

# Displacement Ventilation

# Introduction

The present example investigates the performance of a displacement ventilation system. Given measured values for inlet velocity, inlet temperature, and heat flux, this simulation yields field configurations of air temperature and velocity that are consistent with experimental measurements and analytic global models (Ref. 1).

# Model Definition

In general, there are two classes of ventilation: mixing ventilation and displacement ventilation. In displacement ventilation, air enters a room at the floor level and displaces warmer air to achieve the desired temperature. Heating sources in the room can include running electronic devices, or inlet jets of warm air. A potential issue with the displacement ventilation approach is that significant temperature variation and strong stratification may arise.

The model geometry consists of a test chamber with the dimensions 2.5 m by 3.65 m by 3 m. A warm jet enters the chamber from an inlet located at the floor center. Fresh air, at constant temperature and relatively low velocity, is supplied through a wall inlet. Heat exits the chamber through an exhaust located in the center of the ceiling. The walls of the chambers are almost perfectly insulated.

Symmetry reduces the modeling domain to half of the chamber, as shown in Figure 1. The warm jet feeds 0.028 m<sup>3</sup>/s of air at a temperature of 45°C into the room. The temperature of the fresh air is 21°C and has a flow rate of 0.05 m<sup>3</sup>/s.

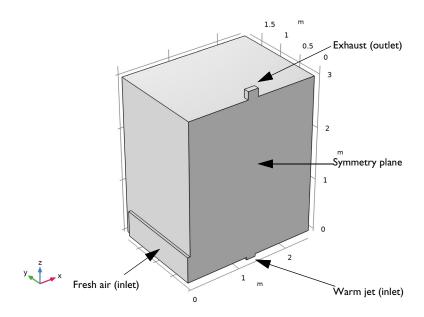


Figure 1: The modeling domain is reduced to half the chamber size due to symmetry.

Convection of heat can be either forced or free. Forced convection occurs if

$$\frac{g\alpha\Delta T}{U^2/L} \ll 1 \tag{1}$$

where g is the gravity  $(m/s^2)$ ,  $\alpha(1/K)$  is the coefficient of thermal expansion, T(K) the temperature, U(m/s) the velocity, and L(m) refers to the characteristic length. Equation 1 states that the buoyancy force is small compared to the inertial force. In such a situation, the character of the flow field is described by the Reynolds number, Re = UL/v where  $v(m^2/s)$  is the kinematic viscosity. Natural convection occurs if Equation 1 is not fulfilled, in which case the flow field character is described by the Grashof number,

$$Gr = \frac{g\alpha\Delta TL^3}{v^2}$$

If the convective forces and buoyant forces are of the same order of magnitude, then  $Gr^{1/2}$  can be interpreted as the ratio between the inertial and viscous forces. That is, when the Grashof number is large, the flow becomes turbulent.

To investigate if Equation 1 holds, the air can approximated as an ideal gas in which case  $\alpha = 1/T$ . Furthermore,  $\Delta T \approx 20$  K,  $U \approx 1$  m/s, and  $L \approx 2$  m. This gives

$$\frac{g\alpha\Delta T}{U^2/L} \approx \frac{9.8 \cdot 20 \cdot 2}{1^2 \cdot 300} = 1.3$$

Hence, it is the Grashof number that determines whether the flow is turbulent or laminar. Using the same approximations as above:

$$Gr \approx \frac{9.8 \cdot 20 \cdot 2^3}{(1.6 \cdot 10^{-5})^2 \cdot 300} = 2 \cdot 10^{10}$$
 (2)

Equation 2 clearly indicates that the flow is turbulent.

# Modeling Considerations

You model the flow using the k- $\omega$  model. The main reason for using the k- $\omega$  model over the k- $\epsilon$  model is that former is in general more reliable when it comes to predicting the spreading rate of jets (Ref. 2).

As can be seen in Figure 1, the inlets and the outlet have been extended with small domains. This is to avoid having velocity conditions perpendicular to the no-penetration conditions of the walls, which often turns out to be numerically unstable.

Figure 2 shows a streamline plot colored by the temperature. As expected, there is a stratification at  $z \approx 1$  m with a complicated recirculation pattern above.

