

Real time fluid dynamics

Leonardo Toffalini

2025-12-01

Outline

1. Notaion	2
2. Equations of fluids	4
3. Equations for fluid simulations	7
4. Simulating fluids	9
5. Diffusion	12
6. Advection	17
7. Evolving velocites	20
8. Appendix	24
Bibliography	29

1. Notaion

1.1 Differential operators

1. Notaion

$$\nabla = (\partial_1, \partial_2, \dots, \partial_n) \quad (\text{Nabla operator})$$

$$u \cdot \nabla = \sum_{i=1}^n u_i \partial_i$$

$$(u \cdot \nabla)u = \sum_{i=1}^n u_i \partial_i u.$$

$$\nabla \cdot \nabla u = \Delta u = \sum_{i=1}^n (\partial_i u)^2 \quad (\text{Laplace operator})$$

2. Equations of fluids

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{u}}{\partial t} + (\mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla) \mathbf{u} = \nu \Delta \mathbf{u} - \frac{1}{\rho} \nabla p + \frac{1}{\rho} \mathbf{f}$$
$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{u} = 0$$

- \mathbf{u} is the velocity vector field.
- \mathbf{f} is the external forces.
- ρ is the scalar density field.
- p is the pressure field.
- ν is the kinematic viscosity.

2.1 Navier–Stokes equations

2. Equations of fluids

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{u}}{\partial t} + \overbrace{(\mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla) \mathbf{u}}^{\text{Advection}} = \underbrace{\nu \Delta \mathbf{u}}_{\text{Diffusion}} - \overbrace{\frac{1}{\rho} \nabla p}^{\text{Internal source}} + \underbrace{\frac{1}{\rho} \mathbf{f}}_{\text{External source}} .$$

1. Advection – How the velocity moves.
2. Diffusion – How the velocity spreads out.
3. Internal source – How the velocity points towards parts of lesser pressure.
4. External source – How the velocity is changed subject to external intervention, like a fan blowing air.

3. Equations for fluid simulations

3.1 Navier–Stokes equations 2

3. Equations for fluid simulations

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{u}}{\partial t} = -(\mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla) \mathbf{u} + \nu \Delta \mathbf{u} + \frac{1}{\rho} \mathbf{f}$$

$$\frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} = -(\mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla) \rho + \kappa \Delta \rho + S$$

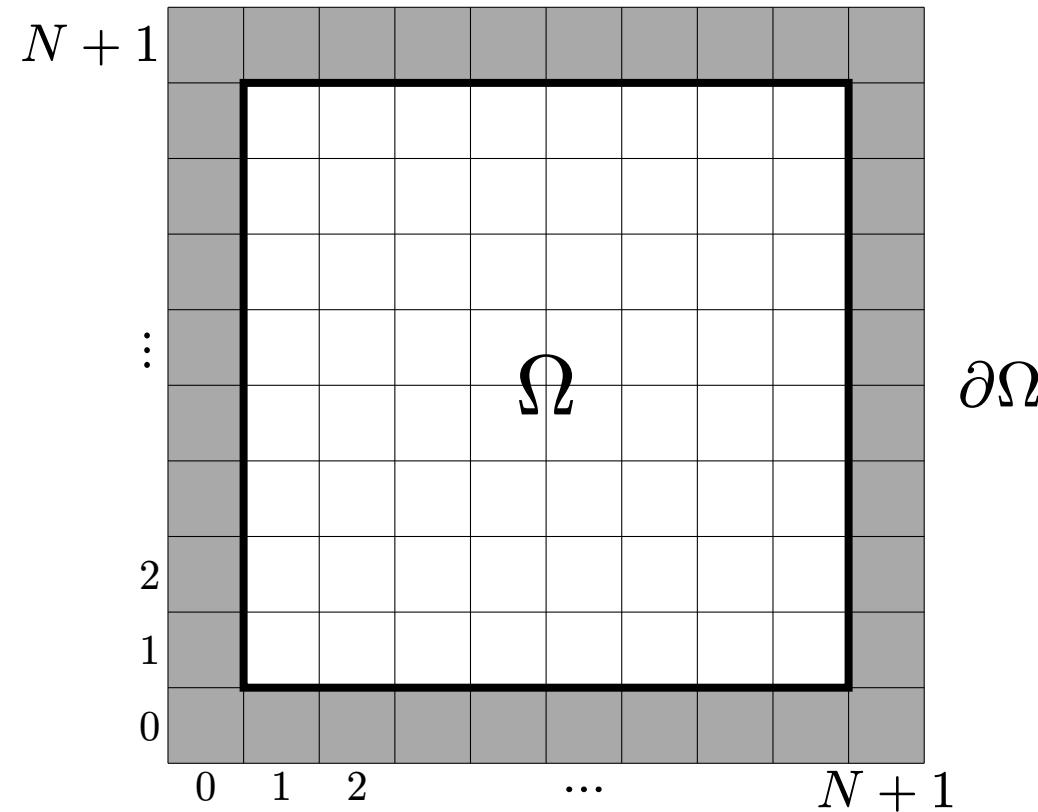
$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{u} = 0$$

