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Introductory OpenFOAM® Course

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University of Genoa, DICCA

Dipartimento di Ingegneria Civile, Chimica e Ambientale



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Acknowledgements

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- Hrvoje Jasak. Wikki Ltd.
- Hakan Nilsson. Department of Applied Mechanics, Chalmers University of Technology.
- Eric Paterson. Applied Research Laboratory Professor of Mechanical Engineering, Pennsylvania State University.

Today's lecture

- 1. What is OpenFOAM®? – Brief overview**
- 2. OpenFOAM® directory organization**
- 3. Directory structure of an application/utility**
- 4. Applications/utilities in OpenFOAM®**
- 5. Directory structure of an OpenFOAM® case**
- 6. My first OpenFOAM® case setup**
- 7. A deeper view to my first OpenFOAM® case setup**
- 8. My second OpenFOAM® case setup**
- 9. My third OpenFOAM® case setup**
- 10. My first 3D OpenFOAM® case setup**
- 11. Hands-on session**

Today's lecture

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11. Hands-on session

What is OpenFOAM®? – Brief overview

General description:

- OpenFOAM® stands for Open Source Field Operation and Manipulation.
- OpenFOAM® is first and foremost a C++ library used to solve partial differential equations and ordinary differential equations.
- OpenFOAM® comes with several ready-to-use or out-of-the-box numerical solvers, and pre-/post-processing utilities.
- OpenFOAM® is free to use and it has extensive CFD and multi-physics capabilities.
- Can run in parallel computers.
- It is under active development, its capabilities mirror those of commercial CFD applications.
- It counts with a wide-spread community around the world (industry, academia and research labs).

What is OpenFOAM®? – Brief overview

Discretization and implementation – Brief overview:

- Finite Volume Method based solver.
- Collocated polyhedral unstructured meshes.
- Second order accuracy in space and time. Many discretization schemes available.
- Lagrangian particle tracking.
- Dynamic mesh handling.
- Adaptive mesh refinement.
- Massive parallelism through domain decomposition.
- All components implemented in library form for easy re-use.

What is OpenFOAM®? – Brief overview

Physical models – Brief overview:

- Physical modeling library: thermo-physical models (liquids and gases), Newtonian and non-Newtonian viscosity models, chemical reactions interface.
- Basic: Laplace, potential flow, passive scalar transport.
- Incompressible and compressible flow: segregated pressure-based algorithms (SIMPLE and PISO).
- Heat transfer: buoyancy-driven flows, conjugate heat transfer.
- Multiphase: Euler-Euler, VOF for free surfaces.
- Turbulence modeling (RANS and LES).
- Pre-mixed and Diesel combustion.
- Stress analysis, fluid-structure interaction, electromagnetics, acoustics, MHD, etc.
- Physics models implementation through **equation mimicking**.

What is OpenFOAM®? – Brief overview

Equation mimicking

This syntax, achieved through the use of object oriented programming features such as inheritance, template classes, virtual functions and operator overloading, enables users to create custom solvers with relative ease. For example the equation,

$$\frac{\partial \rho \mathbf{U}}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot \phi \mathbf{U} - \nabla \cdot \mu \nabla \mathbf{U} = -\nabla p$$

is represented by the code

```
solve  
(  
    fvm::ddt(rho, U)  
    + fvm::div(phi, U)  
    - fvm::laplacian(mu, U)  
    ==  
    - fvc::grad(p)  
);
```

What is OpenFOAM®? – Brief overview

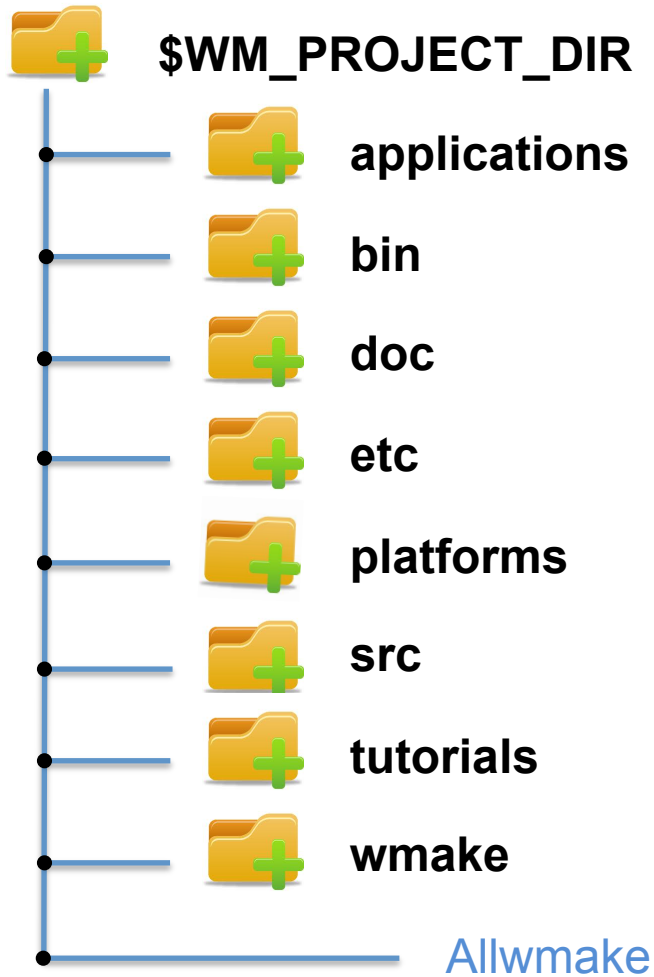
Structure – Brief overview:

- Design encourages code re-use.
- OpenFOAM® is assembled from components:
 - Foundations libraries containing vectors, tensors and field algebra, mesh handling, discretization, boundary conditions, linear solvers, etc.
 - Physical modeling library: thermo-physical models (liquids and gases), viscosity models, chemical reactions interface.
 - Utilities: mesh import and manipulation, paralleling processing, post processing and data manipulation.
 - Custom written top level solvers optimized for efficiency. Few 100s of lines of code.
- Linkage for user extensions and on-the-fly data analysis.
- Model-to-Model interaction handled through common interfaces.

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10. My first 3D OpenFOAM® case setup
11. Hands-on session

OpenFOAM® directory organization



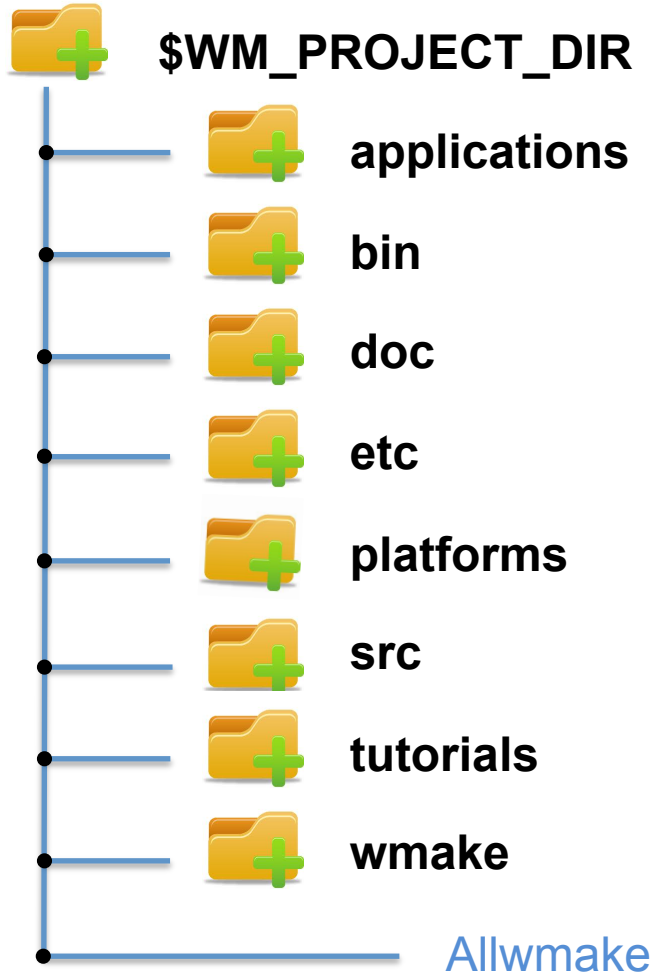
If you installed OpenFOAM® on the default location, the directory **\$WM_PROJECT_DIR** should be:

\$HOME/OpenFOAM/OpenFOAM-2.2.x

In this directory you will find all the directories containing OpenFOAM® installation. In this directory you will also find additional files (such as README.org, COPYING, etc.), but the most important one is [Allwmake](#), which compiles OpenFOAM®.

Typing [wcleanAll](#) will search all the directories below the current one and will delete all the compiled files. So if you type [wcleanAll](#) in **\$WM_PROJECT_DIR**, it will delete all the compiled files in your OpenFOAM® installation.

OpenFOAM® directory organization



Remember, you can go to any of these directories by using the predefined aliases set by OpenFOAM® environment settings (see **\$WM_PROJECT_DIR/etc/config/alias.sh**). For example:

```
alias foam='cd $WM_PROJECT_DIR'
```

```
alias app='cd $FOAM_APP'
```

```
alias src='cd $FOAM_SRC'
```

Type **alias** for a complete list.

