG} n = 5$	0.9862	-5.361E-5	-4.331E-6	6.648E-3	0.992	128.40
$S_{PISG} n = 8$	0.9862	-4.969E-5	9.600E-6	6.648E-3	0.994	1133.92
$S_{PISG} n = 12$	0.9862	-4.249E-5	2.097E-5	6.648E-3	0.995	18839.98
$S_{PISG} n = 16$	0.9862	-3.793E-5	2.502E-5	6.648E-3	0.995	329378.49

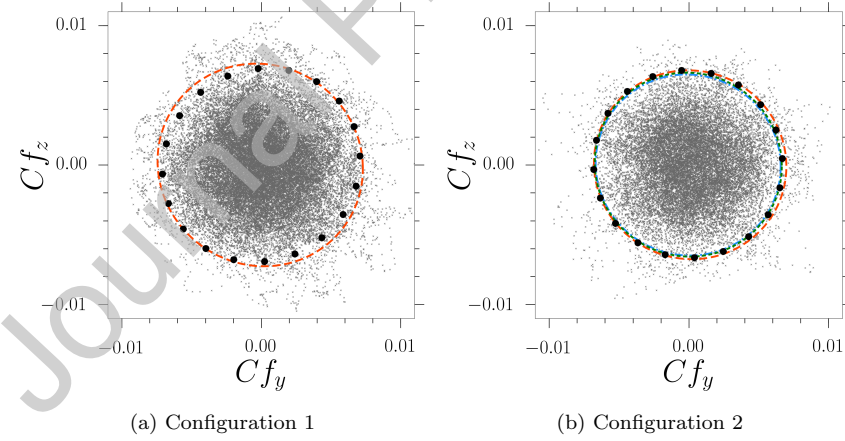


Figure 18: Plot of the 95% confidence ellipses obtained with the present simulations. —: Body-fitted, - - -: Stepwise approach (IB), - - -:  $S_{ISG}$  (IB), - - -:  $S_{PISG}$  (IB). •: global load values (IB).

$G_{F_y}$  and  $G_{F_z}$  which represent the Power Spectral Density (PSD) of the aerody-

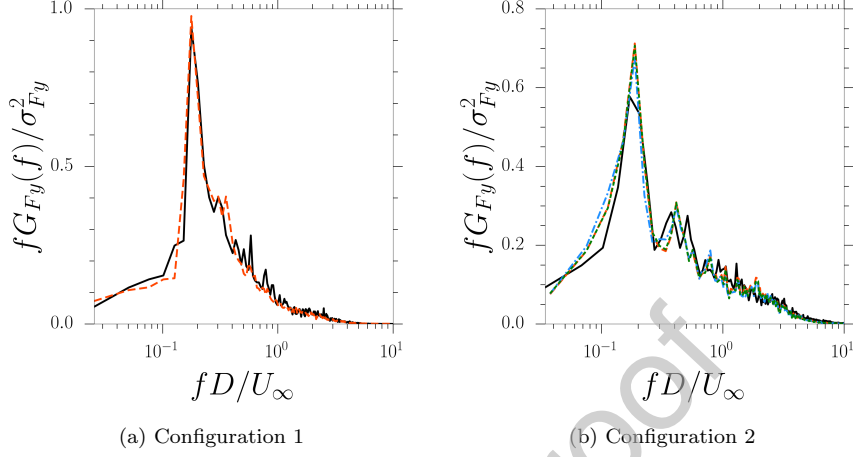


Figure 19: PSD of the side loads for the  $y$  component, —: Body-fitted, - - -: Stepwise approach (IB), - - -:  $S_{ISG}$  (IB), - - -:  $S_{PISG}$  (IB).

dynamic load for the  $y$  and  $z$  components. The Power Spectral Density describes how the mean squared value is distributed in frequency:

$$\sigma^2 = \int_0^\infty G(f)df = \int_{-\infty}^\infty f \cdot G(f)d[\log(f)] \quad (10)$$

Therefore, by plotting spectra as  $f \cdot G(f)/\sigma^2$  in linear/log axis, one can obtain directly the contribution to the total energy of the considered frequency band. Figures 19(a) and (b) show  $f \cdot G_{F_y}(f)/\sigma_{F_y}^2$  of both cases as a function of the Strouhal number  $St_D = \frac{fD}{U_\infty}$ . The main peaks, located at  $St_D = 0.2$  for the first configuration and  $St_D = 0.18$  for the second one, are both well reproduced.