$$\partial_{\nu} u|_{\partial\Omega} = 0$$

4. Simulating fluids

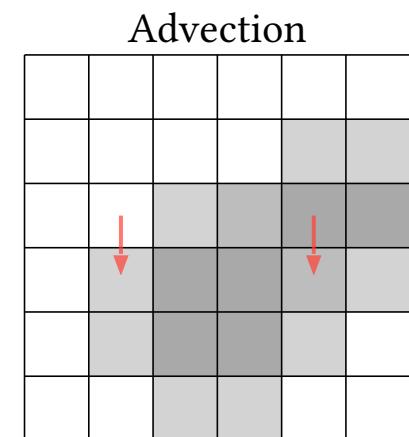
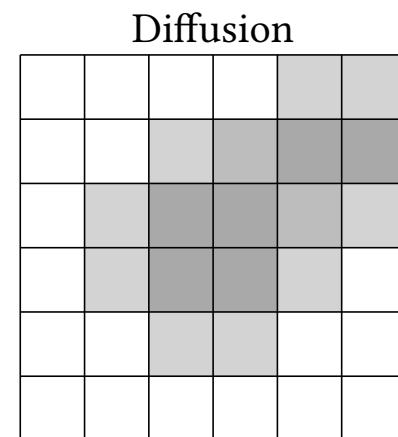
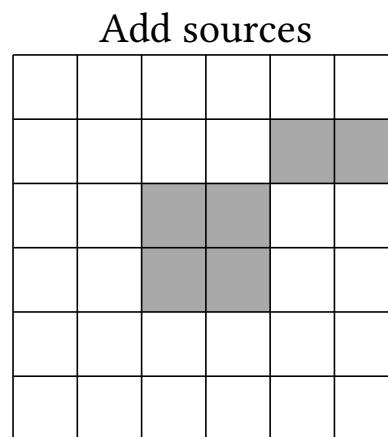
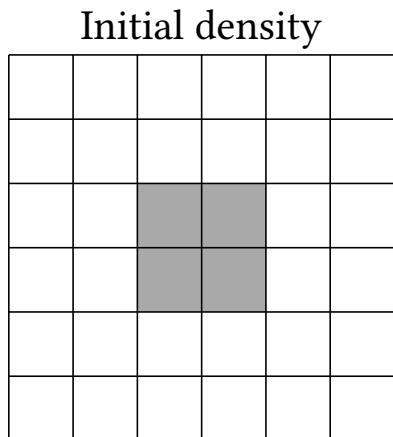
4.1 Fluid in a box