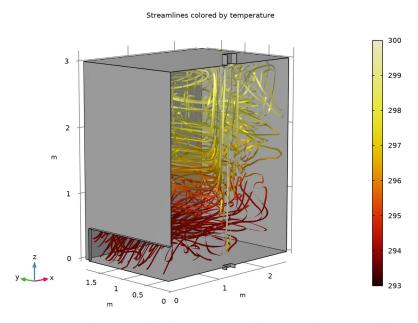


Figure 2: Streamlines colored by the temperature illustrating the velocity field.

A more quantitative picture is given in Figure 3 which shows isosurfaces of the temperature field. The stratification is even more clearly visible here. The result compares well with the experimental results in Ref. 1.

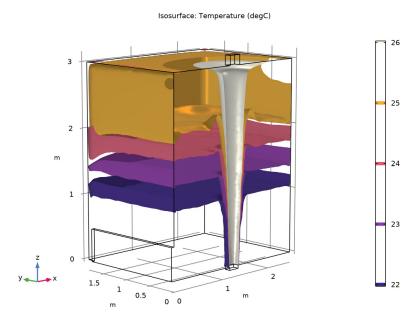


Figure 3: Isosurfaces of the temperature.

Figure 4 shows a comparison of the computed and measured temperature along the line  $(1.25,0,0) \rightarrow (1.25,0,3)$ , that is through the center of the jet. While the computational result captures the main trend with decreasing temperature with height, it still over predicts the experimental result with  $2^{\circ}$ C at z = 2.6 m. There are two possible reasons for this. The first is, as mentioned in Ref. 1, that the test chamber is not as well insulated as intended. The other possible explanation is that the buoyancy induced production in the

k and  $\omega$  equations (see for example Ref. 3) must be included in order to reproduce the experimental results more accurately.

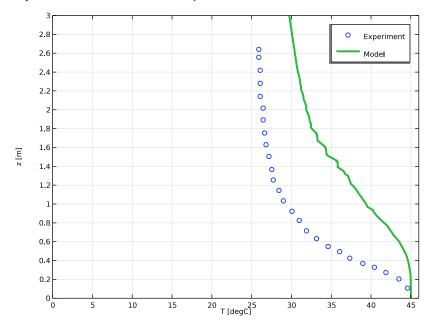


Figure 4: Plume temperature.

# References

- 1. D. Mazoni and P. Guitton, "Validation of Displacement Ventilation Simplified Models," *Proceedings of 'Building Simulation '97'*, the Fifth International IBSPA Conference, vol. I, pp. 233–239, International Building Performance Simulation Association (IBSPA), 1997.
- 2. D.C. Wilcox, *Turbulence Model for CFD*, 2nd ed., DCW Industries, La Canada, CA, 1998.
- 3. S. Tieszen, A. Ooi, P. Durbin, and M. Behnia, "Modeling of Natural Convection Heat Transfer," *Proceedings of the Summer Program 1998*, Stanford: Center for Turbulence Research, 1998.

# Application Library path: CFD Module/Nonisothermal Flow/

displacement\_ventilation

# Modeling Instructions

From the File menu, choose New.

#### NEW

In the New window, click Model Wizard.

#### MODEL WIZARD

- I In the Model Wizard window, click **3D**.
- 2 In the Select Physics tree, select Fluid Flow>Nonisothermal Flow>Turbulent Flow> Turbulent Flow, k-w.
- 3 Click Add.
- 4 Click 🗪 Study.
- 5 In the Select Study tree, select General Studies>Stationary.
- 6 Click M Done.

### **GLOBAL DEFINITIONS**

#### Parameters 1

- I In the Model Builder window, under Global Definitions click Parameters I.
- 2 In the Settings window for Parameters, locate the Parameters section.
- **3** In the table, enter the following settings:

Name	Expression	Value	Description
Н	3[m]	3 m	Room height
D	2.5[m]	2.5 m	Room depth
W	3.65[m]	3.65 m	Room width
Hd	0.5[m]	0.5 m	Diffuser inlet height
Ad	1.7[m^2]	1.7 m <sup>2</sup>	Diffuser inlet area
As	0.0324[m^2]	0.0324 m <sup>2</sup>	Source inlet area
Ao	0.04[m^2]	0.04 m <sup>2</sup>	Outlet area

