URock uses the Röckle approach to calculate the 3D wind field of an urban environment. First, the wind field is initialized according to a priori knowledge. Second, the initialized wind flow is numerically balanced in order to make it physically relevant. The initialization is performed everywhere but near obstacles it is done according to empirical laws drawn from wind tunnel experiments. In URock, most of the schemes used for those zones are derived from the ones integrated in QUIC-URB: seven of them are building related (1) while two of them are vegetation related (2).

Condition of Location Illustration of the zones (wind coming from left) Name creation Displacement Building Displacement None front Building Displacement  $\theta \in [-\theta_{perp}, \theta_{perp}]$ vortex front Behind Cavity None building Behind Top view Wake None building  $\theta$  C [- $\theta_{\text{perp}},\,\theta_{\text{perp}}]$  and if the building is not Rooftop Above the downstream one perpendicular building of a street canyon with the lowest height Rooftop Above  $\theta \in [\theta_{corn min}, \theta_{corn min}]$ Sectional building corner / Vertical Wherever the cavity view Between zone of an upstream Street canyon buildings building intersects a downstream building

*Table 1: Description of the seven building zones considered in URock* 

*Table 2: Description of the two vegetation zones considered in URock* 

Name	Location	Condition of creation	Illustration (when wind comes from left)	
Vegetation built	Within and below vegetation	Wherever the vegetation footprint intersects a building wake zone footprint	Vegetation	
Vegetation open	Within, below and above vegetation	Wherever the vegetation footprint is not intersected by a building wake zone footprint	Sectional view  Sectional view  Vegetation,  Wegetation,  Maximum height the numerical so	

Calculations are performed for a built zone defined by geographical data (building and vegetation footprint) and for static wind data (a given wind speed and direction at a specified height). The calculation of the 3D wind field is then performed in a four-steps approach (Figure 1):

- I. The input geographical data is initialized into the format needed for the URock calculations,
- II. Obstacles located in the study area are considered as a whole to set a vertical wind profile everywhere in the study area,
- III. Each obstacle is considered individually to set the initial wind factor near buildings and near and within vegetation,
- IV. The 3D wind speed components are initialized for each cell of the sketch and then used in the numerical solver to get the final balanced wind field.

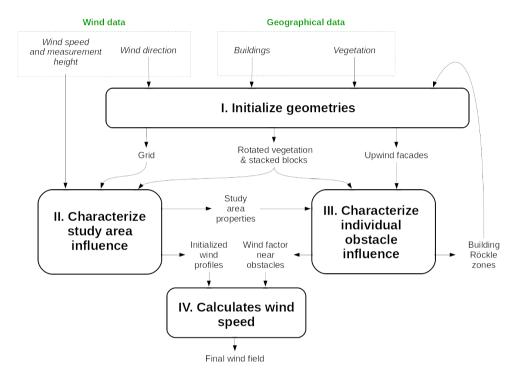


Figure 1: Overall methodology used by URock to calculate the 3D wind speed field

Further detail concerning each of this step can be found in the next subsections.

# 1 Initialize geometries

This step is dedicated to the transformation of standard input vector geometries into a format that will facilitates the wind speed initialization and also to create the grid used for numerical solving (Figure 2). First, individual buildings are converted to stacked blocks. Then the entire sketch (buildings and vegetation) is rotated in order to always have the wind coming from North. Last, a 3D grid of rectangular-based cells is created and the facades facing the wind are identified.

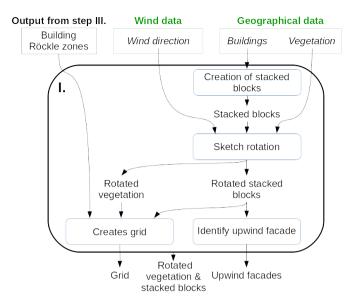


Figure 2: Processes used to initialize the URock geometries

#### 1.1 Creation of stacked blocks

The size of a Röckle zone depends on the size of the obstacle. Thus a preliminary task is to merge buildings touching each other (or being within a *SNAPPING\_TOLERANCE* to each other). This is solved by first creating a buffer around each building<sup>1</sup>. Then the footprints touching each other are spatially unioned (Figure 3).