4. Simulating fluids



4.2 Moving densities

4. Simulating fluids



5. Diffusion

5.1 Diffusion equation

5. Diffusion

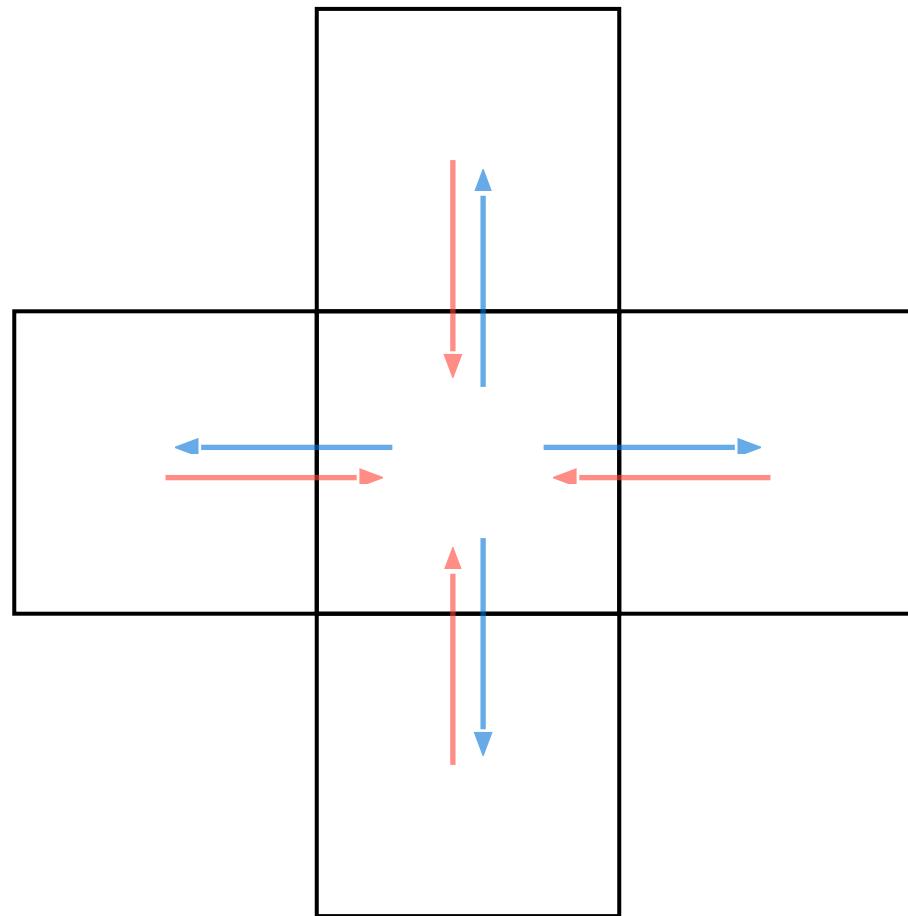
$$\frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} = \kappa \Delta \rho$$

$$\frac{\rho_{\text{next}} - \rho_{\text{prev}}}{\Delta t} = \kappa \Delta \rho_{\text{prev}} \quad (\text{Forward difference})$$

$$\rho_{\text{next}} = \rho_{\text{prev}} + (\Delta t) \kappa \Delta \rho_{\text{prev}} \quad (\text{Helmholtz eq.})$$

5.2 Duffusion

5. Diffusion



5.3 Finite difference method

5. Diffusion

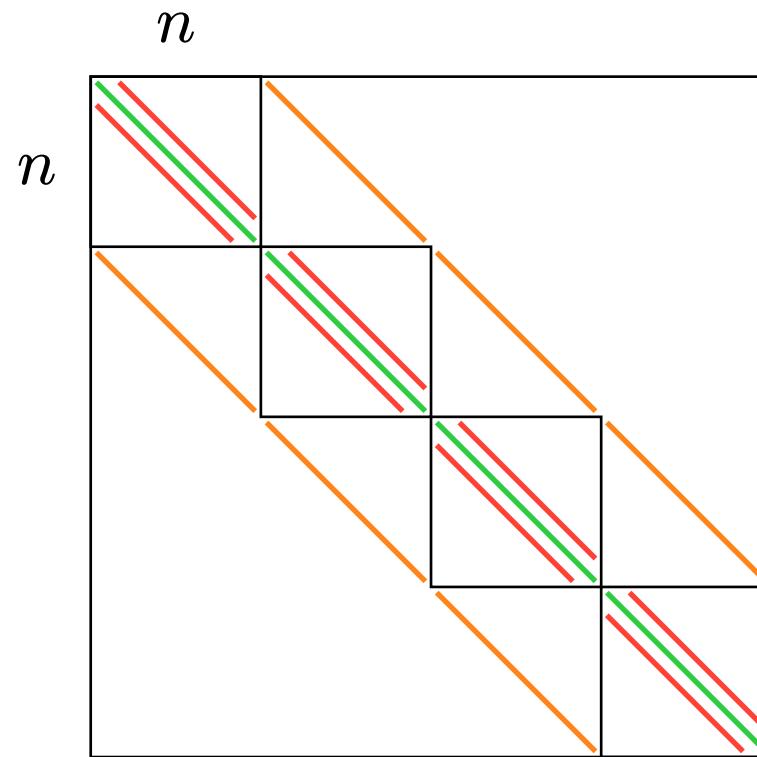
$$\partial_1^2 \rho \approx \frac{u_{i+1,j} - 2u_{i,j} + u_{i-1,j}}{h^2}$$