#### 4.5. Spectral analysis of fluctuating wall quantities

As reminded by Sagaut and Deck [43], an accurate prediction of r.m.s values does not demonstrate a correct representation of the frequency content. This information is only accessible through a spectral analysis. Such an analysis requires extensive memory storage in order to sample the signal over enough physical time to reach statistical convergence leading to costly simulations. In our cases, the spectral analysis of the wall pressure field required the extraction

of the wall quantities every iteration during 200 ms of physical time to be able to  
 445 compute the coherence function with a sufficient number of overlapping blocks  
 [56] with Welch's method [61]. Thus, during the simulation, the wall pressure  
 values used to assess the global load were extracted every iteration.

The Power Spectral Densities (PSD) of the fluctuating wall pressure field has  
 been computed with a frequency resolution of 60 Hz. The PSD values are plotted  
 450 in figure 20 in the streamwise direction to evidence the spatial organisation of  
 the flow dynamics. In order to improve the convergence of the spectral maps,  
 the PSD has been averaged azimuthally for every streamwise location. The IBC  
 simulation accurately reproduces the location of the dominant frequency around  
 $St_D = 0.2$  linked to the vortex shedding phenomenon. Moreover, the low-  
 455 frequency signal, around  $St_D = 0.08$  is well-positioned between the separating  
 point and  $X/D = 0.35$ . Lastly, a broadband spectrum centred near  $St_D = 0.6$   
 corresponding to the impact of the shear layer structures on the surface of the  
 topology is retrieved on the IBC simulation.

The same analysis has been processed on the second configuration. The  
 460 results of Weiss and Deck [57] were compared against the present spectral maps  
 in figure 21. The spatial location and the intensity of the fluctuating wall  
 quantities are well assessed by the IB method even for this complex geometry.

In the frame of an axisymmetric afterbody the shedding phenomenon is  
 associated to an antisymmetric mode ( $m=1$ ) of the pressure field partly respon-  
 sible of the unsteady side-loads [60, 56]. To assess if this important feature  
 can be computed with an IBC approach, a two-point spectral analysis has been  
 performed to get further into the comparison. More precisely, the azimuthal  
 coherence of two pressure sensors  $p_1(r, x, \phi_1)$  and  $p_2(r, x, \phi_2)$  located at the same  
 streamwise location  $x$ , at a constant radius  $r$  and at an azimuthal angle  $\phi_i$  is  
 investigated. Assuming an homogeneous flow, as proposed in [21, 20, 60], the  
 complex coherence function can be expressed as :

$$C(f, r, x, \Delta\phi) = (C_r + jC_i)(f, r, x, \Delta\phi) = \frac{S_{12}(f, r, x, \Delta\phi)}{\sqrt{S_1(f, r, x, \Delta\phi)S_2(f, r, x, \Delta\phi)}} \quad (11)$$

where  $j = \sqrt{-1}$ , and  $C_r$  and  $C_i$  are the real and imaginary part of the cross-

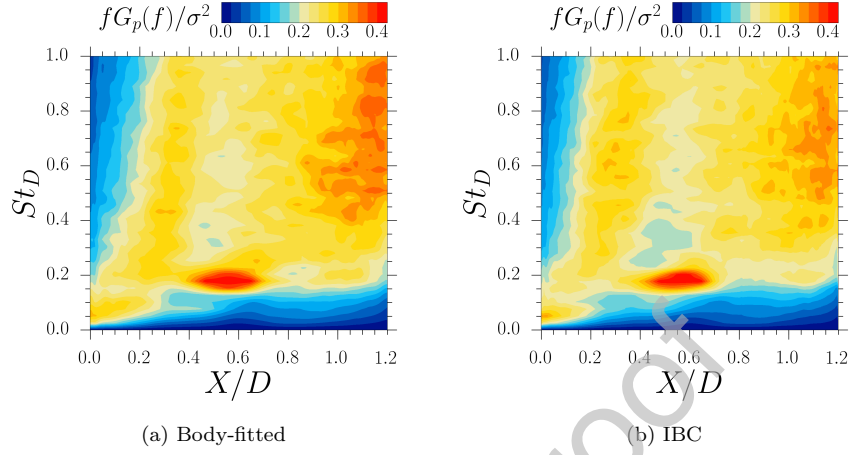


Figure 20: Maps of the dimensionless Power Spectral Density of the fluctuating wall pressure for every streamwise location along the first configuration.