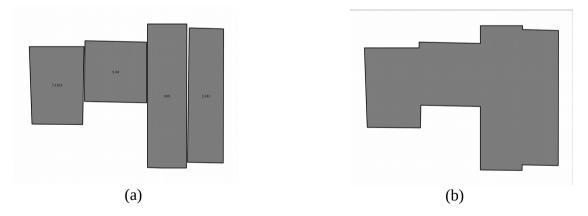


Figure 3: Top view of the (a) initial buildings and (b) resulting block after unioning

The building height may vary within a block which will also affect the Röckle zone size. Thus we round building height values and we create as many stacked blocks as there are isolated blocks of a same height (Figure 4).

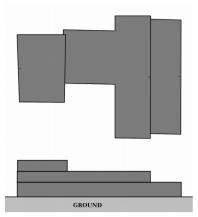


Figure 4: Top view and sectional view of the resulting stacked blocks

Buildings may have an oversampled number of points, which could affect the size and the shape of some of the Röckle zones (which are for some of them created for each unique segments). Thus the geometry is simplified using the H2GIS ST\_Simplify function<sup>2</sup> with distance = GEOMETRY\_SIMPLIFICATION\_DISTANCE (Figure 5).

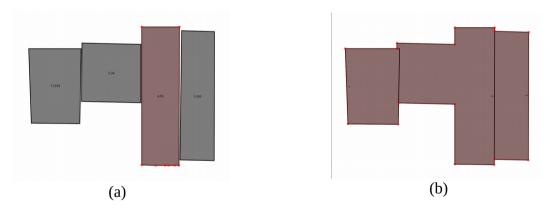


Figure 5: Simplification of the building geometries from (a) initial oversampled buildings to (b) final simplified stacked blocks

#### 1.2 Sketch rotation

To simplify the calculations performed in the initialization step, we rotate all obstacles in order to have the wind coming downward (Figure 6). The rotation center is defined as the top right corner of the smallest bounding box containing all obstacles.

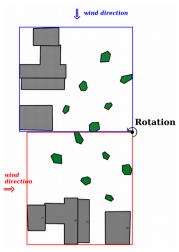


Figure 6: Rotation of the obstacles (in red bounding box) in order to have the wind coming downward (in blue bounding box)

### 1.3 Identify upwind facades

Each facade (segment) facing the wind is identified in order to apply the displacement zone scheme. This scheme affects the wind up to 60% of the facade height. Thus first we need to merge facades belonging to a same vertical plan in order to avoid unexpected displacement zone scheme (Figure 7a). Thus a facade from an upper stacked block is snapped to the facade of the lowest stacked block using the function  $ST_SNAP^3$  with a snapTolerance =  $SNAPPING_TOLERANCE$  (Figure 7b). The facade base height  $H_{FBi+1}$  is then set to the base height of the facade used for the snapping (the lowest one).

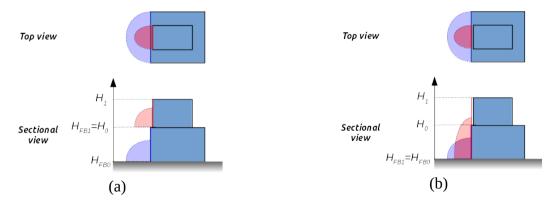


Figure 7: Facade base height and displacement zone of an upper stacked block if the facade is (a) outside or (b) within the snapping tolerance

### 1.4 Creates grid

The grid of rectangular-based cells is created according to a horizontal and a vertical resolution set by the user. The size of the grid is defined as an extend distance beyond built Röckle zones and vegetation boundaries. The user can define two horizontal extends (cross-wind zone extend and the along-wind zone extend) and a vertical extend (Figure 8).

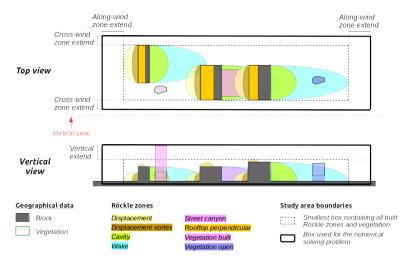


Figure 8: Vertical and horizontal extend of the grid away from Röckle zones boundaries when the wind comes from left

### 2 Characterize study area influence

The vertical wind profile is first initialized considering mean roughness properties of the study area (Figure 9). Thus the individual effect of each obstacles is not considered in this first approach but in the next section. This section is rather dedicated to characterize a mean global effect of several obstacles.