#### DEFINITIONS

#### Variables 1

- I In the Home toolbar, click a= Variables and choose Local Variables.
- 2 In the Settings window for Variables, locate the Variables section.
- **3** In the table, enter the following settings:

Name	Expression	Unit	Description
Ms	0.028[m^3/s]	m³/s	Volume flow rate at source
Md	0.051[m^3/s]	m³/s	Volume flow rate at diffuser
Us	Ms/As	m/s	Source inlet velocity
Ud	Md/Ad	m/s	Diffuser inlet velocity
Tdiff	21[degC]	K	Diffuser air temperature
Tsource	45[degC]	K	Source air temperature
Tout	17[degC]	K	Outside temperature

#### **GEOMETRY I**

# Block I (blk I)

- I In the Geometry toolbar, click Block.
- 2 In the Settings window for Block, locate the Size and Shape section.
- 3 In the Width text field, type D.
- 4 In the Depth text field, type W.
- 5 In the Height text field, type 2\*H.
- 6 Locate the Position section. In the y text field, type -W/2.
- 7 In the z text field, type -H.

# Block 2 (blk2)

- I In the Geometry toolbar, click Dock.
- 2 In the Settings window for Block, locate the Size and Shape section.
- 3 In the Width text field, type 0.05[m].
- 4 In the Height text field, type 2\*Hd.
- 5 In the **Depth** text field, type Ad/Hd.
- 6 Locate the **Position** section. In the **x** text field, type -0.05[m].
- 7 In the y text field, type -Ad/Hd/2.

8 In the z text field, type -Hd.

Union I (uni I)

- I In the Geometry toolbar, click Booleans and Partitions and choose Union.
- 2 In the Settings window for Union, locate the Union section.
- 3 Clear the Keep interior boundaries check box.
- 4 Click in the **Graphics** window and then press Ctrl+A to select both objects.

Block 3 (blk3)

- I In the **Geometry** toolbar, click **Block**.
- 2 In the Settings window for Block, locate the Size and Shape section.
- 3 In the Width text field, type 4[m].
- 4 In the **Depth** text field, type 4[m].
- 5 In the Height text field, type 4[m].
- 6 Locate the **Position** section. In the **x** text field, type -1[m].
- 7 In the y text field, type -2[m].
- 8 In the z text field, type -4[m].

Difference I (dif1)

- I In the Geometry toolbar, click Booleans and Partitions and choose Difference.
- 2 In the Settings window for Difference, locate the Difference section.
- 3 Clear the Keep interior boundaries check box.
- **4** Select the object **unil** only.
- **5** Click to select the **Activate Selection** toggle button for **Objects to subtract**.
- **6** Select the object **blk3** only.

Block 4 (blk4)

- I In the Geometry toolbar, click Block.
- 2 In the Settings window for Block, locate the Size and Shape section.
- 3 In the Width text field, type 3[m].
- 4 In the **Depth** text field, type 2[m].
- 5 In the Height text field, type 5[m].
- 6 Locate the **Position** section. In the x text field, type -0.2[m].
- 7 In the y text field, type -2[m].
- 8 In the z text field, type -1[m].

# Difference 2 (dif2)

- I In the Geometry toolbar, click Booleans and Partitions and choose Difference.
- 2 In the Settings window for Difference, locate the Difference section.
- 3 Clear the Keep interior boundaries check box.
- **4** Select the object **difl** only.
- **5** Click to select the **Activate Selection** toggle button for **Objects to subtract**.
- 6 Select the object blk4 only.

# Block 5 (blk5)

- I In the Geometry toolbar, click Block.
- 2 In the Settings window for Block, locate the Size and Shape section.
- 3 In the Width text field, type sqrt (As).
- 4 In the **Depth** text field, type sqrt(As)/2.
- 5 In the **Height** text field, type H/2.
- 6 Locate the Position section. In the x text field, type D/2-sqrt (As)/2.
- 7 In the z text field, type -0.05[m].