$$\partial_2^2 \rho \approx \frac{u_{i,j+1} - 2u_{i,j} + u_{i,j-1}}{h^2}$$

$$(\Delta_h \rho_h)_{i,j} = \frac{\rho_{i+1,j} + \rho_{i-1,j} + \rho_{i,j+1} + \rho_{i,j-1} - 4\rho_{i,j}}{h^2}$$

5.4 FDM matrix

5. Diffusion



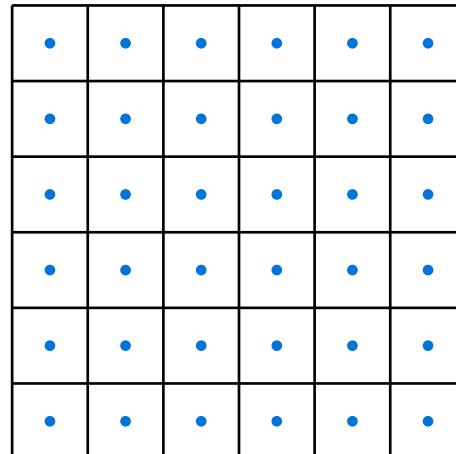
$$\text{green} = 4/h^2, \text{red} = -1/h^2, \text{orange} = -1/h^2$$

6. Advection

6.1 Advection equation

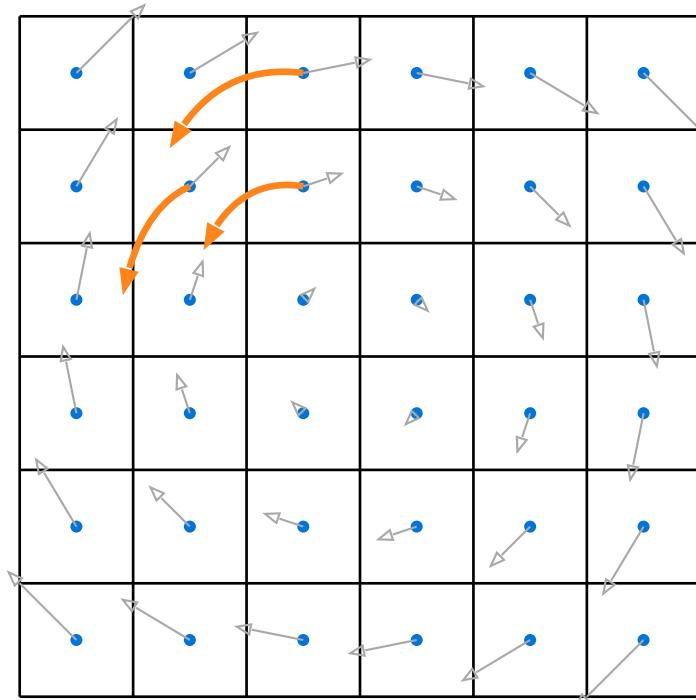
6. Advection

$$\frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} = -(\mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla) \rho$$