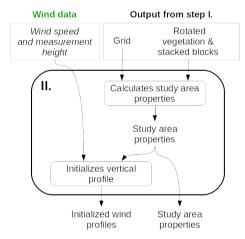


Figure 9: Processes used to characterize the study area influence

# 2.1 Calculates study area properties

The roughness height  $(z_0)$  and displacement length (d) are both calculated as a unique value characterizing the entire study area. The method described by Hanna et Britter (2002) is used. First the normalized frontal area  $(\lambda_f)$  is calculated as the ratio between the projected frontal area of obstacle facing the wind  $(A_f)$  and the area of the smallest rectangle containing all buildings and vegetation  $(A_T)$ . Then  $z_0$  and d are calculating based on the geometric mean obstacle height  $(H_r)$  and the  $\lambda_f$  value. Note that the equations differ upon  $\lambda_f$  values (3).

Table 3: Displacement length and roughness height equations depending on the normalized frontal area value

Condition	Displacement length d (m)	Roughness height z <sub>0</sub> (m)
$\lambda_{\rm f}$ <= 0.05	$d = 3 \cdot \lambda_f \cdot H_r$	$z_0 = \lambda_f \cdot H_r$
$0.05 \le \lambda_{\rm f} < 0.15$	$d = 0.15 + 5.5 \cdot (\lambda_f - 0.05)$	$z_0 = \lambda_f \cdot H_r$
$0.15 \le \lambda_{\rm f} \le 1$	$d = 0.7 + 0.35 \cdot (\lambda_f - 0.15)$	$z_0 = 0.15 \cdot H_r$
$1 \le \lambda_f$	d=1	$z_0 = 0.15 \cdot H_r$

Note that Hanna et Britter specified that these relations are valid for an upper  $H_r$  limit of about 20 m, thus it may lead to higher error if applied to neighborhoods such as skyscrapers.

### 2.2 Initializes vertical profile

The vertical wind speed profile ( $V_p(z)$ ) is set according to the power-law equation proposed by Kuttler (2000) and used in QUIC-URB (Pardyjak et Brown, 2003) where the exponent equation comes from Matzarakis et al. (2009):

$$V_p(z) = V_{ref} \cdot (\frac{z}{z_{ref}})^{0.12 \cdot z_0 + 0.18}$$

where

 $V_p(z)$  the wind speed profile along the y axis

z the height from ground

 $V_{\text{ref}}$  the reference wind speed along the y axis observed at the reference height  $z_{\text{ref}}$ 

 $z_{ref}$  the reference height of  $V_{ref}$ 

z<sub>0</sub> the roughness height

Note that  $z_0$  being homogeneous over the entire study area, the vertical profile is also homogeneous.

#### 3 Characterize individual obstacle influence

Obstacles locally altered the wind field: wind direction or / and wind speed may be modified within vegetation and around buildings. The Röckle approach is applied to set an initial wind factor to those locations using seven building schemes and two vegetation ones (Figure 10). First, stacked block properties are calculated. Then building and vegetation Röckle zones boundaries are identified and the wind factor corresponding to each zone is calculated. Last, some rules are set to keep only one wind factor value when two (or more) Röckle zones are superimposed.

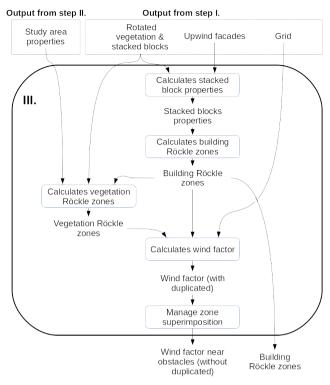


Figure 10: Processes used to characterize individual obstacle influence

### 3.1 Calculates stacked block properties

### A vertical property: the cavity block base height

To each stacked block i is attributed the height of the roof ( $H_i$ ) and also the height of its base ( $H_{Bi}$ ). The cavity zone of a stacked block i may be erased by the cavity zone of the stacked block i+1 located above (Figure 11). The base height of the cavity zone  $H_{CBi+1}$  of a stacked block i+1 is calculated according to Equation XX (according to Brown et al. (2009)).