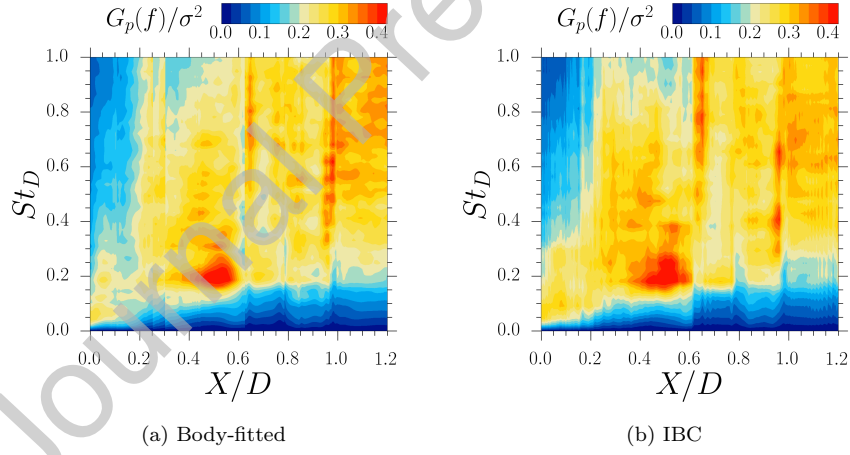


Figure 21: Maps of the dimensionless Power Spectral Density of the fluctuating wall pressure for every streamwise location along the second configuration.

spectral density function  $S_{12}$  and  $\Delta\phi$  is the angle between two sensors. Assuming an homogeneous propagation of the disturbance and with  $C_i = 0$ ,  $C_r$  is

considered as  $2\pi$ -periodic and can be expressed as follows:

$$C_r(f, \phi) = \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} C_{r,m}(f) \cos(m\Delta\phi) \quad (12)$$

Where  $C_{r,m}$  is the percentage of the fluctuating energy at the frequency  $f$  relative to the azimuthal mode  $m$  with  $\sum_m C_{r,m} = 1$ . As reminded by Weiss and Deck [56], mode 0 and 1 are characterized respectively by an in-phase and anti-phase signal relation recorded at two angle locations. Hence, the dynamic load phenomena observed on space launcher afterbodies are a consequence of the antisymmetric mode  $m = 1$ . The spectral maps of this mode are shown in figure 22 for the first configuration and 23 for the second one. For both cases the maximum of the coherence function is to be found at  $St_D = 0.2$  and is well-located between  $x/D = 0.35$  and  $x/D = 0.75$ . However, the azimuthal coherence for the dimensionless frequency  $St_D = 0.1$  related to the flapping phenomenon has increased between  $x/D = 0$  and  $x/D = 0.35$  for both simulations with IB.

Such modifications of the azimuthal coherence have also been observed for the first configuration in [56] when four jets were positioned near the beginning of the shear layer in a body-fitted context. The resulting mass flow injection shows the same feature as the present IBC simulation and is a consequence of the non conservativeness of the immersed boundary. This result puts forward the impact of the IB source term on near-wall flows.

This study shows that the IBC method using the new  $S_{PISG}$  surface reconstruction permits the analysis of the spatial organization of the fluctuating pressure field and broadens the use hybrid RANS-LES methods for complex geometry simulations.