6.2 Semi-Lagrange

6. Advection

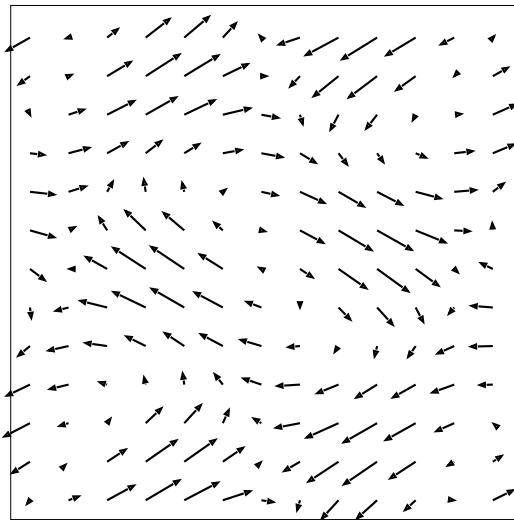


7. Evolving velocities

7.1 Helmholtz–Hodge decomposition

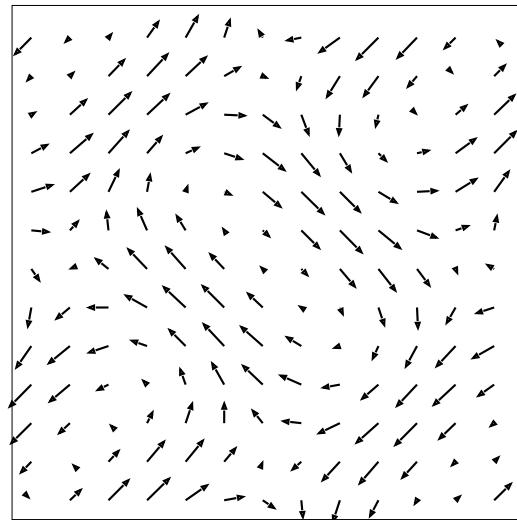
7. Evolving velocites

combined field



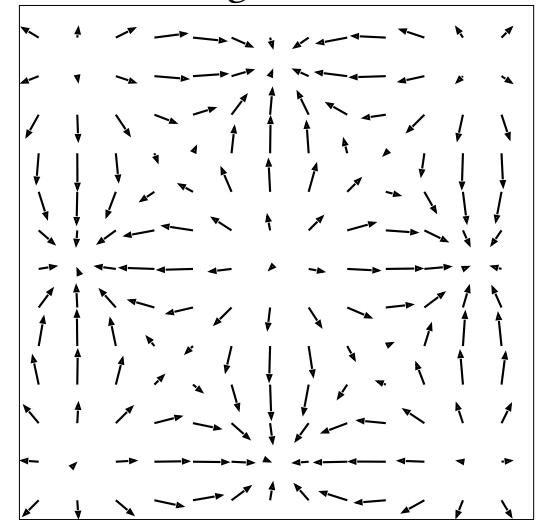
=

rotation field



+

divergence field



7.1 Helmholtz–Hodge decomposition

7. Evolving velocities

$$\mathbf{w} = \mathbf{u} + \nabla q$$

$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{u} = 0, \quad q : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$$

$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{w} = \nabla \cdot \mathbf{u} + \nabla \cdot \nabla q$$

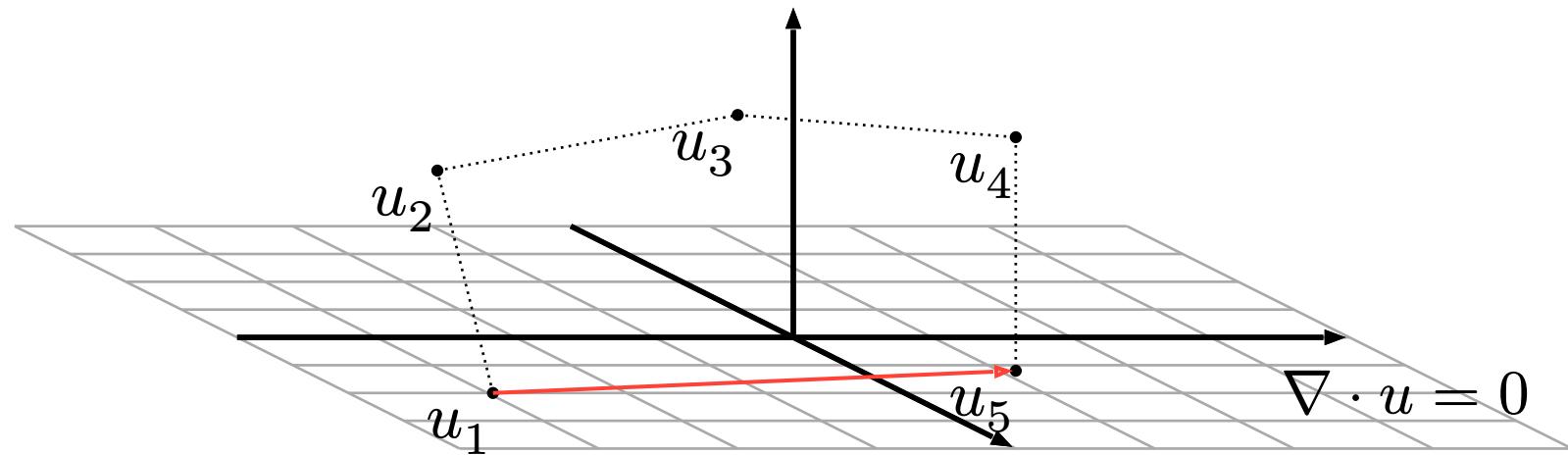
$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{w} = 0 + \nabla \cdot \nabla q$$