The entries starting with the symbol **\$** are environment variables. Find out the value of an environment variable by echoing its value. For example:

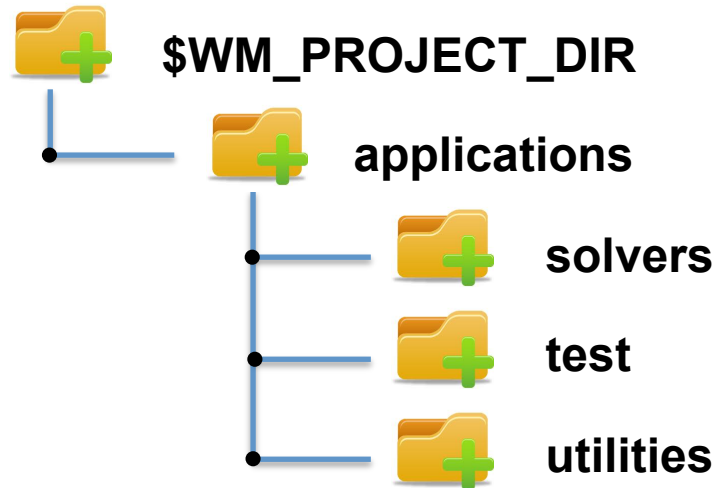
```
echo $WM_PROJECT_DIR
```

will give you the following output on the terminal

```
$HOME/OpenFOAM/OpenFOAM-2.2.x
```

To see all the environment variables type **env**.

OpenFOAM® directory organization



Let us visit **applications** directory. Type `app` or `cd $WM_PROJECT_DIR/applications`. Here you will find the following sub-directories:

- **solvers**, which contains the source code for the distributed solvers.
- **test**, which contains the source code of several test cases that show the usage of some of the OpenFOAM® classes (not available in 1.6-ext).
- **utilities**, which contains the source code for the distributed utilities.

There is also an `Allwmake` script, which will compile all the content of **solvers** and **utilities**. To compile the test cases in **test** go to the desired test case directory and compile it by typing `wmake`.

OpenFOAM® directory organization



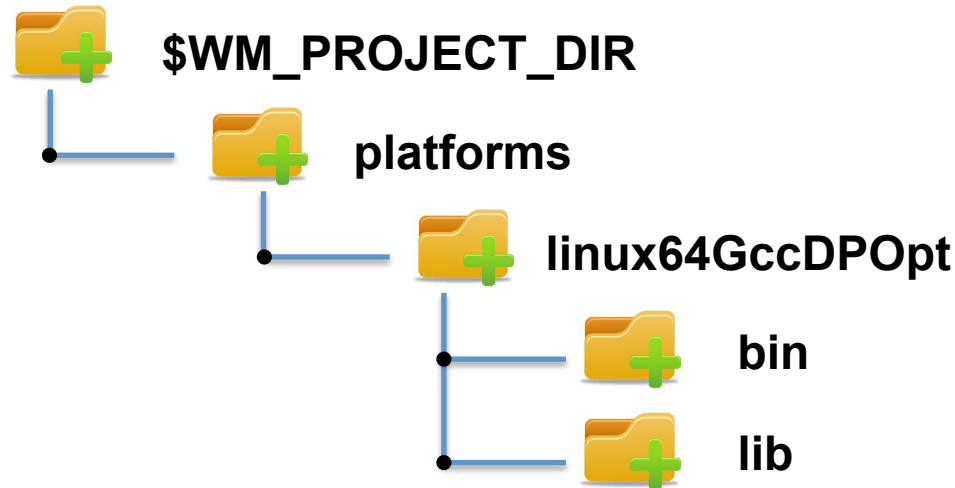
Let us visit **src** directory. Type `src` or `cd $WM_PROJECT_DIR/src`.

This directory contains the source code for all the libraries. It is divided in different subdirectories and each of them can contain several libraries.

The most relevant are:

- **finiteVolume**. This library provides all the classes needed for the finite volume discretization, such as the `fvMesh` class, finite volume discretization operators (divergence, laplacian, gradient, `fvc/fvm` and so on), and boundary conditions (**fields/fvPatchFields**). In **InInclude** you also find the very important file `fvCFD.H`, which is included in most applications.
- **OpenFOAM**. This core library includes the definitions of the containers used for the operations, the field definitions, the declaration of the mesh and mesh features such as zones and sets.
- **turbulenceModels**, which contains many turbulence models.

OpenFOAM® directory organization



Let us visit **platforms** directory. Type `cd $WM_PROJECT_DIR/platforms`.

This directory contains the binaries generated when compiling the **applications** directory (after compilation the binaries will be located in the directory `$WM_PROJECT_DIR/platforms/linux64GccDPOpt/bin`) and the libraries generated by compiling the source code in the **src** directory (after compilation, the libraries will be located in the directory `$WM_PROJECT_DIR/platforms/linux64GccDPOpt/lib`).

If you installed OpenFOAM® following the default instructions, you compiled the 64 bits version, using the gcc compiler, with double precision, and optimized version. This is reflected in the name of the directory **linux64GccDPOpt**.

OpenFOAM® directory organization



Let us visit the **bin**, **doc**, **etc**, and **tutorials** directories:

- The **bin** directory contains shell scripts, such as [paraFoam](#), [foamNew](#), [foamLog](#), etc.
- The **etc** directory contains environment setup files, global OpenFOAM® instructions, and default thermoData.
- The **tutorials** directory contains example cases for each solver

OpenFOAM® directory organization



Let us visit the **bin**, **doc**, **etc**, and **tutorials** directories:

- The **doc** directory contains the documentation of OpenFOAM®, namely; user guide, programmer's guide and Doxygen generated documentation in html format (the Doxygen documentation needs to be compiled by typing `Allwmake doc` in `$WM_PROJECT_DIR`). You can also access Doxygen documentation from internet.

- Documentation usage:

`acoread $WM_PROJECT_DIR/doc/Guides-a4/UserGuide.pdf`

`acoread $WM_PROJECT_DIR/doc/Guides-a4/ProgrammersGuide.pdf`

`firefox file://$WM_PROJECT_DIR/doc/Doxygen/html/index.html`

OpenFOAM® directory organization



Let us visit the **wmake** directory.

OpenFOAM® uses a special make command: [wmake](#).

[wmake](#) understands the file structure in OpenFOAM® and has some default compiler directives that are set in the **wmake** directory. There is also a command, [wclean](#), that cleans up the output from the [wmake](#) command.

If you add a new compiler name in the [bashrc](#) file, you should also tell [wmake](#) how to interpret that name. In **wmake/rules** you find the default settings for the available compilers.

You can also find a few scripts that are useful when organizing your files for compilation, or for cleaning up.

OpenFOAM® directory organization



User directory **\$WM_PROJECT_USER_DIR** (**USER_NAME-2.2.x**)

In **\$WM_PROJECT_USER_DIR** directory, all user files are located.

If you are going to develop applications of your own, it is recommended to put the source code in **\$WM_PROJECT_USER_DIR** following the same structure as in **\$WM_PROJECT_DIR/applications**.

It is recommended to create two more directories:

\$WM_PROJECT_USER_DIR/run and **\$WM_PROJECT_USER_DIR/src**

Place user developed library source code in **\$WM_PROJECT_USER_DIR/src** directory, with the same directory structure as in **\$FOAM_SRC**, and case files in the **\$WM_PROJECT_USER_DIR/run** directory (which has the alias **run**).

In **\$WM_PROJECT_USER_DIR/platforms/linux64GccDPOpt/bin**, the binaries of the user developed applications will be located; whereas, in **\$WM_PROJECT_USER_DIR/platforms/linux64GccDPOpt/lib**, the binaries of the user developed libraries will be located.

This is done so you do not modify anything in the original installation, except for updates!



OpenFOAM® directory organization

Environment variables

- Remember, OpenFOAM® uses its own environment variables.
- OpenFOAM® environment settings are contained in the **OpenFOAM-2.2.x/etc** directory. If you installed OpenFOAM® in the default location, they should be in:
 - **\$HOME/OpenFOAM/OpenFOAM-2.2.x/etc**
- If you are running bash or ksh (if in doubt type `echo $SHELL`), you sourced the **\$WM_PROJECT_DIR/etc/bashrc** file by adding the following line to your **\$HOME/.bashrc** file:
 - `source $HOME/OpenFOAM/OpenFOAM-2.2.x/etc/bashrc`
- By sourcing the file **\$WM_PROJECT_DIR/etc/bashrc**, we start to use OpenFOAM® environment variables, that is to say, OpenFOAM® path to libraries and compilers.
- By default, OpenFOAM® uses its own compiler.

OpenFOAM® directory organization



WARNING

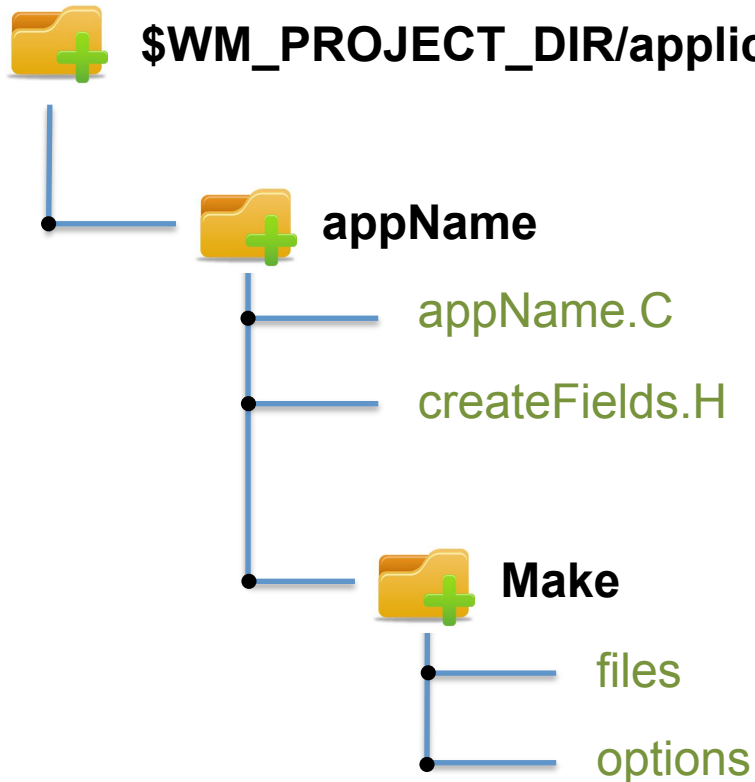
Remember, when you use OpenFOAM® you are using its environment settings, that is, path to libraries and compilers.