# Block 6 (blk6)

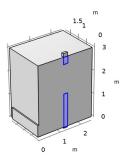
- I In the Geometry toolbar, click Block.
- 2 In the Settings window for Block, locate the Size and Shape section.
- 3 In the Width text field, type sqrt (Ao).
- 4 In the Depth text field, type sqrt (Ao) /2.
- 5 In the Height text field, type 0.45[m].
- 6 Locate the Position section. In the x text field, type D/2-sqrt (Ao)/2.
- 7 In the z text field, type H-0.3[m].

# Mesh Control Domains I (mcd1)

I In the Geometry toolbar, click "Virtual Operations and choose Mesh Control Domains."

2 On the object fin, select Domains 2 and 5 only.

It might be easier to select the domains by using the Selection List window. To open this window, in the Home toolbar click Windows and choose Selection List. (If you are running the cross-platform desktop, you find **Windows** in the main menu.)





- 3 In the Geometry toolbar, click **Build All**.
- 4 In the Model Builder window, collapse the Geometry I node.
- **5** Click the **Zoom Extents** button in the **Graphics** toolbar.

The model geometry is now complete and should look like Figure 1.

#### ADD MATERIAL

- I In the Home toolbar, click **4 Add Material** to open the **Add Material** window.
- 2 Go to the Add Material window.
- 3 In the tree, select Built-in>Air.
- 4 Click Add to Component in the window toolbar.
- 5 In the Home toolbar, click **Add Material** to close the Add Material window.

# TURBULENT FLOW, K-ω(SPF)

- I In the Model Builder window, under Component I (compl) click Turbulent Flow, k-ω (spf).
- 2 In the Settings window for Turbulent Flow, k-ω, locate the Physical Model section.
- 3 Select the Include gravity check box.

**4** Specify the  $\mathbf{r}_{ref}$  vector as

0	х
0	у
H+0.15[m]	z

Enable buoyancy-induced turbulence.

#### Gravity I

- I In the Model Builder window, under Component I (compl)>Turbulent Flow, k-ω (spf) click Gravity 1.
- 2 In the Settings window for Gravity, locate the Acceleration of Gravity section.
- 3 Select the Include buoyancy-induced turbulence check box.

#### Inlet I

- I In the Physics toolbar, click **Boundaries** and choose Inlet.
- 2 Select Boundary 13 only.
- 3 In the Settings window for Inlet, locate the Velocity section.
- **4** In the  $U_0$  text field, type Us.
- **5** Locate the **Turbulence Conditions** section. From the  $I_{\rm T}$  list, choose **High (0.1)**.

The air probably enters through a grid. It is therefore appropriate to set a high inlet intensity and short length scale.

#### Inlet 2

- I In the Physics toolbar, click **Boundaries** and choose Inlet.
- 2 Select Boundary 1 only.
- 3 In the Settings window for Inlet, locate the Velocity section.
- **4** In the  $U_0$  text field, type Ud.

#### Outlet I

- I In the Physics toolbar, click **Boundaries** and choose **Outlet**.
- 2 Select Boundary 10 only.
- 3 In the Settings window for Outlet, locate the Pressure Conditions section.
- 4 Select the Normal flow check box.

#### Symmetry I

I In the Physics toolbar, click **Boundaries** and choose Symmetry.

2 Select Boundary 2 only.

# HEAT TRANSFER IN FLUIDS (HT)

- I In the Model Builder window, under Component I (compl) click Heat Transfer in Fluids (ht).
- 2 In the Physics toolbar, click **Boundaries** and choose Symmetry.

Select Boundary 2 only.

# Temperature I

- I In the Physics toolbar, click **Boundaries** and choose **Temperature**.
- 2 Select Boundary 1 only.
- 3 In the Settings window for Temperature, locate the Temperature section.
- **4** In the  $T_0$  text field, type Tdiff.

# Temperature 2

- I In the Physics toolbar, click **Boundaries** and choose **Temperature**.
- 2 Select Boundary 13 only.
- 3 In the Settings window for Temperature, locate the Temperature section.
- **4** In the  $T_0$  text field, type Tsource.

# Outflow I

- I In the Physics toolbar, click **Boundaries** and choose **Outflow**.
- 2 Select Boundary 10 only.