$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{w} = \Delta q \quad (\text{Poisson eq.})$$

$$\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{w} - \nabla q$$

7.2 Simulation steps

7. Evolving velocities



$u_1 \xrightarrow{\text{add source}} u_2 \xrightarrow{\text{diffusion}} u_3 \xrightarrow{\text{advection}} u_4 \xrightarrow{\text{projection}} u_5$

8. Appendix

8.1 Appendix

- <https://github.com/leonardo-toffalini/viscous>
- <https://github.com/leonardo-toffalini/fishy>

8.1 Appendix

8. Appendix

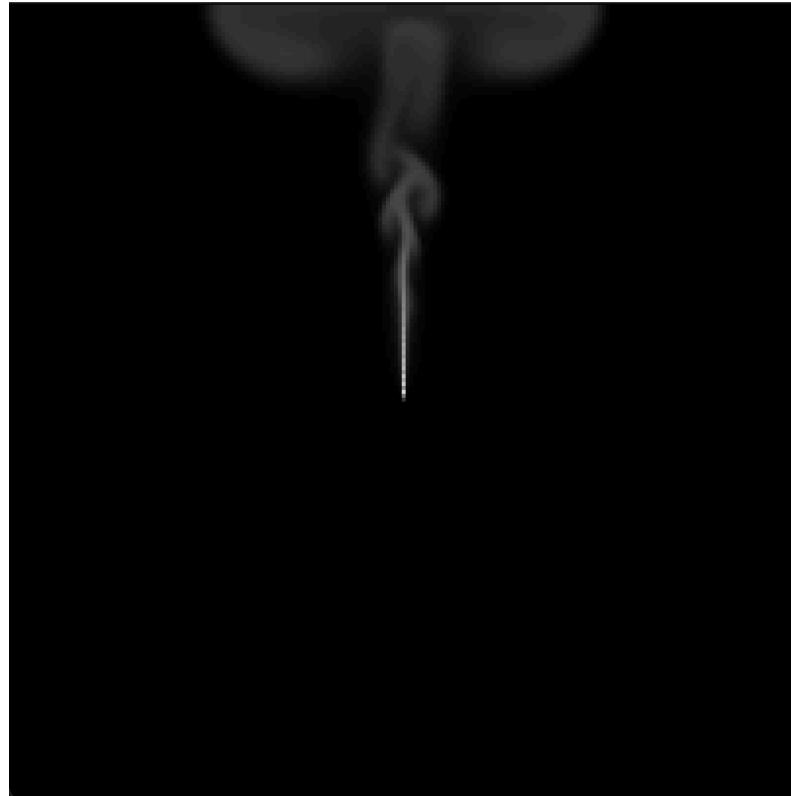


Figure 1: Smoke emitting from the tip of a cigarette

8.1 Appendix

8. Appendix

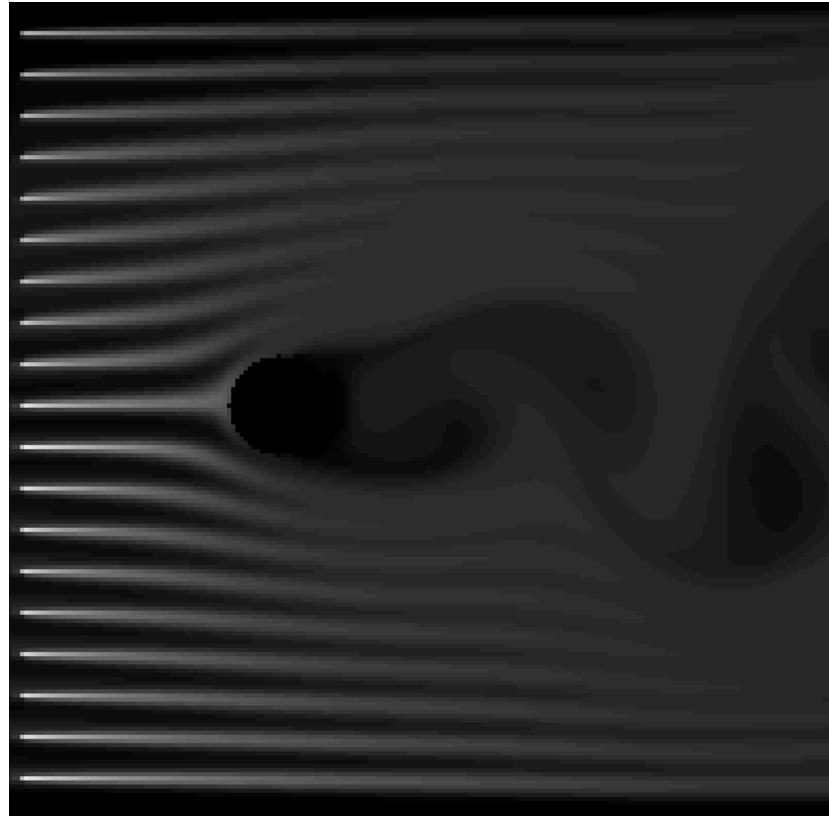


Figure 2: Vortex shedding