So, if you are developing your own software or compiling other applications, do not forget to unload OpenFOAM® environment variables or you will have problems when compiling your own software.

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6. ~~My first OpenFOAM® case setup~~
7. ~~A deeper view to my first OpenFOAM® case setup~~
8. ~~My second OpenFOAM® case setup~~
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11. ~~Hands-on session~~

Directory structure of an OpenFOAM® solver



The **appName** directory contains the source code.

The **Make** directory contains compilation instructions.

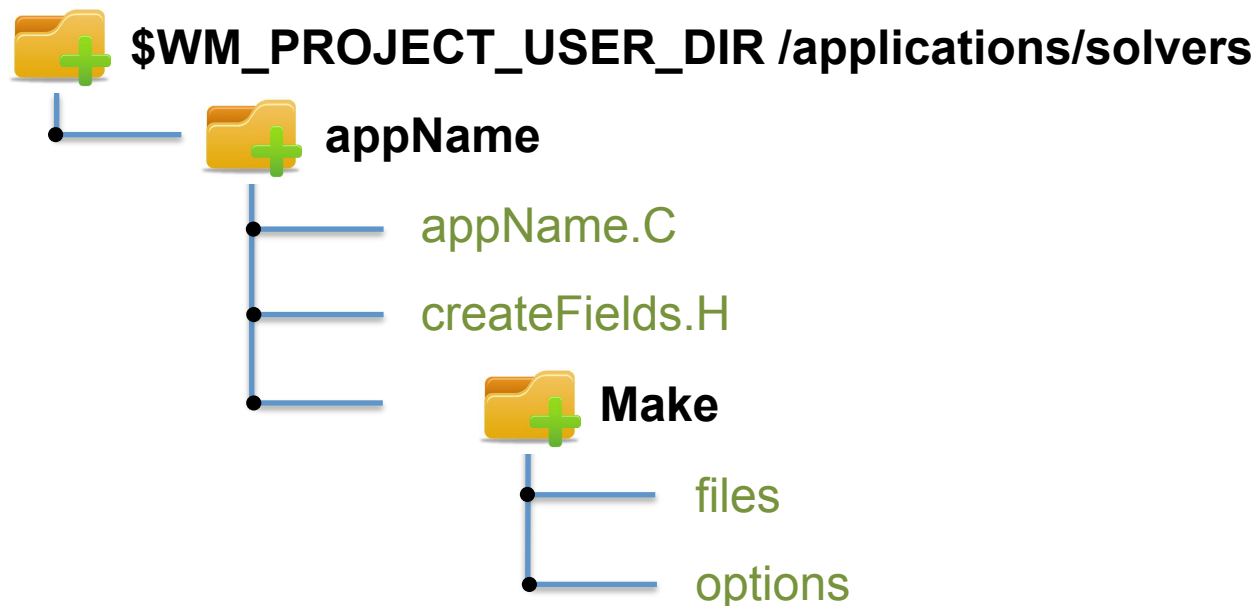
appName/appName.C: is the actual source code.

appName/createFields.H: declares all the field variables and initializes the solution.

Make/files: names all the source files (.C). Specifies the appName name and location of the output file.

Make/options: specifies directories to search for include files and libraries to link the solver against.

Directory structure of an OpenFOAM® solver



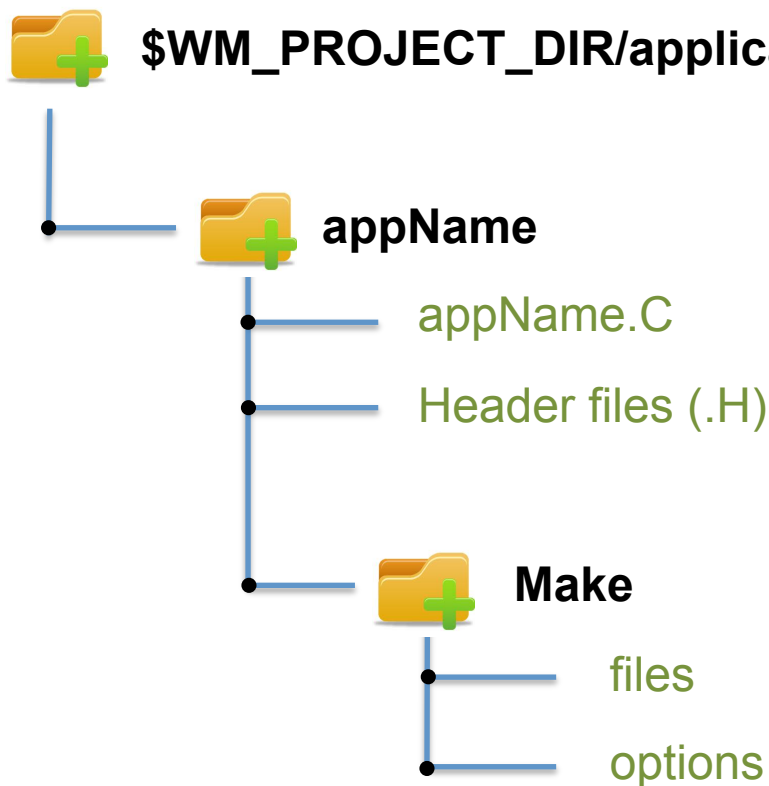
REMEMBER

For your own applications, it is recommended to put the source code in `$WM_PROJECT_USER_DIR` following the same structure as in `$WM_PROJECT_DIR/applications`. Also, you will need to modify `Make/files` and `Make/options` to show the new name and location of the compiled binaries and libraries to link the solver against.

This is done so you do not modify anything in the original installation, except for updates!. You can do anything you want to your own copies, so you do not risk messing things up.



Directory structure of an OpenFOAM® utility



The **appName** directory contains the source code.

The **Make** directory contains compilation instructions.

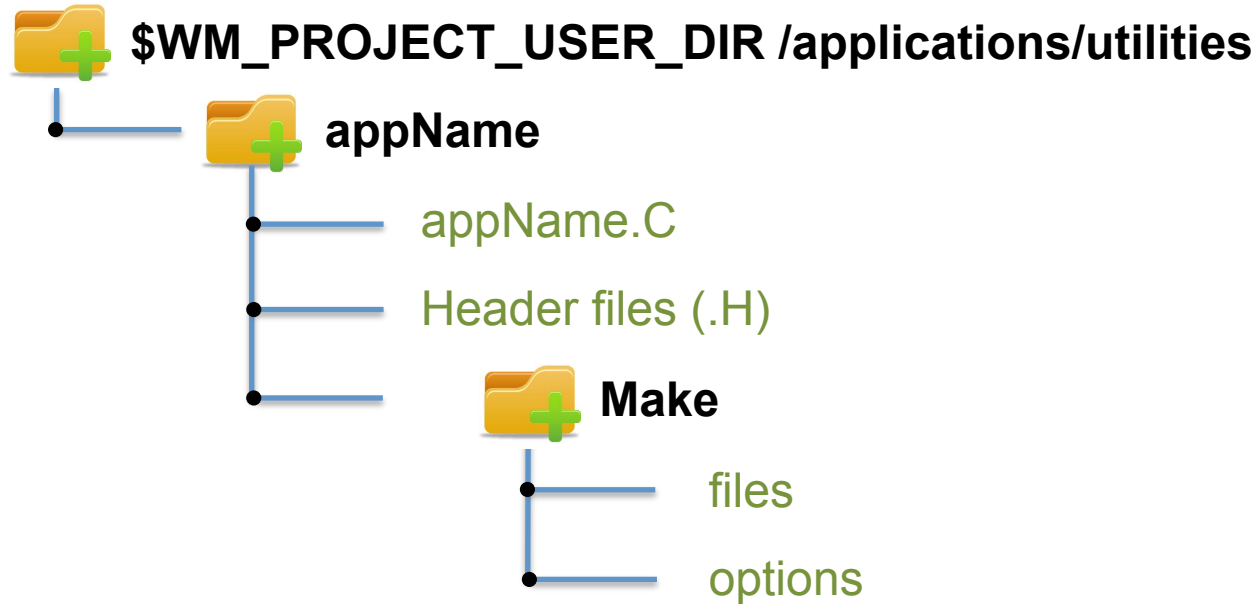
appName/appName.C: is the actual source code.

appName/Header files (.H): header files needed to compile the utility.

Make/files: names all the source files (.C). Specifies the appName name and location of the output file.

Make/options: specifies directories to search for include files and libraries to link the utility against.

Directory structure of an OpenFOAM® utility



REMEMBER

For applications of your own, it is recommended to put the source code in `$WM_PROJECT_USER_DIR` following the same structure as in `$WM_PROJECT_DIR/applications`. Also, you will need to modify `Make/files` and `Make/options` to show the new name and location of the compiled binaries and libraries to link the utility against.

This is done so you do not modify anything in the original installation, except for updates!. You can do anything you want to your own copies, so you do not risk messing things up.



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5. ~~Directory structure of an OpenFOAM® case~~
6. ~~My first OpenFOAM® case setup~~
7. ~~A deeper view to my first OpenFOAM® case setup~~
8. ~~My second OpenFOAM® case setup~~
9. ~~My third OpenFOAM® case setup~~
10. ~~My first 3D OpenFOAM® case setup~~
11. ~~Hands-on session~~

Solvers in OpenFOAM®

- In **\$FOAM_SOLVERS** (use alias **sol** to go there) you will find the directories containing the source code for the solvers available in the OpenFOAM® installation (version 2.2.x):

- **basic**

- **combustion**

- **compressible**

- **discreteMethods**

- **DNS**

- **electromagnetics**

- **financial**

- **heatTransfer**

- **incompressible**

- **lagrangian**

- **multiphase**

- **stressAnalysis**

Solvers in OpenFOAM®

- In sub-directory **incompressible** you will find the solver source code directories:
 - **adjointShapeOptimizationFoam**
 - **boundaryFoam**
 - **icoFoam**
 - **nonNewtonianIcoFoam**
 - **pimpleFoam**
 - **pisoFoam**
 - **potentialFreeSurfaceFoam**
 - **shallowWaterFoam**
 - **simpleFoam**
- Inside each solver directory you will find a *.C file with the same name as the directory. This is the main file, where you will find the top-level source code and a short description of the solver. For **incompressible/icoFoam/icoFoam.C**:



Transient solver for incompressible, laminar flow of Newtonian fluids.