#### Heat Flux 1

- I In the Physics toolbar, click **Boundaries** and choose **Heat Flux**.
- 2 In the Settings window for Heat Flux, locate the Heat Flux section.
- 3 From the Flux type list, choose Convective heat flux.
- **4** In the h text field, type  $0.4[W/(m^2*K)]$ .
- **5** In the  $T_{\rm ext}$  text field, type Tout.
- **6** Select Boundaries 6–8 and 17 only.

#### MESH I

In the Model Builder window, under Component I (compl) right-click Mesh I and choose **Edit Physics-Induced Sequence.** 

#### Size

- I In the Model Builder window, under Component I (compl)>Mesh I click Size.
- 2 In the Settings window for Size, locate the Element Size section.
- **3** Click the **Custom** button.
- 4 Locate the Element Size Parameters section. In the Minimum element size text field, type 0.015.

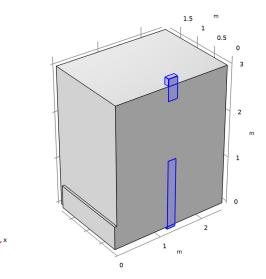
# Size 1

- I In the Model Builder window, click Size I.
- 2 In the Settings window for Size, locate the Geometric Entity Selection section.
- 3 Click Clear Selection.
- **4** Select Boundaries 9, 11, 12, and 14–16 only.
- **5** Locate the **Element Size** section. Click the **Custom** button.
- 6 Locate the Element Size Parameters section.
- 7 Select the Maximum element size check box. In the associated text field, type 0.015.

#### Size 1

- I In the Model Builder window, right-click Free Tetrahedral I and choose Size.
- 2 In the Settings window for Size, locate the Geometric Entity Selection section.
- 3 From the Geometric entity level list, choose Domain.

**4** Select Domains 2–5 only.



- **5** Locate the **Element Size** section. Click the **Custom** button.
- 6 Locate the Element Size Parameters section.
- 7 Select the Maximum element growth rate check box. In the associated text field, type 1.05.

# Boundary Layer Properties 1

- I In the Model Builder window, expand the Component I (compl)>Mesh I> Boundary Layers I node, then click Boundary Layer Properties I.
- 2 In the Settings window for Boundary Layer Properties, locate the Layers section.
- 3 In the Thickness adjustment factor text field, type 3.
- 4 In the Number of layers text field, type 5.
- 5 In the Model Builder window, right-click Mesh I and choose Build All.

#### RESULTS

Large models may be easier to work with if the plots are updated on request only.

- I In the Model Builder window, click Results.
- 2 In the Settings window for Results, locate the Update of Results section.
- 3 Select the Only plot when requested check box.

#### STUDY I

I In the Home toolbar, click **Compute**.

Proceed to reproduce Figure 2.

#### RESULTS

#### Wall Resolution

- I In the Model Builder window, expand the Wall Resolution (spf) node, then click Wall Resolution.
- 2 In the Settings window for Surface, locate the Coloring and Style section.
- 3 From the Coloring list, choose Uniform.
- **4** From the **Color** list, choose **Gray**.
- **5** Click to expand the **Title** section. From the **Title type** list, choose **None**.

#### Streamline 1

- I In the Model Builder window, right-click Wall Resolution (spf) and choose Streamline.
- 2 In the Settings window for Streamline, locate the Data section.
- 3 From the Dataset list, choose Study I/Solution I (soll).
- 4 Locate the Streamline Positioning section. From the Positioning list, choose Uniform density.
- 5 In the Separating distance text field, type 0.07.
- 6 Locate the Coloring and Style section. Find the Line style subsection. From the Type list, choose Ribbon.

#### Color Expression 1

- I Right-click Streamline I and choose Color Expression.
- 2 In the Settings window for Color Expression, click Replace Expression in the upper-right corner of the Expression section. From the menu, choose Component I (compl)> Heat Transfer in Fluids>Temperature>T - Temperature - K.
- 3 Locate the Coloring and Style section. Click Change Color Table.
- 4 In the Color Table dialog box, select Thermal>ThermalDark in the tree.
- 5 Click OK.
- 6 In the Settings window for Color Expression, click to expand the Range section.
- 7 Select the Manual color range check box.
- **8** In the **Minimum** text field, type 293.
- 9 In the Maximum text field, type 300.