$$H_{CBi+1} = H_{Bi+1} - \frac{L_{i+1}}{L_i} \cdot \left(H_i - H_{Bi}\right)$$

where

 $L_i$  and  $L_{i+1}$  the cross wind width of respectively stacked blocks i and i+1  $H_{Bi}$  and  $H_{Bi+1}$  the base height of respectively stacked blocks i and i+1  $H_i$  the top height of stacked block i

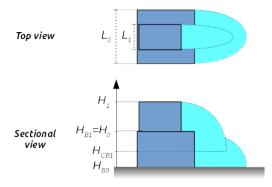


Figure 11: Cavity base zone extension for upper stacked blocks

#### Horizontal properties: the effective width and length

The effective width (cross-wind width -  $W_{eff}$ ) and effective length (along wind length -  $L_{eff}$ ) are of major importance to calculate the size of the "Röckle" zones. In the QUIC-URB software, Nelson et al. (2008) have modified the original algorithm to improve the accuracy of their estimated wind field (Figure 12).

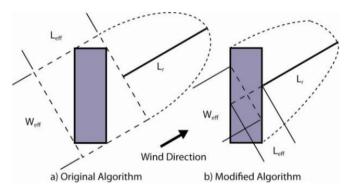


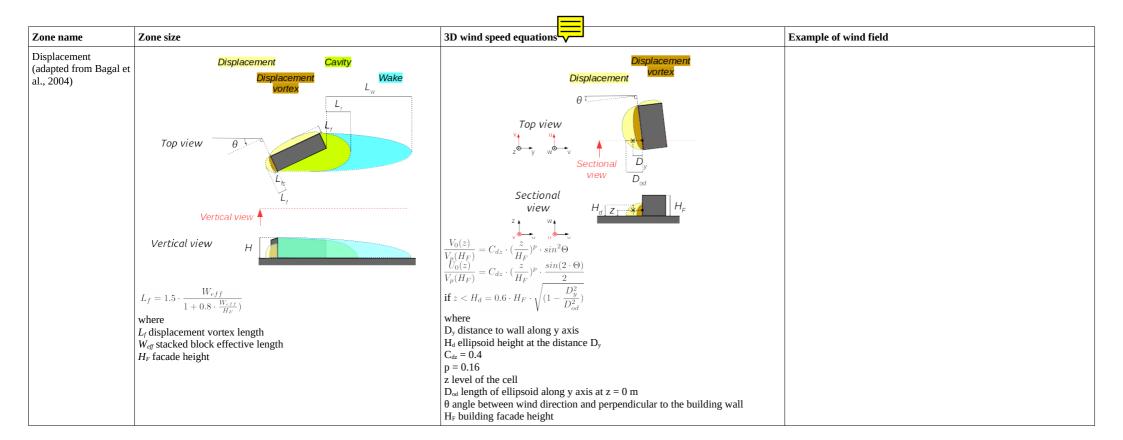
Figure 12: QUIC-URB algorithm to calculate the effective width and length before and after modification by Nelson et al. (2008) (Source: Nelson et al., 2008)

However, their modified algorithm only works for rectangular shape whereas our stacked blocks may have any shape. Thus the effective width and length are calculated using the original QUIC-URB algorithm (Figure 12a - bounding box width and length) but they are weighted by the ratio of stacked block area to bounding box area.