Solvers in OpenFOAM®



REMEMBER

You have the source code right there.

So take your time and dig into each directory to get a complete description of each solver.

Utilities in OpenFOAM®

- In **\$FOAM_UTILITIES** (use alias **util** to go there) you will find the directories containing the source code for the utilities available in the OpenFOAM® installation (version 2.2.x):
 - **mesh**
 - **miscellaneous**
 - **parallelProcessing**
 - **postProcessing**
 - **preProcessing**
 - **surface**
 - **thermophysical**

As for the solver, take your time and dig into each directory to get a complete description of each utility.



Utilities in OpenFOAM®

For example:

- In the sub-directory **mesh/generation** you will find the utilities source code directories:
 - **blockMesh**
 - **extrude**
 - **extrude2DMesh**
 - **snappyHexMesh**
- Inside each utility directory you will find a *.C file with the same name as the directory. This is the main file, where you will find the top-level source code and a short description of the utility. For **snappyHexMesh/snappyHexMesh.C**:



Automatic split hex mesher. Refines and snaps to surface.

Utilities in OpenFOAM®

For example:

- In the sub-directory **postProcessing/velocityField** you will find the utilities source code directories:
 - **Co**
 - **enstrophy**
 - **flowType**
 - **Lambda**
 - **Mach**
 - **Pe**
 - **Q**
 - **streamFunction**
 - **uprime**
 - **vorticity**
- Inside each utility directory you will find a ***.C** file with the same name as the directory. This is the main file, where you will find the top-level source code and a short description of the utility. For **Q/Q.C**:

Calculates and writes the second invariant of the velocity gradient tensor.

$$Q = 0.5*(\text{sqr}(\text{tr}(\text{gradU})) - \text{tr}(((\text{gradU})\&(\text{gradU})))) \quad [1/\text{s}^2]$$



Utilities in OpenFOAM®



REMEMBER

You have the source code right there.

So take your time and dig into each directory to get a complete description of each solver.

Utilities in OpenFOAM®

Additional solvers and utilities

Visit OpenFOAM® Wiki:

<http://www.openfoamwiki.net>

CFD-Online OpenFOAM® user group:

<http://www.cfd-online.com/Forums/openfoam/>

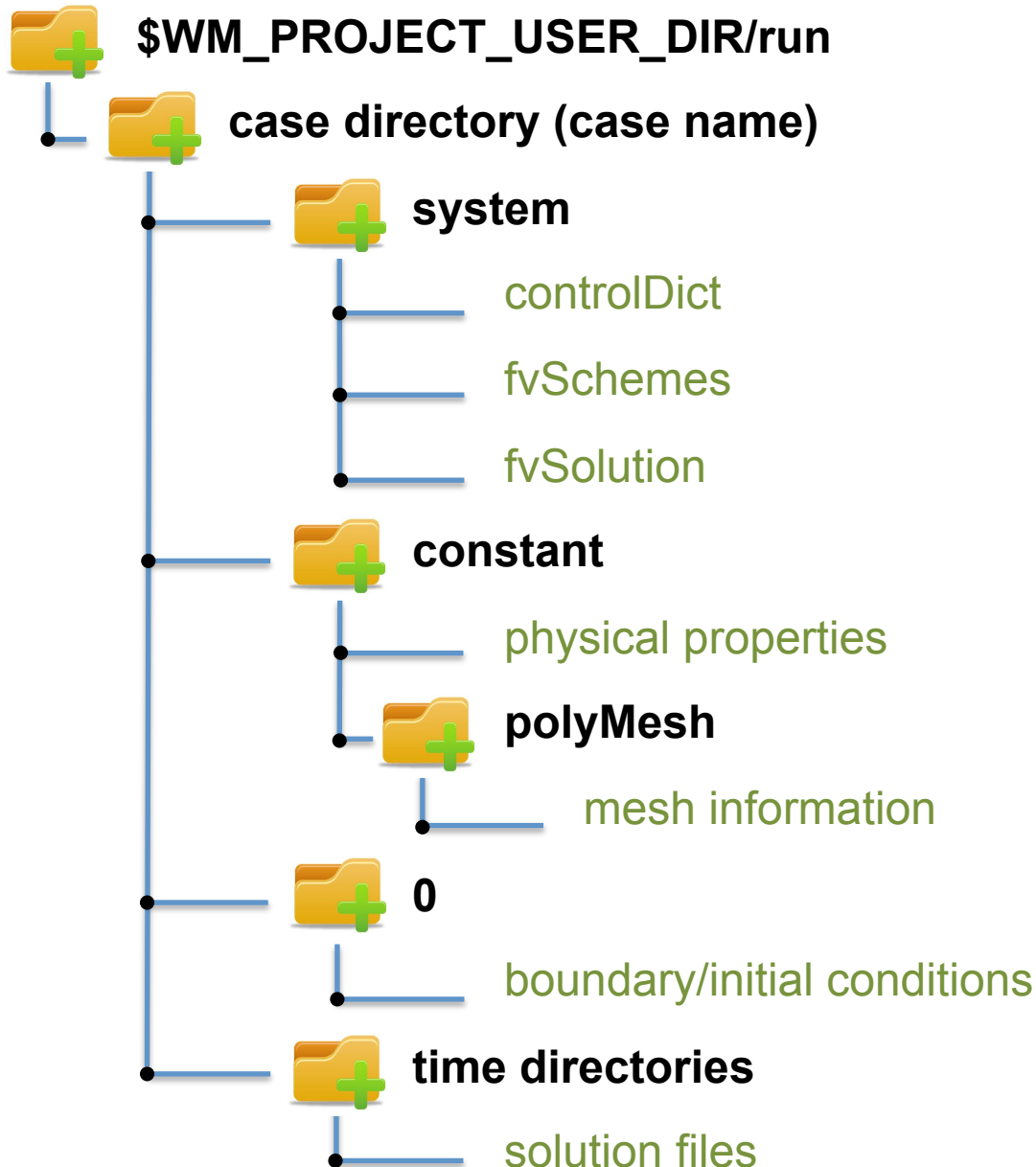
and the OpenFOAM-extend project:

<http://www.extend-project.de/>

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10. ~~My first 3D OpenFOAM® case setup~~
11. ~~Hands-on session~~

Directory structure of an OpenFOAM® case



case directory: path to the case, often located in **\$WM_PROJECT_USER_DIR/run**

system: contains run-time control and solver numerics.

constant: contains physical properties and turbulence modeling properties.

constant/polyMesh: contains the polyhedral mesh information.

0: contains boundary conditions and initial conditions.

time directories: contains the solution and derived fields.

Utilities in OpenFOAM®



REMEMBER

You always run the applications and utilities in the the **root directory** of your case (the directory with the case name).

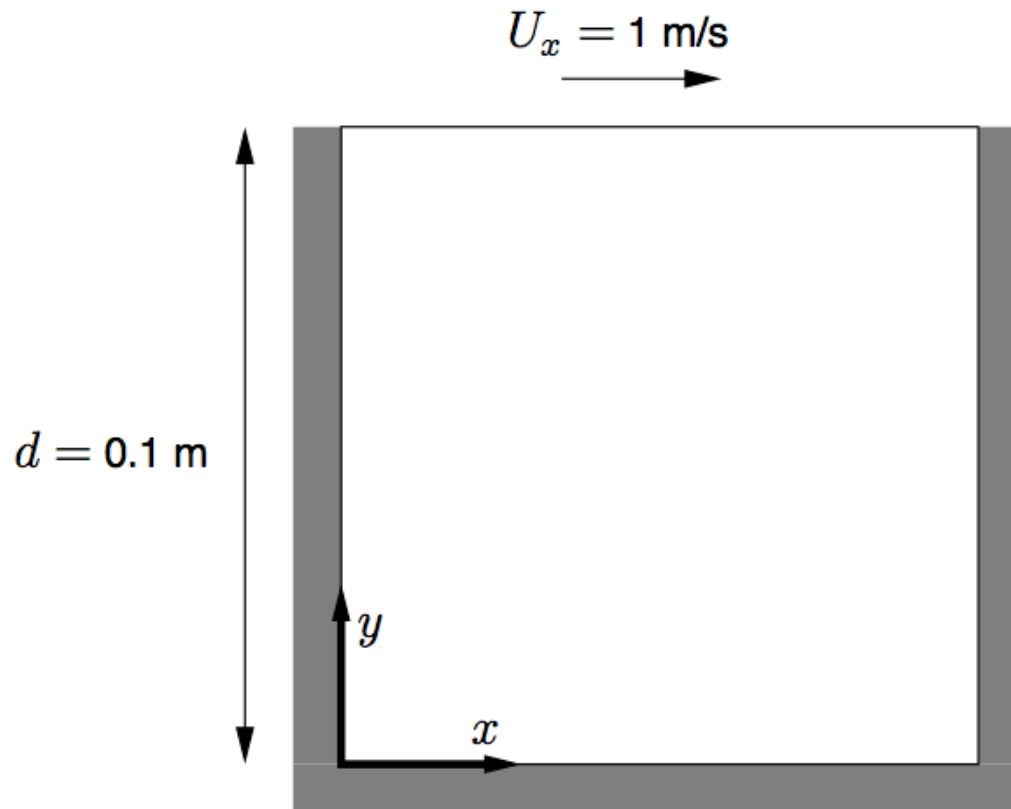
Not in the directory system, not in the directory constant, not in the directory 0.

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10. ~~My first 3D OpenFOAM® case setup~~
11. ~~Hands-on session~~

My first OpenFOAM® case setup

Flow in a lid-driven square cavity



My first OpenFOAM® case setup

We will use the `icoFoam` cavity tutorial as a general example of how to set up and run applications in OpenFOAM®.

