Doing two things at once

is sometimes harder than just doing two things at once

Naive numerical method

- Solving just for the body (resp. just for the fluid) gives a boundary condition for the fluid (resp. for the body)
- Guess some initial boundary conditions, and use to solve for one part, then use the solution to solve for the other part, giving new boundary conditions, and... iterate
- Problem: rate of convergence depends on initial guess, and there is no systematic way beyond trial and error

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Analytic reduction

- Sometimes multiphysics problems can be reduced "purely formally"
- ... sometimes
- The problem of heat exchange between two fluid streams in boundary layer flow separated by a flat plate is considered. A general analysis applicable to cocurrent or countercurrent, laminar or turbulent flow is presented. An exact solution for the temperature distribution and the heat transfer along the plate is obtained for the special case of constant property, cocurrent, inviscid flow. (DOI:10.1016/0017-9310(71)90180-3)