## 3.2 Identify Röckle zones and calculates corresponding wind factors

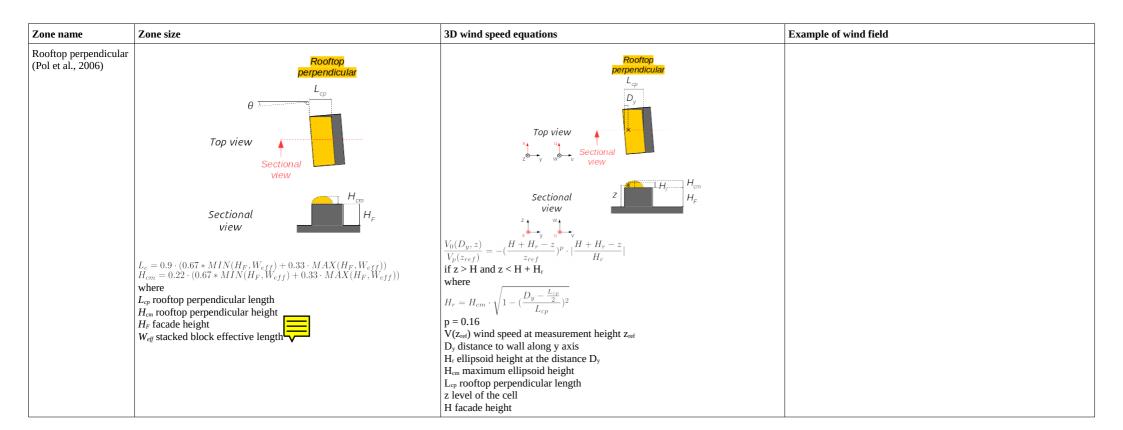
4 summarizes informations about each Röckle zone size (height, width, length) and the calculation of their initial wind speed factor. The wind speed factor is defined as the ratio between the wind speed after initialization ( $U_0$ ,  $V_0$ ,  $W_0$ ) and the wind speed  $V_p$  calculated by the wind profile method (section 2.2). Note that the height of  $V_p$  taken as reference for calculation depends on the Röckle zone. More detail can be found about wind speed factor calculation in Annex XX.