In the folder `$path_to_openfoamcourse/first_tutorial` you will find a copy of the `icoFoam` cavity tutorial. From this point on, follow me.

In the terminal window type:

- `cd $path_to_openfoamcourse/first_tutorial/cavity`
- `blockMesh`
- `checkMesh`
- `icoFoam > log.icoFoam`

(this will redirect your standard output to an ascii file with the name `log.icoFoam`. If you do not add the `> log.icoFoam` modifier you will see your standard output on the fly and will not be saved)

- `foamLog log.icoFoam` (if you chose to redirect the standard output)
- `paraFoam`
- `cd logs`
- `gnuplot`

(now we use `gnuplot` to visualize the files in the directory, if you do not know how to use `gnuplot` follow me.)

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5. ~~Directory structure of an OpenFOAM® case~~
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10. ~~My first 3D OpenFOAM® case setup~~
11. ~~Hands-on session~~

A deeper view to my first OpenFOAM® case setup

We will take a look at what we did when running the cavity tutorial by looking at the case files.

- First at all it should be noted that **icoFoam** is a Transient solver for incompressible, laminar flow of Newtonian fluids.
- The case directory originally contains the following sub-directories: **0**, **constant**, and **system**. After running **icoFoam** it also contains the time step directories **0.1**, **0.2**, **0.3**, **0.4**, **0.5** and the **log.icoFoam** file (if you chose to redirect the standard output)
 - The time step directories contain the values of all the variables at those time steps. The **0** directory is thus the initial condition.
 - The **constant** directory contains the mesh and dictionaries for thermophysical and turbulence models.
 - The **system** directory contains settings for the run, discretization schemes and solution procedures.
- The **icoFoam** solver reads the files in the case directory and runs the case according to those settings.

A deeper view to my first OpenFOAM® case setup

The **constant** directory

(and by the way, open each file and go thru its content)

- The **transportProperties** file is a dictionary for the dimensioned scalar nu.
- The **polyMesh** directory originally contains the **blockMeshDict** dictionary for the **blockMesh** mesh generator. After generating the mesh, it will contain the mesh in OpenFOAM® format.
- Depending of your physical model, you will find more dictionaries in the constant directory. For example, if you need to set gravity, you will need to create the dictionary **g**.
- We will now take a quick look at the **blockMeshDict** dictionary in order to understand what we have done (and yes, this is part of the meshing session as well).
- Go to the directory **constant/polyMesh** and open **blockMeshDict** dictionary with your favorite text editor.

A deeper view to my first OpenFOAM® case setup

The **blockMeshDict** dictionary

The **blockMeshDict** dictionary first of all contains a list with a number of vertices:

```
convertToMeters 0.1;  
vertices  
(  
    (0 0 0)  
    (1 0 0)  
    (1 1 0)  
    (0 1 0)  
    (0 0 0.1)  
    (1 0 0.1)  
    (1 1 0.1)  
    (0 1 0.1)  
);
```

- There are eight vertices defining a 3D block. OpenFOAM® always uses 3D meshes, even if the simulation is 2D.
- `convertToMeters 0.1;` multiplies the coordinates by 0.1.

Refer to the User Guide for more Information



A deeper view to my first OpenFOAM® case setup

The `blockMeshDict` dictionary

The `blockMeshDict` dictionary then defines a block and the mesh from the vertices:

```
blocks
(
    hex (0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7) (20 20 1) simpleGrading (1 1 1)
);
```

- hex means that it is a structured hexahedral block.
- (0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7) are the vertices used to define the block (**and yes, the order is important**). Each hex block is defined by eight vertices, in sequential order. Where the first vertex in the list represents the origin of the coordinate system.
- (20 20 1) is the number of mesh cells in each direction.
- simpleGrading (1 1 1) is the expansion ratio, in this case equidistant.

Refer to the User Guide for more Information



A deeper view to my first OpenFOAM® case setup

The blockMeshDict dictionary

The blockMeshDict dictionary also defines three boundary patches:

```
boundary
(
    movingWall //NAME
    {
        type wall; //TYPE
        faces
        (
            (3 7 6 2) //FACE
        );
    }
)
```

```
fixedWalls //NAME
{
    type wall; //TYPE
    faces
    (
        (0 4 7 3) //FACE
        (2 6 5 1) //FACE
        (1 5 4 0) //FACE
    );
}

frontAndBack //NAME
{
    type empty; //TYPE
    faces
    (
        (0 3 2 1) //FACE
        (4 5 6 7) //FACE
    );
}
);
```

A deeper view to my first OpenFOAM® case setup

The `blockMeshDict` dictionary

Each boundary patch in the `blockMeshDict` dictionary defines a type, a name, and a list of boundary faces:

```
fixedWalls
{
    type walls;
    faces
    (
        (0 4 7 3)
        (2 6 5 1)
        (1 5 4 0)
    );
}
```

- wall is the type of the boundary. `fixedWalls` is the name of the patch.
- The patch is defined by three faces of the block according to the list, which refers to the vertex numbers.

Refer to the User Guide for more Information



A deeper view to my first OpenFOAM® case setup

The `blockMeshDict` dictionary

- When defining the block and boundaries, the vertices in the lists must be neighbors.
- The order of the vertices in the block must be such that if I sit down in the origin of coordinates (vertex 0 for this case), and I look in the direction z; the vertices are marched in a counter clockwise sense.
- To sum up, the `blockMeshDict` dictionary generates a block with:
 - x/y/z dimensions 0.1/0.1/0.01.
 - 20 x 20 x 1 cells.
 - wall `fixedWalls` patch at three sides.
 - wall `movingWall` patch at one side.
 - empty `frontAndBack` patch at two sides.
- The type empty tells OpenFOAM® that this is a 2D case.

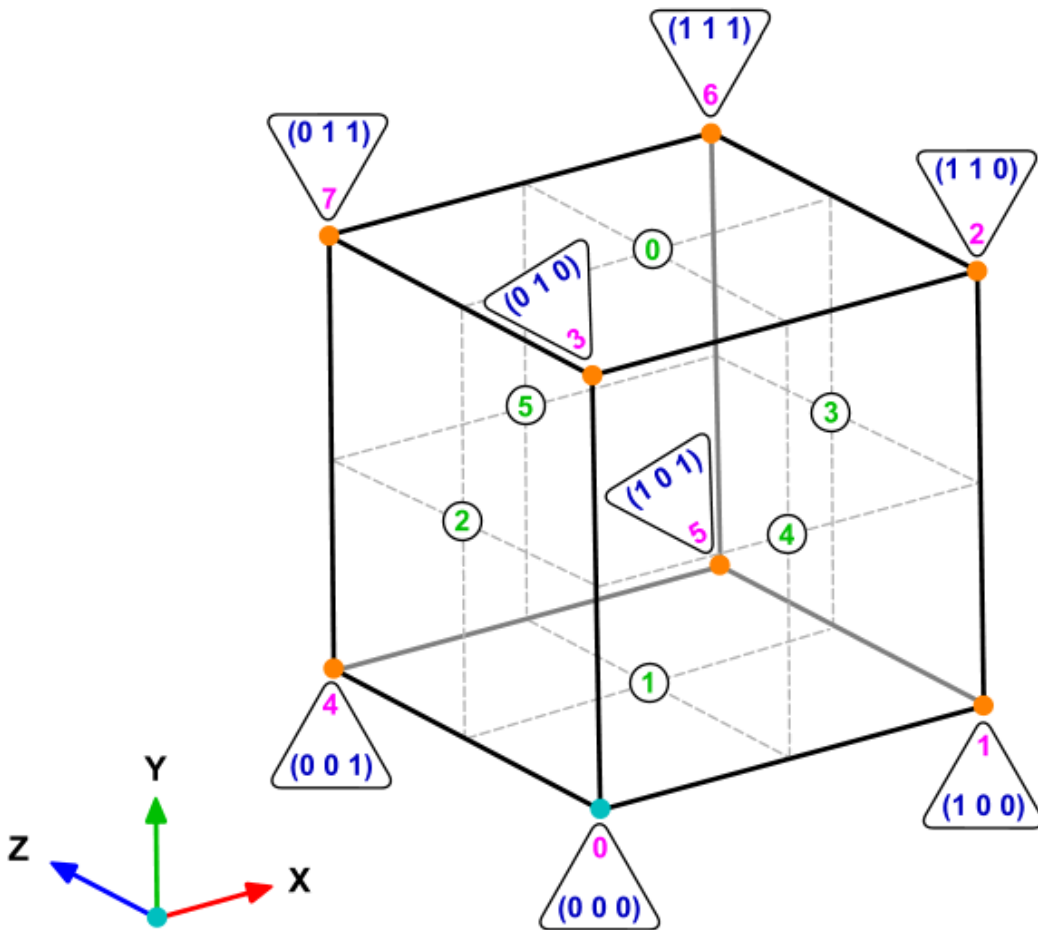
Refer to the User Guide for more Information



A deeper view to my first OpenFOAM® case setup

The blockMeshDict dictionary

- This is how the block created with `blockMeshDict` looks like,



VERTICES

0	0	0	0
1	1	0	0
2	1	1	0
3	0	1	0
4	0	0	1
5	1	0	1
6	1	1	1
7	0	1	1

BLOCK (HEX)

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7

FACES

0	3	7	6	2
1	1	5	4	0
2	0	4	7	3
3	2	6	5	1
4	0	3	2	1
5	4	5	6	7

Refer to the User Guide for more Information



A deeper view to my first OpenFOAM® case setup

The **system** directory

(and by the way, open each file and go thru its content)

- The system directory consists of three dictionary files:
 - **controlDict**
 - **fvSchemes**
 - **fvSolution**
- **controlDict** contains general instructions on how to run the case.
- **fvSchemes** contains instructions for the discretization schemes that will be used for the different terms in the equations.
- **fvSolution** contains instructions on how to solve each discretized linear equation system.