#### Streamline 1

- I In the Model Builder window, click Streamline I.
- 2 In the Settings window for Streamline, click to expand the Title section.
- 3 From the Title type list, choose Manual.
- 4 In the Title text area, type Streamlines colored by temperature.

#### Streamlines

- I In the Model Builder window, under Results click Wall Resolution (spf).
- 2 In the Settings window for 3D Plot Group, type Streamlines in the Label text field.

#### ADD PREDEFINED PLOT

- I In the Home toolbar, click Windows and choose Add Predefined Plot.
- 2 Go to the Add Predefined Plot window.
- 3 In the tree, select Study I/Solution I (soll)>Heat Transfer in Fluids> Isothermal Contours (ht).
- 4 Click Add Plot in the window toolbar.

#### RESULTS

Isothermal Contours (ht)

Execute the following steps to reproduce Figure 3.

# Isosurface I

- I In the Model Builder window, expand the Isothermal Contours (ht) node, then click Isosurface I.
- 2 In the Settings window for Isosurface, locate the Expression section.
- 3 From the Unit list, choose degC.
- 4 Locate the Levels section. From the Entry method list, choose Levels.
- **5** In the **Levels** text field, type 22 23 24 25 26.

The following steps will reproduce Figure 4.

#### Table I

- I In the **Results** toolbar, click **Table**.
- 2 In the Settings window for Table, locate the Data section.
- 3 Click | Import.
- 4 Browse to the model's Application Libraries folder and double-click the file displacement\_ventilation\_exp.txt.

#### TABLE I

- I Go to the Table I window.
- 2 Click the right end of the **Display Table I** split button in the window toolbar.
- **3** From the menu, choose **Table Graph**.

#### RESULTS

### Table Graph 1

- I In the Model Builder window, under Results>ID Plot Group 7 click Table Graph I.
- 2 In the Settings window for Table Graph, locate the Data section.
- 3 From the x-axis data list, choose Column 2.
- 4 Locate the Coloring and Style section. Find the Line style subsection. From the Line list, choose None.
- 5 Find the Line markers subsection. From the Marker list, choose Circle.
- **6** Click to expand the **Legends** section. Select the **Show legends** check box.
- 7 From the Legends list, choose Manual.
- **8** In the table, enter the following settings:

# Legends Experiment

#### Cut Line 3D I

- I In the Results toolbar, click Cut Line 3D.
- 2 In the Settings window for Cut Line 3D, locate the Line Data section.
- 3 In row Point I, set x to D/2.
- 4 In row Point 2, set x to D/2 and z to H.

# ID Plot Group 7

- I In the Model Builder window, under Results click ID Plot Group 7.
- 2 In the Settings window for ID Plot Group, locate the Data section.
- 3 From the Dataset list, choose Cut Line 3D 1.

# Line Graph I

- I Right-click ID Plot Group 7 and choose Line Graph.
- 2 In the Settings window for Line Graph, locate the y-Axis Data section.
- 3 In the Expression text field, type z.

- 4 Locate the x-Axis Data section. From the Parameter list, choose Expression.
- **5** In the **Expression** text field, type T.
- **6** From the **Unit** list, choose **degC**.
- 7 Click to expand the Coloring and Style section. From the Width list, choose 3.
- 8 Click to expand the **Legends** section. Select the **Show legends** check box.
- 9 From the Legends list, choose Manual.
- **10** In the table, enter the following settings:

# Legends Model

# ID Plot Group 7

- I In the Model Builder window, click ID Plot Group 7.
- 2 In the Settings window for ID Plot Group, click to expand the Title section.
- 3 From the Title type list, choose None.
- 4 Locate the Plot Settings section.
- **5** Select the **x-axis label** check box. In the associated text field, type T [degC].
- 6 Select the y-axis label check box. In the associated text field, type z [m].
- 7 Locate the Axis section. Select the Manual axis limits check box.
- **8** In the **x minimum** text field, type **0**.
- **9** In the **x maximum** text field, type 46.
- **10** In the **y minimum** text field, type 0.
- II In the y maximum text field, type 3.
- 12 In the 1D Plot Group 7 toolbar, click Plot.