*Table 4: Röckle zone sizes and wind speed Equations* 

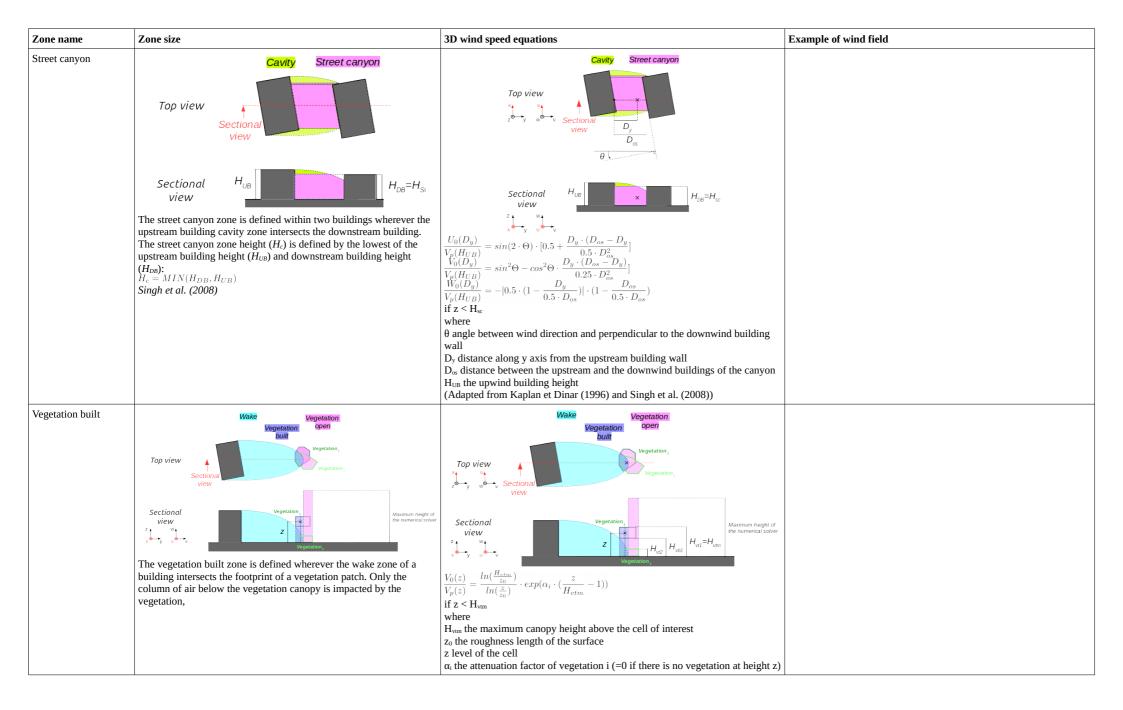


Zone name	Zone size	3D wind speed equations	Example of wind field
Displacement vortex (Bagal et al., 2004)	$L_{fv} = 0.6 \cdot \frac{W_{eff}}{1 + 0.8 \cdot \frac{W_{eff}}{H_F}}$ where $L_{fv} \text{ displacement vortex length}$ $W_{eff} \text{ stacked block effective length}$ $H_F \text{ facade height}$	Top view  Sectional view Down	
		$V_{0}(z) = -[0.6 \cdot cos(\frac{\pi \cdot z}{0.5 \cdot H_F}) + 0.05] \cdot 0.6 \cdot sin(\frac{\pi \cdot D_y}{D_{odv}})$ $\frac{V_0(z)}{V_p(H_F)} = -[0.1 \cdot cos(\frac{\pi \cdot D_y}{D_{odv}}) + 0.05]$ $if \ z < H_{dv} = 0.5 \cdot H_F \cdot \sqrt{(1 - \frac{D_y^2}{D_{odv}^2})}$ where $D_y \ distance \ to \ wall \ along \ y \ axis$ $H_{dv} \ ellipsoid \ height \ at \ the \ distance \ D_y$ $C_{dz} = 0.4$ $p = 0.16$ $z \ level \ of \ the \ cell$ $D_{od} \ length \ of \ ellipsoid \ along \ y \ axis \ at \ z = 0 \ m$ $\theta \ angle \ between \ wind \ direction \ and \ perpendicular \ to \ the \ building \ wall$ $H_F \ building \ facade \ height$	
Cavity (Kaplan et al., 1996)	$L_r = 1.8 \cdot \frac{W_{eff}}{\left(\frac{L_{eff}}{H}\right)^{0.3} \cdot (1 + 0.24 \cdot \frac{L_{eff}}{H}))}$ where $L_r \text{ cavity length}$ $W_{\text{eff}} \text{ stacked block effective length}$ $H \text{ stacked block height}$	Sectional $H$ $V_0(D_y,z) = -(1-\frac{D_y}{D_{oc}\sqrt{1-\frac{z^2}{H^2}}})^2$ if $z < H_c = H \cdot \sqrt{1-\frac{D_y^2}{D_{oc}^2}}$ where $D_y$ distance to wall along $y$ axis $D_y$ $D_z$	
		$H_c$ ellipsoid height at the distance $D_y$ z level of the cell $D_{oc}$ length of ellipsoid along y axis at $z=0$ m H stacked block height	

Zone name	Zone size	3D wind speed equations	Example of wind field
Wake (Kaplan et Dinar, 1996)		3D wind speed equations  Cavity Wake  Top view  Sectional View $D_{zw}$	Example of wind field
		$D_{ow}$ length of ellipsoid along y axis at $z = 0$ m  H stacked block height	



Zone name	Zone size	3D wind speed equations	Example of wind field
Rooftop corner (adapted from Bagal et al., 2004 for the zone size calculation and from Pol et al., 2006 for the equations)	Front View  Front View  Velocity vector near surface $w_y$ $w_x$ Incident wind  Top View  Source: Adapted from Bagal et al. (2004) $L_{cex} = H_{cex} = 2 \cdot X \cdot tan(2.94 \cdot e^{0.0297 \cdot w_x})$ where $L_{ccx}$ (or $L_{ccy}$ ) rooftop zone length at a given distance X (or Y) of the incident facade corner (Figure XX) $H_{ccx}$ (or $H_{ccy}$ ) rooftop zone height at a given distance X (or Y) of the incident facade corner (Figure XX)	$ \begin{array}{c} \text{Rooftop} \\ \text{Corner} \end{array} $ $ \begin{array}{c} \text{Corner} \\ \text{Corner} \end{array} $	



Zone name	Zone size	3D wind speed equations	Example of wind field
Vegetation open	The vegetation open zone is defined wherever the vegetation is not intersected by any building wake zone. The entire column of air (above and below the vegetation) is impacted, although it gets negligible far from the vegetation.	$ \begin{array}{c} \textit{Wake} & \textit{Vegetation} \\ \textit{Vegetation}, \\ Vege$	