Refer to the User Guide for more Information



A deeper view to my first OpenFOAM® case setup

Dictionary files hint

If you do not know which entries are available for a specific keyword in a dictionary, just use a dummy word (I love to add bananas) and the solver will list the alternatives, for instance if we add,

stopAt banana;

in the **controlDict** dictionary file; the solver will give you the following message:

banana is not in enumeration

4

(

nextWrite

writeNow

noWriteNow

endTime

)

From now on, let us call this shortcut the banana method (attention, it is not related to Rosenbrock's banana function).

A deeper view to my first OpenFOAM® case setup

Dictionary files advanced features

- C++ commenting:

// This is my comment

**/* My comments, line 1
My comments, line 2 */**

- #include directive:

#include "initialConditions"

Do not forget to create the respective include file **initialConditions**.

A deeper view to my first OpenFOAM® case setup

Dictionary files advanced features

- Macro expansion:

```
flowVelocity (20 0 0);
```

```
/*  
    some code lines here  
*/
```

```
internalField      uniform $flowVelocity;
```

```
/*  
    some code lines here  
*/
```


A deeper view to my first OpenFOAM® case setup

Dictionary files advanced features

Instead of writing (the poor man's way):

```
leftWall
{
    type    fixedValue;
    value    uniform (0 0 0);
}
rightWall
{
    type    fixedValue;
    value    uniform (0 0 0);
}
topWall
{
    type    fixedValue;
    value    uniform (0 0 0);
}
```

A deeper view to my first OpenFOAM® case setup

Dictionary files advanced features

You can write:

```
“(left|right|top)Wall”  
{  
    type    fixedValue;  
    value    uniform (0 0 0);  
}
```

or you could also try

```
“.*Wall”  
{  
    type    fixedValue;  
    value    uniform (0 0 0);  
}
```

A deeper view to my first OpenFOAM® case setup

The 0 directory

(and by the way, open each file and go thru its contents)

The 0 directory contains the dimensions, and the initial and boundary conditions for all primary variables, in this case p and U. For the cavity case, the U file contains:

```
dimensions          [0 1 -1 0 0 0 0];
internalField uniform (0 0 0);
boundaryField
{
    movingWall
    {
        type fixedValue;
        value uniform (1 0 0);
    }
    fixedWalls
    {
        type fixedValue;
        value uniform (0 0 0);
    }
    frontAndBack
    {
        type empty;
    }
}
```

A deeper view to my first OpenFOAM® case setup

The 0 directory

(and by the way, open each file and go thru its contents)

- dimensions [0 1 -1 0 0 0 0]; states that the dimension of U is m/s.
- internalField uniform (0 0 0); sets U to zero internally (initial conditions).
- The boundary patches **movingWall** and **fixedWalls** are given the type **fixedValue**; with value uniform (1 0 0), and (0 0 0) respectively (boundary conditions).
- The **frontAndBack** patch is given type **empty**, indicating that no solution is required in that direction since the case is 2D.
- You should now be able to understand the file **0/p**.
- The time step directories are similar but the internalField now contains the solution. There is also a **phi** file, containing the resulting face fluxes that are needed to yield a perfect restart.

Refer to the User Guide for more Information



A deeper view to my first OpenFOAM® case setup

At this point you should have realized a few things:

- OpenFOAM® is fully dimensional. You need to define the dimensions for each field data and physical properties. Your dimensions shall be consistent.

A deeper view to my first OpenFOAM® case setup

Dimensions in OpenFOAM®

No.	Property	Unit	Symbol
1	Mass	Kilogram	kg
2	Length	meters	m
3	Time	second	s
4	Temperature	Kelvin	K
5	Quantity	moles	mol
6	Current	ampere	A
7	Luminuous intensity	candela	cd

dimensions [kg, m, s, K, mol, A, cd]

A deeper view to my first OpenFOAM® case setup

At this point you should have realized a few things:

- Each file in the case directory has a header, you should always keep this header, if not, OpenFOAM® will complain.
- In the header of your field variables, the class type should be consistent with the type of field variable you are using. That is to say, if the field variable is a vector, the class should be `volVectorField` and if the field variable is a scalar, the class should be `volScalarField`.

A deeper view to my first OpenFOAM® case setup

At this point you should have realized a few things:

- If you misspell something or made a mistake, OpenFOAM® will complain and will tell you where is and what is the error.
- I continuously ask you to refer to the User Guide for more information. Remember, you have the basic information there. So, take your time and go throughout the User Guide before you start complaining and hitting the keyboard.



A deeper view to my first OpenFOAM® case setup

The `log.icoFoam` file

- If you followed the previous instructions you should now have a `log.icoFoam` file. This file contains all the residuals information.
- It is of interest to have a graphical representation of the residual. To do so, the `foamLog` utility is used.
- Let us now execute `foamLog` utility. In the terminal type:
 - `foamLog log.icoFoam`
- A directory **logs** has now been generated, with extracted values in ascii format in two columns. The first column is the time, and the second column is the value at that time.
- Type `foamLog -help` for more information. Add this point, you can plot the residuals using octave, gnuplot or xmgrace.

A deeper view to my first OpenFOAM® case setup

Now you should be ready to go and explore the applications and dictionaries by yourself!

So go nuts, and do as many changes as you like to the case dictionaries and study the output.

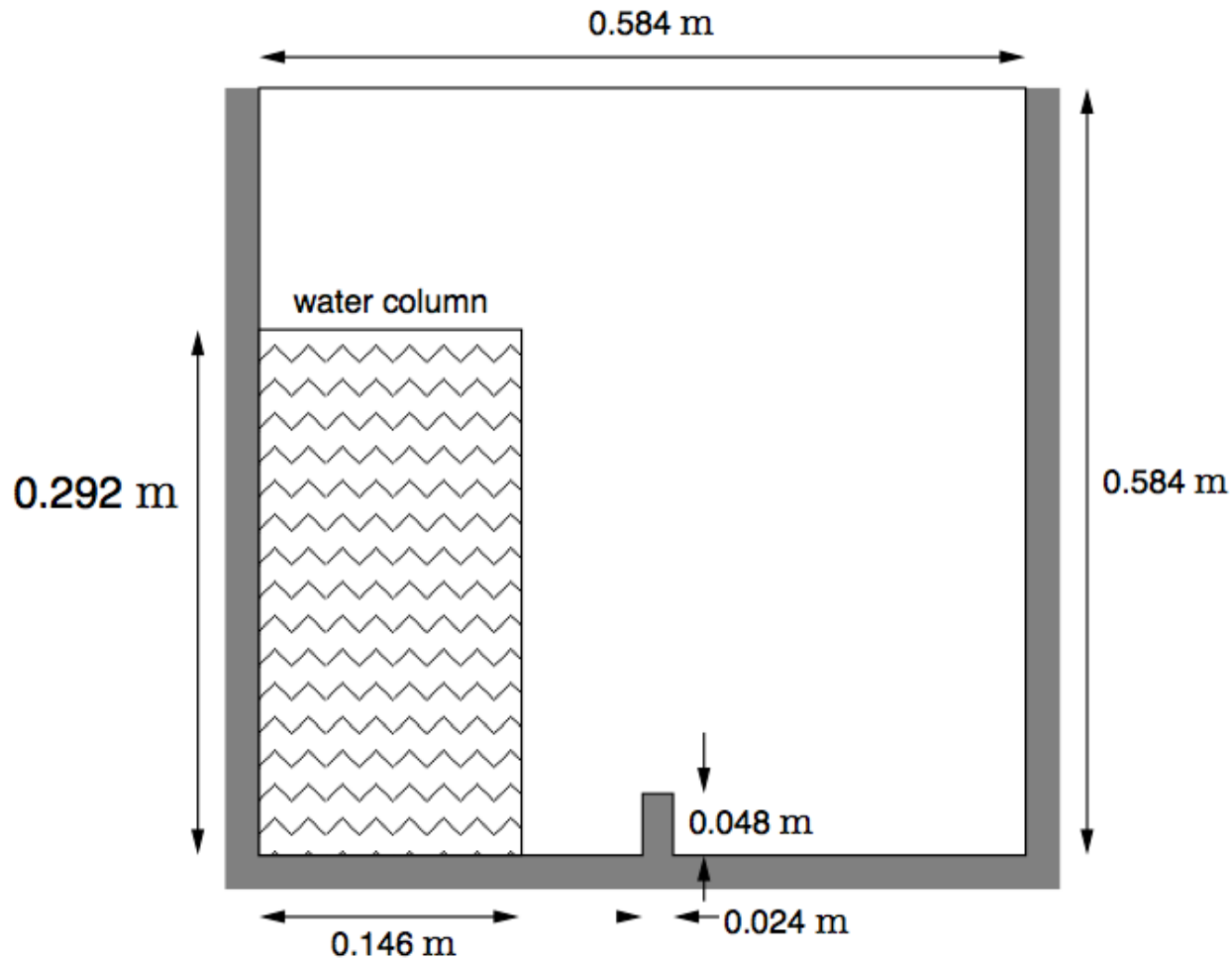
I would start by changing the mesh cell number.

Today's lecture

1. ~~What is OpenFOAM®? – Brief overview~~
2. ~~OpenFOAM® directory organization~~
3. ~~Directory structure of an application/utility~~
4. ~~Applications/utilities in OpenFOAM®~~
5. ~~Directory structure of an OpenFOAM® case~~
6. ~~My first OpenFOAM® case setup~~
7. ~~A deeper view to my first OpenFOAM® case setup~~
8. **My second OpenFOAM® case setup**
9. ~~My third OpenFOAM® case setup~~
10. ~~My first 3D OpenFOAM® case setup~~
11. ~~Hands-on session~~

My second OpenFOAM® case setup

Damp break free surface flow



My second OpenFOAM® case setup

We will use the [interFoam](#) damp break tutorial for our second OpenFOAM® case setup.