#### 4.6. Conclusion

The ability of immersed boundary conditions to reproduce all validation levels accessible with body-fitted methodologies has been assessed through the simulation and the comparison of two well-documented test cases. In particular, two methodologies were tested for the "on-the-fly" assessment of global loads

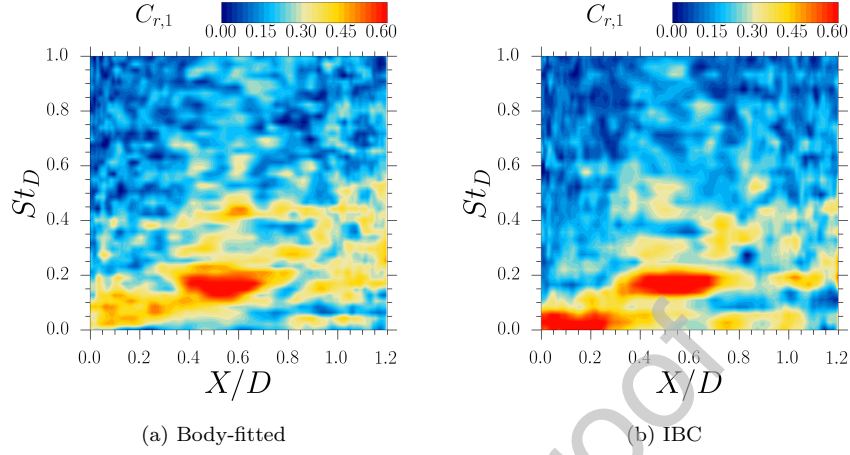


Figure 22: Maps of the azimuthal pressure mode  $C_{r,1}$  for every streamwise location along configuration 1.

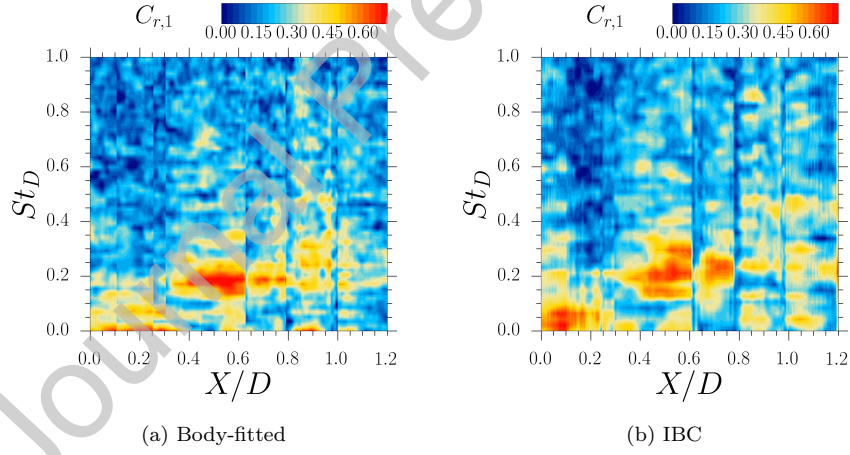


Figure 23: Maps of the azimuthal pressure mode  $C_{r,1}$  for every streamwise location along configuration 2.

on immersed bodies. The method based on a stepwise representation of the surface has shown its capacity and its numerical simplicity to perform a fast  
 495 evaluation of these quantities. Nevertheless, the present generalised methodology for the generation of surface meshes on IBC permits to perform the same

post-processing as with body-fitted methods without extra computational cost  
 during the simulations. Moreover, this strategy allows the extraction of wall  
 quantities on IB which permits to achieve high validation levels such as single  
 500 and two-point spectral analyses. Following the classification of Sagaut and Deck  
 [43], the validation levels from 0 to 5 (i.e. from integral efforts to cross-spectral  
 analysis) have been performed successfully on IBC and compared to body-fitted  
 simulations using the same numerical methods and showed the capacity of IBC  
 to accurately model wall conditions even for high Reynolds number flows. How-  
 505 ever, the two-point spectral analysis reveals the impact of the IBC forcing on  
 the wall quantities for the lowest frequencies. Indeed, the occurrence of spuri-  
 ous low frequencies acts as an injection of momentum in the simulation, which  
 highlights the impact of the source terms used to create the boundary condi-  
 tion. Nonetheless, the present strategy combining ZDES and the zonal use of  
 510 IBC (ZIBC) has shown its capacity to accurately assess the impact of the pres-  
 sure fluctuation on space launcher afterbodies while reducing dramatically the  
 initial preprocessing step required for full body-fitted simulations.