8.1 Appendix

8. Appendix

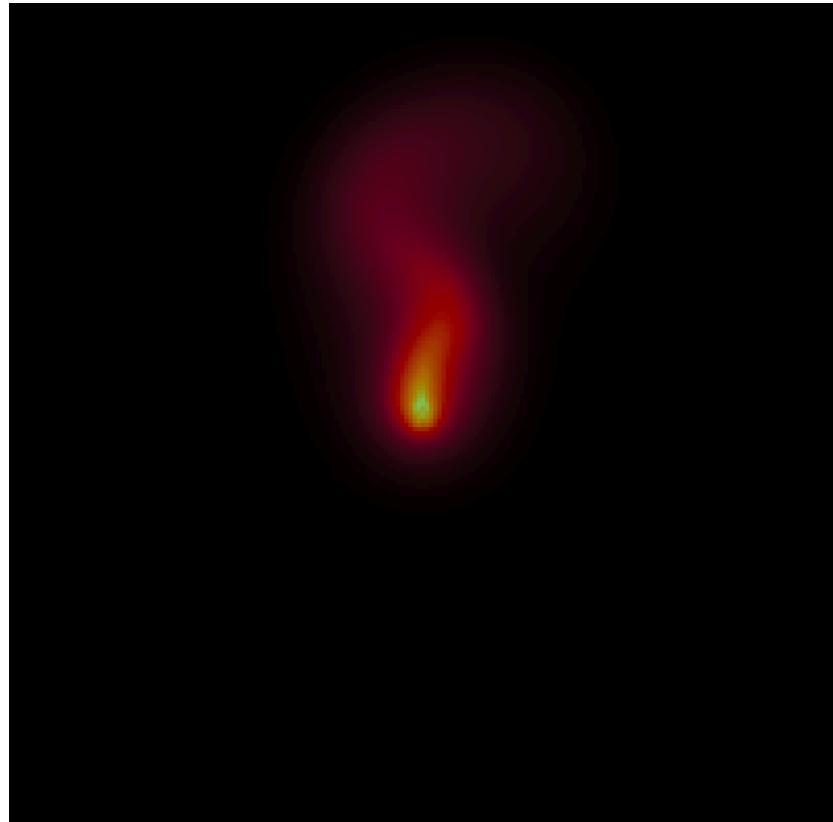


Figure 3: Flickering fire

Bibliography

- [1] A. J. Chorin, J. E. Marsden, and J. E. Marsden, *A mathematical introduction to fluid mechanics*, vol. 168. Springer, 1990.
- [2] R. H. János Karátson, *Numerical Methods for Elliptic Partial Differential Equations*. [Online]. Available: <https://kajkaat.web.elte.hu/pdn mell-ang-2023-I.pdf>
- [3] J. Stam, “Real-time fluid dynamics for games,” in *Proceedings of the game developer conference*, 2003.
- [4] J. Stam, “Stable fluids,” *Seminal Graphics Papers: Pushing the Boundaries, Volume 2*. pp. 779–786, 2023.

- [5] Á. Besenyei, V. Komornik, and L. Simon, *Parciális differenciálegyenletek*. Budapest, 2013.