In the folder `$path_to_openfoamcourse/first_tutorial` you will find a copy of the [interFoam](#) damp break tutorial. From this point on, follow me.

In the terminal window type:

- `cd $path_to_openfoamcourse/first_tutorial/dampBreak`
- `blockMesh`
- `checkMesh`
- `cp 0/alpha1.org 0/alpha1`

(this is done in order to keep a copy of the original `alpha1` boundary and initials conditions. Why?, in the next step we are going to use the utility [setFields](#), which overwrites the file `alpha1`)

- `setFields` (this utility uses a dictionary, which is located in **system**)

My second OpenFOAM® case setup

We will use the `interFoam` damp break tutorial for our second OpenFOAM® case setup.

In the folder `$path_to_openfoamcourse/first_tutorial` you will find a copy of the `interFoam` damp break tutorial. From this point on, follow me.

In the terminal window type:

- `interFoam > log.interFoam`

(this will redirect your standard output to an ascii file with the name `log.interFoam`. If you do not add the `> log.interFoam` modifier you will see your standard output on the fly and will not be saved)

- `foamLog log.interFoam` (if you chose to redirect the standard output)
- `paraFoam`
- `cd logs`
- `gnuplot`

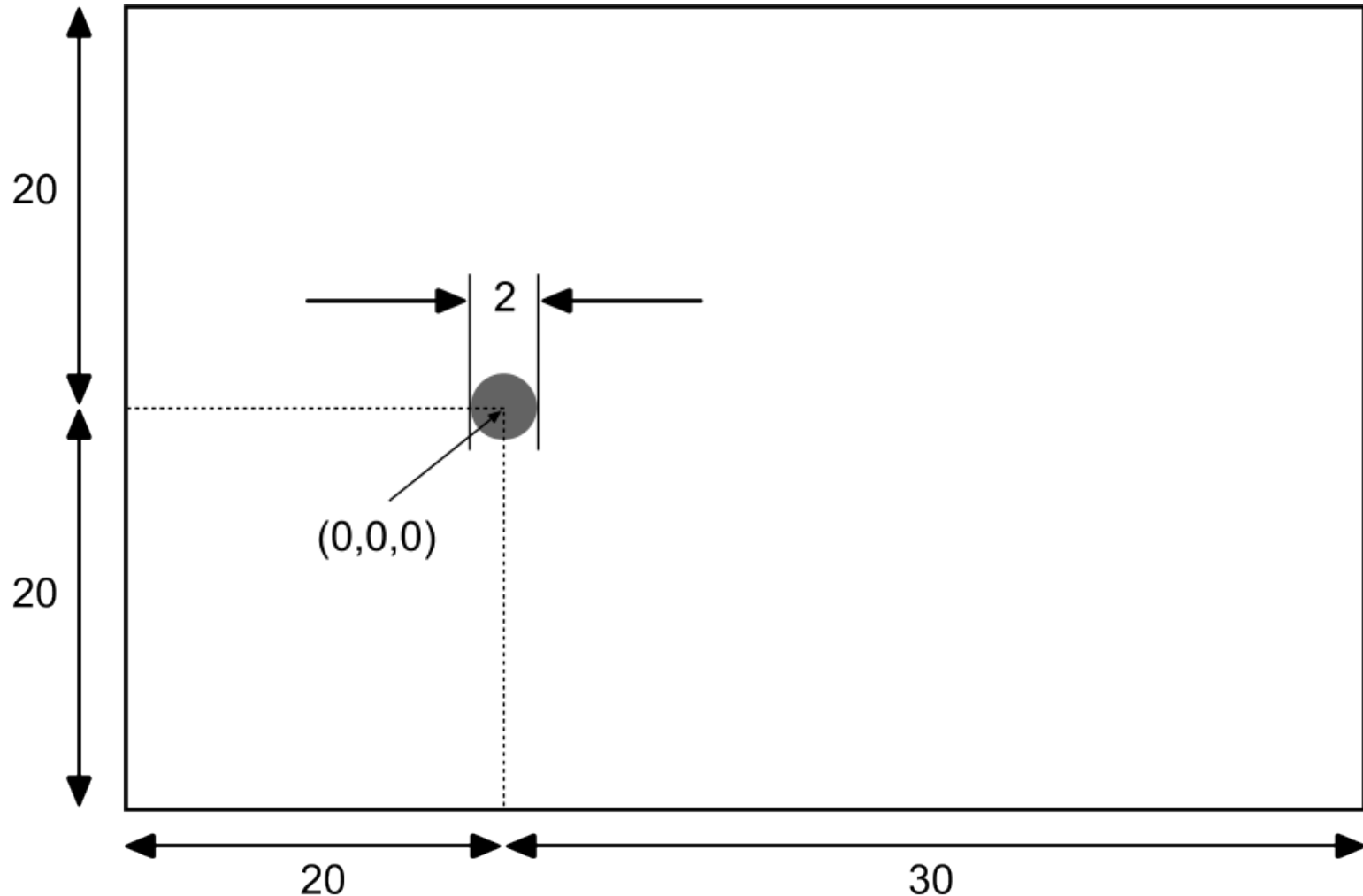
(now we use gnuplot to visualize the files in the directory, if you do not know how to use gnuplot follow me.)

Today's lecture

- ~~1. What is OpenFOAM®? – Brief overview~~
- ~~2. OpenFOAM® directory organization~~
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- ~~4. Applications/utilities in OpenFOAM®~~
- ~~5. Directory structure of an OpenFOAM® case~~
- ~~6. My first OpenFOAM® case setup~~
- ~~7. A deeper view to my first OpenFOAM® case setup~~
- ~~8. My second OpenFOAM® case setup~~
- 9. My third OpenFOAM® case setup**
- ~~10. My first 3D OpenFOAM® case setup~~
- ~~11. Hands-on session~~

My third OpenFOAM® case setup

Flow around a cylinder



All the dimensions are in meters

My third OpenFOAM® case setup

In this tutorial, we are going to learn how to setup the solvers [potentialFoam](#), [simpleFoam](#), [pisoFoam](#) and [pimpleFoam](#). We are also going to learn how to setup a turbulent case and how to use a few utilities.

In the folder **\$path_to_openfoamcourse/first_tutorial** you will find a copy of this tutorial. In the terminal window type:

- `cd $path_to_openfoamcourse/first_tutorial/vortex_shedding`

In this directory, you will find ten folders, each one representing a different case setup. From this point on, follow me.

Let us go first to the folder **c4**,

- `cd c4`
- `fluentMeshToFoam ../mesh/ascii.msh`
(the mesh is in the directory **../mesh**)
- `checkMesh`
- `icoFoam`
- `paraFoam`

My third OpenFOAM® case setup

Now try to do the rest of the cases. Remember, each folder corresponds to a different solver or setup, so try to figure out what solver and setup we are using. Also try to use the following utilities:

- `wallShearStress`
- `stressComponents`
- `wallGradU`
- `Q`
- `Co`
- `Pe`
- `vorticity`
- `yPlusRAS`
- `refineWallLayer`
- `refineHexMesh`
- `renumberMesh`

If you want more information about an specific utility try

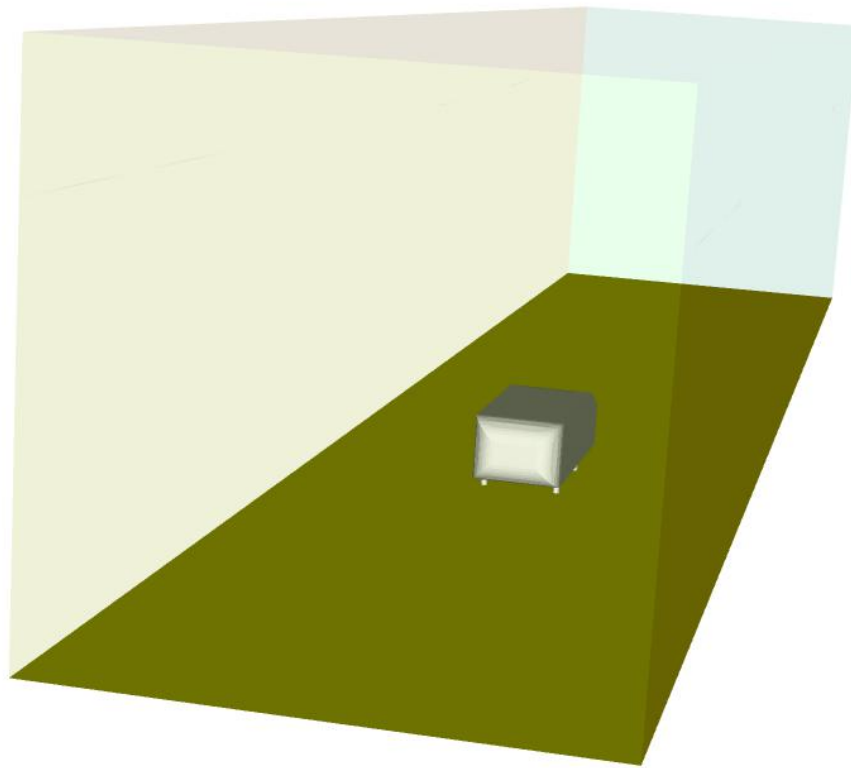
- `utility_name -help`

Today's lecture

1. ~~What is OpenFOAM®? – Brief overview~~
2. ~~OpenFOAM® directory organization~~
3. ~~Directory structure of an application/utility~~
4. ~~Applications/utilities in OpenFOAM®~~
5. ~~Directory structure of an OpenFOAM® case~~
6. ~~My first OpenFOAM® case setup~~
7. ~~A deeper view to my first OpenFOAM® case setup~~
8. ~~My second OpenFOAM® case setup~~
9. ~~My third OpenFOAM® case setup~~
10. **My first 3D OpenFOAM® case setup**
11. Hands-on session

My first 3D OpenFOAM® case setup

Flow about ahmed body



My first 3D OpenFOAM® case setup

In this tutorial, we use `pimpleFoam` to solve a 3D case. Running a 3D simulation is not different from the previous 2D simulations. The only difference is that we need to define the boundary conditions in the third dimension.