### 3.3 Manage superimposition

It is frequent that the Röckle zones from two (or more) obstacles intersect each other. In this case, we may decide either if we keep a single wind factor for this intersected zone (thus we need to set priorities between zones) or if we consider several of the wind factors to calculate a new one as a result of the superimposition. In QUIC-URB, Brown et al. (2009) decided to apply both of these possibilities depending on which Röckle zones intersect each other. In URock, the same philosophy is adopted. Three types of zones are considered:

- zone type 1 (upstream weighting zones): if the obstacle creating such zone is upstream to the obstacle creating any zone of type 2, their corresponding wind factors are multiplied. If it is at the same y position, the same is applied only if the obstacle of zone type 1 is higher than the one of the zone type 2. If two zone type 1 intersect each other, only the wind factor from the zone corresponding to the more upstream obstacle (and the highest if they are located at the same y position) is conserved. Only Wake zone is considered as a zone type 1.
- zone type 2 (upstream priority zones): only one wind factor is conserved if two (or more) zone type 2 intersect each other. As previously, we conserve the one belonging to the more upstream obstacle. If they are located at the same y position, we conserve the wind factor corresponding to the highest building and if they have the same height (for example cavity and street canyon zones from a same building), the following priorities are set between zones: street canyon, cavity, rooftop perpendicular, rooftop corner, displacement vortex, displacement.
- Zone type 3 (downstream weighting zones): wherever a zone type 1 or 2 intersects a zone type 3, their wind factors are multiplied. Only vegetation open and built zones are considered as a zone type 3.

Note that in 4, the wind factor for the wake and the vegetation zones are only presented for V (y direction) since the initial wind profile is along the y-axis. Actually the reduction factor is applied to each 3 dimensions wherever the superimposition with a wake or a vegetation zone leads to wind speed in an other axis than y.

Brown et al. (2009) also considered interactions between zones not covering a same space. In their approach, a street canyon would annihilate the rooftop recirculation above the downstream building of the canyon. In URock, the recirculation is removed only if upstream building is higher or equal height than the downstream one. Otherwise, the facade height considered for the rooftop recirculation scheme is reduced to the difference of height between the upstream and downstream buildings.

### 4 Calculates wind speed

The initial wind field  $U_0$ ,  $V_0$ ,  $W_0$  is initialized according to wind profiles and wind factors and then numerical solving methods are used to get a balanced final wind field (Figure 13).

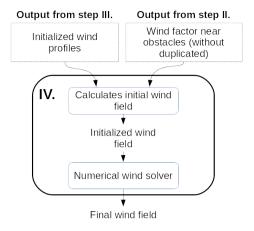


Figure 13: Processes used to calculates the final wind field

The initial wind speed for a given point is obtained multiplying the wind factor and the wind speed coming from wind profile. The latter is taken either at the height of the point or at a specific height such as the height of the building which has created the Röckle zone (see wind factor denominator in the Equations in 4).

The volume flow of the initialized wind speed is then balanced using the numerical method described by Pardyjak et Brown (2003)<sup>4</sup>. Before applying the solver, we interpolate the initialized wind speed that we have at the center of the cells (in black arrows Figure 14) to their faces (in blue arrows Figure 14) according to Equations XX.

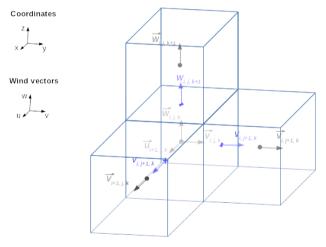


Figure 14: Wind speed at cell faces (blue arrows) and cell center (black arrows)

$$u_{i+1,j,k} = \frac{u_{i,j,k} + u_{i+1,j,k}}{2}$$
$$v_{i,j+1,k} = \frac{v_{i,j,k} + v_{i,j+1,k}}{2}$$
$$w_{i,j,k+1} = \frac{w_{i,j,k} + w_{i,j,k+1}}{2}$$

4 Note that we have modified some of the values in their Table 1: G5 is now 1, H5 is 0, G6 is 0 and H6 is 1. We have also set both  $\alpha_1$  and  $\alpha_2$  to 1 (they were not set in Pardyjak et Brown (2003).

After solving, the wind speed obtained on grid faces is then reinterpolated back to the center of the cells using the same method.		