## Appendix A. Algorithm for the extraction of wall quantities from structured grids

515 The cells in structured grids are defined by three indexes  $(i, j, k)$  (e.g. stream-wise, wall-normal, spanwise/azumutal directions). For body-fitted approaches, wall cells are located at the edge of a computational domain, and consequently one of these indexes is a constant. Hence, the extraction of wall cells results in 2D structured files. While unstructured data require a connectivity table, the  
520 spatial organisation of structured data is implicitly known by the indexes. For IBC, the forcing points do not generally lie on the faces of the computational domain. Therefore we proposed to create a new index  $\tilde{i}$  to replace two indexes in order to create 2D indexed extractions for IBC. In the present case the index  $j$  has been "unfolded" in the  $i$  index direction to create  $\tilde{i}$  as presented in figure  
525 A.24. This first step produced a different number of  $\tilde{i}$  for every  $k$ . Therefore the spatial organisation of the structured indexes is not preserved so far. For a given  $i$ , if the number of cells is different between  $k$  index, it will result in an offset in the spatial organisation of the indexes (see figure A.25).

To avoid any offset between  $\tilde{i}$  and  $k$ , the same number of cells has to be  
530 written for a given  $i$  index for every  $k$ . This number corresponds to the maximum number of cells unfolded at an index  $i$  for every  $k$ . If the number of cells is lower than this maximum number, the last cell is added multiple times. The addition of these cells, represented in green in A.24, preserves the connectivity in  $k$  of the cells. Figure A.25 presents a 3D application of this method on the  
535 configuration 2.

The final data file contains a 2D structured surface mesh linking every IB forcing points. This structured grid can be used as the previous one for load integration and extraction. One could argue that the multiplication of several cells could result in an incorrect surface computation and therefore an incorrect  
540 load computation. Since the duplicated cells have the same coordinates, the integration surface remains unchanged.

This method is useful for geometries aligned in one particular index direc-

tion. For some applications, the number of added cells will counterbalance the advantage to use structured extraction. Nonetheless, for the present cases, this methodology provides structured data with less than 50 additional cells and allows a direct comparison with wall extractions realised on body-fitted structured grids.

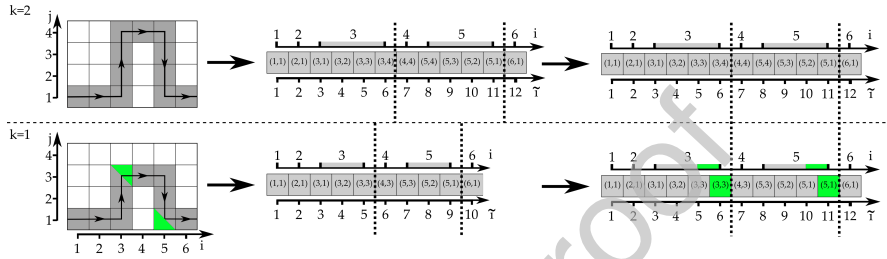


Figure A.24: Two-dimensional sketches of the structured extraction procedure. Initial structured-grid information (Left)/ Surface unfolding (Center) / Surface filling (Right).

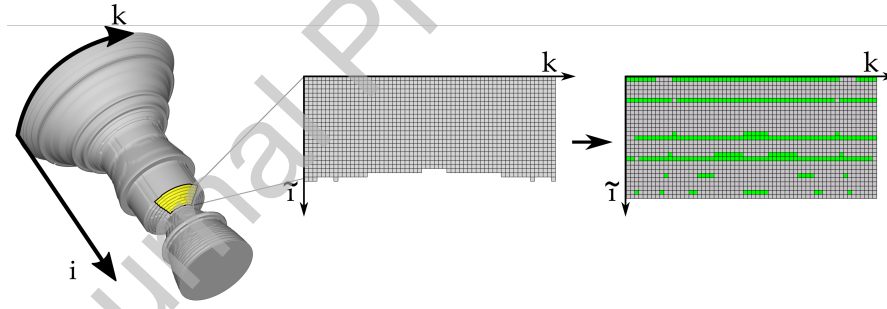


Figure A.25: Three-dimensional sketches of the structured extraction procedure. Initial structured-grid information (Left)/ Surface unfolding (Center) / Surface filling (Right).

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**Declaration of interests**

☒ The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper.

☐ The authors declare the following financial interests/personal relationships which may be considered as potential competing interests:

## **CRedit author statement**

**(C&F, Manueco, Weiss, Deck, 2020)**

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