In the folder `$path_to_openfoamcourse/first_tutorial` you will find a copy of this tutorial. In the terminal window type:

- `cd $path_to_openfoamcourse/first_tutorial/ahmed_body`
- `blockMesh`
- `surfaceFeatureExtract`
- `snappyHexMesh -overwrite`
- `checkMesh`
- `pimpleFoam`
- `paraFoam`

My first 3D OpenFOAM® case setup

In this tutorial, we use `pimpleFoam` to solve a 3D case. Running a 3D simulation is not different from the previous 2D simulations. The only difference is that we need to define the boundary conditions in the third dimension.

In the folder `$path_to_openfoamcourse/first_tutorial` you will find a copy of this tutorial. In the terminal window type:

- `yPlusRAS -latestTime`
- `Q -latestTime`
- `wallShearStress -latestTime`
- `vorticity -latestTime`
- `paraFoam -builtin`

OpenFOAM® tutorials

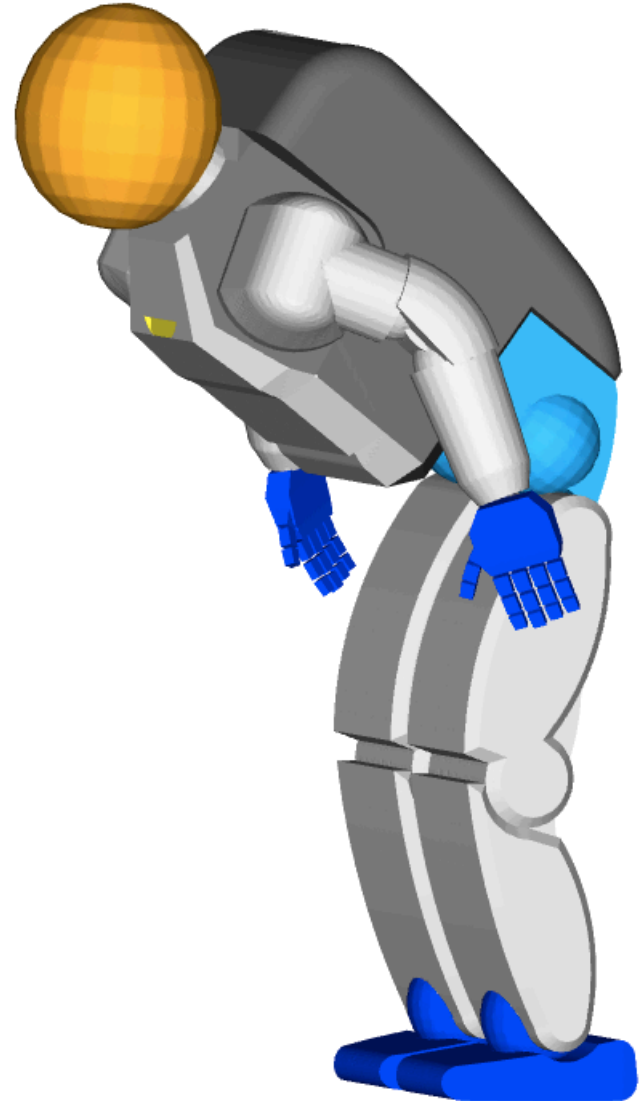
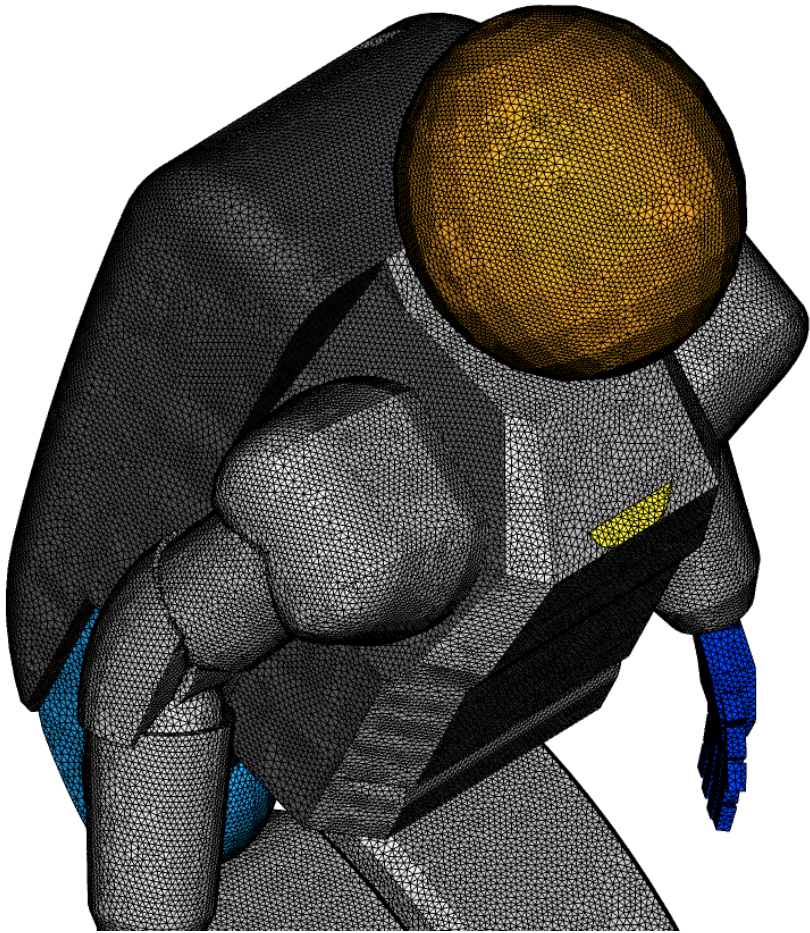
Additional tutorials

The OpenFOAM® installation comes with many tutorials, try to do all of them (or at least those that interest you).

In the course's directory (**\$path_to_openfoamcourse**) you will find many tutorials (which are different from those that come with the OpenFOAM® installation), try to go through each one to understand and get functional using OpenFOAM®.

Finally, feel free to bring your own cases.

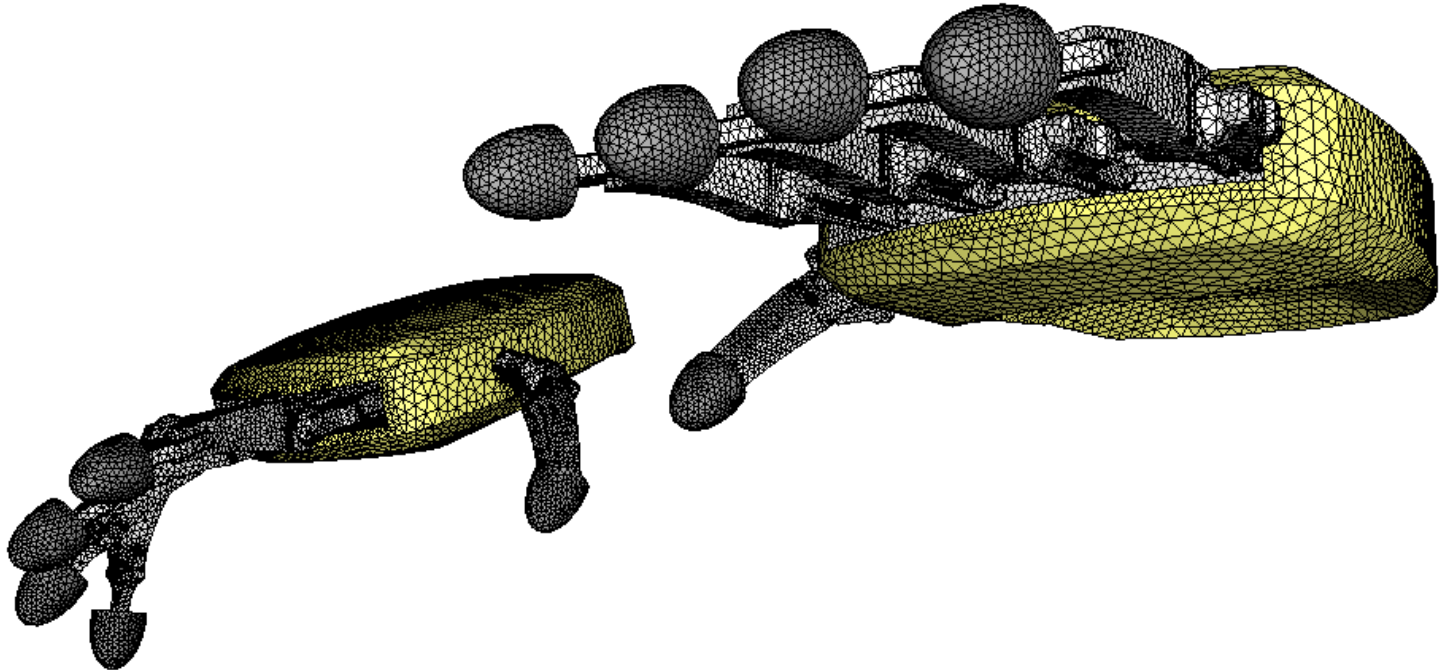
Thank you for your attention



Today's lecture

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4. ~~Applications/utilities in OpenFOAM®~~
5. ~~Directory structure of an OpenFOAM® case~~
6. ~~My first OpenFOAM® case setup~~
7. ~~A deeper view to my first OpenFOAM® case setup~~
8. ~~My second OpenFOAM® case setup~~
9. ~~My third OpenFOAM® case setup~~
10. ~~My first 3D OpenFOAM® case setup~~
11. **Hands-on session**

Hands-on session



In the course's directory (**`$path_to_openfoamcourse`**) you will find many tutorials (which are different from those that come with the OpenFOAM® installation), let us try to go through each one to understand and get functional using OpenFOAM®.

If you have a case of your own, let me know and I will try to do my best to help you to setup your case. But remember, the physics is yours.